

Part II:

General linear models for
dependent data

The general linear model

Definition

- By a *general linear model for dependent data*, we mean a statistical model with the following assumptions/components:

★ for the k^{th} cluster, given \mathbf{X}_k , we have that:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}_k | \mathbf{X}_k] = \boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \mathbf{X}_k \boldsymbol{\beta}$$

$$\text{Cov}[\mathbf{Y}_k] = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$$

- * $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k = (\mu_{k1}, \dots, \mu_{kn_k})^T$ is an $n_k \times 1$ mean vector
- * $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is a p -vector of regression coefficients
- * $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$ is an $n_k \times n_k$ covariance matrix
- ★ responses across clusters are independent of each other

- Sometimes it will be useful to use a representation of problem that encompasses all K clusters into a single matrix notation
- Towards this, let $\mathbf{Y} = (\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_K)^T$ denote the $N \times 1$ vector of responses and $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_K)^T$ the $N \times p$ matrix of covariates for all study units across all clusters
- Finally, let

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y} | \mathbf{X}] = (\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\mu}_K)^T$$

denote the $N \times 1$ vector of response means and

$$\text{Cov}[\mathbf{Y}] \equiv \boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_K \end{bmatrix}$$

the $N \times N$ variance-covariance matrix for \mathbf{Y}

- While independence across clusters provides a clear simplification of the form of Σ , we may also want/need to put some structure on the component Σ_k sub-matrixes
- The form of Σ_k can depend on many things:
 - ★ the value(s) of certain covariates, including time
 - ★ design considerations
 - * e.g. whether the data are balanced or unbalanced
- While substantive knowledge and exploratory data analyses can help guide how one approaches this, it is worth considering a few examples

Specification of Σ_k : Example #1

- For some clustered data settings, one option is that the correlation is common to all pairs of observations:

$$\Sigma_k = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho & \rho & \dots & \rho \\ \rho & 1 & \rho & \dots & \rho \\ \rho & \rho & 1 & \dots & \rho \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho & \rho & \rho & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ★ same value of ρ across the K clusters
- Referred to as an *exchangeable* or *compound symmetric* structure
- May be reasonable for the CMS data which consists of patients within hospitals

Specification of Σ_k : Example #2

- For longitudinal settings, one might adopt a correlation matrix that is a function of the distance between two observations:

$$\Sigma_k = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho_1 & \rho_2 & \dots & \rho_{n_k-1} \\ \rho_1 & 1 & \rho_1 & \dots & \rho_{n_k-2} \\ \rho_2 & \rho_1 & 1 & \dots & \rho_{n_k-3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \\ \rho_{n_k-1} & \rho_{n_k-2} & \rho_{n_k-3} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ★ take the same set of values of $(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{n_k-1})$ across the K clusters
- Referred to as a *banded* correlation structure
- May be reasonable for equally spaced observations such as the dental growth data

Specification of Σ_k : Example #3

- Building on Example # 2, one might adopt a correlation matrix that decays as a function of time between observations:

$$\Sigma_k = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho & \rho^2 & \dots & \rho^{n_k-2} \\ \rho & 1 & \rho & \dots & \rho^{n_k-2} \\ \rho^2 & \rho & 1 & \dots & \rho^{n_k-3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \\ \rho^{n_k-1} & \rho^{n_k-2} & \rho^{n_k-3} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

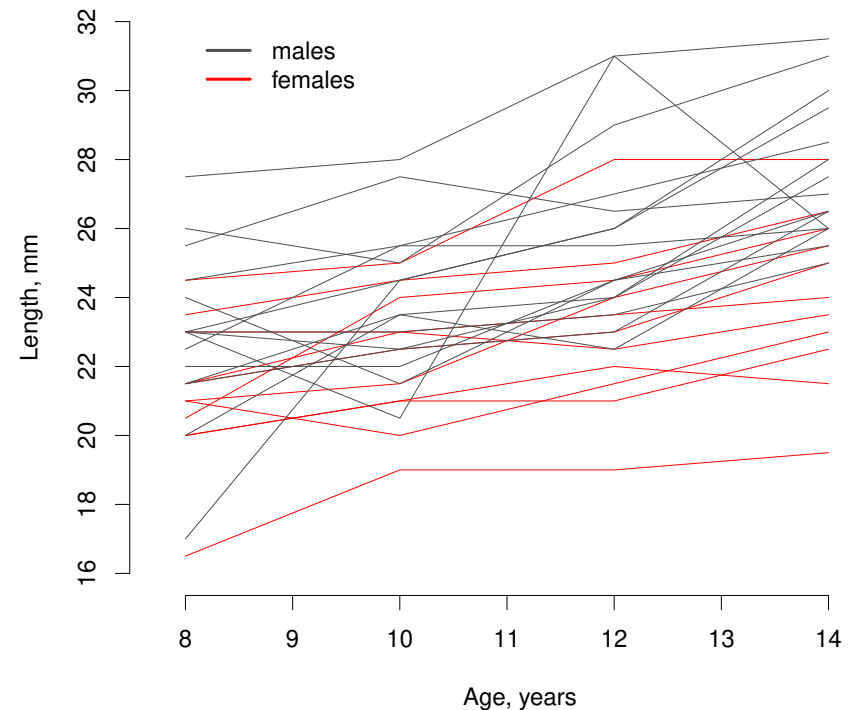
- ★ the same value of ρ across the K clusters
- Referred to as an *auto-regressive* correlation structure

Estimation/inference

- For any given specification of the mean and covariance models, we would like
 - ★ consistent estimation
 - ★ valid inference
- While primary interest often lies with the mean model, estimation/inference for β is generally intertwined with Σ
- Consider two broad set of tools:
 - ★ least squares estimation/inference
 - ★ likelihood-based estimation/inference

Two-stage least squares

- Recall the dental growth data
- Suppose the goal is to estimate and formally compare the average growth trajectory between males and females



- One strategy for analyzing these data could be to:
 - (1) estimate the growth trajectory for each child
 - (2) characterize the variation in the child-specific coefficients between the males and females

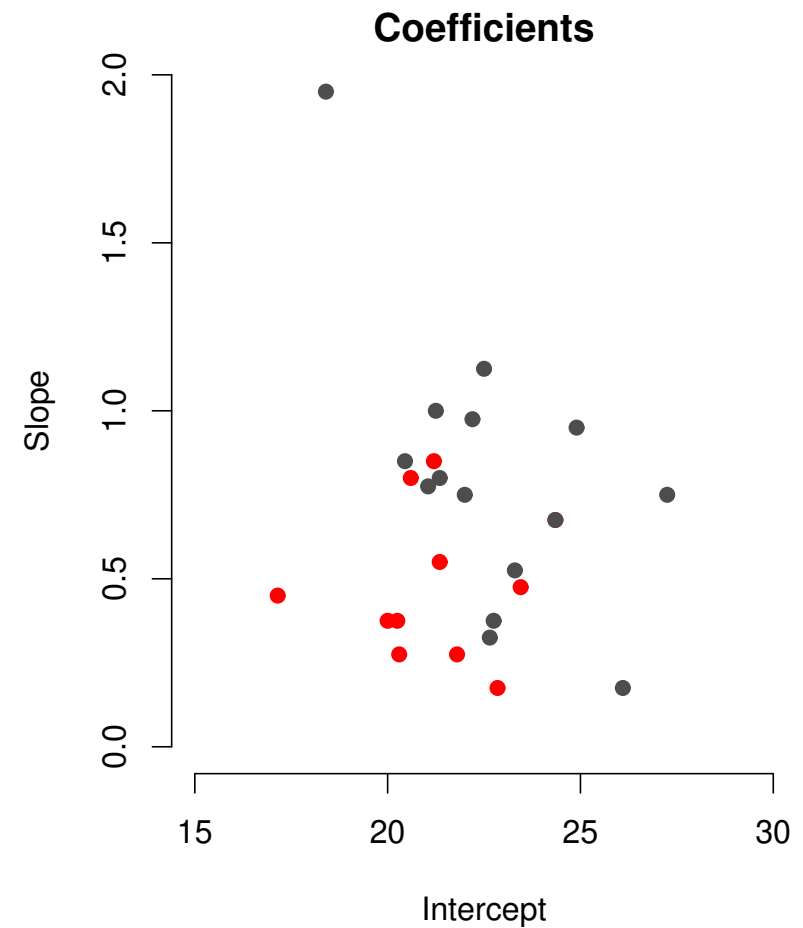
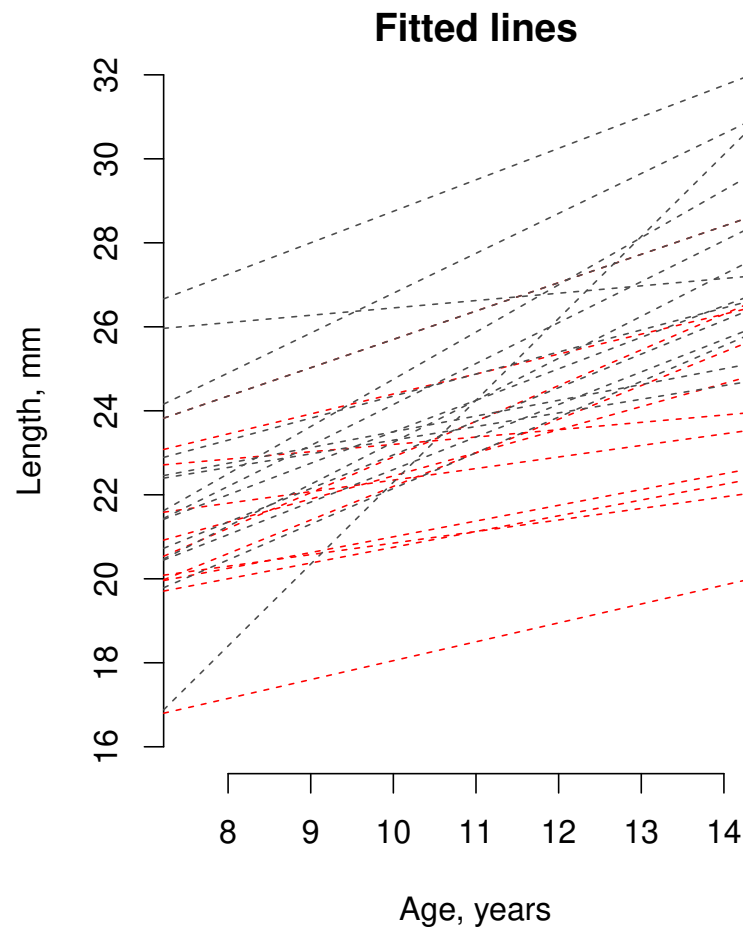
Stage 1

- Estimate subject-specific growth trajectories
- One simple model is to assume that the k^{th} subject's response vector varies randomly around a linear growth curve:

$$\mathbf{Y}_k = \mathbf{Z}_k \boldsymbol{\beta}_k + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_k$$

- ★ $\mathbf{Z}_k \subset \mathbf{X}_k$ are restricted to be within-subject or time-dependent
- $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_k$ represent observation-specific random variations around each subjects' underlying growth curve
 - ★ assumed to be i.i.d with mean 0 and variance σ_k^2
- Use subject-specific OLS of \mathbf{Y}_k on \mathbf{Z}_k to obtain estimates, $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_k$

- Results for the dental growth data:
 - ★ after standardizing age to ensure the intercepts are interpretable



Stage 2

- Explain variation across the subject-specific coefficient estimates
- For example, one could assume that the β_k are a random sample from some population for which

$$\beta_k = \mathbf{W}_k \beta + \gamma_k$$

- ★ $\mathbf{W}_k \subset \mathbf{X}_k$ are restricted to be subject-specific or time-invariant
- γ_k represent cluster-specific random variation around the population growth curve
 - ★ assumed to be i.i.d with mean 0 and variance-covariance matrix \mathbf{G}
- Use OLS of the 'observed' $\hat{\beta}_k$ on \mathbf{W}_k to obtain estimates, $\hat{\beta}$

```

> ## Stage 1
> ##
> betaMat <- data.frame(gender=rep(NA, K), beta0=rep(NA, K), beta1=rep(NA, K))
> for(k in 1:K)
+ {
+   temp.k <- growth[growth$id == k,]
+   fit.k <- lm(length ~ ageStar, data=temp.k)
+   betaMat[k,2:4] <- c(temp.k$gender[1], fit.k$coef)
+ }
>
> ## Stage 2
> ##
> summary(lm(beta0 ~ gender, data=betaMat))
...
Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)  19.7182     1.3991  14.094 4.18e-13 ***
gender        1.4909     0.8466   1.761   0.091 .
...

```

- Marginal evidence of a difference in average length between males and females at age 8

```

>
> summary(lm(beta1 ~ gender, data=betaMat))
...
Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)   0.1591     0.2280   0.698   0.492
gender        0.3205     0.1380   2.322   0.029 *
...

```

- Suggestive of a significant difference in the slope of the growth trajectories between males and females

Issues

- The design matrix is constrained at each stage of the analysis
 - ★ stage 1 is restricted to within-subject covariates
 - ★ stage 2 is restricted to between-subject covariates
- Information is lost by having summarized the response vector for subject k at stage 1
- Noting that the $\hat{\beta}_k$'s are statistics (i.e. just summaries of the data), the fact that they may arise on the basis of a different number of observations across the K clusters is ignored
- The fact that observations are correlated is ignored
- All of these are key motivators for combining stages 1 and 2 into a single model formulation
 - ★ linear mixed effects models (Part III)

Weighted least squares

- Recall in Methods I, in the (standard) linear regression setting with independent data, we considered the class of *weighted least squares* estimators:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{Y}$$

★ \mathbf{W} is an $N \times N$ matrix

- Can show that for any (non-trivial) \mathbf{W} :

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \beta$$

$$\text{Cov}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{A}^{-1}$$

where $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{X}$ and $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W} \Sigma \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{X}$

- ‘Robust’ in the sense that inference is valid regardless of the choice of \mathbf{W}

- We also noted that one can obtain efficiency gains by being wise (and confident!) when choosing \mathbf{W}
- Specifically, the *generalized least squares* estimator:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{GLS}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{Y}$$

is the *best linear unbiased estimator* of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$, with

$$\text{Cov}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{GLS}}] = (\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1}$$

- ★ obtained by setting $\mathbf{W} = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}$
- ★ optimality via the Gauss-Markov Theorem
- Operationally, one needs an estimate of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \text{diag}(\sigma_1^2, \dots, \sigma_n^2)$
 - ★ numerous options that make use of residuals from some fitted model

Q: Can we translate these ideas into the dependent data setting? **Yes!**

The WLS estimator

- Notationally, recall that
 - ★ \mathbf{X}_k is a cluster-specific $n_k \times p$ matrix of covariates
 - ★ \mathbf{Y}_k is a cluster-specific $n_k \times 1$ response vector
- Let \mathbf{W}_k denote a cluster-specific symmetric $n_k \times n_k$ matrix of weights
- Consider estimating β via minimization of objective function:

$$Q_w(\beta) = \sum_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k\beta)^T \mathbf{W}_k (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k\beta)$$

- Notice that the summation is over k
 - ★ form is motivated by the assumption that clusters are independent of each other

- It is relatively straightforward to show that the solution to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} Q_{\mathbf{w}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \sum_{k=1}^K U_{\mathbf{w}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{Y}_k) = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{W}_k (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \boldsymbol{\beta}) = \mathbf{0}$$

is

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{WLS}} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{W}_k \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{W}_k \mathbf{Y}_k \right).$$

- It is also relatively straightforward to show that $E[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{WLS}}] = \boldsymbol{\beta}$, regardless of the choice of \mathbf{W}
- Performing a Taylor series expansion and appealing to the central limit theorem, we have that

$$\sqrt{K}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{WLS}} - \boldsymbol{\beta}) \longrightarrow \text{MVN}_p(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{w}})$$

as $K \longrightarrow \infty$

- The asymptotic variance-covariance matrix is

$$\mathbf{C}_w = \mathbf{F}_w^{-1} \mathbf{I}_w \mathbf{F}_w^{-1}$$

where

$$\mathbf{F}_w = \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} \mathbf{U}_w(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{Y}) \right] \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{I}_w = \mathbb{E} [\mathbf{U}_w(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{Y}) \mathbf{U}_w(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{Y})^T]$$

- Given the structure of $\mathbf{U}_w(\boldsymbol{\beta}; \mathbf{Y}_k)$, these expectations have analytically tractable forms and one can show that

$$\text{Cov}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{A}_w^{-1} \mathbf{B}_w \mathbf{A}_w^{-1}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A}_w = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{W}_k \mathbf{X}_k \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B}_w = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{W}_k \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k \mathbf{W}_k \mathbf{X}_k$$

- In practice, since we don't know the 'true' $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$, we need to estimate \mathbf{B}_w

- One way to forward would be to empirically estimate it as the expectation of the square of the 'scores':

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{B}}_w &= \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{U}_w(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}; \mathbf{Y}_k) \mathbf{U}_w(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}; \mathbf{Y}_k)^T \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{W}_k (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^T \mathbf{W}_k \mathbf{X}_k,\end{aligned}$$

and base inference on

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{A}_w^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{B}}_w \mathbf{A}_w^{-1}.$$

Example #1

- Suppose $\mathbf{X}_k = \mathbf{X}_0$ for all k
 - ★ balanced and complete data
 - ★ e.g. the dental growth curve data restricted to the 11 females
- Furthermore, suppose we take $\mathbf{W}_k = \mathbf{W}_0$ for all k
 - ★ each cluster is assigned the same weighting structure
- We then have that

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{WLS}} = (\mathbf{X}_0^T \mathbf{W}_0 \mathbf{X}_0)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_0^T \mathbf{W}_0 \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{Y}_k$$

- ★ can be viewed as the regression of the study unit-specific averages

Example #2

- For the special case in which we take $\mathbf{W}_k = \mathbf{I}_k \forall k$, we obtain the OLS estimator:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{OLS}} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{Y}_k \right).$$

- It's interesting to note that $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{OLS}}$ minimizes:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(\boldsymbol{\beta}) &= \sum_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \boldsymbol{\beta})^T (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} (Y_{ki} - \mathbf{X}_{ki} \boldsymbol{\beta})^2 \end{aligned}$$

- ★ each of the $N = \sum_k n_k$ study units is assigned equal weight in the objective function

- The variance-covariance matrix for $\hat{\beta}_{\text{OLS}}$ is:

$$\text{Cov}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{OLS}}] = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \Sigma_k \mathbf{X}_k \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1}$$

which can be estimated by:

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{OLS}}] = \mathbf{A}_w^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{B}}_w \mathbf{A}_w^{-1}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A}_w = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{X}_k$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}_w = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta}_{\text{OLS}})(\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta}_{\text{OLS}})^T \mathbf{X}_k$$

Example #3

- By the Gauss-Markov Theorem, the most efficient WLS estimator of β is the one where one sets $\mathbf{W}_k = \Sigma_k^{-1}$:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\text{GLS}} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \Sigma_k^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \Sigma_k^{-1} \mathbf{Y}_k \right)$$

- For this estimator we have $\mathbf{A}_w = \mathbf{B}_w$ so that

$$\text{Cov}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{GLS}}] = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \Sigma_k^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1}$$

- ★ We are going refer to this as the *generalized least squares* (GLS) estimator
- Note, the optimal weighting uses information about variation and co-variation within the cluster

- In practice, use of the GLS estimator requires solving the practical challenge of not knowing the true Σ_k
- In principle, we could plug in the following:

$$\hat{\Sigma}_k = (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta})(\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta})^T$$

although this, in general, is going to be an unreliable estimate of $\text{Cov}[\mathbf{Y}_k]$

- ★ estimating a variance-covariance matrix on the basis of a single observation, the resulting matrix is not invertible.
- Forging ahead with this estimate can often result in highly variable weights and instability in the estimation process
- In practice, therefore, we typically place some structure on Σ_k prior to using it as an inverse-weight
 - ★ structure across clusters
 - ★ structure within clusters

- Before we consider how we might do this, however, it is important to note that we may no longer be using the optimal weighting strategy
- We are therefore faced with a trade-off in that choosing increasingly parsimonious structures for Σ_k will likely result in:
 - ★ increasingly stable estimation and weights that are not highly variable
 - ★ increasing losses in efficiency

Structuring Σ_k

- Suppose we have balanced and complete data
 - ★ $n_k = n \quad \forall k$
 - ★ e.g. a longitudinal study in which the timing of observations is the same $\forall k$ such as the dental growth data
- In this instance, it may be reasonable (for the purposes of weighting) to take

$$\Sigma_k = \Sigma_0 \quad \forall k$$

- ★ interpret Σ_0 as either a common variance-covariance structure or as some average of the cluster-specific Σ_k , once covariates have in the mean model have been taken into account
- ★ ‘reasonable’ in so far as it is a *working approximation* to the true Σ_k

- Given a consistent estimate of β , say $\hat{\beta}$, a consistent estimate of Σ_0 is:

$$\hat{\Sigma}_0 = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta})(\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta})^T$$

- ★ average of the empirical covariance of the cluster-specific residuals
- ★ the clusters are the ‘independent’ replications

- One can then use this estimate to inform a new weighting scheme to give:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \hat{\Sigma}_0^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \hat{\Sigma}_0^{-1} \mathbf{Y}_k \right)$$

- Note, if it truly is the case that $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_0 \forall k$ then this estimator will be asymptotically equivalent to $\hat{\beta}_{\text{GLS}}$
 - ★ in this case, inference would be based on

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \hat{\Sigma}_0^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1}$$

- If it is not the case, however, that $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_0 \forall k$, then $\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}} \neq \hat{\beta}_{\text{GLS}}$
 - ★ hence, it will not be optimal (in the Gauss-Markov sense)
 - ★ if Σ_0 is ‘reasonable’, however, then we might expect it to be more efficient than $\hat{\beta}_{\text{OLS}}$
- Either way, inference would be based on

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{A}_w^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{B}}_w \mathbf{A}_w^{-1}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A}_w = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \hat{\Sigma}_0^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k$$

and

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}_w = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \hat{\Sigma}_0^{-1} (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}})(\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}})^T \hat{\Sigma}_0^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k$$

- Note, inference based on this estimate of $\text{Cov}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}]$ will be *robust* in the sense that it will be valid (in large samples) regardless of whether $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_0 \forall k$
 - ★ $\hat{\Sigma}_0^{-1}$ is simply one choice of weighting scheme
 - ★ as long as $\hat{B}_w \rightarrow B_w$, inference will be valid

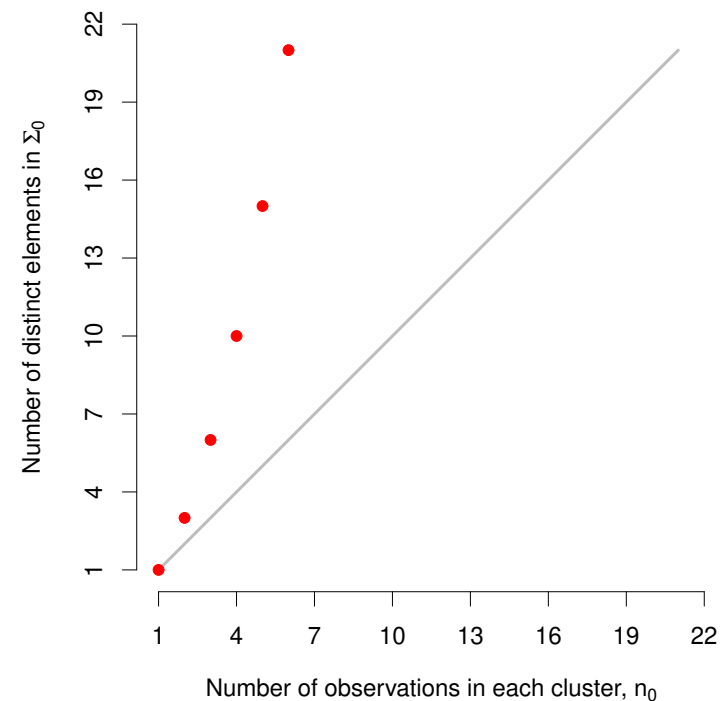
Modeling the within-cluster dependence

- Even if we are willing to take $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_0 \forall k$ in the weighting scheme, we should be aware that consistency of $\hat{\Sigma}_0$ hinges on K
- Interestingly, as n gets large the number of distinct parameters in Σ_0 increases in a non-linear fashion:

- ★ for fixed n , the number of distinct parameters is:

$$n + n(n - 1)/2$$

- ★ implies that the extent to which K is 'large enough' for valid inference depends, in part, on n



- For small to moderate K , we may wish to adopt some simplifying structure for Σ_0
 - ★ i.e. structure the internal elements of Σ_0
 - ★ as a function of some small('ish) number of parameters, α

$$\{\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_K\} \Rightarrow \Sigma_k = \Sigma_0 \forall k \Rightarrow \Sigma_k = \Sigma_0(\alpha) \forall k$$

- There is substantial scope for flexibility in how we specify dependence between study units within a cluster
 - ★ several examples on slides 87-89
- In practice, we can use substantive knowledge about \mathbf{Y}_k and exploratory data analysis to guide the selection of a simpler covariance model
 - ★ see Part I of the notes

- For example, we might believe that a reasonable model for dependence is the exchangeable or compound symmetric covariance model:

$$\Sigma_0(\alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \dots & \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_2 & \alpha_1 & \dots & \alpha_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_2 & \alpha_2 & \dots & \alpha_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Use of this structure as a weighting scheme corresponds to the working assumptions that:
 - ★ $V[Y_{ki}] = \alpha_1 \quad \forall i$
 - ★ $\text{Cov}[Y_{ki}, Y_{kj}] = \alpha_2 \quad \forall i \neq j$

Q: Can we think of settings where this might be ‘reasonable’?

- Given an initial estimate $\hat{\beta}$, simple moment-based estimators of α_1 and α_2 are:

$$\hat{\alpha}_1 = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_{ki} - \mathbf{X}_{ki} \hat{\beta})^2 \right\}$$

$$\hat{\alpha}_2 = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \left\{ \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} (Y_{ki} - \mathbf{X}_{ki} \hat{\beta})(Y_{kj} - \mathbf{X}_{kj} \hat{\beta}) \right\}$$

- We can then obtain a new WLS estimator as:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}} = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \Sigma_0(\hat{\alpha})^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \Sigma_0(\hat{\alpha})^{-1} \mathbf{Y}_k \right).$$

- Inference for this estimator can be based on:

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{A}(\hat{\alpha})^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{B}}(\hat{\alpha}) \mathbf{A}(\hat{\alpha})^{-1}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A}(\hat{\alpha}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0(\hat{\alpha})^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k$$

and

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\hat{\alpha}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0(\hat{\alpha})^{-1} (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}) (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0(\hat{\alpha})^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k$$

- Note, inference based on this estimate of $\text{Cov}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}]$ will be *robust* in the sense that it will be valid (in large samples) regardless of whether $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0(\alpha) \forall k$
 - ★ $\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}(\hat{\alpha})_0^{-1}$ is simply one choice of weighting scheme
 - ★ as long as $\hat{\mathbf{B}}_w \rightarrow \mathbf{B}_w$, inference will be valid

Simulation

- We can investigate the interplay between K and n with a simulation study
- Generate outcomes according to the mean model:

$$E[Y_{ki} | X_{1,ki}, X_{2,ki}] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1,ki} + \beta_2 X_{2,ki}$$

- ★ $X_{1,ki} \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ is a study unit specific 'time' variable
- ★ $X_{2,ki}$ is a cluster-specific binary variable such that half of the clusters have $X_{2,ki}=0$ and the other half $X_{2,ki}=1$
- ★ $\beta = (0, 1, 1)$
- Compound symmetric dependence structure $\forall k$, with $V[Y_{ki}]=1$ and $\rho=0.5$
- Sample sizes:
 - ★ $K = 30, 60$
 - ★ $n = 4, 6$

- Consider three WLS estimators that differ in the ‘working’ correlation structure that informs the weighting scheme:

(1) *working independence*: $\text{Cor}[\mathbf{Y}_k] = \mathbf{\Sigma}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

(2) *working exchangeable*: $\text{Cor}[\mathbf{Y}_k] = \mathbf{\Sigma}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho & \dots & \rho \\ \rho & 1 & \dots & \rho \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho & \rho & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

(3) *working unstructured*: $\text{Cor}[\mathbf{Y}_k] = \mathbf{\Sigma}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho_{12} & \dots & \rho_{1n} \\ \rho_{12} & 1 & \dots & \rho_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho_{1n} & \rho_{2n} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

```

> ##
> library(mvtnorm)
>
> ##
> genData <- function(K, nT, qX2, betaV, sigSq, tauSq)
+ {
+   ##
+   X1.ki <- rep(1:nT, K)
+   X2.ki <- rep(rep(c(0,1), c(K-round(K*qX2), round(K*qX2)))), rep(nT, K))
+   eta.ki <- matrix(cbind(1, X1.ki, X2.ki) %*% betaV,
+                     nrow=K, ncol=nT, byrow=TRUE)
+   ##
+   Sigma0 <- matrix(tauSq, nrow=nT, ncol=nT)
+   diag(Sigma0) <- tauSq + sigSq
+   ##
+   Y.ki <- matrix(NA, nrow=K, ncol=nT)
+   for(k in 1:K) Y.ki[k,] <- rmvnorm(1, mean=eta.ki[k,], sigma=Sigma0)
+   ##
+   return(data.frame(id=rep(1:K, rep(nT, K)),
+                     X1=X1.ki,
+                     X2=X2.ki,
+                     Y=c(t(Y.ki))))
+ }

```

```

> ##
> qX2    <- 0.5
> betaV  <- c(0, 1, 1)
> sigSq  <- 0.5
> tauSq  <- 0.5
>
> ##
> simData <- genData(K=30, nT=4, qX2, betaV, sigSq, tauSq)
>
> ##
> library(gee)
>
> ##
> fit.WI <- gee(Y ~ X1 + X2, data=simData, id=id, corstr="independence")
> fit.WE <- gee(Y ~ X1 + X2, data=simData, id=id, corstr="exchangeable")
> fit.WU <- gee(Y ~ X1 + X2, data=simData, id=id, corstr="unstructured")

```


- Simulated $R=10,000$ datasets for each (K, n) combination
- For each estimator consider bias associated with $\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}$ as an estimate of β
- Also consider the performance of two estimators of $\text{Cov}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}]$:

(1) naïve estimator:

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}_n[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{A}_w^{-1}$$

(2) robust estimator:

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{A}_w^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{B}}_w \mathbf{A}_w^{-1}$$

- ★ for both estimators report the ratio of the mean of the estimated standard errors to the standard deviation of the point estimates $\times 100$

- Instances out of $R=10,000$ that `gee()` converged:

	$n = 4$	$n = 6$
$K = 30$		
Working independence	10,000	10,000
Working exchangeable	10,000	10,000
Working unstructured	9,864	8,869
$K = 60$		
Working independence	10,000	10,000
Working exchangeable	10,000	10,000
Working unstructured	10,000	9,962

- ★ when $K=30$ and $n=6$, a little over 10% of the working unstructured estimators fail to converge

- Mean of the point estimates:

	<i>n</i> = 4			<i>n</i> = 6		
	β_0	β_1	β_2	β_0	β_1	β_2
<i>K</i> = 30						
Working independence	0	1	1	0	1	1
Working exchangeable	0	1	1	0	1	1
Working unstructured	0	1	1	0	1	1
<i>K</i> = 60						
Working independence	0	1	1	0	1	1
Working exchangeable	0	1	1	0	1	1
Working unstructured	0	1	1	0	1	1

★ no bias across the board

- Ratio for the naïve standard errors:

	$n = 4$			$n = 6$		
	β_0	β_1	β_2	β_0	β_1	β_2
$K = 30$						
Working independence	95	140	62	82	139	52
Working exchangeable	98	101	97	98	100	96
Working unstructured	92	88	93	85	76	84
$K = 60$						
Working independence	97	140	64	83	141	53
Working exchangeable	100	100	100	100	101	98
Working unstructured	98	95	98	94	89	93

- ★ working independence does very poorly
- ★ working exchangeable does well since it is the 'correct' structure
- ★ unstructured performs quite poorly when $K=30$

- Ratio for the robust standard errors:

	$n = 4$			$n = 6$		
	β_0	β_1	β_2	β_0	β_1	β_2
$K = 30$						
Independence	96	98	96	96	97	96
Exchangeable	96	98	96	96	97	96
Unstructured	92	92	90	87	87	85
$K = 60$						
Independence	99	99	99	99	99	98
Exchangeable	99	99	99	99	99	98
Unstructured	97	96	96	93	93	92

- ★ working independence and exchangeable seem to be equivalent
 - * can show this analytically in this setting
- ★ for fixed K , unstructured gets worse as n increases

Hypothesis testing

- Using the fact that the asymptotic sampling distribution of $\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}$ is a multivariate Normal, one can perform hypothesis testing using the usual Wald test
- Specifically, consider testing the linear null hypotheses:

$$H_0 : Q\beta = 0$$

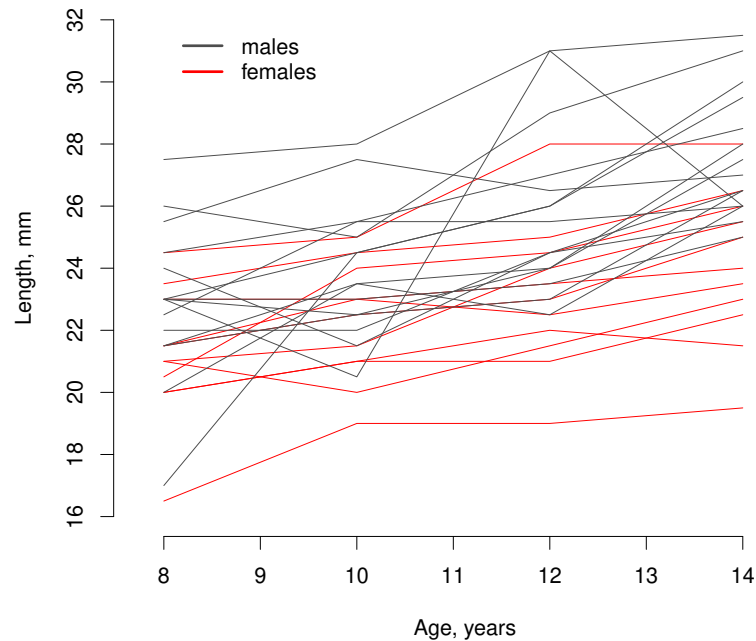
where Q is a matrix of full rank with $\dim(Q) = r \times p$ with $r < p$

- Evaluate evidence regarding the null on the basis of the multivariate Wald statistic:

$$(Q\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}})^T (Q\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}]Q^T)^{-1} (Q\hat{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}) \sim \chi_r^2$$

- Note, the likelihood ratio test is not available

Dental growth data



- Formally characterize dental growth among males and females aged 8 to 14 years using the model:

$$E[Y_{ki}] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 A_{ki}^* + \beta_1 G_k + \beta_3 A_{ki}^* G_k$$

★ use $A_{ki}^* = A_{ki} - 8$ to ensure that β_0 is interpretable

- We can fit this model using the `gee()` function in R:

```
> ##
> growth$ageStar <- growth$age - 8
>
> ##
> library(gee)
>
> ## Weighted least squares
> ##
> fit0.GEE <- gee(length ~ ageStar * gender, id=id, data=growth,
                  corstr="independence")
Beginning Cgee S-function, @(#) geeformula.q 4.13 98/01/27
running glm to get initial regression estimate
      (Intercept)          ageStar      gendermale ageStar:gendermale
      21.2090909      0.4795455      1.4909091      0.3204545
>
> fit1.GEE <- gee(length ~ ageStar * gender, id=id, data=growth,
                  corstr="exchangeable")
...
> fit2.GEE <- gee(length ~ ageStar * gender, id=id, data=growth,
                  corstr="unstructured")
...
```



```

> ##
> summary(fit0.GEE)
...
Model:
  Link:                      Identity
  Variance to Mean Relation: Gaussian
  Correlation Structure:      Independent
...
Coefficients:

```

	Estimate	Naive S.E.	Naive z	Robust S.E.	Robust z
(Intercept)	21.2090909	0.5700227	37.207453	0.5604314	37.844221
ageStar	0.4795455	0.1523450	3.147760	0.0631326	7.595845
gendermale	1.4909091	0.7504697	1.986635	0.7939739	1.877781
ageStar:gendermale	0.3204545	0.2005715	1.597708	0.1213679	2.640356

```

Estimated Scale Parameter:  5.105977
...
Working Correlation
      [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
[1,]    1    0    0    0
[2,]    0    1    0    0
[3,]    0    0    1    0
[4,]    0    0    0    1

```

```

> ##
> summary(fit1.GEE)
...
Model:
  Link:                Identity
  Variance to Mean Relation: Gaussian
  Correlation Structure: Exchangeable
...
Coefficients:
              Estimate Naive S.E.   Naive z Robust S.E.   Robust z
(Intercept)    21.2090909 0.63937427 33.171637    0.5604314 37.844221
ageStar         0.4795455 0.09607315  4.991462    0.0631326  7.595845
gendermale      1.4909091 0.84177534  1.771148    0.7939739  1.877781
ageStar:gendermale 0.3204545 0.12648618  2.533514    0.1213679  2.640356

Estimated Scale Parameter:  5.105977
...
Working Correlation
      [,1]      [,2]      [,3]      [,4]
[1,] 1.0000000 0.6023071 0.6023071 0.6023071
[2,] 0.6023071 1.0000000 0.6023071 0.6023071
[3,] 0.6023071 0.6023071 1.0000000 0.6023071
[4,] 0.6023071 0.6023071 0.6023071 1.0000000

```

```

> ##
> summary(fit2.GEE)
...
Model:
  Link:                Identity
  Variance to Mean Relation: Gaussian
  Correlation Structure: Unstructured
...
Coefficients:
              Estimate Naive S.E.   Naive z Robust S.E.   Robust z
(Intercept)    21.2212826   0.6234615  34.037840   0.55506777  38.231877
ageStar         0.4784452   0.1026902   4.659112   0.06475658   7.388365
gendermale      1.5043743   0.8208252   1.832758   0.78469921   1.917135
ageStar:gendermale 0.3167658   0.1351980   2.342978   0.12435591   2.547252

Estimated Scale Parameter:  5.10616
...
Working Correlation
      [,1]      [,2]      [,3]      [,4]
[1,] 1.0000000  0.5064509  0.7487428  0.5160647
[2,] 0.5064509  1.0000000  0.5318310  0.5963414
[3,] 0.7487428  0.5318310  1.0000000  0.7625703
[4,] 0.5160647  0.5963414  0.7625703  1.0000000

```

Comments

- Theory sketched out here may be considered *semi-parametric* in the sense that estimation/inference regarding β relies solely on specification of a model for the mean of \mathbf{Y}_k and (possibly) the variance-covariance matrix
 - ★ will form the basis for *generalized estimating equations*
- Hypothesis testing regarding β is straightforward but investigating questions regarding the variance-covariance matrix is not
 - ★ Σ_k is viewed, primarily, as a nuisance rather than a quantity of intrinsic interest
 - ★ no clear means of obtaining estimates of uncertainty regarding the components of Σ_k
 - ★ motivates the use of likelihood-based methods

- While efficiency considerations motivated careful consideration of the dependence model, they also motivate the use of likelihood-based methods
 - ★ parametric modeling of the entire distribution of \mathbf{Y}_k
 - ★ especially useful in small-sample settings
- In estimating the asymptotic covariance matrix, we exploited ‘independent’ replication across clusters
 - ★ may become problematic in some missing data settings
 - ★ another motivation for likelihood-base inference

Maximum likelihood

- Suppose we assume that

$$\mathbf{Y}_k \sim \text{MVN}_n(\mathbf{X}_k\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2\mathbf{V}_0)$$

- ★ assume $n_k = n$ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0 \forall k$
- ★ decompose $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0 = \sigma^2\mathbf{V}_0$
 - * σ^2 is a common variance component
 - * \mathbf{V}_0 is a common correlation matrix
- The log-likelihood, as a function of the unknown parameters, is proportional to:

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2, \mathbf{V}_0) \propto & -Kn \log(\sigma^2) - K \log |\mathbf{V}_0| \\ & - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k\boldsymbol{\beta})^T \mathbf{V}_0^{-1} (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k\boldsymbol{\beta}) \end{aligned}$$

- For a given \mathbf{V}_0 , the MLE for $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is the WLS estimator:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\mathbf{V}_0) = \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{V}_0^{-1} \mathbf{X}_k \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{V}_0^{-1} \mathbf{Y}_k \right)$$

- Substitution of this estimator into $\ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2, \mathbf{V}_0)$ yields the log-profile likelihood:

$$\ell(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\mathbf{V}_0), \sigma^2, \mathbf{V}_0) \propto -Kn \log(\sigma^2) - K \log |\mathbf{V}_0| - \frac{\text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0)}{\sigma^2}$$

where

$$\text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0) = \sum_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\mathbf{V}_0))^T \mathbf{V}_0^{-1} (\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{X}_k \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\mathbf{V}_0))$$

- Again for a given \mathbf{V}_0 , differentiating with respect to σ^2 yields the MLE:

$$\hat{\sigma}^2(\mathbf{V}_0) = \frac{\text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0)}{Kn}$$

- Finally, substitution of $\hat{\beta}(\mathbf{V}_0)$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2(\mathbf{V}_0)$ into $\ell(\beta, \sigma^2, \mathbf{V}_0)$ yields the reduced log-profile likelihood corresponding to \mathbf{V}_0 :

$$\ell_r(\mathbf{V}_0) \propto -Kn \log \text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0) - K \log |\mathbf{V}_0|$$

- Maximization of this function yields the MLE, $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_0$
 - ★ obtaining $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_0$ will generally require numerical optimization routines
 - ★ dimensionality of the optimization problem is $n(n-1)/2$
- Finally, $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_0$ can then be substituted into the expressions for $\hat{\beta}(\mathbf{V}_0)$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2(\mathbf{V}_0)$ to give the corresponding MLEs
- Note, inference for β could be based on:
 - ★ a Wald test
 - ★ a score test
 - ★ a likelihood ratio test

Issues

- The MLEs for σ^2 and \mathbf{V}_0 generally exhibit small-sample bias
- In the independent data setting, for example, it is well known that the MLE

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\text{RSS}}{N},$$

where RSS is the residual sum of squares based on $\hat{\beta}_{\text{OLS}}$ exhibits small-sample bias but that:

$$\tilde{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\text{RSS}}{N - p}$$

is unbiased

- In general, bias in the estimates of σ^2 and \mathbf{V}_0 has implications for likelihood-based inference based on the inverse-information matrix
- It turns out that $\tilde{\sigma}^2$ can be obtained via *restricted or residual maximum likelihood*

Restricted maximum likelihood

- Consider the general linear model for dependent data:

$$\mathbf{Y} \sim \text{MVN}_N(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

- Suppose that $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ can be represented as a function of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$, a set of (unknown) variance-covariance parameters
- The REML estimator of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is defined as the maximum likelihood estimator based on a transformed outcome $\mathbf{Y}^* = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}$ such that the distribution of \mathbf{Y}^* does not depend on $\boldsymbol{\beta}$
 - ★ note, the matrix \mathbf{A} is a linear operator
- Put another way, REML considers a linear transformation of the response such that the resulting distribution (or part of it) depends solely on $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$
 - ★ estimation of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ does not impact estimation of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$

Operationalization

- Consider the $N \times N$ matrix:

$$A = I - X(X^T X)^{-1} X^T$$

- ★ $X(X^T X)^{-1} X^T$ is the so-called *hat matrix*
- For this choice of A , $Y^* = AY$ is the vector of OLS residuals
 - ★ singular multivariate Normal distribution
 - ★ mean zero regardless of the value of β
- To obtain a non-singular distribution, on which we can base estimation for Σ , we could use only $N - p$ rows of A
 - ★ intuitively, remove a certain number of rows to ‘account’ for the fact that p regression parameters were estimated
 - ★ it turns out that it doesn’t matter which rows we use

- Strategy we are going to use is to consider the transformation

$$\mathbf{Y} \Rightarrow (\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})$$

where $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{Y}$ with \mathbf{B} the $N \times (N - p)$ matrix defined by the requirements that:

$$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^T = \mathbf{A}$$

$$\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}$$

and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is the MLE for $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ for fixed $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{Y}$$

★ notice that the transformation is a linear one

- Standard results for the distribution of a transformation imply that:

$$f(\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = f_{\mathbf{Y}}(g_1(\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}), g_2(\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))|J|$$

- ★ $g_1(\cdot)$ and $g_2(\cdot)$ are the inverse transformation functions
- ★ J is Jacobian of the transformation

- It turns out, however, that

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Z}] = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\text{Cov}[\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] = \mathbf{0}$$

regardless of the true value of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$

- Since zero covariance in the multivariate Normal setting is equivalent to independence, it follows that

$$f(\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = f(\mathbf{Z})f(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = f_{\mathbf{Y}}(g_1(\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}), g_2(\mathbf{Z}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}))|J|$$

- Since

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{Y}) = (2\pi)^{-N/2} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{-1/2} \\ \times \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) \right\}$$

and

$$f(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = (2\pi)^{-p/2} |\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X}|^{1/2} \\ \times \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \boldsymbol{\beta})^T (\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X}) (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \boldsymbol{\beta}) \right\}$$

and that the Jacobian doesn't depend on $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ or $\boldsymbol{\beta}$, we have that the pdf of \mathbf{Z} , expressed as a function of \mathbf{Y} , is proportional to:

$$\frac{f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{Y})}{f(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})} = (2\pi)^{-(N-p)/2} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{-1/2} |\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X}|^{-1/2} \\ \times \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \right\}$$

- The REML estimator of Σ , therefore, maximizes the so-called *restricted log-likelihood*:

$$\ell^*(\alpha) \propto -\log|\Sigma| - \log|\mathbf{X}^T \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{X}| - (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\beta})^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\beta})$$

- Contrast this with the log-profile likelihood for the MLE:

$$\ell(\alpha) \propto -\log|\Sigma| - (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\beta})^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\beta})$$

- Returning to the notation where $\Sigma_k = \Sigma_0 = \sigma^2 \mathbf{V}_0 \forall k$, recall that the MLE of σ^2 for a given \mathbf{V}_0 is:

$$\hat{\sigma}^2(\mathbf{V}_0) = \frac{\text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0)}{Kn}$$

- In contrast, differentiating $\ell^*(\sigma^2, \mathbf{V}_0)$ with respect to σ^2 yields the REML estimator:

$$\tilde{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0)}{Kn - p}$$

- Substitution of $\tilde{\sigma}^2(\mathbf{V}_0)$ into $\ell^*(\sigma^2, \mathbf{V}_0)$ yields the reduced log-likelihood corresponding to \mathbf{V}_0 :

$$\ell_r^*(\mathbf{V}_0) \propto -Kn \log \text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0) - K \log |\mathbf{V}_0| - \log |\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{X}|$$

★ \mathbf{V} is a block-diagonal $N \times N$ matrix with common non-zero blocks \mathbf{V}_0

- Maximization of this function yields the MLE, $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}_0$
 - ★ only a simple modification from the maximum likelihood algorithm
- This can also be contrasted with the ML analogue:

$$\ell_r(\mathbf{V}_0) \propto -Kn \log \text{RSS}(\mathbf{V}_0) - K \log |\mathbf{V}_0|$$

- One can then use $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}_0$ to obtain the REML estimator of σ^2 :

$$\tilde{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\text{RSS}(\tilde{\mathbf{V}}_0)}{Kn - p}$$

- Finally, $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}_0$ and $\tilde{\sigma}^2$ can be combined to form an estimate of Σ which can then be used to inform the weighting scheme for the estimation of β :

$$\tilde{\beta}_{\text{WLS}} = (\mathbf{X}\tilde{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}\tilde{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{Y}$$

- Inference for this estimator could then be based on:

$$\widehat{\text{Cov}}[\tilde{\beta}_{\text{WLS}}] = \mathbf{X}\tilde{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{X}$$

- Note that, by Slutsky's Theorem, the fact that we have estimated Σ does not impact the asymptotic distribution

★ since $\tilde{\Sigma} \longrightarrow \Sigma$

$$\sqrt{K}(\hat{\beta}(\tilde{\Sigma}) - \beta) \equiv_d \sqrt{K}(\hat{\beta}(\Sigma) - \beta)$$

Comments

- One cannot perform likelihood-based testing for β when you use REML
 - ★ key additional term in the restricted likelihood, $\log |\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{X}|$, depends on the design matrix \mathbf{X}
 - ★ consequently, the additional term does not cancel out when you form the usual likelihood ratio test statistic and the asymptotic sampling distribution isn't necessarily a χ^2
- One can, however, still perform a Wald test or compare models using other measures such as the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC)
- Interestingly, REML is the default for many of the implementations in R
- Asymptotically, use of the MLE or the REMLE for Σ is equivalent so the distinction is only important in 'small samples'
 - ★ since the order of $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{X}$ is p , the distinction rests on the relative size of p and $N = Kn$

Dental growth data

- Consider again the model:

$$E[Y_{ki}] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 A_{ki}^* + \beta_2 G_k + \beta_3 A_{ki}^* G_k$$

- Consider the following correlation structures:

Model 1. exchangeable (compound symmetric)

Model 2. auto-regressive

Model 3. unstructured (symmetric)

- Perform estimation/inference via ML and REML using the `gls()` function in the `nlme` library

```

> ##
> library(nlme)
>
> fit10.ML    <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="ML", data=growth,
+                   corr=corCompSymm(form = ~ 1 | id))
> fit10.REML <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="REML", data=growth,
+                   corr=corCompSymm(form = ~ 1 | id))
>
> ##
> fit20.ML    <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="ML", data=growth,
+                   corr=corAR1(form = ~ 1 | id))
> fit20.REML <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="REML", data=growth,
+                   corr=corAR1(form = ~ 1 | id))
>
> ##
> fit30.ML    <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="ML", data=growth,
+                   corr=corSymm(form = ~ 1 | id))
> fit30.REML <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="REML", data=growth,
+                   corr=corSymm(form = ~ 1 | id))

```

```

> ##
> summary(fit10.ML)
Generalized least squares fit by maximum likelihood
  Model: length ~ ageStar * gender
  Data: growth
           AIC      BIC    logLik
426.1665 442.0329 -207.0833

Correlation Structure: Compound symmetry
Formula: ~1 | id
Parameter estimate(s):
      Rho
0.6103379

Coefficients:
              Value Std.Error  t-value p-value
(Intercept)    21.209091 0.6402482 33.12636  0.000
ageStar         0.479545 0.0950982  5.04264  0.000
gendermale      1.490909 0.8429260  1.76873  0.080
ageStar:gendermale 0.320455 0.1252026  2.55949  0.012
...
Residual standard error: 2.21576
...

```

```

> ##
> summary(fit10.REML)
Generalized least squares fit by REML
  Model: length ~ ageStar * gender
  Data: growth
      AIC      BIC    logLik
431.125 446.7561 -209.5625

Correlation Structure: Compound symmetry
Formula: ~1 | id
Parameter estimate(s):
      Rho
0.6250796

Coefficients:
              Value Std.Error  t-value p-value
(Intercept)    21.209091  0.6500272 32.62801  0.0000
ageStar         0.479545  0.0944705  5.07614  0.0000
gendermale      1.490909  0.8558006  1.74212  0.0846
ageStar:gendermale 0.320455  0.1243761  2.57650  0.0114
...
Residual standard error: 2.288431
...

```

- Compare models for dependence using AIC
 - ★ $2 \times (\text{Number of parameters} - \text{value of the maximized log-likelihood})$
 - ★ lower values indicate superior fit

	Number of parameters	ML		REML	
		log-like	AIC	log-like	AIC
Exchangeable	6	-207.1	426.2	-209.6	431.1
Auto-regressive	6	-213.0	437.9	-214.8	441.7
Unstructured	11	-203.6	429.2	-206.0	433.9

- ★ suggests that the exchangeable and unstructured models are superior to the auto-regressive structure
- ★ not much difference between the exchangeable and unstructured models
- ★ in practice, we might base final conclusions on the more parsimonious model

- Recall from the EDA that there was some evidence of heteroskedasticity
 - ★ empirical standard deviations increase with age:

$$\hat{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{2.12} & & & \\ 0.83 & \mathbf{1.90} & & \\ 0.86 & 0.90 & \mathbf{2.36} & \\ 0.84 & 0.88 & 0.95 & \mathbf{2.44} \end{bmatrix}$$

- We can formally characterize and investigate this by using ML to fit a model that permits the age-specific variances to vary

```
>
> fit11.ML <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="ML", data=growth,
+               corr=corCompSymm(form = ~ 1 | id),
+               weights=varIdent(form = ~ 1 | age))
>
> fit11.REML <- gls(length ~ ageStar * gender, method="REML", data=growth,
+                 corr=corCompSymm(form = ~ 1 | id),
+                 weights=varIdent(form = ~ 1 | age))
```



```

> summary(fit11.ML)
...
Correlation Structure: Compound symmetry
  Formula: ~1 | id
  Parameter estimate(s):
      Rho
0.6156417
Variance function:
  Structure: Different standard deviations per stratum
  Formula: ~1 | age
  Parameter estimates:
      8      10      12      14
1.0000000 0.8456271 1.0373947 0.9005826

Coefficients:
              Value Std.Error  t-value p-value
(Intercept)    21.236378 0.6319446 33.60481  0.0000
ageStar         0.478601 0.0940939  5.08642  0.0000
gendermale      1.338854 0.8319937  1.60921  0.1107
ageStar:gendermale 0.332153 0.1238803  2.68124  0.0086
...
Residual standard error: 2.335967
...

```

- Again compare models with AIC:

	Number of	ML		REML	
	parameters	log-like	AIC	log-like	AIC
<i>Homoskedastic</i>					
Exchangeable	6	-207.1	426.2	-209.6	431.1
Auto-regressive	6	-213.0	437.9	-214.8	441.7
Unstructured	11	-203.6	429.2	-206.0	433.9
<i>Heteroskedastic</i>					
Exchangeable	9	-206.0	430.0	-208.5	435.1
Auto-regressive	9	-211.8	441.6	-213.8	445.6
Unstructured	14	-202.6	433.3	-205.1	438.2

- ★ suggests that the homoskedastic model is superior
- ★ exchangeable and unstructured models remain superior to the auto-regressive structure

- Formally evaluate heteroskedasticity with the ML fits:

```
> ##
> lrt.gls <- function(fit.F, fit.R, digits=3)
+ {
+   nP.F      <- nrow(fit.F$apVar) + length(fit.F$coef)
+   nP.R      <- nrow(fit.R$apVar) + length(fit.R$coef)
+   test.df   <- nP.F - nP.R
+   test.stat <- as.numeric(2 * abs(fit.F$logLik - fit.R$logLik))
+   p.value   <- 1 - pchisq(test.stat, test.df)
+   return(round(c(test.stat, test.df, p.value), digits=digits))
+ }
>
> ##
> lrt.gls(fit11.ML, fit10.ML)
[1] 2.190 3.000 0.534
> lrt.gls(fit21.ML, fit20.ML)
[1] 2.290 3.000 0.515
> lrt.gls(fit31.ML, fit30.ML)
[1] 1.898 3.000 0.594
```

- Find that there is insufficient evidence that the age-specific variances differ

Summary

- Goals:
 - ★ perform estimation/inference for regression parameters from a model for a continuous response while acknowledging within-cluster dependence
 - ★ learn about the structure of the correlation towards improving efficiency or because it is of intrinsic scientific interest
- Approach:
 - ★ specify a linear regression model for the mean structure
 - ★ use methods that are robust to misspecification of the dependence structure
 - ★ build and validate explicit models for the dependence structure
- Estimation/inference:
 - ★ two-stage and weighted least squares
 - ★ maximum and restricted maximum likelihood

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Cov}[Z, \hat{\beta}] &= \mathbb{E}[Z(\hat{\beta} - \beta)^\top] \\
&= \mathbb{E}[B^\top \mathbf{Y}(\mathbf{Y}^\top \mathbf{G}^\top - \beta^\top)] \\
&= B^\top \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}\mathbf{Y}^\top] \mathbf{G}^\top - B^\top \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}] \beta^\top \\
&= B^\top (\text{Cov}[\mathbf{Y}] + \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}]\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}]^\top) \mathbf{G}^\top - B^\top \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}] \beta^\top \\
&= B^\top (\boldsymbol{\Sigma} + \mathbf{X}\beta\beta^\top \mathbf{X}^\top) \mathbf{G}^\top - B^\top \mathbf{X}\beta\beta^\top \\
&= B^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{G}^\top + B^\top \mathbf{X}\beta\beta^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{G}^\top - B^\top \mathbf{X}\beta\beta^\top \\
&= B^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{G}^\top & B^\top \mathbf{X}\beta = 0 \\
&= B^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \\
&= B^\top \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \\
&= 0 & B^\top \mathbf{X} = 0
\end{aligned}$$