Case Study 1

AKSTA Statistical Computing

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1. Ratio of Fibonacci numbers

a.

Write two different R functions which return the sequence $r_i = F_{i+1}/F_i$ for i = 1, ..., n where F_i is the *i*th Fibonacci number, once using for and once using while.

Function using a for loop

```
fib_ratio_for <- function(n) {
  fib <- numeric(n + 1)
  fib[1] <- 1
  fib[2] <- 1
  for (i in 3:(n + 1)) {
    fib[i] <- fib[i - 1] + fib[i - 2]
  }
  return(fib[2:(n + 1)] / fib[1:n])
}
print(fib_ratio_for(10))</pre>
```

```
## [1] 1.000000 2.000000 1.500000 1.666667 1.600000 1.625000 1.615385 1.619048
## [9] 1.617647 1.618182
```

Function using a while loop

```
fib_ratio_while <- function(n){
  fib1 <- numeric(n + 1)
  fib1[1] <- 1
  fib1[2] <- 1
  i <- 3
  while (i <= (n+1)){
    fib1[i] <- fib1[i - 1] + fib1[i - 2]
    i <- i+1
  }
  return(fib1[2:(n + 1)] / fib1[1:n])
}
print(fib_ratio_while(20))</pre>
```

```
## [1] 1.000000 2.000000 1.500000 1.666667 1.600000 1.625000 1.615385 1.619048
## [9] 1.617647 1.618182 1.617978 1.618056 1.618026 1.618037 1.618033 1.618034
## [17] 1.618034 1.618034 1.618034 1.618034
```

b.

Benchmark the two functions for n = 200 and n = 2000 (you can use package **microbenchmark** or package **bench** for this purpose). Which function is faster?

```
library(microbenchmark)

benchmark <- microbenchmark(
  fib_ratio_for_200 = fib_ratio_for(200),
  fib_ratio_while_200 = fib_ratio_while(200),
  fib_ratio_for_2000 = fib_ratio_for(2000),
  fib_ratio_while_2000 = fib_ratio_while(2000)
)
summary(benchmark)</pre>
```

```
##
                     expr
                             min
                                       lq
                                                      median
                                                                          max
                                               mean
                                                                   uq
## 1
       fib_ratio_for_200
                           8.446
                                   8.8560
                                            9.16637
                                                      8.9995
                                                               9.3070
                                                                       11.562
## 2 fib_ratio_while_200 11.398 11.8900 12.37216 12.0950 12.5255 18.286
      fib ratio for 2000 76.957 79.3145 85.54814 80.3805 82.0820 230.051
## 4 fib_ratio_while_2000 107.666 111.3970 113.98328 112.1965 114.2875 144.730
##
## 1
      100
## 2
      100
## 3
       100
## 4
      100
```

The for_loop is faster because it's more efficient in R. When using a for loop, R automatically handles the loop index and knows how many times to repeat. This makes it run faster with less overhead.

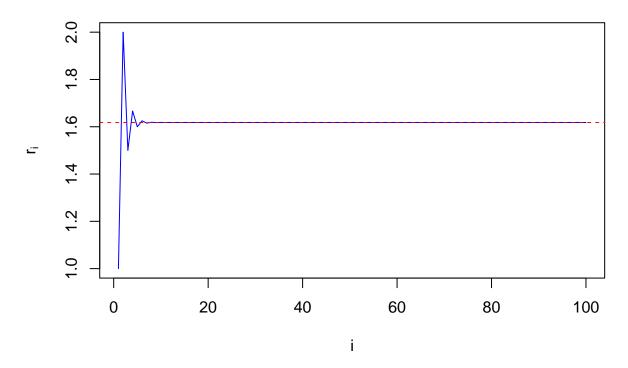
In contrast, a while loop checks the condition every time and needs manual updates to the counter. This adds a little extra work each time the loop runs.

So, even though both loops do the same thing, for_loop is faster and more consistent, especially when the number of iterations is known.

c.

Plot the sequence for n = 100. For which n does it start to stabilize to a value? What number does the sequence converge to?

Fibonacci Ratio Sequence



The ratio r_i starts to stabilize around i = 20. It converges to the golden ratio:

$$\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\approx 1.618$$

2. Gamma function

a.

Write a function to compute the following for n a positive integer using the gamma function in base R.

$$\rho_n = \frac{\Gamma((n-1)/2)}{\Gamma(1/2)\Gamma((n-2)/2)}$$

```
rho_n <- function(n) {
  gamma((n - 1) / 2) / (gamma(1 / 2) * gamma((n - 2) / 2))
}</pre>
```

b.

Try n = 2000. What do you observe? Why do you think the observed behavior happens?

```
rho_n(2000)
```

[1] NaN

The result is NaN because of numerical overflow. The the Gamma function grows very fast, and R can't handle such large values directly.

c.

Write an implementation which can also deal with large values of n > 1000.

```
rho_n_stable <- function(n) {
  log_rho <- lgamma((n - 1) / 2) - (lgamma(1 / 2) + lgamma((n - 2) / 2))
  exp(log_rho)
}</pre>
```

Now it works even for large n:

```
rho_n_stable(2000)
```

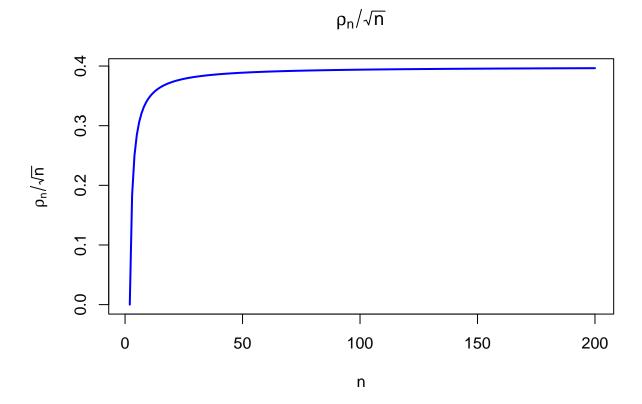
[1] 17.83009

d.

Plot ρ_n/\sqrt{n} for different values of n. Can you guess the limit of ρ_n/\sqrt{n} for $n\to\infty$?

```
n_vals <- 1:200
ratios <- sapply(n_vals, function(n) rho_n_stable(n) / sqrt(n))

plot(n_vals, ratios, type = "l", col = "blue", lwd = 2,
    main = expression(rho[n] / sqrt(n)),
    xlab = "n", ylab = expression(rho[n] / sqrt(n)))</pre>
```



The plot shows that ρ_n/\sqrt{n} converges to a constant as $n \to \infty$, which is consistent with asymptotic properties of the Gamma function.

3. Weak law of large numbers

The law of large numbers states that if you repeat an experiment independently a large number of times and average the result, what you obtain should be close to the expected value. Formally, the weak law of large numbers states that if $X_1, X_2, \ldots X_n$ are independently and identically distributed (iid) random variables with a finite expected value $E(X_i) = \mu < \infty$, then, for any $\epsilon > 0$ $\lim_{n\to\infty} P(|\bar{X}_n - \mu| > \epsilon) = 0$ where $\bar{X}_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \ldots + X_n}{n}$ is the sample mean (the sample mean converges in probability to the expected value).

a.

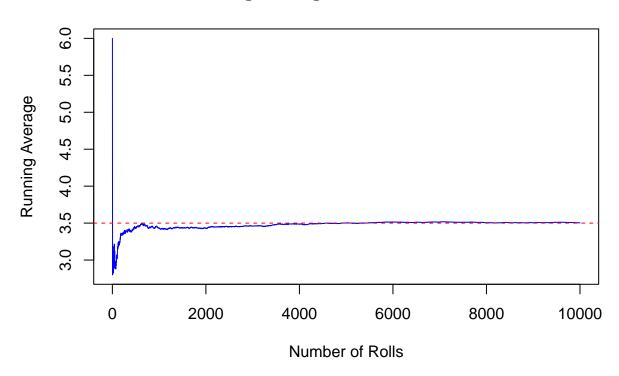
- In R, simulate rolling a fair 6-sided die $n = 10\,000$ times using vectorized functions.
- After each roll, compute the cumulative mean of all previous rolls.

```
n <- 10000
rolls <- sample(1:6, n, replace = TRUE)
running_avg <- cumsum(rolls) / (1:n)</pre>
```

• Plot the running average against the number of rolls and comment on the result.

```
plot(running_avg, type = "l", col = "blue",
    main = "Running Average of 10,000 Dice Rolls",
    xlab = "Number of Rolls", ylab = "Running Average")
abline(h = 3.5, col = "red", lty = 2)
```

Running Average of 10,000 Dice Rolls



This plot shows how the running average changes as we roll the die more times. At the start, the average jumps around a lot because each new roll has a big effect. But after a while, it starts to settle down.

After about 3000 rolls, it hardly changes anymore. This matches what the Weak Law of Large Numbers says: the average of many die rolls should get closer to the true mean (3.5).

b.

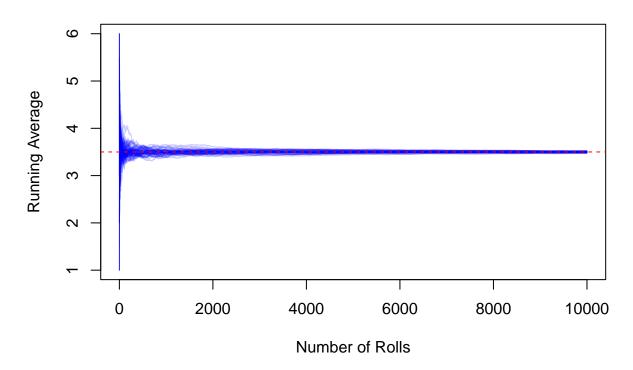
• Replicate the die-rolling experiment M=50 times using a for loop. This will result in 50 paths which you can plot against the number of rolls.

```
M <- 50
paths <- matrix(NA, nrow = n, ncol = M)

for (i in 1:M) {
   rolls <- sample(1:6, n, replace = TRUE)
   paths[, i] <- cumsum(rolls) / (1:n)
}</pre>
```

• Plot all 50 paths on the same graph to observe the variation in the running averages.

50 Running Averages of Dice Rolls



Each line in this plot shows how the average of die rolls changes over time for a single experiment. At the beginning, the paths are all over the place because the average is very sensitive to the first few values. But as more rolls are added, the averages become more stable and start to cluster around 3.5.

By the end, almost all paths are very close to 3.5, which is exactly what we expect from the Weak Law of Large Numbers. It shows that even though each experiment is random, the average gets close to the expected value when we repeat it enough times.

c.

What is the theoretical expected value of a fair 6-sided die?

The expected value μ of a fair 6-sided die is:

$$\mu = \frac{1+2+3+4+5+6}{6} = 3.5$$

d.

Comment on how the running mean of the paths behaves relative to the expected value as n increases.

As a approaches infinity, the running average converges to the expected value 3.5, confirming the Weak Law of Large Numbers.

e.

- Modify the code in b. to use a while loop.
- Stop the loop when the proportion of replications where the difference between the running average and the expected value lies outside the interval $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$ is less than 0.05. Use $\epsilon = 0.01$.
- How high is n at the end of the loop?

```
epsilon <- 0.01
max_iter <- 1e6

rolls_matrix <- matrix(sample(1:6, max_iter * M, replace = TRUE), nrow = max_iter, ncol = M)
running_avg <- matrix(NA, nrow = max_iter, ncol = M)

running_avg[1, ] <- rolls_matrix[1, ]
j <- 2
prop_in <- 0

while (j <= max_iter && prop_in < 0.95) {
   running_avg[j, ] <- (running_avg[j - 1, ] * (j - 1) + rolls_matrix[j, ]) / j
   prop_in <- mean(abs(running_avg[j, ] - 3.5) <= epsilon)
   j <- j + 1
}

cat("Stopped at n =", j - 1, "with proportion in range:", round(prop_in, 3))</pre>
```

Stopped at n = 167542 with proportion in range: 0.96

f.

• Repeat the analysis in b, but instead of simulating from a discrete uniform distribution, simulate from a continuous standard cauchy distribution using rcauchy(). The (standard) cauchy distribution arises from the ratio of two independent mean zero (standard) normally distributed random variables.

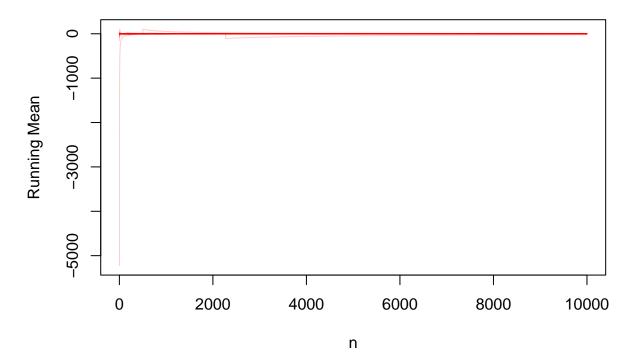
```
cauchy_paths <- matrix(NA, nrow = n, ncol = M)

for (i in 1:M) {
   x <- rcauchy(n)
   cauchy_paths[, i] <- cumsum(x) / (1:n)
}</pre>
```

• Plot the running mean against increasing n. Comment on whether the weak Law of Large Numbers seems to hold for this distribution. Explain why or why not.

```
matplot(cauchy_paths, type = "l", lty = 1, col = rgb(1, 0, 0, 0.2),
    main = "Cauchy Running Averages",
    xlab = "n", ylab = "Running Mean")
```

Cauchy Running Averages



This plot shows the running averages for 50 simulations of Cauchy-distributed random variables. Unlike the die rolls, these paths don't settle down or stabilize around a specific value. Some paths shoot up or down dramatically even after thousands of iterations.

This happens because the Cauchy distribution doesn't have a defined mean or variance. So the Law of Large Numbers doesn't apply here. The average doesn't converge like it did with the uniform distribution of the die rolls. Instead, it stays unstable, and a few extreme values can heavily influence the result even with many observations.

4. Central limit theorem

The central limit theorem states that, under certain conditions, the sum of a large number of random variables is approximately normal. Consider the case where X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are i.i.d. random variables with finite expected values $(E(X_i) = \mu < \infty)$ and variances $(Var(X_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty)$. The central limit theorem states that the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the normalized random variable

$$Z_n = \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}}$$

converges to the standard normal CDF as $n \to \infty$.

a.

Derive the expected value of the sample mean $\bar{X}_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + ... + X_n}{n}$.

Let X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n be i.i.d. random variables with expected value $\mu = E[X_i]$.

The sample mean is defined as:

$$\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

To find the expected value of \bar{X}_n , we use the linearity of expectation:

$$E[\bar{X}_n] = E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i] = \frac{1}{n} \cdot n \cdot \mu = \mu$$

So, the expected value of the sample mean is equal to the population mean:

$$E[\bar{X}_n] = \mu$$

b.

Derive the variance of the sample mean $\bar{X}_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + ... + X_n}{n}$.

Let $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X_i)$. Since the X_i are i.i.d., the variance of the sample mean is:

$$\operatorname{Var}(\bar{X}_n) = \operatorname{Var}\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)$$

We use the rule that $Var(aX) = a^2 \cdot Var(X)$ and the independence of the X_i :

$$\operatorname{Var}(\bar{X}_n) = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \operatorname{Var}(X_i) = \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot n \cdot \sigma^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

So, the variance of the sample mean decreases with n:

$$\operatorname{Var}(\bar{X}_n) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

c.

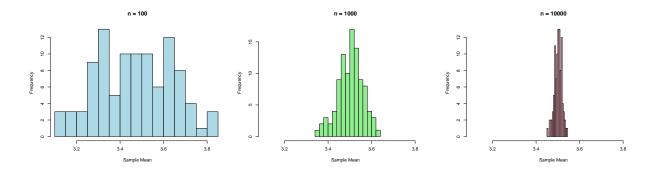
The central limit theorem makes few assumption on the distribution of the random variables X_i . Consider again the die-rolling experiment where X_i is the random variable giving the number in roll i.

- Simulate Die Rolls: For each value of n (where $n = \{100, 1000, 10000\}$), simulate rolling a die n times. Record the mean of the n rolls.
- Repeat the above process M = 100 times for each value of n. This will give you 100 sample means for each n.

```
get_means <- function(n, M) {
    replicate(M, mean(sample(1:6, n, replace = TRUE)))
}

means_100 <- get_means(100, 100)
means_1000 <- get_means(1000, 100)
means_10000 <- get_means(10000, 100)</pre>
```

• Plot a histogram of the 100 sample means for each value of n. Observe the shape of the histograms.



• Discuss how the distribution of the sample means changes as n increases. Comment on whether the histograms appear to approach a normal distribution as n, illustrating the Central Limit Theorem.

The distribution of the sample means changes as the number of die rolls n increases:

- When n = 100: The sample means are spread out and the shape is a bit uneven. There's still a lot of variation, but the values seem to center around 3.5.
- When n = 1000: The distribution is narrower and looks more symmetric. The sample means are more tightly grouped, and it already starts to look like a normal distribution.
- When n = 10000: The histogram is very concentrated around the mean of 3.5, and the shape looks almost perfectly normal.

As n gets larger, the sample means become less variable and more normally distributed. Even though we're rolling a fair die (which gives discrete uniform outcomes), the average of many rolls behaves like it's coming from a normal distribution when we repeat the experiment enough times.

d.

Compute expected value μ and the variance σ^2 for the random variable X_i (giving the number in die-roll i), which follows a discrete uniform distribution.

The possible outcomes are $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$, each with equal probability $\frac{1}{6}$.

Expected Value μ :

$$\mu = \frac{1+2+3+4+5+6}{6} = \frac{21}{6} = 3.5$$

Variance σ^2 :

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{i=1}^{6} (i - 3.5)^2 = \frac{(6.25 + 2.25 + 0.25 + 0.25 + 2.25 + 6.25)}{6} = \frac{17.5}{6} = \frac{35}{12} \approx 2.9167$$

So the theoretical values are:

- $\mu = 3.5$ • $\sigma^2 = \frac{35}{12} \approx 2.9167$
- e.

Now that you computed μ and σ^2 , consider Z_n .

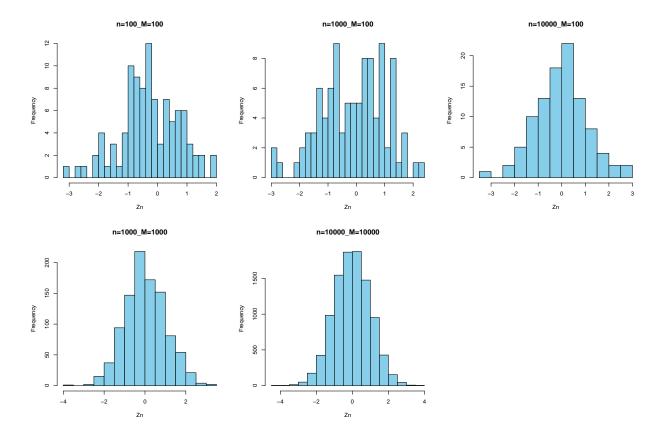
• For each value of n (where $n = \{100, 1000, 10000\}$) and for $M = \{100, 1000, 10000\}$ replications, simulate the rolling of n dice and calculate the Z_n .

```
simulate_Zn <- function(n, M, mu = 3.5, sigma = sqrt(35/12)) {
    replicate(M, {
        x <- sample(1:6, n, replace = TRUE)
            (mean(x) - mu) / (sigma / sqrt(n))
      })
}

Z_data <- list(
    "n=100_M=100" = simulate_Zn(100, 100),
    "n=1000_M=100" = simulate_Zn(1000, 100),
    "n=1000_M=100" = simulate_Zn(10000, 100),
    "n=1000_M=1000" = simulate_Zn(10000, 1000),
    "n=10000_M=10000" = simulate_Zn(10000, 10000)
)</pre>
```

• Plot histograms of Z_n for each combination of n and M.

```
par(mfrow = c(2, 3))
for (name in names(Z_data)) {
  hist(Z_data[[name]], main = name, xlab = "Zn", breaks = 20, col = "skyblue")
}
```



• Discuss how the distribution of Z_n changes as n and M increase. Comment on whether the distributions of Z_n appear to approach a normal distribution, illustrating the Central Limit Theorem.

Recall that:

$$Z_n = \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}}$$

Effect of n:

As n increases:

- The sample mean \bar{X}_n becomes more concentrated around the true mean μ .
- So Z_n becomes less variable, and its distribution gets tighter and more normal-shaped.
- You can clearly see that in the bottom row (large n), where the histograms are symmetric and bell-shaped.

Effect of M:

M controls how many values of Z_n you generate.

As M increases:

- The histogram becomes smoother and more accurate, because you have more data points.
- It doesn't change the distribution's shape but makes it easier to see the bell curve.
- Compare the rough, jagged histograms when M = 100 (top row) with the very smooth ones when M = 10000 (bottom middle).

From the histograms, the distribution of Z_n becomes more "normal-looking" as both the sample size n and the number of replications M increase. When M=100, the distributions are still a bit uneven and noisy, even if n is large. This is likely because 100 repetitions aren't enough to fully capture the shape of the distribution.

As M increases to 1000 and 10000, the histograms get much smoother and start to show the bell-shaped curve we expect from a standard normal distribution.

Increasing n makes each Z_n more stable. With larger n, the standardized means are less variable and cluster more tightly around 0.

Overall, the results clearly show the **Central Limit Theorem**:

The distribution of the standardized sample mean Z_n approaches the standard normal distribution as n and M increase — even though the original data (rolling a fair die) comes from a discrete, non-normal distribution.

5. Readable and efficient code

Read over the code below.

a.

Explain (in text) what the code does.

b.

Explain (in text) what you would change to make the code more readable.

c.

Change the code according to b. and wrap it in a function. This function should have at most 10 lines (without adding commands to more lines such as x <-1; y <-2. Such commands will count as 2 lines!). Check that the function called on the same input outputs the same as the provided code.

```
set.seed(1)
x <- rnorm(100)
z \leftarrow rnorm(100)
if (sum(x \ge .001) < 1) {
  stop("step 1 requires 1 observation(s) with value >= .001")
}
fit \leftarrow lm(x \sim z)
r <- fit$residuals
x \leftarrow sin(r) + .01
if (sum(x \ge .002) < 2) {
  stop("step 2 requires 2 observation(s) with value >= .002")
fit <-lm(x - z)
r <- fit$residuals
x \leftarrow 2 * sin(r) + .02
if (sum(x \ge .003) < 3) {
  stop("step 3 requires 3 observation(s) with value >= .003")
```

```
fit <-lm(x - z)
r <- fit$residuals
x < -3 * sin(r) + .03
if (sum(x \ge .004) < 4) {
  stop("step 4 requires 4 observation(s) with value >= .004")
fit <-lm(x - z)
r <- fit$residuals
x < -4 * sin(r) + .04
set.seed(1)
x <- rnorm(1000)
y \leftarrow 2 + x + rnorm(1000)
df <- data.frame(x, y)</pre>
cat("Step", 1, "\n")
fit1 \leftarrow lm(y \sim x, data = df[-(1:250),])
p1 <- predict(fit1, newdata = df[(1:250),])
r \leftarrow sqrt(mean((p1 - df[(1:250),"y"])^2))
cat("Step", 2, "\n")
fit2 \leftarrow lm(y \sim x, data = df[-(251:500),])
p2 <- predict(fit2, newdata = df[(251:500),])</pre>
r \leftarrow c(r, sqrt(mean((p2 - df[(251:500),"y"])^2)))
cat("Step", 3, "\n")
fit3 <- lm(y ~ x, data = df[-(501:750),])
p3 <- predict(fit3, newdata = df[(501:750),])
r \leftarrow c(r, sqrt(mean((p3 - df[(501:750),"y"])^2)))
cat("Step", 4, "\n")
fit4 \leftarrow lm(y \sim x, data = df[-(751:1000),])
p4 <- predict(fit4, newdata = df[(751:1000),])</pre>
r \leftarrow c(r, sqrt(mean((p4 - df[(751:1000),"y"])^2)))
```

6. Measuring and improving performance

Have a look at the code of the function below. It is a function for performing a Kruskal-Wallis test, a robust non-parametric method for testing whether samples come from the same distribution. (Note: we assume no missing values are present in \mathbf{x}).

```
kwtest <- function (x, g, ...)
{
   if (is.list(x)) {
      if (length(x) < 2L)
          stop("'x' must be a list with at least 2 elements")
      if (!missing(g))
          warning("'x' is a list, so ignoring argument 'g'")
      if (!all(sapply(x, is.numeric)))</pre>
```

```
warning("some elements of 'x' are not numeric and will be coerced to numeric")
        k <- length(x)
        1 <- lengths(x)</pre>
        if (any(1 == OL))
             stop("all groups must contain data")
        g <- factor(rep.int(seq_len(k), 1))</pre>
        x <- unlist(x)
    }
    else {
        if (length(x) != length(g))
             stop("'x' and 'g' must have the same length")
        g <- factor(g)</pre>
        k <- nlevels(g)
        if (k < 2L)
             stop("all observations are in the same group")
    }
    n <- length(x)
    if (n < 2L)
        stop("not enough observations")
    r \leftarrow rank(x)
    TIES <- table(x)
    STATISTIC <- sum(tapply(r, g, sum)^2/tapply(r, g, length))
    STATISTIC \leftarrow ((12 * STATISTIC/(n * (n + 1)) - 3 * (n + 1))/(1 -
        sum(TIES^3 - TIES)/(n^3 - n)))
    PARAMETER <- k - 1L
    PVAL <- pchisq(STATISTIC, PARAMETER, lower.tail = FALSE)
    names(STATISTIC) <- "Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared"</pre>
    names(PARAMETER) <- "df"</pre>
    RVAL <- list(statistic = STATISTIC, parameter = PARAMETER,</pre>
        p.value = PVAL, method = "Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test")
    return(RVAL)
}
```

a.

Write a pseudo code outlining what the function does.

b.

For example data, call the function in two ways: once using x as a list and once using x as a vector with a corresponding g argument. Ensure that the two different function calls return the same thing by aligning the inputs.

c.

Make a faster version of kwtest() that only computes the Kruskal-Wallis test statistic when the input is a numeric variable x and a variable g which gives the group membership. You can try simplifying the function above or by coding from the mathematical definition (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kruskal%E2%80% 93Wallis_one-way_analysis_of_variance). This function should also perform some checks to ensure the correctness of the inputs (use kwtest() as inspiration).

d.

Consider the following scenario. You have samples available from multiple experiments m = 1000 where you collect the numerical values for the quantity of interest \mathbf{x} and the group membership for n individuals. The first 20 individuals in each sample belong to group 1, the following 20 individuals in each sample belong to group 2, the last 10 individuals in each sample belong to group 3. Use the following code to simulate such a data structure:

```
set.seed(1234)
m <- 1000 # number of repetitions
n <- 50 # number of individuals
X <- matrix(rt(m * n, df = 10), nrow = m)
grp <- rep(1:3, c(20, 20, 10))</pre>
```

Write a function which performs the Kruskal-Wallis test using the function $\mathtt{stats:::kruskal.test.default()}$ for m repeated experiments and returns a vector of m test statistics. The input of this function are a matrix \mathtt{X} with m rows and n columns and a vector \mathbf{g} which gives the grouping.

e.

Write a function which performs the Kruskal-Wallis test using the function in point c. for m repeated experiments and returns a vector of m test statistics. The input of this function are a matrix \mathbf{X} with m rows and n columns and a vector \mathbf{g} which gives the grouping.

f.

Compare the performance of the two approaches using a benchmarking package on the data generated above. Comment on the results.

g.

Now consider vectorizing the function in point c. Compare this approach to the other two. Comment on the results.