

# Handling Missing Data in Health Science Research

Day 2 - Part I

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## Missing responses in longitudinal studies

- Except in highly controlled settings, missing data in longitudinal studies are inevitable
- What are the implications for missing data?
  - Create complications for methods that require **balanced** data
  - Reduce the **precision** with which changes in the mean response over time can be estimated
  - Can introduce **bias** and lead to misleading inferences about changes in the mean response
- Statistical methods to account for missing data in correlated (longitudinal) data is still a rapidly developing field
- Usually, the missing data mechanism is not under the control of the investigators
- We make **assumptions** about the missing data mechanism
- Validity of the analysis depends on whether these assumptions hold
- We need to be **explicit** about the assumptions made regarding the reasons for missing data

## Example: Longitudinal outcomes in skin cancer study

- In the previous session, we focused on the baseline data and skin cancer count after the first year
- In this session, we will analyze the full data including follow-up skin cancer status from year 1 through year 5
- We will focus on the missing longitudinal **outcomes** rather than missing covariates
- However, the implementation of Poisson data is not well developed in the joint modeling framework
- Therefore, we will **dichotomize** the outcome to implement logistic regression
  - If  $Y_{\text{orig}} = 0$  then  $Y_{\text{new}} = 0$  and if  $Y_{\text{orig}} > 0$  then  $Y_{\text{new}} = 1$

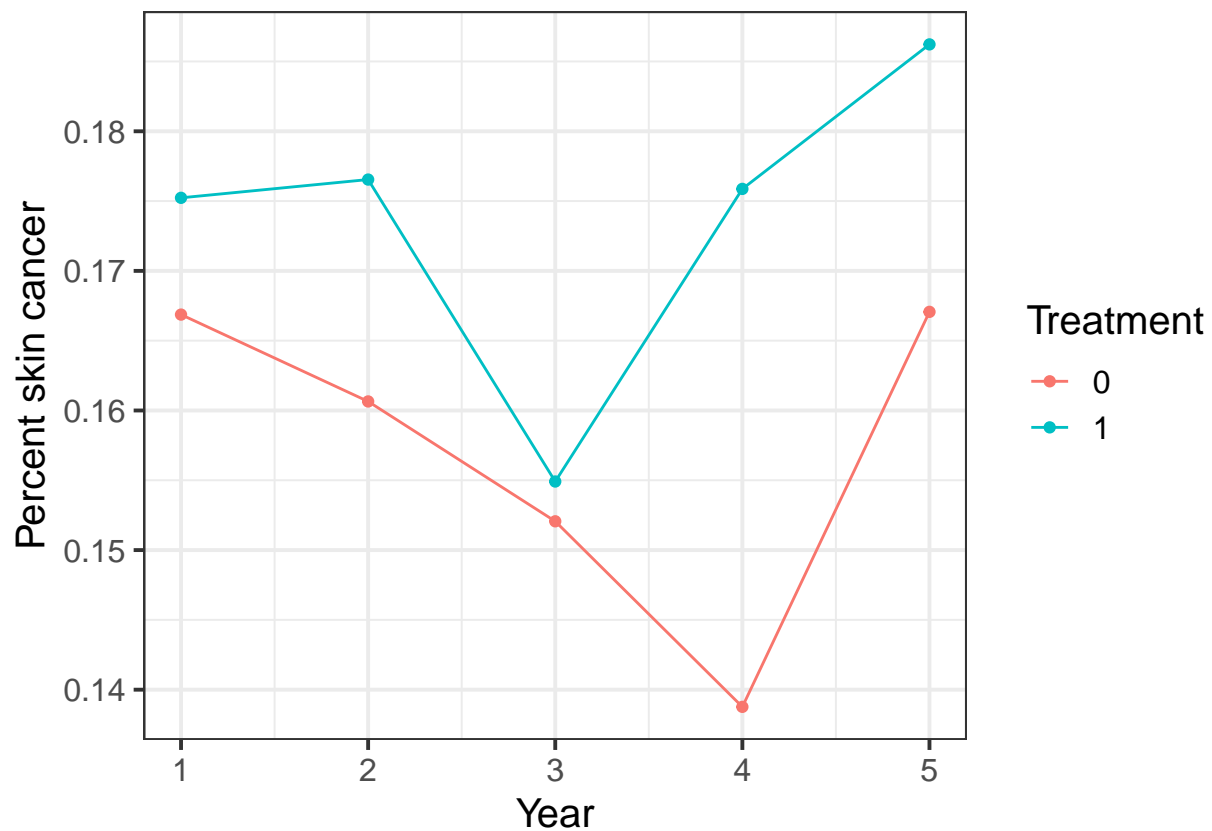
```
skin_data <- read.table("skin_data.txt", header = TRUE)
head(skin_data)
```

```
##      ID center age skin gender exposure Y treatment year
## 1 100034      1  51   1     1         4 0          0     1
## 2 100034      1  51   1     1         4 1          0     2
## 3 100034      1  51   1     1         4 1          0     3
## 4 100034      1  51   1     1         4 1          0     4
## 5 100034      1  51   1     1         4 0          0     5
## 6 100045      1  68   1     0         2 0          0     1
```

```
skin_data <- skin_data %>%
  mutate(Y_bin = ifelse(Y == 0, 0, 1)) %>%
  dplyr::select(-Y)
```

```
## plot the data
```

```
skin_data %>%
  group_by(treatment, year) %>%
  summarise(pskin = mean(Y_bin)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(y = pskin, x = year, color = as.factor(treatment))) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_line() +
  labs(y = "Percent skin cancer", x = "Year", color = "Treatment")
```



- We are interested in modeling the population-averaged inference of the change in risk of new skin cancer by treatment group

$$\text{logit}(\mu_{ij}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Year}_{ij} + \beta_2 \text{Year}_{ij}^2 + \beta_4 \text{Treatment}_i + \beta_5 (\text{Year}_{ij} \times \text{Treatment}_i) + \beta_6 (\text{Year}_{ij}^2 \times \text{Treatment}_i)$$

## Missing data notation revisited

Suppose we have  $n$  repeated measurements of the same individual. Then, the  $i$ th subject's set of responses can be represented as a  $n \times 1$  vector denoted by

$$Y_i = (Y_{i1}, Y_{i2}, \dots, Y_{in})^T.$$

and the response vector  $Y_i$  is coupled with a  $n \times 1$  vector of **response indicators**

$$R_i = (R_{i1}, R_{i2}, \dots, R_{in})^T,$$

where  $R_{ij} = 1$  if  $Y_{ij}$  is observed and  $R_{ij} = 0$  if  $Y_{ij}$  is missing.

Given  $R_i$ , we can **partition**  $Y_i = (Y_{i1}, Y_{i2}, \dots, Y_{in})^T$  into two components  $Y_i^O$  and  $Y_i^M$  where

- $Y_i^O$  denotes the vector of **observed** responses for subject  $i$
- $Y_i^M$  denotes the vector of **missing** responses for subject  $i$

For example,

```
##   id trt  y0  y1  y2  y3
## 1  1   0 2.1 2.6 3.0 3.3
## 2  2   0 2.7 NA  NA 2.9
## 3  3   0 1.9 2.5 2.7  NA
## 4  4   1 3.4 3.5 3.7 3.9
## 5  5   1 1.8 2.7  NA  NA
## 6  6   1 4.0 4.2 4.6 5.0
```

then,

$$Y_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2.1 \\ 2.6 \\ 3.0 \\ 3.3 \end{pmatrix} \quad R_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad Y_1^O = \begin{pmatrix} y_{11} \\ y_{12} \\ y_{13} \\ y_{14} \end{pmatrix} \quad Y_1^M = ()$$

and

$$Y_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2.7 \\ \\ 2.9 \end{pmatrix} \quad R_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad Y_2^O = \begin{pmatrix} y_{21} \\ y_{24} \end{pmatrix} \quad Y_2^M = \begin{pmatrix} y_{22} \\ y_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

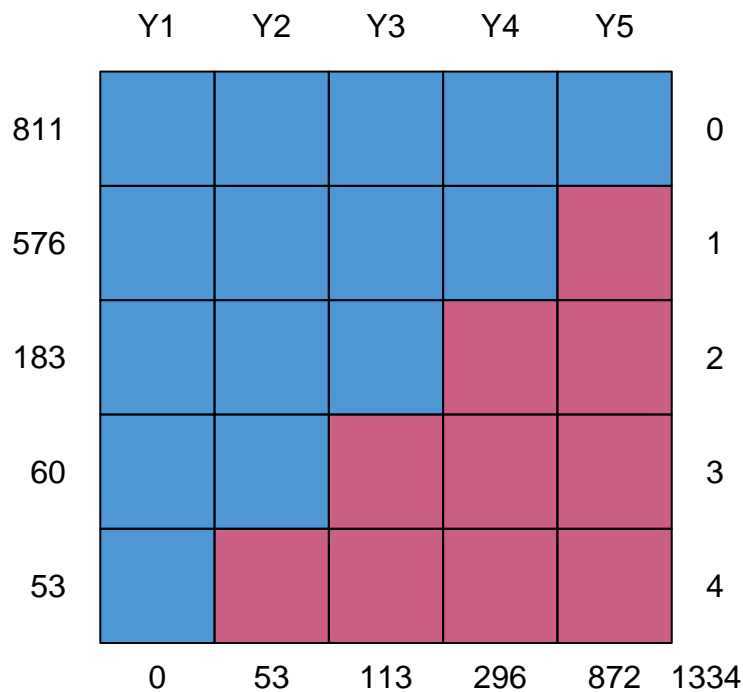
## Missing data pattern

Largely, two types of missing data pattern exist in longitudinal studies:

### Monotone missing data pattern

- Arises from **dropout**
- The term dropout refers to the special case where if  $Y_{ik}$  is missing, then  $Y_{ik+1}, \dots, Y_{in}$  are also missing
- Key question: Do individuals that dropout and those that remain in the study differ in any further relevant way?

```
mice::md.pattern()
```

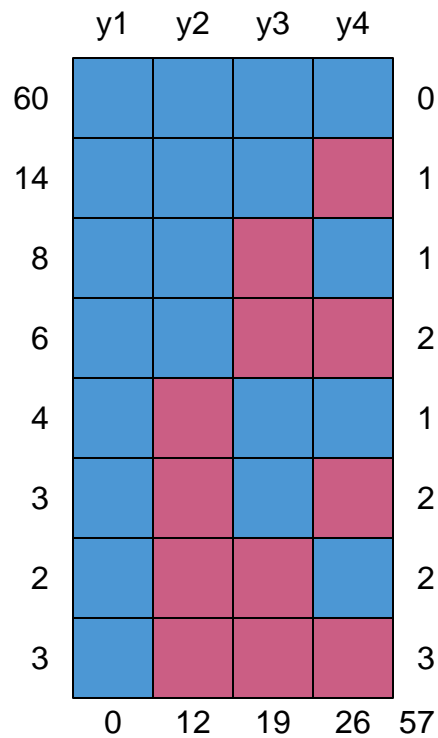


```
##      Y1 Y2  Y3  Y4  Y5
## 811  1  1   1   1   1   0
## 576  1  1   1   1   0   1
## 183  1  1   1   0   0   2
## 60   1  1   0   0   0   3
## 53   1  0   0   0   0   4
##      0 53 113 296 872 1334
```

- Monotone missing data pattern
- 811 people have complete responses
- 53 people dropped out after the first visit
- 60 people dropped out after the second visit
- 183 people dropped out after the third visit
- 576 people dropped out after the fourth visit

### Intermittent (non-monotone) missing data pattern

- Missing data pattern that is not monotone



```
##      y1 y2 y3 y4
## 60    1  1  1  1  0
## 14    1  1  1  0  1
## 8     1  1  0  1  1
## 6     1  1  0  0  2
## 4     1  0  1  1  1
## 3     1  0  1  0  2
## 2     1  0  0  1  2
## 3     1  0  0  0  3
##      0 12 19 26 57
```

- Non-monotone missing data pattern
- 60 subjects have complete responses
- 3 subjects have only the baseline response

## Approaches for missing data in longitudinal studies

### Ignorable missingness (MCAR and MAR)

- **Complete-case analysis**
  - Restrict analysis to individuals with no missing data
  - Valid if data are MCAR
- **Available data analysis**

- Use all available data (include individuals with some missing data)
- Valid if data are MCAR
- **Last value carried forward**
  - Applies to monotone missing data
  - Use last observed observation for subsequent missing observations
  - Still popular despite many disadvantages
  - Produces biased estimates and small standard errors
- **Maximum likelihood methods**
  - Maximum likelihood methods (linear mixed effects models, generalized linear mixed effects models) are valid if data are MCAR/MAR
  - Requires the correct specification of the mean and variance model
- **Inverse probability weighting**
  - Weighting method that attempts to “even out” the contribution by individuals
  - Appropriate for monotone missing data pattern
  - Works well with marginal models (generalized estimating equations or GEE)
  - Valid if data are MCAR/MAR
- **Multiple imputation**
  - Appropriate for monotone and intermittent missing patterns
- Other methods include
  - Combination of IPW and MI
  - EM algorithm
  - Bayesian methods
  - Many R packages are available

## Inverse probability weighting

### Overview

- Basic idea is to estimate the probability of individuals remaining (or dropping out) in the study and weigh each observation according to that probability
  - Individuals with low probability of remaining in the study (high probability of dropping out) are given larger weights
  - Individuals with high probability of remaining in the study (low probability of dropping out) are given smaller weights
- IPW methods are more straightforward to implement with **monotone** missing data pattern
- IPW methods are more appealing when a full likelihood-based analysis is not possible
  - i.e. marginal analysis with discrete responses
  - IPW is often incorporated into **GEE**
- Requires the correct specification of the dropout model ( $\Pr(R_{ij} = 1 | R_{i1} = \dots R_{i,j-1}, X_i, Y_{i1}, \dots, Y_{i,j-1})$ )

### IPW-GEE

The IPW-GEE estimator is obtained as the solution to the following **weighted** estimating equations:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N D_i^T V_i^{-1} W_i (Y_i - \mu) = 0,$$

where

- $D_i$  is the  $n \times p$  derivative matrix
- $V_i$  is a  $n \times n$  working covariance matrix for  $Y_i$
- $W_i$  is a  $n \times n$  **diagonal** matrix of the occasion-specific weights,  $w_{ij}$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$W_i = \begin{pmatrix} R_{i1} \times w_{i1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & R_{i2} \times w_{i2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & R_{in} \times w_{in} \end{pmatrix}$$

The weight,  $w_{ij}$  is the inverse of the **unconditional** probability of being observed at the  $j$ th occasion.

To calculate these weights, let  $\pi_{ij}$  denote the **conditional** probability of the  $i$ th individual being observed (or not dropping out) at the  $j$ th occasion, given that this individual was observed at the prior occasions.

For the first occasion we usually assume  $R_{i1} = 1$  for all individuals, and then  $\pi_{i1} = 1$ .

The MAR assumption implies that

$$\pi_{ij} = \Pr(R_{ij} = 1 | R_{i1} = \dots = R_{i,j-1} = 1, Y_{i1} = \dots = Y_{i,j-1}, X_i).$$

The **unconditional** probability of being observed at the  $j$ th occasion can be expressed as the **cumulative product** of the **conditional** probabilities,

$$\pi_{i1} \times \pi_{i2} \times \dots \times \pi_{ij}.$$

The required weight is then given by the **inverse** of the cumulative product of conditional probabilities,

$$w_{ij} = (\pi_{i1} \times \pi_{i2} \times \dots \times \pi_{ij})^{-1}.$$

## Estimation of weights

We can estimate  $\pi_{ij}$  by constructing a logistic regression model for  $\pi_{ij}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{logit}(\pi_{ij}) &= \text{logit} \{ \Pr(R_{ij} = 1 | R_{i1} = \dots = R_{i,j-1} = 1, Z_{ij}) \} \\ &= Z_{ij}^T \theta \end{aligned}$$

where  $Z_{ij}$  is a  $q \times 1$  design vector that incorporates:

- certain components of  $X_{ij}$
- past responses ( $Y_{i1}, \dots, Y_{i,j-1}$ )
- possibly additional covariates that may be predictive of dropout but are not of subject-matter interest in the marginal model for the mean response

## Assumptions

- The missing data mechanism depends only on **variables fully observed** in the sample
- The probability of being observed ( $\pi_{ij}$ ) is **positive** (not close to zero)
  - If  $\pi_{ij}$  is very small,  $w_{ij}$  will be extremely large
  - Extremely large weights on small subset of observations may yield regression parameter estimates that are unstable and have poor precision
- Safest to assume working **independence** correlation
  - Need robust standard errors using the sandwich variance estimator

## Detailed approach with data from skin cancer study

We are interested in modeling the population-averaged inference of the change in risk of new skin cancer by treatment group

$$\text{logit}(\mu_{ij}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Year}_{ij} + \beta_2 \text{Year}_{ij}^2 + \beta_4 \text{Treatment}_i + \beta_5 (\text{Year}_{ij} \times \text{Treatment}_i) + \beta_6 (\text{Year}_{ij}^2 \times \text{Treatment}_i)$$

- Because we are interested in modeling the marginal probability of a **discrete** (or more specifically, binary) outcome, we cannot employ ML methods
- We need to fit a marginal model using GEE
  - Estimates will be biased if data are MAR
- Incorporate IPW

## Model for dropout process

- First, we will fit a model for the dropout process
- The outcome is  $\text{logit}(\pi_{ij}) = \text{logit}\{\Pr(R_{ij} = 1)\}$ 
  - Although it is called the “dropout model”, we are modeling the probability of **not** dropping out
  - We don’t include baseline data (everybody is observed)
- The predictors include fully observed covariates and previously observed responses

$$\begin{aligned} \text{logit}(\pi_{ij}) = & \theta_1 + \theta_2 I(t = 3) + \theta_3 I(t = 4) + \theta_4 I(t = 5) + \theta_5 \text{age}_i + \theta_6 \text{skin}_i + \theta_7 \text{treatment}_i \\ & + \theta_8 \text{gender}_i + \theta_9 \text{exposure}_i + \theta_{10} Y_{i,j-1} + \theta_{11} (\text{treatment}_i \times Y_{i,j-1}), \quad j = 2, 3, 4, 5 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\pi_{ij} = \Pr(R_{ij} = 1 | R_{i1} = \dots = R_{i,j-1} = 1, Y_{i,j-1}, X_i)$ .

```
# change to wide format first to fill in missing years with NA
skin_wide <- skin_data %>%
  pivot_wider(names_from = year,
              names_prefix = "Y",
              values_from = Y_bin)
head(skin_wide)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 12
##       ID center  age  skin gender exposure treatment    Y1    Y2    Y3    Y4
##   <int> <int> <int> <int> <int>    <int>    <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     0     1     1     1
## 2 100045     1   68     1     0         2         0     0     0     0     0
## 3 100056     1   58     1     0         7         0     1     1     0     1
## 4 100067     1   53     1     1         3         0     0     0     0     0
## 5 100102     1   55     0     0         2         0     0     0     0     0
## 6 100113     1   59     1     1        10         0     0     0     1     0
## # ... with 1 more variable: Y5 <dbl>
```

```
skin_long <- skin_wide %>%
  pivot_longer(cols = starts_with("Y"),
               values_to = "Y",
               names_to = "Year",
               names_prefix = "Y") %>%
```



```
mutate(Year = as.numeric(as.factor(Year)),
       Year2 = Year^2,
       trtYear = treatment * Year,
       trtYear2 = treatment * Year2)
head(skin_long)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 12
##       ID center  age  skin gender exposure treatment  Year    Y Year2 trtYear
##   <int> <int> <int> <int> <int>    <int>    <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>    <dbl>
## 1 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     1     0     1         0
## 2 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     2     1     4         0
## 3 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     3     1     9         0
## 4 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     4     1    16         0
## 5 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     5     0    25         0
## 6 100045     1   68     1     0         2         0     1     0     1         0
## # ... with 1 more variable: trtYear2 <dbl>
```

```
ipwdat <- skin_long %>%
  group_by(ID) %>%
  mutate(prevy = dplyr::lag(Y)) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  mutate(r = ifelse(is.na(Y), 0, 1),
         t2 = ifelse(Year == 2, 1, 0),
         t3 = ifelse(Year == 3, 1, 0),
         t4 = ifelse(Year == 4, 1, 0),
         t5 = ifelse(Year == 5, 1, 0),
         ## '*' not meaningful for factors
         trt.prev = as.numeric(as.character(treatment)) * as.numeric(as.character(prevy))) %>%
  filter(!is.na(Y)|!is.na(prevy))
head(ipwdat)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 19
##       ID center  age  skin gender exposure treatment  Year    Y Year2 trtYear
##   <int> <int> <int> <int> <int>    <int>    <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>    <dbl>
## 1 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     1     0     1         0
## 2 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     2     1     4         0
## 3 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     3     1     9         0
## 4 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     4     1    16         0
## 5 100034     1   51     1     1         4         0     5     0    25         0
## 6 100045     1   68     1     0         2         0     1     0     1         0
## # ... with 8 more variables: trtYear2 <dbl>, prevy <dbl>, r <dbl>, t2 <dbl>,
## #   t3 <dbl>, t4 <dbl>, t5 <dbl>, trt.prev <dbl>
```

```
# fit drop-out model
rmod <- glm(r ~ t3 + t4 + t5 + age + skin + treatment + gender + exposure + prevy + trt.prev,
           data = ipwdat, family = binomial("logit"))
round(summary(rmod)$coef, 2)
```

```
##              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)      3.77      0.31   12.13   0.00
## t3              -0.16      0.19   -0.85   0.39
## t4              -1.41      0.16   -8.82   0.00
```

```
## t5          -3.11      0.15 -20.68      0.00
## age         0.00      0.00   0.06      0.95
## skin        -0.15     0.08  -1.84      0.07
## treatment   -0.14     0.09  -1.59      0.11
## gender      -0.22     0.09  -2.41      0.02
## exposure     0.00     0.01  -0.13      0.90
## prevy       -0.16     0.16  -0.97      0.33
## trt.prevy    -0.20     0.21  -0.95      0.34
```

## Compute IPW

- First, compute the predicted  $\text{logit}(\hat{\pi}_{ij})$  from the dropout model
- Then, compute the predicted  $\hat{\pi}_{ij}$
- Because the first response was fully observed, with  $R_{ij} = 1$  for all individuals,  $\hat{\pi}_{i1} = 1$  by definition

$$\hat{\pi}_{ij} = \frac{\exp(Z_{ij}^T \hat{\theta})}{1 + \exp(Z_{ij}^T \hat{\theta})}$$

```
dropcoef <- summary(rmod)$coef[,1]
## create the dataset for predicting the weight
xmat <- model.matrix(~ t3 + t4 + t5 + age + skin + treatment + gender + exposure + prevy + trt.prevy,
                    model.frame(~., data = ipwdat, na.action = na.pass))
dim(xmat)
```

```
## [1] 7953 11
```

```
ipwdat <- ipwdat %>%
  mutate(logitp = as.numeric(xmat %*% dropcoef),
         phat = ifelse(Year == 1, 1, exp(logitp)/(1 + exp(logitp)))) %>%
  group_by(ID) %>%
  mutate(cumprob = cumprod(phat),
         ipw = 1/cumprob) %>%
  ungroup()

ipwdat %>%
  filter(ID %in% c(100034, 100067, 103059, 416964)) %>%
  dplyr::select(ID, treatment, Year, Y, prevy, r, logitp, phat, cumprob, ipw) %>%
  print()
```

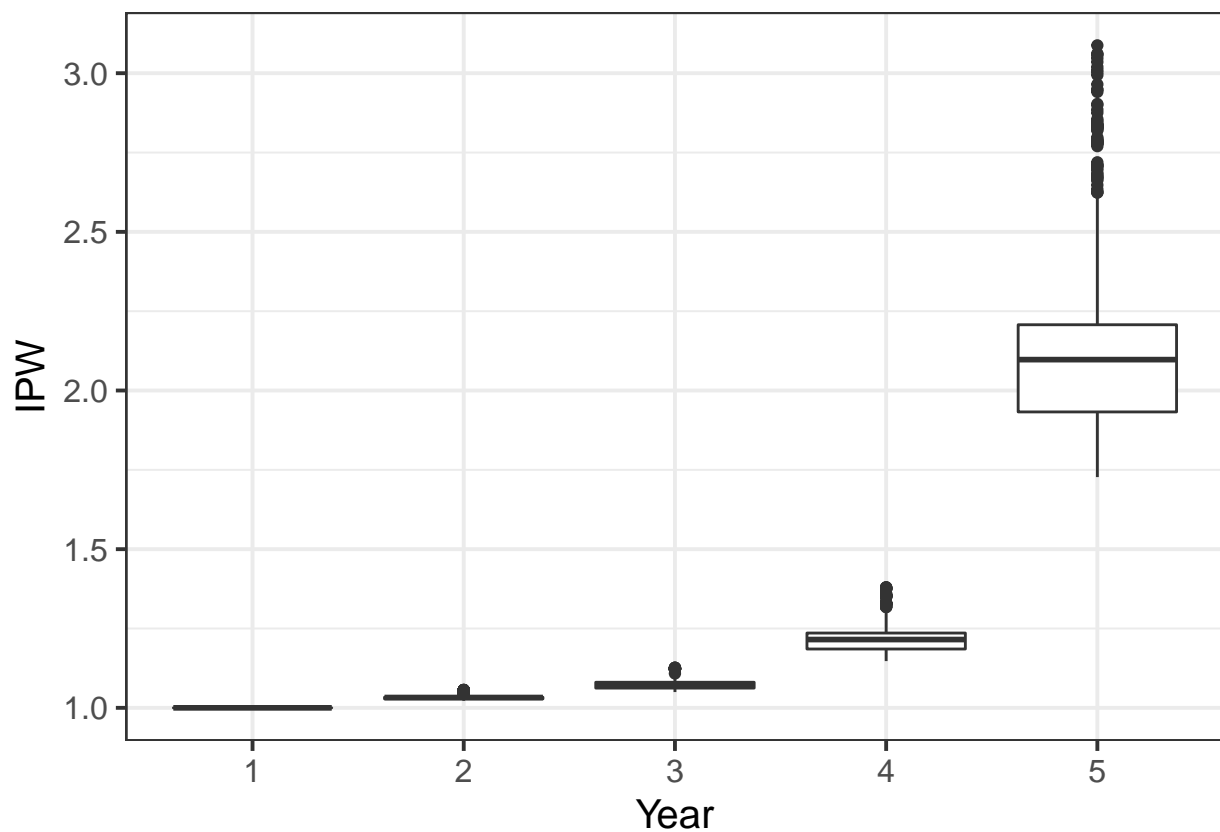
```
## # A tibble: 20 x 10
```

```
##      ID treatment  Year    Y prevy    r logitp  phat cumprob  ipw
##      <int>      <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>  <dbl> <dbl>  <dbl> <dbl>
##  1 100034         0     1     0   NA     1  NA     1      1      1
##  2 100034         0     2     1     0     1  3.41  0.968  0.968  1.03
##  3 100034         0     3     1     1     1  3.09  0.956  0.926  1.08
##  4 100034         0     4     1     1     1  1.83  0.862  0.798  1.25
##  5 100034         0     5     0     1     1  0.141 0.535  0.427  2.34
##  6 100067         0     1     0   NA     1  NA     1      1      1
##  7 100067         0     2     0     0     1  3.41  0.968  0.968  1.03
##  8 100067         0     3     0     0     1  3.25  0.963  0.932  1.07
##  9 100067         0     4     0     0     1  2.00  0.880  0.820  1.22
```

## 10	100067	0	5	0	0	1	0.303	0.575	0.472	2.12
## 11	103059	0	1	0	NA	1	NA	1	1	1
## 12	103059	0	2	0	0	1	3.42	0.968	0.968	1.03
## 13	103059	0	3	0	0	1	3.25	0.963	0.932	1.07
## 14	103059	0	4	0	0	1	2.00	0.881	0.821	1.22
## 15	103059	0	5	0	0	1	0.309	0.577	0.474	2.11
## 16	416964	0	1	0	NA	1	NA	1	1	1
## 17	416964	0	2	0	0	1	3.57	0.973	0.973	1.03
## 18	416964	0	3	0	0	1	3.41	0.968	0.941	1.06
## 19	416964	0	4	0	0	1	2.16	0.896	0.844	1.19
## 20	416964	0	5	NA	0	0	0.462	0.614	0.518	1.93

- Prior to conducting an IPW-GEE analysis, we should examine the **distribution** of the estimated weights for any presence of discernibly large weights

```
# examine the weights by time point
ipwdat %>%
  ggplot(aes(y = ipw, x = as.factor(Year))) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  labs(y = "IPW", x = "Year")
```



### Observations

- $\hat{w}_{i1} = 1$  for all individuals, as should be
- Estimated weights are increasing over time
- Estimated weights range from 1.0 to 3.1 → no concern that a small subset of the observations might have undue influence on the analysis

## Model for response with IPW

Finally, we will fit a logistic regression model for the marginal probability of developing skin cancer:

- Use `wights=` option in `geeglm` from R package `geepack`
- To ensure that the weights are appropriately incorporated, we need to make the “**working independence**” assumption for the within-subject association among the responses
- Because a “working independence” assumption is made, standard errors are based on the **sandwich variance** estimator
  - Default for `geeglm`

```
# ipw-gee
library(geepack)
ipwgee <- geeglm(Y ~ treatment + Year + Year2 + trtYear + trtYear2,
                 family=binomial("logit"),
                 id = ID, scale.fix = TRUE,
                 corstr = "independence",
                 weights = ipw,
                 data = ipwdat)
summary(ipwgee)

##
## Call:
## geeglm(formula = Y ~ treatment + Year + Year2 + trtYear + trtYear2,
##        family = binomial("logit"), data = ipwdat, weights = ipw,
##        id = ID, corstr = "independence", scale.fix = TRUE)
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate   Std.err   Wald Pr(>|W|)
## (Intercept) -1.374470   0.186246  54.462 1.58e-13 ***
## treatment    0.003619   0.260712   0.000   0.9889
## Year        -0.244271   0.146087   2.796   0.0945 .
## Year2        0.040117   0.025367   2.501   0.1138
## trtYear      0.051900   0.206521   0.063   0.8016
## trtYear2    -0.002670   0.036047   0.005   0.9410
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Correlation structure = independence
## Scale is fixed.
##
## Number of clusters:   1683   Maximum cluster size: 5
```

- We will compare **four** different analyses
  - Complete-case analysis
  - Available data analysis
  - Last observation carried forward
  - IPW

```
# complete cases (remove all subjects who dropout)
ccdat <- skin_long %>%
```

Table 1: Estimated regression coefficients (standard errors) from logistic regression analysis

Variable	Complete-case	Available data	Last value carried fwd	IPW
Year	-0.312 (0.369)	0.016 (0.256)	0.006 (0.229)	0.004 (0.261)
Year <sup>2</sup>	-0.502 (0.191)	-0.208 (0.140)	-0.198 (0.116)	-0.244 (0.146)
Year x Trt	0.082 (0.031)	0.033 (0.024)	0.032 (0.018)	0.040 (0.025)
Year <sup>2</sup> x Trt	0.336 (0.275)	0.046 (0.199)	0.062 (0.160)	0.052 (0.207)

```

group_by(ID) %>%
mutate(dropout = ifelse(is.na(mean(Y)), 1, 0)) %>%
ungroup() %>%
filter(dropout == 0)

ccgee <- geeglm(Y ~ treatment + Year + Year2 + trtYear + trtYear2,
               family = binomial("logit"),
               id = ID, scale.fix = TRUE,
               corstr = "unstructured",
               data = ccdat)

# available data
avdat <- skin_long %>%
  drop_na()
avgee <- geeglm(Y ~ treatment + Year + Year2 + trtYear + trtYear2,
               family = binomial("logit"),
               id = ID, scale.fix = TRUE,
               corstr = "unstructured",
               data = avdat)

# last value carried forward
lvcfdat <- skin_long %>%
  group_by(ID) %>%
  fill(Y) %>%
  ungroup()
lvcfgee <- geeglm(Y ~ treatment + Year + Year2 + trtYear + trtYear2,
                 family = binomial("logit"),
                 id = ID, scale.fix = TRUE,
                 corstr = "unstructured",
                 data = lvcfdat)

```

## Summary

- IPW is useful if only the response variables are missing due to dropout
- IPW requires correct specification of the dropout model for valid estimation of  $\beta$
- In the presence of discernibly large weights,
  - Check the sensitivity of results to the inclusion of observations that receive large weights
  - If the analysis results are sensitive to a small number of large weights, then
    - \* apply weight truncation
    - \* or consider an alternative methods of adjusting for missingness