W271, Unit 2 Question 2

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Variance of Linear Probability model

Bias term is inconsequential to this derivation. Omitting the bias we can express LPM as the following:

$$y_i = \beta x_i + \epsilon_i \text{ where}$$

$$\begin{cases} y = 1 : p(x_i) \\ y = 0 : 1 - p(x_i) \end{cases}$$

Note that expectation of ϵ_i is 0, because of the properties of OLS. Therefore:

$$Var(\epsilon_i) = E[(\epsilon_i - E(\epsilon_i))^2]$$
$$= E[\epsilon_i^2]$$

Given the fact that y can only take two values, ϵ_i also can only take two values:

$$\begin{cases} 1 - \beta x_i : p(x_i) \\ 0 - \beta x_i : 1 - p(x_i) \end{cases}$$

Using this fact and definition of the expectation:

$$Var(\epsilon_i) = E[\epsilon_i^2]$$

= $(1 - \beta x_i)^2 p(x_i) + (0 - \beta x_i)^2 (1 - p(x_i))$

Now, using the fact that $E[y|x_i] = p(x_i)$, derived in the lecture, we can write:

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