

The rise and rise of joint species distribution models (JSDMs) in ecology

Francis K.C. Hui Australian National University

Multivariate abundance data

Gen 1: MGLMM

Gen 2: Latent variables/factor analysis

Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

Closing thoughts

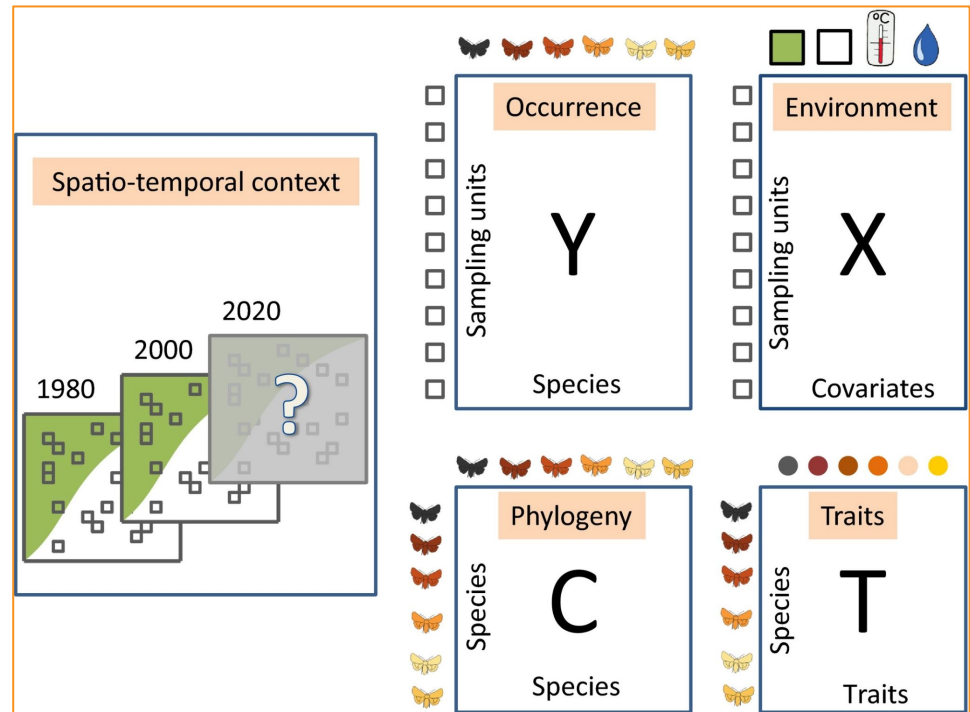


Disclaimer

- This is an opinionated review/perspective talk, so you will see a decent chunk of my and my collaborators' works
 - Apologies for this!
 - Thank you to all who have/continue to inspire me to work on JSDMs

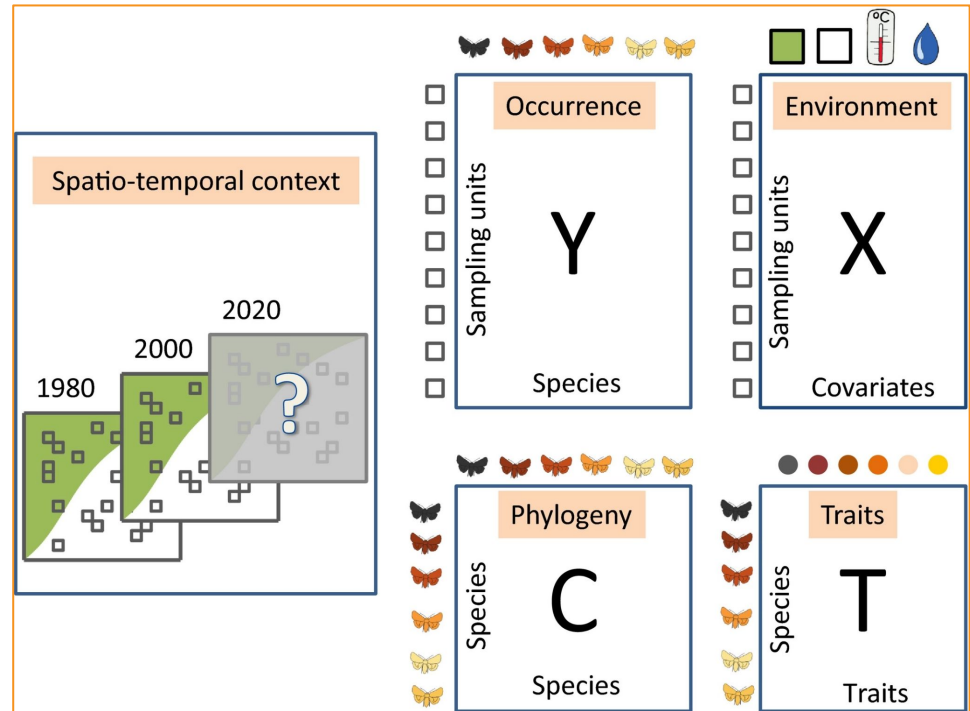


Multivariate abundance data



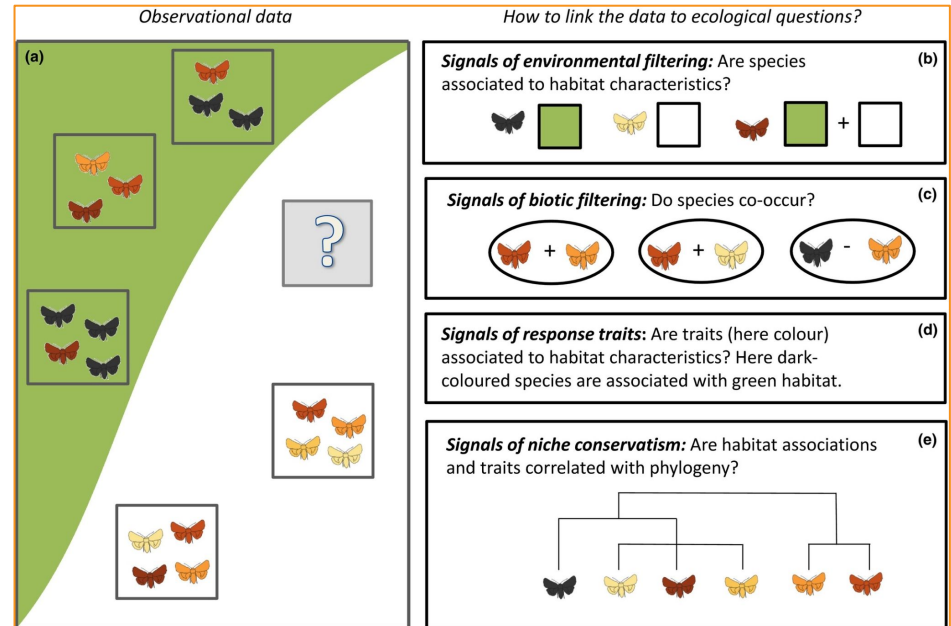
Multivariate abundance data

- Some common features:
 - Multiple correlated responses (high-dimensional)
 - Non-continuous responses with evident mean-variance relationship
 - Non-linear Y-X relationships



Question/s of interests

- Depends on the data you have:
 - (a) is a multivariate prediction problem
 - (b) -> how is Y and X related?
 - (c) -> how are the columns of Y related?
 - (d) + (e) -> how do T & C mediate/drive the Y-X relationship?



Enter the joint species distribution model

- Loosely speaking, a joint species distribution model (JSDM) refers to a statistical method that **simultaneously models all species**
 - Accounts for the fact that species may be correlated with each other (after adjusting for measured predictor)
 - A single, potentially high-dimensional log-likelihood function**
 - The sources of this (residual) correlation could be many...

Global Ecology and Biogeography | A Journal of Macroecology

RESEARCH REVIEWS | Full Access

Biotic interactions in species distribution modelling: 10 questions to guide interpretation and avoid false conclusions

Carsten F. Dormann, Maria Bobrowski, D. Matthias Dehling, David J. Harris, Florian Hartig, Heike Lischke, Marco D. Moretti, Jörn Pagel, Stefan Pinkert, Matthias Schleuning, Susanne I. Schmidt, Christine S. Sheppard, Manuel J. Steinbauer, Dirk Zeuss, Casper Kraan ... [See fewer authors](#)

First published: 24 July 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.12759> | Citations: 109

Global Ecology and Biogeography | Volume 27, Issue 9 | September 2018 | Pages 1004-1016

This article also appears in: Most Accessed Papers of 2018

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Trends in Ecology & Evolution | CellPress

Volume 36, Issue 5, May 2021, Pages 391-401

Opinion

On the Interpretations of Joint Modeling in Community Ecology

Giovanni Poggiato^{1,2}, Tamara Münkemüller¹, Daria Bystrova^{1,2}, Julian Arbel², James S. Clark^{3,4,5}, Wilfried Thuiller¹

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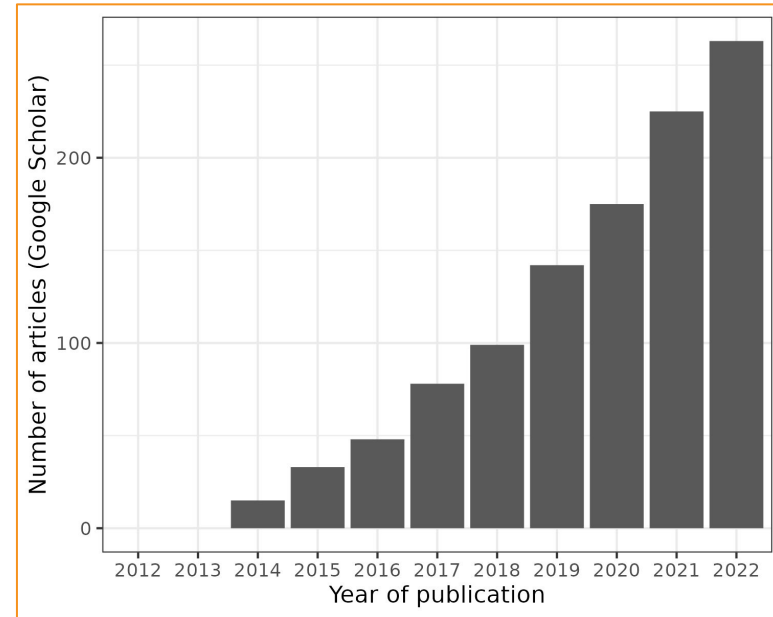
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Enter the joint species distribution model

- Loosely speaking, a joint species distribution model (JSDM) refers to a statistical method that **simultaneously models all species**
 - Accounts for the fact that species may be correlated with each other (after adjusting for measured predictor)
 - **A single, potentially high-dimensional log-likelihood function**
 - The sources of this (residual) correlation could be many...
- JSDMs are basically a counterpart to stacked species distribution models (SSDMs), which model each species separately
 - Log-likelihood function comprises the sum of independent species contributions e.g., fit a GLM/GAM/GLMM/ML etc...to each species

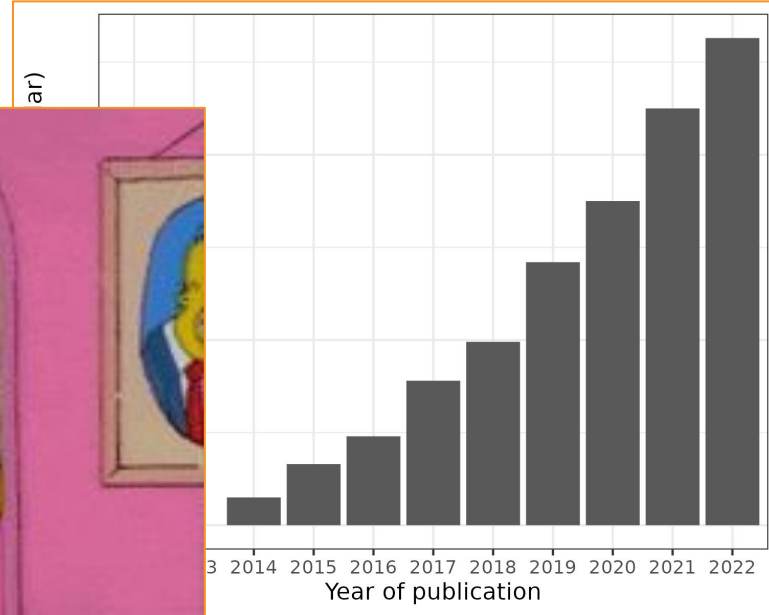
Enter the joint species distribution model

- A Google Scholar search of four key JSDM phrases (as of 23 November 2022)
 - Joint species distribution models
 - Model-based ordination
 - Joint dynamic species distribution models
 - Hierarchical modeling of species communities
- This is probably an underestimate of JSDM's rise...




Enter the joint species distribution model



- A Google Scholar search of four key JSDM phrases (as of 8 October 2022)
 - Joint spec
 - Model-base
 - Joint dyna
models
 - Hierarchic
communitie
- This is probably
JSDM's rise...




Gen 1: MGLMMs

- Multivariate generalized linear mixed model (MGLMM)
 - Model residual between-species correlations using a multivariate random intercept


Methods in Ecology and Evolution  BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Understanding co-occurrence by modelling species simultaneously with a Joint Species Distribution Model (JSDM)

Laura J. Pollock, Reid Tingley, William K. Morris, Nick Golding, Robert B. O'Hara, Kirsten M. Parris, Peter A. Vesik, Michael A. McCarthy 

First published: 15 March 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12180> | Citations: 335



Volume 5, Issue 5
May 2014
Pages 397-406

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More than the sum of the parts: forest climate response from joint species distribution models

James S. Clark, Alan E. Gelfand, Christopher W. Woodall, Kai Zhu

First published: 01 July 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1890/13-1015.1> | Citations: 136

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Corresponding Editor: D. S. Schimel.



Volume 24, Issue 5
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Gen 1: MGLMMs

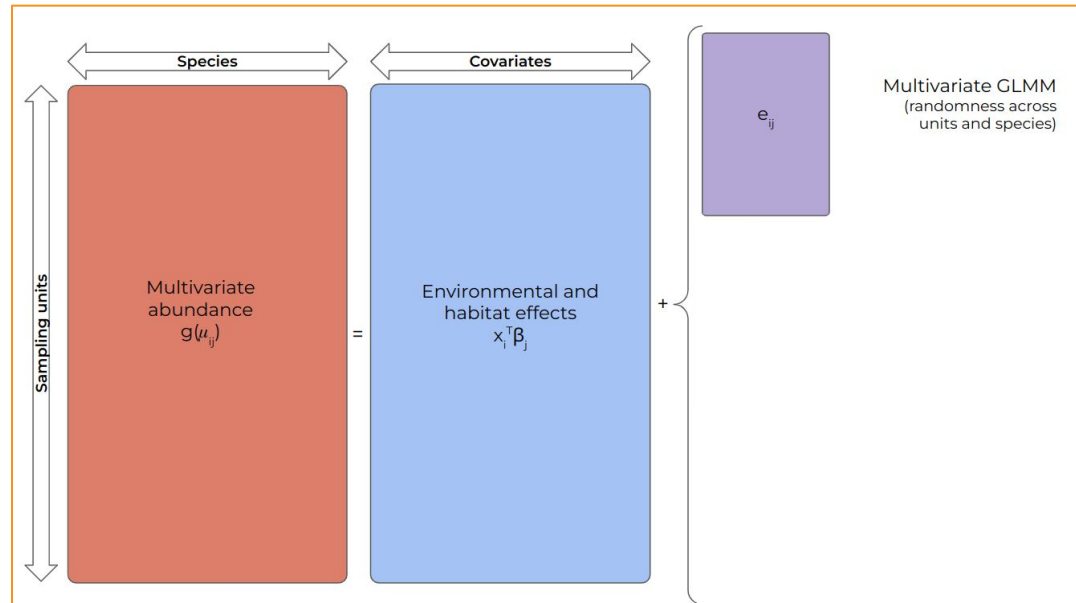
- Multivariate generalized linear mixed model (MGLMM)
 - Model residual between-species correlations using a multivariate random intercept
 - Exponential family is being used “loosely” here to cover many response distributions

Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of observational units $i = 1, \dots, N$, along with measured covariates \mathbf{x}_i . Then a vanilla JSMD is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}g(\mu_{ij}) &= \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + e_{ij} \\[e_i] &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \\[y_{ij} | e_i] &= \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \boldsymbol{\phi}_j) \\ \ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \log \left(\int \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_{ij} | \mu_{ij}, \boldsymbol{\phi}_j) f(e_i) de_i \right)\end{aligned}$$

Gen 1: MGLMMs

- Multivariate generalized linear mixed model (MGLMM)
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Gen 1: MGLMMs

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 - Model residual between-species correlations using a multivariate random intercept
 - Exponential family is being used “loosely” here to cover many response distributions
 - Pretty flexible (at least for correlations/symmetric associations)
 - Number of parameters scale as m^2 , so great if m is not large (compared to N)
 - Lots of random effects, scaling as Nm

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Gen 1: MGLMMs

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 - Pretty flexible (at least for correlations/symmetric associations)
 - Number of parameters scale as m^2 , so great if m is not large (compared to N)
 - Lots of random effects, scaling as Nm
- Largely overtaken by Gen 2 JSDMs, but advances continue to be made...
 - Translating ideas from sparse graphical model/network/ML literature



Methods in Ecology and Evolution BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RESEARCH ARTICLE Open Access

A new joint species distribution model for faster and more accurate inference of species associations from big community data

Maximilian Pichler ✉ Florian Hartig

First published: 28 July 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13687>
Citations: 5

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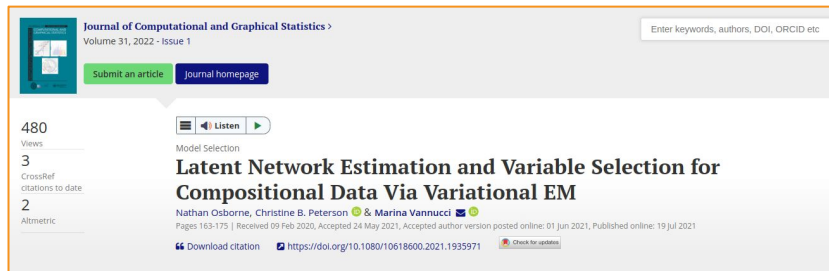
Handling Editor: Gavin Simpson

Volume 12, Issue 11
November 2021
Pages 2159-2173

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Using joint species distribution models for evaluating how species-to-species associations depend on the environmental context



Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics
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Latent Network Estimation and Variable Selection for Compositional Data Via Variational EM


Nathan Osborne, Christine B. Peterson ✉ & Marina Vannucci ✉

Pages 163-175 | Received 09 Feb 2020, Accepted 24 May 2021, Accepted author version posted online: 01 Jun 2021, Published online: 19 Jul 2021

[Download citation](#) <https://doi.org/10.1080/10618600.2021.1935971> [Check for updates](#)

Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
 - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction

Trends in Ecology & Evolution 

Volume 30, Issue 12, December 2015, Pages 766-779

Review

So Many Variables: Joint Modeling in Community Ecology

David I. Warton¹, F. Guillaume Blanchet², Robert B. O'Hara³, Otso Ovaskainen^{4,5}, Sara Taskinen⁶, Steven C. Walker², Francis K.C. Hui⁷

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2015.09.007> [Get rights and content](#)

Published: 24 August 2017

Generalized Linear Latent Variable Models for Multivariate Count and Biomass Data in Ecology

[Jenni Niku](#), [David I. Warton](#), [Francis K. C. Hui](#) & [Sara Taskinen](#)

Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics **22**, 498–522 (2017) | [Cite this article](#)

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Methods in Ecology and Evolution 

Research Article [Free Access](#)

Generating realistic assemblages with a joint species distribution model

David J. Harris

First published: 05 January 2015 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12332> | Citations: 80

 **Volume 6, Issue 4**
April 2015
Pages 465-473

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Defining and evaluating

Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

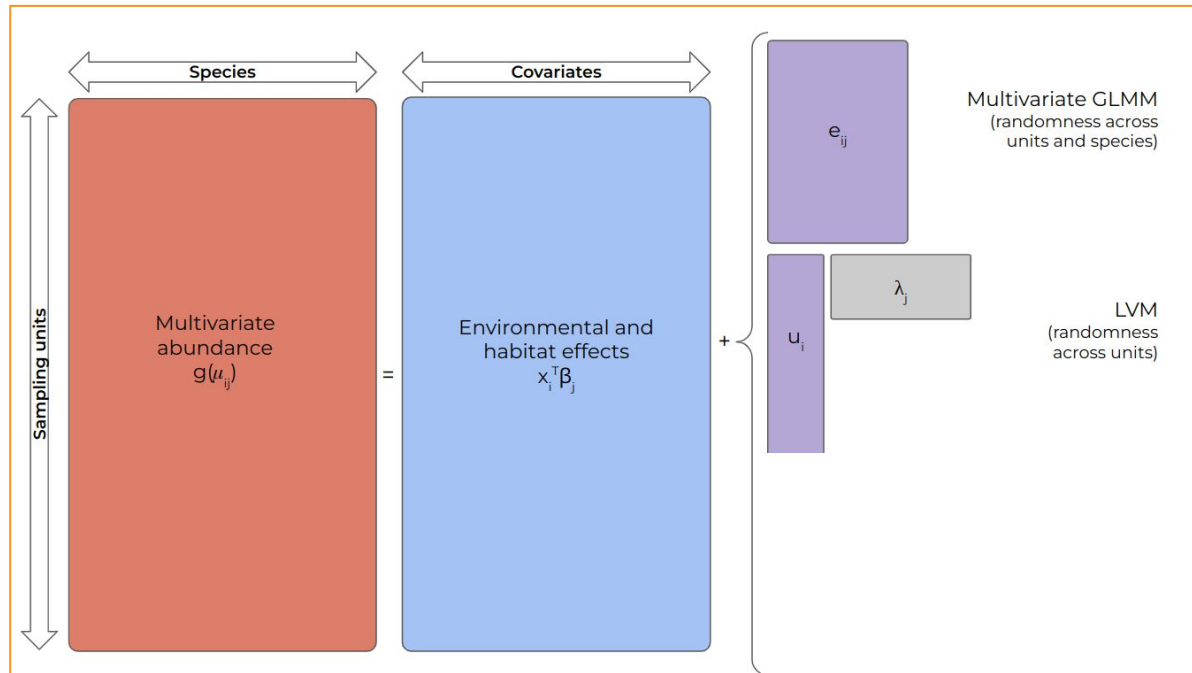
- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
 - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction

Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of observational units $i = 1, \dots, N$, along with covariates \mathbf{x}_i . Then a (basic) LVM is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}g(\mu_{ij}) &= \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j \\[\mathbf{u}_i] &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); \quad d \ll m \\[y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] &= \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j); \quad \text{Cov}(\eta_{ij}, \eta_{ij'}) = \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{j'} \\ \ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \log \left(\int \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_{ij} | \mu_{ij}, \phi_j) f(\mathbf{u}_i) d\mathbf{u}_i \right)\end{aligned}$$

Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
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Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

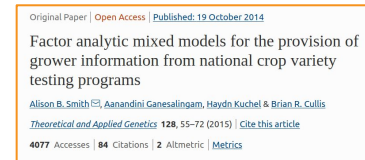
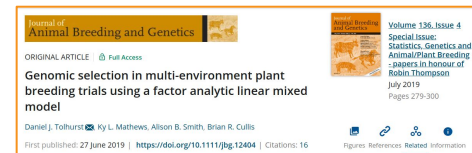
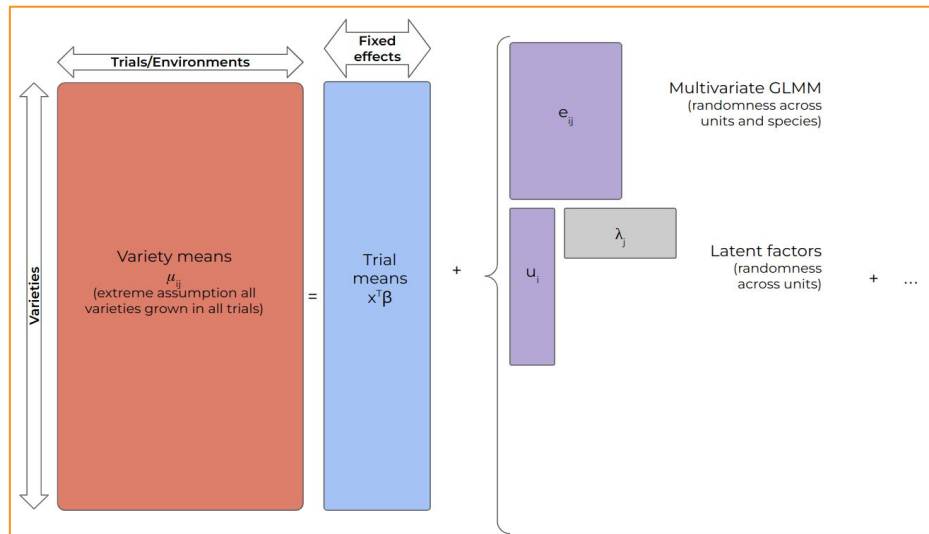
- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
 - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction
 - Less flexible than MGLMMs, but probably good enough in most scenarios?
 - Number of parameters scales as m , so can handle (a lot) more species
 - Less random effects than MGLMMs, scaling as Nd

Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of observational units $i = 1, \dots, N$, along with covariates \mathbf{x}_i . Then a (basic) LVM is defined as

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Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
 - Model residual between-species correlations using **rank-reduction**
- LVMs are not new news! Examples include psychometrics, agriculture (MET)



Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!



Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
 - Model-based unconstrained/partial/concurrent ordination, when d is small

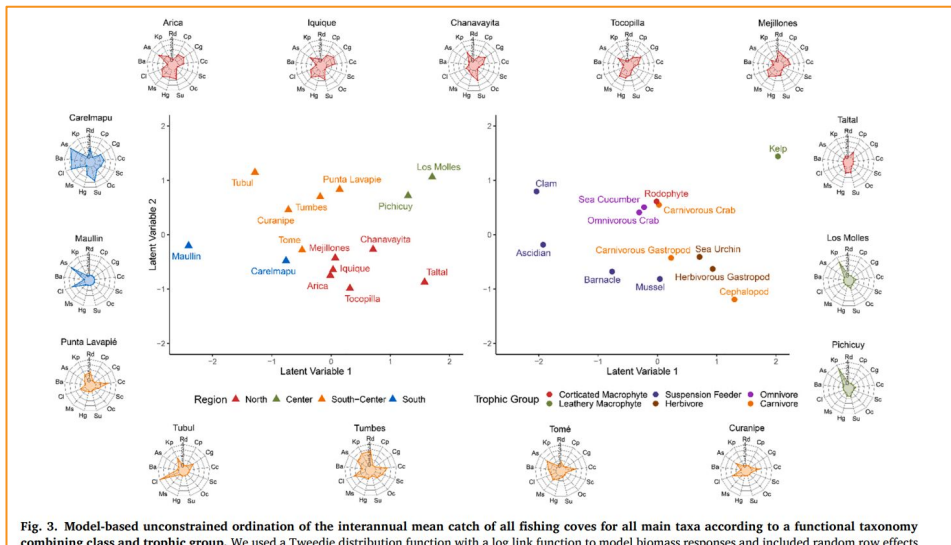
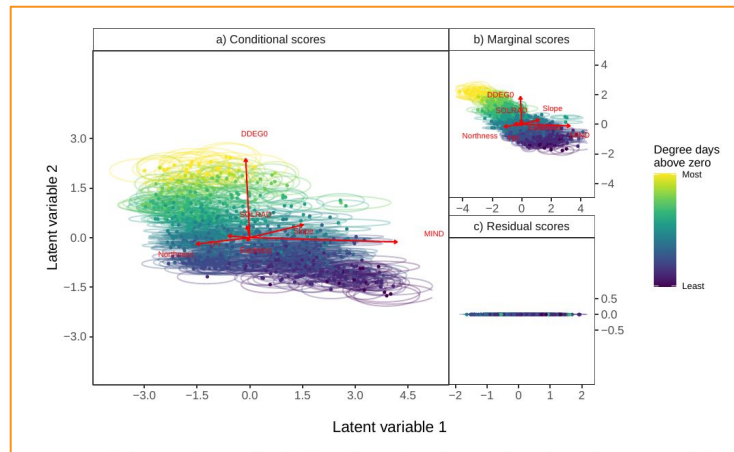


Fig. 3. Model-based unconstrained ordination of the interannual mean catch of all fishing covers for all main taxa according to a functional taxonomy combine class and trophic group. We used a Tweedie distribution function with a log link function to model biomass responses and included random row effects



$$g(\mu_{ij}) = \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{z}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{z}_i^\top \mathbf{D}_j \mathbf{z}_i$$

$$\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{C}^\top \mathbf{x}_{lv,i} + \mathbf{u}_i$$

$$[\mathbf{u}_i] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); d \ll m$$

$$[y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] = \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j)$$

Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
 - Model-based unconstrained/partial/concurrent ordination, when d is small
 - Latent variables interpreted as unobserved environmental predictors
 - Neat interpretation but practically not very useful

Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
 - Model-based unconstrained/partial/concurrent **ordination**, when d is small
 - Latent variables interpreted as unobserved environmental predictors
 - Neat interpretation but practically not very useful
 - **Rank-reduction concept** used in other community ecology contexts
 - Vector autoregressive models; community-level drivers/regulators

Species $j = 1, \dots, m$ at time $t = 1, \dots, T$

$$\log(\mu_{tj}) = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + (\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{c}_j + \mathbf{d}_j)^\top \log(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{t-1}) + \mathbf{u}_t^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j + \delta_j$$

$$\dim(\mathbf{Q}) = m \times q; \dim(\mathbf{c}_j) = q \times 1; q \ll m$$

$$\mathbf{d}_j = (0, 0, \dots, 0, d_j, 0, \dots, 0)$$

$$[\mathbf{u}_t] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); d \ll m$$

$$[\delta_j] = \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

Research article

How are species interactions structured in species-rich communities? A new method for analysing time-series data

Otso Ovaskainen, Gleb Tikhonov, David Dunson, Vidar Grøtan, Steinar Engen, Bernt-Erik Sæther and Nerea Abrego

Published: 24 May 2017 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2017.0768>

Abstract

Estimation of intra- and interspecific interactions from time-series on...

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Spatio-temporal models of intermediate complexity for ecosystem assessments: A new tool for spatial fisheries management

James T. Thorson, Grant Adams, Kirstin Holsman

First published: 25 September 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12398> | Citations: 12

Volume 20, Issue 6
November 2019
Pages 1083-1099

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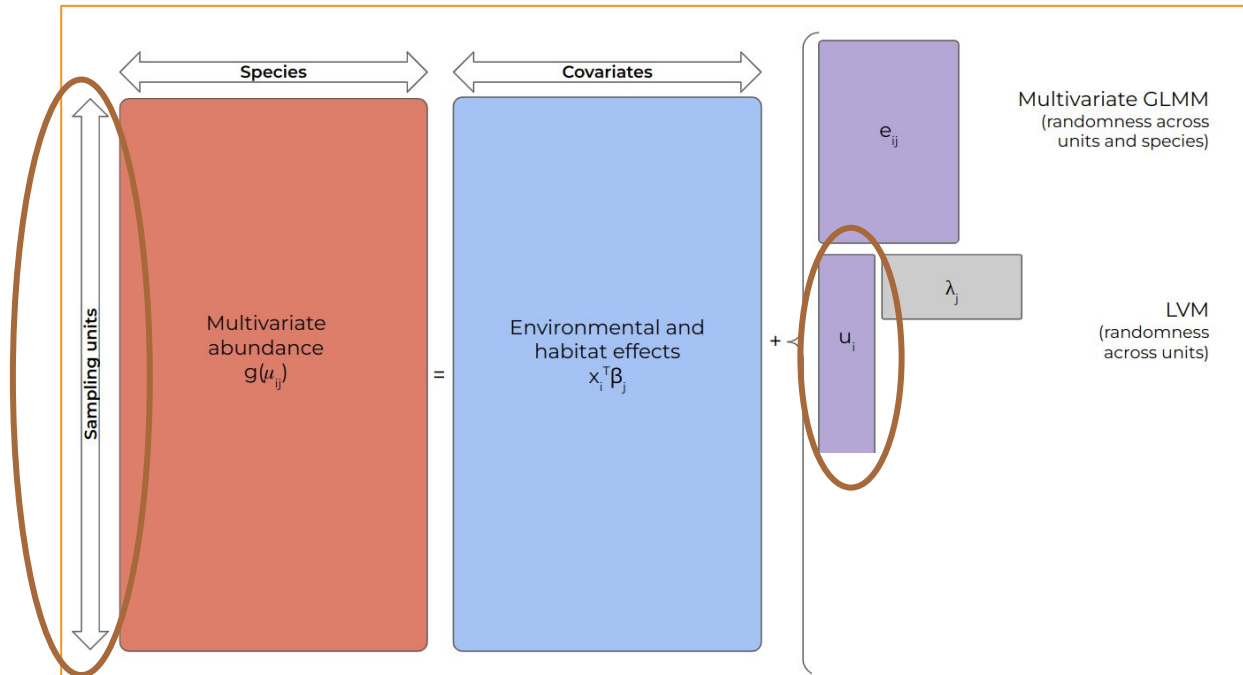
Multispecies fisheries

Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Current JSKM paradigm
 - Make LVMs more flexible and/or computationally more scalable

Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 1: Spatio-temporal LVMs



Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 1: Spatio-temporal LVMs
 - Many flavours e.g., tensor-product or additive LVs, dynamic loadings
 - Faster approximations/algorithms e.g., LVs + SPDE/NNGP/GPP



Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of units $i = 1, \dots, N$, each unit having a space-time coordinate (\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) . Then a (basic) spatio-temporal LVM is defined as

$$g\{\mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)\} = \eta_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j$$

$$[\mathbf{u}_{.,k}] = [\{u_k(\mathbf{s}_1, t_1), \dots, u_k(\mathbf{s}_N, t_N)\}] = \mathcal{N}(0, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{sp} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{time}); \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{sp} \Rightarrow \text{Matern}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k^{sp}), \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{time} \Rightarrow \text{Matern}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k^{time}); k = 1, \dots, d$$

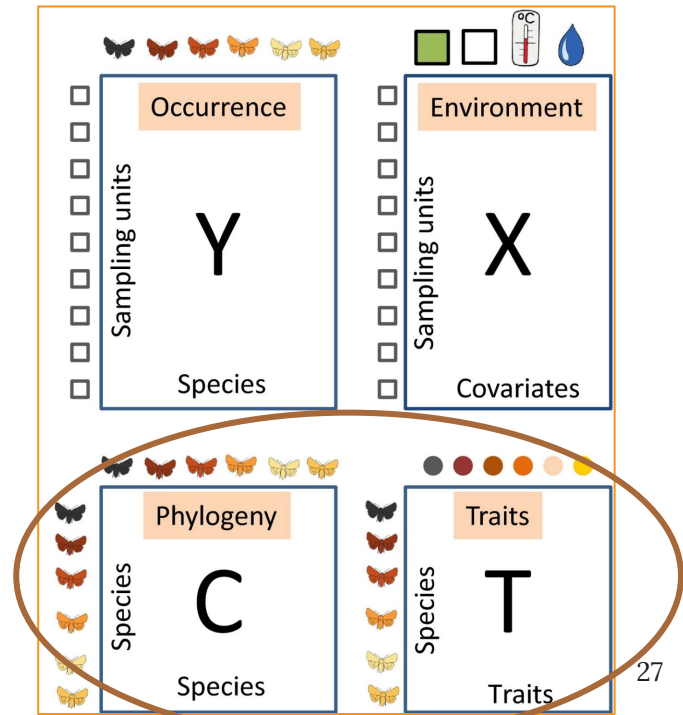
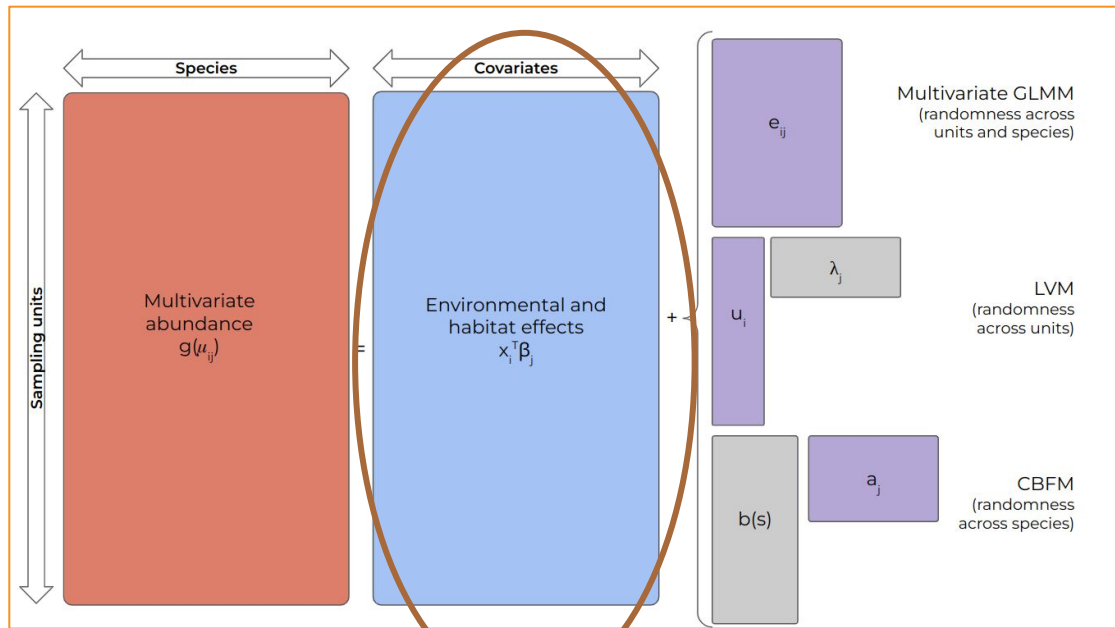
$$[y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] = \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j)$$

$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) = \log \left(\int \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) | \mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i), \phi_j) \prod_{k=1}^d f(\mathbf{u}_{.,k}) \prod_{k=1}^d d\mathbf{u}_{.,k} \right)$$

$$\text{Note Cov}\{\eta_j(\mathbf{s}, t), \eta_{j'}(\mathbf{s}', t')\} = \sum_{k=1}^d \lambda_{jk} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{k,ss'}^{sp} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{k,tt'}^{time} \lambda_{j'k}$$

Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 2: Borrow strength across species



Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 2: Borrow strength across species
 - Traits mediate species mean responses to environment (“fourth-corner” models)
 - Phylogeny drives (dis)similarity in response to environment (phylogenetic LVMs)



Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of observational units $i = 1, \dots, N$, along with a set of p covariates \mathbf{x}_i , an $m \times t$ trait matrix \mathbf{T} , and phylogenetic correlation matrix \mathbf{C} . Then a (basic) hierarchical LVM is defined as

$$g(\mu_{ij}) = \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j$$

$$[(\boldsymbol{\beta}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\beta}_m)] = \mathcal{N}\{\text{vec}(\mathbf{K}\mathbf{T}^\top), \mathbf{V} \otimes (\rho\mathbf{C} + (1 - \rho)\mathbf{I}_m)\}$$

$$\dim(\mathbf{K}) = p \times t; t < p; \dim(\mathbf{V}) = p \times p$$

$$[\mathbf{u}_i] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); d \ll m$$

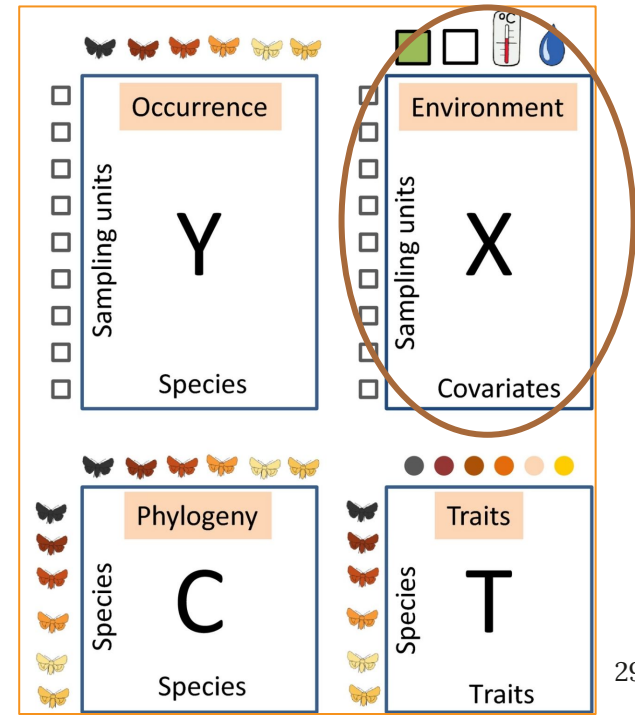
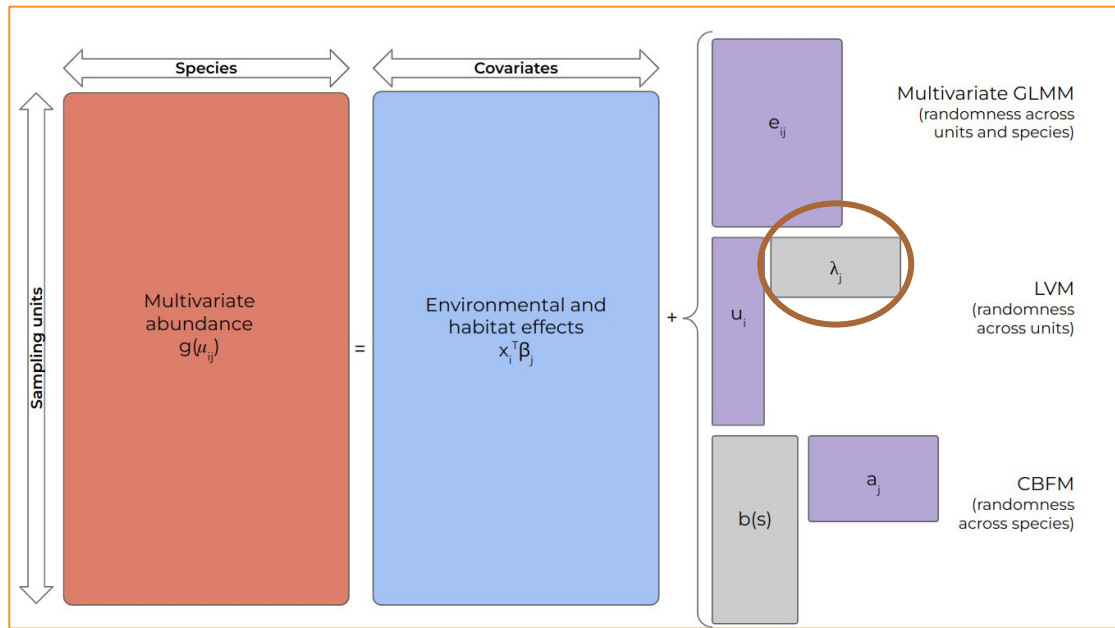
$$[y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] = \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j)$$

$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) = \log \left(\int \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{j=1}^m f(y_{ij} | \mu_{ij}, \phi_j) \prod_{i=1}^N f(\mathbf{u}_i) \prod_{j=1}^m f(\boldsymbol{\beta}_j) \prod_{i=1}^N d\mathbf{u}_i \prod_{j=1}^m d\boldsymbol{\beta}_j \right)$$

Note $\text{Cov}(\eta_{ij}, \eta_{i'j'}) = \rho C_{j,j'} \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x}_{i'} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}_j^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{j'}$ for $j \neq j'$.

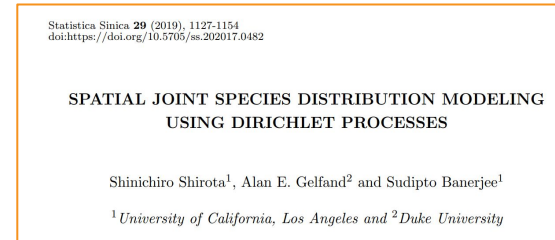
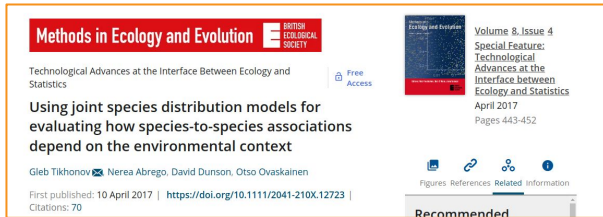
Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 3: Borrow strength across species (in the loadings)



Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- Example 3: Borrow strength across species (in the loadings)
 - Clustering process on the loadings matrix (archetypal species associations)
 - Regress loadings against measured covariates (environment dependent associations)



Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of observational units $i = 1, \dots, N$, along with covariates \mathbf{x}_i . Then a (basic) loading-clustered LVM is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}g(\mu_{ij}) &= \eta_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{u}_i^\top \mathbf{Z}^\top \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{k}_j) \\ \dim(\mathbf{Z}) &= r \times d; \quad r \gg d; \quad \dim\{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{k}_j)\} = N \times 1 \\ [\mathbf{k}_j] &= \mathcal{DP}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \{1, 2, \dots, r\}); \\ [\mathbf{z}_{\cdot l}] &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{W}); \quad l = 1, \dots, r \\ [\mathbf{u}_i] &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d); \quad d \ll m \\ [y_{ij} | \mathbf{u}_i] &= \text{Exp-Fam}(\mu_{ij}, \phi_j) \\ \ell(\boldsymbol{\Psi}) &= \text{I've never seen anyone try to estimate this using MLE!}\end{aligned}$$

Gen 2+: LVMs with all the extras

- There are many other extensions of LVMs, which I do not be cover/know about!

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RESEARCH ARTICLE | [Full Access](#)

Effectiveness of joint species distribution models in the presence of imperfect detection

Stephanie Elizabeth Hogg Yan Wang, Lewi Stone

First published: 12 April 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13614>

Volume 12, Issue 8
August 2021
Pages 1458-1474

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Recommended

arXiv > stat > arXiv:2103.05557

Statistics > Methodology

[Submitted on 9 Mar 2021 (v1), last revised 26 May 2022 (this version, v2)]

Covariate-informed latent interaction models: Addressing geographic & taxonomic bias in predicting bird-plant interactions

Georgia Papadogeorgou, Carolina Bello, Otsu Ovaskainen, David B. Dunson

Climate change and reductions in natural habitats urge that we better understand species' interconnection and how biological communities respond to environmental changes. However, ecological studies of species interactions are limited by imperfect detection and taxonomic bias, which can lead to erroneous representations of species' spatial and distal associations. We

arXiv > stat > arXiv:2204.02707

Statistics > Applications

[Submitted on 6 Apr 2022]

Joint species distribution models with imperfect detection for high-dimensional spatial data

Jeffrey W. Doser, Andrew O. Finley, Sudipto Banerjee

Determining spatial distributions of species and communities are key objectives of ecology and conservation. Joint species distribution models use multi-species detection-nondetection data species and community distributions. The analysis of such data is complicated by residual correlations between species, imperfect detection, and spatial autocorrelation. While methods exist

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Forecasting community reassembly using climate-linked spatio-temporal ecosystem models

James T. Thorson Mayumi L. Arimitsu, Lewis A. K. Barnett, Wei Cheng, Lisa B. Elsner, Alan C. Haynie, Albert J. Hermann ... [See all authors](#)

First published: 27 January 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.05471>

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April 2021
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Some closing remarks/thoughts



Some closing remarks/thoughts

- JSDBMs is a success story of how to translate and sell statistics...
 - Targeted software + relevant interpretations/answers + methods-vs-maths gap

Some closing remarks/thoughts

- JSDBMs is a success story of how to translate and sell statistics...
 - Targeted software + relevant interpretations/answers + methods-vs-maths gap
- Still many gaps in the JSDBMs literature to close. Personal examples include:
 - Directional associations (structural equation modeling)?
 - Where do machine learning techniques come into this?
 - Data integration/fusion in JSDBMs
 - Gen 3: Replacing latent variables with (spatio-temporal) basis functions
 - <https://github.com/fhui28/CBFM>

Home / Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application / Volume 9, 2022 / Cresie

Basis-Function Models in Spatial Statistics

Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application
Vol. 9 - (Volume publication date March 2022)
Review in Advance first posted online on November 18, 2021. (Changes may still occur before final publication.)
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-statistics-060120-020723>

Noel Cresie, Matthew Sainsbury-Dale, and Andrew Zarnit-Mangion
School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales 2522, Australia; email: ncresie@uow.edu.au

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Abstract

Trends in Ecology & Evolution

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REVIEW | VOLUME 35, ISSUE 5, P59-67, JANUARY 01, 2020

Data Integration for Large-Scale Models of Species Distributions

Nick J.B. Isaac · Maria A. Jarzyńska · Peir Keil · Rezo Schumack · Emily G. Simmonds · Robert B. O'Hara · [Show all authors](#)

Open Access · Published: October 29, 2019 · DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.08.006>

[Check for updates](#)

Invited paper | Published: 01 January 2014

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Shohei Shimizu

Behaviormetrika 41, 65-98 (2014) | [Cite this article](#)

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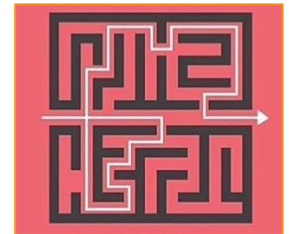
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Some closing remarks/thoughts

- JSDBMs is a success story of how to translate and sell statistics...
 - Targeted software + relevant interpretations/answers + methods-vs-maths gap
- Still many gaps in the JSDBMs literature to close. Personal examples include:
 - Directional associations (structural equation modeling)?
 - Where do machine learning techniques come into this?
 - Data integration/fusion in JSDBMs
 - Gen 3: Replacing latent variables with (spatio-temporal) basis functions
 - <https://github.com/fhui28/CBFM>
- JSDBMs is not the be-all and end-all
 - E.g., Stacked SDMs are still a powerful statistical approach
 - Do not throw the kitchen sink at something that does not need it





Thank you for listening!

Any **questions?**

- francis.hui@anu.edu.au
- <https://francishui.netlify.app/>

The screenshot shows a personal website for Francis K.C. Hui. The navigation bar includes links for Home, Projects, Publications, Software, and Contact. The main content area features a profile picture of a person with dark hair, a bio section titled 'About me' with the text 'I like anime, drinking tea, and occasionally doing some statistics.', a 'Research Interests' section with a bulleted list of topics, and an 'Education' section listing a PhD from 2015 and a BSc/BA with Honours I and a Uni Medal in Statistics from 2012, both from the University of New South Wales. At the bottom, there are icons for email, GitHub, and a CV.

Francis K.C. Hui Home Projects Publications Software Contact

About me
I like anime, drinking tea, and occasionally doing some statistics.

Research Interests

- Alternate likelihood methods for estimation and inference
- Ecological statistics
- Longitudinal, spatio-temporal, and correlated data analysis
- Mixed effects models and estimating equations
- Model selection and dimension reduction
- Semiparametric regression

Education

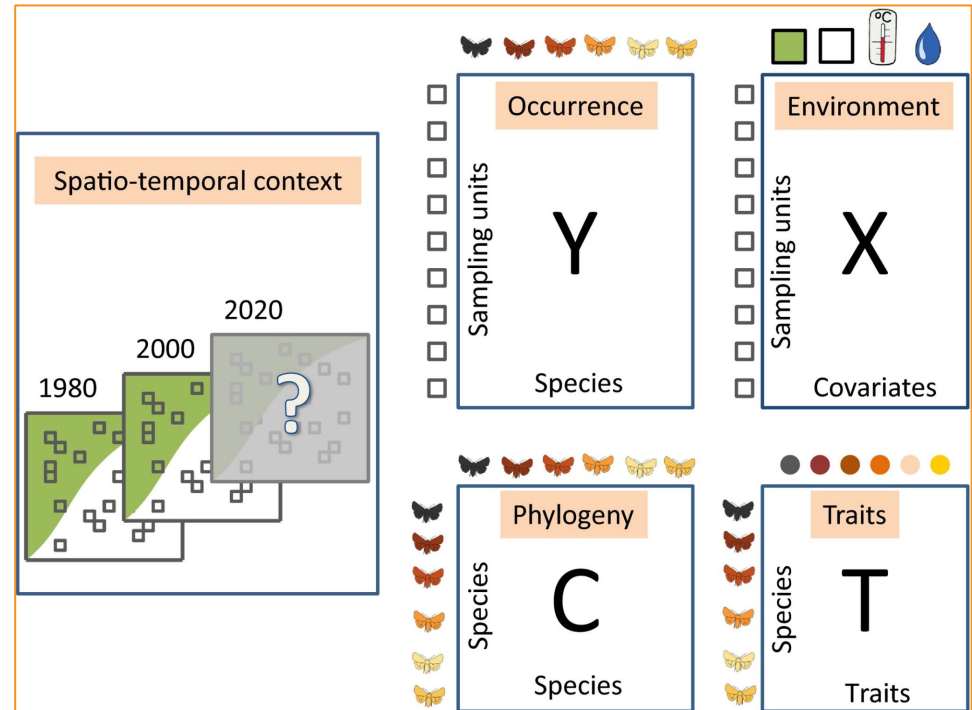
- PhD, 2015
University of New South Wales
- BSc/BA (Honours I, Uni Medal in Statistics), 2012
University of New South Wales

Francis K.C. Hui
Senior Lecturer in Statistics/ARC
DECRA fellow
Australian National University

✉️ GitHub CV

Multivariate abundance data

- Some common features:
 - Multiple correlated responses (high-dimensional)
 - Non-continuous responses with evident mean-variance relationship
 - Non-linear Y-X relationships
- Other features:
 - Spatio-temporal (high-volume)
 - Multiple data sources
 - Background information



Question/s of interests

- Depends on the data you have:
 - (a) is a multivariate prediction problem
 - (b) -> how is Y and X related?
 - (c) -> how are the columns of Y related?
 - (d) + (e) -> how do T & C mediate/drive the Y-X relationship?
- Some other applications:
 - Model-based ordination
 - Bioregionalization

JOURNAL ARTICLE EDITOR'S CHOICE

Bioregions in Marine Environments: Combining Biological and Environmental Data for Management and Scientific Understanding

Skipton N C Woolley ✉, Scott D Foster, Nicholas J Bax, Jock C Currie, Daniel C Dunn, Cecilie Hansen, Nicole Hill, Timothy D O'Hara, Otso Ovaskainen, Roger Sayre ... Show more

BioScience, Volume 70, Issue 1, January 2020, Pages 48–59,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz133>

Published: 18 December 2019

Trends in Ecology & Evolution



Volume 30, Issue 12, December 2015, Pages 766-779

Review

So Many Variables: Joint Modeling in Community Ecology

David I. Warton¹ ✉, F. Guillaume Blanchet², Robert B. O'Hara³, Otso Ovaskainen^{4,5}, Sara Taskinen⁶, Steven C. Walker², Francis K.C. Hui⁷

MOLECULAR ECOLOGY

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Uncovering the drivers of host-associated microbiota with joint species distribution modelling

Johannes R. Björk ✉, Francis K. C. Hui, Robert B. O'Hara, Jose M. Montoya

First published: 14 May 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.14718> | Citations: 25



Volume 27, Issue 12
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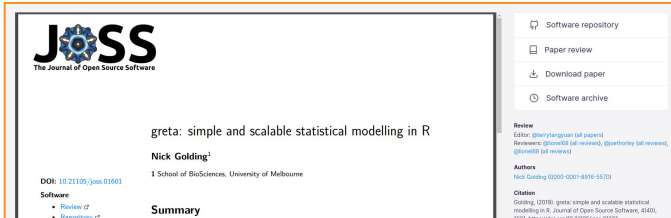
Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
 - Model residual between–response correlations using rank-reduction
 - Less flexible than MGLMMs, but probably good enough in most scenarios?*
 - Number of parameters scales as m , so can handle (a lot) more species*
 - Less random effects than MGLMMs, scaling as Nd ; still quite challenging to fit**
 - *Choice of d remains a complicated and active topic
 - **Lots of work has been done in this space

*  **ECOLOGY**
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Article
Joint species distribution models with species correlations and imperfect detection
Mathias W. Tobler, Marc Kéry, Francis K. C. Hui, Gurutzeta Guillera-Arroita, Peter Knaus, Thomas Sattler
First published: 07 May 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.2754> | Citations: 38
Corresponding Editor: Caz M. Taylor
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Recommended: A comprehensive evaluation of predictive performance of 33 species distribution models at species and community levels

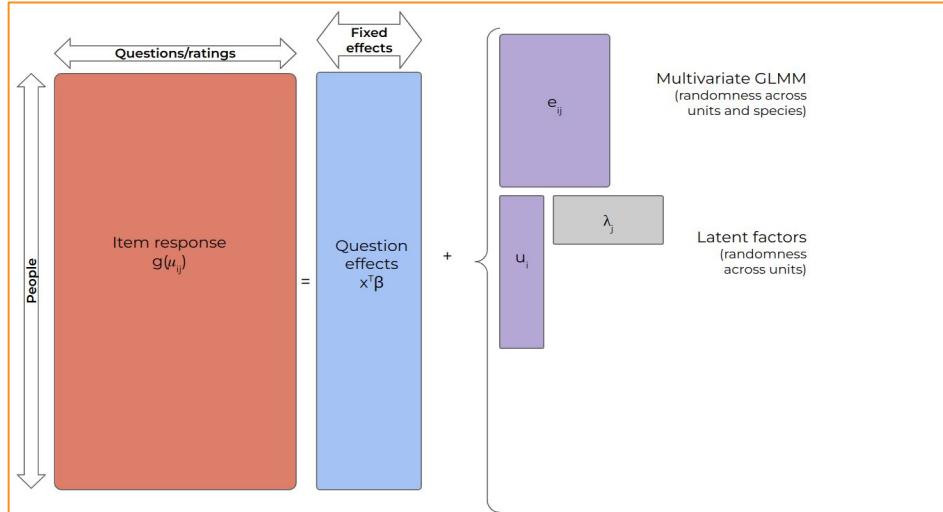
JOURNAL ARTICLE
Sparse Bayesian infinite factor models
A. BHATTACHARYA and D. B. DUNSON
Biometrika
Vol. 98, No. 2 (JUNE 2011), pp. 291–306 (16 pages)

**  **PLOS ONE**
OPEN ACCESS PEER-REVIEWED
RESEARCH ARTICLE
Efficient estimation of generalized linear latent variable models
Jenni Niku, Wesley Brooks, Rizki Herliansyah, Francis K. C. Hui, Sara Taskiran, David I. Warton
Published: May 1, 2019 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0216129>

 **JOSS**
The Journal of Open Source Software
greta: simple and scalable statistical modelling in R
Nick Golding¹
1 School of BioSciences, University of Melbourne
DOI: 10.21105/joss.01601
Software
• Review of Repository of Summary
Software repository
Paper review
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Editor: @henryjorgensen (all papers)
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Authors
Nick Golding 0000-0001-8916-5570
Citation
Golding, (2019), greta: simple and scalable statistical modelling in R. Journal of Open Source Software, 4(4), <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01601>

Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- Generalized linear latent variable models (LVMs)
 - Model residual between-species correlations using rank-reduction
- LVMs are not new news! Examples include psychometrics



mirt: A Multidimensional Item Response Theory Package for the R Environment

R. Philip Chalmers

Abstract

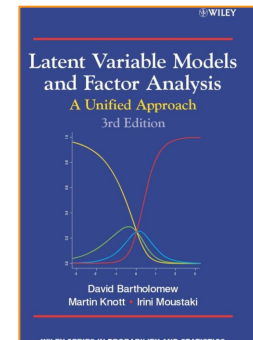
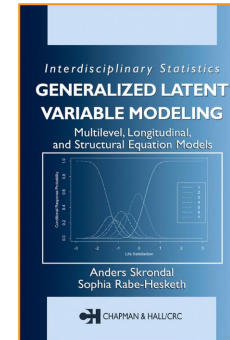
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Gen 2: Latent variable/factor analytic models

- LVMs are not new news, but they took off in ecology!
 - Model-based unconstrained and partial ordination, when d is small

Methods in Ecology and Evolution WILEY-INTERSCIENCE SOCIETY

Special Feature: New Opportunities at the Interface Between Ecology and Statistics Free Access

Model-based approaches to unconstrained ordination

Francis K.C. Hui Sara Taskinen, Shirley Pledger, Scott D. Foster, David I. Warton

First published: 23 July 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12236> | Citations: 117

Volume 6, Issue 4
April 2015
Pages 399-411

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Evaluating and presenting uncertainty in model-based unconstrained ordination

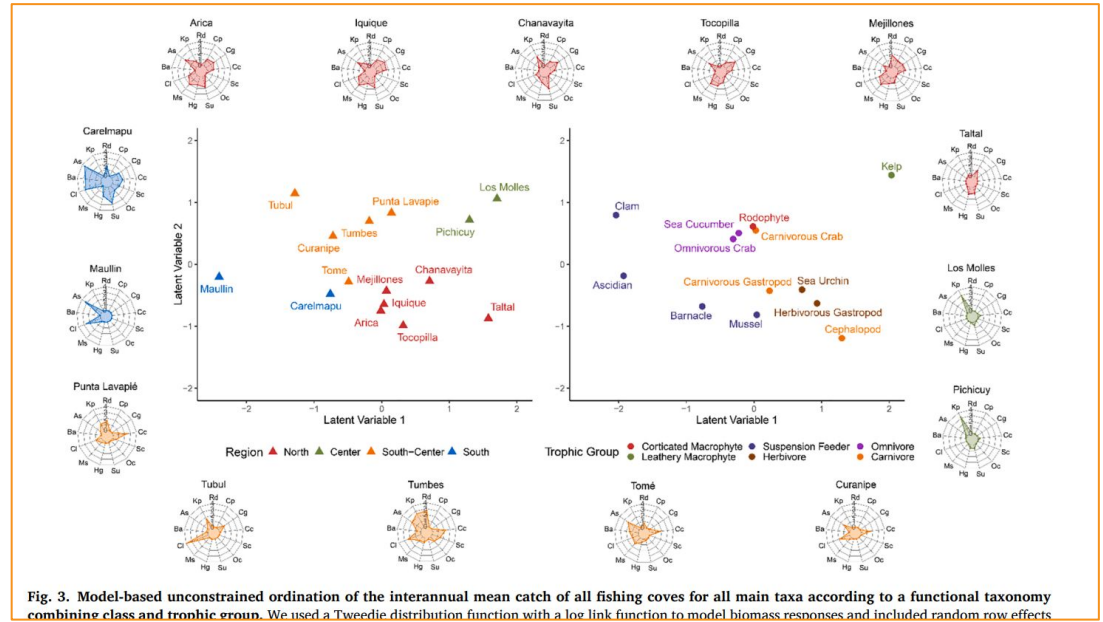
Andrew Hoegh David W. Roberts

First published: 20 December 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ee3.5752> | Citations: 1

Volume 10, Issue 1
January 2020
Pages 59-69

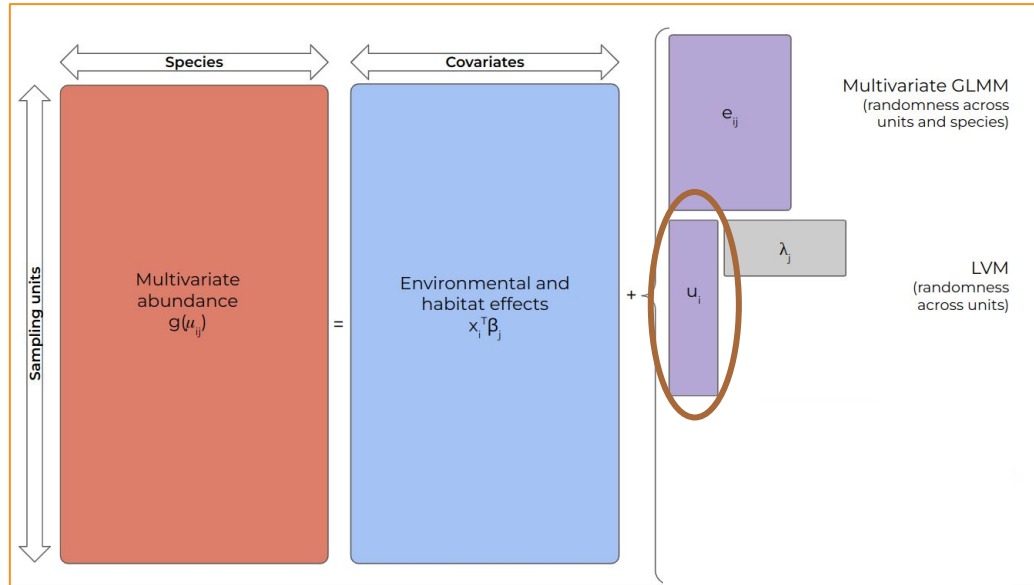
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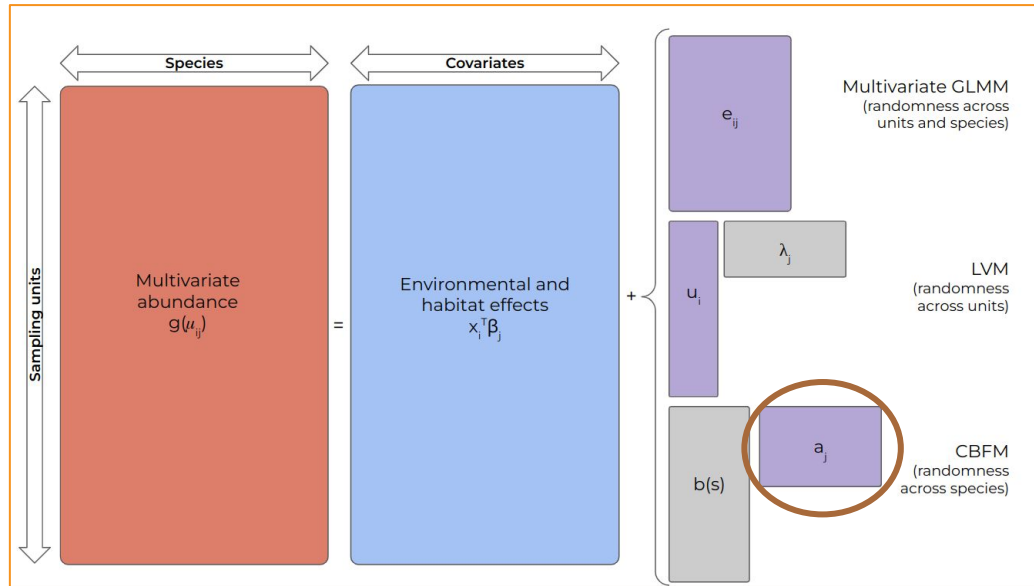
Gen 3: ???

- Latent variables as an approach to JSDBMs is awesome
 - But I think we are pushing the limits of their scalability/computability?



Gen 3: ???

- Latent variables as an approach to JSDBMs is awesome
 - But I think we are pushing the limits of their scalability/computability?
- Move the randomness from units to species -> basis functions



Gen 3: CBFMs?

- Community-level basis function models (CBFMs) for spatio-temporal multivariate abundance data
 - Pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions
 - <https://github.com/fhui28/CBFM>

Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of units $i = 1, \dots, N$, where each unit has a space-time coordinate (\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) . For a set of pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions, $\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}, t)$, a (basic) CBFM can be defined as

$$\begin{aligned}g\{\mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)\} &= \eta_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i)^\top \mathbf{a}_j \\[\mathbf{a}] &= [(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m)] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \\ \mathbf{G} &= \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G^\top + \kappa_G \mathbf{I}_m; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G) = m \times d_m, d_m \ll m \\ &\Rightarrow m \times m \text{ rank-reduced baseline between-species correlation matrix} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma} &= \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma) = q \times d_q, d_q \ll q \\ &\Rightarrow q \times q \text{ rank-reduced community-level covariance matrix for basis functions.}\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\text{Cov}\{\eta_j(\mathbf{s}, t), \eta_{j'}(\mathbf{s}', t')\} = G_{jj'} \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}, t)^\top (\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\Sigma^\top + \kappa_\Sigma \mathbf{I}_q) \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{s}', t')$, where $G_{jj'} = 1$ if $j = j'$ and $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{G,j}^\top \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{G,j'}$ otherwise

Gen 3: CBFMs?

- But why would CBFMs be faster?

Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of units $i = 1, \dots, N$, where each unit has a space-time coordinate (s_i, t_i) . For a set of pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions, $\mathbf{b}(s, t)$, a (basic) CBFM can be defined as

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$$[\mathbf{a}] = [(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m)] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G^\top + \kappa_G \mathbf{I}_m; \quad \dim(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_G) = m \times d_m, d_m \ll m$$

$\Rightarrow m \times m$ rank-reduced baseline between-species *correlation* matrix

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Gen 3: CBFMs?

- But why would CBFMs be faster?
 - Although m may not be small, **N is still larger in most modern datasets**

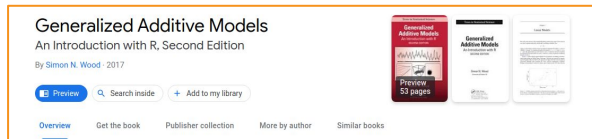
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Gen 3: CBFMs?

- But why would CBFMs be faster?
 - Although m may not be small, N is still larger in most modern datasets
 - It is just a big generalized additive model (GAM)!



Consider a set of species $j = 1, \dots, m$ recorded at a set of units $i = 1, \dots, N$, where each unit has a space-time coordinate (s_i, t_i) . For a set of pre-defined spatio-temporal basis functions, $\mathbf{b}(s, t)$, a (basic) CBFM can be defined as

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$$[\mathbf{a}] = [(\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m)] = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{G} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

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Gen 3: CBFMs?

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Basis-Function Models in Spatial Statistics

Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application
Vol. 9: (Volume publication date March 2022)
Review in Advance first posted online on November 18, 2021. (Changes may still occur before final publication.)
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-statistics-040120-020733>

Noel Cressie, Matthew Sainsbury-Dale, and Andrew Zammit-Mangion
School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales 2522, Australia; email: ncressie@uow.edu.au


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Abstract


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The basis function approach for modeling autocorrelation in ecological data

Trevor J. Hefley , Kristin M. Broms, Brian M. Brost, Frances E. Buderman, Shannon L. Kay, Henry R. Scharf, John R. Tipton, Perry J. Williams, Mevin B. Hooten

First published: 09 December 2016 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.1674> | Citations: 30



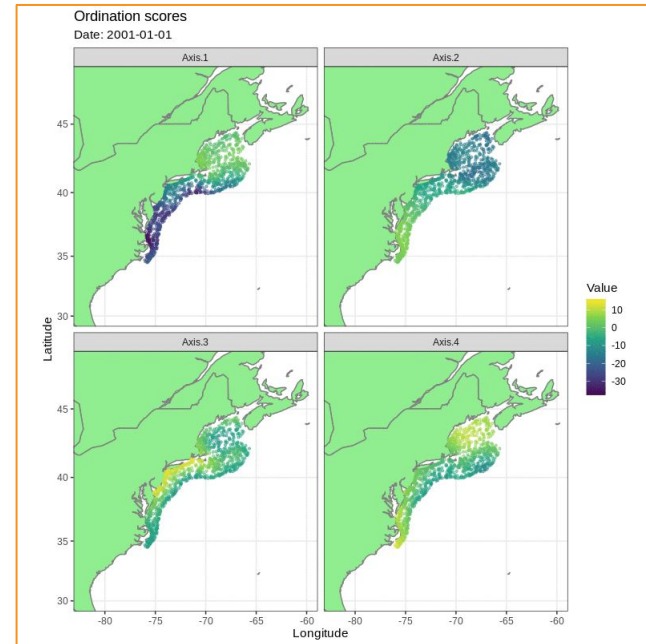
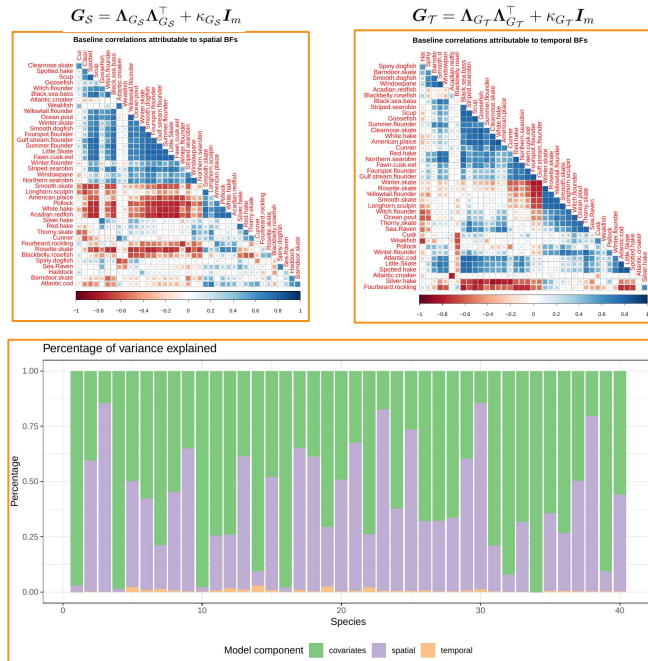
Volume 98, Issue 3
March 2017
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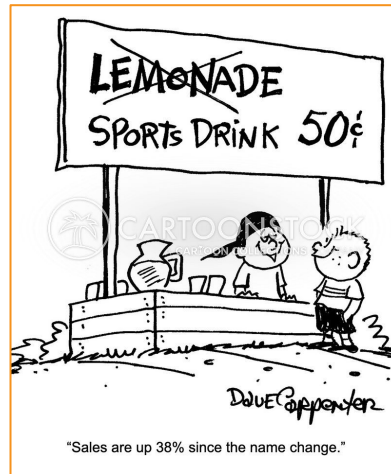
Gen 3: CBFMs?

- Basis functions are not new news
 - GAMs have been known in ecology for a long time. But not so much fixed rank kriging
 - It takes a while to translate statistical methods to other disciplines (properly)...



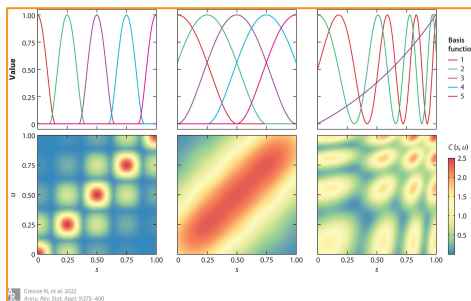
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- Is Gen 3 \subset Gen2+? Isn't basis functions just an approximation of spatio-temporal LVMs?



Gen 3: CBFMs?

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 - It takes a while to translate statistical methods to other disciplines (properly)...
- Is Gen 3 \subset Gen2+? Isn't basis functions just an approximation of spatio-temporal LVMs?
 - Depends on how you want to approach basis functions: “one person's mean is another person's covariance” (Cressie, 1993)
 - A “basis function” mindset can opens up new opportunities



Published: 26 February 2014

Finite area smoothing with generalized distance splines

David L. Miller & Simon N. Wood

Environmental and Ecological Statistics 21, 715–731 (2014) | [Cite this article](#)

696 Accesses | 14 Citations | 18 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Abstract

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Abstract

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Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Leveled up FRK = A very big generalized additive model (GAM)
 - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization

Let \mathbf{A} is the $m \times q$ matrix formed by stacking the \mathbf{a}_j 's as row vectors. Then given \mathbf{G} and Σ , update $(\boldsymbol{\beta}_j, \mathbf{a}_j)$'s, and ϕ_j 's using

$$\ell_{\text{PQL}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^m \log\{f(y_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i); \mu_j(\mathbf{s}_i, t_i), \phi_j)\} - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{A}^\top).$$

Multivariate abundance data

- NorthEast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) fall bottom trawl survey
 - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/22560>
 - Subset of 2000–2019

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Fall Bottom Trawl Survey

Data Set (DS) | Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)
ID: 22560 | Updated: June 28, 2021 | Published / External

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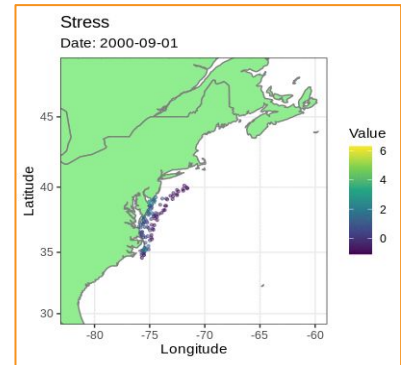
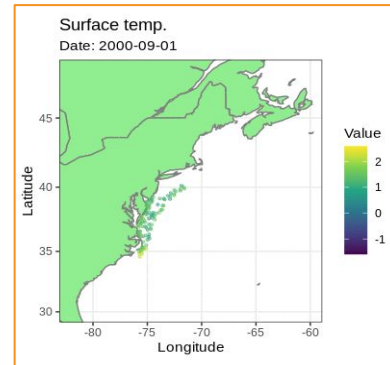
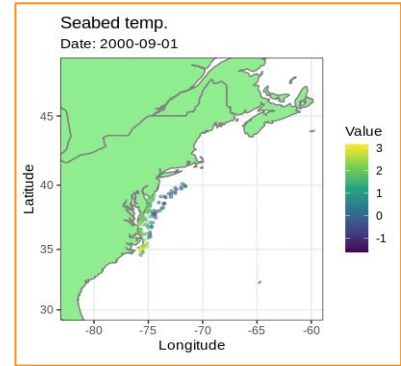
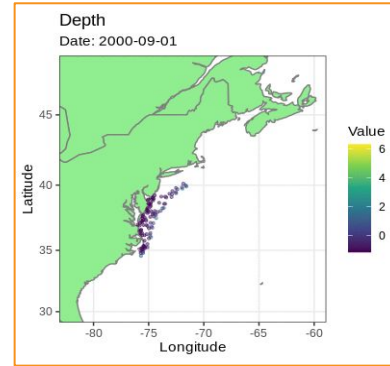
Short Citation:
Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2021: Fall Bottom Trawl Survey, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/22560>. [Full Citation Examples](#)

Item Identification

Title:	Fall Bottom Trawl Survey
Short Name:	Fall Bottom Trawl Survey
Status:	Completed
Abstract:	The standardized NEFSC Fall Bottom Trawl Survey was initiated in 1963 and covered an area from Hudson Canyon, NY to Nova Scotia, Canada. Throughout the years, coverage has extended as far south as Florida and sampling depths have ranged from <27 to 366 m. Currently, the survey coverage is from Cape Hatteras, NC to Nova Scotia and the minimum depth range is > 18 m as the result of a change in the sampling platform. This has resulted in the exclusion of many inshore strata.
Purpose:	The purpose of the Fall Bottom Trawl Survey is to determine the seasonal distribution, relative abundance, and biodiversity of fish and invertebrate species found on the continental shelf during the fall months, typically September to November. Other cruise objectives are: to collect biological samples for age determinations and growth studies, fecundity, maturity, and feeding ecology; opportunistically test trawl gear, methods, or survey-related equipment that may benefit the trawl survey in the future; collect oceanographic data, including CTD

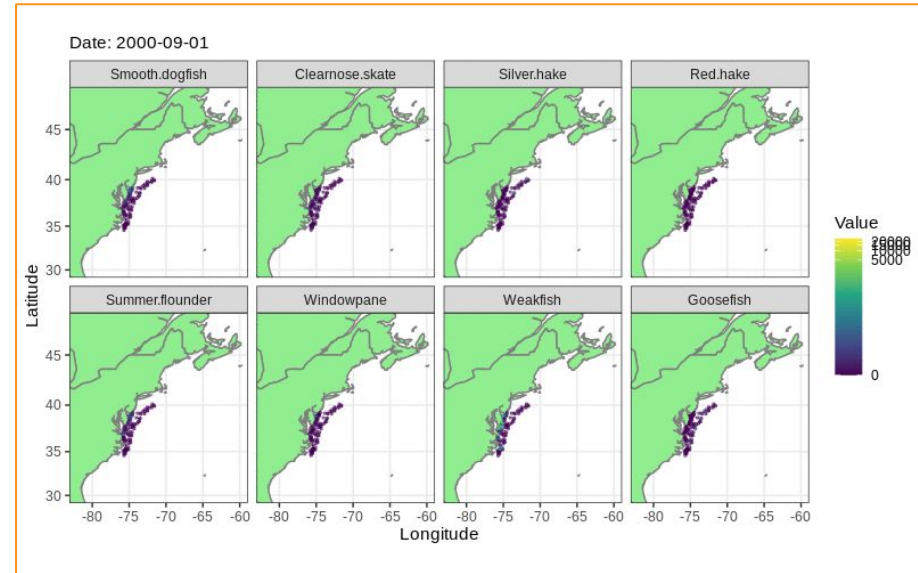
Multivariate abundance data

- Four example covariates in fall bottom trawl survey:
 - There are more covariates (between 20-30)...



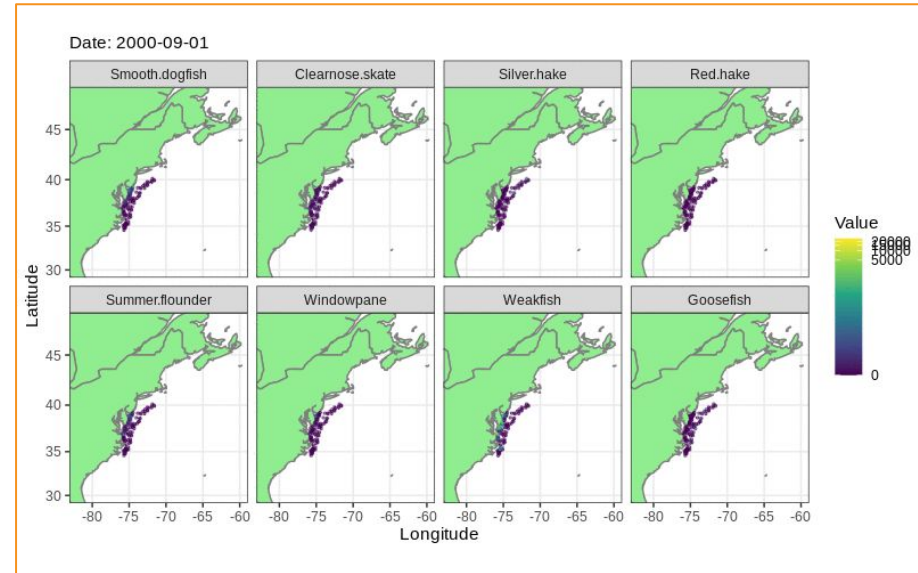
Multivariate abundance data

- Eight example demersal fish species in fall bottom trawl survey
 - Around 150ish taxa in total
 - High-dimensional, correlated responses



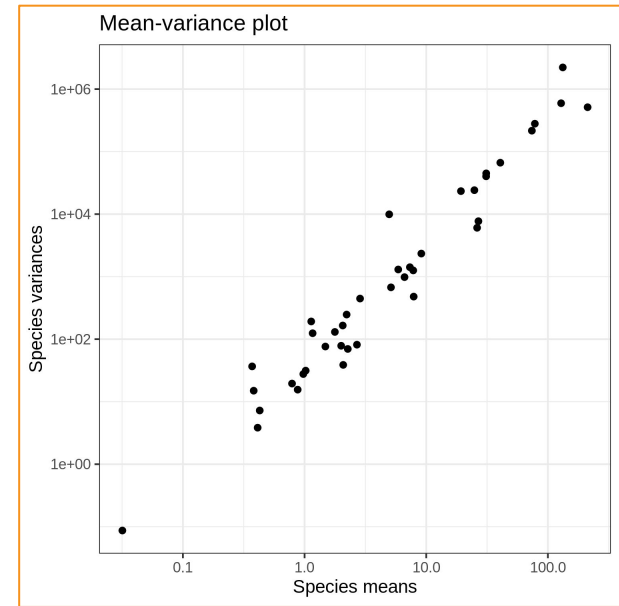
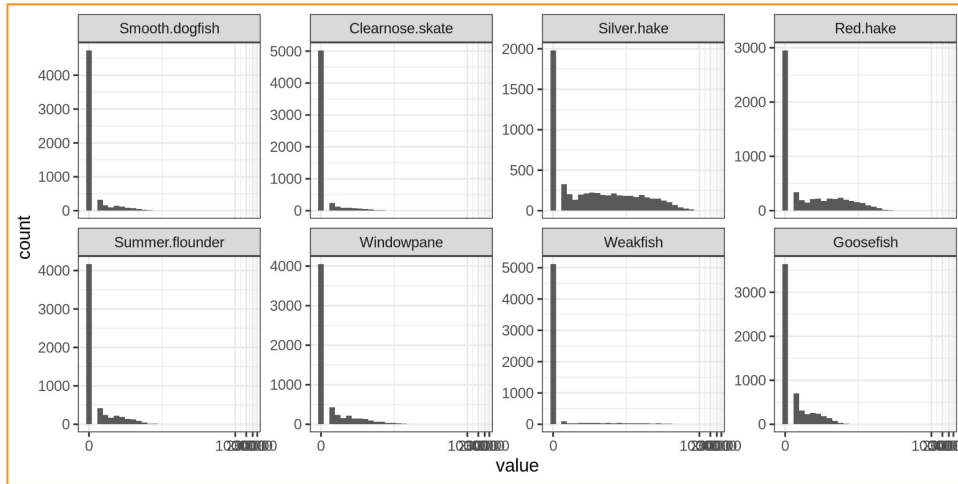
Multivariate abundance data

- Eight example demersal fish species in fall bottom trawl survey
 - Around 150ish taxa in total
 - High-dimensional, **correlated** responses
- Some other noteworthy points:
 - You never visit the same location more than once
 - About 6,000 space-time locations visited between 2000–2019



Multivariate abundance data

- Responses are:
 - Sparse, non-continuous
 - Strong mean-variance relationship (various reasons behind this)



Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Levelled up FRK = **A very big generalized additive model (GAM)**
 - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization
 - Maximum restricted Laplace-approximated likelihood estimation for the loadings and nugget effects

Let \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{B} be appropriately defined model matrices based on the $\mathbf{x}(s_i, t_i)$ and $\mathbf{b}(s_i, t_i)$'s respectively, and $\hat{\mathbf{W}}$ by a diagonal matrix of weights. Then given (β_j, α_j) 's, and ϕ_j 's, update the loadings and nugget effects characterizing \mathbf{G} and Σ using

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_{\text{REML}} = & \frac{q}{2} \log \det(\mathbf{G}^{-1}) + \frac{m}{2} \log \det(\Sigma^{-1}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left(\mathbf{G}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{A}} \Sigma^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{A}}^\top \right) \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \log \det \left(\mathcal{B}^\top \left(\hat{\mathbf{W}} - \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} \left(\mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} \right)^{-1} \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \right) \mathcal{B} + \mathbf{G}^{-1} \otimes \Sigma^{-1} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Leveled up FRK = A very big generalized additive model (GAM)
 - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization
 - Maximum restricted Laplace-approximated likelihood estimation for the loadings and nugget effects
 - Approximate large sample distributions for coefficients/linear predictors etc...

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\beta} \\ \hat{\mathbf{a}} \end{pmatrix} \approx \mathcal{N} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \mathbf{a}_0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} & \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} & \mathbf{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{B} + \hat{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \otimes \hat{\Sigma}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \right\},$$

where β_0 and \mathbf{a} denote the true parameter values of the regression coefficients.

Estimation, inference and all that jazz

- CBFM = Leveled up FRK = A very big generalized additive model (GAM)
 - Penalized quasi-likelihood (PQL) estimation for all coefficients, dispersion parameters; amenable to parallelization
 - Maximum restricted Laplace-approximated likelihood estimation for the loadings and nugget effects
 - Approximate large sample distributions for coefficients/linear predictors etc...
 - Adapt GAM tools for residual analysis, model selection, prediction etc...; variance-partitioning; space-time ordination using SVD-type ideas, and so on

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{a}} \end{pmatrix} \approx \mathcal{N} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\beta}_0 \\ \mathbf{a}_0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} & \mathcal{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathcal{X} & \mathbf{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{B} + \hat{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \otimes \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \right\},$$

where $\boldsymbol{\beta}_0$ and \mathbf{a} denote the true parameter values of the regression coefficients.