

Maximum likelihood estimation

If we want to apply the **method of scoring** to approximate the MLE, the estimating equation is

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(m)} &= \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(m-1)} + [\mathcal{I}^{(m-1)}]^{-1} \mathbf{u}^{(m-1)} \\ [\mathcal{I}^{(m-1)}] \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(m)} &= [\mathcal{I}^{(m-1)}] \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(m-1)} + \mathbf{u}^{(m-1)}\end{aligned}\quad (3.1.7)$$

From Equation (3.1.6), the information matrix can be written as

$$\mathcal{I} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X} \quad (3.1.8)$$

where $w_{ii} = \frac{1}{\text{Var}(\mathbf{Y}_i)} \left(\frac{d\mu_i}{d\eta_i} \right)^2$ evaluated at $\boldsymbol{\beta}$.

Finally, the expression on the right hand side of (3.1.7) can be written as

$$\sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\mathbf{X}_{ij} \mathbf{X}_{ik}}{\text{Var}(\mathbf{Y}_i)} \left(\frac{d\mu_i}{d\eta_i} \right)^2 \hat{\beta}_k^{(m-1)} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(\mathbf{Y}_i - \mu_i) \mathbf{X}_{ij}}{\text{Var}(\mathbf{Y}_i)} \left(\frac{d\mu_i}{d\eta_i} \right)$$

which can be written in matrix terms as

$$\mathcal{I}^{(m-1)} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(m-1)} + \mathbf{u}^{(m-1)} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{W} \mathbf{z} \quad (3.1.9)$$

where

$$\mathbf{z}_i = \sum_{k=1}^p \mathbf{X}_{ik} \hat{\beta}_k^{(m-1)} + (\mathbf{Y}_i - \mu_i) \left(\frac{d\eta_i}{d\mu_i} \right)$$

Therefore (3.1.7) reads:

$$\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{W}^{(m-1)} \mathbf{X} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(m)} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{W}^{(m-1)} \mathbf{z}^{(m-1)}$$

This has the same form as the weighted least squares equation. Note, however, **this needs to be solved iteratively**, since \mathbf{W} and \mathbf{z} have to be recalculated at each optimisation step.

Therefore, for generalised linear models, maximum likelihood estimators are obtained by an **iterative weighted least squares** procedure.

