

The Classical Measurement Error (MEC) model

Parametrization

This is an implementation of the classical ME model for a fixed effect. It is best described by an example, let the model be

$$\eta = \beta x + \epsilon$$

where η is the linear predictor, β the effect of the true covariate x with zero mean Gaussian noise ϵ . The issue is that x is not observed directly, but only through w , where

$$w = x + u$$

where u is zero mean Gaussian noise. Even though this setup is possible to implement using basic features ("copy" and multiple likelihoods), we provide the following model which reparametrizes the above,

$$\eta = \nu + \epsilon$$

where $\nu = \beta x$ has the correct distribution depending on various parameters: β has prior $\pi(\beta)$, and x is apriori $\mathcal{N}(\mu_x I, \tau_x I)$ ¹. The error is apriori $u \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau_u \mathbf{D})$, where τ_u is the observational precision of the error $\text{Prec}(u|x)$ with possible heteroscedasticity, encoded in the entries d_i of the diagonal matrix \mathbf{D} . The vector s contains the fixed scalings $s = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ (with n the number of data points).

Hyperparameters

This model has 4 hyperparameters, $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \theta_4)$ where θ_2 , θ_3 and θ_4 are default set to be fixed (ie defined to be known). The values of θ_2 , θ_3 and θ_4 are set to mimic a classical fixed effect, so they will always make sense. To achieve the ME model, please use the appropriate choices for (some of) these parameters!

The hyperparameter specification is as follows:

$$\theta_1 = \beta$$

and the prior is defined on θ_1 ,

$$\theta_2 = \log(\tau_u)$$

and the prior is defined on θ_2 ,

$$\theta_3 = \mu_x$$

and the prior is defined on θ_3 ,

$$\theta_4 = \log(\tau_x)$$

and the prior is defined on θ_4 .

Specification

The MEC is specified inside the `f()` function as

```
f(w, [<weights>], model="mec", scale = <s>, values= <w>, hyper = <hyper>)
```

The `w` are the observed values of the true but unknown covariates x , with the *assumption*, that if two or more elements of `w` are *identical*, then they refer to the *same* element in the true covariate x . If data points with identical w values belong to different x values (e.g., different individuals), please add a *tiny* random value to w to make this difference obvious to the model.

The fixed scaling of the observational precision is given in argument `scale`. If the argument `scale` is not given, then s is set to 1.

¹Note: The second argument in $\mathcal{N}(,)$ is the precision not the variance.

Hyperparameter specification and default values

hyper

theta1

name beta
short.name b
prior gaussian
param 1 0.001
initial 1
fixed FALSE
to.theta function(x) x
from.theta function(x) x

theta2

name prec.u
short.name prec
prior loggamma
param 1 1e-04
initial 9.21034037197618
fixed TRUE
to.theta function(x) log(x)
from.theta function(x) exp(x)

theta3

name mean.x
short.name mu.x
prior gaussian
param 0 1e-04
initial 0
fixed TRUE
to.theta function(x) x
from.theta function(x) x

theta4

name prec.x
short.name prec.x
prior loggamma
param 1 10000
initial -9.21034037197618
fixed TRUE
to.theta function(x) log(x)
from.theta function(x) exp(x)

constr FALSE

nrow.ncol FALSE

augmented FALSE

aug.factor 1

aug.constr
n.div.by
n.required FALSE
set.default.values FALSE
status experimental
pdf mec

Example

```
n = 100
beta = 4
prec.y = 1
prec.u = 1
prec.x = 1
## true unobserved covariate
x = rnorm(n, sd = 1/sqrt(prec.x))
## the observed covariate with heteroscedastic scaling
s = runif(n,min=0.5,max=2)
w = x + rnorm(n, sd = 1/sqrt(prec.u*s))
## regression model using the unobserved 'x'
y = 1 + beta*x + rnorm(n, sd = 1/sqrt(prec.y))

## prior parameters
prior.beta = c(0, 0.0001)
prior.prec.u = c(10, 9)
prior.prec.x = c(10, 9)
prior.prec.y = c(10, 9)

formula = y ~ 1 +
f(w, model="mec", scale=s, values=w,
  hyper = list(
    beta = list(
      prior = "gaussian",
      param = prior.beta,
      fixed = FALSE
    ),
    prec.u = list(
      prior = "loggamma",
      param = prior.prec.u,
      initial = log(prec.u),
      fixed = FALSE
    ),
    prec.x = list(
      prior = "loggamma",
      param = prior.prec.x,
      initial = log(prec.x),
      fixed = FALSE
    )
  )
)
```

```

    ),
    mean.x = list(
      prior = "gaussian",
      initial = 0,
      fixed=TRUE
    )
  )
)

r = inla(formula,
  data = data.frame(y, w, s),
  family = "gaussian",
  control.family = list(
    hyper = list(
      prec = list(param = prior.prec.y,
        initial = log(prec.y),
        fixed=FALSE
      )
    )
  )
)

summary(r)

```

Notes

- INLA provides the posteriors of $\nu_i = \beta x_i$ and NOT x_i .
- The posteriors of ν_i come (default) in the order given by the sorted (from low to high) values of **w**. The entry **\$ID** gives the mapping.
- The option **scale** defines the scaling in the same order as argument **values**. It is therefore advised to also give argument **values** when **scale** is used to be sure that they are consistent.