

# Missing Data Basics

Utrecht University Winter School: Missing Data in R



**Utrecht  
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2022-02-03

# Outline

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Missing Data Descriptives

Missing Data Mechanisms

Missing Data Treatments



# What are Missing Data?

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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?

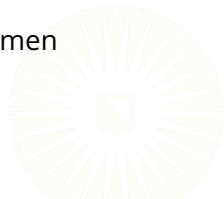
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Missing data are empty cells in a dataset where there should be observed values.

- 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

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

$Y_{mis} :=$  The *missing* 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.

	X	Y
1	x	y
2	x	.
3	.	y
4	.	.

Patterns for  $P = 2$

	X	Y	Z
1	x	y	z
2	x	y	.
3	x	.	z
4	.	y	z
5	x	.	.
6	.	.	z
7	.	y	.
8	.	.	.

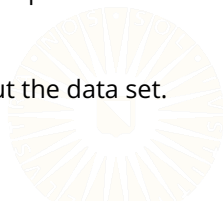
Patterns for  $P = 3$

# Missing Data Pattern

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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

	X	Y	Z
1	x	y	z
2	x	y	z
3	x	y	z
4	x	y	z
5	x	y	z
6	x	.	z
7	x	.	z
8	x	.	z
9	x	.	z
10	x	.	z

Univariate Pattern

	X	Y	Z
1	x	y	z
2	x	y	z
3	x	y	z
4	x	y	.
5	x	y	.
6	x	y	.
7	x	.	.
8	x	.	.
9	x	.	.
10	.	.	.

Monotone Pattern

	X	Y	Z
1	x	.	z
2	x	y	z
3	x	y	z
4	x	.	z
5	x	y	z
6	x	.	z
7	.	y	z
8	x	y	z
9	x	.	.
10	x	y	.

Arbitrary Pattern

# Nonresponse Rates

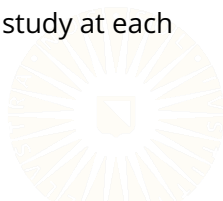
---

## 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

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## 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

# Coverage Measures

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## 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

# Coverage Measures

---

## Inbound Statistic

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

- The proportion of missing cases in  $Y_j$  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  $Y_j$  for which  $Y_k$  is missing

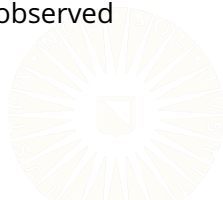
# Coverage Measures

---

## 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  $Y_j$  is missing
- How well the missing values in  $Y_j$  connect to the observed values in  $Y_{-j}$



# Coverage Measures

---

## 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  $Y_j$  is observed
- How well the observed values in  $Y_j$  connect to the missing values in  $Y_{-j}$



# Examples

1. What is the coverage for  $\text{cov}(X, Y)$ ?
2. What is the coverage for  $\text{cov}(W, Y)$ ?
3. What is the coverage for  $\text{cov}(X, Z)$ ?
4. What is the outflux coefficient for  $W$ ?
5. What is the influx coefficient for  $W$ ?

	W	X	Y	Z
1	w	x	y	.
2	w	x	y	.
3	w	x	y	.
4	w	x	y	.
5	w	x	y	.
6	w	.	y	z
7	w	.	y	z
8	w	.	y	z
9	w	.	y	z
10	w	.	y	z



# Examples

1. What is the percent missing at T2?
2. What is the attrition rate at T3?
3. What is the inbound statistic  $I_{32}$ ?
4. What is the outbound statistic  $O_{42}$ ?
5. What is the influx coefficient  $I_3$ ?
6. What is the outflux coefficient  $O_2$ ?

	T1	T2	T3	T4
1	x1	x2	x3	x4
2	x1	x2	x3	x4
3	x1	x2	x3	x4
4	x1	x2	x3	.
5	x1	x2	x3	.
6	x1	x2	.	.
7	x1	x2	.	.
8	x1	.	.	.
9	x1	.	.	.
10	x1	.	.	.

# Missing Data Mechanisms



# Missing Data Mechanisms

---

## Missing Completely at Random (MCAR)

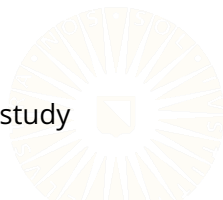
- $P(R|Y_{mis}, Y_{obs}) = P(R)$
- Missingness is unrelated to any study variables.

## 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

---

```
nObs <- 5000 # Sample Size
pm   <- 0.3   # Proportion Missing

sigma <- matrix(c(1.0, 0.5, 0.3,
                  0.5, 1.0, 0.0,
                  0.3, 0.0, 1.0),
                ncol = 3)
tmp <- rmvnorm(nObs, c(0, 0, 0), sigma)

x0 <- tmp[, 1]
y0 <- tmp[, 2]
z0 <- tmp[, 3]

cor(y0, x0) # Check correlation between X and Y

[1] 0.5001822
```

# MCAR Example

---

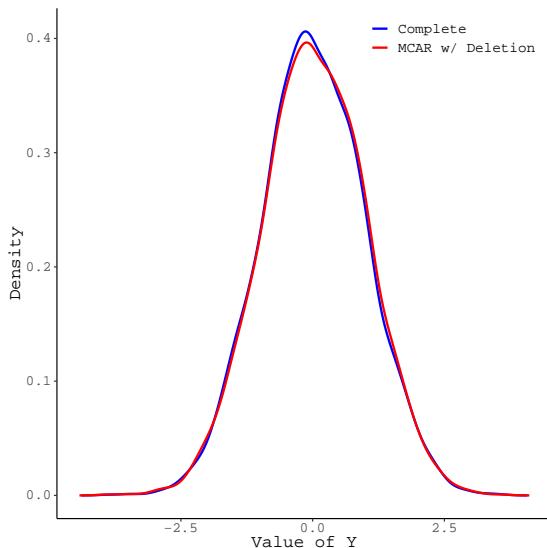
```
## Simulate MCAR Missingness:
mVec <- sample(1 : length(y0), size = pm * length(y0))

yMcar      <- y0
yMcar[mVec] <- NA

cor(yMcar, x0, use = "pairwise") # Look at correlation

[1] 0.5197437
```

# MCAR Example



# MAR Example

---

```
## Simulate MAR Missingness:
mVec <- x0 < quantile(x0, probs = pm)
mean(mVec)

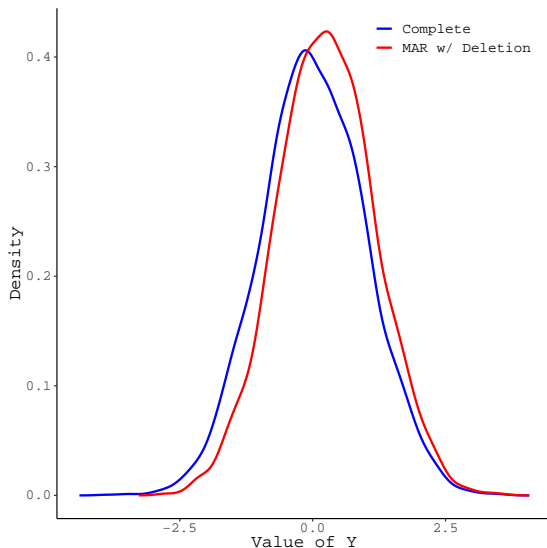
[1] 0.3

yMar      <- y0
yMar[mVec] <- NA

cor(yMar, x0, use = "pairwise") # Not looking so good :(

[1] 0.3825876
```

# MAR Example





# MNAR Example

---

```
## Simulate MNAR Missingness:
mVec <- y0 < quantile(y0, probs = pm)
mean(mVec)

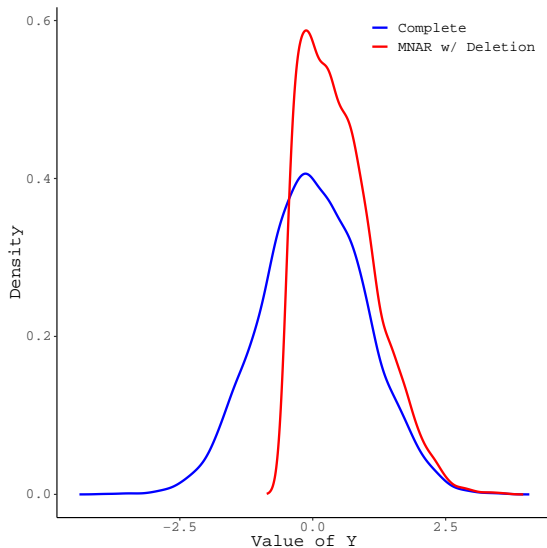
[1] 0.3

yMnar <- y0
yMnar[mVec] <- NA

cor(yMnar, x0, use = "pairwise") # Hmm...looks pretty bad.

[1] 0.3901487
```

# MNAR Example



# Crucial Nuance

---

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

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

# Crucial Nuance

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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?

```
mVec <- z0 < quantile(z0, probs = pm)

y      <- y0
y[mVec] <- NA

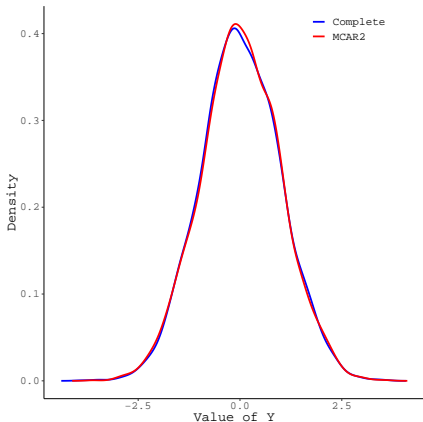
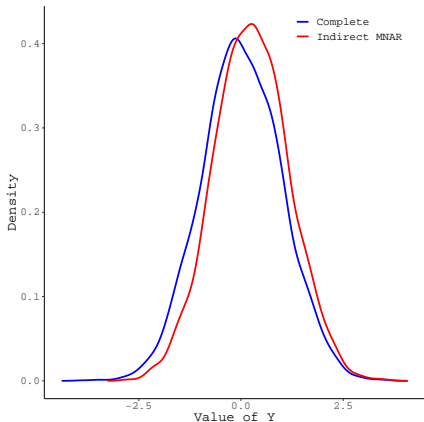
cor(y, x0, use = "pairwise")

[1] 0.5119953
```

**Answer:** We get back to MCAR :)

# Crucial Nuance

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

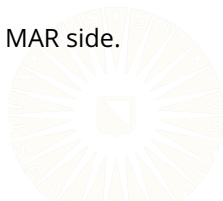


# Testing the Missing Data Mechanism

---

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, but we can never know that we have them all.
- 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.

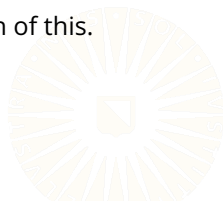


# Testing the Missing Data Mechanism

---

We can 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*,  $\mathbf{Z}$ .
  - Use a t-test to compare the subset of  $\mathbf{Z}_p$  that corresponds to  $\mathbf{Y}_{mis}$  to the subset corresponding to  $\mathbf{Y}_{obs}$ .
  - The Little (1988) MCAR test is a multivariate version of this.





# Example

---

Create some toy datasets from the variables we generated above.

```
mcarData <- data.frame(y = yMcar, x = x0, z = z0,  
                      m = as.numeric(is.na(yMcar))  
                      )  
marData  <- data.frame(y = yMar, x = x0, z = z0,  
                      m = as.numeric(is.na(yMar))  
                      )  
mnarData <- data.frame(y = yMnar, x = x0, z = z0,  
                      m = as.numeric(is.na(yMnar))  
                      )
```

# T-Test Example

---

Test for dependence between  $X$  and  $M_Y$  in MCAR data.

```
mcarData %$% t.test(x ~ m) %>% wrap()
```

Welch Two Sample t-test

data: x by m

t = 0.68563, df = 2852.8, p-value = 0.493

alternative hypothesis: true difference in means between  
group 0 and group 1 is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

-0.03921499 0.08138543

sample estimates:

mean in group 0 mean in group 1

0.013908816 -0.007176408

# T-Test Example

---

Test for dependence between  $Z$  and  $M_Y$  in MCAR data.

```
mcarData %$% t.test(z ~ m) %>% wrap()
```

Welch Two Sample t-test

data: z by m

t = 0.38865, df = 2841.9, p-value = 0.6976

alternative hypothesis: true difference in means between  
group 0 and group 1 is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

-0.04848298 0.07245421

sample estimates:

mean in group 0 mean in group 1

0.009151786 -0.002833825

# T-Test Example

---

Test for dependence between  $X$  and  $M_Y$  in MAR data.

```
marData %>% t.test(x ~ m) %>% wrap()
```

Welch Two Sample t-test

data: x by m

$t = 92.56$ ,  $df = 3832.8$ ,  $p\text{-value} < 2.2e-16$

alternative hypothesis: true difference in means between  
group 0 and group 1 is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

1.614203 1.684066

sample estimates:

mean in group 0	mean in group 1
0.5023237	-1.1468112

# T-Test Example

---

Test for dependence between  $Z$  and  $M_Y$  in MAR data.

```
marData %$% t.test(z ~ m) %>% wrap()
```

Welch Two Sample t-test

data: z by m

t = 16.913, df = 2832.1, p-value < 2.2e-16

alternative hypothesis: true difference in means between  
group 0 and group 1 is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

0.4491108 0.5669049

sample estimates:

mean in group 0	mean in group 1
0.1579585	-0.3500494

# T-Test Example

---

Test for dependence between  $X$  and  $M_Y$  in MNAR data.

```
mnarData %$% t.test(x ~ m) %>% wrap()
```

Welch Two Sample t-test

data: x by m

t = 28.251, df = 2926.7, p-value < 2.2e-16

alternative hypothesis: true difference in means between  
group 0 and group 1 is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

0.7439001 0.8548632

sample estimates:

mean in group 0 mean in group 1

0.2473977 -0.5519839

# T-Test Example

---

Test for dependence between  $Z$  and  $M_Y$  in MNAR data.

```
mnarData %$% t.test(z ~ m) %>% wrap()
```

Welch Two Sample t-test

data: z by m

$t = -0.33313$ ,  $df = 2778.5$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.7391$

alternative hypothesis: true difference in means between  
group 0 and group 1 is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

-0.07145430 0.05070098

sample estimates:

mean in group 0 mean in group 1

0.002443105 0.012819764

# Little (1988) MCAR Test Example

---

Use the Little (1988) MCAR test on MCAR data.

```
mcaraData %>% select(-m) %>% mcar_test()

# A tibble: 1 x 4
  statistic    df p.value missing.patterns
  <dbl> <dbl>   <dbl>         <int>
1    0.504     2    0.777             2
```





# Little (1988) MCAR Test Example

---

Use the Little (1988) MCAR test on MAR data.

```
marData %>% select(-m) %>% mcar_test()

# A tibble: 1 x 4
  statistic    df p.value missing.patterns
  <dbl> <dbl>   <dbl>          <int>
1    2862.     2      0              2
```



# Little (1988) MCAR Test Example

---

Use the Little (1988) MCAR test on MNAR data.

```
mnarData %>% select(-m) %>% mcar_test()

# A tibble: 1 x 4
  statistic    df p.value missing.patterns
    <dbl> <dbl>   <dbl>         <int>
1    746.     2     0.000             2
```



# Logistic Regression Example

---

```
## Read in some data:
diabetes1 <- readRDS(paste0(dataDir, "diabetes.rds"))

## Generate MAR missingness:
diabetes1$m <- simLogisticMissingness0(data      = diabetes1,
                                       pm         = 0.25,
                                       preds      = c("bmi", "tc"),
                                       type       = "high",
                                       stdData    = TRUE)$r

## Predict the missingness using logistic regression:
fit <- diabetes1 %>%
  select(-glu) %>%
  glm(m ~ ., data = ., family = "binomial")
```

# Logistic Regression Example

```
partSummary(fit, 3)
```

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	-1.459e+01	4.031e+00	-3.619	0.000296
age	1.205e-02	1.141e-02	1.056	0.290782
bmi	2.269e-01	4.054e-02	5.596	2.19e-08
bp	-1.213e-02	1.147e-02	-1.057	0.290292
tc	2.949e-02	2.897e-02	1.018	0.308696
ldl	2.703e-03	2.625e-02	0.103	0.917986
hdl	-5.961e-05	3.990e-02	-0.001	0.998808
tch	-3.160e-01	2.889e-01	-1.094	0.274049
ltg	5.588e-01	8.952e-01	0.624	0.532537
progress	2.501e-03	2.380e-03	1.051	0.293237
sexmale	4.336e-02	2.978e-01	0.146	0.884234

# Missing Data Treatments



# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

---

## Listwise Deletion (Complete Case Analysis)

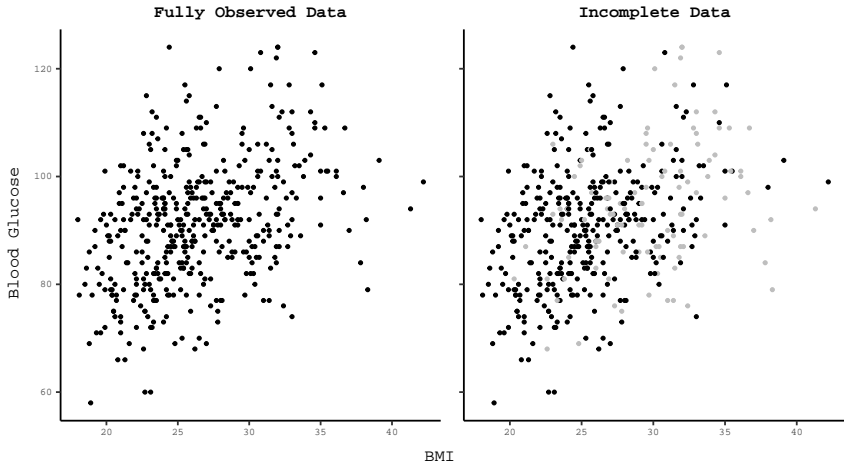
- Use only complete observations for the analysis
  - Very wasteful (can throw out lots of useful data)
  - Loss of statistical power

## Pairwise Deletion (Available Case Analysis)

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

```
diabetes2 <- diabetes1
mVec <- simLogisticMissingness0(data = diabetes1,
                                pm    = 0.25,
                                preds = "bmi",
                                stdData = TRUE)$r
diabetes2[mVec, "glu"] <- NA
```

# Example



# Example

---

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.38868	0.3954109
glu	0.3886800	1.00000	0.3904300
bp	0.3954109	0.39043	1.0000000

```
diabetes2 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor(use = "complete")
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.3673707	0.3260986
glu	0.3673707	1.0000000	0.3662607
bp	0.3260986	0.3662607	1.0000000



# Example

---

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.38868	0.3954109
glu	0.3886800	1.00000	0.3904300
bp	0.3954109	0.39043	1.0000000

```
diabetes2 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor(use = "pairwise")
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.3673707	0.3954109
glu	0.3673707	1.0000000	0.3662607
bp	0.3954109	0.3662607	1.0000000

# Example

---

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 91.26018
```

```
mean(diabetes2$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
[1] 90.18639
```

```
var(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 132.1657
```

```
var(diabetes2$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
[1] 125.4755
```

# Example

---

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()  
s2 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes2) %>% summary()
```

```
s1$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.2450996
```

```
s2$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.2185308
```

# Example

---

s1\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	47.6809340	3.76076018	12.678536	1.351038e-31
bmi	0.6940756	0.11782779	5.890594	7.676778e-09
bp	0.1876015	0.03926201	4.778194	2.417752e-06
age	0.1549222	0.03871817	4.001279	7.396263e-05

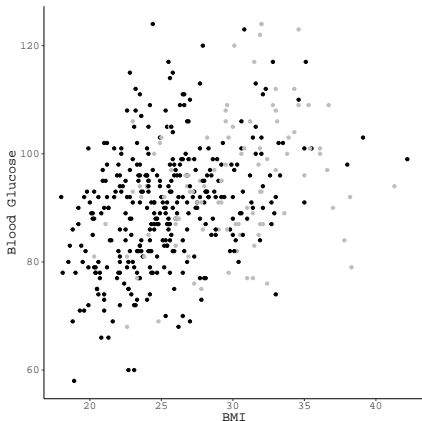
s2\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	47.4726727	4.52293249	10.495994	1.837667e-22
bmi	0.7423454	0.14650653	5.066978	6.703498e-07
bp	0.1991158	0.04494852	4.429863	1.279770e-05
age	0.1132075	0.04384514	2.581985	1.024882e-02

# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

## (Unconditional) Mean Substitution

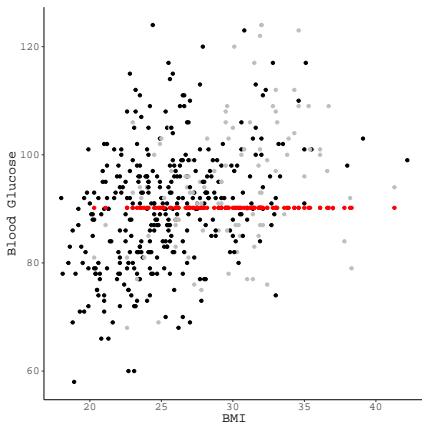
- Replace  $Y_{mis}$  with  $\bar{Y}_{obs}$ 
  - Negatively biases regression slopes and correlations
  - Attenuates measures of linear association



# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

## (Unconditional) Mean Substitution

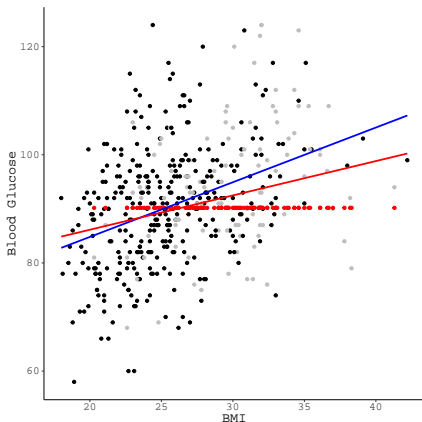
- Replace  $Y_{mis}$  with  $\bar{Y}_{obs}$ 
  - Negatively biases regression slopes and correlations
  - Attenuates measures of linear association



# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

## (Unconditional) Mean Substitution

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



# Example

---

```
diabetes3 <- diabetes2
diabetes3[mVec, "glu"] <- mean(diabetes3$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.38868	0.3954109
glu	0.3886800	1.00000	0.3904300
bp	0.3954109	0.39043	1.0000000

```
diabetes3 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.2865045	0.3954109
glu	0.2865045	1.0000000	0.3079641
bp	0.3954109	0.3079641	1.0000000



# Example

---

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 91.26018
```

```
mean(diabetes3$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
[1] 90.18639
```

```
var(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 132.1657
```

```
var(diabetes3$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
[1] 95.88494
```

# Example

---

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()  
s3 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes3) %>% summary()
```

```
s1$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.2450996
```

```
s3$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.14431
```

# Example

---

s1\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	47.6809340	3.76076018	12.678536	1.351038e-31
bmi	0.6940756	0.11782779	5.890594	7.676778e-09
bp	0.1876015	0.03926201	4.778194	2.417752e-06
age	0.1549222	0.03871817	4.001279	7.396263e-05

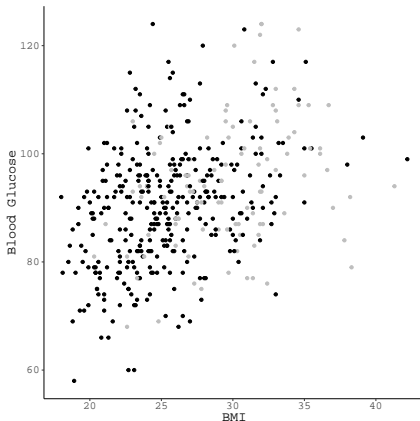
s3\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	61.6619753	3.41039602	18.080591	5.453534e-55
bmi	0.4134903	0.10685058	3.869799	1.254941e-04
bp	0.1325834	0.03560424	3.723809	2.218616e-04
age	0.1044901	0.03511106	2.975988	3.082192e-03

# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

## Deterministic Regression Imputation (Conditional Mean Substitution)

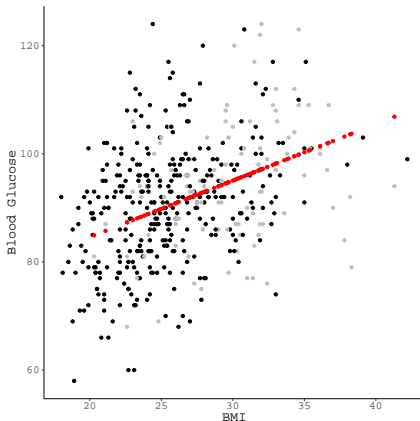
- Replace  $Y_{mis}$  with  $\hat{Y}_{mis}$  from some regression equation
  - Positively biases regression slopes and correlations
  - Inflates measures of linear association



# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

## Deterministic Regression Imputation (Conditional Mean Substitution)

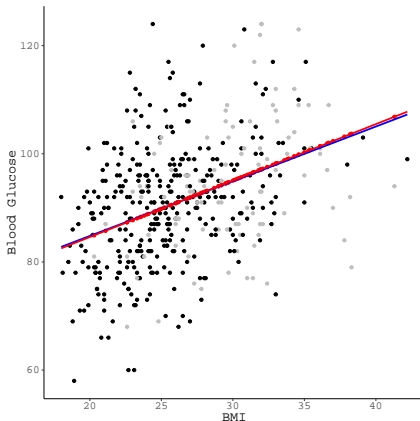
- Replace  $Y_{mis}$  with  $\hat{Y}_{mis}$  from some regression equation
  - Positively biases regression slopes and correlations
  - Inflates measures of linear association



# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

Deterministic Regression  
Imputation  
(Conditional Mean Substitution)

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



# Example

---

```
diabetes3 <- mice(data      = diabetes2,  
                  m        = 1,  
                  maxit     = 1,  
                  printFlag = FALSE,  
                  method    = "norm.predict") %>%  
complete(1)
```



# Example

---

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.38868	0.3954109
glu	0.3886800	1.00000	0.3904300
bp	0.3954109	0.39043	1.0000000

```
diabetes3 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.4214516	0.3954109
glu	0.4214516	1.0000000	0.4201420
bp	0.3954109	0.4201420	1.0000000



# Example

---

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 91.26018
```

```
mean(diabetes3$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
[1] 91.22398
```

```
var(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 132.1657
```

```
var(diabetes3$glu, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
[1] 107.8749
```

# Example

---

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()  
s3 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes3) %>% summary()
```

```
s1$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.2450996
```

```
s3$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.2737229
```

# Example

---

s1\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	47.6809340	3.76076018	12.678536	1.351038e-31
bmi	0.6940756	0.11782779	5.890594	7.676778e-09
bp	0.1876015	0.03926201	4.778194	2.417752e-06
age	0.1549222	0.03871817	4.001279	7.396263e-05

s3\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	49.2273068	3.33259722	14.771454	2.347398e-40
bmi	0.6895143	0.10441308	6.603716	1.163618e-10
bp	0.1905886	0.03479202	5.477938	7.269262e-08
age	0.1189566	0.03431010	3.467101	5.780722e-04

# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

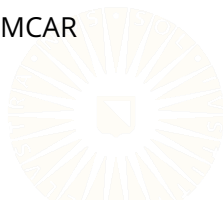
---

## 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



# Bad Methods (These almost never work)

---

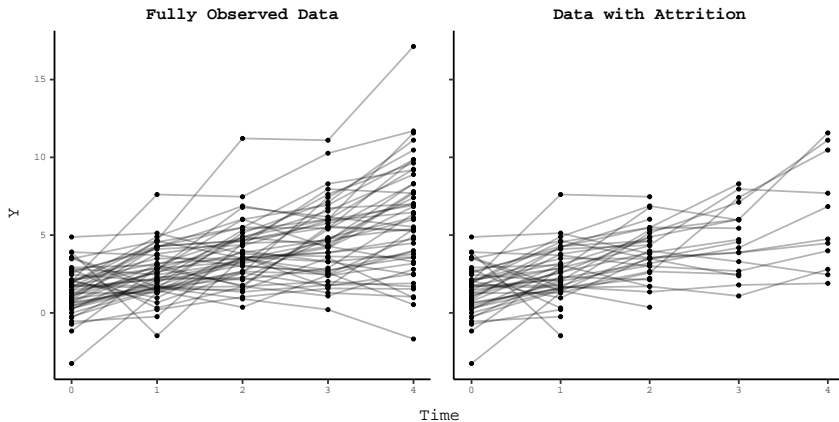
## Averaging Available Items (Person-Mean Imputation)

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

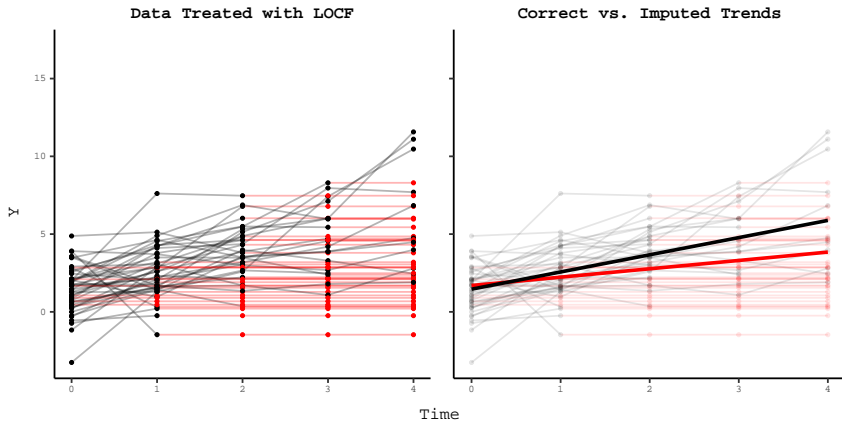
## Last Observation Carried Forward (LOCF)

- 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

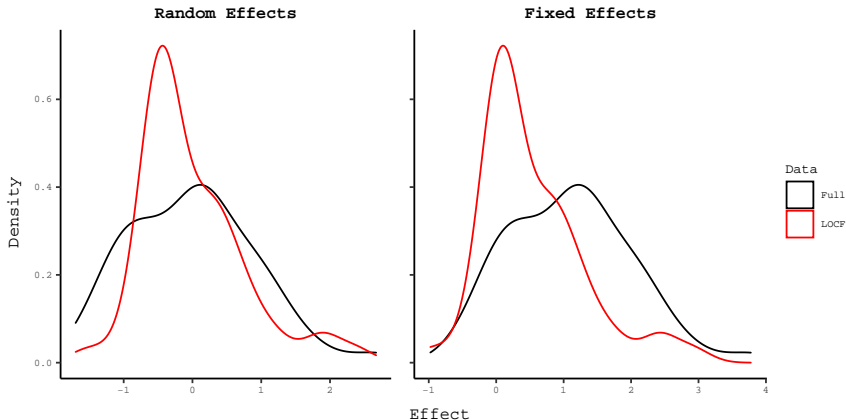


# LOCF



# Example

```
## 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
```

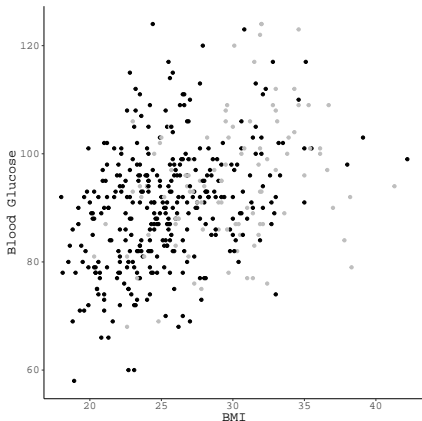




# OK Methods (These sometimes work)

## Stochastic Regression Imputation

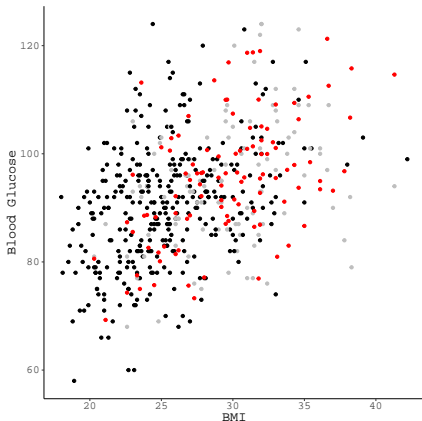
- Fill  $Y_{mis}$  with  $\hat{Y}_{mis}$  plus some random noise.
  - Produces unbiased parameter estimates and predictions
  - Computationally efficient
  - Attenuates standard errors
  - Makes CIs and prediction intervals too narrow



# OK Methods (These sometimes work)

## Stochastic Regression Imputation

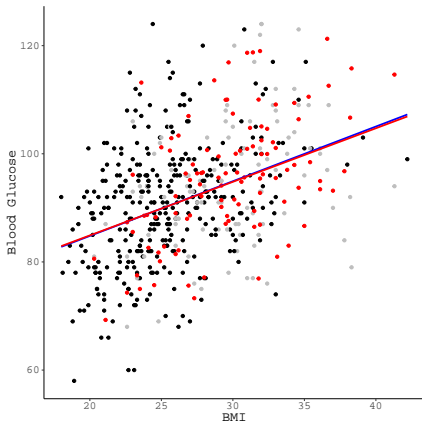
- Fill  $Y_{mis}$  with  $\hat{Y}_{mis}$  plus some random noise.
  - Produces unbiased parameter estimates and predictions
  - Computationally efficient
  - Attenuates standard errors
  - Makes CIs and prediction intervals too narrow



# OK Methods (These sometimes work)

## Stochastic Regression Imputation

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



# Example

---

```
diabetes3 <- mice(data      = diabetes2,  
                  m        = 1,  
                  maxit    = 1,  
                  printFlag = FALSE,  
                  method    = "norm.nob") %>%  
complete(1)
```



# Example

---

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.38868	0.3954109
glu	0.3886800	1.00000	0.3904300
bp	0.3954109	0.39043	1.0000000

```
diabetes3 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.4159412	0.3954109
glu	0.4159412	1.0000000	0.4114401
bp	0.3954109	0.4114401	1.0000000

# Example

---

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 91.26018
```

```
mean(diabetes3$glu)
```

```
[1] 91.39088
```

```
var(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 132.1657
```

```
var(diabetes3$glu)
```

```
[1] 131.6918
```

# Example

---

```
s1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1) %>% summary()  
s3 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes3) %>% summary()
```

```
s1$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.2450996
```

```
s3$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.2615705
```

# Example

---

s1\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	47.6809340	3.76076018	12.678536	1.351038e-31
bmi	0.6940756	0.11782779	5.890594	7.676778e-09
bp	0.1876015	0.03926201	4.778194	2.417752e-06
age	0.1549222	0.03871817	4.001279	7.396263e-05

s3\$coef

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	45.9648033	3.71283254	12.379983	2.157986e-30
bmi	0.7578105	0.11632617	6.514532	2.005708e-10
bp	0.2079086	0.03876165	5.363772	1.322521e-07
age	0.1187247	0.03822474	3.105964	2.019814e-03



# OK Methods (These sometimes work)

---

## 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*

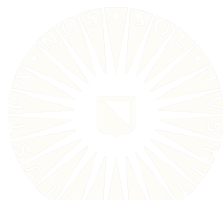


# Good Methods (These almost always work)

---

## 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, CIs, 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?

```
## Estimate imputation model:
miceOut <- mice(data      = data.frame(y = yMar, x = x0),
               m          = 25,
               maxit       = 1,
               method      = "norm",
               printFlag   = FALSE)

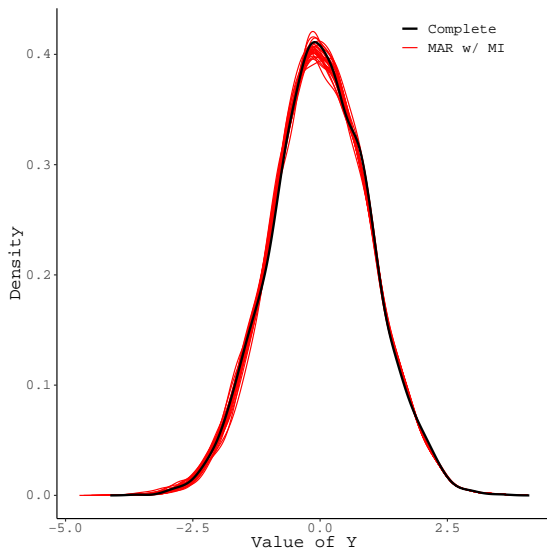
## Estimate and pool M correlations:
with(miceOut, cor(y, x))$analyses %>% unlist() %>% mean()

[1] 0.5036065
```

The MI-based parameter estimate looks good.

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

# Good Methods (These almost always work)



# Good Methods (These *almost* always work)

What about applying MI to our MNAR example?

```
## Estimate imputation model:
miceOut <- mice(data      = data.frame(y = yMnar, x = x0),
               m          = 25,
               maxit       = 1,
               method      = "norm",
               printFlag   = FALSE)

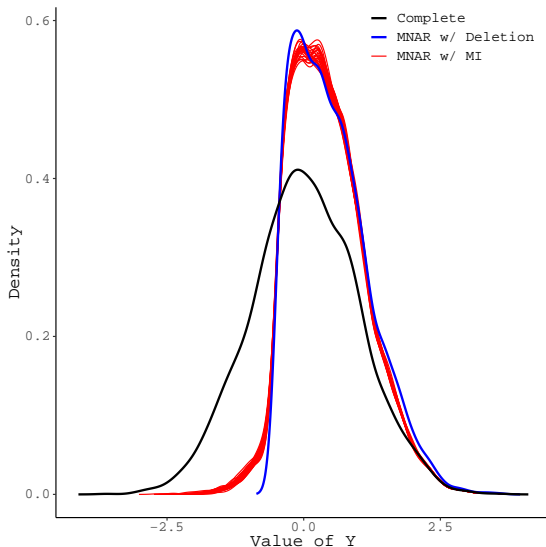
## Estimate and pool M correlations:
with(miceOut, cor(y, x))$analyses %>% unlist() %>% mean()

[1] 0.4120722
```

The MI-based parameter estimate is still biased.

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

# Good Methods (These *almost* always work)



# Example

---

```
miceOut <- mice(data      = diabetes2,  
                m         = 25,  
                maxit     = 1,  
                printFlag = FALSE,  
                method    = "norm")
```



# Example

---

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cor()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.38868	0.3954109
glu	0.3886800	1.00000	0.3904300
bp	0.3954109	0.39043	1.0000000

```
pooledCorMat(miceOut, c("bmi", "glu", "bp"))
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	1.0000000	0.3933073	0.3954109
glu	0.3933073	1.0000000	0.3878270
bp	0.3954109	0.3878270	1.0000000



# Example

---

```
mean(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 91.26018
```

```
with(miceOut, mean(glu))$analyses %>% unlist() %>% mean()
```

```
[1] 91.26079
```

```
var(diabetes1$glu)
```

```
[1] 132.1657
```

```
with(miceOut, var(glu))$analyses %>% unlist() %>% mean()
```

```
[1] 131.2224
```

# Example

---

```
fit1 <- lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age, data = diabetes1)
fit2 <- with(miceOut, lm(glu ~ bmi + bp + age))

summary(fit1)$r.squared

[1] 0.2450996

pool.r.squared(fit2)

      est      lo 95      hi 95      fmi
R^2 0.2365738 0.154133 0.3250903 0.3613654
```

# Example

```
summary(fit1)$coef
```

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	47.6809340	3.76076018	12.678536	1.351038e-31
bmi	0.6940756	0.11782779	5.890594	7.676778e-09
bp	0.1876015	0.03926201	4.778194	2.417752e-06
age	0.1549222	0.03871817	4.001279	7.396263e-05

```
pool(fit2) %>% summary() %>% select(-df)
```

	term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
1	(Intercept)	48.3472296	4.71987637	10.243325	0.000000e+00
2	bmi	0.7167485	0.16140262	4.440749	3.035277e-05
3	bp	0.1933515	0.04622755	4.182603	4.774461e-05
4	age	0.1176594	0.04317805	2.724981	6.931676e-03

# Good Methods (These almost always work)

---

## 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

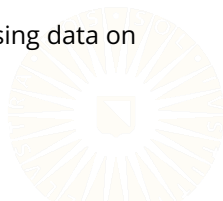


# Good Methods (These almost always work)

---

## 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)



# Example

---

```
fit <- diabetes2 %>%  
  select(bmi, glu, bp) %>%  
  lavCor(missing = "fiml", output = "sampstat")  
  
mean(diabetes1$glu)  
  
[1] 91.26018  
  
fit$mean["glu"]  
  
      glu  
91.43176
```

# Example

---

```
diabetes1 %>% select(bmi, glu, bp) %>% cov()
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	19.51980	19.74191	24.16288
glu	19.74191	132.16571	62.08191
bp	24.16288	62.08191	191.30440

```
fit$cov
```

	bmi	glu	bp
bmi	19.476		
glu	20.954	130.943	
bp	24.108	63.330	190.872

# Example

---

```
mod <- "glu ~ 1 + bmi + bp + age"
fit <- sem(mod, data = diabetes2, missing = "fiml")

summary(fit1)$r.squared

[1] 0.2450996

inspect(fit, "r2")

    glu
0.248
```



# Example

```
summary(fit1)$coef %>% round(3)
```

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	47.681	3.761	12.679	0
bmi	0.694	0.118	5.891	0
bp	0.188	0.039	4.778	0
age	0.155	0.039	4.001	0

```
parameterEstimates(fit, ci = FALSE)[1:4, ]
```

	lhs op rhs	est	se	z	pvalue
1	glu ~1	47.473	4.496	10.559	0.000
2	glu ~ bmi	0.742	0.146	5.097	0.000
3	glu ~ bp	0.199	0.045	4.456	0.000
4	glu ~ age	0.113	0.044	2.597	0.009

# 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

