

*Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation.* Wooldridge (2013), Chapter 3

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# Multiple Regression Analysis

The Multiple Regression model takes the form

$$E(y|x_1, \dots, x_k) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_k x_k$$

or equivalently

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_k x_k + u,$$

where  $E(u|x_1, \dots, x_k) = 0$ .

## Parallels with Simple Regression:

- $y$  is the dependent variable (regressand).
- $x_1, \dots, x_k$  are the  $k$  regressors.
- $u$  is still the error term (or disturbance).
- $\beta_0$  is still the intercept.
- $\beta_1$  to  $\beta_k$  all called slope parameters.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_k x_k + u,$$

where  $E(u|x_1, \dots, x_k) = 0$ .

## Examples:

- $y$  – sales, the regressors are advertising expenditure, income, price relative to competitors.
- $y$  – personal consumption, the regressors are disposable income, wealth, interest rates.
- $y$  – Investment, the regressors are interest rates and profits (past and future).
- $y$  – Wages, the regressors are schooling, experience, ability and gender.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Estimator

To estimate  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  we choose  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k$  that minimize

$$S(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{i2} - \dots - \hat{\beta}_k x_{ik})^2$$

The first order conditions are

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{i2} - \dots - \hat{\beta}_k x_{ik}) &= 0 \\ -\frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{i2} - \dots - \hat{\beta}_k x_{ik}) x_{ij} &= 0 \\ & j = 1, \dots, k \end{aligned}$$

- This is a system of equations with  $k + 1$  equations and  $k + 1$  variables:  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k$ . The Ordinary Least Squares estimator is obtained by solving the system of equations for  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k$ .

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Estimator

The first order conditions can be written as

$$-\frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$-\frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i x_{ij} = 0, \quad (2)$$
$$j = 1, \dots, k,$$

where  $\hat{u}_i = y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{i2} - \dots - \hat{\beta}_k x_{ik}$ . (*residuals*)

### Remarks:

- Beyond the two-variable case it is not possible to write out an explicit formula for the OLS estimators  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k$  (without the use of matrix algebra), although a solution exists.
- Equation (1) implies that the sum and the mean of the residuals are zero.
- Equations (1) and (2) imply that the covariances between the residuals and each regressor are zero.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Interpreting Multiple Regression

The OLS regression line (*fitted values*) is now defined as

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 x_2 + \dots + \hat{\beta}_k x_k.$$

Writing it in terms of changes we obtain

$$\Delta \hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_1 \Delta x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 \Delta x_2 + \dots + \hat{\beta}_k \Delta x_k.$$

Holding  $x_i, i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $i \neq j$  fixed implies that

$$\Delta \hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_j \Delta x_j,$$

$j = 1, \dots, k$ . Thus each  $\beta$  has a ceteris paribus interpretation.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## A Note on Terminology

- In most cases, we will indicate the estimation of a relationship through OLS by writing as

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 x_2 + \dots + \hat{\beta}_k x_k. \quad (3)$$

- Sometimes, for the sake of brevity, it is useful to indicate that an OLS regression has been run without actually writing out the equation.
- We will often indicate that equation (3) has been obtained by OLS in saying that we run the regression of  $y$  on  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Interpreting Multiple Regression

- Regression of Wages on years of Education and years of Work Experience:

Dependent variable: Wages

Estimation Method: Ordinary Least Squares

Regressors	Estimates
Intercept	-5.56732
Education	0.97685
Experience	0.10367

- Another year of Education is predicted to increase the mean of wages by \$0.97685, holding Experience fixed.
- Another year of Experience is predicted to increase the mean of wages by \$0.10367, holding Education fixed.



# Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation

## A "Partialling Out" Interpretation - Frisch-Waugh (1933) Theorem

Consider the case  $k = 2$ , i.e.

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 x_2.$$

There is an interesting interpretation for  $\hat{\beta}_1$  :

- Let  $\hat{r}_{i1}$  be the residuals from the regression of  $x_1$  on  $x_2$ . The fitted values are  $\hat{x}_1 = \hat{\gamma}_0 + \hat{\gamma}_2 x_2$ .
- Notice that for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$x_{i1} = \underbrace{\hat{x}_{i1}}_{\text{part of } x_1 \text{ that can be explained by } x_2} + \underbrace{\hat{r}_{i1}}_{\text{part of } x_1 \text{ that cannot be explained by } x_2}$$

- It can be shown that the OLS estimator for  $\beta_1, \hat{\beta}_1$ , is equal to the estimator of the slope when we run a regression of  $y_i$  on  $\hat{r}_{i1}$ . That is

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{r}_{i1} y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{r}_{i1}^2}.$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation

## A “Partialling Out” Interpretation - Frisch-Waugh (1933) Theorem

- It can be shown that the OLS estimator for  $\beta_1$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_1$ , is equal to the estimator of the slope when we run a regression of  $y_i$  on  $\hat{r}_{i1}$ . That is

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{r}_{i1} y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{r}_{i1}^2},$$

- What is the interpretation of this?
- We're estimating the effect of  $x_1$  on  $y$  after removing from  $x_1$  the effect of  $x_2$ .

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Simple vs Multiple Regression Estimate

Compare the simple regression

$$\tilde{y} = \tilde{\beta}_0 + \tilde{\beta}_1 x_1$$

with the multiple regression

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 x_2.$$

Generally  $\tilde{\beta}_1 \neq \hat{\beta}_1$  unless  $\hat{\beta}_2 = 0$  (i.e. no partial effect of  $x_2$ ) or  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are uncorrelated in the sample.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Simple vs Multiple Regression Estimate

### Example:

- Regression of Wages on Education

Dependent variable: Wages

Estimation Method: Ordinary Least Squares, sample size: 528

Regressors	Estimates
Intercept	-1.60468
Education	0.81395

- Regression of Wages on Education and Experience

Dependent variable: Wages

Estimation Method: Ordinary Least Squares, sample size: 528

Regressors	Estimates
Intercept	-5.56732
Education	0.97685
Experience	0.10367

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Goodness-of-Fit

As in the simple regression model we can think of each observation as being made up of an explained part, and an unexplained part,

$$y_i = \hat{y}_i + \hat{u}_i.$$

We then define the following:

- $\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2$  is the *total sum of squares* (SST).
- $\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2$  is the *explained sum of squares* (SSE).
- $\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2$  is the *residual sum of squares* (SSR).

(Same definitions as in the linear regression model)

Then

$$SST = SSE + SSR.$$

*Prove this result in the simple regression model!*

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Goodness-of-Fit

### Proof:

Recall that in the simple regression model we had

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_i) &= 0, \\ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_i) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

But since  $\hat{u}_i = y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_i$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i &= 0, \\ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \hat{u}_i &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Goodness-of-Fit

By definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{u}_i &= y_i - \hat{y}_i, \\ y_i &= \hat{y}_i + \hat{u}_i.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{y} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{y}_i + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{y}_i = \bar{\hat{y}}\end{aligned}$$

because  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i = 0$  and  $\bar{\hat{y}}$  is the average of the fitted values.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Goodness-of-Fit

We prove now that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i \hat{y}_i = 0.$$

Notice that  $\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_i$ , therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i (\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{\beta}_0 \hat{u}_i + \hat{\beta}_1 x_i \hat{u}_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\beta}_0 \hat{u}_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\beta}_1 x_i \hat{u}_i \\ &= \hat{\beta}_0 \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \hat{u}_i \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

because  $\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i = 0$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \hat{u}_i = 0$ .



# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Goodness-of-Fit

Now we are going to prove that

$$\begin{aligned}SST &= SSE + SSR, \\ \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2\end{aligned}$$

Given that  $y_i = \hat{y}_i + \hat{u}_i$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i + \hat{u}_i - \bar{y})^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n [(\hat{y}_i - \bar{y}) + \hat{u}_i]^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n [(\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2 + \hat{u}_i^2 + 2(\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})\hat{u}_i] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n 2(\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})\hat{u}_i\end{aligned}$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Goodness-of-Fit

Now notice that

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n 2(\hat{y}_i - \bar{y}) \hat{u}_i &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y}) \hat{u}_i \\ &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i - \bar{y} \hat{u}_i) \\ &= 2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{y} \hat{u}_i \right) \\ &= 2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i - \bar{y} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i \right) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

because  $\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i = 0$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i = 0$ .

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Goodness-of-Fit

- Can compute the fraction of the total sum of squares ( $SST$ ) that is explained by the model, call this the *R-squared* of regression:

$$R^2 = SSE/SST = 1 - SSR/SST,$$

where

$$SST = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2, \quad SSE = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2, \quad SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2.$$

- $R^2$  is a measure of *Goodness of fit*: proportion of the variance of the dependent variable that is explained by the model.
- The  $R^2$  is called the *coefficient of determination*.
- $0 \leq R^2 \leq 1$ .

It can be shown that  $R^2$  is equal to the squares of the correlation between  $\hat{y}$  and  $y$

$$R^2 = \frac{[\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{\hat{y}}) (y_i - \bar{y})]^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{\hat{y}})^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}$$

(also valid for the simple regression model). It can also be shown that  $\bar{\hat{y}} = \bar{y}$ .

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## More about R-squared

- $R^2$  can never decrease when another independent variable is added to a regression, and usually will increase.
- Because  $R^2$  will usually increase with the number of independent variables, it is not a good way to compare models.
- An alternative measure usually reported by any statistical software is the *adjusted R-squared*:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{R}^2 &= 1 - \frac{SSR/(n - k - 1)}{SST/(n - 1)} \\ &= 1 - \frac{(n - 1)}{(n - k - 1)}(1 - R^2).\end{aligned}$$

- $\bar{R}^2$  penalizes the number of regressors included.
- However,  $\bar{R}^2$ , is not not between 0 and 1. In fact, it can be negative.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

More about R-squared

**Example:** Regression of Wages on Education and Experience

Dependent variable: Wages

Estimation Method: Ordinary Least Squares, sample size: 528

Regressors	Estimates
Intercept	-5.56732
Education	0.97685
Experience	0.10367

$$R^2 = 0.209, \bar{R}^2 = 0.206$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Assumptions for Unbiasedness

- Population model is linear in parameters:  
 $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_k x_k + u.$
- We can use a random sample of size  $n$ ,  $\{(x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{ik}, y_i) : i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , from the population model, so that the sample model is

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \dots + \beta_k x_{ik} + u_i.$$

- $E(u|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) = 0$ , implying that all of the explanatory variables are exogenous.
- None of the  $x$ 's is constant, and there are no exact linear relationships among them (no perfect *multicollinearity*).

### Proposition

*Under the above assumptions the OLS estimators for  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  are unbiased, that is*

$$E(\hat{\beta}_j) = \beta_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, k.$$

(prove this result in the simple regression model).

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Unbiasedness

### Proof:

Recall that in the simple regression model we had

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\beta}_0 &= \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}, \\ \hat{\beta}_1 &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2},\end{aligned}$$

We proved before that  $\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i$ .

We prove now that  $\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) y_i$ .

Notice that

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) &= \sum_{i=1}^n [(x_i - \bar{x}) y_i - (x_i - \bar{x}) \bar{y}] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) \bar{y} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) y_i - \bar{y} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) y_i\end{aligned}$$

because, as we proved before,  $\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) = 0$ .

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Unbiasedness

Therefore

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i}$$

Recall that in the simple regression model we have

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + u_i, i = 1, \dots, n \\ E(u_i | x_i) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

We have to prove that  $E(\hat{\beta}_1) = \beta_1$  and  $E(\hat{\beta}_0) = \beta_0$

Write  $\tilde{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ , therefore by the law of iterated expectations we have

$$E(\hat{\beta}_1) = E(E(\hat{\beta}_1 | \tilde{x}))$$



# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Unbiasedness

Now

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\beta}_1 | \tilde{x}) &= E\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} \mid \tilde{x}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) y_i \mid \tilde{x}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} \sum_{i=1}^n E((x_i - \bar{x}) y_i \mid \tilde{x}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) E(y_i \mid \tilde{x}) \end{aligned}$$

and  $E(y_i | \tilde{x}) = E(y_i | x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n) = E(y_i | x_i)$  because  $y_i$  is independent from  $x_j$  for  $j \neq i$  as we assumed that we use a random sample  $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Unbiasedness

Now notice that  $E(y_i|x_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i$ , therefore

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\beta}_1|\tilde{x}) &= \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) (\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i) \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) \beta_1 x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} \\ &= \frac{\beta_0 \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) + \beta_1 \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} \\ &= \frac{\beta_1 \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i} \\ &= \beta_1 \end{aligned}$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\beta}_1) &= E(E(\hat{\beta}_1|\tilde{x})) \\ &= E(\beta_1) \\ &= \beta_1 \end{aligned}$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Unbiasedness

Concerning the estimator of the intercept parameter notice that, by the law of iterated expectations, we have

$$E(\hat{\beta}_0) = E(E(\hat{\beta}_0|\tilde{x}))$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\beta}_0|\tilde{x}) &= E(\bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1\bar{x}|\tilde{x}) \\ &= E(\bar{y}|\tilde{x}) - E(\hat{\beta}_1\bar{x}|\tilde{x}) \\ &= E(\bar{y}|\tilde{x}) - E(\hat{\beta}_1|\tilde{x})\bar{x} \end{aligned}$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Unbiasedness

$$\begin{aligned}E(\bar{y}|\tilde{x}) &= E\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n y_i|\tilde{x}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n E(y_i|\tilde{x}) \\&= \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i) \\&= \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_0 + \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_1 x_i \\&= \frac{1}{n}\left(\underbrace{\beta_0 + \beta_0 + \dots + \beta_0}_{\times n}\right) + \beta_1 \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \\&= \frac{n}{n}\beta_0 + \beta_1 \bar{x} \\&= \beta_0 + \beta_1 \bar{x}\end{aligned}$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Unbiasedness

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\beta}_0|\tilde{x}) &= \beta_0 + \beta_1\tilde{x} - \beta_1\bar{x} \\ &= \beta_0 \end{aligned}$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\beta}_0) &= E(E(\hat{\beta}_0|\tilde{x})) \\ &= E(\beta_0) \\ &= \beta_0 \end{aligned}$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Too Many or Too Few Variables

- What happens if we include variables in our specification that don't belong?
- There is no effect on our parameter estimate, and OLS remains unbiased.
- What if we exclude a variable from our specification that does belong?
- OLS will usually be biased.

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Too Many or Too Few Variables

Suppose that we know that the model is

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + u$$

where  $E(u|x_1, x_2) = 0$  but we estimate  $\tilde{y} = \tilde{\beta}_0 + \tilde{\beta}_1 x_1$ .

- As it was shown before

$$\tilde{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1) y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1)^2}.$$

- Then **conditional on the regressors**

$$\begin{aligned} E(\tilde{\beta}_1) &= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1) x_{i2}}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1)^2} \\ &= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1) (x_{i2} - \bar{x}_2)}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

as we can show that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1) x_{i2} = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1) (x_{i2} - \bar{x}_2).$$

# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Too Many or Too Few Variables

- Thus

$$\begin{aligned}E(\tilde{\beta}_1) &= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1)(x_{i2} - \bar{x}_2)}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1)^2} \\&= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1)(x_{i2} - \bar{x}_2)}{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_{i1} - \bar{x}_1)^2} \\&= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{S_{x_1, x_2}}{S_{x_1}^2}.\end{aligned}$$

where  $S_{x_1, x_2}$  is the sample covariance between  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  and  $S_{x_1}^2$  is the sample variance of  $x_1$ .



# Multiple Regression Analysis

## Too Many or Too Few Variables

$$\begin{aligned}E(\tilde{\beta}_1) &= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{S_{x_1, x_2}}{S_{x_1}^2} \\ &= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \frac{S_{x_1, x_2}}{S_{x_2} S_{x_1}} \frac{S_{x_2}}{S_{x_1}} \\ &= \beta_1 + \beta_2 \text{Corr}(x_1, x_2) \frac{S_{x_2}}{S_{x_1}}.\end{aligned}$$

### Summary of Direction of Bias

	$\text{Corr}(x_1, x_2) > 0$	$\text{Corr}(x_1, x_2) < 0$
$\beta_2 > 0$	Positive Bias	Negative Bias
$\beta_2 < 0$	Negative Bias	Positive Bias

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## Omitted Variable Bias Summary

- Two cases where bias is equal to zero:
  - $\beta_2 = 0$ , that is  $x_2$  doesn't really belong in model.
  - $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are uncorrelated in the sample.
- If  $\text{corr}(x_2, x_1)$  and  $\beta_2$  have the same sign, bias will be positive.
- If  $\text{corr}(x_2, x_1)$  and  $\beta_2$  have the opposite sign, bias will be negative.
- The More General Case: Technically, can only obtain the sign of the bias for the more general case if all of the included  $x$ 's are uncorrelated.

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## Variance of the OLS Estimators

The Variance-covariance matrix of the OLS estimator  $(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k)$  has the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_0) & \text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1) & \dots & \text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_k) \\ \text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1) & \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1) & \dots & \text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_k) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_k) & \text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_k) & \dots & \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_k) \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Variance of the OLS Estimators

- Let  $\mathbf{x}$  stand for  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$ .
- Assume  $Var(u|\mathbf{x}) = \sigma^2$  (Homoskedasticity).
- Assuming that  $Var(u|\mathbf{x}) = \sigma^2$  also implies that  $Var(y|\mathbf{x}) = \sigma^2$ .
- The 4 assumptions for unbiasedness, plus this homoskedasticity assumption are known as the Gauss-Markov assumptions.

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## Variance of the OLS Estimators

Given the Gauss-Markov Assumptions

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_j) = \frac{\sigma^2}{SST_j (1 - R_j^2)},$$

where the  $SST_j = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_{ij} - \bar{x}_j)^2$  and  $R_j^2$  is the  $R^2$  from the regressing  $x_j$  on all other  $x$ 's.

### Components of OLS Variances:

- The error variance: a larger  $\sigma^2$  implies a larger variance for the OLS estimators.
- The total sample variation: a larger  $SST_j$  implies a smaller variance for the estimators.
- Linear relationships among the independent variables: a larger  $R_j^2$  implies a larger variance for the estimators.