

STATS305B – Lecture 7

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1 Binary GLMs

1.1 Fitting

Let F be a CDF with density f . The deviance for a binary GLM with link function $g = F^{-1}$ is,

$$\text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n -Y_i \frac{F(X_i^T \beta)}{F(X_i^T \beta)(1 - F(X_i^T \beta))} - \log(1 - F(X_i^T \beta)).$$

Thus,

$$\nabla \text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \frac{f(X_i^T \beta)^2}{F(X_i^T \beta)(1 - F(X_i^T \beta))} \left[\frac{Y_i - F(X_i^T \beta)}{f(X_i^T \beta)} \right].$$

Since $X_i^T \beta = F^{-1}(\mathbb{E}_\beta[Y_i])$, we have that $\mathbb{E}_\beta[F(X_i^T \beta) - Y_i] = 0$. Thus, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\nabla^2 \text{DEV}(\beta|Y)] = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n X_i X_i^T \frac{f(X_i^T \beta)^2}{F(X_i^T \beta)(F(X_i^T \beta) - 1)} = 2X^T W_\beta X,$$

where $W_\beta = \text{diag} \left(\frac{f(X_i)^2}{F(X_i^T \beta)(1 - F(X_i^T \beta))} \right)$. We can also rewrite $\nabla \text{DEV}(\beta|Y)$ in terms of the W_β ,

$$\nabla \text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2X^T W_\beta \left(\frac{Y - F(X\beta)}{f(X\beta)} \right).$$

To fit a binary glm, we can use Fisher scoring. Fisher scoring is an iterative quasi-Newton method given by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}^{(k+1)} &= \hat{\beta}^{(k)} - \mathbb{E}_{\beta^{(k)}}[\nabla^2 \text{DEV}(\beta^{(k)}|Y)]^{-1} \nabla \text{DEV}(\hat{\beta}^{(k)}|Y) \\ &= (X^T W_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}} X)^{-1} X^T W_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}} \left(X \hat{\beta}^{(k)} + \frac{Y - F(X \hat{\beta}^{(k)})}{f(X \hat{\beta}^{(k)})} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that the above method is a form of iterative re-weighted least squares. This was important for historical reasons since least squares was one of the main algorithms implemented on early computers. When we view Fisher scoring as iterative re-weighted least squares, the response at step $k + 1$ is,

$$Z^{(k+1)} = X\hat{\beta}^{(k)} + \frac{Y - F(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)})}{f(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)})} = g(\mathbb{E}_{\beta^{(k)}}(Y)) + g'(\mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}}(Y))(Y - \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}}[Y]).$$

This is because if $\mu = F(X^T\beta)$, then $g(\mu) = F^{-1}(\mu) = X^T\beta$ and $g'(\mu) = \frac{1}{F'(F^{-1}(\mu))} = \frac{1}{f(X\beta)}$. The weight matrix at time $k + 1$ is,

$$\begin{aligned} W^{(k+1)} &= \text{diag} \left(\frac{f(X_i^T\hat{\beta}^{(k)})^2}{F(X_i^T\hat{\beta}^{(k)})(1 - F(X_i^T\hat{\beta}^{(k)}))} \right) \\ &= \text{diag} \left(\frac{F(X_i^T\hat{\beta}^{(k)})(1 - F(X_i^T\hat{\beta}^{(k)}))}{f(X_i^T\hat{\beta}^{(k)})^2} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{f(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)})^2} \text{Var}_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}}(Y)^{-1} \\ &= g'(\hat{\mu}^{(k)})^2 V(\hat{\mu}^{(k)})^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{\mu}^{(k)} = \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}}[Y]$. This shows how Fisher scoring can be generalized to other glms. Instead of minimizing the deviance, we simply run iterative re-weighted least squares with features X , iterative response

$$Z^{(k)} = g(\hat{\mu}^{(k)}) + g'(\hat{\mu}^{(k)})(Y - \hat{\mu}^{(k)})$$

and iterative weights $W^{(k)} = g'(\hat{\mu}^{(k)})^2 V(\hat{\mu}^{(k)})^{-1}$. This is important because in general for glms we do not have a full model from which we can calculate and optimize a likelihood. We just have the functions g and V . Note that, in the binary case, if the model is true, then

$$\hat{\beta} \approx N(\beta^*, (X^T W_{\hat{\beta}} X)^{-1}).$$

If the model is not true, then we have the sandwich form

$$\hat{\beta} - \beta^* \approx N(0, Q_{\beta^*}^{-1} \Sigma_{\beta^*} Q_{\beta^*}^{-1}),$$

where $Q_{\beta^*} = \mathbb{E}_{\beta^*}[X^T W_{\beta^*} X]$ and $\Sigma_{\beta^*} = \text{Var}(X^T(Y - \pi_{\beta^*}(X)))$. In practice, we can estimate Q_{β^*} with $X^T W_{\hat{\beta}} X$ and bootstrap for Σ_{β^*} or we can bootstrap directly for $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta})$.

1.2 Inference

The difference of deviance can be used as a likelihood ratio test. If $M_R \subseteq M_F$ are two models, then if M_R contains the true model

$$\text{DEV}(M_R) - \text{DEV}(M_F) \stackrel{n \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \chi_{df_R - df_F}^2.$$

Unlike in linear regression, this test is different to the Wald test for a single predictor (i.e. when M_F is M_R plus one additional predictor).

2 Poisson data

Suppose $Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$, then for $y = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}_\lambda(Y = y) = \frac{\lambda^y}{y!} \exp(-\lambda) = \exp(y \log(\lambda) - \lambda) \frac{1}{y!}.$$

The canonical link for this family is $g = \log$, giving the model $\log(\lambda_i) = X_i^T \beta$ where $\lambda_i = \mathbb{E}[Y_i|X_i]$. This model is called the *log-linear model*. The variance function for this model is $\text{Var}(Y_i|X_i) = \lambda_i$. The deviance is

$$\text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n -Y_i X_i^T \beta + e^{X_i^T \beta} + Y_i \log(Y_i) - Y_i,$$

the terms $Y_i \log(Y_i) - Y_i$ come from the saturated model where we have $\lambda_i = Y_i$. The gradient and Hessian of the deviance are thus,

$$\nabla \text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2X^T(\exp(X\beta) - Y) = 2X^T(\mathbb{E}_\beta[Y] - Y),$$

and

$$\nabla^2 \text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2X^T W_\beta X,$$

where $W_\beta = \text{Var}_\beta(Y) = \exp(X\beta)$. Thus, we can fit this model by using Newton–Raphson. This gives us the iterative rule,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}^{(k+1)} &= \hat{\beta}^{(k)} - \nabla^2 \text{DEV}(\hat{\beta}^{(k)}|Y)^{-1} \left(\nabla \text{DEV}(\hat{\beta}^{(k)}|Y) \right) \\ &= \hat{\beta}^{(k)} - (X^T W_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}} X)^{-1} X^T (\mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}}[Y] - Y) \\ &= \hat{\beta}^{(k)} + (X^T \exp(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)}) X)^{-1} X^T (Y - \exp(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)})). \end{aligned}$$

This iterative algorithm once again corresponds to a form of iterative re-weighted least squares, with response,

$$\begin{aligned} Z^{(k+1)} &= X\hat{\beta}^{(k)} + (Y - \exp(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)}))/\exp(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)}) \\ &= g(\hat{\lambda}^{(k)}) + g'(\hat{\lambda}^{(k)})(Y - \hat{\lambda}^{(k)}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{\lambda}^k = \exp(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)}) = \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}}[Y]$. and weight matrix,

$$\begin{aligned} W^{(k+1)} &= \exp(X\hat{\beta}^{(k)}) \\ &= \text{Var}_{\hat{\beta}^{(k)}}(Y). \end{aligned}$$

2.1 Residuals

Like the binary models, there are two types of residuals for the log-linear model. We have the Pearson residuals,

$$e_i = \frac{Y_i - \hat{\lambda}_i}{\sqrt{\hat{\lambda}_i}} = \frac{Y_i - \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\lambda}_i}[Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}_{\hat{\lambda}_i}(Y)}}.$$

We also have the deviance residuals. Note that

$$\text{DEV}(\hat{\lambda}|Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{DEV}(\hat{\lambda}_i|Y_i).$$

Thus, we can define the deviance residuals as

$$d_i = \text{sign}(Y_i - \hat{\lambda}_i) \sqrt{\text{DEV}(\hat{\lambda}_i|Y_i)},$$

recall that $\text{DEV}(\hat{\lambda}_i|Y_i) = 2 \left(\hat{\lambda}_i - Y_i \log(\hat{\lambda}_i) - Y_i + Y_i \log(Y_i) \right)$. We also have a hat matrix for the log-linear model. It is given by

$$H_{\hat{\beta}} = W_{\hat{\beta}}^{1/2} X (X^T W_{\hat{\beta}} X)^{-1} X^T W_{\hat{\beta}}^{1/2},$$

where $W_{\hat{\beta}} = \exp(X\hat{\beta})$.

2.2 “Unnatural” models for Poisson data

We can get other models for Poisson data by changing the link function g . The link function satisfies $g(\lambda_i) = X_i^T \beta$ and hence $\lambda_i = g^{-1}(X_i^T \beta)$. The natural choice if $g = \log$ but two other choices are **identity**: $g(\lambda) = \lambda$ and **inverse**: $g(\lambda) = 1/\lambda$. These can be used in `glm()` in R by specifying the link function. For a link function g , the deviance is

$$\text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n [g^{-1}(X_i^T \beta) - Y_i \log(g^{-1}(X_i^T \beta)) - Y_i + Y_i \log(Y_i)].$$

We can fit a Poisson glm with Fisher scoring which we can present as an IRLS algorithm with

$$Z^{(k+1)} = X \hat{\beta}^{(k)} + g'(\hat{\lambda}^{(k)})(Y - \hat{\lambda}^{(k)}),$$

and

$$W^{(k+1)} = g'(\hat{\lambda}^{(k)})^2 V(\hat{\lambda}^{(k)})^{-1},$$

where $\hat{\lambda}^{(k)} = g^{-1}(X \hat{\beta}^{(k)})$ and $V(\lambda) = \lambda$. Note that

$$\nabla \text{DEV}(\beta|Y) = 2X^T \left(\frac{\mathbb{E}_\beta[Y] - Y}{g'(\mathbb{E}_\beta[Y])\mathbb{E}_\beta[Y]} \right),$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}_\beta[\nabla^2 \text{DEV}(\beta|Y)] = 2X^T \left(\frac{1}{g'(\mathbb{E}_\beta[Y])^2 \mathbb{E}_\beta[Y]} \right) 2X^T W_\beta X,$$

where $W_\beta = \text{diag} \left(\frac{1}{g'(\lambda_i)^2 \text{Var}_{\lambda_i}(Y)} \right) = \text{diag} \left(\frac{1}{g'(\lambda_i)^2 \lambda_i} \right)$, where $\lambda_i = g^{-1}(X_i^T \beta)$. We again have a sandwich estimator for the variance of $\hat{\beta}^{(k)}$,

$$\hat{\beta} - \beta^* \approx \mathbf{N}(0, Q^{-1} \Sigma Q^{-1}),$$

where $Q = X^T W_{\beta^*} X$ and $\Sigma = \text{Var}(X^T W^{(\infty)} Z^{(\infty)})$. When the model is correct, $X^T W_{\beta^*} X \approx \Sigma$.

3 Over-dispersion

The Poisson model requires that $\mathbb{E}[Y_i] = \text{Var}(Y_i)$ but this may be far from true. In simple clustering models we in fact have $\text{Var}(Y_i) = \phi \mathbb{E}[Y_i]$ where ϕ has to be estimated from the data. In a Poisson glm we can estimate ϕ with

$$\hat{\phi} = \frac{1}{n-p} \sum_i e_i^2,$$

where p is the number of parameters and e_i are the Pearson residuals. Another way to incorporate over-dispersion is to work with a negative binomial distribution. Consider the following non-standard parametrization of the negative binomial distribution, $Y \sim \text{Negativebinomial}(\mu, k)$

$$\mathbb{P}(Y = y) = \frac{\Gamma(y+k)}{\Gamma(k)\Gamma(y+1)} \left(\frac{k}{\mu+k} \right)^k \left(1 - \frac{k}{\mu+k} \right)^y.$$

For a fixed k , this is a one-dimensional exponential family with $\mathbb{E}[Y] = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(Y) = \mu + \frac{\mu^2}{k}$. Thus, by varying k , we get different amounts of over-dispersion in our model. The parameter k can be estimated from the data.