

Problem 1 (Prediction and least squares) Consider prediction of some quantity P , which might be a parameter or a random variable, based on the linear model

$$y \sim (X\beta, V),$$

where $X\beta$ is constant. We aim to choose a predictor \tilde{P} based on y and X that minimises $E\{(\tilde{P} - P)^2\}$ subject to $E(\tilde{P} - P) = 0$. If we also set $\tilde{P} = a^T y$, then \tilde{P} will be a ‘best linear unbiased predictor’ (BLUP).

Let $E(P) = A\beta$ for a clean development; it follows that $a^T X = A$.

(a) Show that

$$E\{(\tilde{P} - P)^2\} = \text{var}(P) - 2\text{cov}(P, \tilde{P}) + \text{var}(\tilde{P}),$$

and deduce that a may be found by minimising the Lagrangian

$$a^T V a - 2\text{cov}(P, y)a + 2(a^T X - A)\eta.$$

Hence show that the optimal a and η satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} V & X \\ X^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ \eta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{cov}(y, P) \\ A^T \end{pmatrix},$$

verify that the matrix on the left has inverse

$$\begin{pmatrix} V^{-1} - V^{-1}X(X^T V^{-1}X)^{-1}X^T V^{-1} & V^{-1}X(X^T V^{-1}X)^{-1} \\ (X^T V^{-1}X)^{-1}X^T V^{-1} & -(X^T V^{-1}X)^{-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

and that the optimal a is therefore

$$a = \{V^{-1} - V^{-1}X(X^T V^{-1}X)^{-1}X^T V^{-1}\} \text{cov}(y, P) + V^{-1}X(X^T V^{-1}X)^{-1}A^T.$$

(b) Check the correctness of this computation when $P = \beta$ and $P = y$.

(c) Now consider the linear mixed model $y = X\beta + Zb + \varepsilon = X\beta + \varepsilon'$, say, and obtain V in this case.

Show that if we take (i) $P = \beta$, then $\text{cov}(y, P) = 0$, $A = I$, and (ii) $P = b$, then $\text{cov}(y, P) = Z\Omega_b$, $A = 0$. Hence show that

$$\tilde{\beta} = (X^T V^{-1}X)^{-1}X^T V^{-1}y, \quad \tilde{b} = \Omega_b Z^T V^{-1}(y - X\tilde{\beta}).$$

What if (iii) we take $P = X\beta + Zb$?