

# Exam 1 Study Guide 115

Vinny

February 2026

I will test over the linear model so be prepared. You will need to make a prediction, calculate a residual, test the assumptions by looking at residual graphs, interpret the parameters, etc... If I bold something in the slides it means it's important. I will NOT test on the required readings nor R code. I will do my best to avoid the situation where it's a lot of "Using your answer to part A, do part B". Expect a mix of short answer, multiple choice & true/false, and questions on regressions. There will be graphs. I would advise against memorizing the formulas (see section 10 for my comments on the math you need to know) and focusing on the larger swaths

## 1 Introduction

- When looking at a data set you can identify...
  1. what are the observations
  2. what are the variables
- Populations vs Samples
  - An observation is a single thing from a sample, a sample is a collection of things from the population, the population is all of the things
- Parameters vs Statistics
- Types of variables
  - Numeric
    - \* Continuous
    - \* Discrete
  - Categorical
    - \* Nominal
    - \* Ordinal

## 2 Data Visualization

- Why do we graph data?
- How do we choose which type of graph to use?
  - Identify appropriate graphs for different types of data
- Association vs Independence
- Describe the distribution for...
  - One categorical variable
    - \* Using a bar chart mention
      - Proportion in each category
      - Something qualitative (Eg largest category is roughly x2 as large as the next biggest category)
  - One numeric variable
    - \* Using a histogram be comfortable identifying...
      - the number of modes
      - symmetry vs skew
      - outliers
    - \* Using a boxplot be comfortable identifying....
      - Symmetry vs skew
      - Outliers
      - Understanding a boxplot can't show modes
  - Two categorical variables
    - \* Be comfortable reading the different types of bar charts
    - \* Advantages and limitations of the different options
  - Two numeric variables
    - \* Scatterplots
      1. Direction
      2. Strength
      3. Outliers
      4. Form
  - Numeric and Categorical
    - \* Boxplots
      - Identify the 5 number summary using a boxplot
      - Building a boxplot from the 5 number summary
      - Discussing relative sizes of IQR between categories/boxplots

### 3 Accessibility

- What is a very common pair of colors that colorblind people struggle with?
- What are the 4 main challenges colorblindness presents
- Strategies to mitigate those problems
  - certain color palettes do better
  - Redundant Coding
    - \* Define
    - \* Give examples of redundant coding
  - What advantage does looking at a graph you are building in grey scale give?
- Fonts
  - Don't use small fonts (ie Don't use `small fonts` )
  - Dyslexic friendly fonts
  - What are serifs in fonts? *ℋℐℒ*
- The competing interests of accessibility and aesthetics
- Alt Text
  - Why does it exist?
  - Be comfortable describing a graph like you are writing the alt text

### 4 ggplot2

- Understand coding best practices (eg save early, save often)

### 5 Numeric Summaries

- Drawbacks compared to data visualizations
- Moment Statistics
  - Mean
  - St. Dev. (formula not needed)
  - Assumptions (ie symmetric, no outliers in the distribution)
- Order Statistics
  - percentiles
  - 5 number summary
  - IQR ( $Q_3 - Q_1$ )

- What “robust” to outliers means
- Relative advantages and disadvantages between moment stats and order stats
- In what situations is the mean larger/smaller than the median (heavily skewed right/left respectively, or outliers in those direction)
- When to choose one over the other
- What do I mean when I talk about “processed” data?
- Conditional statistics
  - It’s just calculating a statistic(s) for a particular group
  - eg we find the distribution of income for only women

## 6 Correlation

- What does Pearson’s correlation coefficient,  $r$ , measure?
  - What’s the range of  $r$ ?
  - What’s the units of  $r$ ?
  - How, if at all, does  $r$  change if we convert our measurement units (eg mpg to kpl)
  - Does a large  $r$  imply a linear fit?
  - Type of data  $r$  can be used with?
- What is Spearman’s correlation?
  - What type of data can Spearman’s cor. be applied to?
  - When do we choose Spearman’s over Pearson’s?
  - What does a “monotonic” relationship mean
- Rank graphs by how strong their (Pearson) correlations are
- Understand that correlation can be either positive negative or zero, and what does having a negative correlation mean? 0 correlation?
- Ecological Fallacy (group aggregated statistics don’t apply on the individual level)
- Correlation vs Causation
- Lurking variable
  - Be prepared to give an example

## 7 Simple Linear Regression

- What are the two main goals of simple linear regression?
- Be comfortable talking about what an explanatory variable and response variable are
- Difference between the regression equation and an estimated regression equation
- Difference between  $\hat{y}$  and  $y$ ; similar between  $\hat{\beta}_1$  and  $\beta_1$  and again  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\beta_0$
- Use a best-fit-line to make a prediction
- Use said prediction and the actual value to calculate the residual
- Interpret your coefficients
- 4 Assumptions. Be comfortable checking the ones you can with a residual vs predicted plot
  - Normality (roughly equal spread of points above and below the 0 line, no patterns)
  - X, Y's relationship is correctly identified (as a linear model)
  - Independent and Identically Distributed
  - Be prepared to give examples of when one assumption goes wrong
- Extrapolation and why that does not bring joy
- $R^2$ 
  - Interpretation
  - Relationship to Pearson's correlation coefficient  $r$
  - Appreciation for the fact it boils down the entire scatterplot/linear regression to a single number

## 8 Regression with Categorical Predictors

- What's a good (best?) value for guessing a prediction for a group? (hint: it's the mean)
- Indicator variables
  - What are they?
  - Why do we use them?
  - How to make them
- Make a prediction using a model with a categorical predictor, and calculate a residual
- Interpretations of it's parameters (HINT: I'll only be using the format with  $\beta$ 's, the same as R)
  - What's a baseline category? (The default category associated with  $\beta_0$ , and the category the other categories are compared to when estimating  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , etc..)

## 9 Multiple Linear Regression (MLR)

- Explain why we use MLR over simple linear regression
  - SLR only allows for one explanatory variable which is too limiting
  - MLR allows us to better understand the system as a whole since we can account for differing effects
- How do we interpret the coefficient of a quantitative (numeric) explanatory variable?
- How do we interpret the coefficient of an indicator (eg a nominal/categorical explanatory variable)?
- Assumptions
  - Our model is appropriate (linear model)
  - Residuals are normally distributed with mean 0
  - IID
    - \* There is where homoskedasticity assumption is (need same spread to be identically distributed)
  - NOTE: Both IID and normality assumption reference the residuals!
  - NOTE: If an assumption violation occurs we usually violate multiple assumptions, in my experience
  - Justify/explain why we color residuals by explanatory variables

## 10 Math You'll Need to be Comfortable With

- Taking a log of a number and back transforming it (eg  $e^{\log(x)}$ )
- Using a linear model equation to make a prediction
- Given an actual observation and a prediction find a residual
- Calculating a five number summary
  - Min, Max are easy
  - Median is the middle number
  - $Q_1$  and  $Q_3$  are the medians of the lower and upper halves of the data, respectively
- Calculating IQR given  $Q_1$  and  $Q_3$
- Going from  $r$  to  $R^2$  and back again
  - Be careful on if we need a positive or negative square root
  - Decision is based on the direction of the graph