



University of Antwerp
Faculty of Social Sciences

Objective rating method: Entropy

Speech intelligibility estimation

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April 16, 2022

What are we going to talk about?

1 Preliminars

- Research question
- Research hypothesis production

2 Estimand and Process model

3 Synthetic data generation

- Procedure
- Fork bias: spurious relationships

4 Anecdotal cases

- Experimental design: the panacea
- Fork bias: spurious relationships

5 Anecdotal cases

- Experimental design: the panacea

1. Preliminars

Research question

Research question

On two fronts:

1. Can comparative judgement (CJ) methods be used to assess speech intelligibility (SI)?,

To investigate this we need:

- an objective measure of SI

2. where CJ stands versus absolute holistic judgement (HJ) methods?,

In terms of:

- validity
- reliability
- statistical efficiency
- time efficiency

Objective measure of SI

the **most objective** measure of SI (we know of) comes from a **transcription task**:

1. transcribing children's utterances (made by multiple judges),
2. align transcriptions at the utterance level,
3. calculate an entropy measure (H), defined as

$$H = H(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{-\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \cdot \log_2(p_i)}{\log_2(N)}$$

4. characteristics of H [3, 7]
 - bounded in $[0, 1]$ space,
 - utterances with more agreement are more intelligible, and therefore $H \rightarrow 0$,
 - utterances with low agreement are less intelligible, and therefore $H \rightarrow 1$.

1. Preliminars

Research hypothesis production

A typical scientific lab¹

What is needed?

1. Quality of theory
2. Quality of data
3. Reliable procedures and code
4. Quality of data analysis
5. Documentation
6. Reporting

What we will deal with:

1. Quality of theory
2. Quality of data
3. Reliable procedures and code
4. Quality of data analysis
5. Documentation
6. Reporting

¹McElreath [13], lecture 20 and McElreath [14], chapter 17

Research hypothesis production²

Well known challenges

- Insufficient data
- Wrong population
- Measurement error
- Selection bias
- Confounding

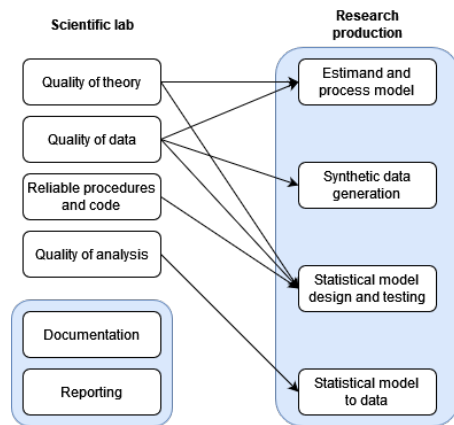
Known challenges in our research;

- Insufficient data (possibly)
- Wrong population
- Measurement error
- Selection bias
- Confounding

²Hernán [9], lesson 4

Research hypothesis schematics³

- Estimand and process model
- Synthetic data generation
- Statistical model design and testing
- Apply statistical model to data



³McElreath [14], lecture 20, Pearl [17]. Follow Fogarty et al. [8] on item (c).

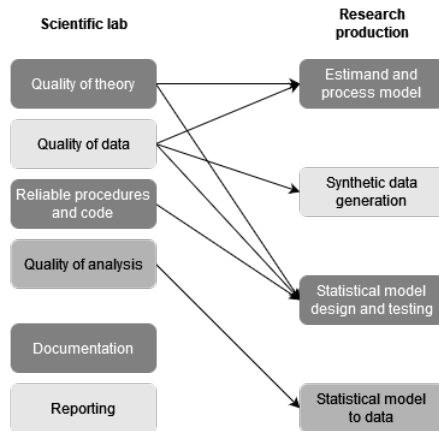
Why do we need to follow this?

Because the improvement of:

- A clear definition of the estimand and process model (assumptions).
- An improved the reliability of your procedures.
- As a documentation procedure.

leads to:

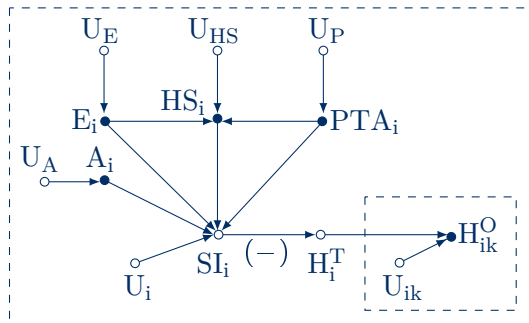
- A sound analysis, and sound results (even when we cannot answer our question).
- An improved planning to get data.



2. Estimand and Process model

The theory behind our research

- H_{ik} = (observed) entropy replicates
- H_i = (latent) child's entropy
- SI_i = (latent) child's SI score
(inversely related to H_i^T)
- A_i = child's "hearing" age
- E_i = child's etiology of disease
- HS_i = child's hearing status
- PTA_i = child's pure tone average
- variables **assumed independent**,
beyond the described relationships,

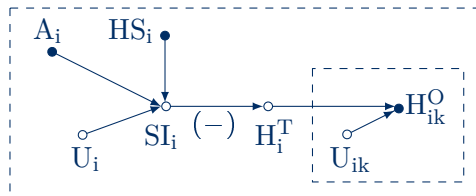


General causal diagram

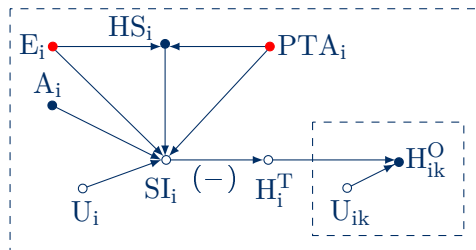
$$\begin{aligned} P(\mathbf{U}) &= P(U_{ik}, U_i, U_A, U_E, U_{HS}, U_P) \\ &= P(U_{ik})P(U_i)P(U_A)P(U_E)P(U_{HS})P(U_P) \end{aligned}$$

Interested in two effects

1. **total effects** model inherits:
 - children's characteristics that lead to the fitting of specific apparatus,
 - the (convenience of) sample selection
(fixed with post-stratification)
2. to do the last, we stratify for all variables that explain variability, ergo, use a **direct effects** model
3. We have two levels: replicates (k), child's level (i), denoted by squares
4. U_{ik} = replicates measurement error
 U_i = within child SI variability



(b) total effects



(a) direct effects

Causal and probabilistic model

$$H_{ik}^O \sim \text{BetapProp}(H_i^T, df_{ik})$$

$$H_i^T = \text{inv_logit}(-SI_i)$$

$$SI_i \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_{SI}, \sigma_{U_i})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{SI} = & a_i + \alpha + \alpha_{HS[i]} + \alpha_{E[i]} \\ & + \beta_{A,HS[i]}(A_i - \bar{A}) + \beta_P PTA_i \end{aligned}$$

$$HS_i \sim \text{data}$$

$$A_i \sim \text{data}$$

$$E_i \sim \text{data}$$

$$PTA_i \sim \text{data}$$

$$U \sim \text{unobservable}$$

(a) general probabilistic model

$$H_{ik}^O \leftarrow f(H_i^T, U_{ik})$$

$$H_i^T \leftarrow f(SI_i)$$

$$SI_i \leftarrow f(HS_i, A_i, E_i, PTA_i, U_i)$$

$$HS_i \leftarrow f(U_{HS})$$

$$A_i \leftarrow f(U_A)$$

$$E_i \leftarrow f(U_E)$$

$$PTA_i \leftarrow f(U_P)$$

$$U \sim P(\mathbf{U})$$

(a) general structural model

3. Synthetic data generation

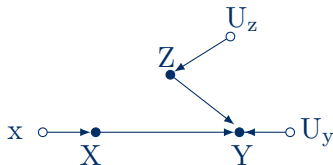
Intervention

- Purpose: to keep a control on all the factors responsible for the outcome's variation (understand the system).
- It is modeled by modifying the structural model (and causal diagram).
- remember: $\mathbf{V} = \{Z, X, Y\}$, $\mathbf{U} = \{U_z, U_x, U_y\}$, and $\mathbf{F} = \{f_z, f_x, f_y\}$.
- Intervention on X can be written in do-calculus^a as: $P(\mathbf{V} \mid \text{do}(X = x))$.

^awe are not delving into this (the usual suspects [15, 16, 18, 19])

$$M = \begin{cases} Z \leftarrow f_z(U_z) \\ X \leftarrow f_x(U_x) \\ Y \leftarrow f_y(X, Z, U_y) \\ U \sim P(\mathbf{U}) \end{cases}$$

(a) structural model



(b) causal diagram

Effects of interest

1. Average causal effect:

$$ACE(x) = E[Y|do(x+1)] - E[Y|do(x)]$$

2. Controlled direct effect:

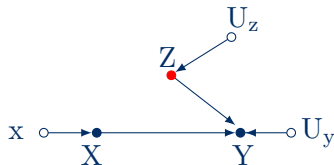
$$CDE(x, z) = E[Y|do(x+1), do(z)] - E[Y|do(x), do(z)]$$

points to consider (more on part 3):

- CDE takes a particular relevance with observational data.
- There is also a distinction between total effect and direct effect.

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3. Synthetic data generation

Fork bias: spurious relationships

Fork bias: spurious relationships⁴

also known as

- spurious association
- confounder

research question

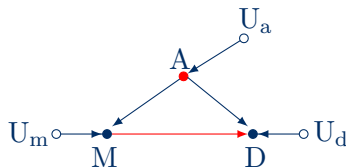
- Does M has a (direct) effect on D?

variables

- A, median age at marriage
- M, marriage rate
- D, divorce rate

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(b) causal diagram

⁴extracted from McElreath [13], chapter 05 (p. 125)

Simulation conventions

one way to defined it

$$A = U_a \quad U_a \sim N(0, \sigma_a)$$

$$M = \beta_A A + U_m \quad U_m \sim N(0, \sigma_a)$$

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a more succinct way

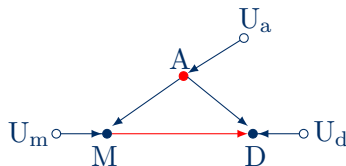
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Simulation setting

Implications

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- $M \not\perp\!\!\!\perp D \mid A$

Specific definition

$$A \sim N(0, 1)$$

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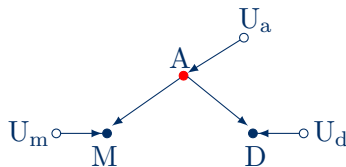
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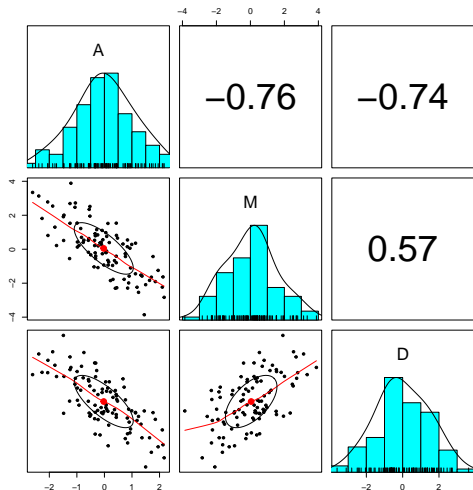
What we see?

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Two regressions, one result

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Result

Frisch-Waugh-Lovell Backdoor criterion on bad controls paper (p. 18)

What is going on?

4. Anecdotal cases

Experimental design: the panacea

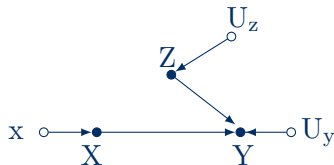
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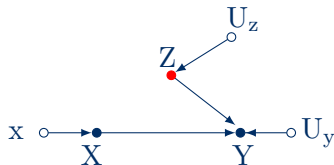
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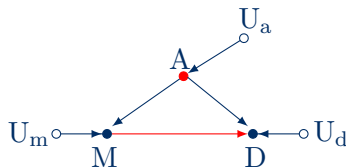
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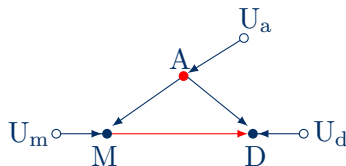
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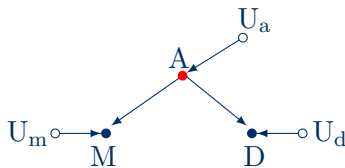
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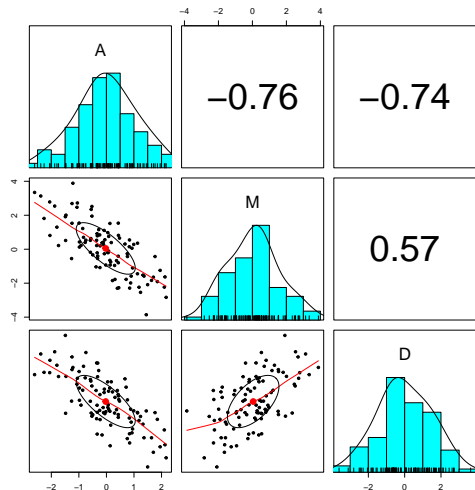
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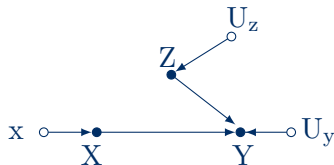
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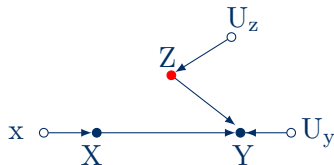
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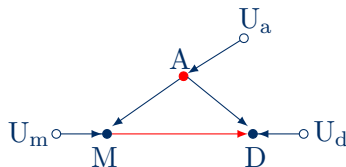
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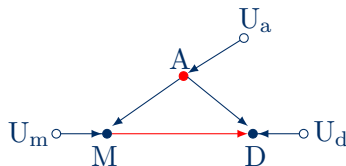
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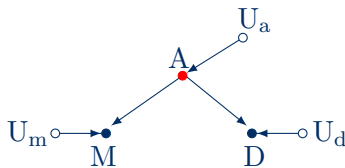
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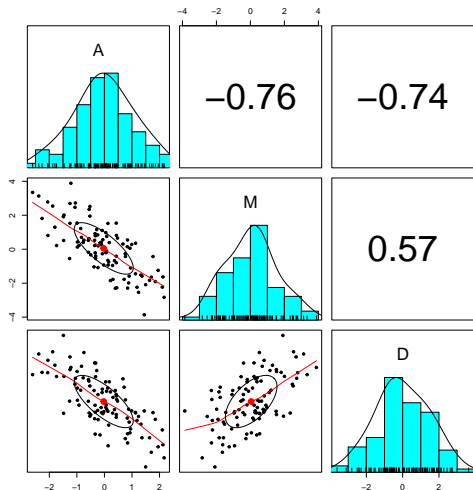
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Result

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What is going on?

6. Concluding remarks

Concluding remarks

- Research is filled with challenges, some are obvious, some are not (you: Duh!!)
- Statistical models are not theory (you: so obvious again!!)
- You should **not** trust your statistical model, when no DAG is involved (me: how about that?!)
- For **explanation**, **no amount of data** can save you, when no DAG is involved (me: booya?!)
- For **prediction**, sometimes a DAG can help (me: did you expect this one?!)



7. Do you wanna know more???

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- [1] Anderson, D. [2008]. Model Based Inference in the Life Sciences: A Primer on Evidence, Springer.
- [2] Bareinboim, E. and Pearl, J. [2016]. Causal inference and the data-fusion problem, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 113(27): 7345–7352. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1510507113>.
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