

# 3.7 — Interaction Effects

ECON 480 • Econometrics • Fall 2020

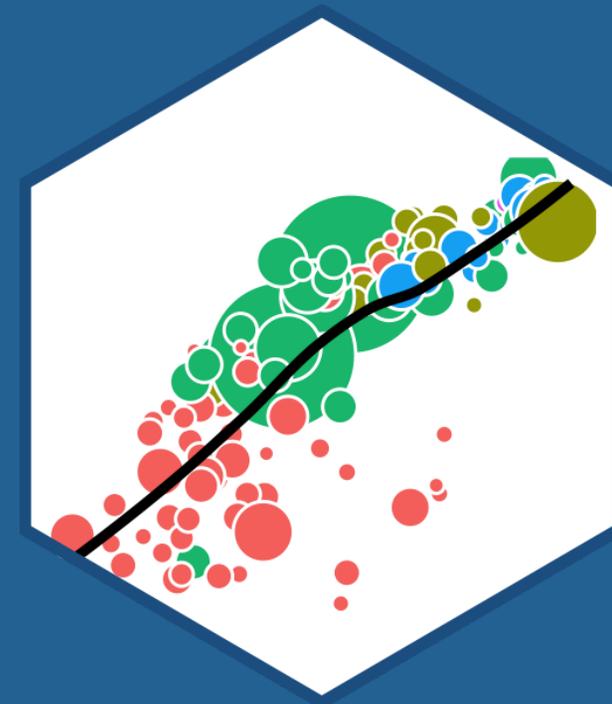
Ryan Safner

Assistant Professor of Economics

✉ [safner@hood.edu](mailto:safner@hood.edu)

🔗 [ryansafner/metricsF20](https://ryansafner/metricsF20)

🌐 [metricsF20.classes.ryansafner.com](https://metricsF20.classes.ryansafner.com)



# Outline

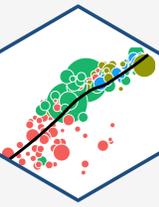


Interactions Between a Dummy and Continuous Variable

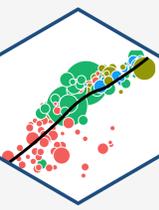
Interactions Between Two Dummy Variables

Interactions Between Two Continuous Variables

# Sliders and Switches



# Sliders and Switches

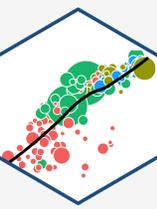


**Dummy  
Variable**

**Continuous  
Variable**

- Marginal effect of dummy variable: effect on  $Y$  of going from 0 to 1
- Marginal effect of continuous variable: effect on  $Y$  of a 1 unit change in  $X$

# Interaction Effects



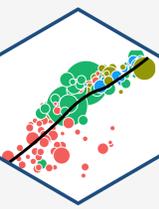
- Sometimes one  $X$  variable might *interact* with another in determining  $Y$

**Example:** Consider the gender pay gap again.

- *Gender* affects wages
- *Experience* affects wages
- **Does experience affect wages differently by gender?**
  - i.e. is there an **interaction effect** between gender and experience?
- **Note this is *NOT the same* as just asking: “do men earn more than women *with the same amount of experience?*”**

$$\widehat{\text{wages}}_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Gender}_i + \beta_2 \text{Experience}_i$$

# Three Types of Interactions



- Depending on the types of variables, there are 3 possible types of interaction effects
- We will look at each in turn

1. Interaction between a **dummy** and a **continuous** variable:

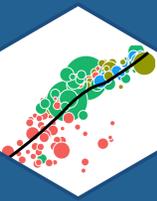
$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 D_i + \beta_3 (X_i \times D_i)$$

2. Interaction between a **two dummy** variables:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 D_{1i} + \beta_2 D_{2i} + \beta_3 (D_{1i} \times D_{2i})$$

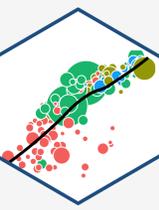
3. Interaction between a **two continuous** variables:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \beta_3 (X_{1i} \times X_{2i})$$



# Interactions Between a Dummy and Continuous Variable

# Interactions: A Dummy & Continuous Variable

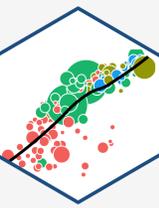


**Dummy  
Variable**

**Continuous  
Variable**

- Does the marginal effect of the continuous variable on  $Y$  change depending on whether the dummy is “on” or “off”?

# Interactions: A Dummy & Continuous Variable I

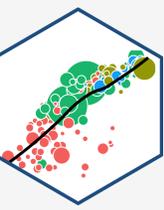


- We can model an interaction by introducing a variable that is an **interaction term** capturing the interaction between two variables:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 D_i + \beta_3 (X_i \times D_i) \quad \text{where } D_i = \{0, 1\}$$

- $\beta_3$  estimates the **interaction effect** between  $X_i$  and  $D_i$  on  $Y_i$
- What do the different coefficients ( $\beta$ )'s tell us?
  - Again, think logically by examining each group ( $D_i = 0$  or  $D_i = 1$ )

# Interaction Effects as Two Regressions I



$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 D_i + \beta_3 X_i \times D_i$$

- When  $D_i = 0$  (Control group):

$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{\beta}_2(0) + \hat{\beta}_3 X_i \times (0)$$

$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$$

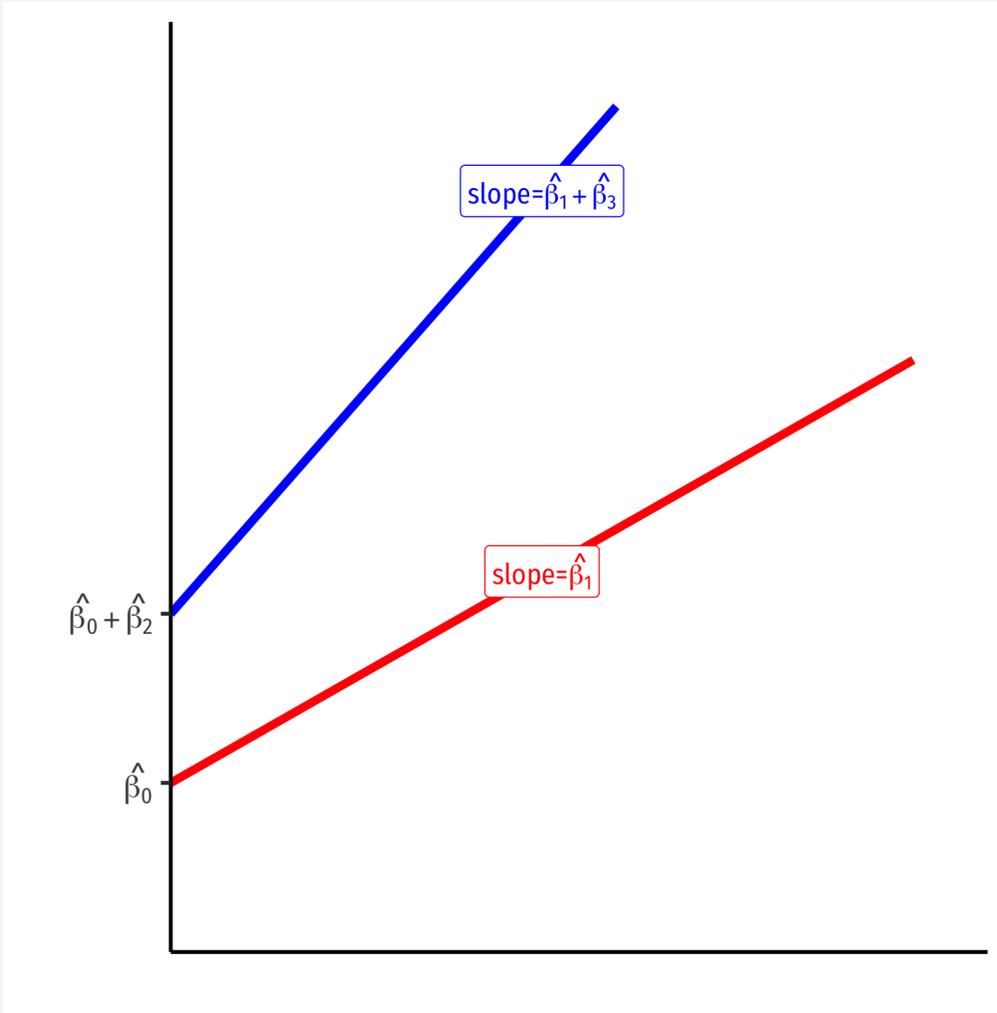
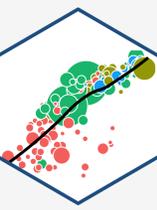
- When  $D_i = 1$  (Treatment group):

$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{\beta}_2(1) + \hat{\beta}_3 X_i \times (1)$$

$$\hat{Y}_i = (\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2) + (\hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3) X_i$$

- So what we really have is *two* regression lines!

# Interaction Effects as Two Regressions II



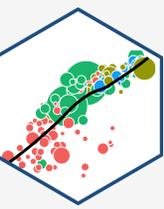
- $D_i = 0$  group:

$$Y_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$$

- $D_i = 1$  group:

$$Y_i = (\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2) + (\hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3) X_i$$

# Interpreting Coefficients I



$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 D_i + \beta_3 (X_i \times D_i)$$

- To interpret the coefficients, compare cases after changing  $X$  by  $\Delta X$ :

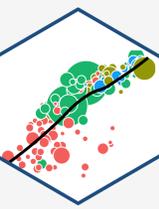
$$Y_i + \Delta Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (X_i + \Delta X_i) + \beta_2 D_i + \beta_3 ((X_i + \Delta X_i) D_i)$$

- Subtracting these two equations, the difference is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Y_i &= \beta_1 \Delta X_i + \beta_3 D_i \Delta X_i \\ \frac{\Delta Y_i}{\Delta X_i} &= \beta_1 + \beta_3 D_i \end{aligned}$$

- The effect of  $X \rightarrow Y$  depends on the value of  $D_i$ !
- $\beta_3$ : *increment to the effect of  $X \rightarrow Y$  when  $D_i = 1$  (vs.  $D_i = 0$ )*

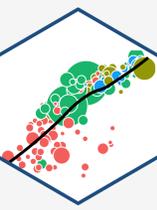
# Interpreting Coefficients II



$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 D_i + \beta_3 (X_i \times D_i)$$

- $\hat{\beta}_0$ :  $E[Y_i]$  for  $X_i = 0$  and  $D_i = 0$
- $\beta_1$ : Marginal effect of  $X_i \rightarrow Y_i$  for  $D_i = 0$
- $\beta_2$ : Marginal effect on  $Y_i$  of difference between  $D_i = 0$  and  $D_i = 1$
- $\beta_3$ : The **difference** of the marginal effect of  $X_i \rightarrow Y_i$  between  $D_i = 0$  and  $D_i = 1$
- This is a bit awkward, easier to think about the two regression lines:

# Interpreting Coefficients III



$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 D_i + \beta_3 (X_i \times D_i)$$

For  $D_i = 0$  Group:  $\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$

- Intercept:  $\hat{\beta}_0$
- Slope:  $\hat{\beta}_1$

For  $D_i = 1$  Group:

$$\hat{Y}_i = (\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2) + (\hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3) X_i$$

- Intercept:  $\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2$
- Slope:  $\hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3$

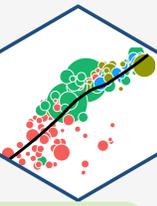
- $\hat{\beta}_2$ : difference in intercept between groups

- $\hat{\beta}_3$ : difference in slope between groups

- How can we determine if the two lines have the same slope and/or intercept?

- Same intercept?  $t$ -test  $H_0: \beta_2 = 0$
- Same slope?  $t$ -test  $H_0: \beta_3 = 0$

# Example I



Example:

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 exper_i + \hat{\beta}_2 female_i + \hat{\beta}_3 (exper_i \times female_i)$$

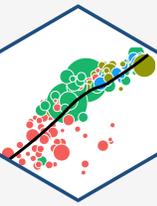
- For males ( $female = 0$ ):

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 exper$$

- For females ( $female = 1$ ):

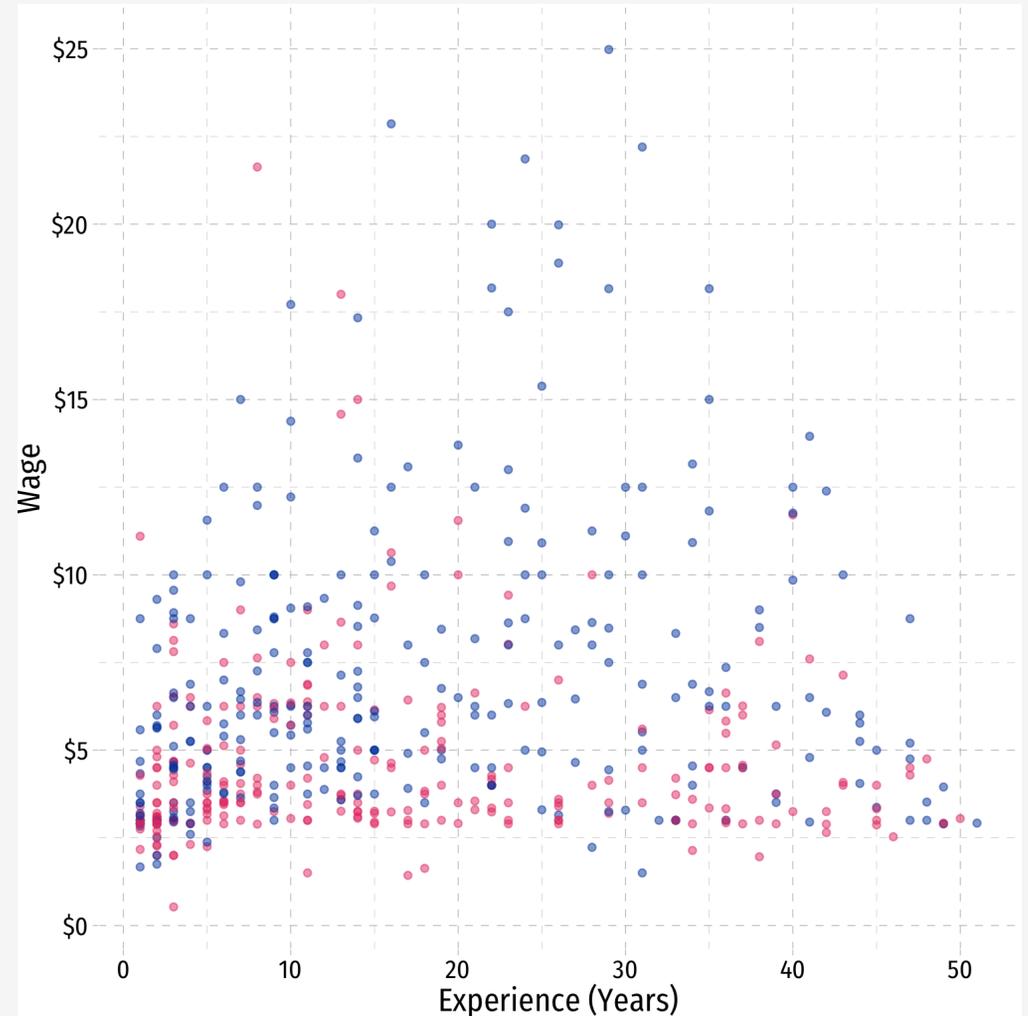
$$\widehat{wage}_i = \underbrace{(\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2)}_{\text{intercept}} + \underbrace{(\hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3)}_{\text{slope}} exper$$

# Example II

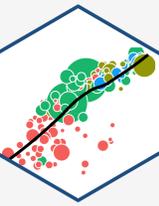


```
interaction_plot <- ggplot(data = wages)+  
  aes(x = exper,  
      y = wage,  
      color = as.factor(Gender))+ # make factor  
  geom_point(alpha = 0.5)+  
  scale_y_continuous(labels=scales::dollar)+  
  labs(x = "Experience (Years)",  
      y = "Wage")+  
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Female" = "#e64173",  
                                "Male" = "#0047AB"))  
  )+ # setting custom colors  
  guides(color=F)+ # hide legend  
  theme_slides  
interaction_plot
```

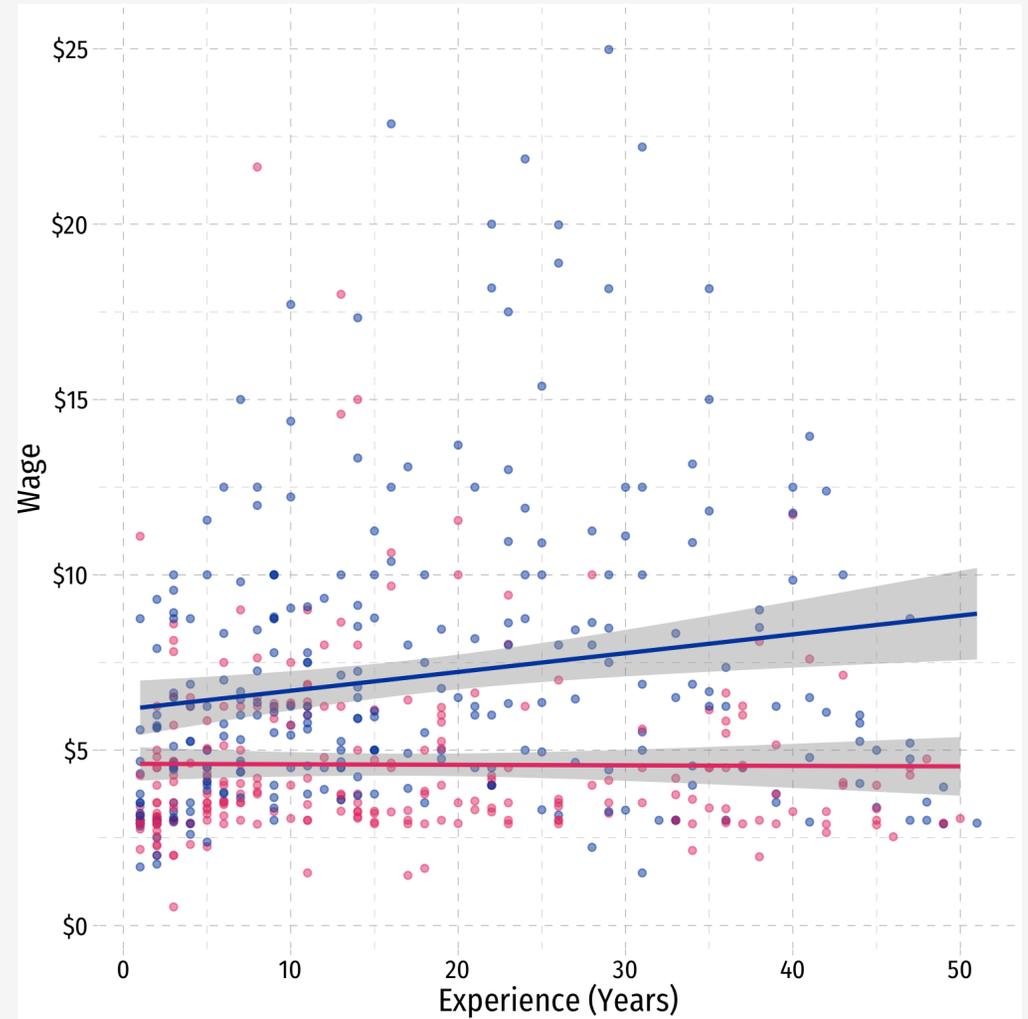
- Need to make sure `color` aesthetic uses a `factor` variable
  - Can just use `as.factor()` in ggplot code



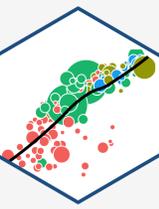
# Example II



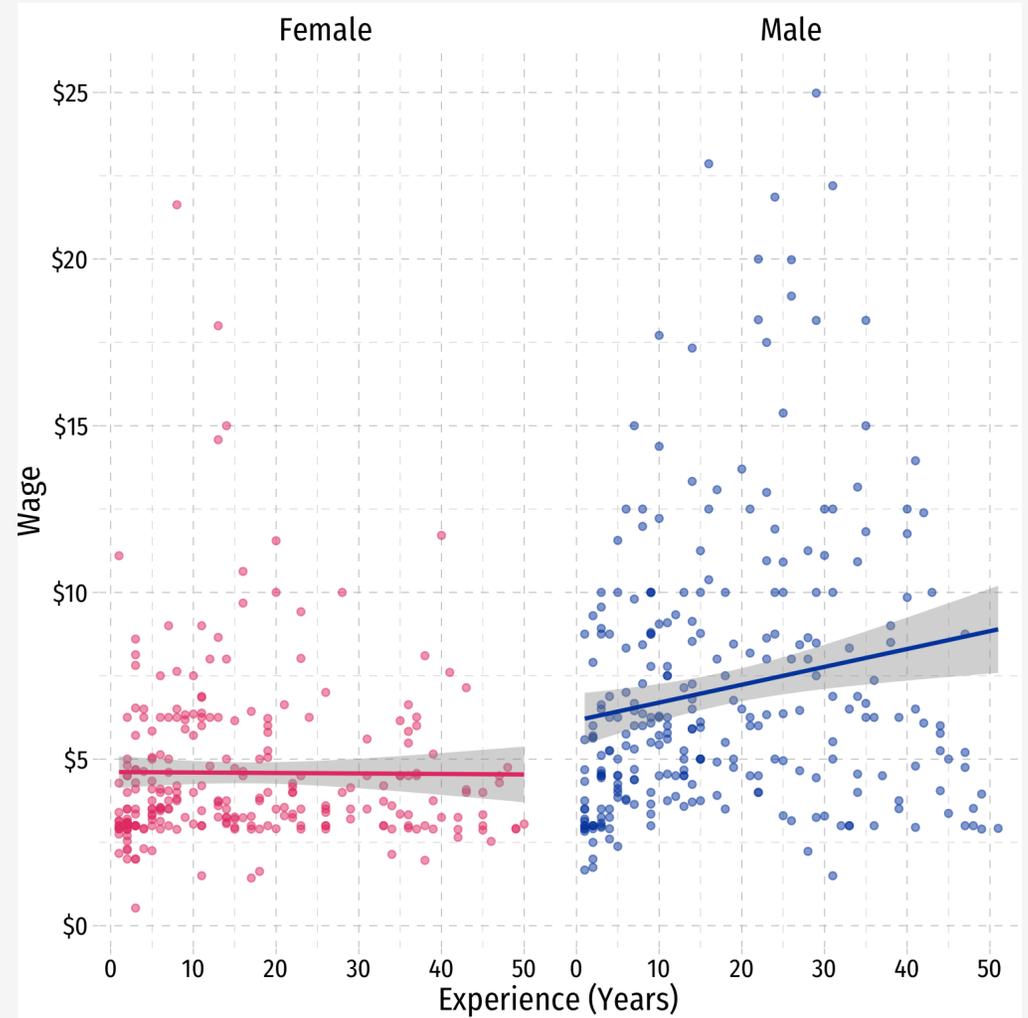
```
interaction_plot+  
  geom_smooth(method="lm")
```



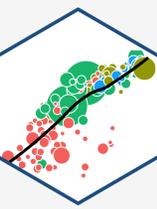
# Example II



```
interaction_plot+  
  geom_smooth(method="lm")+  
  facet_wrap(~Gender)
```



# Example Regression in R I



- Syntax for adding an interaction term is easy in R: `var1 * var2`
  - Or could just do `var1 * var2` (multiply)

*# both are identical in R*

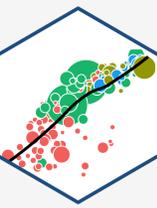
```
interaction_reg <- lm(wage ~ exper * female, data = wages)
```

```
interaction_reg <- lm(wage ~ exper + female + exper * female, data = wages)
```

<b>term</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>std.error</b>	<b>statistic</b>	<b>p.value</b>
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>
(Intercept)	6.15827549	0.34167408	18.023830	7.998534e-57
exper	0.05360476	0.01543716	3.472450	5.585255e-04
female	-1.54654677	0.48186030	-3.209534	1.411253e-03
exper:female	-0.05506989	0.02217496	-2.483427	1.332533e-02

4 rows

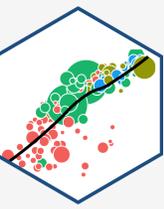
# Example Regression in R III



```
library(huxtable)
huxreg(interaction_reg,
  coefs = c("Constant" = "(Intercept)",
            "Experience" = "exper",
            "Female" = "female",
            "Experience * Female" = "exper:female"),
  statistics = c("N" = "nobs",
                 "R-Squared" = "r.squared",
                 "SER" = "sigma"),
  number_format = 2)
```

	(1)
Constant	6.16 *** (0.34)
Experience	0.05 *** (0.02)
Female	-1.55 ** (0.48)
Experience * Female	-0.06 * (0.02)
N	526
R-Squared	0.14
SER	3.44

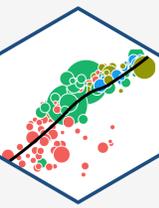
# Example Regression in R: Interpreting Coefficients



$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \textit{Experience}_i - 1.55 \textit{Female}_i - 0.06 (\textit{Experience}_i \times \textit{Female}_i)$$

- $\hat{\beta}_0$ :

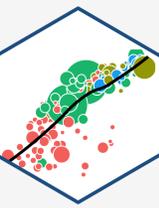
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$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \textit{Experience}_i - 1.55 \textit{Female}_i - 0.06 (\textit{Experience}_i \times \textit{Female}_i)$$

- $\hat{\beta}_0$ : Men with 0 years of experience earn 6.16
- $\hat{\beta}_1$ :

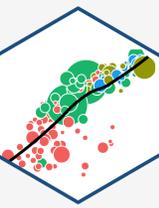
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$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \textit{Experience}_i - 1.55 \textit{Female}_i - 0.06 (\textit{Experience}_i \times \textit{Female}_i)$$

- $\hat{\beta}_0$ : Men with 0 years of experience earn 6.16
- $\hat{\beta}_1$ : For every additional year of experience, *men* earn \$0.05
- $\hat{\beta}_2$ :

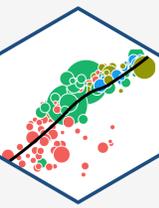
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$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \text{ Experience}_i - 1.55 \text{ Female}_i - 0.06 (\text{Experience}_i \times \text{Female}_i)$$

- $\hat{\beta}_0$ : Men with 0 years of experience earn 6.16
- $\hat{\beta}_1$ : For every additional year of experience, *men* earn \$0.05
- $\hat{\beta}_2$ : *Women* with 0 years of experience earn \$1.55 less than men
- $\hat{\beta}_3$ :

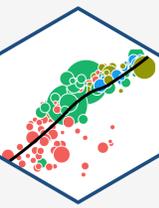
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- $\hat{\beta}_1$ : For every additional year of experience, *men* earn \$0.05
- $\hat{\beta}_2$ : *Women* with 0 years of experience earn \$1.55 less than men
- $\hat{\beta}_3$ : *Women* earn \$0.06 less than men for every additional year of experience

# Interpreting Coefficients as 2 Regressions I



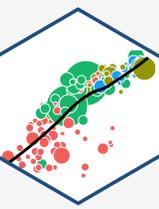
$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \textit{Experience}_i - 1.55 \textit{Female}_i - 0.06 (\textit{Experience}_i \times \textit{Female}_i)$$

Regression for men (*female* = 0)

$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \textit{Experience}_i$$

- Men with 0 years of experience earn \$6.16 on average
- For every additional year of experience, men earn \$0.05 more on average

# Interpreting Coefficients as 2 Regressions II



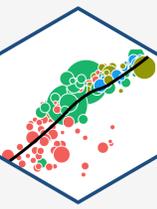
$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \textit{Experience}_i - 1.55 \textit{Female}_i - 0.06 (\textit{Experience}_i \times \textit{Female}_i)$$

Regression for women (*female* = 1)

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{wage}_i &= 6.16 + 0.05 \textit{Experience}_i - 1.55(1) - 0.06 \textit{Experience}_i \times (1) \\ &= (6.16 - 1.55) + (0.05 - 0.06) \textit{Experience}_i \\ &= 4.61 - 0.01 \textit{Experience}_i\end{aligned}$$

- Women with 0 years of experience earn \$4.61 on average
- For every additional year of experience, women earn \$0.01 *less* on average

# Example Regression in R: Hypothesis Testing

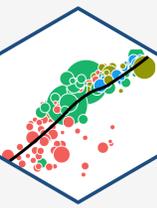


- Are slopes & intercepts of the 2 regressions statistically significantly different?

$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 Experience_i - 1.55 Female_i - 0.06 (Experience_i \times Female_i)$$

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	6.16	0.342	18	8e-57
exper	0.0536	0.0154	3.47	0.000559
female	-1.55	0.482	-3.21	0.00141
exper:female	-0.0551	0.0222	-2.48	0.0133

# Example Regression in R: Hypothesis Testing

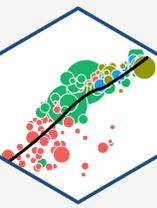


- Are slopes & intercepts of the 2 regressions statistically significantly different?
- Are intercepts different?  $H_0 : \beta_2 = 0$ 
  - Difference between men vs. women for no experience?
  - Is  $\hat{\beta}_2$  significant?
  - Yes (reject)  $H_0: t = -3.210, p\text{-value} = 0.00$

$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 \text{ Experience}_i - 1.55 \text{ Female}_i - 0.06 (\text{Experience}_i \times \text{Female}_i)$$

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	6.16	0.342	18	8e-57
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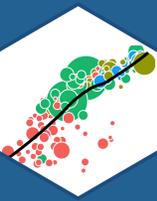
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$$\widehat{wage}_i = 6.16 + 0.05 Experience_i - 1.55 Female_i - 0.06 (Experience_i \times Female_i)$$

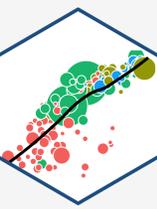
- Are slopes & intercepts of the 2 regressions statistically significantly different?
- Are intercepts different?  $H_0 : \beta_2 = 0$ 
  - Difference between men vs. women for no experience?
  - Is  $\hat{\beta}_2$  significant?
  - Yes (reject)  $H_0: t = -3.210, p\text{-value} = 0.00$
- Are slopes different?  $H_0 : \beta_3 = 0$ 
  - Difference between men vs. women for marginal effect of experience?
  - Is  $\hat{\beta}_3$  significant?

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value
(Intercept)	6.16	0.342	18	8e-57
exper	0.0536	0.0154	3.47	0.000559
female	-1.55	0.482	-3.21	0.00141
exper:female	-0.0551	0.0222	-2.48	0.0133



# Interactions Between Two Dummy Variables

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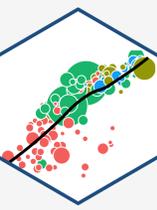


**Dummy  
Variable**

**Dummy  
Variable**

- Does the marginal effect on  $Y$  of one dummy going from “off” to “on” change depending on whether the *other* dummy is “off” or “on”?

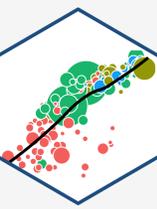
# Interactions Between Two Dummy Variables



$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 D_{1i} + \beta_2 D_{2i} + \beta_3 (D_{1i} \times D_{2i})$$

- $D_{1i}$  and  $D_{2i}$  are dummy variables
- $\hat{\beta}_1$ : effect on  $Y$  of going from  $D_{1i} = 0$  to  $D_{1i} = 1$  when  $D_{2i} = 0$
- $\hat{\beta}_2$ : effect on  $Y$  of going from  $D_{2i} = 0$  to  $D_{2i} = 1$  when  $D_{1i} = 0$
- $\hat{\beta}_3$ : effect on  $Y$  of going from  $D_{1i} = 0$  to  $D_{1i} = 1$  when  $D_{2i} = 1$ 
  - *increment* to the effect of  $D_{1i}$  going from 0 to 1 when  $D_{2i} = 1$  (vs. 0)
- As always, best to think logically about possibilities (when each dummy = 0 or = 1)

# 2 Dummy Interaction: Interpreting Coefficients



$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 D_{1i} + \beta_2 D_{2i} + \beta_3 (D_{1i} \times D_{2i})$$

- To interpret coefficients, compare cases:
  - Hold  $D_{2i}$  constant (set to some value  $D_{2i} = d_2$ )
  - Plug in 0s or 1s for  $D_{1i}$

$$E(Y_i | D_{1i} = 0, D_{2i} = d_2) = \beta_0 + \beta_2 d_2$$

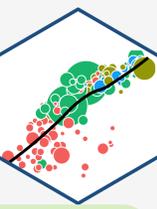
$$E(Y_i | D_{1i} = 1, D_{2i} = d_2) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(1) + \beta_2 d_2 + \beta_3(1)d_2$$

- Subtracting the two, the difference is:

$$\beta_1 + \beta_3 d_2$$

- **The marginal effect of  $D_{1i} \rightarrow Y_i$  depends on the value of  $D_{2i}$** 
  - $\hat{\beta}_3$  is the *increment* to the effect of  $D_1$  on  $Y$  when  $D_2$  goes from 0 to 1

# Interactions Between 2 Dummy Variables: Example



**Example:** Does the gender pay gap change if a person is married vs. single?

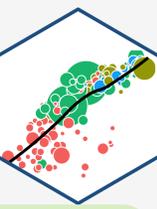
$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 female_i + \hat{\beta}_2 married_i + \hat{\beta}_3 (female_i \times married_i)$$

- Logically, there are 4 possible combinations of  $female_i = \{0, 1\}$  and  $married_i = \{0, 1\}$

1) **Unmarried men** ( $female_i = 0$ ,  $married_i = 0$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0$$

# Interactions Between 2 Dummy Variables: Example



**Example:** Does the gender pay gap change if a person is married vs. single?

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 female_i + \hat{\beta}_2 married_i + \hat{\beta}_3 (female_i \times married_i)$$

- Logically, there are 4 possible combinations of  $female_i = \{0, 1\}$  and  $married_i = \{0, 1\}$

1) **Unmarried men** ( $female_i = 0$ ,  $married_i = 0$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0$$

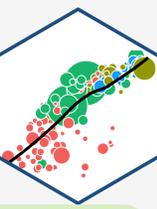
2) **Married men** ( $female_i = 0$ ,  $married_i = 1$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2$$

3) **Unmarried women** ( $female_i = 1$ ,  $married_i = 0$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1$$

# Interactions Between 2 Dummy Variables: Example



**Example:** Does the gender pay gap change if a person is married vs. single?

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 female_i + \hat{\beta}_2 married_i + \hat{\beta}_3 (female_i \times married_i)$$

- Logically, there are 4 possible combinations of  $female_i = \{0, 1\}$  and  $married_i = \{0, 1\}$

1) **Unmarried men** ( $female_i = 0$ ,  $married_i = 0$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0$$

2) **Married men** ( $female_i = 0$ ,  $married_i = 1$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2$$

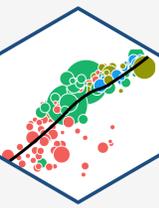
3) **Unmarried women** ( $female_i = 1$ ,  $married_i = 0$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1$$

4) **Married women** ( $female_i = 1$ ,  $married_i = 1$ )

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 + \hat{\beta}_3$$

# Looking at the Data



```
# get average wage for unmarried men
wages %>%
  filter(female == 0,
         married == 0) %>%
  summarize(mean = mean(wage))
```

<b>mean</b>
5.17

```
# get average wage for unmarried women
wages %>%
  filter(female == 1,
         married == 0) %>%
  summarize(mean = mean(wage))
```

<b>mean</b>
4.61

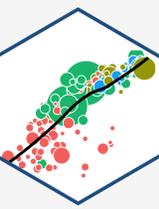
```
# get average wage for married men
wages %>%
  filter(female == 0,
         married == 1) %>%
  summarize(mean = mean(wage))
```

<b>mean</b>
7.98

```
# get average wage for married women
wages %>%
  filter(female == 1,
         married == 1) %>%
  summarize(mean = mean(wage))
```

<b>mean</b>
4.57

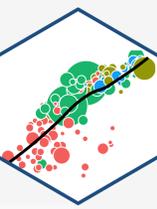
# Two Dummies Interaction: Group Means



$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 female_i + \hat{\beta}_2 married_i + \hat{\beta}_3 (female_i \times married_i)$$

	Men	Women
<b>Unmarried</b>	\$5.17	\$4.61
<b>Married</b>	\$7.98	\$4.57

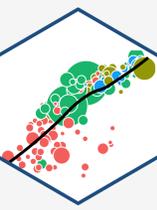
# Interactions Between Two Dummy Variables: In R I



```
reg_dummies <- lm(wage ~ female + married + female:married, data = wages)
reg_dummies %>% tidy()
```

<b>term</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>std.error</b>	<b>statistic</b>	<b>p.value</b>
(Intercept)	5.17	0.361	14.3	2.26e-39
female	-0.556	0.474	-1.18	0.241
married	2.82	0.436	6.45	2.53e-10
female:married	-2.86	0.608	-4.71	3.2e-06

# Interactions Between Two Dummy Variables: In R II

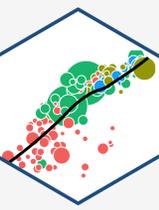


```
library(huxtable)
huxreg(reg_dummies,
  coefs = c("Constant" = "(Intercept)",
            "Female" = "female",
            "Married" = "married",
            "Female * Married" = "female:marr:
  statistics = c("N" = "nobs",
                 "R-Squared" = "r.squared",
                 "SER" = "sigma"),
  number_format = 2)
```

	(1)
Constant	5.17 *** (0.36)
Female	-0.56 (0.47)
Married	2.82 *** (0.44)
Female * Married	-2.86 *** (0.61)
N	526
R-Squared	0.18
SER	3.35

\*\*\* p < 0.001; \*\* p < 0.01; \* p < 0.05.

# 2 Dummies Interaction: Interpreting Coefficients

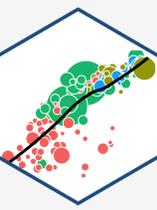


$$\widehat{wage}_i = 5.17 - 0.56 \text{female}_i + 2.82 \text{married}_i - 2.86 (\text{female}_i \times \text{married}_i)$$

	Men	Women
<b>Unmarried</b>	\$5.17	\$4.61
<b>Married</b>	\$7.98	\$4.57

- Wage for **unmarried men**:  $\hat{\beta}_0 = 5.17$
- Wage for **married men**:  $\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_2 = 5.17 + 2.82 = 7.98$
- Wage for **unmarried women**:  $\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 = 5.17 - 0.56 = 4.61$
- Wage for **married women**:  $\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 + \hat{\beta}_3 = 5.17 - 0.56 + 2.82 - 2.86 = 4.57$

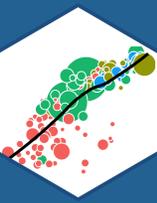
# 2 Dummies Interaction: Interpreting Coefficients



$$\widehat{wage}_i = 5.17 - 0.56 female_i + 2.82 married_i - 2.86 (female_i \times married_i)$$

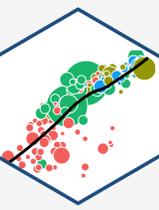
	Men	Women
<b>Unmarried</b>	\$5.17	\$4.61
<b>Married</b>	\$7.98	\$4.57

- $\hat{\beta}_1$ : Wage for **unmarried men**
- $\hat{\beta}_2$ : *Difference* in wages between **men** and **women** who are **unmarried**
- $\hat{\beta}_3$ : *Difference* in:
  - effect of **Marriage** on wages between **men** and **women**
  - effect of **Gender** on wages between **unmarried** and **married** individuals



# Interactions Between Two Continuous Variables

# Interactions Between Two Continuous Variables



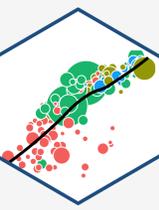
**Continuous  
Variable**



**Continuous  
Variable**

- Does the marginal effect of  $X_1$  on  $Y$  depend on what  $X_2$  is set to?

# Interactions Between Two Continuous Variables



$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \beta_3 (X_{1i} \times X_{2i})$$

- To interpret coefficients, compare changes after changing  $\Delta X_{1i}$  (holding  $X_2$  constant):

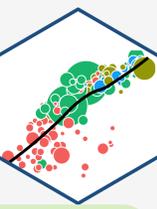
$$Y_i + \Delta Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (X_1 + \Delta X_{1i}) + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \beta_3 ((X_{1i} + \Delta X_{1i}) \times X_{2i})$$

- Take the difference to get:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta Y_i &= \beta_1 \Delta X_{1i} + \beta_3 X_{2i} \Delta X_{1i} \\ \frac{\Delta Y_i}{\Delta X_{1i}} &= \beta_1 + \beta_3 X_{2i}\end{aligned}$$

- **The effect of  $X_1 \rightarrow Y_i$  depends on  $X_2$** 
  - $\beta_3$ : *increment* to the effect of  $X_1 \rightarrow Y_i$  for every 1 unit change in  $X_2$

# Continuous Variables Interaction: Example



**Example:** Do education and experience interact in their determination of wages?

$$\widehat{wage}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 educ_i + \hat{\beta}_2 exper_i + \hat{\beta}_3(educ_i \times exper_i)$$

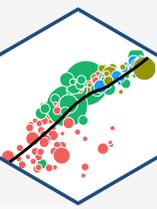
- Estimated effect of education on wages depends on the amount of experience (and vice versa)!

$$\frac{\Delta wage}{\Delta educ} = \hat{\beta}_1 + \beta_3 exper_i$$

$$\frac{\Delta wage}{\Delta exper} = \hat{\beta}_2 + \beta_3 educ_i$$

- This is a type of nonlinearity (we will examine nonlinearities next lesson)

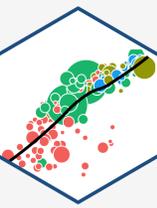
# Continuous Variables Interaction: In R I



```
reg_cont <- lm(wage ~ educ + exper + educ:exper, data = wages)
reg_cont %>% tidy()
```

<b>term</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>std.error</b>	<b>statistic</b>	<b>p.value</b>
(Intercept)	-2.86	1.18	-2.42	0.0158
educ	0.602	0.0899	6.69	5.64e-11
exper	0.0458	0.0426	1.07	0.283
educ:exper	0.00206	0.00349	0.591	0.555

# Continuous Variables Interaction: In R II

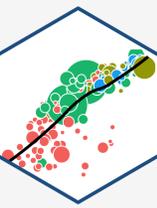


```
library(huxtable)
huxreg(reg_cont,
  coefs = c("Constant" = "(Intercept)",
            "Education" = "educ",
            "Experience" = "exper",
            "Education * Experience" = "educ:exper"),
  statistics = c("N" = "nobs",
                 "R-Squared" = "r.squared",
                 "SER" = "sigma"),
  number_format = 3)
```

	(1)
Constant	-2.860 *
	(1.181)
Education	0.602 ***
	(0.090)
Experience	0.046
	(0.043)
Education * Experience	0.002
	(0.003)
N	526
R-Squared	0.226
SER	3.259

\*\*\* p < 0.001; \*\* p < 0.01; \* p < 0.05.

# Continuous Variables Interaction: Marginal Effects



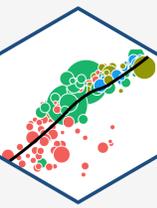
$$\widehat{wages}_i = -2.860 + 0.602 educ_i + 0.047 exper_i + 0.002 (educ_i \times exper_i)$$

Marginal Effect of Education on Wages by Years of Experience:

Experience	$\frac{\Delta wage}{\Delta educ} = \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3 exper$
5 years	$0.602 + 0.002(5) = 0.612$
10 years	$0.602 + 0.002(10) = 0.622$
15 years	$0.602 + 0.002(15) = 0.632$

- Marginal effect of education → wages **increases** with more experience (but very insignificantly)

# Continuous Variables Interaction: Marginal Effects



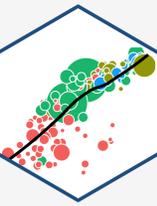
$$\widehat{wages}_i = -2.860 + 0.602 educ_i + 0.047 exper_i + 0.002 (educ_i \times exper_i)$$

Marginal Effect of Experience on Wages by Years of Education:

Education	$\frac{\Delta wage}{\Delta educ} = \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3 exper$
5 years	$0.047 + 0.002(5) = 0.057$
10 years	$0.047 + 0.002(10) = 0.067$
15 years	$0.047 + 0.002(15) = 0.077$

- Marginal effect of experience → wages **increases** with more education (but very insignificantly)

# Marginal Effects



Can get the marginal effects more precisely by saving the coefficients and making a function of each:

```
b_1 <- reg_cont %>%
  tidy() %>%
  filter(term == "educ") %>%
  pull(estimate)

b_2 <- reg_cont %>%
  tidy() %>%
  filter(term == "exper") %>%
  pull(estimate)

b_3 <- reg_cont %>%
  tidy() %>%
  filter(term == "educ:exper") %>%
  pull(estimate)

# let's check these
c(b_1, b_2, b_3)
```

```
## [1] 0.601735470 0.045768911 0.002062345
```

```
# make marginal effect of education on wages by years of experience function
# input is years of experience
me_educ <- function(exper){b_1*b_3*exper}

# now its a function, let's input 5 years, 10 years, 15 years of experience
me_educ(c(5,10,15))
```

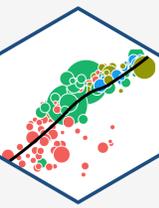
```
## [1] 0.006204929 0.012409858 0.018614788
```

```
# make marginal effect of experience on wages by years of education function
# input is years of education
me_exper <- function(educ){b_2*b_3*educ}

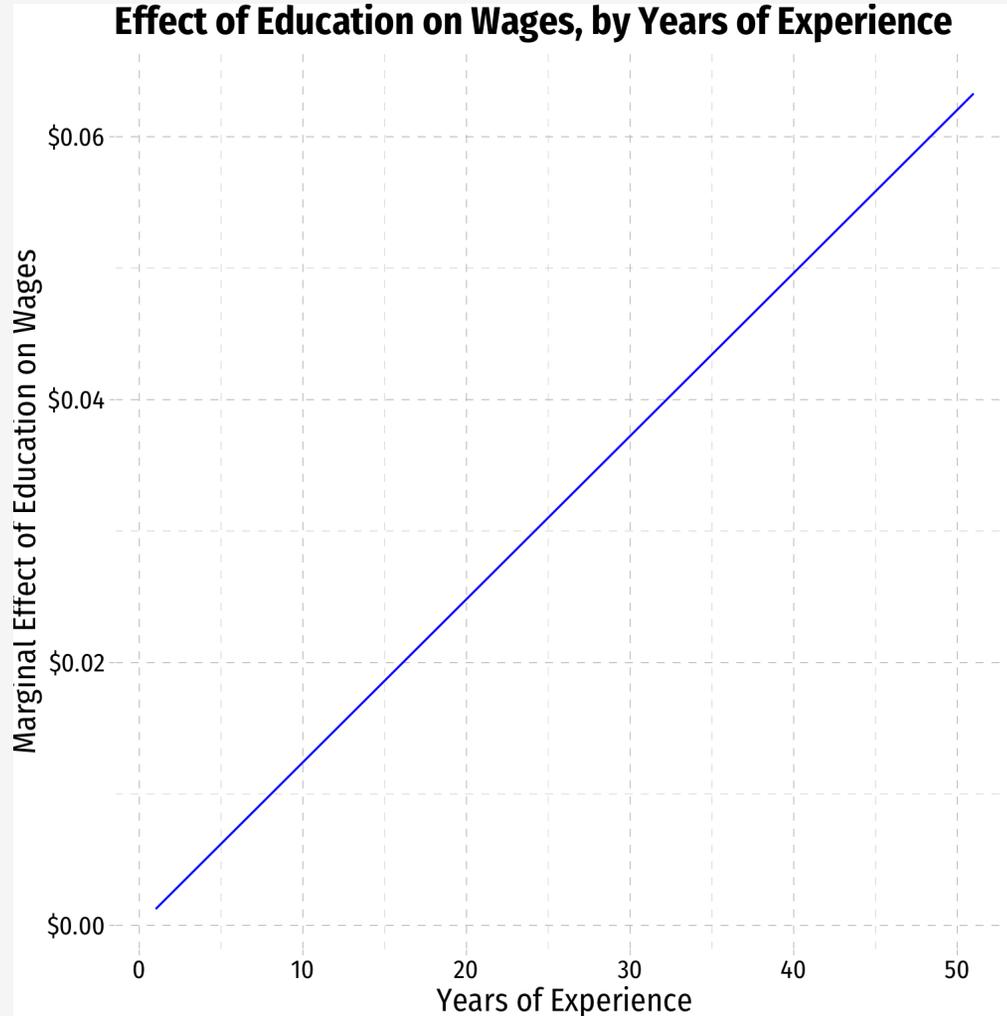
# now its a function, let's input 5 years, 10 years, 15 years of education
me_exper(c(5,10,15))
```

```
## [1] 0.0004719563 0.0009439126 0.0014158689
```

# Marginal Effects



### Effect of Education on Wages, by Years of Experience



### Effect of Experience on Wages, by Years of Education

