

# Bayesian Multi-level Regression

## Models for Socio-Environmental Data

Chris Che-Castaldo, Mary B. Collins, and N. Thompson Hobbs

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# Lecture material

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Bayesian, multilevel models for grouped data
  - ▶ group level intercepts
  - ▶ group level intercepts with group level covariate
  - ▶ group level slopes and intercepts
  - ▶ priors on group level variances
  - ▶ an essential coding trick

# The simple, Bayesian set-up

Deterministic model:

$$g(\boldsymbol{\theta}, x_i)$$

Stochastic model:

$$\underbrace{[\theta_1, \theta_2, \sigma^2 | y_i]}_{\text{posterior}} \propto \overbrace{[y_i | g(\theta_1, \theta_2, x_i), \sigma^2]}^{\text{joint}} \underbrace{[\theta_1][\theta_2][\sigma^2]}_{\text{priors}}$$

Recall that

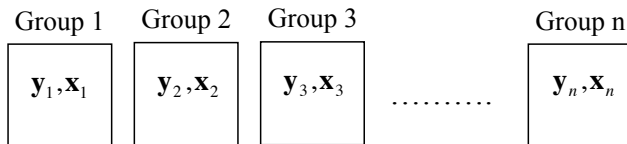
$$\underbrace{[\theta_1, \theta_2, \sigma^2 | y_i]}_{\text{posterior}} \propto \underbrace{[y_i, \theta_1, \theta_2, \sigma^2]}_{\text{joint}}$$

# Hierarchical models: “modeling parameters”

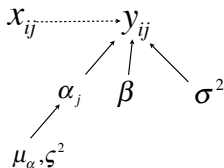
$$\begin{aligned} [\theta_1, \theta_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2 \mid y_{ij}] &\propto [\theta_1, \theta_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2 y_{ij}] \\ [\theta_1, \theta_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2 \mid y_{ij}] &\propto [y_{ij} \mid g(\theta_1, \theta_{2,j}, x_{ij}), \sigma_1^2] \\ &\times [\theta_{2,j} \mid h(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, u_j), \sigma_2^2] \\ &\times [\theta_1], [\alpha_1], [\alpha_2] [\sigma_1^2] [\sigma_2^2] \end{aligned}$$

Draw the DAG.

# The problem



We can model the intercept (or slope):



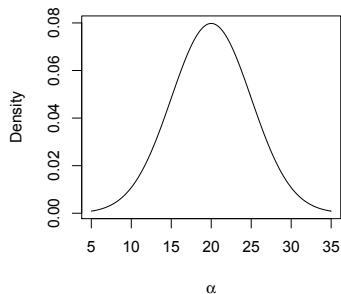
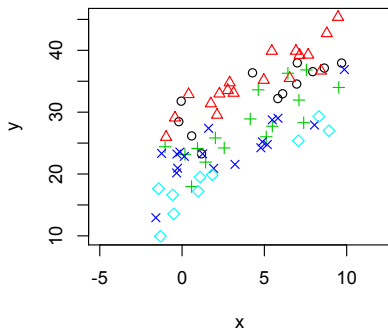
1

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [\beta, \alpha, \sigma^2, \mu_\alpha, \zeta^2, |y] \propto \prod_{i=1}^{n_j} \prod_{j=1}^J \text{normal}(y_{ij} | \alpha_j + \beta x_{ij}, \sigma^2) \\
 & \times \text{normal}(\alpha_j | \mu_\alpha, \zeta^2) \\
 & \times \text{normal}(\beta | 0, 10000) \text{normal}(\mu_\alpha | 0, 1000) \\
 & \times \text{inverse gamma}(\sigma^2 | .001, .001) \text{uniform}(\zeta | 0, 200)
 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>Comment on prior for group-level standard deviation.



We seek to understand the distribution of intercepts.



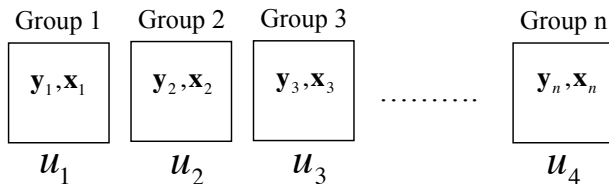
## Some notation

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{ij} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \alpha_j \\ y_{ij} &\sim \text{normal}(\mu_{ij}, \sigma^2) \\ \alpha_j &\sim \text{normal}(0, \varsigma^2)\end{aligned}$$

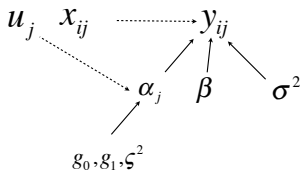
is identical to:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{ij} &= \alpha_j + \beta_1 x_{ij} \\ y_{ij} &\sim \text{normal}(\mu_{ij}, \sigma^2) \\ \alpha_j &\sim (\mu_\alpha, \varsigma^2)\end{aligned}$$

Include data on groups.



We can model the intercept (or slope) as a function of group level data:



$$\begin{aligned}
 [\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}^2, \mathbf{g}, \boldsymbol{\zeta}^2, \mathbf{y}] &\propto \prod_{i=1}^{n_j} \prod_{j=1}^J \text{normal}(y_{ij} | \alpha_j + \beta x_{ij}, \sigma^2) \\
 &\times \text{normal}(\alpha_j | g_0 + g_1 u_j, \zeta^2) \\
 &\times \text{normal}(\beta | 0, .001) \text{normal}(g_0 | 0, 1000) \text{normal}(g_1 | 0, 1000) \\
 &\times \text{inverse gamma}(\sigma^2 | .001, .001) \text{uniform}(\zeta | 0, 200)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Modeling intercepts and slopes

A correlation matrix:

Correlations

	Weight in kg	Hours of Sleep	Exposure while Sleeping	Life Span
Weight in kg	1	-.307	.338	.302
Hours of Sleep	-.307	1	-.642	-.410
Exposure while Sleeping	.338	-.642	1	.360
Life Span	.302	-.410	.360	1

2

If we multiply this correlation matrix times  $\sigma_i \sigma_j$  we obtain a *covariance* matrix.

<sup>2</sup><http://www.theanalysisfactor.com/covariance-matrices/>

# Modeling intercepts and slopes

Imagine a vector of 3 random variables,  $(z_i, z_2, z_3)'$ . The covariance between any two of these random variables is simply an unstandardized version of the correlation between them— it is correlation measured in the units of the random variables. The covariance matrix (aka variance-covariance matrix) of the random variable is:

$$\mathbf{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \text{Cov}_{1,2} & \text{Cov}_{1,3} \\ \text{Cov}_{2,1} & \sigma_2^2 & \text{Cov}_{2,3} \\ \text{Cov}_{3,1} & \text{Cov}_{3,2} & \sigma_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Generalizing, a  $m \times m$  covariance matrix has the variances of the random variable on the diagonal and the covariance on the off diagonal. The covariance between random variable  $i$  and  $j$  is  $\text{Cov}_{ij} = \rho \sigma_i \sigma_j$  where  $\rho$  is the correlation coefficient, which takes on values between  $-1$  and  $1$ . Covariance can take on values between  $-\infty$  and  $+\infty$ .

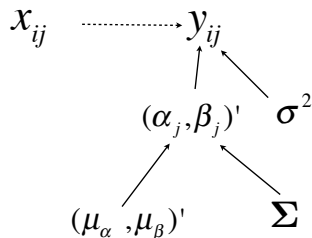
## Covariance matrix for two parameter model

Imagine that we have  $j = 1, \dots, J$  groups with multiple observations within groups and we fit a two parameter linear model to each group, finding  $J$  intercepts and slopes. We denote the vector of intercepts as  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  and the vector of slopes as  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ . It is easy to see that we can calculate the variance for each vector ( $\sigma_{\alpha}^2, \sigma_{\beta}^2$ ) as well as the correlation between the vectors  $\rho$ . The variance covariance matrix is thus:

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{\alpha}^2 & \text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ \text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) & \sigma_{\beta}^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where  $\text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = \text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \rho \sigma_{\alpha} \sigma_{\beta}$

# Modeling intercepts *and* slopes



$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_j \\ \beta_j \end{pmatrix} \sim \text{multivariate normal} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \mu_\alpha \\ \mu_\beta \end{pmatrix}, \Sigma \right)$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_\alpha^2 & \rho \sigma_\alpha \sigma_\beta \\ \rho \sigma_\alpha \sigma_\beta & \sigma_\beta^2 \end{pmatrix}$$



## Modeling intercepts *and* slopes

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \mu_{\alpha}, \mu_{\beta}, \sigma_{\text{reg}}^2, \sigma_{\alpha}^2, \sigma_{\beta}^2, \rho | \mathbf{y} \right] &\propto \prod_{j=1}^J \prod_{i=1}^{n_j} \text{normal}(y_{ij} | \alpha_j + \beta_j x_{ij}, \sigma_{\text{reg}}^2) \\ &\times \text{MVN} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_j \\ \beta_j \end{pmatrix} \middle| \begin{pmatrix} \mu_{\alpha} \\ \mu_{\beta} \end{pmatrix}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \right) \\ &\times \text{priors on } \mu_{\alpha}, \mu_{\beta}, \sigma_{\text{reg}}^2, \sigma_{\alpha}^2, \sigma_{\beta}^2, \rho \end{aligned}$$

# Modeling intercepts and slopes for $> 1$ slope

See Gelman and Hill, pages 376-380

## Some special notation when we assume no correlation among

- ▶ We assume that there is a single variance for all parameters such that  $\mathbf{\Sigma} = \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}$ , where  $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity matrix with ones on the diagonal and zeros elsewhere.
- ▶ We assume that each parameter has its own variance  $\sigma_i^2$  and the random variables are uncorrelated such that  $\mathbf{\Sigma} = \mathbf{I} \sigma^{2'}$ .

## Priors on group level variances

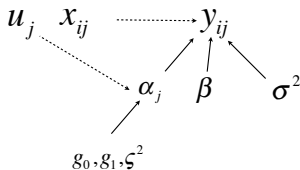
- ▶ Best practice for JAGS when there are several groups (rule of thumb,  $\geq 4$ ):

$$\sigma_{\beta} \sim \text{uniform} \underbrace{(0, 200)}_{\text{properly scaled}} \quad (3)$$

$$\tau_{\beta} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\beta}^2} \quad (4)$$

- ▶ See Gelman. 2006 Prior distributions for variance parameters in hierarchical models. Bayesian Analysis, 1:1–19 for small number of groups or when variance fails to converge.

# An essential coding trick: Indexing groups



$$\begin{aligned}
 [\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}^2, \mathbf{g}, \boldsymbol{\zeta}^2, \mathbf{y}] &\propto \prod_{i=1}^{n_j} \prod_{j=1}^J \text{normal}(y_{ij} | \alpha_j + \beta x_{ij}, \sigma^2) \\
 &\times \text{normal}(\alpha_j | g_0 + g_1 u_j, \zeta^2) \\
 &\times \text{normal}(\beta | 0, .001) \text{normal}(g_0 | 0, 1000) \times \text{normal}(g_1 | 0, 1000) \\
 &\times \text{inverse gamma}(\sigma^2 | .001, .001) \text{uniform}(\zeta | 0, 200)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Indexing groups

```
> u  
[1] 6.215579 8.716296 10.064460 11.292387 14.504154 14.734861  
[7] 18.356877 18.910133
```

```
> head(y[,1:4])  
      group i      x[i]      y[i]  
[1,]      1 1 -0.00266051 13.48934  
[2,]      1 2  4.54802848 22.29538  
[3,]      1 3  9.86832462 29.03655  
[4,]      1 4  0.99869789 18.61136  
[5,]      1 5  1.27733200 20.59178  
[6,]      1 6  4.32915675 25.37082  
> tail(y[,1:4])  
      group i      x[i]      y[i]  
[108,]     8 108 4.543959 38.93163  
[109,]     8 109 1.287844 34.65796  
[110,]     8 110 6.642313 40.62259  
[111,]     8 111 7.404183 40.46518  
[112,]     8 112 8.252571 41.47995  
[113,]     8 113 9.558780 46.14771
```

# Indexing groups

```
model{
  beta ~ dnorm(0,.0001)
  sigma ~ dunif(0,50)
  tau.p <- 1/sigma^2
  g0 ~ dnorm(0,.0001)
  g1 ~ dnorm(0,.0001)
  varsigma ~ dunif(0,50)
  tau.g <- 1/varsigma^2
  for (i in 1:length(y)){
    mu[i] <- alpha[group[i]]+ beta*x[i]
    y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i],tau.p)
  }
  for(j in 1:n.group){
    mu.g[j] <- g0 + g1*u[j]
    alpha[j]~dnorm(mu.g[j],tau.g)
  }
}
```

## Creating an index for a group

Assume you have a data frame (or tibble) called `y` with a column for sites containing a character code describing each site, i.e. `y$site_code`. There are multiple observations within each site. How would you create a sequential index such that each site has its own, unique integer value corresponding to the site code, something like `y$site_index`?<sup>3</sup>

```
library(dplyr) # or library(tidyverse)
y = y %>% mutate(site_index = as.integer(as.factor(site_code)))
```

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<sup>3</sup>The `tidyverse` packages, particularly `dplyr` are spectacular.