

Lecture 2: Fixed Effects

September 6, 2023 – now September 13, 2023

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5. Lab session at 9 pm on zoom – see email

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 - create your Box folder
 - invite me and Genevieve
7. Fixed date error with class Thanksgiving week

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 - create your Box folder
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7. Fixed date error with class
Thanksgiving week
8. What to do about missed class?
 - Use make-up day – but day before paper deadline
 - Schedule make-up class for presentations
 - Drop class on presenting causal results

Today

1. General problem of selection
2. Omitted variable bias in terms of regression coefficients
3. Indicator variables
4. Discussion of Black et al

1. General Problem of Selection Bias

The General Problem

If we assume a homogeneous treatment effect, κ , then

$$\text{Avg}_n[Y_{1i}|D_i = 1] - \text{Avg}_n[Y_{0i}|D_i = 0] =$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Avg}_n[Y_{1i}|D_i = 1] - \text{Avg}_n[Y_{0i}|D_i = 0] &= \\ \text{Avg}_n[\kappa + Y_{0i}|D_i = 1] - \text{Avg}_n[Y_{0i}|D_i = 0] &= \end{aligned}$$

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Red term is difference in outcome Y for treated relative to untreated in the absence of treatment: **selection bias**.

Let's Think of Some Examples of Selection Bias

$$\text{Avg}_n[Y_{0i}|D_i = 1] - \text{Avg}_n[Y_{0i}|D_i = 0]$$

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A fix: control for covariates X_i to make selection bias disappear.

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$$\text{Avg}_n[Y_{0i}|D_i = 1] - \text{Avg}_n[Y_{0i}|D_i = 0]$$

A fix: control for covariates X_i to make selection bias disappear.

Strong evidence that “controlling for observables” rarely gets rid of selection.

2. Omitted Variable Bias Formula

Long (True) vs. Short (False) Regression

Suppose that the “true” (long) regression is

$$Y = \alpha + \beta'X_1 + \gamma X_2 + \epsilon'$$

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Unfortunately, you don't observe X_2 – examples?

Long (True) vs. Short (False) Regression

Suppose that the “true” (long) regression is

$$Y = \alpha + \beta^l X_1 + \gamma X_2 + \epsilon^l$$

Unfortunately, you don't observe X_2 – examples?

So instead you estimate the “false” (short) regression

$$Y = \alpha + \beta^s X_1 + \epsilon^s$$

Should you trust β^s ?

Evaluating Whether to Trust β^s

Recall

$$Y = \alpha + \beta' X_1 + \gamma X_2 + \epsilon^l \quad (1)$$

$$Y = \alpha + \beta^s X_1 + \epsilon^s \quad (2)$$

Evaluating Whether to Trust β^s

Recall

$$Y = \alpha + \beta^l X_1 + \gamma X_2 + \epsilon^l \quad (1)$$

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Estimate the relationship between the treatment X_1 and the omitted variable X_2 :

$$X_1 = \pi_0 + \pi_1 X_2 + \epsilon^c$$

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Then (proof in book)

OVB =

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$$\text{OV B} = \beta^s - \beta^l = \pi_1 \gamma$$

OV B is one type of selection bias.

Let's think about this equation

$\pi_1 \equiv$ relationship between X_1 and X_2

$\gamma \equiv$ relationship between X_2 and Y in long regression

$$\text{OVB} = \beta^s - \beta^l = \pi_1 \gamma$$

- What if the treatment and the omitted variable are not correlated?

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- What if the treatment and the omitted variable are not correlated?
- What if the omitted variable is not correlated with the outcome Y ?
- Any story about omitted variable bias needs to include **both** parts
- Resolving the problem of omitted variable bias in order to generate causal estimates is the key concern of this course

3. Indicator Variables

What is an indicator variable?

All these things are the same

- dummy variable
- indicator variable
- fixed effect
- $1\{\text{condition}\}$

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All are coded 1 if true and 0 otherwise

Interpreting Indicator Variables

$$\text{wage} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{female} + \beta_2 \text{education} + \epsilon$$

- $\text{female} \in \{0, 1\}$
- how do we interpret β_1 ?

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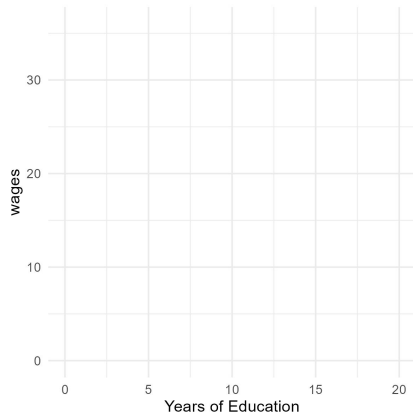
- $\text{female} \in \{0, 1\}$
- how do we interpret β_1 ?
- let's draw in a figure

Interpreting Coefficients

$$\text{wage} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{female} + \beta_2 \text{education} + \epsilon$$

Draw the relationship

- x axis is education
- y axis is wage
- where is β_0 ?

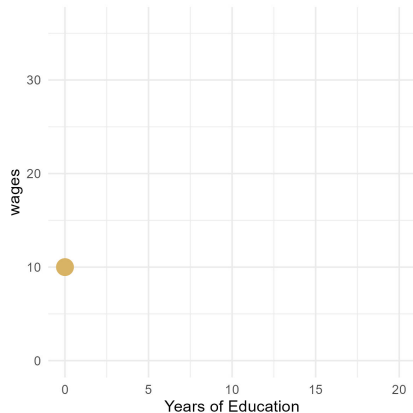


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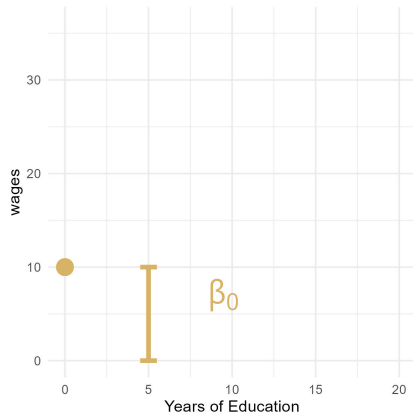


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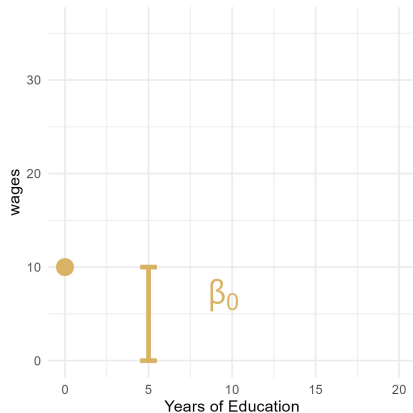


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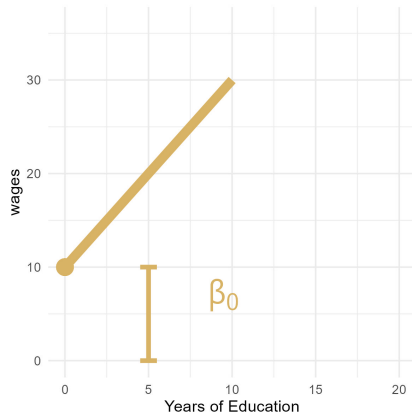


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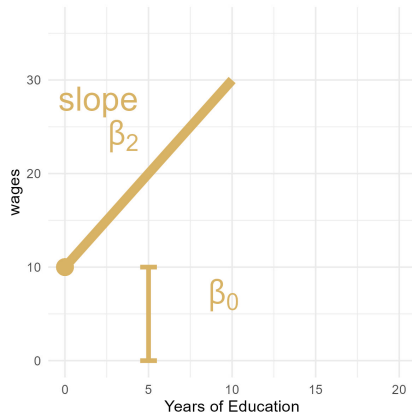


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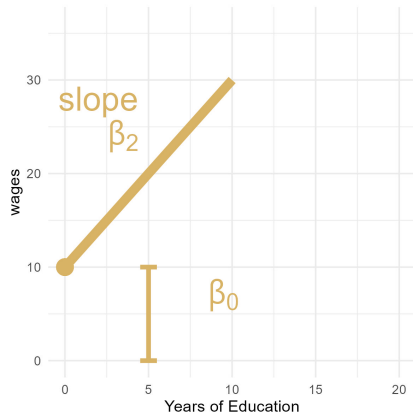


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- how do we draw wages for women as a function of education?

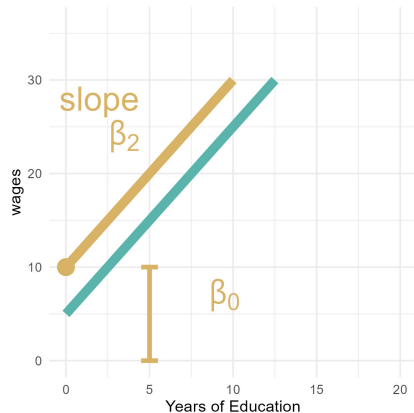


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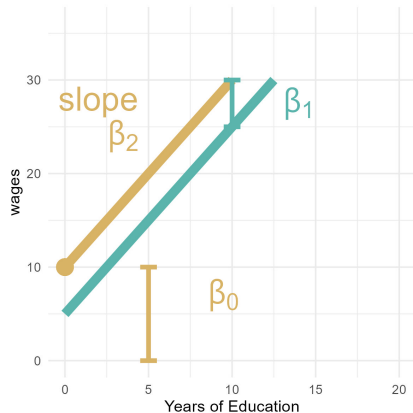


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Coding Variables

- Suppose we want to look at the effect of gender on wages:

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Interpreting Indicator Variables in Interaction

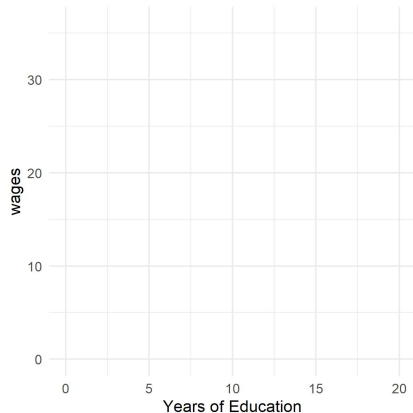
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- $\text{female} \in \{0, 1\}$
- what is this specification doing differently?

Interpreting Coefficients in Interacted Specification

$$\text{wage} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{female} + \beta_2 \text{education} + \beta_3 \text{female} * \text{education} + \epsilon$$

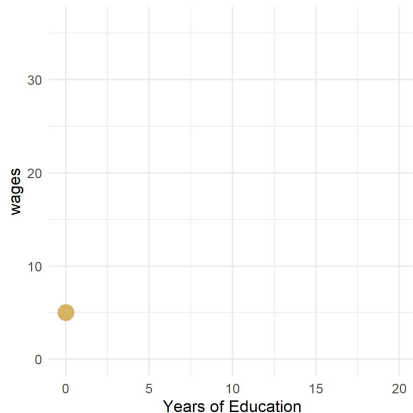
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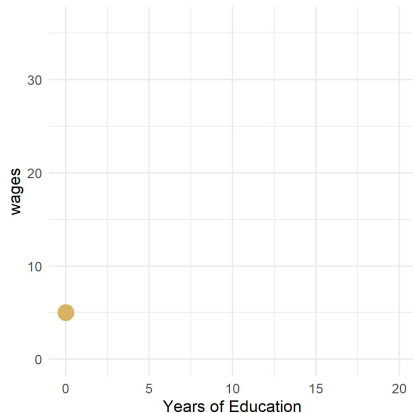
- what are men's wages with no education? β_0



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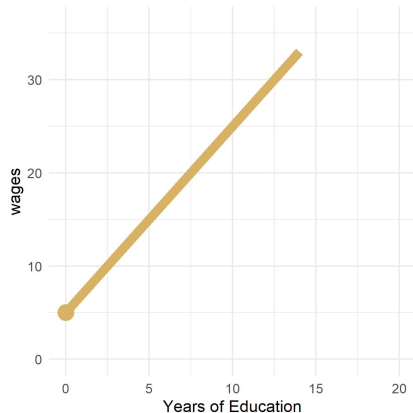
- what are men's wages with no education? β_0
- how do men's wages change with education?



Interpreting Coefficients in Interacted Specification

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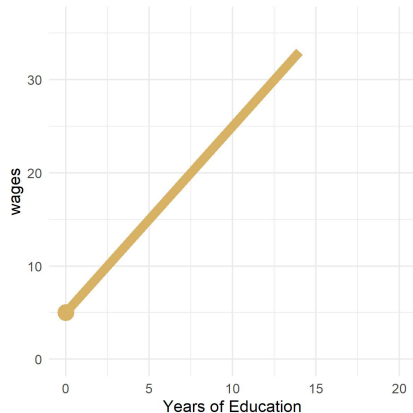
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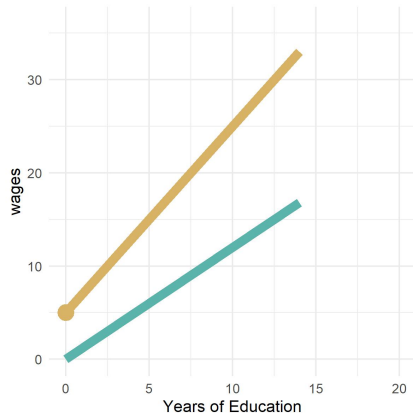
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- how do women's wages change with education?



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- what are men's wages with no education? β_0
- how do men's wages change with education? $\beta_2 * \text{education}$
- how do women's wages change with education?
start at $\beta_0 - \beta_1$
change by
 $\beta_2 * \text{education} + \beta_3 * \text{education}$



Formal Testing

$$\text{wage} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{female} + \beta_2 \text{education} + \beta_3 \text{female} * \text{education} + \epsilon$$

- How to test whether education has a differential effect on women's wages relative to men's?

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- How to test whether education has a differential effect on women's wages relative to men's?
- Test $\beta_3 = 0$

4. Black et al on family size

Paper Overview

What is this paper about?

- what is the theory that they rebut in this paper?

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- people aged 16-74 from 1986-2000 (would you be in this sample?)
- parents and kids must both appear in the dataset
- can match parents to kids
- about each person they know year of birth, completed education, earnings
- about each family, they know family size

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- can match parents to kids
- about each person they know year of birth, completed education, earnings
- about each family, they know family size
- what is the unit of observation?

What Can We Learn from Summary Statistics?

TABLE III
AVERAGE EDUCATION BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY AND BIRTH ORDER

	Average education	Average mother's education	Average father's education	Fraction with <12 years	Fraction with 12 years	Fraction with >12 years
Family size						
1	12.0	9.2	10.1	.44	.25	.31
2	12.4	9.9	10.8	.34	.31	.35
3	12.3	9.7	10.6	.37	.30	.33
4	12.0	9.3	10.1	.43	.29	.28
5	11.7	8.8	9.5	.49	.27	.24
6	11.4	8.5	9.1	.54	.25	.20
7	11.2	8.3	8.9	.57	.24	.19
8	11.1	8.2	8.8	.58	.24	.18
9	11.0	8.0	8.6	.59	.25	.16
10+	11.0	7.9	8.8	.59	.26	.15
Birth order						
1	12.2	9.7	10.6	.38	.28	.34
2	12.2	9.6	10.5	.38	.30	.31
3	12.0	9.3	10.2	.40	.31	.29
4	11.9	9.0	9.7	.43	.32	.25
5	11.7	8.6	9.2	.46	.31	.22
6	11.6	8.3	8.9	.49	.31	.20
7	11.5	8.1	8.7	.51	.30	.19
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10+	11.3	7.8	8.7	.52	.32	.15
	All					
	12.2	9.5	10.4	.39	.29	.32

- We ignore instrumental variables and twins
- Focus only on the regular estimations
- But start with summary stats
- What does Table 3 tell us about education as family size increases?

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- What does Table 3 tell us about education as birth order increases?

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3	12.3	9.7	10.6	.37	.30	.33
4	12.0	9.3	10.1	.43	.29	.28
5	11.7	8.8	9.5	.49	.27	.24
6	11.4	8.5	9.1	.54	.25	.20
7	11.2	8.3	8.9	.57	.24	.19
8	11.1	8.2	8.8	.58	.24	.18
9	11.0	8.0	8.6	.59	.25	.16
10+	11.0	7.9	8.8	.59	.26	.15
Birth order						
1	12.2	9.7	10.6	.38	.28	.34
2	12.2	9.6	10.5	.38	.30	.31
3	12.0	9.3	10.2	.40	.31	.29
4	11.9	9.0	9.7	.43	.32	.25
5	11.7	8.6	9.2	.46	.31	.22
6	11.6	8.3	8.9	.49	.31	.20
7	11.5	8.1	8.7	.51	.30	.19
8	11.6	8.0	8.6	.49	.31	.20
9	11.3	7.9	8.4	.53	.32	.15
10+	11.3	7.8	8.7	.52	.32	.15
			All			
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- We ignore instrumental variables and twins
- Focus only on the regular estimations
- But start with summary stats
- What does Table 3 tell us about education as family size increases? increases (for 1 to 2), then declines
- What does Table 3 tell us about education as birth order increases? declines
- Give an example of a potential omitted variable for this research question

Make a Class Dataset

- Get four families as an example to match paper
- What info do we need?

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 - you need to be able to know who is in the same family
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Understanding Main Estimates: Table 4

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Table 4: Columns 3 and 4

Eq for Table 4, Column 3:

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- Add controls. Any questions about how they do that?
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Table 4: Columns 5 and 6

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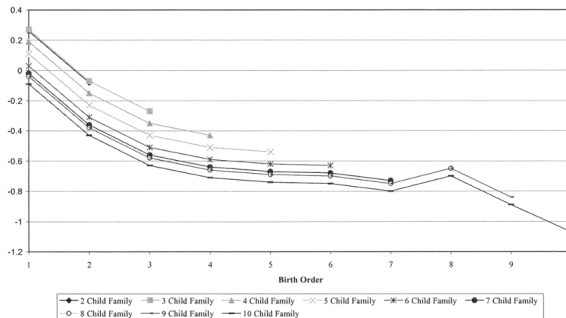
- fix your dataset so that you have enough variables to estimate this

Visual Representation of Findings

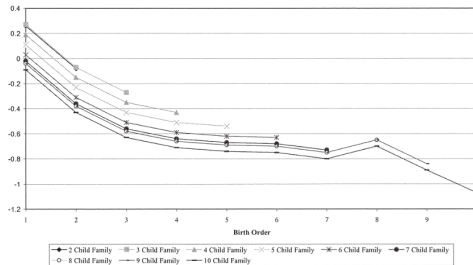
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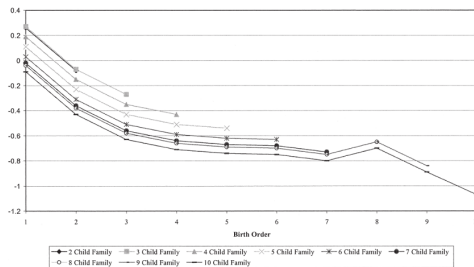


Making the Figure



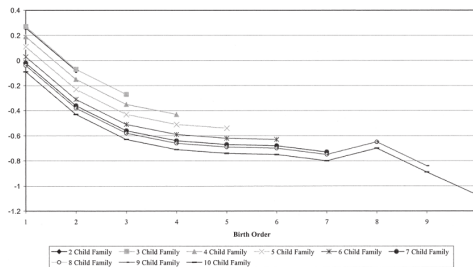
- no info for family size = 1

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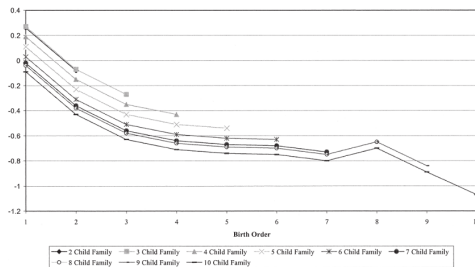
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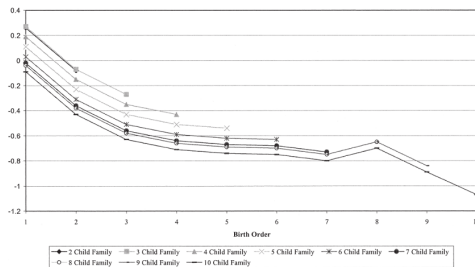
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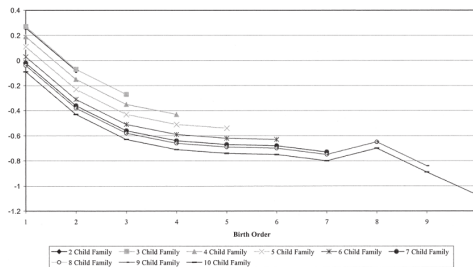
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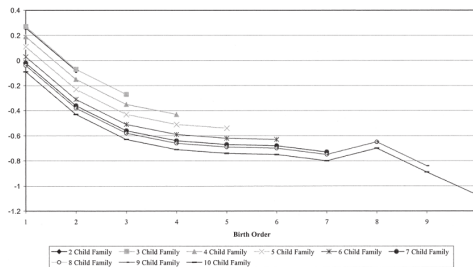
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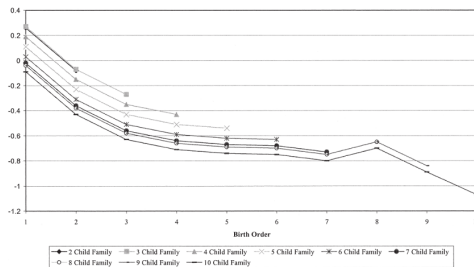
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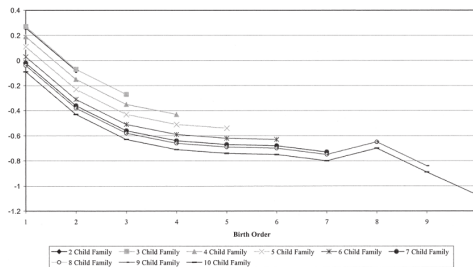
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- why are the lines in the figure parallel?

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- Because they allow the effect of birth order to vary by family size

Next Lecture

- Read *Causal Mixtape*, Chapter 9.1 and 9.2
- Read linked Milligan article, section 5 optional
- Due next week
 - One page proposal
- Next week handout – Problem Set 2, with two week work period