**5 Synthetic Control Modeling**

Text in the published paper:

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| A synthetic control model methodology seems promising on the outset as a way to answer this question. Why can’t we weigh countries by their similarity to Ukraine in 2023 and on, and observe what happens when they experience a spike in passengers flying into the country? There are several reasons, the first being that Ukraine never actually experienced an airport reopening and lacks a long (and reliable) data period, so the model cannot be based on Ukraine itself. If Ukraine won’t work as the entity of interest, why can’t we use the treatment variable from the DID model, melding together countries that feature a spike in passengers flying into the country? Package support for combining multiple intervention entities is very thin, as is staggered treatment adoption (as the spikes occur at different times in the country’s data series). We found a package that would theoretically be able to handle this ([augsynth](https://github.com/ebenmichael/augsynth)), but it requires an old version of R where support has deprecated significantly. Handling the synthetic control challenge is a problem for future research. |

Replication notes: