

# Lecture 8: Linear Regression with Multiple Regressors

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

This lecture extends the simple regression model to the multiple regression model. Many aspects of multiple regression parallel those of regression with a single regressor. The coefficients of the multiple regression model can be estimated using the OLS estimation method. The algebraic and statistical properties of the OLS estimators of the multiple regression are also similar to those of the simple regression. However, there are some new concepts, such as the omitted variable bias and multicollinearity, to deepen our understanding of the OLS estimation.

### 1.2 Learning goals

- Be able to set up a multiple regression model with matrix notation.
- Understand the meaning of holding other things constant.
- Estimate the multiple regression model with the OLS estimation.
- Understand the Frisch-Waugh-Lovell theorem.
- Capable of detecting the omitted variable bias and multicollinearity.

### 1.3 Readings

- *Introduction to Econometrics* by Stock and Watson. Read thoroughly Chapter 6 and Sections 18.1 and 18.2
- *Introductory Econometrics: a Modern Approach* by Wooldridge. Chapter 3.

## 2 The Multiple Regression Model

### 2.1 The problem of a simple linear regression

In the last two lectures, we use a simple linear regression model to examine the effect of class sizes on test scores in the California elementary school districts. The simple linear regression model with only one regressor is

$$TestScore = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times STR + OtherFactors$$

**Is this model adequate to characterize the determination of test scores?**

Obviously, it ignores too many other important factors. Instead, all these other factors are lumped into a single term, *OtherFactors*, which is the error term,  $u_i$ , in the regression model.

What are possible other important factors?

- School district characteristics: average income level, demographic components
- School characteristics: teachers' quality, school buildings,
- Student characteristics: family economic conditions, individual ability

### Percentage of English learners as an example

The percentage of English learners in a school district could be an relevant and important determinant of test scores, which is omitted in the simple regression model.

- How can it affect the estimate of the effect of student-teacher ratios on test score?
  - The districts with high percentages of English learners tend to have large student-teacher ratios. That is, these two variables are correlated with the correlation coefficient being 0.17.

- The higher percentage of English learners a district has, the lower test scores students there will make.
  - In the simple regression model, the estimated negative coefficient on student-teacher ratios on test scores could include not only the negative influence from class sizes but also that from the percentage of English learners.
  - In the terminology of statistics, the magnitude of the coefficient on student-teacher ratio is **overestimated**.
  - Generally, we commit an **omitted variable bias** by setting up a simple regression model. We will explore the omitted variable bias in the last section in this lecture.
- Solutions to the omitted variable bias

We can include these important but ignored variables, like the percentage of English learners (*PctEL*), in the regression model.

$$TestScore_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 STR_i + \beta_2 PctEL_i + OtherFactors_i$$

A regression model with more than one regressors is a multiple regression model.

## 2.2 A multiple regression model

The general form of a **multiple regression model** is

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \cdots + \beta_k X_{ki} + u_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (1)$$

where

- $Y_i$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  observation on the dependent variable.
- $X_{1i}, X_{2i}, \dots, X_{ki}$  are the  $i^{\text{th}}$  observation on each of the  $k$  regressors.
- $u_i$  is the error term associated with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  observation, representing all other factors that are not included in the model.
- The population regression line (or population regression function) is the relationship that holds between  $Y$  and  $X$  on average in the population

$$E(Y_i | X_{1i}, \dots, X_{ki}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k X_{ki}$$

- $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  are the coefficients on the corresponding  $X_i, i = 1, \dots, k$ .  $\beta_0$  is the intercept, which can also be thought of the coefficient on a regressor  $X_{0i}$  that equals 1

for all observations.

- Including  $X_{0i}$ , there are  $k + 1$  regressors in the multiple regression model.
- The linear regression model with a single regressor is in fact a multiple regression model with two regressors, 1 and  $X$ .

## 2.3 The interpretation of $\beta_i$

### Holding other things constant

We can suppress the subscript  $i$  in Equation (1) so that we re-write it as

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \cdots + \beta_k X_k + u \quad (2)$$

In Equation (2), the coefficient  $\beta_i$  on a regressor  $X_i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , measures the effect on  $Y$  of a unit change in  $X_i$ , **holding other  $X$  constant**.

Suppose we have two regressors  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  and we are interested in the effect of  $X_1$  on  $Y$ . We can let  $X_1$  change by  $\Delta X_1$  and holding  $X_2$  constant. Then, the new value of  $Y$  is

$$Y + \Delta Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1(X_1 + \Delta X_1) + \beta_2 X_2$$

Subtracting  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2$ , we have  $\Delta Y = \beta_1 \Delta X_1$ . That is

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\Delta Y}{\Delta X} \text{ holding } X_2 \text{ constant}$$

### Partial effect

If  $Y$  and  $X_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  are continuous and differentiated variables, from Equation (2), we know that  $\beta_i$  is as simply as the partial derivative of  $Y$  with respect to  $X_i$ . That is

$$\beta_i = \frac{\partial Y}{\partial X_i}$$

By the definition of a partial derivative,  $\beta_i$  is just the effect of a marginal change in  $X_i$  on  $Y$  holding other  $X$  constant.

## 2.4 The matrix notation of a multiple regression model

### Consider the matrix notation as a way to organize data

When we save the data set of California school districts in Excel, it is saved in a spreadsheet as shown in Figure 1.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	obs_num	dist_cod	testscr	str	el_pct
2	1	75119	690.8000	17.8899	0.0000
3	2	61499	661.2000	21.5247	4.5833
4	3	61549	643.6000	18.6972	30.0000
5	4	61457	647.7000	17.3571	0.0000
6	5	61523	640.8500	18.6713	13.8577
7	6	62042	605.5500	21.4063	12.4088
8	7	68536	606.7500	19.5000	68.7179
9	8	63834	609.0000	20.8941	46.9595
10	9	62331	612.5000	19.9474	30.0792
11	10	67306	612.6500	20.8056	40.2759
12	11	65722	615.7500	21.2381	52.9148
13	12	62174	616.3000	21.0000	54.6099
14	13	71795	616.3000	20.6000	42.7184
15	14	72181	616.3000	20.0082	20.5339
16	15	72298	616.4500	18.0278	80.1233
17	16	72041	617.3500	20.2520	49.4131
18	17	63594	618.0500	16.9779	85.5397
19	18	63370	618.3000	16.5098	58.9074
20	19	64709	619.8000	22.7040	77.0058
21	20	63560	620.3000	19.9111	49.8140
22	21	63230	620.5000	18.3333	40.6818
23	22	72058	621.4000	22.6190	16.2105
24	23	63842	621.7500	19.4483	45.0749
25	24	71811	622.0500	25.0526	39.0756
26	25	65748	622.6000	20.6754	76.6653
27	26	72272	623.1000	18.6824	40.4912
28	27	65961	623.2000	22.8455	73.7202
29	28	63313	623.4500	19.2667	70.0115
30	29	72199	623.6000	19.2500	55.9622

Figure 1: The California data set in spreadsheet

Each row represents an observation of all variables pertaining to a school district, and each column represents a variable with all observations. This format of data display can be concisely denoted using vectors and a matrix.

Let us first define the following vectors and matrices:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & X_{11} & \cdots & X_{k1} \\ 1 & X_{12} & \cdots & X_{k2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & X_{1n} & \cdots & X_{kn} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}'_1 \\ \mathbf{x}'_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}'_n \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{pmatrix}, \boldsymbol{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_k \end{pmatrix}$$

- $\mathbf{Y}$  is an  $n \times 1$  vector of  $n$  observations on the dependent variable.
- $\mathbf{X}$  is an  $n \times (k + 1)$  matrix of  $n$  observations on  $k + 1$  regressors which include the intercept term as a regressor of 1's.
- $\mathbf{x}_i$  is a  $(k + 1) \times 1$  vector of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  observation on all  $(k + 1)$  regressors. Thus,  $\mathbf{x}'_i$  denotes the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row in  $\mathbf{X}$ .

- $\beta$  is a  $(k + 1) \times 1$  vector of the  $(k + 1)$  regression coefficients.
- $\mathbf{u}$  is an  $n \times 1$  vector of the  $n$  error terms.

### Write a multiple regression model with matrix notation

- The multiple regression model for one observation

The multiple regression model in Equation (1) for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  observation can be written as

$$Y_i = \mathbf{x}_i' \beta + u_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (3)$$

- The multiple regression model for all observations

Stacking all  $n$  observations in Equation (3) yields the multiple regression model in matrix form:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{u} \quad (4)$$

$\mathbf{X}$  can also be written in terms of column vectors as

$$\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_k]$$

where  $\mathbf{X}_i = [X_{i1}, X_{i2}, \dots, X_{in}]'$  is a  $n \times 1$  vector of  $n$  observations of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  regressor.  $\mathbf{X}_0$  is a vector of 1s. That is,  $\mathbf{X}_0 = [1, 1, \dots, 1]'$ . More often, we use  $\mathbf{1}$  to denote such a vector of 1s.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, Equation (4) can be re-written as

$$\mathbf{Y} = \beta_0 \mathbf{1} + \beta_1 \mathbf{X}_1 + \dots + \beta_k \mathbf{X}_k + \mathbf{u} \quad (5)$$

## 3 The OLS Estimator in Multiple Regression

### 3.1 The OLS estimator

#### The minimization problem

The idea of the ordinary least squares estimation for a multiple regression model is exactly the same as for a simple regression model. The OLS estimators of the multiple regression model are obtained by minimizing the sum of the squared prediction mistakes.

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<sup>1</sup> $\mathbf{1}$  has the following properties: (1)  $\mathbf{1}'\mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$  for an  $n \times 1$  vector  $\mathbf{x}$ , (2)  $\mathbf{1}'\mathbf{1} = n$  and  $(\mathbf{1}'\mathbf{1})^{-1} = 1/n$ , (3)  $\mathbf{1}'(\mathbf{1}'\mathbf{1})^{-1}\mathbf{x} = \bar{x}$ , and (4)  $\mathbf{1}'\mathbf{X}\mathbf{1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ij}$  for an  $n \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ .

Let  $\mathbf{b} = [b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k]'$  be some estimators of  $\boldsymbol{\beta} = [\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k]'$ . The predicted  $Y_i$  can be obtained by

$$\hat{Y}_i = b_0 + b_1 X_{1i} + \dots + b_k X_{ki} = \mathbf{x}_i' \mathbf{b}, i = 1, \dots, n$$

or in matrix notation

$$\hat{\mathbf{Y}} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b}$$

The prediction mistakes with  $\mathbf{b}$ , or called the residuals, are

$$\hat{u}_i = Y_i - b_0 - b_1 X_{1i} - \dots - b_k X_{ki} = Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i' \mathbf{b}$$

or in matrix notation, the residual vector is

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b}$$

Then the sum of the squared prediction mistakes (residuals) is

$$\begin{aligned} S(\mathbf{b}) &= S(b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k) = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - b_0 - b_1 X_{1i} - \dots - b_k X_{ki})^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i' \mathbf{b})^2 = (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b})'(\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b}) \\ &= \hat{\mathbf{u}}' \hat{\mathbf{u}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 \end{aligned}$$

The OLS estimator is the solution to the following minimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{b}} S(\mathbf{b}) = \hat{\mathbf{u}}' \hat{\mathbf{u}} \quad (6)$$

### The OLS estimator of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ as a solution to the minimization problem

The formula for the OLS estimator is obtained by taking the derivative of the sum of squared prediction mistakes,  $S(b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k)$ , with respect to each coefficient, setting these derivatives to zero, and solving for the estimator  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ .

The derivative of  $S(b_0, \dots, b_k)$  with respect to  $b_j$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial b_j} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - b_0 - b_1 X_{1i} - \dots - b_k X_{ki})^2 &= \\ -2 \sum_{i=1}^n X_{ji} (Y_i - b_0 - b_1 X_{1i} - \dots - b_k X_{ki}) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

There are  $k + 1$  such equations for  $j = 0, \dots, k$ . Solving this system of equations, we

obtain the OLS estimator  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\hat{\beta}_0, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k)'$ .

Using matrix notation, the formula for the OLS estimator  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$  is

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y} \quad (7)$$

To prove Equation (7), we need to use some results of matrix calculus.

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}'\mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{a}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}')\mathbf{x} \quad (8)$$

when  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric, then  $(\partial \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})/(\partial \mathbf{x}) = 2\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$

*Proof of Equation (7).* The sum of squared prediction mistakes is

$$S(\mathbf{b}) = \hat{\mathbf{u}}'\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{Y}'\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{b}'\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}'\mathbf{X}\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b}'\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}\mathbf{b}$$

The first order conditions for minimizing  $S(\mathbf{b})$  with respect to  $\mathbf{b}$  is

$$-2\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y} - 2\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0} \quad (9)$$

Then

$$\mathbf{b} = (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y}$$

given that  $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}$  is invertible. □

Note that Equation (9) represents a system of equations with  $k + 1$  equations.

### 3.2 Example: the OLS estimator of $\hat{\beta}_1$ in a simple regression model

Let take a simple linear regression model as an example. The simple linear regression model written in matrix notation is

$$\mathbf{Y} = \beta_0\boldsymbol{\iota} + \beta_1\mathbf{X}_1 + \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}$$

where

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\iota} & \mathbf{X}_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & X_{11} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & X_{1n} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let's get the components in Equation (7) step by step.

First, the most important part is  $(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}$ .



$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X} &= \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\iota}' \\ \mathbf{X}'_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\iota} & \mathbf{X}_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ X_{11} & \cdots & X_{1n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & X_{11} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & X_{1n} \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\iota}'\boldsymbol{\iota} & \boldsymbol{\iota}'\mathbf{X}_1 \\ \mathbf{X}'_1\boldsymbol{\iota} & \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} n & \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} \\ \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} & \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

Recall that the inverse of a  $2 \times 2$  matrix can be calculated as follows

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}} \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & -a_{12} \\ -a_{21} & a_{11} \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus, the inverse of  $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}$  is

$$(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1} = \frac{1}{n \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i})^2} \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 & -\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} \\ -\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} & n \end{pmatrix}$$

Next, we compute  $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y}$ .

$$\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\iota}' \\ \mathbf{X}'_1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ X_{11} & \cdots & X_{1n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\iota}'\mathbf{Y} \\ \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{Y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i \\ \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}Y_i \end{pmatrix}$$

Finally, we compute  $\hat{\beta} = (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y}$ , which is

$$\begin{aligned}
\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\beta}_0 \\ \hat{\beta}_1 \end{pmatrix} &= \frac{1}{n \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i})^2} \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 & -\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} \\ -\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} & n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i \\ \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}Y_i \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \frac{1}{n \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i})^2} \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}Y_i \\ -\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i + n \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}Y_i \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\hat{\beta}_1$  is the second element of the vector pre-multiplied by the fraction, that is,

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}Y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i}{n \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i})^2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_{1i} - \bar{X}_1)(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_{1i} - \bar{X}_1)^2}$$

It follows that

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}Y_i}{n \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i})^2} = \bar{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X}_1$$

### 3.3 Application to Test Scores and the Student-Teacher Ratio

Now we can apply the OLS estimation method of multiple regression to the application of California school districts. Recall that the estimated simple linear regression model is

$$\widehat{TestScore} = 698.9 - 2.28 \times STR$$

Since we concern that the estimated coefficient on  $STR$  may be overestimated without considering the percentage of English learners in the districts, we include this new variable in the multiple regression model to control for the effect of English learners, yielding a new estimated regression model as

$$\widehat{TestScore} = 686.0 - 1.10 \times STR - 0.65 \times PctEL$$

- The interpretation of the new estimated coefficient on  $STR$  is, **holding the percentage of English learners constant**, a unit decrease in  $STR$  is estimated to increase test scores by 1.10 points.
- We can also interpret the estimated coefficient on  $PctEL$  as, holding  $STR$  constant, one unit decrease in  $PctEL$  increases test scores by 0.65 point.
- The magnitude of the negative effect of  $STR$  on test scores in the multiple regression is approximately half as large as when  $STR$  is the only regressor, which verifies our concern that we may omit important variables in the simple linear regression model.

## 4 Measures of Fit in Multiple Regression

### 4.1 The Standard errors of the regression (SER)

The standard error of regression (SER) estimates the standard deviation of the error term  $u$ . In multiple regression, the SER is

$$SER = s_{\hat{u}}, \text{ where } s_{\hat{u}}^2 = \frac{1}{n - k - 1} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{u}}' \hat{\mathbf{u}}}{n - k - 1} = \frac{SSR}{n - k - 1} \quad (10)$$

In a multiple regression model,  $SSR$  is divided by  $(n - k - 1)$  because there are  $(k + 1)$  coefficients to be estimated using  $n$  samples.

## 4.2 The $R^2$

Like in the regression model with single regressor, we can define  $TSS$ ,  $ESS$ , and  $SSR$  in the multiple regression model.

- **The total sum of squares (TSS):**  $TSS = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2$
- **The explained sum of squares (ESS):**  $ESS = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y})^2$
- **The sum of squared residuals (SSR):**  $SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2$

Let  $y_i$  be the deviation of  $Y_i$  from its sample mean, that is,  $y_i = Y_i - \bar{Y}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . In matrix notation, we have

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\iota} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{Y} - \bar{Y}\boldsymbol{\iota} = \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \bar{Y} \\ \bar{Y} \\ \vdots \\ \bar{Y} \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore,  $\mathbf{y}$  represents the deviation from the mean of  $Y_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Similarly, we can define the deviation from the mean of  $\hat{Y}_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  as  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \hat{\mathbf{Y}} - \bar{Y}\boldsymbol{\iota}$ . Then we can rewrite  $TSS$ ,  $ESS$ , and  $SSR$  as

$$TSS = \mathbf{y}'\mathbf{y}, \quad ESS = \hat{\mathbf{y}}'\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \quad \text{and} \quad SSR = \hat{\mathbf{u}}'\hat{\mathbf{u}}$$

In multiple regression, the relationship that

$$TSS = ESS + SSR, \quad \text{or,} \quad \mathbf{y}'\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}}'\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \hat{\mathbf{u}}'\hat{\mathbf{u}}$$

still holds so that we can define  $R^2$  as

$$R^2 = \frac{ESS}{TSS} = 1 - \frac{SSR}{TSS} \quad (11)$$

### Limitations of $R^2$

1.  $R^2$  is valid only if a regression model is estimated using the OLS since otherwise it would not be true that  $TSS = ESS + SSR$ .
2.  $R^2$  that is defined using the deviation from the mean is only valid when a constant term is included in regression. Otherwise, use the uncentered version of  $R^2$ , which is also defined as

$$R_u^2 = \frac{EES}{TSS} = 1 - \frac{SSR}{TSS} \quad (12)$$

where  $TSS = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^2 = \mathbf{Y}'\mathbf{Y}$ ,  $ESS = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{Y}_i^2 = \hat{\mathbf{Y}}'\hat{\mathbf{Y}}$ , and  $SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 =$

$\hat{\mathbf{u}}'\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ , using the uncentered variables. Note that in a regression without a constant term, the equality  $TSS = ESS + SSR$  is still true.

3.  $R^2$  increases whenever an additional regressor is included in a multiple regression model, unless the estimated coefficient on the added regressor is exactly zero. Consider two regression models

$$\mathbf{Y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{X}_1 + \mathbf{u} \quad (13)$$

$$\mathbf{Y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{X}_1 + \beta_2 \mathbf{X}_2 + \mathbf{u} \quad (14)$$

Since both models use the same  $\mathbf{Y}$ ,  $TSS$  must be the same. If the OLS estimator  $\hat{\beta}_2$  does not equal 0, then  $SSR$  in Equation (13) is always larger than that of Equation (14) since the former  $SSR$  is minimized with respect to  $\beta_0, \beta_1$  and with the constraint of  $\beta_2 = 0$  and the latter is minimized without the constraint over  $\beta_2$ .

### 4.3 The adjusted $R^2$

The adjusted  $R^2$  is, or  $\bar{R}^2$ , is a modified version of  $R^2$  in Equation (11). The  $\bar{R}^2$  improves  $R^2$  in the sense that it does not necessarily increase when a new regressor is added. The  $\bar{R}^2$  is

$$\bar{R}^2 = 1 - \frac{SSR/(n-k-1)}{TSS/(n-1)} = 1 - \frac{n-1}{n-k-1} \frac{SSR}{TSS} = 1 - \frac{s_u^2}{s_Y^2} \quad (15)$$

- The adjustment is made by dividing  $SSR$  and  $TSS$  by their corresponding degrees of freedom, which is  $n-k-1$  and  $n-1$  respectively.
- $s_u^2$  is the sample variance of the OLS residuals, which is given in Equation (10);  $s_Y^2$  is the sample variance of  $Y$ .
- The definition of the  $\bar{R}^2$  in Equation (15) is valid only when a constant term is included in the regression model.
- Since  $\frac{n-1}{n-k-1} > 1$ , then it is always true that the  $\bar{R}^2 < R^2$ .
- On one hand  $k \uparrow \Rightarrow \frac{SSR}{TSS} \downarrow$ . On the other hand,  $k \uparrow \Rightarrow \frac{n-1}{n-k-1} \uparrow$ . Whether  $\bar{R}^2$  increases or decreases depends on which of these effects is stronger.
- The  $\bar{R}^2$  can be negative. This happens when the regressors, taken together, reduce the sum of squared residuals by such a small amount that his reduction fails to offset the factor  $\frac{n-1}{n-k-1}$ .

### The usefulness of the $R^2$ and $\bar{R}^2$

- Both  $R^2$  and  $\bar{R}^2$  are valid when the regression model is estimated by the OLS estimators.  $R^2$  computed with estimators other than the OLS ones is usually called *pseudo*  $R^2$ .
- Their importance as measures of fit cannot be overstated. We cannot heavily rely on  $R^2$  or  $\bar{R}^2$  to judge whether some regressors should be included in the model or not.