

# Introduction to General and Generalized Linear Models

## Generalized Linear Models - part II

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- The generalized linear model
  - Link function
  - Estimation
  - Fitted values
  - Residuals
- Likelihood ratio test

# The Generalized Linear Model

## Definition (The generalized linear model)

Assume that  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n$  are mutually independent, and the density can be described by an exponential dispersion model with the same variance function  $V(\mu)$ .

A *generalized linear model* for  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n$  describes an affine hypothesis for  $\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_n$ , where

$$\eta_i = g(\mu_i)$$

is a transformation of the mean values  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n$ .

The hypothesis is of the form

$$\mathcal{H}_0 : \boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\eta}_0 \in L,$$

where  $L$  is a linear subspace  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of dimension  $k$ , and where  $\boldsymbol{\eta}_0$  denotes a vector of *known off-set values*.

## GLM vs GLM

**General linear models**

Normal distribution

Mean value linear

Independent observations

Same variance

Easy to apply

Exact results

**Generalized linear models**

Exponential dispersion family

Function of mean value linear

Independent observations

Variance function of mean

Almost as easy to apply

Approximate results

## Dimension and design matrix

### Definition (Dimension of the generalized linear model)

The dimension  $k$  of the subspace  $L$  for the generalized linear model is the *dimension of the model*

### Definition (Design matrix for the generalized linear model)

Consider the linear subspace  $L = \text{span}\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ , i.e. the subspace is spanned by  $k$  vectors ( $k < n$ ), such that the hypothesis can be written

$$\boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\eta}_0 = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} \text{ with } \boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^k,$$

where  $\mathbf{X}$  has full rank. The  $n \times k$  matrix  $\mathbf{X}$  is called the *design matrix*. The  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of the design matrix is given by the *model vector*

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \begin{pmatrix} x_{i1} \\ x_{i2} \\ \vdots \\ x_{ik} \end{pmatrix},$$

for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  observation.

# The link function

## Definition (The link function)

The *link function*,  $g(\cdot)$  describes the relation between the linear predictor  $\eta_i$  and the mean value parameter  $\mu_i = \mathbb{E}[Y_i]$ . The relation is

$$\eta_i = g(\mu_i)$$

The inverse mapping  $g^{-1}(\cdot)$  thus expresses the mean value  $\mu$  as a function of the linear predictor  $\eta$ :

$$\mu = g^{-1}(\eta)$$

that is

$$\mu_i = g^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta}) = g^{-1} \left( \sum_j x_{ij} \beta_j \right)$$

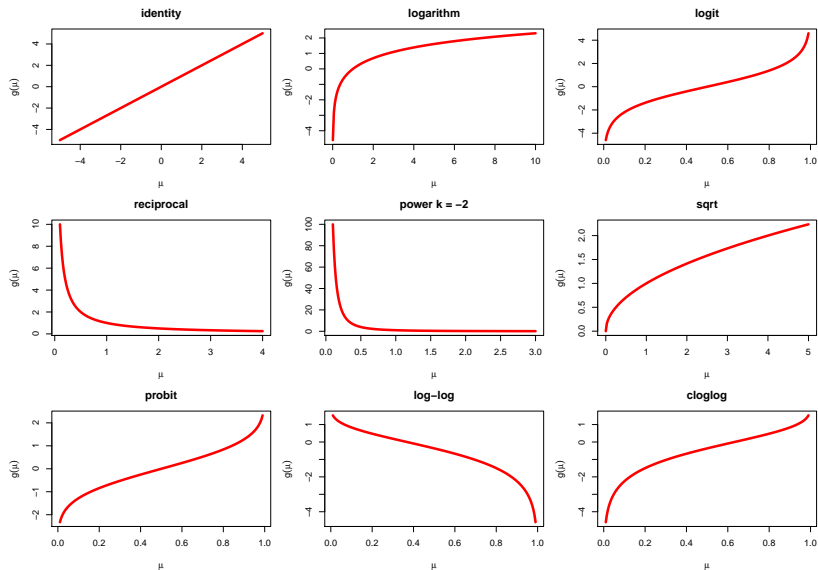
## Link functions

The most commonly used link functions,  $\eta = g(\mu)$ , are :

Name	Link function $\eta = g(\mu)$	$\mu = g^{-1}(\eta)$
identity	$\mu$	$\eta$
log	$\log(\mu)$	$\exp(\eta)$
logit	$\log(\mu/(1 - \mu))$	$\exp(\eta)/[1 + \exp(\eta)]$
inverse	$1/\mu$	$1/\eta$
power	$\mu^k$	$\eta^{1/k}$
sqrt	$\sqrt{\mu}$	$\eta^2$
probit	$\Phi^{-1}(\mu)$	$\Phi(\eta)$
log-log	$\log(-\log(\mu))$	$\exp(-\exp(\eta))$
cloglog	$\log(-\log(1 - \mu))$	$1 - \exp(-\exp(\eta))$

**Table:** Commonly used link function.

## Link functions





## The canonical link

The canonical link is the function which transforms the mean to the canonical location parameter of the exponential dispersion family, i.e. it is the function for which  $g(\mu) = \theta$ . The canonical link function for the most widely considered densities are

Density	Link: $\eta = g(\mu)$	Name
Normal	$\eta = \mu$	identity
Poisson	$\eta = \log(\mu)$	log
Binomial	$\eta = \log[\mu/(1 - \mu)]$	logit
Gamma	$\eta = 1/\mu$	inverse
Inverse Gauss	$\eta = 1/\mu^2$	$1/\mu^2$

**Table:** Canonical link functions for some widely used densities.

# Specification of a generalized linear model

- a) Distribution / Variance function:  
Specification of the distribution – or the *variance function*  $V(\mu)$ .
- b) Link function:  
Specification of the *link function*  $g(\cdot)$ , which describes a function of the mean value which can be described linearly by the explanatory variables.
- c) Linear predictor:  
Specification of the linear dependency

$$g(\mu_i) = \eta_i = (\mathbf{x}_i)^T \boldsymbol{\beta}.$$

- d) Precision (optional):  
If needed the precision is formulated as *known individual weights*,  $\lambda_i = w_i$ , or as a *common dispersion parameter*,  $\lambda = 1/\sigma^2$ , or a *combination*  $\lambda_i = w_i/\sigma^2$ .

# Specification of a generalized linear model in R

```
> mice.glm <- glm(formula = resp ~ conc,
+                 family = binomial(link = logit),
+                 weights = NULL,
+                 data = mice
+                 )
```

- **formula**; as in general linear models

- **family**

- `binomial`( link = `logit` | `probit` | `cauchit` | `log` | `cloglog`)
- `gaussian`( link = `identity` | `log` | `inverse`)
- `Gamma`( link = `inverse` | `identity` | `log`)
- `inverse.gaussian`( link = `1/mu^2` | `inverse` | `identity` | `log`)
- `poisson`( link = `log` | `identity` | `sqrt`)
- `quasi`( link = `...` , variance = `...` )
- `quasibinomial`( link = `logit` | `probit` | `cauchit` | `log` | `cloglog`)
- `quasipoisson`( link = `log` | `identity` | `sqrt`)

## Log-likelihood function

The log likelihood function w.r.t. the canonical parameter

$$\ell_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i(\theta_i y_i - \kappa(\theta_i))$$

The *score function* w.r.t. the canonical parameter,  $\theta$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} \ell_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}) = w_i(y_i - \tau(\theta_i))$$

or in matrix form

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \ell_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}) = \text{diag}(\mathbf{w})(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\tau}(\boldsymbol{\theta}))$$

$\text{diag}(\mathbf{w})$  denotes a diagonal matrix where  $i^{\text{th}}$  element is  $w_i$ , and

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{Bmatrix} \tau(\theta_1) \\ \tau(\theta_2) \\ \vdots \\ \tau(\theta_n) \end{Bmatrix}$$

# The observed information w.r.t. the canonical parameter

The observed information wrt. to  $\theta$  is

$$\begin{aligned} j(\theta; \mathbf{y}) &= \text{diag}\{\mathbf{w}\} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \tau(\theta) \\ &= \text{diag}\{w_i \kappa''(\theta_i)\} \\ &= \text{diag}\{w_i V(\tau(\theta_i))\} \end{aligned}$$

where  $V(\tau(\theta))$  denotes the value of the variance function for  $\mu = \tau(\theta)$ .

Note that, since the observed information wrt. the canonical parameter  $\theta$  does not depend on the observation  $\mathbf{y}$ , the expected information is the same as the observed information.

Note that the Hessian of the likelihood function depends on  $\theta$ . In the normal case the Hessian was constant.

# The score function w.r.t. the mean value parameter

The log likelihood function w.r.t. the mean value parameter

$$\ell_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}; \mathbf{y}) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n w_i d(y_i; \mu_i)$$

The score function w.r.t. the mean value parameter is:

$$\ell'_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}; \mathbf{y}) = \text{diag} \left\{ \frac{w_i}{V(\mu_i)} \right\} (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})$$

which shows that the ML-estimate for  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  is  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \mathbf{y}$ .

For a single coordinate we have the log-likelihood:

$$\ell(\mu_i; y_i) = -\frac{1}{2} w_i 2 \int_{\mu_i}^{y_i} \frac{y_i - u}{V(u)} du = w_i \int_{y_i}^{\mu_i} \frac{y_i - u}{V(u)} du$$

So we get the score:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_i} \ell(\mu_i; y_i) = w_i \int_{y_i}^{\mu_i} f(u) du = w_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_i} (F(\mu_i) - F(y_i)) = w_i f(\mu_i) = w_i \frac{y_i - \mu_i}{V(\mu_i)}$$

# The observed information w.r.t. the mean value parameter

The observed information is

$$j(\boldsymbol{\mu}; \mathbf{y}) = \text{diag} \left\{ w_i \left[ \frac{1}{V(\mu_i)} + (y_i - \mu_i) \frac{V'(\mu_i)}{V(\mu_i)^2} \right] \right\},$$

and then the expected information corresponding to the set  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  is

$$i(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \text{diag} \left\{ \frac{w_i}{V(\mu_i)} \right\},$$

Note that the observed information w.r.t. the mean value parameter  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  depends on the observation,  $\mathbf{y}$ .

For a single coordinate we get:

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_i} w_i (y_i - \mu_i) \frac{1}{V(\mu_i)} = -w_i \left( -\frac{1}{V(\mu_i)} + (y_i - \mu_i) \frac{-1}{(V(\mu_i))^2} V'(\mu_i) \right)$$

# Maximum likelihood estimation

## Theorem (Estimation in generalized linear models)

Consider the generalized linear model as defined on slide 3 for the observations  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$  and assume that  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$  are mutually independent with densities, which can be described by an exponential dispersion model with the variance function  $V(\cdot)$ , dispersion parameter  $\sigma^2$ , and optionally the weights  $w_i$ .

Assume that the linear predictor is parameterized with  $\beta$  corresponding to the design matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ , then the maximum likelihood estimate  $\hat{\beta}$  for  $\beta$  is found as the solution to

$$[\mathbf{X}(\beta)]^T \mathbf{i}_\mu(\boldsymbol{\mu})(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathbf{0},$$

where  $\mathbf{X}(\beta)$  denotes the local design matrix and  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \boldsymbol{\mu}(\beta)$  given by

$$\mu_i(\beta) = g^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_i^T \beta),$$

denotes the fitted mean values corresponding to the parameters  $\beta$ , and  $\mathbf{i}_\mu(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  is the expected information with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ .

The estimates must be found by an iterative procedure.



## Proof

$$\begin{aligned}
 \ell'_{\beta}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \mathbf{y}) &= \left[ \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} \right]^T \ell'_{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\beta}), \mathbf{y}) \\
 &= \left[ \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} \right]^T \text{diag} \left\{ \frac{w_i}{V(\mu_i)} \right\} (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \\
 &= \left[ \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} \right]^T \mathbf{i}(\boldsymbol{\mu})(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})
 \end{aligned}$$

And  $\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} = \left[ \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\eta}} \right]^T \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\eta}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}}$  is called the local design matrix.

# Properties of the ML estimator

Theorem (Asymptotic distribution of the ML estimator)

*Under the hypothesis  $\eta = \mathbf{X}\beta$  we have asymptotically*

$$\frac{\hat{\beta} - \beta}{\sqrt{\sigma^2}} \in N_k(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma),$$

*where the dispersion matrix  $\Sigma$  for  $\hat{\beta}$  is*

$$D[\hat{\beta}] = \Sigma = [\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W}(\beta) \mathbf{X}]^{-1}$$

*with*

$$\mathbf{W}(\beta) = \text{diag} \left\{ \frac{w_i}{[g'(\mu_i)]^2 V(\mu_i)} \right\},$$

# Linear prediction for the generalized linear model

## Definition (Linear prediction for the generalized linear model)

The linear prediction  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}$  is defined as the values

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$$

with the linear prediction corresponding to the  $i$ 'th observation is

$$\hat{\eta}_i = \sum_{j=1}^k x_{ij}\hat{\beta}_j = (\mathbf{x}_i)^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}.$$

The linear predictions  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}$  are approximately normally distributed with

$$D[\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}] \approx \hat{\sigma}^2 \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{X}^T$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is the dispersion matrix for  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ .

## Fitted values for the generalized linear model

### Definition (Fitted values for the generalized linear model)

The fitted values are defined as the values

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \boldsymbol{\mu}(\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}),$$

where the  $i^{\text{th}}$  value is given as

$$\hat{\mu}_i = g^{-1}(\hat{\eta}_i)$$

with the fitted value  $\hat{\eta}_i$  of the linear prediction.

The fitted values  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}$  are approximately normally distributed with

$$D[\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}] \approx \hat{\sigma}^2 \left[ \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\eta}} \right]^2 \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{X}^T$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is the dispersion matrix for  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ .

# Residual deviance

## Definition (Residual deviance)

Consider the generalized linear model defined on slide 3. The *residual deviance* corresponding to this model is

$$D(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})) = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i d(y_i; \hat{\mu}_i)$$

with  $d(y_i; \hat{\mu}_i)$  denoting the unit deviance corresponding the observation  $y_i$  and the fitted value  $\hat{\mu}_i$  and where  $w_i$  denotes the weights (if present).

If the model includes a dispersion parameter  $\sigma^2$ , the *scaled* residual deviance is

$$D^*(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})) = \frac{D(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))}{\sigma^2}.$$

# Residuals

Residuals represents the difference between the data and the model. In the classical GLM the residuals are  $r_i = y_i - \hat{\mu}_i$ . These are called response residuals for GLM's. Since the variance of the response is not constant for most GLM's we need some modification. We will look at:

- Deviance residuals
- Pearson residuals

# Residuals

## Definition (Deviance residual)

Consider the generalized linear model from for the observations  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ .

The *deviance residual* for the  $i$ 'th observation is defined as

$$r_i^D = r_D(y_i; \hat{\mu}_i) = \text{sign}(y_i - \hat{\mu}_i) \sqrt{w_i d(y_i, \hat{\mu}_i)}$$

where  $\text{sign}(x)$  denotes the *sign function*  $\text{sign}(x) = 1$  for  $x > 0$  og  $\text{sign}(x) = -1$  for  $x < 0$ , and with  $w_i$  denoting the weight (if relevant),  $d(y; \mu)$  denoting the unit deviance and  $\hat{\mu}_i$  denoting the fitted value corresponding to the  $i$ 'th observation.

Assessments of the deviance residuals is in good agreement with the likelihood approach as the deviance residuals simply express differences in log-likelihood.

# Residuals

## Definition (Pearson residual)

Consider again the generalized linear model from for the observations  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ .

The *Pearson residuals* are defined as the values

$$r_i^P = r_P(y_i; \hat{\mu}_i) = \frac{y_i - \hat{\mu}_i}{\sqrt{V(\hat{\mu}_i)/w_i}}$$

The Pearson residual is thus obtained by scaling the response residual with  $\sqrt{\text{Var}[Y_i]}$ . Hence, the Pearson residual is the response residual normalized with the estimated standard deviation for the observation.



# Likelihood ratio tests

- The approximative normal distribution of the ML-estimator implies that many distributional results from the classical GLM-theory are carried over to generalized linear models as approximative (asymptotic) results.
- An example of this is the likelihood ratio test.
- In the classical GLM case it was possible to derive the exact distribution of the likelihood ratio test statistic (the F-distribution).
- For generalized linear models, this is not possible, and hence we shall use the asymptotic results for the logarithm of the likelihood ratio.

# Likelihood ratio test

## Theorem (Likelihood ratio test)

Consider the generalized linear model. Assume that the model

$$\mathcal{H}_1 : \boldsymbol{\eta} \in L \subset \mathbb{R}^k$$

holds with  $L$  parameterized as  $\boldsymbol{\eta} = \mathbf{X}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}$ , and consider the hypotheses

$$\mathcal{H}_0 : \boldsymbol{\eta} \in L_0 \subset \mathbb{R}^m$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\eta} = \mathbf{X}_0\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  and  $m < k$ , and with the alternative  $\mathcal{H}_1 : \boldsymbol{\eta} \in L \setminus L_0$ . Then the likelihood ratio test for  $\mathcal{H}_0$  has the test statistic

$$-2 \log \lambda(\mathbf{y}) = D(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}})) - D(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))$$

When  $\mathcal{H}_0$  is true, the test statistic will asymptotically follow a  $\chi^2(k - m)$  distribution.

If the model includes a dispersion parameter,  $\sigma^2$ , then  $D(\boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}); \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}))$  will asymptotically follow a  $\sigma^2\chi^2(k - m)$  distribution.

## Test for model 'sufficiency'

- In analogy with classical GLM's one often starts with formulating a rather comprehensive model, and then reduces the model by successive tests.
- In contrast to classical GLM's we may however test the goodness of fit of the initial model.
- The test is a special case of the likelihood ratio test.

## Test for model 'sufficiency'

### Test for model 'sufficiency'

Consider the generalized linear model, and assume that the dispersion  $\sigma^2 = 1$ .

Let  $\mathcal{H}_{full}$  denote the *full*, or *saturated* model, i.e.  $\mathcal{H}_{full} : \boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and consider the hypotheses

$$\mathcal{H}_0 : \boldsymbol{\eta} \in L \subset \mathbb{R}^k$$

with  $L$  parameterized as  $\boldsymbol{\eta} = \mathbf{X}_0\boldsymbol{\beta}$ .

Then, as the residual deviance under  $\mathcal{H}_{full}$  is 0, the test statistic is the residual deviance  $D(\boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))$ . When  $\mathcal{H}_0$  is true, the test statistic is distributed as  $\chi^2(n - k)$ . The test rejects for large values of  $D(\boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))$ .

## Residual deviance measures goodness of fit

- The residual deviance  $D(\mathbf{y}; \mu(\hat{\beta}))$  is a reasonable measure of the goodness of fit of a model  $\mathcal{H}_0$ .
- When referring to a hypothesized model  $\mathcal{H}_0$ , we shall sometimes use the symbol  $G^2(\mathcal{H}_0)$  to denote the residual deviance  $D(\mathbf{y}; \mu(\hat{\beta}))$ .
- Using that convention, the partitioning of residual deviance may be formulated as

$$G^2(\mathcal{H}_0|\mathcal{H}_1) = G^2(\mathcal{H}_0) - G^2(\mathcal{H}_1)$$

with  $G^2(\mathcal{H}_0|\mathcal{H}_1)$  interpreted as the goodness fit test statistic for  $\mathcal{H}_0$  conditioned on  $\mathcal{H}_1$  being true, and  $G^2(\mathcal{H}_0)$  and  $G^2(\mathcal{H}_1)$ , denoting the unconditional goodness of fit statistics for  $\mathcal{H}_0$  and  $\mathcal{H}_1$ , respectively.

## Analysis of deviance table

- The initial test for goodness of fit of the initial model is often represented in an *analysis of deviance table* in analogy with the ANOVA table for classical GLM's.
- In the table the goodness of fit test statistic corresponding to the initial model  $G^2(\mathcal{H}_1) = D(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))$  is shown in the line labelled "Error".
- The statistic should be compared to percentiles in the  $\chi^2(n - k)$  distribution.
- The table also shows the test statistic for  $\mathcal{H}_{null}$  under the assumption that  $\mathcal{H}_1$  is true.
- The test investigates whether the model is necessary at all, i.e. whether at least some of the coefficients differ significantly from zero.

## Analysis of deviance table

- Note, that in the case of a generalized linear model, we can start the analysis by using the residual (error) deviance to test whether the model may be maintained, at all.
- This is in contrast to the classical GLM's where the residual sum of squares around the initial model  $\mathcal{H}_1$  served to estimate  $\sigma^2$ , and therefore we had no reference value to compare with the residual sum of squares.
- In the generalized linear models the variance is a known function of the mean, and therefore in general there is no need to estimate a separate variance.

## Analysis of deviance table

Source	$f$	Deviance	Mean deviance	Goodness of fit interpretation
Model $\mathcal{H}_{null}$	$k - 1$	$D(\boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}); \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_{null})$	$\frac{D(\boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}); \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_{null})}{k - 1}$	$G^2(\mathcal{H}_{null} \mathcal{H}_1)$
Residual (Error)	$n - k$	$D(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))$	$\frac{D(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))}{n - k}$	$G^2(\mathcal{H}_1)$
Corrected total	$n - 1$	$D(\mathbf{y}; \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_{null})$		$G^2(\mathcal{H}_{null})$

**Table:** Initial assessment of goodness of fit of a model  $\mathcal{H}_0$ .  $\mathcal{H}_{null}$  and  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_{null}$  refer to the *minimal model*, i.e. a model with all observations having the same mean value.



# Odds Ratio

If an event occurs with probability  $p$ , then the odds in favor of the event is

$$\text{Odds} = \frac{p}{1 - p}$$

A comparison between two events can be made by computing the odds ratio:

$$\text{OR} = \frac{p_1 / (1 - p_1)}{p_2 / (1 - p_2)}$$

An odds ratio larger than 1 is an indication the event is more likely in the first group than in the second group.