Robust Logistic and Probit Methods for Binary and Multinomial Regression

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Abstract

In this paper we introduce new robust estimators for the logistic and probit regressions for binary, multinomial, nominal and ordinal data and apply these models to estimate the parameters when outliers or influential observations are present. Maximum likelihood estimates don’t behave well when outliers or influential observations are present. One remedy is to remove influential observations from the data and then apply the maximum likelihood technique on the deleted data. Another approach is to employ a robust technique that can handle outliers and influential observations without removing any observations from the data sets. The robustness of the method is tested using real and simulated data sets.

Introduction

Binary and multinomial regressions are commonly used by medical scientists and researchers for analysis of binary or polytomous outcomes. These methods are routinely used as diagnostic tools in all areas of medicine including oncology and cardiology. Zhou et al. [1] used logistic regression to relate the gene expression with class labels. They also used logistic regression for their microarray-based analysis of cancer classification and prediction. Hobza et al. [2] applied a logistic regression model to identify enriched biological groups in gene expression microarray studies. Majid et al. [3] performed logistic regression analysis to predict endoscopic lesions in iron deficiency anemia when there are no gastrointestinal symptoms.

Morris et al. [4] applied multinomial regression technique to analyze the sub-phenotypes by allowing for heterogeneity of genetic effects. Richman et al. [5] investigated the association between European ancestry and renal disease when compared with African Americans, East Asians, and Hispanics. They concluded that European ancestry is protective against the development of renal disease in systematic lupus erythematosus. Their data had some outliers but they were excluded in their final analysis. Timmerman et al. [6] used the logistic regression to distinguish between benign and malignant adnexal mass before surgery. Merritt et al. [7] used the binary and multinomial logistic regressions to investigate the role of dairy food intake and risk of ovarian cancer. The validity of estimation and testing procedures used in the analysis of binary data are heavily dependent on whether or not the model assumptions are satisfied. The maximum likelihood method of estimating binary regression parameters using logistic, probit and many other methods is extremely sensitive to outliers and influential observations.

There is a large literature on the robustness issue of the binary regression. Most of the existing methods attempt to achieve robustness by down weighting observations which are far from the majority of the data, that is, outliers. The referer is referred to papers published by Pregibon [8], Carroll and Pederson [9], and Bianco and Yohai [10]. Bianco and Martinez [11] modified the original score functions of the logistic regression to obtain bounded sensitivity, which is a concept introduced by Morgenthaler [12] using the $L^1$-norm instead of the $L^2$-norm in the likelihood, resulting in a weighted score function of the original score function. Cantoni and Ronchetti [13] focused on robustness of inference rather than the model. Pregibon [8] suggested resistant fitting methods which taper the standard likelihood to reduce the influence of extreme observations. Kordzakhia et al. [14] introduced a robust logistic regression by minimizing the mean-squared deviance for the worst case contamination. Bergesio and Yohai [15] introduced projection estimators for generalized linear model. These estimators have the same asymptotic normal distribution as the M-estimators. Hobza et al. [16] introduced a median estimator to estimate the parameters of the logistic regression.

Robust binary and multinomial regression estimators for analysis of biomedical data are proposed. This robust method has a bounded influence and high breakdown point and efficiency under normal distribution and is able to estimate the parameters of logistic and probit regression models. The proposed model is computationally simple and can easily be used by researchers.

Binary Regression Model

Consider the model $y_i = \pi(x_i \beta) + \varepsilon_i$, where $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \ldots, \varepsilon_n$ are independent variables with $E(\varepsilon) = 0$ and $Var(\varepsilon) = \pi(x_i \beta) (1 - \pi(x_i \beta))$, and $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$ are $n$ independent Bernoulli random variables with $E(y_i = 1 \mid x_i) = \pi(x_i \beta)$ and $x_i = (1, x_{i1}, \ldots, x_{ip})$ such that the conditional success probability is given by $P(y_i = 1 \mid x_i) = \pi(x_i \beta)$ and $x_i = (1, x_{i1}, \ldots, x_{ip})$ is a $p+1$ dimensional vector of predictor variables with $\beta = (\beta_0, \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_p)^T$ as the parameters vector.

There are various estimation methods for the estimation of the parameter vector $\beta$. The most commonly used method is the logistic
regression which is used to analyze the effects of explanatory variables on the binary response \( y \). In the logistic regression the link function \( \pi_{L}(x; \beta) \) is assumed to have the following functional form

\[
\pi_{L}(x; \beta) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\sum_{j=0}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij})}
\]

The logistic transformation of \( \pi_{L}(x; \beta) \) is called the logit function and is given by

\[
\logit(\pi_{L}(x; \beta)) = \log\left(\frac{\pi_{L}(x; \beta)}{1 - \pi_{L}(x; \beta)}\right) = \sum_{j=0}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij}
\]

The probit function is a link function of the form

\[
\pi_{P}(x; \beta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{x} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt
\]

which has the probit transformation function

\[
\text{probit}(\pi_{P}(x; \beta)) = \sqrt{2\pi} \text{erf}(x) - 1
\]

The tabaistic model introduced by Tabatabai and Argyros [17] has the link function:

\[
\pi_{T}(x; \beta) = \frac{1}{1 + \text{arcsinh}[-\sqrt{2}\sum_{j=0}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij}]]}
\]

where \( \text{arcsinh}(.) \) represents the inverse hyperbolic sine function.

The tabaistic transformation function is called the tabit function and is defined as

\[
\text{tabit}(\pi_{T}(x; \beta)) = \log\left(\frac{1 - \pi_{T}(x; \beta)}{\pi_{T}(x; \beta)}\right) = \sum_{j=0}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij}
\]

with the complementary log-log transformation function (cllogit) defined as

\[
\text{cllogit}(\pi_{CLL}(x; \beta)) = \log[-\log(1 - \pi_{CLL}(x; \beta))] = \sum_{j=0}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij}
\]

The p.d.f. of \( \pi_{CLL} \) function, the dotted curve is the graph of \( \pi_{T} \) function, the dot-dashed curve is the graph of \( \pi_{L} \) function, the dashed curve is the graph of \( \pi_{P} \) function, and the solid curve is the graph of \( \pi_{CLL} \) function. Figure 2 shows the graph of logit (\( \pi_{L} \)), cllogit (\( \pi_{CLL} \)), probit (\( \pi_{P} \)), and tabit (\( \pi_{T} \)). The solid curve, the dotted curve, the dot-dashed curve, and the dashed curve are the graph of logit (\( \pi_{L} \)) function, the graph of probit (\( \pi_{P} \)) function, the graph of cllogit (\( \pi_{CLL} \)) function, and the graph of tabit (\( \pi_{T} \)) function, respectively. The principle of maximum likelihood is ordinarily used to estimate the model parameters by maximizing the log-likelihood function of the form

\[
L(\beta) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ y_i \log(\pi(x_i; \beta)) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \pi(x_i; \beta)) \right]
\]

In other words, the estimate \( \hat{\beta} \) of \( \beta \) is

\[
\hat{\beta} = \arg \max_{\beta} L(\beta)
\]

Although the maximum likelihood estimator is asymptotically efficient, it is not recommended as a method of choice when outliers are present. The alternative techniques are robust statistical methods.

Tabatabai et al. [18] defined the one parameter family of differentiable functions \( \rho_{\omega}(x) \) of the form \( \rho_{\omega}(x) = 1 - \text{sech}(ax) \), where the positive real number \( \omega \) is called the tuning constant.

The bounded function \( \rho_{\omega} : R \rightarrow R \) is a differentiable function satisfying the following properties:

\[
\rho_{\omega}(0) = 0
\]

\[
\lim_{x \to -\infty} \rho_{\omega}(x) = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \rho_{\omega}(x) = 1
\]

\[
(\forall x) (x \in R \Rightarrow \rho_{\omega}(x) \geq 0)
\]

\[
(\forall x) (x \in R \Rightarrow \rho_{\omega}(x) = \rho_{\omega}(-x))
\]

\[
(\forall a > 0) \left( a \in R \land b \in R \Rightarrow \rho_{\omega}(a) \leq \rho_{\omega}(b) \right)
\]

\[
(\forall \omega > 0) \left( \frac{\rho_{\omega}(a)}{a} \to 0 \right)
\]

Under the normality assumption for the error term \( \varepsilon_i \), the asymptotic efficiency (Aeff) is defined as

\[
Aeff = \frac{E[\psi_{\omega}(t)]^2}{E[\psi_{\omega}(t)]]}
\]

Where \( \psi_{\omega} \) is the derivative of \( \rho_{\omega} \) and is equal to

\[
\psi_{\omega}(x) = a \text{sech}(ax) \text{tanh}(ax) \cdot
\]

Where \( \text{sech} \) and \( \text{tanh} \) represent the hyperbolic secant and hyperbolic tangent, respectively.

\[
E[\psi_{\omega}(t)] = \int_{-\infty}^{0} \psi_{\omega}(t) \frac{e^{\frac{t^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dt
\]

The tuning constant \( \omega \) can be calculated by solving the following equation (1) for \( \omega \). The numerical values for \( \omega \) at the efficiency levels 0.80, 0.85, 0.90, and 0.95 are approximately 0.721, 0.628, 0.525 and 0.405, respectively. Although the choice for tuning constant \( \omega \) is left for the investigator to decide, \( \omega \) does recommend an efficiency of approximately 90 percent which corresponds to \( \omega = 1/2 \). We now consider the hat matrix of the form
For $j=1,2,...,k$, define

$$M_j = \text{Median}(|x_{j1}|, |x_{j2}|, ..., |x_{jk}|)$$

where $X$ is the design matrix defined as

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x_{00} & x_{10} & ... & x_{1k} \\ x_{20} & x_{21} & ... & x_{2k} \\ ... & ... & ... & ... \\ x_{n0} & x_{n1} & ... & x_{nk} \end{pmatrix} = (X_0 X_1 ... X_K).$$

If the model has intercept, then the column vector $X_0$ has the form

$$X_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ ... \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$H = X(XX')^{-1}X'.$$
and for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \), define
\[
L_i = \sum_{j=1}^{M} \max\{|\mathcal{M}_j|, \mathcal{K}_j\}
\]

and for \( \omega > 0 \) define the function \( G_f(u) \) as
\[
G_f(u) = \int_0^u \psi_f(-\ln(t))dt.
\]

The estimator
\[
\hat{\beta} = \arg\min_{\beta \in \Omega} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( (1-x_i)\psi_f(\hat{\beta}^T x_i) + x_i \psi_f(\hat{\beta}^T x_i) - 2m(\hat{\beta}^T x_i) \right)
\]

Where \( d_i = y_i \ln(\pi(x_i; \beta)) + (1-y_i) \ln(1-\pi(x_i; \beta)) \)

\( s(t) = G(t) + G(1-t) - G(1) \)

and \( h_{ik} \) is the \( i \)th diagonal element in the hat matrix. For the logistic model, we have
\[
\pi(t) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-t)}.
\]

So that the above integral (2) can be written as
\[
G_0(u) = \frac{2u^{1/2}H(1,1,2,-u^2) - u \text{Sech}(\omega \ln(u))}{1 + \omega^2}.
\]

Where \( H(k_0, k, k_0, t) \) is the Gauss hypergeometric function 2F1 with parameters \( k_0, k \) and \( k_0 \). If \( \omega = 1 \), then we have
\[
G_1(u) = u^2 H(1,1,2,-u^2) - u \text{Sech}(\ln(u)) = \frac{2u^2}{1+u^2} - \ln(1+u^2),
\]

and if \( \omega = 1/2 \), then we have
\[
G_{1/2}(u) = -4\sqrt{u} + 4 \arctan(\sqrt{u}) + u \text{Sech}(\ln(u)) / 2.
\]

Define the Hessian matrix \( H_k \) for binary data as
\[
H_k = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{\partial^2 \ln L(\beta)}{\partial \beta_i^2} & \frac{\partial^2 \ln L(\beta)}{\partial \beta_i \beta_j} \\
\frac{\partial^2 \ln L(\beta)}{\partial \beta_i \beta_j} & \frac{\partial^2 \ln L(\beta)}{\partial \beta_j \beta_j}
\end{pmatrix}
\]

Then an estimate of the variance-covariance matrix for \( \hat{\beta} \) is
\[
\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}) = (H_n)^{-1}
\]

with an estimated variance \( \sigma^2 \) given by
\[
\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} [(y_i - \pi(x_i; \hat{\beta}) \hat{\beta})^2 / \pi(x_i; \hat{\beta})]}{n - (p + 1)}.
\]

To perform hypothesis testing, we let \( \Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p \) be the parameter space and \( \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_k\} \) be a subset of \( \{\beta_0, \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_k\} \). Define
\[
\Omega_0 = \{\beta \in \Omega : \beta_0 = \beta_1 = \ldots = \beta_k = 0\}.
\]

To test the following hypothesis
\[
H_0 : \beta \in \Omega_0 \quad \text{against the alternative} \quad H_1 : \beta \in \Omega_0^c,
\]

one can use the Wald type test statistic which is defined as
\[
W^2 = n(\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \ldots, \hat{\beta}_k)^T \Sigma^{-1}(\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \ldots, \hat{\beta}_k)\]
The ordered logit model is sometimes defined by Kordzakhia et al. [14] as

\[ \pi_{j}(x; \beta) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-x_{j}^{T} \beta)} \]

is the log-odds of falling into or below category \( j \) against falling above it and is given by

\[ \pi_{j}(x; \beta) = \frac{\exp(x_{j}^{T} \beta)}{1 + \exp(x_{j}^{T} \beta)} \]

Then, for the multinomial response, an estimate of the variance-covariance matrix for vector \( \hat{\theta} \) is

\[ \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) = (-H_{p})^{-1} \]

with an estimated variance \( \sigma^{2} \) given by

\[ \sigma^{2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ y_{i} - \pi_{j}(x_{i}; \beta) \right]^{2} / \pi_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)}{(n - (p + 1))(k - 1)} \]

For the cumulative logit model for ordinal \( k \)-category response, the cumulative probability for the \( i \)th response belongs to the response category less than or equal to \( j \) is

\[ F_{j}(x_{i}) = P(y \leq j | x_{i}) \]

and for \( j = 1, \ldots, k-1 \) the ordinal logit \( O_{j}(x_{i}; \beta) \) is the log-odds of falling into or below category \( j \) against falling above it and is given by

\[ O_{j}(x_{i}; \beta) = \ln \left( \frac{F_{j}(x_{i})}{1 - F_{j}(x_{i})} \right) = \beta_{j0} + \beta_{j1} x_{i1} + \beta_{j2} x_{i2} + \ldots + \beta_{jp} x_{ip} \]

where \( \beta_{0} < \beta_{1} < \ldots < \beta_{k-1} \). The ordered logit model is sometimes called the proportional odds model.

Let \( \pi_{j}^{*}(x_{i}; \beta) = P(y_{i} = j | x_{i}; \beta) \). Then we have

\[ \pi_{j}^{*}(x_{i}; \beta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1 + \exp[-O_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)]} & \text{if } j = 1 \\ \frac{1}{1 + \exp[-O_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)] - \exp[-O_{j-1}(x_{i}; \beta)]} & \text{if } 2 \leq j \leq k-1 \\ \frac{1}{1 - \exp[-O_{k-1}(x_{i}; \beta)]} & \text{if } j = k \end{cases} \]

and for the ordinal probit we have

\[ \pi_{j}^{*}(x_{i}; \beta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \exp\left[ \frac{O_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)}{\sqrt{2}} \right] \right) & \text{if } j = 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \exp\left[ \frac{O_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)}{\sqrt{2}} \right] \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \exp\left[ \frac{O_{j-1}(x_{i}; \beta)}{\sqrt{2}} \right] \right) & \text{if } 2 \leq j \leq k-1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \exp\left[ \frac{O_{k-1}(x_{i}; \beta)}{\sqrt{2}} \right] \right) & \text{if } j = k \end{cases} \]

The robust estimate of ordinal multinomial parameter vector is given by

\[ \hat{\beta} = \text{arg min}_{\beta} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{(1 - h_{i}) [\rho_{n}(d_{i}^{*}) + \sum_{j=1}^{k} G_{n}(\pi_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)) - G_{n}(1)]}{L(i)} \]

where \( d_{i}^{*} = \sum_{j=1}^{k} y_{ij} \ln(\pi_{j}^{*}(x_{i}; \beta)) \)

\[ \hat{\beta} = \text{arg min}_{\beta} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{(1 - h_{i}) [\rho_{n}(d_{i}^{*}) + \sum_{j=1}^{k} G_{n}(\pi_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)) - G_{n}(1)]}{L(i)} \]

**Application**

**Vasocnstriction example**

Vasoconstriction and vasodilation are two important physiological mechanisms used to control the circulation of blood throughout the body. These mechanisms directly affect both the blood pressure and the distribution of the blood in the body. Vasodilation refers to the expansion of blood vessels through relaxation of smooth muscles in the vessel walls. This allows increased flow of blood through these vessels and also decreases the blood pressure. Contraction of the same muscles tightens the blood vessels, which decreases blood flow and increases pressure. Thus, vasodilation and vasoconstriction work in opposition to adjust both blood flow and blood pressure. The usual controls for vasocostriction and vasodilation are done by smooth muscles and autonomic nervous system, triggered by the medulla. These responses can also be affected by drugs promoting either constriction or dilation. Furthermore, there is a means of control by circulating hormones in the bloodstream, as well as control by intrinsic mechanisms to vasculature, called the myogenic response. The antagonistic operation of vasoconstriction and vasodilation is used by the body for numerous purposes. Primary among these is regulation of the supply of oxygen and nutrients to the cells of the body, to meet their needs. Furthermore, this regulation of blood flow is also needed for thermoregulation within the body. At times of increased metabolic needs or needs for oxygen in certain organs or systems in the body, the blood flow to these regions will also be modulated. Finally, vasoconstriction is also important in restricting blood flow to regions of the body in cases of traumatic injury.

The data set was analyzed originally by Finney [19]. It consists of 39 observations where the binary response variable \( y=1 \) or \( y=0 \) represent the presence or absence of vasoconstriction of the skin respectively. This experimental data set considers the effect of inhalation of air in a single deep breath on the presence or absence of vasoconstriction in the digits. Presence or absence of vasoconstriction is considered as a categorical variable, and the study considers the effect of two variables, the volume of inhaled air and the rate of inhalation. (Data has hidden outliers so that the robust logistic regression will be useful in its analysis.) In the remainder of this work, we denote by ML and BY , the Maximum Likelihood and Bianco-Yohai methods, respectively. By examining Table 1 we conclude that the new robust estimator has produced the closest parameter estimates to the maximum likelihood estimates when the outliers were removed. In addition, the \( X_{arv} \) is the lowest for the new robust method. The \( X_{arv} \) is defined by Kordzakhia et al. [14] as

\[ X_{arv} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\arcsin \sqrt{y_{i} - \arcsin \sqrt{\pi_{j}(x_{i}; \beta)^{2}}})^{2} \]

**Plasma example**

The erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) is very important. It is a common hematology test which is simple and inexpensive but can be used to detect infection or acute phase response, which can alert physicians to a wide variety of conditions. The test is very versatile and can assist physicians in detecting conditions from rheumatoid arthritis.
to systemic lupus erythematosus to multiple myeloma; however it is non-specific and is usually combined with other tests. In practice, ESR is used widely to test for a range of conditions, including inflammation, trauma, and malignant disease. Studies have also suggested the utility of the ESR among the elderly as a general indicator of level of sickness or disease. Recently ESR has also attracted attention for a potential role as a predictor for the development of cardio-vascular disease and heart failure.

The ESR simply measures the rate at which red blood cells precipitate during a period of one hour. Anticoagulated blood is placed in an upright tube, and the rate at which the erythrocytes settle is measured in mm per hour. Although the test is a direct measurement of rate of sedimentation, the balance between factors stimulating sedimentation and factors resisting sedimentation allows for a number of clinically relevant factors to influence this rate. Fibrinogen is the most important factor promoting sedimentation, and the high level of fibrinogen in the blood during the inflammatory process makes this test sensitive to inflammation. High levels of fibrinogen in the blood decrease the repulsive forces experienced between the negatively charged erythrocytes and favor the formation of rouleaux. These stacks of erythrocytes that stick together will settle faster and lead to an increased ESR. Other acute phase reactants, or other large molecules, especially when positively charged, can have a similar effect, although fibrinogen has been observed to have the largest effect.

A recent focus on the inflammatory nature of atherosclerosis has been accompanied by a recent study of increased levels of ESR and elevated risk of coronary heart disease. Eriksson et al. [20] observed that increased ESR is a strong predictor of mortality from heart failure, suggesting it may serve as a marker for aggressive forms of coronary heart disease. Andreasdottir et al. [21] observed an increased risk of coronary heart disease among the top quintile or ESR rates, with a hazard ratio of 1.57 for men and 1.9 for women. The 2005 paper of Andresdottir et al. [21] observed an increased risk of coronary heart disease. Erikssen et al. [20] observed that elevated ESR is a strong predictor of mortality from heart failure, suggesting both that inflammation is involved in the processes leading to heart failure and that the ESR may be used in evaluating this process. In addition to the well-established uses of ESR, Saadeh [23] mentions some potential new applications of this test such as bacterial otitis media, acute hematogenous osteomyelitis, AIDS, pelvic inflammatory disease, prostate cancer, and early prediction of stroke severity.

Although the ESR usually detects acute phase response from fibrinogen in blood in conditions such as those mentioned above, in certain cases there are factors which decrease the rate of sedimentation. One important factor that can slow the rate of sedimentation is irregularity in the erythrocytes, either in shape or unusually small size. As a consequence, ESR can detect certain blood diseases (including sickle cell anemia and spherocytosis) which lead to a lower than normal rate of sedimentation, as observed in Bridgen [24]. Other conditions that may also lower ESR include the extreme levels of white blood cells as observed in chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Furthermore the surplus of erythrocytes found in patients with polycythemia makes rouleau formation difficult and decreases the ESR.

In clinical applications the erythrocyte sedimentation rate may in many cases be treated as a categorical variable, with a normal ESR for values less than some given α and an elevated ESR for values greater than α. When representing such a set of data where ESR depends on one or more variables the logistic regression may be used. For instance in the data set from Collett [25], the ESR is considered as a function of two variables, the level of fibrinogen and the level of γ-globulin. The data for 32 individuals represents the levels of fibrinogen and γ-globulin in the blood and whether the ESR level is healthy (< 20 mm/hr) or unhealthy (≥ 20 mm/hr), and the logistic regression is used to describe how both fibrinogen and γ-globulin affect the ESR variable. Since this data set contains (hidden/influential) outliers, both the probit method of regression and the logit method do not give accurate results. However we observed that our new methods for robust logistic regression do represent the data accurately. The logit, when all 32 observations are included in the study, is given by

\[
\logit(\hat{\pi}(X_i)) = 6.845 + 1.827f_i
\]

When one removes the influential observations 15, and 23, the logit model becomes

\[
\logit(\hat{\pi}(X_i)) = 59.62 + 17.46f_i
\]

The level of γ-globulin was not a statistically significant variable to be included in the model. Thus only the level of fibrinogen is used in the variable selection.

Again, examining Table 2 reveals that the new robust estimator has produced the closest parameter estimates to the maximum likelihood estimates when the outliers were removed as well as the lowest value for the \(\chi^2_{arc}\).

**Mental health example**

The following example involves the ordinal multinomial regression. The data comes from a mental health study for a random sample of adult

### Table 1: Parameter Estimates for Vaso Data Using ML, BY and New Robust Method

| Methods             | Coefficients | Standard Error |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
|                     | b0           | b1             | b2             | b0           | b1             | b2             |
| ML                  | -2.887       | 5.191          | 4.578          | 1.324        | 1.869          | 1.843          |
| ML (Influential observations removed) | -24.590       | 39.539          | 31.928          | 13.974       | 23.153          | 17.687          |
| BY c=1.25           | -5.3214      | 8.4454         | 7.4801         | 9.7647       | 14.1903        | 12.3199        |
| New Robust c=0.5    | -24.1191     | 38.4639        | 30.9608        | 15.3232      | 24.9410        | 19.2365        |

### Table 2: Parameter Estimates for Plasma Data Using ML, BY and New Robust Method

| Methods             | Coefficients | Standard Error |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
|                     | b0           | b1             | b2             | b0           | b1             | b2             |
| ML                  | -6.8451      | 1.8271         | 1.2771         | 2.7703       | 0.9009         |
| ML (Influential observations removed) | -59.62       | 17.46          | 45.51          | 13.50        |
| BY c=1.25           | -8.3774      | 2.2870         | 5.4383         | 1.6632       |
| New method c=0.5    | -60.5094     | 17.7654        | 49.7325        | 14.7409      |
Table 3: Parameter estimates for Mental Health data using robust ordinal method.

| Method | Bias (5%) | MSE (5%) |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| ML     |           |          |
| $b_1$  | -0.0281   | 0.6423   |
| $b_2$  | 1.2128    | 0.6607   |
| $b_3$  | 2.2094    | 0.7210   |
| New Robust |     |          |
| $b_1$  | -0.3189   | 0.1210   |
| $b_2$  | 1.1112    | 0.8109   |

Table 4: Simulation Results for Logistic Regression ($b_0=1, b_1=3, N=100, m=1000$).

| Parameter | Estimated | Standard Error | Robust estimate | Standard Error |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Intercept | -0.2819   | 0.6423         | -2.374          | 0.7265         |
| Life      | 1.2128    | 0.6607         | 1.1923          | 0.7507         |
| Socioeconomic status | 2.2094 | 0.7210         | 2.2981          | 0.8364         |

Table 5: Simulation Results for Logistic Regression ($b_0=1, b_1=0.5, b_2=2, N=100, m=1000$).

| Parameter | Estimated | Standard Error | Robust estimate | Standard Error |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Intercept | -0.2819   | 0.6423         | -2.374          | 0.7265         |
| Life      | 1.2128    | 0.6607         | 1.1923          | 0.7507         |

Discussion and Conclusions

In this work we have proposed a new robust method to analyze binary and multinomial regression models. We believe that these new robust methods for binary and multinomial regressions have potential to play a key role in modeling categorical data in medical, biological and engineering sciences. We have shown the lack of robustness of the maximum likelihood technique when outliers are present. In both real examples and simulated ones and when the outliers are present, the new
robust method performed well. In conclusion the motivation was to introduce a new robust loss function of residuals which can attain high breakdown value. The method has high efficiency and high breakdown points with bounded influence function.

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