

WBL Statistik 2024 — Nonlinear Regression

A Powerful Tool With Considerable Complexity

Half-Day 1: Estimation and Standard Inference

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Outline:

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 - The Nonlinear Regression Model
 - Iterative Estimation - Model Fitting
 - Inference Based on Linear Approximations
- Half-Day 2** Improved Inference and Visualisation
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 - Parameter Transformations
- Half-Day 3** Bootstrap, Prediction and Calibration
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 - Prediction
 - Calibration
- Outlook

Your Lecturer



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Expierence:

1987 – 1991	Statistical Consulting and Teaching Assistant, Seminar für Statistik, ETHZ
1991 – 1996	PhD, Teaching Assistant, Lecturer in NDK/WBL, ETHZ
1996	Post-Doc, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA
1996 – 1999	Lecturer, ANU, Canberra, Australia
Since 1999	Institute of Data Analysis and Process Design, ZHAW

1.1 The Nonlinear Regression Model

The regression model

$$Y_i = h\left\langle x_i^{(1)}, \dots, x_i^{(m)}; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_p \right\rangle + E_i \quad \text{with } E_i \text{ indep. } \mathcal{N}\langle 0, \sigma^2 \rangle$$

In case of the linear regression model

$$h\left\langle x_i^{(1)}, \dots, x_i^{(m)}; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_p \right\rangle = \theta_1 \cdot 1 + \theta_2 x_i^{(2)} + \dots + \theta_p x_i^{(p)} \quad (\text{i.e., } m = p)$$

Examples of nonlinear regression function:

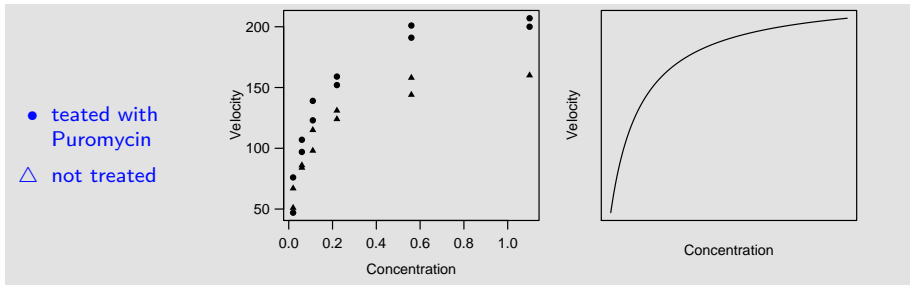
$$h\langle x_i; \underline{\theta} \rangle = \frac{\theta_1 x_i^{\theta_3}}{\theta_2 + x_i^{\theta_3}}$$

$$h\langle x; \underline{\theta} \rangle = \theta_1 \exp\left\langle \frac{\theta_2}{x_i} \right\rangle$$

$$h\langle x; \underline{\theta} \rangle = \exp\left\langle \theta_1 \left(x_i^{(1)} \right)^{\theta_3} \exp\left\langle -\frac{\theta_2}{x_i^{(2)}} \right\rangle \right\rangle$$

Example: Puromycin

The Michaelis-Menten model for enzyme kinetics relates the initial “velocity” of an enzymatic reaction to the substrate concentration



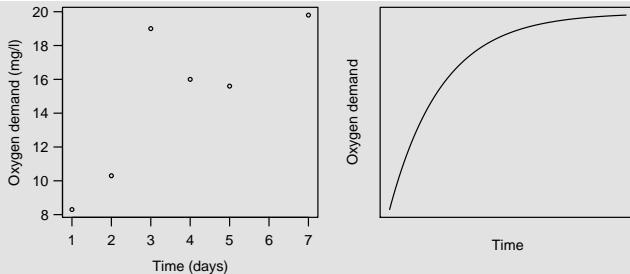
$$Y_i = \frac{\theta_1 \cdot x_i}{\theta_2 + x_i} + E_i \quad \text{with } E_i \text{ i.i.d. } \sim \mathcal{N}\langle 0, \sigma^2 \rangle \quad (\text{Michaelis-Menten model})$$

x substrate concentration [ppm]

Y initial “velocity” [((number of counts)/min)/min]

Example: Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

Biochemical oxygen demand of stream water

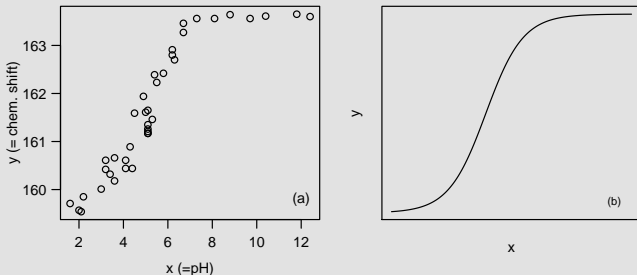


$$Y_i = \theta_1 \cdot (1 - e^{\theta_2 \cdot x_i}) + E_i \quad \text{mit } E_i \text{ i.i.d. } \sim \mathcal{N}\langle 0, \sigma^2 \rangle ,$$

where Y is the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) [mg/ℓ] and x the incubation time [days]

Example: Cellulose Membrane

Ratio of protonated to deprotonated carboxyl groups within the pore of cellulose membrane versus pH value x of the bulk solution



Theoretically, this relation is described by the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation,

$$Y_i = \frac{\theta_1 + \theta_2 \cdot 10^{\theta_3 + \theta_4 x_i}}{1 + 10^{\theta_3 + \theta_4 x_i}} + E_i \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \quad \text{with } E_i \text{ i.i.d. } \sim \mathcal{N}\langle 0, \sigma^2 \rangle.$$

Transformably Linear Models

Example:
$$h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = \theta_1 \cdot \exp\left\langle \frac{\theta_2}{x} \right\rangle$$

Applying the log-transformation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\log\langle h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle \rangle &= \log\left\langle \theta_1 \cdot \exp\left\langle \frac{\theta_2}{x} \right\rangle \right\rangle \\ &= \log\langle \theta_1 \rangle + \log\left\langle \exp\left\langle \frac{\theta_2}{x} \right\rangle \right\rangle \\ &= \log\langle \theta_1 \rangle + \theta_2 \cdot \frac{1}{x}\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\log\langle h\langle x, \underline{\beta} \rangle \rangle = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \tilde{x}$$

The “complete” transformably linear regression model is

$$\log\langle Y_i \rangle = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \tilde{x}_i + E_i, \quad E_i \text{ i.i.d. } \sim \mathcal{N}\langle 0, \sigma^2 \rangle$$

The error term is additive

In the original representation, the regression model transforms to

$$\begin{aligned}Y_i &= \exp\left\langle \beta_1 + \beta_2 \tilde{x}_i + E_i \right\rangle \\ &= \theta_1 \cdot \exp\left\langle \frac{\theta_2}{x} \right\rangle \cdot \tilde{E}_i\end{aligned}$$

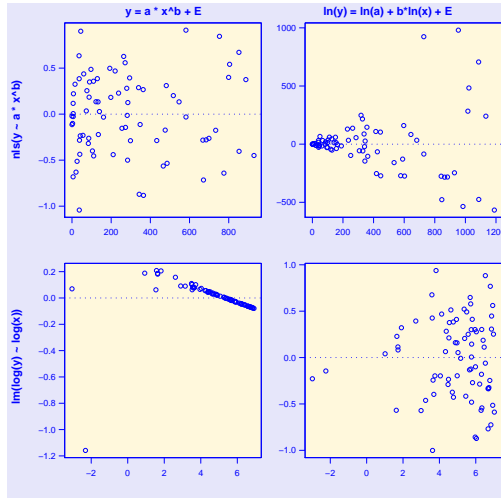
i.e., \tilde{E}_i is log-normally distributed and the error is multiplicative.

Conclusion:

Transform to a linear regression model only if required by the error structure.

👉 Check assumptions on error term by residual analysis.

If there is a deterministic model $y = \theta_1 \cdot x^{\theta_2}$, the random component may be either additive or multiplicative. – The Tukey-Anscombe plot of the fitted model will show clearly which model is more adequate for the data.



A selection of transformably linear models

$$h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = 1/(\theta_1 + \theta_2 \exp\langle -x \rangle) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad 1/h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = \theta_1 + \theta_2 \exp\langle -x \rangle$$

$$h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = \theta_1 x / (\theta_2 + x) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad 1/h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = 1/\theta_1 + \theta_2/\theta_1 \frac{1}{x}$$

$$h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = \theta_1 x^{\theta_2} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \ln\langle h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle \rangle = \ln\langle \theta_1 \rangle + \theta_2 \ln\langle x \rangle$$

$$h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = \theta_1 \exp\langle \theta_2 g\langle x \rangle \rangle \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \ln\langle h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle \rangle = \ln\langle \theta_1 \rangle + \theta_2 g\langle x \rangle$$

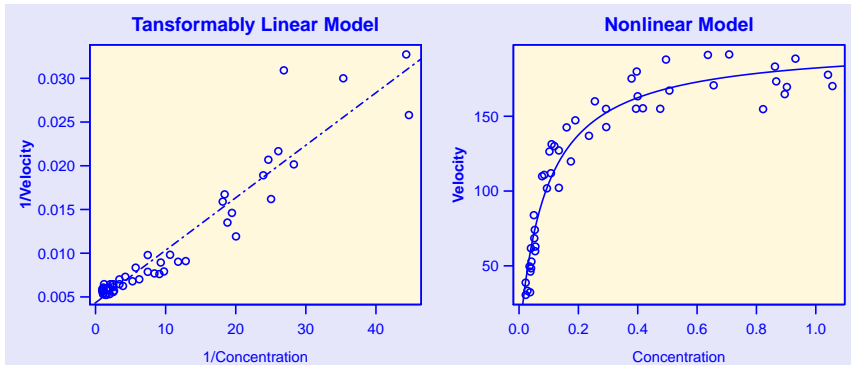
$$h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = \exp\langle -\theta_1 x^{(1)} \exp\langle -\theta_2/x^{(2)} \rangle \rangle \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \ln\langle \ln\langle h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle \rangle \rangle = \ln\langle -\theta_1 \rangle + \ln\langle x^{(1)} \rangle - \theta_2/x^{(2)}$$

$$h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle = \theta_1 \left(x^{(1)}\right)^{\theta_2} \left(x^{(2)}\right)^{\theta_3} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \ln\langle h\langle x, \underline{\theta} \rangle \rangle = \ln\langle \theta_1 \rangle + \theta_2 \ln\langle x^{(1)} \rangle + \theta_3 \ln\langle x^{(2)} \rangle$$

Note that

it is not sufficient to examine the fit in a scatter plot of response versus explanatory variable,

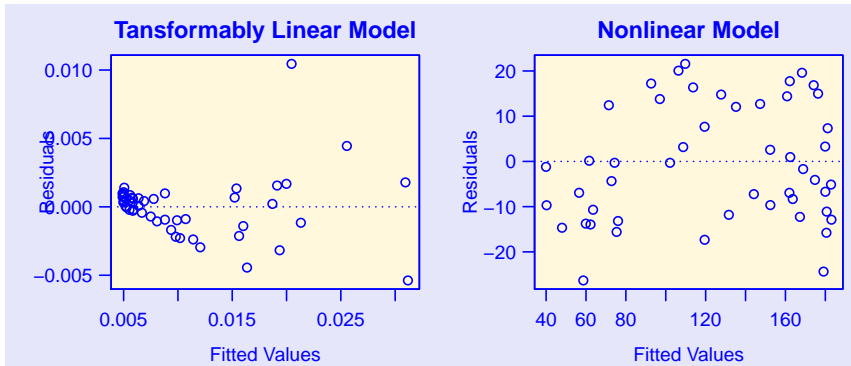
since the nonlinearity of the fitted curve prevents an assessment of the specified error structure.



Which model fits the data better?

Use Tukey-Anscombe plot to check whether

- the expectation of the error is zero
- the variability of the error is constant



1.2 Model Fitting Using an Iterative Algorithm

The method of least squares:

Find the minimum of

$$S(\underline{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \eta_i(\underline{\theta}))^2 \quad \text{mit } \eta_i(\underline{\theta}) = h(\underline{\theta}, \underline{x}_i) .$$

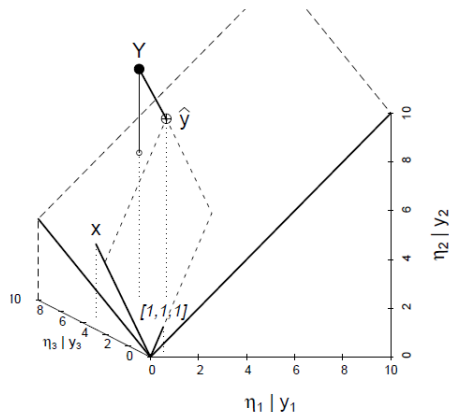
Key steps for minimising:

- **approximate** the surface $\underline{\eta}(\underline{\theta})$ at a temporarily best value $\underline{\theta}^{(\ell)}$ **by a tangent plane** where $\underline{\eta}(\underline{\theta}^{(\ell)})$ is the point of contact.
- **search the point on the plane**, which is closest to \underline{Y} (that is a linear regression fitting problem).
- The new point lies on the plain but not on the surface. However, it defines a parameter vector $\underline{\theta}^{(\ell+1)}$ which will be used in the next iteration step.

Geometrical Illustration

Geometric illustration of the least squares fit in the case of *linear* regression with three observations (y_i, x_i) , $i = 1, 2, 3$.

We can calculate the three model values $\eta_i \langle \underline{\beta} \rangle = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i$ and represent the corresponding vector $\underline{\eta} \langle \underline{\beta} \rangle = \beta_0 \underline{1} + \beta_1 \underline{x}$ as a point depending on given parameters β_0 and β_1 .



Algebraically formulated

📖 Gauss-Newton Algorithm

- ① Linear approximation of $\underline{\eta}_i \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle$ at $\underline{\theta}^{(\ell)}$:

$$\underline{\eta}_i \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle \approx \underline{\eta}_i \langle \underline{\theta}^{(\ell)} \rangle + \mathbf{A}^{(\ell)} (\underline{\theta} - \underline{\theta}^{(\ell)}) ,$$

where $\mathbf{A}^{(\ell)}$ defines the tangent plane in the ℓ -th iteration step,
i.e., $\mathbf{A}^{(\ell)} = \mathbf{A} \langle \underline{\theta}^{(\ell)} \rangle$ is the derivative matrix of $\underline{\eta} \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle$ at $\underline{\theta}^{(\ell)}$.

- ② (Locally) linear regression model

$$\widetilde{\underline{Y}}^{(\ell)} \approx \mathbf{A}^{(\ell)} \underline{\beta}^{(\ell)} + \underline{E}$$

$$\text{where } \widetilde{\underline{Y}}^{(\ell)} = \underline{Y} - \underline{\eta} \langle \underline{\theta}^{(\ell)} \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{\beta}^{(\ell)} = \underline{\theta} - \underline{\theta}^{(\ell)}$$

- ③ Least-squares estimation for $\underline{\beta}^{(\ell)} \rightarrow \widehat{\underline{\beta}}^{(\ell)}$.

$$\text{Set} \quad \underline{\theta}^{(\ell+1)} = \underline{\theta}^{(\ell)} + \widehat{\underline{\beta}}^{(\ell)} .$$

- ④ Repeat steps 1 to 3 until the procedure converges.

result $\widehat{\underline{\theta}} = \underline{\theta}^{(\ell+1)}$

Starting Values

- interpret the behaviour of the regression function in terms of the parameter analytically or graphically
- transform the regression function to obtain simpler, preferably linear, behaviour
- use your knowledge from previous or similar experiments

Example Puromycin (2) - using transformation

$$y \approx h(\underline{x}, \underline{\theta}) = \frac{\theta_1 \cdot x_i}{\theta_2 + x_i}$$

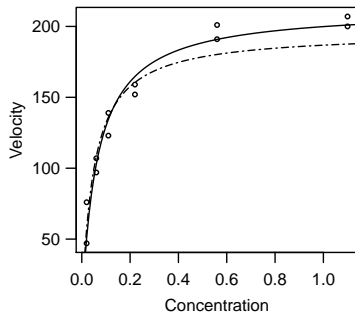
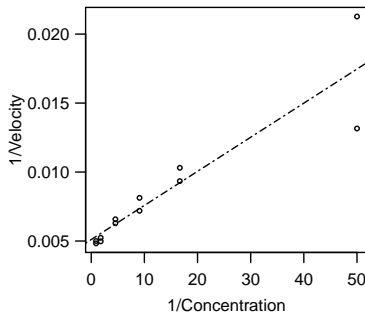
transform to linearity $\tilde{y} = \frac{1}{y} \approx \frac{1}{h(\underline{x}, \underline{\theta})} = \frac{\theta_2}{\theta_1} \cdot \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{\theta_1}$

that is $\tilde{y} \approx \beta_1 \tilde{x} + \beta_0$

linear regression (robustly estimated) $\hat{\underline{\beta}} = (0.005, 0.00025)^T$

starting values: $\hat{\theta}_1^0 = \frac{1}{\hat{\beta}_0} \approx 196$ $\hat{\theta}_2^0 = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1}{\hat{\beta}_0} \approx 0.048$

Example Puromycin (3)



Left: Regression line used for determining the starting values θ_1 and θ_2 .

Right: Regression function $h(x; \underline{\theta})$ based on the starting values $\underline{\theta} = \underline{\theta}^{(0)}$ (----) and based on the least-squares estimation $\underline{\theta} = \hat{\underline{\theta}}$ (—), respectively.

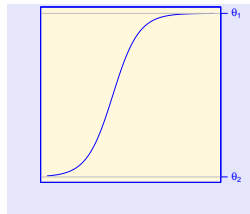
Example: Cellulose membrane (2) - starting values

$$h\langle x; \underline{\theta} \rangle = \frac{\theta_1 + \theta_2 \cdot 10^{\theta_3 + \theta_4 x}}{1 + 10^{\theta_3 + \theta_4 x}} \quad \text{mit } \theta_4 < 0$$

We know:

$$\begin{aligned} h\langle x; \underline{\theta} \rangle &\longrightarrow \theta_1 && \text{for } x \rightarrow \infty \\ h\langle x; \underline{\theta} \rangle &\longrightarrow \theta_2 && \text{for } x \rightarrow -\infty \end{aligned}$$

From data,
we obtain $\theta_1^{(0)} = 163.7$ und $\theta_2^{(0)} = 159.5$



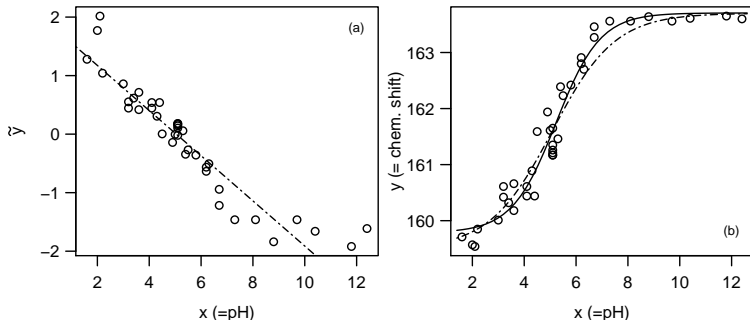
Let $\tilde{y}_i = \log_{10} \left\langle \frac{\theta_1^{(0)} - y_i}{y_i - \theta_2^{(0)}} \right\rangle$,

hence $\tilde{y}_i = \theta_3 + \theta_4 x_i$.

Simple linear regression results in starting values for both θ_3 and θ_4

$$\theta_3^{(0)} = 1.83 \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_4^{(0)} = -0.36.$$

Example: Cellulose membrane (3)



(a) Regression line used for determining the starting values θ_3 and θ_4 .

(b) Regression function $h(x; \underline{\theta})$ based on the starting values $\underline{\theta} = \underline{\theta}^{(0)}$ (-----) and based on the least-squares estimation $\underline{\theta} = \hat{\underline{\theta}}$ (——), respectively.

Self-Starter Function

- For repeated use of the same nonlinear regression model
 👉 use an automated way of providing starting values.
- Basically, collect all the manual steps which are necessary to obtain the initial values for a nonlinear regression model into a function.
- Self-starter functions are specific for a given mean function and calculates starting values for a given dataset.
- Let `SSmicmen()` (c.f. next slide) be the self-starter function for the Michaelis-Menton model. You can then run the fitting process as
`nls(rate ~ SSmicmen(conc, Vm, K), data=D.minor)`
- How to write your own self-starter functions
 see help or, e.g., Ritz & Streibig (2008), Sec 3.2
- With the standard installation of R,
 the following self-starter functions are implemented:

Self-Starter Functions in the Standard Installation

Model	Mean Function	Name of Self-Starter Function
Biexponential	$A1 \cdot e^{-x \cdot e^{lrc1}} + A2 \cdot e^{-x \cdot e^{lrc2}}$	SSbiexp(x, A1, lrc1, A2, lrc2)
Asymptotic regression	$Asym + (R0 - Asym) \cdot e^{-x \cdot e^{lrc}}$	SSasymp(x, Asym, R0, lrc)
Asymptotic regression with offset c0	$Asym \cdot (1 - e^{-(x-c0) \cdot e^{lrc}})$	SSasympOff(x, Asym, lrc, c0)
Asymptotic regression (c0 = 0)	$Asym \cdot (1 - e^{-x \cdot e^{lrc}})$	SSasympOrig(x, Asym, lrc)
First-order compartment	$x1 \cdot \frac{e^{lKe+lKa-lCl}}{e^{lKa}-e^{lKe}} \cdot (e^{-x2 \cdot e^{lKe}} - e^{-x2 \cdot e^{lKa}})$	SSfol(x1, x2, lKe, lKa, lCl)
Gompertz	$Asym \cdot e^{-b2 \cdot b3x}$	SSgompertz(x, Asym, b2, b3)
Logistic	$A + \frac{B-A}{1+e^{(xmid-x)/scal}}$	SSfpl(x, A, B, xmid, scal)
Logistic (A = 0)	$\frac{Asym}{1+e^{(xmid-x)/scal}}$	SSlogis(x, Asym, xmid, scal)
Michaelis-Menten	$Vm \cdot \frac{x}{K+x}$	SSmicmen(x, Vm, K)
Weibull	$Asym - Drop \cdot e^{-e^{lrc} \cdot x^{pwr}}$	SSweibull(x, Asym, Drop, lrc, pwr)

3 Inference Based on Linear Approximations

As a look on the summary output of the Example “Cellulose Membrane” shows it look very similar to the summary output of a fitted linear regression model:

```
> Mem.fit <- nls(delta ~ (T1 + T2*10^(T3+T4*pH))/(10^(T3+T4*pH)+1),  
                  D.membran, start=list(T1=163.7, T2=159.5, T3=1.83, T4=-0.36))  
> summary(Mem.fit)
```

Formula: $\text{delta} \sim (T1 + T2 * 10^{(T3 + T4 * \text{pH})}) / (10^{(T3 + T4 * \text{pH})} + 1)$

Parameters:

	Value	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)	
θ_1	163.706	0.1262	1297.26	< 2e-16	***
θ_2	159.785	0.1594	1002.19	< 2e-16	***
θ_3	2.675	0.3813	7.02	3.65e-08	***
θ_4	-0.512	0.0703	-7.28	1.66e-08	***

Residual standard error: 0.293137 on 35 degrees of freedom

Number of iterations to convergence: 7

Achieved convergence tolerance: 3.652e-06

The Asymptotic Properties

The asymptotic properties are based on the local linearization of the model (cf. iterative estimation procedure, SLIDE 16, step 2)

$$\underline{Y} = \underline{\eta} \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle + \mathbf{A} \hat{\underline{\beta}} + \underline{E}$$

where $\mathbf{A} \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle$ is the $n \times p$ matrix of partial derivatives.

If the estimation procedure has converged, then $\hat{\underline{\beta}} = \underline{0}$.

Asymptotic Distribution of the Least Squares Estimator

$$\hat{\underline{\theta}} \stackrel{a}{\sim} \mathcal{N} \langle \underline{\theta}, \mathbf{V} \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle \rangle$$

with asymptotic covariance matrix

$$\mathbf{V} \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle = \sigma^2 (\mathbf{A} \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle^T \mathbf{A} \langle \underline{\theta} \rangle)^{-1}$$

Application in Practise

To explicitly determine the covariance matrix $V\langle\theta\rangle$, we plug-in estimates instead of true parameters:

- $\mathbf{A}\langle\theta\rangle$ is calculated using $\hat{\theta} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{A}}$.
- For the error variance σ^2 we plug-in the usual estimation.

Hence,

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}} = \hat{\sigma}^2 \left(\hat{\mathbf{A}}^T \hat{\mathbf{A}} \right)^{-1}$$

where

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{S\langle\hat{\theta}\rangle}{n-p} = \frac{1}{n-p} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(y_i - \eta_i\langle\hat{\theta}\rangle \right)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A}\langle\hat{\theta}\rangle .$$

Approximate 95%-confidence interval

Hence, an approximate 95%-confidence interval for β_k is

$$\hat{\theta}_k \pm \widehat{\text{se}}\langle \hat{\beta}_k \rangle \cdot q_{0.975}^{t_{n-p}},$$

where $\widehat{\text{se}}\langle \hat{\beta}_k \rangle$ is the square root of the k th diagonal element of $\hat{\mathbf{V}}$.

Note: Theoretically correct is to use the quantiles of the Gaussian distribution. In practise, however, t quantiles are preferred.

Example “Cellulose Membrane”

From the summary output

Parameters:

	Value	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)	
θ_1	163.706	0.1262	1297.26	< 2e-16	***
θ_2	159.785	0.1594	1002.19	< 2e-16	***
θ_3	2.675	0.3813	7.02	3.65e-08	***
θ_4	-0.512	0.0703	-7.28	1.66e-08	***

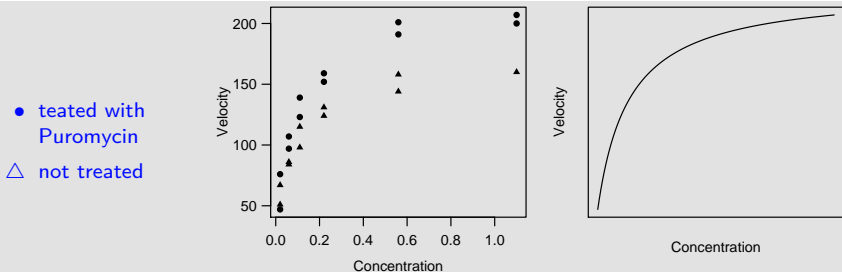
Residual standard error: 0.293137 on 35 degrees of freedom

we can calculate the 95% confidence interval for θ_1 :

$$163.71 \pm 0.13 \cdot q_{0.975}^{t_{35}} = 163.71 \pm 0.26$$

Example: Puromycin - back to the initial data set

The Michaelis-Menten model for enzyme kinetics relates the initial “velocity” of an enzymatic reaction to the substrate concentration



$$Y_i = \frac{\theta_1 \cdot x_i}{\theta_2 + x_i} + E_i \quad \text{with } E_i \text{ i.i.d. } \sim \mathcal{N}\langle 0, \sigma^2 \rangle \quad (\text{Michaelis-Menten model})$$

x substrate concentration [ppm]

Y initial “velocity” [(number/min)/min]

Example: Puromycin (4)

Modell:
$$Y_i = \frac{\theta_1 x_i}{\theta_2 + x_i} + E_i.$$

Model with and without treatment
(all data):

$$Y_i = \frac{(\theta_1 + \theta_3 z_i) x_i}{\theta_2 + \theta_4 z_i + x_i} + E_i.$$

$$\text{where } z_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for „with“} \\ 0 & \text{for „without“} \end{cases}$$

Working hypothesis: **Only** the asymptotic velocity θ_1 is influenced by adding Puromycin. Hence

Null hypothesis: $\theta_4 = 0$

R output for the example Puromycin

Parameters:

	Value	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
θ_1	160.286	6.8964	23.24	2.04e-15
θ_2	0.048	0.0083	5.76	1.50e-05
θ_3	52.398	9.5513	5.49	2.71e-05
θ_4	0.016	0.0114	1.44	0.167

Residual standard error: 10.4 on 19 df

Since the P-value of 0.167 is larger
than the level of 5%
the null hypothesis is not rejected on
the 5% level.

95% confidence interval for θ_4 :

$$0.016 \pm 0.0114 \cdot q_{0.975}^{t_{19}} = [-0.0079, 0.0399]$$

Inference for the expected value $E\langle Y|x_o \rangle = h\langle x_o; \underline{\theta} \rangle$ at x_o

Linear Regression

$h\langle \underline{x}_o, \underline{\beta} \rangle = \underline{x}_o^T \underline{\beta}$ is estimated by

$$\hat{\eta}_o = \underline{x}_o^T \hat{\underline{\beta}}.$$

$(1-\alpha) \cdot 100\%$ confidence interval
for $h\langle \underline{x}_o, \underline{\beta} \rangle$ is

$$\hat{\eta}_o \pm q_{1-\alpha/2}^{t_{n-p}} \cdot \text{se}\langle \hat{\eta}_o \rangle$$

with $\text{se}\langle \hat{\eta}_o \rangle = \hat{\sigma} \sqrt{\underline{x}_o^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \underline{x}_o}$

Nonlinear Regression

$h\langle \underline{x}_o, \underline{\theta} \rangle$ is estimated by

$$\hat{\eta}_o = h\langle \underline{x}_o, \hat{\underline{\theta}} \rangle.$$

$(1-\alpha) \cdot 100\%$ confidence interval for
 $h\langle \underline{x}_o, \underline{\theta} \rangle$ is

$$h\langle \underline{x}_o, \hat{\underline{\theta}} \rangle \pm q_{1-\alpha/2}^{t_{n-p}} \cdot \text{se}\langle \hat{\eta}_o \rangle$$

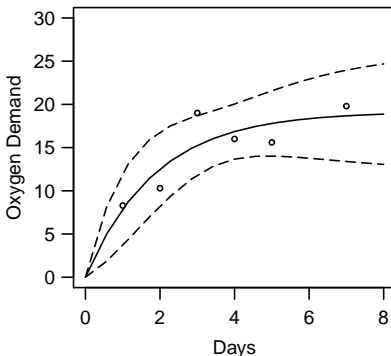
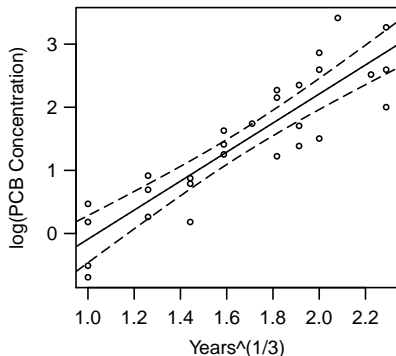
with $\text{se}\langle \hat{\eta}_o \rangle = \hat{\sigma} \sqrt{\hat{\underline{a}}_o^T (\hat{\mathbf{A}}^T \hat{\mathbf{A}})^{-1} \hat{\underline{a}}_o}$

and $\hat{\underline{a}}_o = \left. \frac{\partial h\langle \underline{x}_o, \underline{\theta} \rangle}{\partial \underline{\theta}} \right|_{\underline{\theta}=\hat{\underline{\theta}}}$

Confidence Band

Left: Confidence band (i.g., pointwise confidence intervals) for a fitted straight line (linear regression model).

Right: Confidence band for the fitted curve $h(\underline{x}, \underline{\theta})$ of the example 'Biochemical Oxygen Demand'.



Variable Selection

How about variable selection in nonlinear regression?

- There is no one-to-one correspondence between predictor variables and parameter as in linear regression!
☞ the number of variables may differ from the number of parameters.
- There are hardly ever problems, where some of the variables are in question because model is derived from subject matter theory!
- However, there are problems where a nested submodel may be adequate to describe the data;
cf. Example Puromycin, SLIDE 28.
- Model Selection: If we have a collection of candidate models
 - which need *not* to be nested submodels of each other and
 - the subject matter is somehow indifferent to these models,
 - but we want to find the most appropriate model for the dataone can use Akaike's information criterion (AIC) to select the best model and run a residual analysis to confirm the selection.

Take Home Message Half-Day 1

- In **nonlinear regression**,

$$Y_i = h(\mathbf{x}_i, \underline{\theta}) + E_i ,$$

functions h are analysed which are not linear functions of the unknown parameters $\underline{\theta}$.

Such models are often derived from the **subject matter theory**.

- The flexibility of this model class is bought by a **more complex estimation and inference theory**.
 - Parameter estimation is done by an iterative procedure which needs **appropriate starting values**.
 - Inference is based on an asymptotic theory.
For finite sample size the results just hold **approximately**
- **Model assumptions are assessed** like in linear regression modelling.