



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost

## INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Tento projekt je spolufinancován Evropským sociálním fondem a Státním rozpočtem ČR  
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INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

# GLM on Count Data and the Poisson Distribution

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Adapted from:

Statistics for Free:

Generalized Linear Models Using R

By Andy Hector

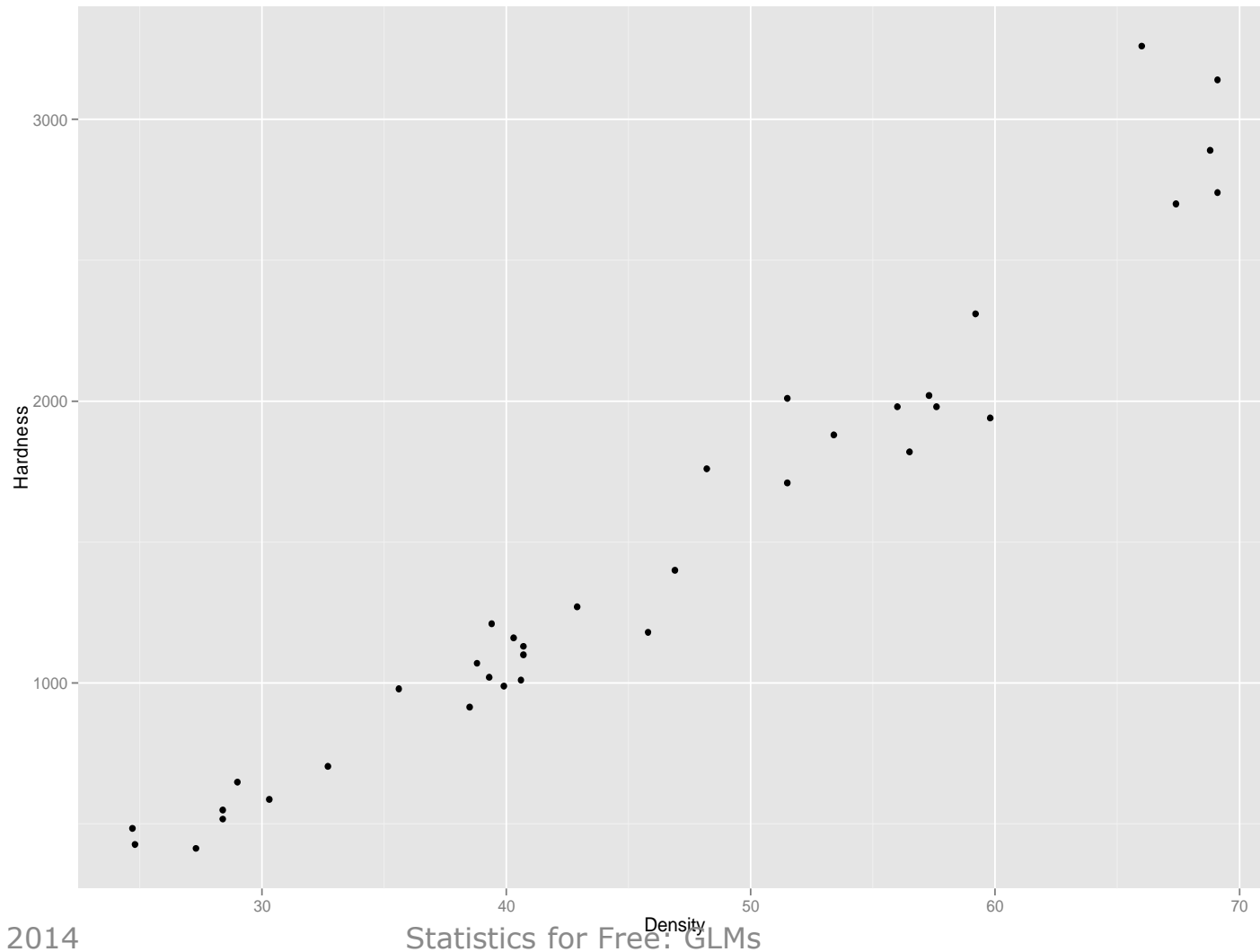
Former University of Zurich

Now University of Oxford

# Recap

- Linear Models (lm) assume:
  - Independence
  - Normality
  - Homogeneity
- Generalized Linear Models (glm) allow:
  - Linear predictor ( $Y \sim a + b \cdot X_1 + c \cdot X_2 \dots$ )
  - Family distribution (variance)
  - Link function (mean)

# Continuous positive data: Gamma Distribution



# Continuous positive data: Gamma Distribution

```
> Janka.lm <- lm(Hardness ~ Density, data = Janka)
> Janka.glm.Gauss <- glm(Hardness ~ Density, data = Janka, family =
gaussian(link="identity"))
> summary(Janka.glm.Gauss)
```

Call:

```
glm(formula = Hardness ~ Density, family = gaussian(link = "identity"),
     data = Janka)
```

Deviance Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-338.40	-96.98	-15.71	92.71	625.06

Coefficients:

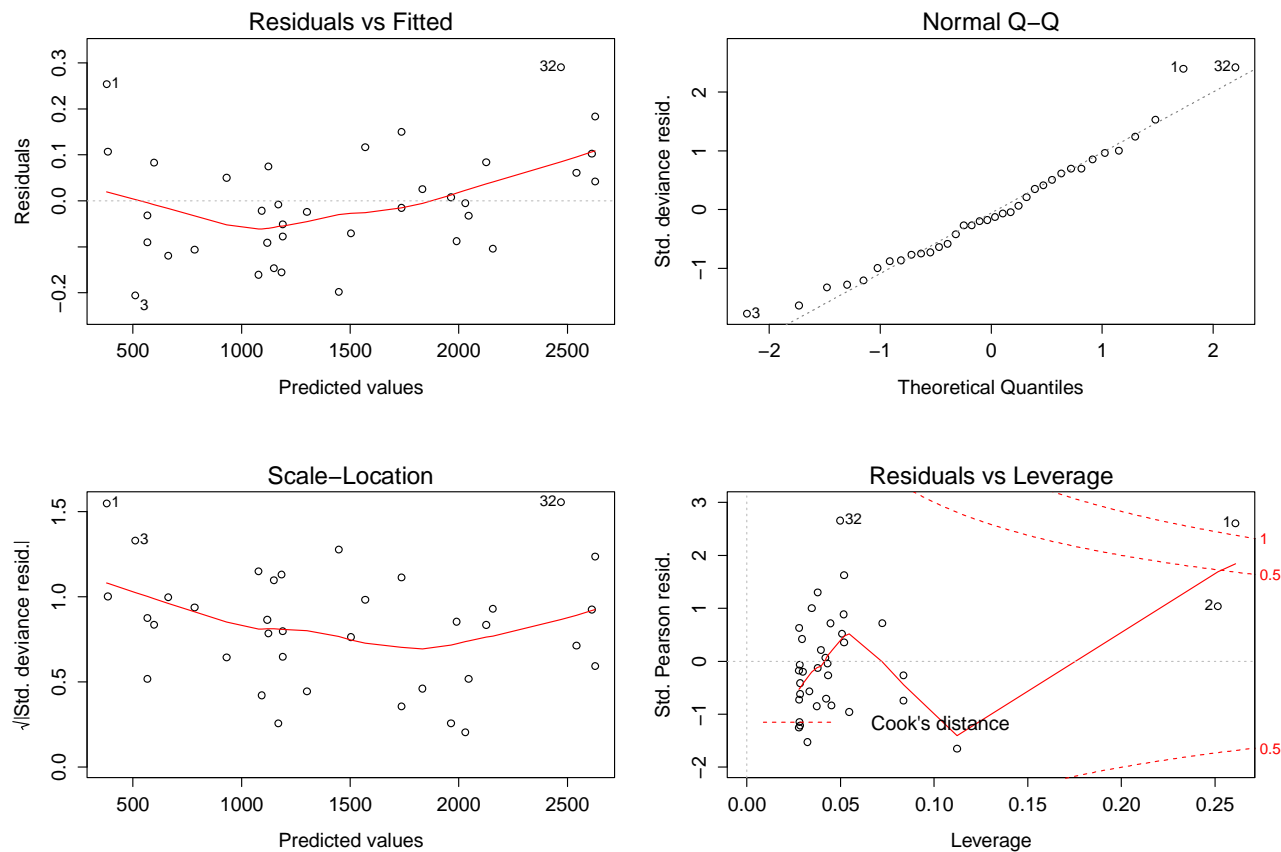
	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )	
(Intercept)	<b>-1160.500</b>	108.580	-10.69	2.07e-12	***
Density	57.507	2.279	25.24	< 2e-16	***

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Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

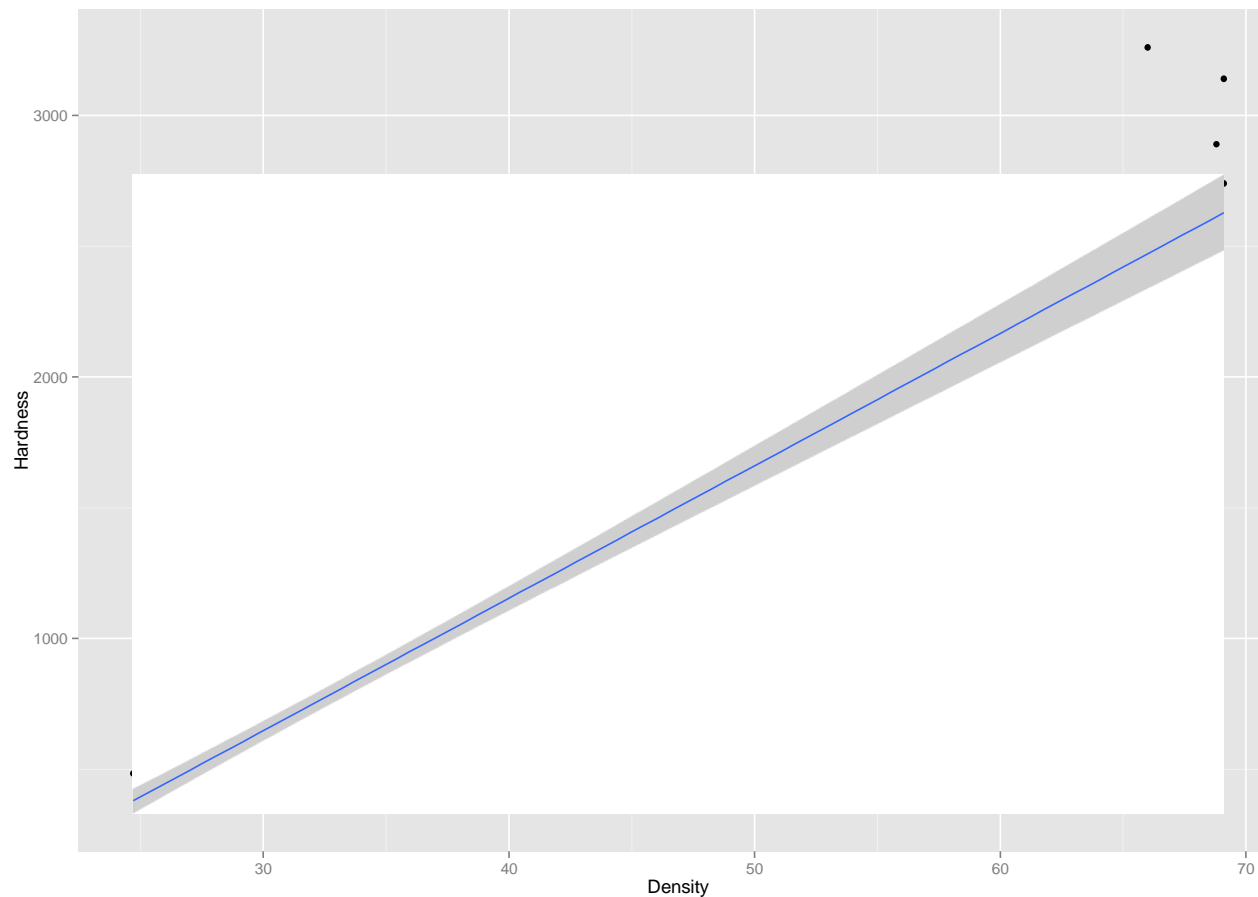
# Continuous positive data: Gamma Distribution

```
> Janka.glm.Gamma <- glm(Hardness ~ Density, data = Janka , family =  
Gamma(link = "identity"))
```



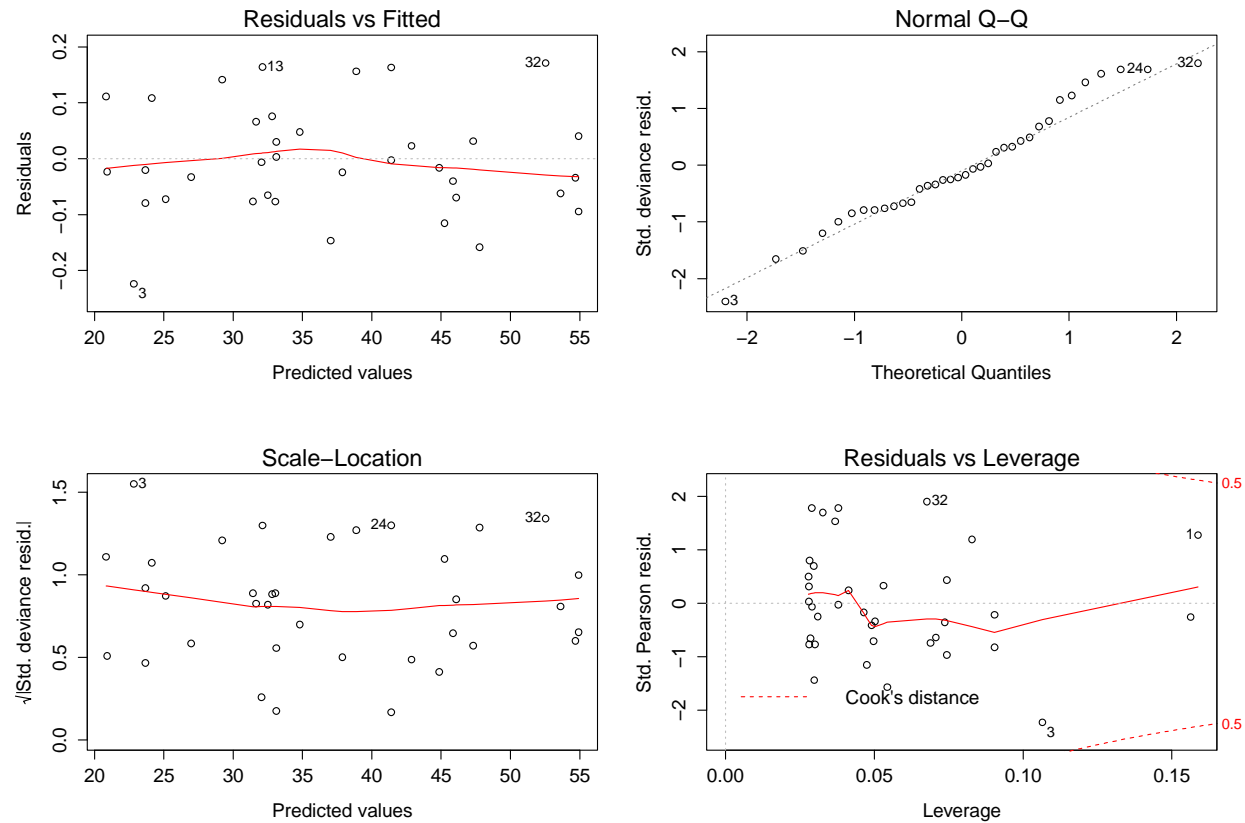
# Continuous positive data: Gamma Distribution

```
> Janka.glm.Gamma <- glm(Hardness ~ Density, data = Janka , family =  
Gamma(link = "identity"))
```



# Continuous positive data: Gamma Distribution

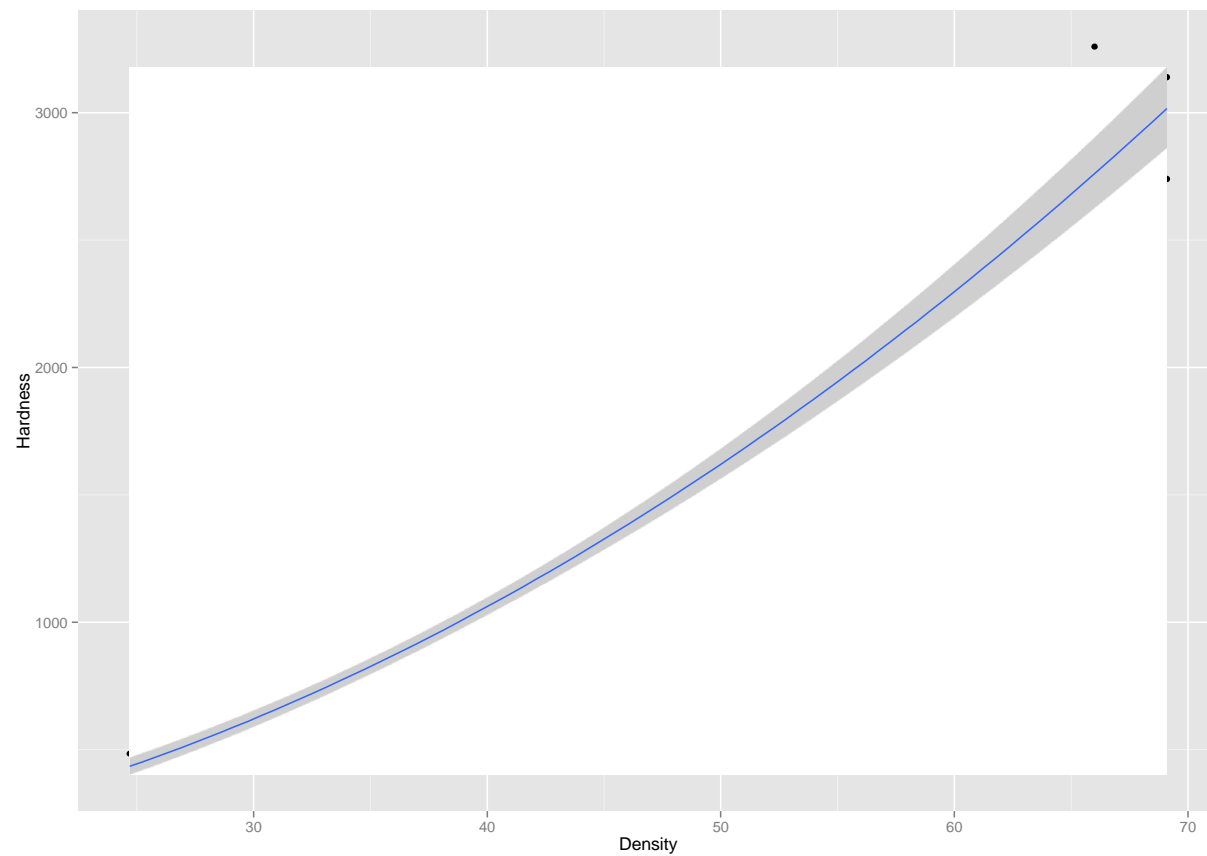
```
> Janka.glm.Gamma <- glm(Hardness ~ Density, data = Janka , family =  
Gamma(link = "sqrt"))
```





# Continuous positive data: Gamma Distribution

```
> Janka.glm.Gamma <- glm(Hardness ~ Density, data = Janka , family =  
Gamma(link = "sqrt"))
```



# Count data

- Data are integers (whole numbers): 0, 1, 2, 3...
- Data are never negative.
- Residuals are restricted in value (can get lines of residuals in residual plots).
- Zeros are often common.

# Count data

We know how many times something happened but not how many times it did not. Examples:

number of children per family

number of doctor visits per year

number of species per area

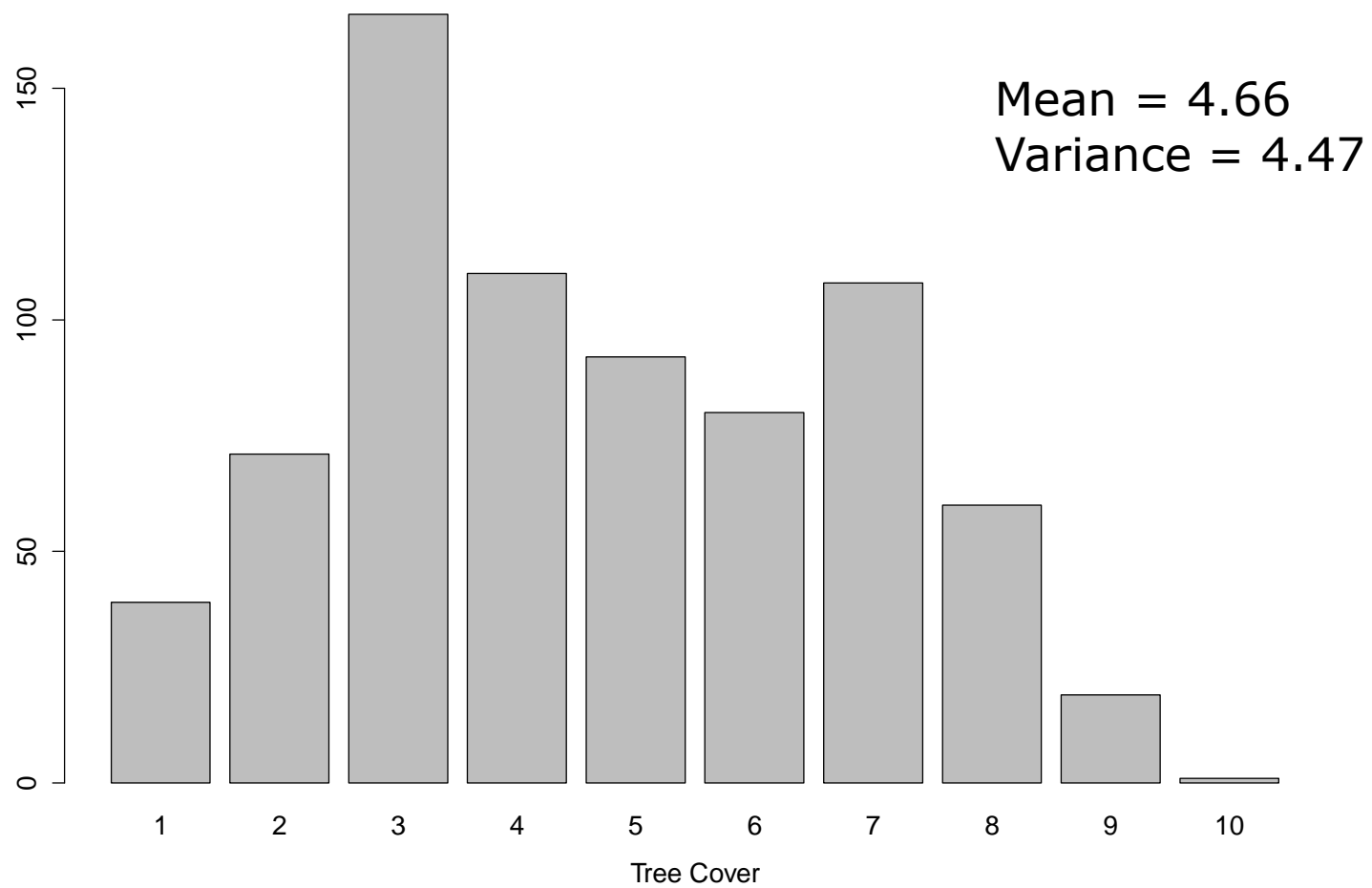
number of individuals from one species per area

tree cover (from 1 to 10) of *Tsuga canadensis*

# Count data

Tree cover	Occurrence
1	39
2	71
3	166
4	110
5	92
6	80
7	108
8	60
9	19
10	1

# Count data



# Count data

- Log-linear models: GLMs with a Poisson errors and log link function.

Mean

Variance

# Count data

## Mean

- Log link function prevents negative counts since the fitted values are antilogs ( $\exp$ ) and must be positive.

# Count data

## Variance

Poisson distribution is a one parameter distribution, variance is defined as equal to the mean – when using the Poisson we make this assumption for our data.



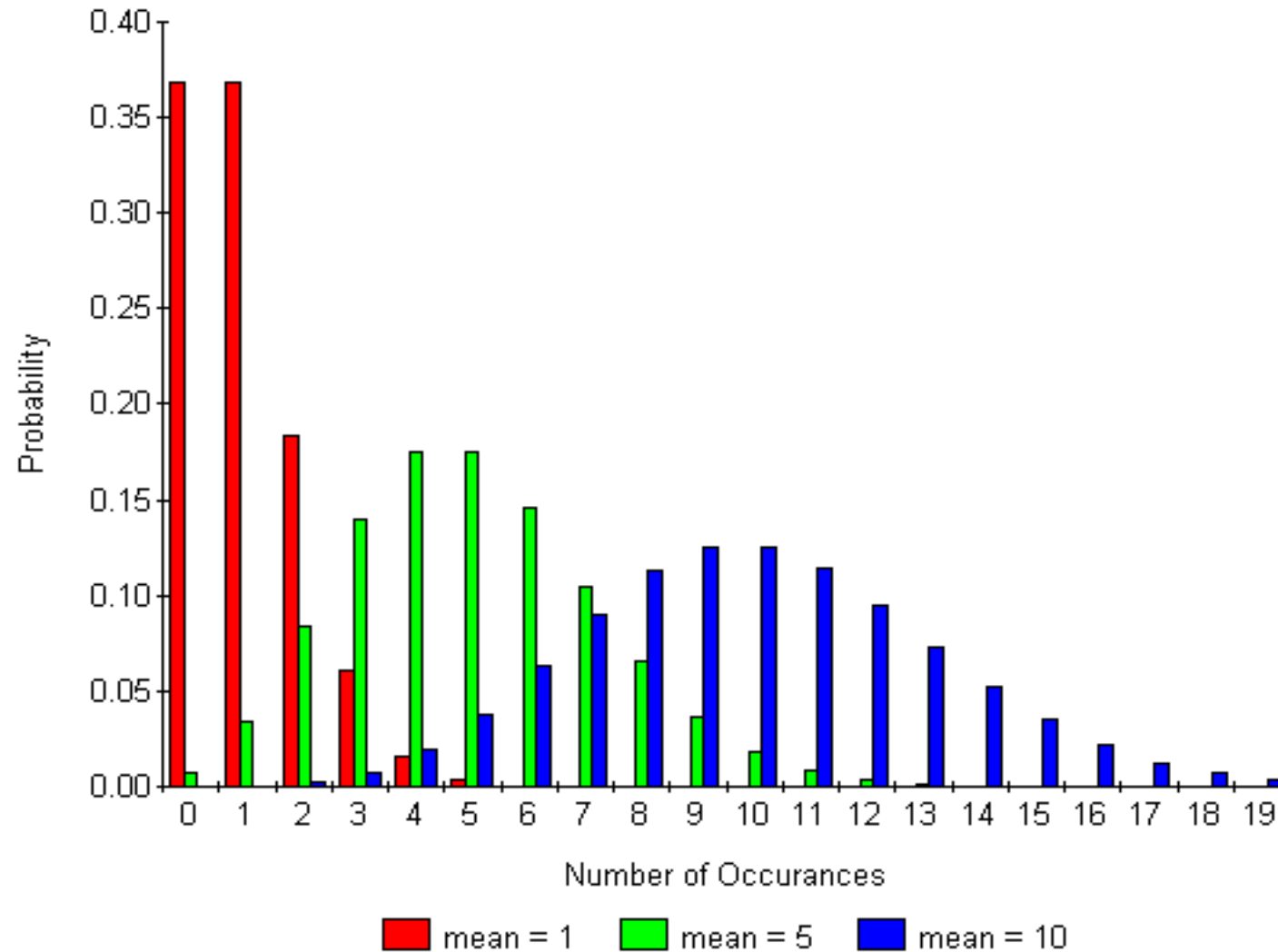
# The Poisson Distribution

- The the variance,  $\sigma^2$  is equal to the mean,  $\mu$  (mu)

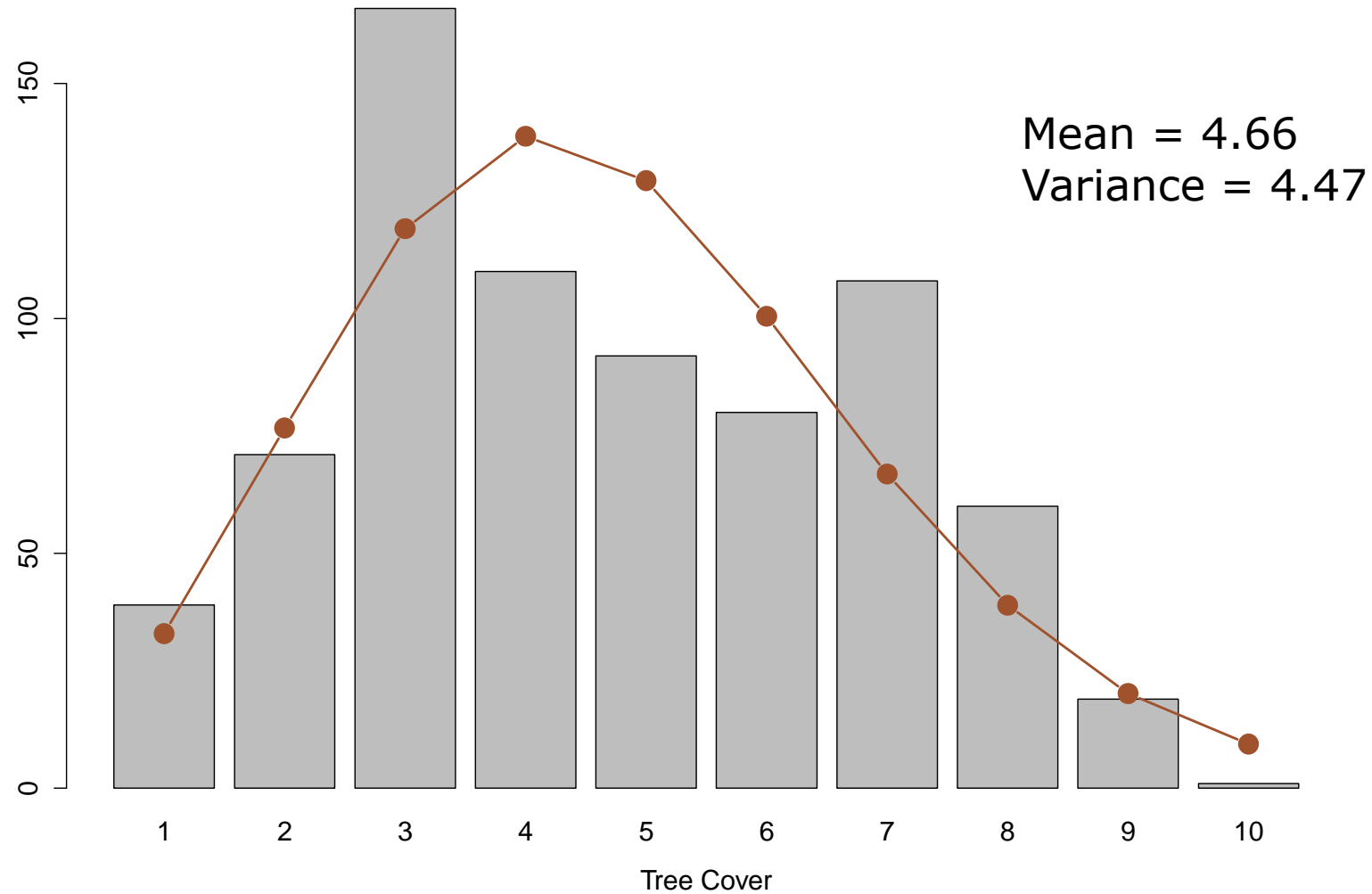
$$P(x) = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^x}{x!}$$

- Zero term:  $P(0) = e^{-\mu}$

# The Poisson Distribution



# The Poisson Distribution



# Count data

- Residual deviance is assumed to equal the residual degrees of freedom and the scale parameter is set as one
- Check for over-dispersion and deal with it using QML (Quasi Maximum Likelihood)
- Deviance is once again estimated by an iterative weighted least squares maximum likelihood procedure with its distribution approximately following the chi-squared distribution.

$$2 \ln \left( \frac{O}{E} \right)$$

# Count data in R

```
glm(Y ~ X, family=poisson (link = log))
```

# Count data in R

If overdispersion (Residual deviance higher than residual degrees of freedom)

`glm(Y ~ X, family=quasipoisson)`

# Count data in R

```
> glm3 = glm(cover~elev,data=dat2,family=poisson)
> summary(glm3)
```

Call:

```
glm(formula = cover ~ elev, family = poisson, data = dat2)
```

Deviance Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-2.0673	-0.8250	-0.3048	0.9991	2.1347

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	1.546e+00	5.135e-02	30.115	<2e-16 ***
elev	-8.448e-06	5.471e-05	-0.154	0.877

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Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

**(Dispersion parameter for poisson family taken to be 1)**

Null deviance: 749.25 on 745 degrees of freedom  
Residual deviance: **749.23 on 744** degrees of freedom  
AIC: 3214.2

# Exercise: the parkgrass experiment

- Counts of species in plots of the Park Grass experiment

```
glm(species ~ biomass, poisson (link = log))
```



# Counts of species in plots of the Park Grass experiment



The Park Grass Experiment

January 30, 2014



Harvesting in 1941

## Counts of species in plots of the Park Grass experiment



One of the longest running  
experiment: since 1856

Rothamsted experimental  
station (England)

Effects of fertilizers on  
Crop productivity

### The Park Grass Experiment

January 30, 2014

Statistics for Free: GLMs

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