

# Office Hours Week 11

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## Agenda

- Stargazer
- Omitted Variable Bias
- Some EDA charts that I like

## Stargazer

This cheat sheet from Jake Russ is amazing y'all <https://www.jakeruss.com/cheatsheets/stargazer/>

*Bonus Fact stargazer is a tongue in cheek acknowledgement that most of the time you're "looming for stars (significance)" at the end of your statistical modeling work*

## Get some data to work with

We'll use the `mtcars` dataset that comes bundled with R. You can see more info about what the variables mean and where the data set comes from by typing `?mtcars` into the console. You can also equivalently type `mtcars` into the search box of the help window.

**Side note** there are a lot of interesting data sets that just come bundled in R. If you type the `data()` command, you can see a list of all of the data sets that are available and a brief summary of all of them.

```
## `mtcars` is a built in dataset in R. Gets used in all kinds of examples

# bonus info
# ?mtcars
# View(mtcars)
# data()
# highlight then `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `C` to block comment and uncomment

summary(mtcars)
```

```
##      mpg          cyl          disp          hp
##  Min.   :10.40   Min.    :4.000   Min.    : 71.1   Min.    : 52.0
## 1st Qu.:15.43   1st Qu.:4.000   1st Qu.:120.8   1st Qu.: 96.5
## Median :19.20   Median :6.000   Median :196.3   Median :123.0
## Mean   :20.09   Mean    :6.188   Mean    :230.7   Mean    :146.7
## 3rd Qu.:22.80   3rd Qu.:8.000   3rd Qu.:326.0   3rd Qu.:180.0
## Max.   :33.90   Max.    :8.000   Max.    :472.0   Max.    :335.0
##      drat          wt          qsec          vs
```

```
## Min.      :2.760   Min.      :1.513   Min.      :14.50   Min.      :0.0000
## 1st Qu.:3.080   1st Qu.:2.581   1st Qu.:16.89   1st Qu.:0.0000
## Median :3.695   Median :3.325   Median :17.71   Median :0.0000
## Mean    :3.597   Mean    :3.217   Mean    :17.85   Mean    :0.4375
## 3rd Qu.:3.920   3rd Qu.:3.610   3rd Qu.:18.90   3rd Qu.:1.0000
## Max.    :4.930   Max.    :5.424   Max.    :22.90   Max.    :1.0000
##          am          gear          carb
## Min.      :0.0000   Min.      :3.000   Min.      :1.000
## 1st Qu.:0.0000   1st Qu.:3.000   1st Qu.:2.000
## Median :0.0000   Median :4.000   Median :2.000
## Mean    :0.4062   Mean    :3.688   Mean    :2.812
## 3rd Qu.:1.0000   3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:4.000
## Max.    :1.0000   Max.    :5.000   Max.    :8.000
```

## Build some models

```
# just look at mpg as predicted by horsepower, add weight and 1/4 mile time as covariates
mod1 <- lm(mpg ~ hp , data=mtcars)
mod2 <- lm(mpg ~ hp + wt , data=mtcars)
mod3 <- lm(mpg ~ hp + wt + qsec , data=mtcars)
```

What do we expect:  $\text{corr}(\text{mpg}, \text{hp})$ : negative  $\text{corr}(\text{mpg}, \text{wt})$ : negative  $\text{corr}(\text{mpg}, \text{qsec})$ : positive

## Gaze Some Stars

Formatting stargazer layout for a variety of formats

```
stargazer(mod1, mod2, mod3,
  type="text",
  se = list( sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod1))), sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod2))), sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod3)))) ,
  column.labels = c("hp", "wt+hp", "overfit"))
```

## Text layout

```
##
## =====
##                               Dependent variable:
##                               -----
##                               hp          mpg          overfit
##                               (1)         (2)         (3)
## -----
## hp          -0.068***          -0.032***          -0.018
##              (0.017)           (0.009)           (0.014)
##
## wt          -3.878***          -4.359***
##              (0.769)           (0.950)
##
```

```
## qsec                                0.511
##                                (0.434)
##
## Constant          30.099***          37.227***          27.611***
##                   (2.410)          (2.230)          (7.547)
##
## -----
## Observations          32          32          32
## R2                   0.602          0.827          0.835
## Adjusted R2          0.589          0.815          0.817
## Residual Std. Error   3.863 (df = 30)    2.593 (df = 29)    2.578 (df = 28)
## F Statistic          45.460*** (df = 1; 30) 69.211*** (df = 2; 29) 47.153*** (df = 3; 28)
## =====
## Note:                                *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
```

**Important note on parsimony** when we added `qsec` in, the standard errors on `hp` AND `wt` both increased. This is what happens when you have multicollinearity. This is why we tend to like parsimonious models with few extra covariates.

**Side note:** It's a little bit of a pain in the butt to pull out the coefficients from the Heteroskedastic Consistent `vcov` matrix you can see below for the standard errors.

The standard error is 0.0166 and that is a nice standard

**Fancier output formats (latex and html)** You **CAN** output to **latex** or **html**. Warning up top, they don't render in Rstudio. They DO render in the knitted output depending on the specific format you're looking at.

**NOTICE** the `results = 'asis'` up top in the code block header. (all glory to this answer on stackoverflow <https://stackoverflow.com/a/30423627/1992108>)

```
## the results='asis' is important here
## the latex will render in the knitted pdf.
stargazer(mod1,mod2, mod3,
           type="latex",
           se = list( sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod1))),sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod2))) ,sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod3)))) ,
           column.labels = c("hp","wt+hp","overfit"))
```

% Table created by stargazer v.5.2.2 by Marek Hlavac, Harvard University. E-mail: [hlavac@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:hlavac@fas.harvard.edu)  
 % Date and time: Fri, Apr 02, 2021 - 04:06:50 PM

```
## the html will render if knitted to markdown (or html of course)
# this will look BAAAD in the PDF.
stargazer(mod1,mod2, mod3,
           type="html",
           se = list( sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod1))),sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod2))) ,sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod3)))) ,
           column.labels = c("hp","wt+hp","overfit"))
```

Dependent variable:

`mpg`

`hp`

`wt+hp`

Table 1:

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	hp	mpg wt+hp	overfit
	(1)	(2)	(3)
hp	-0.068*** (0.017)	-0.032*** (0.009)	-0.018 (0.014)
wt		-3.878*** (0.769)	-4.359*** (0.950)
qsec			0.511 (0.434)
Constant	30.099*** (2.410)	37.227*** (2.230)	27.611*** (7.547)
Observations	32	32	32
R <sup>2</sup>	0.602	0.827	0.835
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.589	0.815	0.817
Residual Std. Error	3.863 (df = 30)	2.593 (df = 29)	2.578 (df = 28)
F Statistic	45.460*** (df = 1; 30)	69.211*** (df = 2; 29)	47.153*** (df = 3; 28)

Note:

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

overfit

(1)

(2)

(3)

hp

-0.068\*\*\*

-0.032\*\*\*

-0.018

(0.017)

(0.009)

(0.014)

wt

-3.878\*\*\*

-4.359\*\*\*

(0.769)

(0.950)

qsec

0.511

(0.434)  
 Constant  
 30.099\*\*\*  
 37.227\*\*\*  
 27.611\*\*\*  
 (2.410)  
 (2.230)  
 (7.547)  
 Observations  
 32  
 32  
 32  
 R2  
 0.602  
 0.827  
 0.835  
 Adjusted R2  
 0.589  
 0.815  
 0.817  
 Residual Std. Error  
 3.863 (df = 30)  
 2.593 (df = 29)  
 2.578 (df = 28)  
 F Statistic  
 45.460\*\*\* (df = 1; 30)  
 69.211\*\*\* (df = 2; 29)  
 47.153\*\*\* (df = 3; 28)  
 Note:  
 $p < 0.1$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ;  $p < 0.01$

## Direction of Omitted Variable Bias

We can't tell the exact size of the omitted variable bias, but we can tell the direction if we know the **direction of the relationship between the omitted variable and the included input variable (I have labeled it  $\alpha_1$ )** as well as the **direction of the relationship between the omitted variable and the output variable (I have labeled it  $\alpha_2$ )**

This website has a fairly nice table ([link](#)). See the header "Predicting the Direction of Omitted Variable Bias"

- $\alpha_1 = \text{sign}(\text{cor}(x_{\text{omit}}, x_{\text{include}}))$
- $\alpha_2 = \text{sign}(\text{cor}(x_{\text{omit}}, y))$ 
  - This is **technically incorrect** and will not hold true all the time.
  - You should use  $\text{sign}(\beta_2)$  here where  $\beta_2$  is the coefficient associated with your omitted variable if it were included.
  - Often times,  $\alpha_2 = \text{sign}(\beta_2)$  but not all the time. There are a few examples at the end of the document where the assumption that  $\alpha_2 = \text{sign}(\beta_2)$  doesn't hold
- $\alpha_{\text{dir}} = \alpha_1 * \alpha_2$ 
  - As noted above, this should technically be  $\alpha_{\text{dir}} = \alpha_1 * \text{sign}(\beta_2)$

We get the direction of the bias by multiplying  $\alpha_1$  by  $\alpha_2$ .

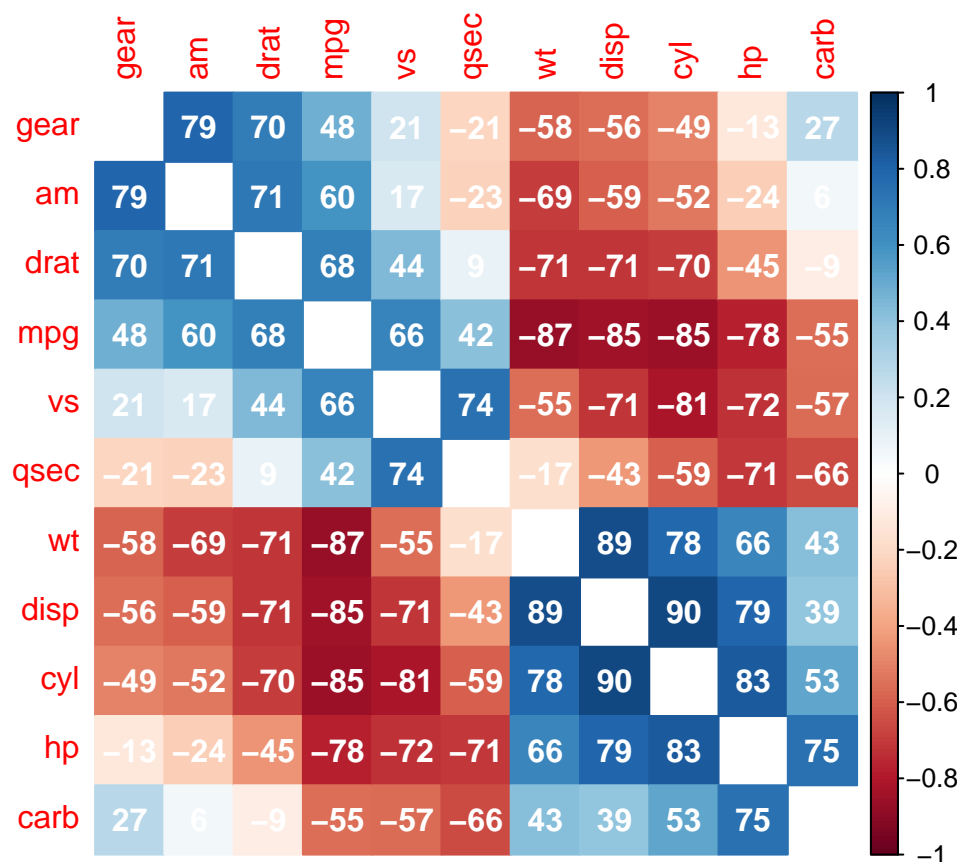
- **If  $\alpha_{\text{dir}}$  is positive**
  - The **coefficient** associated with the included variable in the shortened equation is **larger** than it would be if the omitted variable were included.
    - \* *Larger means more positive in this case. It does NOT mean greater magnitude*
  - Adding in the omitted variable will push the coefficient on the included variable in the negative direction.
- **If  $\alpha_{\text{dir}}$  is negative**
  - The **coefficient** associated with the included variable in the shortened equation is **smaller** than it would be if the omitted variable were included.
    - \* *Smaller means more negative in this case. It does NOT mean lesser magnitude*
  - Adding in the omitted variable will push the coefficient on the included variable in the positive direction.

### More concrete models to view omitted variable bias

We're going to use the `mtcars` data that we introduced in the stargazer discussion to build some models and view the effects of omitting (then including) variables.

We see a correlation plot of the variables in the `mtcars` data below. Blue circles indicate positive correlation, red circles indicate negative correlation.

```
## corplot takes a correlation matrix as an argument
# needs the corplot package
corplot::corplot(cor(mtcars), method = "color", order = "AOE",
                 diag = FALSE, addCoef.col = "white", addCoefasPercent = TRUE)
```



**Estimator Negatively Biased Away from Zero** In the case below, we have an estimator that is biased in the negative direction. Since the coefficient that it is associated with is negative as well we would say it is biased away from zero. We break down the components of the omitted variable bias below.

- $\alpha_1$ : **wt positively** correlated with **hp**
- $\alpha_2$ : **wt negatively** correlated with **mpg**
- $\alpha_{dir}(estimate)$ : **negative** overall

We see that including the omitted variable reduces the negative bias of the coefficient on **hp**. It becomes less negative and moves towards zero.

```
printf("a1 is %d", (a1 <- sign(cor(mtcars$wt,mtcars$hp))))
```

```
## [1] "a1 is 1"
```

```
printf("a2 is %d", (a2 <- sign(cor(mtcars$wt,mtcars$mpg))))
```

```
## [1] "a2 is -1"
```

```
printf("adir(estimate) is %d", (adir <- a1*a2))
```

```
## [1] "adir(estimate) is -1"
```

```
stargazer(mod1, mod2, type = "text")
```

```
##
## =====
##                               Dependent variable:
##                               -----
##                               mpg
##                               (1)           (2)
## -----
## hp                -0.068***           -0.032***
##                   (0.010)           (0.009)
##
## wt                                -3.878***
##                                (0.633)
##
## Constant           30.099***           37.227***
##                   (1.634)           (1.599)
## -----
## Observations           32              32
## R2                     0.602           0.827
## Adjusted R2            0.589           0.815
## Residual Std. Error    3.863 (df = 30)    2.593 (df = 29)
## F Statistic            45.460*** (df = 1; 30) 69.211*** (df = 2; 29)
## =====
## Note:                                *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
```

**Estimator Positively Biased Away from Zero** In the case below, we have an estimator that is biased in the positive direction. Since the coefficient that it is associated with is positive as well we would say it is biased away from zero. We break down the components of the omitted variable bias below.

- $\alpha_1$ : disp **positively** correlated with invq
- $\alpha_2$ : disp **positively** correlated with hp
- $\alpha_{dir}(estimate)$ : **positive** overall

We see that including the omitted variable reduces the positive bias of the coefficient on invq. It becomes less positive and moves towards zero.

```
## this variable is created out of the ether to get all positively correlated variables.
```

```
invq = 1/mtcars$qsec
```

```
sprintf("a1 is %d", (a1 <- sign(cor(mtcars$disp,invq))))
```

```
## [1] "a1 is 1"
```

```
sprintf("a2 is %d", (a2 <- sign(cor(mtcars$disp,mtcars$hp))))
```

```
## [1] "a2 is 1"
```



```
sprintf("adir(estimate) is %d", (adir <- a1*a2))
```

```
## [1] "adir(estimate) is 1"
```

```
mod1 <- lm(data=mtcars, hp ~ invq)
mod2 <- lm(data=mtcars, hp ~ invq + disp)
stargazer(mod1, mod2, type = "text")
```

```
##
## =====
##                               Dependent variable:
##                               -----
##                               hp
##                               (1)          (2)
## -----
## invq                9,058.347***      6,050.442***
##                   (1,485.284)      (1,038.113)
##
## disp                0.320***
##                   (0.047)
##
## Constant            -365.715***      -269.449***
##                   (84.420)      (55.212)
##
## -----
## Observations                32          32
## R2                        0.554          0.828
## Adjusted R2                0.539          0.816
## Residual Std. Error    46.570 (df = 30)    29.436 (df = 29)
## F Statistic            37.194*** (df = 1; 30) 69.593*** (df = 2; 29)
## =====
## Note:                      *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
```

**Estimator Positively Biased Towards Zero (SOME ASSUMPTIONS BREAK)** In the case below, we have an estimator that is biased in the Positive direction. Since the coefficient that it is associated with is negative we would say it is biased towards zero. We break down the components of the omitted variable bias below.

We see that including the omitted variable reduces the positive bias of the coefficient on `cyl`. It becomes more negative and moves away from zero.

**Directional Estimator Breakdown** Our estimated bias direction based on correlations is:

- $\alpha_1$ : **vs negatively** correlated with `cyl`
- $\alpha_2$ : **vs positively** correlated with `mpg`
- $\alpha_{dir}(estimate)$ : **negative** overall

Our correct bias direction which is based on  $\beta_2$  is:

- $\alpha_1$ : **vs negatively** correlated with `cyl`
- $\beta_2$ : is a **negative** coefficient in the full regression
- $\alpha_{dir}(correct)$ : **positive** overall

**What's the Lesson?** Obviously, this breakdown of our directional bias estimator is distressing. You would like to think that you can at least predict the direction of your bias on omitted variables. Obviously in the real world you probably can't actually see if  $\text{sign}(\beta_2)$  is different than  $\alpha_2$  because that would require finding  $\beta_2$ , which would require running the regression including the omitted variable. If you could do that, then you wouldn't need this whole exercise on estimating the bias associated with omitting the variable in the first place.

This should just drive home the fact that causality is hard. Even basic things like predicting direction on omitted variable bias are fraught with counter-intuitive examples. You really need an experiment to determine causality. If that interests you, might I suggest the w241 course.

```
sprintf("a1 is %d", (a1 <- sign(cor(mtcars$vs,mtcars$cyl))))
```

```
## [1] "a1 is -1"
```

```
sprintf("a2 is %d", (a2 <- sign(cor(mtcars$vs,mtcars$mpg))))
```

```
## [1] "a2 is 1"
```

```
sprintf("adir(estimate) is %d", (adir <- a1*a2))
```

```
## [1] "adir(estimate) is -1"
```

```
mod1 <- lm(data=mtcars, mpg ~ cyl)
mod2 <- lm(data=mtcars, mpg ~ cyl + vs)
mod3 <- lm(data=mtcars, mpg ~ vs)
stargazer(mod1, mod2, mod3, type = "text")
```

```
##
## =====
##                               Dependent variable:
##                               -----
##                               mpg
##                               (1)      (2)      (3)
## -----
## cyl                -2.876***      -3.091***
##                   (0.322)      (0.558)
##
## vs                      -0.939      7.940***
##                   (1.978)      (1.632)
##
## Constant            37.885***      39.625***      16.617***
##                   (2.074)      (4.225)      (1.080)
##
## -----
## Observations                32                32                32
## R2                        0.726                0.728                0.441
## Adjusted R2                0.717                0.710                0.422
## Residual Std. Error    3.206 (df = 30)      3.248 (df = 29)      4.581 (df = 30)
## F Statistic           79.561*** (df = 1; 30) 38.866*** (df = 2; 29) 23.662*** (df = 1; 30)
## =====
## Note:                                *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
```

## EDA charts that I like

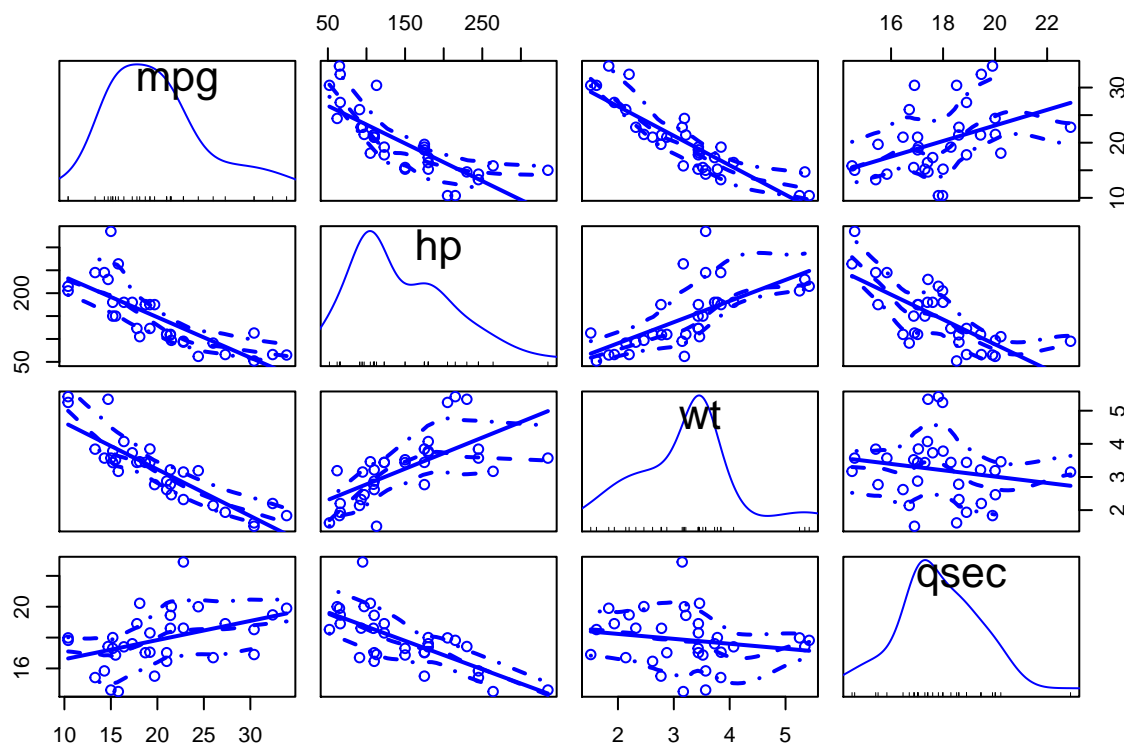
### Corrplot

I like `corrplot()` I used it above. Very quick and easy way to check correlations. I'm not sure if the default color template has accessibility issues for the color blind. It looks like it might, but you should be able to add numbers or use `method="ellipse"` to account for that.

### Scatter Plot Matrix.

I really like `scatterplotMatrix()` you can think of it as a more advanced/dense version of the `corrplot`. The price you pay for the increased information density is that your plots end up being busier and harder to interpret at a glance than the comparable `corrplot()`. I personally wouldn't do it with more than about 4 variables.

```
## Plot a scatterplot matrix
# requires the car package
car::scatterplotMatrix(mtcars[,c("mpg", "hp", "wt", "qsec")])
```



### Plot a model

There are some really good diagnostic charts that come up if you just put your model inside a plot command. We will cover the interpretation of these charts later in the course. You can use `par` to make a grid of charts for your diagnostics to map onto. That can make your reports cleaner.

```
par(mfrow = c(2,2), oma = c(0,0,0,0)) #oma = outside margins plot(basemodel)
plot(mod2)
```

