Model the relation between oil/gas production and annual Lead-210 measurement

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Introduction

In this report, we'll try to explore the correlation between Lead-210 with oil/gas drilling.

Background

- Long-term exposure to low-level radon is dangerous. This has been proved in multiple studies.
- Direct long-term measurement of radon is rare.
- Lead-210 has been used as marker for radon exposure. This is applied in multiple studies.
- If there's an increase of Lead-210 in the particles, local residents are exposed to higher risk of lung cancer and other disease.

Data

• Study period: from 2014 to 2016. Because we don't have the annual Lead-210 measuremtn before 2014 and after 2016. I've reached out to RadNet for data.

- Study region: Lower 48 states of the United States. There're 139 RedNet monitors. But only a small fraction of these monitors have gas/oil activities nearby.
- Data sources:

Lead-210 data: Lead-210 are determined by the analysis of annually composited samples (air filters) collected from the airborne particulate samplers. Concentrations are determined by alpha-particle spectrometry following chemical separation. The total volume of air represented by all the samples received from one sampling location during a year typically ranges from $120,000 \, m^3$ to $500,000 \, m^3$.

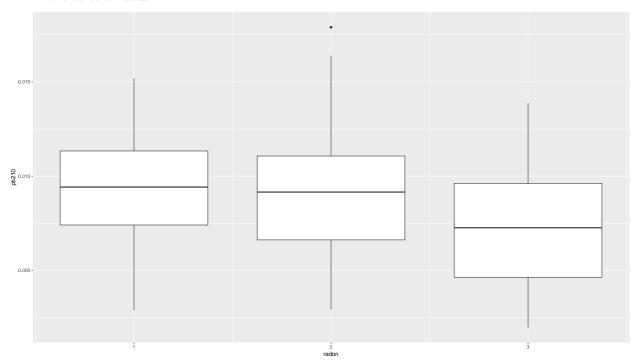
Drilling data: We collected drilling information from drillinginfo.com. From the database, we extracted the monthly gas/oil production during the study period, both horizontal and vertical drillings are included. Since the production data is reported by month, we need to aggregate them by year. Then we have annual gas/oil production, number of active gas/oil wells, categorical and uncategorical within a radius of 25km from the assumed location of RadNet monitors.

Background radon data: We downloaded the EPA radon map data and join it to the assumed location of RadNet monitor. All counties of the U,S are catergorized into three classes ranging from 1 with the highest radon level and 3 with the lowest. The background radon level is calculated based on soil type, weather and other information.

In this report, we first set the radius as 25km. If there's any oil/gas production within this circle in the study period, this RadNet monitor is categorized as within gas/oil field. Otherwise, this RadNet monitor is categorized as clean ones.

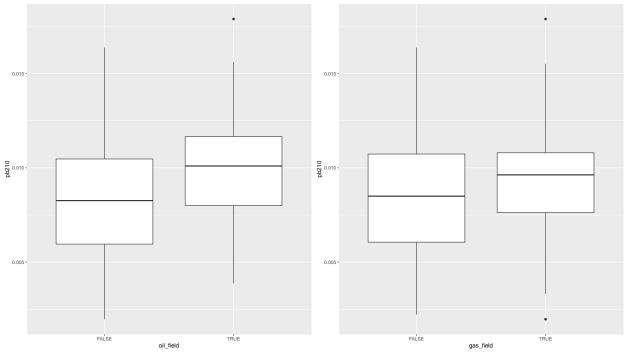
Descriptive statistic of the data

• Annual Pb210 is negatively related with EPA radon zone. Here we treat the ordered categorical radon zone as continuous.

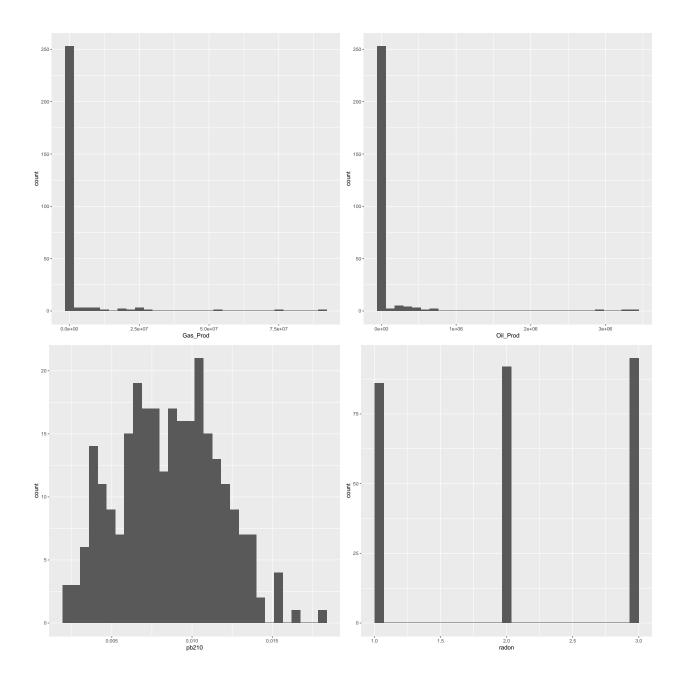


• Even though oil fields has lower radon level, but they have higher Pb210 level. This relation also applies to the natural gas drilling.

```
## # A tibble: 2 x 2
##
     oil_field mean_radon
##
     <1g1>
                     <dbl>
## 1 FALSE
                      2
## 2 TRUE
                      2.22
## # A tibble: 2 x 2
##
     gas_field mean_radon
##
     <1g1>
                     <dbl>
## 1 FALSE
                      1.95
## 2 TRUE
                      2.51
```



 $\bullet\,$ The oil/gas data is skewed. But the pb210 measurement is almost normal. Radon zone is almost evenly distributed.



Models

Mixed effects models are used in this report to model the correlation between our variable of interest and the Lead-210. Our variables of interest are always set as fixed effect while random intercepts are assigned to each RadNet monitor. In addition, radon zone is also set as fixed effect. To check the significance of our fixed effect, a bootstrp confidence interval is calculated. In addition, a likelihood-ratio test is also applied here.

Gross Oil Production

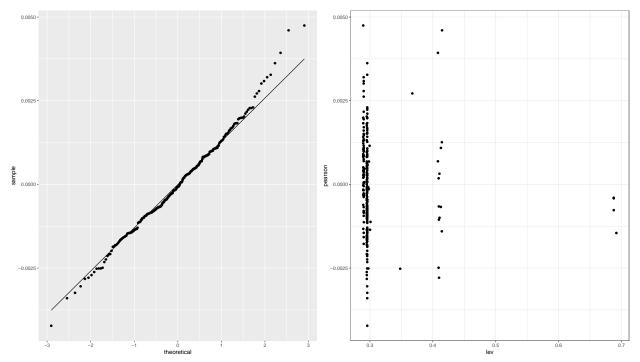
Oil production is the sum of monthly oil production from all wells within 25km away from the monitor. Based on the summary of models and test, we can see that, without log-transformation, gross oil production

is significantly correlated with the annual Lead-210. Adding oil production doesn't influence the slope of radon remarkably. After log-transformation, the gross oil production is weakly related with log(Pb210). The p-value is so close to cutoff that more simulation is needed.

```
model_basic<-lmer(pb210~radon+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
fixed.effects(model_basic)
##
     (Intercept)
                         radon
                                        YEAR
## -0.0516760373 -0.0009650934 0.0000308526
model_oil_prod<-lmer(pb210~radon+Oil_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model_oil_prod,method="boot")
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
## .sig01
                2.076903e-03 2.957759e-03
## .sigma
                1.505224e-03 1.854855e-03
## (Intercept) -5.867100e-01 3.878885e-01
               -1.652346e-03 -3.595710e-04
## radon
## Oil_Prod
               5.253076e-10 3.541036e-09
## YEAR
               -1.869439e-04 2.962494e-04
anova(model_basic,model_oil_prod)
## Data: rad all
## Models:
## model_basic: pb210 ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_oil_prod: pb210 ~ radon + Oil_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
                         AIC
                                 BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
## model_basic
                   5 -2516.1 -2498.0
                                       1263
                                            -2526.1
## model_oil_prod 6 -2520.0 -2498.3
                                       1266 -2532.0 5.9304
                                                                       0.01488
##
## model_basic
## model_oil_prod *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
fixed.effects(model_oil_prod)
##
     (Intercept)
                         radon
                                    Oil_Prod
                                                      YEAR
## -7.335283e-02 -9.936493e-04 1.889109e-09 4.158423e-05
model_log_basic<-lmer(lpb~radon+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
model_log_oil_prod<-lmer(lpb~radon+Oil_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)</pre>
confint(model_log_oil_prod,method="boot")
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
                2.842459e-01 3.968319e-01
## .sig01
## .sigma
                1.811636e-01 2.266896e-01
## (Intercept) -7.627564e+01 4.115128e+01
## radon
               -2.221677e-01 -5.242116e-02
## Oil_Prod
                5.948379e-09 4.085139e-07
## YEAR
               -2.264743e-02 3.563609e-02
anova(model_log_oil_prod,model_log_basic)
## Data: rad all
## Models:
## model_log_basic: lpb ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
```

```
## model_log_oil_prod: lpb ~ radon + Oil_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
##
                     Df
                           AIC
                                  BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
                      5 125.41 143.46 -57.705
                                                115.41
## model log basic
## model_log_oil_prod 6 123.43 145.09 -55.716
                                                111.43 3.9776
                                                                   1
##
                     Pr(>Chisq)
## model_log_basic
## model_log_oil_prod
                        0.04611 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

A tentative diagnostic based largely on leverage is applied here to check whether this correlation is stable. Otherwise, it can be influenced by few influential measurements. Based on the qqnorm and leverage plot, we can see that the residual of this model is largely normally distributed except for some limit values. After removing the measurements with very big leverage value, the slope of gross oil production doesn't change remarkbly, only 5% of the standard deviation. The updated confidence interval after removing these measurements still doesn't cover 0, meansing this correlation is stable and significant.



```
levId <- which(hatvalues(model_oil_prod) >= .5)
rad_all[levId,c("pb210","radon","0il_Prod","YEAR","city_state")]
```

```
pb210 radon Oil_Prod YEAR
##
                                        city_state
## 103 0.00723
                    2
                             O 2016 ELLENSBURG, WA
## 153 0.00597
                    2
                             0 2014
                                     LYNCHBURG, VA
## 242 0.00480
                             0 2014
                                       SYRACUSE, NY
                    1
## 273 0.00717
                             0 2016
                                           YUMA, AZ
```

```
model_oil_diag <- lmer(pb210 ~ radon + Oil_Prod + YEAR+ (1|city_state), data=rad_all[-c(levId),])</pre>
LevCD <- data.frame(effect=fixef(model_oil_prod),</pre>
                       change=(fixef(model_oil_diag) - fixef(model_oil_prod)),
                       se=sqrt(diag(vcov(model_oil_prod)))
)
rownames(LevCD) <- names(fixef(model_oil_diag))</pre>
LevCD$multiples <- abs(LevCD$change / LevCD$se)</pre>
LevCD
##
                       effect
                                     change
                                                       se multiples
## (Intercept) -7.335283e-02 1.718926e-02 2.528262e-01 0.06798844
               -9.936493e-04 -6.355069e-05 3.376813e-04 0.18819724
## radon
## Oil Prod
                1.889109e-09 -3.611534e-11 7.785929e-10 0.04638539
## YEAR
                4.158423e-05 -8.424145e-06 1.254718e-04 0.06713976
confint(model oil diag)
                        2.5 %
                                     97.5 %
                              2.884041e-03
## .sig01
                2.050784e-03
## .sigma
                1.509641e-03
                              1.860507e-03
## (Intercept) -5.547144e-01 4.427448e-01
               -1.720701e-03 -3.936730e-04
## radon
## Oil_Prod
                3.332478e-10 3.379923e-09
## YEAR
               -2.144328e-04
                              2.805763e-04
```

Gross Gas Production

Gas production is the sum of monthly gas production from all wells within 25km away from the monitor. Based on the summary of models and test, we can see that, without log-transformation, gross gas production is not significantly correlated with the annual Lead-210. After log-transformation, the gross gas production is still not remarkably related with log(Pb210). Due to lack of significance, there's no need to run diagnostic.

```
model_gas_prod<-lmer(pb210~radon+Gas_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model_gas_prod,method="boot")</pre>
```

```
## 2.5 % 97.5 %

## .sig01 2.046668e-03 2.978971e-03

## .sigma 1.490585e-03 1.848518e-03

## (Intercept) -5.315812e-01 4.350448e-01

## radon -1.615419e-03 -2.826414e-04

## Gas_Prod -4.768767e-11 6.627202e-11

## YEAR -2.106188e-04 2.691015e-04

anova(model_basic,model_gas_prod)

## Data: rad all
```

```
##
                       2.5 %
                                     97.5 %
                2.846023e-01
                             4.024639e-01
## .sig01
## .sigma
                1.842435e-01
                              2.260007e-01
## (Intercept) -7.087640e+01 5.050523e+01
## radon
               -2.249841e-01 -3.762556e-02
## Gas Prod
               -6.096539e-09 8.830886e-09
               -2.732165e-02 3.291880e-02
## YEAR
anova(model log gas prod,model log basic)
## Data: rad all
## Models:
## model_log_basic: lpb ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_log_gas_prod: lpb ~ radon + Gas_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
##
                            AIC
                                   BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
                       5 125.41 143.46 -57.705
                                                  115.41
## model_log_basic
## model_log_gas_prod 6 127.18 148.84 -57.591
                                                  115.18 0.229
                                                                    1
                      Pr(>Chisq)
## model_log_basic
## model_log_gas_prod
                          0.6322
```

Horizontal Oil Production

fixed.effects(model_h_oil_prod)

Horizontal oil production is the sum of monthly oil production from all horizontal wells within 25km away from the monitor. Based on the summary of models and test, we can see that, without log-transformation, horizontal oil production is weakly correlated with the annual Lead-210. After log-transformation, the horizontal oil production is not significantly related with log(Pb210).

```
model_h_oil_prod<-lmer(pb210~radon+H_Oil_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model_h_oil_prod,method="boot")</pre>
```

```
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
## .sig01
                2.052246e-03
                             2.887586e-03
                1.480692e-03
## .sigma
                             1.858150e-03
## (Intercept) -5.484209e-01 5.155183e-01
## radon
               -1.606191e-03 -3.588915e-04
## H_Oil_Prod
              -3.142230e-10 4.121420e-09
## YEAR
               -2.502517e-04 2.776793e-04
anova(model_basic,model_h_oil_prod)
## Data: rad_all
## Models:
## model_basic: pb210 ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_h_oil_prod: pb210 ~ radon + H_Oil_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
                                   BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
##
                           AIC
## model basic
                     5 -2516.1 -2498.0 1263.0
                                              -2526.1
## model_h_oil_prod 6 -2516.9 -2495.2 1264.5 -2528.9 2.8552
                                                                   1
##
                    Pr(>Chisq)
## model_basic
## model_h_oil_prod
                       0.09108 .
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
YEAR
     (Intercept)
                         radon
                                  H Oil Prod
## -5.362460e-02 -9.633959e-04
                               1.887232e-09 3.179265e-05
model_log_h_oil_prod<-lmer(lpb~radon+H_Oil_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model_log_h_oil_prod,method="boot")
##
                       2.5 %
## .sig01
                2.847241e-01
                             4.033957e-01
## .sigma
                1.825214e-01
                             2.270707e-01
## (Intercept) -7.110001e+01 4.890757e+01
## radon
               -2.298000e-01 -4.776288e-02
## H Oil Prod -1.345382e-07 4.749571e-07
## YEAR
               -2.651122e-02 3.297060e-02
anova(model_log_h_oil_prod,model_log_basic)
## Data: rad all
## Models:
## model_log_basic: lpb ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_log_h_oil_prod: lpb ~ radon + H_Oil_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
##
                        Df
                              AIC
                                     BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
                         5 125.41 143.46 -57.705
                                                    115.41
## model_log_basic
## model_log_h_oil_prod 6 125.53 147.19 -56.768
                                                    113.53 1.8751
                                                                       1
##
                        Pr(>Chisq)
## model_log_basic
## model_log_h_oil_prod
                            0.1709
```

Vertical Oil Production

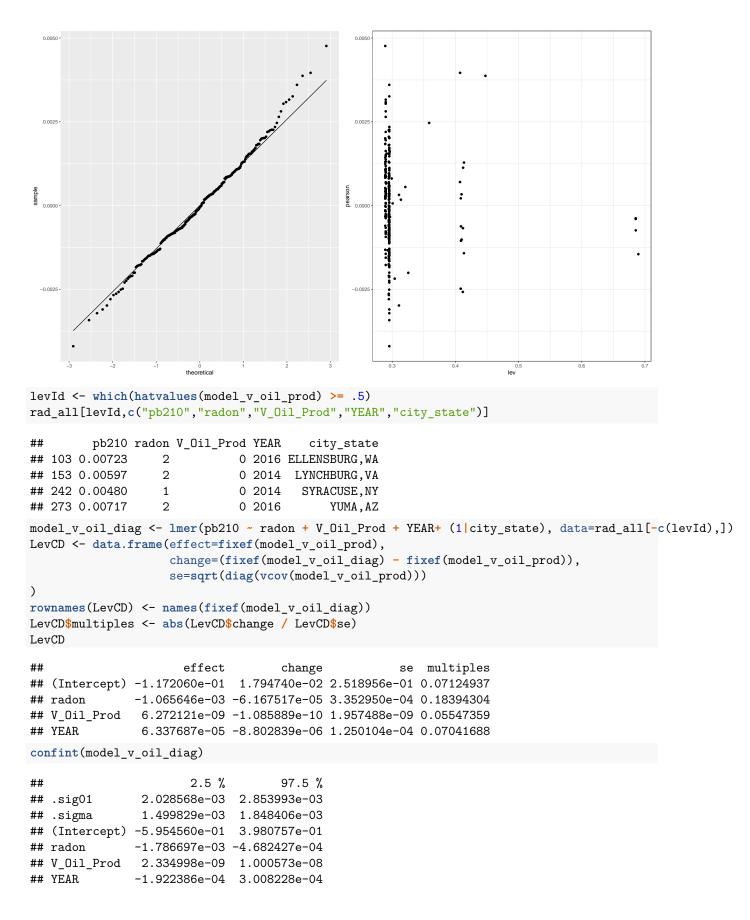
Vertical oil production is the sum of monthly oil production from all vertical wells within 25km away from the monitor. Based on the summary of models and test, we can see that, without log-transformation, vertical oil production is significantly correlated with the annual Lead-210. Adding oil production influence the slope of radon and intercept remarkably. After log-transformation, the gross oil production is significantly related with log(Pb210).

```
model_v_oil_prod<-lmer(pb210~radon+V_Oil_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model_v_oil_prod,method="boot")</pre>
```

```
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
                2.044175e-03
                              2.882939e-03
## .sig01
## .sigma
                1.472634e-03
                              1.839217e-03
## (Intercept) -6.232201e-01
                              3.619686e-01
               -1.759701e-03 -3.576612e-04
## radon
## V_Oil_Prod
                2.458654e-09 9.843645e-09
## YEAR
               -1.740837e-04 3.146346e-04
anova(model_basic,model_v_oil_prod)
```

```
## model basic
## model_v_oil_prod
                      0.001375 **
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
fixed.effects(model_v_oil_prod)
##
     (Intercept)
                         radon
                                  V_Oil_Prod
                                                      YEAR
## -1.172060e-01 -1.065646e-03 6.272121e-09 6.337687e-05
model_log_v_oil_prod<-lmer(lpb~radon+V_Oil_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)</pre>
confint(model_log_v_oil_prod,method="boot")
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
## .sig01
                2.761868e-01 3.927383e-01
## .sigma
                1.807478e-01 2.251618e-01
## (Intercept) -8.515124e+01 4.329709e+01
               -2.314913e-01 -5.160778e-02
## radon
## V_Oil_Prod
                2.047386e-07 1.165878e-06
## YEAR
               -2.375177e-02 4.004362e-02
anova(model_log_v_oil_prod,model_log_basic)
## Data: rad all
## Models:
## model_log_basic: lpb ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_log_v_oil_prod: lpb ~ radon + V_Oil_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
##
                        Df
                              AIC
                                     BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
                         5 125.41 143.46 -57.705
## model_log_basic
                                                   115.41
## model_log_v_oil_prod 6 120.54 142.20 -54.270
                                                   108.54 6.8704
                                                                      1
                        Pr(>Chisq)
## model_log_basic
## model_log_v_oil_prod
                          0.008764 **
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

A tentative diagnostic based largely on leverage is applied here to check whether this correlation is stable. Otherwise, it can be influenced by few influential measurements. Based on the qqnorm and leverage plot, we can see that the residual of this model is largely normally distributed except for some limit values. After removing the measurements with very big leverage value, the slope of gross oil production doesn't change remarkbly, only 5% of the standard deviation. The updated confidence interval after removing these measurements still doesn't cover 0, meaning this correlation is stable and significant.



Horizontal Gas Production

Horizontal gas production is the sum of monthly gas production from all horizontal wells within 25km away from the monitor. Based on the summary of models and test, we can see that, without log-transformation, horizontal gas production is weakly correlated with the annual Lead-210. After log-transformation, the horizontal gas production is not significantly related with log(Pb210).

```
model h gas prod<-lmer(pb210~radon+H Gas Prod+YEAR+(1|city state),data=rad all,REML=T)
confint(model_h_gas_prod,method="boot")
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
## .sig01
                2.104236e-03
                             2.995597e-03
## .sigma
                1.482907e-03
                              1.837020e-03
## (Intercept) -4.963150e-01 4.930137e-01
## radon
               -1.676393e-03 -3.221530e-04
## H Gas Prod
              -7.755562e-11 6.540430e-11
## YEAR
               -2.394825e-04 2.516901e-04
anova(model_basic,model_h_gas_prod)
## Data: rad all
## Models:
## model_basic: pb210 ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model h gas prod: pb210 ~ radon + H Gas Prod + YEAR + (1 | city state)
                                   BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
                           AIC
## model basic
                     5 -2516.1 -2498.0
                                         1263
                                               -2526.1
## model_h_gas_prod 6 -2514.1 -2492.4
                                         1263 -2526.1 0.0026
                    Pr(>Chisq)
##
## model_basic
                        0.9592
## model_h_gas_prod
fixed.effects(model_h_gas_prod)
##
                                  H_Gas_Prod
                                                       YEAR
     (Intercept)
                         radon
## -5.067082e-02 -9.627272e-04 -2.088545e-12 3.035240e-05
model_log_h_gas_prod<-lmer(lpb~radon+H_Gas_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model_log_h_gas_prod,method="boot")
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
## .sig01
                2.893605e-01
                             4.102506e-01
## .sigma
                1.841681e-01
                             2.275638e-01
## (Intercept) -6.985704e+01 4.854410e+01
               -2.155702e-01 -3.659277e-02
## radon
## H Gas Prod
              -8.490197e-09 9.359058e-09
               -2.636003e-02 3.240577e-02
## YEAR
anova(model_log_h_gas_prod,model_log_basic)
## Data: rad_all
## Models:
## model_log_basic: lpb ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_log_h_gas_prod: lpb ~ radon + H_Gas_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
                                     BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
                        Df
                              AIC
## model_log_basic
                         5 125.41 143.46 -57.705
                                                   115.41
## model_log_h_gas_prod 6 127.39 149.05 -57.696
                                                   115.39 0.018
                                                                      1
                        Pr(>Chisq)
## model_log_basic
```

```
## model_log_h_gas_prod 0.8932
```

Vertical Gas Production

##

model_log_basic

Vertical gas production is the sum of monthly gas production from all vertical wells within 25km away from the monitor. Based on the summary of models and test, we can see that, without log-transformation, vertical gas production is weakly correlated with the annual Lead-210. After log-transformation, the vertical gas production is not significantly related with log(Pb210).

```
model_v_gas_prod<-lmer(pb210~radon+V_Gas_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model v gas prod,method="boot")
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
## .sig01
                2.093790e-03 2.964361e-03
## .sigma
                1.522118e-03
                              1.844385e-03
## (Intercept) -6.607445e-01 3.899435e-01
## radon
               -1.753693e-03 -3.143482e-04
## V_Gas_Prod -8.455681e-11 3.270476e-10
## YEAR
               -1.887351e-04 3.328766e-04
anova(model_basic,model_v_gas_prod)
## Data: rad_all
## Models:
## model_basic: pb210 ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_v_gas_prod: pb210 ~ radon + V_Gas_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
##
                    Df
                           AIC
                                   BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df
## model basic
                     5 -2516.1 -2498.0 1263.0 -2526.1
## model_v_gas_prod 6 -2515.8 -2494.2 1263.9 -2527.8 1.77
##
                    Pr(>Chisq)
## model basic
## model_v_gas_prod
                        0.1834
fixed.effects(model_v_gas_prod)
##
     (Intercept)
                         radon
                                  V Gas Prod
                                                       YEAR.
## -8.174092e-02 -1.029095e-03
                                1.252586e-10
                                              4.580229e-05
model_log_v_gas_prod<-lmer(lpb~radon+V_Gas_Prod+YEAR+(1|city_state),data=rad_all,REML=T)
confint(model_log_v_gas_prod,method="boot")
##
                       2.5 %
                                    97.5 %
## .sig01
                             4.071577e-01
                2.907762e-01
## .sigma
                1.832447e-01 2.248808e-01
## (Intercept) -7.237511e+01 4.566935e+01
## radon
               -2.416040e-01 -5.180129e-02
## V_Gas_Prod -7.423985e-09 4.159143e-08
## YEAR
               -2.491645e-02 3.363317e-02
anova(model_log_v_gas_prod,model_log_basic)
## Data: rad_all
## Models:
## model_log_basic: lpb ~ radon + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
## model_log_v_gas_prod: lpb ~ radon + V_Gas_Prod + YEAR + (1 | city_state)
```

BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df

Df

AIC

5 125.41 143.46 -57.705

```
## model_log_v_gas_prod 6 125.84 147.50 -56.919 113.84 1.5725 1
## Pr(>Chisq)
## model_log_basic
## model_log_v_gas_prod 0.2099
```

Conclusion

Oil production especially oil production from vertical wells is significantly related with local Lead-210. Natural gas production is not significantly correlated with local local Lead-210. So, vertical oil drilling may significantly increase the local residents' exposure to radon.

Tentative interperation

Vertical wells were mostly completed before financial crisis. They're much older than the currently dorminant directional drilling. At the end of lifttime, the fraction of produced water is always higher than the new drill. Produced water (is not pumped back to the formation) may serve as the medium for radon leakage. # Questions

Q1: Are the models and diagnostic process valid?

Q2: Current models use all the data, but only 1/6 (25km case) of the RadNet monitors are located within oil/gas field. Do I need to model based on the "contaminated" area only?

Q3: To control for the spatial confounder, a random intercept is assigned to each RadNet monitor. In addition, the EPA radon zone is also included. Is this sufficient, redundent or insufficient? Or can I use this as sensitivity analysis?

Q4: Concerning the significance part, can we state that we need to use the drilling information to update the radon zone data?

• Q5: The temporal confounding is only controlled for by adding the year in the model. In the context of short study period, do you think this's sufficient?*