

# MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS

## For the Case of Two Regressors

In the following notes, least-squares estimation is developed for multiple regression problems with *two* explanatory variables, here called *regressors* (such as in the “Fast Food” example developed in class). The advantage of developing this estimation procedure explicitly for the case of  $k = 2$  is that it allows the key ideas of *partial regression plots* and *partial residual plots* to be developed as well.

### 1. Least-Squares Estimation for $k = 2$

Given independent samples  $(y_i, x_{1i}, x_{2i})$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  from the linear model:

$$(1.1) \quad Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2) ,$$

the least-squares estimates  $(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2)$  are obtained by *minimizing* the function:

$$(1.2) \quad S(\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2) = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_{1i} - \beta_2 x_{2i})^2$$

The quadratic function  $S$  is easily seen to be convex in  $(\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2)$ , so that the unique minimum of  $S$  is found by setting each of its partial derivatives to zero. For  $\beta_0$  this yields:

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{aligned} 0 &= \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial \beta_0} \right|_{\beta_0 = \hat{\beta}_0} = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{1i} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i})(-1) \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_i y_i = n\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_i x_{1i} + \hat{\beta}_2 \sum_i x_{2i} \\ &\Rightarrow \bar{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2 \\ &\Rightarrow \hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}_1 - \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2 \end{aligned}$$

In particular this is seen to imply that (as in simple regression), the mean point  $(\bar{y}, \bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2)$  must satisfy the estimated regression equation exactly. Next for  $\beta_1$  we obtain:

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{aligned} 0 &= \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial \beta_1} \right|_{\beta_1 = \hat{\beta}_1} = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{1i} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i})(-x_{1i}) \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_i y_i x_{1i} = \hat{\beta}_0 \sum_i x_{1i} + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_i x_{1i}^2 + \hat{\beta}_2 \sum_i x_{2i} x_{1i} \\ &\quad = (\bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x}_1 - \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2) \sum_i x_{1i} + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_i x_{1i}^2 + \hat{\beta}_2 \sum_i x_{2i} x_{1i} \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) x_{1i} = \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) x_{1i} + \hat{\beta}_2 \sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) x_{1i} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, recalling that  $0 = \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) = \sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) = \sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)$ , it follows that

$$(1.5) \quad \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) x_{1i} = \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1 \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) = \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)$$

and similarly that

$$(1.6) \quad \sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) x_{1i} = \sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)$$

$$(1.7) \quad \sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) x_{1i} = \sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)$$

Thus if we now introduce the following simplifying “sum-of-products” notation:

$$(1.8) \quad s_{jy} = \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) (x_{ji} - \bar{x}_j) \quad , \quad j = 1, 2$$

$$(1.9) \quad s_{jh} = \sum_i (x_{ji} - \bar{x}_j) (x_{hi} - \bar{x}_h) \quad , \quad j, h = 1, 2$$

then it follows that the first-order condition (1.4) can be written simply as

$$(1.10) \quad s_{11} \hat{\beta}_1 + s_{12} \hat{\beta}_2 = s_{1y}$$

The argument for the partial of  $S$  with respect to  $\beta_2$  is completely parallel, so that the *normal equations* for  $(\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2)$  are given by (1.10) and

$$(1.11) \quad s_{21} \hat{\beta}_1 + s_{22} \hat{\beta}_2 = s_{2y}$$

### 1.1 Solutions for the Beta Estimates

These two linear equations can be solved simultaneously to obtain the desired estimates  $(\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2)$ . First observe from (1.11) that

$$(1.12) \quad \hat{\beta}_2 = (s_{2y} - s_{21} \hat{\beta}_1) / s_{22}$$

Substituting this into (1.10) yields the relation

$$(1.13) \quad \left( s_{11} - \frac{s_{12} s_{21}}{s_{22}} \right) \hat{\beta}_1 = \left( s_{1y} - \frac{s_{12} s_{2y}}{s_{22}} \right)$$

which can be reduced to yield the following expression for  $\hat{\beta}_1$ :

$$(1.14) \quad \hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{s_{22}s_{1y} - s_{12}s_{2y}}{s_{11}s_{22} - s_{12}s_{21}}$$

A completely parallel argument yields the following expression for  $\hat{\beta}_2$ :

$$(1.15) \quad \hat{\beta}_2 = \frac{s_{11}s_{2y} - s_{21}s_{1y}}{s_{11}s_{22} - s_{12}s_{21}}$$

Finally, the estimate  $\hat{\beta}_0$  is obtained by substituting (1.14) and (1.15) into (1.3).

## 1.2 Regression with Uncorrelated Regressors

One important relation between simple and multiple regression can be seen from this explicit solution. In terms of our present notation, recall that the *sample correlation* between variables  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  is given by

$$(1.16) \quad r(x_1, x_2) = \frac{\sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)}{\sqrt{\sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)^2} \sqrt{\sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)^2}} = \frac{s_{12}}{\sqrt{s_{11}} \sqrt{s_{22}}}$$

and hence that the variables  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are *uncorrelated* if and only if  $s_{12} = 0$ . Next observe that if the *slope coefficients* for the *simple* regressions of  $y$  on  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are denoted respectively by  $\hat{\beta}_{y1}$  and  $\hat{\beta}_{y2}$ , then by definition

$$(1.17) \quad \hat{\beta}_{y1} = \frac{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)}{\sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)^2} = \frac{s_{1y}}{s_{11}}$$

and

$$(1.18) \quad \hat{\beta}_{y2} = \frac{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)}{\sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)^2} = \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}}$$

Hence if  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are *uncorrelated* then the slope estimates,  $\hat{\beta}_1$  and  $\hat{\beta}_2$ , in the multiple regression of  $y$  on  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are seen to take the simple form:

$$(1.19) \quad \hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{s_{22}s_{1y} - 0}{s_{11}s_{22} - 0} = \frac{s_{1y}}{s_{11}} = \hat{\beta}_{y1}$$

and

$$(1.20) \quad \hat{\beta}_2 = \frac{s_{11}s_{2y} - 0}{s_{11}s_{22} - 0} = \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}} = \hat{\beta}_{y2}$$

Thus when regressors are *uncorrelated*, multiple regression is in fact equivalent to *simple regressions on each variable separately*. More generally, the degree to which the slope coefficients in multiple regression differ from those in separate simple regressions depends on the *degree of correlation* between the regressors. This is in fact true for *all* multiple regressions. If a given regressor,  $x_j$ , is uncorrelated with all the others, then its slope estimate,  $\hat{\beta}_j$ , will be the same in both simple and multiple regressions on  $y$ .

## 2. Partial Regression Plots

Given these estimation results for the  $k = 2$  case, we are in a position to analyze the properties of partial regression plots. If for  $j = 1, 2$  we let  $y^{(j)}$  denote the *residual values* of  $y$  in a simple regression on explanatory variable  $x_j$ , and similarly, if  $x_h^{(j)}$  denotes the *residual values* of the other explanatory variable  $x_h$  ( $h \neq j$ ) in a simple regression on  $x_j$ , then by definition, the *partial regression plot* for  $x_1$  in a multiple regression of  $y$  on  $(x_1, x_2)$  is a plot of  $y^{(2)}$  against  $x_1^{(2)}$ . The key feature of this plot is that the beta estimate,  $\hat{\beta}_1$ , for  $x_1$  in the *multiple* regression is precisely the same as the slope coefficient,  $\hat{\beta}_1^{(2)}$ , in a *simple* regression of  $y^{(2)}$  on  $x_1^{(2)}$ . We are now in a position to show this explicitly.

### 2.1 Equivalence of Betas

To show that  $\hat{\beta}_1$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1^{(2)}$  are identical, we begin by observing that the simple regression of  $y$  on  $x_2$  yields a *slope estimate*,  $\hat{\alpha}_{y2}$ , of the form

$$(2.1) \quad \hat{\alpha}_{y2} = \frac{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)}{\sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)^2} = \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}}$$

with corresponding *intercept estimate*,  $\hat{\alpha}_0$ , given by

$$(2.2) \quad \hat{\alpha}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\alpha}_{y2}x_2$$

Hence the  $i^{\text{th}}$  *residual value*,  $y_i^{(2)}$ , is given for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  by

$$(2.3) \quad y_i^{(2)} = y_i - \hat{\alpha}_0 - \hat{\alpha}_{y2}x_{2i} = y_i - (\bar{y} - \hat{\alpha}_{y2}\bar{x}_2) - \hat{\alpha}_{y2}x_{2i}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (y_i - \bar{y}) - \hat{\alpha}_{y2} (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) \\
&= (y_i - \bar{y}) - \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}} (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the regression of  $x_1$  on  $x_2$  yields *slope estimate*

$$(2.4) \quad \hat{\alpha}_{12} = \frac{\sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)}{\sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)^2} = \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}}$$

and by the same argument, thus yields the *residual values*:

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.5) \quad x_{1i}^{(2)} &= x_{1i} - (\bar{x}_1 - \hat{\alpha}_{12}\bar{x}_2) - \hat{\alpha}_{12}x_{2i} \\
&= (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) - \hat{\alpha}_{12}(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) \\
&= (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) - \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}}(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)
\end{aligned}$$

Notice also that (as in every regression) the *sample means*,  $\bar{y}^{(2)}$  and  $\bar{x}_1^{(2)}$ , of these residual values are identically *zero*. For example

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.6) \quad \bar{x}_1^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_i x_{1i}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (x_{1i} - (\bar{x}_1 - \hat{\alpha}_{12}\bar{x}_2) - \hat{\alpha}_{12}x_{2i}) \\
&= \frac{1}{n} \sum_i x_{1i} - (\bar{x}_1 - \hat{\alpha}_{12}\bar{x}_2) \frac{n}{n} - \hat{\alpha}_{12} \frac{1}{n} \sum_i x_{2i} \\
&= \bar{x}_1 - (\bar{x}_1 - \hat{\alpha}_{12}\bar{x}_2) - \hat{\alpha}_{12}\bar{x}_2 = 0
\end{aligned}$$

Hence in the simple regression of  $y^{(2)}$  on  $x_1^{(2)}$ , it follows that the slope coefficient,  $\hat{\beta}_1^{(2)}$ , must have the form:

$$(2.7) \quad \hat{\beta}_1^{(2)} = \frac{\sum_i y_i^{(2)} x_{1i}^{(2)}}{\sum_i (x_{1i}^{(2)})^2}$$

But (recalling that  $s_{12} = s_{21}$ ) we then see from (2.3) and (2.5) that the numerator of (2.7) is given by

$$(2.8) \quad \sum_i y_i^{(2)} x_{1i}^{(2)} = \sum_i \left[ (y_i - \bar{y}) - \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}} (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) \right] \left[ (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) - \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) - \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}} \sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) - \\
&\quad \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) + \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}} \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} \sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)^2 \\
&= s_{1y} - \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}} s_{12} - \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} s_{2y} + \frac{s_{2y}}{s_{22}} \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} s_{22} \\
&= s_{1y} - 2 \frac{s_{2y} s_{21}}{s_{22}} + \frac{s_{2y} s_{21}}{s_{22}} \\
&= s_{1y} - \frac{s_{2y} s_{21}}{s_{22}} = \frac{s_{22} s_{1y} - s_{21} s_{2y}}{s_{22}}
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the denominator of (2.7) is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.9) \quad \sum_i (x_{1i}^{(2)})^2 &= \sum_i \left[ (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) - \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) \right]^2 \\
&= \sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)^2 - 2 \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} \sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)(x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2) + \left( \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} \right)^2 \sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)^2 \\
&= s_{11} - 2 \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} s_{12} + \left( \frac{s_{21}}{s_{22}} \right)^2 s_{22} = s_{11} - 2 \frac{s_{21} s_{12}}{s_{22}} + \frac{s_{21} s_{12}}{s_{22}} \\
&= s_{11} - \frac{s_{21} s_{12}}{s_{22}} = \frac{s_{11} s_{22} - s_{21} s_{12}}{s_{22}}
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, taking the ratio of (2.8) and (2.9) we may conclude from (2.7) together with (1.13) that

$$(2.10) \quad \hat{\beta}_1^{(2)} = \frac{s_{22} s_{1y} - s_{12} s_{2y}}{s_{11} s_{22} - s_{12} s_{21}} = \hat{\beta}_1$$

It should be clear that the above argument also applies to the partial regression of  $y$  on  $x_2$  given  $x_1$  [i.e., the simple regression of  $y^{(1)}$  on  $x_2^{(1)}$ ] and shows that

$$(2.11) \quad \hat{\beta}_2^{(1)} = \frac{s_{11} s_{2y} - s_{21} s_{1y}}{s_{11} s_{22} - s_{12} s_{21}} = \hat{\beta}_2$$

This same result holds for all regressors,  $x_j$ , in a general multiple regression ( $j = 1, \dots, k \geq 2$ ), and provides an important alternative interpretation of the associated beta

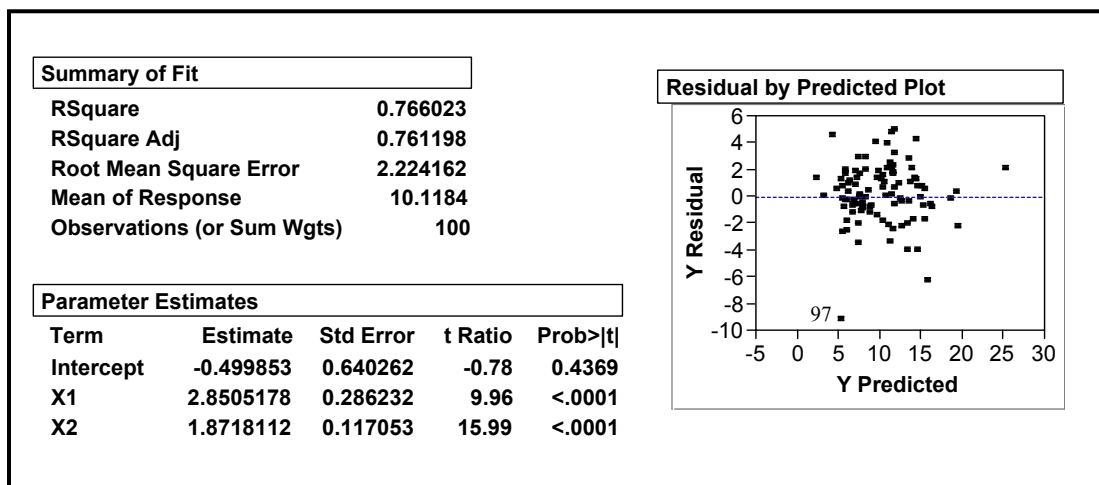
coefficients,  $\hat{\beta}_j$ . In particular,  $\hat{\beta}_j$  is an estimate of the *partial linear relationship* between  $y$  and  $x_j$  once the effects of all other explanatory variables have been *removed*.

## 2.2 A Simulated Example

As one illustration of this concept, a random sample  $(y_i, x_{1i}, x_{2i})$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, 100$  was simulated using the following *linear model*:

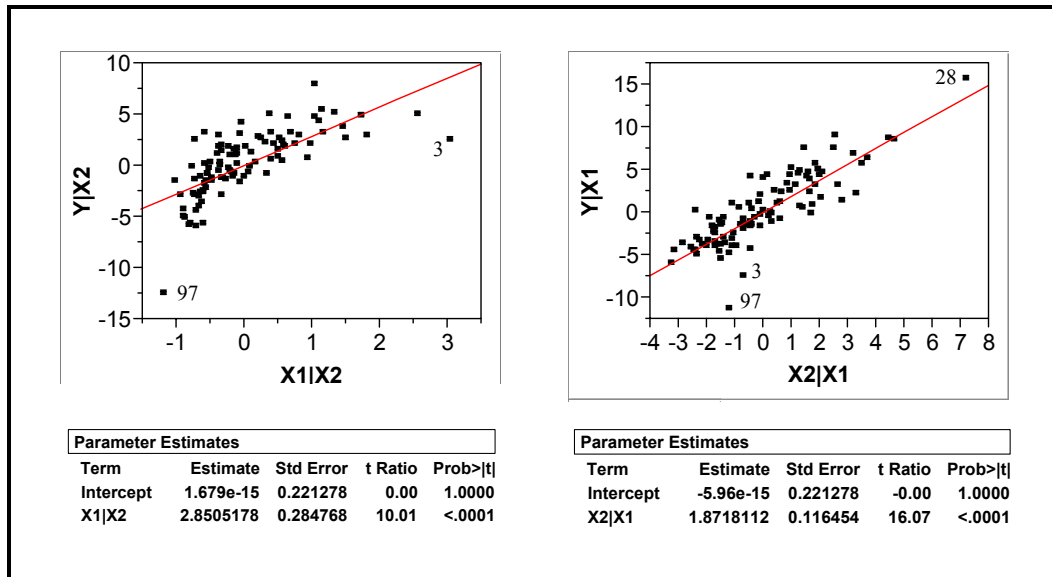
$$(2.12) \quad Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln(x_1) + \beta_2 x_2 + \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2),$$

with  $\beta_0 = 3$ ,  $\beta_1 = 4$ ,  $\beta_2 = 2$ ,  $\sigma = 2$  and  $x_1 > 0$ . A multiple regression was then run, under the assumption that the “true” linear model is given by (1.1) above. Hence the first regressor in this model is actually misspecified as  $x_1$  rather than  $\ln(x_1)$ . The results of this regression are shown below:



These results show that both regressors are highly significant, and that the root mean squared error,  $s = 2.22$ , is not too different from the actual residual standard deviation,  $\sigma = 2$ . Moreover, aside from one possible outlier (point 97), the residuals also look reasonable. But while the estimate  $\hat{\beta}_2 = 1.87$  is reasonably close to the true value,  $\beta_2 = 2$ , the estimate  $\hat{\beta}_1 = 2.85$  for the misspecified regressor is (not surprisingly) further from the true value,  $\beta_1 = 4$ .

The two *partial regression plots* for this regression are shown below, where in terms of the notation above:  $y^{(2)} = Y|X_2$ ,  $x_1^{(2)} = X_1|X_2$ ,  $y^{(1)} = Y|X_1$ , and  $x_2^{(1)} = X_2|X_1$ . In addition, simple regressions have been carried out in each plot to show that the resulting slope coefficients are indeed the same as those in the multiple regression above. Notice also that the intercepts of these regressions are in fact identically zero (subject to



rounding error), reflecting the fact that regression lines always go through mean points, which in this case are identically zero (as noted above).

By comparing these two partial regression plots it is also clear that the underlying misspecification is now rather evident. In particular, while the partial regression of  $y$  on  $x_2$  (the plot on the right) is reasonably linear, the partial regression of  $y$  on  $x_1$  (the plot on the left) shows a distinct nonlinearity. Moreover, this nonlinearity appears to be concave, indicating that perhaps a concave transformation of  $x_1$  might yield better results. One difficulty here is that the  $x$ -axis is not in terms of the variable,  $x_1$ , but rather is in terms of the *residual* of  $x_1$  when regressed on  $x_2$ . Hence it can often be difficult to identify the best transformation of  $x_1$  based on this partial regression plot alone. Note in particular that since least-squares residual values are necessarily negative as well as positive, the standard concave transformations,  $\sqrt{(\cdot)}$  and  $\ln(\cdot)$ , are not even defined for these residuals.

But practitioners have found that partial regression plots are generally very useful in identifying those data points that are most influential in determining the values of the beta estimates. For example, the multiple-regression outlier (point 97) noted above is now seen to be an outlier in both the partial regression plots, and hence to be potentially influential for both  $\hat{\beta}_1$  and  $\hat{\beta}_2$ . However, there are some noticeable differences in these plots with respect to other points. Perhaps the best example is point 28, which is seen to be far to the right in the partial regression plot for  $x_2$ , and hence to have high leverage for  $\hat{\beta}_2$ . But in the partial regression plot for  $x_1$ , this point is so close to the center of the point scatter that it is hard to single out, and clearly has little effect on  $\hat{\beta}_1$ . Another example is point 3, which is seen to be more influential for  $\hat{\beta}_1$  than  $\hat{\beta}_2$ . Hence, one of the main uses of partial-regression plots is to gain further information about the differential influences of possible outliers.

### 3. Partial Residual Plots

The results of section 1 also permit a detailed analysis of partial residual plots. Given beta estimates  $(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2)$  in a multiple regression of  $y$  on  $(x_1, x_2)$ , if we now let  $(e_i : i = 1, \dots, n)$  denote the residuals obtained from this regression and let

$$(3.1) \quad e_i^{(j)} = y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_h x_{hi} = \hat{\beta}_j x_{ji} + e_i, \quad j, h = 1, 2 (j \neq h)$$

denote the  $i^{\text{th}}$  residual for the  $j^{\text{th}}$  regressor (i.e., the residual with respect to all variables other than  $x_j$ ) then the *partial residual plot* for  $x_j$  is simply a plot of  $e_i^{(j)}$  against  $x_j$ . As with partial regression plots above, a key feature of partial residual plots is that the simple linear regression of  $e_i^{(j)}$  on  $x_j$  produces an estimated slope coefficient,  $\hat{\beta}^{(j)}$ , that is identical to  $\hat{\beta}_j$ . Our first objective is to show this, and then to compare partial residual plots with partial regression plots in terms of the above example.

#### 3.1 Equivalence of Betas

Again we focus only on the case  $j = 1$ , and observe that the mean of  $e^{(1)}$  is given by

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{e}^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_i e_i^{(1)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i}) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_i y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 \frac{n}{n} - \hat{\beta}_2 \frac{1}{n} \sum_i x_{2i} \\ &= \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the slope coefficient in the simple regression of  $e^{(1)}$  on  $x_1$  is by definition of the form:

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}^{(1)} &= \frac{\sum_i (e_i^{(1)} - \bar{e}^{(1)})(x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)}{\sum_i (x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)^2} \\ &= \frac{\sum_i [(y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{2i}) - (\bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_2 \bar{x}_2)](x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)}{s_{11}} \\ &= \frac{\sum_i [(y_i - \bar{y}) - \hat{\beta}_2 (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)](x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)}{s_{11}} \\ &= \frac{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1) - \hat{\beta}_2 \sum_i (x_{2i} - \bar{x}_2)(x_{1i} - \bar{x}_1)}{s_{11}} = \frac{s_{1y} - \hat{\beta}_2 s_{12}}{s_{11}} \end{aligned}$$

But recall from the first normal equation (1.10) for the multiple regression of  $y$  on  $(x_1, x_2)$  that

$$(3.4) \quad s_{11}\hat{\beta}_1 + s_{12}\hat{\beta}_2 = s_{1y} \Rightarrow s_{1y} - \hat{\beta}_2 s_{12} = s_{11}\hat{\beta}_1$$

Hence by substituting (3.4) into (3.3) we may conclude that

$$(3.5) \quad \hat{\beta}^{(1)} = \frac{s_{11}\hat{\beta}_1}{s_{11}} = \hat{\beta}_1$$

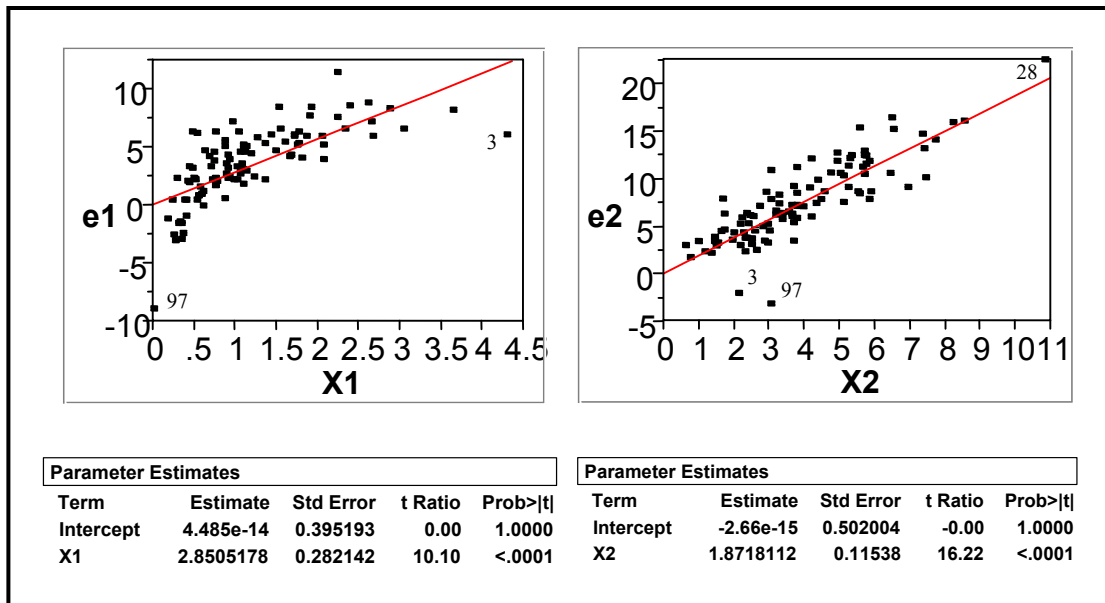
and the desired equivalence is established. As before, the same argument shows that

$$(3.6) \quad \hat{\beta}^{(2)} = \hat{\beta}_2$$

More generally, this identity continues to hold for all variables  $x_j$  in a general multiple regression ( $j = 1, \dots, k \geq 2$ ).

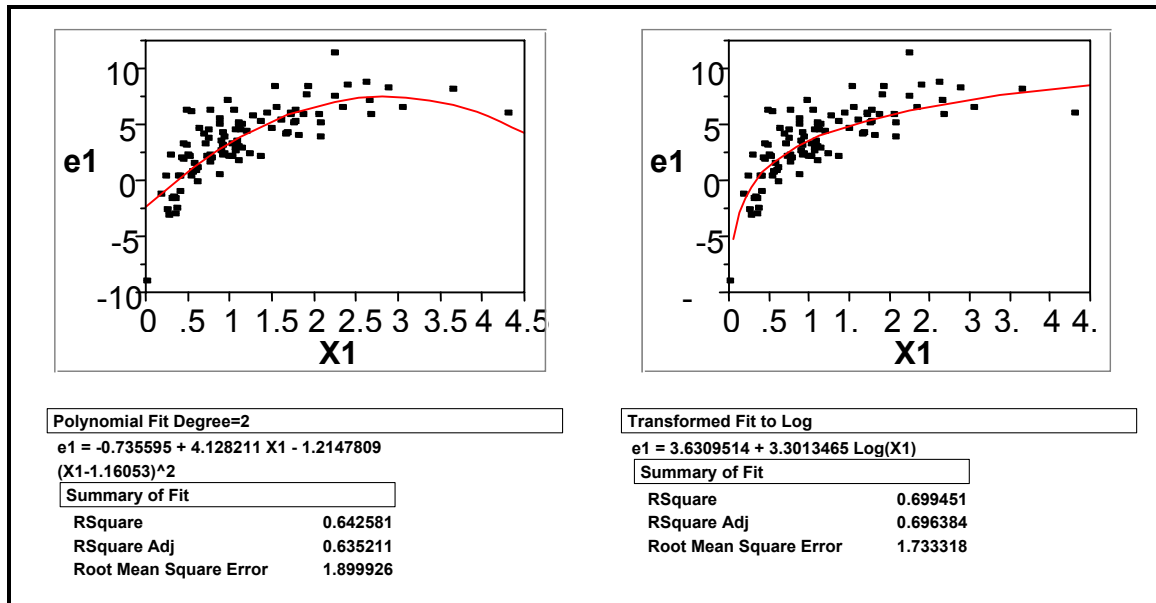
### 3.2 Continuation of Example

Given this theoretical property of partial residual plots, we now apply this concept to the example in section 2.2 above. Below are the two residual regression plots for this case, where  $e^{(1)} = \mathbf{e1}$  and  $e^{(2)} = \mathbf{e2}$ . A comparison with the partial regression plots shows that

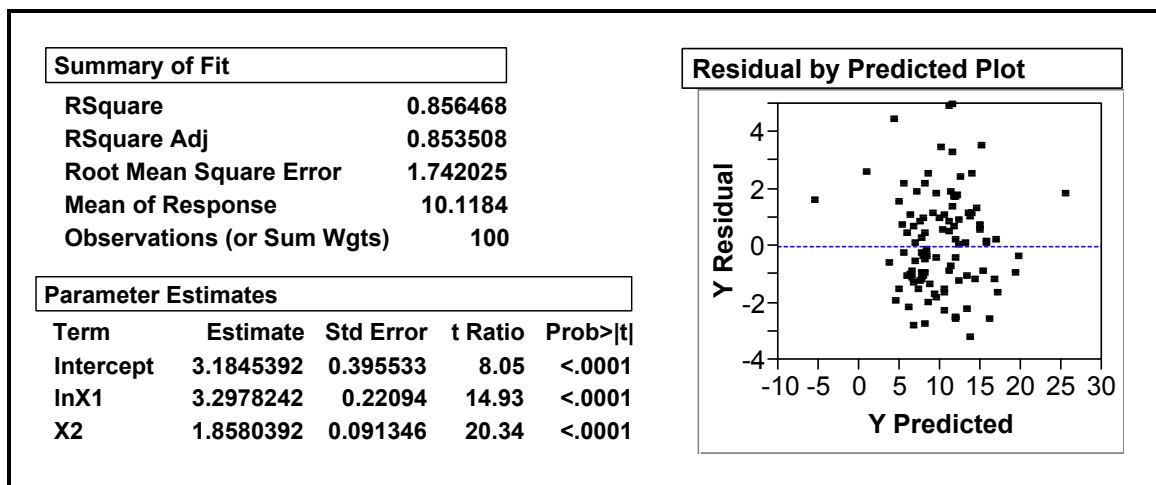


these two sets of point patterns (including the influential points 3, 97, and 28) are very similar. The key difference for analysis is that here the  $x$ -axis is directly in terms of the

regressor of interest. This means that the shape of the scatter plot can be used to fit candidate respecifications of this regressor. In the present case, a comparison of quadratic and log fits is shown. Here it is clear both visually and in terms of adjusted R-square that



the log fit is superior to the quadratic fit. This log specification can be operationalized by simply constructing a new column “lnX1” in JMPIN, and running a multiple regression of Y on lnX1 and X2. The results of this regression are shown below. A comparison of



these results with the initial regression show that the adjusted R-square has increased by almost 10 percentage points. Moreover, the residual plot no longer shows any serious outliers, and appears to be consistent with the Gauss-Markov Assumptions. In the present

simulation example, this improvement is hardly surprising since the partial residual analysis above has in fact led us to the exact model from which the data was simulated.

While one cannot expect to be so fortunate in practice, this example does serve to illustrate the potential power of partial residual plots for improving the specifications of regressors in multiple regressions. Note also that since the resulting point pattern is usually similar in nature to that of the partial regression plots, it is often possible to identify influential points for each regressor. (However, it has been the experience of practitioners that partial regression plots are generally the best tool for this purpose.)