

# Kurs Bio144:

# Datenanalyse in der Biologie

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Lecture 11: Modeling binary data

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# Overview

- Binary response variables
- Contingency tables,  $\chi^2$  test
- Odds and (log) odds ratios
- Logistic regression
- Residual analysis / model checking / deviances
- Interpretation of the results

# Course material covered today

The lecture material of today is based on the following literature:

- Repetition: Chapter 9.4 about  $\chi^2$ -Tests in the Luchsinger script
- Chapters 9.1 - 9.3 from *The new statistics with R* (Hector book).

Note that I have also uploaded the continuation of the Stahel script, chapters 7-9 that cover GLM models. This is **not** mandatory literature.

## Recap of last week: GLMs and Poisson regression

- We introduced **generalized linear models** (GLMS) and key terms:  
**Family**                      **Linear predictor**                      **Link function**
- GLMs are useful when the response variable  $y$  is not continuous (→ residuals are not Gaussian).
- Count data usually lead to **Poisson regression**.

# Introduction

- Today, we will look at the case where the **response variable is binary** (0 or 1) or **binomial** (e.g. 5 out of 7 trials).
- In binary/binomial regression, the question will be: “Which variables influence the **probability**  $p$  of the outcome?”

## Examples:

- Outcome: Heart attack (yes=1, no=0).  
Question: which variables lead to higher or lower risk of heart attack?
- Outcome: Survival (yes=1, no=0).  
Question: which variables influence the survival probability of premature babies (Frühgeburten)?

## Some repetition: The $\chi^2$ test

You have dealt with binary (categorical) data in Mat183! Remember the  $\chi^2$  test for contingency tables (simplest:  $2 \times 2$  tables).

Example: Heart attack and hormonal contraception (Verhütungspille) (from Stahel):

		Herzinfarkt ( $B$ )		
		ja	nein	Summe
Verhütungspille ( $A$ )	ja	23	34	57
	nein	35	132	167
Summe		58	166	224

“Hormonal contraception” is the predictor ( $x$ ) and “heart attack” the outcome ( $y$ ).

**Question:** Does hormonal contraception ( $x$ ) have an influence on heart attacks ( $y$ )?

This question is **equivalent to asking whether the proportion** of patients with heart attack **is the same** in both groups.

The respective test-statistic can be calculated as

$$T = \sum_{\text{all entries}} \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})^2}{\text{expected}}.$$

By hand,  $T$  is obtained as

$$\frac{(23 - 14.8)^2}{14.8} + \frac{(34 - 42.2)^2}{42.2} + \frac{(35 - 43.2)^2}{43.2} + \frac{(132 - 123.8)^2}{123.8} = 8.329$$

and is expected to be  $\chi_1^2$  distributed (one degree of freedom:  $(2 - 1) \cdot (2 - 1)$ ).

The  $p$ -value of this test is given as  $\Pr(X \geq 8.329) = 0.003902$ .

```
> pchisq(8.329,1,lower.tail=F)
```

```
[1] 0.003901713
```

→ There is **strong evidence** for an association of hormonal contraception with heart attacks!

## Quantification of a dependency

If two variables are not independent, it is often desired to **quantify** the dependency.

Let one variable be the grouping variable (e.g., hormonal contraception vs no hormonal contraception). Then  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are the relative frequencies (proportions) observed in the two groups. For example:

$$\pi_1 = 23/57 = 0.404$$

$$\pi_2 = 35/167 = 0.210$$

are the proportions of females with a heart attack in the two groups.



There are at least three numbers that can be calculated to quantify how the two groups differ:

- Risk difference:  $\pi_1 - \pi_2 = 0.404 - 0.210 = 0.194$
- Relative risk:  $\pi_1/\pi_2 = 0.404/0.210 = 1.92$
- Odds ratio ("Chancenverhältnis"):

$$OR = \frac{\pi_1/(1 - \pi_1)}{\pi_2/(1 - \pi_2)} = \frac{0.404/(1 - 0.404)}{0.210/(1 - 0.210)} = 2.55 ,$$

where  $\pi/(1 - \pi)$  is the odds (die "Chance").

Interpretation:

- ①  $OR = 1 \rightarrow$  the two groups are independent.
- ②  $OR > 1 (< 1) \rightarrow$  positive (negative) dependency.

# The odds and the odds ratio

- The **odds** (“Wettverhältnis”): For a probability  $\pi$  the odds is

$$\frac{\pi}{(1 - \pi)} = \frac{\text{Wahrscheinlichkeit}}{\text{Gegenwahrscheinlichkeit}} . \quad (1)$$

For example, if the probability to win a game is 0.75, then the odds is given as 0.75/0.25 or 3:1.

- The **odds ratio** is given on the previous slide. It is a ratio of two ratios, or, the **ratio of two odds**.
- Often the **log odds ratio** is used:

$$\log(OR) = \log \left( \frac{\pi_1 / (1 - \pi_1)}{\pi_2 / (1 - \pi_2)} \right) .$$

- ①  $\log(OR) = 0 \rightarrow$  the two groups are independent.
- ②  $\log(OR) > 0 (< 0) \rightarrow$  positive (negative) dependency.

Please go to the following webpage for a short klicker exercise:

<http://www.klicker.uzh.ch/bkx>

## Binomial and binary regression

Usually the situation is more complicated than

**binary covariate (x)  $\rightarrow$  binary outcome (y)**

Often, we are interested in a relationship

**Continuous/categ./binary variables  $x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots \rightarrow$  binary outcome (y)**

$\rightarrow$  A regression model is needed again!

## Illustrative/working example

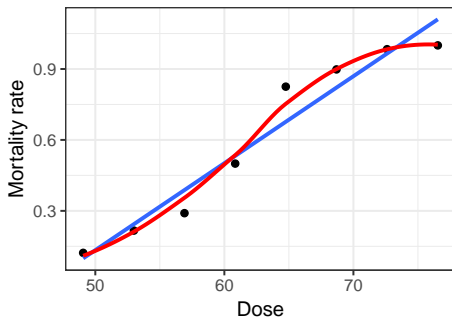
Let us look at an example from chapter 9.2 in Hector (2015):

Eight groups of beetles were exposed to carbon disulphide (an insecticide) for 5h. For each beetle it was then reported if it was killed or not (1 or 0), but the data were reported in **aggregated** form:

	Dose	Number_tested	Number_killed	Mortality_rate
1	49.06	49	6	0.1224490
2	52.99	60	13	0.2166667
3	56.91	62	18	0.2903226
4	60.84	56	28	0.5000000
5	64.76	63	52	0.8253968
6	68.69	59	53	0.8983051
7	72.61	62	61	0.9838710
8	76.54	60	60	1.0000000

**Question:** (How) does the insecticide (**x**) affect the survival probability (**y**) of the beetles?

As always, start with a graph:



with linear (blue) and smoothed line (red).

## What can we see from the plot?

- Mortality increases with higher doses of the herbicide (not surprising, right?).
- The linear line seems unreasonable. In particular, extrapolation to lower or higher doses leads to mortalities  $< 0$  or  $> 1$ , which is not possible. (Remember: A probability is between 0 and 1 by definition.)

## How does one analyze these data correctly?

- So far, we know linear and Poisson regression.
- Both of these are **not** the correct approaches here.

# The 'wrong' analyses

## Wrong analysis 1: Linear regression

We could simply use

$$E(y_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Dose_i$$

with  $E(y_i) = \pi_i$  = probability to die for individuals  $i$  with  $Dose_i$ .

R does this analysis without complaining (!!):

```
> lm(Mortality_rate ~ Dose, data=beetle)
```

This leads to  $\hat{\beta}_0 = -1.71$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1 = 0.037$ . This means for instance that, for a zero dose, the probability to die would be  $E(y_i) = -1.71$ .

### Problems:

- Linear regression leads to impossible predicted probability values!  
⇒ **Unrealistic predictions!**
- For  $y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Dose_i + e_i$ , residuals  $e_i$  are **not** normally distributed!



## Wrong analysis 2: Poisson regression

What about Poisson regression with the counts “Number\_killed” in the response? We could use

$$\log(E(y_i)) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Dose}_i$$

with  $E(y_i)$  = number killed. Again, R does this analysis without complaining, although these are not ‘real’ counts:

```
> glm(Number_killed ~ Dose, data=beetle, family=poisson)
```

This leads to  $\hat{\beta}_0 = -0.77$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1 = 0.067$ .

**Problem:** This means for instance that, for a dose of 76, one expects that  $E(y_i) = \exp(\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \cdot 76) = 73.80$  beetles die. However, there are only around 60 beetles in each group, so the predicted number killed is more than what is available.  $\Rightarrow$  **Unrealistic predictions!**

## Sidenote: count vs. binomial data

Clarification of the difference between count data and binomial data:

### Count data:

- Theoretically no upper limit on number of times an “event” (e.g., number of birds observed in a forest plot)
- Counts cannot be expressed as a proportion.

### Binomial data:

- Aggregated version of many binary experiments, that is, each can be 0 or 1.
- Therefore, there is an upper limit on the number of times an “event” can be observed (e.g., number of deaths cannot be greater than total number of individuals).
- Successes can be expressed as proportion (number of successes/number of trials).

## A model for binary data?

Remember the Bernoulli distribution from Mat183:

The probability distribution of a binary random variable  $Y \in \{0, 1\}$  with parameter  $\pi$  is defined as

$$\Pr(Y = 1) = \pi, \quad \Pr(Y = 0) = 1 - \pi.$$

### Characteristics of the Bernoulli distribution:

- $E(Y) = \pi = \Pr(Y = 1)$  (useful to remember)
- $\text{Var}(Y) = \pi(1 - \pi)$ .

→ The variance of the distribution is determined by its mean.

## From binary to binomial data

Binomial data is an **aggregation of binary data**:

- Repeat the experiment with  $\Pr(Y = 1) = \pi$  a total number of  $n$  times, calculate how often a success was observed ( $k$  times).
- The expected proportion of successes (“success rate”, here  $k/n$ ) has then the same expectation as the success probability of a single experiment:

$$E\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n Y}{n}\right) = \pi = E(Y) .$$

Example: In the beetle data  $n = 49$  beetles were tested for the lowest dose, of which  $k = 6$  died, thus the success rate is  $6/49 = 0.122$ .

# The binomial distribution

The **binomial distribution** assigns the probability of seeing  $k$  success out of  $n$  trials, where the success probability of a single trial is  $\pi$ .

$$\Pr(Y = k) = \binom{n}{k} \pi^k (1 - \pi)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

In short:

$$Y \sim \text{Binom}(n, \pi) .$$

## Characteristics of the binomial distribution:

- Mean:  $E(Y) = n \cdot \pi$
- Variance:  $\text{Var}(Y) = n \cdot \pi(1 - \pi)$

→ For given  $n$ , the variance is determined by its mean.

R functions: `rbinom()`, `dbinom()`

## Doing it right: Logistic regression

We can again use the GLM machinery from last week! The **linear predictor** is as always:

$$\eta_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i^{(1)} + \beta_2 x_i^{(2)} + \dots + \beta_p x_i^{(p)} .$$

We again need a **link function** that relates the linear predictor  $\eta_i$  to the expected value  $E(y_i)$ .

Remember we used the log link last week, but that seems a bad idea here (see slide 17).

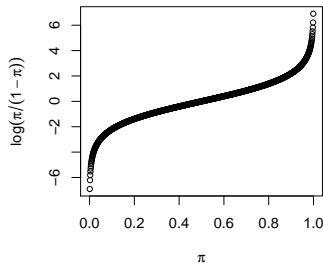
The link function must be chosen such that the expected value  $E(y_i)$  is always between 0 and 1!

## Link function: The logistic transformation

A transformation that assigns a probability ( $\pi$ ) between 0 and 1 a value between  $-\infty$  and  $\infty$  is the **logit-transformation**:

$$g(\pi) = \log\left(\frac{\pi}{1 - \pi}\right) = \log(\pi) - \log(1 - \pi) .$$

A graph depicts the functional form of  $g(\cdot)$ :



See also Box 9.2 (p. 123) in *The new statistics with R*.

# The logistic regression model

In order to prevent the expected value  $E(y_i)$  of a binary experiment (0/1) to attain unreasonable values, we thus formulate the **logistic regression model** as

$$\log \left( \frac{\pi_i}{1 - \pi_i} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i^{(1)} + \beta_2 x_i^{(2)} + \dots + \beta_p x_i^{(p)}$$

with  $\pi_i = \Pr(y_i = 1)$  .

- The **link function** is called the **logistic link**.
- The **family** is **binomial**.



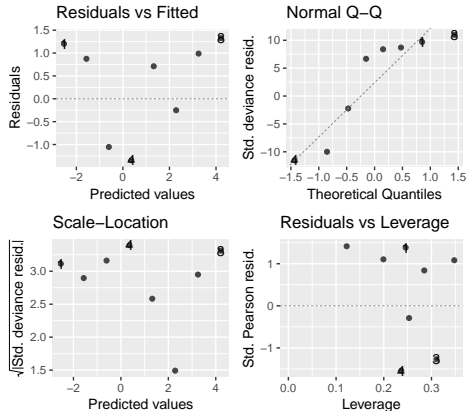
## Doing it right: Fitting a logistic regression

- As for the Poisson GLM, we can estimate the parameters  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots$  by maximizing the likelihood (ML estimation).
- Luckily, the `glm()` function in R can also handle binomial and binary data!
- For `glm(..., family=binomial)`, the default link function is the logistic link.
- A complication comes from the fact that we need to tell the function **two numbers for the response**:
  - The number of successes, encoded as 1 (here: number killed )
  - The number of failures, encoded as 0 (here: number survived)

```
> beetle$Number_survived <- beetle$Number_tested - beetle$Number_killed
> beetle.glm <- glm(cbind(Number_killed, Number_survived) ~ Dose,
+                   data = beetle, family = binomial)
```

# Doing it right: Model diagnostics

As always, before looking at the regression output, let's do some model diagnostics:



→ Hard to see much due to very low number of data points.

- As in Poisson regression, it is not clear how to define residuals, there are many ways (data scale, linear predictor scale, likelihood scale).
- Again, different types of residuals are used in the plots, but `autoplot()` does it automatically right.
- **Be careful:** such plots are only reasonable for **aggregated data** (which we have here)! The larger the groups, the more precise are the underlying assumptions (approximate equality of distributions).
- See example on slide 41 for an example with non-aggregated (binary) data.

## Doing it right: Interpreting the coefficients

Let's look at the coefficients:

```
> summary(beetle.glm)$coef
```

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	-14.5780604	1.2984622	-11.22717	2.999201e-29
Dose	0.2455399	0.0214937	11.42381	3.179900e-30

The intercept and slope are estimated as

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = -14.578 \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\beta}_1 = 0.246 ,$$

with standard errors and  $p$ -values. Very clearly, the dose influences the survival probability ( $p \ll 0.001$ ), and  $\hat{\beta}_1 > 0$ , thus, **the larger the dose, the larger the mortality probability** (positive relation; be careful, this is wrong in the Hector book!!).

This is a **qualitative interpretation** of the coefficients.

Note: The  $\beta$  coefficients are approximately normally distributed as  $N(\hat{\beta}, \hat{\sigma}_{\beta}^2)$ .

→ confidence intervals etc. can be calculated as in the linear case!

## Quantitative interpretation of the coefficients

Remember the regression model

$$\log \left( \frac{\pi_i}{1 - \pi_i} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Dose_i .$$

To understand what  $\beta_1$  tells us, let's rearrange the equation. Some algebra leads to

$$\Pr(y_i = 1 \mid Dose_i) = \frac{\exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 Dose_i)}{1 + \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 Dose_i)} . \quad (2)$$

It is then possible to calculate the **odds** ("Chance") with some algebra:

$$\text{odds}(y_i = 1 \mid Dose_i) = \frac{\Pr(y_i = 1 \mid Dose_i)}{\Pr(y_i = 0 \mid Dose_i)} = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 Dose_i) .$$

If the  $Dose_i$  is then increased by 1 unit in concentration (from  $x$  to  $x + 1$ ), the **odds ratio** is given as

$$\frac{\text{odds}(y_i = 1 \mid Dose_i = x + 1)}{\text{odds}(y_i = 1 \mid Dose_i = x)} = \exp(\beta_1) = \exp(0.246) = 1.28 .$$

**Interpretation:** When the dose is increased by 1 unit, the odds to die increases by a factor of 1.28.

Moreover, taking the log on the above equation shows that  $\beta_1$  **can be interpreted as a log odds ratio**:

$$\beta_1 = \log \left( \frac{\text{odds}(y_i = 1 \mid Dose_i = x + 1)}{\text{odds}(y_i = 1 \mid Dose_i = x)} \right)$$

## Doing it right: The anova() table

We can look at the **Analysis of Deviance** table (directly using `test="Chisq"`):

```
> anova(beetle.glm,test="Chisq")

Analysis of Deviance Table

Model: binomial, link: logit

Response: cbind(Number_killed, Number_survived)

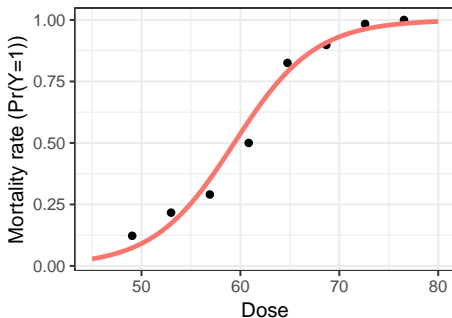
Terms added sequentially (first to last)

      Df Deviance Resid. Df Resid. Dev  Pr(>Chi)
NULL                7      267.662
Dose  1    259.23      6      8.438 < 2.2e-16 ***
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

**Interpretation:** The total deviance is 267.66, and of this 259.23 is explained by Dose (using 1 degree of freedom). This seems really good, because the  $\chi^2$  test gives a  $p$ -value that is reeeeeeally small ( $< 2.2e - 16$ ).

## Plotting the fit

A fitted curve can be added to the raw data by plotting  $\Pr(y_i = 1)$  against the Dose, using equation (2):



(Compare to Figure 9.1 in the Hector book *The new statistics with R.*)



# Overdispersion

Remember :

- Slide 21:  $E(Y) = \pi$  and  $\text{Var}(Y) = \pi(1 - \pi)$ , thus **the variance is determined by the mean!**
- “Overdispersion” means **“extra variability”** (larger than the model predicts or allows).
- Reason: Variables are missing in the model!
- Overdispersion leads to **too small  $p$ -values**.
- Detectable by looking at the **residual deviance**:

Residual deviance  $\gg$  df  $\rightarrow$  Overdispersion

- Also possible: underdispersion (dependency in the data), if:

Residual deviance  $\ll$  df

Here, the residual deviance is **8.44** with **6** degrees of freedom. Is this good or bad?

```
> pchisq(8.438,6,lower.tail=F)
```

```
[1] 0.2077375
```

→  $p = 0.21$  seems not problematic.

One can nevertheless account for overdispersion by switching to a **quasibinomial** model. This allows to estimate the dispersion parameter separately.

```

> beetle.glm2 <- glm(cbind(Number_killed,Number_survived) ~ Dose,
+                   data = beetle, family = quasibinomial)
> summary(beetle.glm2)

Call:
glm(formula = cbind(Number_killed, Number_survived) ~ Dose, family = quasibinomial,
    data = beetle)

Deviance Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-1.3456  -0.4515   0.7929   1.0422   1.3262

Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) -14.57806     1.46611  -9.943 5.98e-05 ***
Dose          0.24554     0.02427  10.118 5.42e-05 ***
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

(Dispersion parameter for quasibinomial family taken to be 1.274895)

Null deviance: 267.6624  on 7  degrees of freedom
Residual deviance:  8.4379  on 6  degrees of freedom
AIC: NA

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 4

```

## Binary response / non-aggregated data

- In the beetle example, we were in a comfortable situation: For each level of the dose, we had several beetles. For instance, 49 beetles at lowest dose (49.06), of which 6 died (1) and 43 survived (0). This was **binomial** data, an aggregated version of many (here 49) trials with 0 or 1 outcome.
- In reality, one often has only one trial (0/1) for a (combination of) covariate(s).
- The analysis is the same as for aggregated data, however there are a few complications with graphical descriptions and model checking.

**Example:** Blood screening (see week 1; data from Hothorn & Everitt 2014, chapter 7.3)

## Blood screening example

```
> library(HSAUR3)
> data("plasma", package="HSAUR3")
> plasma$y <- as.integer(plasma$ESR)-1
```

fibrinogen	globulin	ESR	y	fibrinogen	globulin	ESR	y
2.52	38	ESR < 20	0	2.88	30	ESR < 20	0
2.56	31	ESR < 20	0	2.65	46	ESR < 20	0
2.19	33	ESR < 20	0	2.28	36	ESR < 20	0
2.18	31	ESR < 20	0	2.67	39	ESR < 20	0
3.41	37	ESR < 20	0	2.29	31	ESR < 20	0
2.46	36	ESR < 20	0	2.15	31	ESR < 20	0
3.22	38	ESR < 20	0	2.54	28	ESR < 20	0
2.21	37	ESR < 20	0	3.34	30	ESR < 20	0
3.15	39	ESR < 20	0	2.99	36	ESR < 20	0
2.60	41	ESR < 20	0	3.32	35	ESR < 20	0
2.29	36	ESR < 20	0	5.06	37	ESR > 20	1
2.35	29	ESR < 20	0	3.34	32	ESR > 20	1
3.15	36	ESR < 20	0	2.38	37	ESR > 20	1
2.68	34	ESR < 20	0	3.53	46	ESR > 20	1
2.60	38	ESR < 20	0	2.09	44	ESR > 20	1
2.23	37	ESR < 20	0	3.93	32	ESR > 20	1

**Question:** Is a high ESR (erythrocyte sedimentation rate) an indicator for certain diseases (rheumatic disease, chronic inflammations)?

**Specifically:** Do high concentrations of the plasma proteins Fibrinogen and Globulin (which are disease indicators) increase the probability that  $ESR > 20mm/hr$ ?

**The model to be fitted:**

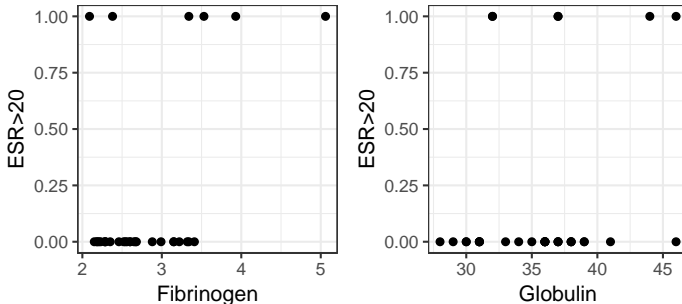
$$\log \left( \frac{\pi_i}{1 - \pi_i} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{fibrinogen}_i + \beta_2 \text{globulin}_i ,$$

with  $E(y_i) = \Pr(y_i = 1) = \pi_i$ .

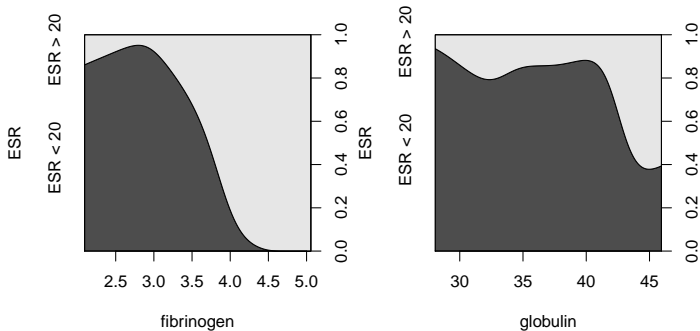
Equivalently:  $y_i \sim \text{Bern}(\pi_i)$

## Complication 1 with binary data: Graphical description

Plotting the response  $y$  (indicator for  $\text{ESR} > 20$ ) against the covariates does not lead to very illustrative graphs:



It is a bit more illustrative to give a **conditional density plot** (`cdplot()`):



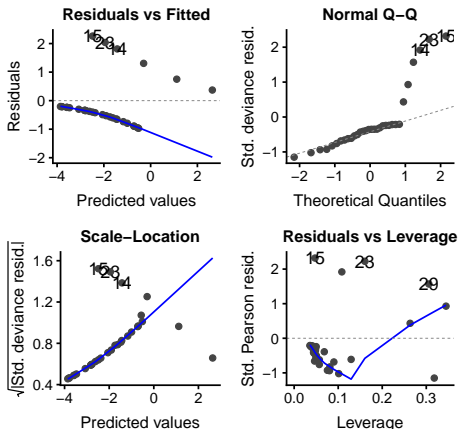


## Complication 2: Model diagnostics

### a) Residuals plots:

Plotting the residuals is possible, but **not meaningful**.

Why? Because the model checking assumptions rely on aggregated data!



## **b) Residual deviance:**

For non-aggregated data, the residual deviance vs. df relation **cannot be used to detect overdispersions!!**

## Your turn!

Apart from the above complications, fitting and interpreting the model is analogous to aggregated binary data. Let's continue with the blood screening example:

```
> plasma.glm <- glm(y ~ fibrinogen + globulin, data = plasma, family = binomial)
```

Please look at the model outcomes (summary and anova table) on the next slides and answer the following questions:

- 1 Is there evidence for an effect of fibrinogen and/or globulin on the outcome ( $ESR > 20$ )?
- 2 What is the *quantitative* interpretation of the  $\beta_1$  coefficient (what happens to  $\Pr(ESR > 20)$  when fibrinogen increases by 1 unit)?
- 3 Is a quasibinomial model more suitable for these data?

```

> summary(plasma.glm)

Call:
glm(formula = y ~ fibrinogen + globulin, family = binomial, data = plasma)

Deviance Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-0.9683  -0.6122  -0.3458  -0.2116   2.2636

Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept) -12.7921     5.7963  -2.207   0.0273 *
fibrinogen    1.9104     0.9710   1.967   0.0491 *
globulin      0.1558     0.1195   1.303   0.1925
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

    Null deviance: 30.885  on 31  degrees of freedom
Residual deviance: 22.971  on 29  degrees of freedom
AIC: 28.971

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5

```

```
> anova(plasma.glm,test="Chisq")
```

```
Analysis of Deviance Table
```

```
Model: binomial, link: logit
```

```
Response: y
```

```
Terms added sequentially (first to last)
```

		Df	Deviance	Resid. Df	Resid. Dev	Pr(>Chi)
NULL				31	30.885	
fibrinogen	1	6.0446		30	24.840	0.01395 *
globulin	1	1.8692		29	22.971	0.17156

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

## Summary

- Logistic regression is useful to model binary/binomial data.
- The link function is the logistic link.
- The coefficients of logistic regression are log odds ratios

$$\Leftrightarrow \exp(\beta) \text{ is an odds ratio}$$

- Differences between aggregated (binomial) and binary data.
- Overdispersion not detectable for binary data!