

CDT R Review Sheet

Work through the sheet in any order you like. Skip the starred (*) bits in the first instance, unless you're fairly confident.

1. Vectors

- (a) Generate 100 standard normal random variables, and keep only the ones which are greater than 1. Don't use a loop!
- (b) Write a function which takes two arguments `n` and `min`, and returns `n` independent random variables from a standard normal distribution truncated below by `min`. Let `min` default to 0.
- (c) Generate 10,000 truncated normals with `min` set at -1 , and plot as a histogram. Adjust the number of bins sensibly.
- (d) What happens if `min` is quite large (say > 4)? How could you improve your method of sampling?

2. Data

Load the `hills` data set.

```
> library(MASS)
> data(hills)
```

- (a) What sort of object is `hills`? Is it a list? A matrix? Use the `is()` and `class()` functions if you're not sure.
- (b) How many columns does `hills` have?
- (c) One of the races is called `Two Breweries`; change this to `Three Breweries`.
- (d) Using the function `with()`, find the mean time for races with a climb greater than 1000 feet.

Now, load the `Orthodont` data set from the `nlme` package (you may have to install `nlme` first).

```
> library(nlme)
> data(Orthodont)
```

- (e) What sort of object is `Orthodont`? Is it a data frame? What makes it different to `hills`?
- (f) What is the name of the function used to print `Orthodont`? Try using `methods(print)`.
- (g) You should find that the function is 'non-visible', meaning it is not exported from the package. You can view it using

```
> nlme:::print.groupedData
```

3. Recursion

The n th Fibonacci number is defined by the recursion $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$, with $F_0 = F_1 = 1$.

- Write a *recursive* function with argument `n` which returns the n th Fibonacci number. [Hint: you might want to look at the documentation `?Recall`.]
- Evaluate the 20th Fibonacci number with it.
- How many times does the function have to evaluate itself to calculate this? Can you think of a faster way to do this with a loop?
Calculate F_{1000} with your new function.

4. MCMC

Suppose that $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$, and let α and β have independent Exponential(1) priors.

- Write a function to evaluate the log-posterior of α and β given (a vector of) data `x`. The function should have arguments `x`, `alpha` and `beta`.
- Write a function to perform a single Metropolis-Hastings step to explore the posterior above. Use a proposal

$$\alpha' = \alpha + \sigma Z_1 \quad \beta' = \beta + \sigma Z_2$$

for Z_1, Z_2 independent standard normals (i.e. $q(\alpha' | \alpha) \sim N(\alpha, \sigma^2)$.) It should take as arguments `x`, `alpha`, `beta` and `sigma`.

- Write a function to run the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm for N steps and return an $N \times 2$ matrix of the parameter values. It should take as input the data `x`, number of steps `N`, starting values `alpha` and `beta`, and proposal standard deviation `sigma`.
- The file `airpol.txt` (on the website) contains daily PM2.5 readings taken from various measuring stations around Seattle during 2015. Read in the data as a vector and plot it in a histogram.

```
> x <- scan("airpol.txt") # note use of scan(), not read.table()
> hist(x, breaks = 100, freq = FALSE)
```

Model the data as i.i.d. Gamma distributed observations using the priors above. Run your Metropolis-Hastings algorithm for 5,000 steps with starting point $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = 1$. Plot your output with `plot()` and investigate different values of $\sigma \in \{0.01, 0.02, 0.05\}$.

- Find the posterior means for α and β . Plot the density of the corresponding Gamma distribution over the histogram of the data.

5. Methods

We're going to create a class for bivariate data, and a series of methods to print, summarise and plot that data.

- Create a list with entries `x` (consisting of 20 independent standard normal random variables) and `y` (consisting of 20 independent Poisson(5) random variables), and give it the class `biv`.

- (b) Write a print method for `biv` (i.e. a function called `print.biv()`) which shows (at most) the first 6 entries of your data in the following format this:

```
Bivariate data, 20 entries
x : -0.001616495 -0.07254921 -1.096251 -0.4702838 1.423081 -1.019105 ...
y : 7 5 2 4 29 3 ...
```

- (c) * A print method should return the object itself *invisibly*: make sure your function does [Hint: type `?invisible`].
- (d) Construct a plot method for objects of class `biv`, which does a scatter plot and a pair of boxplots side-by-side.
- (e) ** Do the above with S4 classes and methods.

6. Functions

- (a) Write a function which, given two vectors `x` and `z` of the same length, returns the matrix

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 & z_1 & x_1 z_1 \\ 1 & x_2 & z_2 & x_2 z_2 \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n & z_n & x_n z_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (b) What happens if you give arguments of different lengths? Cause your function to behave (or fail) in the way you think best.
- (c) * Write a function which takes an **arbitrary** number of arguments, each being a covariate vector of the same length, and returns the model matrix consisting of all the main effects and first order interactions. In other words, if the vectors were x, y, z, w we'd get

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 & y_1 & z_1 & w_1 & x_1 y_1 & x_1 z_1 & \cdots & z_1 w_1 \\ 1 & x_2 & y_2 & z_2 & w_2 & x_2 y_2 & x_2 z_2 & \cdots & z_2 w_2 \\ \vdots & & & \vdots & & & & & \\ 1 & x_n & y_n & z_n & w_n & x_n y_n & x_n z_n & \cdots & z_n w_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

[You're not allowed to use `model.matrix()` or similar!]

- (d) Check your answer with `model.matrix()`.

7. * Mixtures

Suppose we have i.i.d. observations $\mathbf{X}^{(i)} = (X_{i1}, \dots, X_{ik})$, where each X_{ij} is binary (i.e. takes values in $\{0, 1\}$). A **discrete mixture model** assumes that each component of the vector $\mathbf{X}^{(i)}$ is independent, conditional upon an unknown class label $U_i \in \{1, \dots, l\}$.

- (a) Write down the likelihood for one observation $\mathbf{X}^{(1)}$, and then for n observations. What are the parameters to be estimated?
- (b) Write an R function to evaluate the likelihood.
- (c) Write an R function to generate data from the model.
- (d) Use `nlm()` to find the maximum likelihood estimator for your simulated data, and compare it to the parameters you chose.