

#### Part 01a: Overview

Preparation

Data Handling

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Exploring Data ([bernard.butler@setu.ie](mailto:bernard.butler@setu.ie)) Exploring Data 2

Building Models

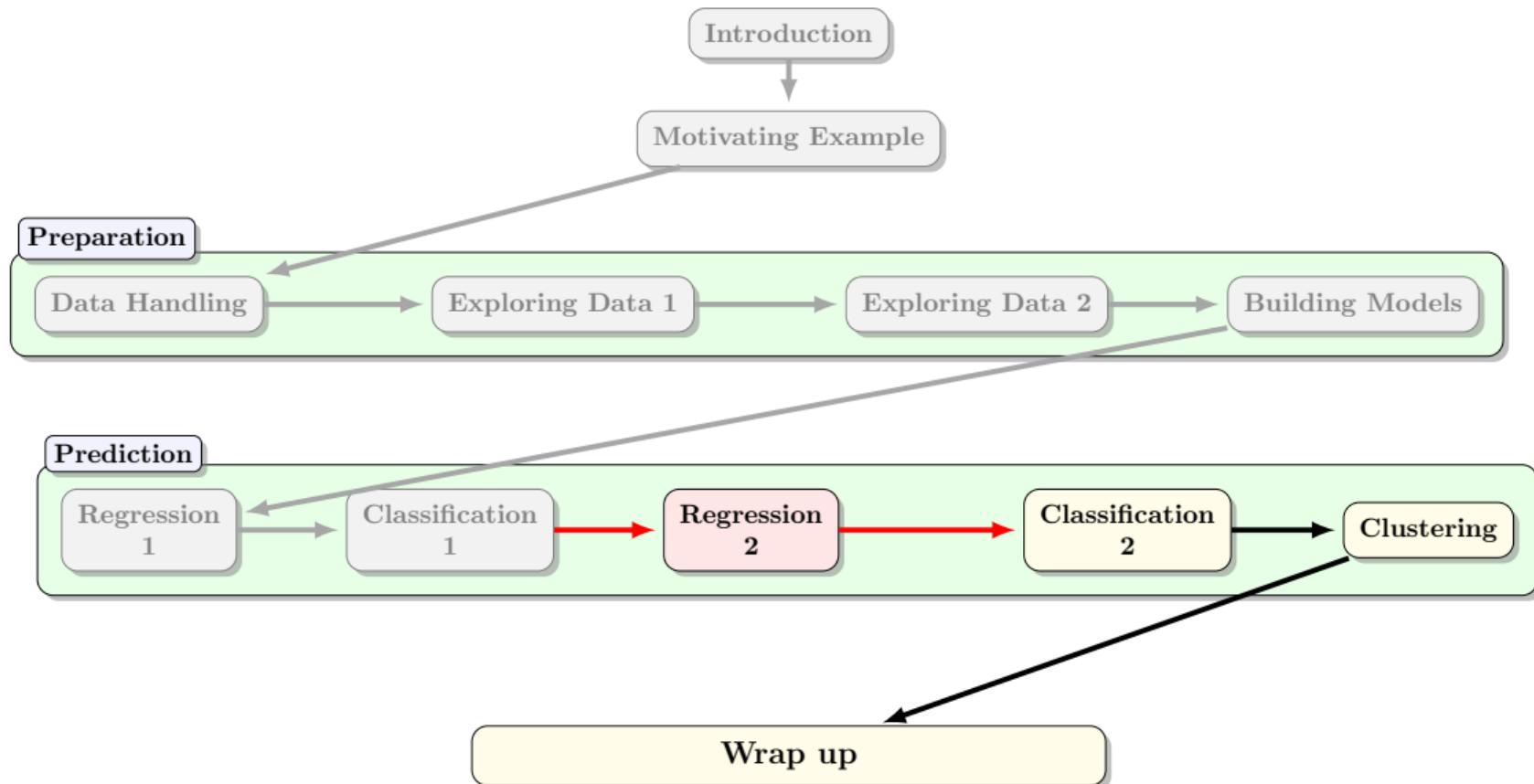
Autumn Semester, 2025

#### Outline

- Regression assumptions, and how-
- to deal with heteroscedasticity and why it is a problem
- unrepresentative training data can lead to overfitting
- feature collinearity can be assessed
- Provide a worked example of forward selection of features, and interaction terms, for model building

Wrap up

# Data Mining (Week 9)



# Outline

1. Introduction	3
2. Regression1 review	5
3. Case Study 1: Generated	9
4. Case Study 3: Advertising	14

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This week's aim is to continue the introduction to linear regression, focusing more on how to deal with problems with more challenging datasets.

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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.

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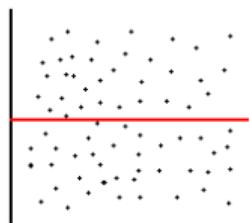
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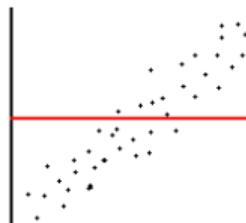
➤ These assumptions can be used constructively, when model building, or as checks, when validating models.

# Bias and variance in regression

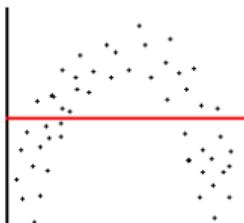
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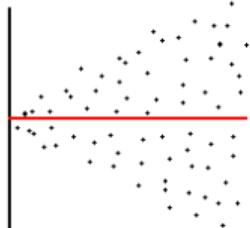
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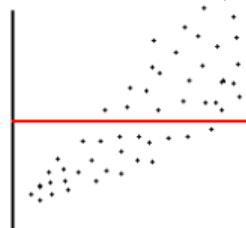
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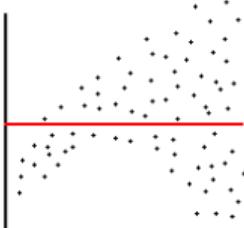
(c) Biased and Homoscedastic



(d) Unbiased and Heteroscedastic



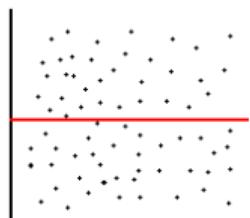
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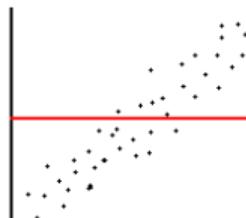
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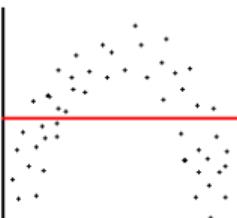
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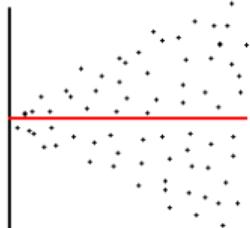
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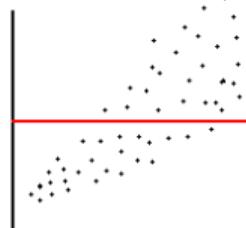
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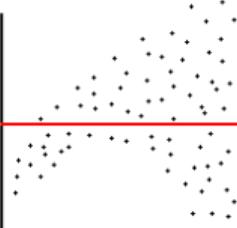
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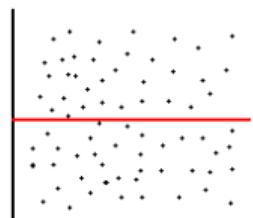


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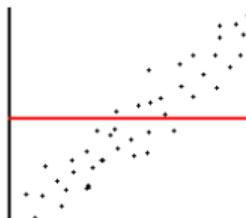
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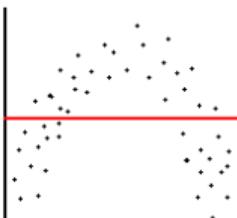
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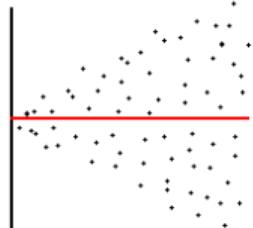
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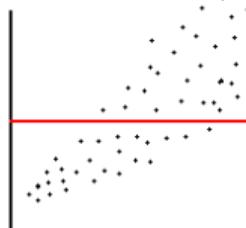
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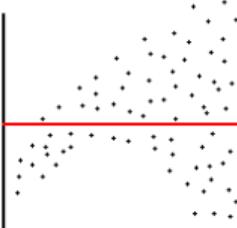
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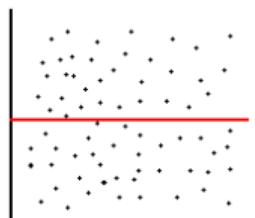


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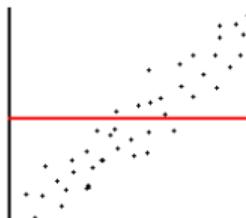
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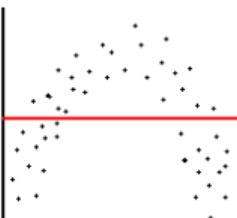
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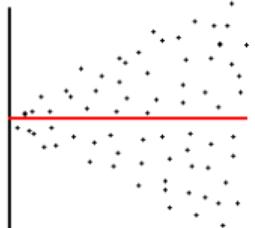
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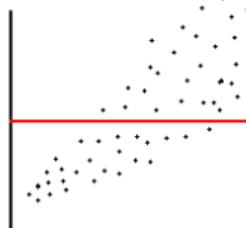
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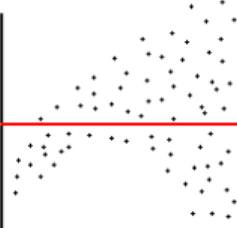
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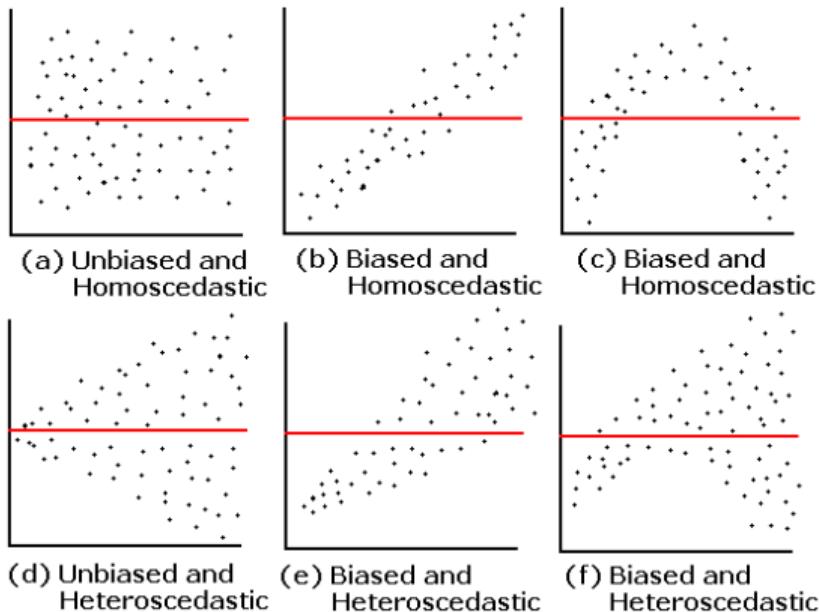


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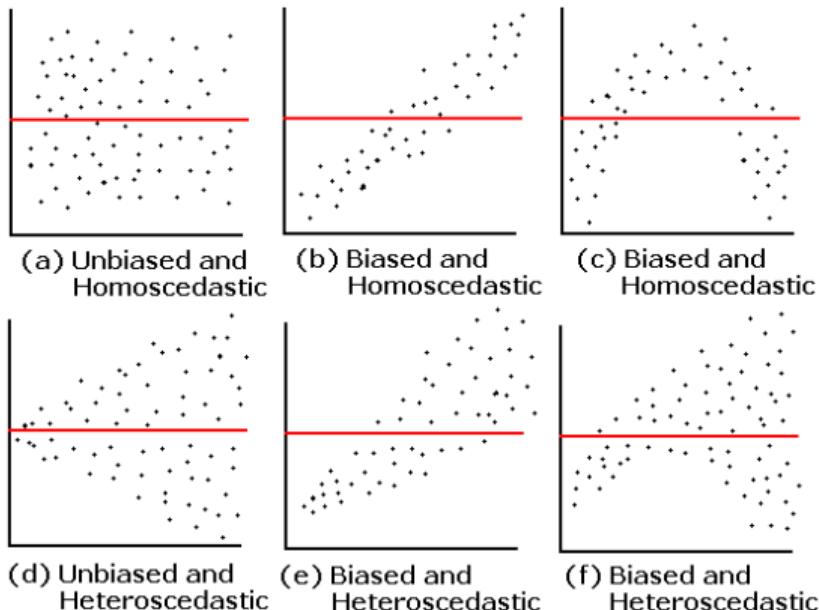
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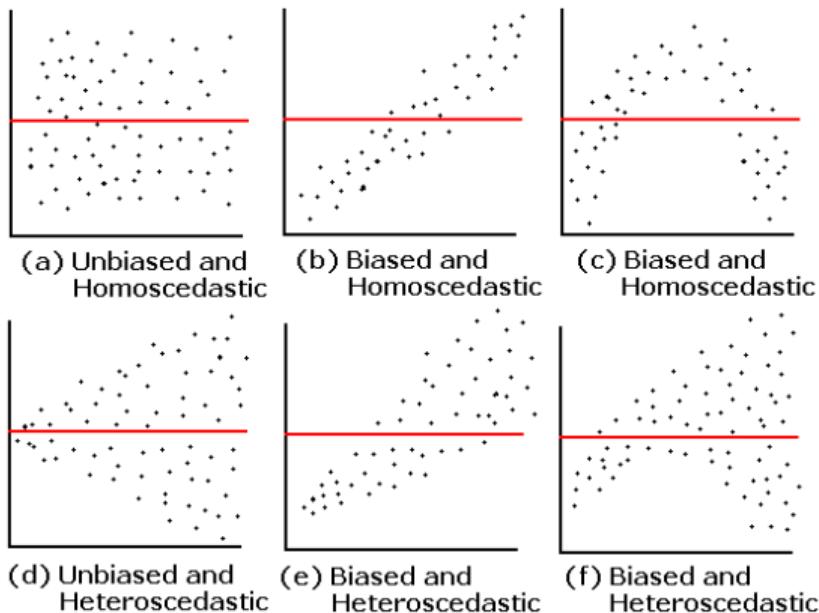
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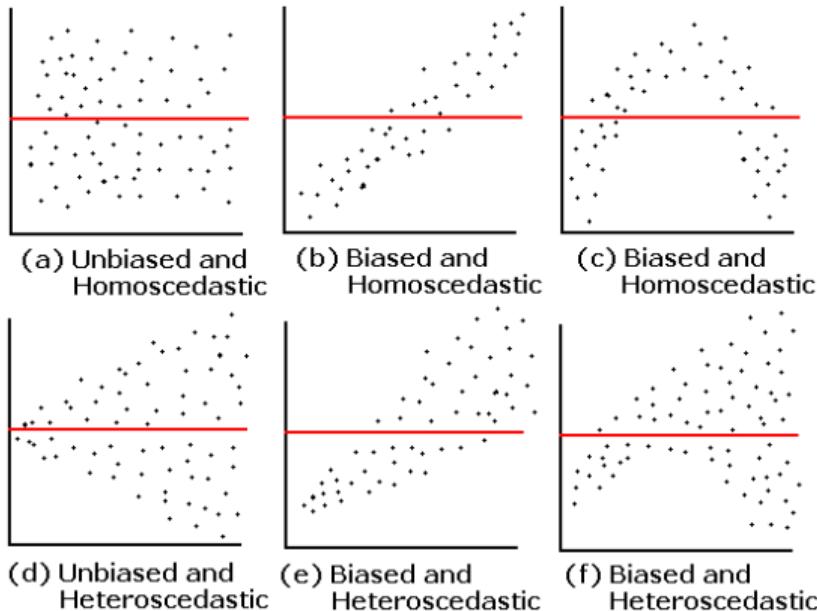
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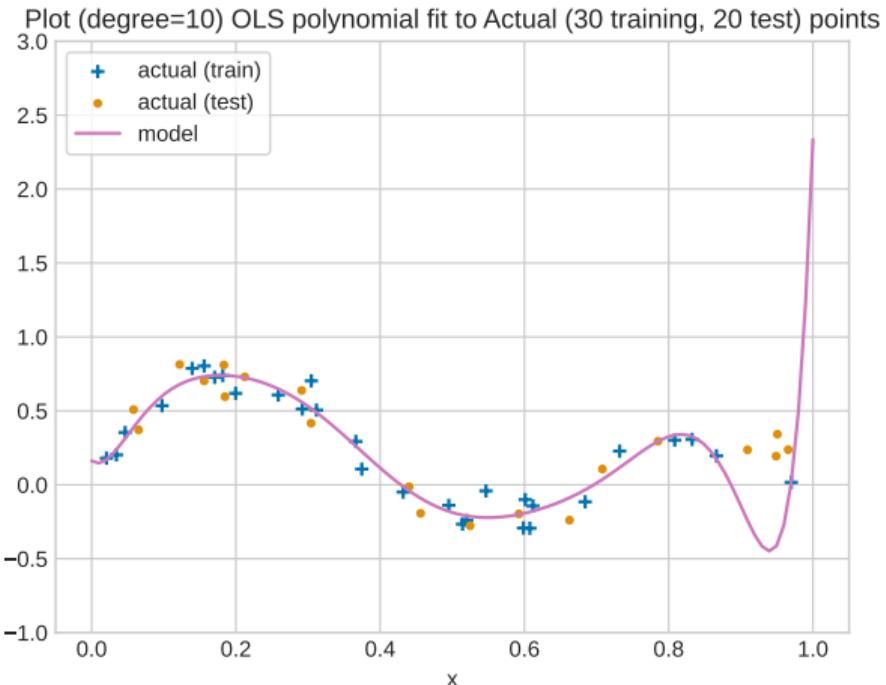
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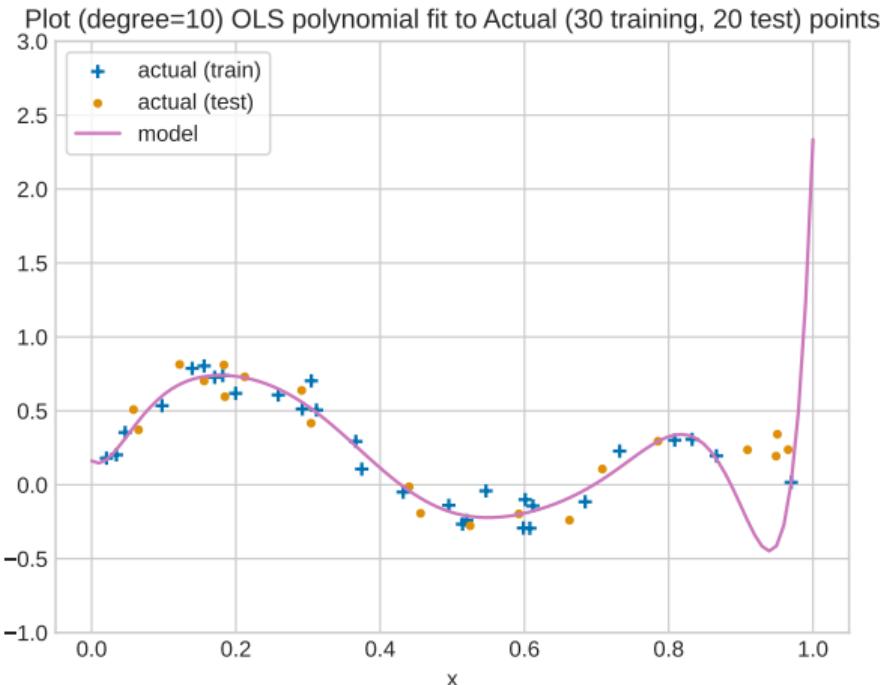
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  - Using statsmodels: use the weighted version of least squares: `WLS(y, X, someWeights)` not `OLS(y, X)`

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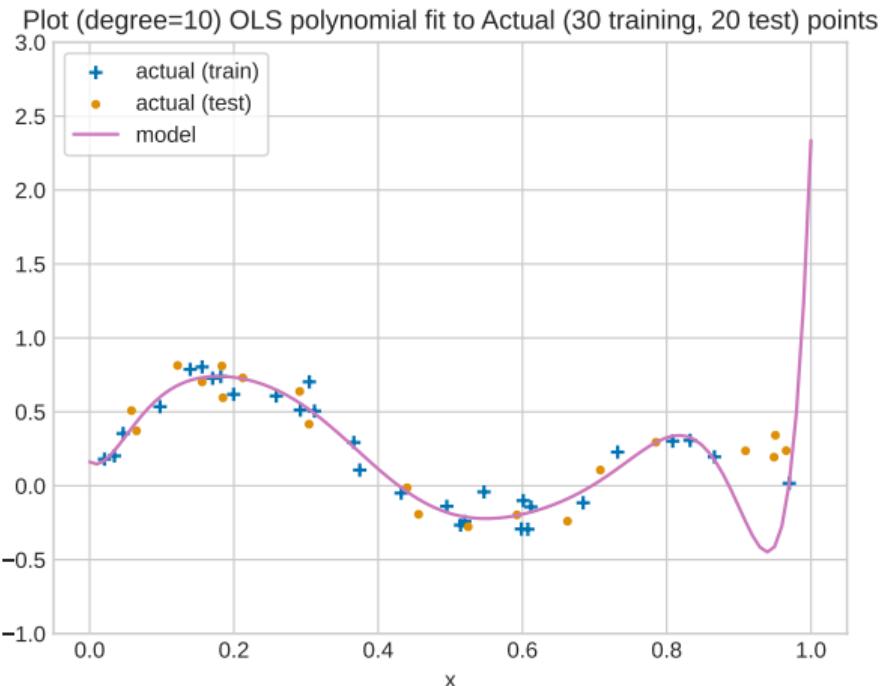


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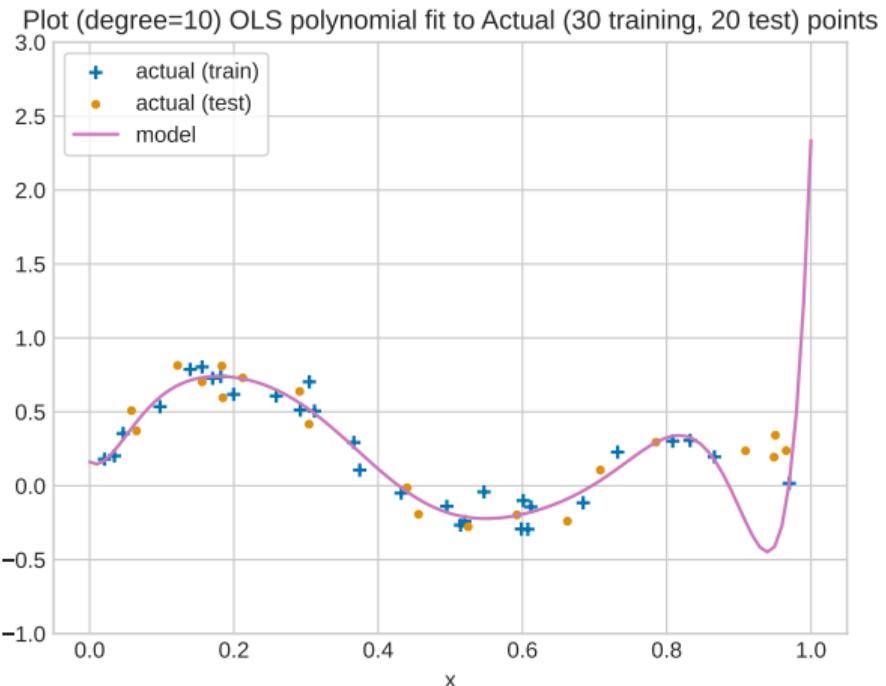
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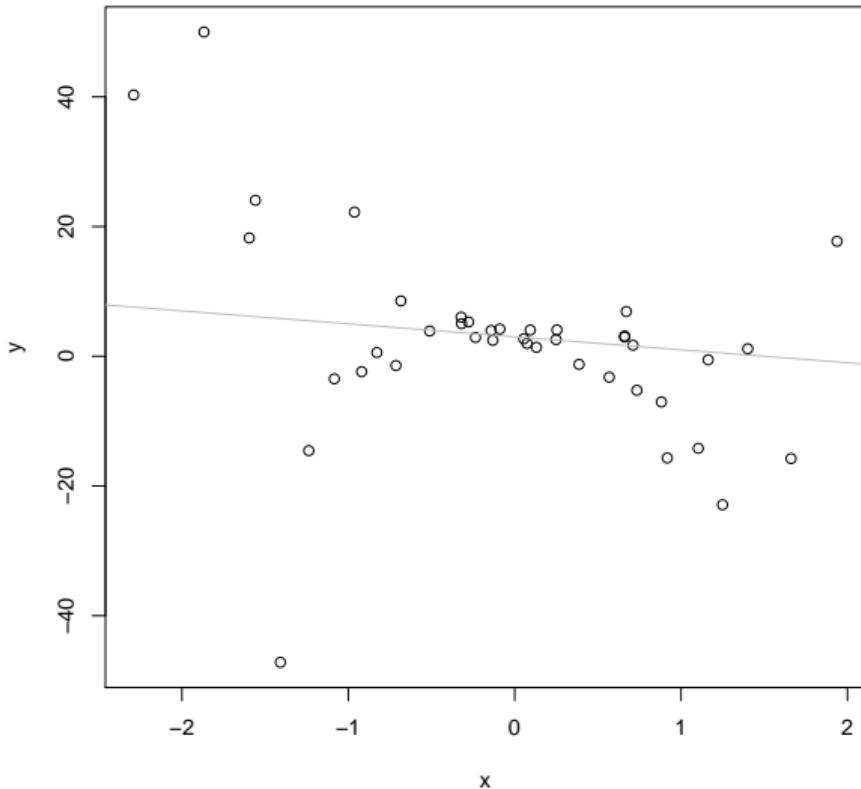


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- ➌ Model may be overfitting

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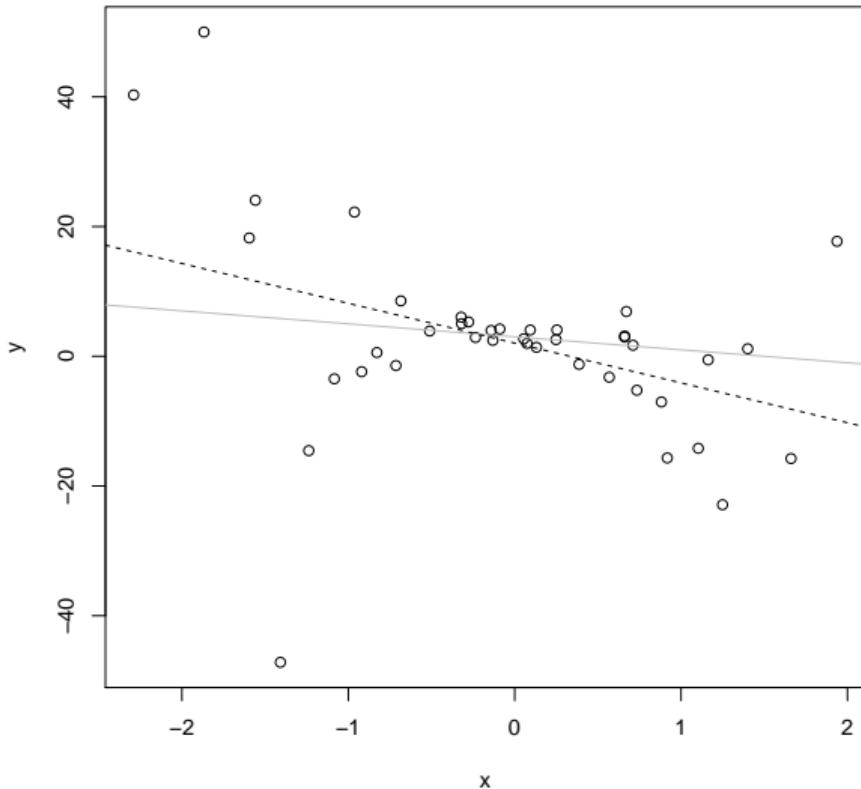
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# Case Study 1: Heteroscedasticity - Step 1



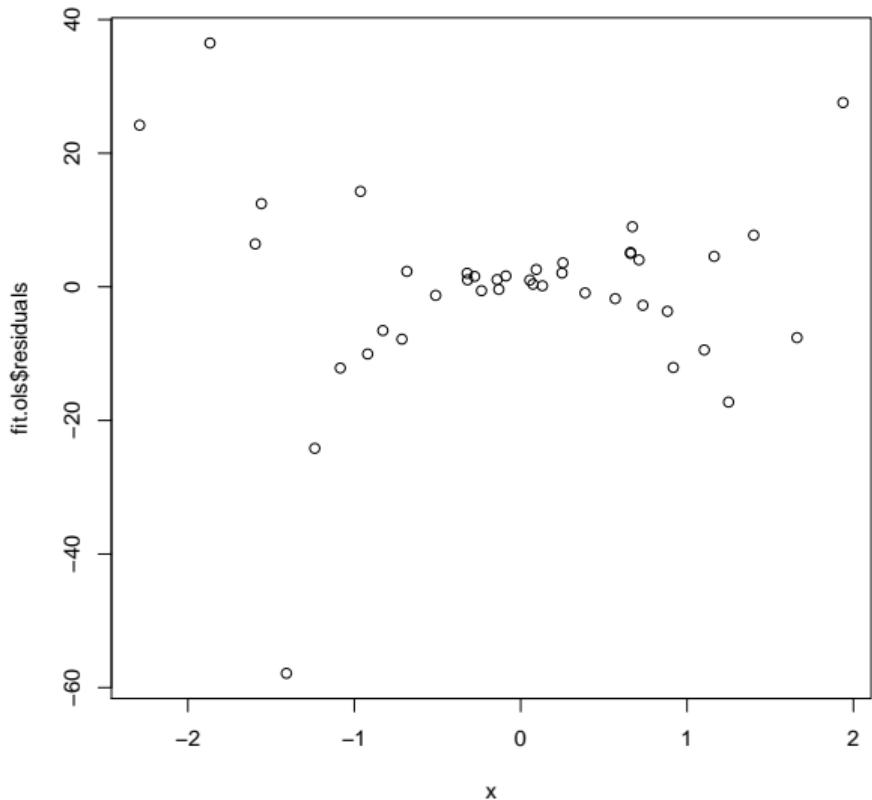
I generated 41  $x, y$  points based on  $y = 3 - 2x$ , but with added errors that increase away from  $x = 0$ . The plot shows the line with  $\beta = (3, -2)$  in grey.

# Case Study 1: Heteroscedasticity - Step 2



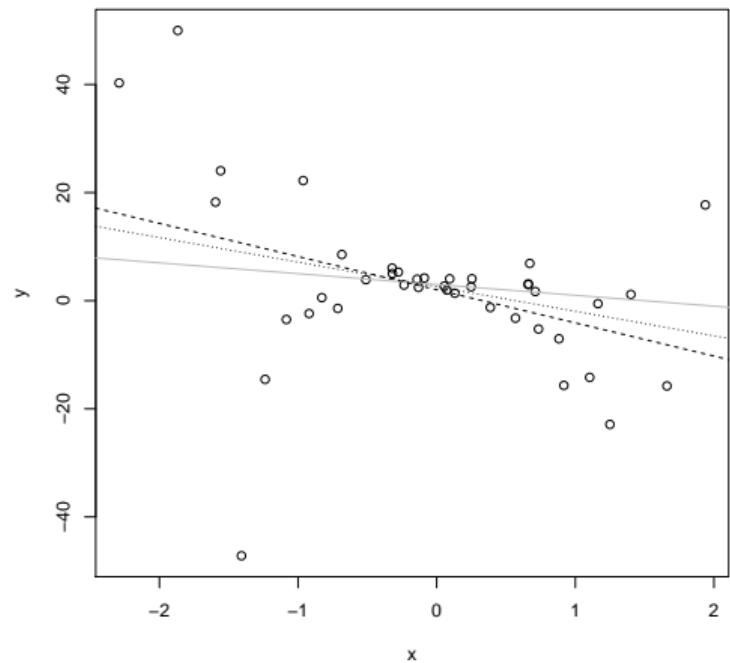
In this plot I added the OLS fit as a dashed line. Note that the parameters of the fit are quite different:  
 $\beta_{OLS} \approx (2, -6)$ , equivalent to  
 $y = 2 - 6x$ .

# Case Study 1: Heteroscedasticity - Step 3

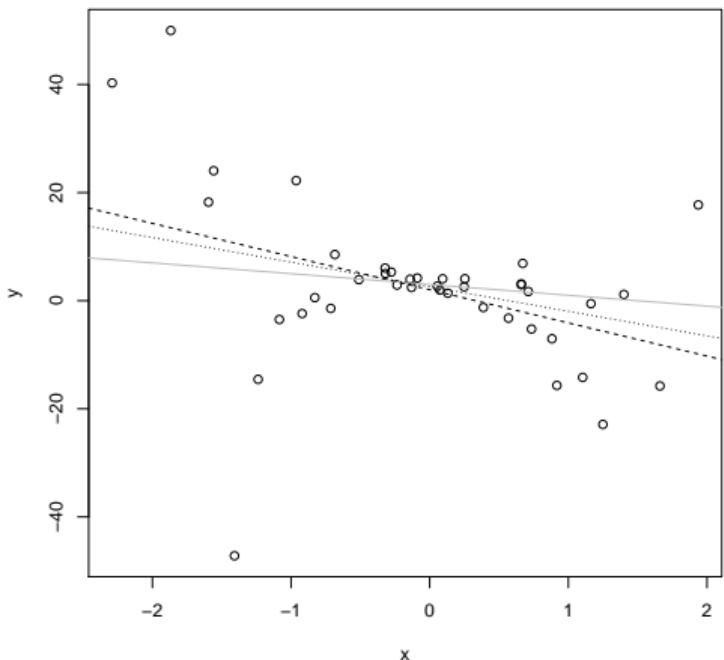


This plot shows how the OLS residuals  $\epsilon_{OLS}$  increase rapidly away from 0, as expected (since this was how the data was generated).

# Case Study 1: Heteroscedasticity - Step 4

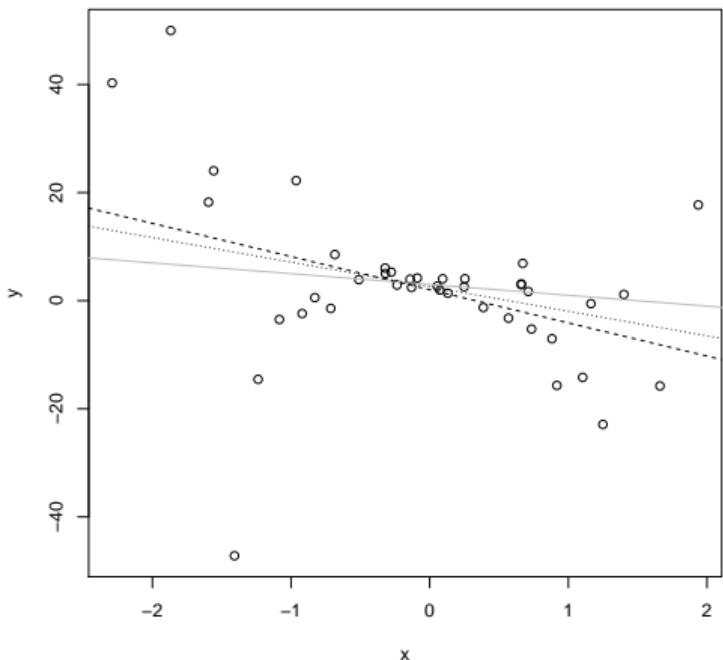


# Case Study 1: Heteroscedasticity - Step 4



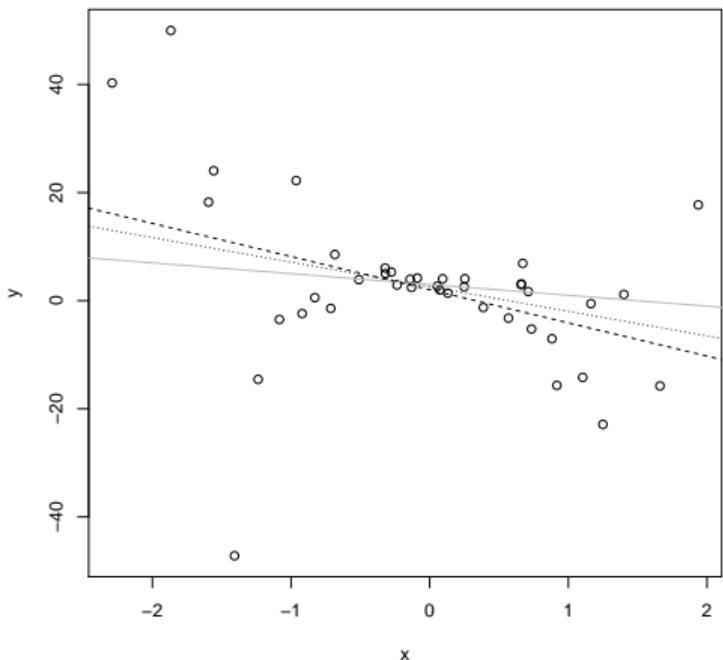
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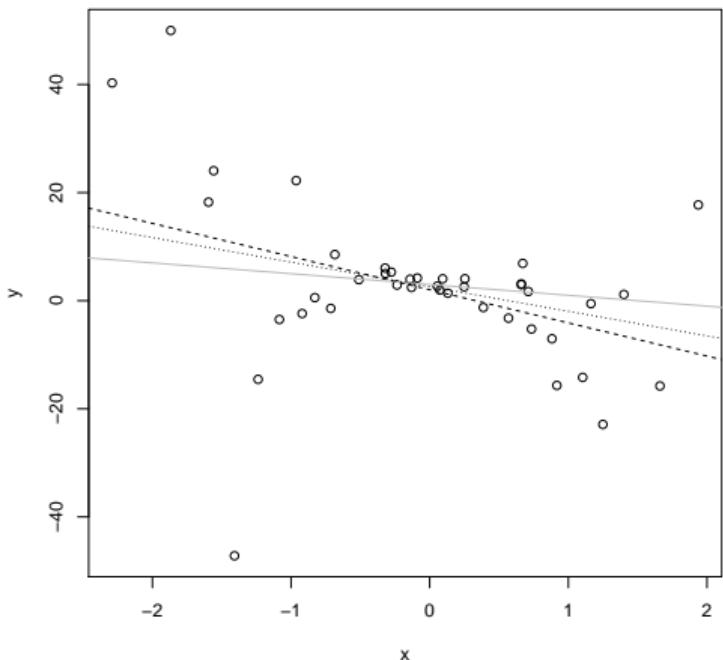
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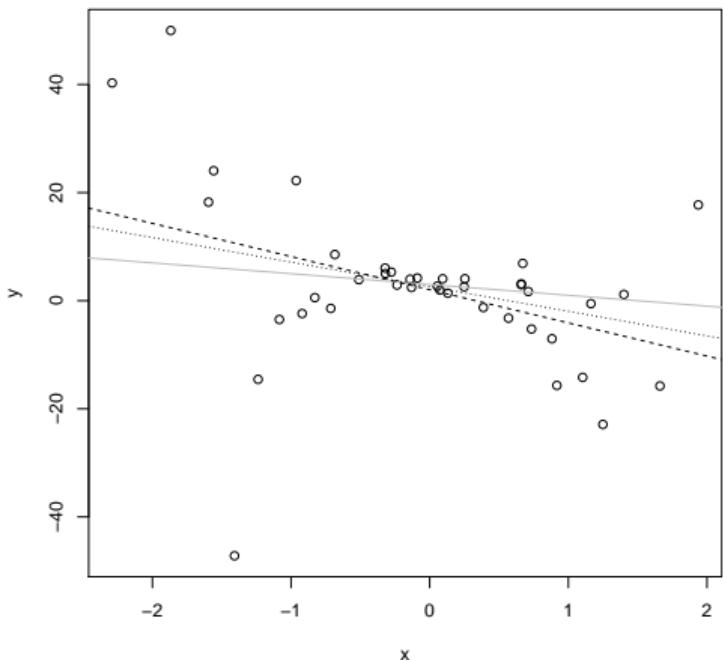
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- Iteratively Reweighted Least Squares* has been proposed to optimise regression models.

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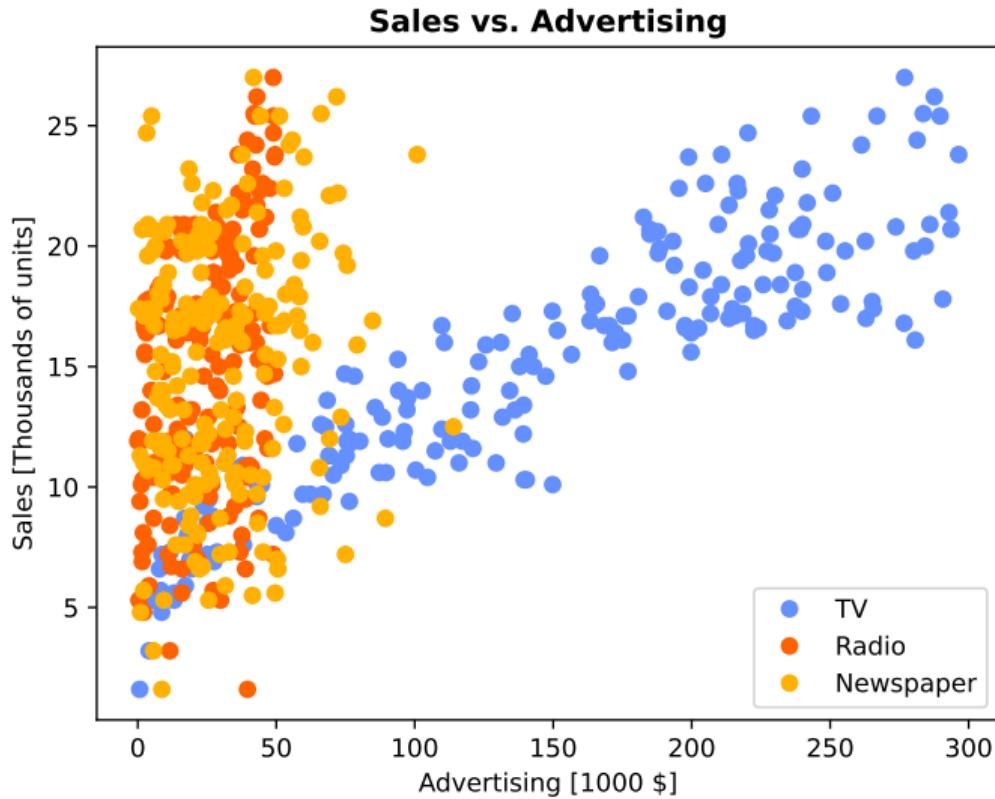
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# Case Study 3: Advertising: Data and Hypotheses

	TV	Radio	Newspaper	Sales
0	230.1	37.8	69.2	22.1
1	44.5	39.3	45.1	10.4
2	17.2	45.9	69.3	12.0
3	151.5	41.3	58.5	16.5
4	180.8	10.8	58.4	17.9

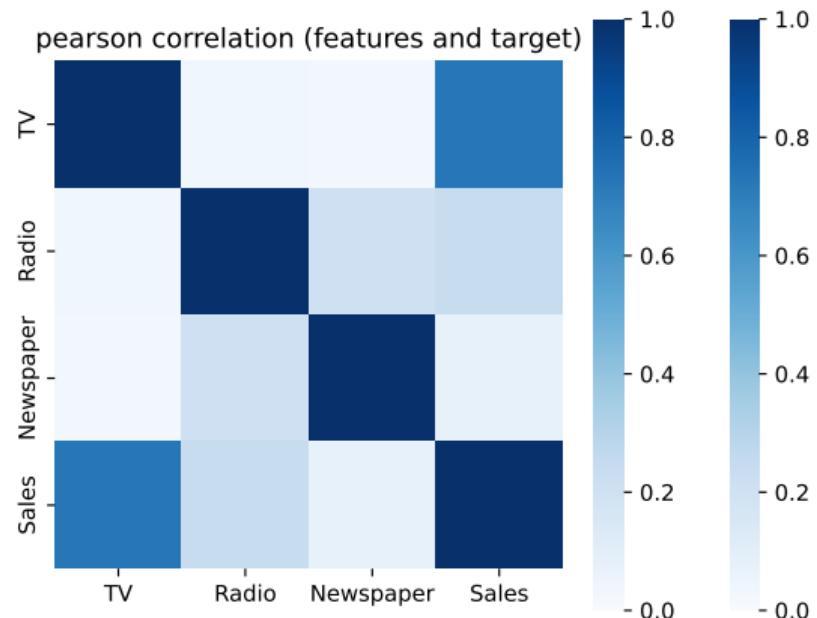
- In this data set, the sales figure captures how many thousands of widgets of a particular type were sold in a year.
- Newspaper, Radio and TV represent the annual spend per widget type on the associated advertising channel.
- The hypothesis is that spend on advertising is a good predictor of sales performance.
- Since marketing budgets are limited, where should the adverts be placed for maximum sales?
- Alternatively, how should marketing funds be distributed across the 3 channels to achieve a specified sales performance, while keeping the total spend as low as possible?

# Case Study 3: Advertising: Looking at the data



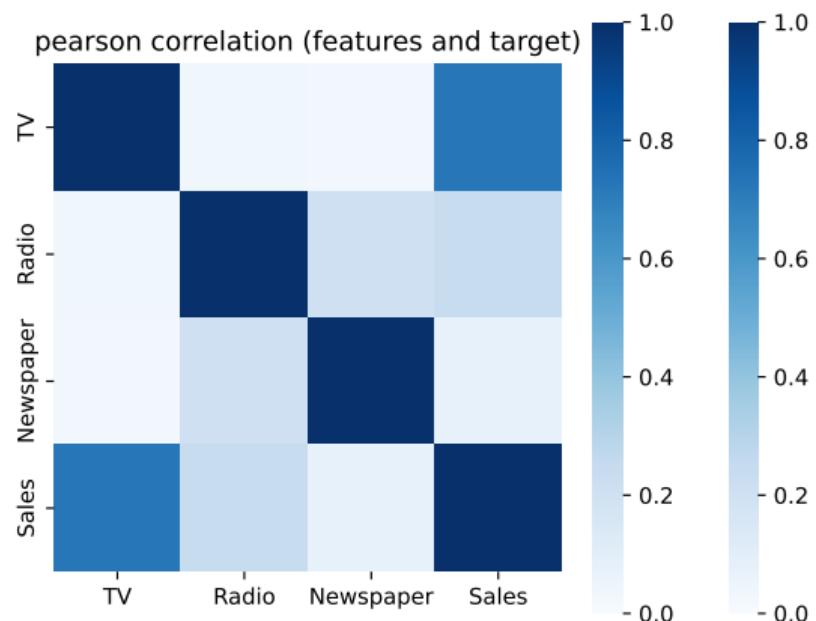
Which of the advertising channels appear to have a linear relationship with Sales?

# Case Study 3: Advertising: Collinearity?



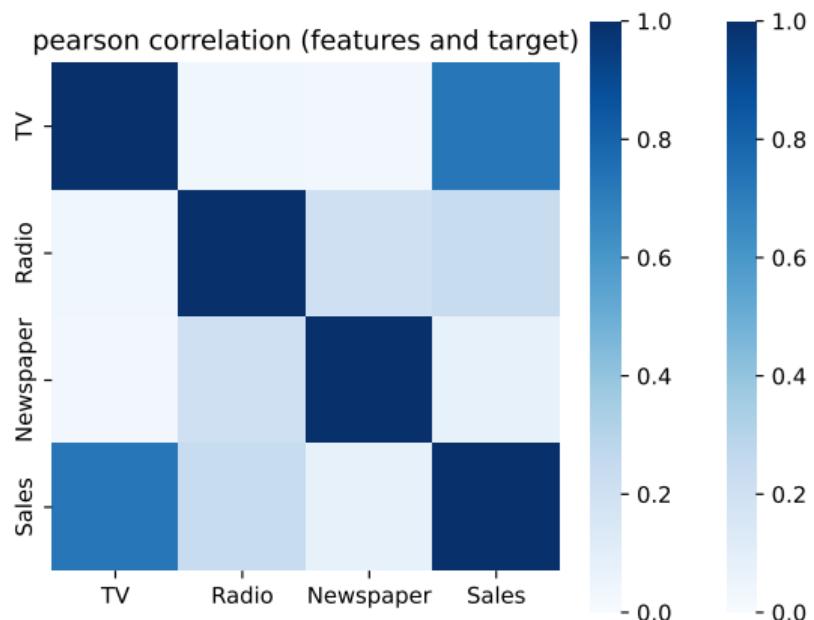
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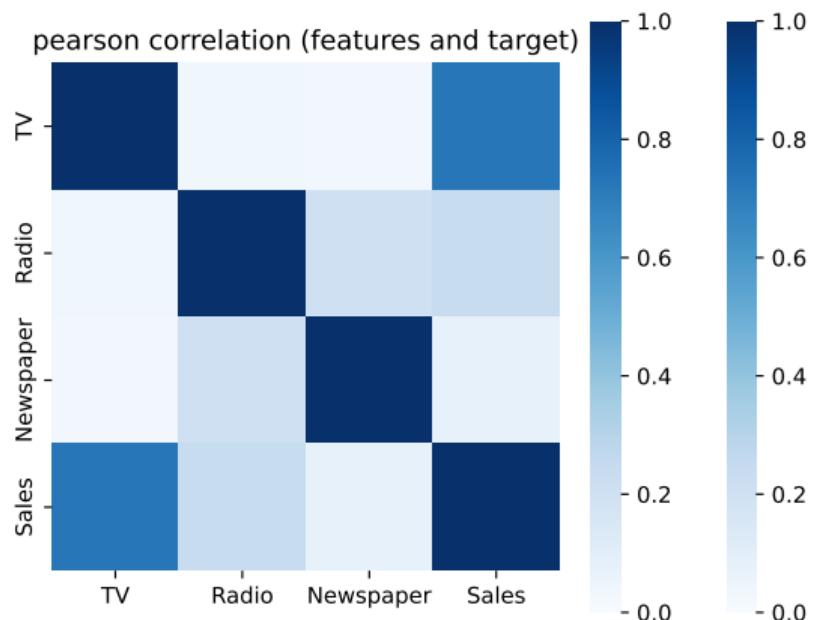
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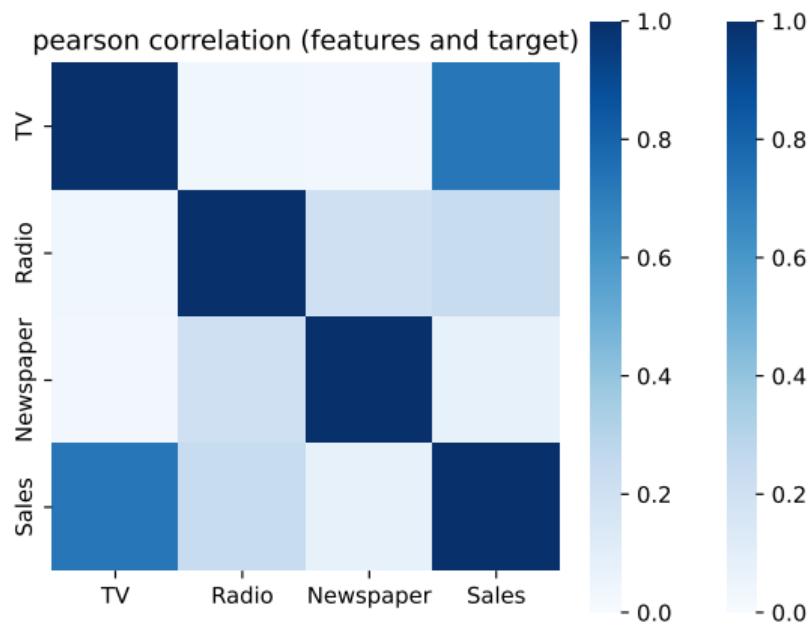
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- **What are expected to be good predictors for this data?**
  - Sales (the target) is placed in the last row (or column).
  - $\text{TV} > \text{Radio} > \text{Newspaper}$ , with moderate correlation between Radio and Newspaper.

# Sidebar: specifying models

## The statsmodels way

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## The statsmodels way

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- statsmodels models are expressed like "Sales  $\sim$  TV \* Radio + poly(Newspaper,2)". This notation came from the applied statistics community.
- In words: "Sales depends on TV spending, Radio spending, the interaction between TV and Radio spending, Newspaper spending and Newspaper spending squared (5 features from 3 measured features)."
- statsmodels offers its own plotting (like seaborn but not as good). Its model summary is very convenient.
- sklearn exposes more of the details (e.g., choice of algorithm and configuration parameters).
- Both statsmodels and sklearn use the same libraries (scipy, numpy, etc.) underneath.

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Define: model score: mean-square-error on the test set for a given model.

- ① Fit “Sales  $\sim$  Newspaper”, “Sales  $\sim$  Radio”, “Sales  $\sim$  TV” and calculate their loss values.
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- ③ Fit “Sales  $\sim$  TV + Newspaper” and “Sales  $\sim$  TV + Radio” and choose the lowest loss score, which is “Sales  $\sim$  TV + Radio” with loss being MSE(TV + Radio), which is significantly better.
- ④ Fit “Sales  $\sim$  TV + Radio + Newspaper”. Its loss is the same ( $MSE(TV + Radio) \approx MSE(TV + Radio + Newspaper)$ ), so we favour the existing simpler two-term model (Occam’s Razor: other things being equal, choose the simplest model.).

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*So our preferred model is “Sales  $\sim$  TV + Radio”.*

# Forward selection in action, with and without the interaction term

## Main features only

feature	test_neg_mean_squared_error	test_r2
<b>0</b> TV	(-7.324310374422007, -3.936981032219174)	(0.7603440777107349, 0.8390841989031752)
<b>1</b> Radio	(-4.718440611471559, -1.8510139478354652)	(0.8456097326980662, 0.9322678692463671)
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$\text{MSE}(\text{TV}) \approx 5.5$ ;  $\text{MSE}(\text{TV} + \text{Radio}) \approx 3.5$ ;  $\text{MSE}(\text{TV} + \text{Radio} + \text{Newspaper}) \approx 3.5 \approx \text{MSE}(\text{TV} + \text{Radio})$ .  
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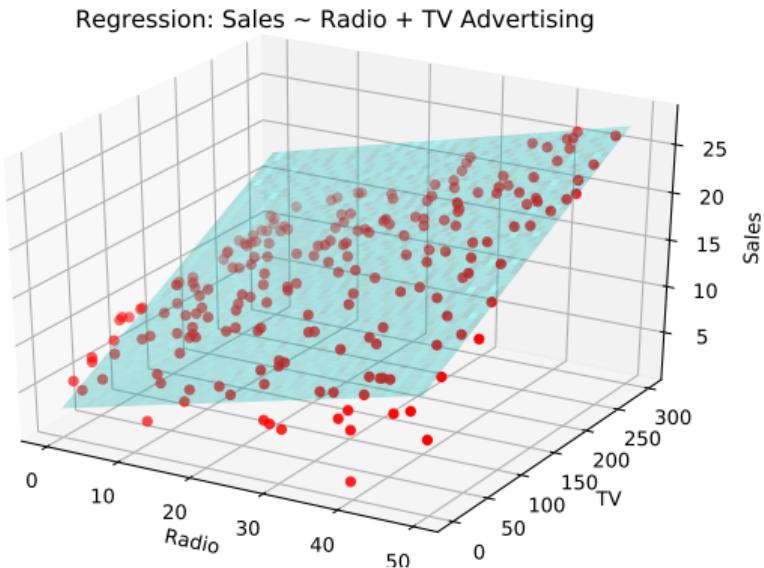
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## Main features with TV:Radio interaction term

feature	test_neg_mean_squared_error	test_r2
<b>0</b> TV	(-7.324310374422007, -3.936981032219174)	(0.7603440777107349, 0.8390841989031752)
<b>1</b> TV:Radio	(-3.695048288640374, -1.8479935191656154)	(0.8790957564264388, 0.9377953274242408)
<b>2</b> Radio	(-3.929784758825862, -1.751389612982793)	(0.8714150353235091, 0.9410470781968057)
<b>3</b> Newspaper	(-3.9387465036567235, -1.7715653928145287)	(0.8711218015427205, 0.9403679482294234)

$\text{MSE}(\text{TV}) \approx 5.5$ ;  $\text{MSE}(\text{TV} + \text{TV:Radio}) \approx 2.8$ ;  $\text{MSE}(\text{TV} + \text{TV:Radio} + \text{Radio}) \approx 2.8 \approx \text{MSE}(\text{TV} + \text{TV:Radio})$ . Adding Radio and Newspaper does not reduce MSE.

# Case Study 3: Advertising: Viewing the Model



Since this two-term model ignores the contribution of the newspaper channel, the Newspaper spend as a contribution to Sales is just another component of the unmodelled (and apparently random) contribution to Sales.

However, the result is a model where every term is highly significant and the model “explains” 90% of the variance of the data, which is high for an observational study. **Why? Can we do better?**

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- All  $\beta$  terms have  $t$ -statistic significance of approximately 0.001 which is extremely significant.
- $\beta_0 = 6.75$ ,  $\beta_{\text{TV}} = 0.019$ ,  $\beta_{\text{Radio}} = 0.029$  and  $\beta_{\text{TV:Radio}} = 0.001$ , indicating that there is a favourable relationship between TV and Radio advertising ( $\beta_{\text{TV:Radio}} > 0$ ), and that additional spending on Radio results in more Sales than the same spending on TV ( $\beta_{\text{Radio}} > \beta_{\text{TV}}$ ).

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- Spending on Newspaper advertising should be discontinued as its contribution to Sales is insignificant (indistinguishable from random noise).