

Ch 7 Dummy / Binary Variables

Binary / dummy indep vars

y

Trade / env
performance

wage

x

trade / env
agreement

marital
status

u

political
preferences

work ethic,
reliability

Single dummy variable

$$y = \beta_0 + \delta_0 x + u$$

↳ 0/1 indicator

$$E(y|x) = \beta_0 + \delta_0 x$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta_0 = E(y|x=1) - E(y|x=0)$$

$$\hat{\delta}_0 = \bar{y}_{x=1} - \bar{y}_{x=0}$$

effect of $x=1$
rel. to $x=0$
(base/reference
group)

$$= \overline{\text{wage}}_{\text{marr}} - \overline{\text{wage}}_{\text{not marr}}$$

if $y \rightarrow \text{wage}$
 $x \rightarrow 1$ for marr
 0 for not marr

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \delta_0 x_2 + u$$

$\hookrightarrow 0/1$ binary indicator

$$E(y | x_1, x_2) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \delta_0 x_2$$

if $y \rightarrow \text{wage}$
 $x_1 \rightarrow \text{educ}$

$$\delta_0 = E(y | x_1, x_2 = 1) - E(y | x_1, x_2 = 0)$$

$x_2 \rightarrow 1$ marr
 0 not marr

base/reference group

effect of $x_2 = 1$ rel
to $x_2 = 0$ after controlling for x_1

Note 2 groups denoted by single dummy $x_2 + x_3 = 1$

$x_3 \rightarrow$ 1 not marr
0 marr

x_2	x_3
1	0
0	1

Not reqd x_2 and x_3 are perfectly collinear

(dummy var. trap)

If $y = \log(\text{wage})$

$$\text{eg } \hat{\delta}_0 = 0.26 \\ \Rightarrow 26\%$$

approximate effect of $x_2 = 1$ $100 \hat{\delta}_0$ /
Exact " $100 [\exp(\hat{\delta}_0) - 1]$ / $\Rightarrow 29.7\%$

Multiple categories

M → 1 (married)
0 (not ")

W → 1 (western region)
0 (not ")

↳ groups → choose 1 as base/reference &
include dummies for the rest

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \delta_0 x_2 + \delta_1 x_3 + \delta_2 x_4 + u$$

if y wage

x_1 educ

x_2 $M=1$ & $W=1 \rightarrow x_2=1$ & 0 o w

x_3 $M=1$ & $W=0 \rightarrow x_3=1$ & 0 o w

x_4 $M=0$ & $W=1 \rightarrow x_4=1$ & 0 o w.

base $M=0$ & $W=0$

δ_0 effect of $x_2=1$ rel to base
 δ_1 " " $x_3=1$ "
 δ_2 " " $x_4=1$ "

e.g. $\hat{\delta}_0 = 2.72$ $\hat{\delta}_1 = 1.3$ $\hat{\delta}_2 = 0.02$

Effect of marr & western rel to base = \$ 2.72
 " " & not " " = \$ 1.3

Interactions among dummy vars

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \delta_M M + \delta_W W + \delta_{MW} M * W + u$$

Base / reference group $M = 0, W = 0$

Effect of $M = 1$ & $W = 1$ $\delta_M + \delta_W + \delta_{MW}$
 rel to base
 " $M = 1$ & $W = 0$ " δ_M

effect of $M = 0$ &
 $W = 1$ rel to base
 δ_W

$$\hat{\delta}_M = 1.3$$

$$\hat{\delta}_W = 0.02$$

$$\hat{\delta}_{MW} = 1.4$$

Effect of marr. & west rel to base = \$ 2.72
" marr & not west " = \$ 1.3

Allowing for diff slopes

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \delta_0 M + \delta_1 M \cdot x_1 + u$$

if y wage
 x_1 educ

$M \rightarrow 1$ for marr
 0 " not "

e.g.

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = 0.46$$
$$\hat{\delta}_0 = 0.33$$
$$\hat{\delta}_1 = 0.1$$

	Intercept	slope for educ
Marr	$\beta_0 + \delta_0$	$\beta_1 + \delta_1$
Not marr	β_0	β_1
Diff	δ_0	δ_1