

Equivalence of the t-test and F-test in simple linear regression

In mathematical statistics, a common exercise shows that if $T \sim t(\nu)$, then $T^2 \sim F(1, \nu)$.

Now we will show, for a simple linear regression model, the square of the t -test statistic for a significant regression relationship is equal to the F -test statistic, that is,

$$\left(\frac{b_1}{s\{b_1\}} \right)^2 = \frac{MSR}{MSE}.$$

We first show that $SSR = b_1^2 SSX$.

$$\begin{aligned} SSR &= \sum (\hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y})^2 \\ &= \sum (b_0 + b_1 X_i - \bar{Y})^2 && \text{[since } \hat{Y}_i = b_0 + b_1 X_i \text{]} \\ &= \sum (\bar{Y} - b_1 \bar{X} + b_1 X_i - \bar{Y})^2 && \text{[since } b_0 = \bar{Y} - b_1 \bar{X} \text{]} \\ &= b_1^2 \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \\ &= b_1^2 SSX. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since $b_1^2 = SSR/SSX$ and $s^2\{b_1\} = MSE/MSR$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{b_1}{s\{b_1\}} \right)^2 &= \frac{SSR/SSX}{MSE/SSX} \\ &= \frac{SSR}{MSE} \\ &= \frac{MSR}{MSE}. \end{aligned}$$