

# Log-linear models

## (Poisson regression)

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# Announcements

- HW 06 due Wed, Nov 20 at 11:59p
- Project Regression Analysis due Wed, Nov 20 at 11:59p
- Looking ahead:
  - Exam 02: Mon, Nov 25 in class
  - Exam review on Nov 20

# Poisson response variables

The following are examples of scenarios with Poisson response variables:

- Are the **number of motorcycle deaths** in a given year related to a state's helmet laws?
- Does the **number of employers** conducting on-campus interviews during a year differ for public and private colleges?
- Does the **daily number of asthma-related visits** to an Emergency Room differ depending on air pollution indices?
- Has the **number of deformed fish** in randomly selected Minnesota lakes been affected by changes in trace minerals in the water over the last decade?

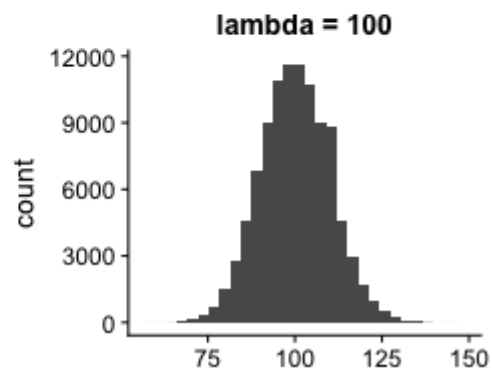
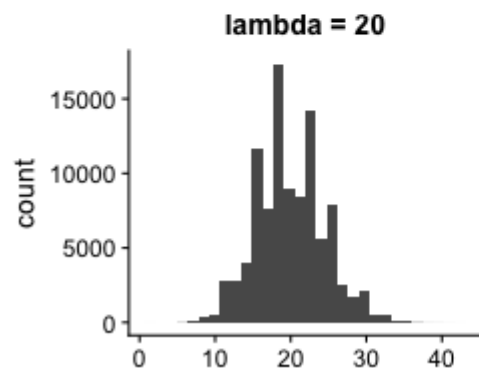
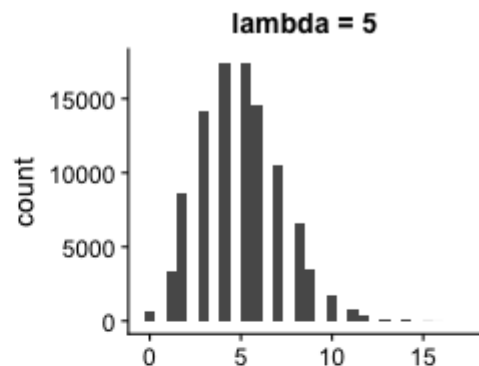
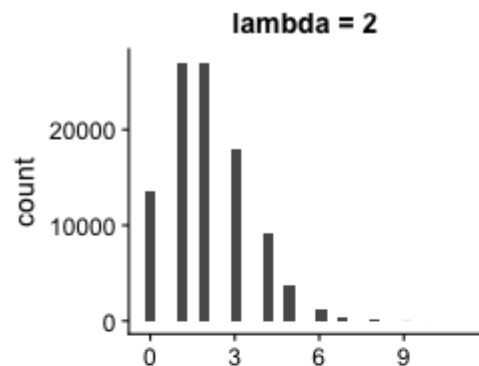
# Poisson Distribution

- If  $Y$  follows a Poisson distribution, then

$$P(Y = y) = \frac{\exp\{-\lambda\}\lambda^y}{y!} \quad y = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

- Features of the Poisson distribution:
  - Mean and variance are equal ( $\lambda$ )
  - Distribution tends to be skewed right, especially when the mean is small
  - If the mean is larger, it can be approximated by a Normal distribution

# Simulated Poisson distributions



# Simulated Poisson distributions

|            | Mean      | Variance   |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| lambda=2   | 2.00740   | 2.015245   |
| lambda=5   | 4.99130   | 4.968734   |
| lambda=20  | 19.99546  | 19.836958  |
| lambda=100 | 100.02276 | 100.527647 |

# Poisson Regression

- We want  $\lambda$  to be a function of predictor variables  $x_1, \dots, x_p$

Why is a multiple linear regression model not appropriate?

- $\lambda$  must be greater than or equal to 0 for any combination of predictor variables
- Constant variance assumption will be violated!



# Multiple linear regression vs. Poisson

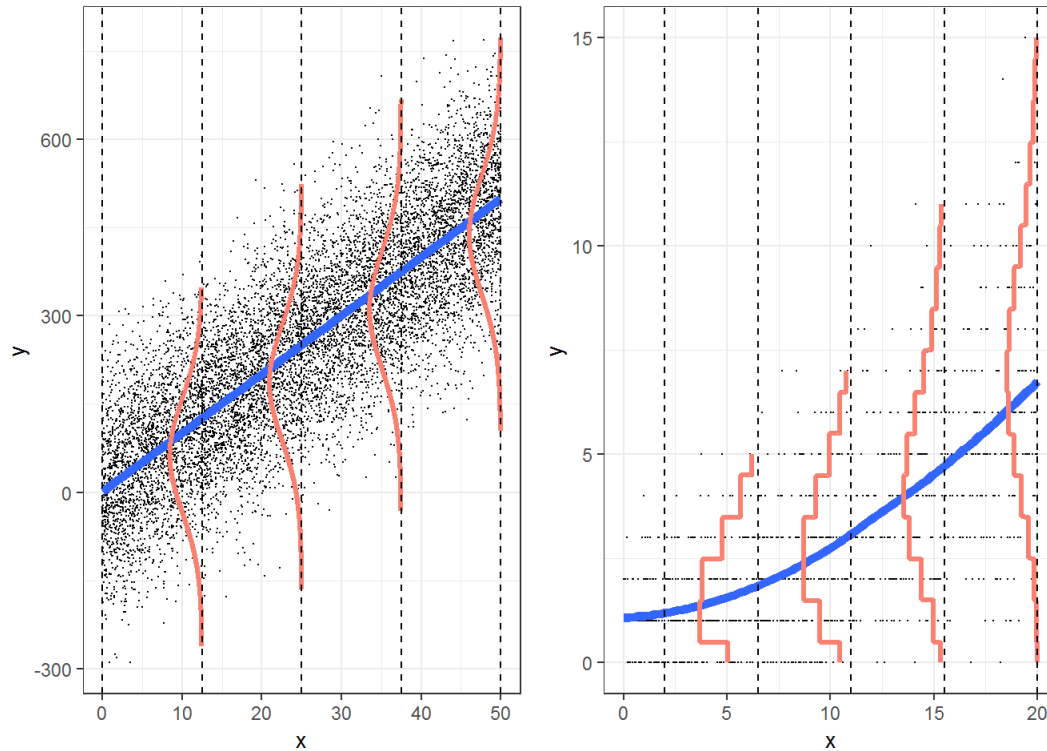


Image from: [\*Broadening Your Statistical Horizons\*](#)

# Poisson Regression

- If the observed values  $Y_i$  are Poisson, then we can model using a **Poisson regression model** of the form

$$\log(\lambda_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \beta_2 x_{2i} + \cdots + \beta_p x_{pi}$$

- Note that we don't have an error term, since  $\lambda$  determines the mean and variance of the Poisson random variable

# Interpreting Model Coefficients

- **Slope,  $\beta_j$ :**
  - **Quantitative Predictor:** When  $x_j$  increases by one unit, the expected count of  $y$  changes by a multiplicative factor of  $\exp\{\beta_j\}$ , holding all else constant
  - **Categorical Predictor:** The expected count for category  $k$  is  $\exp\{\beta_j\}$  times the expected count for the baseline category, holding all else constant
- **Intercept,  $\beta_0$ :** When  $x$  is 0, the expected count of  $y$  is  $\exp\{\beta_0\}$

# Example: Age, Gender, Pulse Rate

- **Goal:** We want to use age and gender to understand variation in pulse rate
- We will use adults age 20 to 39 in the NHANES data set to answer this question
- **Reponse**
  - **Pulse:** Number of heartbeats in 60 seconds
- **Explanatory**
  - **Age:** Age in years. Subjects 80 years or older recorded as 80
    - We will use mean-centered Age in the model
  - **Gender:** male/female

# Example: Age, Gender, Pulse Rate

```
model1 <- glm(Pulse ~ ageCent + Gender, data = nhanes,  
              family = "poisson")  
kable(tidy(model1, conf.int = T), format="html")
```

| term        | estimate   | std.error | statistic  | p.value   | conf.low   | conf.high  |
|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| (Intercept) | 4.3416799  | 0.0031800 | 1365.30794 | 0.0000000 | 4.3354407  | 4.3479061  |
| ageCent     | -0.0007360 | 0.0003933 | -1.87118   | 0.0613201 | -0.0015069 | 0.0000349  |
| Gendermale  | -0.0595673 | 0.0045620 | -13.05723  | 0.0000000 | -0.0685091 | -0.0506263 |

1. Write the model equation.
2. Interpret the intercept in the context of the problem.
3. Interpret the coefficient of ageCent in the context of the problem.

# Drop In Deviance Test

- We would like to test if there is a significant interaction between Age and Gender
- Since we have a generalized linear model, we can use the Drop In Deviance Test (similar test to logistic regression)

```
model1 <- glm(Pulse ~ ageCent + Gender, data = nhanes,  
              family = "poisson")  
model2 <- glm(Pulse ~ ageCent + Gender + ageCent*Gender,  
              data = nhanes, family = "poisson")  
  
anova(model1,model2,test="Chisq") %>% kable(format = "markdown")
```

| Resid. Df | Resid. Dev | Df | Deviance  | Pr(>Chi)  |
|-----------|------------|----|-----------|-----------|
| 2575      | 4536.813   | NA | NA        | NA        |
| 2574      | 4536.345   | 1  | 0.4686061 | 0.4936291 |

- There is not sufficient evidence that the interaction is significant, so we won't include it in the model.

# Model Assumptions

1. **Poisson Response:** Response variable is a count per unit of time or space
2. **Independence:** The observations are independent of one another
3. **Mean = Variance**
4. **Linearity:**  $\log(\lambda)$  is a linear function of the predictors

# Model Diagnostics

- The raw residual for the  $i^{th}$  observation,  $y_i - \hat{\lambda}_i$ , is difficult to interpret since the variance is equal to the mean in the Poisson distribution
- Instead, we can analyze a standardized residual called the **Pearson residual**

$$r_i = \frac{y_i - \hat{\lambda}_i}{\sqrt{\hat{\lambda}_i}}$$

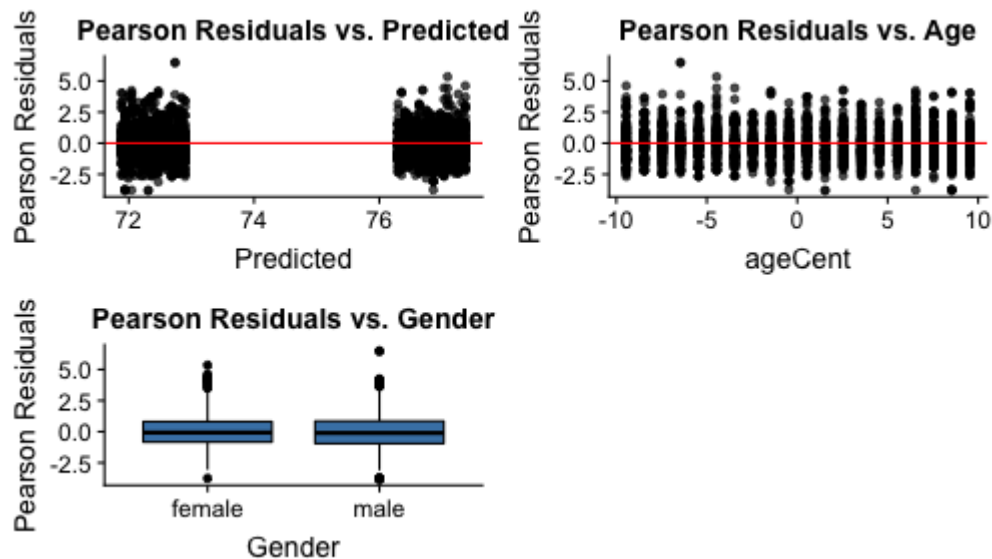
- Examine a plot of the Pearson residuals versus the predicted values and versus each predictor variable
  - A distinguishable trend in any of the plots indicates that the model is not an appropriate fit for the data



# Example: Age, Gender, Pulse Rate

- Let's examine the Pearson residuals for the model that includes the main effects for Age and Gender

```
nhanes_aug <- augment(model1, type.predict = "response",  
  type.residuals = "pearson")
```



# Poisson Regression in R

- Use the `glm()` function

```
# poisson regression model  
my.model <- glm(Y ~ X, data = my.data, family = poisson)
```

```
# predicted values and Pearson residuals  
my.model_aug <- augment(my.model,  
                        type.predict = "response",  
                        type.residuals = "pearson")
```

# Physician Visits

What factors influence the number of times someone visits a physician's office? We will use the variables `chronic`, `health`, and `insurance` to predict visits. We will use the `NMES1988` dataset in the `AER` package.

```
library(AER)
data(NMES1988)
nmes1988 <- NMES1988 %>%
  select(visits, chronic, health, insurance)
glimpse(nmes1988)
```

```
## Observations: 4,406
## Variables: 4
## $ visits      <int> 5, 1, 13, 16, 3, 17, 9, 3, 1, 0, 0, 44, 2, 1, 19, 19, .
## $ chronic     <int> 2, 2, 4, 2, 2, 5, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 5, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 2, .
## $ health      <fct> average, average, poor, poor, average, poor, average, .
## $ insurance   <fct> yes, yes, no, yes, yes, no, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, y.
```

# Physicians Visits

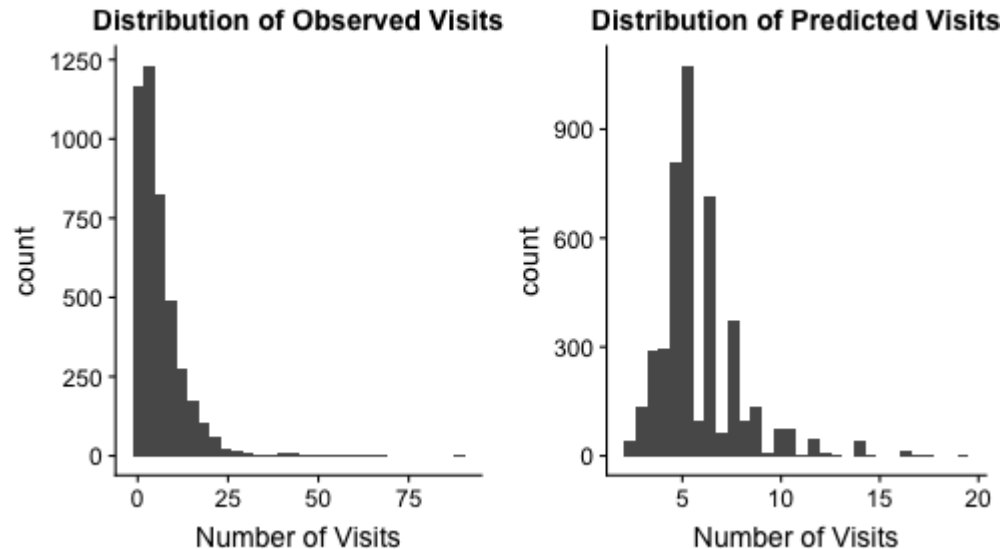
```
visits_model <- glm(visits ~ chronic + health + insurance,  
                    data = nmes1988, family = "poisson")
```

```
tidy(visits_model, conf.int = T) %>%  
  kable(format = "markdown", digits = 3)
```

| term            | estimate | std.error | statistic | p.value | conf.low | conf.high |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| (Intercept)     | 1.217    | 0.017     | 71.069    | 0       | 1.184    | 1.251     |
| chronic         | 0.167    | 0.004     | 37.504    | 0       | 0.159    | 0.176     |
| healthpoor      | 0.290    | 0.017     | 16.749    | 0       | 0.256    | 0.324     |
| healthexcellent | -0.360   | 0.030     | -11.889   | 0       | -0.419   | -0.301    |
| insuranceyes    | 0.279    | 0.016     | 17.270    | 0       | 0.247    | 0.310     |

# Physician Visits

Let's compare the fitted values versus the actual values:



Does the model effectively predict the number of visits? What is the primary difference between the distributions of observed and predicted visits?

# Zero-inflated Poisson

- In the original data, there are far more respondents who had zero visits to the physicians office than what's predicted by the Poisson regression model
  - This is called `.vocab[zero-inflated data]`
- To deal with this, we will fit a model that has 2 parts:
  1. Poisson regression for the number of doctor's visits of those who went to the physician at least one time (parameter =  $\lambda$ )
  2. Logistic regression to find the probability someone goes to the physican at least once (parameter =  $\alpha$ )
- We will fit this in R using the `zeroinfl` model in the **pscl** package.

# Zero-inflated Poisson Regression

- We will use chronic, health, and insurance for both components of the model
  - Note: We could use different variables for each component of the model.

```
zi_model <- zeroinfl(visits ~ chronic + health + insurance |  
                    chronic + health + insurance,  
                    dist = "poisson", data = nmes1988)
```

- The first set of coefficients are for the Poisson portion of the model. The second set are for the logistic portion of the model.

# Zero-inflated Poisson Regression

```
zi_model$coefficients
```

```
## $count
##      (Intercept)          chronic    healthpoor healthexcellent
##      1.5587860         0.1186671         0.2947644        -0.3019049
##      insuranceyes
##      0.1446258
##
## $zero
##      (Intercept)          chronic    healthpoor healthexcellent
##      -0.40531360        -0.55227959         0.02315772         0.23169092
##      insuranceyes
##      -0.88637822
```

Let's write the two parts of the model.



# Predictions

```
nmes1988 <- nmes1988 %>%  
  mutate(pred_count = predict(zi_model, type = "count"),  
         pred_zero = predict(zi_model, type = "zero"))
```

```
nmes1988 %>% slice(1:10)
```

| ##    | visits | chronic | health  | insurance | pred_count | pred_zero  |
|-------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|------------|
| ## 1  | 5      | 2       | average | yes       | 6.963943   | 0.08345902 |
| ## 2  | 1      | 2       | average | yes       | 6.963943   | 0.08345902 |
| ## 3  | 13     | 4       | poor    | no        | 10.259650  | 0.06970211 |
| ## 4  | 16     | 2       | poor    | yes       | 9.351253   | 0.08524762 |
| ## 5  | 3      | 2       | average | yes       | 6.963943   | 0.08345902 |
| ## 6  | 17     | 5       | poor    | no        | 11.552315  | 0.04134603 |
| ## 7  | 9      | 0       | average | yes       | 5.492655   | 0.21556659 |
| ## 8  | 3      | 0       | average | yes       | 5.492655   | 0.21556659 |
| ## 9  | 1      | 0       | average | yes       | 5.492655   | 0.21556659 |
| ## 10 | 0      | 0       | average | yes       | 5.492655   | 0.21556659 |

# References

These slides draw material from *Broadening Your Statistical Horizons*