

Easyreg Guide
Lab Guideline for Econ 371 Students

1. How to Logon and start Easyreg:

Step 1: Logon:

You must download Easyreg onto your home computer. The link is: <http://econ.la.psu.edu/~hbierens/EASYREG.HTM>

Step 2: Starting Easyreg (from home computer or network):

Click the "Start" button (on the bottom left of the screen). From the list, select "Easyreg" Icon. (Easyreg is now configured to be suitable for network use, and is available on the UVA network.)

2. How to Run the Easyreg Program.

(Note: Easyreg is mainly a Menu Driven program. That is, to input data, and perform "Procedures" you use the options provided in the toolbars.)

Step 1: Inputting your dataset.

Before working on any new project in Easyreg you have to choose a "Start-up directory" (an area where you input the data for your analysis and create an output file in). The easiest way to do this is to "Choose new input file" when you start working with Easyreg. The input file that you use will be the data that you wish to analyze.

Click on "File" in the Menu Bar (on the top line of your screen), choose " Choose new input file ". A dialog box will appear. You will have to select the directory that your data is in before Easyreg will load your data. Choose the directory that your data is in to "Start Easyreg in current directory".

Select the data by double clicking on it in the next dialogue box. Once you do this you will be asked questions about your data. Firstly, what format is it in, that is are the data in columns or rows etc. Then you will be asked what code do you use for missing data (you can use any number here as long as you ensure that the number is sufficiently strange not to be part of your dataset. Some datasets do have specific missing data codes!).

Example:

The "Mon l.dat" data :

"Monl.dat" has 426 observations on 5 variables, and is Monthly data for the dates: 1959:1 to 1994:6. (This

information is provided in the "Mon.dat" file that you can read with "Notepad").

In the first dialog box, select the appropriate directory. In the second, *double click* on the file that contains your data and select "choose this file". In the third, select the format of the data. This data is in "format three". Then enter the missing value code, I use "999999" (as it is pretty much standard). Then select the number of columns of data (i.e. how many variables there are in the dataset), in this case there are 5. Easyreg should prompt with the correct number of columns of data, if not BE CAREFUL. Select "k o.k.". Now, name each of your variables. Finally select the frequency of the data. This data is monthly time series, beginning January 1959. Enter that information in the next dialogue box. At last, you are ready to get some work done!!

The good news is that the next time that you start Easyreg it will remember where you inputted the data last and you can avoid all of the steps above.

Step 2: *Viewing your data, plotting your data, and performing statistical analyses.*

Most of the work in Easyreg is done via the "**Menu**" feature in the menu of the program.

i) To view the main information on your data, select "Menu" from the list select "Input" then "View input file". To view the actual data itself, select "Menu", then "Data Analysis" then "Data Table". From the dialogue box that appears *double click* on the variable(s) that you wish to see in a data table.

ii) To plot a single variable: select "Menu", then "Data Analysis" then "Plot time series" (if the data is time series, as in the case of Mon1.dat). The list of the variables that you have entered in Step 1 will appear. Double click the variable that you wish to plot. A few annoying dialogue boxes come up asking information about the dataset (these annoying boxes are a god-send when you are doing a real project as they help double-check as you go) just say "ok" to them all. Finally, the plot will appear. One nice feature about Easyreg is that you can click on the plot and get the year of the data where you click (good for checking for outliers).

To save the plot for later use: select the "Save this picture" button on the graph window.

iii) To plot multiple variables: Just follow the above routine but *double click* on more than one variable when you are selecting the variables to plot. There are more annoying dialogue boxes but they are easy choices (choose not to *standardize* the variables if you don't know what it means).

You can add the plot to your workfile for later use in the same way as part ii).

iv) To perform Statistical Analysis:

Again, select "Data Analysis" from the "Menu", select the variable(s) that you wish to analyze (again by double clicking them).

Step 3: *To Run A Regression.*

You will be mainly concerned with "Single Equation Models". From the "Menu" you select this option. You will be given various options as to the type of single equation model that you wish to run. As OLS is the most commonly used, let's use this as an example. From the list of models select the first option: "Linear Regression Models". Now you are faced with a dialogue box that asks you for the "Y" variable (i.e. the dependent variable: what you want to explain"). Double click the appropriate variable in the list. Next you select the variables that do the explaining, the "X" variables. This part can be confusing in the case of time series as it offers you the option of adding lags. Within each dialogue box that appears double click only the variables that you want as "X" variables. If you don't see any in a particular dialogue box then just select the "O.K." button. (Don't forget to double click the appropriate variables at *all* stage). What follows is a series of dialogue boxes that you can navigate through, including a time trend or an intercept etc.

When you get to the end of those dialogue boxes your results will appear. Click “continue” and a plot of how the relationship looks will appear, which you can save for future use if you wish.

The results that you obtain in any of these steps can be copied (and pasted) *as you go*, they will also appear in the output file. I prefer the former, copying to a word processor that I have working in the background.

Step 4: *Other features.*

This is probably the most important step. Easyreg has a lot of wonderful features. As the only way to truly get to know a computer program is to use it: play with these features (especially the teaching tools) and have fun!!!!