A Fresh Imputing Method Using Sensible Constraints on Study and Auxiliary Variables: Preliminary Findings

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Abstract
In this paper, we suggest a new method for imputing missing values by suggesting the use of new sensible constraints on a study variable and auxiliary variables. While we limit ourselves to findings using only one auxiliary variable, extension of these results to multi–auxiliary variables is on the way. The proposed imputing method leads to an estimator which is asymptotically equivalent to the linear regression estimator.

Key Words: Imputation, missing data, auxiliary information.

1. Introduction

Hansen and Hurwitz (1946) were the first to deal with the problem of non-response in mail-surveys. These days that types of non-response occurs in other types of surveys such as web-surveys and telephone surveys. Today, mail surveys or telephone surveys are commonly used by bureaucratic or business organisations because of their low cost. Rubin (1976) dealt with two concepts: missing at random (MAR) and observed at random (OAR). One could refer to Heitjan and Basu (1996) to learn more about MAR and MCAR. Let us consider

$$\bar{Y} = N^{-1} \sum_{i \in \Omega} y_i$$

(1.1)

to be the population mean of a study variable $y$ in a finite population $\Omega = \{1, 2, ..., i, ..., N\}$. Assume a simple random and without replacement sample (SRSWOR), $s$, of size $n$ is taken from $\Omega$ to estimate this population mean $\bar{Y}$. Assume that $r$ i.e. the number of responding units out of $n$ sampled units. Let the set of responding units be denoted by $A$ and that of non-responding units be denoted by $A^c$. For every unit $i \in A$, the value $y_i$ is observed, and for the units $i \in A^c$, the $y_i$ values are missing and imputed values are to be derived. The first choice is to consider dropping the missing $(n-r)$ data values in the set $A^c$ from the sample $s$ of $n$ data values and consider an estimator of the population mean $\bar{Y}$ as:

$$\bar{y}_r = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i \in A} y_i$$

(1.2)

which is the sample mean of the $r$ values in the responding set $A$. Assuming the data is missing completely at random (MCAR), then applying the concept of
double sampling as given in Cochran (1963), it is easy to verify that the sample mean \( \bar{y}_r \) in (1.2) is an unbiased estimator of the population mean \( \bar{Y} \) with conditional variance, for a given value of \( r \), given by:

\[
V(\bar{y}_r) = \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N} \right) S^2_y
\]

where \( S^2_y = (N-1)^{-1} \sum_{i \in \Omega} (y_i - \bar{Y})^2 \) is the population mean squared error (or population variance) for the study variable. We will indicate the point estimator of the population mean, given by,

\[
\bar{y}_{\text{point}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i \in s} d_{*i}
\]

where \( d_{*i} \) are different data values based on different methods of imputation.

Under mean method of imputation, the data after imputation take the form:

\[
d_{*i} = \begin{cases} y_i & \text{if } i \in A \\ \bar{y}_r & \text{if } i \in A^c \end{cases}
\]

and the point estimator (1.5) becomes

\[
\bar{y}_{\text{point}} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i=1}^{r} y_i = \bar{y}_r = \bar{y}_m
\]

which remains the same as the sample mean obtained after discarding the non-responding units in the sample. Thus the mean method of imputation is as precise as the method of dropping the missing data values, that is, \( \bar{y}_m = \bar{y}_r \).

### 2. Proposed Method of Imputation

We propose a new method of imputing missing values as:

\[
d_{*i} = \begin{cases} y_i & \text{if } i \in A \\ \hat{y}_i & \text{if } i \in A^c \end{cases}
\]

where \( \hat{y}_i, i \in A^c \) is an imputed value by the proposed new method of imputation. We consider a chi-squared type distance function \( D_f \) between the imputed mean values \( \bar{y}_r \) and the new imputed values \( \hat{y}_i \) for \( i \in A^c \) as:

\[
D_f = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in A^c} \left( \frac{\hat{y}_i - \bar{y}_r}{\bar{y}_r} \right)^2
\]

We assume that imputation is carried out with the aid of an auxiliary variable, \( x \), such that \( x_i \), the value of \( x \) for unit \( i \), is known and positive for every \( i \in s = A \cup A^c \). In other words, the data \( x_s = \{x_i : i \in s\} \) are known. Thus in case of missing data, the sample data values have the following structure:

\[
d_{*i} = \begin{cases} (y_i, x_i) & \text{if } i \in A \\ (\text{missing}, x_i) & \text{if } i \in A^c \end{cases}
\]

We consider minimization of the proposed chi-squared distance \( D_f \) defined in (2.2) subject to the following sensible constraint:

\[
\frac{1}{(n-r)} \sum_{i \in A^c} \hat{y}_i (x_i - \bar{x}_r) = \frac{1}{(r-1)} \sum_{i \in A} y_i (x_i - \bar{x}_r)
\]

or equivalently,
\[
\frac{1}{(n-r)} \sum_{i \in A^c} \hat{y}_i (x_i - \bar{x}_r) = s_{xy}(r)
\]  
where
\[
s_{xy}(r) = \frac{1}{(r-1)} \sum_{i \in A} (y_i - \bar{y}_r)(x_i - \bar{x}_r) = \frac{1}{(r-1)} \sum_{i \in A} y_i (x_i - \bar{x}_r)
\]  

The constraint (2.4) makes sense in that, if the data is missing completely at random, then the covariance between the study variable and auxiliary variable for the responding units in a sample should be same as the covariance between the imputed values and the auxiliary variable for the non-responding units in a sample. Note the use of \( \bar{x}_r \) in the left hand side of equation (2.5); this is somewhat arbitrary, one could also use \( \bar{x}_{(n-r)} \). At the same time please note the use of \( (n-r) \) and \( (r-1) \) in the denominator of non-responding and responding units; this adjustment is necessary to obtain consistent method of imputation. The proposed constraint in (2.4) has been named a “sensible constraint” on both the study variable and the auxiliary variable.

The Lagrange function is given by:
\[
L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in A^c} \left( \frac{\hat{y}_i - \bar{y}_r}{\bar{y}_r} \right)^2 - \lambda \left[ \frac{1}{(n-r)} \sum_{i \in A^c} \hat{y}_i (x_i - \bar{x}_r) - s_{xy}(r) \right]
\]  
where \( \lambda \) is a Lagrange’s multiplier constant. On differentiating (2.7) with respect to \( \hat{y}_i \) and equating to zero, that is, on setting:
\[
\frac{\partial L}{\partial \hat{y}_i} = 0
\]
we have
\[
\frac{(\hat{y}_i - \bar{y}_r)}{\bar{y}_r} - \frac{\lambda}{(n-r)} (x_i - \bar{x}_r) = 0
\]
which implies that the adjusted imputed mean values \( \hat{y}_i \) are given by:
\[
\hat{y}_i = \bar{y}_r + \frac{\lambda}{(n-r)} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)
\]  
(2.8)

On substituting (2.8) in the sensible constraint (2.4), we have
\[
\frac{1}{(n-r)} \sum_{i \in A^c} \left[ \bar{y}_r + \frac{\lambda}{(n-r)} (x_i - \bar{x}_r) \right] (x_i - \bar{x}_r) = s_{xy}(r)
\]
or
\[
\sum_{i \in A^c} \left[ \bar{y}_r + \frac{\lambda}{(n-r)} (x_i - \bar{x}_r) \right] (x_i - \bar{x}_r) = (n-r)s_{xy}(r)
\]
or
\[
\bar{y}_r (\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r) + \frac{\lambda}{(n-r)} \sum_{i \in A^c} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)^2 = (n-r)s_{xy}(r)
\]
or
\[
\lambda = \frac{(n-r)s_{xy}(r) - \bar{y}_r (\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{\bar{y}_r \sum_{i \in A^c} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)^2}
\]  
(2.9)

Note that:
\[
\sum_{i \in A^c} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)^2 = \sum_{i \in s} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)^2 - \sum_{i \in A} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)^2 \\
= \sum_{i \in s} [(x_i - \bar{x}_n) + (\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)]^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)} \\
= \sum_{i \in s} (x_i - \bar{x}_n)^2 + (\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 + 2(x_i - \bar{x}_r)(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r) - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)} \\
= \sum_{i \in s} (x_i - \bar{x}_n)^2 + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)} \\
= (n-1)s^2_{x(n)} + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)} \\
(2.10)
\]

where \(s^2_{x(n)} = (n-1)^{-1} \sum_{i \in s} (x_i - \bar{x}_n)^2\) and \(s^2_{x(r)} = (r-1)^{-1} \sum_{i \in A} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)^2\).

On substituting (2.10) in (2.9), the value of the Lagrange multiplier \(\lambda\) is given by

\[
\lambda = \frac{(n-r)s_{xy(r)} - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{(n-1)s^2_{x(n)} + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)}} \\
(2.11)
\]

On substituting the value of \(\lambda\) from (2.11) into (2.8), the new imputed values are given by:

\[
\hat{y}_i = \bar{y}_r + \left\{ \frac{(n-r)s_{xy(r)} - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{(n-1)s^2_{x(n)} + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)}} \right\} (x_i - \bar{x}_r) \\
(2.12)
\]

On substituting (2.12) into (2.1), the new method of imputation leads to a new data set given by:

\[
d_{i \bullet} = \begin{cases} 
  y_i & i \in A \\
  \bar{y}_r + \frac{(n-r)s_{xy(r)} - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{(n-1)s^2_{x(n)} + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)}} (x_i - \bar{x}_r) & \text{if } i \in A^c
\end{cases}
\]

With the new imputed valued values in (2.13), the point estimator of population mean \(\bar{Y}\) becomes:

\[
\bar{y}_{\text{point}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i \in s} d_{i \bullet} = \frac{1}{n} \left[ \sum_{i \in A} y_i + \sum_{i \in A^c} \hat{y}_i \right] \\
= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i \in A} y_i + \sum_{i \in A^c} \left[ \bar{y}_r + \frac{(n-r)s_{xy(r)} - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{(n-1)s^2_{x(n)} + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)}} (x_i - \bar{x}_r) \right] \\
= \frac{n\bar{y}_r + (n-r)\bar{y}_r + \sum_{i \in A^c} \frac{(n-r)s_{xy(r)} - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{(n-1)s^2_{x(n)} + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)}} (x_i - \bar{x}_r)}{n} \\
= \frac{n\bar{y}_r + \frac{(n-r)s_{xy(r)} - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{(n-1)s^2_{x(n)} + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s^2_{x(r)}} n\bar{x}_n - n\bar{x}_r}{n}
\]
\[\bar{y}_r + \frac{(n-r)s_{xy}(r) - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)}{(n-1)s_x(n) + n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2 - (r-1)s_{x(r)}^2}(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)\]

\[= \bar{y}_r + \hat{\beta}_{ch}(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r) = \bar{y}_{ch} \text{ (say)} \quad (2.14)\]

where

\[\hat{\beta}_{ch} = \frac{s_{xy(r)}[(n-r) - n\bar{y}_r(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)]}{s_{xy(r)}[(n-1) + \frac{n(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r)^2}{s_x(n)} - \frac{(r-1)s_{x(r)}^2}{s_x(n)}]} \quad (2.15)\]

is an estimator of the regression coefficient

\[\beta = \frac{S_{xy}}{S_x^2} \quad (2.16)\]

where \(S_{xy} = (N-1)^{-1} \sum_{i \in \Omega} (y_i - \bar{y})(x_i - \bar{x})\) and \(S_x^2 = (N-1)^{-1} \sum_{i \in \Omega} (x_i - \bar{x})^2\).

In short using the new imputed values, the point estimator of the population mean \(\bar{Y}\) becomes:

\[\bar{y}_{ch(1)} = \bar{y}_r + \hat{\beta}_{ch}(\bar{x}_n - \bar{x}_r) \quad (2.17)\]

In the next section, we define some notation that is useful in studying the properties of the proposed estimator in (2.17) under the proposed new imputed method of imputation.

### 3. Notations

Let us define: \(\epsilon_0 = \frac{\bar{y}_r - 1}{\bar{y}}, \epsilon_1 = \frac{\bar{x}_n - 1}{\bar{x}}, \epsilon_2 = \frac{\bar{x}_n - 1}{\bar{x}}, \epsilon_3 = \frac{s_{x(r)}^2}{S_x^2} - 1\),

\(\epsilon_4 = \frac{s_x(n)}{S_x^2} - 1\) and \(\epsilon_5 = \frac{s_{xy(r)}}{S_{xy}} - 1\) such that: \(E(\epsilon_i) = 0, \forall i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\)

and

\[E(\epsilon_0^2) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y^2 c_x, \quad E(\epsilon_1^2) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_x^2 c_y, \quad E(\epsilon_2^2) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_x^2 c_y, \quad E(\epsilon_3^2) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y^2 c_x, \quad E(\epsilon_4^2) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y^2 c_x, \quad E(\epsilon_5^2) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_x^2 c_y\]

\[E(\epsilon_0 \epsilon_1) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y \rho c_x, \quad E(\epsilon_0 \epsilon_2) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y \rho c_x, \quad E(\epsilon_0 \epsilon_3) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y \lambda_{12}, \quad E(\epsilon_0 \epsilon_4) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y \lambda_{12}, \quad E(\epsilon_0 \epsilon_5) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_y \lambda_{21}\]

\[E(\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_x^2 \rho, \quad E(\epsilon_1 \epsilon_3) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_x^2 \rho, \quad E(\epsilon_1 \epsilon_4) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_x \lambda_{12}, \quad E(\epsilon_1 \epsilon_5) = \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N}\right)c_x \lambda_{12}\]
\[
E(\varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_3) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) C_x \lambda_{03}; \quad E(\varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_4) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) C_x \lambda_{03};
\]
\[
E(\varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_5) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) C_x \frac{\lambda_{12}}{\rho}; \quad E(\varepsilon_3 \varepsilon_4) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) (\lambda_{04} - 1);
\]
\[
E(\varepsilon_3 \varepsilon_5) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \frac{\lambda_{13}}{\rho} - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad E(\varepsilon_4 \varepsilon_5) = \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N}\right) \frac{\lambda_{13}}{\rho} - 1
\]

where
\[
\lambda_{ab} = \frac{\mu_{ab}}{\mu_{20}^{a/2} \mu_{02}^{b/2}}; \quad C_x^2 = \frac{S_x^2}{X^2} = \frac{\mu_{02}}{Y^2}; \quad C_y^2 = \frac{S_y^2}{Y^2} = \frac{\mu_{20}}{S_x S_y} = \frac{\mu_{11}}{\sqrt{\mu_{20} \mu_{02}}};
\]
\[
\mu_{ab} = (N-1)^{-1} \sum_{i \in \Omega} (y_i - \bar{Y})^a (x_i - \bar{X})^b; \quad \text{with} \ a, b = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.
\]

In the next, we investigate asymptotic properties of the estimator \( \hat{\beta}_{ch} \) of the regression coefficient \( \beta \) and the proposed regression type estimator \( \bar{Y}_{ch} \) of the population mean \( \bar{Y} \).

### 4 Properties of the Proposed Estimators

We have the following theorems:

**Theorem 4.1.** The estimator \( \hat{\beta}_{ch} \) is a consistent estimator of the regression coefficient \( \beta \).

**Proof.** The estimator \( \hat{\beta}_{ch} \) of the regression coefficient \( \beta \), in terms of \( \varepsilon_i \), can be written as:

\[
\hat{\beta}_{ch} = \frac{s_{xy}(r) \left( (n-r) - \frac{n \bar{Y} (\bar{X}_n - \bar{X}_r) }{s_{xy}(r)} \right)}{s_{x(n)}^2 \left( (n-1) + \frac{n (\bar{X}_n - \bar{X}_r)^2 }{s_{x(n)}^2} - \frac{(r-1)s_{x(r)}^2}{s_{x(n)}^2} \right)}
\]

\[
= \frac{s_{xy}(1 + \varepsilon_5) \left( (n-r) - \frac{n \bar{Y} (1 + \varepsilon_0) (1 + \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1)}{s_{xy}(1 + \varepsilon_5)} \right)}{S_x^2 (1 + \varepsilon_4) \left( (n-1) + \frac{n (\bar{X} (1 + \varepsilon_2) - \bar{X} (1 + \varepsilon_1))^2 }{S_x^2 (1 + \varepsilon_4)} - \frac{(r-1)s_{x(1 + \varepsilon_4)}^2}{S_x^2 (1 + \varepsilon_4)} \right)}
\]

\[
= \frac{s_{xy}(1 + \varepsilon_5) \left( (n-r) - \frac{n \bar{Y} (1 + \varepsilon_0) (1 + \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1)}{s_{xy}(1 + \varepsilon_5)} \right)}{S_x^2 (1 + \varepsilon_4) \left( (n-1) + \frac{n (\bar{X}^2 (1 + \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1))^2 }{S_x^2 (1 + \varepsilon_4)} - \frac{(r-1)(1 + \varepsilon_3)}{(1 + \varepsilon_4)} \right)}
\]

\[
= \frac{s_{xy}(1 + \varepsilon_5) \left( (n-r) - \frac{n \bar{Y} (1 + \varepsilon_0) (1 + \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1) (1 + \varepsilon_5)^{-1}}{s_{xy}} \right)}{S_x^2 (1 + \varepsilon_4) \left( (n-1) + \frac{n (\bar{X}^2 (1 + \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1))^2 (1 + \varepsilon_4)^{-1}}{S_x^2} - \frac{(r-1)(1 + \varepsilon_3)(1 + \varepsilon_4)^{-1}}{S_x^2} \right)}
\]
Taking expected value on both sides of (4.1), we have

\[ E(\hat{\beta}_{ch(1)}) = \beta + O(n^{-1}) \]  

which proved the theorem.

**Theorem 4.2.** The relative bias in the proposed estimator \( \tilde{\beta}_{ch(1)} \), to the first order of approximation, is given by

\[ RB(\tilde{\beta}_{ch(1)}) = \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n} \right) \frac{\mu_{\tilde{X}}^2}{\tilde{Y}S_x^2} - \frac{1}{r} \]  

is a consistent estimator, in terms of \( r \), of the population mean \( \tilde{Y} \).

**Proof.** The proposed regression type estimator \( \tilde{\beta}_{ch(1)} \), in terms of \( \epsilon_i \), can be approximated as:
\[ \bar{y}_{ch(1)} = \bar{Y}(1 + e_0) + \left[ \beta + \beta \left( e_5 - e_4 - \frac{n \bar{Y} \bar{X} (e_2 - e_1)}{(n-r)S_{xy}} + \frac{(r-1)}{(n-r)}(e_3 - e_4) + O(e^2) \right) \right] \bar{X}(e_2 - e_1) \]

\[ = \bar{Y}(1 + e_0) + \beta \bar{X}(e_2 - e_1) + \beta \bar{X} \left\{ e_2 e_5 - e_2 e_4 - e_1 e_5 + e_1 e_4 - \frac{n \bar{Y} \bar{X}}{(n-r)S_{xy}} (e_2^2 - 2e_1 e_2 + e_1^2) + \frac{(r-1)}{(n-r)}(e_2 e_3 - e_2 e_4 - e_1 e_3 + e_1 e_4) \right\} \] (4.4)

Thus the asymptotic bias in the proposed estimator \( \bar{y}_{ch(1)} \) is given by:

\[ B(\bar{y}_{ch(1)}) = E(\bar{y}_{ch(1)}) - \bar{Y} \]

\[ = \beta \bar{X} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) C_x \hat{A}_{12} - \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) C_x \hat{A}_{03} - \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x \hat{A}_{12} + \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) C_x \hat{A}_{03} \right] \]

\[ - \frac{n \bar{Y} \bar{X}}{(n-r)S_{xy}} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x^2 - 2 \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x^2 + \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x^2 \right\} \]

\[ + \frac{(r-1)}{(n-r)} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x \hat{A}_{03} - \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x \hat{A}_{03} - \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x \hat{A}_{03} + \frac{1}{n} \frac{1}{N} C_x \hat{A}_{03} \right\} \]

\[ = \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n} \right) \frac{\mu_{12}}{S_x^2} - \frac{\bar{Y}}{r} \] (4.5)

The relative bias in the proposed estimator \( \bar{y}_{ch(1)} \) is given by

\[ RB(\bar{y}_{ch(1)}) = \frac{B(\bar{y}_{ch(1)})}{\bar{Y}} = \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n} \right) \frac{\mu_{12}}{S_x^2} - \frac{1}{r} \]

which proves the theorem.

**Theorem 4.3.** The mean squared error of the proposed estimator, \( \bar{y}_{ch(1)} \), to the first order of approximation, is given by:

\[ \text{MSE}(\bar{y}_{ch(1)}) = \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N} \right) S_{y}^2 + \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n} \right) S_{y}^2 (1 - \rho^2) \] (4.6)

**Proof.** The mean squared error of the proposed estimator \( \bar{y}_{ch(1)} \) is given by

\[ \text{MSE}(\bar{y}_{ch(1)}) = E[(\bar{y}_{ch} - \bar{Y})^2] = E[\bar{Y} e_0 + \beta \bar{X} (e_2 - e_1)]^2 \]

\[ = \bar{Y}^2 E(e_0^2) + \beta^2 \bar{X}^2 (E(e_2^2) + E(e_1^2) - 2E(e_1 e_2)) + 2 \beta \bar{Y} \bar{X} (E(e_0 e_2) - E(e_0 e_1)) \]

\[ = \bar{Y}^2 \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N} \right) C_y^2 + \beta^2 \bar{X}^2 \left[ \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) C_x^2 + \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) C_x^2 - 2 \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) C_x^2 \right] \]

\[ + 2 \beta \bar{Y} \bar{X} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) \rho C_y C_x - \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) \rho C_y C_x \right] \]

\[ = \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{N} \right) S_{y}^2 + \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n} \right) \beta^2 S_x^2 - 2 \beta S_{xy} \]

\[ = \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{N} \right) S_{y}^2 + \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n} \right) S_{y}^2 (1 - \rho^2) \]

which proves the theorem.
In the next section, we compare the proposed methods of imputations with the mean method of imputation through a simulation study using a real population.

5. Illustrations with a real data set

We use a dataset, FEV.DAT, available on the CD that accompanies the text by Rosner (2006) that contains data on \( N = 654 \) children from the Childhood Respiratory Disease Study done in Boston.

![Scatterplot of FEV vs AGE](image)

**Fig. 5.1.** Scatter plot of AGE versus FEV

Among the variables are Age and FEV (forced expiratory volume). We consider the problem of imputing the FEV (=Y) of a child given the AGE (=X) value of that child. To investigate several situations, following Singh (2013), we also used a Box-Cox transformation on the auxiliary variable AGE given by:

\[
X = \frac{(\text{AGE})^T - 1}{T}
\]

(5.1)

for values of \( T \) between -4 to +4 with a step of 0.5. We choose simple random and with replacement sample (SRSWR) of \( n = 60 \) units, which is approximately 9.17% of the total population size \( N \). We let \( r \), the number of respondents, vary between 5 and 50 with a step of 5, which means a response rate of 8.3% to 83.33% with an increase in response rate of 8.33% in every step. We compute the value of approximate percent relative bias in the proposed method of imputation as:

\[
RB = \left[ \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{n} \right] \left( \frac{\mu_{Y | X}^2}{\text{SE}_X^2} + \frac{1}{r} \right) \times 100\%
\]

(5.2)

The percent relative efficiency of the proposed method of imputation with respect to the mean method of imputation, is computed as:

\[
RE = \frac{V(Y_{\text{new(chi)}})}{\text{Min}(V(Y_{\text{new(chi)}}))} \times 100\%
\]

(5.3)

We wrote FORTRAN codes (see Appendix) to find the values of the percent relative bias (RB) and the percent relative efficiency of the proposed method of imputation over the mean method of imputation. In producing the following output given in Table 5.1 we exclude those cases where the percent relative bias exceed 10%
Table 5.1. Relative Bias (RB) and Relative Efficiency (RE) of the proposed imputation method with one auxiliary variable.

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### 6. Discussion of the Results

For a $T$ value of $-4$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ between the study variable $Y (= \text{FEV})$ and the auxiliary variable $X (= \text{AGE})$ is 0.3741, the values of the percent relative bias (RB) lie between -6.01% and -1.84% and that of the percent relative efficiency (RE) lie between 113.44% and 102.39% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = -3.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.4301, the RB value varies between -6.27% and -1.85% and the value of RE varies between 118.56% and 103.45% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = -3.0$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.4906, the RB value varies between -6.54% and -1.86% and the value of RE varies between 125.58% and 104.54% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = -2.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.5523, the RB value varies between -6.88% and -1.88% and the value of RE varies between 134.80% and 105.83% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = -2.0$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.6114, the RB value varies between -7.30% and -1.89% and the value of RE varies between 146.27% and 107.23% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = -1.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.6637, the RB value varies between -7.78% and -1.91% and the value of RE varies between 159.45% and 108.64% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = -1.0$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.7063, the RB value varies between -8.30% and -1.93% and the value of RE varies between 173.05% and 109.89% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = -0.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.7369, the RB value varies between -8.85% and -1.95% and the value of RE varies between 185.05% and 110.87% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = 0.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ increase to 0.7612, the RB value varies between -9.93% and -2.00% and the value of RE varies between 196.21% and 111.68% as the response rate increases from 16.67% to 83.33%. For $T = 1.0$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ decreases to 0.7565, the RB value varies between -6.93% and -2.02% and the value of RE varies between 178.33% and 111.52% as the response rate increases from 25.00% to 83.33%. Note that in this situation if the response rate (RR) is less than 25% then the percent relative bias (RB) in the proposed imputing method remains higher than 10%, so those results are not reported in the table. For $T = 1.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ decreases to 0.7427, the RB value varies between -7.21% and -2.04% and the

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value of RE varies between 173.42% and 111.05% as the response rate increases from 25.00% to 83.33%. For $T = 2.0$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ decreases to 0.7218, the RB value varies between -7.47% and -2.05% and the value of RE varies between 166.63% and 110.38% as the response rate increases from 25.00% to 83.33%. For $T = 2.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ decreases to 0.6957, the RB value varies between -7.69% and -2.07% and the value of RE varies between 159.12% and 109.57% as the response rate increases from 25.00% to 83.33%. For $T = 3.0$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ decreases to 0.6663, the RB value varies between -7.89% and -2.36% and the value of RE varies between 151.70% and 108.71% as the response rate increases from 25.00% to 83.33%. For $T = 3.5$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ decreases to 0.6351, the RB value varies between -8.06% and -2.09% and the value of RE varies between 144.85% and 107.85% as the response rate increases from 25.00% to 83.33%. For $T = 4.0$, the value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ decreases to 0.6033, the RB value varies between -8.20% and -2.10% and the value of RE varies between 138.76% and 107.03% as the response rate increases from 25.00% to 83.33%.

In order to have another look at the values of the percent relative bias (RB) and percent relative efficiency (RE) as a function of response rate (RR), we developed the scatter plots shown in Figure 6.1. For each value of the response rate (RR) there are several dots showing the percent relative bias and percent relative efficiency values corresponding to the values of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ between 0.3741 and 0.7612 obtained through the different values of the Box-Cox transformation $T$.

![Scatterplot of RB, RE vs RR](image)

**Fig. 6.1.** Percent RB and Percent RE versus response rate (RR)

From Fig. 6.1, it is clear that if the response rate (RR) is high, then the absolute value of the percent relative bias (RB) remains close to zero, while at the same time there is adverse effect of having a low value of the percent relative efficiency (RE). If the response rate is low then the absolute value of the percent relative bias remains less than 4%, and the relative efficiency can vary up to 140%, depending on the value of the correlation coefficient. Thus if the response rate (RR) is moderate and value of the correlation coefficient between the study and auxiliary variable is also moderate, the use of proposed imputing method based on sensible constraint is useful. We devote Figure 6.2 to visualizing the RR and RE values as functions of the value of correlation coefficient $\rho$ ($=\text{RHO}(y,x)$) between the study variable and auxiliary variables.
From Fig. 6.2 it is obvious that higher value of the correlation coefficient $\rho$ yield higher values of the percent relative efficiency (RE) but at the same time, may produce more biased estimates. The finding from Fig. 6.2 are not as clear as were those from Fig. 6.1, because of noisy nature of RB when the value of $\rho$ becomes more than 0.6. Fig. 6.3 provides closer look at the behaviour of RB versus the correlation coefficient $\rho$, with the panel variable being RR.

Fig. 6.2. RB and RE values as a function of correlation coefficient with varying RR.

Fig. 6.3. RB as a function of correlation coefficient for different levels of RR.
Figure 6.4 provides a close look at the behaviour of RE versus the correlation coefficient $\rho$, with the panel variable being RR.

![Scatterplot of RE vs RHO(y,x)](image)

Fig. 6.4. RE as a function of correlation coefficient for different levels of RR.

### 7. Conclusion

As a result of this paper, we conclude that the proposed imputing method performs better than the mean method of imputation under the assumption of satisfying a set of sensible constraints imposed on the auxiliary variables and the study variable for the responding and non-responding units in a sample. The proposed imputing method is computationally oriented and allows for extension to the use of multi auxiliary variables. This is a first attempt in the literature of imputing methodology, and seems to have broad possibilities for extending to various sampling schemes and different situations. It will be worth mentioning that the proposed ‘sensible constraints’ are not unique, and it will always be possible to come up with an improved set of “sensible constraint” based on experience. We look forward to developing more such sensible constraints in our future research. In these proceedings paper, we have provided only preliminary results of the main article which will appear somewhere else in future.

### 8. Appendix

```fortran
! FORTRAN CODES CHOUKRI10.F95
USE NUMERICAL_LIBRARIES
IMPLICIT NONE
INTEGER NP,NS,NR,ID(1000)
REAL Y1(1000), X1(1000),T, SUMY, SUMX, SMU12
REAL Y(1000),X(1000),V1(1000),V2(1000),V3(1000)
REAL ANR, ANS,ANP,BIASP,YM,XM,SUMX2,SUMY2,SUMXY
REAL RHOXY,AMU12,COVXY,VARX,VARY,RE,RR
CHARACTER*20 OUT_FILE
CHARACTER*20 IN_FILE
WRITE(*,'(A)') 'NAME OF THE INPUT FILE'
READ(*,'(A20)') IN_FILE
OPEN(41, FILE=IN_FILE, STATUS='OLD')
WRITE(*,'(A)') 'NAME OF THE OUTPUT FILE'
READ(*,'(A20)') OUT_FILE
OPEN(42, FILE=OUT_FILE, STATUS='UNKNOWN')
READ(41,*)NP
ANP = NP
DO 10 I =1, NP
```

---

3218
READ(41,*),ID(I),Y1(I),X1(I),V1(I),V2(I),V3(I)
DO 16 T = -4, 4, 0.5
DO 11 I= 1, NP
  Y(I) = Y1(I)
11          X(I) = (X1(I)**T-1)/T
NS = 60
ANS = NS
DO 21 NR = 5, 50, 5
ANR = NR
SUMY = 0.0
SUMX = 0.0
DO 12 I=1, NP
  SUMY = SUMY + Y(I)
12          SUMX = SUMX + X(I)
YM = SUMY/ANP
XM = SUMX/ANP
SMU12 = 0.0
SUMXY = 0.0
SUMY2 = 0.0
SUMX2 = 0.0
DO 14 I = 1, NP
  SMU12 = SMU12 + (Y(I)-YM)*(X(I)-XM)**2
  SUMXY = SUMXY + (Y(I)-YM)*(X(I)-XM)
  SUMX2 = SUMX2 + (X(I)-XM)**2
14          SUMY2 = SUMY2 + (Y(I)-YM)**2
AMU12 = SMU12/(ANP-1)
COVXY = SUMXY/(ANP-1)
VARX = SUMX2/(ANP-1)
VARY = SUMY2/(ANP-1)
RHOXY = COVXY/SQRT(VARX*VARY)
BIASP = -(1/ANR-1/ANS)*AMU12/(YM*VARX)+1/ANR
RE = (1/ANR-1/ANP)*(1/ANS-1/ANP)+(1/ANR-1/ANS)*(1-RHOXY**2))
RR = ANR*100/ANS
IF(ABS(BIASP).LT.10) THEN
  WRITE(42,101)NP,NS,NR,RR,T,RHOXY,BIASP,RE
ENDIF
21         CONTINUE
16         CONTINUE
STOP
END

Acknowledgements

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References


