Nonlinear Programming to Determine Best Weighted Coefficient of Balanced LINEX Loss Function Based on Lower Record Values

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1. Introduction

Scholars always concern about how to find the best estimates of parameters and reliability function of the probability distributions. For this purpose, many methods were proposed. Some of these methods are classical, where they depend only on the sample information under study, assuming that the distribution parameter is fixed but unknown. There are other approaches (which are commonly known as Bayesian methods) that depend on merging prior information with sample information, assuming that the prior parameters behave as random variables, which are commonly known as prior probability distributions.

From a Bayesian perspective, the choice of the loss function is a crucial part of the estimation and prediction problems. To simplify the calculations, many authors prefer using a squared error loss function to produce Bayesian estimates. However, this loss function has mainly criticized where both of overestimation and underestimation are given equal importance, which does not agree with real practices. To deal with this situation, several asymmetric loss functions were proposed in the literature. For example, general entropy loss function (Abdel-Hamid [1]) and linear exponential (LINEX) loss function (Al-Duais and Alhagyan [2]; Khatun and Matin [3])

After that, the balanced loss function idea appeared in the literature which tried to reflect the desired criteria of two methods (see equation (13)), for example, balanced square error (BSE) loss function [4], balanced general entropy...
(BGE) loss function [5]), and balanced linear exponential (BLINEX) loss function [6] EL-Sagheer [7] EL-Sagheer [8]. Moreover, the majority of proposed balanced loss functions in the literature determine the value of weighted coefficients \( \omega_1 \) and \( \omega_2 \) randomly without convinced mathematical justification. This motivated us to treat this issue by determining the weighted coefficients by using nonlinear programming. In this paper, we are going to use two balanced loss functions (i.e., BSE and BLINEX) to estimate the parameter and reliability function of inverse Rayleigh distribution (IRD) based on lower record values utilizing nonlinear programming in determining the best-weighted coefficients.

The IRD is considered as one of the important distributions. It has wide applications in the area of reliability theory, survival analysis, and life testing study. IRD under lower record value was studied by Muhammad [9]; Shawky and Badr [10]; Soliman et al. [11]; Manzoor et al. [12]; Rasheed and Aref [13]; and Abdullah and Aref [14].

The probability density function (pdf) and cumulative distribution function (cdf) of the IRD with scale parameter \( \alpha \) are given, respectively, as follows:

\[
f(x; \alpha) = \frac{2\alpha}{x^2} \exp \left[-\frac{\alpha}{x^2}\right], \quad x > 0, \, \alpha > 0, \quad (1)
\]

\[
F(x; \alpha) = \exp \left[-\frac{\alpha}{x^2}\right], \quad x > 0, \, \alpha > 0. \quad (2)
\]

Moreover, the reliability function \( R(t) \) at mission time \( t \) for the IRD is given by

\[
R(t; \alpha) = 1 - \exp \left[-\frac{\alpha}{t}\right], \quad t > 0. \quad (3)
\]

### 2. Record Values and Maximum Likelihood (ML) Estimation

Let \( X_1, X_2, X_3, \ldots \) be a sequence of independent and identically distributed (iid) random variables with (cdf) \( F(x) \) and (pdf) \( f(x) \). Set \( Y_m = \min(X_1, X_2, X_3, \ldots, X_m), m \geq 1 \). We say that \( X_i \) is a lower record and denoted by \( X_{L(i)} \) if \( Y_i < Y_{i-1}, j > 1 \).

Assuming that \( X_{L(1)}, X_{L(2)}, X_{L(3)}, \ldots, X_{L(m)} \) are the first \( m \) lower record values arising from a sequence \( X \) of iid inverse Rayleigh distribution whose pdf and cdf are, respectively, given by (1) and (2). The joint density function of the first \( m \) lower record values \( X \equiv X_{L(1)}, X_{L(2)}, X_{L(3)}, \ldots, X_{L(m)} \) is given by

\[
f_{1,2,3,\ldots,m}(x_{L(1)}, x_{L(2)}, x_{L(3)}, \ldots, x_{L(m)}) = f(x_{L(m)}) \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{f(x_{L(i)})}{1-F(x_{L(i)})}, \quad 0 \leq x_{L(1)} < x_{L(2)} < x_{L(3)} < \ldots < x_{L(m)} < \infty, \quad (4)
\]

\[
\bar{R}(t)_{ML} = 1 - \exp \left[-\frac{\bar{\alpha}_{ML}}{t}\right], \quad t \geq 0. \quad (8)
\]

### 3. Loss Functions

From a Bayesian perspective, the choice of loss function is an essential part in the estimation and prediction problems. In this work, we use three main types of loss function including squared error loss function, LINEX loss function, and balanced loss functions.

**3.1. Squared Error (SE) Loss Function.** SE loss function is a symmetric loss function. The SE loss function is expressed as follows:

\[
L(\hat{\phi}, \phi) = (\hat{\phi} - \phi)^2, \quad (9)
\]

where \( \hat{\phi} \) is the estimation of parameter \( \phi \). The Bayes estimator of \( \phi \) based on SE loss function denoted by \( \hat{\phi}_{SE} \) is obtained as follows:

\[
\hat{\phi}_{SE} = E_\pi(\hat{\phi}|X). \quad (10)
\]
3.2. Linear Exponential (LINEX) Loss Function. LINEX loss function is an asymmetric loss function. The LINEX loss function is expressed as follows (see Varian [15]):

\[ L(\Delta) \propto \exp[\Delta - c\Delta - 1], \tag{11} \]

where \( \Delta = (\hat{\phi} - \phi) \). The sign and magnitude of \( c \) reflect the direction and degree of asymmetry, respectively. The Bayes estimator related to LINEX loss function, denoted by \( \hat{\phi}_L \), is given by

\[ \hat{\phi}_L = -\frac{1}{c} \ln\left[E_\phi(\exp[-c\phi])\right], \quad c \neq 0, \tag{12} \]

provided that \( E_\phi(\exp[-c\phi]) \) exists and finite, where \( E_\phi \) denotes the expected value.

3.3. Balanced Loss Function (BLF). BLF is a mix of two estimators. In general, BLF is expressed as follows (see Jozani et al. [16]):

\[
L_{\rho,\gamma_0}(\phi, \gamma) = \omega_1 \rho(\phi, \gamma_0) + \omega_2 \rho(\phi, \gamma) \omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1, \\
L_{\rho,\gamma_0}(\phi, \gamma) = \omega_1 \rho(\phi, \gamma_0) + \omega_2 \rho(\phi, \gamma) \omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1, \tag{13}
\]

where \( \rho \) is an arbitrary loss function, while \( \gamma_0 \) is a chosen a prior target estimator of \( \phi \) that can be obtained by several methods like maximum likelihood, least squares, or unbiasedness, and \( \omega_1 \) and \( \omega_2 \) represent weighted coefficient \( \omega_1 \) and \( \omega_2 \epsilon [0, 1] \). In this work, we focus on two types of BLF, including balanced squared error (BSE) loss function and balanced LINEX (BLINEX) loss function.

3.3.1. Balanced Squared Error (BSE) Loss Function. BSE loss function is obtained by choosing \( \rho(\phi, \gamma) = (\gamma - \phi)^2 \), so equation (13) will be on the form (see Ahmadi et al. [17]):

\[
L_{\rho,\gamma_0}(\phi, \gamma) = \omega_1 (\gamma - \gamma_0)^2 + \omega_2 (\gamma - \phi)^2, \tag{14}
\]

and the corresponding Bayes estimate of the unknown parameter \( \phi \) is given by

\[
y_{\omega,\gamma_0}(\gamma) = \omega_1 \gamma_0 + \omega_2 E(\phi|\gamma). \tag{15}
\]

Note that when \( \omega_1 = 0 \), then BSE loss function is just an SE loss function.

3.3.2. Balanced Linear Exponential (BLINEX) Loss Function. The BLINEX loss function is obtained by choosing \( \rho(\phi, \gamma) = \exp[-c(\phi - \gamma) - c(\phi - \gamma) - 1] \) in equation (13) as follows (see Zellner [18]):

\[
y_{\omega,\gamma_0}^*(\gamma) = \frac{1}{c} \ln[\omega_1 \exp[-c\gamma_0(\gamma)] + \omega_2 E(\exp[-c\phi(\gamma)])]. \tag{17}
\]

It is worth noting, when \( \omega_1 = 0 \) then BLINEX loss function is just a LINEX loss function.

4. Bayes Estimation

In this section, we derive the Bayes estimates of the scale parameter \( \alpha \) and the reliability \( R(t) \) function of the IRD by using balanced loss functions (BLF). Furthermore, we assume gamma \((\alpha, b)\) as a conjugate prior distribution for \( \alpha \) as follows:

\[
g(\alpha) = \frac{b^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} \exp[-bx]; \quad b > 0, \alpha > 0. \tag{18}
\]

By combining the likelihood function in equation (5) with the prior pdf of \( \alpha \) in equation (18), we get the posterior distribution of \( \alpha \) as

\[
\pi(\alpha|\gamma) = \frac{L(\alpha; \gamma)g(\alpha)}{\int_0^\infty L(\alpha; \gamma)g(\alpha)\,d\alpha} = \frac{y^{m+\alpha} \exp[-\alpha y]}{\Gamma(m+\alpha)}, \quad y = (b + T_D). \tag{19}
\]

4.1. Estimates Based on Balanced Squared Error (BSE) Loss Function. Based on BSE loss function and by using equation (15), the Bayes estimate of a function \( \phi \) where \( \phi \) can be \( \alpha \) or \( R(t) \) is given by

\[
\phi_{\text{BSE}} = \omega_1 \hat{\phi}_{\text{ML}} + \omega_2 E(\phi|\gamma), \tag{21}
\]

where \( \hat{\phi}_{\text{ML}} \) is the ML estimate of \( \phi \) and \( E(\phi|\gamma) \) can be obtained by

\[
E(\phi|\gamma) = \int_0^\infty \phi \, \pi(\phi|\gamma) \, d\phi. \tag{22}
\]

Based on the BSE loss function and by using equation (21), the Bayes estimator \( \hat{\alpha}_{\text{BSE}} \) for \( \alpha \) is

\[
\hat{\alpha}_{\text{BSE}} = \omega_1 \hat{\alpha}_{\text{ML}} + \omega_2 E(\alpha|\gamma), \tag{23}
\]

where \( \hat{\alpha}_{\text{ML}} \) is the ML estimate of \( \alpha \), which can be obtained using equation (7) and \( E(\alpha|\gamma) \) can be obtained using the following equation:

\[
E(\alpha|\gamma) = \int_0^\infty \frac{y^{m+\alpha}}{\Gamma(m+\alpha)} \exp[-\alpha y] \, d\alpha = \frac{x + m}{y}. \tag{24}
\]

Similarly, the Bayes estimate \( \hat{R}(t)_{\text{BSE}} \) of the reliability \( R(t) \) at a mission time \( t \) related to BSE loss function is

\[
\hat{R}(t)_{\text{BSE}} = \omega_1 \hat{R}(t)_{\text{ML}} + \omega_2 E(R(t)|\gamma), \tag{25}
\]
where $\hat{R}(t)_{\text{ML}}$ is the ML estimate of $R(t)$ which can be obtained using equation (8) and $E(R(t)|\bar{x})$ can be obtained using the following equation:

$$E(R(t)|\bar{x}) = \int_0^\infty 1 - \exp \left[ \frac{\alpha}{\bar{r}} \right] \frac{\gamma^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}})} \exp[-\alpha \bar{x}] d\alpha$$

$$= 1 - \left( \frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}}} ; \quad \bar{r} \geq 0.$$

(26)

In this work, we solve the following nonlinear programming (using Mathematica software) to find the optimal values of the weighted coefficient $\omega_1$ and $\omega_2$ in equation (21):

minimize: $\text{MSE}(\hat{\phi}_{\text{RSE}}) = E(\hat{\phi}_{\text{RSE}} - \phi)^2$

$$= E[(\omega_1 \hat{\phi}_{\text{ML}} + \omega_2 E(\phi|\bar{x}) - \phi)^2]$$

subject to

$$\omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1,$$

$$0 \leq \omega_1 < 1,$$

$$0 \leq \omega_2 < 1.$$

(27)

4.2. Estimates Based on Balanced Linear Exponential (BLINEX) Loss Function. Based on BLINEX loss function and by using equation (16), the Bayes estimate of a function $\phi$ where $\phi$ can be $\alpha$ or $R(t)$ is given by

$$\hat{\phi}_{\text{BL}} = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[ \omega_1 \exp[-c \hat{\phi}_{\text{ML}}] + \omega_2 E(\exp[-c \phi|\bar{x}) \right],$$

(28)

where $\hat{\phi}_{\text{ML}}$ is the ML estimate of $\phi$ and $E(\exp[-c \phi|\bar{x})$ can be obtained by

$$E(\exp[-c \phi|\bar{x}) = \int_0^\infty \exp\left[ \frac{\alpha}{\bar{r}} \right] \pi(\alpha|\bar{x}) d\alpha.$$

(29)

Based on BLINEX loss function and by using equation (28), the Bayes estimator $\tilde{\alpha}_{\text{BL}}$ for $\alpha$ is given as

$$\tilde{\alpha}_{\text{BL}} = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[ \omega_1 \exp[-c \tilde{\alpha}_{\text{ML}}] + \omega_2 E(\exp[-c \alpha|\bar{x}) \right],$$

(30)

where $\tilde{\alpha}_{\text{ML}}$ is the ML estimate of $\alpha$ which can be obtained using equation (7) and $E(\exp[-c \alpha|\bar{x})$ can be obtained using the following integral:

$$E(\exp[-c \alpha|\bar{x}) = \int_0^\infty \exp\left[ \frac{\alpha}{\bar{r}} \right] \pi(\alpha|\bar{x}) d\alpha$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \exp[-c \alpha] \frac{\gamma^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}})} \exp[-\alpha \bar{x}] d\alpha$$

$$= \left( 1 + \frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}}} \cdot [-\alpha \bar{x}] d\alpha$$

$$= \left( 1 + \frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{\bar{r}}}.$$

(31)

Similarly, the Bayes estimate $\hat{R}(t)_{\text{BL}}$ of the reliability $R(t)$ at a mission time $t$ related to BLINEX loss function is

$$\hat{R}(t)_{\text{BL}} = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[ \omega_1 \exp[-c \hat{R}(t)_{\text{ML}}] + \omega_2 E(\exp[-c R(t)|\bar{x}) \right],$$

(32)

where $\hat{R}(t)_{\text{ML}}$ is the ML estimate of $R(t)$ which can be obtained using equation (8) and $E(\exp[-c R(t)|\bar{x})$ can be obtained using the following integral:

$$E(\exp[-c R(t)|\bar{x}) = \int_0^\infty \exp\left[ \frac{\alpha}{\bar{r}} \right] \pi(\alpha|\bar{x}) d\alpha$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \exp[-c \left( 1 - \exp\left[ \frac{\alpha}{\bar{r}} \right] \right)]$$

$$\frac{\gamma^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \gamma)^{\gamma+1}} \exp[-\alpha \bar{x}] d\alpha$$

$$= \exp[-c] + \exp[-c] \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(\gamma)^i}{\bar{r}^i}$$

(33)

5. Simulation Study and Comparisons

All estimation methods, mentioned in Section 4, are used to estimate the parameter and reliability function of IRD. To examine the performance of these estimation methods, the Monte Carlo simulation study is conducted. The simulation consists of four steps as follows:

(1) For the given values of prior parameters ($b = 2, \ k = 1$), generate a random value $\alpha = 1.383$ from the Gamma prior pdf in equation (18) [19].
Table 1: Absolute bias of the estimates of $a$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m$</th>
<th>$\hat{a}_{ML}$</th>
<th>$\hat{a}_{SE}$</th>
<th>$\hat{a}_{BSE}$</th>
<th>$\hat{d}_L$</th>
<th>$c = 0.001$</th>
<th>$c = 1$</th>
<th>$c = 2$</th>
<th>$\hat{a}_{BL}$</th>
<th>$c = 0.001$</th>
<th>$c = 1$</th>
<th>$c = 2$</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.03787</td>
<td>0.60693</td>
<td>0.56808</td>
<td>0.60662</td>
<td>0.39863</td>
<td>0.31514</td>
<td>0.56787</td>
<td>0.39849</td>
<td>0.28874</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.78828</td>
<td>0.55394</td>
<td>0.51968</td>
<td>0.55372</td>
<td>0.39272</td>
<td>0.32124</td>
<td>0.51954</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>0.50596</td>
<td>0.47534</td>
<td>0.50578</td>
<td>0.37810</td>
<td>0.31704</td>
<td>0.47525</td>
<td>0.37793</td>
<td>0.29541</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.55881</td>
<td>0.46009</td>
<td>0.43195</td>
<td>0.45996</td>
<td>0.35661</td>
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<td>0.35644</td>
<td>0.28420</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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Table 2: MSEs of the estimates of $a$

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>$\hat{d}_L$</th>
<th>$\hat{d}_{SE}$</th>
<th>$\hat{d}_{BSE}$</th>
<th>$c = 0.001$</th>
<th>$c = 1$</th>
<th>$c = 2$</th>
<th>$\hat{d}_{BL}$</th>
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<th>$c = 1$</th>
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<td>4.55002</td>
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<td>0.26109</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
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Table 3: Absolute bias of the estimates of $R(t)$ at $t = 4$

<table>
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<tr>
<th>$m$</th>
<th>$\hat{R}(t)_{ML}$</th>
<th>$\hat{R}(t)_{SE}$</th>
<th>$\hat{R}(t)_{BSE}$</th>
<th>$\hat{R}(t)_L$</th>
<th>$c = -2$</th>
<th>$c = 0.001$</th>
<th>$c = 2$</th>
<th>$\hat{R}(t)_{BL}$</th>
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<td>4</td>
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Table 4: MSEs of the estimates of $R(t)$ at $t = 4$

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>$\hat{R}(t)_{SE}$</th>
<th>$\hat{R}(t)_{BSE}$</th>
<th>$\hat{R}(t)_L$</th>
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<th>$c = 0.001$</th>
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</table>

(2) Using $\alpha$ obtained in Step 1, we generate $m = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$ lower record values from inverse Rayleigh distribution whose pdf is given by equation (1).

(3) The different estimates of $\alpha$ and $R(t)$ at time $t$ (chosen to be 4) are computed.

(4) Steps 1 to 3 are repeated 10,000 times.

(5) The evaluation is done depending on the absolute bias in addition to the mean square error (MSE)

\[
\text{absolute bias } (\hat{\phi}) = \frac{1}{10000} \sum_{i=1}^{10000} |\hat{\phi} - \phi|, \\
\text{MSE } (\hat{\phi}) = \frac{1}{10000} \sum_{i=1}^{10000} (\hat{\phi} - \phi)^2,
\]  

Note: $\hat{\phi}$ is the estimate at the $i$th run.

(6) The results are listed in Tables 1–4.
6. Concluding Remarks

In this paper, nonlinear programming was employed to get the best values of weighted coefficients ($\omega_1$ and $\omega_2$) of the balanced loss function. The Bayesian and non-Bayesian estimates of the parameter $\alpha$ and reliability function $R(t)$ of the lifetimes follow the inverse Rayleigh distribution. The estimations were conducted depending on lower record values.

The results are listed in Tables 1–4. The main observations are stated in the following points:

1. All tables showed that the Bayes estimates under BLINEX loss function are the best according to the smallest values of absolute bias and MSE comparing with the estimates under LINEX loss function, BSE loss function, SE loss function, or MLEs. Bayes estimates under the BSE loss function came in the second level of accuracy. The third, fourth, and fifth levels of accuracy were for Bayes estimates under the LINEX loss function, the estimates under SE loss function, and ML estimations, respectively.

2. The results showed that the values of all MSEs and all absolute bias decrease as $m$ increases. This means here is an inverse relationship between the evaluation functions and the number of recorded values.

3. In order to show the effect of the shape parameter of the asymmetric loss function, we examined different values of $c$. One can observe that when the value of $c$ is closed to zero, then the values of MSE of both Bayes estimates under LINEX and BLINEX loss function are almost the same. This means that BLINEX loss function is generated to LINEX loss function.

Data Availability

The data were generated by simulation done by using mathematical software.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

References


