Introduction to experimental design

Session 1

MATH 80667A: Experimental Design and Statistical Methods
for Quantitative Research in Management
HEC Montréal

Outline

Class details

Motivation

Review

Key concepts in experimental designs

Class details

Course content

Content

- Basics of experimental design
- Statistical inference
- Completely randomized designs
- Analysis of variance
- Blocked designs
- Analysis of covariance
- Mixed models
- Intro to causal inference
- Mediation analysis

Cross-disciplinary skills

- Scientific workflow
- Peer-review
- Reporting
- Statistical fallacies
- Reproducibility

Prerequisites

Math skills

Basic algebra

Computer science

None

Statistics

At the level of OpenIntro Statistics (Chapter 1)

Motivation

Experiments as gold-standard

BJOG An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

BJOG Research Methods Guides | Free Access

Randomised controlled trials – the gold standard for effectiveness research

Study design: randomised controlled trials

Eduardo Hariton, Joseph J Locascio

First published: 19 June 2018 | https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-0528.15199 | Citations: 121

> *Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are the reference standard for studying causal relationships between interventions and outcomes as randomisation eliminates much of the bias inherent with other study designs.*

History

Experiments on agricultural trials in Rothamsted ongoing since 1843

ECN ROTHAMSTED

Rothamsted (Latitude 51° 48’ 34.44” N; Longitude 0° 21’ 22.76” W) is located about 35 km North of London, UK. It covers about 330 ha, all of which is included within the Rothamsted ECN site. The estate contains several ecosystems, including managed arable and grassland fields, naturally regenerated and ancient woodland, the river Ver and more recently energy crops e.g. short rotation coppice willow and miscanthus grass. The Park Grass Hay Experiment (est. 1856) is the principal target sample site (TSS) for the majority of the ECN protocols at Rothamsted. This experiment is widely acknowledged to be the oldest continuing agro-ecological experiment in the world; it is recognised internationally as an important site for long-term studies on biodiversity and ecology. The experimental plot on Park Grass of most interest to the ECN, in relation to physical and atmospheric inputs is Plot 3, Section d (Plot 3d). This plot receives no inorganic or organic inputs apart from atmospheric deposition.

Modern experiments: A/B testing

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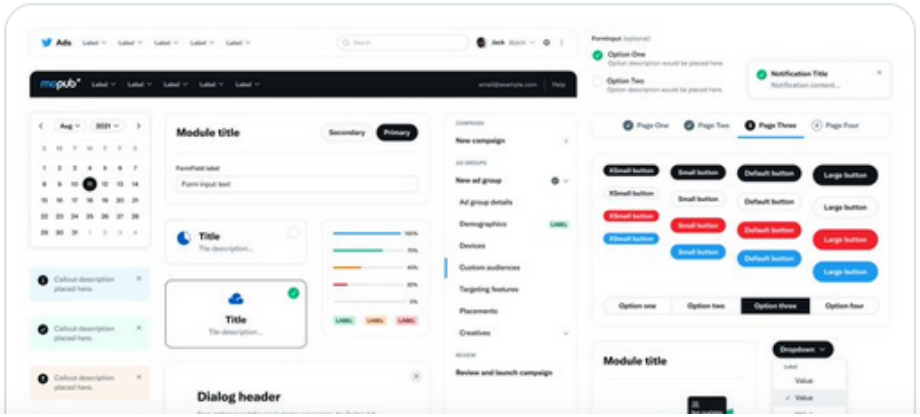
Afficher cette discussion

Twitter Design a retweeté

Joey Banks @joeyabanks · 11 août

I think one of the most exciting challenges in design system work is an opportunity to create alignment between platforms when it comes to shared patterns. With today's visual update, the components powering Twitter's revenue & developer products received a redesign, too! ✨



Vous pourriez aimer

Twitter API ✓
@TwitterAPI
Suivre

Twitter Live ✓
@TwitterLive
Suivre

Twitter TV ✓
@TwitterTV
Suivre

Voir plus

Ce qui se passe

Actualité internationale · Hier soir
Looking at the history of the Taliban in Afghanistan

Evidence-based policy

RAND health insurance study

Student Teacher Achievement Ratio (STAR)

Nobel memorial prize

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Business

3 share Nobel Prize in economics for ‘experimental approach’ to solving poverty

Esther Duflo, who at 46 is the award’s youngest winner, shares the hor
fellow MIT economist Abhijit Banerjee and Harvard’s Michael Kremer

J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

Review

Population and sampling

Defining a population

Sampling frame

Randomization

Convenience samples

Non-response bias

Sampling scheme

Simple random sampling

Stratified sampling

Gender, ethnicity, etc.

Cluster sampling

Villages, housing block, classrooms, etc.

Multi-stage sampling

Judging the quality of a sample

Summary statistics

Reported to check representativeness of the sample relative to population.

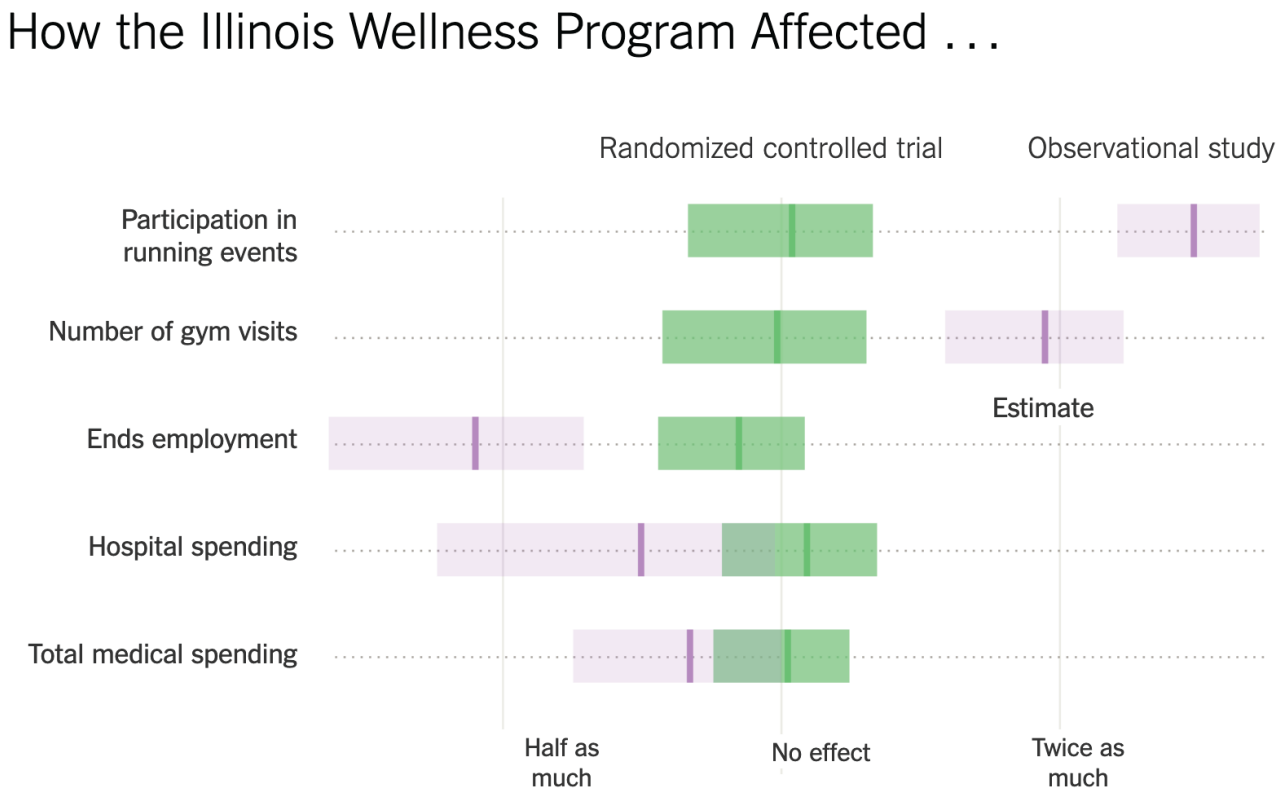
Raw data

Used for reproducibility and to assess whether data is fraudulent.

Pre-testing

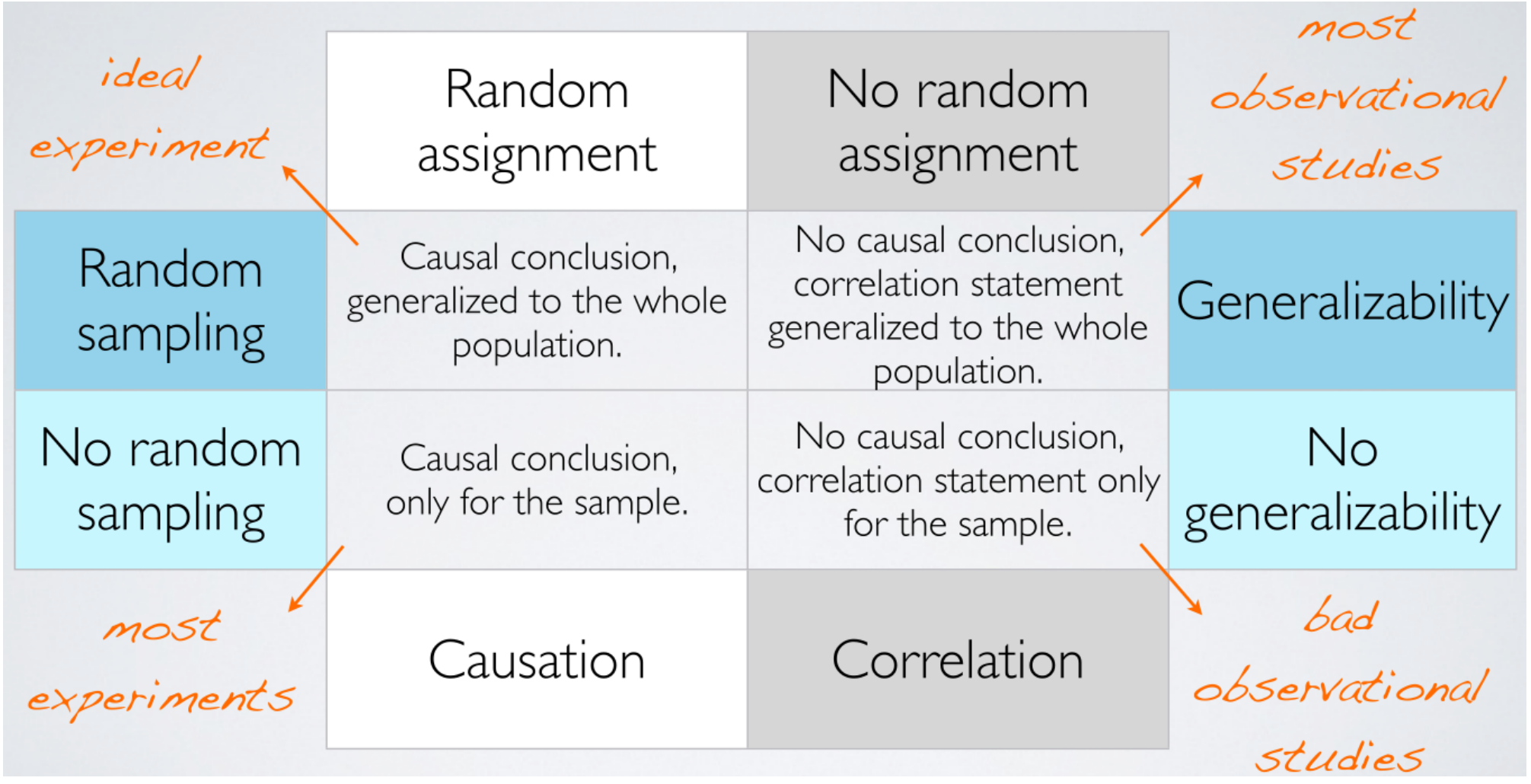
Check whether sampling allocation is sufficiently random.

Experimental versus observational



Source: What Do Workplace Wellness Programs Do? Evidence from the Illinois Workplace Wellness Study

Study type versus sampling



Key concepts in experimental design

Technical vocabulary

Experimental unit

Observational unit

Factor / treatment

Treatment group

Control group

Impact of encouragement on teaching

From Davison (2008), Example 9.2

> In an investigation on the teaching of arithmetic, 45 pupils were divided at random into five groups of nine. Groups A and B were taught in separate classes by the usual method. Groups C, D, and E were taught together for a number of days. On each day C were praised publicly for their work, D were publicly reproved and E were ignored. At the end of the period all pupils took a standard test.

Exercise

In pairs, identify

- the experimental and observational units
- the treatment levels
- the response variable

03:00

Comparing treatments

- Without treatment, **variability** in output from one observation to the next.
- Differences between treatment are **comparatively stable**.

Choices in experimental designs

- **treatments** for comparison
- observations to be made (number of repetitions, etc.)
- experimental units

Requirements for good experiments

1. Absence of systematic error
2. Precision
3. Range of validity
4. Simplicity of the design

Absence of systematic error

- Achieved via randomization
- Controlling the environment

Precision

- depends on the intrinsic variability
- function of
  1. accuracy of experimental work
  2. number of experimental units / repetitions per unit
  3. design and methods of analysis

Range of validity

- What is population?
- Identify restrictions
- Extrapolation only if proper sampling scheme and random sample

Simplicity of the design

- Simple designs lead to simple statistical analyses