

# ECO310: Empirical Industrial Organization

## Tutorial 1: Review of Econometrics

Francis Guiton  
**Email:** francis.guiton@mail.utoronto.ca

December 11, 2021

# Outline

- Introduction
- Linear Regression Model
- Data
- Estimation: Ordinary Least Squares
- Hypothesis Testing
- Analysis of Variance
- Example

# Introduction

- **Econometrics** uses statistical methods to produce estimates of economic parameters.
- **Parameters** - Quantitative measure of some feature of the population or model
- **Estimates** - Statistical inferences of the unknown parameters of model
  - At the very least want estimators to be consistent and unbiased
  - We are satisfied when they are efficient (low standard errors)
- **Standard Errors** - Measure of the imprecision in our estimates.
  - Our parameter estimates will always contain some error:
    1. Sampling error.
    2. Omitted variables bias.

# Experiments and Sample Space

- **Experiment** - Any process of observation that can be conceptually repeated and has an uncertain outcome
  - Toss two coins
  - Measure average height
  - Measure the effect of policy on housing price
- **Sample Space** - The set of all possible outcomes of an experiment
  - Toss two coins:  $\{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$
  - Height:  $(0, \infty)$
  - Policy effect:  $(-\infty, \infty)$

# Events and Random Variables

- **Event** - A subset of the sample space
  - Toss two coins:  $\{HH, HT, TH\}$  "toss at least one head"
  - Height: "between 150 and 180 cm" , "greater than 190 cm"
  - Policy effect: "positive effect on housing price"
- **Random Variable** - A function that assigns a numerical value to each outcome
  - Toss two coins:  $X \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  =number of heads
  - Height:  $X \in \{0, \infty\}$
  - Policy effect:  $X \in \{-\infty, \infty\}$

# Random Variables and their Distribution

- Let  $Y$  be a **random variable** (r.v.)
  - That is, the value of  $Y$  is subject to variations due to chance
  - As such, there is uncertainty involved in its value.
- The set of possible values of  $Y$ , and the probability at which it takes on these values is described by the **distribution** of  $Y$

## Random Variables and their Distribution

- The **distribution function** denoted  $F(y)$  describes the probability that the r.v.  $Y$  takes on a value less than or equal to the number  $y$ .

$$F(y) = \Pr\{Y \leq y\}$$

- The **mean**  $\mu$  of  $Y$  is the expected value of the distribution of  $Y$
- The **variance**  $\sigma^2$  of  $Y$  measures the spread in the distribution of  $Y$ .

$$\mu = E[Y] \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^2 = E[(Y - \mu)^2]$$

## Random Variables and their Distribution

- We often deal with r.v.'s that are generated from an unknown distribution.
- Let  $\{y_i : i = 1, \dots, N\}$  be a random sample of observations on  $Y$
- Estimators of the population mean and variance are

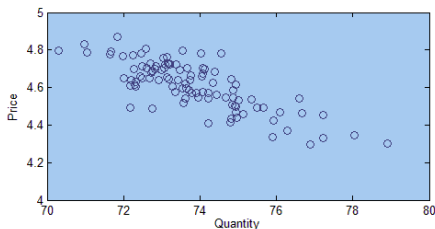
Sample Mean : 
$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i$$

Sample Variance : 
$$s^2 = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$



# Estimating Causal Relationships

- In economics, we are often interested in the causal relationship between an explanatory variable  $x$  and an outcome variable  $y$
- A **scatter-plot** is useful way of depicting the relationship between two r.v.'s



## Estimating Causal Relationships Cont.

- The **sample covariance** is a useful statistic to describe this relationship

$$\text{cov}(x, y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})$$

- But covariance/correlation does not imply causation!

## Estimating Causal Relationships Cont.

- In other words, we are interested in the **causal relationship** between a set of explanatory variables  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$  and a **dependent variable**  $y$
- We hypothesize that there is a systematic causal relationship between  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$  and  $y$  through the equation

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

- The random component of  $Y$  is captured by the **error term**  $\varepsilon$  with

$$E[\varepsilon] = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad V[\varepsilon] = \sigma^2$$

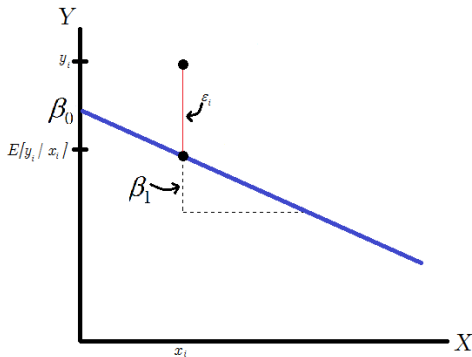


## The Linear Regression Model Cont.

- **The parameter  $\beta_k$**  measures causal effect of  $x_k$  on  $y$ , holding *all* other vars. fixed
- $\varepsilon$  captures all other factors that affect  $y$  aside from  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$
- This error term is included because:
  - Some relevant variables are unobservable.
  - Even if observable, impossible to collect data on everything.
  - Even if collectable, might be subject to Measurement Error.

# The Simple Linear Regression Model

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \varepsilon_i$$



## The Simple Linear Regression Model Cont.

- **Constant**  $\beta_0$  - "autonomous" level of  $y$ .
- **Slope**  $\beta_1$  - causal effect of a marginal increase in  $x$  on  $y$ .
- **Error term** - deviation from the systematic model.

The LRM is flexible: it allows for many functional forms – it is only linear in **parameters**, not in **variables**:

## Functional Forms

- In a **Linear** specification

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \varepsilon$$

$\beta_1$  is the # of units change in  $y$  from a 1-unit change in  $x$

- In a **Log-Log** specification

$$\ln y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln x + \varepsilon$$

$\beta_1$  is the % change in  $y$  from a 1% change in  $x$

- In a **Log-Linear** specification

$$\ln y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \varepsilon$$

$100 * \beta_1$  is the % change in  $y$  from a 1-unit change in  $x$



# The Data

- The purpose of our econometric analysis is to estimate parameters  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  and  $\sigma^2$
- Towards this end, suppose we have collected a **random sample** of data

$$\{y_i, x_{1i}, x_{2i}, \dots, x_{ki} : i = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

- Each individual in the population has an equal chance of being chosen at each draw of our sample.
- This ensures that sample is representative of the underlying population

## The Data Cont.

- Data for econometric analysis comes in a variety of types

- **Cross Section** - observe many individuals for one period

$$Q_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 P_i + \varepsilon_i \quad \text{for } i = \text{City } 1, \dots, \text{City } N$$

- **Time Series** - observe one individual over successive time periods, e.g.

$$Q_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 P_t + \varepsilon_t \quad \text{for } t = \text{Year } 1, \dots, \text{Year } T$$

- **Panel Data** - observe many individuals over multiple periods, e.g.

$$Q_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 P_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{for } i = \text{City } 1, \dots, \text{City } N \\ \text{and } t = \text{Year } 1, \dots, \text{Year } T \end{array}$$

# The Data Cont.

## Cross Section

City	Price	Quantity
Toronto	99.99	1.75 mil
Montreal	103.50	1.65 mil
⋮		
Cranbrook	123	10,000

# The Data Cont.

## Time Series

Montreal - Year	Price	Quantity
1990	87.50	1.03 mil
1991	87.99	1.02 mil
⋮		
2010	103.50	1.65 mil

# The Data Cont.

## Panel

City	Year	Price	Quantity
Toronto	1990	87.50	0.9 mil
Toronto	2010	99.99	1.75 mil
Montreal	1990	87.50	1.03 mil
Montreal	2010	103.50	1.65 mil
⋮			
Cranbrook	1990	86.00	1,000
Cranbrook	2010	123	10,000

# Assumptions

- The multiple regression model states that, in the population:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \beta_2 x_{2i} + \dots + \beta_k x_{ki} + \varepsilon_i$$

- The number of parameters is  $k + 1$
- The observation index is  $i$ : Cross-sectional data
- Parameter  $\beta_k$  measures causal effect of  $x_k$  on  $y$  **holding all other vars fixed**
- Error term  $\varepsilon$  is an unobservable capturing all *other* factors that effect  $y$

## Assumptions Cont.

- 1 Linearity:** each predictor variable  $x$  is linearly related to  $y$ .
  - Means no non-linearities in parameters - cannot have  $y_i = \beta_0 + x_i^{\beta_1} + \varepsilon$ .
  - However, the  $x$  and  $y$  variables can be non-linear transformations - can have  $\ln y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln x_i + \varepsilon_i$  or  $y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i^2 + \varepsilon$
- 2 Zero Mean:** Error terms have a mean of zero.  $E[\varepsilon_i] = 0$ 
  - Can be made without loss of generality if constant  $\beta_0$  has been included
- 3 Exogeneity:** Each  $x_k$  is unrelated with the error term.  $\text{cov}(x_k, \varepsilon_i) = 0$ .
  - Means no "lurking variables". – i.e. any omitted variable do not have confounding effects on both  $x$ 's and  $y$ .
  - Crucial is random sampling, so variation in  $x$ 's is independent of variation in  $\varepsilon$

4 **Independence:** Error terms are independently distributed.

$$\text{cov}(\varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_j) = 0$$

5 **Homoscedasticity:** Error terms have a constant variance.

$$\text{var}(\varepsilon_i) = \sigma_\varepsilon^2$$

6 **Normality:** Error terms are normally distributed.  $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2)$



## Estimation

- With a sample of data  $\{y_i, x_{1i}, \dots, x_{ki} : i = 1, \dots, N\}$  we can estimate the unknown population parameters  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$
- Let  $b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k$  be the estimated parameters from our sample of data.
- Based on these estimates, the **fitted value** or **predicted value** of  $y_i$  given  $x_{1i}, x_{2i}, \dots, x_{ki}$  is

$$\hat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1 x_{1i} + b_2 x_{2i} + \dots + b_k x_{ki}$$

- The difference between observed value of  $y_i$  and predicted value  $\hat{y}_i$  is the **residual**

$$e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$$

and *can be thought* of as a measure of how close our prediction is to the true value

## Estimation - Some Ideas

- We want to choose our estimates such that the error is small

1. Choose parameters to minimize the sum of residuals

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)$$

- Doesn't account for errors of opposite sign
- Any line that passes through the point  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  will have this sum equal to 0 (non unique solution)

2. Choose parameters to minimize  $\sum_{i=1}^n |(y_i - \hat{y}_i)|$

- "Least absolute value regression" - this is seldom used

3. Choose parameters to minimize  $\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$

- This type of estimator is called a **Least Squares Estimator**
- One of the most common estimators in econometrics
- Easy to compute and provides a unique solution
- Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE)

# Estimation - Ordinary Least Squares

- The most common estimator in econometrics is **Ordinary Least Squares**
  - We do not observe the error term  $\varepsilon_i$ .
  - But given estimates of the  $\beta$  parameters, we can construct an estimate of it.
  - The **residuals**

$$e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i = y_i - b_1 x_{1i} - b_2 x_{2i} - \dots - b_k x_{ki}$$

- The **OLS Estimator** is the value of the  $b$ 's which minimizes the sum of squared residuals

$$b = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^N e_i^2$$

## Estimation - Ordinary Least Squares Cont.

- For the simple linear regression model

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \varepsilon_i$$

the OLS estimator for the slope parameter has a simple expression

$$b_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \bar{y})(x_i - \bar{x})}{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2} = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\text{var}(x)}$$

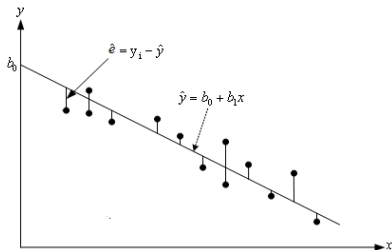
$$b_0 = \bar{y} - b_1 \bar{x}$$

- And our estimator for the error variance  $\sigma^2$  is given by

$$s^2 = \frac{1}{N-2} \sum_{i=1}^N e_i^2$$

## Interpretation

- How do we interpret the estimated parameter?



- The principle behind OLS is to estimate the model parameters by drawing a line that "best fits" the data in the least squares sense.

## Interpretation Cont.

- How do we interpret the estimated parameter?
- The estimated value  $b_k$  measures the *typical* (i.e. average) change in  $y$  associated with a one unit change in  $x_k$ , holding the other included  $x$  variables fixed.
  - You can think of  $b_k$  as the "partial correlation" between  $x_k$  and  $y$  – i.e. the correlation between  $x_k$  and  $y$  *after* controlling for the other *included*  $x$ 's
  - NB: partial-correlation is not the same thing as correlation. E.g., it is possible to observe positive correlation between  $x_k$  and  $y$ , and then get a negative estimate  $b_k$ .

## Interpretation Cont.

- However, (Partial) Correlation does not imply Causation
  - Because of the possibility of latent or omitted variables (violation of Exogeneity) –  $b_k$  is not necessarily an estimate of the causal effect of  $x_k$  on  $y$ .
  - That is, due to the possibility of **Endogeneity**, **we cannot** say that  $b_k$  measures the change in  $y$  associated with a one unit change in  $x_k$ , holding **all** variables fixed.

# Hypothesis Testing

- Under Assumption 1-6,  $b_k$  is an estimate of the (partial) effect of  $x_k$  on  $y$  based on our *sample of data*.
- We can use it to do **inference** about the value of  $\beta_k$ , the (partial) effect of  $x_k$  on  $y$  in the *population*.



## Hypothesis Testing Cont.

- **Hypothesis Testing**

- Suppose we wanted to answer the question "Is the (partial) effect of  $x_k$  on  $y$  in the *population* equal to (the number)  $\beta$ ?"
- We maintain the **Null Hypothesis** that  $\beta_k$  is indeed equal to  $\beta$  in the population

$$H_0 : \beta_k = \beta$$

and we ask the data to show us otherwise – i.e. our **Alternative Hypothesis**

$$H_1 : \beta_k \neq \beta$$

- The **test-statistic** for this test is the **t-statistic**

$$t = \frac{b_k - \beta}{s_{b_k}}$$

## Hypothesis Testing Cont.

- $s_{b_k}$  is the standard error of our estimator  $b_k$ . In a simple linear regression  $y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \epsilon$  this is given by

$$s_{b_1} = \frac{s^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

- Under the null hypothesis,  $H_0$ , our test statistic follows a  **$T$  Distribution** with  $n - k - 1$  deg. of freedom

## Hypothesis Testing Cont.

- At significance level  $\alpha$ , let  $t_{\alpha/2}$  be the **critical value** from the T-distribution that leaves probability mass  $\alpha/2$  in the tails.
- We reject  $H_0$  in favour of  $H_1$  if t-statistic is greater than  $t_{\alpha/2}$  in absolute value:

$$\text{Reject if } t > t_{\alpha/2} \text{ or } t < -t_{\alpha/2}$$

- The **P-value** of the test is the prob. in the tails, as determined by the computed value of the t-stat, under the  $T$ -distribution.
- It measures the strength of the evidence against the Null Hypothesis.
- Thus, equivalently:

$$\text{Reject if } P\text{-value} < \alpha$$

## Test of Statistical Significance

- A particularly important question is whether  $x_k$  indeed has an effect of  $y$ . We call this a **Test of Statistical Significance** or just a "Significance Test"
- Our Null Hypothesis and Alternative Hypothesis are

$$H_0 : \beta_k = 0 \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \beta_k \neq 0$$

- The test-statistic for this test is a special case of our usual t-statistic

$$t = \frac{b_k}{s_{b_k}}$$

and under the Null-Hypothesis,  $t \sim T(n - k - 1)$ .

- Rule of thumb: we can reject  $H_0$  if  $t$  is greater than 2 in absolute value.

## Analysis of Variance

- The linear regression model is designed to explain the variation of  $y$ :

$$s_y^2 = \frac{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2}{n - 1}$$

- Analysis of Variance** (ANOVA): How the total variability of  $y$  is related to the variation in the  $x$ 's versus the variation in  $\varepsilon$ 
  - Define the Total Sum of Squares as

$$SST = \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$

- The Sum of Squares of the Regression (SSR) is the part of the variation in  $y$  that is explained by our regression model
- The Sum of Squares of the Errors (SSE) is that part left unexplained

$$SSR = \sum_i (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2 \qquad SSE = \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

$$SST = SSR + SSE$$

## Goodness of Fit

- How much of  $y$  is explained by  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$ ?
- The **R-Squared** of the regression is that fraction of the total variation in  $y$  that has been explained by the variation in the  $x$ 's

$$R^2 = \frac{SSR}{SST} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad R^2 = 1 - \frac{SSE}{SST}$$

- $R^2$  is a number between 0 and 1.
- The higher is  $R^2$  the greater is the percent of the variation of  $y$  explained by our model.

## An Example

- Is the demand for gasoline inelastic?
- Suppose we collected a sample of 50 towns in Ontario during 2013
  - $Q_i$  - the quantity of gasoline sold in that town last year
  - $P_i$  - the (average) price of gasoline in that town
  - $Y_i$  - median household income in that town
- Economic theory gives us a valid regression model of the Demand for Gasoline

$$\ln Q_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_i + \beta_2 \ln Y_i + \varepsilon_i$$

- In STATA, the syntax for regression is: **regress y x1 x2 ...xk**

## An Example - Results

```
. reg lnQ lnP lnY
```

Source	SS	df	MS
Model	24.0503982	2	12.0251991
Residual	60.2333272	47	1.28156015
Total	84.2837254	49	1.72007603

Number of obs = 50  
 F( 2, 47) = 9.38  
 Prob > F = 0.0004  
 R-squared = 0.2854  
 Adj R-squared = 0.2549  
 Root MSE = 1.1321

lnQ	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
lnP	-.9464336	.5006762	-1.89	0.065	-1.953664	.060797
lnY	1.806263	.4239203	4.26	0.000	.9534459	2.659081
_cons	10.70829	.6591015	16.25	0.000	9.382345	12.03423



# An Example - Results

```
. reg lnQ lnP lnY
```

Source	SS	df	MS
Model	24.0503982	2	12.0251991
Residual	60.2333272	47	1.28156015
Total	84.2837254	49	1.72007603

Number of obs = 50  
 F( 2, 47) = 9.38  
 Prob > F = 0.0004  
 R-squared = 0.2854  
 Adj R-squared = 0.2549  
 Root MSE = 1.1321

lnQ	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
lnP	-.9464336	.5006762	-1.89	0.065	-1.953664	.060797
lnY	1.806263	.4239203	4.26	0.000	.9534459	2.659081
_cons	10.70829	.6591015	16.25	0.000	9.382345	12.03423

b

se(b)

## An Example - Results

```
. reg lnQ lnP lnY
```

Source	SS	df	MS
Model	24.0503982	2	12.0251991
Residual	60.2333272	47	1.28156015
Total	84.2837254	49	1.72007603

Number of obs = 50  
 F( 2, 47) = 9.38  
 Prob > F = 0.0004  
 R-squared = 0.2854  
 Adj R-squared = 0.2549  
 Root MSE = 1.1321

lnQ	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
lnP	-.9464336	.5006762	-1.89	0.065	-1.953664	.060797
lnY	1.806263	.4239203	4.26	0.000	.9534459	2.659081
_cons	10.70829	.6591015	16.25	0.000	9.382345	12.03423

t-Statistic & P-Value for  
 $H_0: \beta = 0$  vs  $H_1: \beta \neq 0$

## An Example - Results

```
. reg lnQ lnP lnY
```

Source	SS	df	MS
Model	24.0503982	2	12.0251991
Residual	60.2333272	47	1.28156015
Total	84.2837254	49	1.72007603

Number of obs = 50  
 F( 2, 47) = 9.38  
 Prob > F = 0.0004  
 R-squared = 0.2854  
 Adj R-squared = 0.2549  
 Root MSE = 1.1321

lnQ	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
lnP	-.9464336	.5006762	-1.89	0.065	-1.953664	.060797
lnY	1.806263	.4239203	4.26	0.000	.9534459	2.659081
_cons	10.70829	.6591015	16.25	0.000	9.382345	12.03423

95% CI for beta

LB =  $b - t_{.025} * se(b)$

UB =  $b + t_{.025} * se(b)$

# An Example - Results

```
. reg lnQ lnP lnY
```

Source	SS	df	MS
Model	24.0503982	2	12.0251991
Residual	60.2333272	47	1.28156015
Total	84.2837254	49	1.72007603

Number of obs = 50  
 F( 2, 47) = 9.38  
 Prob > F = 0.0004  
 R-squared = 0.2854  
 Adj R-squared = 0.2549  
 Root MSE = 1.1321

	lnQ	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
lnP		-.9464336	.5006762	-1.89	0.065	-1.953664 .060797
lnY		1.806263	.4239203	4.26	0.000	.9534459 2.659081
_cons		10.70829	.6591015	16.25	0.000	9.382345 12.03423

SSR   SSE   SST

$n-k-1$

$n$

# An Example - Results

```
. reg lnQ lnP lnY
```

Source	SS	df	MS			
Model	24.0503982	2	12.0251991			
Residual	60.2333272	47	1.28156015			
Total	84.2837254	49	1.72007603			

	Number of obs =	50
	F( 2, 47) =	9.38
	Prob > F =	0.0004
	R-squared =	0.2854
	Adj R-squared =	0.2549
	Root MSE =	1.1321

lnQ	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
lnP	-.9464336	.5006762	-1.89	0.065	-1.953664	.060797
lnY	1.806263	.4239203	4.26	0.000	.9534459	2.659081
_cons	10.70829	.6591015	16.25	0.000	9.382345	12.03423

$$S_e^2 = \frac{SSE}{n-k-1}$$

$$S_e = \sqrt{\frac{SSE}{n-k-1}}$$

## An Example - Results

```
. reg lnQ lnP lnY
```

Source	SS	df	MS
Model	24.0503982	2	12.0251991
Residual	60.2333272	47	1.28156015
Total	84.2837254	49	1.72007603

Number of obs = 50  
 $F(2, 47) = 9.38$   
 Prob > F = 0.0004  
 R-squared = 0.2854  
 Adj R-squared = 0.2549  
 Root MSE = 1.1321

lnQ	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
lnP	-.9464336	.5006762	-1.89	0.065	-1.953664	.060797
lnY	1.806263	.4239203	4.26	0.000	.9534459	2.659081
_cons	10.70829	.6591015	16.25	0.000	9.382345	12.03423

F-Stat and P-Value for  
 $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$  vs  
 $H_1: \text{At least one } \neq 0$

R-Sq and Adj R-Sq

## An Example - Results

- In a "typical" (i.e. average) market, a 1% increase in Price is associated with a 0.95% decrease in quantity demanded, after controlling for Income.
- The P-value for a significance test is 0.065. Thus, at  $\alpha=10\%$ , we reject null hypothesis that, even after controlling for income, price has no effect on demand.
- The R-Square for this model is 0.2854.
- This means 28.54% of the variation in (log) Quantities Demanded in our sample is explained by the variation in (log) Prices and Income.

## Functional Forms

- As we have just seen, the multiple regression model is much more flexible than it appears – It can be used to estimate non linear relationships between  $y$  and the  $x$ 's
- The linearity assumption only means that the parameters enter linearly
- Some common functional forms involve
  - Logarithms
  - Quadratics
  - Interaction Terms
  - Dummy Variables
  - Time Series Models: Trends
  - Panel Data Model: Fixed Effects



## Functional Forms - Logarithms

- Suppose we wanted to estimate the relationship between quantities demanded  $Q$  for a good, price  $P$  of the good, and income  $Y$ .
  - In the **Log-Log Model**

$$\ln Q_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_i + \beta_2 \ln Y_i + \varepsilon_i$$

$\beta_1$  is interpreted as % $\Delta$  in  $Q$  from a 1%  $\Delta$  in  $P$ , conditional on (log)  $Y$ ; That is,  $b_1$  is an estimate of the Price-Elasticity of Demand

- In the **Log-Linear Model**

$$\ln Q_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 P_i + \beta_2 Y_i + \varepsilon_i$$

$\beta_1 * 100$  is interpreted as % $\Delta$  in  $Q$  from a 1 unit  $\Delta$  in  $P$ , conditional. on  $Y$ .

## Functional Forms - Quadratic

- One might assume that people are more price-elastic at higher prices
- In this case, the price elasticity of demand is dependent on price
- A model of demand with a **Quadratic term** in price

$$\ln Q_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_i + \beta_2 \ln Y_i + \beta_3 \ln P_i^2 + \varepsilon_i$$

- The price-elasticity of demand is

$$\frac{\partial \ln Q}{\partial \ln P} = \beta_2 + 2\beta_3 \ln P_i$$

and thus price-elasticity changes as the price level changes

## Functional Forms - Interaction Terms

- One might assume that markets with higher income are less price-elastic than those with lower income
- In this case, the price elasticity is dependent on the level of income
- A model of demand with an **Interaction term** between price and income

$$\ln Q_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_i + \beta_2 \ln Y_i + \beta_3 \ln P_i * \ln Y_i + \varepsilon_i$$

- The price-elasticity of demand is

$$\frac{\partial \ln Q}{\partial \ln P} = \beta_1 + \beta_3 \ln Y_i$$

and thus price-elasticity changes as income changes

## Functional Forms - Dummy Variables

- Suppose we believed demand in cities is higher than demand in towns.
- Define the **Dummy Variable** CITY by

$$CITY_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if market-}i \text{ is a city} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- A model of demand with a City-**Dummy**

$$\ln Q_i = \beta_0 + \delta_0 CITY_i + \beta_1 \ln P_i + \beta_2 \ln Y_i + \varepsilon_i$$

- The regression for towns vs cities

$$\ln Q_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_i + \beta_2 \ln Y_i + \varepsilon_i \quad \text{vs} \quad \ln Q_i = (\beta_0 + \delta_0) + \beta_1 \ln P_i + \beta_2 \ln Y_i + \varepsilon_i$$

- $\beta_0$  is intercept for towns (**omitted category**).
- $\beta_0 + \delta_0$  is intercept for cities

## Functional Forms - Time Trends

- The use of data with a time component (both Time-Series and Panel Data) allow us to control for unobserved **trending variables** or **secular effects**
- Consider the demand model with time series data

$$\ln Q_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_t + \beta_2 \ln Y_t + \beta_3 t + \varepsilon_t$$

- Recall that the data for this model come from a single market that is observed over successive periods.
- The **time-trend**  $t$ , which is nothing more than the observation number, is included to control unobserved factors that are growing at a constant rate – i.e. trending – over time.
- Such factors – such as population change – are sometimes referred to as "secular effects"

## Functional Forms - Fixed Effects

- The use of panel data allows us to control for '**unobserved heterogeneity**' when this heterogeneity is time-invariant
- Consider the demand model with panel data

$$\ln Q_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_{it} + \beta_2 \ln Y_{it} + u_i + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where  $u_i$  is an unobserved component that affects market  $i$  and is constant over time. We call  $u_i$  the **Fixed Effect** of market  $i$ . Since  $u_i$  is unobserved, it cannot be directly controlled.

- However, since we observe each market  $i$  at multiple points in time, we can include a series of dummy variables – one for each market – to indirectly serve as controls for these Fixed Effects
- Define the market- $j$  dummy by:

$$D_{it}^j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if observation } i, t \text{ is from market-} j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Functional Forms - Panel Data Model: Fixed Effects

- The Fixed Effects model

$$\ln Q_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln P_{it} + \beta_2 \ln Y_{it} + u_1 D_{it}^1 + u_2 D_{it}^2 + \dots + u_M D_{it}^M + \varepsilon_{it}$$

- That is, the Fixed Effects model allows each market to have its own intercept
- Formally, the effects from the unobserved heterogeneity are treated as the coefficients of the market-specific dummy variable.
- Intuition: each market serves as a control for itself
  - Since the  $u_i$  varies over markets but not over time the identity of market  $i$  is sufficient to control for  $u_i$
  - Thus, unobserved heterogeneity will be absorbed by the market dummies
- Had we not accounted for these fixed effects, we could have attributed the change in  $Q_t$  generated by this unobserved heterogeneity mistakenly to  $P_t$  and  $Y_t$ , leading to endogeneity bias

## References

- Wooldridge (2008). *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach, 4th Edition*. South-Western College Publishers.
  - Chapter 2
  - Chapter 3, Sections 3.1-3.4
  - Chapter 4
  - Chapter 6, Sections 6.1-6.2
  - Chapter 7, Sections 7.1-7.4