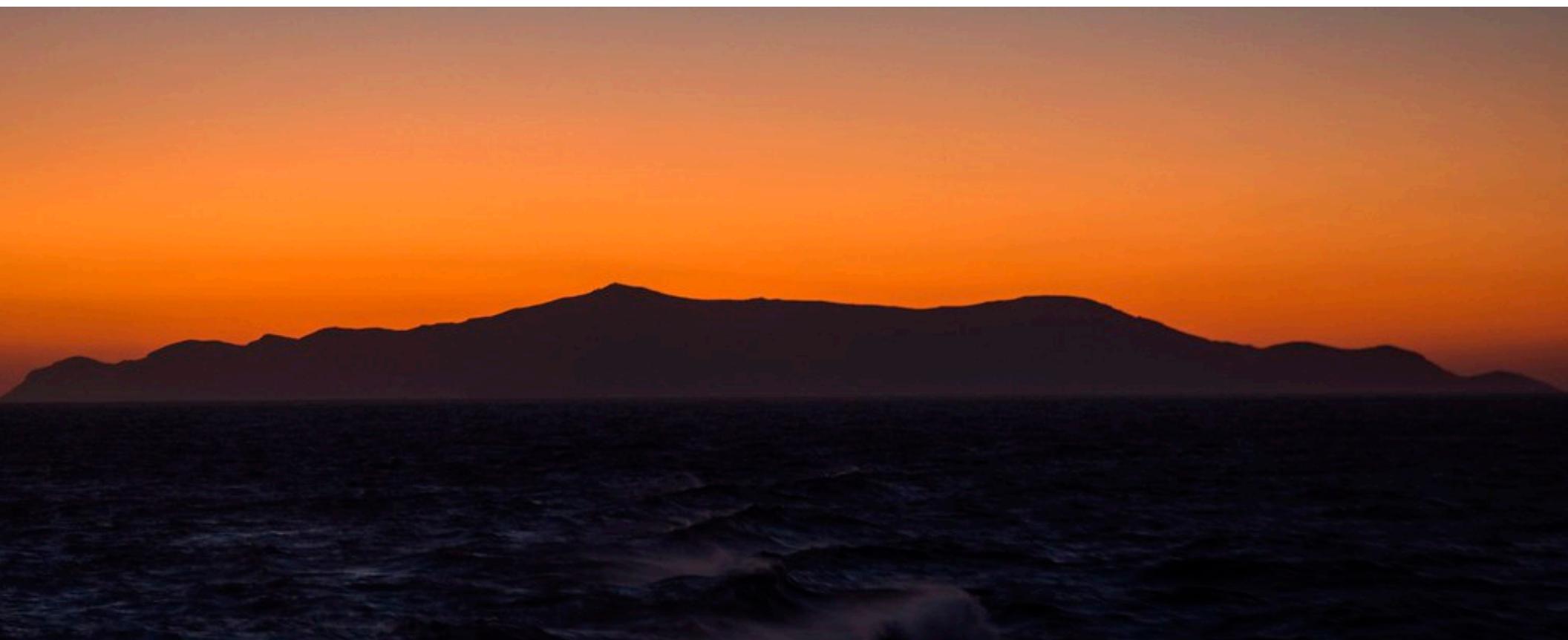


# Unit 3, Lecture 2

## Quadratic Growth Models

### (Part II)



# Mild Schedule Restructure

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Today (Oct 10): Finish Quadratic Growth

Tuesday (Oct 15): Piecewise Linear Growth

Thursday (Oct 17): Three level models  
(in particular, time nested in individuals  
nested in groups)

Tuesday (Oct 22): Back on track with posted  
syllabus

# Today's Goals

---

Continue learning about quadratic growth models. In particular:

- ★ Interpret the intercept, slope, and curvature parameters
- ★ Incorporate covariates
- ★ Talk a bit more about how statistics and modeling can intersect with policy debate

# Quadratic Growth

Example from Raudenbush & Bryk,  
Chapter 6, pgs 169-176



# Maternal Speech on Children's Vocabulary

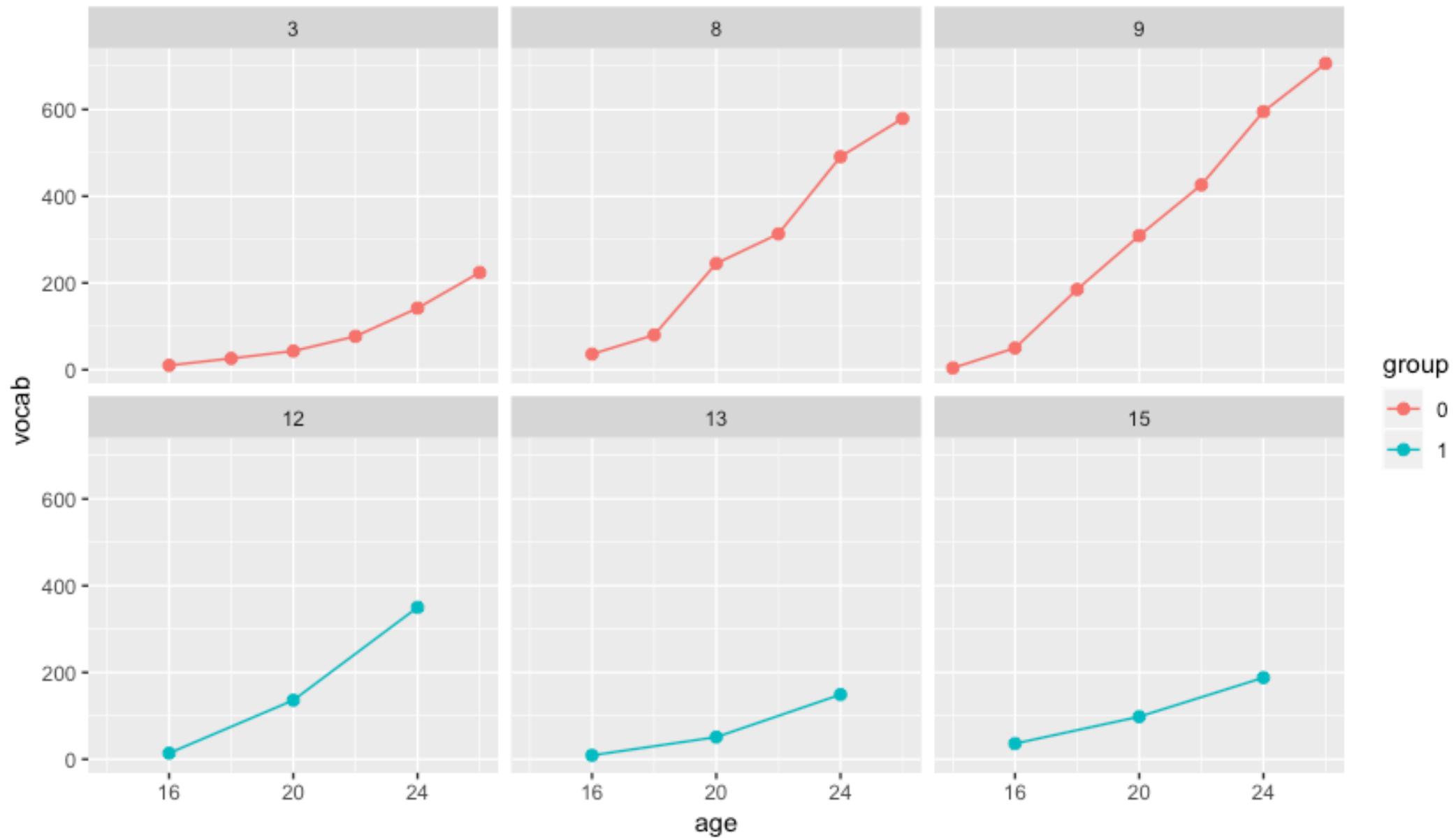
---

- ★ 22 children observed in the home on differing number of occasions throughout about 1.5 years
- ★ At 16 months, amount of maternal speech was recorded
- ★ Actually two studies with different patterns of observation
  - Study 1 (11 kids) has more home visits (observations)

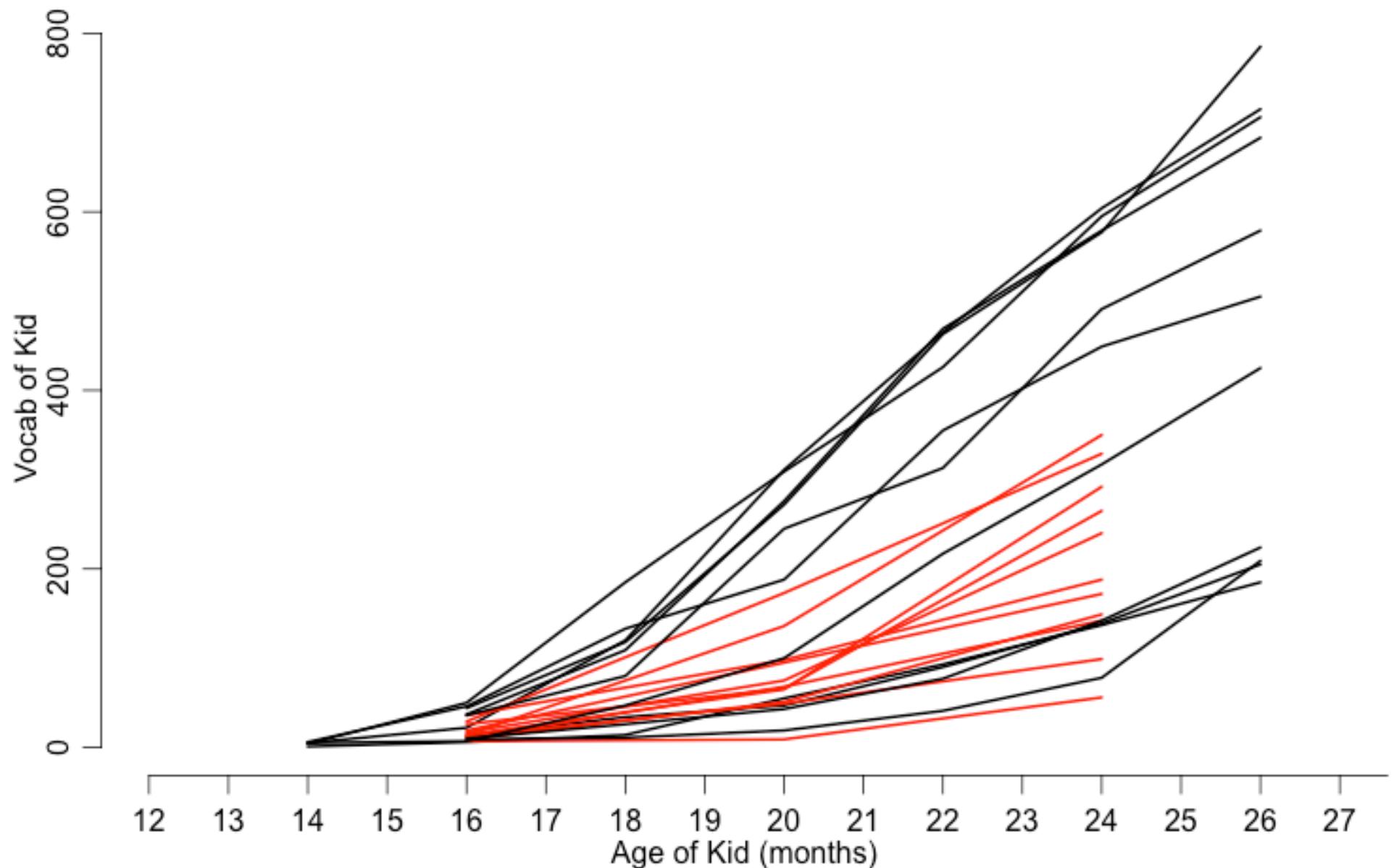
Research Question:

Describe the association between maternal speech and child's vocabulary

# 6 of the kids across time



# All the raw data (22 children)

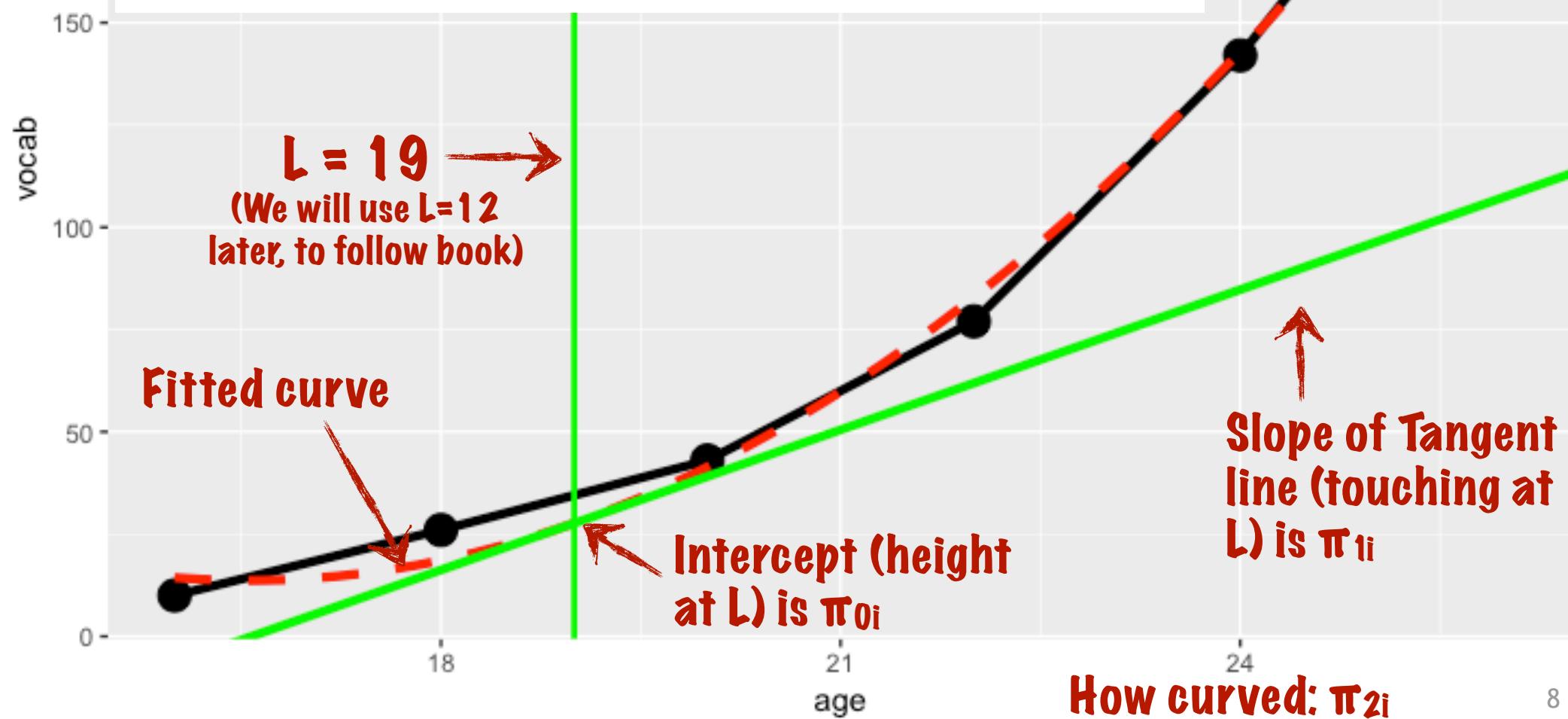


# Anatomy of a Quadratic Growth Curve

$\pi_{0i}$  = status at  $L$

$\pi_{1i}$  = instantaneous growth at  $L$

$\pi_{2i}$  = curvature/acceleration



# Unconditional Quadratic Growth Model

$$Y_{ti} = \pi_{0i} + \pi_{1i}(a_{ti} - L) + \pi_{2i}(a_{ti} - L)^2 + \varepsilon_{ti}$$

$$\varepsilon_{ti} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

$$\pi_{0i} = \gamma_{00} + U_{0i}$$

$$\pi_{1i} = \gamma_{10} + U_{1i}$$

$$\pi_{2i} = \gamma_{20} + U_{2i}$$

$$(U_{0i}, U_{1i}, U_{2i}) \sim N(0, \Sigma) \leftarrow$$

?

How many parameters?



This  $\Sigma$  (Sigma) represents all our taus in our matrix. But it is now  $3 \times 3$  so too big. See next slide.

- ★ Three random effects, all correlated.
- ★ We have a fixed centering constant  $L$ .  
*(This is a constant picked by you, not a parameter.)*

# Our Covariance Matrix Expanded

---

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \tau_{00} & \text{Symmetric} \\ \tau_{10} & \tau_{11} \\ \tau_{20} & \tau_{21} & \tau_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} \text{Var}(\pi_{0i}) & & \text{Symmetric} \\ \text{Cov}(\pi_{1i}, \pi_{0i}) & \text{Var}(\pi_{1i}) & \\ \text{Cov}(\pi_{2i}, \pi_{0i}) & \text{Cov}(\pi_{2i}, \pi_{1i}) & \text{Var}(\pi_{2i}) \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Picking Model, Setting L

---

Individual plots from before suggest a curved fit.  
Quadratic is a first reasonable choice.

L is an important centering decision.

In our case, L=12 months because this is age where words first begin.

*(However, picking L in the center of your data is usually preferable without good reason not to.)*

We start by looking only at the 11 kids with mostly full data.



# Fitting our quadratic unconditional model

```
> dat$age12 = dat$age - 12
> dat$age12sq = dat$age12 ^ 2
> M1 = lmer( vocab ~ 1 + age12 + age12sq + (1+age12 +
   age12sq|pers) , data=dat.g0 )
> display( M1 )
```

	coef.est	coef.se	$\gamma_{00}$
(Intercept)	-45.05	27.52	$\gamma_{10}$
age12	12.14	8.57	$\gamma_{20}$
age12sq	1.84	0.26	

We first recenter and make  
our quadratic predictor

↑ Results in R&B  
book different.  
Different data?

Error terms:

Groups	Name	Std.Dev.	Corr	
pers	(Intercept)	73.76		$\sqrt{\tau_{00}}$
	age12	24.62	-0.99	$\sqrt{\tau_{11}}$
	age12sq	0.27	0.45 -0.54	$\sqrt{\tau_{22}}$
Residual		26.89	$\sigma$	
---				

number of obs: 71, groups: pers, 11

AIC = 737.1, DIC = 738

deviance = 727.3

$$Y_{ti} = \pi_{0i} + \pi_{1i}(a_{ti} - L) + \pi_{2i}(a_{ti} - L)^2 + \varepsilon_{ti} \quad 12$$

# Predicting Vocabulary

Using the model, predict vocabulary for a typical kid at

★ 20 months

★ 12 months



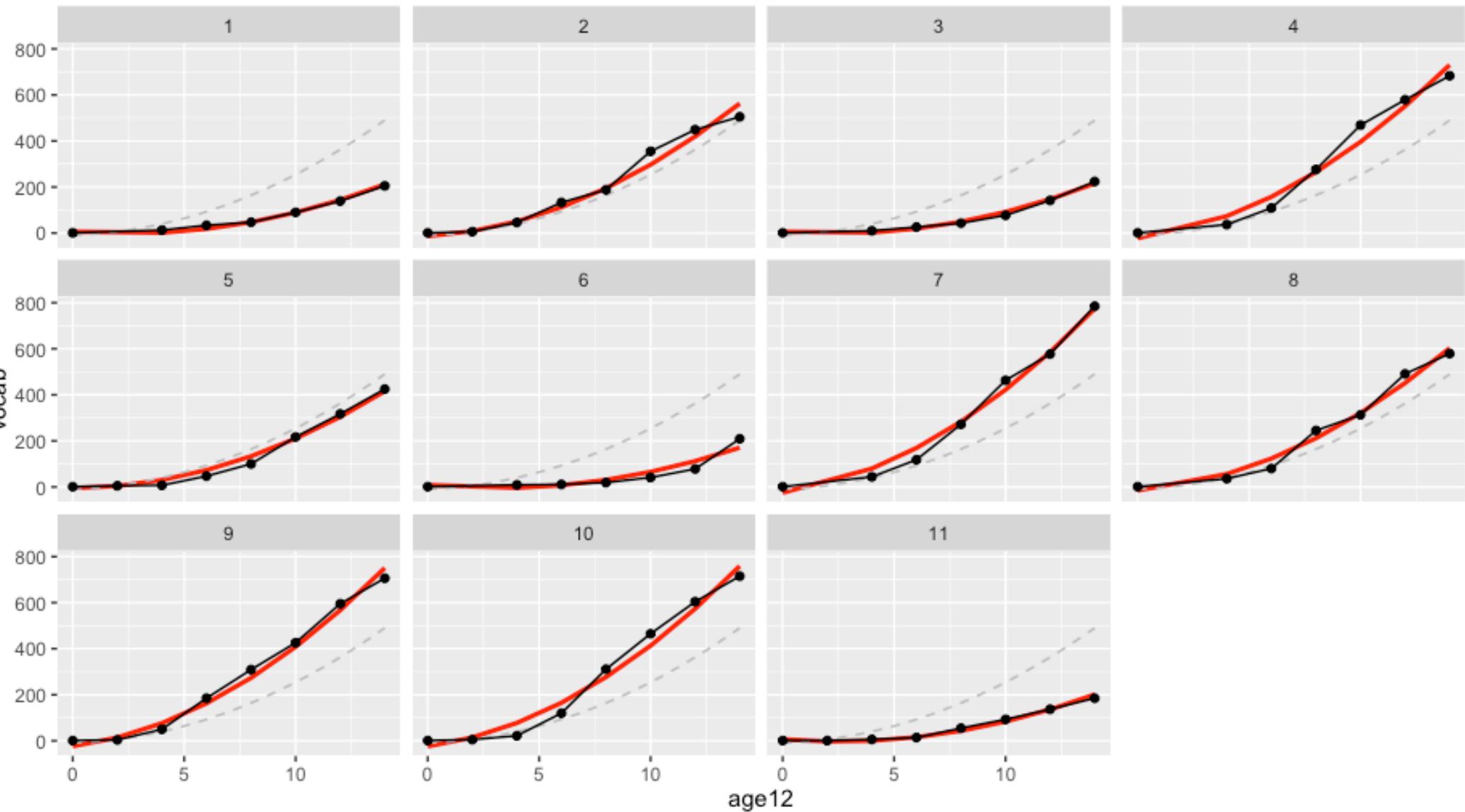
[pollev.com/yayMLM](http://pollev.com/yayMLM)

Getting more complicated:

★ How can we predict a distribution of vocabularies across kids at 20 months?

	coef.est	coef.se	Error terms:		
(Intercept)	-45.05	27.52	Groups	Name	Std.Dev.
age12	12.14	8.57	pers	(Intercept)	73.76
age12sq	1.84	0.26		age12	24.62
				age12sq	0.27
			Residual		26.89

# Individual Curves for Each Kid





# Getting estimates for the individual growth curves (using Empirical Bayes)

```
> ranef( M1 )$pers
```

	(Intercept)	age12	age12sq
1	81	-26.1	0.06196
2	-22	9.2	-0.22034
3	80	-26.6	0.13738
4	-70	23.1	-0.09955
5	22	-9.1	0.19027
6	93	-31.8	0.22082
7	-82	25.0	0.05896
8	-33	10.3	0.00099
9	-76	27.0	-0.28605
10	-78	26.1	-0.14186
11	83	-27.1	0.07743

Each row is a single kid.

We have individual coefficients that vary for each kid.

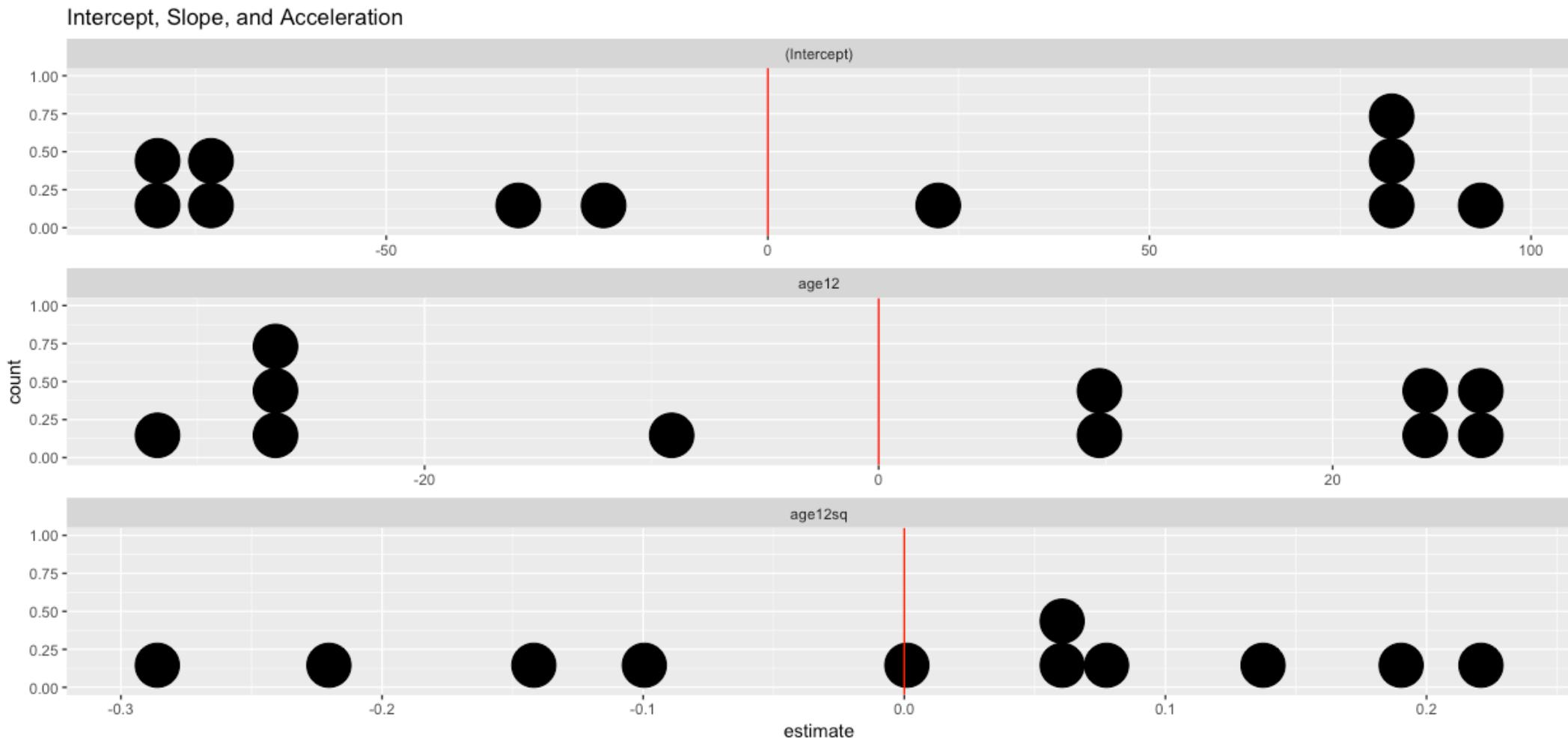
```
> coefs = coef( M1 )$pers
```

```
> coefs
```

	(Intercept)	age12	age12sq
1	35.84194	-13.930663	1.897603
2	-66.57032	21.343986	1.615293
3	34.95373	-14.488695	1.973026
4	-115.17942	35.260103	1.736078

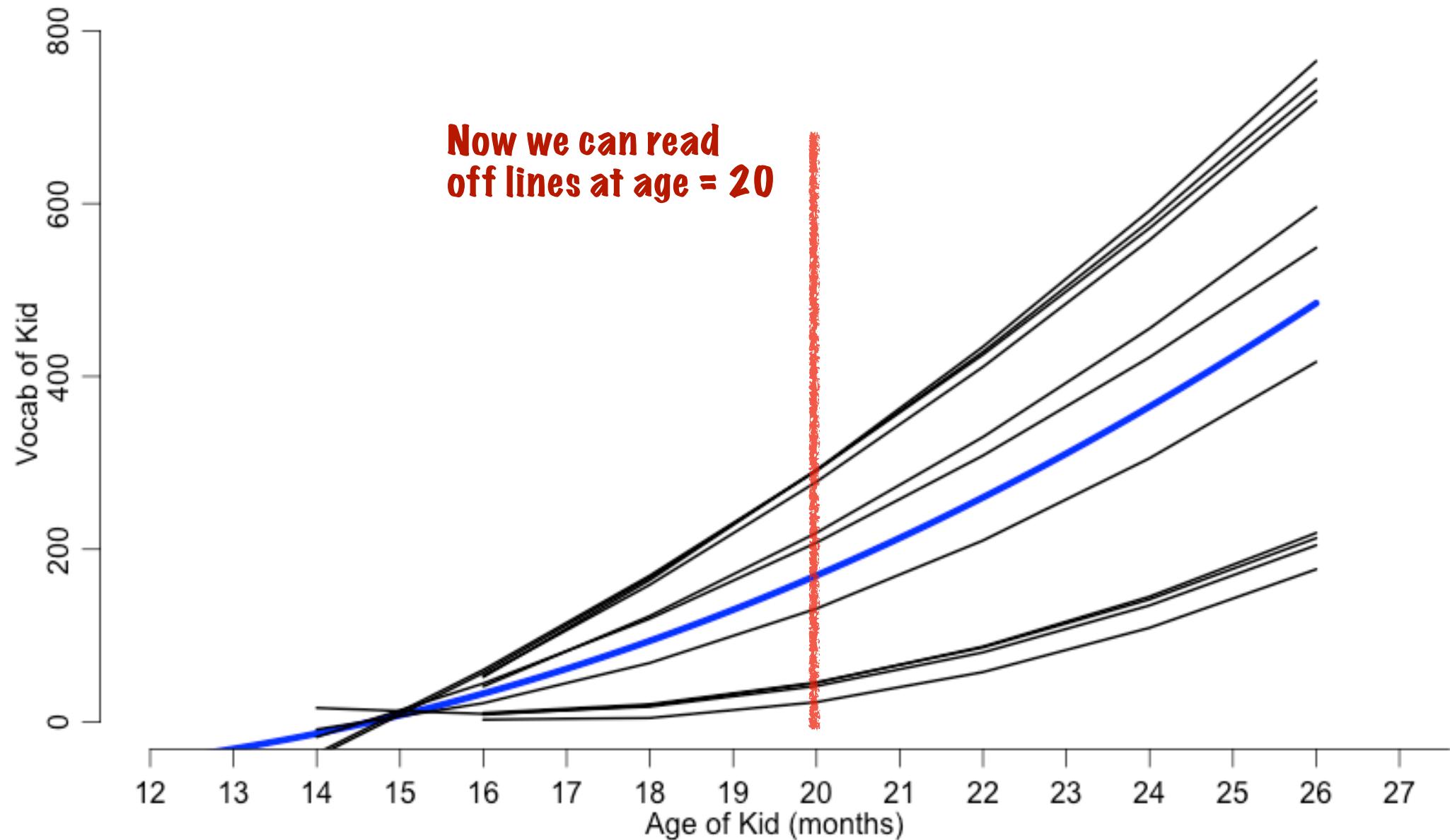
This takes the fixed effects into account as well. We can read off our quadratic curves

# Do the distribution of our individual random effects look normal?



We are seeing that the random effects are definitively NOT normally distributed for any of our random effects.<sub>16</sub>

# Predicted Median Curve vs Individually Estimated Growth Curves (from Empirical Bayes)

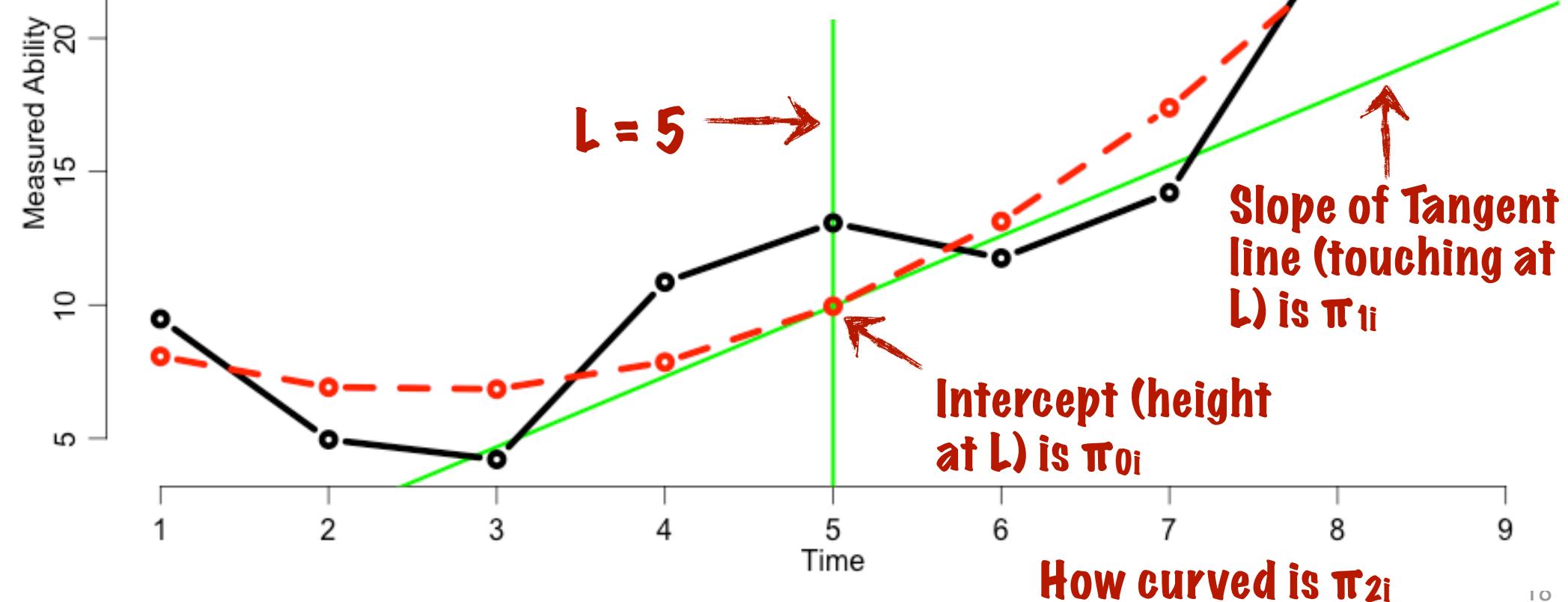


# Anatomy of a Quadratic Growth Curve

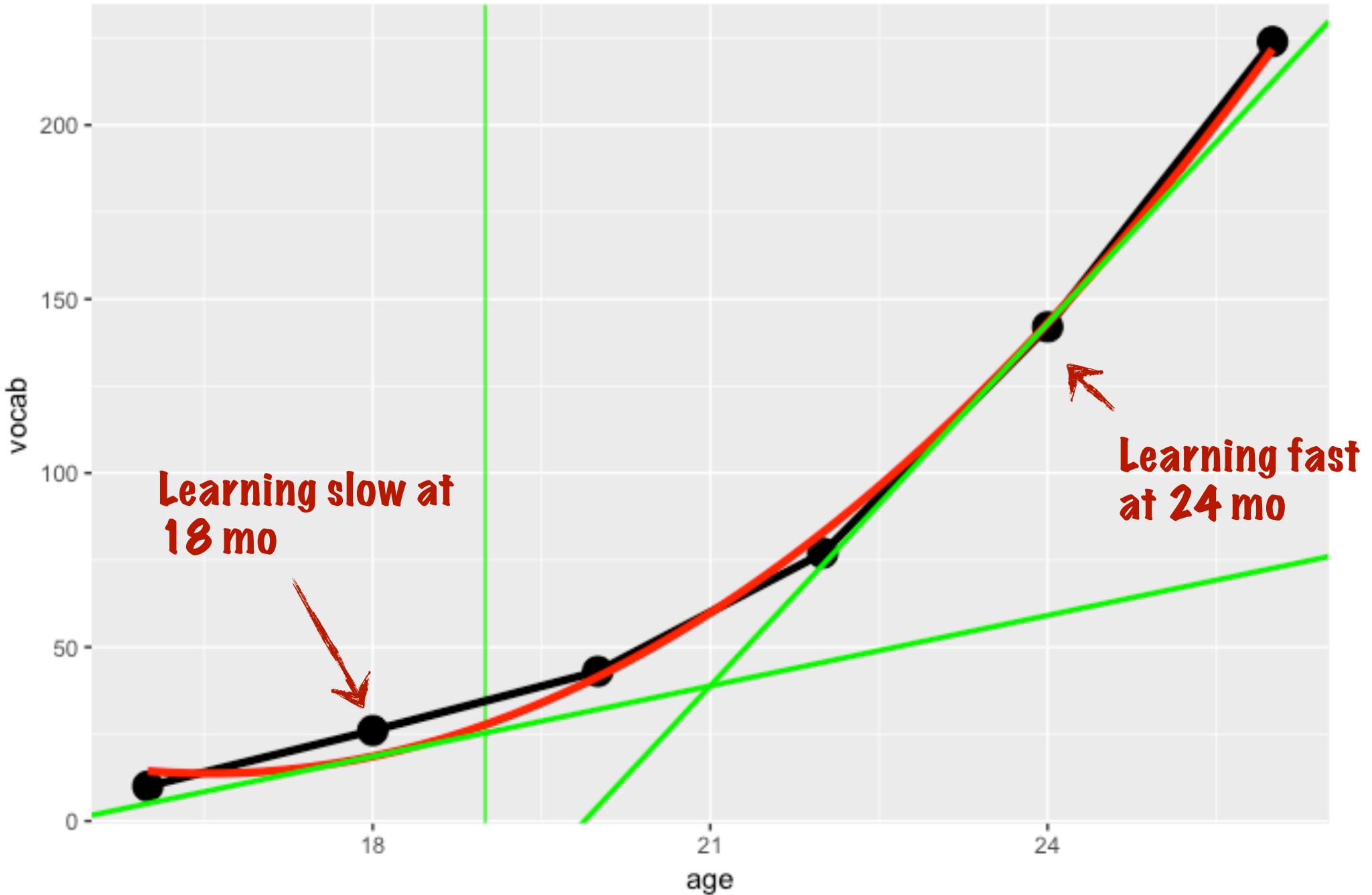
$\pi_{0i}$  = status at  $L$

$\pi_{1i}$  = instantaneous growth at  $L$

$\pi_{2i}$  = curvature/acceleration



# Changing rate of growth



# Interpretation: Changing Growth Rate

---

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{da} Y_{ti} &= \pi_{0i} + \pi_{1i}(a - L) + \pi_{2i}(a - L)^2 + e_{ti} \\ &= \pi_{1i} + 2\pi_{2i}(a - L)\end{aligned}$$

- ★ Rate of growth at age  $a$  for kid  $i$  is the derivative of our curve at  $a$ .
- ★ So, what do we have for our rate of growth at 12 months? 14 months?

	coef.est	coef.se	Error terms:		
(Intercept)	-45.05	27.52	Groups	Name	Std.Dev.
age12	12.14	8.57	pers	(Intercept)	73.76
age12sq	1.84	0.26		age12	24.62
				age12sq	0.27
			Residual		26.89

# Evaluation, modeling and policy

Let's Stop Talking About  
the '30 Million Word Gap'

Talking with children matters:  
Defending the 30 million word gap



# Model building

How can we get  
a nice, simple  
model given our  
data?





# Our Original Unconditional Model (repeat slide)

```
> dat$age12 = dat$age - 12
> dat$age12sq = dat$age12 ^ 2
> M1 = lmer( vocab ~ 1 + age12 + age12sq + (1+age12 +
   age12sq|pers), data=dat.g0 )
> display( M1 )
lmer(formula = vocab ~ 1 + age12 + age12sq + (1 + age12 +
age12sq |  
pers), data = dat.g0)
      coef.est  coef.se
(Intercept) -45.05    27.52
age12        12.14     8.57
age12sq       1.84     0.26
```

**Wildly off our theory**

Error terms:

Groups	Name	Std.Dev.	Corr
pers	(Intercept)	73.76	-0.99
	age12	24.62	0.45
	age12sq	0.27	-0.54
Residual		26.89	

**Something to worry about**

number of obs: 71, groups: pers, 11  
AIC = 737.1, DIC = 738  
deviance = 727.3

# A lot of model for not much data

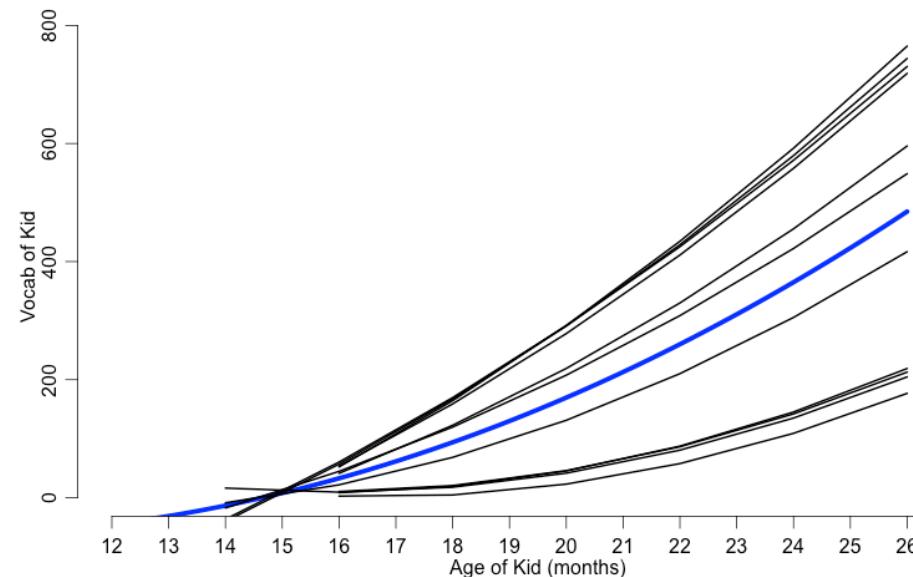
---

Theory tells us:

- ★ Initial vocab at 12 mo should be generally very small (i.e., around 0)

Model:

- ★ Our curves seem “overdispersed”: possibly missing a variable?



- ★ Intercept is very negative (-45) when it shouldn't be

Next step: Drop our intercept! (Fix it to zero.)



# Model Refinement #1: Quadratic Growth with no intercept

```
> M2 = lmer( vocab ~ 0 + age12 + age12sq +  
           (0+age12+age12sq|pers) ,  
           data=dat.g0 )
```

No overall  
intercept or  
random intercept  
either!

```
> display( M2 )
```

	coef.est	coef.se
age12	0.73	2.52
age12sq	2.46	0.30

Error terms:

Groups	Name	Std.Dev.	Corr
pers	age12	6.09	
	age12sq	0.87	1.00
Residual		32.80	

---

number of obs: 71, groups: pers, 11  
AIC = 758, DIC = 752  
deviance = 749.0



SD has gone up from  
27. Our  
constrained model  
is not hugging the  
data as tightly, but  
the difference is not  
huge



## Model Refinement #2

Set expected rate of growth at 12mo to 0

```
> M3 = lmer( vocab ~ 0 + age12sq + (0+age12+age12sq|  
pers), data=dat.g0 )  
> display( M3 )
```

coef.est	coef.se
2.43	0.29

Note our **SINGLE** coefficient is for the **age12sq** variable.

R is mean and doesn't give us the name

Error terms:

Groups	Name	Std.Dev.	Corr
pers	age12	5.71	
	age12sq	0.87	1.00
Residual		32.68	

---

number of obs: 71, groups: pers, 11  
AIC = 759.8, DIC = 748  
deviance = 749.1

Now we have dropped our linear term in our fixed effect, but left it as a random effect. (Hence expected is 0, but not individual.)



# Three models to compare

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
(Intercept)	-45.05 (27.52)		
age12	12.14 (8.57)	0.73 (2.52)	
age12sq	1.84 *** (0.26)	2.46 *** (0.30)	2.43 *** (0.29)
AIC	737.06	758.03	759.76
BIC	759.68	771.60	771.08
Log Likelihood	-358.53	-373.01	-374.88
Num. obs.	71	71	71
Num. groups: pers	11	11	11
Var: pers (Intercept)	5440.07		
Var: pers age12	606.18	37.12	32.60
Var: pers age12sq	0.07	0.76	0.76
Cov: pers (Intercept) age12	-1805.58		
Cov: pers (Intercept) age12sq	8.85		
Cov: pers age12 age12sq	-3.56	5.29	4.97
Var: Residual	722.83	1076.10	1068.27

\*\*\* p < 0.001, \*\* p < 0.01, \* p < 0.05



# lr test of simpler vs more complete models

```
> anova( M1, M2, M3 )
```

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

Data: dat.g0

Models:

```
M3: vocab ~ 0 + age12sq + (0 + age12 + age12sq | pers)
M2: vocab ~ 0 + age12 + age12sq + (0 + age12 + age12sq | pers)
M1: vocab ~ 1 + age12 + age12sq + (1 + age12 + age12sq | pers)
```

	Df	AIC	BIC	logLik	deviance	Chisq	Chi	Df	Pr(>Chisq)
M3	5	759	770	-375	749				
M2	6	761	775	-375	749	0.09		1	0.76722
M1	10	747	770	-364	727	21.72		4	0.00023 ***

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Note how these models  
are NESTED  
(each is an expansion of the  
one above it)

Check out  
refitting  
automatically

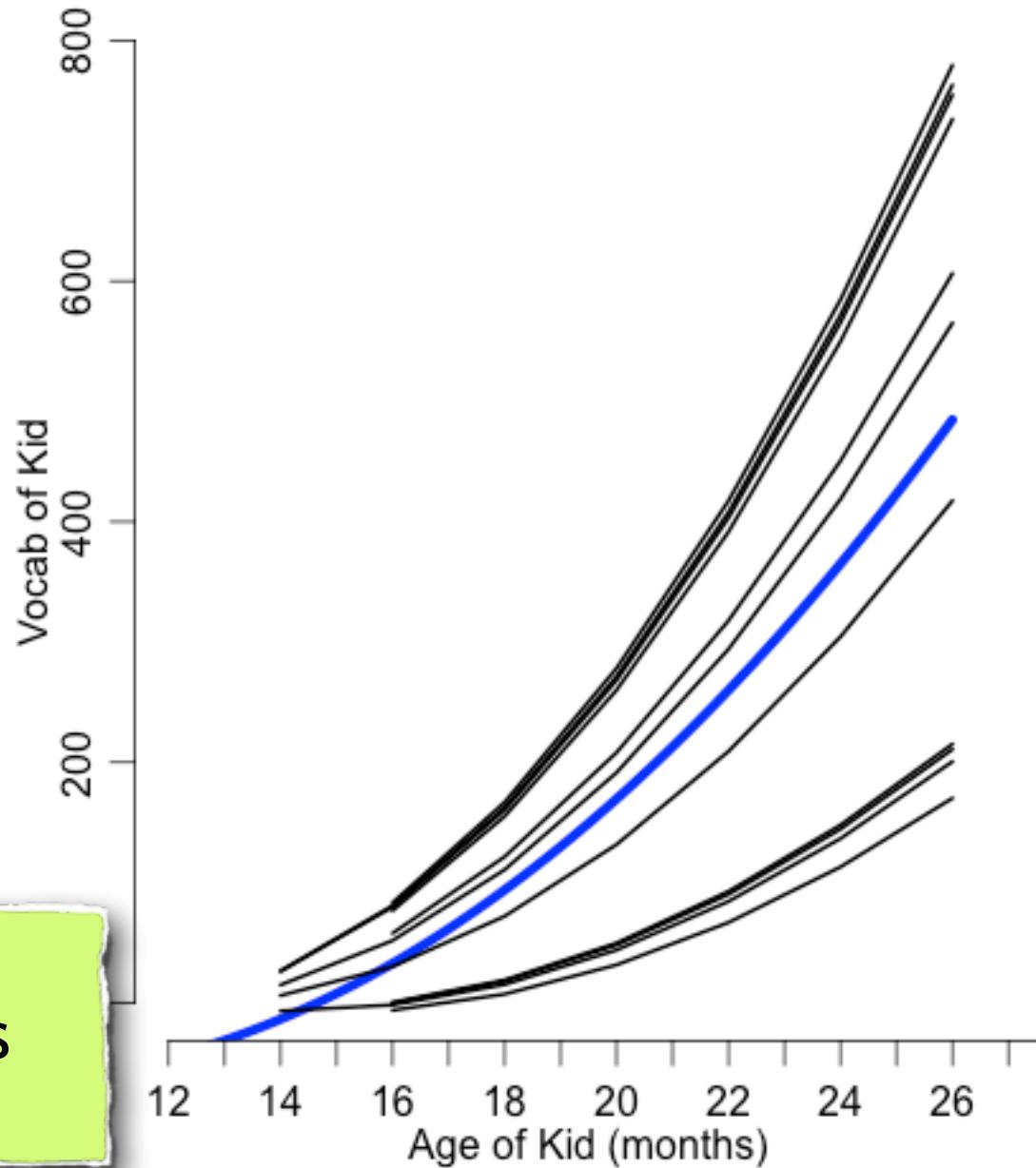
anova() commands does  
lrtest and refits models  
automatically



# New curves for simpler model

```
> coef( M3 )$pers  
  age12  age12sq  
1 -6.1    1.5  
2  2.0    2.7  
3 -6.0    1.5  
4  5.9    3.3  
5 -1.3    2.2  
6 -7.0    1.4  
7  6.9    3.5  
8  3.0    2.9  
9  6.3    3.4  
10 -6.5   3.4  
11 -6.3   1.5
```

↑  
It looks like we have  
two clusters. Perhaps  
covariates explain?



# Including covariates in our quadratic growth model





# Including covariates: impact of child gender and maternal speech

```
> M4A = lmer( vocab ~ 0 + age12sq * (sex + logmom) +  
  (0 + age12 + age12sq|pers) ,  
  data=dat.g0 )
```

```
> display( M4A )  
  age12sq | pers), data = dat.g0)  
            coef.est  coef.se  
age12sq        -4.93     3.39  
sex             2.60    19.19  
logmom         -1.28     1.66  
age12sq:sex      0.30     0.63  
age12sq:logmom   0.88     0.44
```

Error terms:

Groups	Name	Std.Dev.	Corr
pers	age12	6.80	
	age12sq	0.63	1.00
Residual		32.68	

---

number of obs: 71, groups: pers, 11  
AIC = 751.2, DIC = 751.1  
deviance = 742.2

?

Can we explain  
our acceleration?

?

Is maternal  
speech predictive  
of growth?



# Dropping main effects

## A design decision. Good or bad?

```
> M4A.2 = lmer( vocab ~ 0 + age12sq:sex +  
+ age12sq:logmom + (0 + age12 + age12sq|pers) ,  
+ data=dat.g0 )  
> display( M4A.2 )
```

	coef.est	coef.se
age12sq:sex	0.51	0.53
age12sq:logmom	0.28	0.04

Error terms:

Groups	Name	Std.Dev.	Corr
pers	age12	5.58	
	age12sq	0.72	1.00
Residual		32.80	

---

```
number of obs: 71, groups: pers, 11  
AIC = 762.2, DIC = 740.9  
deviance = 745.5
```



# Including covariates: Our full model on all 22 kids

```
> M4 = lmer( vocab ~ 0 + age12sq + age12sq:group +
  age12sq:sex + age12sq:sex:group +
  age12sq:logmom + age12sq:logmom:group +
  (0 + age12 + age12sq|pers) , data=dat )
> display( M4 )
```

	coef.est	coef.se
age12sq	-5.43	2.98
age12sq:group	1.64	5.44
age12sq:sex	0.37	0.46
age12sq:logmom	0.97	0.38
age12sq:group:sex	0.53	0.68
age12sq:group:logmom	-0.35	0.69

Error terms:

Groups	Name	Std.Dev.	Corr
pers	age12	3.98	
	age12sq	0.52	1.00
Residual		30.23	

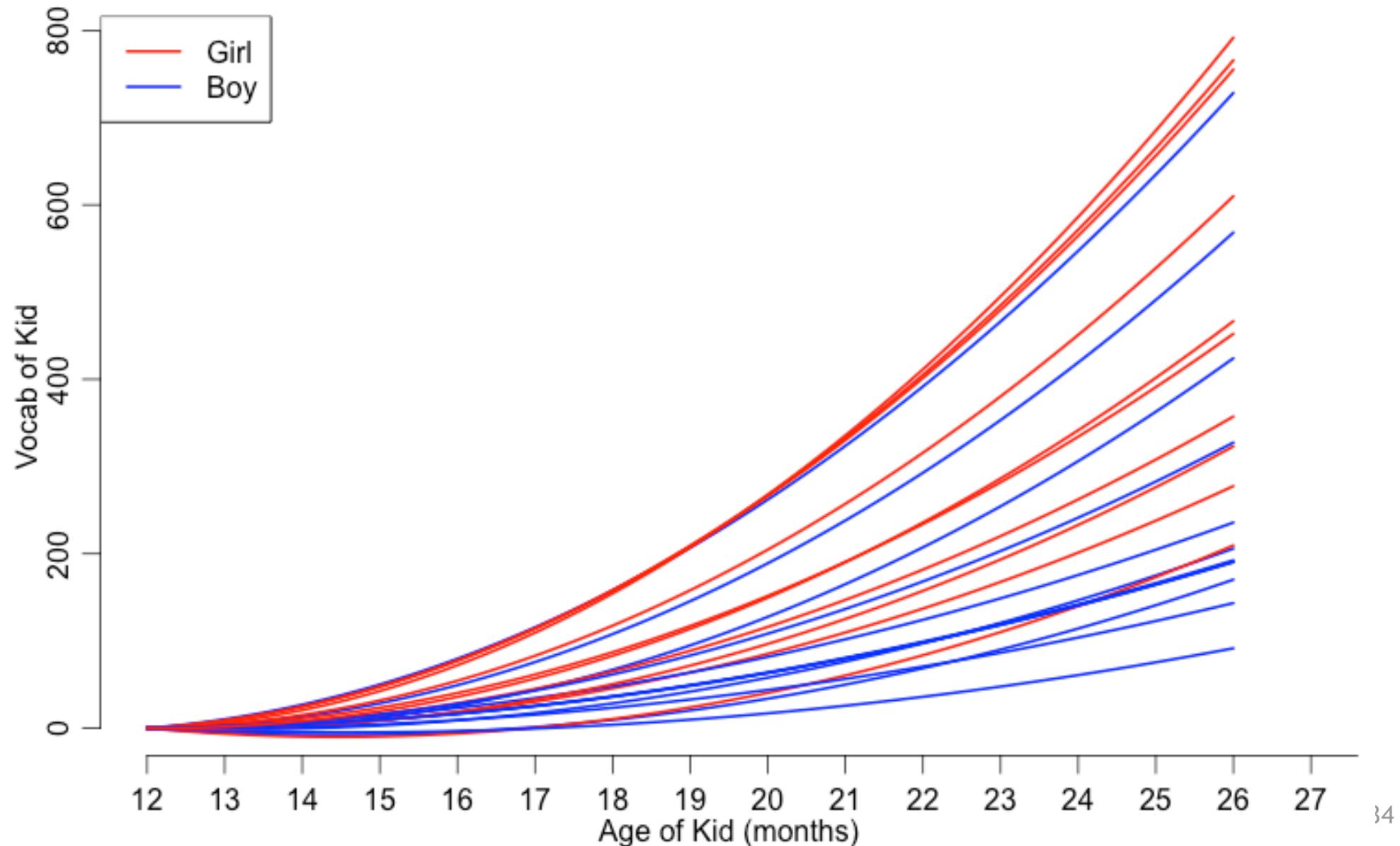
---

number of obs: 104, groups: pers, 22  
AIC = 1098.7, DIC = 1075  
deviance = 1076.8

? Can we explain  
our acceleration?

? Is maternal  
speech predictive  
of growth?

# Curves colored by gender differences





# Variance Reduction due to gender and speech?

```
> M3.full = lmer( vocab ~ 0 + age12sq + age12sq:group +
  (0 + age12 + age12sq|pers) , data=dat )  
  
> M4 = lmer( vocab ~ 0 + age12sq + age12sq:group +
  age12sq:sex + age12sq:logmom +
  age12sq:sex:group + age12sq:logmom:group +
  (0 + age12 + age12sq|pers) , data=dat )  
  
> diag( VarCorr( M3.full )$pers )  
age12 age12sq  
15.70 0.53  
  
> diag( VarCorr( M4 )$pers )  
age12 age12sq  
15.85 0.27
```



How much did we explain the variance in growth rate?

# Looking back



# Recap

---

Check-In  
<http://cs179.org/lec33>

- ★ Quadratic growth allows for a moderately flexible *curved* growth curve
- ★ We can constrain aspects of a growth curve model to get a simpler model that is still not linear
- ★ The interpretation of the intercept, slope, and acceleration depend heavily on the choice of centering variable L.
- ★ Model building is a balance of simple model vs. fitting the data well.