# APPLIED REGRESSION ANALYSIS

## REGRESSION ANALYSIS ON WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

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#### ABSTRACT

Regression Analysis is used to find the relationships between the response variable and several independent variables. Furthermore, to understand the underlying architecture of our dataset to generate an effective linear regression model. The experiment was conducted on the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) dataset. Various assumption violations were detected. Remedial actions such as power transformations, principal component analysis, and more techniques were performed to mitigate these violations. Results illustrate that our final model was a more effective model than the initial model as we adjusted many different aspects of our data such as multicollinearity and normality of the data. Furthermore, we will be able to use the model performance to measure the proportion of variation in the dependent variable that is given by the predictor variables.

*Keywords* Regression Analysis · CWUR · Transformations · Principal Component Analysis

#### 1 Problem Statement

#### 1.1 Why We Perform Analysis?

Data Analysis is the process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming, and modeling data to discover useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision-making (2). We perform regression analysis because we want to identify relationships between certain variables in a set of data, discover hidden relationships and meanings within the data, as well as provide our insights concisely and clearly for our interpretation.

Some questions we can answer using data analysis:

- What is the relationship between the response & predictor variables?
- Is there a relationship between the predictor variables?
- Is there any underlying information we can uncover using regression analysis?
- What are the significant variables in predicting the university rank?

#### 1.2 Literature Review

We will be performing Regression Analysis on the CWUR data set, analyzing its properties & graphs before fitting it into a model after fitting the data. Comparisons will be conducted in the post-fitting stage. However, this is an iterative process where we must keep appending until we reach an appropriate and accurate model that represents our data without any issues.

This report will serve as an example for Multiple Regression Analysis of various predictor variables and identifying relationships between them. Firstly, we will perform Exploratory Data Analysis, which is a term for certain kinds of initial analysis and findings done with data sets, usually early on in an analytical process (7). Once we've gathered significant information we will fit our regression model into the data set. In addition, we will conduct more analysis on how our model affected the data set using graphical methods.

## 2 Data Description

#### 2.1 Complete Source of Data

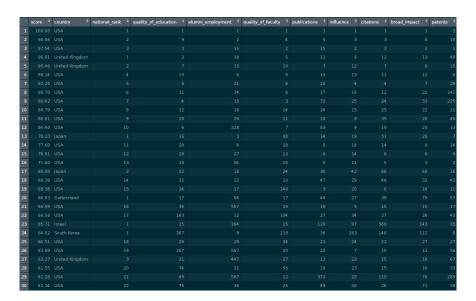


Figure 1: Sample Observations - CWUR Dataset

The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) dataset is a collection of data that represents the top 100 universities across the globe. In this report, we adjusted the original dataset to set the score of each respective university as the response variable. Furthermore, we also removed certain variables such as the year of rankings to remove the aspect of time series. The purpose of this experiment was to conduct multiple linear regression without the factor of time series.

## 2.2 Types of Observations

Our CWUR dataset consists of observations that provide information on the ranking of the top universities around the world. It contains a multitude of variables such as the score of each university, what country they reside in, metrics that quantify the quality of education as well as other factors such as influence or broad impact.

#### 2.3 Variable Types & Units of Measurement

Concerning our variables, Figure (2) below highlights all the variables involved in our dataset along with their respective data types & units of measurement. The information below illustrates that we have several numerical predictor variables with a single qualitative variable, with our response variable being a numeric variable representing university scores.

```
'data.frame':
               1000 obs. of
                              11 variables:
                              100 98.7 97.5 96.8 96.5 ...
$ score
                                          "USA" "United Kingdom"
 country
                       : chr
$ national_rank
                              1 2 3 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 ...
$ quality_of_education: num
                                9 3 2 7 13 5 11 4 12 ...
$ alumni_employment
                                  11 10 13 6 21 14 15 18 ...
                                  2 5 10 9 6 8 3 14
  quality_of_faculty
  publications
                                  15 11 7 13 10 17
  influence
                       : num
  broad_impact
                                    13 9 12 7 22 33 22
```

Figure 2: CWUR Variable Data Types

### 2.4 Response Variable

Our response variable is the score variable, which indicates the overall score of the universities based on the aforementioned predictors such as country of origin, number of publications, quality of education, and more. We will be performing regression analysis to identify underlying patterns between the response variable and several of our predictors, as well as mitigating any potential assumption violations.

## 2.5 Hypothesis of Predictors Influence on Response

I believe that predictors such as the country of origin, number of patents, and quality of education will have a strong influence on the value of the response variable because, regarding real-world data, universities are renowned for their quality of education as well as their received patents.

## 3 Data Analysis

This section of the report contributes to describing the series of steps performed on our CWUR dataset including graphs before fitting the model, any potential transformation of data, graphs after fitting the model, and analysis of the generated graph structures.

#### 3.1 Graphs before Fitting Model to Data

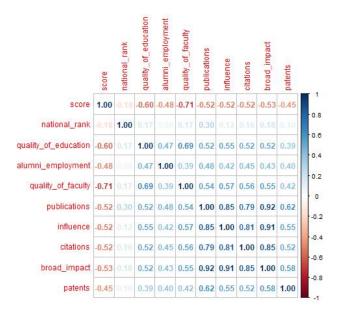


Figure 3: Correlation Matrix

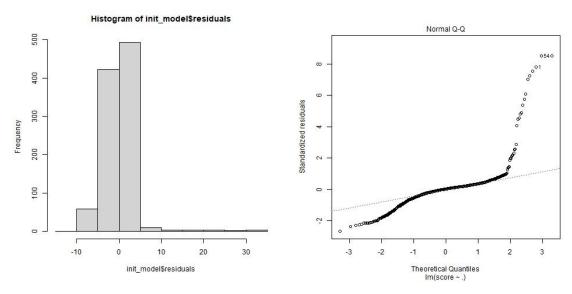


Figure 4: Histogram Plot before Fitting Model

Figure 5: Q-Q Plot before Fitting Model

As shown from the above figures (3-5), there are violations across the board ranging from multicollinearity, normality to linearity. We will mitigate these violations as best as possible given the nature of the dataset provided.

#### 3.2 Transformation of Variables

Data does not always arrive in the format we need to perform analytical measures. Therefore, we use a transformation of variables to work around this dilemma. Transformations are applied to accomplish certain objectives such as to ensure linearity, to achieve normality, or to stabilize the variance (O'Reilly). Evidently, from the last subsection, we identified that there was non-linearity in our dataset. Therefore, the remedial action to fix non-linearity is a transformation of variables. This may potentially change the structure of our variables to improve model accuracy and mitigate the violations of both normality and linearity.

Provided Figure (6) below, we concluded that the most appropriate value for our slider was '0' since it clustered the data leniently and other values of lambda caused larger spreads as well as less accurate model summaries. This could in theory end up violating the constant variance assumption. As a result, we ended up taking the logarithm of the base model to transform our variables.

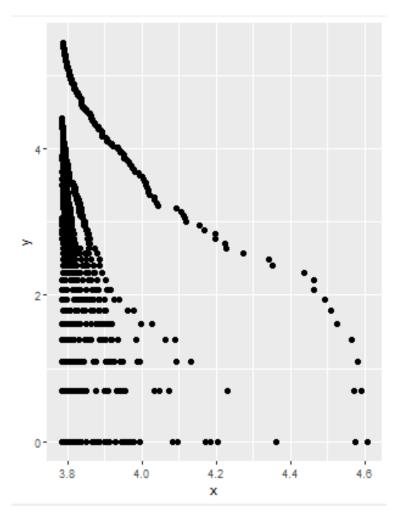


Figure 6: Transformation Slider at  $\lambda = 0$ 

Upon transforming our dataset, we ended up fitting our model through the transformed dataset as shown in Figures (7-10) below. We can observe from figures (7 & 8) that some of the normality violation was fixed but we still have a right-sided skewness. In addition to that, our residual plot shows some improvements in the constant variance assumption. However, we still suffer from a severe case of multicollinearity, which we will attempt to solve very soon. In Figure (28) in the appendix, we see that our adjusted coefficient of determination is at 90%, which is very good. However, due to the high amount of correlation, the result is not very reliable concerning our modeling of the data.

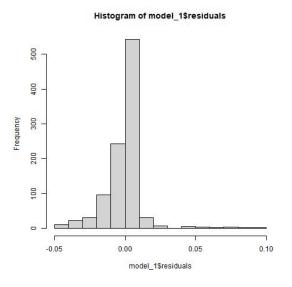
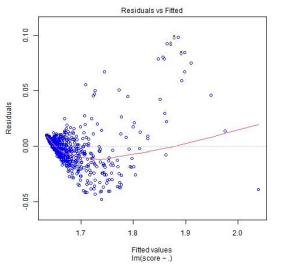


Figure 7: Histogram after Transformation

Figure 8: Q-Q after Transformation



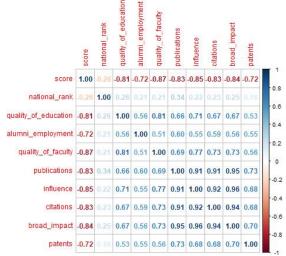


Figure 9: Residual after Transformation

Figure 10: Correlation after Transformation

#### 3.3 Initial Model Fit to Data

The initial model fit the dataset was conducted and generated a very poor model as shown in Figures (22 & 22) in the appendix. We measured the performance of this initial model by interpreting our adjusted coefficient of determination, with a value of 0.59 the model is only explaining the variability of the response variable by 60%. The adjusted coefficient of determination is a valid measure of performance for our model as it shows that the independent variables explain a portion of the variation of the response variable, taking into account the increasing number of variables in our dataset (mod). This could be due to many reasons such as many predictor variables being insignificant in this model, as well as a low F-test score is shown in the ANOVA table in Figure (24).

## 3.4 Graphs after Fitting Model to Data

Given the Figures (11-13) below, which are the plots after fitting the model to the dataset, we notice that the data becomes more linearly presented. Furthermore, the residual plot shows that our variance is steadily becoming more constant and does not illustrate any non-linear curves or shapes. Concerning normality, Figure (12) shows that we still have a histogram skewed to the right. However, it appears more normally distributed than the initial model.

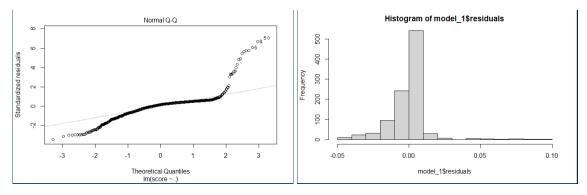


Figure 11: Q-Q Plot after fitting Model

Figure 12: Histogram after Fitting Model

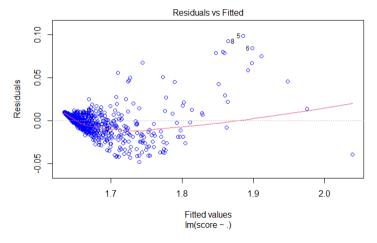


Figure 13: Residual after fitting Model

## 3.5 Regression Diagnostics & Remedial Actions

There is a multitude of graphs and metrics that need to be analyzed before fitting our data to a linear regression model. These visual plots computations help guide us in identifying violations within the data that could hinder the ability of our regression model's performance. We will attempt to mitigate each violation independently and observe the changes in the assumptions whether they were fixed or not. We already covered mitigating the linearity assumption using power transformations in the previous section. Therefore, we will cover the other assumptions and their remedial actions. The collection of assumptions we need to verify aren't violated by our data are listed below:

- Linearity
- Normality
- Autocorrelation
- Multicollinearity

## • Constant Variance

#### 1. Linearity:

Regarding the linearity assumption, it means that each predictor variable must have a linear relationship with the response variable (3). This suggests that a change in 'y' is due to a single unit change for 'x' is constant. We infer if the data violates the linearity assumption by plotting the residuals against the fitted values. If our data displays a pattern similar to a general function, then our data is non-linear. According to Figure (14), there is some non-linearity and non constant variance of our data, therefore we need to perform certain remedial actions.

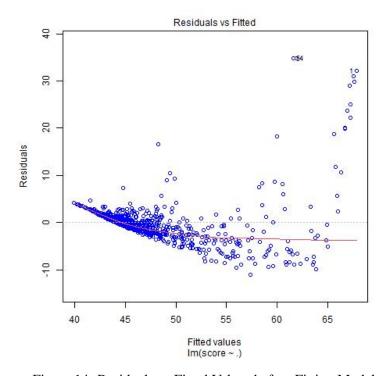


Figure 14: Residuals vs Fitted Values before Fitting Model

## 2. Normality:

Concerning normality, the errors of our dataset must be normally distributed (3). We interpret if the data is normal by plotting a Q-Q plot, if the data is a linear line with an intercept of 0, then our data is normally distributed. Another method is via the histogram to view normality. According to Figures (15 & 16), the data is not normally distributed and is skewed to the right. Thus, we perform remedial measures to fix this violation.

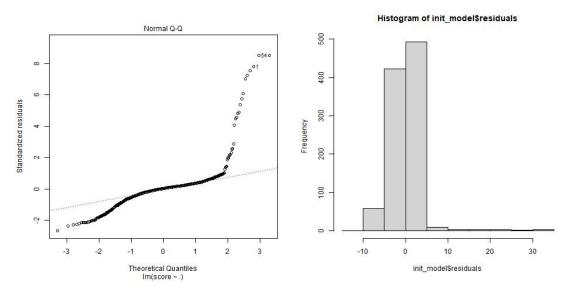


Figure 15: Q-Q Plot before fitting Model

Figure 16: Histogram before Fitting Model

#### 3. Autocorrelation:

For autocorrelation, this is discovered when the following instances or observations depend on the previous instances, which can drastically affect model accuracy (3). We can identify if autocorrelation exists by computing the Durbin-Watson (DW) statistic. If our statistic value is equal to 2 then we have no autocorrelation, which would be our ideal scenario. According to Figure (25), with a value of 0.6, we can conclude that we have a case of positive autocorrelation.

#### 4. Multicollinearity:

In terms of collinearity, this is identified when there is a high correlation between independent variables (3). We check for multicollinearity by plotting a correlation matrix that shows the individual correlation coefficient values between all variables in our dataset. Another method is using the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) to detect collinearity within our data. According to the output figure (24) shown in the appendix, we appear to have severe cases of collinearity with the 'country' variable as well as low-moderate collinearity with the 'publications' as well as 'broad impact'.

#### 5. Constant Variance:

As for constant variance, this is when most or all of our data has very similar and non-extreme leverage point values (3). We can identify a non-constant variance when the residuals plot exhibits a funnel-shaped curve, which is evident in Figure (13). We can conclude that we have a violation of the constant variance and we must take remedial actions.

Regarding remedial actions, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was performed to mitigate the violation of multicollinearity. PCA is an effective dimensionality reduction tool used in linear regression to handle problems of multicollinearity (6). This was performed after the transformation of the dataset to ensure we fixed the violation of the normality assumption, and that the independent variables had a linear relationship with the response variable.

Using the "tidyverse" library within R, we separated the numerical predictors from the response variable and scaled the predictors, then summarized the contribution of each principal component to the dataset as shown in figure (show variance contribution). After that, we standardized the predictors and fit the principal components to produce our final data as shown in figure (show final data). Upon computing the correlation, we ended up eliminating our multicollinearity and then ran a specific number of principal components to compile approximately 80% of the total variance contribution as shown in Figure (17).

Figure 17: Model after applying PCA

## 3.6 Identification of Outliers, Leverage Points, and Influential Observations

Concerning outliers, R is designed to detect outliers when plots of our models are displayed. According to Figure (18), observations 1, 2, and 3 are all potential outliers in our dataset. Moreover, the provided figures (19 & 20) display our calculation of leverage values in our CWUR dataset.

Leverage points are points that can be proven as outliers if a corresponding leverage value exceeds a certain threshold. It is evident that from our sorted sample leverage values that none of our leverage points are actual outliers but we're viewed as potential outliers awaiting further investigation.

Another measure of importance is Cook's Distance, which is used to measure the influence of each data point in our dataset on the overall model (5). As shown in Figure (34), we calculate the influence of each observation within our dataset then generate a plot showing the most influential points that exceed a threshold. In addition, Figure (34) illustrates that our first few observations exceed our threshold and adversely affect our model since they are influential data points to our model.

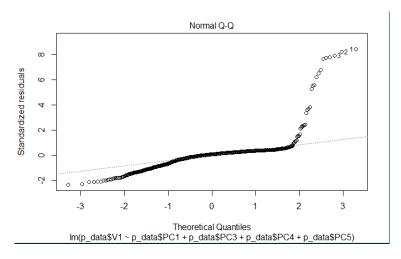


Figure 18: Model Outliers

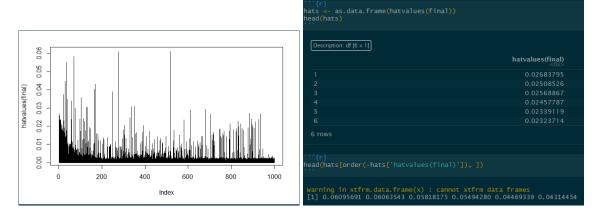


Figure 19: Leverage Index Plot

Figure 20: Sorted Sample Leverage Values

## 3.7 Necessary Repetitions

As observed by Figure (32), we notice that our second transformation resembles a more linear plot when  $\lambda$  is equal to 2. As a result, we square our principal components as a compound step to then create another linear regression model that would produce more effective results. According to Figure (31), we notice an adjusted coefficient of determination of approximately 61% which is an improvement on our 1st iterative model at 54%.

## 4 Summary & Conclusions

#### 4.1 Final Model

According to Figure (31), our final model produced a decent representation of our dataset after performing Principal Component Analysis and two power transformations to mitigate multicollinearity as well as solve the violations regarding normality and linearity respectively.

Furthermore, most of the chosen principal components were significant to our model, which shows that our values of the adjusted coefficient of determination are reliable and explain the variability of the response variable by approximately 60%. Another indicator that our model is a decent model is interpreting the minimal values of our leverage points. We found that almost all of our points leverage values we're extremely small so that was an effective indicator of our model performance.

#### 4.2 Conclusions

In conclusion, the initial model we began with had serious assumption violations. We performed certain remedial actions such as power transformations, principal component analysis, as well as choosing the most effective components to produce a significant and accurate model.

Our model is not perfect, we still have some underlying violations of assumptions such as the linearity of our dataset. However, that could be due to the changes we performed in the source data by removing certain fields and choosing 'score' as our response variable for the usability of our regression analysis. We managed to improve the initial model but there will be many more iterations to be performed in the future to ensure the assumptions remain unviolated and to generate an accurate predictive linear regression model.

## 5 Appendix

## **5.1** Annotated Computer Output (Tables & Figures)

Figure 21: Initial Model Summary Part 1

Figure 22: Initial Model Summary Part 2

```
Analysis of Variance Table
                                   Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)
58 4488.6 77.4 4.4730 < 2.2e-16 ***
1 15167.6 15167.6 876.6772 < 2.2e-16 ***
1 3117.8 3117.8 180.2051 < 2.2e-16 ***
country
national_rank
alumni_employment
quality_of_faculty
                                                      290.2 16.7742 4.576e-05 ***
3059.4 176.8325 < 2.2e-16 ***
                                          3059.4
publications
influence
                                            36.2
                                                        36.2 2.0952
                                             13.5
citations
broad_impact
                                                                     0.1340
patents
                                  932 16124.8
 Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

Figure 23: Initial Model Anova

```
GVIF Df GVIF^(1/(2*Df))

country 51.583208 58 1.034577
national_rank 6.678873 1 2.584352
quality_of_education 2.432565 1 1.559668
alumni_employment 1.767046 1 1.329303
quality_of_faculty 2.443173 1 1.563065
publications 13.521041 1 3.677097
influence 9.083174 1 3.013830
citations 4.327240 1 2.080202
broad_impact 17.907398 1 4.231713 1 0.661331 0.6130749 0
patents 3.183148 1 1.784138 Alternative hypothesis: rho != 0
```

Figure 24: VIF before Fitting

Figure 25: Durbin-Watson before Fitting

```
ibrary(shiny)
ibrary(shiny)
ibrary(shiny)
ibrary(shiny)
ibrary(shiny)
ibrary(shiny)
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ibrary(shiny)
ibrary(shiny)
ilrary(shiny)
ilrary(shin
```

Figure 26: Power Transformation Slider Snippet Code

Figure 27: Summary of Model after Transformation

Figure 28: Eigenvectors of PCA

```
Importance of components:

PC1 PC2 PC3 PC4 PC5 PC6 PC7 PC8 PC9

Standard deviation 2.2816 0.9900 0.94478 0.8238 0.74029 0.55141 0.46227 0.35318 0.22913

Proportion of Variance 0.5784 0.1089 0.09918 0.0754 0.06089 0.03378 0.02374 0.01386 0.00583

Cumulative Proportion 0.5784 0.6873 0.78649 0.8619 0.92278 0.95656 0.98031 0.99417 1.00000
```

Figure 29: Influence of each PCA Component

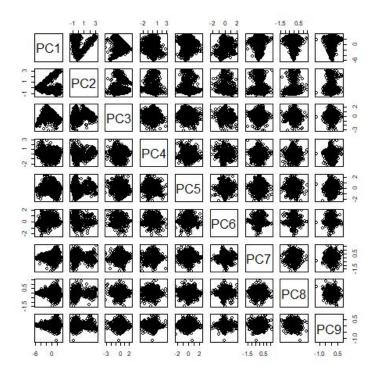


Figure 30: Scatter Plot of PCA Components

```
| Transformed_p_data < p_data < p_data
```

Figure 31: Final Model

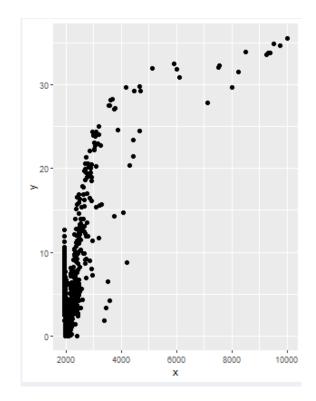


Figure 32: 2nd Transformation at  $\lambda = 2$ 

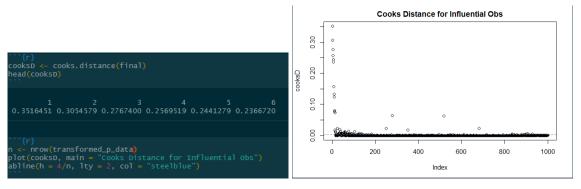


Figure 33: Leverage Index Plot

Figure 34: Sorted Sample Leverage Values

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