* The simulation results from frequentist methods shows the fixed cubic spline with random intercept has very similar performance as the GAM. The, the Bayesian stan model, I used fixed spline with random intercept first since site-specific spline can be very challenging due to large number of parameters to be estimated.

**Simulation results (1) 200 iteration:**

**Frequentist GAM**

**fitgam <- gam(y ~ A + s(k, site, bs = "fs", k = 5), data = dd, method="REML")**

bias rmse true\_value.se est.se coverage

0.018 0.575 0.576 0.234 59.500

**Bayesian GAM using posterior median**

**brm(y ~ A + s(k, site, bs = "fs", k = 5), data = dd, family = gaussian(), #cores = 4,**

**iter = 2500, warmup = 500, refresh = 0,**

**control = list(adapt\_delta = 0.9))**

bias rmse coverage

0.018 0.574 60.000

**Bayesian GAM using posterior mean**

bias rmse coverage

0.018 0.574 60.000

09/11

Since spline can generate ns and bs, can I just update this step to be the cluster-specific spline and then fit the model, instead of define cluster in the stan code? But before that make sure the stan code with cluster specific spline is working or not.