

ECON 351* -- NOTE 5

**Computational Properties and Goodness-of-Fit
of the OLS Sample Regression Equation**

Outline of Note 5

- State and prove the **five computational properties** of the **OLS SRE**

$$\begin{aligned} Y_i &= \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{u}_i \\ &= \hat{Y}_i + \hat{u}_i \end{aligned} \quad (i = 1, \dots, N) \quad (1)$$

- Derive and interpret the **OLS decomposition equation**, which looks like this:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 \quad (5.1)$$

or

$$\text{TSS} = \text{ESS} + \text{RSS} \quad (5.2)$$

- Define and interpret the **goodness-of-fit measure** called **R² (R-squared)**, which is defined as

$$R^2 \equiv \frac{\sum_i \hat{y}_i^2}{\sum_i y_i^2} = 1 - \frac{\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2}{\sum_i y_i^2}$$

or

$$R^2 \equiv \frac{\text{ESS}}{\text{TSS}} = 1 - \frac{\text{RSS}}{\text{TSS}}$$

Starting Point

The **OLS sample regression equation (OLS-SRE)** is

$$Y_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{u}_i = \hat{Y}_i + \hat{u}_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, N) \quad (1)$$

where

$\hat{\beta}_0$ = the OLS estimate of the *intercept coefficient* β_0 ;

$\hat{\beta}_1$ = the OLS estimate of the *slope coefficient* β_1 ;

$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$ = the i-th estimated (or predicted) value of $E(Y_i | X_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$, and is called the **OLS sample regression function** (or **OLS-SRF**);

$\hat{u}_i = Y_i - \hat{Y}_i = Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$ = the i-th **OLS residual**.

The OLS sample regression equation (1) exhibits *five computational properties*. These computational properties are necessary for developing goodness-of-fit measures such as the coefficient of determination, R^2 .

Recall that the **OLS normal equations** for the simple (two-variable) linear regression model are:

$$N\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i = \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i \quad (\text{N1})$$

$$\hat{\beta}_0 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i \quad (\text{N2})$$

1. Computational Properties of the OLS SRE

PROPERTY 1: The *OLS sample regression equation* passes through the *point of sample means* (\bar{Y}, \bar{X}) , where

$\bar{Y} = \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i / N$ is the sample mean value of Y ; and

$\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i / N$ is the sample mean value of X .

That is,

$$\bar{Y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X} \quad \dots \text{(C1)}$$

□ **Proof of (C1):** Follows from the first OLS normal equation (N1)

$$\sum_i Y_i = N\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_i X_i. \quad \text{(N1)}$$

Dividing both sides of equation (N1) by N yields

$$\frac{\sum_i Y_i}{N} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \frac{\sum_i X_i}{N}$$

or, using the definitions of \bar{Y} and \bar{X} ,

$$\bar{Y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X}. \quad \dots \text{(C1)}$$

PROPERTY 2: The sample mean of the *estimated* Y_i 's (the \hat{Y}_i 's) *equals* the sample mean of the *observed* Y_i 's; or the sum of the *estimated* Y_i 's (the \hat{Y}_i 's) *equals* the sum of the *observed* Y_i 's.

$$\overline{\hat{Y}} = \bar{Y} \quad \text{where } \overline{\hat{Y}} \equiv \sum_i \hat{Y}_i / N \text{ and } \bar{Y} = \sum_i Y_i / N \quad \dots \text{ (C2)}$$

or

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i = \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i \quad \text{sum of } \textit{estimated} Y_i\text{'s, (the } \hat{Y}_i\text{'s)} = \text{sum of } \textit{observed} Y_i\text{'s.}$$

□ **Proof of (C2):**

(1) The estimated values of Y_i are given by

$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i.$$

(2) Substitute for $\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X}$ in the above expression for \hat{Y}_i :

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Y}_i &= \bar{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X} + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i \\ &= \bar{Y} + \hat{\beta}_1 (X_i - \bar{X}) \end{aligned}$$

(3) Now sum both sides over $i = 1, \dots, N$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i &= N\bar{Y} + \hat{\beta}_1 \left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i - N\bar{X} \right) \\ &= N\bar{Y} + \hat{\beta}_1 (N\bar{X} - N\bar{X}), & \text{since } \sum_{i=1}^N X_i &= N\bar{X} \\ &= N\bar{Y}, & \text{since } (N\bar{X} - N\bar{X}) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

(4) Finally, dividing by N , we get

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i}{N} = \bar{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \overline{\hat{Y}} = \bar{Y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i = \sum_{i=1}^N Y_i.$$

- **Implication of Property C2:** The OLS-SRF $\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$ can be written in **deviation-from-means form** as

$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_1 x_i \quad \text{where } \hat{y}_i \equiv \hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y} \text{ and } x_i \equiv X_i - \bar{X}.$$

Proof:

- (1) From line (2) of the proof of Property (C2) above,

$$\hat{Y}_i = \bar{Y} + \hat{\beta}_1 (X_i - \bar{X}).$$

- (2) Subtract \bar{Y} from both sides of the above equation to get

$$(\hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y}) = \hat{\beta}_1 (X_i - \bar{X}),$$

which is simply

$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_1 x_i$$

where by definition $\hat{y}_i \equiv \hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y}$ and $x_i \equiv X_i - \bar{X}$. □

PROPERTY 3: The *sample mean* of the OLS residuals \hat{u}_i equals zero, or the *sum* of the OLS residuals \hat{u}_i equals zero.

$$\bar{u} = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i / N = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i}{N} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i = 0. \quad \dots \text{(C3)}$$

□ **Proof of (C3):** Involves demonstrating that $\sum_i \hat{u}_i = 0$.

(1) From the first normal equation (N1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} -2 \sum_{i=1}^N (Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i) &= 0 \\ \sum_{i=1}^N (Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

(2) But $(Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i) = \hat{u}_i$ by definition, so that equation (N1) implies that

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i = 0 \quad \text{and hence that} \quad \bar{u} = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i / N = \frac{\sum_i \hat{u}_i}{N} = 0. \quad \square$$

NOTE: Properties 1-3 depend on their being an *intercept coefficient in the population regression function*. The following two properties do not require an intercept in the regression function.

PROPERTY 4: The OLS residuals \hat{u}_i are *uncorrelated with the sample values of X, the X_i* ; i.e.,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \hat{u}_i = 0. \quad \dots \text{(C4)}$$

□ **Proof of (C4):** Is based on the second OLS normal equation (N2):

$$\sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i = \hat{\beta}_0 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2. \quad \text{(N2)}$$

(1) Since $\hat{u}_i = Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$, we can pre-multiply by X_i to obtain

$$X_i \hat{u}_i = X_i Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 X_i - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i^2.$$

(2) Summing over $i = 1, \dots, N$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \hat{u}_i &= \sum_{i=1}^N X_i Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i - \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad \text{by normal equation (N2).}$$

PROPERTY 5: The OLS residuals \hat{u}_i are *uncorrelated with the estimated or predicted values of Y_i , the \hat{Y}_i* ; i.e.,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i \hat{u}_i = 0. \quad \dots \text{(C5)}$$

□ **Proof of (C5):** Makes use of properties (C3) and (C4) above.

(1) Since $\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$, we can post-multiply by \hat{u}_i to obtain

$$\hat{Y}_i \hat{u}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 \hat{u}_i + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i \hat{u}_i.$$

(2) Summing over $i = 1, \dots, N$, we get

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i \hat{u}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \hat{u}_i.$$

(3) But $\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i = 0$ by (C3) and $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \hat{u}_i = 0$ by (C4), so that

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i \hat{u}_i = 0.$$

2. Goodness-of-Fit of the OLS-SRE: Objective

The previous section derived the **computational properties of the OLS sample regression equation (OLS-SRE)**.

$$Y_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{u}_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, N) \quad (1)$$

where

$\hat{\beta}_0$ = the OLS estimator of the intercept coefficient β_0 ,

$\hat{\beta}_1$ = the OLS estimator of the slope coefficient β_1 ,

\hat{u}_i = the OLS residual for sample observation i .

Our objective now is to derive a measure of how well the OLS-SRE fits the sample data.

- The measure of goodness-of-fit we use is called the *coefficient of determination*, which is conventionally **denoted as R^2** .
- The R^2 provides a measure of how well the OLS-SRE explains, or accounts for, the observed sample variation of the regressand Y , where

$$\text{sample variation of } Y \equiv \sum_{i=1}^N (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2.$$

- The derivation of the R^2 for an OLS-SRE is based on the **OLS decomposition equation** for the sample variation of Y .

3. The OLS Decomposition Equation

3.1 Derivation of the OLS Decomposition Equation

1. For each sample observation i , the OLS-SRE is written as

$$Y_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{u}_i$$

or (1)

$$Y_i = \hat{Y}_i + \hat{u}_i \quad \text{where } \hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, N)$$

2. Subtract the sample mean of the Y_i values, \bar{Y} , from both sides of equation (1):

$$Y_i - \bar{Y} = \hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y} + \hat{u}_i$$

or, in deviation-from-means form,

$$y_i = \hat{y}_i + \hat{u}_i \quad (2)$$

where $y_i \equiv Y_i - \bar{Y}$, $\hat{y}_i \equiv \hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y} = \hat{\beta}_1 x_i$, and $x_i \equiv X_i - \bar{X}$.

3. Next, square both sides of equation (2):

$$\begin{aligned} y_i^2 &= (\hat{y}_i + \hat{u}_i)^2 \\ &= \hat{y}_i^2 + \hat{u}_i^2 + 2\hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

4. Now sum both sides of equation (3) over $i = 1, \dots, N$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i \quad (4)$$

5. But the last term on the right-hand side of equation (4) equals zero:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i &= \sum_{i=1}^N (\hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y}) \hat{u}_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i \hat{u}_i - \bar{Y} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i \\ &= 0 \quad \text{since } \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{Y}_i \hat{u}_i = 0 \text{ by (C5) and } \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i = 0 \text{ by (C3).}\end{aligned}$$

6. Therefore, setting $\sum_i \hat{y}_i \hat{u}_i = 0$ in equation (4) gives the result that

$$\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2. \quad (5)$$

□ **Result:** Equation (5) is the OLS decomposition equation for OLS-SRE (1).

3.2 Interpretation of the OLS Decomposition Equation

Equation (5) is the OLS decomposition equation for OLS-SRE (1):

$$\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 . \quad (5)$$

Each of the three terms in equation (5) are defined as follows:

- (1) $\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 \equiv \text{TSS} \equiv$ the Total Sum of Squares
 - = the total sum of squares of the observed sample values of Y about their sample mean \bar{Y}
 - = the total sample variation of the observed Y_i values.

- (2) $\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 \equiv \text{ESS} \equiv$ the Explained Sum of Squares
 - = the sum of squares of the estimated or predicted values of Y, the \hat{Y}_i , about their sample mean \bar{Y}
 - = the sum of squares explained by the sample regression function, i.e., by the regressor X.

- (3) $\sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 \equiv \text{RSS} \equiv$ the Residual Sum of Squares
 - = the sum of squares of the OLS residuals \hat{u}_i
 - = the unexplained variation of the observed sample values Y_i of the regressand Y around the sample regression line

Using these definitions, the OLS decomposition equation

$$\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 . \quad (5.1)$$

can be re-written as

$$\text{TSS} = \text{ESS} + \text{RSS} \quad (5.2)$$

Equation (5.1) or (5.2) -- the OLS decomposition equation -- decomposes the **sample variation of the regressand Y** into *two additive components*:

- (1) one component, $\text{ESS} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2$, is attributable to, or explained by, the sample regression function $\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$;
- (2) a second component, $\text{RSS} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2$, is attributable to the OLS residuals \hat{u}_i representing unknown random factors that influence the observed Y_i values.

3.3 An Unbiased Estimator of the Error Variance

The Residual Sum of Squares (RSS) in the OLS decomposition equation can be used to construct an *unbiased estimator* of the *unknown error variance* σ^2 .

- **Question:** Why do we need an estimator of the error variance σ^2 ?
- **Answer:** We need an estimator of the error variance σ^2 so that we can obtain estimators of the variances of the OLS coefficient estimators $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$ which as we have seen are given by the formulas

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sum_i x_i^2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})^2}$$

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_0) = \frac{\sigma^2 \sum_i X_i^2}{N \sum_i x_i^2} = \frac{\sigma^2 \sum_i X_i^2}{N \sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})^2}.$$

- **Result:** An *unbiased estimator* of the *error variance* σ^2 is given by the formula

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2}{(N-2)} = \frac{\text{RSS}}{(N-2)}, \quad \hat{u}_i = Y_i - \hat{Y}_i = Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, N)$$

where 2 is the number of regression coefficients estimated, and $N-2$ is the degrees of freedom for RSS.

- **Explanation:** $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is an unbiased estimator of the error variance because it can be shown that

$$E(\text{RSS}) = E\left(\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2\right) = (N-2)\sigma^2.$$

Therefore

$$E(\hat{\sigma}^2) = E\left(\frac{\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2}{(N-2)}\right) = \frac{E(\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2)}{(N-2)} = \frac{(N-2)\sigma^2}{(N-2)} = \sigma^2.$$

□ **Summary:** $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is an *unbiased estimator* of the error variance σ^2 :

$$E(\hat{\sigma}^2) = \sigma^2 \quad \text{because} \quad E(\text{RSS}) = E(\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2) = (N - 2)\sigma^2.$$

3.4 Unbiased Estimators of the Variances of the OLS Coefficient Estimates

Unbiased estimators of $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)$ and $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_0)$ are obtained by simply replacing the unknown σ^2 with its unbiased estimator $\hat{\sigma}^2$ in the formulas for $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)$ and $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_0)$.

- The **unbiased estimator of $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)$** , the variance of $\hat{\beta}_1$, is therefore

$$\hat{\text{Var}}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{\sum_i x_i^2} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{\sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})^2}.$$

- The **unbiased estimator of $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_0)$** , the variance of $\hat{\beta}_0$, is therefore

$$\hat{\text{Var}}(\hat{\beta}_0) = \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2 \sum_i X_i^2}{N \sum_i x_i^2} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2 \sum_i X_i^2}{N \sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})^2}.$$

4. The Coefficient of Determination, R^2

4.1 Definition of R^2

1. Start with the OLS decomposition equation (5.1) or (5.2):

$$\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{u}_i^2 \quad (5.1)$$

$$\text{TSS} = \text{ESS} + \text{RSS} \quad (5.2)$$

2. Divide both sides of the OLS decomposition equation (5.1) or (5.2) by $\text{TSS} = \sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2$:

$$1 = \frac{\sum_i \hat{y}_i^2}{\sum_i y_i^2} + \frac{\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2}{\sum_i y_i^2} \quad (6.1)$$

or

$$1 = \frac{\text{ESS}}{\text{TSS}} + \frac{\text{RSS}}{\text{TSS}} \quad (6.2)$$

3. The **coefficient of determination R^2** is defined as:

$$R^2 \equiv \frac{\sum_i \hat{y}_i^2}{\sum_i y_i^2} = 1 - \frac{\sum_i \hat{u}_i^2}{\sum_i y_i^2} \quad \text{from equation (6.1)}$$

or

$$R^2 \equiv \frac{\text{ESS}}{\text{TSS}} = 1 - \frac{\text{RSS}}{\text{TSS}} \quad \text{from equation (6.2)}$$

4.2 Interpretation of R^2 : The Values of R^2

□ What Does R^2 Measure?

R^2 = the proportion of the total sample variation of the dependent variable Y that is explained by the sample regression function, i.e., by the values of the regressor X .

□ The Values of R^2

R^2 values lie in the closed unit interval $[0, 1]$; i.e., $0 \leq R^2 \leq 1$.

□ Interpreting the Values of R^2

- **Rule 1:** The *closer* is the value of R^2 to 1, the *better* the goodness-of-fit of the OLS-SRE to the sample data.
 - The upper limiting value $R^2 = 1$ corresponds to a **perfect fit** of the OLS-SRE to the sample data.

$$R^2 = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{ESS}{TSS} = 1 \Rightarrow ESS = TSS \Rightarrow RSS = \sum_i \hat{u}_i^2 = 0.$$

- But since $\hat{u}_i^2 \geq 0$ for all i , $RSS = \sum_i \hat{u}_i^2 = 0$ if and only if

$$\hat{u}_i = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, N.$$

- Therefore, a perfect fit of the OLS-SRE means that

$$\hat{u}_i = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, N \quad \text{or} \quad Y_i = \hat{Y}_i \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, N.$$

- **Rule 2:** The *closer is the value of R^2 to 0*, the *worse the goodness-of-fit* of the OLS-SRE to the sample data.
- The lower limiting value $R^2 = 0$ corresponds to the **worst possible fit** of the OLS-SRE to the sample data.

$$R^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{ESS}{TSS} = 0 \Rightarrow ESS = 0 \Rightarrow TSS = RSS.$$

- But $ESS = 0$ if and only if $\hat{\beta}_1 = 0$:

$$ESS = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{y}_i^2 = \hat{\beta}_1^2 \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\beta}_1 = 0.$$

- Finally, since $\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$ and $\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X}$, it follows that $R^2 = 0$ means that

$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{Y} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, N.$$

The reason is that

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}_1 = 0 &\Rightarrow \hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 && \text{since } \hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i \\ &\Rightarrow \hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{Y} && \text{since } \hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X}. \end{aligned}$$