Lecture 15 Analysis of Covariance ANCOVA

What is ANCOVA?

- This refers to the situation when the explanatory variables are both categorical and quantitative.
- The response variable however is always quantitative.

Recall:

We have data on 78 seventh grade high school students in a rural Midwestern school. The researcher was interested in the relationship between "self-concept" (as measured by a test designed by himself) and the performance of the student. The data for each student include:

GPA (not specified the period) (*y*, response variable)
OBS – an observation number (if an observation number misses it means that the corresponding student dropped the study)
IQ – score at a standard IQ test (IQ, explanatory variable)
Gender – self explanatory
Concept – score at the self designed test (CONCEPT, explanatory

•Concept – score at the self designed test (CONCEPT, explanatory variable)

•We analyzed this data with multiple regression. We did not look at the gender variable. We will correct this oversight.

ANCOVA – the model.

The model fitted for the example shown is:

$$Y_{ij} = \mu + \tau_i + \beta_1 X_{ij}^1 + \beta_2 X_{ij}^2 + \varepsilon_{ij}$$

Where: μ - an overall constant
 τ_i - the effect due to categorical var (gender)
 β_1, β_2 - the regression coefficients
 X_{ij}^1, X_{ij}^2 - the explanatory variables
 Y_{ij} - the response variable
 ε_{ij} - the errors assumed to be normal and
constant variance

- The model is quite complex to describe in the case of two or more categorical variables but the software gives you answers regardless.
- The important issue is to be able to understand the answers and to make sure that the hypotheses under which these numbers were obtained are satisfied.