

## 5.2 - 5.3 Multiple Imputation

Jae-Kwang Kim

# Basic Setup

- Parameter of interest:  $\psi$  defined through  $E\{U(\psi; Y)\} = 0$
- $\mathbf{y}_{\text{com}} = (\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n)$ : Complete sample data (without nonresponse)
- From  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{com}}$ , we can obtain  $(\hat{\psi}_n, \hat{V}_n)$  where
  - $\hat{\psi}_n = \hat{\psi}(\mathbf{y}_{\text{com}})$ : Point estimator of  $\psi$ , solution to  $\sum_{i=1}^n U(\psi; \mathbf{y}_i) = 0$ .
  - $\hat{V}_n = \hat{V}(\mathbf{y}_{\text{com}})$ : Variance estimator of  $\hat{\psi}_n$  (obtained by Sandwich formula).
- Under some regularity conditions,

$$\frac{\hat{\psi}_n - \psi}{\sqrt{\hat{V}_n}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} N(0, 1)$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Multiple Imputation method - Rubin's idea

- 1 Generate  $m$  realization of  $\mathbf{y}_{mis}^{*(j)}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , from the posterior predictive distribution

$$P(\mathbf{y}_{mis} \mid \mathbf{y}_{obs}, \delta) = \int P(\mathbf{y}_{mis} \mid \mathbf{y}_{obs}, \delta; \eta) P(\eta \mid \mathbf{y}_{obs}, \delta) d\eta. \quad (1)$$

- 2 Obtain  $(\hat{\psi}_n^{*(j)}, \hat{V}_n^{*(j)})$  using  $\mathbf{y}_{com}^{*(j)} = (\mathbf{y}_{obs}, \mathbf{y}_{mis}^{*(j)})$

- 3 Combine  $m$  estimates:

- Point estimator of  $\psi$ :  $\hat{\psi}_{MI} = m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{\psi}_n^{*(j)}$
- Variance estimator of  $\hat{\psi}_{MI}$ :

$$\hat{V}_{MI} = W_m + (1 + m^{-1}) B_m \quad (2)$$

where  $W_m = m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{V}_n^{*(j)}$  and  $B_m = (m-1)^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m (\hat{\psi}_n^{*(j)} - \hat{\psi}_{MI})^2$ .

# Two-step approach for Bayesian Imputation

Goal: Generate imputed values from the posterior predictive distribution in (1):

$$P(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) = \int P(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \boldsymbol{\eta}) P(\boldsymbol{\eta} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) d\boldsymbol{\eta}$$

- 1 Generate  $\eta^{*(1)}, \dots, \eta^{*(m)}$  from  $P(\boldsymbol{\eta} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta})$ .
- 2 Given the  $j$ -th parameter value  $\eta^{*(j)} = (\theta^{*(j)}, \phi^{*(j)})$ , generate  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(j)}$  from the conditional distribution  $P(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \eta^{*(j)})$ , where

$$P(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \eta^{*(j)}) = \frac{f(\mathbf{y}; \theta^{*(j)})P(\boldsymbol{\delta} \mid \mathbf{y}; \phi^{*(j)})}{\int f(\mathbf{y}; \theta^{*(j)})P(\boldsymbol{\delta} \mid \mathbf{y}; \phi^{*(j)})d\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}}.$$

# Bayesian Justification (Rubin, 1987) for $\psi = \eta$

① If  $\hat{\psi}_n = E\{\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{com}}\}$ , then, for sufficiently large  $m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\psi}_{MI} &= m^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^m \hat{\psi}_n^{*(k)} \\ &= m^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^m E(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(k)}) \\ &\doteq E\{E(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{Y}_{\text{mis}}) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}\} \\ &= E(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}).\end{aligned}$$

# Bayesian Justification (Cont'd)

② Also, if  $\hat{V}_n = V\{\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{com}}\}$ , then, for sufficiently large  $m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{V}_{MI} &= W_m + B_m \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m \hat{V}_n^{*(k)} + \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{k=1}^m \left( \hat{\psi}_n^{*(k)} - \bar{\psi}_{MI} \right)^2 \\ &\doteq E\{V(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{Y}_{\text{mis}}) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}\} \\ &\quad + V\{E(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{Y}_{\text{mis}}) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}\} \\ &= V\{\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}\}.\end{aligned}$$

# Theory for multiple imputation

- We are interested in showing

$$\frac{\hat{\psi}_{MI} - \psi}{\sqrt{\hat{V}_{MI}}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} N(0, 1)$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

- Two different cases
  - Case 1:  $\psi = \eta$  and  $U(\psi) = S(\eta)$
  - Case 2:  $\psi \neq \eta$
- An example for Case 2:  $Y \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and the parameter of interest is  $\psi = P(Y < c)$ .
  - Maximum likelihood estimation:  $\hat{\psi} = P(Y < c; \hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}^2)$ .
  - Method-of-moments estimation: solve  $\sum_{i=1}^n I(y_i < c) = 0$ .

# Asymptotic Properties of MI estimator: Case 1

- Interested in the asymptotic properties for  $\hat{\eta}_{MI} = m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{\eta}_n^{*(j)}$  where  $\hat{\eta}_n^{*(j)}$  is computed by solving the imputed score equation for  $\eta$ .
- (Theorem 5.1) We will show that, under some regularity conditions, the MI estimator  $\hat{\eta}_{MI}$  is approximately unbiased for  $\eta_0$  and has the asymptotic variance

$$V(\hat{\eta}_{MI}) \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} + m^{-1} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}' + m^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}. \quad (3)$$

Thus, for  $m \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\hat{\eta}_{MI}$  has the same performance as the MLE of  $\eta$ .

- (Theorem 5.2) Validity of MI variance estimator will also be established.



- Let  $S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}_{\text{com}})$  be the score function of  $\eta$  under complete response.
- **Frequentist Imputation:** Let  $\hat{\eta}^*$  be the solution to

$$S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^*) = 0$$

where  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(j)} \sim f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p)$  and  $\hat{\eta}_p$  is a consistent estimator of  $\eta$ .

- In **Bayesian Imputation**, instead of using a fixed  $\hat{\eta}_p$ , we use

$$\eta_p^* \mid (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) \sim N(\hat{\eta}_{MLE}, \hat{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1}), \quad (4)$$

which is a large-sample approximation of  $p(\eta \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta})$ . (Bernstein von-Mises theorem)

## Recall: Lemma 4.3

Let  $S_I^*(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) = S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}^*)$  be the imputed score function evaluated with  $\mathbf{y}^* = (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^*)$  where  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^*$  is generated from  $f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p)$ . Assume that  $\hat{\eta}_p$  converges in probability to  $\eta_0$ . Then, under some regularity conditions, the solution  $\hat{\eta}^*$  to  $S_I^*(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) = 0$  satisfies

$$\hat{\eta}^* - \eta_0 \cong (\hat{\eta}_{MLE} - \eta_0) + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}(\hat{\eta}_p - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} S_{\text{mis}}^*(\hat{\eta}_p) \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$  and  $S_{\text{mis}}^*(\eta) = S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}^*) - S_{\text{obs}}(\eta)$ .

# Bayesian Imputation

- In Bayesian imputation, we use  $\hat{\eta}_p = \eta_p^*$  where  $\eta_p^* \sim p(\eta \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta})$ . Thus, by Lemma 4.3, we have

$$\hat{\eta}^* - \eta_0 \cong \hat{\eta}_{MLE} - \eta_0 + \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} (\eta_p^* - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} Z^* \quad (6)$$

where  $Z^* \mid (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}, \eta_p^*) \sim (0, \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}})$ . The three terms in (6) are independent.

- Also, for Bayesian imputation, by (4),

$$(\eta_p^* - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) \mid (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) \sim (0, \hat{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1})$$

- The total variance of  $\hat{\eta}^*$  is then

$$V(\hat{\eta}^*) \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} + \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} \mathcal{J}'_{\text{mis}} + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}. \quad (7)$$

# Bayesian Imputation

- In multiple imputation, we have  $\hat{\eta}_{MI} = m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{\eta}^{*(j)}$  and the  $m$  values of  $\hat{\eta}^{*(j)}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, m$  are independently distributed with

$$\hat{\eta}^{*(j)} - \eta_0 \cong \hat{\eta}_{MLE} - \eta_0 + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \left( \eta_p^{*(j)} - \hat{\eta}_{MLE} \right) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} Z^{*(j)} \quad (8)$$

with  $Z^{*(j)} \mid (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}, \eta_p^{*(j)}) \sim (0, \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}})$  and

$$\left( \eta_p^{*(j)} - \hat{\eta}_{MLE} \right) \mid (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}) \sim (0, \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\text{obs}}^{-1})$$

- The three terms in (8) are orthogonal (i.e. independent). Thus, expression (8) can be called the orthogonalization of the imputed estimator  $\hat{\eta}^*$ .
- Thus, we can establish Theorem 5.1 (next page).

# Theorem 5.1

Assume that the posterior distribution  $p(\eta \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta})$  is asymptotically normal with mean  $\hat{\eta}_{MLE}$  and variance  $\{I_{\text{obs}}(\hat{\eta}_{MLE})\}^{-1}$ , where  $I_{\text{obs}}(\eta)$  is the observed Fisher information derived from the marginal density of  $(\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta})$ . Under some regularity conditions, the ML estimator  $\hat{\eta}_{ML}$  is approximately unbiased for  $\eta_0$  and has the asymptotic variance

$$V(\hat{\eta}_{ML}) \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} + m^{-1} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}' + m^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}. \quad (9)$$

where  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$  is the fraction of missing information.

# Theorem 5.2

Assume that  $m$  preliminary values of  $\eta$ , denoted by  $\eta_p^{*(1)}, \dots, \eta_p^{*(m)}$ , are independently generated from a normal distribution with mean  $\hat{\eta}_{MLE}$  and variance matrix  $\{I_{\text{obs}}(\hat{\eta}_{MLE})\}^{-1}$ . Assume that the complete sample variance estimator  $\hat{V}$  satisfies

$$E \left\{ \hat{V}_I^{*(j)} \right\} \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}, \quad (10)$$

where  $\hat{V}_I^{*(j)}$  is the naive variance estimator that is computed by applying  $\hat{V}$  to the  $j$ -th imputed data  $\mathbf{y}^{*(j)}$ . Then, the Rubin's variance estimator (2) is asymptotically unbiased for the variance of the MI estimator  $\hat{\eta}_{MI}$ .

# Lemma 5.1

## Lemma 5.1

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_m$  be identically distributed (not necessarily independent) with mean  $\theta$  and covariance

$$\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = \begin{cases} \sigma_{11} & \text{if } i = j \\ \sigma_{12} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let  $B_m = (m-1)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - \bar{X}_m)^2$  with  $\bar{X}_m = m^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^m X_i$ . Then we have

$$E(B_m) = \sigma_{11} - \sigma_{12}.$$

# Proof of Lemma 5.1



# Proof of Theorem 5.2

By Lemma 5.1, we have

$$E(B_m) = V(\hat{\eta}^{*(1)}) - \text{Cov}(\hat{\eta}^{*(1)}, \hat{\eta}^{*(2)}).$$

Using (8), we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E(B_m) &= V\left\{\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}\left(\eta_p^{*(1)} - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}\right)\right\} + V\left\{\mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}Z^{*(1)}\right\} \\ &= \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}\mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1}\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}' + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}\mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}\mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by assumption (10), we have

$$E\left\{\hat{V}_{MI}(\hat{\eta}_{MI})\right\} \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} + (1 + m^{-1})\left(\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}\mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1}\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}' + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}\mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}\mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}\right). \quad (11)$$

Using matrix algebra, we have

$$(A + BCB')^{-1} = A^{-1} - A^{-1}B (C^{-1} + B'A^{-1}B)^{-1} B'A^{-1}$$

and

$$(C^{-1} + B'A^{-1}B)^{-1} = C - CB' (A + BCB')^{-1} BC,$$

which leads to

$$(A + BCB')^{-1} = A^{-1} - A^{-1}BCB'A^{-1} + A^{-1}BCB' (A + BCB')^{-1} BCB'A^{-1}.$$

Applying the above equality to  $A = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}$ ,  $B = I$ , and  $C = -\mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$ , we have

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}' + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \quad (12)$$

and (11) reduces to

$$E \left\{ \hat{V}_{MI}(\hat{\eta}_{MI}) \right\} \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} + m^{-1} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}' + m^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}, \quad (13)$$

which shows the asymptotic unbiasedness of Rubin's variance estimator by (9).

## Example 5.5

- Let  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  be IID observations from  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and only the first  $r$  elements are observed and the remaining  $n - r$  elements are missing. Assume that the response mechanism is MAR.
- Bayesian imputation:

- The  $j$ -th posterior values of  $(\mu, \sigma^2)$  are generated from

$$\sigma^{2*(j)} \mid \mathbf{y}_r \sim \text{Inv. Gamma} \left( \frac{r-1}{2}, \frac{(r-1)S_r^2}{2} \right)$$

and

$$\mu^{*(j)} \mid (\mathbf{y}_r, \sigma^{2*(j)}) \sim N \left( \bar{y}_r, r^{-1} \sigma^{2*(j)} \right)$$

where  $\mathbf{y}_r = (y_1, \dots, y_r)$ ,  $\bar{y}_r = r^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^r y_i$ , and  $\hat{S}_r^2 = (r-1)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^r (y_i - \bar{y}_r)^2$ .

- Given the posterior sample  $(\mu^{*(j)}, \sigma^{2*(j)})$ , the imputed values are generated from

$$y_i^{*(j)} \mid (\mathbf{y}_r, \mu^{*(j)}, \sigma^{2*(j)}) \sim N \left( \mu^{*(j)}, \sigma^{2*(j)} \right)$$

independently for  $i = r+1, \dots, n$ .

- Let  $\theta = E(Y)$  be the parameter of interest and the MI estimator of  $\theta$  can be expressed as

$$\hat{\theta}_{MI} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{\theta}_I^{(j)}$$

where

$$\hat{\theta}_I^{(j)} = \frac{1}{n} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^r y_i + \sum_{i=r+1}^n y_i^{*(j)} \right\}.$$

- Then, using the same orthogonalization in (8), we have

$$\hat{\theta}_{MI} = \bar{y}_r + \frac{n-r}{nm} \sum_{j=1}^m \left( \mu^{*(j)} - \bar{y}_r \right) + \frac{1}{nm} \sum_{i=r+1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \left( y_i^{*(j)} - \mu^{*(j)} \right).$$

- Asymptotically, the first term has mean  $\mu$  and variance  $r^{-1}\sigma^2$ , the second term has mean zero and variance  $(1 - r/n)^2\sigma^2/(mr)$ , the third term has mean zero and variance  $\sigma^2(n-r)/(n^2m)$ , and the three terms are mutually independent.
- Thus, the variance of  $\hat{\theta}_{MI}$  is

$$V\left(\hat{\theta}_{MI}\right) = \frac{1}{r}\sigma^2 + \frac{1}{m}\left(\frac{n-r}{n}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{r}\sigma^2 + \frac{1}{n-r}\sigma^2\right). \quad (14)$$

- For variance estimation, note that

$$\begin{aligned} V(y_i^{*(j)}) &= V(\bar{y}_r) + V(\mu^{*(j)} - \bar{y}_r) + V(y_i^{*(j)} - \mu^{*(j)}) \\ &= \frac{1}{r}\sigma^2 + \frac{1}{r}\sigma^2 \left( \frac{r+1}{r-1} \right) + \sigma^2 \left( \frac{r+1}{r-1} \right) \\ &\cong \sigma^2. \end{aligned}$$

- Writing

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{V}_I^{(j)}(\hat{\theta}) &= \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \tilde{y}_i^{*(j)} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \tilde{y}_k^{*(j)} \right\}^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \tilde{y}_i^{*(j)} - \mu \right)^2 - n \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \tilde{y}_k^{*(j)} - \mu \right)^2 \right\}\end{aligned}$$

where  $\tilde{y}_i^* = \delta_i y_i + (1 - \delta_i) y_i^{*(j)}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}E \left\{ \hat{V}_I^{(j)}(\hat{\theta}) \right\} &= \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n E \left( \tilde{y}_i^{*(j)} - \mu \right)^2 - nV \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \tilde{y}_k^{*(j)} \right) \right\} \\ &\cong n^{-1} \sigma^2\end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $E(W_m) \cong V(\hat{\theta}_n)$ .



- Also,

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(B_m) &= V\left(\hat{\theta}_I^{*(1)}\right) - \text{Cov}\left(\hat{\theta}_I^{*(1)}, \hat{\theta}_I^{*(2)}\right) \\
 &= V\left\{\frac{n-r}{n}\left(\mu^{*(1)} - \bar{y}_r\right) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=r+1}^n \left(y_i^{*(1)} - \mu^{*(1)}\right)\right\} \\
 &\cong \left(\frac{n-r}{n}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{n-r}\right) \sigma^2 \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n}\right) \sigma^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, Rubin's variance estimator satisfies

$$E\left\{\hat{V}_{MI}(\hat{\theta}_{MI})\right\} \cong \frac{1}{r} \sigma^2 + \frac{1}{m} \left(\frac{n-r}{n}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \sigma^2 + \frac{1}{n-r} \sigma^2\right) \cong V\left(\hat{\theta}_{MI}\right),$$

which shows the asymptotic unbiasedness of the Rubin's variance estimator.