

WEEK 4

TUTORIAL - LOGIT REGRESSION

APPLIED STATISTICAL ANALYSIS II

**LECTURER: JEFFREY ZIEGLER, PhD
TEACHING FELLOW: SHEKHAR KEDIA**

SPRING 2026

ROADMAP FOR TODAY

- Today:

- ▶ Logistic regression
 - 1. Estimate model in R
 - 2. Properly interpret results
 - 3. Compare different models

- By next week...

- ▶ Work on problem set #2!

FROM OLS TO LOGISTIC REGRESSION

- Our over-arching goal is still the same: Make inferences about a population from sample data, but now with a binary outcome
- OLS is problematic for 0–1 outcomes
 - ▶ Predictions can fall outside [0, 1] and normal, constant-variance errors are implausible
 - ▶ Our usual assumptions $Y_i \sim N(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i, \sigma^2)$ is not reasonable
 - Distributions of Y don't have same variability across all x values
 - Means of y at different values of x don't have a linear relationship with x
- Logistic regression re-expresses the conditional mean $E(Y | X)$ as a probability in (0, 1) using a nonlinear link function

THE LOGISTIC MODEL

- For a binary response $Y_i \in \{0, 1\}$, we model

$$\pi_i = P(Y_i = 1 | X_i) = \frac{\exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k X_{ki})}{1 + \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k X_{ki})}$$

- Equivalently, the *log odds* is linearly associated with our covariates:

$$\log\left(\frac{\pi_i}{1 - \pi_i}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k X_{ki}.$$

- This sets up a generalized linear model estimated by maximum likelihood rather than least squares

ODDS, ODDS RATIOS, AND INTERPRETATION

- The *odds* that $Y = 1$ are:

$$\text{odds} = \frac{\pi}{1 - \pi},$$

and the log-odds are:

$$\text{logit}(\pi) = \log\left(\frac{\pi}{1 - \pi}\right).$$

- Interpretation: A one-unit increase in a predictor X_j multiplies the odds by $\exp(\beta_j)$, holding other variables constant
- Ex: If $\exp(\beta_j) = 1.3$, then a one-unit increase in X_j increases the odds of $Y = 1$ by 30%

MODEL ASSESSMENT AND INFERENCE

- Coefficients are tested using Wald tests and confidence intervals based on

$$W = \frac{\hat{\beta}_j}{\text{se}(\hat{\beta}_j)}$$

- Global hypotheses such as

$$H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \cdots = \beta_k = 0$$

are evaluated using likelihood-ratio χ^2 tests comparing residual deviance from full model to nested model

- ▶ Deviance in logistic regression plays a role analogous to residual sum of squares in OLS, with smaller deviance indicating better fit

WRAP UP: BIG PICTURE

- Logistic regression extends linear modeling to binary outcomes by modeling the log-odds as a linear function of predictors and estimating coefficients via maximum likelihood
- Odds ratios, likelihood-ratio tests, and confidence intervals provide a toolkit for interpretation and model checking similar to what we did last term

OVERVIEW

- Just reviewed how to:
 - ▶ Estimate model in R
 - ▶ Properly interpret results
 - ▶ Compare different models
- Now, let's practice on some real data
- Next week, we'll review what we've learned this term up until now