Abbreviated
Interrupted Time-Series

• What is Interrupted Time Series (ITS)?
  – Rationales
  – Designs
  – Analysis
What is ITS?

- A series of observations on the same dependent variable over time

- Interrupted time series is a special type of time series where treatment/intervention occurred at a specific point and the series is broken up by the introduction of the intervention.

- If the treatment has a causal impact, the post-intervention series will have a different level or slope than the pre-intervention series
The effect can be a change in intercept
The effects of charging for directory assistance in Cincinnati
What if Everyone in Canada Flushed at the Same Time
The effect can be a change in slope
The effect can be delayed in time.
The effects of an alcohol warning label on prenatal drinking

![Graph showing the impact of label law date on prenatal drinking over time. The x-axis represents the month of first prenatal visit, and the y-axis represents prenatal drinking. The graph indicates a decrease in prenatal drinking starting around the label law date.]
Interrupted Time Series Can Provide Strong Evidence for Causal Effects

- Clear Intervention Time Point
- Huge and Immediate Effect
- Clear Pretest Functional Form + many Observations
- No alternative Can Explain the Change

**Figure 6.1** The effects of charging for directory assistance in Cincinnati.
How well are these Conditions met in Most Ed Research?

• The Box & Jenkins tradition require roughly 100 observations to estimate cyclical patterns and error structure, but

• This many data points is rare in education, and so we will have to deviate (but borrow from) the classical tradition.

• Moreover,...
Meeting ITS Conditions in Educational Research

• Long span of data not available and so the pretest functional form is often unclear
• Implementing the intervention can span several years
• Instantaneous effects are rare
• Effect sizes are usually small

• And so the need arises to develop methods for abbreviated time series and to supplement them with additional design features such as a control series to help bolster the weak counterfactual associated with a short pretest time series
Different Functions of Pre- and Post-Observation Points

• Pretest time points are important for identifying whether a relationship is causal
  – Valuable for estimating pre-intervention growth (maturation)
  – Partial control for selection differences if there is a comparison time series

• Posttest is important for identifying nature of the effect, especially its temporal persistence
Theoretical Rationales for more Pretest Data Points in SITS

• O X O

• Describes starting level/value - yet fallibly so because of unreliability

• But pre-intervention individual growth is not assessed, and this is important in education
• Describes initial standing more reliably by averaging the two pretest values

• Describes pre-intervention growth better, but even so it is still only linear growth

• Cannot describe stability of this individual linear growth estimate
• Initial standing assessed even more reliably

• Individual growth model can be better assessed—allow functional form to be more complex, linear and quadratic

• Can assessed stability of this individual growth model (i.e., variation around linear slope)
Generalizing to 00000000X0

- Stable assessment of initial mean and slope and cyclical patterns
- Estimation of reliability of mean and slope
- Help determine a within-person counterfactual
- Check whether anything unusual is happening before intervention
Threats to Validity: History

• With most simple ITS, the major threat to internal validity is history—that some other event occurred around the same time as the intervention and could have produced the same effect.

• Possible solutions:
  – Add a control group time series
  
  – Add a nonequivalent dependent variable
  
  – The narrower the intervals measured (e.g., monthly rather than yearly), the fewer the historical events that can explain the findings within that interval.
Threats to Validity: Instrumentation

• Instrumentation: the way the outcome was measured changed at the same time that the intervention was introduced.

  – In Chicago, when Orlando Wilson took over the Chicago Policy Department, he changed the reporting requirements, making reporting more accurate. The result appeared to be an increase in crime when he took office.

  – It is important to explore the quality of the outcome measure over time, to ask about any changes that have been made to how measurement is operationalized.
Threat to SCV

• When a treatment is implemented slowly and diffusely, as in the alcohol warning label study, the researcher has to specify a time point at which the intervention “took effect”

  – Is it the date the law took effect?

  – Is it a later date (and if so, did the researcher capitalize on chance in selecting that date)?

  – Is it possible to create a “diffusion model” instead of a single date of implementation?
Construct Validity

• Reactivity threats (due to knowledge of being studied) are often less relevant if archival data are being used.

• However, the limited availability of a variety of archival outcome measures means the researcher is often limited to studying just one or two outcomes that may not capture the real outcomes of interest very well.
External Validity

• The essence of external validity is exploring whether the effect holds over different units, settings, outcome measures, etc.

• In ITS, this is only possible if the time series can be disaggregated by such moderators, which is often not the case.
Adding a Control Group Time Series
Now we add a comparison group that did not receive treatment and we can

- Assess how the two groups differ at one pretest

- But only within limits of reliability of test

- Have no idea how groups are changing over time
• Now can test mean difference more stably

• Now can test differences in linear growth/change

• But do not know reliability of each unit’s change

• Or of differences in growth patterns more complex than linear
• Now mean differences more stable

• Now can examine more than differences in linear growth

• Now can assess variation in linear change for each unit and for group

• Now can see if final pre-intervention point is an anomaly relative to earlier two
Example from Education: Project Hope

• A merit-based financial aid program in Georgia
  – Implemented in 1993
  – Cutoff of a 3.0 GPA in high school (RDD?)

• Aimed to improve
  – Access to higher education
  – Educational outcomes

• Control Groups
  – US data
  – Southeast data
Results:
Percent of Students Obtaining High School GPA ≥ 3.00

Percent of Students Reporting B or Better

Year

Percent

Southeast
US
GA
Results:
Average SAT scores for students reporting high school GPA $\geq$ 3.00

![Graph showing average SAT scores for students reporting B or better in Southeast, US, and GA from 1990 to 2000.](image)
Adding a nonequivalent dependent variable to the time series

NEDV: A dependent variable that is predicted \textit{not} to change because of treatment, but is expected to respond to some or all of the contextually important internal validity threats in the same way as the target outcome.
Example: British Breathalyzer Experiment

- Intervention: A crackdown on drunk driving using a breathalyzer.

- Presumed that much drunk driving occurred after drinking at pubs during the hours pubs were open.

- Dependent Variable: Traffic casualties during the hours pubs were open.

- Nonequivalent Dependent Variable: Traffic casualties during the hours pubs were closed.

- Helps to reduce the plausibility of history threats that the decrease was due to such things as:
  - Weather changes
  - Safer cars
  - Police crackdown on speeding
Note that the outcome variable (pub open hours plus weekend) did show an effect, but the nonequivalent dependent variable (hours when pubs were closed) did not show an effect.
Example: Media Campaign to Reduce Alcohol Use During a Student Festival at a University (McKillip)

• Dependent Variable: Awareness of alcohol abuse.

• Nonequivalent Dependent Variables (McKillip calls them “control constructs”):
  – Awareness of good nutrition
  – Awareness of stress reduction

• If the effect were due to secular trends (maturation) toward better health attitudes in general, then the NEDVs would also show the effect.
Only the targeted dependent variable, awareness of responsible alcohol use, responded to the treatment, suggesting the effect is unlikely to be due to secular trends in improved health awareness in general.
Adding more than one nonequivalent dependent variable to the design of SITS to increase internal validity
Example: Evaluating No Child Left Behind
NCLB

- National program that applies to all public school students and so no equivalent group for comparison

- We can use SITS to examine change in student test score before and after NCLB

- Increase internal validity of causal effect by using 3 possible types of non-equivalent groups or 3 types of contrasts for comparison
Contrast Type 1 & 2

• Contrast 1: Test for NCLB effect nationally
  – Compare student achievement in public schools with private schools (both Catholic and non-Catholic)

• Contrast 2: Test for NCLB effects at the state level
  – Compare states varying in proficiency standards.
    • States with higher proficiency standards are likely to have more schools fail to make AYP and so more schools will need to “reform” to boost student achievement
Contrast 1: Public vs Private Schools

• Public schools got NCLB but private ones essentially did not
  – If NCLB is raising achievement in general, then public schools should do better than private ones after 2002

• Hypothesis is that changes in mean, slope or both after 2002 will favor public schools
Hypothetical NCLB effects on public (red) versus private schools (blue)
Contrast 1: Public vs Private Schools

• Two independent datasets: Main and Trend NAEP data can be used to test this
• Main NAEP four posttest points. Data available for both Catholic and other private schools
• Trend NAEP only one usable post-2002 point and then only for Catholic schools
Analytic Model

• NCLB Public vs. Catholic school contrast

• Model

\[ Y_{tij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1(year)_{tj} + \beta_2(group)_j + \beta_3(policy)_{tj} + \beta_4(year \times group)_{tj} + \beta_5(policy \times year)_{tj} \]
\[ + \beta_6(policy \times group)_{tj} + \beta_7(policy \times year \times group)_{tj} + \epsilon_{tij}, \]

• Low Power

  • Only 3 groups (public, Catholic, non-Catholic private) with 8 time points. So only 24 degrees of freedom

• Autocorrelation

  – Few solutions
  – Cannot use clustering algorithm because there are not enough groups
  – Robust s.e. used but results less conservative
Main NAEP Time Series Graphs

Public vs. Catholic
Public vs. Other Private
Main NAEP 4\textsuperscript{th} grade math scores by year: Public and Catholic schools
Main NAEP 4th grade math scores by year: Public and Other Private schools
Difference in differences in Total change for 4th Grade Math
Analyses based on Main NAEP data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4th Grade Math (All Data)</th>
<th>4th Grade Math (Exclude 1990)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coef.  S.E.  t</td>
<td>Coef.  S.E.  t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public vs. Catholic</td>
<td>10.96  5.22  1.77+</td>
<td>10.73  3.43  3.13*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public vs. Other Private</td>
<td>6.46  8.39  0.77</td>
<td>13.90  9.72  1.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ p<0.10, * p<0.05
Main NAEP 8th grade math scores by year: Public and Catholic schools
Main NAEP 8th grade math scores by year: Public and Other Private schools
Difference in differences in Total change for \textit{8th Grade} Math Analyses based on \textit{Main NAEP} data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8th Grade Math (All Data)</th>
<th>8th Grade Math (Exclude 1990)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coef. S.E. t</td>
<td>2.91 6.64 0.44</td>
<td>0.26 5.57 0.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public vs. Catholic</td>
<td>11.16 7.95 1.40</td>
<td>5.57 1.39 4.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public vs. Other Private</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+p<0.10, * p<0.05
Trend NAEP Time Series Graphs

Public vs. Catholic School Contrast

(Other private school data unavailable and only 1 post-intervention time point)
Trend NAEP 4th grade math scores by year: Public and Catholic schools
Trend NAEP 8th grade math scores by year: Public and Catholic schools
Difference in Differences in Mean Change in 2004 for Math Analyses based on *Trend NAEP* data

Public vs. Catholic Contrast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4th Grade Math</th>
<th>8th Grade Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coef.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Coef.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>S.E.</strong></td>
<td><strong>S.E.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>t</strong></td>
<td><strong>t</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.93</td>
<td>7.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.53</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.97*</td>
<td>3.58*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p<0.05
Public vs Private School Findings

- All effects on 4th and 8th grade math are in the right direction, and some statistically significant.

- No effect on 4th grade reading but all are in the right direction (results not shown here).

- This suggests that NCLB has a significant math effect nationally, but...
Concerns with Contrast 1

- Possible low power due to low number of groups (3: public, Catholic, non-Catholic private) with 8 time points
  - So only 24 degrees of freedom
- Catholic sex abuse scandals in 2002 result in parents taking their children out of Catholic schools
- Did this cause a drop in average student achievement in Catholic schools or an increase in public schools since transfers were higher scoring Catholic school attendees
- Did transfers from Catholic schools raise achievement in other private schools?
- So Contrast 1 by itself is not likely to be definitive
Contrast 2: Comparing States that vary in Proficiency Standards

• Some states set high standards for making AYP and so many schools fail and have to change their educational practices
  – (more serious NCLB implementers, higher dosage of treatment)

• Other states set low standards and so do not have to change much
  – (less serious NCLB implementers, lower dosage of treatment)
Define Proficiency Standards Based on the Percentage of Students Deemed Proficient

• To determine a state’s overall level of proficiency standard, we average the percentage of students deemed proficient across grades (4th and 8th grade) and across subjects (math and reading) using state assessment data from 2003.

• States that deemed less than 50% of students proficient have high proficiency standards.

• States that deemed 75% or more proficient are states have low proficiency standards.

• States between 50% and 75% are moderate.
# Evidence of Differing Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>High Proficiency Standard States</th>
<th>Low Proficiency Standard States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Test</td>
<td>NAEP Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
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<td>Maine</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Results are averaged across grades (4th and 8th grade), subjects (math and reading) in year 2003 for state and NAEP assessment.

Note: When state assessment data are missing in the grade examined, data from the next lower grade are used and if not available then data are from the next higher grade.

Source: Consolidated State Performance Report and Institute of Education Science
So Contrast 2 is...

- Compare states at three levels of standards - high, medium and low
  - Cut offs at 50% and 75% of students being proficient

- Hypothesis is that in states with higher standards there should be more of a post-2002 change in mean, slope or both

- Using Main NAEP data from 1990 to 2009 for Math and to 2007 for 4th grade Reading
Main NAEP Time Series Graphs

States with High vs. Medium vs. Low Proficiency Standards
Adjusting for Autocorrelation

• NCLB State Contrast

• Option 1:
  – HLM model can control for autocorrelation

Level 1:

$$Y_{ti} = \gamma_{0i} + \gamma_{1i} (year)_{ti} + \gamma_{2i} (policy)_{ti} + \gamma_{3i} (year \times policy)_{ti} + \varepsilon_{ti}$$

Level 2:

$$\gamma_{0i} = \beta_{00} + \beta_{01} (group)_{i} + \beta_{02} (percent \_ free \_ lunch) + \beta_{03} (pupil \_ teacher \_ ratio) + \tau_{0i}$$

$$\gamma_{1i} = \beta_{10} + \beta_{11} (group)_{i} + \tau_{1i}$$

$$\gamma_{2i} = \beta_{20} + \beta_{21} (group)_{i} + \tau_{2i}$$

$$\gamma_{3i} = \beta_{30} + \beta_{31} (group)_{i} + \tau_{3i}$$
Analytic Model – Cont.

• Full Model

\[ Y_{ti} = \beta_0 + \beta_1(ye\text{ar})_{ti} + \beta_2(pol\text{icy})_{ti} + \beta_3(\text{policy} \times \text{year})_{ti} + \beta_4(\text{group}_h)_{ti} + \beta_5(\text{group}_m)_{ti} \\
+ \beta_6(\text{year} \times \text{group}_h)_{ti} + \beta_7(\text{year} \times \text{group}_m)_{ti} + \beta_8(\text{policy} \times \text{group}_h)_{ti} + \beta_9(\text{policy} \times \text{group}_m)_{ti} \\
+ \beta_{10}(\text{policy} \times \text{year} \times \text{group}_h)_{ti} + \beta_{11}(\text{policy} \times \text{year} \times \text{group}_m)_{ti} \\
+ \beta_{12}(\text{percent}_\text{free}_\text{lunch})_{i} + \beta_{13}(\text{pupil}_\text{teacher}_\text{ratio})_{i} \\
+ [\tau_{0i} + \tau_{1i}(\text{year})_{ti} + \tau_{2i}(\text{policy})_{ti} + \tau_{3i}(\text{policy} \times \text{year})_{ti} + \epsilon_{ti}], \]

• Main Variables of Interest

\[ \beta_8(\text{policy} \times \text{group}_h) \]

\[ \beta_{10}(\text{policy} \times \text{year} \times \text{group}_h)_{ti} \]
Adjusting for Autocorrelation

• Option 2:
• Fixed effects model because we are looking at the entire population of states
  – Use cluster option in stata

\[ Y_{ti} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (policy)_{ti} + \beta_2 (policy \times year)_{ti} + \beta_3 (year \times group \_h)_{ti} + \beta_4 (year \times group \_m)_{ti} + \beta_5 (policy \times group \_h)_{ti} + \beta_6 (policy \times group \_m)_{ti} + \beta_7 (policy \times year \times group \_h)_{ti} + \beta_8 (policy \times year \times group \_m)_{ti} + \beta_9 (percent \_free \_lunch)_{ti} + \beta_{10} (pupil \_teacher \_ratio)_{ti} + \mu_i + \tau_t + \varepsilon_{ti}, \]
Main NAEP $4^{th}$ grade math scores by year and proficiency standards
Main NAEP 8th grade math scores by year and proficiency standards
Difference in differences in 2009 Total change for Math  
Analyses based on Main NAEP data

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diff in Total $\Delta$ (2009)</td>
<td>Coef.</td>
<td>S.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.38</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+p<0.1, *p<0.05
Contrast 2 Study Conclusions

• NCLB increased
  – 4th Grade Math
    – 8 points.
    – 6 months of learning
    – .26 SD
    – .21 Pct
  – 8th grade math
    – 8 points
    – 12 months of learning
    – .19 SD
    – .20 pct

  – 4th Grade Reading
    • No significant effect for either contrast but all are in the hypothesized direction
Overall Conclusions

- Similar results obtain from both strategies:
  - significant 4th and 8th grade math effects but not for reading
- Viable internal threats are factors independent of NCLB that changed in 2002 and are correlated with both the public/private and the high/low proficiency contrasts
- Most alternative interpretations do not apply to both strategies, and this should reduce concerns about internal validity
- A few are shared (e.g., changes in math standards in public schools in 2002). These are discussed in the paper and shown to highly unlikely.
Contrast 3: 
Dee & Jacob
Basic Insight of D & J

• NCLB passed in 2002 and is a system of accountability by performance standards with inevitable sanctions for school failure

• Some states had such a system earlier - e.g., via Improving American Schools Act

• States whose accountability system pre 2002 had no sanctions then become “treatment” group that gets consequential accountability (CA) via NCLB in 2002

• States with systems that had sanctions pre-2002 then become a comparison group post 2002
Basic Method of D & J

- Prior studies can be used to determine which states did and did not have accountability system pre 2002

- Dee & Jacob uses Hanushek’s measure

- Main NAEP provides the pre-intervention (2002) and post-intervention time-series for both reading and math

- Hypothesis again is that NCLB should increase mean or slope or both after 2002 by more in states without a prior accountability system
D & J Results: 4th Grade Math
D & J Results: 8\textsuperscript{th} Grade Math
Dee and Jacob Results

• Similar causal findings to Wong, Cook & Steiner
• Strong Evidence of a 4\textsuperscript{th} Grade Math Effect
• Some evidence of 8\textsuperscript{th} Grade Math Effect
• No Reading Effect
The Use of Multiple Comparison Groups and Replications

• **ALL** three ITS contrasts point to a clear math effect
  – public vs. private
  – high vs. low standards
  – early versus late CA
Level of Aggregation of ITS DATA: How Video Bail Hearings affects Bail Amounts
What is this study about?

• On June 1, 1999, Cook County introduced video conferencing for bail decisions, for efficiency and cost saving purpose.
• The change from live hearing to video conferencing created an interrupted time series.
• Diamond et al. (2010) aggregated individual cases into monthly average to estimate treatment effect - level and slope changes
What is this study about-cont’d

• Daily Level Aggregation
  – With individual cases, we aggregated data into daily level to estimate level and slope change.
  – Standard Techniques: ARIMA, OLS with HAC estimate for standard errors and Kernel Smoothing

• Additional Information with Individual Observations
  – Seasonality: days of a week
  – Variation of bail amounts: heteroscedasticity
  – Judges’ composition change: number of judges per day, percent of cases handled by certain judges each day, bail decisions by these judges
Log-transformed CPI-adjusted Monthly Averages
Log-Transformed CPI-adjusted Daily Averages
Days of the Week Effects
Variation of Daily Aggregated Bail Amounts
Number of Judges Per Day

![Number of Judges Per Day Graph]
Percent of Cases by Judges with Data in both the before and after Periods

![Graph showing percent sample size over time index. The graph indicates a decrease in percent sample size as time index increases.]
Percent of Cases adjudicated by the 16 Pre and Post Judges with most Cases
Log-transformed Monthly Averages for 16 Judges vs. All others (Statistically Edited)
Log-Transformed Daily Averages for 16 Judges vs. All others (Statistically Edited)
Conclusion

• Daily Data can provide more precise treatment effect estimation—both level and slope changes.

• Selection Bias: Judges’ Composition changed together with intervention. The treatment effect may be confounded with the effect of selection of judges.
  – Especially right after the intervention cutoff, the 16 judges took charge of almost all cases.

• The effect estimated from the 16 judges differs from that based on all judges. So what would you conclude for the treatment effect?
Why did we need multiple comparison TS?
Adding Treatment Introduction and Removal: Examples from Research on Students with Disabilities
Example: Ayllon et al., A Behavioral Alternative to Drugs for Hyperactive Students

• Drugs control hyperactivity, but can interfere with academic performance

• Ayllon et al. used a behavioral intervention to try to control hyperactivity while improving academic performance as measured by
  – Math
  – Reading
Medication decreased hyperactivity, but also affected academic performance.

Removal of medication increased hyperactivity but allowed academic performance to recover a bit.

The behavioral reinforcement program reduced hyperactivity but allowed academic performance to increase even more.
Multiple Baselines on Different Dependent Variables
Example: Chorpita

• A child with difficulties attending school, with symptoms including
  – Somatic complaints
  – Tantrums and anger
  – Crying

• Intervention was a behavioral extinction and reinforcement schedule

• Multiple baseline adding treatment for each of the three symptoms over time.
Initially, only somatic complaints were targeted.

Then, both somatic complaints and anger/tantrums were targeted.

Finally, all three sets of symptoms were targeted in the third phase.
Multiple Baselines on Different Units
Example: Blandford and Lloyd

• Two learning disabled boys

• Intervention: A self-instructional card with seven instructions on how to improve handwriting.

• Outcome: Percent of possible points on a handwriting test

• Multiple Baseline: Intervention was introduced at two different times for the two boys.
The effects of screening for phenylketonuria retardation

PKU Screening Adopted in 1962

PKU Screening Adopted in 1963

PKU Screening Adopted in 1964

PKU Screening Adopted in 1965
Analyses for Short Time Series

- Multilevel models
- Effect Size Indices
  - Nonparametric
  - Parametric
Empirical Comparisons of ITS and RE
Two Examples

• Roifman et al (1987)
  – Medical Example
  – One study that can be analyzed simultaneously as
    • Randomized experiment
    • 6 single-case designs

• Pivotal Response Training
  – Educational example on treatment of autism
  – Multiple studies with multiple outcomes
Roifman et al (1987)

• High-dose versus low-dose intravenous immunoglobulin in hypogammaglobulinaemia and chronic lung disease

• 12 patients in a randomized cross-over design. After one baseline (no IgG) observation:
  – Group A: 6 receive high dose for 6 sessions, then low dose for 6 sessions.
  – Group B: 6 receive low dose for 6 sessions, then high dose for 6 sessions

• Outcome is serum IgG levels

• Here is a graph of results
Fig 1—Serum IgG concentrations.

A, initial high dose; B, initial low dose.
Analysis

• For present purposes, we can analyze the data two ways
  – Analyze Group B only as if it were six single-case designs
  – Analyze Time 6 data as a randomized experiment comparing Group A and Group B.

• We chose this example in part because—if the time 0 baseline point is eliminated—this meets a key constraint of our preliminary method:
  – Equal number of observations in Phase 1 and Phase 2
  – Equal number of observations for each person in each phase.
Analysis 1: SCD

• Implemented the d-estimator in about 600 lines of SPSS syntax (which we will turn into a macro)

• If we analyze only Group B (6 cases) using the new d-estimator:
  – 282.92 in low dose phase
  – 638.04 in high dose phase
  – Difference = 355.11, smaller than RE because of trend in the high dose phase
  – \( G = 4.59 \), \( V(G) = 1.43 \) (se = 1.196)
Analysis 2

• If we analyze as a randomized experiment with the endpoint at the last observation before the crossover:
  
  – Group B ($M = 794.93$, $SD = 90.48$)
  
  – Group A ($M = 283.89$, $SD = 71.10$)
  
  – $G = 6.05$ (using the comparison group SD)
    
    • $v = 2.83$ ($se = 1.68$)

• It is nice to see the results from the RE and SCD can be of the same order of magnitude.
Example: PRT

• Pivotal Response Training (PRT) for Childhood Autism
• 18 studies containing 91 SCD’s.
• For this example, to meet the assumptions of the method, the preliminary analysis:
  – Used only the 14 studies with at least 3 cases (66 SCDs).
  – Kept only the first baseline and PRT treatment phases, eliminating studies with no baseline
Meta-Analytic Summary of 14 SCDs/ITSs

------ Distribution Description -----------------------------------------------
   N    Min ES    Max ES    Wghtd SD
14.000   .181      2.087      .374

------ Fixed & Random Effects Model -------------------------------------------
   Mean ES  -95%CI  +95%CI    SE       Z         P
Fixed     .4878    .3719    .6037     .0591    8.2485    .0000
Random    .6630    .4257    .9002     .1210    5.4774    .0000

------ Random Effects Variance Component -------------------------------------
   v       =     .112554

------ Homogeneity Analysis -------------------------------------------------
   Q      df       p
39.9398  13.0000  .0001

Random effects v estimated via noniterative method of moments.

   I² = 67.5%

The results are of the order of magnitude that we commonly see in meta-
analyses of between groups studies
A Randomized Trial

• Nefdt et al. (2010) published a randomized trial comparing PRT to wait-list control.
• One of their four outcome measures was the number of functional utterances by the child (the rest were parent measures).
• 34 were randomly assigned, 27 completed (n_t = 13, n_c = 14). $G = .875$, $\nu(G) = .146$
• What is surprising is that the SCD effect size is smaller than the RCT—speculation is it would be much larger. This was also the case for the Roifman example.
• If we add this RCT effect size to the previous meta-analysis hardly changes the results at all:
Do you have any examples of interrupted time series to share with us?
Summary

• ITS is a very powerful design, but its feasibility often depends on the availability of a good archived outcome, or the ability to gather original data.

• Much prior information is available in education, at individual, cohort and school levels.

• But it is not much used in education outside of special education with individual cases. Why? Its use is not recommended without a comparison time series due to unclear extrapolations from pretest alone and uncertainty about the time when an effect should appear.