R Coding Demonstration Week 7: Interactions and Nonlinearities in the Transphobia Experiment

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Introduction

- Today we're going to cover some tools for exploring bivariate relationships.
- We'll use the data from the Broockman & Kalla (2016) transphobia study.
- Basic summary of experiment:
    - Randomly assigned door-to-door canvassers to two conditions
    - Conditions: perspective-taking script (treatment) or recycling script (placebo)
    - Follow up surveys at 3 days, 3 weeks, 6 weeks, and 3 months.

Data

```
phobia <- read.csv("data/transphobia_all.csv")
```

Variable Name	Description
age	Age of the respondent in years
female	1=respondent marked “Female” on voter registration, 0 otherwise
voted_gen_14	1 if respondent voted in the 2014 general election
voted_gen_12	1 if respondent voted in the 2012 general election
treat_ind	1 if respondent was assigned to treatment, 0 for control
racename	character name of racial identity indicated on voter file
democrat	1 if respondent is a registered Democrat
therm_trans_t0	0-100 feeling therm. about transgender people at baseline
therm_trans_tX	0-100 feeling therm. about transgender people in Wave X after treatment
therm_obama_t0	0-100 feeling therm. about Barack Obama at baseline
therm_obama_tX	0-100 feeling therm. about Barack Obama in Wave X after treatment

Question 1

Run a regression of thermometer scores for transgender people in wave 1 on the treatment indicator (`treat_ind`), the indicator for if the respondent is a Democrat (`democrat`), and the interaction between the two variables.

Interpret each of the coefficients in terms of the effects of the intervention.

Answer 1

```
int_dem_fit <- lm(therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * democrat, data = phobia)
int_dem_fit
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * democrat, data = phobia)
##
## Coefficients:
##       (Intercept)          treat_ind           democrat  treat_ind:democrat
##             52.48               5.69               3.45                1.75
```

```
## effect of treatment for Republicans
coef(int_dem_fit)["treat_ind"]
```

```
## treat_ind
##      5.69
```

```
## effect of treatment for Democrats
coef(int_dem_fit)["treat_ind"] + coef(int_dem_fit)["treat_ind:democrat"]
```

```
## treat_ind
##      7.44
```

Question 2

Run a regression of thermometer scores for transgender people in wave 1 on the treatment indicator (`treat_ind`), the indicator for if the respondent is a woman (`female`), and the interaction between the two variables.

Interpret each of the coefficients in terms of the effects of the intervention. If you have time, compare the estimated effects here to the estimated difference in means of `therm_trans_t1` between treated and control within levels of `female`.

Answer 2

```
int_fem_fit <- lm(therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * female, data = phobia)
int_fem_fit
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * female, data = phobia)
##
## Coefficients:
##      (Intercept)         treat_ind            female  treat_ind:female
##            52.14              1.74              3.20              8.71
```

```
## effect of treatment for men
coef(int_fem_fit)["treat_ind"]
```

```
## treat_ind
##      1.74
```

```
## effect of treatment for women
coef(int_fem_fit)["treat_ind"] + coef(int_fem_fit)["treat_ind:female"]
```

```
## treat_ind
##      10.4
```

Answer 2 (cont'd)

```
women <- subset(phobia, female == 1)
men <- subset(phobia, female == 0)

diff_men <- mean(men$therm_trans_t1[men$treat_ind == 1], na.rm = TRUE) -
  mean(men$therm_trans_t1[men$treat_ind == 0], na.rm = TRUE)
diff_men
```

```
## [1] 1.74
```

```
diff_women <- mean(women$therm_trans_t1[women$treat_ind == 1], na.rm = TRUE) -
  mean(women$therm_trans_t1[women$treat_ind == 0], na.rm = TRUE)
diff_women
```

```
## [1] 10.4
```

Question 3

Run a regression of thermometer scores for transgender people in wave 1 on the treatment indicator (`treat_ind`), age (`age`), and the interaction between the two variables.

What is the estimated effect for a 25 year old? For a 50 year old?

Answer 3

```
int_age_fit <- lm(therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * age, data = phobia)
int_age_fit
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * age, data = phobia)
##
## Coefficients:
##   (Intercept)      treat_ind            age  treat_ind:age
##      67.85075        6.34083       -0.28738        0.00915
```

Answer 3 (cont'd)

```
## 25-year old
pred_25_tr <- predict(int_age_fit,
                      newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 1, age = 25))
pred_25_ct <- predict(int_age_fit,
                      newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 0, age = 25))
pred_25_tr - pred_25_ct
```

```
##    1
## 6.57
```

```
## 50-year old
pred_50_tr <- predict(int_age_fit,
                      newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 1, age = 50))
pred_50_ct <- predict(int_age_fit,
                      newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 0, age = 50))
pred_50_tr - pred_50_ct
```

```
##   1
## 6.8
```

Question 4

Run a regression of thermometer scores for transgender people in wave 1 on the treatment indicator (`treat_ind`), Obama thermometer scores at baseline (`therm_obama_t0`), and the interaction between the two variables.

What is the estimated effect of the intervention for someone who rated Obama at 0? For someone who rated Obama at 100?

Answer 4

```
int_obama_fit <- lm(therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * therm_obama_t0,
                    data = phobia)
int_obama_fit
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * therm_obama_t0, data = phobia)
##
## Coefficients:
##           (Intercept)             treat_ind         therm_obama_t0
##                46.214                -6.465                 0.133
## treat_ind:therm_obama_t0
##                   0.181
```

Answer 4 (cont'd)

```
## Respondents who rate Obama at 0
pred_0_tr <- predict(int_obama_fit,
                     newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 1, therm_obama_t0 = 0))
pred_0_ct <- predict(int_obama_fit,
                     newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 0, therm_obama_t0 = 0))
pred_0_tr - pred_0_ct
```

```
##     1
## -6.47
```

```
## Respondents who rate Obama at 100
pred_100_tr <- predict(int_obama_fit,
                       newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 1, therm_obama_t0 = 100))
pred_100_ct <- predict(int_obama_fit,
                       newdata = data.frame(treat_ind = 0, therm_obama_t0 = 100))
pred_100_tr - pred_100_ct
```

```
##    1
## 11.7
```

Question 5

Run a regression of baseline transgender thermometer scores (`therm_trans_t0`) on age and the square of age to assess the nonlinear relationship between them.

Calculate predicted values from the model for ages 18 to 90 and plot these as a line.

Answer 5

```
agesq_fit <- lm(therm_trans_t0 ~ age + I(age ^ 2), data = phobia)
agesq_fit
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = therm_trans_t0 ~ age + I(age^2), data = phobia)
##
## Coefficients:
## (Intercept)          age     I(age^2)
##    66.80112     -0.39864      0.00206
```

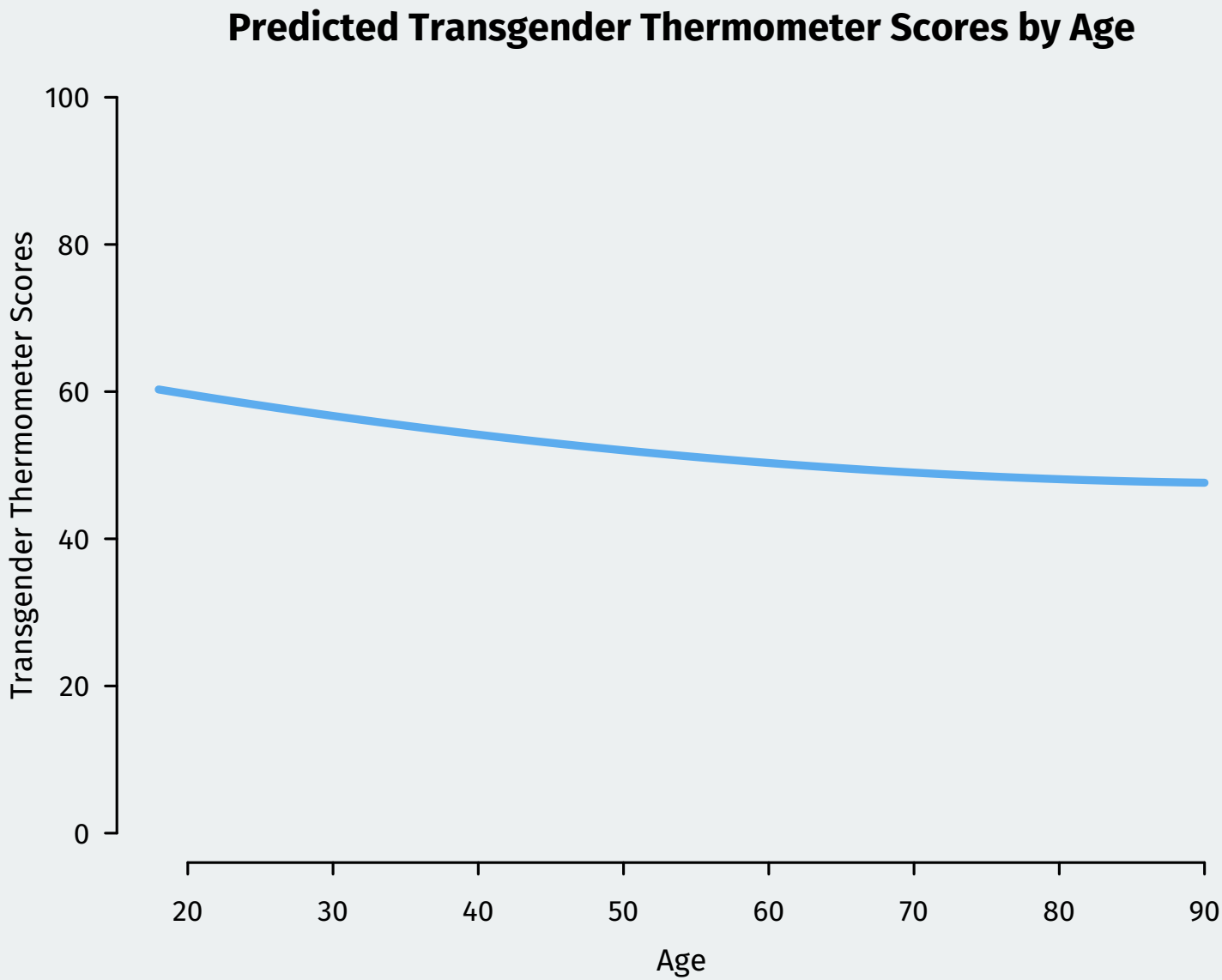
```
age_values <- 18:90
age_preds <- predict(agesq_fit, newdata = data.frame(age = age_values))
head(age_preds)
```

```
##    1    2    3    4    5    6
## 60.3 60.0 59.7 59.3 59.0 58.7
```

Answer 5 (cont'd)

```
plot(x = age_values, y = age_preds, type = "l", lwd = 3,
     xlab = "Age", ylab = "Transgender Thermometer Scores",
     main = "Predicted Transgender Thermometer Scores by Age",
     col = "steelblue2", las = 1, frame = FALSE, ylim = c(0, 100))
```

Answer 5 (cont'd)



Question 6

Run a regression of baseline Obama thermometer scores (`therm_obama_t0`) on age and the square of age to assess the nonlinear relationship between them.

Calculate predicted values from the model for ages 18 to 90 and plot these as a line.

Answer 6

```
agesq_obama_fit <- lm(therm_obama_t0 ~ age + I(age ^ 2), data = phobia)
agesq_obama_fit
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = therm_obama_t0 ~ age + I(age^2), data = phobia)
##
## Coefficients:
## (Intercept)          age     I(age^2)
##    82.04797     -0.66011      0.00464
```

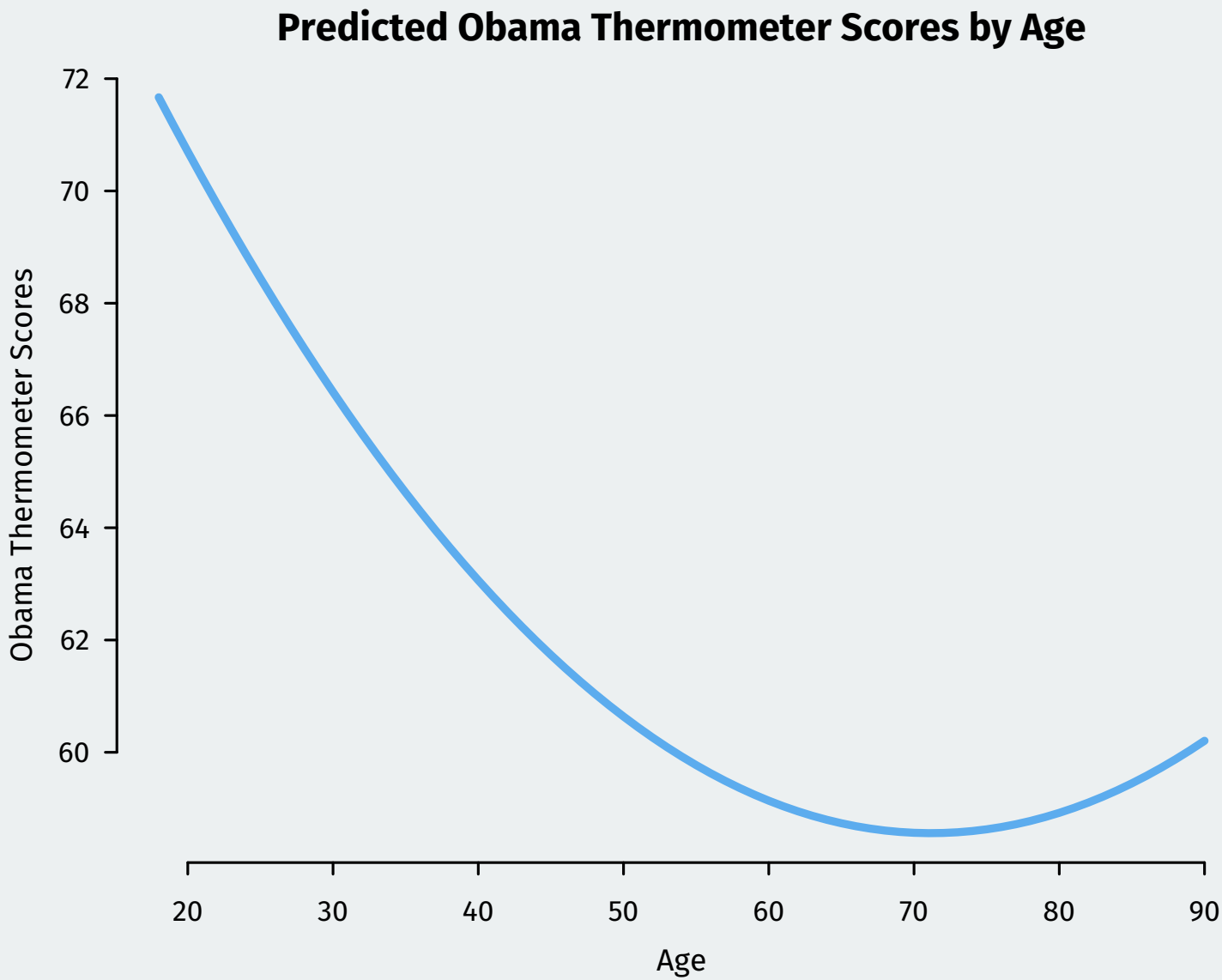
```
age_values <- 18:90
age_obama_preds <- predict(agesq_obama_fit,
                           newdata = data.frame(age = age_values))
head(age_obama_preds)
```

```
##    1    2    3    4    5    6
## 71.7 71.2 70.7 70.2 69.8 69.3
```

Answer 6 (cont'd)

```
plot(x = age_values, y = age_obama_preds, type = "l", lwd = 3,
     xlab = "Age", ylab = "Obama Thermometer Scores",
     main = "Predicted Obama Thermometer Scores by Age",
     col = "steelblue2", las = 1, frame = FALSE)
```

Answer 6


Predicted Obama Thermometer Scores by Age
Obama Thermometer Scores
72
70
68
66
64
62
60
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
Age

Question 7 (challenge question)

Run a regression of wave 1 transgender thermometer scores on the following: treatment indicator, age, age squared, the interaction between treatment and age, and the interaction between treatment and age squared. Create a plot of the predicted curves of the treated and control groups as a function of age.

Answer 7

```
nonlin_int_fit <- lm(therm_trans_t1 ~ treat_ind * age + treat_ind * I(age ^ 2),
                     data = phobia)
tr_preds <- predict(nonlin_int_fit,
                    newdata = data.frame(age = age_values, treat_ind = 1))
ct_preds <- predict(nonlin_int_fit,
                    newdata = data.frame(age = age_values, treat_ind = 0))

plot(x = age_values, y = tr_preds, type = "l", lwd = 3,
     xlab = "Age", ylab = "Transgender Thermometer Scores",
     main = "Predicted Transgender Thermometer Scores by Age",
     col = "steelblue2", las = 1, frame = FALSE,
     ylim = c(0, 100))
points(x = age_values, y = ct_preds, type = "l", lwd = 3,
       col = "indianred")
text(x = 20, y = 55, labels = "Control", col = "indianred", pos = 4)
text(x = 20, y = 70, labels = "Treated", col = "steelblue2", pos = 4)
```

Answer 7 (cont'd)