

Running MIXREGLS from within Stata: the `runmixregls` command

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What is `runmixregls`?

- `runmixregls` is a new **Stata** command to run the **MIXREGLS** mixed-effects location scale software (Hedeker and Nordgren, 2013) seamlessly from within **Stata**
- The **mixed-effects location scale model** extends the standard two-level random-intercept multilevel model for continuous data by...
 1. Modelling the within- and between-group variances as log linear functions of the covariates
 2. Including a 'random-scale effect' in the within-group variance function to account for unexplained heterogeneity of variance across groups
- This model, while an appealing and conceptually simple extension, cannot otherwise be fitted in Stata or easily in any other software

MIXED-EFFECTS LOCATION SCALE MODEL

The standard two-level random-intercept multilevel model

- To understand the mixed-effects location scale model, first consider the **two-level random-intercept multilevel model for continuous data**, written for simplicity in terms of a single covariate at each level of analysis

$$y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \beta_2 w_j + u_j + e_{ij}$$

$$u_j \sim N(0, \sigma_u^2)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_e^2)$$

where

- y_{ij} is the continuous response variable
- x_{ij} is the observation-level covariate
- w_j is the group-level covariate
- u_j is the group random-intercept effect with **between-group variance** σ_u^2
- e_{ij} is the residual-error with **within-group variance** σ_e^2

A reparameterization of the standard model

- We can reparameterise the previous model as

Mean function

$$y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \beta_2 w_j + \sigma_u \theta_{1j} + e_{ij}$$

Between-group variance function

$$\log(\sigma_u^2) = \alpha_0$$

Within-group variance function

$$\log(\sigma_e^2) = \gamma_0$$

$$\theta_{1j} \sim N(0, 1)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_e^2)$$

where

- σ_u is the square root of the between-group variance
- θ_{1j} is the standardised group random-intercept effect
- α_0 is the log of the between-group variance
- γ_0 is the log of the within-group variance
- σ_u , σ_u^2 and σ_e^2 are all ‘intermediate parameters’

Including covariates in the variance functions

- We can then add covariates into the within- and between-group variance functions

Mean $y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \beta_2 w_j + \sigma_{u_{ij}} \theta_{1j} + e_{ij}$

Between $\log(\sigma_{u_{ij}}^2) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_{ij} + \alpha_2 w_j$

Within $\log(\sigma_{e_{ij}}^2) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_{ij} + \gamma_2 w_j$

$$\theta_{1j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_{e_{ij}}^2)$$

- An interesting feature of this parameterisation is that we can include level-1 covariates in the between-group variance function

Including a random-scale effect

- We can also include a **'random-scale effect'** in the within-group variance function to allow for any remaining heterogeneity of variance across groups

Mean $y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \beta_2 w_j + \sigma_{u_{ij}} \theta_{1j} + e_{ij}$

Between $\log(\sigma_{u_{ij}}^2) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_{ij} + \alpha_2 w_j$

Within $\log(\sigma_{e_{ij}}^2) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_{ij} + \gamma_2 w_j + \sigma_v \theta_{2j}$

$$\theta_{1j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$\theta_{2j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_{e_{ij}}^2)$$

- We now refer to θ_{1j} as the **'random-location effect'**

Allowing an association between the location and the scale

- Finally, we can allow for a **group-level association between the location and scale** by further modelling the log of the within-group variance as a linear or quadratic function of the random-location effect

Mean
$$y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + \beta_2 w_j + \sigma_{u_{ij}} \theta_{1j} + e_{ij}$$

Between
$$\log(\sigma_{u_{ij}}^2) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_{ij} + \alpha_2 w_j$$

Within
$$\log(\sigma_{e_{ij}}^2) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_{ij} + \gamma_2 w_j + \delta_l \theta_{1j} + \delta_q \theta_{1j}^2 + \sigma_v \theta_{2j}$$

$$\theta_{1j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$\theta_{2j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_{e_{ij}}^2)$$

- When linear is chosen, this is equivalent to bivariate normal random effects

Installing `runmixregls`

- The `runmixregls` command requires **Stata** 12 or later and **MIXREGLS**.
- **MIXREGLS** can be freely downloaded from
 - https://hedeker-sites.uchicago.edu/sites/hedeker.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/MixregLS_RevisedSept2013.zip

- `runmixregls` can be installed from the Statistical Software Components (SSC) archive by typing the following command within a net-aware version of **Stata**

```
. ssc install runmixregls
```

- Next, you must declare the fully qualified path and filename for the **MIXREGLS** executable (the **MIXREGLS** .exe file) so that `runmixregls` knows where to find the software. You can do this by specifying a global macro called `mixreglspath`. For example

```
. global mixreglspath "C:\MIXREGLS\mixreglsb.exe"
```

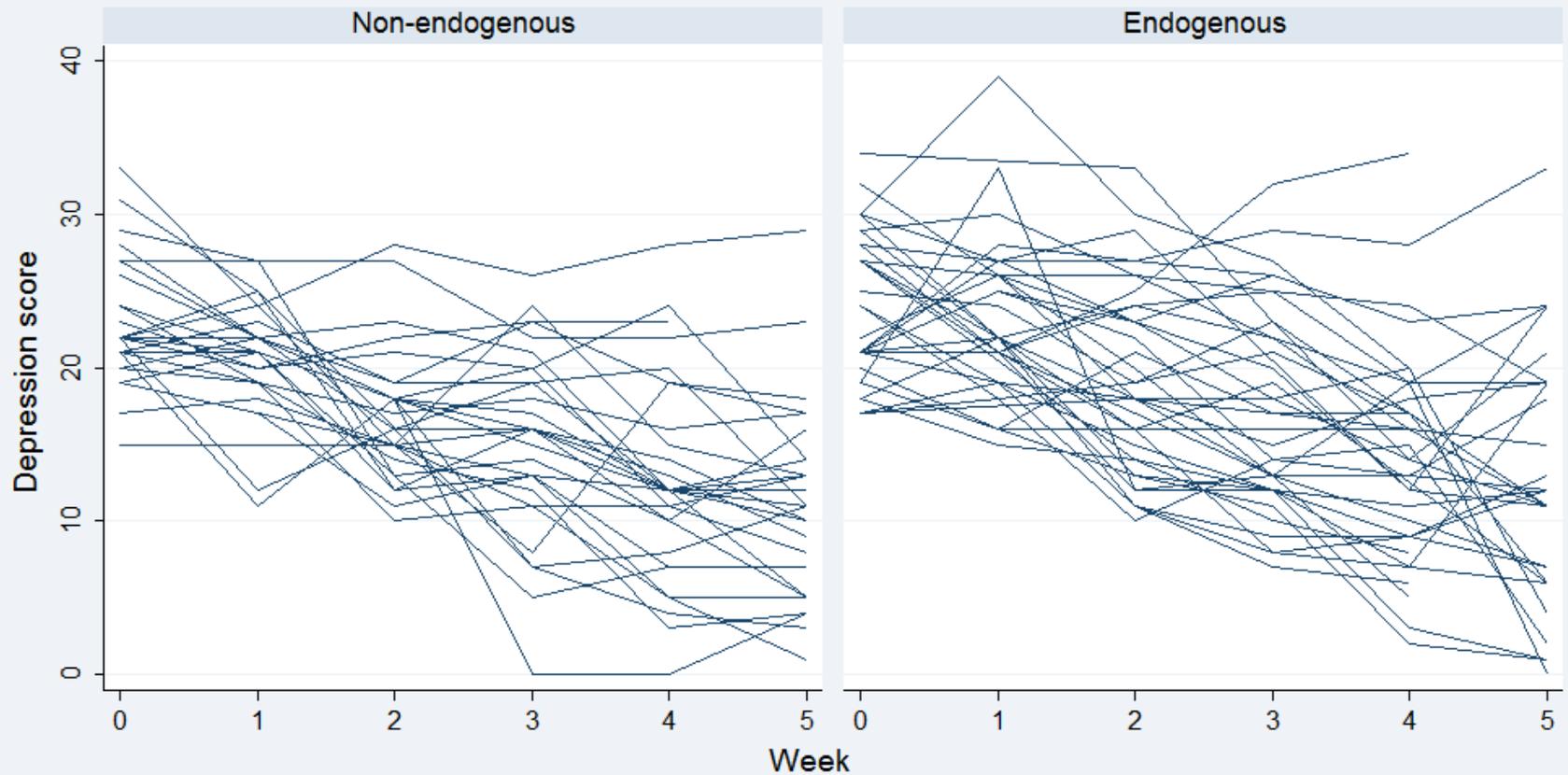
EXAMPLE:

REISBY DEPRESSION DATA

Reisby depression data

- Hedeker and Nordgren (2013) analyse data drawn from a six-week longitudinal psychiatric study of 66 depressed inpatients (Reisby et al., 1977).
- Patients were diagnosed at baseline with either endogenous (N = 37) or non-endogenous (N = 29) depression and were then rated weekly using the Hamilton depression rating scale (range = 0 to 39).
- The data consists of 375 observations (level-1) on 66 subjects (level-2)
- Response is Hamilton depression score (**hamdep**)
- Main covariates are week number (**week**), depression group (**endog**), and the interaction between group and week (**endweek**)

Spaghetti plot, by depression group



Graphs by Endogenous

```
. twoway (line hamdep week, connect(ascending)),  
> xlabel(0(1)5) by(endog)
```

Mixed-effects location scale model

- Hedeker and Nordgren (2013, p. 11) fit the following mixed-effects location scale model to these data

$$\mathbf{hamdep}_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{week}_{ij} + \beta_2 \mathbf{endog}_j + \beta_3 \mathbf{endweek}_{ij} + \sigma_{u_j} \theta_{1j} + e_{ij}$$

$$\log(\sigma_{u_j}^2) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \mathbf{endog}_j$$

$$\log(\sigma_{e_{ij}}^2) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \mathbf{week}_{ij} + \gamma_2 \mathbf{endog}_j + \delta_l \theta_{1j} + \sigma_v \theta_{2j}$$

$$\theta_{1j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$\theta_{2j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_{e_{ij}}^2)$$

- From eyeballing the spaghetti plot, we might expect:

$$\beta_0 \approx 25, \beta_1 \approx -3, \beta_2 > 0, \beta_3 \approx?, \alpha_0 \approx?, \alpha_1 > 0, \gamma_0 \approx?, \gamma_1 > 0, \gamma_2 \approx?, \delta_l \approx?, \sigma_v > 0$$

The `runmixregls` command syntax

$$\mathbf{hamdep}_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{week}_{ij} + \beta_2 \mathbf{endog}_j + \beta_3 \mathbf{endweek}_{ij} + \sigma_{u_j} \theta_{1j} + e_{ij}$$

$$\log(\sigma_{u_j}^2) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \mathbf{endog}_j$$

$$\log(\sigma_{e_{ij}}^2) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \mathbf{week}_{ij} + \gamma_2 \mathbf{endog}_j + \delta_l \theta_{1j} + \sigma_v \theta_{2j}$$

$$\theta_{1j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$\theta_{2j} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$e_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_{e_{ij}}^2)$$

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, ///  
  between(endog) ///  
  within(week endog)
```



```

___/___/___/___/___/___/ 12.1 Copyright 1985-2011 StataCorp LP
Statistics/Data Analysis StataCorp
                             4905 Lakeway Drive
MP - Parallel Edition      College Station, Texas 77845 USA
                             800-STATA-PC      http://www.stata.com
                             979-696-4600      stata@stata.com
                             979-696-4601 (fax)

2-user 2-core Stata network perpetual license:
  Serial number: 50120527735
  Licensed to: ZoneA
                University of Bristol

Notes:
  1. (/v# option or -set maxvar-) 5000 maximum variables

running C:\Program Files (x86)\Stata12\sysprofile.do ...

running C:\Users\gl9158\profile.do ...

. use http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmm/media/runmixregls/riesby, clear

. recode hamdep (-9=.)
(hamdep: 21 changes made)

. xtset id
      panel variable:  id (balanced)

. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog)

```

Variables ↑ ↓ ×

Variable
id
hamdep
week
endog
endweek

12.1 Copyright 1985-2011 StataCorp LP
 Statistics/Data Analysis
 StataCorp
 4905 Lakeway Drive
 College Station, Texas 77845 USA
 800-STATA-PC http://www.stata.com
 979-696-4600 stata@stata.com

MP - Parallel Edition

Variables

Variable

id

hamdep

week

endog

endweek

```

C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
-----
Model WITH RANDOM Scale
-----
Newton-Raphson Iteration      1 with ridge      0.2000
maximum correction and derivative
0.46136826641892137          25.881273290225710
-2 Log-Likelihood =          2259.10311
Newton-Raphson Iteration      2 with ridge      0.2000
maximum correction and derivative
0.18153386359866155          9.0841299459903713
-2 Log-Likelihood =          2248.75141
Newton-Raphson Iteration      3 with ridge      0.2000
maximum correction and derivative
0.14724263710334884          5.8593555695932160
-2 Log-Likelihood =          2246.33979
Newton-Raphson Iteration      4 with ridge      0.2000
maximum correction and derivative
9.3810310203326516E-002      3.8530440918281297
-2 Log-Likelihood =          2245.39734
Newton-Raphson Iteration      5 with ridge      0.2000
maximum correction and derivative
5.7929447258925404E-002      2.5457851727048340
-2 Log-Likelihood =          2245.00291

```

2-user 2-core
 Serial
 Licen

Notes:
 1. (/v#

running C:\Pro
 running C:\Use

. use http://w

. recode hamdep (-9=.)
 (hamdep: 21 changes made)

. xtset id
 panel variable: id (balanced)

. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog)



```
. use http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmm/media/runmixregls/riesby, clear

. recode hamdep (-9=.)
(hamdep: 21 changes made)

. xtset id
      panel variable:  id (balanced)

. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog)
```

runmixregls - Run MIXREGLS from within Stata

```
Mixed-effects location scale model
Group variable: id
Number of obs      =      375
Number of groups   =       66
Obs per group: min =       4
                  avg =      5.7
                  max =       6

Run time (seconds) =      5.234
Integration points =       11
Log Likelihood     = -1122.2965
```

hamdep	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Mean						
week	-2.295431	.1877299	-12.23	0.000	-2.663375	-1.927488
endog	1.879423	1.076568	1.75	0.081	-.2306119	3.989457
endweek	-.028614	.2677226	-0.11	0.915	-.5533407	.4961127
_cons	22.37832	.723378	30.94	0.000	20.96053	23.79612

Variables ▾ ▹ ×

Variable

id

hamdep

week

endog

endweek



hamdep	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Mean						
week	-2.295431	.1877299	-12.23	0.000	-2.663375	-1.927488
endog	1.879423	1.076568	1.75	0.081	-.2306119	3.989457
endweek	-.028614	.2677226	-0.11	0.915	-.5533407	.4961127
_cons	22.37832	.723378	30.94	0.000	20.96053	23.79612
Between						
endog	.5068167	.4581146	1.11	0.269	-.3910714	1.404705
_cons	2.198253	.3544331	6.20	0.000	1.503577	2.892929
Within						
week	.1923404	.0628283	3.06	0.002	.0691991	.3154817
endog	.2881487	.2454437	1.17	0.240	-.1929121	.7692094
_cons	2.087681	.2363751	8.83	0.000	1.624394	2.550968
Association						
linear	.2132653	.1455909	1.46	0.143	-.0720875	.4986182
Scale						
sigma	.6586948	.1339515	4.92	0.000	.3961547	.9212349

Variables

Variable
id
hamdep
week
endog
endweek

LR test of scale sigma=0: chibar2(01) = 24.41 Prob>=chibar2 = 0.0000

From eyeballing the spaghetti plot, we thought we might find:

$\beta_0 \approx 25, \beta_1 \approx -3, \beta_2 > 0, \beta_3 \approx ?, \alpha_0 \approx ?, \alpha_1 > 0, \gamma_0 \approx ?, \gamma_1 > 0, \gamma_2 \approx ?, \delta_l \approx ?, \sigma_v > 0$

Model options

- We can remove the group-level linear association between the (log of the) within-group variance and the random-location effects.

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, ///  
  between(endog) ///  
  within(week endog) ///  
  association(none)
```

`noconstant` can be used to suppress the constant term (intercept) in each function.

`association(quadratic)` allows for a quadratic association

Random effects/Residuals options

- We can retrieve the standardized random effects and residuals from MIXREGLS and place them in new variables

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, ///  
  between(endog) ///  
  within(week endog) ///  
  association(none) ///  
  reffects(theta1 theta2) ///  
  residuals(estd)
```

Integration and maximization options

- We can change the maximum number of iterations. The default is `iterate(200)`. This may be useful for simulation studies.

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, ///  
  between(endog) ///  
  within(week endog) ///  
  association(none) ///  
  reffects(theta1 theta2) ///  
  residuals(estd) ///  
  iterate(100)
```

`noadapt` prevents MIXREGLS from using adaptive Gaussian quadrature. MIXREGLS will use ordinary Gaussian quadrature instead.

`intpoints(#)` sets the number of integration points for (adaptive) Gaussian quadrature. The default is `intpoints(11)`.

MIXREGLS model files and Reporting options

- We can suppress the table header

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, ///  
  between(endog) ///  
  within(week endog) ///  
  association(none) ///  
  reffects(theta1 theta2) ///  
  residuals(estd)  
  iterate(100) ///  
  noheader
```

`typedeffile` displays the MIXREGLS model definition file in the results window

`typeoutfile` displays the MIXREGLS model output file in the results window



```
. estimates store ex1m1
```

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog) ///
> association(none) reffects(theta1 theta2) residuals(estd) ///
> iterate(100) noheader
```

	hamdep	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Mean							
	week	-2.243917	.1823754	-12.30	0.000	-2.601366	-1.886467
	endog	1.855534	1.090148	1.70	0.089	-.281116	3.992185
	endweek	-.0147273	.2706276	-0.05	0.957	-.5451477	.515693
	_cons	22.2052	.7181727	30.92	0.000	20.79761	23.6128
Between							
	endog	.508993	.4511428	1.13	0.259	-.3752306	1.393217
	_cons	2.213972	.3453482	6.41	0.000	1.537102	2.890842
Within							
	week	.1849173	.0629603	2.94	0.003	.0615174	.3083172
	endog	.3026052	.2461668	1.23	0.219	-.1798729	.7850833
	_cons	2.093735	.2371797	8.83	0.000	1.628871	2.558598
Scale							
	sigma	.6983074	.1277537	5.47	0.000	.4479148	.9487

```
LR test of scale sigma=0: chibar2(01) = 22.29 Prob>=chibar2 = 0.0000
```

```
. estimates store ex1m2
```

Variables

Variable

id

hamdep

week

endog

endweek

_est_ex1...

theta1

theta2

theta1_se

theta2_se

estd

_est_ex1...



```
. estimates store ex1m1
```

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog) ///
> association(none) reffects(theta1 theta2) residuals(estd) ///
> iterate(100) noheader
```

	hamdep	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Mean							
	week	-2.243917	.1823754	-12.30	0.000	-2.601366	-1.886467
	endog	1.855534	1.090148	1.70	0.089	-.281116	3.992185
	endweek	-.0147273	.2706276	-0.05	0.957	-.5451477	.515693
	_cons	22.2052	.7181727	30.92	0.000	20.79761	23.6128
Between							
	endog	.508993	.4511428	1.13	0.259	-.3752306	1.393217
	_cons	2.213972	.3453482	6.41	0.000	1.537102	2.890842
Within							
	week	.1849173	.0629603	2.94	0.003	.0615174	.3083172
	endog	.3026052	.2461668	1.23	0.219	-.1798729	.7850833
	_cons	2.093735	.2371797	8.83	0.000	1.628871	2.558598
Scale							
	sigma	.6983074	.1277537	5.47	0.000	.4479148	.9487

```
LR test of scale sigma=0: chibar2(01) = 22.29 Prob>=chibar2 = 0.0000
```

```
. estimates store ex1m2
```

Variables ▾ ↕ ×

Variable

id

hamdep

week

endog

endweek

_est_ex1...

theta1

theta2

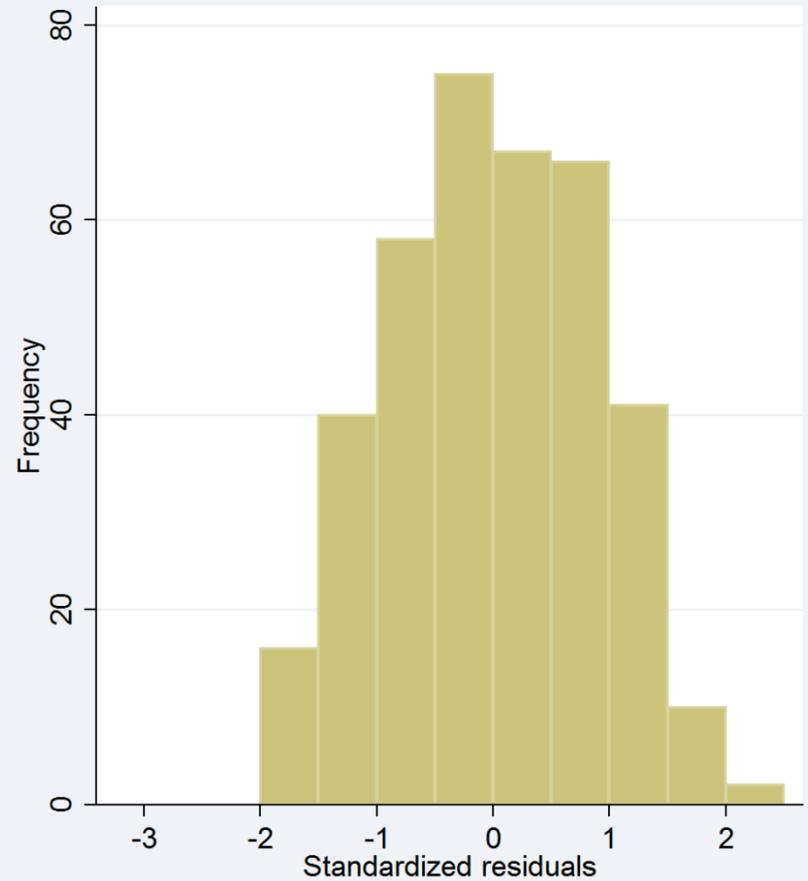
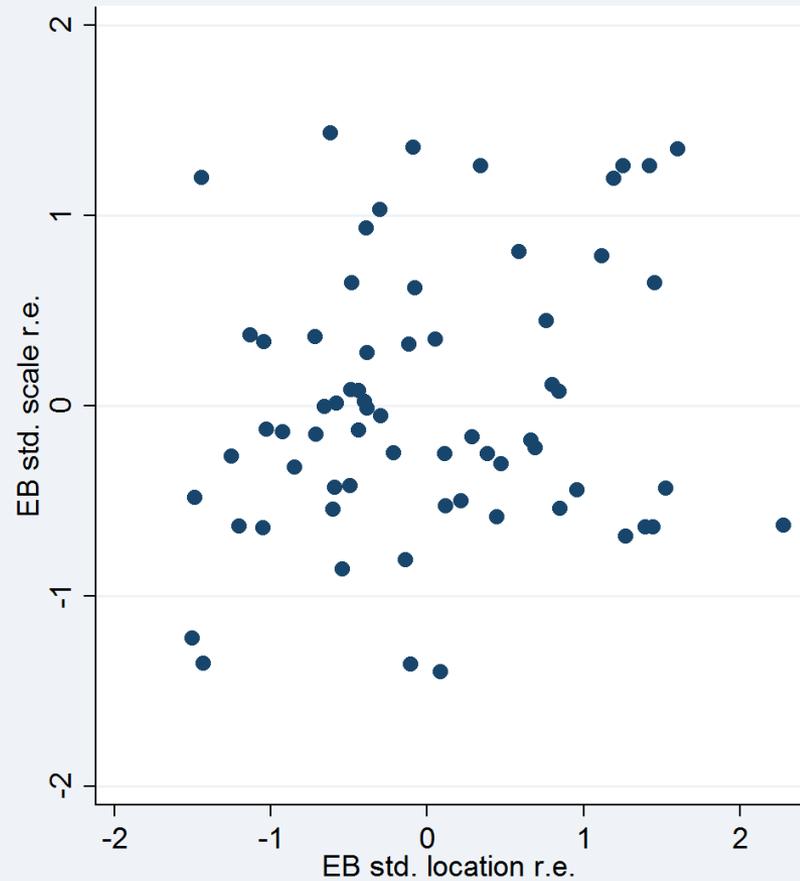
theta1_se

theta2_se

estd

_est_ex1...

Standardized random effects and residual errors



```
. scatter theta2 theta1  
. histogram estd, width(0.5) start(-3) frequency
```



```
. estimates store ex1m1
```

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog) ///
> association(none) reffects(theta1 theta2) residuals(estd) ///
> iterate(100) noheader
```

	hamdep	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Mean							
	week	-2.243917	.1823754	-12.30	0.000	-2.601366	-1.886467
	endog	1.855534	1.090148	1.70	0.089	-.281116	3.992185
	endweek	-.0147273	.2706276	-0.05	0.957	-.5451477	.515693
	_cons	22.2052	.7181727	30.92	0.000	20.79761	23.6128
Between							
	endog	.508993	.4511428	1.13	0.259	-.3752306	1.393217
	_cons	2.213972	.3453482	6.41	0.000	1.537102	2.890842
Within							
	week	.1849173	.0629603	2.94	0.003	.0615174	.3083172
	endog	.3026052	.2461668	1.23	0.219	-.1798729	.7850833
	_cons	2.093735	.2371797	8.83	0.000	1.628871	2.558598
Scale							
	sigma	.6983074	.1277537	5.47	0.000	.4479148	.9487

```
LR test of scale sigma=0: chibar2(01) = 22.29 Prob>=chibar2 = 0.0000
```

```
. estimates store ex1m2
```

Variables ▾ ↕ ✕

Variable

id

hamdep

week

endog

endweek

_est_ex1...

theta1

theta2

theta1_se

theta2_se

estd

_est_ex1...



```
. lrtest ex1m1 ex1m2

Likelihood-ratio test
(Assumption: ex1m2 nested in ex1m1)
```

```
LR chi2(1) = 2.11
Prob > chi2 = 0.1461
```

```
.
.
. test endog endweek
```

- (1) [Mean]endog = 0
- (2) [Between]endog = 0
- (3) [Within]endog = 0
- (4) [Mean]endweek = 0

```
chi2( 4) = 6.58
Prob > chi2 = 0.1597
```

```
. nlcom (sigma2_v: [Scale]sigma^2)
```

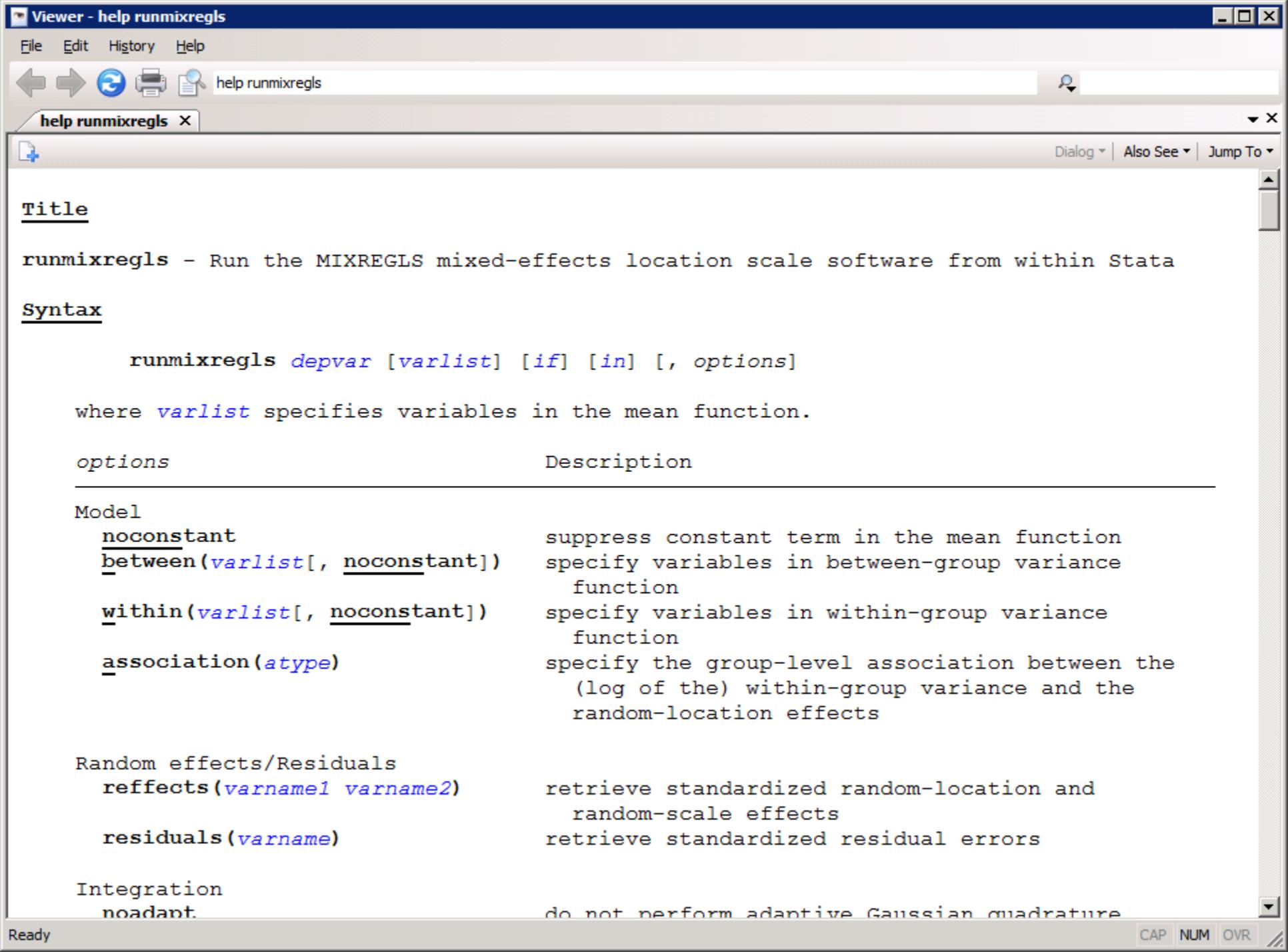
```
sigma2_v: [Scale]sigma^2
```

	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
hamdep						
sigma2_v	.4876332	.1784227	2.73	0.006	.1379312	.8373352

Variables

Variable
id
hamdep
week
endog
endweek
_est_ex1...
theta1
theta2
theta1_se
theta2_se
estd
_est_ex1...

HELP FILE



Title

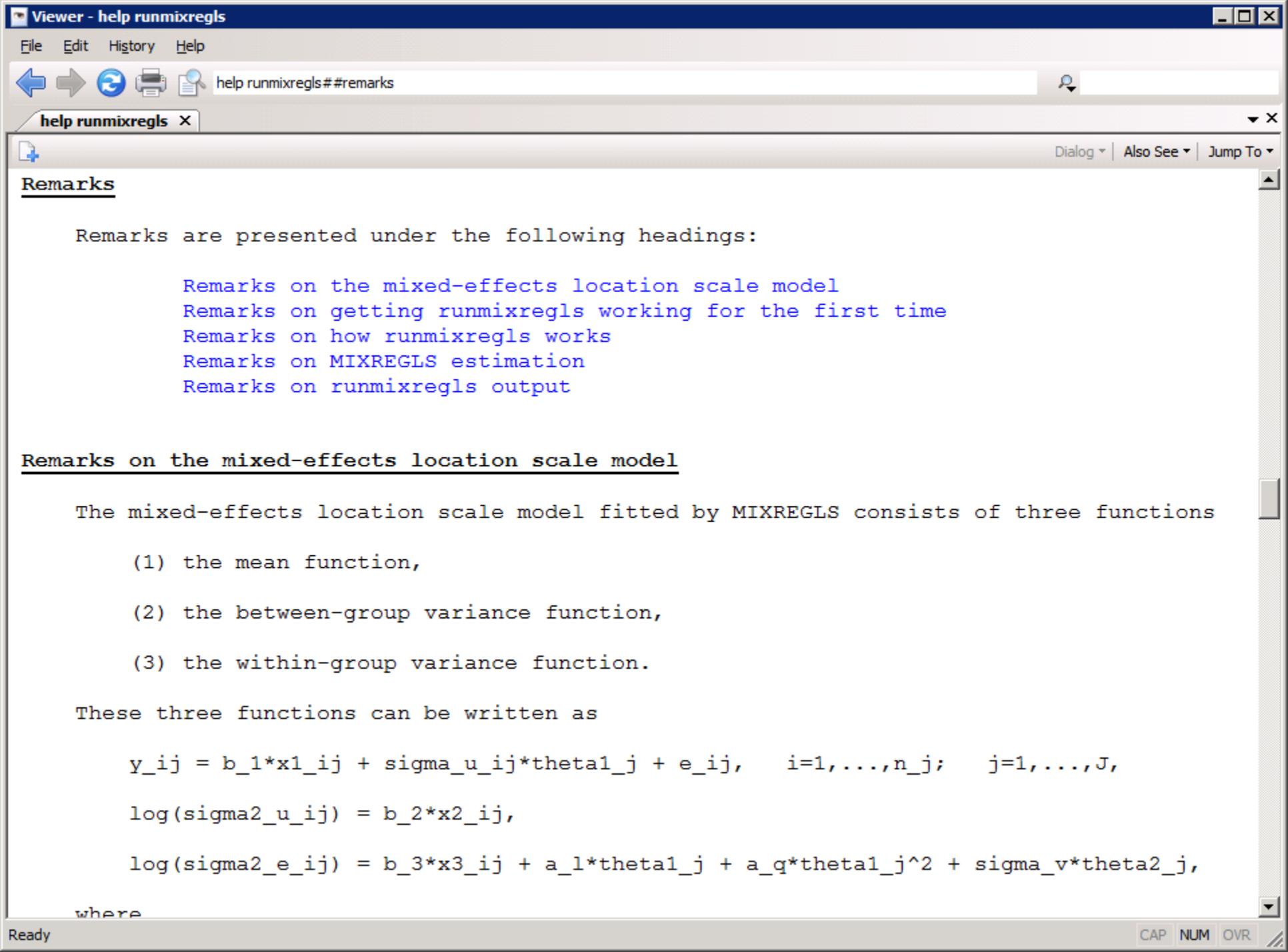
runmixregls - Run the MIXREGLS mixed-effects location scale software from within Stata

Syntax

runmixregls *depvar* [*varlist*] [*if*] [*in*] [, *options*]

where *varlist* specifies variables in the mean function.

<i>options</i>	Description
Model	
<u>noconstant</u>	suppress constant term in the mean function
<u>between</u> (<i>varlist</i> [, <u>noconstant</u>])	specify variables in between-group variance function
<u>within</u> (<i>varlist</i> [, <u>noconstant</u>])	specify variables in within-group variance function
<u>association</u> (<i>atype</i>)	specify the group-level association between the (log of the) within-group variance and the random-location effects
Random effects/Residuals	
<u>reflects</u> (<i>varname1</i> <i>varname2</i>)	retrieve standardized random-location and random-scale effects
<u>residuals</u> (<i>varname</i>)	retrieve standardized residual errors
Integration	
<u>noadant.</u>	do not perform adaptive Gaussian quadrature



Remarks

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

- Remarks on the mixed-effects location scale model
- Remarks on getting runmixregls working for the first time
- Remarks on how runmixregls works
- Remarks on MIXREGLS estimation
- Remarks on runmixregls output

Remarks on the mixed-effects location scale model

The mixed-effects location scale model fitted by MIXREGLS consists of three functions

- (1) the mean function,
- (2) the between-group variance function,
- (3) the within-group variance function.

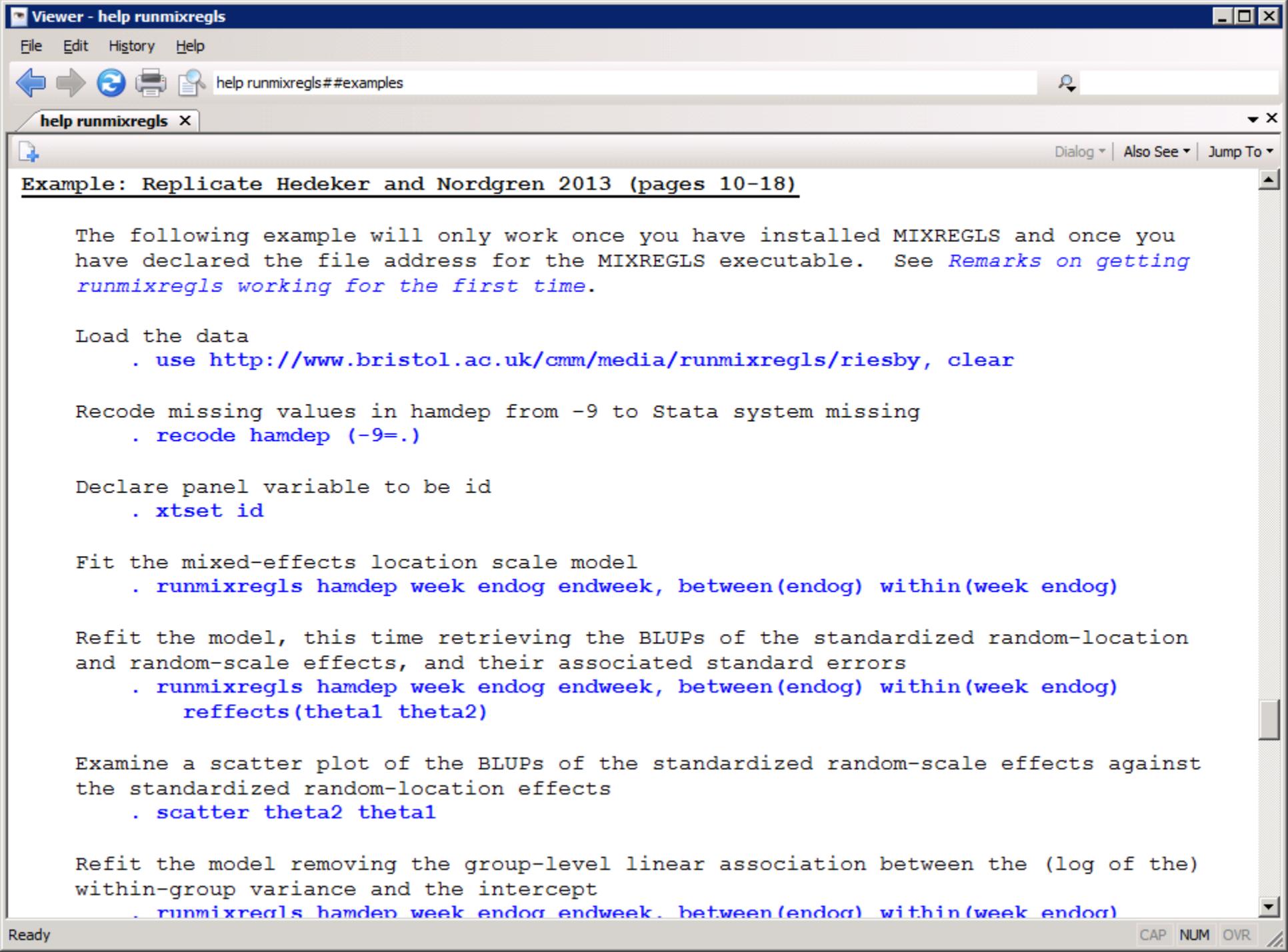
These three functions can be written as

$$y_{ij} = b_1 * x1_{ij} + \sigma_{u_{ij}} * \theta_{1j} + e_{ij}, \quad i=1, \dots, n_j; \quad j=1, \dots, J,$$

$$\log(\sigma_{u_{ij}}^2) = b_2 * x2_{ij},$$

$$\log(\sigma_{e_{ij}}^2) = b_3 * x3_{ij} + a_1 * \theta_{1j} + a_q * \theta_{1j}^2 + \sigma_v * \theta_{2j},$$

where



Example: Replicate Hedeker and Nordgren 2013 (pages 10-18)

The following example will only work once you have installed MIXREGLS and once you have declared the file address for the MIXREGLS executable. See [Remarks on getting runmixregls working for the first time](#).

Load the data

```
. use http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmm/media/runmixregls/riesby, clear
```

Recode missing values in hamdep from -9 to Stata system missing

```
. recode hamdep (-9=.)
```

Declare panel variable to be id

```
. xtset id
```

Fit the mixed-effects location scale model

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog)
```

Refit the model, this time retrieving the BLUPs of the standardized random-location and random-scale effects, and their associated standard errors

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek, between(endog) within(week endog) reffects(theta1 theta2)
```

Examine a scatter plot of the BLUPs of the standardized random-scale effects against the standardized random-location effects

```
. scatter theta2 theta1
```

Refit the model removing the group-level linear association between the (log of the) within-group variance and the intercept

```
. runmixregls hamdep week endog endweek. between(endog) within(week endog)
```

REFERENCES

References

- Leckie, G. (2014). runmixregls - A Program to Run the MIXREGLS Mixed-effects Location Scale Software from within Stata. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 59, Code Snippet 2, 1-41. URL: <https://www.jstatsoft.org/article/view/v059c02>.
- Hedeker, D, Nordgren, R (2013). MIXREGLS: A Program for Mixed-effects Location Scale Analysis. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 52, 12, 1-38. URL: <http://www.jstatsoft.org/v52/i12>.