

Spatially Varying Autoregressive Models for Prediction of New HIV Diagnoses-Supplement

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1 Exploratory Analysis

1.1 Normality Assumptions

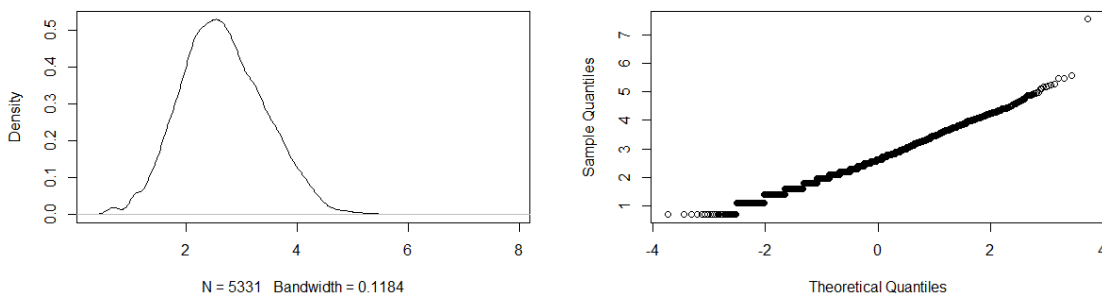


Figure 1: Density plot (left) and QQ normality plot (right) of $\log(Y_{i,t})$ of all available county data in the US from 2008 to 2014.

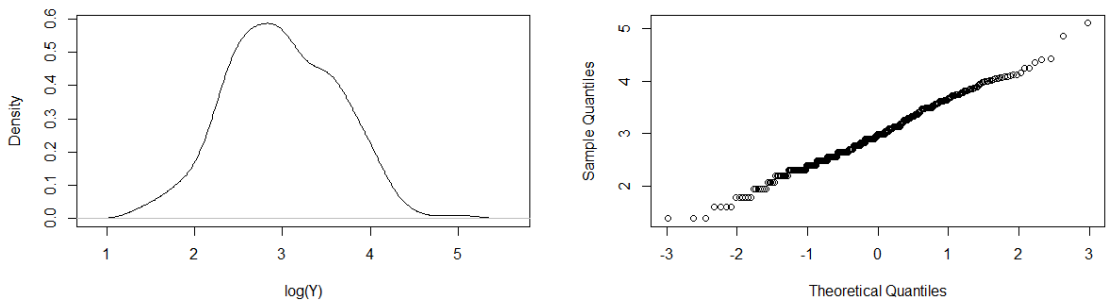


Figure 2: Density plot (left) and QQ normality plot (right) of $\log(Y_{i,t})$ of all available county data in Florida from 2008 to 2014.

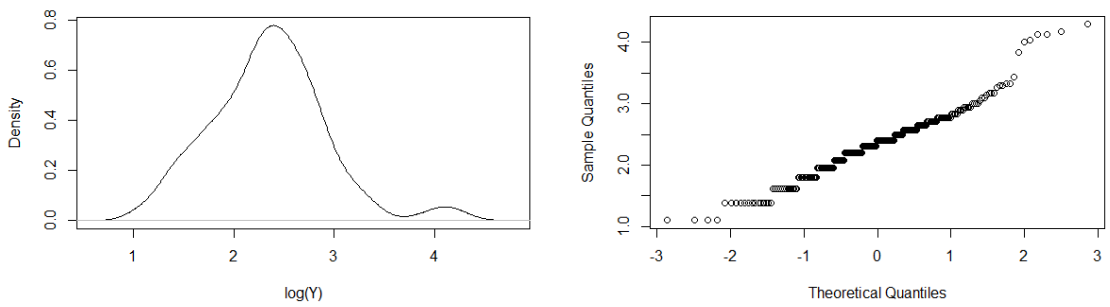


Figure 3: Density plot (left) and QQ normality plot (right) of $\log(Y_{i,t})$ of all available county data in California from 2008 to 2014.

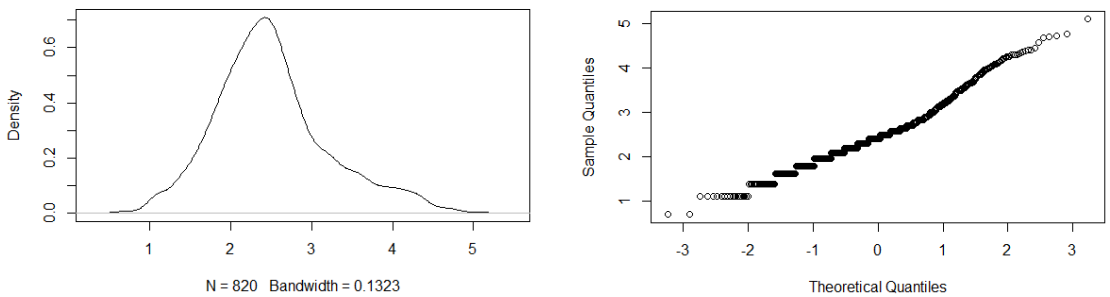


Figure 4: Density plot (left) and QQ normality plot (right) of $\log(Y_{i,t})$ of all available county data in New England from 2008 to 2014.

1.2 Population Size

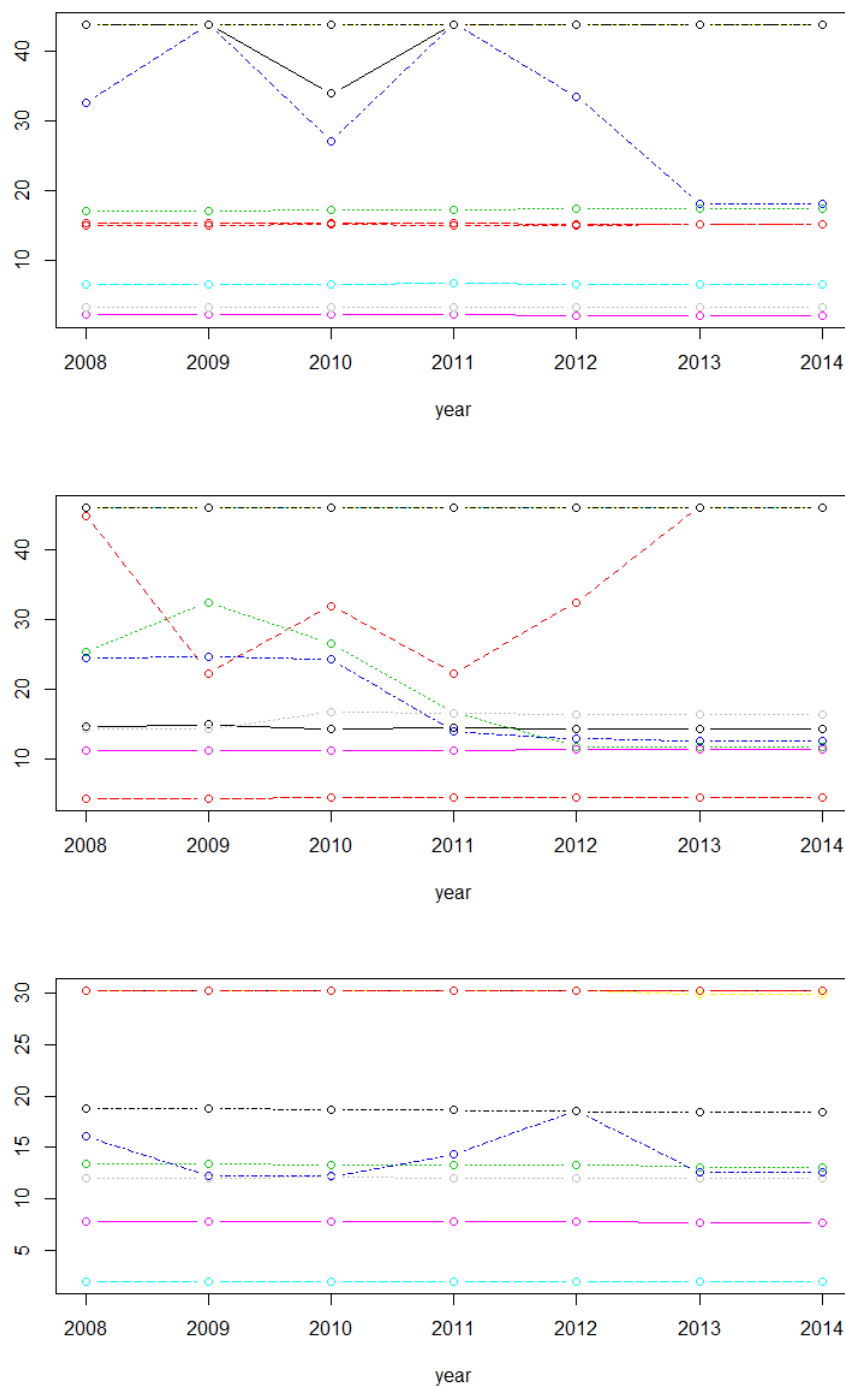


Figure 5: $q_{i,t} = Y_{i,t}n_{i,t}/c$ of a random selection of 10 counties from Florida (top), California(middle) and North England(bottom).

2 Derivation of Q

Define $Y'_{i,t}$ to be the number of HIV new diagnosis cases and $Y_{i,t}$ the number of cases per 100,000 people in county i at year t . Consider the traditional disease modeling framework with first level of the BHM specified as

$$Y'_{i,t} \sim \text{Poisson}(n_{i,t}r_{i,t})$$

where $n_{i,t}$ and $r_{i,t}$ denote the population size and rate of cases per person respectively. Then, as $n_{i,t} \rightarrow \infty$,

$$Y'_{i,t} \xrightarrow{D} N(n_{i,t}r_{i,t}, n_{i,t}r_{i,t}).$$

and since $Y_{i,t} = cY'_{i,t}/n_{i,t}$, $c = 100,000$,

$$Y_{i,t} \xrightarrow{D} N\left(cr_{i,t}, \frac{c^2r_{i,t}}{n_{i,t}}\right).$$

Transforming $Y_{i,t}$ by taking the natural log, we have

$$\log(Y_{i,t}) - \log(cr_{i,t}) \xrightarrow{D} N\left(0, \frac{1}{n_{i,t}r_{i,t}}\right)$$

by the delta method. Lastly, we can estimate $n_{i,t}r_{i,t}$ with $Y'_{i,t} = Y_{i,t}n_{i,t}/c$ to obtain,

$$\log(Y_{i,t}) - \log(cr_{i,t}) \xrightarrow{D} N\left(0, \frac{c}{n_{i,t}Y_{i,t}}\right).$$

So the variance of $\log Y_{i,t}$ is inversely proportional to $n_{i,t}Y_{i,t}$.

3 Full conditional distributions and MH algorithm details.

Define $Z_{i,t} = \log(Y_{i,t})$ to be the detrended log transformed new HIV diagnoses rates for $i = 1, \dots, n$, $t = 1, \dots, T$ where n and T are the number of available counties and years respectively.

Normal and Inverse Gamma Distributions

Normal Distribution: $f(x; \mu, \Sigma) = \frac{1}{2\pi^{|\Sigma|/2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2}(x - \mu)' \Sigma^{-1}(x - \mu))$

Gamma Distribution: $f(x; a, b) = \frac{b^a}{\Gamma(a)} x^{-a-1} \exp(-\frac{b}{x})$

3.1 Model 6

Here we derive all full conditional distributions and Metropolis-Hastings (MH) algorithm details for model 6. Full conditionals for all submodels(1-5) follow a similar form.

Level I.

$$Z_{i,t} = X_{i,t}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \alpha_t + \phi_i + \delta_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t}, \quad \epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 Q), \quad Q = \text{diag}\left(\frac{c}{Y_{i,t}n_{i,t}}\right)$$

Level II (Priors).

$$\boldsymbol{\beta}|\tau_\beta^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau_\beta^2)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} \sim N(0, \Sigma_\alpha), \quad \boldsymbol{\phi} \sim N(0, \Sigma_\phi), \quad \boldsymbol{\delta} \sim N(0, \Sigma_\delta)$$

$$\Sigma_\alpha = \tau_\alpha^2 \rho_\alpha^{|u|}, \quad \Sigma_\phi = \tau_\phi^2 [(1 - \lambda_\phi)I + \lambda_\phi R]^{-1}, \quad \Sigma_\delta = \tau_\delta^2 \rho_\delta^{|u|} \otimes [(1 - \lambda_\delta)I + \lambda_\delta R]^{-1}$$

$$\mu_Z = E[\mathbf{Z}|\mu, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\delta}] = X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \boldsymbol{\phi} + \boldsymbol{\delta}, \quad \Sigma_Z = \sigma^2 Q$$

Hyperpriors.

$$\tau_\alpha^2, \tau_\phi^2, \tau_\delta^2 \sim IG(a_1, b_1), \quad \rho_\alpha, \rho_\delta \sim \text{Uniform}(-1, 1), \quad \lambda_\phi, \lambda_\delta \sim \text{Uniform}[0, 1], \quad \sigma^2 \sim IG(a_2, b_2)$$

Model 6 Full conditional distributions

Full conditional distribution of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$:

$$\text{Given prior } \boldsymbol{\beta}|\tau_\beta^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau_\beta^2), \quad [\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot] \propto [\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\beta}, \cdot][\boldsymbol{\beta}|\tau_\beta^2]$$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})\right\} \times \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\tau_\beta^2}\boldsymbol{\beta}'\boldsymbol{\beta}\right\}$$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[\boldsymbol{\beta}'\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}X'Q^{-1}X + \frac{1}{\tau_\beta^2}\right]\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}'\left[\frac{1}{\sigma^2}X'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})\right] - \left[\frac{1}{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})Q^{-1}X\right]\boldsymbol{\beta}]\right\}$$

by completing the square, we have the full conditional

$$\boldsymbol{\beta}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot \sim MVN(\mu_\beta, \Sigma_\beta)$$

$$\Sigma_\beta = \left[\frac{1}{\sigma^2}X'Q^{-1}X + \frac{1}{\tau_\beta^2}\right]^{-1}$$

$$\mu_\beta = \Sigma_\beta \frac{1}{\sigma^2}X'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})$$

Full conditional distribution of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$:

$$\text{Given prior } \boldsymbol{\alpha}|\rho_\alpha, \tau_\alpha^2 \sim N(0, \Sigma_\alpha), \quad [\boldsymbol{\alpha}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot] \propto [\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \cdot][\boldsymbol{\alpha}|\tau_\alpha^2, \rho]$$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})\right\}$$

$$\times \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\alpha}'\Sigma_\alpha^{-1}\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right\}$$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[\boldsymbol{\alpha}'\left[\frac{Q_1^{-1}}{\sigma^2} + \Sigma_\alpha^{-1}\right]\boldsymbol{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}'\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}Q_2^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta}) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})^T Q_2^{-1}\boldsymbol{\alpha}]\right\}$$

Q_1 is a $T \times T$ diagonal matrix with t^{th} diagonal entry as $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{Y_{i,t}n_{i,t}}{c}$ and

Q_2 is a concatenation of n $T \times T$ diagonal matrices where the t^{th} diagonal entry of the i^{th} matrix is $\frac{Y_{i,t}n_{i,t}}{c}$.

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot \sim MVN(\mu_\alpha, \Sigma_\alpha^{**})$$

$$\Sigma_\alpha^{**} = \left[\frac{Q_1^{-1}}{\sigma^2} + \Sigma_\alpha^{-1}\right]^{-1}, \quad \mu_\alpha = \Sigma_\alpha^{**}Q_2^{-1}\frac{1}{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})$$

Full conditional distribution of $\boldsymbol{\phi}$:

Given prior $\boldsymbol{\phi}|\lambda_\phi, \tau_\phi^2 \sim N(0, \Sigma_\phi)$, $[\boldsymbol{\phi}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot] \propto [\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\phi}, \cdot][\boldsymbol{\phi}|\tau_\phi^2, \lambda_\phi]$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})\right\} \\ \times \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\phi}'\Sigma_\phi^{-1}\boldsymbol{\phi}\right\}$$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[\boldsymbol{\phi}'\left[\frac{Q_3^{-1}}{\sigma^2} + \Sigma_\phi^{-1}\right]\boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\phi}'Q_4^{-1}\frac{1}{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \boldsymbol{\delta}) - \frac{1}{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \boldsymbol{\delta})Q_4^{-1}\boldsymbol{\phi}]\right\}$$

Q_3 is a $n \times n$ diagonal matrix with i^{th} diagonal entry as $\sum_{t=1}^T \frac{Y_{i,t}n_{i,t}}{c}$ and

Q_4 is a concatenation of T $n \times n$ diagonal matrices where the i^{th} diagonal entry of the t^{th} matrix is $\frac{Y_{i,t}n_{i,t}}{c}$.

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot \sim MVN(\mu_\phi, \Sigma_\phi^{**})$$

$$\Sigma_\phi^{**} = \left[\frac{Q_3^{-1}}{\sigma^2} + \Sigma_\phi^{-1}\right]^{-1}, \quad \mu_\phi = \Sigma_\phi^{**}\frac{1}{\sigma^2}Q_4^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \boldsymbol{\delta})$$

Full conditional distribution of $\boldsymbol{\delta}$:

Given prior $\boldsymbol{\delta}|\rho_\delta, \lambda_\delta, \tau_\delta^2 \sim N(0, \Sigma_\delta)$, $[\boldsymbol{\delta}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot] \propto [\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\delta}, \cdot][\boldsymbol{\delta}|\tau_\delta^2, \lambda_\delta, \rho_\delta]$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi} - \boldsymbol{\delta})\right\} \\ \times \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\delta}'\Sigma_\delta^{-1}\boldsymbol{\delta}\right\}$$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[\boldsymbol{\delta}'\left[\frac{1}{\sigma^2} + \Sigma_{\delta}^{-1}\right]\boldsymbol{\delta} - \boldsymbol{\delta}'\left[\frac{1}{\sigma^2}Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi})\right] - \frac{1}{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi})'Q^{-1}\boldsymbol{\delta}]\right\}$$

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\boldsymbol{\delta}|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot \sim MVN(\mu_{\delta}, \Sigma_{\delta}^{**})$$

$$\text{where } \Sigma_{\delta}^{**} = \left[\frac{Q^{-1}}{\sigma^2} + \Sigma_{\delta}^{-1}\right]^{-1}, \quad \mu_{\delta} = \Sigma_{\delta}^{**} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{1}_T \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi})$$

Full conditional distribution of σ^2 :

$$\text{Given prior } \sigma^2|a_2, b_2 \sim IG(a_2, b_2), \quad [\sigma^2|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot] \propto [\mathbf{Z}|\sigma^2, \cdot][\sigma^2|a_2, b_2]$$

$$\propto (\sigma^2)^{-nT/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{Z} - \mu_Z)'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - \mu_Z)\right\} \times (\sigma^2)^{-a_2-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{b_2}{\sigma^2}\right\}$$

$$\propto (\sigma^2)^{-(nT/2+a_2)-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{\sigma^2}\left[\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{Z} - \mu_Z)'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - \mu_Z) + b_2\right]\right\}$$

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\sigma^2|\mathbf{Z}, \cdot \sim IG\left(\frac{nT}{2} + a_2, \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{Z} - \mu_Z)'Q^{-1}(\mathbf{Z} - \mu_Z) + b_2\right)$$

Full conditional distribution of τ_{α}^2 :

$$\text{Let } \Sigma_{\alpha} = \tau_{\alpha}^2 \Sigma_{\alpha}^{*}$$

$$\text{Given prior } \tau_{\alpha}^2|a_1, b_1 \sim IG(a_1, b_1), \quad [\tau_{\alpha}^2|\mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \cdot] \propto [\boldsymbol{\alpha}|\tau_{\alpha}^2, \rho_{\alpha}][\tau_{\alpha}^2|a_1, b_1]$$

$$\propto (\tau_{\alpha}^2)^{-T/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\tau_{\alpha}^2}\boldsymbol{\alpha}'\Sigma_{\alpha}^{*}\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right\} \times (\tau_{\alpha}^2)^{-a_1-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{b_1}{\tau_{\alpha}^2}\right\}$$

$$\propto (\tau_{\alpha}^2)^{-(T/2+a_1)-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{\tau_{\alpha}^2}\left[\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\alpha}'\Sigma_{\alpha}^{*}\boldsymbol{\alpha} + b_1\right]\right\}$$

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\tau_{\alpha}^2|\mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \cdot \sim IG\left(\frac{T}{2} + a_1, \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\alpha}'\Sigma_{\alpha}^{*}\boldsymbol{\alpha} + b_1\right)$$

Full conditional distribution of τ_{ϕ}^2 :

$$\text{Let } \Sigma_{\phi} = \tau_{\phi}^2 \Sigma_{\phi}^{*}$$

$$\text{Given prior } \tau_{\phi}^2|a_1, b_1 \sim IG(a_1, b_1), \quad [\tau_{\phi}^2|\mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \cdot] \propto [\boldsymbol{\phi}|\tau_{\phi}^2, \lambda_{\phi}][\tau_{\phi}^2|a_1, b_1]$$

$$\propto (\tau_\phi^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\tau_\phi^2} \boldsymbol{\phi}' \Sigma_\phi^* \boldsymbol{\phi}\right\} \times (\tau_\phi^2)^{-a_1-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{b_1}{\tau_\phi^2}\right\}$$

$$\propto (\tau_\phi^2)^{-(n/2+a_1)-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{\tau_\phi^2} \left[\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\phi}' \Sigma_\phi^* \boldsymbol{\phi} + b_1\right]\right\}$$

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\tau_\phi^2 | \mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \cdot \sim \text{IG}\left(\frac{n}{2} + a_1, \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\phi}' \Sigma_\phi^* \boldsymbol{\phi} + b_1\right)$$

Full conditional distribution of τ_δ^2 :

$$\text{Let } \Sigma_\delta = \tau_\delta^2 \Sigma_\delta^*$$

Given prior $\tau_\delta^2 | a_1, b_1 \sim \text{IG}(a_1, b_1)$, $[\tau_\delta^2 | \mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\delta}, \cdot] \propto [\boldsymbol{\delta} | \tau_\delta^2, \lambda_\delta, \rho_\delta] [\tau_\delta^2 | a_1, b_1]$

$$\propto (\tau_\delta^2)^{-nT/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\tau_\delta^2} \boldsymbol{\delta}' \Sigma_\delta^* \boldsymbol{\delta}\right\} \times (\tau_\delta^2)^{-a_1-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{b_1}{\tau_\delta^2}\right\}$$

$$\propto (\tau_\delta^2)^{-(nT/2+a_1)-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{\tau_\delta^2} \left[\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\delta}' \Sigma_\delta^* \boldsymbol{\delta} + b_1\right]\right\}$$

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\tau_\delta^2 | \mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\delta}, \cdot \sim \text{IG}\left(\frac{nT}{2} + a_1, \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\delta}' \Sigma_\delta^* \boldsymbol{\delta} + b_1\right)$$

Model 6 MH sampling algorithms

Sampling ρ_α at iteration k :

1. Draw ρ_α^* from proposal $q(\rho_\alpha^* | \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}) \sim N(\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}, s_\alpha^2) \mathbb{1}\{0 \leq \rho_\alpha^* \leq 1\}$.

$$\text{where } q(\rho_\alpha^* | \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}) = \frac{\phi\left(\frac{\rho_\alpha^* - \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}}{s_\alpha}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}}{s_\alpha}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}}{s_\alpha}\right)}.$$

2. Calculate acceptance ratio $r_\alpha = \frac{p(\rho_\alpha^* | \cdot) q(\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)} | \rho_\alpha^*)}{p(\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)} | \cdot) q(\rho_\alpha^* | \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)})}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \propto \frac{|\Sigma_\alpha(\rho_\alpha^*)|^{-1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\alpha}' \Sigma_\alpha^{-1}(\rho_\alpha^*) \boldsymbol{\alpha}\right\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}}{s_\alpha}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}}{s_\alpha}\right)\right]}{|\Sigma_\alpha(\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)})|^{-1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\alpha}' \Sigma_\alpha^{-1}(\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}) \boldsymbol{\alpha}\right\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\alpha^*}{s_\alpha}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\alpha^*}{s_\alpha}\right)\right]} \\ & = \left[\frac{|\Sigma_\alpha(\rho_\alpha^*)|}{|\Sigma_\alpha(\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)})|}\right]^{-1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\alpha}' [\Sigma_\alpha^{-1}(\rho_\alpha^*) - \Sigma_\alpha^{-1}(\rho_\alpha^{(k-1)})] \boldsymbol{\alpha}\right\} \left[\frac{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}}{s_\alpha}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)}}{s_\alpha}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\alpha^*}{s_\alpha}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\alpha^*}{s_\alpha}\right)}\right] \end{aligned}$$

3. Generate $\xi \sim Uniform(0, 1)$.

$$\rho_\alpha^{(k)} = \begin{cases} \rho_\alpha^* & \text{if } r_\alpha > \xi \text{ (with acceptance rate} = \min\{1, r_\alpha\}), \\ \rho_\alpha^{(k-1)} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Sampling λ_ϕ at iteration k :

1. Draw λ_ϕ^* from proposal $q(\lambda_\phi^* | \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}) \sim N(\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}, s_\phi^2) \mathbb{1}\{0 \leq \lambda_\phi^* \leq 1\}$.

$$\text{where } q(\lambda_\phi^* | \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}) = \frac{\phi\left(\frac{\lambda_\phi^* - \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}}{s_\phi}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}}{s_\phi}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}}{s_\phi}\right)}.$$

2. Calculate acceptance ratio $r_\phi = \frac{p(\lambda_\phi^* | \cdot) q(\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)} | \lambda_\phi^*)}{p(\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)} | \cdot) q(\lambda_\phi^* | \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)})}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \propto \frac{|\Sigma_\phi(\lambda_\phi^*)|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2} \phi' \Sigma_\phi^{-1}(\lambda_\phi^*) \phi\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}}{s_\phi}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}}{s_\phi}\right) \right]}{|\Sigma_\phi(\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)})|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2} \phi' \Sigma_\phi^{-1}(\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}) \phi\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\phi^*}{s_\phi}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\phi^*}{s_\phi}\right) \right]} \\ & = \left[\frac{|\Sigma_\phi(\lambda_\phi^*)|}{|\Sigma_\phi(\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)})|} \right]^{-1/2} \exp\left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \phi' [\Sigma_\phi^{-1}(\lambda_\phi^*) - \Sigma_\phi^{-1}(\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)})] \phi \right\} \left[\frac{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}}{s_\phi}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\phi^{(k-1)}}{s_\phi}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\phi^*}{s_\phi}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\phi^*}{s_\phi}\right)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

3. Generate $\xi \sim Uniform(0, 1)$.

$$\lambda_\phi^{(k)} = \begin{cases} \lambda_\phi^* & \text{if } r_\phi > \xi \text{ (with acceptance rate} = \min\{1, r_\phi\}), \\ \lambda_\phi^{(k-1)} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Sampling ρ_δ at iteration k :

1. Draw ρ_δ^* from proposal $q(\rho_\delta^* | \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}) \sim N(\rho_\delta^{(k-1)}, s_\delta^2) \mathbb{1}\{0 \leq \rho_\delta^* \leq 1\}$.

$$\text{where } q(\rho_\delta^* | \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}) = \frac{\phi\left(\frac{\rho_\delta^* - \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_\delta}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_\delta}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\rho_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_\delta}\right)}.$$

2. Calculate acceptance ratio $r_\delta = \frac{p(\rho_\delta^* | \cdot) q(\rho_\delta^{(k-1)} | \rho_\delta^*)}{p(\rho_\delta^{(k-1)} | \cdot) q(\rho_\delta^* | \rho_\delta^{(k-1)})}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \propto \frac{|\Sigma_\delta(\rho_\delta^*)|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2} \delta' \Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\rho_\delta^*) \delta\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_\delta}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_\delta}\right) \right]}{|\Sigma_\delta(\rho_\delta^{(k-1)})|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2} \delta' \Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\rho_\delta^{(k-1)}) \delta\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\delta^*}{s_\delta}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\delta^*}{s_\delta}\right) \right]} \\ & = \left[\frac{|\Sigma_\delta(\rho_\delta^*)|}{|\Sigma_\delta(\rho_\delta^{(k-1)})|} \right]^{-1/2} \exp\left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \delta' [\Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\rho_\delta^*) - \Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\rho_\delta^{(k-1)})] \delta \right\} \left[\frac{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_\delta}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_\delta}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \rho_\delta^*}{s_\delta}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-1 - \rho_\delta^*}{s_\delta}\right)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

3. Generate $\xi \sim Uniform(0, 1)$.

$$\rho_\delta^{(k)} = \begin{cases} \rho_\delta^* & \text{if } r_\delta > \xi \text{ (with acceptance rate = } \min\{1, r_\delta\}\text{),} \\ \rho_\delta^{(k-1)} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Sampling λ_δ at iteration k :

1. Draw λ_δ^* from proposal $q(\lambda_\delta^* | \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}) \sim N(\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}, s_{\delta 1}^2) \mathbb{1}\{0 \leq \lambda_\delta^* \leq 1\}$.

$$\text{where } q(\lambda_\delta^* | \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}) = \frac{\phi\left(\frac{\lambda_\delta^* - \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_{\delta 1}}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_{\delta 1}}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_{\delta 1}}\right)}.$$

2. Calculate acceptance ratio $r_{\delta 1} = \frac{p(\lambda_\delta^* | \cdot) q(\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)} | \lambda_\delta^*)}{p(\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)} | \cdot) q(\lambda_\delta^* | \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)})}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \propto \frac{|\Sigma_\delta(\lambda_\delta^*)|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\delta}' \Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\lambda_\delta^*) \boldsymbol{\delta}\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_{\delta 1}}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_{\delta 1}}\right) \right]}{|\Sigma_\delta(\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)})|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\delta}' \Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}) \boldsymbol{\delta}\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\delta^*}{s_{\delta 1}}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\delta^*}{s_{\delta 1}}\right) \right]} \\ & = \left[\frac{|\Sigma_\delta(\lambda_\delta^*)|}{|\Sigma_\delta(\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)})|} \right]^{-1/2} \exp\left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\delta}' [\Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\lambda_\delta^*) - \Sigma_\delta^{-1}(\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)})] \boldsymbol{\delta} \right\} \left[\frac{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_{\delta 1}}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\delta^{(k-1)}}{s_{\delta 1}}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\delta^*}{s_{\delta 1}}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\delta^*}{s_{\delta 1}}\right)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

3. Generate $\xi \sim Uniform(0, 1)$.

$$\lambda_\delta^{(k)} = \begin{cases} \lambda_\delta^* & \text{if } r_{\delta 1} > \xi \text{ (with acceptance rate = } \min\{1, r_{\delta 1}\}\text{),} \\ \lambda_\delta^{(k-1)} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

3.2 SVAR Model

Here we derive all full conditional distributions and MH sampling algorithm details for the SVAR model. Models 7 and 8 are special cases of this model.

Level I.

$$Z_{i,t} = X_{i,t-1} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \psi_{i,t-1} \rho_i (Z_{i,t-1} - X_{i,t-2} \boldsymbol{\beta}) + \epsilon_{i,t} \quad \epsilon_{i,t} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \sigma^2 N)$$

$$\mu_Z = E[\mathbf{Z}] = X \boldsymbol{\beta}, \quad Cov(Z_{\cdot,t}, Z_{\cdot,t-u}) = \begin{cases} \frac{c}{\sqrt{Y_{i,t} n_{i,t} Y_{i,t-u} n_{i,t-u}}} \frac{\sigma^2 \boldsymbol{\rho}^{|u|}}{1 - \rho^2} & h = 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$$f(\mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\rho}, \sigma^2) = (2\pi)^{-nT/2} |\Sigma_Z|^{-1/2} \exp\left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (Z - \mu_Z)' \Sigma_Z^{-1} (Z - \mu_Z) \right\}$$

Level II (Priors).

$$\boldsymbol{\beta} | \tau_\beta^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau_\beta^2)$$

$\rho_i = \Phi(W_i)$ such that $\rho_i \in (-1, 1)$ where $\mathbf{W} \sim N(0, \tau_\rho^2[(1 - \lambda_\rho)I + \lambda_\rho R]^{-1})$

$\boldsymbol{\rho}$ is defined through the copula density $g(u_1, \dots, u_n) = \frac{\phi_{\Sigma_W}(F_1^{-1}(u_1), \dots, F_n^{-1}(u_n))}{\prod_{i=1}^n f_i(F_i^{-1}(u_i))}$
 $= \frac{\phi_{\Sigma_W}(\Phi^{-1}(u_1), \dots, \Phi^{-1}(u_n))}{\prod_{i=1}^n \phi(\Phi^{-1}(u_i))}$ where $u_i = \Phi(W_i)$ and $F^{-1}(u) = \Phi^{-1}(u)$. and $W_i = \Phi^{-1}(\frac{\rho_i - 1}{2})$.

Hyperpriors.

$$\tau_\rho^2 \sim IG(a_1, b_1), \lambda_\rho \sim Uniform[0, 1], \sigma^2 \sim IG(a_2, b_2)$$

SVAR model Full conditional distributions

Full conditional distribution of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$:

Given prior $\boldsymbol{\beta} | \tau_\beta^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \tau_\beta^2)$, $[\boldsymbol{\beta} | \mathbf{Z}, \cdot] \propto [\mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2, \boldsymbol{\rho}] [\boldsymbol{\beta} | \tau_\beta^2]$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta}]' \Sigma_Z^{-1} [\mathbf{Z} - X\boldsymbol{\beta}]\right\} \times \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\tau_\beta^2} \boldsymbol{\beta}' \boldsymbol{\beta}\right\}$$

$$\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[\boldsymbol{\beta}' X' \Sigma_Z^{-1} X \boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\beta}' X' \Sigma_Z^{-1} \mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}' \Sigma_Z^{-1} X \boldsymbol{\beta} + \frac{1}{\tau_\beta^2} \boldsymbol{\beta}' \boldsymbol{\beta}]\right\}$$

by completing the square, the full conditional is $\boldsymbol{\beta} | \mathbf{Z}, \cdot \sim MVN\left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_\beta, \Sigma_\beta\right)$

$$\Sigma_\beta = [X' \Sigma_Z^{-1} X + \frac{1}{\tau_\beta^2}]^{-1}, \boldsymbol{\mu}_\beta = \Sigma_\beta X' \Sigma_Z^{-1} \mathbf{Z}$$

Full conditional of σ^2 :

We can write $\Sigma_Z = \sigma^2 \Sigma_Z^*$

Given prior $\sigma^2 | a_2, b_2 \sim IG(a_2, b_2)$, $[\sigma^2 | \mathbf{Z}, \cdot] \propto [\mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2, \boldsymbol{\rho}] [\sigma^2 | a_2, b_2]$

$$\propto (\sigma^2)^{-nT/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\mathbf{Z} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_Z)' \Sigma_Z^{*-1} (\mathbf{Z} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_Z)\right\} \times (\sigma^2)^{-a_2-1} \exp\left\{\frac{-b_2}{\sigma^2}\right\}$$

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\sigma^2 | \mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\rho} \sim IG\left(\frac{nT}{2} + a_2, \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{Z} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_Z)' \Sigma_Z'^{-1} (\mathbf{Z} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_Z) + b_2\right)$$

Full conditional of τ_ρ^2 :

We can write $\Sigma_W = \tau_\rho^2 \Sigma_W^*{}^{-1} = \tau_\rho^2 [(1 - \lambda_\rho)I + \lambda_\rho R]^{-1}$

Given prior $\tau_\rho^2 | a_1, b_1 \sim IG(a_1, b_1)$, $[\tau^2 | \mathbf{W}, \lambda] \propto [\mathbf{W} | \tau_\rho^2, \lambda_\rho] [\tau_\rho^2 | a_1, b_1]$

$$\propto (\tau_\rho^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\tau_\rho^2} \mathbf{W}' \Sigma_W^*{}^{-1} \mathbf{W}\right\} \times (\tau_\rho^2)^{-a_1-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{b_1}{\tau_\rho^2}\right\}$$

The full conditional distribution becomes:

$$\tau_\rho^2 | \mathbf{W}, \lambda_\rho \sim IG\left(\frac{n}{2} + a_1, \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{W}' \Sigma_W^*{}^{-1} \mathbf{W} + b_1\right)$$

SVAR model MH sampling algorithms

Sampling λ_ρ at iteration k :

1. Draw λ^* from proposal $q(\lambda_\rho^* | \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}) \sim N(\lambda_\rho^{k-1}, s_\rho^2) \mathbb{1}\{0 \leq \lambda_\rho^* \leq 1\}$

$$\text{where } q(\lambda_\rho^* | \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}) = \frac{\phi\left(\frac{\lambda_\rho^* - \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}}{\tau_\lambda}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}}{s_\rho}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}}{s_\rho}\right)}$$

2. Calculate acceptance ratio $r_\lambda = \frac{P(\lambda_\rho^* | \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{W}^{(k-1)}, \cdot) q(\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)} | \lambda_\rho^*)}{P(\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)} | \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{W}^{(k-1)}, \cdot) q(\lambda_\rho^* | \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)})} \propto \frac{[\mathbf{W} | \lambda_\rho^*][\lambda_\rho^*] \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}}{s_\rho}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}}{s_\rho}\right) \right]}{[\mathbf{W} | \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}][\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}] \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\rho^*}{s_\rho}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\rho^*}{s_\rho}\right) \right]}$

$$= \frac{|\Sigma_W(\lambda_\rho^*)|^{-1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{W}' \Sigma_W^{-1}(\lambda_\rho^*) \mathbf{W}\right\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}}{s_\rho}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}}{s_\rho}\right) \right]}{|\Sigma_W(\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)})|^{-1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{W}' \Sigma_W^{-1}(\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}) \mathbf{W}\right\} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{1 - \lambda_\rho^*}{s_\rho}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{-\lambda_\rho^*}{s_\rho}\right) \right]}$$

3. Generate $\xi \sim Uniform(0, 1)$.

$$\lambda_\rho^{(k)} = \begin{cases} \lambda_\rho^* & \text{if } r_\lambda > \xi \text{ (with acceptance rate = } \min\{1, r_\lambda\}\text{),} \\ \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Sampling ρ at iteration k :

1. Draw ρ^* from proposal distribution: $q(\rho^* | \rho^{(k-1)}) \sim C_{\Sigma_W^*}(\rho^* | \rho^{(k-1)})$ with $\Sigma_W^* = \tau_\rho^{*2} [(1 - \lambda_\rho^*)I + \lambda_\rho^* R]^{-1}$ where τ_ρ^{*2} and λ_ρ^* are proposal variance and spatial correlation parameters.

(a) Sample $\mathbf{W}^* \sim N(\mathbf{W}^{(k-1)}, \Sigma_W^*)$.

(b) Transform $\rho^* = 2\Phi(\mathbf{W}^*) - 1$.

2. Calculate acceptance ratio $r_\rho = \frac{P(\rho^* | \mathbf{Z}, \tau_\rho^{2(k-1)}, \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}, \cdot) q(\rho^{(k-1)} | \rho^*)}{P(\rho^{(k-1)} | \mathbf{Z}, \tau_\rho^{2(k-1)}, \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}, \cdot) q(\rho^* | \rho^{(k-1)})}$.

$$\begin{aligned} &\propto \frac{[\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\rho}^*,\cdot][\boldsymbol{\rho}^*|\tau_\rho^{2(k-1)},\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}]q(\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)}|\boldsymbol{\rho}^*)}{[\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)}][\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)}|\tau_\rho^{2(k-1)},\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}]q(\boldsymbol{\rho}^*|\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)})} \\ &\propto \frac{|\Sigma_{\mathbf{Z}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}^*)|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{Z}-\mu_{\mathbf{Z}})'\Sigma_{\mathbf{Z}}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\rho}^*)(\mathbf{Z}-\mu_{\mathbf{Z}})\}}{|\Sigma_{\mathbf{Z}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)})|^{-1/2} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2}[\mathbf{Z}-\mu_{\mathbf{Z}}]'\Sigma_{\mathbf{Z}}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)})[\mathbf{Z}-\mu_{\mathbf{Z}}]\}} \cdot \frac{f(\boldsymbol{\rho}^*)}{f(\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)})} \cdot \frac{q(\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)}|\boldsymbol{\rho}^*)}{q(\boldsymbol{\rho}^*|\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)})}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } \Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{\rho_i^*+1}{2}\right) = \mathbf{W}_i^* \text{ and } \Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{\rho_i^{(k-1)}+1}{2}\right) = \mathbf{W}_i^{(k-1)}.$$

$$\text{Then, } f(\boldsymbol{\rho}^*) = \frac{\phi_{0,\Sigma_W}(W_1^*,\dots,W_n^*)}{\prod_{i=1}^n \phi(W_i^*)} = \frac{\exp(-\frac{1}{2}W^{*\prime}\Sigma_W^{-1}W^*)}{\prod_{i=1}^n \phi(W_i^*)}$$

$$\text{where } \Sigma_W = \tau_\rho^{(k-1)2}[(1-\lambda_\rho^{(k-1)})I + \lambda_\rho^{(k-1)}R]^{-1}.$$

$$\text{and } q(\boldsymbol{\rho}^*|\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)}) = \frac{1}{2}g\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\rho}^*+1}{2}\right) = \frac{\phi_{\Sigma_W}\left[(\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{\rho_1^*+1}{2}\right),\dots,\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{\rho_n^*+1}{2}\right))-\phi_{\Sigma_W}\left[(\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{\rho_1^{(k-1)}+1}{2}\right),\dots,\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{\rho_n^{(k-1)}+1}{2}\right))\right]}{2\prod_{i=1}^n \phi[\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{\rho_i^*+1}{2}\right)]}.$$

3. Generate $\xi \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$.

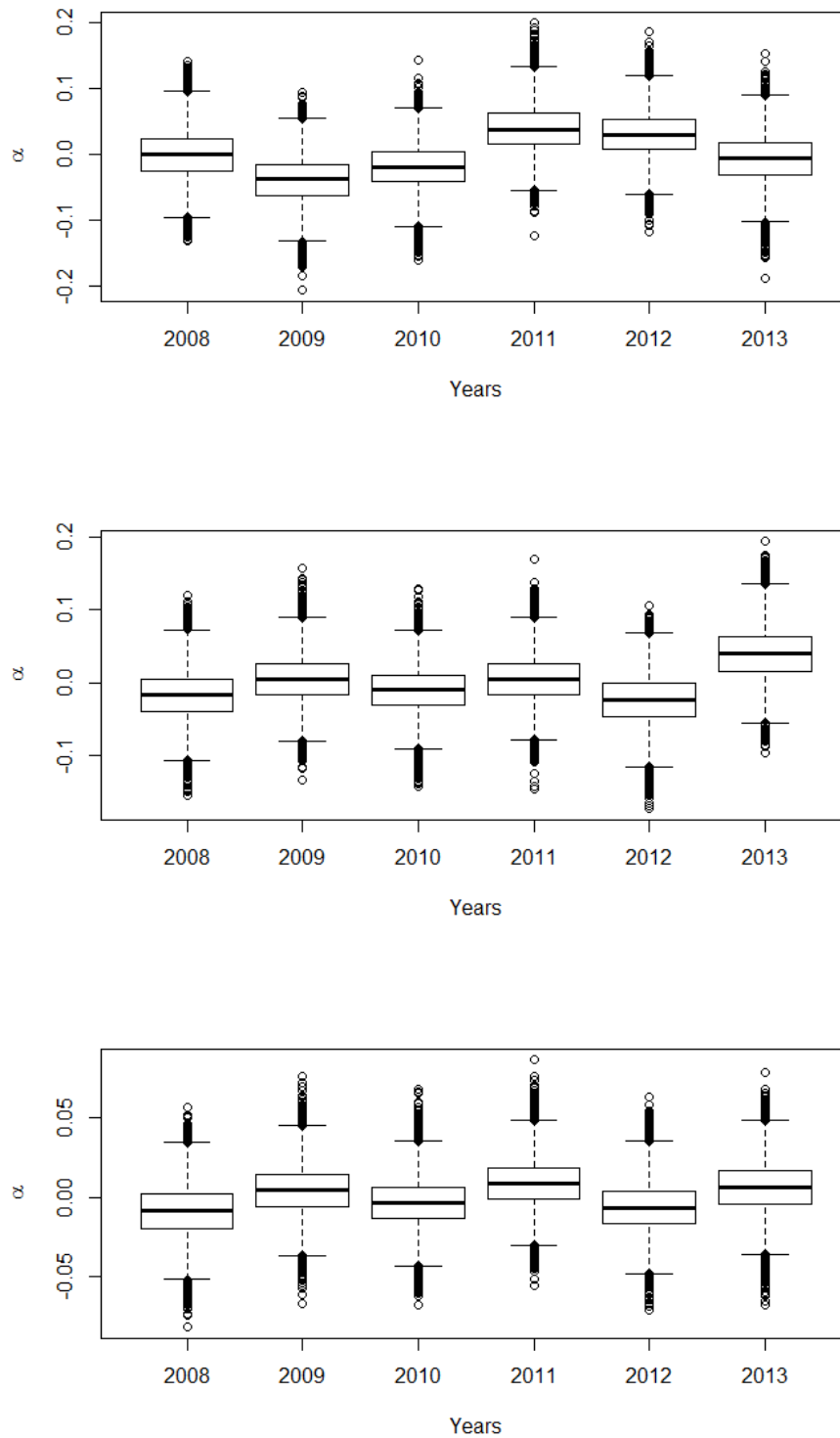
$$\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k)} = \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\rho}^* & \text{if } r_\rho > \xi \text{ (with acceptance rate} = \min\{1, r_\rho\}), \\ \boldsymbol{\rho}^{(k-1)} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

4 Choice of hyperprior parameters

Since HIV data is often sparse, convergence issues can arise with the hyperparameters capturing variance, σ^2 , τ_α^2 , τ_ϕ^2 , τ_δ^2 and τ_ρ^2 . To address this issue we follow Bernardinelli et al. (1995a) by giving these parameters more informative Inverse Gamma hyperpriors. Specifically, we specify τ_α^2 , τ_ϕ^2 , τ_δ^2 , $\tau_\rho^2 \sim IG(a_1, b_1)$ and $\sigma^2 \sim IG(a_2, b_2)$ with $a_1 = 5, b_1 = 2, a_2 = b_2 = 10$. Variance parameters for random effects and $\boldsymbol{\rho}$, i.e. τ_α^2 , τ_ϕ^2 , τ_δ^2 and τ_ρ^2 , are given slightly more informative priors than σ^2 to avoid possible identifiability issues among the variance parameters.

With all three datasets we performed a small sensitivity analysis by also trying a set of less informative hyperprior parameters with $a_1 = a_2 = 1, b_1 = 0.01, b_2 = 0.1$. The more informative priors performed slightly better for Florida and California datasets while comparably with the larger New England dataset. Bernardinelli et al. (1995a) also found that a more informative prior is preferred with smaller datasets. Choice of hyperpriors did not, however, affect the comparison between models.

5 Model 3

Figure 6: Boxplots of α_t for Florida, California and New England (top to bottom).