Package 'misreport'

October 13, 2022

Title Statistical Analysis of Misreporting on Sensitive Survey Questions
Description Enables investigation of the predictors of misreporting on sensitive survey questions through a multivariate list experiment regression method. The method permits researchers to model whether a survey respondent's answer to the sensitive item in a list experiment is different from his or her answer to an analogous direct question.
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bootListExperiment

List experiment regression with bootstrapped standard errors

Description

A wrapper function that makes repeated calls to listExperiment to calculate parameter estimates and standard errors through non-parametric boot-strapping.

Usage

```
bootListExperiment(formula, data, treatment, J, direct = NULL,
    sensitive.response = NULL, outcome = NULL, outcome.trials = NULL,
    outcome.model = "logistic", outcome.constrained = TRUE,
    control.constraint = "partial", misreport.treatment = TRUE,
    weights = NULL, se = TRUE, tolerance = 1e-08, max.iter = 5000,
    n.runs = 1, verbose = TRUE, get.data = FALSE, par.control = NULL,
    par.sensitive = NULL, par.misreport = NULL, par.outcome = NULL,
    formula.sensitive = NULL, formula.control = NULL,
    formula.sensitive = NULL, boot.iter = 1000, parallel = FALSE,
    n.cores = 2, cluster = NULL)
```

Arguments

formula	An object of class	"formula": a svn	abolic description	of the model to be fitted.

data A data frame containing the variables to be used in the model.

treatment A string indicating the name of the treatment indicator in the data. This variable

must be coded as a binary, where 1 indicates assignment to treatment and 0

indicates assignment to control.

J An integer indicating the number of control items in the list experiment.

direct A string indicating the name of the direct question response in the data. The di-

rect question must be coded as a binary variable. If NULL (default), a misreport

sub-model is not fit.

sensitive.response

A value 0 or 1 indicating whether the response that is considered sensitive in the

list experiment/direct question is 0 or 1.

outcome A string indicating the variable name in the data to use as the outcome in an

outcome sub-model. If NULL (default), no outcome sub-model is fit. [experi-

mental]

outcome.trials An integer indicating the number of trials in a binomial/betabinomial model if

both an outcome sub-model is used and if the argument $\operatorname{outcome}$. model is set

to "binomial" or "betabinomial". [experimental]

outcome . model A string indicating the model type to fit for the outcome sub-model ("logistic",

"binomial", "betabinomial"). [experimental]

outcome.constrained

A logical value indicating whether to constrain $U^* = 0$ in the outcome submodel. Defaults to TRUE. [experimental]

control.constraint

A string indicating the constraint to place on Z* and U* in the control-items sub-model:

"none" (default) Estimate separate parameters for Z* and U*.

"partial" Constrain $U^* = 0$.

"full" Constrain $U^* = Z^* = 0$.

misreport.treatment

A logical value indicating whether to include a parameter for the treatment indicator in the misreport sub-model. Defaults to TRUE.

weights A string indicating the variable name of survey weights in the data (note: stan-

dard errors are not currently output when survey weights are used).

se A logical value indicating whether to calculate standard errors. Defaults to

TRUE.

tolerance The desired accuracy for EM convergence. The EM loop breaks after the change

in the log-likelihood is less than the value of tolerance. Defaults to 1e-08.

max.iter The maximum number of iterations for the EM algorithm. Defaults to 10000.

avoid local maxima). Defaults to 1.

verbose A logical value indicating whether to print information during model fitting.

Defaults to TRUE.

get.data For internal use. Used by wrapper function bootListExperiment.

par.control A vector of starting parameters for the control-items sub-model. Must be in the

order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default),

randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2).

par.sensitive A vector of starting parameters for the sensitive-item sub-model. Must be in the

order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default),

randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2).

par.misreport A vector of starting parameters for the misreport sub-model. Must be in the

order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default),

randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2).

par.outcome A vector of starting parameters for the outcome sub-model. Must be in the

order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default), randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2). [exper-

imental]

par.outcome.aux

A vector of starting parameters for the outcome sub-model in which outcome.model is "betabinomial". i.e. c(alpha, beta). If NULL (default), randomly generated

starting points are used, drawn from uniform(0, 1). [experimental]

formula.control

An object of class "formula" used to specify a control-items sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$)

formula.sensitive

An object of class "formula" used to specify a sensitive-item sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$)

formula.misreport

An object of class "formula" used to specify a misreport sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$)

formula.outcome

An object of class "formula" used to specify an outcome sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$) [experimental]

boot.iter The number of boot strap samples to generate.

parallel A logical value indicating whether to run bootstraping in parallel on a multi-core

computer.

n.cores The number of cores/threads on which to generate bootstrap samples (when

parallel = TRUE). Defaults to 2.

cluster An optional cluster object using makeCluster() from the parallel package

(useful if running on an MPI server).

Details

bootListExperiment is a wrapper for the function listExperiment that allows researchers to fit a bootstrapped model. The arguments for this function include those for the listExperiment function, in addition to a small number of arguments specific to the bootstrap.

Value

listExperiment returns an object of class "listExperiment". A summary of this object is given using the summary.listExperiment function. All components in the "listExperiment" class are listed below.

Slots

par.control A named vector of coefficients from the control-items sub-model.

par. sensitive A named vector of coefficients from the sensitive-item sub-model.

par.misreport A named vector of coefficients from the misreport sub-model.

par.outcome A named vector of coefficients from the outcome sub-model.

par.outcome.aux A named vector of (auxiliary) coefficients from the outcome sub-model (if outcome.model = "betabinomial").

df Degrees of freedom.

se.sensitive Standard errors for parameters in the sensitive-item sub-model.

se.control Standard errors for parameters in the control-items sub-model.

se.misreport Standard errors for parameters in the misreport sub-model.

se.outcome Standard errors for parameters in the outcome sub-model.

se.outcome.aux Standard errors for the auxiliary parameters in the outcome sub-model (if outcome.model = "betabinomial").

vcov.mle Variance-covariance matrix.

w The matrix of posterior predicted probabilities for each observation in the data used for model fitting.

data The data frame used for model fitting.

direct The string indicating the variable name of the direct question.

treatment The string indicating the variable name of the treatment indicator.

model.misreport A logical value indicating whether a misreport sub-model was fit.

outcome.model The type of model used as the outcome sub-model.

outcome.constrained A logical value indicating whether the parameter U* was constrained to 0 in the outcome sub-model.

control.constraint A string indicating the constraints placed on the parameters Z^* and U^* in the control-items sub-model.

misreport.treatment A logical value indicating whether a treatment indicator was included in the misreport sub-model.

weights A string indicating the variable name of the survey weights.

formula The model formula.

formula.control The model specification of the control-items sub-model.

formula. sensitive The model specification of the sensitive-item sub-model.

formula.misreport The model specification of the misreport sub-model.

formula.outcome The model specification of the outcome sub-model.

sensitive.response The value 0 or 1 indicating the response to the list experiment/direct question that is considered sensitive.

xlevels The factor levels of the variables used in the model.

11ik The model log-likelihood.

- n The sample size of the data used for model fitting (this value excludes rows removed through listwise deletion).
- J The number of control items in the list experiment.
- se A logical value indicating whether standard errors were calculated.
- runs The parameter estimates from each run of the EM algorithm (note: the parameters that result in the highest log-likelihood are used as the model solution).
- call The method call.
- boot A logical value indicating whether non-parametric bootstrapping was used to calculate model parameters and standard errors.

References

Eady, Gregory. 2017 "The Statistical Analysis of Misreporting on Sensitive Survey Questions."

Imai, Kosuke. 2011. "Multivariate Regression Analysis for the Item Count Technique." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 106 (494): 407-416.

Examples

```
## Simulated list experiment and direct question
n <- 10000
J <- 4
# Covariates
x \leftarrow cbind(intercept = rep(1, n), continuous1 = rnorm(n),
           continuous2 = rnorm(n), binary1 = rbinom(n, 1, 0.5))
treatment <- rbinom(n, 1, 0.5)</pre>
# Simulate Z*
param_sensitive <- c(0.25, -0.25, 0.5, 0.25)
prob_sensitive <- plogis(x %*% param_sensitive)</pre>
true_belief <- rbinom(n, 1, prob = prob_sensitive)</pre>
# Simulate whether respondent misreports (U*)
param_misreport <- c(-0.25, 0.25, -0.5, 0.5)
prob_misreport <- plogis(x %*% param_misreport) * true_belief</pre>
misreport <- rbinom(n, 1, prob = prob_misreport)</pre>
# Simulate control items Y*
param_control <- c(0.25, 0.25, -0.25, 0.25, U = -0.5, Z = 0.25)
prob.control <- plogis(cbind(x, misreport, true_belief) %*% param_control)</pre>
control\_items <- rbinom(n, J, prob.control)
# List experiment and direct question responses
direct <- true_belief</pre>
direct[misreport == 1] <- 0</pre>
y <- control_items + true_belief * treatment</pre>
A <- data.frame(y, direct, treatment,
                 continuous1 = x[, "continuous1"],
                 continuous2 = x[, "continuous2"],
                 binary1 = x[, "binary1"])
## Not run:
# Note: substantial computation time
model.sim <- bootListExperiment(y ~ continuous1 + continuous2 + binary1,</pre>
                                  data = A, treatment = "treatment",
                                  direct = "direct",
                                  J = 4, control.constraint = "none",
                                  sensitive.response = 1,
                                  boot.iter = 500, parallel = TRUE, n.cores = 2)
summary(model.sim, digits = 3)
## End(Not run)
```

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gender

List experiment regarding gender and politics

Description

A dataset containing responses to a list experiment and direct question regarding the statement "women are as competent as men in politics." Data also contain socio-demographics for gender, age, education, region, and political ideology.

Usage

gender

Format

```
A data frame with 5000 rows and 7 variables:
```

```
treatment treatment assignment
direct response to the direct question
gender gender of respondent {Woman, Man}
age age of respondent {18, 19, ..., 94}
ageGroup age group of respondent {18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-64, 65+}
education education of respondent {High school or below, College, University degree}
motherTongue mother tongue of respondent {English, French, Other language}
region region of respondent {Ontario, Atlantic, Quebec, West}
selfPlacement political ideology of respondent (0 = right-wing, 10 = left wing) {0, 1, ..., 10}
weight survey weight
```

Source

Eady, Gregory. 2016 "The Statistical Analysis of Misreporting on Sensitive Survey Questions."

listExperiment List exper

List experiment regression

Description

Regression analysis for sensitive survey questions using a list experiment and direct question.

Usage

```
listExperiment(formula, data, treatment, J, direct = NULL,
  sensitive.response = NULL, outcome = NULL, outcome.trials = NULL,
  outcome.model = "logistic", outcome.constrained = TRUE,
  control.constraint = "none", misreport.treatment = TRUE, weights = NULL,
  se = TRUE, tolerance = 1e-08, max.iter = 10000, n.runs = 3,
  verbose = TRUE, get.data = FALSE, par.control = NULL,
  par.sensitive = NULL, par.misreport = NULL, par.outcome = NULL,
  formula.sensitive = NULL, formula.misreport = NULL,
  formula.outcome = NULL, get.boot = 0, ...)
```

Arguments

formula An object of class "formula": a symbolic description of the model to be fitted.

data A data frame containing the variables to be used in the model.

treatment A string indicating the name of the treatment indicator in the data. This variable

must be coded as a binary, where 1 indicates assignment to treatment and 0

indicates assignment to control.

J An integer indicating the number of control items in the list experiment.

direct A string indicating the name of the direct question response in the data. The di-

rect question must be coded as a binary variable. If NULL (default), a misreport

sub-model is not fit.

sensitive.response

A value 0 or 1 indicating whether the response that is considered sensitive in the

list experiment/direct question is 0 or 1.

outcome A string indicating the variable name in the data to use as the outcome in an

outcome sub-model. If NULL (default), no outcome sub-model is fit. [experi-

mental]

outcome.trials An integer indicating the number of trials in a binomial/betabinomial model if both an outcome sub-model is used and if the argument outcome.model is set

to "binomial" or "betabinomial". [experimental]

outcome.model A string indicating the model type to fit for the outcome sub-model ("logistic",

"binomial", "betabinomial"). [experimental]

outcome.constrained

A logical value indicating whether to constrain $U^* = 0$ in the outcome submodel. Defaults to TRUE. [experimental]

control.constraint

A string indicating the constraint to place on Z^* and U^* in the control-items sub-model:

"none" (default) Estimate separate parameters for Z* and U*.

"partial" Constrain $U^* = 0$.

"full" Constrain $U^* = Z^* = 0$.

misreport.treatment

A logical value indicating whether to include a parameter for the treatment indicator in the misreport sub-model. Defaults to TRUE.

weights A string indicating the variable name of survey weights in the data (note: stan-

dard errors are not currently output when survey weights are used).

se A logical value indicating whether to calculate standard errors. Defaults to

TRUE.

tolerance The desired accuracy for EM convergence. The EM loop breaks after the change

in the log-likelihood is less than the value of tolerance. Defaults to 1e-08.

max.iter The maximum number of iterations for the EM algorithm. Defaults to 10000.

n.runs The total number of times that the EM algorithm is run (can potentially help

avoid local maxima). Defaults to 1.

verbose A logical value indicating whether to print information during model fitting.

Defaults to TRUE.

get.data For internal use. Used by wrapper function bootListExperiment.

par.control A vector of starting parameters for the control-items sub-model. Must be in the

order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default),

randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2).

A vector of starting parameters for the sensitive-item sub-model. Must be in the order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default),

randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2).

par.misreport A vector of starting parameters for the misreport sub-model. Must be in the

order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default),

randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2).

par.outcome A vector of starting parameters for the outcome sub-model. Must be in the

order of the parameters in the resulting regression output. If NULL (default), randomly generated starting points are used, drawn from uniform(-2, 2). [exper-

imental]

par.outcome.aux

par.sensitive

A vector of starting parameters for the outcome sub-model in which outcome.model is "betabinomial". i.e. c(alpha, beta). If NULL (default), randomly generated

starting points are used, drawn from uniform(0, 1). [experimental]

formula.control

An object of class "formula" used to specify a control-items sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$)

formula.sensitive

An object of class "formula" used to specify a sensitive-item sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$)

formula.misreport

An object of class "formula" used to specify a misreport sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$)

formula.outcome

An object of class "formula" used to specify an outcome sub-model that is different from that given in formula. (e.g. $\sim x1 + x2$) [experimental]

get.boot

For internal use. An integer, which if greater than 0 requests that listExperiment() generate a non-parametric bootstrap sample and fit a model to that sample. Used by the function bootListExperiment.

... Additional options.

Details

The listExperiment function allows researchers to fit a model for a list experiment and direct question simultaneously, as described in Eady (2017). The primary aim of the function is to allow researchers to model the probability that respondents provides one response to the sensitive item in a list experiment but respond otherwise when asked about the same sensitive item on a direct question. When a direct question response is excluded from the function, the model is functionally equivalent to that proposed by Imai (2011), as implemented as the ictreg function in the list package (https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=list).

Value

listExperiment returns an object of class "listExperiment". A summary of this object is given using the summary.listExperiment function. All components in the "listExperiment" class are listed below.

Slots

par.control A named vector of coefficients from the control-items sub-model.

par. sensitive A named vector of coefficients from the sensitive-item sub-model.

par.misreport A named vector of coefficients from the misreport sub-model.

par.outcome A named vector of coefficients from the outcome sub-model.

par.outcome.aux A named vector of (auxiliary) coefficients from the outcome sub-model (if outcome.model = "betabinomial").

df Degrees of freedom.

se.sensitive Standard errors for parameters in the sensitive-item sub-model.

se.control Standard errors for parameters in the control-items sub-model.

se.misreport Standard errors for parameters in the misreport sub-model.

se.outcome Standard errors for parameters in the outcome sub-model.

se.outcome.aux Standard errors for the auxiliary parameters in the outcome sub-model (if outcome.model = "betabinomial").

vcov.mle Variance-covariance matrix.

w The matrix of posterior predicted probabilities for each observation in the data used for model fitting.

data The data frame used for model fitting.

direct The string indicating the variable name of the direct question.

treatment The string indicating the variable name of the treatment indicator.

model.misreport A logical value indicating whether a misreport sub-model was fit.

outcome.model The type of model used as the outcome sub-model.

outcome.constrained A logical value indicating whether the parameter U* was constrained to 0 in the outcome sub-model.

control.constraint A string indicating the constraints placed on the parameters Z^* and U^* in the control-items sub-model.

misreport.treatment A logical value indicating whether a treatment indicator was included in the misreport sub-model.

weights A string indicating the variable name of the survey weights.

formula The model formula.

formula.control The model specification of the control-items sub-model.

formula. sensitive The model specification of the sensitive-item sub-model.

formula.misreport The model specification of the misreport sub-model.

formula.outcome The model specification of the outcome sub-model.

sensitive.response The value 0 or 1 indicating the response to the list experiment/direct question that is considered sensitive.

xlevels The factor levels of the variables used in the model.

11ik The model log-likelihood.

- n The sample size of the data used for model fitting (this value excludes rows removed through listwise deletion).
- J The number of control items in the list experiment.
- se A logical value indicating whether standard errors were calculated.
- runs The parameter estimates from each run of the EM algorithm (note: the parameters that result in the highest log-likelihood are used as the model solution).
- call The method call.
- boot A logical value indicating whether non-parametric bootstrapping was used to calculate model parameters and standard errors.

References

Eady, Gregory. 2017 "The Statistical Analysis of Misreporting on Sensitive Survey Questions."

Imai, Kosuke. 2011. "Multivariate Regression Analysis for the Item Count Technique." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 106 (494): 407-416.

Examples

```
## EXAMPLE 1: Simulated list experiment and direct question
n <- 10000
J <- 4
# Covariates
x \leftarrow cbind(intercept = rep(1, n), continuous1 = rnorm(n),
            continuous2 = rnorm(n), binary1 = rbinom(n, 1, 0.5))
treatment <- rbinom(n, 1, 0.5)</pre>
# Simulate Z*
param_sensitive <- c(0.25, -0.25, 0.5, 0.25)
prob_sensitive <- plogis(x %*% param_sensitive)</pre>
true_belief <- rbinom(n, 1, prob = prob_sensitive)</pre>
# Simulate whether respondent misreports (U*)
param_misreport <- c(-0.25, 0.25, -0.5, 0.5)
prob_misreport <- plogis(x %*% param_misreport) * true_belief</pre>
misreport <- rbinom(n, 1, prob = prob_misreport)</pre>
# Simulate control items Y*
param_control <- c(0.25, 0.25, -0.25, 0.25, U = -0.5, Z = 0.25)
prob.control <- plogis(cbind(x, misreport, true_belief) %*% param_control)</pre>
control_items <- rbinom(n, J, prob.control)</pre>
# List experiment and direct question responses
direct <- true_belief</pre>
direct[misreport == 1] <- 0</pre>
y <- control_items + true_belief * treatment</pre>
A <- data.frame(y, direct, treatment,
                 continuous1 = x[, "continuous1"],
continuous2 = x[, "continuous2"],
                 binary1 = x[, "binary1"])
## Not run:
model.sim <- listExperiment(y ~ continuous1 + continuous2 + binary1,</pre>
                              data = A, treatment = "treatment", direct = "direct",
                              J = 4, control.constraint = "none",
                              sensitive.response = 1)
summary(model.sim, digits = 3)
## End(Not run)
## EXAMPLE 2: Data from Eady (2017)
data(gender)
## Not run:
# Note: substantial computation time
```

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predict.listExperiment

Predict method for the list experiment

Description

Obtains predictions from a fitted list experiment model of the class listExperiment.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'listExperiment'
predict(object, newdata = NULL,
    treatment.misreport = 0, par.control = NULL, par.sensitive = NULL,
    par.misreport = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

object Object of class "listExperiment"

newdata An optional data frame from which to calculate predictions.

treatment.misreport

Value of the treatment variable covariate in the misreport sub-model (if included in the model).

- **0** treatment indicator in the misreport sub-model is set to 0 for all individuals (default).
- 1 treatment indicator in the misreport sub-model is set to 1 for all individuals.
- "observed" treatment indicator in the misreport sub-model is set to the observed treatment value.

par.control An optional set of control-items sub-model parameters to use in place of those

from the fitted model.

par.sensitive An optional set of sensitive-item sub-model parameters to use in place of those

from the fitted model.

par.misreport An optional set of misreport sub-model parameters to use in place of those from

the fitted model.

. . . Additional arguments

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Details

If newdata is omitted, predictions will be made with the data used for model fitting.

Slots

- ${\tt z.hat} \ \ Predicted \ probability \ of \ answering \ affirmatively \ to \ the \ sensitive \ item \ in \ the \ list \ experiment.$
- u.hat Predicted probability of misreporting (assuming respondent holds the sensitive belief).

References

Eady, Gregory. 2017 "The Statistical Analysis of Misreporting on Sensitive Survey Questions."

Examples

print.listExperiment Print object summary of listExperiment class

Description

```
Calls summary.listExperiment.
```

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'listExperiment'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

```
x Object of class "listExperiment".
```

... Additional arguments.

Details

Prints the object summary of the listExperiment class by calling the summary.listExperiment function.

```
summary.listExperiment
```

Object summary of the listExperiment class

Description

Summarizes results from a list experiment regression fit using listExperiment or bootListExperiment.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'listExperiment'
summary(object, digits = 4, ...)
```

Arguments

```
object Object of class "listExperiment".

digits Number of significant digits to print.

Additional arguments.
```

Details

summary.listExperiment summarizes the information contained in a listExperiment object for each list experiment regression sub-model.

References

Eady, Gregory. 2017 "The Statistical Analysis of Misreporting on Sensitive Survey Questions."

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