

Generalized Linear Models for Non-Normal Data

- Today's Class:
 - **3 parts of a generalized model**
 - Models for binary outcomes
 - Complications for generalized multivariate or multilevel models

Dimensions for Organizing Models

- Outcome type: General (normal) vs. Generalized (not normal)
- Dimensions of sampling: **One** (so one variance term per outcome) vs. **Multiple** (so multiple variance terms per outcome)
- **General Linear Models**: conditionally normal outcome distribution, **fixed effects** (identity link; only one dimension of sampling) Note: Least Squares is only for GLM
- **Generalized Linear Models**: **any conditional outcome distribution**, **fixed** effects through **link functions**, no random effects (one dimension)
- **General Linear Mixed Models**: conditionally normal outcome distribution, **fixed and random effects** (identity link, but multiple sampling dimensions)
- **Generalized Linear Mixed Models**: **any conditional outcome distribution**, **fixed and random effects** through **link functions** (multiple dimensions)
- “Linear” means fixed effects predict the *link-transformed conditional mean* of DV in a linear combination of (effect*predictor) + (effect*predictor)...

Generalized Linear Models

- **Generalized linear models:** link-transformed conditional mean of y_{ti} is predicted instead; ML estimator uses not-normal distributions to calculate the likelihood of the outcome data
 - **Level-1** conditional outcomes follow some not-normal distribution that may not have a residual variance, but level-2 random effects are MVN
- Many kinds of non-normally distributed outcomes have some kind of generalized linear model to go with them via ML:
 - Binary (dichotomous)
 - Unordered categorical (nominal)
 - Ordered categorical (ordinal) } These two may get grouped together as “multinomial”
 - Counts (discrete, positive values)
 - Censored (piled up and cut off at one end)
 - Zero-inflated (pile of 0's, then some distribution after)
 - Continuous but skewed data (long tail)

3 Parts of Generalized (Multilevel) Models



1. Non-normal conditional distribution of y_{tj} :

- General MLM uses a *normal* conditional distribution to describe the y_{tj} variance remaining after fixed + random effects → we called this the level-1 residual variance, which is estimated separately and usually assumed constant across observations (unless modeled otherwise)
- Other distributions will be more plausible for bounded/skewed y_{tj} , so the ML function maximizes the likelihood using those instead
- **Why?** To get the most correct **standard errors** for fixed effects
- Although you can still think of this as *model for the variance*, not all conditional distributions will actually have a separately estimated residual variance (e.g., binary → Bernoulli, count → Poisson)

3 Parts of Generalized (Multilevel) Models



2. Link Function = $g(\cdot)$: How the conditional mean to be predicted is transformed so that the model predicts an **unbounded** outcome instead
- **Inverse link $g^{-1}(\cdot)$** = how to go back to conditional mean in y_{ti} scale
 - Predicted outcomes (found via inverse link) will then stay within bounds
 - e.g., binary outcome: conditional mean to be predicted is probability of a 1, so the model predicts a linked version (when inverse-linked, the predicted outcome will stay between a probability of 0 and 1)
 - e.g., count outcome: conditional mean is expected count, so the log of the expected count is predicted so that the expected count stays > 0
 - e.g., for normal outcome: an "identity" link function ($y_{ti} * 1$) is used given that the conditional mean to be predicted is already unbounded...

3 Parts of Generalized (Multilevel) Models



3. **Linear Predictor**: How the fixed and random effects of predictors combine additively to predict a link-transformed conditional mean
- This works the same as usual, except the linear predictor model **directly predicts the link-transformed conditional mean**, which we then convert (via inverse link) back into the original conditional mean
 - That way we can still use the familiar "one-unit change" language to describe effects of model predictors (on the linked conditional mean)
 - You can think of this as "model for the means" still, but it also includes the level-2 random effects for dependency of level-1 observations
 - Fixed effects are no longer determined: they now have to be found through the ML algorithm, the same as the variance parameters

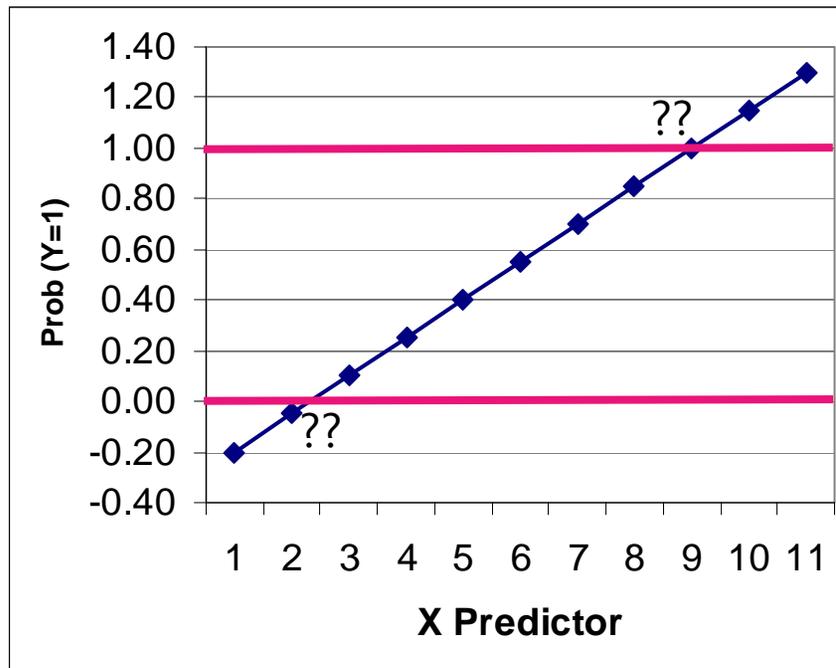
Normal GLM for Binary Outcomes?

- Let's say we have a single binary (0 or 1) outcome...
(*concepts for multilevel data will proceed similarly*)
 - Expected mean is proportion of people who have a 1, so the **probability of having a 1** is the conditional mean we're trying to predict for each person: $p(y_i = 1)$
 - General linear model: $p(y_i = 1) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 Z_i + e_i$
 - β_0 = expected probability when all predictors are 0
 - β 's = expected change in $p(y_i = 1)$ for a one-unit Δ in predictor
 - e_i = difference between observed and predicted binary values
 - Model becomes $y_i = (\text{predicted probability of 1}) + e_i$
 - **What could possibly go wrong?**

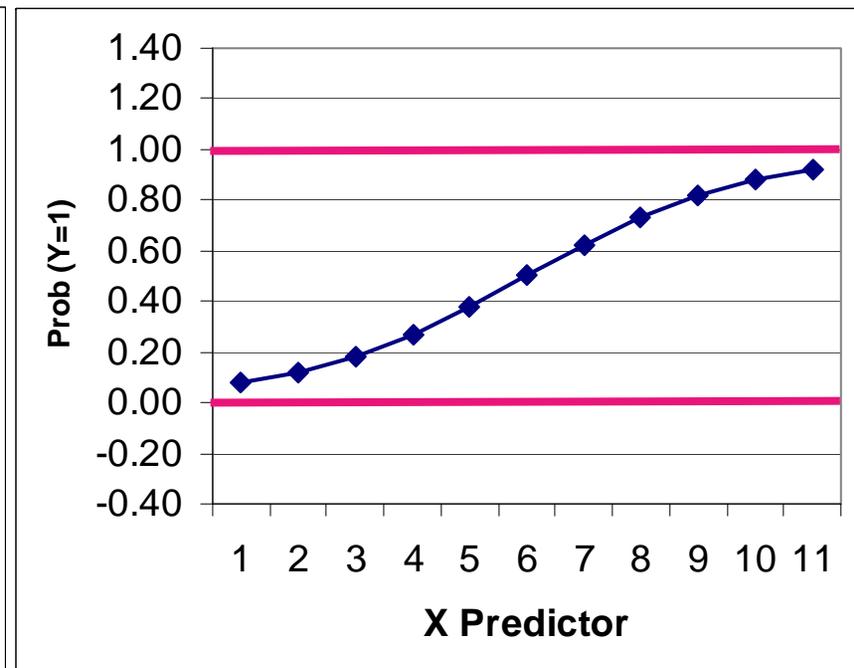
Normal GLM for Binary Outcomes?

- Problem #1: A **linear** relationship between X and Y???
- Probability of a 1 is bounded between 0 and 1, but predicted probabilities from a linear model aren't going to be bounded
- Linear relationship needs to shut off → made nonlinear

We have this...



But we need this...



Generalized Models for Binary Outcomes

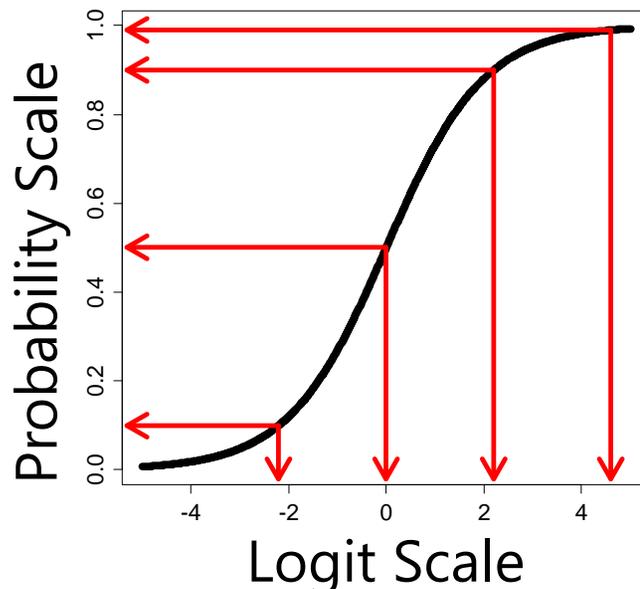
- Solution to #1: Rather than predicting $p(y_i = 1)$ directly, we must transform it into an unbounded variable with a **link function**:

➤ Transform **probability** into an **odds ratio**: $\frac{p}{1-p} = \frac{\text{prob}(y=1)}{\text{prob}(y=0)}$

- If $p(y_i = 1) = .7$ then Odds(1) = 2.33; Odds(0) = 0.429
- But odds scale is skewed, asymmetric, and ranges from 0 to $+\infty$ → Not helpful

➤ Take **natural log of odds ratio** → called “**logit**” link: $\text{Log} \left[\frac{p}{1-p} \right]$

- If $p(y_i = 1) = .7$, then Logit(1) = 0.846; Logit(0) = -0.846
- Logit scale is now symmetric about 0, range is $\pm\infty$ → DING

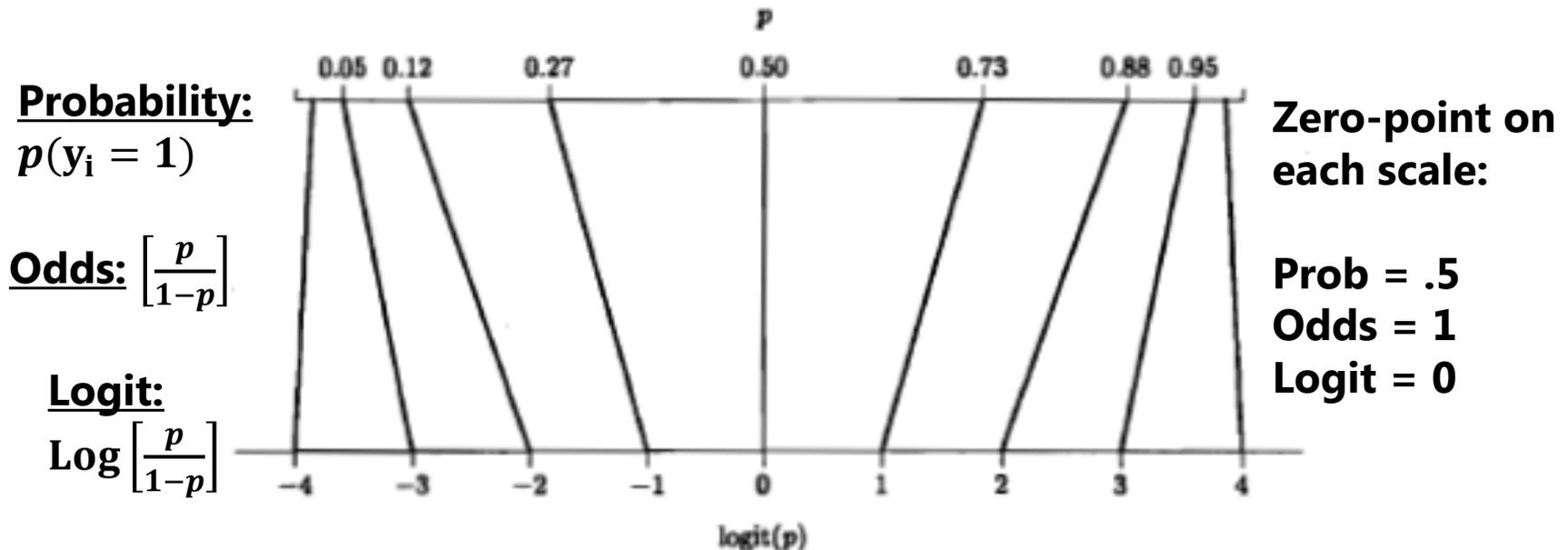


Probability	Logit
0.99	4.6
0.90	2.2
0.50	0.0
0.10	-2.2

Can you guess what $p(.01)$ would be on the logit scale?

Solution #1: Probability into Logits

- **A Logit link is a nonlinear transformation of probability:**
 - Equal intervals in logits are NOT equal intervals of probability
 - The logit goes from $\pm\infty$ and is symmetric about prob = .5 (logit = 0)
 - Now we can use a linear model \rightarrow The model will be **linear with respect to the predicted logit**, which translates into a nonlinear prediction with respect to probability \rightarrow **the conditional mean outcome shuts off at 0 or 1 as needed**



Normal GLM for Binary Outcomes?

- General linear model: $p(y_i = 1) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 Z_i + e_i$
- If y_i is binary, then e_i can only be 2 things: $e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$
 - If $y_i = 0$ then $e_i = (0 - \text{predicted probability})$
 - If $y_i = 1$ then $e_i = (1 - \text{predicted probability})$
- Problem #2a: So the residuals can't be normally distributed
- Problem #2b: The residual variance can't be constant over X as in GLM because the **mean and variance are dependent**
 - Variance of binary variable: $\text{Var}(y_i) = p * (1 - p)$

Mean and Variance of a Binary Variable

Mean (p)	.0	.1	.2	.3	.4	.5	.6	.7	.8	.9	1.0
Variance	.0	.09	.16	.21	.24	.25	.24	.21	.16	.09	.0

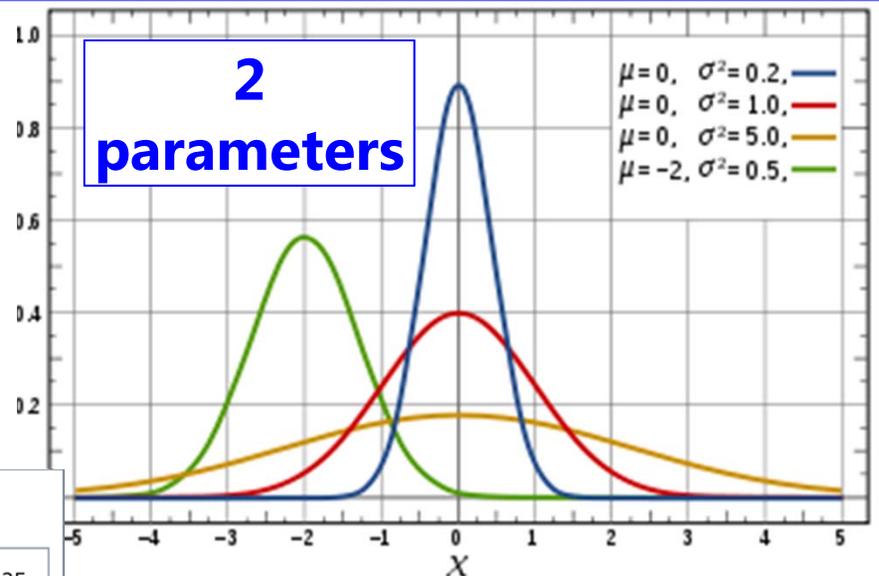
Solution to #2: Bernoulli Distribution

- Rather than using a **normal** conditional outcome distribution, we will use a **Bernoulli distribution** → a special case of a binomial distribution for only one binary outcome

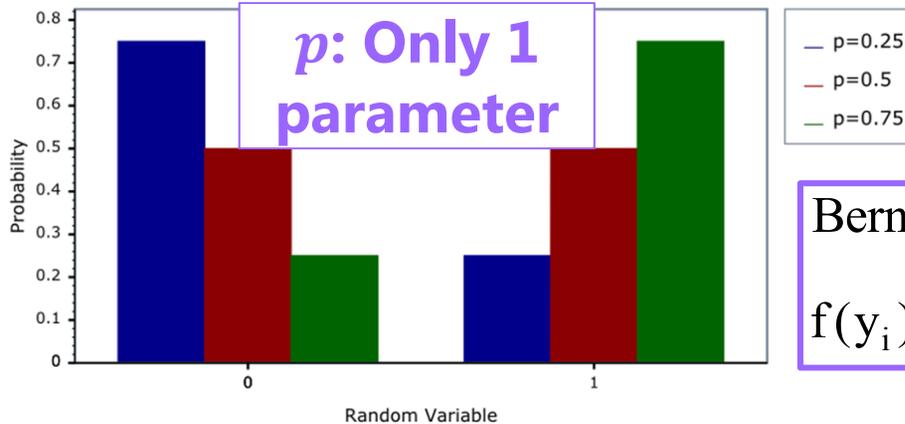
Univariate Normal PDF:

$$f(y_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_e^2}} * \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} * \frac{(y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{\sigma_e^2}\right]$$

Likelihood (y_i)



Bernoulli Distribution PDF



Bernoulli PDF:

$$f(y_i) = (p_i)^{y_i} (1 - p_i)^{1-y_i}$$

= $p(1)$ if 1,
 $p(0)$ if 0

Predicted Binary Outcomes

- **Logit:** $\text{Log} \left[\frac{p(y_i=1)}{1-p(y_i=1)} \right] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 Z_i$ ← **g(·) link**
 - Predictor effects are linear and additive like in GLM, but β = change in **logit** per one-unit change in predictor
- **Odds:** $\left[\frac{p(y_i=1)}{1-p(y_i=1)} \right] = \exp(\beta_0) * (\beta_1 X_i) * (\beta_2 Z_i)$
or $\left[\frac{p(y_i=1)}{1-p(y_i=1)} \right] = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 Z_i)$
- **Probability:** $p(y_i = 1) = \frac{\exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 Z_i)}{1 + \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 Z_i)}$ ← **g⁻¹(·) inverse link**
or $p(y_i = 1) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp[-1(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 Z_i)]}$

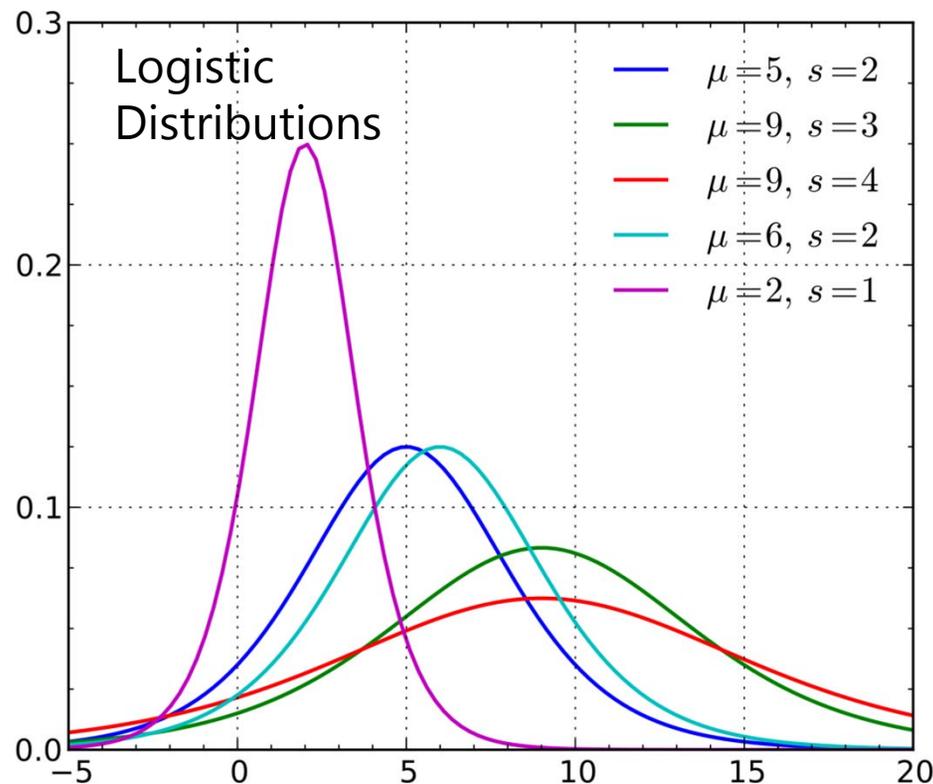
“Logistic Regression” for Binary Data

- This model is sometimes expressed by calling the $\text{logit}(y_i)$ a underlying continuous (“latent”) response of y_i^* instead:

$$y_i^* = \textit{threshold} + \textit{your model} + e_i$$

threshold = $\beta_0 * -1$ is given in Mplus, not intercept

- In which $y_i = 1$ if $(y_i^* > \textit{threshold})$, or $y_i = 0$ if $(y_i^* \leq \textit{threshold})$



So **if predicting** y_i^* , then

$$e_i \sim \text{Logistic}(0, \sigma_e^2 = 3.29)$$

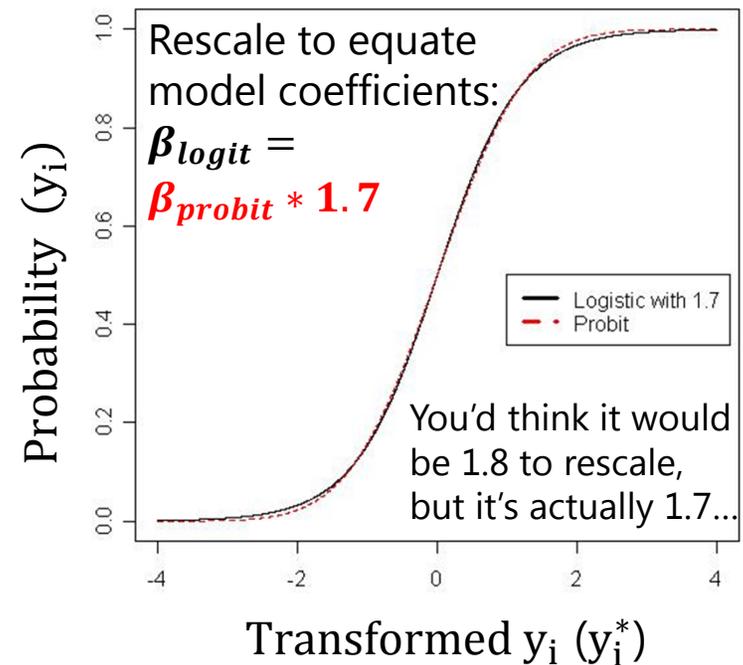
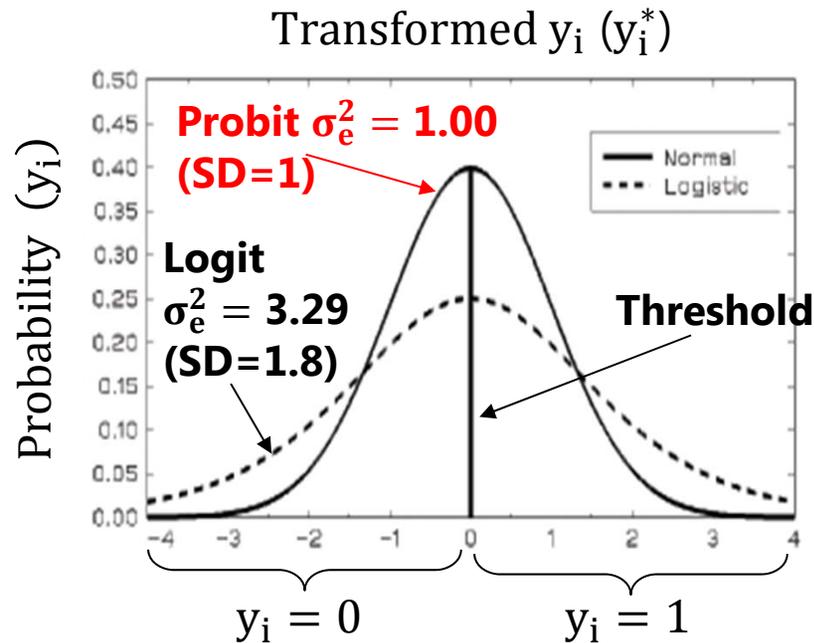
Logistic Distribution:

Mean = μ , Variance = $\frac{\pi^2}{3} s^2$,
where s = scale factor that allows for “over-dispersion” (must be fixed to 1 in binary outcomes for identification)

Other Link Functions for Binary Data

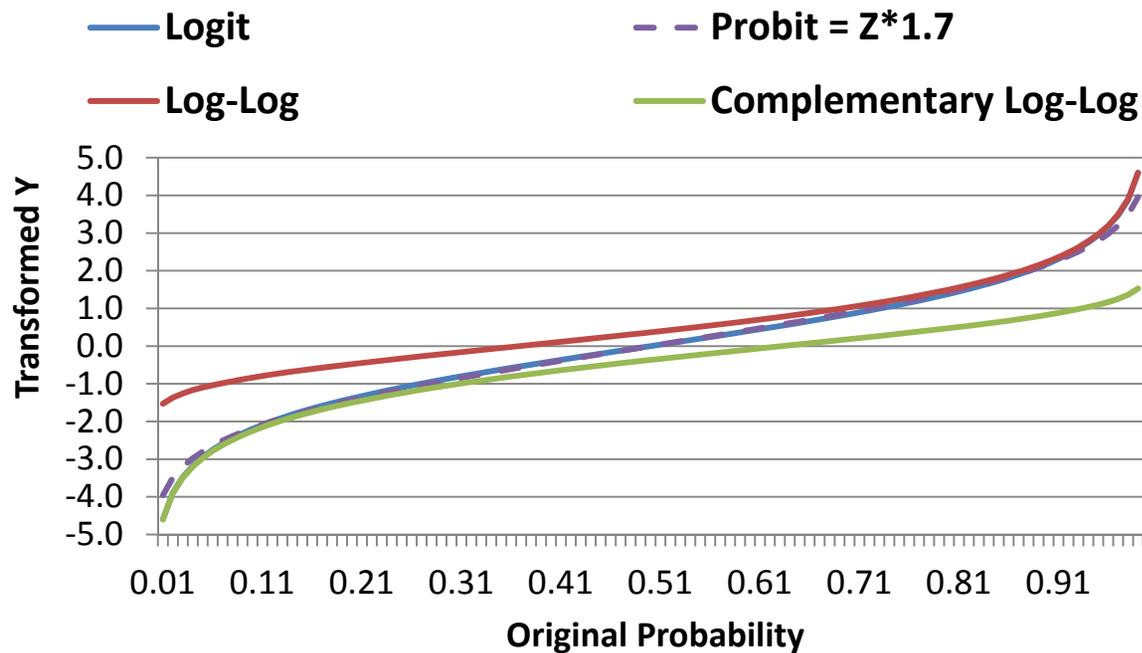
- The idea that a “latent” continuous variable underlies an observed binary response also appears in a **Probit Regression** model:
 - A **probit** link, such that now your model predicts a different transformed Y_p :
$$\text{Probit}(y_i = 1) = \Phi^{-1}[p(y_i = 1)] = \text{your model} \longleftarrow \boxed{g(\cdot)}$$
 - Where Φ = standard normal cumulative distribution function, so the transformed y_i is the **z-score** that corresponds to the value of cumulative standard normal distribution **below** which the conditional mean probability is found
 - Inverse link requires integration to find probability $\rightarrow p(y_i = 1) = \Phi^{-1}(z)$
 - Same Bernoulli distribution for the conditional binary outcomes, in which residual variance cannot be separately estimated (so no e_i in the model)
 - Probit also predicts “latent” response: $y_i^* = \text{threshold} + \text{your model} + e_i$
 - But Probit says $e_i \sim \text{Normal}(0, \sigma_e^2 = 1.00)$, whereas Logit $\sigma_e^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{3} = 3.29$
 - So given this difference in variance, probit estimates are on a different scale than logit estimates, and so their estimates won’t match... however...

Probit vs. Logit: Should you care? Pry not.



- Other fun facts about probit:
 - Probit = “ogive” in the Item Response Theory (IRT) world
 - Probit has no odds ratios (because it's not based on odds)
- Both logit and probit assume **symmetry** of the probability curve, but there are other *asymmetric* options as well...

Other Models for Binary Outcomes



Logit = Probit*1.7
which both assume
symmetry of prediction

**Log-Log is for outcomes in
which 1 is more frequent**

**Complementary
Log-Log is for outcomes in
which 0 is more frequent**

$\mu = \text{model}$	Logit	Probit	Log-Log	Complement. Log-Log
$g(\cdot)$ link	$\text{Log}\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = \mu$	$\Phi^{-1}(p) = \mu$	$-\text{Log}[-\text{Log}(p)] = \mu$	$\text{Log}[-\text{Log}(1-p)] = \mu$
$g^{-1}(\cdot)$ inverse link (go back to probability):	$p = \frac{\exp(\mu)}{1 + \exp(\mu)}$	$p = \Phi^{-1}(\mu)$	$p = \exp[-\exp(-\mu)]$ $e_i \sim \text{log-Weibull extreme value} \left(0.577, \sigma_e^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{6}\right)$	$p = 1 - \exp[-\exp(\mu)]$
In SAS LINK=	LOGIT	PROBIT	LOGLOG	CLOGLOG

Generalized MLM: Summary

- Statistical models come from probability distributions
 - Conditional outcomes are assumed to have some distribution
 - The normal distribution is one choice, but there are lots of others: so far we've seen Bernoulli (and mentioned log-Weibull)
 - ML estimation tries to maximize the height of the data using that chosen distribution along with the model parameters
- Generalized models have three parts:
 1. Non-normal conditional outcome distribution
 2. Link function: how bounded conditional mean of y_{ti} gets transformed into something unbounded we can predict linearly
 - So far we've seen identity, logit, probit, log-log, and cumulative log-log
 3. Linear predictor: how we predict that linked conditional mean

Multivariate Data in PROC GLIMMIX

- Multivariate models can be fitted in PROC GLIMMIX using stacked data, same as in MIXED... first, the bad news:
 - There is no **R** matrix in true ML, only **G**, and **V** can't be printed, either, which sometimes makes it hard to tell what structure is being predicted
 - There is no easy way to allow different scale factors given the same link and distribution across multivariate outcomes (as far as I know)
 - This means that a random intercept can be included to create constant covariance across outcomes, but that any differential variance (scale) or covariance must be included via RANDOM statement as well (to go in **G**)
- Now, the good news:
 - It allows different links and distributions across outcomes using LINK=BYOBS and DIST=BYOBS (Save new variables called "link" and "dist" to your data to tell GLIMMIX what to use per outcome)
 - It will do $-2\Delta LL$ tests for you using the COVTEST option! (not in MIXED)

From Single-Level to Multilevel...

- Multilevel generalized models have the same 3 parts as single-level generalized models:
 - Alternative conditional outcome distribution used (e.g., Bernoulli)
 - Link function to transform bounded conditional mean into unbounded
 - Linear model that directly predicts the linked conditional mean instead
- But in adding random effects (i.e., additional piles of variance) to address dependency in longitudinal data:
 - Piles of variance are ADDED TO, not EXTRACTED FROM, the original residual variance pile when it is fixed to a known value (e.g., 3.29), which causes the model coefficients to change scale across models
 - ML estimation is way more difficult because normal random effects + not-normal residuals does not have a known distribution like MVN
 - No such thing as REML for generalized multilevel models

Empty Multilevel Model for Binary Outcomes

- **Level 1:** **Logit** [$p(y_{ti} = 1)$] = β_{0i} Notice what's NOT in level 1...
- **Level 2:** $\beta_{0i} = \gamma_{00} + U_{0i}$
- **Composite:** **Logit** [$p(y_{ti} = 1)$] = $\gamma_{00} + U_{0i}$
- σ_e^2 residual variance is not estimated $\rightarrow \pi^2/3 = 3.29$
 - (Known) residual is in model for actual y_{ti} , so $\sigma_e^2 = 3.29$ is for $\text{logit}(y_{ti})$
- Logistic ICC = $\frac{BP}{BP+WP} = \frac{\tau_{U_0}^2}{\tau_{U_0}^2 + \sigma_e^2} = \frac{\tau_{U_0}^2}{\tau_{U_0}^2 + 3.29}$
- Can do $-2\Delta LL$ test to see if $\tau_{U_0}^2 > 0$, although the ICC is problematic to interpret due to non-constant, not estimated residual variance
- Have not seen equivalent ICC formulas for other outcomes besides binary!

Random Linear Time Model for Binary Outcomes

- **Level 1:** $\text{Logit } [p(y_{ti} = 1)] = \beta_{0i} + \beta_{1i}(\text{time}_{ti})$
- **Level 2:** $\beta_{0i} = \gamma_{00} + U_{0i}$
 $\beta_{1i} = \gamma_{10} + U_{1i}$
- **Combined:**
 $\text{Logit } [p(y_{ti} = 1)] = (\gamma_{00} + U_{0i}) + (\gamma_{10} + U_{1i})(\text{time}_{ti})$
- σ_e^2 residual variance is still not estimated $\rightarrow \pi^2/3 = 3.29$
- Can test new fixed or random effects with $-2\Delta LL$ tests
(or Wald test p -values for fixed effects as usual)

New Interpretation of Fixed Effects

- In general linear mixed models, the fixed effects are interpreted as the “average” effect for the sample
 - γ_{00} is “sample average” intercept
 - U_{0i} is “individual deviation from sample average”
- What “average” means in *generalized* linear mixed models is different, because of the use of nonlinear link functions:
 - e.g., the mean of the logs \neq log of the means
 - Therefore, the fixed effects are not the “sample average” effect, they are the effect for ***specifically for $U_i = 0$***
 - So fixed effects are *conditional* on the random effects
 - This gets called a “unit-specific” or “subject-specific” model
 - This distinction does not exist for normal conditional outcomes

Comparing Results across Models

- NEW RULE: Coefficients cannot be compared across models, because they are not on the same scale! (see Bauer, 2009)
- e.g., if residual variance = 3.29 in binary models:
 - When adding a random intercept variance to an empty model, the **total variation in the outcome has increased** → the fixed effects will increase in size because they are *unstandardized* slopes

$$\gamma_{\text{mixed}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{\tau_{U_0}^2 + 3.29}{3.29}} (\beta_{\text{fixed}})$$

- **Level-1 predictors cannot decrease the residual variance** like usual, so all other models estimates have to go up to compensate
 - If X_{ti} is uncorrelated with other X 's and is a pure level-1 variable ($\text{ICC} \approx 0$), then fixed and $\text{SD}(U_{0i})$ will increase by same factor
- **Random effects variances can decrease**, though, so level-2 effects should be on the same scale across models if level-1 is the same

A Little Bit about Estimation

- Goal: End up with maximum likelihood estimates for all model parameters (because they are consistent, efficient)
 - When we have a \mathbf{V} matrix based on multivariate **normally** distributed \mathbf{e}_{ti} residuals at level-1 and multivariate normally distributed \mathbf{U}_i terms at level 2, ML is easy
 - When we have a \mathbf{V} matrix based on multivariate **Bernoulli** distributed \mathbf{e}_{ti} residuals at level-1 and multivariate normally distributed \mathbf{U}_i terms at level 2, ML is much harder
 - Same with any other kind model for “not normal” level 1 residual
 - **ML does not assume normality unless you fit a “normal” model!**
- 3 main families of estimation approaches:
 - Quasi-Likelihood methods (“marginal/penalized quasi ML”)
 - Numerical Integration (“adaptive Gaussian quadrature”)
 - Also Bayesian methods (MCMC, newly available in SAS or Mplus)

2 Main Types of Estimation

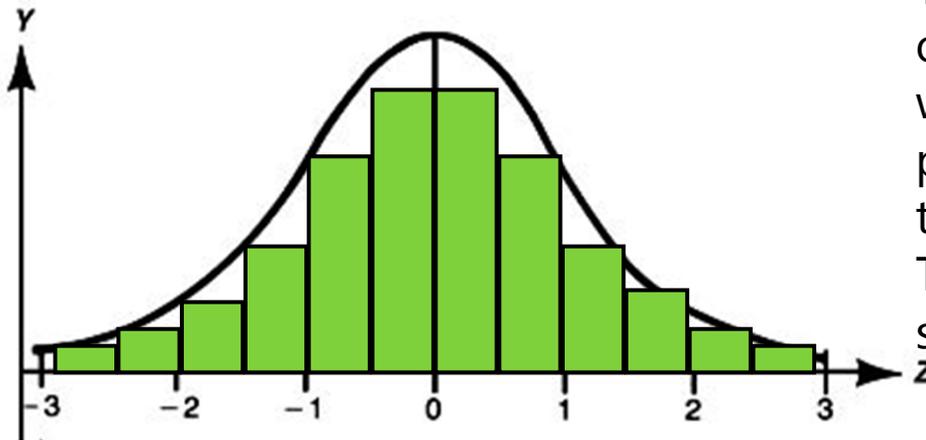
- **Quasi-Likelihood methods** → older methods
 - “Marginal QL” → approximation around fixed part of model
 - “Penalized QL” → approximation around fixed + random parts
 - These both underestimate variances (MQL more so than PQL)
 - 2nd-order PQL is supposed to be better than 1st-order MQL
 - QL methods DO NOT PERMIT MODEL $-2\Delta LL$ TESTS
 - HLM program adds Laplace approximation to QL, which then does permit $-2\Delta LL$ tests (also in SAS GLIMMIX and STATA melogit)
- **ML via Numerical Integration** → gold standard
 - Much better estimates and valid $-2\Delta LL$ tests, but can take for-freaking-ever (can use PQL methods to get good start values)
 - Will blow up with many random effects (which make the model exponentially more complex, especially in these models)
 - Relies on assumptions of local independence, like usual → all level-1 dependency has been modeled; level-2 units are independent

ML via Numerical Integration

- **Step 1:** Select **starting values** for all fixed effects
- **Step 2:** Compute the **likelihood** of each observation given by the *current* parameter values using chosen distribution of residuals
 - Model gives link-predicted outcome given parameter estimates, but the U 's themselves are not parameters—their variances and covariances are instead
 - But so long as we can assume the U 's are MVN, we can still proceed...
 - Computing the likelihood for each set of possible parameters requires *removing* the individual U values from the model equation—by **integrating** across possible U values for each level-2 unit
 - Integration is accomplished by “Gaussian Quadrature” → summing up rectangles that approximate the integral (area under the curve) for each level-2 unit
- **Step 3:** Decide if you have the right answers, which occurs when the log-likelihood changes very little across iterations (i.e., it converges)
- **Step 4:** If you aren't converged, choose new parameters values
 - Newton-Rhapon or Fisher Scoring (calculus), EM algorithm (U 's = missing data)

ML via Numerical Integration

- More on Step 2: Divide the U distribution into rectangles
 - → “Gaussian Quadrature” (# rectangles = # “quadrature points”)
 - First divide the whole U distribution into rectangles, then repeat by taking the most likely section for each level-2 unit and retriangulating that
 - This is “adaptive quadrature” and is computationally more demanding, but gives more accurate results with fewer rectangles (SAS will pick how many)



The likelihood of each level-2 unit's outcomes at each **U** rectangle is then weighted by that rectangle's probability of being observed (from the multivariate normal distribution). The weighted likelihoods are then summed across all rectangles...

→ ta da! “**numerical integration**”

Example of Numeric Integration: Binary DV, Fixed Linear Time, Random Intercept Model

1. Start with values for fixed effects: intercept: $\gamma_{00} = 0.5$, time: $\gamma_{10} = 1.5$,
2. Compute likelihood for real data based on fixed effects and plausible U_{0i} (-2,0,2) using model: $\text{Logit}(y_{ti}=1) = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10}(\text{time}_{ti}) + U_{0i}$
 - Here for one person at two occasions with $y_{ti}=1$ at both occasions

	$U_{0i} = -2$	$\text{Logit}(y_{ti})$	IF $y_{ti}=1$ Prob	IF $y_{ti}=0$ 1-Prob	Likelihood if both $y=1$	Theta prob	Theta width	Product per Theta
Time 0	$0.5 + 1.5(0) - 2$	-1.5	0.18	0.82	0.091213	0.05	2	0.00912
Time 1	$0.5 + 1.5(1) - 2$	0.0	0.50	0.50				
	$U_{0i} = 0$	$\text{Logit}(y_{ti})$	Prob	1-Prob				
Time 0	$0.5 + 1.5(0) + 0$	0.5	0.62	0.38	0.54826	0.40	2	0.43861
Time 1	$0.5 + 1.5(1) + 0$	2.0	0.88	0.12				
	$U_{0i} = 2$	$\text{Logit}(y_{ti})$	Prob	1-Prob				
Time 0	$0.5 + 1.5(0) + 2$	2.5	0.92	0.08	0.90752	0.05	2	0.09075
Time 1	$0.5 + 1.5(1) + 2$	4.0	0.98	0.02				
Overall Likelihood (Sum of Products over All Thetas):								0.53848

(do this for each occasion, then multiply this whole thing over all people)

(repeat with new values of fixed effects until find highest overall likelihood)

Summary: Generalized Multilevel Models

- Analyze link-transformed conditional mean (e.g., via logit, log, log-log...)
 - **Linear** relationship between X 's and **transformed** conditional mean outcome
 - **Nonlinear** relationship between X 's and **original** conditional mean outcome
 - Conditional outcomes then follow some non-normal distribution
- In models for binary or categorical data, level-1 residual variance is set
 - So it can't go down after adding level-1 predictors, which means that the scale of everything else has to go UP to compensate
 - Scale of model will also be different after adding random effects for the same reason—the total variation in the model is now bigger
 - Fixed effects may not be comparable across models as a result
- Estimation is trickier and takes longer
 - Numerical integration is best but may blow up in complex models
 - Start values are often essential (can get those with pseudo-likelihood estimators)