

# CI = TREATMENT EFFECTS UNDER INTERFERENCE

- Applications in — e-commerce (ad effectiveness)  
 — vaccine trials  
 — marketplace subsidies.

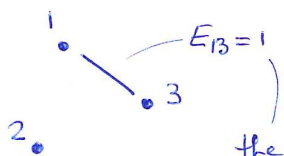
Under no spillover, use the  $\{Y_i(0), Y_i(1)\}$  notation  
 $Y_i = Y_i(W_i)$

Under spillover, we need more potential outcomes:  
 define  $\{Y_i(W)\}_{i=1}^n$ ,  $W \in \{0, 1\}^n$   
 ↖ there are  $2^n$  of them.

Q: What structure is there?  
 Q: What's the causal question here? ] ⇒ Very rich area & many research papers addressing this topic from ≠ angles.

## I - NETWORK INTERFERENCE

Graph representing interaction between units.



Edge  $E_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$   
 (the graph may or may not be directed)

the P.O. of units 1 and 3 depend on their own treatment and each other's treatment allocation. Not on unit's 2.

$$\Rightarrow Y_i(W) = Y_i(W') \text{ if } W_i = W'_i \text{ \& } W_j = W'_j \quad \forall j: E_{ij} = 1$$

[usually a good model in e-commerce applications; less so for vaccine trials who require to incorporate time dynamics]

↘ Questions to ask / What are we interested in? (2)

$$\bullet \bar{V}(0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i(0) \quad \leftarrow \text{all units are in control}$$

↙ for Value

$$\bullet \bar{V}(1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i(1) \quad \leftarrow \text{all units are in treatment}$$

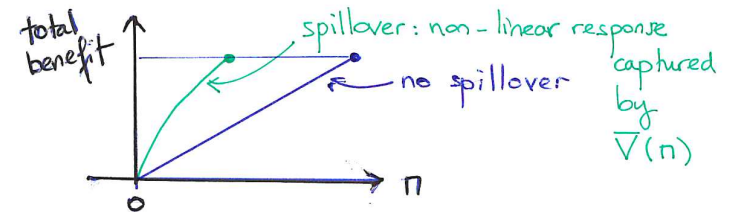
$$\bar{C}_{\text{Tot}} = \bar{V}(0) - \bar{V}(1)$$

\* Remark: we start with a finite population setting, where P.O. are considered fixed or conditioned on.

$$\bullet \bar{V}(\pi) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{W \sim \text{Bern}(\pi)} (Y_i | \{Y(W)\})$$

↖ Under no spillover, this quantity is not interesting since

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{V}(\pi) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_W (W_i Y_i(1) + (1 - W_i) Y_i(0)) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\pi Y_i(1) + (1 - \pi) Y_i(0)) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum Y_i(0) + \pi \frac{1}{n} \sum Y_i(1) - Y_i(0) \\ &= \bar{V}(0) + \pi \bar{C} \\ &= \text{linear growth with } \pi \end{aligned}$$



$\bar{V}(1; \underline{0}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i(w_i=1; w_{-i}=0)$

↑ You are treated; but no-one else is

$\bar{\tau}_{DE-0} = \bar{V}(1; \underline{0}) - \bar{V}(\underline{0})$

Direct Effect

$\bar{V}(0; \underline{e}_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{W \sim B(n)} (Y_i | w_i=0, \sum_{j \neq i} w_j=1, P.O.)$

↑ You are not treated, but only one of your neighbour is.

$\bar{\tau}_{IE-0} = \bar{V}(0; \underline{e}_1) - \bar{V}(\underline{0})$

Indirect Effect

Summary = Can be estimated by changing your policy  $\pi$  (e.g.  $\bar{V}(0)$  = treat noone)

	policy rewards	non-policy rewards
mech indpt	$\bar{V}(0), \bar{V}(1)$	$\bar{V}(1; \underline{0})$
mech dpt	$\bar{V}(n)$	$\bar{V}(0; \underline{e}_1)$

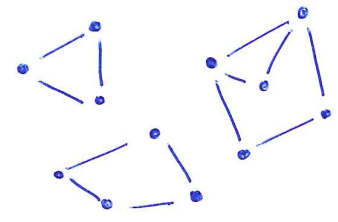
↑ treatment assignment mechanism (i.e. dependence on the probabilistic assignment)

More cautious here  
You can easily do  $w_i=1$  and  $w_i=0$  for a specific unit  $i$ ; but how to compute the averaging?

x Example 1: Cluster Interference

Observe  $(Y_i, w_i, c_i)$   $c_i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$   
 $K$  = number of clusters

"cluster interference" means  $Y_i = Y_i(\underline{w})$  with  $E_{ij}=1 \Leftrightarrow c_i = c_j$



"cluster experiment"  $\begin{cases} Z_k \sim \text{Bern}(n) & k=1, \dots, K \\ W_i = Z_{c_i} \end{cases}$

• What do we observe?

$Y_i = Y_i(\underline{w}) = Y_i(w_i, w_{[j: E_{ij}=1]})$   
 $= \begin{cases} Y_i(\underline{0}) & \text{if control cluster } (Z_{c_i}=0) \\ Y_i(\underline{1}) & \text{if treatment cluster } (Z_{c_i}=1) \end{cases}$

⇒ Only two types of exposure exist. If our estimand depends on these quantities, then we can estimate (e.g.  $\bar{V}(\underline{0}), \bar{V}(\underline{1})$ ) ⇒  $\bar{V}(1; \underline{0})$  and  $\bar{V}(0; \underline{e}_1)$  are not identifiable.

• How to estimate  $\bar{\tau}_{TOT}$ ?

↓ Idea #1  $\hat{\tau}_{DM} = \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{w_i=1} Y_i - \frac{1}{n_0} \sum_{w_i=0} Y_i$

Fact: Not unbiased for finite  $n$ . Under no spillover, the key step to derive unbiasedness of  $\hat{\tau}_{DM}$  was the use of  $\mathbb{P}(w_i=1 | n_0 > 0, n_1 > 0) = n_1/n$ ; which does not hold here  
 ↪ see page 2

↳ Idea #2  $\hat{\tau}_{IPW} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{w_i}{\pi} - \frac{1-w_i}{1-\pi} \right) Y_i$  (5)

Fact: Unbiased for  $\bar{\tau}_{TOT}$  since

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{w_i}{\pi} - \frac{1-w_i}{1-\pi} \right) Y_i \right] = \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{z_{ci} Y_i}{\pi} - \frac{(1-z_{ci}) Y_i}{1-\pi} \right)$$

all  $\mathbb{E}(\dots)$  are conditional on the P.O.

$$= \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{z_{ci} Y_i(1)}{\pi} - \frac{(1-z_{ci}) Y_i(0)}{1-\pi} \right)$$

$$= Y_i(1) - Y_i(0) \quad \blacksquare$$

& block bootstrap for confidence bounds.   
 tit assignmt

x Example 2 = Interference in Bernoulli experiments.

Observe  $(Y_i, W_i)$   $W_i | P.O. \sim \text{Bern}(\pi)$

$Y_i = Y_i(w)$  with exposure  $E_{ij}$

Here IPW is very good for estimating  $\bar{\tau}_{TOT}$

$$\text{Let } \hat{V}_{IPW}(0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbb{1}(W_i=0, W_j=0 \forall E_{ij}=1)}{P_n(W_i=0, W_j=0 \forall E_{ij}=1)} Y_i$$

↑ Note that we are throwing away a lot of the data here.

Notation:  $N_i = |\{j \neq i \mid E_{ij}=1\}|$

$M_i = |\{j \neq i \mid E_{ij}=1, W_j=1\}|$

$$\text{Then } \hat{V}_{IPW}(0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbb{1}(W_i=0, M_i=0)}{(1-\pi)^{1+N_i}} Y_i$$

Fact:  $\hat{V}_{IPW}(0)$  is unbiased for  $Y_i(0)$ . Indeed, (6)

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{V}_{IPW}(0) | P.O.)$$

$$= \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{\mathbb{1}(W_i=0, M_i=0)}{P_n(W_i=0, M_i=0)} Y_i | P.O. \right)$$

$$= \mathbb{E} \left( \text{---} Y_i(0) | P.O. \right)$$

$$= Y_i(0)$$

likewise, define  $\hat{V}_{IPW}(1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbb{1}(W_i=1, M_i=N_i)}{n^{1+N_i}} Y_i$

and  $\hat{\tau}_{TOT, IPW} = \hat{V}_{IPW}(1) - \hat{V}_{IPW}(0)$

⇒ We may still recover total causal quantities, even in a Bernoulli experiment.

[To get confidence bounds, block bootstrap observations. Since we are throwing away a lot of the data, expect wider confidence bounds than with  $\hat{\tau}_{DM}$  in a cluster-experiment]

Remarks = We may also consider

$$\bullet \hat{V}_{IPW}(1; 0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbb{1}(W_i=1, M_i=0)}{n(1-\pi)^{N_i}} Y_i$$

$$\bullet \hat{V}_{IPW}(n') = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{P_{n'}(W_i, W_j \forall j: E_{ij}=1)}{P_n(W_i, W_j \forall j: E_{ij}=1)} Y_i$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\pi^{w_i+M_i} (1-\pi)^{1+N_i-(w_i+M_i)}}{\pi^{w_i+M_i} (1-\pi)^{1+N_i-(w_i+M_i)}} Y_i \quad (7)$$

Fact:  $E_n(\hat{V}_{IPW}(n') | P.O.) = \bar{V}(n')$

$$E_n \left( \frac{P_{n'}(w)}{P_n(w)} Y_i | P.O. \right) \leftarrow \text{abusing notation here}$$

$$\sum_w \left( \frac{P_{n'}(w)}{P_n(w)} Y_i(w) \right) P_n(w) = E_{n'}(Y_i(w))$$

## II - EXPOSURE MAPPINGS

Defined as  $A_i: \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$   
 $Y_i(\underline{w}) = Y_i(\underline{w}')$  if  $A_i(\underline{w}) = A_i(\underline{w}')$   
 or equivalently  $Y_i = Y_i(A_i(\underline{w}))$   
 $(= Y_i(\underline{w}))$

Examples =

→  $H_0$ : No effect exposure  $A_i(\underline{w}) = \emptyset$   $Y_i(\underline{w}) = Y_i(\emptyset)$

→  $H_1$ : No interference  $A_i(\underline{w}) = w_i$   $Y_i(\underline{w}) = Y_i(w_i)$

→  $H_2$ : "At least one"  $A_i(\underline{w}) = (w_i, z_i)$ ,  
 where  $z_i = \mathbb{1}(\exists j \neq i \text{ s.t. } E_{z_j} = 1, w_j = 1)$

→  $H_3$ : General  $A_i(\underline{w}) = (w_i, w_j \forall j \neq i, E_{z_j} = 1)$

Exposure mappings were introduced by Aronow & Samii (2017)  
 We discuss next an application for testing the presence of interference.

## x Permutation test for $H_0$ [sharp null]

(8)

General Procedure:

(i) Pick a test statistic  $T(\underline{Y}, \underline{w}) = \left| \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{i \in 1} Y_i - \frac{1}{n_0} \sum_{i \in 0} Y_i \right|$

(ii) Scramble treatment: for  $b=1, \dots, B$ , let  $\underline{w}^b$  be a random permutation of  $\underline{w}$  and compute  $T^b = T(\underline{Y}, \underline{w}^b) = Y(\underline{w}^b)$

(iii) Compute a "p-value"  

$$Pral = \frac{1 + \sum_{b=1}^B \mathbb{1}(T \leq T^b)}{1 + B}$$

→ We show below that this is a valid p-value under  $H_0$ ; ie that it satisfies  $P_{H_0}(Pral \leq \alpha) \leq \alpha \forall \alpha \in [0, 1]$ .

→ Our experiment is characterized by the P.O.  $\{Y_i(\underline{w})\}$  & a randomization distribution  $\underline{w} \sim \mathbb{R}$  (considering here a completely randomized experiment)

In the permutation test set-up, all  $(w, w^1, \dots, w^B)$  are iid draws from  $\mathbb{R}$  [in particular, it keep the total number of treated customers constant].

Consequence:  $(T, T_1^*, \dots, T_B^*)$  are iid conditionally on the P.O., where  $T_b^* = T(\underline{Y}(\underline{w}^b), \underline{w}^b)$

Key Step: Under  $H_0$ :  $T_b = T_b^*$

⇒  $(T, T_1, \dots, T_B)$  are iid draws cond. on the P.O. under  $H_0$ .

⇒ p-value is uniform on  $\{\frac{1}{1+B}, \frac{2}{1+B}, \dots, 1\}$ . (9)

Remark: Under  $R = \text{Bern}(n)$ , the  $(w, w^1, \dots, w^B)$  are not iid (but cond. iid on the number of treated).

x Permutation test for  $H_1$

Testing for the presence of interference

• Idea #1: permute similarly, generating the  $w^b$ .  
Issue: can't impute  $Y_i(w^b)$  in general from observations (problem if  $w_i^b \neq w_i$ )

• Idea #2: consider focal units

Example:  $J \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$  s.t.  $w_i = 0 \ \forall i \in J$

(select a subset of untreated units)

& generate  $w_b$  s.t.  $w_i^b = 0 \ \forall i \in J$

(units in the focal group remain untreated)

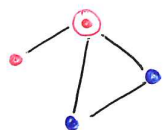
depends only on the outcome of units  $i \in J$

& consider  $T(Y, w) = \frac{\sum_{z=1, i \in J} Y_i}{|\{i \in J | z_i = 1\}|} - \frac{\sum_{z=0, i \in J} Y_i}{|\{i \in J | z_i = 0\}|}$

(recall:  $z_i = 1 \iff$  unit  $i$  has at least one treated neighbour)

⇒  $T(Y, w)$  captures the mean difference of having one or more treated neighbours with having no one treated

⇒ Need to turn this to a formal test



• = untreated

• = treated

○ = focal unit  $i \in J$

• We have a null hypothesis  $H_0$ , P.O. and a randomization scheme  $w \sim \mathbb{R}$ , and observe  $\underline{Y}(w), w$ . (10)

• Given  $w$ , we are going to choose:

- (\*) {
  - a focal set  $J \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$
  - a test statistic  $T(\underline{Y}(w), w)$  that only depends on  $Y_i$  for  $i \in J$
  - a permutation set  $\mathcal{W}$  s.t.  $w_i = w_i^b$  for  $i \in J \ \forall w^b \in \mathcal{W}$

• Pick  $w^1, \dots, w^B \in \mathcal{W}$

• Compute  $T_b = T(\underline{Y}(w), w^b)$

By (\*),  $T_b = T_b^*(\underline{Y}(w^b), w^b) \ \forall b$  Under  $H_0$

Q: What is the right p-value here?

Put  $\alpha_J(w) = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{R}}(w = w \mid \{J, T, \mathcal{W}\} \text{ selected})$

Then

$$p\text{-val} = \frac{\alpha_J(w) + \sum_{b=1}^B \alpha_J(w^b) \mathbb{1}(T \leq T^b)}{\alpha_J(w) + \sum_{b=1}^B \alpha_J(w^b)}$$

We need these weights to address a Monhy-Hall effect here:

Ex:  $R =$  treat one person at random

$J =$  pick two non-adjacent units.

$= \{ \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 4\} \}$  [one of these]

wt	$\{1, 3\}$	$\{1, 4\}$	$\{2, 4\}$
● ○ ○ ○			× ×
○ ● ○ ○	×	×	
○ ○ ● ○		×	×
○ ○ ○ ●	× ×		

We see that conditionally on  $J^* = \{2, 4\}$ ,  
 the probability that unit 1 is treated is  $2/3$ ,  
 and not  $1/4$ . (11)

$\Rightarrow$  the p-value needs to account for this effect  
 (i.e. get the correct conditional distribution, since  
 $P_{val}$  is defined conditionally on  $J^*$ )

The presence of the  $\alpha_{J^*}(\underline{w})$  terms make the computation  
 more complicated. However, these sometime cancel out:

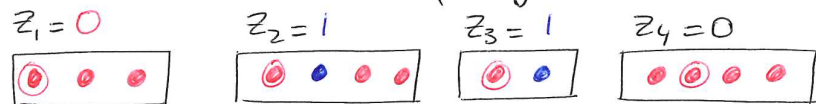
x Example: Students in families (Basse, Feller, Taulis (2019))

$C_i = \{1, \dots, K\}$  denotes the family

Two-stage design  $Z_k \in \{0, 1\}$  = exposure of the  
 family; completely randomized with  $n_1$  treated families

L If  $Z_k = 0$ , then  $W_i = 0 \forall i$  s.t.  $C_i = k$

L If  $Z_k = 1$ , then treat one person at random  
 in the  $k$ -th family



$J^* \equiv$  random untreated person in each family  
 let  $S_k =$  index of the focal unit in  
 the  $k$ -th family

$$T(\underline{Y}, \underline{w}) = \left| \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{z_k=1} Y_{S_k} - \frac{1}{n_0} \sum_{z_k=0} Y_{S_k} \right|$$

# of treated families  $\uparrow$   
 $= K - n_1$

More formally, the exposure mapping for unit  $i$   
 is assumed to be (12)

$$A_i(\underline{w}) = A_i(W_1, \dots, W_n) = A_i(W_i, Z_{[i]})$$

$n$  individuals spread  
 among  $K$  families

The P.O. depends on your  
 own treatment, and whether  
 you were assigned to a  
 treatment or control family.

[Implicit Assumption = it  
 doesn't matter which one of your  
 relatives was treated if you  
 are in a treated family].

where  $[i]$  denotes  
 the household  
 where  $i$  resides,  
 and  $W_i =$  treatment  
 indicator of unit  $i$ ,  
 $i=1, \dots, n$

We write  $Y_i(W_i, Z_{[i]})$  for the value of  $Y_i(\underline{w})$ .  
 It can take only three possible values:

$$Y_i(\underline{w}) \in \{ \underbrace{Y_i(0,0)}_{\text{control unit in a control}}, Y_i(0,1), Y_i(1,1) \}$$

and treated family,  
 respectively.

$\Rightarrow$  The set  $\mathcal{A}$  contains 3 values:

$$\mathcal{A} = \{ a = (0,0), b = (0,1), c = (1,1) \}$$

We consider the null  $H_0^S: Y_i(0,0) = Y_i(0,1) \forall i$

$\uparrow$   
 i.e. is there proof of interaction between members  
 of a family?

Under  $H_0^s$ , we can swap the P.O.  $Y_i(0,1)$  and  $Y_i(0,0)$  of all non treated units & therefore of all focal units  $\Rightarrow$  we can compute the  $T^b$  statistic by scrambling the family assignment ( $Z^b$ ) at random:

$$T^b(Y, \underline{\omega}^b) = \left| \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{z_k^b=1} Y_{s_k} - \frac{1}{n-n_1} \sum_{z_k^b=0} Y_{s_k} \right|$$

The focal units are the same as before.

Fact: Under this scheme, all  $\alpha_{\mathcal{F}}(\underline{\omega})$  have the same value. This follows immediately from the two-stage design:

- $\rightarrow$  First, draw individuals  $\Delta$  that might potentially be treated (1 per family)
- $\rightarrow$  Second, draw a focal individual  $\square$  other than  $\Delta$  within each family (1 per family)
- $\rightarrow$  Third, draw the family assignment at random.

Since the binary assignment  $Z_k \in \{0,1\}$  is completely independent of the selection of  $\Delta$  and  $\square$ , we have no Monty Hall effect and  $\alpha_{\mathcal{F}}(\underline{\omega}) = \text{constant } \forall \underline{\omega}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  The terms  $\alpha_{\mathcal{F}}(\underline{\omega})$  cancel out and  $(1 + \sum_{b=1}^B \mathbb{1}(T \leq T_b)) / (1+B)$  is a valid p-value under  $H_0^s$ .

### III - AVG DIRECT & INDIRECT EFFECTS

Collect  $(Y_i, W_i) \quad i=1, \dots, n \quad W_i \in \{0,1\}$   
 $Y_i = Y_i(\underline{\omega}) ; \quad \underline{\omega} = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n)$   
 Network interference  $E_{ij} \in \{0,1\}$  s.t.  $Y_i(\underline{\omega}) = Y_i(\underline{\omega}')$  if  $\omega_i = \omega_i'$  and  $\omega_i = \omega_j' \quad \forall j: E_{ij} = 1$ .  
 $N_i = \sum_{j \neq i} E_{ij} = \# \text{ neighbours of } i$   
 $M_i = \sum_{j \neq i} E_{ij} \omega_j = \# \text{ of treated neighbours of } i$

In the previous lecture, we had a look at quantities such as  $V(0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i(0)$

$$V(1; 0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i(\omega_i=1; 0)$$

the treatment for each unit other than  $i$  was specified & set to a particular value.

In a Bernoulli trial,  
 $\hat{V}_{IPW}(1; 0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbb{1}(\omega_i=1; \omega_j=0 \quad \forall j \neq i \quad E_{ij}=1)}{\pi(1-\pi)^{N_i}} Y_i$

is unbiased for  $V(1; 0)$ . However, this estimator is very noisy whenever  $\pi \approx 1/2$  and  $N_i$  is large (large networks) = the denominator is close to 0, inflating the numerator by a large factor

- $\hookrightarrow$  OK for vaccine trials since we can assume sparsity
- $\hookrightarrow$  Not OK for marketplace where many agents interact.

Other estimands to consider.

(15)

$$\bar{\tau}_{ADE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{R}} [Y_i(W_i=1; W_{-i}) - Y_i(W_i=0; W_{-i})]$$

Average Direct Effects

↑ - the role of all other units is marginalized out -

Depends on IR.

If  $\mathbb{R} \sim \text{Bern}(\pi)$ , the average direct effect will heavily depend on  $\pi$ ; i.e. how many people are already affected by the treatment (e.g. vaccine trials)

$$\bar{\tau}_{AIE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \neq i} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{R}} [Y_j(W_i=1; W_{-i}) - Y_j(W_i=0; W_{-i})]$$

Average Indirect Effects

↑ same as before: marginalized out.

effect of the  $i$ -th unit treated on  $j$  being

total effect of treating the  $i$ -th unit on all other units

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \neq i} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{R}} [Y_i(W_j=1; W_{-j}) - Y_i(W_j=0; W_{-j})]$$

average treatment effect of others on you

Example = Checking that these two definitions make sense in a simple linear scenario where

$$Y_i(\underline{W}) = \alpha_i + \beta_i W_i + \gamma_i \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{j \neq i} E_{ij} W_j + \varepsilon$$

$\beta_i$  response to your own treatment

$\gamma_i$  response to your neighbours treatment

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \tau_{ADE} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \alpha_i + \beta_i + \gamma_i \frac{M_i}{N_i} W_{-i} \right. \\ &= Y_i(W_i=1; W_{-i}) \\ &\quad \left. - (\alpha_i + \gamma_i \frac{M_i}{N_i} W_{-i}) \right] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \\ &= Y_i(W_i=0; W_{-i}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{\tau}_{AIE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\substack{j \neq i \\ E_{ij}=1}} \delta_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i$$

Q: What about estimation?

Assume  $\mathbb{R} = \text{Bern}(\pi)$

since the  $W_i$  are iid  $\text{Bern}(\pi)$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\pi} [Y_i(W_i=1; W_{-i})] &= \mathbb{E}_{\pi} [Y_i(W_i=1; W_{-i}) \mid W_i=1] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\pi} [Y_i(W_i; W_{-i}) \mid W_i=1] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\pi} [Y_i \mid W_i=1] \end{aligned}$$

only observable quantities remain

$$\bar{\tau}_{ADE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{\pi} (Y_i \mid W_i=1) - \mathbb{E}_{\pi} (Y_i \mid W_i=0) \right\}$$

The notation emphasizes that this expression for  $\bar{\tau}_{ADE}$  is valid under a Bernoulli scheme

⇒ logically, consider an IPW estimator for  $\bar{\tau}_{ADE}$

$$\hat{\tau}_{ADE}^{IPW} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{W_i}{\pi} - \frac{1-W_i}{1-\pi} \right) Y_i$$



$$\widehat{\tau}_{ADE}^{IPW} = \mathbb{E}(\widehat{\tau}_{ADE}^{IPW} | P.O.) = \overline{\tau}_{ADE} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } \mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{W_i}{n} - \frac{1-W_i}{1-n}\right) Y_i\right] &= \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E}_{\pi}(-'' - | W_i) \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{W_i}{n} - \frac{1-W_i}{1-n}\right) \mathbb{E}(Y_i | W_i)\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{W_i}\left(\frac{W_i}{n} \mathbb{E}(Y_i | W_i)\right) \\ &\quad - \mathbb{E}_{W_i}\left(\left(\frac{1-W_i}{1-n}\right) \mathbb{E}(Y_i | W_i)\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(Y_i | W_i=1) - \mathbb{E}(Y_i | W_i=0) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

And apply across all units  $i$

Note that similarly we can prove that

$$\widehat{\tau}_{ADE}^{DM} = \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{W_i=1} Y_i - \frac{1}{n_0} \sum_{W_i=0} Y_i \text{ is also unbiased for } \overline{\tau}_{ADE}.$$

**Take Away** = the difference in means estimator is still estimating something meaningful: not an ATE in the presence of spillover, but an ADE

As opposed to an average total effect captured by a clustered randomized experiment

Next, estimating the AIE =

$$\widehat{\tau}_{AIE}^{IPW} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \neq i} \left(\frac{W_j}{n} - \frac{1-W_j}{1-n}\right) Y_i$$

(can prove as before that it is unbiased)

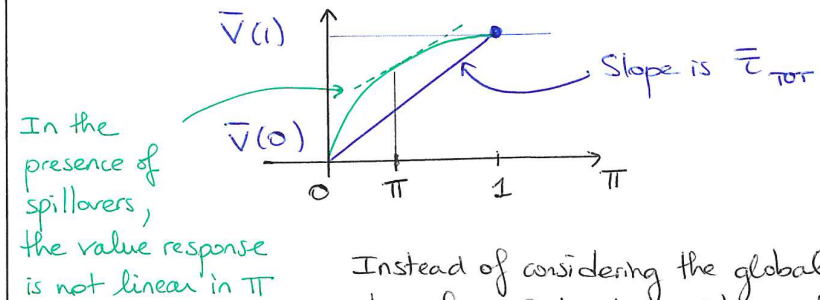
$$\widehat{\tau}_{AIE}^{IPW} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{M_i}{n} - \frac{N_i - M_i}{1-n}\right) Y_i$$

## The decomposition theorem

(18)

Consider  $R = \text{Bern}(\pi)$ .

The total effect of treating no-one ( $\pi=0$ ) to treating everyone in the population ( $\pi=1$ ) is  $\overline{\tau}_{TOT} = \overline{V}(1) - \overline{V}(0)$ .



Instead of considering the global slope from 0 to 1, consider a local version of the total effect: the slope at the current policy  $\pi$ .

$$\overline{\tau}_{INF} := \left. \frac{d}{d\pi'} \overline{V}(\pi') \right|_{\pi'=\pi}$$

infinitesimal

$$\text{Theorem: } \overline{\tau}_{INF} = \overline{\tau}_{ADE} + \overline{\tau}_{AIE}$$

To prove this, we will proceed as follows =

- $\widehat{\tau}_{ADE}^{IPW}$  is unbiased for  $\overline{\tau}_{ADE}$
- $\widehat{\tau}_{AIE}^{IPW}$  is unbiased for  $\overline{\tau}_{AIE}$
- Construct  $\widehat{\tau}_{INF}^{IPW}$  which will be unbiased for  $\overline{\tau}_{INF}$
- & the notice that  $\widehat{\tau}_{INF}^{IPW} = \widehat{\tau}_{ADE}^{IPW} + \widehat{\tau}_{IDE}^{IPW}$
- Conclude that  $\overline{\tau}_{INF} = \overline{\tau}_{ADE} + \overline{\tau}_{IDE}$

(19)

$$\hat{V}^{IPW}(\pi') = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{P_{\pi'}(W_i, W_i' \text{ s.t. } E_{ij}=1)}{P_{\pi}(W_i, W_i' \text{ s.t. } E_{ij}=1)} Y_i$$

$$\rightarrow = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\pi^{W_i+M_i} (1-\pi)^{+N_i-(W_i+M_i)}}{\pi^{W_i+M_i} (1-\pi)^{+N_i-(W_i+M_i)}} Y_i$$

Unbiased for  $\bar{V}(\pi')$  under  $R = \text{Bern}(\pi)$

$$\frac{d}{d\pi'} \left( \hat{V}^{IPW}(\pi') \right) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \frac{(W_i+M_i) \pi^{W_i+M_i-1} (1-\pi')^{+N_i-W_i-M_i}}{\text{denominator}} Y_i \right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{(1+N_i-W_i-M_i) \pi^{W_i+M_i} (1-\pi')^{+N_i-W_i-M_i-1}}{\text{denominator}} Y_i \right.$$

We need to be more rigorous here, but we claim that this derivative is unbiased for  $\frac{d}{d\pi'} \bar{V}(\pi')$

$$\left. \frac{d}{d\pi} \hat{V}^{IPW}(\pi') \right|_{\pi=\pi'} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{W_i+M_i}{\pi} Y_i - \frac{1+N_i-W_i-M_i}{1-\pi} Y_i \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{W_i}{\pi} - \frac{1-W_i}{1-\pi} \right) Y_i$$

$$+ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{M_i}{\pi} - \frac{N_i-M_i}{1-\pi} \right) Y_i$$

$$= \hat{\tau}_{ADE} + \hat{\tau}_{AIE} \quad \square$$

Remark =  $\bar{\tau}_{TOT}$  estimated from a clustered RCT

$\bar{\tau}_{ADE}$  estimated from a unit level Bern RCT

$$\bar{\tau}_{TOT} - \bar{\tau}_{ADE} = \bar{\tau}_{AIE} + \underbrace{(\bar{\tau}_{TOT} - \bar{\tau}_{INF})}_{\parallel \frac{V(1)-V(0)-V'(\pi)}{V(1)-V(0)-V'(\pi)}} \quad \& \text{when } \bar{\tau}_{AIE} = 0$$

then  $V(\pi)$  is linear and the 2nd term vanishes as well