Convergence of Position-Dependent MALA with Application to Conditional Simulation in GLMMs

Vivekananda Roy and Lijin Zhang

Department of Statistics, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

1. Introduction

In physics, statistics, and several other disciplines one often deals with a complex probability density \( f(x) \) on \( \mathbb{R}^d \), that is, available only up to a normalizing constant. Generally, the goal is to estimate \( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g(x)f(x)dx \) for some real valued function \( g \). Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) is the most popular method for sampling from such a \( f \) and for providing a Monte Carlo estimate of \( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g(x)f(x)dx \) (Robert and Casella 2004). In MCMC, a Markov chain \( \{X_n\} \), which has \( f \) as its stationary density, is run for a certain number of iterations, and \( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g(x)f(x)dx \) is estimated by the sample average \( \bar{g}_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} g(X_i) \). Among the different MCMC algorithms, Metropolis-Hastings (MH) algorithms (Metropolis et al. 1953; Hastings 1970) are predominant. In MH algorithms, given the current state \( x \), a proposal \( y \) is drawn from a density \( q(x,y) \), which is then accepted with a certain probability. The accept-reject step guarantees reversibility of the Markov chain with respect to the target \( f \), and, in turn, ensures stationarity. Besides, the acceptance probability generally does not involve the unknown normalizing constant in \( f \), making the implementation of MH algorithms practically feasible.

A popular MH algorithm is the random walk Metropolis (RWM) where the proposal density is \( N(x,h_1) \), the normal density centered at the current state \( x \) and with the covariance matrix \( h_1 \) for some \( h > 0 \). A nice feature of the RWM is that the acceptance probability can be adjusted by choosing the step-size (proposal variance) \( h \) accordingly. Indeed, lower step-size results in a higher acceptance probability but then the RWM chain takes longer to move around the space. Therefore, in higher dimensions, that is, when \( d \) is large, the Metropolis adjusted Langevin algorithm (MALA) (Rossky, Doll, and Friedman 1978; Besag 1994; Roberts and Tweedie 1996a), which employs the gradient of log of the target distribution, is developed to achieve faster mixing. Since the mean of the proposal density \( N(x + h\nabla \log f(x)/2, h_1) \) of the MALA is governed by the gradient information, it is likely to make moves in the directions in which \( f \) is increasing. Thus, large proposals can be accepted with a higher probability, leading to high mixing of the Markov chain. On the other hand, the proposal density in the RWM does not make use of the structure of the target density. Superiority of the MALA over the RWM in terms of mixing time is demonstrated by Roberts and Rosenthal (1998) (see also Christensen, Roberts, and Rosenthal 2005; Dwivedi et al. 2019; Chen et al. 2020; Lee, Shen, and Tian 2020; Wu, Schmidler, and Chen 2021).

However, MALA may be inefficient when the coordinates of \( x \) are highly correlated, and have largely differing marginal variances. In such situations, the step-size is compromised to accommodate the coordinates with the smallest variance. Such a situation arises when modeling spatially correlated data. Spatial models take the correlation of different locations into consideration, usually, the closer the two locations, the more similarity and the higher correlations they have. The pre-conditioned MALA (PCMALA) (Stramer and Roberts 2007) is introduced to circumvent these issues by multiplying a covariance matrix to the gradient of log of the target density. The proposal density...
of the PCMALA is $N(x + hGV \log f(x)/2, hG)$, while the selection of an appropriate covariance matrix requires further study. Without the Metropolis step, the MALA and the PCMALA degenerate to the unadjusted Langevin algorithm (ULA) (Parisi 1981; Grenander and Miller 1994; Roberts and Tweedie 1996a) and the pre-conditioned ULA (PCULA), respectively, which although might converge to undesired distributions, require less computational time.

By taking into account the geometry of the target distribution in the selection of step-sizes, efficient versions of MALA can be formed that adapt to the characteristics of the target. Indeed, using ideas from both Riemannian and information geometry, Girolami and Calderhead (2011) propose a generalization of MALA, called the manifold MALA (MMALA). MMALA is constructed taking into account the natural geometry of the target density and considering a Langevin diffusion on a Riemann manifold. In the MMALA, the covariance matrix $G$, unlike the PCMALA, changes in every iteration. More recently, Xifara et al. (2014) propose the position-dependent MALA (PMALA). There are other works in the literature (see e.g. Haario, Saksman, and Tamminen 2001; Roberts and Rosenthal 2009), which consider RWM algorithms where the Gaussian proposal distribution is centered at the current state and the covariance matrix depends on the current or a finite number of previous states.

A Harris ergodic Markov chain will converge to the target distribution, and $E[f(g)]$ can be consistently estimated by the sample mean $\bar{g}_n$ (Meyn and Tweedie 1993). On the other hand, in practice, it is important to ascertain the errors associated with the estimate $\bar{g}_n$. Establishing geometric ergodicity of a Markov chain is the most standard method for guaranteeing a central limit theorem (CLT) for $\bar{g}_n$ and finding its standard errors. Thus, the geometric rate of convergence for Markov chains is highly desired. Furthermore, a nongeometrically ergodic chain may sample heavily from the tails instead of the center of the distribution, leading to instability of the Monte Carlo estimation (Roberts and Tweedie 1996b). The main contribution of this article is that it establishes conditions under which geometric ergodicity will and will not hold for the position-dependent MALA. Indeed, we provide these results for MH algorithms where the normal proposal density has a general mean function $c(x)$ and a covariance matrix $G(x)$ depending on the current position $x$ of the Markov chain. As special cases, these results also hold for the MMALA, the PMALA, and the PCMALA. We also provide conditions guaranteeing geometric ergodicity of the PCULA. Our results will help practitioners implementing these MCMC algorithms to choose appropriate step-sizes ensuring the geometric convergence rates. Previously, Roberts and Tweedie (1996b) derive conditions under which the MALA and ULA chains are geometrically ergodic (GE). However, in the literature, there is no results available on convergence analysis of position dependent MALA chains. Recently, Livingstone (2021) considers ergodicity properties of the RWM algorithm with a position-dependent proposal variance. Some of these previously mentioned results are valid only for $d = 1$. It is known that the Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (HMC) algorithm with exactly one leapfrog step boils down to the MALA (Neal 2011). Livingstone et al. (2019) establish geometric ergodicity of the HMC when the “mass matrix” in the “kinetic energy” is a fixed matrix. On the other hand, in our geometric convergence results, the pre-conditioning covariance matrix is allowed to vary with the current position of the Markov chains.

Generalized linear mixed models (GLMMs) are often used for analyzing correlated non-Gaussian data. Spatial generalized linear mixed models (SGLMMs) are GLMMs where the correlated random effects form the underlying Gaussian random fields. SGLMMs are useful for modeling spatially correlated binomial and count data. Simulation from the random effects given the observations from a GLMM or a SGLMM is important for prediction and the Monte Carlo maximum likelihood estimation (Diggle, Tawn, and Moyeed 1998; Geyer 1994). Langevin algorithms have been previously used for making inference in the SGLMMs (Christensen, Møller, and Waagepetersen 2001; Christensen, Roberts, and Rosenthal 2005; Christensen, Roberts, and Sköld 2006). Another contribution of this article is to verify our general conditions for geometric ergodicity of different versions of the MALA and the ULA for conditional simulation in the GLMMs. In particular, using our general sufficient conditions mentioned before, we establish the geometric rate of convergence of different versions of the MALA with appropriately chosen step-sizes for the binomial GLM. On the other hand, our general necessary conditions are used to show that the PCMALA is not geometrically ergodic for the Poisson GLMM. We also undertake empirical comparisons of the before mentioned algorithms in the context of simulated data from high-dimensional SGLMMs. In the numerical examples we observe that the PCMALA compares favorably with the computationally expensive PMALA. Avoiding expensive computation of derivatives repeatedly in each iteration, the PCMALA is computationally efficient. On the other hand, computational cost for the MMALA and other MCMC algorithms with a position-dependent proposal variance may not scale favorably with increasing dimensions as noted in Girolami and Calderhead (2011). Girolami and Calderhead (2011) compare the MMALA with the "simplified MMALA" where the metric tensor is a locally constant in the context of several examples and they observe that, although the simplified MMALA is "computationally much less expensive," it is less efficient. Girolami and Calderhead (2011) argue that "a global level of pre-conditioning may be inappropriate for differing transient and stationary regimes," however, we observe that for the SGLMM examples considered here, the PCMALA with a well-chosen (suggested by Girolami and Calderhead 2011 themselves) pre-conditioning matrix can outperform the PMALA and the MMALA for chains started either at the center or away from the mode.

The rest of the article is organized as follows. Section 2 contains a brief review of the MALA and its different variants. After discussing some basic results on convergence of Markov chains in Section 3, we provide our main results on MH algorithms with a position-dependent proposal variance in Section 4. Section 5 contains some convergence results for the PCULA. Our general convergence results for variations of the MALA are demonstrated for GLMMs in Section 6. This section also contains empirical comparisons between different variants of the Langevin algorithms in the context of conditional simulation for the SGLMMs. Some concluding remarks appear in Section 7. Finally, most of the proofs and some numerical results are given.
2. Metropolis Adjusted Langevin Algorithms

MALA is a discrete time MH Markov chain based on the Langevin diffusion \( X_t \) defined as

\[
\begin{align*}
    dX_t &= (1/2)\nabla \log f(X_t)dt + dW_t, \\
    \text{where } f \text{ is the } d \text{-dimensional standard Brownian motion. Although } f \text{ is stationary for } X_t \text{ in (1), simple discretizations of it say, } X_n = X_{n-1} + h\nabla \log f(X_{n-1}) + \sqrt{h}\epsilon_n \text{ for a chosen step-size } h \text{ with } \epsilon_n \overset{iid}{\sim} N(0, I_d) \text{ can fail to maintain the stationarity. This is why, in the MALA, an MH accept-reject step is introduced where, in each iteration, the proposal density evaluated at } y \text{ is introduced where, in each iteration, the proposal density is } q(x, y) \text{ is the } N(x + h\nabla \log f(x)/2, hI_d) \text{ density evaluated at } y. \text{ Several extensions of the MALA have been proposed in the literature.}
\end{align*}
\]

This is why, in the MALA, an MH accept-reject step is introduced where, in each iteration, the proposal density is \( q(x, y) = \frac{f(y)}{f(x)} \) with density evaluated at \( y \), where \( f(x) \) is the probability density evaluated at \( x \). Indeed, under these conditions, if \( u(x, t) = f(x) \) \( \forall t \) then the process \( X_t \) is stationary with the invariant density \( f \). Setting \( u(x, t) = f(x), b(x) = \nabla \log f(x)/2 \) and \( \sigma(x) = I \), it can be seen that \( (3) \) holds for \( (1) \). A generalization of \( (1) \) still satisfying \( (3) \) is the diffusion

\[
    dX_t = (1/2)G\nabla \log f(X_t)dt + \sqrt{G}dW_t, 
\]

for a positive definite matrix \( G \). The corresponding discrete time MH chain with proposal density \( N(x + hG\nabla \log f(x)/2, hG) \) is known as the pre-conditioned MALA (PCMALA) (Roberts and Stramer 2002). By choosing \( G \) appropriately, the PCMALA can be well suited to situations where coordinates of the random vector following \( f \) are highly correlated, and have different marginal variances. In Section 6, we discuss several choices of \( G \).

In both \( (1) \) and \( (4) \) the volatility matrix is constant. Girolami and Calderhead (2011) and Xifara et al. (2014) propose variants of \( (1) \) with a position-dependent volatility matrix. The MH proposal of Xifara et al’s (2014) position-dependent MALA (PMALA) is driven by

\[
    dX_t = (1/2)\nabla G(X_t)\log f(X_t)dt + (1/2)\Gamma(X_t)dt + \sqrt{\Gamma}dW_t, 
\]

where \( \Gamma(X_t) = \sum_{i,j} \Gamma_{ij}(X_t)/\partial X_{ij} \). Straightforward calculations show that \( (5) \) satisfies \( (3) \). In practice, we often use \( G(X_t) = \Lambda^{-1}(X_t) \) for some appropriate choice of \( \Lambda \). In that case, \( \Gamma(X_t) = \sum_{i,j} \Lambda^{-1}_{ij}(X_t)/\partial X_{ij} \). The proposal transition of Girolami and Calderhead’s (2011) manifold MALA (MMALA) is driven by a diffusion on a Riemannian manifold given by

\[
    dX_t = (1/2)\nabla^{-1}(X_t)\nabla \log f^*(X_t)dt + (1/2)\Omega(X_t)dt + \sqrt{\Omega^{-1}(X_t)}dW_t, \quad (6)
\]

with \( f(x) = f^*(x)||x||^{1/2} \) and \( \Omega_i = \sum_j \delta^{-1}_{ij}/\partial X_{ij} + 0.5 \sum_j \delta^{-1}_{ij} \log (||I||/\partial X_{ij}). \) Here, we have accounted for a transcription error of Girolami and Calderhead (2011) as mentioned in Xifara et al. (2014). From \( (6) \), it follows that the proposal density of the MMALA chain is \( N(x + (h/2)^{-1}(x)\nabla \log f^*(x) + (h/2)\Omega(x), hI^{-1}(x)) \). In this article, we study convergence properties of MH algorithms with the candidate distribution \( N(cx, hG(x)) \) for some general mean vector \( c(x) \) and the covariance matrix \( hG(x) \). This will cover as special cases different variants of the MALA discussed before.

3. Markov Chain Background

Let \((X, B)\) denote a Borel space. Here, we consider \( X = \mathbb{R}^d \) and let \( \| \cdot \| \) denote the Euclidean norm. Let \( F \) denote the target probability measure and \( P(x, dy) : X \times B \to [0, 1] \) be a Markov transition function (MtF). We will use \( f(x) \) to denote the pdf of \( F \) with respect to the Lebesgue measure. Let \( \{X_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \) be a Markov chain driven by \( P \). Let \( P^n(\cdot, \cdot) \) denotes the \( n \)-step MtF. Now, \( P \) is \( \phi \)-irreducible if there exists a nonzero \( \phi \)-finite measure \( \phi \) on \( X \) such that for all \( A \in B \) with \( \phi(A) > 0 \), and for all \( x \in X \), there exists a positive integer \( n = n(x, A) \) such that \( P^n(x, A) > 0 \). If \( P \) is \( \phi \)-irreducible and \( F \) is invariant with respect to \( P \), then \( \{X_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \) can be used to consistently estimate means with respect to \( f \) (Meyn and Tweedie 1993, Chap 10).

Indeed, under these conditions, if \( g : X \to R \) is integrable with respect to \( F \), that is, if \( E_f[g(x)] = \int_X f(x)g(x)dx < \infty \), then \( \bar{g}_n := \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} g(X_i)/n \to E_f[g] \) almost surely, as \( n \to \infty \). On the other hand, Harris ergodicity of \( P \) does not guarantee a CLT for \( \bar{g}_n \). We say a CLT for \( \bar{g}_n \) exists if \( \sqrt{n}(\bar{g}_n - E_f[g]) \to N(0, \sigma^2_n) \) as \( n \to \infty \) for some \( \sigma^2_n \in (0, \infty) \). The most common method for ensuring a Markov chain CLT is to establish that \( \{X_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \) is geometrically ergodic (GE), that is, to demonstrate the existence of a function \( L : X \to [0, \infty) \) and a constant \( \rho \in (0, 1) \), such that for all \( n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \)

\[
    \|P^n(\cdot, \cdot) - F(\cdot)\|_{TV} \leq L(x)\rho^n, \quad x \in X, \quad (7)
\]

where \( \| \cdot \|_{TV} \) denotes the total variation norm. \( (7) \) guarantees a CLT for \( \bar{g}_n \) if \( E_f[|g(x)|^2] < \infty \) for some \( \delta > 0 \). \( (7) \) also implies that a valid standard error \( \hat{\sigma}_n/\sqrt{n} \) for \( \bar{g}_n \) can be calculated by the batch means or the spectral variance methods which, in turn, can be used to decide “when to stop” running the Markov chain (Vats, Flegal, and Jones 2019; Roy 2020). Furthermore, as mentioned in Roy (2020), most of the MCMC convergence diagnostics used in practice, for example, the effective sample size and the potential scale reduction factor used later in this article, assume the existence of a Markov chain CLT, emphasizing the importance of establishing \( (7) \).

If \( P \) is \( \phi \)-irreducible and aperiodic, then from Meyn and Tweedie’s (1993), chap 15, we know that \( (7) \) is equivalent to the
existence of a Lyapunov function \( V : X \rightarrow [1, \infty] \) and constants \( \lambda < 1, b \leq \infty \) with

\[
P V(x) \leq \lambda V(x) + b, \quad x \in X,
\]

where \( P V(x) = \int_X V(y) P(x, dy) = \mathbb{E}[V(X_t) | X_0 = x] \) and \( C \subseteq X \) is small, meaning that \( \mathbb{E} [\epsilon > 0, \text{integer } k, \text{ and a probability measure } \nu \text{ such that } P^k(x, A) \geq \epsilon \nu(A) \forall x \in C, \text{ and } A \in \mathcal{B}. \]

In the presence of some topological properties, we can use the following result to establish geometric ergodicity of a Markov chain. The function \( V : X \rightarrow [0, \infty] \) is said to be unbounded off compact sets if for any \( a > 0 \), the level set \( \{x \in X : V(x) \leq a\} \) is compact. The next proposition, which directly follows from several results in Meyn and Tweedie (1993), has been used for establishing geometric ergodicity of different MCMC algorithms (see, e.g., Roy and Hobert 2007; Wang and Roy 2018).

**Proposition 1** (Meyn and Tweedie). Let \( P \) be \( \phi \)-irreducible, aperiodic and Feller, where \( \phi \) has nonempty interior. Suppose \( V : X \rightarrow [0, \infty] \) is unbounded off compact sets such that

\[
P V(x) \leq \lambda V(x) + b,
\]

for all \( x \) and for some constants \( \lambda < 1, b \leq \infty \), then \( \{X_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \) is GE.

**Proof of Proposition 1.** Let \( V'(x) = V(x) + 1 \). Then \( V' : X \rightarrow [1, \infty] \) is also unbounded off compact sets and (9) holds for \( V' \) with \( b \) replaced by \( b + 1 - \lambda \). By (Meyn and Tweedie 1993, Theorem 6.0.1) all compact sets of \( X \) are small. Then geometric ergodicity of \( P \) follows from (Meyn and Tweedie 1993, Lemma 15.2.8).

Next, we consider MH Markov chains. The Dirac point mass at \( x \) is denoted by \( \delta_x(\cdot) \). An Mtf \( P \) is said to be MH type if

\[
P(x, dy) = \alpha(x, y) Q(x, dy) + r(x) \delta_y(dy),
\]

where \( Q \) is an Mtf with density \( q(x, y) \), \( \alpha \) is as given in (2) and

\[
r(x) = 1 - \int_X \alpha(x, y) Q(x, dy).
\]

Since \( P \) in (10) is reversible with respect to \( f, f \) is its stationary distribution. If \( f(x) \) and \( q(x, y) \) are positive and continuous for all \( x, y \), then from (Mengersen and Tweedie 1996, Lemma 1.2) we know that the MH type Mtf (10) is aperiodic, and every nonempty compact set is small. A weaker condition is given in Roberts and Tweedie (1996b) that assumes \( q \) is bounded away from zero in some region around the origin. In particular, if \( f(x) \) is bounded away from 0 and \( \infty \) on compact sets, and \( \exists \, \delta_\epsilon > 0, \epsilon_\delta > 0 \) such that for all \( x, \|x - y\| \leq \delta_\epsilon \Rightarrow q(x, y) \geq \epsilon_\delta > 0 \), then \( P \) is aperiodic, and every nonempty compact set is small.

Let \( B_k(x) = \{ y : \|y - x\| < k \} \) denote the open ball with center \( x \) and radius \( k \). Following Jarner and Tweedie (2003) an Mtf \( P \) is called random-walk-type if for any \( \epsilon > 0, \exists \, k > 0 \) such that \( P(x, B_k(x)) > 1 - \epsilon \). If \( P \) is of the form (10)

\[
P(x, B_k(x)) = \int_{B_k(x)} \alpha(x, y) Q(x, dy) + \int_X (1 - \alpha(x, y)) Q(x, dy)
\]

then it is enough to verify \( Q(x, B_k(x)) > 1 - \epsilon \) for \( P \) to be random-walk-type. We now provide some conditions for \( P \) in (10) to be GE.

**Proposition 2.** Suppose \( P \) is of the form (10) and it is \( \phi \)-irreducible, aperiodic, and every nonempty compact set is small. If there exists a function \( V : X \rightarrow [1, \infty] \), which is bounded on compact sets with

\[
\limsup_{\|x\| \to \infty} \frac{PV(x)}{V(x)} < 1
\]

and

\[
\frac{PV(x)}{V(x)} \text{ is bounded on compact sets,}
\]

then (8) holds for a small set \( C \). Conversely, if \( P \) is random-walk-type and (8) holds, then \( V \) satisfies (12) and (13).

The proof of this result can be gleaned from Jarner and Hansen (2000). However, we provide a proof here for completeness. Among other conditions, Jarner and Hansen’s (2000) Lemma 3.5 assumes that \( PV(x)/V(x) \) is bounded which is often violated as in the examples considered here.

**Proof of Proposition 2.** Note that, under (12), (8) holds for all \( x \) outside \( C = \{ x : \|x\| \leq k \} \) for \( k \) sufficiently large. Since (13) holds, and \( V \) is bounded on compact sets, we have

\[
\sup_{\|x\| \leq k} PV(x) \leq \sup_{\|x\| \leq k} PV(x) \sup_{\|x\| \leq k} V(x) < \infty.
\]

From the conditions, we know that \( C \) is small. Thus, (8) holds. For the converse, by Lemma 2.2 of Jarner and Hansen (2000) we know that every small set is bounded. Since (8) holds

\[
\frac{PV(x)}{V(x)} \leq \lambda + \frac{bIC(x)}{V(x)} \leq b.
\]

implying (12) as \( C \) is bounded and (13) as \( bIC(x)/V(x) \leq b \).

Note that \( PV(x)/V(x) = \int q(y)/V(x) \alpha(x, y) Q(x, dy) + r(x) \). As shown in Roberts and Tweedie (1996b) if ess sup \( r(x) = 1 \), then \( P \) is not GE. Necessary conditions for geometric ergodicity can also be established by the following result of Jarner and Tweedie (2003).

**Proposition 3** (Jarner and Tweedie). If \( P \) is random-walk-type with stationary density \( f \), and if it is GE, then \( \exists \, s > 0 \) such that \( \mathbb{E}[\exp(s\|X\|)] < \infty \).
4. Geometric Ergodicity of the General MALA

In this section, we study geometric convergence rates for the MH algorithms with candidate distribution $N(c(x), hG(x))$. Thus, the proposal density is given by

$$q(x,y) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2} |G(x)|^{1/2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(y - c(x))^\top G(x)^{-1} (y - c(x))}{2h}\right].$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

As explained in Section 2, distinct forms of the mean function $c(x)$ and the covariance matrix $hG(x)$ result in the MALA and its different variants. Let $A(x)$ denote the acceptance region, where the proposed positions are always accepted, that is, $A(x) = \{y : f(x)q(x,y) \leq f(y)q(y,x)\}$. If $y \in A(x)$, then $\alpha(x,y)$ defined in (2) is always one. Let $R(x) = A(x)^c$ be the potential rejection region. We now define the following conditions.

A1. There exist positive definite matrices $G_1$ and $G_2$ such that $G_1 \preceq G(x) \preceq G_2 \forall x$.

A2. The mean function $c(x)$ is bounded on bounded sets.

A3. $C_1 := \limsup_{\|x\| \to \infty} \int_{R(x)} q(x,y)(1 - \alpha(x,y))dy < 1$.

A4. There exists $s > 0$ such that

$$\eta := \liminf_{\|x\| \to \infty} \left( \|G_2^{-1/2}x\| - \|G_2^{-1/2}c(x)\| \right) > \frac{\log C_2(s) - \log(1 - C_1)}{s},$$ \hspace{1cm} (15)

where

$$C_2(s) = h^{-d/2}(\pi/2)^{(d-2)/2}(|G_2|/|G_1|)^{1/2} \exp\left[hs^2/2\right] \int_0^\infty \exp\left(-r(hs)^2/(2h)\right)r^{d-1}dr.$$ \hspace{1cm} (16)

Here, for two square matrices $G_1$ and $G_2$ having the same dimensions, $G_1 \preceq G_2$ means that $G_2 - G_1$ is a positive semidefinite matrix. That is, $G_1 \preceq G_2$ is the usual Loewner order on matrices. Let $\xi^+_i$ and $\xi_0^+$ be the smallest and the largest eigenvalue of $G_i$, respectively, for $i = 1, 2$.

Remark 1. Since $\|x\|/\sqrt{\xi^+_i} \leq \|G_2^{-1/2}x\| \leq \|x\|/\sqrt{\xi_0^+}$, a sufficient condition for A4 that may be easier to check is

$$\liminf_{\|x\| \to \infty} (\|x\|/\sqrt{\xi_0^+} - \|c(x)\|/\sqrt{\xi_0^+}) > [\log C_2(s) - \log(1 - C_1)]/s.$$  \hspace{1cm}

We now state sufficient conditions for geometric ergodicity of the MH chains with a position-dependent covariance matrix.

Theorem 1. Suppose the conditions A1–A4 hold. If $f(x)$ is bounded away from 0 and $\infty$ on compact sets, the MH chain with proposal density (14) is GE.

Remark 2. The proof of Theorem 1 given in S1 uses a Lyapunov drift function $V_s(x) = \exp\{s\|G_2^{-1/2}\|\}$, with $s > 0$. By considering a different drift function $V_s(x) = \exp\{s\|x\|\}$, $s > 0$, and following the steps in this proof and using the fact that $G_2 \preceq \xi^+_0 I_d$, another alternative for A4 can be obtained. Indeed, the condition A4 in Theorem 1 can be replaced by the existence of $s > 0$ with $\liminf_{\|x\| \to \infty} (\|x\| - \|c(x)\|) > [\log C_2(s) - \log(1 - C_1)]/s$ where

$$C_2(s) = h^{-d/2}(\pi/2)^{(d-2)/2}(\exp(h\xi^+_0 s^2)/(G_1))^{1/2} \int_0^\infty \exp\left(-r(hs)^2/(2h)\right)r^{d-1}dr.$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

Remark 3. As mentioned in the Introduction, Roberts and Tweedie (1996b) derived conditions under which the MALA chain is GE. One of their conditions is “$A(\cdot)$ converges inwards in $q^*$ which means $\lim_{\|x\| \to \infty} \int_{A(x)} \Delta q(x,y)dy = 0$, where $\Delta q(x,y) = (A(x) \setminus \Delta x) \cup (\Delta x \setminus A(x))$. Recently, Livingstone et al. (2019) assume a slightly weaker condition $\lim_{\|x\| \to \infty} \int_{R(x)\cap \Delta x} q(x,y)dy = 0$ for establishing geometric ergodicity of Hamiltonian Monte Carlo Markov chains. Below we show that if A1 holds and $\|c(x)\| < M$ for all $x$, then $\lim_{\|x\| \to \infty} \int_{R(x)\cap \Delta x} q(x,y)dy = 0$ implies that $C_1 = 0$, that is, in that case, A3 automatically holds.

Proof of Remark 3. Since $\|c(x)\| < M$, by Cauchy–Schwarz inequality,

$$c(x)^\top G_2^{-1} y \leq \sqrt{y^\top G_2^{-1} y} \sqrt{c(x)^\top G_2^{-1} c(x)} \leq (M/\sqrt{\xi_0^+}) \sqrt{y^\top G_2^{-1} y}.$$  \hspace{1cm}

Thus, from (14), we have $q(x,y) \leq a \exp\left(-\|G_2^{-1/2}y\| - M/\sqrt{\xi_0^+}/2h\right)$ for some constant $a > 0$. Then $C_1 = 0$ follows since

$$C_1 \leq \limsup_{\|x\| \to \infty} \int_{R(x)\cap \Delta x} q(x,y)dy$$

$$\quad \quad + \limsup_{\|x\| \to \infty} \int_{R(x)\cap \Delta x} q(x,y)dy,$$

and by DCT, the second term of the right side is zero.  \hspace{1cm} \square

Remark 4. For analyzing HMC algorithms, Mangoubi and Smith (2021) assume that there exist $0 < m_2, M_2 < \infty$ such that $m_2 I_d \preceq -\nabla^2 \log f(x) \preceq M_2 I_d$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. A smooth target density $f(x) \propto \exp\left(-U(x)\right)$ satisfies this condition if and only if $U$ is $m_2$ strongly convex and has $M_2$-Lipschitz gradient. Strong convexity and the existence of a Lipschitz gradient of $U$ are also assumed for the analysis of Langevin algorithms in Durmus and Moulines (2019) (see also Dwivedi et al. 2019). Thus, in the special case of $G(x) = (-\nabla^2 \log f(x))^{-1}$, which is often used in practice for implementing the MMALA (Girolami and Calderhead 2011), A1 is same as the assumption of Mangoubi and Smith (2021) mentioned above.

Remark 5. As discussed in Girolami and Calderhead (2011), for implementing the MMALA and the PMLA in Section 6, we use $G = \mathcal{F}^{-1}$, the expected Fisher information matrix plus the negative Hessian of the logarithm of the prior density. For such a $G$, we show that A1 holds for the popular binomial-logit link GLMM, and Theorem 1 is used to establish a CLT for these Markov chains. On the other hand, for establishing consistency of $\hat{G}_n$ for the adaptive Metropolis algorithm, Haario, Saksman, and Tamminen (2001) assume that the proposal covariance matrix $G_n$ satisfies A1 even for the target density, that is, bounded from above and has bounded support.
Remark 6. If \( c(x) \) is a continuous function of \( x \), then A2 holds. For example, for the MALA or the PCMALA if \( \nabla \log f(x) \) is continuous, then A2 holds.

Remark 7. From (16), \( C_2(s) = h^{-d/2}(\pi/2)^{(d-2)/2}((G_2)/(|G_1|)^{1/2} \int_0^\infty \exp(-r^2/(2h) + rs) dr) \). Thus, \( C_2(s) \) is increasing in \( s \). Roberts and Tweedie (1996b) considered the MALA chain. When \( d = 1 \), for the MALA chains, \( G_1 = 1 = G_2 \) and \( C_2(s) = (\pi/2)^{-1/2} \int_0^\infty \exp(-r^2/(2h) + rs) dr \). So \( \lim_{s \to 0} C_2(s) = 1 \). From Remark 3, we know that under Roberts and Tweedie’s (1996b) “\( A(\cdot) \) converges inwards in \( q^* \)” condition, we have \( C_1 = 0 \), so the condition (15) is equivalent to \( \exp(\eta n) > C_2(s) \). On the other hand, Roberts and Tweedie’s (1996b) other condition for the MALA chain to be GE is \( \eta > 0 \).

In the proof of Theorem 1, we have worked with the drift function \( V_s(x) = \exp[s||G_2^{-1/2}x||] \), with \( s > 0 \). Using a different drift function we establish the following theorem providing a slightly different condition for geometric ergodicity. Let us define another condition:

\[
\text{A5} \lim \sup_{n \to \infty} (||c(x)||^2/||x||^2) < (1 - C_1)(||G_1||/||G_2||)^{1/2}.
\]

Theorem 2. Suppose the conditions A1–A3 and A5 hold. If \( f(x) \) is bounded away from 0 and \( \infty \) on compact sets, the MH chain with proposal density (14) is GE.

Remark 8. If the growth rate of \( ||c(x)|| \) is smaller than that of \( ||x|| \), then A4 and A5 hold (see, e.g., the binomial SGLMM example in Section 6). In this case, \( C_1 \) does not need to be explicitly found to be used within A4 or A5. On the other hand, if \( \eta \) can be derived, then a grid search for \( s \) can be done to verify A4.

Remark 9. Although a Gaussian proposal density (14) is assumed in Theorems 1 and 2, following the proofs of these results, one may try to establish conditions for geometric ergodicity for other proposal densities as long as upper bounds to the means of the drift functions with respect to these densities can be derived.

We now provide some general conditions under which an MH algorithm with proposal density (14) does not produce a GE Markov chain. Recall that for the MALA chain and its variants, the mean function \( c(x) \) is of the form \( x + he(x) \) for some function \( e(x) \) and step-size \( h \). For the rest of this section, we assume \( c(x) = x + he(x) \).

Theorem 3. If A1 holds and \( ||e(x)|| < M \) for all \( x \) and for some \( M > 0 \), then a necessary condition for geometric ergodicity of the MH chain with proposal density (14) is \( \text{E}_f(\exp[||X||]) < \infty \) for some \( s > 0 \).

The following theorem provides another necessary condition for geometric ergodicity of the MH chain with proposal density (14).

Theorem 4. If \( f(\cdot) \) is bounded, A1 holds and

\[
\liminf_{||x|| \to \infty} \frac{||e(x)||}{||x||} > \frac{2}{h^*},
\]

then the MH chain with proposal density (14) is not GE.

5. Geometric Ergodicity of the PCULA

Based on the Langevin diffusion (1), Roberts and Tweedie (1996b) considered the discrete time Markov chain \( \{X_n\}_{n \geq 0} \) given by

\[
X_n | X_{n-1} \sim N(X_{n-1} + (h/2)\nabla \log f(X_{n-1}), hG),
\]

where \( f(\cdot) \) is the target density. (18) is referred to as the unadjusted Langevin algorithm (ULA). For molecular dynamics applications, the algorithm was considered before (see, e.g., Ermak 1975). However, as mentioned before, when the coordinates are highly correlated, the same step-size for all directions may not be efficient. Therefore, we consider the pre-conditioned unadjusted Langevin algorithm (PCULA) by replacing the identity matrix in (18) with \( G \) that takes the correlation of different coordinates into consideration:

\[
X_n | X_{n-1} \sim N(X_{n-1} + (h/2)G\nabla \log f(X_{n-1}), hG).
\]

Geometric convergence of the ULA chain (18) in the special case when \( d = 1 \) is considered in Roberts and Tweedie (1996b). Recently, Durmus and Moulines (2019) provide some non-asymptotic results for the ULA with nonconstant step-sizes in the higher dimensions (see also Durmus and Moulines 2017; Vempala and Witbisono 2019). Durmus and Moulines (2019) also compare the performance of the PCULA chains with the PCMALA chains in the context of a Bayesian logistic model for binary data. From Section 4 we can derive conditions for geometric ergodicity of the Markov chain driven by \( X_n | X_{n-1} = x \sim N(c(x), hG) \). Note that, in the absence of an accept-reject step, \( C_1 = 0 \) for the PCULA chain. Although PCULA avoids the accept-reject step, it is important to note that its equilibrium distribution is no longer \( f \).

Proposition 4. Let \( c(x) \) be a continuous function of \( x \). If A4 or A5 holds with \( C_1 = 0 \) and \( G = G_2 \), then the Markov chain \( \{X_n\}_{n \geq 0} \) given by \( X_n | X_{n-1} = x \sim N(c(x), hG) \) is GE.

If \( f \) is Gaussian with \( f(x) \propto \exp[-x^T W^{-1}x/2] \), then \( \nabla \log f(x) = -W^{-1}x \). In this case, the PCULA Markov chain (19) is given by:

\[
X_n = X_{n-1} - (h/2)GW^{-1}X_{n-1} + \sqrt{h}G^{1/2}\epsilon_n = AX_{n-1} + \sqrt{h}G^{1/2}\epsilon_n,
\]

where \( A = I - (h/2)GW^{-1} \) and \( \epsilon_n \overset{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(0, I_d) \). We can further extend it by considering more general forms of \( \nabla \log f(x) \). In particular, we consider the Markov Chain:

\[
X_n = AX_{n-1} + e(X_{n-1}) + \sqrt{h}G^{1/2}\epsilon_n
\]

where \( e(x) \) is a continuous function.

Corollary 1. If

\[
\limsup_{||x|| \to \infty} \frac{||e(x)||^2 + 2x^T e(x)}{||x||^2} < 1 - \lambda^+,
\]

where \( \lambda^+ \) is the largest eigenvalue of \( A^T A \), then the Markov chain given in (20) is GE.
Proof of Corollary 1. Since
\[ \frac{\|Ax + e(x)\|^2}{\|x\|^2} \leq \lambda^+ + \frac{e(x)^T e(x) + 2x^T e(x)}{\|x\|^2}, \]
the proof follows from Proposition 4 as A5 holds.

Remark 10. If \( \lambda^+ < 1 \), and \( \|e(x)\| = o(\|x\|) \), then (21) holds.

Note that, \( \lambda^+ < 1 \) is equivalent to that the singular values of \( A \) are strictly less than one. On the other hand, if \( GW^{-1} = W^{-1}G \) then if \( \rho \in (0, 4/h) \), where \( \rho \) is any eigenvalue of \( GW^{-1} \), then \( \lambda^+ < 1 \).

Remark 11. For the ULA chain (18), \( A = I \) and \( e(x) = (h/2) \nabla \log f(x) \). Thus, when \( d = 1 \), (21) becomes
\[ \limsup_{|x| \to \infty} \frac{(h \nabla \log f(x)/2 + hx \nabla \log f(x))}{x^2} < 0. \]

On the other hand, a sufficient condition given in (Roberts and Tweedie 1996b, Theorem 3.1) is that \( \lim_{|x| \to \infty} h \nabla \log f(x)/|2x| < 0 \) and \( (1 + \lim_{x \to \infty} h \nabla \log f(x)/|2x|) - \lim_{x \to \infty} h \nabla \log f(x)/|2|x|) < 1 \).

### 6. Generalized Linear Mixed Models

GLMMs are popular for analyzing different types of correlated observations. Using unobserved Gaussian random effects, GLMMs permit additional sources of variability in the data. Conditional on the random effect \( x = (x^{(1)}, \ldots, x^{(m)}) \), the response/observation variables \( \{Z_i | x^{(i)}\} \) are assumed to be independent with \( Z_i | x^{(i)} \overset{ind}{\sim} a(z_i; \mu_i) \), where the conditional mean \( \mu_i = E(Z_i | x^{(i)}) \) is related to \( x^{(i)} \) through some link functions.

Here, we consider the two most popular GLMMs, namely the binomial GLMM with the logit link and the Poisson GLMM with the log link. For the binomial-logit link model, \( a(z_i; \mu_i) = \left( \frac{e^{\mu_i}/(1 + e^{\mu_i})}{(1 - \mu_i)/\ell_i} \right)^{z_i} \left( 1 - \mu_i/\ell_i \right)^{\ell_i - z_i}, \]
whereas for the Poisson-log link model, \( a(z_i; \mu_i) = \exp(-\mu_i)\mu_i^{z_i} / z_i! \).

The likelihood functions of GLMMs are not available in closed form, but only as a high dimensional integral, that is, \( L(z) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} a(z; \mu) p(x) dx \) where \( p(x) \) is the multivariate Gaussian density for \( x \) with mean \( D\beta \) and covariance matrix \( \Sigma \). Here \( \beta \) and \( D \) are the fixed effects and the fixed effects design matrix, respectively. In this section, we assume that \( (\beta, \Sigma) \) are known, and consider exploring the target density
\[ f(x) \equiv f(x | z) = \left[ \prod_{i=1}^m a(z_i; \mu_i) p(x) \right] / L(z), \]
using the different variants of the MALA and the ULA discussed in Sections 2 and 5.

As mentioned in Remark 5, for the MMALA we use \( G(x) = \mathcal{J}^{-1}(x) \) where \( \mathcal{J} = -\nabla^2 \log f \). Thus, we begin with differentiating \( \log f \) for the binomial-logit link model. Note that, in this case, \( \log f(x) \) (up to a constant) is
\[ - \frac{m \log(2\pi) + \log |\Sigma|}{2} \]
\[ + \sum_{i=1}^m \left[ \log \left( \frac{e^{\mu_i}}{1 + e^{\mu_i}} \right) + z_i \mathcal{J}^{(i)}(\ell_i) - \ell_i \log(1 + \exp(x^{(i)})) \right] \]
\[ - (x - D\beta)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - D\beta) \]
\[ \frac{2}{2} \]

Letting \( \ell = (\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_m) \), we have
\[ \frac{\partial \log f(x)}{\partial x} = z - \ell \cdot \frac{e^x}{1 + e^x} - \Sigma^{-1} (x - D\beta), \]
\[ \frac{\partial^2 \log f(x)}{\partial x^2} = \text{diag} \left( -\ell \cdot \left( e^x \frac{1}{1 + e^x} - \left[ e^x \frac{1}{1 + e^x} \right]^2 \right) \right) - \Sigma^{-1}, \]
and
\[ \frac{\partial^3 \log f(x)}{\partial x^3} = \text{diag} \left( -\ell \cdot \left( e^x \frac{1}{1 + e^x} - 3 \left[ e^x \frac{1}{1 + e^x} \right]^2 + 2 \left[ e^x \frac{1}{1 + e^x} \right] \right) \right). \]

In the above diag \( (z) \) denotes the \( m \times m \) diagonal matrix with diagonal elements \( z \). Since \( \nabla^3 \log f(x) \) in (24) is a diagonal matrix, from the proposition in Xifara et al. (2014), it follows that if \( G(x) = \mathcal{J}^{-1}(x) \) is the same as the MMALA in this case. Indeed, in this case, in (5),
\[ \Gamma_i(x) = \sum_j \partial \mathcal{J}^{-1}(x) / \partial x^{(j)} \]
\[ = - \sum_j \mathcal{J}^{-1}(x)(\partial \mathcal{J}^{-1}(x)/\partial x^{(j)}). \mathcal{J}^{-1}(x). \]

For the PCALA, the covariance matrix \( G \) does not depend on the current position \( x \). In Section 6.1 we consider several choices of \( G \).

Theorem 5. For the binomial GLMM with the logit link, for appropriate values (given in the proof of this result) of \( h \), the PCALA, the MMALA and the PCULA Markov chains are GE.

Remark 12. When \( G = I \), Christensen, Møller, and Waagepetersen (2001) established that if \( h \in (0, 2) \) then a “truncated” MALA chain for the binomial-logit link model is GE. On the other hand, using Theorem 5, geometric ergodicity of this chain can be shown to hold when \( h \in (0, 4) \).

Next, we derive \( \log f \) for the Poisson GLMMs with the log link in this case,
\[ \log f(x) = \text{a constant} + \sum_{i=1}^m (z_i x^{(i)} - \exp(x^{(i)})) - (x - D\beta)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - D\beta)/2, \]
\[ \nabla \log f(x) = x - \exp(x) - \Sigma^{-1} (x - D\beta), \]
\[ \nabla^2 \log f(x) = -\text{diag}(\exp(x)) - \Sigma^{-1}, \]
\[ \nabla^3 \log f(x) = -\text{diag}(\exp(x)). \]

Proposition 5. For the Poisson GLMM with the log link, the PCALA chain is not GE for any \( h \in (0, \infty) \) and any pre-conditioning matrix \( G \).

A proof of Proposition 5 for the MALA chain can be found in Christensen, Møller, and Waagepetersen (2001).
6.1. Numerical Examples of SGLMMs

Spatial generalized linear mixed models (SGLMMs), introduced by Diggle, Tawn, and Moyeed (1998), are often used for analyzing non-Gaussian spatial data that are observed in a continuous region (see, e.g., Zhang 2002; Roy, Evangelou, and Zhu 2016; Evangelou and Roy 2019). SGLMMs are GLMMs where the random effects consist of a spatial process. Conditional on the realized value of the Gaussian random field, \( \mathbb{E} \) (by Diggle, Tawn, and Moyeed (1998), are often used for analyzing the response variable to the underlying spatial process. The conditional mean \( \mathbb{E} \) is related to \( \text{the Matérn, the } \) Gaussian random field, \( \mathbb{E} \) of the (prior) distribution of \( \mathbb{E} \). For the PCMULA, the PMALA (MMALA) and the PCMALA and MMALA chains, for the Poisson model we are particularly, we consider four PCMULA chains denoted by PCULA1, PCULA2, PCULA3, and PCULA4 corresponding to the four G matrices in the before mentioned order.

The empirical performance of the different MCMC algorithms is compared using several measures (see Roy (2020) for a simple introduction to some of these convergence diagnostic measures.). In particular, the MCMC samplers are compared using lag \( k \) autocorrelation function (ACF) values, the effective sample size (ESS) and the multivariate ESS (mESS), ESS (mESS) per unit time, the mean squared jump distance (MSJD), and the multivariate potential scale reduction factor (MPSRF). As mentioned in Roy (2020), for fast-mixing Markov chains, lag \( k \) ACF values drop down to (practically) zero quickly as \( k \) increases, whereas high lag \( k \) ACF values for larger \( k \) indicate slow mixing of the Markov chain. In one dimensional setting, ESS is defined as \( \text{ESS} = n \hat{\sigma}_g^2 / \hat{\sigma}_g^2 \), where \( n \) is the length of the chain, \( \hat{\sigma}_g^2 \) is the estimated variance in the CLT as mentioned in Section 3 and \( \hat{\sigma}_g^2 \) is the sample variance. When \( g \) is a \( \mathbb{R}^p \) valued function for some \( p > 1 \), Vats, Flegal, and Jones (2019) define mESS as mESS = \( n((\hat{\Lambda}_g / |\hat{\Sigma}_g|)^1/p \), where \( \hat{\Lambda}_g \) is the sample covariance matrix and \( \hat{\Sigma}_g \) is the estimated covariance matrix from the CLT. From the definition of the ESS and the mESS, we see that larger values of these measures imply higher efficiency of the Markov chain. The ESS and mESS are calculated using the R package `mcmcse`. The MSJD based on \( n \) iterations of a Markov chain \( \{X_n\} \) is defined as \( \text{MSJD} := \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \| X_{i+1} - X_i \|^2 / (n - 1) \). MSJD compares how much the chains move around the space, and larger values indicate higher amount of mixing. As mentioned in Brooks and Gelman (1998), starting at overdispersed initial points, if the MCMC SF \( \hat{R}_p \) is sufficiently close to one, then the simulation can be stopped. Thus, Markov chains for which \( \hat{R}_p \) reaches close to one faster are preferred. We use the R package `coda` for computing \( \hat{R}_p \). As mentioned in Roy (2020), for using most of the above mentioned numerical measures including ESS, mESS, and MPSRF, existence of a Markov chain CLT is assumed emphasizing the importance of establishing the geometric ergodicity properties of the article. While for the binomial-logit link SGLMM we have established a CLT for the PCMALA and MMALA chains, for the Poisson model we are naively going to use the before mentioned numerical measures to compare the different algorithms.

6.2. Comparison of the Adjusted Langevin Algorithms

We ran each of the nine MH chains started at \( x_{true} \), the "true" value of \( x \) used to simulate the data \( z \), for 150,000 iterations. For the binomial SGLMM, Table 1 provides the ESS values for the three marginal chains corresponding to \( \{x^{(1)}, x^{(175)}, x^{(350)}\} \), the first, the 175th and the 350th element of the 350 dimensional \( x \) vector at the randomly chosen sites mentioned before. For the locations these three points in the 21 \( \times \) 21 square grid covering \( S \) are \( (0,0), (0.1, 0.5), \) and \( (1, 1) \), respectively. Table 1 also includes the mESS values for the multivariate 350 dimensional Markov chains. From Table 1, we see that the choice of the covariance matrix \( G \) does not change the performance of the RWM algorithms much, whereas efficiency of the PCMALA can vary greatly with \( G \). Indeed, when \( G = \hat{\mathcal{G}}^{-1} \), there are
In this article, we establish conditions for geometric convergence of general MH algorithms with normal proposal density involving a position-dependent covariance matrix. If the mean of the proposal distribution is of the form $x_0 + h(x)$, where $x$ denotes the current state, the users implementing these MCMC algorithms considered here and MMALA is the second best. The performance of the nine MCMC algorithms for the Poisson-log link SGLM, as observed from the tables and figures given in S2, is similar to the binomial-logit link SGLM discussed here.

We considered other values of $m$ as well. For smaller $m$ (less than 50), we observe that the same or similar step-size $h$ can be used for both PCMALA with $G = G$, and MMALA to achieve similar acceptance rates and in these lower dimensions, PCMALA with $G = G$ has slightly better or similar performance as the MMALA. On the other hand, in the higher dimensions as we present here, MMALA needs much smaller $h$ to attain a similar acceptance rate as the PCMALA with $G = G$. The small step-size, in turn, leads to more correlated samples and smaller ESS values for the MMALA in the higher dimensions.

### Table 1. ESS values for the MH chains for the binomial SGLMM with the logit link

| Algorithm | $G$ matrix | ESS(1,175,350) | ESS/min | mESS |
|-----------|------------|----------------|---------|------|
| RWM       | $I$        | (44.35,48)     | (0.20,0.16,0.22) | 1.064 |
|           | $G$        | (40.21,14)     | (0.17,0.09,0.06) | 1.074 |
|           | $diag \hat{G}$  | (28.30,28)     | (0.12,0.13,0.12) | 1.070 |
|           |                | (37.42,68)     | (0.15,0.18,0.28) | 1.055 |
| PCMALA    | $I$        | (8.10,6)       | (0.04,0.05,0.03) | 1.051 |
|           | $G$        | (9.7,6)        | (0.05,0.04,0.03) | 1.039 |
|           | $diag \hat{G}$  | (204.245,198)  | (1.08,1.29,1.05) | 1.274 |
|           |                | (9.249,8,282,9,066) | (48.95,43.83,47.98) | 12.422 |
| PMALA     | $I$        | (664,792,834)  | (2.12,2.52,2.66) | 2.623 |

### Table 2. MSJD values for the MH chains for the binomial SGLMM with the logit link

| Algorithm | RWM1 | RWM2 | RWM3 | RWM4 | PCMALA1 | PCMALA2 | PCMALA3 | PCMALA4 | PMALA |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
|            | 0.024 | 0.027 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 2.19e-06 | 2.28e-09 | 0.15    | 5.16    | 0.496 |

huge gains in efficiency for the PCMALA resulting in much higher ESS, mESS values compared to the other choices of $G$. We see that even with the ideal choice of $G$, that is, $G = G$, the PMALA has much smaller ESS and mESS values than the PCMALA with $G = G$. On the other hand, for the PMALA, unlike the PCMALA, the covariance matrix $G$ needs to be recomputed in every iteration, leading to higher computational burden. This is why, the improvement of the PMALA over the PCMALA with $G = G$, $G = G$ or $G = diag(G)$ in terms of time-normalized efficiency (ESS per minute) reduces. The PCMALA with $G = G$ results in much higher values of ESS, mESS and ESS/min than the other algorithms considered here. Indeed, the PCMALA with $G = G$ results in more than 20 times equivalent independent samples than the PMALA for the same amount of running time.

Table 2 provides the MSJD values for the nine chains. Again, for the RWM, the MSJD values remain similar regardless of the choice of $G$. The PMALA has higher MSJD values than the PCMALA with $G = G$, $G = G$ or $G = diag(G)$ implying better mixing, whereas with $G = G$ PCMALA dominates the PMALA and the RWM algorithms. Figure 1 shows the ACF plots for the first 50 lags for the nine MH algorithms for each of the three marginal chains. The ACF plots corroborate faster mixing for the PCMALA chains with $G = G$ than all other eight chains and MMALA than the other Markov chains except PCMALA with $G = G$. Indeed, only for the PCMALA chain with $G = G$, the lag $k$ autocorrelation becomes negligible by $k = 50$.

Next, for each of the nine MH algorithms, we compute the MPRF $R_p$ from five parallel chains started from $x_{true}$, $-x_{true}$, 0 and $x_{true} \pm 1$ as in Section 6.2, for each of the four PCULA chains. For both binomial and Poisson SGLMMs, the $R_p$ reaches below 1.1 before 5,000 iterations of the PCULA chain. The PCULA3 algorithm ($G = diag(G)$) is the second best performer in terms of $R_p$.

### 6.3. Comparison of the Pre-Conditioned Unadjusted Langevin Algorithms

In this section, we compare the four PCULA chains mentioned before in the context of simulated data from the binomial and Poisson SGLMMs. Since the unique stationary density of each of these PCULA is different, we do not use ESS for comparing these chains. As in Section 6.2, we ran each of the PCULA chains for 150,000 iterations starting at $x_{true}$. Table S3 provides the MSJD values for the PCULA chains for the binomial and the Poisson SGLMMs. As for the PCMALA, we see that when the pre-conditioning matrix $G$ is $G$, the PCULA chain results in higher mixing than the other PCULA chains. Figures S3 and S4 provide the ACF values for the first 50 lags. For the binomial model, we see that except when $G = G$, for the other PCULA chains, the ACF values drop down quickly. Also, for the binomial SGLMM, for smaller lags, PCULA4 has slightly higher ACF values than PCULA1 ($G = G$). Recall that, if $G = G$, the PCULA boils down to the ULA. For the Poisson SGLMM, for PCULA4, the ACF values (practically) drop down to zero before five lags, whereas, the ACF values for the other three PCULA are quite large even after 50 lags. Thus, as for the adjusted Langevin algorithms, the pre-conditioning matrix $G$ results in better PCULA than the other choices of $G$ considered here. Finally, Figure S5 provides the $R_p$ plots based on the five Markov chains started at the same five points $x_{true}$, $-x_{true}$, 0 and $x_{true} \pm 1$ as in Section 6.2, for each of the four PCULA chains. For both binomial and Poisson SGLMMs, the $R_p$ reaches below 1.1 before 5,000 iterations of the PCULA4 chain. The PCULA3 algorithm ($G = diag(G)$) is the second best performer in terms of $R_p$.

### 7. Discussions

In this article, we establish conditions for geometric convergence of general MH algorithms with normal proposal density involving a position-dependent covariance matrix. If the mean of the proposal distribution is of the form $x + h(x)$, where $x$ denotes the current state, the users implementing these MCMC algorithms should make sure that $\|e(x)\|$ does not grow too fast with $\|x\|$. Similarly, if $\|e(x)\|$ shrinks, then the tails of $f(x)$ need to die down rapidly. As special cases, our results apply to the MMALA and other modern variants of the MALA.
For the MMALA and other MALA chains, first and higher-order derivatives of the log target density are required. Here, in our GLMM examples, the derivatives are available in closed form. Girolami and Calderhead (2011) discuss several alternatives of the expected Fisher information matrix when it is not analytically available (see also Section 4.4 of Livingstone and Girolami 2014). In the numerical examples involving binomial and Poisson SGLMMs, we observe that the PCMALA with an appropriate pre-conditioning matrix performs favorably than the advanced MMALA. Thus, in practice, it is worthwhile to construct suitable PCMALA chains that may have superior performance than the modern computationally expensive versions of MALA like the MMALA chain. On the other hand, MMALA may dominate the PCMALA with the pre-conditioning matrices used here for heavy-tailed distributions or targets with a fast changing Hessian, for example, the perturbed Gaussian density of Chewi et al. (2021) or the Example 4 of Gorham et al. (2019) (see also Taylor 2015; Latuszynski et al. 2011). Here, we have not considered a quantitative bound for the total variation norm (7), although with some modification of our results such bounds can be obtained. For example, Rosenthal (1995) use the method of coupling along with the drift and minorization technique to construct such quantitative bounds. On the other hand, these bounds are often too conservative to be used in practice (Qin and Hobert 2021). Recently, Durmus and Moulines (2015) and Durmus and Moulines (2019) build some quantitative bounds for certain MALA and ULA chains. We believe that our results are a useful pre-cursor to constructing sharper quantitative bounds for position dependent MALA chains.

As mentioned before, Livingstone et al. (2019) establish geometric ergodicity of the HMC when the “mass matrix” in the “kinetic energy” is fixed (see also Mangoubi and Smith 2021). On the other hand, Girolami and Calderhead (2011) argue that a position-dependent mass matrix in the HMC may be preferred, and they develop the Riemann manifold HMC (RMHMC). The techniques of this article can be extended to establish convergence results of the RMHMC algorithms and we plan to undertake this as a future study. Finally, Langevin methods have been applied to several Bayesian models (see, e.g., Møller, Syversveen, and Waagepetersen 1998; Girolami and Calderhead 2011; Neal 2012). It would be interesting to compare the performance of the PMALA and the PCMALA in the context of these examples.

Figure 1. ACF plots for $x^{(1)}$ (left panel), $x^{(175)}$ (center panel), and $x^{(350)}$ (right panel) for the MH chains for the binomial SGLMM with the logit link. In the legend, $G$ refers to $I^{-1}$ and $\hat{G}$ refers to $\hat{I}^{-1}$.

Figure 2. Gelman and Rubin’s $\hat{R}_p$ plot from the five parallel MH chains for the binomial SGLMM with the logit link. The red horizontal line on the third plot from the left has unit height. In the legend, $G$ refers to $I^{-1}$ and $\hat{G}$ refers to $\hat{I}^{-1}$.
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Disclosure Statement

The authors report there are no competing interests to declare.

Supplementary Materials

The online Supplementary Material contains proofs of Theorems 1–5, and Propositions 4–5. Here, we also provide some additional numerical results for the examples involving binomial and Poisson SGLMMs.

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