

Bath Air Squad

NERC Hackathon 1 summary presentation

State-of-the-art Bayesian framework for analysing
air pollution effect on COVID-19 infection rate

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Introduction

A world map with a red overlay, possibly representing COVID-19 cases or air quality data. The overlay is more intense in North America, Europe, and parts of Asia.

NERC Hackathon 1 challenge

1. Is there a correlation between air quality and incidence and severity of COVID-19 infection?
2. What is the air quality threshold we need to meet to improve individual outcomes?

Infection model

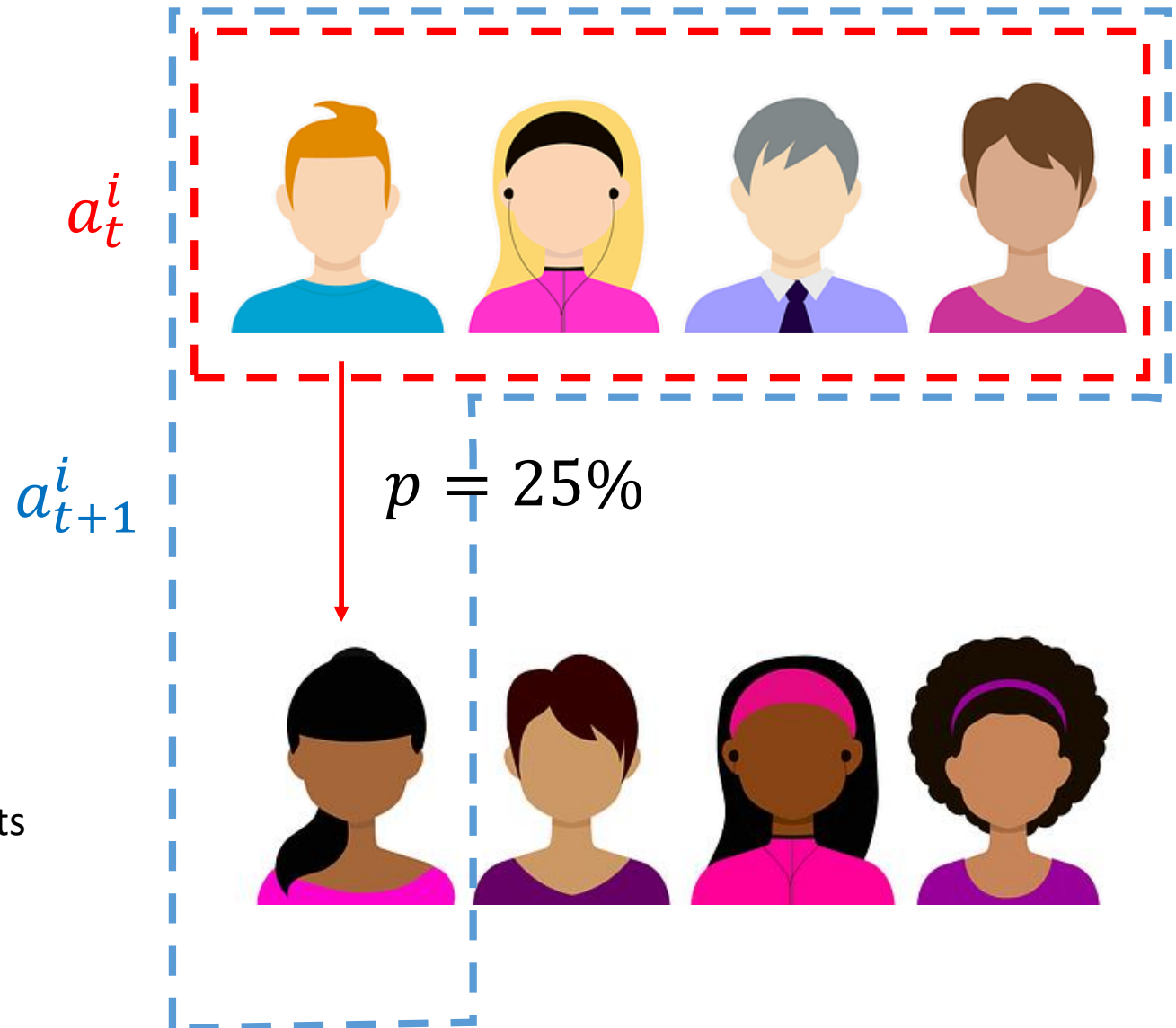
$$a_{t+1}^i - a_t^i = \text{Poisson}(a_t^i p_t^i)$$

$$\ln(p_t^i) = \theta_0 + \theta X_t^i + \underbrace{u^i + v_t + w_t^i}_{\text{Random effects}}$$

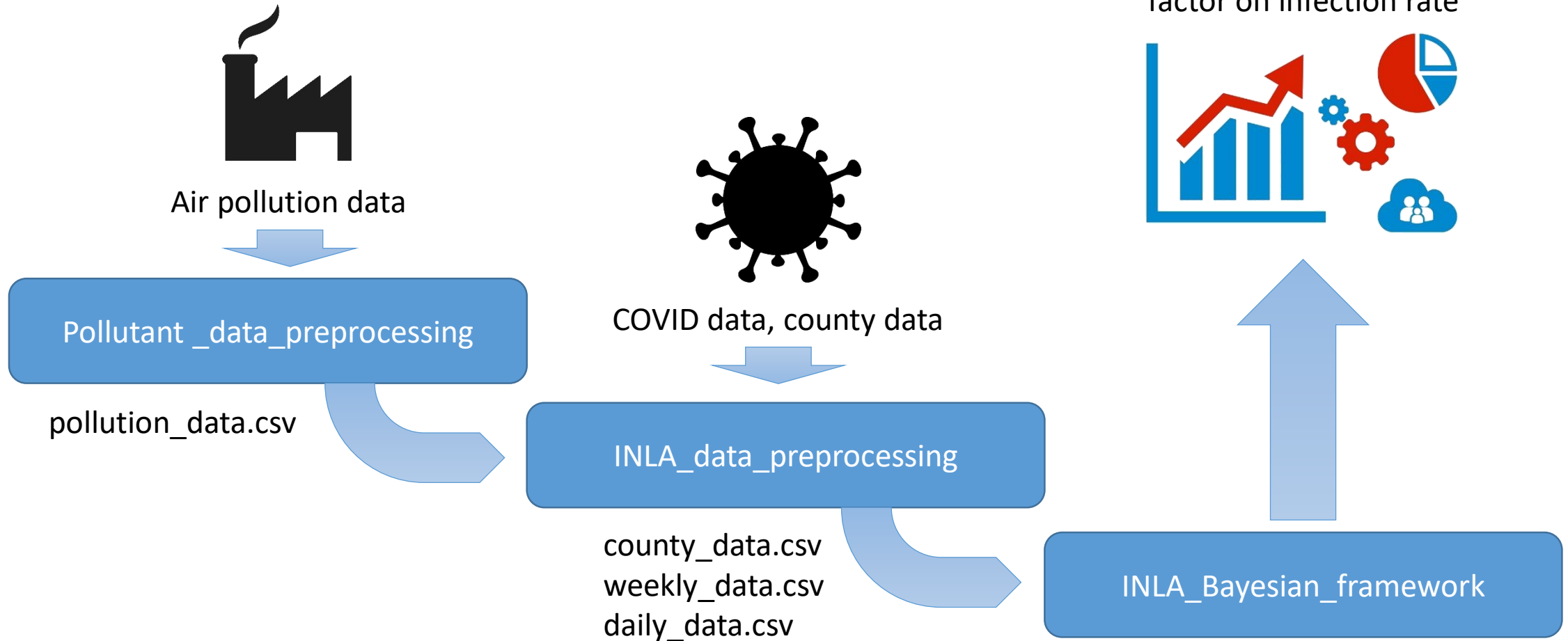
Linear coefficients

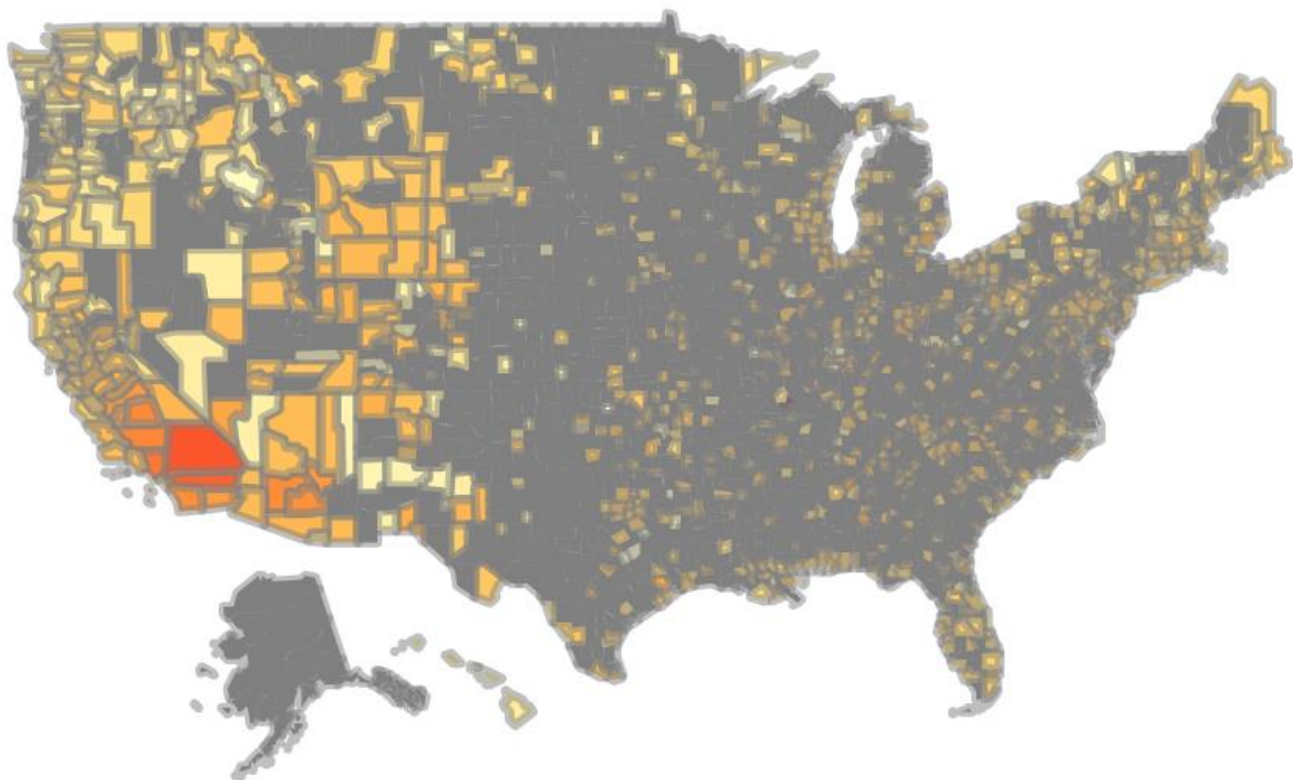
Parameters

Random effects

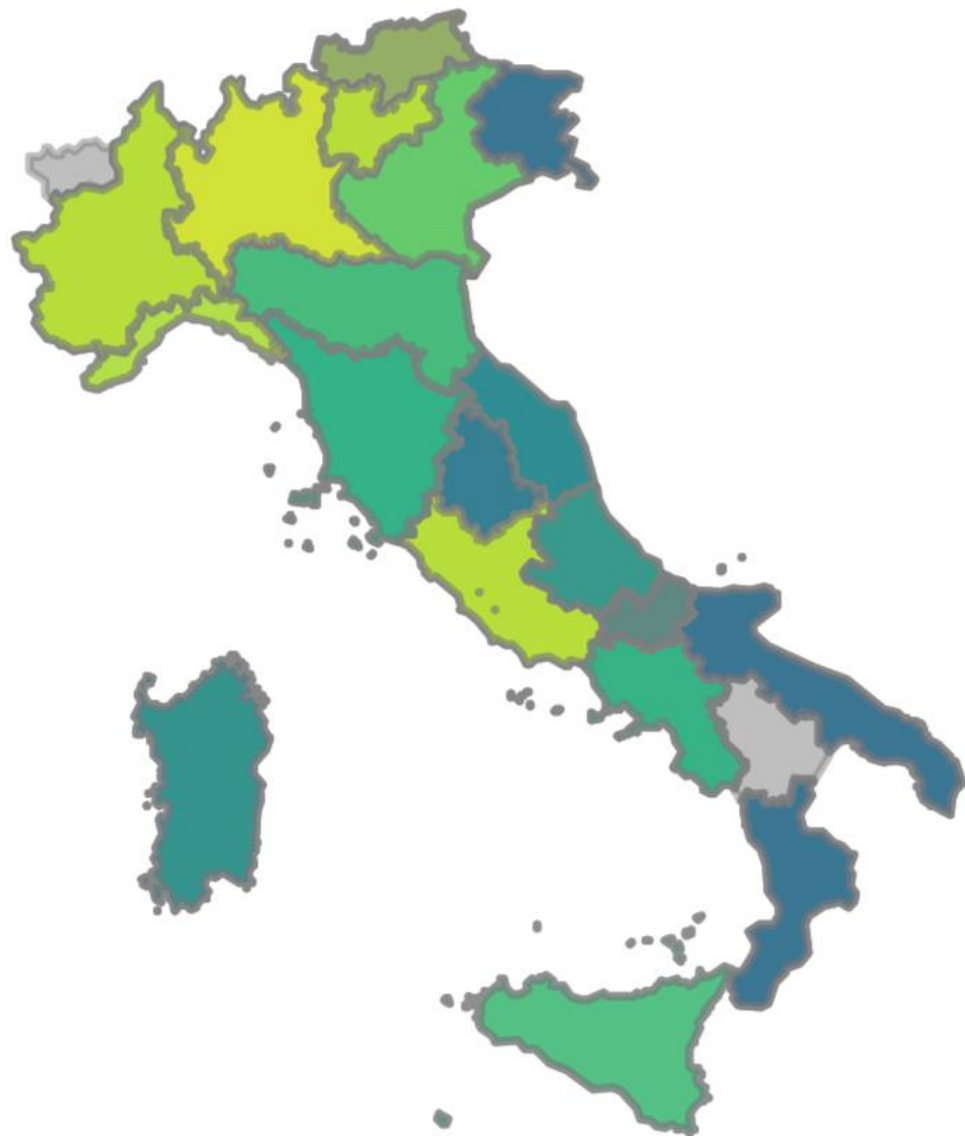


Bayesian framework in R





>50 parameters for USA



6 parameters for Italy

Italy NO2 map



Mean NO2 (2016-2019). Source: EPA,2020

Show 10 entries

Search:

id	region	NO2
02	Valle d'Aosta	
21	P.A. Bolzano	33.90611111111111
21	P.A. Bolzano	35.8013966480447
21	P.A. Bolzano	35.3568452380952
21	P.A. Bolzano	
22	P.A. Trento	39.096694214876
22	P.A. Trento	41.3852320675106
22	P.A. Trento	39.4991666666667
22	P.A. Trento	36.5867403314917
11	Marche	19.9479069767442

https://people.bath.ac.uk/lcol20/hackathon1/Italy_AirPollutionMap.html

How to create model?

```
use_deaths <- TRUE
```

```
use_Poisson <- TRUE
```

```
use_weekly <- TRUE
```

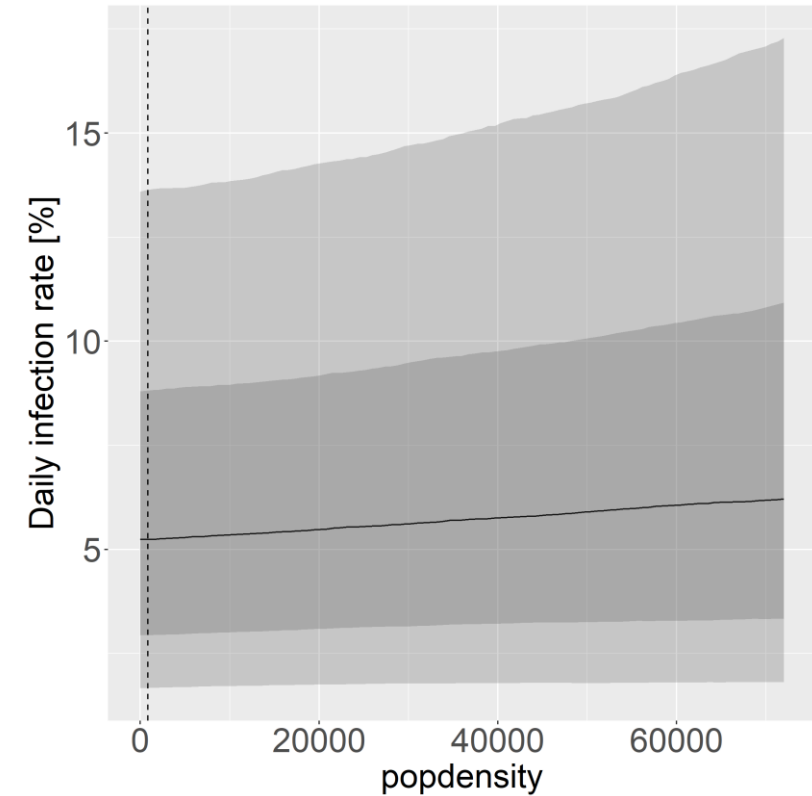
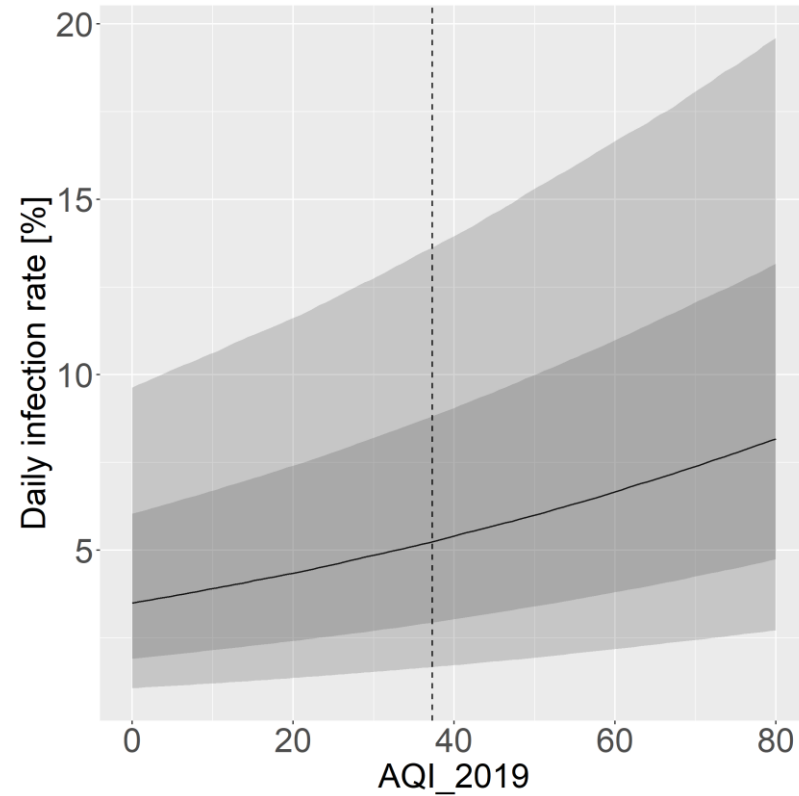
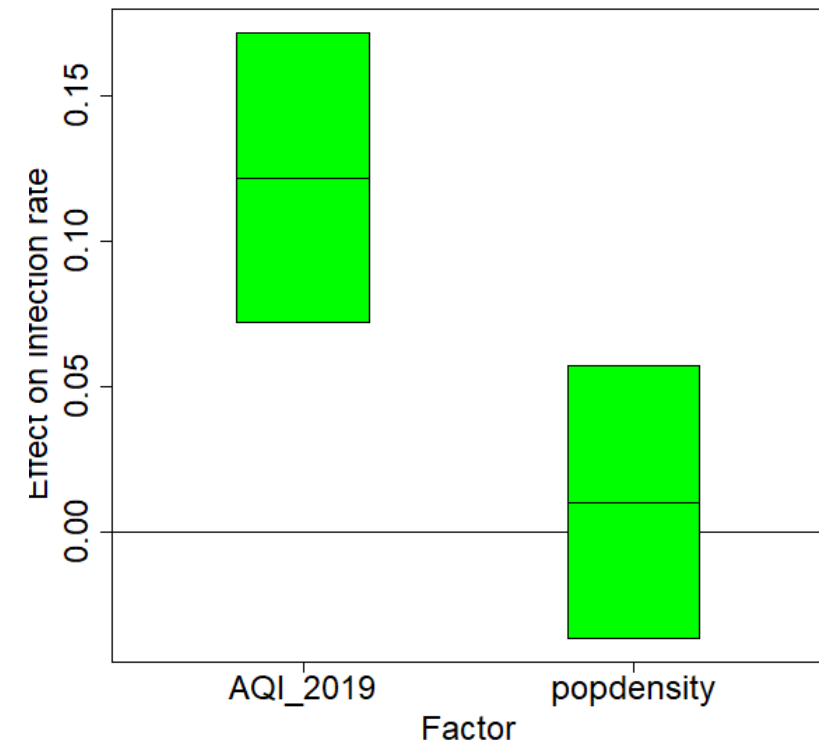
$$\ln(p_t^i) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 A Q I_{2019} + \theta_2 D + u^i + v_t + w_t^i$$

```
covariates <- c("AQI_2weeks", "popdensity")
```

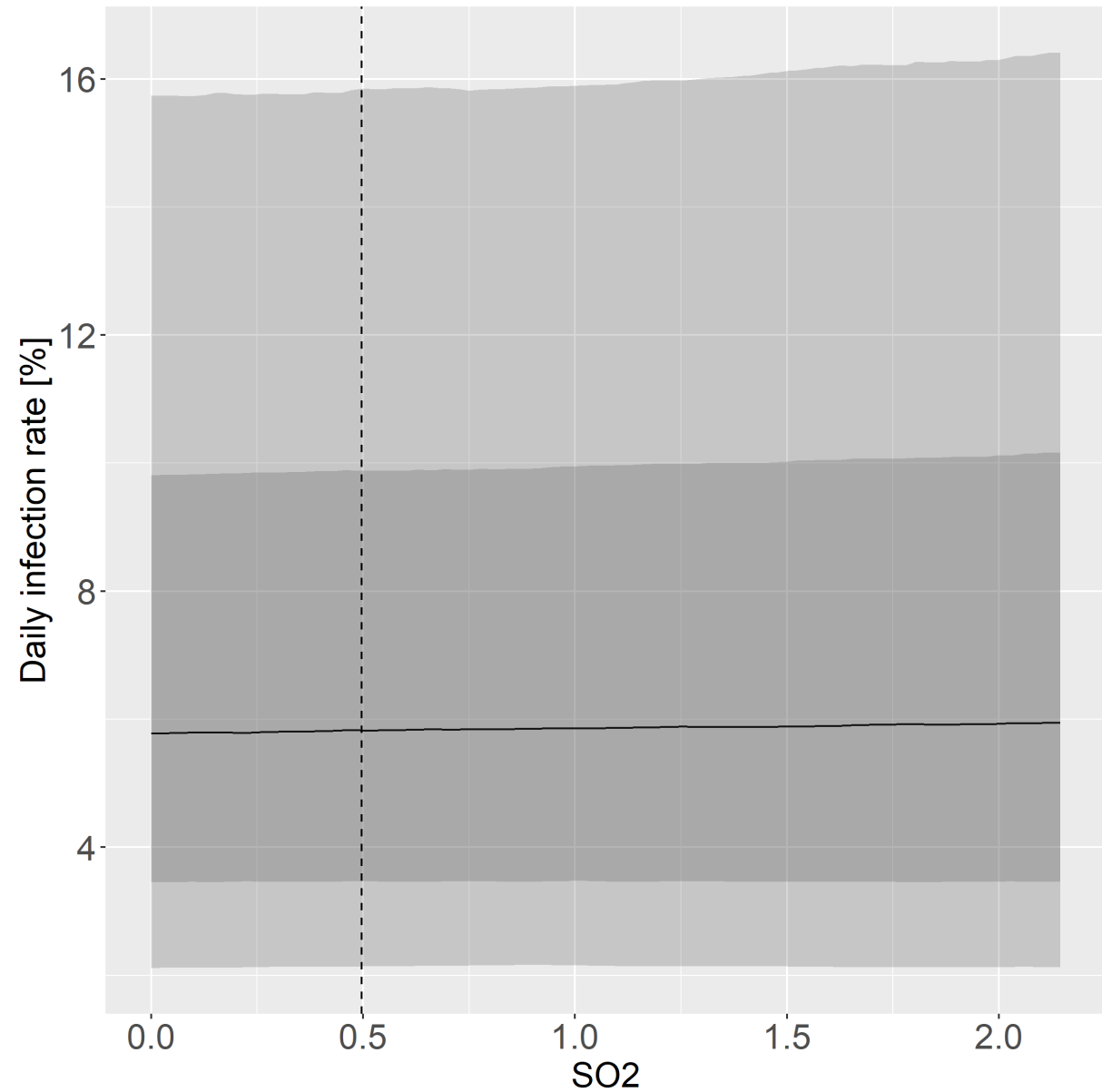
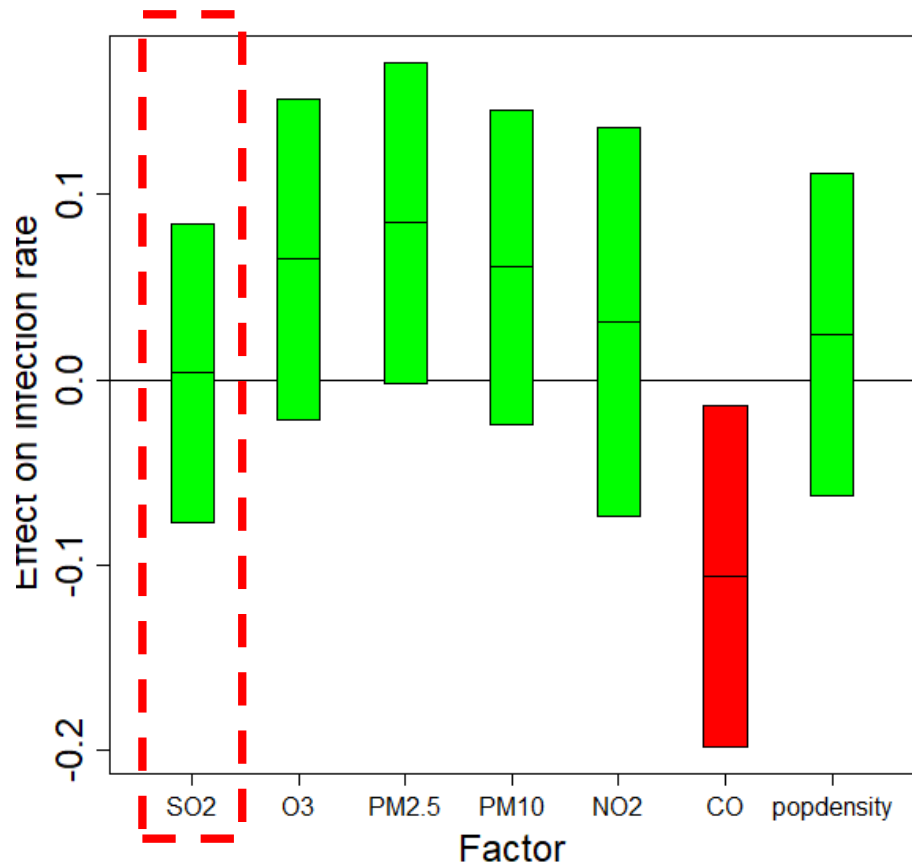
```
formula <- new_cases ~ AQI_2019 + popdensity +
```

```
  f(id, model = "iid") + f(day, model = "ar1") + f(rowId, model = "iid")
```

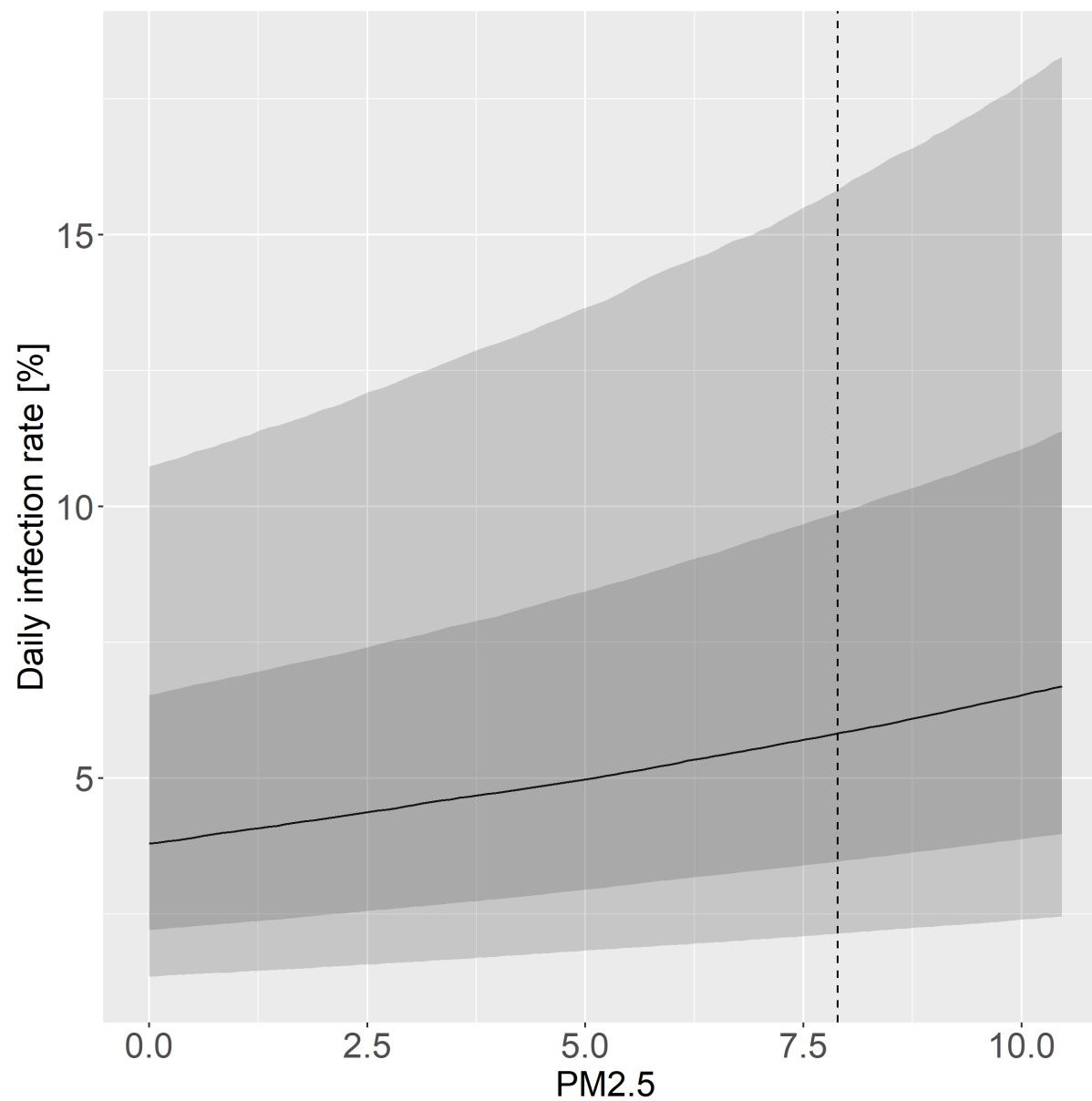
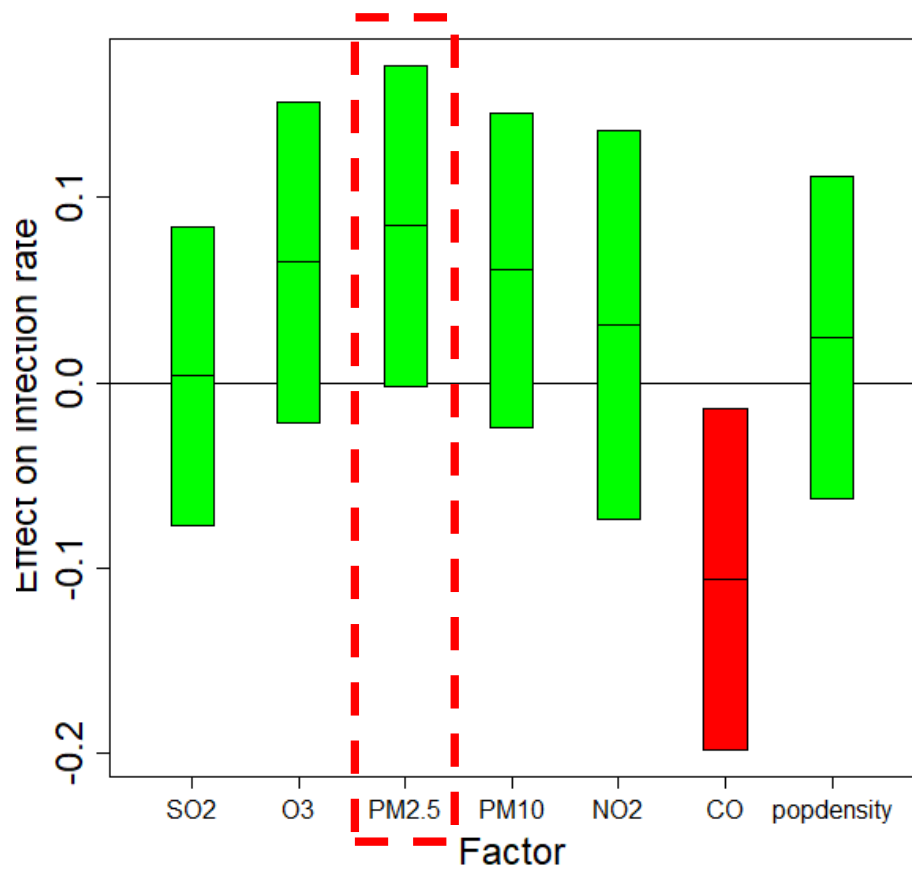
Model output



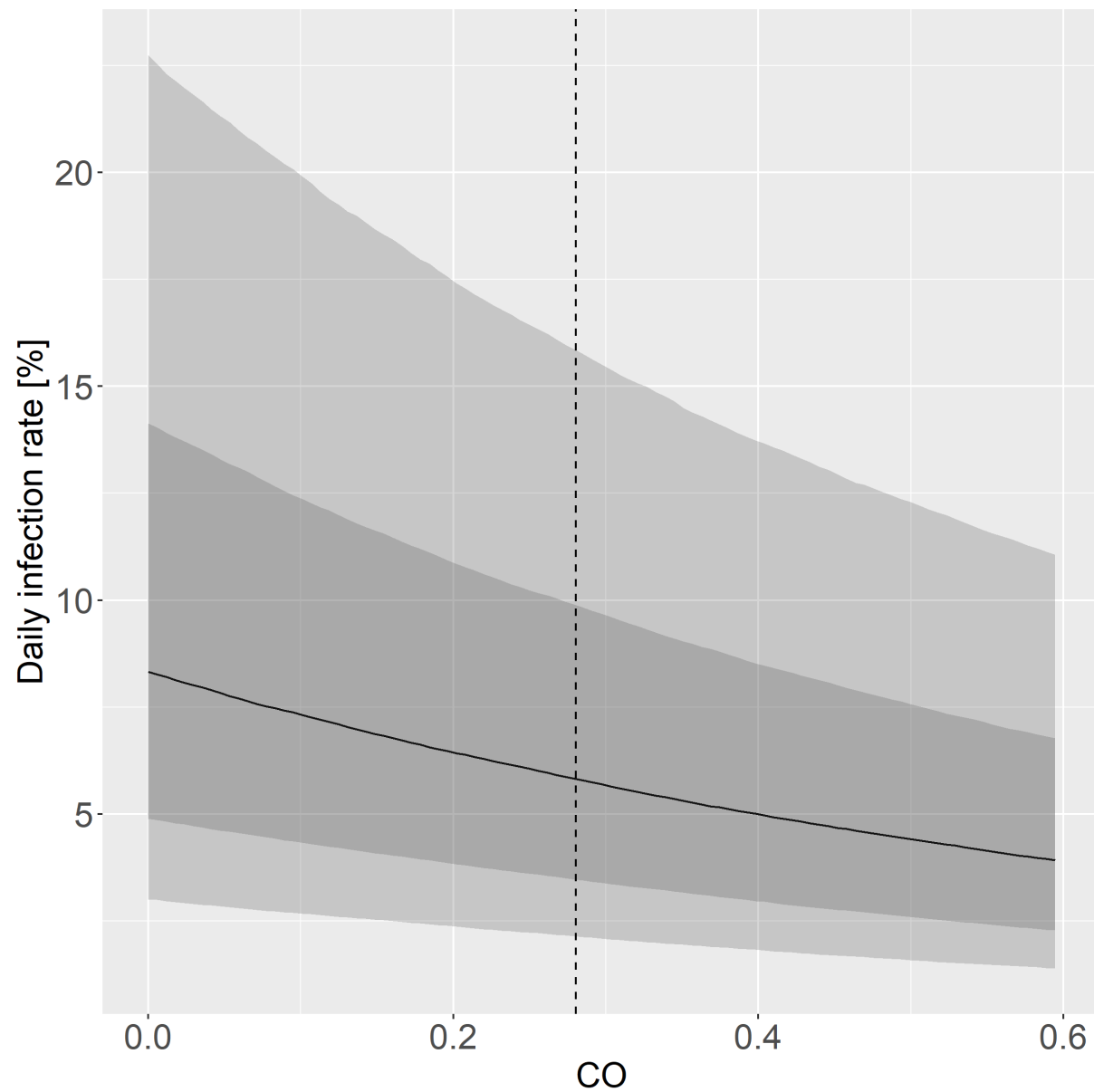
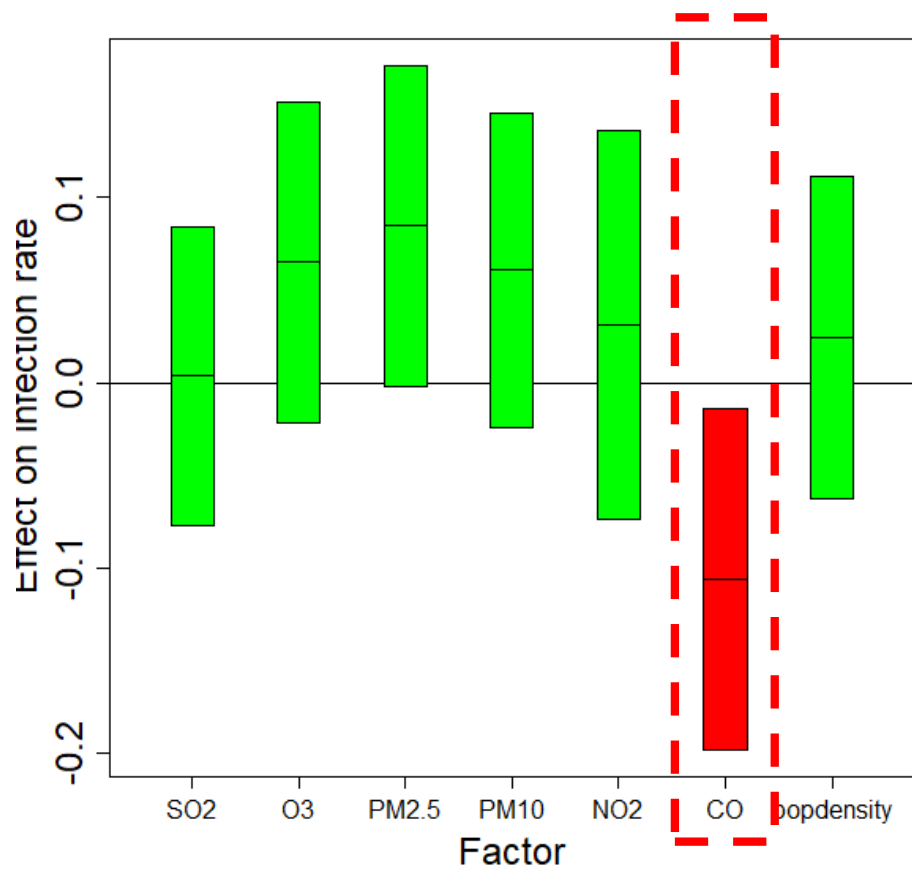
Another result



Another result



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Summary

- Flexible, easy to use Bayesian framework for COVID-19 research
- Preliminary results allowed to investigate effect of air pollution in different time scales and effect of different pollutants.

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What's next?

- Extending air pollution data set with a transportation model assimilated with both satellites and monitoring stations data.
- Studying the standard epidemic models (e.g. SIR) with infection rate dependent on pollutant concentration.