

# Proper/Non-intrinsic Besag model for spatial effects

## Parametrization

The proper version of the Besag model for random vector  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is defined as

$$x_i | x_{-i}, \tau, d \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \frac{1}{d + n_i} \sum_{i \sim j} x_j, \frac{1}{\tau(d + n_i)} \right) \quad (1)$$

where  $n_i$  is the number of neighbours of node  $i$ ,  $i \sim j$  indicates that the two nodes  $i$  and  $j$  are neighbours,  $d > 0$  is an extra term added on the diagonal controlling the “properness” and  $\tau > 0$  is a “precision-like” (or scaling) parameter.

This parameterisation corresponds to this precision matrix  $Q = (Q_{ij})$ , where for  $j \neq i$

$$Q_{ii} = \tau(n_i + d) \quad \text{and} \quad Q_{ij} = -\tau.$$

## Hyperparameters

The precision parameter  $\tau$  is represented as

$$\theta_1 = \log \tau$$

and the prior is defined on  $\theta_1$ . The diagonal parameter  $d$  is represented as

$$\theta_2 = \log d$$

and the prior is defined on  $\theta_2$ .

## Specification

The besag model is specified inside the `f()` function as

```
f(<whatever>, model="besagproper", graph=<graph>,  
  hyper=<hyper>)
```

The neighbourhood structure of  $\mathbf{x}$  is passed to the program through the `graph` argument. The structure of this file is described below.

## Hyperparameter spesification and default values

**doc** A proper version of the Besag model

**hyper**

**theta1**

**hyperid** 12001

**name** log precision

**short.name** prec

**prior** loggamma

**param** 1 5e-04

**initial** 2

**fixed** FALSE

**to.theta** function(x) log(x)

**from.theta** function(x) exp(x)

```

theta2
  hyperid 12002
  name log diagonal
  short.name diag
  prior loggamma
  param 1 1
  initial 1
  fixed FALSE
  to.theta function(x) log(x)
  from.theta function(x) exp(x)

constr FALSE

nrow.ncol FALSE

augmented FALSE

aug.factor 1

aug.constr

n.div.by

n.required TRUE

set.default.values TRUE

status experimental

pdf besagproper

```

## Example

```

## pick a graph
graph = system.file("demodata/germany.graph", package="INLA")
g = inla.read.graph(graph.file)

## we will use replicated samples in our testing
nrep = 5

## make life easy; use dense matrix algebra
d = 1.0
tau = 1.0
Q = matrix(0, g$n, g$n)
diag(Q) = tau * (d + g$nnbs)
for(i in 1:g$n) {
  if (g$nnbs[i] > 0) {
    Q[i, g$nnbs[[i]]] = -tau
    Q[g$nnbs[[i]], i] = -tau
  }
}
R = chol(Q) ## 'chol' returns the upper triangular

```

```

## simulate data with replications
y = c()
for(i in 1:nrep) {
  y = c(y, backsolve(R, rnorm(g$n)))
}

i = rep(1:g$n, nrep)
replicate = rep(1:nrep, each = g$n)
formula = y ~ f(i, model="besagproper", graph = graph,
  replicate=replicate,
  hyper = list(diag = list(param = c(1, 1)))) -1

## use 'exact' observations, so we fix the noise precisin to a high
## value
r = inla(formula,
  data = data.frame(y, i, replicate),
  family = "gaussian",
  control.family = list(
    hyper = list(
      prec = list(
        initial = 10,
        fixed=TRUE))))

```

## Notes

If  $d = 0$  and the parameter `rankdef=1` is set, then this model corresponds to the **besag** model. `constr=FALSE` is default for this model.