Noise-Induced Randomization in Regression Discontinuity Designs

Dean Eckles, Nikolaos Ignatiadis, Stefan Wager, Han Wu

Presented by: Sai Zhang

November 18, 2022

Outline

1 Discussio

Discussion

Most popular: local linear regression (Hahn et al., 2001; G. W. Imbens and Lemieux, 2008)

$$\hat{\tau}_{c} = \arg\min_{\tau} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{K}_{\text{weighting}} \left(\frac{|Z_{i} - c|}{\underbrace{h_{n}}_{\text{bandwidth}}} \right) \left(Y_{i} - a - \tau W_{i} - \beta_{-} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{-} - \beta_{+} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{+} \right)^{2} \right\}$$

Most popular: local linear regression (Hahn et al., 2001; G. W. Imbens and Lemieux, 2008)

$$\hat{\tau}_{c} = \arg\min_{\tau} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{K}_{\text{weighting}} \left(\frac{|Z_{i} - c|}{h_{n}} \right) \left(Y_{i} - a - \tau W_{i} - \beta_{-} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{-} - \beta_{+} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{+} \right)^{2} \right\}$$

Most popular: local linear regression (Hahn et al., 2001; G. W. Imbens and Lemieux, 2008)

$$\hat{\tau}_{c} = \arg\min_{\tau} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{K}_{\text{weighting}} \left(\frac{|Z_{i} - c|}{h_{n}} \right) \left(Y_{i} - a - \tau W_{i} - \beta_{-} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{-} - \beta_{+} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{+} \right)^{2} \right\}$$

- $\blacksquare \mu_{(w)}(z) = \mathbb{E}\left[Y(w) \mid Z=z\right]$ is smooth
- \blacksquare h_n decays at an appropriate rate

Eckles et al., 2020

Most popular: local linear regression (Hahn et al., 2001; G. W. Imbens and Lemieux, 2008)

$$\hat{\tau}_{c} = \arg\min_{\tau} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{K}_{\text{weighting}} \left(\frac{|Z_{i} - c|}{\underbrace{h_{n}}_{\text{bandwidth}}} \right) \left(Y_{i} - a - \tau W_{i} - \beta_{-} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{-} - \beta_{+} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{+} \right)^{2} \right\}$$

- $\blacksquare \mu_{(w)}(z) = \mathbb{E}\left[Y(w) \mid Z=z\right]$ is smooth

Robust Cls (Armstrong and Kolesár, 2020; Calonico et al., 2014; Kolesár and Rothe, 2018);

Most popular: local linear regression (Hahn et al., 2001; G. W. Imbens and Lemieux, 2008)

$$\hat{\tau}_{c} = \arg\min_{\tau} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{K}_{\text{weighting}} \left(\frac{|Z_{i} - c|}{\underbrace{h_{n}}_{\text{bandwidth}}} \right) \left(Y_{i} - a - \tau W_{i} - \beta_{-} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{-} - \beta_{+} \left(Z_{i} - c \right)_{+} \right)^{2} \right\}$$

- $\blacksquare \mu_{(w)}(z) = \mathbb{E}\left[Y(w) \mid Z=z\right]$ is smooth
- \blacksquare h_n decays at an appropriate rate

Robust Cls (Armstrong and Kolesár, 2020; Calonico et al., 2014; Kolesár and Rothe, 2018); Data-adaptive bandwidths (G. Imbens and Kalyanaraman, 2012)

Sai Zhang Eckles et al., 2020

Literature: Continuity-Based RD extended

$$\mu_{(w)}(z) = \mathbb{E}\left[Y(w) \mid Z = z\right]$$

If further assume convexity of $\mu_{(w)}(z)$, e.g.:

$$\left|\mu_{(w)}''(z)\right| \le B, \forall z \in \mathbb{R}$$

Literature: Continuity-Based RD extended

$$\mu_{(w)}(z) = \mathbb{E}\left[Y(w) \mid Z = z\right]$$

If further assume convexity of $\mu_{(w)}(z)$, e.g.:

$$\left|\mu_{(w)}''(z)\right| \le B, \forall z \in \mathbb{R}$$

Optimization-based RD: the treatment effect τ_c can be estimated (minimax linear estimation) via numerical convex optimization (Armstrong and Kolesár, 2018; G. Imbens and Wager, 2019)

Sai Zhang Eckles et al., 2020

Discussion 0000

Literature: Randomization Inference RD

Sai Zhang

References I

- Armstrong, T. B., & Kolesár, M. (2018). Optimal inference in a class of regression models. *Econometrica*, 86(2), 655–683.
- Armstrong, T. B., & Kolesár, M. (2020). Simple and honest confidence intervals in nonparametric regression. *Quantitative Economics*, 11(1), 1–39.
- Calonico, S., Cattaneo, M. D., & Titiunik, R. (2014). Robust nonparametric confidence intervals for regression-discontinuity designs. *Econometrica*, 82(6), 2295–2326.
- Eckles, D., Ignatiadis, N., Wager, S., & Wu, H. (2020). Noise-induced randomization in regression discontinuity designs. arXiv preprint arXiv:2004.09458.
- Hahn, J., Todd, P., & Van der Klaauw, W. (2001). Identification and estimation of treatment effects with a regression-discontinuity design. *Econometrica*, 69(1), 201–209.
- Imbens, G. W., & Lemieux, T. (2008). Regression discontinuity designs: A guide to practice. *Journal of econometrics*, 142(2), 615–635.
- Imbens, G., & Kalyanaraman, K. (2012). Optimal bandwidth choice for the regression discontinuity estimator. *The Review of economic studies*, 79(3), 933–959.

References II

Imbens, G., & Wager, S. (2019). Optimized regression discontinuity designs. Review of Economics and Statistics, 101(2), 264–278.

Kolesár, M., & Rothe, C. (2018). Inference in regression discontinuity designs with a discrete running variable. American Economic Review, 108(8), 2277–2304.

Thank you!