

# The rise and rise of joint species distribution models (JSDMs) in ecology

Francis K.C. Hui Australian National University

Multivariate abundance data

Gen 1: MGLMM

Gen 2: Latent variables/factor analysis

Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

Closing thoughts



# Disclaimer

- This is an opinionated review/perspective talk, so you will see a decent chunk of my and my collaborators' works
  - Apologies for this!
  - Thank you to all who have/continue to inspire me to work on JSDMs



# Multivariate abundance data

## ECOLOGY LETTERS

Idea and Perspective | Open Access

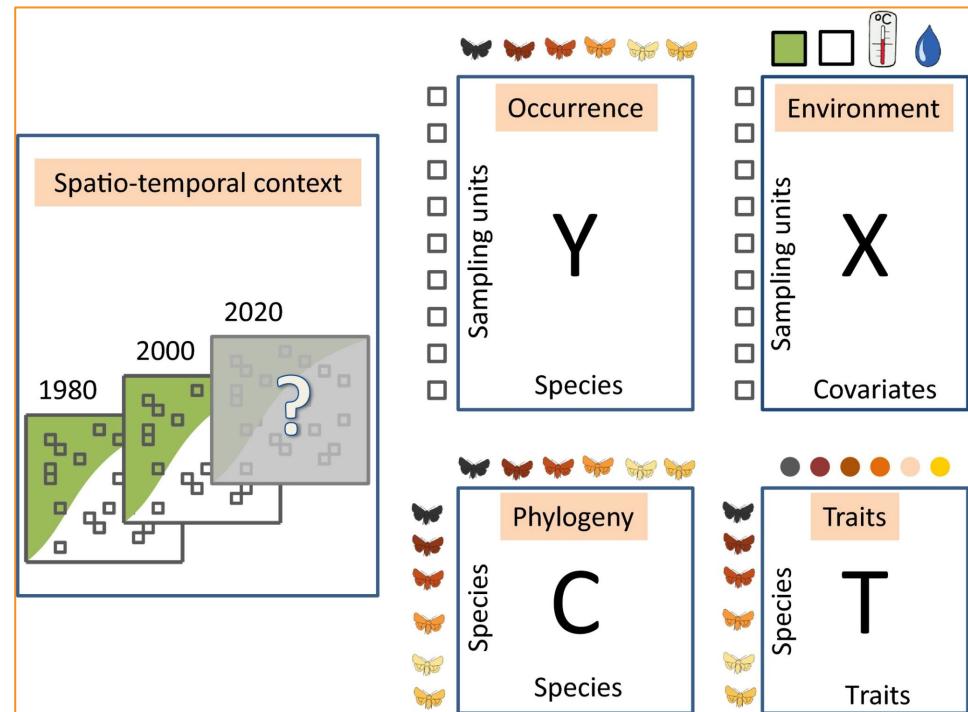
How to make more out of community data? A conceptual framework and its implementation as models and software

Otso Ovaskainen Gleb Tikhonov, Anna Norberg, F. Guillaume Blanchet, Leo Duan, David Dunson, Tomas Roslin, Nerea Abrego



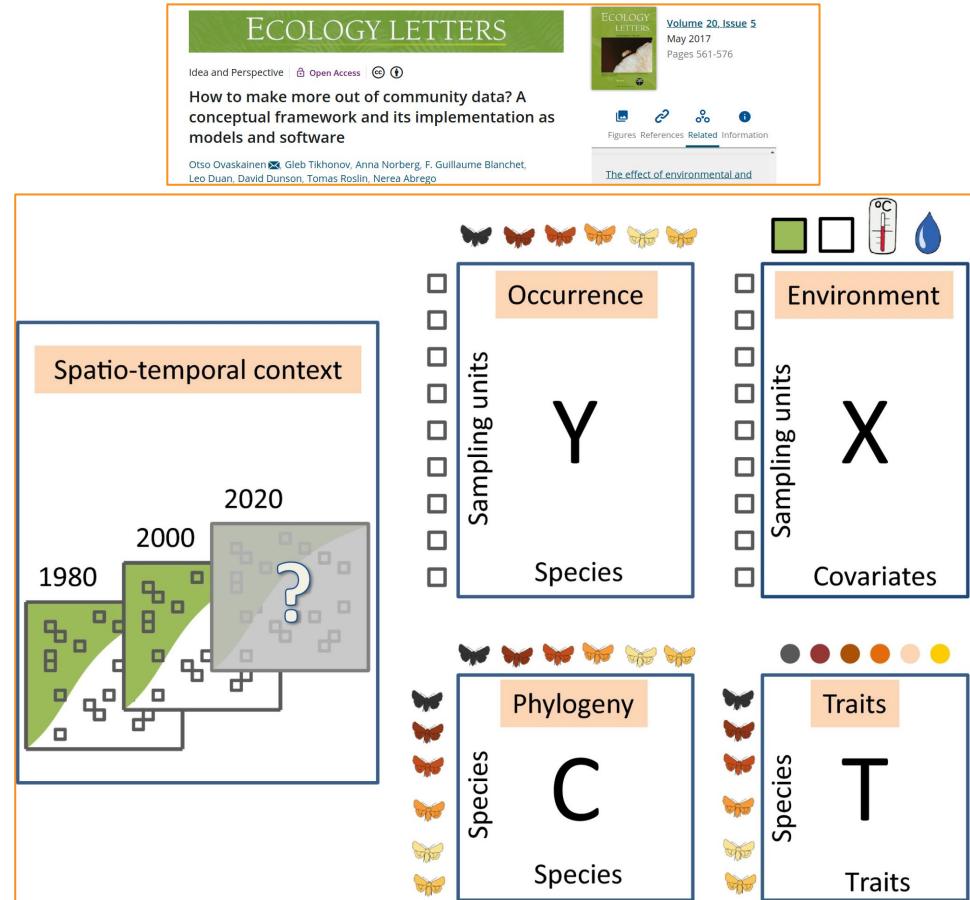
Volume 20, Issue 5  
May 2017  
Pages 561-576

Figures References Related Information  
[The effect of environmental and](#)



# Multivariate abundance data

- Some common features:
  - Multiple correlated responses (high-dimensional)
  - Non-continuous responses with evident mean-variance relationship
  - Non-linear Y-X relationships



# Question/s of interests

- Depends on the data you have:
  - (a) is a multivariate prediction problem
  - (b) -> how is Y and X related?
  - (c) -> how are the columns of Y related?
  - (d) + (e) -> how do T & C mediate/drive the Y-X relationship?

## ECOLOGY LETTERS

Issue and Perspective | Open Access |

How to make more out of community data? A conceptual framework and its implementation as models and software

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The effect of environmental and

**Observational data (a):** Shows various groups of butterflies in different colored boxes (green, orange, blue), representing species distributions across habitats.

**How to link the data to ecological questions?**

- (b) Signals of environmental filtering:** Are species associated to habitat characteristics? (Butterfly icons with green squares)
- (c) Signals of biotic filtering:** Do species co-occur? (Butterfly icons with plus signs or minus signs)
- (d) Signals of response traits:** Are traits (here colour) associated to habitat characteristics? Here dark-coloured species are associated with green habitat. (Butterfly icons with green squares)
- (e) Signals of niche conservatism:** Are habitat associations and traits correlated with phylogeny? (A phylogenetic tree with butterflies at the tips)

# Enter the joint species distribution model

- Loosely speaking, a joint species distribution model (JSMD) refers to a statistical method that simultaneously models all species
  - Accounts for the fact that species may be correlated with each other (after adjusting for measured predictor)
  - A single, potentially high-dimensional log-likelihood function
  - The sources of this (residual) correlation could be many...

**Global Ecology and Biogeography** | A Journal of Macroecology

RESEARCH REVIEWS | [Full Access](#)

Biotic interactions in species distribution modelling: 10 questions to guide interpretation and avoid false conclusions

Carsten F. Dormann Maria Bobrowski, D. Matthias Dehling, David J. Harris, Florian Hartig, Heike Lischke, Marco D. Moretti, Jörn Pagel, [Stefan Pinker](#), Matthias Schleuning, Susanne I. Schmidt, Christine S. Sheppard, Manuel J. Steinbauer, Dirk Zeuss, Casper Kraan ... See fewer authors

First published: 24 July 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.12759> | Citations: 109

Volume 27, Issue 9  
September 2018  
Pages 1004-1016  
This article also appears in:  
Most Accessed Papers of 2018

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Supporting Mentioning Contrasting   
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## Trends in Ecology & Evolution



Volume 36, Issue 5, May 2021, Pages 391-401

Opinion

### On the Interpretations of Joint Modeling in Community Ecology

Giovanni Poggia<sup>1, 2</sup> Tamara Münkemüller<sup>1</sup>, Daria Bystrova<sup>1, 2</sup>, Julian Arbel<sup>2</sup>, James S. Clark<sup>3, 4, 5</sup>, Wilfried Thuiller<sup>1</sup>

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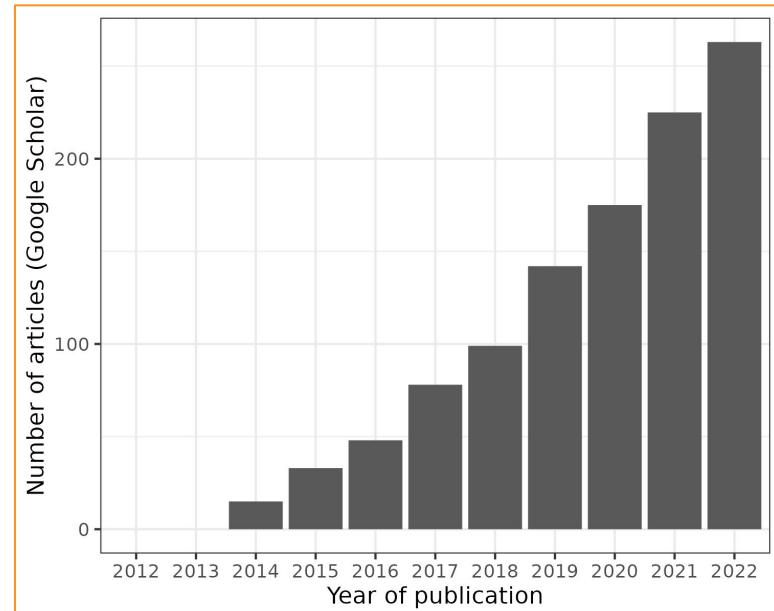
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# Enter the joint species distribution model

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  - A single, potentially high-dimensional log-likelihood function
  - The sources of this (residual) correlation could be many...
- JSMDs are basically a counterpart to stacked species distribution models (SSDMs), which model each species separately
  - Log-likelihood function comprises the sum of independent species contributions e.g., fit a GLM/GAM/GLMM/ML etc...to each species

# Enter the joint species distribution model

- A Google Scholar search of four key JSDM phrases (as of 23 November 2022)
  - Joint species distribution models
  - Model-based ordination
  - Joint dynamic species distribution models
  - Hierarchical modeling of species communities
- This is probably an underestimate of JSDM's rise...

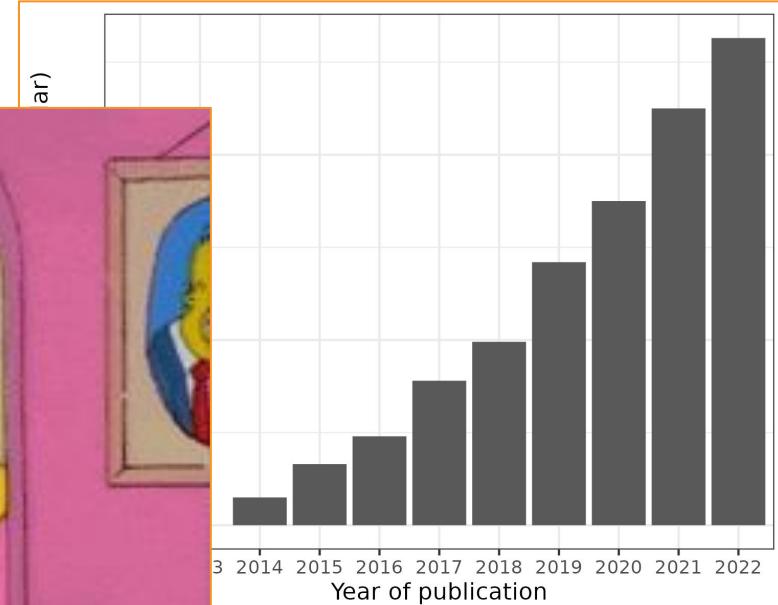


# Enter the joint species distribution model

- A Google Scholar search of four key JSDM phrases (as of 8 October 2022)

- Joint species distributions
- Model-based JSDMs
- Joint dynamic species distribution models
- Hierarchical JSDMs for community composition

- This is probably JSDM's rise...



# Gen 1: MGLMMs

- Multivariate generalized linear mixed model (MGLMM)
  - Model residual between-species correlations using a multivariate random intercept

**Methods in Ecology and Evolution**  BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Research Article |  Open Access |    

**Understanding co-occurrence by modelling species simultaneously with a Joint Species Distribution Model (JSDM)**

Laura J. Pollock, Reid Tingley, William K. Morris, Nick Golding, Robert B. O'Hara, Kirsten M. Parris, Peter A. Vesk, Michael A. McCarthy 

First published: 15 March 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12180> | Citations: 335

  
Volume 5, Issue 5  
May 2014  
Pages 397-406

Figures References Related Information

**Recommended**

A comparison of joint species distribution models for presence-absence data

**ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS**  
ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Article |  Full Access

**More than the sum of the parts: forest climate response from joint species distribution models**

James S. Clark, Alan E. Gelfand, Christopher W. Woodall, Kai Zhu

First published: 01 July 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1890/13-1015.1> | Citations: 136

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Corresponding Editor: D. S. Schimel.

  
Volume 24, Issue 5  
July 2014  
Pages 990-999

Figures References Related Information

**Recommended**

BOULDER COUNTY OPEN SPACE BUTTERFLY DIVERSITY AND ABUNDANCE

# Gen 1: MGLMMs

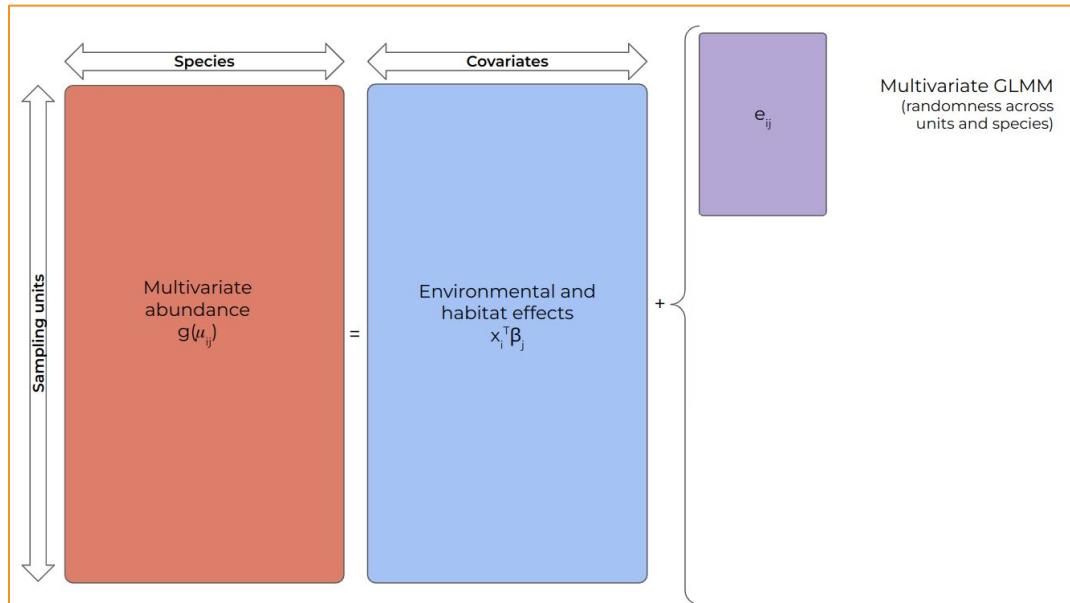
- Multivariate generalized linear mixed model (MGLMM)
  - Model residual between-species correlations using a multivariate random intercept
  - Exponential family is being used “loosely” here to cover many response distributions

Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of observational units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , along with measured covariates  $\mathbf{x}_i$ . Then a vanilla JSDM is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} g(\mu_{ij}) &= \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + e_{ij} \\ [\mathbf{e}_i] &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \\ [y_{ij} | \mathbf{e}_i] &= \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \boldsymbol{\phi}_j) \\ \ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \log \left( \int \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_{ij} | \mu_{ij}, \boldsymbol{\phi}_j) f(\mathbf{e}_i) d\mathbf{e}_i \right) \end{aligned}$$

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  - Pretty flexible (at least for correlations/symmetric associations)
  - Number of parameters scale as  $m^2$ , so great if  $m$  is not large (compared to  $N$ )
  - Lots of random effects, scaling as  $Nm$

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  - Lots of random effects, scaling as  $Nm$
- Largely overtaken by Gen 2 JSMDs, but advances continue to be made...
  - Translating ideas from sparse graphical model/network/ML literature

The screenshot shows the homepage of the journal 'Methods in Ecology and Evolution'. At the top, there's a red header bar with the journal name and the British Ecological Society logo. Below it, a main article is displayed with the title 'A new joint species distribution model for faster and more accurate inference of species associations from big community data' by Maximilian Pichler and Florian Hartig. The article is marked as 'Open Access'. To the right, there's a sidebar with sections for 'Recommended' articles and 'Figures References Related Information'.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the journal 'Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics'. It features a search bar at the top right. Below it, a featured article is highlighted with the title 'Latent Network Estimation and Variable Selection for Compositional Data Via Variational EM' by Nathan Osborne, Christine B. Peterson, and Marina Vannucci. The article has 480 views, 3 CrossRef citations, and 2 Altmetric mentions. There are also buttons for 'Submit an article' and 'Journal homepage'.

# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
  - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction

**Trends in Ecology & Evolution**

Volume 30, Issue 12, December 2015, Pages 766-779

Review

## So Many Variables: Joint Modeling in Community Ecology

David I. Warton<sup>1</sup>✉, F. Guillaume Blanchet<sup>2</sup>, Robert B. O'Hara<sup>3</sup>, Otso Ovaskainen<sup>4,5</sup>, Sara Taskinen<sup>6</sup>, Steven C. Walker<sup>2</sup>, Francis K.C. Hui<sup>7</sup>

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2015.09.007> [Get rights and content](#)



Published: 24 August 2017

### Generalized Linear Latent Variable Models for Multivariate Count and Biomass Data in Ecology

Jenni Niku✉, David I. Warton, Francis K. C. Hui & Sara Taskinen

*Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics* 22, 498-522 (2017) | [Cite this article](#)

2453 Accesses | 28 Citations | 1 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

**Methods in Ecology and Evolution** 

Research Article |  Free Access

### Generating realistic assemblages with a joint species distribution model

David J. Harris✉

First published: 05 January 2015 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12332> | Citations: 80



Volume 6, Issue 4  
April 2015  
Pages 465-473

Figures References Related Information

**Recommended**

Defining and evaluating

## Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

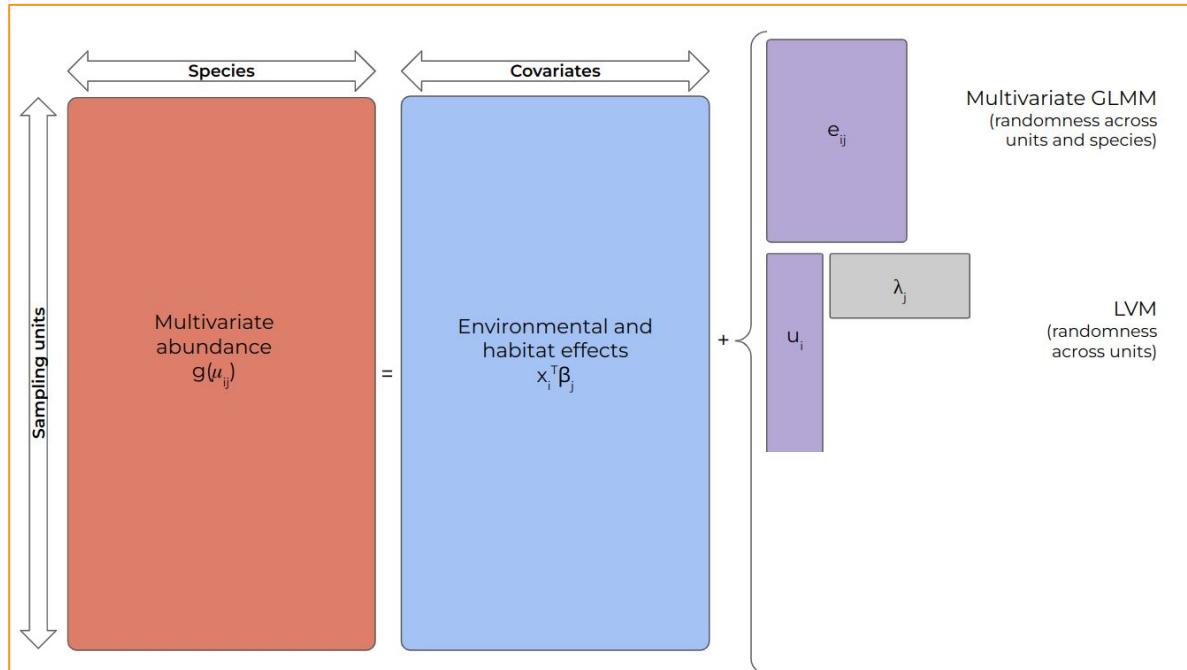
- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
  - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction

Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of observational units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , along with covariates  $\mathbf{x}_i$ . Then a (basic) LVM is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} g(\mu_{ij}) &= \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j \\ [\mathbf{u}_i] &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); \quad d \ll m \\ [y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] &= \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \boldsymbol{\phi}_j); \quad \text{Cov}(\eta_{ij}, \eta_{ij'}) = \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{j'} \\ \ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \log \left( \int \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_{ij} | \mu_{ij}, \boldsymbol{\phi}_j) f(\mathbf{u}_i) d\mathbf{u}_i \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

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  - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction



## Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

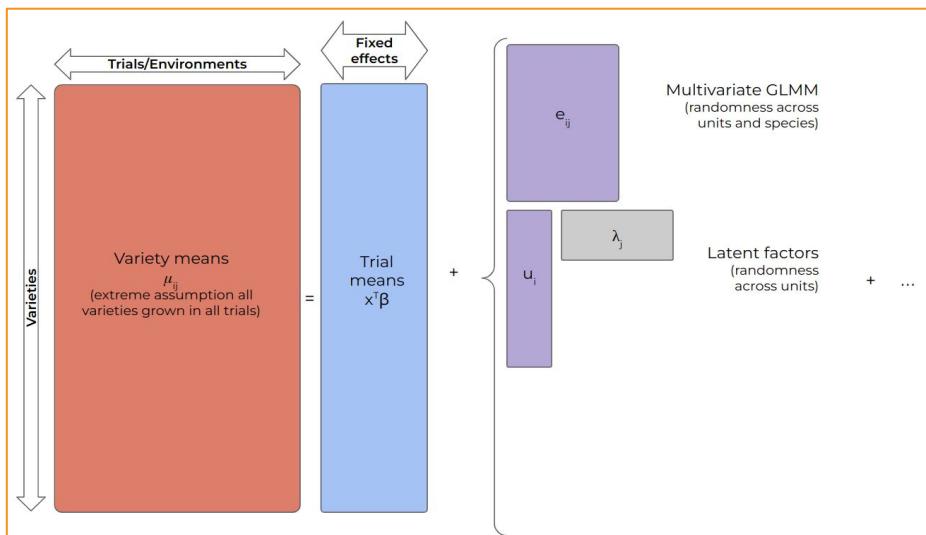
- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
  - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction
  - Less flexible than MGLMMs, but probably good enough in most scenarios?
  - Number of parameters scales as  $m$ , so can handle (a lot) more species
  - Less random effects than MGLMMs, scaling as  $Nd$

Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of observational units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , along with covariates  $\mathbf{x}_i$ . Then a (basic) LVM is defined as

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# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
  - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction
- LVMs are not new news! Examples include psychometrics, agriculture (MET)



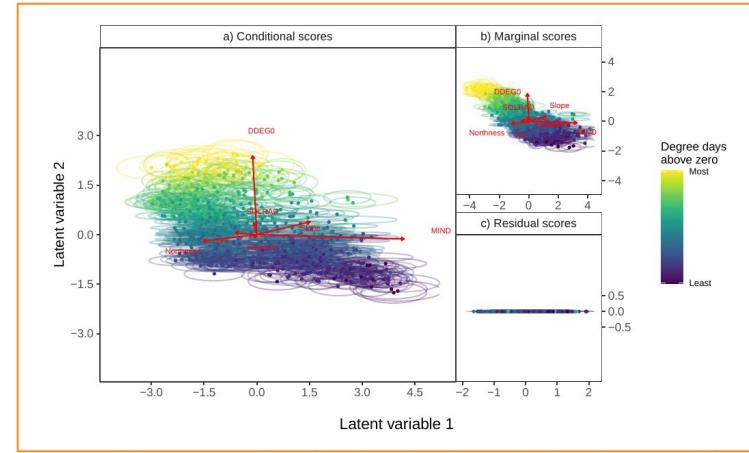
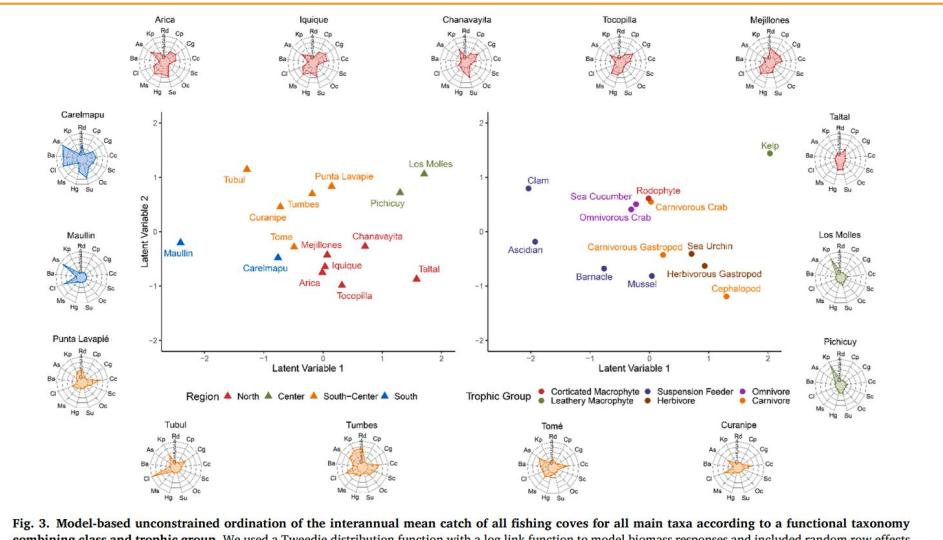
## Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!



# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
  - Model-based unconstrained/partial/concurrent **ordination**, when  $d$  is small



$$g(\mu_{ij}) = \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{z}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{z}_j^\top \mathbf{D}_j \mathbf{z}_i$$

$$\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{C}^\top \mathbf{x}_{\text{lv},i} + \mathbf{u}_i$$

$$[\mathbf{u}_i] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); d \ll m$$

$$[y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] = \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j)$$

## Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
  - Model-based unconstrained/partial/concurrent ordination, when  $d$  is small
  - Latent variables interpreted as unobserved environmental predictors
    - Neat interpretation but practically not very useful

# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
  - Model-based unconstrained/partial/concurrent **ordination**, when  $d$  is small
  - Latent variables interpreted as unobserved environmental predictors
    - Neat interpretation but practically not very useful
  - **Rank-reduction concept** used in other community ecology contexts
    - Vector autoregressive models; community-level drivers/regulators

Species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  at time  $t = 1, \dots, T$

$$\log(\mu_{tj}) = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + (\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{c}_j + \mathbf{d}_j)^\top \log(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{t-1}) + \mathbf{u}_t^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j + \delta_j$$

$$\dim(\mathbf{Q}) = m \times q; \dim(\mathbf{c}_j) = q \times 1; q \ll m$$

$$\mathbf{d}_j = (0, 0, \dots, 0, d_j, 0, \dots, 0)$$

$$[\mathbf{u}_t] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); d \ll m$$

$$[\delta_j] = \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

The screenshot shows a research article titled "How are species interactions structured in species-rich communities? A new method for analysing time-series data" by Otso Ovaskainen, Gleb Tikhonov, David Dunson, Vidar Grøtan, Steiner Engen, Bernt-Erik Sæther, and Nerea Abrego. The article was published on 24 May 2017. The page includes a sidebar for "This Issue" showing a thumbnail of another paper and publication details for Volume 284, Issue 1855.

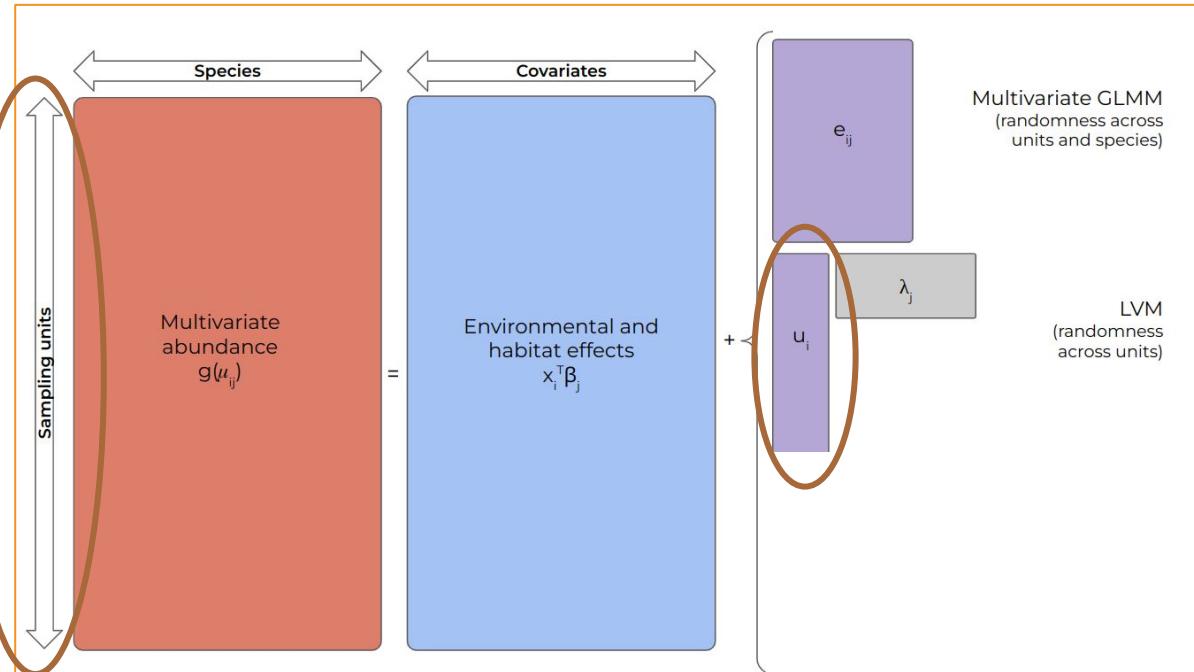
The screenshot shows an article titled "Spatio-temporal models of intermediate complexity for ecosystem assessments: A new tool for spatial fisheries management" by James T. Thorson, Grant Adams, and Kirstin Holsman. It was published on 25 September 2019. The page includes a sidebar for "Recommended" papers and a "Multispecies fisheries" section.

## Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Current JSIM paradigm
  - Make LVMs more flexible and/or computationally more scalable

# Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 1: Spatio-temporal LVMs



# Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 1: Spatio-temporal LVMs
  - Many flavours e.g., tensor-product or additive LVs, dynamic loadings
  - Faster approximations/algorithms e.g., LVs + SPDE/NNGP/GPP

**Global Ecology and Biogeography** | A Journal of Macroecology

Macroecological Methods | Full Access

Joint dynamic species distribution models: a tool for community ordination and spatio-temporal monitoring

James T. Thorson, James N. Ianelli, Elise A. Larsen, Leslie Ries, Mark D. Scheuerell, Cody Szwakowski, Elize F. Zippkin

First published: 29 May 2016 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.12464> | Citations: 98

Volume 25, Issue 9  
September 2016  
Pages 1144-1158

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**Methods in Ecology and Evolution** | BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Research Article | Free Access

Uncovering hidden spatial structure in species communities with spatially explicit joint species distribution models

Otso Ovaskainen, David B. Roy, Richard Fox, Barbara J. Anderson

First published: 07 November 2015 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12502> | Citations: 99

Volume 7, Issue 4  
April 2016  
Pages 428-436

Figures References Related Information

Recommended

Spatial factor analysis: a new

**Global Ecology and Biogeography** | A Journal of Macroecology

Macroecological Methods | Full Access

Joint species distribution modelling for spatio-temporal occurrence and ordinal abundance data

Erin M. Schliep, Nina K. Lary, Phoebe L. Zarnetske, Robert N. Schaeffer, Colin M. Orians, David A. Orwig, Evan L. Preisser

First published: 27 October 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.12666> | Citations: 28

Volume 27, Issue 1  
January 2018  
Pages 142-155

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① 1 ② 38 ③ 0

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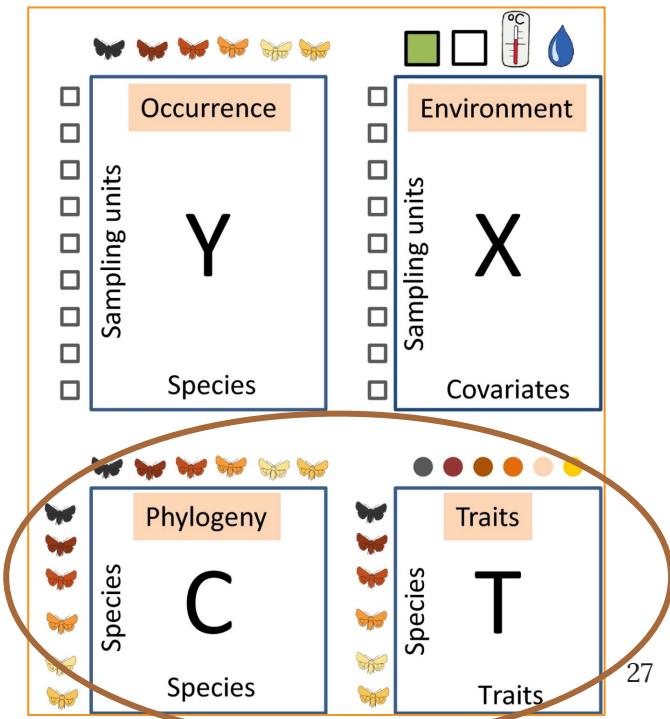
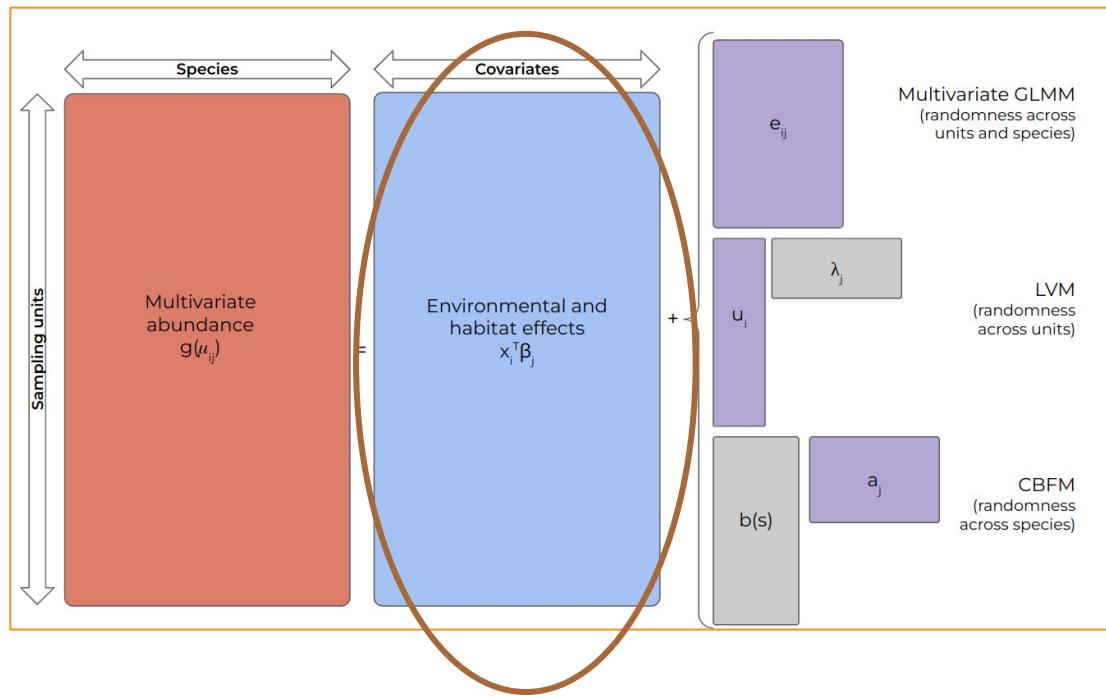
Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , each unit having a space-time coordinate  $(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)$ . Then a (basic) spatio-temporal LVM is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} g\{\mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)\} &= \eta_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j \\ [\mathbf{u}_{.,k}] &= [\{u_k(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1), \dots, u_k(\mathbf{s}_N, t_N)\}] = \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_k^{sp} \otimes \Sigma_k^{time}); \Sigma_k^{sp} \Rightarrow \text{Matern}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k^{sp}), \Sigma_k^{time} \Rightarrow \text{Matern}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k^{time}); k = 1, \dots, d \\ [y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] &= \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j) \\ \ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) &= \log \left( \int \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) | \mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i), \phi_j) \prod_{k=1}^d f(\mathbf{u}_{.,k}) \prod_{k=1}^d d\mathbf{u}_{.,k} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Note  $\text{Cov}\{\eta_j(\mathbf{s}, t), \eta_{j'}(\mathbf{s}', t')\} = \sum_{k=1}^d \lambda_{jk} \Sigma_{k,ss'}^{sp} \Sigma_{k,tt'}^{time} \lambda_{j'k}$ .

# Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 2: Borrow strength across species



# Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 2: Borrow strength across species
  - Traits mediate species mean responses to environment (“fourth-corner” models)
  - Phylogeny drives (dis)similarity in response to environment (phylogenetic LVMs)



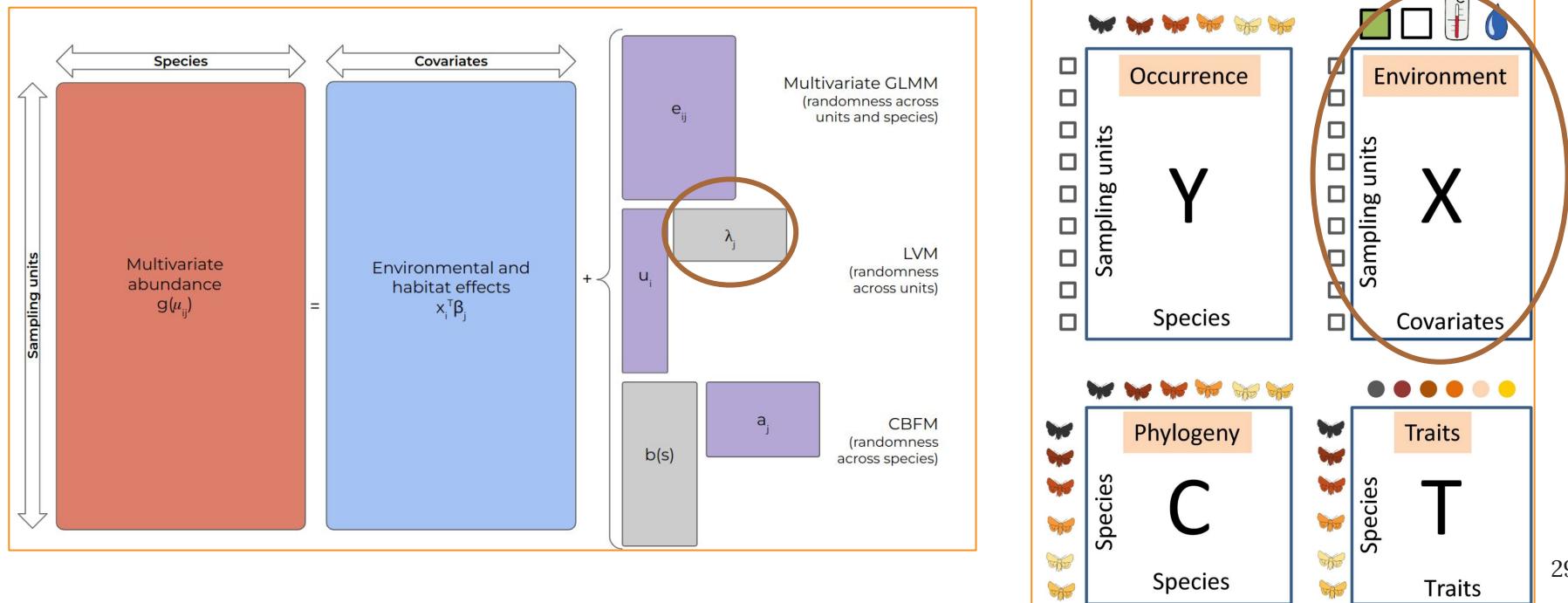
Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of observational units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , along with a set of  $p$  covariates  $\mathbf{x}_i$ , an  $m \times t$  trait matrix  $\mathbf{T}$ , and phylogenetic correlation matrix  $\mathbf{C}$ . Then a (basic) hierarchical LVM is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} g(\mu_{ij}) &= \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j \\ [(\boldsymbol{\beta}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\beta}_m)] &= \mathcal{N}\{\text{vec}(\mathbf{K}\mathbf{T}^\top), \mathbf{V} \otimes (\rho\mathbf{C} + (1 - \rho)\mathbf{I}_m)\} \\ \dim(\mathbf{K}) &= p \times t; \quad t < p; \quad \dim(\mathbf{V}) = p \times p \\ [\mathbf{u}_i] &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); \quad d \ll m \\ [y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] &= \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j) \\ \ell(\Psi) &= \log \left( \int \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_{ij} | \mu_{ij}, \phi_j) \prod_{i=1}^N f(\mathbf{u}_i) \prod_{j=1}^m f(\boldsymbol{\beta}_j) \prod_{i=1}^N d\mathbf{u}_i \prod_{j=1}^m d\boldsymbol{\beta}_j \right) \end{aligned}$$

Note  $\text{Cov}(\eta_{ij}, \eta_{i'j'}) = \rho C_{j,j'} \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x}_{i'} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{j'} \text{ for } j \neq j'$ .

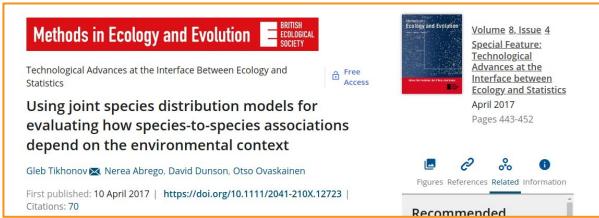
# Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 3: Borrow strength across species (in the loadings)



# Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 3: Borrow strength across species (in the loadings)
  - Clustering process on the loadings matrix (archetypal species associations)
  - Regress loadings against measured covariates (environment dependent associations)



This image shows a screenshot of a research article from 'Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution'. The article is titled 'Clustering Species With Residual Covariance Matrix in Joint Species Distribution Models' (Original Research article, Volume 8, Issue 4, March 2021). It is part of a Research Topic 'Advances in Statistical Ecology: New Methods and Software'. The authors listed are Daria Bystrova<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Giovanni Poggiali<sup>1,2</sup>, Billur Bektaş<sup>1</sup>, Julian Arbel<sup>2</sup>, James S. Clark<sup>3,4,5</sup>, Alessandra Guglielmi<sup>6</sup> and Wilfried Thuiller<sup>1</sup>. The article is associated with the University of Georgia, University of South Mont Blanc, CNRS, IFEA, Geography France.

This image shows a screenshot of a research article from 'Statistica Sinica'. The article is titled 'SPATIAL JOINT SPECIES DISTRIBUTION MODELING USING DIRICHLET PROCESSES' (Statistica Sinica 29 (2019), 1127-1154, doi: https://doi.org/10.5705/ss.202017.0482). The authors are Shinichiro Shirota<sup>1</sup>, Alan E. Gelfand<sup>2</sup> and Sudipto Banerjee<sup>1</sup>. The article is associated with the University of California, Los Angeles and Duke University.

Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of observational units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , along with covariates  $\mathbf{x}_i$ . Then a (basic) loading-clustered LVM is defined as

$$g(\mu_{ij}) = \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \mathbf{Z}^\top \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{k}_j)$$

$$\dim(\mathbf{Z}) = r \times d; \quad r \gg d; \quad \dim\{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{k}_j)\} = N \times 1$$

$$[\mathbf{k}_j] = \mathcal{DP}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \{1, 2, \dots, r\});$$

$$[\mathbf{z}_{il}] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{W}); \quad l = 1, \dots, r$$

$$[\mathbf{u}_i] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); \quad d \ll m$$

$$[y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] = \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j)$$

$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) = \text{I've never seen anyone try to estimate this using MLE!}$$

# Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- There are many other extensions of LVMs, which I do not be cover/know about!

**Methods in Ecology and Evolution** E BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RESEARCH ARTICLE | [Full Access](#)

**Effectiveness of joint species distribution models in the presence of imperfect detection**

Stephanie Elizabeth Hogg ✉, Yan Wang, Lewi Stone

First published: 12 April 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13614>

Volume 12, Issue 8  
August 2021  
Pages 1458-1474

Figures References Related Information

Recommended

arXiv > stat > arXiv:2103.05557

Statistics > Methodology  
[Submitted on 9 Mar 2021 ([v1](#)), last revised 26 May 2022 (this version, v2)]

**Covariate-informed latent interaction models: Addressing geographic & taxonomic bias in predicting bird-plant interactions**

Georgia Papadogeorgou, Carolina Bello, Otso Ovaskainen, David B. Dunson

Climate change and reductions in natural habitats urge that we better understand species' interconnection and how biological communities respond to environmental changes. However, ecological studies

arXiv > stat > arXiv:2204.02707

Statistics > Applications  
[Submitted on 6 Apr 2022]

**Joint species distribution models with imperfect detection for high-dimensional spatial data**

Jeffrey W. Doser, Andrew O. Finley, Sudipto Banerjee

Determining spatial distributions of species and communities are key objectives of ecology and conservation. Joint species distribution models use multi-species detection-nondetection data

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A JOURNAL OF SPACE AND TIME IN ECOLOGY

Volume 44, Issue 4  
April 2021  
Pages 612-625

Figures References Related Information

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# **Some closing remarks/thoughts**



# Some closing remarks/thoughts

- JSDMs is a success story of how to translate and sell statistics...
  - Targeted software + relevant interpretations/answers + methods-vs-maths gap

# Some closing remarks/thoughts

- JSDMs is a success story of how to translate and sell statistics...
  - Targeted software + relevant interpretations/answers + methods-vs-maths gap
- Still many gaps in the JSDMs literature to close. Personal examples include:
  - Directional associations (structural equation modeling)?
  - Where do machine learning techniques come into this?
  - Data integration/fusion in JSDMs
  - Gen 3: Replacing latent variables with (spatio-temporal) basis functions
    - <https://github.com/fhui28/CBFM>

Home | Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application | Volume 9, 2022 | Cressie

Basis-Function Models in Spatial Statistics

Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application  
Vol. 9 - (Volume publication date March 2022)  
Review in Advance first posted online on November 18, 2021. (Changes may still occur before final publication.)  
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-statistics-090220-020733>

Neil Cressie, Matthew Sainsbury-Dale, and Andrew Zammit-Mangion  
School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales 2521, Australia; email: ncressie@uow.edu.au

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Abstract

Trends in Ecology & Evolution Supports open access

REVIEW | VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1, P56-67, JANUARY 01, 2020

Data Integration for Large-Scale Models of Species Distributions

Nick J.B. Isaac Martin A. Jerzyński Petr Keil ... Reto Schmucki Emily G. Simmonds Robert B. O'Hara Show all authors

Open Access • Published: October 29, 2019 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.08.006> • Check for updates

Invited paper | Published: 01 January 2014

Lingam: Non-Gaussian Methods for Estimating Causal Structures

Shohel Shimizu

*Behaviorometrika* 41, 65–98 (2014) | [Cite this article](#)

262 Accesses | 39 Citations | [Metrics](#)

Abstract

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Abstract

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About this article

# Some closing remarks/thoughts

- JSMDs is a success story of how to translate and sell statistics...
  - Targeted software + relevant interpretations/answers + methods-vs-maths gap
- Still many gaps in the JSMDs literature to close. Personal examples include:
  - Directional associations (structural equation modeling)?
  - Where do machine learning techniques come into this?
  - Data integration/fusion in JSMDs
  - Gen 3: Replacing latent variables with (spatio-temporal) basis functions
    - <https://github.com/fhui28/CBFM>
- JSMDs is not the be-all and end-all
  - E.g., Stacked SDMs are still a powerful statistical approach
  - Do not throw the kitchen sink at something that does not need it

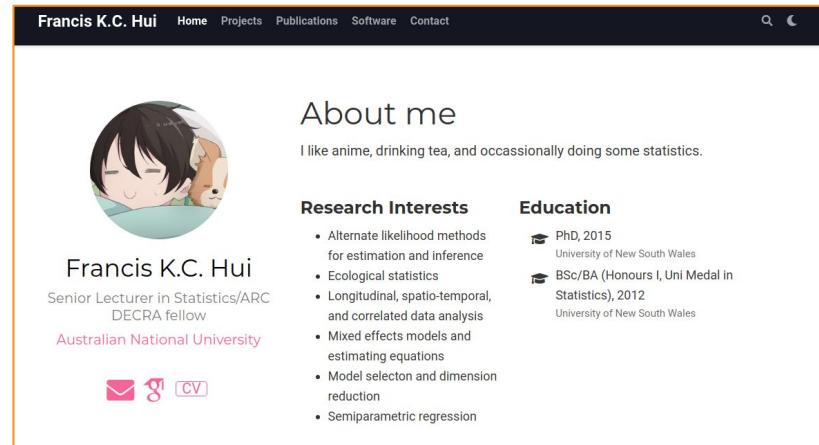




# Thank you for listening!

## Any *questions*?

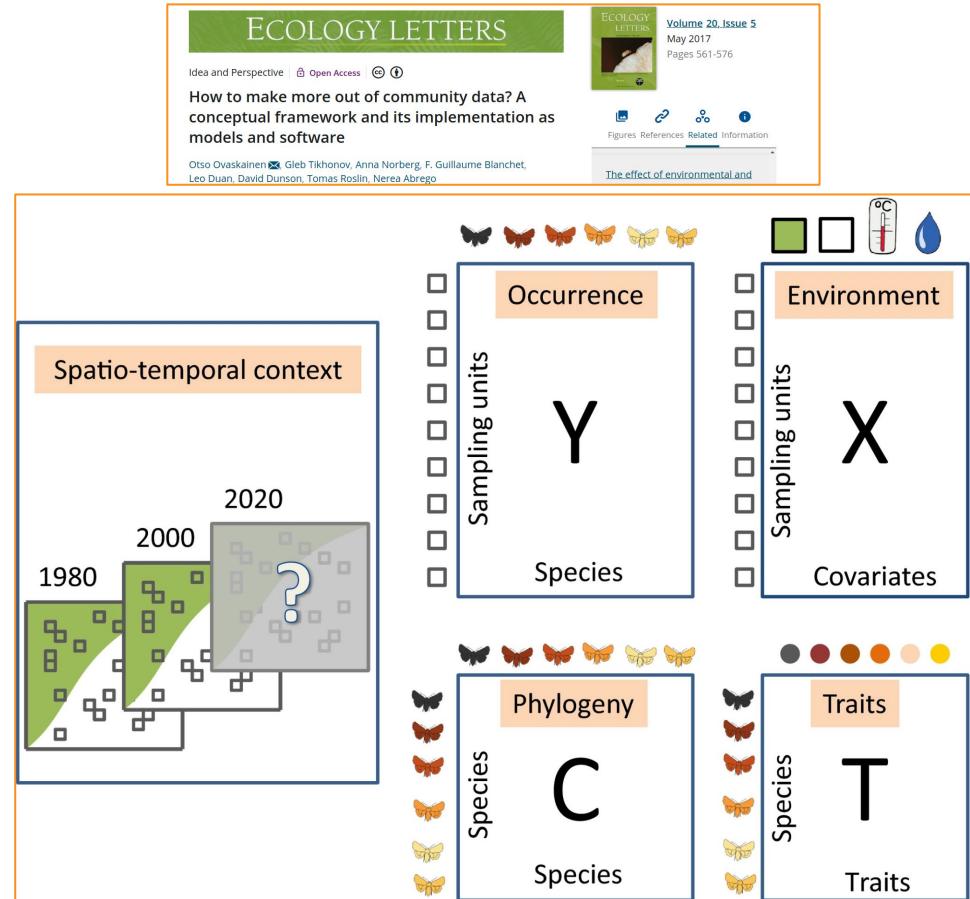
- [francis.hui@anu.edu.au](mailto:francis.hui@anu.edu.au)
- <https://francishui.netlify.app/>



A screenshot of a personal website for Francis K.C. Hui. The header includes the name "Francis K.C. Hui" and navigation links for Home, Projects, Publications, Software, and Contact. A search bar and a moon icon are also present. The main content area features a cartoon illustration of Francis Hui holding a dog. Below the illustration, her name is displayed along with her title as a Senior Lecturer in Statistics/ARC DECRA fellow at the Australian National University. Social media icons for email, Google Scholar, and CV are shown. To the right, there are sections for "About me" (describing her interests in anime, tea, and statistics), "Research Interests" (listing topics like likelihood methods, ecological statistics, and semiparametric regression), and "Education" (mentioning her PhD from the University of New South Wales and her BSc/BA degree from the same university). A small orange border surrounds the entire page.

# Multivariate abundance data

- Some common features:
  - Multiple correlated responses (high-dimensional)
  - Non-continuous responses with evident mean-variance relationship
  - Non-linear Y-X relationships
- Other features:
  - Spatio-temporal (high-volume)
  - Multiple data sources
  - Background information



# Question/s of interests

- Depends on the data you have:
  - (a) is a multivariate prediction problem
  - (b) -> how is Y and X related?
  - (c) -> how are the columns of Y related?
  - (d) + (e) -> how do T & C mediate/drive the Y-X relationship?
- Some other applications:
  - Model-based ordination
  - Bioregionalization

JOURNAL ARTICLE EDITOR'S CHOICE

## Bioregions in Marine Environments: Combining Biological and Environmental Data for Management and Scientific Understanding

Skipton N C Woolley , Scott D Foster, Nicholas J Bax, Jock C Currie, Daniel C Dunn, Cecilie Hansen, Nicole Hill, Timothy D O'Hara, Otso Ovaskainen, Roger Sayre ... Show more

*BioScience*, Volume 70, Issue 1, January 2020, Pages 48–59,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz133>

Published: 18 December 2019

## Trends in Ecology & Evolution



Volume 30, Issue 12, December 2015, Pages 766–779

Review

## So Many Variables: Joint Modeling in Community Ecology

David I. Warton <sup>1</sup> , F. Guillaume Blanchet <sup>2</sup>, Robert B. O'Hara <sup>3</sup>, Otso Ovaskainen <sup>4,5</sup>, Sara Taskinen <sup>6</sup>, Steven C. Walker <sup>2</sup>, Francis K.C. Hui <sup>7</sup>

## MOLECULAR ECOLOGY

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Uncovering the drivers of host-associated microbiota with joint species distribution modelling

Johannes R. Björk , Francis K. C. Hui, Robert B. O'Hara, Jose M. Montoya

First published: 14 May 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.14718> | Citations: 25



Volume 27, Issue 12  
June 2018  
Pages 2714–2724

Related Information  
Recommended

# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
  - Model residual between-response correlations using rank-reduction
  - Less flexible than MGLMMs, but probably good enough in most scenarios?\*
  - Number of parameters scales as  $m$ , so can handle (a lot) more species\*
  - Less random effects than MGLMMs, scaling as  $Nd$ ; still quite challenging to fit\*\*
    - \*Choice of  $d$  remains a complicated and active topic
    - \*\*Lots of work has been done in this space

ECOLOGY  
Volume 100, Issue 8  
August 2019  
e02754

Article  
Joint species distribution models with species correlations and imperfect detection  
Mathias W. Tobler, Marc Kéry, Francis K. C. Hui, Gurutzeta Guillera-Arroita, Peter Knous, Thomas Sattler

First published: 07 May 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.2754> | Citations: 38  
Corresponding Editor: Caz M. Taylor.

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A comprehensive evaluation of predictive performance of 33 species distribution models at species and community levels

JOURNAL ARTICLE  
Sparse Bayesian infinite factor models  
A. BHATTACHARYA and D. B. DUNSON

Biometrika  
Vol. 98, No. 2 (JUNE 2011), pp. 291-306 (16 pages)

PLOS ONE  
OPEN ACCESS • PEER-REVIEWED  
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Efficient estimation of generalized linear latent variable models  
Jenni Niku, Wesley Brooks, Riki Herllasyni, Francis K. C. Hui, Sara Taskinen, David I. Warton

Published: May 1, 2019 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0216129>

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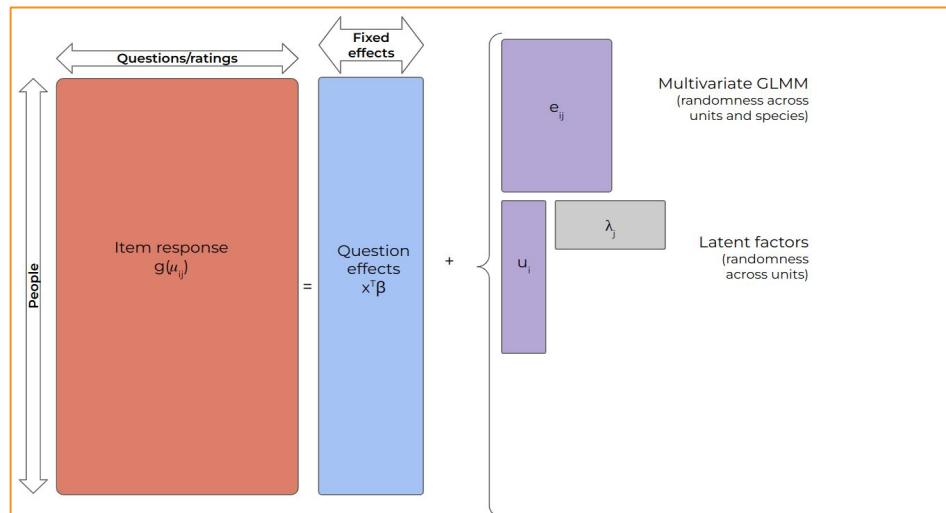
greta: simple and scalable statistical modelling in R  
Nick Golding<sup>1</sup>  
1 School of BioSciences, University of Melbourne

DOI: 10.2110/joss.01801  
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Authors  
Nick Golding (0000-0001-4916-5370)  
Citation  
Golding (2019). greta: simple and scalable statistical modelling in R. Journal of Open-Source Software, 4(46), 1661. <https://doi.org/10.2110/joss.01801>

# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
  - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction
- LVMs are not new news! Examples include psychometrics



mirt: A Multidimensional Item Response Theory Package for the R Environment

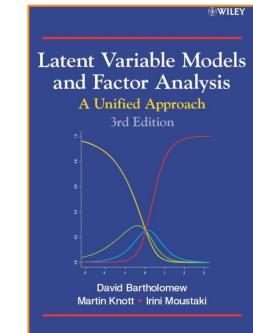
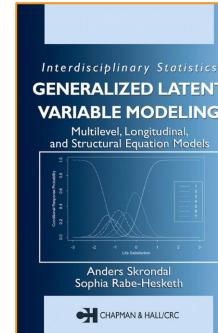
R. Philip Chalmers

Abstract

How to Cite  
Chalmers, R. P. (2012). mirt: A Multidimensional Item Response Theory Package for the R Environment. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 48(6), 1–28.  
<https://doi.org/10.1885/jss.v048.i06>

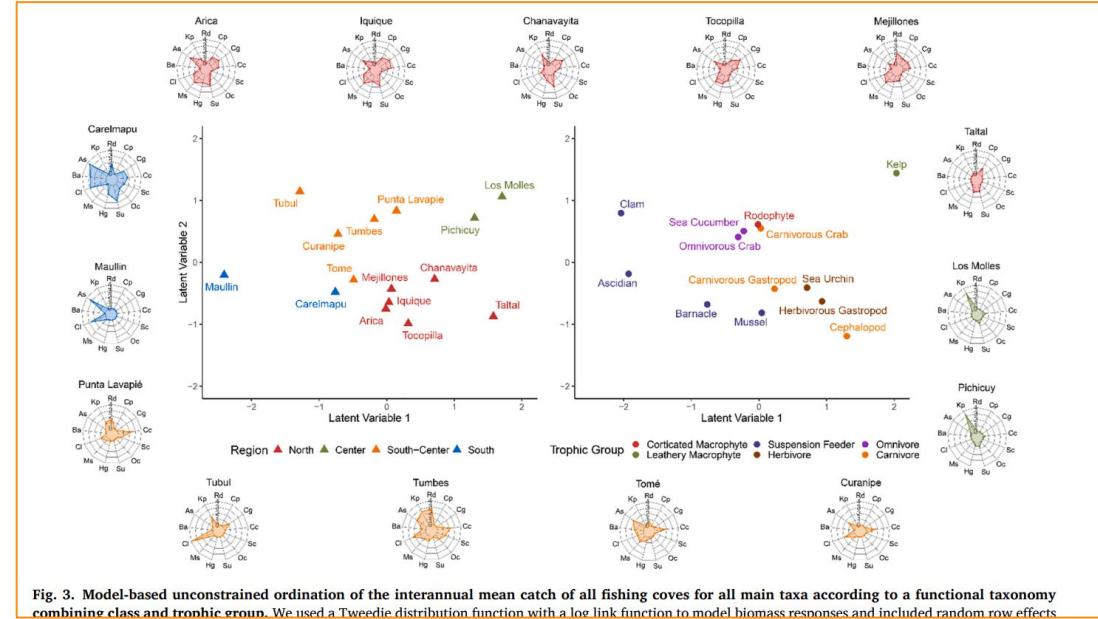
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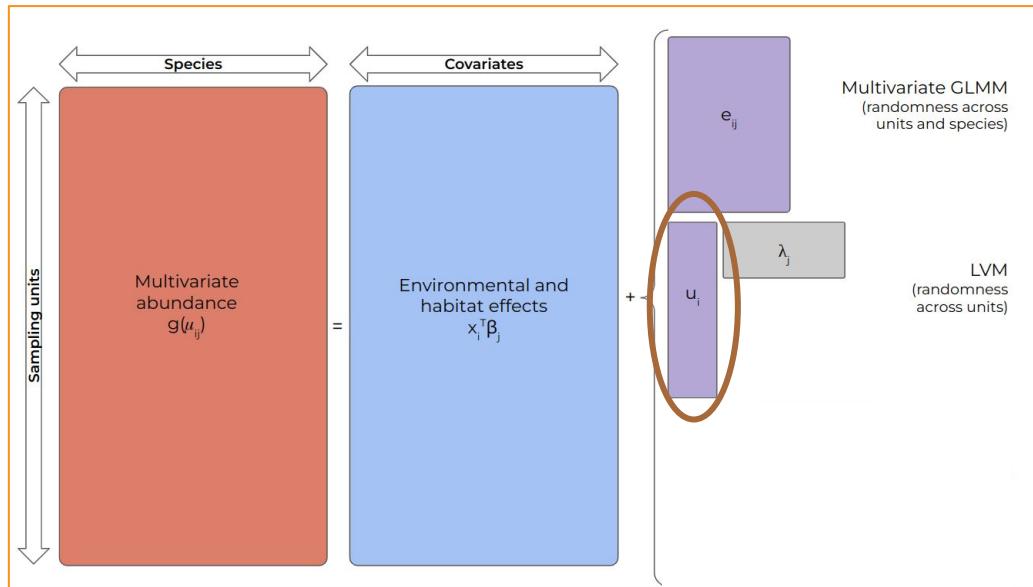
# Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
  - Model-based unconstrained and partial **ordination**, when  $d$  is small



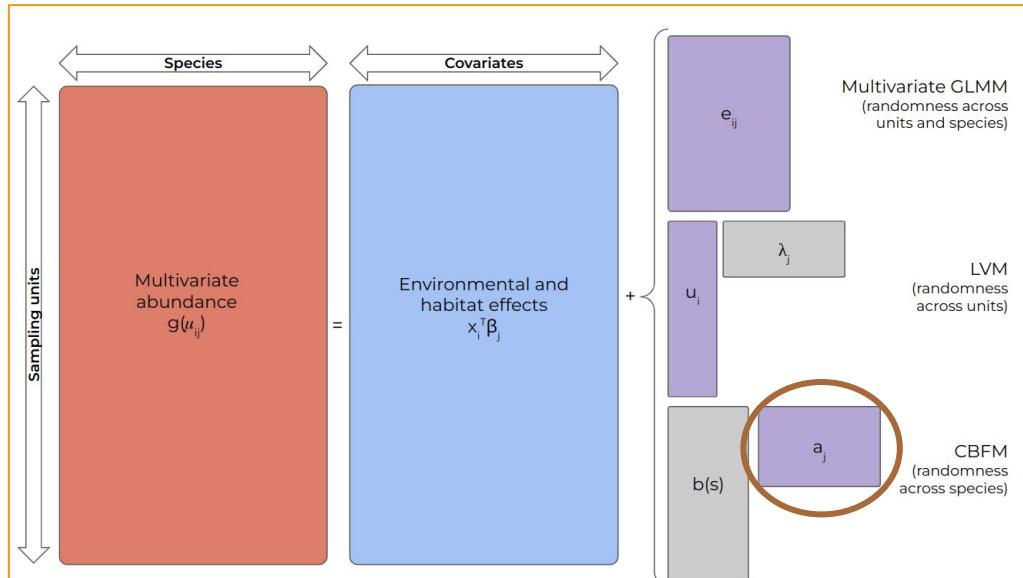
# Gen 3: ???

- Latent variables as an approach to JSDMs is awesome
  - But I think we are pushing the limits of their scalability/computability?



# Gen 3: ???

- Latent variables as an approach to JSDMs is awesome
  - But I think we are pushing the limits of their scalability/computability?
- Move the randomness from units to species -> basis functions



# Gen 3: CBFMs?

- Community-level basis function models (CBFMs) for spatio-temporal multivariate abundance data
  - Pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions
  - <https://github.com/fhui28/CBFM>

Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , where each unit has a space-time coordinate  $(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)$ . For a set of pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions,  $\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}, t)$ , a (basic) CBFM can be defined as

$$\begin{aligned} g\{\mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)\} &= \eta_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \mathbf{a}_j \\ [\mathbf{a}] &= [(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m)] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \\ \mathbf{G} &= \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G^\top + \kappa_G \mathbf{I}_m; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G) = m \times d_m, d_m \ll m \\ &\Rightarrow m \times m \text{ rank-reduced baseline between-species } \textit{correlation} \text{ matrix} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma} &= \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma) = q \times d_q, d_q \ll q \\ &\Rightarrow q \times q \text{ rank-reduced community-level covariance matrix for basis functions.} \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\text{Cov}\{\eta_j(\mathbf{s}, t), \eta_{j'}(\mathbf{s}', t')\} = G_{jj'} \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}, t)^\top (\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q) \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}', t')$ , where  $G_{jj'} = 1$  if  $j = j'$  and  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{G,j}^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{G,j'}$  otherwise

# Gen 3: CBFMs?

- But why would CBFMs be faster?

Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , where each unit has a space-time coordinate  $(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)$ . For a set of pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions,  $\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}, t)$ , a (basic) CBFM can be defined as

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$$[\mathbf{a}] = [(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m)] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G^\top + \kappa_G \mathbf{I}_m; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G) = m \times d_m, d_m \ll m$$

$\Rightarrow m \times m$  rank-reduced baseline between-species *correlation* matrix

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma) = q \times d_q, d_q \ll q$$

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Note that  $\text{Cov}\{\eta_j(\mathbf{s}, t), \eta_{j'}(\mathbf{s}', t')\} = G_{jj'} \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}, t)^\top (\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q) \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}', t')$ , where  $G_{jj'} = 1$  if  $j = j'$  and  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{G,j}^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{G,j'}$  otherwise

# Gen 3: CBFMs?

- But why would CBFMs be faster?
  - Although  $m$  may not be small,  $N$  is still larger in most modern datasets

Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , where each unit has a space-time coordinate  $(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)$ . For a set of pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions,  $\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}, t)$ , a (basic) CBFM can be defined as

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$$[\mathbf{a}] = [(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m)] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G^\top + \kappa_G \mathbf{I}_m; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G) = m \times d_m, d_m \ll m$$

$\Rightarrow m \times m$  rank-reduced baseline between-species *correlation* matrix

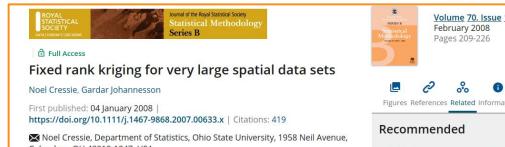
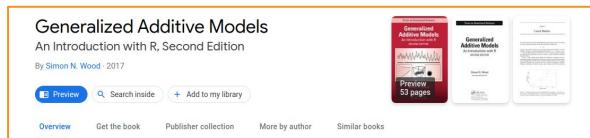
$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma) = q \times d_q, d_q \ll q$$

$\Rightarrow q \times q$  rank-reduced community-level covariance matrix for basis functions.

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# Gen 3: CBFMs?

- But why would CBFMs be faster?
  - Although  $m$  may not be small, **N** is still larger in most modern datasets
  - It is just a big generalized additive model (**GAM**)!



Consider a set of species  $j = 1, \dots, m$  recorded at a set of units  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , where each unit has a space-time coordinate  $(s_i, t_i)$ . For a set of pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions,  $\mathbf{b}(s, t)$ , a (basic) CBFM can be defined as

$$g\{\mu_j(s_i, t_i)\} = \eta_j(s_i, t_i) = \mathbf{x}(s_i, t_i)^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{b}(s_i, t_i)^\top \mathbf{a}_j$$

$$[\mathbf{a}] = [(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m)] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G^\top + \kappa_G \mathbf{I}_m; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G) = m \times d_m, d_m \ll m$$

$\Rightarrow m \times m$  rank-reduced baseline between-species *correlation* matrix

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma) = q \times d_q, d_q \ll q$$

$\Rightarrow q \times q$  rank-reduced community-level covariance matrix for basis functions.

Note that  $\text{Cov}\{\eta_j(s, t), \eta_{j'}(s', t')\} = G_{jj'} \mathbf{b}(s, t)^\top (\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q) \mathbf{b}(s', t')$ , where  $G_{jj'} = 1$  if  $j = j'$  and  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{G,j}^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{G,j'}$  otherwise

# Gen 3: CBFMs?

- Basis functions are not new news
  - GAMs have been known in ecology for a long time. But not so much fixed rank kriging

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## Basis-Function Models in Spatial Statistics

**Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application**  
Vol. 9:- (Volume publication date: March 2022)  
Review in Advance first posted online on November 18, 2021. (Changes may still occur before final publication.)  
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-statistics-040120-020733>

Noel Cressie, Matthew Sainsbury-Dale, and Andrew Zammit-Mangion  
School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales 2522, Australia; email: ncressie@uow.edu.au

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Trevor J. Hefley ✉ Kristin M. Broms, Brian M. Brost, Frances E. Buderman, Shannon L. Kay, Henry R. Scharf, John R. Tipton, Perry J. Williams, Mevin B. Hooten

First published: 09 December 2016 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.1674> | Citations: 30

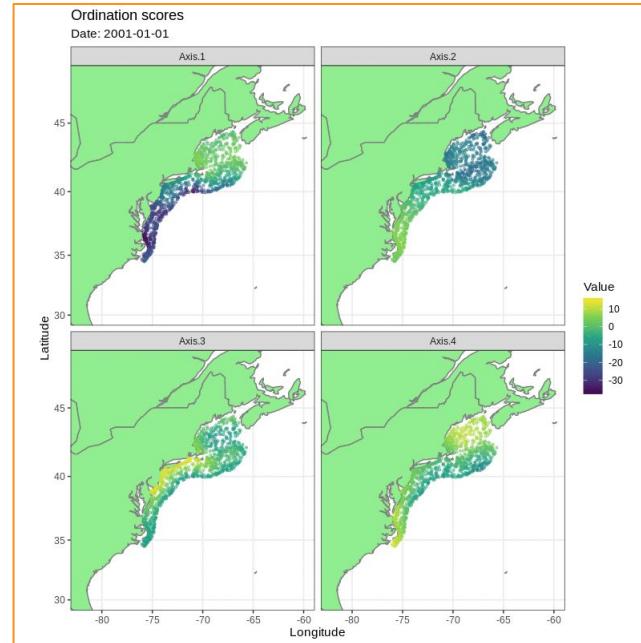
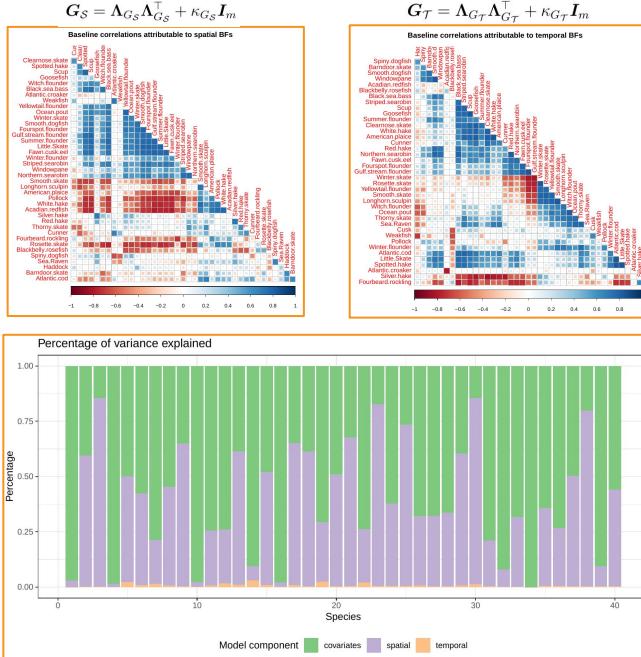
 **Volume 98, Issue 3**  
March 2017  
Pages 632-646

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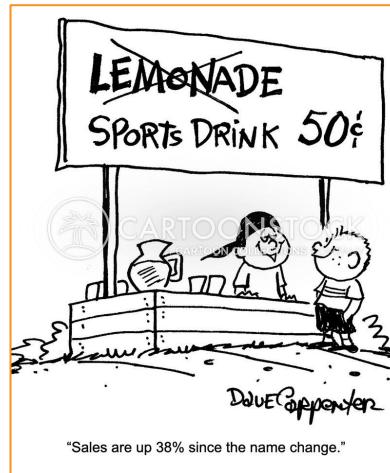
# Gen 3: CBFMs?

- Basis functions are not new news
  - GAMs have been known in ecology for a long time. But not so much fixed rank kriging
  - It takes a while to translate statistical methods to other disciplines (properly)...



# Gen 3: CBFMs?

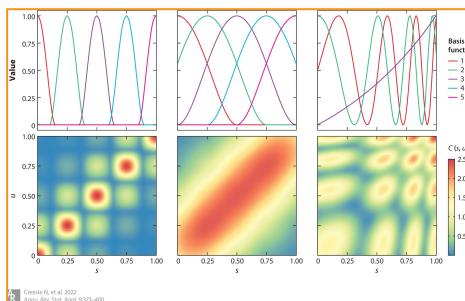
- Basis functions are not new news
  - GAMs have been known in ecology for a long time. But not so much fixed rank kriging
  - It takes a while to translate statistical methods to other disciplines (properly)...
- Is Gen 3  $\subset$  Gen2+? Isn't basis functions just an approximation of spatio-temporal LVMs?



"Sales are up 38% since the name change."

# Gen 3: CBFMs?

- Basis functions are not new news
  - GAMs have been known in ecology for a long time. But not so much fixed rank kriging
  - It takes a while to translate statistical methods to other disciplines (properly)...
- Is Gen 3  $\subset$  Gen2+? Isn't basis functions just an approximation of spatio-temporal LVMs?
  - Depends on how you want to approach basis functions: "*one person's mean is another person's covariance*" (Cressie, 1993)
  - A "basis function" mindset can open up new opportunities



Published: 26 February 2014

Finite area smoothing with generalized distance splines

David L. Miller & Simon N. Wood

*Environmental and Ecological Statistics* 21, 715–731 (2014) | [Cite this article](#)

696 Accesses | 14 Citations | 18 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

[Abstract](#)

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Sections Figures References

Abstract

Introduction

Previous approaches to the problem of...  
The generalized distance smoothing m...

Keywords

# Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Leveled up FRK = A very big generalized additive model (GAM)
  - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  is the  $m \times q$  matrix formed by stacking the  $\mathbf{a}_j$ 's as row vectors. Then given  $\mathbf{G}$  and  $\Sigma$ , update  $(\beta_j, \mathbf{a}_j)$ 's, and  $\phi_j$ 's using

$$\ell_{\text{PQL}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^m \log\{f(y_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i); \mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i), \boldsymbol{\phi}_j)\} - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (\mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{A}^\top).$$

# Multivariate abundance data

- NorthEast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) fall bottom trawl survey
  - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/22560>
  - Subset of 2000-2019

NEFSC Metadata Library > Population and Ecosystems Monitoring and Analysis > Ecosystems Surveys Branch > Bottom Trawl Surveys >

## Fall Bottom Trawl Survey

Data Set (DS) | Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)  
ID: 22560 | Updated: June 28, 2021 | Published / External

[View As](#) [View in Hierarchy](#)

**Completion Rubric**  
**83%**  
29 / 35  
[View Report](#)

**Short Citation:**  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2021: Fall Bottom Trawl Survey, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/22560>.

**Item Identification**

**Title:** Fall Bottom Trawl Survey

**Short Name:** Fall Bottom Trawl Survey

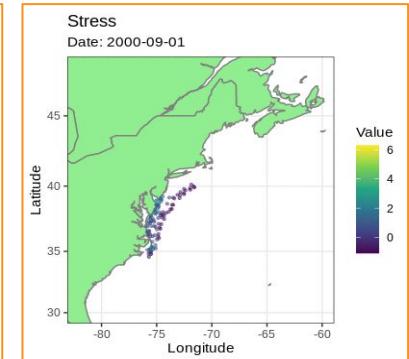
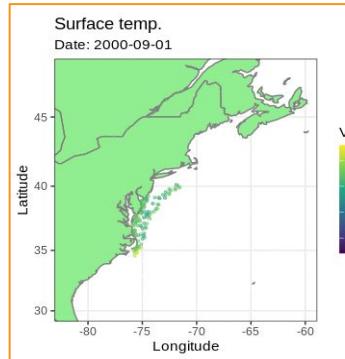
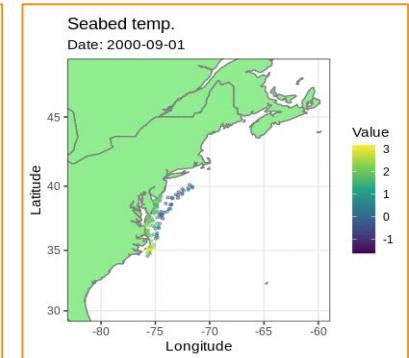
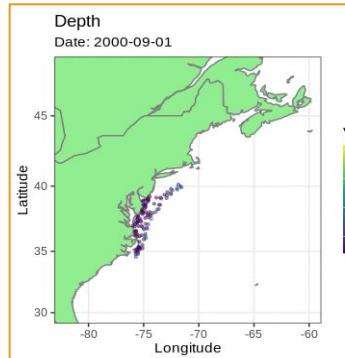
**Status:** Completed

**Abstract:** The standardized NEFSC Fall Bottom Trawl Survey was initiated in 1963 and covered an area from Hudson Canyon, NY to Nova Scotia, Canada. Throughout the years, coverage has extended as far south as Florida and sampling depths have ranged from <27 to 366 m. Currently, the survey coverage is from Cape Hatteras, NC to Nova Scotia and the minimum depth range is > 18 m as the result of a change in the sampling platform. This has resulted in the exclusion of many inshore strata.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Fall Bottom Trawl Survey is to determine the seasonal distribution, relative abundance, and biodiversity of fish and invertebrate species found on the continental shelf during the fall months, typically September to November. Other cruise objectives are: to collect biological samples for age determinations and growth studies, fecundity, maturity, and feeding ecology; opportunistically test trawl gear, methods, or survey-related equipment that may benefit the trawl survey in the future; collect oceanographic data, including CTD

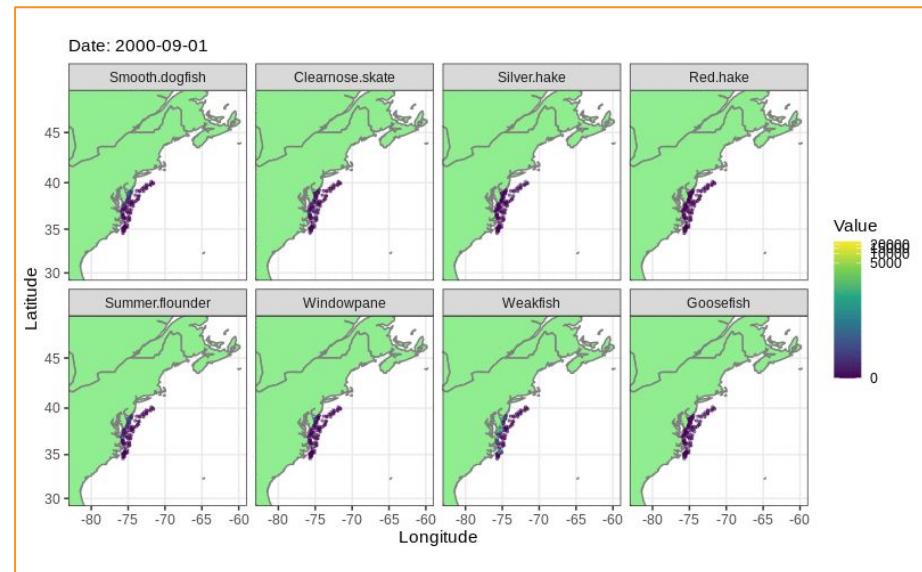
# Multivariate abundance data

- Four example covariates in fall bottom trawl survey:
  - There are more covariates (between 20-30)...



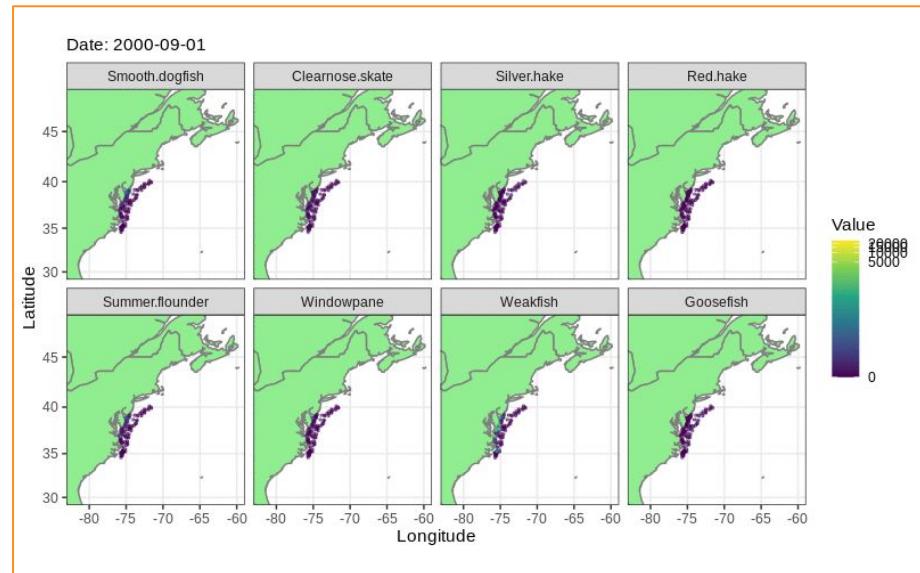
# Multivariate abundance data

- Eight example demersal fish species in fall bottom trawl survey
  - Around 150ish taxa in total
  - High-dimensional, correlated responses



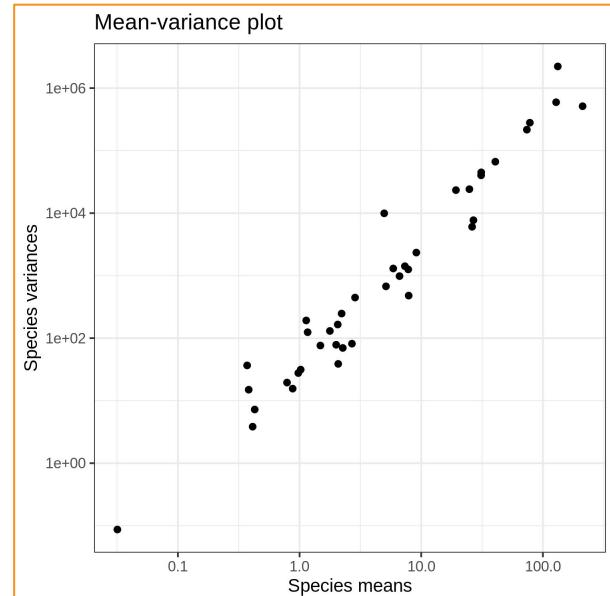
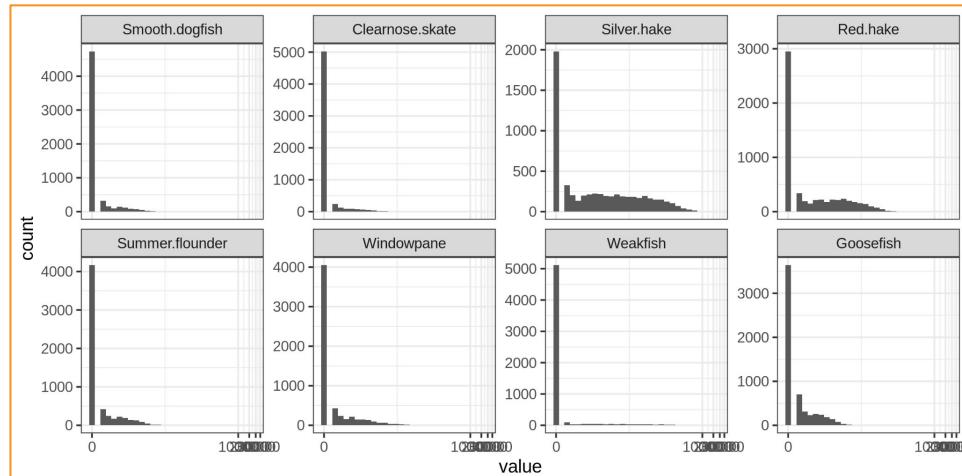
# Multivariate abundance data

- Eight example demersal fish species in fall bottom trawl survey
  - Around 150ish taxa in total
  - High-dimensional, correlated responses
- Some other noteworthy points:
  - You never visit the same location more than once
  - About 6,000 space-time locations visited between 2000–2019



# Multivariate abundance data

- Responses are:
  - Sparse, non-continuous
  - Strong mean-variance relationship (various reasons behind this)



# Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Leveled up FRK = A very big generalized additive model (GAM)
  - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization
  - Maximum restricted Laplace-approximated likelihood estimation for the loadings and nugget effects

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  be appropriately defined model matrices based on the  $\mathbf{x}(s_i, t_i)$  and  $\mathbf{b}(s_i, t_i)$ 's respectively, and  $\hat{\mathbf{W}}$  by a diagonal matrix of weights. Then given  $(\beta_j, \mathbf{a}_j)$ 's, and  $\phi_j$ 's, update the loadings and nugget effects characterizing  $\mathbf{G}$  and  $\Sigma$  using

$$\begin{aligned}\ell_{\text{REML}} = & \frac{q}{2} \log \det(\mathbf{G}^{-1}) + \frac{m}{2} \log \det(\Sigma^{-1}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left( \mathbf{G}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{A}} \Sigma^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{A}}^\top \right) \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \log \det \left( \mathcal{B}^\top \left( \hat{\mathbf{W}} - \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} \left( \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} \right)^{-1} \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \right) \mathcal{B} + \mathbf{G}^{-1} \otimes \Sigma^{-1} \right).\end{aligned}$$

# Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Leveled up FRK = A very big generalized additive model (GAM)
  - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization
  - Maximum restricted Laplace-approximated likelihood estimation for the loadings and nugget effects
  - Approximate large sample distributions for coefficients/linear predictors etc...

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\beta} \\ \hat{a} \end{pmatrix} \approx \mathcal{N} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{x} & \mathbf{x}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{B} \\ \mathcal{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{x} & \mathcal{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{B} + \hat{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \otimes \hat{\Sigma}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \right\},$$

where  $\beta_0$  and  $a$  denote the true parameter values of the regression coefficients.

# Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Leveled up FRK = A very big generalized additive model (GAM)
  - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization
  - Maximum restricted Laplace-approximated likelihood estimation for the loadings and nugget effects
  - Approximate large sample distributions for coefficients/linear predictors etc...
  - Adapt GAM tools for residual analysis, model selection, prediction etc...; variance-partitioning; space-time ordination using SVD-type ideas, and so on

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\beta} \\ \hat{a} \end{pmatrix} \approx \mathcal{N} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} & \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{B} \\ \mathcal{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} & \mathcal{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{B} + \hat{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \otimes \hat{\Sigma}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \right\},$$

where  $\beta_0$  and  $a$  denote the true parameter values of the regression coefficients.