Multivariate Regressions

Michele Coscia

First Year Project #1

February 17th, 2022

Lecture Plan

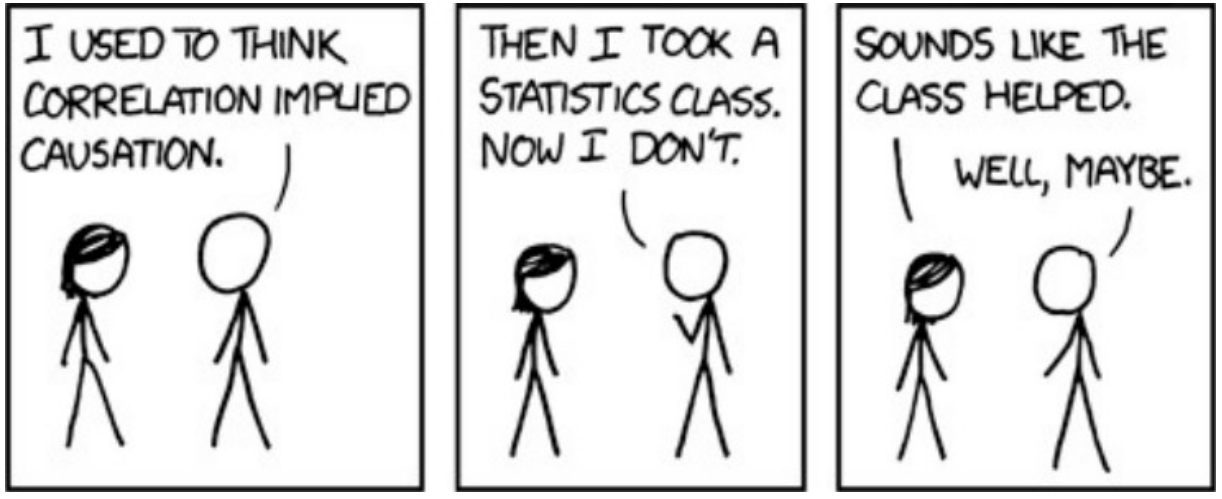
1) (February 8th) Intro
2) (February 10th) Geospatial Basics
3) (February 15th) Estimating Associations
4) **(Today) Multivariate Regression**
5) (February 22nd) Interventions
6) (February 24th) Project Run Through
7) (March 1st) Q&A – Open Supervision
8) (March 3rd) Q&A – Open Supervision

Outline

- Multivariate Regression Basics
- Fixed Effects
- Clustered Standard Errors

Multivariate Regression Basics

Always Remember



Correlation != Causation

- Because X & Y could be both dependent on Z
- Pearson cannot handle this
- Multivariate regression can!
- You can control for Z
- → Investigate the effect of X keeping Z constant

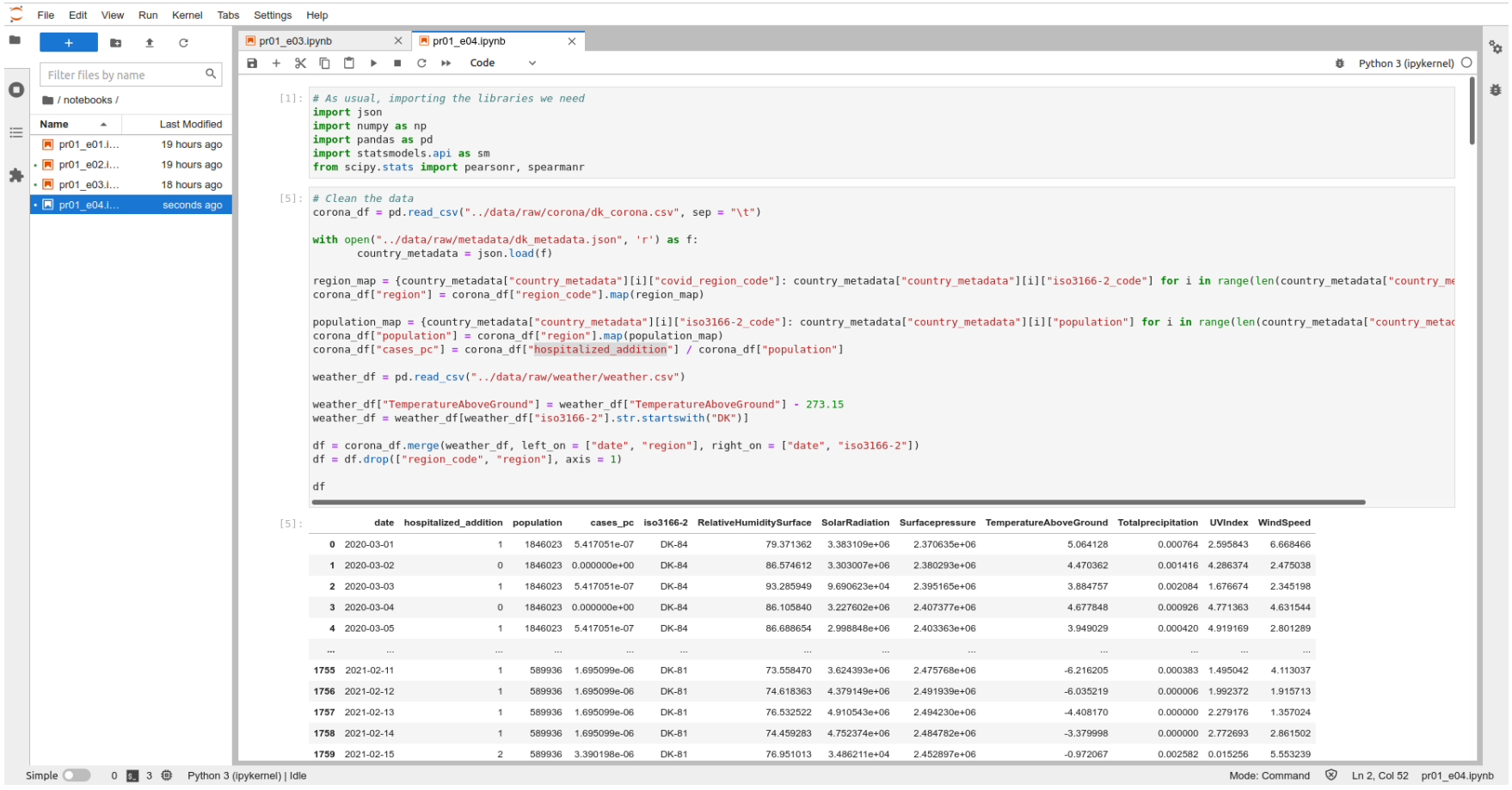
Multivariate regression is still not enough!

- Linear, just like Pearson
- Finding all Zs is hard
- Some controls are bad!
- It won’t tell you if X → Y or Y → X
- Causality is hard...

Linearity

- Running a regression comes with assumptions
- Non-linear data normally break these assumptions
- Hard way: check the assumption list and satisfy them
- For now: log-transform

Let’s Get Started!



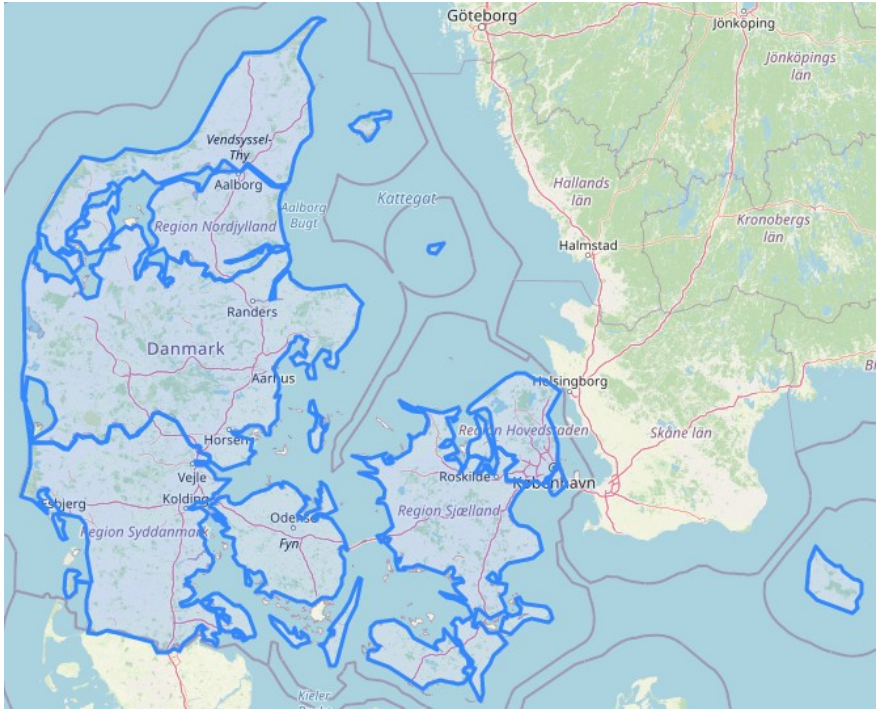
Fixed Effects

Problem

- Sometimes you **know** something affected your outcome
- You just don’t have any measure for it
- In our case: different local governments work differently

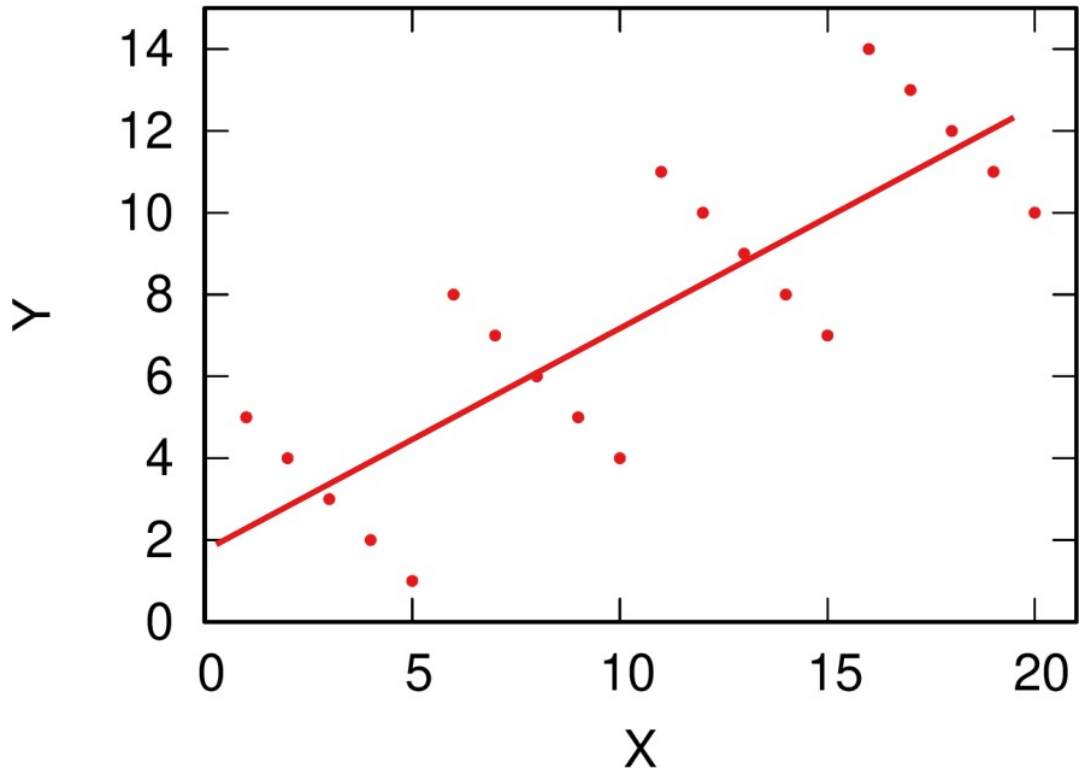
Fixed Effects

- You know your observations belong to specific groups
  - In our case, Danish regions
- The avg of each group is fixed
- Everything that group does differently from the other groups is captured here



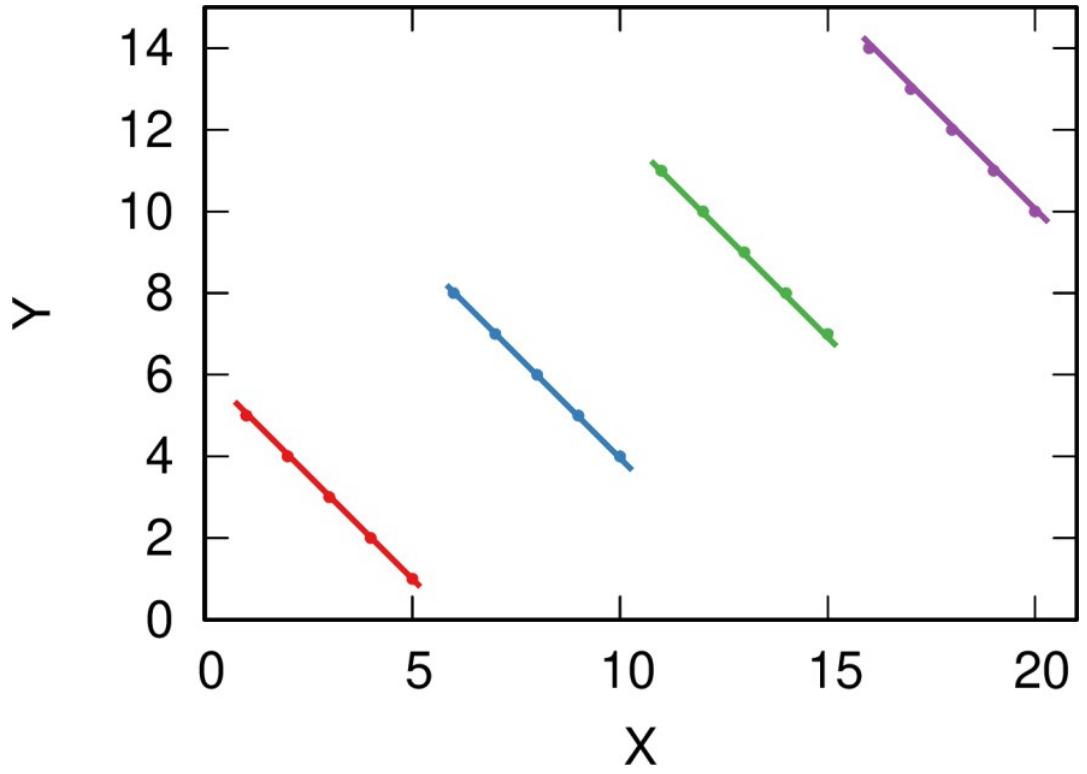
Why would we do this?

- Corr ~ 0.8!!
- Best fit
- Something Fishy...



Why would we do this?

- Groups!
- Related with X
- The true relationship is actually negative!



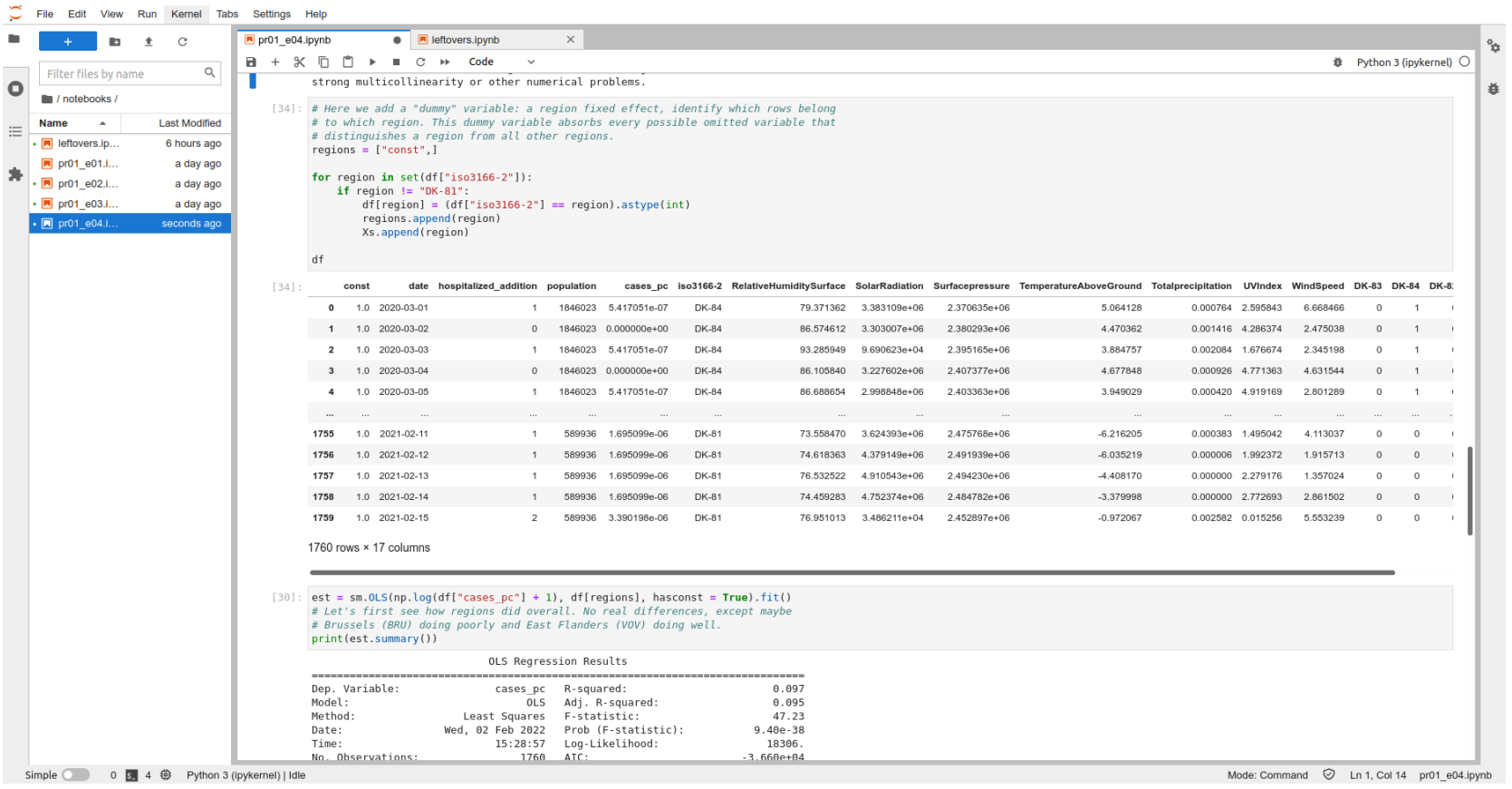
How to do it practically

- In R, it’s automatic
  - Just pass a categorical variable to your regression function
- In general, you can add a “dummy variable”
  - One variable per group
  - 1 if observation belongs to the group, 0 otherwise
  - You need to omit one group (the reference)

Interpretation

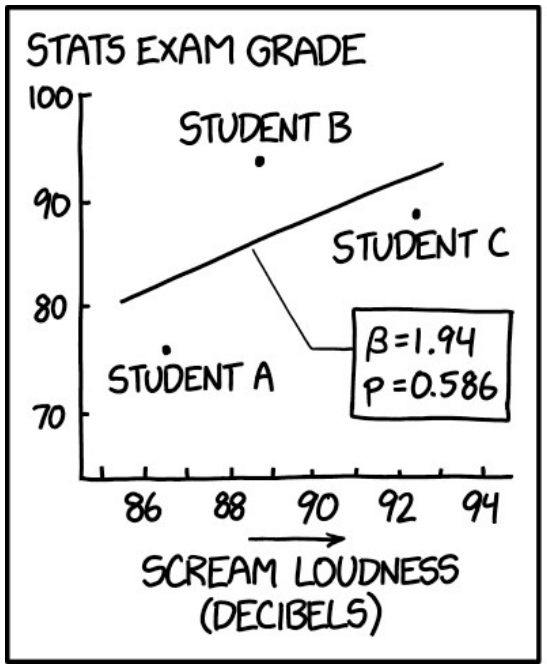
- Coefficient tells you the effect of being part of the group
  - Specifically: the difference between your group and the reference one
- If group membership is important for your question, you can interpret it
  - But careful, because you’re absorbing everything!
- Most often, it’s just a control → Ignore

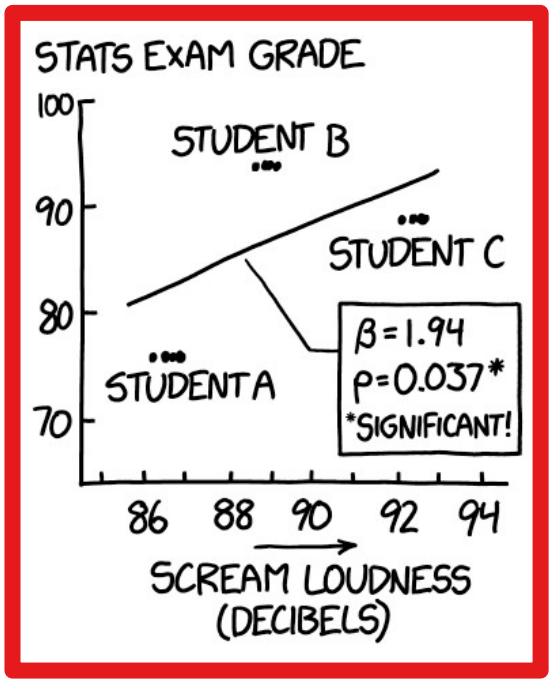
Let’s Fix Some Effects!

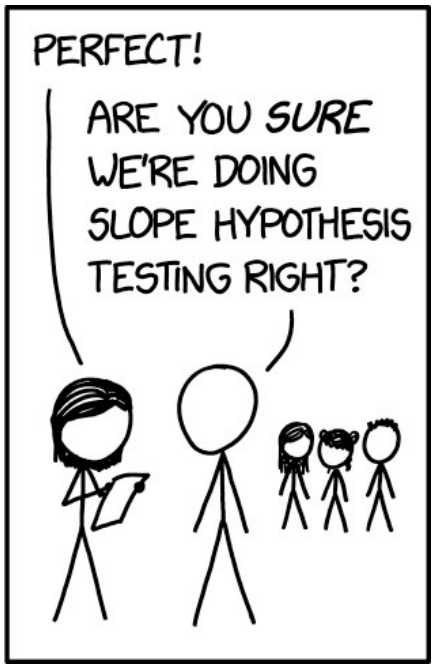


Clustered Standard Errors

What's Wrong Here?





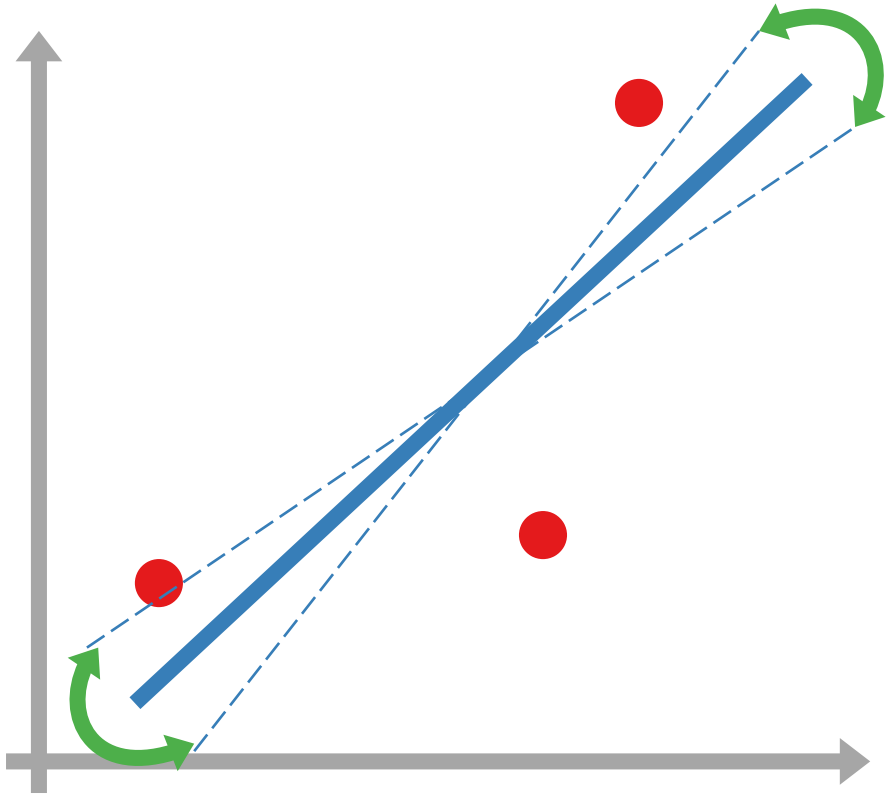


You're lying to your model!

You're saying you have 12 **independent** observations

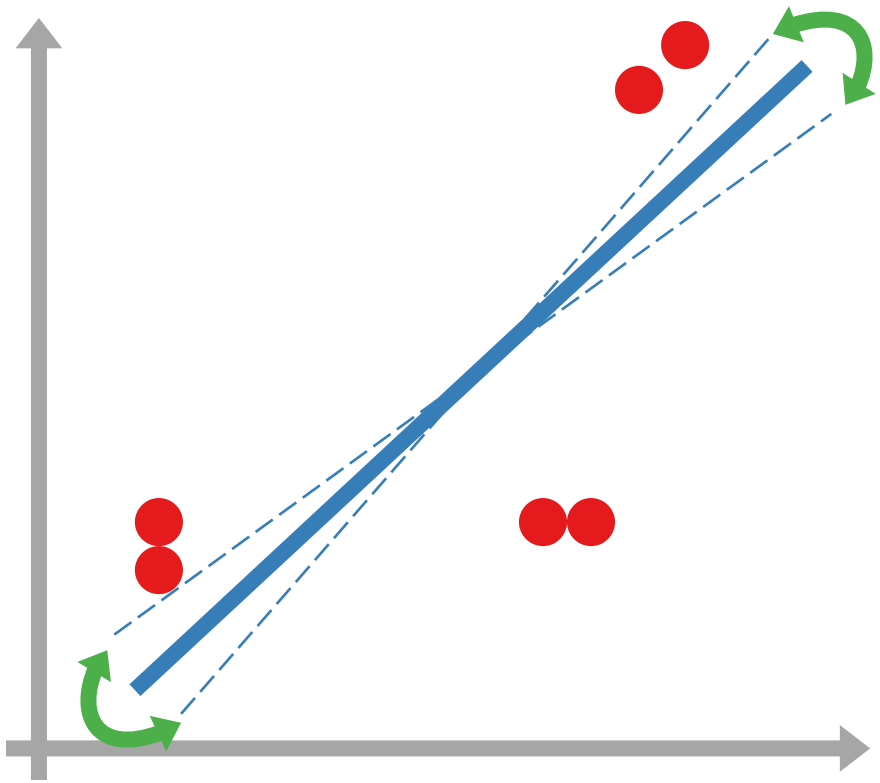
Not true! You have 3

What’s a standard error?



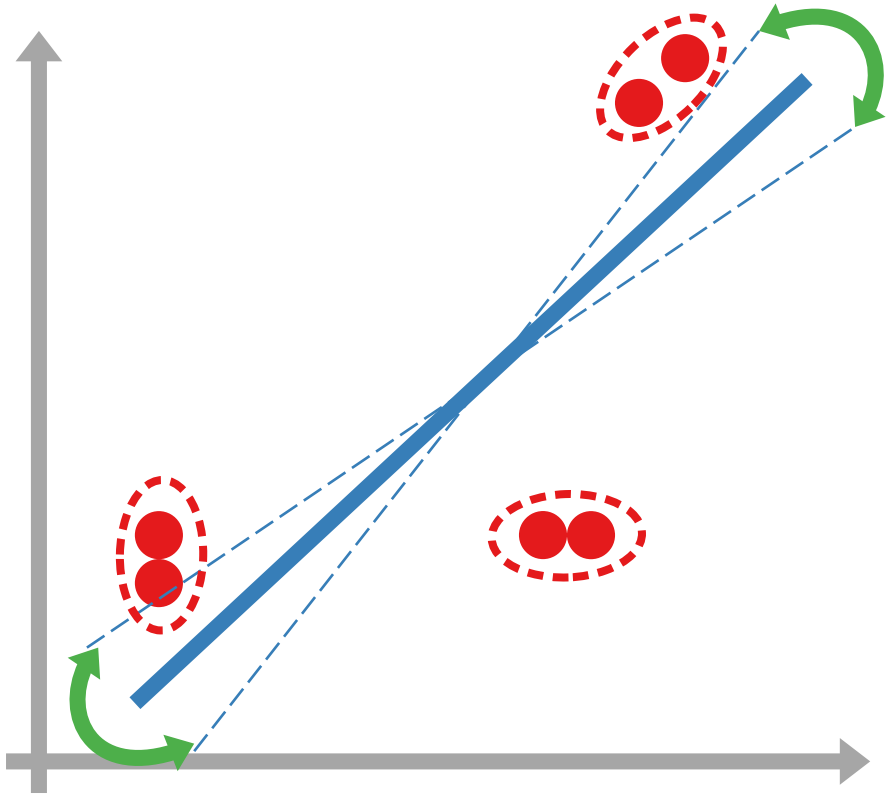
- How sure you are about your estimation

What’s a standard error?



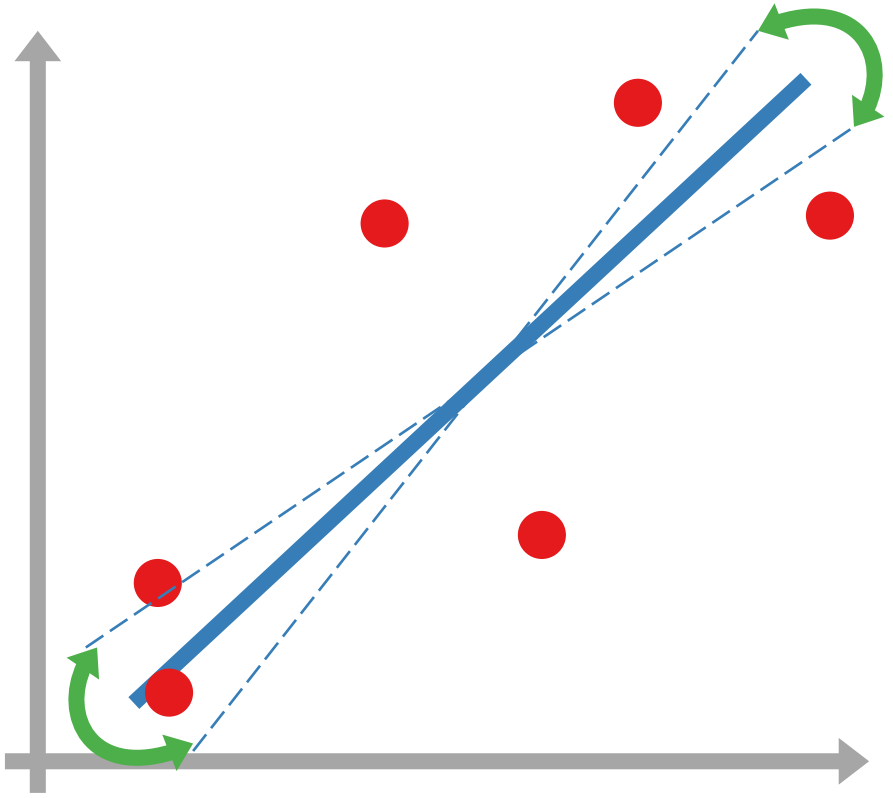
- How sure you are about your estimation
- More obs = more confidence

What's a standard error?



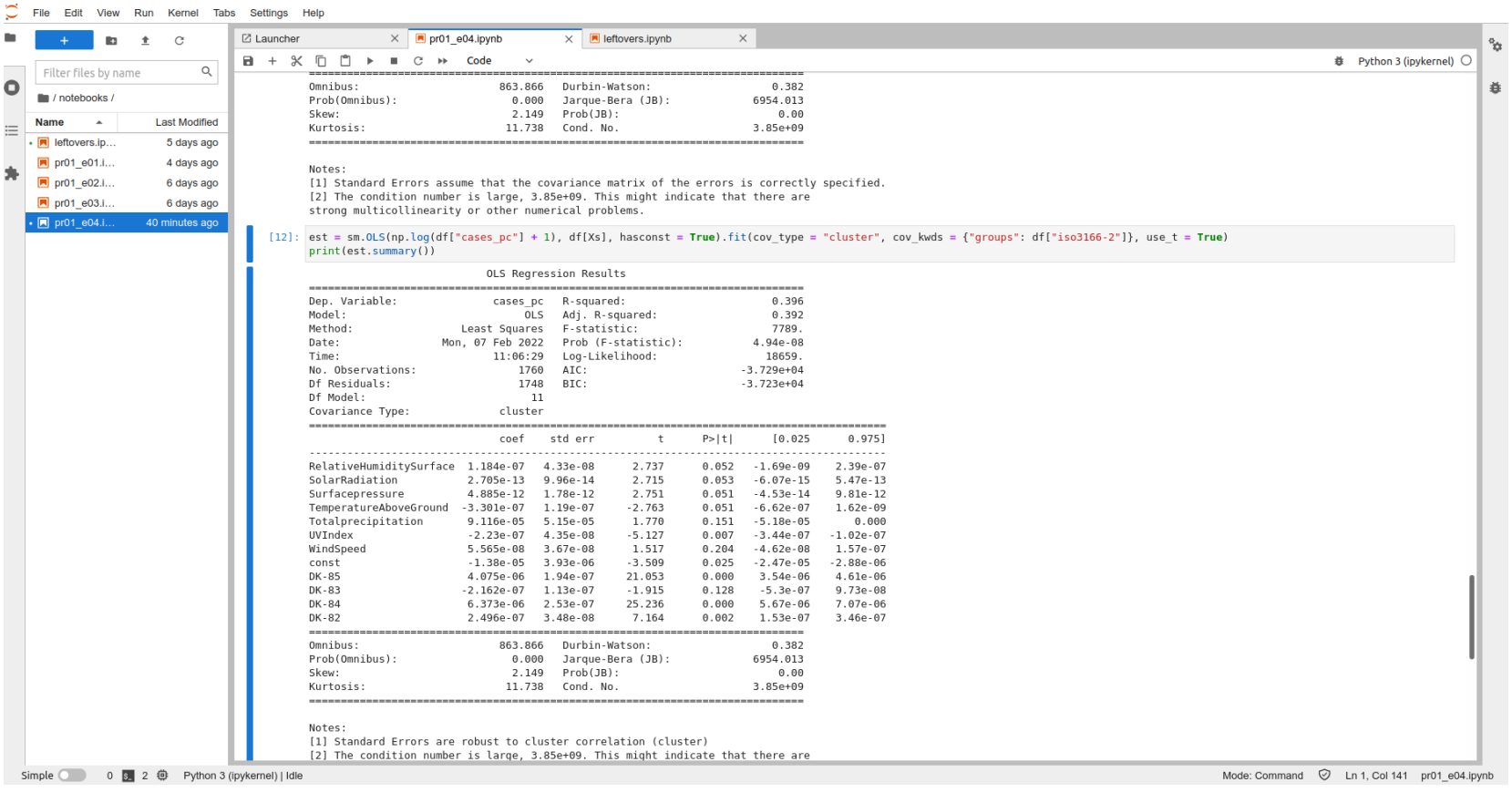
- How sure you are about your estimation
- More obs = more confidence
- But not if they're part of the same group!

Clustered Standard Errors



- A true new obs would be independent from the previous ones
- Doing CSEs can take this into account

Let’s Cluster Some Errors!



Q&A