

# Estimation of Variance Components in Random Effects Model

Norberto E. Milla, Jr.

2025-11-12

## Estimation of $\sigma_\epsilon^2$

Recall:

$$Y_{ij} = \mu + \tau_i + \epsilon_{ij}, i = 1, 2, \dots, t; j = 1, 2, \dots, r_i; \epsilon_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)$$

- $\tau_i \sim N(0, \sigma_\tau^2)$
- $\epsilon_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)$
- $\tau_i$  and  $\epsilon_{ij}$  are independent
- $V(Y_{ij}) = \sigma_\tau^2 + \sigma_\epsilon^2$
- Note that we can rewrite SSE algebraically as

$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} Y_{ij}^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{r_i} r_i \bar{Y}_{i\cdot}^2$$

- Also,

$$E[Y_{ij}^2] = V(Y_{ij}) + [E(Y_{ij})]^2 = \sigma_\tau^2 + \sigma_\epsilon^2 + \mu^2$$

- It can be shown also algebraically that

$$\bar{Y}_{i\cdot} = \mu + \tau_i + \frac{1}{r_i} \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} \epsilon_{ij}$$

- Thus,

$$V(\bar{Y}_{i\cdot}) = \sigma_\tau^2 + \frac{\sigma_\epsilon^2}{r_i}$$

- Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned}
E(SSE) &= \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} (\sigma_\tau^2 + \sigma_\epsilon^2 + \mu^2) - \sum_{i=1}^t r_i (\sigma_\tau^2 + \frac{\sigma_\epsilon^2}{r_i} + \mu^2) \\
&= n\sigma_\epsilon^2 - t\sigma_\epsilon^2 \\
&= (n-t)\sigma_\epsilon^2
\end{aligned}$$

- Hence,

$$E(MSE) = E\left(\frac{SSE}{n-t}\right) = \sigma_\epsilon^2$$

### Estimation of $\sigma_\tau^2$

- We can rewrite SSTR as follows:

$$SSTR = \sum_{i=1}^{r_i} r_i \bar{Y}_{i\cdot}^2 - n \bar{Y}_{..}^2$$

- Using the same approach earlier, we have

$$\bar{Y}_{..} = \mu + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^t r_i \tau_i + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^t \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} \epsilon_{ij}$$

- It follows that

$$V(\bar{Y}_{..}) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^t r_i^2}{n^2} \sigma_\tau^2 + \frac{\sigma_\epsilon^2}{n}$$

- Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
E(SSTR) &= \sum_{i=1}^t r_i \left( \sigma_\tau^2 + \frac{\sigma_\epsilon^2}{r_i} + \mu^2 \right) - n \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^t r_i^2 \sigma_\tau^2}{n^2} + \frac{\sigma_\epsilon^2}{n} + \mu^2 \right) \\
&= \left( n - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^t r_i^2}{n} \right) \sigma_\tau^2 + (t-1)\sigma_\epsilon^2
\end{aligned}$$