Documentation: Federation Functions

```
source("federated_base_func.R")
source("federated_pool_func.R")
```

In this document, we illustrate how we use the proposed federated inference methods that require only onetime sharing of aggregate data, to obtain the federated point estimates and variance. The data sources are generated with the data simulation scheme as below:

Data generation

In our data generating process, $\mathbf{X}_i = (X_{i1}, X_{i2}, X_{i3})^T \in \mathbb{R}^3$ are i.i.d. samples where each $X_{i,j} \sim \text{unif}(-1,1)$ is a scalar for $j \in \{1,2,3\}$. W_i is a binary treatment variable that follows:

$$\frac{P(W_i = 1 \mid \mathbf{X}_i)}{P(W_i = 0 \mid \mathbf{X}_i)} = \exp(\gamma_c + \gamma_x^T \mathbf{X}_i)$$

where $\gamma_c = 0.1$ and $\gamma_x = [0.2, 0.3, 0.4]$. Y_i is a binary response variable that follows

$$\frac{P(Y_i = 1 \mid \mathbf{X}_i, W_i)}{P(Y_i = 0 \mid \mathbf{X}_i, W_i)} = \exp(\beta_c + \beta_w W_i + \beta_x^T \mathbf{X}_i)$$

where $\beta_c = -0.2$, $\beta_w = -0.3$, $\beta_x = [0.5, 0.7, -0.6]$.

We generate a total 20,000 observations and randomly split these observations into D = 2 equally-sized data sets. For the illustration purpose, we consider **ATE** as the estimand.

```
# two equally-sized data sets
D = 2
# entire simulated sample size
N = 20000
estimand = "ATE"

gamma <- c(0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4)
beta <- c(-0.2, -0.3, 0.5, 0.7, -0.6)</pre>
```

```
expit <- function(x) {
    return(1/(1 + exp(-x)))
}

GenerateData <- function(N, D, seed=123) {
    set.seed(seed)
    subsample_lst <- list()
    for (ix in 1:D) {
        X1 <- runif(N/D, min = -1, max = 1)
        X2 <- runif(N/D, min = -1, max = 1)</pre>
```

```
X3 <- runif(N/D, min = -1, max = 1)

treat <- rbinom(N/D, 1, expit(gamma[1]+gamma[2]*X1+gamma[3]*X2+gamma[4]*X3))
y0 <- rbinom(N/D, 1, expit(beta[1]+beta[2]*0+beta[3]*X1+beta[4]*X2+beta[5]*X3))
y1 <- rbinom(N/D, 1, expit(beta[1]+beta[2]*1+beta[3]*X1+beta[4]*X2+beta[5]*X3))
y <- y1*treat + y0*(1-treat)
intercept = rep(1, N/D)
dat <- data.frame(intercept, y, y1, y0, treat, X1, X2, X3)
dat$subsample <- ix
subsample_lst[[ix]] <- dat
}
pooled <- do.call("rbind", subsample_lst)
true_ate <- mean(pooled$y1) - mean(pooled$y0)
pooled$y <- pooled$y1*pooled$treat + pooled$y0*(1-pooled$treat)

return(list(true_ate = true_ate, subsample_lst = subsample_lst, pooled = pooled))
}</pre>
```

MLE

data set-specific MLE estimation

```
temp <- GenerateData(N=20000, D=2, seed=123)
subsample_lst <- temp$subsample_lst</pre>
```

If we are interested in any data set-specific MLE estimations, we can use the <code>est_mle</code> function and speicfy the outcome (treatment) and covariates vectors, as well as the working candidate models. For example, we can obtain a MLE estimation for the **treatment model** (treat.reg set to TRUE) with robust variance estimator on the first dataset as follows:

This result is a list of MLE estimates including estimated coefficients:

result\$est

```
## intercept X1 X2 X3
## 0.1419502 0.2896832 0.2866983 0.4819945
```

The variance covariance matrix (robust sandwich form as we have specified, result\$V):

result\$V

```
## intercept X1 X2 X3
## intercept 4.154601e-04 1.786187e-05 1.841158e-05 1.197858e-05
## X1 1.786187e-05 1.270287e-03 3.621446e-05 2.623310e-05
## X2 1.841158e-05 3.621446e-05 1.255755e-03 8.630906e-06
## X3 1.197858e-05 2.623310e-05 8.630906e-06 1.255393e-03
```

Besides, it returns the gradient (result\$grad), outer product of the gradient (result\$outer.grad), hessian (result\$hessian) of the log likelihood function evaluated at the MLE estimates, and the estimated probabilities (result\$est.prob) of being treated.

Similarly, we can obtain a MLE estimation for the **outcome model** (treat.reg set to FALSE(default)) with robust variance estimator on the first dataset as follows:

```
# specify the first dataset
idx <- 1; subsample <- subsample_lst[[idx]]

# specify the working covariates
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")
# specify the working treatment model
reg.formula <- as.formula(
   paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))

# get the outcome vector
y <- subsample$y
# get the design matrix
X <- model.matrix(reg.formula, data = subsample)
# use robust variance estimator
robust <- TRUE

# MLE estimation for outcome model
result <- est_mle(this.y=y, this.X=X, robust=TRUE, treat.reg=FALSE, reg.formula = reg.formula)</pre>
```

federation using MLE

stable outcome models / treatment models

We provide an example of federating outcome models, the same approach applied to treatment models by changing the input list of data set-specific response variables as treatment assignments. In this example, we assume stable outcome models across data sets and we use a robust federated variance estimator (model_misspec=TRUE).

```
# specify the working covariates
# for now we assume stable models, so same set of covariates across data sets
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")</pre>
# initialize inputs for federated MLE function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
model misspec <- TRUE
for (ix in 1:D) {
  subsample <- subsample_lst[[ix]]</pre>
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  full_X[[ix]] <- model.matrix(formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_reg.formula[[ix]] <- formula</pre>
# restricted federated MLE estimation for outcome model
result <- poolMLE(full_y=full_y, full_X=full_X, full_reg.formula=full_reg.formula, model_misspec=TRUE)
```

result

```
## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|z|)
## intercept -0.2105429 0.02178165 -9.666066 0
## treat -0.2846099 0.03036730 -9.372250 0
## X1 0.5095513 0.02639508 19.304784 0
## X2 0.6811220 0.02632138 25.877140 0
## X3 -0.6025427 0.02654518 -22.698756 0
```

unstable outcome models / treatment models

In this example, we assume unstable outcome models across data sets (X2 and X3 are set as unstable covariates) and we use a robust federated variance estimator (model_misspec=TRUE).

```
# specify the working covariates
# for now we assume stable models, so same set of covariates across data sets
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")

covariates_unstable <- c("X2", "X3")

# initialize inputs for federated MLE function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)
full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)
full_reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)
model_misspec <- TRUE

for (ix in 1:D) {</pre>
```

result

```
##
                Estimate Std. Error t value
                                                   Pr(>|z|)
## treat
              -0.2846783 0.03036726 -9.374511 0.000000e+00
               0.5096438 0.02639534 19.308099 0.000000e+00
## X1
## I1_intercept -0.2124535 0.02645318 -8.031301 8.881784e-16
## I1 X2
               0.6777567 0.03712294 18.257084 0.000000e+00
## I1 X3
             -0.5791784 0.03710985 -15.607131 0.000000e+00
## I2_intercept -0.2084741 0.02643308 -7.886866 3.108624e-15
## I2_X2
               0.6841610 0.03709005 18.445945 0.000000e+00
## I2_X3
               -0.6263463 0.03774205 -16.595447 0.000000e+00
```

Note that we can also specify different working models and specify the non-overlapped covariates of the working models as the unstable covariates as the following example is showing:

```
# specify the working covariates
# for now we assume stable models, so same set of covariates across data sets
covariates <- list(c("X1", "X2", "X3"), c("X1", "X3"))</pre>
covariates unstable <- c("X2")
# initialize inputs for federated MLE function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
model_misspec <- TRUE</pre>
for (ix in 1:D) {
  subsample <- subsample_lst[[ix]]</pre>
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates[[ix]], collapse = " + ")))
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  full_X[[ix]] <- model.matrix(formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_reg.formula[[ix]] <- formula</pre>
```

result

IPW-MLE

data set-specific IPW-MLE estimation

If we are interested in any data set-specific IPW-MLE estimations, we can use the <code>est_ht</code> function and speicfy the outcome, treatment, covariates vectors, as well as the working candidate models. For example, we can obtain a IPW-MLE estimation for ATE (<code>estimand="ATE"</code>) with estimated propensity scores on the first dataset as follows:

```
# specify the first dataset
idx <- 1; subsample <- subsample_lst[[idx]]</pre>
# specify the working covariates
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")</pre>
# specify the working treatment model
treat.reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
      paste("treat ~ 0 + intercept + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
# specify the working outcome model
reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
      paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
# get the outcome vector
y <- subsample$y
# get the treatment assignment vector
treat <- subsample$treat</pre>
# get the design matrix (with treatment column)
X.tilde <- model.matrix(reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
# get the design matrix (no treatment column)
X <- model.matrix(treat.reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
# IPW-MLE estimation for treatment model
result <- est_ht(this.y=y, this.X.tilde=X.tilde, this.X=X, this.treat=treat,
                 reg.formula=reg.formula, treat.reg.formula = treat.reg.formula,
                  estimand="ATE", estimated_propensity=TRUE)
```

This result is a list of IPW-MLE estimates including estimated coefficients for outcome model (result\$est):

result\$est

```
## intercept treat X1 X2 X3
## -0.1864882 -0.3480863 0.5480803 0.6835608 -0.5719763
```

The variance covariance matrix (result\$V):

result\$V

```
## intercept treat X1 X2 X3
## intercept 9.734854e-04 -0.0009733726 0.0000785715 6.605915e-05 1.479886e-04
## treat -9.733726e-04 0.0018669168 -0.0001925042 -1.821724e-04 -1.735410e-04
## X1 7.857150e-05 -0.0001925042 0.0014691801 1.193809e-04 -4.204430e-05
## X2 6.605915e-05 -0.0001821724 0.0001193809 1.457098e-03 -6.940819e-05
## X3 1.479886e-04 -0.0001735410 -0.0000420443 -6.940819e-05 1.444768e-03
```

And the estimated probabilities for outcomes (result\$est.prob).

federation using IPW-MLE

stable models

In this example, we assume stable outcome models and stable treatment models across data sets. We assume the propensity scores are estimated (estimated_propensity=TRUE) and the target estimand is ATE (estimand="ATE").

```
# specify the working covariates
# for now we assume stable models, so same set of covariates across data sets
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")</pre>
# initialize inputs for federated IPW-MLE function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_X.tilde <- full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full treat <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_reg.formula <- full_treat.reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
for (ix in 1:D) {
  subsample <- subsample_lst[[ix]]</pre>
  reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  treat.reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("treat ~ 0 + intercept + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  full_treat[[ix]] <- subsample$treat</pre>
  full_X[[ix]] <- model.matrix(treat.reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_X.tilde[[ix]] <- model.matrix(reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_reg.formula[[ix]] <- reg.formula</pre>
```

result

```
## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|z|)
## intercept -0.2122661 0.02198841 -9.653541 0
## treat -0.2847750 0.03041323 -9.363522 0
## X1 0.5152052 0.02682732 19.204498 0
## X2 0.6786824 0.02673363 25.386838 0
## X3 -0.6029444 0.02693749 -22.383094 0
```

unstable outcome models / treatment models

In this example, we assume unstable outcome models and unstable treatment models across data sets. We assume the propensity scores are estimated (estimated_propensity=TRUE) and the target estimand is ATE (estimand="ATE").

```
# specify the working covariates
# for now we assume stable models, sosame set of covariates across data sets
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")</pre>
covariates unstable <- c("X2", "X3")
# initialize inputs for federated IPW-MLE function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_X.tilde <- full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_treat <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full reg.formula <- full treat.reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
for (ix in 1:D) {
  subsample <- subsample_lst[[ix]]</pre>
  reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  treat.reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("treat ~ 0 + intercept + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  full treat[[ix]] <- subsample$treat</pre>
  full_X[[ix]] <- model.matrix(treat.reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
```

result

```
##
                 Estimate Std. Error
                                        t value
                                                    Pr(>|z|)
## treat
               -0.2850349 0.03041431 -9.371734 0.000000e+00
                0.5156843 0.02682576 19.223475 0.000000e+00
## X1
## I1_intercept -0.2160791 0.02679283 -8.064811 6.661338e-16
                0.6796142 0.03778805 17.984895 0.000000e+00
## I1_X2
## I1_X3
               -0.5703963 0.03784860 -15.070472 0.000000e+00
## I2_intercept -0.2084478 0.02672656 -7.799275 6.217249e-15
## I2_X2
                0.6781071 0.03763991 18.015640 0.000000e+00
## I2_X3
               -0.6352524 0.03843071 -16.529814 0.000000e+00
```

AIPW

data set-specific AIPW estimation

If we are interested in any data set-specific AIPW estimations, we can use the <code>est_aipw</code> function and speicfy the outcome, treatment, covariates vectors, as well as the working candidate models. For example, we can obtain a AIPW estimation for ATE (<code>estimand="ATE"</code>) on the first dataset as follows:

```
# specify the first dataset
idx <- 1; subsample <- subsample_lst[[idx]]

# specify the working covariates
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")
# specify the working treatment model
treat.reg.formula <- as.formula(
    paste("treat ~ 0 + intercept + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
# specify the working outcome model
reg.formula <- as.formula(
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
# get the outcome vector</pre>
```

```
y <- subsample$y
# get the treatment assignment vector
treat <- subsample$treat
# get the design matrix (with treatment column)
X.tilde <- model.matrix(reg.formula, data = subsample)
# get the design matrix (no treatment column)
X <- model.matrix(treat.reg.formula, data = subsample)
result <- est_aipw(this.y=y, this.X.tilde=X.tilde, this.X=X, this.treat=treat, estimand=estimand, treat.reg.formula=treat.reg.formula, reg.formula=reg.formula)</pre>
```

The results is a list of estimation outputs including the ATE estimate (result\$est), the corresponding variance (result\$V) and the influence functions (result\$influence.function).

federation using AIPW

stable models

In this example, we assume stable models across data sets. Our target estimand is ATE (estimand="ATE").

```
# specify the working covariates
# for now we assume stable models, so same set of covariates across data sets
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")</pre>
# initialize inputs for federated AIPW function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_X.tilde <- full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_treat <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_reg.formula <- full_treat.reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
for (ix in 1:D) {
  subsample <- subsample_lst[[ix]]</pre>
  reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  treat.reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("treat ~ 0 + intercept + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  full_treat[[ix]] <- subsample$treat</pre>
  full_X[[ix]] <- model.matrix(treat.reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_X.tilde[[ix]] <- model.matrix(reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_reg.formula[[ix]] <- reg.formula</pre>
  full_treat.reg.formula[[ix]] <- treat.reg.formula</pre>
# restricted federated AIPW estimation
result <- poolAIPW(full_y=full_y, full_X.tilde=full_X.tilde, full_X=full_X, full_treat=full_treat,
                    unstable=FALSE,
                    full_reg.formula=full_reg.formula, full_treat.reg.formula=full_treat.reg.formula,
                    estimand="ATE")
```

The returned summary table reports the pooled estimates, standard errors, t statistics and corresponding p-values of the ATE estimation.

```
result
```

```
## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|z|)
## [1,] -0.06401707 0.006803952 -9.408807 0
```

unstable models

In this example, we assume unstable models across data sets. Assume that we still use ATE as our target estimand (estimand="ATE").

```
# specify the working covariates
# we assume unstable models
covariates <- c("X1", "X2", "X3")
# initialize inputs for federated AIPW function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_X.tilde <- full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_treat <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_reg.formula <- full_treat.reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
for (ix in 1:D) {
  subsample <- subsample_lst[[ix]]</pre>
  reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  treat.reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("treat ~ 0 + intercept + ", paste(covariates, collapse = " + ")))
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  full treat[[ix]] <- subsample$treat</pre>
  full_X[[ix]] <- model.matrix(treat.reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full X.tilde[[ix]] <- model.matrix(reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_reg.formula[[ix]] <- reg.formula</pre>
  full_treat.reg.formula[[ix]] <- treat.reg.formula</pre>
}
\# unrestricted federated AIPW estimation
result <- poolAIPW(full_y=full_y, full_X.tilde=full_X.tilde, full_X=full_X, full_treat=full_treat,
                    unstable=TRUE,
                    full_reg.formula=full_reg.formula, full_treat.reg.formula=full_treat.reg.formula,
                    estimand="ATE")
```

The returned summary table reports the pooled estimates, standard errors, t statistics and corresponding p-values of the ATE estimation.

```
result
```

```
## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|z|)
## [1,] -0.06415986 0.006805098 -9.428205 0
```

We can specify different working models across data sets and then use unrestricted federated AIPW estimator:

```
# specify the working covariates
# we assume unstable models which include different sets of covariates
covariates <- list(c("X1", "X2", "X3"), c("X1", "X3"))</pre>
# initialize inputs for federated AIPW function
full_y <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_X.tilde <- full_X <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_treat <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
full_reg.formula <- full_treat.reg.formula <- vector(mode = "list", length = D)</pre>
for (ix in 1:D) {
  subsample <- subsample_lst[[ix]]</pre>
  reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("y ~ 0 + intercept + treat + ", paste(covariates[[ix]], collapse = " + ")))
  treat.reg.formula <- as.formula(</pre>
    paste("treat ~ 0 + intercept + ", paste(covariates[[ix]], collapse = " + ")))
  full_y[[ix]] <- subsample$y</pre>
  full_treat[[ix]] <- subsample$treat</pre>
  full_X[[ix]] <- model.matrix(treat.reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_X.tilde[[ix]] <- model.matrix(reg.formula, data = subsample)</pre>
  full_reg.formula[[ix]] <- reg.formula</pre>
  full_treat.reg.formula[[ix]] <- treat.reg.formula</pre>
# unrestricted federated AIPW estimation
result <- poolAIPW(full_y=full_y, full_X.tilde=full_X.tilde, full_X=full_X, full_treat=full_treat,
                    unstable=TRUE,
                    full reg.formula=full reg.formula, full treat.reg.formula=full treat.reg.formula,
                    estimand="ATE")
```

And here is the returned summary table of the federated ATE estimation:

```
result
```

```
## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|z|)
## [1,] -0.05761795 0.006853241 -8.407402 0
```