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Lecture on Conformal Prediction

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ECAS-SFdS School



Previous lectures

1. On exchangeability (theory)
2. Split conformal prediction (methods) (theory)
3. Towards conditional coverage? (practical session) (theory) (case studies)
4. Beyond exchangeability (methods) (case studies)

\widehat{C}_α = estimated predictive set based on n data points.

Definition (Distribution-free validity).

\widehat{C}_α achieves distribution-free validity if:

- for any distribution \mathcal{D} ,
- for any associated exchangeable joint distribution $\mathcal{D}^{\text{exch}(n+1)}$,

we have that:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{D}^{\text{exch}(n+1)}} \left(Y_{n+1} \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) \right) \geq 1 - \alpha.$$

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5. For a new point X_{n+1} , return

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↪ The definition of the **conformity scores** is crucial, as they incorporate almost all the information: data + underlying model

- **Simple** procedure which quantifies the uncertainty of **any** predictive model \hat{A} by returning predictive regions
- **Finite-sample** guarantees
- **Distribution-free** as long as the data are **exchangeable** (and so are the scores)

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↪ marginal also over the whole calibration set and the test point!

Calibration-condition coverage distribution under no tie

Theorem (Distribution conditional on the calibration data).

If the scores are a.s. distinct, SCP outputs \widehat{C}_α such that for any distribution \mathcal{D} :

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{D}} \left(Y_{n+1} \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) | (X_i, Y_i)_{i \in \text{Cal}} \right) \sim \beta(k_\alpha, \#\text{Cal} + 1 - k_\alpha),$$

with $k_\alpha = \lceil (1 - \alpha)(\#\text{Cal} + 1) \rceil$.

From the β distribution, we get that it has

expectation $\frac{k_\alpha}{k_\alpha + \#\text{Cal} + 1 - k_\alpha} = \frac{k_\alpha}{\#\text{Cal} + 1} = \frac{\lceil (1 - \alpha)(\#\text{Cal} + 1) \rceil}{\#\text{Cal} + 1} \geq 1 - \alpha,$

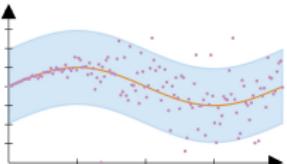
and variance $\frac{k_\alpha (\#\text{Cal} + 1 - k_\alpha)}{(\#\text{Cal} + 1)^2 (\#\text{Cal} + 2)} \approx \frac{\alpha(1 - \alpha)}{\#\text{Cal} + 2}.$

SCP: what choices for the regression scores?

$$\widehat{C}_\alpha(\textcolor{violet}{X}_{n+1}) = \{y \text{ such that } \textcolor{teal}{s}(\textcolor{violet}{X}_{n+1}, y; \hat{A}) \leq q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})\}$$

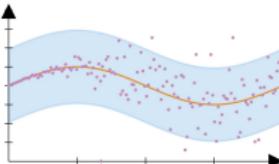
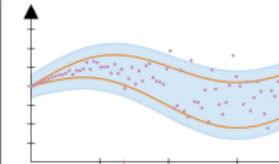
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Standard SCP Vovk et al. (2005)			
$s(\hat{A}(X), Y)$	$ \hat{\mu}(X) - Y $		
$\widehat{C}_\alpha(x)$	$[\hat{\mu}(x) \pm q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})]$		
Visu.			
✓	black-box around a “usable” prediction		
✗	not adaptive		

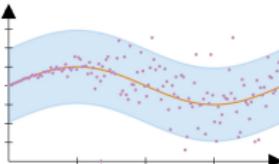
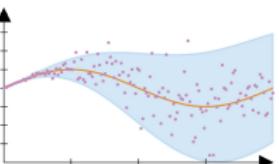
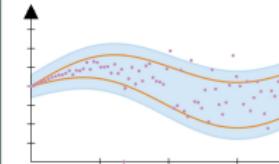
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	Standard SCP Vovk et al. (2005)	CQR Romano et al. (2019)
$s(\hat{A}(X), Y)$	$ \hat{\mu}(X) - Y $	$\max(\widehat{QR}_{\text{lower}}(X) - Y,$ $Y - \widehat{QR}_{\text{upper}}(X))$ $[\widehat{QR}_{\text{lower}}(x) - q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S});$ $\widehat{QR}_{\text{upper}}(x) + q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})]$
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$s(\hat{\mathbf{A}}(X), Y)$	$ \hat{\mu}(X) - Y $	$\frac{ \hat{\mu}(X) - Y }{\hat{\rho}(X)}$	$\max(\widehat{QR}_{lower}(X) - Y, Y - \widehat{QR}_{upper}(X))$ $[\widehat{QR}_{lower}(x) - q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})\hat{\rho}(x); \widehat{QR}_{upper}(x) + q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})]$
$\widehat{C}_\alpha(x)$	$[\hat{\mu}(x) \pm q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})]$	$[\hat{\mu}(x) \pm q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})\hat{\rho}(x)]$	
Visu.			
✓	black-box around a “usable” prediction	black-box around a “usable” prediction	adaptive
✗	not adaptive	limited adaptiveness	no black-box around a “usable” prediction

Another view on SCP (nested sets, Gupta et al., 2022)



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4. Entry radius of y in the sets given by x are then computed on **each of the calibration points** as: $\hat{r}(X_i, Y_i) := \inf \left\{ t \in \mathcal{T} : Y_i \in R_t(X_i; \hat{A}) \right\}, i \in Cal$
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5. Compute the $1 - \alpha$ quantile of these scores, noted $q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{R})$
6. For a new point X_{n+1} , return
$$\widehat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) := R_{q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{R})}(x; \hat{A}) = \{y \in \mathcal{Y} \text{ such that } \hat{r}(x, y) \leq q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{R})\}$$

Example (Nested sets for the absolute value of the mean-regression residuals).

$$s(x, y; \hat{\mu}) = |y - \hat{\mu}(x)| \iff \begin{cases} R_t(\cdot; \hat{\mu}) \equiv [\hat{\mu}(\cdot) \pm t] \\ \mathcal{T} = \mathbb{R}_+ \end{cases}$$

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Example (Nested sets for CQR).

$$\begin{aligned} s(x, y; (\widehat{QR}_{\text{lower}}, \widehat{QR}_{\text{upper}})) \\ = \max(\widehat{QR}_{\text{lower}}(x) - y, y - \widehat{QR}_{\text{upper}}(x)) \end{aligned} \iff \begin{cases} R_t(\cdot; (\widehat{QR}_{\text{lower}}, \widehat{QR}_{\text{upper}})) \\ \equiv [\widehat{QR}_{\text{lower}}(\cdot) - t; \widehat{QR}_{\text{upper}}(\cdot) + t] \\ \mathcal{T} = \mathbb{R}_+ \end{cases}$$

Where are we now?

1. On exchangeability (theory)
2. Split conformal prediction (methods) (theory) (practical session)
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6. Handling missing data (methods)

Avoiding data splitting: full conformal and out-of-bags approaches

Full Conformal Prediction

Jackknife+

Handling missing data

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Can we avoid splitting the data set?

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- compute the empirical quantile $q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})$ of the set of scores

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✗ \hat{A} obtained w. the training set $\{(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_n, Y_n)\}$ but not X_{n+1} .

Example (“Naive Idea” sets with an interpolating algorithm).

Assume \mathcal{A} interpolates:

- $\hat{A} = \mathcal{A}((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n))$
- $\hat{A}(x_k) - y_k = 0$ for any $k \in [1, n]$

⇒ Naive method above (*with MAE score functions*) outputs $\{\hat{A}(X_{n+1})\}$ (a single point) for any new test point!

Full Conformal Prediction⁹ does not discard training points!

- Full (or transductive) Conformal Prediction
 - avoids data splitting

⁹Vovk et al. (2005), *Algorithmic Learning in a Random World*

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 - at the cost of many more model fits
- Idea: the most probable labels Y_{n+1} live in \mathcal{Y} , and have a low enough conformity score. By looping over all possible $y \in \mathcal{Y}$, the ones leading to the smallest conformity scores will be found.

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Full Conformal Prediction (CP): recovering exchangeability

For any candidate $(\textcolor{violet}{X}_{n+1}, \textcolor{brown}{y})$:

1. Get $\hat{A}_{\textcolor{brown}{y}}$ by training \mathcal{A} on $\{(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_n, Y_n)\} \cup \{(\textcolor{violet}{X}_{n+1}, \textcolor{brown}{y})\}$

Full Conformal Prediction (CP): recovering exchangeability

For any candidate $(\textcolor{violet}{X}_{n+1}, \textcolor{brown}{y})$:

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2. Obtain a set of training scores

$$\mathcal{S}_y^{(\text{train})} = \left\{ \textcolor{blue}{s}(\hat{A}_y(X_i), Y_i) \right\}_{i=1}^n \cup \{ \textcolor{blue}{s}(\hat{A}_y(\textcolor{violet}{X}_{n+1}), \textcolor{brown}{y}) \}$$

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- ✓ Test point treated in the same way than train points
- ✓ Any score works
- ✗ Computationally costly

Definition (Symmetrical algorithm).

A deterministic algorithm $\mathcal{A} : (U_1, \dots, U_n) \mapsto \hat{\mathcal{A}}$ is **symmetric** if for any permutation σ of $\llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$: $\mathcal{A}(U_1, \dots, U_n) \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{=} \mathcal{A}(U_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, U_{\sigma(n)})$.

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Lemma (Exchangeable scores).

If the algorithm $\mathcal{A} : (U_1, \dots, U_n) \mapsto \hat{A}$ is **symmetric**, and $(X_i, Y_i)_{i=1}^{n+1}$ are **exchangeable**, then S_1, \dots, S_{n+1} are exchangeable, with

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Moreover

$$Y_{n+1} \in \widehat{C_\alpha^{\text{Full}}}(X_{n+1}) := \left\{ y \text{ such that } \mathbf{s}\left(\hat{\mathcal{A}}_y(X_{n+1}), y\right) \leq q_{1-\alpha}\left(\mathcal{S}_y^{(\text{train})}\right) \right\}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{s}\left(\hat{\mathcal{A}}_{Y_{n+1}}(X_{n+1}), Y_{n+1}\right) \leq q_{1-\alpha}\left(\mathcal{S}_{Y_{n+1}}^{(\text{train})}\right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow S_{n+1} \leq q_{1-\alpha}(S_1, \dots, S_n, S_{n+1}) !$$

Full CP: theoretical guarantees

Full CP enjoys finite sample guarantees proved in Vovk et al. (2005).

Theorem (Marginal validity of Full CP Vovk et al. (2005)).

Suppose that

- (i) $(X_i, Y_i)_{i=1}^{n+1}$ are exchangeable,
- (ii) the algorithm \mathcal{A} is symmetric.

Full CP applied on $(X_i, Y_i)_{i=1}^n \cup \{X_{n+1}\}$ outputs $\widehat{C}_\alpha(\cdot)$ such that:

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ Y_{n+1} \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) \right\} \geq 1 - \alpha.$$

Additionally, if the scores are a.s. distinct:

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✗ Marginal coverage: $\mathbb{P} \left\{ Y_{n+1} \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}) \mid X_{n+1} = x \right\} \geq 1 - \alpha$

Interpolation regime

Example (FCP sets with an interpolating algorithm).

Assume \mathcal{A} interpolates:

- $\hat{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{A}((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_{n+1}, y_{n+1}))$
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⇒ Full Conformal Prediction (*with standard score functions*) outputs \mathcal{Y} (the whole label space) for any new test point!

Split Conformal Prediction is a special case of Full Conformal Prediction

- Set $\hat{A}_y \equiv \hat{A}$, constant, independent of $\{(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_n, Y_n)\} \cup \{(X_{n+1}, y)\}$
- Then, running Full Conformal Prediction corresponds to Split Conformal Prediction with $\#Cal = n$.

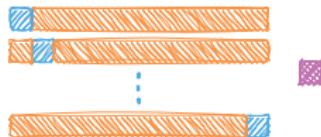
Avoiding data splitting: full conformal and out-of-bags approaches

Full Conformal Prediction

Jackknife+

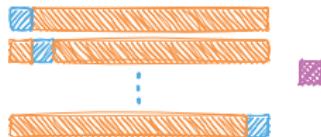
Handling missing data

Jackknife: the naive idea does not enjoy valid coverage



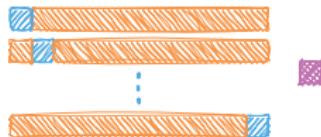
- Based on leave-one-out (LOO) residuals
- $\mathcal{D}_n = \{(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_n, Y_n)\}$ training data
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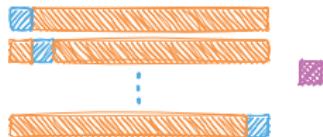
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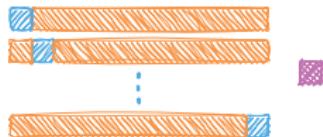
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Warning

No guarantee on the prediction of \hat{A} with scores based on $(\hat{A}_{-i})_i$, without assuming a form of **stability** on \mathcal{A} .

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(in standard mean regression)





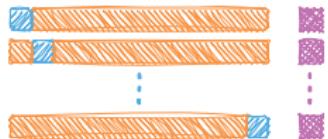
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- Build the predictive interval: $[q_{\alpha,\inf}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{down}}); q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S}_{\text{up}})]$

Recall $q_{\beta,\inf}(X_1, \dots, X_n) := \lfloor \beta \times n \rfloor$ smallest value of (X_1, \dots, X_n)



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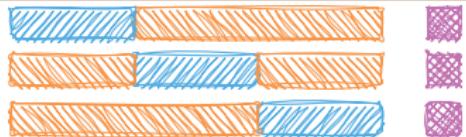
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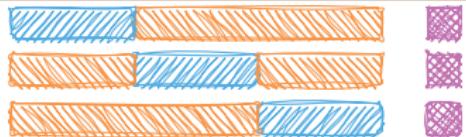
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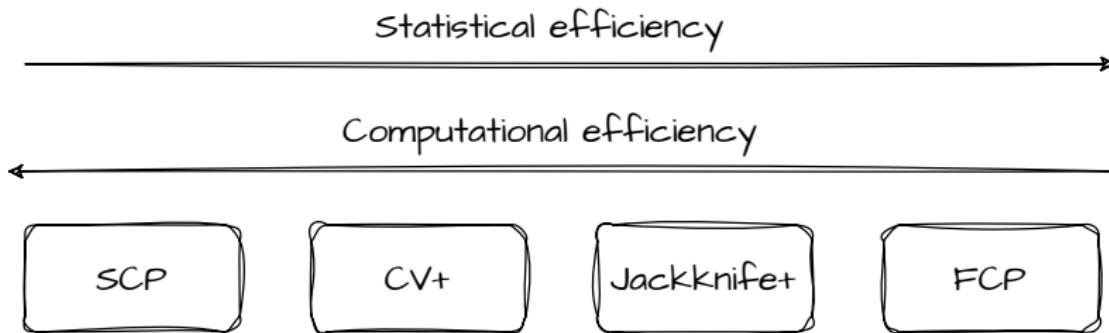
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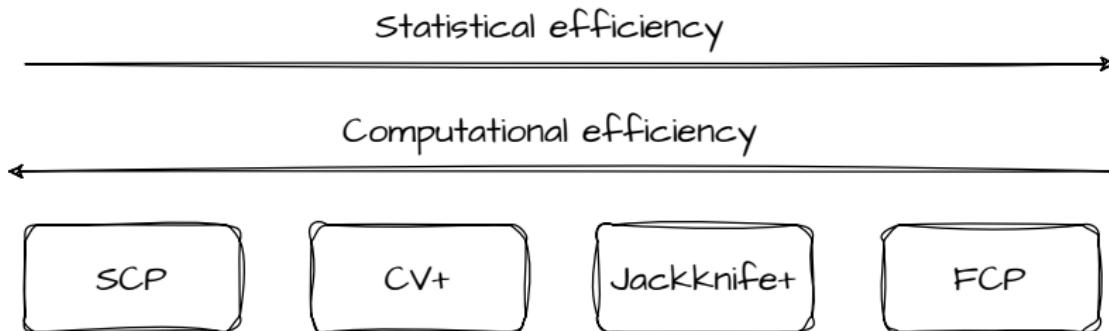
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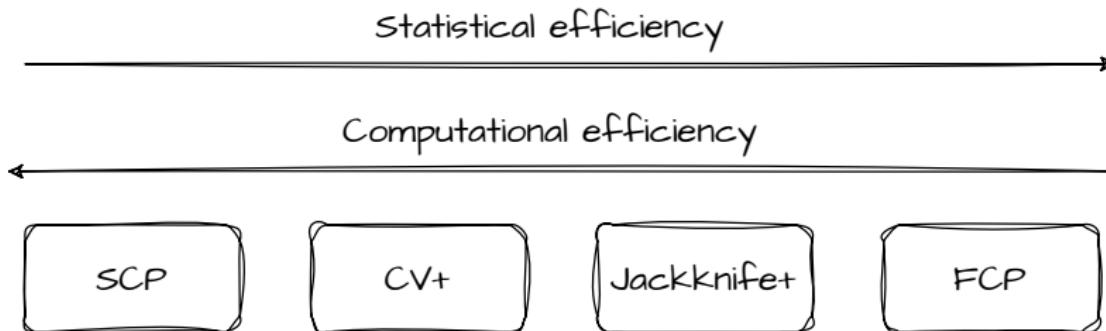
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- Generalized framework encapsulating out-of-sample methods: Nested CP (Gupta et al., 2022) → extends $JK+ / CV+$ for any score.



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- Accelerating FCP: Nouretdinov et al. (2001); Lei (2019); Ndiaye and Takeuchi (2019); Cherubin et al. (2021); Ndiaye and Takeuchi (2022); Ndiaye (2022)

Non exhaustive references.

Avoiding data splitting: full conformal and out-of-bags approaches

Handling missing data

Supervised learning setting with missing covariates

Goals and challenges for predictive uncertainty quantification

Is MCV a too lofty goal?!

Achieving MCV under $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$

Experimental results

A collaboration



Yaniv Romano
*Technion - Israel Institute of
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Julie Josse
*PreMeDICaL
INRIA*



Aymeric Dieuleveut
École Polytechnique

- *Predictive Uncertainty Quantification with Missing Covariates, 2024*
- *Conformal Prediction with Missing Values, ICML 2023*

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Predict the level of blood platelets upon arrival at hospital, given 7 pre-hospital features.

- 30 hospitals
- More than 30 000 trauma patients
- 4 000 new patients per year
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 - ↪ Many useful statistical tasks

Predict the level of blood platelets upon arrival at hospital, given 7 pre-hospital features.

These covariates are not always observed.

Missing values are ubiquitous and challenging

Data: $\left(X^{(k)}, Y^{(k)} \right)_{k=1}^n$

Y	X_1	X_2	X_3
22	5	6	3
19	6	8	NA
19	5	3	6
7	NA	9	NA
13	4	9	0
20	NA	NA	1
9	8	NA	4

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If each entry has a probability 0.01 of being missing:

$d = 6 \rightarrow \approx 94\%$ of rows kept

$d = 300 \rightarrow \approx 5\%$ of rows kept

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One of the ironies of Big Data is that missing data play an ever more significant role.¹

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⇒ Statistical and computational challenges.

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Supervised learning with missing values: impute-then-predict

Impute-then-predict procedures are widely used.

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$x^{(2)}$	4	NA	-2	2
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$u^{(1)}$	-1	-10	6	0
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2. Train your algorithm (Random Forest, Neural Nets, etc.) on the imputed

data:
$$\left\{ \underbrace{\phi \left(\underbrace{X_{\text{obs}(M^{(k)})}^{(k)}, M^{(k)} }_{U^{(k)} = \text{imputed } X^{(k)}} \right), Y^{(k)} }_{k=1} \right\}_n^n .$$

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The diagram illustrates the imputation process. On the left, a 4x4 matrix x is shown with four rows labeled $x^{(1)}$ through $x^{(4)}$. The columns are labeled -1, -10, 6, and 0. The second row contains two NA values (at positions 2 and 3). The third row contains one NA value at position 4. The fourth row contains two NA values (at positions 2 and 3). An arrow labeled ϕ points from this matrix to the right. On the right, a 4x4 matrix u is shown with four rows labeled $u^{(1)}$ through $u^{(4)}$. The columns are labeled -1, -10, 6, and 0. The second row now has two values: -4.5 at position 2 and -2 at position 3. The third row has one value: 1 at position 4. The fourth row now has two values: 3 at position 2 and 1 at position 3. The original NA values have been replaced by their respective means.

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↪ we consider an **impute-then-predict** pipeline in this work.

- ✓ Le Morvan et al. (2021)² show that for **any deterministic imputation** and **universal learner** this procedure is **Bayes-consistent**.

²Le Morvan, Josse, Scornet & Varoquaux (2021), *What's a good imputation to predict with missing values?*, NeurIPS

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- ✗ Ayme et al. (2022)³ show that even for very **simple distributions** (linear model, Gaussian noise), this rate of convergence may suffer from **curse of dimensionality**.

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Goals and challenges for predictive uncertainty quantification

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Definition (1. Marginal Validity (MV)).

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Goals of predictive uncertainty quantification with missing values

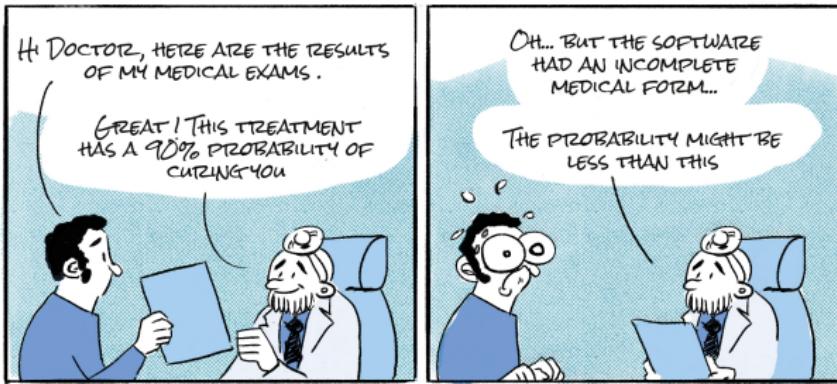
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Illustrations @theoremlinger

CP is marginally valid (MV) after imputation

Lemma (Exchangeability after imputation (Z., Dieuleveut, Josse and Romano, 2023)).

Assume $\left(X^{(k)}, M^{(k)}, Y^{(k)} \right)_{k=1}^n$ are i.i.d. (or exchangeable).

Then, for any missing mechanism, for almost all imputation function ϕ :

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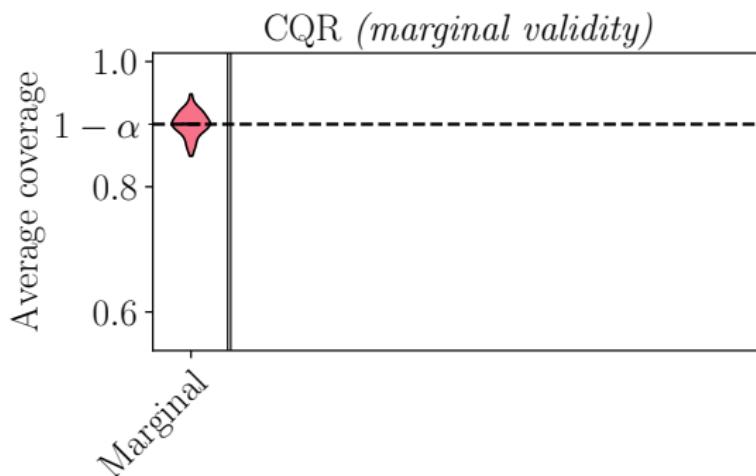
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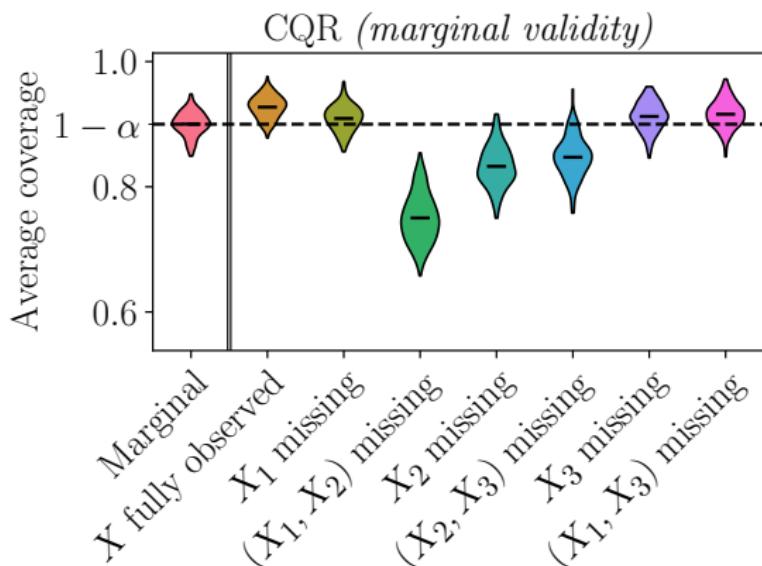
$$Y = \beta^T X + \varepsilon, \beta = (1, 2, -1)^T, X \text{ and } \varepsilon \text{ Gaussian.}$$



- ✓ Marginal (i.e. average) coverage (MV) is indeed recovered!

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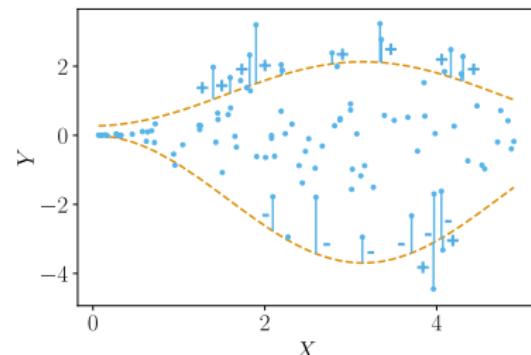
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 - ✗ Mask-conditional-validity (MCV) is not attained
 - ↪ Missing values induce heteroskedasticity
- (supported by theory under (non-)parametric assumptions)*

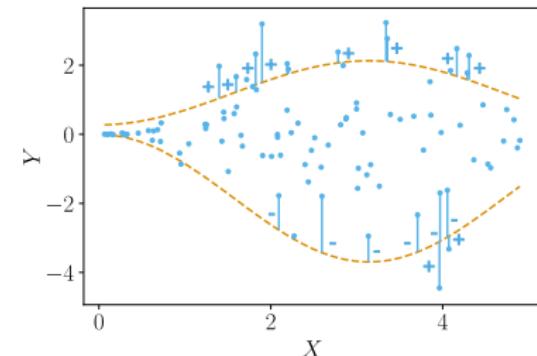
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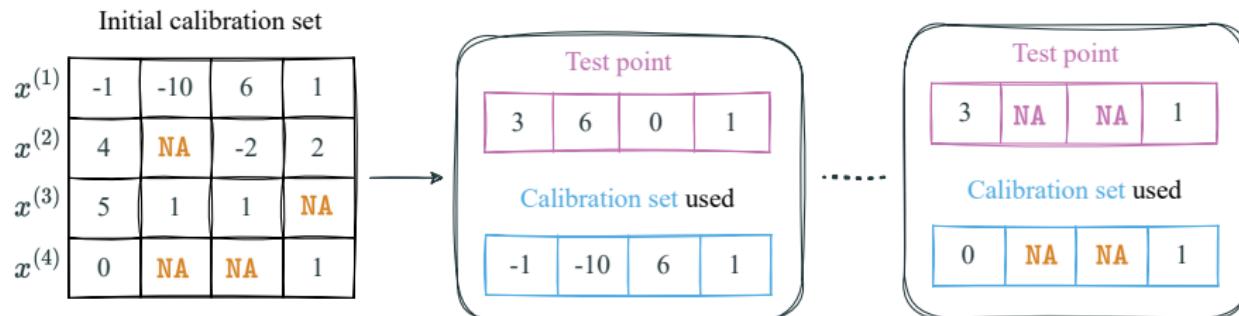
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Warning: 2^d possible masks

⇒ Splitting the calibration set by mask is infeasible (lack of data)!



Conceptually: a structured distribution shift situation

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Fully distribution-free MCV is necessarily uninformative

Theorem (General MCV hardness result (Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024)⁴).

If any \widehat{C}_α is distribution-free MCV then for any distribution P , for any mask m such that $P_M(m) > 0$, it holds:

$$\mathbb{P}_{P^{\otimes(n+1)}} \left(\text{mes} \left(\widehat{C}_\alpha(X_{n+1}, m) \right) = \infty \right) \geq 1 - \alpha - \Delta_{m,n} \geq 1 - \alpha - P_M(m)\sqrt{n+1}.$$

⁴An analogous statement is also available for the classification framework.

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- ↪ gets large (making the lower bound trivial because negative) for high probability masks compared to n .

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Restricting the link between M and (X or Y) does not allow informative MCV

Analogous statements are also available for the classification framework.

Theorem ($M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ hardness result (Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024)).

If any \widehat{C}_α is MCV under $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$, then for any distribution P such that $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$, for any mask m such that $P_M(m) > 0$, it holds:

$$\mathbb{P}_{P^{\otimes(n+1)}} \left(\text{mes} \left(\widehat{C}_\alpha (X_{n+1}, m) \right) = \infty \right) \geq 1 - \alpha - \Delta_{m,n} \geq 1 - \alpha - P_M(m)\sqrt{n+1}.$$

Analogous statements are also available for the classification framework.

Theorem ($M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ hardness result (Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024)).

If any \widehat{C}_α is MCV under $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$, then for any distribution P such that $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$, for any mask m such that $P_M(m) > 0$, it holds:

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Theorem ($Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$ hardness result (Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024)).

If any \widehat{C}_α is MCV under $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$, then for any distribution P such that $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$, for any mask m such that $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \geq P_M(m) > 0$, it holds:

$$\mathbb{P}_{P^{\otimes(n+1)}} \left(\text{mes} \left(\widehat{C}_\alpha (X_{n+1}, m) \right) = \infty \right) \geq 1 - \alpha - \Delta_{m,n} \geq 1 - \alpha - 2P_M(m)\sqrt{n+1}.$$

Analogous statements are also available for the classification framework.

Theorem ($M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ hardness result (Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024)).

If any \widehat{C}_α is MCV under $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$, then for any distribution P such that $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$, for any mask m such that $P_M(m) > 0$, it holds:

$$\mathbb{P}_{P^{\otimes(n+1)}} \left(\text{mes} \left(\widehat{C}_\alpha (X_{n+1}, m) \right) = \infty \right) \geq 1 - \alpha - \Delta_{m,n} \geq 1 - \alpha - P_M(m)\sqrt{n+1}.$$

Theorem ($Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$ hardness result (Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024)).

If any \widehat{C}_α is MCV under $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$, then for any distribution P such that $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$, for any mask m such that $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \geq P_M(m) > 0$, it holds:

$$\mathbb{P}_{P^{\otimes(n+1)}} \left(\text{mes} \left(\widehat{C}_\alpha (X_{n+1}, m) \right) = \infty \right) \geq 1 - \alpha - \Delta_{m,n} \geq 1 - \alpha - 2P_M(m)\sqrt{n+1}.$$

⇒ need to restrict both the link between M and X , as well as between M and Y .

Analogous statements are also available for the classification framework.

Avoiding data splitting: full conformal and out-of-bags approaches

Handling missing data

Supervised learning setting with missing covariates

Goals and challenges for predictive uncertainty quantification

Is MCV a too lofty goal?!

Achieving MCV under $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$

Experimental results

Missing Data Augmentation (MDA) of the calibration set

Idea: for each test point, modify the calibration points to mimic the test mask

Test point

3	NA	NA	1
---	----	----	---

Initial calibration set

$x^{(1)}$	-1	-10	6	1
$x^{(2)}$	4	NA	-2	2
$x^{(3)}$	5	1	1	NA
$x^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

Calibration set used

$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1



CP-MDA with Exact masking

Test point

3	NA	NA	1
---	----	----	---

Initial calibration set

$x^{(1)}$	-1	-10	6	1
$x^{(2)}$	4	NA	-2	2
$x^{(3)}$	5	1	1	NA
$x^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

Calibration set used

$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1



CP-MDA with Exact masking

Test point

3	NA	NA	1
---	----	----	---

Initial calibration set

$x^{(1)}$	-1	-10	6	1
$x^{(2)}$	4	NA	-2	2
$x^{(3)}$	5	1	1	NA
$x^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

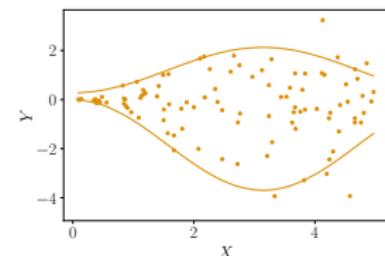
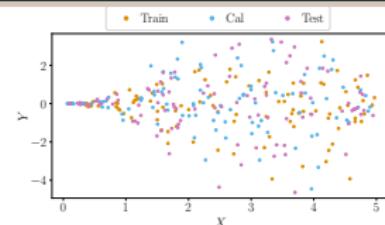
Calibration set used

$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$				
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

#Cal^{M(test)} observations

CQR-MDA with exact masking in words

1. Split the training set into a **proper training set** and **calibration set**
2. Train the imputation function on the **proper training set**
3. Impute the **proper training set**
4. Train the quantile regressors on the imputed **proper training set**



CQR-MDA with exact masking in words

1. Split the training set into a **proper training set** and **calibration set**
2. Train the imputation function on the proper training set
3. Impute the proper training set
4. Train the **quantile regressors** on the imputed proper training set
5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

3	NA	NA	1
---	----	----	---

CQR-MDA with exact masking in words

1. Split the training set into a **proper training set** and **calibration set**
2. Train the imputation function on the proper training set
3. Impute the proper training set
4. Train the **quantile regressors** on the imputed proper training set
5. For a test point $(\tilde{x}^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 For each $j \in [1, d]$ s.t. $M_j^{(n+1)} = 1$, set $\tilde{M}_j^{(k)} = 1$ for k in **Cal** s.t. $M^{(k)} \subset M^{(n+1)}$

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$			
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

CQR-MDA with exact masking in words

1. Split the training set into a **proper training set** and **calibration set**
2. Train the imputation function on the proper training set
3. Impute the proper training set
4. Train the **quantile regressors** on the imputed proper training set
5. For a test point $(\tilde{x}^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 For each $j \in [1, d]$ s.t. $M_j^{(n+1)} = 1$, set $\tilde{M}_j^{(k)} = 1$ for k in **Cal** s.t. $M^{(k)} \subset M^{(n+1)}$

5.2 Impute the new **calibration set**

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$			
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

CQR-MDA with exact masking in words

1. Split the training set into a **proper training set** and **calibration set**
2. Train the imputation function on the proper training set
3. Impute the proper training set
4. Train the **quantile regressors** on the imputed proper training set
5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 For each $j \in [1, d]$ s.t. $M_j^{(n+1)} = 1$, set $\tilde{M}_j^{(k)} = 1$ for k in **Cal** s.t. $M^{(k)} \subset M^{(n+1)}$

5.2 Impute the new **calibration set**

5.3 Compute the **calibration correction**, i.e. $q_{1-\alpha}(S)$

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$			
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

CQR-MDA with exact masking in words

1. Split the training set into a **proper training set** and **calibration set**
2. Train the imputation function on the proper training set
3. Impute the proper training set
4. Train the **quantile regressors** on the imputed proper training set
5. For a test point $(\tilde{X}^{(n+1)}, \tilde{M}^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 For each $j \in [1, d]$ s.t. $M_j^{(n+1)} = 1$, set $\tilde{M}_j^{(k)} = 1$ for k in **Cal** s.t. $M^{(k)} \subset M^{(n+1)}$

5.2 Impute the new **calibration set**

5.3 Compute the **calibration correction**, i.e. $q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})$

5.4 Impute the **test point**

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$			
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

CQR-MDA with exact masking in words

1. Split the training set into a **proper training set** and **calibration set**
2. Train the imputation function on the proper training set
3. Impute the proper training set
4. Train the **quantile regressors** on the imputed proper training set
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5.1 For each $j \in [1, d]$ s.t. $M_j^{(n+1)} = 1$, set $\tilde{M}_j^{(k)} = 1$ for k in **Cal** s.t. $M^{(k)} \subset M^{(n+1)}$

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$			
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

5.2 Impute the new **calibration set**

5.3 Compute the **calibration correction**, i.e. $q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})$

5.4 Impute the **test point**

5.5 Predict with the **quantile regressors** and the **correction** previously obtained,

$$q_{1-\alpha}(\mathcal{S})$$

Theorem (CP-MDA-Exact achieves MCV).

If: i) the data is exchangeable, ii) $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$, iii) $(Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M)|X$, then for almost all imputation function CP-MDA-Exact is such that for any $m \in \{0, 1\}^d$:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(Y \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X, m) | M = m\right) \geq 1 - \alpha,$$

and if additionally the scores are almost surely distinct:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(Y \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X, m) | M = m\right) \leq 1 - \alpha + \frac{1}{\#\text{Cal}^m + 1}.$$

What if we kept all observations?

Test point

3	NA	NA	1
---	----	----	---

Initial calibration set

$x^{(1)}$	-1	-10	6	1
$x^{(2)}$	4	NA	-2	2
$x^{(3)}$	5	1	1	NA
$x^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

Calibration set used

$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1



Idea: modify the test point accordingly

Test point

3	NA	NA	1
---	----	----	---

Initial calibration set

$x^{(1)}$	-1	-10	6	1
$x^{(2)}$	4	NA	-2	2
$x^{(3)}$	5	1	1	NA
$x^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1



Calibration set used

$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

Temporary test points

3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	NA
3	NA	NA	1

and

~~ similar motivation than Barber et al. (2021)⁵ and Gupta et al. (2022)⁶.

⁵ Predictive inference with the jackknife+, *The Annals of Statistics*

⁶ Nested conformal prediction and quantile out-of-bag ensemble methods, *Pattern Recognition*

CQR-MDA with nested masking in words

5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 Set $\tilde{M}^{(k)} = \max(M^{(k)}, M^{(n+1)})$ for k in the calibration set

	3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

CQR-MDA with nested masking in words

5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 Set $\tilde{M}^{(k)} = \max(M^{(k)}, M^{(n+1)})$ for k in the calibration set

5.2 Impute the new calibration set

5.3 For each augmented calibration point k :

	3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

CQR-MDA with nested masking in words

5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 Set $\tilde{M}^{(k)} = \max(M^{(k)}, M^{(n+1)})$ for k in the calibration set

5.2 Impute the new calibration set

5.3 For each augmented calibration point k :

5.3.1 Get its score $S^{(k)}$

	3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

CQR-MDA with nested masking in words

5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 Set $\tilde{M}^{(k)} = \max(M^{(k)}, M^{(n+1)})$ for k
in the calibration set

5.2 Impute the new calibration set

5.3 For each augmented calibration point k :

5.3.1 Get its score $S^{(k)}$

Impute-then-predict on the augmented test point
 5.3.2 $(X^{(n+1)}, \tilde{M}^{(k)})$, giving: $\widehat{QR}_{\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k})$ and
 $\widehat{QR}_{1-\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k})$

	3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1

3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	NA
3	NA	NA	1

CQR-MDA with nested masking in words

5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 Set $\tilde{M}^{(k)} = \max(M^{(k)}, M^{(n+1)})$ for k
in the calibration set

5.2 Impute the new calibration set

5.3 For each augmented calibration point k :

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Impute-then-predict on the augmented test point

5.3.2 $(X^{(n+1)}, \tilde{M}^{(k)})$, giving: $\widehat{QR}_{\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k})$ and $\widehat{QR}_{1-\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k})$

5.3.3 Compute the corrected prediction interval:

$$[\widehat{QR}_{\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k}) - S^{(k)}; \widehat{QR}_{1-\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k}) + S^{(k)}] := [Z_{\text{lower}}^{(k)}; Z_{\text{upper}}^{(k)}]$$

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	NA
3	NA	NA	1

CQR-MDA with nested masking in words

5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 Set $\tilde{M}^{(k)} = \max(M^{(k)}, M^{(n+1)})$ for k
in the calibration set

5.2 Impute the new calibration set

5.3 For each augmented calibration point k :

5.3.1 Get its score $S^{(k)}$

Impute-then-predict on the augmented test point

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$$[\widehat{QR}_{\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k}) - S^{(k)}; \widehat{QR}_{1-\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k}) + S^{(k)}] := [Z_{\text{lower}}^{(k)}; Z_{\text{upper}}^{(k)}]$$

5.4 Compute the quantiles $q_\alpha(\{Z_{\text{lower}}^{(k)}\}_{k \in \text{Cal}})$ and $q_{1-\alpha}(\{Z_{\text{upper}}^{(k)}\}_{k \in \text{Cal}})$

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	NA
3	NA	NA	1

CQR-MDA with nested masking in words

5. For a test point $(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)})$:

5.1 Set $\tilde{M}^{(k)} = \max(M^{(k)}, M^{(n+1)})$ for k
in the calibration set

5.2 Impute the new calibration set

5.3 For each augmented calibration point k :

5.3.1 Get its score $S^{(k)}$

Impute-then-predict on the augmented test point

5.3.2 $(X^{(n+1)}, \tilde{M}^{(k)})$, giving: $\widehat{QR}_{\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k})$ and $\widehat{QR}_{1-\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k})$

5.3.3 Compute the corrected prediction interval:

$$[\widehat{QR}_{\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k}) - S^{(k)}; \widehat{QR}_{1-\alpha/2}(\tilde{X}^{(n+1),k}) + S^{(k)}] := [Z_{\text{lower}}^{(k)}; Z_{\text{upper}}^{(k)}]$$

5.4 Compute the quantiles $q_\alpha(\{Z_{\text{lower}}^{(k)}\}_{k \in \text{Cal}})$ and $q_{1-\alpha}(\{Z_{\text{upper}}^{(k)}\}_{k \in \text{Cal}})$

5.5 Predict $[q_\alpha(\{Z_{\text{lower}}^{(k)}\}_{k \in \text{Cal}}); q_{1-\alpha}(\{Z_{\text{upper}}^{(k)}\}_{k \in \text{Cal}})]$

3	NA	NA	1
$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA

3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	1
3	NA	NA	NA
3	NA	NA	1

MDA-Nested is Marginally Valid (MV)

Theorem (CP-MDA-Nested marginal validity).

If the data is exchangeable, then for almost all imputation function CP-MDA-Nested is such that:

$$\mathbb{P} \left(Y \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X, M) \right) \geq 1 - 2\alpha.$$

Theorem (CP-MDA-Nested marginal validity).

If the data is exchangeable, then for almost all imputation function CP-MDA-Nested is such that:

$$\mathbb{P} \left(Y \in \widehat{C}_\alpha(X, M) \right) \geq 1 - 2\alpha.$$

- ✓ Any missing mechanism (no need to assume $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$)
- ✓ Does not require $(Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M) | X$
- ✗ Marginal guarantee

MDA-Nested is Marginally Valid (MV)

Theorem (CP-MDA-Nested marginal validity).

If the data is exchangeable, then for almost all imputation function CP-MDA-Nested is such that:

$$\mathbb{P} \left(Y \in \hat{C}_\alpha(X, M) \right) \geq 1 - 2\alpha.$$

- ✓ Any missing mechanism (no need to assume $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$)
- ✓ Does not require $(Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M) | X$
- ✗ Marginal guarantee

Proof element: based on Jackknife+ ideas (Barber et al., 2021).

Leaving-out the k -th data point to predict on the l -th data point

\leftrightarrow

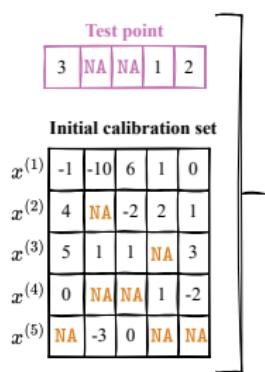
Apply the mask of the k -th data point to the l -th data point on which you predict

Idea: for each test point, modify the calibration points to mimic the test mask

CP-MDA-Nested^{*} (Missing Data Augmentation)

Idea: for each test point, modify the calibration points to mimic the test mask

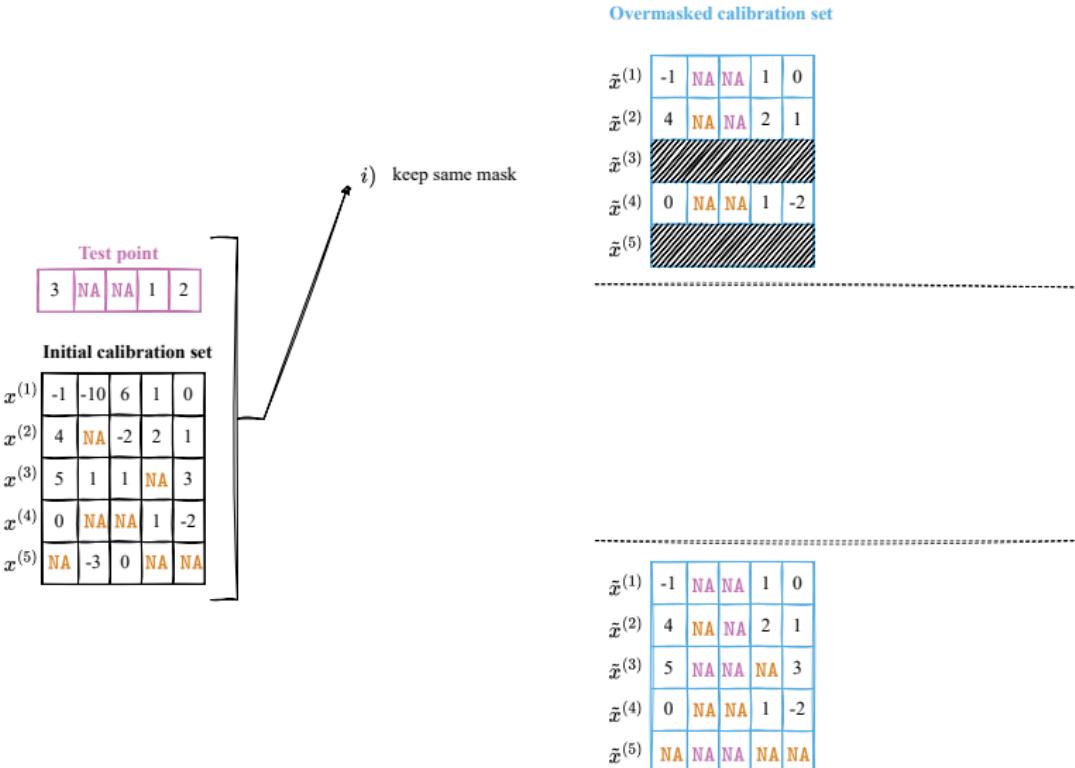
Overmasked calibration set



$\tilde{x}^{(1)}$	-1	NA	NA	1	0
$\tilde{x}^{(2)}$	4	NA	NA	2	1
$\tilde{x}^{(3)}$	5	NA	NA	NA	3
$\tilde{x}^{(4)}$	0	NA	NA	1	-2
$\tilde{x}^{(5)}$	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

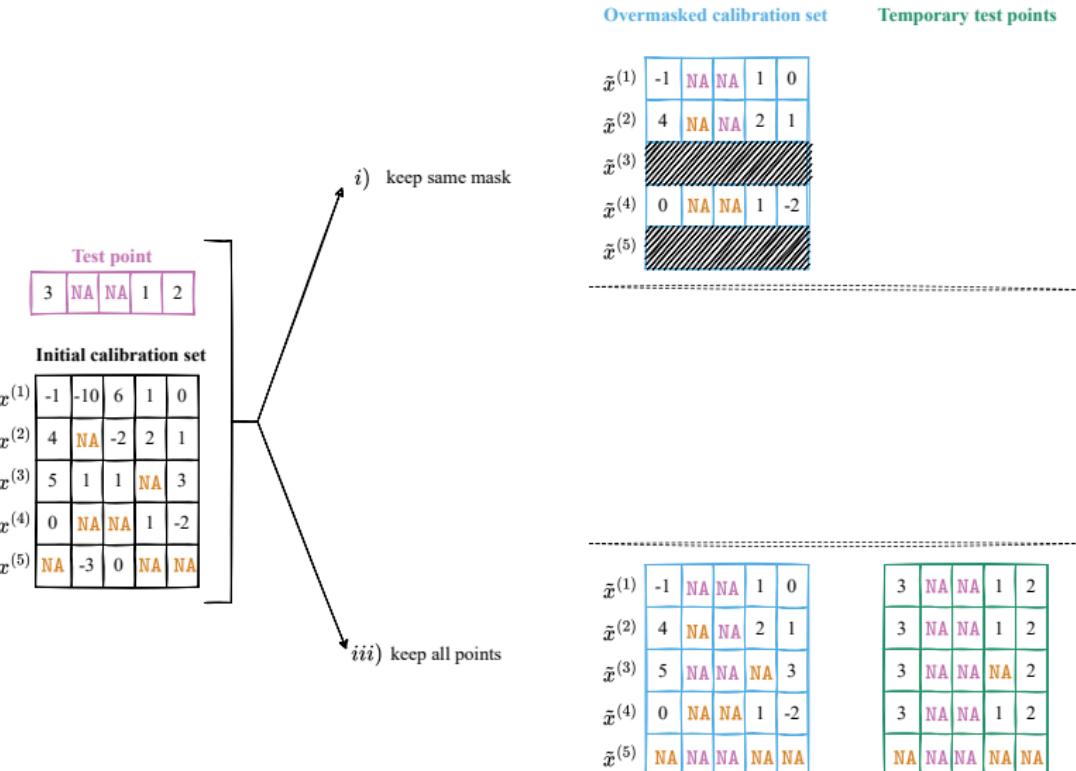
CP-MDA-Nested^{*} (Missing Data Augmentation)

Idea: for each test point, modify the calibration points to mimic the test mask



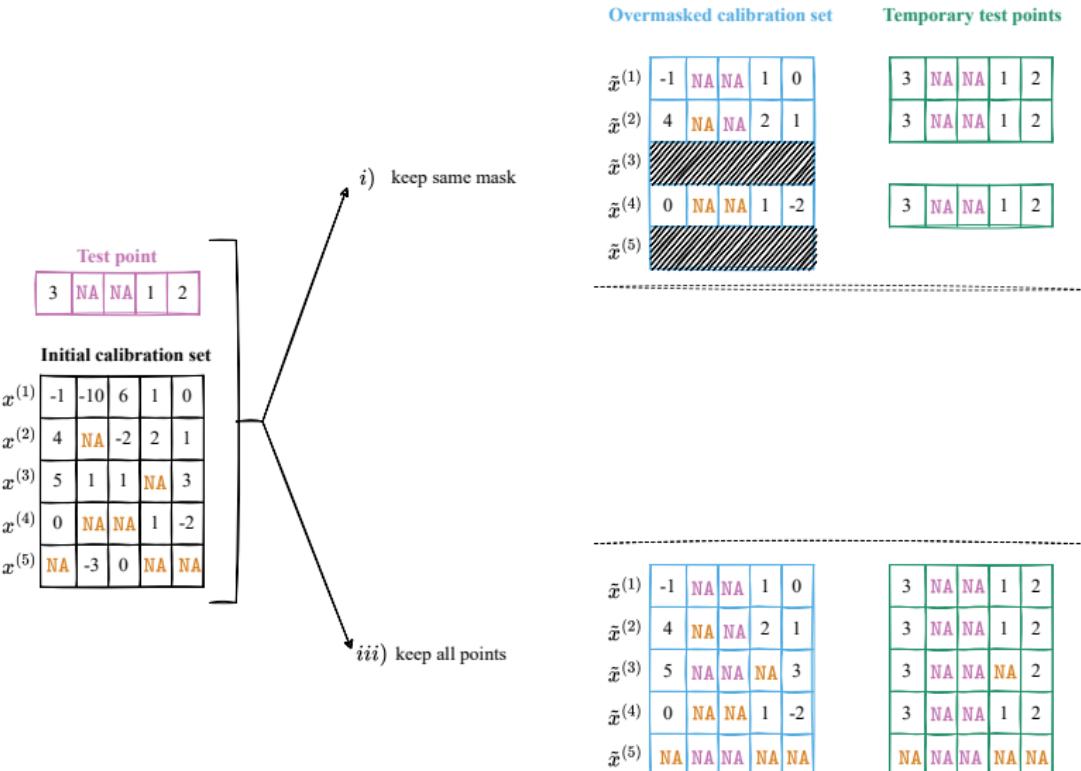
CP-MDA-Nested^{*} (Missing Data Augmentation)

Idea: for each **test point**, modify the **calibration points** to mimic the **test mask**



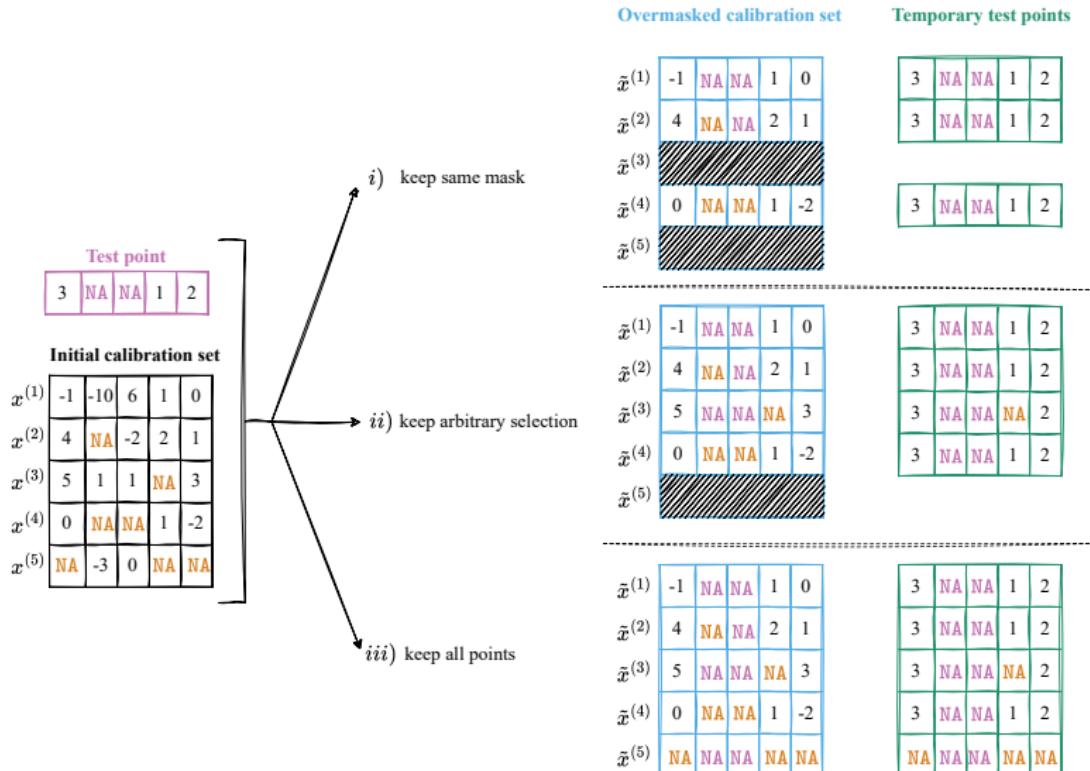
CP-MDA-Nested^{*} (Missing Data Augmentation)

Idea: for each **test point**, modify the **calibration points** to mimic the **test mask**

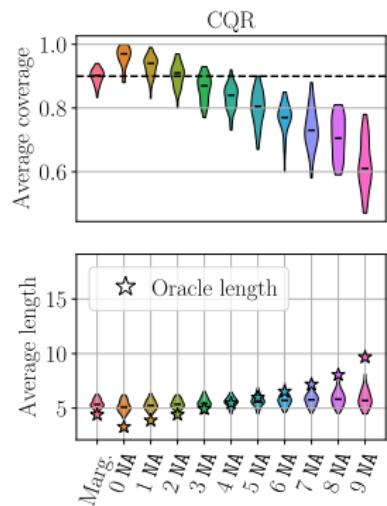


CP-MDA-Nested^{*} (Missing Data Augmentation)

Idea: for each **test point**, modify the **calibration points** to mimic the **test mask**

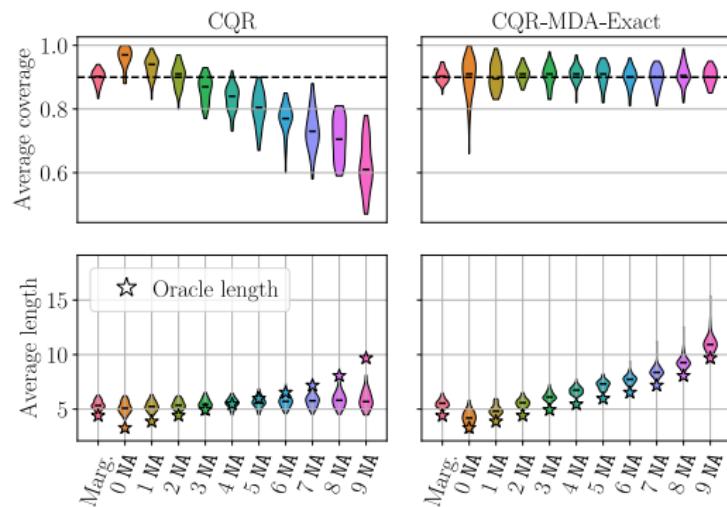


Experiments on $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$ Gaussian linear data in dimension 10



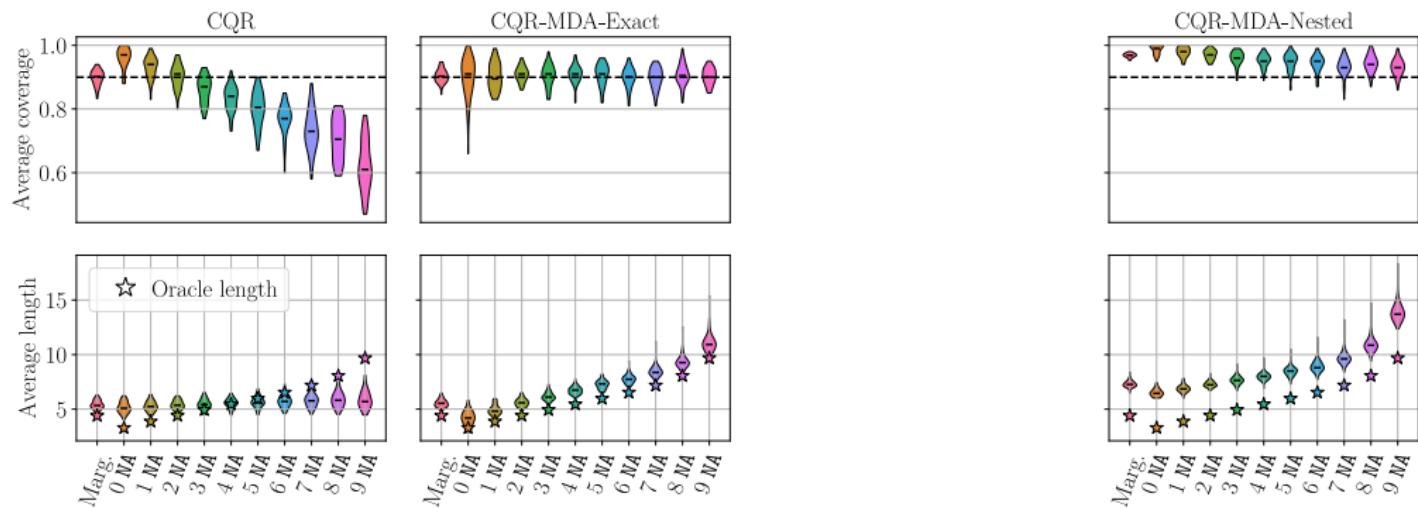
20% of missing values

Experiments on $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$ Gaussian linear data in dimension 10



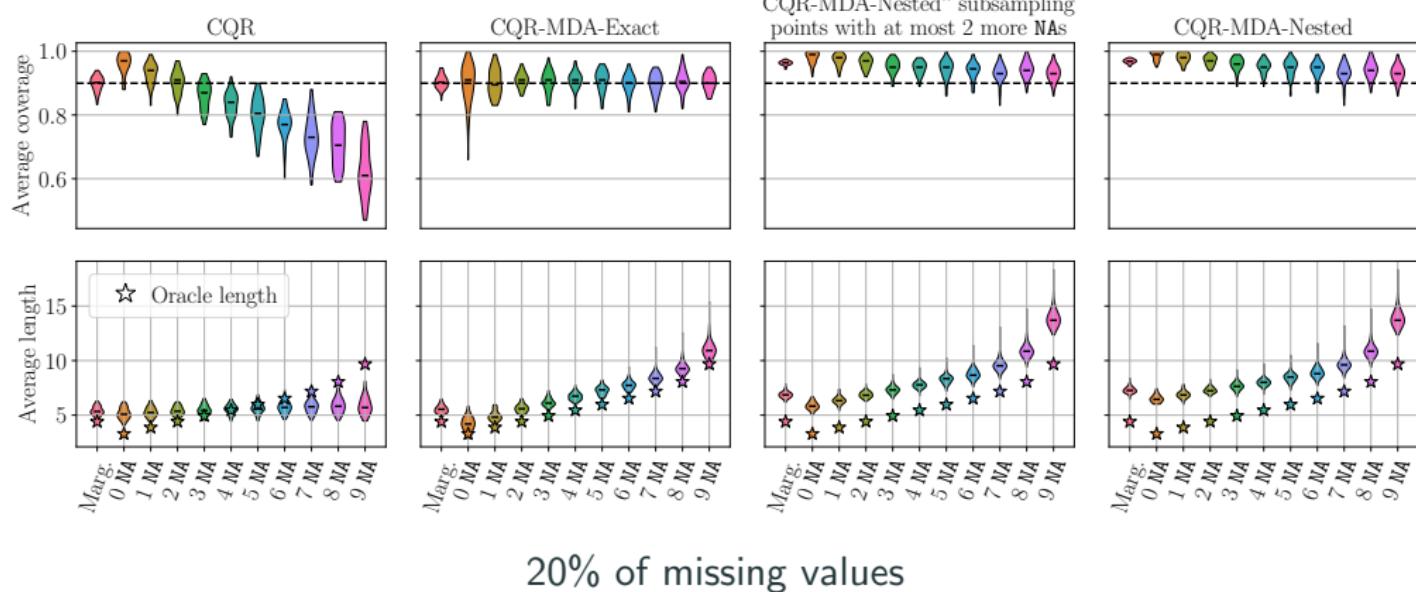
20% of missing values

Experiments on $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$ Gaussian linear data in dimension 10

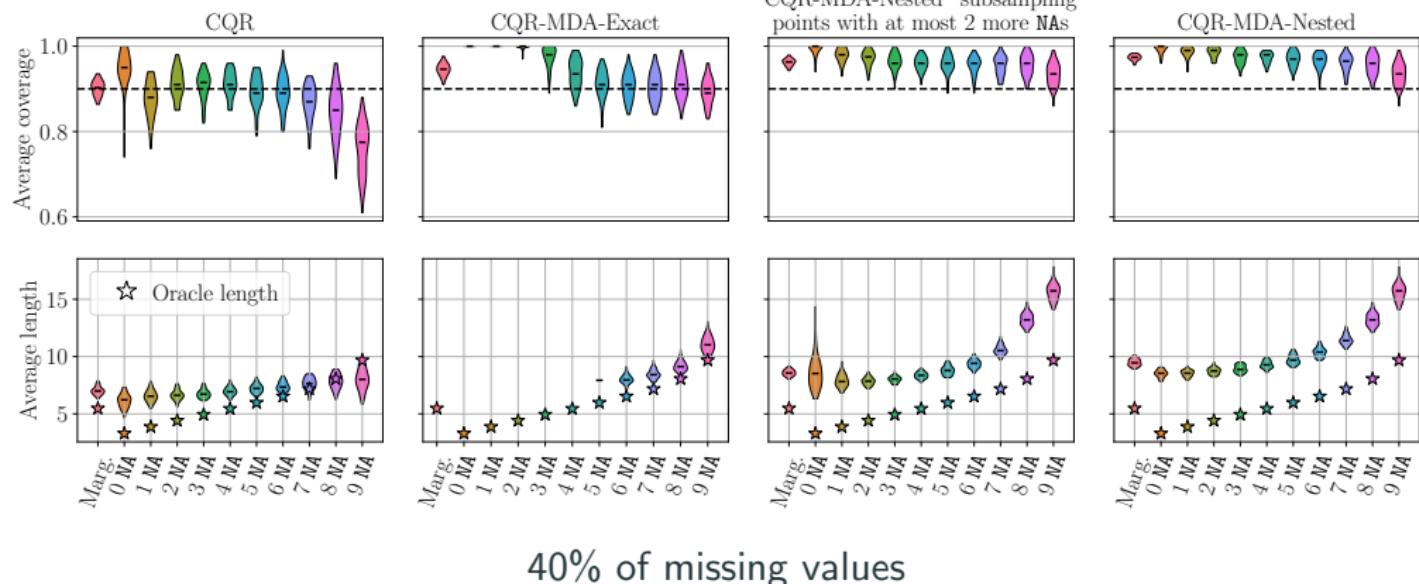


20% of missing values

Experiments on $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$ Gaussian linear data in dimension 10



Experiments on $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$ Gaussian linear data in dimension 10



Theorem (^{Mask-conditional-validity of CP-MDA-Nested^{*})_(Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024).}

Under the assumptions that:

- $M \perp (X, Y)$,
- $\left(X^{(k)}, M^{(k)}, Y^{(k)} \right)_{k=1}^{n+1}$ are i.i.d.,

then, for almost all imputation function, CP-MDA-Nested^{*} reaches (MCV) at the level $1 - 2\alpha$, that is:

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ Y^{(n+1)} \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha \left(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)} \right) \mid M^{(n+1)} \right\} \stackrel{a.s.}{\geq} 1 - 2\alpha.$$

Theorem (^{Mask-conditional-validity of CP-MDA-Nested^{*})_(Z., Josse, Romano and Dieuleveut, 2024).}

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- $M \perp (X, Y)$,
- $\left(X^{(k)}, M^{(k)}, Y^{(k)} \right)_{k=1}^{n+1}$ are i.i.d.,

then, for almost all imputation function, CP-MDA-Nested^{*} reaches (MCV) at the level $1 - 2\alpha$, that is:

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ Y^{(n+1)} \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_\alpha \left(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)} \right) | M^{(n+1)} \right\} \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{\geq} 1 - 2\alpha.$$

Proof elements:

1. Crop the data sets to hide the missing entries of the test point
 2. Applying the mask of the calibration point corresponds to a predictor that draws a predictions randomly
- ⇒ Use the same proof arguments than (Barber et al., 2021) on random predictors

Validities of predictive uncertainty quantification with missing values

Goal: predict $Y^{(n+1)}$ with **confidence** $1 - \alpha$, i.e. build the smallest \mathcal{C}_α such that:

Definition (1. Marginal Validity (MV)).

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ Y^{(n+1)} \in \mathcal{C}_\alpha \left(X^{(n+1)}, M^{(n+1)} \right) \right\} \geq 1 - \alpha. \quad (\text{MV})$$

Definition (2. Mask-Conditional-Validity (MCV)).

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Exisiting approaches	
(MV)	✓ (Z., Dieuleveut, Josse, and Romano, 2023)
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	Existing approaches	CP-MDA-Nested*
(MV)	✓ (Z., Dieuleveut, Josse, and Romano, 2023)	✓
(MCV)	✗	✓ under $M \perp\!\!\!\perp (X, Y)$

Avoiding data splitting: full conformal and out-of-bags approaches

Handling missing data

Supervised learning setting with missing covariates

Goals and challenges for predictive uncertainty quantification

Is MCV a too lofty goal?!

Achieving MCV under $M \perp\!\!\!\perp X$ and $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$

Experimental results

- Imputation by iterative ridge (\sim conditional expectation)

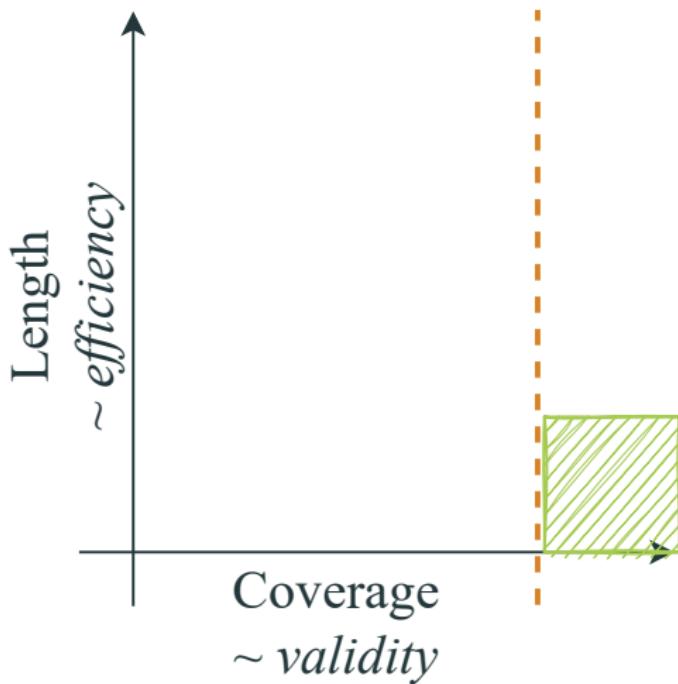
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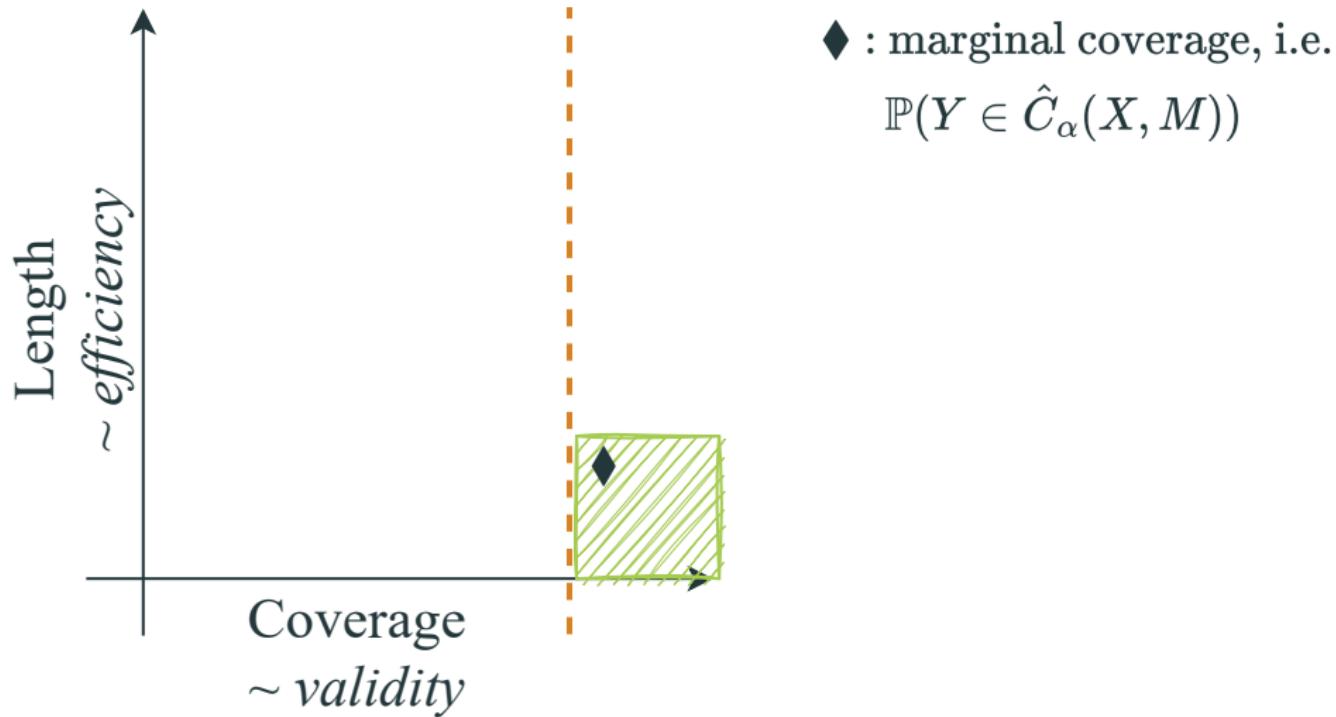
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- (Semi)-synthetic experiments:
 - Uniform MCAR missing values, with probability 20%
 - 100 repetitions

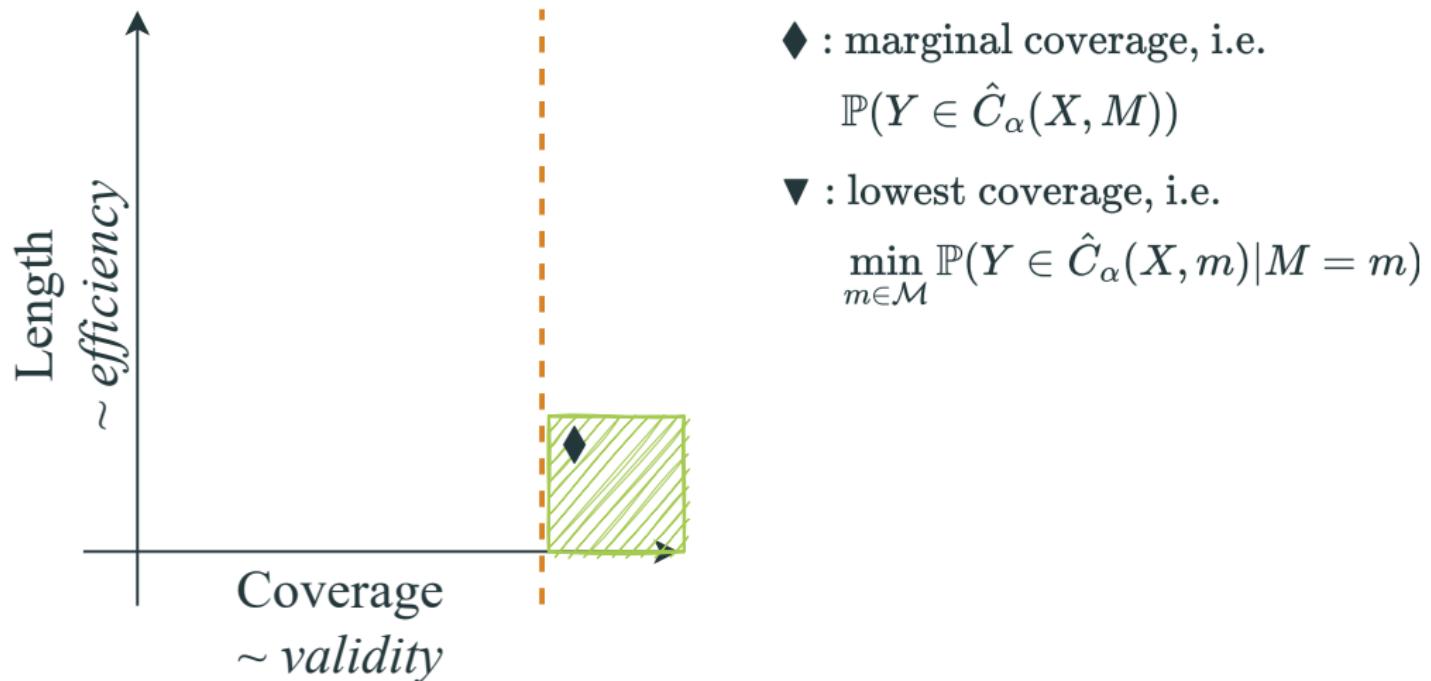
Before more experiments, visualisation



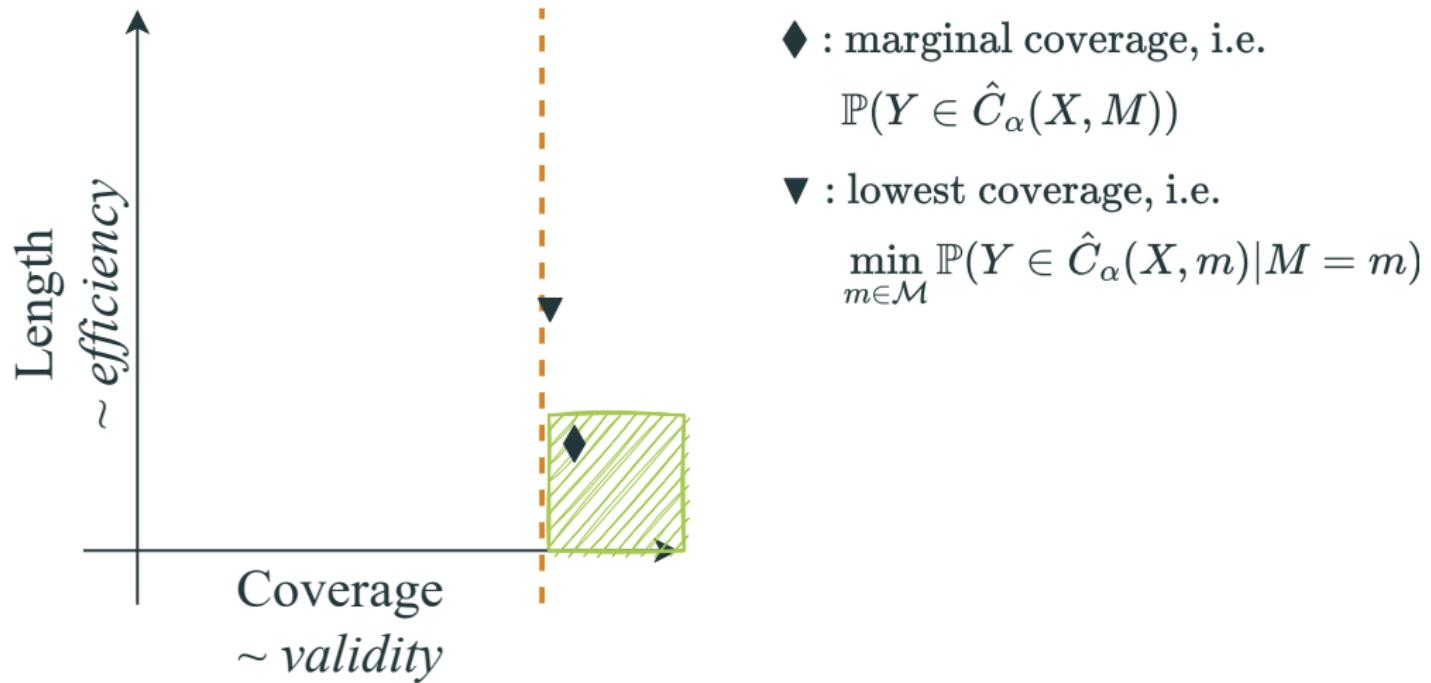
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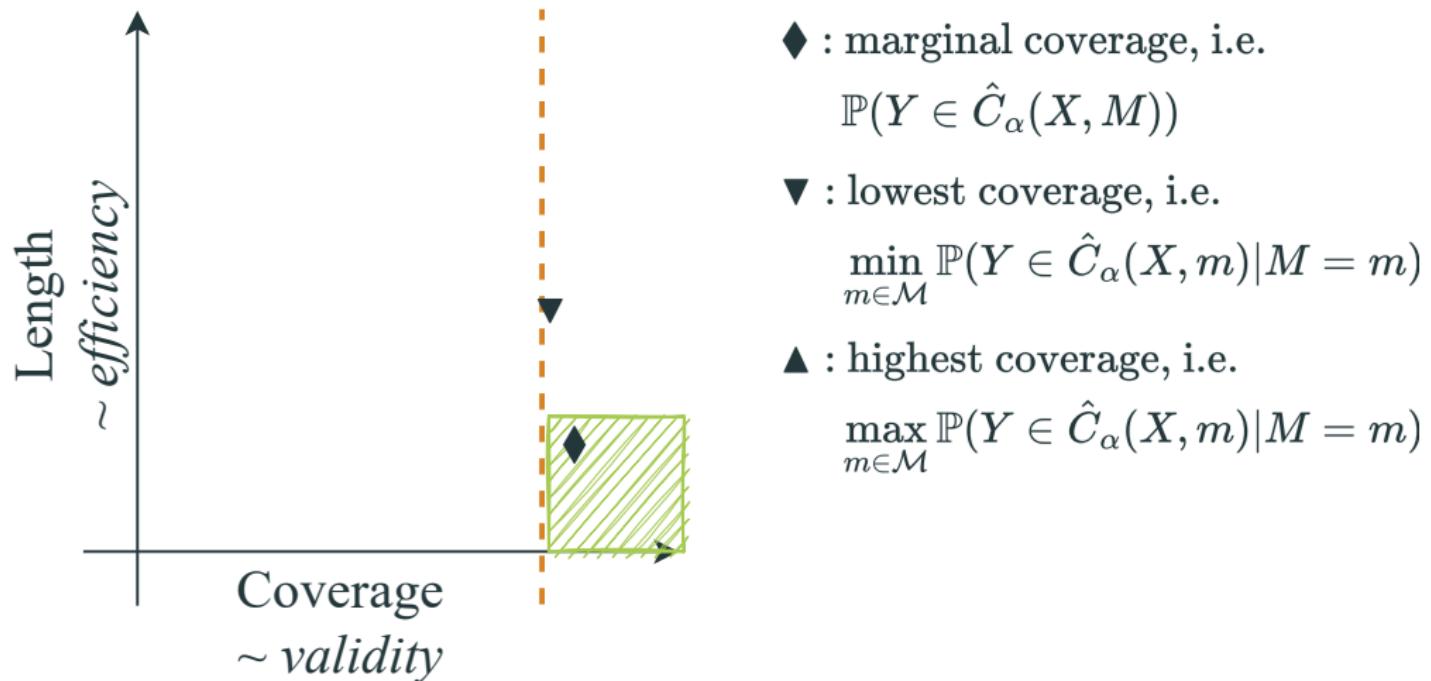
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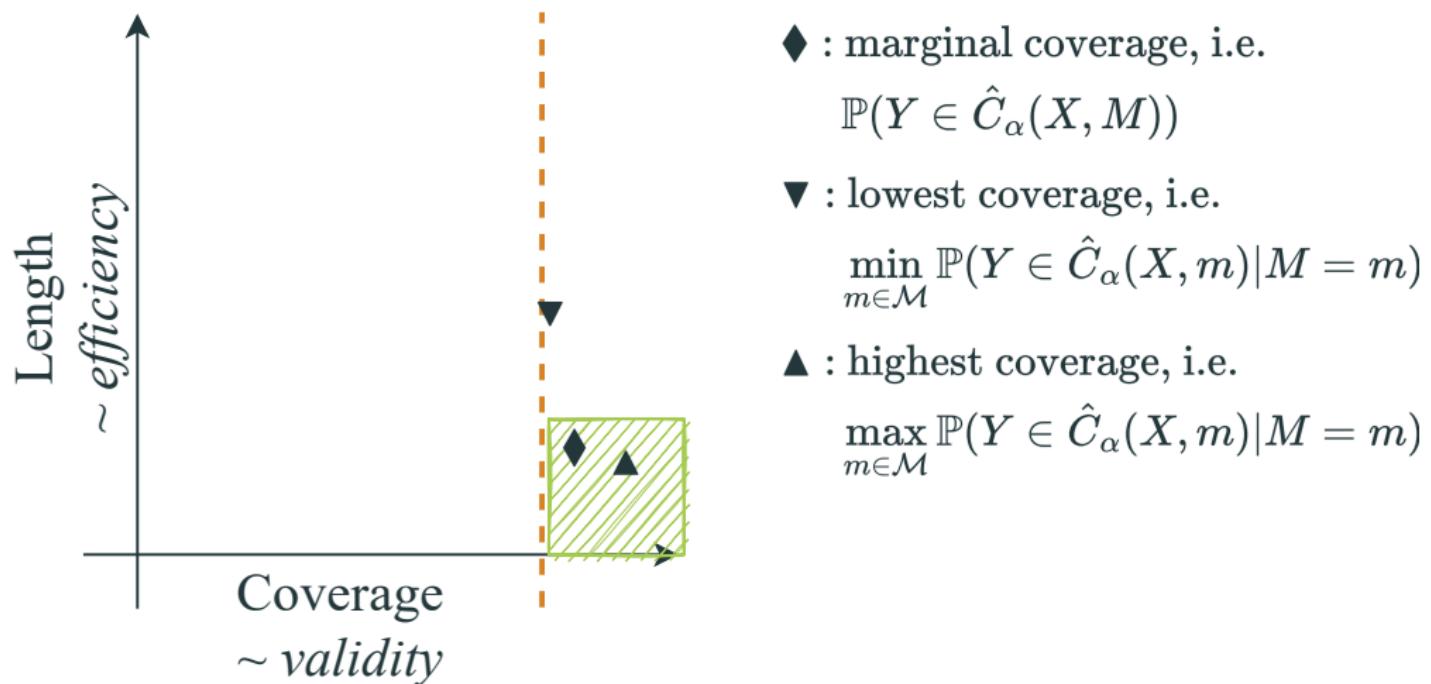
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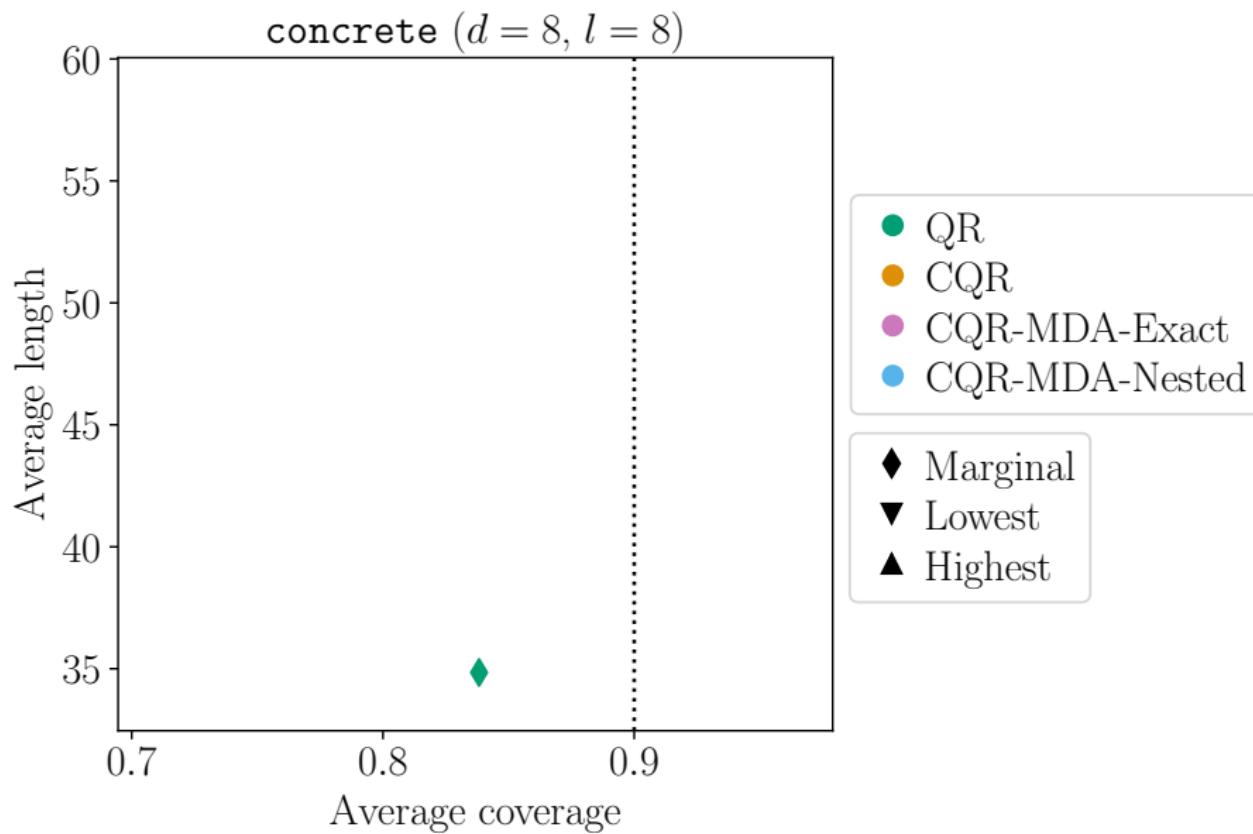
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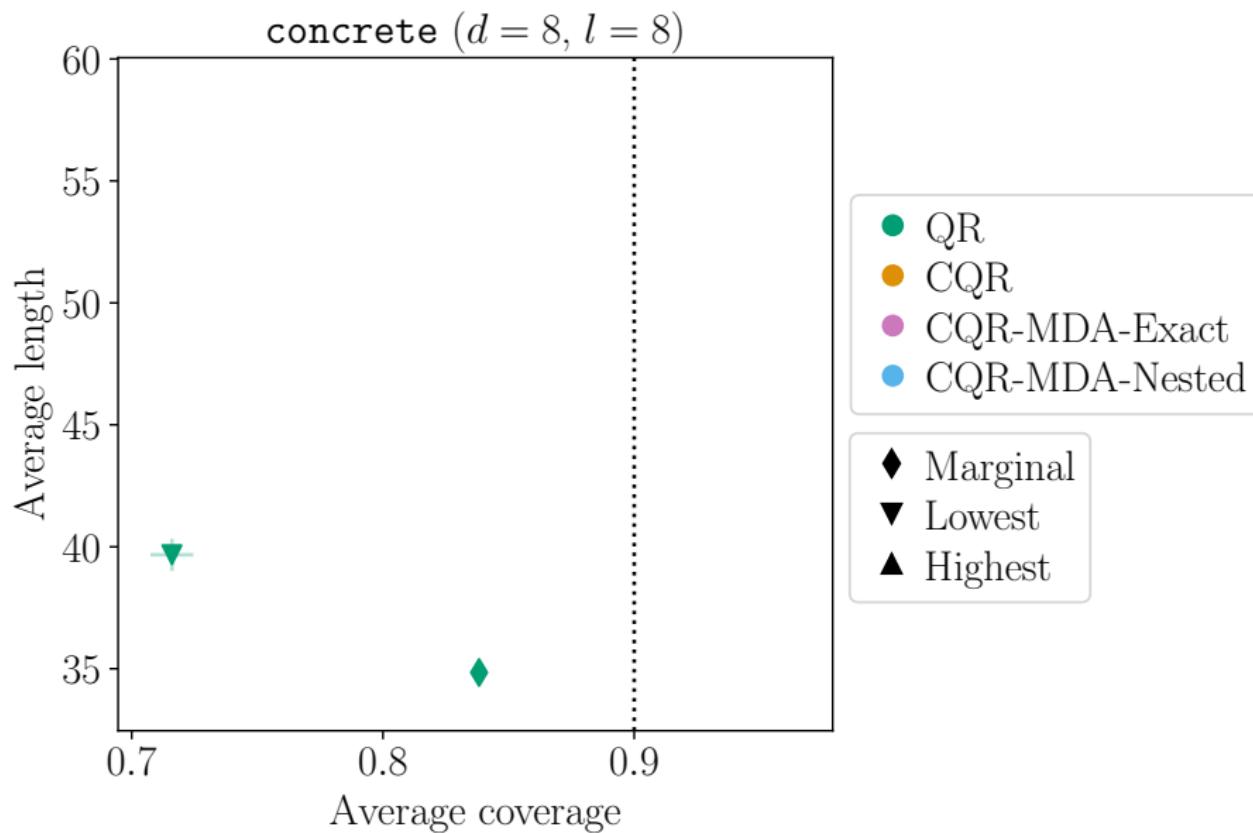
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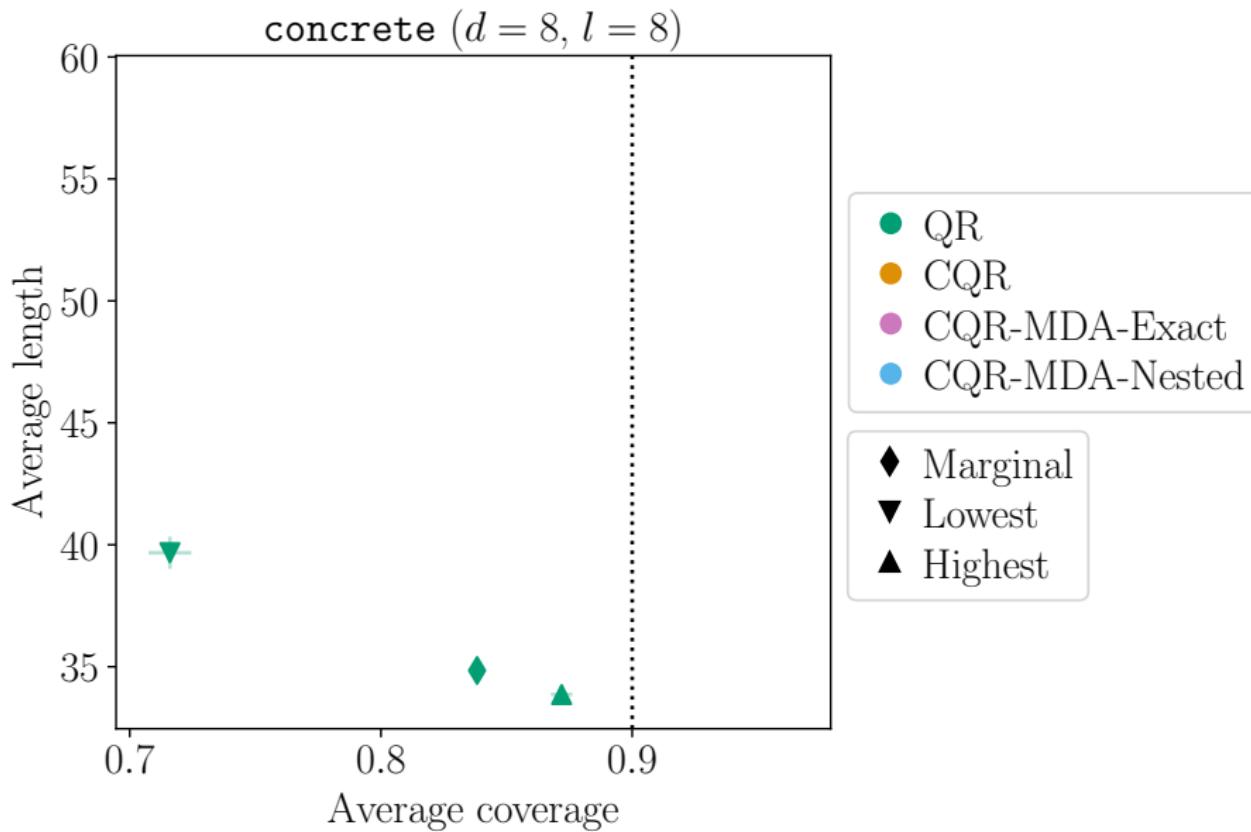
Semi-synthetic experiments



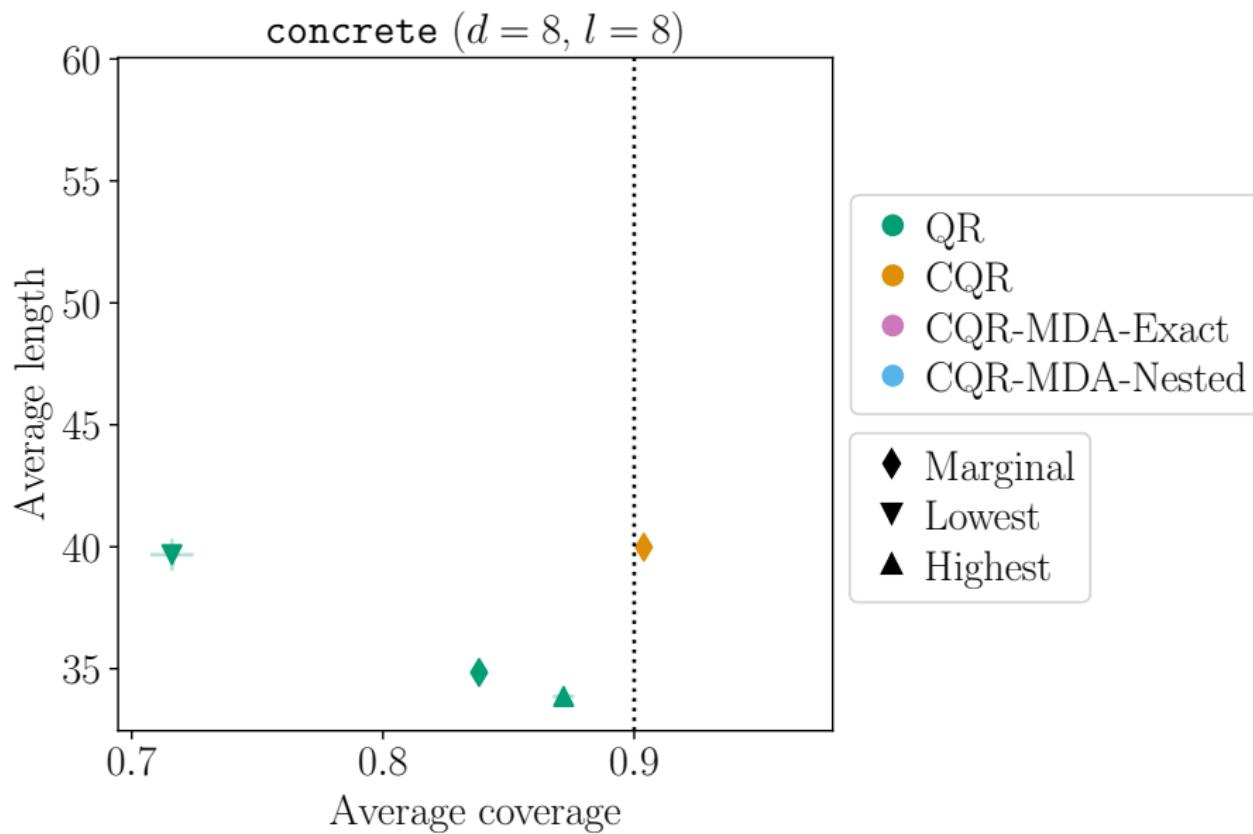
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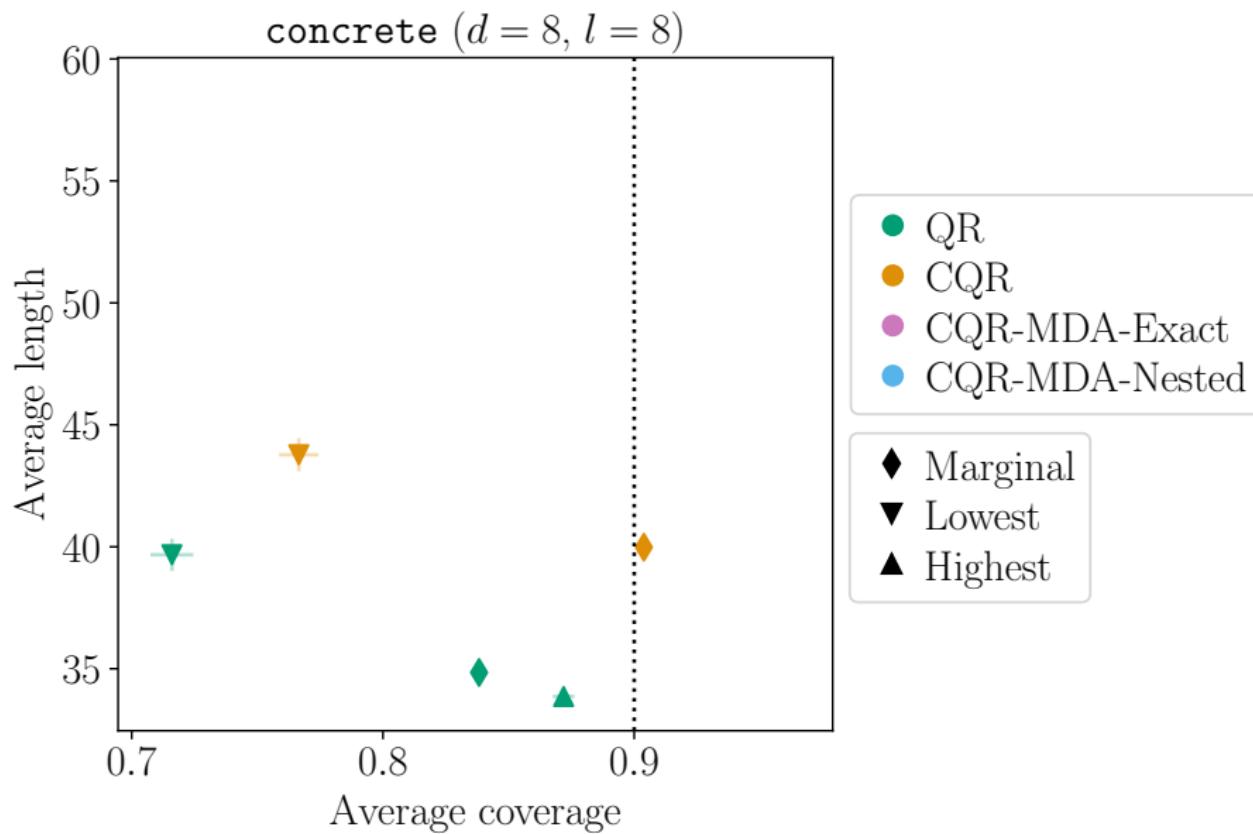
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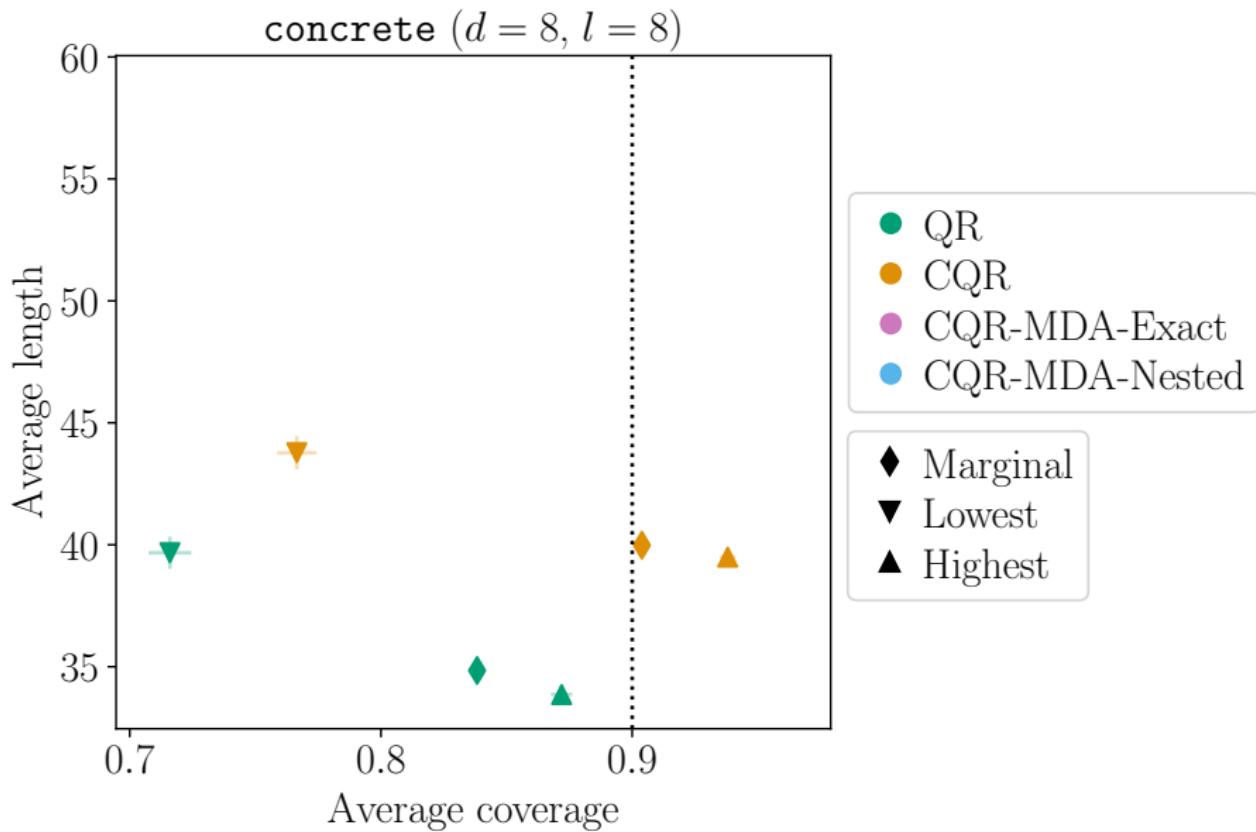
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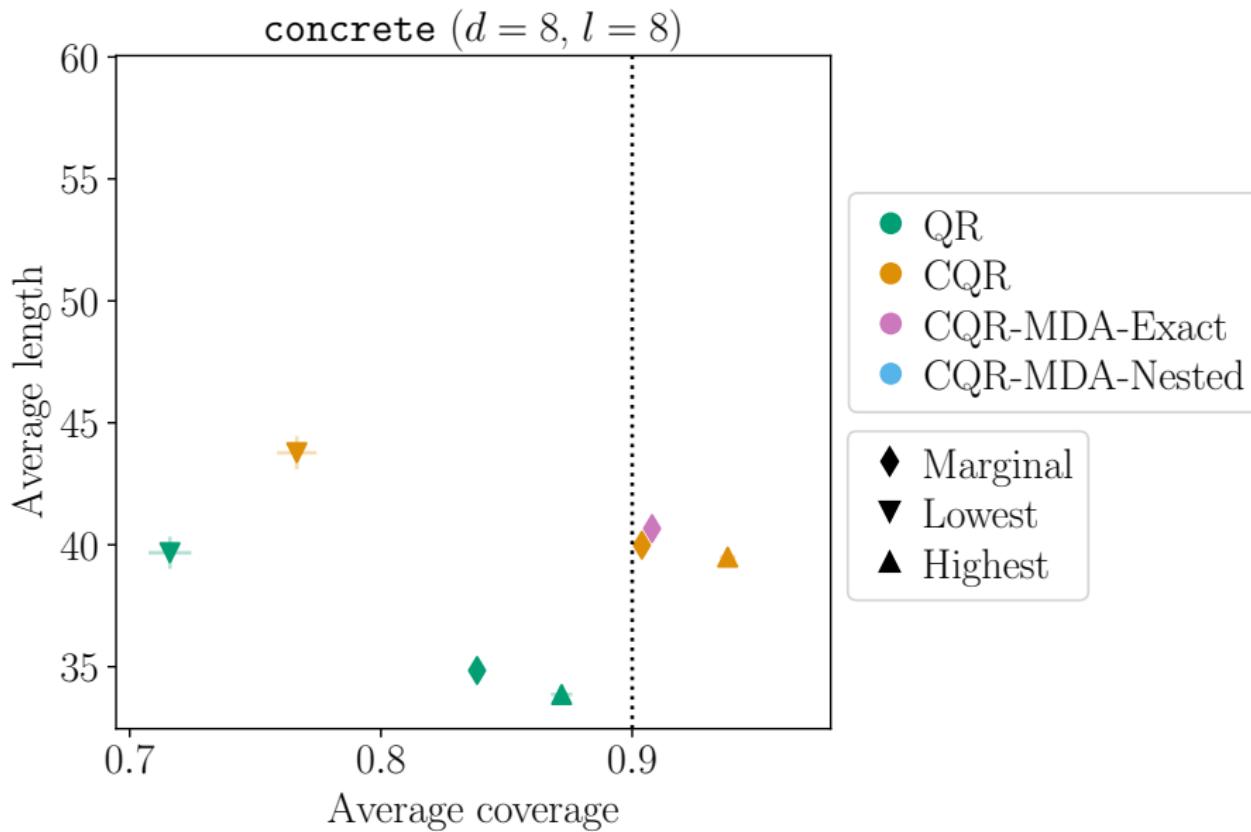
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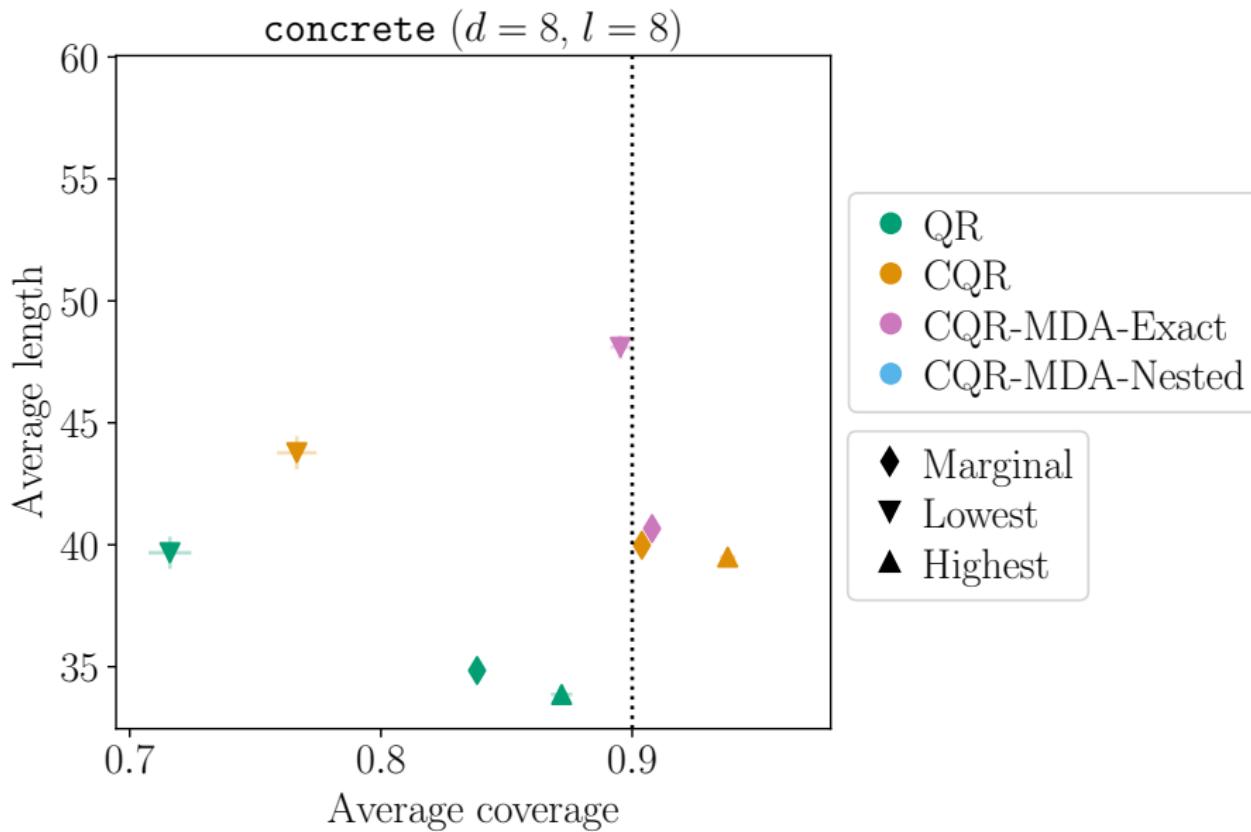
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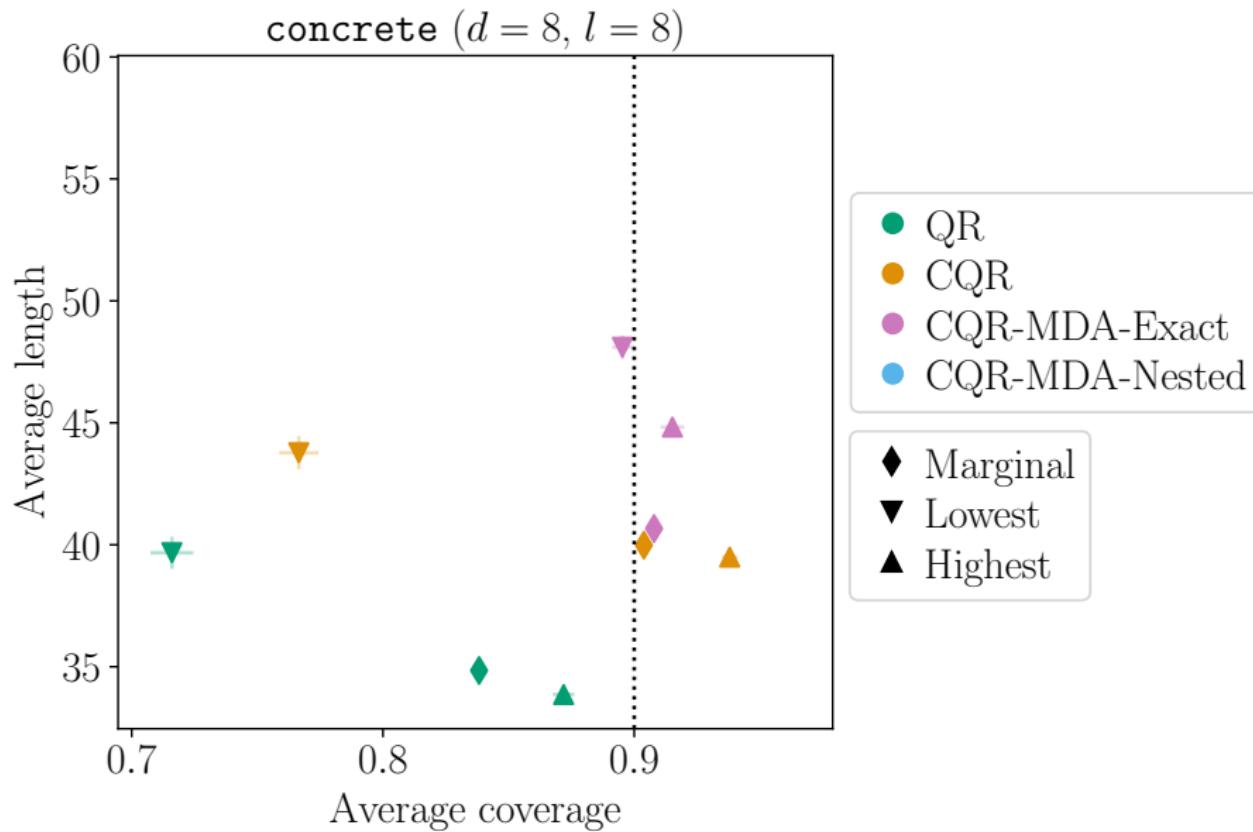
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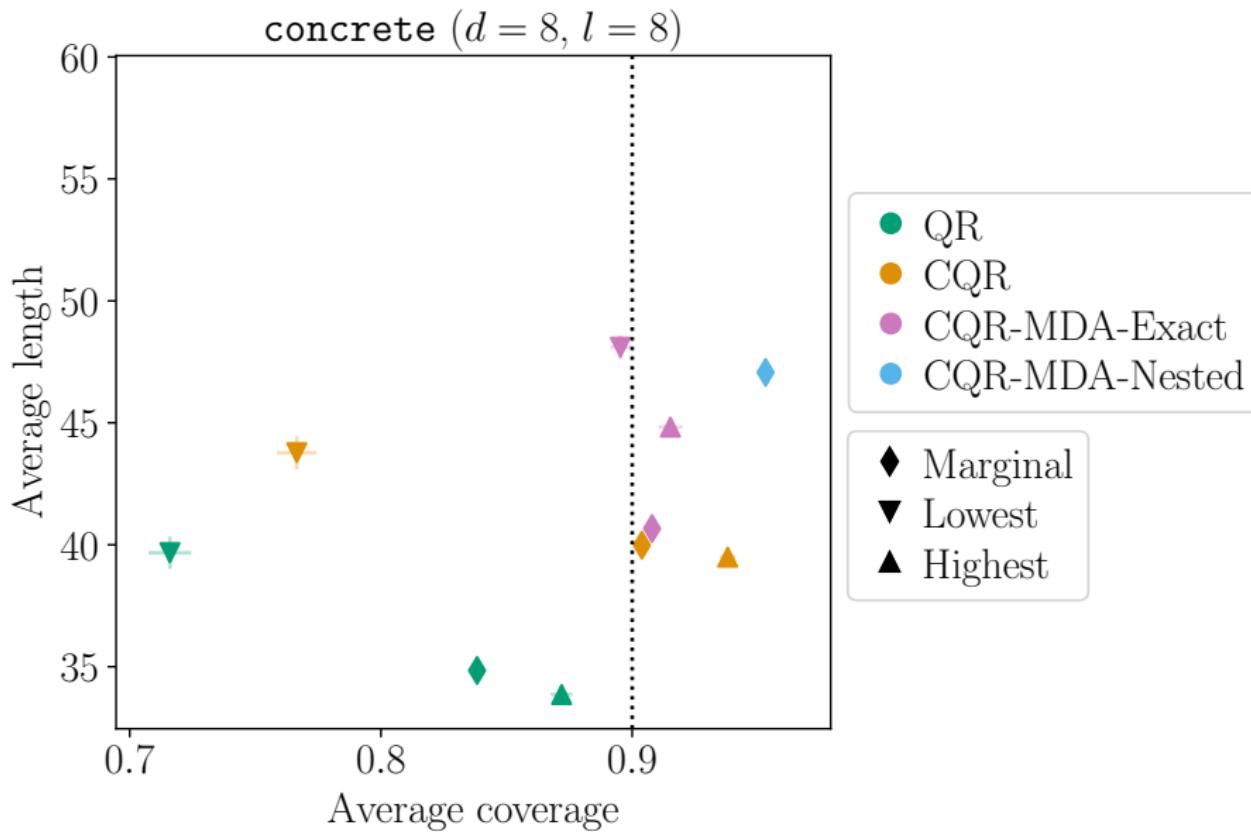
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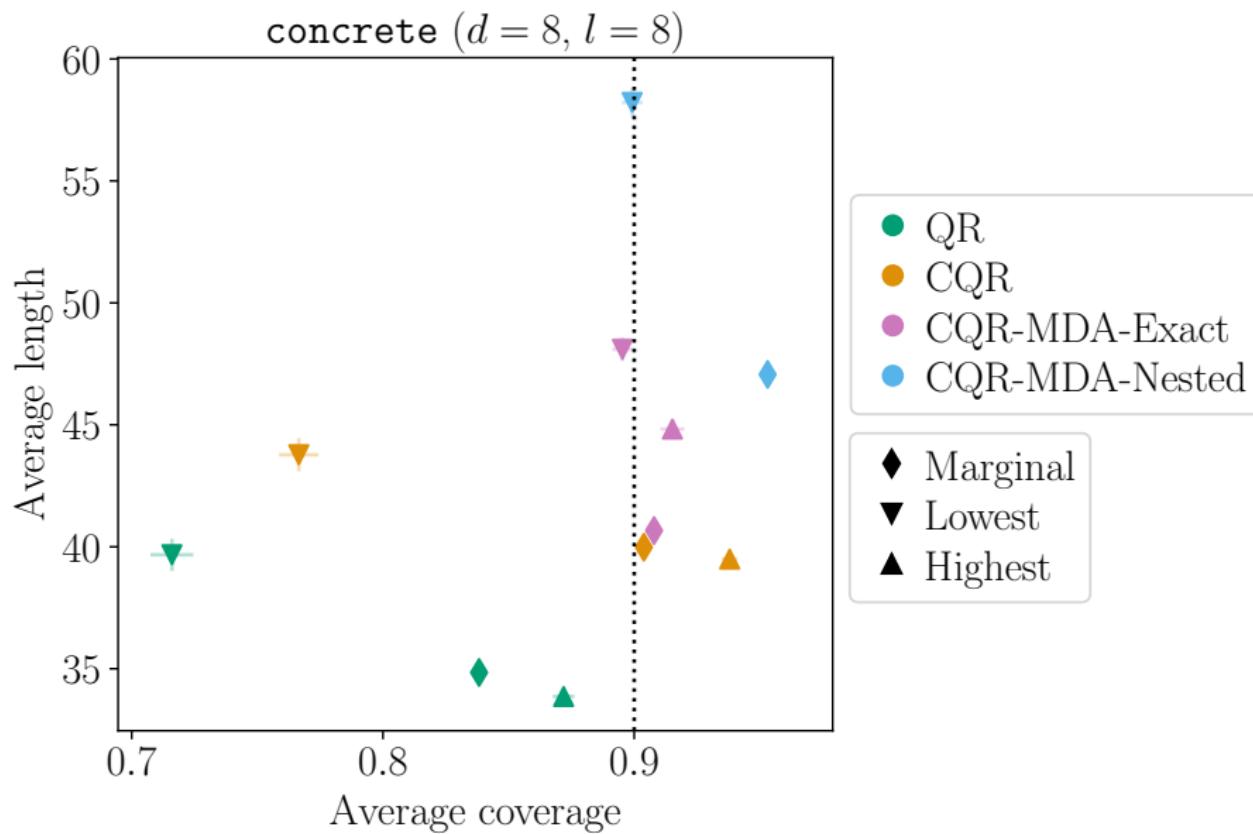
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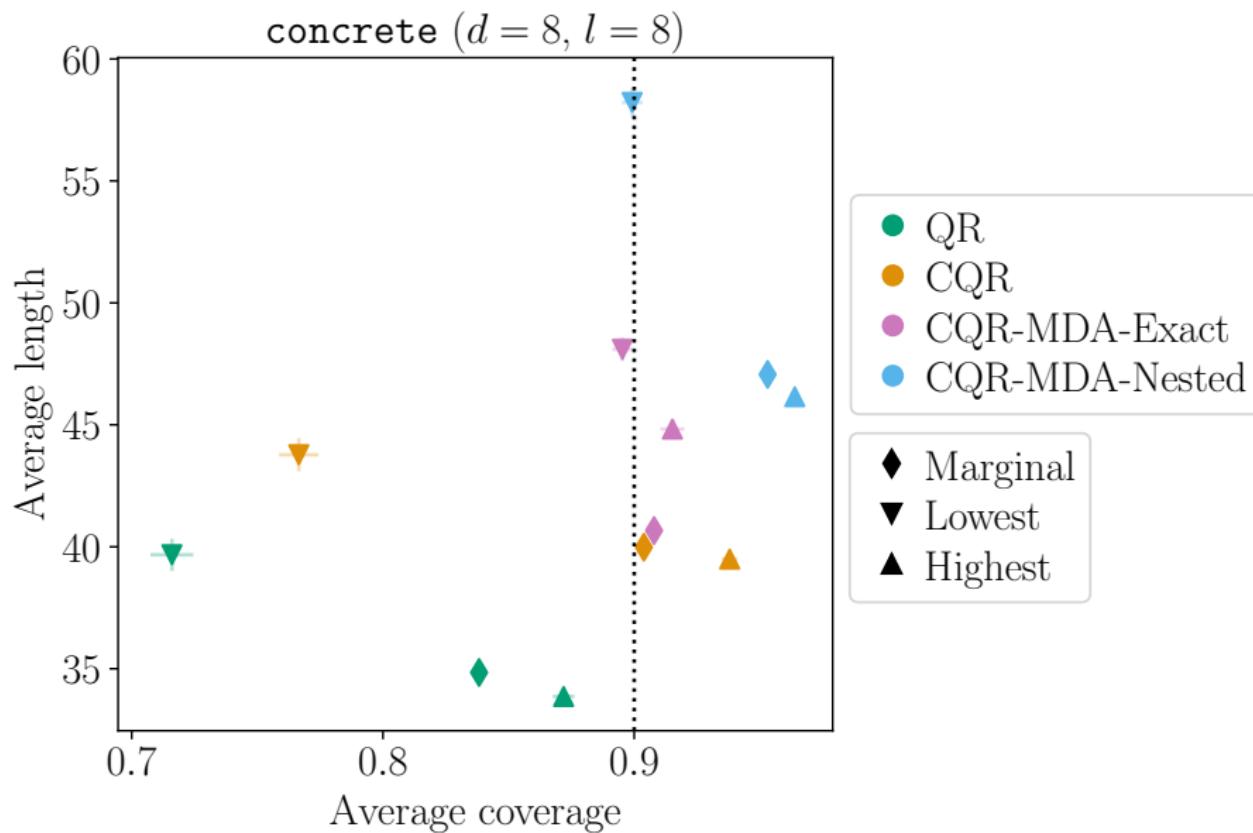
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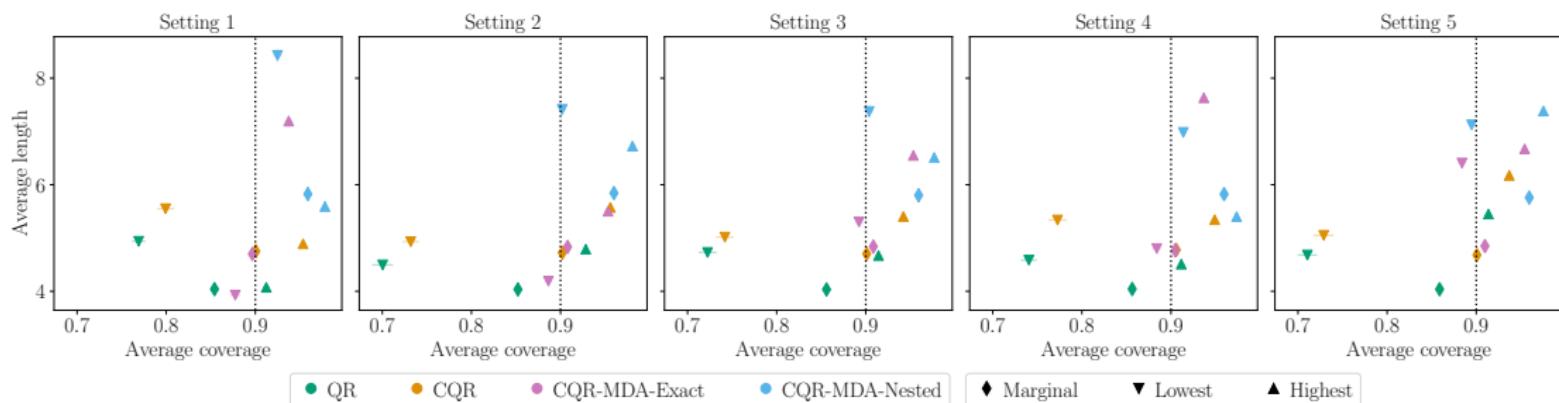
Semi-synthetic experiments



- 6 variables (denote this set X_{missing}) out of 10 can be missing (the 4 others form the set X_{observed})
→ $X_{\text{missing}} = \{X_1, X_2, X_3, X_5, X_8, X_9\}$;
- Proportion of missing entries fixed to be 20%.

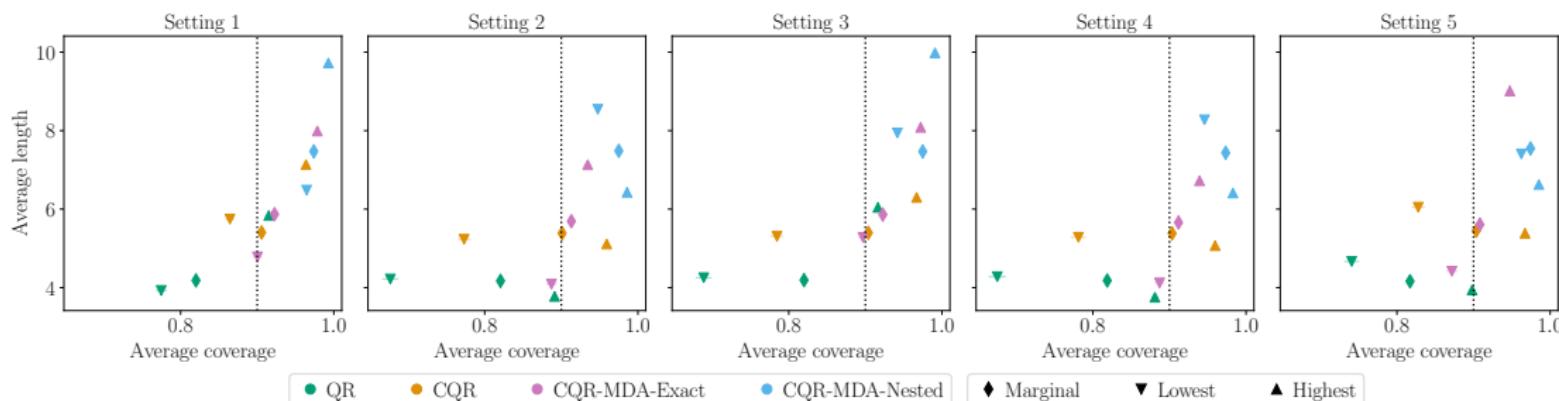
MAR missingness

- Probability of the variables in X_{missing} to be missing given by a logistic model of arguments X_{observed} .
- This setting is declined 5 times, with different weights for the logistic model.



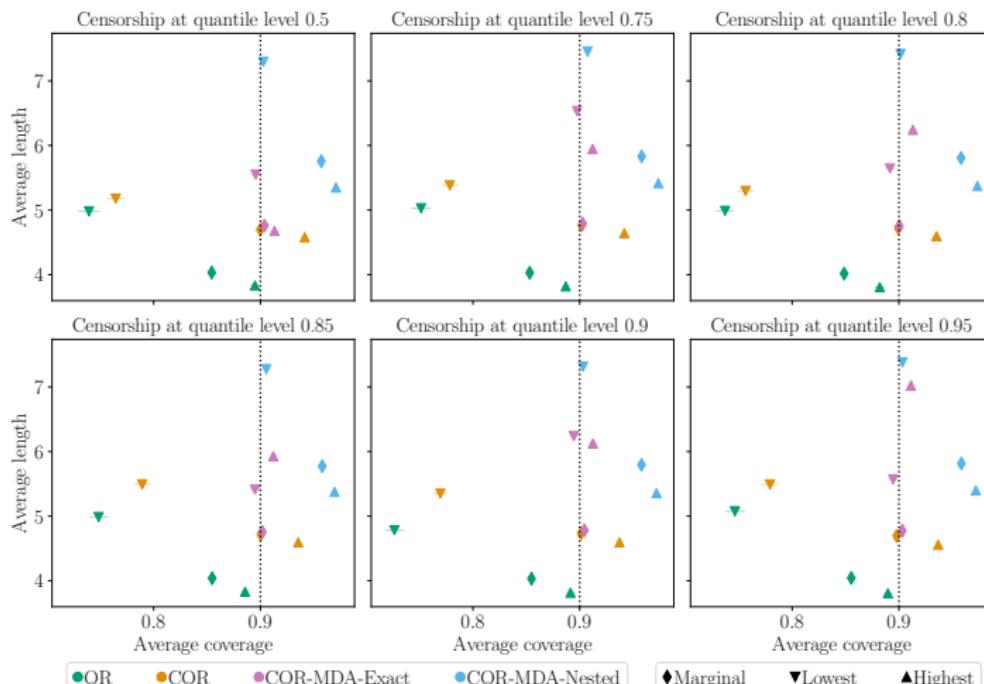
MNAR self masked missingness

- Probability of each variable in X_{missing} to be missing given by a logistic model of argument the same variable of X_{missing} .
- This setting is declined 5 times, with different weights for the logistic model.



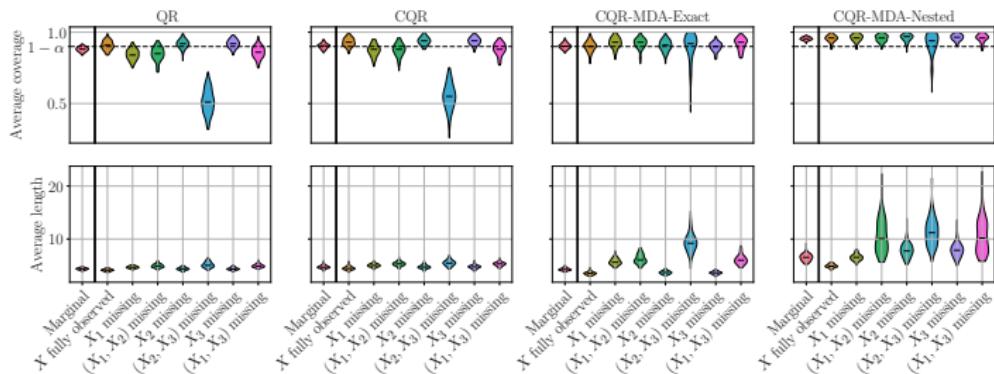
MNAR quantile censorship missingness

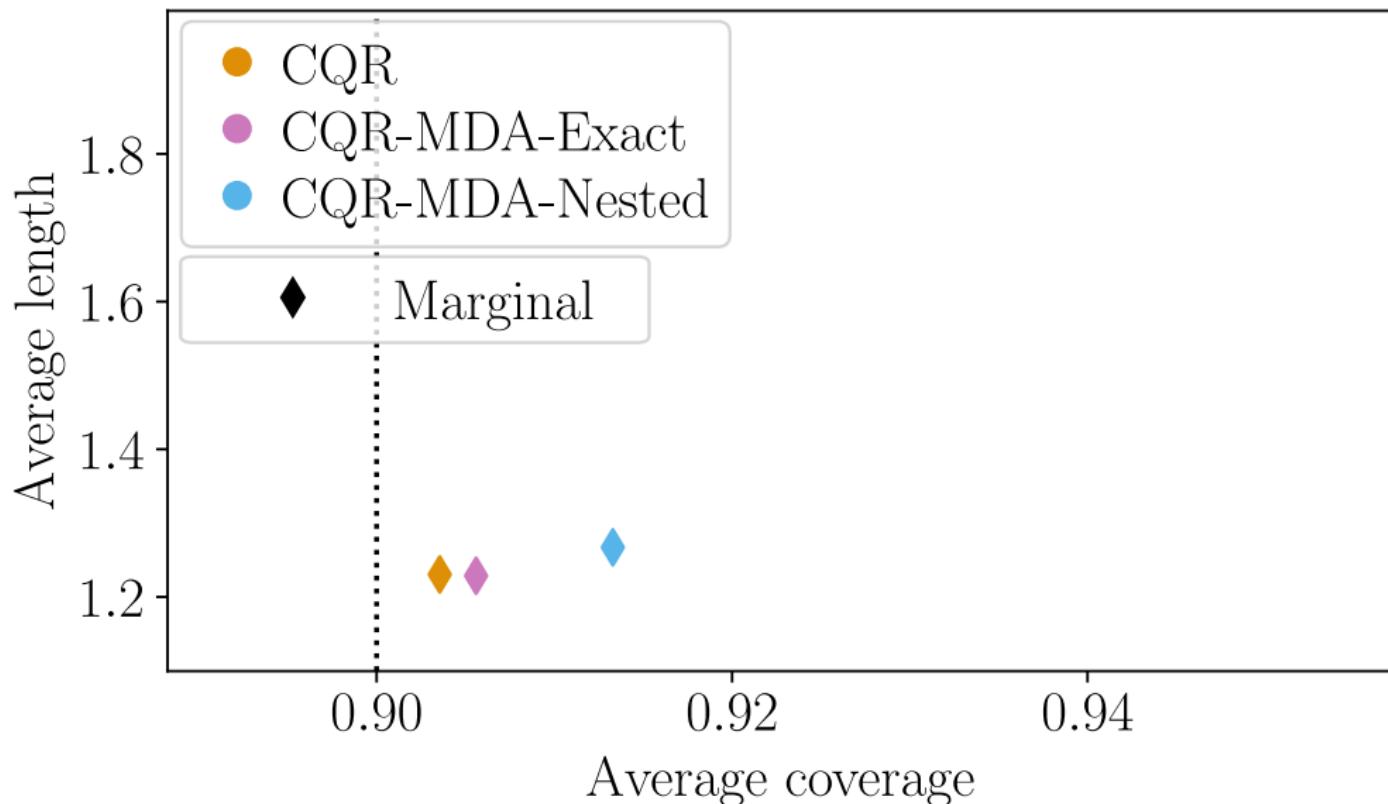
- Missing values are introduced at random in each q -quantile of the variables in X_{missing} .
- 6 different settings: q varies between 0.5, 0.75, 0.8, 0.85, 0.9 and 0.95.

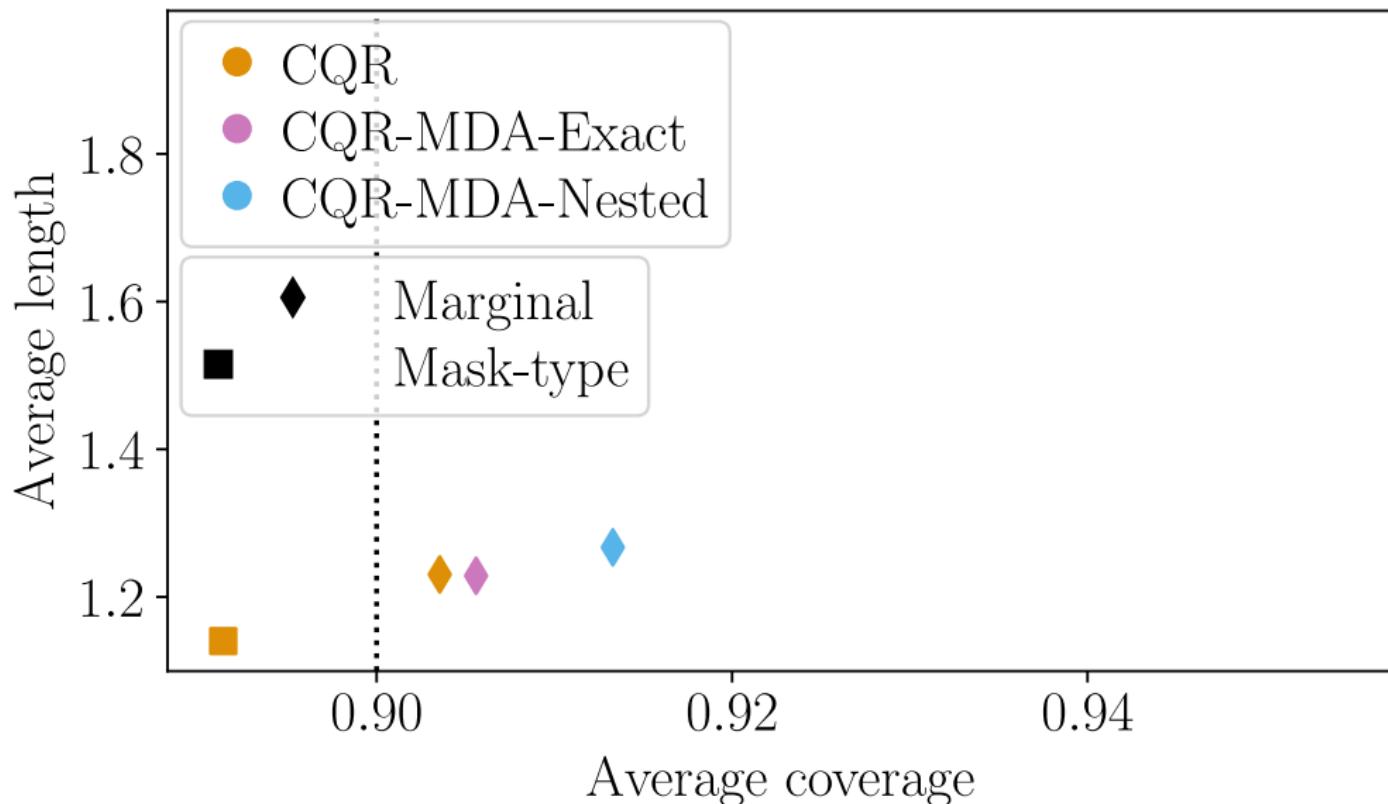


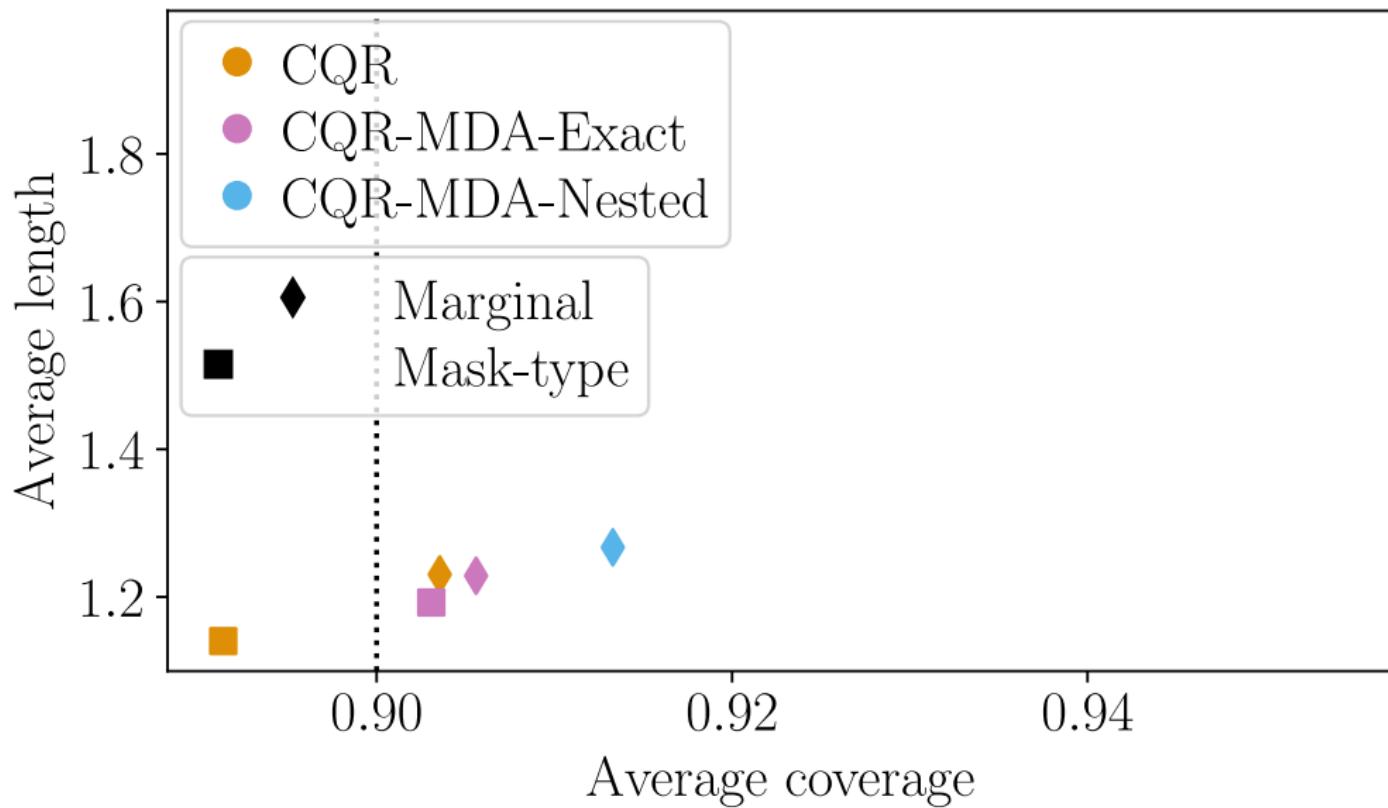
Experiments under $Y \perp\!\!\!\perp M | X$

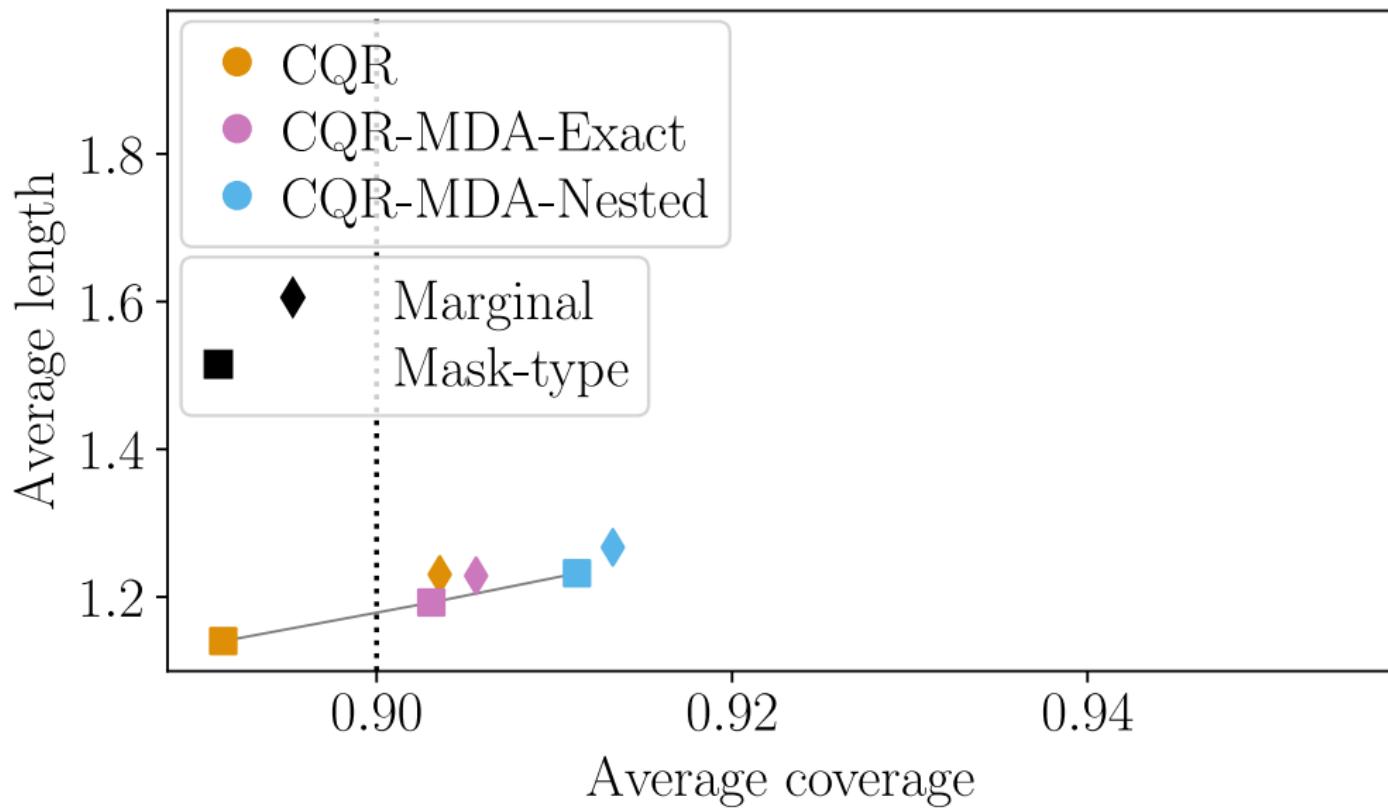
- $M_i \sim \mathcal{B}(0.2)$ for any $i \in \llbracket 1, 3 \rrbracket$, independently from X and ε
- $Y = X_1 \mathbb{1}\{M_1 = 0\} + 2X_1 \mathbb{1}\{M_1 = 1\} + 3X_2 \mathbb{1}\{M_2 = 1, M_3 = 1\} + \varepsilon$



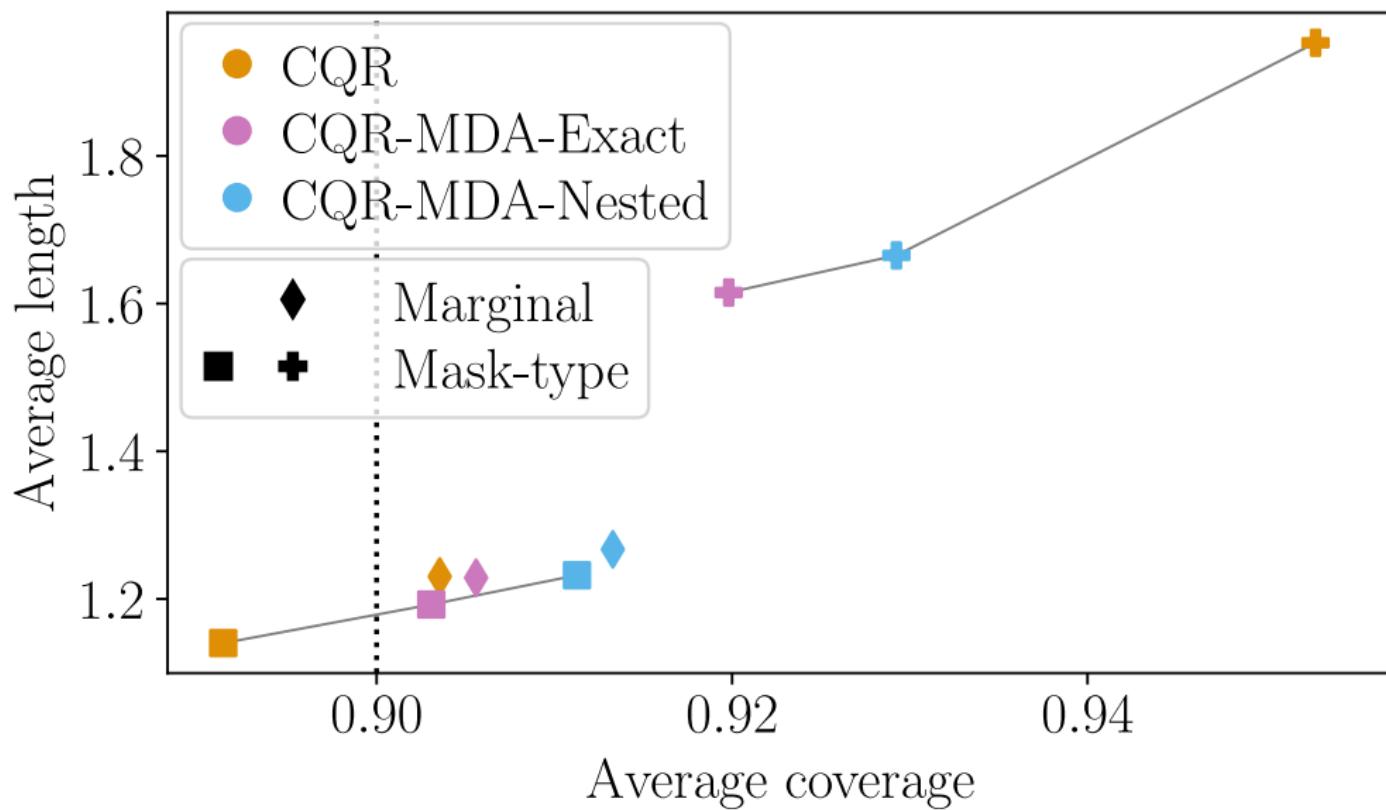




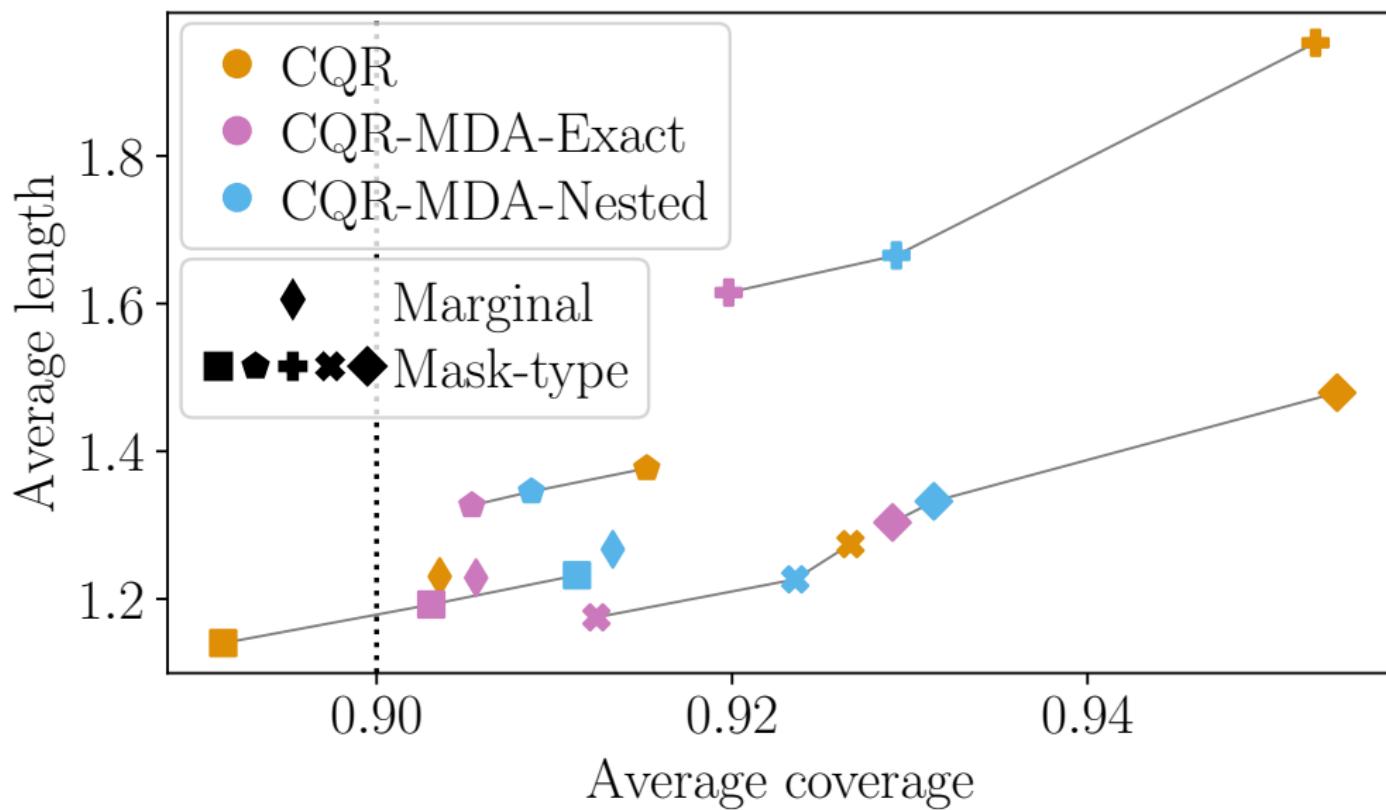




Real data experiment: TraumaBase[®], critical care medicine



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