

# Fundamentals of Econometrics

## Lecture 3: Multiple Linear Regression Model

The diagram illustrates the components of the Multiple Linear Regression Model equation:  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \varepsilon$ . Arrows point from descriptive labels to the corresponding parts of the equation: 

- Dependent Variable (Response Variable)** points to  $Y$ .
- Independent Variables (Predictors)** points to the  $X$  terms ( $X_1, X_2, \dots$ ).
- Y intercept** points to  $\beta_0$ .
- Slope Coefficient** points to the coefficients  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ .
- Error Term** points to  $\varepsilon$ .

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \varepsilon$$

## Section 1

# Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation

- Key assumption in the single variable model is that all unobserved factors are uncorrelated with the observed variable.
- **Is this a problem?**
  - Remember our wage model:  $wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot educ + u$ .
- Recall that  $\hat{\beta}_1$  measures the impact of education on wage. In this model, we assume that education is the only factor that affects wage and that all other factors are uncorrelated with education.
- Other factors that affect the wage rate could very well be correlated with education.
- Effect of experience would partly be included in the effect of education on wage.

Consider the following model:

$$wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot educ + \beta_2 \cdot occup + \beta_3 \cdot gender + \beta_4 \cdot race + \beta_5 \cdot ability + u$$

- Assuming  $E(u|educ, occup, gender, race, ability) = 0$ , then  $\beta_1$  measures the impact of education **holding the other predictors (occup, gender, race, ability) constant**.

What are we attempting to do by including additional variables?

We are trying to replicate *ceteris paribus* conditions of an experiment by including additional variables.

# Multiple Regression Model

We can generalize the simple regression model to:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \cdots + \beta_K x_{iK} + u_i$$

- **$K$  = number of explanatory variables.**
- $\beta_k$  measures the impact on  $y$  of a one-unit change in  $x_k$ .
- Will again work with a random sample of size  $N$ .
- $u$  is still an error term capturing unobservables.

# An Example

We return to the wage and schooling example from the previous lecture but now posit:

$$wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot educ + \beta_2 \cdot exper + \beta_3 \cdot tenure + u$$

```
multi <- lm(formula = wage ~ educ + exper + tenure, data = wage1); summary(multi)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = wage ~ educ + exper + tenure, data = wage1)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -7.6068 -1.7747 -0.6279  1.1969 14.6536
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) -2.87273     0.72896  -3.941 9.22e-05 ***
## educ         0.59897     0.05128  11.679 < 2e-16 ***
## exper        0.02234     0.01206   1.853  0.0645 .
## tenure       0.16927     0.02164   7.820 2.93e-14 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 3.084 on 522 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.3064, Adjusted R-squared:  0.3024
## F-statistic: 76.87 on 3 and 522 DF,  p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

# Presenting the Results professionally

```
stargazer(mult1,  
  title = "OLS Regression Results", font.size = "tiny",  
  type = "latex", header = FALSE, digits = 3)
```

Table 1: OLS Regression Results

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>
	wage
educ	0.599*** (0.051)
exper	0.022* (0.012)
tenure	0.169*** (0.022)
Constant	-2.873*** (0.729)
Observations	526
R <sup>2</sup>	0.306
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.302
Residual Std. Error	3.084 (df = 522)
F Statistic	76.873*** (df = 3; 522)

*Note:*

\*p<0.1; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

# Functional Form and Units of Measurement

- Now we can enable all sorts of different functional forms.

## Examples:

- Quadratic:  $wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot educ + \beta_2 \cdot educ^2 + u$ .
- Cubic:  $wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot educ + \beta_2 \cdot educ^2 + \beta_3 \cdot educ^3 + u$ .

## How do we assess the impact of education on wage?

In the quadratic model, there are two explanatory variables:  $educ$  and  $educ^2$ . Wage is explained as a quadratic function of education. So, by how much does wage increase for a one-unit increase in education?

$$\frac{\partial wage}{\partial educ} = \beta_1 + 2\beta_2 educ$$

This means the effect is not constant but depends on the level of education already attained.



```
w2 <- lm(formula = wage ~ educ + I(educ^2) + I(educ^3),
        data = wage1)

stargazer::stargazer(w2, title = "OLS Regression Results",
                    type = "latex", header = FALSE, digits = 3)
```

Table 2: OLS Regression Results

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>
	wage
educ	0.369 (0.619)
I(educ^2)	-0.058 (0.063)
I(educ^3)	0.003* (0.002)
Constant	3.111 (1.979)
Observations	526
R <sup>2</sup>	0.205
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.201
Residual Std. Error	3.301 (df = 522)
F Statistic	45.004*** (df = 3; 522)
<i>Note:</i>	* p<0.1; ** p<0.05; *** p<0.01

# CEO salary, sales and CEO tenure

$$\log(\text{salary}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \log(\text{sales}) + \beta_2 \cdot \text{ceoten} + \beta_3 \cdot \text{ceoten}^2 + u$$

- Model assumes a constant elasticity of salary with respect to sales.
- The effect of CEO tenure on salary is not constant but depends on the level of tenure (quadratic as we saw earlier).

## Notion of Linearity

Meaning of “linear” regression is that the coefficients are linear in the parameters, not in the variables.

# Determinants of college GPA

$$\widehat{colGPA} = 1.29 + 0.45 \cdot hsGPA + 0.009 \cdot ACT$$

```
lm(colGPA ~ hsGPA + ACT, data = gpa1) |> coef()
```

```
## (Intercept)          hsGPA          ACT  
## 1.286327767 0.453455885 0.009426012
```

Interpretations:

- Another point on the student's high school GPA will lead to a 0.453 increase in college GPA, **holding ACT score constant**.
- **Holding high school GPA constant**, a **10-point** increase in ACT score will lead to a **0.09** increase in college GPA.

# Deriving the OLS Estimators

- Sample regression function is now:

$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} + \cdots + \hat{\beta}_K x_{iK}$$

- Minimize sum of squared residuals:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} - \cdots - \hat{\beta}_K x_{iK})^2$$

- FOC:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \cdots - \hat{\beta}_K x_{iK}) = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N x_{ij} (y_i - \beta_0 - \cdots - \hat{\beta}_K x_{iK}) = 0 \quad j = 1, \dots, K$$

# Matrix Algebra

- **Matrix:** A rectangular array of numbers with  $N$  rows and  $K$  columns.
- **Vector:** A matrix with a single column or row.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

- **Transpose:** A matrix obtained by interchanging rows and columns of a matrix.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \quad A' = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -4 \\ -1 & 5 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad B' = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ -4 & 5 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix multiplication can be written as  $C = AB$  but note that the column dimension of A must be equal to the row dimension of B.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & b_{13} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & b_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$AB = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} & a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22} & a_{11}b_{13} + a_{12}b_{23} \\ a_{21}b_{11} + a_{22}b_{21} & a_{21}b_{12} + a_{22}b_{22} & a_{21}b_{13} + a_{22}b_{23} \\ a_{31}b_{11} + a_{32}b_{21} & a_{31}b_{12} + a_{32}b_{22} & a_{31}b_{13} + a_{32}b_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

The sum of squares can be obtained by multiplying a column vector by its transpose:

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{pmatrix}, U' = (u_1 \quad u_2 \quad u_3) \longrightarrow U'U = (u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2)$$

Matrix Addition requires the matrices to have the same dimensions.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$C = A + B = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} + b_{11} & a_{12} + b_{12} \\ a_{21} + b_{21} & a_{22} + b_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

The regression model can then be given in matrix form as

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1K} \\ 1 & x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2K} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{N1} & x_{N2} & \dots & x_{NK} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_K \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_N \end{pmatrix}$$

# Deriving the OLS Estimators

- Minimize (in matrix form):

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}'\hat{\mathbf{u}} = (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})'(\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = \mathbf{Y}'\mathbf{Y} - 2\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}'\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y} + \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}'\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$$

- FOC:

$$-2\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y} + 2\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{0}$$

**OLS Estimator:**

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



Let us consider a model with two explanatory variables (covariates):

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \beta_2 x_{2i} + u_i.$$

The three first order conditions are given by:

$$\hat{\beta}_0 : \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{1i} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i}) = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\hat{\beta}_1 : \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_{1i} (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{1i} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i}) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\hat{\beta}_2 : \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_{2i} (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{1i} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i}) = 0 \quad (3)$$

Solving Equation (1) for  $\hat{\beta}_0$ :

$$\boxed{\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}_1 - \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2} \quad (4)$$

Substitute Equation (4) into (2):

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_{1i} - \left( y_i - [\bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}_1 - \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2] + \hat{\beta}_1 x_{1i} + \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i} \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_{1i}(y_i - \bar{y}) - \frac{1}{N} \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^N x_{1i} (x_{1i} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}_1) - \frac{1}{N} \hat{\beta}_2 \sum_{i=1}^N x_{1i} (x_{2i} - \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2) = 0$$

$$cov(x_1, y) - \hat{\beta}_1 var(x_1) - \hat{\beta}_2 cov(x_1, x_2) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$\boxed{\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{cov(x_1, y)}{var(x_1)} - \hat{\beta}_2 \frac{cov(x_1, x_2)}{var(x_1)}} \quad (6)$$

Likewise,

$$\boxed{\hat{\beta}_2 = \frac{cov(x_2, y)}{var(x_2)} - \hat{\beta}_1 \frac{cov(x_1, x_2)}{var(x_2)}}$$

## Digression: Partialling Out

**The Frisch-Waugh-Lovell Theorem:** We can use the concept of partialling out to estimate the marginal effect of an independent variable, say  $x_1$ , on the dependent variable  $y$ , controlling for another variable  $x_2$ .

We can proceed as follows:

- 1 Regress  $x_1$  on  $x_2$  and obtain the residuals  $\hat{r}_1$ . This will give us the part of  $x_1$  that is not in  $x_2$ . Similar logic for  $x_2$ .
- 2 Regress  $y$  on  $\hat{r}_1$  to obtain the coefficient  $\hat{\beta}_1$ . This will tell us the effect of  $x_1$  on  $y$  after controlling for  $x_2$ .

### Why does this work?

- 1 The residuals from the first stage regression are orthogonal to (uncorrelated with)  $x_2$  (i.e.  $cov(x_2, \hat{r}_1) = 0$ ). Again,  $\hat{r}_1$  contains everything in  $x_1$  that is not in  $x_2$ .
- 2 The slope coefficient  $\hat{\beta}_1$  in the second stage regression tells us the effect of  $\hat{r}_1$  (everything in  $x_1$  that is not in  $x_2$ ) on  $y$ .

## Example: Partialling Out

Consider the following model:

$$wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot educ + \beta_2 \cdot exper + u$$

Step 1 (a): Regress education on experience to obtain the residuals  $\hat{r}_{educ}$ .

```
hatr_educ <- lm(educ ~ exper, data = wage1) |> residuals()
```

Step 1 (b): Regress experience on education to obtain the residuals  $\hat{r}_{exper}$ .

```
hatr_exper <- lm(exper ~ educ, data = wage1) |> residuals()
```

Step 2: Separately regress wage on  $\hat{r}_{educ}$  and  $\hat{r}_{exper}$  to obtain  $\hat{\beta}_1$  and  $\hat{\beta}_2$ .

```
c((lm(wage ~ hatr_educ, data = wage1) |> coef())[2],  
  (lm(wage ~ hatr_exper, data = wage1) |> coef())[2])
```

```
##   hatr_educ hatr_exper  
## 0.6442721  0.0700954
```

## Example: Partialling Out

How does this compare to the OLS estimates of the multiple regression of wage on both education and experience?

```
lm(wage ~ educ + exper, data = wage1) |> coef()
```

```
## (Intercept)          educ          exper  
##   -3.3905395    0.6442721    0.0700954
```

The idea is the same as in simple regression.

- **Total Sum of Squares (SST)**: The total variation in the dependent variable.
- **Explained Sum of Squares (SSE)**: The variation in the dependent variable explained by the model.
- **Residual Sum of Squares (SSR)**: The variation in the dependent variable not explained by the model.

$$SST = SSE + SSR$$

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

Problem:

- $R^2$  **almost always** increase as we add more variables to the model.
- Therefore  $R^2$  can be a poor indicator of whether to include more RHS variables.

- Consider the following multivariate model:

$$wage = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot educ + \beta_2 \cdot exper + \beta_3 \cdot tenure + u$$

```
lm(wage ~ educ + exper + tenure, data = wage1) |> summary()
```

```
##  
## Call:  
## lm(formula = wage ~ educ + exper + tenure, data = wage1)  
##  
## Residuals:  
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max   
## -7.6068 -1.7747 -0.6279  1.1969 14.6536   
##  
## Coefficients:  
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)      
## (Intercept)  -2.87273    0.72896  -3.941 9.22e-05 ***  
## educ          0.59897    0.05128  11.679 < 2e-16 ***  
## exper         0.02234    0.01206   1.853  0.0645 .  
## tenure        0.16927    0.02164   7.820 2.93e-14 ***  
## ---  
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1  
##  
## Residual standard error: 3.084 on 522 degrees of freedom  
## Multiple R-squared:  0.3064, Adjusted R-squared:  0.3024   
## F-statistic: 76.87 on 3 and 522 DF,  p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

$$wage = -2.87 + 0.60 \cdot educ + 0.02 \cdot exper + 0.17 \cdot tenure$$

$$n = 522, \quad R^2 = 0.3064$$

- A one-year increase in education is associated with a \$0.60 increase in average hourly wage, *holding experience and tenure constant*.
- A one-year increase in experience is associated with a \$0.02 increase in average hourly wage, *holding education and tenure constant*.
- A one-year increase in tenure is associated with a 0.17 increase in average hourly wage, *holding education and experience constant*.
- The  $R^2$  indicates that 30.64% of the variation in wage is *jointly* explained by the individual's education, experience, and tenure.



## Section 2

### MLR Assumptions

# MLR Assumptions

- ❶ **Linearity:** The model is linear in the parameters.
- ❷ **Random Sampling:** The data are a random sample from the population.
- ❸ **No Perfect Collinearity:** None of the explanatory variables is constant and there are no exact linear relationships among the explanatory variables.
  - If an explanatory variable is a perfect linear combination of other variables it is redundant and can be dropped.
  - Constant variables are also ruled out as they are collinear with the intercept.
- ❹ **Zero Conditional Mean:**  $E(u|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K) = 0$ .
  - This is the same as the assumption in the simple regression model. The value of explanatory variables must contain no information about the mean of the unobserved factors.

# Collinearity

Recall the voting example from the previous lecture. Where

$$shareA : 100 * (expendA / (expendA + expendB))$$

If we decided to add the expenditure shares of both candidates A and B as explanatory variables, we would have a problem.

$$voteA = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot shareA + \beta_2 \cdot shareB + u$$

Either **shareA** or **shareB** will have to be dropped from the model because there is an exact linear relationship between the two variables:  $shareA + shareB = 1$ .

Do we have a collinearity problem here?

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 income + \beta_2 income^2 + u$$

# Including Irrelevant Variables

Suppose we estimate

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot x_1 + \beta_2 \cdot x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + u$$

When the true model is

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot x_1 + \beta_2 \cdot x_2 + u$$

Are  $\beta_0$ ,  $\beta_1$ , and  $\beta_2$  still unbiased?

Table 3: Wage Regression Results - Irrelevant Variable

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	wage	
	(1)	(2)
educ	0.599*** (0.051)	0.598*** (0.051)
exper	0.022* (0.012)	0.022* (0.012)
tenure	0.169*** (0.022)	0.172*** (0.022)
BMI		-0.030 (0.028)
Constant	-2.873*** (0.729)	-1.451 (1.527)
Observations	526	526
R <sup>2</sup>	0.306	0.308
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.302	0.303
Residual Std. Error	3.084 (df = 522)	3.084 (df = 521)
F Statistic	76.873*** (df = 3; 522)	57.950*** (df = 4; 521)
<i>Note:</i> * p<0.1; ** p<0.05; *** p<0.01		

# Omitting a Relevant Variable

Suppose the true model is

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot x_1 + \beta_2 \cdot x_2 + u \quad (7)$$

but we estimated

$$\tilde{y} = \tilde{\beta}_0 + \tilde{\beta}_1 \cdot x_1 + \tilde{u} \quad (8)$$

If  $x_2$  is correlated with  $x_1$ , then  $\tilde{\beta}_1$  will be biased. To show this:

- 1 Consider the auxiliary regression:

$$x_2 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot x_1 + r_2 \quad (9)$$

- 2 Substitute Equation (9) into Equation (7):

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot x_1 + \beta_2 \cdot (\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot x_1 + r_2) + u \quad (10)$$

$$= \underbrace{(\beta_0 + \beta_2 \cdot \gamma_0)}_{\tilde{\beta}_0} + \underbrace{(\beta_1 + \beta_2 \cdot \gamma_1)}_{\tilde{\beta}_1} \cdot x_1 + \underbrace{\beta_2 \cdot r_2 + u}_{\tilde{u}=\text{error term}} \quad (11)$$

# Omitted Variable Bias

Again, consider the following model:

$$\text{(True Model) } wage = \beta_1 \cdot educ + \beta_2 \cdot abil + u \quad (12)$$

$$\text{(Estimated Model) } wage = \delta_0 + \delta_1 \cdot educ + v \quad (13)$$

In Equations (12) and (13),  $\beta_2$  and  $\delta_1$  should be positive.

$$wage = (\beta_0 + \beta_2\delta_0) + (\beta_1 + \beta_2\delta_1) \cdot educ + (\beta_2 \cdot v + u) \quad (14)$$

The return to education,  $\beta_1$  will be **overestimated** since  $\beta_2 \cdot \delta_1 > 0$ . Our biased model, in Equation (13), will give us the impression that people with many years of education earn very high wages, but a part of this could be due to the fact that people with more education are also more able, on average.

Table 4: Wage Regression Results - Omitted Variable Bias

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	wage		exper
	(1)	(2)	(3)
educ	0.644*** (0.054)	0.541*** (0.053)	-1.468*** (0.204)
exper	0.070*** (0.011)		
Constant	-3.391*** (0.767)	-0.905 (0.685)	35.461*** (2.628)
Observations	526	526	526
R <sup>2</sup>	0.225	0.165	0.090
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.222	0.163	0.088

*Note:*

\*p&lt;0.1; \*\*p&lt;0.05; \*\*\*p&lt;0.01



# Omitted Variable Bias

We can summarize the omitted variable bias as follows:

x	$corr(x_1, x_2) > 0$	$corr(x_1, x_2) < 0$
$\beta_2 > 0$	Positive Bias	Negative Bias
$\beta_2 < 0$	Negative Bias	Positive Bias

# MLR Assumptions

## 5 **Homoskedasticity:** $Var(u|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K) = \sigma^2$ .

- The variance of the error term is constant across all values of the explanatory variables.
- The value of the explanatory variables must contain no information about the variance of the unobserved factors.
- This is the same as the assumption in the simple regression model.

### Example

$$var(u|educ, exper, tenure) = \sigma^2$$

- This assumption may also be hard to justify.

The variances of the OLS estimators are given by:

$$Var(\hat{\beta}_j) = \frac{\sigma^2}{SST_j(1 - R_j^2)}, \quad j = 1, \dots, k$$

- $\sigma^2$  is the variance of the error term.
- $SST_j$  is the total sample variance of  $x_j$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^N (x_{ij} - \bar{x}_j)^2$ , and
- $R_j^2$  is the  $R^2$  from regressing  $x_j$  on all other explanatory and a constant term.

# Sample Variances: Matrix Algebra

Recall, OLS Estimator is given by:  $\hat{\beta} = (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y}$  then

$$\begin{aligned}E(\hat{\beta}) &= E \left[ (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y} \right] \\&= E \left[ (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'(\mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{u}) \right] \\&= E \left[ (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}\beta + (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{u} \right] \\&= \beta + E \left[ (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{u} \right] \\var(\hat{\beta}) &= E \left[ (\hat{\beta} - E(\hat{\beta}))(\hat{\beta} - E(\hat{\beta}))' \right] \\&= E \left[ (\beta + (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{u} - \beta)(\beta + (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{u} - \beta)' \right] \\&= E \left[ (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1} \right] \\&= (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'E(\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}')\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1} \\&= (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\sigma^2\mathbf{I}_N\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1} \\&= \sigma^2(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

## Components of the OLS variances:

### ① Error Variance: $\sigma^2$ .

- A high error variance increases the sampling variance because there is more “noise” in the equation.
- A large error variance doesn’t necessarily mean make the estimates imprecise.
- The error variance does not decrease with sample size.

### ② Total variation in the explanatory variable: $SST_j$ .

- More sample variation leads to more precise estimates.
- The total variation in the explanatory variable automatically increases with sample size.
  - Increasing the sample size is therefore a way to get more precise estimates.

## Components of the OLS variances (contd.):

- ③ **Linear relationship between the explanatory variables:**  $R_j^2$ .
  - Regress  $x_j$  on all other explanatory variables and a constant term.
  - The  $R^2$  from this regression will be higher when  $x_j$  can be better explained by the other explanatory variables.
  - Under perfect multicollinearity, the variance of the slope estimator will approach infinity.

*Multicollinearity* occurs when two or more explanatory variables are highly, but not perfectly correlated.

Consider  $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot x_1 + \beta_2 \cdot x_2 + \beta_3 \cdot x_3 + u$ , where  $\text{corr}(x_2, x_3)$  is exceptionally large.

Implications for the estimates:

- Estimators are still unbiased.
- The variance of the estimators,  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$  may be very large.
- Variance estimator for  $\beta_1$  is okay as long as  $x_1$  is not correlated with  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ .

# Multicollinearity

- Only the sampling variance of the variables involved in multicollinearity will be inflated; the estimates of the other effects may still be precise.
- Note that multicollinearity does not violate MLR.3 in the strict sense.
- Multicollinearity may be detected through “variance inflation factors” (VIFs).

$$VIF_j = \frac{1}{1 - R_j^2}$$

**An arbitrary rule of thumb is that a VIF greater than 10 indicates multicollinearity.**

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car::vif(model)
```



# Estimating $\sigma^2$

- Recall from the univariate regression model:

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{N-2} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 \quad (15)$$

- We subtracted 2 because we estimated two (2) parameters: the intercept and the slope. Thus, two first-order conditions.
- In estimating the multivariate model, we estimate  $K+1$  parameters (including the intercept)– also the number of first-order conditions.
- Therefore, the formula for  $\hat{\sigma}^2$  in the multivariate model is:

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{N-K-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 \quad (16)$$

Assumptions MLR 1 – 5 imply that:

$$E \left[ \hat{\sigma}^2 \right] = \sigma^2$$

- The true sampling variation of the estimated  $\beta_j$  is given by:

$$sd(\hat{\beta}_j) = \sqrt{var(\hat{\beta}_j)} = \sqrt{\sigma^2/SST_j(1 - R_j^2)}$$

- The estimated sampling variation of the estimated  $\beta_j$  is given by:

$$se(\hat{\beta}_j) = \sqrt{\widehat{var}(\hat{\beta}_j)} = \sqrt{\widehat{\sigma}^2/SST_j(1 - R_j^2)}$$

# Gauss Markov Theorem

- Under MLR Assumptions 1 – 4, the OLS estimators are **unbiased**.
- However, under these assumptions there may be many other estimators that are also unbiased.
- We want to choose the estimator that has the **smallest variance**.
- called the **BLUE** estimator (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator).
- In order to answer this question one usually limits oneself to linear estimators, i.e. estimators linear in the dependent variable.
- Under MLR Assumptions 1-5, the OLS estimators are **BLUE**.
  - see Wooldridge for proof.