

A Proportional Random Effect Block Bootstrap for Highly Unbalanced Clustered Data

Zhi Yang Tho, Alan Welsh, Ray Chambers

The Australian National University



Australian
National
University

Overview

1. Motivation
2. Model Set-Up
3. Proportional Random Effect Block (PREB) and Modified REB (MREB) Bootstrap
4. Consistency Properties of PREB and MREB Bootstrap
5. Simulation Studies
6. Application
7. Conclusion and Future Work

Motivation

Motivation



Figure: Different ioniser designs used in the Oman rainfall enhancement trial.

Motivation

Oman rainfall enhancement trial dataset (2013-2018):

- Unit of observation: Rain gauges nested within day (i.e., days as clusters)
- Response: Log-transformed rainfall
- Covariates: Orographic covariates (e.g., elevation), meteorological covariates (e.g., temperature), and binary indicators of exposure to each of ten ionizer (H1-H10)

Research Question: Does exposure to an operating ionizer increases rainfall at a gauge?

Motivation (Cont'd)

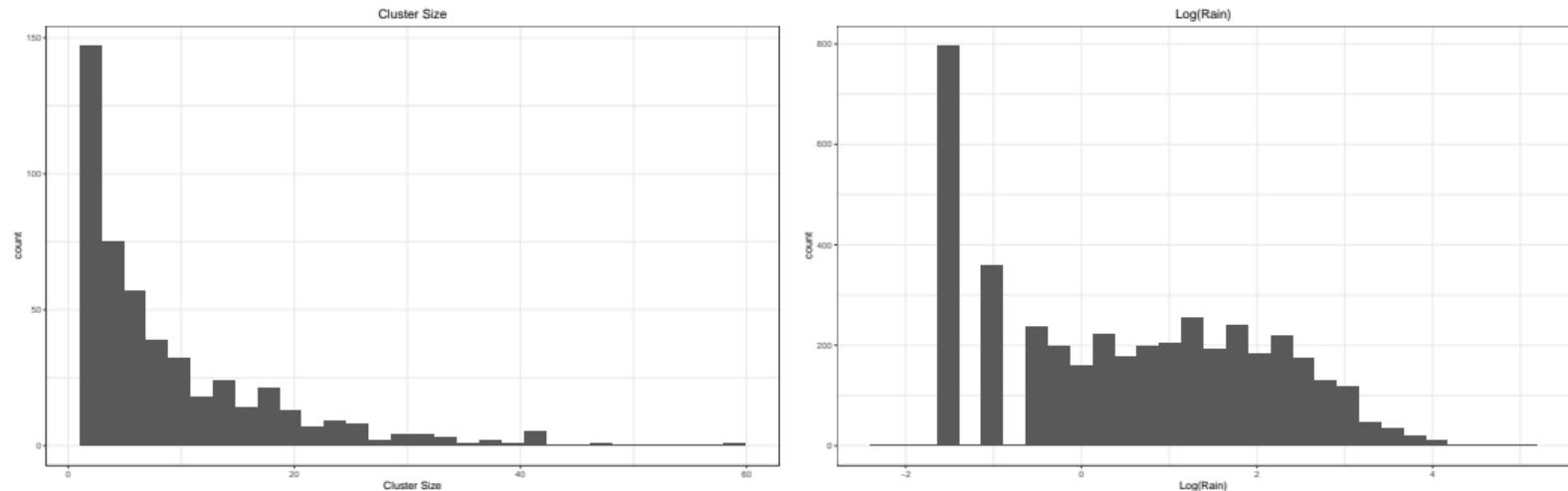


Figure: Histograms of cluster sizes (left) and log-transformed rainfall (right) in the Oman rainfall enhancement trial data.

Motivation (Cont'd)

Linear mixed model (LMM, Pinheiro and Bates, 2000; Bates et al., 2015) used to model log-rainfall.

- ⑤ Need to estimate attribution and sample average treatment effect (SATE) - complicated functions of model parameters
- ⑤ Perform bootstrap inference on the attribution and SATE

Existing bootstrap methods for LMM:

- ⑤ **Parametric Bootstrap** (Butar and Lahiri, 2003)
 - Easy to implement, but sensitive to stochastic assumptions of the model
- ⑤ **Random Effect Block (REB) Bootstrap** (Chambers and Chandra, 2013)
 - Semiparametric bootstrap that is less sensitive to stochastic assumption
 - Implicitly assumes balanced clusters

Motivation (Cont'd)

Another line of bootstrap methods for clustered data, which does not depend on LMM:

- ◎ Cluster Bootstrap (Davison and Hinkley, 1997; McCullagh, 2000)
 - Bootstrap sampling of cluster-level response vectors and model matrices, rather than unit-level
- ◎ Generalized Cluster Bootstrap (Field et al., 2010; Pang and Welsh, 2014)
 - Bootstrap sampling of weights for estimators defined as solutions to weighted estimating functions.

Model Set-Up

Model Set-Up

Let $i = 1, \dots, D$ denote clusters and $j = 1, \dots, n_i$ denote units within clusters with n_i representing cluster sizes. The linear mixed model is given as:

$$y_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \boldsymbol{\beta} + u_i + e_{ij}, \forall i, j \quad (1)$$

- y_{ij} = response, \mathbf{x}_{ij} = covariates, $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ = fixed effect
- $u_i \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} (0, \sigma_u^2)$ are cluster-level random intercepts
- $e_{ij} \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} (0, \sigma_e^2)$ are unit-level error terms

Total sample size $N = \sum_{i=1}^D n_i$, we are interested in comparing the bootstraps under two cases:

- **Balanced**: $n_i = N/D$ for all $i = 1, \dots, D$
- **Highly Unbalanced**: $n_i = 1$ for some clusters while other clusters have $n_i > 50$

Model Set-Up

Often convenient to rewrite (1) into an equivalent vector form:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{Z}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e} \quad (2)$$

- $\mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_D)^\top$ and $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{X}_1^\top, \dots, \mathbf{X}_D^\top)^\top$ are obtained by stacking \mathbf{y}_i response vectors and \mathbf{X}_i model matrices
- $\mathbf{Z} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{1}_{n_1}, \dots, \mathbf{1}_{n_D})$ is matrix of cluster indicators
- $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_D)^\top \sim (\mathbf{0}_D, \sigma_u^2 \mathbf{I}_D)$ and $\mathbf{e} = (e_1, \dots, e_D)^\top \sim (\mathbf{0}_N, \sigma_e^2 \mathbf{I}_N)$ are obtained by stacking u_i random intercepts and e_i error vectors.

Typically estimated using maximum likelihood (ML) or restricted maximum likelihood (REML, Patterson and Thompson, 1971; Harville, 1977; Bates et al., 2015), with resulting estimates denoted as $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}, \hat{\sigma}_u^2, \hat{\sigma}_e^2)^\top$.

Proportional Random Effect Block (PREB) and Modified REB (MREB) Bootstrap

PREB Bootstrap

Existing bootstrap methods consider different ways of generating bootstrap samples u_i^* and e_{ij}^* based on the estimated $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$, to construct $y_{ij}^* = \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + u_i^* + e_{ij}^*$

- Parametric bootstrap: generate u_i^* and e_{ij}^* from normal distributions with zero mean and estimated variances $\hat{\sigma}_u^2$ and $\hat{\sigma}_e^2$, respectively.
- REB bootstrap: compute marginal residuals $r_{ij} = y_{ij} - \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ first, then sample u_i^* and e_{ij}^* from functions of these marginal residuals.

Our proposed PREB bootstrap is similar to REB bootstrap, with **three variants**:

- Simple PREB bootstrap (PREB-0)
- Prescaled PREB bootstrap (PREB-1)
- Postscaled PREB bootstrap (PREB-2)

Prescaled PREB-1 Bootstrap

1. Compute residuals

- Marginal residuals $r_{ij} = y_{ij} - \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$
- Cluster-level average residuals $\hat{u}_i = n_i^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} r_{ij}$
- Unit-level residuals as $\hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - \hat{u}_i$

2. Reflating:

- $\hat{u}_i^{sc} = \hat{u}_i^c \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D (\hat{u}_{i'}^c)^2}}$, where $\hat{u}_i^c = \hat{u}_i - D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \hat{u}_{i'}$
- $\hat{e}_{ij}^s = \hat{e}_{ij} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\textcolor{red}{N^{-1}} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2}}$

3. Bootstrap cluster effects u_i^*

- $u_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{u}_1^{sc}, \dots, \hat{u}_D^{sc}), 1)$

4. Bootstrap unit-level residuals $e_i^* = (e_{i1}^*, \dots, e_{in_i}^*)^\top$

- First, sample the donor cluster $\textcolor{red}{d}_i = \text{PPSWR}((1, \dots, D), (n_1/N, \dots, n_D/N), 1)$
- Sample within the donor cluster: $e_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \hat{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i)$

5. Construct bootstrapped response

- $y_{ij}^* = \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + u_i^* + e_{ij}^*$

Prescaled PREB-1 Bootstrap

- ◎ Repeat Steps 2a–2d to obtain bootstrap replicates of $\hat{\theta}^*$
 - Enables performing inference, e.g., constructing bootstrap percentile confidence intervals
- ◎ Reflating \hat{u}_i to \hat{u}_i^{sc} and \hat{e}_{ij} to \hat{e}_{ij}^s (together with PPS sampling of d_i) ensures that, for general cluster sizes n_i ,
 - $E^*(u_i^*) = \mathbf{0}$, $E^*(e_{ij}^*) = \mathbf{0}$, where $E^*(\cdot)$ is the bootstrap expectation operator.
 - $\text{var}^*(u_i^*) = \hat{\sigma}_u^2$, $\text{var}^*(e_{ij}^*) = \hat{\sigma}_e^2$, where $\text{var}^*(\cdot)$ is the bootstrap variance operator
- ◎ Only requires correct specification of the fixed effect structure to calculate the marginal residuals $r_{ij} = y_{ij} - \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\beta}$

Modified REB-1 (MREB-1) Bootstrap

1. Compute residuals

- Marginal residuals $r_{ij} = y_{ij} - \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$
- Cluster-level average residuals $\hat{u}_i = n_i^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} r_{ij}$
- Unit-level residuals as $\hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - \hat{u}_i$

2. Reflating:

- $\hat{u}_i^{sc} = \hat{u}_i^c \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D (\hat{u}_{i'}^c)^2}}$, where $\hat{u}_i^c = \hat{u}_i - D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \hat{u}_{i'}$
- $\tilde{e}_{ij}^s = \hat{e}_{ij} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{n}_{i'}^{-1} \hat{e}_{i'j'}^2}}$

3. Bootstrap cluster effects u_i^*

- $u_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{u}_1^{sc}, \dots, \hat{u}_D^{sc}), 1)$

4. Bootstrap unit-level residuals $e_i^* = (e_{i1}^*, \dots, e_{in_i}^*)^\top$

- First, sample the donor cluster $d_i = \text{SRSWR}((1, \dots, D), 1)$
- Sample within the donor cluster: $e_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\tilde{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \tilde{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i)$

5. Construct bootstrapped response

- $y_{ij}^* = \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + u_i^* + e_{ij}^*$

Comparison among PREB-1, MREB-1 and REB-1

	PREB-1	MREB-1	REB-1
Cluster-level Random Effect	\hat{u}_i^{sc}	\hat{u}_i^{sc}	\hat{u}_i^{cs}
Donor Cluster Sampling Scheme	PPSWR	SRSWR	SRSWR
Unit-level Residuals	\hat{e}_{ij}^s	\tilde{e}_{ij}^s	\hat{e}_{ij}^s
Balanced n_i	✓	✓	✓
Unbalanced n_i	✓	✓	✗

- ⑤ PREB-1 and MREB-1 are generalized cases of REB-1 to accommodate unbalanced n_i
- ⑥ Centering before scaling \hat{u}_i
 - Should sample from \hat{u}_i^{sc} instead of \hat{u}_i^{cs}
- ⑦ Proper combinations of donor cluster sampling scheme and scaling of unit-level residuals
 - PPSWR + \hat{e}_{ij}^s (with N^{-1}) in PREB-1
 - SRSWR + \tilde{e}_{ij}^s (with $D^{-1}n_i^{-1}$) in MREB-1

Comparison among PREB-1, MREB-1 and REB-1

In fact, PREB-1, MREB-1 and REB-1 are all equivalent when n_i 's are balanced i.e., $n_i = N/D$, because

- ⦿ $\hat{u}_i^{sc} = \hat{u}_i^{cs}$, since they are mean-zero.

$$D^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^D \hat{u}_i = D^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^D n_i^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} r_{ij} = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^D \sum_{j=1}^{N/D} r_{ij} = 0$$

- ⦿ SRSWR = PPSWR, since the probabilities in PPSWR are $n_i/N = (N/D)/N = 1/D$.
- ⦿ $\hat{e}_{ij}^s = \tilde{e}_{ij}^s$, as their denominators of scaling factor are equal.

$$\sqrt{N^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i'j'}^2} = \sqrt{\sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} D^{-1} n_{i'}^{-1} \hat{e}_{i'j'}^2}$$

Simple PREB-0 and Postscaled PREB-2 Bootstrap

PREB-0: Does not consider refloating, i.e., by directly sampling from \hat{u}_i and \hat{e}_{ij}

PREB-2: Post-processes bootstrap replicates $\hat{\theta}^*$ from PREB-0

- Modifying the bootstrap distributions of logarithm of $\hat{\sigma}_u^{2*}$ and $\hat{\sigma}_e^{2*}$ to be empirically uncorrelated.
- Then, apply mean and ratio corrections to center:
 - $\hat{\beta}^*$ at $\hat{\beta}$
 - $(\hat{\sigma}_u^{2*}, \hat{\sigma}_e^{2*})$ at $(\hat{\sigma}_u^2, \hat{\sigma}_e^2)$

Consistency Properties of PREB and MREB Bootstrap

Consistency Requirements

Requirement for consistency of bootstrap estimator $\hat{\theta}^*$ based on ML estimating function is then

$$\mathbb{E}^* \left\{ \frac{\partial l(\hat{\theta}; \mathbf{y}^*)}{\partial \theta} \right\} = \mathbf{0}_{p+2}$$

which is equivalent to

- Ⓐ $\mathbb{E}^*(u_i^*) = 0, \mathbb{E}^*(e_{ij}^*) = 0$
- Ⓑ $\mathbb{E}^*(u_i^{*2}) = \hat{\sigma}_u^2, \mathbb{E}^*(e_{ij}^{*2}) = \hat{\sigma}_e^2$

	PREB-1	MREB-1	REB-1	PREB-0
Balanced n_i	✓	✓	✓	✗
Unbalanced n_i	✓	✓	✗	✗

Table: PREB-2 not applicable

Simulation Studies

Simulation Settings

Data generating process follows a LMM:

$$y_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{ij} + u_i + e_{ij}$$

- Covariate: $x_{ij} \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$
- Number of clusters: $D = 100$
- Total 500 simulated datasets for each setting

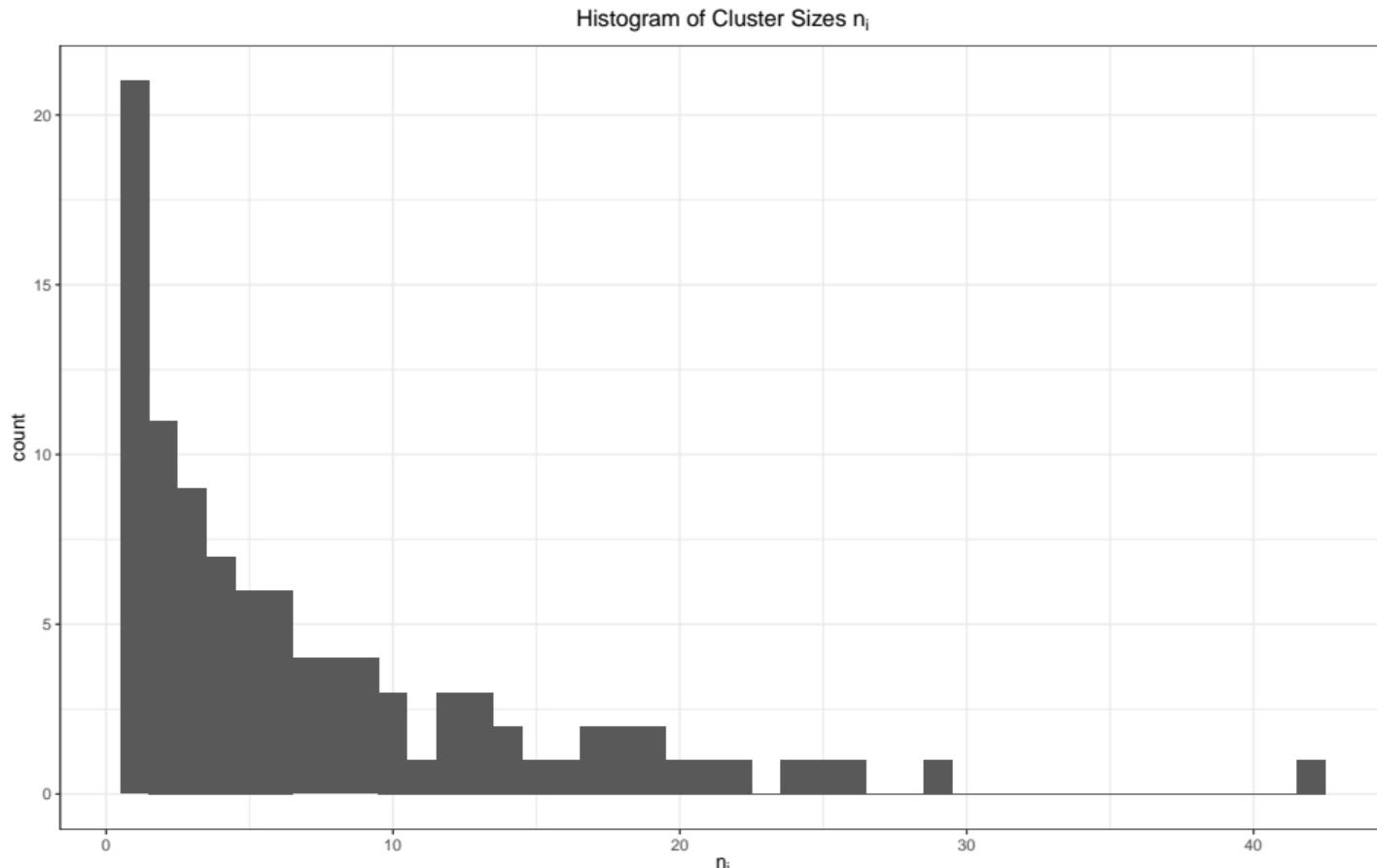
Distribution of u_i and e_{ij}

- **Normal:** $u_i \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} N(0, \sigma_u^2)$, $e_{ij} \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} N(0, \sigma_e^2)$, where $\sigma_u = 0.2$ and $\sigma_e = 0.4$
- **Chi-squared:** $u_i \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \sigma_u \{(\chi_1^2 - 1)/\sqrt{2}\}$, $e_{ij} \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \sigma_e \{(\chi_1^2 - 1)/\sqrt{2}\}$

Cluster size setting

- **Balanced:** $n_i = 20$ for all $i = 1, \dots, D$
- **Unbalanced:** n_i summarized in Figure 3

Simulation Settings (Cont'd)



Simulation Settings (Cont'd)

Comparison of the following bootstrap methods, each with 500 bootstrap replicates:

- PREB bootstraps: PREB-0, PREB-1, PREB-2
- MREB-1
- REB bootstraps: REB-0, REB-1, REB-2
- Parametric bootstrap

Evaluation metric:

- Empirical coverage rate of 95% bootstrap percentile confidence intervals
- Parameters assessed: $(\beta_0, \beta_1, \sigma_u^2, \sigma_e^2)$

Results for Normal Distribution

Balanced: Comparable performances among all methods

	PREB-0	PREB-1	PREB-2	MREB-1	REB-0	REB-1	REB-2	Parametric
β_0	0.938	0.916	0.936	0.926	0.942	0.914	0.936	0.912
β_1	0.926	0.932	0.924	0.932	0.924	0.932	0.924	0.938
σ_u^2	0.870	0.924	0.918	0.920	0.870	0.930	0.922	0.942
σ_e^2	0.854	0.994	0.992	0.998	0.860	0.994	0.992	0.958

Unbalanced: Undercoverage for β_1 and σ_e^2 using REB bootstraps

	PREB-0	PREB-1	PREB-2	MREB-1	REB-0	REB-1	REB-2	Parametric
β_0	0.972	0.950	0.988	0.946	0.956	0.916	0.972	0.956
β_1	0.938	0.950	0.938	0.956	0.896	0.910	0.896	0.954
σ_u^2	0.014	0.954	0.884	0.968	0.014	0.944	0.860	0.910
σ_e^2	0.680	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.012	0.252	1.000	0.936

Results for Chi-Squared Distribution

Balanced: Undercoverage for σ_u^2 and σ_e^2 using parametric bootstrap

	PREB-0	PREB-1	PREB-2	MREB-1	REB-0	REB-1	REB-2	Parametric
β_0	0.960	0.944	0.956	0.938	0.954	0.948	0.954	0.946
β_1	0.944	0.950	0.944	0.954	0.938	0.950	0.944	0.950
σ_u^2	0.938	0.830	0.840	0.836	0.930	0.842	0.852	0.618
σ_e^2	0.934	0.978	0.978	0.974	0.938	0.974	0.976	0.540

Unbalanced: Undercoverage for β_1 and σ_e^2 using REB bootstraps, undercoverage for σ_u^2 and σ_e^2 using parametric bootstrap.

	PREB-0	PREB-1	PREB-2	MREB-1	REB-0	REB-1	REB-2	Parametric
β_0	0.948	0.926	0.966	0.926	0.924	0.886	0.948	0.942
β_1	0.928	0.934	0.926	0.932	0.876	0.892	0.874	0.936
σ_u^2	0.392	0.886	0.798	0.922	0.340	0.890	0.784	0.708
σ_e^2	0.908	0.990	0.984	0.998	0.468	0.768	1.000	0.584

Application

Application: Oman Rainfall Enhancement Trial Dataset

Analysis of rainfall enhancement trial data (2013–2018):

$$y_{ij} = \boldsymbol{x}_{ij, \text{non-ionizer}}^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\text{non-ionizer}} + \boldsymbol{x}_{ij, \text{ionizer}}^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\text{ionizer}} + u_i + e_{ij},$$

- i = day (cluster), j = rain gauge with positive rainfall
- y_{ij} = log-transformed rainfall
- $\boldsymbol{x}_{ij, \text{non-ionizer}}$ = orographic covariates (e.g., elevation)
- $\boldsymbol{x}_{ij, \text{ionizer}}$ = indicators for exposure to active ionizer
- $D = 488$ clusters, with **highly unbalanced cluster sizes** ranging from $n_i = 1$ to $n_i = 58$
- $N = 4168$ total gauge-day observations

Application: Oman Rainfall Enhancement Trial Dataset

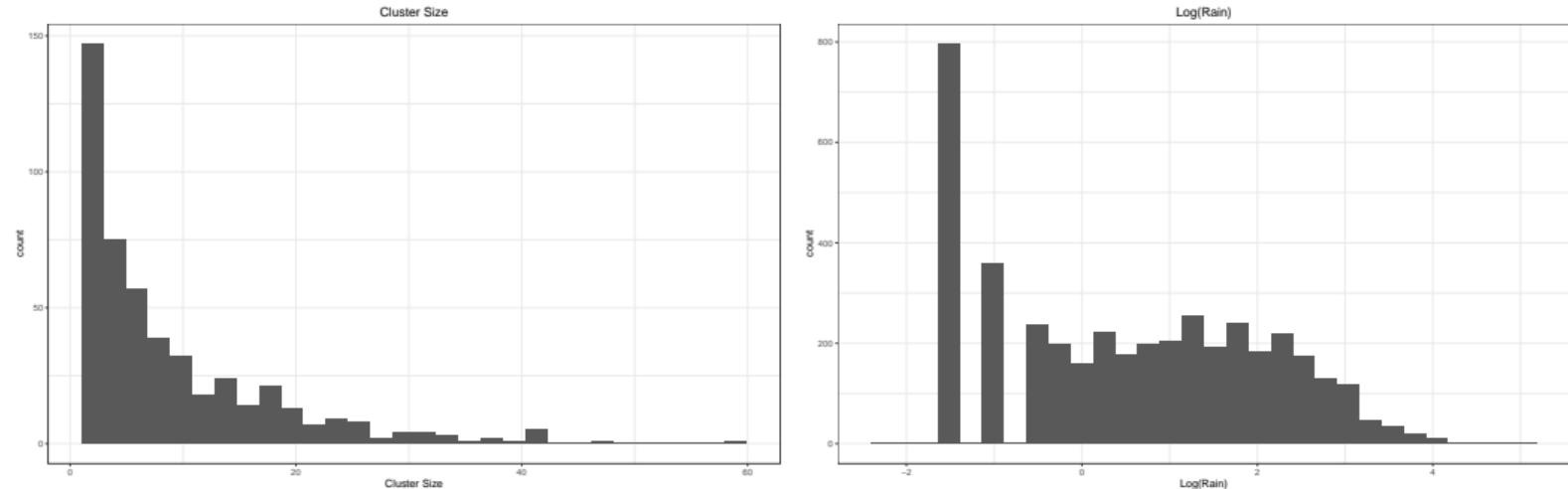
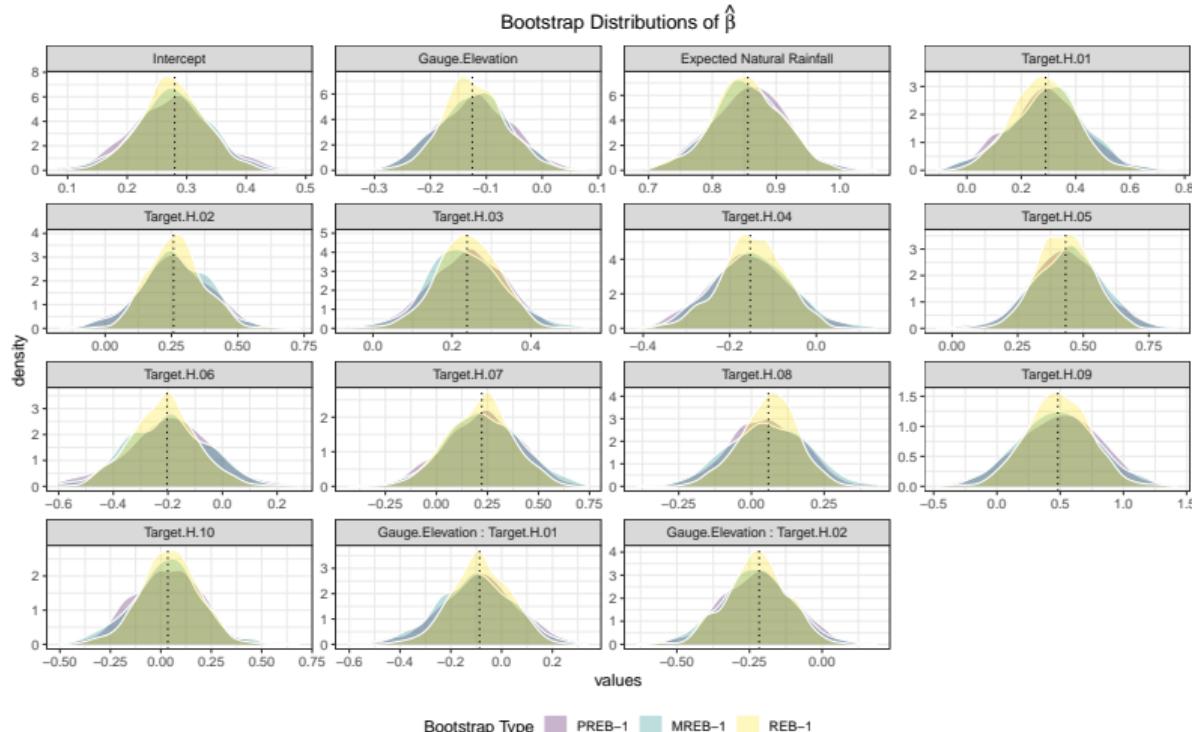


Figure: Histograms of cluster sizes (left) and log-transformed rain (right) in the Oman rainfall enhancement trial data.

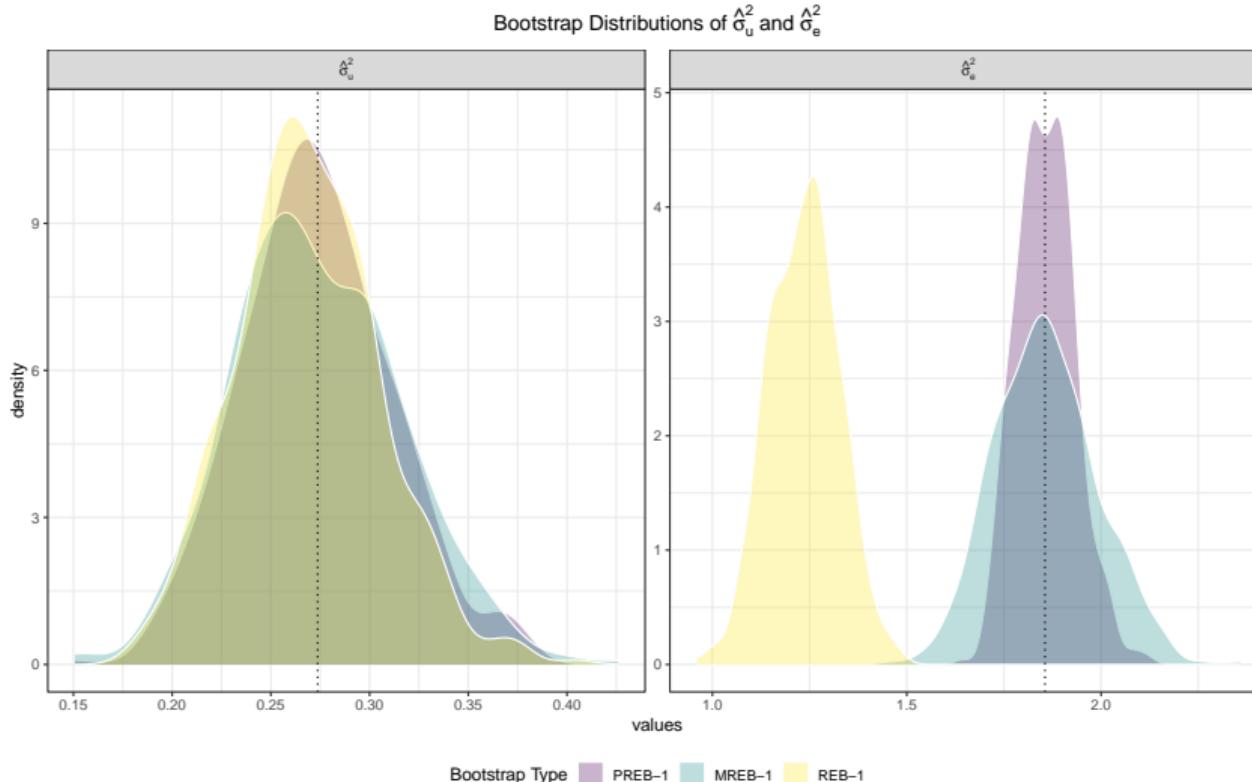
Bootstrap Distributions for $\hat{\beta}$

PREB-1 and MREB-1 bootstrap distributions are consistently **more dispersed** than REB-1



Bootstrap Distributions for $(\hat{\sigma}_u^2, \hat{\sigma}_e^2)$

REB-1 bootstrap distribution for $\hat{\sigma}_e^2$ exhibits **clear negative bias**.



SATE and Attribution

- ◎ Sample average treatment effect (SATE) estimate:

$$\frac{\sum_{(i,j)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\mathbf{x}_{ij,ioniser} \neq \mathbf{0}\}} \mathbf{x}_{ij,ioniser}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ioniser}}{\sum_{(i,j)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\mathbf{x}_{ij,ioniser} \neq \mathbf{0}\}}}$$

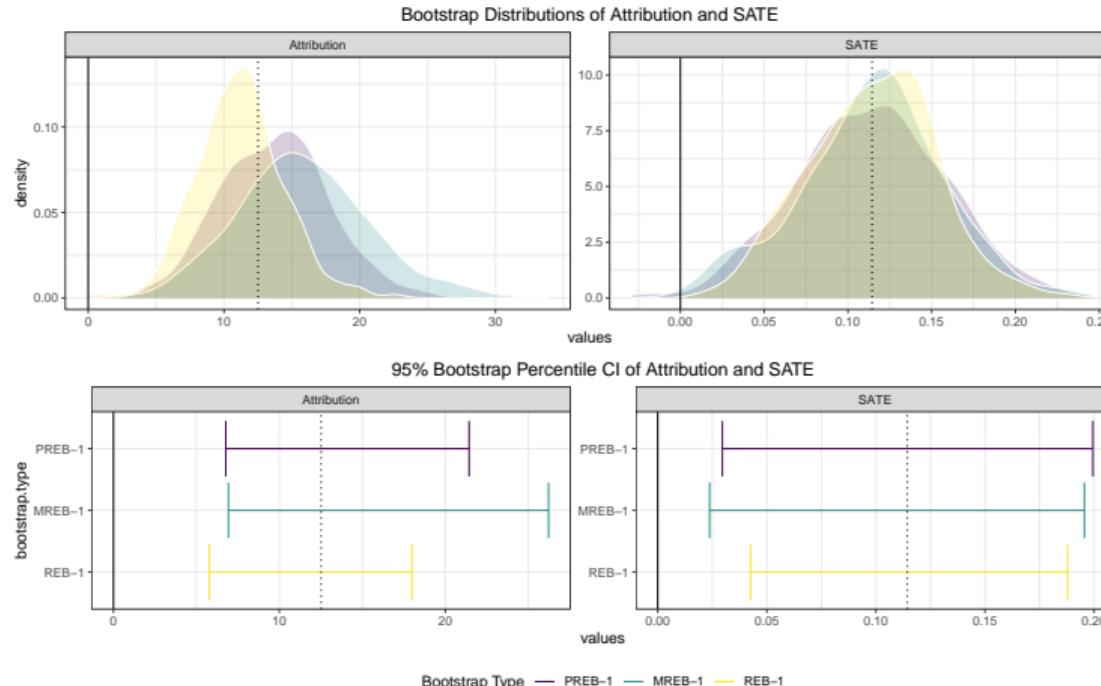
- ◎ Attribution = Percentage increase/decrease in rainfall attributed to the ionisers:

$$100\% \times \frac{\sum_{(i,j)} \exp(y_{ij}) \{1 - \kappa^{-1}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \exp(-\mathbf{x}_{ij,ioniser}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ioniser})\}}{\sum_{(i,j)} \exp(y_{ij}) \kappa^{-1}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \exp(-\mathbf{x}_{ij,ioniser}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ioniser})}$$

- $\kappa^{-1}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})$ is a smearing-type adjustment to account for bias introduced by exponentiating log-rainfall to obtain raw-scale rainfall ([Chambers et al., 2022](#))
- Provides *an estimate of the precipitation increase along with the confidence intervals in which the true impact lies* ([WMO, 2010](#)).

Bootstrap Inference for SATE and Attribution

PREB-1 and MREB-1 bootstrap distributions are **more dispersed** than REB-1, but all methods yield **significant positive** ioniser effects.



Conclusion and Future Work

Conclusion and Future Work

- PREB-1 and MREB-1 are useful for highly unbalanced clustered data with potentially non-normal random effects and error terms.
- Core ideas:
 - Performing proper ‘reflating’ on \hat{u}_i and \hat{e}_{ij} before bootstrapping
 - Block bootstrapping of unit-level residuals, by treating clusters as blocks
 - Using appropriate combination of sampling scheme for donor cluster and scaling for unit-level residuals
- Extensions:
 - Bootstrap inference on linear combinations of fixed effects and random effects $\mathbf{l}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\beta} + u_i$ (known as cluster-level mixed effects parameters, see [Reluga et al., 2023, 2024](#))
 - Extend from LMM to M-quantile based model (e.g., [Dawber and Chambers, 2019](#))

References I

- Bates, D., Mächler, M., Bolker, B., and Walker, S. (2015). Fitting linear mixed-effects models using lme4. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67:1–48.
- Butar, F. B. and Lahiri, P. (2003). On measures of uncertainty of empirical bayes small-area estimators. *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, 112:63–76. Special issue II: Model Selection, Model Diagnostics, Empirical Bayes and Hierarchical Bayes.
- Chambers, R., Beare, S., Peak, S., and Al-Kalbani, M. (2022). Nudging a pseudo-science towards a science—the role of statistics in a rainfall enhancement trial in Oman. *International Statistical Review*, 90:346–373.
- Chambers, R. and Chandra, H. (2013). A random effect block bootstrap for clustered data. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, 22:452–470.

References II

- Davison, A. and Hinkley, D. (1997). *Bootstrap Methods and Their Application*. Bootstrap Methods and Their Application. Cambridge University Press.
- Dawber, J. and Chambers, R. (2019). Modelling group heterogeneity for small area estimation using m-quantiles. *International Statistical Review*, 87(S1):S50–S63.
- Field, C. A., Pang, Z., and Welsh, A. H. (2010). Bootstrapping robust estimates for clustered data. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 105:1606–1616.
- Harville, D. A. (1977). Maximum likelihood approaches to variance component estimation and to related problems. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 72:320–338.
- McCullagh, P. (2000). Resampling and exchangeable arrays. *Bernoulli*, 6:285–301.
- Pang, Z. and Welsh, A. H. (2014). The generalised bootstrap for clustered data. *Int. J. Data Anal. Tech. Strateg.*, 6(4):407–415.

References III

- Patterson, H. D. and Thompson, R. (1971). Recovery of inter-block information when block sizes are unequal. *Biometrika*, 58:545–554.
- Pinheiro, J. and Bates, D. (2000). *Mixed-Effects Models in S and S-PLUS*. Statistics and Computing. Springer.
- Reluga, K., Lombardía, M.-J., and Sperlich, S. (2023). Simultaneous inference for linear mixed model parameters with an application to small area estimation. *International Statistical Review*, 91(2):193–217.
- Reluga, K., Lombardía, M.-J., and Sperlich, S. (2024). Bootstrap-based statistical inference for linear mixed effects under misspecifications. *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis*, 199:108014.
- WMO (2010). WMO Statement on Weather Modification. Technical report, Expert Team on Weather Modification Research, Abu Dhabi, 22–24 March.

THE
END

THANKS!

Appendix

PREB-1 - u_i^*

- ⑤ $u_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{u}_1^{sc}, \dots, \hat{u}_D^{sc}), 1)$ where $\hat{u}_i^{sc} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D (\hat{u}_{i'}^c)^2}} \hat{u}_i^c$ and
 $\hat{u}_i^c = \hat{u}_i - D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \hat{u}_{i'}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}^*(u_i^*) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \hat{u}_{i'}^{sc} = \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D (\hat{u}_l^c)^2}} \hat{u}_{i'}^c \\ &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D (\hat{u}_l^c)^2}} \frac{1}{D} \sum_{i'=1}^D \left(\hat{u}_{i'} - \frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D \hat{u}_l \right) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{E}^*(u_i^{*2}) = \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} (\hat{u}_{i'}^{sc})^2 = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u^2}{\frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D (\hat{u}_l^c)^2} \frac{1}{D} \sum_{i'=1}^D (\hat{u}_{i'}^c)^2 = \hat{\sigma}_u^2,$$

PREB-1 - e_{ij}^*

⑤ $d_i = \text{PPSWR}((1, \dots, D), (n_1/N, \dots, n_D/N), 1)$, then

$$e_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \hat{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i), \text{ where } \hat{e}_{ij}^s = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{N^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2}} \hat{e}_{ij} \text{ and}$$

$$\hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - n_i^{-1} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i} r_{ij'}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(e_{ij}^*) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{n_{i'}}{N} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^s \\ &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{n_{i'}}{N} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2}} \hat{e}_{i' j'} \\ &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2}} \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{n_{i'}}{N} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \left(r_{i' j'} - \frac{1}{n_i'} \sum_{m=1}^{n_i} r_{i' m} \right) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

PREB-1 - e_{ij}^*

⑤ $d_i = \text{PPSWR}((1, \dots, D), (n_1/N, \dots, n_D/N), 1)$, then

$$e_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \hat{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i), \text{ where } \hat{e}_{ij}^s = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{N^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2}} \hat{e}_{ij}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(e_{ij}^{*2}) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{n_{i'}}{N} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} (\hat{e}_{i' j'}^s)^2 \\ &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e^2}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{n_{i'}}{N} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2 \\ &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e^2}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2 \\ &= \hat{\sigma}_e^2. \end{aligned}$$

MREB-1 - u_i^* and e_{ij}^*

Same procedure as PREB-1 in bootstrapping u_i^* \implies also satisfies $E^*(u_i^*) = 0$ and $E^*(u_i^{*2}) = \hat{\sigma}_u^2$

⦿ $d_i = \text{SRSWR}((1, \dots, D), 1)$, then $e_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\tilde{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \tilde{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i)$, where

$$\tilde{e}_{ij}^s = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} D^{-1} n_{i'}^{-1} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2}} \hat{e}_{ij} \text{ and } \hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - n_i^{-1} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i} r_{ij'}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E^*(e_{ij}^*) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \tilde{e}_{i' j'}^s = \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2}} \hat{e}_{i' j'} \\ &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2}} \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \left(r_{i' j'} - \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{m=1}^{n_{i'}} r_{i' m} \right) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

⑤ $d_i = \text{SRSWR}((1, \dots, D), 1)$, then $\mathbf{e}_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\tilde{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \tilde{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i)$, where

$$\tilde{e}_{ij}^s = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} D^{-1} n_{i'}^{-1} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2}} \hat{e}_{ij} \text{ and } \hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - n_i^{-1} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i} r_{ij'}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(e_{ij}^{*2}) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} (\tilde{e}_{ij}^s)^2 \\ &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e^2}{\sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2 \\ &= \hat{\sigma}_e^2. \end{aligned}$$

- ⑤ $u_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{u}_1^{cs}, \dots, \hat{u}_D^{cs}), 1)$ where $\hat{u}_i^{cs} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D (\hat{u}_{i'})^2}} \hat{u}_i^c$ and
 $\hat{u}_i^c = \hat{u}_i - D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \hat{u}_{i'}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E^*(u_i^*) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \hat{u}_{i'}^{cs} = \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D (\hat{u}_l)^2}} \hat{u}_{i'}^c \\
 &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D (\hat{u}_l)^2}} \frac{1}{D} \sum_{i'=1}^D \left(\hat{u}_{i'} - \frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D \hat{u}_l \right) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

REB-1 - u_i^*

- ⑤ $u_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{u}_1^{cs}, \dots, \hat{u}_D^{cs}), 1)$ where $\hat{u}_i^{cs} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u}{\sqrt{D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D (\hat{u}_{i'})^2}} \hat{u}_i^c$ and
 $\hat{u}_i^c = \hat{u}_i - D^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \hat{u}_{i'}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{E}^*(u_i^{*2}) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} (\hat{u}_{i'}^{cs})^2 = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u^2}{\frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D (\hat{u}_l)^2} \frac{1}{D} \sum_{i'=1}^D (\hat{u}_{i'}^c)^2 \\
 &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u^2}{\frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D (\hat{u}_l)^2} \frac{1}{D} \sum_{i'=1}^D \left(\hat{u}_{i'} - \frac{1}{D} \sum_{l=1}^D \hat{u}_l \right)^2 \\
 &= \hat{\sigma}_u^2 \text{ only when } n_i = N/D \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, D,
 \end{aligned}$$

since $D^{-1} \sum_{l=1}^D \hat{u}_l = D^{-1} \sum_{l=1}^D n_l^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_l} (y_{lj} - \mathbf{x}_{lj}^\top \hat{\beta})$ is only equal to zero when $n_i = N/D$ for $i = 1, \dots, D$.

- ⑤ $d_i = \text{SRSWR}((1, \dots, D), 1)$, then $e_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \hat{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i)$, where
 $\hat{e}_{ij}^s = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{N^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2}} \hat{e}_{ij}$ and $\hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - n_i^{-1} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i} r_{ij'}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{E}^*(e_{ij}^*) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^s \\
 &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2}} \hat{e}_{i' j'} \\
 &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2}} \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \left(r_{i' j'} - \frac{1}{n_i'} \sum_{m=1}^{n_i} r_{i' m} \right) \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

⑤ $d_i = \text{SRSWR}((1, \dots, D), 1)$, then $\mathbf{e}_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{e}_{d_i 1}^s, \dots, \hat{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}^s), n_i)$, where

$$\hat{e}_{ij}^s = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e}{\sqrt{N^{-1} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2}} \hat{e}_{ij} \text{ and } \hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - n_i^{-1} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i} r_{ij'}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(e_{ij}^{*2}) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} (\hat{e}_{i' j'}^s)^2 \\ &= \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e^2}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^D \sum_{m=1}^{n_l} \hat{e}_{lm}^2} \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2 \\ &= \hat{\sigma}_e^2, \text{ only when } n_i = N/D \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, D \end{aligned}$$

⑤ $u_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{u}_1, \dots, \hat{u}_D), 1)$ where

$$\hat{u}_i = n_i^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} r_{ij} = n_i^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} (y_{ij} - \mathbf{x}_{ij}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(u_i^*) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \hat{u}_{i'} = \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i'} r_{i'j'} \\ &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i'} \left(y_{i'j'} - \mathbf{x}_{i'j'}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \right) = 0, \text{ only when } n_i = N/D \forall i \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(u_i^{*2}) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \hat{u}_{i'}^2 = \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \left(\frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i'} r_{i'j'} \right)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}^2} \left\{ \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i'} \left(y_{i'j'} - \mathbf{x}_{i'j'}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \right) \right\}^2 \neq \hat{\sigma}_u^2. \end{aligned}$$

⑤ $d_i = \text{PPSWR}((1, \dots, D), (n_1/N, \dots, n_D/N), 1)$, then

$e_i^* = \text{SRSWR}((\hat{e}_{d_i 1}, \dots, \hat{e}_{d_i n_{d_i}}), n_i)$, where $\hat{e}_{ij} = r_{ij} - \hat{u}_i = r_{ij} - n_i^{-1} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_i} r_{ij'}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(e_{ij}^*) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'} = \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} (r_{i' j'} - \hat{u}_{i'}) \\ &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \left(r_{i' j'} - \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{l=1}^{n_{i'}} r_{i' l} \right) = 0, \text{ and} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E}^*(e_{ij}^{*2}) &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \hat{e}_{i' j'}^2 = \sum_{i'=1}^D \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} (r_{i' j'} - \hat{u}_{i'})^2 \\ &= \sum_{i'=1}^D \frac{1}{D} \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{j'=1}^{n_{i'}} \left\{ y_{i' j'} - \mathbf{x}_{i' j'}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \frac{1}{n_{i'}} \sum_{l=1}^{n_{i'}} (y_{i' l} - \mathbf{x}_{i' l}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \right\}^2 \neq \hat{\sigma}_{\mathbf{e}}^2. \end{aligned}$$

- ⑤ Modification of the PREB-0 bootstrap distributions $\{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{*(b)} : b = 1, \dots, B\}$ ensures that they are centered at the ML estimate $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$:

$$\frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{**(b)} = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{*(b)} - \sum_{l=1}^B \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{*(l)} + \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}},$$

$$\frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{\sigma}_u^{2***(b)} = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{\sigma}_u^{2*(b)} \times \frac{\hat{\sigma}_u^2}{\frac{1}{B} \sum_{l=1}^B \hat{\sigma}_u^{2*(l)}} = \hat{\sigma}_u^2, \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{\sigma}_e^{2***(b)} = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{\sigma}_e^{2*(b)} \times \frac{\hat{\sigma}_e^2}{\frac{1}{B} \sum_{l=1}^B \hat{\sigma}_e^{2*(l)}} = \hat{\sigma}_e^2.$$

- ④ However, these modifications do not necessarily provide valid estimators of the sampling variability of $\hat{\theta}$.
- ⑤ For example, the bootstrap variance of the k -th fixed effect coefficient $\{\hat{\beta}_k^{**(b)} : b = 1, \dots, B\}$ under PREB-2 is given as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \left(\hat{\beta}_k^{**(b)} - \frac{1}{B} \sum_{l=1}^B \hat{\beta}_k^{**(l)} \right)^2 &= \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \left(\hat{\beta}_k^{**(b)} - \hat{\beta}_k \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \left(\hat{\beta}_k^{*(b)} - \frac{1}{B} \sum_{l=1}^B \hat{\beta}_k^{*(l)} \right)^2, \end{aligned}$$

which coincides with the bootstrap variance under PREB-0.