

lmer Demo

Andy Grogan-Kaylor

2021-02-26

Contents

1	Get Data	1
2	Data Wrangling (Centering)	2
3	Graph	2
4	lmer	3
4.1	Unconditional Model	3
4.2	One Independent Variable; Random Intercept Only	4
4.3	One Independent Variable; Random Intercept and Random Slope (Correlated)	5
4.4	One Independent Variable; Random Intercept and Random Slope (Uncorrelated)	5



Figure 1: Norway Spruce and Larch Forest in Austrian Alps, <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/research-topic/forestry/qr-tree-project/norway-spruce>

1 Get Data

Data are from *von Guttentberg's Norway spruce (Picea abies [L.] Karst) tree measurement data*, from: Andrew Robinson and Jeff Hamann (2016). FAWR: Functions and Datasets for “Forest Analytics with R”, R package version 1.1.1., <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=FAwR>

“The data are measures from 107 trees. The trees were selected as being of average size from healthy and well stocked stands in the Alps.”

```
library(FAwR) # Forest Analytics with R
```

```
## Loading required package: MASS
```

```
## Loading required package: lattice
```

```
## Loading required package: glpkAPI
```

```
## using GLPK version 4.65
```

```
data("gutten") # Von Guttenberg Tree Data
```

2 Data Wrangling (Centering)

```
gutten$height.C <- gutten$height - mean(gutten$height)
```

```
gutten$age.base.C <- gutten$age.base - mean(gutten$age.base)
```

3 Graph

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
library(patchwork)
```

```
##
```

```
## Attaching package: 'patchwork'
```

```
## The following object is masked from 'package:MASS':
```

```
##
```

```
## area
```

```
p_uncentered <- ggplot(gutten,  
  aes(x = age.base,  
      y = height,  
      color = tree.ID)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Tree Height By Tree Age",  
       subtitle = "Uncentered Data") +  
  theme_minimal() +  
  theme(legend.position = "none")
```

```
# p_uncentered
```

```
p_centered <- ggplot(gutten,  
  aes(x = age.base.C,
```

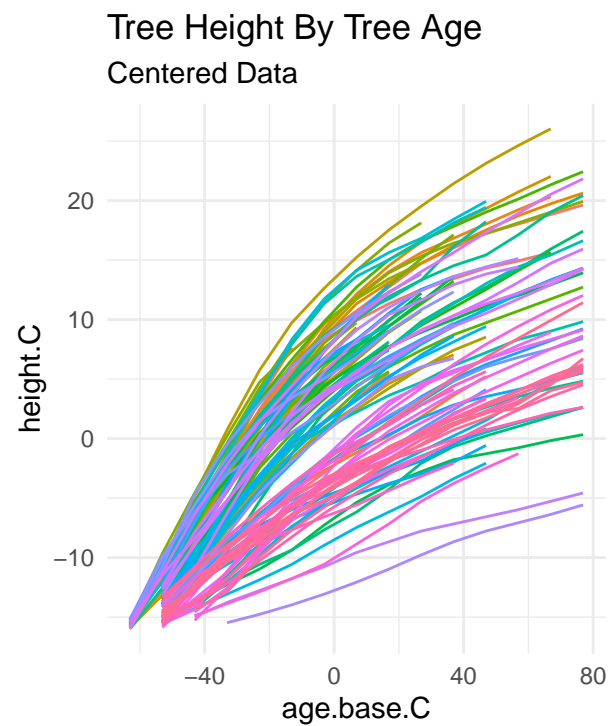
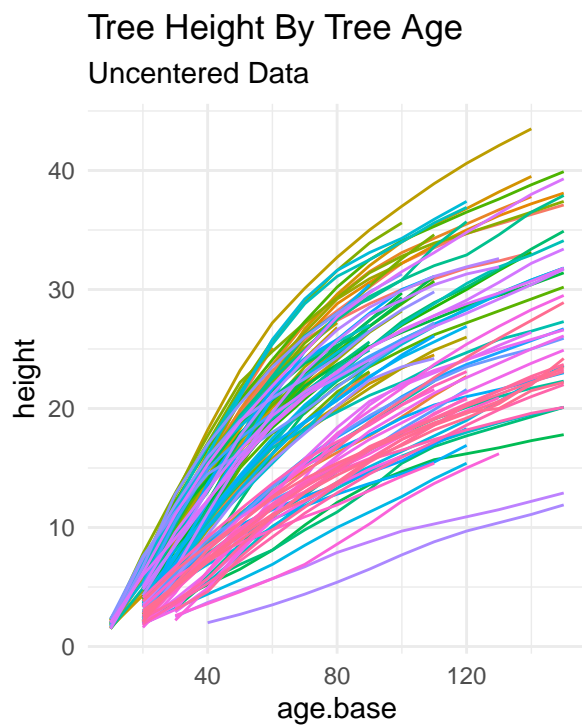
```

    y = height.C,
    color = tree.ID)) +
geom_line() +
labs(title = "Tree Height By Tree Age",
     subtitle = "Centered Data") +
theme_minimal() +
theme(legend.position = "none")

# p_centered

p_uncentered + p_centered

```



4 lmer

```
library(lme4)
```

```
## Loading required package: Matrix
```

4.1 Unconditional Model

```

fit0 <- lmer(height ~ (1 | tree.ID),
             data = gutten)

summary(fit0)

```

```
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: height ~ (1 | tree.ID)
## Data: gutten
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 8627.5
##
## Scaled residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -2.6675 -0.7242  0.1305  0.7758  2.0311
##
## Random effects:
## Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
## tree.ID (Intercept) 15.08  3.883
## Residual          69.70  8.349
## Number of obs: 1200, groups: tree.ID, 107
##
## Fixed effects:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)  17.2328    0.4489   38.38
```

4.2 One Independent Variable; Random Intercept Only

```
fit1 <- lmer(height ~ age.base + (1 | tree.ID),
             data = gutten)

summary(fit1)
```

```
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: height ~ age.base + (1 | tree.ID)
## Data: gutten
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 6346.7
##
## Scaled residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -3.3814 -0.5359  0.2145  0.7030  2.3443
##
## Random effects:
## Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
## tree.ID (Intercept) 25.747  5.074
## Residual          8.409  2.900
## Number of obs: 1200, groups: tree.ID, 107
##
## Fixed effects:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)  2.102195    0.525768   3.998
## age.base     0.214830    0.002406  89.287
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##      (Intr)
## age.base -0.320
```

4.3 One Independent Variable; Random Intercept and Random Slope (Correlated)

```
fit2 <- lmer(height ~ age.base + (1 + age.base | tree.ID),
             data = gutten)

summary(fit2)
```

```
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: height ~ age.base + (1 + age.base | tree.ID)
## Data: gutten
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 5489.7
##
## Scaled residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -3.3808 -0.5447  0.0590  0.5834  2.4378
##
## Random effects:
## Groups Name Variance Std.Dev. Corr
## tree.ID (Intercept) 3.624478 1.90381
## age.base 0.005557 0.07455 -0.12
## Residual 3.381275 1.83882
## Number of obs: 1200, groups: tree.ID, 107
##
## Fixed effects:
## Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept) 1.204973 0.225294 5.348
## age.base 0.239925 0.007454 32.186
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
## (Intr)
## age.base -0.222
```

4.4 One Independent Variable; Random Intercept and Random Slope (Uncorrelated)

Converges only with *grand mean centered* independent variable.

```
fit3 <- lmer(height ~ age.base.C + (1 + age.base.C || tree.ID),
             data = gutten)

summary(fit3)
```

```
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: height ~ age.base.C + ((1 | tree.ID) + (0 + age.base.C | tree.ID))
## Data: gutten
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 5682.6
##
```

```

## Scaled residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -3.9528 -0.5310  0.0660   0.5991  2.2450
##
## Random effects:
##   Groups      Name      Variance Std.Dev.
##   tree.ID   (Intercept) 31.044222 5.57173
##   tree.ID.1 age.base.C   0.005648 0.07516
##   Residual                3.381065 1.83877
## Number of obs: 1200, groups: tree.ID, 107
##
## Fixed effects:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept) 18.750860   0.542849   34.54
## age.base.C   0.241264   0.007528   32.05
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##              (Intr)
## age.base.C 0.013

```