```
## This R script presents solutions to ECON 121 Problem Set 4.

# Clear environment, load R packages
rm(list=ls())
library(tidyverse)
library(fixest)

# Load the dataset
#load("/Users/tvogl/Dropbox/courses/econ121/data/nlsy_kids/nlsy_kids.Rdata")
load(url("https://github.com/tvogl/econ121/raw/main/data/nlsy_kids.Rdata"))
```

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 2 #
# # # # # #
# Summary statistics appear below. 21 percent of the sample participated
# in HS. 32 percent of the sample is black, and 20 percent is Hispanic.
# Average mother's education is 12 years. 3 in 10 repeat a grade, another
# 3 in 10 go to college, and 7 in 10 graduate high school. Also worthy
# of note is the number of NA values, which is very high for pput_3.
# This high level of "missingness" will be important later.
summary(nlsy_kids)
```

```
##
     head start
                      sibdiff
                                       mom_id
                                                      hispanic
##
   Min.
         :0.0000
                   Min. :0.0000
                                    Min. :
                                               3
                                                   Min. :0.0000
   1st Qu.:0.0000
                   1st Qu.:0.0000
                                    1st Qu.: 3448
                                                   1st Qu.:0.0000
  Median :0.0000
                   Median :0.0000
                                    Median: 6400
                                                   Median :0.0000
## Mean :0.2066
                   Mean :0.2321
                                    Mean : 6227
                                                   Mean :0.2005
##
   3rd Qu.:0.0000
                   3rd Qu.:0.0000
                                    3rd Qu.: 8870
                                                   3rd Qu.:0.0000
##
  Max. :1.0000
                   Max. :1.0000
                                    Max.
                                          :12667
                                                   Max.
                                                        :1.0000
##
##
       black
                                     firstborn
                                                      lninc_Oto3
                        male
##
  Min.
         :0.0000
                          :0.0000
                                   Min.
                                          :0.0000
                                                    Min. : 3.909
                   Min.
   1st Qu.:0.0000
                   1st Qu.:0.0000
                                    1st Qu.:0.0000
                                                    1st Qu.: 9.586
  Median :0.0000
                   Median :1.0000
                                    Median :0.0000
                                                    Median :10.118
##
##
   Mean :0.3203
                   Mean :0.5097
                                    Mean :0.4045
                                                    Mean :10.070
##
   3rd Qu.:1.0000
                   3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                    3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                                    3rd Qu.:10.584
   Max. :1.0000
                   Max. :1.0000
                                    Max. :1.0000
                                                    Max. :13.423
##
                                                    NA's
                                                           :218
##
       momed
                  dadhome_0to3
                                                      lnbw
                                     ppvt_3
##
  Min. : 1.0
                 Min. :0.000
                                 Min. : 0.00
                                                 Min.
                                                       :1.792
   1st Qu.:10.0
                 1st Qu.:0.250
                                 1st Qu.: 12.00
                                                 1st Qu.:4.635
## Median :12.0
                                 Median : 19.00
                 Median :1.000
                                                 Median :4.745
## Mean :11.7
                                 Mean : 21.88
                                                 Mean :4.718
                 Mean :0.678
##
   3rd Qu.:13.0
                  3rd Qu.:1.000
                                 3rd Qu.: 30.00
                                                 3rd Qu.:4.852
## Max.
          :20.0
                  Max.
                        :1.000
                                 Max.
                                       :101.00
                                                 Max.
                                                        :5.434
##
   NA's
          :6
                  NA's
                        :1603
                                 NA's
                                       :3591
                                                 NA's
                                                        :145
##
  comp_score_5to6 comp_score_7to10 comp_score_11to14
                                                        repeat
## Min.
                                   Min. : 0.6667
         : 0.00
                  Min.
                        : 0.00
                                                    Min.
                                                           :0.0000
                  1st Qu.:26.00
## 1st Qu.:29.50
                                   1st Qu.:23.5000
                                                    1st Qu.:0.0000
## Median :44.50
                  Median :45.00
                                   Median :42.6667
                                                    Median :0.0000
## Mean :45.42
                  Mean :45.19
                                   Mean :43.7758
                                                    Mean :0.3158
## 3rd Qu.:62.38
                                   3rd Qu.:62.0000
                  3rd Qu.:63.92
                                                    3rd Qu.:1.0000
## Max. :98.50 Max. :99.00
                                  Max.
                                         :99.0000
                                                    Max. :1.0000
```

```
NA's :1845
                   NA's :1019
                                                     NA's :1026
                                   NA's :1384
##
      learndis
                         hsgrad
                                        somecoll
                                                           idle
          :0.00000
##
  Min.
                    Min. :0.0000
                                     Min. :0.0000
                                                      Min.
                                                             :0.0000
  1st Qu.:0.00000
                    1st Qu.:0.0000
                                     1st Qu.:0.0000
                                                     1st Qu.:0.0000
## Median :0.00000
                    Median :1.0000
                                     Median :0.0000
                                                      Median :0.0000
## Mean
         :0.04102 Mean :0.7152 Mean
                                           :0.3152
                                                     Mean :0.1591
  3rd Qu.:0.00000
                     3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                     3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                                      3rd Qu.:0.0000
## Max.
          :1.00000
                     Max. :1.0000
                                     Max.
                                            :1.0000
                                                      Max.
                                                            :1.0000
##
   NA's
          :121
                     NA's
                          :1077
                                     NA's
                                            :1077
                                                      NA's
                                                           :1078
##
      fphealth
## Min.
          :0.0000
## 1st Qu.:0.0000
## Median :0.0000
## Mean
         :0.0988
## 3rd Qu.:0.0000
## Max. :1.0000
## NA's
          :1077
# The question asks about the backgrounds of kids who participated in HS.
# HS participants are more likely to be black, have lower family income,
# and have less educated mothers, on average. They are also more likely
# to repeat a grade and less likely to go to college. However, these
# differences in long-term outcomes may reflect selection bias rather
# than the effects of HS. In other words, HS participants may have
# worse outcomes because they come from disadvantaged backgrounds.
nlsy_kids %>%
   group_by(head_start) %>%
    summarize(black = mean(black, na.rm = TRUE),
             lninc Oto3 = mean(lninc Oto3, na.rm = TRUE),
             momed = mean(momed, na.rm = TRUE),
             somecoll = mean(somecoll, na.rm = TRUE))
## # A tibble: 2 x 5
    head start black lninc Oto3 momed somecoll
##
         <dbl> <dbl>
                          <dbl> <dbl>
                                        <dbl>
```

0.329

0.269

0 0.269

1 0.518

10.1

11.8

9.78 11.5

1

2

clustering standard error

outcomes.

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 3 #
 # # # # # #
# Run an OLS regression of the age 5-6 test score on the HS indicator,
# clustering standard errors by mom_id.
feols(comp_score_5to6 ~ head_start,
     data = nlsy_kids,
     vcov = ~mom_id)
## NOTE: 1,845 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,845).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: comp_score_5to6
## Observations: 2,420
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom id)
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 46.65384   0.616964 75.61845   < 2.2e-16 ***
## head_start -5.84207 1.209494 -4.83018 1.5113e-06 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 22.2 Adj. R2: 0.010934
# For reference, compute the standard deviation of the test score.
sd(nlsy_kids$comp_score_5to6, na.rm=TRUE)
## [1] 22.37593
# Average scores are 5.8 points lower for participants than for non-participants.
# The association is highly statistically significant and represents roughly
# one-quarter of a standard deviation in test scores. If we assumed participation
# is exogenous, then we would conclude that HS reduces test scores by one-
# quarter of a standard deviation on average. However, we already know that
# participation is associated with several background characteristics that
# are likely to have independent effects on test scores, which implies that
# the residual is correlated with HS participation. As a result, participation
# is not exogenous, and we should not interpret the association as a causal
```

effect. The bias is probably negative, since disadvantaged families select # into HS, and kids from disadvantaged families may tend to have worse long-term

Raw OLS

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 4 #
 # # # # # #
# First create a data frame of families instead of kids. We can do so
# using group_by(), as follows:
nlsy_families <-</pre>
 nlsy_kids %>%
  drop_na(comp_score_5to6, head_start) %>%
  group_by(mom_id) %>%
  summarise(mean_test = mean(comp_score_5to6),
            mean_head_start = mean(head_start))
# Now estimate OLS using the family averages
feols(mean_test ~ mean_head_start,
      data = nlsy_families,
      vcov = 'hetero')
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: mean_test
## Observations: 1,426
## Standard-errors: Heteroskedasticity-robust
                   Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                   47.26384 0.622140 75.96982 < 2.2e-16 ***
## (Intercept)
## mean_head_start -7.58640 1.366079 -5.55341 3.3379e-08 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 20.0 Adj. R2: 0.018928
\hbox{\it\# The estimated coefficient on HS participation is now even more negative}
# than the one from question 3. That is consistent with family-level
# omitted variables: kids from disadvantaged families enroll in HS,
# and they have have lower average test scores due to their disadvantage.
```

Fixed Effects

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 5 #
# # # # # #
# Estimate the model with mother fixed effects.
feols(comp_score_5to6 ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 1,845 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,845).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: comp_score_5to6
## Observations: 2,420
## Fixed-effects: mom id: 1,426
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom id)
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## head_start 7.63285 2.01362 3.7906 0.00015655 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 10.7 Adj. R2: 0.442754
               Within R2: 0.016246
# The fixed effect model suggests that HS participation raises test scores,
# in contrast to the negative effects suggested by OLS and the between effect
# model. The likely reason is that between-family variation in HS
# participation is correlated with family disadvantage, which biases us toward
# finding a negative association in the pooled and between effect models.
# The full-sample fixed effect model without controls indicates that HS
# raises test scores by 7.6 points, or one-third of a SD, on average.
```

Mother Fixed Effects Regression

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 6 #
 # # # # # #
# In the fixed effect regression, we can include child-level covariates
# only. We cannot control for any family-level variables that do not
\# vary between siblings. I choose male, firstborn, lninc_0to3,
\# dadhome_0to3, and lnbw as covariates. I do not use ppvt_3 because
\# it is available for few observations. When I include it, the sample
# shrinks and changes composition a lot. This was a judgment call, and
# you could have done it differently. as researchers we often face
# tradeoffs between having more information (by controlling for PPVT)
# and maintaining the composition of the sample (by not controlling for PPVT).
feols(comp_score_5to6 ~ head_start + male + firstborn + lninc_0to3 +
                       dadhome_Oto3 + lnbw | mom_id,
      data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 2,370 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,845, RHS: 1,732).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: comp_score_5to6
## Observations: 1,895
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,251
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                          2.35257 2.400400 0.016523 *
## head_start 5.64711
              ## male
## firstborn
              1.66089 1.17064 1.418783 0.156212
## lninc_0to3 2.27392 1.73535 1.310356 0.190316
## dadhome 0to3 -3.26060 3.27771 -0.994781 0.320035
## lnbw
                6.91016
                           3.42362 2.018376 0.043765 *
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 9.48045
                  Adj. R2: 0.492933
                  Within R2: 0.029561
# The estimate is still positive and statistically significant, but it
# is slightly smaller, in magnitude: HS participation raises test scores
# by 5.6 points on average. It is useful to check whether this is due to
# omitted variable bias or the different composition of the subsample
# with non-missing covariates. I re-estimate the model with no pre-HS
# covariates, but this time using the sub-sample with non-missing covariates.
# This was not necessary for full credit, but it is good practice.
nlsy kids subsample <-
 nlsy_kids %>%
  drop_na(male, firstborn, lninc_0to3, dadhome_0to3, lnbw)
feols(comp_score_5to6 ~ head_start | mom_id,
      data = nlsy_kids_subsample)
```

NOTE: 638 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 638).

```
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: comp_score_5to6
## Observations: 1,895
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,251
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## head_start 5.971 2.3642 2.52559 0.011673 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 9.5773
                  Adj. R2: 0.486544
##
                 Within R2: 0.009632
	t # The coefficient on HS is much closer to the regression with pre-HS
# covariates. This suggest that within-family OVB is *NOT* the issue, but
# rather that individuals with missing data on covariates have larger effects.
# The estimates are robust to controlling for pre-HS covariates
```

Standardize variable outcomes

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 7 #
# # # # # #
# Standardize outcome variables by subtracting mean and dividing by SD.
# The scale() function in R does this in one step:
nlsy_kids <-
 nlsy_kids %>%
 mutate(std_5to6 = scale(comp_score_5to6),
        std_7to10 = scale(comp_score_7to10),
        std_11to14 = scale(comp_score_11to14))
# You were not expected to know this function. You could have also used:
nlsy_kids <-
 nlsy_kids %>%
 mutate(stdb_5to6 = (comp_score_5to6 - mean(comp_score_5to6, na.rm = TRUE))/sd(comp_score_5to6, na.rm =
        stdb_5to6 = (comp_score_7to10 - mean(comp_score_7to10, na.rm = TRUE))/sd(comp_score_7to10, na.rm
        # Now we run a FE regression of each standardized score on HS participation,
# finding thatthe estimated effects shrink as children get older. HS raises
# scores by 0.34 standard deviations on average at ages 5-6, by 0.16 standard
# deviations at ages 7-10, and by 0.15 standard deviations at ages 11 to 14.
feols(std_5to6 ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 1,845 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,845).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: std_5to6
## Observations: 2,420
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,426
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom id)
            Estimate Std. Error t value
                                       Pr(>|t|)
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 0.478179
                    Adj. R2: 0.442754
                  Within R2: 0.016246
feols(std_7to10 ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 1,019 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,019).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: std_7to10
## Observations: 3,246
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,546
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## head_start 0.159245
                       0.06204 2.56682 0.010357 *
```

```
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 0.526513
                    Adj. R2: 0.470368
                  Within R2: 0.004229
##
feols(std_11to14 ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 1,384 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,384).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: std_11to14
## Observations: 2,881
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,346
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## head_start 0.153001
                      0.06088 2.51317 0.012081 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 0.511791
                    Adj. R2: 0.508071
                  Within R2: 0.004263
##
# You may notice that the sample changes across regressions due to missingness.
# You could have also held the sample constant, as we did above for adding
# covariates. The effect on the test score at age 5-6 is still largest.
nlsy_kids_subsample <-</pre>
 nlsy_kids %>%
 drop_na(std_5to6, std_7to10, std_11to14)
feols(std_5to6 ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids_subsample)
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: std 5to6
## Observations: 1,728
## Fixed-effects: mom id: 1,021
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 0.472877
                    Adj. R2: 0.449221
                  Within R2: 0.014944
feols(std_7to10 ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids_subsample)
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: std_7to10
## Observations: 1,728
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,021
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom id)
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
```

```
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 0.437615 Adj. R2: 0.536713
##
                 Within R2: 0.001435
feols(std_11to14 ~ head_start | mom_id,
   data = nlsy_kids_subsample)
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: std_11to14
## Observations: 1,728
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,021
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
##
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 0.443297 Adj. R2: 0.524396
                 Within R2: 0.005564
```

Final effects regression

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 7 #
# # # # # #
# We run FE regressions for longer-term outcomes. We find that HS participation
# reduces grade repetition by 5 percentage points, reduces learning disability
# diagnosis by 4 percentage points, raises high school graduation by 13 percentage
# points, raises college attendance by 7 percentage points, reduces idleness
# (not working or studying) by 7 percentage points, and reduces fair/poor health
# by 7 percentage points. All of these results but one (for grade repetition)
# are significant at the 5 percent level. The grade repetition result is significant
# at the 9 percent level.
feols(learndis ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 121 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 121).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: learndis
## Observations: 4,144
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,714
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
##
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## head_start -0.037349
                       0.013224 -2.82444 0.0047912 **
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 0.144667
                     Adj. R2: 0.092616
##
                   Within R2: 0.003505
feols(hsgrad ~ head_start | mom_id,
      data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 1,077 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,077).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: hsgrad
## Observations: 3,188
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,367
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
             Estimate Std. Error t value
                                         Pr(>|t|)
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 0.31008
                Adj. R2: 0.17344
                  Within R2: 0.009208
##
feols(somecoll ~ head_start | mom_id,
      data = nlsy_kids)
```

NOTE: 1,077 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,077).

```
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: somecoll
## Observations: 3,188
## Fixed-effects: mom id: 1,367
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## RMSE: 0.310531
                 Adj. R2: 0.217764
                Within R2: 0.00294
feols(idle ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: idle
## Observations: 3,187
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,367
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 0.263083
                 Adj. R2: 0.093811
                Within R2: 0.003961
feols(fphealth ~ head_start | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 1,077 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,077).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: fphealth
## Observations: 3,188
## Fixed-effects: mom_id: 1,367
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 0.224664
                 Adj. R2: 0.007413
##
                Within R2: 0.004454
```

interaction terms race collinear effects

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 8 #
# # # # # #
# The easiest way to test for heterogeneous effects by race, ethnicity, and sex
# is include interactions of the HS dummy with race, ethnicity, and sex dummies.
# We also need to control for the main effect of sex, but not for the main effects
# or race and ethnicity because they are collinear with the mother fixed effects.
# I do this below for the high school graduation outcome. The results do not
# show strong evidence of heterogeneity in effects by race, ethnicity, or sex.
# The coefficients on the interaction terms are large, but none are significant
# at the 5% level.
# Here I use R's nice approach to interaction terms, but you could have also
# directly generated new variables for the interaction terms.
feols(hsgrad ~ head_start*(hispanic + black + male) | mom_id,
     data = nlsy_kids)
## NOTE: 1,077 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 1,077).
## The variables 'hispanic' and 'black' have been removed because of collinearity (see $collin.var).
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: hsgrad
## Observations: 3,188
## Fixed-effects: mom id: 1,367
## Standard-errors: Clustered (mom_id)
                     Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## head_start
                     ## male
                     ## head_start:hispanic 0.071468 0.097529 0.732784 4.6382e-01
## head_start:black 0.110709 0.087847 1.260241 2.0780e-01
## head_start:male
                     ## ... 2 variables were removed because of collinearity (hispanic and black)
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## RMSE: 0.307758
                   Adj. R2: 0.18398
##
                  Within R2: 0.023991
```

conclusion

```
# # # # # #
# Problem 9 #
# # # # # #

# The evidence suggests that HS participation has lasting effects on children's
# outcomes, which provides some justification for the program's existence. Whether
# the government chould expand or cut funding for this and similar programs depends
# on its cost-effectiveness compared with other potential use of funds. In general,
# it is difficult to extrapolate the effects of program expansion from our estimated
# average effects of treatment on the treated because the effects may be different
# in the new subpopulations that would gain access if the program expanded. At the
# same time, the lack of significant treatment effect heterogeneity in Problem 9
# suggests that perhaps we can extrapolate. Many answers could receive full credit
# for this question.
```