

# Overdispersion and Distributions

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## Overdispersion

- In poisson model

$$y_i \sim \text{poisson}(\lambda_i)$$

$$E(y_i) = (\lambda_i)$$

$$V(y_i) = (\lambda_i)$$

- GLM ‘estimation notation’

$$\mu_i = E(y_i)$$

$$V(\mu_i) = \phi\mu_i, \phi > 1$$

$$= \phi V(\mu_i)$$

*Note:*  $\phi > 1$  implies overdispersion in your model

- Likelihood equations

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - \mu_i)x_{ij}}{v(\mu_i)} \left( \frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial \eta_i} \right) = 0$$

for  $j = 1, \dots, p$ , this depends on the distribution of  $y$  through  $\mu, v(\mu)$

if add  $\phi$

$$\phi \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - \mu_i)x_{ij}}{v(\mu_i)}$$

Having  $\frac{1}{\phi}$  in these equations doesn't change MLE of  $\beta$ 's (it ends up dropping out of the equation)

However:

$$\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}) = (X^T W X)^{-1} = \phi \text{cov}_{GLM}(\hat{\beta})$$

*Note:*  $\text{cov}_{GLM}$  with no dispersion

$W$  is a matrix with diagonal  $w_i$

$$w_i = \frac{(\frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial \eta_i})^2}{v(\mu_i)} = \frac{(\frac{\partial \mu_i}{\partial \eta_i})^2}{\phi \mu_i}$$

## When is Overdispersion Necessary Ex: 4.7.4

Start with standardized residual from non-OD model

$$Z_i = \frac{y_i - (\hat{y}_i)}{sd(\hat{y}_i)} = \frac{y_i - \mu_i}{\sqrt{\mu_i}} \sim N(0, 1)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N z_i^2 \sim \chi_{n-k}^2$$

Note: k is the number of parameters

$\hat{\phi} = \frac{\sum z_i^2}{n-k}$  summarizes overdispersion in data compared to model, if  $\hat{\phi} > 1$  then we should use overdispersion

R code is `glm(..., family = "quassipoisson" or "quasibinomial")`

Back-of-envelope

$$SE_{overdispersion}(\hat{\beta}) = SE_{overdispersion}(\hat{\beta}) * \hat{\phi}^{1/2}$$

We can estimate the sampling distribution of  $\hat{\beta}'s$ :

$$cov(\hat{\beta}) = (X^T W X)^{-1}$$

1. Confidence interval

$$\hat{\beta} + 2 * SE(\hat{\beta})$$

Under certain conditions,  $SE(\hat{\beta})$  achieves the lowest possible variance for an unbiased estimator. The conditions include: independence of observations, random sample from population of interest, large enough sample size, and the model is true.

2. Hypothesis Test

$$H_0 : \beta = \beta_0$$

p-value is when we assume  $H_0$  is true and calculate the probability of observing  $\hat{p}$  or  $Pr(\hat{\beta}|\beta_0 \text{ is true})$

### Likelihood Bayesian Analysis

- No fixed "true"  $\beta$
  - Posterior distribution is same as our likelihood
- posterior = likelihood (prior)