

# Using HMSC (Hierarchical model of species communities) to study eco-evolutionary dynamics

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2022-09-12

```
library(ecoevor)
library(here)
library(R.matlab)
#> R.matlab v3.7.0 (2022-08-25 21:52:34 UTC) successfully loaded. See ?R.matlab for help.
#>
#> Attaching package: 'R.matlab'
#> The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
#>
#>    getOption, isOpen
library(grDevices)
library(knitr)
#> Warning: package 'knitr' was built under R version
#> 4.1.2
library(Hmsc)
#> Warning: package 'Hmsc' was built under R version
#> 4.1.2
#> Loading required package: coda
library(beanplot)
#> Warning: package 'beanplot' was built under R version
#> 4.1.2
library(dplyr)
library(gplots)
#> Warning: package 'gplots' was built under R version
#> 4.1.2
#>
#> Attaching package: 'gplots'
#> The following object is masked from 'package:stats':
#>
#>     lowess
library(formatR)
#> Warning: package 'formatR' was built under R version
#> 4.1.2
library(rmarkdown)
library(rsvg)
#> Warning: package 'rsvg' was built under R version
#> 4.1.2
#> Linking to librsvg 2.48.4
library(corrplot)
#> corrplot 0.90 loaded
```

## 1 Overview

The goal of this vignette is to illustrate how to use HMSC (Heirarchical Models of Species Communities; Ovaskainen et al. 2017; Tikhonov et al. 2020) to analyze eco-evolutionary community and metacommunity data. The eco-evolutionary data is generated using a multi-species model of growth and competition (a Leslie-Gower model, which is a discrete-time Lotka-Volterra model). In this model, we also include the possibility that the population growth rate can evolve (using a model of evolutionary rescue introduced by Gomulkiewicz & Holt 1995). The model is as follows:

$$N_{i,t+1} = \frac{\hat{W} e^{-\left[\left(\frac{w+(1-h^2)P}{P+w}\right)(E-x_t)\right]^2}}{1 + \alpha_{ii} N_{i,t} + \sum_j \alpha_{ij} N_{j,t}} N_{i,t}$$

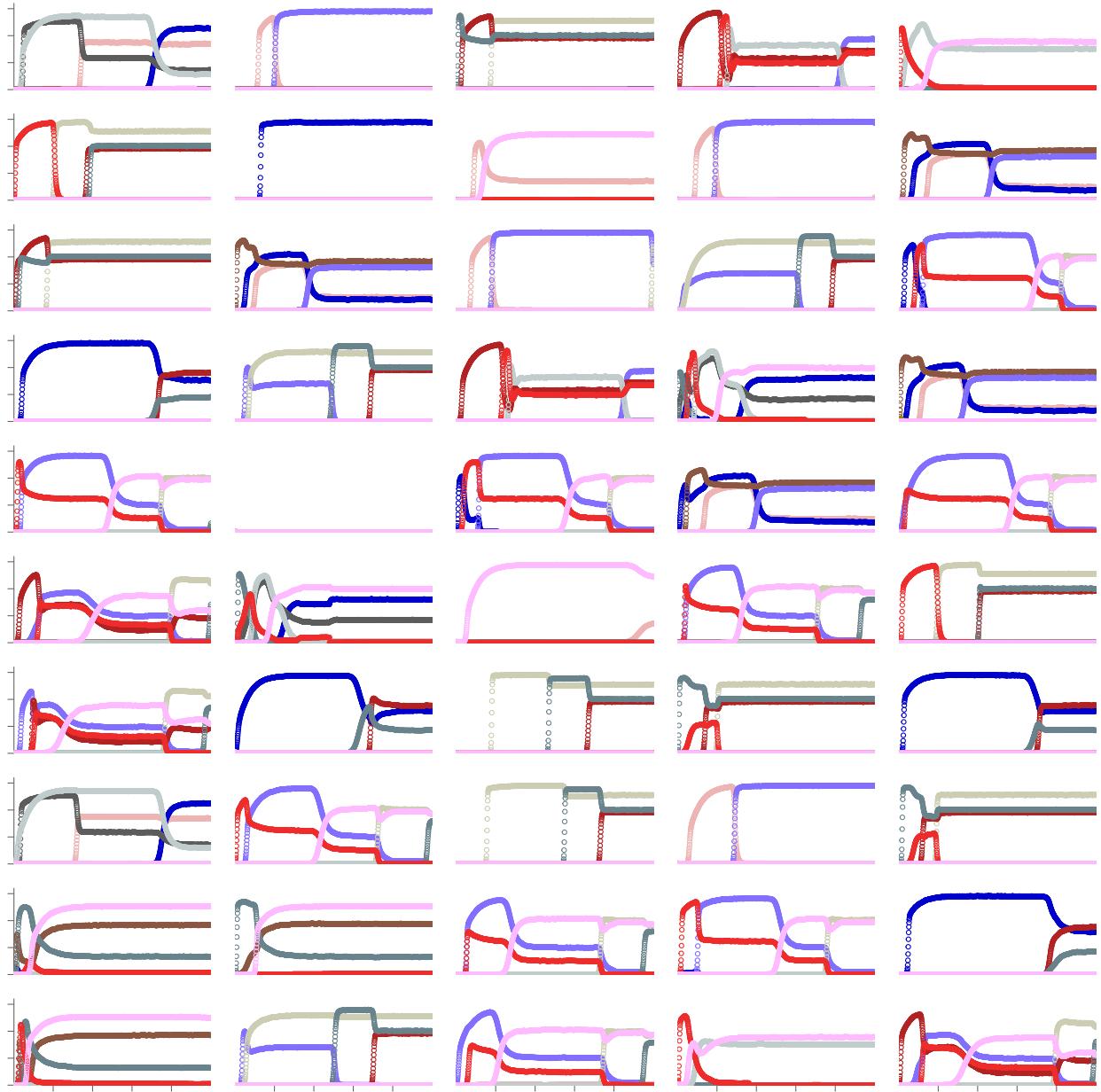
where  $N_{i,t}$  is the population size of a species at time  $t$ ,  $\hat{W}$  is calculated as  $\hat{W} = W_{max} \sqrt{\left(\frac{w}{P+w}\right)}$ ,  $W_{max}$  is the species' maximum per-capita growth rate,  $w$  is the width of the Gaussian fitness function (which determines the strength of selection),  $P$  is the width of the distribution of the phenotype  $x$ ,  $h^2$  is the heritability of the trait  $x$ ,  $E$  is the local environmental optimum trait value,  $x_t$  is the trait value of the species at time  $t$ ,  $\alpha_{ii}$  is the intraspecific competition coefficient and  $\alpha_{ij}$  is the interspecific competition coefficient.

I consider the evolution of multiple species ( $j = 15$ ) in a landscape of patches ( $i = 50$ ). The patches have values of an environmental property  $E$  (drawn from a uniform distribution ranging from 0 to 1) that determines the local optimum phenotype  $E$ , i.e. where species experience their absolute fitness  $W_{max}$ , and patches also have spatial locations  $X$  and  $Y$  (both drawn from  $U(0, 1)$ ). The patches thus have a connectivity matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  (here given by their Euclidean distance), as well as a connectivity matrix  $\mathbf{C}$  that is a Gaussian function of  $\mathbf{D}$  and a species dispersal rate  $d_j$ .

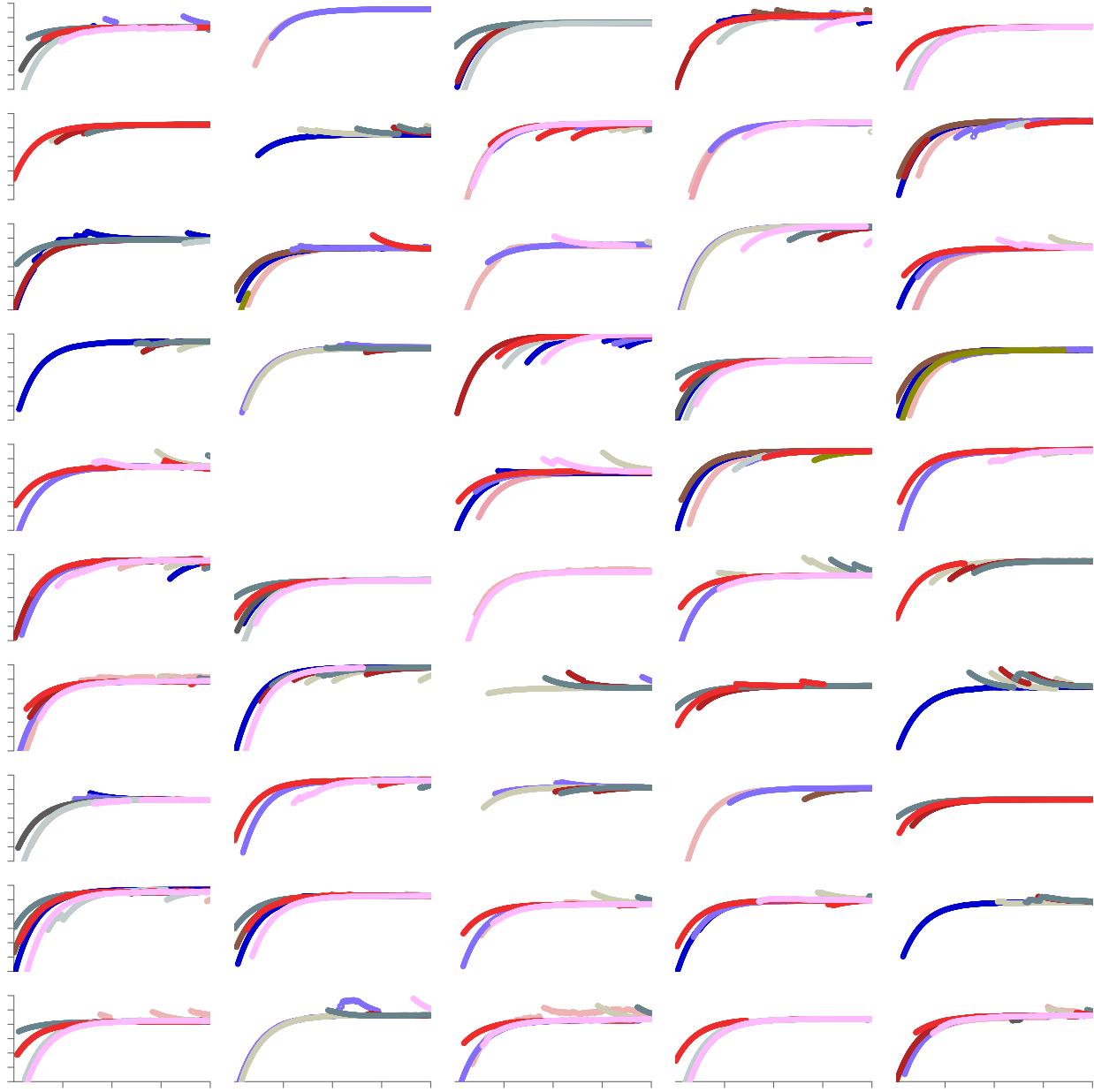
## 2 Simulation

The simulation is run in MATLAB (the code for this can be found at [https://github.com/jhpantel/HMSC\\_ecoeco/](https://github.com/jhpantel/HMSC_ecoeco/), and generates a  $50 \times 15 \times 1000$  array of abundance values (for 50 patches, 15 species, at 1000 time points). In this example, we consider  $h^2 = 0.1$  and  $d = 10^{-3}$  for all 15 species.

We can see the dynamics of the simulation here:



This is a plot with time series of population size ( $y$ -axis) over time ( $x$ -axis) for all species in all 50 patches. The plots are ordered by rows, from lowest to highest  $E$  values and each species is plotted with a unique color. Traits are evolving for all species as well, which we can visualize here (the trait values over time for all species at all sites):



### 3 HMSC Analysis

The goal of our analysis is to estimate the relative effects of intrinsic population dynamics, environmental drivers, spatial structure, and trait evolution for driving community composition in the metacommunity. We use HMSC to build a linear Bayesian hierarchical model.

To analyze our data with HMSC, we first re-arrange our data to fit the structure needed for input into HMSC.

```
# Arrange all data for HMSC site-by-species abundance data
# as a time series
N <- res$N
Y <- array(NA, dim = c(50000, 15), dimnames = list(NULL, c("y1",
"y2", "y3", "y4", "y5", "y6", "y7", "y8", "y9", "y10", "y11", "y12", "y13", "y14", "y15")))
```

```

    "y2", "y3", "y4", "y5", "y6", "y7", "y8", "y9", "y10", "y11",
    "y12", "y13", "y14", "y15")))
count <- seq(1, 50000, by = 50)
for (i in 1:1000) {
  Y[(count[i]:(count[i] + 49)), ] <- N[, , i]
}

## site-by-species trait data as a time series
trait_x <- res$xt
trait_init <- trait_x[, , 1] # Eliminate my initial trait value of 9999 for absent species
trait_init[trait_init == 9999] <- NaN
trait_x[, , 1] <- trait_init
## site-by-species CHANGE in trait value as a time series
delta_x <- array(NA, c(50, 15, 999), dimnames = list(NULL, c("x1",
  "x2", "x3", "x4", "x5", "x6", "x7", "x8", "x9", "x10", "x11",
  "x12", "x13", "x14", "x15"), NULL))
for (i in 2:1000) {
  delta_x[, , i - 1] <- trait_x[, , i] - trait_x[, , i - 1]
}
delta_x_time <- array(NA, dim = c(49950, 15), dimnames = list(NULL,
  c("x1", "x2", "x3", "x4", "x5", "x6", "x7", "x8", "x9", "x10",
  "x11", "x12", "x13", "x14", "x15")))
count <- seq(1, 49950, by = 50)
for (i in 1:999) {
  delta_x_time[(count[i]:(count[i] + 49)), ] <- delta_x[, ,
    i]
}
delta_x_time[is.nan(delta_x_time)] <- 0

## Random effects of site and year
Random <- array(NA, dim = c(50000, 2), dimnames = list(NULL,
  c("site", "year")))
Random[, 1] <- rep(1:50, 1000)
Random[, 2] <- rep(1:1000, each = 50)
Random <- as.data.frame(Random)

## Fixed effects: environment, site abundance the year
## before, species trait value the year before
X <- Y[Random$year != 1000, ] # Use abundance in years 1-999 as fixed effects - the abundance the year
Y <- Y[Random$year != 1, ] # Trim Y to only include years 2-1000

Random <- Random[Random$year != 1, ] # Trim Random to only include years 2-1000
Random$site <- as.factor(Random$site)
Random$year <- as.factor(Random$year)
Random$sample <- as.factor(1:nrow(Random))

## Random effects
xy <- res$xy
rownames(xy) <- 1:50
rL.spatial <- Hmsc::HmscRandomLevel(sData = xy)
rL.spatial = Hmsc::setPriors(rL.spatial, nfMin = 1, nfMax = 5)

rL.time <- Hmsc::HmscRandomLevel(units = unique(Random$year))

```

```

rL.time = Hmsc::setPriors(rL.time, nfMin = 1, nfMax = 5)

## Fixed effects: environment
env_hold <- array(NA, dim = c(dim(Y)[1], dim(res$E)[2]))
for (i in 1:dim(res$E)[2]) {
  # for each environmental variable
  env_hold[, i] <- rep(res$E[, i], 999)
  colnames(env_hold)[i] <- paste("env", i, sep = "")
}

## Interaction effects: site abundance the year before X
## change in species trait value
X_delta_x <- X * delta_x_time
colnames(X_delta_x) <- paste("x", colnames(X_delta_x), sep = "")

# When h2 = 0 X <- cbind(X, env_hold) X <- scale(X) X <-
# cbind(X, MEM_hold)

# When h2 != 0
X <- cbind(X, env_hold, delta_x_time, X_delta_x)
X <- scale(X)
# X <- cbind(X, MEM_hold)
X <- as.data.frame(X)

m <- Hmsc(Y = Y, XData = X, studyDesign = Random, ranLevels = list(site = rL.spatial,
  year = rL.time), distr = "normal")
# The model takes a long time to run. The results included
# here are not reliable, but demonstrate how the code
# works.
m.1 <- Hmsc::sampleMcmc(m, 10, transient = 5, nChains = 2, nParallel = 2,
  verbose = 5)

```

Now that the model is fit, we can analyze the results.

```

#Explanatory power
preds = Hmsc::computePredictedValues(m.1)
MF = Hmsc::evaluateModelFit(hM=m.1, predY=preds)

```

We should also evaluate the chains, for convergence. Then we will inspect the results. The resulting coda object can be inspected as in the Hmsc vignette, using coda posterior commands such as plot.mcmc and gelman.diag. However, we have 705 predictors, and these will be too large to view easily. I instead explain the structure of the resulting Hmsc object.

For each of the 15 species, we have the following regression coefficient estimates:

- 1. intercept
- 2-16. the impacts of  $N_{j,t-1}$  for  $N_{i,t}$ , for  $j = 1-15$ 
  - e.g. for species 1: 2 is the impact of  $N_{1,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 3. the impact of  $N_{2,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 4. the impact of  $N_{3,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 5. the impact of  $N_{4,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$

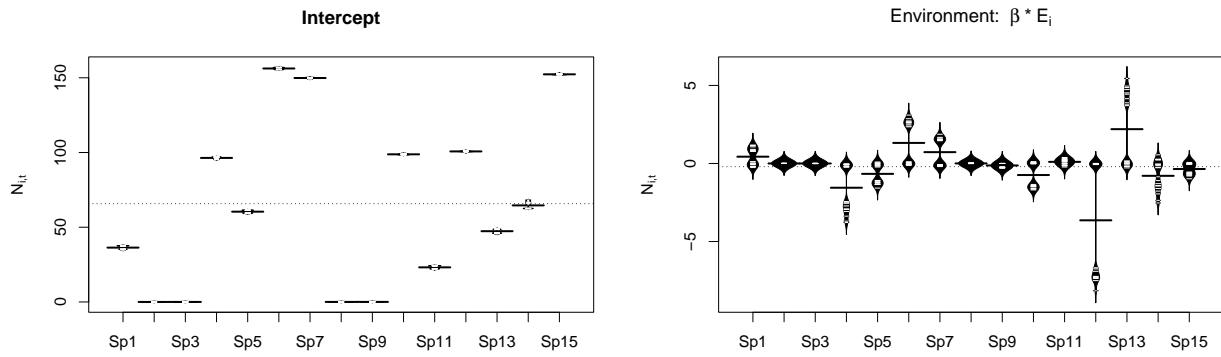
- 6. the impact of  $N_{5,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 7. the impact of  $N_{6,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 8. the impact of  $N_{7,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 9. the impact of  $N_{8,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 10. the impact of  $N_{9,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 11. the impact of  $N_{10,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 12. the impact of  $N_{11,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 13. the impact of  $N_{12,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 14. the impact of  $N_{13,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 15. the impact of  $N_{14,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 16. the impact of  $N_{15,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 17. The impact of environment ( $E$ ) for  $N_{i,t}$
- 18-32. the impacts of  $x_{j,t-1}$  for  $N_{i,t}$ , for  $j = 1-15$ 
  - e.g. for species 1: 18 is the impact of  $x_{1,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 19. the impact of  $x_{2,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 20. the impact of  $x_{3,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 21. the impact of  $x_{4,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 22. the impact of  $x_{5,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 23. the impact of  $x_{6,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 24. the impact of  $x_{7,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 25. the impact of  $x_{8,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 26. the impact of  $x_{9,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 27. the impact of  $x_{10,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 28. the impact of  $x_{11,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 29. the impact of  $x_{12,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 30. the impact of  $x_{13,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 31. the impact of  $x_{14,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 32. the impact of  $x_{15,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 33-47. the impacts of  $x_{j,t-1} \cdot N_{j,t-1}$  for  $N_{i,t}$ , for  $j = 1-15$ )  $x_{1,t-1} \cdot N_{1,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$ 
  - e.g. for species 1: 33 is the impact of  $x_{1,t-1} \cdot N_{1,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 34. the impact of  $x_{2,t-1} \cdot N_{2,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 35. the impact of  $x_{3,t-1} \cdot N_{3,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 36. the impact of  $x_{4,t-1} \cdot N_{4,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 37. the impact of  $x_{5,t-1} \cdot N_{5,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 38. the impact of  $x_{6,t-1} \cdot N_{6,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 39. the impact of  $x_{7,t-1} \cdot N_{7,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 40. the impact of  $x_{8,t-1} \cdot N_{8,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 41. the impact of  $x_{9,t-1} \cdot N_{9,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 42. the impact of  $x_{10,t-1} \cdot N_{10,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
  - 43. the impact of  $x_{11,t-1} \cdot N_{11,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$

- 44. the impact of  $x_{12,t-1} \cdot N_{12,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 45. the impact of  $x_{13,t-1} \cdot N_{13,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 46. the impact of  $x_{14,t-1} \cdot N_{14,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$
- 47. the impact of  $x_{15,t-1} \cdot N_{15,t-1}$  for  $N_{1,t}$

This repeats for all  $j = 15$  species, i.e. coefficients 48-94 are for species 2, coefficients 95-141 are for species 3, etc. In order to evaluate results, we combine all iterations across all chains as a dataframe, and the predictor variables are indices of the dataframe columns (according to the numbering above).

```
m.post = Hmsc::convertToCodaObject(m.1)
m.df <- as.data.frame(rbind(m.post$Beta[[1]], m.post$Beta[[2]]))
## intercept
B.I <- m.df[, seq(1, 705, by = 47)]
beanplot::beanplot(B.I, log = "", names = c("Sp1", "Sp2", "Sp3",
  "Sp4", "Sp5", "Sp6", "Sp7", "Sp8", "Sp9", "Sp10", "Sp11",
  "Sp12", "Sp13", "Sp14", "Sp15"), ylab = expression("N"[i,t]),
  main = "Intercept")

## Fixed effects: environment
B.E <- m.df[, seq(17, 705, by = 47)]
beanplot::beanplot(B.E, names = c("Sp1", "Sp2", "Sp3", "Sp4",
  "Sp5", "Sp6", "Sp7", "Sp8", "Sp9", "Sp10", "Sp11", "Sp12",
  "Sp13", "Sp14", "Sp15"), ylab = expression("N"[i,t]), main = expression("Environment: " ~
  beta ~ "*" ~ "E[i]))
```



Shown here is a beanplot (an alternative to a boxplot, showing a density trace and each data point as a single line; Kampstra 2008) of the posterior distribution for the intercept and  $\beta_{E_j}$  (regression coefficient for the impact of environment for each species  $j$ ), for all 15 species.

We can also look at the impact of population size at the previous time step  $N_{j,t-1}$  for population size at the next time step  $N_{j,t}$ . Recall that we can estimate a posterior distribution for these regression coefficients for the impacts of all species (1-15) on all other species, so we show the posterior mean regression coefficients as a heatmap. Any values where the 95% HDI (highest density interval) overlapped with 0 were excluded (shown as white points with value 0). The diagonal values were quite high, so the values are written in here.

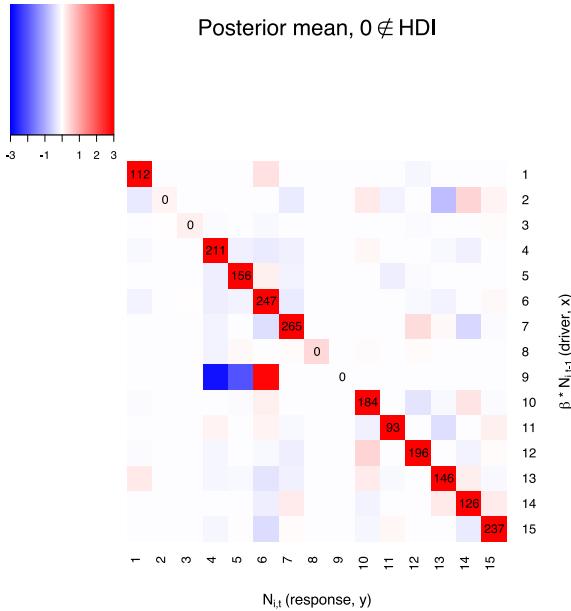
```
## Fixed effects - Species ABUNDANCE T-1 association plots
## - Influence of  $N_{t-1}$  for  $N_t$ 
B.N <- m.df[, 2:16]
for (i in 1:14) {
```

```

B.N <- cbind(B.N, m.df[, (2 + (i * 47)):(16 + (i * 47))])
}
# Mean and 95% highest density interval for regression
# coefficients
B.N.mean <- apply(B.N, 2, mean)
B.N.hdi <- apply(B.N, 2, quantile, probs = c(0.025, 0.975))
support <- apply(B.N.hdi, 2, function(x) dplyr::between(0, x[1],
x[2]))
# Plot posterior mean if HDI does not include 0
B.N.mean.support <- B.N.mean
B.N.mean.support[support == T] <- 0

data <- matrix(B.N.mean.support, 15, 15)
# diag(data) <- 0
rnames <- colnames(X[1:15])

```



We see a strong influence of species population size. Now it is interesting to evaluate the impacts of evolving traits for population size. I show here a heatmap of the posterior mean for regression coefficients for the impact of  $x_{j,t-1}$  on  $N_{i,t}$  (with values where the 95% HDI overlapping 0 excluded), and another for the interaction effect: the impact of  $N_{j,t-1}$  on  $N_{i,t}$  (with values where the 95% HDI overlapping 0 excluded).

```

## Fixed effects - Species TRAIT association plots -
## Influence of X at t-1 on abundance at time t
B.dx <- m.df[, 18:32]
for (i in 1:14) {
  B.dx <- cbind(B.dx, m.df[, (18 + (i * 47)):(32 + (i * 47))])
}
# Mean and 95% highest density interval for regression
# coefficients
B.dx.mean <- apply(B.dx, 2, mean)
B.dx.hdi <- apply(B.dx, 2, quantile, probs = c(0.025, 0.975))
support <- apply(B.dx.hdi, 2, function(x) dplyr::between(0, x[1],
x[2]))

```

```

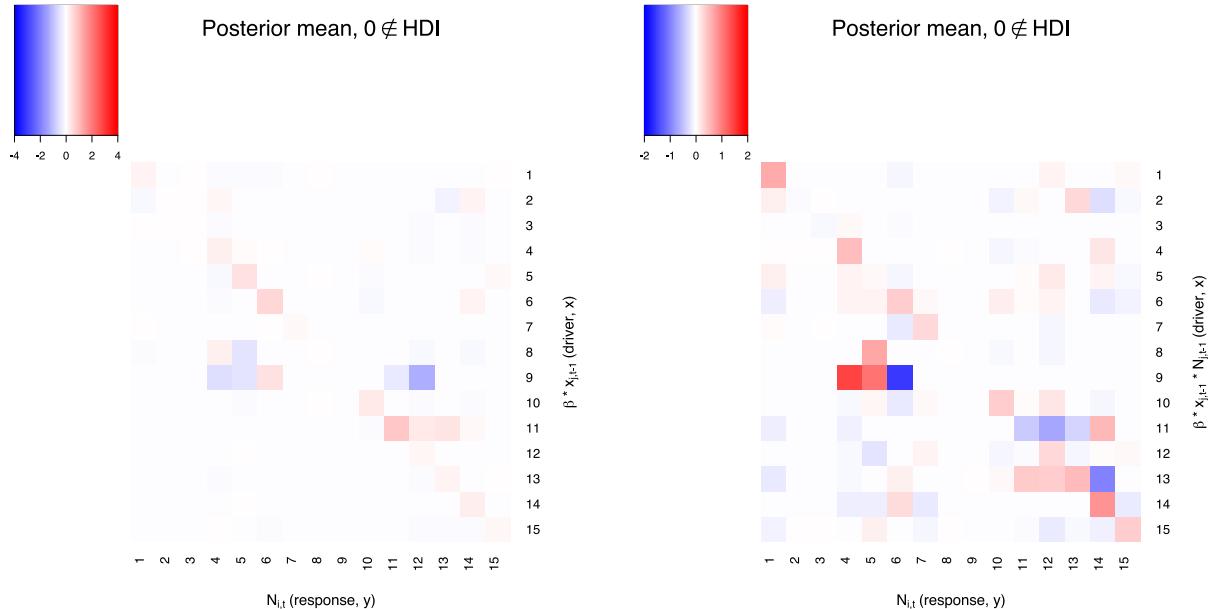
# Plot posterior mean if HDI does not include 0
B.dx.mean.support <- B.dx.mean
B.dx.mean.support[support == T] <- 0

data <- matrix(B.dx.mean.support, 15, 15)
# diag(data) <- 0
rnames <- colnames(X[1:15])

## Fixed effects - Species N_deltaX interaction association
## plots - Influence of X * delta_x at t-1 on abundance at
## time t
B.N_dx <- m.df[, 33:47]
for (i in 1:14) {
  B.N_dx <- cbind(B.N_dx, m.df[, (33 + (i * 47)):(47 + (i *
  47))])
}
# Mean and 95% highest density interval for regression
# coefficients
B.N_dx.mean <- apply(B.N_dx, 2, mean)
B.N_dx.hdi <- apply(B.N_dx, 2, quantile, probs = c(0.025, 0.975))
support <- apply(B.N_dx.hdi, 2, function(x) dplyr::between(0,
  x[1], x[2]))
# Plot posterior mean if HDI does not include 0
B.N_dx.mean.support <- B.N_dx.mean
B.N_dx.mean.support[support == T] <- 0

data <- matrix(B.N_dx.mean.support, 15, 15)
# diag(data) <- 0
rnames <- colnames(X[1:15])

```



Finally, we will consider the species association matrices across sites and across years. Recall that HMSC estimates species-to-species residual associations, via estimating latent factors. The matrix  $\Omega$  is the matrix of species-to-species residual covariances.

```

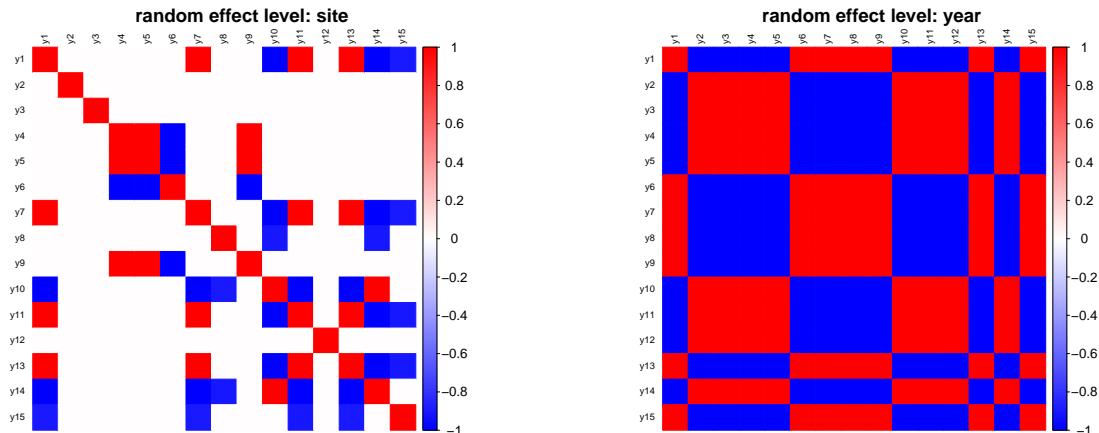
## Random effects - Species-Species residual associations
## across Site and Year
OmegaCor = computeAssociations(m.1)
supportLevel = 0.95
toPlot = ((OmegaCor[[1]]$support > supportLevel) + (OmegaCor[[1]]$support <
(1 - supportLevel)) > 0) * OmegaCor[[1]]$mean

corrplot(toPlot, method = "color", col = colorRampPalette(c("blue",
"white", "red"))(200), tl.cex = 0.6, tl.col = "black", title = paste("random effect level:",
m.1$rLNames[1]), mar = c(0, 0, 1, 0))

toPlot = ((OmegaCor[[2]]$support > supportLevel) + (OmegaCor[[2]]$support <
(1 - supportLevel)) > 0) * OmegaCor[[2]]$mean

corrplot(toPlot, method = "color", col = colorRampPalette(c("blue",
"white", "red"))(200), tl.cex = 0.6, tl.col = "black", title = paste("random effect level:",
m.1$rLNames[2]), mar = c(0, 0, 1, 0))

```

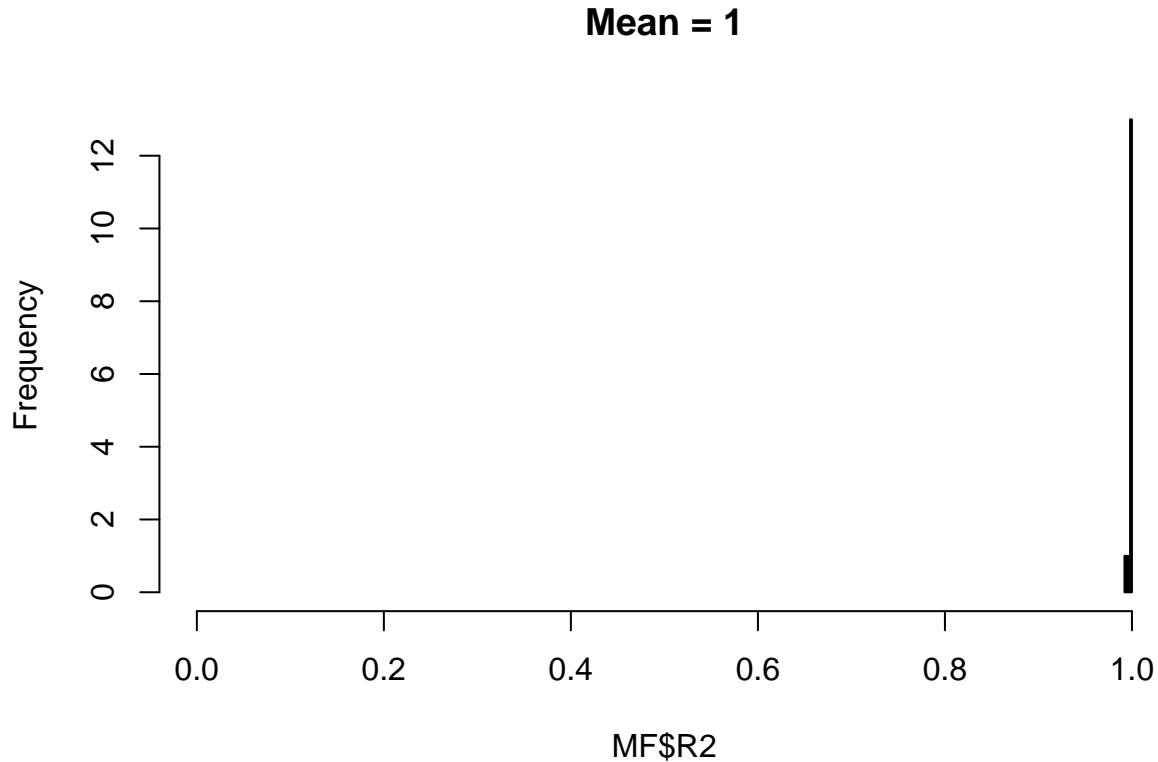


Finally, we can evaluate the explanatory power of the model.

```

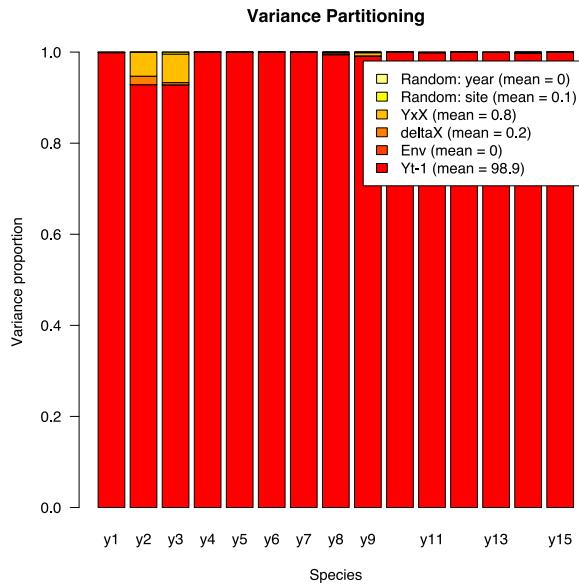
preds = computePredictedValues(m.1)
MF = evaluateModelFit(hM = m.1, predY = preds)
hist(MF$R2, xlim = c(0, 1), main = paste0("Mean = ", round(mean(MF$R2),
2)))

```



The explained variation can be partitioned into components related to the fixed and the random effects. We consider the effects of  $N_{t-1}$  as group 1, of Environment  $E$  as group 2, of trait evolution  $\Delta x$  as group 3, and of the interaction effect  $N_{t-1} \cdot \Delta x$  as group 4. The intercept does not have any variation, and thus it will not contribute to the variance partitioning. Thus we may place it in group 1.

```
VP = computeVariancePartitioning(m.1, group = c(rep(1, 16), 2,
rep(3, 15), rep(4, 15)), groupnames = c("Yt-1", "Env", "deltaX",
"YxX"))
plotVariancePartitioning(m.1, VP = VP)
```



## References

- Gomulkiewicz, R. & Holt, R. D. When does evolution by natural selection prevent extinction? *Evolution* 49, 201–207 (1995)
- Kampstra P (2008). “Beanplot: A Boxplot Alternative for Visual Comparison of Distributions.” *Journal of Statistical Software, Code Snippets*, 28(1), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v028.c01>.
- Ovaskainen, O., Tikhonov, G., Norberg, A., Guillaume Blanchet, F., Duan, L., Dunson, D., Roslin, T. and Abrego, N. (2017). How to make more out of community data? A conceptual framework and its implementation as models and software. *Ecology Letters*, 20(5), 561–576.
- Tikhonov, G., Opdal, Ø. H., Abrego, N., Lehikoinen, A., de Jonge, M. M., Oksanen, J., & Ovaskainen, O. (2020). Joint species distribution modelling with the R-package Hmsc. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 11(3), 442–447.