

Review Report (R1)

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Thank you for the thoughtful and thorough revision, and for addressing my previous comments point by point. Overall, my suggestion of this paper is a major revision. The authors have addressed most of the substantive concerns that I raised. However, there are still a couple of critical issues that need to be addressed before acceptance:

Follow-up comments:

Please address the following, follow-up comments to clear the remaining questions:

1. In Response to my Comment 2, the response says that the augmentation factor $\{(1-R_i)/\hat{\pi}(\cdot)\}$ in the estimating equation was replaced by $(1 - R_i)$ to avoid variance inflation, with an explanatory note added. In the Revised version of the paper, however, the given estimating equation (now Eq. (4.1)) still divides the augmentation term by $\hat{\pi}(\cdot)$ and only later mentions a “stabilized” variant without the division. So I am confused a bit here. The author should clarify what has been done and what has been stated in the response: Either (i) change the given estimating equation (in revised version) to the undivided $(1 - R_i)$ form to match your response to the comment, or (ii) retain the divided-by- $\hat{\pi}$ form but then revise the response accordingly and add a short justification such as directly below the equation, move the stabilized form to a clearly labeled remark or maybe as appendix item. So the problem is that the response and manuscript are inconsistent.
2. In answer to Comment 7, the response indicates that the caption now explicitly shows that coverage was computed using the sandwich variance (and that bootstrap checks were secondary). In the Revised text, the study description mentions sandwich-based coverage, but the Table 1 caption itself does not carry the promised explicit note (?). So we cannot see what has been promised in the response to Comment 7.
3. In response to Comment 5, regarding the proof of Theorem 1, The response promises a full appendix proof. In the revised paper I could not find the appendix pages and after theorem 1, there is no any information about where the proof is (such as see appendix for proof of the theorem etc.). Please ensure the appendix proof is included in the final submission or maybe supplementary material but we should see that.
4. Please use a different color or highlighted text to show us the revised parts of the manuscript. It is really hard to follow what changes have been made in the paper.