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1. INTRODUCTION

Sample surveys are frequently designed on large domains of study. But administrative decisions are being increasingly based on data on sub divisions of the original domains of study. These subdivisions are called small domains or subdomains. It has been found convenient to combine several sources of information in an effort to obtain efficient small domain estimates. The commonly available sources of data are the administrative registers or population census and the survey which is planned on the large domain. The most popular and simplest approach for obtaining small domain estimators of proportions is the so called method of synthetic estimation which is described next. The available data from census records are the proportions of individuals belonging to subgroup j within small domain i . Where the subgroups $j=1, \dots, J$ are formed according to one or more symptomatic categorical variables (e.g. sex, race). Then it can be assumed that the units from the population are grouped according to three classifications. The first classification is that corresponding to the small domains, the second one to the subgroups and the third one to the variable of interest. Let the classifications be, respectively, A with I categories, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_I ; B with J categories: B_1, B_2, \dots, B_J and C with K categories C_1, C_2, \dots, C_K . We may also think of A, B and C as categorical random variables, and write, say, A_i to denote the event $\{A = A_i\}$. The standard assumption of synthetic estimation is that $P(C_k | A_i \cap B_j) = P(C_k | B_j)$, (independent of i). Let $\pi_{ij} = P(B_j | A_i)$ for $i=1, \dots, I, j=1, \dots, J$ which are known from census records and $\alpha_{jk} = P(C_k | B_j)$ for $j=1, \dots, J$ and $k=1, \dots, K$ which can be estimated from survey data. The parameter to be estimated is: $P(C_k | A_i) =$ Probability that a unit belongs to the category k of the variable of interest, given that it comes from domain i ; which will be denoted by $\phi_{k,i}$. This can be expressed in terms of the α_{jk} 's and the π_{ij} 's and under the standard assumption in the following form

$$P(C_k | A_i) = \sum_{j=1}^J \alpha_{jk} \pi_{ij} \tag{1.1}$$

The synthetic estimator of $P(C_k | A_i)$ is:

$$\hat{\phi}_{k,i} = \hat{P}(C_k | A_i) = \sum_{j=1}^J \hat{\alpha}_{jk} \pi_{ij} \tag{1.2}$$

where $\hat{\alpha}_{jk}$ are estimates of α_{jk} .

2. PARTIAL SYMPTOMATIC INFORMATION

It commonly happens that census data are not available for all combinations of the symptomatic variables for each small domain. When this occurs the standard formula (1.2) can not be applied. However, certain linear combinations of the pro-

portions π_{ij} are known (for each small domain i). Thus the following restrictions are imposed on the parameters. Let A be a known matrix ($L \times J$) of full row rank and \underline{b}_i be a known vector ($L \times 1$), $i=1, \dots, I$, then the parameters must satisfy

$$A \underline{\pi}_i = \underline{b}_i \quad \text{for } i=1, \dots, I \tag{2.1}$$

where $\underline{\pi}_i = (\pi_{i1}, \dots, \pi_{iJ})$, the first row of A consists of units, and the first element of \underline{b}_i is unity. The purpose of this work is to estimate (1.1) subject to (2.1), the restriction that $\sum_k \alpha_{jk} = 1$ and the restrictions that $0 < \alpha_{jk} < 1$ and $0 < \pi_{ij} < 1$. Two methods of estimation are developed. The first one is the maximum likelihood procedure which estimates jointly the α_{jk} 's and the π_{ij} 's. The second one consists of estimating the π_{ij} 's subject to some linear constraints by the Iterative Proportional Fitting (IPF) procedure developed by Deming and Stephan (1940), and estimate the α_{jk} 's by the ML method. Both estimators are obtained in the case that a stratified random sampling on the large domain is assumed, where the strata are the small domains. Let n_{ijk} be the number of units falling into the (i, j, k) cell and denote $\underline{n}_i = (n_{i11}, \dots, n_{iJK})$ for $i=1, \dots, I, n_{i++} = \sum_{j,k} n_{ijk}$ and $n = n_{+++} = \sum_i n_{i++}$. The n_{i++} is fixed for $i = 1, \dots, I$ and n_{i++} is considered of the form $n_{i++} = \mu_i n$ where μ_i are constants such that $\sum \mu_i = 1$ and $\mu_i > 0$. Under the standard assumption for each i, \underline{n}_i has a multinomial distribution with parameter $\underline{p}_i = (\pi_{i1} \alpha_{1K}, \dots, \pi_{iJ} \alpha_{JK})$ and the multinomial distributions are independent.

3. MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATOR OF $\phi_{k,i}$

Let $\underline{\theta} = (\underline{\alpha}_1, \underline{\alpha}_2, \dots, \underline{\alpha}_K, \underline{\pi}_1, \dots, \underline{\pi}_I)$ where

$$\underline{\alpha}_k = (\alpha_{1k}, \alpha_{2k}, \dots, \alpha_{jk}) \quad k = 1, \dots, K \quad \text{and}$$

$$\underline{\pi}_i = (\pi_{i1}, \dots, \pi_{iJ}) \quad i = 1, \dots, I.$$

The likelihood function of $\underline{\theta}$ is

$$L(\underline{\theta}) = \text{Constant} \prod_{j=1}^J \prod_{k=1}^K \alpha_{jk}^{n_{+jk}} \times \prod_{i=1}^I \prod_{j=1}^J \pi_{ij}^{n_{ij+}} \tag{3.1}$$

Then, the following result holds true.

Proposition 3.1 Let n_{ij+} and n_{+jk} be positive for every i, j and k . The maximum of the logarithm of the likelihood function (3.1) subject to $A \underline{\pi}_i = \underline{b}_i$ for $i=1, \dots, I, \sum_k \alpha_{jk} = 1$ for $j=1, \dots, J$ and the restriction that all the α 's and π 's are strictly between 0 and 1, exists and it is unique.

Proof: See Lopez Alvarez (1982).

The estimator of $\phi_{k,i}$ is $\hat{\phi}_{k,i} = \sum_{j=1}^J \hat{\alpha}_{jk} \hat{\pi}_{ij}$.

Asymptotic properties of $\hat{\phi}_{k,i}$ will be given next.

Notation 3.1

$$\underline{\theta}_R = (\alpha_1', \dots, \alpha_J', \pi_1^{(2)'}, \dots, \pi_I^{(2)'})$$

$$\alpha_j' = (\alpha_{j1}, \alpha_{j2}, \dots, \alpha_{jK-1})$$

$$\pi_i^{(2)'} = (\pi_{i1}, \dots, \pi_{iJ-1})$$

$$\pi_i^{(1)'} = (\pi_{i1}, \dots, \pi_{iI})$$

$$D_{li} = \text{diag } \pi_i^{(\ell)} \text{ for } \ell=1,2 \text{ and } i=1, \dots, I$$

$$D_i = \text{diag } [\pi_i]$$

$$R = P \begin{bmatrix} U \\ -I \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_i = \mu_i [U' D_{ii}^{-1} U + D_{ii}^{-1}]$$

$$V_i = D_i - D_i A' (A D_i A')^{-1} A D_i$$

$$S_j^{-1} = \frac{1}{\pi_{.j}} [-\alpha_j \alpha_j' + \text{diag}\{\alpha_{j1}, 1=1, \dots, K-1\}]$$

$$\pi_{.j} = \sum_{i=1}^I \pi_{ij} \mu_i$$

$$\hat{\theta}' = (\hat{\alpha}_1', \dots, \hat{\alpha}_J', \hat{\pi}_1', \dots, \hat{\pi}_J')$$
 the M.L.E. of $\underline{\theta}$

$$\hat{\theta}'_R = (\hat{\alpha}_1', \dots, \hat{\alpha}_J', \hat{\pi}_1^{(2)'}, \dots, \hat{\pi}_I^{(2)'})$$
 the M.L.E. of $\underline{\theta}_R$

Lemma 3.2

Using notation 3.1 then $\mu_i R T_i^{-1} R' = V_i$

Proof. See Lopez Alvarez (1982).

Proposition 3.3

- i) $\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{p} \underline{\theta}$ and
- ii) $\hat{\theta}$ is AN($\underline{\theta}$, $\frac{1}{n} \Sigma(\underline{\theta})$) where

$$\Sigma(\underline{\theta}) = \begin{bmatrix} S_1^{-1} & -S_1^{-1} 1 & & & 0 \\ & 1' S_1^{-1} 1 & & & \\ \hline 0 & & S_j^{-1} - S_j^{-1} 1 & & \\ & & 1' S_j^{-1} 1 & & \\ \hline & & & & \frac{1}{\mu_1} V_1 \quad 0 \\ & & & & 0 \quad \frac{1}{\mu_I} V_I \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.4)$$

Proof. See Lopez Alvarez (1982).

Proposition 3.4

$\hat{\phi}_{k,i} = \hat{\phi}_{k,i}(\hat{\theta}) = \sum_j \hat{\alpha}_{jk} \hat{\pi}_{ij}$ is AN($\phi_{k,i}(\underline{\theta})$, $\frac{1}{n} \sigma_{k,i}^2$) where

$$\sigma_{k,i}^2 = \sigma_{k,i}^2(\underline{\theta}) = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{\pi_{ij}^2 \alpha_{jk} (1-\alpha_{jk})}{\pi_{.j}} + \alpha_k' \frac{1}{\mu_i} V_i \alpha_k \quad (3.5)$$

for $k=1, \dots, K$, $i=1, \dots, I$.

Proof. See Lopez Alvarez (1982).

Considering the asymptotic distribution of $(\hat{\phi}_{11}, \dots, \hat{\phi}_{K-1,J})$ the following asymptotic covariances

can be obtained.

i) $k=k'$ and $i \neq i'$ (same category, different domain)

$$\text{Cov}(\hat{\phi}_{k,i}, \hat{\phi}_{k,i'}) = \sum_{j=1}^J \pi_{ij} \pi_{i'j} \frac{\alpha_{jk} (1-\alpha_{jk})}{\pi_{.j}}$$

ii) $k \neq k'$ and $i=i'$ (different category, same domain)

$$\text{Cov}(\hat{\phi}_{k,i}, \hat{\phi}_{k',i}) = \sum_{j=1}^J \pi_{ij}^2 \frac{(-\alpha_{jk} \alpha_{j k'})}{\pi_{.j}} + \alpha_k' V_i \alpha_{k'}$$

iii) $k \neq k'$ and $i \neq i'$ (different category, different domain)

$$\text{Cov}(\hat{\phi}_{k,i}, \hat{\phi}_{k',i'}) = \sum_{j=1}^J \pi_{ij} \pi_{i'j} \frac{(-\alpha_{jk} \alpha_{j k'})}{\pi_{.j}}$$

Computational aspects of the estimator are discussed next. The maximum likelihood estimator of π_i can be obtained, when all n_{ij+} 's and n_{+jk} 's are

positive, solving the likelihood equations developed from (3.2). This system of equations doesn't have a solution in closed form, so it is necessary to use an iterative method. The Newton-Raphson method can be used to compute $\hat{\pi}_i$. In the case when some n_{ij+} 's or n_{+jk} 's are zero, finding the maximum likelihood estimator turns out to be a problem of nonlinear programming, since it is necessary to maximize the nonlinear function (3.2) subject to the linear constraints (3.3). To solve this problem the gradient projection given in Bazaraa and Shetty (1979) was used. This method projects the gradient, which is the direction of steepest ascent, in such a way that the objective function is improved and at the same time feasibility is maintained. Both algorithms were programmed in Fortran IV, and both require a preliminary estimate of π_i .

4. IPF ESTIMATOR

The α_{jk} 's are estimated by $\hat{\alpha}_{jk} = \frac{n_{+jk}}{n_{+j+}}$.

To estimate π_{ij} for $j=1, \dots, J$, i fixed, subject to $A\pi_i = b_i$, one of the major algorithms for the analysis of cross classified frequency counts is used, which is known as iterative proportional fitting (IPF). Denote the estimator by $\tilde{\pi}_{ij}$. Freeman and Kock (1976) mention $\tilde{\pi}_{ij}$ satisfies (or can be obtained by solving) the following equations

$$\begin{aligned} A\tilde{\pi}_i &= b_i \\ \bar{A} \ln \{\tilde{\pi}_i\} &= \bar{A} \ln \frac{r_i}{i} \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

where \bar{A} is an orthocomplement of A , ($\bar{A} A' = 0$), and

$$r_i' = \frac{n_{i1+}}{n_{i++}}, \dots, \frac{n_{iJ+}}{n_{i++}}$$

The estimator of $\phi_{k,i}$, which will be called IPF estimator and denoted by $\tilde{\phi}_{k,i}$ is:

$$\tilde{\phi}_{k,i} = \sum_{j=1}^J \hat{\alpha}_{jk} \tilde{\pi}_{ij}$$

Notation 4.1

$$\tilde{\theta}' = (\hat{\alpha}_1', \hat{\alpha}_2', \dots, \hat{\alpha}_J', \tilde{\pi}_1', \tilde{\pi}_2', \dots, \tilde{\pi}_I')$$
, where

$$\hat{\alpha}_j' = (\hat{\alpha}_{j1}, \hat{\alpha}_{j2}, \dots, \hat{\alpha}_{jK}) \text{ for } j=1, \dots, J$$

$$\tilde{\pi}_i' = (\tilde{\pi}_{i1}, \tilde{\pi}_{i2}, \dots, \tilde{\pi}_{iJ})$$

e'_k elementary vector of dimension K

e'_j elementary vector of dimension J

$$\tilde{D}_i = \text{diag} [\tilde{\pi}_i]$$

$$D_{P_1} = \text{diag} [P_1]; P_1 = (P_{111}, \dots, P_{1JK}).$$

The asymptotic distribution of $\hat{\theta}'$ is obtained next, and from this the asymptotic distribution of $\hat{\phi}_{k,i}$ can be easily obtained.

Proposition 4.1

$\hat{\theta}$ is AN($\theta, \frac{1}{n} \Sigma(\theta)$), where $\Sigma(\theta)$ is given by (3.4).

Proof. See Lopez Alvarez (1982).

It has been shown that $\hat{\theta}$ and θ have the same asymptotic distribution, therefore $\hat{\phi}_{k,i} = \phi_{k,i}(\hat{\theta})$ has the same asymptotic distribution of $\phi_{k,i} = \phi_{k,i}(\theta)$

given in proposition 3.4. A consistent estimator of the asymptotic variance of $\hat{\phi}_{k,i}$ is $\sigma_{k,j}^2(\hat{\theta})$,

where $\sigma_{k,i}^2(\theta)$ is given by (3.5). Notice that $\hat{\phi}_{k,i}$ is a BAN estimator, since $\hat{\phi}_{k,i}$ is BAN. Computational aspects of $\tilde{\pi}_{k,i}$ are discussed next.

The vector $\tilde{\pi}_i$ may be computed using the subroutine CILLF of the International Mathematical and Statistical Libraries, Inc. (1981). This subroutine adjusts frequency tables to some given set of marginal constraints using the IPF method. The IPF method doesn't provide a means of computing an estimate for a cell that is empty in the original table, that is if $n_{ij+} = 0$ then the estimate of

π_{ij} is zero. This leads to the fact that if certain relative frequencies are zero, the IPF method might not converge to $\tilde{\pi}_i$ which satisfies the equations (4.1). In this case there is no estimate of $\phi_{k,i}$ by the IPF method. Another problem with having null cells is that the matrix $\tilde{A}_i A'$ is singular. To compute an estimate of the variance of the estimator the Moore Penrose inverse $(\tilde{A}_i A')^+$ was substituted in the expression of $\sigma_{k,i}^2(\theta)$.

5. MONTE CARLO STUDY

In order to compare the small sample properties of the estimates, evaluate the usefulness in small samples of the asymptotic variance formulas of the estimates and explore the effects of departure from the basic assumption of synthetic estimation, a Monte Carlo study was performed. Data which simulated 1,000 replications of an experiment were constructed using known values of π 's and α 's, and hence of $\phi_{k,i}$. Estimates of $\phi_{k,i}$ were calculated by both methods in each experiment. In this Monte Carlo study it is considered that the population is divided according to two domains, with the domain of interest being number 1, that is $i=1,2$. Also the population is divided in eight subgroups $j=1, \dots, 8$. The categorical variable of interest has two categories; $k=1,2$. The simulation sample size is 3,000. Two multinomial distributions were generated for each replication, one with parameters p_1 and n_{1++} , and the other with parameters p_2 and $3000 - n_{1++}$. The vectors p_i are of the form $p_i = (\pi_{i1} \alpha_{11}, \pi_{i2} \alpha_{21}, \dots, \pi_{i8} \alpha_{81}, \pi_{i1} \alpha_{12}, \pi_{i2} \alpha_{22}, \dots, \pi_{i8} \alpha_{82})$ for $i = 1, 2$.

The multinomial distributions were generated using the subroutine GGMN of the IMSL (1981) package.

Three different sample sizes were considered, which represent 1%, 4% and 10% of the simulation sample size, so according to Purcell and Kish (1979), domain 1 can be considered a small domain for these cases. Other simulation parameters are: the number of restrictions of $\tilde{\pi}_i$; the size of $P(C_1|A_1)$ and the departure from the basic assumption of synthetic estimation. The departure from the standard assumption is obtained by considering:

$$\alpha_{ijk} = \alpha_{jk} + \delta_{ik} \text{ where } 0 < |\delta_{ik}| < 1 \text{ and } \sum_{k=1}^K \delta_{ik} = 0.$$

Some results of the Monte Carlo study are shown in tables 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3. On the basis of the results given in table 5.1 we conclude that, the IPF estimator is unbiased when there is no departure from the basic assumption of synthetic estimation and when the sample size of the small domain represents 1%, 4% or 10%. The ML estimator sometimes shows bias, even when there is no departure from the basic assumption. When there is moderate departure the ML estimator is biased. For large departure both estimators are biased, notice that the bias is greater in the cases that ϕ is small. Also it can be seen that the ML estimator is more efficient than the IPF estimator, especially when the sample size of the small domain represents 1% of the simulation sample size. A close look at tables 5.2 and 5.3 shows that the average estimated asymptotic standard deviation (a.s.d.) usually overestimates the standard deviation, regardless of the method of estimation. As it is expected the asymptotic standard deviation always underestimates the standard deviation of the estimators. Finally, notice that the s.d of the ML estimator is always smaller than the s.d of the IPF estimator.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The estimator which is obtained using the IPF method is easier to compute than the ML estimator due to the simplicity of the IPF algorithm. It was found that the asymptotic distributions of the ML estimator and the IPF estimator are the same, that is, both are best asymptotically normal estimators. The results of the Monte Carlo study indicate that both estimators are biased when there is a large departure from the basic assumption of synthetic estimation. The ML estimator is sometimes biased even when there is no departure from the assumption and the sample size of the small domain represents 4% of the simulation sample size. A possible reason why the ML estimator is biased is that the algorithm used to solve the nonlinear programming problem may not perform well in certain cases when some cells have null counts. The Monte Carlo study also showed that the ML estimator is more efficient than the IPF estimator.

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TABLE 5.1

$P(C_1 A_1)$	Number of Restrictions	Sample size of small domain	Percent of bias ML	eff(IPF,ML) IPF
<u>No Departure</u>				
.10	3	1%	1	0* .71
.10	3	4%	0	0 .93
.10	4	1%	2	0 .81
.10	4	4%	1	0 .98
.10	3	10%	0	0 .99
.47	3	1%	0	0 .80
.47	3	4%	0	0 .99
.47	3	10%	0	0 1.00
<u>Moderate Departure</u>				
.47	3	1%	1	0 .87
.47	3	4%	1	0 .94
<u>Large Departure</u>				
.12	3	1%	8	10 .71
.12	3	4%	8	9 .89
.12	4	4%	8	9 .83
.46	3	1%	2	1 .95
.46	3	4%	2	1 .90

*0 bias indicates a non significant t-test.

TABLE 5.2

Estimated asymptotic s.d, asymptotic s.d and empirical s.d of ML and IPF estimators when there is no departure from the assumption of synthetic estimation.

Estimator	$P(C_1 A_1)$	Number of restrictions	Sample size of small domain	s.d. $\times 10^3$	Average estimated a.s.d. $\times 10^3$	a.s.d. $\times 10^3$
ML	.10	3	1%	7.185	8.550	6.387
IPF	.10	3	1%	8.718	8.706	6.387
ML	.10	3	4%	6.710	6.890	6.327
IPF	.10	3	4%	6.952	6.970	6.327
ML	.10	4	1%	7.115	8.446	6.387
IPF	.10	4	1%	8.614	8.495	6.387
ML	.10	4	4%	6.849	6.884	6.327
IPF	.10	4	4%	6.819	6.919	6.327
ML	.47	3	1%	12.524	14.748	11.42
IPF	.47	3	1%	14.674	14.939	11.421
ML	.47	3	4%	12.452	12.458	11.240
IPF	.47	3	4%	12.476	12.413	11.240

TABLE 5.3

Estimated asymptotic s.d and s.d of the ML and IPF estimators when there is departure from the assumption of synthetic estimation.

Estimator	$P(C_1 A_1)$	Number of restrictions	Sample size of small domain	s.d. $\times 10^3$	Average estimated a.s.d. $\times 10^3$
<u>Moderate Departure</u>					
ML	.47	3	1%	13.042	14.789
IPF	.47	3	1%	15.023	14.989
ML	.47	3	4%	12.125	12.166
IPF	.47	3	4%	12.269	12.214
<u>Large Departure</u>					
ML	.12	3	1%	7.497	8.468
IPF	.12	3	1%	9.141	8.630
ML	.12	3	4%	6.682	6.913
IPF	.12	3	4%	6.846	6.990
ML	.12	4	4%	6.848	6.899
IPF	.12	4	4%	7.047	6.938
ML	.46	3	1%	12.625	14.738
IPF	.46	3	1%	14.982	14.931
ML	.46	3	4%	12.293	12.154
IPF	.46	3	4%	12.383	12.198