

Political Methodology III: Model Based Inference

Justin Grimmer

Professor
Department of Political Science
Stanford University

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Model Based Inference

- 1) Likelihood inference
- 2) Logit/Probit
- 3) Ordered Probit
- 4) Choice Models:
 - Multinomial Probit
 - a) DGP
 - b) No IIA, But No Likelihood
 - c) Quantities of Interest
 - d) Interpretation
 - Count Models
 - Poisson Regression
 - DGP
 - Quantities of Interest
 - Interpretation
 - Negative Binomial Regression
 - DGP
 - Quantities of Interest
 - Interpretation

Revisiting The IIA Assumption

- IIA (Trump, Cruz, and Sanders)
- Formally: MNL assumes ϵ_{ij} is i.i.d. $\epsilon_{ij} \perp\!\!\!\perp \epsilon_{ik}$ for $j \neq k$
- This implies that unobserved factors affecting Y_{ij}^* are unrelated to those affecting Y_{ik}^*
- When is this assumption plausible?
- Example: Multiparty election with parties R, L1 and L2.
- Do voters' unobserved ideological preferences affect $\Pr(Y_i = \text{L1})$ independently of their effect on $\Pr(Y_i = \text{L2})$? Probably not.

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Multinomial Probit Model

- How can we relax the IIA assumption?
- Instead of assuming ϵ_{ij} to be i.i.d. across alternatives j , we allow ϵ_{ij} to be correlated across j within each voter i
- Multinomial probit model (MNP):

$$Y_i^* = X_i' \beta + \epsilon_i \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} \epsilon_i \sim_{\text{iid}} \text{MVN}(0, \Sigma_J) \\ Y_i^* = [Y_{i1}^* \cdots Y_{iJ}^*]' \\ X_i = [X_{i1} \cdots X_{iJ}]' \end{cases}$$

- Restrictions on the model for identifiability:
 - The (absolute) **level** of Y_i^* shouldn't matter
→ Subtract the 1st equation from all the other equations and work with a system of $J - 1$ equations with $\tilde{\epsilon}_i \sim_{\text{iid}} \text{MVN}(0, \tilde{\Sigma}_{J-1})$
 - The **scale** of Y_i^* also shouldn't matter
→ $\tilde{\Sigma}_{(1,1)} = 1$

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Limitations of Multinomial Probit

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$$\pi_{ij} = \int_{-\infty}^{-\ddot{X}_{1j}^\top \beta} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{-\ddot{X}_{Jj}^\top \beta} \phi(\ddot{\epsilon}_{1j}, \dots, \ddot{\epsilon}_{Jj}) d\ddot{\epsilon}_{1j} \cdots d\ddot{\epsilon}_{Jj} \text{ where } \begin{cases} \ddot{X}_{kl} &= X_{ik} - X_{il} \\ \ddot{\epsilon}_{kl} &= \epsilon_{ik} - \epsilon_{il} \end{cases}$$

- This makes its estimation computationally costly when J large
- Must use numerical approximation (quadratures) or simulation methods (maximum simulated likelihood or MCMC)
- Moreover, # of parameters in Σ_J increases as J gets large, but data contain little information about Σ_J :

J	3	4	5	6	7
# of elements in Σ_J	6	10	15	21	28
# of parameters identified	2	5	9	14	20

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Even When You Choose Not To Decide, You Still Have Made a Choice

Lacy and Burden (1999)

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	Actual	3-choice	4-choice
Bush	32.0	45.7	38.4
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Abstention	20.9	-	23.7

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Perot stole from Clinton!

Event Count Models

Event Count Outcomes

- Outcome: number of times an event occurs

$$Y_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, \}$$

- Examples:

- 1) Number of militarized disputes a country is involved in
- 2) Number of times a phrase is used
- 3) Number of messages into a Congressional office
- 4) Number of votes cast for a particular candidate

- Goal:

- Model the **rate** at which events occur
- Understand how an intervention (e.g. country becoming a democracy) affects rate
- Predict number of future events

Deriving the Poisson Distribution

Suppose that events occur

- 1) Continuously (no simultaneous events)
- 2) Independently (occurrence of one event has no effect on occurrence of other event)
- 3) With constant probability

Poisson Distribution

Poisson Distribution

Definition

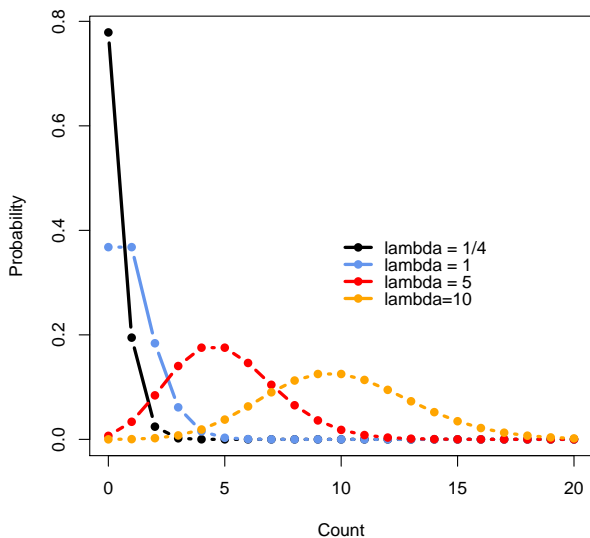
Suppose Y is a random variable that takes on values $Y \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ and that $P(Y = y) = p(y)$ is,

$$p(y) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^y}{y!}$$

*for $y \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$ and 0 otherwise. Then we will say that Y follows a **Poisson** distribution with **rate** parameter λ .*

$$Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$$

Poisson Distribution



Poisson Distribution

Suppose $Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$. Then:

$$E[Y] = \lambda$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \lambda$$

If $Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ then the **wait time** between events, $W \sim \text{Exponential}(\frac{1}{\lambda})$

Poisson Distribution: Modeling Number of International Incidents

Suppose we observe N observations with

$$Y_i \sim_{\text{iid}} \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} L(\lambda|\mathbf{Y}) &= f(\mathbf{Y}|\lambda) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N f(Y_i|\lambda) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{Y_i}}{Y_i!} \end{aligned}$$

Poisson Distribution: Modeling Number of International Incidents

$$\begin{aligned}L(\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\mathbf{Y}) &= \prod_{i=1}^N e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{Y_i}}{Y_i!} \\ \log L(\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\mathbf{Y}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N (-\lambda + Y_i \log \lambda + \text{red } Y_i!) \\ &= -N\lambda + \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i \log \lambda + c\end{aligned}$$

Poisson Distribution: Modeling Number of International Incidents

Differentiate, set equal to zero and solve:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \ell(\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\mathbf{Y})}{\partial \lambda} &= -N + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{Y_i}{\lambda} \\ 0 &= -N + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{Y_i}{\lambda^*} \\ \lambda^* &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N Y_i}{N}\end{aligned}$$

Poisson Distribution: Modeling Number of International Incidents

Uncertainty: inverse of negative expected hessian

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial^2 \ell(\boldsymbol{\lambda} | \mathbf{Y})}{\partial \lambda \partial \lambda} &= - \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N E[Y_i]}{\lambda^2} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \left(\frac{N\lambda}{\lambda^2} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \left(\frac{N}{\lambda} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{\bar{Y}}{N} \text{ evaluated at MLE}\end{aligned}$$

Asymptotically,

$$\lambda^* \longrightarrow^D \text{Normal}(\bar{Y}, \frac{\bar{Y}}{N})$$

Modeling the rate with covariates

Poisson Regression

$$Y_i \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_i)$$
$$\lambda_i = \exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta})$$

This implies:

$$\begin{aligned} L(\boldsymbol{\beta} | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) &= f(\mathbf{Y} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N f(Y_i | \mathbf{X}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left\{ -\exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}) \right\} \frac{\exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta})^{Y_i}}{Y_i!} \end{aligned}$$

Poisson Regression

$$L(\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{Y}) = \prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left\{ -\exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}) \right\} \frac{\exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta})^{Y_i}}{Y_i!}$$

$$\log L(\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{Y}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(-\exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}) + Y_i \mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} - \text{log } Y_i \right)$$

Score: $s(\boldsymbol{\beta}|Y_i, \mathbf{X}_i) =$

$$\left((Y_i - \exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta})), (Y_i - \exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}))X_{i1}, \dots, (Y_i - \exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}))X_{iK} \right)$$

Hessian:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta} \partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} = -\exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}) \mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{X}_i'$$

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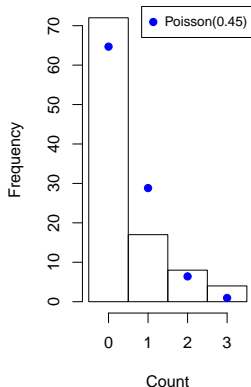
- 1) Bootstrap
- 2) Delta Method
- 3) Simulation

Example: Democracy and War Involvement

Benoit (1996):

- Y_i : # of involvement in international wars, 1960–80
- X_i : democracy (Freedom House score), population, military capacity, economic interdependence

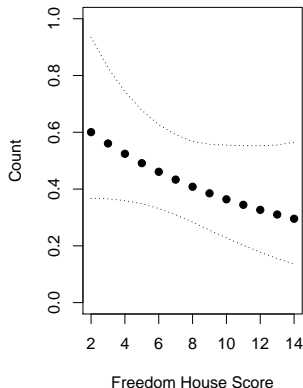
N. of Wars, 1960–80



Coefficients:

	Est.	s.e.	
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	z	p	
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Estimated Mean Count of War

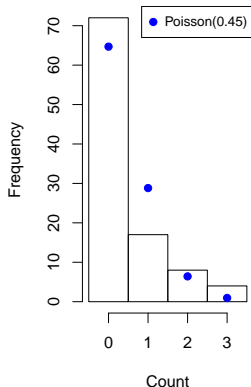


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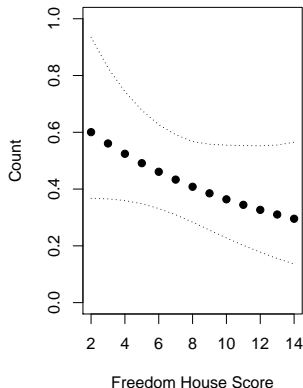
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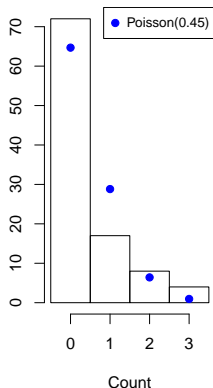
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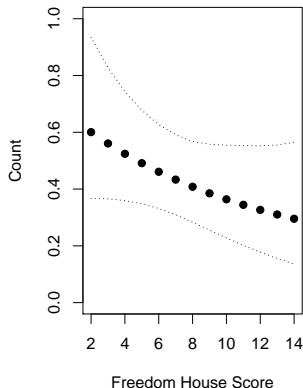
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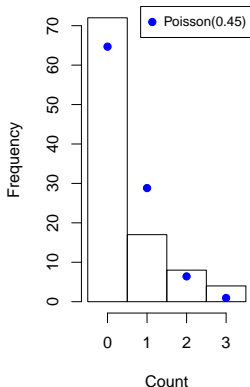


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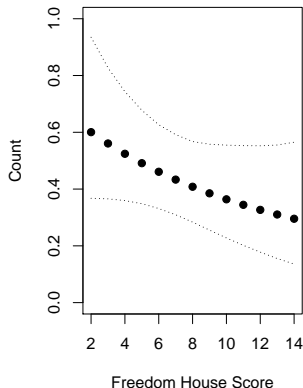
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Overdispersion in Poisson Model

- The Poisson model assumes $E(Y_i | X_i) = \text{Var}(Y_i | X_i)$
- But for many count data, $E(Y_i | X_i) < \text{V}(Y_i | X_i)$

- Potential sources of overdispersion:

- 1 unobserved heterogeneity
- 2 clustering
- 3 contagion or diffusion
- 4 (classical) measurement error

- Underdispersion could occur, but rare

- One solution to this is to modify the Poisson model by assuming:

$$E(Y_i | X_i) = \lambda_i = \exp(X_i^\top \beta) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Var}(Y_i | X_i) = V_i = \sigma^2 \lambda_i$$

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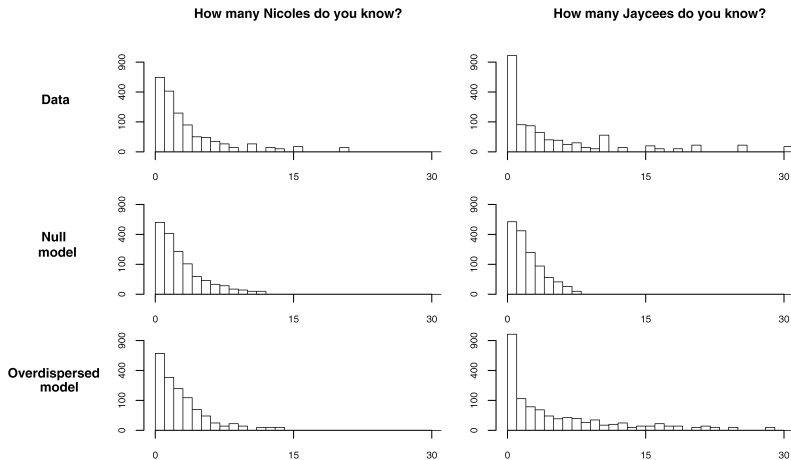
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Example: Social Network Survey Data



(Zheng, et al., 2006 *JASA*)

Negative Binomial Distribution

Suppose $Y_i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. If Y_i has pmf

$$p(y_i) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda}{\sigma^2-1} + y_i\right)}{y_i! \Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda}{\sigma^2-1}\right)} \left(\frac{\sigma^2-1}{\sigma^2}\right)^{y_i} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{-\lambda}{\sigma^2-1}}$$

Then we will say

$$\begin{aligned} Y_i &\sim \text{NegBin}(\lambda, \sigma^2) \\ E[Y_i] &= \lambda \\ \text{Var}(Y_i) &= \lambda \sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

Negative Binomial Regression

Suppose:

$$\begin{aligned}Y_i &\sim \text{Negative Binomial}(\lambda_i, \sigma^2) \\ \lambda_i &= \exp(\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta})\end{aligned}$$

This implies a likelihood of:

$$\begin{aligned}L(\boldsymbol{\beta} | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) &= f(\mathbf{Y} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N f(Y_i | \mathbf{X}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\sigma^2 - 1} + y_i\right)}{y_i! \Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\sigma^2 - 1}\right)} \left(\frac{\sigma^2 - 1}{\sigma^2}\right)^{y_i} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{-\lambda_i}{\sigma^2 - 1}}\end{aligned}$$

Optimize numerically. Usual theorems about asymptotic distributions apply.

Negative Binomial Regression

Negative Binomial Regression:

1) Variance is sometimes:

$$\text{Var}(Y_i | \mathbf{X}_i) = \lambda_i(1 + \sigma^2 \lambda_i)$$

2) Run in R using

```
library(MASS)  
out<- glm.nb(Y~X)
```

Clustering and Survival analysis