Intro to Social Science Data Analysis

Week 14: Statistical Analysis and Visualization of Results

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2 This Week's Goals

3 Robust Standard Errors for Dependent Data

Results tables with xtable

Outline 2 / 11

We are dedicating **all** of the class time for the rest of the course to the research project.

Schedule:

- ▶ Week 13: Research question, design, & data download,
- ▶ Week 14: Statistical Analysis & Results Visualization,
- ▶ Week 15: Write up.
- ▶ Week 16: Presentations.

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- 1. Make sure you data is clean & ready for analysis.
- 2. Descriptive statistics.

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Dependent Data

Remember:

One of the assumptions of linear regression is that the observations are independent of one another.

Many of you are using data from many countries across many years.

This is called **time-series cross-sectional data**.

For Example

Example Time-series Cross Sectional Data

## Error: undefined columns selected					
##		iso2c	country	year	GDPperCapita
##	25	AE United	Arab Emirates	2002	33740.9
##	26	AE United	Arab Emirates	2003	36562.1
##	27	AE United	Arab Emirates	2004	40410.8
##	28	AE United	Arab Emirates	2005	44384.7
##	29	AF	Afghanistan	2002	158.0
##	30	AF	Afghanistan	2003	168.7
##		InfantMort F	YouthUnemp IMF	Code	
##	25	9.4	NA	466	
##	26	8.9	NA	466	
##	27	8.4	NA	466	
##	28	8.0	12.9	466	
##	29	90.5	NA	512	
##	30	88.4	NA	512	

One Solution

A common way of handling data like this is to use **robust** standard errors.

They are easy to implement with Zelig

Robust Standard Error Note

Note:

It's (usually) a good thing if the robust and regular standard errors are basically the same.

This indicates you are not violating the model assumption.

For a much more advanced discussion see: http://gking.harvard.edu/files/robust.pdf

There is much more to learn on this topic, which we won't cover in this class.



Hand typing results tables is really irritating.