

# Linear Mixed-Effects Models

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# Model specification

- specifying fixed effects
- specifying random effects

# Categorical predictors

- Recommendation: Make your own, don't rely on R defaults.  
Why?
  - model comparison doesn't work with variables of type `factor`
  - defaults don't support ANOVA-style interpretation

# LMEM versus t-test

You have run a study looking at the effects of alcohol consumption on simple reaction time. Data is stored in the tables `subjects` and `simple_rt`. Subjects (`sub`) were randomly assigned to one of two groups (`cond`). One group drank alcohol before performing the task, while the other had a placebo drink.

As a dependent variable, you measured how quickly each subject pressed a button in response to a flashing light (`RT`, in milliseconds). Each subject provided 8 measurements. Remove data from subjects S01 and S11 before analysis.

# $t$ -test on subject means (1)

simple\_rt.zip

```
library("tidyverse")

subjects <- read_csv("simple_rt/subjects.csv",
                     col_types = "icc",
                     progress = FALSE)

simple_rt <- read_csv("simple_rt/simple_rt.csv",
                     col_types = "icci",
                     progress = FALSE)

combined <- subjects %>%
  filter(sub != "S01",
         sub != "S11") %>%
  inner_join(simple_rt, "sub") %>%
  select(sub, cond, RT)

subj_means <- combined %>%
  group_by(sub, cond) %>%
  summarise(mean_RT = mean(RT),
            .groups = "drop")

subj_means
```

```
# A tibble: 14 × 3
  sub   cond   mean_RT
  <chr> <chr>   <dbl>
1 S02   placebo  514.
2 S03   placebo  528.
3 S04   alcohol  507
4 S05   placebo  476.
5 S06   alcohol  450.
6 S07   placebo  488.
7 S08   placebo  411.
8 S09   alcohol  430.
9 S10   alcohol  458.
10 S12   alcohol  537.
11 S13   alcohol  500
12 S14   placebo  434.
13 S15   placebo  393.
14 S16   alcohol  425
```

# t-test on subject means (2)

```
t.test(mean_RT ~ cond,  
       subj_means, var.equal = TRUE)
```

Two Sample t-test

```
data: mean_RT by cond  
t = 0.35278, df = 12, p-value = 0.7304  
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means  
between group alcohol and group placebo is not equal  
to 0  
95 percent confidence interval:  
-46.21515 64.07230  
sample estimates:  
mean in group alcohol mean in group placebo  
472.2500 463.3214
```

# Random-intercepts LMEM

Level 1:

$$Y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{ij} + e_{ij}$$

Level 2:

$$\beta_0 = \gamma_{00} + S_{0i}$$

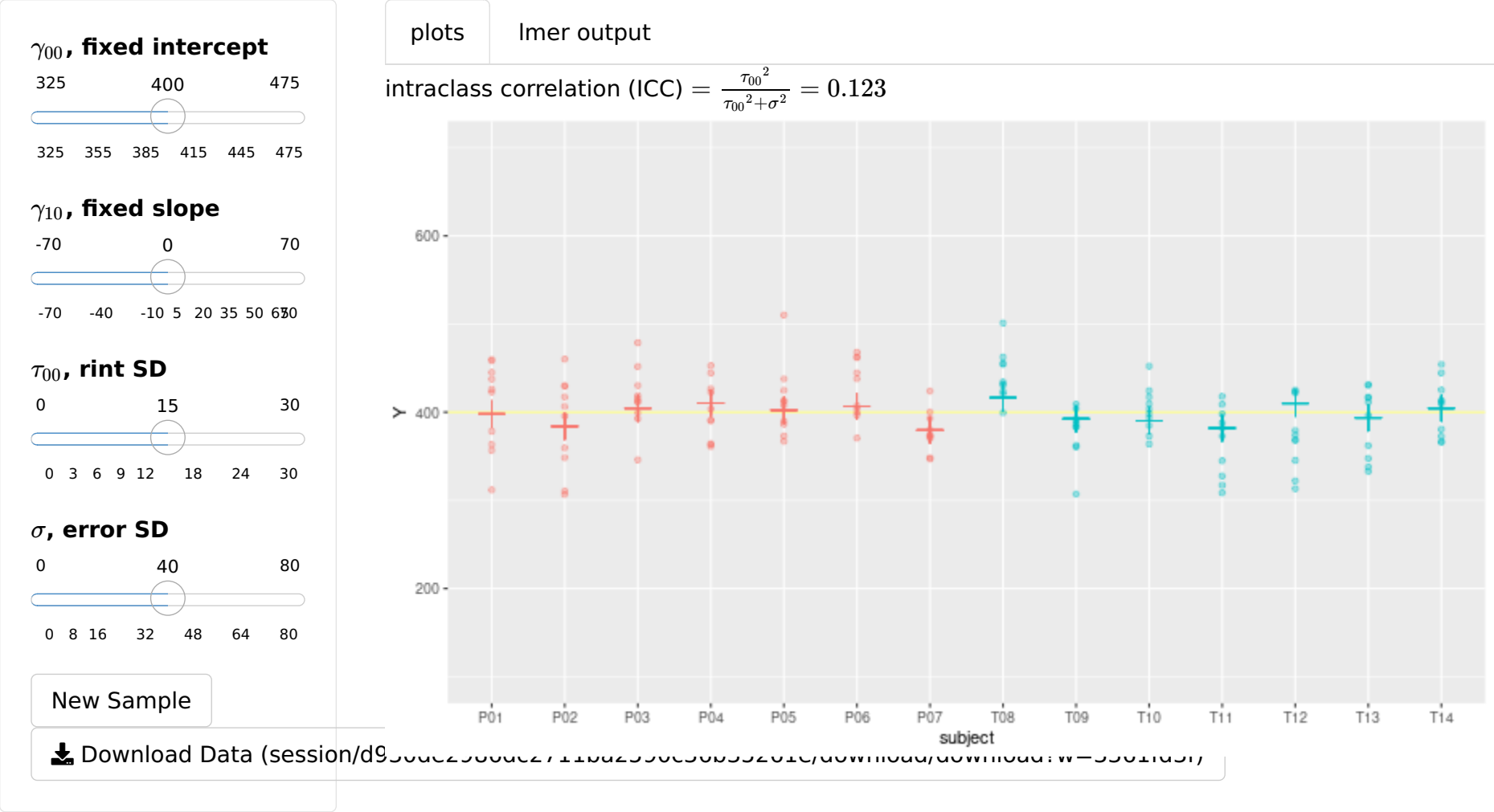
$$\beta_1 = \gamma_{10}$$

Variance Components

$$S_{0i} \sim N(0, \tau_{00}^2)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

# Random intercepts with ICC





For multi-level data, random-intercepts linear mixed-effects modeling can replace these analyses:

### **between-subjects**

- one-sample t-test
- independent samples t-test
- one-way ANOVA

### **within/mixed designs**

- paired samples t-test
- repeated-measures one-way ANOVA
- fully-within factorial ANOVA
- mixed-design ANOVA

*NB: one obs per factor/cell*

# Rules for random effects (1)

Always include random intercepts for any random factor (e.g., subjects) where you have multiple observations on the DV.

$Y \sim (1 \mid \text{subject})$

Do I also need a random slope for factor  $A$ ?

1.  $A$  is within-subjects
2. multiple observations per level of  $A$

$Y \sim A + (1 + A \mid \text{subject})$

# Rules for random effects (2)

What random slopes do I need for interaction ABC?

- identify highest-order combination of within factors
- if you have multiple observations per level of that factor / per cell of those factors, then you need a random slope for that factor / interaction of factors

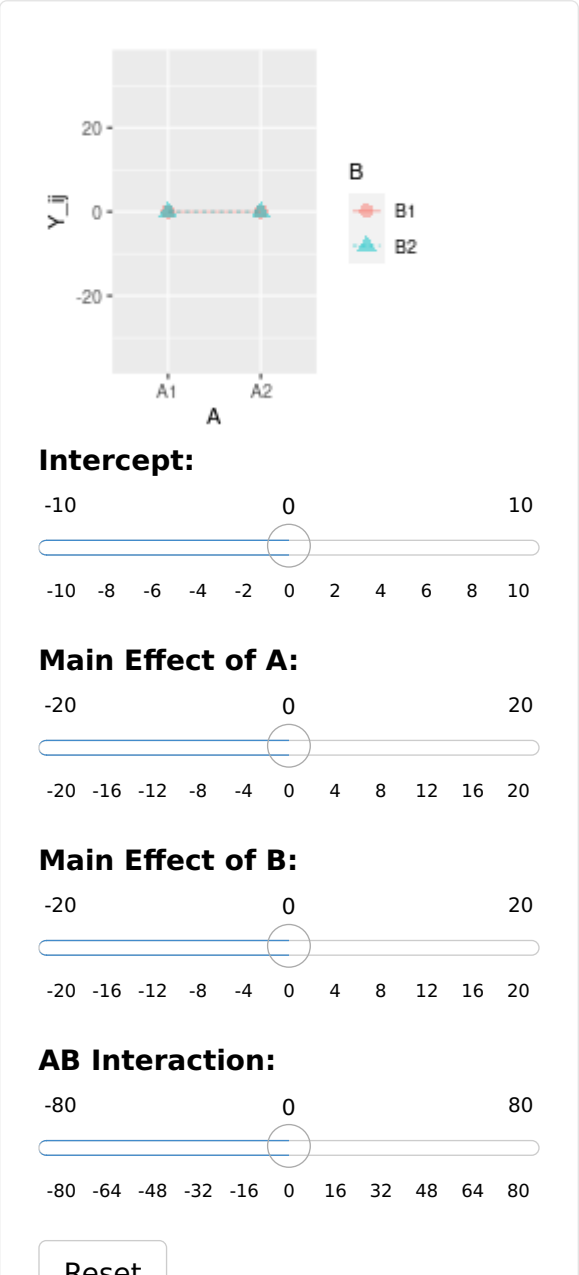
# Coding factorial predictors

Scheme	$A_1$	$A_2$
Treatment (dummy)	0	1
Sum	−1	1
Deviation	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

Choice of a coding scheme impacts interpretation of:

1. the intercept term; and
2. the interpretation of the tests for all but the highest-order effects and interactions in a factorial design.

# Main Effects and Interactions: 2x2 Factorial



## ANOVA

Cell and Marginal Means

	B1	B2	
A1	0	0	0
A2	0	0	0
	0	0	NA

## Simple Effects

eff		eff	
A@B1	0	B@A1	0
A@B2	0	B@A2	0

## Decomposition of Cell Means

cell	Y_ij	int	A_i	B_j	AB_ij
A1B1	0	0	0	0	0
A1B2	0	0	0	0	0
A2B1	0	0	0	0	0
A2B2	0	0	0	0	0

## Regression

### Coding of A

Dummy (A1=0, A2=1)

### Coding of B

Dummy (B1=0, B2=1)

$$Y_{ijk} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 A_i + \beta_2 B_j + \beta_3 AB_{ij} + e_{ijk}$$

$$Y_{ijk} = 0 + 0A_i + 0B_j + 0AB_{ij} + e_{ijk}$$

cell	Y_ij	b0	b1	A_i	b2	B_j
A1B1	0	-0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00
A1B2	0	-0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.00	1.00
A2B1	0	-0.00	0.00	1.00	-0.00	0.00
A2B2	0	-0.00	0.00	1.00	-0.00	1.00