

Economics 326
Methods of Empirical Research in Economics
Lecture 17: Asymptotic normality

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 - ▶ The same assumption is needed to show that the T statistic has a t -distribution and the F statistic has an F -distribution.
- ▶ In this lecture, we will argue that even when the errors are **not** normally distributed, the OLS estimator has an **approximately normal distribution** in large samples, provided that some additional conditions hold.
 - ▶ This property is used for hypothesis testing: in large samples, the T statistic has a standard normal distribution and the F statistic has a χ^2 distribution (approximately).

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- ▶ We denote this as $W_n \rightarrow_d W$ or $W_n \rightarrow_d N(0, \sigma^2)$.

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- ▶ Note that the convergence in distribution is convergence of the **CDFs**.

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- ▶ Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a sample of iid random variables such that $E(X_i) = 0$ and $\text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2 > 0$ (finite). Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \rightarrow_d N(0, \sigma^2).$$

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- ▶ If $W_n \rightarrow_d c = \text{constant}$, then $W_n \rightarrow_p c$.

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or

$$\hat{\beta}_{1,n} \overset{a}{\sim} N(\beta_1, V/n).$$

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$$\hat{\beta}_{1,n} = \beta_1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2}.$$

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so that

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{n} (\hat{\beta}_{1,n} - \beta_1) &= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2} \rightarrow_d \frac{N\left(0, E\left((X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2\right)\right)}{\text{Var}(X_i)} \\ &=^d N\left(0, \frac{E\left((X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2\right)}{(\text{Var}(X_i))^2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

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We have

$$E [(X_i - EX_i) U_i] = E (X_i U_i) - EX_i E U_i = 0,$$

$$\text{and } 0 < E \left[(X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2 \right] < \infty,$$

Proof of

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i \rightarrow_d N \left(0, E \left((X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2 \right) \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - EX_i + EX_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - EX_i) U_i + (EX_i - \bar{X}_n) \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n U_i \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$E [(X_i - EX_i) U_i] = E (X_i U_i) - EX_i E U_i = 0,$$

and $0 < E [(X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2] < \infty$, so that by the CLT,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - EX_i) U_i \rightarrow_d N \left(0, E [(X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2] \right).$$

Proof of

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i \rightarrow_d N \left(0, E \left((X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2 \right) \right)$$

It is left to show that

$$(EX_i - \bar{X}_n) \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n U_i \rightarrow_p 0.$$

Proof of

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i \rightarrow_d N \left(0, E \left((X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2 \right) \right)$$

It is left to show that

$$(EX_i - \bar{X}_n) \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n U_i \rightarrow_p 0.$$

We have $EU_i = 0$ and $0 < EU_i^2 < \infty$. Thus, by the CLT,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n U_i \rightarrow_d N(0, EU_i^2).$$

Proof of

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n) U_i \rightarrow_d N \left(0, E \left((X_i - EX_i)^2 U_i^2 \right) \right)$$

It is left to show that

$$(EX_i - \bar{X}_n) \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n U_i \rightarrow_p 0.$$

We have $EU_i = 0$ and $0 < EU_i^2 < \infty$. Thus, by the CLT,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n U_i \rightarrow_d N(0, EU_i^2).$$

By the LLN,

$$EX_i - \bar{X}_n \rightarrow_p 0.$$

Hence, the result follows.