

**March 21**

- 1. Random slopes**
- 2. Multivariate normal distribution**
- 3. Jointly distributed random effects**
- 4. Specifying formulas in R**

# Random slopes models

# Random intercepts (refresher)

Random intercept  
model of test score

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_1 \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$\eta_{0k}$  allows each  
classroom to have  
a different average  
score (intercept)

$$\eta_{0k} \sim \text{Norm}(0, \phi_0)$$

(Fixed priors omitted)

# Random slopes

Independent  
random coefficients

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_{1k} \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$$\beta_{1k} = \gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}$$

$\eta_{0k}$  and  $\eta_{1k}$  allow  
each classroom to  
have a different  
intercept *and* a  
different slope

$$\eta_{0k} \sim \text{Norm}(0, \phi_0)$$

$$\eta_{1k} \sim \text{Norm}(0, \phi_1)$$

(Fixed priors omitted)

# Random slopes

Independent  
random coefficients

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_{1k} \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$$\beta_{1k} = \gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}$$

$$\eta_{0k} \sim \text{Norm}(0, \phi_0)$$

$$\eta_{1k} \sim \text{Norm}(0, \phi_1)$$

(Fixed priors omitted)

*$\eta_{0k}$  and  $\eta_{1k}$  are independent: knowing one tells us nothing about the other.*

*Independence of random effects is rarely a realistic assumption.*

# The multivariate normal distribution

# Multivariate normal distribution

## Joint distribution over $y_0$ and $y_1$

Variables may not be independent

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \text{MVNorm} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \mu_0 \\ \mu_1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_0^2 & \sigma_{01} \\ \sigma_{01} & \sigma_1^2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$\mu_0$  and  $\mu_1$  are mean of  $y_0$  and  $y_1$ , respectively

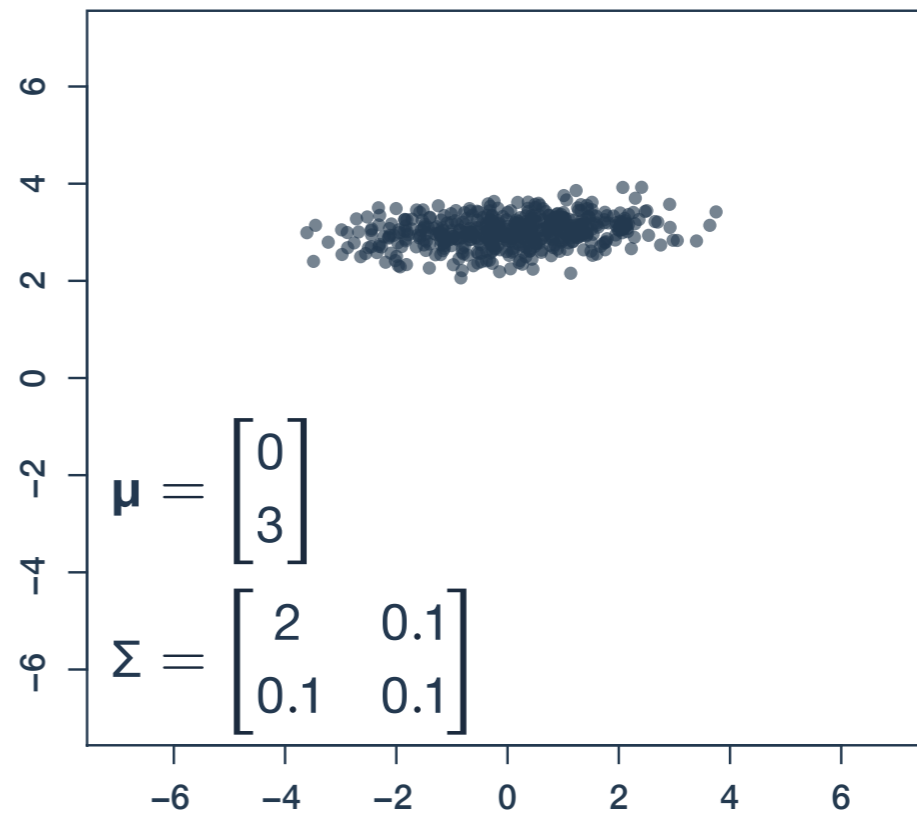
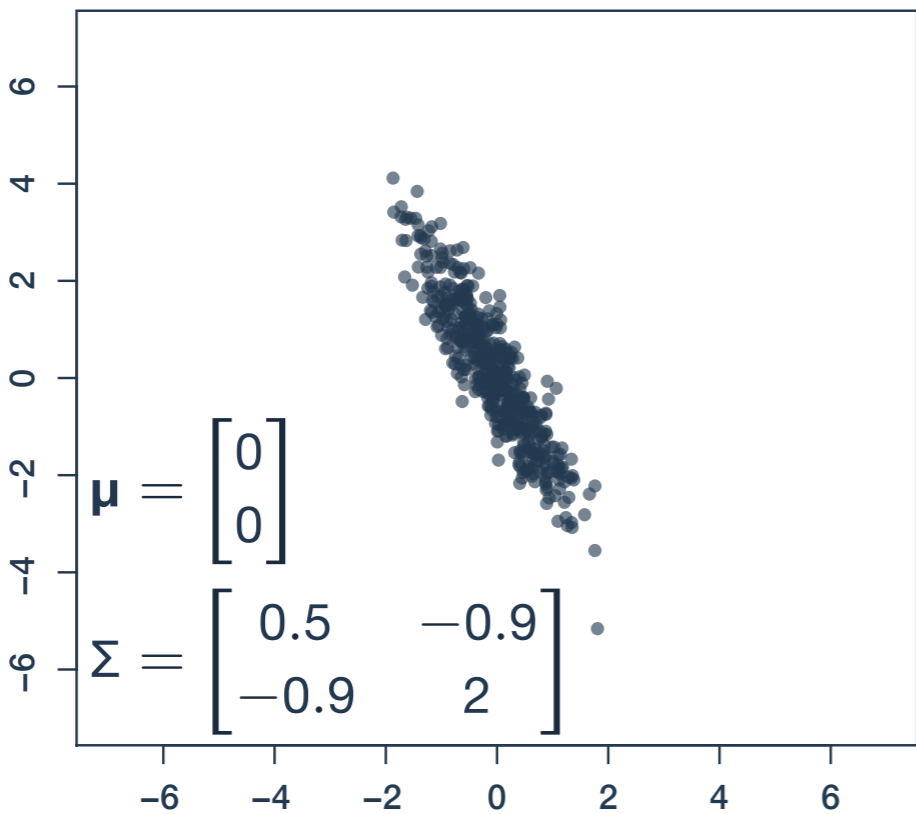
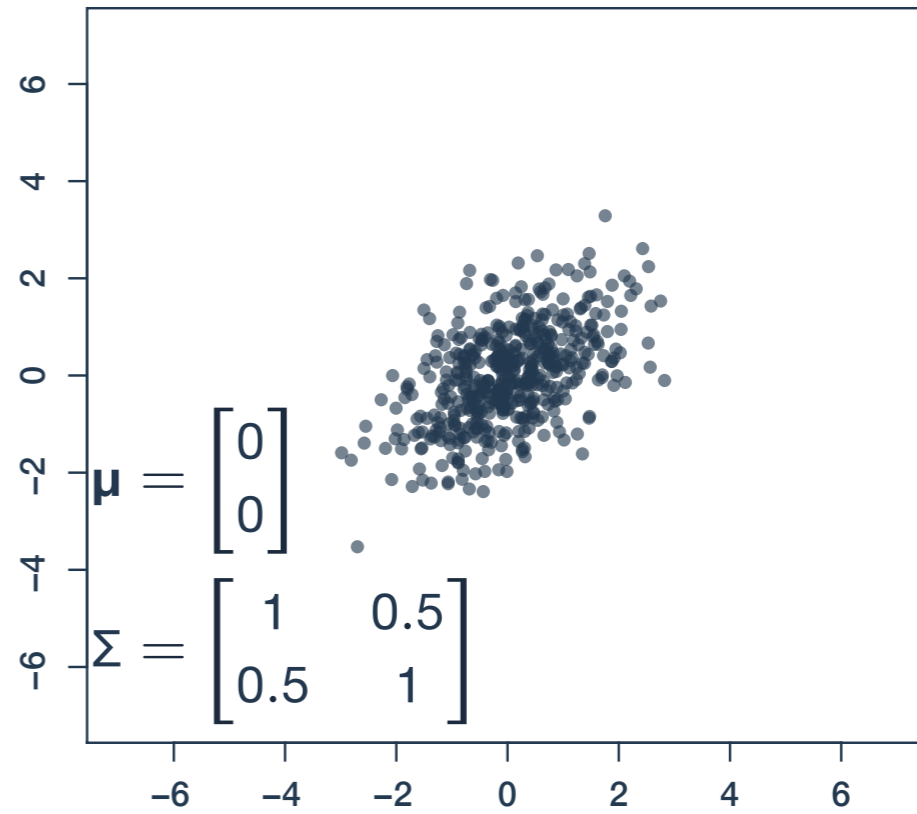
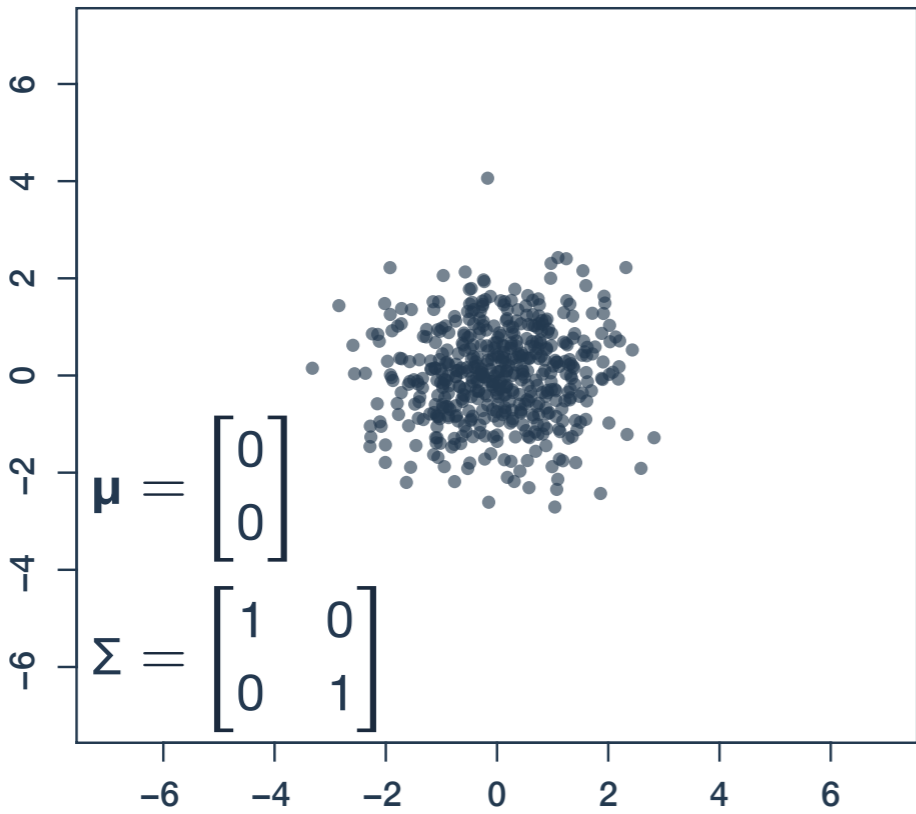
The *covariance matrix* describes the way that  $y_0$  and  $y_1$  inform each other

## Covariance matrix

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_0^2 & \sigma_{01} \\ \sigma_{01} & \sigma_1^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_0^2 & \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \rho_{01} \\ \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \rho_{01} & \sigma_1^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Off-diagonal elements depend on the correlation between  $y_0$  and  $y_1$  ( $\rho_{01}$ )

# Multivariate normal distribution





# Multivariate normal distribution

**Multivariate normal in  
 $k$  dimensions:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_k \end{bmatrix} \sim \text{MVNorm} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \mu_0 \\ \mu_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mu_k \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_0^2 & \sigma_{01} & \cdots & \sigma_{0k} \\ \sigma_{01} & \sigma_1^2 & \cdots & \sigma_{1k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{0k} & \sigma_{1k} & \cdots & \sigma_k^2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

# Jointly distributed random effects

# Jointly distributed random effects

## Independent

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$
$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_{1k} \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$$\beta_{1k} = \gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}$$

$$\eta_{0k} \sim \text{Norm}(0, \phi_0)$$

$$\eta_{1k} \sim \text{Norm}(0, \phi_1)$$

## Joint

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_{1k} \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$$\beta_{1k} = \gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \eta_{0k} \\ \eta_{1k} \end{bmatrix} \sim \text{MVNorm} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \Phi \right)$$

(Fixed priors omitted)

# Estimates

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_{1k} \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$$\beta_{1k} = \gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \eta_{0k} \\ \eta_{1k} \end{bmatrix} \sim \text{MVNorm} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \Phi \right)$$

$$E(\gamma_{00}|D) = 521.63$$

$$E(\gamma_{10}|D) = -5.55$$

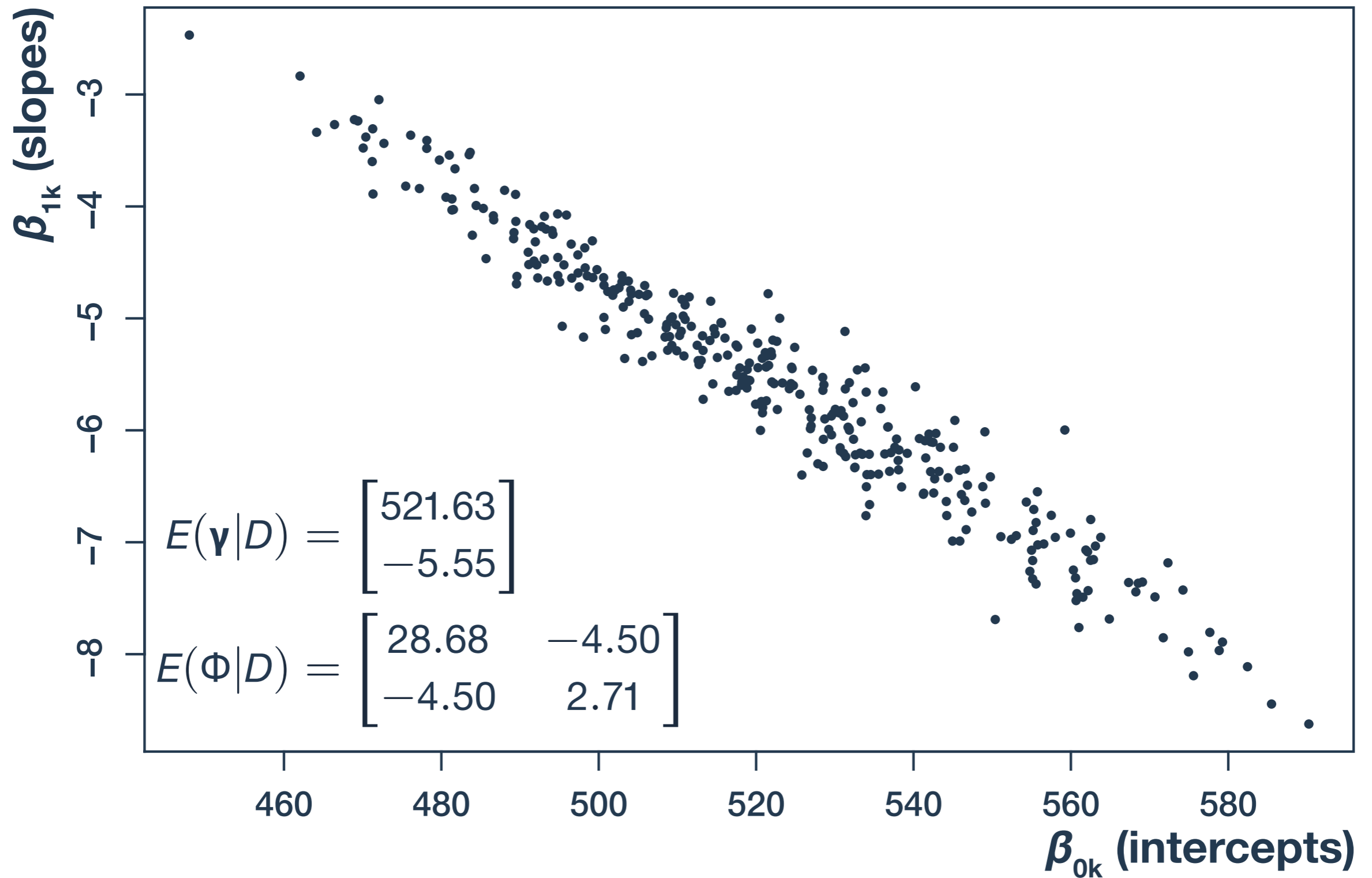
$$E(\sigma|D) = 46.96$$

$$E(\Phi|D) = \begin{bmatrix} 28.68 & -4.50 \\ -4.50 & 2.71 \end{bmatrix}$$

Covariance estimates indicate a relationship between classroom-specific intercepts and classroom-specific age effects

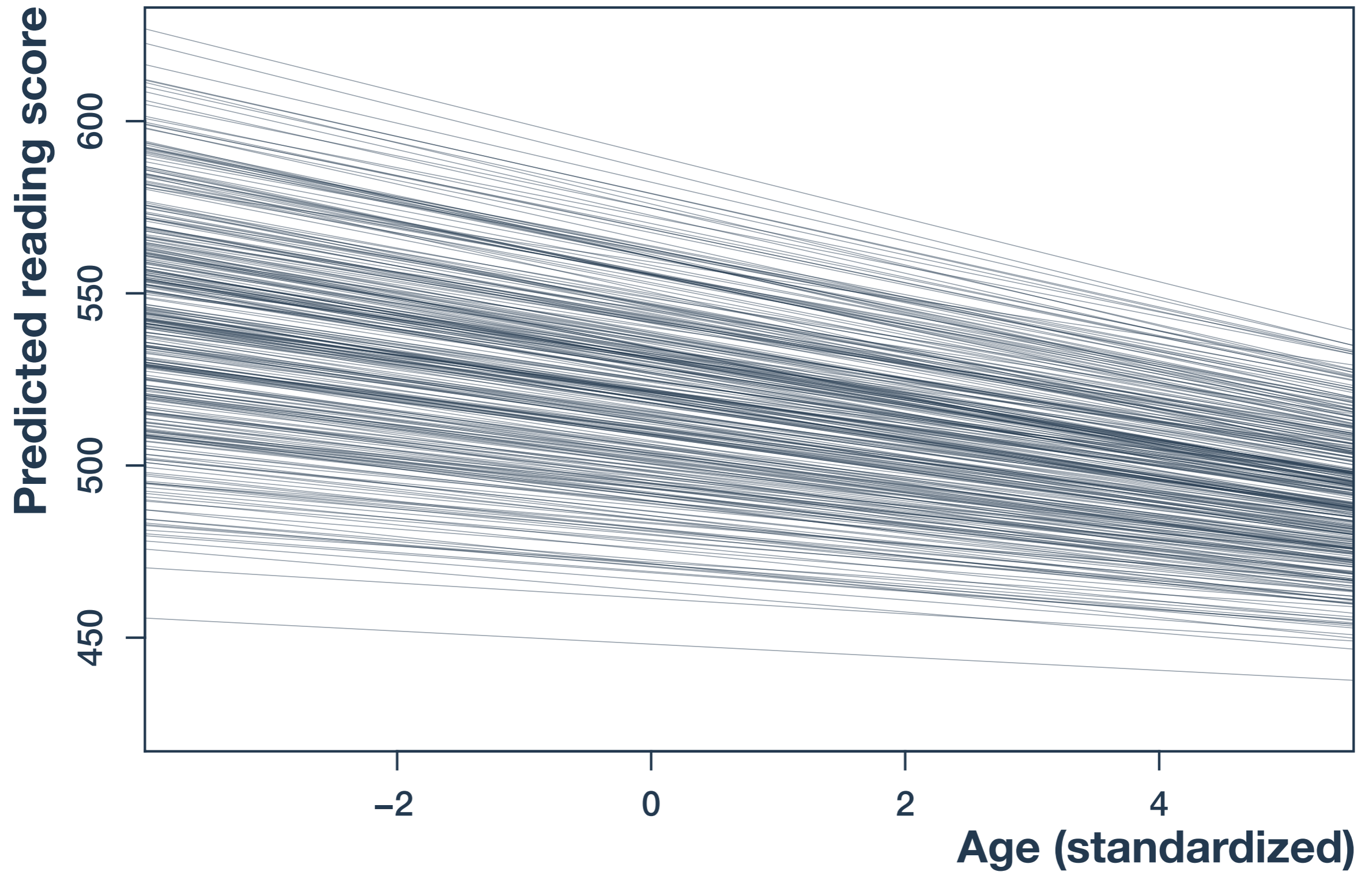
# Class-level estimates

Random effects  
by classroom



# Class-level predictions

Random effects  
by classroom



# Specifying formulas in R

# Two representations of MLMs

## Hierarchical

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_{1k} \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$$\beta_{1k} = \gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}$$

## Expanded

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = (\gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}) + (\gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}) \text{Age}_i$$

$\beta_{0k}$

$\beta_{1k}$



# Two representations of MLMs

## Hierarchical

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = \beta_{0k} + \beta_{1k} \text{Age}_i$$

$$\beta_{0k} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}$$

$$\beta_{1k} = \gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}$$

## Expanded

$$S_{ik} \sim \text{Norm}(\mu_{ik}, \sigma)$$

$$\mu_{ik} = (\gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k}) + (\gamma_{10} + \eta_{1k}) \text{Age}_i$$



$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \eta_{0k} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \boxed{\eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i} + \varepsilon_i$$

This term interacts a covariate ( $\text{Age}_i$ ) with an error term ( $\eta_{1k}$ )

# Expanded notation

## “Fixed” effects

Explained variation in outcome variable.

Describes the way that outcome and predictor variables co-vary.

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10}Age_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k}Age_i + \varepsilon_i$$

## “Random” effects

Unexplained variation in outcome variable.

Described in terms of individual variability and different types of group variability.

# Building an R formula

The “formula” notation we’ve been using in brms is used in other R packages like the frequentist “linear mixed effects” package lme4.  
(extension of syntax for standard regressions)

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

# Building an R formula

Outcome variable

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

# Building an R formula

Global intercept  
(included automatically)

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

# Building an R formula

“Fixed effects” covariates are included as usual

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

# Building an R formula

Random effects use pipe notation (|)

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

# Building an R formula

Grouping elements after the 'pipe' (" | ")

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$



# Building an R formula

Random intercepts indicated  
with constant (1)

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

# Building an R formula

Random-slope variables  
included in grouping expression

```
student_reading_score ~ student_age_s +  
  (1 + student_age_s | teacher_id)
```

$$S_{ik} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{10} \text{Age}_i + \eta_{0k} + \eta_{1k} \text{Age}_i + \varepsilon_i$$