

Problem

In a pitch study, we are interested in the relationship between pitch and politeness. There are two levels politeness (a formal register: pol, and an informal register: inf). On top of that, we also have an additional fixed effect, gender. Each subject was tested on several scenarios (e.g., asking a peer for a favor (informal condition) or asking a professor for a favor (formal condition)). The pitch measurements are typically correlated for the same subject and in the same scenario.

1. Exploratory analysis: provide boxplots to show the relation between gender/attitude and pitch (ignoring different scenarios).
2. Fit a mixed effects model with random intercepts for different subjects (gender and attitude being the fixed effects). What is the covariance matrix for a subject Y_i ? What is the covariance matrix for the REML estimates of fixed effects (hint: 3×3 matrix for intercept, gender and attitude)? What are the BLUPs for subject-specific intercepts? What are the residuals?
3. Fit a mixed effects model with intercepts for different subjects (gender, attitude and their interaction being the fixed effects). Use likelihood ratio test to compare this model with the model in Q2 to determine whether the interaction term is significantly associated with pitch.
4. Write out the mixed effects model with random intercepts and random slopes for attitude for different subjects (gender and attitude also being the fixed effects). Fit the model. What is the covariance structure for a subject Y_i (hint: there are correlations between the random slopes and random intercepts)? What are the fixed effect, random effect, and BLUP for the first female subject in scenario 1 with polite attitude?
5. (Optional; required for PhD) Write out the mixed effects model with random intercepts for both subjects and scenarios (gender and attitude being the fixed effects). Fit the model using lmer in lme4 package. Write out the covariance matrix for a subject Y_i . What is the interpretation of the coefficient for the fixed effect term attitude?