I. Course Description

Linear richly-parameterized models include hierarchical models, dynamic linear models, linear mixed models, random regressions, smoothers (spatial and otherwise), longitudinal models, time series models, and many others. Existing theories are mainly schemes for specifying and fitting many such models. This course's first part describes the mixed-linear-model scheme (or syntax), reviews standard theory and computing for that scheme, and briefly reviews two other schemes. Apart from this, richly-parameterized models have nothing like the deep, powerful theory of ordinary linear models. This course's second part begins with the little theory that exists, then explores odd, surprising, or undesirable results that arise routinely in applying these models to real datasets. The purpose is to illustrate the problems a theory must address, emphasizing open questions and possible approaches to solving them. Class sessions are lectures. The grade depends mostly on a final class project, which can be on any topic the instructor and student agree on, preferably related to their dissertation or research-assistant work. Students present their projects in class and hand in a written version.

II. Course Prerequisites

Stat 8101/8102 (or its equivalent), and Stat 8311 or PubH 8400 (Linear Models), and Biostatistics or Statistics PhD student, or permission of instructor.
III. Course Goals and Objectives

Present a theoretical approach to the large class of richly-parameterized linear models. Survey the beginnings of a theory of these models using datasets mostly from the instructor's collaborative projects to describe unsolved and partly-solved problems and approaches to working those problems.

IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

Class sessions consist of lectures by the instructor and presentations of students' final class projects. Students' grades depend on homework exercises but mostly on a final class project presented orally (in class) and in writing. Each student selects the project's topic, subject to the instructor's approval and preferably related to their dissertation or research assistant work. Students are expected to read extensively from the course texts and from assigned journal articles. All materials for this course are on the instructor's web page (http://www.biostat.umn.edu/~hodges/, third item under "Links").

V. Course Text and Readings


Other readings: These include published or submitted journal articles, with availability as described below.

Available on the course web page:


Journal articles available electronically (e.g., through the U library):


Available from the instructor in hard-copy only.

VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

Below, H2013 refers to Hodges (2013), "RWC" refers to Ruppert, Wand, and Carroll (2003), LNP refers to Lee, Nelder, and Pawitan (2006), and RH refers to Rue and Held (2005), each cited in Section V above as a required or supplementary text. Journal articles are cited in standard format, e.g., "Reich et al (2006)", referring to the list of readings given in Section V above.

Weeks 1 through 7 are Part I of the course, covering syntaxes for richly parameterized models, focusing on the mixed linear model syntax and associated inferential tools. Weeks 8 through 15 are Part II of the course, showing the beginnings of a full theory of richly-parameterized models mostly by showing odd, mysterious, or incorrect results produced by standard analyses and developing theory to explain them. Homework assignments are concentrated in Part I of the course; during Part II, it is expected that students will work on their final class projects. The instructor will meet at least twice with each student regarding her/his final class project, or three times if enrollment is low enough to permit it.

Week 1/ January 22. One or two introductory examples intended to scare you, about how much anybody really understands even relatively simple models. The mixed linear model in the standard form, and the conventional (non-Bayesian) analysis of it.

Readings: H2013 Chapter 1 (sections 1.1, 1.2), RWC chapters 1, 2 (through 2.6), 4 (except 4.9).

Week 2/ January 27, 29. Bayesian analysis of the mixed linear model; pros and cons of non-Bayesian and Bayesian analyses, and problems with each approach.

Readings: H2013 Sections 1.3-1.5, RWC chapter 16.

1st homework assignment handed out on Mon 27 January, due Mon 3 February.

Week 3/ February 3, 5. An alternative formulation of the mixed linear model (the constraint-case formulation). Measures of complexity in a mixed linear model fit (degrees of freedom).

Readings: Required: H2013 Chapter 2; if you're keen on degrees of freedom, Cui et al (2010).

2nd homework assignment handed out on Wed 5 February, due Wed 12 February.

Week 4/ February 10, 12. Smoothing using penalized splines: bases, knots, penalized splines, rank of smoothers; penalized splines as mixed linear models: fitted values, inference, complexity of the fit (degrees of freedom).

Reading: H2013 Chapter 3; RWC Chapter 3, Chapter 4 section 9, Chapter 6 sections 1-4. Optional: RWC Chapter 6 sections 5-9.

Week 5/ February 17, 19. Additive models and models with interactions, represented as mixed models; using priors on degrees of freedom to control the extent of smoothing.

Reading: H2013 Chapter 4; RWC Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 12 (sections 1-3). If you're keen on smoothed ANOVA, Hodges et al (2007); if you're keen to see spatial smoothing in the context of smoothed ANOVA, Zhang (2009).

3rd homework assignment handed out on Mon 17 Feb, due Mon 24 Feb.

Week 6/ February 24, 26. Spatial smoothing using mixed linear models: smoothing on a lattice using improper conditional autoregressive (CAR) models; two-dimensional splines, mostly with radial basis functions.

Reading: H2013 Chapter 5; RWC Chapter 13, sections 1-4.

Week 7/ March 3, 5. Time series using dynamic linear models (Kalman filters). Quick looks at the alternative syntaxes in RH and LNP. Summary of Part I of the course. Introduction to Part II: what do we want in a theory of richly parameterized models?

Reading: H2013 Chapters 6, 7. Optional: Browse RH or LNP.

4th homework assignment handed out on Mon 3 Mar, due Wed 12 Mar. This assignment is a proposal for the student's final class project; each student will meet individually with the instructor during week 9 to discuss the proposal.

Week 8/ March 10, 12. From linear models to richly-parameterized models: Mean structure. Generalizations of diagnostics from single-variance linear models, using the constraint-case formulation:
Some diagnostics generalize, some don't, and we begin to see what's different about richly-parameterized models.

Reading: H2013 Chapter 8. If you'd enjoy seeing your professor embarrassed in print, read Hodges (1998) especially Section 5.2 and Wakefield's discussion.

Final class project: Students are expected to be working on their final class projects.

Week 9/ March 24, 26. Collinearity and confounding in the presence of smoothing/shrinkage. Teaser: Weird things that happened fitting richly-parameterized models in four real applications. First weird thing: Adding a spatial random effect to a model makes an obvious association disappear (spatial confounding); mechanics of how it happens, how to interpret it, and what to do about it.

Reading: H2013 Chapter 9 (teasers), Section 10.1; if you're keen to read the original papers about spatial confounding, Reich et al (2006), Hodges & Reich (2010).

Final class project: First meeting with the instructor about the final class project.

Optional 5th homework assignment handed out Mon Mar 24, due Mon Mar 31.

Week 10/ Mar 31, Apr 2. Second weird thing: Adding a random effect corresponding to clustering makes a fixed effect disappear. This is a kind of informative-cluster-size effect. Third weird thing: Differential shrinkage of random effects that, in an unshrunk fit, have similar estimates and standard errors.

Reading: Informative cluster size: H2013 Section 10.1; read at least one of Behnin et al (2005) or Dunson et al (2003) (each represents an approach to informative cluster size). Differential shrinkage: H2013 Sections 11.1, 11.3. Don't read Section 11.2 unless you're having trouble sleeping.

Final class project: Students are expected to be working on their final class projects.

Week 11/ April 7, 9. Third weird thing: Adding a random effect radically changes the fit of two other random effects (i.e., collinear or competing random effects). Generating and testing hypotheses about why this happens.


Final class project: Students are expected to be working on their final class projects.

Week 12/ April 14, 16. Traditional random effects (as in, e.g., Scheffé's classic ANOVA text) versus new-style random effects (i.e., most random effects discussed in this course), which have the mathematical form of a traditional random effect but which do not meet the traditional definition. Implications of the distinction for inference and prediction, simulation experiments, and interpretation of analytical artifacts. Teaser for the last part of the course: Weird things related to estimation of unknowns in the variance structure.


Final class project: Students are expected to be working on their final class projects. 2nd meeting with the instructor about the final class project.

Week 13/ April 21, 23. Beyond linear models: Variance structure. The general 2-variance problem: Re-expressing the restricted likelihood as the likelihood from a particular generalized linear model, which enables many existing tools for examining how the data provide information about the two variances. Examples; application to some puzzles described in the previous week's Teasers.

Reading: H2103, Chapters 15, 16 (for this week and the following week).

Week 14/ April 28, 30. Previous week's topics continued.

Final class project: Students are expected to be working on their final class projects.

Week 15/ May 5, 7. Extending this approach to more complex models. Proof that it can't be applied to all mixed linear models; classes of models to which it can be extended; two expedients of possible use when it can't be extended. Applications to more puzzles from the Teasers. A bit on estimates on the boundary of the parameter space and on restricted likelihoods and posterior distributions with multiple maxima.

Reading: H2013, Chapters 17 (you can skip the gruesome details), 18, 19 (the latter two are short).

Final class project: Students are expected to be working on their final class projects. 3rd meeting with the instructor about the final class project.
Exam week: One or two sessions (depending on class size and students' schedules) of oral presentations of final class projects. Written version of the final class project is due Friday 16 May.

VII. Evaluation and Grading
Grading will be A-F. 20% of the grade will be based on homework exercises, 60% will be based on the written version of the final class project; 20% will be based on the oral presentation of the final class project.

Course Evaluation
Beginning in fall 2008, the SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CoursEval: www.sph.umn.edu/courseval. The system will send email notifications to students when they can access and complete their course evaluations. Students who complete their course evaluations promptly will be able to access their final grades just as soon as the faculty member renders the grade in SPHGrades: www.sph.umn.edu/grades. All students will have access to their final grades through OneStop two weeks after the last day of the semester regardless of whether they completed their course evaluation or not. Student feedback on course content and faculty teaching skills are an important means for improving our work. Please take the time to complete a course evaluation for each of the courses for which you are registered.

Incomplete Contracts
A grade of incomplete “I” shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or hospitalization, death in family, etc.), the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an “I” requires that a contract be initiated and completed by the student before the last official day of class, and signed by both the student and instructor. If an incomplete is deemed appropriate by the instructor, the student in consultation with the instructor, will specify the time and manner in which the student will complete course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year (or earlier if designated by the student’s college). For more information and to initiate an incomplete contract, students should go to SPHGrades at: www.sph.umn.edu/grades.

University of Minnesota Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy - A link to the policy can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

VIII. Other Course Information and Policies
Grade Option Change (if applicable)
For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester courses) can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

Course Withdrawal
Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at onestop.umn.edu for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at sph-ssc@umn.edu for further information.

Student Conduct Code
The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.
As a student at the University you are expected to adhere to Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf).

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor’s ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

**Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom**

Using personal electronic devices in the classroom setting can hinder instruction and learning, not only for the student using the device but also for other students in the class. To this end, the University establishes the right of each faculty member to determine if and how personal electronic devices are allowed to be used in the classroom. For complete information, please reference: [http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html](http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html).

**Scholastic Dishonesty**

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. (Student Conduct Code: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)) If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" or an "N" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the University. For additional information, please see: [http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/INSTRUCTORRESP.html](http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/INSTRUCTORRESP.html).

The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: [http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html](http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html). If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor for the course. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class—e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.

**Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences**

Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please see: [http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html](http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html).

**Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials**

Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. Such actions violate shared norms and standards of the academic community. For additional information, please see: [http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html](http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html).

**Sexual Harassment**

"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf).
Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action
The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf.

Disability Accommodations
The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Services (DS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DS at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact your instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

For more information, please see the DS website, https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/.

Mental Health and Stress Management
As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website: http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility: for courses that do not involve students in research
Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.*

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Contact the instructor, the Department Chair, your adviser, the associate dean of the college, or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost. [Customize with names and contact information as appropriate for the course/college/campus.]

* Language adapted from the American Association of University Professors "Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students".

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