```
options(width = 60)
set.seed(235711)
library(knitr)
library(ggplot2)
library(mice)
library(mvtnorm)
library(xtable)
library(pROC)
library(dplyr)
library(magrittr)
library(naniar)
library(ggpubr)
library(lme4)
library(lavaan)
dataDir <- "data/"
```

source("code/supportFunctions.R")

source("code/sim_missing/code/simMissingness.R")

Missing Data Basics Utrecht University Winter School: Missing Data in R



Kyle M. Lang

Department of Methodology & Statistics
Utrecht University



Outline

Missing Data Descriptives

Missing Data Mechanisms

Missing Data Treatments



What are Missing Data?

Missing data are empty cells in a dataset where there should be observed values.

 The missing cells correspond to true population values, but we haven't observed those values.



What are Missing Data?

Missing data are empty cells in a dataset where there should be observed values.

 The missing cells correspond to true population values, but we haven't observed those values.

Not every empty cell is a missing datum.

- Quality-of-life ratings for dead patients in a mortality study
- Firm profitability after the company goes out of business
- Self-reported severity of menstrual cramping for men
- Empty blocks of data following "gateway" items

A Little Notation

 $Y := An N \times P$ Matrix of Arbitrary Data

 $Y_{mis} := \text{The } missing \text{ part of } Y$

 $Y_{obs} :=$ The *observed* part of Y

 $R := An N \times P$ response matrix

 $M := An N \times P$ missingness matrix

The R and M matrices are complementary.

- $r_{np} = 1$ means y_{np} is observed; $m_{np} = 1$ means y_{np} is missing.
- $r_{np} = 0$ means y_{np} is missing; $m_{np} = 0$ means y_{np} is observed.
- M_p is the *missingness* of Y_p .

MISSING DATA DESCRIPTIVES



Missing Data Pattern

Missing data (or response) patterns represent unique combinations of observed and missing items.

• P items $\Rightarrow 2^P$ possible patterns.

	Χ	Υ
1	Х	У
2	Χ	
3		У
4	•	

Patterns for P = 2

	Χ	Υ	Z
1	Х	У	Z
2	Χ	У	
3	Χ		Z
4		У	Z
5	Χ		
6			Z
7		У	
8	•		

Patterns for P = 3

Missing Data Pattern

The concept of a "missing data pattern" can also be used to classify the spatial arrangement of missing cells on a data set.

- Univariate
 - Missing data occur on only one variable
- Monotone
 - The proportion of complete elements, in both rows and columns, decreases when traversing the data set.
 - The observed cells can be arranged into a "staircase" pattern.
- Arbitrary
 - Missing values are "randomly" scattered throughout the data set.

Example Missing Data Patterns

	Χ	Υ	Z			Χ	Υ	Z			Χ	Υ	Z
1	Х	У	Z		1	Х	У	Z		1	Х		Z
2	Χ	У	Z		2	Χ	У	Z		2	Χ	У	Z
3	Χ	У	Z		3	Χ	У	Z		3	Χ	У	Z
4	Χ	У	Z		4	Χ	У			4	Χ		Z
5	Χ	У	Z		5	Χ	У			5	Χ	У	Z
6	Χ		Z		6	Χ	У			6	Χ		Z
7	Χ		Z		7	Χ				7		У	Z
8	Χ		Z		8	Χ				8	Χ	У	Z
9	Χ		Z		9	Χ				9	Χ		
10	Х		Z		10		•	•		10	Х	У	•
Univa	Univariate Pattern		Monotone Pattern			Arbitrary Pattern							

Nonresponse Rates

PROPORTION MISSING

- · The proportion of cells containing missing data
- Good early screening measure
- Should be computed for each variable, not for the entire dataset

ATTRITION RATE

 The proportion of participants that drop-out of a study at each measurement occasion

Nonresponse Rates

PROPORTION OF COMPLETE CASES

- The proportion of observations with no missing data
- Often reported but nearly useless quantity

FRACTION OF MISSING INFORMATION

- Associated with an estimated parameter, not with an incomplete variable
- Like an R^2 for the missing data
- Most important diagnostic value for missing data problems
- Can only be computed after treating the missing data

COVARIANCE COVERAGE

$$CC_{jk} = N^{-1} \sum_{n=1}^{N} r_{nj} r_{nk}$$

- The proportion of cases available to estimate a given pairwise relationship (e.g., a covariance between two variables)
- Very important to have adequate coverage of the parameters you want to estimate

INBOUND STATISTIC

$$I_{jk} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^{N} (1 - r_{nj}) r_{nk}}{\sum_{n=1}^{N} (1 - r_{nj})}$$

ullet The proportion of missing cases in Y_i for which Y_k is observed

OUTBOUND STATISTIC

$$O_{jk} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^{N} r_{nj} (1 - r_{nk})}{\sum_{n=1}^{N} r_{nj}}$$

• The proportion of observed cases in Y_i for which Y_k is missing

INflux Coefficient

$$I_{j} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{P} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (1 - r_{nj}) r_{nk}}{\sum_{k=1}^{P} \sum_{n=1}^{N} r_{nk}}$$

- The proportion of observed cells in Y that exists in cases for which Y_i is missing
- How well the missing values in Y_j connect to the observed values in \mathbf{Y}_{-j}

OUTFLUX COEFFICIENT

$$O_{j} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{P} \sum_{n=1}^{N} r_{nj} (1 - r_{nk})}{\sum_{k=1}^{P} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (1 - r_{nk})}$$

- The proportion of missing cells in Y that exists in cases for which Y_i is observed
- How well the observed values in Y_j connect to the missing values in Y_{-j}

MISSING DATA MECHANISMS



Missing Data Mechanisms

Missing Completely at Random (MCAR)

- $P(R|Y_{mis}, Y_{obs}) = P(R)$
- Missingness is unrelated to any study variables.

Missing at Random (MAR)

- $P(R|Y_{mis}, Y_{obs}) = P(R|Y_{obs})$
- Missingness is related to only the observed parts of study variables.

Missing not at Random (MNAR)

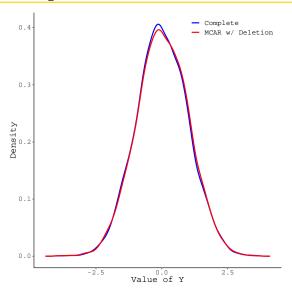
- $P(R|Y_{mis}, Y_{obs}) \neq P(R|Y_{obs})$
- Missingness is related to the *unobserved* parts of study variables.

Simulate Some Toy Data

```
library(mvtnorm)
library(dplyr)
library(magrittr)
nObs <- 5000 # Sample Size
pm <- 0.3 # Proportion Missing
sigma \leftarrow matrix(c(1.0, 0.5, 0.3,
                   0.5. 1.0. 0.0.
                   0.3, 0.0, 1.0),
                 ncol = 3)
dat0 \leftarrow rmvnorm(nObs, c(0, 0, 0), sigma) \%\% data.frame()
colnames(dat0) <- c("x", "y", "z")
dat0 %$% cor(y, x)
[1] 0.5001822
```

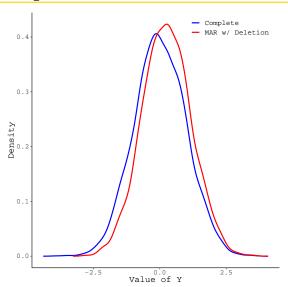
MCAR Example

MCAR Example



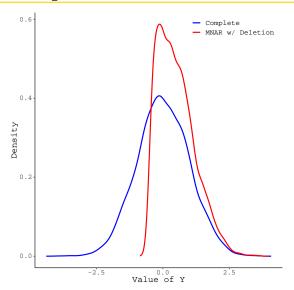
MAR Example

MAR Example



MNAR Example

MNAR Example



In our previous MAR example, ignoring the predictor of missingness actually produces *Indirect MNAR*.

In our previous MAR example, ignoring the predictor of missingness actually produces *Indirect MNAR*.

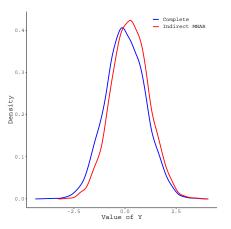
QUESTION: What happens if we ignore the predictor of missingness, but that predictor is independent of our study variables?

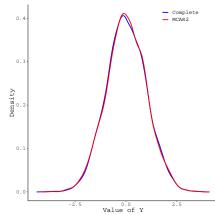
In our previous MAR example, ignoring the predictor of missingness actually produces *Indirect MNAR*.

QUESTION: What happens if we ignore the predictor of missingness, but that predictor is independent of our study variables?

ANSWER: We get back to MCAR:)

The missing data mechanisms are not simply characteristics of an incomplete dataset; we also need to account for the analysis.





Testing the Missing Data Mechanism

We cannot fully test the MAR or MNAR assumptions.

- To do so would require knowing the values of the missing data.
- We can find observed predictors of missingness.
 - \circ Use classification algorithms to predict missingness from Y_{obs} .
 - We can never know that we have discovered all MAR predictors.
- In practice, MAR and MNAR live on the ends of a continuum.
 - Our missing data problem exists at some unknown point along this continuum.
 - We can do a lot to nudge our problem towards the MAR side.

Testing the Missing Data Mechanism

We can (partially) test the MCAR assumption.

- With MCAR, the missing data and the observed data should have the same distribution.
- We can test for MCAR by testing the distributions of *auxiliary* variables, **Z**.
 - Use a t-test to compare the subset of Z_p that corresponds to Y_{mis} to the subset corresponding to Y_{obs} .
 - The Little (1988) MCAR test is a multivariate version of this.

These procedures actually test if the data are *observed* completely at random.

MISSING DATA TREATMENTS



Bad Methods (These almost never work)

Listwise Deletion (Complete Case Analysis)

- Use only complete observations for the analysis
 - Very wasteful (can throw out lots of useful data)
 - Loss of statistical power

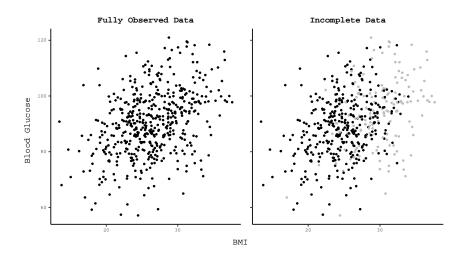
Pairwise Deletion (Available Case Analysis)

- Use only complete pairs of observations for analysis
 - Different samples sizes for different parameter estimates
 - Can cause computational issues

Example

```
## Read in some data:
tmp <- readRDS(pasteO(dataDir, "diabetes.rds")) %>%
    select(bmi, bp, glu, age)
diabetes1 <- diabetes2 <-
   rmvnorm(500, colMeans(tmp), cov(tmp)) %>% data.frame()
## Simulated missingness based on 'bmi':
m <- simLinearMissingness(data = diabetes2,
                         pm = 0.30,
                         preds = "bmi",
                          auc = 0.85)$r
## Impose missing on 'qlu' according to the missingess above:
diabetes2[m, "glu"] <- NA
```

Example



Example

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3854220 0.3885409
glu 0.3854220 1.0000000 0.3843339
bp 0.3885409 0.3843339 1.0000000
diabetes2 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor(use = "complete")
         bmi
              glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3204328 0.3174496
glu 0.3204328 1.0000000 0.3610424
bp 0.3174496 0.3610424 1.0000000
```

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3854220 0.3885409
glu 0.3854220 1.0000000 0.3843339
bp 0.3885409 0.3843339 1.0000000
diabetes2 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor(use = "pairwise")
         bmi
              glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3204328 0.3885409
glu 0.3204328 1.0000000 0.3610424
bp 0.3885409 0.3610424 1.0000000
```

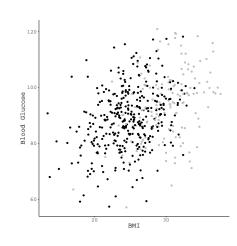
```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 90.37821
mean(diabetes2$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 88.84524
var(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 133.8721
var(diabetes2$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 120.0214
```

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()
s2 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes2) %>% summary()
s1$r.squared
[1] 0.2291948
s2$r.squared
[1] 0.1925953
```

```
s1$coef
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 48.7487495 3.50863686 13.893928 2.646709e-37
bmi
            0.7048819 0.11361568 6.204090 1.161375e-09
bp
            0.1880635 0.03657436 5.141948 3.920295e-07
            0.1120532 0.03510684 3.191777 1.503693e-03
age
s2$coef
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 49.9610607 4.41348938 11.320082 1.739952e-25
bmi
            0.6610981 0.15319065 4.315526 2.080933e-05
            0.1926684 0.04250596
                                 4.532738 8.032382e-06
bp
            0.1023814 0.04020184
                                 2.546685 1.130773e-02
age
```

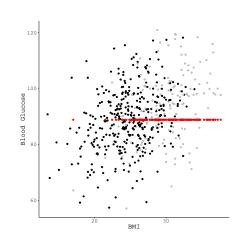
(Unconditional) Mean Substitution

- Replace Y_{mis} with \bar{Y}_{obs}
 - Negatively biases regression slopes and correlations
 - Attenuates measures of linear association



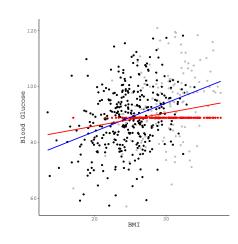
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 - Attenuates measures of linear association



(Unconditional) Mean Substitution

- Replace Y_{mis} with \bar{Y}_{obs}
 - Negatively biases regression slopes and correlations
 - Attenuates measures of linear association



```
imputed <- diabetes2</pre>
imputed[m, "glu"] <- mean(imputed$glu, na.rm = TRUE)</pre>
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3854220 0.3885409
glu 0.3854220 1.0000000 0.3843339
bp 0.3885409 0.3843339 1.0000000
imputed %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.2237473 0.3885409
glu 0.2237473 1.0000000 0.2941464
bp 0.3885409 0.2941464 1.0000000
```

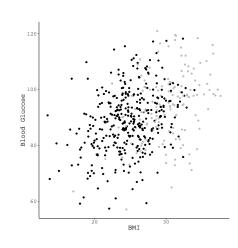
```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 90.37821
mean(imputed$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 88.84524
var(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 133.8721
var(imputed$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 83.94286
```

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()
s2 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = imputed) %>% summary()
s1$r.squared
[1] 0.2291948
s2$r.squared
[1] 0.1123001
```

```
s1$coef
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 48.7487495 3.50863686 13.893928 2.646709e-37
bmi
            0.7048819 0.11361568 6.204090 1.161375e-09
bp
            0.1880635 0.03657436 5.141948 3.920295e-07
            0.1120532 0.03510684 3.191777 1.503693e-03
age
s2$coef
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 66.18746060 2.98157675 22.198812 2.501941e-76
bmi
            0.24912441 0.09654857 2.580301 1.015781e-02
            0.13226112 0.03108024 4.255473 2.494880e-05
bp
            0.07616808 0.02983316 2.553135 1.097403e-02
age
```

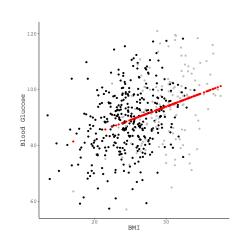
Deterministic Regression Imputation (Conditional Mean Substitution)

- Replace Y_{mis} with \widehat{Y}_{mis} from some regression equation
 - Positively biases regression slopes and correlations
 - Inflates measures of linear association



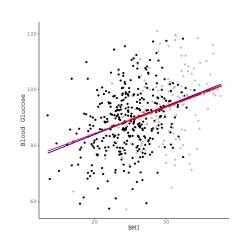
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Deterministic Regression Imputation (Conditional Mean Substitution)

- Replace Y_{mis} with \widehat{Y}_{mis} from some regression equation
 - Positively biases regression slopes and correlations
 - Inflates measures of linear association





```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3854220 0.3885409
glu 0.3854220 1.0000000 0.3843339
bp 0.3885409 0.3843339 1.0000000
imputed %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi
              glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.4340619 0.3885409
glu 0.4340619 1.0000000 0.4467209
bp 0.3885409 0.4467209 1.0000000
```

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 90.37821
mean(imputed$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 90.40121
var(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 133.8721
var(imputed$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 96.52101
```

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()
s2 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = imputed) %>% summary()
s1$r.squared
[1] 0.2291948
s2$r.squared
[1] 0.2978124
```

```
s1$coef
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 48.7487495 3.50863686 13.893928 2.646709e-37
bmi
            0.7048819 0.11361568 6.204090 1.161375e-09
bp
            0.1880635 0.03657436 5.141948 3.920295e-07
            0.1120532 0.03510684 3.191777 1.503693e-03
age
s2$coef
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 49.9610607 2.84353479 17.570054 4.384784e-54
bmi
            0.6610981 0.09207853 7.179720 2.568843e-12
            0.1926684 0.02964127 6.500004 1.960043e-10
bp
            0.1023814 0.02845194
                                 3.598399 3.523183e-04
age
```

General Issues with Deletion-Based Methods

- Biased parameter estimates unless data are MCAR
- · Generalizability issues

General Issues with Simple Single Imputation Methods

- Biased parameter estimates even when data are MCAR
- Attenuates variability in any treated variables

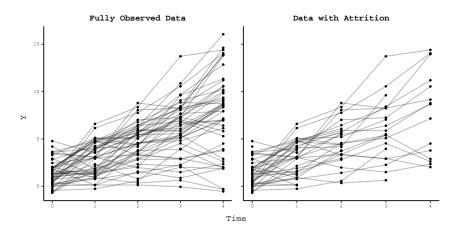
Averaging Available Items (Person-Mean Imputation)

- Compute aggregate scores using only available values
 - Missing data must be MCAR
 - Each item must contributes equally to the aggregate score

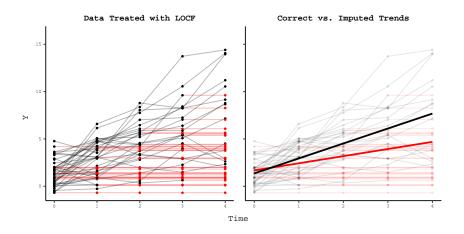
Last Observation Carried Forward (LOCF)

- Replace post-dropout values with the most recent observed value
 - Assume that dropouts would maintain their last known values
 - Attenuates estimates of growth/development

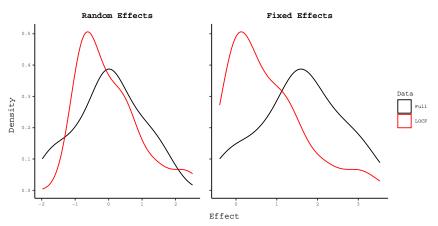
LOCF



LOCF

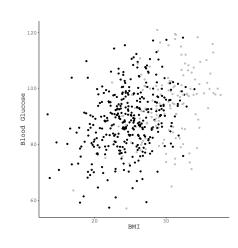


```
## Fit some multilevel regression models
fit1 <- lmer(y ~ t + (t | id), data = dat1) # Full data
fit2 <- lmer(y ~ t + (t | id), data = dat3) # LOCF data</pre>
```



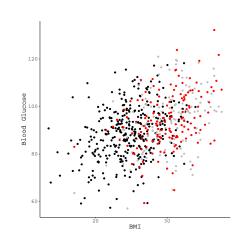
Stochastic Regression Imputation

- Fill Y_{mis} with \widehat{Y}_{mis} plus some random noise.
 - Produces unbiased parameter estimates and predictions
 - Computationally efficient
 - Attenuates standard errors
 - Makes Cls and prediction intervals too narrow



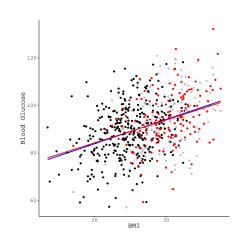
Stochastic Regression Imputation

- Fill Y_{mis} with \widehat{Y}_{mis} plus some random noise.
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Stochastic Regression Imputation

- Fill Y_{mis} with \widehat{Y}_{mis} plus some random noise.
 - Produces unbiased parameter estimates and predictions
 - Computationally efficient
 - Attenuates standard errors
 - Makes CIs and prediction intervals too narrow





```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3854220 0.3885409
glu 0.3854220 1.0000000 0.3843339
bp 0.3885409 0.3843339 1.0000000
imputed %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi
              glu
                           bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3971192 0.3885409
glu 0.3971192 1.0000000 0.3905143
bp 0.3885409 0.3905143 1.0000000
```

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 90.37821
mean(imputed$glu)
[1] 90.4662
var(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 133.8721
var(imputed$glu)
[1] 129.1035
```

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()
s2 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = imputed) %>% summary()
s1$r.squared
[1] 0.2291948
s2$r.squared
[1] 0.2353581
```

```
s1$coef
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 48.7487495 3.50863686 13.893928 2.646709e-37
bmi
            0.7048819 0.11361568 6.204090 1.161375e-09
bp
            0.1880635 0.03657436 5.141948 3.920295e-07
            0.1120532 0.03510684 3.191777 1.503693e-03
age
s2$coef
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 48.84777739 3.43177719 14.233959 8.522463e-39
            0.72466078 0.11112683 6.521024 1.722970e-10
bmi
            0.19092709 0.03577317 5.337159 1.439093e-07
bp
            0.09554028 0.03433779 2.782365 5.602110e-03
age
```

Nonresponse Weighting

- Weight the observed cases to correct for nonresponse bias
 - Popular in survey research and official statistics
 - Only worth considering with Unit Nonresponse
 - Doesn't make any sense with Item Nonresponse



Good Methods (These almost always work)

Multiple Imputation (MI)

- Replace the missing values with M plausible estimates
 - Essentially, a repeated application of stochastic regression imputation (with a particular type of regression model)
 - Produces unbiased parameter estimates and predictions
 - Produces "correct" standard errors, Cls, and prediction intervals
 - Very, very flexible
 - Computationally expensive



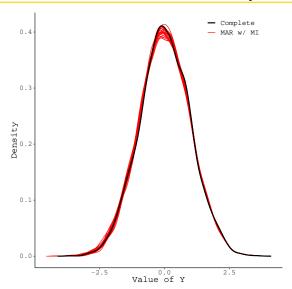
Good Methods (These almost always work)

What happens when we apply MI to our previous MAR example?

The MI-based parameter estimate looks good.

 MI produces unbiased estimates of the parameter when data are MAR.

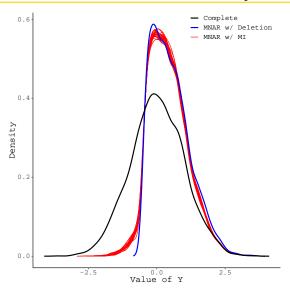
Good Methods (These almost always work)



What about applying MI to our MNAR example?

The MI-based parameter estimate is still biased.

 MI cannot correct bias in parameter estimates when data are MNAR.





```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3854220 0.3885409
glu 0.3854220 1.0000000 0.3843339
bp 0.3885409 0.3843339 1.0000000
pooledCorMat(miceOut, c("bmi", "glu", "bp"))
         bmi glu bp
bmi 1.0000000 0.3829271 0.3885409
glu 0.3829271 1.0000000 0.3872346
bp 0.3885409 0.3872346 1.0000000
```

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 90.37821
with(miceOut, mean(glu)) analyses %>% unlist() %>% mean()
[1] 90.43268
var(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 133.8721
with(miceOut, var(glu))$analyses %>% unlist() %>% mean()
[1] 126.8673
```

```
summary(fit1)$coef
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 48.7487495 3.50863686 13.893928 2.646709e-37
bmi
            0.7048819 0.11361568 6.204090 1.161375e-09
bp
         0.1880635 0.03657436 5.141948 3.920295e-07
            0.1120532 0.03510684 3.191777 1.503693e-03
age
pool(fit2) %>% summary() %>% select(-df)
               estimate std.error statistic
                                                 p.value
        term
  (Intercept) 49.8940856 4.45211017 11.206840 0.000000e+00
2
         bmi 0.6777821 0.15863934 4.272471 6.374475e-05
3
          bp 0.1885484 0.04227740 4.459793 1.562717e-05
4
         age 0.1033259 0.03906305 2.645105 8.811910e-03
```

Bayesian Modeling

- Treat missing values as just another parameter to be estimated
 - Models can be directly estimated in the presence of missing data
 - Essentially, runs MI behind-the-scenes during model estimation
 - The predictors of nonresponse must be included in the model, somehow
 - Computationally expensive



Full Information Maximum Likelihood (FIML)

- Adjust the objective function to only consider the observed parts of the data
 - Models are directly estimated in the presence of missing data
 - The predictors of nonresponse must be included in the model, somehow
 - Unless you write your own optimization program, FIML is only available for certain types of models
 - In linear regression models, FIML cannot treat missing data on predictors (if the predictors are taken as fixed)

```
fit <- diabetes2 %>%
    select(bmi, glu, bp) %>%
    lavCor(missing = "fiml", output = "sampstat")

mean(diabetes1$glu)
[1] 90.37821
fit$mean["glu"]
    glu
90.42414
```

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cov()
        bmi glu bp
bmi 19.12113 19.50017 24.19964
glu 19.50017 133.87211 63.33870
bp 24.19964 63.33870 202.87609
fit$cov
   bmi
        glu bp
bmi 19.083
glu 18.605 125.492
bp 24.151 62.687 202.470
```

```
mod <- "glu ~ 1 + bmi + bp + age"
fit <- sem(mod, data = diabetes2, missing = "fiml")
summary(fit1)$r.squared
[1] 0.2291948
inspect(fit, "r2")
   glu
0.229</pre>
```

```
summary(fit1)$coef %>% round(3)
          Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)
           48.749 3.509 13.894 0.000
bmi
          0.705 0.114 6.204 0.000
          0.188 0.037 5.142 0.000
bp
          0.112 0.035 3.192 0.002
age
parameterEstimates(fit, ci = FALSE)[1:4, ]
 lhs op rhs est se z pvalue
1 glu ~1 49.961 4.388 11.385 0.00
2 glu ~ bmi 0.661 0.152 4.340 0.00
3 glu ~ bp 0.193 0.042 4.559 0.00
4 glu ~ age 0.102 0.040 2.561 0.01
```

References

Little, R. J. A. (1988). A test of missing completely at random for multivariate data with missing values. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *83*(404), 1198–1202. doi: 10.1080/01621459.1988.10478722

