

# Assignment 2 Jiaxu Han

October 16, 2018

## 1 MACS30000 Assignment 2

### 1.1 Jiaxu Han

```
In [1]: # import packages
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
import numpy as np

#turn off notebook package warnings
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
```

### 1.2 1. Imputing age and gender

#### 1.2.1 (a)

Both BestIncome and SurveyIncome dataset have "weight" as a variable. From the descriptive statistics of both datasets, we can see that the mean of total income (64871.210860) is about the same as the sum of mean capital income (57052.925133) and mean labor income (9985.798563). If we would like to impute age and gender variables from SurveyIncome to BestIncome, my strategy is to analyze the relationship among weight, total income, age and gender from SurveyIncome dataset, and use that information to infer the age and gender of people in BestIncome dataset since weight, capital income and labor income was given in that dataset.

In order to build models to model the relationship among age, gender and weight, we start by visualizing the data to acquire a sense of what the relationships among those variables (weight, age, and gender) look like.

The first plot depicted the relationship between weight and gender. Since gender is a categorical variable, here we apply logistic regression model to depict the relationship between gender, weight and total income:

$$\text{gender} = \frac{e^{a+b \cdot \text{weight} + c \cdot \text{total income}}}{e^{a+b \cdot \text{weight} + c \cdot \text{total income}} + 1}.$$

The dependent variable (gender) indicates the probability of being female given a certain weight and . If 'gender' is above 0.5, we would infer that the person is a female, otherwise, we infer that the person is a male.

The second plot depicted the relationship between age and weight. Adding total income as an additional independent variable, we have a regression model to predict age:

$$age = a + b \cdot weight + c \cdot total\ income$$

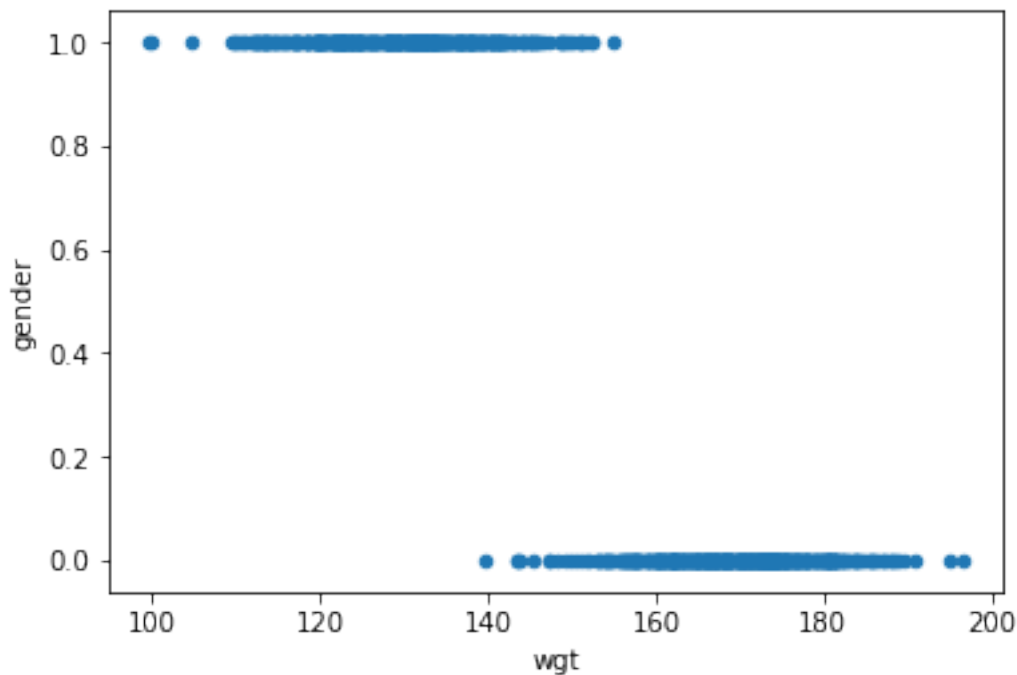
Once we have the parameters in both models proposed above by analyzing SurveyIncome dataset, we would use that to first infer the gender given weight, capital income and labor income value in BestIncome dataset. Then, we use the linear regression models to infer age given weight, capital income and labor income value in BestIncome dataset.

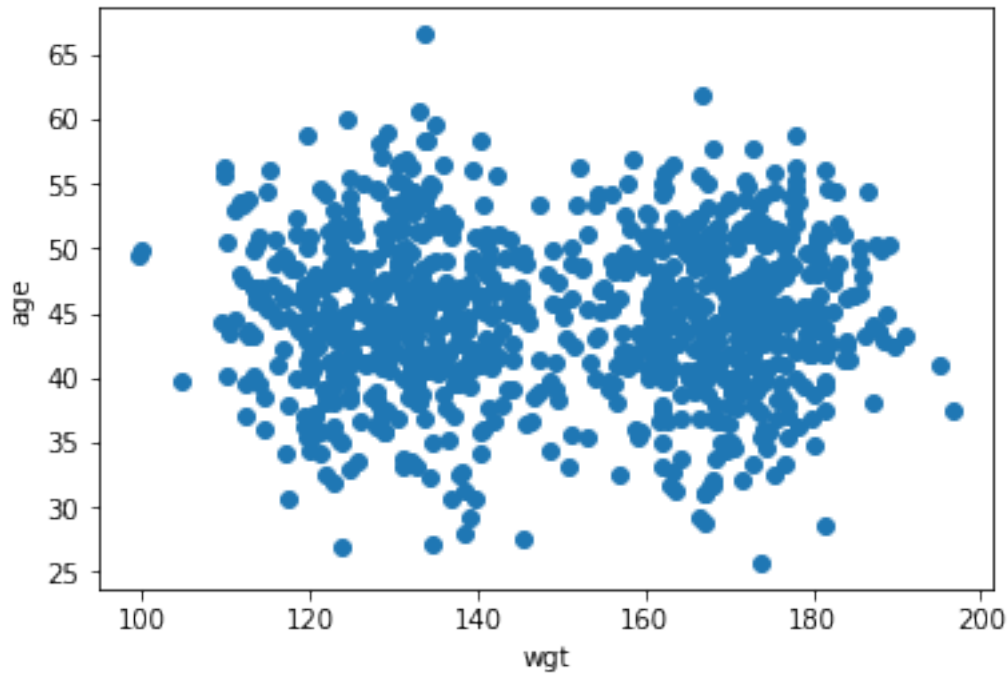
In [2]: *#read in data and name variables*

```
best_income = pd.read_csv('BestIncome.txt', names = ['lab_inc', 'cap_inc', 'hgt', 'wgt', 'age', 'gender'])
survey_income = pd.read_csv('SurvIncome.txt', names = ['tot_inc', 'wgt', 'age', 'gender'])
```

In [3]: *# visualize the relationship between gender, weight and age*

```
survey_income.plot('wgt', 'gender', kind = 'scatter')
plt.show()
plt.scatter(survey_income.wgt, survey_income.age)
plt.xlabel('wgt')
plt.ylabel('age')
plt.show()
```





```
In [4]: # descriptive statistics
print(survey_income.describe())
```

|       | tot_inc      | wgt         | age         | gender      |
|-------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| count | 1000.000000  | 1000.000000 | 1000.000000 | 1000.000000 |
| mean  | 64871.210860 | 149.542181  | 44.839320   | 0.500000    |
| std   | 9542.444214  | 22.028883   | 5.939185    | 0.500250    |
| min   | 31816.281649 | 99.662468   | 25.741333   | 0.000000    |
| 25%   | 58349.862384 | 130.179235  | 41.025231   | 0.000000    |
| 50%   | 65281.271149 | 149.758434  | 44.955981   | 0.500000    |
| 75%   | 71749.038000 | 170.147337  | 48.817644   | 1.000000    |
| max   | 92556.135462 | 196.503274  | 66.534646   | 1.000000    |

```
In [5]: print(best_income.describe())
```

|       | lab_inc      | cap_inc      | hgt          | wgt          |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| count | 10000.000000 | 10000.000000 | 10000.000000 | 10000.000000 |
| mean  | 57052.925133 | 9985.798563  | 65.014021    | 150.006011   |
| std   | 8036.544363  | 2010.123691  | 1.999692     | 9.973001     |
| min   | 22917.607900 | 1495.191896  | 58.176154    | 114.510700   |
| 25%   | 51624.339880 | 8611.756679  | 63.652971    | 143.341979   |
| 50%   | 56968.709935 | 9969.840117  | 65.003557    | 149.947641   |
| 75%   | 62408.232277 | 11339.905773 | 66.356915    | 156.724586   |
| max   | 90059.898537 | 19882.320069 | 72.802277    | 185.408280   |

### 1.2.2 (b)

```
In [6]: #logistic regression
logmodel = smf.logit(formula = "gender ~ wgt + tot_inc", data = survey_income).fit()
print(logmodel.summary())
```

Optimization terminated successfully.

Current function value: 0.036050

Iterations 11

#### Logit Regression Results

|                |                  |          |                   |            |        |           |
|----------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| =====          |                  |          |                   |            |        |           |
| Dep. Variable: | gender           |          | No. Observations: | 1000       |        |           |
| Model:         | Logit            |          | Df Residuals:     | 997        |        |           |
| Method:        | MLE              |          | Df Model:         | 2          |        |           |
| Date:          | Tue, 16 Oct 2018 |          | Pseudo R-squ.:    | 0.9480     |        |           |
| Time:          | 21:39:33         |          | Log-Likelihood:   | -36.050    |        |           |
| converged:     | True             |          | LL-Null:          | -693.15    |        |           |
|                |                  |          | LLR p-value:      | 4.232e-286 |        |           |
| =====          |                  |          |                   |            |        |           |
|                | coef             | std err  | z                 | P> z       | [0.025 | 0.975]    |
| -----          |                  |          |                   |            |        |           |
| Intercept      | 76.7929          | 10.569   | 7.266             | 0.000      | 56.078 | 97.508    |
| wgt            | -0.4460          | 0.062    | -7.219            | 0.000      | -0.567 | -0.325    |
| tot_inc        | -0.0002          | 4.25e-05 | -3.660            | 0.000      | -0.000 | -7.22e-05 |
| =====          |                  |          |                   |            |        |           |

Possibly complete quasi-separation: A fraction 0.55 of observations can be perfectly predicted. This might indicate that there is complete quasi-separation. In this case some parameters will not be identified.

```
In [7]: #linear regression
outcome = 'age'
features = ['wgt', 'tot_inc']
x,y = survey_income[features], survey_income[outcome]
x = sm.add_constant(x, prepend = False)
m = sm.OLS(y, x)
res = m.fit()
print(res.summary())
```

#### OLS Regression Results

|                   |                  |                     |         |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------|
| =====             |                  |                     |         |
| Dep. Variable:    | age              | R-squared:          | 0.001   |
| Model:            | OLS              | Adj. R-squared:     | -0.001  |
| Method:           | Least Squares    | F-statistic:        | 0.6326  |
| Date:             | Tue, 16 Oct 2018 | Prob (F-statistic): | 0.531   |
| Time:             | 21:39:36         | Log-Likelihood:     | -3199.4 |
| No. Observations: | 1000             | AIC:                | 6405.   |
| Df Residuals:     | 997              | BIC:                | 6419.   |
| =====             |                  |                     |         |

```

Df Model:                2
Covariance Type:         nonrobust
=====
              coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025      0.975]
-----
wgt          -0.0067       0.010      -0.686      0.493      -0.026       0.013
tot_inc       2.52e-05     2.26e-05       1.114      0.266     -1.92e-05     6.96e-05
const        44.2097       1.490      29.666      0.000       41.285      47.134
=====
Omnibus:                2.460   Durbin-Watson:                1.921
Prob(Omnibus):           0.292   Jarque-Bera (JB):                2.322
Skew:                   -0.109   Prob(JB):                  0.313
Kurtosis:               3.092   Cond. No.                  5.20e+05
=====

```

Warnings:

- [1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.
- [2] The condition number is large, 5.2e+05. This might indicate that there are strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

In [8]: *#prediction of model*

```

#impute gender variable in BestIncome dataset
best_income['tot_inc'] = best_income['cap_inc'] + best_income['lab_inc']

best_income['gender'] = logmodel.predict(best_income[['wgt', 'tot_inc']])

for i in range(len(best_income)):
    if best_income['gender'][i] >= 0.5:
        best_income['gender'][i] = 1
    else:
        best_income['gender'][i] = 0

```

In [9]: `print(best_income.describe())`

```

      count      lab_inc      cap_inc      hgt      wgt      tot_inc  \
count  10000.000000  10000.000000  10000.000000  10000.000000  10000.000000
mean    57052.925133   9985.798563    65.014021    150.006011   67038.723697
std      8036.544363   2010.123691     1.999692      9.973001    8294.497996
min     22917.607900   1495.191896    58.176154   114.510700   33651.691815
25%     51624.339880   8611.756679    63.652971   143.341979   61452.517672
50%     56968.709935   9969.840117    65.003557   149.947641   67042.751487
75%     62408.232277  11339.905773    66.356915   156.724586   72636.874684
max     90059.898537  19882.320069    72.802277   185.408280   98996.053756

      gender
count  10000.000000

```

```

mean      0.454600
std       0.497959
min       0.000000
25%      0.000000
50%      0.000000
75%      1.000000
max       1.000000

```

```

In [10]: #impute age variable in BestIncome dataset
         best_income['age']=np.zeros(len(best_income))

         def get_age(wgt, tot_inc):
             age = -0.0067 * wgt + 2.52*(10**(-5))*tot_inc + 44.2097
             return age

         for i in range(len(best_income)):
             best_income['age'][i] = get_age(best_income['wgt'][i],best_income['tot_inc'][i])

```

```

In [11]: print(best_income.head())

```

|   | lab_inc      | cap_inc      | hgt       | wgt        | tot_inc      | gender | \ |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|--------|---|
| 0 | 52655.605507 | 9279.509829  | 64.568138 | 152.920634 | 61935.115336 | 0.0    |   |
| 1 | 70586.979225 | 9451.016902  | 65.727648 | 159.534414 | 80037.996127 | 0.0    |   |
| 2 | 53738.008339 | 8078.132315  | 66.268796 | 152.502405 | 61816.140654 | 0.0    |   |
| 3 | 55128.180903 | 12692.670403 | 62.910559 | 149.218189 | 67820.851305 | 0.0    |   |
| 4 | 44482.794867 | 9812.975746  | 68.678295 | 152.726358 | 54295.770612 | 1.0    |   |

|   | age       |
|---|-----------|
| 0 | 44.745897 |
| 1 | 45.157777 |
| 2 | 44.745701 |
| 3 | 44.919024 |
| 4 | 44.554687 |

### 1.2.3 (c)

From the results below, we can see that the mean age is 44.894036; standard deviation of age is 0.219066; the minimum age is 43.980016; the maximum age is 45.706849; and the number of observation is 10000.

The mean gender is 0.454600; the standard deviation of gender is 0.497959; the minimum gender is 0.000000(i.e. male) and the maximum gender is 1.000000(i.e. female); and the number of observation is 10000.

```

In [12]: print(best_income['age'].describe())

```

```

count      10000.000000
mean        44.894036

```

```

std          0.219066
min          43.980016
25%          44.747065
50%          44.890281
75%          45.042239
max          45.706849
Name: age, dtype: float64

```

```
In [13]: print(best_income['gender'].describe())
```

```

count      10000.000000
mean        0.454600
std         0.497959
min         0.000000
25%         0.000000
50%         0.000000
75%         1.000000
max         1.000000
Name: gender, dtype: float64

```

#### 1.2.4 (d) correlation matrix for the now six variables

```
In [14]: del best_income['tot_inc']
```

```

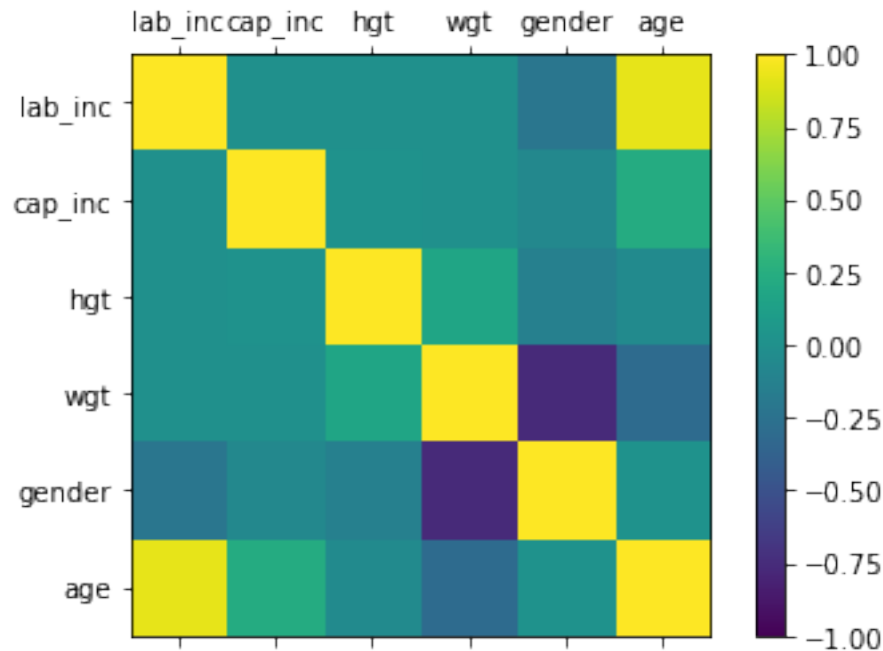
# Correlation Matrix Plot
def corr_plot(df):
    names = df.columns
    N = len(names)

    correlations = df.corr()
    fig = plt.figure()
    ax = fig.add_subplot(111)
    cax = ax.matshow(correlations, vmin=-1, vmax=1)
    fig.colorbar(cax)
    ticks = np.arange(0,N,1)
    ax.set_xticks(ticks)
    ax.set_yticks(ticks)
    ax.set_xticklabels(names)
    ax.set_yticklabels(names)
    plt.show()

corr_plot(best_income)

#Matrix Form
corr = best_income.corr()
corr.style.background_gradient()

```



Out[14]: <pandas.io.formats.style.Styler at 0x1c2497e048>

## 1.3 2. Stationarity and Data Drift

### 1.3.1 (a) Estimate by OLS and report coefficients

```
In [15]: # read in data and name variable
incomeintel = pd.read_csv("IncomeIntel.txt", names = ['grad_year', 'gre_qnt', 'salary_p4'])
```

```
In [16]: print(incomeintel.describe())
```

|       | grad_year   | gre_qnt     | salary_p4     |
|-------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| count | 1000.000000 | 1000.000000 | 1000.000000   |
| mean  | 2006.994000 | 596.510118  | 74173.293777  |
| std   | 3.740582    | 242.361960  | 12173.767372  |
| min   | 2001.000000 | 141.261398  | 43179.183141  |
| 25%   | 2004.000000 | 684.983551  | 65778.240317  |
| 50%   | 2007.000000 | 719.106878  | 73674.204810  |
| 75%   | 2010.000000 | 739.332537  | 81838.874129  |
| max   | 2013.000000 | 799.715533  | 115367.665815 |

```
In [17]: # regression model
x = incomeintel['gre_qnt']
y = incomeintel['salary_p4']
```



```
x = sm.add_constant(x, prepend = False)
m = sm.OLS(y,x)
res = m.fit()
print(res.summary())
```

```

                        OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          salary_p4      R-squared:                0.263
Model:                  OLS           Adj. R-squared:            0.262
Method:                 Least Squares  F-statistic:              356.3
Date:                  Tue, 16 Oct 2018  Prob (F-statistic):       3.43e-68
Time:                  21:41:06         Log-Likelihood:          -10673.
No. Observations:      1000           AIC:                    2.135e+04
Df Residuals:          998           BIC:                    2.136e+04
Df Model:               1
Covariance Type:       nonrobust
=====

```

|         | coef      | std err | t       | P> t  | [0.025   | 0.975]   |
|---------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|----------|----------|
| gre_qnt | -25.7632  | 1.365   | -18.875 | 0.000 | -28.442  | -23.085  |
| const   | 8.954e+04 | 878.764 | 101.895 | 0.000 | 8.78e+04 | 9.13e+04 |

```

=====
Omnibus:                 9.118    Durbin-Watson:                1.424
Prob(Omnibus):           0.010    Jarque-Bera (JB):          9.100
Skew:                    0.230    Prob(JB):                  0.0106
Kurtosis:                3.077    Cond. No.:                 1.71e+03
=====

```

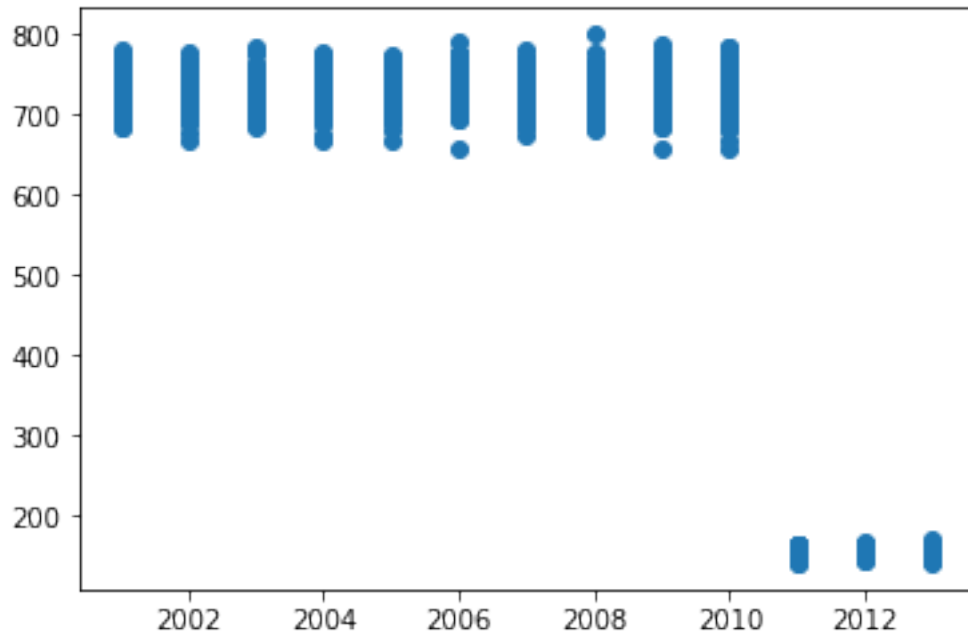
Warnings:

- [1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.
- [2] The condition number is large, 1.71e+03. This might indicate that there are strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

From above table, the coefficients for the regression model are: -25.7632 for gre\_qnt with standard error of 1.365 and it was statistically significant; 8.954e+04 with standard error of 878.764.

### 1.3.2 (b) Scatterplot of GRE score and graduation year

```
In [18]: plt.scatter(incomeintel['grad_year'], incomeintel['gre_qnt'])
plt.show()
```



The GRE quantitative scoring scale changed in 2011: the full score of GRE quantitative test was 800 and it became 170 since 2011. Therefore, in the plot we can see that scores after 2010 dropped significantly. Such system drift would cause algorithmic confounding when we use it to do regression in (a) without any modification, because the sudden drop of scores in 2011 was not a result of people's behavior but a result of systemic change.

Therefore, in order to solve this problem, we need to convert the new scale to the old scale to make sure that the dependent variable (`gre_gnt`) was systemically consistent over the years. Since the old gre scale was from 200 to 800 and the new gre scale is from 130 to 170. Given one's new gre score  $x$ , his/her old gre score  $y$  would be  $y = x/170*800$ . After converting the new scale to the old scale, we will use the converted gre score as the new dependent variable to do regression again.

```
In [19]: def conversion (new_gre_score):
          old_gre_score = new_gre_score/170*800
          return old_gre_score

          for i, val in enumerate(incomeintel['gre_qnt']):
              if val < 200:
                  incomeintel['gre_qnt'][i] = conversion(val)

          #linear regression model
          x = incomeintel['gre_qnt']
          y = incomeintel['salary_p4']

          x = sm.add_constant(x, prepend = False)
          m = sm.OLS(y,x)
          res = m.fit()
          print(res.summary())
```

# OLS Regression Results

```
=====
Dep. Variable:          salary_p4      R-squared:                0.000
Model:                  OLS            Adj. R-squared:          -0.001
Method:                 Least Squares   F-statistic:              0.06026
Date:                   Tue, 16 Oct 2018 Prob (F-statistic):       0.806
Time:                   21:41:12        Log-Likelihood:           -10825.
No. Observations:       1000           AIC:                     2.165e+04
Df Residuals:           998           BIC:                     2.166e+04
Df Model:                1
Covariance Type:        nonrobust
=====
```

```
=====
              coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025      0.975]
-----
gre_qnt      -4.0048      16.315      -0.245      0.806      -36.020      28.011
const        7.709e+04     1.19e+04       6.482      0.000      5.38e+04      1e+05
=====
```

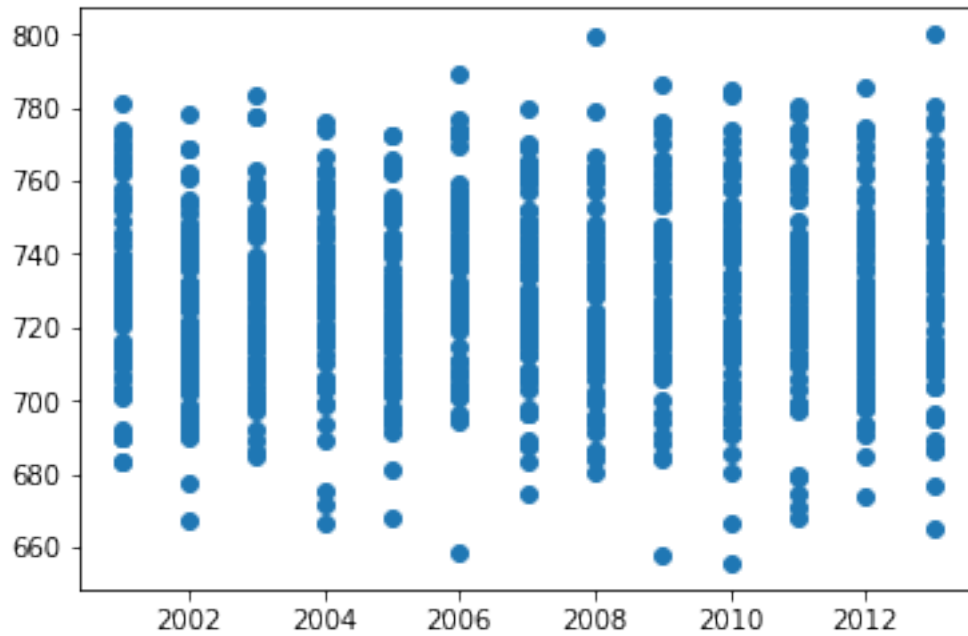
```
=====
Omnibus:                16.601      Durbin-Watson:           1.052
Prob(Omnibus):           0.000      Jarque-Bera (JB):         17.193
Skew:                    0.315      Prob(JB):                 0.000185
Kurtosis:                 2.874      Cond. No.                  2.25e+04
=====
```

## Warnings:

- [1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.
- [2] The condition number is large, 2.25e+04. This might indicate that there are strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

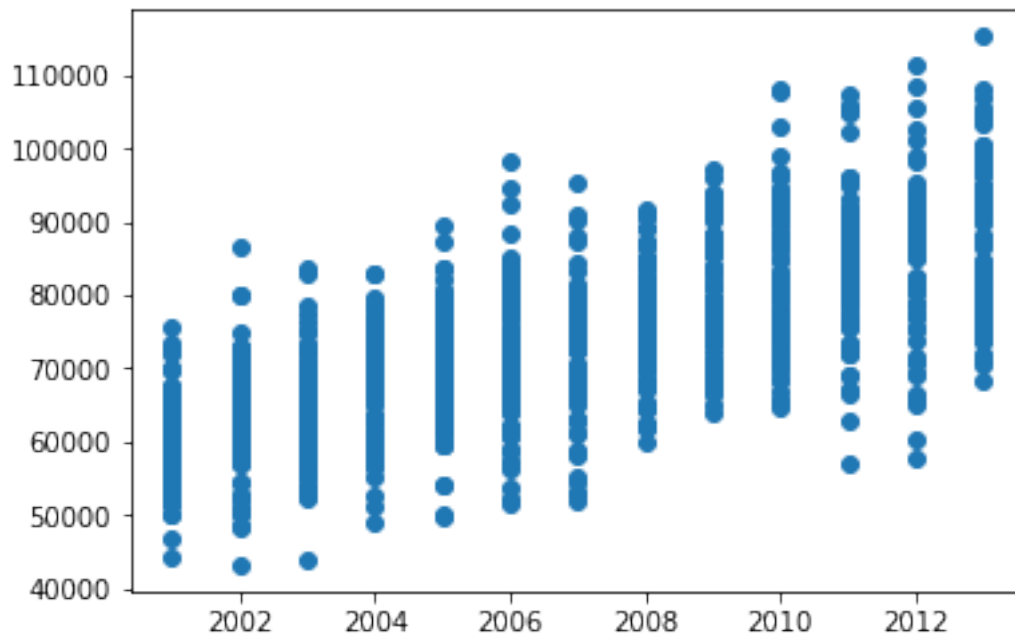
```
In [20]: print(incomeintel.describe())
         plt.scatter(incomeintel['grad_year'], incomeintel['gre_qnt'])
         plt.show()
```

|       | grad_year   | gre_qnt     | salary_p4     |
|-------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| count | 1000.000000 | 1000.000000 | 1000.000000   |
| mean  | 2006.994000 | 728.534611  | 74173.293777  |
| std   | 3.740582    | 23.619014   | 12173.767372  |
| min   | 2001.000000 | 655.702537  | 43179.183141  |
| 25%   | 2004.000000 | 712.274822  | 65778.240317  |
| 50%   | 2007.000000 | 727.910127  | 73674.204810  |
| 75%   | 2010.000000 | 744.392487  | 81838.874129  |
| max   | 2013.000000 | 800.000000  | 115367.665815 |



### 1.3.3 (c) Create a scatterplot of income and graduation year

```
In [21]: plt.scatter(incomeintel['grad_year'], incomeintel['salary_p4'])
plt.show()
```



Because these data are not panel data, i.e. the persons observed every year are not the same, we cannot use differencing or log differencing methods to detrend them here.

The solution here is to: (1) treat the first year of the data year = 2001 equal to the base year. (2) calculate the average growth rate in salary by calculating the mean salary each year and then calculating the average growth rate in salaries across 13 years. (3) to stationarize the data, we divide each salary by  $(1 + \text{average growth rate})^{(\text{graduate year} - 2001)}$

```
In [22]: avg_inc_by_year = incomeintel['salary_p4'].groupby(incomeintel['grad_year']).mean()

avg_growth_rate = []
for i in range(2001, 2013):
    val = (avg_inc_by_year[i+1] - avg_inc_by_year[i])/avg_inc_by_year[i]
    avg_growth_rate.append(val)
avg_growth_rate = np.mean(avg_growth_rate)

salary_p4_new = []
for i, y in enumerate(incomeintel['grad_year']):
    salary_p4_new.append(incomeintel['salary_p4'][i]/((1+avg_growth_rate)**(y-2001)))

grad_year = incomeintel['grad_year']
grad_year = sm.add_constant(grad_year, prepend = False)
model_rev = sm.OLS(salary_p4_new, grad_year)
res = model_rev.fit()
print(res.summary())

incomeintel['salary_p4_new'] = salary_p4_new
```

#### OLS Regression Results

```
=====
Dep. Variable:          y      R-squared:                0.000
Model:                  OLS    Adj. R-squared:            -0.001
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:        0.2937
Date:                  Tue, 16 Oct 2018    Prob (F-statistic):    0.588
Time:                  21:41:17    Log-Likelihood:       -10291.
No. Observations:      1000    AIC:                  2.059e+04
Df Residuals:          998    BIC:                  2.060e+04
Df Model:               1
Covariance Type:       nonrobust
=====
```

|           | coef       | std err  | t      | P> t  | [0.025    | 0.975]   |
|-----------|------------|----------|--------|-------|-----------|----------|
| grad_year | 32.7192    | 60.376   | 0.542  | 0.588 | -85.759   | 151.197  |
| const     | -4247.3842 | 1.21e+05 | -0.035 | 0.972 | -2.42e+05 | 2.34e+05 |

```
=====
Omnibus:                0.713    Durbin-Watson:        2.027
Prob(Omnibus):          0.700    Jarque-Bera (JB):      0.630
Skew:                   0.057    Prob(JB):              0.730
Kurtosis:               3.044    Cond. No.              1.08e+06
=====
```

=====

Warnings:

- [1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.
- [2] The condition number is large, 1.08e+06. This might indicate that there are strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

#### 1.3.4 (d)

```
In [23]: x = incomeintel['gre_qnt']
        y = incomeintel['salary_p4_new']

        x = sm.add_constant(x, prepend = False)
        m = sm.OLS(y,x)
        res = m.fit()
        print(res.summary())
```

##### OLS Regression Results

```
=====
Dep. Variable:          salary_p4_new    R-squared:                0.001
Model:                  OLS              Adj. R-squared:          -0.000
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:             0.6043
Date:                  Tue, 16 Oct 2018  Prob (F-statistic):       0.437
Time:                  21:41:19          Log-Likelihood:          -10291.
No. Observations:      1000             AIC:                   2.059e+04
Df Residuals:          998              BIC:                   2.060e+04
Df Model:               1
Covariance Type:       nonrobust
=====
```

|         | coef      | std err  | t      | P> t  | [0.025   | 0.975]   |
|---------|-----------|----------|--------|-------|----------|----------|
| gre_qnt | -7.4321   | 9.560    | -0.777 | 0.437 | -26.193  | 11.329   |
| const   | 6.683e+04 | 6968.684 | 9.591  | 0.000 | 5.32e+04 | 8.05e+04 |

```
=====
Omnibus:                0.789    Durbin-Watson:                2.025
Prob(Omnibus):          0.674    Jarque-Bera (JB):           0.698
Skew:                   0.060    Prob(JB):                   0.705
Kurtosis:               3.050    Cond. No.                   2.25e+04
=====
```

Warnings:

- [1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.
- [2] The condition number is large, 2.25e+04. This might indicate that there are strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

From above table, the new estimated coefficients for gre score now become -7.4321 with standard error of 9.560; and 6.683e+04 for the constant with standard error of 2020.482. The gre score and salary had a statistically significant negative relationship in part (a) with coefficient of -25.7642, and now though they still have a negative relationship, it is NOT statistically significant. In part (a), the IncomeIntel dataset had both systemic drifting (with gre scale changes) and population drifting for salary. Therefore, the regression model was biased in part (a). After rescaling the gre data and stationary the salary in the dataset, we are able to better predict the relationship between salary and gre score here.

In the new model, the negative relationship between gre score and salary was not statistically significant with p-value = 0.437 for the coefficient. The new model does not provide evidence to support the hypothesis that "higher intelligence is associated with higher income".

### 1.4 3. Assessment of Kossinets and Watts (2009)

Kossinets and Watts (2009) were interested in the origins of homophily. The main research question of this paper is: the observed choices of interaction partners and homogeneity of structurally proximate positions are a result of structural proximity or a result of individual preference for similarity?

Three sources of data were incorporated into the study: (1) the logs of e-mail interactions within the university over one academic year, (2) a database of individual attributes(status, gender, age, department, number of years in the community, etc.), and (3) records of course registration, in which courses were recorded separately for each semester.

To answer the question of how many observations in the research study, we need to clarify the observed object first. If the object is each individual (stable e-mail users), then there are 30,396 observations used in the analysis. If the object is the e-mail message that is exchanged, then there are 7,156,162 observations were recorded. In addition, the data spans 270 days.

In this paper, Appendix A provides a detailed description and definition of all the variables.

A potential problem from the data cleaning process is that the researchers only included messages that were sent to a single recipient other than the sender to make sure that the data represent interpersonal communication. Such data cleaning process resulted in excluding 12% of all emails. Though it makes sense that a student send a message to himself/herself cannot be accounted for interpersonal communication, but there might be many group messages that would be helpful in terms of answering the research question. For example, a research lab often has group emails to coordinate, a student who wants to hold a party may send group emails to schedule time, and students may send group emails to do group projects. More importantly, many people might make friends and have more interpersonal communications via joining these group activities. In sum, excluding these data might lead to a loss of unique resource that represent homophily.

In the paper, the researchers used email logs linked to other characteristics of senders and receivers as the data to match the theoretical construct of "social relationship". Though it is a good and convenient source of data to use, it has its own weaknesses. For example, e-mail exchanges comprise discrete and intermittent "spike trains" that are often "bursty" in nature (Kossinets & Watts, 2009), which makes it difficult to observe the development of social network over continuous time frame. To address this problem, the researchers applied a method called a sliding window filter. The method used the geometric average of the number of messages exchanged by users  $i$  and  $j$  per unit of time, summed over the past  $t$  time units to define the instantaneous strength between an interacting dyad.