

# Basics of Linear Models

## Motivation for models of the mean function

Previously we assumed that rvs  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n$  are iid.  $\Rightarrow E(Y_i) = E(Y_j)$  for every  $i, j$ . A more interesting model is

$$E(Y_i) = f_i(\underbrace{\text{observed variables}}_{\substack{\text{covariates, predictors,} \\ \text{explanatory variables}}})$$

E.g.  $Y_i$ : score of  $i$ -th student on the final exam.  $f_i$ : function of study time, difficulty of exam, past performance on quizzes, etc.

The mean function  $f_i$  relates the expectation of  $Y_i$ —response variable—to the corresponding explanatory variables. Mathematically,

$$E(Y_i) = f_i(\underbrace{x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{im}}_{\mathbf{x}_i^T}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Y_i = \underbrace{Y_i - E(Y_i)}_{\text{error}_i} + E(Y_i) \\ = E(Y_i) + \text{error}_i \\ = f_i(\mathbf{x}_i^T, \boldsymbol{\beta}) + \text{error}_i \end{cases}$$

Most generally, this is a nonlinear model, i.e.,  $f_i(\mathbf{x}_i^T, \boldsymbol{\beta})$  is a nonlinear function of the coefficients  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ .

## Linear Models

If  $f_i(\mathbf{x}_i^T, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = \sum_{j=1}^m x_{ij} \beta_j$  where  $\mathbf{x}_i^T$  is a vector of explanatory variables and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  is the vector of coefficients. Then we have a statistical linear model (LM), meaning that the mean function is linear in the coefficients  $\beta_j$ ; the mean function need not be linear in covariates.

Examples:

- $E(Y_i) = \beta_0$
- $E(Y_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1}$
- $E(Y_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i1}^2$

→ these are LMs since expectation is linear in  $\beta_i$ 's.

- $E(Y_i) = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2})$

→ not an LM.

**Our focus:** statistical linear models; hence, no more  $f_i$ 's to denote the mean functions.

**The (linear) least squares problem:** given a vector of observations  $\mathbf{Y}$  and a matrix of covariates  $\mathbf{X}$ , find a vector of model coefficients  $\mathbf{b}$  that minimizes

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{b})^2 = (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b})^T (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b}) = \text{SSE}(\mathbf{b}), \text{ the sum of squared errors.}$$

$Y_i = \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta} + \text{error}_i \Rightarrow$  estimate  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  as the value of  $\mathbf{b}$  that minimizes  $\text{SSE}(\mathbf{b})$ .

*Example:* Let  $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \text{error}_i$ .

$\Rightarrow$  we find a line  $\widehat{\beta}_0 + \widehat{\beta}_1 x$  that minimizes  $\text{SSE}(\mathbf{b})$ , the sum of squared *vertical* distances to the points  $(x_i, y_i)$  from line  $\widehat{\beta}_0 + \widehat{\beta}_1 x$ . In matrix form

$$Y_i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_i^T \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \end{bmatrix} + \text{error}_i$$

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1^T \\ 1 & x_2^T \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n^T \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \end{bmatrix} + \text{error}_i,$$

In statistics, if  $x_i$  is a scalar, this is known as simple linear regression. If  $x_i^T$  is a vector, we have multiple linear regression.

Aside:  $\beta_0$  is known as an “intercept”, estimated by  $\widehat{\beta}_0$ . In the model, the column of ones can be absorbed into the  $x_i^T$ ’s.

How to solve the least squares problem?  $\Rightarrow$  find  $\frac{\partial \text{SSE}(\mathbf{b})}{\partial \mathbf{b}}$ , set to 0, solve, get  $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y}$ , assuming  $\mathbf{X}$  is of full rank ( $\mathbf{X}$  is  $n \times m$ ,  $n > m$ ).

**How to solve the least squares problem “statistically”?** Assume:

$$Y_i = \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\sum_{j=1}^m x_{ij} \beta_j} + \varepsilon_i$$

where  $\varepsilon_i$ ’s are iid  $\text{Normal}(0, \sigma^2)$ . In vector-matrix form,

$$\underset{n \times 1}{\mathbf{Y}} = \underset{n \times m}{\mathbf{X}} \overset{m \times 1}{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + \underset{n \times 1}{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}$$

$Y_i \sim \text{Normal}(\mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$ , the  $Y_i$ ’s are independent but not identically distributed.

Since we know the joint pdf of the  $Y_i$ ’s let’s use ML estimation to estimate  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\sigma^2$ .

- Step 1: write down the likelihood; here,  $f_i(\cdot|\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$  is the pdf of  $Y_i$ :

$$\begin{aligned} L(y_1, \dots, y_n | \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) &= \prod_{i=1}^n f_i(y_i | \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^n (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta})^2}_{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})}\right) \end{aligned}$$

- Step 2: log-likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) &= \ln(L(y_1, \dots, y_n | \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)) \\ &= -\frac{n}{2} \ln(2\pi) - \frac{n}{2} \ln(\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}). \end{aligned}$$

- Step 3. Find the gradient of  $\ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$  with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\sigma^2$ , set the gradient to 0, solve for  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\sigma^2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} 2\mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ \frac{\partial \ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)}{\partial \sigma^2} &= -\frac{n}{2} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})}{(\sigma^2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{solve, get } \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} \text{ and } \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}).$$

- Step 4. Make sure we found the maximizers of  $L(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$  by showing that all eigenvalues of the matrix of second derivatives of  $L(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$ —known as the Hessian—are negative. (Equivalently,  $(-1) \cdot \text{Hessian}$  is positive definite.)

Some jargon: estimating  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\sigma^2 \equiv$  “fitting the model”

- $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \equiv$  ML and LS estimator of  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ .
- $\hat{\mathbf{Y}} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$  is the vector of fitted values (it estimates  $\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$ ).
- $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$  : vector of true errors.
- $\hat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} = \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$  : vector of residuals. (do not confuse residuals with true errors)
- $\hat{\mathbf{Y}} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{Y}$

Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be a matrix such that

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_1 & \mathbf{P}_2 \\ n \times m & n \times (n-m) \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Columns of  $\mathbf{P}$  form an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , (columns are “perpendicular” and have length 1), i.e.,  $\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}$ .

- Columns of  $\mathbf{P}_1$  form an orthonormal basis for the column space of  $\mathbf{X}$ . Column space of  $\mathbf{X}$ :  $\{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^M\}$
- Columns of  $\mathbf{P}_2$  form a basis for the orthogonal complement of column space for  $\mathbf{X}$  (null space of  $\mathbf{X}^T$ :  $\{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{z} = 0\}$ ).

Observation: one can write

- $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T = \mathbf{P}_1 \mathbf{P}_1^T$
- $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{H}) = \mathbf{P}_2 \mathbf{P}_2^T$ .
- $\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{P}_1 \mathbf{P}_1^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$
- $\hat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{H})(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) = (\mathbf{X} - \underbrace{\mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T}_{\mathbf{I}}) \boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{P}_2 \mathbf{P}_2^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \mathbf{P}_2 \mathbf{P}_2^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$

Let  $\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{P}_1^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ ,  $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{P}_2^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ ,  $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{P}^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$  so that  $\mathbf{V} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_1^T \\ \mathbf{P}_2^T \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U} \\ \mathbf{W} \end{bmatrix}$

Program: show that  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{W}$  are independent. Hence  $h(\mathbf{V})$  and  $g(\mathbf{W})$  are independent for any choice of  $h$  and  $g$ .

**Goal:** find the distribution of  $\mathbf{V} = h(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) = \mathbf{P}^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ . Recall: in one dimension, if  $Z = h(T)$  then

$$\underbrace{f_Z(z)}_{\text{pdf of } Z} = \underbrace{f_T(h^{-1}(z))}_{\text{pdf of } T} \cdot \underbrace{\left| \frac{\partial h^{-1}(z)}{\partial z} \right|}_{\substack{\text{Jacobian of} \\ \text{the inverse} \\ \text{transformation}}}$$

$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{P}^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = h^{-1}(\mathbf{V}) = (\mathbf{P}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{V}$ . Since  $\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I} \Rightarrow \mathbf{P} = (\mathbf{P}^T)^{-1}$

$$f_{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{v}) = f_{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}(h^{-1}(\mathbf{v})) \cdot |\det(\mathbf{P})|$$

$$f_{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) = \prod_{i=1}^n (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon_i^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{v}) &= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{v}}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot |\det(\mathbf{P})| \\ &= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot |\det(\mathbf{P})| \\ &= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot |\det(\mathbf{P})| \end{aligned}$$

since  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{w} \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^m u_i^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{m-n} w_j^2$

$$= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-m/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u}}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot \underbrace{|\det(\mathbf{P})|}_{=1} \cdot (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-(n-m)/2} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$\Rightarrow$  using factorization criterion,  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{W}$  are independent, actually,  $U_i$ 's and  $W_j$ 's are iid Normal(0,  $\sigma^2$ ).

Implications:

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^T \widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} &= \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^T \underbrace{(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{H})^T (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{H})}_{(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{H}) = \mathbf{P}_2 \mathbf{P}_2^T} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^T \mathbf{P}_2 \underbrace{\mathbf{P}_2^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{\mathbf{W}} = \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{W} \\ W_i &\stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(0, \sigma^2), \quad \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{W} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-m} W_i^2 = \sigma^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-m} \left( \frac{W_i}{\sigma} \right)^2 \sim \chi_{n-m}^2 \\ \Rightarrow \tilde{\sigma}^2 &= \frac{\widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^T \widehat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}}{n-m}: \text{ unbiased estimator of } \sigma^2\end{aligned}$$

Shortcut notation: let  $\perp$  denote “independence”, i.e.  $\mathbf{U} \perp \mathbf{W}$  if  $\mathbf{U}$  is independent of  $\mathbf{W}$ . Recall:

$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{P}_1^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \quad \mathbf{X} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{P}_1 \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{P}_1^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{\mathbf{U}}, \quad \tilde{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{W}}{n-m} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \widehat{\varepsilon}_j^2}{n-m}$$

Hence  $\mathbf{X} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \perp \tilde{\sigma}^2$  since these are made from disjoint subsets of independent random variables (the  $V_i$ 's).

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} &= (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \cdot \mathbf{X} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \perp \tilde{\sigma}^2 \\ \mathbf{a}^T \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} &= \sum_{j=1}^m a_j \widehat{\beta}_j \perp \tilde{\sigma}^2 \quad \mathbf{a}: m \times 1 \text{ constant vector}\end{aligned}$$

**Goal:** find the distribution of  $\mathbf{a}^T \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{a}^T \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} &= \mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \underbrace{\mathbf{Y}}_{\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} = \mathbf{a}^T \underbrace{(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}}_{\mathbf{I}} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \underbrace{\mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T}_{\mathbf{c}^T: \text{ row vector}} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \\ &= \mathbf{a}^T \boldsymbol{\beta} + \underbrace{\mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \varepsilon_i}\end{aligned}$$

Recall:  $\varepsilon_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(0, \sigma^2)$ . Mgf of  $\varepsilon_i$  is  $m(t) = \exp(t^2 \sigma^2 / 2)$ . What is the distribution of  $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \varepsilon_i$ ?  
Mgf of  $Z$  is

$$\begin{aligned}M_Z(t) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{tZ}) = \mathbb{E}\left(\exp\left(t \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \varepsilon_i\right)\right) = \prod_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\mathbb{E}(\exp(tc_i \varepsilon_i))}_{m(tc_i)} \quad \text{by independence of } \varepsilon_i \text{'s} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \exp\left(\frac{t^2 c_i^2 \sigma^2}{2}\right) = \exp\left(\frac{t^2}{2} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2 \cdot \sigma^2\right)\end{aligned}$$

which is the mgf of  $\text{Normal}(0, \sigma^2 \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2 &= \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \underbrace{\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}}_{\mathbf{I}} \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{a}. \\ \Rightarrow \mathbf{a}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} &\sim \text{Normal}(\mathbf{a}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{a}) \end{aligned}$$

## Special Cases

- Let  $\mathbf{I}$  be an  $m \times n$  identity matrix. Let  $\mathbf{I}_{i\bullet}$  be the  $i$ -th row of  $\mathbf{I}$  and  $\mathbf{I}_{\bullet j}$  be the  $j$ -th column of  $\mathbf{I}$ .  $\Rightarrow \mathbf{I}_{\bullet i} = (\mathbf{I}_{i\bullet})^T \Rightarrow \hat{\beta}_i = \mathbf{I}_{i\bullet} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\beta}_i \sim \text{Normal}(\beta_i, \sigma^2 \underbrace{\mathbf{I}_{i\bullet} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{I}_{i\bullet}}_{\substack{[(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}]_{ii} \\ \text{the } i\text{-th entry} \\ \text{on main diagonal}}}).$$

- let  $\mathbf{a}^T = \mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}^T$  be a vector of covariates for a new random variable  $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{New}}$ .  
 $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{New}} \sim \text{Normal}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$ . An estimator of  $\mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}$  is  $\mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ .

$$\mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \sim \text{Normal}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{x}_{\text{New}}).$$

## CIs and tests for $\mathbf{a}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}$

Let  $\theta = \mathbf{a}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}$ .

$$P(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{a}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \theta}{\sqrt{\sigma^2} \sqrt{\mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{a}}} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

If  $\sigma^2$  were known, can use as a pivot for  $\theta$ . If  $\sigma^2$  is unknown: replace  $\sigma^2$  by  $\tilde{\sigma}^2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(\theta) &= \frac{\mathbf{a}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \theta}{\sqrt{\tilde{\sigma}^2} \sqrt{\mathbf{a}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{a}}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\sigma^2}}{\sqrt{\sigma^2}} = \frac{N(0, 1)}{\sqrt{\frac{\chi_{n-m}^2}{n-m}}} \quad \text{and numerator} \perp \text{denominator.} \\ &\Rightarrow P(\theta) \sim t(\text{df} = n - m). \end{aligned}$$

E.g., if  $H_0: \theta = \theta_0$ , then  $P(\theta_0) \sim t(\text{df} = n - m)$  under  $H_0$  when  $\sigma^2$  is unknown and is estimated by  $\tilde{\sigma}^2$ .  $\Rightarrow$  Can do tests and CIs about  $\theta$  as before.