

# Multivariate Regression Models for Count Data

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- 1 Motivation
- 2 Introduction
- 3 Objectives
- 4 MGLMM
- 5 Estimation and inference
- 6 Results

# Motivation

# Dataset I - Australian Health Survey (AHS)

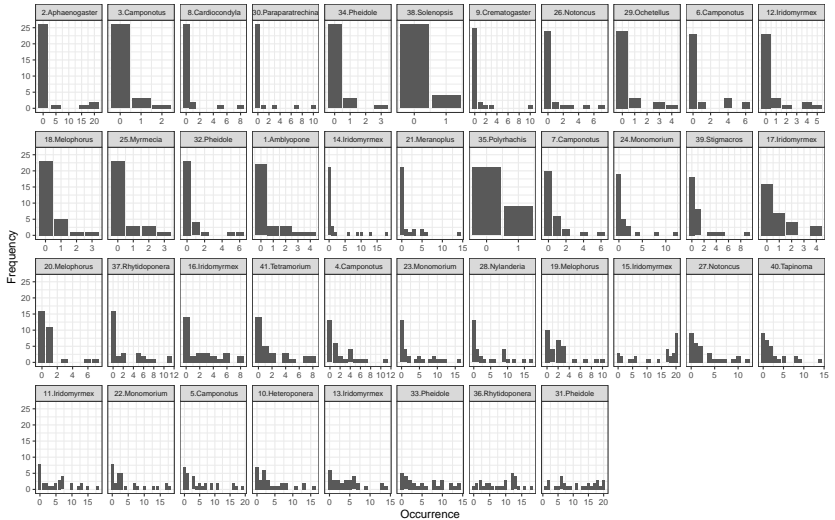
- Largest survey in Australia concerning health - 1987-88.
- Objectives:
  - To investigate whether a covariate set is associated with a set of response variables.
  - To investigate a possible relationship between response variables.
- Five response variables, which are **number of**:
  - Consultations with a doctor or specialist.
  - Consultations with health professionals.
  - Admissions to a hospital in the past 12 months.
  - Nights in a hospital during the most recent admission.
  - Medications used in the past two days.
- 10 covariates, among sociodemographic, income, health insurance and status.
- Sample size of 5190 respondents.



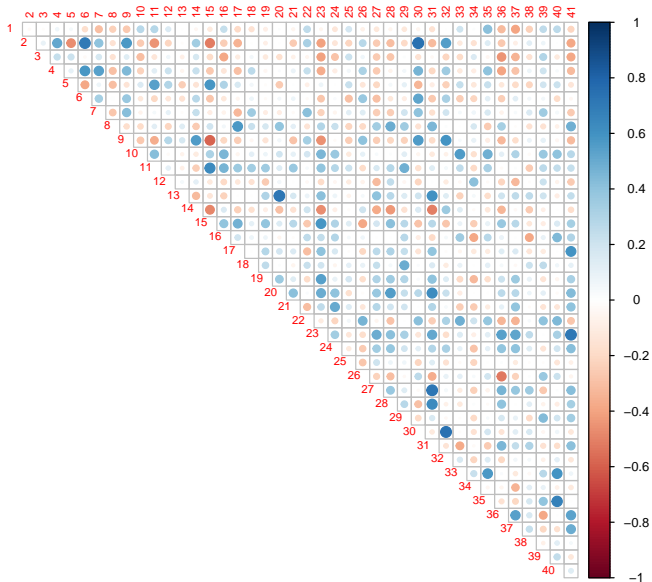
## Dataset II - Ant Species Abundance

- Occurrence of 41 different species that fell into a pitfall trap.
- Objectives:
  - Investigate whether environmental covariates are related to the occurrence of ants.
  - Investigate whether different ant species occurs together.
- Sample size: 30 different sites in south-eastern Australia.
- 5 covariates that represent characteristics of each site.

# Ant Species - Barplot



# Ant Species - Correlogram



# Introduction



- Regression is a key concept under the statistical modelling.
- Univariate regression models are used to investigate the relationship between a set of covariates and one response variable.
- Standard regression models:
  - Linear model (LM) - (GALTON, 1886):
    - Deal only with continuous data.
    - **Assumptions:** Gaussian, independence and homogeneous variance.

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    - **Assumptions:** Gaussian, independence and homogeneous variance.
  - Generalized linear model (GLM) - (NELDER; WEDDERBURN, 1972):
    - Link function connects the linear predictor to the response variable.
    - Variance is related to the mean.
    - Distribution belongs to the exponential family.

- Represents the number of times that an event occur in a fixed time interval, such as, time, space, distance, area, among others:
  - Example: Number of e-mails in the inbox in one day.

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- The main way to describe this variable is based on the mean-variance relationship:
  - **Over**dispersion:  $\text{Variance} > \text{Mean}$ .
  - **Equi**dispersion:  $\text{Variance} = \text{Mean}$ .
  - **Sub**dispersion:  $\text{Variance} < \text{Mean}$ .

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- General models:
  - Extended Poisson Tweedie (BONAT et al., 2018).
  - Conway-Maxwell-Poisson (COM-Poisson) (SHMUELI et al., 2005).
  - Gamma Count (ZEVIANI et al., 2014).



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  - Gamma Count (ZEVIANI et al., 2014).
- **Drawback:**
  - The probability mass function (pmf) is not available in closed form.
  - Numerical methods are needed to compute the pmf.

- All models presented consider only **one response variable**.
- Different approaches to deal with multivariate responses:
  - Constructing **multivariate distributions** for counting data (FAMOYE, 2015; INOUE et al., 2017).
  - **Copula** is a general framework to build multivariate distributions based on copulas functions (NIKOLOULOPOULOS; KARLIS, 2009).
  - BONAT (2016) proposed the **Multivariate Covariance Generalized Linear Models (MCGLM)**.
  - Via Bayesian inference:
    - **BRMS** package - Bayesian Regression Models using Stan (BÜRKNER, 2018).
    - **MCMCglmm** package - MCMC Generalised Linear Mixed Models (HADFIELD, 2010).

# Approaches for Multivariate data

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    - **MCMCglmm** package - MCMC Generalised Linear Mixed Models (HADFIELD, 2010).
  - **GLMM** using non observed random effects (BRESLOW; CLAYTON, 1993).

## Objectives

General:

- Propose the **Multivariate generalized linear mixed model (MGLMM)** - A multivariate modelling framework to deal with count data under the GLMM approach.

Specific:

- Computational implementation.
- Simulation studies.
- Analyse three datasets.

## MGLMM

- Let  $Y_{ir}$  be the multivariate outcome for subject  $i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and response variable  $r$ ,  $r = 1, \dots, k$ .
- Let  $p$  be known covariates set is available for each response  $r$ .
- Let  $x_{irj}$  be the value of the  $j$ -th covariate for individual  $i$  and response  $r$ .

Joint model based on a GLMM with a random intercept:

$$Y_{ir} \mid b_{ir} \sim f(\mu_{ir}; \phi_r),$$

where  $f$  is a pmf, e.g. Poisson, NB, COM-Poisson.

- Linear predictor:

$$g_r(\mu_{ir}) = x_{irj}^T \beta_r + b_{ir},$$

where:

- $g_r(\mu_{ir})$  is a suitable link function (log).
- $\beta_r$  is a  $p \times 1$  vector of covariate.
- $b_{ir}$  is the random intercept value for each sample unit and response variable.



The random effects distribution:

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_{i1} \\ b_{i2} \\ \vdots \\ b_{ir} \end{pmatrix} \sim \text{NM} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} ; \sum_{r \times r} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \rho_{12}\sigma_1\sigma_2 & \dots & \rho_{1r}\sigma_1\sigma_r \\ \rho_{21}\sigma_2\sigma_1 & \sigma_2^2 & \dots & \rho_{2r}\sigma_2\sigma_r \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho_{r1}\sigma_r\sigma_1 & \rho_{r2}\sigma_r\sigma_2 & \dots & \sigma_r^2 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

- Can  $\phi_r$  and  $\sigma_r^2$  be estimated simultaneously?

## Estimation and inference

# Maximum likelihood (ML) estimation

- Joint distribution:

$$f(Y, b) = f(Y|b)f(b).$$

- Marginal distribution:

$$f(Y) = \int f(Y|b)f(b)db.$$

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- The **goal** is to estimate the parameters  $\theta = (\beta, \phi, \sigma^2, \rho)^\top$ .
- Marginal likelihood:

$$f(\mathbf{y} | \beta, \Sigma, \phi) = \int \prod_{r=1}^k f(y_r | \mathbf{b}, \beta, \phi) f(\mathbf{b} | \Sigma) d\mathbf{b},$$

where  $\mathbf{y}$  is a k-response vector and  $\mathbf{b}$  a k-random effect vector.

- Full likelihood:

$$L(\beta, \Sigma, \phi) = \prod_{i=1}^N f(\mathbf{y}_i | \beta, \Sigma, \phi),$$

where  $N$  is the total number of sample units.


## ① Marginal likelihood:

- Laplace Approximation.

## ② Optimization:

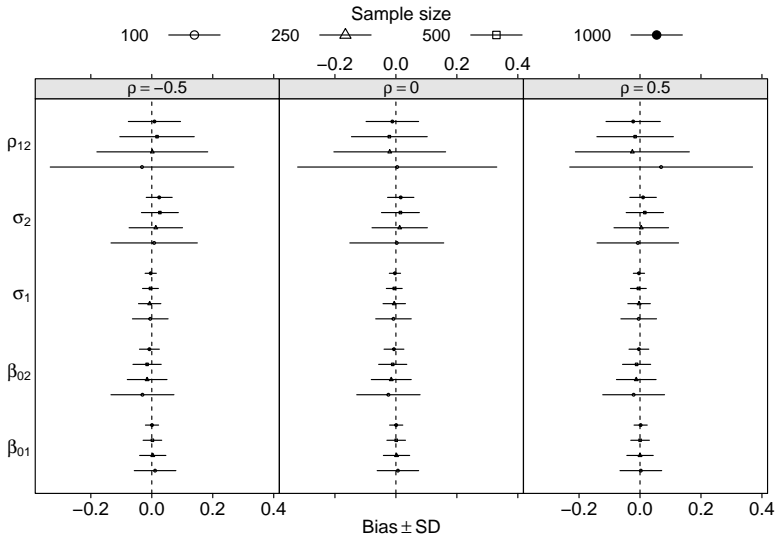
- BFGS and PORT.

## ③ Computational tools:

- Software and programming language .
- TMB package written in C++ with CppAD and Eigen C++ libraries (KRISTENSEN et al., 2016).
- Automatic Differentiation.

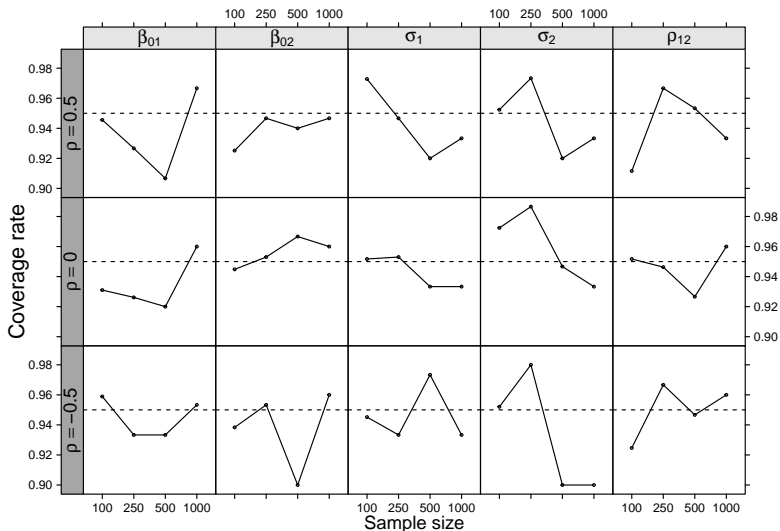
## Results

- Objective:
  - To investigate the property of the estimators:
    - Bias.
    - Consistency.
    - Coverage rate.



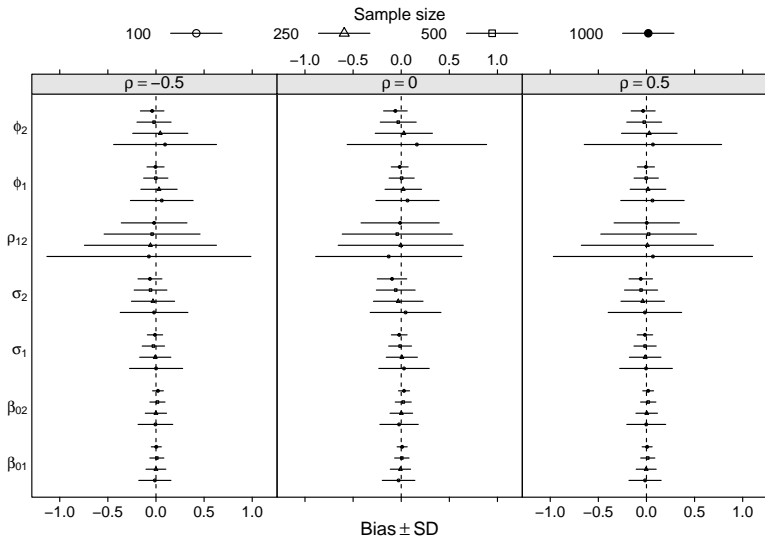


# Coverage Rate - Poisson



Parameter Configuration: 2 response variables;  $\beta_{01} = \log(7)$ ;  $\beta_{02} = \log(1.5)$ ;  $\rho = \{-.5, 0, .5\}$ ;

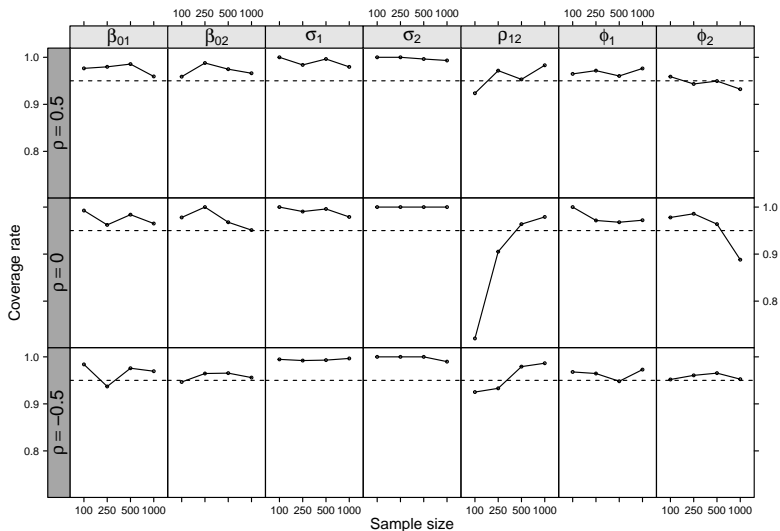
$\sigma_1^2 = .3$  ( $\sigma_1 = .55$ );  $\sigma_2^2 = .15$  ( $\sigma_2 = .39$ ); Sample size =  $\{100, 250, 500, 1000\}$ .



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# Coverage Rate - NB



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# • Thank you for your attention.

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