Single Linear Regression

Dr. Patrick Toche

Textbook:

James H. Stock and Mark W. Watson, Introduction to Econometrics, 4th Edition, Pearson.

Other references:

Joshua D. Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke, *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*, 1st Edition, Princeton University Press.

Jeffrey M. Wooldridge, Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach, 7th Edition, Cengage Learning.

The textbook comes with online resources and study guides. Other references will be given from time to time.

Contents

- about linear regression models
- the ordinary least squares estimator
- measures of fit, R-squared, standard error of the regression
- BLUE and the assumptions of the Gauss-Markov theorem
- the sampling distribution of the OLS estimators

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Linear Regression Model

- ▶ Problem of Regression: A linear regression model relates one variable, X, to another variable, Y. The intercept and slope of the line relating X and Y are unknown characteristics of the population joint distribution of X and Y. The econometric problem is to estimate the intercept and slope using a sample of data on these two variables.
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Population Regression Function: The linear population regression function assumes that the expectation of Y_i conditional on X_i is linear in X_i :

$$\mathsf{E}[Y_i|X_i] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$$

- Let u_i denote the error made by predicting Y_i using its conditional mean $\mathsf{E}[Y_i|X_i]$
- The actual regression relation can be written

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + u_i$$

- ightharpoonup Y is the dependent variable, with realizations Y_1,\ldots,Y_n .
- lack X is the independent variable, with realizations X_1,\ldots,X_n .
- u is the error term, assumed random. The realized errors are the difference between the actual values of the dependent variable and their predicted values:

$$u_i = Y_i - \mathsf{E}[Y_i|X_i]$$

- \blacktriangleright β_0 and β_1 are the coefficients of the population regression: β_0 the intercept, β_1 the slope.
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- Sample Regression Function: (aka sample regression line) The straight line constructed using the OLS estimators $\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X$.
- **Predicted values:** The predicted value of Y_i given X_i is

$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \, X_i$$

Residuals: The residuals \hat{u}_i are sample estimates of the population errors u_i , that is the difference between Y_i and its predicted value \hat{Y}_i :

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Estimators: β_0 and β_1 are the estimators of the unknown coefficients of the population regression, β_0 , β_1 . Each estimate depends on the particular sample drawn.

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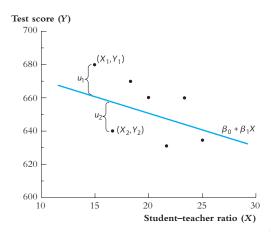
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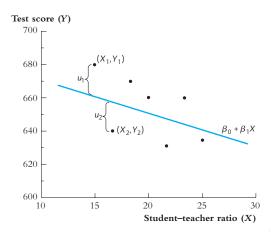
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- The population regression line has a negative slope. What does it mean about the relation between student-teacher ratios and test scores?
- 2. The observations do not fall exactly on the population regression line. For example, the value of Y for district $1, Y_1$, is greater than the population regression line. What does it mean for the predicted value of Y_1 ?
- 3. What does it imply for the error term for that district, u_1 ?
- 4. What about Y_2 and u_2 ?



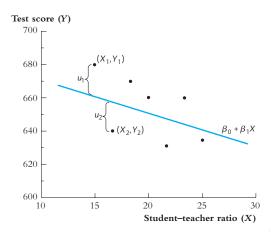
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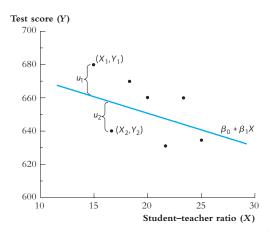
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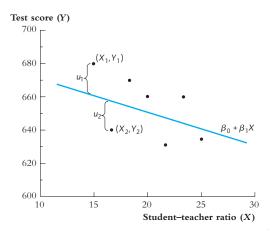
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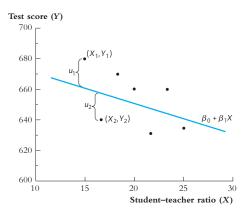


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Scatterplot of Student-Teacher Ratio and Test Scores.



Scatterplot of Student-Teacher Ratio and Test Scores. The population regression line has a negative slope, which means that districts with lower student-teacher ratios tend to have higher test scores. The observations do not fall exactly on the population regression line. For example, the value of Y for district $1, Y_1$, is greater than the population regression line: Test scores in district 1 were better than predicted by the population regression line — The error term for that district, u_1 , is positive.

Estimating the Coefficients

Least Squares Estimators

▶ OLS estimators of β_0 and β_1 :

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \overline{X})(Y_i - \overline{Y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \overline{X})^2} = \frac{s_{XY}}{s_X^2}$$

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \overline{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \overline{X}$$

lacktriangle OLS predicted values \hat{Y}_i and residuals \hat{u}_i

$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

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The estimated intercept β_0 , slope β_1 , and residual \hat{u}_i are computed from a sample of n observations of X_i and Y_i , $i=1,\ldots,n$. These are estimates of the unknown true population intercept β_0 , slope β_1 , and error term u_i .

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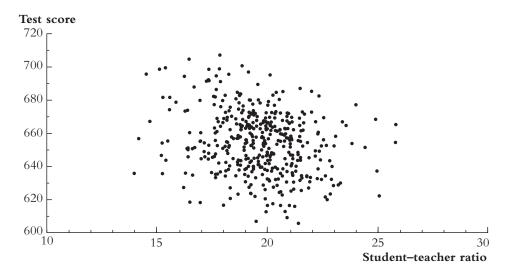
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Scatter Plot of California School District Data



 $\textbf{Scatterplot of Student-Teacher Ratio and Test Scores.} \ \ Data from \ 420 \ California \ School \ Districts. \ Sample correlation: \ -0.23.$

Ordinary Least Squares Estimator

- The sample average, \overline{Y} , is the least squares estimator of the population mean, $\mathrm{E}(Y)$. That is, \overline{Y} minimizes the total squared estimation errors $\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i-m)^2$ among all possible estimators m. The OLS estimator extends this idea to the linear regression model.
- \blacktriangleright Ordinary least squares estimators of β_0 and β_1 : Estimators of the intercept and slope that minimize the sum of squared errors:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_i - b_0 - b_1 X_i)^2 \to \min_{\beta_0, \beta_1}$$

Estimation: On the California School District Data, where TestScore is the average test score in the 420 districts and STR is the student-teacher ratio, the estimated slope is -2.28 and intercept 698.9:

$$TestScore = 698.9 - 2.28 \times STR$$

Prediction: For a district with 20 students per teacher,

$$Predict(TestScore|STR = 20) = 698.9 - 2.28 \times 20 = 653.3$$

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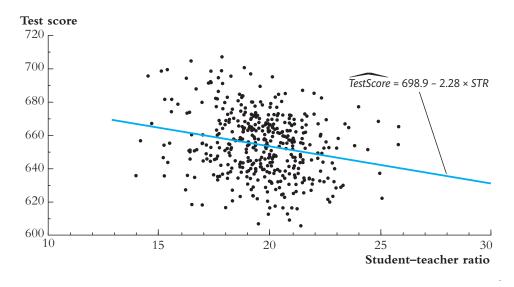
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Estimated Regression Line for the California School Districts Dataset



Explained Sum of Squares (ESS):

The sum of squared deviations of the predicted value, \hat{Y}_i , from its average:

$$ESS = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\hat{Y}_i - \overline{Y})^2$$

Total Sum of Squares (TSS):

The sum of squared deviations of Y_i from its average:

$$TSS = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_i - \overline{Y})^2$$

Regression \mathbb{R}^2 :

The fraction of the sample variance of Y explained by X

$$R^2 = \frac{ESS}{TSS}$$

lacktriangle The R^2 ranges between 0 and 1

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Explained Sum of Squares (ESS):

The sum of squared deviations of the predicted value, \hat{Y}_i , from its average:

$$ESS = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\hat{Y}_i - \overline{Y})^2$$

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$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{u}^2$$

lacktriangle Equivalent Definition of R^2 :

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{SSR}{TSS}$$

Follows from the identity:

$$TSS = ESS + SSR$$

- If X_i explains none of the variation of Y_i , then $\hat{\beta}_1=0$ and $\hat{Y}_i=\hat{\beta}_0=\overline{Y}$, and ESS=0, SSR=TSS, and $R^2=0$
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- Standard Error of the Regression (SER):
 An estimator of the standard deviation of the regression error measured in the units of the dependent variable.
- The SER is computed with the sample counterparts

$$SER = s_{\hat{u}}$$

$$s_{\hat{u}}^2 = \frac{SSR}{n-2} = \frac{1}{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2$$

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Gauss-Markov Assumptions

- Assumption 1: The conditional distribution of $u_i|X_i$ has zero mean: X must be randomly assigned or as-if randomly assigned.
- In a randomized controlled experiment with binary treatment, subjects are randomly assigned to the treatment group X=1 or to the control group X=0. It means that other factors contained in u_i are unrelated to X_i .
- If $E[u_i|X_i]=0$, then X_i and u_i are uncorrelated.
- ightharpoonup Assumption 2: X and Y are independently and identically distributed across observations
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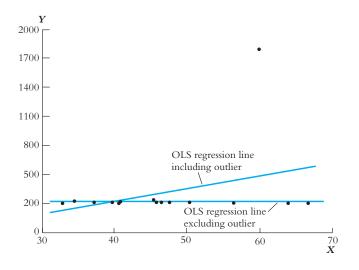
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Sensitivity of OLS to Large Outliers



The OLS regression line estimated with the outlier shows a strong positive relationship between X and Y, but the OLS regression line estimated without the outlier shows no relationship.

Properties of OLS Estimators

► The sum of squared residuals is minimized:

$$\hat{u}_i = Y_i - \hat{Y}_i, \qquad \sum_i \hat{u}_i^2 \to \min$$

The residuals are the prediction errors of the estimates.

► The mean residuals are zero:

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\hat{u}_i=0$$

► The residuals are uncorrelated with the predictor:

$$cov(X_i, \hat{u}_i) = 0$$

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Sampling Distribution of OLS Estimators

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Sampling Distribution of \overline{Y} :

For large n, the central limit theorem states that this distribution is approximately normal, with $\overline{Y} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2/n)$. That is, $\mathsf{E}[\overline{Y}] = \mu_Y$

Sampling Distribution of $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$

$$\mathsf{E}[\hat{eta}_0] = eta_0, \qquad \mathsf{E}[\hat{eta}_1] = eta_1$$

For large n, the bivariate distribution of (β_0, β_1) is approximately normal,

$$\hat{eta}_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(eta_0, \sigma^2_{\hat{eta}_0}), \qquad \hat{eta}_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(eta_1, \sigma^2_{\hat{eta}_1})$$

where (formula valid for both homoskedastic and heteroskedastic errors):

$$\begin{split} \sigma_{\hat{\beta}_1}^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \frac{\text{var}[(X_i - \mu_X)u_i]}{(\text{var}[X_i])^2} \\ \sigma_{\hat{\beta}_0}^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \frac{\text{var}[H_iu_i]}{(\text{E}[H_i^2])^2}, \\ H_i &= 1 - \frac{\mu_X}{\text{E}[X_i^2]} X_i \end{split}$$

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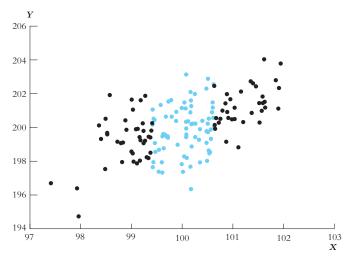
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Variance of $\hat{\beta}_1$ and Variance of X

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- The population regression line, $\beta_0 + \beta_1 X$, is the mean of Y as a function of the value of X.
- The slope, β_1 , is the expected difference in Y values between two observations with X values that differ by one unit.
- ightharpoonup The intercept, eta_0 , determines the level of the regression line
- The population regression line can be estimated using sample observations (Y_i, X_i) by ordinary least squares (OLS) or another suitable method.
- lacktriangle The OLS estimators of the regression intercept and slope are denoted \hat{eta}_0 and \hat{eta}_1
- The predicted value of Y given X is $\beta_0 + \beta_1 X$.
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- A regression error is the deviation of the observed value from the true value. A regression residual is the difference between the observed value and the estimated value. The standard error of the regression estimates the standard deviation of the regression errors.
- There are three key assumptions for estimating causal effects using the linear regression model: (1) The regression errors, u_i , have a mean of 0, conditional on the regressors X_i : $\mathrm{E}[u_i|X_i]=0$. (2) The sample observations are i.i.d. random draws from the population; (3) Large outliers are unlikely: X_i and Y_i have nonzero finite fourth moments. If these assumptions hold, the OLS estimator $\hat{\beta}_1$ is (1) an unbiased estimator of the causal effect β_1 , (2) consistent, and (3) normally distributed when the sample is large.

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Stock & Watson, Introduction (4th), Chapter 4, Review 3.

SER and R^2 are "measures of fit" for a regression. Explain how SER measures the fit of a regression. What are the units of SER? Explain how R^2 measures the fit of a regression. What are the units of R^2 ?

Stock & Watson, Introduction (4th), Chapter 4, Exercise 6.

Show that the first least squares assumption, $\mathsf{E}(u_i|X_i)=0$, implies that $\mathsf{E}(Y_i|X_i)=\beta_0+\beta_1\,X_i$.

Stock & Watson, Introduction (4th), Chapter 4, Exercise 14.

Show that the sample regression line passes through the point $(\overline{X}, \overline{Y})$.

Stock & Watson, Introduction (4th), Chapter 4, Exercise 1.

$$\widehat{TestScore} = 520.4 - 5.82 \times CS, \quad R^2 = 0.08, \quad SER = 11.5$$

- 1. A classroom has 22 students. What is the regression's prediction for that classroom's average test score?
- 2. Last year a classroom had 19 students, and this year it has 23 students. What is the regression's prediction for the change in the classroom average test score?
- 3. The sample average class size across the 100 classrooms is 21.4. What is the sample average of the test scores across the 100 classrooms?
- 4. What is the sample standard deviation of test scores across the 100 classrooms

Stock & Watson, Introduction (4th), Chapter 4, Exercise 1.

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Stock & Watson, Introduction (4th), Chapter 4, Exercise 2.

Suppose a random sample of $200\,20$ -year-old men is selected from a population and their heights and weights are recorded. A regression of weight on height yields:

$$\widehat{Weight} = -99.41 + 3.94 \times Height, \quad R^2 = 0.81, \quad SER = 10.2$$

where Weight is measured in pounds and Height is measured in inches.

- 1. What is the regression's weight prediction for someone who is 70 in. tall? 65 in. tall? 74 in. tall?
- 2. A man has a late growth spurt and grows 1.5 in. over the course of a year. What is the regression's prediction for the increase in this man's weight?
- 3. Suppose that instead of measuring weight and height in pounds and inches, these variables are measured in centimeters and kilograms. What are the regression estimates from this new kilogram–centimeter regression? (Give all results, estimated coefficients, R^2 , and SER.)

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Stock & Watson, Introduction (4th), Chapter 4, Exercise 12.

- 1. Show that the regression R^2 in the regression of Y on X is the squared value of the sample correlation between X and Y. That is, show that $R^2=r_{XY}^2$.
- 2. Show that the \mathbb{R}^2 from the regression of Y on X is the same as the \mathbb{R}^2 from the regression of X on Y.
- 3. Show that $\hat{\beta}_1 = r_{XY}(s_Y/s_X)$, where r_{XY} is the sample correlation between X and Y, and s_X and s_Y are the sample standard deviations of X and Y.

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Appendix

ightharpoonup To illustrate the principle, ignore β_0 . Minimize the sum of squared residuals:

$$\min_{\beta_1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \beta_1 X_i)^2$$

lacktriangle Calculate the derivative with respect to the parameter eta_1 and set it equal to zero

$$\frac{d}{d\hat{\beta}_{1}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_{i} - \hat{\beta}_{1}X_{i})^{2} = 0$$

$$-2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_{i} - \hat{\beta}_{1}X_{i})X_{i} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_{i}Y_{i} - \hat{\beta}_{1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_{i}^{2} = 0$$

$$\implies \hat{\beta}_{1} = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_{i}Y_{i}}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_{i}^{2}}$$

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Minimize the sum of squared residuals:

$$\min_{\beta_0, \beta_1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 X_i)^2$$

lacktriangle Calculate the derivative with respect to the parameter eta_1 and set it equal to zero

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\beta}_{1}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_{i} - \hat{\beta}_{0} - \hat{\beta}_{1} X_{i})^{2} = 0$$

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lacktriangle Thus, the partial derivative with respect to eta_1 yields a linear relation between eta_0 and eta_2

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▶ Thus, the partial derivative with respect to $\hat{\beta}_1$ yields a linear relation between $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$.

Calculate the derivative with respect to the parameter β_0 and set it equal to zero:

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$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n 1 - \hat{\beta}_1 \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = 0$$

$$\implies \hat{\beta}_0 = \overline{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \overline{X}$$

- The partial derivative with respect to β_1 has an X_i term which here is simply 1.
- Putting it together

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \overline{X})(Y_i - \overline{Y})}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \overline{X})^2}$$
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