

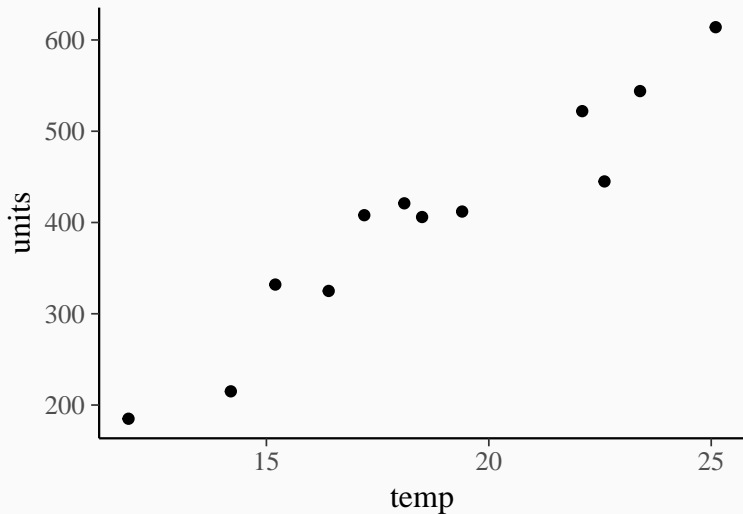
# Bayesian Data Analysis Using Stan

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[https://github.com/paul-buerkner/2019\\_DAGStat\\_Stan\\_Tutorial](https://github.com/paul-buerkner/2019_DAGStat_Stan_Tutorial)

## Example: Icecream Sold at Different Temperatures



# Linear Models with Stan

# Simple Linear Regression

We assume the following generative model (*likelihood*)

$$y_n = \alpha + \beta x_n + \varepsilon_n$$

$$\varepsilon_n \sim \text{Normal}(0, \sigma)$$

or equivalently

$$y_n \sim \text{Normal}(\alpha + \beta x_n, \sigma)$$

Let's vectorize the model

$$y \sim \text{Normal}(\alpha + \beta x, \sigma)$$

# Stan Syntax: Simple Linear Regression

```
data {  
  int<lower=1> N;  // total number of observations  
  vector[N] y;    // response variable  
  vector[N] x;    // predictor variable  
}  
  
parameters {  
  real alpha;  // intercept  
  real beta;   // slope  
  real<lower=0> sigma;  // residual SD  
}  
  
model {  
  // likelihood  
  for (n in 1:N) {  
    y[n] ~ normal(alpha + beta * x[n], sigma);  
  }  
}
```

# Stan Syntax: Simple Linear Regression (Vectorized)

```
data {  
  int<lower=1> N;  // total number of observations  
  vector[N] y;    // response variable  
  vector[N] x;    // predictor variable  
}  
  
parameters {  
  real alpha;  // intercept  
  real beta;   // slope  
  real<lower=0> sigma;  // residual SD  
}  
  
model {  
  // likelihood  
  y ~ normal(alpha + beta * x, sigma);  
}
```

# The Posterior Distribution

$$p(\theta|y) = \frac{p(y|\theta)p(\theta)}{p(y)} \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta) = p(y, \theta)$$

What's the matter with all the  $p$  functions?

- Likelihood:  $p(y|\theta)$
- Prior:  $p(\theta)$
- Marginal likelihood:  $p(y)$
- Posterior:  $p(\theta|y)$
- Joint Model:  $p(y, \theta)$



## Priors in Stan

```
data {  
  ...  
}  
parameters {  
  real alpha;  // intercept  
  real beta;   // slope  
  real<lower=0> sigma;  // residual SD  
}  
model {  
  // likelihood  
  y ~ normal(alpha + beta * x, sigma);  
  // priors  
  alpha ~ normal(0, 100);  
  beta ~ normal(0, 50);  
  sigma ~ cauchy(0, 50);  
}
```

# How to obtain the Posterior Distribution?

Problem: Computing the marginal likelihood

$$p(y) = \int p(y|\theta)p(\theta)d\theta$$

Analytically?

- Only possible for specific models

Numerically?

- Only possible for model with few parameters

Solution: Do not compute  $p(y)$  at all

## Using Samples to Approximate Expectations

Every quantity of interest is an expectation over  $p(\theta|y)$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[h(\theta)] = \int h(\theta)p(\theta|y)d\theta$$

Approximate expectations using random samples  $\theta_s$  from  $p(\theta|y)$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[h(\theta)] \approx \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^S h(\theta_s)$$

Moreover

$$\frac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^S f(\theta_s) \xrightarrow{S \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}(f(\theta))$$

# Markov-Chain Monte-Carlo (MCMC) Sampling

We can't simply draw independent samples from the posterior!

A Markov Chain is a sequence of values where the value at position  $t$  is based only on the former value at position  $t - 1$ :

$$\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_2 \rightarrow \theta_3 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \theta_S$$

$$p(\theta_t | \theta_{t-1}, \theta_{t-2}, \dots, \theta_1) = p(\theta_t | \theta_{t-1})$$

If done correctly, the distribution of the values will converge to the target distribution:

$$p(\theta) = \int p(\theta^*) p(\theta | \theta^*) d\theta^*$$

## Icecream Sold: Specification in (R)Stan

Prepare the data:

```
sdata <- list(  
  y = icecream$units,  
  x = icecream$temp,  
  N = nrow(icecream)  
)
```

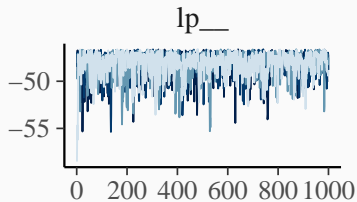
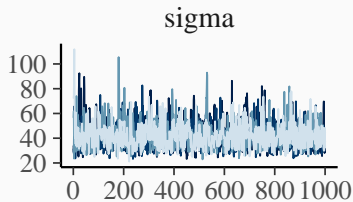
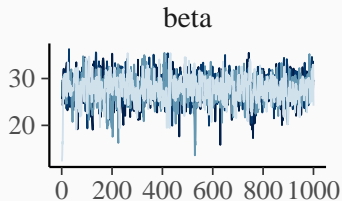
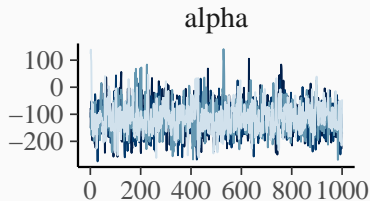
Load rstan:

```
library(rstan)
```

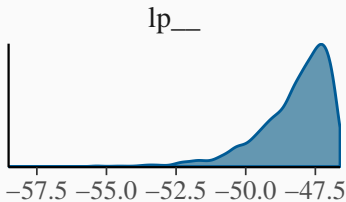
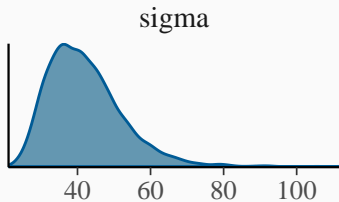
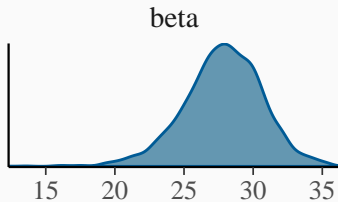
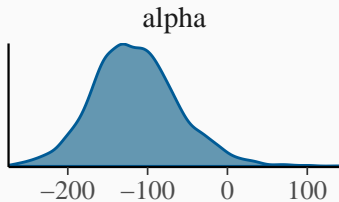
Fit the model:

```
linreg_model <- stan(file = "linreg.stan", data = sdata)
```

# Icecream Sold: Visualize the Chains



## Icecream Sold: Visualize the Posterior



# Icecream Sold: Summarize the Parameters

```
print(linreg_model)
```

```
## Inference for Stan model: linreg.
## 4 chains, each with iter=2000; warmup=1000; thin=1;
## post-warmup draws per chain=1000, total post-warmup draws=4000.
##
##           mean se_mean      sd    2.5%    50%   97.5% n_eff Rhat
## alpha -114.88     1.61 54.59 -215.62 -117.96    0.23  1151 1.00
## beta   27.80      0.08  2.87   21.64   27.93   33.16  1163 1.00
## sigma  42.04      0.28 10.12   27.18   40.62   65.74  1298 1.00
## lp__   -48.25      0.04  1.30  -51.69  -47.91  -46.75  1025 1.01
##
## Samples were drawn using NUTS(diag_e) at Mon Mar 18 10:40:40 2019.
## For each parameter, n_eff is a crude measure of effective sample size,
## and Rhat is the potential scale reduction factor on split chains (at
## convergence, Rhat=1).
```





- Probabilistic programming language written in C++ ...
- ... to fit open-ended Bayesian models
- Algorithm: (Adaptive) Hamiltonian Monte-Carlo (HMC)
- Automatic differentiation (Stan-Math) library
- Runs on all major platforms (Windows, OS X, Linux)
- Can be called from R, Python, Julia, Stata, and Matlab

## Explicitly Constructing the Log-Posterior in Stan

```
data {  
  ...  
}  
parameters {  
  real alpha;  // intercept  
  real beta;   // slope  
  real<lower=0> sigma;  // residual SD  
}  
model {  
  // likelihood  
  target += normal_lpdf(y | alpha + beta * x, sigma);  
  // priors  
  target += normal_lpdf(alpha | 0, 100);  
  target += normal_lpdf(beta | 0, 50);  
  target += cauchy_lpdf(sigma | 0, 50);  
}
```

# Stan Syntax: Model Blocks

functions

*// user defined Stan functions*

data

*// data passed by the user*

transformed data

*// variables depending on the data block*

*// computed only once before fitting the model*

parameters

*// unknown variables to be sampled*

transformed parameters

*// variables depending on data and parameter blocks*

model

*// specification of the log-posterior density*

*// defined variables are local*

generated quantities

*// variables to be computed after the model fitting*

*// not included in the actual sampling process*

# Why Using Stan?

- Expressive language for probabilistic programming
- Efficient and numerically stable computations
- Powerful MCMC samplers scaling well to high dimensional Bayesian models where other samplers fail
- Continuously developed and improved
- Ecosystem of Stan-related R packages
- Large and friendly community

## Learn more about Stan

- Website: <http://mc-stan.org/>
- Manual: <http://mc-stan.org/users/documentation/index.html>
- Forums: <http://discourse.mc-stan.org/>

### Selected Publications:

- Carpenter B., Gelman A., Hoffman M. D., Lee D., Goodrich B., Betancourt M., Brubaker M., Guo J., Li P., and Riddell A. (2017). Stan: A probabilistic programming language. *Journal of Statistical Software*. 76(1). 10.18637/jss.v076.i01
- Gelman A., Lee D., and Guo J. (2015). Stan: A probabilistic programming language for Bayesian inference and optimization. *Journal of Education and Behavioral Statistics*. 40(5):530–543.

# The Posterior Predictive Distribution

Distribution of model implied responses  $\tilde{y}$  conditional on the existing responses  $y$ :

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) = \int p(\tilde{y}|y, \theta)p(\theta|y) d\theta$$

For conditionally independent responses:

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) = \int p(\tilde{y}|\theta)p(\theta|y) d\theta$$

# Posterior Predictions in Stan

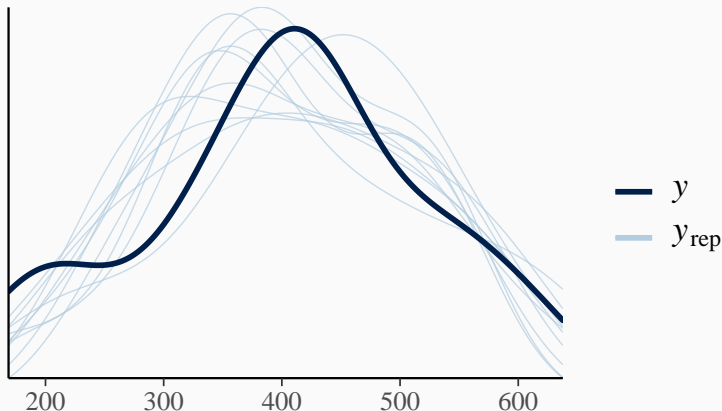
Sample posterior predictions after model fitting:

```
...  
generated quantites {  
  vector[N] yrep;  // posterior predictions  
  for (n in 1:N) {  
    yrep[n] = normal_rng(alpha + beta * x[n], sigma);  
  }  
}
```

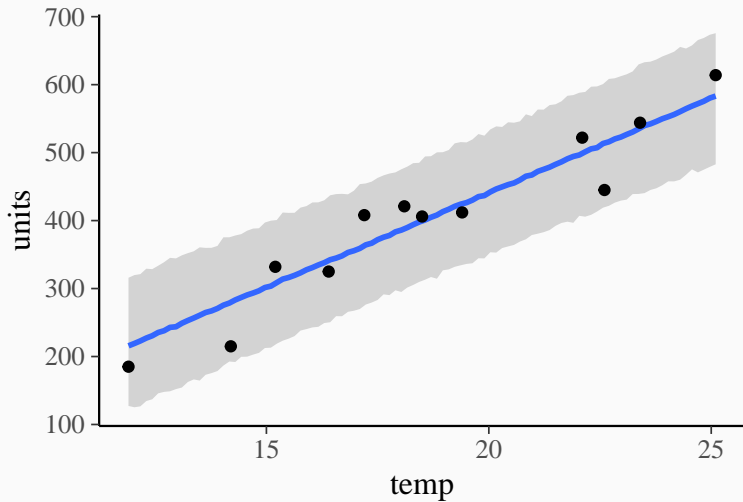


## Icecream Sold: Posterior Predictive Checks

```
library(bayesplot)
yrep <- as.matrix(linreg_model, pars = "yrep")
yrep <- yrep[sample(1:nrow(yrep), 10), ]
ppc_dens_overlay(y = icecream$units, yrep = yrep)
```



## Icecream Sold: Visualize Predictions



Time for exercise 'stan\_linear\_regression.R'

What's wrong with our modeling assumptions?

## Generalized Linear Models with Stan

# Binomial Regression Models

Suppose the icecream market size  $M$  is limited

We assume  $y_n$  to be binomial distributed with probability  $\theta_n$ :

$$y_n \sim \text{Binomial}(\theta_n, M)$$

The probability  $\theta_n$  is predicted via:

$$\theta_n = g(\alpha + \beta x_n)$$

$g(\cdot)$  is a response function for instance

$$g(\eta) = \text{logistic}(\eta) = \frac{\exp(\eta)}{1 + \exp(\eta)}$$

# Binomial Model in Stan

```
data {  
  int<lower=1> N;  // total number of observations  
  int<lower=1> M;  // market size  
  int y[N];  // response variable  
  vector[N] x;  // predictor variable  
}  
parameters {  
  real alpha;  // intercept  
  real beta;  // slope  
}  
model {  
  // likelihood  
  for (n in 1:N) {  
    real theta = inv_logit(alpha + beta * x[n]);  
    y[n] ~ binomial(M, theta);  
  }  
}
```

## Binomial Model in Stan (Optimized)

```
data {  
  int<lower=1> N;  // total number of observations  
  int<lower=1> M;  // market size  
  int y[N];  // response variable  
  vector[N] x;  // predictor variable  
}  
parameters {  
  real alpha;  // intercept  
  real beta;  // slope  
}  
model {  
  // likelihood  
  y ~ binomial_logit(M, alpha + beta * x);;  
}
```



## Fitting Binomial Models in (R)Stan

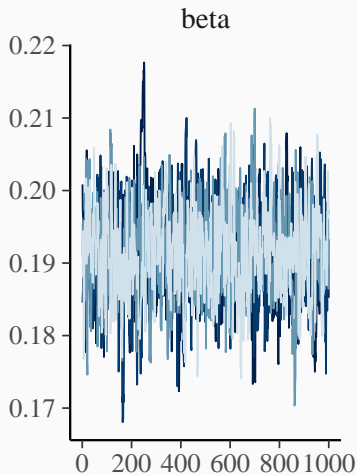
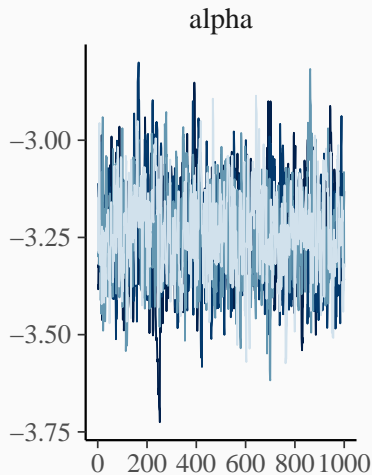
Prepare the data:

```
sdata <- list(  
  y = icecream$units,  
  x = icecream$temp,  
  N = nrow(icecream),  
  M = 700  
)
```

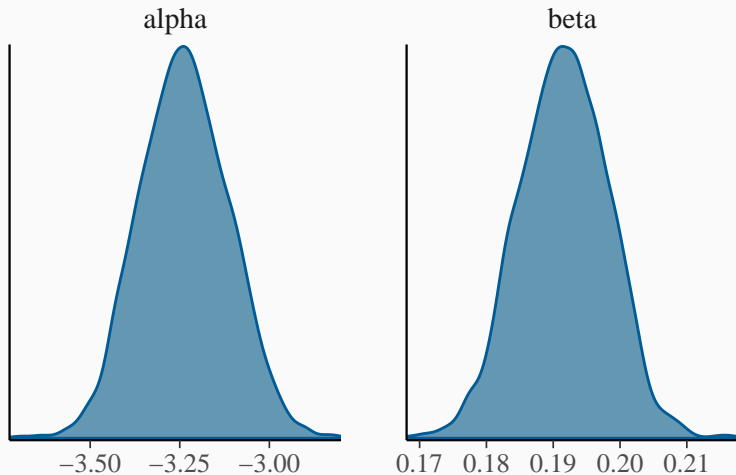
Fit the model:

```
binom_model <- stan(file = "binomial.stan",  
                    data = sdata)
```

## Binomial Model: Visualize the Chains



## Binomial Model: Visualize the Posterior

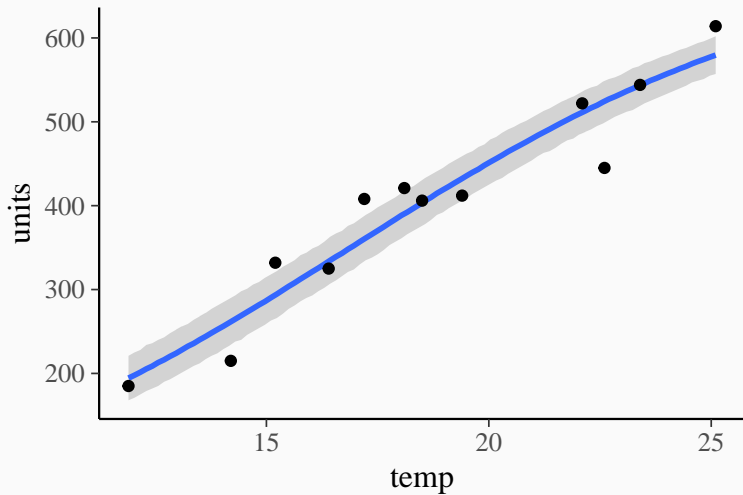


# Binomial Model: Summarize the Parameters

```
print(binom_model)
```

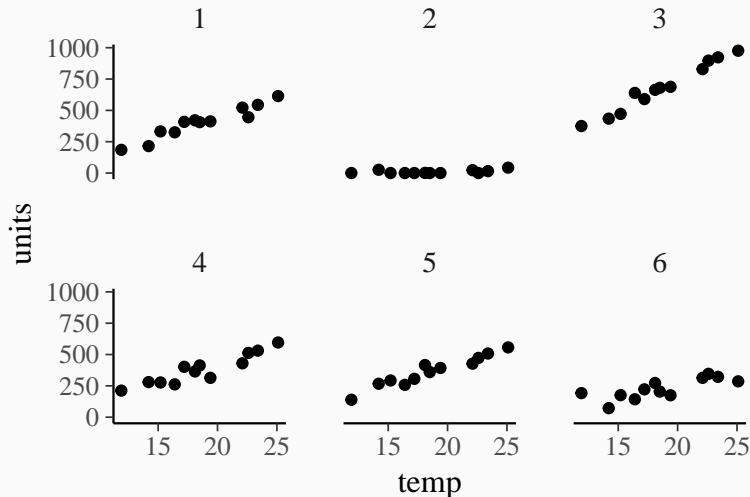
```
## Inference for Stan model: binomial.  
## 4 chains, each with iter=2000; warmup=1000; thin=1;  
## post-warmup draws per chain=1000, total post-warmup draws=4000.  
##  
##           mean se_mean   sd  2.5%   50% 97.5% n_eff Rhat  
## alpha -3.24         0 0.12 -3.47 -3.24 -2.99   659 1.01  
## beta   0.19         0 0.01  0.18  0.19  0.20   673 1.01  
##  
## Samples were drawn using NUTS(diag_e) at Mon Mar 18 10:41:29 2019.  
## For each parameter, n_eff is a crude measure of effective sample size,  
## and Rhat is the potential scale reduction factor on split chains (at  
## convergence, Rhat=1).
```

## Binomial: Visualize Predictions

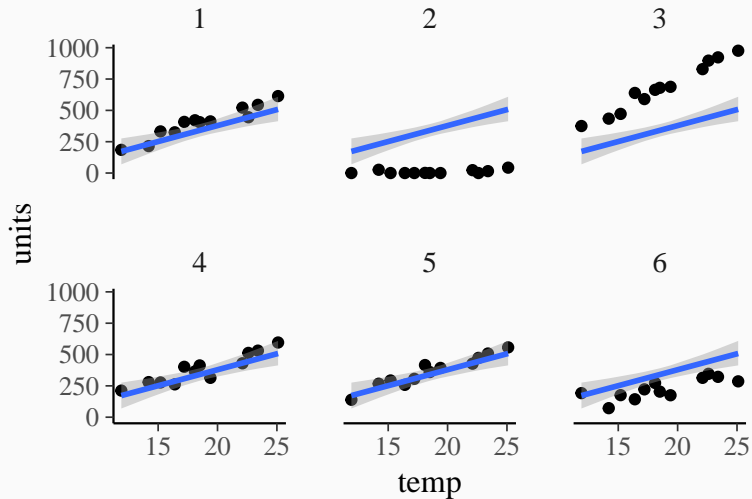


## Linear Multilevel Models with Stan

# Selling Icecream at Multiple Locations

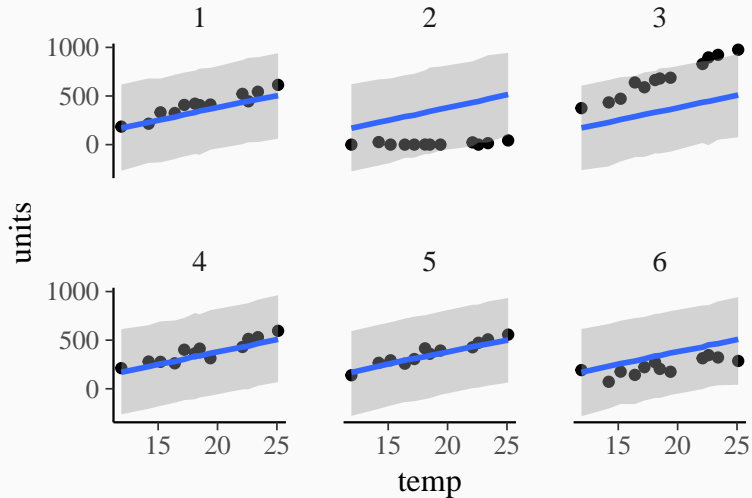


## Simple Linear Model: Visualize Expectations





# Simple Linear Model: Visualize Predictions



# Varying Intercept Models

We assume the following generative model:

$$y_n \sim \text{Normal}(\alpha_{j_n} + \beta x_n, \sigma)$$

with

$$\alpha_j \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_\alpha, \tau_\alpha)$$

or equivalently

$$\tilde{\alpha}_j \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

$$\alpha_j = \mu_\alpha + \tau_\alpha \times \tilde{\alpha}_j$$

## Varying Intercept Model in Stan (Centered)

```
data {  
  ...  
  int<lower=1> Nlocation;  // number of locations  
  int<lower=1> location[N];  // location index  
}  
parameters {  
  vector[Nlocation] alpha;  // intercepts  
  real mu_alpha;  // intercept mean  
  real<lower=0> tau_alpha;  // intercept SD  
  ...  
}  
model {  
  vector[N] mu;  
  for (n in 1:N) {  
    mu[n] = alpha[location[n]] + beta * x[n];  
  }  
  y ~ normal(mu, sigma);  
  alpha ~ normal(mu_alpha, tau_alpha);  
}
```

## Varying Intercept Model in Stan (Non-Centered)

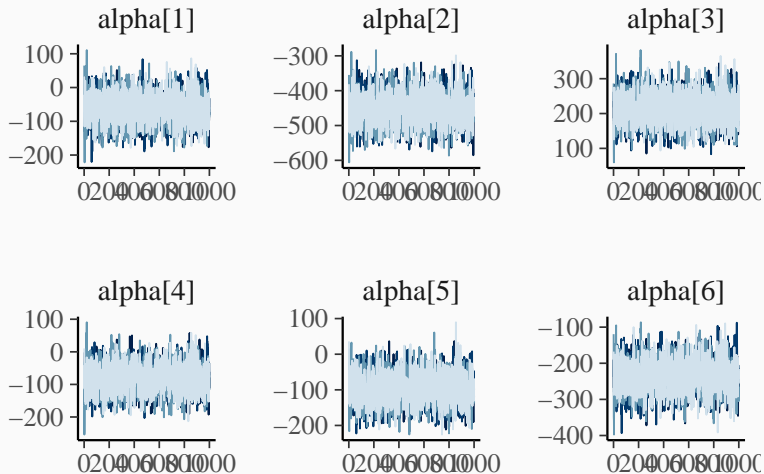
```
...
parameters {
  vector[Nlocation] z_alpha;  // dummy intercepts
  real mu_alpha;  // intercept mean
  real<lower=0> tau_alpha;  // intercept SD
  ...
}
transformed parameters {
  vector[Nlocation] alpha = mu_alpha + tau_alpha * z_alpha;
}
model {
  vector[N] mu;
  for (n in 1:N) {
    mu[n] = alpha[location[n]] + beta * x[n];
  }
  y ~ normal(mu, sigma);
  z_alpha ~ normal(0, 1);
}
```

## Fitting Varing Intercept Models in (R)Stan

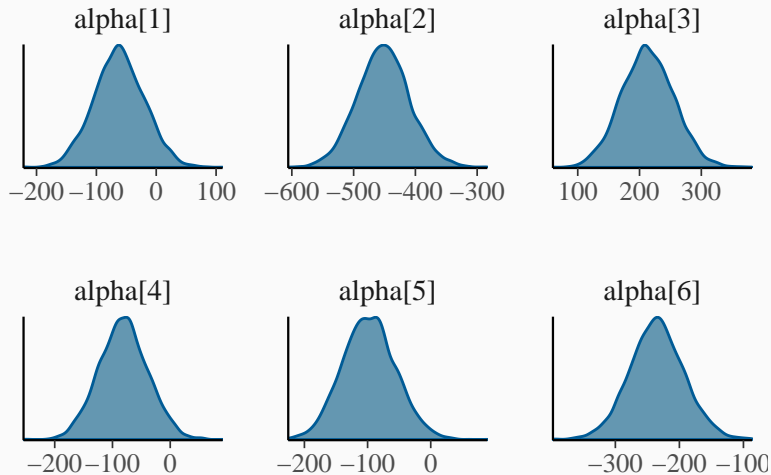
```
sdata <- list(  
  y = icecream2$units,  
  x = icecream2$temp,  
  location = icecream2$location,  
  N = nrow(icecream2),  
  Nlocation = length(unique(icecream2$location))  
)
```

```
mlm2 <- stan(  
  "stanmodels/multilevel_intercept2.stan",  
  data = sdata  
)
```

## Varying Intercepts: Visualize the Chains



## Varying Intercepts: Visualize the Posterior

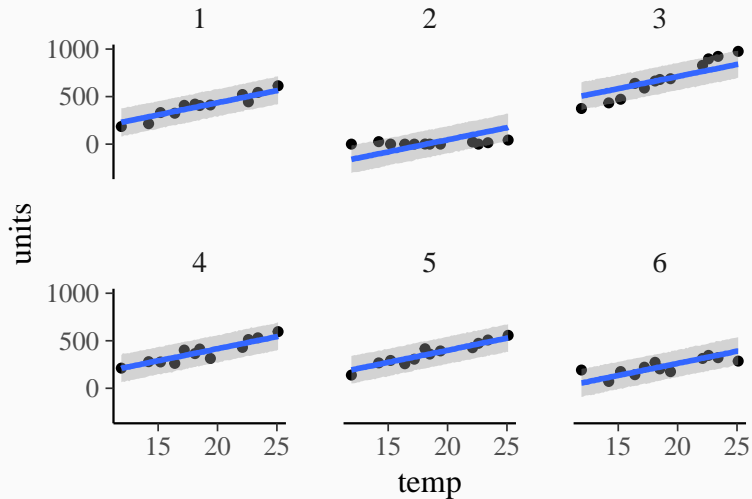


# Varying Intercept Model: Summarize the Parameters

```
## Inference for Stan model: multilevel_intercept2.
## 4 chains, each with iter=2000; warmup=1000; thin=1;
## post-warmup draws per chain=1000, total post-warmup draws=4000.
##
##              mean se_mean      sd    2.5%    50%    97.5% n_eff Rhat
## alpha[1]    -61.87     0.81 42.27 -143.98   -62.31    21.68  2730    1
## alpha[2]   -451.74     0.81 42.72 -535.12  -451.99  -364.54  2749    1
## alpha[3]    213.32     0.76 42.40  130.52   212.45   295.75  3089    1
## alpha[4]    -81.09     0.83 42.48 -163.88   -81.36     4.28  2603    1
## alpha[5]   -97.67     0.81 42.27 -178.43   -98.39   -12.67  2690    1
## alpha[6]   -235.23     0.83 42.80 -319.03  -235.51 -149.72  2668    1
## mu_alpha    -65.85     1.82 70.23 -192.87   -68.37    83.86  1494    1
## tau_alpha   228.38     2.45 75.55  128.77   213.31   420.04   951    1
## beta         24.87     0.04  2.02   20.87    24.84    28.80  2592    1
## sigma        68.78     0.12  6.10   57.93    68.45    82.07  2524    1
##
## Samples were drawn using NUTS(diag_e) at Mon Mar 18 10:44:11 2019.
## For each parameter, n_eff is a crude measure of effective sample size,
## and Rhat is the potential scale reduction factor on split chains (at
## convergence, Rhat=1).
```



## Varying Intercept Model: Visualize Predictions



## Varying Slope Models (Centered)

We assume the following generative model:

$$y_n \sim \text{Normal}(\alpha_{j_n} + \beta_{j_n} x_n, \sigma)$$

with

$$(\alpha_j, \beta_j) \sim \text{MultiNormal}((\mu_\alpha, \mu_\beta), \Sigma)$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \tau_\alpha^2 & \tau_\alpha \tau_\beta \rho_{\alpha\beta} \\ \tau_\alpha \tau_\beta \rho_{\alpha\beta} & \tau_\beta^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Varying Slope Models (Non-Centered)

We assume the following generative model:

$$y_n \sim \mathcal{N}(\alpha_{j_n} + \beta_{j_n} x_n, \sigma)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\alpha}_j, \tilde{\beta}_j &\sim \text{Normal}(0, 1) \\ (\alpha_j, \beta_j) &= (\mu_\alpha, \mu_\beta) + L \times (\tilde{\alpha}_j, \tilde{\beta}_j)\end{aligned}$$

where  $L$  is the Cholesky factor of  $\Sigma$ :

$$\Sigma = LL^\top$$

We may also write  $L$  as:

$$L = \text{Diag}(\tau_\alpha, \tau_\beta) L_\rho$$

## Varying Slope Models in Stan (Non-Centered Part 1)

```
...
parameters {
  real mu_alpha;    // intercept mean
  real mu_beta;     // slope mean
  real<lower=0> tau_alpha; // intercept SD
  real<lower=0> tau_beta;  // slope SD
  // cholesky factor of the correlation matrix
  cholesky_factor_corr[2] L_Cor;
  matrix[2, Nlocation] z_theta; // dummy varying effects
  real<lower=0> sigma; // residual SD
}
```

## Varying Slope Models in Stan (Non-Centered Part 2)

```
...
transformed parameters {
  // cholesky factor of the covariance matrix
  matrix[2, 2] L_Sigma =
    diag_pre_multiply([tau_alpha, tau_beta]', L_Cor);
  matrix[2, Nlocation] theta; // actual varying effects
  for (j in 1:Nlocation) {
    theta[, j] = [mu_alpha, mu_beta]' + L_Sigma * z_theta[, j];
  }
}

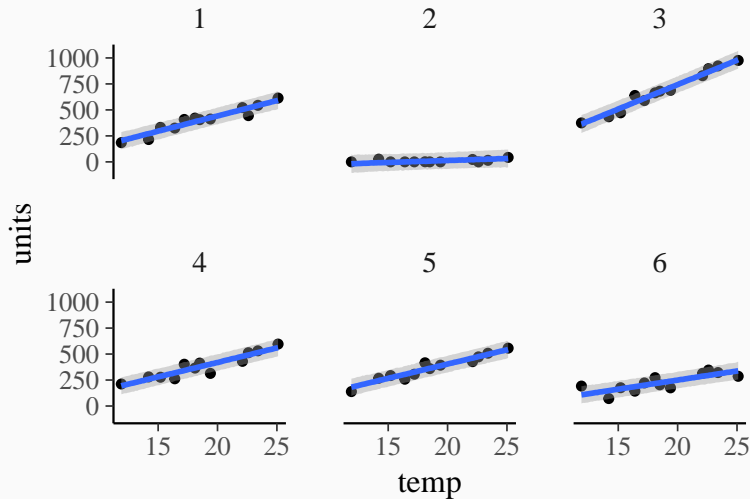
model {
  vector[N] mu;
  for (n in 1:N) {
    mu[n] = theta[1, location[n]] + theta[2, location[n]] * x[n];
  }
  y ~ normal(mu, sigma);
  to_vector(z_theta) ~ normal(0, 1);
}
```

## Fitting Varing Slope Models in (R)Stan

```
sdata <- list(  
  y = icecream2$units,  
  x = icecream2$temp,  
  location = icecream2$location,  
  N = nrow(icecream2),  
  Nlocation = length(unique(icecream2$location))  
)
```

```
mlm3 <- stan(  
  "stanmodels/multilevel_slope.stan",  
  data = sdata,  
  control = list(adapt_delta = 0.99)  
)
```

## Varying Slope Model: Visualize Predictions



## Cross-Validation

Idea: Estimate the model based on one part of the data (*training data*) to predict the other part of the data (*test data*)

Special case: *Leave-One-Out* cross-validation (LOO-CV):

$$p(y_i|y_{-i}) = \int p(y_i|\theta)p(\theta|y_{-i}) d\theta \approx \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^S p(y_i|\theta_{-i,s})$$

Criterion for model comparison:

$$\text{ELPD}_{\text{loo}} = \sum_{n=1}^N \log p(y_i|y_{-i})$$

Disadvantage of CV: Requires fitting the model multiple times

Solution: Replace  $p(\theta|y_{-i})$  by  $p(\theta|y)$  and adjust the result via Pareto-Smoothed Importance Sampling (PSIS)



## Icecream Sold: Compute Log-Likelihood Values

Compute log-likelihoods values after model fitting:

```
...  
generated quantities {  
  vector[N] ll;  // log-likelihood values  
  for (n in 1:N) {  
    ll[n] = normal_lpdf(y[n] | alpha + beta * x[n], sigma);  
  }  
}
```

## Approximate LOO-CV (Constant Intercept)

```
library(loo)
ll <- as.matrix(lm1, pars = "ll")
(loo_lm1 <- loo(ll))

##
## Computed from 4000 by 72 log-likelihood matrix
##
##           Estimate    SE
## elpd_loo    -490.6   6.4
## p_loo         2.5   0.5
## looic        981.1  12.8
## -----
## Monte Carlo SE of elpd_loo is 0.0.
##
## All Pareto k estimates are good (k < 0.5).
## See help('pareto-k-diagnostic') for details.
```

## Approximate LOO-CV (Varying Intercepts)

```
ll <- as.matrix(mlm2, pars = "ll")
(loo_mlm2 <- loo(ll))

##
## Computed from 4000 by 72 log-likelihood matrix
##
##           Estimate    SE
## elpd_loo    -411.4   6.4
## p_loo         8.4   1.5
## looic        822.8  12.9
## -----
## Monte Carlo SE of elpd_loo is 0.1.
##
## All Pareto k estimates are good (k < 0.5).
## See help('pareto-k-diagnostic') for details.
```

## Approximate LOO-CV (Varying Intercepts and Slopes)

```
ll <- as.matrix(mlm3, pars = "ll")
(loo_mlm3 <- loo(ll))

##
## Computed from 4000 by 72 log-likelihood matrix
##
##           Estimate    SE
## elpd_loo    -370.4   5.8
## p_loo         9.1   1.5
## looic        740.7  11.6
## -----
## Monte Carlo SE of elpd_loo is 0.1.
##
## Pareto k diagnostic values:
##
##           Count Pct.    Min. n_eff
## (-Inf, 0.5] (good)    70    97.2%   941
## (0.5, 0.7]  (ok)      2     2.8%   815
## (0.7, 1]    (bad)      0     0.0%   <NA>
## (1, Inf)    (very bad) 0     0.0%   <NA>
##
## All Pareto k estimates are ok (k < 0.7).
```

## Comparing Models via Approximate LOO-CV

```
loo_compare(loo_lm1, loo_mlm2, loo_mlm3)
```

```
##           elpd_diff se_diff  
## model3      0.0         0.0  
## model2    -41.0         7.6  
## model1   -120.2         9.6
```

# The R Universe around Stan

- **rstan**: Call Stan from R
- **rstantools**: Development Tools for Stan-Based Packages
- **rstanarm**: Bayesian Applied Regression Modeling via Stan
- **bayesplot**: Plotting for Bayesian models
- **shinystan**: Interactive Plotting for Bayesian Models
- **loo**: Approximation Cross-Validation
- **projpred**: Variable Selection via Projective Predictions
- **brms**: Bayesian Regression Models using Stan

# The brms package

A unified framework for Bayesian regression modeling



# Selling Icecream with brms

Linear Model:

```
brm(units ~ temp, data = icecream)
```

Binomial Model:

```
brm(units | trials(size) ~ temp, data = icecream,  
     family = binomial("logit"))
```

Varying Intercept Model:

```
brm(units ~ temp + (1 | location), data = icecream)
```

Varying Slope Model:

```
brm(units ~ temp + (temp | location), data = icecream)
```



## Learn more about brms

- Help within R: `help("brms")`
- Vignettes: `vignette(package = "brms")`
- List of all methods: `methods(class = "brmsfit")`
- Website: <https://github.com/paul-buerkner/brms>
- Forums: <http://discourse.mc-stan.org/>
- Contact me: [paul.buerkner@gmail.com](mailto:paul.buerkner@gmail.com)
- Twitter: @paulbuerkner

### Publications

- Bürkner P. C. (2017). brms: An R Package for Bayesian Multilevel Models using Stan. *Journal of Statistical Software*. 80(1), 1-28. doi:10.18637/jss.v080.i01
- Bürkner P. C. (2018). Advanced Bayesian Multilevel Modeling with the R Package brms. *The R Journal*. 10(1), 395–411. doi:10.32614/RJ-2018-017

Questions?

# Appendix

## Stan syntax: Multiple Linear Regression

```
data {  
  int<lower=1> N;  // total number of observations  
  vector[N] y;  // response variable  
  int<lower=1> K;  // number of regression coefficients  
  matrix[N, K] X;  // predictor design matrix  
}  
  
parameters {  
  vector[K] b;  // regression coefficients  
  real<lower=0> sigma;  // residual SD  
}  
  
model {  
  vector[N] mu;  
  mu = X * b;  
  y ~ normal(mu, sigma);  // likelihood  
}
```

# Importance Sampling

Suppose  $f(\theta)$  is the target and  $g(\theta)$  the approximating distribution:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[h(\theta)] &= \int h(\theta)f(\theta) d\theta = \frac{\int [h(\theta)f(\theta)/g(\theta)]g(\theta) d\theta}{\int [f(\theta)/g(\theta)]g(\theta) d\theta} \\ &= \frac{\int h(\theta)r(\theta)g(\theta) d\theta}{\int r(\theta)g(\theta) d\theta}\end{aligned}$$

with importance ratios

$$r(\theta) = \frac{f(\theta)}{g(\theta)}$$

If  $\theta^{(s)}$  are  $S$  random draws from  $g(\theta)$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[h(\theta)] \approx \frac{\sum_{s=1}^S h(\theta^{(s)})r(\theta^{(s)})}{\sum_{s=1}^S r(\theta^{(s)})}$$

## Some Helpful brms Functions (1)

Specify the model using R formulas:

```
brmsformula(formula, ...)
```

Generate the Stan code:

```
make_stancode(formula, ...)  
stancode(fit)
```

Generate the data passed to Stan:

```
make_standata(formula, ...)  
standata(fit)
```

Handle priors:

```
get_prior(formula, ...)  
set_prior(prior, ...)
```

## Some Helpful brms Functions (2)

Generate expected values and predictions:

```
fitted(fit, ...)
```

```
predict(fit, ...)
```

```
marginal_effects(fit, ...)
```

Model comparison:

```
loo(fit1, fit2, ...)
```

```
bayes_factor(fit1, fit2, ...)
```

```
model_weights(fit1, fit2, ...)
```

Hypothesis testing:

```
hypothesis(fit, hypothesis, ...)
```