The Simple Linear Regression Model: Specification and Estimation



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# **Chapter 2:** The Simple Regression Model

- 2.1 An Economic Model
- 2.2 An Econometric Model
- 2.3 Estimating the Regression Parameters
- $\blacksquare$  2.4 Assessing the Least Squares Estimators
- 2.5 The Gauss-Markov Theorem
- 2.6 The Probability Distributions of the Least Squares Estimators
- 2.7 Estimating the Variance of the Error Term























### **Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – I**

The mean value of *y*, for each value of *x*, is given by the *linear regression*

$$
E(y \mid x) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x
$$

#### **Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – I**

For each value of *x*, the values of *y* are distributed about their mean value, following probability distributions that all have the same variance,

 $var(y | x) = \sigma^2$ 

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# 2.2 An Econometric Model

### **Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – I**

The sample values of *y* are all *uncorrelated*, and have zero *covariance*, implying that there is no linear association among them,

 $cov(y_i, y_j) = 0$ 

This assumption can be made stronger by assuming that the values of *y* are all statistically independent.

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# 2.2 An Econometric Model

#### **Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – I**

The variable  $x$  is not random, and must take at least two different values.

#### **Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – I**

(*optional*) The values of *y* are *normally distributed* about their mean for each value of *x,*

$$
y \sim N\Big[\beta_1 + \beta_2 x, \sigma^2\Big]
$$







The expected value of the error term, given *x*, is

$$
E(e | x) = E(y | x) - \beta_1 - \beta_2 x = 0
$$

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The mean value of the error term, given *x*, is zero.



# 2.2 An Econometric Model

**Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – II**

SR1. The value of *y*, for each value of *x*, is

 $y = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x + e$ 

**Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – II**

SR2. The expected value of the random error *e* is

 $E(e) = 0$ 

Which is equivalent to assuming that

 $E(y) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x$ 

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### 2.2 An Econometric Model

**Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – II**

SR3. The variance of the random error *e* is

 $var(e) = \sigma^2 = var(y)$ 

The random variables *y* and *e* have the same variance because they differ only by a constant.

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# 2.2 An Econometric Model

**Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – II**

SR4. The covariance between any pair of random errors,  $e_i$  and  $e_j$  is

$$
cov(e_i, e_j) = cov(y_i, y_j) = 0
$$

The stronger version of this assumption is that the random errors *e* are statistically independent, in which case the values of the dependent variable *y* are also statistically independent. *Principles of Econometrics, 3rd Edition Slide 2-21*

**Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – II**

SR5. The variable  $x$  is not random, and must take at least two different values.

*Principles of Econometrics, 3rd Edition Slide 2-22*

# 2.2 An Econometric Model

### **Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model – II**

SR6. (*optional*) The values of e are *normally distributed* about their mean  $e \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ 

if the values of *y* are normally distributed, and *vice versa*.

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# 2.2 An Econometric Model

**Assumptions of the Simple Linear Regression Model - II**



- •SR2.  $E(e) = 0 \Leftrightarrow E(y) = \beta_1 + \beta_2$
- •SR3.  $var(e) = σ<sup>2</sup> = var(y)$
- •SR4.  $cov(e_i, e_j) = cov(y_i, y_j) = 0$ •SR5. The variable *x* is not random, and must take at least two different values.

•SR6. (*optional*) The values of *e* are *normally distributed* about their mean  $e \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ 







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Any other fitted line

$$
\hat{y}_i^* = b_1^* + b_2^* x_i
$$

Least squares line has smaller sum of squared residuals

if 
$$
SSE = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{e}_i^2
$$
 and  $SSE^* = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{e}_i^{*2}$  then  $SSE < SSE^*$   
reibets of Econometrics, 3rd Edition  

**Least squares estimates for the unknown parameters**  $\beta_1$ and  $\beta_2$  are obtained my minimizing the sum of squares function

$$
S(\beta_1, \beta_2) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - \beta_1 - \beta_2 x_i)^2
$$

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A convenient way to report the values for  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  is to write out the *estimated* or *fitted* regression line:

 $\hat{y}_i = 83.42 + 10.21 x_i$ 

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- 2.3.3 Interpreting the Estimates
	- The value  $b_2 = 10.21$  is an estimate of  $\beta_2$ , the amount by which weekly expenditure on food per household increases when household weekly income increases by \$100. Thus, we estimate that if income goes up by \$100, expected weekly expenditure on food will increase by approximately \$10.21.
	- Strictly speaking, the intercept estimate  $b_1 = 83.42$  is an estimate of the weekly food expenditure on food for a household with zero income.

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#### 2.3 Estimating The Regression Parameters

■ 2.3.3a Elasticities

 Income elasticity is a useful way to characterize the responsiveness of consumer expenditure to changes in income. The elasticity of a variable *y* with respect to another variable *x* is

$$
\varepsilon = \frac{\text{percentage change in } y}{\text{percentage change in } x} = \frac{\Delta y / y}{\Delta x / x} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \frac{x}{y}
$$

 $\blacksquare$  In the linear economic model given by (2.1) we have shown that

$$
\beta_2 = \frac{\Delta E(y)}{\Delta x}
$$

The elasticity of mean expenditure with respect to income is

 $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$   $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$  =  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$   $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  =  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  =  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  =  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  =  $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$  (2.9)  $\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta E(y)/E(y)}{\Delta x/x} = \frac{\Delta E(y)}{\Delta x} \cdot \frac{x}{E(y)} = \beta_2 \cdot \frac{x}{E(y)}$ 

 A frequently used alternative is to calculate the elasticity at the "point of the means" because it is a representative point on the regression line.

$$
\hat{\varepsilon} = b_2 \frac{\overline{x}}{\overline{y}} = 10.21 \times \frac{19.60}{283.57} = .71
$$

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### 2.3 Estimating The Regression Parameters

- 2.3.3b Prediction
	- Suppose that we wanted to predict weekly food expenditure for a household with a weekly income of \$2000. This prediction is carried out by substituting  $x = 20$  into our estimated equation to obtain

 $\hat{y}_i = 83.42 + 10.21 x_i = 83.42 + 10.21(20) = 287.61$ 

 We *predict* that a household with a weekly income of \$2000 will spend \$287.61 per week on food.





























### 2.4 Assessing the Least Squares Estimators

- 2.4.4 The Variances and Covariances of  $b_1$  and  $b_2$
- The *larger* the variance term  $\sigma^2$ , the *greater* the uncertainty there is in the statistical model, and the *larger* the variances and covariance of the least squares estimators.
- The *larger* the sum of squares,  $\sum (x_i \overline{x})^2$ , the *smaller* the variances of the least squares estimators and the more *precisely* we can estimate the unknown parameters.
- The larger the sample size *N*, the *smaller* the variances and covariance of the least squares estimators.
- The larger this term  $\sum x_i^2$  is, the larger the variance of the least squares estimator  $b<sub>1</sub>$ .
- The absolute magnitude of the covariance *increases* the larger in magnitude is the sample mean  $\overline{x}$ , and the covariance has a *sign* opposite to that of  $\overline{x}$ .

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#### 2.5 The Gauss-Markov Theorem

**Gauss-Markov Theorem:** Under the assumptions SR1-SR5 of the linear regression model, the estimators  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  have the smallest variance of all linear and unbiased estimators of  $b_1$  and  $b_2$ . They are the **Best Linear Unbiased Estimators (BLUE)** of  $b_1$  and  $b_2$ 

### 2.5 The Gauss-Markov Theorem

- 1. The estimators  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are "best" when compared to similar estimators, those which are linear and unbiased. The Theorem does *not* say that  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are the best of all *possible* estimators.
- 2. The estimators  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are best within their class because they have the minimum variance. When comparing two linear and unbiased estimators, we *always* want to use the one with the smaller variance, since that estimation rule gives us the higher probability of obtaining an estimate that is close to the true parameter value.
- 3. In order for the Gauss-Markov Theorem to hold, assumptions SR1-SR5 must be true. If any of these assumptions are *not* true, then  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are *not* the best linear unbiased estimators of  $β_1$  and  $β_2$ .

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#### 2.5 The Gauss-Markov Theorem

- 4. The Gauss-Markov Theorem does *not* depend on the assumption of normality (assumption SR6).
- 5. In the simple linear regression model, if we want to use a linear and unbiased estimator, then we have to do no more searching. The estimators  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are the ones to use. This explains why we are studying these estimators and why they are so widely used in research, not only in economics but in all social and physical sciences as well.
- 6. The Gauss-Markov theorem applies to the least squares estimators. It *does not* apply to the least squares *estimates* from a single sample.





### 2.7 Estimating the Variance of the Error Term

The variance of the random error  $e_i$  is

 $\text{var}(e_i) = \sigma^2 = E[e_i - E(e_i)]^2 = E(e_i^2)$ 

if the assumption  $E(e_i) = 0$  is correct.

Since the "expectation" is an average value we might consider estimating  $\sigma^2$  as the average of the squared errors,

*Principles of Econometrics, 3rd Edition Slide 2-52*

 $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\sum e_i^2}{N}$ 

Recall that the random errors are  $e_i = y_i - \beta_1 - \beta_2 x_i$ 

2.7 Estimating the Variance of the Error Term The least squares residuals are obtained by replacing the unknown parameters by their least squares estimates,  $\hat{e}_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i = y_i - b_1 - b_2 x_i$  $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\sum \hat{e}_i^2}{N}$ There is a simple modification that produces an unbiased estimator, and that is  $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\sum \hat{e}_i^2}{N-2}$  $(2.19)$  $E(\hat{\sigma}^2) = \sigma^2$ *Principles of Econometrics, 3rd Edition Slide 2-53*















# 2.7.2 Calculations for the Food Expenditure Data  $\blacksquare$  For the food expenditure data the estimated covariance matrix is: *C INCOME C* 1884.442 -85.90316<br>*INCOME* -85.90316 4.381752  $-85.90316$









# **Chapter 2 Appendices**

- Appendix 2A Derivation of the least squares estimates
- **Appendix 2B** Deviation from the mean form of  $b_2$
- Appendix 2C  $b_2$  is a linear estimator
- **Appendix 2D Derivation of Theoretical Expression** for  $b_{\rm Z}$
- **Appendix 2E** Deriving the variance of  $b_2$
- $\bullet$  Appendix 2F Proof of the Gauss-Markov Theorem *Principles of Econometrics, 3rd Edition Slide 2-61*

**Appendix 2A** Derivation of the least squares estimates  $S(\beta_1, \beta_2) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - \beta_1 - \beta_2 x_i)$  $(2A.1)$  $\frac{\partial S}{\partial \beta_1} = 2N\beta_1 - 2\sum y_i + 2(\sum x_i)\beta_2$ (2A.2)  $\frac{\partial S}{\partial \beta_2} = 2(\sum x_i^2)\beta_2 - 2\sum x_i y_i + 2(\sum x_i)\beta_1$ *Principles of Econometrics, 3rd Edition Slide 2-62*





































## **Appendtx 2E** Deriving the Variance of  $b_2$  $\sigma^2 = \text{var}(e_i) = E[e_i - E(e_i)]^2 = E[e_i - 0]^2 = E(e_i^2)$  $cov(e_i, e_j) = E\left[ (e_i - E(e_i)) (e_j - E(e_j)) \right] = E(e_i e_j) = 0$  $\left(x_i - \overline{x}\right)^2$  $\sum w_i^2 = \sum \left[ \frac{(x_i - \overline{x})^2}{\left\{ \sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2 \right\}^2} \right] = \frac{\sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2}{\left\{ \sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2 \right\}^2} = \frac{1}{\sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2}$  $(x_i - \overline{x})$  $\left\{ \sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2 \right\}^2$   $\sum (x_i - \overline{x})$  $\left\{ \sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2 \right\}$  $\text{var}(aX + bY) = a^2 \text{var}(X) + b^2 \text{var}(Y) + 2ab \text{cov}(X, Y)$ *Principles of Econometrics, 3rd Edition Slide 2-73*







### **Appendix 2F Proof of the Gauss-Markov Theorem**

- **•** Let  $b_2^* = \sum k_i y_i$  be any other linear estimator of  $\beta_2$ .
- Suppose that  $k_i = w_i + c_i$ .

 $b_2^* = \sum k_i y_i = \sum (w_i + c_i) y_i = \sum (w_i + c_i) (\beta_1 + \beta_2 x_i + e_i)$  $= \sum (w_i + c_i) \beta_1 + \sum (w_i + c_i) \beta_2 x_i + \sum (w_i + c_i) e_i$  $= \beta_1 \sum w_i + \beta_1 \sum c_i + \beta_2 \sum w_i x_i + \beta_2 \sum c_i x_i + \sum (w_i + c_i) e_i$ 

(2F.1)

 $= \beta_1 \sum c_i + \beta_2 + \beta_2 \sum c_i x_i + \sum (w_i + c_i) e_i$ 



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