#### **CONSTRAINED ORDINATION** TOPIC 12

### **Constrained ordinations**

- constrained ordination adds a level of statistical testing (next topic)
- also called **direct gradient analysis** or **canonical ordination**
- uses an explanatory matrix to explain the patterns (or variability) in the response matrix
- (A) …two matrices; explanatory grouping variable(s) (**env.**; **qualitative, ordinal**), and a multivariate response (**spp.**)
	- Discriminant Analysis (**DA**)
	- ✘ Analysis of Similarities (**ANOSIM**)
	- ✔ Permutational Analysis of Variance (**PERMANOVA**)
	- Mantel test
	- etc…
- (B) …two matrices; a multivariate explanatory variables (**env.; continuous, categorical, or ordinal covariate(s)**), and a multivariate response (**spp.**)
	- Redundancy Discriminant Analysis (**RDA**) 'extension' of PCA
	- ✔ Distance-based redundancy analysis (**db-RDA**)
	- ✔ Canonical Correspondence Analysis (**CCA**) extension of CA
	- Canonical Analysis of Principal Coordinates (**CAP**) extension of PCoA

#### **Constrained ordinations**

- explanatory variables sometimes called external variables
- used in an **hypothesis-driven** setting
- CCA and db-RDA combine classical ordination (CA and PCA, respectively) with multiple regression
- the significance of the ordinations is assessed via permutation (bootstrapping) tests, e.g. as in a **PERMANOVA**

#### **Multivariate Techniques**



#### Multivariate Techniques



## **Redundancy Analysis (RDA)**

- see<https://sites.google.com/site/mb3gustame/constrained-analyses/rda> and [https://](https://www.davidzeleny.net/anadat-r/doku.php/en:rda_cca) [www.davidzeleny.net/anadat-r/doku.php/en:rda\\_cca](https://www.davidzeleny.net/anadat-r/doku.php/en:rda_cca)
- a method that combines PCA with multiple regression
- it is therefore a 'linear' method, and the same constraints inherent in a PCA are present here too
- in essence, it is a multivariate (multiple response) multiple linear regression, followed by a PCA of the table of fitted values
- it works on centered response data (species, matrix **Y**) and standardised explanatory data (env., etc., matrix **X**)
- **X** conditions the weights (eigenvalues), the orthogonality, and the direction of the ordination axes
- an extremely useful and powerful method available to ecologists
- additional detail in 6.3.1. of Numerical Ecology with R



R> # Hellinger-transform the species dataset

R> # Suited to species abundance data. It gives low weights to species

- R> # with low counts and many zeros. The transformation comprises dividing
- $R$  # each value in a data matrix by its row sum, and taking the square root
- $R$  # of the quotient.

R> spe.hel <- as.tibble(decostand(spe, "hellinger"))

R> spe.hel

# A tibble: 29 x 27





# ... with 19 more rows, and 8 more variables: Titi <dbl>, Abbr <dbl>, Icme <dbl>, Gyce <dbl>, Ruru <dbl>, Blbj <dbl>, # Alal <dbl>, Anan <dbl>



# RDA of Hellinger-transformed fish data, constrained # by all env. vars. in the environmental dataset (sans d.f.s.) spe.rda  $\leftarrow$  rda(spe.hel  $\sim$  ., env)





0.4538882

> summary(spe.rda) # Scaling 2 (default)

#### $Call:$

rda(formula = spe.hel  $\sim$  alt + slo + flo + pH + har + pho + nit + amm + oxy + bod, data = env2)

Partitioning of variance:

Inertia Proportion 0.5025 1.0000 Total Constrained 0.3654 0.7271 Unconstrained 0.1371 0.2729

Eigenvalues, and their contribution to the variance

Importance of components:

RDA1 RDA<sub>2</sub> RDA3 RDA4 RDA<sub>5</sub> RDA6 RDA7 RDA8 RDA9 RDA10 **RDA11 RDA12** PC<sub>1</sub> PC<sub>2</sub> Eigenvalue 0.2281 0.0537 0.03212 0.02321 0.008699 0.007218 0.004869 0.002924 0.002141 0.001160 0.000914 0.0003405 0.04581 0.02814 Proportion Explained 0.4539 0.1069 0.06392 0.04618 0.017311 0.014363 0.009689 0.005819 0.004261 0.002308 0.001819 0.0006776 0.09116 0.05601 Cumulative Proportion 0.4539 0.5607 0.62466 0.67084 0.688155 0.702518 0.712207 0.718027 0.722287 0.724596 0.726415 0.7270922 0.81825 0.87425 PC<sub>3</sub> PC4 PC<sub>5</sub> PC<sub>6</sub> PC7 PC<sub>8</sub> PC<sub>9</sub> **PC10 PC11 PC12 PC13 PC14 PC15** Eigenvalue 0.01528 0.01399 0.009841 0.007674 0.004201 0.003311 0.002761 0.002017 0.001752 0.0009873 0.0005919 0.0004674 0.0002128 Proportion Explained 0.03042 0.02784 0.019583 0.015271 0.008361 0.006588 0.005494 0.004013 0.003486 0.0019647 0.0011779 0.0009301 0.0004234 Cumulative Proportion 0.90467 0.93251 0.952090 0.967361 0.975722 0.982310 0.987804 0.991818 0.995304 0.9972687 0.9984467 0.9993767 0.9998002 **PC16** Eigenvalue 0.0001004 Proportion Explained 0.0001998

Cumulative Proportion 1.0000000

Accumulated constrained eigenvalues

Importance of components:

RDA<sub>2</sub> RDA3 RDA4 RDA5 RDA7 RDA8 RDA9 **RDA10 RDA11 RDA12** RDA1 RDA6 0.2281 0.0537 0.03212 0.02321 0.008699 0.007218 0.004869 0.002924 0.002141 0.001160 0.000914 0.0003405 Eigenvalue Proportion Explained 0.6243 0.1470 0.08791 0.06351 0.023808 0.019755 0.013326 0.008003 0.005860 0.003175 0.002502 0.0009320 Cumulative Proportion 0.6243 0.7712 0.85913 0.92264 0.946448 0.966202 0.979528 0.987532 0.993391 0.996566 0.999068 1.0000000

Scaling 2 for species and site scores

\* Species are scaled proportional to eigenvalues

\* Sites are unscaled: weighted dispersion equal on all dimensions

\* General scaling constant of scores: 1.93676

• the coordinates of the tips of the vectors representing the response variables in the biplots (or triplots); they depend on the scaling chosen







#### > # Canonical coefficients from the rda object



> coef(spe.rda)

```
R > anova(spe.rda) # ... yes!
Permutation test for rda under reduced model
Permutation: free
Number of permutations: 999
Model: rda(formula = spe.hel \sim alt + slo + flo + pH + har + pho + nit + amm + oxy + bod, data = env)
         Df Variance
                          F Pr(>=F)10 0.36889 4.9695 0.001 ***
Model
Residual 18 0.13362
---Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
R>R \rightarrow # The adjusted R2 --- the variance explained by the constrained axes:
R> RsquareAdj(spe.rda)$adj.r.squared
[1] 0.5863788
```

```
R> # Variance explained by full model:
R > sum(spe. rda$CCA$eig) / spe. rda$tot.chi * 100[1] 73.41007
R>R> # Which axes are significant?
R > anova(spe.rda, by = "axis")
Permutation test for rda under reduced model
Forward tests for axes
Permutation: free
Number of permutations: 999
Model: rda(formula = spe.hel ~ alt + slo + flo + pH + har + pho + nit + amm + oxy + bod, data = env)
        Df Variance
                          F Pr(>=F)RDA1
         1 0.228027 30.7183 0.001 ***
RDA2
         10.054418 7.3309 0.001 ***
RDA3
         1 0.033819 4.5559 0.049 *
RDA4
         1 0.030069 4.0507 0.094.
RDA5
         1 0.007488 1.0087 1.000
RDA6
         1 0.005652 0.7615 1.000
RDA7
         1 0.004427 0.5963 1.000
RDA8
         1 0.002816 0.3794 1.000
RDA9
         1 0.001383 0.1863 1.000
RDA10
         1 0.000794 0.1069 1.000
Residual 18 0.133617
---Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
R>R> # Which terms are significant?
R > anova(spe.rda, by = "terms")
Permutation test for rda under reduced model
Terms added sequentially (first to last)
Permutation: free
Number of permutations: 999
Model: rda(formula = spe.hel ~ alt + slo + flo + pH + har + pho + nit + amm + oxy + bod, data = env)
                          F Pr(>=F)Df Variance
alt
         1 0.164859 22.2087 0.001 ***
slo
         1\ 0.028371\ 3.8219\ 0.004**flo
         1 0.015431 2.0788 0.085.
pH
         1 0.011575 1.5593 0.157
         1 0.017701 2.3846 0.066.
har
         10.041819 5.6335 0.001 ***
pho
nit
         1 0.018911 2.5476 0.065.
         1 0.007005 0.9437 0.426
amm
         10.058402 7.8675 0.001 ***
oxy
bod
         1 0.004819 0.6492 0.628
Residual 18 0.133617
---Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```




# Make some plots:  $plot(spe, rda, scaling = 1, display = 0; c("sp", "lc", "cn"),$ main = "Site scaling (scaling 1)")  $plot(spe. rda, scaling = 2, display = c("sp", "lc", "cn"),$  $main = "Species scaling (scaling 2)")$ 



**Species scaling (scaling 2)** 

row18

roww75

 $0.025$ 

Ruru

Alal

row<sub>24</sub>

row22

 $0.0\,$ 

RDA1

oxy

 $a$ lt

row<sub>Babl</sub><br>....<sup>70w13</sup> ow<sub>ow12</sub> row4

row<sub>3</sub> row6

 $0.5$ 

- see<https://sites.google.com/site/mb3gustame/constrained-analyses/cca>and [https://](https://www.davidzeleny.net/anadat-r/doku.php/en:rda_cca) [www.davidzeleny.net/anadat-r/doku.php/en:rda\\_cca](https://www.davidzeleny.net/anadat-r/doku.php/en:rda_cca)
- CCA is the merger between CA and multiple regression, therefore also based on  $\chi^2$ -metric (dissimilarities)
- whereas CA maximises the correlation between species scores and sample scores, in CCAs the sample scores are constrained to be linear combinations of explanatory variables
- because of the 'constraint', eigenvalues in CCA will be lower than in CA
- the link to the unimodal model is clear—if a combination of environmental variables is strongly related to species composition, CCA will create a reduced axis from these variables that makes the species response curves most distinct
- second and higher axes will also maximise the dispersion (remaining inertia) of species, subject to the constraints that these higher axes are linear combinations of the explanatory variables, and that they are orthogonal (i.e. do not explain what has already been explained) to all previous axis

- there are as many constrained (reduced) axes as there are explanatory variables
- the total 'explained inertia' is the sum of the eigenvalues of the constrained axes
- the remaining axes are unconstrained, and can be considered 'residual'
- the total inertia in the species data is the sum of eigenvalues of the constrained and the unconstrained axes, and is equivalent to the sum of eigenvalues, or total inertia, of CA
- thus, explained inertia, compared to total inertia, can be used as a measure of how well species composition is explained by the variables
- unfortunately, a strict measure of 'goodness of fit' for CCA is elusive, because the arch effect itself has some inertia associated with it–and it is not always clear whether this inertia belongs in the 'explained' or 'unexplained' portion

- CCA benefits from the advantages of multiple regression, including:
	- it is possible that patterns result from the combination of several explanatory variables; these patterns would not be observable if explanatory variables are considered separately
	- it is possible to test hypotheses (though in CCA, hypothesis testing is based on randomisation procedures rather than distributional assumptions
	- explanatory variables can be of many types (e.g. continuous, ratio scale, nominal) and do not need to meet distributional assumptions

- Some caveats that apply to multiple regression also apply here:
	- in observational studies, not always possible to infer direct causation
	- the independent effects of highly correlated (**collinear**) variables are difficult to disentangle however, CCA (and regression) can test the null hypothesis that such variables are completely redundant
	- it is possible to 'overfit' the data as the number of variables approaches the number of samples (instead of  $r^2 = -1$ , the explained inertia will equal the total inertia and the CCA solution equals the CA solution), so the solution is no longer 'constrained' by the variables
	- noise in explanatory variables will have an effect on the predicted values
	- the interpretability of the results is directly dependent on the choice and quality of the explanatory variables; and on the researcher's expert knowledge
	- although both multiple regression and CCA find the best linear combination of explanatory variables, they are not guaranteed to find the true underlying gradient (which may be related to unmeasured or unmeasurable factors), nor are they guaranteed to explain a large portion of variation in the dataagain expert knowledge necessary

- one of the biggest advantages of CCA lies in the intuitive nature of its ordination diagram, or triplot (you've seen this already when we did the 'envfit'); it is called atriplot because it simultaneously displays three pieces of information: samples as points, species as points, and environmental variables as arrows (or points)
- CCA triplots can get very crowded, and solutions for this include:
	- separate the parts of the triplot into biplots or scatterplots (e.g. plotting the arrows in a different panel of the same figure)
	- rescaling the arrows so that the species and sample scores are more spread out
	- only plotting the most abundant species (but remember the rare ones as knowledge of these is important in certain studies)
	- plotting only significant constraints as per PERMANOVA or some other means
- please read "Environmental variables in CCA" at <http://ordination.okstate.edu>

• in **vegan**'s cca(), a chi-square transformed data matrix is subjected to weighted linear regression on constraining variables, and the fitted values are submitted to correspondence analysis performed via singular value decomposition (svd)

# **db-RDA**

- in **vegan**'s capscale(), any dissimilarity matrix from vegdist() is subjected to weighted linear regression on constraining variables, and the fitted values are submitted to a PCoA
- the general benefits of a PCoA also apply here
- (dis)similarity matrices calculated from quantitative, semi-quantitative, qualitative, and mixed variables can be handled
- access to a wide array of dissimilarities make the method suitable to many kinds of ecological data
- since we apply species information is lost during the calculation of the dissimilarity matrix, if the original matrix of species composition matrix is available, the species scores can be added into the final ordination diagram as weighted means of site score in which they occur or as vectors fitted onto the ordination space

### **PERMANOVA vs. ANOSIM**

• "Overall, ANOSIM and the Mantel test were very sensitive to heterogeneity in dispersions, with ANOSIM generally being more sensitive than the Mantel test. In contrast, PERMANOVA and Pillai's trace were largely unaffected by heterogeneity for balanced designs. [...]. PERMANOVA was also unaffected by differences in correlation structure. [...] PERMANOVA was generally, but not always, more powerful than the others to detect changes in community structure…"

Anderson, M. J., & Walsh, D. C. I. (2013). PERMANOVA, ANOSIM, and the Mantel test in the face of heterogeneous dispersions: What null hypothesis are you testing? Ecological Monographs, 83(4), 557–574. http://doi.org/10.1890/12-2010.1