

Lecture 6: Hypothesis Test and Confidence Intervals

Introduction to Econometrics, Fall 2018

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- 1 Simple OLS: Hypothesis Test
- 2 Confidence Intervals
- 3 Gauss-Markov theorem and Heteroskedasticity
- 4 OLS with Multiple Regressors: Hypotheses tests

Simple OLS: Hypothesis Test

Introduction: Class size and Test Score

- Our Regression Result

$$\widehat{TestScore} = 698.9 - 22.8 \times STR, R^2 = 0.051, SER = 18.6$$

- How can you be sure about the result?
- Can you reject the claim that cutting the class size will not help boost test scores?

Review: Hypothesis testing:

- Hypothesis testing is one of a fundamental problems in statistics.
- A hypothesis is (usually) an *assertion* about the unknown **population parameters** such as β_1 in a simple OLS

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + u_i$$

- such as whether β_1 equals to zero or not
- Using the data, we want to determine whether an assertion is true or false.

Review: Testing a hypothesis concerning a population mean

- the null hypothesis: $H_0 : E(Y) = \mu_{Y,0}$, the alternative hypothesis: $H_1 : E(Y) \neq \mu_{Y,0}$
- Step 1 Compute the *sample mean* \bar{Y}
- Step 2 Compute the *standard error* of \bar{Y}

$$SE(\bar{Y}) = \frac{s_Y}{\sqrt{n}}$$

- Step 3 Compute the *t-statistic* actually computed

$$t^{act} = \frac{\bar{Y}^{act} - \mu_{Y,0}}{SE(\bar{Y})}$$

- Step 4 See if we can **Reject** the null hypothesis at a certain significance level α like 5%.

$$|t^{act}| > \text{critical value}$$

$$p\text{-value} < \text{significance level}$$

Two-Sided Hypotheses Concerning β_1

- **the null hypothesis:** $H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta$ and **the alternative hypothesis:** $H_1 : \beta_1 \neq \beta$
- Step1: Estimate $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + u_i$ by OLS to obtain $\hat{\beta}_1$
- Step2: Compute the standard error of $\hat{\beta}_1$
- Step3: Compute the t-statistic

$$t^{act} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_{1,0}}{SE(\hat{\beta}_1)}$$

- Step4: Reject the null hypothesis if $|t^{act}| > \text{critical value}$ or if $p\text{-value} < \text{significance level}$

General Form of the t-Statistics

$$t = \frac{\text{estimator} - \text{hypothesized value}}{\text{standard error of the estimator}}$$

The Standard Error of $\hat{\beta}_1$ (1)

- The standard error of $\hat{\beta}_1$ is an **estimator** of the standard deviation of the sampling distribution $\sigma_{\hat{\beta}_1}$, thus

$$SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = \sqrt{\sigma_{\hat{\beta}_1}^2}$$

The Standard Error of $\hat{\beta}_1$

- Recall

$$\sigma_{\hat{\beta}_1} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \frac{\text{Var}[(X_i - \mu_X)u_i]}{[\text{Var}(X_i)]^2}}$$

- Use the sample variance of $(X_i - \mu_X)u_i$, thus $\frac{1}{n-2} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \hat{u}_i^2$ to estimate population covariance $\text{Var}[(X_i - \mu_X)u_i]$
- Use the sample variance of X_i , thus $\frac{1}{n} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2$ to replace population covariance of X_i , thus $\text{Var}(X_i)$
- Then it can be shown that

$$SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\beta}_1}^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \times \frac{\frac{1}{n-2} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \hat{u}_i^2}{[\frac{1}{n} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2]^2}}$$

Application to Test Score and Class Size

- The regression equation:

$$TestScore_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 ClassSize_i + u_i$$

```
. regress test_score class_size
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	420
Model	7794.11004	1	7794.11004	F(1, 418)	=	22.58
Residual	144315.484	418	345.252353	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.0512
				Adj R-squared	=	0.0490
Total	152109.594	419	363.030056	Root MSE	=	18.581

test_score	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
class_size	-2.279808	.4798256	-4.75	0.000	-3.22298	-1.336637
_cons	698.933	9.467491	73.82	0.000	680.3231	717.5428

OLS regression results

- the OLS regression line

$$\widehat{TestScore} = 698.9 - 22.8 \times STR, R^2 = 0.051, SER = 18.6$$

(10.4) (0.52)

Testing a two-sided hypothesis concerning β_1

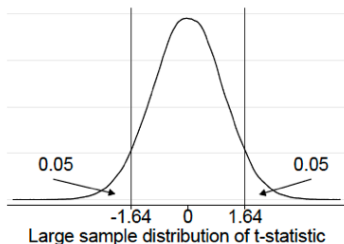
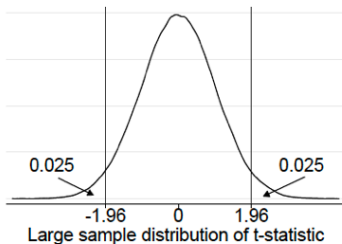
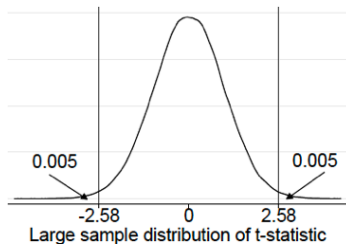
- the null hypothesis $H_0 : \beta_1 = 0$, and the alternative hypothesis $H_1 : \beta_1 \neq 0$
- Step1: Estimate $\hat{\beta}_1 = -2.28$
- Step2: Compute the standard error: $SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = 0.52$
- Step3: Compute the t-statistic

$$t^{act} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_{1,0}}{SE(\hat{\beta}_1)} = \frac{-2.28 - 0}{0.52} = -4.39$$

- Step4: Reject the null hypothesis if
 - $|t^{act}| = |-4.39| > critical\ value = 1.96$
 - $p - value < significance\ level = 0.05$

Critical value of the t-statistic

The critical value of t -statistic depends on significance level α



1% and 10% significant levels

- Step4: Reject the null hypothesis at a **10%** significance level
 - $|t^{act}| = |-4.39| > \text{critical value} = 1.64$
 - $p\text{-value} = 0.00 < \text{significance level} = 0.1$
- Step4: Reject the null hypothesis at a **1%** significance level
 - $|t^{act}| = |-4.39| > \text{critical value} = 2.58$
 - $p\text{-value} = 0.00 < \text{significance level} = 0.01$

Two-Sided Hypotheses Concerning β_1 in a certain value

- Let $\beta_{1,0} = -2$, then Null $H_0 : \beta_1 = -2$, Alternative $H_1 : \beta_1 \neq -2$
- Step1: Estimate $\hat{\beta}_1 = -2.28$
- Step2: Compute the standard error: $SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = 0.52$
- Step3: Compute the t-statistic

$$t^{act} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_{1,0}}{SE(\hat{\beta}_1)} = \frac{-2.28 - (-2)}{0.52} = -0.54$$

- Step4: We can't reject the null hypothesis at 5% significant level because
- $|t^{act}| = |-0.54| < critical\ value = 1.96$
- $p - value < significance\ level = 0.05$

One-sided Hypotheses Concerning β_1

- Let $\beta_{1,0} = -2$, then Null $H_0 : \beta_1 = -2$, Alternative $H_1 : \beta_1 < -2$
- Step1: Estimate $\hat{\beta}_1 = -2.28$
- Step2: Compute the standard error: $SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = 0.52$
- Step3: Compute the t-statistic

$$t^{act} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_{1,0}}{SE(\hat{\beta}_1)} = \frac{-2.28 - (-2)}{0.52} = -0.54$$

- Step4: we can't reject the null hypothesis at 5% significant level because $t^{act} = -0.54 > critical\ value. -1.96$

Wrap up

Confidence Intervals

Confidence interval for a regression coefficient β_1

- Method for constructing a confidence interval for a population mean can be easily extended to constructing a confidence interval for a regression coefficient.
- Using a two-sided test, a hypothesized value for β_1 will be rejected at 5% significance level if $|t^{act}| > critical\ value = 1.96$.
- So $\hat{\beta}_1$ will be in the confidence set if $|t^{act}| \leq critical\ value = 1.96$
- Thus the 95% confidence interval for β_1 are within ± 1.96 standard errors of $\hat{\beta}_1$

$$\hat{\beta}_1 \pm 1.96 \cdot SE(\hat{\beta}_1)$$

Confidence interval for $\beta_{ClassSize}$

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- Thus the 95% confidence interval for β_1 are within ± 1.96 standard errors of $\hat{\beta}_1$

$$\hat{\beta}_1 \pm 1.96 \cdot SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = -2.28 \pm (1.96 \times 0.48) = [-3.3, -1.34]$$

Confidence interval for predicted effects of changing X

- Consider changing X by a given amount, ΔX . The predicted change in Y associated with this change in X is $\beta_1 \Delta$.
- the 95% confidence interval for $\beta_1 \Delta X$ is

$$\hat{\beta}_1 \Delta X \pm 1.96 \cdot SE(\hat{\beta}_1) \times \Delta X$$

- eg reducing the student-teacher ratio by 2. then the 95% confidence interval is

$$[-3.3 \times 2, -1.34 \times 2] = [-6.6, -2.68]$$

Regression When X is a Binary Variable

$$\widehat{TestScore} = 650 + 7.4 \times D, \quad R^2 = 0.037, \quad SER = 18.7$$

(1.3) (1.8)

Gauss-Markov theorem and Heteroskedasticity

Introduction

- Recall we discussed the properties of \bar{Y} in Chapter 2.
 - an unbiased estimator of μ_Y
 - a consistent estimator of μ_Y
 - has an approximate normal sampling distribution for large n
 - the **Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE)**: it is the most efficient estimator of μ_Y among all unbiased estimators.

the fourth OLS assumption

- Three Basic OLS Regression Assumptions
 - Assumption 1
 - Assumption 2
 - Assumption 3
- Assumption 4: The error terms are **homoskedastic**

$$Var(u_i | X_i) = \sigma_u^2$$

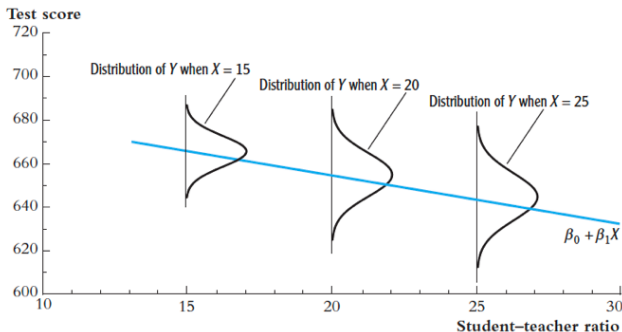
- Then $\hat{\beta}^{OLS}$ is the **Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE)**: it is the most efficient estimator of β_1 among all conditional unbiased estimators that are a linear function of Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n .

Heteroskedasticity & homoskedasticity

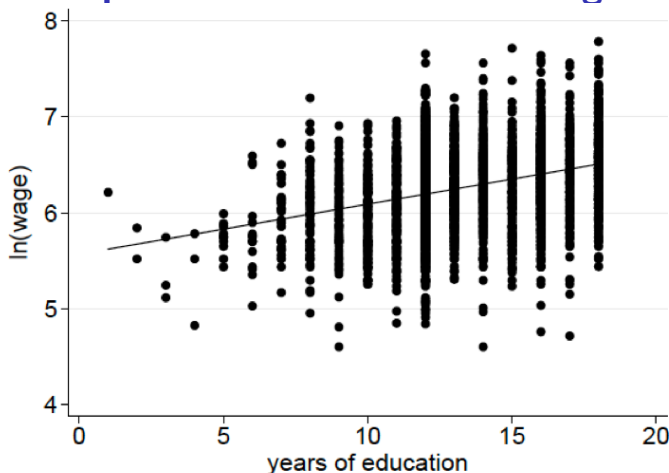
- The error term u_i is **homoskedastic** if the variance of the conditional distribution of u_i given X_i is constant for $i = 1, \dots, n$, in particular does not depend on X_i . Otherwise, the error term is **heteroskedastic**.

FIGURE 5.2 An Example of Heteroskedasticity

Like Figure 4.4, this shows the conditional distribution of test scores for three different class sizes. Unlike Figure 4.4, these distributions become more spread out (have a larger variance) for larger class sizes. Because the variance of the distribution of u given X , $\text{var}(u|X)$, depends on X , u is heteroskedastic.



An Example: the returns to schooling



- The spread of the dots around the line is clearly increasing with years of education X_{i} .
- Variation in (log) wages is higher at higher levels of education.

Heteroskedasticity & homoskedasticity

- If the error terms are heteroskedastic we should use the following heteroskedasticity robust standard errors

$$SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\beta}_1}^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \times \frac{\frac{1}{n-2} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \hat{u}_i^2}{\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2\right]^2}}$$

- If we assume that the error terms are homoskedastic the standard errors of the OLS estimators simplify to

$$SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = \sqrt{\frac{s_{\hat{u}}^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}}$$

- In many applications homoskedasticity is not a plausible assumption. If the error terms are heteroskedastic, then you use the homoskedastic assumption to compute the S.E. of $\hat{\beta}_1$
 - The standard errors are wrong (often too small)
 - The t-statistic does NOT have a $N(0, 1)$ distribution (also not in

Heteroskedasticity & homoskedasticity

- Since homoskedasticity is a special case of heteroskedasticity, these heteroskedasticity robust formulas are also valid if the error terms are homoskedastic.
- Hypothesis tests and confidence intervals based on above SE's are valid both in case of homoskedasticity and heteroskedasticity.
- In reality, since in many applications homoskedasticity is not a plausible assumption It is best to use heteroskedasticity robust standard errors. (we lose nothing)
- In Stata, the default option of regression is to assume homoskedasticity, to obtain heteroskedasticity robust standard errors use the option “robust”:

regress y x , robust

Test Scores and Class Size

```
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```

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```
. regress test_score class_size, robust
```

Linear regression	Number of obs	=	420
	F(1, 418)	=	19.26
	Prob > F	=	0.0000
	R-squared	=	0.0512
	Root MSE	=	18.581

test_score	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
class_size	-2.279808	.5194892	-4.39	0.000	-3.300945	-1.258671
_cons	698.933	10.36436	67.44	0.000	678.5602	719.3057

Test Scores and Class Size

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Heteroskedasticity

- If the error terms are heteroskedastic
 - The fourth OLS assumption is violated
 - The Gauss-Markov conditions do not hold
 - The OLS estimator is not BLUE (not efficient)
- But (given that the other OLS assumptions hold)
 - The OLS estimators are unbiased
 - The OLS estimators are consistent
 - The OLS estimators are normally distributed in large samples

OLS with Multiple Regressors: Hypotheses tests

Assumptions of the Multiple OLS

- Fourth Basic Assumption

- Assumption 1 : $E[u_i | X_{1i}, X_{2i}, \dots, X_{ki}] = 0$

- Assumption 2 : i.i.d sample

- Assumption 3 : Large outliers are unlikely.

- Assumption 4 : No perfect multicollinearity.

- the OLS estimators $\hat{\beta}_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, k$ are approximately normally distributed in large samples.

- In addition

$$t = \frac{\hat{\beta}_j - \beta_{j,0}}{SE(\hat{\beta}_j)} \sim N(0, 1)$$

Hypothesis test for single coefficient

- $H_0 : \beta_j = \beta_{j,0} \quad H_1 : \beta_j \neq \beta_{j,0}$
- Step1: Estimate $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \dots + \beta_j X_{ji} + \dots + \beta_k X_{ki} + u_i$ by OLS to obtain $\hat{\beta}_j$
- Step2: Compute the standard error of $\hat{\beta}_j$ (requires matrix algebra)
- Step3: Compute the t-statistic

$$t^{act} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_j - \beta_{j,0}}{SE(\hat{\beta}_j)}$$

- Step4: Reject the null hypothesis if
 - * $|t^{act}| > \text{critical value}$
 - * or if $p\text{-value} < \text{significance level}$

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Case: Class Size and test scores

- Does changing class size, while holding the percentage of English learners constant, have a statistically significant effect on test scores? (using a 5% significance level)
- $H_0 : \beta_{ClassSize} = 0$ $H_1 : \beta_{ClassSize} \neq 0$
- Step1: Estimate $\hat{\beta}_1 = -1.10$
- Step2: Compute the standard error: $SE(\hat{\beta}_1) = 0.43$
- Step3: Compute the t-statistic

$$t^{act} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_1}{SE(\hat{\beta}_1)} = \frac{-1.10 - 0}{0.43} = -2.54$$

- Step4: Reject the null hypothesis if
 - $|t^{act}| = |-2.54| > critical\ value. 1.96$
 - $p - value = 0.011 < significance\ level = 0.05$

Testing 1 hypothesis on 2 or more coefficients

- Suppose we want to test hypothesis that both the coefficient on % eligible for a free lunch and the coefficient on % eligible for calworks are zero?
- $H_0 : \beta_{meal\ pct} = 0 \ \& \ \beta_{calw\ pct} = 0,$
 $H_1 : \beta_{meal\ pct} \neq 0 \ \text{and/or} \ \beta_{calw\ pct} \neq 0$
- If either $t_{meal\ pct}$ or $t_{calw\ pct}$ exceeds 1.96, we should reject?

Testing 1 hypothesis on 2 or more coefficients

- We assume that $t_{meal\ pct}$ and $t_{calw\ pct}$ are *uncorrelated*:

$$\begin{aligned}& Pr(t_{meal\ pct} > 1.96 \text{ and/or } t_{calw\ pct} > 1.96) \\&= 1 - Pr(t_{meal\ pct} > 1.96 \text{ and } t_{calw\ pct} > 1.96) \\&= 1 - Pr(t_{meal\ pct} > 1.96) * Pr(t_{calw\ pct} > 1.96) \\&= 1 - 0.95 \times 0.95 \\&= 0.0975 > 0.05\end{aligned}$$

- if $t_{meal\ pct}$ and $t_{calw\ pct}$ are correlated, then *it is more complicated*.

Heteroskedasticity & homoskedasticity

- If we want to test joint hypotheses that involves multiple coefficients we need to use an **F-test** based on the **F-statistic**
- F-Statistic with $q = 2$: when testing the following hypothesis

$$H_0 : \beta_1 = 0 \text{ \& } \beta_2 = 0 \quad H_1 : \beta_1 \neq 0 \text{ and/or } \beta_2 \neq 0$$

- the F-statistic combines the two t-statistics as follows

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{t_1^2 + t_2^2 - 2\hat{\rho}_{t_1 t_2} t_1 t_2}{1 - \hat{\rho}_{t_1 t_2}^2} \right)$$

where $\hat{\rho}_{t_1 t_2}$ is an estimator of the correlation between the two t-statistics.

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where $\hat{\rho}_{t_1 t_2}$ is an estimator of the correlation between the two t-statistics.

Case: Class Size and test scores

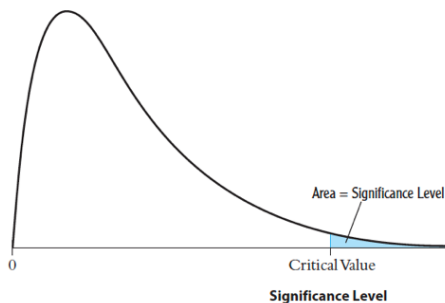
- We want to test hypothesis that both the coefficient on % eligible for a free lunch and the coefficient on % eligible for calworks are zero?
 - $H_0 : \beta_{meal\ pct} = 0 \ \& \ \beta_{calw\ pct} = 0$
 - $H_1 : \beta_{meal\ pct} \neq 0 \ \text{and/or} \ \beta_{calw\ pct} \neq 0$
- The null hypothesis consists of two restrictions $q = 2$
- It can be shown that the F-statistic with two restrictions has an approximate $F_{2,\infty}$ distribution in large samples

$$F = 290.27$$

- Table 4 (S&W page 795) shows that the critical value at a 5% significance level equals 3.
- This implies that we reject H_0 at a 5% significance level because $290.27 > 3$

F-Distribution

TABLE 4 Critical Values for the $F_{m, \infty}$ Distribution



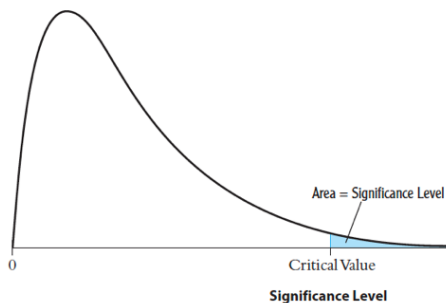
Degrees of Freedom	10%	5%	1%
1	2.71	3.84	6.63
2	2.30	3.00	4.61
3	2.08	2.60	3.78

General procedure for testing joint hypothesis with q restrictions

- $H_0 : \beta_j = \beta_{j,0}, \dots, \beta_m = \beta_{m,0}$ for a total of q restrictions.
- H_1 : at least one of q restrictions under H_0 does not hold.
- Step1: Estimate $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \dots + \beta_j X_{ji} + \dots + \beta_k X_{ki} + u_i$ by OLS
- Step2: Compute the **F-statistic**
- Step3 : Reject the null hypothesis if $F - Statistic > F_{q,\infty}^{act}$ or $p - value = Pr[F_{q,\infty} > F^{act}]$

Case: Class Size and test scores: $q=3$ restrictions

TABLE 4 Critical Values for the $F_{m, \infty}$ Distribution



Degrees of Freedom	10%	5%	1%
1	2.71	3.84	6.63
2	2.30	3.00	4.61
3	2.08	2.60	3.78

Case: Class Size and test scores: $q=3$ restrictions

- $H_0 : \beta_{el\ pct} = \beta_{meal\ pct} = \beta_{calw\ pct} = 0$
- H_1 : at least one of q restrictions under H_0 does not hold
- ① Step1: Estimate by Multiple OLS
- ② Step2: $F - Statistic = 481.06$
- ③ Step3: We reject the null hypothesis at a 5% significance level because

$$F - Statistic > F_{3,\infty} = 2.6$$

The “overall” regression F-statistic

- The “overall” F-statistic test the joint hypothesis that all the k slope coefficients are zero
 - $H_0 : \beta_j = \beta_{j,0}, \dots, \beta_m = \beta_{m,0}$ for a total of $q = k$ restrictions.
 - H_1 : at least one of $q = k$ restrictions under H_0 does not hold.

The “overall” regression F-statistic

```
. regress test_score class_size el_pct meal_pct calw_pct, robust
```

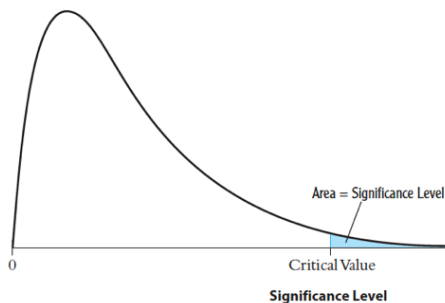
Linear regression	Number of obs	=	420
	F(4, 415)	=	361.68
	Prob > F	=	0.0000
	R-squared	=	0.7749
	Root MSE	=	9.0843

test_score	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
class_size	-1.014353	.2688613	-3.77	0.000	-1.542853	-.4858534
el_pct	-.1298219	.0362579	-3.58	0.000	-.201094	-.0585498
meal_pct	-.5286191	.0381167	-13.87	0.000	-.6035449	-.4536932
calw_pct	-.0478537	.0586541	-0.82	0.415	-.1631498	.0674424
_cons	700.3918	5.537418	126.48	0.000	689.507	711.2767

- The overall $F - Statistics = 361.68$

The “overall” regression F-statistic

TABLE 4 Critical Values for the $F_{m, \infty}$ Distribution



Degrees of Freedom	10%	5%	1%
1	2.71	3.84	6.63
2	2.30	3.00	4.61
3	2.08	2.60	3.78

The “Star War” and Regression Table

Dependent variable: average test score in the district.

Regressor	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Student–teacher ratio (X_1)	−2.28** (0.52)	−1.10* (0.43)	−1.00** (0.27)	−1.31* (0.34)	−1.01* (0.27)
Percent English learners (X_2)		−0.650** (0.031)	−0.122** (0.033)	−0.488** (0.030)	−0.130** (0.036)
Percent eligible for subsidized lunch (X_3)			−0.547* (0.024)		−0.529* (0.038)
Percent on public income assistance (X_4)				−0.790** (0.068)	0.048 (0.059)
Intercept	698.9** (10.4)	686.0** (8.7)	700.2** (5.6)	698.0** (6.9)	700.4** (5.5)

Summary Statistics

<i>SER</i>	18.58	14.46	9.08	11.65	9.08
\bar{R}^2	0.049	0.424	0.773	0.626	0.773
<i>n</i>	420	420	420	420	420

These regressions were estimated using the data on K–8 school districts in California, described in Appendix (4.1). Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors are given in parentheses under coefficients. The individual coefficient is statistically significant at the *5% level or **1% significance level using a two-sided test.