Mixed / Multilevel models

Example dataset: trees

Data on 1000 trees from 10 sites.

head(trees)

```
      site
      dbh
      height
      sex
      dead

      1
      4
      29.68
      36.1
      male
      0

      2
      5
      33.29
      42.3
      male
      0

      3
      2
      28.03
      41.9
      female
      0

      4
      5
      39.86
      46.5
      female
      0

      5
      1
      47.94
      43.9
      female
      0

      6
      1
      10.82
      26.2
      male
      0
```

Example dataset: trees

- ▶ Data on 1000 trees from 10 sites.
- Trees per site: 4 392.

head(trees)

```
site dbh height sex dead
1 4 29.68 36.1 male 0
2 5 33.29 42.3 male 0
3 2 28.03 41.9 female 0
4 5 39.86 46.5 female 0
5 1 47.94 43.9 female 0
6 1 10.82 26.2 male 0
```

Q: What's the relationship between tree

diameter and height?

A simple linear model

```
lm.simple <- lm(height ~ dbh, data = trees)</pre>
Call:
lm(formula = height ~ dbh, data = trees)
Residuals:
    Min 1Q Median 3Q
                                 Max
-13.3270 -2.8978 0.1057 2.7924 12.9511
Coefficients:
         Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
dbh 0.61570 0.01013 60.79 <2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Residual standard error: 4.093 on 998 degrees of freedom
```

Multiple R-squared: 0.7874, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7871 F-statistic: 3695 on 1 and 998 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

Remember our model structure

$$y_i \sim N(\mu_i, \sigma^2)$$

$$\mu_i = \alpha + \beta x_i$$

In this case:

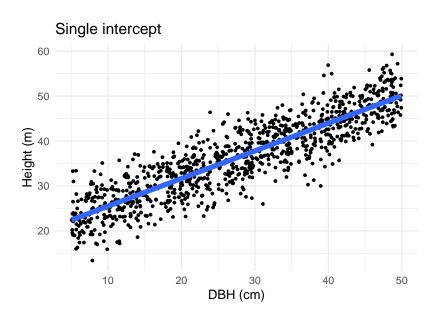
$$Height_i \sim N(\mu_i, \sigma^2)$$

 $\mu_i = \alpha + \beta DBH_i$

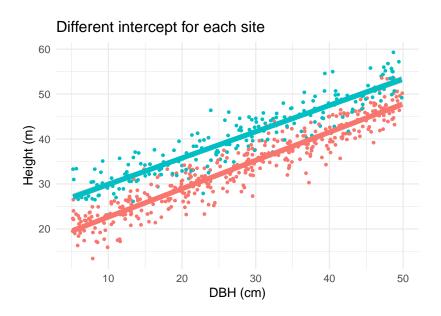
 α : expected height when DBH = 0

 β : how much height increases with every unit increase of DBH

There is only one intercept



What if allometry varies among sites?

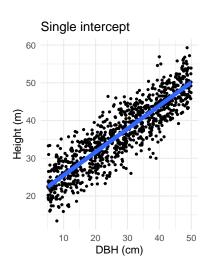


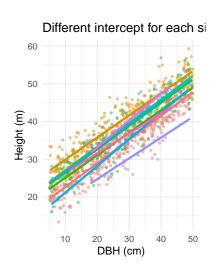
Fitting a varying intercepts model with 1m

```
Call:
lm(formula = height ~ factor(site) + dbh, data = trees)
Residuals:
    Min
             10
                 Median
                              30
                                      Max
-10.1130 -1.9885 0.0582 2.0314
                                 11.3320
Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)
             16.699037
                        0.260565 64.088 < 2e-16 ***
factor(site)2 6.504303 0.256730 25.335 < 2e-16 ***
factor(site)3 4.357457 0.354181 12.303 < 2e-16 ***
factor(site)4 1.934650 0.356102 5.433 6.98e-08 ***
factor(site)5 3.637432 0.339688 10.708 < 2e-16 ***
factor(site)6 4.204511 0.421906 9.966 < 2e-16 ***
factor(site)7 -0.176193 0.666772 -0.264 0.7916
factor(site)8 -5.312648 0.893603 -5.945 3.82e-09 ***
factor(site)9 5.437049 1.087766 4.998 6.84e-07 ***
factor(site)10 2.263338 1.369986 1.652 0.0988.
dbh
              0.617075
                        0.007574 81.473 < 2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

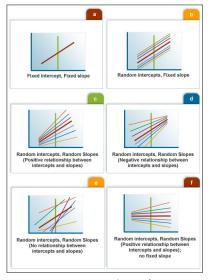
Residual standard error: 3.043 on 989 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.8835 Adjusted R-squared: 0.8833

Single vs varying intercept





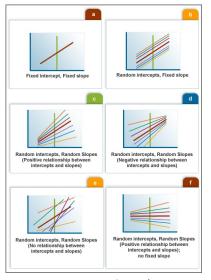
Mixed models enable us to account for variability



▶ Varying intercepts

www.esourceresearch.org/

Mixed models enable us to account for variability



- Varying intercepts
- Varying slopes

www.esourceresearch.org/

Mixed model with varying intercepts

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= a + \alpha_j + b \cdot x_i + \varepsilon_i \\ \alpha_j &\sim N\left(0, \tau^2\right) \\ \varepsilon_i &\sim N\left(0, \sigma^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

En nuestro ejemplo:

$$\begin{split} Height_i = a + site_j + b \cdot DBH_i + \varepsilon_i \\ site_j \sim N\left(0, \tau^2\right) \\ \varepsilon_i \sim N\left(0, \sigma^2\right) \end{split}$$

Mixed models estimate varying parameters (intercepts and/or slopes) with pooling among levels (rather than considering them fully independent)

complete pooling: Single overall intercept.

- **complete pooling**: Single overall intercept.
 - lm (height ~ dbh)

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 - lm (height ~ dbh)
- **no pooling**: One *independent* intercept for each site.

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- **no pooling**: One *independent* intercept for each site.
 - lm (height ~ dbh + site)

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 - lm (height ~ dbh)
- **no pooling**: One *independent* intercept for each site.
 - lm (height ~ dbh + site)
- partial pooling: Inter-related intercepts.

- **complete pooling**: Single overall intercept.
 - lm (height ~ dbh)
- **no pooling**: One *independent* intercept for each site.
 - lm (height ~ dbh + site)
- partial pooling: Inter-related intercepts.
 - lmer(height ~ dbh + (1 | site))

1. Fixed effects constant across individuals, random effects vary.

http://andrewgelman.com/2005/01/25/why_i_dont_use/

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- 2. Effects are fixed if they are interesting in themselves; random if interest in the underlying population.

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- 3. Fixed when sample exhausts the population; random when the sample is small part of the population.

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- 4. Random effect if it's assumed to be a realized value of random variable.

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- 1. Fixed effects constant across individuals, random effects vary.
- 2. Effects are fixed if they are interesting in themselves; random if interest in the underlying population.
- 3. Fixed when sample exhausts the population; random when the sample is small part of the population.
- 4. Random effect if it's assumed to be a realized value of random variable.
- 5. Fixed effects estimated using least squares or maximum likelihood; random effects estimated with shrinkage.

http://andrewgelman.com/2005/01/25/why_i_dont_use/

What is a random effect, really?

▶ Varies by group

Random effects are estimated with *partial pooling*, while fixed effects are not (infinite variance).

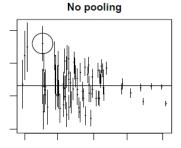
What is a random effect, really?

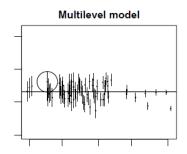
- ▶ Varies by group
- Variation estimated with probability model

Random effects are estimated with *partial pooling*, while fixed effects are not (infinite variance).

Shrinkage improves parameter estimation

Especially for groups with low sample size





From Gelman & Hill p. 253

Fitting mixed/multilevel models

```
library(lme4)
mixed <- lmer(height ~ dbh + (1|site), data = trees)
Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
Formula: height ~ dbh + (1 | site)
  Data: trees
REML criterion at convergence: 5108.3
Scaled residuals:
   Min 10 Median 30 Max
-3.3199 -0.6607 0.0227 0.6716 3.7328
Random effects:
Groups Name
               Variance Std.Dev.
site (Intercept) 11.195 3.346
Residual
                     9.261 3.043
Number of obs: 1000, groups: site, 10
Fixed effects:
           Estimate Std. Error t value
(Intercept) 19.011468 1.100444 17.28
dbh
   0.616927 0.007572 81.47
```

Correlation of Fixed Effects:

(T--+--)

Retrieve model coefficients

coef(mixed)

```
$site
   (Intercept)
                      dbh
      16.70800 0.6169271
      23.19162 0.6169271
3
      21.04229 0.6169271
4
      18.64086 0.6169271
5
      20.32995 0.6169271
      20.88200 0.6169271
      16.61686 0.6169271
8
      11.88302 0.6169271
9
      21.84779 0.6169271
10
      18.97228 0.6169271
attr(,"class")
[1] "coef.mer"
```

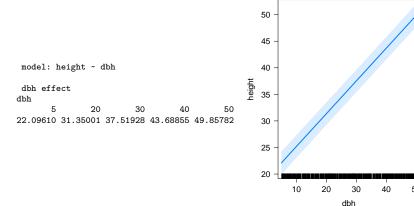
Broom: model estimates in tidy form

```
library(broom)
tidy(mixed)
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 5
 term
                        estimate std.error statistic group
 <chr>>
                          <dbl>
                                   <dbl>
                                             <dbl> <chr>
1 (Intercept)
                         19.0
                                 1.10
                                              17.3 fixed
2 dbh
                          0.617 0.00757 81.5 fixed
3 sd_(Intercept).site
                          3.35 NA
                                              NA
                                                  site
4 sd_Observation.Residual
                          3.04
                               NΑ
                                              NΑ
                                                  Residual
```

See also broom.mixed

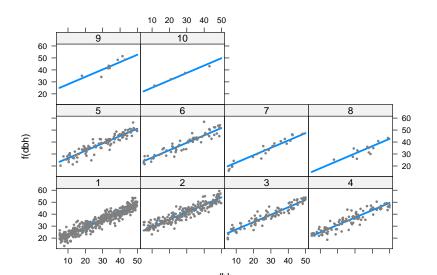
Visualising model: allEffects



dbh effect plot

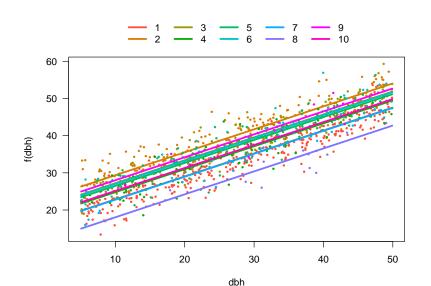
Visualising model: visreg

```
visreg(mixed, xvar = "dbh", by = "site", re.form = NULL)
```



Visualising model

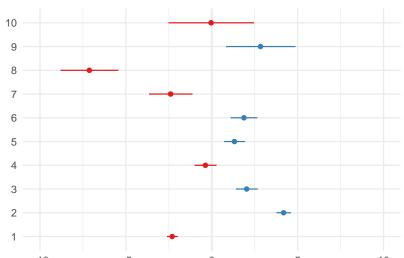
visreg(mixed, xvar = "dbh", by = "site", re.form = NULL, overlay



Visualising model: sjPlot

```
sjPlot::plot_model(mixed, type = "re")
```

Random effects

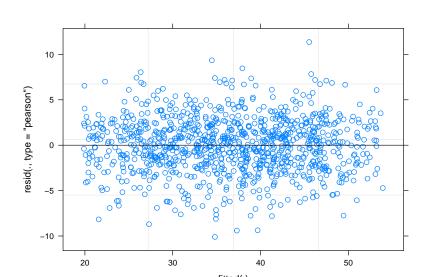


Using merTools to understand fitted model

library(merTools)
shinyMer(mixed)

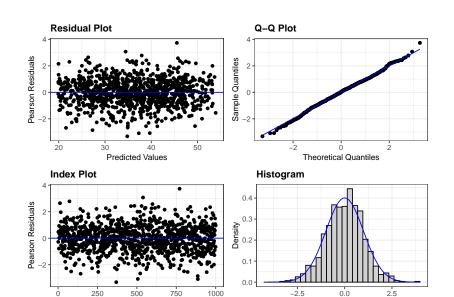
Checking residuals

plot(mixed)



Checking residuals

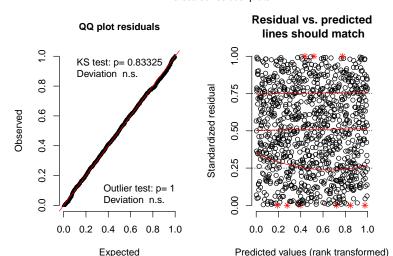
ggResidpanel::resid_panel(mixed)



Checking residuals (DHARMa)

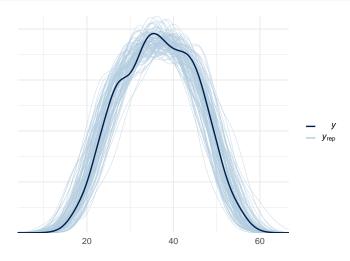
DHARMa::simulateResiduals(mixed, plot = TRUE, use.u = TRUE)

DHARMa scaled residual plots



Model checking with simulated data

```
library(bayesplot)
sims <- simulate(mixed, nsim = 100)
ppc_dens_overlay(trees$height, yrep = t(as.matrix(sims)))</pre>
```



R-squared for GLMMs

Many approaches! Somewhat polemic (e.g. see this). Nakagawa & Schielzeth propose **marginal** (considering fixed effects only) and **conditional** R^2 (including random effects too):

```
library(MuMIn)
r.squaredGLMM(mixed)
```

```
R2m R2c [1,] 0.752535 0.8879656
```

Growing the hierarchy: adding site-level

predictors

Model with group-level predictors

We had:

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= a + \alpha_j + b \cdot x_i + \varepsilon_i \\ \alpha_j &\sim N(0, \tau^2) \\ \varepsilon_i &\sim N(0, \sigma^2) \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{split} y_i &= a + \alpha_j + b \cdot x_i + \varepsilon_i \\ \alpha_j &\sim N(\mu_j, \tau^2) \\ \mu_j &= \delta \cdot Predictor_j \\ \varepsilon_i &\sim N(0, \sigma^2) \end{split}$$

Are height differences among sites related to temperature?

$$\begin{split} Height_i = site_j + b \cdot DBH_i + \varepsilon_i \\ site_j \sim N(\mu_j, \tau^2) \\ \mu_j = a + \delta \cdot Temperature_j \\ \varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2) \end{split}$$

Are height differences among sites related to temperature?

```
sitedata <- read.csv("data-raw/sitedata.csv")
sitedata</pre>
```

```
site temp
      1 15.1
      2 22.0
3
      3 20.1
4
      4 20.4
5
      5 20.0
      6 20.1
6
      7 17.5
8
      8 14.6
9
      9 19.2
10
     10 16.0
```

Merging trees and site data

```
trees.full <- merge(trees, sitedata, by = "site")
head(trees.full)</pre>
```

```
      site
      dbh
      height
      sex
      dead
      temp

      1
      1
      21.05
      32.2
      male
      0
      15.1

      2
      1
      46.63
      45.9
      female
      0
      15.1

      3
      1
      43.86
      45.5
      male
      0
      15.1

      4
      1
      29.03
      35.5
      male
      0
      15.1

      5
      1
      6.02
      21.1
      male
      0
      15.1

      6
      1
      40.82
      38.7
      male
      0
      15.1
```

Fit multilevel model

```
group.pred <- lmer(height ~ dbh + (1 | site) + temp, data = trees.full)
Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
Formula: height ~ dbh + (1 | site) + temp
  Data: trees.full
REML criterion at convergence: 5098.2
Scaled residuals:
   Min
            10 Median 30 Max
-3.3247 -0.6517 0.0192 0.6663 3.7268
Random effects:
Groups Name
                    Variance Std.Dev.
site
         (Intercept) 3.158 1.777
Residual
                    9.266 3.044
Number of obs: 1000, groups: site, 10
Fixed effects:
            Estimate Std. Error t value
(Intercept) -1.730911 4.671336 -0.371
dbh
            0.616894 0.007571 81.484
           1.115104 0.248001 4.496
temp
Correlation of Fixed Effects:
    (Intr) dbh
dbh -0.055
temp -0.991 0.008
```

Too strong correlation of parameters!

Centre (and scale) continuous variables

```
mean(sitedata$temp)
```

[1] 18.5

```
trees.full$temp.c <- trees.full$temp - 18</pre>
```

Temperatures now referred as deviations from 18 °C (close to average)

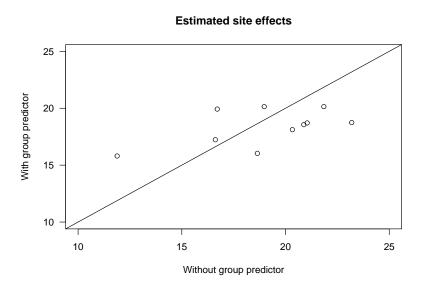
Fit multilevel model

```
group.pred <- lmer(height ~ dbh + (1 | site) + temp.c. data = trees.full)
Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
Formula: height ~ dbh + (1 | site) + temp.c
  Data: trees.full
REML criterion at convergence: 5098.2
Scaled residuals:
   Min 10 Median 30 Max
-3.3247 -0.6517 0.0192 0.6663 3.7268
Random effects:
Groups Name
                   Variance Std.Dev.
site (Intercept) 3.158 1.777
Residual
                    9.266 3.044
Number of obs: 1000, groups: site, 10
Fixed effects:
            Estimate Std. Error t value
(Intercept) 18.340954 0.655055 27.999
dbh
       0.616894 0.007571 81.484
temp.c 1.115104 0.248001 4.496
Correlation of Fixed Effects:
      (Intr) dbh
dbh -0.333
temp.c -0.250 0.008
```

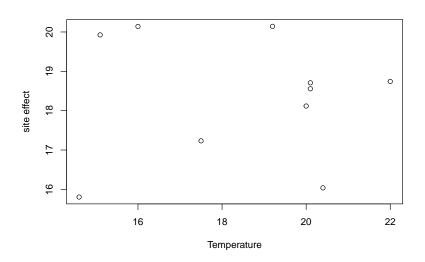
Examine model with merTools

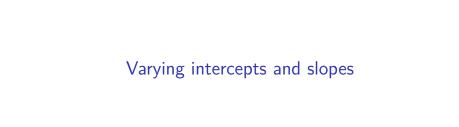
shinyMer(group.pred)

Comparing site effects with and without group predictor



Are site effects related to temperature?





Varying intercepts and slopes

There is overall difference in height among sites (different intercepts)

AND

Relationship between DBH and Height varies among sites (different slopes)

```
mixed.slopes <- lmer(height ~ dbh + (1 + dbh | site), data=trees
```

Varying intercepts and slopes

```
Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
Formula: height ~ dbh + (1 + dbh | site)
Data: trees

REML criterion at convergence: 5105.1
```

Scaled residuals:

```
Min 1Q Median 3Q Max -3.3342 -0.6599 0.0375 0.6916 3.7756
```

Random effects:

```
Groups Name Variance Std.Dev. Corr site (Intercept) 1.566e+01 3.95671 dbh 3.087e-04 0.01757 -1.00 Residual 9.226e+00 3.03744 Number of obs: 1000, groups: site, 10
```

Fixed effects:

```
Estimate Std. Error t value (Intercept) 18.95272 1.29190 14.67 dbh 0.61837 0.00946 65.37
```

Correlation of Fixed Effects:

```
(Intr)
dbh -0.722
convergence code: 0
```

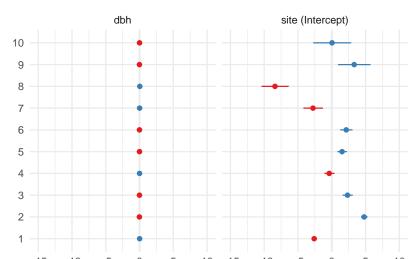
Varying intercepts and slopes

```
$site
   (Intercept)
                      dbh
1
      16.34655 0.6299443
2
      23.74733 0.5970814
3
      21.28802 0.6080019
4
      18.57844 0.6200337
5
      20.47961 0.6115916
6
      21.09608 0.6088542
      16.17675 0.6306983
8
      10.54681 0.6556978
9
      22.27301 0.6036281
10
      18.99463 0.6181856
attr(,"class")
[1] "coef.mer"
```

Visualising model: sjPlot

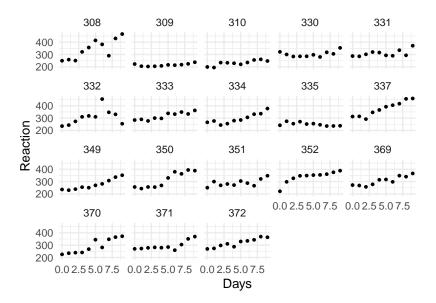
```
plot_model(mixed.slopes, type = "re")
```

Random effects





sleepstudy (repeated measures)



Varying intercepts and slopes (Ime4)

```
sleep <- lmer(Reaction ~ Days + (1+Days | Subject), data = sleepstudy)</pre>
Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
Formula: Reaction ~ Days + (1 + Days | Subject)
  Data: sleepstudy
REML criterion at convergence: 1743.6
Scaled residuals:
            10 Median 30
   Min
                                  Max
-3.9536 -0.4634 0.0231 0.4633 5.1793
Random effects:
Groups Name
                    Variance Std.Dev. Corr
Subject (Intercept) 611.90 24.737
         Davs
                 35.08 5.923 0.07
Residual
                    654.94 25.592
Number of obs: 180, groups: Subject, 18
Fixed effects:
           Estimate Std. Error t value
(Intercept) 251.405 6.824 36.843
            10.467 1.546 6.771
Days
Correlation of Fixed Effects:
     (Intr)
Davs -0.138
```

Varying intercepts and slopes (Ime4)

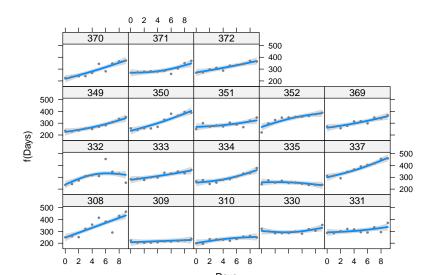
```
visreg(sleep, xvar = "Days", by = "Subject", re.form = NULL)
```

Fitting multilevel models (GAMM) with mgcv

```
sgamm <- mgcv::gam(Reaction ~ s(Days, Subject, k = 3, bs = "fs"),</pre>
                  data = sleepstudy, method = "REML")
Family: gaussian
Link function: identity
Formula:
Reaction ~ s(Days, Subject, k = 3, bs = "fs")
Parametric coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 295.22 10.49 28.15 <2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Approximate significance of smooth terms:
                edf Ref.df F p-value
s(Days, Subject) 42.2 53 16.05 <2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

Fitting multilevel models (GAMM) with mgcv

```
visreg(sgamm, xvar = "Days", by = "Subject")
```



Fitting multilevel models (GAMM) with mgcv

Hierarchical generalized additive models: an introduction with mgcv

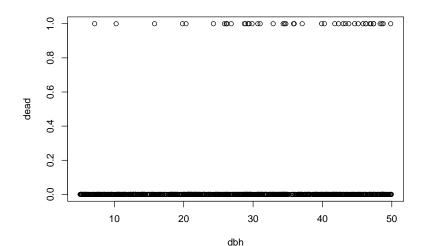
```
Eric J Pedersen ^{\text{Corresp.}-1,\,2} , David L. Miller ^{3,\,4} , Gavin L. Simpson ^5 , Noam Ross ^6
```

https://doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.27320v1



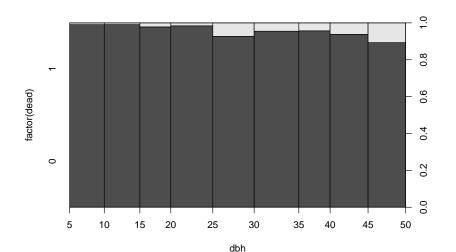
Q: Relationship between tree size and mortality

plot(dead ~ dbh, data = trees)



Q: Relationship between tree size and mortality

```
plot(factor(dead) ~ dbh, data = trees)
```



Fit simple logistic regression

```
simple.logis <- glm(dead ~ dbh, data = trees, family=binomial)</pre>
Call:
glm(formula = dead ~ dbh, family = binomial, data = trees)
Deviance Residuals:
   Min 1Q Median 3Q Max
-0.4805 -0.3520 -0.2647 -0.1928 2.9690
Coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept) -4.77874 0.50902 -9.388 < 2e-16 ***
dbh 0.05365 0.01377 3.895 9.82e-05 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
   Null deviance: 360.91 on 999 degrees of freedom
```

Logistic regression with *independent* site effects

```
logis2 <- glm(dead ~ dbh + factor(site), data = trees, family=binomial)</pre>
Call:
glm(formula = dead ~ dbh + factor(site), family = binomial, data = trees)
Deviance Residuals:
   Min
             10
                 Median
                             30
                                     Max
-0.6359 -0.3449 -0.2561 -0.1852
                                  2.9763
Coefficients:
                Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)
                           0.54985 -8.732 <2e-16 ***
               -4.80123
dbh
                0.05371
                          0.01381 3.889 0.0001 ***
factor(site)2
               -0.29692
                           0.46073 -0.644 0.5193
factor(site)3
                          0.52799 0.403
                                          0.6870
               0.21275
factor(site)4 0.39841 0.53025 0.751
                                          0.4524
factor(site)5
               -0.42557
                          0.64018 -0.665
                                          0.5062
factor(site)6 0.66861
                          0.53656 1.246
                                           0.2127
factor(site)7 0.11862 1.06211 0.112
                                           0.9111
factor(site)8 0.43899
                           1.08058 0.406
                                          0.6846
factor(site)9
              -13.63389
                         840.90382
                                   -0.016
                                           0.9871
factor(site)10
              -13.17148 1042.21823 -0.013
                                           0.9899
              0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Signif. codes:
```

Fit multilevel logistic regression

```
mixed.logis <- glmer(dead ~ dbh + (1|site), data=trees, family = binomial)
Generalized linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood (Laplace
 Approximation) [glmerMod]
Family: binomial (logit)
Formula: dead ~ dbh + (1 | site)
  Data: trees
    AIC
           BIC logLik deviance df.resid
  349.7 364.4 -171.8 343.7
                                  997
Scaled residuals:
   Min 10 Median 30 Max
-0.3498 -0.2528 -0.1888 -0.1370 9.0031
Random effects:
Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
site (Intercept) 0
Number of obs: 1000, groups: site, 10
Fixed effects:
          Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
dbh
   0.05365 0.01377 3.895 9.83e-05 ***
```

Retrieve model coefficients

```
coef(mixed.logis)
```

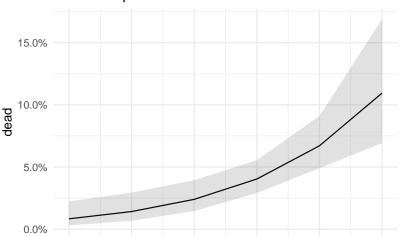
```
$site
   (Intercept)
                      dbh
     -4.778744 0.05364989
    -4.778744 0.05364989
3
    -4.778744 0.05364989
4
  -4.778744 0.05364989
5
  -4.778744 0.05364989
    -4.778744 0.05364989
    -4.778744 0.05364989
8
   -4.778744 0.05364989
9
    -4.778744 0.05364989
   -4.778744 0.05364989
10
attr(,"class")
[1] "coef.mer"
```

Visualising model: sjPlot

```
plot_model(mixed.logis, type = "eff", show.ci = TRUE)
```

\$dbh

Predicted probabilities of dead



Poisson multilevel regression

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- Using all the data to perform inferences for groups with small sample size

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 - y ~ x + (1 | group)

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 - y ~ x + (1 | group)
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GLMM FAQ

https://bbolker.github.io/mixed models-misc/glmmFAQ.html