

What happens to $\frac{1}{n}SSE \approx MSE$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$? Noting that SSE is the same whether the model is centered or not, work with the centered model.

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i + \bar{y})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (e_i + \hat{u}_i)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n e_i^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i e_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 = SSE + 2 \hat{u}^T e + \hat{u}^T \hat{u} \\ &= SSE + 2(X\hat{\beta})^T e + \hat{u}^T \hat{u} = SSE + 2\hat{\beta}^T X^T e + (X\hat{\beta})^T X\hat{\beta} \\ &= SSE + 0 + \hat{\beta}^T X^T X \hat{\beta} = SSE + \hat{\beta}^T X^T X (X^T X)^{-1} X^T \hat{u} = SSE + \hat{\beta}^T X^T \hat{u}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{So that } \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 &= \frac{1}{n} SSE + \frac{1}{n} (\hat{\Sigma}_x^{-1} \hat{\Sigma}_{xy})^T \hat{\Sigma}_{xy} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} SSE + \hat{\Sigma}_{xy}^T \hat{\Sigma}_x^{-1} \hat{\Sigma}_{xy}\end{aligned}$$

Since \hat{u}_i is really $u_i - \bar{u}$, $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 \xrightarrow{as} \text{Var}(u)$, and

$$\frac{1}{n} SSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{u}_i^2 - \hat{\Sigma}_{xy}^T \hat{\Sigma}_x^{-1} \hat{\Sigma}_{xy} \xrightarrow{as} \text{Var}(u) - \Sigma_{xy}^T \Sigma_x^{-1} \Sigma_{xy}$$

Now if the model is correct, $\text{Var}(u) = \text{Var}(\beta^T x + \varepsilon) = \beta^T \Sigma_x \beta + \sigma^2$, and $\Sigma_{xy} = \Sigma_x \beta$. In that case

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{n} SSE &\xrightarrow{as} \beta^T \Sigma_x \beta + \sigma^2 - (\Sigma_x \beta)^T \underbrace{\Sigma_x^{-1} \Sigma_x}_{I} \beta \\ &= \beta^T \Sigma_x \beta + \sigma^2 - \beta^T \Sigma_x \beta = \sigma^2\end{aligned}$$

And MSE is consistent!

If the model is mis-specified, The important thing is that MSE approaches a constant as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then, the estimated covariance matrix of $\hat{\beta}$

$$MSE(X^T X)^{-1} = MSE\left(n \frac{1}{n} X^T X\right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{n} MSE\left(\frac{1}{n} X^T X\right)^{-1} \xrightarrow{as} 0$$

And all the standard errors go to zero.