

Economet**tricks**: Short guides to econometrics

Trick 05: Simplifying Linear Regressions using Frisch-Waugh-Lowell

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Content

1. Frisch-Waugh-Lovell theorem in equation algebra
2. Projection and residual maker matrices
3. Frisch-Waugh-Lovell theorem in matrix algebra

From the multivariate to the bivariate regression

Regress y_i on two explanatory variables, where x_i^2 is the variable of interest and x_i^1 (or further variables) are not of interest.

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_2 x_i^2 + \beta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i.$$

Surprising and useful result:

- ▶ We can obtain **exactly the same** coefficients and residuals from a regression of two **demeaned** variables

$$\tilde{y}_i = \beta_0 + \beta_2 \tilde{x}_i^2 + \varepsilon_i.$$

- ▶ We can obtain **exactly the same** coefficient and residuals from a regression of two **residualized** variables

$$\varepsilon_i^y = \beta_2 \varepsilon_i^2 + \varepsilon_i.$$

Why is the decomposition useful?

Allows breaking a multivariate model with K independent variables into K bivariate models.

- ▶ Relationship between two variables from a multivariate model can be shown in a two-dimensional scatter plot
- ▶ Absorbs fixed effects to reduce computation time (see `reghdfe` for Stata)
- ▶ Allows to separate variability between the regressors (multicollinearity) and between the residualized variable \tilde{x}_i^2 and the dependent variable y_i .
- ▶ Understand biases in multivariate models tractably.

How to decompose y_i and x_i^2 ?

Partial out x_i^1 from y_i and from x_i^2 .

- ▶ Regress x_i^2 on all x_i^1 and get residuals ε_i^2 :

$$x_i^2 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i^2,$$

this implies $\text{Cov}(x_i^1, \varepsilon_i^2) = 0$,

- ▶ Regress y_i on all x_i^1 and get residuals ε_i^y :

$$y_i = \delta_0 + \delta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i^y.$$

This implies $\text{Cov}(x_i^1, \varepsilon_i^y) = 0$.

From the residuals and the constants γ_0 and δ_0 generate

- ▶ $\tilde{x}_i^2 = \gamma_0 + \varepsilon_i^2$,
- ▶ $\tilde{y}_i = \delta_0 + \varepsilon_i^y$.

Finally,

$$\tilde{y}_i = \tilde{\beta}_0 + \tilde{\beta}_1 \tilde{x}_i^2 + \tilde{\varepsilon}_i = \beta_0 + \beta_2 \tilde{x}_i^2 + \varepsilon_i.$$

Decomposition theorem

Theorem

Decomposition theorem. *For multivariate regressions and detrended regressions, e.g.,*

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_2 x_i^2 + \beta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i,$$

$$\tilde{y}_i = \tilde{\beta}_0 + \tilde{\beta}_1 \tilde{x}_i^2 + \tilde{\varepsilon}_i,$$

the same regression coefficients will be obtained with any non-empty subset of the explanatory variables, such that

$$\tilde{\beta}_1 = \beta_2 \text{ and also } \tilde{\varepsilon}_i = \varepsilon_i.$$

Examining either set of residuals will convey precisely the same information about the properties of the unobservable stochastic disturbances.

Detrended variables

Show that

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_2 x_i^2 + \beta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i \quad (1)$$

$$= \tilde{y}_i = \tilde{\beta}_0 + \tilde{\beta}_1 \tilde{x}_i^2 + \tilde{\varepsilon}_i. \quad (2)$$

Plug in the variables $y_i = \delta_0 + \delta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i^y$ and $x_i^2 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i^2$ in the equation (1)

$$y_i = \delta_0 + \delta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i^y = \beta_0 + \beta_2(\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i^2) + \beta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i$$

$$\tilde{y}_i = \delta_0 + \varepsilon_i^y = \beta_0 + \beta_2(\gamma_0 + \varepsilon_i^2) + (\beta_2 \gamma_1 - \delta_1 + \beta_1) x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i.$$

Because we partialled out x_i^1 using OLS, x_i^1 is mechanically uncorrelated to ε_i^2 and to ε_i^y . Therefore, the regression coefficient $(\beta_2 \gamma_1 - \delta_1 + \beta_1)$ of the partialled out variable x_i^1 is zero. The equation simplifies with $\tilde{x}_i^2 = \gamma_0 + \varepsilon_i^2$ to

$$\tilde{y}_i = \delta_0 + \varepsilon_i^y = \beta_0 + \beta_2(\gamma_0 + \varepsilon_i^2) + \varepsilon_i.$$

Detrended variables

Regression anatomy: Only detrending x_i^2 and not y_i . The regression constant, residuals, and the standard errors change but β_2 remains

$$\begin{aligned} y_i = \delta_0 + \delta_1 x_i^1 + \varepsilon_i^y &= (\beta_0 + \delta_1 \bar{x}^1) + \beta_2(\gamma_0 + \varepsilon_i^2) + (\varepsilon_i + \delta_1 x_i^1) \\ y_i &= \kappa + \beta_2 \tilde{x}^2 + \epsilon_i. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Residualized variables

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{y}_i = \delta_0 + \varepsilon_i^y &= \beta_0 + \beta_2(\gamma_0 + \varepsilon_i^2) + \varepsilon_i \\ \varepsilon_i^y &= \beta_0 - \delta_0 + \beta_2\gamma_0 + \beta_2\varepsilon_i^2 + \varepsilon_i.\end{aligned}$$

The same result of the FWL Theorem holds as well for a regression of the residualized variables because $\beta_0 = \delta_0 - \beta_2\gamma_0$:

$$\varepsilon_i^y = \beta_2\varepsilon_i^2 + \varepsilon_i.$$

Partition of y

Least squares partitions the vector y into two orthogonal parts

$$y = \hat{y} + e = Xb + e = Py + My.$$

- ▶ $n \times 1$ vector of data y
- ▶ $n \times n$ projection matrix P
- ▶ $n \times n$ residual maker matrix M
- ▶ $n \times 1$ vector of residuals e

Projection matrix

$$Py = Xb = X(X'X)^{-1}X'y$$

$$\rightarrow P = X(X'X)^{-1}X'.$$

Definition

Properties.

- ▶ *symmetric such that $P = P'$, thus orthogonal*
- ▶ *idempotent such that $P = P^2$, thus indeed a projection*
- ▶ *annihilator matrix $PX = X$*

Example for projection matrix

Example

Show $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}$.

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}; \mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}; \mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 \\ -1/2 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix};$$

$$\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 \\ -1/2 & 3/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{P}\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Project \mathbf{y} on the column space of \mathbf{X} , i.e. regress \mathbf{y} on \mathbf{x} and predict $E[\mathbf{y}] = \hat{\mathbf{y}}$.

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}; \mathbf{P}\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

Residual maker matrix

$$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{y}$$

$$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}')\mathbf{y}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{M} = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}' = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}).$$

Definition

Properties.

- ▶ *symmetric such that $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}'$*
- ▶ *idempotent such that $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^2$*
- ▶ *annihilator matrix $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}$*
- ▶ *orthogonal to \mathbf{P} : $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{0}$.*

Example for residual maker matrix

Example

Show $\mathbf{MX} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}')\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P})\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}$.

$$\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}; \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix};$$

$$\mathbf{M} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{MX} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

Obtain residuals from a projection of \mathbf{y} on the column space of \mathbf{X} , i.e. regress \mathbf{y} on \mathbf{x} and predict $\mathbf{y} - E[\mathbf{y}] = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}$.

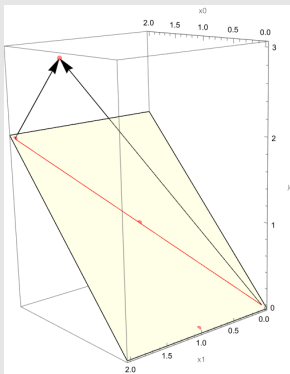
$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}; \mathbf{My} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

Example for residual maker matrix

Example

Column space of \mathbf{X} is \mathbf{x}_0 and \mathbf{x}_1 .

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_0^1 = 1 & x_1^1 = 0 & y^1 = 1 \\ x_0^2 = 1 & x_1^2 = 1 & y^2 = 2 \\ x_0^3 = 1 & x_1^3 = 0 & y^3 = 3 \end{bmatrix}; \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}; \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8)$$



The closest point from the vector $\mathbf{y}' = [1, 2, 3]$ onto the column space of \mathbf{X} , is $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b}$, here $\hat{\mathbf{y}}' = [2, 2, 2]$. At this point, we can draw a line orthogonal to the column space of \mathbf{X} .

Decomposing the normal equations

The normal equations¹ in matrix form are $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{X}'\mathbf{y}$. If \mathbf{X} is partitioned into an interesting segment \mathbf{X}_2 and an uninteresting \mathbf{X}_1 , normal equations are

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1 & \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_2 \\ \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_1 & \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \mathbf{b}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{y} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The multiplication of the two equations can be done separately

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1 & \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \mathbf{b}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{y} \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_1 & \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \mathbf{b}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{y} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

How can we find an expression for \mathbf{b}_2 that does not involve \mathbf{b}_1 ?

¹It is called a normal equation because $\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b}$ is normal to the range of \mathbf{X} .

Solving for \mathbf{b}_2

Idea: Solve equation (9) for \mathbf{b}_1 in terms of \mathbf{b}_2 , then substituting that solution into the equation (10).

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1 & \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \mathbf{b}_2 \end{bmatrix} &= [\mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{y}] \\ \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1\mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_2\mathbf{b}_2 &= \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1\mathbf{b}_1 &= \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_2\mathbf{b}_2 \\ \mathbf{b}_1 &= (\mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1)^{-1}\mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{y} - (\mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1)^{-1}\mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_2\mathbf{b}_2 \\ &= (\mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1)^{-1}\mathbf{X}'_1(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_2\mathbf{b}_2) \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying out equation (10) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_1 & \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 \\ \mathbf{b}_2 \end{bmatrix} &= [\mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{y}] \\ \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_1\mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_2\mathbf{b}_2 &= \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{y} \end{aligned}$$

Plugging in the solution for \mathbf{b}_1 gives

$$\mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_1 \left((\mathbf{X}'_1\mathbf{X}_1)^{-1}\mathbf{X}'_1(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_2\mathbf{b}_2) \right) + \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{X}_2\mathbf{b}_2 = \mathbf{X}'_2\mathbf{y}. \quad (11)$$

Solving for \mathbf{b}_2

$$\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{X}_1 (\mathbf{X}_1' \mathbf{X}_1)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_1' (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2) + \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2 = \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{y}.$$

The middle part of the first term is $\mathbf{X}_1 (\mathbf{X}_1' \mathbf{X}_1)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_1'$. This is the projection matrix \mathbf{P}_{X_1} from a regression of \mathbf{y} on \mathbf{X}_1 .

$$\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{P}_{X_1} \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{P}_{X_1} \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2 + \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2 = \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{y}.$$

We can multiply by an identity matrix \mathbf{I} without changing anything

$$\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{P}_{X_1} \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{P}_{X_1} \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2 + \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{I} \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2 = \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{I} \mathbf{y}.$$

$$\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{I} \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{P}_{X_1} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{I} \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2 - \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{P}_{X_1} \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2.$$

$$\mathbf{X}_2' (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}_{X_1}) \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}_2' (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}_{X_1}) \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2.$$

(12)

Now $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}_{X_1})$ is the residual maker matrix \mathbf{M}_{X_1}

$$\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{X_1} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{X_1} \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{b}_2.$$

Solving for \mathbf{b}_2 gives

$$\mathbf{b}_2 = (\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{X_1} \mathbf{X}_2)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{X_1} \mathbf{y}.$$

Solving for \mathbf{b}_2

$$\mathbf{b}_2 = (\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{X}_2)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{y}.$$

The residualizer matrix is symmetric and idempotent, such that $\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} = \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} = \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1}' \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b}_2 &= (\mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1}' \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{X}_2)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_2' \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1}' \mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{y} \\ &= \left((\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{X}_2)' (\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{X}_2) \right)^{-1} (\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{X}_2)' (\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{X}_1} \mathbf{y}) \\ &= (\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_2' \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_2)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_2' \tilde{\mathbf{y}}. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

(14)

This is the OLS solution for \mathbf{b}_2 , with $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_2$ instead of \mathbf{X} and $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}$ instead of \mathbf{y} .

- ▶ $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_2$ are residuals from a regression of \mathbf{X}_2 on \mathbf{X}_1
- ▶ $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}$ are residuals from a regression of \mathbf{y} on \mathbf{X}_1

The solution of the regression coefficients \mathbf{b}_2 in a regression that includes other regressors \mathbf{X}_1 is the same as first regressing all of \mathbf{X}_2 and \mathbf{y} on \mathbf{X}_1 , then regressing the residuals from the \mathbf{y} regression on the residuals from the \mathbf{X}_2 regression.

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