Maximum Likelihood Estimation and Model Fitting	g, CMEE MSc.	Tin-Yu Hui
Practical 3 (Wednesday)		



ML estimators are only asymptotically unbiased. Can you give one example?

## Question 2 [Likelihood-Ratio Test]

Coin tossing example revisited. If we observe y heads from n independent tosses, then the likelihood function for the unknown parameter p is  $L(p) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y}$ .

i. If we observed y=7 from n=10 tosses, perform a LRT (by hand) to test for  $H_0$ : p=0.5 vs  $H_1$ :  $p\neq 0.5$  at 5% significance level.

ii. In the second phase of the same experiment we observed y=35 from n=50 tosses, the MLE is still the same ( $\hat{p}=\frac{7}{10}=\frac{35}{50}=0.7$ ). Perform a LRT to test for  $H_0$ : p=0.5 vs  $H_1$ :  $p\neq 0.5$  at 5% significance level.

iii. (To be discussed tomorrow) Find the 95% confidence interval for  $\,p\,$  for case (ii) above using R.

## Question 3 [Logistic regression]

A logistic regression example extracted from Mick Crawley's GLM course. Here we would like to investigate whether the survival of a plant can be determined from the number of flowers and the size of root. The hypothesis (from literature review? theory? common sense? or simply Mick's speculation?) is that plants with more flowers are more likely to die in the following winter, and plants with bigger roots are less likely to die.

In this dataset flowering.txt the response variable is State, which indicates the current status for a particular pot of plant (1=alive, 0=dead). Flowers and Root are the two continuous explanatory variables as described above. First let us import the dataset into R and call it flowering:

```
flowering<-read.table('flowering.txt', header=T)
names(flowering)</pre>
```

Then we make some simply plots to visualise the dataset:

```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(flowering$Flowers, flowering$State)
plot(flowering$Root, flowering$State)
```

Because the responses are just 0's and 1's we get two rows of points: one across the top of the plot at y=1 (alive) and another across the bottom at y=0 (dead). The plots of binary data are not very informative; fitting a logistic regression seems to more appropriate in this case. The first part of this exercise is to fit a simple logistic regression with the given dataset. The formulae for the logistic regression model are given below (also in today's slides):

```
Y_i \sim Bernoulli(p_i), where p_i = expit(a + b * Flowers_i + c * Root_i)
```

Now let us construct the log-likelihood for the model above, and call it

logistic.log.likelihood

```
# TWO ARGUMENTS: parm IS A VECTOR OF PARAMETERS,
# dat IS THE INPUT DATASET
logistic.log.likelihood<-function(parm, dat)
{
# DEFINE PARAMETERS
a<-parm[1]
b<-parm[2]
c<-parm[3]</pre>
```

```
# DEFINE RESPONSE VARIABLE, WHICH IS THE FIRST COLUMN OF dat
State<-dat[,1]

# SIMILARLY DEFINE OUR EXPLANATORY VARIABLES
Flowers<-dat[,2]
Root<-dat[,3]

# MODEL OUR SUCCESS PROBABILITY, VIA EXPIT TRANSFORMATION
p<-exp(a+b*Flowers+c*Root)/(1+exp(a+b*Flowers+c*Root))

# THE LOG-LIKELIHOOD FUNCTION
log.like<-sum(State*log(p)+(1-State)*log(1-p))
return(log.like)
}</pre>
```

We may wish to try whether our log-likelihood function has been defined properly. This can be done by evaluating it at an arbitrarily set of parameter values (e.g.  $\circ$  (0,0,0)):

```
# TRY
logistic.log.likelihood(c(0,0,0), dat=flowering)
```

The log-likelihood value evaluated at a=0, b=0 and c=0 is -40.89 given our observed data. Next we would like to maximise our log-likelihood function with optim(). Create an object M1 to store the output.

```
# MAXIMISE THE LOG-LIKELIHOOD

M1<-optim(?????????????????????????)

M1
```

M1 is a list containing multiple elements. Use the \$ sign to retrieve the elements, say M1\$par and M1\$value. What are the MLE for the parameters? What is the associated log-likelihood value?

Some further suggested that the interaction between Flowers and Root may also play a role in determining State. In this slightly more complex model  $p_i$  becomes:

```
p_i = expit(a + b * Flowers_i + c * Root_i + d * Flowers_i * Root_i)
```

 $Flowers_i * Root_i$  is the interaction term with coefficient d. The log-likelihood function needs updating:

Maximise the log-likelihood function and store the outputs as M2.

Using M1 and M2, can you perform a likelihood-ratio test to test for the interaction term at  $\alpha=5\%$  significance level?