Modeling Growth 1

Daniel Andersor Week 5

Agenda

- Thinking flexibly about time
 - Coefficient interpretation by time coding
- A few methods for handling non-linearity

Note

The last bullet is not necessarily specific to growth models

The data

Sample of the Children of the National Longitudinal Study of Youth

Outcome = piat = Peabody Individual Achievement Test

Please read in cnlsy.csv now

```
library(tidyverse)
d <- read_csv(here::here("data", "cnlsy.csv"))</pre>
```



Look at the data

d

```
# A tibble: 267 x 5
##
       id wave agegrp age piat
   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <
##
             1 6.5 6
##
                              18
##
   2
            2 8.5 8.333333 35
3 10.5 10.33333
                              59
            1 6.5 6
                              18
             2 8.5 8.5
                              25
             3 10.5 10.58333 28
          1 6.5 6.083333
                              18
          2 8.5 8.416667
                              23
            3 10.5 10.41667
                              32
## 10
               6.5 6
                              18
## # ... with 257 more rows
```

Fit a basic model

Please try to fit a model that accounts for the within—subjects design in some way and includes a random intercept and slope.

02:00

Interpret

arm::display(m_wave)

```
\#\# lmer(formula = piat ~ wave c + (wave c | id), data = d)
##
             coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 21.16 0.62
## wave c 10.06 0.59
##
## Error terms:
                Std.Dev. Corr
## Groups Name
## id (Intercept) 3.38
          wave c 4.24 0.22
##
                    5.20
## Residual
## ---
## number of obs: 267, groups: id, 89
## AIC = 1830.4, DIC = 1821.5
## deviance = 1819.9
```

But what does a one unit increase in wave_c actually mean?

More meaningful

• Note that each wave is tied to a specific age group (the approximate age of participants at that age). Can we use this? Try!



Interpret

What does the intercept mean here? Age group?

```
arm::display(m_agegrp)
```

```
## lmer(formula = piat ~ agegrp + (agegrp | id), data = d, control = lmerCo
           coef.est coef.se
##
## (Intercept) -11.54 2.21
## agegrp 5.03 0.30
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name Std.Dev. Corr
## id (Intercept) 13.43
      agegrp 2.12 -0.97
##
## Residual
              5.20
## ---
## number of obs: 267, groups: id, 89
## AIC = 1831.8, DIC = 1820.1
## deviance = 1819.9
```

How do we fix the intercept?

Centering

Let's center age group on the first time point

Interpret

What does the intercept represent now?

```
arm::display(m_agegrp2)
```

```
## lmer(formula = piat ~ agegrp c + (agegrp c | id), data = d, control = ln
            coef.est coef.se
##
## (Intercept) 21.16 0.62
## agegrp c 5.03 0.30
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name
                Std.Dev. Corr
## id (Intercept) 3.38
   agegrp_c 2.12 0.22
##
                   5.20
## Residual
## ---
## number of obs: 267, groups: id, 89
\#\# AIC = 1831.8, DIC = 1820.1
## deviance = 1819.9
```

Pop Quiz: Without looking, how do you think the fit of the model has changed?

Comparing fit

```
library(performance)
compare_performance(m_agegrp, m_agegrp2) %>%
  print_md()
```

Table: Comparison of Model Performance Indices

| Name | Model | AIC | BIC | R2 (cond.) | R2 (marg.) | ICC | RMSE | Sigma |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|---------------|------|------|-------|
| m_agegrp | ImerMod | 1831.78 | 1853.30 | 0.81 | 0.48 | 0.64 | 4.15 | 5.20 |
| m_agegrp2 | ImerMod | 1831.78 | 1853.30 | 0.81 | 0.48 | 0.64 | 4.15 | 5.20 |

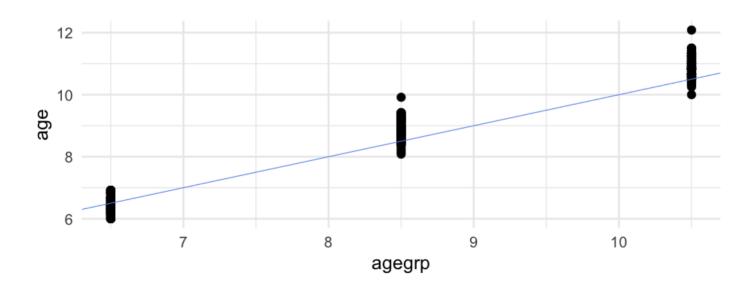
They're identical!

Slightly different

Compare model predictions

Age

• Notice that **agegrp** does not always correspond directly with their *actual* age.



Model assumptions

- When we use the **agegrp** variable, we are assuming that all children are *the exact same age* at each assessment wave.
- Although agegrp is more interpretable than wave, it doesn't solve all our problems

Fit another model with **age** as the time variable instead. How do the results compare?

02:00

Intercept

How do we want to handle this? Probably need to do something. Look at first time point

```
d %>%
  filter(wave == 1) %>%
  count(age)
```

```
## # A tibble: 12 x 2
##
           age
               n
##
        <dbl> <int>
## 1 6
## 2 6.083333
##
   3 6.166667
## 4 6.25
## 5 6.333333
                 10
## 6 6.416667
                  11
## 7 6.5
## 8 6.583333
## 9 6.666667
## 10 6.75
## 11 6.833333
## 12 6.916667
```

Centering

- I'll choose to subtract 6 from each age
- what will this value represent for students who were 6.91 years old at the first wave?
 - Backwards projection

```
d <- d %>%
  mutate(age6 = age - 6)

m_age <- lmer(piat ~ age6 + (age6|id), data = d)</pre>
```

Summary

arm::display(m_age)

```
## lmer(formula = piat ~ age6 + (age6 | id), data = d)
##
           coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 18.79 0.61
      4.54 0.26
## age6
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name Std.Dev. Corr
## id (Intercept) 2.01
## age6 1.84 0.17
## Residual
                  5.23
## ---
## number of obs: 267, groups: id, 89
## AIC = 1816.1, DIC = 1803.6
## deviance = 1803.9
```

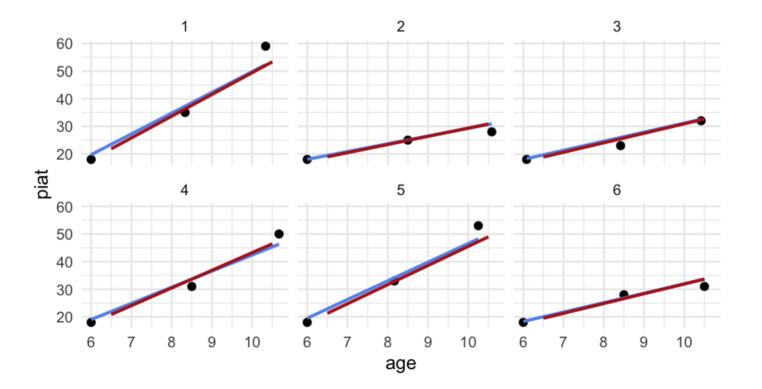
Compare fit

```
compare_performance(m_wave, m_agegrp2, m_age) %>%
  print_md()
```

Table: Comparison of Model Performance Indices

| Name | Model | AIC | BIC | R2 (cond.) | R2 (marg.) | ICC | RMSE | Sigma |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|---------------|------|------|-------|
| m_wave | ImerMod | 1830.39 | 1851.92 | 0.81 | 0.48 | 0.64 | 4.15 | 5.20 |
| m_agegrp2 | ImerMod | 1831.78 | 1853.30 | 0.81 | 0.48 | 0.64 | 4.15 | 5.20 |
| m_age | ImerMod | 1816.14 | 1837.67 | 0.81 | 0.50 | 0.62 | 4.34 | 5.23 |

Difference in predictions



Differences

The differences in the model predictions overall appear modest, but it does display better fit to the data, and the assumptions we're making are less stringent.

Changing interpretation

• In this case, our coefficient for age is interepeted in years.

On average, children gained 4.54 points on the Peabody Individual Achievement Test **per year**.

Challenge

Can you change the model so the coefficient represents monthly growth?



Solution

Just multiply age by 12 to get it coded in months.

```
d <- d %>%
  mutate(age_months = age6 * 12)
d
```

```
# A tibble: 267 x 9
##
       id wave agegrp age piat wave c agegrp c
                                                   age6 age mor
##
    <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> 
                                          <dbl>
                                                   <dbl>
##
               6.5 6
                               18
##
          2 8.5 8.333333
                               35
                                             2 2.333333
                                                         28.
   3
4
             3 10.5 10.33333
                               59
##
                                             4 4.333333
                                                         52.000
##
                6.5 6
                               18
                                             0 0
                                                         0
   5
             2 8.5 8.5
##
                               25
                                             2 2.5
                                                         30
             3 10.5 10.58333
##
                               28
                                         4 4.583333
                                                         55.000
##
          1 6.5 6.083333
                               18
                                        0 0.08333333
                                                         1.000
##
          2 8.5 8.416667
                               23
                                             2 2.416667
                                                         29.000
##
            3 10.5 10.41667
                               32
                                             4 4.416667
                                                         53.
## 10
                6.5 6
                               18
                                             0 0
## # ... with 257 more rows
```

Refit

```
m_months <- lmer(piat ~ age_months + (age_months|id), data = d,</pre>
                 control = lmerControl(optimizer = "bobyga"))
arm::display(m months)
## lmer(formula = piat ~ age months + (age months | id), data = d,
## control = lmerControl(optimizer = "bobyga"))
##
              coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 18.79 0.61
## age months 0.38 0.02
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name
                  Std.Dev. Corr
## id (Intercept) 2.01
##
           age months 0.15 0.17
## Residual
                       5.23
## ---
## number of obs: 267, groups: id, 89
\#\# AIC = 1821.1, DIC = 1798.7
## deviance = 1803.9
```

Which model fits better?

Before we test - what do you suspect?

They are not actually the same

```
compare_performance(m_age, m_months)
```

But they are essentially

```
pred_frame %>%
  mutate(pred_months = predict(m_months)[1:18]) %>%
  select(id, starts_with("pred"))
```

```
## # A tibble: 18 x 4
##
        id pred agegrp pred age pred months
##
     <dbl>
                <dbl>
                         <dbl>
                                    <dbl>
##
              21.85047 19.72314 19.72322
   1
   2 3
##
           37.59817 37.27018 37.27026
           53.34587 52.31049 52.31057
##
   4
##
           18.95405 18.04288 18.04279
   5
##
           24.89376 25.06252 25.06245
##
   6
           30.83348 30.91222 30.91217
##
   7
            18.88021 18.29429
                                18.29419
             25.75976 25.95783 25.95776
##
             32.63931 32.52659
## 9
                                 32.52655
## 10
              20.86038 19.03189 19.03190
## 11
              33.65203 33.64630
                                 33.64632
## 12
              46.44368 46.31212
                                 46.31215
## 13
              21.28110 19.49879
                                 19.49885
## 14
              35.12409 34.15691
                                 34.15697
## 15
             48.96708 48.25126
                              48.25132
             19.51079 18.32752
                              18.32747
## 16
             26.60084 26.82974 26.82970
## 17
## 18
              33.69089 33.63151
                                 33.63148
```

Another example

With more complications

Wages data

)

Please read in the wages.csv dataset.

```
wages <- read_csv(here::here("data", "wages.csv"))

##
## — Column specification
## cols(
## id = col_double(),
## lnw = col_double(),
## exper = col_double(),
## ged = col_double(),
## black = col_double(),
## black = col_double(),
## hispanic = col_double(),
## uerate = col_double()</pre>
```

02:00

Data

- Mournane, Boudett, and Willett (1999)
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth
- Studied wages of individuals who dropped out of high school

Variables

- id: Participant ID
- lnw: Natural log of wages
- exper: Experience, in years
- ged: Whether or not they completed a GED
- black, hispanic: Dummy variables for race/ethnicity
- hgc: Highest grade completed
- uerate: Unemployment rate at the time

Complications

```
wages %>% filter(id %in% c(206, 332))
```

```
\# A tibble: 13 x 8
##
        id
               lnw
                           ged black hispanic
                                               hqc uerate
                     exper
##
     <dbl>
             <dbl>
                     <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                                        <dbl> <dbl>
                                                     <dbl>
##
   1 206 2.028 1.874
                                    0
                                            0
                                                10
                                                    9.200000
   2 206 2.297 2.814
##
                                                10 11
                                            0
   3 206 2.482 4.314
##
                                                10
                                                   6.295
##
   4 332 1.63000 0.125
                                                    7.1
##
   5 332 1.476
                  1.625
                                                    9.6
   6 332 1.804 2.413000
##
                                                    7.2
                                                   6.195
##
   7 332 1.439 3.393
##
   8 332 1.748 4.47
                                                    5.595
##
   9 332 1.526 5.178
                                                   4.595
##
  10
     332 2.044 6.082
                                                 8 4.295
## 11
     332 2.179000 7.043
                                                   3.395
## 12
     332 2.186
                  8.197000
                                    0
                                                    4.395000
## 13
       332 4.035
                9.092
                                                    6.695
```

Complications

Unbalanced data

```
wages %>%
  count(id) %>%
  summarize(range = range(n))
## # A tibble: 2 x 1
```

```
## range
## <int>
## 1 1
## 2 13
```

- Participants age ranged from 14-17 at first time point
- Unequal spacing between waves

Complications

- Participants dropped out at different times, entered the workforce and different times, and switched jobs at different times
- A decision was made to clock time from their first day of work
- The **exper** variable tracks their overall time in the workforce, and time at a given salary

Fitting a model

The hard part – structuring the data – is already done.
 We really don't have to do anything special here to account for all these complexities!

arm::display(m_wage0)

```
## lmer(formula = lnw ~ exper + (exper | id), data = wages, control = lmer(
##
             coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 1.72 0.01
## exper 0.05 0.00
##
## Error terms:
                Std.Dev. Corr
## Groups Name
## id (Intercept) 0.23
##
    exper 0.04 -0.30
## Residual
                    0.31
## ---
## number of obs: 6402, groups: id, 888
## AIC = 4951.3, DIC = 4903.5
## deviance = 4921.4
```

Every one year of extra experience corresponded to a 0.05 increase in log wages, on average, which varied across participants with a standard deviation of 0.04.

Challenge

Let's fit a more interesting model. Try to fit a model that addresses the following questions:

Is the relation between experience and log wages the same across coded race/ethnicity categories? Do these relations depend on highest grade completed?



Centering

Let's center highest grade completed. You could choose whatever value makes the most sense to you. I'll choose Grade 9.

```
wages <- wages %>%
mutate(hgc_9 = hgc - 9)
```

Is this right?

If not, what is it missing?

Random effects

In the previous model, I specified **exper** as randomly varying across **id** levels.

Could or should I have set any of the other variables to vary randomly? Why or why not?

Marginal predictions

Race/Ethnicity

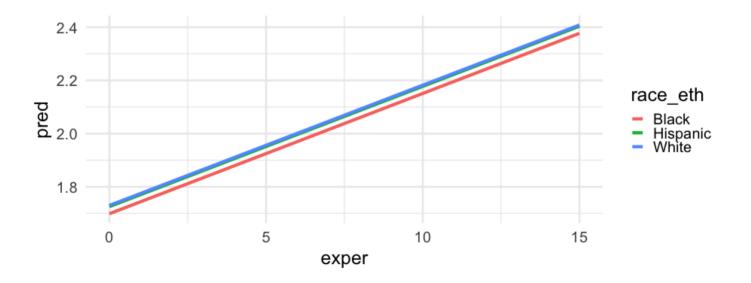
Let's create a new variable that has all the race/ethnicity *labels* instead of the dummy codes.

```
pred_frame <- pred_frame %>%
  mutate(
    race_eth = case_when(
        black == 0 & hispanic == 0 ~ "White",
        black == 1 & hispanic == 0 ~ "Black",
        black == 0 & hispanic == 1 ~ "Hispanic",
        TRUE ~ NA_character_
    )
)
```

Plots

Look at just $hgc_9 == 0$.

```
pred_frame %>%
  drop_na() %>%
  filter(hgc_9 == 0) %>%
  ggplot(aes(exper, pred)) +
  geom_line(aes(color = race_eth))
```



All hgc

Interactions

If we want to know how the *slope* may or may not depend on these variables, we have to model the interactions.

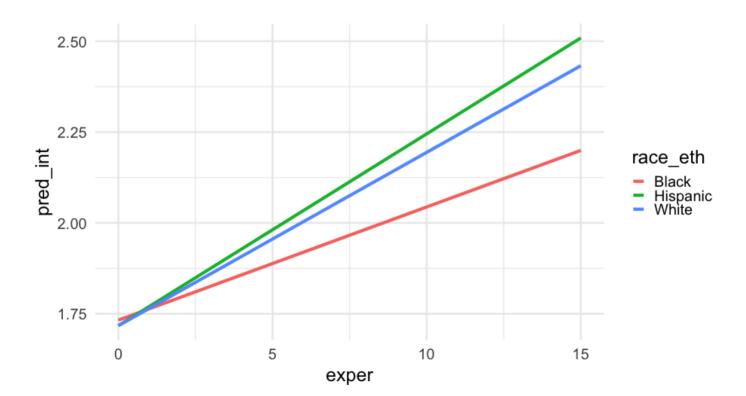
Just the two-way interactions

Reproduce the plots

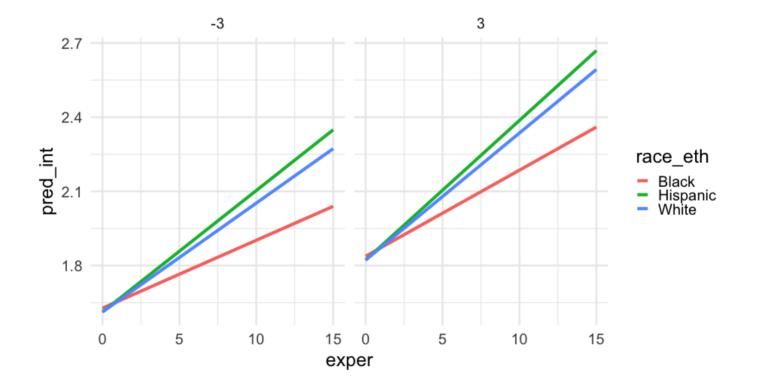
First make new predictions

Plot

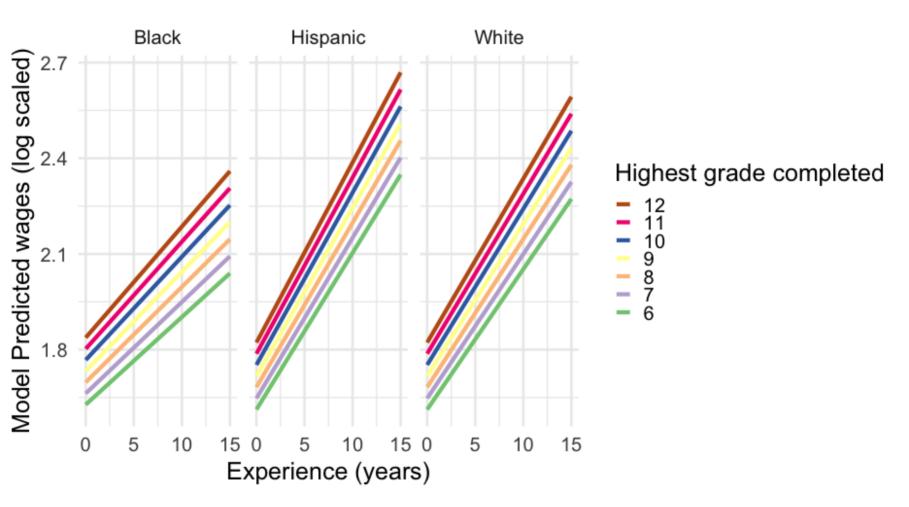
```
pred_frame %>%
  drop_na() %>%
  filter(hgc_9 == 0) %>%
  ggplot(aes(exper, pred_int)) +
  geom_line(aes(color = race_eth))
```



```
pred_frame %>%
  drop_na() %>%
  filter(hgc_9 == -3 | hgc_9 == 3) %>%
  ggplot(aes(exper, pred_int)) +
  geom_line(aes(color = race_eth)) +
  facet_wrap(~hgc_9)
```



Focus on hgc



Coefficient interpretation

Notice I started with the plots

- In presenting a model, this is generally what I would do
 - I think this generally helps interpretation
- In practice I generally start by looking at the coefficients

Model summary

arm::display(m_wage2)

```
## lmer(formula = lnw ~ exper + black + exper:black + exper:hispanic +
      hgc 9 + exper:hgc 9 + (exper | id), data = wages, control = lmerCont
##
##
               coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 1.72 0.01
## exper 0.05 0.00
## black 0.02 0.02
## hgc_9 0.03 0.01
## exper:black -0.02 0.01
## exper:hispanic 0.01 0.00
## exper:hgc 9 0.00 0.00
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name Std.Dev. Corr
## id (Intercept) 0.23
          exper 0.04 -0.31
##
## Residual
                     0.31
## ---
## number of obs: 6402, groups: id, 888
## AIC = 4955.1, DIC = 4811.9
## deviance = 4872.5
```

Handling non-linearity

The data

Simulated data to mimic a common form of non-linearity.

Notice the "true" intercept and slope for each student is actually in the data.

```
sim_d <- read_csv(here::here("data", "curvilinear-sim.csv"))
sim_d</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 2,760 x 5
##
       sid
            int
                      slope date
                                   score
##
     <dbl>
              <dbl> <dbl> <ddl> <ddl>
##
         1 31.91237 32.25614 2019-04-26 116.1638
##
         1 31.91237 32.25614 2019-04-14 50.02688
##
         1 31.91237 32.25614 2019-05-21 151.8375
   4 2 22.91502 24.05294 2019-04-25 81.93698
##
##
         2 22.91502 24.05294 2019-04-30 93.47374
##
        2 22.91502 24.05294 2019-05-24 113.8067
   7 2 22.91502 24.05294 2019-04-27 87.83396
##
##
         2 22.91502 24.05294 2019-05-29 112.8697
##
         2 22.91502 24.05294 2019-04-25 82.40156
## 10
         2 22.91502 24.05294 2019-05-27 111.8477
  # ... with 2,750 more rows
```

Complexities

Notice these data do have some complexities Unbalance

```
sim_d %>%
  count(sid) %>%
  summarize(range(n))

## # A tibble: 2 x 1
## `range(n)`
## <int>
## 1 3
## 2 8
```

Varied "starting" points

```
sim_d %>%
  arrange(sid, date) %>%
  group_by(sid) %>%
  slice(1) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  summarize(range(date))
```

```
## # A tibble: 2 x 1
## `range(date)`
## <date>
## 1 2019-04-14
## 2 2019-05-29
```

Overall date range

```
range(sim_d$date)
```

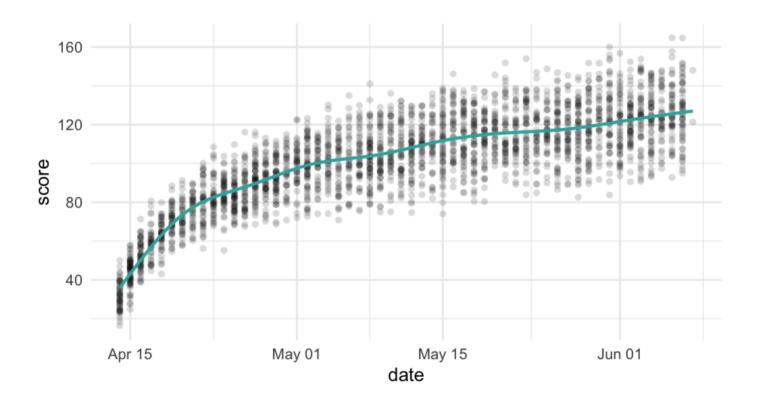
```
## [1] "2019-04-14" "2019-06-08"
```

Plot

Show the overall relation between **date** and **score**. What do you notice?

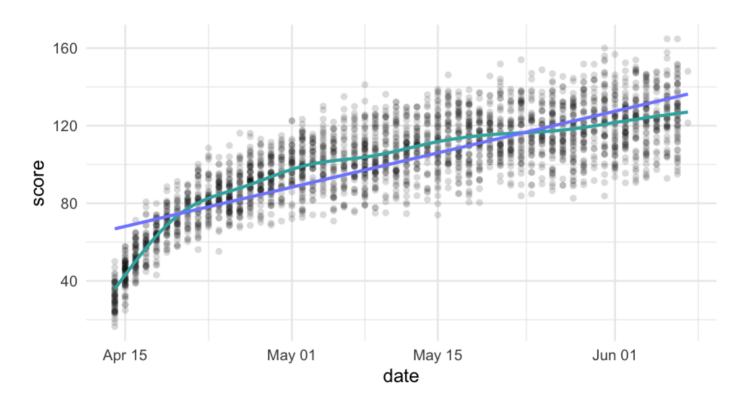


```
ggplot(sim_d, aes(date, score)) +
  geom_point(alpha = 0.15, stroke = NA) +
  geom_smooth(se = FALSE, color = "#33B1AE", size = 2)
```



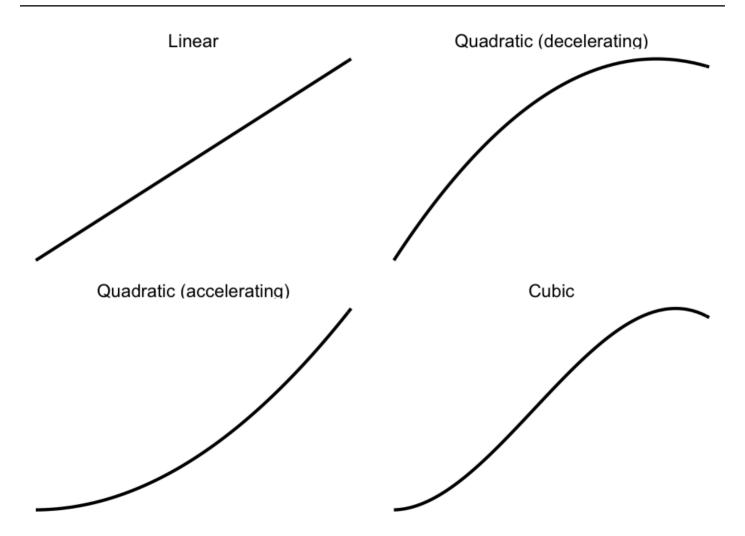
Ideas on how to model this?

```
ggplot(sim_d, aes(date, score)) +
  geom_point(alpha = 0.15, stroke = NA) +
  geom_smooth(se = FALSE, color = "#33B1AE", size = 2) +
  geom_smooth(se = FALSE, method = "lm", color = "#808AFF", size
```



Linear modeling is not going to work...

Polynomials



Fit a model

Let's try fitting a linear model and a quadratic model and see which fits better. You try fitting the linear model first, with date predicting score, and both the intercept and slope varying across students.



Center date

Let's first center date and put it in interpretable units.

I'll center it on the first time point. First – what do dates look like when converted to numbers?

```
library(lubridate)
as_date(0)

## [1] "1970-01-01"

as_date(1)

## [1] "1970-01-02"

One unit = one day.
```

Center

```
sim_d <- sim_d %>%
  mutate(
    days_from_start = as.numeric(date) - min(as.numeric(date))
)
```

Fit linear model

```
linear <- lmer(score ~ days_from_start + (days_from_start|sid),</pre>
               data = sim d,
               control = lmerControl(optimizer = "Nelder Mead"))
arm::display(linear)
## lmer(formula = score ~ days from start + (days from start | sid),
      data = sim d, control = lmerControl(optimizer = "Nelder Mead"))
##
##
                  coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 68.66 0.71
## days from start 1.22 0.02
##
## Error terms:
                    Std.Dev. Corr
## Groups Name
## sid (Intercept) 13.69
##
            days from start 0.28 -0.41
## Residual
                            7.91
## ---
## number of obs: 2760, groups: sid, 500
\#\# AIC = 21005, DIC = 20981.9
## deviance = 20987.4
```

Fit quadratic model

Quadratic summary

arm::display(quad)

```
## lmer(formula = score ~ days from start + days2 + (days from start |
      sid), data = sim d, control = lmerControl(optimizer = "Nelder Mead")
##
##
              coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 52.09 0.54
## days from start 2.98 0.03
         -0.03 0.00
## davs2
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name Std.Dev. Corr
## sid (Intercept) 10.07
##
         days from start 0.18 0.31
## Residual
                          4.41
## ---
## number of obs: 2760, groups: sid, 500
\#\# AIC = 18279.8, DIC = 18224.7
## deviance = 18245.2
```

Compare

anova(linear, quad)

```
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)

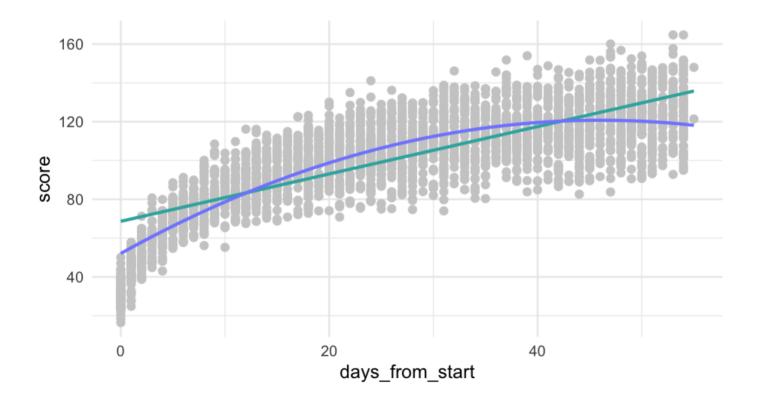
## Data: sim_d
## Models:
## linear: score ~ days_from_start + (days_from_start | sid)
## quad: score ~ days_from_start + days2 + (days_from_start | sid)
## npar AIC BIC logLik deviance Chisq Df Pr(>Chisq)
## linear 6 20999 21035 -10493.7 20987
## quad 7 18259 18301 -9122.6 18245 2742.2 1 < 2.2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1</pre>
```

Plot predictions

```
pred_frame <- tibble(
    days_from_start = 0:max(sim_d$days_from_start),
    days2 = days_from_start^2,
    sid = -999
) %>%
mutate(pred_linear = predict(linear, newdata = ., allow.new.levels.pred_quad = predict(quad, newdata = ., allow.new.levels.pred_frame
```

```
## # A tibble: 56 x 5
##
     days from start days2 sid pred linear pred quad
##
              <int> <dbl> <dbl>
                                     <dbl>
                                              <dbl>
##
                        0 -999
                  0
                                  68.65771 52.09304
   1
##
   2
                          -999 69.87886 55.04428
##
                          -999 71.10000 57.93071
                       9 -999 72.32114 60.75233
##
   4
                       16 -999 73.54228 63.50914
##
   5
##
                  5
                       25 -999 74.76342 66.20114
##
                       36 -999 75.98456
                                          68.82834
                       49 -999 77.20570
##
                                           71.39072
                       64 -999 78.42684
##
                                           73.88829
   9
                       81 -999 79.64798
## 10
                                          76.32105
## # ... with 46 more rows
```

```
ggplot(pred_frame, aes(days_from_start)) +
  geom_point(aes(y = score), data = sim_d, color = "gray80") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_linear), color = "#33B1AE") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_quad), color = "#808AFF")
```



This is definitely looking better, but it's too high in the lower tail and maybe a bit too low in the upper

Cubic?

You try first – extend what we just did to model a cubic trend

Warning: Some predictor variables are on very different scales: consider



Cubic summary

arm::display(cubic)

```
## lmer(formula = score ~ days from start + days2 + days3 + (days from star
      sid), data = sim d, control = lmerControl(optimizer = "Nelder Mead")
##
##
               coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 43.64 0.49
## days from start 4.93 0.04
          -0.12 0.00
## davs2
               0.00 0.00
## days3
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name
                Std.Dev. Corr
## sid (Intercept) 9.48
##
    days from start 0.15 0.55
## Residual
                         2.81
## ---
## number of obs: 2760, groups: sid, 500
## AIC = 16311.2, DIC = 16211.2
## deviance = 16253.2
```

Compare

anova(linear, quad, cubic)

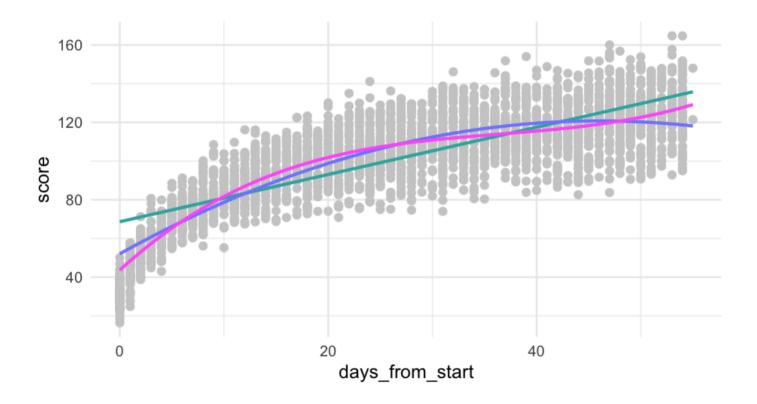
```
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)

## Data: sim_d
## Models:
## linear: score ~ days_from_start + (days_from_start | sid)
## quad: score ~ days_from_start + days2 + (days_from_start | sid)
## cubic: score ~ days_from_start + days2 + days3 + (days_from_start |
## cubic: sid)
## npar AIC BIC logLik deviance Chisq Df Pr(>Chisq)
## linear 6 20999 21035 -10493.7 20987
## quad 7 18259 18301 -9122.6 18245 2742.2 1 < 2.2e-16 ***
## cubic 8 16269 16317 -8126.6 16253 1992.0 1 < 2.2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1</pre>
```

Predictions

```
pred_frame <- pred_frame %>%
  mutate(days3 = days_from_start^3)

pred_frame %>%
  mutate(pred_cubic = predict(cubic, newdata = ., allow.new.lever.ggplot(aes(days_from_start)) +
  geom_point(aes(y = score), data = sim_d, color = "gray80") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_linear), color = "#33B1AE") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_quad), color = "#808AFF") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_cubic), color = "#ff66fa")
```



Alternative

Instead of modeling additional parameters, just transform the data

Common transformations

- log
- square root
- inverse 1/x

Try log

If you're familiar with log growth, the scatterplots we've been looking at probably resemble this trend quite well.

Let's try log transforming our time variable, then fit with it – bonus, we save two estimated parameters.

Note – I will have to use log(x + 1) instead of log(x) because $log(0) = -\infty$ and log(1) = 0.

```
sim d <- sim d %>%
  mutate(days log = log(days from start + 1))
log_m <- lmer(score ~ days_log + (days_log|sid),</pre>
              data = sim d)
arm::display(log_m)
## lmer(formula = score ~ days log + (days log | sid), data = sim d)
##
              coef.est coef.se
## (Intercept) 26.08 0.32
## days log 24.43 0.15
##
## Error terms:
## Groups Name
                  Std.Dev. Corr
## sid (Intercept) 6.16
##
            days log 3.05 0.20
                      1.52
## Residual
## ---
## number of obs: 2760, groups: sid, 500
\#\# AIC = 13703.9, DIC = 13687
## deviance = 13689.5
```

Compare

```
anova(linear, quad, cubic, log_m)
```

It use the same number of parameters as the linear model, but fits *far* better.

Predictions

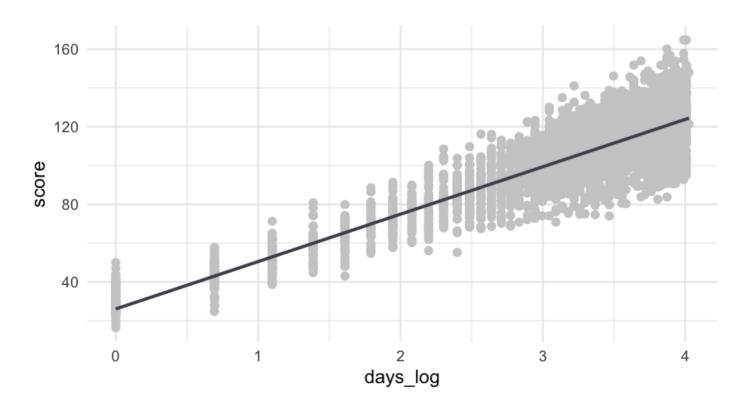
```
pred_frame <- pred_frame %>%
  mutate(days_log = log(days_from_start + 1))

pred_frame <- pred_frame %>%
  mutate(pred_log = predict(log_m, newdata = ., allow.new.levels)
```

Let's first look at these predictions on the log scale

Predictions on log scale

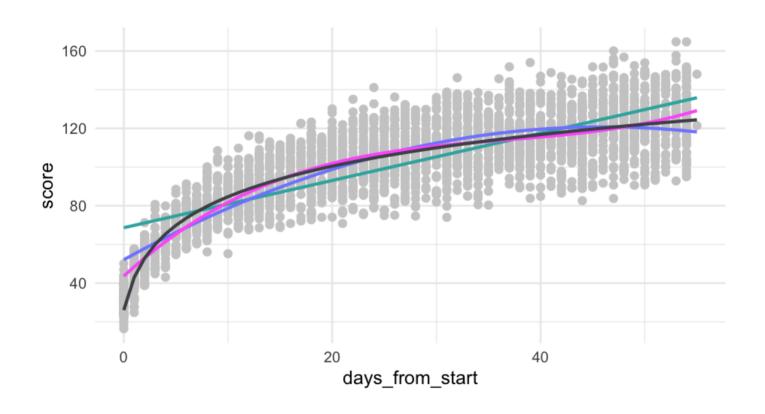
```
ggplot(pred_frame, aes(days_log)) +
  geom_point(aes(y = score), data = sim_d, color = "gray80") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_log), color = "#4D4F57")
```



On raw scale

```
pred_frame %>%
  mutate(pred_cubic = predict(cubic, newdata = ., allow.new.lever
  ggplot(aes(days_from_start)) +
  geom_point(aes(y = score), data = sim_d, color = "gray80") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_linear), color = "#33B1AE") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_quad), color = "#808AFF") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_cubic), color = "#ff66fa") +
  geom_line(aes(y = pred_log), color = "#4D4F57")
```

On raw scale



Next time

Bayesian Methods

Now: Homework 2