

# glms: a Transformative Paradigm for Statistical Practice and Education

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NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

# Summary

- 1 The 1972 Paper
  - Software
- 2 Spreading the word
- 3 Extensions
  - Random effects
  - Overdispersion & Zero-Inflation
- 4 Examples
  - Count data
  - Multinomial
- 5 Education
- 6 Acknowledgements

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(1972), **135**, *Part 3*, p. 370

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- “*useful way of unifying . . . unrelated statistical procedures*”



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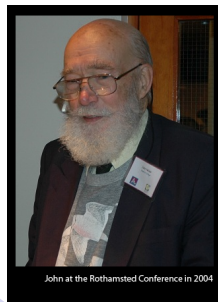
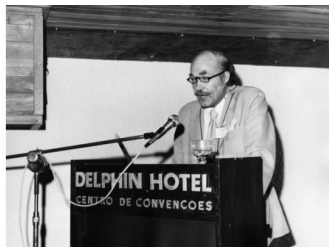
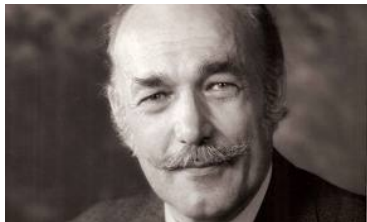
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## Robert Wedderburn: 1947 —1975

- Died aged 28 of anaphylactic shock from an insect bite.

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  - Poisson count data: square-root transformation,  $\sqrt{y}$
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- Inverse polynomials, Nelder (1966)
- Nelder (1968): *... one transformation leads to a linear model and another to normal error.*

# glms — the idea

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**Gauss** - You were one of the discussants of the Box-Cox 1964 paper and you also introduced the idea of inverse polynomials in 1966. How did you get the idea of Generalized Linear Models?

**Nelder** - That's an interesting question. I don't really think I know the answer to it. There is a paper that I wrote in 1970 which was published in Biometrics; in this I drew attention to the fact that there was a considerable similarity between a model with gamma errors and an inverse linear response curve and the model for Probit Analysis. I didn't understand at that time exactly what the connection was, though I could see there was one. Then in the subsequent two years somehow the idea jelled, so that Wedderburn and I could see what was common to these models. That's how it came about, but exactly how I did it I don't know. Similarly in the General Balance papers I first had the idea in a

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- Gamma: estimation of variance components in incomplete block design

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## Principles embodied in GLIM

— a system specifically for fitting glms.

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*The data-transformation approach suffers from the disadvantage that normality of errors and linearity of systematic effects are still being sought simultaneously*

# Generalized Linear Models — Monograph



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### International Statistical Institute (ISI)

#### 2013 Karl Pearson Prize

The ISI's Karl Pearson Prize was established in 2013 to recognize a contemporary a research contribution that has had profound influence on statistical theory, methodology, practice, or applications. The contribution can be a research article or a book and must be published within the last three decades. The prize is sponsored by Elsevier B.V.

**The inaugural Karl Pearson Prize is awarded to Peter McCullagh and John Nelder [1] for their monograph *Generalized Linear Models* (1983).**

This book has changed forever teaching, research and practice in statistics. It provides a unified and self-contained treatment of linear models for analyzing continuous, binary, count, categorical, survival, and other types of data, and illustrates the methods on applications from different areas. The monograph is based on several groundbreaking papers, including "Generalized linear models," by Nelder and Wedderburn, JRSS-A (1972), "Quasi-likelihood functions, generalized linear models, and the Gauss-Newton method," by Wedderburn, Biometrika (1974), and "Regression models for ordinal data," by P. McCullagh, JRSS-B (1980). The implementation of GLM was greatly facilitated by the development of GLIM, the interactive statistical package, by Baker and Nelder. In his review of the GLIM3 release and its manual in JASA 1979 (pp. 934-5), Peter McCullagh wrote that "It is surprising that such a powerful and unifying tool should not have achieved greater popularity after six or more years of existence." The collaboration between McCullagh and Nelder has certainly remedied this issue and has resulted in a superb treatment of the subject that is accessible to researchers, graduate students, and practitioners.

**The prize will be presented on August 27, 2013 at the ISI World Statistics Congress in Hong Kong and will be followed by the Karl Pearson Lecture by Peter McCullagh.**

**Karl Pearson Lecture: Statistical issues in modern scientific research**

Peter McCullagh  
University of Chicago, USA

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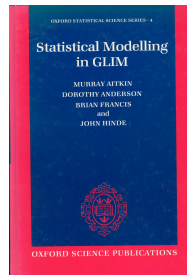
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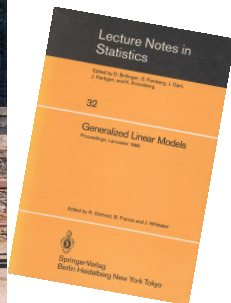
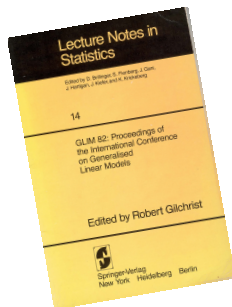
An applied *how to* text with integrated GLIM code.

- normal models
  - regression
  - analysis of variance
- binomial responses
- multinomial and Poisson
  - count data
  - multiway tables
- survival models
  - parametric
  - Cox PH — piecewise exponential
  - discrete time



# GLIM Conferences, IWSM, Statistical Modelling

- GLIM conferences — really on glms
- **IWSM: International Workshop on Statistical Modelling**
- Eventually led to **Statistical Modelling Society**



# Statistical Modelling Journal

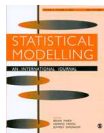
In 2000, founding of journal **Statistical Modelling**  
availability of data and code with papers → *reproducible research*

Statistical Modelling: An International Journal

<http://stat.uibk.ac.at/SMIJ/>



## Statistical Modelling: An International Journal



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**STATISTICAL MODELLING**

**AN  
INTERNATIONAL  
JOURNAL**

from  
**SAGE Publications**



**Statistical Modelling: An International Journal** publishes original and high-quality articles that recognize statistical modelling as the general framework for the application of statistical ideas. Submissions must reflect important developments, extensions, and applications in statistical modelling. The journal also encourages submissions that describe scientifically interesting, complex or novel statistical modelling aspects from a wide diversity of disciplines, and submissions that embrace the diversity of applied statistical modelling.

Indexed by Science Citation Index Expanded, ISI Alerting Services, and CompuMath Citation Index, beginning with volume 3 (2003).



# Extending the basic glm

- **response distribution**

- multivariate vector of responses
- exponential dispersion models
- generalized distributions
- quasi-distributions
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- joint responses: *longitudinal + time to event, ...*

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- multiple linear predictors — *modelling mean and dispersion, gamlss, etc*

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- **link function**

- parametric links
- composite link functions — (*Thompson & Baker, 1981*)
- non-linear glms — *gnm* (*Turner & Firth, 2012*)

# Normal Models

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- more complex situations
  - structure in *experimental* unit variability
  - repeated measures/longitudinal observations
  - ...

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- $\mathbf{z}$  normal
  - normal model with **structured covariance matrix**
- standard mixed model analyses – ML, REML
- widely available in standard software

# Generalized Linear Models

Models for counts, proportions, times, . . .

$$\mathbf{y} \sim F(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \quad g(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \boldsymbol{\eta} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^T \mathbf{x}$$

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- $\mathbf{z}$  normal  $\longrightarrow$  **generalized linear mixed models**
- $\mathbf{z}$  unspecified  $\longrightarrow$  **nonparametric maximum likelihood**



# John's Approach (1984)

## Additional random term in linear predictor

Suppose that the linear predictor  $\eta$  should be modelled by  $\eta + \varepsilon$ , where  $\varepsilon$  is a random variable with variance  $\theta$ .  $\theta$  is the between-group or 'higher-level' component of variance. Taking expectations over the lower level error we have

$$E_i(y) = \mu = g(\eta + \varepsilon) \approx g(\eta) + g'(\eta) \varepsilon$$

Hence assuming independence between the two error components we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(y) &\approx \text{var}_i(y) + g'^2 \theta \\ &\approx V(\mu) + \theta g'^2 \quad \text{for a GLM.} \end{aligned}$$

In particular for a canonical link where  $g' = V$ , we have

$$\text{var}(y) \approx V(\mu) + \theta V^2(\mu) \quad (1)$$

## Motivating Application

- 4x2 factorial micropropagation experiment of the apple variety Trajan – a 'columnar' variety.
- Shoot tips of length 1.0-1.5 cm were placed in jars on a standard culture medium.
- 4 concentrations of cytokinin BAP added  
*High concentrations of BAP often inhibit root formation during micropropagation of apples, but maybe not for 'columnar' varieties.*
- Two growth cabinets, one with 8 hour photoperiod, the other with 16 hour.  
*Jars placed at random in one of the two cabinets*



**Response variable:** number of roots after 4 weeks culture at 22°C.

# Motivating Application: Data

BAP ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Photoperiod							
	8				16			
	2.2	4.4	8.8	17.6	2.2	4.4	8.8	17.6
No. of roots								
0	0	0	0	2	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>
1	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	2
2	2	3	1	0	2	1	2	2
3	3	0	2	2	2	1	1	4
4	6	1	4	2	1	2	2	3
5	3	0	4	5	2	1	2	1
6	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4
7	2	7	4	4	0	0	1	3
8	3	3	7	8	1	1	0	0
9	1	5	5	3	3	0	2	2
10	2	3	4	4	1	3	0	0
11	1	4	1	4	1	0	1	0
12	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0
>12	13,17	13	14,14	14				
No. of shoots	30	30	40	40	30	30	30	40
Mean	5.8	7.8	7.5	7.2	3.3	2.7	3.1	2.5
Variance	14.1	7.6	8.5	8.8	16.6	14.8	13.5	8.5
Overdispersion index	1.42	-0.03	0.13	0.22	<b>4.06</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>2.47</b>

# Dispersion

Second factorial cumulant

$$S(X) = \text{Var}(X) - E[X]$$

Useful summary:

- underdispersion:  $-E[X] \leq S(X) < 0$
- equidispersion (Poisson):  $S(X) = 0$
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**Fisher's dispersion index**

$$D(X) = \frac{\text{Var}(X)}{E[X]} = 1 + \frac{S(X)}{E[X]}$$

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### Poisson-inverse Gaussian

$$\text{Var}(X) = \mu + \gamma\mu^3 \quad S(X) = \gamma\mu^3$$

## Extended variance function

An natural generalization is

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Class of Poisson mixtures, **Poisson-Tweedie models**  $PT_p(\mu, \gamma)$

$$Z \sim Tw_p(\mu, \gamma), \quad X|Z \sim Po(Z) \Rightarrow X \sim PT_p(\mu, \gamma)$$

has moments

$$E[X] = E[Z] = \mu \quad \text{Var}(Z) = \gamma\mu^p \quad \text{Var}(X) = \mu + \gamma\mu^p$$

# Tweedie Models

Family	$E[Z]$	$\text{Var}(Z)$	Type	Support
Normal	$\mu$	$\gamma$	Continuous	$R$
Poisson	$\mu$	$\mu$	Discrete	$N_0$
Non-central gamma	$\mu$	$\gamma\mu^{3/2}$	Cont. + atom	$R_0$
Gamma	$\mu$	$\gamma\mu^2$	Continuous	$R_+$
Inverse Gauss	$\mu$	$\gamma\mu^3$	Continuous	$R_+$

Only Poisson distribution is discrete.

# Poisson-Tweedie Models

Family	$E[X]$	$S(X)$	Disp. Type	$ZI(X)$
Poisson	$\mu$	0	Equi	0
Hermite	$\mu$	$\gamma$	Over	+
Neyman Type A ( <i>Poisson-Poisson</i> )	$\mu$	$\gamma\mu$	Over	+
Pólya-Aeppli Type A ( <i>Poisson-compound Poisson</i> )	$\mu$	$\gamma\mu^{3/2}$	Over	+
Negative binomial	$\mu$	$\gamma\mu^2$	Over	+
Binomial	$\mu$	$-\gamma\mu^2$	Under	+
Poisson-Inv. Gauss	$\mu$	$\gamma\mu^3$	Over	-

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## Zero-inflated models

If  $Y_i$  has a *zero-inflated Poisson* (ZIP) distribution, given by

$$\Pr(Y_i = y_i) = \begin{cases} \omega_i + (1 - \omega_i)e^{-\lambda_i} & y_i = 0 \\ (1 - \omega_i)\frac{e^{-\lambda_i}\lambda_i^{y_i}}{y_i!} & y_i > 0 \end{cases}$$



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Lambert (1992) considered models in which

$$\log(\lambda_i) = \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta} \quad \text{and} \quad \log\left(\frac{\omega_i}{1 - \omega_i}\right) = \mathbf{z}_i^T \boldsymbol{\gamma}$$

where  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  are covariate vectors and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$  are vectors of parameters.

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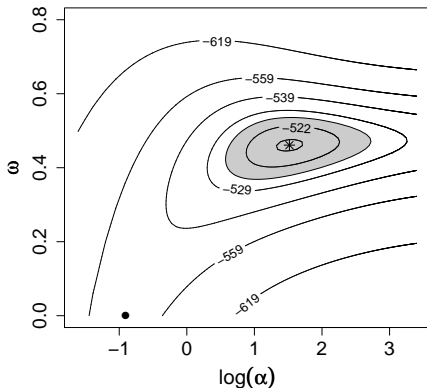
where  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  are covariate vectors and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$  are vectors of parameters.

Similar mixture models are available for the negative binomial distribution (ZINB), etc.

## Trajan apple cultivation data: fitted frequencies

No. of Roots	Observed	Fitted frequencies				
		Poisson	Neg-bin	ZIP	ZINB	ZIGPD
0	62	7.4	55.8	62	62	62
1	7	21.3	19.8	1.6	5.1	4.8
2	7	30.4	12.2	4.4	7.6	7.6
3	8	29	8.6	7.9	8.9	9.1
4	8	20.8	6.4	10.8	9.1	9.3
5	6	11.9	4.9	11.8	8.4	8.5
6	10	5.7	3.9	10.7	7.2	7.2
7	4	2.3	3.1	8.3	5.8	5.8
8	2	0.8	2.5	5.7	4.5	4.5
9	7	0.3	2.1	3.4	3.4	3.4
10	4	0.1	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.4
11	2	0	1.4	0.9	1.8	1.7
$\geq 12$	3	0	5.8	0.7	3.6	3.7
$-2 \times \log\text{-lik}$		840.7	550.2	537.9	519.3	519.8
$G^2$		335.5	36.9	31.2	9.1	9.4

## Trajan apple cultivation data: ZINB



Contour plot of  $2 \times \log$ -likelihood for  $\alpha$  and  $\omega$  with  $\mu$  fixed at the sample mean: maximum likelihood estimates for ZINB (\*) and negative binomial models (●).

# Trajan Apples: model fitting results

- P is a two level factor for photoperiod  
 H is a four level factor for the BAP levels  
 Lin(H) is a linear trend over the levels of H  
 (on the log-concentration scale for BAP.)

Description	Models			$-2 \log L$	df	AIC	BIC
	$\lambda$	$\omega$	$\alpha$				
Poisson	H*P	0	0	1556.9	262	1572.9	1601.7
	P	0	0	1571.9	268	1575.9	1583.1
Neg-Bin	H*P	0	const	1399.6	261	1417.6	1450.0
	H*P	0	P	1264.6	260	1284.6	1320.6
	H*P	0	H*P	1254.8	254	1286.8	1344.4
	Lin(H)*P	0	P	1270.1	264	1282.1	1303.7
	P	0	P	1272.4	266	<b>1280.4</b>	<b>1294.8</b>
	P	0	const	1403.9	267	1409.9	1420.7

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Description	Models			$-2 \log L$	df	AIC	BIC
	$\lambda$	$\omega$	$\alpha$				
ZIP	H*P	const	0	1338.0	261	1356.0	1388.4
	H*P	P	0	1244.5	260	1264.5	1300.5
	H*P	H*P	0	1238.2	254	1270.2	1327.8
	Lin(H)*P	P	0	1250.2	264	<b>1262.2</b>	1283.8
	P	P	0	1261.3	266	1269.3	<b>1283.7</b>
	P	const	0	1355.2	267	1361.2	1372.0
ZINB	H*P	const	const	1324.8	260	1344.8	1380.8
	H*P	P	const	1232.5	259	1254.5	1294.1
	H*P	P	P	1226.3	258	1250.3	1293.5
	H*P	H*P	H*P	1205.6	246	1253.6	1340.0
	Lin(H)*P	P	P	1231.0	262	<b>1247.0</b>	1275.8
	P	P	P	1237.7	264	1249.7	<b>1271.3</b>
	P	P	const	1243.9	265	1253.9	1271.9
	P	const	const	1336.5	266	1344.5	1358.9
	const	P	const	1257.8	266	1265.8	1280.2

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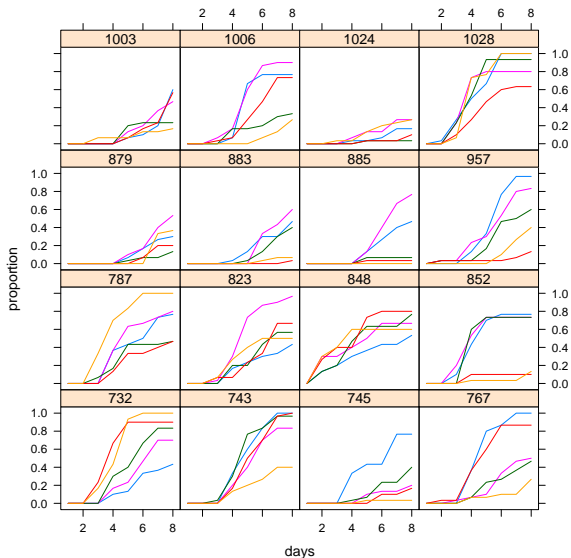
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- Experiment: on the pathogenicity and virulence of 142 different isolates of *Beauveria bassiana*.
  - Completely randomized experiment: five replicates of each of the 142 isolates.
  - Solutions of the isolates applied to groups (clusters) of  $n = 30$  termites kept in plastic Petri-dishes.
  - Mortality in the groups was measured daily for eight days

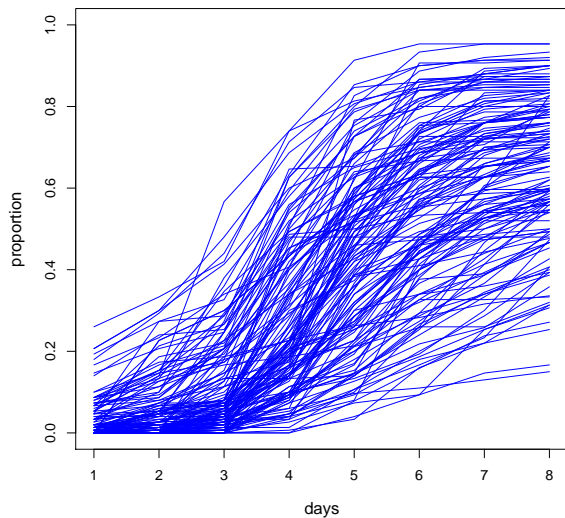
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  - Solutions of the isolates applied to groups (clusters) of  $n = 30$  termites kept in plastic Petri-dishes.
  - Mortality in the groups was measured daily for eight days
- **Data**: 710 ordered multinomial observations of length eight.

# Cumulative Mortality: sample of isolates



# Cumulative Mortality: spaghetti plot of all isolates



# Multinomial Model: Cumulative Proportions

Because of natural time ordering consider models for the **cumulative proportions** (isolate  $i$ , replicate  $k$ )

$R_{ik,d}$  = proportion of insects dead by day  $d$ ,

$\gamma_{ik,d} = E(R_{ik,d})$  = probability an insect dies by day  $d$ ,

$$\mathbf{R}_{ik} = (R_{ik,1}, R_{ik,2}, \dots, R_{ik,D})^T = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{Y}_{ik}$$

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$$E[\mathbf{R}_{ik}] = \mathbf{L} \boldsymbol{\pi}_{ik} = \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{ik}$$

$$\text{Var}[\mathbf{R}_{ik}] = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{L} [\text{diag}\{\boldsymbol{\pi}_{ik}\} - \boldsymbol{\pi}_{ik} \boldsymbol{\pi}_{ik}^T] \mathbf{L}^T = \mathbf{V}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}_{ik})$$

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- alternative models: discrete survival models, other ordinal models



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- Linear predictor: isolate specific factors, time dependency, ...  
e.g. Isolate specific linear time effect, constant over replicates

$$\eta_{ikj} = \beta_{1i} + \beta_{2i} t_j,$$

# Random Effect Models

Incorporate random effects in the linear predictor:

- Add random effect for each experimental unit (groups of insects).
  - simple time shifts
  - time dependent covariates with random coefficients
  - Replicate level random effect — accounts for overdispersion

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  - Replicate level random effect — accounts for overdispersion
- Model isolates as a random effect.

$$\eta_{ikj} = \mu + \text{time}_j + u_i + \epsilon_{ik}$$

Non-parametric maximum likelihood techniques give a finite mass-point distribution  $\{\omega_k; z_k\}$  for the isolate effects  $u_i$ .

Using a small number of components may identify effective isolates – look at the posterior distribution of  $u_i$ .

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and covariance matrix given by

$$\text{Var}[\mathbf{R}_{ik}] = \mathbf{V}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}_{ik})[1 + \rho_i(n - 1)]$$

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- Generalization of beta-binomial model



# Random Intercept Model

- Model additional variation by including random effects in the linear predictor

$$g(q_{ikj}) = \eta_{ikj} + \xi_{ik} = \beta_{1i} + \beta_{2i}t_j + \xi_{ik}$$

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where  $\mathbf{h}$  is inverse link function with derivative  $\mathbf{h}'$

- Analogous to approximate variance function for logistic-normal distribution

# Random Intercept + Random Slope Model

- Extend to include correlated random effects for intercept and slope

$$g(\mathbf{q}_{ikj}) = \beta_{1i} + \xi_{ik} + (\beta_{2i} + \zeta_{ik})t_j = \eta_{ikj} + \xi_{ik} + \zeta_{ik}t_j$$

where  $(\xi_{ik}, \zeta_{ik})^T$  has  $E[\xi_{ik}] = E[\zeta_{ik}] = 0$  and covariance matrix

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \nu_i^2 & \lambda_i \nu_i \tau_i \\ \lambda_i \nu_i \tau_i & \tau_i^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Random Intercept + Random Slope Model

- Extend to include correlated random effects for intercept and slope

$$g(\mathbf{q}_{ikj}) = \beta_{1i} + \xi_{ik} + (\beta_{2i} + \zeta_{ik})\mathbf{t}_j = \eta_{ikj} + \xi_{ik} + \zeta_{ik}\mathbf{t}_j$$

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- Approximations now give

$$E[\mathbf{R}_{ik}] \approx \gamma_{ik}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[\mathbf{R}_{ik}] \approx & \mathbf{V}(\gamma_{ik}) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left\{ \nu_i^2 [\mathbf{h}'(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{ik})][\mathbf{h}'(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{ik})]^T \right. \\ & \left. + \tau_i^2 [\mathbf{h}'(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{ik}) * \mathbf{t}_{ik}][\mathbf{h}'(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{ik}) * \mathbf{t}_{ik}]^T + \lambda_i \nu_i \tau_i [\mathbf{h}'(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{ik})][\mathbf{h}'(\boldsymbol{\eta}_{ik})]^T * [\mathbf{1}\mathbf{t}_{ik}^T + \mathbf{t}_{ik}\mathbf{1}^T] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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- Numerous explanations posited by various colleagues, but . . .

**All down to forms of models and matrix algebra**

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- Analysis of non-normal data

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**Combination of theory & application**

# Bristol: Generalised Linear Models

## Syllabus

- Overview of data analysis, motivating examples. Review of linear models. (1 lecture)
- Generalized linear models (GLMs). Exponential family model, sufficiency issues. Link function, canonical link. (5 lectures)
- Inference for generalized linear models, based on asymptotic theory: confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, goodness of fit. Results interpretation. Diagnostics. (4 lectures)
- Binary responses, logistic regression, residuals and diagnostics. (2 lectures)
- Introduction to survival analysis. Distribution theory: standard parametric models. Proportional odds model and connection to binomial GLM's. Inference assuming a parametric form for the baseline hazard. (4 lectures)

# UCSC: Generalized Linear Models

- **Introduction to GLMs**

Statistical modeling in the context of GLMs. Exponential dispersion family of distributions (definitions, properties, and examples). Components of a GLM, examples of GLMs.

- **Likelihood inference for GLMs**

Likelihood estimation (iterative weighted least squares) and inference (asymptotic interval estimates). Model diagnostics (residuals for GLMs, model comparison criteria).

- **Regression models for categorical responses and count data**

Models for binary responses (dose-response modeling, probit and logit models). Poisson regression and log-linear models. Basic ideas for modeling of contingency tables. Multinomial response models for nominal or ordinal responses.

- **Bayesian GLMs**

General setting, examples, priors for GLMs. MCMC posterior simulation methods for GLMs. Bayesian residual analysis and model choice. Hierarchical GLMs, overdispersed GLMs, generalized linear mixed models.

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