

# Generalized linear models with R

## Introduction to R - Day 3

Instructor: [Selina Baldauf](#)

Freie Universität Berlin - Theoretical Ecology

2021-06-15 (updated: 2021-08-01)

# GLMs background

Assumptions of linear models:

- Normal distribution of residuals
  - errors and response not bounded
- Constant variance of residuals
  - no relationship between mean and variance of  $y$

There are types of data that (generally) violate these assumptions.

# GLMs background

## Count data

- are bounded (cannot be < 0)
- variance increases with the mean  
→ response described by a *poisson distribution*

## Proportion data

- percentages: bounded between 0 and 1
- variance highest at  $p = 0.5$ , lower towards  $p = 0$  and  $1$   
→ response described by a *binomial distribution* (# successes in N trials with probability p)

## Binary data

- Only 0 and 1
- variance highest at  $p = 0.5$ , lower towards  $p = 0$  and  $1$   
→ response described by a *bernoulli distribution* (binomial distribution with N=1)

# GLMs background

## Components of a GLM

- Linear predictor  $\eta_i = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_j * X_{i,j}$ 
  - like a linear model: linear combination of the effects of the predictors  $X_j$
- Error structure
  - non-normal distribution e.g. skewed, bounded, non-negative (e.g. Poisson distribution)
- Link function  $g(\mu_i) = \eta_i$ 
  - relates the expected response values  $\mu_i$  to the linear predictor
  - A linear model is also a glm with a gaussian link function (identity =)
  - predicted values: require inverse link function!

# Parameter estimation in GLMS

## Linear models

- Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)
- Minimizing the residual sum of squares to find parameters
- This method only works if linear model assumptions are not violated

## GLMs

- Maximizing the likelihood (ML)
- **Likelihood:** Probability of the data *given* the model
- **Likelihood function:** How does the likelihood depend on the model parameters? → Maximum: ML parameter estimates of the GLM

# Binomial distribution

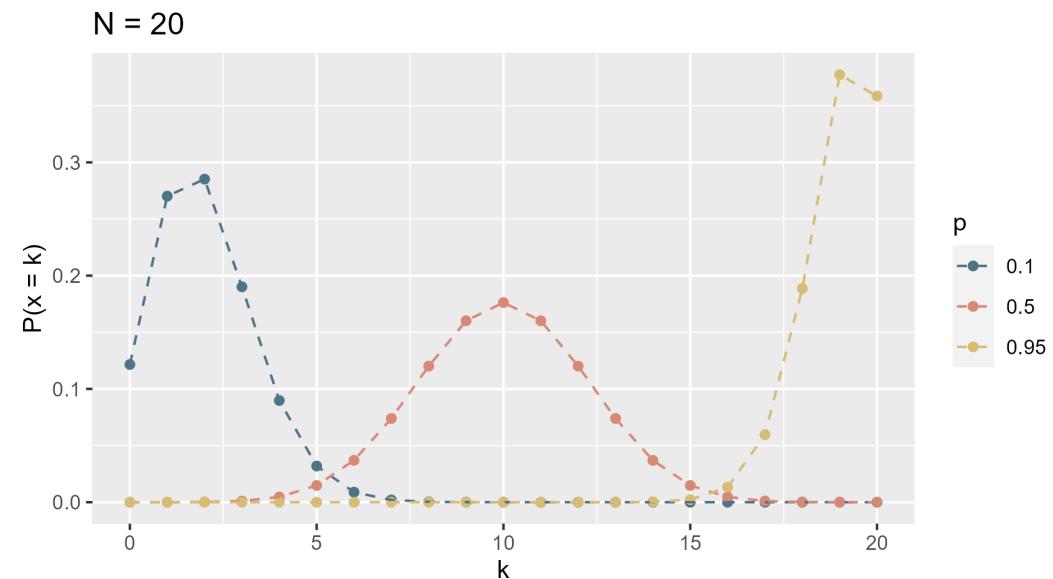
- Frequency distribution of the number of successes of an event with success probability  $p$  and  $N$  trials.
  - E.g. No of "six" with 10 dice:  $p = 0.5, N = 10$

$$f(k) = \binom{N}{k} p^k * (1 - p)^{N-k}$$

$$E(k) = N * p$$

$$Var(k) = N * p * (1 - p)$$

with  $k$  being the number of "successes"



Bernoulli distribution as special case with  $N = 1$  (e.g. coin flip).

# Binomial and binary GLMs

- logit link function:  $\text{logit}(p_i) = \ln\left(\frac{p_i}{1-p_i}\right) = \eta_i$
- inverse link function:  $p_i = \frac{e^{\eta_i}}{1+e^{\eta_i}}$
- binomial error distribution:  $\epsilon \sim B(p_i, N = n)$

# Poisson distribution

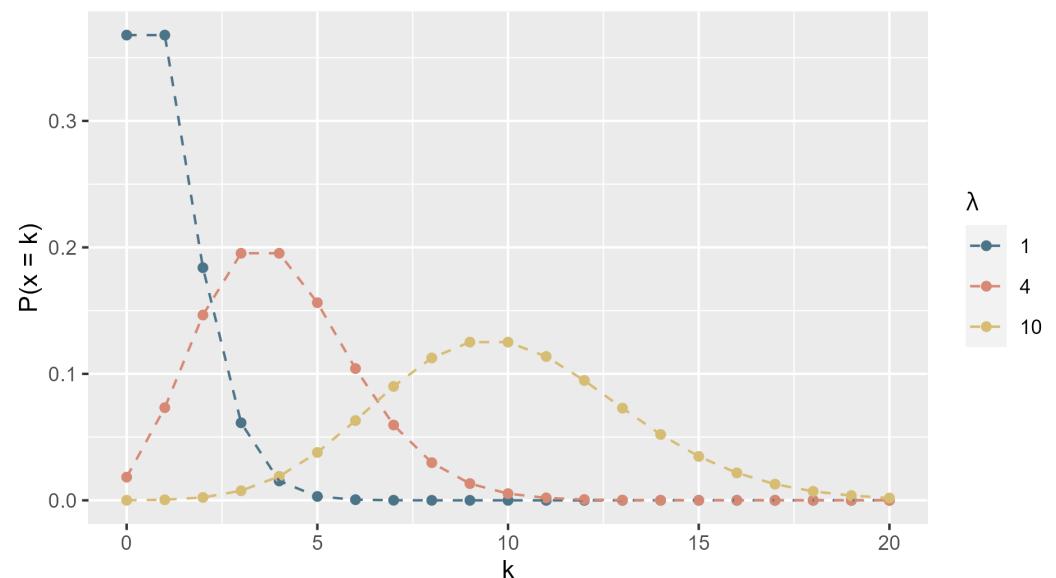
- Frequency distribution of counts of rare events
  - E.g. Bird count in forests

$$f(k) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}$$

$$E(k) = \lambda$$

$$Var(k) = \lambda$$

with  $k$  being the number of occurrences



# Poisson GLMs

- log link function:  $\ln(\lambda_i) = \eta_i$
- inverse link function:  $\lambda_i = e^{\eta_i}$
- poisson error distribution:  $\epsilon \sim P(\lambda_i)$

# GLMs in

Let's look a poisson GLM as example

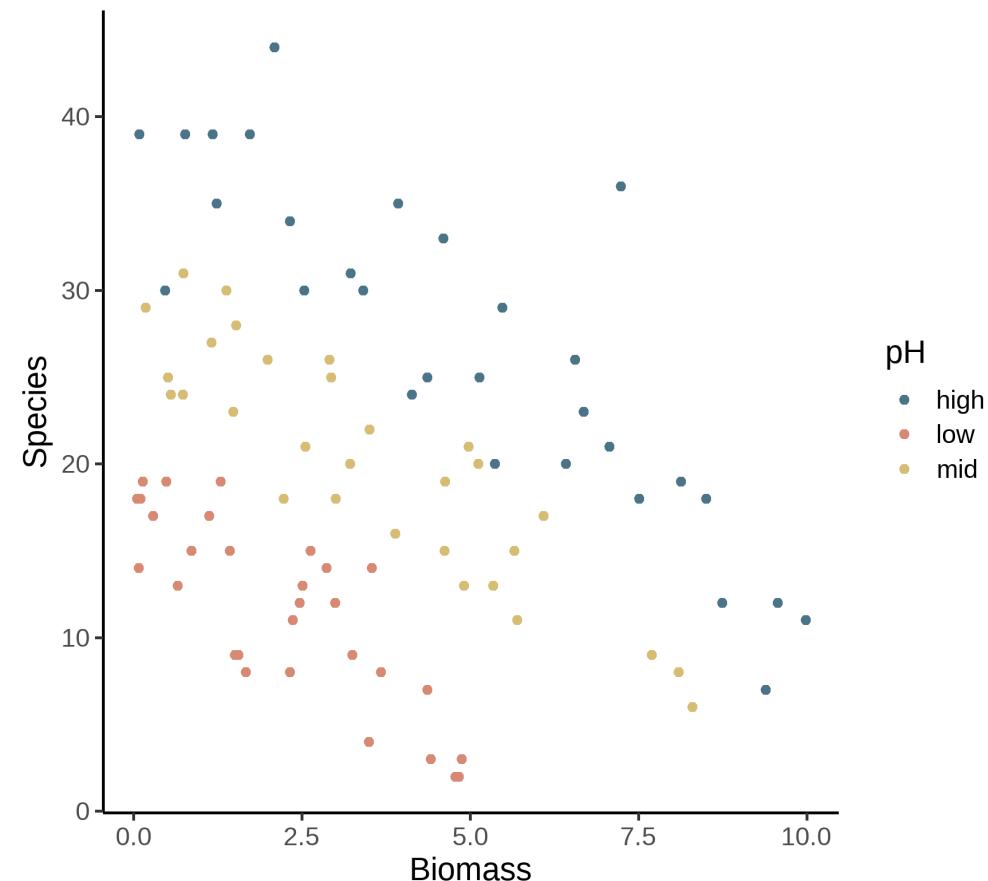
# The data

Data set: Species diversity in plots with different soil pH

- Response variable:
  - number of plant species
- Predictor variables:
  - Plot biomass
  - soil pH

```
specdat
```

```
## # A tibble: 90 x 3
##   pH     Biomass Species
##   <chr>    <dbl>   <dbl>
## 1 high     0.469    30
## 2 high     1.73     39
## 3 high     2.09     44
## 4 high     3.93     35
## # ... with 86 more rows
```



# Fit the model

Question: How do biomass and soil pH influence species richness?

Fit the most complex model with interaction to describe our hypothesis:

```
mod1 <- glm(Species ~ Biomass + pH + Biomass:pH,  
             data = specdat,  
             family = "poisson")
```

- same structure as `lm`
- add `family` argument to specify the error distribution
  - by default, R will pick the corresponding link function for the error distribution.
  - you could also be explicit about link function with `family = poisson(link = "log")`
  - for more information have a look at `?family`

# Summary table

```
summary(mod1)
##
## Call:
## glm(formula = Species ~ Biomass + pH + Biomass:pH, family = "poisson",
##      data = specdat)
##
## Deviance Residuals:
##       Min        1Q     Median        3Q       Max
## -2.4978  -0.7485  -0.0402   0.5575   3.2297
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept) 3.76812  0.06153  61.240 < 2e-16 ***
## Biomass     -0.10713  0.01249  -8.577 < 2e-16 ***
## pHlow       -0.81557  0.10284  -7.931 2.18e-15 ***
## pHmid       -0.33146  0.09217  -3.596 0.000323 ***
## Biomass:pHlow -0.15503  0.04003  -3.873 0.000108 ***
## Biomass:pHmid -0.03189  0.02308  -1.382 0.166954
##
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for poisson family taken to be 1)
##
## Null deviance: 452.346 on 89 degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 83.201 on 84 degrees of freedom
## AIC: 514.39
```

# Summary table

- Coefficients are on scale of link function → cannot be directly interpreted on the scale of the data
- For glms: deviance as measure of goodness-of-fit (for lms it was sum of squared residuals)

# Hypothesis tests in GLMs

- for linear models: F-tests

- $$F = \frac{\frac{SSR}{df(mod1)}}{\frac{SSR}{dfmod2}}$$

- in R: `drop1(mod1, test = "F")`

- for generalized linear models: likelihood-ratio (LR) test

- $$LR = deviance(mod1) - deviance(mod2)$$

- LR follows a  $\chi^2$  distribution

- in R: `drop1(mod1, test = "Chisq")`

# Hypothesis tests in GLMs

Test the significant of the predictors in our model with

```
drop1(mod1, test = "Chisq")
## Single term deletions
##
## Model:
## Species ~ Biomass + pH + Biomass:pH
##          Df Deviance    AIC    LRT Pr(>Chi)
## <none>     83.201 514.39
## Biomass:pH 2    99.242 526.43 16.04 0.0003288 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

If we remove the interaction between biomass and pH from the model, the deviance increases significantly

→ There is a significant effect or biomass and pH on species richness.

# Plot the model

## Option 1: Use predict function

```
# step 1: creat some data to predict from
pred_dat <- expand_grid(
  Biomass = seq(
    from = min(specdat$Biomass),
    to = max(specdat$Biomass),
    length.out = 200),
  pH = unique(specdat$pH)
)
```

```
# step 2: predict species with the new data
# careful: add type = response
pred_dat$Species <- predict(mod1, newdata = pred_dat,
                            type = "response")
```

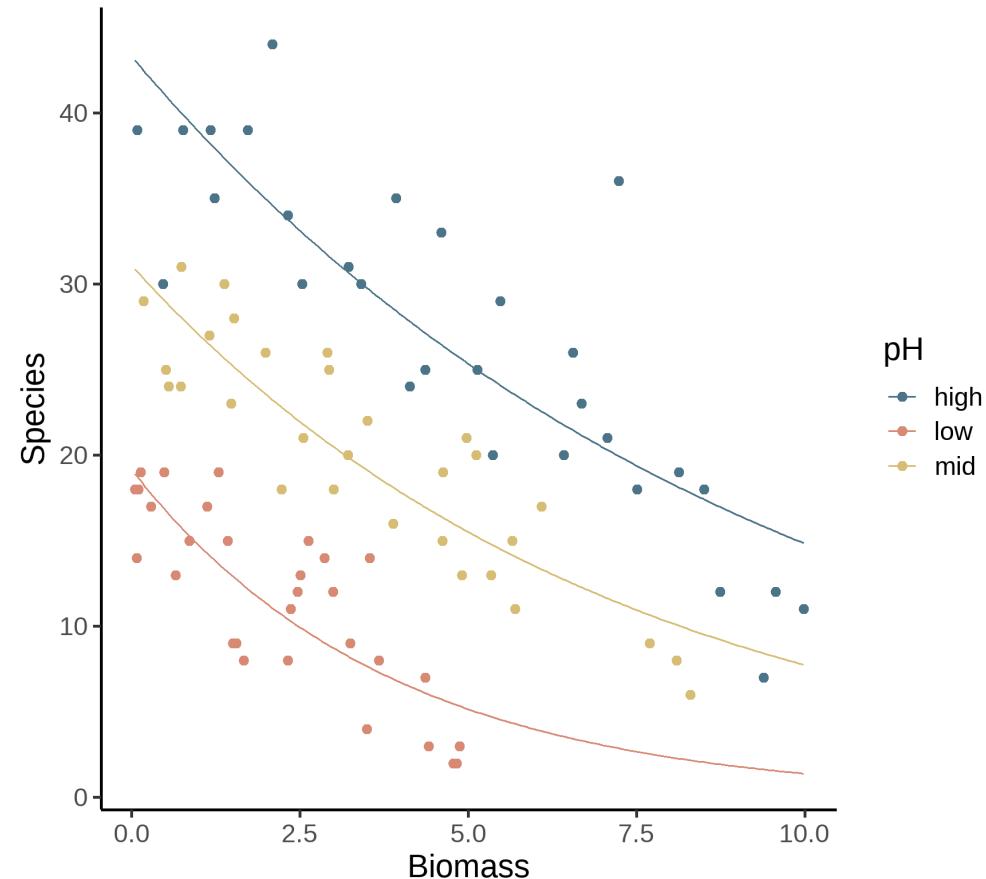
With `type = response` we predict on the scale of the response variable (i.e. the data) and not on the scale of the link function

# Plot the model

## Option 1: Use predict function

```
# define some colors
cols <- c( "#4C7488", "#D78974", "#D7BC74")

# step 3: Add model predictions to the plot
ggplot(specdat, aes(
  y = Species,
  x = Biomass,
  color = pH
)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_line(data = pred_dat) +
  scale_color_manual(values = cols)
```

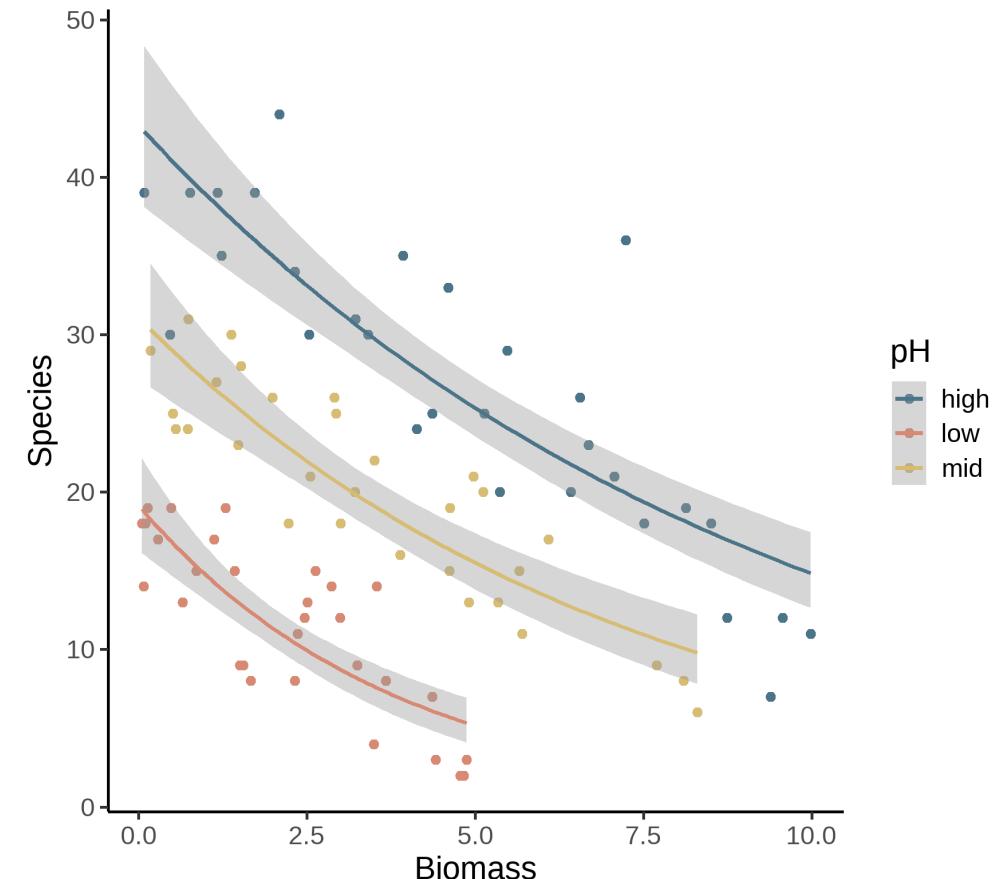


# Plot the results

Option 2: Use `geom_smooth`

```
ggplot(specdat, aes(y = Species, x = Biomass,  
color = pH)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_smooth(  
    method = "glm",  
    method.args = list(  
      family = "poisson"  
    )  
  )
```

- careful: `geom_smooth` always uses most complex model with all interactions
  - in this case: we want exactly that



# GLM with binary data

# Example

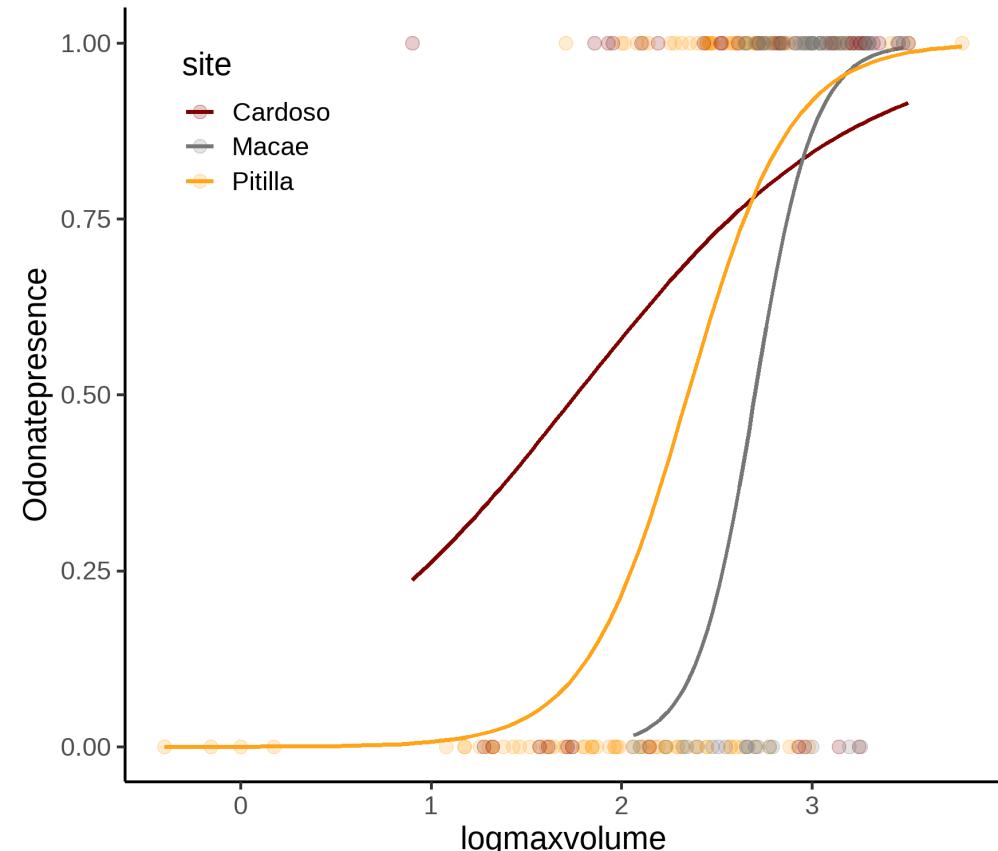
Odonates in water filled bromeliads in Costa Rica.

Variables:

- site: location
- logmaxvolume: bromeliad size
- Odonatepresence: Odonates present (1) or not (0)

Question: How does bromeliad size influence the presence of Odonates?

```
mod <- glm(Odonatepresence ~ logmaxvolume +  
site, data = bromeliad, family = "binomial")
```



Now you

Task 3: Poisson and binary glms with R

Find the task description [here](#)

# GLMs with proportion data

Let's look at an example

# The data

Winter mortality of black-tailed prairie dogs

Question:

How do

- successful mating
- achievement of a certain minimum weight before winter
- hibernation

predict the *probability of survival & death* in winter?



# The data

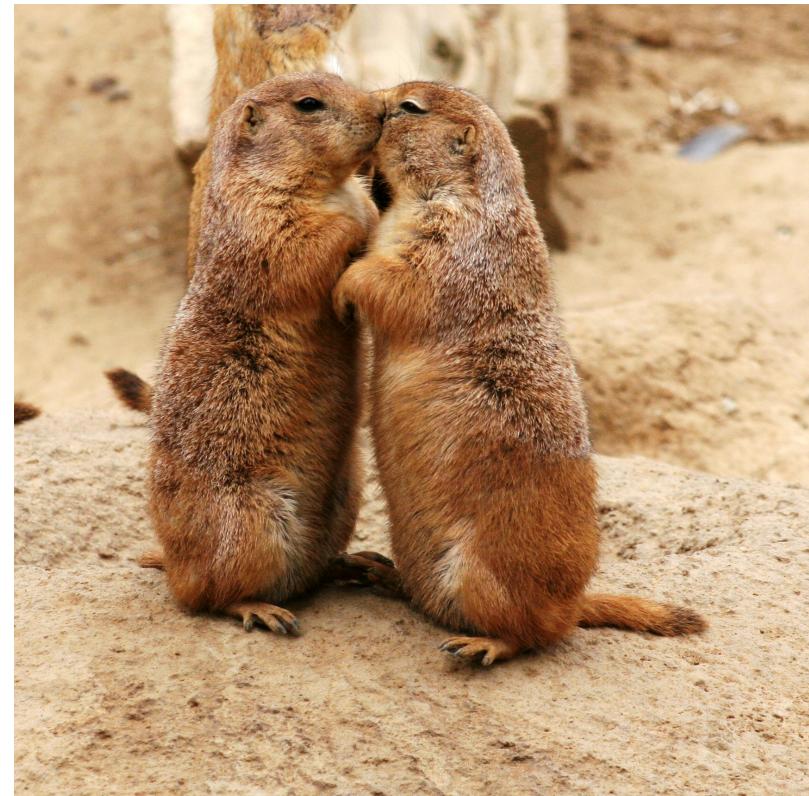
Winter mortality of black-tailed prairie dogs

```
pdogs
```

```
## # A tibble: 8 x 5
##   mated hibernation min.weight n.tot n.death
##   <chr>    <chr>        <chr>      <dbl>     <dbl>
## 1 No      Yes         Yes          60       5
## 2 Yes     Yes         Yes          17       2
## 3 No      No          Yes          8        1
## # ... with 5 more rows
```

- 3 categorical predictors: mated, hibernation, min.weight
- total no. of animals (n.tot)
- number of dead animals (n.death)

→ What is the response variable here?



# The response variable

Winter mortality of black-tailed prairie dogs

Response variable: **proportion** of surviving (or dead) animals

→ Response has to be calculated first:

```
pdogs <- pdogs %>%
  mutate(
    n.surv = n.tot - n.death,
    p.surv = n.surv / n.tot,
    p.dead = 1 - p.surv
  )
```



# The response variable

The response variables (`p.dead` or `p.surv` depending on the question) are now added to the data

```
## # A tibble: 8 x 8
##   mated hibernation min.weight n.tot n.death n.surv p.surv p.dead
##   <chr>    <chr>        <chr>     <dbl>    <dbl>    <dbl>    <dbl>    <dbl>
## 1 No      Yes          Yes       60       5       55     0.917  0.0833
## 2 Yes     Yes          Yes      17       2       15     0.882  0.118
## 3 No      No           Yes       8        1       7     0.875  0.125
## 4 Yes     No           Yes      2        0       2     1       0
## 5 No      Yes          No      187      35      152    0.813  0.187
## # ... with 3 more rows
```

But what could be the problem with that?

→ loss of information in proportions!

- 2 survivors / 4 total = 50%
- 100 survivors / 200 total = 50% **But** 100 out of 200: more information than 2 out of 4

→ data points with higher total number need more weight in model fitting

# Fit the model

Option 1: Give proportion of success as response AND **total number** as weights

```
mod1 <- glm(  
  formula = p.surv ~ ... , # choose predictors according to your hypothesis  
  data = pdogs,  
  family = "binomial",  
  weights = n.tot  
)
```

- `family = "binomial"` by default uses logit link function

# Fit the model

Option 2: Give a **table with two columns** as response:

- No of successes
- No of failures

```
mod1 <- glm(  
  cbind(n.surv, n.death) ~ ....,  
  data = pdogs,  
  family = "binomial"  
)
```

Now you

## Task 4: Binomial glms with proportion data

Find the task description [here](#)