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## MCGLM - A Python Library

**Jean Carlos Faoot Maia**



# Outline

Preamble

Statistical Models, History

Project Goals

Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

The brand-new library, a Python Implementation

To demonstrate the library usage on two actual examples

The next steps

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# Preamble

## Statistics

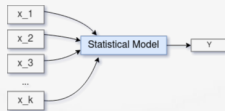
- ▶ Statistics has built tools to extract information about data and, consequently, the system that generated it.
- ▶ Randomness is an assumption and one of the biggest challenges.
- ▶ Statistical models are one of the foremost tools to overcome the inherent randomness in data, countenancing the statistical analysis.

# Introduction to Statistical Models

## Statistical Models

Statistical models aim to associate a dependent variable  $y$ , a.k.a response variable, with a group of independent variables  $x_i$ ,  $i \geq 1$ .

Statistical Inference leverages statistical model inversely, assessing model's parameters that are consistent with the dependent data.



Nature might produce distinguish kinds of data.

- ▶ Components of response can be independent events.
- ▶ Components of response can be dependent events, such as time-series or spatial.
- ▶ Components of response can assume real values, positive real values, integer values, or bounded values.

# Preamble

## Statistical Models

- ▶ The first statistical models cover independent data exclusively.
- ▶ Over the years, many statistical publications aimed to expand the boundaries of models.
- ▶ Nowadays, some models can cover almost all kinds of data.

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# Statistical Models, History

## Linear Regression

Linear Regression is dated to the early nineteenth century. Legendre and Gauss published it.

# Statistical Models, History

## Linear Regression

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A vector of observation  $\mathbf{y}$  with  $n$  components is considered independent realizations of a random variable  $\mathbf{Y}$ ; the vector  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  defines the mean parameters.

The systematic part of the model specifies the vector  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  by employing a linear operation between regression parameters  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p$  and the covariates. The mathematical notation for the systematic part:

$$E(Y_i) = \mu_i = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^p x_{ij}\beta_j; \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

where  $x_{ij}$  is the value of the  $j$ th covariate for observation  $i$ .

# Statistical Models, History

## Linear Regression

Moreover, as the random part, we assume independence and constant variance of errors. These errors follow a Gaussian distribution with mean 0 and constant variance  $\sigma^2$ .

# Statistical Models, History

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### The three-part specification

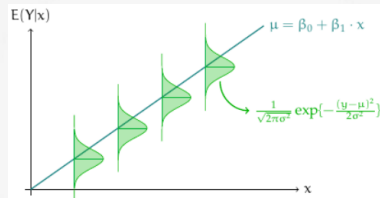
The random component: the components  $Y$  have independent Gaussian distribution with  $E(\mathbf{Y}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}$  and constant variance  $\sigma^2$ ;

The systematic component: a linear operation between covariates  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$  and regression parameters produces  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ ;

The link between the random and the systematic components:  $\boldsymbol{\eta} = \boldsymbol{\mu}$ ;

# Statistical Models, History

## Linear Regression - A graphical explanation



A graphical explanation for a simple linear regression.

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models

In 1972, Nelder and Wedderburn went a step further in unifying the theory of statistical modeling and, in particular, regression models, publishing their article on generalized linear models (GLM).

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models

In 1972, Nelder and Wedderburn went a step further in unifying the theory of statistical modeling and, in particular, regression models, publishing their article on generalized linear models (GLM).

Each component of the random variable  $Y$  has a distribution in the exponential family, with density function taking the form

$$f_y(y; \theta, \phi) = \exp\{(y\theta - b(\theta))/a(\phi) + c(y, \phi)\}$$

for some specific functions  $a(\phi)$ ,  $b(\theta)$  and  $c(y, \phi)$ . Mean and Variance can be specified as:

$$E(Y) = b'(\theta). \quad \text{Var}(Y) = b''(\theta)a(\phi).$$

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models - Exponential Family

Distribution	Support	Cases
Gaussian	Real Numbers	General Symmetric Distributions.
Binomial(Bernoulli)	Bounded Data	Probability/Odds of an event.
Poisson	Integer Positive	Positive Count Distributions.
Gamma	Real Positive Numbers	Positive Asymmetric Distributions.
Inverse Gaussian	Real Positive Numbers	Positive Asymmetric Distributions.



# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models

GLMs relies on three components:

- ▶ Linear Predictor by a design matrix;
- ▶ Link Function which transforms the  $\eta$  into  $\mu$ ;
- ▶ Exponential distribution model or a Variance function.

Distribution	Canonical link function	Variance function
Poisson	Log	$\mu$
Binomial	Logit	$\mu(\mu - 1)$
Normal	Identity	1
Gamma	Reciprocal	$\mu^2$
Inverse Gaussian	Reciprocal <sup>2</sup>	$\mu^3$

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models

The Maximum-likelihood estimator leverages the underlying distribution to find regression and dispersion parameters that maximizes the product of general likelihood.

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models

The Maximum-likelihood estimator leverages the underlying distribution to find regression and dispersion parameters that maximizes the product of general likelihood. Let  $\mathbf{Y}$  be a  $N \times 1$  response vector,  $\mathbf{X}$  an  $N \times k$  design matrix and  $\beta$  a  $k \times 1$  regression parameter vector. A mathematical notation for GLM might be specified as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{Y}) &= \boldsymbol{\mu} = g^{-1}(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}). \\ \text{Var}(\mathbf{Y}) &= \boldsymbol{\Sigma} = V(\boldsymbol{\mu}; p)^{\frac{1}{2}}(\tau_0 \mathbf{I})V(\boldsymbol{\mu}; p)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

where  $g$  is the link function,  $V(\boldsymbol{\mu}; p) = \text{diag}(\vartheta(\boldsymbol{\mu}; p))$ , is a diagonal matrix whose main entries are given by the variance function  $\vartheta(; p)$  applied elementwise to the vector  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ . The  $\mathbf{I}$  denotes the  $N \times N$  identity, whereas  $\tau_0$  and  $p$  are the dispersion and power parameters.

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models

### Assumptions

Linearity upon the link function;

The random variable  $Y$  is independently distributed as some exponential family distribution;

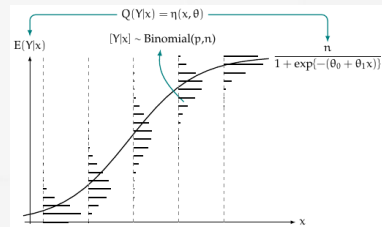
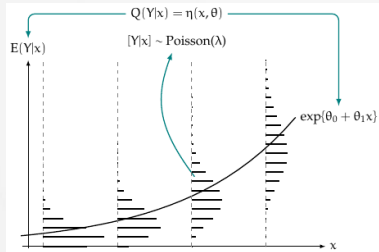
# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Linear Models

### Assumptions

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The random variable  $Y$  is independently distributed as some exponential family distribution;



Poisson and Binomial regression.

# Statistical Models, History

## Quasi-likelihood

In 1974, one of the authors for GLM, Wedderburn, wrote an iconic paper "Quasi-Likelihood Functions, Generalized Linear Models, and the Gauss-Newton Method".

Wedderburn proposed a near likelihood estimator, the quasi-likelihood, which doesn't rely on a distribution model. Yet asymptotically, the convergence is guaranteed.

Quasi-score is an Estimating Equation for Quasi-likelihood functions.

Most of the time, it is unreasonable to assume statisticians know the probability model upfront.

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Estimating Equations

In 1986, Liang and Zeger published the paper "Longitudinal data analysis using generalized linear models", which establishes an extension of generalized linear models to the analysis of longitudinal data.

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For example, the severity of respiratory disease along with the nutritional status, age and family income of children might be observed once every three months for an 18 month period. The dependence of the outcome variable, severity of disease, on the covariates is of interest.



# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Estimating Equations

In 1986, Liang and Zeger published the paper "Longitudinal data analysis using generalized linear models", which establishes an extension of generalized linear models to the analysis of longitudinal data.

For example, the severity of respiratory disease along with the nutritional status, age and family income of children might be observed once every three months for an 18 month period. The dependence of the outcome variable, severity of disease, on the covariates is of interest.

This paper introduces estimating equations that give consistent estimates of the regression parameters and of their variances under weak assumptions about the joint distribution. The dispersion parameters remain nuisance.

# Statistical Models, History

## Generalized Estimating Equations

A correlation matrix establishes the dependence between components of the response variable analyzed.

A list of usual dependence structures for GEEs: independent, autoregressive, exchangeable, unstructured, stationary-M, M-dependent or non-stationary.

Therefore, A GEE has four components:

- ▶ Linear Predictor;
- ▶ Link function;
- ▶ Variance function;
- ▶ Correlation Matrix(Dependence Structure).

# Statistical Models, History

## Copulas and Mixed Models

### Copulas

- ▶ Copulas can calculate any joint distribution with its marginals, alongside the vital statistical properties of these family distributions.
- ▶ Copulas can model the dependence of several random variables. Sklar (1959).
- ▶ Estimation by either the classical Maximum Likelihood or a Bayesian-based inference.

# Statistical Models, History

## Copulas and Mixed Models

### Copulas

- ▶ Copulas can calculate any joint distribution with its marginals, alongside the vital statistical properties of these family distributions.
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- ▶ Estimation by either the classical Maximum Likelihood or a Bayesian-based inference.

### Random Effect Models

- ▶ It was introduced by Ronald Fisher back in 1950s to study dependent data. Two level of random components: Fixed Effect and Random Effects.
- ▶ Breslow and Clayton (1993) penalized quasi-likelihood.
- ▶ Fahrmeir, L. and Lang, S. (2001). Bayesian inference for generalized additive mixed models based on Markov random field priors.

# Statistical Models, History

## MCGLM

- ▶ MCGLM, 2015. Bonat, Jørgensen; A brand new family of Statistical Models: Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models.
- ▶ The model can fit many kinds of dependence, such as longitudinal and spatial dependence. This dependence is specified by the means of dependence matrices and covariance link functions.
- ▶ MCGLM can also fit multi-responses at once.

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# Project Goals

- ▶ This project aims to implement `mcglm` in Python. Thus far, only R users could access the algorithm.
- ▶ The main Python library for statistical models, the `statsmodels`, implements GEE, Mixed Models and Copulas.
- ▶ This brand new-Python library inherits the `statsmodels` basic methods and interface, delivering a new API that the library itself can wrap.
- ▶ The `mcglm` library leverages `numpy`, `scipy`, `statsmodels` and `csr_matrix`;
- ▶ The `numpy` uses BLAS and LAPACK, such as R packages.
- ▶ The `mcglm` library implements some dependencies matrices as moving averages, mixed models, and the independent case through methods: `mc_ma()`, `mc_mixed()` and `mc_id()`.

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# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Mathematical Notation

Let  $X_r$  denote an  $N \times k_r$  a design matrix and  $\beta_r$  a  $k_r \times 1$  regression parameter vector for the response  $r$ . The mean and variance for MCGLM are:

$$\begin{aligned} E(\mathbf{Y}) &= \mathbf{M} = \{g_1^{-1}(\mathbf{X}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}_1), \dots, g_R^{-1}(\mathbf{X}_R\boldsymbol{\beta}_R)\}. \\ \text{Var}(\mathbf{Y}) &= \mathbf{C} = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_R \overset{G}{\otimes} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_b. \end{aligned}$$

The component  $C$  is calculated by means of generalized product Kronecker

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_R \overset{G}{\otimes} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_b = \text{Bdiag}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_R)(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_b \otimes \mathbf{I})\text{Bdiag}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_1^T, \dots, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_R^T)$$

The matrix  $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_r$  denotes a lower triangular matrix, resulting of a Cholesky decomposition from  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_r$ . The operator Bdiag itemize a block diagonal matrix e  $\mathbf{I}$  denotes  $N \times N$  an identity matrix.

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Mathematical Notation

The matrix  $\Sigma_r$ , a.k.a covariance matrix of the outcome  $r$ , is defined by:

$$\Sigma_r = V(\boldsymbol{\mu}_r; p_r)^{\frac{1}{2}} (\boldsymbol{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\tau}_r)) V(\boldsymbol{\mu}_r; p_r)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Where  $V(\boldsymbol{\mu}_r; p_r) = \text{diag}(\vartheta(\boldsymbol{\mu}_r; p_r))$  is a diagonal matrix, whose entries are defined by means of variance functions. Each function distinguishes marginal distribution. Finally, the operation omega  $\boldsymbol{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\tau}_r)$ , the matrix linear matricial, describes the covariance inhrently to the mean structure.

$$\boldsymbol{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\tau}_r) = h_r^{-1}(\tau_{r0}Z_{r0} + \cdots + \tau_{rD}Z_{rD}).$$

Where  $h$  is a covariance link function specified. The matrices  $Z$  specifies the data dependencies.

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Mathematical Notation

Finally,  $\Sigma_b$  the  $R \times R$  correlation matrix between outcomes, calculated by the Pearson estimator.

Getting back to the mean.

$$E(\mathbf{Y}) = \mathbf{M} = \{g_1^{-1}(\mathbf{X}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}_1), \dots, g_r^{-1}(\mathbf{X}_r\boldsymbol{\beta}_r)\}.$$

Where  $\mathbf{M}$  is a vector of  $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r)$ . The vector  $\boldsymbol{\beta}_r$  is the regressor vector for the outcome  $r$ , and  $g_r^{-1}$  is the inverse of the link function for the outcome  $r$ .

# Statistical Models, History

## MCGLM

MCGLM five components:

- ▶ Linear Predictor;
- ▶ Link function;
- ▶ Variance function;
- ▶ Z matrices for the dependence specification;
- ▶ Covariance link function.

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Estimation and Inference

- ▶ MCGLM implements the second-moment assumptions, grounded on two moments for the estimation: the mean and the variance.
- ▶ There are two optimization algorithms and two estimating equations.
- ▶ The estimation produces two groups of parameters: regression and dispersion.

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## The second-moment assumptions

Mean - Quasi-score function

$$\psi_{\beta}(\beta, \lambda) = \mathbf{D}^{\top} \mathbf{C}^{-1}(\mathcal{Y} - \mathcal{M}).$$

Where  $\mathbf{D} = \nabla_{\beta} \mathcal{M}$  and  $\nabla_{\beta}$  denotes the gradient operator.

Fisher scoring algorithm.

Finally, matrices *sensitivity* and *variability* of  $\psi_{\beta}$  are given by:

$$\mathbf{S}_{\beta} = -\mathbf{D}^{\top} \mathbf{C}^{-1} \mathbf{D} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{V}_{\beta} = \mathbf{D}^{\top} \mathbf{C}^{-1} \mathbf{D}.$$

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## The second-moment assumptions

Variance - Pearson Estimating Equation Function

$$\psi_{\lambda}(\beta, \lambda) = \text{tr}(W_{\lambda}(\mathbf{r}^{\top} \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{C})).$$

Where  $W_{\lambda_i} = -\partial \mathbf{C}^{-1} / \partial \lambda_i$  and  $\mathbf{r} = \mathcal{Y} - \mathcal{M}$  for the dispersion parameters.

Modified Chaser algorithm.

The entry  $(i, j)$  of the  $Q \times Q$  *sensitivity* matrix of  $\psi_{\lambda}$  is given by,

$$S_{\lambda_{ij}} = E \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_i} \psi_{\lambda_j} \right) = -\text{tr} (W_{\lambda_i} \mathbf{C} W_{\lambda_j} \mathbf{C}).$$

The entry  $(i, j)$  of the  $Q \times Q$  *variability* matrix of  $\psi_{\lambda}$  is given by

$$V_{\lambda_{ij}} = \text{Cov}(\psi_{\lambda_i}, \psi_{\lambda_j}) = 2\text{tr}(W_{\lambda_i} \mathbf{C} W_{\lambda_j} \mathbf{C}) + \sum_{l=1}^{NR} k_l^{(4)} (W_{\lambda_i})_{ll} (W_{\lambda_j})_{ll},$$

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## The second-moment assumptions

The python mcglm library implements modified chaser algorithm to solve the system of equations  $\psi_{\beta} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\psi_{\lambda} = \mathbf{0}$ , defined by:

$$\begin{aligned}\beta^{(i+1)} &= \beta^{(i)} - S_{\beta}^{-1} \psi_{\beta}(\beta^{(i)}, \lambda^{(i)}) \\ \lambda^{(i+1)} &= \lambda^{(i)} - \alpha S_{\lambda}^{-1} \psi_{\lambda}(\beta^{(i+1)}, \lambda^{(i)}).\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

The second-moment assumptions derive two group of parameters:  $\theta = (\beta^{\top}, \lambda^{\top})^{\top}$ , where  $\beta = (\beta_1^{\top}, \dots, \beta_R^{\top})^{\top}$  and  $\lambda = (\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{R(R-1)/2}, p_1, \dots, p_R, \tau_1^{\top}, \dots, \tau_R^{\top})^{\top}$ . The dispersion vector  $\rho$ ,  $p$  and  $\tau$  refer to correlation coefficients, power and dispersion parameters, respectively.



# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Estimation and Inference

Let  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^\top, \hat{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^\top)^\top$  the estimator of estimating equation of  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ . The asymptotic distribution of  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$  is:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sim N(\boldsymbol{\theta}, J_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-1})$$

where  $J_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-1}$  is the inverse of Godambe matrix,

$$J_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-1} = S_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-1} V_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} S_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-T},$$

where  $S_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-T} = (S_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{-1})^T$ .

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

Specification - Candidates, from R package.

- ▶ Link Function: identity, logit, log, probit, cauchy, cloglog, loglog, negative binomial, reciprocal.
- ▶ Variance Function: constant, binomialP, binomialPQ, tweedie, geometric tweedie, poisson tweedie.
- ▶ Covariance Function: identity, expm, inverse.

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Matrix Linear Predictor - Feasible Models

- ▶ linear regression.
- ▶ quasi likelihood models.
- ▶ double generalized linear models.
- ▶ linear mixed model.
- ▶ moving average models.
- ▶ exchangeable or compound symmetry.
- ▶ unstructured models(popular in longitudinal data analysis).
- ▶ conditional autoregressive models(time series, spatial and space-time data).
- ▶ models in quantitative genetic and phylogenetic.
- ▶ models for Twin and family data.

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Matrix Linear Predictor - Examples

The compound symmetry or exchangeable structure.

$$\mathbf{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = \tau_0 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \tau_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Unstructured.

$$\mathbf{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = \tau_0 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \tau_1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \tau_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \tau_3 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Moving Average, 2-window.

$$\mathbf{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = \tau_0 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \tau_1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \tau_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models

## Measures of goodness-of-fit

Gaussian Pseudo Log Likelihood (plogLik):

$$\text{plogLik}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{NR}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \log |\hat{\mathbf{C}}| - (\mathcal{Y} - \hat{\mathcal{M}})^\top \hat{\mathbf{C}}^{-1} (\mathcal{Y} - \hat{\mathcal{M}}).$$

The pseudo *Akaike* information criterion pAIC is given by

$$\text{pAIC}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 2(P + Q) - 2\text{plogLik}(\boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

The pseudo *Bayesian* information criterion pBIC is given by

$$\text{pBIC}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log NR(P + Q) - 2\text{plogLik}(\boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

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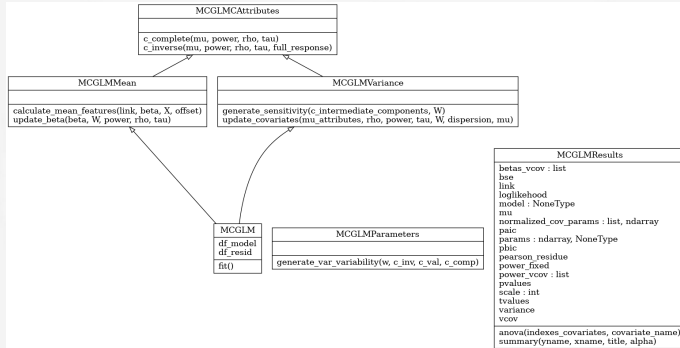
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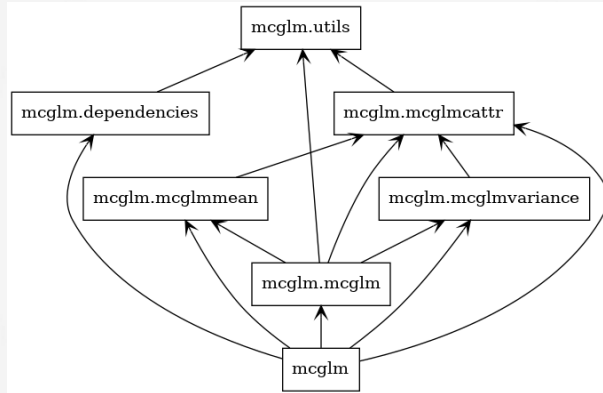
# Python Implementation

## Classes



# Python Implementation

## Packages





# Python Implementation

## Interface

```
from mcglm import MCGLM, mc_id

mcglm = MCGLM(endog=y, exog=X, z=[mc_id(X)], link="log", variance="tweedie",
power=2)

mcglmresults = mcglm.fit()
mcglmresults.summary()
```

# Python Implementation

## Unit Testing

92% of test coverage

```
===== 26 passed in 2.80s =====
jean@pop-os:~/dev/Github/mcglm$ poetry run coverage report
Name                               Stmts  Miss  Cover
-----
mcglm/__init__.py                   7      0   100%
mcglm/dependencies.py               43      3    93%
mcglm/mcglm.py                     473     75    84%
mcglm/mcglmcattr.py                252     21    92%
mcglm/mcglmmean.py                 55      0   100%
mcglm/mcglmvariance.py             36      0   100%
mcglm/utils.py                     20      0   100%
tests/__init__.py                   0      0   100%
tests/test_dependencies.py          32      0   100%
tests/test_mcglm.py                283      0   100%
-----
TOTAL                             1201     99    92%
```

# Python Implementation

## Available Functions

- ▶ Link Functions: logit, identity, log, probit, cauchy, cloglog, loglog, negative binomial, reciprocal.
- ▶ Variance Functions: constant, tweedie, binomialP, binomialPQ, geom\_tweedie, poisson\_tweedie.
- ▶ Covariance Functions: identity.

# Python Implementation

## Variance Function - options

Variance Function	Formula
constant	1
tweedie	$\mu^p$
binomialP	$\mu(1 - \mu)$
binomialPQ	$\mu^p(1 - \mu)^q$
poisson_tweedie	$\mu + \mu^p$
geom_tweedie	$\mu^2 + \mu^p$

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```
https://github.com/jeancmaia/mcglm/blob/main/nbks/qualification\_  
examples.ipynb
```

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# The next steps

## Tasks to be accomplished

- ▶ I aim to sustain my final defense by the second week of January 2023;
- ▶ To craft and publish open and practical documentation for users on `medium.com`;
- ▶ To refine the article for submitting to a scientific journal;
- ▶ To apply the final suggestions of my board of examiners;