04 Hierarchical modeling

Shravan Vasishth

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We begin with a relatively simple question from the psycholinguistics literature: are subject relatives easier to process than object relatives? The data come from Experiment 1 in a paper by Grodner and Gibson (2005).

Scientific question: Is there a subject relative advantage in reading?

- (1a) The *reporter* who the photographer *sent* to the editor was hoping for a good story. (object gap)
- (1b) The *reporter* who *sent* the photographer to the editor was hoping for a good story. (subject gap)

Load data and reformat

```
library(bcogsci)
data("df_gg05_rc")
```

Experiment design: Latin square and crossed subject and items

Two important properties of these data are worth noticing.

- Latin square design
- Crossed subjects and items

Latin-square design

First, the design is the classic repeated measure Latin square set-up. To see what this means, first look at the number of subjects and items, and the number of rows in the data frame:

```
## [1] 42
length(unique(df_gg05_rc$item))
## [1] 16
dim(df_gg05_rc)[1]
```

length(unique(df_gg05_rc\$subj))

There are 42 subjects and 16 items. There are $42 \times 16 = 672$ rows in the data frame.

[1] 672

Latin-square design

Notice also that each subject sees exactly eight object gap and eight subject gap sentences:

```
head(xtabs(~subj+condition,df_gg05_rc),n=4)
```

```
## condition
## subj objgap subjgap
## 1 8 8
## 2 8 8
## 3 8 8
## 4 8 8
```

Latin-square design

Table 1: The Latin-square design in repeated measures experiments.

item id	group 1	group 2
1	objgap	subjgap
2	subjgap	objgap
3	objgap	subjgap
4	subjgap	objgap
:	:	:
16	subjgap	objgap

Latin-square design: Ensuring balance

```
sample(rep(c("order1","order2"),11))

## [1] "order2" "order2" "order1" "order1" "order2" "order2"

## [9] "order1" "order1" "order1" "order1" "order2"

## [17] "order1" "order2" "order2" "order2" "order2"

Latin square designs are used in planned experiments because they are optimal in several ways.
```

Latin-square design: Generating fake data

```
library(MASS)
##
## Attaching package: 'MASS'
## The following object is masked from 'package:dplyr':
##
## select
nitem <- 16
nsubj <- 42
## prepare data frame for two condition in a latin square des
g1<-data.frame(item=1:nitem,
                 cond=rep(c("objgap", "subjgap"), nitem/2))
g2<-data.frame(item=1:nitem,
                 cond=rep(c("subjgap", "objgap"), nitem/2))
```

Latin-square design: Generating fake data

```
## assemble data frame in long format:
gp1<-g1[rep(seq len(nrow(g1)),
              nsubj/2),]
gp2<-g2[rep(seq_len(nrow(g2)),
              nsubj/2),]
fakedat <- rbind (gp1,gp2)
dim(fakedat) ## sanity check
## [1] 672 2
fakedat$subj<-rep(1:nsubj,each=nitem) ## add subjects</pre>
fakedat<-fakedat[,c(3,1,2)]
fakedat$so<-ifelse(fakedat$cond=="objgap",1,-1)
```

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Latin-square design: Generating fake data

head(fakedat, n=16)

For example, subject 1 sees the following conditions and items:

```
##
      subj item
                  cond so
## 1
                   objgap 1
## 2
               2 subjgap -1
               3 objgap 1
## 3
## 4
               4 subjgap -1
## 5
               5 objgap 1
## 6
               6 subjgap -1
## 7
               7 objgap 1
## 8
               8 subjgap -1
## 9
                   objgap 1
## 10
              10 subjgap -1
              11
## 11
                   objgap
##
              19 suhigan -1
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```

Fully crossed subjects and items

In the data, because of the Latin square design, each subject sees exactly one item in one of the two conditions:

```
xtabs(~subj+item,df_gg05_rc)
##
          item
##
##
##
       3
       4
##
##
       5
##
##
       8
##
##
       9
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```

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The implied generative model

The above design implies a particular statistical model that takes us beyond the linear model.

To remind you, a simple linear model of the above data would be:

$$y \sim Normal(\alpha + \beta * so, \sigma)$$
 (1)

Here, object gaps are coded +1, subject gaps -1. See Schad et al. (2019) for an explanation of contrast coding.

df_gg05_rc\$so<-ifelse(df_gg05_rc\$condition=="objgap",1,-1)

The implied generative model

As figure 1 shows, a Normal likelihood doesn't seem well motivated, so we will use the log-normal.

Grodner and Gibson Expt 1

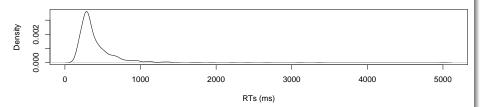


Figure 1: Distribution of reading times in the Grodner and Gibson Experiment 1 data, at the critical region.

The implied generative model

$$y \sim LogNormal(\alpha + \beta * so, \sigma)$$

Between subject variability in mean reading time

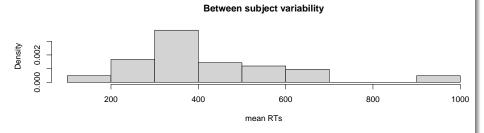


Figure 2: Between subject variability in mean reading times.

Between subject variability in mean reading time

In the linear model, we can express the assumption that the grand mean intercept α needs an adjustment by subject.

Here, subj[n]=subject id in n-th row of data.

$$y_n \sim LogNormal(\alpha + u_{subj[n],1]} + \beta * so_n, \sigma)$$
 (3)

where we now have two sources of variance:

- within subject: σ
- between subject variance in mean reading times: $u_{subi[n],1} \sim Normal(0, \sigma_{u1})$

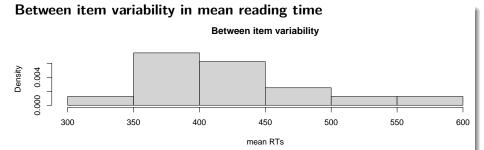


Figure 3: Between item variability in mean reading times.

Between item variability in mean reading time

For items ranging from $j=1,\dots,16$, we can add this assumption to the model:

$$y_n \sim LogNormal(\alpha + u_{subj[n],1} + w_{item[n],1} + \beta * so_n, \sigma)$$
 (4)

where there are now three variance components:

- $\sigma \sim Normal(0, \sigma)$
- $u_{subj[n],1} \sim Normal(0, \sigma_{subj[n],1})$
- between item variability in mean reading time,

$$w_{item[n],1} \sim Normal(0, \sigma_{w1})$$

This model is called a *varying intercepts model* with crossed varying intercepts for subjects and for items.

Between subject and between item variability in objgap cost

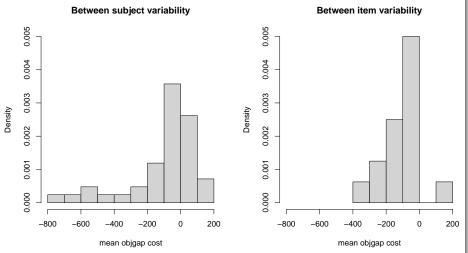


Figure 4: Between subject and item variability in object gap vs subject gap

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Between subject and between item variability in objgap cost

We can incorporate this assumption into the model by adding adjustments to the β parameter:

$$y_n \sim LogNormal(\alpha + u_{subj[n],1} + w_{item[n],1} + (\beta + u_{subj[n],2} + w_{item[n],1}) * so_n, \sigma)$$
(5)
where

- σ
 - $u_{subj[n],1} \sim Normal(0, \sigma_{u1})$
 - $u_{subj[n],2} \sim Normal(0, \sigma_{u2})$
 - $w_{item[n],1} \sim Normal(0, \sigma_{w1})$
 - $w_{item[n],2} \sim Normal(0, \sigma_{w2})$

This is called the *varying intercepts and slopes* model with *no correlation* between the intercepts and slopes.

The "maximal" model

- There is one detail still missing in the model: the adjustments to the intercept and slope are correlated for subjects, and also for items.
- In other words, we have a bivariate distribution for the subject and item random effects:

The "maximal" model

$$y_n \sim LogNormal(\alpha + u_{subj[n],1} + w_{item[n],1} + (\beta + u_{subj[n],2} + w_{item[n],2}) * so_n, \sigma)$$
(6)

where we have variance components: $\sigma \sim \textit{Normal}(0,1)$ and

$$\Sigma_{u} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{u1}^{2} & \rho_{u}\sigma_{u1}\sigma_{u2} \\ \rho_{u}\sigma_{u1}\sigma_{u2} & \sigma_{u2}^{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \Sigma_{w} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{w1}^{2} & \rho_{w}\sigma_{w1}\sigma_{w2} \\ \rho_{w}\sigma_{w1}\sigma_{w2} & \sigma_{w2}^{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \Sigma_u \right), \quad \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \Sigma_w \right)$$
 (8)

The maximal model

This is a varying intercepts and slopes model with fully specified variance-covariance matrices for the subject and item random effects. It is sometimes called the **maximal model** (Barr et al. 2013).

Implementing the model

The above model is simple to implement in the Bayesian framework.

Specify and visualize priors

Define some priors first:

- \bullet $\alpha \sim Normal(0, 10)$
- 2 $\beta \sim Normal(0,1)$
- 3 Residual standard deviation: $\sigma \sim Normal_+(0,1)$
- 4 All other standard deviations are also: $Normal_{+}(0,1)$
- **5** Correlation matrix: $\rho \sim LKJcorr(2)$.

The LKJ prior on the correlation matrix

- In this model, we assume that the vector $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, u_2 \rangle$ comes from a bivariate normal distribution with a variance-covariance matrix Σ_u .
- This matrix has the variances of the adjustment to the intercept and to the slope respectively along the diagonal, and the covariance on the off-diagonals.

The LKJ prior on the correlation matrix

• Recall that the covariance Cov(X, Y) between two variables X and Y is defined as the product of their correlation ρ and their standard deviations σ_X and σ_Y , such that, $Cov(X, Y) = \rho \sigma_X \sigma_Y$.

$$\mathbf{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{u}} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{u_1}^2 & \rho_{u}\sigma_{u_1}\sigma_{u_2} \\ \rho_{u}\sigma_{u_1}\sigma_{u_2} & \sigma_{u_2}^2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{9}$$

The LKJ prior on the correlation matrix

The covariance matrix can be decomposed into a vector of standard deviations and a correlation matrix. The correlation matrix looks like this:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \rho_u \\ \rho_u & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{10}$$

The LKJ prior on the correlation matrix

In Stan, we write a matrix that has 0's on the off-diagonals as:

$$diag_matrix(\sigma_{u_1}, \sigma_{u_2}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{u_1} & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{u_2} \end{pmatrix}$$
 (11)

This means that we can decompose the covariance matrix into three parts:

$$\Sigma_{\mathbf{u}} = \operatorname{diag_matrix}(\sigma_{u_1}, \sigma_{u_2}) \cdot \rho_{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \operatorname{diag_matrix}(\sigma_{u_1}, \sigma_{u_2})
= \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{u_1} & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{u_2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \rho_{u} \\ \rho_{u} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{u_1} & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{u_2} \end{pmatrix}$$
(12)

The LKJ prior on the correlation matrix

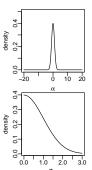
So we need priors for the σ_u 's and for ρ_u :

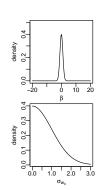
- The basic idea of the LKJ prior is that its parameter (usually called eta, η , here it has value 2) increases, the prior increasingly concentrates around the unit correlation matrix (i.e., favors smaller correlation: ones in the diagonals and values close to zero in the lower and upper triangles).
- At $\eta=1$, the LKJ correlation distribution is uninformative (similar to Beta(1,1)), at $\eta<1$, it favors extreme correlations (similar to Beta(a<1,b<1)).

Visualize the priors

As always, it is a good idea to visualize these priors. See Figure 5.

Visualize the priors





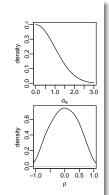


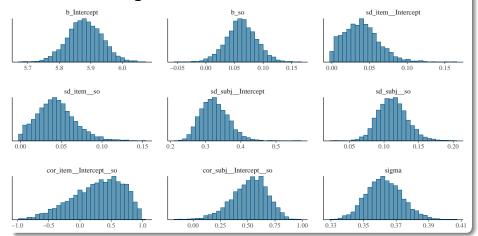
Figure 5: Priors for the Godner and Gibson data.

Fit the model using brms

```
priors <- c(set prior("normal(0, 10)",</pre>
                       class = "Intercept"),
                       set prior("normal(0, 1)",
                                  class = "b".
                                  coef = "so").
                       set_prior("normal(0, 1)",
                                  class = "sd").
                       set_prior("normal(0, 1)",
                                  class = "sigma"),
                       set_prior("lkj(2)",
                                  class = "cor"))
```

Fit the model using brms

Fit the model using brms



Fit the model using brms

Look at the posterior distributions of the parameters on the log ms scale (for the coefficients and standard deviations). Notice that

- The object relative takes longer to read than the subject relative, as predicted. We know this because the parameter b_so is positive.
- The largest sources of variance are the subject intercepts, slopes, and the residual standard deviation. Look at the sd_subject parameters, and sigma.
- The by-item variance components are relatively small. Look at the sd_item parameters.
- The correlations have very wide uncertainty—the prior is dominating in determining the posteriors as there isn't that much data to obtain accurate estimates of these parameters. Look at the cor parameters.

Examine by subject random effects visually

First, extract the posterior samples of the parameters that we will need to compute individual differences.

```
library(bayesplot)
```

```
postgg<-posterior_samples(m_gg)
## extract variances:
alpha<-postgg$b_Intercept
beta<-postgg$b_so
cor<-posterior_samples(m_gg,"^cor")
sd<-posterior_samples(m_gg,"^sd")
sigma<-posterior_samples(m_gg,"sigma")</pre>
```

Examine by subject random effects visually

By subject slope adjustments

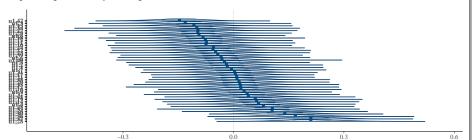


Figure 6: Variability in subject slope adjustments in the Grodner and Gibson data.

By subject slope adjustments

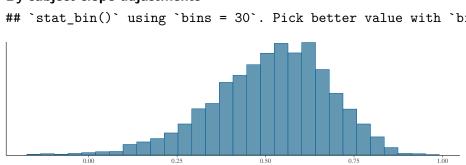


Figure 7: Posterior distributions of subject varying intercept and slope correlation parameter in the Grodner and Gibson data.

cor subj Intercept so

Examine mean and individual differences on the raw ms scale

It is useful to see the effects on the raw ms scale. The log ms scale is difficult to interpret.

Mean difference

```
exp(mean(alpha)+mean(beta))-exp(mean(alpha)-mean(beta))
## [1] 44.34243

meandiff<- exp(alpha + beta) - exp(alpha - beta)
  (mndiff<-mean(meandiff))

## [1] 44.80194

(diffq<-round(quantile(meandiff,prob=c(0.025,0.975)),0))

## 2.5% 97.5%
## 5 85</pre>
```

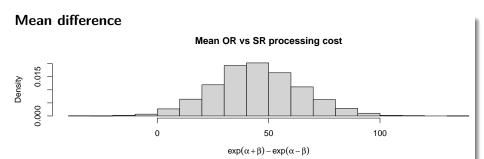


Figure 8: Mean OR processing cost effect in the Grodner and Gibson data.

Individual effects of OR processing cost

Individual effects of OR processing cost

```
for(i in 1:42){
  hist(subjdiff[,i],xlim=c(min(subjdiff),
                           max(subjdiff)),
       vlim=c(0,0.02),
       main=paste("subj",colnames(subjdiff)[i],sep=" "),freq=
  abline(v=mndiff)
  abline(v=diffq[1],lty=2)
  abline(v=diffq[2],lty=2)
  Sys.sleep(.5)
```

Individual effects of OR processing cost

This illustrates a point that Blastland and Spiegelhalter (2014) make: "The average is an abstraction. The reality is variation."

The Grodner and Gibson (2005) data also has question-response accuracies: 1 if the response to a question following the sentence was correct, 0 otherwise. We show only the relevant columns below:

```
head(df_gg05_rc[,c(1,2,3,4,6)])
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 \times 5
##
     subj item condition
                             RT qcorrect
     <int> <int> <chr>
                           <int>
                                    <int>
##
                             320
## 1
               1 objgap
               2 subjgap
                            424
## 2
## 3
               3 objgap
                            309
## 4
              4 subjgap
                            274
               5 objgap
                            333
## 5
               6 subjgap
                             266
## 6
```

One could aggregate the accuracy by item, and then just fit a hierarchical linear model:

```
library(lme4)
mqlmer<-lmer(p~so+(1|subj),q df)
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
summary(mqlmer)
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: p ~ so + (1 | subj)
##
     Data: q df
##
## REML criterion at convergence: -97.6
##
## Scaled residuals:
       Min
                 1Q Median
                                   3Q
                                           Max
##
## -3.03723 -0.77697 -0.07063 0.91823 1.20076
```

##

Think about the generative process; a 0,1 response is best seen as generated by a Bernoulli distribution with probability of success p: response \sim Bernoulli(p). This is the same as a Binomial process, with one trial.

One can therefore model each 0,1 response as being generated from a Bernoulli distribution, which is just a Binomial with a single trial. Thus, what is of interest is the probability of correct responses in subject vs object relatives:

```
## objgap subjgap
## 88 85
```

We will transform the probability p of a correct response to a log-odds:

$$\log \frac{p}{1-p} \tag{13}$$

and assume that the log-odds of a correct response is affected by the relative clause type:

$$\log \frac{p}{1-p} = \alpha + \beta * so \tag{14}$$

This model is called a *logistic* regression because it uses the logistic or logit function to transform p to log odds space. Notice that there is no residual term in this model.

We can fit the above model easily using brms:

Start sampling

```
summary(m_gg_q1)
```

Obviously, because the question-response data are also repeated measures, we must use a hierarchical linear model, with varying intercepts and slopes for subject and item, as in Example 1:

```
## Compiling Stan program...
```

Start sampling

```
summary(m_gg_q2)
```

This model is not especially good because many of the response accuracies are at ceiling. However, in principle this kind of model is appropriate for binary responses.

Convert posteriors back to probability space

What is theoretically important is the posterior distribution of the difference between object and subject relative response accuracy. That is on the probability scale. We can go from log-odds space to probability space by solving this equation for p.

Using simple algebra, we can go from:

$$\log \frac{p}{1-p} = \alpha + \beta * so = \mu \tag{15}$$

to:

$$p = \exp(\mu)/(1 + \exp(\mu)) \tag{16}$$

Convert posteriors back to probability space

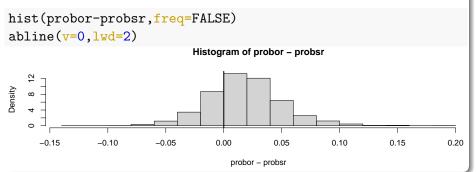
For object gap sentences, the factor so is coded as 1, so we have $\mu=\alpha+\beta$. For subject gap sentences, so is coded as -1, so we have $\mu=\alpha-\beta$. Therefore, we just need to plug in the expression for μ for object and subject relatives.

We can now straightforwardly plot the posterior distribution of the difference between object and subject relatives. We see that there isn't any important difference between the two relative clause types.

Convert posteriors back to probability space

```
postq<-posterior_samples(m_gg_q2)
alpha<-postq$b_Intercept
beta<-postq$b_so
mu_or<-alpha+beta
probor<-exp(mu_or)/(1+exp(mu_or))
mu_sr<-alpha-beta
probsr<-exp(mu_sr)/(1+exp(mu_sr))</pre>
```

Convert posteriors back to probability space



References

- Barr, Dale J, Roger Levy, Christoph Scheepers, and Harry J Tily. 2013. "Random Effects Structure for Confirmatory Hypothesis Testing: Keep It Maximal." Journal of Memory and Language 68 (3): 255–78.
- Blastland, Michael, and David Spiegelhalter. 2014. The Norm Chronicles: Stories and Numbers about Danger and Death. Basic Books (AZ).
- Grodner, Daniel, and Edward Gibson. 2005. "Consequences of the Serial Nature of Linguistic Input." *Cognitive Science* 29: 261–90.
- Schad, Daniel J., Sven Hohenstein, Shravan Vasishth, and Reinhold Kliegl. 2019. "How to Capitalize on a Priori Contrasts in Linear (Mixed)