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

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Implementing the INLA algorithm

How to use INLA

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Getting INLA Implementing the INLA algorithm How to use INLA Simple example Add random effects Prediction

# What have we learned in the morning...

- What is a LGM
- Which kind of models are amenable to INLA
- How does INLA work....

# What have we learned in the morning...

- What is a LGM
- Which kind of models are amenable to INLA
- How does INLA work....
- ..you have even implemented it yourself! :-)

### Good News!

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

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

• 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)
```

<sup>\*\*</sup>NB\*\* You need R version 4.1 or newer!!

### Which INLA version do I have?

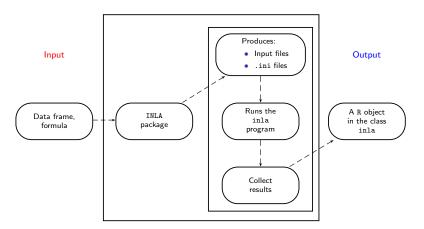
```
inla.version()
##
   R-INLA version ....: 22.02.16-2
   Date ...... Wed Feb 16 02:22:38 PM +03 2
##
##
   Maintainers ..... Havard Rue <hrue@r-inla.org
##
                          : Finn Lindgren <finn.lindgren
##
                          : Elias Teixeira Krainski <el:
##
   Main web-page ..... 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

Implementing the INLA algorithm

### 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.

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

- 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

- 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

### 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)

```
formula = y~x
```

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.
  # I.i.kel.i.hood
  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)
```

# Simple example

### 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:  $\sigma^2$ : 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"
                                       "internal.marginals.hyperpar"
## [25] "internal.summary.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"
                                       "version"
## [41] "nhyper"
## [43] "Q"
                                       "graph"
## [45] "ok"
                                       "cpu.used"
## [47] "all.hyper"
                                       ".args"
## [49] "call"
                                       "model matrix"
```

#### You can find summary information in

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

#### for example

```
result$summary.fixed
```

```
##
                    mean
                                 sd 0.025quant
                                                0.5quant 0.975quant
                                                                          mode
                                     0.9294668 0.9792248
                                                            1.028942 0.9792255
   (Intercept) 0.9792256 0.02529260
## x
               2.0208929 0.03944581
                                     1.9432900 2.0208917
                                                            2.098429 2.0208929
##
                        kld
   (Intercept) 3.089110e-06
## x
               3.089167e-06
```

You can find estimated posterior marginals in

```
"marginals.fixed"
                                        "marginals.lincomb"
##
##
    [3]
        "marginals.lincomb.derived"
                                        "marginals.random"
        "marginals.linear.predictor"
##
    [5]
                                        "marginals.fitted.values"
##
    [7]
        "marginals.hyperpar"
                                        "internal.marginals.hyperp
##
        "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,] 0.7258546 1.680766e-17
## [2,] 0.7765288 2.702053e-11
## [3,] 0.8272030 1.522818e-06
## [4,] 0.8405167 1.794336e-05
## [5,] 0.8525401 1.441510e-04
## [6,] 0.8535878 1.717194e-04
```

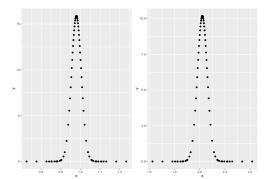
Further general information

```
# formula used
result$.args$formula
## y ~ 1 + x
## NUT.T.
# data used
result$.args$data[1:3,]
##
             X
## 1 0.4444978 1.944043
## 2 0.8966812 2.845822
## 3 0.5178038 1.929968
# 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

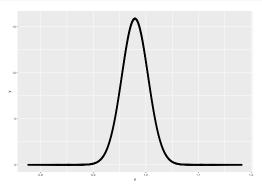
```
intercept = data.frame(result$marginals.fixed$`(Intercept)`)
x = data.frame(result$marginals.fixed$x)
p1 = ggplot(data = intercept) + geom_point(aes(x,y))
p2 = ggplot(data = x) + geom_point(aes(x,y))
p1+p2
```



### 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] 0.9375583
# Distribution function
inla.pmarginal(0.975, intercept)
## [1] 0.4347315
# Density function
inla.dmarginal(1, intercept)
## [1] 11.24
# Generate realizations
inla.rmarginal(4, intercept)
```

# Other inla.\*marginal() functions.

Function Name

Function Name	Usage
inla.dmarginal(x, marginal,)	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
	•

Usage

# Add random effects

#### 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:
  - $\sigma^2$ : variance of observation noise
  - $\rho$ : dependence in AR(1) process
  - $\sigma^2$ : variance of the innovations in AR(1) process

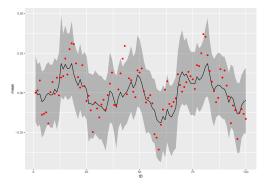
# Example: Add random effect

```
# 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 inla
formula = y \sim 1 + x + f(t, model="ar1")
result = inla(formula,
     data = data.frame(x = x, y = y, t = t),
     family = "gaussian")
```

### Example

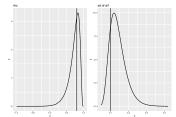
#### Estimates of the random effect

```
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

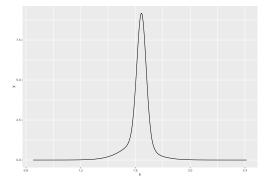
- NA in the **response** means no likelihood contribution, i.e.response is unobserved
- NA in a fixed effect means no contribution to the linear predictor, i.e. the covariate is set equal to zero
- NA in a random effect f(...) means no contribution to the linear predictor

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),
    # tell inla to return the marginals for eta!
    control.predictor = list(compute = TRUE))
```

Predicted marginal of the linear predictor  $\eta_{101}$ 

```
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

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

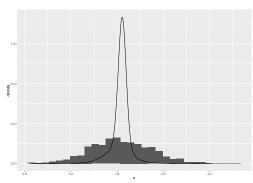
what we got is

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

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,]
```

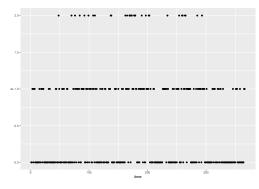
### Comparing $\pi(y_{101}|\mathbf{y})$ and $\pi(\eta_{101}|\mathbf{y})$



Smoothing binary time series

# 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,]
```

```
## v n time
```

```
## y n time
## 60 0 1 60
```

#### 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

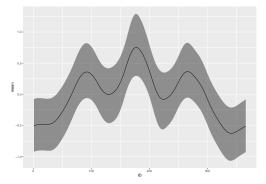
$$p_t = \frac{\exp(\eta_t)}{1 + \exp(\eta_t)}$$
 with linear predictor  $\eta_t = \text{CRW2}_t$ 

- Stage 3:
  - $\tau$ : Scale parameter in CRW2 with prior

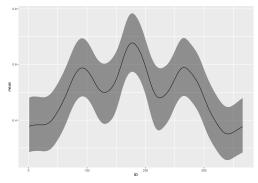
$$\pi(\tau) \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 5 \cdot 10^{-5})$$

### INLA implementation

# Marginal posterior of CRW2



### Transform to probability



Disease Mapping

# 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

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

- $\mu$  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.

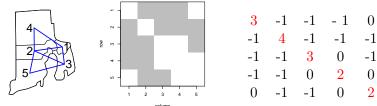


Figure 1: Adjacency matrix

Table 1: Structure matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ 

With increasing number of regions  $\mathbf{R}$  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

##	[1]	"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"
##	[41]	"rw2diid"	"slm"	"matern2d"	"dmatern"
##	[46]	"clinear"	"sigm"	"revsigm"	"log1exp"

Changing the prior

## Changing the prior: Internal scale

• Hyperparameters are represented internally with more well-behaved transformations, e.g. correlation  $\rho$  and precision  $\tau$  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 tibble: 6 x 8
##
        Ind Repl1 Repl2 Repl3 Repl4 Trt
                                                Base
                                                        Age
     <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <int> <int> <int> <int>
##
## 1
                 5
                        3
                               3
                                      3
                                             0
                                                   11
                                                         31
                 3
                        5
                               3
                                      3
                                                         30
## 2
                                             0
                                                   11
          3
## 3
                 2
                        4
                               0
                                      5
                                                    6
                                                         25
                                             0
          4
                        4
                                      4
                                                    8
                                                         36
##
                               1
                                             0
                 7
          5
                       18
                               9
                                     21
                                                  66
                                                         22
## 5
                                             0
## 6
          6
                 5
                        2
                               8
                                             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 y Trt Base Age V4 rand Ind
## 1 5 0 11 31 0 1 1
## 2 3 0 11 31 0 2 1
## 3 3 0 11 31 0 3 1
## 4 3 0 11 31 1 4 1
## 5 3 0 11 30 0 5 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.

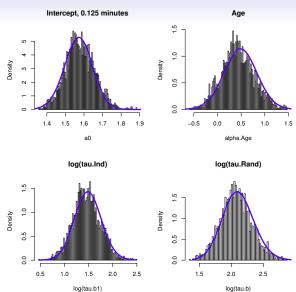
That means, same data, same priors, same constraints on parameters, intercept included or not, ....

## Comparing results with MCMC

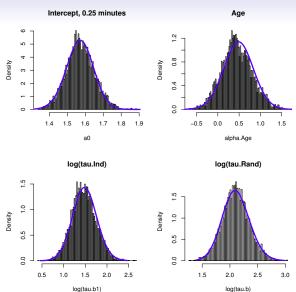
• When comparing the results of R-INLA with MCMC, it is important to use the same model.

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

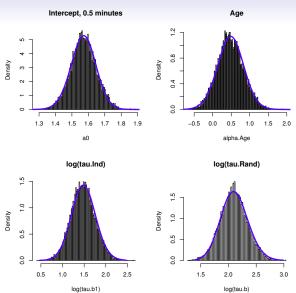
• Here we have compared the results with those obtained using 'JAGS via the rjags package



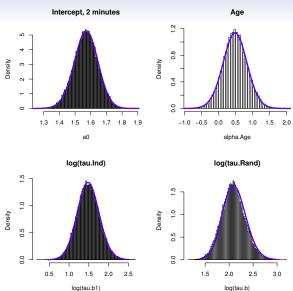
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



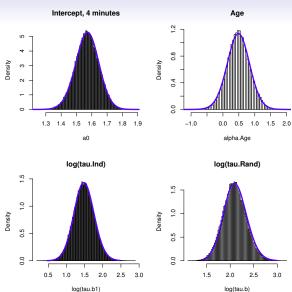
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



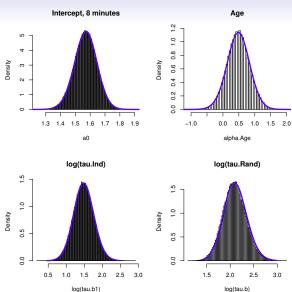
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



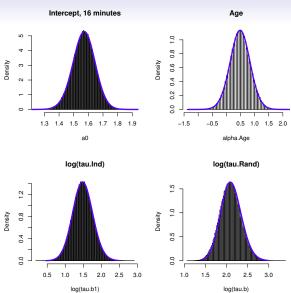
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



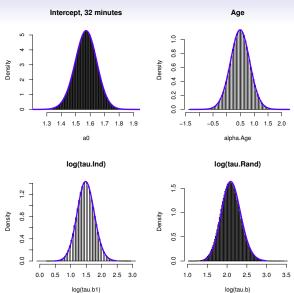
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



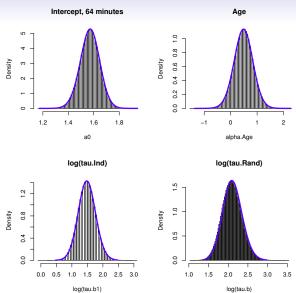
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



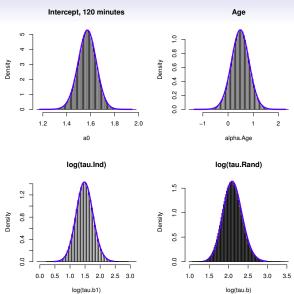
Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds



Running time of INLA < 0.5 seconds

## Control statements

## Control 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
- There are various others as well; see help.

## Thank you for your attention!

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

