Cultural distances: Subtitles data

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Introduction

We compare cultural distances between socieites with linguistic similarities between societies, controlling for shared history in two ways.

The first test uses mixed effects modelling. The pairing of the language family of each language (according to Glottolog) is used as a random effect. That means that the model can capture the likelihood that two languages from the Indo-European language family will be more similar to each other than two languages from different language families. The same is done with geographic area according to Autotyp.

The second test controls for history using distances from a phylogenetic tree. The tree comes from Bouckaert et al. (2012). Patristic distances between languages are used as a measure of historical distance between societies in a Mantel test. Note that the Mantel test assumes a strict distance metric, which is not necessarily the case with this data, but there are few other ways to deal with continuous pairwise distances.

Load libraries

```
library(ape)
library(ecodist)
library(lme4)
library(sjPlot)
library(ggplot2)
library(igraph)
library(lattice)
```

Parameters:

```
datasetName = "subtitles"
lingDistancesFile = "../data/FAIR/subtitles-by-language-pair-mean-rho.csv"
lingDistancesByDomainFile = "../results/EA_distances/All_Domains_with_ling.csv"
```

All domains

Load data

```
Read the cultural distances:
```

```
cult = read.csv("../results/EA_distances/CulturalDistances_Long.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
names(cult) = c("l1","l2","cult.dist")
cultLangs = unique(c(cult$Var1,cult$Var2))
```

Add language family:

```
l = read.csv("../data/FAIR_langauges_glotto_xdid.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
g = read.csv("../data/glottolog-languoid.csv/languoid.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
l$family = g[match(l$glotto,g$id),]$family_pk
l$family = g[match(l$family,g$pk),]$name
```

Read the semantic distances

```
ling = read.csv(lingDistancesFile, stringsAsFactors = F)
```

Combine the linguistic and cultural distances

```
cult$11.iso2 = 1[match(cult$11,1$Language2),]$iso2
cult$12.iso2 = 1[match(cult$12,1$Language2),]$iso2
fairisos = unique(c(ling$11,ling$12))
cultisos = unique(c(cult$11.iso2, cult$12.iso2))
cult = cult[(cult$11.iso2 %in% fairisos) & (cult$12.iso2 %in% fairisos),]
ling = ling[(ling$11 %in% cultisos) & (ling$12 %in% cultisos),]
matches = sapply(1:nrow(ling), function(i){
  which(cult$11.iso2==ling$11[i] & cult$12.iso2==ling$12[i])
})
ling$cult.dist = cult[matches,]$cult.dist
ling$cult.dist.center = scale(ling$cult.dist)
cdc.s = attr(ling$cult.dist.center, "scaled:scale")
cdc.c = attr(ling$cult.dist.center, "scaled:center")
ling$cult.dist.center = as.numeric(ling$cult.dist.center)
ling$family1 = l[match(ling$11, 1$iso2),]$family
ling$family2 = 1[match(ling$12, 1$iso2),]$family
ling$area1 = l[match(ling$11, 1$iso2),]$autotyp.area
ling$area2 = 1[match(ling$12, 1$iso2),]$autotyp.area
fgroup = cbind(ling$family1,ling$family2)
fgroup = apply(fgroup,1,sort)
ling$family.group = apply(fgroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
agroup = cbind(ling$area1,ling$area2)
agroup = apply(agroup,1,sort)
ling$area.group = apply(agroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
ling$rho.center = scale(ling$rho)
```

Each observation is now assocaited with a language family pair:

```
head(ling[,c("11","12","rho",'family.group')])
```

```
## 11 12 rho family.group
## 3 bg cs 0.3368721 Indo-European:Indo-European
## 6 bg el 0.3411441 Indo-European:Indo-European
## 7 bg en 0.3105715 Indo-European:Indo-European
## 8 bg es 0.3054024 Indo-European:Indo-European
## 11 bg fr 0.2668333 Indo-European:Indo-European
## 12 bg he 0.2851185 Afro-Asiatic:Indo-European
```

And the same is true for area:

```
tail(ling[,c("11","12","rho",'area.group')])
```

```
## 547 ru sq 0.2194208 Europe:Inner Asia
## 549 ru tr 0.2919759 Greater Mesopotamia:Inner Asia
## 550 ru uk 0.2689187 Inner Asia:Inner Asia
## 556 sq tr 0.2083627 Europe:Greater Mesopotamia
## 557 sq uk 0.1465564 Europe:Inner Asia
## 560 tr uk 0.1840170 Greater Mesopotamia:Inner Asia
```

LMER models

Random effects:

area.group

family.group (Intercept)

(Intercept)

Groups

##

##

##

##

##

Mixed effects model, predicting Linguistic similaritys from cultural distances, with random intercept for family and area and random slope for cultural distance for family and area.

We compare a null model to a model with a fixed effect for cultural distance, with random intercepts for family and area, and random slopes for cultural distance by both.

```
m0 = lmer(
  rho.center \sim 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling
)
m1 = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    cult.dist.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling
)
anova (m0, m1)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
## Data: ling
## Models:
## m0: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 +
           cult.dist.center | area.group)
## m1: rho.center ~ 1 + cult.dist.center + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
## m1:
           (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
##
            AIC
                   BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
      Df
## m0 8 366.81 391.94 -175.41
                                  350.81
## m1 9 368.43 396.71 -175.22
                                  350.43 0.375
                                                           0.5403
Cultural distance is significantly correlated with Linguistic similarity. Here are the model estimates:
summary(m1)
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## rho.center ~ 1 + cult.dist.center + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
##
       (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
      Data: ling
##
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 352.5
##
## Scaled residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q Median
                                 3Q
                                        Max
## -2.1548 -0.6022 0.0028 0.5366 3.6183
##
```

Variance Std.Dev. Corr

1.00

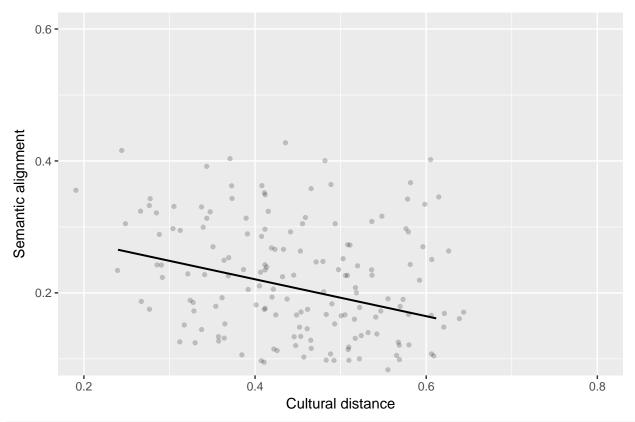
1.010046 1.00501

1.677713 1.29527

cult.dist.center 0.007774 0.08817

cult.dist.center 0.074118 0.27225 0.49

```
0.285385 0.53421
## Residual
## Number of obs: 171, groups: family.group, 16; area.group, 10
## Fixed effects:
##
                   Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)
                    0.1477 0.5028 0.294
## cult.dist.center -0.1223
                             0.1246 -0.981
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
               (Intr)
## clt.dst.cnt 0.345
Plot the estimates, rescaling the variables back to the original units:
gx = sjp.lmer(m1,'pred','cult.dist.center',
             prnt.plot = F)
## Warning: package 'bindrcpp' was built under R version 3.3.2
gx$plot$data$y = gx$plot$data$y *
  attr(ling$rho.center,"scaled:scale") +
  attr(ling$rho.center, "scaled:center")
gx$plot$data$resp.y = gx$plot$data$resp.y *
  attr(ling$rho.center, "scaled:scale") +
  attr(ling$rho.center, "scaled:center")
gx$plot$data$x = gx$plot$data$x *
  cdc.s +cdc.c
gx = gx$plot + coord_cartesian(ylim=c(0.1,0.6),
                          xlim=c(0.2,0.8)) +
 xlab("Cultural distance") +
 ylab("Semantic alignment") +
 ggtitle("")
gx
```



```
pdf(paste0("../results/stats/",datasetName,"/CulturalDistance_Rho_Graph.pdf"),
    height=2.5, width=2.5)
gx
dev.off()
```

pdf

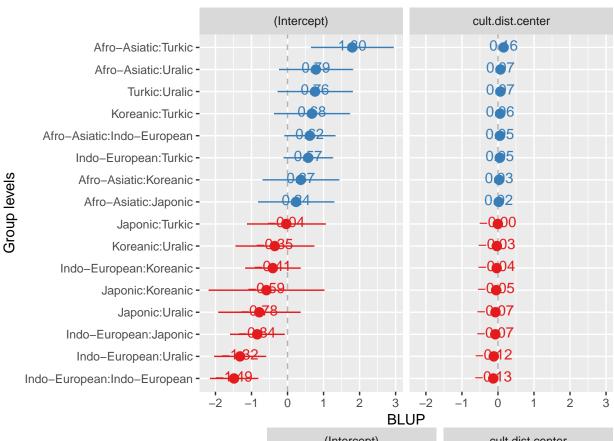
2

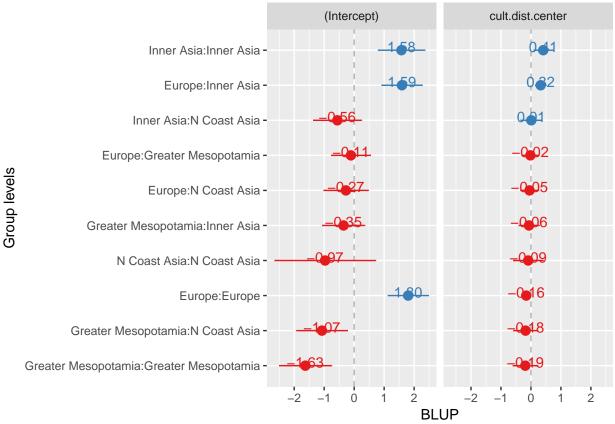
Plot the random effects:

```
sjp.lmer(m1,'re', sort.est = "cult.dist.center")
```

Plotting random effects...

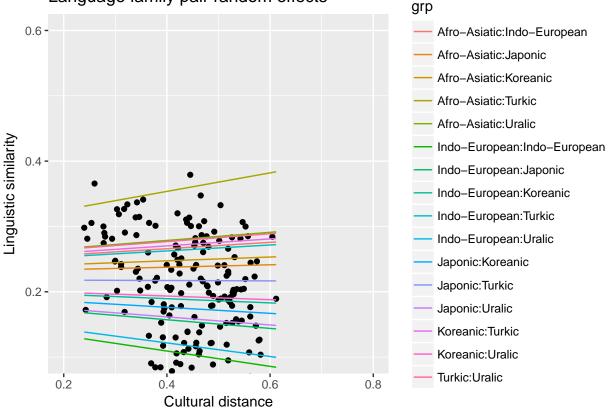
Plotting random effects...



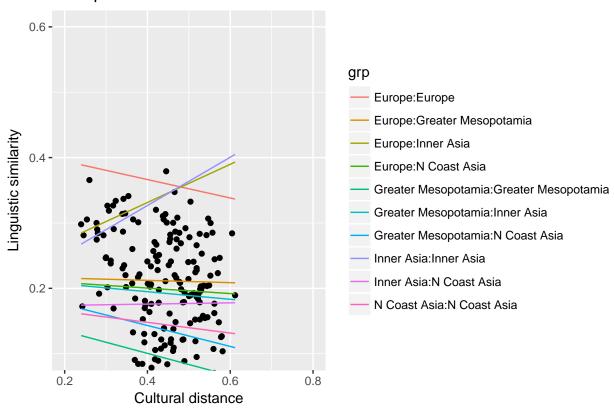


```
px = sjp.lmer(m1, 'rs.ri', prnt.plot = F)
dx = px plot[[1]] data
dx$x = dx$x * cdc.s + cdc.c
dx$y = dx$y *
  attr(ling$rho.center,"scaled:scale") +
  attr(ling$rho.center, "scaled:center")
ggplot(dx, aes(x,y)) +
  geom_point(data=ling,
             mapping=aes(x=as.numeric(cult.dist),
                         y=as.numeric(rho))) +
  geom_line(mapping = aes(colour=grp)) +
  xlab("Cultural distance")+
  ylab("Linguistic similarity") +
  ggtitle("Language family pair random effects") +
  coord_cartesian(ylim=c(0.1,0.6),
                  xlim=c(0.2,0.8))
```

Language family pair random effects



Area pair random effects



Note that the random slopes for family are set to 0. We can check whether taking language family out makes a difference:

```
m0b = lmer(
    rho.center ~ 1 +
        (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
    data = ling
)
m1b = lmer(
    rho.center ~ 1 +
        cult.dist.center +
        (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
    data = ling
)
anova(m0b,m1b)

## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)

## Data: ling
## Models:
## m0b: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
```

```
## m1b: rho.center ~ 1 + cult.dist.center + (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
##
      Df
             AIC
                   BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
## m0b 5 415.50 431.21 -202.75
                                  405.50
## m1b 6 417.02 435.87 -202.51
                                  405.02 0.4774
                                                           0.4896
summary(m1b)
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula:
## rho.center ~ 1 + cult.dist.center + (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
##
     Data: ling
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 408.1
##
## Scaled residuals:
##
      Min
                1Q Median
                                3Q
                                       Max
## -3.9364 -0.6055 -0.0451 0.5434
                                    2.6916
##
## Random effects:
  Groups
               Name
                                Variance Std.Dev. Corr
                                         0.6278
##
   area.group (Intercept)
                                0.3941
##
               cult.dist.center 0.1812
                                         0.4257
                                                  -0.30
## Residual
                                0.5181
                                         0.7198
## Number of obs: 171, groups: area.group, 10
## Fixed effects:
##
                    Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)
                     -0.4516
                                 0.2242 - 2.015
## cult.dist.center
                      0.1223
                                 0.1728 0.708
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
               (Intr)
## clt.dst.cnt -0.323
```

The model is numerically almost exactly the same, so the p-value from the model comparison is just lower.

Tests within domains

Load distances for specific domains and match up to language family and area:

```
ling.dom = read.csv(
  lingDistancesByDomainFile,
  stringsAsFactors = F)
ling.dom = ling.dom[!is.na(ling.dom$cult.dist),]
ling.dom$family1 = 1[match(ling.dom$11, 1$iso2),]$family
ling.dom$family2 = 1[match(ling.dom$12, 1$iso2),]$family
ling.dom$area1 = l[match(ling.dom$11, l$iso2),]$autotyp.area
ling.dom$area2 = 1[match(ling.dom$12, 1$iso2),]$autotyp.area
# Paste language family names together,
# but order shouldn't matter, so sort first
fgroup = cbind(ling.dom$family1,ling.dom$family2)
fgroup = apply(fgroup,1,sort)
ling.dom$family.group = apply(fgroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
agroup = cbind(ling.dom$area1,ling.dom$area2)
agroup = apply(agroup,1,sort)
ling.dom$area.group = apply(agroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
Center the data:
ling.dom$cult.dist.center = scale(ling.dom$cult.dist)
ling.dom$rho.center = scale(ling.dom$rho)
```

LMER models

Test whether random slopes are warraneted for family:

```
mDO = lmer(
 rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (1 | imputed_semantic_domain),
 data = ling.dom)
mD1 = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 | family.group) +
    (0 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (1 | imputed_semantic_domain),
  data = ling.dom)
mD2 = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (1 | imputed_semantic_domain),
  data = ling.dom)
```

```
anova(mD0,mD1,mD2)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
## Data: ling.dom
## Models:
## mDO: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 | family.group) + (1 | area.group) + (1 |
            imputed_semantic_domain)
## mD1: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 | family.group) + (0 + cult.dist.center |
## mD1:
            family.group) + (1 | area.group) + (1 | imputed_semantic_domain)
## mD2: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 |
            area.group) + (1 | imputed_semantic_domain)
## mD2:
##
       Df
            AIC BIC logLik deviance
                                        Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
## mD0 5 10311 10342 -5150.6
                                 10301
## mD1 6 10293 10331 -5140.7
                                 10281 19.9538
                                                    1 7.933e-06 ***
                                 10275 5.9424
## mD2 7 10289 10333 -5137.7
                                                    1
                                                         0.01478 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Random slopes (and the correlation coefficient) for family improves the fit of the model.
Test the same for area:
mD3 = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (0 + cult.dist.center | area.group) +
    (1 | imputed_semantic_domain),
  data = ling.dom)
mD4 = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (1 | imputed_semantic_domain),
 data = ling.dom)
anova(mD2,mD3,mD4)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
## Data: ling.dom
## Models:
## mD2: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 |
          area.group) + (1 | imputed_semantic_domain)
## mD4: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 |
            area.group) + (1 | imputed_semantic_domain)
## mD3: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 |
## mD3:
           area.group) + (0 + cult.dist.center | area.group) + (1 |
## mD3:
            imputed_semantic_domain)
           AIC BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
       Df
## mD2 7 10289 10333 -5137.7
                                 10275
## mD4 7 10289 10333 -5137.7
                                 10275 0.0000
                                                   0
                                                           1.000
## mD3 8 10291 10341 -5137.6
                                 10275 0.1353
                                                   1
                                                          0.713
```

Random slopes for area do not improve the fit of the model.

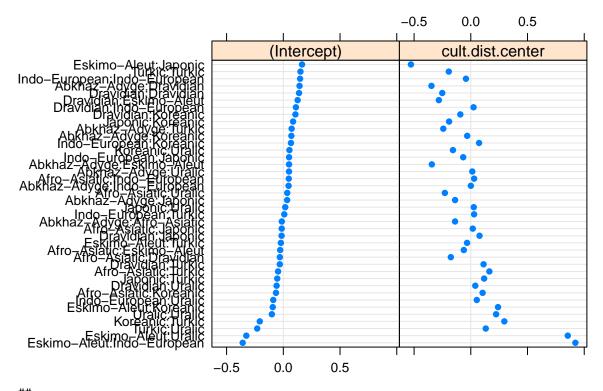
Test random slopes for domain:

```
mdom1 = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 +cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (1 | imputed_semantic_domain),
  data = ling.dom)
mdom2 = lmer(
 rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 +cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center| imputed_semantic_domain),
  data = ling.dom)
anova(mdom1,mdom2)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
## Data: ling.dom
## Models:
## mdom1: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 |
              area.group) + (1 | imputed_semantic_domain)
## mdom2: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 |
              area.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center | imputed_semantic_domain)
## mdom2:
             AIC BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
        Df
## mdom1 7 10289 10333 -5137.7
                                   10275
## mdom2 9 10280 10336 -5130.9
                                   10262 13.619
                                                          0.001103 **
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Random slope for domains significantly improves model.
Now we test the main effect of cultural distance:
mD5 = lmer(
 rho.center \sim 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 | area.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | imputed_semantic_domain),
  data = ling.dom)
mD6 = update(mD5, ~.+cult.dist.center)
anova(mD5,mD6)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
## Data: ling.dom
## Models:
## mD5: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 |
            area.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center | imputed_semantic_domain)
## mD6: rho.center ~ (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 | area.group) +
            (1 + cult.dist.center | imputed_semantic_domain) + cult.dist.center
                BIC logLik deviance Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
       Df
           AIC
## mD5 9 10280 10336 -5130.9
                                 10262
## mD6 10 10281 10343 -5130.6
                                 10261 0.6717
                                                          0.4124
Summary of the final model, with random effects plot:
summary(mD6)
```

```
## Formula:
## rho.center ~ (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 | area.group) +
       (1 + cult.dist.center | imputed_semantic_domain) + cult.dist.center
##
     Data: ling.dom
## REML criterion at convergence: 10268
## Scaled residuals:
      Min
               1Q Median
                               3Q
                                      Max
## -5.2667 -0.3978 0.0508 0.4604 3.6029
## Random effects:
## Groups
                            Name
                                             Variance Std.Dev. Corr
## family.group
                                             0.031677 0.17798
                            (Intercept)
##
                            cult.dist.center 0.122253 0.34965
                                                              -0.76
## area.group
                            (Intercept)
                                            0.001677 0.04095
## imputed_semantic_domain (Intercept)
                                            0.027232 0.16502
                            cult.dist.center 0.006224 0.07889 -0.33
##
                                             0.930120 0.96443
## Residual
## Number of obs: 3673, groups:
## family.group, 40; area.group, 20; imputed_semantic_domain, 7
## Fixed effects:
                   Estimate Std. Error t value
                   -0.05603 0.07714 -0.726
## (Intercept)
## cult.dist.center -0.06561
                               0.07764 -0.845
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
               (Intr)
## clt.dst.cnt -0.438
dotplot(ranef(mD6))
```

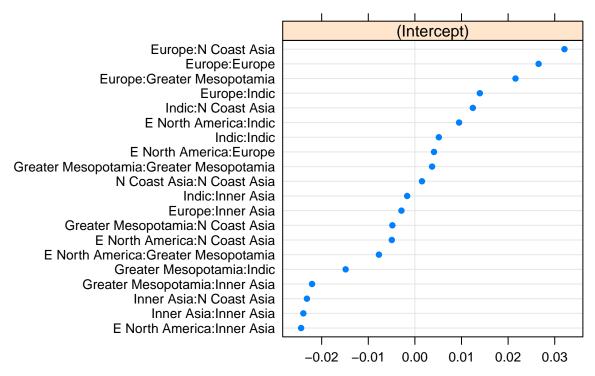
\$family.group

family.group



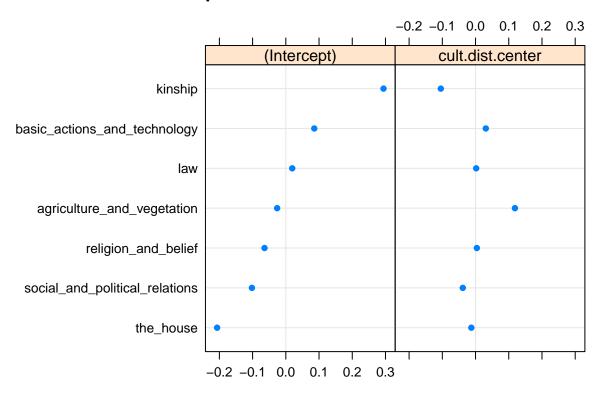
\$area.group

area.group



##

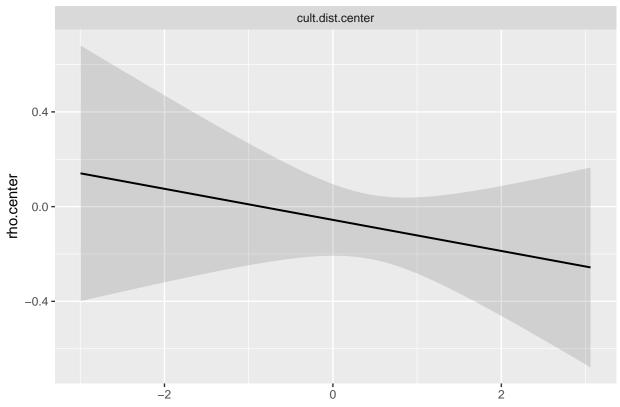
imputed_semantic_domain



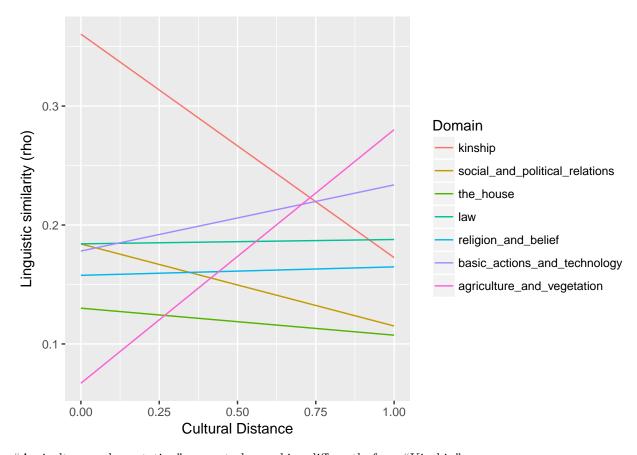
Plot the predicted relationships for each domain. The domains in the legend are sorted by the slope for cultural distance (greatest negative slope to greatest positive slope):

```
sjp.lmer(mD6,'eff', show.ci = T)
```

Marginal effects of model predictors



```
dom.order = ranef(mD6)$imputed_semantic_domain
dom.order = rownames(dom.order[order(dom.order$cult.dist.center),])
px = sjp.lmer(mD6, 'rs.ri', show.ci = T, prnt.plot = F)
pdx = px$plot[[2]]$data
pdx$Domain = factor(pdx$grp, levels = dom.order)
pdx$x = pdx$x *
  attr(ling.dom$cult.dist.center, "scaled:scale") +
  attr(ling.dom$cult.dist.center, "scaled:center")
pdx$y = pdx$y *
  attr(ling.dom$rho.center,"scaled:scale") +
  attr(ling.dom$rho.center,"scaled:center")
ggplot(pdx,
       aes(x,y,colour=Domain)) +
  geom_line() +
  xlab("Cultural Distance") +
  ylab("Linguistic similarity (rho)")
```



[&]quot;Agriculture and vegetation" seems to be working differently from "Kinship".

Mantel tests

Read the historical distances for Indo-European, based on the phylogenetic distances.

Data prep

Load historical distances:

```
hist = read.csv("../data/trees/IndoEuropean_historical_distances.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
hist = hist[!duplicated(hist[,1]),!duplicated(hist[,1])]
rownames(hist) = hist[,1]
hist = hist[,2:ncol(hist)]
hist.m = as.matrix(hist)
colnames(hist.m) = rownames(hist.m)
hist.m = hist.m/max(hist.m)
```

Read the cultural distances as a matrix:

```
cult.m = read.csv(".../results/EA_distances/CulturalDistances.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
rownames(cult.m) = cult.m[,1]
cult.m = cult.m[,2:ncol(cult.m)]
```

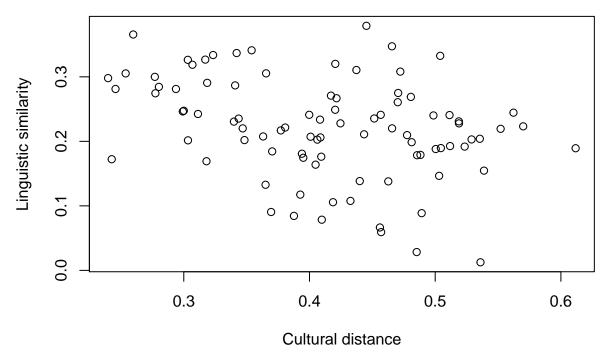
Convert the linguistic similarities to a matrix. This uses **igraph** to make an undirected graph from the long format with **rho** as the edge weights, then output a matrix of adjacencies.

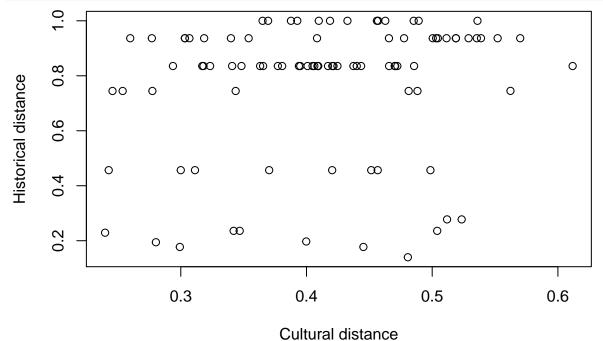
```
grph <- graph.data.frame(ling[,c("l1",'l2','rho')], directed=FALSE)
# add value as a weight attribute
ling.m = get.adjacency(grph, attr="rho", sparse=FALSE)
rownames(ling.m) = l[match(rownames(ling.m),l$iso2),]$Language2
colnames(ling.m) = l[match(colnames(ling.m),l$iso2),]$Language2</pre>
```

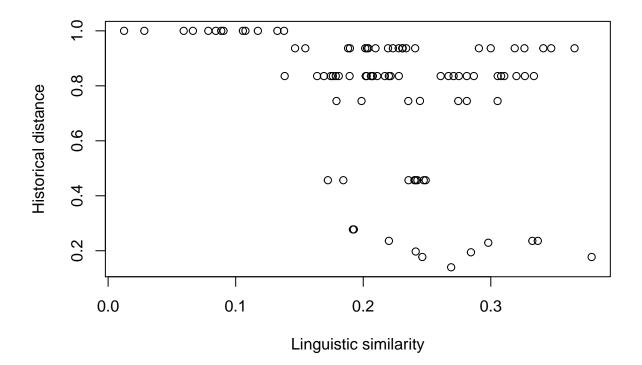
Match the distance matrices

```
in.analysis = intersect(rownames(ling.m),rownames(cult.m))
in.analysis = intersect(in.analysis, rownames(hist.m))
cult.m2 = cult.m[in.analysis,in.analysis]
ling.m2 = ling.m[in.analysis,in.analysis]
hist.m2 = hist.m[in.analysis,in.analysis]
```

Note that there are only 14 languages with data on linguistic, cultural and historical distance.







Tests

```
set.seed(1498)
```

Correlation between cultural and linguistic distances:

```
## mantelr pval1 pval2 pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5% ## -0.3414153 0.9061200 0.0938900 0.1453000 -0.5252391 -0.2179085
```

Correlation between cultural and historical distances:

```
## mantelr pval1 pval2 pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5% ## 0.169664254 0.156710000 0.843300000 0.313240000 0.008180051 0.313463023
```

Correlation between linguistic and historical distances:

```
## mantelr pval1 pval2 pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5% ## -0.3624652 0.9747200 0.0252900 0.0276500 -0.5199322 -0.1430386
```

Run a mantel test comparing the Linguistic similaritys to the cultural distances, controlling for the historical distance between languages:

```
## mantelr pval1 pval2 pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5% ## -0.3047604 0.8784600 0.1215500 0.2057300 -0.4784430 -0.1377497
```

Run a mantel test comparing the linguistic similarities to the historical similarities, controlling for cultural distance:

```
## mantelr pval1 pval2 pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5% ## -0.3287746 0.9594800 0.0405300 0.0517800 -0.4641708 -0.1007415
```

References

Bouckaert, Remco, Philippe Lemey, Michael Dunn, Simon J. Greenhill, Alexander V. Alekseyenko, Alexei J. Drummond, Russell D. Gray, Marc A. Suchard, and Quentin D. Atkinson (2012). Mapping the origins and expansion of the Indo-European language family. Science, 337(6097), 957-960.