

Section

Review of Midterm / Sensitivity Analysis

Kentaro Nakamura

GOV 2002

October 31st, 2025

Logistics

- Midterm grade is released
 - Really hard midterm
 - Great job everyone
- We return bluebook
 - Let us know if you have any regrading request
- Today's agenda
 - Review of Midterm Questions
 - Module 7: Sensitivity Analysis

Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Setup

- **First Stage Randomization:** randomizing treated cluster and control cluster
 - W_j : cluster treatment status for cluster j
- **Second Stage Randomization:** randomize treatment for individual within treated cluster
 - $Z_{ij} = 1$: if individual i is in the treated group
 - $Z_{ij} = 0$: if individual i is in the control group
- **Partial Interference Assumption:** No interference between clusters
- **Stratified Interference Assumption:** Individual outcome is affected by (1) their own treatment status and (2) the proportion of the treated units within the same cluster
 - This implies that $Y_{ij} = Y_{ij}(Z_{ij}, W_j)$

Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Estimand

- **Total Effect:** Effect of Treatment + Spillover

$$\tau = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_{ij}(1, 1) - Y_{ij}(0, 0)]$$

- **Direct Effect:** Effect of Treatment

$$\delta = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_{ij}(1, 1) - Y_{ij}(0, 1)]$$

- **Indirect Effect:** Spillover Effect

$$\xi = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_{ij}(0, 1) - Y_{ij}(0, 0)]$$

Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(c)

- The within-sample variance is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n) &= \frac{\sigma_b^2(0, 1)}{J_1} + \frac{\sigma_b^2(0, 0)}{J_0} - \frac{\sigma_\xi^2}{J} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{m_{01}JJ_1} \left(1 - \frac{m_{01}}{m}\right) \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{\sigma_j^2(0, 1)}{J_1}\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\sigma_j^2(z, w) := \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{i=1}^m (Y_{ij}(z, w) - \bar{Y}_j(z, w))^2$$

$$\sigma_b^2(z, w) := \frac{1}{J-1} \sum_{j=1}^J (\bar{Y}_j(z, w) - \bar{Y}(z, w))^2$$

$$\sigma_\xi^2 := \frac{1}{J-1} \sum_{j=1}^J \{(\bar{Y}_j(0, 1) - \bar{Y}_j(0, 0)) - (\bar{Y}(0, 1) - \bar{Y}(0, 0))\}^2.$$

Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(c)

- Look at the last term

$$\sigma_{\xi}^2 := \frac{1}{J-1} \sum_{j=1}^J \{(\bar{Y}_j(0,1) - \bar{Y}_j(0,0)) - (\bar{Y}(0,1) - \bar{Y}(0,0))\}^2$$

- This is the sample variance of spillover effect at the cluster level
 $\bar{Y}_j(0,1) - \bar{Y}_j(0,0)$
- Now, notice that

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\xi}^2 &= \text{var}(\bar{Y}_j(0,1) - \bar{Y}_j(0,0)) \\ &= \text{var}(\bar{Y}_j(0,1)) + \text{var}(\bar{Y}_j(0,0)) - \underbrace{2 \text{cov}(\bar{Y}_j(0,1), \bar{Y}_j(0,0))}_{\text{Not Identified!}}\end{aligned}$$

Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(d)

- Recall that we have law of total variance

$$\mathbb{V}[\hat{\xi}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{V}(\hat{\xi} | \mathcal{O}_n)] + \mathbb{V}[\mathbb{E}(\hat{\xi} | \mathcal{O}_n)]$$

- We proved that $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\xi} | \mathcal{O}_n)$ is unbiased; thus

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\mathbb{E}(\hat{\xi} | \mathcal{O}_n)] &= \mathbb{V}\left[\frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_{ij}(0, 1) - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_{ij}(0, 0)\right)}_{\text{Indirect Effect in Cluster } j}\right] \\ &= \frac{\mathbb{V}[\overline{Y_j(0, 1)} - \overline{Y_j(0, 0)}]}{J}.\end{aligned}$$

- Thus, this part is the variance of indirect effect

Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(d)

- On the other hand, we already know the form of $\mathbb{V}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n)$
- **NOTE:** each σ is not random in finite-population framework, but it is random in super-population framework!
- Therefore, σ should not remain in the last formula
 - You need to take the expectation
 - Fortunately, each σ is unbiased \rightarrow We can replace it with population variance

Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement: Assumption

- **First Stage Randomization:** randomizing treated cluster and control cluster
 - W_j : cluster treatment status for cluster j
- **Second Stage Randomization:** randomize *encouragement* for individual within treated cluster
 - $Z_{ij} = 1$: if individual i receives encouragement
 - $Z_{ij} = 0$: if individual i does not receive encouragement
- **Assumptions**
 - **Partial Interference Assumption:** No interference between clusters
 - **Monotonicity:** $T_{ij}(z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) \geq T_{ij}(z_{ij} = 0, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j})$
 - **Exclusion Restriction:** $Y_{ij}(\mathbf{z}_j, \mathbf{t}_j) = Y_{ij}(\mathbf{z}'_j, \mathbf{t}_j) = Y_{ij}(\mathbf{t}_j)$
- We relaxed the stratified interference assumption
 - Thus, $Y_{ij} = Y_{ij}(Z_{ij}, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})$

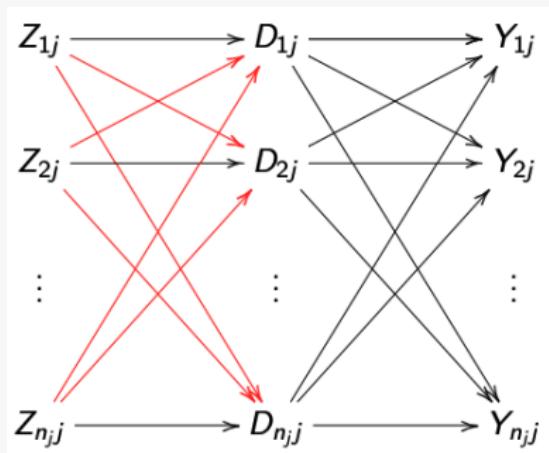
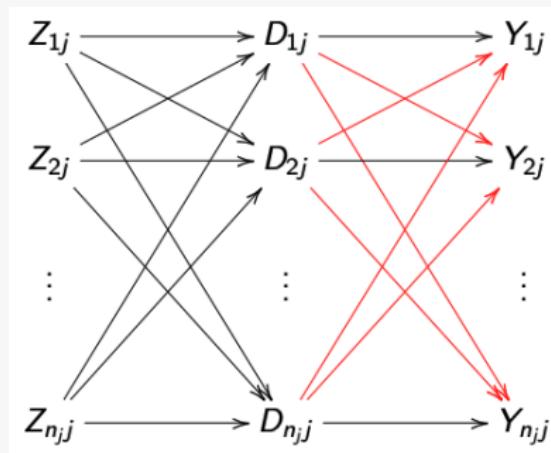
Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

- In question 2(c) and 2(e), we make different assumptions:
 - 2(c): No spillover of treatment receipt on the outcome

$$Y_{ij}(t_{ij}, \mathbf{t}_{-i,j}) = Y_{ij}(t_{ij}, \mathbf{t}'_{-i,j}) \quad \text{for all } i, j, t_{ij}, \mathbf{t}_{-i,j}, \mathbf{t}'_{-i,j}.$$

- 2(d): No spillover effect of encouragement on the treatment receipt

$$T_{ij}(z_{ij}, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) = T_{ij}(z_{ij}, \mathbf{z}'_{-i,j}) \quad \text{for all } i, j, z_{ij}, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}, \mathbf{z}'_{-i,j}$$



Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

- Numerator is

$$\sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{\mathbf{z}_{-i,j}} \{ \mathbf{Y}_{ij}(1, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) - Y_{ij}(0, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) \} \\ \times \underbrace{\{ T_{ij}(1, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) - T_{ij}(0, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) \}}_{\text{Only takes 1 for Complier}} \underbrace{\Pr(\mathbf{Z}_{-i,j} = \mathbf{z}_{-i,j} \mid W_j = 1)}_{\text{Marginalize over Other's Encouragement}}$$

- Important:** You need to understand when potential outcome is random / not random in finite sample framework
 - Recall that Z_{ij} (encouragement status) is random
 - Treatment is random variable since $T_{ij} = T_{ij}(\mathbf{Z}_{ij})$ (similarly $Y_{ij} = Y_{ij}(\mathbf{Z}_{ij})$)
- Therefore, even after using consistency

$$Z_{ij} Y_{ij} = Z_{ij} Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})$$

the potential outcome $Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})$ is still random!

Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

- Therefore, you cannot do the following!

$$\begin{aligned}& \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij}] \\&= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij} | Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}] \\&\neq \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_{ij} | Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}) \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij}]\end{aligned}$$

because $Y_{ij} | Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}$ is random due to $\mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}$

Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

- Instead, you need to justify as follows!

$$\begin{aligned}& \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij}] \\&= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij} | Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}] \\&= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{E}\left(Z_{ij} Y_{ij} | Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}} \mid \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}\right)\right] \\&= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}\left[Y_{ij} | Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}\right] \mathbb{E}\left(Z_{ij} \mid \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{J} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}\left[Y_{ij} | Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-\mathbf{ij}}\right]\end{aligned}$$

Sensitivity Analysis

- **Sensitivity Analysis:** Approach to characterize the robustness of your finding
- Two approaches
 - **Approach 1:** Partial R^2 Approach / Omitted Variable Bias Approach
 - Reading: Cinelli and Hazlett (2020, JRSS-B)
 - **Approach 2:** Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)
 - Reading: Ding and Vanderwelle (2016, Epidemiology)
- Other approaches: Rosenbaum's Γ
 - Covered in Module 8 (Assuming odds of treatment)

Omitted Variable Bias Formula (1)

- Suppose that true model is

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta T_i + \gamma^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \delta U_i + \epsilon_i$$

but you use the model

$$Y_i = \alpha^* + \beta^* T_i + \gamma^{*\top} \mathbf{X}_i + \epsilon_i$$

- Recall that FWL theorem tells us

$$\beta^* = \frac{\text{Cov}(Y_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]}$$

where

$$T_i = \phi_0^* + \phi_1^{*\top} \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{T}_i^*$$

Omitted Variable Bias Formula (2)

- Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\beta^* &= \frac{\text{Cov}(Y_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]} \\ &= \frac{\text{Cov}(\alpha + \beta T_i + \gamma^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \delta U_i + \epsilon_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]} \\ &= \frac{\text{Cov}(\beta T_i + \delta U_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]} \\ &= \beta + \delta \times \frac{\text{Cov}(U_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]}\end{aligned}$$

where the last line is because

$$\text{Cov}(T_i, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \text{Cov}(\phi_0^* + \phi_1^{*\top} \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{T}_i^*, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]$$

- Also, consider $U_i = \psi_0^* + \psi_1^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{U}_i$. Then,

$$\text{Cov}(U_i, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \text{Cov}(\psi_0^* + \psi_1^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{U}_i, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \text{Cov}(\tilde{U}_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)$$

Omitted Variable Bias Formula (3)

- Therefore, the bias term is

$$|\beta^* - \beta| = \underbrace{\frac{|\text{Cov}(Y_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}, U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X})|}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}}_{=\delta \text{ (By FWL)}} \times \frac{|\text{Cov}(U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}, T_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X})|}{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}$$

- Now, notice that

$$\frac{|\text{Cov}(Y_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}, U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X})|}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]} = \underbrace{\frac{|\text{Cov}(Y_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}, U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X})|}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}}}_{\text{Partial } R^2 \text{ of } Y \sim U | T, \mathbf{X}} \times \frac{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}}$$

and

$$\frac{|\text{Cov}(U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}, T_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X})|}{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]} = \underbrace{\frac{|\text{Cov}(U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}, T_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X})|}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}}}_{\text{Partial } R^2 \text{ of } T \sim U | \mathbf{X}} \times \frac{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T}, \mathbf{X}]}}$$

Partial R-Squared Approach

- As a result,

$$|\beta^* - \beta| = \sqrt{R_{Y \sim U|T,X}^2 \frac{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]} \times R_{T \sim U|X}^2 \frac{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}}$$

- Therefore, with a bit of additional step¹, we get

$$|\beta^* - \beta| = \sqrt{R_{Y \sim U|T,X}^2 \times \frac{R_{T \sim U|X}^2}{1 - R_{T \sim U|X}^2} \times \underbrace{\frac{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T}]}_{\text{Estimatable}}}$$

¹With FWL theorem, we can indeed derive

$$\frac{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]} = \frac{1}{\frac{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}} = \frac{1}{1 - R_{T \sim U|X}^2}$$

See Review Question 7 for STAT.

Appendix: Unconditional R^2

- Recall that R^2 for regression $Y \sim \mathbf{X}$ is given by

$$R_{Y \sim \mathbf{X}}^2 = \frac{\mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]} = 1 - \frac{\mathbb{V}[\hat{\epsilon}_i]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]} = 1 - \frac{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]}$$

- Now, notice that since residual $\hat{\epsilon}_i$ is orthogonal to \hat{Y}_i , we get

$$\text{Cov}(Y_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \text{Cov}(\hat{Y}_i + \hat{\epsilon}_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \text{Cov}(\hat{Y}_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]$$

- As a result, we can show the connection between unconditional R^2 and correlation coefficient:

$$\text{Cor}(Y_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \frac{\text{Cov}(Y_i, \hat{Y}_i)}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]}\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]}} = \sqrt{\frac{\mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]}} = \sqrt{R_{Y \sim \mathbf{X}}^2}$$

Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)

- **Setup:** $Y_i(t) \perp\!\!\!\perp T_i \mid U_i$ for $t \in \{0, 1\}$
 - However, U_i is unobserved
- **Estimand:** Now, let's focus on the **causal risk ratio**:

$$RR_{TY}^{\text{true}} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y_i(1) = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(Y_i(0) = 1)}$$

- Risk ratio = 1 is equivalent to ATE = 0
- We instead observe the observed risk ratio

$$RR_{TY}^{\text{obs}} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid T_i = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid T_i = 0)}$$

Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)

- **Generalized Cornfield Condition:** If $RR_{TY}^{obs} > 1$, then

$$RR_{TY}^{\text{true}} \geq RR_{TY}^{\text{obs}} \times \frac{RR_{TU} + RR_{UY} - 1}{RR_{TU} \times RR_{UY}}$$

where

$$RR_{TU} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(U_i = 1 \mid T_i = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(U_i = 1 \mid T_i = 0)}, \quad RR_{UY} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid U_i = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid U_i = 0)}$$

Further, in order for $RR_{TY}^{\text{true}} = 1$, we must have

$$\underbrace{\max\{RR_{UY}, RR_{TU}\}}_{\text{Unobserved}} \geq \underbrace{RR_{TY}^{\text{obs}} + \sqrt{RR_{TY}^{\text{obs}}(RR_{TY}^{\text{obs}} - 1)}}_{\text{Observed}}$$

Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)

