

Introduction

- Count data models are for dependent variable $y = 0, 1, 2, \dots$
- Example:
 - ▶ y : Number of doctor visits (usually cross-section)
 - x : health status, age, gender,
- Many approaches and issues are general nonlinear model issues.
 - ▶ Econometrics: MLE, quasi-MLE, generalized MM (GMM)
 - ▶ Statistics: generalized linear models (GLM).

Advances in Count Data Regression:

I. Basic cross-section methods

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Outline of all lectures

- I. Basic cross-section methods:
 - Poisson, GLM, negative binomial
- II. More advanced cross-section methods:
 - Hurdle, zero-inflated, finite mixtures, endogeneity
- III. Time series and panel methods
- IV. Further Topics:
 - multivariate, maximum simulated likelihood, Bayesian

Key sources

- A. Colin Cameron and Pravin K. Trivedi (2010) *Regression Analysis of Count Data (RACD)* Second edition, Cambridge Univ. Press, in preparation.
- A. Colin Cameron and Pravin K. Trivedi (2009) *Microeconometrics using Stata (MUS)*, chapter 17, Stata Press.
- A. Colin Cameron and Pravin K. Trivedi (2005) *Microeconometrics: Methods and Applications (MMA)*, Cambridge Univ. Press.
- Pravin K. Trivedi and Murat Munkin (2009) "Recent Developments in Cross Section and Panel Count Models" in D. Giles and A. Ullah eds., *Handbook of Empirical Economics and Finance*, Chapman and Hall / CRC, forthcoming.

Outline of basic cross-section count methods

- Introduction
- Count data without regression
 - Doctor visits data
 - Poisson distribution
 - Negative binomial distribution
- Poisson regression
 - Poisson MLE
 - Coefficient interpretation
 - Marginal effects
- Generalized linear models
- Nonlinear least squares
- Diagnostics
- Negative binomial model

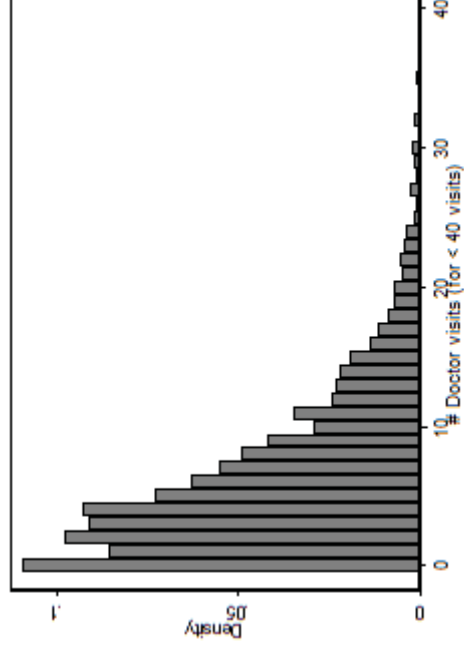
Count data without regression: doctor visits

- Many health surveys measure health use as counts as people have better recall of counts than of dollars spent.
- 2003 U.S. Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS).
- Sample of Medicare population aged 65 and higher (N = 3,677)
- docvis = annual number of doctor visits

```
. use mus17data.dta
. summarize docvis
```

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
docvis	3677	6.822682	7.394937	0	144

Doctor visits: Histogram dropping observations with more than 40 visits



Doctor visits: Frequencies with 11-40 and 41-60 grouped

```
. tabulate dvrange
```

dvrange	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	401	10.91	10.91
1	314	8.54	19.45
2	358	9.74	29.18
3	334	9.08	38.26
4	339	9.22	47.48
5	266	7.23	54.72
6	231	6.28	61.00
7	202	5.49	66.49
8	179	4.87	71.36
9	154	4.19	75.55
10	108	2.94	78.49
11-40	774	21.05	99.54
41-60	14	0.38	99.92
73	1	0.03	99.95
106	1	0.03	99.97
144	1	0.03	99.97
Total	3,677	100.00	

Poisson distribution

- From stochastic process theory, natural model for counts is

$$y \sim \text{Poisson}[\lambda].$$

- Probability mass function:

$$\Pr[Y = y|\lambda] = \frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^y}{y!}$$

- Mean and variance:

$$E[y] = \lambda$$

$$V[y] = \lambda$$

- Equidispersion: variance = mean
 - Restriction imposed by Poisson
- Overdispersion: variance > mean
 - More common feature of count data.

Negative binomial distribution

- If

$$y \sim \text{Poisson}[\lambda v]$$

$$v \sim \text{Gamma}[\mu = 1, \sigma^2 = \alpha]$$

then

$$y \sim \text{Negative Binomial}[\mu = \lambda, \sigma^2 = \lambda + \alpha\lambda^2].$$

- Probability mass function:

$$\Pr[Y = y|\lambda, \alpha] = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha^{-1} + y)}{\Gamma(\alpha^{-1})\Gamma(y + 1)} \left(\frac{\alpha^{-1}}{\alpha^{-1} + \lambda} \right)^{\alpha^{-1}} \left(\frac{\lambda}{\lambda + \alpha^{-1}} \right)^y.$$

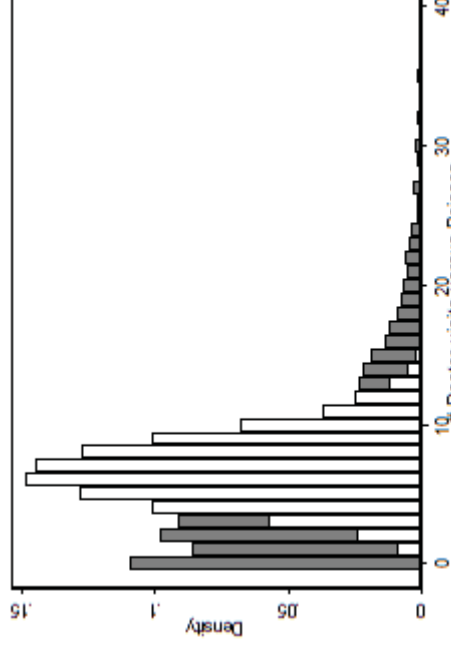
- Mean and variance:

$$E[y] = \lambda$$

$$V[y] = \alpha\lambda^2$$

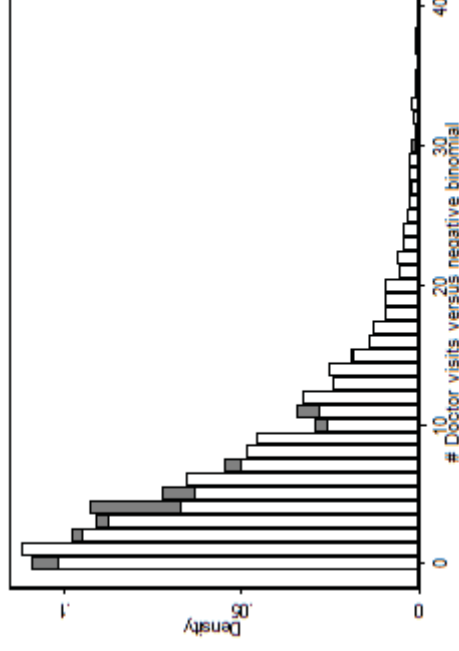
- Overdispersion: variance > mean.

Poisson distribution for $\lambda = \bar{y}$ compared to actual data



Poisson clearly inappropriate: $\bar{y} = 6.82$, $s_y = 7.39$, $s_y^2 = 54.68 \simeq 8.01\bar{y}$.

Negative binomial for $\lambda = \bar{y}$ and $\alpha = 0.8408$ compared to actual data



Negative binomial much more appropriate than Poisson for these data.

2. Poisson regression: summary

- Poisson regression is straightforward
 - ▶ many packages do Poisson regression
 - ▶ coefficients are easily interpreted as semi-elasticities.
- Do Poisson rather than OLS with dependent variable
 - ▶ y
 - ▶ $\ln y$ (with adjustment for $\ln 0$)
 - ▶ \sqrt{y} (a variance-stabilizing transformation).
- Poisson MLE is consistent provided only that $E[y|\mathbf{x}] = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta})$.
 - ▶ But make sure standard errors etc. are robust to $V[y|\mathbf{x}] \neq E[y|\mathbf{x}]$.
 - ▶ And generally don't use Poisson if need to predict probabilities.

Poisson regression: consistency of Poisson MLE

- ML first-order conditions are

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})) \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{0}.$$
- Consistency only requires (given independence over i)

$$E[(y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\boldsymbol{\beta})) \mathbf{x}_i] = \mathbf{0}$$
- So consistent if

$$E[y_i|\mathbf{x}_i] = \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\boldsymbol{\beta})$$
- Poisson MLE is consistent if the conditional mean is correctly specified
 - ▶ like MLE for linear model under normality.

Poisson regression: Poisson MLE

- Let the Poisson rate parameter vary across individuals with \mathbf{x} in way to ensure $\lambda > 0$.

$$\lambda = E[y|\mathbf{x}] = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta}).$$
- MLE is straightforward given data independent over i .

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= e^{-\lambda} \lambda^y / y! \\ \Rightarrow \ln f(y) &= -\exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta}) + y\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta} - \ln y! \\ \Rightarrow \ln L(\boldsymbol{\beta}) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \{-\exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\boldsymbol{\beta}) + y_i\mathbf{x}_i'\boldsymbol{\beta} - \ln y_i!\} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \ln L(\boldsymbol{\beta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \{-\exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\boldsymbol{\beta})\mathbf{x}_i + y_i\mathbf{x}_i\} \end{aligned}$$

- The ML first-order conditions are

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})) \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{0}.$$
- No explicit solution for $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$.
 - ▶ Instead use Newton-Raphson iterative method.
 - ▶ Fast as objective function is globally concave in $\boldsymbol{\beta}$.

Poisson regression: distribution of Poisson MLE

- If distribution is Poisson then $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \stackrel{a}{\sim} \mathcal{N}[\boldsymbol{\beta}, V_{MLE}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}]]$ where

$$\hat{V}_{MLE}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] = \left(\sum_i \hat{\mu}_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' \right)^{-1}$$
- If distribution is not Poisson but $E[y_i|\mathbf{x}_i] = \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\boldsymbol{\beta})$ and $V[y_i|\mathbf{x}_i] = \sigma_i^2$ then $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \stackrel{a}{\sim} \mathcal{N}[\boldsymbol{\beta}, V_{ROB}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}]]$ and we use the robust sandwich estimate of variance (White (1982), Huber (1967))

$$\hat{V}_{ROB}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] = \left(\sum_i \hat{\mu}_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_i (y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' \right) \left(\sum_i \hat{\mu}_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' \right)^{-1}$$
- ▶ $V_{ROB}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] = V_{MLE}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}]$ if $\sigma_i^2 = \mu_i$ (imposed by Poisson)
- ▶ $V_{ROB}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] = \alpha V_{MLE}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}]$ if $\sigma_i^2 = \alpha \mu_i$ (used in GLM literature)
- ▶ Robust se's are much larger than default ML se's if $\alpha > 1$.

Poisson regression: derivation of robust sandwich

- Take a first-order Taylor series expansion of $\sum_i (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}'\hat{\beta})) \mathbf{x}_i$ about $\hat{\beta}$.

$$\sum_i (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}'\hat{\beta})) \mathbf{x}_i = \sum_i (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}'\beta)) \mathbf{x}_i - \sum_i \exp(\mathbf{x}'\beta) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' (\hat{\beta} - \beta)$$
- F.o.c. set this to zero and can show that R disappears asymptotically

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i (y_i - \mu_i) \mathbf{x}_i + (\sum_i \mu_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i') (\hat{\beta} - \beta) &= 0 \\ (\hat{\beta} - \beta) &= (\sum_i \mu_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i')^{-1} \times \sum_i (y_i - \mu_i) \mathbf{x}_i \\ &\stackrel{a}{\approx} (\sum_i \mu_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i')^{-1} \times \mathcal{N} [0, \sum_i \sigma_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i'] \\ &\stackrel{a}{\approx} \mathcal{N} [0, (\sum_i \mu_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i')^{-1} (\sum_i \sigma_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i') (\sum_i \mu_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i')^{-1}] \end{aligned}$$
- where $\mu_i = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\hat{\beta})$, $\hat{\mu}_i = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\hat{\beta})$ and $\sigma_i^2 = E[(y_i - \mu_i)^2]$.
- Asymptotically can estimate $\sum_i \sigma_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i'$ by $(\sum_i (y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i')$.
- If density is Poisson then simplifies to $(\sum_i \mu_i \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i')^{-1}$ as $\sigma_i^2 = \mu_i$.

Summary statistics

```
. describe docvis $xlist
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| variable name | storage | display | value | variable label |
|               | type   | format  | label |               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
docvis         | float  | %9.0g   |       | # doctor visits |
private        | byte   | %8.0g   |       | =1 if has private supplementary insuran |
medicaid      | byte   | %8.0g   |       | =1 if has medicaid public insurance   |
age            | float  | %9.0g   |       | Age-squared |
age2           | byte   | %8.0g   |       | Years of education |
educyr         | byte   | %8.0g   |       | =1 if activity limitation |
actlim        | byte   | %8.0g   |       | # chronic conditions |
totchr        | byte   | %8.0g   |       |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
. summarize docvis $xlist, sep(10)
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Variable | Obs  | Mean  | Std. Dev. | Min  | Max  |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
docvis    | 3677 | 6.822682 | 7.394937 | 0    | 144  |
private    | 3677 | .4966005 | .5000564 | 0    | 1    |
medicaid  | 3677 | .166712  | .3727692 | 0    | 1    |
age        | 3677 | 74.24476 | 6.376638 | 65   | 90   |
age2       | 3677 | 5552.936 | 958.9996 | 4225 | 8100 |
educyr     | 3677 | 11.18031 | 3.827676 | 0    | 17   |
actlim     | 3677 | .333152  | .4714045 | 0    | 1    |
totchr     | 3677 | 1.843351 | 1.350026 | 0    | 8    |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

Poisson regression: data example

- Same 2003 MEPS data for over 65 in Medicare
- Dependent variable: docvis
- Regressors grouped into three categories:
 - Health insurance status indicators
 - private
 - medicaid
 - Socioeconomic
 - age
 - age2
 - educyr
 - Health status measures
 - actlim
 - totchr

Poisson MLE with robust sandwich standard errors

```
. * Poisson with robust standard errors
. poisson docvis $xlist, vce(robust) nolog // Poisson robust SEs

Poisson regression      Number of obs   =   3677
                        Wald chi2(7)         =  720.43
                        Prob > chi2         =  0.0000
                        Pseudo R2         =  0.1297

Log pseudo likelihood = -15009.64

+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| docvis | Coef. | Std. Err. | z   | P>|z| | [95% Conf. Interval] |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
private  | -1.422324 | .036356 | -3.91 | 0.000 | -1.500976 -1.343672 |
medicaid | .0970005 | .0568264 | 1.71 | 0.088 | -.0145773 .2114889 |
age      | .2936722 | .0629776 | 4.66 | 0.000 | .1702383 .4171061 |
age2     | -.0019311 | .0004166 | -4.64 | 0.000 | -.0027475 -.0011147 |
educyr   | .0295562 | .0048454 | 6.10 | 0.000 | .0200594 .039053 |
actlim   | .1864213 | .0396569 | 4.70 | 0.000 | .1086953 .2641474 |
totchr   | .2483898 | .0125786 | 19.75 | 0.000 | .2237361 .2730435 |
_cons   | -10.18221 | 2.369212 | -4.30 | 0.000 | -14.82578 -5.538638 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

Poisson MLE with default ML standard errors
 - these are misleadingly small

```
* * Poisson with default ML standard errors // Poisson default ML standard errors
. poisson docvis Sklist
Iteration 0: log likelihood = -15019.656
Iteration 1: log likelihood = -15019.64
Iteration 2: log likelihood = -15019.64

Poisson regression
Log likelihood = -15019.64
```

	Number of obs	LR chi2(7)	Prob > chi2	Pseudo R2
	3677	4477.98	0.0000	0.1297

docvis	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
private	.1422324	.0143311	9.92	0.000	.114144	.1703208
mediicaid	.0970005	.0189307	5.12	0.000	.0598969	.134104
age	-.2936722	.0259563	-11.31	0.000	-.2427988	-.3445457
age2	-.0019311	.0001724	-11.20	0.000	-.0022691	-.0015931
educyr	.0295562	.001882	15.70	0.000	.0258676	.0332449
actlim	.5864213	.014566	40.28	0.000	.5578726	.6149701
totchr	.2483898	.0046447	53.48	0.000	.2392864	.2574933
_cons	-.10.18221	.9720115	-10.48	0.000	-.12.08732	-.8.277301

Robust se's are 2.5-2.7 times larger

Note: $\sqrt{s^2/\bar{y}} = \sqrt{7.39^2/6.82} = \sqrt{8.01} = 2.830$.

Poisson regression: marginal effects

- Example: $\hat{\beta}_{\text{private}} = 0.142$.
 - ▶ Private insurance is associated with an increase in mean doctor visits of 14.2%.
 - ▶ More precisely the increase is $100 \times (e^{0.142} - 1) = 100 \times (1.153 - 1) = 15.3\%$.
 - ▶ Alternatively the exponentiated coefficient is $e^{0.142} = 1.153$, so the multiplicative effect is 1.153.
- Example: $\hat{\beta}_{\text{private}} = 0.142$ and $\hat{\beta}_{\text{totchr}} = 0.248$
 - ▶ Since $0.142/0.248 = 0.57$, private insurance has the same impact on mean doctor visits as 0.57 more chronic conditions.

Poisson regression: coefficient interpretation

For the exponential conditional mean the marginal effect

$$\frac{\partial E[y|\mathbf{x}]}{\partial x_j} = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta}) \times \beta_j = E[y|\mathbf{x}] \times \beta_j$$

- 1 Conditional mean is strictly monotonic increasing (or decreasing) in x_{ij} according to the sign of β_j .
- 2 Coefficients are semi-elasticities: β_j is proportionate change in conditional mean when x_{ij} changes by one unit.
- 3 More precisely $(\exp(\beta_j) - 1)$ is proportionate change. Programs have options to report exponentiated coefficients (incidence-rate ratios).
- 4 Like all single-index models, if $\beta_j = 2\beta_k$, then the effect of one-unit change in x_j is twice that of x_k .

- Marginal effect at mean (MEM): Evaluate at $\mathbf{x} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}$

$$\text{MEM} = \left. \frac{\partial E[y|\mathbf{x}]}{\partial x_j} \right|_{\mathbf{x}=\bar{\mathbf{x}}} = \exp(\bar{\mathbf{x}}'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \times \hat{\beta}_j$$

- Average marginal effect (AME): Evaluate at each \mathbf{x}_i and average

$$\text{AME} = \sum_i \frac{\partial E[y_i|\mathbf{x}_i]}{\partial x_{ij}} = \sum_i \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \times \hat{\beta}_j.$$

- For Poisson with intercept in model $\text{AME} = \bar{y}\hat{\beta}_j$
 - ▶ Reason: f.o.c. $\sum_i (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})) = 0$ imply $\sum_i \exp(\mathbf{x}_i'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = \bar{y}$
- For Poisson can show that $\text{AME} > \text{MEM}$.

Marginal effects: MEM versus AME

```
. mfx // MEM: Marginal effect for Poisson evaluated at average of x
Marginal effects after poisson
y = predicted number of events (predict)
= 6.2674204
```

variable	dy/dx	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% C.I.]	x
private*	.8926136	.22788	3.92	0.000	.445984 1.33924	.4966
medicaid*	.6281643	.38182	1.65	0.100	-.120185 1.37651	.166712
age	1.840567	.39247	4.69	0.000	1.07134 2.60979	74.2448
age2	-.012103	.00226	-4.66	0.000	-.017194 -.007012	5552.94
educyr	.1852412	.03067	6.04	0.000	1.25127 .245355	11.1803
actlim*	1.207039	.26864	4.49	0.000	.680506 1.73357	333152
totchr	1.556784	.07602	20.48	0.000	1.40777 1.70375	1.84335

(*) dy/dx is for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1

```
. margeff // AME: Average marginal effect for Poisson
```

Average partial effects after poisson
y = E(docvis) (expected number of counts)

variable	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
private	.9701906	.2645543	3.67	0.000	.4516738 1.488707
medicaid	.6830664	.4219606	1.62	0.105	-.1429612 1.510094
age	2.032337	.4489563	4.53	0.000	1.132618 2.922495
age2	-.0133733	.0028473	-4.63	0.000	-.0187559 -.0075947
educyr	.201688	.033795	5.97	0.000	.135445 .2679189
actlim	1.295942	.304792	4.25	0.000	.6985604 1.893323
totchr	1.712165	.0935177	18.31	0.000	1.528874 1.895456

GLM: Poisson as GLM

- Poisson specifies a log-link function and variance = mean so

$$E[y_i | x_i] = g(x_i; \beta) = \exp(x_i; \beta)$$

$$\ln E[y_i | x_i] = x_i; \beta$$

$$h(E[y_i | x_i]) = \exp(x_i; \beta)$$

- Then GLM for Poisson solves.

$$\sum_i \frac{(y_i - \exp(x_i; \beta))}{\exp(x_i; \beta)} \exp(x_i; \beta) x_i = 0$$

or

$$\sum_i (y_i - \exp(x_i; \beta)) = 0.$$

- This is exactly same as Poisson MLE f.o.c.
- Simplification occurred because the link here was the canonical link.

Generalized linear models

- 1. Specify the link function (links the mean to $x_i; \beta$)
 $f(E[y_i | x_i]) = x_i; \beta$.
 - This implies the conditional mean is
$$E[y_i | x_i] = g(x_i; \beta) = f^{-1}(x_i; \beta).$$
 - So $g(\cdot)$ is the inverse link function.
- 2. Specify the conditional variance to be a multiple of a specified function $h(\cdot)$ of the mean
- 3. The GLM estimator solves
 - $$\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - g(x_i; \beta))}{h(g(x_i; \beta))} \times g'(x_i; \beta) x_i = 0.$$
 - This is GLS-like: $\sum_i \frac{(y_i - E[y_i | x_i])}{V[y_i | x_i]} \times \frac{\partial E[y_i | x_i]}{\partial x_i} = 0.$
 - Consistent if $E[(y_i - g(x_i; \beta))] = 0$ or $E[y_i | x_i] = g(x_i; \beta)$.
 - Use sandwich s.e.'s, or rescale by $\sqrt{\hat{\alpha}}$ where $\hat{\alpha} = \frac{1}{n-k} \sum_i \frac{(y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)^2}{h(\hat{\mu}_i)}$

Poisson GLM with robust sandwich standard errors

```
. glm docvis $xlist, family(poisson) link(log) vce(robust) noolog
Generalized linear models
Optimization : ML
No. of obs = 3677
Residual df = 3669
Scale parameter = 1
Deviance (1/df) Deviance = 5.013666
Pearson (1/df) Pearson = 6.308906
Variance function: v(u) = u
Link function : g(u) = ln(u)
Log pseudo-likelihood = -15019.6398
AIC = 8.173859
BIC = -11726.81
```

	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
docvis					
private	.1422324	.086356	3.91	0.000	.070976 .2134889
medicaid	.0970005	.0568264	1.71	0.088	-.0143773 .2083783
age	.2936722	.0629776	4.66	0.000	.1702983 .4171061
age2	-.0019311	.0004166	-4.64	0.000	-.0027475 -.0011147
educyr	.0019562	.00048454	6.10	0.000	.0200594 .039053
actlim	.1864213	.0396569	4.70	0.000	.106953 .2641474
totchr	.2483898	.0125786	19.75	0.000	.223761 .2730435
_cons	-10.18221	2.369212	-4.30	0.000	-14.82578 -5.538638

Exactly same as poisson, vce(robust)

Poisson GLM with rescaled ML standard errors.
 Multiply by $\sqrt{\hat{\alpha}}$ where $\hat{\alpha} = \frac{1}{n-k} \sum_i \frac{(y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)^2}{h(\hat{\mu}_i)} = (1/\text{df})$ Pearson
 = 6.308906.

```

- glm docvis <list, family(poisson) link(log) scale(x2) no log
Generalized linear models
Optimization : ML
Deviance      - 18395.14033
Pearson       - 23147.37781

Variance function: V(u) = u
Link function    : g(u) = ln(u)

Log likelihood  - -15019.6398
AIC             - 8.173859
BIC             - -11726.81
  
```

docvis	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
private	.1422324	.0359961	3.95	0.000	.0716813 - .2127836
medicaid	.0970005	.0475493	2.04	0.041	.0038053 - .1901954
age	.2936722	.0651939	4.50	0.000	.1658906 - .4214538
age2	-.0019311	.0004331	-4.46	0.000	-.00278 - -.0010822
educyr	.0295562	.0047271	6.25	0.000	.0202912 - .0388212
actlim	.1864213	.0365861	5.10	0.000	.1147139 - .2581288
totchr	.2483898	.0116663	21.29	0.000	.2255243 - .2712554
_cons	-.10.18221	2.441453	-4.17	0.000	-.14.96737 -5.397048

(Standard errors scaled using square root of Pearson x2-based dispersion)

Within 15% of robust sandwich standard errors.

- Quasi-MLE maximizes

$$\ln L(\beta) = \sum_i \ln f(y_i | \mu_i(\beta)) = \sum_i \{a(\mu_i(\beta)) + b(y_i) + c(\mu_i(\beta))y_i\}.$$

- F.O.C. are

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i \{a'(\mu_i(\beta)) + c'(\mu_i(\beta))y_i\} \times \frac{\partial \mu_i(\beta)}{\partial \beta} &= \mathbf{0} \\ \Rightarrow \sum_i c'(\mu_i(\beta)) \times \{y_i - a'(\mu_i(\beta)) / c'(\mu_i(\beta))\} \times \frac{\partial \mu_i(\beta)}{\partial \beta} &= \mathbf{0} \\ \Rightarrow \sum_i \frac{1}{\sqrt{y_i}} \{y_i - \mu_i(\beta)\} \times \frac{\partial \mu_i(\beta)}{\partial \beta} &= \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

- MLE based on LEF with $\mu_i = g(\mathbf{x}_i; \beta)$ shares the robustness properties of normal and Poisson MLE
 - consistency requires correct specification of the mean.
- But correct standard errors should use a robust estimate of variance
 - Robust sandwich s.e.'s or
 - Default ML s.e.'s multiplied by $\sqrt{\hat{\alpha}}$ where $V[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = \alpha \times h(E[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i])$.

GLM: As quasi-MLE for linear exponential family

- Class of models based on linear exponential family (LEF):
 - normal, binomial, Bernoulli, gamma, exponential, Poisson.
- Specifically for the LEF

$$\begin{aligned} f(y_i | \mu_i) &= \exp\{a(\mu_i) + b(y_i) + c(\mu_i)y_i\} \\ E[y_i] &= \mu_i = -a'(\mu_i) / c(\mu_i) \\ V[y_i] &= 1 / c(\mu_i) \end{aligned}$$

- Poisson: $a(\mu) = -\mu$; $c(\mu) = \ln \mu$ so
 - $a'(\mu) = -1$
 - $c'(\mu) = 1/\mu$
 - $E[y_i] = -(-1)/(1/\mu) = \mu$
 - $V[y_i] = 1/(1/\mu) = \mu$.

Nonlinear least squares estimator

- Alternative estimator not used as Poisson is simpler and usually more efficient.
- Specify same conditional mean as Poisson: $E[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = \exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \beta)$.
- Minimize sum of squared residuals: $\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \beta))^2$.
- NLS first-order conditions:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \beta)) \exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \beta) \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{0}.$$
- NLS is consistent provided $E[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = \exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \beta)$
- $\hat{\beta}_{\text{NLS}} \stackrel{a}{\sim} \mathcal{N}[\beta, V_{\text{MLE}}[\hat{\beta}]]$ and use robust sandwich variance estimate:

$$\hat{V}_{\text{ROB}}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{NLS}}] = \left(\sum_i \hat{\mu}_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_i (y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)^2 \hat{\mu}_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' \right) \left(\sum_i \hat{\mu}_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i' \right)^{-1}.$$

Diagnostics: residuals and influence measures

Residuals (for Poisson)

- Raw: $r_i = (y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)$
 - Pearson: $p_i = (y_i - \hat{\mu}_i) / \sqrt{\hat{\mu}_i}$
 - Deviance: $d_i = \text{sign}(y_i - \hat{\mu}_i) \sqrt{2 \{y_i \ln(y_i / \hat{\mu}_i) - (y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)\}}$
 - Ancombe: $a_i = 1.5(y_i^{2/3} - \hat{\mu}_i^{2/3}) / \hat{\mu}_i^{1/6}$
 - Last three will be standardized if $V[y_i] = \mu_i$.
- Small-sample corrections (for Poisson)
 - Hat matrix: $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{W}^{1/2} \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}' \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}' \mathbf{W}^{1/2}$, $\mathbf{W} = \text{Diag}[\hat{\mu}_i]$.
 - Studentized residual: $p_i^* = p_i / \sqrt{1 - h_{ii}}$ and $d_i^* = d_i / \sqrt{1 - h_{ii}}$.
 - Influential observations:
 - Rule of thumb: $h_{ii} > 2K/N$
 - Cook's distance: $C_i = (p_i^*)^2 h_i / K(1 - h_{ii})$ measures change in $\hat{\beta}$ when observation i is omitted.

Nonlinear least squares with robust sandwich standard errors

```

* nl (docvis = exp({xb: $xlist one})), vce(robust) nolag
(obs = 3677)

Number of obs =      3677
R-squared      =    0.5436
Adj R-squared  =    0.5426
Root MSE      =    6.804007
Res. dev.     =   24528.25
    
```

Nonlinear regression

	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
/xb_private	-1.235144	0.095179	3.13	0.002	-0.460351 -2.009937
/xb_medicaid	0.0856747	0.0649936	1.32	0.188	-0.0417525 0.2131018
/xb_age	0.2951153	0.0720509	4.10	0.000	0.1538516 0.4363789
/xb_age2	-0.0019481	0.0004771	-4.08	0.000	-0.0028836 -0.0010291
/xb_educvr	0.0309924	0.0051192	6.05	0.000	0.0209557 0.0410291
/xb_actlim	0.1916735	0.0413705	4.63	0.000	0.110562 0.2727851
/xb_totchr	0.2191967	0.051021	4.31	0.000	0.1895874 0.248806
/xb_one	-10.12458	2.713159	-3.73	0.000	-15.44583 -4.804951

Robust standard errors are 5-20% larger than those for Poisson.

```

. summarize rraw rpearson rdeviance ranscombe hat cooks, sep(10)
    
```

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
rraw	3677	-7.08e-10	6.808178	-29.12996	136.9007
rpearson	3677	-0.0060737	2.509354	-4.914746	51.38051
rdeviance	3677	-34.38453	2.210397	-6.087067	24.35213
ranscombe	3677	-36.34087	2.254119	-6.153762	25.72892
hat	3677	.0021757	.0015322	.0007023	.027556
cooks	3677	.0019357	.0177516	6.54e-11	.964198

```

. correlate rraw rpearson rdeviance ranscombe
(obs=3677)
    
```

	rraw	rpearson	rdeviance	ranscombe
rraw	1.0000			
rpearson	0.9792	1.0000		
rdeviance	0.9454	0.9669	1.0000	
ranscombe	0.9435	0.9661	0.9998	1.0000

The various residuals are highly correlated. The raw residuals sum to zero due to f.o.c.

Diagnostics: R-squared measures

- Different interpretations of R^2 in linear model lead to different R^2 in nonlinear model. Most are difficult to interpret in nonlinear models.
- Simplest: squared correlation coefficient between y_i and $\hat{y}_i = \hat{\mu}_i$

$$R_{\text{Cor}}^2 = \widehat{\text{Cor}}^2[y_i, \hat{y}_i]$$

- Sums of squares measures differ in nonlinear models

$$R_{\text{Res}}^2 = 1 - \text{ResSS}/\text{TotalSS}$$

$$R_{\text{Exp}}^2 = \text{ExpSS}/\text{TotalSS}$$

- Relative gain in log-likelihood (L_0 is intercept model only)

$$R_{\text{RG}}^2 = \frac{\ln L_{\text{fit}} - \ln L_0}{\ln L_{\text{max}} - \ln L_0} = 1 - \frac{\ln L_{\text{max}} - \ln L_{\text{fit}}}{\ln L_{\text{max}} - \ln L_0}$$

- Works for Poisson as $\ln L_{\text{max}}$ occurs when $\mu_i = y_i$.
- Unlike others $0 \leq R_{\text{RG}}^2 < 1$ and R_{RG}^2 always increases as add regressors.
- Stata measure is only applicable to binary and multinomial models

$$R_{\text{Pseudo}}^2 = 1 - \ln L_{\text{fit}} / \ln L_0$$

Diagnostics: overdispersion test

- $H_0 : V[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = E[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i]$ versus $H_1 : V[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = E[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i] + \alpha (E[y_i | \mathbf{x}_i])^2$.
Test $H_0 : \alpha = 0$ against $H_1 : \alpha > 0$.
- Implement by auxiliary regression

$$((y_i - \hat{\mu}_i)^2 - y_i) / \hat{\mu}_i = \alpha \hat{\mu}_i + \text{error}$$

and do t test of whether the coefficient of $\hat{\mu}_i$ is zero.

- In practice can skip this test and just do Poisson with robust s.e.'s.
- Test is useful as can also use this test for test of underdispersion, whereas other test such Poisson versus negative binomial only test overdispersion.

Example of overdispersion test.

```

. quietly generate ystar = ((docvis-muhat)^2 - docvis)/muhat
. regress ystar muhat, noconstant noheader
. predict muhat, n

```

	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P > t	[95% Conf. Interval]
ystar					
muhat	-7047319	.1035926	6.80	0.000	.5016273 -.9078365

Very strongly reject H_0 . Data here are overdispersed.

Diagnostics: predicted probabilities

- Observed frequency \bar{p}_j (fraction of observations with $y_i = j$).
- Fitted frequency $\hat{p}_j = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{p}_{ij}$
 - ▶ predicted probability $\hat{p}_{ij} = \Pr[y_i = j] = e^{-\hat{\mu}_i} \hat{\mu}_i^j / j!$ for Poisson.
- Expect \hat{p}_j close to \bar{p}_j , $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$
- Informal statistic is Pearson's chi-square test

$$\sum_j \frac{(\bar{p}_j - \hat{p}_j)^2}{\hat{p}_j}$$

but this is not χ^2 distributed due to estimation to get \hat{p}_j .

- Instead do a formal chi-square goodness of fit test.
- Assuming that the density is correctly specified (so more applicable to models more general than Poisson) this can be computed as NR_u^2 (uncentered R^2) from the artificial regression

$$1 = \mathbf{s}_i (y_i, \mathbf{x}_i, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})' \boldsymbol{\gamma} + \sum_j (d_{ij}(y_i) - \hat{p}_{ij})' \boldsymbol{\delta}_j + \text{error}$$

- where
 - ▶ j denotes cells (e.g. values 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 or more)
 - ▶ $d_{ij}(y_i)$ equals 1 if y_i is in cell j and 0 otherwise
 - ▶ \hat{p}_{ij} equals predicted probability for that cell
 - ▶ $\mathbf{s}_i (y_i, \mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \partial \ln f(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}) / \partial \boldsymbol{\theta}$ ($= (y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}))$ for Poisson).
- Reject at level α if $NR_u^2 > \chi_{\alpha}^2(J - 1)$ where J is number of cells.

Compare actual and fitted frequencies for Poisson.

```

. countfit docvis $xlist, maxcount(10) prmnograph noestimates nofit
Comparison of Mean Observed and Predicted Count

```

```

Model Maximum Difference Value At Mean | Diff |
-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
PRM 0.102 0 0.040

```

PRM: Predicted and actual probabilities

Count	Actual	Predicted	Diff	Pearson
0	0.109	0.007	0.102	5168.233
1	0.085	0.030	0.056	387.868
2	0.097	0.063	0.034	69.000
3	0.091	0.095	0.005	0.789
4	0.092	0.116	0.024	17.861
5	0.072	0.121	0.049	72.441
6	0.063	0.114	0.051	84.355
7	0.055	0.099	0.044	73.016
8	0.049	0.082	0.033	50.128
9	0.042	0.065	0.024	31.225
10	0.029	0.051	0.021	33.402
Sum	0.785	0.844	0.443	5988.318

Clearly problem as Poisson greatly underpredicts low counts e.g. for $y = 0$.

Negative binomial MLE with ML default standard errors

```

. nbreg docvis $xlist, nolog
Negative binomial regression
Number of obs = 3677
LR chi2(7) = 773.44
Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Pseudo R2 = 0.0352
Dispersion = 1.221
Log Likelihood = -1.0589, 339

```

docvis	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
private	.1640928	.0332186	4.94	0.000	.0989856 .2292001
medicaid	.100337	.0454209	2.21	0.027	.013137 .1893603
age	-.2941294	-.0610588	-4.89	0.000	-.1762203 -.4120384
age2	-.0019282	-.0004004	-4.82	0.000	-.0027129 -.0011434
educyr	.0286947	.0042241	6.79	0.000	.0204157 .0369737
actlim	.1895376	.0347601	5.45	0.000	.121409 .2576662
totchr	.2776441	.0121463	22.86	0.000	.2538378 .3014505
_cons	-10.29749	2.247436	-4.58	0.000	-14.70238 -5.892595
/lnalpha	-.4452773	.0306758	-14.55	0.000	-.5054007 -.3851539
alpha	.6406466	.0196523	32.61	0.000	.6032638 .6803459

Likelihood-ratio test of alpha=0: $\chi^2(1) = 8860.60$ Prob>chi2 = 0.000

Likelihood ratio test of $\alpha = 0$ prefers NB to Poisson ($p < 0.05$)

- where critical values use half $\chi^2(1)$ as $\alpha = 0$ is on boundary of NB.

Fitted frequencies close to observed frequencies (from `output` not given)

Negative binomial regression

- Negative binomial (Negbin 2) permits overdispersion.
- Same conditional mean but different conditional variance to Poisson

$$E[y|\mathbf{x}] = \lambda = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

$$V[y|\mathbf{x}] = \lambda + \alpha\lambda^2 = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta}) + \alpha(\exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta}))^2.$$

- The ML first-order conditions w.r.t. $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ and α are (with $\mu_j = \exp(\mathbf{x}'_j\boldsymbol{\beta})$)

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{y_i - \exp(\mathbf{x}'_i\boldsymbol{\beta})}{1 + \alpha \exp(\mathbf{x}'_i\boldsymbol{\beta})} \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \left(\ln(1 + \alpha\mu_i) - \sum_{j=0}^{y_i-1} \frac{1}{j + \alpha^{-1}} \right) + \frac{y_i - \mu_i}{\alpha(1 + \alpha\mu_i)} \right\} = 0.$$

- Can additionally allow $\alpha = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\gamma})$ (generalized negative binomial).
- Can instead use Negbin 1: $V[y|\mathbf{x}] = (1 + \alpha)\lambda = (1 + \alpha)\exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta})$.
- Often little efficiency gain (if any) over Poisson with robust s.e.s.

Poisson and negative binomial MLE with different standard error estimates

	POISSON	POISSON	POISSON	NEGDEFULT	NEGDEFULT
docvis	0.1422***	0.1422***	0.1422***	0.1643***	0.1643***
private	(0.0143)	(0.0164)	(0.0164)	(0.0332)	(0.0368)
medicaid	0.0970***	0.0970	0.0970**	0.1003*	0.1003
	(0.0185)	(0.0168)	(0.0475)	(0.0454)	(0.0567)
age	0.2937***	0.2937***	0.2937***	0.2943***	0.2943***
	(0.0260)	(0.0630)	(0.0652)	(0.0602)	(0.0646)
age2	-0.0019***	-0.0019***	-0.0019***	-0.0019***	-0.0019***
	(0.0002)	(0.0004)	(0.0004)	(0.0004)	(0.0004)
educyr	0.0296***	0.0296***	0.0296***	0.0297***	0.0297***
	(0.0019)	(0.0048)	(0.0048)	(0.0042)	(0.0048)
actlim	0.1864***	0.1864***	0.1864***	0.1895***	0.1895***
	(0.0146)	(0.0397)	(0.0346)	(0.0346)	(0.0394)
totchr	0.2484***	0.2484***	0.2484***	0.2776***	0.2776***
	(0.0046)	(0.0126)	(0.0126)	(0.0121)	(0.0132)
_cons	-10.1827***	-10.1827***	-10.1827***	-10.1827***	-10.1827***
	(0.9720)	(2.3682)	(2.4413)	(2.3474)	(2.4413)
lnalpha	3677	3677	3677	3677	3677
_cons	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.035	0.035

Standard errors in parentheses
* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Summary

- Poisson regression (or GLM) is straightforward
 - ▶ many packages do Poisson regression
 - ▶ coefficients are easily interpreted as semi-elasticities.
- Do Poisson rather than OLS with dependent variable
 - ▶ y ; $\ln y$ (with adjustment for $\ln 0$); or \sqrt{y} .
- Poisson MLE is consistent provided only that $E[y|\mathbf{x}] = \exp(\mathbf{x}'\boldsymbol{\beta})$.
 - ▶ But make sure standard errors etc. are robust to $V[y|\mathbf{x}] \neq E[y|\mathbf{x}]$.
- But if need to predict probabilities use a richer model.
 - ▶ Good starting point is negative binomial
 - ▶ Additional models are discussed next.

References

This material is in standard texts.

- Count data models in addition to Cameron and Trivedi books:
 - ▶ Winkelmann, R. (2008), *Econometric Analysis of Count Data*, 5th edition, Springer.
 - ▶ Hilbe, J. (2007), *Negative Binomial Regression*, Cambridge University Press.
 - ▶ Cameron, A.C., and P.K. Trivedi (1986), "Econometric Models Based on Count Data: Comparisons and Applications of Some Estimators," *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 1, 29-53.
- Generalized linear models books:
 - ▶ McCullagh, P. and J.A. Nelder (1989), *Generalized Linear Models*, Second Edition, Chapman and Hall.
 - ▶ Dobson, A.J. and A. Barnett (2008), *An Introduction to Generalized Linear Models*, Third Edition, Chapman and Hall.
 - ▶ Hardin, J.W. and J.M. Hilbe (2007), *Generalized Linear Models and Extensions*, Second Edition, Stata Press.