

Maximum likelihood estimation

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Estimation frameworks

Review of ML estimation

ML for HNM

Method of moments

```
aovfit<-anova(lm(y~as.factor(g)) )
```

```
MSG<-aovfit[1,3]
```

```
MSE<-aovfit[2,3]
```

```
t2<-(MSG-MSE)/n
```

```
s2<-MSE
```

```
t2 ; sqrt(t2)
```

```
##          1
```

```
## 0.3840768
```

```
##          1
```

```
## 0.6197393
```

```
s2 ; sqrt(s2)
```

```
## [1] 1.787206
```

```
## [1] 1.336864
```

```
mean(y)
```

```
## [1] 16.3064
```

Maximum likelihood estimation

`lmer`

package: `lme4`

R Documentation

Fit Linear Mixed-Effects Models

Description:

Fit a linear mixed-effects model (LMM) to data, via REML or maximum likelihood.

Usage:

```
lmer(formula, data = NULL, REML = TRUE, control = lmerControl(),  
      start = NULL, verbose = 0L, subset, weights, na.action,  
      offset, contrasts = NULL, devFunOnly = FALSE)
```

```
library(lme4)

lmer(y~1+(1|g))

## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: y ~ 1 + (1 | g)
## REML criterion at convergence: 177.9876
## Random effects:
##   Groups      Name      Std.Dev.
##   g          (Intercept) 0.6197
## Residual              1.3369
## Number of obs: 50, groups:  g, 10
## Fixed Effects:
## (Intercept)
##      16.31
```

A more complicated example

```
nels[1:10,]
```

##	school	enroll	flp	public	urbanicity	hwh	ses	mscore
## 1	1011	5	3	1	urban	2	-0.23	52.11
## 2	1011	5	3	1	urban	0	0.69	57.65
## 3	1011	5	3	1	urban	4	-0.68	66.44
## 4	1011	5	3	1	urban	5	-0.89	44.68
## 5	1011	5	3	1	urban	3	-1.28	40.57
## 6	1011	5	3	1	urban	5	-0.93	35.04
## 7	1011	5	3	1	urban	1	0.36	50.71
## 8	1011	5	3	1	urban	4	-0.24	66.17
## 10	1011	5	3	1	urban	8	-1.07	46.17
## 11	1011	5	3	1	urban	2	-0.10	58.76

A more complicated example

$$y_{i,j} = (\beta_0 + \beta_{0,j}) + \beta_1 \times \text{flp}_j + \beta_2 \times \text{enroll}_j + (\beta_3 + \beta_{3,j}) \times \text{ses}_{i,j} + \epsilon_{i,j}$$

```
fit<-lmer(mscore~flp+enroll+ses+(ses|school),data=nels,REML=FALSE)
```

```
summary(fit)
```

```
## Linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood ['lmerMod']
## Formula: mscore ~ flp + enroll + ses + (ses | school)
## Data: nels
##
##          AIC      BIC    logLik deviance df.resid
##  92397.7  92457.5 -46190.9  92381.7    12966
##
## Scaled residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -3.9797 -0.6399  0.0180  0.6681  4.5053
##
## Random effects:
##  Groups      Name                Variance Std.Dev. Corr
##  school (Intercept)    9.004      3.001
##          ses           1.600      1.265    0.05
## Residual             67.260      8.201
## Number of obs: 12974, groups:  school, 684
##
## Fixed effects:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept) 55.429341   0.402910 137.573
## flp         -2.411521   0.185312 -13.013
## enroll       0.007095   0.082024   0.087
## ses          4.116881   0.125381  32.835
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##          (Intr) flp    enroll
## flp      -0.815
## enroll -0.300 -0.193
## ses      -0.202  0.212  0.007
```


Models and inference

A *statistical model* is a collection of probability distributions for observed data:

$$\mathcal{P} = \{p(y|\theta), \theta \in \Theta\}$$

- y is the data;
- Θ is the set of parameter values;
- $p(y|\theta)$ is a probability (density) for each $\theta \in \Theta$.

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Example: Normal model

For example, the normal model is

$$\{p(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\{-(y - \mu)^2/(2\sigma^2)\}, \mu \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}^+\}.$$

- y is a single observed data value;
- $\theta = \{\mu, \sigma^2\}$ is the parameter (or are the parameters);
- $\Theta = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^+$ is the set of possible parameter values;
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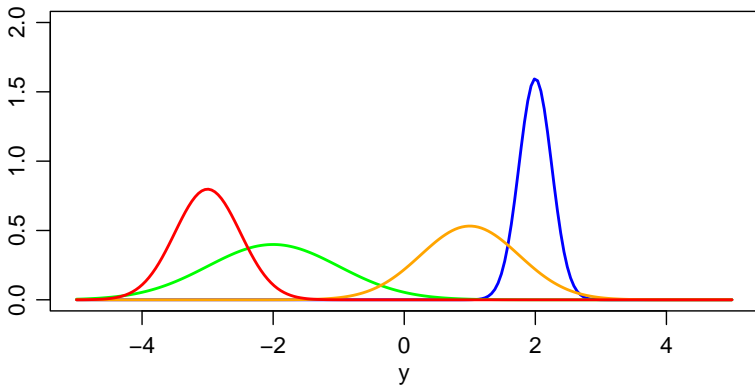
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Model-based inference

Model-based statistical inference involves

Estimation: Obtaining a value $\hat{\theta} \in \Theta$ that “best” represents the population.

Inference: Describing how well $\hat{\theta}$ represents the population.

Inference includes things like: confidence intervals, hypotheses tests.

Likelihood-based statistical inference:

- a type of model based inference;
- estimation and inference are based on the likelihood function.

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Joint probability of the data

Independent events: Recall if A and B are independent events,

$$\Pr(A \text{ and } B) = \Pr(A) \times \Pr(B).$$

Independent observations: If y_1 and y_2 are independent observations, then

$$\begin{aligned} p_{y_1 y_2}(y_1, y_2 | \theta) &= p(y_1 | \theta) \times p(y_2 | \theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^2 p(y_i | \theta) \end{aligned}$$

Independent sample: If $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$ are independent observations, then

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Example: Binary data

Suppose we are sampling people from a population and recording whether or not they have a particular disease.

Let $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$ depending on if they are uninfected or infected.

A natural model is the binomial/binary model:

$$y_1, \dots, y_n \sim \text{i.i.d. binary}(\theta), \theta \in [0, 1]$$

In this model

- The parameter is $\theta \in [0, 1]$.
- The probability density is

$$p(y|\theta) = \begin{cases} (1-\theta) & \text{if } y = 0 \\ \theta & \text{if } y = 1 \end{cases},$$

which can be compactly written as $p(y|\theta) = \theta^y(1-\theta)^{1-y}$.

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If y_1, \dots, y_n are i.i.d. samples from this population,

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{y}|\theta) &= \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \theta^{y_i} (1 - \theta)^{1-y_i} \\ &= \theta^{\sum y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum y_i} \end{aligned}$$

Interpretation:

$p(\mathbf{y}|\theta)$ tells you how probable a given outcome is, for a particular θ .

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Quiz: If $n = 3$ and $\theta = 1/2$, what is

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If your observed data were $\{0, 0, 0\}$, which θ value is “more likely”?

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Example (binomial model): If $\mathbf{y} = \{0, 0, 0\}$, then

$$L(\tfrac{1}{2} : \{0, 0, 0\}) = \tfrac{1}{8} = 0.125$$

$$L(\tfrac{1}{3} : \{0, 0, 0\}) = \tfrac{8}{27} \approx 0.296$$

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The *maximum likelihood estimator*, or *MLE*, is the value of θ that maximizes the likelihood:

$$\hat{\theta}_{MLE} = \arg \max_{\theta \in \Theta} L(\theta : \mathbf{y})$$

Example (binomial model): If $\mathbf{y} = \{0, 0, 0\}$ and θ is either $1/2$ or $1/3$, then

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Binomial MLE

Suppose 5 people are infected in a sample of size 30.

$$n = 30, \sum y_i = 5$$

The likelihood function is

$$L(\theta : \mathbf{y}) = \theta^{\sum y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum y_i} = \theta^5 (1 - \theta)^{25}.$$

Careful examination, or trial and error gives $\hat{\theta} = 5/30 = 1/6 = 0.166\bar{6}$

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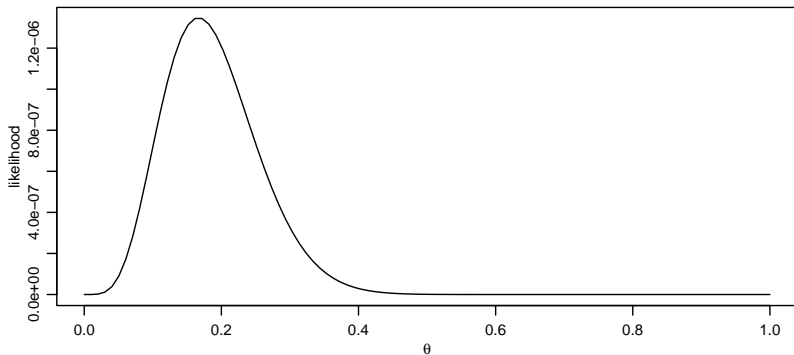
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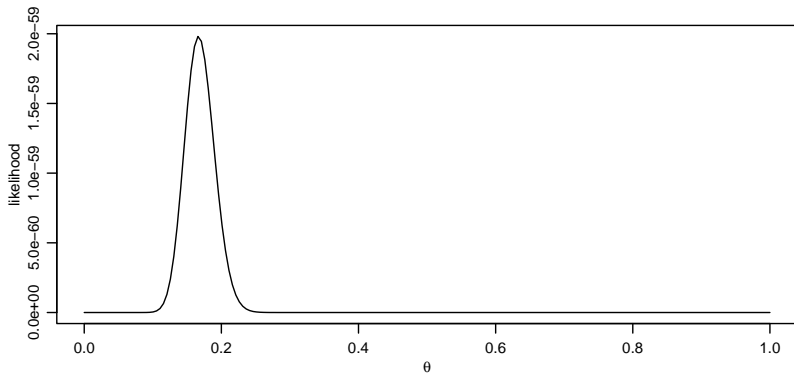
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Likelihoods with lots of data can give extreme numbers.

Alternatively, we can make inference with the *log-likelihood*:

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If $\hat{\theta}$ maximizes $L(\theta : \mathbf{y})$ then it also maximizes $\log L(\theta : \mathbf{y}) = l(\theta : \mathbf{y})$.

To find the MLE we can work with the log-likelihood. For the binomial model,

$$\begin{aligned} L(\theta : \mathbf{y}) &= \theta^{\sum y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum y_i} \\ l(\theta : \mathbf{y}) &= \log \left(\theta^{\sum y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum y_i} \right) \\ &= \log \theta^{\sum y_i} + \log (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum y_i} \\ &= \left(\sum y_i \right) \times \log \theta + \left(n - \sum y_i \right) \times \log (1 - \theta) \end{aligned}$$

Binomial MLE

Suppose 5 people are infected in a sample of size 30.

$$n = 30, \sum y_i = 5$$

The log-likelihood function is

$$l(\theta : \mathbf{y}) = 5 \times \log(\theta) + 25 \times \log(1 - \theta).$$

As before, $\hat{\theta} = 5/30 = 1/6 = 0.16\bar{6}$.

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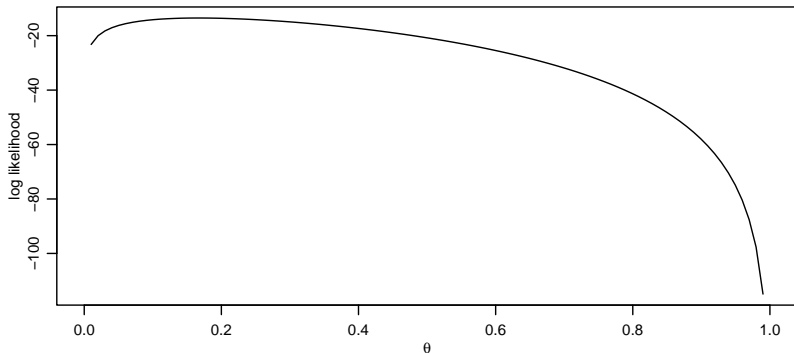
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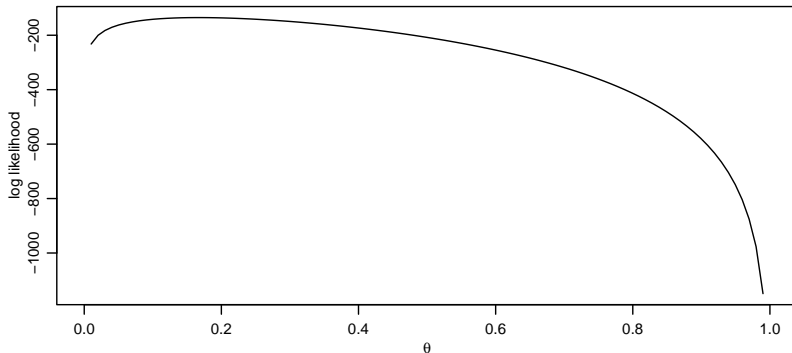
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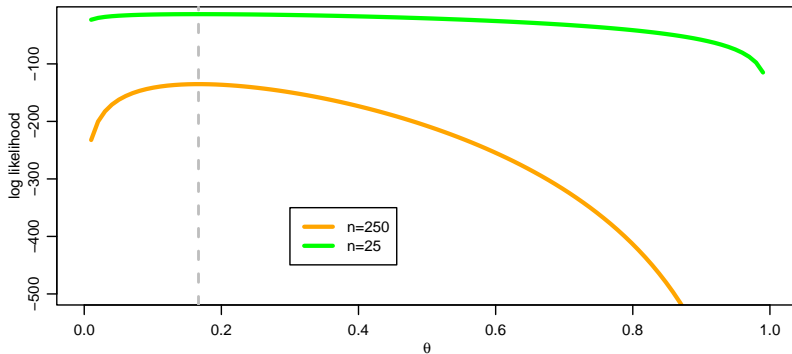
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Comparing log-likelihoods



Inference with the likelihood function

As we've seen and discussed,

- the peak of the log-likelihood gives the MLE.
- the curvature of the log-likelihood gives the *information* or *certainty*.

How can we find the peak in general?

What is the information? How does it relate to estimation accuracy?

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Finding the MLE

Recall from calculus that the *tangent* or *derivative* of a function, at a local maximum, will be zero. This tells us how to find the MLE:

$$\hat{\theta}_{MLE} \text{ satisfies } \frac{d}{d\theta} l(\theta : \mathbf{y})|_{\theta=\hat{\theta}} = 0$$

Let's try this for the binomial model. Recall that

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} \log \theta = 1/\theta, \quad \frac{d}{d\theta} \log(1 - \theta) = -1/(1 - \theta)$$

The derivative of the log-likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\theta} l(\theta : \mathbf{y}) &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sum y_i \times \log \theta + (n - \sum y_i) \times \log(1 - \theta) \right) \\ &= \frac{\sum y_i}{\theta} - \frac{n - \sum y_i}{1 - \theta} \end{aligned}$$

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Finding the MLE

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dl(\theta : y)}{d\theta} \Big|_{\theta=\hat{\theta}} &= \frac{\sum y_i}{\hat{\theta}} - \frac{n - \sum y_i}{1 - \hat{\theta}} = 0 \text{ if} \\ \frac{\sum y_i}{\hat{\theta}} &= \frac{n - \sum y_i}{1 - \hat{\theta}} \\ \sum y_i - \hat{\theta} \sum y_i &= \hat{\theta} n - \hat{\theta} \sum y_i \\ \hat{\theta} &= \sum y_i / n\end{aligned}$$

So not surprisingly, the MLE is the sample proportion $\sum y_i / n$.

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Information and precision

The precision of the MLE (how well it estimates the truth) depends on the second derivative, or curvature, of the log-likelihood.

For the binomial model, the second derivative is

$$\frac{d^2 l(\theta : y)}{d\theta^2} = -\frac{\sum y_i}{\theta^2} - \frac{n - \sum y_i}{(1 - \theta)^2}$$

Plugging in the MLE $\hat{\theta}$ for θ gives

$$\frac{d^2 l(\theta : y)}{d\theta^2} \Big|_{\theta=\hat{\theta}} = -\frac{n}{\hat{\theta}} - \frac{n}{(1 - \hat{\theta})} = -\frac{n}{\hat{\theta}(1 - \hat{\theta})}$$

Information: In stat theory, the *observed information* about θ is

$$\begin{aligned} I_n &= -\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} l(\theta : y) \Big|_{\hat{\theta}} \\ &= \frac{n}{\hat{\theta}(1 - \hat{\theta})} \quad \text{for the binomial model} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise: Consider how I_n varies with n and $\hat{\theta}$.

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$$\text{Var}[\hat{\theta}] \approx 1/I_n$$

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MLE for the hierarchical normal model

$$y_{i,j} = \mu + a_j + \epsilon_{i,j}$$
$$\{\epsilon_{i,j}\} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma^2)$$
$$\{a_j\} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \tau^2)$$

Parameters to estimate:

- Fixed effects: μ
- Variance components: σ^2, τ^2
- Random effects: a_1, \dots, a_m

Likelihood estimation focuses on estimation of $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2)$

Alternative methods are required for estimation of a_1, \dots, a_m .

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Parameters to estimate:

- Fixed effects: μ
- Variance components: σ^2, τ^2
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Likelihood estimation focuses on estimation of $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2)$

Alternative methods are required for estimation of a_1, \dots, a_m .

MLE for the hierarchical normal model

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HNM likelihood

Data:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y} &= (y_{1,1}, \dots, y_{n_j,1}, \dots, y_{1,m}, \dots, y_{n_m,m}) \\ &= (\{y_{1,1}, \dots, y_{n_j,1}\}, \dots, \{y_{1,m}, \dots, y_{n_m,m}\}) \\ &= (\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n)\end{aligned}$$

Likelihood:

$$l(\mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2 : \mathbf{y}) = p(\mathbf{y} | \mu, \tau^2, \sigma^2)$$

Recall: Under the HNM,

- observations within groups are correlated;
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Likelihood contribution from a single group

$$y_{i,j} = \mu + a_j + \epsilon_{i,j}$$

$$\epsilon_{1,j}, \dots, \epsilon_{n_j,j} \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma^2)$$

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As we've discussed, the $y_{i,j}$'s are normal with

- $E[y_{i,j}|\mu] = \mu$
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In vector form, we can express this as follows:

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Multivariate normal distribution

This means that \mathbf{y}_j has a *multivariate normal distribution*.

The density of a general multivariate normal($\boldsymbol{\theta}, \Sigma$) distribution is

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\theta}, \Sigma) = (2\pi)^{-p/2} |\Sigma|^{-1/2} \exp\{-(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\theta})^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\theta})/2\}$$

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$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_p \end{pmatrix} \quad \boldsymbol{\theta} = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \theta_p \end{pmatrix} \quad \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \sigma_{1,2} & \cdots & \sigma_{1,p} \\ \sigma_{1,2} & \sigma_2^2 & \cdots & \sigma_{2,p} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \sigma_{1,p} & \sigma_{2,p} & \cdots & \sigma_p^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Computing the log-likelihood

MLEs of (μ, σ^2, τ^2) can be found by maximizing the log likelihood.

Log likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mathbf{y} : \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) &= p(\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_m | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) \\ l(\mathbf{y} : \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) &= \log p(\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_m | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) \\ &= \log \prod_{j=1}^m p(\mathbf{y}_j | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^m \log p(\mathbf{y}_j | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2), \end{aligned}$$

where $\log p(\mathbf{y}_j | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2)$ is the log of a multivariate normal density.

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$$\begin{aligned} L(\mathbf{y} : \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) &= p(\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_m | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) \\ l(\mathbf{y} : \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) &= \log p(\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_m | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) \\ &= \log \prod_{j=1}^m p(\mathbf{y}_j | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^m \log p(\mathbf{y}_j | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2), \end{aligned}$$

where $\log p(\mathbf{y}_j | \mu, \sigma^2, \tau^2)$ is the log of a multivariate normal density.

For the HNM, we replace

- θ with $\mu \mathbf{1}$
- Σ with the covariance matrix from the previous slide.

Computing the log-likelihood

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Computing the (minus) log-likelihood

```

mll.oneway

## function(mus2t2,y,g)
##
## {
##   mu<-mus2t2[1] ; s2<-mus2t2[2] ; t2<-mus2t2[3]
##
##   ll<-0
##
##   for(gj in sort(unique(g)))
##     {
##       nj<-sum(g==gj)
##
##       S<-diag(s2,nj) + matrix(t2,nj,nj)
##
##       ll<-ll+ldmvnorm(y[g==gj],mu,S)
##     }
##
##   -ll
##
## }

```

Example: Wheat data

```
mll.oneway( c(16.3, 1.787, 0.31 ), y,g)

##           [,1]
## [1,] 88.58541

mll.oneway( c(15, 1.787, 0.31 ), y,g)

##           [,1]
## [1,] 101.3711

mll.oneway( c(16.3, 2, 0.31 ), y,g)

##           [,1]
## [1,] 88.71672

mll.oneway( c(16.3, 1.787, 0.4 ), y,g)

##           [,1]
## [1,] 88.62378
```

Optimization in R

```
fit.ml<-optim(c(15,1,1),mll.oneway,gr=NULL,y=y,g=g,lower=c(-Inf,0,0),method="L-BFGS-B",hessian=TRUE)

fit.ml

## $par
## [1] 16.3063995  1.7872063  0.3099255
##
## $value
## [1] 88.5851
##
## $counts
## function gradient
##      16      16
##
## $convergence
## [1] 0
##
## $message
## [1] "CONVERGENCE: REL_REDUCTION_OF_F <= FACTR*EPSMCH"
##
## $hessian
##           [,1]      [,2]      [,3]
## [1,] 1.498426e+01 2.186695e-06 1.090683e-05
## [2,] 2.186695e-06 6.710598e+00 2.245294e+00
## [3,] 1.090683e-05 2.245294e+00 1.122654e+01
```

The MLEs are

$$\hat{\mu} = 16.3063995, \hat{\sigma}^2 = 1.7872063, \hat{\tau}^2 = 0.3099255$$

Confidence intervals via the Information matrix

For maximum likelihood estimation in general,

- $\hat{\theta}_{MLE} \rightarrow \theta$ as the sample size goes to infinity (if the model is correct);
- $\hat{\theta} \sim \text{normal}(\theta, \text{Var}[\hat{\theta}])$, where
- $\text{Var}[\hat{\theta}] \approx -[d^2 l(\theta|y)/d\theta^2]^{-1}$ for large sample sizes.

For our hierarchical normal model, this means that approximate 95% confidence intervals for (μ, τ^2, σ^2) can be obtained from the curvature of the log likelihood.

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The *observed information matrix* is the (matrix of) second derivative(s) of the negative log-likelihood function at the MLE (aka the *Hessian*):

$$I_n(\hat{\theta} : \mathbf{y}) = \left\{ -\frac{\partial^2 l(\theta : \mathbf{y})}{\partial \theta_j \partial \theta_k} \right\} \Big|_{\theta = \hat{\theta}}$$

The inverse of the information matrix gives an estimate of the variance/covariance of the MLE's:

$$\text{Var}[\hat{\theta} : \mathbf{y}] \approx I_n^{-1}(\hat{\theta} : \mathbf{y})$$

From this, we can get confidence intervals:

- $\sqrt{I_{jj}^{-1}}$ gives an approximate standard error for θ_k .
- The MLE plus and minus 2 standard errors gives a rough confidence interval for the parameters.

$$\Pr(\theta \in \hat{\theta} \pm 2 \times \text{se}[\hat{\theta}]) \approx 0.95$$

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Confidence intervals via the Information matrix

```
theta.wheat<-fit.ml$par

theta.wheat

## [1] 16.3063995  1.7872063  0.3099255

I<-fit.ml$hessian

V.wheat<-solve(I)

V.wheat

##                [,1]                [,2]                [,3]
## [1,]  6.673668e-02 -5.694851e-11 -6.482475e-08
## [2,] -5.694851e-11  1.597051e-01 -3.194081e-02
## [3,] -6.482475e-08 -3.194081e-02  9.546274e-02

sqrt(diag(V.wheat))

## [1] 0.2583344 0.3996312 0.3089705

theta.wheat+2*sqrt(diag(V.wheat))

## [1] 16.8230684  2.5864686  0.9278664

theta.wheat-2*sqrt(diag(V.wheat))

## [1] 15.7897307  0.9879440 -0.3080154
```

Fitting via lme4: Wheat

```
fit.wheat<-lmer(y~1+(1|g),REML=FALSE)
summary(fit.wheat)

## Linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood ['lmerMod']
## Formula: y ~ 1 + (1 | g)
##
##           AIC          BIC    logLik deviance df.resid
##      183.2       188.9     -88.6   177.2       47
##
## Scaled residuals:
##      Min        1Q    Median        3Q      Max
## -2.7913 -0.6035  0.1311  0.6520  1.7262
##
## Random effects:
##   Groups      Name      Variance Std.Dev.
##    g      (Intercept)  0.3099   0.5567
## Residual                1.7872   1.3369
## Number of obs: 50, groups:  g, 10
##
## Fixed effects:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)  16.3064    0.2583   63.12

theta.wheat

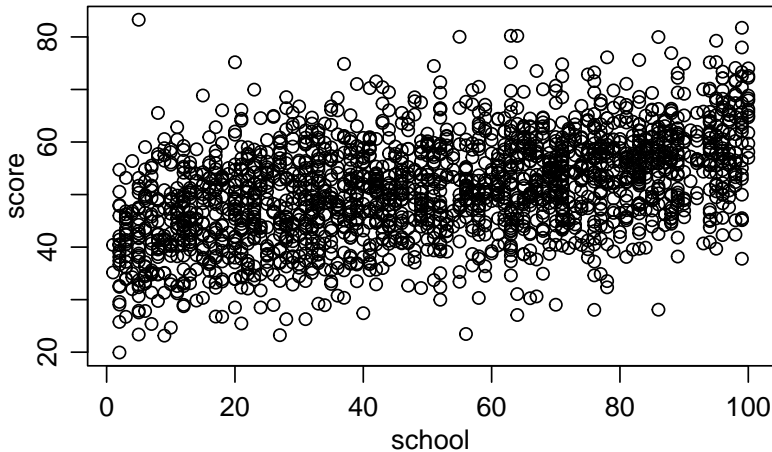
## [1] 16.3063995  1.7872063  0.3099255

sqrt(diag(V.wheat))

## [1] 0.2583344 0.3996312 0.3089705
```

NELS example

100 randomly sampled schools from the NELS dataset



Analysis of all schools

```
fit.ml.nels<-optim(c(50, 1, 1), mll.oneway, gr = NULL, y = nels$mscore, g = nels$school, lower = c(-Inf,
fit.ml.nels

## $par
## [1] 50.93914 73.70881 23.63382
##
## $value
## [1] 46956.63
##
## $counts
## function gradient
##      27      27
##
## $convergence
## [1] 0
##
## $message
## [1] "CONVERGENCE: REL_REDUCTION_OF_F <= FACTR*EPSMCH"
##
## $hessian
##           [,1]      [,2]      [,3]
## [1,] 24.35837087 -0.01576882 0.04913818
## [2,] -0.01576882  1.13128044 0.03026526
## [3,] 0.04913818  0.03026526 0.42089960
```

The MLEs are

$$\hat{\mu} = 50.9391407, \hat{\sigma}^2 = 73.708808, \hat{\tau}^2 = 23.6338229$$

Confidence intervals via the Information matrix

```
theta.nels<-fit.ml.nels$par

theta.nels

## [1] 50.93914 73.70881 23.63382

I<-fit.ml.nels$hessian

V.nels<-solve(I)

V.nels

##           [,1]      [,2]      [,3]
## [1,]  0.0410638760  0.0007019913 -0.004844505
## [2,]  0.0007019913  0.8856698641 -0.063767034
## [3,] -0.0048445047 -0.0637670344  2.381014344

sqrt(diag(V.nels))

## [1] 0.2026422 0.9411003 1.5430536

theta.nels+2*sqrt(diag(V.nels))

## [1] 51.34443 75.59101 26.71993

theta.nels-2*sqrt(diag(V.nels))

## [1] 50.53386 71.82661 20.54772
```

Fitting via lme4: Math scores

```
fit.nels<-lmer(mscore~1+(1|school),REML=FALSE,data=nels)
summary(fit.nels)

## Linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood ['lmerMod']
## Formula: mscore ~ 1 + (1 | school)
## Data: nels
##
##      AIC      BIC   logLik deviance df.resid
## 93919.3 93941.7 -46956.6 93913.3    12971
##
## Scaled residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -3.8112 -0.6534  0.0093  0.6732  4.6999
##
## Random effects:
## Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
## school (Intercept) 23.63  4.861
## Residual 73.71  8.585
## Number of obs: 12974, groups: school, 684
##
## Fixed effects:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept) 50.9391 0.2026 251.4

theta.nels

## [1] 50.93914 73.70881 23.63382

sqrt(diag(V.nels))

## [1] 0.2026422 0.9411003 1.5430536
```

Our technology so far

ANOVA, method of moments:

- Estimation: $\hat{\mu} = \bar{y}_{..}$, $\hat{\sigma}^2 = MSE$, $\hat{\tau}^2 = (MSG - MSE)/n$
- Inference: F -test for across-group differences.

Maximum likelihood:

- Estimation: MLEs $\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}^2, \hat{\tau}^2$
- Inference: CIs for population parameters via likelihood curvature.

What about estimation and inference for a_j or μ_j 's ?

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