Bayesian Statistics with R-INLA University of Zurich, March, 2022

Instructor: Sara Martino

Department of Mathematical Science (NTNU)



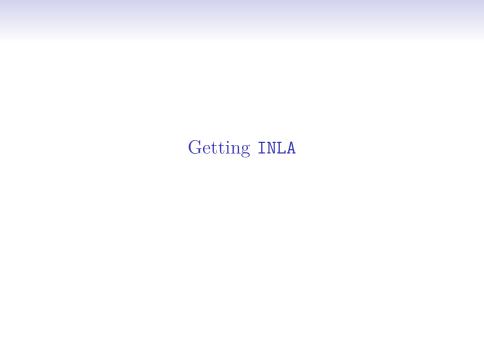
Norwegian University of Science and Technology





Good News!

All the theory we have seen is wrapped up in the R-package INLA which is easy to use.



Getting INLA

 The web page www.r-inla.org contains source-code, worked-through examples, reports and instructions for installing the package.

Getting INLA

 The R-package INLA works on Linux, Windows and Mac and can be installed within R by

and then upgraded in R as:

```
inla.upgrade(testing = TRUE)
```

NB You need R version 4.1 or newer!!

INLA runs in parallel!

INLA can run in parallel for faster computations with large models.

It uses the PARDISO 7.2 Solver Project and you need to get a license to use it!

library(INLA)
inla.pardiso()

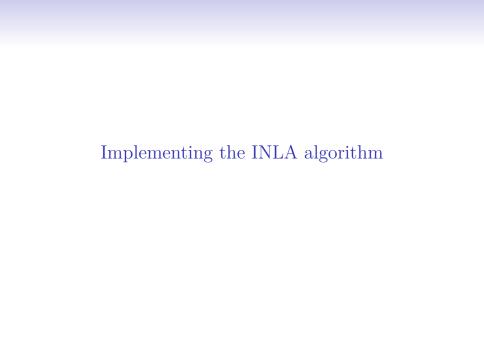
..and follow the instruction there!

Which INLA version do I have?

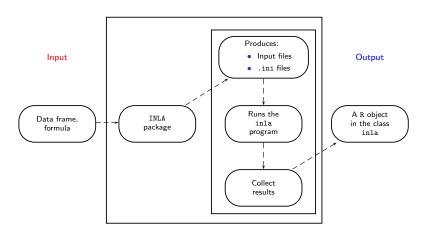
```
inla.version()
   R-INLA version ....: 22.01.25
##
   Date ...... Tue Jan 25 08:26:03 PM +03 1
##
##
   Maintainers .....: Havard Rue <hrue@r-inla.org
##
                          : Finn Lindgren <finn.lindgren
##
                          : Elias Teixeira Krainski <el:
##
   Main web-page ..... www.r-inla.org
##
   Download-page ..... inla.r-inla-download.org
   Repository ..... github.com/hrue/r-inla
##
##
   Email support ..... help@r-inla.org
```

: r-inla-discussion-group@goog

##



The INLA package for R



What happens in the black box?

The implementation of the INLA method consists of three parts:

- GMRFLib-Library: A library for GMRFs written in C
- inla-program: The implementation of INLA written in C
- INLA package for R: An R-interface to the inla-program

The first two are *not* particularly user-friendly. They are used in the background by the INLA package.

Implementing INLA

All procedures required to perform INLA need to be carefully implemented to achieve a good speed; easier to implement a slow version of INLA.

- The GMRFLib-library
 - Basic library written in C, user friendly for programmers

Implementing INLA

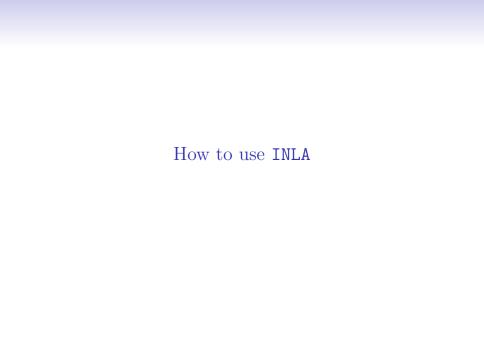
All procedures required to perform INLA need to be carefully implemented to achieve a good speed; easier to implement a slow version of INLA.

- The GMRFLib-library
- The inla-program
 - Define latent Gaussian models and interface with the GMRFLib-library
 - Avoids the need for C-programming
 - Models are defined using .ini-files
 - Requires to write input files in a special format
 - inla-program write all the results (E/Var/marginals) to files

Implementing INLA

All procedures required to perform INLA need to be carefully implemented to achieve a good speed; easier to implement a slow version of INLA.

- The GMRFLib-library
- The inla-program
- The INLA package for R
 - R-interface to the inla-program. (That's why its not on CRAN.)
 - Convert formula-statements into .ini-files definitions
 - It also does much more (for example for survival models or when using inlabru)



How to use INLA

There are essentially four parts to an INLA-program:

1. Data organisation: Make an object to store response, covariates,

$$data = data.fame(y = y, x = x)$$

2. Use the 'formula'-notation to specify the model (similar to lm and glm functions)

3. Call the 'inla'-program

```
res = inla(formula, data=data, family="gaussian")
```

4. Extract posterior information, e.g.for a first overview use summary(res)

Data organization

The responses and covariates are collected in a list or data frame. Assume response y, covariates x1 and x2, and time index t. Then they can be organized with:

```
# Option 1
data = list(y = y, x1 = x1, x2 = x2, t = t)
# Option 2
data = data.frame(y = y, x1 = x1, x2 = x2, t = t)
```

formula: specifying the linear predictor

The model is specified through a 'formula' similar to glm:

formula =
$$y \sim x1 + x2 + f(t, ...)$$

- y is the name of the response in the data object
- The fixed effects are given i.i.d. Gaussian priors
- The f() function specifies random effects (e.g. temporal, spatial, smooth effect of covariates and Besag model)
- Use -1 in the formula if you don't want an automatic intercept

The inla() function

```
result = inla(
  # Description of linear predictor
  formula,
  # Likelihood
  family = "gaussian",
  # List or data frame with response,
  # covariates, etc.
  data = data,
  ## This is all that is needed for a basic call
  ## # check what happens
  verbose = TRUE,
  # ,..., there are also some "control statements"
  # to customize things
  # This you need if you later want to sample from the
  # fitted model
  control.compute=list(config = TRUE)
```

Likelihood functions

- gaussian
- T
- poisson
- nbinomial
- binomial
- exponential
- weibull
- gev
- coxph

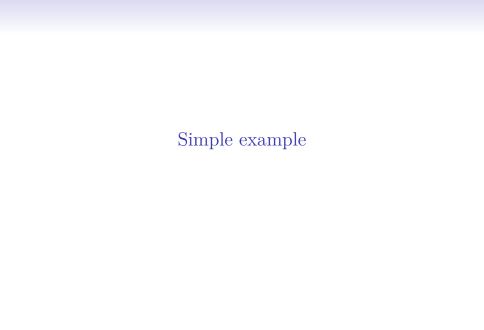
For a complete list type

names(inla.models()\$likelihood)

Posterior inference

Main functions:

```
# look at a first summary
summary(result)
# plot the main results
# (does not use gaplot...)
plot(result)
# rerun the model to get better
# estimate of the hyperparemeters
result2 = inla.hyperpar(result)
# sample from the fitted model
# this can be very useful sometimes!
sample = inla.posterior.sample(results)
```



Example: Simple linear regression

• Stage 1: Gaussian likelihood

$$y_i|\eta_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\eta_i, \sigma^2)$$

• Stage 2: Covariates are connected to likelihood by

$$\eta_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i$$

• Stage 3: σ^2 : variance of observation noise

Example: Simple linear regression

names(result)

```
[1] "names.fixed"
                                       "summary.fixed"
## [3] "marginals.fixed"
                                       "summary.lincomb"
## [5] "marginals.lincomb"
                                       "size lincomb"
## [7] "summary.lincomb.derived"
                                       "marginals.lincomb.derived"
## [9] "size.lincomb.derived"
                                       "mlik"
## [11] "cpo"
                                       "og"
## [13] "waic"
                                       "model random"
## [15] "summary.random"
                                       "marginals.random"
## [17] "size.random"
                                       "summary.linear.predictor"
## [19] "marginals.linear.predictor"
                                       "summary.fitted.values"
## [21] "marginals.fitted.values"
                                       "size.linear.predictor"
## [23] "summary.hyperpar"
                                       "marginals.hyperpar"
## [25] "internal.summary.hyperpar"
                                       "internal.marginals.hyperpar"
## [27] "offset.linear.predictor"
                                       "model.spde2.blc"
## [29] "summary.spde2.blc"
                                       "marginals.spde2.blc"
## [31] "size.spde2.blc"
                                       "model.spde3.blc"
## [33] "summary.spde3.blc"
                                       "marginals.spde3.blc"
## [35] "size.spde3.blc"
                                       "logfile"
## [37] "misc"
                                       "dic"
## [39] "mode"
                                       "joint.hyper"
## [41] "nhyper"
                                       "version"
## [43] "Q"
                                       "graph"
## [45] "ok"
                                       "cpu.used"
## [47] "all.hyper"
                                       ".args"
## [49] "call"
                                       "model.matrix"
```

You can find summary information in

```
## [1] "summary.fixed" "summary.lincomb"
## [3] "summary.lincomb.derived" "summary.random"
## [5] "summary.linear.predictor" "summary.fitted.values"
## [7] "summary.hyperpar" "internal.summary.hyperpar"
## [9] "summary.spde2.blc" "summary.spde3.blc"
```

for example

result\$summary.fixed

```
0.5quant 0.975quant
##
                                sd 0.025quant
                                                                       mode
                   mean
   (Intercept) 0.998189 0.02724618
                                     0.944587 0.9981882
                                                          1.051745 0.998189
## x
               2.011824 0.04765814
                                     1.918065 2.0118226
                                                          2.105502 2.011824
##
                        k14
## (Intercept) 3.087429e-06
## x
               3.087245e-06
```

You can find estimated posterior marginals in

```
##
        "marginals.fixed"
                                        "marginals.lincomb"
##
    [3]
        "marginals.lincomb.derived"
                                        "marginals.random"
       "marginals.linear.predictor"
                                        "marginals.fitted.values"
##
    [5]
       "marginals.hyperpar"
                                        "internal.marginals.hyperp
##
    [9] "marginals.spde2.blc"
                                        "marginals.spde3.blc"
##
```

Each object is thereby a list. Get the marginal for intercept: head(result\$marginals.fixed[[1]])

```
## x y
## [1,] 0.7252481 1.560719e-17
## [2,] 0.7798363 2.508686e-11
## [3,] 0.8344244 1.413692e-06
## [4,] 0.8487663 1.665664e-05
## [5,] 0.8617185 1.338179e-04
## [6,] 0.8628470 1.594073e-04
```

Further general information

result\$.args\$formula

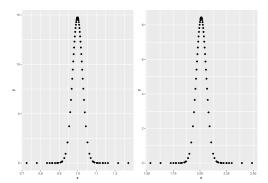
formula used

```
## y ~ 1 + x
## NULL
# data used
result$.args$data[1:3,]
##
## 1 0.4979424 1.859431
## 2 0.1780295 1.324177
## 3 0.7881542 2.700296
# log-file including information of INLA approximations
result$logfile
```

Marginal posterior densities

The marginal posterior densities are stored as a matrices with xand y-values

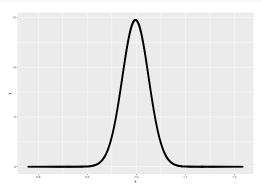
```
intercept = data.frame(result$marginals.fixed$`(Intercept)`)
x = data.frame(result$marginals.fixed$x)
p1 = ggplot(data = intercept) + geom_point(aes(x,y))
p2 = ggplot(data = x) + geom_point(aes(x,y))
p1+p2
```



Marginal posterior densities

The rough shape can be interpolated to higher resolution using the inla.smarginal() function:

```
smoother_dens = data.frame(inla.smarginal(intercept))
ggplot(data = smoother_dens) + geom_point(aes(x,y))
```



Marginal posterior densities

Manipulation of the computed posterior marginals is possible through the inla.*marginal() functions:

```
# compute the 0.05 quantile
inla.qmarginal(0.05, intercept)

## [1] 0.9533034

# Distribution function
inla.pmarginal(0.975, intercept)

## [1] 0.1971282

# Density function
inla.dmarginal(1, intercept)
```

```
## [1] 14.716
# Generate realizations
inla.rmarginal(4, intercept)
```

[1] 1.0200040 1.0019901 0.9926437 0.9555379

Other inla.*marginal() functions.

Function Name	Usage
<pre>inla.dmarginal(x, marginal,)</pre>	Density at a vector of evaluation
	points x
<pre>inla.pmarginal(q, marginal,)</pre>	Distribution function at a vector
	of quantiles q
<pre>inla.qmarginal(p, marginal,)</pre>	Quantile function at a vector
	of probabilities p .
<pre>inla.rmarginal(n, marginal)</pre>	Generate n random deviates
<pre>inla.hpdmarginal(p, marginal,)</pre>	Compute the highest posterior
	density interval at level p
inla.emarginal(fun, marginal,)	Compute the expected value
	of the marginal assuming the transformation
	given by fun
<pre>inla.mmarginal(marginal)</pre>	Compute the mode
<pre>inla.smarginal(marginal,)</pre>	Smoothed density in form of a list of length
	two. The first entry contains the x-values, the
	second entry includes the interpolated y-values
inla.tmarginal(fun, marginal,)	Transform the marginal using the function fun.
<pre>inla.zmarginal(marginal)</pre>	Summary statistics for the marginal



Add random effects

```
f(name, model="...", hyper=...,

constr=FALSE, cyclic=FALSE, ...)
```

- name the index of the effect (each f-function needs its own!)
- model the type of latent model. E.g.iid, rw2, ar1, besag, and so on
- hyper specify the prior on the hyperparameters
- constr sum-to-zero constraint?
- cyclic are you cyclic?
- . . .

Example: Add random effect

Add an AR(1) random effect to the linear predictor.

• Stage 1:

$$y_i|\eta_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\eta_i, \sigma^2)$$

• **Stage 2:** Covariates and AR(1) component connected to likelihood by

$$\eta_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + a_i$$

- Stage 3:
 - σ^2 : variance of observation noise
 - ρ : dependence in AR(1) process
 - σ^2 : variance of the innovations in AR(1) process

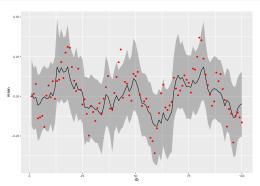
Example: Add random effect

```
# Generate AR(1) sequence
set.seed(580258)
t = 1:100
rho = 0.8
sd ar1 = 0.1
ar = rep(0,100)
for(i in 2:100)
  ar[i] = rho * ar[i-1] + rnorm(n = 1, sd = sd_ar1)
# Generate data with AR(1) component
x = runif(100)
y = 1 + 2*x + ar + rnorm(n = 100, sd = 0.2)
# Run. inl.a.
formula = y \sim 1 + x + f(t, model="ar1")
result = inla(formula,
     data = data.frame(x = x, y = y, t = t),
     family = "gaussian")
```

Example

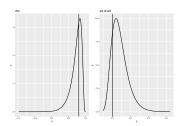
Estimates of the random effect

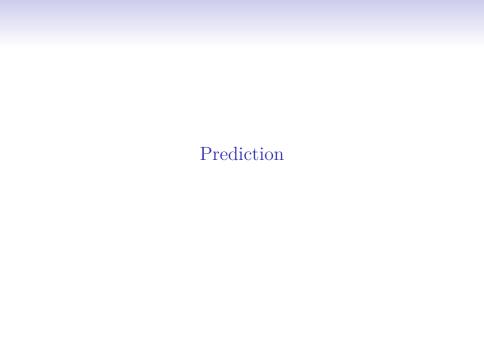
```
result$summary.random$t %>% ggplot() +
  geom_line(aes(ID, mean)) +
  geom_ribbon(aes(ID, ymin = `0.025quant`, ymax = `0.975quant`),
  geom_point(data = data.frame(t =t , ar = ar), aes(t,ar), color
```



Example

Estimates of the hyperparameters





The interpretation of NA

R-INLA uses NA differently than other packages

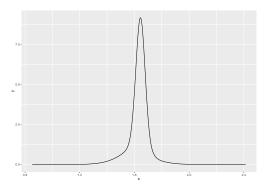
- NA in the **response** means no likelihood contribution, i.e.response is unobserved
- NA in a fixed effect means no contribution to the linear predictor, i.e. the covariate is set equal to zero
- NA in a random effect f(...) means no contribution to the linear predictor

The distribution of the linear predictor at an unobserved location can be computed by specifying the value of the covariate x and the desired time index t and set y to NA.

```
# Add one new location
n = 1
x = c(x, runif(n))
t = c(t, 101:(100+n))
y = c(y, rep(NA,n))
# Re-compute
result.pred = inla(formula,
    data = data.frame(x = x, t = t, y = y),
    family="gaussian",
    control.inla = list(int.strategy = "grid"),
    control.compute = list(config = TRUE,
                           return.marginals.predictor=TRUE
```

Predicted marginal of the linear predictor η_{101}

```
pred = result.pred$marginals.linear.predictor[[100+n]]
pred = inla.smarginal(pred)
ggplot() +
   geom_line(data = data.frame(pred), aes(x, y))
```



Caution: This is **not** yet the predictive distribution, as the observation noise is missing.

The predictive distribution is

$$\pi(y_{101}|\mathbf{y})$$

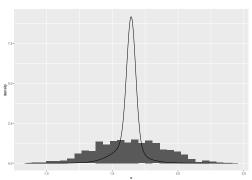
what we got is

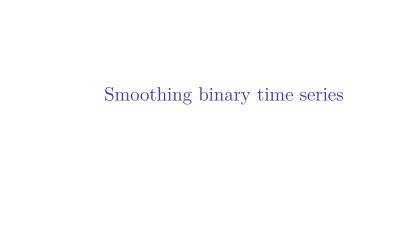
$$\pi(\eta_{101}|\mathbf{y})$$

One way to add the observation noise to the linear predictor is by sampling from the posterior distribution.

```
n = 1000
x = inla.posterior.sample(n, result.pred)
func = function(...)
  eta = Predictor
  eta = eta[101]
  sd = 1/sqrt(theta[1])
  out = rnorm(1, mean = eta, sd =sd)
  return(out)
samples = inla.posterior.sample.eval(func, x)[1,]
```

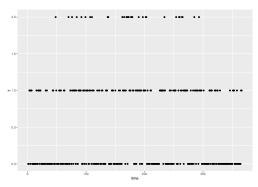
Comparing $\pi(y_{101}|\mathbf{y})$ and $\pi(\eta_{101}|\mathbf{y})$





Example: Smoothing binary time series

The data set Tokyo is available in the INLA package and consists of the number of days in Tokyo with rainfall above 1 mm in 1983–1984.



Observations

Each observation consists of

- t: Day of year; $t \in \{1, 2, ..., 366\}$
- n_t : Number of observations for day t in 1983–1984; $n_t \in \{1, 2\}$
- y_t : Number of days with rain out of n_t days for day t; $y_t \in \{0, 1, 2\}$

```
data(Tokyo)
head(Tokyo,3)
```

```
## y n time
## 1 0 2 1
## 2 0 2 2
## 3 1 2 3
```

Tokyo[60,]

```
## y n time
```

Hierarchical model

• Stage 1: We have binomial responses with known n_t , but unknown probabilities

$$y_t \sim \text{Binomial}(n_t, p_t)$$

• Stage 2: A cyclic second order random walk (CRW2) is connected to the likelihood by

$$p_t = \frac{\exp(\eta_t)}{1 + \exp(\eta_t)}$$
 with linear predictor $\eta_t = \text{CRW2}_t$

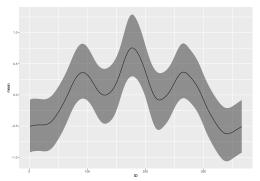
- Stage 3:
 - τ : Scale parameter in CRW2 with prior

$$\pi(\tau) \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 5 \cdot 10^{-5})$$

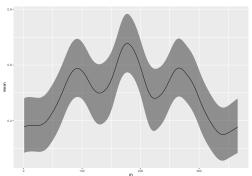
INLA implementation

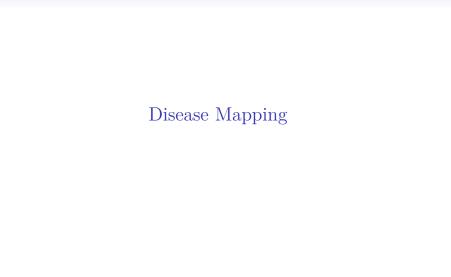
Marginal posterior of CRW2

```
ggplot(data = result$summary.random$t) +
  geom_line(aes(ID, mean)) +
  geom_ribbon(aes(ID, ymin = `0.025quant`, ymax = `0.975quantage alpha = 0.5)
```



Transform to probability





Example: disease mapping

We observed larynx cancer mortality counts for males in 544 district of Germany from 1986 to 1990 and want to make a model.

- y_i : The count at location i.
- E_i : An offset; expected number of cases in district i.
- c_i : A covariate (level of smoking consumption) at i
- s_i : spatial location i.



Disease mapping

Assume

$$Y_i \mid \eta_i \sim \text{Poisson}(E_i \exp(\eta_i))$$

where the log relative risk is decomposed into

$$\eta_i = \mu + u_i + v_i$$

- μ is the overall level (intercept).
- $v_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau_v^{-1})$ represents non-spatial overdispersion.
- u_i are random effects with spatial structure.

A spatially structured effect

To incorporate a spatial structure into a model, the so called Besag model is often used.

$$p(\mathbf{u} \mid \kappa_{\mathbf{u}}) \propto \kappa_u^{(n-1)/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\kappa_u}{2} \sum_{i \sim j} (u_i - u_j)^2\right)$$
$$= \kappa_u^{(n-1)/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\kappa_u}{2} \mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u}\right).$$

where R is called structure matrix and defined as

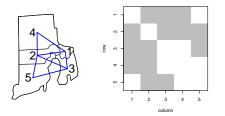
$$R_{ij} = \begin{cases} n_i & i = j \\ -1 & i \sim j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Here, $i \sim j$ denotes that i and j are neighbouring regions.

What does this mean?

Example: Five counties of the US state Rhode Island

The structure matrix \mathbf{R} defines the neighborhood structure.



3	-1	-1	- 1	0
-1	4	-1	-1	-1
-1	-1	3	0	-1
-1	-1	0	2	0
0	-1	-1	0	2

Figure 1: Adjacency matrix

Table 1: Structure matrix \mathbf{R}

With increasing number of regions ${\bf R}$ will be sparse, which allows to do many computations very efficient.

INLA code

```
library(spam)
# load the dataset
data(Oral)
# load the file including neighbourhood information
g = system.file("demodata/germany.graph", package="INLA")
# add one column
Oral = cbind(Oral, region = 1:544, region.unstruc= 1:544)
# define formula
formula = Y ~ f(region, model="besag", graph=g) +
                           f(region.unstruc, model="iid")
# run the model
result = inla(formula, family="poisson", E=E, data=Oral)
```

Median of u on exp-scale



Other choices for f-terms

```
##
    Г1]
        "linear"
                          "iid"
                                           "mec"
                                                            "meb"
##
    [6]
        "cgeneric"
                          "rw1"
                                           "rw2"
                                                            "crw2"
   [11]
        "besag"
                          "besag2"
                                           "bym"
                                                            "bym2"
##
   [16]
         "besagproper2"
                          "fgn"
                                           "fgn2"
                                                            "ar1"
##
   [21]
         "ar"
                          "ou"
                                           "intslope"
##
                                                            "generic"
##
   [26]
        "generic1"
                          "generic2"
                                           "generic3"
                                                            "spde"
   [31]
         "spde3"
                          "iid1d"
                                           "iid2d"
                                                            "iid3d"
##
##
   [36]
         "iid5d"
                          "iidkd"
                                           "2diid"
                                                            "z"
        "rw2diid"
##
   [41]
                          "slm"
                                           "matern2d"
                                                            "dmatern"
##
   [46] "clinear"
                                                            "log1exp"
                          "sigm"
                                           "revsigm"
```



Changing the prior: Internal scale

• Hyperparameters are represented internally with more well-behaved transformations, e.g. correlation ρ and precision τ are internally

$$\theta_1 = \log(\tau)$$

$$\theta_2 = \log\left(\frac{1+\rho}{1-\rho}\right)$$

- The prior must be set on the parameter in internal scale
- Initial values for the mode-search must be set in **internal** scale
- The functions to.theta() and from.theta() can be used to map back and forth.

Changing the prior: Code

Repeated Poisson counts

EPIL example

Seizure counts in a randomised trial of anti-convulsant therapy in epilepsy. From WinBUGS manual.

##	#	A tibl	ole: 6	x 8					
##		Ind	Repl1	Repl2	Repl3	Repl4	Trt	Base	Age
##		<int></int>	<dbl></dbl>	<dbl></dbl>	<dbl></dbl>	<dbl></dbl>	<int></int>	<int></int>	<int></int>
##	1	1	5	3	3	3	0	11	31
##	2	2	3	5	3	3	0	11	30
##	3	3	2	4	0	5	0	6	25
##	4	4	4	4	1	4	0	8	36
##	5	5	7	18	9	21	0	66	22
##	6	6	5	2	8	7	0	27	29

Covariates are treatment (0,1), 8-week baseline seizure counts, and age in years.

Repeated Poisson counts

$$y_{jk} \sim \text{Poisson}(\mu_{jk}); \ j = 1, \dots, 59; \ k = 1, \dots, 4$$

$$\log(\mu_{jk}) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \log(\text{Base}_j/4) + \alpha_2 \text{Trt}_j$$

$$+ \alpha_3 \text{Trt}_j \log(\text{Base}_j/4) + \alpha_4 \log(\text{Age}_j)$$

$$+ \alpha_5 V 4 + \text{Ind}_j + \beta_{jk}$$

$$\alpha_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau_\alpha) \qquad \tau_\alpha \text{ known (0.001)}$$

$$\text{Ind}_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau_{\text{Ind}}) \quad \tau_{\text{Ind}} \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 0.01)$$

$$\beta_{jk} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau_\beta) \qquad \tau_\beta \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 0.01)$$

Here, V4 is an indicator variable for the 4th visit.

Model specification in INLA

The data:

```
## 1 5 0 11 31 0 1 1nd ## 1 5 0 11 31 0 1 1 1 ## 2 3 0 11 31 0 3 1 1 ## 3 3 0 11 31 0 3 1 1 ## 4 3 0 11 31 1 4 1 ## 5 3 0 11 30 0 5 6 2
```

The formula:

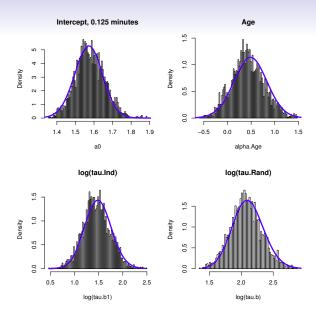
Run the model:

Comparing results with MCMC

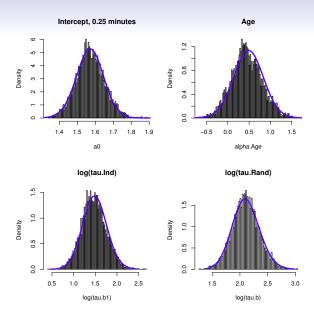
• When comparing the results of R-INLA with MCMC, it is important to use the same model.

That means, same data, same priors, same constraints on parameters, intercept included or not,

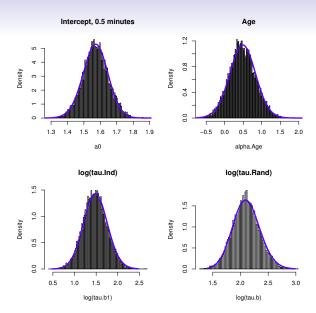
• Here we have compared the results with those obtained using 'JAGS via the rjags package



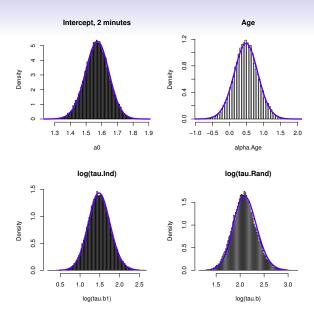
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



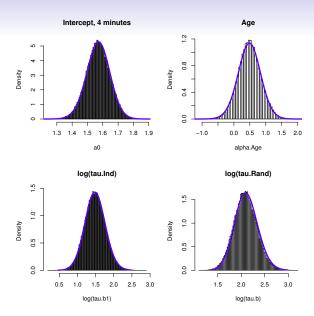
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



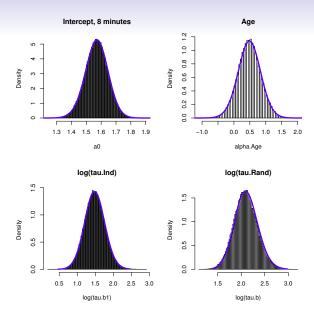
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



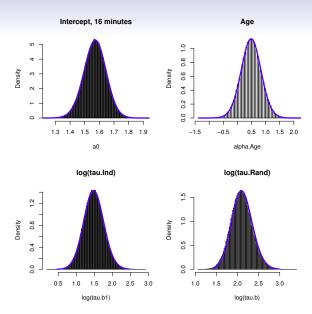
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



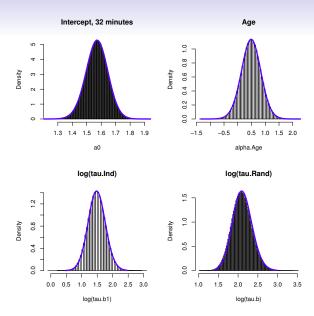
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



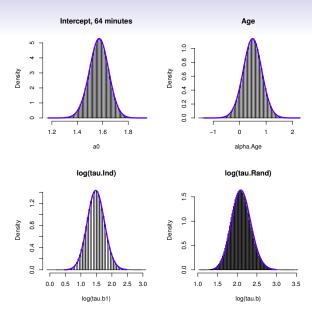
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



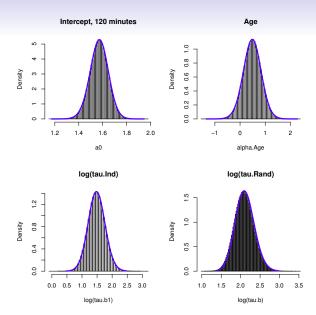
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



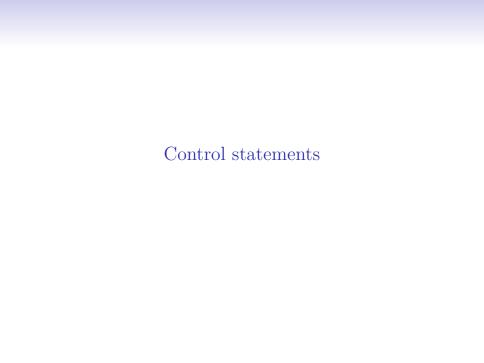
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



Control statements

control.xxx statements control computations

- control.fixed
 - prec: Default precision for all fixed effects except the intercept.
 - prec.intercept: Precision for intercept (Default: 0.0)
- 'control.predictor
 - compute: Compute posterior marginals of linear predictors
- control.compute
 - dic, mlik, cpo: Compute measures of fit?
 - config: Save internal GMRF approximations? (needed to use inla.posterior.sample())
- control.inla

strategy and int.strategy contain useful advanced features

Thank you for your attention!

If you have any doubts or questions, please write : sara.martino@math.ntnu.no

