

sreg: Stratified Randomized Experiments



The `sreg` package for R, offers a toolkit for estimating average treatment effects (ATEs) in stratified randomized experiments. It supports a wide range of stratification designs, including matched pairs, k -tuple designs, and larger strata with many units — possibly of unequal size across strata. The package is designed to accommodate scenarios with multiple treatments, and cluster-level treatment assignments, and accomodates optimal linear covariate adjustment based on baseline observable characteristics. The package computes estimators and standard errors based on Bugni, Canay, Shaikh (2018); Bugni, Canay, Shaikh, Tabord-Meehan (2023); Jiang, Linton, Tang, Zhang (2023); Bai, Jiang, Romano, Shaikh, Zhang (2024), Liu (2024); and Cytrynbaum (2024).

Dependencies: `dplyr`, `tidyr`, `extraDistr`, `rlang`

Suggests: `haven`, `knitr`, `rmarkdown`, `testthat` ($\geq 3.0.0$)

R version required: ≥ 2.10

[Latest Build \(v.2.0.0.9001\)](#)

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Supplementary files

- PDF version of the manual: [Download PDF](#)
- Sketch of the derivation of the ATE variance estimator under cluster-level treatment assignment: [Download PDF](#)
- Expressions for the multiple treatment case (with and without clusters): [Download PDF](#)

Installation

Install the official CRAN release using:

```
install.packages("sreg")
```

```
trying URL 'https://ftp.osuosl.org/pub/cran/src/contrib/sreg_1.0.1.tar.gz'
```

```
Content type 'application/x-gzip' length 43389 bytes (42 KB)
```

```
=====
```

```
downloaded 42 KB
```

```
* installing *source* package 'sreg' ...
** package 'sreg' successfully unpacked and MD5 sums checked
** using staged installation
** R
** data
*** moving datasets to lazyload DB
** inst
** byte-compile and prepare package for lazy loading
** help
```

```

*** installing help indices
** building package indices
** installing vignettes
** testing if installed package can be loaded from temporary location
** testing if installed package can be loaded from final location
** testing if installed package keeps a record of temporary installation path
* DONE (sreg)

```

The downloaded source packages are in

```

'/private/var/folders/mp/06gjwr8j56zdp5j2vgdkd4z40000gq/T/RtmpVk96vN/downloaded_packages'

```

```

library(sreg)

```

```

#> _____ Stratified Randomized
#> / ____| _ \| ____| Experiments
#> \_ _ \| |_) | _| | _
#> ____| | _<| | | | |
#> |____|_| \_\____| version 1.0.1

```

```

#> Type 'citation("sreg")' for citing this R package in publications.

```

The latest development version can be installed using devtools.

```

library(devtools)
install_github("jutrifonov/sreg")

```

Downloading GitHub repo jutrifonov/sreg@HEAD

— R CMD build —

```

✓ checking for file '/private/var/folders/mp/06gjwr8j56zdp5j2vgdkd4z40000gq/T/RtmpVk96vN/remotes1026130d7f9b4/jut
- preparing 'sreg':
✓ checking DESCRIPTION meta-information ...
- checking for LF line-endings in source and make files and shell scripts
- checking for empty or unneeded directories
- building 'sreg_2.0.0.9000.tar.gz'

```

Installing package into '/opt/homebrew/lib/R/4.4/site-library'

(as 'lib' is unspecified)

* installing *source* package 'sreg' ...

** using staged installation

** R

** data

*** moving datasets to lazyload DB

** inst

** byte-compile and prepare package for lazy loading

** help

*** installing help indices

** building package indices

** installing vignettes

** testing if installed package can be loaded from temporary location

** testing if installed package can be loaded from final location

** testing if installed package keeps a record of temporary installation path

* DONE (sreg)

```

library(sreg)

```

□ Loading sreg

```

#> _____ Stratified Randomized

```

```
#> / ____| | _ \| ____/ ____| Experiments
#> \___ \| |_) | _|| | _
#> __) | _<| | | |
#> |____/|_| \_\____\____| version 2.0.0.9000
```

```
#> Type 'citation("sreg")' for citing this R package in publications.
```

The function `sreg()`

Estimates the ATE(s) and the corresponding standard error(s) for a (collection of) treatment(s) relative to a control.

Syntax

```
sreg(Y, S = NULL, D, G.id = NULL, Ng = NULL, X = NULL, HC1 = TRUE, small.strata = FALSE)
```

Arguments

- **Y** - a numeric vector/matrix/data.frame/tibble of the observed outcomes;
- **S** - a numeric vector/matrix/data.frame/tibble of strata indicators 0,1,2,...; if NULL then the estimation is performed assuming no stratification;
- **D** - a numeric vector/matrix/data.frame/tibble of treatments indexed by 0,1,2,..., where D = 0 denotes the control;
- **G.id** - a numeric vector/matrix/data.frame/tibble of cluster indicators; if NULL then estimation is performed assuming treatment is assigned at the individual level;
- **Ng** - a numeric vector/matrix/data.frame/tibble of cluster sizes; if NULL then Ng is assumed to be equal to the number of available observations in every cluster;
- **X** - a matrix/data.frame/tibble with columns representing the covariate values for every observation; if NULL then the estimator without linear adjustments is applied [^{*}];
- **HC1** - a TRUE/FALSE logical argument indicating whether the small sample correction should be applied to the variance estimator;
- **small.strata** - a TRUE/FALSE logical argument indicating whether the estimators for small strata (i.e., strata with few units, such as matched pairs or n-tuples) should be used. [^{*}]: *Note: sreg cannot use individual-level covariates for covariate adjustment in cluster-randomized experiments. Any individual-level covariates will be aggregated to their cluster-level averages.*

Data Structure

Here we provide an example of a data frame that can be used with `sreg`.

Y	S	D	G.id	Ng	x_1	x_2
-0.57773576	2	0	1	10	1.5597899	0.03023334
1.69495638	2	0	1	10	1.5597899	0.03023334
2.02033740	4	2	2	30	0.8747419	-0.77090031
1.22020493	4	2	2	30	0.8747419	-0.77090031
1.64466086	4	2	2	30	0.8747419	-0.77090031
-0.32365109	4	2	2	30	0.8747419	-0.77090031
2.21008191	4	2	2	30	0.8747419	-0.77090031
-2.25064316	4	2	2	30	0.8747419	-0.77090031
0.37962312	4	2	2	30	0.8747419	-0.77090031

Summary

`sreg` prints a “*Stata-style*” table containing the ATE estimates, corresponding standard errors, t -statistics, p -values, 95% asymptotic confidence intervals, and significance indicators for different levels α . The example of the printed output is provided below.

```
Saturated Model Estimation Results under CAR
Observations: 2710
Clusters: 100
Number of treatments: 2
Number of strata: 10
Setup: big strata
Standard errors: adjusted (HC1)
Treatment assignment: cluster level
Covariates used in linear adjustments:
---
Coefficients:
      Tau   As.se  T-stat P-value  CI.left(95%)  CI.right(95%)  Significance
1 1.13687 0.31181 3.64608 0.00027    0.52574    1.74799      ***
2 0.66447 0.30263 2.19565 0.02812    0.07133    1.25761      *
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

Return Value

The function returns an object of class `sreg` that is a list containing the following elements:

- **tau.hat** - a $1 \times |\mathcal{A}|$ vector of ATE estimates, where $|\mathcal{A}|$ represents the number of treatments;
- **se.rob** - a $1 \times |\mathcal{A}|$ vector of standard errors estimates, where $|\mathcal{A}|$ represents the number of treatments;
- **t.stat** - a $1 \times |\mathcal{A}|$ vector of t -statistics, where $|\mathcal{A}|$ represents the number of treatments;
- **p.value** - a $1 \times |\mathcal{A}|$ vector of corresponding p -values, where $|\mathcal{A}|$ represents the number of treatments;
- **CI.left** - a $1 \times |\mathcal{A}|$ vector of the left bounds of the 95% as. confidence interval;
- **CI.right** - a $1 \times |\mathcal{A}|$ vector of the right bounds of the 95% as. confidence interval;
- **data** - an original data of the form `data.frame(Y, S, D, G.id, Ng, X)`;
- **lin.adj** - a `data.frame` representing the covariates that were used in implementing linear adjustments;
- **small.strata** - a TRUE/FALSE logical argument indicating whether the estimators for small strata (e.g., matched pairs or n -tuples) were used;
- **HC1** - a TRUE/FALSE logical argument indicating whether the small sample correction (HC1) was applied to the variance estimator.

Empirical Example

Here, we provide the empirical application example using the data from (Chong et al., 2016), who studied the effect of iron deficiency anemia on school-age children’s educational attainment and cognitive ability in Peru. The example replicates the empirical illustration from (Bugni et al., 2019). For replication purposes, the data is included in the package and can be accessed by running `data("AEJapp")`. This example can be accessed directly in R via `help(sreg)`.

```
library(sreg, dplyr, haven)
```

The description of the dataset can be accessed using `help()`:

```
help(AEJapp)
```

We can upload the AEJapp dataset to the R session via `data()`:

```
data("AEJapp")
data <- AEJapp
```

It is pretty straightforward to prepare the data to fit the package syntax using `dplyr`:

```
Y <- data$gradesq34
D <- data$treatment
S <- data$class_level
data.clean <- data.frame(Y, D, S)
data.clean <- data.clean %>%
  mutate(D = ifelse(D == 3, 0, D))
Y <- data.clean$Y
D <- data.clean$D
S <- data.clean$S
head(data.clean)
  Y D S
1 11.2 1 1
2 12.4 0 3
3 11.9 0 5
4 13.1 0 1
5 13.4 2 2
6 10.7 0 1
```

We can take a look at the frequency table of `D` and `S`:

```
table(D = data.clean$D, S = data.clean$S)
  S
D   1  2  3  4  5
0  15 19 16 12 10
1  16 19 15 10 10
2  17 20 15 11 10
```

Now, it is straightforward to replicate the results from (Bugni et al, 2019) using `sreg`:

```
result <- sreg::sreg(Y = Y, S = S, D = D)
print(result)
```

Saturated Model Estimation Results under CAR

Observations: 215

Number of treatments: 2

Number of strata: 5

Setup: big strata

Standard errors: adjusted (HC1)

Treatment assignment: individual level

Covariates used in linear adjustments:

Coefficients:

	Tau	As.se	T-stat	P-value	CI.left(95%)	CI.right(95%)	Significance
1	-0.05113	0.20645	-0.24766	0.80440	-0.45577	0.35351	
2	0.40903	0.20651	1.98065	0.04763	0.00427	0.81379	*

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Besides that, `sreg` allows adding linear adjustments (covariates) to the estimation procedure:

```
-pills <- data$-pills_taken
age <- data$age_months
```

```

data.clean <- data.frame(Y, D, S, pills, age)
data.clean <- data.clean %>%
  mutate(D = ifelse(D == 3, 0, D))
Y <- data.clean$Y
D <- data.clean$D
S <- data.clean$S
X <- data.frame("pills" = data.clean$pills, "age" = data.clean$age)
result <- sreg::sreg(Y, S, D, G.id = NULL, X = X)
print(result)
Saturated Model Estimation Results under CAR with linear adjustments
Observations: 215
Number of treatments: 2
Number of strata: 5
Setup: big strata
Standard errors: adjusted (HC1)
Treatment assignment: individual level
Covariates used in linear adjustments: pills, age
---
Coefficients:
      Tau   As.se   T-stat P-value CI.left(95%) CI.right(95%) Significance
1 -0.02862 0.17964 -0.15929 0.87344   -0.38071    0.32348
2  0.34609 0.18362  1.88477 0.05946   -0.01381    0.70598
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

```

Example (small strata)

Beginning with version 2.0.0+, the `sreg` package supports experimental designs with small strata (e.g., matched pairs or k-tuples) via the `small.strata` argument in the `sreg` function. We demonstrate its implementation using simulated data generated by `sreg.rgen()` under a matched triplets design.

```

data <- sreg.rgen(n = 300, tau.vec = c(1.2, 0.8), cluster = FALSE, small.strata = TRUE, k = 3, treat.sizes = c(1, 1, 1))
> head(data)

```

```

      Y S D      x_1      x_2
1  2.6455170 1 0 5.594675 1.9023835
2  6.6589024 1 2 6.450984 4.2343208
3  4.3412644 1 1 4.787852 3.1895694
4 -0.7592291 2 2 6.240883 0.7458935
5  5.1391241 2 1 6.076305 2.6105942
6  2.3934378 2 0 5.403182 3.4032419

```

```

result <- sreg(Y = data$Y, S = data$S, D = data$D, X = data.frame('x_1' = data$x_1, 'x_2' = data$x_2), small.strata = TRUE)
> print(result)
Saturated Model Estimation Results under CAR with linear adjustments
Observations: 300
Number of treatments: 2
Number of strata: 100
Setup: small strata
Strata size (k): 3
Standard errors: adjusted (HC1)
Treatment assignment: individual level
Covariates used in linear adjustments: x_1, x_2
---
Coefficients:

```

	Tau	As.se	T-stat	P-value	CI.left(95%)	CI.right(95%)	Significance
1	1.11577	0.13995	7.97258	0e+00	0.84147	1.39006	***
2	0.58806	0.13439	4.37574	1e-05	0.32466	0.85147	***

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

The function `plot.sreg()`

Visualizes the estimated average treatment effects (ATEs) and their confidence intervals from an object returned by `sreg()`. This function defines an S3 method for the generic `plot()` function for objects of class `sreg`.

Syntax

```
plot(x,
     treatment_labels = NULL,
     title = "Estimated ATEs with Confidence Intervals",
     bar_fill = NULL,
     point_shape = 23,
     point_size = 3,
     point_fill = "white",
     point_stroke = 1.2,
     point_color = "black",
     label_color = "black",
     label_size = 4,
     bg_color = NULL,
     grid = TRUE,
     zero_line = TRUE,
     y_axis_title = NULL,
     x_axis_title = NULL,
     ...)
```

Arguments

- **x** - an object of class `sreg`, returned by the `sreg()` function;
- **treatment_labels** - an optional vector of labels to display on the y-axis; if `NULL`, defaults to “Treatment 1”, “Treatment 2”, etc.;
- **title** - an optional string specifying the plot title; default is “Estimated ATEs with Confidence Intervals”;
- **bar_fill** - an optional color specification for the confidence interval bars; can be `NULL` (default viridis scale), a single color, or a vector of two colors for a gradient;
- **point_shape** - an integer specifying the shape of the point representing the estimated ATE; default is 23 (diamond);
- **point_size** - a numeric value specifying the size of the ATE point;
- **point_fill** - a string indicating the fill color of the ATE point shape;
- **point_stroke** - a numeric value for the stroke (border thickness) of the ATE point shape;
- **point_color** - a string specifying the outline color of the ATE point;
- **label_color** - a string indicating the color of the text label displaying the estimate and standard error;
- **label_size** - a numeric value for the size of the text label;
- **bg_color** - an optional string specifying the background color of the plot panel; if `NULL`, the default theme background is used;
- **grid** - a TRUE/FALSE argument indicating whether grid lines should be displayed (TRUE by default);
- **zero_line** - a TRUE/FALSE argument indicating whether to include a dashed vertical line at 0 (TRUE by default);
- **y_axis_title** - an optional string specifying the y-axis title; if `NULL`, no title is displayed;

- **x_axis_title** - an optional string specifying the x-axis title; if NULL, no title is displayed;
- ... - additional arguments passed to other methods (not used in this method). ## The function `sreg.rgen()` Generates the observed outcomes, treatment assignments, strata indicators, cluster indicators, cluster sizes, and covariates for estimating the treatment effect following the stratified block randomization design under covariate-adaptive randomization (CAR).

Syntax

```
sreg.rgen(n, Nmax = 50, n.strata,
          tau.vec = c(0), gamma.vec = c(0.4, 0.2, 1),
          cluster = TRUE, is.cov = TRUE, small.strata = FALSE,
          k = 3, treat.sizes = c(1, 1, 1))
```

Arguments

- **n** - a total number of observations in a sample;
- **Nmax** - a maximum size of generated clusters (maximum number of observations in a cluster);
- **n.strata** - an integer specifying the number of strata;
- **tau.vec** - a numeric $1 \times |\mathcal{A}|$ vector of treatment effects, where $|\mathcal{A}|$ represents the number of treatments;
- **gamma.vec** - a numeric 1×3 vector of parameters corresponding to covariates;
- **cluster** - a TRUE/FALSE argument indicating whether the dgp should use a cluster-level treatment assignment or individual-level;
- **is.cov** - a TRUE/FALSE argument indicating whether the dgp should include covariates or not;
- **small.strata** - a TRUE/FALSE argument indicating whether the data-generating process should use a small-strata design (e.g., matched pairs, n -tuples);
- **k** - an integer specifying the number of units per stratum when `small.strata = TRUE`;
- **treat.sizes** - a numeric $1 \times (|\mathcal{A}| + 1)$ vector specifying the number of units assigned to each treatment within a stratum; the first element corresponds to control units ($D = 0$), the second to the first treatment ($D = 1$), and so on.

Return Value

- **Y** - a numeric $n \times 1$ vector of the observed outcomes;
- **S** - a numeric $n \times 1$ vector of strata indicators;
- **D** - a numeric $n \times 1$ vector of treatments indexed by 0, 1, 2, ..., where $D = 0$ denotes the control;
- **G.id** - a numeric $n \times 1$ vector of cluster indicators;
- **Ng** - a numeric vector/matrix/data.frame of cluster sizes; if NULL then Ng is assumed to be equal to the number of available observations in every cluster;
- **X** - a data.frame with columns representing the covariate values for every observation.

Example

```
library(sreg)
# big stata
data <- sreg.rgen(n = 1000, tau.vec = c(0), n.strata = 4, cluster = TRUE)
> head(data)
```

	Y	S	D	x_1	x_2
1	1.717293	1	0	4.772092	2.4138491
2	2.553695	2	0	5.413440	2.0551019
3	2.237556	3	2	6.611161	0.9300293
4	1.825809	3	1	2.735503	1.7839981
5	5.536280	2	2	2.469239	2.0495611
6	1.628753	2	0	4.887561	2.1327071


```
# matched pairs (small strata)
data <- sreg.rgen(n = 100, tau.vec = c(1.2), cluster = FALSE, small.strata = TRUE, k = 2, treat.sizes = c(1, 1))
> head(data)
```

	Y	S	D	x_1	x_2
1	2.0393535	1	1	7.904694	1.487941
2	3.3839515	1	0	3.461776	2.832059
3	1.7250989	2	0	3.049906	3.170014
4	3.0991776	2	1	7.437064	1.098371
5	1.7406104	3	1	5.008703	1.750753
6	0.6986514	3	0	3.418835	1.375744

References

- Bugni, F. A., Canay, I. A., and Shaikh, A. M. (2018). Inference Under Covariate-Adaptive Randomization. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 113(524), 1784–1796, doi:10.1080/01621459.2017.1375934.
- Bugni, F., Canay, I., Shaikh, A., and Tabord-Meehan, M. (2024+). Inference for Cluster Randomized Experiments with Non-ignorable Cluster Sizes. *Forthcoming in the Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics*, doi:10.48550/arXiv.2204.08356.
- Jiang, L., Linton, O. B., Tang, H., and Zhang, Y. (2023+). Improving Estimation Efficiency via Regression-Adjustment in Covariate-Adaptive Randomizations with Imperfect Compliance. *Forthcoming in Review of Economics and Statistics*, doi:10.48550/arXiv.2204.08356.
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- Liu, J. (2024). Inference for Two-stage Experiments under Covariate-Adaptive Randomization. doi:10.48550/arXiv.2301.09016.
- Cytrynbaum, M. (2024). Covariate Adjustment in Stratified Experiments. *Quantitative Economics*, 15(4), 971–998, doi:10.3982/QE2475