# 0::

Missing values are a common problem in analyzing data of observational studies. There are 3 kinds of missing values: (1) missing-completely-at-random, meaning that a random subset of observations have missing values, (2) missing-at-random, meaning that observations with specific values in other variables have higher chances to have missing value in a variable, and (3) missing-not-at-random, meaning that observations with specific values in a variable have higher chances to have missing value in the same variable.

Multiply imputing the missing values (i.e. replacing the missing values with a set of plausible values) is a credible approach to account for missing values when missingness is completely-at-random or at-random.

### 2::MATCHING::

In this step, you match observations in the imputed datasets using the matchthem() function. matchthem() offers a variety of options for this step:

> models <- matchthem(formula, datasets,</pre>

approach = "within",

method = "cem", ...)

When **formula** specifies the model (e.g. **z** ~ **x1** + **x2** + **x3**) that should be used for the matching, **datasets** specifies the multiply imputed datasets, **approach** specifies that matching should be performed within each imputed dataset (**within**) or an averaged propensity score across the datasets should be used for matching (**across**), and **method** specifics the method that should be used for matching. **matchthem()** supports several matching methods including **nearest** (nearest neighbor matching), **exact** (exact matching), and **cem** (coarsened exact matching).

The output will be saved in a **mimids** class object. The extent of the balance of covariates in the datasets after matching can be reviewed with **summary()** or **plot ()** functions or the **bal.tab()** function from the **cobalt** package:

- > library(cobalt)
- > bal.tab(models)

## 3::

In this step, you should estimate the treatment effect size in each matched or weighted dataset using the **with()** function:

> results <- with(models, glm(y ~ z,</pre>

When **models** specifies the **mimids** or **wimids** object. **with()** function supports expression like **glm()**, **lm()**, **coxph()**, **svyglm()**, **svycoxph()**, etc. The output will be saved in a **mira** class object.

# MatchThem::CHEAT SHEET 1--Matching Multiply Imputed Datasets Pishgar et al. | October 2019 **Dataset with Missing Values** Imputing the Missing Data in the Dataset (Amelia or mice packages) Matching or Weighting the Imputed Datasets (matchthem() or weightthem() functions) Analyzing the **Matched or Weighted Datasets** (with() function)

**Pooling the Treatment** 

**Effect Size Estimates** 

(pool() function)

Beta

Matching

# 1::

In the first step, you multiply impute the missing values in your dataset. There are several R packages to do this, including the Amelia, Hmisc, mi, mice, and missForest packages. MatchThem, in this version, is compatible with imputed datasets by Amelia and mice packages (please see vignettes of these packages for details).

#### 2::WEIGHTING::

In this step, you estimate weights of observations in the imputed datasets using the weightthem() function. weighthem() offers a variety of options for this step:

> models <- weightthem(formula, datasets,</pre>

approach = "within",

method = "ps", ...)

When **formula** specifies the model (e.g. **z** ~ **x1** + **x2** + **x3**) that should be used for weighting, **datasets** specifies the multiply imputed datasets, **approach** specifies that weights should be calculated within each imputed dataset (**within**) or calculated using an averaged propensity score across the datasets (**across**), and **method** specifics the method that should be used for calculating the weights (**ps**, **gbm**, **cbps**, etc.).

The output will be saved in a **wimids** class object. The extent of the balance of covariates in the datasets within the **wimids** object can be reviewed with **summary()** function or the **bal.tab()** function from the **cobalt** package:

- > library(cobalt)
- > bal.tab(models)

### 4::

Beta

Weighting

In this step, you should pool the treatment effect sizes (obtained from analyzing each matched or weighted dataset in the **mira** object) using the **pool()** function:

> output <- pool(results, dfcom = NULL)</pre>

When **results** specifies the output of the **with()** function and **dfcom** specifies the degree of freedom in the analysis (when not specified, it is usually extracted from the dataset with the lowest number of observations).

The output will be saved in a **mipo** class object and can be reviewed with the **summary()** function:

> summary(output, conf.int = TRUE )

<u>MatchThem</u> (version 0.8.2) imports functions from several other packages, including <u>MatchIt</u>, <u>mice</u>, and <u>WeightIt</u> | Please see the package <u>GitHub page</u> for more details | The logo was designed and provided by <u>Max Josino</u>.