

# Seminar 1: OLS Regression

*Simple and Multiple Linear Regression*

Giulio Rossetti\*

[giuliorossetti94.github.io](https://giuliorossetti94.github.io)

January 23, 2026

\* email: [giulio.rossetti.1@wbs.ac.uk](mailto:giulio.rossetti.1@wbs.ac.uk)

# Roadmap

## Part 1: Theory

Exercise 1: Wage and Education

Exercise 2: Fertility and Education

Exercise 3: College GPA Prediction

## Part 2: Practice (MATLAB)

Exercise 4: CEO Salaries (ceosal1)

Exercise 5: CEO Salaries (ceosal2)

Exercise 6: OLS Unbiasedness (Monte Carlo)

## Summary

# Roadmap

## Part 1: Theory

Exercise 1: Wage and Education

Exercise 2: Fertility and Education

Exercise 3: College GPA Prediction

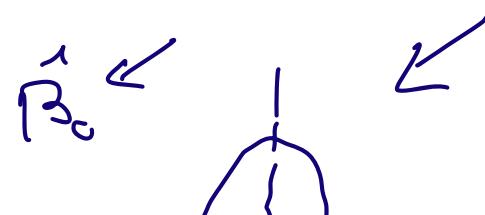
## Part 2: Practice (MATLAB)

Exercise 4: CEO Salaries (ceosal1)

Exercise 5: CEO Salaries (ceosal2)

Exercise 6: OLS Unbiasedness (Monte Carlo)

## Summary



# Exercise 1

true unknown parameters

Simple Linear Regression Model

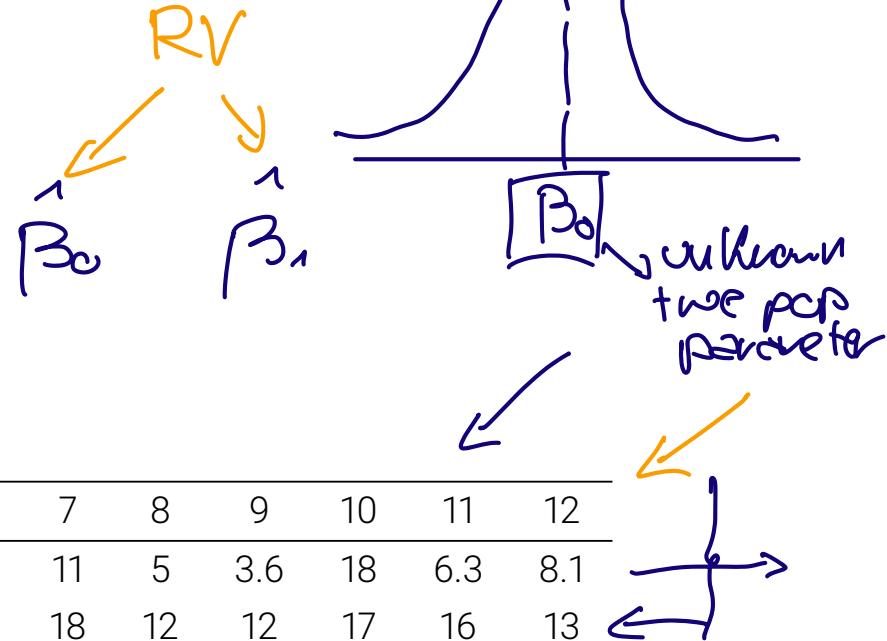
Model:  $Wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Education + u$

Data: UK workforce in 2013 (12 individuals)

Individual	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wage	3.1	3.2	3	6	5.3	8.8	11	5	3.6	18	6.3	8.1
Education	11	12	11	8	12	16	18	12	12	17	16	13

Goal: Estimate  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  using OLS.

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\text{var}(x)}$$



# Exercise 1

## OLS Estimators

For the general SLR model  $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + u$ :

### OLS Formulas

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\text{var}(x)}$$

where  $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i$  and  $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}$$

# Exercise 1

## Computing the Estimates

**Step 1:** Compute sample means:  $\bar{y} = 6.78$ ,  $\bar{x} = 13.17$

**Step 2:** Compute the slope coefficient

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} = \frac{99.43}{95.67} = 1.04$$

$\downarrow$   
RV

**Step 3:** Compute the intercept

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = 6.78 - 1.04 \times 13.17 = -6.90$$

$\downarrow$   
RV

# Exercise 1

## Interpretation

### Estimated Model

$$\widehat{Wage} = -6.90 + 1.04 \times Education$$

#### Interpretation:

- $\hat{\beta}_1 = 1.04$ : An additional year of education is associated with a £1.04 increase in hourly wage.
- $\hat{\beta}_0 = -6.90$ : Predicted wage for zero years of education (extrapolation).

$$R^2 = 1$$

# Exercise 1

Goodness-of-Fit:  $R^2$

R-Squared Definition

$$R^2 = \frac{SSE}{SST} = 1 - \frac{SSR}{SST} \in [0, 1] = 1 - \frac{\text{var}(\hat{u})}{\text{var}(y)}$$

Components:

- $SST = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 = 206.48$  (Total Sum of Squares)
- $SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 = 103.13$  (Residual Sum of Squares)

Result:

$$\boxed{\text{var of residuals}}$$

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{103.13}{206.48} = 0.50$$

Education explains 50% of the variation in wages.

$$\text{var}(x) = E(x^2) - \underbrace{E^2(x)}_0$$

$$\frac{\text{var}(x|\beta)}{\text{var}(y)}$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\hat{u}_i - \bar{\hat{u}})^2 \right]$$

$$E[\epsilon] = 0$$

# Exercise 1

## Extending to Multiple Regression

**Extended Model:**  $Wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Education + \beta_2 Expertise + u$

**Why include more variables?**

- MLR investigates the marginal effect of multiple factors
- Holds fixed other factors otherwise hidden in  $u$
- Reduces omitted variable bias

**Interpretation of  $\hat{\beta}_j$ :**

- Change in  $y$  due to a one-unit increase in  $x_j$ , *ceteris paribus*

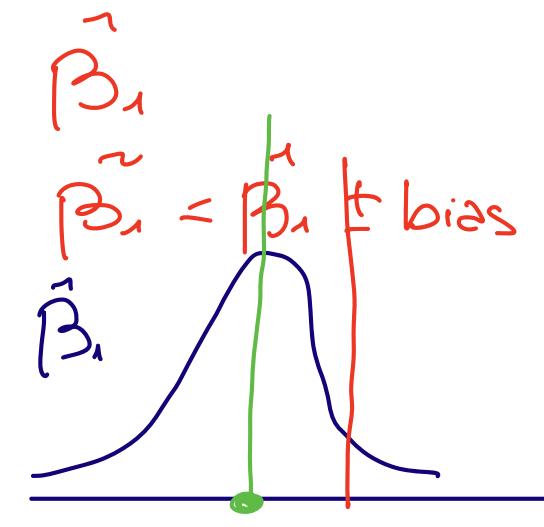
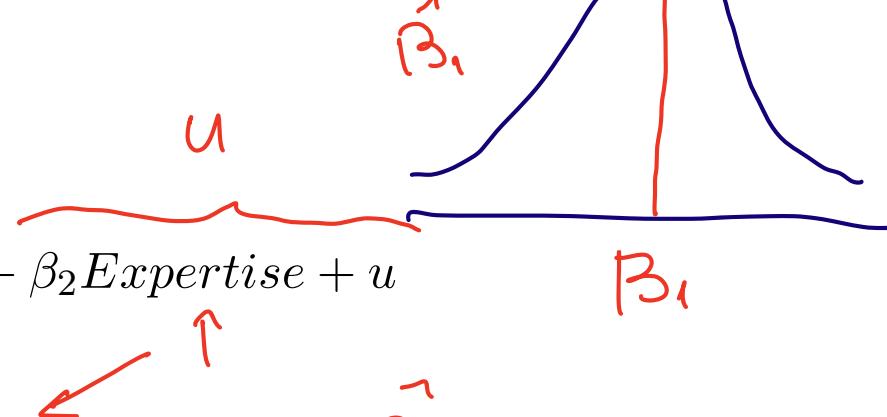
*undbiased*

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = 1.02$$

-0.5

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = 0.99$$

0.5



Bias  $\hat{\beta}_1$   $\beta_1$

## Exercise 2

### *Omitted Variable Bias*

Model:  $Fertility = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Education + u$

**Question:** What factors are in  $u$ ? Are they correlated with Education?

**Potential factors in  $u$ :**

- Income
- Intelligence
- Age
- Leisure time

# Exercise 2

## *Why OVB is a Problem*

### **Correlation concerns:**

- **Income:** Higher income → easier to raise children; correlated with education
- **Intelligence:** Affects both education and fertility decisions

### Key Insight

Given potential correlation between *Education* and factors in  $u$ , the *ceteris paribus* effect is unlikely to be uncovered from this SLR model.

⇒ Omitted Variable Bias (OVB) may arise!

# Exercise 3

## The Model

$$\text{Model: } \text{colgpa} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \text{hsperc} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{sat} + u$$

**Variables:**  $\text{colgpa}$  = College GPA;  $\text{hsperc}$  = HS percentile;  $\text{sat}$  = SAT score

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 4137		
Model	490.606706	2	245.303353	F( 2, 4134)	=	777.92
Residual	1303.58897	4134	.315323567	Prob > F	=	0.0000
Total	1794.19567	4136	.433799728	Root MSE = .56155		

colgpa	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
hsperc	-.0125192	.0005495	-24.60	0.000	-.0145965 -.012442
sat	.0014762	.0000652	22.60	0.000	.0013482 .0016043
_cons	1.391757	.0715424	19.45	0.000	1.251495 1.532018

# Exercise 3

## OLS Estimates

### Estimated Model

$$\widehat{colgpa} = 1.392 - 0.013 \cdot hsperc + 0.0015 \cdot sat$$

### Interpretation:

- $\hat{\beta}_2 = 0.0015$ : A 1-point increase in SAT raises GPA by 0.0015

## Exercise 3

### Part (a): Predicted GPA

**Question:** What is the predicted GPA when  $hsperc = 20$  and  $sat = 1050$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\text{colgpa}} &= 1.392 - 0.013 \times 20 + 0.0015 \times 1050 \\ &= 1.392 - 0.26 + 1.575 = 2.707\end{aligned}$$

**Interpretation:** A student in the top 20% with SAT = 1050 is expected to have a GPA of about 2.7.

## Exercise 3

### Part (b): GPA Difference Between Students

**Question:** Students A and B have the same  $hsperc$ , but A's SAT is 200 points lower. Predicted GPA difference?

**Solution:** Use the difference equation:

$$\Delta colgpa = \hat{\beta}_1 \cdot \Delta hsperc + \hat{\beta}_2 \cdot \Delta sat$$

With  $\Delta hsperc = 0$  and  $\Delta sat = -200$ :

$$\Delta colgpa = -0.013 \times 0 + 0.0015 \times (-200) = -0.30$$

**Interpretation:** Student A's GPA is expected to be 0.30 lower.

## Exercise 3

### Part (c): SAT Difference for GPA Gap

**Question:** Holding  $hsperc$  fixed, what SAT difference leads to a 0.50 GPA difference?

**Solution:** Set  $\Delta colgpa = 0.50$  and  $\Delta hsperc = 0$ :

$$0.50 = 0.0015 \cdot \Delta sat \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta sat = \frac{0.50}{0.0015} = 333.33$$

**Interpretation:** A student needs a SAT score about 333 points higher to have a GPA 0.5 points above a peer from the same percentile.

## Exercise 3

### Part (d): Goodness-of-Fit

**From STATA output:**  $SSR = 1303.59$ ,  $SST = 1794.20$

**Compute  $R^2$ :**

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{SSR}{SST} = 1 - \frac{1303.59}{1794.20} = 0.27$$

### Interpretation

Only 27% of variation in college GPA is explained by  $hsperc$  and SAT.

⇒ Other relevant variables may be omitted from the model.

# Roadmap

## Part 1: Theory

Exercise 1: Wage and Education

Exercise 2: Fertility and Education

Exercise 3: College GPA Prediction

## Part 2: Practice (MATLAB)

Exercise 4: CEO Salaries (ceosal1)

Exercise 5: CEO Salaries (ceosal2)

Exercise 6: OLS Unbiasedness (Monte Carlo)

## Summary

# Exercise 4

## *CEO Salaries and Firm Performance*

**Dataset:** ceosal1.txt (209 observations, year 1990)

### **Variables:**

- *salary*: CEO salary in thousands of dollars
- *roe*: Return on equity (average 1988-1990)
- *sales*: Firm sales in millions of dollars

### **Models to estimate:**

1. Simple:  $\text{salary} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \text{roe} + u$
2. Multiple:  $\text{salary} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \text{roe} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{sales} + u$

# Exercise 4

## *MATLAB Code (Part 1: Load Data)*

```
clear all
load ceosal1.txt
salary = ceosal1(:,1);
sales = ceosal1(:,3);
roe = ceosal1(:,4);
n = 209;
y = salary;

% Histogram
histogram(salary)
```

# Exercise 4

## MATLAB Code (Part 2: OLS Estimation)

```
% Simple Linear Regression (SLR)
X1 = [ones(n,1) roe];
betahat1 = inv(X1'*X1)*X1'*y; % OLS estimator
uhat1 = y - X1*betahat1; % Residuals
R2_1 = 1 - uhat1'*uhat1/(var(y)*(n-1)); % R-squared

% Multiple Linear Regression (MLR)
X2 = [ones(n,1) roe sales];
betahat2 = inv(X2'*X2)*X2'*y; % OLS estimator
uhat2 = y - X2*betahat2; % Residuals
R2_2 = 1 - uhat2'*uhat2/(var(y)*(n-1)); % R-squared
```

# Exercise 4

## *Key Formulas in Matrix Form*

### OLS Estimator

$$\hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y$$

### Residuals

$$\hat{u} = y - X\hat{\beta}$$

### R-Squared

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\hat{u}'\hat{u}}{(n-1)\cdot\text{Var}(y)} = 1 - \frac{SSR}{SST}$$

# Exercise 4

## *The Design Matrix*

$$\text{SLR: } X_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & roe_1 \\ 1 & roe_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & roe_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{MLR: } X_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & roe_1 & sales_1 \\ 1 & roe_2 & sales_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & roe_n & sales_n \end{bmatrix}$$

The column of ones captures the constant term  $\beta_0$ .

# Exercise 5

## *CEO Salaries with Sales and Profits*

**Dataset:** ceosal12.txt (177 observations, year 1990)

### **Variables:**

- *salary*: CEO compensation in thousands of dollars
- *sales*: Firm sales in millions of dollars
- *profits*: Firm profits in millions of dollars

**Model:**  $\text{salary} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \text{sales} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{profits} + u$

# Exercise 5

## MATLAB Code

```
clear all
load ceosal2.txt
salary = ceosal2(:,1);
sales = ceosal2(:,7);
profits = ceosal2(:,8);
n = 177;

X = [ones(n,1) sales profits];
K = size(X,2); % Number of regressors (including constant)
y = salary;

histogram(salary) % Check distribution

% OLS Estimation
betahat = inv(X'*X)*X'*y; % OLS estimator
uhat = salary - X*betahat; % Residuals
R2 = 1 - uhat'*uhat/(var(y)*(n-1)); % R-squared
```

# Exercise 5

## Tasks

1. **Histograms:** Visualize distributions of salary, sales, profits

- Check for skewness, outliers

2. **Beta estimates:**  $(X'X)^{-1}X'y$

- $\hat{\beta}_0$ : Baseline salary
- $\hat{\beta}_1$ : Effect of sales on salary
- $\hat{\beta}_2$ : Effect of profits on salary

3.  $R^2$ : Goodness-of-fit

# Exercise 6

*Proving OLS is Unbiased via Simulation*

**Goal:** Use Monte Carlo simulation to show  $E[\hat{\beta}] = \beta$

**Approach:**

1. Use  $\hat{\beta}$  from Exercise 5 as the “true”  $\beta$
2. Generate many simulated datasets with known  $\beta$
3. Estimate  $\hat{\beta}$  for each simulation
4. Compare average  $\hat{\beta}$  to the true  $\beta$

**Data Generating Process:**

$$y_{\text{sim}} = X\beta + \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I_n)$$

# Exercise 6

## MATLAB Code

```
% Monte Carlo Simulation
nobs = 10000; % Number of simulations
betasim = zeros(nobs, K);
mu = 0;
sigma = 1;

for i = 1:nobs
    e = mu + sigma * randn(n, 1); % Random errors
    ysim = X * betahat + e; % Simulated y
    betasim(i,:) = inv(X'*X) * X' * ysim; % OLS estimate
end

% Compare average estimates to true values
[mean(betasim)', betahat]
```

# Exercise 6

## *Interpreting the Results*

### **Output comparison:**

Parameter	$\bar{\hat{\beta}}_{\text{sim}}$	$\beta_{\text{true}}$
$\beta_0$	$\approx \hat{\beta}_0$	$\hat{\beta}_0$
$\beta_1$	$\approx \hat{\beta}_1$	$\hat{\beta}_1$
$\beta_2$	$\approx \hat{\beta}_2$	$\hat{\beta}_2$

### Conclusion

The average of OLS estimates across simulations converges to the true values. This confirms OLS is **unbiased**.

# Roadmap

## Part 1: Theory

Exercise 1: Wage and Education

Exercise 2: Fertility and Education

Exercise 3: College GPA Prediction

## Part 2: Practice (MATLAB)

Exercise 4: CEO Salaries (ceosal1)

Exercise 5: CEO Salaries (ceosal2)

Exercise 6: OLS Unbiasedness (Monte Carlo)

## Summary

# Summary

## Part 1 - Theory:

- **Ex 1:** OLS estimation,  $R^2$ , SLR vs MLR
- **Ex 2:** Omitted Variable Bias
- **Ex 3:** Prediction with MLR

## Part 2 - Practice:

- **Ex 4:** CEO salaries with ROE and sales
- **Ex 5:** CEO salaries with sales and profits
- **Ex 6:** Monte Carlo simulation

**Key:** OLS:  $\hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y$ ;  $R^2$  measures goodness-of-fit

# Key Formulas

## OLS Estimator

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\text{Cov}(x,y)}{\text{Var}(x)} \quad \text{or} \quad \hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y$$

## Goodness-of-Fit

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{SSR}{SST} = \frac{SSE}{SST}$$

## Prediction

$$\hat{y} = X\hat{\beta} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2x_2 + \cdots$$