

# dm25s1

## Topic 07 : Regression1

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### Part 01 : Regression - Overview

Dr Bernard Butler

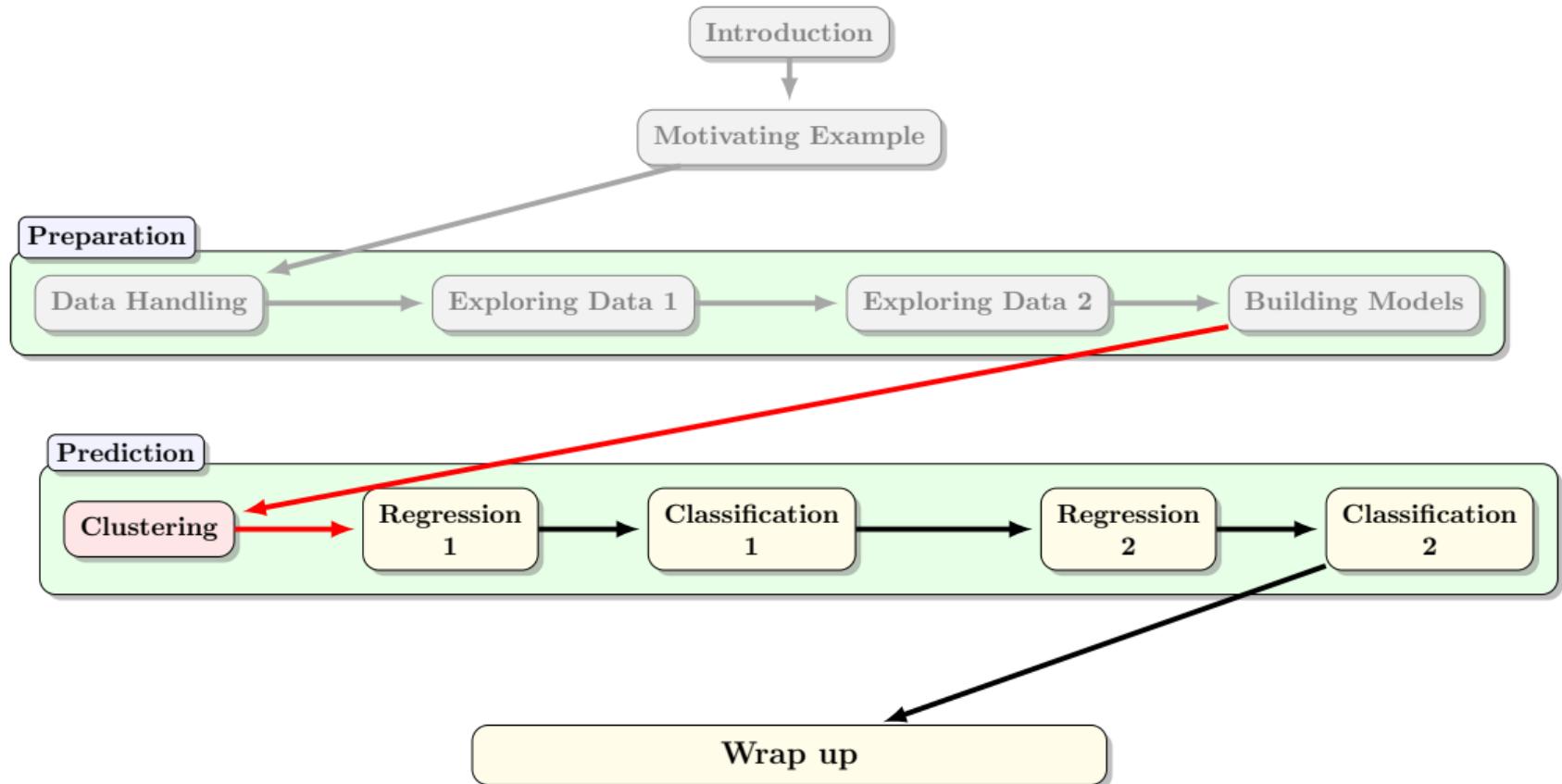
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Autumn Semester, 2025

#### Outline

- Regression as a means of minimising sum of the squared errors
- Regression assumptions - what they mean, how they can be used for validation and model building
- Role of residuals

# Data Mining (Week 7)



# Regression - Overview — Summary

1. Introduction
2. Linear regression assumptions
3. Reviewing regression results

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  - Generated data (various)
  - Advertising dataset: predicting widgets sold based on spending in different advertising channels
  - Credit dataset: predicting credit balance using income, status, etc.

# Simple Linear Regression: Background

- Linear regression was discovered by Gauss and others around 1800. The “name” came later!
- With small data sets, calculations can be done by hand, but they are tedious and error-prone.
- The goal is simple: Given a **training** set of  $(x, y)$  data where  $y$  is assumed to have a linear relationship with  $x$ 
  - Find the line that is the “best fit” to that data
  - Use the specification of that line to *predict*  $y$  for the **test**  $x$  values
- Note that the “linear relationship” of  $y$  upon  $x$  is just one of the underlying assumptions
- In practice, the data does not have an exact linear relationship, but it should be “close enough”—but what does that mean?
- In terms of Week 3’s **ML models taxonomy**: regression is **geometric** and **parametric**
- In terms of Week 3’s **Components of a Machine Learning Problem**
  - **Representation** is based on (fitting) hyperplanes to point clouds
  - **Evaluation** usually based on MSE, with assumption checks to help identify the best model family
  - **Optimization** is one-step (no search needed) because we have a constraint on the errors we allow
- Hyperparameter tuning: polynomial degree, regularisation  $\lambda$ , weights, loss function, ...

# Review: Linear combinations and scalar products

## Definition 1 (Scalar (dot) product of two vectors)

Given two vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , each with  $n$  elements, the *scalar product* ( $c$ ) of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  is

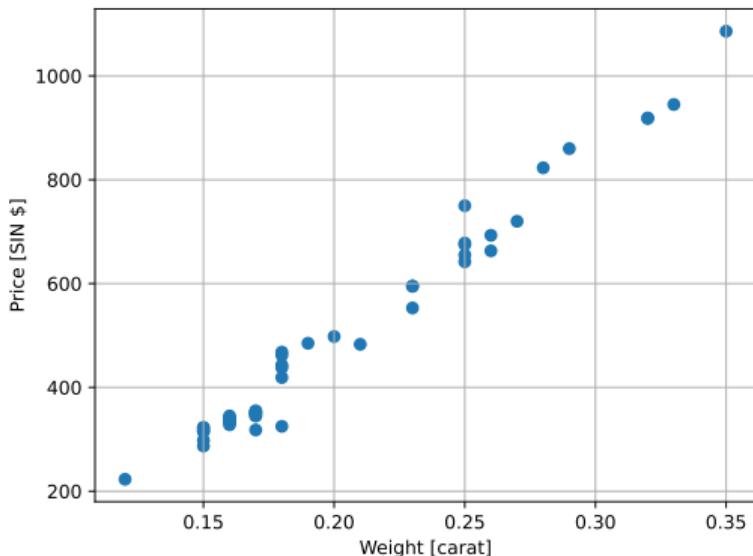
$$c \equiv a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + \dots + a_n b_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i \equiv |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$$

## Remarks

- The scalar product of 2 vectors is a scalar, which can be seen as “mixing” two vectors.
- Matrix-vector multiplication  $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{a}$  can be seen as the scalar product of each row in the matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ , which is  $\mathbf{X}(i, :)$  for row  $i$ , with the column vector  $\mathbf{a}$ .
- Alternatively, matrix-vector multiplication can be seen as the *linear combination* of the matrix columns, such as  $\mathbf{X}(:, j)$ , with the column multipliers being the elements of  $\mathbf{a}$ .
- For linear regression, the matrix columns are the feature vectors  $\mathbf{X}(j)$  and the column multipliers are the regression parameters  $\mathbf{a}$ .
- Two nonzero vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  can have a scalar product that is zero if  $\cos(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = 0$ , i.e., the  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  vectors are perpendicular to each other.

# Motivating example: Diamond data

Relation between diamonds' price and weight

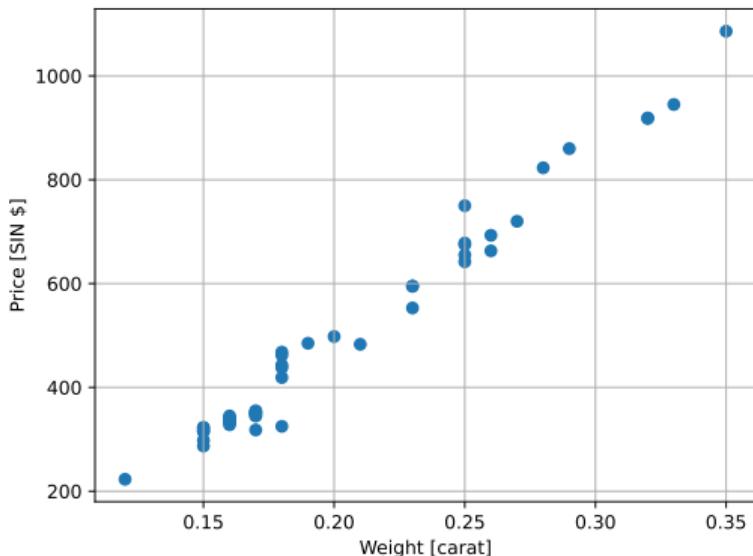


## Diamond Prices by Weight

- Given the data on the left, can we use it to predict the price of a diamond that weighs 0.22 carat?
- NB - we have not seen a diamond with that weight before in the data
- Can you think of at least 3 other factors that might affect the price?

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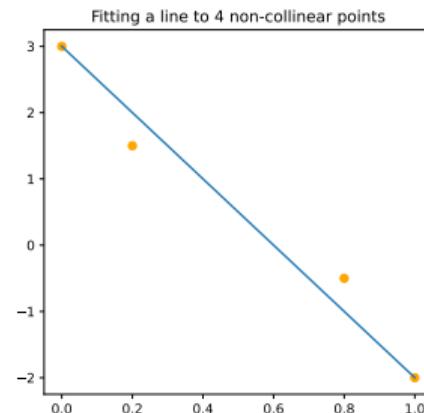
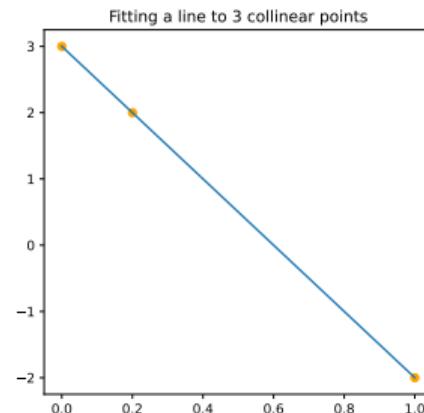
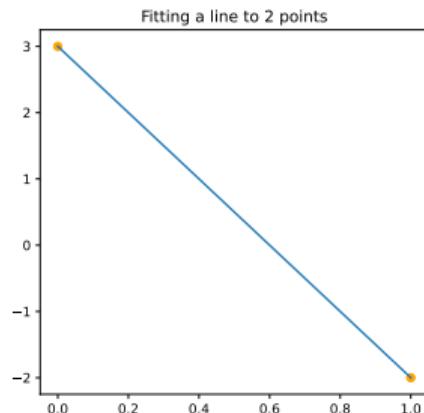


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- Various(!) - some examples: clarity, cut, provenance, part of a set, ...

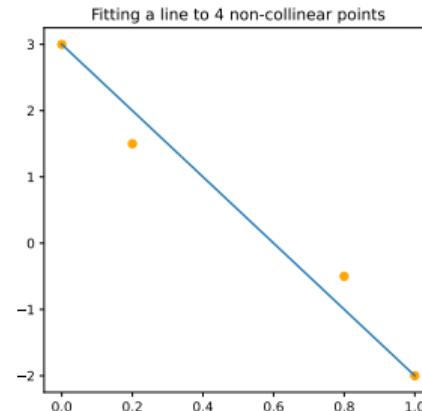
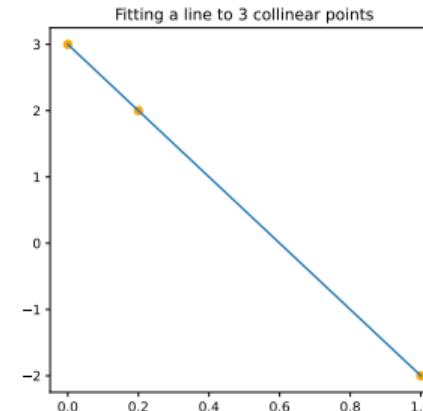
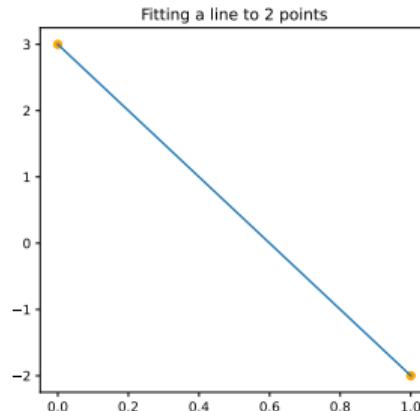
# Simple Linear Regression: Geometric Intuition

- Given data  $\{x_i, y_i\}$  where  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$  and  $\beta_0, \beta_1$  as the (unknown, but to be determined) *intercept* and *slope* of the regression line for this data.



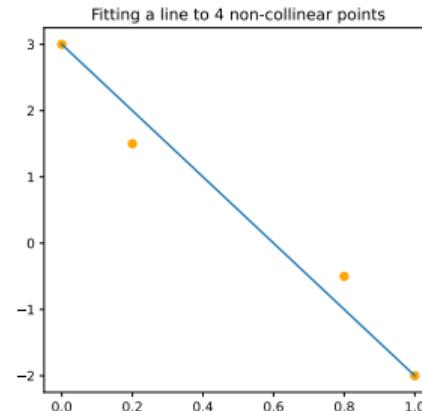
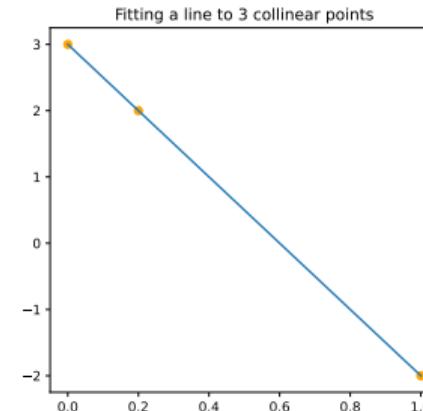
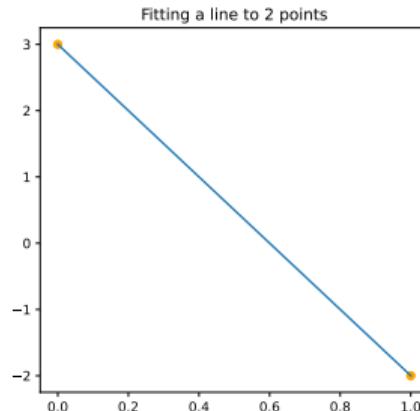
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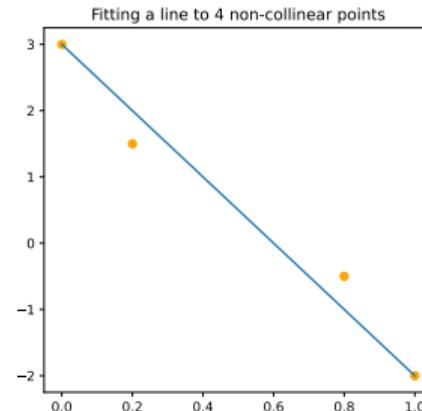
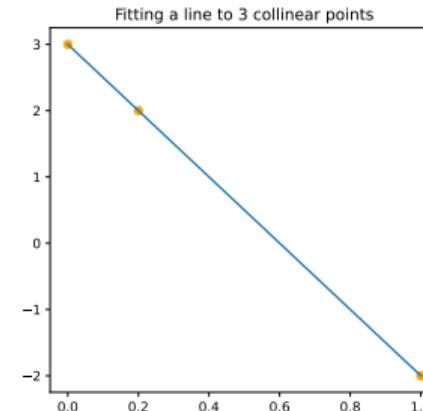
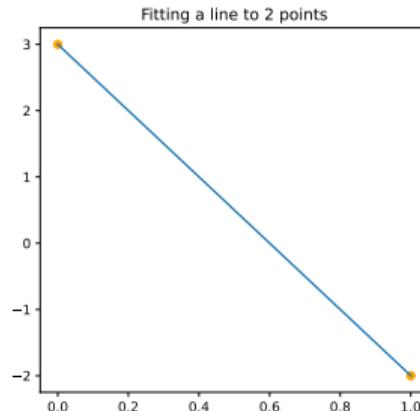
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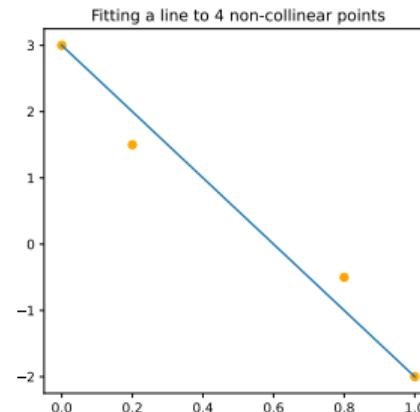
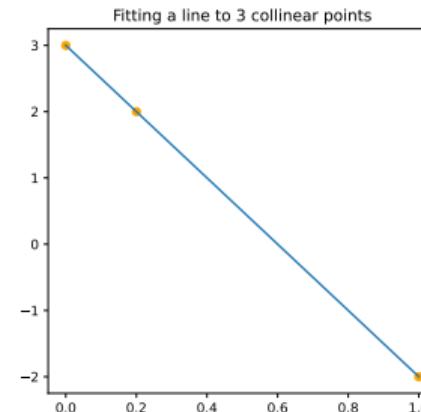
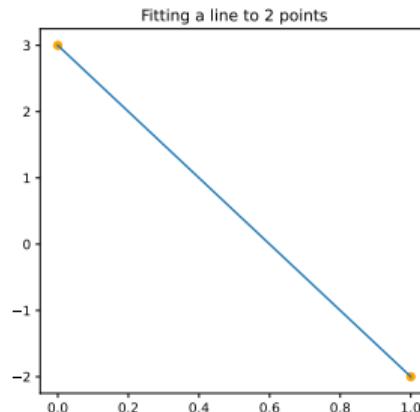
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- For  $n > 2$  collinear points, just pick any two points and solve as before.
- Otherwise the problem is **overdetermined** so need a more general formulation to solve for  $\beta_0, \beta_1$ .



# Simple Linear Regression: Formulation

## Definition 2 (Matrix formulation)

- General equation is  $y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \epsilon_i = \hat{y}_i + \epsilon_i$  (data = model + error), where  $\hat{y}$  is the predicted  $y$  for these values of  $\beta_0, \beta_1$ .

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- Matrix form is  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$ . Remember matrix-vector multiplication: inner product of  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of  $\mathbf{X}$  times the vector  $\boldsymbol{\beta} = 1 \times \beta_0 + x_i \times \beta_1 = \hat{y}_i$ .

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- Our geometric intuition is that the errors should be “balanced”: no benefit to changing intercept (sliding up or down) or slope (tilting the line).

# Simple Linear Regression: Normal Equations

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$$\mathbf{y} = X\beta + \epsilon$$

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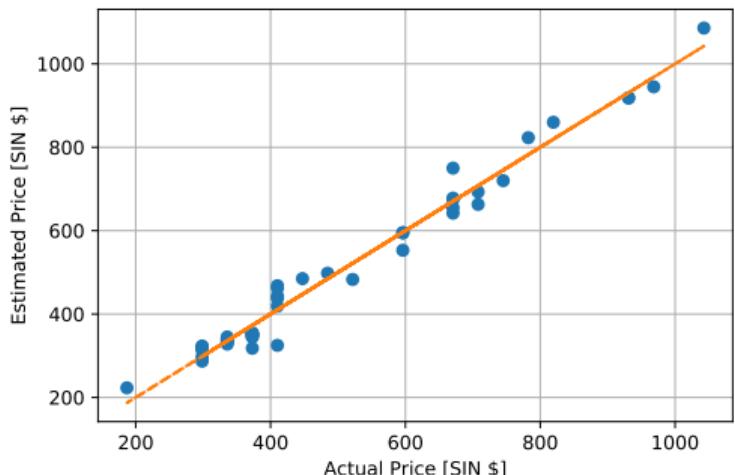
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➤ Note that everything on the right is a set of operations on the data.

For more info, and an alternative construction of the Normal equations, see <https://goo.gl/TbLru3>.

# Simple Linear Regression: Balanced Errors

Relation between estimated and actual diamonds' prices



What makes this look like a good fit?

*The fitted line passes through the data centroid and errors pass are **balanced** - cf. see-saw*

- More generally: a weighted sum of the errors should be 0.
- Weights should depend on the features.
- The  $\mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\epsilon} = 0$  criterion works well, so we apply it.
- If you imagine the centroid as being the fulcrum of the line, viewed as a lever, we wish to “balance” the errors around that point

# Simple Linear Regression: Implementation

When implemented in software, the Normal equations are not used directly: faster and more numerically accurate algorithms are used instead, but the results are equivalent in exact arithmetic (remember: digital computers perform finite-precision arithmetic and so cannot be exact).

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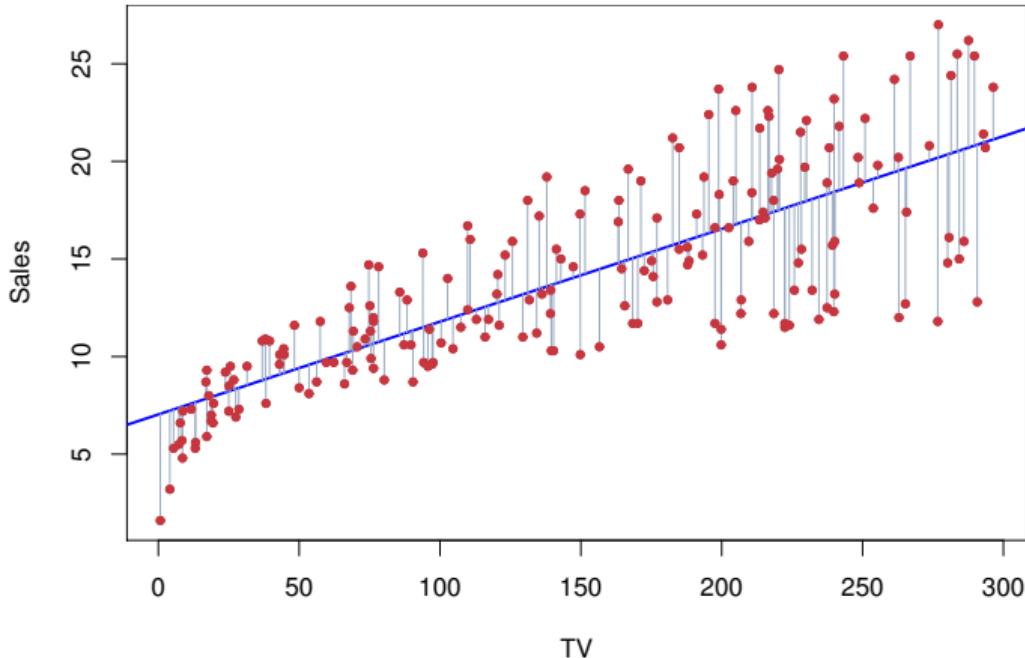
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Remember: after *learning* the  $\beta$  parameters using the training data  $\{\mathbf{x}_i, y_i\}$ , with the model encoded in the feature matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ , it is then possible to predict  $\hat{y}_k$  for “new” (test)  $\mathbf{x}_k$  values, using separate *prediction* function calls.

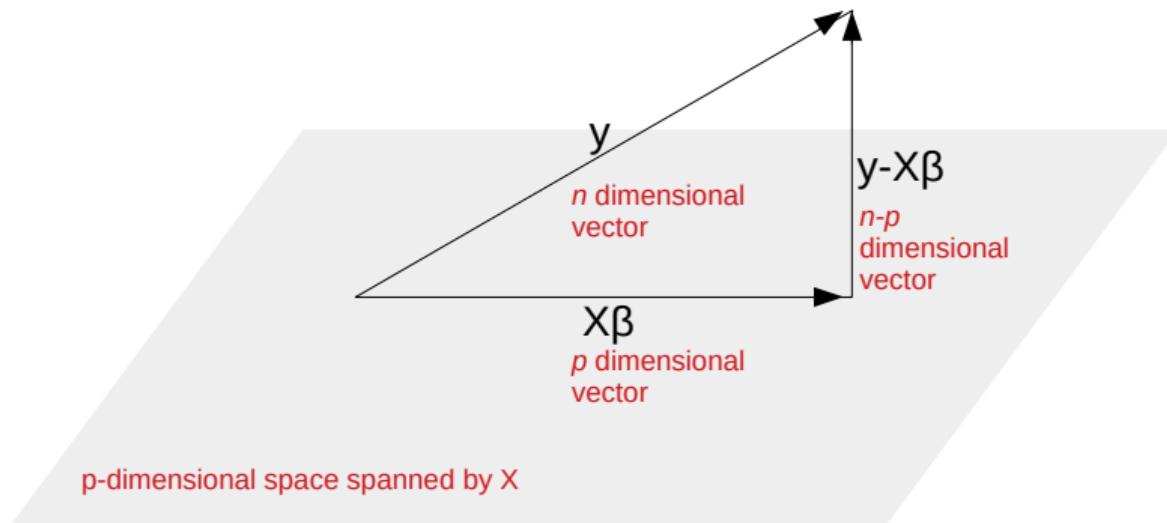
# SLR: Residual Plot for the model



Source: ISLR, Fig 3.1: Advertising data with the model “ $Sales \sim TV$ ”.

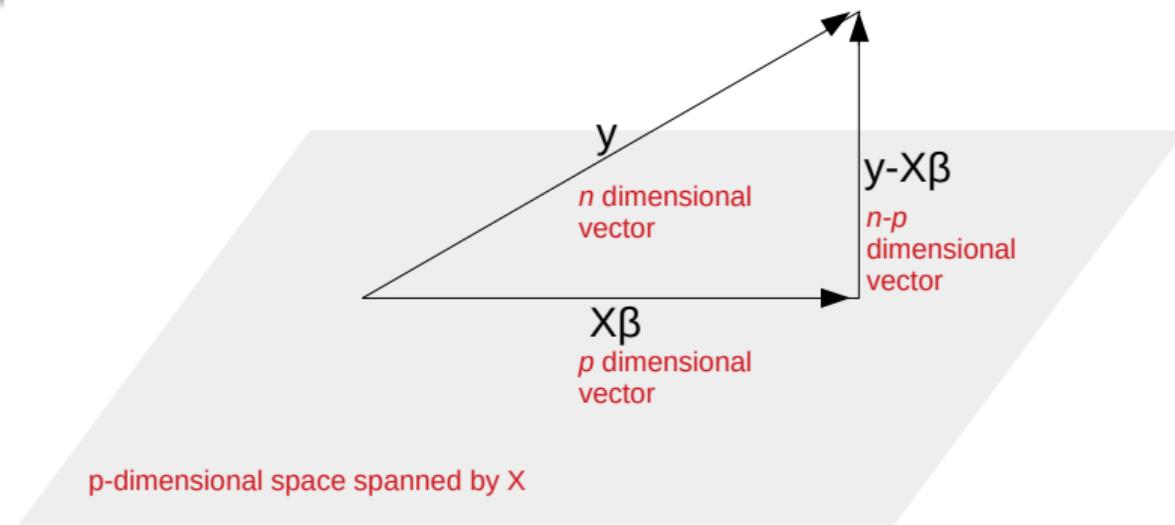
Note the vertical distance between the red dots (data points)  $\mathbf{y}$  and the corresponding  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  on the regression line, which is termed the *error*  $\epsilon$ .

# Geometrical interpretation of regression: $n$ rows, $p$ features, $n > p$



- Analogy: achieving photorealism with a limited palette of colours.
- Grey plane represents all the colours mixable from those colours.
- Point above plane: a colour that needs to be approximated.

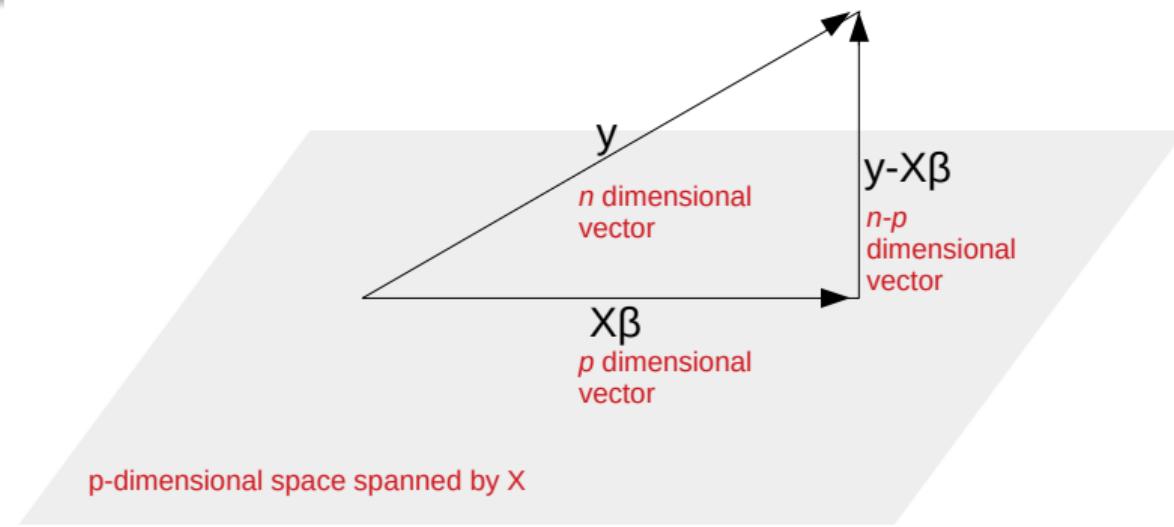
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- But  $y$  has  $n > p$  dimensions and so is represented by a point that lies outside the grey plane.
- When  $y$  is projected onto the nearest point in the  $X$  space,
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This decomposition of  $n$  data dimensions (observations) into  $p$  model parameters and  $n$  residuals with rank  $n - p$  is helpful when interpreting regression diagnostics.

# OLS and Linear Regression

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According to the Gauss-Markov theorem, *Ordinary Least Squares* (OLS), which uses the Normal equations to minimise the sum of the squares of the errors ( $\|\epsilon\|_2 \equiv \sqrt{e_1^2 + e_2^2 + e_3^2 + \dots + e_n^2}$ ), is the *Best, Linear, Unbiased, Estimator* of that model that can be derived from the training data, provided some reasonably loose assumptions hold.

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When we discuss Bias, Variance and Irreducible Error, it is clear that low bias is not enough. OLS might be BLUE but that does not guarantee low variance, because overfitting can still be a problem.

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When we discuss Bias, Variance and Irreducible Error, it is clear that low bias is not enough. OLS might be BLUE but that does not guarantee low variance, because overfitting can still be a problem. In practice, the assumptions required for OLS to be appropriate can be stated in terms of properties of the residual vector  $\epsilon$ .

# OLS and Linear Regression

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In the rest of this lecture, we will generalise from Simple to Multiple Linear Regression, where  $\beta = (\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_p)$  and  $2 \leq p \leq n$ , so instead of fitting lines, we fit (hyper)planes to data.

# Assumptions required for the linear model to be meaningful

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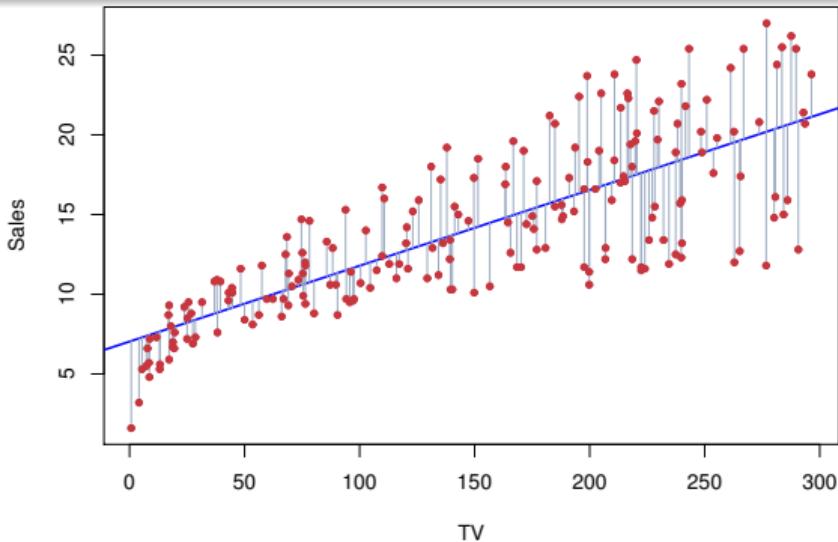
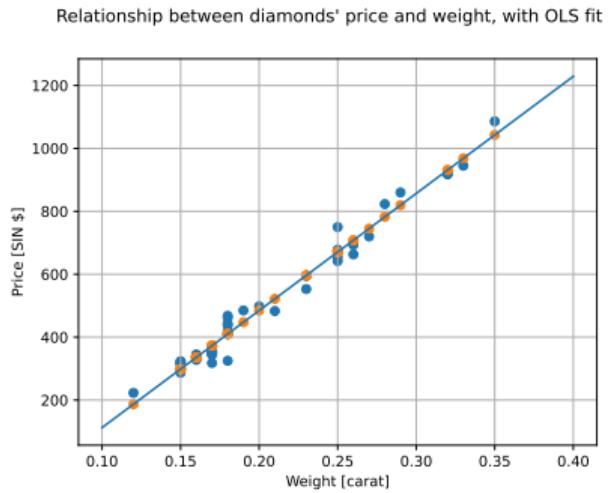
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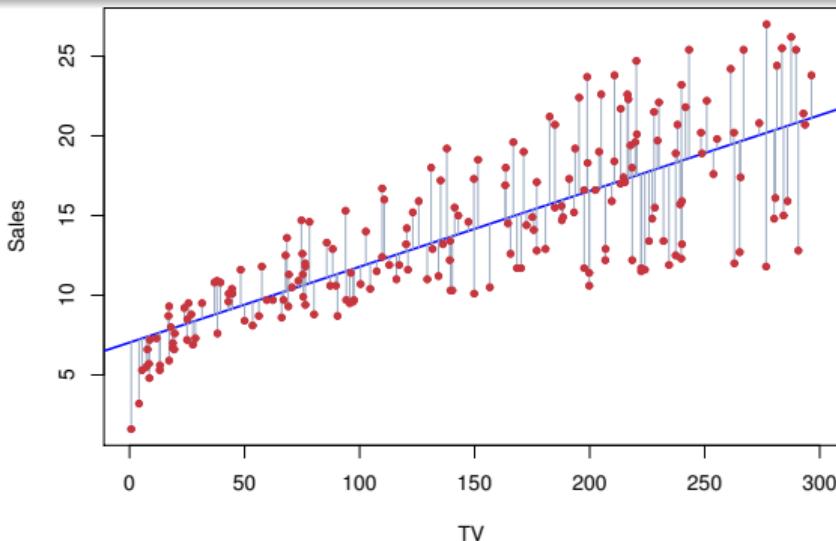
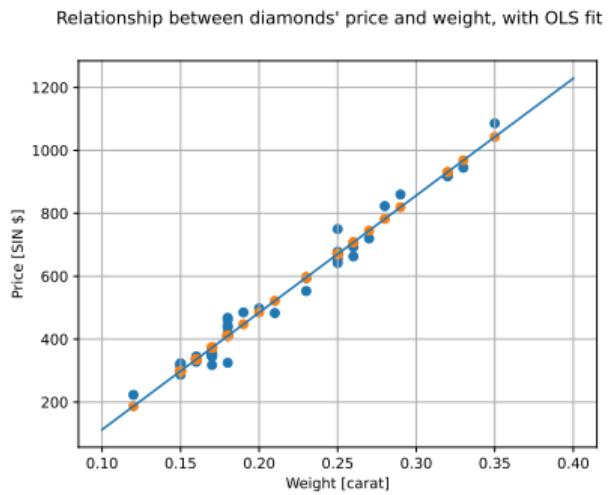
Because these assumptions depend both on the data and on the model fitted to that data, it is meaningless to say that “Data set A does not satisfy the linear regression assumptions”, because this observation might not apply to all formulations of all models applied to that data.  
Consequently, these assumptions can be used constructively, when model building, or as checks, when validating models.

# Linear relationship



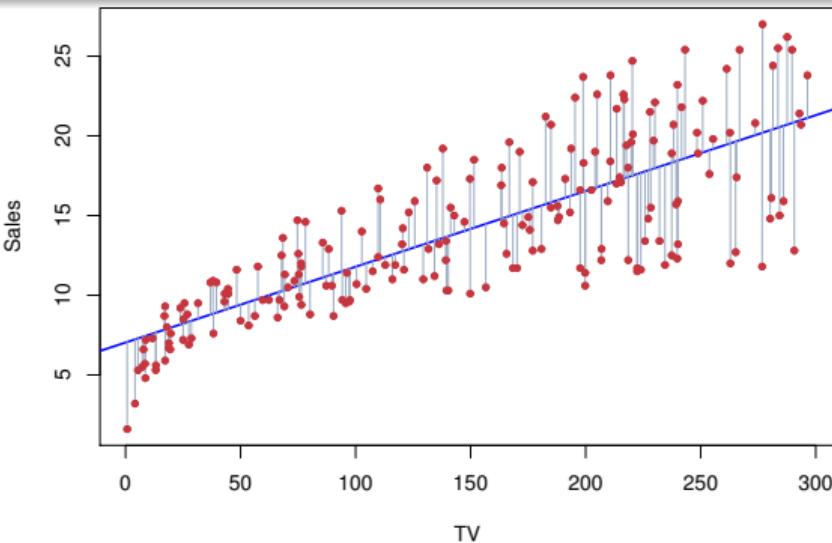
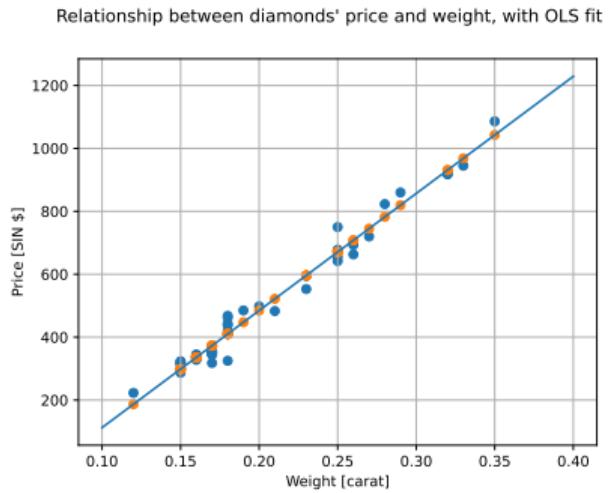
- In both cases, the relationship between predictor (feature) and target is approximately linear.

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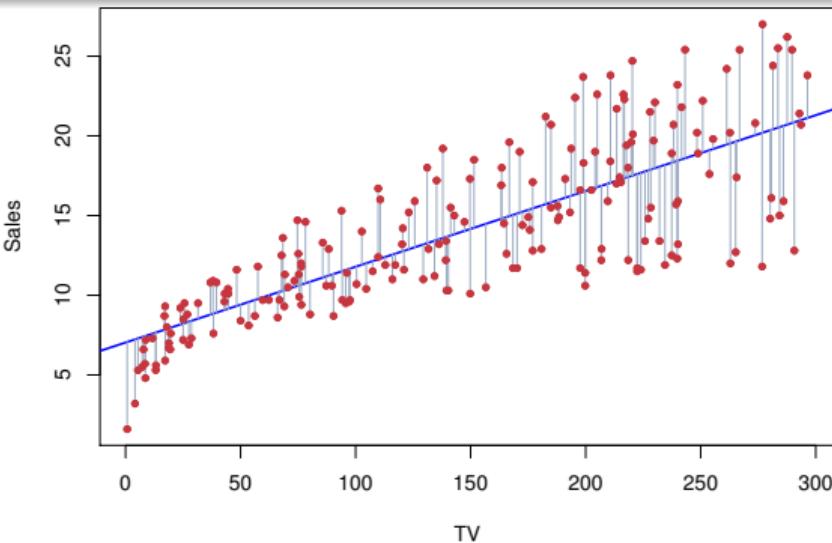
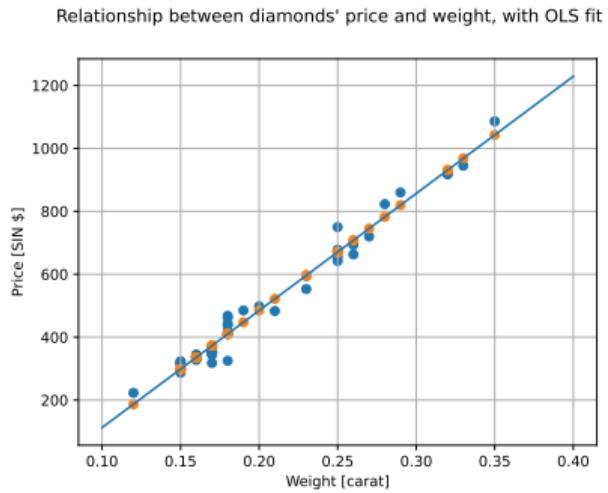
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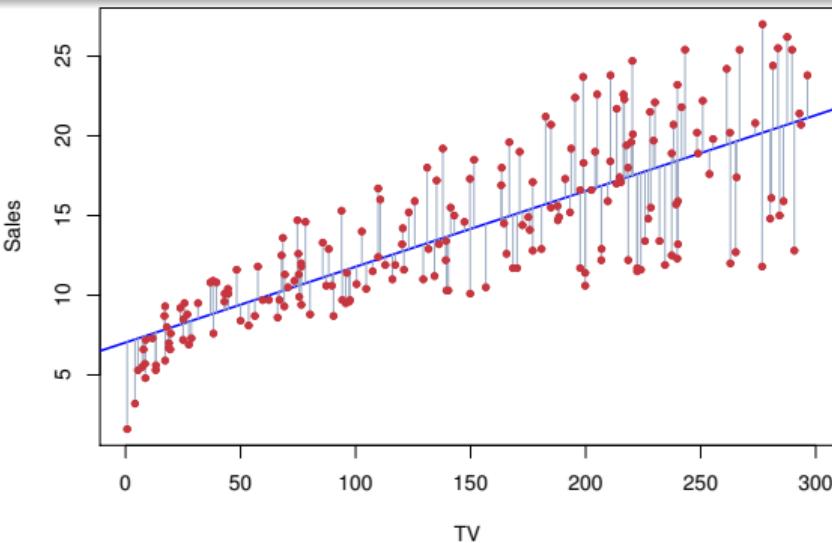
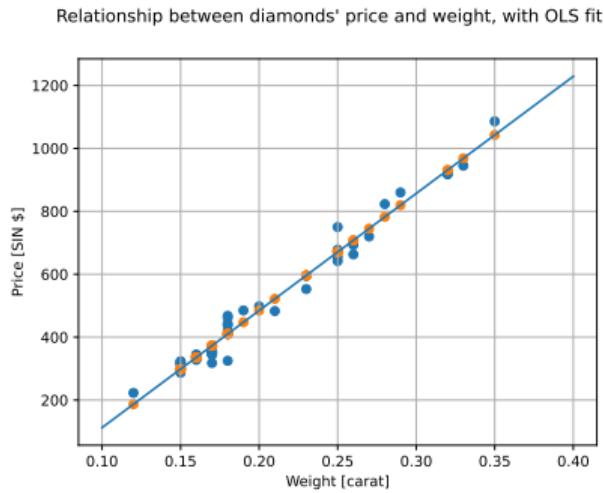
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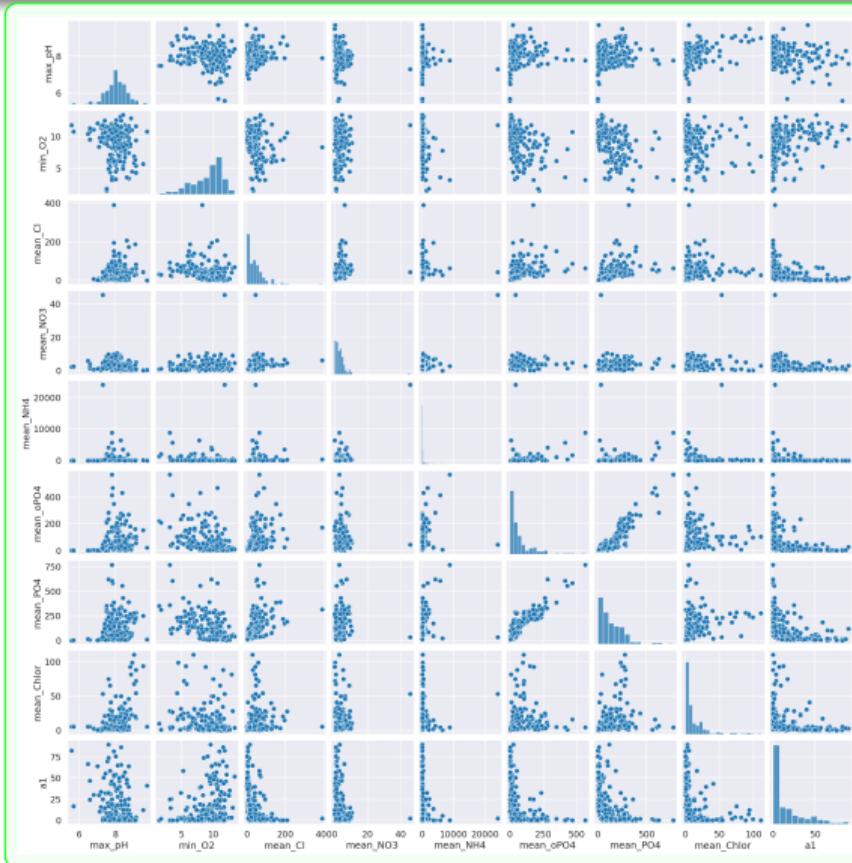
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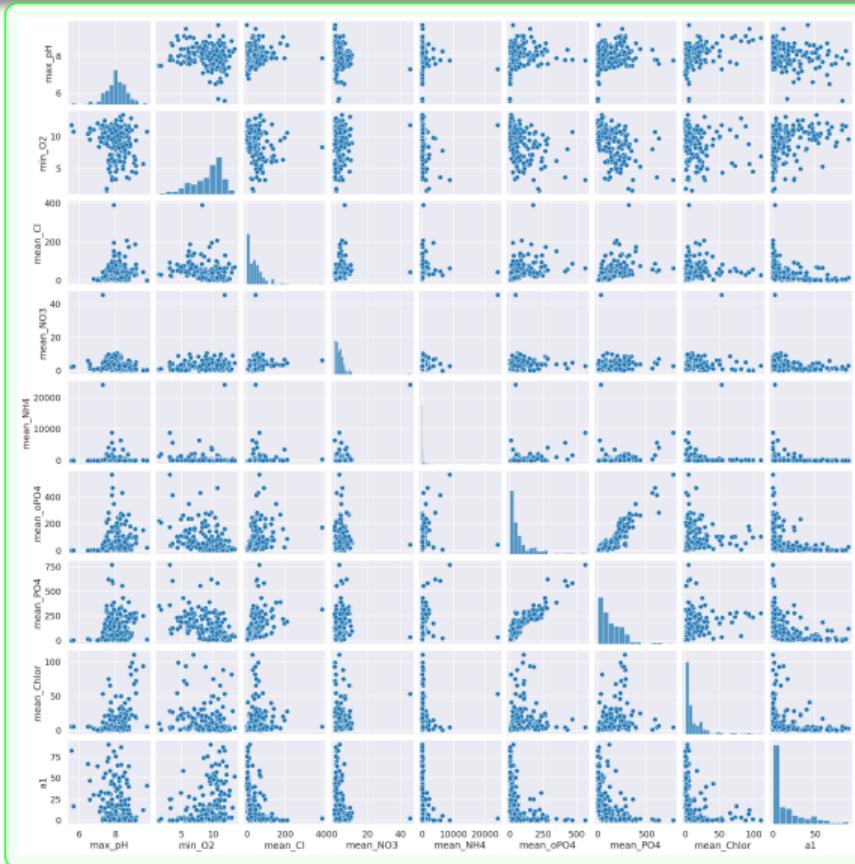
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- $\epsilon_i$  is the *residual error*. It quantifies data behaviour not included in our model.

# Collinearity (high pairwise correlation) among the algae bloom predictors



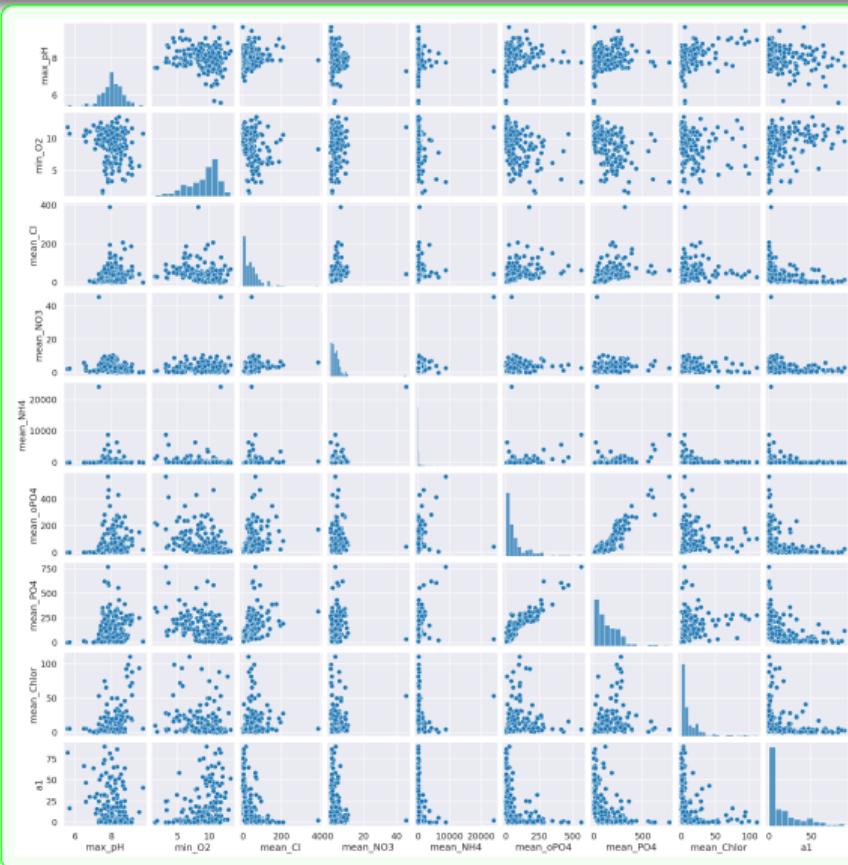
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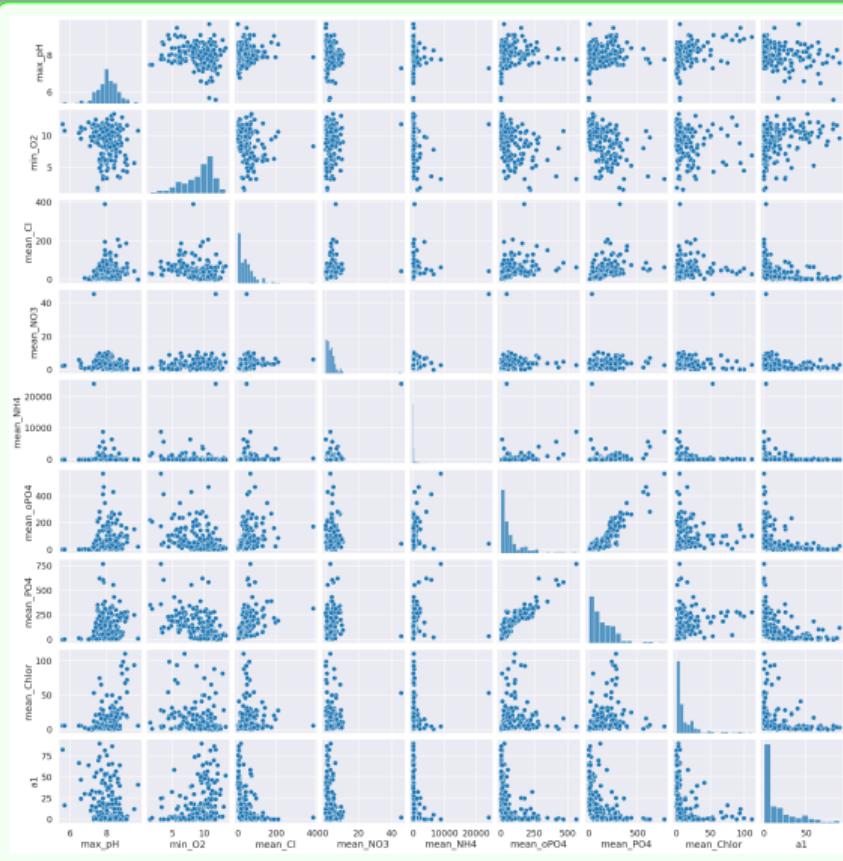
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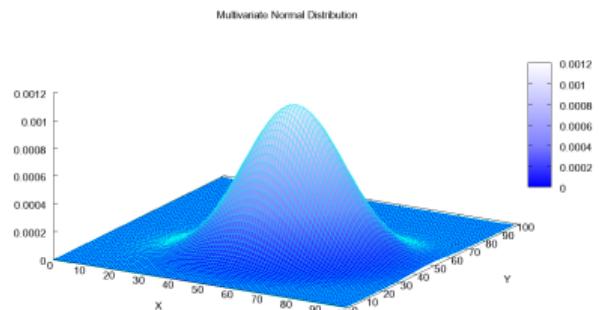
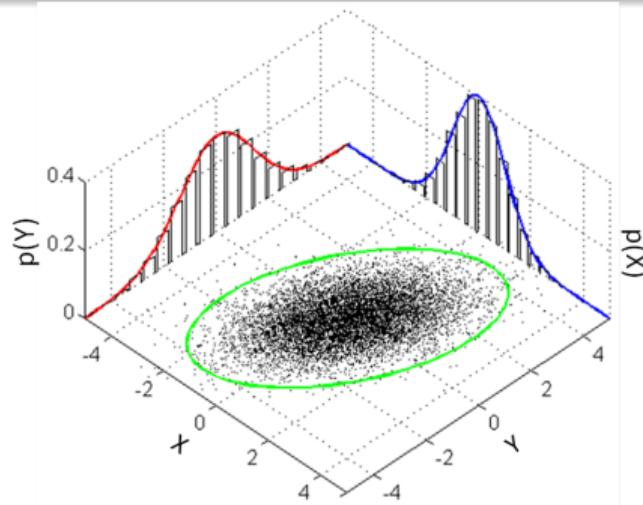
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- However, it is still possible that a combination of predictors might predict `a1` well.

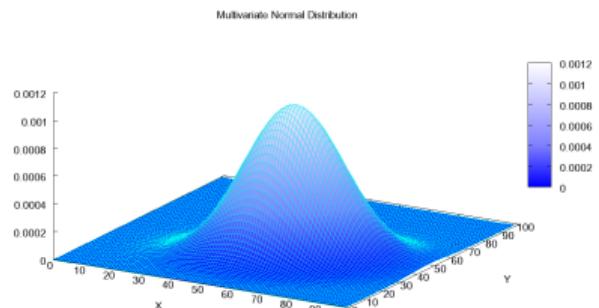
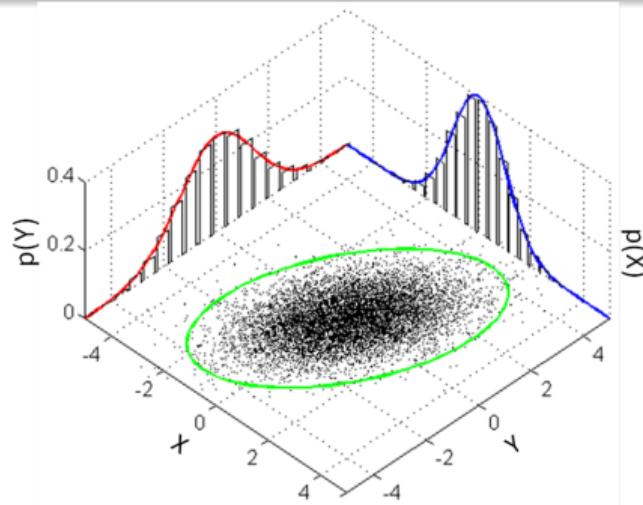
# Errors are normally distributed

- Centred on zero so small errors are more common



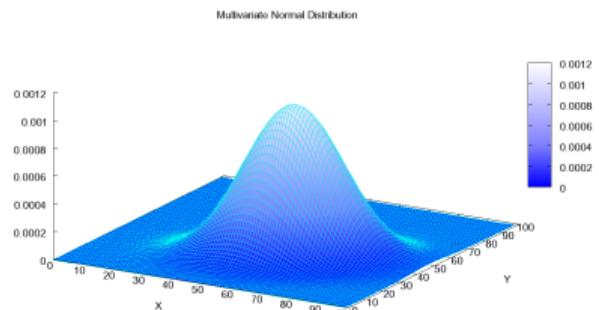
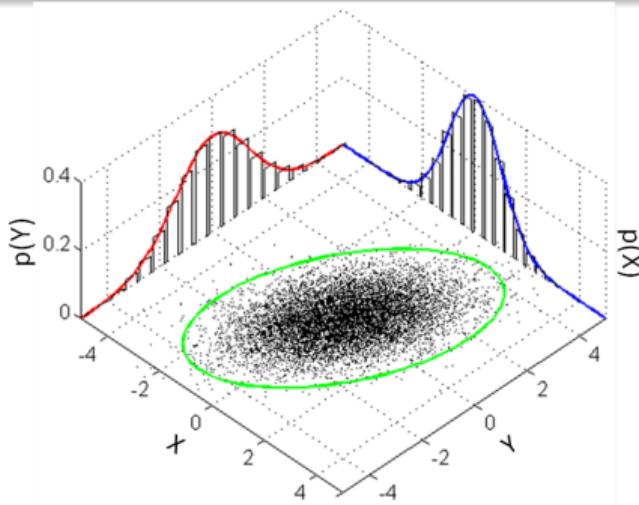
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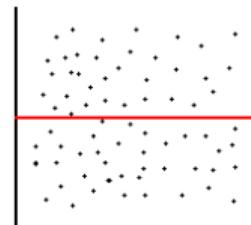


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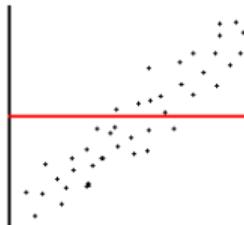
- Centred on zero so small errors are more common
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- Normal distribution is also called the Gaussian distribution and is “bell-shaped”.



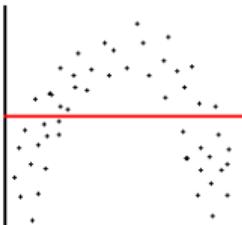
# Bias and variance in regression



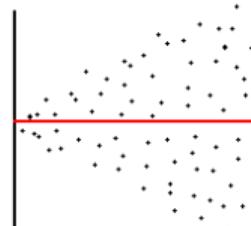
(a) Unbiased and Homoscedastic



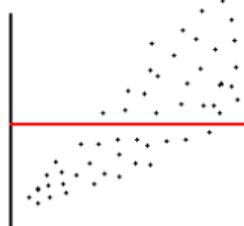
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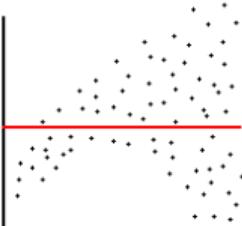
(c) Biased and Homoscedastic



(d) Unbiased and Heteroscedastic



(e) Biased and Heteroscedastic

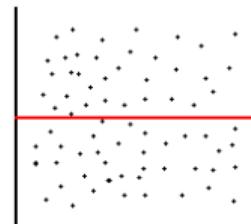


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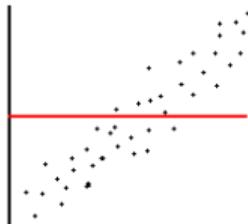
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Source: <https://bit.ly/3vC9zK7>

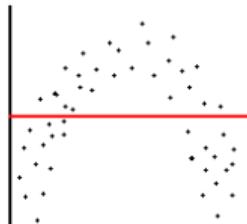
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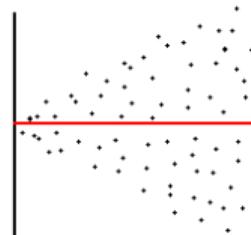
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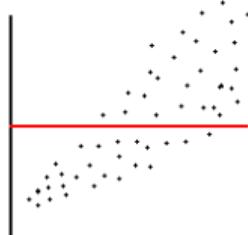
(b) Biased and Homoscedastic



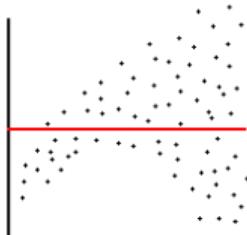
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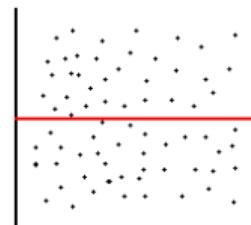


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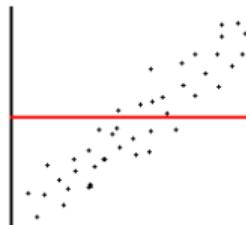
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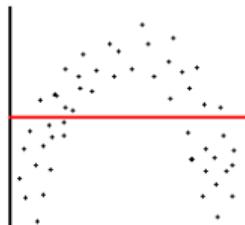
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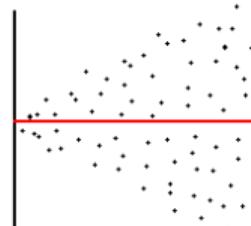
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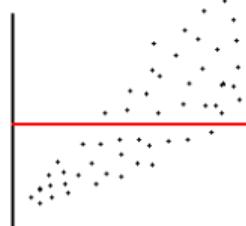
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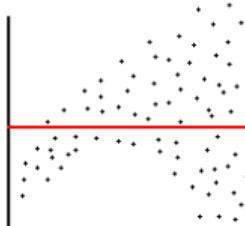
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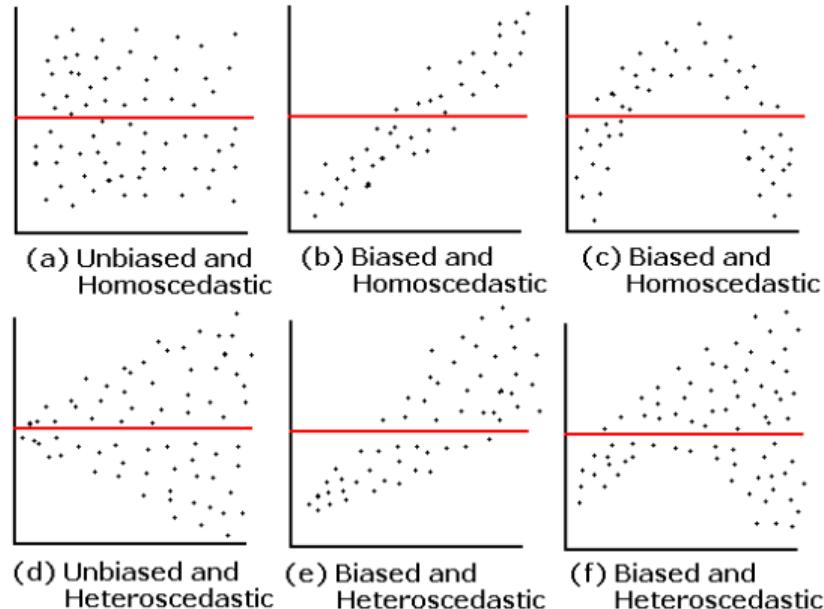


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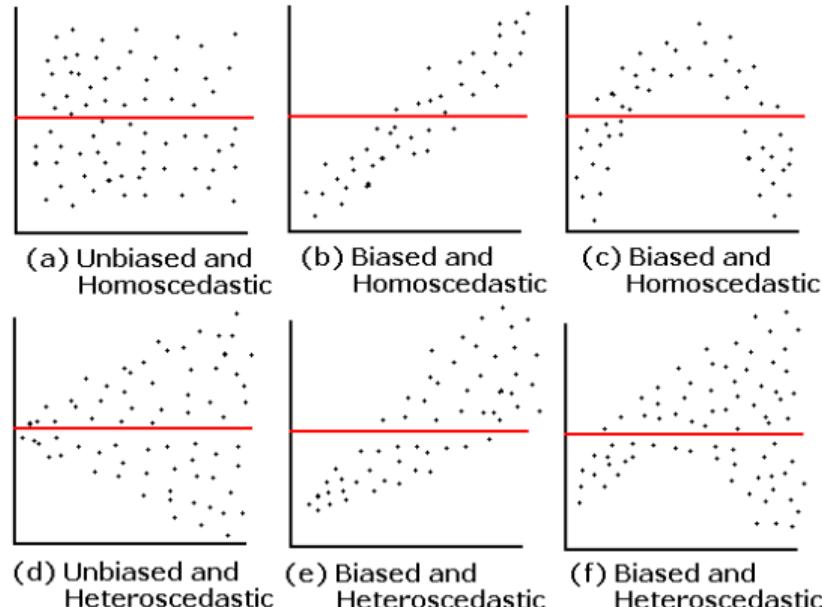
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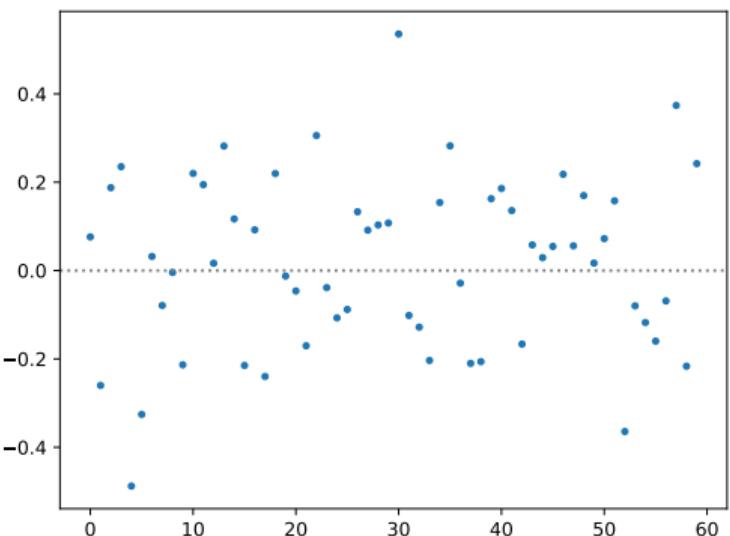


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- Fix this by weighting the errors so they are balanced.

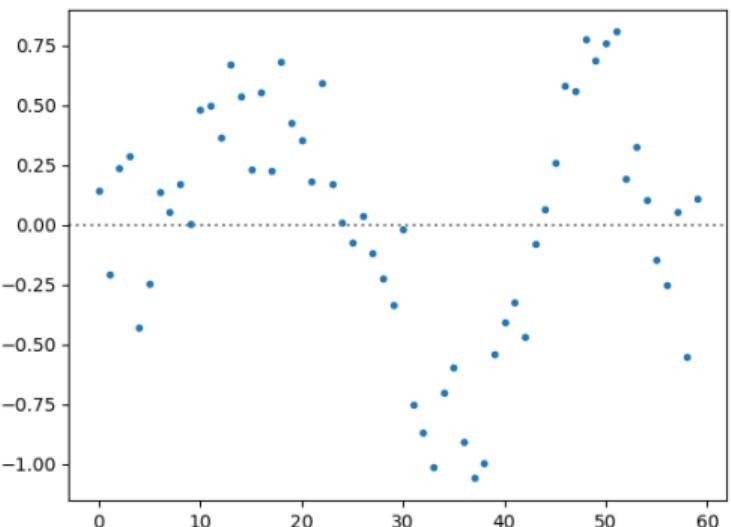
Source: <https://bit.ly/3vC9zK7>

# Errors should not be serially correlated

## No serial correlation



## Positive serial correlation

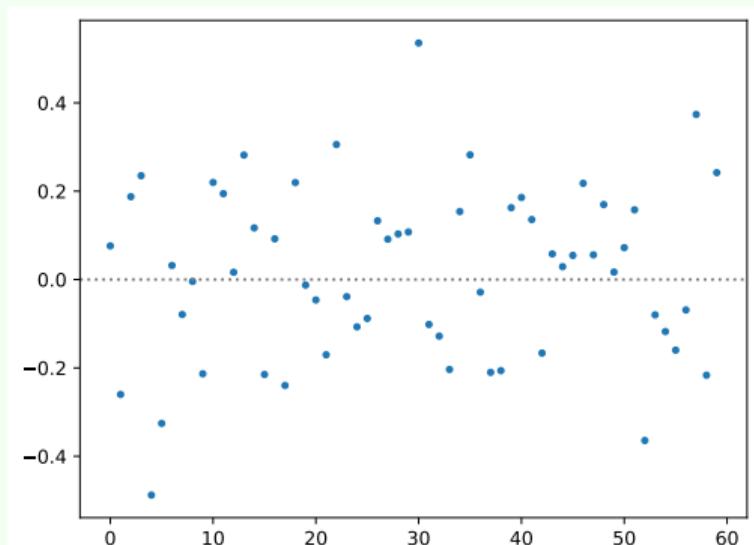


Apparent seasonal effects - can they be removed?

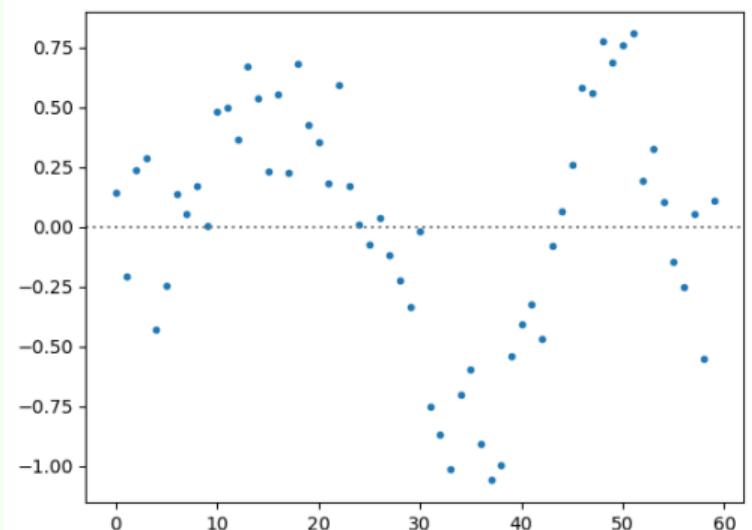
- ① Add feature to the model

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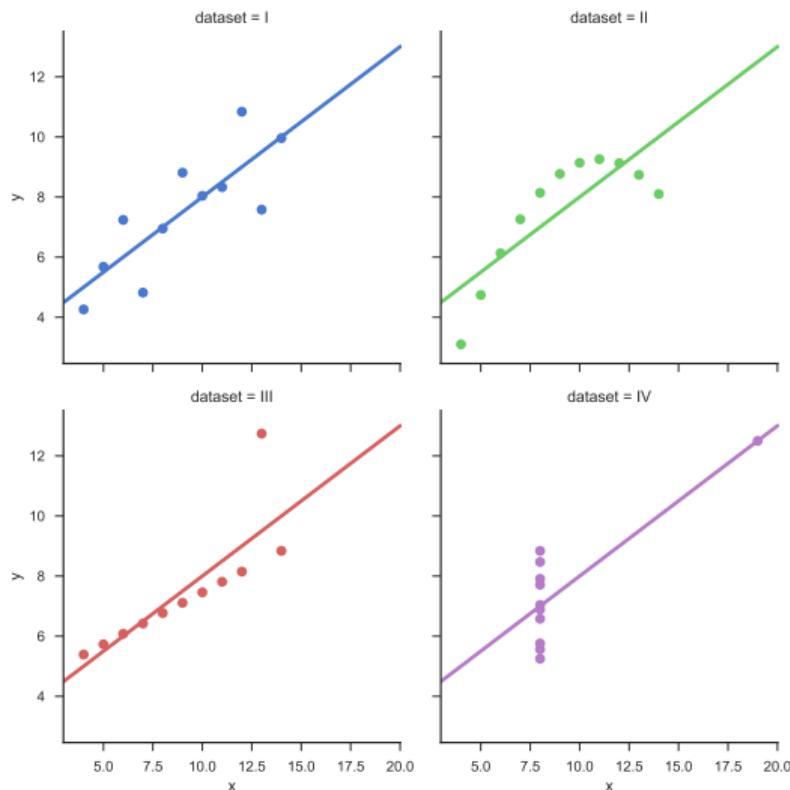
## Positive serial correlation



Apparent seasonal effects - can they be removed?

- ① Add feature to the model
- ② Include autoregressive terms (but then it is no longer Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)!)

# Anscombe's quartet (1973)



Francis Anscombe devised 4 data sets to show different forms of misalignment between data and models. Sets I, II, III share the same  $x$  values. All 4 sets share approximately the same descriptive statistics (mean and variance), but little else is common to all 4!

Only I appears suited as it stands. The other data sets require some work, particularly IV.

**What do you think needs to be done for each data set?**

# Common Cost Functions in Regression Models

Remember: we are trying to minimise a loss function based on the error, which we approximate with the residuals of the training set.

# Common Cost Functions in Regression Models

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Measure	Definition	Purpose
Mean square error (MSE)	$\frac{(p_1 - a_1)^2 + \dots + (p_m - a_m)^2}{m}$	Mathematically tractable but places greater emphasise on observations with large error
Root mean square error (RMSE)	$\sqrt{\frac{(p_1 - a_1)^2 + \dots + (p_m - a_m)^2}{m}}$	Has same units as data
Mean absolute error (RMAE)	$\frac{ p_1 - a_1  + \dots +  p_m - a_m }{m}$	Does not overemphasise observations with large error (like MSE does)
Relative square error (RSE)	$\frac{(p_1 - a_1)^2 + \dots + (p_m - a_m)^2}{(p_1 - \bar{a})^2 + \dots + (p_m - \bar{a})^2}$	Relative metric compares the error in the predictions with errors in the simplest model possible (a model just always predicting the average value of y)
Root Relative square error (RRSE)	$\sqrt{\frac{(p_1 - a_1)^2 + \dots + (p_m - a_m)^2}{(p_1 - \bar{a})^2 + \dots + (p_m - \bar{a})^2}}$	
Relative absolute error (RAE)	$\frac{ p_1 - a_1  + \dots +  p_m - a_m }{ p_1 - \bar{a}  + \dots +  p_m - \bar{a} }$	

where  $a_j$  is the actual value,  $p_j$  is the predicted value,  $m$  is the number of observations, and  $\bar{a}$  represents the mean of the  $a_j$ .

# Choices of Vector norms

## Definition 5 (Manhattan norm)

$\ell_1(\dots) = \|\dots\|_1$  is the *Manhattan* norm (length) of a vector. Let  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)$ . Then  $\ell_1(\dots) = \|\dots\|_1 = |x_1| + |x_2| + \dots + |x_m|$  is the *Manhattan* distance of  $\mathbf{x}$  from the origin. Think of having to *walk* from one junction in Manhattan to another, the distance is the difference in the Street numbers plus the difference in the Avenue numbers.

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## Definition 6 (Euclidean norm)

$\ell_2(\dots) = \|\dots\|_2$  is the *Euclidean* norm (length) of a vector. Let  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)$ . Then  $\ell_2(\dots) = \|\dots\|_2 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_m^2}$  is the *Euclidean* distance of  $\mathbf{x}$  from the origin. Think of being able to *fly* over all the buildings using the shortest route (think: Pythagoras theorem!) from one junction in Manhattan to another.

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The Euclidean norm is very common, but the Manhattan norm is gaining popularity, because it is robust to outliers and computers are becoming powerful enough. However we generally use Euclidean norm in this module.

# Sidebar: Distance Measures for numeric data

## Definition 7 (Minkowski $p$ -norm)

For a real number  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , the  $p$ -norm of  $\mathbf{x}$  is defined by

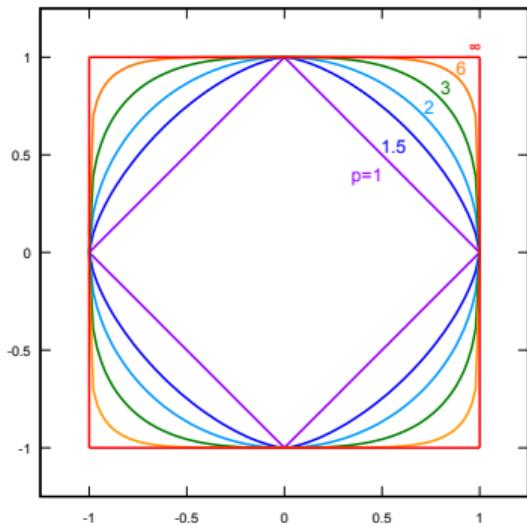
$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_p \equiv \left( |x_1|^p + |x_2|^p + \dots + |x_n|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

The limiting case of  $p = \infty$  is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty \equiv \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|, \dots, |x_n|\}.$$

See the visualisation of the “unit balls” alongside, for  $p = 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 6, \infty$ .

The most common norms are when  $p = 1, 2$ , or,  $\infty$ . Choice of  $p$  depends on the application scenario. Can you think of when you would use each?



Source: wikipedia

# Huber loss