Conceptual exercises.

Special-purpose transformations:

For a study of congressional elections, you would like a measure of the relative amount of money raised by each of the two major-party candidates in each district. Suppose that you know the amount of money raised by each candidate; label these dollar values D_i and R_i. You would like to combine these into a single variable that can be included as an input variable into a model predicting vote share for the Democrats.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the following measures:

- The simple difference, $D_i - R_i$
- The ratio, D_i / R_i
- The difference on the logarithmic scale, $log D_i - log R_i$
- The relative proportion, $D_i / (D_i + R_i)$.

Transformation

For observed pair of x and y, we fit a simple regression model

$$\mathrm{y} = \alpha + \beta \mathrm{x} + \epsilon$$

which results in estimates $\hat{\alpha} = 1$, $\hat{\beta} = 0.9$, $SE(\hat{\beta}) = 0.03$, $\hat{\sigma} = 2$ and $r = 0.3$.

1. Suppose that the explanatory variable values in a regression are transformed according to the $\mathrm{x}^\star = \mathrm{x} - 10$ and that y is regressed on $\mathrm{x}^\star$. Without redoing the regression calculation in detail, find $\hat{\alpha}^\star$, $\hat{\beta}^\star$, $\hat{\sigma}^\star$, and $r^\star$. What happens to these quantities when $\mathrm{x}^\star = 10\mathrm{x}$? When $\mathrm{x}^\star = 10(\mathrm{x} - 1)$?

   If we transform x into $x - 10$, $\hat{\alpha}^\star = \hat{\alpha} + 10 \times \hat{\beta} = 1 + 10 \times 0.9 = 91$, $\hat{\beta}, \hat{\sigma}, r$ remains.

   If we we change x into $10x$, $\hat{\beta}^\star = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{10} = 9 \times 10^{-2}, \hat{\sigma}^\star = \frac{\hat{\sigma}}{10^2} = 3 \times 10^{-4}$, $\hat{\alpha}, r$ remains.

   If we transform x into $10(x-1)$, $\hat{\alpha}^\star = 91, \hat{\beta}^\star = 9 \times 10^{-2}, \hat{\sigma}^\star = 3 \times 10^{-4}$, r remains.

2. Now suppose that the response variable scores are transformed according to the formula $\mathrm{y}^{\star\star} = \mathrm{y} + 10$ and that $\mathrm{y}^{\star\star}$ is regressed on x. Without redoing the regression calculation in detail, find $\hat{\alpha}^{\star\star}$, $\hat{\beta}^{\star\star}$, $\hat{\sigma}^{\star\star}$, and $r^{\star\star}$. What happens to these quantities when $\mathrm{y}^{\star\star} = 5\mathrm{y}$? When $\mathrm{y}^{\star\star} = 5(\mathrm{y} + 2)$?
3. In general, how are the results of a simple regression analysis affected by linear transformations of y and x?
4. Suppose that the explanatory variable values in a regression are transformed according to the $\mathrm{x}^\star = 10(\mathrm{x} - 1)$ and that y is regressed on $\mathrm{x}^\star$. Without redoing the regression calculation in detail, find $SE(\hat{\beta}^\star)$ and $t_0^\star = \hat{\beta}^\star / SE(\hat{\beta}^\star)$.
5. Now suppose that the response variable scores are transformed according to the formula $\mathrm{y}^{\star\star} = 5(\mathrm{y} + 2)$ and that $\mathrm{y}^{\star\star}$ is regressed on x. Without redoing the regression calculation in detail, find $SE(\hat{\beta}^{\star\star})$ and $t_0^{\star\star} = \hat{\beta}^{\star\star} / SE(\hat{\beta}^{\star\star})$.
6. In general, how are the hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for β affected by linear transformations of y and x?

Feedback comments etc.

If you have any comments about the homework, or the class, please write your feedback here. We love to hear your opinions.