

Problem Set 4

Applied Stats/Quant Methods 1

Due: December 4, 2022

Instructions

- Please show your work! You may lose points by simply writing in the answer. If the problem requires you to execute commands in **R**, please include the code you used to get your answers. Please also include the **.R** file that contains your code. If you are not sure if work needs to be shown for a particular problem, please ask.
- Your homework should be submitted electronically on GitHub.
- This problem set is due before 23:59 on Sunday December 4, 2022. No late assignments will be accepted.

Question 1: Economics

In this question, use the **prestige** dataset in the **car** library. First, run the following commands:

```
install.packages(car)
library(car)
data(Prestige)
help(Prestige)
```

We would like to study whether individuals with higher levels of income have more prestigious jobs. Moreover, we would like to study whether professionals have more prestigious jobs than blue and white collar workers.

- (a) Create a new variable **professional** by recoding the variable **type** so that professionals are coded as 1, and blue and white collar workers are coded as 0 (Hint: **ifelse**).

```
Prestigeprofessional_dumy <- ifelse(Prestigetype=="prof", 1, 0)
```

- (b) Run a linear model with **prestige** as an outcome and **income**, **professional**, and the interaction of the two as predictors (Note: this is a continuous \times dummy interaction.)

```
model1 <- lm(formula = prestige ~ income * professional_dumy, data = Prestige)
```

- (c) Write the prediction equation based on the result.

$$Y = 21.1422589 + 0.0031709 * 37.7812800$$

(d) Interpret the coefficient for **income**.

For every one unit increase in the value of income, the estimated value of prestige increases by 0.0031709. So, the effect of income on prestige is statistically significant but its effect is relatively small.

(e) Interpret the coefficient for **professional**.

The quality of belonging to the professional class increases prestige score by 37.78.

- (f) What is the effect of a \$1,000 increase in income on prestige score for professional occupations? In other words, we are interested in the marginal effect of income when the variable **professional** takes the value of 1. Calculate the change in \hat{y} associated with a \$1,000 increase in income based on your answer for (c).

$$21.1422589 + 37.7812800 + (0.0031709 * 1000) = 62.09444$$

- (g) What is the effect of changing one's occupations from non-professional to professional when her income is \$6,000? We are interested in the marginal effect of professional jobs when the variable **income** takes the value of 6,000. Calculate the change in \hat{y} based on your answer for (c).

$$21.1422589 + (37.7812800 * 0) + (0.0031709 * 6000) = 40.16766$$

Question 2: Political Science

Researchers are interested in learning the effect of all of those yard signs on voting preferences.¹ Working with a campaign in Fairfax County, Virginia, 131 precincts were randomly divided into a treatment and control group. In 30 precincts, signs were posted around the precinct that read, “For Sale: Terry McAuliffe. Don’t Sellout Virginia on November 5.”

Below is the result of a regression with two variables and a constant. The dependent variable is the proportion of the vote that went to McAuliffe’s opponent Ken Cuccinelli. The first variable indicates whether a precinct was randomly assigned to have the sign against McAuliffe posted. The second variable indicates a precinct that was adjacent to a precinct in the treatment group (since people in those precincts might be exposed to the signs).

Impact of lawn signs on vote share	
Precinct assigned lawn signs (n=30)	0.042 (0.016)
Precinct adjacent to lawn signs (n=76)	0.042 (0.013)
Constant	0.302 (0.011)

Notes: $R^2=0.094$, $N=131$

- (a) Use the results from a linear regression to determine whether having these yard signs in a precinct affects vote share (e.g., conduct a hypothesis test with $\alpha = .05$).

No direction indicated in question, so using a two-tailed hypothesis test.

$H_0: B = 0$

$H_a: B \neq 0$

critical value of t when n=30: 0.683

$(0.042 - 0) / \text{se}B_0 =$

¹Donald P. Green, Jonathan S. Krasno, Alexander Coppock, Benjamin D. Farrer, Brandon Lenoir, Joshua N. Zingher. 2016. “The effects of lawn signs on vote outcomes: Results from four randomized field experiments.” *Electoral Studies* 41: 143-150.

- (b) Use the results to determine whether being next to precincts with these yard signs affects vote share (e.g., conduct a hypothesis test with $\alpha = .05$).

No direction indicated in question, so using a two-tailed hypothesis test.

$$H_0: B = 0$$

$$H_a: B \neq 0$$

critical value of t when n=78: 0.679

$$(0.042 - 0) / \text{se}B_0 =$$

- (c) Interpret the coefficient for the constant term substantively.

The constant 0.302 indicates the value of the dependent variable (percentage of the vote that went to McAuliffe) at the point it crossed the Y-axis.

- (d) Evaluate the model fit for this regression. What does this tell us about the importance of yard signs versus other factors that are not modeled?

The overall fit of the model is quite poor. The r-squared value is 0.094, so the model explains less than 10 percent of the variation observed. There are likely more decisive factors informing people's voting choices, such as: party id of the incumbent, perceptions of president's performance/perceptions of economic performance, crime levels in state, etc.