

Bayesian Imputation for Potential Outcomes

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Graduate Methods Master Class
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1	...	1	1	?
2	...	1	4	?
3	...	1	3	?
4	...	0	?	10
5	...	0	?	1
6	...	0	?	5

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This defines the causal effect we calculate as zero, but permits calculating the randomization p-value.

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Here the causal effect is estimated to be $-\frac{8}{3}$.

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 - Draw a vector $\beta | \sigma^2, Y_{obs}, X$ from $\beta \sim \text{MVN}(\hat{\beta}_{OLS}, \sigma^2(X'X)^{-1})$. (A flat prior on β generates the MVN, since the MVN is centered at $\hat{\beta}_{OLS}$).

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 - Calculate the ATE: $E[Y(1) - Y(0)]$.
 - Repeat this process k times for posterior estimates of β , SE_{β} , σ^2 , the ATE, and the SE_{ATE} .

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1	...	1	1	5.33
2	...	1	4	5.33
3	...	1	3	5.33
4	...	0	2.67	10
5	...	0	2.67	1
6	...	0	2.67	5

(Here I use only the treatment indicator as a regressor, so by construction I find the ATE is equal to the coefficient on the treatment indicator.)

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- Repeat this process k times for posterior estimates of the two β 's, and the ATE.

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(Here I use only an intercept as the regressor in the two regressions, since the treatment indicator is perfectly colinear with a column of ones. Thus, I get the same results as before. In general, with substantive covariates, this will not be the case.)

An Illustration

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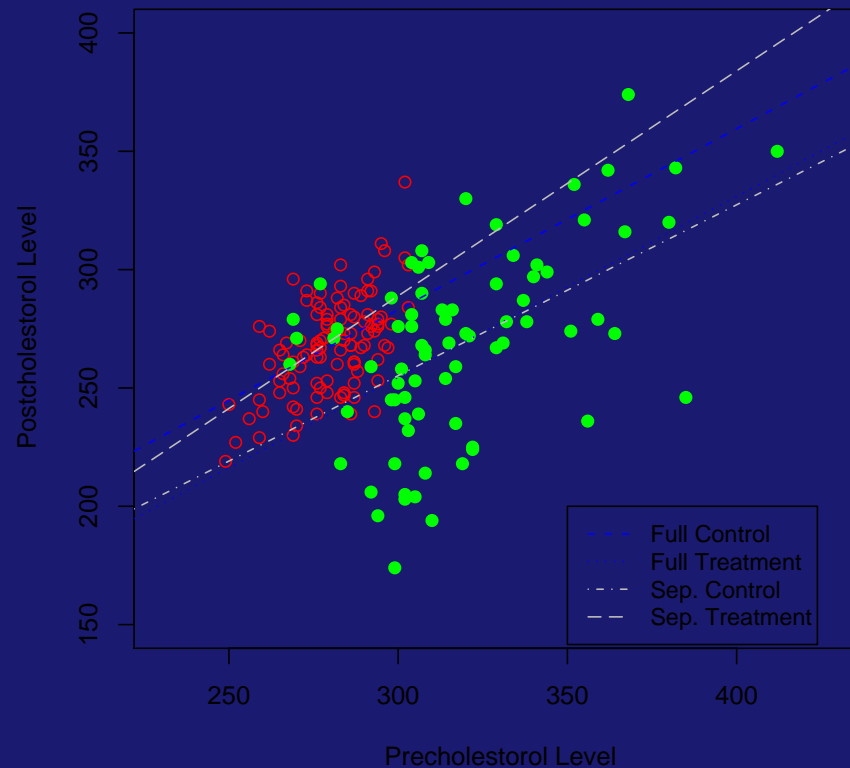
In the figure below, the pretreatment covariate is “Precholesterol Level” and the outcome is “Postcholesterol Level” .

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In the figure below, the pretreatment covariate is “Precholestorol Level” and the outcome is “Postcholestorol Level”. The treatment and control groups only partially overlap on the covariate.

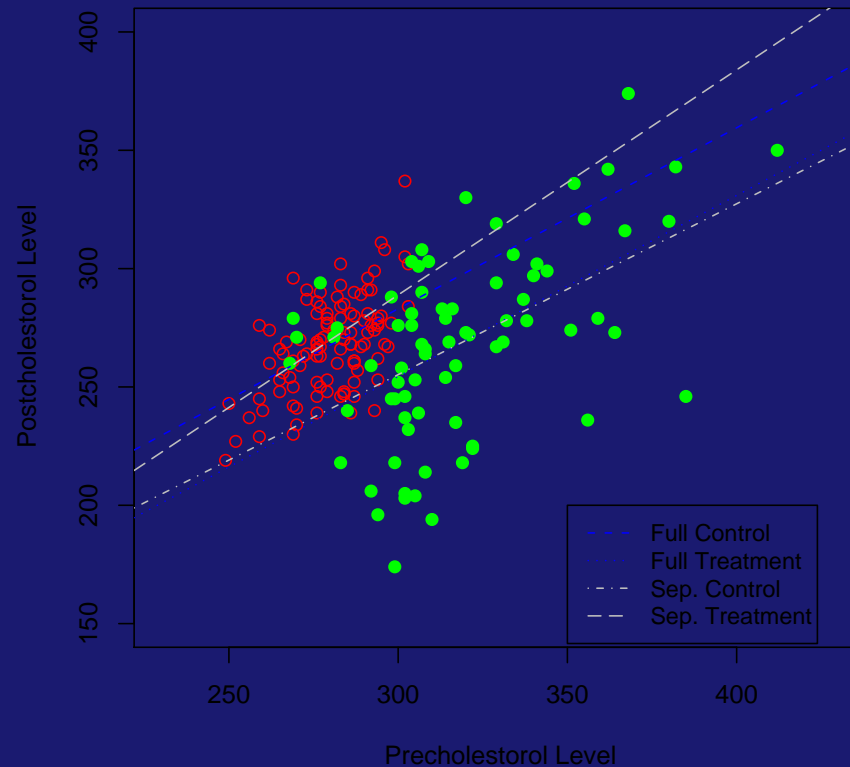
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Treated (green disks) and Control (red circles). Full and separate regression lines indicate that the ATE as modeled here does not appear to have the same relationship in the two subpopulations. “Full” lines indicate single regression; “Sep” lines indicate separate regressions for the treatment and control groups.

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 - Then: Diff-in-diffs & IV, Selection models and alternatives, EI intro and cutting edge, time series, statistical graphics, zero-inflated models, counterfactual analysis and the convex hull, . . .