SSES case study analysis with Rrepest

Assessing the effects of gender, site, and age cohort on self-control and empathy and the effect of SES on high empathy. Descriptive statistics, linear and logistic regression analyses are utilized in the tutorial.

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## 1 Introduction

This document demonstrates the preparation and analysis of the SSES 2019 (Survey on Social and Emotional Skills 2019) dataset using R. SSES 2019 was the first edition of an international educational study aimed at assessing the social and emotional skills of 10- and 15-year-old students.  
The analysis presented here focuses on gender, site, and age cohort differences in self-control and the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and high empathy.  
We will use the student dataset, focusing on a subset of sites: Bogota, Helsinki, and Moscow.

## 2 Setup

First, let’s load the required packages and set up our environment:

library(haven) # for reading .dta Stata files  
library(dplyr) # for data manipulation  
library(tidyr) # for data reshaping  
library(labelled) # for removing variable labels  
library(Rrepest) # for complex survey analysis  
library(knitr) # for creating pretty html tables  
library(ggplot2) # for data visualization  
  
# Set data path to your data directory  
data\_path <- "data/SSES/"  
  
# Set the vector with column names containing replication weights  
weights\_vec <- paste0("rwgt", 1:76)

## 3 Data download and loading

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| Data download |
| The data can be downloaded from the [SSES 2019 public data repository](https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/SSES-Round-1-Database.html). You need to download INT\_01\_ST\_(2021.04.14)\_Public.dta (a Stata data format) file from the SSES 2019 public data repository and place it in the chosen directory. The .sav file (an SPSS data format) is also there, but the students dataset in .sav is missing one replicating weight (rwgt9), thus it is not useful. |

The variables we will focus on are:

* Gender\_Std - student’s gender (1 = female, 2 = male)
* CohortID - cohort of students (1 = 10 years old, 2 = 15 years old)
* SiteID - site identification number
* SES - socioeconomic background score
* SEL\_WLE\_ADJ - self-control score
* EMP\_WLE\_ADJ - empathy score

We will read the raw data files and select only the variables we need for the analysis:

# Read raw data   
student\_data <- read\_dta(paste0(data\_path, "INT\_01\_ST\_(2021.04.14)\_Public.dta"))  
  
# Define variables to keep   
student\_vars <- c("Username\_Std", "Username\_TC", "SiteID", "Gender\_Std", "CohortID",  
 "SEL\_WLE\_ADJ", "EMP\_WLE\_ADJ", "SES", weights\_vec, "WT2019")

## 4 Data manipulation using dplyr

The dplyr package uses verb functions connected by pipes (%>%).

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| You can read more about pipe operator here: |
| [Pipe function documentation](https://magrittr.tidyverse.org/reference/pipe.html) [The “Pipes” chapter in “R for Data Science”](https://r4ds.had.co.nz/pipes.html) |

# Choose only Males and Females  
sses\_data <- student\_data %>%  
 filter(Gender\_Std %in% c(1,2))  
  
# Choose columns (variables) needed for analysis  
sses\_data <- sses\_data %>%  
 select(all\_of(student\_vars))  
  
# Filter only 3 sites and create transformations  
sses\_data <- sses\_data %>%  
 filter(SiteID %in% c("01", "03", "07")) %>% # Choose Bogota, Helsinki and Moscow  
 mutate(  
 # Create a variable with site names instead of numbers  
 SiteName = case\_when(  
 SiteID == "01" ~ "Bogota",  
 SiteID == "03" ~ "Helsinki",  
 SiteID == "07" ~ "Moscow"  
 ),  
 # Change Gender to binary variable  
 Gender\_Std = if\_else(Gender\_Std == 1, 0, 1),  
 Gender = if\_else(Gender\_Std == 0, "Female", "Male"),  
 CohortID = if\_else(CohortID == 1, 0, 1),  
 Cohort\_name = if\_else(CohortID == 0, "10 y.o.", "15 y.o.")  
 )  
  
# Remove labels   
sses\_data <- remove\_labels(sses\_data)

We have the dataset ready for analysis. Let’s proceed.

## 5 Differences in self-control between sites and genders

In this section, we will compare means and standard deviations of self-control score (SEL\_WLE\_ADJ) by Site and Gender.

However, first is a brief description of the Rrepest package and its main function.

**Description of the commonly used Rrepest() arguments:**

* svy argument specifies the survey design
* by argument allows grouping by multiple variables
* est argument specifies the statistics to calculate (e.g., mean, standard deviation);
* target specifies the variable for which statistics are calculated (e.g., SEL\_WLE\_ADJ for self-control)

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| Note |
| More about the Rrepest package can be found [in our tutorial](https://ibe.edu.pl/pl/dane/instrukcje). |

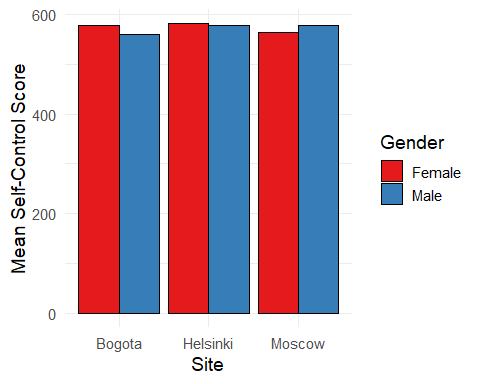
**Mean and standard deviation of self-control by site and gender**

# run descriptive statistics  
desc\_results <- Rrepest(sses\_data,  
 svy = "SSES",  
 by = c("SiteName", "Gender"),  
 est = est(c("mean", "std"), target = "SEL\_WLE\_ADJ")  
)  
  
# plot table  
kable(desc\_results,  
 digits = 2,   
 col.names = c("Site", "Gender", "Mean", "Mean SE", "SD", "SD SE"),  
 align = c("l", "l", "r", "r", "r", "r")  
 )

| Site | Gender | Mean | Mean SE | SD | SD SE |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bogota | Female | 578.07 | 1.50 | 90.11 | 2.25 |
| Bogota | Male | 559.93 | 1.88 | 85.02 | 1.85 |
| Helsinki | Female | 581.43 | 2.00 | 94.14 | 2.40 |
| Helsinki | Male | 578.30 | 2.09 | 92.61 | 1.74 |
| Moscow | Female | 564.53 | 1.68 | 89.00 | 1.57 |
| Moscow | Male | 577.64 | 1.66 | 93.39 | 1.67 |

We can also present the results on a bar plot:

# plot barplot  
desc\_results %>%  
 ggplot(aes(x = SiteName, y = b.mean.sel\_wle\_adj, fill = Gender)) +  
 geom\_bar(stat="identity", color="black", position=position\_dodge()) +   
 scale\_fill\_brewer(palette="Set1") +  
 xlab("Site") +  
 ylab("Mean Self-Control Score") +  
 theme\_minimal(base\_size = 14)



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| Interpretation |
| In Bogota and Helsinki the mean self-control score was higher for girls (Bogota - 578, Helsinki - 581) than for boys (Bogota - 560, Helsinki - 578). In Moscow, situation differed - boys scored higher (578) than girls (565). |

## 

## 6 Does self-control differ by age cohort?

We will answer this question using linear regression, with self-control as the outcome variable and age cohort (10 vs 15 years old) as the predictor.

**Using Rrepest we will:**

* Perform weighted linear regression
* Extract and format regression coefficients, standard errors, and R-square statistics
* Calculate t-statistics manually for hypothesis testing

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| Significance Testing |
| To determine if the predictor is significant, we should look at the t-values in the regression output. A t-value greater than 1.96 (in absolute value) indicates that the predictor is statistically significant at the 0.05 significance level.  Alternatively, we can calculate p-value from the t-value using the following formula: p-value = 2 \* (1 - pt(abs(t-value), df)) where df is the number of replicate weights - number of parameters to estimate.  To calculate the t-statistic for the regression table we have to set the number of degrees of freedom. Degrees of freedom are equal to the number of replication weights minus the number of parameters estimated. In both regression analyses we have two parameters: intercept and 1 regressor (CohortID - age cohort). |

n\_dfs <- 76 - 2

**Run linear regression model**

lm\_results <- Rrepest(data = sses\_data,  
 svy = "SSES",   
 by = "SiteName",  
 est = est("lm",   
 target = "SEL\_WLE\_ADJ",   
 regressor = 'CohortID'))

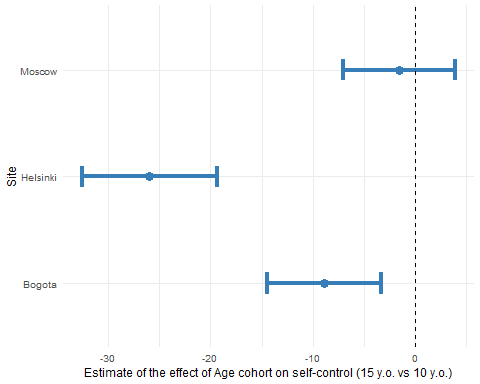
**Next, we will create a formatted regression table using dplyr and tidyr:**

# reshape the results table  
lm\_reshaped <- lm\_results %>%  
 pivot\_longer(  
 cols = -SiteName,  
 names\_to = c("stat\_type", "parameter"),  
 names\_pattern = "^(b\\.|se\\.)reg\_sel\_wle\_adj\\.(.+)$",  
 values\_to = "value"  
 ) %>%  
 mutate(  
 stat\_type = case\_when(  
 stat\_type == "b." ~ "Estimate",  
 stat\_type == "se." ~ "SE"  
 ),  
 parameter = case\_when(  
 parameter == "intercept" ~ "Intercept",  
 parameter == "cohortid" ~ "Cohort Age",  
 parameter == "rsqr" ~ "R²"  
 )  
 ) %>%  
 pivot\_wider(  
 names\_from = stat\_type,  
 values\_from = value  
 ) %>%  
 select(SiteName, parameter, Estimate, SE) %>%  
 mutate(  
 t\_value = Estimate / SE,  
 conf.low = Estimate - 1.96 \* SE,  
 conf.high = Estimate + 1.96 \* SE,  
 p\_value = 2 \* pt(abs(t\_value), n\_dfs, lower.tail = FALSE),  
 p\_value = ifelse(p\_value < 0.001, "<0.001", format(round(p\_value, 3), digits = 3, nsmall = 3))  
 )  
   
# reshape for plot  
lm\_for\_plot <- lm\_reshaped %>%  
 filter(parameter == "Cohort Age") %>%  
 select(SiteName, Estimate, SE, conf.low, conf.high) %>%  
 mutate(  
 color = ifelse(Estimate < 0, "#377EB8", "#E41A1C")  
 )  
# reshape for html table  
lm\_reshaped <- lm\_reshaped %>%  
 mutate(  
 SiteName = ifelse(duplicated(SiteName), "", SiteName),  
 conf.low = ifelse(conf.low > -0.01 & conf.low < 0, "<0", format(round(conf.low, 2), digits = 2, nsmall = 2)),  
 conf.high = ifelse(conf.high < 0.01, "<0.01", format(round(conf.high, 2), digits = 2, nsmall = 2))  
 )  
   
# plot table  
kable(lm\_reshaped,  
 digits = 2,  
 col.names = c("Site", "Parameter", "Estimate", "Std. Error", "t-value", "lower CI", "upper CI", "p-value"),  
 align = c("l", "l", "r", "r", "r", "r", "r", "r")  
  
)

| Site | Parameter | Estimate | Std. Error | t-value | lower CI | upper CI | p-value |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bogota | Intercept | 573.56 | 1.89 | 304.13 | 569.86 | 577.25 | <0.001 |
|  | Cohort Age | -8.87 | 2.86 | -3.10 | -14.47 | <0.01 | 0.003 |
|  | R² | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.58 | <0 | <0.01 | 0.119 |
| Helsinki | Intercept | 591.82 | 2.84 | 208.39 | 586.26 | 597.39 | <0.001 |
|  | Cohort Age | -25.98 | 3.38 | -7.69 | -32.60 | <0.01 | <0.001 |
|  | R² | 0.02 | 0.00 | 4.05 | 0.01 | 0.03 | <0.001 |
| Moscow | Intercept | 571.95 | 2.07 | 275.76 | 567.89 | 576.02 | <0.001 |
|  | Cohort Age | -1.55 | 2.78 | -0.56 | -7.00 | 3.90 | 0.579 |
|  | R² | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | <0 | <0.01 | 0.786 |

Below is a plot showing the estimates and 95% confidence intervals for the effect of age cohort on self-control by site.  
All the estimates are negative, thus the color blue was used.  
You can see that for Bogota and Helsinki the confidence intervals do not cross zero, thus the effect is significant.  
For Moscow the confidence interval crosses zero, thus the effect is not significant.

# make linear regression estimates plot  
lm\_for\_plot %>%  
 ggplot(aes(Estimate, SiteName)) +  
 geom\_point(aes(colour = color), size = 3) +  
 geom\_errorbarh(aes(xmin = conf.low, xmax = conf.high, colour = color), linewidth = 1.5, height = 0.2) +   
 geom\_vline(xintercept = 0, lty = 2) +  
 labs(  
 x = "Estimate of the effect of Age cohort on self-control (15 y.o. vs 10 y.o.)",  
 y = "Site"  
 ) +  
 scale\_colour\_manual(values = unique(as.character(lm\_for\_plot[["color"]]))) +  
 theme\_minimal(base\_size = 9) +  
 theme(legend.position = "none")



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| Interpretation |
| The results show that the cohort of students (10 years old vs. 15 years old) is a significant predictor of self-control in Bogota and Helsinki, but not in Moscow. The younger cohort scored higher on self-control in these two sites. At the same time, the R-squared values indicate that only the model for Helsinki explains a significant portion of the variance in self-control scores (R-squared = 0.02, p value < 0.001). |

## 7 SES as predictor of high empathy

In this section, we will use logistic regression to examine whether socioeconomic status (SES) predicts high empathy (EMP\_WLE\_ADJ). We will define high empathy as scoring above the 90th percentile of the empathy score distribution.

**Create the binary variable for high empathy and run the logistic regression**

# Calculate the 90th percentile empathy score   
emp\_90 <- quantile(sses\_data$EMP\_WLE\_ADJ, 0.9, na.rm = TRUE)  
  
# Create binary variable for high empathy  
sses\_data[["emp\_90\_bin"]] <- ifelse(sses\_data[["EMP\_WLE\_ADJ"]] < emp\_90, 0, 1)  
  
# Run logistic regression  
log\_results <- Rrepest(  
 data = sses\_data,  
 svy = "SSES",  
 est = est("log",   
 target = 'emp\_90\_bin',  
 regressor = "SES"),  
 by = "SiteName"   
)

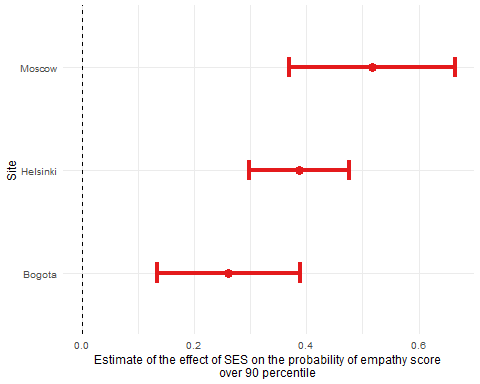
As before, we will create a formatted regression table using dplyr:

# reshape the results table  
log\_reshaped <- log\_results %>%  
 pivot\_longer(  
 cols = -SiteName,  
 names\_to = c("stat\_type", "parameter"),  
 names\_pattern = "^(b\\.|se\\.)log\_emp\_90\_bin\\.(.+)$",  
 values\_to = "value"  
 ) %>%  
 mutate(  
 stat\_type = case\_when(  
 stat\_type == "b." ~ "Estimate",  
 stat\_type == "se." ~ "SE"  
 ),  
 parameter = case\_when(  
 parameter == "intercept" ~ "Intercept",  
 parameter == "ses" ~ "SES"  
 )  
 ) %>%  
 pivot\_wider(  
 names\_from = stat\_type,  
 values\_from = value  
 ) %>%  
 select(SiteName, parameter, Estimate, SE) %>%  
 mutate(  
 t\_value = Estimate / SE,  
 conf.low = Estimate - 1.96 \* SE,  
 conf.high = Estimate + 1.96 \* SE,  
 p\_value = 2 \* pt(abs(t\_value), n\_dfs, lower.tail = FALSE),  
 p\_value = ifelse(p\_value < 0.001, "<0.001", round(p\_value, 3))  
 )  
  
# reshape for plot  
log\_for\_plot <- log\_reshaped %>%  
 filter(parameter == "SES") %>%  
 select(SiteName, Estimate, SE, conf.low, conf.high) %>%  
 mutate(  
 color = ifelse(Estimate < 0, "#377EB8", "#E41A1C")  
 )  
  
# reshape for html table  
log\_reshaped <- log\_reshaped %>%  
 mutate(  
 SiteName = ifelse(duplicated(SiteName), "", SiteName)  
 )  
  
# plot html table  
kable(log\_reshaped,  
 digits = 2,  
 col.names = c("Site", "Parameter", "Estimate", "Std. Error", "t-value", "lower CI", "upper CI", "p-value"),  
 align = c("l", "l", "r", "r", "r", "r", "r", "r")  
)

| Site | Parameter | Estimate | Std. Error | t-value | lower CI | upper CI | p-value |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bogota | Intercept | -2.39 | 0.09 | -26.29 | -2.57 | -2.21 | <0.001 |
|  | SES | 0.26 | 0.06 | 4.03 | 0.13 | 0.39 | <0.001 |
| Helsinki | Intercept | -2.46 | 0.04 | -56.73 | -2.54 | -2.37 | <0.001 |
|  | SES | 0.39 | 0.05 | 8.52 | 0.30 | 0.48 | <0.001 |
| Moscow | Intercept | -2.47 | 0.08 | -30.98 | -2.63 | -2.32 | <0.001 |
|  | SES | 0.52 | 0.08 | 6.88 | 0.37 | 0.66 | <0.001 |

As before, we will create a plot showing the odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the effect of SES on high empathy by site.  
None of the estimates cross zero, thus the effect is significant in all sites.  
All of the estimates are positive, thus the color red was used.

# make log regression estimates plot  
log\_for\_plot %>%  
 ggplot(aes(Estimate, SiteName)) +  
 geom\_point(aes(colour = color), size = 3) +  
 geom\_errorbarh(aes(xmin = conf.low, xmax = conf.high, colour = color), linewidth = 1.5, height = 0.2) +   
 geom\_vline(xintercept = 0, lty = 2) +  
 labs(  
 x = "Estimate of the effect of SES on the probability of empathy score\nover 90 percentile",  
 y = "Site"  
 ) +  
 scale\_colour\_manual(values = unique(as.character(log\_for\_plot[["color"]]))) +  
 theme\_minimal(base\_size = 9) +  
 theme(legend.position = "none")



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| Interpretation |
| In this case, SES was a significant predictor of high empathy (above the 90th percentile) in all sites. The odds ratios indicate that for each unit increase in SES, the odds of having high empathy increase by approximately 1.30 to 1.68 times, depending on the site. |

## 8 Summary

This document demonstrates how to prepare and analyze SSES 2019 data using R and the Rrepest package. We cover data loading, manipulation with dplyr, and conducting descriptive statistics and regression analyses while accounting for the complex survey design. The results provide insights into differences in self-control by site, gender, and age cohort, as well as the relationship between socioeconomic status and high empathy.