# Homework - Day 3: Simulation II (Experimental Data) Social Analysis and Simulation in R

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# Question 1

Instruction: In this question, you are asked to simulate an experimental data you would want to analyze if you have all the resources and tools to perform a set of experiments. First, briefly describe a research question that you are interested in, but have not empirically examined or collected any data about. In so doing, consider an experiment with a continuous outcome variable and a binary treatment variable in which some number of units is sampled from a clearly defined population. Consider also other relevant characteristics of individuals in the population such as age, gender, race, and others that you want to take into consideration in your experiment. Next, simulate N data points for these covariates and define them as the population data. Here, choose the most realistic value for N according to your theoretical interest. For example, N can be as large as the U.S. population (about 328,915,700), may be as moderate as students at Rice (about 6700), or could be as small as legislators in Argentine Chamber of Deputies (257). Create also at least one aggregate level covariate (e.g., city level median income).

Now perform any type of sampling, including but not limited to simple random sampling and stratified sampling, on the simulated population data, and draw 50 data points as your initial sample. These are your subjects. Then create a binary treatment variable which indicates units' treatment status and randomly assign a value to it (0 for the control group and 1 for the treatment group). And simulate the value of the continuous outcome variable as a realization of a random variable following a normal distribution (with a positive variance) whose expected value is a function of all the covariates and the treatment variable. Here set the parameters according to your theoretical expectation and make the most realistic guess about them.

Given the sample data, visualize the difference in the values of the continuous outcome variables for the control and treatment groups at least two ways. Also visualize the differences in the values of covariates for the two groups in your favorite approach. Finally, add the true "treatment effect" (i.e., the parameter you set in the simulation) to the graphs and comment on how much your experiments recover the "treatment effect(s)."

# Research Question, Theoretical Interests, and Data

My research question is whether the recognition of discrimination changes attitudes towards the majority rights. Almost all countries historically experienced to govern with the political or economic classes and gave different political and social privilages. Global human rights movements changed the normative recognition about discrimination, and in today's society, such a treatment is recognized as unequal policy or categorized as discrimination in some contexts. However, there is a controversy about education of discrimination. While some argues that it is important to share and educate the history of discrimination to prevent further unfortunate situations for the discriminated group of people, others consider that such a recognition can create a foundation of discriminatory attitudes, since they could have a chance to aknowledge their difference ("in-group" and "out-group"). However, there is limited empirical work to assess whehter and how the recognization creates negative or positive effects on issues addressing the discrimination.

My theoretical expectation is that the information about discrimination against the marginalized population creates positive impact on the general citizens' recognition about the majority rights. The logic behind it is that the discrimination happens usually against the group of people belonging to the minority, based on a specific categorization. If people recognize the categorization can be changed and the new one is applicable to them, they might change their attitudes towards the majority rights.

#### Variables of interest, population, and relevant characteristics of individuals

Accordingly, the outcome variable is the feeling thermometer, which can take any values from 0 to 1 (basically the percentage of strong support for the majority rights). The treatment is the exposure to the information about discrimination. The population is the citizens of the Japan, the total is 126,807,358. <sup>1</sup> Individuals vary in age, gender, ethnicity, living place (47 prefectures), education level.

# Simulation

#### Data generation

First, cleaning up the environment.

rm(list=ls())

Next, setting the global parameters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The reason why I choose Japan for this research question is that the Japanese education tend to teach the society as a single ethnic nation. Thus the treatment can work better as new information, compared to other nations where the general population recognize that their country has a varity of population in terms of race, ethnicity, and other identification.

Here, I generate population parameters. The treatment is randomly assigned to the population. Approximately, a half of the population should be assigned the treatment, but the other half is not. For age, the variable should be positive integer or 0, less than 112.

The gender balance in Japan is almost even. 98.5% of the population is estimated as "Japanese people". Here, it is hard to use the real sizes of ethnic groups, since the Japanese government does not publicly report any information about this.

```
set.seed(7272)

# Population parameters
treat <- rbinom(n=N, 1, 0.5)  # treatment

#
library("truncnorm")
age <- round(rtruncnorm(n=N, a=0, b=117, mean = 45, sd = 35))
gender <- rbinom(n=N, 1, 0.5)
ethnicity <- rbinom(n=N, 1, 0.15)</pre>
```

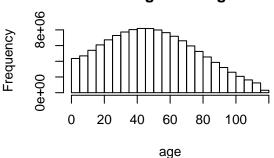
To check whether the simulated data are successfully created or not, here I check the visualization of variables.

```
par(mfrow=c(2,2))
hist(gender)
hist(age)
hist(ethnicity)
```

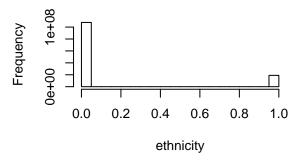
# Histogram of gender

# Ledneuc Value of the second of

# Histogram of age



# Histogram of ethnicity



Now, turning into the creation of the outcome variable, the feeling thermometer. First, I fix parameter values, and then creat the potential outcomes produced by treate and untreated cases. In general, it is expected that people do not have a strong opinion about the majority or minority rights.

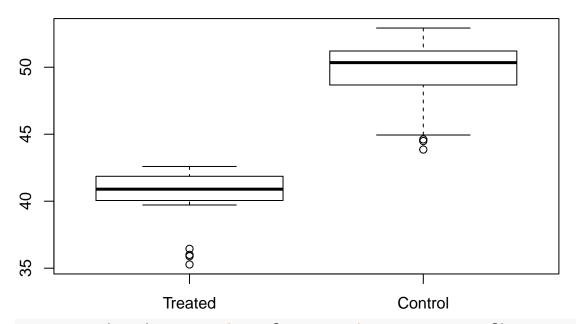
```
a = 50
                                    # Intercept: Ground mean - neutral
b1 = .02
                                      # (Fixed=constant) effects of age
b2 = -.1
                                     # (Fixed=constant) effects of gender
                                     # (Fixed=constant) effects of ethnicity
b3 = -5
tau = -10
                                     # (Fixed=constant) positive tereatment effect
# Potential outcomes
set.seed(7272)
Y_0 \leftarrow rnorm(n = N,
             mean = a + tau*0 + (b1*age) + (b2*gender) + (b3*ethnicity), # not treated
             sd = 1
Y_1 \leftarrow rnorm(n = N,
             mean = a + tau*1 + (b1*age) + (b2*gender) + (b3*ethnicity),
             sd = 1
```

Finally, storing the all variables in one dataset.

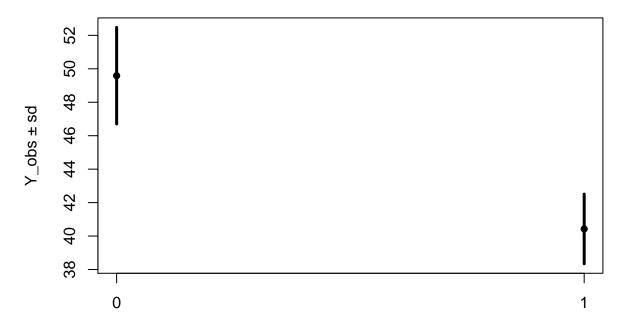
```
# population level data
pop_dat <- data.frame(Y_0, Y_1, age, gender, ethnicity)
head(pop_dat)</pre>
```

```
##
          Y_0
                   Y_1 age gender ethnicity
## 1 51.11922 40.87326
                        41
                                           0
## 2 46.31275 36.02440
                        99
                                 0
                                           1
## 3 50.79764 40.88993 25
                                           0
## 4 52.42444 42.14888 51
                                           0
                                 0
## 5 52.35458 40.08578
                       45
                                           0
## 6 51.00963 40.45921 56
                                           0
Now, sampling from the saved dataset.
sample_ind <- sample(1:nrow(pop_dat), size=N_samp) # sampling index</pre>
sample_dat <- pop_dat[sample_ind, ]</pre>
                                                     # only keep obs that match the index
head(sample_dat)
##
                  Y 0
                           Y_1 age gender ethnicity
## 104552389 45.88376 36.44748
                                 62
                                                   1
## 117138221 44.91884 35.89422
                                 20
                                                   1
## 18669795 49.75575 41.70117
                                52
                                                   0
## 91846675 50.77751 40.89924
                                80
                                         0
                                                   0
## 55156763 46.05135 35.27642
                                49
                                         1
                                                   1
## 97433708 47.51934 35.71602 74
                                         0
                                                   1
sample_dat$d <- ifelse(runif(N_samp)<=0.5, 1, 0)</pre>
                                                      # treatment assignment indicator (1=Tte
# Observed outcomes: Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
\# Y \ obs = d*Y \ 1 + (1-d)*Y \ 0
sample_dat$Y_obs <- sample_dat$d*sample_dat$Y_1 + (1-sample_dat$d)*sample_dat$Y_0</pre>
sample_dat$Status <- ifelse(sample_dat$d==1, "Treated", "Control")</pre>
                                                                          # saving the treatme
head(sample_dat)
                           Y_1 age gender ethnicity d
##
                  Y_0
                                                          Y_obs Status
## 104552389 45.88376 36.44748
                                62
                                         1
                                                   1 1 36.44748 Treated
## 117138221 44.91884 35.89422
                                 20
                                         0
                                                   1 1 35.89422 Treated
## 18669795 49.75575 41.70117 52
                                         0
                                                   0 1 41.70117 Treated
## 91846675 50.77751 40.89924
                                80
                                         0
                                                   0 1 40.89924 Treated
                                                   1 1 35.27642 Treated
## 55156763 46.05135 35.27642
                                49
                                         1
## 97433708 47.51934 35.71602 74
                                                   1 0 47.51934 Control
```

#### Visualization of the difference in the outcome variable

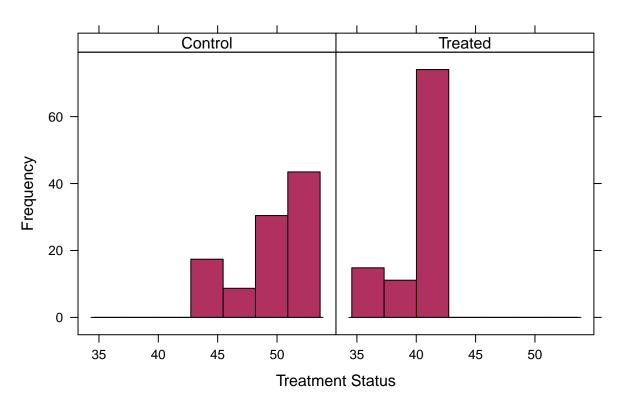


# Simulated Result

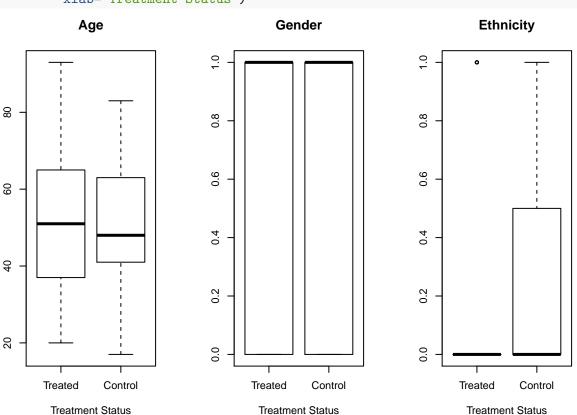


# **Outcomes Status**

# Histograms of observed outcomes grouping by treatment status



# Visualization of covariates



Seemingly, there is no remarkable difference across treatment and control groups for covariates.

```
c2_mean <- c(mean(sample_dat$gender[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
             mean(sample_dat$gender[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
c2_sdv <- c(sd(sample_dat$gender[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),
           sd(sample dat$gender[sample dat$Status=="Treated"]))
plot(c2_mean ~ t, pch=16, ylim=range(c(c2_mean-c2_sdv, c2_mean+c2_sdv)),
     xlab="Treatment Status", ylab="Gender ± sd", xaxt="n") # Without x-axis lable
axis(1, at = seq(00, 1, by = 1), las=1) # If las=2, numbers will be flipped by 90 degree
arrows(t, c2 mean-c2 sdv, t, c2 mean+c2 sdv, length=0, angle=90, lwd=3)
title("Simulated Result - Gender")
# ethnicity
c3_mean <- c(mean(sample_dat$ethnicity[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
            mean(sample_dat$ethnicity[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
c3_sdv <- c(sd(sample_dat$ethnicity[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
           sd(sample_dat$ethnicity[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
plot(c3_mean ~ t, pch=16, ylim=range(c(c3_mean-c3_sdv, c3_mean+c3_sdv)),
     xlab="Treatment Status", ylab="Ethnicity ± sd", xaxt="n") # Without x-axis lable
axis(1, at = seq(00, 1, by = 1), las=1) # If las=2, numbers will be flipped by 90 degree
arrows(t, c3_mean-c3_sdv, t, c3_mean+c3_sdv, length=0, angle=90, lwd=3)
title("Simulated Result - Ethnicity")
     Simulated Result - Age
                               Simulated Result - Gender
                                                          Simulated Result - Ethnicity
   2
                               0.
                               0.8
   9
                                                          0.4
                                                       Ethnicity ± sd
                           Gender ± sd
                               9.0
                                                          0.2
   20
                               0.4
                                                          0.0
   4
                               0.2
                                                          0.2
   30
```

0

Treatment Status

**Treatment Status** 

#### Visualization of differences between the true ATE and the estimated ATE

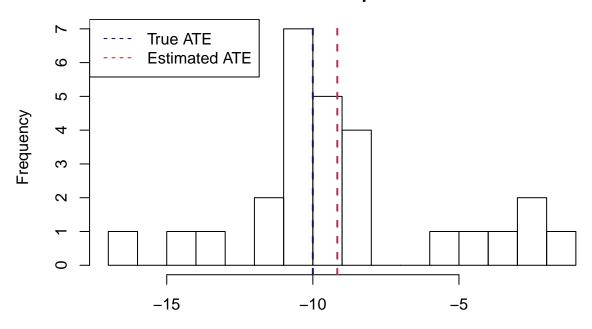
Here I would like to show the difference between estimated average effects and the true average effects. To do so, we have to extract the true effect, by taking the mean difference between potential outcomes in the population dataset. On the other hand, the estimated average effect is the mean difference of the sample. Here I compare them.

```
# Population level treatment (fixed=constant) effect
tau_true <- mean(pop_dat$Y_1 - pop_dat$Y_0) # Mean Difference of Individual Potential Outcom
tau_true
## [1] -9.999969
# Estimating the average treatment effect
tau_hat <- mean(sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]) -</pre>
           mean(sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"])
tau_hat
## [1] -9.162804
While the true value of average treatment effect (ATE) is approximately -10, as I setted, the
value of the estimated average treatment effect is near -10 but not as near as the true ATE.
t.test(Y_obs ~ Status, data=sample_dat)
##
##
    Welch Two Sample t-test
##
## data: Y_obs by Status
## t = 12.661, df = 39.325, p-value = 1.878e-15
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##
     7.699393 10.626214
## sample estimates:
## mean in group Control mean in group Treated
##
                 49.58906
                                        40.42625
According to the result of the t-test, this difference is statistically significant. Next, I visualize
the difference of these two in histogram with the true average treatment effect.
diff <- sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"] - sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=
## Warning in sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status == "Treated"] -
## sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status == : longer object length is not a
## multiple of shorter object length
hist(diff, main = paste("Differences of Treatment Status \n in Sample"),
     xlab = "Difference of Outcomes", breaks=20)
abline(v=tau_true, col="midnightblue", lwd="2", lty=2) # Add a line: true ATE
```

# Add another: estimated ATE

abline(v=tau\_hat, col="maroon", lwd="2", lty=2)

# Differences of Treatment Status in Sample



Difference of Outcomes

# Problem 2

**Instruction**: Repeat the same simulation by changing the number of samples from 50, 100, 150, 200 to 250, and create a graph that combines five plots for the difference in means or distributions.

#### Simulation of Different Samples

```
N_samp <- 100
sample_ind2 <- sample(1:nrow(pop_dat), size=N_samp)</pre>
                                                       # sampling index
sample_dat2 <- pop_dat[sample_ind2, ]</pre>
                                                        # only keep obs that match the index
head(sample_dat2)
##
                            Y_1 age gender ethnicity
## 76529255 47.76047 35.88306 104
                                         0
## 52473555 49.89540 39.42905 13
                                                    0
## 72009669 50.46367 42.78253 29
                                                    0
## 105572360 50.81374 39.60539 10
                                         1
                                                    0
## 117706448 52.99887 40.86275 48
                                         0
                                                    0
## 113465463 50.34141 40.28034 48
                                         0
                                                    0
sample_dat2$d <- ifelse(runif(N_samp)<=0.5, 1, 0)</pre>
                                                       # treatment assignment indicator (1=Ti
# Observed outcomes: Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
\# Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
sample_dat2$Y_obs <- sample_dat2$d*sample_dat2$Y_1 + (1-sample_dat2$d)*sample_dat2$Y_0
sample_dat2$Status <- ifelse(sample_dat2$d==1, "Treated", "Control")</pre>
                                                                             # saving the treat
N_samp <- 150
sample_ind3 <- sample(1:nrow(pop_dat), size=N_samp)</pre>
                                                       # sampling index
sample_dat3 <- pop_dat[sample_ind3, ]</pre>
                                                        # only keep obs that match the index
head(sample_dat3)
##
                            Y_1 age gender ethnicity
                  Y_0
## 110311776 46.53398 35.41004 36
                                         1
            45.43093 34.85222 47
## 3108150
                                         1
                                                    1
## 65480110 46.02355 37.79521 74
                                         0
                                                    1
## 34285856 51.19971 40.29424 41
                                         0
                                                    0
## 31403463 51.01000 40.43754 28
                                         0
                                                    0
## 79405680 45.16126 35.41984 42
                                         0
sample_dat3$d <- ifelse(runif(N_samp)<=0.5, 1, 0)</pre>
                                                        # treatment assignment indicator (1=Tt
# Observed outcomes: Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
\# Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
```

```
sample_dat3$Y_obs <- sample_dat3$d*sample_dat3$Y_1 + (1-sample_dat3$d)*sample_dat3$Y_0</pre>
sample_dat3$Status <- ifelse(sample_dat3$d==1, "Treated", "Control")</pre>
                                                                             # saving the treat
N_samp <- 200
sample_ind4 <- sample(1:nrow(pop_dat), size=N_samp)</pre>
                                                       # sampling index
sample_dat4 <- pop_dat[sample_ind4, ]</pre>
                                                        # only keep obs that match the index
head(sample_dat4)
##
                            Y_1 age gender ethnicity
                  Y_0
## 116300175 52.13454 42.27271 54
                                         0
## 39663623 45.27791 34.69862 12
                                                    1
                                         0
## 119490650 50.46177 43.64085 93
                                                    0
                                         1
## 39793034 50.36841 41.86554 80
                                         1
                                                    0
## 3931563 54.41803 40.75783 115
                                                    0
                                         0
## 67582792 51.37218 40.43314 65
                                         0
                                                    0
sample_dat4$d <- ifelse(runif(N_samp)<=0.5, 1, 0)</pre>
                                                      # treatment assignment indicator (1=Ti
# Observed outcomes: Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
\# Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
sample\_dat4\$Y\_obs <- sample\_dat4\$d*sample\_dat4\$Y\_1 + (1-sample\_dat4\$d)*sample\_dat4\$Y\_0
sample_dat4$Status <- ifelse(sample_dat4$d==1, "Treated", "Control")</pre>
                                                                             # saving the treat
N_{samp} < -250
sample_ind5 <- sample(1:nrow(pop_dat), size=N_samp)</pre>
                                                       # sampling index
sample_dat5 <- pop_dat[sample_ind5, ]</pre>
                                                        # only keep obs that match the index
head(sample_dat5)
##
                  Y_0
                            Y_1 age gender ethnicity
## 34137337 50.15751 40.59224 31
                                         0
                                                    0
## 888836
             51.37354 41.02151 72
                                         0
                                                    0
## 39991919 51.01932 42.84774 91
                                                    0
## 79286307 50.70738 40.75841 50
                                                    0
                                         1
## 79628248 48.55019 42.26687 17
                                                    0
                                         0
## 105430310 49.93684 40.40828 45
                                         1
                                                    0
sample_dat5$d <- ifelse(runif(N_samp)<=0.5, 1, 0)</pre>
                                                      # treatment assignment indicator (1=Tt
# Observed outcomes: Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
\# Y_obs = d*Y_1 + (1-d)*Y_0
sample_dat5\$Y_obs <- sample_dat5\$d*sample_dat5\$Y_1 + (1-sample_dat5\$d)*sample_dat5\$Y_0
sample_dat5$Status <- ifelse(sample_dat5$d==1, "Treated", "Control") # saving the treat</pre>
```

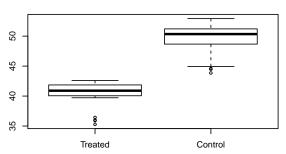
# A Graph of Combined Plots

By using the stored data sets, I create box plots and caterpillar plots for each case. Before that, to show the combined graphs clearly, I enlarged the size of figures by knitr::opts\_chunk() settings.

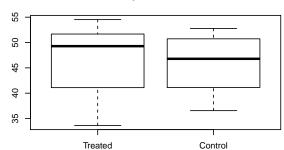
Then, as before, I create the box plots.

```
par(mfrow=c(3,2))
boxplot(sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"],
        sample_dat$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"],
        names=c("Treated", "Control"),
        main=paste("Sample size = 50"))
boxplot(sample_dat2$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"],
        sample_dat2$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"],
        names=c("Treated", "Control"),
        main=paste("Sample size = 100"))
boxplot(sample_dat3$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"],
        sample_dat3$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"],
        names=c("Treated", "Control"),
        main=paste("Sample size = 150"))
boxplot(sample_dat4$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"],
        sample_dat4$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"],
        names=c("Treated", "Control"),
        main=paste("Sample size = 200"))
boxplot(sample dat5$Y obs[sample dat$Status=="Treated"],
        sample_dat5$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"],
        names=c("Treated", "Control"),
        main=paste("Sample size = 250"))
```

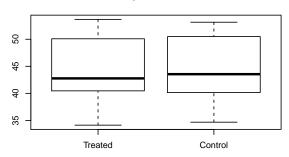




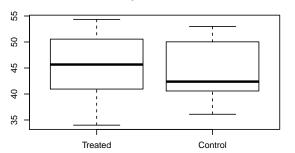
#### Sample size = 100



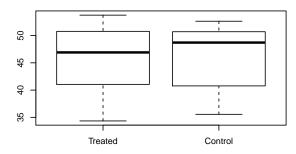
Sample size = 150



#### Sample size = 200

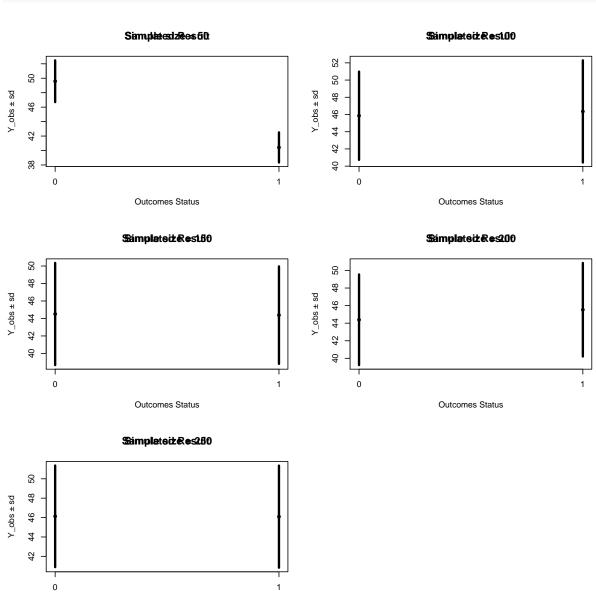


# Sample size = 250



Seemingly, as more sample we have, the difference between treated or control groups becomes smaller. To confirm this tendency, I also create the caterpiller plots.

```
arrows(t, y_mean-y_sdv, t, y_mean+y_sdv, length=0, angle=90, lwd=3)
title("Simulated Result")
y_mean <- c(mean(sample_dat2$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
            mean(sample_dat2$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
y_sdv <- c(sd(sample_dat2$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
           sd(sample_dat2$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
plot(y_mean ~ t, pch=16, ylim=range(c(y_mean-y_sdv, y_mean+y_sdv)),
     xlab="Outcomes Status", ylab="Y_obs ± sd",xaxt="n",
     main=paste("Sample size = 100"))
axis(1, at = seq(00, 1, by = 1), las=1)
arrows(t, y_mean-y_sdv, t, y_mean+y_sdv, length=0, angle=90, lwd=3)
title("Simulated Result")
y_mean <- c(mean(sample_dat3$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
            mean(sample dat3$Y obs[sample dat$Status=="Treated"]))
y_sdv <- c(sd(sample_dat3$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
           sd(sample_dat3$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
plot(y_mean ~ t, pch=16, ylim=range(c(y_mean-y_sdv, y_mean+y_sdv)),
     xlab="Outcomes Status", ylab="Y_obs ± sd",xaxt="n",
     main=paste("Sample size = 150"))
axis(1, at = seq(00, 1, by = 1), las=1)
arrows(t, y_mean-y_sdv, t, y_mean+y_sdv, length=0, angle=90, lwd=3)
title("Simulated Result")
y_mean <- c(mean(sample_dat4$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
            mean(sample_dat4$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
y_sdv <- c(sd(sample_dat4$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
           sd(sample dat4$Y obs[sample dat$Status=="Treated"]))
plot(y_mean ~ t, pch=16, ylim=range(c(y_mean-y_sdv, y_mean+y_sdv)),
     xlab="Outcomes Status", ylab="Y_obs ± sd",xaxt="n",
     main=paste("Sample size = 200"))
axis(1, at = seq(00, 1, by = 1), las=1)
arrows(t, y_mean-y_sdv, t, y_mean+y_sdv, length=0, angle=90, lwd=3)
title("Simulated Result")
y_mean <- c(mean(sample_dat5$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
            mean(sample_dat5$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Treated"]))
y_sdv <- c(sd(sample_dat5$Y_obs[sample_dat$Status=="Control"]),</pre>
```



Outcomes Status