

# Module 3 Part 3: Hierarchical Models

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BIOS526\_M  
3\_PartIII\_...

Module 3, part III: Hierarchical Models

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MS, part III: Hierarchical Models

**Concepts**

- Hierarchical linear models: three-level random intercept model for Gaussian data (a type of lmm).
- Hierarchical generalized linear models (a type of glmm).
- Hierarchical structure and covariance structures.

**Reading**

- See readings from LMMs and GLMMs.
- Schools data example adapted from: Data reference: Raudenbush and Bryk 2002. *Hierarchical Linear Models*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Guatemalan data example: Rodriguez B and Goldman N (2001). Improved estimation procedures for multilevel models with binary response: a case study. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A* 339-355.

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## Hierarchical Linear Models

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### Math Achievement Data

- Longitudinal study of children's academic growth.
- 1,721 students from 60 urban primary schools.
- Standardized math achievement scores recorded at each primary school year (1-6).
- Scientific question: what child-level and school-level factors influence academic growth?
- Outcome data  $y_{ijk}$  has three levels:

Level 3: School  $i = 1, \dots, 60$

Level 2: Child  $j = 1, \dots, 1721$

Level 1: Yearly math scores  $k = 1, \dots, 6$

The above multi-level data have a **nested** structure because the clusters (*child*) are themselves grouped within *school*.

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### Math Achievement Data: Variables

Level 1 (year within child): finest level: values vary with  $k$

- $math_{ijk}$ : math scores (outcome)
- $year_{ijk}$ : primary school year centered at 3.5
- $retained_{ijk}$ : indicator for child  $ij$  repeating the grade in year  $k$ .

Level 2 (child within school): values vary with  $j$  (constant over  $k$ )

- $child_{ij}$ : child ID
- $female_{ij}$ : indicator for child  $i$  in school  $j$  being female
- $black_{ij}$ : indicator for child  $i$  in school  $j$  being African American
- $hispanic_{ij}$ : indicator for child  $i$  in school  $j$  being Hispanic

Level 3 (school): values vary with  $i$ : highest (most granular) level (constant over  $j$  and  $k$ )

- $school_i$ : school ID
- $size_i$ : number of students in school  $i$
- $lowinc_i$ : percent of students from low-income families in school  $i$

$i^{th}$  school  
 $j^{th}$  child  
 $k^{th}$  year

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## Three-Level Normal Random Intercept Model

Level 1: relating math scores to occasion (year) specific covariates.

$$\text{math}_{ijk} = \beta_{0,ij} + \beta_1 \text{year}_{ijk} + \beta_2 \text{retained}_{ijk} + \epsilon_{ijk}$$

*fast varying index*  
*collects everything at level 2*  
*everything else thrown into here*

Level 2: relating child-specific random intercepts to child characteristics.

$$\beta_{0,ij} = \alpha_{0,i} + \alpha_1 \text{female}_{ij} + \alpha_2 \text{black}_{ij} + \alpha_3 \text{hispanic}_{ij} + \psi_{ij}$$

*collects everything at level 3*  
*these are all constant between years*  
*child random effect*  
*school-random effect*

Level 3: relating school-specific random intercepts to school characteristics.

$$\alpha_{0,i} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \text{size}_i + \gamma_2 \text{lowinc}_i + \eta_i$$

$$\epsilon_{ijk} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2) \quad \psi_{ij} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau^2) \quad \eta_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \nu^2)$$

$$\epsilon_{ijk} \perp \psi_{ij} \perp \eta_i$$

*all these random effects are independent*

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## Three-Level Normal Random Intercept Model

Level 1:  $\text{math}_{ijk} = \beta_{0,ij} + \beta_1 \text{year}_{ijk} + \beta_2 \text{retained}_{ijk} + \epsilon_{ijk}$

- A child's score in year  $k$  is a linear function of  $\text{year}_{ijk}$  and  $\text{retained}_{ijk}$ .
- $\beta_{0,ij}$  is the child-specific random intercept. Note that the coefficient has subscript  $ij$  as it cannot be influenced by variables that change between school years.
- Between-child variation is accounted for by  $\beta_{0,ij}$ .
- After removing the child-specific intercept, residual variation in math scores follow  $N(0, \sigma^2)$ .



*child specific effect*  
*and year & retained effects*

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## Three-Level Normal Random Intercept Model

Level 2:  $\beta_{0,ij} = \alpha_{0,i} + \alpha_1 \text{female}_{ij} + \alpha_2 \text{black}_{ij} + \alpha_3 \text{hispanic}_{ij} + \psi_{ij}$

- This **second-level** regression model explains variation in  $\beta_{0,ij}$ .
- We assume  $\beta_{0,ij}$  is a linear function of *child-specific covariates*  $\text{female}_{ij}$ ,  $\text{black}_{ij}$ , and  $\text{hispanic}_{ij}$ .
- $\alpha_{0,i}$  is a school-level random intercept. It captures correlation in  $\beta_{0,ij}$  for children from the same school.
- Variation in child-specific  $\beta_{0,ij}$  not explained by child-level covariates and the school-level intercepts follow  $N(0, \tau^2)$ .

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## Three-Level Normal Random Intercept Model

Level 3:  $\alpha_{0,i} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 size_i + \gamma_2 lowinc_i + \eta_i$

- Level 3 explains variation in school-specific intercepts  $\alpha_{0,i}$  using school-level covariates  $size_i$  and  $lowinc_i$ .
- We assume  $\alpha_{0,i}$  is normal with variance  $\nu^2$ .
- $\gamma_0$  is the overall baseline mean math score across 60 schools. Here baseline is 0% low-income students and zero students.
- $\gamma_1$  can be interpreted as: increase in school-average math score per unit increase in  $size_i$ .

$$\eta_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \nu^2)$$

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## Three-Level Normal Random Intercept Model

The multilevel model can be combined to give:

$$\begin{aligned} math_{ijk} = & \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 size_i + \gamma_2 lowinc_i + \eta_i \\ & + \alpha_1 female_{ij} + \alpha_2 black_{ij} + \alpha_3 hispanic_{ij} + \psi_{ij} \\ & + \beta_1 year_{ijk} + \beta_2 retained_{ijk} + \epsilon_{ijk} \end{aligned}$$

$$\epsilon_{ijk} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2) \quad \psi_{ij} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau^2) \quad \eta_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \nu^2)$$

- Because  $size_i$  and  $lowinc_i$  are the same values for all scores taken in a particular school,  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  change  $math_{ijk}$  on the school-level. Every measurement and every child in school  $i$  has the same  $\gamma_1 size_i + \gamma_2 lowinc_i + \eta_i$ .
- $\gamma_0$  is the overall mean math score at baseline:
  - $size_i = 0$ ,  $lowinc_i = 0$
  - male, non-black, non-hispanic
  - grade year at 3.5, not retained

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## Variances

$$\begin{aligned} math_{ijk} = & \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 size_i + \gamma_2 lowinc_i + \eta_i \\ & + \alpha_1 female_{ij} + \alpha_2 black_{ij} + \alpha_3 hispanic_{ij} + \psi_{ij} \\ & + \beta_1 year_{ijk} + \beta_2 retained_{ijk} + \epsilon_{ijk} \end{aligned}$$

$$\epsilon_{ijk} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2) \quad \psi_{ij} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau^2) \quad \eta_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \nu^2)$$

Then  $= \text{Var}(\epsilon_{ijk} + \psi_{ij} + \eta_i)$  and since  $\perp \dots$

$$\text{Var}(math_{ijk}) = \text{Var}(\eta_i) + \text{Var}(\psi_{ij}) + \text{Var}(\epsilon_{ijk}) = \nu^2 + \tau^2 + \sigma^2$$

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## Covariances and Intra-Subject Correlation

same i, same j, diff k  
(k vs. k')

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(\text{math}_{ijk}, \text{math}_{ijk'}) &= \text{Cov}(\eta_i + \psi_{ij} + \epsilon_{ijk}, \eta_i + \psi_{ij} + \epsilon_{ijk'}) \\ &= \text{Cov}(\eta_i + \psi_{ij}, \eta_i + \psi_{ij}) \\ &= \tau^2 + \nu^2 \end{aligned}$$

Within-child correlation = correlation between different scores within the same child (must be within the same school):

$$\text{Cor}(\text{math}_{ijk}, \text{math}_{ijk'}) = \frac{\tau^2 + \nu^2}{\tau^2 + \nu^2 + \sigma^2}$$

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## Intra-School Correlation

same i, diff j, diff k

Then for different students at same school,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(\text{math}_{ijk}, \text{math}_{ij'k'}) &= \text{Cov}(\eta_i + \psi_{ij} + \epsilon_{ijk}, \eta_i + \psi_{ij'} + \epsilon_{ij'k'}) \\ &= \text{Cov}(\eta_i, \eta_i) \\ &= \nu^2 \end{aligned}$$

Within-school correlation = correlation between different scores within the same school (different child):

$$\text{Cor}(\text{math}_{ijk}, \text{math}_{ij'k'}) = \frac{\nu^2}{\sigma^2 + \tau^2 + \nu^2}$$

Note that within-child scores are more similar than within-school scores.

Note that in a nested-structure, we don't have data from the same child but different schools.

G is an example of  $y_{ijk}$  and  $y_{i'jk}$  are different students

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$\text{Cov}(y_{ijk}, y_{i'jk}) = \text{Cov}(y_{ijk}, y_{i'jk})$  here we have years no diff??

School	Student	Year	Covariance Matrix								
i	j	k	111	112	113	121	122	123	211	212	213
1	1	1	$\tau^2 + \nu^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	0	0	0
1	1	2	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	0	0	0
1	1	3	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	0	0	0
1	2	1	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	0	0	0
1	2	2	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	0	0	0
1	2	3	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	0	0	0
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\tau^2 + \nu^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$
2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$
2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2$	$\tau^2 + \nu^2 + \nu^2$

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## Hierarchical Specification

$$\begin{aligned} \text{math}_{ijk} &= \beta_{0,ij} + \beta_1 \text{year}_{ijk} + \beta_2 \text{retained}_{ijk} + \epsilon_{ijk} \\ \beta_{0,ij} &= \alpha_{0,i} + \alpha_1 \text{female}_{ij} + \alpha_2 \text{black}_{ij} + \alpha_3 \text{hispanic}_{ij} + \psi_{ij} \\ \alpha_{0,i} &= \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \text{size}_i + \gamma_2 \text{lowinc}_i + \eta_i \\ \epsilon_{ijk} &\stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2) \quad \psi_{ij} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau^2) \quad \eta_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \nu^2) \end{aligned}$$

The above model also says:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{math}_{ijk} &\sim N(\beta_{0,ij} + \beta_1 \text{year}_{ijk} + \beta_2 \text{retained}_{ijk}, \sigma^2) \\ \beta_{0,ij} &\sim N(\alpha_{0,i} + \alpha_1 \text{female}_{ij} + \alpha_2 \text{black}_{ij} + \alpha_3 \text{hispanic}_{ij}, \tau^2) \\ \alpha_{0,i} &\sim N(\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \text{size}_i + \gamma_2 \text{lowinc}_i, \nu^2) \end{aligned}$$

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M3-partIII-HM.R

He shows how to check the data

## Data Example

```
> dat = read.csv("achievement.csv")

> dim(dat)
[1] 7230 10

> dat[1:10,]
  year  math retained female black hispanic size lowinc school child
1  0.5  1.146      0      0      0      1  380  40.3  2020  244
2  1.5  1.134      0      0      0      1  380  40.3  2020  244
3  2.5  2.300      0      0      0      1  380  40.3  2020  244
4 -1.5 -1.303      0      0      0      0  380  40.3  2020  248
5 -0.5  0.439      0      0      0      0  380  40.3  2020  248
6  0.5  2.430      0      0      0      0  380  40.3  2020  248
7  1.5  2.254      0      0      0      0  380  40.3  2020  248
8  2.5  3.873      0      0      0      0  380  40.3  2020  248
9 -1.5 -1.384      0      0      0      1  380  40.3  2020  253
10 -0.5  0.338      0      0      0      1  380  40.3  2020  253

> length(unique(dat$child))
[1] 1721

> length(unique(dat$school))
[1] 60
```

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Load lmerTest

## Model Fitting and Interpretations

We specify the multi-level model with two random intercept components. (Here, child ID is unique, so the below code is equivalent to (1|school)+(1|school:child), see R code.)

```
> fit = lmer(math ~ year + retained + female + black + hispanic + size + lowinc
+ (1|school) + (1|child), data = dat)
```

```
> summary(fit)
```

Random effects:

Groups	Name	Variance	Std.Dev.
child	(Intercept)	0.663673	0.81466
school	(Intercept)	0.087498	0.29580
Residual		0.344524	0.58696

Note that the random effects of *child* and *school* are assumed to be independent.

- Within-child correlation =  $\frac{0.66+0.087}{0.66+0.087+0.34} = 0.69$
- Within-school correlation =  $\frac{0.087}{0.66+0.087+0.34} = 0.08$

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## Nesting versus crossed

If two factors are crossed, all levels of one factor appear in all levels of the other factor. You can tell if two factors are crossed using a cross tabulation:

```
> table(dat$female, dat$black)
  0    1
0 1119 2426
1 1134 2551
```

If two factors are nested, then levels of one factor only appear in one level

→ stuff like this could be on exam

check M3-partIII-... for more info

if your data is coded weird like nested IDs you can do school : child

↓  
reference Bates table?

## Nesting versus crossed

If two factors are crossed, all levels of one factor appear in all levels of the other factor. You can tell if two factors are crossed using a cross tabulation:

```
> table(dat$female, dat$black)
      0      1
0 1119 2426
1 1134 2551
```

If two factors are nested, then levels of one factor only appear in one level of another factor:

```
> table(dat$child, dat$school)
      2020 2040 2180 2330 2340 2380 2390 2440 2480 2520 2540 2560 2610 2620 2750 2820
1      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
2      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      3
3      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
4      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      3      0      0      0      0      0      0
```

Nesting versus crossed is determined by the study design.

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↓  
reference Bates  
table?

## Note on nesting

→ determined from experimental design

A child is nested within school because for a given child, school does not vary.

Therefore, we can't look at the interaction between child and school. One could hypothesize that the same child at different schools creates additional variability, but we can't examine that here.

We can only look at interactions for crossed factors.

We can have cross-level interactions. We need to be able to observe the different combinations of the effect levels.

An interaction between different levels results in a variable of the finer level. E.g., does sex modify the effect of retention?

There are many possible interactions to consider here, but to keep things simple, we will ignore them.

e.g. does retention differ between boys & girls?

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## Model Fitting and Interpretation

Fixed effects:

	Estimate	Std. Error	df	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	2.398e-01	1.524e-01	6.406e+01	1.573	0.12064
year (grade):ijk	7.483e-01	5.396e-03	5.744e+03	138.685	< 2e-16 ***
retained:ijk	1.481e-01	3.535e-02	5.802e+03	4.190	2.83e-05 ***
female:ijk	-9.038e-05	4.223e-02	1.668e+03	-0.002	0.99829
black:ijk	-5.182e-01	8.060e-02	1.154e+03	-6.429	1.88e-10 ***
hispanic:ijk	-2.899e-01	8.910e-02	1.642e+03	-3.254	0.00116 **
size:ijk	-1.028e-04	1.485e-04	5.719e+01	-0.692	0.49167
lowinc:ijk	-8.002e-03	1.818e-03	6.900e+01	-4.401	3.84e-05 ***

• Across schools, children, and school years, the average math score is 0.2398 for baseline measurement (year = 3.5, retained=0, female=0, black=0, hispanic=0, size=0, lowinc=0, ave school and ave child). Intercept is not meaningful since it is for size=0 and has large SE (see R code): if interested in baseline, can be better to center

• Lower child-specific average math scores were associated with African American and Hispanic students.

• Lower school-specific average math scores were associated with schools with higher proportion of low-income students. low income significant

• Math scores increased as a child progressed in grade.

• Math scores higher for grades that a child repeated (retained).

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fixed effects  
2.5 baseline

see next slide

## Study Limitations

- lowinc is the proportion of students at a school that are lower income (Level 3 covariate). *→ here is school level, not individual level*
- We can not estimate whether a student from a disadvantaged background (low income, single-family household, parents' education, others) has lower scores.
- In particular, race and ethnicity are correlated with other factors impacting an individual's achievement scores.
- The lower scores reflect products of systemic racism and shortcomings of the education system. *Institutional racism*
- A brief description of systemic racism: *Structural racism*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO\\_bdQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ)
- Results of this data set could be used to help prioritize education funds or policy.

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ML, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Comparison with 2-Level Models

Our 3-level model decomposes the total residual variation into three components:

- Level 3: Between school variation  $\nu^2$
- Level 2: Between child variation  $\tau^2$
- Level 1: Between grade variation (within a child)  $\sigma^2$ .

We can consider models that only include random intercepts for schools or for children.

Assume no between-child variation: *only include  $\eta_i \sim N(0, \tau^2)$*   
 $\epsilon_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$   

```
> fit2 = lmer(math ~ year + retained + female + black + hispanic + size + lowinc + (1|school), data = dat)
```

Assume no between-school variation: *only include  $\psi_{ij} \sim N(0, \tau^2)$*   
 $\epsilon_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$   

```
> fit3 = lmer(math ~ year + retained + female + black + hispanic + size + lowinc + (1|child), data = dat)
```

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ML, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Selecting random effects

I suggest using a model that seems reasonable.

LRTs can be inaccurate due to issues of testing a null hypothesis on the boundary of the parameter space (generally, p-values too big).

*→ helpful guidance, but in general use your judgement*

```
> anova(fit2, fit)
refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
Data: dat
Models:
fit2: math ~ year + retained + female + black + hispanic + size + lowinc + (1 | school)
fit:  math ~ year + retained + female + black + hispanic + size + lowinc + (1 | school) + (1 | child)
npar    AIC    BIC logLik deviance Chisq Df Pr(>Chisq)
fit2    10 20459 20528 -10219.4  20439
fit     11 16673 16748 -8325.4   16651  3788  1 < 2.2e-16 ***

> anova(fit3, fit)
refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
Data: dat
Models:
fit3: math ~ year + retained + female + black + hispanic + size + lowinc + (1 | child)
fit:  math ~ year + retained + female + black + hispanic + size + lowinc + (1 | school) + (1 | child)
npar    AIC    BIC logLik deviance Chisq Df Pr(>Chisq)
fit3    10 16773 16842 -8376.4   16753
fit     11 16673 16748 -8325.4   16651  102  1 < 2.2e-16 ***
```

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ML, part III: Hierarchical Models



## Comparison with 2-Level Models

Parameter	Point Estimates (Standard Error)		
	Random Intercept Grouping		
	School	Child	Both
Intercept	0.26 (0.14)	0.31 (0.08)	0.24 (0.15)
year	0.74 (0.01)	0.75 (0.005)	0.75 (0.005)
<u>retained</u>	<u>-0.49 (0.05)</u>	0.14 (0.03)	<u>0.15 (0.03)</u>
female	-0.02 (0.02)	0.02 (0.04)	0.00 (0.04)
black	-0.52 (0.05)	-0.43 (0.01)	-0.52 (0.01)
hispanic	-0.29 (0.05)	-0.26 (0.01)	-0.29 (0.01)
size	-0.0001 (0.0001)	-0.00001 (0.000007)	-0.0001 (0.0001)
lowinc	-0.007 (0.001)	-0.009 (0.001)	-0.008 (0.001)
$\mu^2$	0.10		0.09
$\tau^2$		0.75	0.66
$\sigma^2$	0.97	0.34	0.34

school  
child  
error

subtracted  
wrong negative  
but still  
significant

→ significant here

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## Comparison with 2-Level Models

### School-only → Child-only

- Large reduction in residual error variance  $\sigma^2$ .
- Most statistically significant coefficients have smaller standard errors.
- The effect of *retain* changes direction!
  - Children who were retained in a grade were associated with lower scores in school-only model. This child-specific effect is not controlled for by school-level intercepts.

### Child-only → Both

- Part of the between-child variation is allocated to between-school variation:  $0.75 = 0.09 + 0.66$ .
- Residual errors and coefficient standard errors nearly unchanged.
- Overall intercept decreases from 0.31 to 0.24. For child-only, the intercept is the baseline (see previous) average score for a *typical child*. For the full model, intercept is baseline average score for *typical child in typical school*.

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## Nested versus crossed random effects

It is also possible for the random effects to be crossed. If the subject ID is the same at different schools, the following

$$(1|school)+(1|child)$$

will result in  $Cov(y_{ijk}, y_{i'jk}) = \tau^2$ .

It is possible for a subject ID to be coded poorly, such that ID 1 at school 1 corresponds to a different individual than ID 1 at school 2.

When this is the case, you must use the syntax

$$(1|school)+(1|school:child)$$

In our dataset, the correct covariance structure is used in lmer because the child ID is unique.

see R code

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## Hierarchical GLMMs

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### Guatemalan Vaccination Data

- Cross-sectional study of families' decision to immunize their children.
- Surveyed 1,595 mothers in 161 communities in Guatemala in 1987.
- Collected children immunization status born in the previous 5 years.
- Scientific question: whether a campaign in 1986 increased immunization rate. *1983 1984 1985 / 1986 1987*
- Scientific question: were children at least 2-years old at time of interview more likely to be immunized?
- Outcome data  $y_{ijk}$  has three levels:

Level 3: Community  $i$

Level 2: Family  $j$

Level 1: Child  $k$

The data are nested: family nested in community.

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

### Guatemalan Vaccination Data: Variables

Level 1 ( $k$ th Child within mother)

- $immun_{ijk}$ : indicator for the child being immunized (outcome)
- $kid2p_{ijk}$ : indicator for the child being at least 2-years-old at interview *= 1 if got vac info*

Level 2 ( $j$ th family within community )

- $mom_{ij}$ : mother's (family) ID
- $momEduPri_{ij}$ : indicator for mother having primary education
- $momEduSec_{ij}$ : indicator for mother having secondary education
- $husEduPri_{ij}$ : indicator for husband having primary education
- $husEduSec_{ij}$ : indicator for husband having secondary education

Level 3 ( $i$ th community)

- $cluster_i$ : community ID *→ cluster = community*
- $rural_i$ : indicator for rural community
- $pcInd81_i$ : percent population that was indigenous in 1981

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models



## Guatemalan Vaccination Data

```
> dat = read.csv ("guatemalan.csv")
> dim (dat)
[1] 2159 10

  mom cluster immun kid2p momEdPri momEdSec husEdPri husEdSec rural pcInd81
1 2 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 0.1075042
2 185 36 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0.0437295
3 186 36 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 0.0437295
4 187 36 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0.0437295
5 188 36 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0.0437295
6 188 36 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0.0437295
7 189 36 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0.0437295
8 190 36 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0.0437295
9 190 36 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 0.0437295
10 191 36 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0.0437295

> length (unique (dat$mom)) #Total number of mothers
[1] 1595

> length (unique (dat$cluster)) #Total number of communities
[1] 161

> table ( table (dat$mom)) #Number of children per mom
 1 2 3
1063 500 32
```

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Mom's ID Nested Within Community (Cluster)

```
### Demonstrate with first two mother's IDs
> table (dat$mom, dat$cluster)

  1 36 38 45 46 47 49 50 51 55
2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
185 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

> table (dat$mom, dat$cluster)[1:2, ] != 0

  1 36 38 45 46 47 49 50 51 55
mom 2 TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE
mom 185 FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE

> apply( table (dat$mom, dat$cluster)[1:2, ] != 0, 1, sum)
 2 185
 1 1

### Now apply to all mothers' IDs
> table( apply( table (dat$mom, dat$cluster) != 0, 1, sum) )
 1
1595

## Grouping IDs okay. Each mother's ID appears only once in each community.
## This gives us the desired "nested" structure.
```

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Three-Level Logistic Random Intercept Model

$immun_{ijk} \sim \text{Binomial}(p_{ijk})$

$\text{logit}(p_{ijk}) = \beta_0 + u_i + u_{ij} + \beta'_1 x_{ijk} + \beta'_2 x_{ij} + \beta'_3 x_i$

$u_{ij} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau^2)$   $u_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \nu^2)$

$x_{ijk} = [kid2p_{ijk}]$

$x_{ij} = [momEduPri_{ij}, momEduSec_{ij}, husEduPri_{ij}, husEduSec_{ij}]$

$x_i = [rural_i, pcInd81_i]$  *community variable*

- $\tau^2$  = between-family variation in baseline log odds
- $\nu^2$  = between-community variation in baseline log odds
- Only two normal random effects  $\rightarrow$  **NOTE: NO EPSILON!!**
- $Var(immun_{ijk} | u_i, u_{ij}) = p_{ijk}(1 - p_{ijk})$ .
- We can think of  $u_i$  and  $u_{ij}$  as parameters that control for **unmeasured confounders** at the community- and family-level. One statistician's mean structure is another's covariance structure.

*Handwritten notes:*  $\mu_{ij} \parallel \mu_i$  (with arrow from  $u_{ij}$  to  $u_i$ ), *community level* (with arrow from  $u_{ij}$  to  $x_i$ ), *mother level* (with arrow from  $u_i$  to  $x_i$ ).

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

### Three-Level Logistic Random Intercept Model

Recall the model is conditioned on the random effects:

$$immun_{ijk} \sim \text{Binomial}(E[y_{ijk}|u_i, u_{ij}])$$

$$\text{logit}(E[y_{ijk}|u_i, u_{ij}]) = \beta_0 + u_i + u_{ij} + \beta'_1 x_{ijk} + \beta'_2 x_{ij} + \beta'_3 x_i,$$

$$u_{ij} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau^2) \quad u_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \nu^2)$$

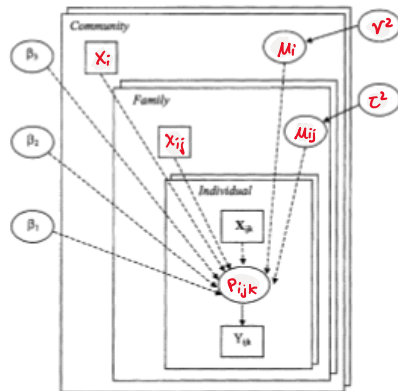
- $x_{ijk} = [kid2p_{ijk}]$
- $x_{ij} = [momEduPri_{ij}, momEduSec_{ij}, husEduPri_{ij}, husEduSec_{ij}]$
- $x_i = [rural_i, pcInd81_i]$
- $\tau^2$  = between-family variation in baseline log odds
- $\nu^2$  = between-community variation in baseline log odds

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Model Structure

This figure has different indices: to be corrected in lecture



$\square$  = known values

$\Delta$  = unknown values

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Model fitting

Convergence warning with defaults:

```
Generalized linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood (Laplace Approximation) [Rglmer]
Family: binomial ( logit )
Formula: immun ~ kid2p + momEdPri + momEdSec + husEdPri + husEdSec + rural +
         pcInd81 + (1 | mom) + (1 | cluster)
Data: dat
```

```
Random effects:
  Groups Name      Variance Std.Dev.
mon      (Intercept) 1.2357   1.1116
cluster (Intercept) 0.5032   0.7094
Number of obs: 2159, groups: mon, 1595; cluster, 161
```

(Intercept)	-0.7610	0.2800	-2.718	0.00657 **
kid2p	1.2812	0.1581	8.10e-16	***
nonEdPri	0.2793	0.1470	1.900	0.05747 *
nonEdSec	0.2858	0.3248	0.880	0.37884
husEdPri	0.3762	0.1457	2.583	0.00979 **
husEdSec	0.3262	0.2733	1.194	0.23258
rural	-0.6691	0.2049	-3.266	0.00109 **
pInd81	-0.9823	0.2486	-3.951	7.79e-05 ***

```
convergence code: 0
Model failed to converge with max|grad| = 0.0258663 (tol = 0.002, component 1)
```

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MC3, part III: Hierarchical Models

STOPPED HEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEERRRRRRRRRRRRREEEEEEEEEEEE

## Model Fit

```
> fit = glmer(immun ~ kid2p + momEdPri + momEdSec + husEdPri + husEdSec +
rural + pcInd81 + (1|mom) + (1|cluster), family = binomial, data = dat,
glmerControl(optimizer="bobyqa"))
> summary(fit)
Generalized linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood (Laplace Approximation) [glmerMod]
Family: binomial ( logit )
Formula: immun ~ kid2p + momEdPri + momEdSec + husEdPri + husEdSec + rural +
pcInd81 + (1 | mom) + (1 | cluster)
Data: dat
Control: glmerControl(optimizer = "bobyqa")

Random effects:
Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
mom (Intercept) 1.2373 1.1123
cluster (Intercept) 0.5038 0.7098
Number of obs: 2159, groups: mom, 1595; cluster, 161

Fixed effects:
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept) -0.7624 0.2801 -2.722 0.00649 **
kid2p 1.2815 0.1581 8.105 5.27e-16 ***
momEdPri 0.2793 0.1471 1.899 0.05753 .
momEdSec 0.2808 0.3248 0.864 0.38735
husEdPri 0.3771 0.1457 2.588 0.00966 **
husEdSec 0.3308 0.2734 1.210 0.22629
rural -0.6686 0.2049 -3.263 0.00110 **
pcInd81 -0.9824 0.2487 -3.950 7.83e-05 ***
```

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ML3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Heterogeneity Interpretations

```
Random effects:
Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
mom (Intercept) 1.2373 1.1123
cluster (Intercept) 0.5038 0.7098
Number of obs: 2159, groups: mom, 1595; cluster, 161
```

```
Fixed effects:
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept) -0.7624 0.2801 -2.722 0.00650 **
```

- Baseline = rural community with 0% below poverty, mother and husband did not have primary or secondary education, and the child was under 2 years old. Baseline prob of immunization for a typical (population average) child in a model controlling for family & community intercepts:

$$\frac{e^{-0.7624}}{1 + e^{-0.7624}} = 0.32$$

- Between-family variation contributes more than between-community variation.
- The total variation in baseline log odds has a standard deviation of  $\sqrt{1.237 + 0.504} = 1.32$ . 95% of the baseline probabilities are within

$$\frac{e^{-0.7624 \pm 1.96 \times 1.32}}{1 + e^{-0.7624 \pm 1.96 \times 1.32}} = (0.03, 0.87).$$

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ML3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Fixed-Effect Interpretations

```
Fixed effects:
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept) -0.7624 0.2801 -2.722 0.00650 **
kid2p 1.2815 0.1581 8.105 5.27e-16 ***
momEdPri 0.2793 0.1471 1.899 0.05753 .
momEdSec 0.2808 0.3248 0.864 0.38735
husEdPri 0.3771 0.1457 2.588 0.00966 **
husEdSec 0.3308 0.2734 1.210 0.22629
rural -0.6686 0.2049 -3.263 0.00110 **
pcInd81 -0.9824 0.2487 -3.950 7.83e-05 ***
```

Safe formula:

$$100(e^B - 1)$$

After controlling for within-family and within-community correlation,

- odds of immunization decreased in rural communities (OR:  $e^{-0.67} = 0.51$ , a 49% decrease), and communities with higher percentage of indigenous population:  $1 - e^{-0.98 \times 0.1} = 0.093$ , a 9% decrease for 10% increase in indigenous population).

- higher immunization rate was associated with families where the mother (OR:  $e^{0.28} = 1.31$ ) or the husband (OR:  $e^{0.38} = 1.46$ ) received primary education vs without primary education. No significant effects for secondary edu (smaller sample size).

- children born during the campaign had a higher immunization rate (OR:  $e^{1.28} = 3.59$ ).

or you could say

"After controlling for family & community-level intercepts"

$$100(e^{-0.98 \times 0.1} - 1) = -9\% = 9\% \text{ decrease}$$

this one we are interested in

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ML3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Regression Coefficients

What is the odds ratio for a child at least 2 years old ( $\text{kid2p}=1$ ) versus less than 2 years old ( $\text{kid2p}=0$ ) for a child from the same family and community, holding other variables constant?

$$e^{1.2815 + u_i + u_{ij} + \beta' x_{ijk}} / e^{0 + u_i + u_{ij} + \beta' x_{ijk}} = e^{1.2815}$$

$$e^{1.2815} = 3.60, \text{ 95\% CI: } e^{1.2815 \pm 1.96 \times 0.1581} = [2.642, 4.911]$$

- The community and family random intercepts cancel out because we are holding them constant.
- However, the regression coefficients still have a **conditional** interpretation because the coefficients were estimated in the conditional model.

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Working with Regression Coefficients

What is the odds ratio and 95% CI in immunization between two children from the same community and same mother with

- child B = over 2 years old at interview, mother's husband had primary education *kid2p=1*
- child A = under 2 years old at interview, mother's husband had no primary education *kid2p=0*

$$\text{logit}(p_B) - \text{logit}(p_A) = 1.2815 + 0.3771$$

$$\text{OR for child B versus child A} = e^{1.2815 + 0.3771} = 5.25$$

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models

## Working with Regression Coefficients

Fixed effects:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
kid2p	1.2815	0.1581	8.105	5.27e-16 ***
husEdPri	0.3771	0.1457	2.588	0.00966 **

Correlation of Fixed Effects:

	(Intr)	kid2p	nonEdPri	nonEdSec	husEdPri	husEdSec	rural
kid2p		-0.450					
nonEdPri		-0.343	0.106				
nonEdSec		-0.234	0.072	0.349			
husEdPri		-0.355	0.090	-0.154	-0.067		
husEdSec		-0.281	-0.015	-0.172	-0.474	0.394	
rural		-0.642	-0.075	-0.003	0.109	0.052	0.196
pcInd81		-0.438	-0.108	0.195	0.106	0.024	0.045

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\log \text{OR}) &= 0.1581^2 + 0.1457^2 \\ &+ 2 \times 0.091 \times 0.1581 \times 0.1457 = \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{SE}(\log \text{OR}) = 0.225.$$

So a 95% confidence interval is

$$e^{(1.2815 + 0.3771) \pm 1.96 \times 0.225} = (3.38, 8.16).$$

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_{\text{kid2p}} + \hat{\beta}_{\text{husEdPri}}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_{\text{kid2p}}) + \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_{\text{husEdPri}}) + 2 \text{Cov}(\dots)$$

will do matrices when we get to splines

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M3, part III: Hierarchical Models