

Section #1
SOLUTIONS

Topic covered:

- Properties of summations

Problem 1

Prove the following properties of summations:

a.
$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{X_i}{Y_i} \neq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i}$$

Solution:

We can prove this by providing a counterexample.

Let $N=2$

$X_1 = 2, X_2 = 4$

$Y_1 = 4, \text{ and } Y_2 = 8.$

Then

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^2 X_i}{\sum_{i=1}^2 Y_i} = \frac{X_1 + X_2}{Y_1 + Y_2} = \frac{2 + 4}{4 + 8} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{X_i}{Y_i} = \frac{2}{4} + \frac{4}{8} = 1$$

Clearly $\frac{1}{2} \neq 1$, so the claim is false.

b. Prove that given data on two variables X and Y , and the sample means \bar{X} and \bar{Y} the following holds:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y}) = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i - N \bar{X} \bar{Y}$$

Solution:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y}) =$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i Y_i - X_i \bar{Y} - Y_i \bar{X} + \bar{X} \bar{Y}) = (\text{multiplying the terms})$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i - \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \bar{Y} - \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i \bar{X} + \sum_{i=1}^N \bar{X} \bar{Y} = (\text{regrouping the summation terms})$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i - \bar{Y} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i - \bar{X} \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i + N \bar{X} \bar{Y} = (\text{using the fact that } \bar{X} \text{ and } \bar{Y} \text{ are constants})$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i - \bar{Y}(N\bar{X}) - \bar{X}(N\bar{Y}) + N\bar{X}\bar{Y} =$$

$$= (\text{using the definitions of } \bar{X} \text{ and } \bar{Y}, \text{ and expressing } \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i - N \bar{X} \bar{Y} \text{ (as } -\bar{X}(N\bar{Y}) \text{ and } N\bar{X}\bar{Y} \text{ cancel)}$$

This completes the proof.

Note: from here it follows that when $X=Y$, then:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 - N\bar{X}^2$$

We are going to see these in econometrics part the course when we start talking about regression analysis.

c. Prove that given a sample of size N with data on a variable X the following holds:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N [X_i (X_i - \bar{X})] = \sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

Solution:

Method I

Start with the left hand side:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^N [X_i (X_i - \bar{X})] &= \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N (X_i^2 - X_i \bar{X}) \quad (\text{multiplying the terms}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \bar{X} \quad (\text{regrouping the summation terms}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 - \bar{X} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \quad (\text{using the fact that } \bar{X} \text{ is a constant}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 - \bar{X}(N\bar{X}) \quad (\text{using the definition of } \bar{X} \text{ , and expressing } \sum_{i=1}^N X_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 - N\bar{X}^2 \end{aligned}$$

And from part b. the right hand side:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 - N\bar{X}^2$$

So, the left hand side and the right hand side both equal $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 - N\bar{X}^2$. Hence, they are equal to each other. This completes the proof.

Method II

A considerably more elegant but harder proof is by noticing the following:

$$\begin{aligned} RHS &= \sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N [X_i (X_i - \bar{X}) - \bar{X}(X_i - \bar{X})] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N X_i (X_i - \bar{X}) - \sum_{i=1}^N \bar{X}(X_i - \bar{X}) = LHS - \sum_{i=1}^N \bar{X}(X_i - \bar{X}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But } \sum_{i=1}^N \bar{X}(X_i - \bar{X}) = \bar{X} \sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X}) = \bar{X}(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i - N\bar{X}) = 0, \text{ which completes the proof.}$$