# Friday, Mar 10

### Using the emmeans Package for Poisson and Logistic Regression

The **emmeans** package can be used to produce some of the same inferences that are obtained using **contrast** with respect to estimated expected rates/probabilities as well as rate/odds ratios.

Example: Consider the following Poisson regression model for the ceriodaphniastrain data.

```
fleas <- trtools::ceriodaphniastrain
fleas$strain <- factor(fleas$strain, levels = c(1,2), labels = c("a","b"))
m <- glm(count ~ concentration * strain, family = poisson, data = fleas)
summary(m)$coefficients</pre>
```

```
Estimate Std. Error z value
                                                     Pr(>|z|)
                                  0.04350 103.008 0.000e+00
(Intercept)
                        4.4811
concentration
                       -1.5979
                                  0.06244 -25.592 1.862e-144
strainb
                       -0.3367
                                  0.06704
                                          -5.022 5.114e-07
concentration:strainb
                        0.1253
                                  0.09385
                                             1.336 1.817e-01
```

We can compute the expected count for a concentration of two for each strain using contrast.

```
trtools::contrast(m, tf = exp,
   a = list(strain = c("a","b"), concentration = 2))
```

```
estimate lower upper 3.616 2.970 4.402 3.318 2.671 4.122
```

And we can do it using emmeans if we specify type = "response" and use the at argument to specify the value of any quantitative explanatory variables.

```
library(emmeans)
emmeans(m, ~ strain, type = "response", at = list(concentration = 2))
                SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
        3.62 0.363 Inf
                            2.97
                                      4.40
        3.32 0.367 Inf
                                      4.12
                            2.67
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale
emmeans(m, ~ strain|concentration, type = "response", at = list(concentration = c(1,2,3)))
concentration = 1:
strain rate
                  SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
        17.872 0.815 Inf
                            16.343
                                       19.54
        14.467 0.725 Inf
                            13.113
                                       15.96
concentration = 2:
 strain rate
                  SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
         3.616 0.363 Inf
                             2.970
                                        4.40
         3.318 0.367 Inf
                             2.671
                                        4.12
```

```
concentration = 3:
strain rate
                 SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
        0.732 0.118 Inf
                            0.534
                                        1.00
        0.761 0.136 Inf
                             0.537
                                        1.08
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale
emmeans(m, ~ concentration|strain, type = "response", at = list(concentration = c(1,2,3)))
strain = a:
 concentration rate
                        SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
            1 17.872 0.815 Inf
                                  16.343
                                              19.54
            2 3.616 0.363 Inf
                                   2.970
                                              4.40
            3 0.732 0.118 Inf
                                   0.534
                                              1.00
strain = b:
                        SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
 concentration rate
            1 14.467 0.725 Inf
                                  13.113
                                             15.96
            2 3.318 0.367 Inf
                                   2.671
                                              4.12
            3 0.761 0.136 Inf
                                   0.537
                                               1.08
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale
emmeans(m, ~ concentration*strain, type = "response", at = list(concentration = c(1,2,3)))
 concentration strain rate
                               SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
                     17.872 0.815 Inf
            1 a
                                         16.343
                                                    19.54
                      3.616 0.363 Inf
                                          2.970
                                                     4.40
                      0.732 0.118 Inf
                                                     1.00
            3 a
                                          0.534
            1 b
                     14.467 0.725 Inf
                                         13.113
                                                    15.96
            2 b
                      3.318 0.367 Inf
                                          2.671
                                                     4.12
                      0.761 0.136 Inf
                                          0.537
                                                     1.08
```

Confidence level used: 0.95

Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale

Note that emmeans does produce a valid standard error on the scale of the expected count/rate which trtools::contrast does not (by default), and that trtools::contrast will show the test statistic and p-value on the log scale if we omit the tf = exp argument.

We can compute the rate ratio to compare the two strains at a given concentration.

```
trtools::contrast(m, tf = exp,
    a = list(strain = "a", concentration = 2),
    b = list(strain = "b", concentration = 2))

estimate lower upper
    1.09 0.8132 1.46

pairs(emmeans(m, ~ strain, type = "response",
    at = list(concentration = 2)), infer = TRUE)

contrast ratio    SE    df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
    a / b    1.09 0.163 Inf    0.813    1.46    1    0.576    0.5648
```

```
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale
Tests are performed on the log scale
pairs(emmeans(m, ~ strain*concentration, type = "response",
 at = list(concentration = c(1,2,3))), by = "concentration", infer = TRUE)
concentration = 1:
                   SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
contrast ratio
a / b 1.235 0.0837 Inf 1.082
                                      1.41
                                               1 3.118 0.0018
concentration = 2:
contrast ratio SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
                            0.813
a / b 1.090 0.1628 Inf
                                        1.46
                                                1 0.576 0.5648
concentration = 3:
 contrast ratio
                   SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
        0.961 0.2308 Inf
a / b
                             0.601
                                        1.54
                                               1 -0.164 0.8698
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale
Tests are performed on the log scale
pairs(emmeans(m, ~ strain|concentration, type = "response",
at = list(concentration = c(1,2,3))), infer = TRUE)
concentration = 1:
contrast ratio
                   SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
a / b 1.235 0.0837 Inf
                             1.082
                                        1.41
                                               1 3.118 0.0018
concentration = 2:
 contrast ratio
                 SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
a / b 1.090 0.1628 Inf
                            0.813
                                        1.46 1 0.576 0.5648
concentration = 3:
 contrast ratio
                   SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
         0.961 0.2308 Inf
                             0.601
                                      1.54
                                             1 -0.164 0.8698
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale
Tests are performed on the log scale
What about the rate ratio for the effect of concentration?
trtools::contrast(m, tf = exp,
 a = list(strain = c("a", "b"), concentration = 2),
b = list(strain = c("a","b"), concentration = 1))
estimate lower upper
  0.2023 0.1790 0.2287
  0.2293 0.1999 0.2631
emmeans(m, ~concentration|strain,
at = list(concentration = c(2,1)), type = "response")
strain = a:
 concentration rate
                       SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
```

```
2 3.62 0.363 Inf
                                  2.97
                                             4.40
             1 17.87 0.815 Inf
                                   16.34
                                             19.54
strain = b:
 concentration rate
                       SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
                                    2.67
            2 3.32 0.367 Inf
                                              4.12
             1 14.47 0.725 Inf
                                   13.11
                                             15.96
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log scale
pairs(emmeans(m, ~concentration|strain,
  at = list(concentration = c(2,1)), type = "response"))
strain = a:
 contrast
                                 ratio
                                           SE df null z.ratio p.value
 concentration2 / concentration1 0.202 0.0126 Inf
                                                     1 -25.592 <.0001
strain = b:
 contrast
                                 ratio
                                           SE df null z.ratio p.value
 concentration2 / concentration1 0.229 0.0161 Inf
                                                    1 -21.015 <.0001
Tests are performed on the log scale
pairs(emmeans(m, ~concentration*strain,
  at = list(concentration = c(2,1)), type = "response"), by = "strain")
strain = a:
                                           SE df null z.ratio p.value
                                 ratio
 concentration2 / concentration1 0.202 0.0126 Inf
                                                     1 -25.592 <.0001
strain = b:
 contrast
                                           SE df null z.ratio p.value
                                 ratio
 concentration2 / concentration1 0.229 0.0161 Inf
                                                    1 -21.015 <.0001
Tests are performed on the log scale
We can also make inferences to compare the two rate ratios.
trtools::contrast(m, tf = exp,
 a = list(strain = "b", concentration = 2),
  b = list(strain = "b", concentration = 1),
  u = list(strain = "a", concentration = 2),
v = list(strain = "a", concentration = 1))
 estimate lower upper
    1.134 0.9431 1.362
pairs(pairs(emmeans(m, ~concentration|strain,
at = list(concentration = c(2,1)), type = "response")), by = NULL, reverse = TRUE)
 (concentration2 / concentration1 b) / (concentration2 / concentration1 a) 1.13 0.106 Inf
 z.ratio p.value
   1.335 0.1817
```

Tests are performed on the log scale

This is a ratio of rate ratios. To just get the test statistic you can leave off type = "response".

```
pairs(pairs(emmeans(m, ~concentration|strain,
  at = list(concentration = c(2,1)))), by = NULL, reverse = TRUE)
```

```
contrast
(concentration2 - concentration1 b) - (concentration2 - concentration1 a)

estimate SE df
(concentration2 - concentration1 a) 0.125 0.0939 Inf
z.ratio p.value
1.335 0.1817
```

Results are given on the log (not the response) scale.

Example: Consider the following logistic regression model for the insecticide data.

```
m <- glm(cbind(deaths, total-deaths) ~ insecticide * deposit,
    family = binomial, data = trtools::insecticide)
summary(m)$coefficients</pre>
```

```
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)
                       -2.81091 0.35845 -7.84177 4.442e-15
                                   0.67176 1.82468 6.805e-02
insecticideboth
                        1.22575
                                   0.50722 -0.07676 9.388e-01
insecticideDDT
                       -0.03893
deposit
                        0.62207
                                   0.07786 7.98986 1.351e-15
insecticideboth:deposit 0.37010
                                   0.20897 1.77109 7.655e-02
                                   0.10376 -1.36301 1.729e-01
insecticideDDT:deposit -0.14143
```

We can use trtools::contrast or emmeans to produce estimates of the probability of death for a given insecticide at a given deposit value.

```
trtools::contrast(m, tf = plogis,
    a = list(insecticide = c("g-BHC","both","DDT"), deposit = 5),
    cnames = c("g-BHC","both","DDT"))
```

```
g-BHC 0.5743 0.5027 0.6429
both 0.9669 0.9212 0.9865
DDT 0.3902 0.3289 0.4550
```

```
emmeans(m, ~ insecticide, type = "response", at = list(deposit = 5))
```

```
insecticide prob SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL g-BHC 0.574 0.0360 Inf 0.503 0.643 both 0.967 0.0149 Inf 0.921 0.987 DDT 0.390 0.0323 Inf 0.329 0.455
```

Confidence level used: 0.95

Intervals are back-transformed from the logit scale

Again, emmeans produces a valid standard error on the probability scale while trtools::contrast does not, and trtools::contrast will produce test statistics and p-values on the logit scale when the tf = plogis argument is omitted.

We can compute odds ratios to compare the insecticides at a given deposit.

```
pairs(emmeans(m, ~ insecticide, type = "response",
  at = list(deposit = 5)), adjust = "none", infer = TRUE)
```

```
contrast odds.ratio SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value (g-BHC) / both 0.05 0.023 Inf 0.018 0.12 1 -6.275 <.0001 (g-BHC) / DDT 2.11 0.423 Inf 1.424 3.12 1 3.724 0.0002
```

```
both / DDT
                     45.71 22.260 Inf
                                         17.600
                                                    118.72
                                                                  7.849 < .0001
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log odds ratio scale
Tests are performed on the log odds ratio scale
trtools::contrast(m, tf = exp,
 a = list(insecticide = c("g-BHC", "g-BHC", "both"), deposit = 5),
 b = list(insecticide = c("both", "DDT", "DDT"), deposit = 5),
 cnames = c("g-BHC / both", "g-BHC / DDT", "both / DDT"))
             {\tt estimate}
                         lower
                                  upper
g-BHC / both 0.04613 0.01765
                                 0.1206
                                 3.1230
g-BHC / DDT
              2.10871 1.42385
both / DDT
             45.71097 17.59954 118.7243
We can flip/reverse the odds ratios if desired (which can also be done with rate ratios).
pairs(emmeans(m, ~ insecticide, type = "response",
 at = list(deposit = 5)), adjust = "none", reverse = TRUE, infer = TRUE)
 contrast
                odds.ratio
                               SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
both / (g-BHC)
                    21.677 10.628 Inf
                                          8.293
                                                     56.67
                                                                  6.275 < .0001
                                                              1
DDT / (g-BHC)
                     0.474 0.095 Inf
                                           0.320
                                                      0.70
                                                              1 -3.724 0.0002
DDT / both
                     0.022 0.011 Inf
                                          0.008
                                                      0.06
                                                              1 -7.849 <.0001
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log odds ratio scale
Tests are performed on the log odds ratio scale
trtools::contrast(m, tf = exp,
 a = list(insecticide = c("both", "DDT", "DDT"), deposit = 5),
 b = list(insecticide = c("g-BHC", "g-BHC", "both"), deposit = 5),
 cnames = c("both / g-BHC", "DDT / g-BHC", "DDT / both"))
             estimate
                         lower
                                  upper
both / g-BHC 21.67723 8.292521 56.66581
DDT / g-BHC
              0.47422 0.320208 0.70232
DDT / both
              0.02188 0.008423 0.05682
We can estimate the odds ratios at several values of deposit.
pairs(emmeans(m, ~ insecticide|deposit, type = "response",
 at = list(deposit = c(4,5,6))), adjust = "none", infer = TRUE)
deposit = 4:
 contrast
                odds.ratio
                              SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
 (g-BHC) / both
                      0.07 0.02 Inf
                                         0.035
                                                     0.13
                                                             1 -8.239 <.0001
 (g-BHC) / DDT
                      1.83 0.37 Inf
                                                     2.72
                                         1.234
                                                                 3.004 0.0027
                                                             1
 both / DDT
                     27.41 9.12 Inf
                                        14.274
                                                    52.62
                                                                 9.947 <.0001
deposit = 5:
                              SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
 contrast
                odds.ratio
                      0.05 0.02 Inf
                                         0.018
                                                    0.12
                                                             1 -6.275 <.0001
 (g-BHC) / both
                      2.11 0.42 Inf
                                         1.424
                                                     3.12
                                                                 3.724 0.0002
 (g-BHC) / DDT
                                                             1
both / DDT
                     45.71 22.26 Inf
                                        17.600
                                                   118.72
                                                                 7.849 < .0001
```

deposit = 6:

```
(g-BHC) / both
                     0.03 0.02 Inf
                                        0.008
                                                   0.12
                                                           1 -5.080 <.0001
                     2.43 0.60 Inf
                                        1.495
                                                   3.95
                                                               3.584 0.0003
 (g-BHC) / DDT
                                                           1
both / DDT
                    76.24 51.04 Inf
                                       20.529
                                                 283.13
                                                               6.474 < .0001
                                                           1
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log odds ratio scale
Tests are performed on the log odds ratio scale
pairs(emmeans(m, ~ insecticide*deposit, type = "response",
 at = list(deposit = c(4,5,6))), by = "deposit", adjust = "none", infer = TRUE)
deposit = 4:
 contrast
                             SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
               odds.ratio
                     0.07 0.02 Inf
 (g-BHC) / both
                                        0.035
                                                   0.13
                                                           1 -8.239 <.0001
 (g-BHC) / DDT
                     1.83 0.37 Inf
                                        1.234
                                                   2.72
                                                               3.004 0.0027
                                                           1
both / DDT
                    27.41 9.12 Inf
                                       14.274
                                                  52.62
                                                               9.947 <.0001
deposit = 5:
 contrast
               odds.ratio
                             SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
                     0.05 0.02 Inf
                                        0.018
                                                   0.12
 (g-BHC) / both
                                                           1 -6.275 <.0001
 (g-BHC) / DDT
                     2.11 0.42 Inf
                                        1.424
                                                               3.724 0.0002
                                                   3.12
                                                           1
both / DDT
                    45.71 22.26 Inf
                                       17.600
                                                 118.72
                                                           1
                                                               7.849 <.0001
deposit = 6:
                             SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value
 contrast
               odds.ratio
 (g-BHC) / both
                     0.03 0.02 Inf
                                        0.008
                                                   0.12
                                                           1 -5.080 <.0001
 (g-BHC) / DDT
                     2.43 0.60 Inf
                                        1.495
                                                   3.95
                                                           1
                                                               3.584 0.0003
both / DDT
                    76.24 51.04 Inf
                                       20.529
                                                 283.13
                                                           1
                                                               6.474 < .0001
Confidence level used: 0.95
Intervals are back-transformed from the log odds ratio scale
Tests are performed on the log odds ratio scale
Here is how we can estimate the odds ratios for the effect of deposit.
emmeans(m, ~deposit|insecticide, at = list(deposit = c(2,1)), type = "response") # odds
insecticide = g-BHC:
deposit
         prob
                   SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
      2 0.1727 0.0318 Inf
                             0.1190
                                        0.244
      1 0.1008 0.0261 Inf
                             0.0599
                                        0.165
insecticide = both:
deposit
         prob
                   SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
      2 0.5985 0.0566 Inf
                             0.4844
                                        0.703
                                        0.542
      1 0.3560 0.0892 Inf
                             0.2049
insecticide = DDT:
deposit prob
                   SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL
      2 0.1314 0.0271 Inf
                             0.0867
                                        0.194
      1 0.0856 0.0232 Inf
                             0.0497
                                        0.143
```

SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value

odds.ratio

Confidence level used: 0.95

Intervals are back-transformed from the logit scale

```
pairs(emmeans(m, ~deposit|insecticide, at = list(deposit = c(2,1)),
    type = "response"), infer = TRUE) # odds ratios
```

insecticide = g-BHC:

contrast odds.ratio SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value deposit2 / deposit1 1.86 0.145 Inf 1.60 2.17 1 7.990 <.0001

insecticide = both:

contrast odds.ratio SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value deposit2 / deposit1 2.70 0.523 Inf 1.84 3.94 1 5.116 <.0001

insecticide = DDT:

contrast odds.ratio SE df asymp.LCL asymp.UCL null z.ratio p.value deposit2 / deposit1 1.62 0.111 Inf 1.41 1.85 1 7.007 <.0001

Confidence level used: 0.95

Intervals are back-transformed from the log odds ratio scale

Tests are performed on the log odds ratio scale

We can also compare the odds ratios.

```
pairs(pairs(emmeans(m, ~deposit|insecticide, at = list(deposit = c(2,1)))), by = NULL)
```

```
      contrast
      estimate
      SE
      df
      z.ratio
      p.value

      (deposit2 - deposit1 g-BHC) - (deposit2 - deposit1 both)
      -0.370
      0.209
      Inf
      -1.771
      0.1794

      (deposit2 - deposit1 g-BHC) - (deposit2 - deposit1 DDT)
      0.141
      0.104
      Inf
      1.363
      0.3605

      (deposit2 - deposit1 both) - (deposit2 - deposit1 DDT)
      0.511
      0.206
      Inf
      2.487
      0.0344
```

Results are given on the log odds ratio (not the response) scale. P value adjustment: tukey method for comparing a family of 3 estimates

Here I have left off type = "response". Including it will give ratios of odds ratios, which is a bit confusing, but if all we care about is whether the odds ratios are significantly different this is sufficient. Note that to avoid controlling for family-wise Type I error rate include the option adjust = "none".

#### Relationship Between Poisson and Logistic Regression

Suppose  $C_i$  has a binomial distribution with parameters  $p_i$  and  $m_i$  so that

$$P(C_i = c) = \binom{m_i}{c} p_i^y (1 - p_i)^{m_i - c}.$$

Define the expected count as  $E(C_i) = m_i p_i = \lambda_i$ . Then  $p_i = \lambda_i / m_i$  so we can write

$$P(C_i = c) = {m_i \choose c} \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{m_i}\right)^y \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_i}{m_i}\right)^{c-y}.$$

Then it can be shown that

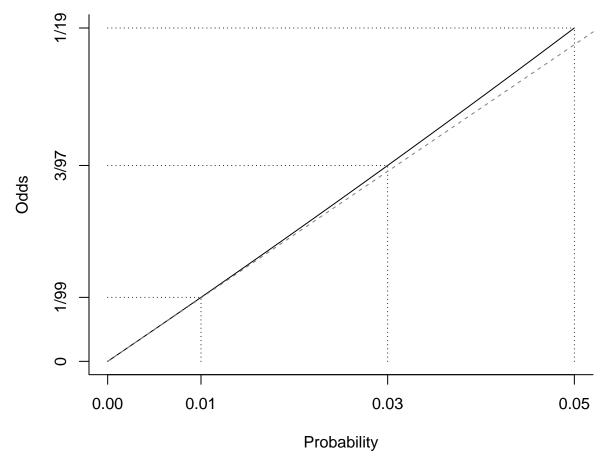
$$\lim_{m_i \to \infty} \binom{m_i}{c} \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{m_i}\right)^y \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_i}{m_i}\right)^{m_i - y} = \frac{e^{\lambda_i} \lambda_i^y}{y!},$$

which is the Poisson distribution.

Thus in practice if  $p_i$  is small relative to  $m_i$  we can approximate a binomial distribution with a Poisson distribution. Furthermore there is a close relationship between the model parameters. In logistic regression we have

$$O_i = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \dots + \beta_k x_{ik}),$$

where  $O_i = p_i/(1-p_i)$  is the odds of the event. But when  $p_i$  is very small then  $O_i \approx p_i$ .



So then

$$p_i \approx \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \dots + \beta_k x_{ik}),$$

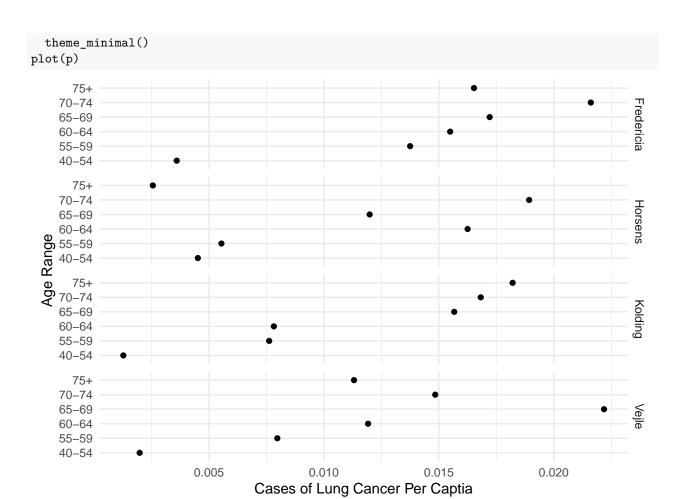
and because  $E(C_i) = m_i p_i$ ,

$$E(C_i) \approx \exp(\log m_i + \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \dots + \beta_k x_{ik}),$$

where  $\log m_i$  is used as an offset in a Poisson regression model. That is, we can model a proportion (approximately) as a rate in a Poisson regression model for events that are rare and when  $m_i$  (i.e., the denominator of the proportion) is relatively large. This is relatively common in large-scale observational studies.

Example: Consider the following data on the incidence of lung cancer in four Danish cities.

```
library(ISwR) # for eba1977 data
head(eba1977)
        city
                age pop cases
1 Fredericia 40-54 3059
                            11
2
     Horsens 40-54 2879
                            13
3
     Kolding 40-54 3142
4
       Vejle 40-54 2520
                             5
5 Fredericia 55-59
                     800
                            11
     Horsens 55-59 1083
p \leftarrow ggplot(eba1977, aes(x = age, y = cases/pop)) +
  geom_point() + facet_grid(city ~ .) + coord_flip() +
  labs(x = "Age Range", y = "Cases of Lung Cancer Per Captia") +
```



Consider both a logistic and Poisson regression models to compare the cities while controlling for age.

```
m.b <- glm(cbind(cases, pop-cases) ~ city + age, family = binomial, data = eba1977)
cbind(summary(m.b)$coefficients, confint(m.b))</pre>
```

```
Pr(>|z|)
           Estimate Std. Error z value
                                                    2.5 %
                                                             97.5 %
(Intercept)
            -5.6262
                        0.2008 -28.021 9.132e-173 -6.0385 -5.249799
cityHorsens -0.3345
                        0.1827 -1.830 6.719e-02 -0.6946 0.023561
cityKolding -0.3764
                        0.1890 -1.991 4.646e-02 -0.7504 -0.007412
cityVejle
            -0.2760
                        0.1891
                                -1.459 1.444e-01 -0.6503 0.093162
age55-59
             1.1070
                        0.2490
                                 4.445 8.771e-06 0.6159 1.596828
age60-64
             1.5291
                        0.2325
                                 6.577 4.812e-11 1.0760 1.991225
age65-69
             1.7819
                        0.2305
                                 7.732 1.061e-14 1.3335 2.240675
                                 7.918 2.415e-15 1.4105
age70-74
             1.8727
                        0.2365
                                                           2.341695
age75+
             1.4289
                        0.2512
                                 5.688 1.289e-08 0.9328 1.922467
m.p <- glm(cases ~ offset(log(pop)) + city + age, family = poisson, data = eba1977)</pre>
cbind(summary(m.p)$coefficients, confint(m.p))
```

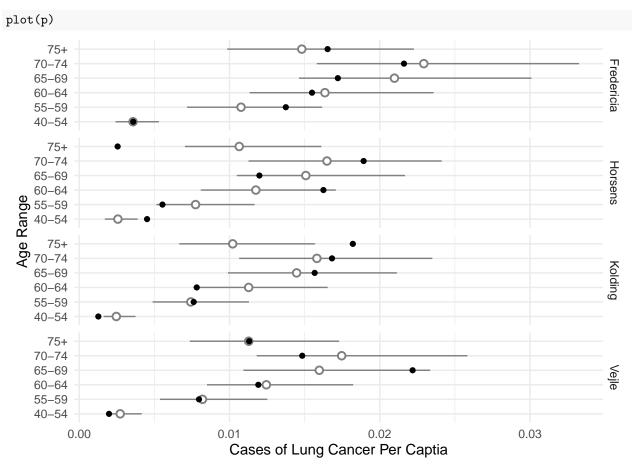
```
Estimate Std. Error z value
                                         Pr(>|z|)
                                                    2.5 %
                                                             97.5 %
(Intercept)
                        0.2003 -28.125 4.911e-174 -6.0433 -5.256725
            -5.6321
cityHorsens
            -0.3301
                        0.1815 -1.818 6.899e-02 -0.6878 0.025582
cityKolding
            -0.3715
                        0.1878
                                -1.978 4.789e-02 -0.7432 -0.004967
cityVejle
            -0.2723
                        0.1879
                                -1.450
                                       1.472e-01 -0.6441 0.094356
age55-59
             1.1010
                        0.2483
                                 4.434 9.230e-06 0.6114 1.589441
```

```
0.2316
                                6.556 5.528e-11 1.0672 1.979110
age60-64
             1.5186
                        0.2294
                                7.704 1.314e-14 1.3213 2.224503
age65-69
             1.7677
age70-74
             1.8569
                        0.2353
                                7.891 3.005e-15 1.3970 2.323556
                        0.2503
                                5.672 1.408e-08 0.9254 1.911381
age75+
             1.4197
```

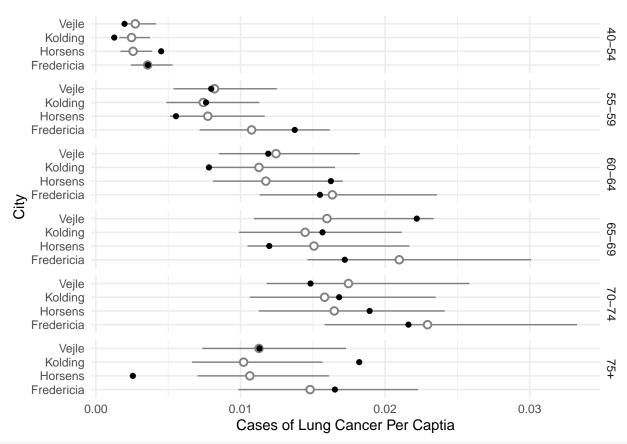
The expected proportion/rate of cases in Fredericia appears to be the highest. Let's compare that city with the others while controlling for age.

```
trtools::contrast(m.b,
  a = list(city = "Fredericia", age = "40-54"),
 b = list(city = c("Horsens", "Kolding", "Vejle"), age = "40-54"),
 cnames = c("vs Horsens","vs Kolding","vs Vejle"), tf = exp)
           estimate lower upper
vs Horsens
              1.397 0.9766 1.999
vs Kolding
              1.457 1.0059 2.110
vs Vejle
              1.318 0.9097 1.909
trtools::contrast(m.p,
  a = list(city = "Fredericia", age = "40-54", pop = 1),
  b = list(city = c("Horsens", "Kolding", "Vejle"), age = "40-54", pop = 1),
 cnames = c("vs Horsens","vs Kolding","vs Vejle"), tf = exp)
           estimate lower upper
              1.391 0.9746 1.985
vs Horsens
              1.450 1.0035 2.095
vs Kolding
vs Vejle
              1.313 0.9086 1.897
Note that since there is no interaction in the model, contrasts for city will not depend on the age group. We
can also compute the estimated expected proportion (i.e., probability) or expected rate for each model.
trtools::contrast(m.b, a = list(city = levels(eba1977$city), age = "40-54"), tf = plogis)
 estimate
             lower
0.003589 0.002424 0.005311
0.002571 0.001701 0.003885
0.002466 0.001625 0.003741
0.002726 0.001787 0.004155
trtools::contrast(m.p, a = list(city = levels(eba1977$city), age = "40-54", pop = 1), tf = exp)
 estimate
             lower
                      upper
0.003581 0.002419 0.005303
0.002574 0.001704 0.003890
0.002470 0.001628 0.003747
0.002727 0.001789 0.004158
d <- expand.grid(city = levels(eba1977$city), age = levels(eba1977$age))</pre>
cbind(d, trtools::glmint(m.b, newdata = d))
         city
                                   low
                age
                          fit
1
  Fredericia 40-54 0.003589 0.002424 0.005311
2
      Horsens 40-54 0.002571 0.001701 0.003885
3
      Kolding 40-54 0.002466 0.001625 0.003741
4
        Vejle 40-54 0.002726 0.001787 0.004155
5
  Fredericia 55-59 0.010780 0.007192 0.016129
6
      Horsens 55-59 0.007739 0.005135 0.011648
7
      Kolding 55-59 0.007424 0.004884 0.011270
8
        Vejle 55-59 0.008201 0.005378 0.012487
```

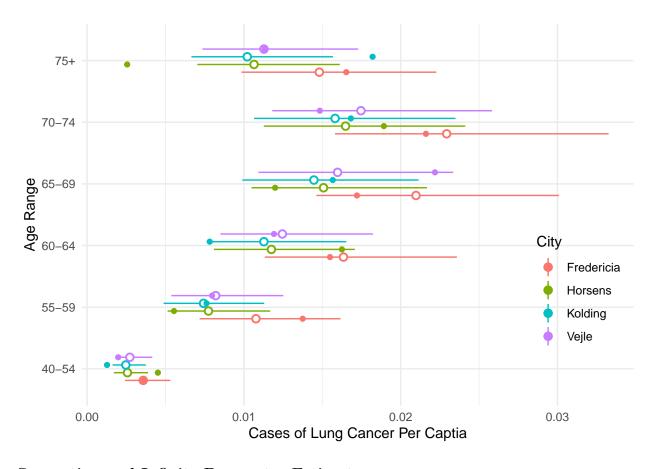
```
Fredericia 60-64 0.016348 0.011360 0.023473
10
      Horsens 60-64 0.011755 0.008104 0.017024
11
      Kolding 60-64 0.011278 0.007702 0.016489
12
        Vejle 60-64 0.012454 0.008520 0.018170
13 Fredericia 65-69 0.020952 0.014654 0.029876
      Horsens 65-69 0.015086 0.010513 0.021604
      Kolding 65-69 0.014476 0.009925 0.021069
15
16
        Vejle 65-69 0.015979 0.010956 0.023252
17 Fredericia 70-74 0.022898 0.015845 0.032986
18
      Horsens 70-74 0.016496 0.011299 0.024025
19
      Kolding 70-74 0.015830 0.010679 0.023407
20
        Vejle 70-74 0.017471 0.011844 0.025703
21 Fredericia
                75+ 0.014812 0.009872 0.022169
22
      Horsens
                75+ 0.010646 0.007042 0.016065
23
                75+ 0.010214 0.006661 0.015633
      Kolding
24
        Vejle
                75+ 0.011280 0.007368 0.017232
d <- expand.grid(city = levels(eba1977$city), age = levels(eba1977$age), pop = 1)
cbind(d, trtools::glmint(m.p, newdata = d))
         city
                age pop
                              fit
   Fredericia 40-54
                      1 0.003581 0.002419 0.005303
2
      Horsens 40-54
                      1 0.002574 0.001704 0.003890
3
      Kolding 40-54
                      1 0.002470 0.001628 0.003747
4
        Vejle 40-54
                      1 0.002727 0.001789 0.004158
5
  Fredericia 55-59
                      1 0.010769 0.007174 0.016167
6
      Horsens 55-59
                      1 0.007742 0.005133 0.011676
7
      Kolding 55-59
                      1 0.007427 0.004883 0.011297
                      1 0.008202 0.005375 0.012517
8
        Vejle 55-59
   Fredericia 60-64
                      1 0.016351 0.011335 0.023587
                      1 0.011755 0.008092 0.017075
10
      Horsens 60-64
11
      Kolding 60-64
                      1 0.011277 0.007690 0.016536
12
        Vejle 60-64
                      1 0.012453 0.008506 0.018231
13 Fredericia 65-69
                      1 0.020976 0.014623 0.030090
      Horsens 65-69
                      1 0.015080 0.010488 0.021681
15
      Kolding 65-69
                      1 0.014467 0.009899 0.021141
16
        Vejle 65-69
                      1 0.015976 0.010929 0.023354
17 Fredericia 70-74
                      1 0.022932 0.015810 0.033263
      Horsens 70-74
                      1 0.016486 0.011266 0.024123
18
19
      Kolding 70-74
                      1 0.015816 0.010646 0.023497
        Vejle 70-74
20
                      1 0.017466 0.011810 0.025830
21 Fredericia
                75+
                      1 0.014811 0.009848 0.022273
22
     Horsens
                75+
                      1 0.010647 0.007034 0.016116
23
      Kolding
                75+
                       1 0.010214 0.006654 0.015681
                       1 0.011280 0.007358 0.017292
24
        Vejle
                75+
We can use this to make some helpful plots of the estimated rates (or probabilities) of lung cancer.
d <- expand.grid(age = levels(eba1977$age), city = levels(eba1977$city), pop = 1)</pre>
d <- cbind(d, trtools::glmint(m.p, newdata = d))</pre>
p \leftarrow ggplot(eba1977, aes(x = age, y = cases/pop)) +
  geom_pointrange(aes(y = fit, ymin = low, ymax = upp),
    shape = 21, fill = "white", data = d, color = grey(0.5)) +
  geom_point() + facet_grid(city ~ .) + coord_flip() +
  labs(x = "Age Range", y = "Cases of Lung Cancer Per Captia") +
 theme_minimal()
```



```
p <- ggplot(eba1977, aes(x = city, y = cases/pop)) +
   geom_pointrange(aes(y = fit, ymin = low, ymax = upp),
        shape = 21, fill = "white", data = d, color = grey(0.5)) +
   geom_point() + facet_grid(age ~ .) + coord_flip() +
   labs(x = "City", y = "Cases of Lung Cancer Per Captia") +
   theme_minimal()
plot(p)</pre>
```



```
p <- ggplot(eba1977, aes(x = age, y = cases/pop, color = city)) +
  geom_pointrange(aes(y = fit, ymin = low, ymax = upp),
    shape = 21, fill = "white", data = d,
        position = position_dodge(width = 0.5)) +
  geom_point(position = position_dodge(width = 0.5)) +
  coord_flip() +
  labs(x = "Age Range", y = "Cases of Lung Cancer Per Captia",
        color = "City") +
  theme_minimal() + theme(legend.position = c(0.9,0.3))
  plot(p)</pre>
```

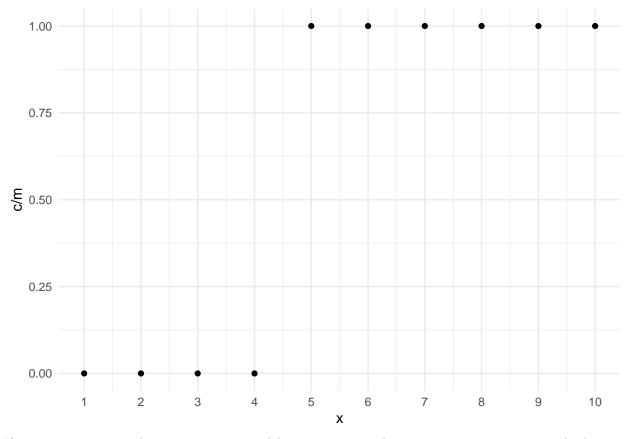


## Separation and Infinite Parameter Estimates

Some GLMs are prone to numerical problems due to (nearly) infinite parameter estimates.

**Example**: Consider the following data.

```
mydata \leftarrow data.frame(m = rep(20, 10), c = rep(c(0,20), c(4,6)), x = 1:10)
mydata
    \mathbf{m}
1
   20
           1
2
   20
           2
3
   20
       0
           3
4
   20
       0
5
   20 20
           5
   20
      20
   20 20
   20 20
  20 20
          9
10 20 20 10
p \leftarrow ggplot(mydata, aes(x = x, y = c/m)) + theme_minimal() +
  geom_point() + scale_x_continuous(breaks = 1:10)
plot(p)
```



If we try to estimate a logistic regression model we get errors and some extreme estimates, standard errors, and confidence intervals.

```
m <- glm(cbind(c,m-c) ~ x, family = binomial, data = mydata)</pre>
```

Warning: glm.fit: algorithm did not converge

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

summary(m)\$coefficients

Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept) -212.11 114489 -0.001853 0.9985
x 47.12 25082 0.001879 0.9985

confint(m)

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: algorithm did not converge

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

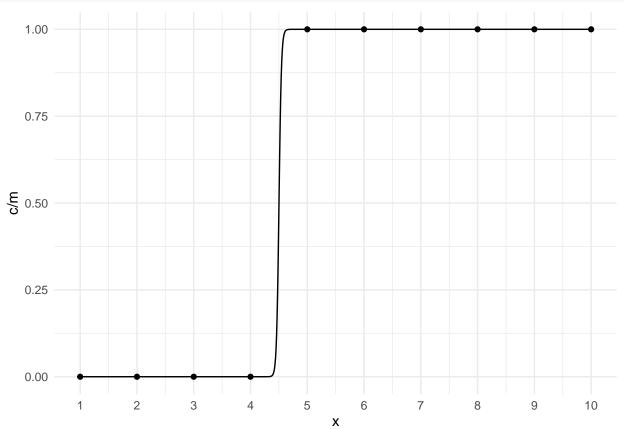
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

```
2.5 % 97.5 % (Intercept) -29559 -28057 x 7969 1966
```

But we can still plot the model.

```
d <- data.frame(x = seq(1, 10, length = 1000))
d$yhat <- predict(m, newdata = d, type = "response")
p <- p + geom_line(aes(y = yhat), data = d)
plot(p)</pre>
```



The problem is that the estimation procedure "wants" the curve to be a step function, but that only occurs as  $\beta_1 \to \infty$ , and the value of x where the estimated expected response is 0.5 equals  $-\beta_0/\beta_1$ , and for the step function that would be 4.5, so the estimation procedure "wants" the estimate of  $\beta_0$  to be  $-\beta_1 5.5 = -\infty$ . This is called *separation*. It is fairly obvious with a single explanatory variable, but much less so with multiple explanatory variables. The example above shows *complete separation* because we can separate the values of y based on the values of x. Quasi-separation occurs when this is almost true as in the following example.

```
mydata <- data.frame(m = rep(20, 50), x = seq(1, 10, length = 50),
    c = rep(c(0,20,0,20), c(24,1,1,24)))

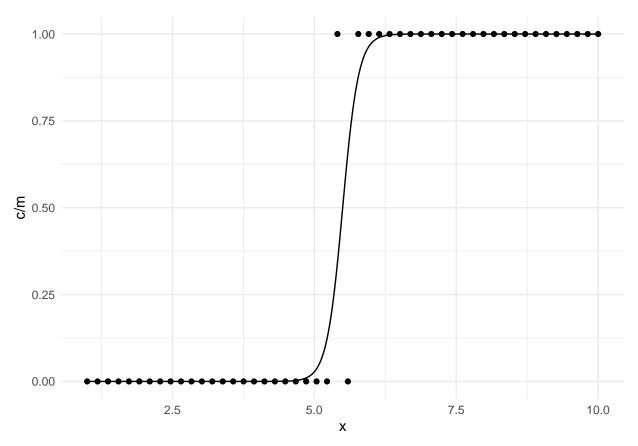
m <- glm(cbind(c,m-c) ~ x, family = binomial, data = mydata)</pre>
```

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred summary(m)\$coefficients

# confint(m) Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred 2.5 % 97.5 % (Intercept) -51.696 -29.767 5.414 9.397 $d \leftarrow data.frame(x = seq(1, 10, length = 10000))$ d\$yhat <- predict(m, newdata = d, type = "response")</pre>

 $p \leftarrow ggplot(mydata, aes(x = x, y = c/m)) + theme_minimal()$  $p \leftarrow p + geom_point() + geom_line(aes(y = yhat), data = d)$ 

plot(p)



**Example**: Consider the following data.

m c group 1 100 25 control 2 100 100 treatment

```
m <- glm(cbind(c,m-c) ~ group, family = binomial, data = mydata)
summary(m)$coefficients</pre>
```

Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|) (Intercept) -1.099 2.309e-01 -4.7571308 1.964e-06 grouptreatment 28.410 5.169e+04 0.0005496 9.996e-01 confint(m)

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

```
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
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Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
                   2.5 %
                             97.5 %
(Intercept)
                  -1.571
                            -0.6611
grouptreatment -1849.427 18872.0265
A similar problem can happen in Poisson regression where the observed count or rate in a category is zero.
Example: Consider the following data and model.
mydata \leftarrow data.frame(y = c(20, 10, 50, 15, 0), x = letters[1:5])
mydata
  у х
1 20 a
2 10 b
3 50 c
4 15 d
5 0 e
m <- glm(y ~ x, family = poisson, data = mydata)</pre>
summary(m)$coefficients
            Estimate Std. Error
                                   z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)
             2.9957 2.236e-01 13.3973220 6.268e-41
             -0.6931 3.873e-01 -1.7896983 7.350e-02
              0.9163 2.646e-01 3.4632534 5.337e-04
хc
             -0.2877 3.416e-01 -0.8422469 3.996e-01
хd
            -25.2983 4.225e+04 -0.0005988 9.995e-01
хe
confint(m)
```

Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred

Warning:  $\operatorname{glm.fit:}$  fitted rates numerically 0 occurred

```
Warning: glm.fit: fitted rates numerically 0 occurred
Error: no valid set of coefficients has been found: please supply starting values
```

There are some solutions to this problem, depending on the circumstances.

1. In simple cases such as the logistic regression example with a control and treatment group, a nonparametric approach could be used for a significance test (e.g., Fisher's exact test).

- 2. In some cases with a categorical explanatory variable, we can omit the level(s) where the observed count is zero (in Poisson regression), or the observed proportion is 0 or 1 (in logistic regression). Clearly this precludes inferences concerning that level or its relationship with other levels.
- 3. For logistic regression (or similar models) a "penalized" or "bias-reduced" estimation method can be used (see the **logistf** and **brglm** packages).