Bayesian adaptive Lasso Tobit regression

Haider Kadhim Abbas  
Rahim Jabbar Thaher

Department of Statistics, College of Administration and Economics, University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq. 
haiderhilali@gmail.com  rahim.alhamzawi@qu.edu.iq

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Abstract:
In this paper, we introduce a new procedure for model selection in Tobit regression, we suggest the Bayesian adaptive Lasso Tobit regression (BALTR) for variable selection (VS) and coefficient estimation. We submitted a Bayesian hierarchical model and Gibbs sampler (GS) for our procedure. Our proposed procedure is clarified by means of simulations and a real data analysis. Results demonstrate our procedure performs well in comparison to further procedures.

Keywords: Tobit regression; Bayesian adaptive Lasso Tobit regression (BALTR); Variable selection (VS).
1. Introduction:
Tobit regression procedure (Tr) is proposed as a statistical model by Tobin (1958). This model is also known as left truncated regression. Tr has become important in many real-world applied sciences, such as econometric, agriculture, ecology, the environment and genetics. It is an excellent procedure to evaluate the relation along with outcome variable and a group of explanatory variables.

One of the most important troubles in the regression when the number of explanatory variables is so large. It is then difficult to see which variables actually important. In addition to several problems appear when the statistical researchers are use some explanatory variables that are not important in regression. This leads to a regression model that will be unstable and so weak concerning of prediction. The selection process provides a perfect agent for estimating the parameters as well as the identification of important variables (Griffin and Brown, 2010). There occur several varieties of strategies for investigators to use in handling high dimensional data (very large of explanatory variables), including VS procedures, and data reduction techniques. Prior analysis has found that, in the existence of high dimensional data, these VS procedures can produce estimates with inflated errors for the coefficients (Hastie, Tibshirani, & Friedman, 2009). Some of the technique models that have proved beneficial in the condition of high dimensional data, these models known as regularization.

In 1996, Tibishrani suggested a procedure for VS and parameter estimation in linear models known be as Lasso model (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator model). A lot of work has been devoted to the development of diverse of Bayesian organizational procedures for making VS in linear models. In 2006, Zou proposed the adaptive Lasso, who upgraded the Lasso way proposed by Tibshirani, permitting different penalty parameters to different regression coefficients. Zou proved that his proposed procedure had the characteristics of Oracle mentioned in Fan and Bing (2004) that Lasso does not have. Specifically, Zou indicates that his proposed procedure adopts the correct form of non-zero coefficients with the probability that he tends to one. Park and Casella suggested in 2008 the Lasso procedure based from a Bayesian point of sight. Likewise, Mallick and Yi (2014) suggested a new procedure known to be as new Bayesian Lasso regression for VS and coefficient estimation in linear regression.

In general, the last procedure observed results display that the Mallick procedure applied well compares with other Bayesian and non-Bayesian regression procedures.

The above results and good results reported in Mallick procedure motivate us to suggest a new Bayesian regression procedure. Subsequently, we submitted a Bayesian hierarchical for BALTR, and proposed a new Gibbs sampler (GS) for BALTR, that is set up on a theoretical derivation of the Laplace density (LD). Next, we implemented several simulated examples and analyzed raw data by using BALTR with four Tobit regression procedures to compare the best results. These procedures include Tr, Bayesian Tobit regression (BTr), Tobit median regression, and BALTR. Both simulation and real analysis proved that BALTR results are excellent, and this procedure may be is a best of current procedures being compared.

2. Methods:
The Tobit regression is applied to estimate the relevance among an outcome variable \((y_i)\) and explanatory variables \((X)\). Tobit regression assumes that there is a latent variable \((y'_i)\) depends linearly on the parameters \((\beta)\) which determines relevance between \((X)\) and \((y'_i)\), the formula of outcome variable is

\[
y_i = \begin{cases} 
y'_i & \text{if } y'_i > 0 \\
0 & \text{if } y'_i \leq 0
\end{cases}
\]

\[y' = X\beta + \epsilon \quad \cdots (1)\]

\[y' = (y'_1, \ldots, y'_n),\]

\[X = \begin{bmatrix} 
x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1k} \\
\vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{nk}
\end{bmatrix},\]

\[\beta = (\beta_0, \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_k),\]

\[\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \ldots, \epsilon_n),\]

\[\epsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)\]
2.1 Bayesian adaptive Lasso Tobit regression (BALTR):

It is well known, that the Lasso procedure gives biased estimates of considerable coefficients, so it might be below the required optimal level in terms of estimation risk. In 2006, Zou evidenced that the Lasso opt the incorrect model with non-fade the probability, despite the sample size and how λ is chosen. The event requires that coefficients not in the model aren't representable by coefficients in the real model. But this event is simply suffering because of the collinearity case between the coefficients. On the opposite hand, that the Lasso technique does not have Oracle properties. So, Zou suggested the adaptive Lasso technique who gives a consistent model for VS. Therefore, we consider BALTR procedure in this paper, the adaptive Lasso enjoys the oracle properties by utilizing the adaptably weighted Lasso penalty parameter, and leads to a near minimax optimum estimator. Additionally, the adaptive Lasso technique needs to initial estimates of the regression coefficients, when a sample size is less than of the covariates number, which is mostly not available in the high dimensional data. The estimator of adaptive Lasso is given by

\[
\hat{\beta}_{lasso} = \underset{\beta}{\text{argmin}}(y - X\beta)'(y - X\beta) + \sum_{j=1}^{k} \lambda_j |\beta_j| \quad \text{where} \quad \lambda_j \geq 0
\]

where varied penalty parameters are utilized for the regression coefficients. Surely, for the not important explanatory variables, we must place larger penalty $\lambda_j$ on their matching coefficients. We propose a BALTR procedure in this paper for coefficient estimation and VS. We submit a new practice of the adaptive Lasso form by using the scale mixture of a uniform represent of the LD. Following (Mallick& Yi, 2014), the Laplace representation can adaptive as

\[
\frac{\lambda_j}{2} e^{-\frac{1}{2} |\beta_j|} = \int_{s_j<|\beta_j|} \frac{1}{2s_j \Gamma^2} s_j^{-1} e^{-s_j} ds_j \quad \text{... (2)}
\]

In practice, this formula produces more tractable and efficient Gibbs sampler than the formula in 2.

2.2 Model Hierarchy and Prior Distributions of BALTR:

By using equation (1) and equation (3), the Bayesian hierarchical model can be formulated as follows:

\[
y^* | X, \beta, \sigma^2 \sim N_n(X\beta, \sigma^2 I_n) \quad \text{... (4)}
\]

\[
\beta | \lambda \sim \prod_{j=1}^{k} \text{Uniform}(\frac{1}{\lambda_j}, \frac{1}{\lambda_j}) \quad \text{... (5)}
\]

\[
v \sim \prod_{j=1}^{k} \text{Exp}(1) \quad \text{... (6)}
\]

\[
\sigma^2 \sim \text{Inverse Gamma}(a, b) \quad \text{... (7)}
\]

\[
\lambda_j \sim \text{Gamma}(f, g) \quad \text{... (8)}
\]

where $v = (v_1, \ldots, v_k)$

2.3 Full Conditional Posterior Distributions of BALTR:

Firstly, we can express the joint posterior distribution of all our procedure parameters as follows

\[
\pi(\beta, v, \lambda, \sigma^2 | y^*, X) \propto \pi(y^* | X, \beta, \sigma^2) \pi(\beta | \lambda) \pi(v) \pi(\lambda) \pi(\sigma^2)
\]

Under the above posterior distribution, the posterior distribution of $\beta$ is

\[
\pi(\beta | y^*, X, \lambda) \propto \pi(y^* | X, \beta, \sigma^2) \pi(\beta | \lambda) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y^* - X\beta)' \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} y^* - X\beta \right) \right\} \prod_{j=1}^{k} I \left\{ \frac{|\beta_j|}{\lambda_j} < \frac{v_j}{\lambda_j} \right\}
\]

\[
\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (-2y^* X\beta + \beta'X'X\beta) \right\} \prod_{j=1}^{k} I \left\{ \frac{|\beta_j|}{\lambda_j} < \frac{v_j}{\lambda_j} \right\}
\]

\[
\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (-2y^* X(XX')^{-1}(XX')\beta + \beta'X'X\beta) \right\} \prod_{j=1}^{k} I \left\{ \frac{|\beta_j|}{\lambda_j} < \frac{v_j}{\lambda_j} \right\}
\]

\[
\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (-2\beta' X X\beta + \beta'X'X\beta) \right\} \prod_{j=1}^{k} I \left\{ \frac{v_j}{\lambda_j} < \beta_j < \frac{v_j}{\lambda_j} \right\}
\]
\[ \beta \mid y^*, X, \lambda \sim N_k(\hat{\beta}_{OLS}, (X'X)^{-1} \sigma^2) \]

As well, the posterior distribution of \( v_j \) is

\[ \pi(v_j \mid y^*, X, \beta, \lambda) \propto \pi(v_j) L \left\{ v_j > \frac{1}{\lambda_j \beta_j} \right\} \]

\[ v \sim \prod_{j=1}^k \text{Exponential} \left(1 \left\{ v_j > \frac{1}{\lambda_j \beta_j} \right\} \right) \cdots (9) \]

Likewise, the posterior distribution of \( \sigma^2 \) is

\[ \pi(\sigma^2 \mid y^*, X, \beta) \propto \pi(\sigma^2) \prod_{j=1}^k e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(y^* - X\beta)^2}{\sigma^2}} \]

\[ \sigma^2 \mid y^*, X, \beta \sim \text{InvGamma} \left( \frac{n}{2} + a, \frac{1}{2} (y^* - X\beta)^2 \right) \cdots (11) \]

Lastly, the posterior distribution of \( \lambda \) is

\[ \pi(\lambda_j \mid \beta_j, v_j) \propto \pi(\beta_j) I \left\{ \lambda_j > \frac{v_j}{\beta_j} \right\} \]

\[ \lambda_j \sim (f+1)^{-1} \exp \left\{ -g \lambda_j I \left\{ \lambda_j < \frac{v_j}{\beta_j} \right\} \right\} \]

\[ \lambda_j \sim \text{Gamma}(f + 1, g) I \left\{ \lambda_j < \frac{v_j}{\beta_j} \right\} \cdots (12) \]

Where the \( I(\cdot) \) is an indicator function in equation (9) and equation (12).

2.4 Computation:

In the computation section, we outline our Gibbs sampler as follows

- Updating \( \beta \):

We simulate the \( \beta_j \) from a truncated multivariate normal distribution in equation (9), the mean of this distribution is \( \hat{\beta}_{OLS} \) and the variance is \( (X'X)^{-1} \sigma^2 \).

- Updating \( v \):

We simulate the \( v_j \) from the left truncated exponential distribution in equation (10), by applying the inversion process, this simulate can be completed as follows:

1. Simulate \( v_j^* \) from standard exponential distribution.
2. Set \( v_j = v_j^* + \frac{1}{\lambda_j \beta_j} \)

- Updating \( \sigma^2 \):

We simulate the \( \sigma^2 \) from Inverse Gamma distribution in equation (11), the shape parameter of this distribution is \( \frac{n}{2} + a \) and the rate is \( \frac{1}{2} (y^* - X\beta)^2 \).

- Updating \( \lambda \):

We simulate \( \lambda_j \) from truncated Gamma distribution, the shape parameter of this distribution is \( f+1 \) and the rate parameter is \( g \).

3. Simulation Studies:

The performance of our procedure is evaluated in a simulation study in which the procedure for a BALTR is compared with, Tr procedure through using R language within package AER (Christian Kleiber, Achim Zeileis 2017), Bayesian Tobit regression procedure (BTTr) through using R language within package MCMCpack (Jong Hee Park, 2018), and Bayesian Analysis of Quantile Regression Models (Bayesian Tobit quantile regression BTqr, and Bayesian adaptive Lasso Tobit quantile regression BALTrq); and Tau=0.5 by estimating the median through using R language within package Brq (Alhamzawi, R., & Alhamzawi, M. R., 2017). For comparison, we draw 11,000 iterations of the GS, the first 1000 were ruled out as burn-in. The procedures are evaluated based on the median of mean absolute deviations (MMAD). The formula of MMAD is

\[ MMAD = \text{median} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left| \frac{X'\hat{\beta} - X'\beta^{true}}{\sigma} \right| \right) \]

where \( \hat{\beta} \) is the posterior mean of \( \beta \).

3.1 Independent and identically distributed random errors:

Here, simulation examples consider three cases (dense case, sparse case, and very sparse case), eight predictors \( x_1, \cdots, x_8 \) were simulated independently from a multivariate normal distribution with mean 0, and two values of the variance \( \sigma^2 \), the \( \sigma^2 \) is land 4.

3.1.1 Simulation example 1:

This example considers a dense case model, the true regression coefficients is

\[ \beta = (0, 0.75, \cdots, 0.75)' \]
The response variable was generated according to the model
\[ y_i^* = \beta_0 + 0.75x_{1i} + 0.75x_{2i} + 0.75x_{3i} + 0.75x_{4i} + 0.75x_{5i} + 0.75x_{6i} + \varepsilon_i \]

We simulate 100 observations and \( \beta_0 = 0 \), the pair wise correlations between \( x_i \) and \( x_j \) is 0.5\(^{i-j/6}\).

| Method | \( \sigma^2 \) | MMAD | SD |
|--------|----------------|------|----|
| BALTR  | 1              |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTR  |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |

Table 1: MMAD and SD for the dense case example

3.1.2 Simulation example 2:
This example considers a sparse case model, the setup is the same in simulation 1, except the number of observations is 150, and the true regression coefficients is
\[ \beta = (0, 2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) \]
The response variable was generated according to the model
\[ y_i^* = \beta_0 + 2x_{1i} + x_{2i} + 2x_{5i} + \varepsilon_i \]

| Method | \( \sigma^2 \) | MMAD | SD |
|--------|----------------|------|----|
| BALTR  | 1              |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTR  |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |

Table 2: MMAD and SD list for the simulation 2

3.1.3 Simulation example 3:
This example considers a very sparse case model with high correlation. We simulate 200 observations and the pair wise correlations between \( x_i \) and \( x_j \) equals to 0.75, and the true regression coefficients is
\[ \beta = (0, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) \]
The response variable was generated according to the model
\[ y_i^* = \beta_0 + 4x_{1i} + \varepsilon_i \]
and intercept coefficient is 0.

| Method | \( \sigma^2 \) | MMAD | SD |
|--------|----------------|------|----|
| BALTR  | 1              |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |

Table 3: MMAD and SD list for the simulation 3

3.2 Simulation example 4:
This example considers a Difficult case model. We simulate 100 observations, four predictors \( x_1, \ldots, x_4 \) were simulated independently from a multivariate normal distribution with mean zero and variance \( \sigma^2 \). We consider three values of \( \sigma^2 \) (1, 4 and 9), and the pair wise correlations between \( x_i \) and \( x_j \) equal to (-0.4), the true regression coefficients is
\[ \beta = (0, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 0) \]
The response variable was simulated according to the model
\[ y_i^* = \beta_0 + 0.55x_{1i} + 0.55x_{2i} + 0.55x_{3i} + 0.55x_{4i} + \varepsilon_i \]

| Method | \( \sigma^2 \) | MMAD | SD |
|--------|----------------|------|----|
| BALTR  | 1              |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |
| Tr     |                |      |    |
| BTr    |                |      |    |
| BTqr   |                |      |    |
| BALTqr |                |      |    |

Table 4: MMAD and SD list for the simulation 4

From above tables 1, 2, 3 and 4, we noted that the BALTR procedure performs better than the other procedures in terms the median of mean absolute deviations.
3.3 Simulation example 5 (Heterogeneous random errors):
In this section, errors are considered to demonstrate the performance of our proposed procedure for VS. We simulated 100 observations from the model

\[ y_i' = x_i'\beta + (1 + x_{3i})e_i, \]

\[ e_i \sim N(0,1) \text{ and } \beta = (0,1,1,1,1,0,0,0,0,0)' \]

where \( x_{1i} \sim N(0,1) \),

\[ x_{3i} \sim \text{Uniform}[0,1], \]

\[ x_{2i} = x_{1i} + x_{3i} + z_i z_i \sim N(0,1) \]

this process is often used to simulate data in the VS context (example of Wu and Liu, 2009 and Li et al., 2010). In this simulation, added 5 independent standard normal noise variables, \( x_4 \sim \cdots \sim x_8 \), were simulated. In this paper, we set \( y_i = \max(y_i', 0) \)

| Method  | MMAD  | SD    |
|---------|-------|-------|
| BALTR   | 0.26923 | 0.06925 |
| Tr      | 0.27969 | 0.06596 |
| BTr     | 0.27911 | 0.07437 |
| BTqr    | 0.32919 | 0.07278 |
| BALTqr  | 0.29920 | 0.06916 |

Table 8: MMAD and SD list for the simulation 5

Table (8) reports MMADs and SDs of simulation example 5. The performance of BALTR procedure is excellent compared to the other procedures (Tr, BTr, BTqr, BALTqr).

4. Real Data Analysis:
In data analysis section, we implement our proposed procedure on wheat production data, we apply the four Tobit regression procedures in this data to compare in terms of the coefficient's estimation accuracy. The real data used for this study is taken from the national program for the development of wheat cultivation in Iraq - Qadisiyah governorate branch (2017). This real data contains 584 observations and are based on 10 explanatory variables. The outcome of interest in this dataset is (Percentage increase of wheat yield per dunam "2500 m²").

| Method  | MSE |
|---------|-----|
| BALTR   | 0.4617 |
| Tr      | 0.4784 |
| BTr     | 0.4795 |
| BTqr    | 0.4724 |
| BALTqr  | 0.4685 |

Table 9: wheat production data analysis: Mean squared prediction errors (MSE) based on a test set with 584 observations.

Table (9) reports the mean squared errors for five Tobit regression procedures. We can observe that mean squared errors of BALTR procedure is lower than that of Tr, BTr, BTqr and BALTqr, that means BALTR procedure produces the lowest prediction errors.
Table 10: Coefficients estimation and Credible intervals CIs (25%, 95%)

Although, our CIs in table (10) are narrower than the other methods, it is including all the estimations of other procedures.
Figure 2: BALTR predictors trace plots of wheat production data

Figure 3: BALTR predictors autocorrelations of wheat production data

The predictors histograms of the wheat production based on posterior samples of 11,000 iterations are point up in figure 1, these histograms displayed that the conditional posteriors of wheat production data predictors are the preferred stationary truncated normal. From figure 2, the trace plot indicates reasonably good convergence, and the noise does not appear to drift majorly. The chain has reached stable and the mean keeps relatively constant. It is mean that the chain is mixed well and converged. From figure 3, the explanatory variables (covariates) in this real data are highly correlated and the mixing of the MCMC chain was reasonably good.

5. Conclusions:
This paper has introduced a new procedure for model selection of Tobit regression, we proposed BALTR for VS and coefficient estimation. Our proposed procedure depends on the scale mixture uniform as prior distribution. We advanced new Bayesian hierarchical models for BALTR. In addition, we introduced a Gibbs sampler for BALTR method. We clarified the features of the new procedure on both simulation studies and real data analysis. Results displayed that BALTR method performs very well in terms of VS and coefficient estimation.
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انحدار البيزي adaptive Lasso Tobit

المستخلص:

في هذا البحث، نقدم طريقة جديدة لاختيار نموذج الفرد في انحدار البيزي لموذج المحدودة (VS) وتقدير المعلمات لنموذج الانحدار. وتقدم في هذا البحث نموذجًا هرميًا جديدًا و عينات لتي قيلت المقتشرة. وقد تم توضيح منحنى المقتشرة عن طريق المحاكاة وتحليل حقيقي للبيانات. وقد ثبتت النتائج أن طريقتنا تحقق أداءً جيدًا بالمقارنة مع الطرق الأخرى.