

# Simple linear regression



# Overview

## Simple linear regression

- Simple linear regression in R

## Inference for simple linear regression

- Hypothesis tests on regression coefficients
  - Hypothesis tests on regression coefficients in R
- If there is time: confidence and prediction intervals

# Where we are: completed

- |   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| 1 | Sep 2     | Course overview, introduction to R, descriptive statistics              |
| 2 | Sep 7-9   | Review of central statistical concepts and exploratory analysis using R |
| 3 | Sep 14-16 | Confidence Intervals and the bootstrap                                  |
| 4 | Sep 21-23 | Review of hypothesis tests and permutation tests in R                   |
| 5 | Sep 28-30 | Parametric, non-parametric and theories of hypothesis testing           |
| 6 | Oct 5-7   | Data manipulation and visualization                                     |
| 7 | Oct 12-14 | Review and midterm exam   |
| 8 | Oct 19-22 | October break   |

## Analysis

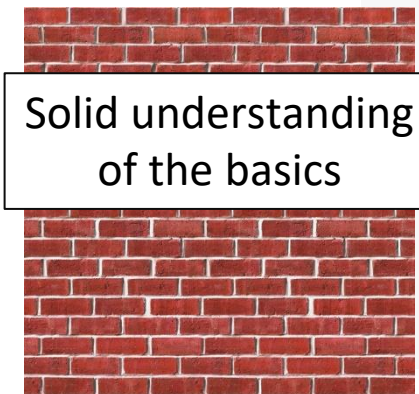
## R

resampling  
methods

base R

data wrangling  
visualization

Solid understanding  
of the basics



# Where we are: up next

9 Oct 26-28 Simple linear regression

10 Nov 2-4 Multiple regression

11 Nov 9-11 Analysis of Variance

**Next:** building statistical models to predict the mean of a response variable  $y$ , based on explanatory variables  $x_i$ 's

We will use these models to:

1. Make predictions for new values  $y$
2. Understand which of the explanatory variables  $x_i$ 's are related to the response variable  $y$

Analysis

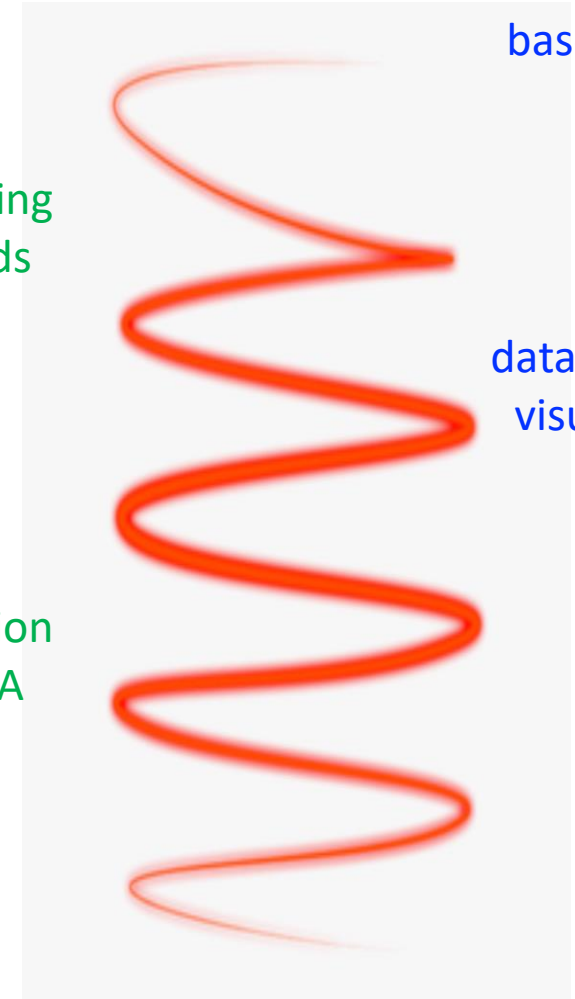
R

resampling  
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regression  
ANOVA

base R

data wrangling  
visualization



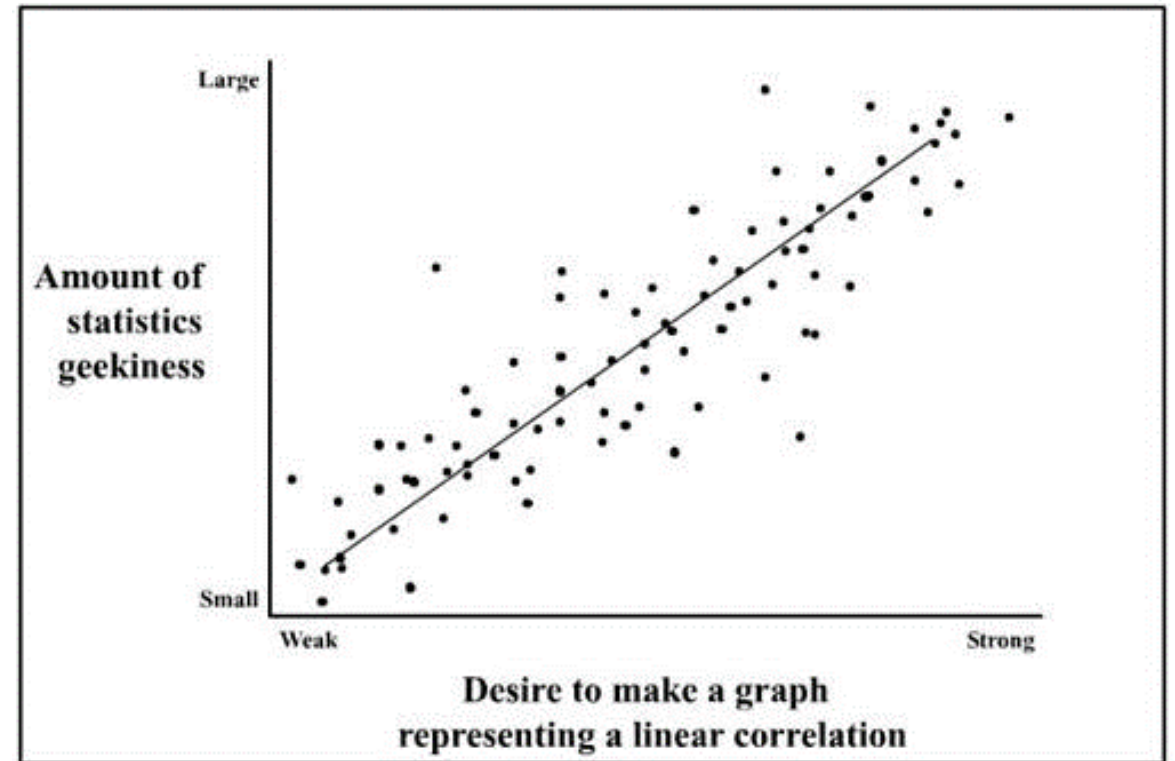
# Linear regression

Regression is method of using one variable  $x$  to predict the value of a second variable  $y$

$$\hat{y} = f(x)$$

In **linear regression** we fit a line to the data, called the **regression line**

- In *simple* linear regression, we use a single variable  $x$ , to predict  $y$



# Motivation: Predicting the 2020 election



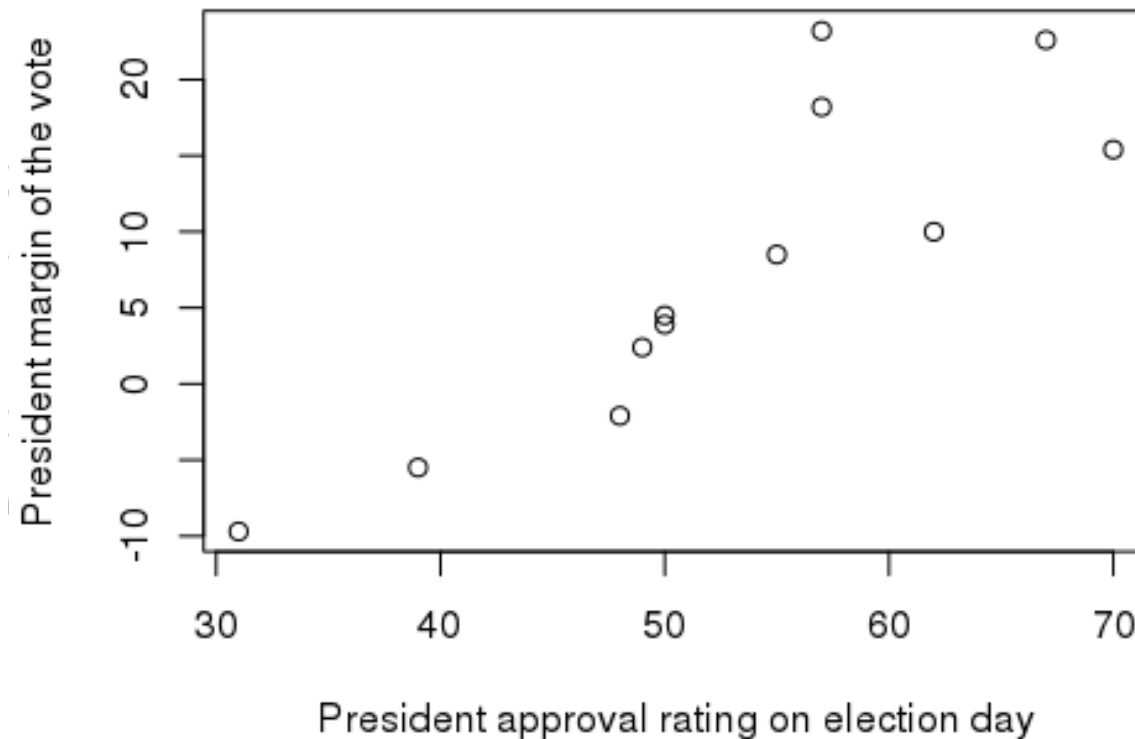
Predict the margin of the popular vote based on the president's approval rating

Data from an article on the 2012 election on the [Five Thirty Eight website](#)



# Approval rating vote margin regression line

From previous 12 US president's running for reelection



$$\hat{y} = b_0 + b_1 \cdot x$$

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x$$

$$R: \text{lm}(y \sim x)$$

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = -36.76$$

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = 0.84$$

$$\hat{y} = -36.76 + .84 \cdot x$$

# Approval rating vote margin survey questions

1. If a president had a 0% approval rating, what percent of the vote margin does this model predict the president would get?

$$\hat{y} = b_0 + b_1 \cdot x$$

$$R: \text{lm}(y \sim x)$$

2. If a president's approval rating increased by 1%, how much of would the president's margin of the vote increase by?

$$b_0 = -36.76$$

$$b_1 = 0.84$$

3. At what presidential approval level would there be an exactly even split of the vote?

$$\hat{y} = -36.76 + .84 \cdot x$$

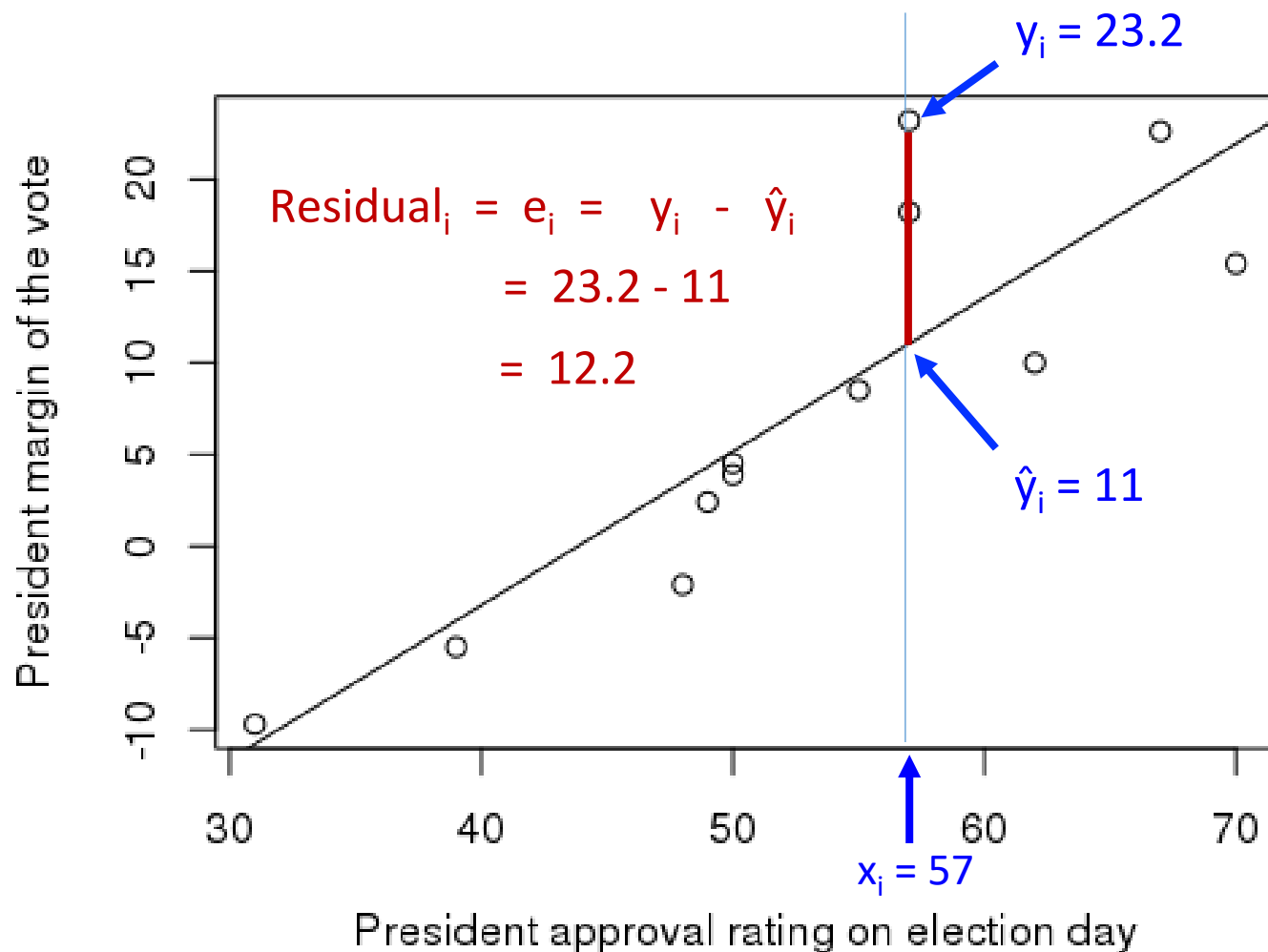


# Residuals

The **residual** at a data value is the difference between the observed ( $y$ ) and predicted value of the response variable

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \textit{Residual}_i & = & \textit{Observed}_i & - & \textit{Predicted}_i \\ \nearrow \searrow & & \nearrow \searrow & & \nearrow \searrow \\ e_i & = & y_i & - & \hat{y}_i \end{array}$$

# Approval rating vote margin regression line



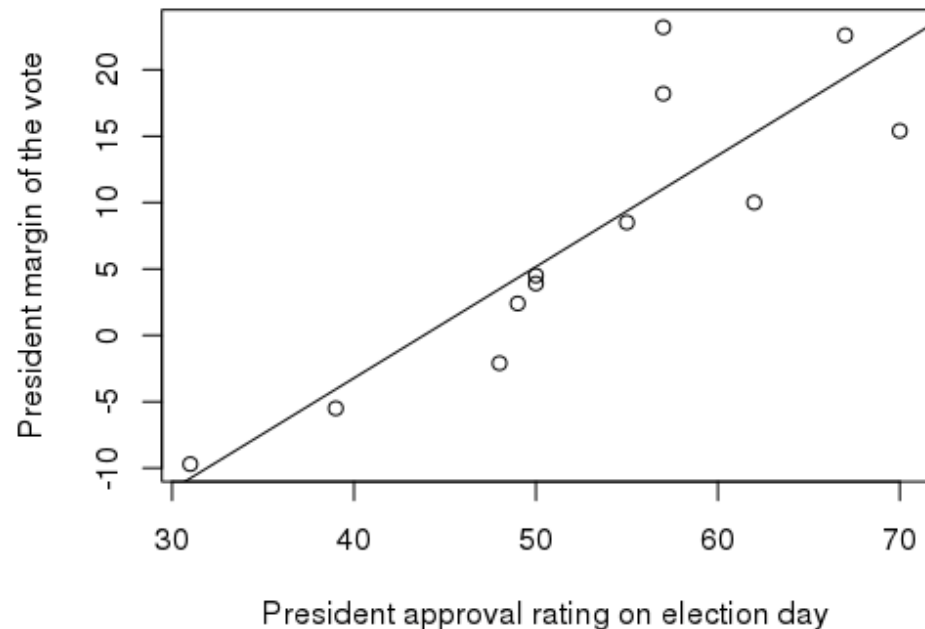
# Approval rating vote margin regression line

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x$$

<b>Approval <math>x</math></b>	<b>Margin obs <math>y</math></b>	<b>Margin pred <math>\hat{y}</math></b>	<b>Residuals <math>e = y - \hat{y}</math></b>
62	10	15.23	-5.23
50	4.5	5.17	-0.67
70	15.4	21.94	-6.54
67	22.6	19.43	3.17
57	23.2	11.04	12.16
48	-2.1	3.49	-5.59
31	-9.7	-10.76	1.06
57	18.2	11.04	7.16

# Line of 'best fit'

The **least squares line**, also called '**the line of best fit**', is the line which minimizes the sum of squared residuals



Try to find the line of best fit

# Approval rating vote margin regression line

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x$$

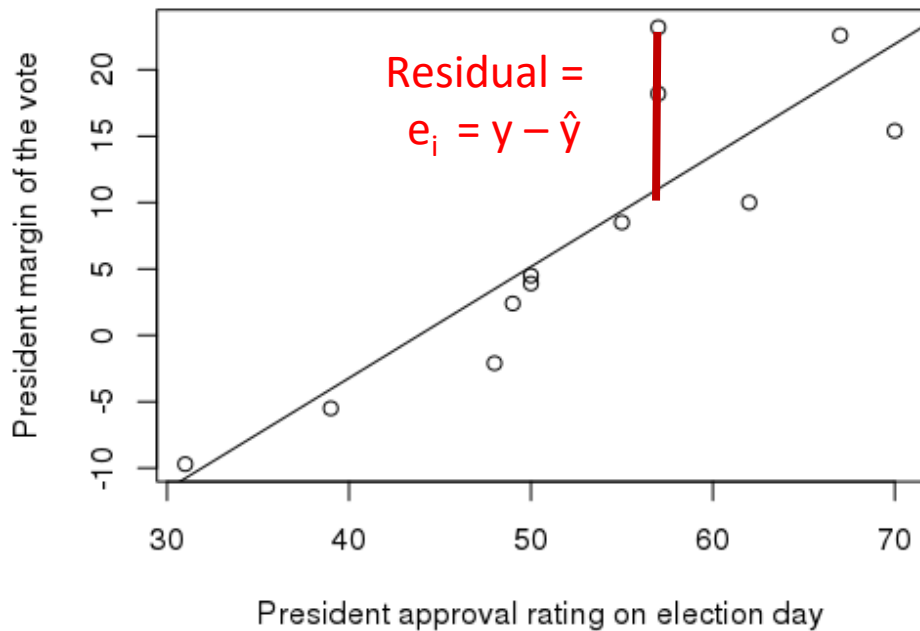
Approval $x$	Margin obs $y$	Margin pred $\hat{y}$	Residuals $e = y - \hat{y}$	Residuals <sup>2</sup> $e^2 = (y - \hat{y})^2$
62	10	15.23	-5.23	27.40
50	4.5	5.17	-0.67	0.45
70	15.4	21.94	-6.54	42.81
67	22.6	19.43	3.17	
57	23.2	11.04	12.16	
48	-2.1	3.49	-5.59	
31	-9.7	-10.76	1.06	
57	18.2	11.04	7.16	

Q: Why do we minimize the sum of **squared** residuals rather than just the sum of residuals?

# Minimizing the sum of the squared residuals to find the regression coefficients

To find the regression coefficients  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$  we minimize the **sum of squared residuals**

- We will use the notation **SSResidual (SSRes)** to denote the sum of squared residuals
  - (The residual sum of squares is also called the **error sum of squares (SSE)**)



$$\text{residual} = e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} SSRes &= \sum_{i=1}^n e_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{f}(x_i))^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_i))^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$R: \text{lm}(y \sim x)$$

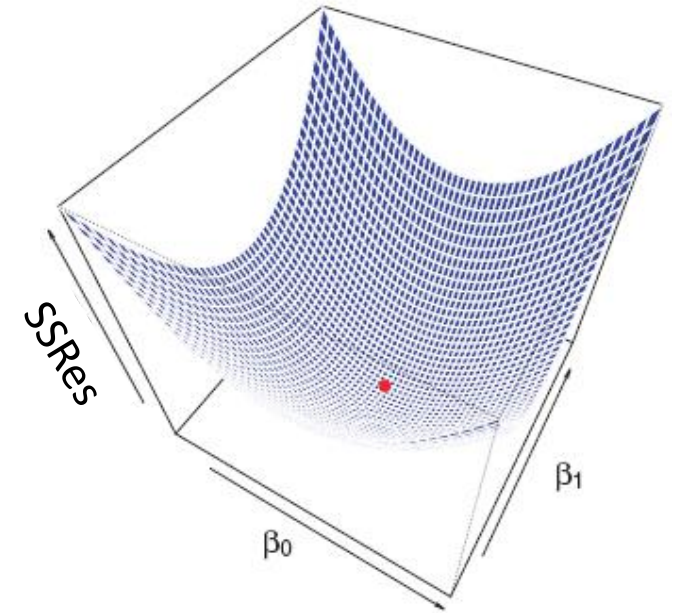
# How do we minimize the SSE?

$$SSRes = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x))^2$$

How do we find  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1$  ?

Calculus and linear algebra:

- Take the derivative, set to 0 and solve
- This mathematical convenience is why the squared loss is so commonly used



$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x} \qquad \hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

# Basic regression caution # 1

Avoid trying to apply the regression line to predict values far from those that were used to create the line.

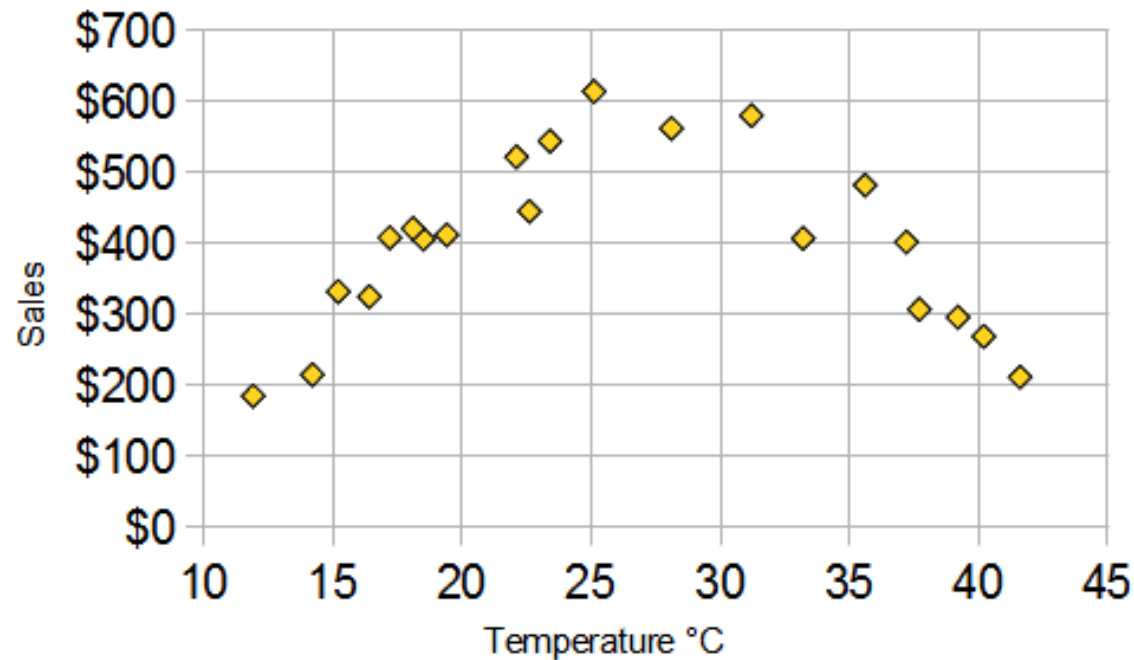
- i.e., do not extrapolate too far



# Basic regression caution # 2

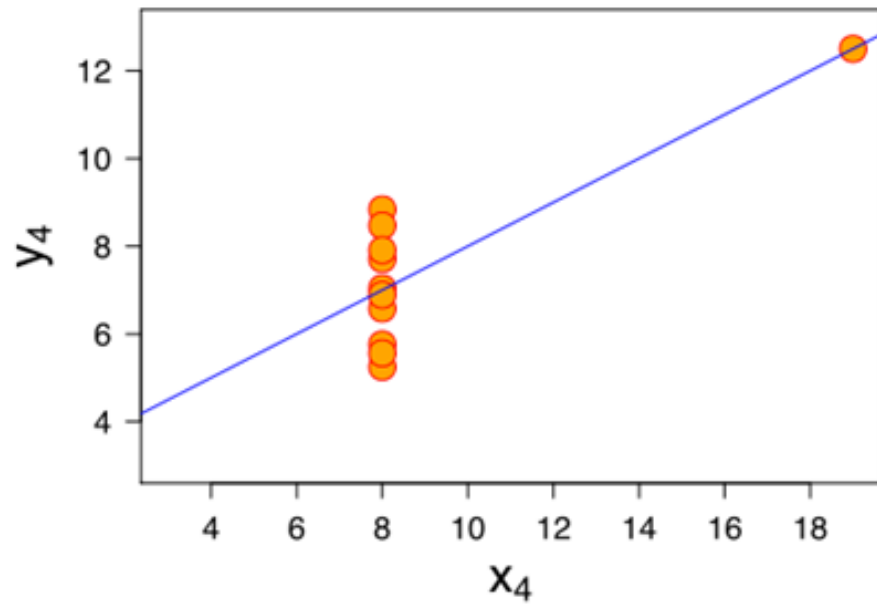
Plot the data! Linear regression is only appropriate when there is a linear trend in the data.

- We will discuss a set of checks on the appropriateness of using linear models soon



# Basic regression caution #3

Be aware of outliers and high leverage points. They can have a large effect on the regression line.



**Outlier:** big  $|y - \bar{y}|$

**Leverage:** big  $|x - \bar{x}|$

**Influential point:** big outlier and leverage

There are statistics that quantify/describe influential points

- We will discuss these soon as well

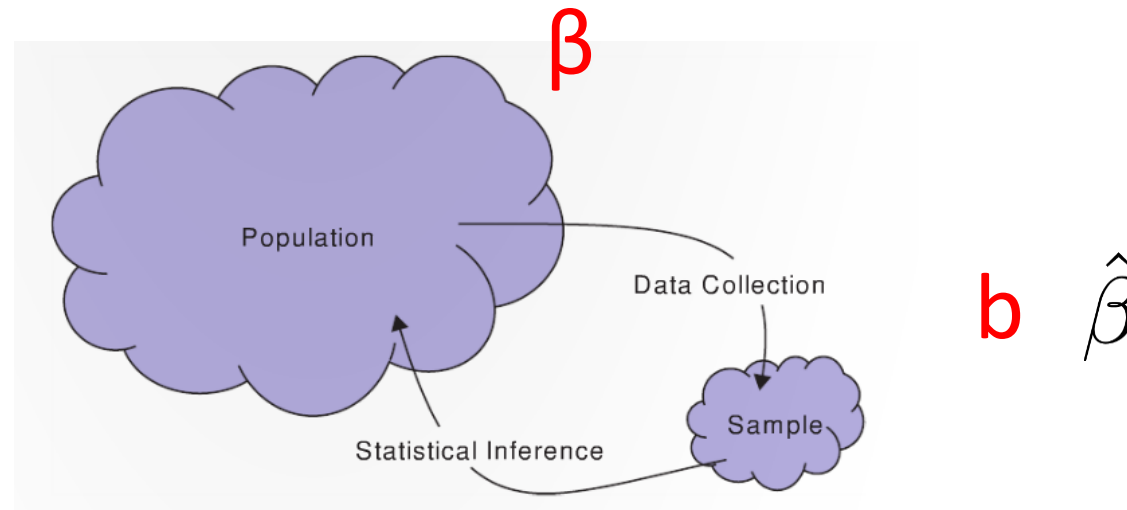
Let's try simple linear regression in R...

# Inference for simple linear regression

# Inference for simple linear regression

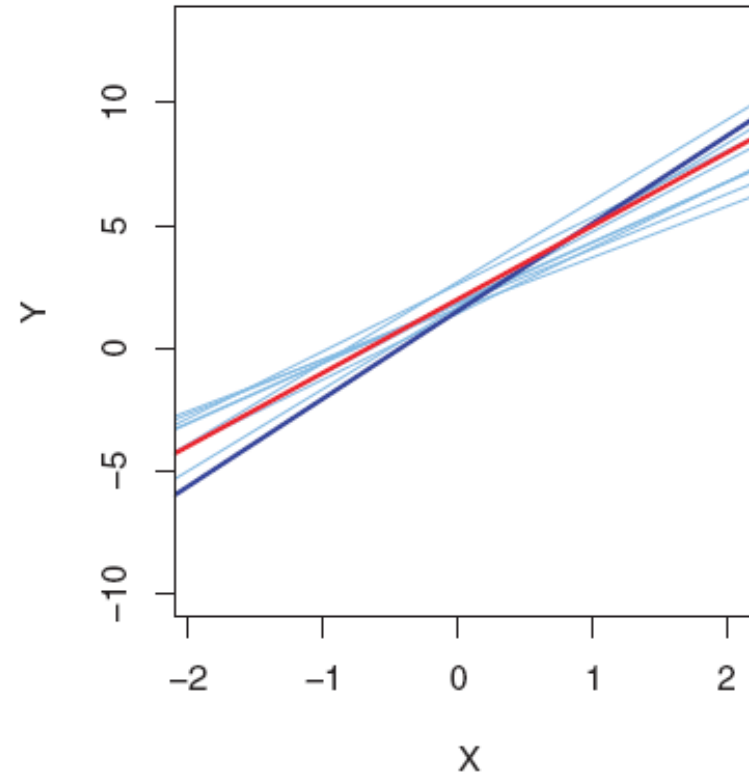
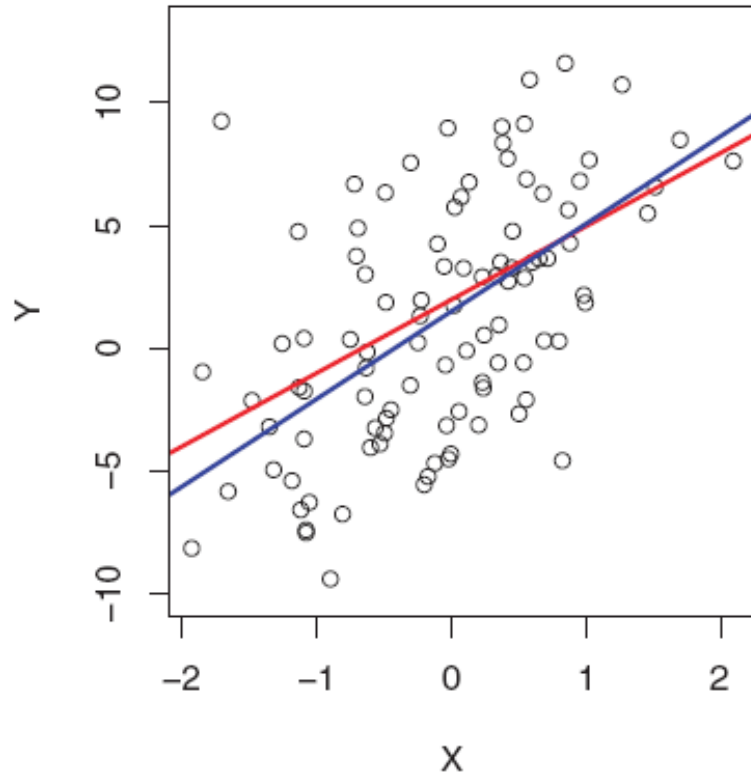
The letter **b** or  $\hat{\beta}$  is typically used to denote the slope ***of the sample***

The Greek letter  $\beta$  is used to denote the slope ***of the population***



Population:  $\beta$

Sample estimates:  $b$   $\hat{\beta}$



# Linear regression underlying model

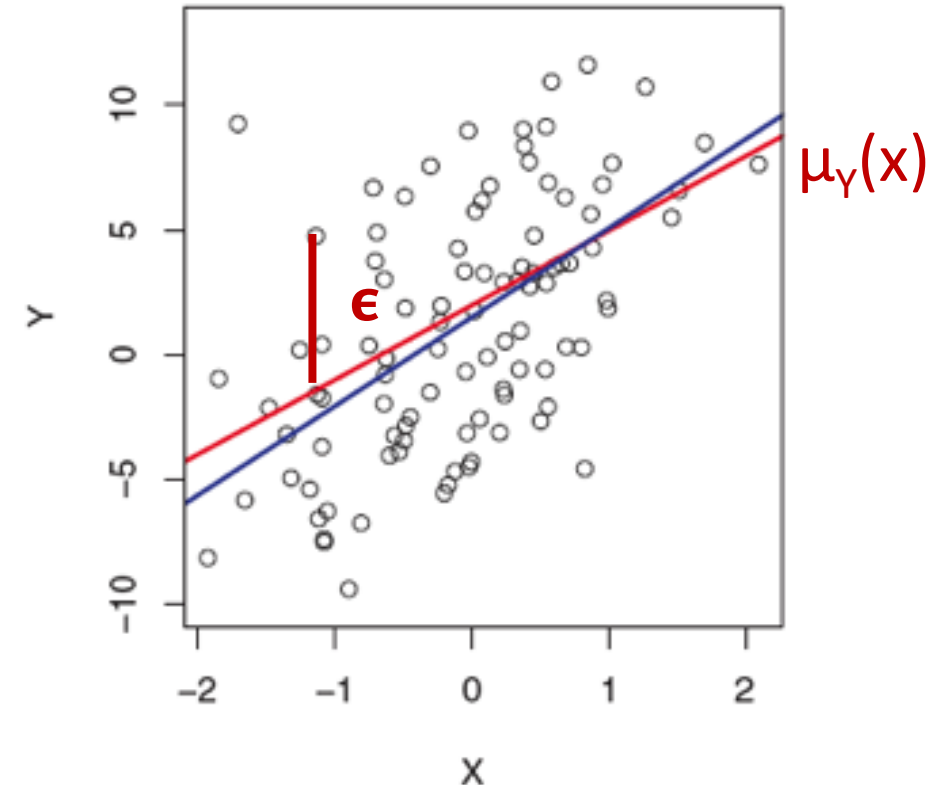
Intercept    Slope    }    Parameters

**True regression line:**  $\mu_Y(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$

**Observed data point:**  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$   
 $= \mu_Y(x) + \epsilon$

**Errors  $\epsilon_i$**  are the difference between the **true regression line**  $\mu_Y(x_i)$  and observed data points  $Y_i$

- $\epsilon_i = Y_i - \mu_Y(x_i)$



# Linear regression underlying model

Intercept   Slope   }   Parameters

**True regression line:**  $\mu_Y(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$

**Observed data point:**  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$

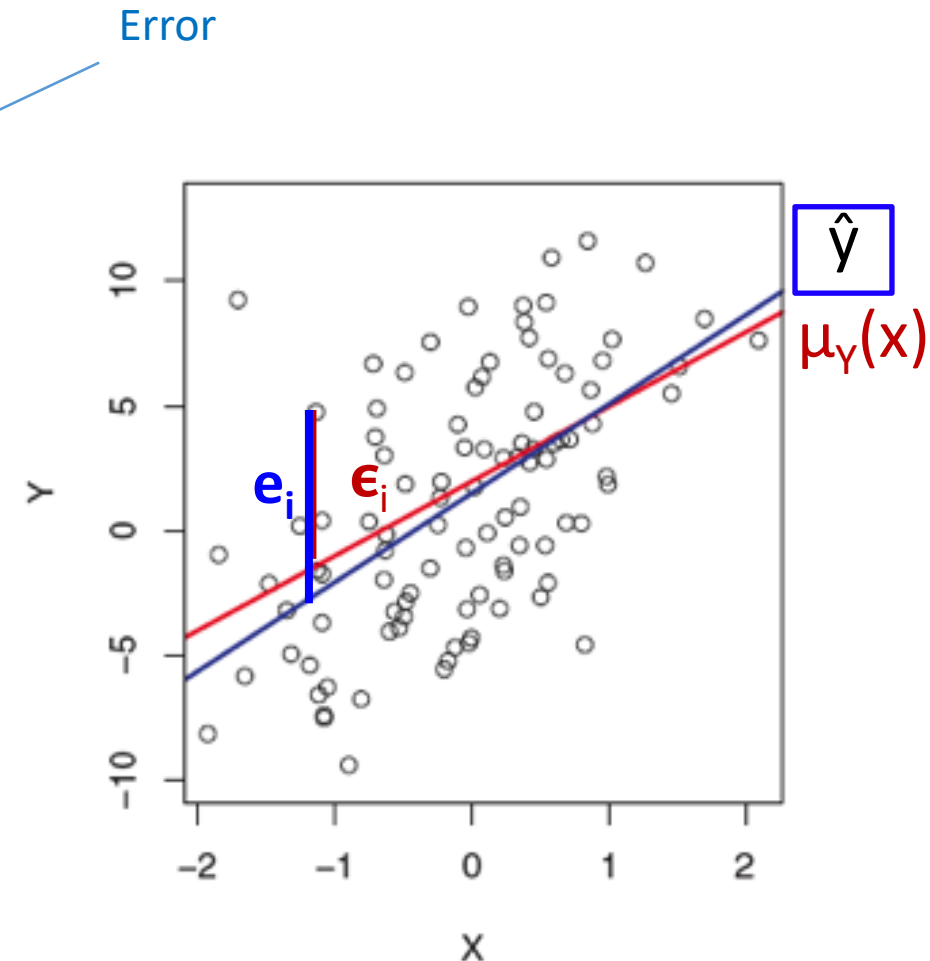
**Estimated regression line:**  $\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x$

**Errors  $\epsilon_i$**  are the difference between the **true regression line**  $\mu_Y(x_i)$  and observed data points  $Y_i$

- $\epsilon_i = Y_i - \mu_Y(x_i)$

**Residuals  $e_i$**  are the difference between the **estimated regression line**  $\hat{y}_i$  and observed data points  $Y_i$

- $e_i = Y_i - \hat{y}_i$





# Linear regression underlying model

True regression line:  $\mu_Y(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$

Observed data point:  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon$   $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma_\epsilon)$

Intercept    Slope    } Parameters

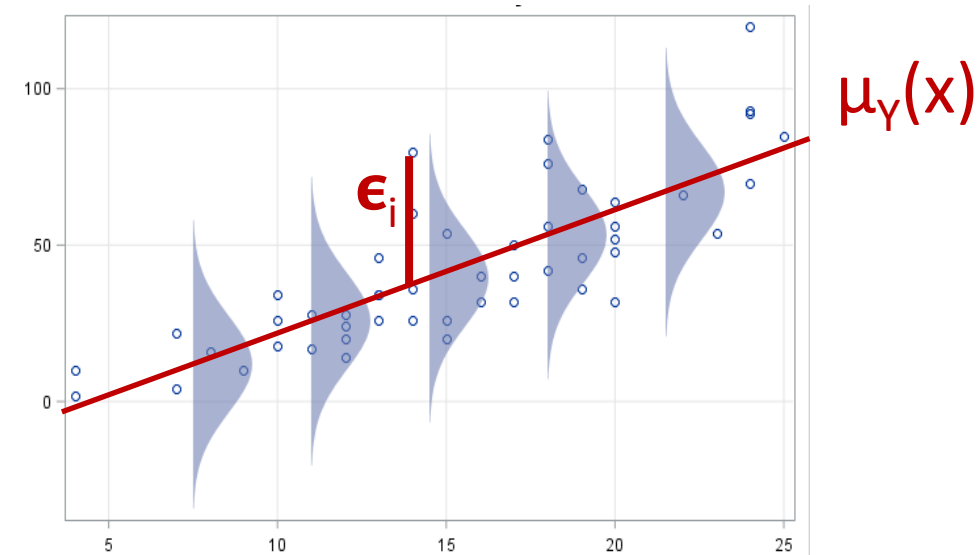
Error

Errors  $\epsilon_i$  are the difference between the **true regression line**  $\mu_Y(x_i)$  and observed data points  $Y_i$

- $\epsilon_i = Y_i - \mu_Y(x_i)$

We will *assume* that the errors  $\epsilon_i$  are **normally distributed**

- This is needed for inference using parametric methods
  - e.g., to use t-distributions and F-distributions



# Recap: Errors vs. residuals

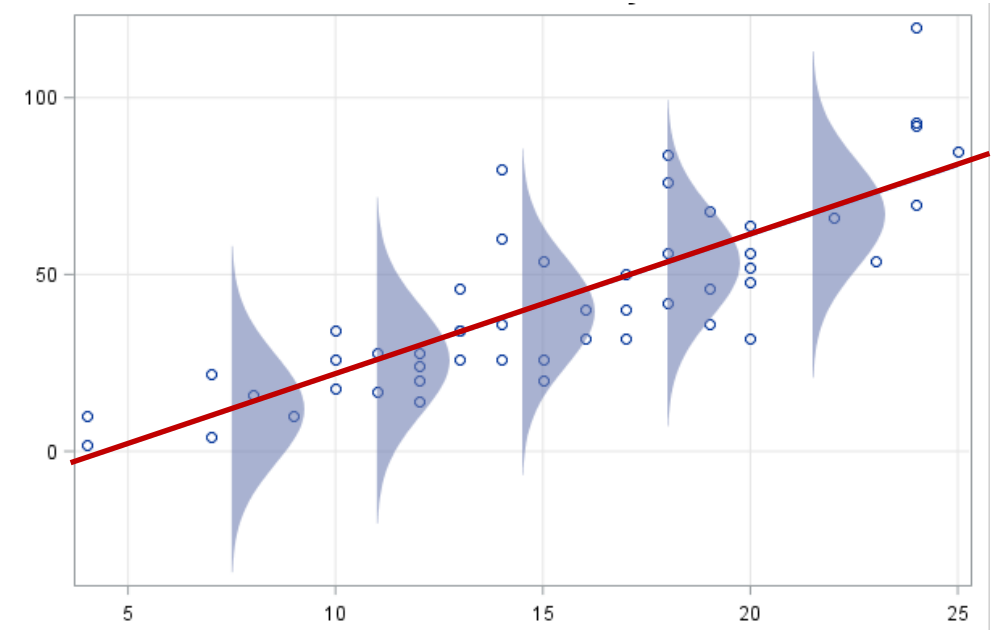
The data:  $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \epsilon_i$   $\epsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma_\epsilon)$

"True" model:  $\mu_Y(x_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i$

- Errors:  $\epsilon_i = Y_i - \mu_Y(x_i)$

Estimated model:  $\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_i$

- Residuals:  $e_i = Y_i - \hat{y}_i$



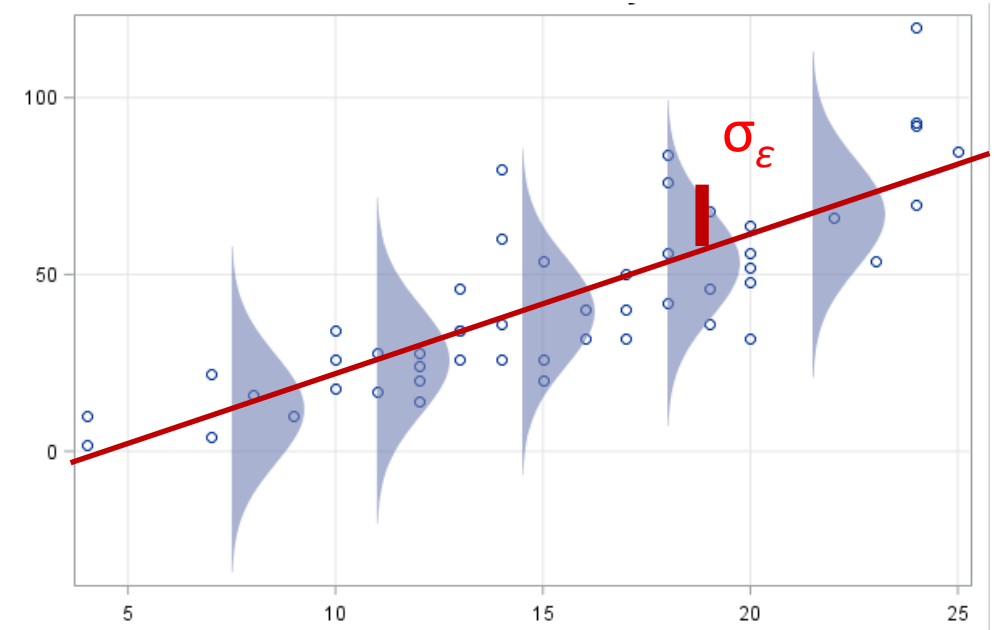
# Standard deviation of the errors: $\sigma_\epsilon$

The standard deviation of the errors is denoted  $\sigma_\epsilon$

We can use the **standard deviation of residuals** as an estimate standard deviation of the errors  $\sigma_\epsilon$ .

- $\sigma_\epsilon$  called the "regression standard error"

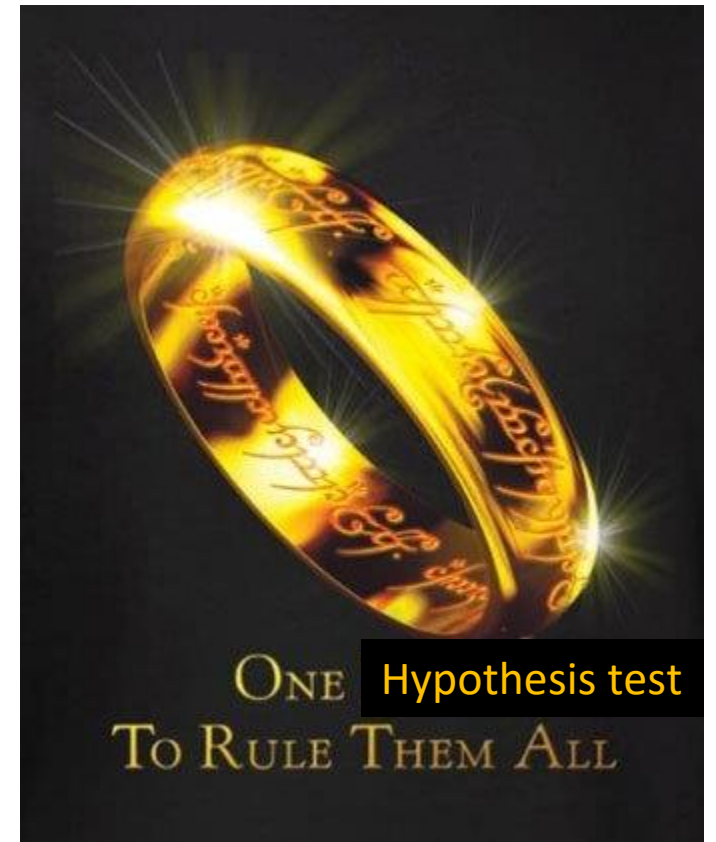
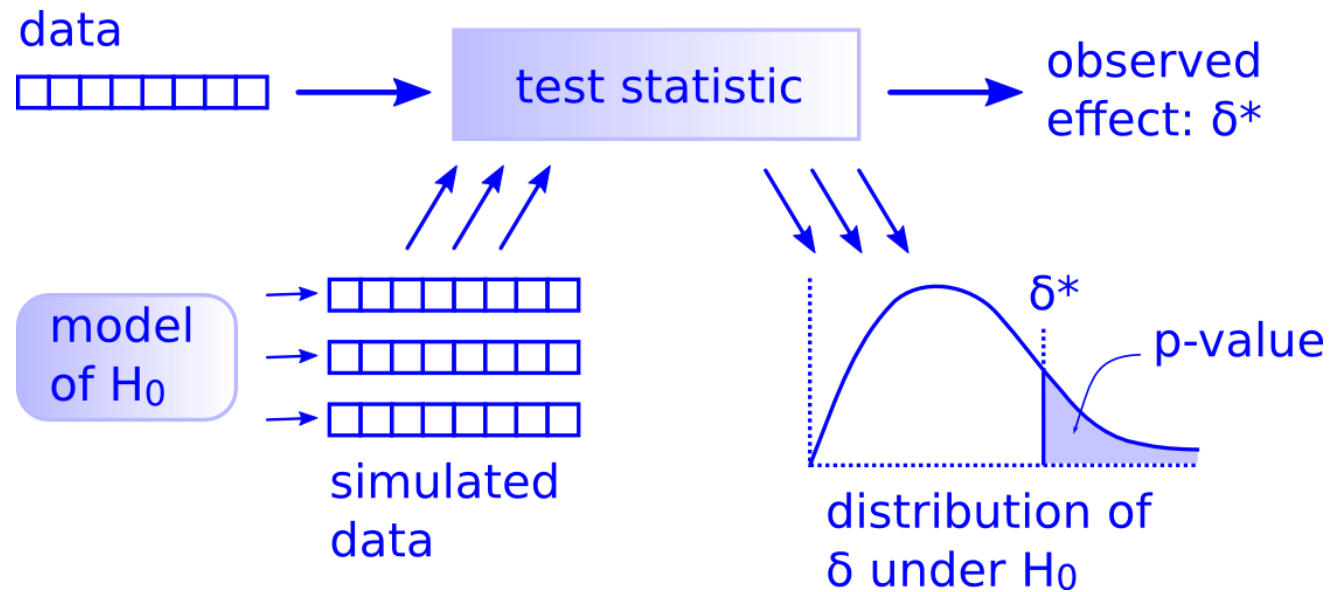
$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\sigma}_\epsilon &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-2} SSRes} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}\end{aligned}$$



Inference for linear regression: hypothesis tests

# Hypothesis test for regression coefficients

There is only one [hypothesis test](#)!



# Hypothesis test for regression coefficients

We can run hypothesis tests to assess whether there is a relationship between  $y$  and  $x$ , and calculate p-values

- $H_0: \beta_1 = 0$  (slope is 0, so no relationship between  $x$  and  $y$ )
- $H_A: \beta_1 \neq 0$

One type of hypothesis test we can run is based on a t-statistic:  $t = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1 - 0}{\hat{SE}_{\hat{\beta}_1}}$

- The t-statistic comes from a t-distribution with  $n - 2$  degrees of freedom

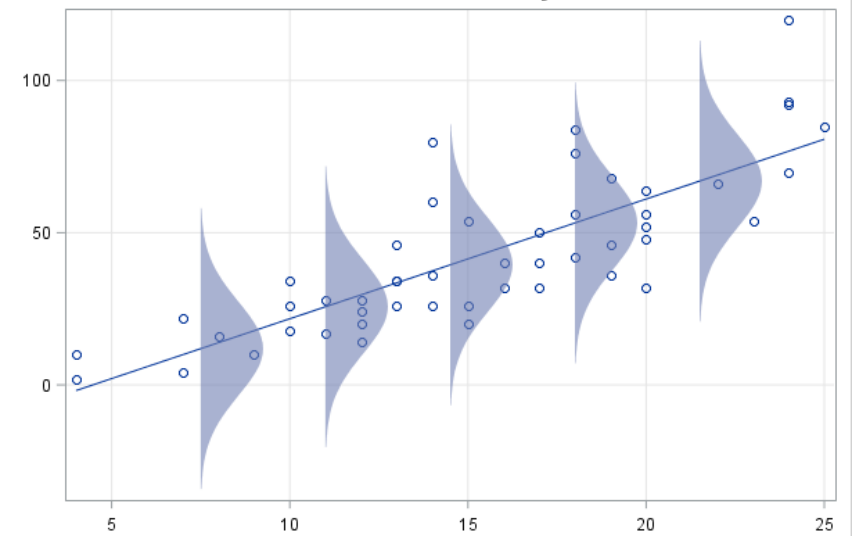
$$\hat{SE}_{\hat{\beta}_1} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_\epsilon}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$$

$$\hat{SE}_{\hat{\beta}_0} = \hat{\sigma}_\epsilon \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} + \frac{\bar{x}^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$$

# Inference using parametric methods

When using parametric methods, we make the following (LINE) assumptions:

- **Linearity:** A line can describe the relationship between  $x$  and  $y$
- **Independence:** each data point is independent from the other points
- **Normality:** errors are normally distributed around the true regression line  $\mu_y(x)$
- **Equal variance (Homoscedasticity):** constant variance of errors over the whole range of  $x$  values



These assumptions are usually checked after the models are fit using 'regression diagnostic' plots.

# Let's look at inference for simple linear regression in R

Back to faculty salaries...





# Inference for linear regression: confidence intervals

We can estimate three types of intervals for a regression:

1. Confidence intervals for the regression coefficients:  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$
2. Confidence intervals for the full line  $\mu_y$
3. Prediction intervals where most of the data is expected

# Confidence intervals for regression coefficients

For the slope coefficient , the confidence interval is:  $\hat{\beta}_1 \pm t^* \cdot SE_{\hat{\beta}_1}$

Where:  $SE_{\hat{\beta}_1} = \frac{\sigma_{\epsilon}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$

$t^*$  is the critical value for the  $t_{n-2}$  density curve needed to obtain a desired confidence level

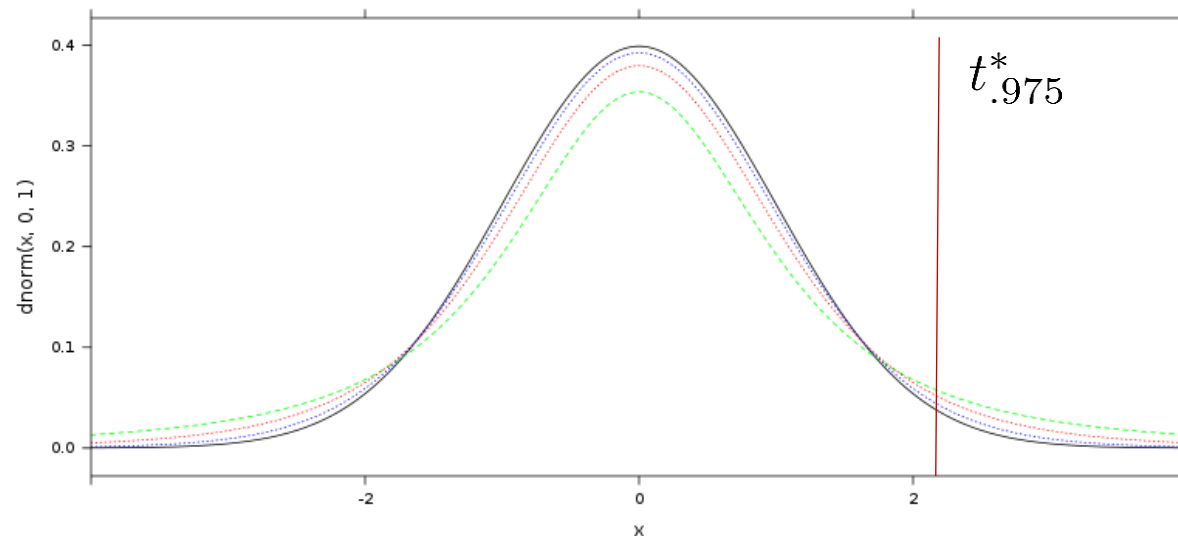
`qt(.975, df)`

$N(0, 1)$

df = 2

df = 5

df = 15

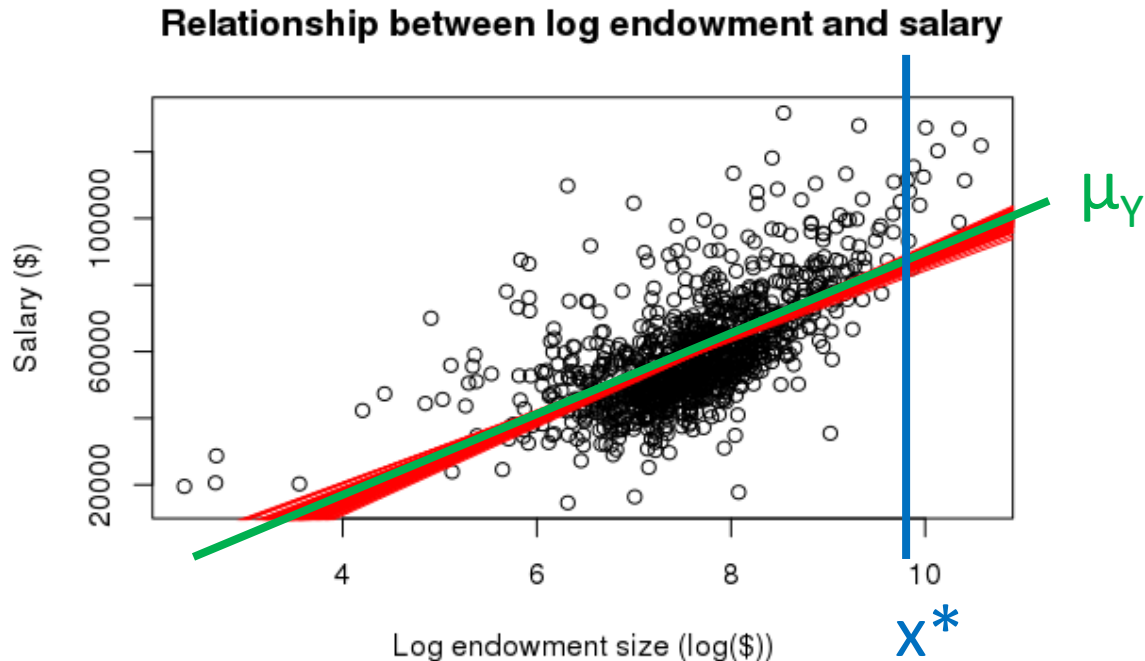


# Confidence intervals for the regression line $\mu_Y$

A confidence interval for the mean response for the **true regression line**  $\mu_Y$  when  $X = x^*$  is:

$$\hat{y} \pm t^* \cdot SE_{\hat{\mu}} \quad \text{where}$$

$$SE_{\hat{\mu}} = \sigma_{\epsilon} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x^* - \bar{x})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$$



Note:

- There is more uncertainty at the ends of the regression line
- The confidence interval for the regression line  $\mu_Y$  is different than the confidence interval for slope  $\beta_1$

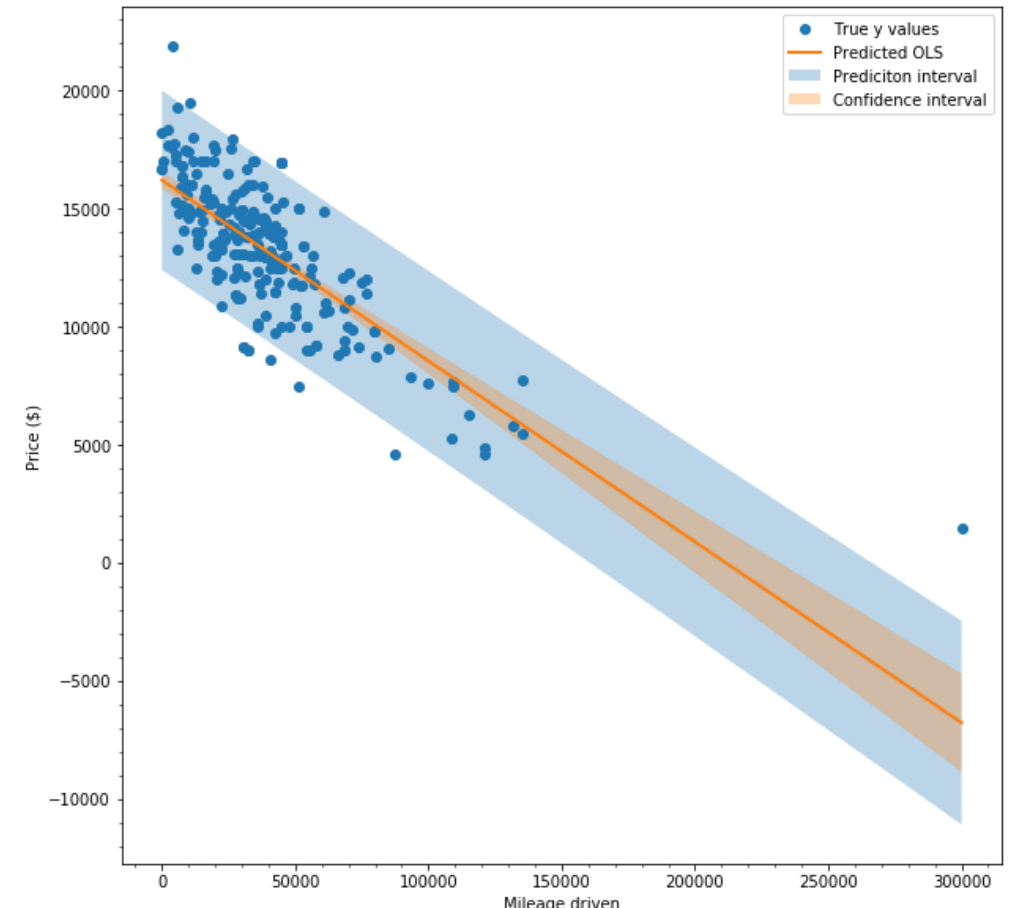
# Prediction intervals

**Confidence intervals** give us a measure of uncertain about our the true relationship between  $x$  and  $y$  for:

- The true regression slope  $\beta_1$
- The true regression line  $\mu_y$

**Prediction intervals** give us a range of plausible values for  $y$

- i.e., 95% of our  $y$ 's with be within this range



# Prediction intervals

A **prediction intervals** for the  $y$  can be calculated using:

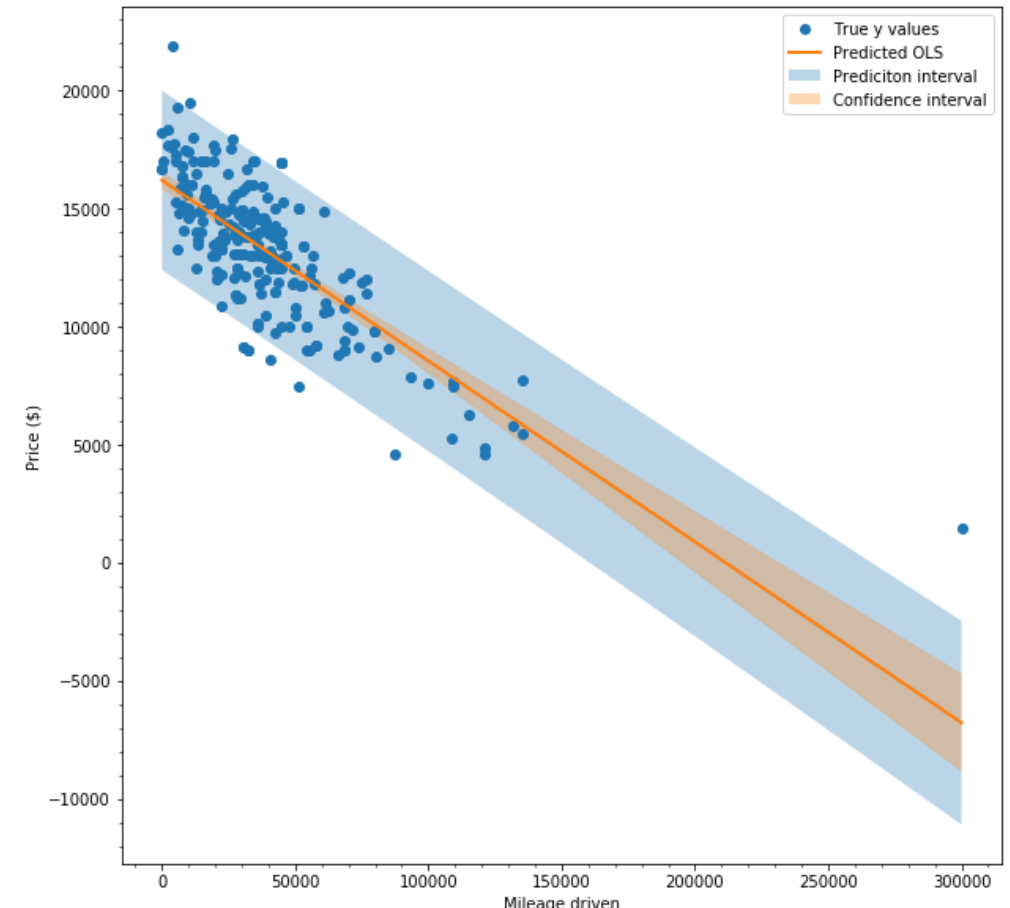
$$\hat{y} \pm t^* \cdot SE_{\hat{y}}$$

where

$$SE_{\hat{y}} = \sigma_{\epsilon} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x^* - \bar{x})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$$

Due to  $y$ 's scattering  
around the true  
regression line

Due to uncertainty  
in where the true  
regression line is



# Summary of confidence and prediction intervals

1. CI for Slope  $\beta$       $\hat{\beta}_1 \pm t^* \cdot SE_{\hat{\beta}_1}$       $SE_{\hat{\beta}_1} = \sigma_\epsilon \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$

2. CI for regression line  $\mu_y$  at point  $x^*$

$$\hat{y} \pm t^* \cdot SE_{\hat{\mu}} \qquad SE_{\hat{\mu}} = \sigma_\epsilon \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x^* - \bar{x})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$$

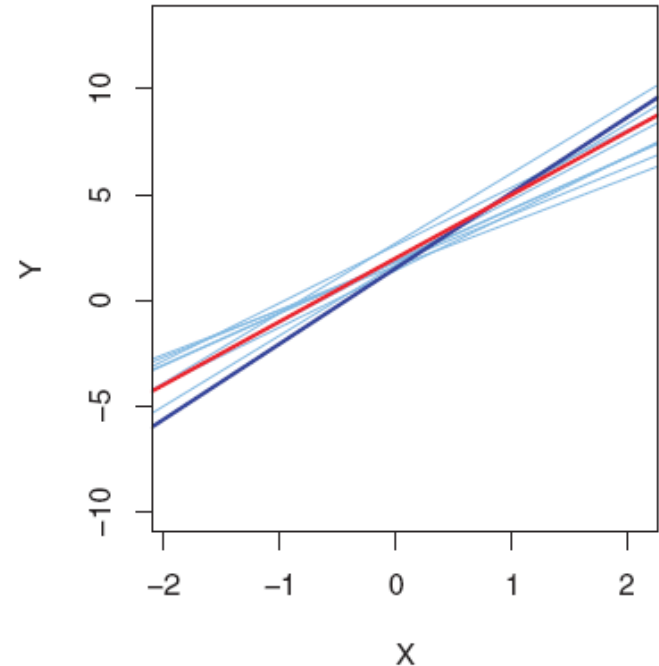
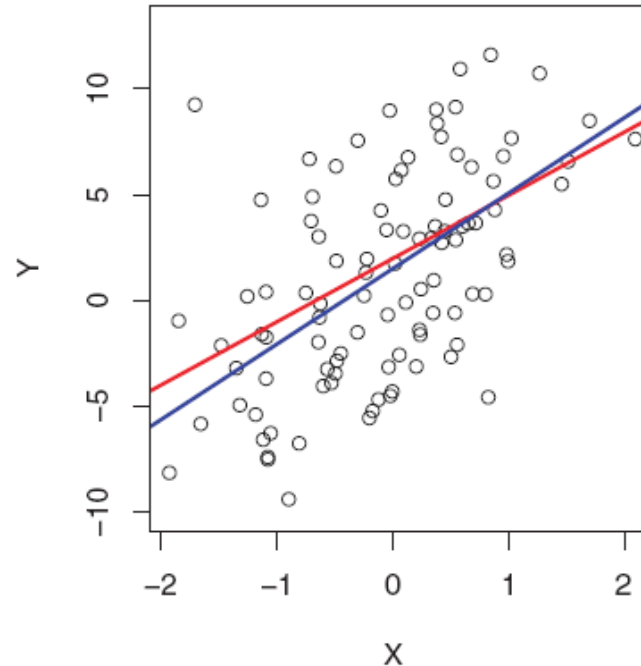
3. Prediction interval  $y$

$$\hat{y} \pm t^* \cdot SE_{\hat{y}} \qquad SE_{\hat{y}} = \sigma_\epsilon \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x^* - \bar{x})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}$$

# Resampling methods for inference in regression

We can also use resampling methods to estimate run hypothesis tests and create confidence intervals for the regression coefficients

- Bootstrap
- Permutation test



# Let's look at inference for simple linear regression in R

More faculty salary data

