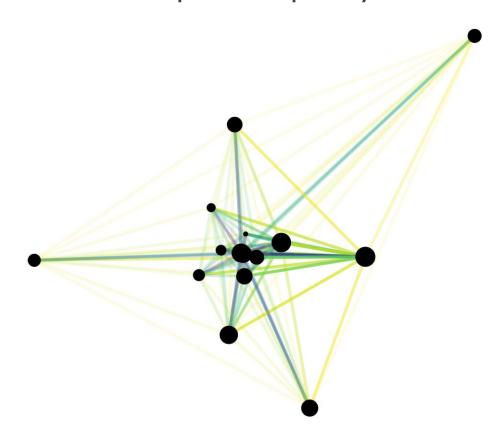
Introduction to STAN for dyadic edge regression models

Winter Workshop on complex systems 2025



We do

- 1. Highlight the potential of STAN
- 2. Introducing the basics of STAN
- 3. Mixture models and varying effects

Networks are often assumed as given, but should be considered as random realizations of underlying data generating processes (domain specific knowledge)

Propagate uncertainty from edges to network metrics

We do

- 1. Highlight the potential of STAN
- 2. Introducing the basics of STAN
- 3. Mixture models and varying effects

Networks are often assumed as given, but should be considered as random realizations of underlying data generating processes (domain specific knowledge)

Propagate uncertainty from edges to network metrics

We don't

Revise Bayesian statistics

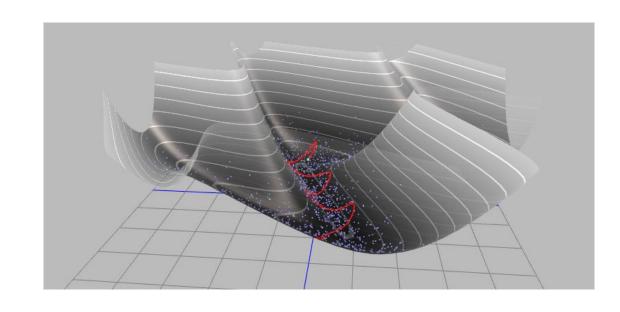
Bayesian workflow:

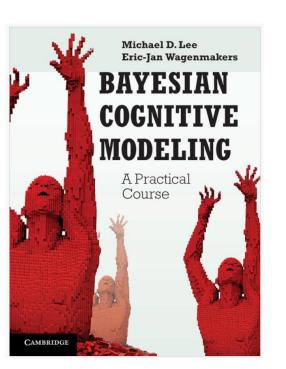
- 1. Prior and posterior predictive simulations
- 2. MCMC convergence diagnostics
- 3. Hypothesis testing

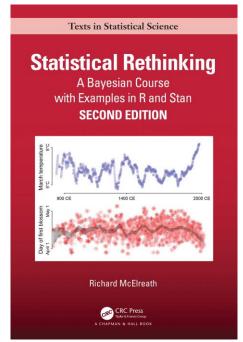
What is STAN?

Probabilistic programming language

Allows to fit a *wide* variety of statistical models through MCMC (Hamiltonian Monte Carlo NUTS)







Download STAN:

https://mc-stan.org/install/

Learn STAN:

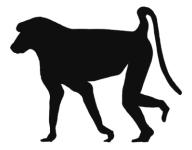
https://mc-stan.org/learn-stan/tutorials.html https://mc-stan.org/learn-stan/case-studies.html https://www.youtube.com/@rmcelreath

Research problem

Data:

Troop of 15 baboons with dominance rank.

For 20 days, we know the number of hours two individuals are doing the same behaviour



Research problem

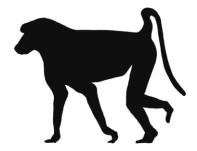
Data:

Troop of 15 baboons with dominance rank.

For 20 days, we know the number of hours two individuals are doing the same behaviour

Research questions:

- 1. What is the effect of dominance on pairwise synchrony, i.e., the probability a pair is performing the same behaviour?
- 2. What is the individual centrality in synchrony network?



Research problem

Data:

Troop of 15 baboons with dominance rank.

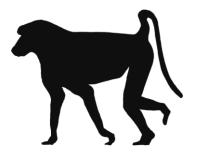
For 20 days, we know the number of hours two individuals are doing the same behaviour.

Research questions:

- What is the effect of dominance on pairwise synchrony, i.e., the probability a pair is performing the same behaviour?
- 2. What is the individual centrality in synchrony network?

Complications:

Different number of observations for every pair. Sometimes troop splits, but we do not know the number of subgroups, when the troop splits, and who goes where



Model

$$y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)$$

$$logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta (d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]})$$

$$\lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta)$$

y_i: number of hours the pair was synchronized on observation i

 λ_i : pair is together (1) or not (0)

 α_1 : synchrony when pair is separated

 α_2 : individual baseline synchrony

β: effect of dominance

 $ID_{k,j}$: effect of individual k and j involved in observation i (ID is a vector)

θ: probability the pair is together (mixture probability)

Model

Mixture model: more than one data generating process



 $y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)$

$$logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta (d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]})$$
$$\lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta)$$

https://mc-stan.org/docs/stan-users-guide/finite-mixtures.html

y_i: number of hours the pair was synchronized on observation i

 λ_i : pair is together (1) or not (0)

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Model

 $y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)$

$$logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta (d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]})$$

$$\lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta)$$

Dyadic regression: control for non-independency of edges belonging to a node by including a node effect (in *causal inference* terminology: close backdoor path)

 y_i : number of hours the pair was synchronized on observation i

 λ_i : pair is together (1) or not (0)

 α_1 : synchrony when pair is separated

 α_2 : individual baseline synchrony

β: effect of dominance

 $ID_{k,j}$: effect of individual k and j involved in observation i (ID is a vector)

θ: probability the pair is together (mixture probability)

Hart et al., 2023

STAN implementation

STAN works by defining the model through "blocks" and finding the "posterior surface" by defining log likelihood of each observation

```
y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1) logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]}) \lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta)
```

```
data {
parameters {
model {
```

$$y_{i} \sim binomial(n = 24, p_{i})(\lambda_{i}) + (1 - \lambda_{i})binomial(n = 24, \alpha_{1})$$

$$logit(p_{i}) = 2\alpha_{2} + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]})$$

$$\lambda_{i} \sim bernulli(\theta)$$

Which variables are data?

```
y_{i} \sim binomial(n = 24, p_{i})(\lambda_{i}) + (1 - \lambda_{i})binomial(n = 24, \alpha_{1})logit(p_{i}) = 2\alpha_{2} + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]})\lambda_{i} \sim bernulli(\theta)
```

```
data {
  int<lower=0> N; // number of data points
  int<lower=0> N_ind; // number of individuals
  int<lower=0> n_hours_same[N]; // number of hours in which both individuals are
  int<lower=0> id_1[N]; // first individual of edge
  int<lower=0> id_2[N]; // second individual of edge
  vector<lower=0, upper=1>[N] dominance_1; // dominance frst individual
  vector<lower=0, upper=1>[N] dominance_2; // dominance second individual
}
```

STAN is explicitly typed compiled language which requires variable declaration and definition For more on data types: https://mc-stan.org/docs/reference-manual/types.html

```
\begin{aligned} y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1) \\ logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left( d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]} \right) \\ \lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta) \end{aligned}
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```

```
data {
  int<lower=0> N; // number of data points
  int<lower=0> N_ind; // number of individuals
  int<lower=0> n_hours_same[N]; // number of hours in which both individuals are
  int<lower=0> id_1[N]; // first individual of edge
  int<lower=0> id_2[N]; // second individual of edge
  vector<lower=0,upper=1>[N] dominance_1; // dominance frst individual
  vector<lower=0,upper=1>[N] dominance_2; // dominance second individual
}
```

```
transformed data {
    // Centralize predictors |
    vector[N] dominance_1_c = dominance_1 - mean(dominance_1);
    vector[N] dominance_2_c = dominance_2 - mean(dominance_2);
}
```

- Centralizing predictors increases sampling performance
- Response is a random variable and as such should not be centralized
- Data blocks evaluated once

Parameters block

Parameters → "unknown quantities"

$$\begin{aligned} y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1) \\ logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]}\right) \\ \lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

Which variables are the parameters?

Parameters block

Parameters → "unknown quantities"

```
y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1) logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]}) \lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta)
```

```
parameters {
 // intercepts
 ordered[2] alpha;
 // fixed effect
 real beta;
 // hyperparameters
 real<lower=0> sigma_id;
 // mixture mixing parameter
 real<lower=0,upper=1> theta;
 // random effects
 vector[N_ind] id_z;
```

Parameters block

Parameters → "unknown quantities"

```
\begin{aligned} y_i \sim binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1) \\ logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]}\right) \\ \lambda_i \sim bernulli(\theta) \end{aligned}
```

Missing values can be imputed by including them in the parameters block https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oeq6GChHOzc

ordered is a data type to solve non-identifiability of mixture models (and HMMs)

It would be possible to swap values of p_i and α_1 , and change $\theta \rightarrow 1$ - θ https://betanalpha.github.io/assets/case_studies/identifying_mixture_models.html

```
parameters {
 // intercepts
  ordered[2] alpha;
 // fixed effect
  real beta;
 // hyperparameters
  real<lower=0> sigma_id;
 // mixture mixing parameter
  real<lower=0,upper=1> theta;
 // random effects
  vector[N_ind] id_z;
```

$$\begin{aligned} y_i \sim &Binomial(n=24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1-\lambda_i)Binomial(n=24, \alpha_1) \\ &logit(p_i) = 2\alpha_2 + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]}\right) \\ &\lambda_i \sim &Bernulli(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

$$y_{i} \sim Binomial(n = 24, p_{i})(\lambda_{i}) + (1 - \lambda_{i})Binomial(n = 24, \alpha_{1})$$

$$logit(p_{i}) = 2\alpha_{2} + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]}\right)$$

$$\lambda_{i} \sim Bernulli(\theta)$$

$$\theta \sim Beta(4,4)$$
 Priors
$$\beta \sim Normal(0,5)$$

$$\alpha_{1} \sim Normal(0,5)$$

- Priors' distribution depend on parameters' domain
- Priors' parameters are chosen through prior predictive simulations and domain-specific knowledge
- Wise choice of priors' parameters allow regularization

$$y_{i} \sim Binomial(n = 24, p_{i})(\lambda_{i}) + (1 - \lambda_{i})Binomial(n = 24, \alpha_{1})$$

$$logit(p_{i}) = 2\alpha_{2} + ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]})$$

$$\lambda_{i} \sim Bernulli(\theta)$$

$$\theta \sim Beta(4,4)$$
Priors
$$\beta \sim Normal(0,5)$$

$$\alpha_{1} \sim Normal(0,5)$$
Varying effects
$$ID \sim Normal(\alpha_{2}, \sigma_{ID})$$

$$\alpha_{2} \sim Normal(0,5)$$
Hyperparameters
$$\sigma_{ID} \sim Exponential(0,1)$$

- Priors' distribution depend on parameters' domain
- Priors' parameters are chosen through prior predictive simulations and domain-specific knowledge
- Wise choice of priors' parameters allow regularization
- Varying effects consist in letting the data inform the parameters of prior → automatic regularization

Non-centered parametrization

$$ID.z\sim Normal(0,1)$$

$$ID=ID.z+\alpha_{2}*\sigma_{ID}$$

$$\alpha_{2}\sim Normal(0,5)$$

$$\alpha_{2}\sim Normal(0,5)$$

$$\alpha_{1D}\sim Exponential(0.1)$$

$$\sigma_{ID}\sim Exponential(0.1)$$

Non-centered parametrization increases sampling performance

Non-centered parametrization for multidimensional normal distributions more complicated (involves Cholesky decomposition) but *very* necessary https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPnLb5EaCkA&t=3977s

Model block executed each time gradient is computed

```
transformed parameters { // Back-transform centered parametrization.
  vector[N_ind] transformed_id = sigma_id * id_z + alpha[2];
                                                                 \mathbf{y}_i \sim Binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)Binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)
model {
                                                                            logit(p_i) = ID_{k[i]} + ID_{i[i]} + \beta(d_{k[i]} + d_{i[i]})
 // Priors
                                                                                           \lambda_i \sim Bernulli(\theta)
 // fixed effect
  alpha[1] \sim normal(-1, 5);
                                                                                             \theta \sim Beta(4,4)
  beta \sim normal(0, 5);
                                                                                           \beta \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Hyperparameters
  alpha[2] \sim normal(0, 5);
                                                                                          \alpha_1 \sim Normal(-1,5)
 sigma_id ~ exponential(0.1);
                                                                                          \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
  // mixture mixing probability
                                                                                          ID.z~Normal(0,1)
  theta \sim beta(4, 4);
 // random effects
                                                                                          ID=ID.z+\alpha_2*\sigma_{ID}
  target += normal_lpdf(id_z | 0, 1);
                                                                                          \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Model
                                                                                        \sigma_{ID} \sim Exponential(0.1)
  for(i in 1:N) { // for every observation
    real p = transformed_id[id_1[i]] + transformed_id[id_2[i]] + beta * (dominance_1_c[i] + dominance_2_c[i]);
    target += log_sum_exp( // marginalize likelihood.
    log(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, p), // "process" 1 : the pair is in the same location
    log1m(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, alpha[1]) // "process" 2 : the pair is in a different location
```

```
transformed parameters { // Back-transform centered parametrization.
  vector[N_ind] transformed_id = sigma_id * id_z + alpha[2];
                                                                y_i \sim Binomid al(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)Binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)
model {
                                                                           logit(p_i) = ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left(d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]}\right)
                                             To let the
  // Priors
                                             data
                                                                                          \lambda_i \sim Bernulli(\theta)
  // fixed effect
  alpha[1] \sim normal(-1, 5);
                                                                                            \theta \sim Beta(4,4)
                                             inform
  beta \sim normal(0, 5);
                                             priors of
                                                                                          \beta \sim Normal(0,5)
  // Hyperparameters
  alpha[2] \sim normal(0, 5);
                                             varying
                                                                                         \alpha_1 \sim Normal(-1,5)
  sigma_id ~ exponential(0.1);
                                             effects
                                                                                         \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
  // mixture mixing probability
                                             likelihood
                                                                                         ID.z~Normal(0,1)
  theta \sim beta(4, 4):
  // random effects
                                                                                         ID=ID.z+\alpha_2*\sigma_{ID}
                                             must be
  target += normal_lpdf(id_z | 0, 1);
                                             specified
                                                                                         \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
  // Model
                                                                                       \sigma_{ID} \sim Exponential(0.1)
  for(i in 1:N) { // for every observation
    real p = transformed_id[id_1[i]] + transformed_id[id_2[i]] + beta * (dominance_1_c[i] + dominance_2_c[i]);
    target += log_sum_exp( // marginalize likelihood.
    log(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, p), // "process" 1 : the pair is in the same location
    log1m(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, alpha[1]) // "process" 2: the pair is in a different location
```

```
transformed parameters { // Back-transform centered parametrization.
  vector[N_ind] transformed_id = sigma_id * id_z + alpha[2];
                                                                \mathbf{y}_i \sim Binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)Binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)
                                                                           logit(p_i) = ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left( d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]} \right)
model {
  // Priors
                                                                                          \lambda_i \sim Bernulli(\theta)
  // fixed effect
 alpha[1] ~ normal(-1, 5);
                                     Priors consistent
                                                                                            \theta \sim Beta(4,4)
  beta \sim normal(0, 5);
                                     with
                                                                                           \beta \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Hyperparameters
                                     the ordered type
 alpha[2] \sim normal(0, 5);
                                                                                          \alpha_1 \sim Normal(-1,5)
  sigma_id ~ exponential(0.1);
                                                                                          \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
  // mixture mixing probability
                                                                                          ID.z~Normal(0,1)
  theta \sim beta(4, 4);
  // random effects
                                                                                          ID=ID.z+\alpha_2*\sigma_{ID}
  target += normal_lpdf(id_z | 0, 1);
                                                                                          \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Model
                                                                                       \sigma_{ID} \sim Exponential(0.1)
  for(i in 1:N) { // for every observation
    real p = transformed_id[id_1[i]] + transformed_id[id_2[i]] + beta * (dominance_1_c[i] + dominance_2_c[i]);
    target += log_sum_exp( // marginalize likelihood.
    log(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, p), // "process" 1 : the pair is in the same location
    log1m(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, alpha[1]) // "process" 2 : the pair is in a different location
```

```
transformed parameters { // Back-transform centered parametrization.
  vector[N_ind] transformed_id = sigma_id * id_z + alpha[2];
                                                                \mathbf{y}_i \sim Binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)Binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)
                                        To find
                                                                           logit(p_i) = ID_{k[i]} + ID_{j[i]} + \beta \left( d_{k[i]} + d_{j[i]} \right)
model {
 // Priors
                                        likelihood of
                                                                                          \lambda_i \sim Bernulli(\theta)
 // fixed effect
                                        mixture model
  alpha[1] \sim normal(-1, 5);
                                                                                            \theta \sim Beta(4,4)
                                        marginalize
  beta \sim normal(0, 5);
                                                                                          \beta \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Hyperparameters
                                        over data
  alpha[2] \sim normal(0, 5);
                                                                                         \alpha_1 \sim Normal(-1,5)
                                        generating
  sigma_id ~ exponential(0.1);
                                                                                         \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
  // mixture mixing probability
                                         processes
                                                                                         ID.z~Normal(0,1)
  theta \sim beta(4, 4);
 // random effects
                                                                                         ID=ID.z+\alpha_2*\sigma_{ID}
  target += normal_lpdf(id_z | 0, 1);
                                                                                         \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Model
                                                                                       \sigma_{ID} \sim Exponential(0.1)
  for(i in 1:N) { // for every observation
   real p = transformed id[id 1[i]] + transformed id[id 2[i]] + beta * (dominance 1 c[i] + dominance 2 c[i]):
    target += log_sum_exp( // marginalize likelihood.
    log(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, p), // "process" 1 : the pair is in the same location
    log1m(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, alpha[1]) // "process" 2: the pair is in a different location
```

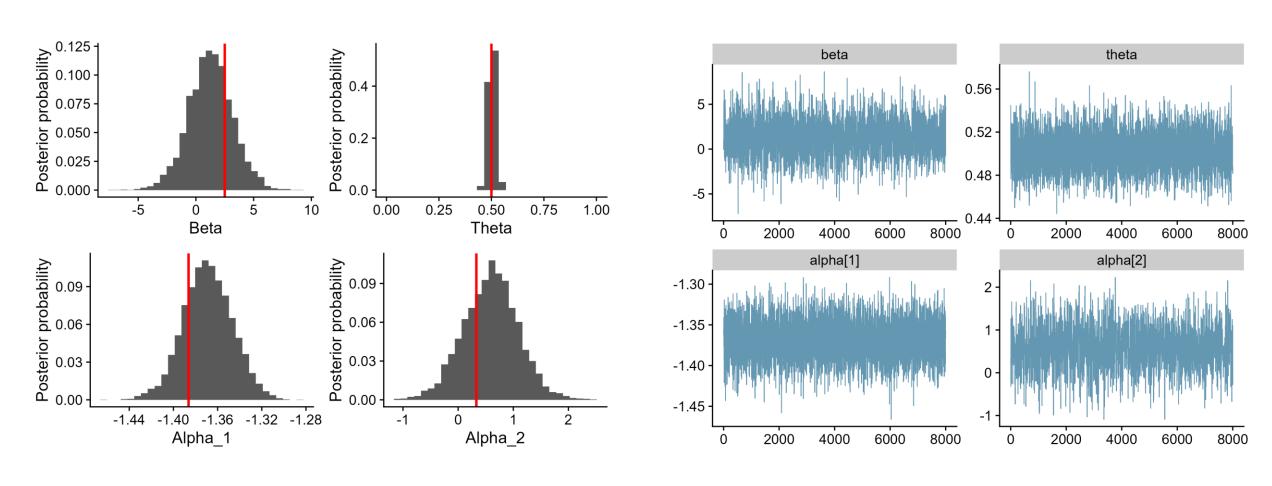
```
transformed parameters { // Back-transform centered parametrization.
  vector[N_ind] transformed_id = sigma_id * id_z + alpha[2];
                                                                \mathbf{y}_i \sim Binomial(n = 24, p_i)(\lambda_i) + (1 - \lambda_i)Binomial(n = 24, \alpha_1)
                                   Computationally
model {
                                                                           logit(p_i) = ID_{k[i]} + ID_{i[i]} + \beta(d_{k[i]} + d_{i[i]})
 // Priors
                                   stable:
                                                                                         \lambda_i \sim Bernulli(\theta)
 // fixed effect
                                   log_sum_exp() -
  alpha[1] \sim normal(-1, 5);
                                                                                           \theta \sim Beta(4,4)
                                   sum probabilities
  beta \sim normal(0, 5);
                                                                                          \beta \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Hyperparameters
                                   log1m() \rightarrow 1 -
  alpha[2] \sim normal(0, 5);
                                                                                         \alpha_1 \sim Normal(-1,5)
                                   probability
  sigma_id ~ exponential(0.1);
                                                                                         \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
  // mixture mixing probability
                                                                                        ID.z~Normal(0,1)
  theta \sim beta(4, 4);
 // random effects
                                                                                         ID=ID.z+\alpha_2*\sigma_{ID}
  target += normal_lpdf(id_z | 0, 1);
                                                                                         \alpha_2 \sim Normal(0,5)
 // Model
                                                                                      \sigma_{ID} \sim Exponential(0.1)
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   real p = transformed id[id 1[i]] + transformed id[id 2[i]] + beta * (dominance 1 c[i] + dominance 2 c[i]):
    target += log_sum_exp( // marginalize likelihood.
    log(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, p), // "process" 1 : the pair is in the same location
    log1m(theta) + binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, alpha[1]) // "process" 2: the pair is in a different location
```

Generated quantities block

Block executed for each MCMC sample

```
enerated quantities -
// Classify observation as same or different location
vector[N] prob_same;
for(i in 1:N) { // the mixture probability of a data point is the likelihood mulitplied by the mixture probability normalized over the mixtures
  real p = transformed_id[id_1[i]] + transformed_id[id_2[i]] + beta * (dominance_1_c[i] + dominance_2_c[i]);
  real mixture_1 = binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, p) + log(theta);
  real mixture_2 = binomial_logit_lpmf(n_hours_same[i] | 24, alpha[1]) + log1m(theta);
  prob_same[i] = exp(mixture_1 - log_sum_exp(mixture_1, mixture_2));
// Generate edge posterior
matrix[N_ind, N_ind] edges;
for(ind_1 in 1:N_ind) {
  for(ind_2 in 1:N_ind) {
    edges[ind_1, ind_2] = inv_logit(transformed_id[ind_1] + transformed_id[ind_2] + beta * (dominance_1_c[ind_1] + dominance_2_c[ind_2]));
                                                 Mixture models perform unsupervised classification
// Generate centrality posterior
vector[N_ind] centrality;
for(ind_1 in 1:N_ind) {
                                                 To find the posterior for a data point belonging to a specific
  centrality[ind_1] = 0;
                                                 data generating process, multiply the likelihood times the
  for(ind_2 in 1:N_ind) {
    centrality[ind_1] += edges[ind_1, ind_2];
                                                  mixture probability and normalize over the data generating
                                                  processes
centrality /= N_ind;
```

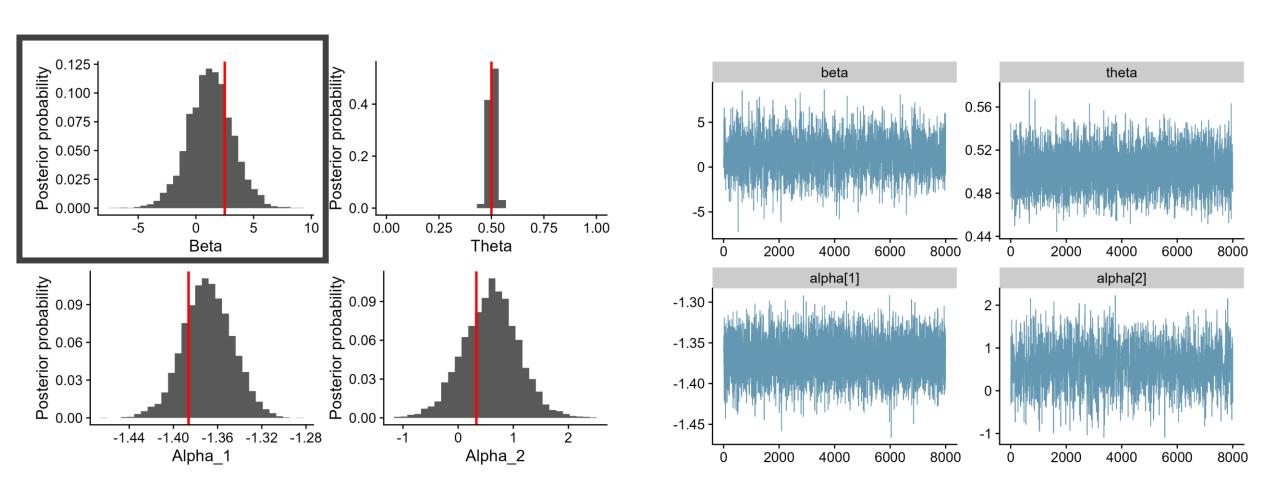
Results



Parameters used to generate data

MCMC diagnostics

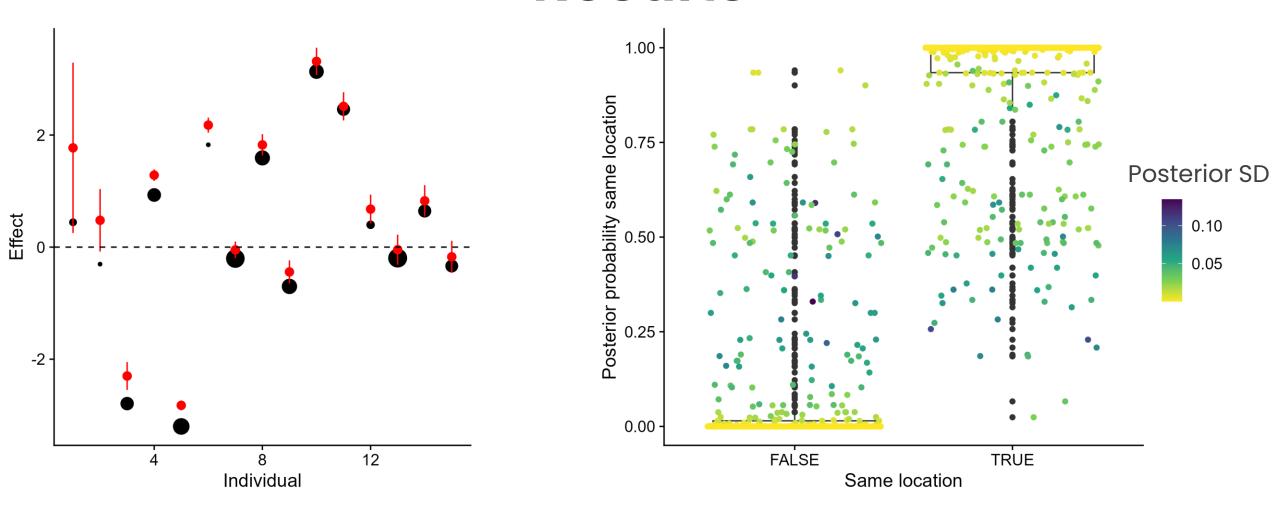
What is the effect of dominance on pairwise synchrony?



Parameters used to generate data

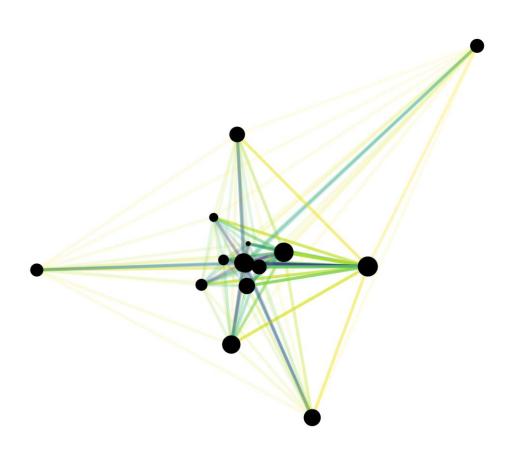
MCMC diagnostics

Results

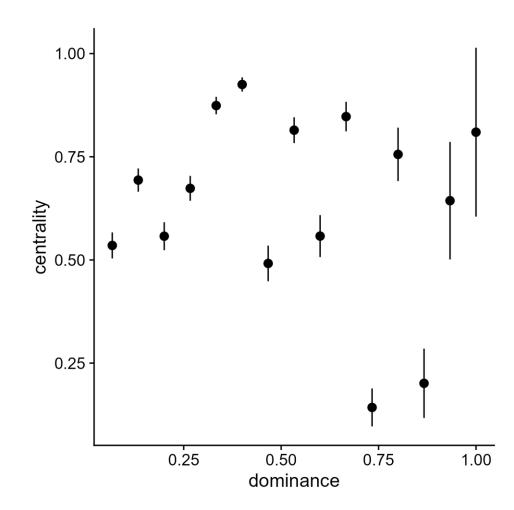


Successful unsupervised classification
All derived quantities have a posterior, not only parameters – propagation of uncertainty

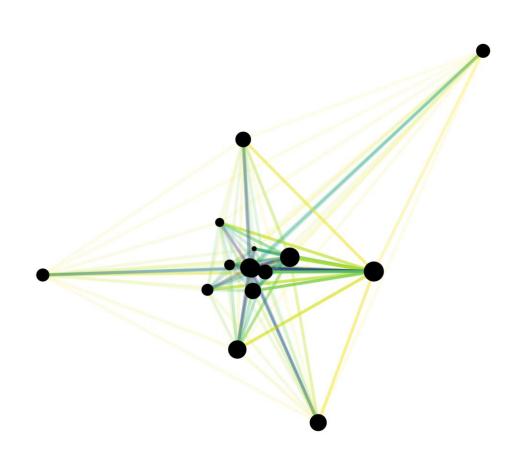
Results



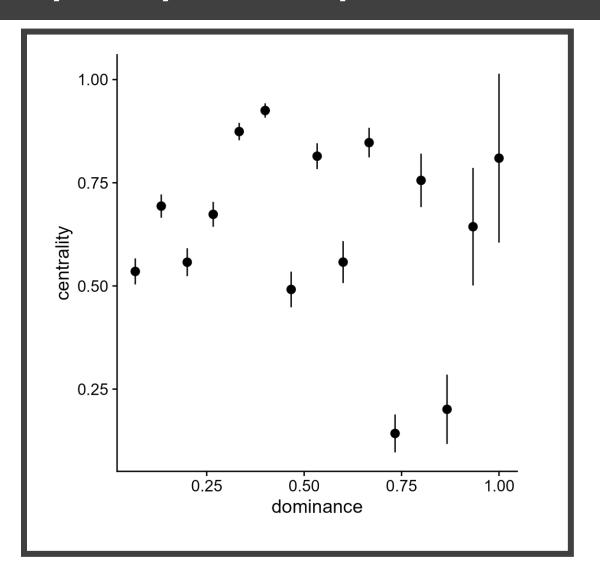
Color is posterior median Transparency is posterior SD Node size is dominance



What is the individual centrality in synchrony network?



Color is posterior median Transparency is posterior sd Node size is dominance



Uncertainty propagated from edges to node level metric

Examples of other STAN usage

Reinforcement learning



Risk-sensitive learning is a winning strategy for leading an urban invasion

Alexis J Breen¹*†, Dominik Deffner^{2,3}*

Hidden Markov Models

nature communications



Collective incentives reduce overexploitation of social information in unconstrained human groups

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Gaussian processes

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Inference in social networks



BISoN: A Bayesian framework for inference of social networks

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