## Lecture 1 In-Class Exercise Solutions

- 1. Randomized controlled trials. In a well-known study, Howell and Peterson (2006) evaluated the effects of a private school voucher in NYC from the School Choice Scholarships Foundation (SCSF). This program provided scholarships of up to \$1,400 for 1,300 children from low-income families to attend a private elementary school. There were more applicants to the program than vouchers, so a random lottery was used to award the scholarships. Ultimately, 1,300 families received the voucher and 960 didn't.
  - (a) Let  $D_i = 1$  if the student was offered a voucher and  $D_i = 0$  if not. Suppose we wanted to estimate the simple population regression function below, where  $Y_i$  represents student achievement after three years of the program:

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

Under what conditions does this PRF describe "differences in average potential outcomes for a well-defined population" (our criteria for causal interpretation)? Do those conditions hold here? How would you describe the relevant population? What is our *estimand* of interest (ATE, ATT, ATU, something else)?

In the population,  $\beta_1 = E[Y(1)|D_i = 1] - E[Y(0)|D_i = 0]$ . If the  $D_i = 1$  and  $D_i = 0$  groups have the same distribution of potential outcomes (e.g.,  $(Y_{i1}, Y_{0i}) \perp\!\!\!\perp D_i$ ) then this simplifies to  $\beta_1 = E[Y(1) - Y(0)]$ . If the randomization was successful, this condition should hold here—that is, mean potential outcomes for the treated and untreated groups should be the same. The relevant population is low-income families in NYC who applied for a private school voucher. (Note the population of applicants may differ from the general population of low-income families in NYC).

- (b) Read the following dataset from Github which contains a subsample of 521 African-American students who participated in the lottery:
  - use https://github.com/spcorcor18/LPO-8852/raw/main/data/nyvoucher.dta, clear
- (c) Use ttest and the simple regression model above to estimate the effects of the voucher (voucher) on student achievement after three years of the program (post\_ach). Is the estimated effect statistically significant? Practically significant? (The outcome variable is a composite measure of reading and math achievement, expressed as a national percentile score).

See output below. Students offered the private school voucher scored 4.9 percentile points higher, on average, than students not offered the voucher. (Note the point estimate, standard error, t-statistic and p-value are the same in this case whether one uses a t-test or simple regression.) The difference is statistically significant (p < 0.004). To assess practical significance, it is useful to compare the magnitude of the difference (4.9 points) to the overall standard deviation in the outcome (19.2). This is an effect size of 0.255, a rather large effect size in education.

. ttest post\_ach, by(voucher)

Two-sample t test with equal variances

| Two-sample t             | test wit        | th equa | l var   | iances | 5                   |       |              |                  |      |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|---------------------|-------|--------------|------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Group                    | Obs             | M       | ean     | Std    | . Err.              | Std.  | Dev.         | [95% Cd          | onf. | Interval]             |
| 0                        | 230<br>291      |         |         |        | 98249<br>1.158      |       | 7234<br>.754 |                  |      | 23.49144<br>28.30836  |
| combined                 | 521             | 23.8    | <br>666 | .84    | <br>41557           | 19.   | 2089         | 22.2133          | 33   | 25.51987              |
| diff                     |                 | -4.898  | 775     | 1.68   | 32719               |       |              | -8.2045          | 52   | -1.592998             |
| diff = mea               | an(0) -         | mean(1  | )       |        |                     | d     | egrees       | of freed         |      | = -2.9112<br>= 519    |
| Ha: diff $Pr(T < t) = 0$ |                 |         |         |        | diff !=<br> t ) = 0 |       |              |                  |      | iff > 0<br>) = 0.9981 |
| . reg post_acl           | h vouche        | er      |         |        |                     |       |              |                  |      |                       |
| Source                   | l<br>+          | SS      |         | df     | MS                  | ;<br> |              | r of obs<br>519) |      | 521<br>8.48           |
| Model<br>Residual        | 3082<br>  18878 |         |         |        | 3082.89<br>363.752  |       | Prob R-squa  | > F<br>ared      | =    | 0.0038<br>0.0161      |
| Total                    | 19187           | 70.479  |         | 520    | 368.98              | 3169  | •            | -squared<br>MSE  |      | 0.0112                |
| post_ach                 | <br>  (         | Coef.   | Std.    | Err.   | <br>t               | P>    | <br> t       | <br>[95% Cd      | onf. | Interval]             |
| voucher<br>_cons         | -               |         |         |        |                     |       |              |                  |      | 8.204552<br>23.60103  |
| . summ post_a            |                 |         |         |        |                     |       |              |                  |      |                       |
| Variable                 | I               | Obs     |         | Mean   | Std.                | Dev.  |              | Min              | N    | Max                   |

- . di 4.898775/19.2089
- .25502632
- (d) Randomization (e.g., via lottery) in theory should prevent omitted variables bias. However, in finite samples, there may be *incidental* (chance) correlation between treatment assignment and other predictors of the outcome. The first step in the analysis of any RCT is to "check for balance" between the treated and untreated group on a host of baseline predictors. The only other variable in this dataset is a measure of baseline achievement, *pre\_ach*. How does this measure differ between the treated and untreated group? (You can compare both means and other features of the distribution).

See output below. At *baseline*, students offered the voucher scored 1.17 percentile points higher than students not offered the voucher. The difference is not statistically significant, however (p = 0.4698) In larger samples, one would not expect to see a mean difference between these groups. However, in finite samples, there may be chance differences between them. It is good practice to compare more than just the means of the two groups. The code below includes an overlapping kernel densities for the voucher and no voucher groups (figure is not shown).

. ttest pre\_ach, by(voucher)

Two-sample t test with equal variances

| Group    | •                     | Mean                 |                            | Std. Dev. | [95% Conf.   | Interval]             |
|----------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 0        | 230                   | 19.51304<br>20.67869 | 1.164686                   |           |              |                       |
| combined | 521                   | 20.16411             | .799776                    |           |              |                       |
| diff     |                       | -1.165651            |                            |           | -4.331257    |                       |
| diff =   | = mean(0)<br>= 0      | - mean(1)            |                            | degrees   | t of freedom | = -0.7234<br>= 519    |
|          | iff < 0<br>) = 0.2349 | Pr(                  | Ha: diff !=<br>T  >  t ) = |           |              | iff > 0<br>) = 0.7651 |

- . twoway (kdensity pre\_ach if voucher==0) (kdensity pre\_ach if voucher==0)
- (e) Add the  $pre\_ach$  measure to the regression function below (as X). What purpose does this serve? How does this additional covariate change your point estimate

for  $\beta_1$  (if at all)? How does it change the standard error for  $\beta_1$  (if at all)?

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 D_i + \beta_2 X_i + u_i$$

See results below. If the randomization was successful, inclusion of  $pre\_ach$  as a covariate should have little effect on the point estimate of voucher. However, as noted above, in finite samples there can be incidental correlation between treatment status and the baseline covariates. Controlling for these can help "purge" any chance correlation. Inclusion of baseline covariates should also increase the precision of your estimator of the treatment effect. Note that the standard error fell from 1.68 (without covariates) to 1.27 (with the  $pre\_ach$  control).

. reg post\_ach voucher pre\_ach

| Source                              | SS                       | df                              | MS                     |                              | er of obs                 | =                | 521                              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Model  <br>Residual  <br>+<br>Total | 84863.1705<br>107007.308 | 2<br>518<br>520                 | 42431.585<br>206.57781 | 52 Prob<br>.5 R-squ<br>Adj F | > F<br>nared<br>R-squared | =<br>=<br>=<br>= | 0.0000<br>0.4423<br>0.4401       |
| post_ach                            |                          | Std. Err.                       |                        | P> t                         | [95% C                    | onf.             | Interval]                        |
| voucher  <br>pre_ach  <br>_cons     | 4.097609                 | 1.26873<br>.0345439<br>1.162978 | 3.23<br>19.90<br>6.64  | 0.001<br>0.000<br>0.000      | 1.605<br>.6194<br>5.4341  | 49               | 6.590097<br>.7551759<br>10.00361 |

2. Simulated data 1. This problem will estimate population regression functions using data from a known population that we define ourselves. Draw a N=100 random sample of three indpendent N(0,1) variables:  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ , and u. The relevant command in Stata is drawnorm. From these, generate two outcome variables:  $y_1 = 10 + x_1 + u$  and  $y_2 = 10 + x_1 + 2x_2 + u$ . Note: if you want to be able to replicate work done with randomly generated values in Stata, put the set seed # command at the beginning of your do-file. You will then get the same set of random numbers every time you run your program.

```
clear
set seed 626
// random draws of x1 x2 u (independent, standard normal variables)
drawnorm x1 x2 u, n(100)
corr
```

```
// DGP for y1 and y2
gen y1 = 10 + x1 + u
gen y2 = 10 + x1 + 2*x2 + u
```

(a) What is the population mean of  $y_1$ ,  $E[y_1]$ ? What is the population variance of  $y_1$ ,  $\sigma_{y_1}^2$ ? What is the conditional expectation function  $E[y_1|x_1]$ ? Is it linear? What is the conditional variance of  $y_1$  given  $x_1$ ? Note: these questions can be answered without use of the data.

See the handout on Github for a refresher on the rules for expectation, variance, and covariance.

$$E[y_1] = E[10 + x_1 + u] = E[10] + E[x_1] + E[u] = 10 + 0 + 0 = 10$$

 $\sigma_{v1}^2 = \text{Var}[x_1] + \text{Var}[u] = 2$ , since  $x_1$  and u are independent.

$$E[y_1|x_1] = 10 + x_1$$
, a linear CEF.

$$Var[y_1|x_1] = Var[u] = 1$$
 (homoskedasticity—variance is unrelated to  $x_1$ )

(b) What is the population mean of  $y_2$ ,  $E[y_2]$ ? What is the population variance of  $y_2$ ,  $\sigma_{y_2}^2$ ? What is the conditional expectation function  $E[y_2|x_1]$ ? Is it linear? Note: these questions can be answered without use of the data.

See the handout on Github for a refresher on the rules for expectation, variance, and covariance.

$$\begin{split} E[\mathbf{y_2}] &= E[\mathbf{10} + \mathbf{x_1} + (\mathbf{2} * \mathbf{x_2}) + \mathbf{u}] = E[\mathbf{10}] + E[\mathbf{x_1}] + \mathbf{2} * E[\mathbf{x_2}] + E[\mathbf{u}] = \\ \mathbf{10} + \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{2} * \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{10} \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} \sigma_{y2}^2 &= 1^2 Var[x_1] + 2^2 Var[x_2] + Var[u] + 2*1*2*Cov[X1,X2] = 1+4+1+0 = 6, \\ since \ x_1 \ and \ x_2 \ are \ independent. \end{split}$$

 $E[y_1|x_1] = 10 + x_1 + 2x_2$ , a linear CEF. Note that this CEF depends on the value of  $x_2$ 

(c) Regress  $y_1$  on  $x_1$  (i.e., estimate the model  $y_1 = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1$  using OLS). Note the slope coefficient and its standard error. Do the intercept and slope equal the known population intercept and slope? Why or why not?

| Source   | SS         | df | MS         | Number of obs | = | 100    |
|----------|------------|----|------------|---------------|---|--------|
| +        |            |    |            | F(1, 98)      | = | 126.86 |
| Model    | 129.848833 | 1  | 129.848833 | Prob > F      | = | 0.0000 |
| Residual | 100.312116 | 98 | 1.02359302 | R-squared     | = | 0.5642 |
| +-       |            |    |            | Adj R-squared | = | 0.5597 |

| 1.0117    | =      | MSE | Root  | 2.32485808 | 99       | 230.16095            | Total |
|-----------|--------|-----|-------|------------|----------|----------------------|-------|
| Interval] |        | _   |       |            |          | Coef.                | y1    |
| 1.340336  | 387729 | .9  | 0.000 | 11.26      | .1011765 | 1.139554<br>10.07918 | x1    |

Naturally, the estimated intercept and slope  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$  differ from the known population values of 10 and 1 since they are estimated from a random sample.

(d) Regress  $y_2$  on  $x_1$  (i.e., estimate the model  $y_2 = \tilde{\gamma}_0 + \tilde{\gamma}_1 x_1$  using OLS). Note the slope coefficient and its standard error. If you are interested in an unbiased estimate of the slope on  $x_1$  in the population regression function for  $y_1$ , will your slope estimator suffer from omitted variables bias? Why or why not?

. reg y2 x1

| Source              | SS<br>                   | df          | MS                       |                        | OI OI ODD                 | = 100<br>= 29.41  |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Model  <br>Residual | 127.188444<br>423.858659 | 1<br>98<br> | 127.188444<br>4.32508836 | Prob<br>R-squ<br>Adj l | > F<br>uared<br>R-squared | = 29.41<br>= 0.0000<br>= 0.2308<br>= 0.2230<br>= 2.0797 |
| y2                  | Coef.                    | Std. Err.   | t                        | <br>P> t               |                           | . Interval]   |
| x1  <br>_cons       | 1.12782<br>10.24087      | .2079761    | 5.42                     | 0.000                  | .7150983<br>9.826046      | 1.540542<br>10.65569                                    |

We know the population model for  $y_2$  includes  $x_2$ . A condition for omitted variables bias, however, is that  $Cov(x_1, x_2) \neq 0$ . In this case, we know these two variables are independent and thus uncorrelated in the population.

(e) Now regress  $y_2$  on  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  (i.e., estimate the model  $y_2 = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_1 + \gamma_2 x_2$  using OLS). Why does  $\hat{\gamma_1}$  differ from  $\hat{\gamma_1}$ , even though we know the population correlation between  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  is zero?

. reg y2 x1 x2

| Source | SS         | df | MS         | Number of obs | = | 100    |
|--------|------------|----|------------|---------------|---|--------|
| +-     |            |    |            | F(2, 97)      | = | 230.45 |
| Model  | 455.239049 | 2  | 227.619525 | Prob > F      | = | 0.0000 |

| Residual | 95.8080541 | 97 | .987711898 | R-squared     | = | 0.8261 |
|----------|------------|----|------------|---------------|---|--------|
| +-       |            |    |            | Adj R-squared | = | 0.8225 |
| Total    | 551.047103 | 99 | 5.56613236 | Root MSE      | = | .99384 |

| <b>J</b> . |          | Std. Err. |       |       | [95% Conf.           | Interval] |
|------------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------|
|            | 1.138324 | .099389   | 11.45 | 0.000 | .9410639<br>1.595267 | 1.335583  |
|            |          | .100208   |       |       | 9.89725              | 10.29502  |

The estimated coefficient on  $x_1$  changes a bit when we add  $x_2$  as a covariate. In the population there is no OVB since  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are uncorrelated. We are working with sample data, however, and there may be chance correlation between  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in the sample.

(f) Compare the estimated standard errors on  $\hat{\tilde{\gamma}}_1$  from part (d) and  $\hat{\gamma}_1$  from part (e). How and why did it change?

The standard error dropped considerably, from 0.208 to 0.099, because we reduced variation in the error term. In part (d),  $x_2$  remains in the error term and contributes to the variation in  $y_2$ .

(g) Now modify  $x_2$  to purge it of any sample correlation with  $x_1$ . Call this variable  $x_{2a}$ . Hint: you are looking for variation in  $x_2$  that is orthogonal to ("not explained" by)  $x_1$ .

```
reg x2 x1 predict x2a, resid
```

By construction, the residuals from a regression of  $x_2$  on  $x_1$  are uncorrelated with  $x_1$ . We know that  $x_2$  and  $x_1$  are not correlated in the population, but there is a small amount of correlation between them in the sample. This step "purges" the tiny amount of correlation between the two.

(h) Generate a new  $y_2$  (call it  $y_{2a}$ ) using  $x_{2a}$  in place of  $x_2$ . Repeat parts (d) and (e). What changed, and why? Why does the standard error on  $\hat{\gamma}_1$  change with the inclusion of  $x_{2a}$ , when we know  $x_{2a}$  is uncorrelated (by construction) with  $x_1$ ?

```
. gen y2a = 10 + x1 + 2*x2a + u
```

. reg y2a x1

```
Source | SS df MS Number of obs = 100
----- F(1, 98) = 30.02
```

| Residual | 129.848831<br>423.85866 | 98        | 4.32508837 | -                         | =         | 0.0000<br>0.2345<br>0.2267 |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Total    |                         |           | 5.59300496 | maj m bquaro              |           | 2.0797                     |
| y2a      | Coef.                   |           |            | P> t  [95%                | Conf.     | Interval]                  |
| x1       | 1.139554                | .2079761  | 5.48 (     | 0.000 .7268               | 325       | 1.552276                   |
| _cons    | 10.07918                | .2090337  | 48.22      | 0.000 9.664               | 356       | 10.494                     |
|          | SS                      |           |            | Number of ob              |           | 100                        |
| •        | 457 000400              |           |            | F(2, 97)                  |           | 231.80                     |
|          | 457.899438              |           |            |                           |           | 0.0000                     |
|          | 95.8080524<br>          |           |            | R-squared<br>Adj R-square |           | 0.8270<br>0.8234           |
|          | 553.707491              |           |            |                           |           | .99384                     |
| y2a      | Coef.                   | Std. Err. | t I        | P> t  [95%                | <br>Conf. | Interval]                  |
| x1       | 1.139554                | .0993874  | 11.47      | 0.000 .942                | 298       | 1.336811                   |
| x2a      | 1.790231                | .0982322  | 18.22      | 0.000 1.595               | 268       | 1.985195                   |
| _cons    | 10.07918                | .0998928  | 100.90 (   | 0.000 9.880<br>           | 917<br>   | 10.27744                   |

Now the estimated coefficient on  $x_1$  is identical, whether one controls for  $x_{2a}$  or not. The reason is that  $x_1$  is now uncorrelated with  $x_{2a}$ . The standard error drops, again because we have reduced variation in the error term with the inclusion of  $x_{2a}$ .

(i) Return to part (c). Compare the reported standard error for  $\hat{\beta}_1$  to the *population* standard error for  $\hat{\beta}_1$ . Hint: you know the population  $\sigma^2$ .

In a simple regression the population standard error for  $\hat{\beta}_1$  is:

$$se(\hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{\sigma_u}{\sqrt{(n-1)Var(x)}}$$

Where  $\sigma_u$  is the square root of the error variance. The syntax below manually calculates the population standard error of  $\hat{\beta}_1$  (0.10000369), which can be compared to the estimated standard error in the regression (0.1011765). These differ, since Stata is estimating  $\sigma$  using residuals. Note I used Var(x) from the sample data here  $(1.005^2 = 1.01)$  rather than using the known Var(x) of 1. This is taking the point of

view that x is fixed from sample to sample and the only random variation is in u. This is how the usual statistical assumptions are stated. An alternative approach would use the known Var(x) = 1.

. summ x1

| Variable | <br> - | Obs    | Mean Std.  | Dev.        | Min Max       | : |
|----------|--------|--------|------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| x1       | <br>   | 100101 | 13415 1.00 | 5001 -2.380 | 0183 2.706876 | ; |

- . local varx1 r(Var)
- . local nobs r(N)
- . display sqrt(1/(('nobs'-1)\*('varx1')))
  .10000369
- . reg y1 x1

| Source   | SS         | df | MS         | Number of obs | = | 100    |
|----------|------------|----|------------|---------------|---|--------|
| <br>+-   |            |    |            | F(1, 98)      | = | 126.86 |
| Model    | 129.848833 | 1  | 129.848833 | Prob > F      | = | 0.0000 |
| Residual | 100.312116 | 98 | 1.02359302 | R-squared     | = | 0.5642 |
| <br>+-   |            |    |            | Adj R-squared | = | 0.5597 |
| Total    | 230.16095  | 99 | 2.32485808 | Root MSE      | = | 1.0117 |

| y1 |          |          |       |       | [95% Conf.           | Interval] |
|----|----------|----------|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| x1 | 1.139554 | .1011765 | 11.26 | 0.000 | .9387729<br>9.877374 |           |

- . display \_se[x1]
- .10117651
- (j) Start with an empty dataset and recreate your random variables  $x_1$ , u, and  $y_1$ , but this time draw a N=10,000 random sample. Repeat part (i). Now how do your reported  $\hat{\beta}_1$  and standard error for  $\hat{\beta}_1$  compare to the population  $\beta_1$  and standard error for  $\hat{\beta}_1$ ?
  - . clear
  - . drawnorm x1 x2 u, n(10000) (obs 10,000)
  - . gen y1 = 10 + x1 + u
  - . sum x1

|                            | 0bs           |             | Std. Dev.             |                      |   | ax        |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|-----------|
|                            | •             |             | 1.005396              |                      |   | 52        |
| . local varx1              | r(Var)        |             |                       |                      |   |           |
| . local nobs               | r(N)          |             |                       |                      |   |           |
| . display sqr<br>.00994683 | t(1/(('nobs'- | 1)*('varx1' | )))                   |                      |   |           |
| . reg y x1                 |               |             |                       |                      |   |           |
| Source                     |               |             | MS                    | Number of F(1, 9998) |   | -         |
| Model                      | •             |             | 10054.2942            |                      |   |           |
|                            | 10145.5918    |             |                       | R-squared            |   |           |
|                            | +             |             |                       | Adj R-squa           |   |           |
| Total                      | 20199.886     | 9,999       | 2.02019062            | Root MSE             | = | 1.0074    |
| v                          | Coef.         | Std. Err.   | t P>                  | lt  [95              |   | Interval] |
| x1                         | •             | .01002      | 99.54 0.<br>993.41 0. | 000 .97              |   |           |

<sup>.</sup> display \_se[x1] .01001998

Proportionally speaking, the estimated standard error is closer to the population standard error with the larger sample size.

3. Simulated data 2 This problem is similar to #1, but we will assume  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  come from a bivariate normal distribution, so that we know  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are correlated. The relevant command in Stata is drawnorm, but we need to specify a correlation matrix for the distribution (call this C).  $\sigma_{x_1}^2$  and  $\sigma_{x_2}^2$  will continue to be 1, but assume they have a correlation of 0.5. Continue to use N = 100. Create the outcome variable  $y_2 = 10 + x_1 + 2x_2 + u$ . See the syntax below for the drawnorm command and its correlation matrix.

```
clear
matrix C = (1, .5 , 0 \ .5, 1, 0 \ 0, 0, 1)
drawnorm x1 x2 u, n(100) corr(C)
corr
gen y2 = 10 + x1 + 2*x2 + u
```

(a) What is the population variance of  $y_2$ ? How does this compare with your answer in question #1 part (b)?

The population variance of  $y_2$  is:

$$\sigma_{y2}^2 = 1^2 Var[x_1] + 2^2 Var[x_2] + Var[u] + (2*1*2)Cov[x_1, x_2]$$
  
= 1 + 4 + 1 + 4(0.5)  
= 8

This uses the fact that Corr(X,Y) = Cov(X,Y)/sd(X)sd(Y), and that we know the correlation between  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  is 0.5 and their respective standard deviations are 1.

(b) For fun, use the user-written Stata command tddens to visualize the bivariate distribution of  $(x_1, x_2)$  as a "heat map".

```
ssc install tddens tddens x1 x2
```

(c) Regress  $y_1$  on  $x_1$ . Note the slope coefficient and its standard error. If you are interested in an unbiased estimate of  $\beta_1$  (the slope coefficient on  $x_1$  in the population), does this regression suffer from omitted variables bias? Why or why not? If so, in what direction is the bias?

The simple regression of  $y_1$  on  $x_1$  is shown below. Unlike in question 1, we now know that  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are correlated. If our interest is in an unbiased estimate of  $\beta_1$  in the full model, we have omitted variables bias. We can use the omitted variables bias formula to think about the direction of bias:  $\beta_s = \beta_\ell + \pi \gamma$ . Here we know  $\gamma > 1$  (from the population model) and  $\pi > 1$  (since we know  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are positively

correlated). So the short regression coefficient is biased upward. As expected, including  $x_2$  as a covariate reduces the estimated coefficient on  $x_1$ :

. reg y2 x1

| Source              | SS                   | df                   | MS                       | Number of F(1, 98)    |                  | 100<br>129.78        |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Model  <br>Residual | 605.877978           | 1<br>98              | 605.877978<br>4.66858958 | Prob > F<br>R-squared | =<br>l =         | 0.0000<br>0.5698     |
| Total               |                      | 99                   | 10.7414117               |                       | =                |                      |
| y2                  |                      | Std. Err.            |                          | P> t  [9              | 95% Conf.        | Interval]            |
| x1  <br>_cons       | 2.155543<br>9.898806 | .1892156<br>.2165912 |                          |                       | 780051<br>468988 | 2.531036<br>10.32862 |

(d) Now regress  $y_2$  on  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ . What changed, and why?

As expected, including  $x_2$  as a covariate reduces the estimated coefficient on  $x_1$  (see part c):

. reg y2 x1 x2

| Source   | SS         | df        | MS        | Numbe    | er of obs | =   | 100       |
|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----|-----------|
| +-       |            |           |           | - $F(2,$ | 97)       | =   | 556.49    |
| Model    | 978.150139 | 2         | 489.0750  | 7 Prob   | > F       | =   | 0.0000    |
| Residual | 85.249617  | 97        | .87886203 | 1 R-squ  | ıared     | =   | 0.9198    |
| +-       |            |           |           | - Adj F  | l-squared | =   | 0.9182    |
| Total    | 1063.39976 | 99        | 10.741411 | 7 Root   | MSE       | =   | .93748    |
|          |            |           |           |          |           |     |           |
| y2       | Coef.      | Std. Err. |           | P> t     |           | ıf. | Interval] |
| x1       | .9126716   | .1019149  | 8.96      | 0.000    | .7103988  | 3   | 1.114944  |
| x2       | 2.136519   | .1038094  | 20.58     | 0.000    | 1.930486  | 3   | 2.342552  |
| _cons    | 10.06019   | .0943007  | 106.68    | 0.000    | 9.873029  | )   | 10.24735  |
|          |            |           |           |          |           |     |           |

(e) Apply the "regression anatomy" formula. That is, show that  $\hat{\beta}_2$  is equal to the slope coefficient from a simple regression of  $y_2$  on  $\tilde{x}_2$ , where  $\tilde{x}_2$  is the residual from a regression of  $x_2$  on  $x_1$ . Equivalently,  $\hat{\beta}_2 = Cov(y_1, \tilde{x}_2)/Var(\tilde{x}_2)$ .

The code below shows this calculation. The first step is the "auxiliary" regression of  $x_2$  on  $x_1$  where the residuals are obtained.

| Source                               | SS                                     |                            | MS   | Number of obs                                      |                               | 200  |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| +                                    |  |                            |  | F(1, 98)   |                               | 00.00  |
| Model                                | 44.1276395                             |                            |  | Prob > F   |                               |  |
| Residual                             | 81.5543213                             | 98                         | .832186952                                 |  |                               |  |
|                                      |  |                            |  | Adj R-squared                                      |                               | 0.3445   |
| Total                                | 125.681961                             | 99                         | 1.26951476                                 | Root MSE   | =                             | .91224   |
|                                      |  |                            |  |  |                               |  |
| x2                                   | Coef.                                  | Std. Err.                  | t P  | P> t  [95% C                                       | onf.                          | Interval]  |
| +                                    |  |                            |  |  |                               |  |
| x1                                   | .5817274                               | .0798867                   | 7.28                                       | .000 .42319  | 48                            | .74026   |
| _cons                                | 0755356                                | .0914447                   | -0.83 C                                    | 0.41125700   | 46                            | .1059333   |
|                                      |  |                            |  |  |                               |  |
|                                      |  |                            |  |  |                               |  |
| . predict uhat                       | , resia                                |                            |  |  |                               |  |
|                                      |  |                            |  |  |                               |  |
| . reg v2 uhat                        |  |                            |  |  |                               |  |
| . reg y2 uhat                        |  |                            |  |  |                               |  |
| . reg y2 uhat Source                 | SS                                     | df                         | MS   | Number of obs                                      | =                             | 100  |
|                                      | SS<br>                                 | df<br>                     | MS<br>                                     | Number of obs                                      |                               | 100<br>52.79   |
|                                      |  |                            | MS<br><br>372.272159                       | F(1, 98)   | =                             | 52.79  |
| Source  +<br>  Model                 |  | 1                          | 372.272159                                 | F(1, 98)<br>Prob > F                               | =                             | 52.79<br>0.0000  |
| Source  +<br>  Model                 | 372.272159                             | 1<br>98                    | 372.272159                                 | F(1, 98)<br>Prob > F                               | =<br>=<br>=                   | 52.79<br>0.0000  |
| Source  +<br>  Model                 | 372.272159<br>691.127597               | 1<br>98                    | 372.272159<br>7.05232242                   | F(1, 98)<br>Prob > F<br>R-squared                  | = = =                         | 52.79<br>0.0000<br>0.3501                                  |
| Source  <br>+<br>Model  <br>Residual | 372.272159<br>691.127597               | 1<br>98                    | 372.272159<br>7.05232242                   | F(1, 98)<br>Prob > F<br>R-squared<br>Adj R-squared | = = =                         | 52.79<br>0.0000<br>0.3501<br>0.3434                        |
| Source                               | 372.272159<br>691.127597<br>1063.39976 | 1<br>98<br>99              | 372.272159<br>7.05232242<br><br>10.7414117 | F(1, 98) Prob > F R-squared Adj R-squared Root MSE | =<br>=<br>=<br>=<br>=         | 52.79<br>0.0000<br>0.3501<br>0.3434<br>2.6556              |
| Source  <br>+<br>Model  <br>Residual | 372.272159<br>691.127597<br>1063.39976 | 1<br>98<br>99              | 372.272159<br>7.05232242<br><br>10.7414117 | F(1, 98)<br>Prob > F<br>R-squared<br>Adj R-squared | =<br>=<br>=<br>=<br>=         | 52.79<br>0.0000<br>0.3501<br>0.3434<br>2.6556              |
| Source   Model   Residual   Total    | 372.272159<br>691.127597<br>1063.39976 | 1<br>98<br>99<br>Std. Err. | 372.272159<br>7.05232242<br><br>10.7414117 | F(1, 98) Prob > F R-squared Adj R-squared Root MSE | =<br>=<br>=<br>=<br>=<br>onf. | 52.79<br>0.0000<br>0.3501<br>0.3434<br>2.6556<br>Interval] |
| Source                               | 372.272159<br>691.127597<br>1063.39976 | 1<br>98<br>99<br>Std. Err. | 372.272159<br>7.05232242<br>               | F(1, 98) Prob > F R-squared Adj R-squared Root MSE | =<br>=<br>=<br>=<br>=<br>onf. | 52.79<br>0.0000<br>0.3501<br>0.3434<br>2.6556<br>Interval] |

## Alternatively I show the Cov/Var version of this below (you get the same answer):

. corr y2 uhat, covar
(obs=100)

- . local covyu 'r(cov\_12)'
- . summ uhat

| Variable | Obs | Mean     | Std. Dev. | Min       | Max      |
|----------|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| uhat     | 100 | 4.98e-10 | .9076238  | -2.480034 | 1.866416 |

- . local varu 'r(Var)'
- . display 'covyu' / 'varu'
- 2.1365191
- (f) Demonstrate the omitted variables bias formula by showing the coefficient in the "short" regression (part b) is equal to the coefficient on  $x_1$  in the "long" regression (part c) + the product of  $\beta_2$  (the coefficient on  $x_2$  in the "long" regression) and  $\pi$  (the coefficient from a regression of the omitted on the included).

The code below shows this. Note the scalars \_b[] are one way of referencing estimated regression coefficients. These are temporary, so we store them as local macros.

. reg y2 x1 x2

| Source   |     | SS      | df | MS         | Nι | umber of obs | = | 100    |
|----------|-----|---------|----|------------|----|--------------|---|--------|
| <br>+    |     |         |    |            | F  | (2, 97)      | = | 556.49 |
| Model    | 978 | .150139 | 2  | 489.07507  | Pı | rob > F      | = | 0.0000 |
| Residual | 85  | .249617 | 97 | .878862031 | R- | -squared     | = | 0.9198 |
| <br>+    |     |         |    |            | Ac | dj R-squared | = | 0.9182 |
| Total    | 106 | 3.39976 | 99 | 10.7414117 | Ro | oot MSE      | = | .93748 |

| J        |  |                      | Std. Err. |               |       |   |
|----------|--|----------------------|-----------|---------------|-------|---|
| x1<br>x2 |  | .9126716<br>2.136519 |           | 8.96<br>20.58 | 0.000 | .7103988 1.114944<br>1.930486 2.342552<br>9.873029 10.24735 |

- . local  $x1long = _b[x1]$
- . local  $x2long = _b[x2]$
- . reg y2 x1

| Source   | SS         | df | MS         | Number of obs | = | 100    |
|----------|------------|----|------------|---------------|---|--------|
| <br>+-   |            |    |            | F(1, 98)      | = | 129.78 |
| Model    | 605.877978 | 1  | 605.877978 | Prob > F      | = | 0.0000 |
| Residual | 457.521779 | 98 | 4.66858958 | R-squared     | = | 0.5698 |
| <br>+-   |            |    |            | Adj R-squared | = | 0.5654 |
| Total    | 1063.39976 | 99 | 10.7414117 | Root MSE      | = | 2.1607 |
|          |            |    |            |               |   |        |

| y2    |          | Std. Err. |       |       |          | Interval] |
|-------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|----------|-----------|
| x1    | 2.155543 | .1892156  | 11.39 | 0.000 | 1.780051 |           |
| _cons | 9.898806 | .2165912  | 45.70 | 0.000 | 9.468988 | 10.32862  |

\_\_\_\_\_

```
. local x1short = _b[x1]
```

. reg x2 x1

| Source              | SS         | df                   | MS                       | Number of obs                                      |      | 100                        |
|---------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|------|----------------------------|
| Model  <br>Residual | 81.5543213 | 1<br>98<br>          | 44.1276395<br>.832186952 | F(1, 98) Prob > F R-squared Adj R-squared Root MSE |      | 0.0000<br>0.3511<br>0.3445 |
| x2                  | Coef.      | Std. Err.            |                          | P> t  [95% C                                       | onf. | Interval]                  |
| x1  <br>_cons       | .5817274   | .0798867<br>.0914447 | 7.28                     | ).000 .42319<br>).41125700                         |      | .74026<br>.1059333         |

- . local pi =  $_b[x1]$
- . display 'x1long'
- .91267159
- . display 'x2long'
- 2.1365192
- . display 'pi'
- .5817274
- . display 'x1long' + ('x2long'\*'pi')
- 2.1555433
- . // compare to:
- . display 'x1short'
- 2.1555433