

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

First Semester Practice Final Examination– June, 2025

Econometric Methods

(EMET 2007/4007/6007)

Reading Time: 0 Minutes

Writing Time: 120 Minutes

Instructions

- There are 3 exam questions, each counting 20 raw marks.
- Answer all exam questions.
- Provide complete and self-contained answers.
- Do not merely state results. You are expected to show your work!
(Exception: when I explicitly ask to "state" a result.)
- Permitted material: pen, nothing else.
- Good luck!

Beginning of Exam Questions

Question 1

You study the effect of media consumption on cognitive development (as measured by a standardized math score) for Australian teenagers. Media consumption (for example: watching TV, using social media, Playstation) may affect a child's learning. You investigate the research question: Is media consumption negatively associated with math scores?

You have available sample data on test score, media consumption, and other demographic characteristics for 8,764 Australian teenagers for the year 2018. The data are drawn from the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children (LSAC).

Here a brief description of some of the variables:

- `mathscr`: respondent's score on a standardized math test (between 0 and 600)
- `mediahrs`: respondent's average daily media consumption in hours
- `male`: dummy equal 1 if respondent identifies as male

Use the following Python output (partially edited) to answer the questions below.

PYTHON CODE AND OUTPUT

```
> formula = 'mathscr ~ mediahrs * male'
> reg = smf.ols(formula, data=df, missing='drop').fit(cov_type='HC1', use_t=False)
> print(reg.summary())
```

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
Intercept	531.2458	11.868	44.763	<2e-16	507.985	554.507
mediahrs	-2.2392	xxxxxx	xxxxxx	0.050	xxxxxx	xxxxxx
male	-0.0232	0.008	-2.942	0.003	-0.039	-0.008
mediahrs:male	-1.2766	0.967	-1.324	0.187	-3.172	0.619

- [3 marks] Interpret and discuss the coefficient estimate for `male`. Is it statistically significant?
- [5 marks] Determine the t-statistic for `mediahrs`.
- [5 marks] Interpret and discuss the coefficient estimate for the interaction term.
- [7 marks] Consider your estimate of the effect of media consumption on math scores. Give an example of an omitted variable that could bias the above results. If this variable would be included, how would you expect your estimates to change? Explain.

Question 2

Are the following statements true or false? Provide a brief and complete explanation. (Note: you will not receive any credit without providing a correct explanation.)

(a) [5 marks]

Statement:

In the multiple regression model, omitting an explanatory variable may not necessarily lead to omitted variables bias.

(b) [5 marks]

Statement:

In autoregressions, allowing for additional lags (that is, increasing p in the $AR(p)$ model) increases R^2 .

(c) [5 marks]

Statement:

Given a random sample Y_1, \dots, Y_{10} , the following two estimators are equally good for estimating $E(Y_7)$:

- the simple average of Y_1 and Y_{10} ;
- $2/3 \cdot Y_6 + 1/3 \cdot Y_9$.

(d) [5 marks]

Statement:

In the simple regression model, if $\beta_1 = 0$, then $\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{Y}$.

Question 3

Consider the linear regression model

$$Y_i = \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + u_i, \quad \beta_1 \neq 0.$$

(a) [10 marks]

Suppose that $\beta_2 = 0$. Define and derive the OLS estimator of β_1 . Prove that this estimator is unbiased. Explicitly state any additional assumptions that you may need to establish unbiasedness.

(b) [10 marks]

Now suppose that $\beta_2 \neq 0$. Under which circumstances is

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} Y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i}^2}?$$

Provide a complete proof.

End of Exam Questions
