

class review, presentations

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this version: Tuesday 21st April, 2015 16:00

outline

misc

final practice

student presentations

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general coding practices

- ◇ clean data and save it as something else
(never overwrite the original files)
- ◇ merge/append
- ◇ and you should have a final clean combined data file that you will use from now on
- ◇ then descriptive statistics
- ◇ and inferential statistics
- ◇ NOTE: in the course of coding code chunks will be all over the place – rearrange them

past paper comments

- ◇ more comments on the paper...
- ◇ descriptive stats goes before the regressions, not after (unless in the appendix)
- ◇ if descriptive stats is not very interesting (e.g. table of means and sd) just put it into the appendix
- ◇ instead of having alternative models, elaborate models
- ◇ figures and tables need captions and numbering
 - captions need to be very detailed so that you can understand table/figure from the caption only

draw figure and write caption

- axes need to be labelled in the figure

past paper comments

- ◇ don't be modest !
- ◇ your paper needs to contribute to the literature
- ◇ it should be clear how it contributes
- ◇ again, explain:
 - how come nobody else did this before
 - or/and how come they got it wrong

past paper comments

- ◇ you need to test ols assumptions
- ◇ always !
- ◇ it is important

past paper comments

- ◇ you ask lots of questions in paper/dofile
- ◇ this is great – asking questions is good in this class
- ◇ it would be better yet if you email us
 - you would get answers faster and we could exchange conversation...

past paper comments

- ◇ use beta coefficients
- ◇ use more descriptive statistics

past paper comments

- ◇ data – you should clearly cite data
 - best give URL and authors and description
 - describe sample, time, sampling, etc
- ◇ your dofile should produce final results from the raw data
 - do not just send me the dofile with few `regress`
 - it should have all the commands you executed after loading the fresh data

past paper comments

- ◇ presentation matters
- ◇ tables/figures need to be nice
- ◇ there are some common standards about what is nice
- ◇ see published papers in your area for examples

again, examples to follow

- ◇ let's have a look at my working hours paper
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/33078107768v8044/>
- ◇ let's have a look at Alesina's "Public Goods and Ethnic Divisions"
<http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&q=public+goods+and+ethnic+divisions>

past paper comments

- ◇ beginning researchers usually do not spend enough time on interpreting the results...
- ◇ there should be at least 1 page (12pt, double-spaced) of discussion
 - what have you found
 - substantive meaning
 - why does it matter
 - “so what ?”
 - limitations/future research

make your results meaningful

- ◇ go beyond regression table
- ◇ e.g. if you have say < 100 U/As show results for them
- ◇ e.g. Andrew is looking at apartments in Richardson
- ◇ he found that there is a markup for some types of rooms
- ◇ but it would be interesting to relate those results to actual names of apartments
- ◇ also you may show the predicted values and actual
e.g. rent
- and then discuss further where you over/under predict and why...

past paper comments

- ◇ have abstract and keywords !

past paper comments

- ◇ what data you have ?
- ◇ ols is good for cross sectional data only
- ◇ if you have panel or time series or dyadic/network data you need different models !
 - in this class it is fine, again ols will often give you reasonable results
 - but you should at least acknowledge the problems

past paper comments

- ◇ all of the above points will be graded in the final paper submission

minor issues

- ◇ do not say that you used stata 11 – so what ? nobody cares
- ◇ do not say that F-stat is significant – it is always significant
- ◇ do not talk about R^2 – it does not matter
- ◇ be clear and to the point; the shorter the paper the better
 - drop *everything* (e.g. most adjectives; fancy words) that can be dropped without losing the main point

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- ◇ focus on interpretation – review following sections
 - 6.2 scaling and measurement
 - 6.3 regression on standardized variables
 - and logs; whole chapter 6

questions/past classes

- ◇ questions ?
- ◇ if we are doing great on time let's go over past classes

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