

BINARY REGRESSION

The response variable Y_i is a binary r.v. (takes only 2 values).

This kind of setting can be found in various studies: the 2 states can represent, e.g., presence / absence, success / failure, alive / dead, ...

The data can be organized into 2 different forms:

1. **UNGROUPED**: the response vector is the output of each statistical unit $\Rightarrow \in \{0, 1\}$
2. **GROUPED**: if for each combination of the covariates I observe several units, it is possible to aggregate the data by summing the # of 1 and 0 for each combination.
(grouped data can be converted to the ungrouped form)

Example: Beetle data. Study on the efficacy of a beetle poison for killing beetles

$X_i = (\log)$ dose of poison

ungrouped data: $Y_i \in \{0, 1\}$ $Y_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if the } i\text{-th beetle is alive} \\ 1 & \text{if the } i\text{-th beetle is dead} \end{cases}$

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|-----|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|------|------|
| dead / alive | 0 | 1 | ... | 0 | 0 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 0 | 1 |
| $\log(\text{dose})$ | 1.69 | 1.69 | ... | 1.69 | 1.724 | ... | 1.724 | ... | 1.88 | ... | 1.88 | 1.88 |

The experiment has been run on several beetles for every dose: I can count how many beetles are dead or alive for each level. I obtain the grouped data

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|-------|-----|------|
| # killed (1) | 6 | 13 | ... | 60 |
| # alive (0) | 53 | 47 | ... | 0 |
| $\log(\text{dose})$ | 1.69 | 1.724 | ... | 1.88 |

notice: The number of beetles for each level of x_i need not be the same

For the ungrouped data, a reasonable model is the Bernoulli

$Y \sim \text{Bern}(\pi)$

- parameter space: $\pi \in [0, 1]$ $\pi = P(Y=1)$ is a probability
- support: $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$
- probability mass function $p(y; \pi) = P(Y=y) = \pi^y (1-\pi)^{1-y}$
- moments: $E[Y] = \pi$, $\text{Var}(Y) = \pi(1-\pi)$

For the grouped data, we would use a binomial (more about it later).

• **BINARY REGRESSION: ASSUMPTIONS with UNGROUPED DATA**

1. $Y_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\pi_i)$ independent $i=1, \dots, n$

hence $\pi_i = E[Y_i] = P(Y_i=1)$, $\pi_i \in [0, 1]$

2. $\eta_i = \beta_1 x_{i1} + \dots + \beta_p x_{ip} = \underline{x}_i^T \underline{\beta}$

3. $g(\pi_i) = \eta_i$

Remarks:

• **LINK FUNCTION**

GLMs model the MEAN of the random variables: here $E[Y_i] = \pi_i$, which is also $P(Y_i=1)$.

π_i is a probability $\Rightarrow \pi_i \in [0, 1]$. However, $\eta_i \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow g$ should be a function that maps $[0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, invertible (and differentiable). For simplicity, it is usually assumed monotone increasing. Common choices are

- $g(\pi_i) = \log\left(\frac{\pi_i}{1-\pi_i}\right)$ LOGISTIC function (hence the "logistic regression": this is the canonical link)
(inverse of the distribution function of the logistic distribution)

- $g(\pi_i) = \Phi^{-1}(\pi_i)$ PROBIT function, where Φ is the distribution function of a Gaussian distr.

• **VARIANCE**

The Bernoulli distribution assumes $\text{Var}(Y_i) = \pi_i(1-\pi_i) = E[Y_i](1-E[Y_i])$.

Hence, again, the random variables are not homoscedastic.