Analyzing cross-over trials with the package LMMstar

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In the context of a cross-over trail, this vignette discusses

- (i) how mixed model generalizes t-tests
- (ii) modeling choices regarding the variance-covariance structure implied by the choice of the repetition variable (period or treatment).

We will use to the following R packages:

```
library(LMMstar)
library(ggplot2)
```

1 Illustrative dataset

The bloodpressureL dataset:

```
data(bloodpressureL, package = "LMMstar")
head(bloodpressureL)
```

```
id sequence treatment period duration
1
   1
           ABC
                                  1
                                          1.9
                                  2
2
   1
           ABC
                         В
                                          2.9
                         C
3
                                  3
                                          4.3
   1
           ABC
   2
                          Α
           ABC
                                  1
                                          1.4
   2
                         В
                                  2
5
           ABC
                                          2.3
6
           ABC
                          C
                                  3
                                          3.0
```

originates from a cross-over trial comparing the impact of three formulations of a drug on the blood pressure. The study was conducted on 12 male volunteers randomly divided into tree groups (sequence) and receiving each of the three formulations (treatment) with a wash-out period of one week. The outcome variable is duration where a larger duration indicate a better outcome as the blood pressure is under control for a longer time. While there are not missing values in this dataset:

```
sum(is.na(bloodpressureL))
```

only 3 out of the 6 possible sequences of treatment have been allocated:

levels(bloodpressureL\$sequence)

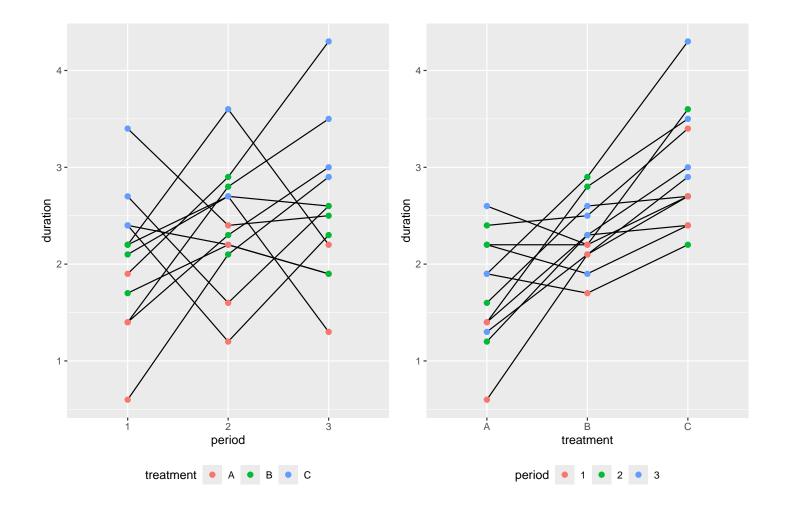
[1] "ABC" "BCA" "CAB"

A spaghetti plot provides a graphical representation of the dataset, with either period or treatment on the x-axis:

```
ggTime <- ggplot(bloodpressureL, aes(x = period, y = duration, group = id))
ggTime <- ggTime + geom_line() + geom_point(aes(color = treatment), size = 2)
ggTime</pre>
```

or

```
ggTreat <- ggplot(bloodpressureL, aes(x = treatment, y = duration, group = id))
ggTreat <- ggTreat + geom_line() + geom_point(aes(color = period), size = 2)
ggTreat</pre>
```



2 Matching the t-test results

One can use a paired t-test to assess the treatment effect when there is not missing values and no covariate to adjusted on (in particular no period effect). It is easier to carry-out with the wide format of the dataset:

```
id sequence duration.A period.A duration.B period.B duration.C period.C
    1
            ABC
                        1.9
                                    1
                                              2.9
                                                           2
                                                                     4.3
1
                                                                                 3
    2
            ABC
                        1.4
                                    1
                                              2.3
                                                           2
                                                                     3.0
                                                                                 3
7
    3
            ABC
                        1.4
                                    1
                                              2.8
                                                           2
                                                                     3.5
                                                                                 3
   4
                                                           2
            ABC
                        0.6
                                    1
                                              2.1
                                                                     2.9
                                                                                 3
10
    5
            BCA
                        2.2
                                    3
                                              2.2
                                                                     3.6
                                                                                 2
13
                                                           1
            BCA
                        1.3
                                    3
                                                                     2.7
                                                                                 2
    6
                                              2.1
                                                           1
16
```

For instance we can compare drug B and A using:

```
t.test(bloodpressureW$duration.B - bloodpressureW$duration.A)
```

```
One Sample t-test

data: bloodpressureW$duration.B - bloodpressureW$duration.A

t = 2.9, df = 11, p-value = 0.015

alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

0.13805 1.01195

sample estimates:

mean of x

0.575
```

To retrieve the same results with a linear mixed model, one can use treatment as indexing the repetitions, i.e., model a treatment specific variance and correlation:

```
eTreat.lmm2tt <- lmm(duration \sim treatment, repetition = \simtreatment|id, data = bloodpressureL) model.tables(eTreat.lmm2tt)
```

```
estimate se df lower upper p.value (Intercept) 1.7250 0.16703 11.002 1.35739 2.0926 5.3415e-07 treatmentB 0.5750 0.19853 10.998 0.13804 1.0120 1.4542e-02 treatmentC 1.2583 0.22578 10.998 0.76137 1.7553 1.6701e-04
```



using period as the repetition variable, i.e., modeling a period specific variance and correlation, would lead to different estimates:

```
ePeriod.lmm2tt <- lmm(duration \sim treatment, repetition = \simperiod|id, data = bloodpressureL) model.tables(ePeriod.lmm2tt)
```

```
estimate se df lower upper p.value (Intercept) 1.68755 0.20349 4.7145 1.15478 2.2203 5.5048e-04 treatmentB 0.58766 0.19895 14.4584 0.16223 1.0131 1.0173e-02 treatmentC 1.16557 0.19654 11.9624 0.73718 1.5939 7.0104e-05
```

As shown in appendix A.2, this mixed model considers both the variable treatment and period when deciding how much each observation contributes to the estimation of a given parameter. On one side, it makes sense that an observation taken at a period with large variance should contribute less to parameter estimation compared to an observation taken at a period with low variance. On the other side, it can be suprising that treatment B outcomes can contribute to the estimation of treatment A. This is however not the case in absence of period effects since the weights sum to 0 for treatment B and C when estimating the intercept.



using a random intercept model instead would lead to the same estimate but a different p-value:

```
eTreat.RI <- lmm(duration \sim treatment + (1|id), data = bloodpressureL) model.tables(eTreat.RI)
```

```
estimate se df lower upper p.value (Intercept) 1.7250 0.15192 29.483 1.41452 2.03548 2.7569e-12 treatmentB 0.5750 0.18673 22.000 0.18774 0.96226 5.4846e-03 treatmentC 1.2583 0.18673 22.000 0.87107 1.64560 8.9931e-07
```

as it makes more restrictive assumptions (homoschedasticity, equal correlation).

3 Accounting for a period effect

A natural extension of the t-test to adjust for a possible period effect on the average outcome is to consider the corresponding mixed model (i.e. treatment as repetition) and add period in the mean model:

```
eTreat.lmm <- lmm(duration ~ treatment + period, repetition = ~treatment|id, data = bloodpressureL) summary(eTreat.lmm)
```

```
Linear Mixed Model
Dataset: bloodpressureL
  - 12 clusters
  - 36 observations
  - 3 observations per cluster
Summary of the outcome and covariates:
    $ duration : num 1.9 2.9 4.3 1.4 2.3 3 1.4 2.8 3.5 0.6 ...
    $ treatment: Factor w/ 3 levels "A", "B", "C": 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 ...
    $ period : Factor w/ 3 levels "1","2","3": 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 ...
    reference level: treatment=A;period=1
Estimation procedure
  - Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML)
  - log-likelihood :-21.065
  - parameters: mean = 5, variance = 3, correlation = 3
  - convergence: TRUE (17 iterations)
    largest |score| = 8.738e-05 for rho(A,B)
            |change| = 2.65176445995996e-06 \text{ for } rho(A,B)
Residual variance-covariance: unstructured
  - correlation structure: ~0 + treatment
    A 1.000 0.133 0.353
    B 0.133 1.000 0.759
    C 0.353 0.759 1.000
  - variance structure: ~treatment
            standard.deviation ratio
                        0.524 1.000
    sigma.A
    sigma.B
                        0.330 0.629
                         0.564 1.075
    sigma.C
```

Fixed effects: duration ~ treatment + period

df: Satterthwaite approximation w.r.t. model-based se.

se: Modeled based on the observed information.

Here because the design is balanced in term of period across treatments, we obtain the same estimates for the difference in treatment effect as if we do not adjust for period. However the estimated mean outcome under each treatment (say treatment A) now depends on all observations (and not only observations under treatment A). See appendix A.3 for details.

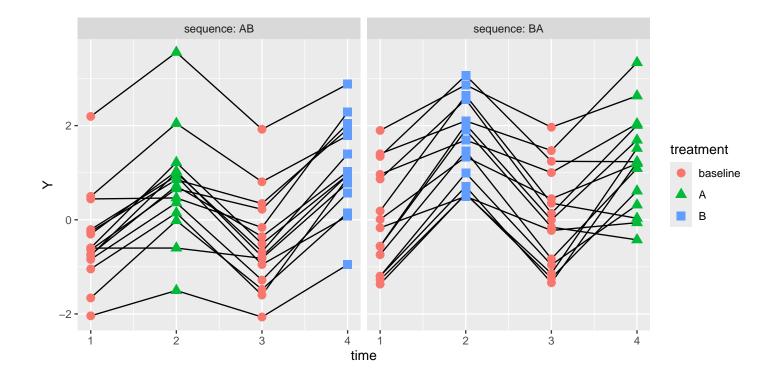
What if there is a baseline measurement? 4

Consider now another study design where all patients have a baseline measurement before receiving each treatment. As an illustrative example we will consider the following illustrative dataset:

```
rho \leftarrow c(AB = 0.3, bb = 0.9, bA = 0.7, bB = 0.6)
SigmaBCO <- rbind(cbind(matrix(c(1,rho["bA"],rho["bA"],1),2,2),</pre>
                        matrix(c(rho["bb"],rho["bA"],rho["bB"],rho["AB"]),2,2)),
                  cbind(matrix(c(rho["bb"],rho["bB"],rho["bA"],rho["AB"]),2,2),
                        matrix(c(1,rho["bB"],rho["bB"],1),2,2)))
muBCO \leftarrow c(b1 = 0, A = 1, b2 = 0, B = 1.5)
library(mvtnorm)
set.seed(10)
n.obs <- 15
M1 <- data.frame(id = 1:n.obs, sequence = "AB",
                 rmvnorm(n.obs, mean = muBCO, sigma = SigmaBCO))
names(M1)[3:6] <- paste0("T",1:4)
M2 <- data.frame(id = n.obs+(1:n.obs), sequence = "BA",
                 rmvnorm(n.obs, mean = muBCO[c(1,4,3,2)],
                          sigma = SigmaBCO[c(1,4,3,2),c(1,4,3,2)]))
names(M2)[3:6] <- paste0("T",1:4)
dfL.BCO <- reshape(rbind(M1,M2), direction = "long",</pre>
                   idvar = "id", varying = names(M1)[-(1:2)], v.names = c("Y"), times = 1:4)
dfL.BCO$treatment <- "baseline"</pre>
dfL.BCO$treatment[dfL.BCO$time == 2 & dfL.BCO$sequence == "AB"] <- "A"
dfL.BCO$treatment[dfL.BCO$time == 4 & dfL.BCO$sequence == "AB"] <- "B"
dfL.BCO$treatment[dfL.BCO$time == 2 & dfL.BCO$sequence == "BA"] <- "B"
dfL.BCO$treatment[dfL.BCO$time == 4 & dfL.BCO$sequence == "BA"] <- "A"
dfL.BCO$treatment <- factor(dfL.BCO$treatment, levels = c("baseline", "A", "B"))</pre>
dfL.BCO$period <- as.character(1 + (dfL.BCO$time %in% 3:4))</pre>
dfL.BCO[dfL.BCO$id==1,]
    id sequence time
                            Y treatment period
1.1 1
             AB
                   1 -0.84169 baseline
1.2 1
             AB
                 2 0.36197
                                               1
```

```
3 -1.28127 baseline
1.3 1
           AB
                                       2
1.4 1
           AB
                4 0.57369
                                 В
                                       2
```

```
gg.BCO <- ggplot(dfL.BCO, aes(x=time, y = Y, group = id))
gg.BCO <- gg.BCO + geom_line()</pre>
gg.BCO <- gg.BCO + geom_point(aes(color = treatment, shape = treatment), size = 3)
gg.BCO <- gg.BCO + facet_wrap(~sequence, labeller = label_both)
gg.BCO
```



4.1 First time period

If we restrict the dataset to the first period (time 1 and 2):

```
dfLred.BCO <- dfL.BCO[dfL.BCO$time %in% 1:2,]
```

we obtain a standard 2 arm randomized trial. A linear mixed model with baseline constraint:

```
e0.lmm <- lmm(Y ~ treatment, repetition =~time|id, data = dfLred.BCO) model.tables(e0.lmm)
```

```
estimate se df lower upper p.value (Intercept) -0.23175 0.19023 29.005 -0.62081 0.15731 2.3294e-01 treatmentA 1.12010 0.15613 28.838 0.80070 1.43950 6.9791e-08 treatmentB 1.73010 0.15613 28.838 1.41070 2.04950 6.5641e-12
```

estimates a treatment effect:

```
e0.lmm2ANCOVA <- anova(e0.lmm, effects = c("treatmentB-treatmentA=0"), multivariate=FALSE) summary(e0.lmm2ANCOVA, digits = 5)
```

Univariate Wald test

```
estimate se df lower upper p.value treatmentB-treatmentA=0 0.61 0.21653 27.8 0.16628 1.05372 0.00882 **

: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' '1.

df: Satterthwaite approximation w.r.t. model-based se.

se: Modeled based on the observed information.
```

identical to an ANCOVA:

```
Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 1.07449 0.15983 6.7226 3.2294e-07
Y.1 0.80321 0.10762 7.4631 4.9918e-08
treatment.2B 0.61000 0.22050 2.7664 1.0103e-02
```

⚠ When fitting the mixed model, the variance was on purpose modeled to be time dependent instead of treatment dependent to match the ANCOVA. In many applications, however, a treatment dependent variance and correlation is preferable:

```
eOT.lmm <- lmm(Y \sim treatment, repetition =\simtreatment|id, data = dfLred.BCO) eOT.lmm2ANCOVA <- anova(eOT.lmm, effects = c("treatmentB-treatmentA=0"), multivariate=FALSE) summary(eOT.lmm2ANCOVA, digits = 5)
```

Univariate Wald test

```
estimate se df lower upper p.value
treatmentB-treatmentA=0 0.60238 0.21631 27.7 0.15909 1.04567 0.00954 **

: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1.
df: Satterthwaite approximation w.r.t. model-based se.
se: Modeled based on the observed information.
```

Covariates: to retrieve the same point estimate between the ANCOVA and the mixed model, covariates should be included in the mixed model with a time interaction.

4.2 Multiple time periods

When considering multiple time periods one can use a similar mixed model as before, possibly adjusting for a period effect:

```
eBCO.lmm <- lmm(Y \sim 0 + period + treatment, repetition =\simtime|id, data = dfL.BCO) model.tables(eBCO.lmm)
```

```
estimate se df lower upper p.value
period1 -0.23365 0.18998 28.939 -0.62225 0.15494 2.2866e-01
period2 -0.22767 0.18847 28.829 -0.61324 0.15790 2.3687e-01
treatmentA 1.19661 0.12208 52.831 0.95173 1.44148 1.7431e-13
treatmentB 1.62931 0.12235 52.956 1.38389 1.87472 0.0000e+00
```

The corresponding treatment effect over both period is then:

```
eBCO.lmm2ANCOVA <- anova(eBCO.lmm, effects = c("treatmentB-treatmentA=0"), multivariate=FALSE) summary(eBCO.lmm2ANCOVA, digits = 5)
```

Univariate Wald test

This is close, but not identical to, averaging the ANCOVA treatment effect estimates over periods:

[1] 0.43672

⚠ In many applications, however, a treatment dependent variance and correlation is preferable:

```
eBCOT.lmm <- lmm(Y ~ 0 + period + treatment, repetition =~time|id, structure = CS(list(~treatment,~treatment)), data = dfL.BCO) model.tables(eBCOT.lmm, effects = "all")
```

```
df
               estimate
                              se
                                           lower
                                                   upper
                                                            p.value
               -0.22434 0.190420 30.812 -0.61280 0.16412 2.4776e-01
period1
period2
               -0.22920 0.190420 30.812 -0.61767 0.15926 2.3788e-01
                1.20288 0.138802 28.981 0.91899 1.48677 1.5370e-09
treatmentA
                1.61662 0.103330 28.960 1.40527 1.82797 1.1102e-15
treatmentB
                1.04573 0.132524 21.199 0.80358 1.36086
sigma
                1.05138 0.128001 35.720 0.82129 1.34593 6.8315e-01
k.A
                0.91362 0.091255 33.724 0.74573 1.11930 3.7216e-01
k.B
                0.92897 0.025392 43.269 0.85573 0.96572 2.4213e-11
rho(baseline)
rho(baseline,A) 0.73301 0.082718 23.079 0.51201 0.86300 2.6062e-05
rho(baseline,B) 0.82435 0.056386 26.233 0.66887 0.91073 4.4893e-07
                0.58845 0.121439 19.844 0.27992 0.78680 1.6645e-03
rho(A,B)
```

leading to the following treatment effect estimate:

One Sample t-test

0.47927

If, instead of the ANCOVA, the change from baseline between treatments is of interest:

```
data: c(dfW.BCO$dY[dfW.BCO$sequence == "AB"], -dfW.BCO$dY[dfW.BCO$sequence == "BA"])
t = 2.64, df = 29, p-value = 0.013
alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
    0.10826    0.85027
sample estimates:
mean of x
```

one can retrieve this results by introducing 2 new design variables:

```
(Intercept)-0.434090.26406228.838-0.974290.1061051.1105e-01treatedTRUE1.147410.14069235.0090.861791.4330271.3152e-09periodBTRUE-0.065530.07110128.992-0.210950.0798893.6432e-01sequenceBA:treatedFALSE0.474920.37082628.037-0.284631.2344832.1079e-01sequenceBA:treatedTRUE0.525100.32569728.013-0.142051.1922411.1812e-01treatedTRUE:periodBTRUE0.479270.18140128.9880.108250.8502791.3146e-02
```

where the coefficient of interest in the last line, among the treatment periods (A or B) whether there is a difference between being under treatment B or treatment A.

Appendix A Mixed model estimator as a weighted average

A.1 Treatment as repetition variable

Consider the linear mixed model matching the t-test results when estimating the treatment effect:

```
eTreat.lmm2tt <- lmm(duration \sim treatment, repetition = \simtreatment|id, data = bloodpressureL) coef(eTreat.lmm2tt)
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC 1.7250 0.5750 1.2583
```

The estimates correspond to a Generalized Least Squared (GLS) estimator defined by:

- a block diagonal covariance matrix with element
- a design matrix with element:

```
X1 <- model.matrix(eTreat.lmm2tt)
head(X1,3)</pre>
```

```
[,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 0.3347727 -0.0072727 0.047727
[2,] -0.0072727 0.1236364 0.162727
[3,] 0.0477273 0.1627273 0.372424
```

The corresponding projector weight each observation:

- proportionally to the sample size for treatments related to the regression parameter
- 0 otherwise:

```
P1 <- solve(t(X1) %*% solve(Omega1) %*% X1) %*% t(X1) %*% solve(Omega1) vecP1 <- apply(round(P1,4), MARGIN = 1, FUN = table, y = bloodpressureL$treatment) vecP1
```

Φ((Intercent)(<pre>\$treatmentB</pre>	treatmentC
\$'(Intercept)' A B C	A B C	A B C
0 0 12 12	-0.0833 12 0 0	-0.0833 12 0 0
0.0833 12 0 0	0 0 0 12	0 0 12 0
total 1 0 0	0.0833 0 12 0	0.0833 0 0 12
total 1 0 0	total -1 1 0	total -1 0 1

We can verify that we retrieve the mixed model estimates:

```
(P1 %*% bloodpressureL$duration)[,1]
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC 1.7250 0.5750 1.2583
```

A.2 Period as repetition variable

Consider the same linear mixed model but with period as repetition variable:

```
ePeriod.lmm2tt <- lmm(duration \sim treatment, repetition = \simperiod|id, data = bloodpressureL) coef(ePeriod.lmm2tt)
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC
1.68755 0.58766 1.16557
```

The estimates correspond to a Generalized Least Squared (GLS) estimator defined by:

- a block diagonal covariance matrix with elements
- a design matrix with element:

```
X2 <- model.matrix(eTreat.lmm2tt)
X2[1:3,1:3]</pre>
```

```
[,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 0.229440 0.082455 0.01444
[2,] 0.082455 0.249826 0.11704
[3,] 0.014440 0.117040 0.36480
```

The weighting of the observations is less intuitive as all treatments contribute, to various extends, to each regression parameter.

```
P2 <- solve(t(X2) %*% solve(Omega2) %*% X2) %*% t(X2) %*% solve(Omega2)
vecP2 <- apply(round(P2,4), MARGIN = 1, FUN = table, y = bloodpressureL$treatment,
simplify = FALSE)
```

<pre>\$'(Intercept)'</pre>	<pre>\$treatmentB</pre>	<pre>\$treatmentC</pre>
A B C	A B C	A B C
-0.0156 0 4 0	-0.1052 4 0 0	-0.1078 4 0 0
-0.0129 0 0 4	-0.102 4 0 0	-0.0734 4 0 0
-0.0123 0 4 0	-0.0429 4 0 0	-0.0688 4 0 0
-0.0053 0 0 4	-0.0306 0 0 4	-0.0332 0 4 0
0.0182 0 0 4	-0.0026 0 0 4	0.0026 040
0.0279 0 4 0	0.0332 0 0 4	0.0306 040
0.0611 4 0 0	0.0688 0 4 0	0.0429 0 0 4
0.0922 4 0 0	0.0734 0 4 0	0.102 0 0 4
0.0967 4 0 0	0.1078 0 4 0	0.1052 0 0 4
total 1 0 0	total -1 1 0	total -1 0 1

We can verify that we retrieve the mixed model estimates:

```
(P2 %*% bloodpressureL$duration)[,1]
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC 1.68755 0.58766 1.16557
```

A.3 Treatment as repetition variable, adjusted for period

We now consider the linear mixed model similar to the t-test but adjusting for period:

```
eTreat.lmm <- lmm(duration ~ treatment + period, repetition = ~treatment|id, data = bloodpressureL) coef(eTreat.lmm)
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC period2 period3
1.54915 0.57500 1.25833 0.19991 0.32764
```

As before we extract the residual-variance covariance matrix and the design matrix:

to understand how the GLS estimator weight each observation:

```
P3 <- solve(t(X3) %*% solve(Omega3) %*% X3) %*% t(X3) %*% solve(Omega3) vecP3 <- apply(round(P3,4), MARGIN = 1, FUN = table, y = bloodpressureL$treatment) vecP3
```

```
$'(Intercept)'
       A B C
-0.0828 0 4 0
-0.0497 0 0 4
                          $treatmentB
                                                     $treatmentC
-0.0134 0 4 0
                                  A B C
                                                             A B C
-0.0048 0 0 4
                          -0.0833 12 0 0
                                                     -0.0833 12 0 0
0.0546 0 0 4
                                  0 0 12
                                                             0 12 0
                          0.0833 0 12 0
0.0631 4 0 0
                                                     0.0833
                                                             0 0 12
0.0876 4 0 0
                          total -1 1 0
                                                     total -1 0 1
0.0962 040
0.0992 4 0 0
total 100
```

We can verify that we retrive the mixed model estimates:

```
(P3 %*% bloodpressureL$duration)[,1]
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC period2 period3
1.54915 0.57500 1.25833 0.19991 0.32764
```

A.4 Period as repetition variable, adjusted for period

We now consider the linear mixed model similar to the t-test but adjusting for period:

```
ePeriod.lmm <- lmm(duration ~ treatment + period, repetition = ~period|id, data = bloodpressureL) coef(ePeriod.lmm)
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC period2 period3
1.31867 0.74657 1.39742 0.35833 0.55000
```

As before we extract the residual-variance covariance matrix and the design matrix:

to understand how the GLS estimator weight each observation:

```
P4 <- solve(t(X4) %*% solve(Omega4) %*% X4) %*% t(X4) %*% solve(Omega4) vecP4 <- apply(round(P4,4), MARGIN = 1, FUN = table, y = bloodpressureL$treatment) vecP4
```

<pre>\$'(Intercept)'</pre>	<pre>\$treatmentB</pre>	<pre>\$treatmentC</pre>
A B C	A B C	A B C
-0.0442 0 4 0	-0.1389 4 0 0	-0.1329 4 0 0
-0.0385 0 0 4	-0.0738 4 0 0	-0.0849 4 0 0
0.0032 0 4 0	-0.0477 0 0 4	-0.0417 0 4 0
0.0035 0 0 4	-0.0373 4 0 0	-0.0321 4 0 0
0.035 0 0 4	0.006 0 0 4	-0.006 040
0.0353 4 0 0	0.0321 040	0.0373 0 0 4
0.0407 4 0 0	0.0417 0 0 4	0.0477 0 4 0
0.041 0 4 0	0.0849 0 4 0	0.0738 0 0 4
0.1739 4 0 0	0.1329 0 4 0	0.1389 0 0 4
total 1 0 0	total -1 1 0	total -1 0 1

We can verify that we retrieve the mixed model estimates:

```
(P4 %*% bloodpressureL$duration)[,1]
```

```
(Intercept) treatmentB treatmentC period2 period3
1.31867 0.74657 1.39742 0.35833 0.55000
```