

Multiple Linear Regression

William Brasic

The University of Arizona

Goal of Multiple Linear Regression (MLR)

Question 1

What is the goal of **multiple linear regression (MLR)**?

Goal of Multiple Linear Regression (MLR)

Question 1

What is the goal of **multiple linear regression (MLR)**?

Answer to Question 1

1. Reduce potential covariates excluded from model that are correlated with included regressors.
2. Predict outcome better.
3. Analyze more complex relationships.

MLR Example

Example 1: MLR Example

If we are interested in determinants of a student's GPA, our MLR model could be

$$\begin{aligned} gpa = & \beta_0 + \beta_1 hours_studied + \beta_2 hours_studied^2 + \beta_3 male \\ & + \beta_4 age + \beta_5 sat_score + \beta_6 parent_education + u. \end{aligned}$$

- What is the effect of how many hours you spend studying on your GPA?

Multiple Linear Regression

Definition 1: Multiple Linear Regression Using Vectors

The **multiple linear regression** model in vector notation is given by

$$y_i = \mathbf{x}'_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + u_i$$

for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

- y_i is observation i 's outcome.
- \mathbf{x}_i is individual i 's $(k + 1) \times 1$ vector of covariates.
- $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is the $(k + 1) \times 1$ vector of population parameters.
- u_i is observation i 's idiosyncratic shock component.

Multiple Linear Regression

Definition 2: Multiple Linear Regression Using Matrices

The **multiple linear regression** model in matrix notation is given by

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}.$$

- \mathbf{y} is the $n \times 1$ vector of outcomes for all individuals.
- \mathbf{X} is the $n \times (k + 1)$ feature matrix.
- $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is the $(k + 1) \times 1$ vector of population parameters.
- \mathbf{u} is the $n \times 1$ vector of errors for all individuals.

Multiple Linear Regression

Definition 3: Estimated Multiple Linear Regression

The **estimated multiple linear regression** model in matrix notation is given by

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = X\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}.$$

- $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ is the $n \times 1$ vector of fitted (prediction) values for all individuals.
- X is the $n \times (k + 1)$ feature matrix.
- $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is the $(k + 1) \times 1$ vector of estimated parameters.

Multiple Linear Regression

Definition 4: Multiple Linear Regression Statistics

All definitions discussed for simple linear regression remain the same except we can represent them nicely using vectors and matrices:

1. $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = X\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$.
2. $\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}$.
3. $SSR = \hat{\mathbf{u}}'\hat{\mathbf{u}}$.
4. $SST = (\mathbf{y} - \bar{Y})'(\mathbf{y} - \bar{Y})$.
5. $SSE = (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \bar{Y})'(\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \bar{Y})$.
6. $\tilde{R}^2 = 1 - \frac{SSR/(n-k)}{SST/(n-1)}$ where k is the number of estimated parameters (intercept included).

The OLS Solution

Theorem 1: OLS Solution

The solution, $\hat{\beta}$, to the OLS problem is given by

$$\hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y.$$

- We proved this in the Matrix Algebra lecture slides.

Linear in Parameters

MLR Assumption 1: Linear in Parameters

The population model is a **linear function of the parameters**.

- For instance, $y = X\beta + u$.

Random Sampling

MLR Assumption 2: Random Sampling

We have a **random (i.i.d.) sample** $\{(y_i, \mathbf{x}_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ from the population of interest.

- This will ensure Assumption 4 holds for the entire sample and not just subsets.

No Perfect Multicollinearity

MLR Assumption 3: No Perfect Multicollinearity

No Perfect Multicollinearity means no regressor in the matrix X is constant, nor is any regressor a perfect linear combination of other regressors.

- Also called the **full rank condition**
 - ▶ Implies that $X'X$ is invertible, ensuring that our OLS solution exists and is unique.

Zero Conditional Mean

MLR Assumption 4: Zero Conditional Mean

The expectation of the error term conditioned on the regressors is zero, i.e., $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{u} | X] = \mathbf{0}$.

- Also called the **exogeneity assumption**.
- Important implications include:
 1. $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{u}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{u} | X]] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{0}] = \mathbf{0}$.
 2. $\text{Cov}[X, \mathbf{u}] = \mathbb{E}[X'\mathbf{u}] - \mathbb{E}[X']\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{u}] = \mathbb{E}[X'\mathbf{u}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X'\mathbf{u} | X]] = \mathbb{E}[X\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{u} | X]] = \mathbf{0}$.
 3. $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{y} | X] = \mathbb{E}[x\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u} | X] = X\boldsymbol{\beta}$ so $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ represents the average impact of our covariates on y_i .

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Theorem 2: Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Under MLR Assumptions 1-4, the OLS estimator is unbiased, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{E} [\hat{\beta} | X] = \beta.$$

- By the law of total expectation $\mathbb{E} [\hat{\beta}] = \beta$.
- On average, our estimator is equal to the truth
 - ▶ The sampling distribution of our estimated parameters is centered around their true values.

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 1

Using MLR Assumption 1 of $\mathbf{y} = X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}$ and MLR Assumption 3 that X has full rank so $(X'X)^{-1}$ exists,

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{y}$$

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 1

Using MLR Assumption 1 of $\mathbf{y} = X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}$ and MLR Assumption 3 that X has full rank so $(X'X)^{-1}$ exists,

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} &= (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{y} \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X'(X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u})\end{aligned}$$

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 1

Using MLR Assumption 1 of $\mathbf{y} = X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}$ and MLR Assumption 3 that X has full rank so $(X'X)^{-1}$ exists,

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} &= (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{y} \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X'(X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}) \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X'X\boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u}\end{aligned}$$

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 1

Using MLR Assumption 1 of $\mathbf{y} = X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}$ and MLR Assumption 3 that X has full rank so $(X'X)^{-1}$ exists,

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} &= (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{y} \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X'(X\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{u}) \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X'X\boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u} \\ &= \boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u}.\end{aligned}$$

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 2

Using MLR Assumption 2 of random sampling implying each individual's conditional error term has identical mean and MLR Assumption 4 so this conditional mean is zero,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\hat{\beta} \mid X \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[\beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'u \mid X \right]$$

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 2

Using MLR Assumption 2 of random sampling implying each individual's conditional error term has identical mean and MLR Assumption 4 so this conditional mean is zero,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\hat{\beta} | X] &= \mathbb{E}[\beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= \beta + (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbb{E}[u | X]\end{aligned}$$

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 2

Using MLR Assumption 2 of random sampling implying each individual's conditional error term has identical mean and MLR Assumption 4 so this conditional mean is zero,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\hat{\beta} | X] &= \mathbb{E}[\beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= \beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbb{E}[u | X] \\ &= \beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'0\end{aligned}$$

Unbiasedness of OLS for MLR

Proof 1: Unbiased of OLS for MLR Part 2

Using MLR Assumption 2 of random sampling implying each individual's conditional error term has identical mean and MLR Assumption 4 so this conditional mean is zero,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\hat{\beta} | X] &= \mathbb{E}[\beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= \beta + (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbb{E}[u | X] \\ &= \beta + (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{0} \\ &= \beta. \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

Hooray!

Omitted Variable Bias (OVB)

Definition 5: Omitted Variable Bias (OVB)

The **omitted variable bias (OVB)** problem is when we exclude a covariate from the model (so it is contained in u_i) that is correlated with one of the included covariates as well as the outcome.

Omitted Variable Bias (OVB)

Example 2: Omitted Variable Bias (OVB)

Suppose the true model is $y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + u_i$, but we only regress y_i on x_i giving the equation $\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1}$. The estimate of $\hat{\beta}_1$ will be biased when the covariance between x_{i1} and x_{i2} is non-zero.

- Excluding relevant regressors could hurt us.
- Including irrelevant regressors does not hurt us, but makes our estimator less efficient.

Omitted Variable Bias (OVB)

TABLE 3.2 Summary of Bias in $\tilde{\beta}_1$ When x_2 Is Omitted in Estimating Equation (3.40)

	$\text{Corr}(x_1, x_2) > 0$	$\text{Corr}(x_1, x_2) < 0$
$\beta_2 > 0$	Positive bias	Negative bias
$\beta_2 < 0$	Negative bias	Positive bias

- For instance, if x_2 has a positive effect on y ($\beta_2 > 0$) and x_1 and x_2 are positively correlated, then $\hat{\beta}_1$ will be inflated.
- Bias is multiplicative.

Homoskedasticity

MLR Assumption 5: Homoskedastic Errors

Homoskedasticity states $\mathbb{V}[u_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = \sigma^2$ for each $i = 1, \dots, n$.
Using vectors, $\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{u}|X] = \sigma^2 I_n$.

- Under MLR Assumptions 1-5,
$$\mathbb{V}[u_i] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{V}[u_i | \mathbf{x}_i]] + \mathbb{V}[\mathbb{E}[u_i | \mathbf{x}_i]] = \mathbb{E}[\sigma^2] = \sigma^2.$$
- The variance of our error is constant across all observations when conditioning on our regressors.
- When this assumption fails, we say the errors are heteroskedastic.
 - ▶ Really not that important since White's 1980 correction.

Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

Theorem 3: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

Under MLR Assumptions 1-5, the **variance-covariance matrix of the OLS estimator** is given by

$$\mathbb{V} \left[\hat{\beta} \mid X \right] = \sigma^2 (X'X)^{-1}.$$

- By the law of total variance, $\mathbb{V} \left[\hat{\beta} \right] = \sigma^2 (X'X)^{-1}$.

Variance of OLS Estimator

Proof 2: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V}[\boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u} | X]\end{aligned}$$

Variance of OLS Estimator

Proof 2: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V} \left[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \mid X \right] &= \mathbb{V} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] \\ &= \mathbb{V} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid X \right] + \mathbb{V} \left[(X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] + 2\text{Cov} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta}, (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right]\end{aligned}$$

Variance of OLS Estimator

Proof 2: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V} \left[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \mid X \right] &= \mathbb{V} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] \\ &= \mathbb{V} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid X \right] + \mathbb{V} \left[(X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] + 2\text{Cov} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta}, (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] \\ &= \mathbb{V} \left[(X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right]\end{aligned}$$

Variance of OLS Estimator

Proof 2: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} | X] &= \mathbb{V}[\boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u} | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V}[\boldsymbol{\beta} | X] + \mathbb{V}[(X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u} | X] + 2\text{Cov}[\boldsymbol{\beta}, (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u} | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V}[(X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbf{u} | X] \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X'\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{u} | X] X (X'X)^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

Variance of OLS Estimator

Proof 2: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V} \left[\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \mid X \right] &= \mathbb{V} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta} + (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] \\ &= \mathbb{V} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid X \right] + \mathbb{V} \left[(X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] + 2\text{Cov} \left[\boldsymbol{\beta}, (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] \\ &= \mathbb{V} \left[(X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbf{u} \mid X \right] \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbb{V} \left[\mathbf{u} \mid X \right] X (X'X)^{-1} \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X' \sigma^2 I_n X (X'X)^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

Variance of OLS Estimator

Proof 2: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\hat{\beta} | X] &= \mathbb{V}[\beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V}[\beta | X] + \mathbb{V}[(X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] + 2\text{Cov}[\beta, (X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V}[(X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbb{V}[u | X] X (X'X)^{-1} \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X' \sigma^2 I_n X (X'X)^{-1} \\ &= \sigma^2 (X'X)^{-1} X' X (X'X)^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

Variance of OLS Estimator

Proof 2: Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{V} [\hat{\beta} | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V} [\beta + (X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V} [\beta | X] + \mathbb{V} [(X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] + 2\text{Cov} [\beta, (X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= \mathbb{V} [(X'X)^{-1} X'u | X] \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X' \mathbb{V} [u | X] X (X'X)^{-1} \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X' \sigma^2 I_n X (X'X)^{-1} \\ &= \sigma^2 (X'X)^{-1} X' X (X'X)^{-1} \\ &= \sigma^2 (X'X)^{-1}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Hooray!



Estimator of the Variance of the OLS Estimator

Theorem 4: Estimator of the Variance-Covariance Matrix of the OLS Estimator

Under MLR Assumption 1-5, since $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{u}}'\hat{\mathbf{u}}}{n-k}$ is an unbiased estimator for σ^2 ,

$$\hat{\mathbb{V}}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} | X] = \hat{\sigma}^2 (X'X)^{-1}$$

is unbiased estimator for $\mathbb{V}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} | X]$.

- k is the number of regressors in our model (including the intercept).

Standard Errors

Definition 6: Standard Errors of OLS Estimates

The **standard errors** of our OLS estimators are the square roots of the elements along the diagonal of the estimated variance-covariance matrix $\widehat{V}[\widehat{\beta} | X] = \widehat{\sigma}^2(X'X)^{-1}$.

- The **standard error** of an estimator is simply its estimated standard deviation.

Why Do We Like OLS?

Question 2

Why do we like OLS so much?

Why Do We Like OLS?

Question 2

Why do we like OLS so much?

Answer to Question 2

There are plenty of unbiased estimators, but under Assumptions 1-5 **OLS is efficient**, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{V} [\hat{\beta} | X] \leq \mathbb{V} [\tilde{\beta} | X]$$

for all other unbiased estimators $\tilde{\beta}$.

BLUE

Property 1: OLS is BLUE

Under MLR Assumptions 1-5, OLS is BLUE:

1. Best
 - ▶ Smallest variance of any other unbiased estimator
2. Linear
3. Unbiased
4. Estimator

- The Gauss-Markov Theorem proves this.

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Theorem 5: The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Under MLR Assumptions 1-5, OLS is **BLUE** meaning

$$\mathbb{V} \left[\hat{\beta} \right] \leq \mathbb{V} \left[\tilde{\beta} \right]$$

for all other unbiased estimators $\tilde{\beta}$.

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 1

Let $\tilde{\beta}$ be another linear and unbiased estimator of β for the model $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{u}$. This implies we can write this estimator as $\tilde{\beta} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{y}$. Furthermore, under MLR Assumption 4 it is necessarily unbiased because $\mathbb{E}[\tilde{\beta}] = \mathbf{C}\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{y}] = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}\beta$ which holds only when $\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{I}$.

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] = \mathbb{V}[\mathbf{C}\mathbf{y}]$$

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] &= \mathbb{V}[C\mathbf{y}] \\ &= C\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{y}]C'\end{aligned}$$

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}] &= \mathbb{V}[C\mathbf{y}] \\ &= C\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{y}]C' \\ &= \sigma^2CC'\end{aligned}$$

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\beta}] &= \mathbb{V}[C\mathbf{y}] \\ &= C\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{y}]C' \\ &= \sigma^2 CC' \\ &\geq \sigma^2 CP_X C'\end{aligned}$$

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\beta}] &= \mathbb{V}[C\mathbf{y}] \\ &= C\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{y}]C' \\ &= \sigma^2CC' \\ &\geq \sigma^2CP_XC' \\ &= \sigma^2CX(X'X)^{-1}X'C'\end{aligned}$$

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\beta}] &= \mathbb{V}[C\mathbf{y}] \\ &= C\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{y}]C' \\ &= \sigma^2CC' \\ &\geq \sigma^2CP_XC' \\ &= \sigma^2CX(X'X)^{-1}X'C' \\ &= \sigma^2(X'X)^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\beta}] &= \mathbb{V}[C\mathbf{y}] \\ &= C\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{y}]C' \\ &= \sigma^2 CC' \\ &\geq \sigma^2 CP_X C' \\ &= \sigma^2 CX(X'X)^{-1}X'C' \\ &= \sigma^2(X'X)^{-1} \\ &= \mathbb{V}[\hat{\beta}].\end{aligned}$$

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 2

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\beta}] &= \mathbb{V}[C\mathbf{y}] \\ &= C\mathbb{V}[\mathbf{y}]C' \\ &= \sigma^2 CC' \\ &\geq \sigma^2 CP_X C' \\ &= \sigma^2 CX(X'X)^{-1}X'C' \\ &= \sigma^2(X'X)^{-1} \\ &= \mathbb{V}[\hat{\beta}].\end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\mathbb{V}[\tilde{\beta}] \geq \mathbb{V}[\hat{\beta}]$.

The Gauss-Markov Theorem

Proof 3: The Gauss-Markov Theorem Part 3

Showing $\sigma^2 CC' \geq \sigma^2 CP_X C'$ amounts to showing $\sigma^2 CC' - \sigma^2 CP_X C' \geq 0$, i.e., this matrix is positive semi-definite. A matrix A is positive semi-definite if for any non-zero vector \mathbf{v} it follows that $\mathbf{v}' A \mathbf{v} \geq 0$. Define $A = I - P_X = I - X(X'X)^{-1}X'$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v}'(\sigma^2 CC' - \sigma^2 CP_X C')\mathbf{v} &= \mathbf{v}'(CAC')\mathbf{v} \\ &= (C'\mathbf{v})'A(C'\mathbf{v}) \\ &= (C'\mathbf{v})'A'A(C'\mathbf{v}) \\ &= (AC'\mathbf{v})'(AC'\mathbf{v}) \\ &\geq 0\end{aligned}$$

where $(AC'\mathbf{v})'(AC'\mathbf{v}) \geq 0$ because the dot product between two identical vectors must be at least zero. \square

Thank You!