The Maximum Agreement Prediction via the Concordance Correlation Coefficient

Taeho Kim, George Luta, Matteo Bottai, Pierre Chausse, Gheorghe Doros, Edsel A. Pena

Abstract

The vignette explains how to use the malp package to compute maximum agreement prection, construct confidence intervals for the prediction and illustrate the result.

1 Introduction

Suppose we have a $p \times 1$ vector of covariates x_0 and a dependent variable Y. The MALP predictor is defined as:

$$\tilde{Y}^{\star}(x_0) = \mu_Y + \frac{1}{\gamma} \Sigma'_{XY} \Sigma_X^{-1}(x_0 - \mu_X)
= (1 - 1/\gamma) \mu_Y + (1/\gamma) \tilde{Y}^{\dagger}(x_0),$$

where γ is the concordance correlation coefficient (CCC), μ_Y is the population mean of Y, Σ_X is the covariance matrix of the random vector X, Σ_{XY} is the vector of covariance between X and Y and $\tilde{Y}^{\dagger}(x_0)$ is the best linear predictor defined as

$$\begin{split} \tilde{Y}^{\dagger}(x_0) &= \beta_1 + \beta_2' x_0 \\ &= (\mu_Y - \Sigma_{XY}' \Sigma_X^{-1} \mu_X) + \Sigma_{XY}' \Sigma_X^{-1} x_0 \\ &= \mu_Y + \Sigma_{XY}' \Sigma_X^{-1} (x_0 - \mu_X) \end{split}$$

The CCC γ is defined as

$$\gamma = \frac{\left[\Sigma'_{XY}\Sigma_X^{-1}\Sigma_{XY}\right]^{1/2}}{\sigma_Y}$$
$$= \frac{\left[\beta'_2\Sigma_X\beta_2\right]^{1/2}}{\sigma_Y}.$$

It is therefore the square root of the coefficient of determination R^2 from the regression of Y oin X. Let X_0 be the $(p+1) \times 1$ vector $\{1, x_0'\}'$. Then the MALP predictor can also be written as:

^{*}Lehigh University, tak422@lehigh.edu

[†]Georgetown University, George.Luta@georgetown.edu

[‡]Karolinska Institutet, matteo.bottai@ki.se

[§]University of Waterloo, pchausse@uwaterloo.ca

[¶]Boston University,, doros@bu.edu

University of South Carolina, pena@stat.sc.edu

$$\tilde{Y}^{\star}(x) = (1 - 1/\gamma) \mu_{Y} + (\beta_{1} + x'_{0}\beta_{2})/\gamma
= [(1 - 1/\gamma)\mu_{Y} + \beta_{1}/\gamma] + x'_{0}[\beta_{2}/\gamma]
\equiv \alpha_{1} + x'_{0}\alpha_{2}
\equiv X'\alpha$$

Assuming we have an IID sample $\{Y_i, x_i\}$ of size n, a consistent estimator of the MALP at $x = x_0$ is:

$$\hat{Y}^{\star}(x_0) = \hat{\alpha}_1 + x_0' \hat{\alpha}_2$$

where $\hat{\alpha}_1 = (1 - 1/\hat{\gamma})\overline{Y} + \hat{\beta}_1/\hat{\gamma}$, $\hat{\alpha}_2 = \hat{\beta}_2/\hat{\gamma}$, $\hat{\beta}_1$ and $\hat{\beta}_2$ are the least square estimators, \overline{Y} is the sample mean of Y and $\hat{\gamma}$ is the square root of the least square coefficient of determination.

To obtain the variance of the MALP predictor under general distribution, we first note that $\tilde{Y}^{\star}(x_0)$ can be written as a non-linear function $g(\theta; x_0)$, where

$$\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_Y \\ \mu_X \\ \sigma_Y^2 \\ \Sigma_{XY} \\ \text{Vec}(\Sigma_X) \end{pmatrix}$$

If we define the ith observation T_i from an iid sample as

$$T_{i} = \begin{pmatrix} Y_{i} \\ X_{i} \\ (Y_{i} - \bar{Y})^{2} \\ (X_{i} - \bar{X})(Y_{i} - \bar{Y}) \\ \operatorname{Vec}((X_{i} - \bar{X})(X_{i} - \bar{X})') \end{pmatrix}.$$

and we assume that $\mathrm{E}(\|\{Y,X'\}'\|^4) < \infty$, then $\sqrt{n}(\bar{T}-\theta) \stackrel{d}{\to} N(0,\Xi)$, by the Lindeberg-Lévy Central Limit Theorem. Then, using the Delta Method, $\sqrt{n}[\hat{Y}^{\star}(x_0) - \tilde{Y}^{\star}(x_0)] \stackrel{d}{\to} N(0, \nabla g(\theta; x_0)' \Xi \nabla g(\theta; x_0))$, where

$$\nabla g(\theta; x_0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\frac{\beta_2}{\gamma} \\ \frac{\beta_2'(x_0 - \mu_X)}{2\gamma \sigma_Y^2} \\ \frac{\Sigma_X^{-1}(x_0 - \mu_X)}{\gamma} - \frac{[\beta_2'(x_0 - \mu_X)]\beta_2}{\gamma^3 \sigma_Y^2} \\ -\frac{\text{Vec}[\Sigma_X^{-1}(x_0 - \mu_X)\beta_2']}{\gamma} + \frac{[\beta_2'(x_0 - \mu_X)]\text{Vec}(\beta_2 \beta_2')}{2\gamma^3 \sigma_Y^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

We can estimate this variance using the sample estimates of β_2 , γ , σ_Y^2 , Σ_X , μ_X and Ξ . The covariance matrix of $\hat{\alpha}$ can be obtained by using the fact that:

$$\operatorname{Var}[\hat{Y}^{\star}(x_0)] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_0' \end{pmatrix} \operatorname{Var}(\hat{\alpha}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

By rearranging, we get obtain the following result:

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\sqrt{n}(\hat{\alpha} - \alpha)\right] \to \begin{pmatrix} (\mu_X' A' \Xi_{22} A \mu_X - 2\mu_X' A' \Xi_{21} B + \sigma_Y^2 (1 - \gamma)) & (B' \Xi_{12} A - \mu_X' A' \Xi_{22} A) \\ (A' \Xi_{21} B - A' \Xi_{22} A \mu_X) & A' \Xi_{22} A \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\beta_2'}{2\gamma\sigma_Y^2} \\ \frac{\Sigma_X^{-1}}{\gamma} - \frac{\beta_2\beta_2'}{\gamma^3\sigma_Y^2} \\ \frac{-\beta_2\otimes\Sigma_X^{-1}}{\gamma} + \frac{Vec(\beta_2\beta_2')\beta_2'}{2\gamma^3\sigma_Y^2} \end{pmatrix} , B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\frac{\beta_2}{\gamma} \end{pmatrix}$$

and Ξ_{ij} are partitions of Ξ .

In general, there is no closed-form expression for the variance, but if we assume that the vector $\{Y, X'\}'$ is normally distributed, we can show that the above asymptotic variance can be written as:

$$\sigma_{\text{MA}}^{2}(x_{0}) = \sigma_{\text{Y}}^{2}(1-\gamma^{2}) \left[\frac{2}{1+\gamma} + \frac{(x_{0}-\mu_{X})'\Sigma_{X}^{-1}(x_{0}-\mu_{X})}{\gamma^{2}} - \frac{(1-\gamma^{2})}{\sigma_{Y}^{2}\gamma^{4}} \left[\beta_{2}'(x_{0}-\mu_{X}) \right]^{2} \right]$$

Since the asymptotic variance of the estimated best linear predictor under the homoskedasticity assumption is

$$\sigma_{\text{LS}}^2(x_0) = \sigma_Y^2(1 - \gamma^2) \left[1 + (x_0 - \mu_X) \Sigma_X^{-1} (x_0 - \mu_X)' \right]$$

We can write $\sigma_{MA}^2(x_0)$ as a function of $\sigma_{LS}^2(x_0)$:

$$\sigma_{\text{MA}}^2(x_0) = \frac{\sigma_{\text{LS}}^2(x_0)}{\gamma^2} + \frac{\sigma_Y^2(1-\gamma^2)}{\gamma^2} \times \left[\frac{2\gamma^2 - \gamma - 1}{1+\gamma} - \frac{(1-\gamma^2)}{\sigma_Y^2\gamma^2} [\beta_2'(x_0 - \mu_X)]^2 \right]$$

We obtain consistent estimator of the variances by replacing the population values of γ , $\sigma_{LS}^2(x_0)$, σ_Y^2 , μ_X , Σ_X , β_2 and μ_Y by their sample estimates. Note that there is no unique way to estimate $\sigma_{LS}^2(x_0)$. For example, if we estimate it using the following:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{Y}^{2} = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_{i} - \bar{Y})^{2}$$

$$\hat{\gamma} = \frac{[\hat{\beta}_{2}' \hat{\Sigma}_{X} \hat{\beta}_{2}]^{1/2}}{\hat{\sigma}_{Y}}$$

$$\hat{\Sigma}_{X} = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (X_{i} - \bar{X})(X_{i} - \bar{X})',$$

which is the default method that we use in the package, we have the following relationship between this estimator and the one computed by the predict method for lm objects.

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\rm LS}^2(x_0) = \frac{n-p-1}{n} \hat{\sigma}_{\rm LS}^{2({\rm R})}(x_0) + \frac{\hat{\sigma}_Y^2(1-\hat{\gamma}^2)}{n} \,,$$

where $\hat{\sigma}_{\mathrm{LS}}^{2(\mathrm{R})}$ is the one computed by predict.lm and $\hat{\sigma}_{\mathrm{LS}}^{2}(x_{0})$ is the default estimator computed in the malp package. The difference comes from how the different estimators from the expression are adjusted for the loss of degrees of freedom. The package offer the option of using the predict.lm correction.

Using the same approach as for the general case, we can obtain the following closed-form expression for the asymptotic covariance matrix of $\sqrt{n}(\hat{\alpha} - \alpha)$ under the normality:

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\sqrt{n}(\hat{\alpha} - \alpha)\right] \to \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2\sigma^2}{1+\gamma} + \mu_X \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{\gamma^2} \Sigma_X^{-1} - \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4} \beta_2 \beta_2'\right) \mu_X' & \mu_X \left(-\frac{\sigma^2}{\gamma^2} \Sigma_X^{-1} + \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4} \beta_2 \beta_2'\right) \\ \left(-\frac{\sigma^2}{\gamma^2} \Sigma_X^{-1} + \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4} \beta_2 \beta_2'\right) \mu_X' & \frac{\sigma^2}{\gamma^2} \Sigma_X^{-1} - \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4} \beta_2 \beta_2'\end{pmatrix},$$

where $\sigma^2 = \sigma_Y^2 (1 - \gamma^2)$ is the variance of the least squares residuals. We can simply this expression further by using the fact that the asymptotic variance Ω of $\hat{\beta}_2$ under the homoskedasticity assumption, which is implied by the normality assumption, is $\sigma^2 \Sigma_X^{-1}$ and $\mu_X' \beta_2 = (\mu_Y - \beta_1)$:

$$\operatorname{Var}\left[\sqrt{n}(\hat{\alpha} - \alpha)\right] \to \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2\sigma^2}{1+\gamma} + \frac{1}{\gamma^2}\mu_{\rm X}\Omega\mu_{\rm X}' - \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4}(\mu_{\rm Y} - \beta_1)^2 & -\frac{1}{\gamma^2}\mu_{\rm X}\Omega + \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4}(\mu_{\rm Y} - \beta_1)\beta_2' \\ -\frac{1}{\gamma^2}\Omega\mu_{\rm X}' + \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4}(\mu_{\rm Y} - \beta_1)\beta_2 & \frac{1}{\gamma^2}\Omega - \frac{(1-\gamma^2)^2}{\gamma^4}\beta_2\beta_2' \end{pmatrix},$$

2 The malp package

The main function is malp, which returns an object of class malp. The purpose of this function is to compute the estimates $\hat{\alpha}$. The function has two arguments: formula and data. The former is like the formula provided to lm for linear regressions and data is a data.frame containing all variables included in the formula. In the following example, we have one independent variable and one dependent variable.

```
## Data just for the testing
library(malp)
set.seed(11223344)
x<-rnorm(100)
y<-1+2*x+rnorm(100)
dat <- data.frame(x,y)
fit <- malp(y-x, dat)</pre>
```

The malp object has its own print method that returns the coefficient estimates $\hat{\alpha}$.

```
Call:
malp(formula = y ~ x, data = dat)
Coefficients:
(Intercept) x
1.0396 2.3261
```

print(fit, digits=5)

The object is a list with the following elements:

- coefficients: The vector $\hat{\alpha}$
- gamma: The value of $\hat{\gamma}$
- 1m: The 1m object from the least squares regression
- varY: The value of $\hat{\sigma}_V^2$
- na.action: The observations that were removed due to missing values.
- data: The data.frame used for the estimation. If missing values were present, it excludes them.

2.1 The vcov method

By default, the covariance matrix of the MALP coefficients is computed without assuming normality. This is the best option, because it is also valid under normality. The method returns a $(p+1) \times (p+1)$ covariance matrix named by the variable names in the formula:

```
vcov(fit)
```

```
(Intercept) x
(Intercept) 0.012846112 -0.001516036
x -0.001516036 0.007753234
```

To compute the variance under the normality assumption using the closed-form expression presented in the previous section, we set the argument method to "Normal":

Since the covariance matrices derived in the previous section are based on the Delta method, we may want to rely on simulation techniques if the sample size is too small. The package offers two options: Bootstrap or Jackknife. For the bootstrap method, the number of bootstrap samples is set by the argument B. For example, the first method below computes the estimate using 100 bootstrap samples and the second computes the jackknife estimate:

By default, the covariance matrix under normality is not based on least squares degrees of freedom correction. If we want this correction, which only applies under normality, we set the argument LSdfCorr to TRUE.

```
(Intercept) x
(Intercept) 0.0130317908 0.0001584821
x 0.0001584821 0.0097219557
```

vcov(fit, method="Normal", LSdfCorr=TRUE)

0.0001546548 0.0094871725

2.2 The summary method

This method returns detailed information about the estimation. In particular, it returns the standard errors, t-ratios and p-values of the $\hat{\alpha}$. The arguments of the function are used to specify how to compute the standard errors. The options are the same as for vcov, but the argument that specifies the method is vcovMet. By default, the standard errors are based on the general expression for unknown distributions. The method returns an object of class summary.malp, which has its own print method.

```
print(summary(fit), digits=5)
malp(formula = y ~ x, data = dat)
Coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 1.039611
                     0.113341 9.1724 < 2.2e-16 ***
           2.326082
                      0.088052 26.4170 < 2.2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
PCC: 0.90811
CCC: 0.90811
MSE: 1.2769
print(summary(fit, "Boot", B=100), digits=5)
malp(formula = y ~ x, data = dat)
Coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 1.039611  0.108124  9.615 < 2.2e-16 ***
           2.326082  0.092564  25.130 < 2.2e-16 ***
х
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
PCC: 0.90811
CCC: 0.90811
MSE: 1.2769
```

The three different good fit measures printed by summary can also be extracted manually for both the MALP and LS fits:

```
s <- summary(fit)
cbind(MALP=s$fitMALP, LSLP=s$fitLSLP)

MALP LSLP
```

```
MALP LSLP
PCC 0.9081066 0.9081066
CCC 0.9081066 0.9039040
MSE 1.2768623 1.2181947
```

2.3 The predict method

The method works like the predict.lm method. By default, it predicts the dependent variables for the same values of the covariates used to fit the model. The following prints the first four MALP predictors.

```
pr <- predict(fit)
pr[1:4]</pre>
```

```
1 2 3 4
-1.2382594 -0.9168157 2.6455775 1.1622700
```

If the argument se.fit is set to TRUE, it returns a list with the element fit being the predicted values and the argument se.fit being the standard errors of the MALP predictions.

```
pr <- predict(fit, se.fit=TRUE)
pr$fit[1:4]</pre>
```

```
1 2 3 4
-1.2382594 -0.9168157 2.6455775 1.1622700
pr$se.fit[1:4]
```

As for vcov and summary, the default standard errors returned by predict are based on the asymptotic theory for unknown distributions. We can also use the closed-form expression under normality by setting the argument vcovMet to "Normal". For standard errors based on the predict.lm version $\hat{\sigma}_{LS}^{2(R)}(x_0)$, we set the argument LSdfCorr to TRUE (it stands for Least Squares degrees of freedom Correction).

```
pr <- predict(fit, se.fit=TRUE, vcovMet="Normal", LSdfCorr=TRUE)
pr$se.fit[1:4]</pre>
```

```
1 2 3 4
0.1485435 0.1402261 0.1338114 0.1144386
```

For small samples, we also have the option of using simulated methods. All we need is to set the argument vcovMet to either "Boot" or "Jackknife". For the "Boot" option, the number of bootstrap sample is set by the argument Bse.

```
pr <- predict(fit, se.fit=TRUE, vcovMet="Boot", Bse.=100)
pr$se.fit[1:4]</pre>
```

```
1 2 3 4
0.1673680 0.1580201 0.1229206 0.1178964
```

If we want to predict Y for specific values of X, we can pass the specific values to the argument newdata as a data.frame. The data.frame must contain values for all covariates in the formula.

```
newd <- data.frame(x=c(-.3,.3,1.5))
predict(fit, newdata=newd)</pre>
```

```
1 2 3
0.3417864 1.7374356 4.5287340
```

Note that the CCC can be computed manually using the ccc function included in the package. We first use predict to get the fitted values and then compute the CCC:

```
yhat <- predict(fit)
ccc(y,yhat)</pre>
```

[1] 0.9081066

2.4 Confidence Intervals

The confidence intervals for the predictor also comes from the predict method, but given the different options, it deserves its own section. By default, parametric confidence intervals are produced by setting the argument interval to "confidence".

```
pr <- predict(fit, newdata=newd, interval="confidence")
pr</pre>
```

```
fit lwr upr
1 0.3417864 0.106154 0.5774187
2 1.7374356 1.517131 1.9577401
3 4.5287340 4.214266 4.8432015
```

The options for standard errors used to compute the parametric confidence intervals are explained in the previous section. For example, we can construct the intervals using the Jackknife standard errors this way:

```
pr <- predict(fit, newdata=newd, interval="confidence", vcovMet="Jackknife")
pr</pre>
```

```
fit lwr upr
1 0.3417864 0.1035505 0.5800222
2 1.7374356 1.5155789 1.9592922
3 4.5287340 4.2089752 4.8484927
```

Note that if the argument se.fit is set to TRUE, it returns a list with the element fit being the intervals and the element se.fit being the standard errors.

It is also possible to compute bootstrap confidence intervals. The options are

• norm: Normal interval

• basic: Basic interval

• stud: Studentized intervals

• perc: Percentile intervals

• bca: Bias corrected intervals.

To obtain one of these bootstrap confidence intervals, we set the argument bootInterval to TRUE. The type of interval is obtained by setting the argument bootIntType to one of the above options. If set to "all", the default, the functions returns all interval in a list. These intervals are computed using boot and boot.ci from the boot package. For the studentized interval, se.fit must be set to TRUE. If bootIntType it set to "all" and se.fit to FALSE, the function will not return a studentized interval.

With bootInterval=TRUE, the function returns a list of intervals. The name of each element is the interval type. If bootIntType is not set to "all", the function return a list of length equal to 1.

Warning in norm.inter(t, adj.alpha): extreme order statistics used as endpoints pr\$norm

```
fit lower upper [1,] 0.3417864 0.1218451 0.5772914 [2,] 1.7374356 1.5073791 1.9544696 [3,] 4.5287340 4.1383931 4.8488801
```

```
fit lower upper
[1,] 0.3417864 0.07929947 0.5843669
[2,] 1.7374356 1.47674792 1.9786607
[3,] 4.5287340 4.07366039 4.8227543
pr$bca

fit lower upper
[1,] 0.3417864 0.154305 0.637135
[2,] 1.7374356 1.474833 1.950115
[3,] 4.5287340 4.212487 4.828053
pr$perc
```

```
fit lower upper [1,] 0.3417864 0.08343053 0.5883467 [2,] 1.7374356 1.51042212 1.9843750 [3,] 4.5287340 4.22511598 4.9117400
```

It is possible to speedup the process by changing the arguments parallel, ncpus and cl. See the help file of the boot function for more details. For example, the following would compute the bootstrap interval in parallel using 8 CPU's

2.5 Prediction intervals

The prediction intervals for LSLP and MALP are respectively:

$$\left[\hat{Y}^{\dagger}(x_0) \pm z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{S_{\rm Y}(1-\gamma^2) + \sigma_{\rm LS}^2(x_0)/n}\right]$$

and

$$\left[\hat{Y}^{\star}(x_0) + \hat{b}(x_0) \pm z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{S_{\rm Y}(1 - \gamma^2) + \sigma_{\rm MA}^2(x_0)/n} \right]$$

where $\hat{b}(x_0)$ is the prediction bias of MALP. It turns out that $\hat{Y}^{\star}(x_0) + \hat{b}(x_0) = \hat{Y}^{\dagger}(x_0)$, so the prediction interval for MALP can be written as

$$\left[\hat{Y}^{\dagger}(x_0) \pm z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{S_{\rm Y}(1-\gamma^2) + \sigma_{\rm MA}^2(x_0)/n} \right]$$

Since $S_{\rm Y}(1-\gamma^2)$ is the estimated variance of the error term of least squares models, if the argument LSdfCorr is set to TRUE, $S_{\rm Y}(1-\gamma^2)$ is multiplied (n-1)/df, where df is the least squares residuals degrees of freedom. Note that bootstrap intervals are not available for prediction intervals.

```
fit lwr upr
1 0.3417864 0.106154 0.5774187
2 1.7374356 1.517131 1.9577401
3 4.5287340 4.214266 4.8432015
```

Since only the variance differs between the prediction interval of LSLP amnd MALP, they are very close to each other:

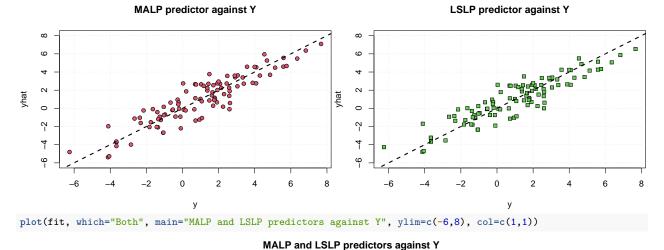
pr1\$LSLP

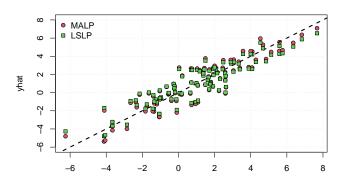
```
fit lwr upr
1 0.4024273 -1.7833582 2.588213
2 1.6698257 -0.5161263 3.855778
3 4.2046223 2.0000434 6.409201
```

2.6 The plot method

This method produces a scatter plot of the dependent variable against the fitted values from the MALP, LSLP or both. A 45 degree line is added to better evaluate the level of agreement. The following shows one example with which="MALP". The other options are "LSLP" and "Both".

```
plot(fit, which="MALP", main="MALP predictor against Y", ylim=c(-6,8), col=c(1,1))
plot(fit, which="LSLP", main="LSLP predictor against Y", ylim=c(-6,8), col=c(1,1))
```





У