

Models with a singular predictor

Table of contents

Dataset chirps	3
Load data	3
Plot	3
Linear model	6
Fitting linear model	6
Class	7
Attributes	10
Summary of a linear model	11
Predicting for new data	14
Plotting confidence intervals	15
Residual plots	17
Dataset Prestige	26
Robust regression	29

```
library(tidyverse)
```

Dataset chirps

For this tutorial, we will use a dataset on the striped ground cricket collected by George W. Pierce and published in his 1948 book *The Songs of Insects*.

The dataset `ch` contains two variables: `chirps`: the number of chirps per second `degF`: the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

The aim is to examine the relationship between these two variables. Specifically, we wish to know whether the number of chirps changes with temperature.



Figure 1: The striped ground cricket, *Allonemobius fasciatus*

Load data

Let's load the data and create a new variable, which is the temperature in Celsius.

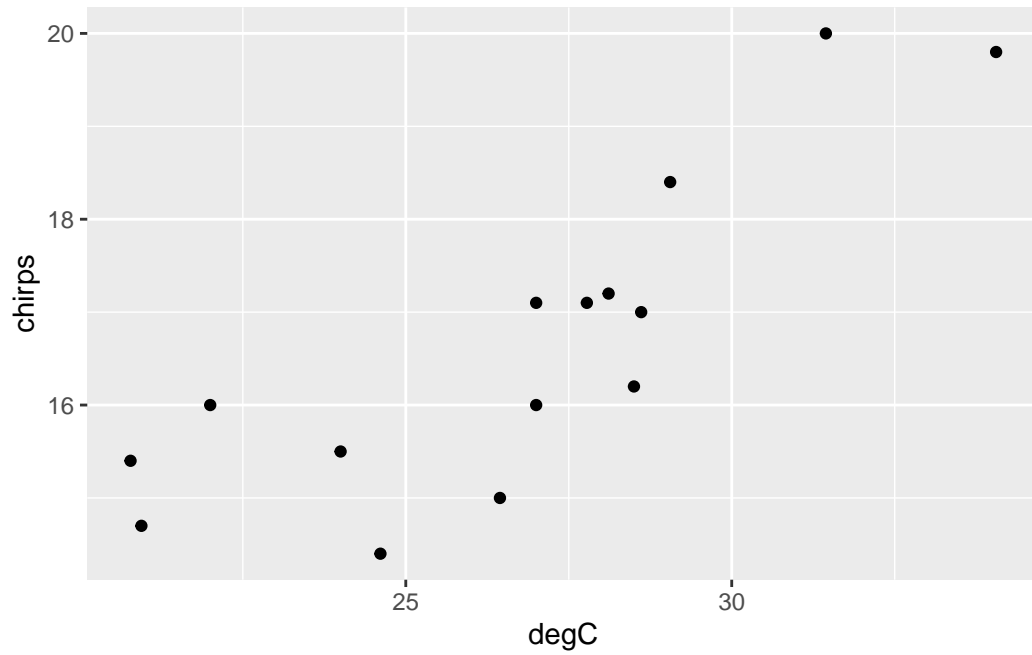
```
ch <- read_csv("../data/chirps.csv") |>
  mutate(degC = (degF-32)*5/9) # mutate makes a new column
```

We will examine how well the temperature predicts the frequency of chirping by this insect.

Plot

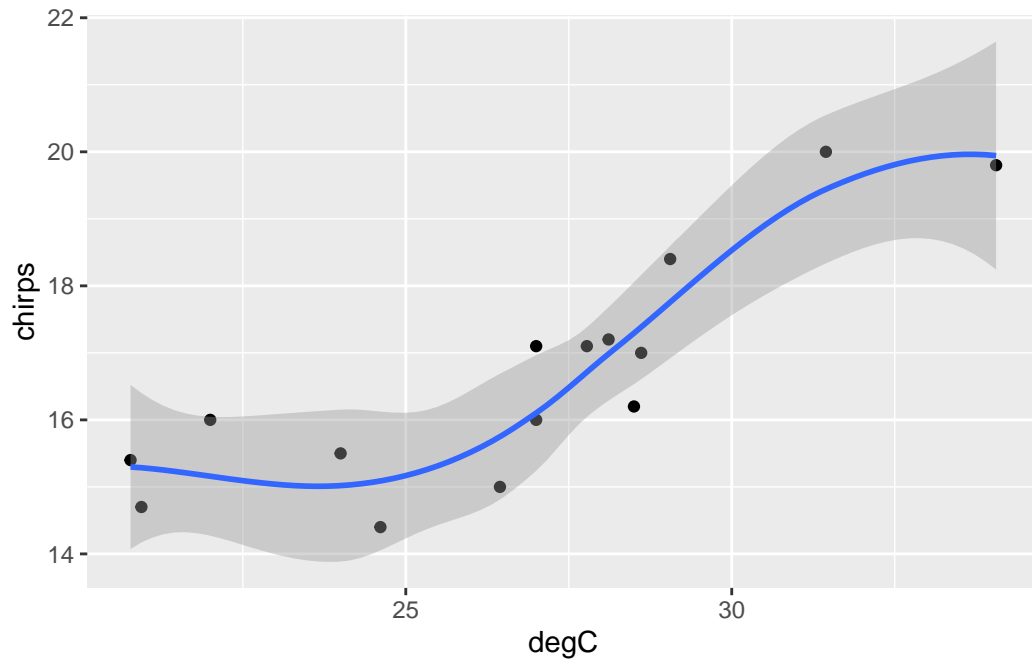
Plot the data, with temperature on the x-axis and chirps on the y-axis.

```
ch |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(x = degC, y = chirps) +
  geom_point()
```



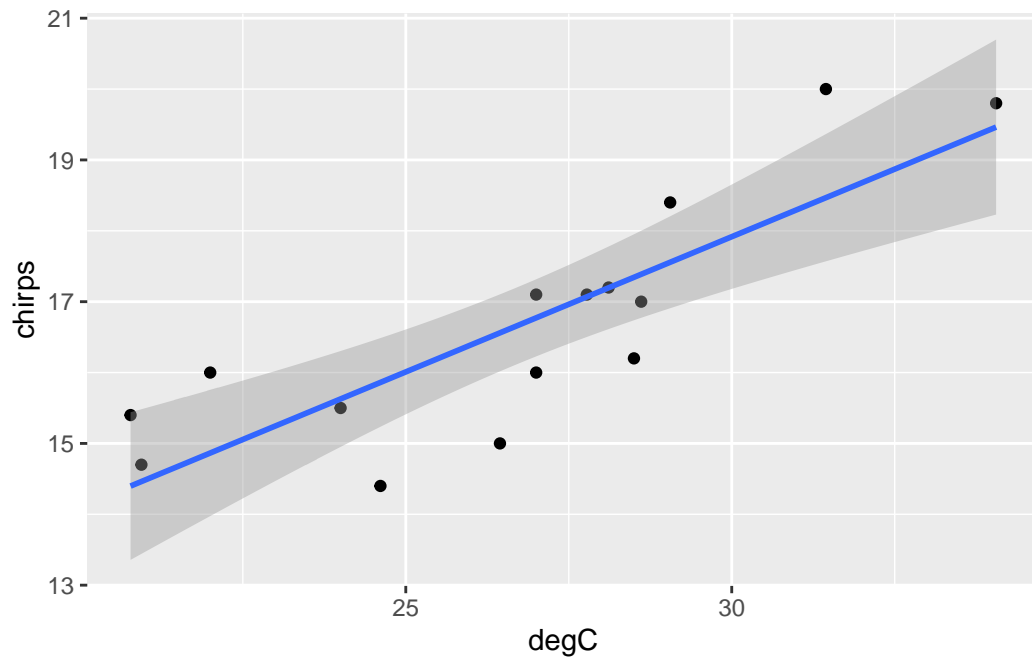
Add a 'smoother' line.

```
ch |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(x = degC, y = chirps) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth()
```



Well... it's sort-of linear... ish... not really.

```
ch |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(x = degC, y = chirps) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = 'lm')
```



Linear model

Now let's fit a linear model and print it. (Just typing an object's name is the same as applying the function `print()`.)

Fitting linear model

```
chm <- lm(chirps ~ degC, data = ch)
```

```
chm
```

Call:

```
lm(formula = chirps ~ degC, data = ch)
```

Coefficients:

(Intercept)	degC
6.4725	0.3815

```
# or print(chm)
```

This object contains a lot of information, but just printing it doesn't show us all of it. Each object in R has a 'class', which you can reveal like so.

Class

```
class(chm)
```

```
[1] "lm"
```

The model object created by the function `lm()` has class `lm`. If you `unclass()` this object, you will see all the information it contains.

```
unclass(chm)
```

```
$coefficients
```

```
(Intercept)      degC  
  6.472457    0.381465
```

```
$residuals
```

```
      1      2      3      4      5      6  
1.532589142 1.135313774 0.336540013 0.843865198 0.327989348 -0.127615826  
      7      8      9     10     11     12  
0.237971364 0.031294055 1.001547697 -1.144208684 -1.560086053 0.004139772  
     13     14     15  
-0.772011032 -0.386593793 -1.460734975
```

```
$effects
```

```
(Intercept)      degC  
-64.4980827  5.3185830  0.2895646  0.5875785 -0.0143477 -0.5955397  
  
-0.3578650 -0.2784834  0.3987344 -1.4237522 -1.9256799 -0.2916837  
  
-1.1143481 -0.6614861 -1.9030762
```

```
$rank
```

```
[1] 2
```

```
$fitted.values
```

```
      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8  
18.46741 14.86469 19.46346 17.55613 16.77201 15.62762 14.46203 17.06871
```

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	14.39845	17.34421	16.56009	17.19586	16.77201	17.38659	15.86073

```
$assign
[1] 0 1
```

```
$qr
$qr
      (Intercept)      degC
1  -3.8729833 -1.033656e+02
2   0.2581989  1.394252e+01
3   0.2581989 -4.583652e-01
4   0.2581989 -9.974999e-02
5   0.2581989  4.768089e-02
6   0.2581989  2.628501e-01
7   0.2581989  4.820038e-01
8   0.2581989 -8.103759e-03
9   0.2581989  4.939575e-01
10  0.2581989 -5.990386e-02
11  0.2581989  8.752703e-02
12  0.2581989 -3.201138e-02
13  0.2581989  4.768089e-02
14  0.2581989 -6.787296e-02
15  0.2581989  2.190191e-01
attr("assign")
[1] 0 1
```

```
$qraux
[1] 1.258199 1.406296
```

```
$pivot
[1] 1 2
```

```
$tol
[1] 1e-07
```

```
$rank
[1] 2
```

```
attr("class")
[1] "qr"
```

```
$df.residual
```



```

[1] 13

$levels
named list()

$call
lm(formula = chirps ~ degC, data = ch)

$terms
chirps ~ degC
attr(,"variables")
list(chirps, degC)
attr(,"factors")
      degC
chirps    0
degC      1
attr(,"term.labels")
[1] "degC"
attr(,"order")
[1] 1
attr(,"intercept")
[1] 1
attr(,"response")
[1] 1
attr(,".Environment")
<environment: R_GlobalEnv>
attr(,"predvars")
list(chirps, degC)
attr(,"dataClasses")
      chirps      degC
"numeric" "numeric"

$model
      chirps      degC
1      20.0 31.44444
2      16.0 22.00000
3      19.8 34.05556
4      18.4 29.05556
5      17.1 27.00000
6      15.5 24.00000
7      14.7 20.94444
8      17.1 27.77778
9      15.4 20.77778

```

```

10    16.2 28.50000
11    15.0 26.44444
12    17.2 28.11111
13    16.0 27.00000
14    17.0 28.61111
15    14.4 24.61111

```

Attributes

Big compound objects such as a `lm` are often organised into sections called “attributes”, which you can view with this function.

```
attributes(chm)
```

```

$names
[1] "coefficients" "residuals"      "effects"        "rank"
[5] "fitted.values" "assign"          "qr"             "df.residual"
[9] "xlevels"      "call"           "terms"          "model"

$class
[1] "lm"

```

The attributes under the section “names” can be accessed using the dollar (\$) notation, and often with specific formulae. You can read what each of these represent in the help file of `lm` (`?lm`). Many of them aren’t that useful, but the following ones certainly are.

```
chm$coefficients
```

```

(Intercept)      degC
   6.472457    0.381465

```

```
# or
```

```
# coef(chm)
```

This shows us a and b , the sample estimates of the population parameters, α and β . The model we have fit to this dataset is thus $Y = 6.47 + 0.38X$.

We can also extract the fitted values and residuals for the model.

```
chm$fitted.values
```

```
      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8
18.46741 14.86469 19.46346 17.55613 16.77201 15.62762 14.46203 17.06871
      9     10     11     12     13     14     15
14.39845 17.34421 16.56009 17.19586 16.77201 17.38659 15.86073
```

```
# or
```

```
# fitted(chm)
```

```
resid(chm)
```

```
      1      2      3      4      5      6
1.532589142 1.135313774 0.336540013 0.843865198 0.327989348 -0.127615826
      7      8      9     10     11     12
0.237971364 0.031294055 1.001547697 -1.144208684 -1.560086053 0.004139772
     13     14     15
-0.772011032 -0.386593793 -1.460734975
```

Summary of a linear model

The function `summary()` shows us a useful display of the most important information from the model.

```
summary(chm)
```

Call:

```
lm(formula = chirps ~ degC, data = ch)
```

Residuals:

```
      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-1.56009 -0.57930  0.03129  0.59020  1.53259
```

Coefficients:

```
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)  6.47246     1.87653   3.449 0.004315 **
degC         0.38146     0.06968   5.475 0.000107 ***
---
```

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 0.9715 on 13 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.6975, Adjusted R-squared: 0.6742

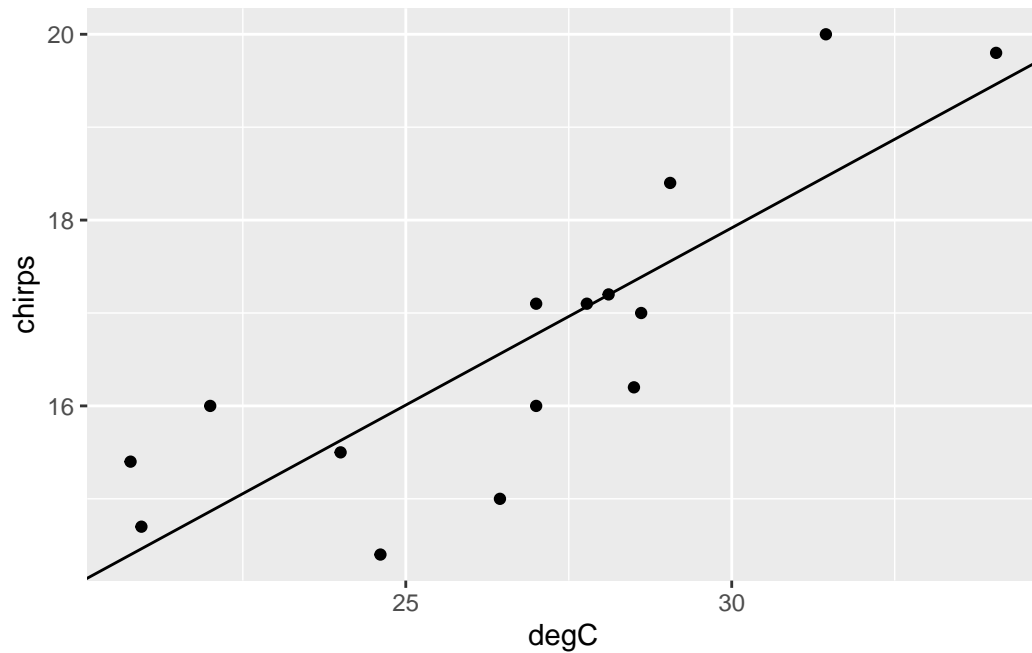
F-statistic: 29.97 on 1 and 13 DF, p-value: 0.0001067

This presents a summary of the residuals; the estimates, standard errors, and t-tests for the coefficients α and β ; the residual standard error; the coefficient of determination; and the F-test. We can see that the p-values for the F-test and the t-test for the regression coefficient (β) are the same: we can conclude that temperature has a highly significant effect on the frequency of chirps, accounting for around 70% of the variation. For every degree increase in temperature, the number of chirps per second is expected to increase by 0.38.

We cannot just stop there, however. We need to examine the model and check the assumptions.

Plot the data again, this time with a linear regression line.

```
ch |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(degC, chirps) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_abline(
    intercept = 6.47246,
    slope = 0.38146
  )
```



We can also use the function `predict()` to extract the fitted values, with confidence or prediction intervals for each data point.

```
predict(chm, interval="confidence")
```

	fit	lwr	upr
1	18.46741	17.56955	19.36527
2	14.86469	13.97481	15.75457
3	19.46346	18.22919	20.69773
4	17.55613	16.90760	18.20467
5	16.77201	16.22807	17.31595
6	15.62762	14.95122	16.30401
7	14.46203	13.44151	15.48254
8	17.06871	16.50254	17.63487
9	14.39845	13.35659	15.44031
10	17.34421	16.73758	17.95084
11	16.56009	16.01692	17.10325
12	17.19586	16.61319	17.77854
13	16.77201	16.22807	17.31595
14	17.38659	16.77226	18.00093
15	15.86073	15.23503	16.48644

This gives the predictions for each of the original data points, along with and interval in which

the mean prediction lies with 95% confidence (i.e., if we took many many samples and fit a regression model to each, 95% of so-constructed confidence intervals will include the true mean of Y for this value of X).

This is not to be confused with a “prediction” interval, which is expected to contain 95% of the actual values of Y for this value of X , rather than the mean value. They are thus wider than confidence intervals.

```
predict(chm, interval="prediction")
```

	fit	lwr	upr
1	18.46741	16.18459	20.75023
2	14.86469	12.58499	17.14438
3	19.46346	17.02860	21.89832
4	17.55613	15.35938	19.75289
5	16.77201	14.60384	18.94019
6	15.62762	13.42248	17.83275
7	14.46203	12.12824	16.79582
8	17.06871	14.89485	19.24256
9	14.39845	12.05525	16.74165
10	17.34421	15.15946	19.52896
11	16.56009	14.39210	18.72807
12	17.19586	15.01765	19.37408
13	16.77201	14.60384	18.94019
14	17.38659	15.19970	19.57349
15	15.86073	13.67062	18.05085

! The distinction between confidence and prediction intervals

- A 95% confidence interval refers to a mean. It is an interval in which the mean of Y , for a given value of X , is expected to lie with 95% confidence.
- A 95% prediction interval is an interval in which 95% of Y values are expected to lie for a given value of X . Prediction intervals are broader than confidence intervals.

Predicting for new data

You can also use the model to make predictions for new values of X . To do this, first create a data frame object with a column of the same name as the X variable used in the model (i.e., `degC`), and then enter this object as the `newdata` argument for the `predict` function.

```
newdat <- data.frame(degC = 20:34)
prednew <- predict(chm, newdata = newdat, interval = "confidence")
prednew
```

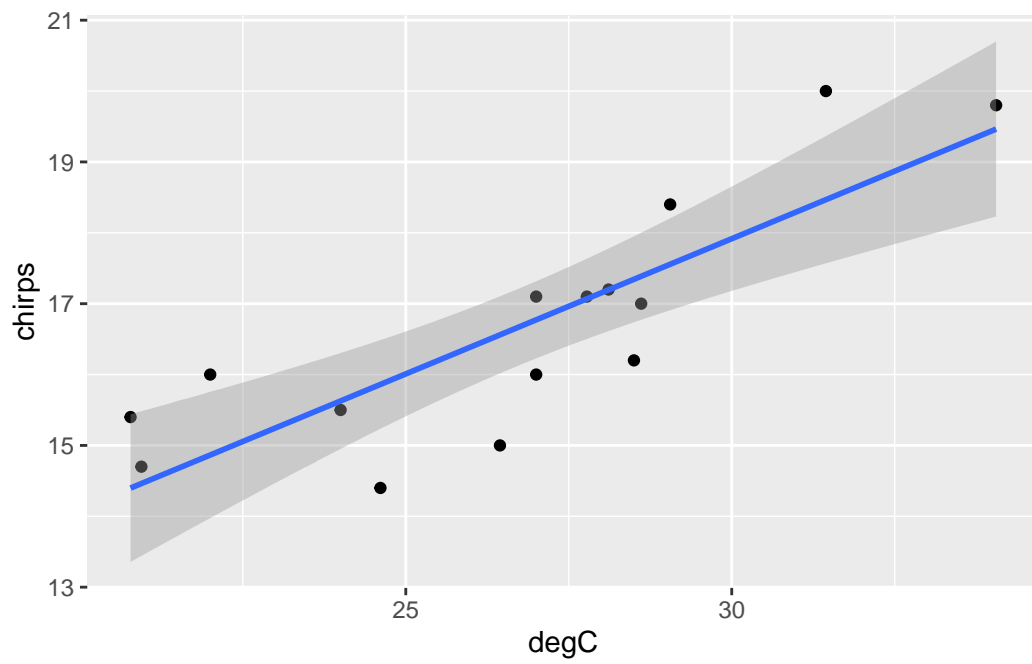
	fit	lwr	upr
1	14.10176	12.95828	15.24524
2	14.48322	13.46978	15.49666
3	14.86469	13.97481	15.75457
4	15.24615	14.47024	16.02206
5	15.62762	14.95122	16.30401
6	16.00908	15.41049	16.60767
7	16.39055	15.83880	16.94230
8	16.77201	16.22807	17.31595
9	17.15348	16.57674	17.73022
10	17.53494	16.89096	18.17892
11	17.91641	17.18012	18.65269
12	18.29787	17.45239	19.14335
13	18.67934	17.71348	19.64520
14	19.06080	17.96707	20.15454
15	19.44227	18.21550	20.66903

These correspond to the predicted means and confidence intervals for Y , for X values of 20 to 34.

Plotting confidence intervals

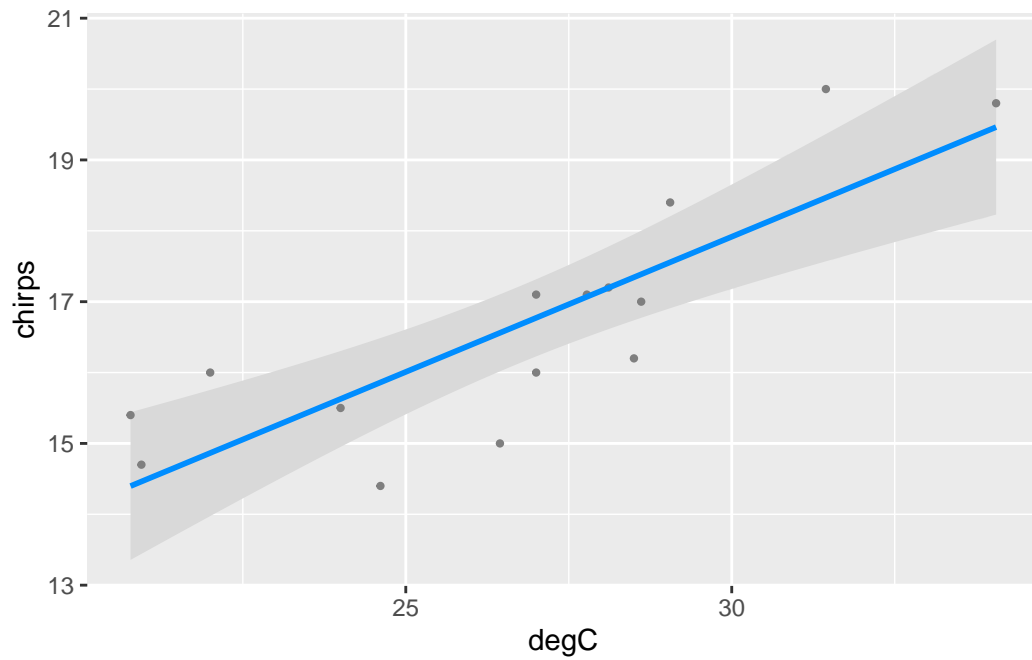
We can automatically plot confidence intervals for a linear fit like so:

```
ch |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(degC, chirps) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm")
```



Or with the visreg package.

```
library(visreg)
visreg(chm, gg=T)
```

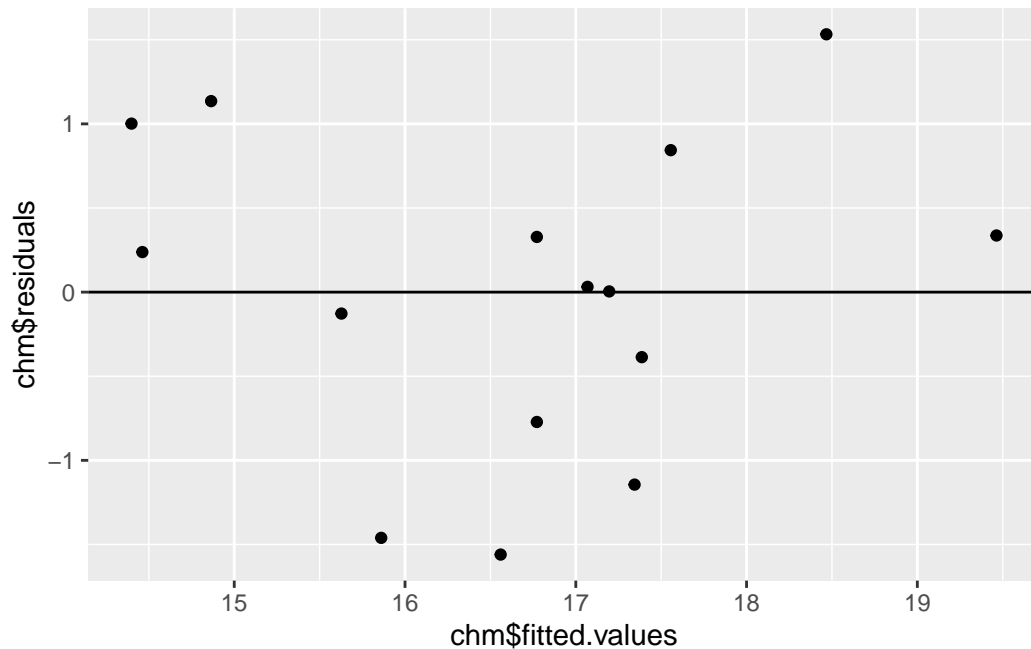



Note that the mean is most certain (i.e., the interval is tighter) around the centre of the data and less so around the extremes.

Residual plots

The linear regression model looks like it provides a reasonable fit to the data. We should just check the residuals though.

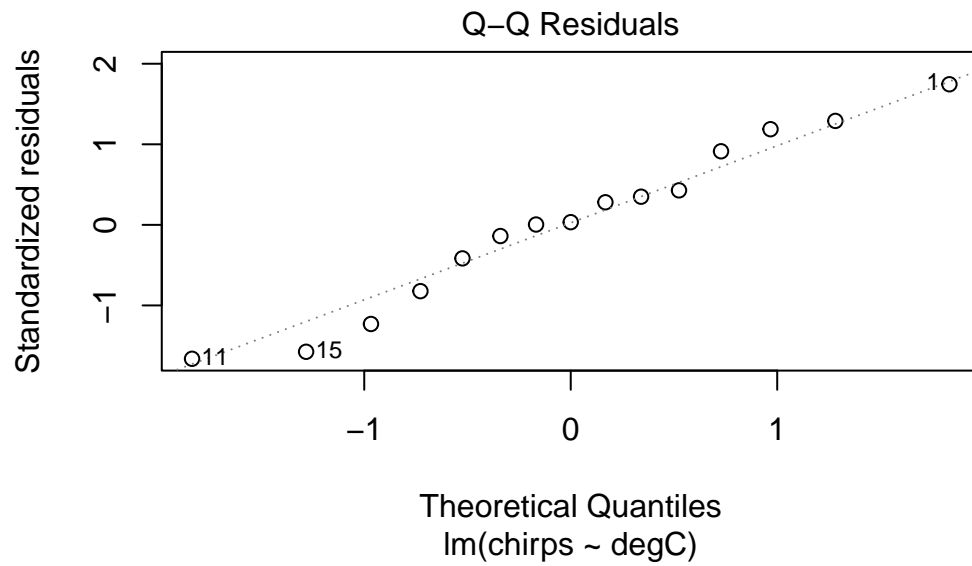
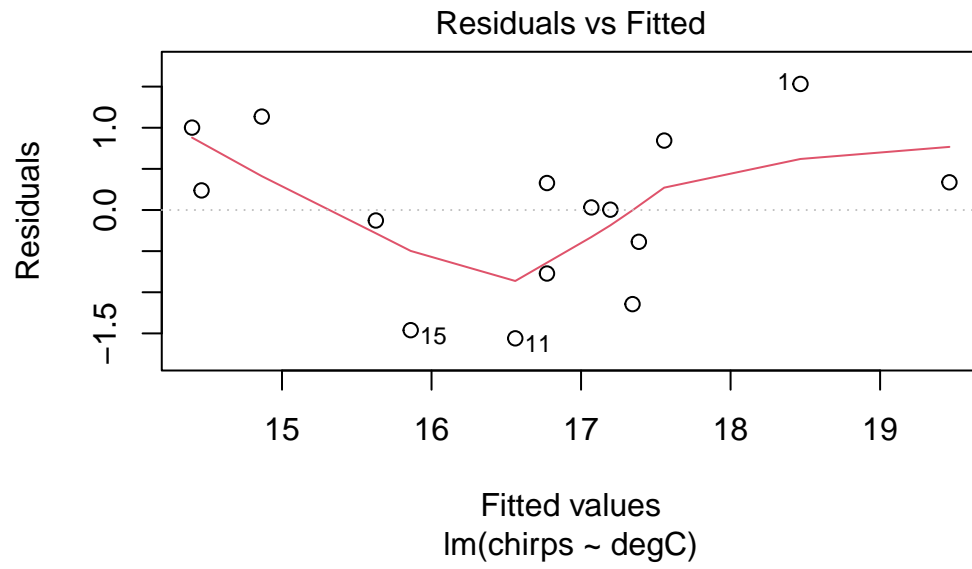
```
ggplot() +  
  aes(chm$fitted.values, chm$residuals) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0)
```

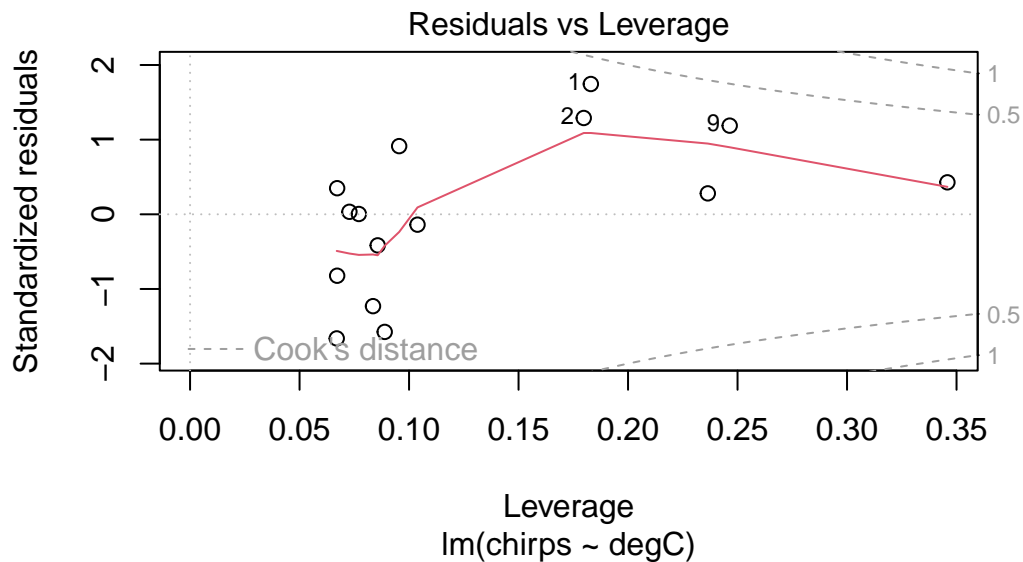
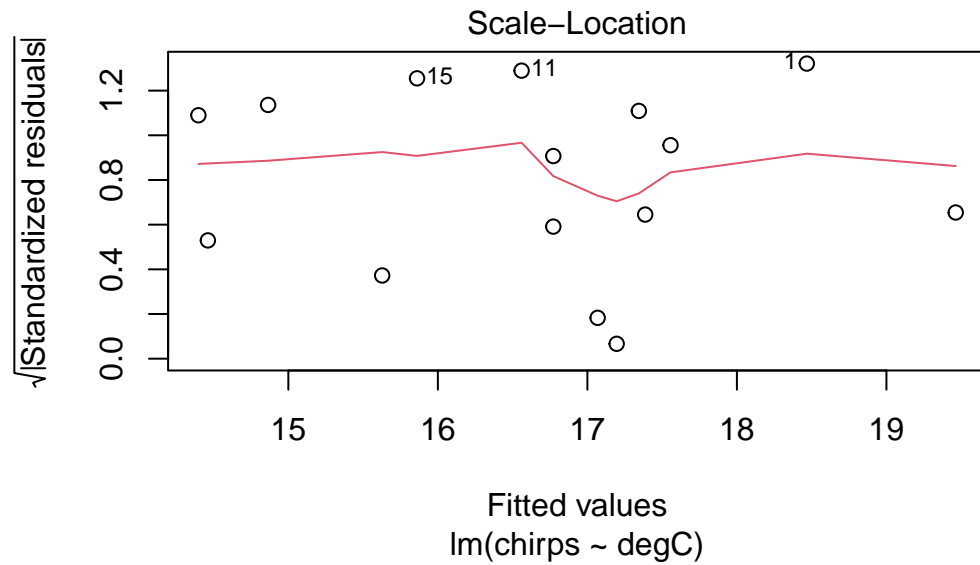


Remember, you want a *complete mess* in your residual plot—no pattern is good pattern. We generally look for two things: heteroscedasticity and trend. We can see in the plot above that the residuals appear to have quite a constant variance, so no worries about the heteroscedasticity there. However, there is a hint of a trend—there are more points above zero at low and high fitted values, and more below the line at middle fitted values. This is not too severe, but it warrants further consideration.

Using the function `plot()` on an `lm` object gives four very useful diagnostic graphs. You can read about them in the help file by entering the following.

```
plot(chm)
```





💡 Interpreting R's diagnostic plots

The diagnostic plots are designed to inform the user of any departure from the assumptions of a linear model.

The **Residuals vs Fitted** plot shows the regular residuals, i.e., the difference between the observed and fitted values on the y-axis plotted against the fitted values on the x-axis. Ideally, this would show a complete trend-less mess. Here, there is a little curvature on the plot, which may concern us a little.

The **Normal Q-Q plot** compares the residuals with their expected values if they were normally distributed. When lots of points lie away from this line, then there is evidence that the residuals are non-normally distributed, which violates an assumption of linear models. Here, they look pretty good. A little departure from the line at the very ends is common, and no cause for great concern.

The **Scale-Location** plot shows the square-root of the standardised residuals (i.e. divided by their standard deviation) against the predicted values. This can be used to look for heteroscedasticity—changes in the variance of the residuals for different fitted values—which is also an assumption of linear models. Ideally, there would be no trend in these points and the red line would be perfectly horizontal. It doesn't look bad here.

Finally, the **Residuals vs Leverage** plot shows the standardised residuals against Leverage. The leverage measures the potential influence a point has given the extremeness of its values for the predictor variable. If a point has large leverage and a large residual, then it will have large influence, meaning that it is having a large effect on the estimated parameters. So, this plot is useful for identifying outliers and influential points. Any points that are outside the red dashed lines have high values of Cook's D reflecting a large influence on the estimates a and b, and are therefore potentially cause for concern. So, ideally, there would be no points outside the dashed lines.

The only problem we can see in the diagnostic plots is in the residuals-vs-fitted one, where there's a bit of curvature, as identified by the red smoother line. Otherwise, the residuals are fairly normal (Q-Q) and with constant variance (scale-location).

From the plots above, it looks like there may be little effect of temperature on chirps below, say, 23 degrees. Let's fit this model again, this time removing the three data points below this temperature.

```
chmsub <- lm(chirps ~ degC, data=ch, subset = degC > 23)

summary(chmsub)
```

Call:

```
lm(formula = chirps ~ degC, data = ch, subset = degC > 23)
```

Residuals:

	Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
	-1.05254	-0.60559	-0.05311	0.75837	1.07639

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	0.86776	2.48526	0.349	0.734
degC	0.57421	0.08821	6.509	6.81e-05 ***

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 0.7998 on 10 degrees of freedom

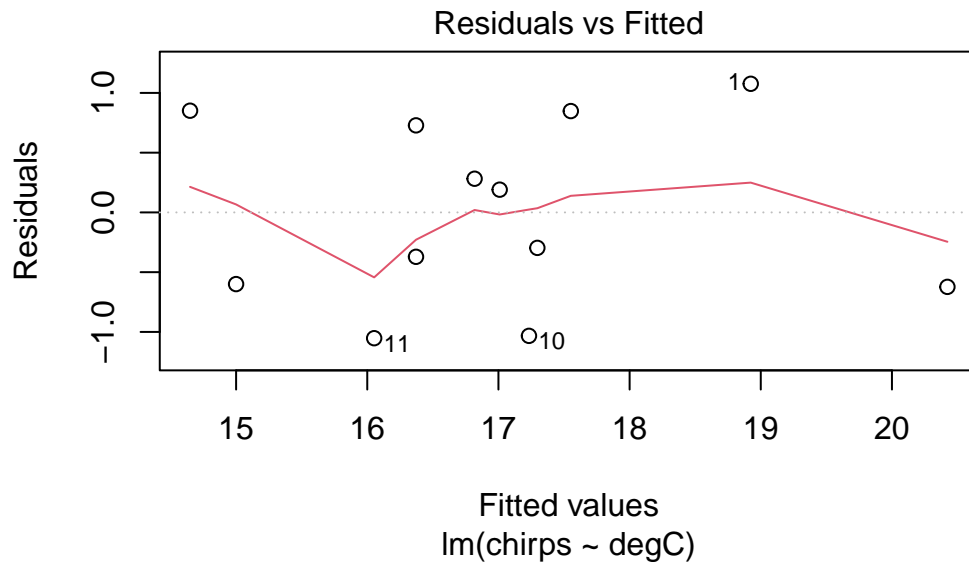
Multiple R-squared: 0.8091, Adjusted R-squared: 0.79

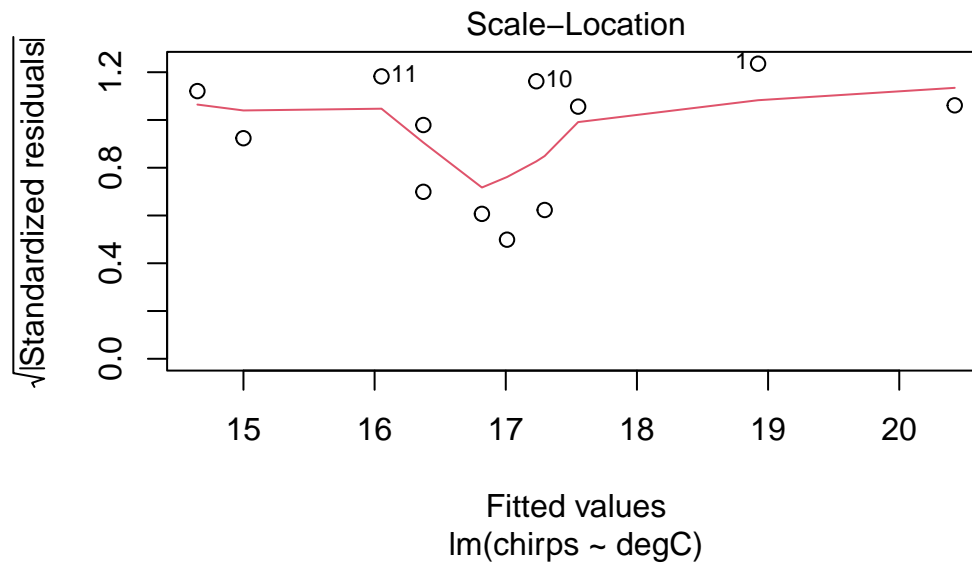
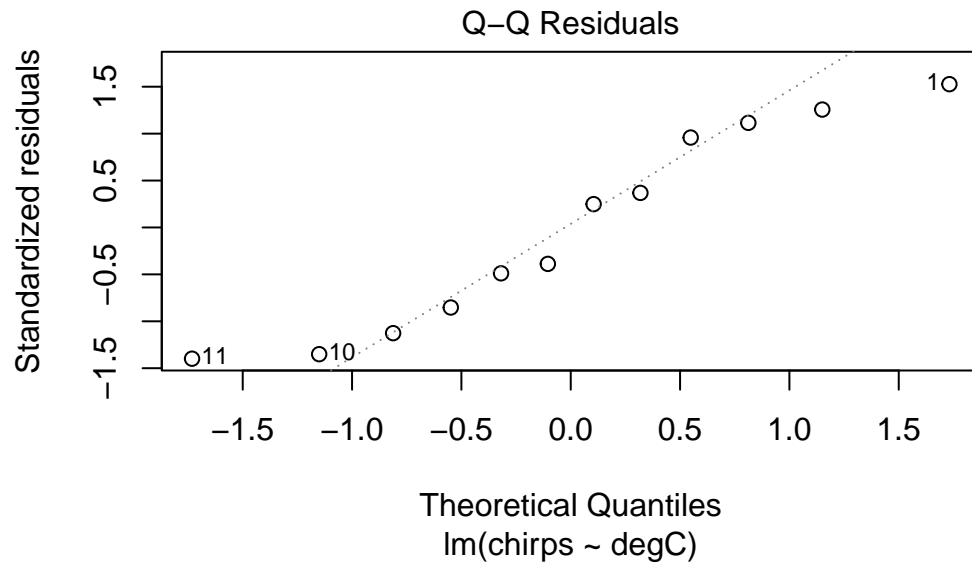
F-statistic: 42.37 on 1 and 10 DF, p-value: 6.815e-05

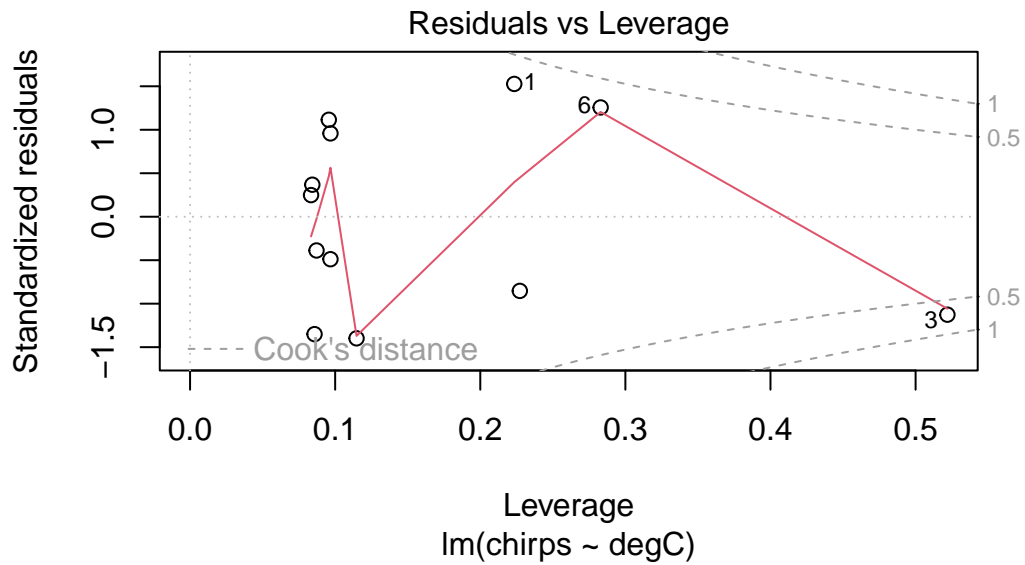
We now see that if we exclude those points, thus restricting our model to only those times where the temperature is greater than 23°C, we now explain 81% of the variation. The estimated per-degree increase in chirping has gone from 0.38 to 0.57, indicating a much stronger effect.

Let's have a look at the diagnostic plots.

```
plot(chmsub)
```



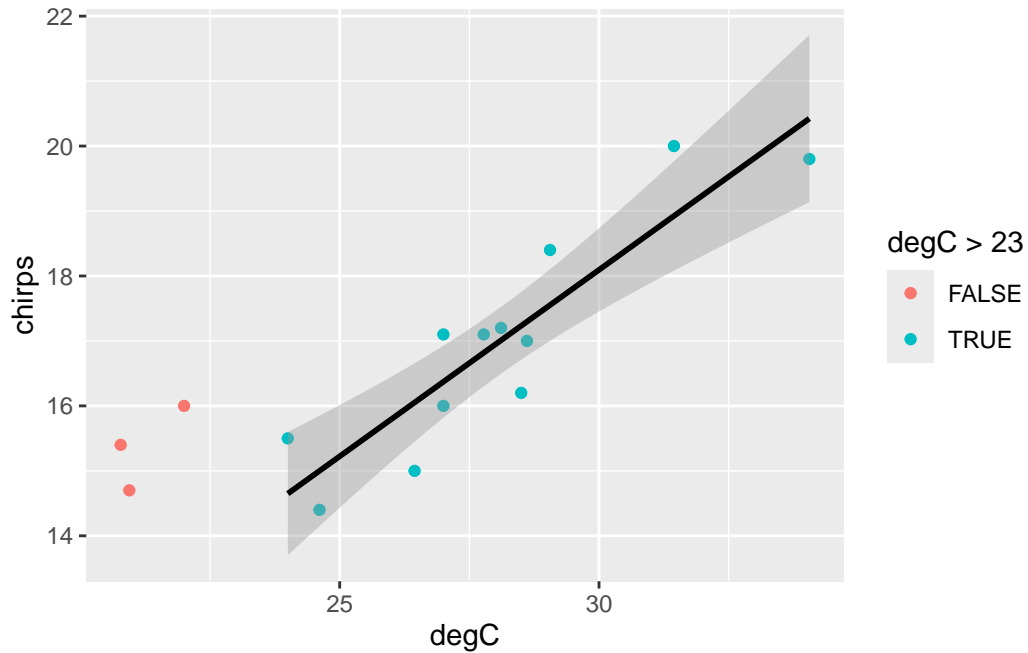




The residuals seem to be a bit better behaved now. Certainly the trend identified in the previous model has disappeared. The smoother lines might look a little wild at first glance, but this is probably just because the dataset is small. I see no real cause for concern.

Now plot the new model with confidence intervals.

```
ggplot() +
  aes(degC, chirps) +
  geom_point(
    data = ch,
    aes(colour = degC > 23)
  ) +
  geom_smooth(
    method = "lm",
    data = ch |> filter(degC > 23),
    colour = 1
  )
```

This looks like a much better model overall. Perhaps we can conclude that above approximately 23 degrees, chirping increases linearly with temperature.

It is important to note that subsetting the data in this way changes the inference space to which the model applies. The `chmsub` model should not be used to predict chirps for temperatures less than 23°C (or greater than 34°C, for that matter). **A model should only be used within the range of values spanned by the data used to create it.** Beyond this range, it will very likely be wrong. Our exclusion of the sub-23° data therefore further restricts the range of values for which this model may be used.

Dataset Prestige

We will continue to use dataset `Prestige` from the `car` R package. `##` Linear model

Fit a linear model of `prestige` against `education`. Show the fitted line on a scatterplot of `prestige ~ education`. Check the assumptions using diagnostic plots.

```
library(car)
data("Prestige")

lmp <- lm(prestige ~ education, data = Prestige)

summary(lmp)
```

Call:

```
lm(formula = prestige ~ education, data = Prestige)
```

Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-26.0397	-6.5228	0.6611	6.7430	18.1636

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-10.732	3.677	-2.919	0.00434 **
education	5.361	0.332	16.148	< 2e-16 ***

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 9.103 on 100 degrees of freedom

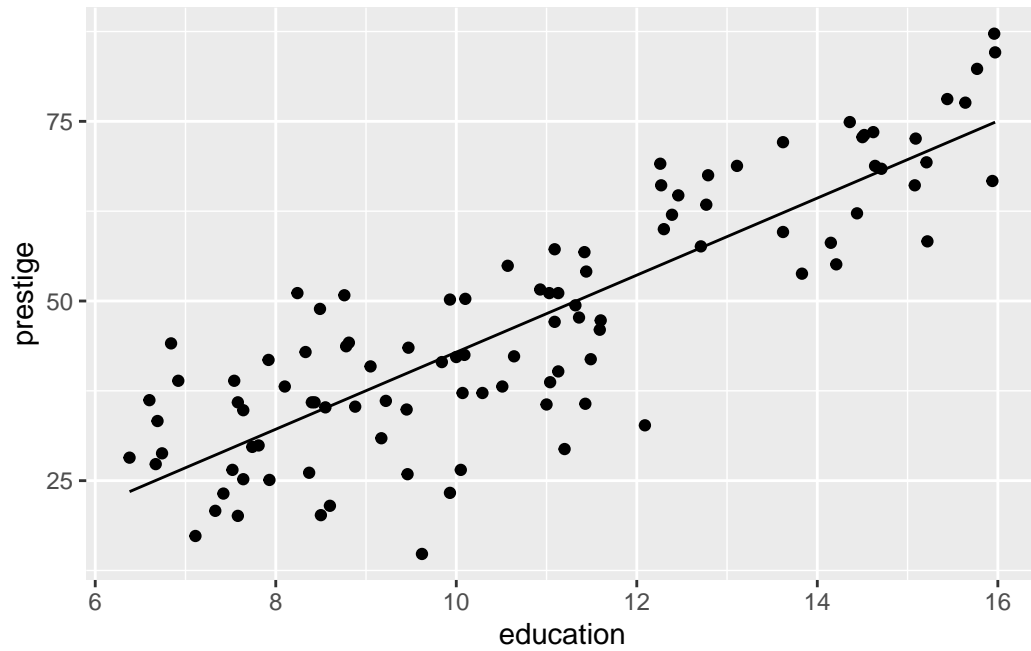
Multiple R-squared: 0.7228, Adjusted R-squared: 0.72

F-statistic: 260.8 on 1 and 100 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

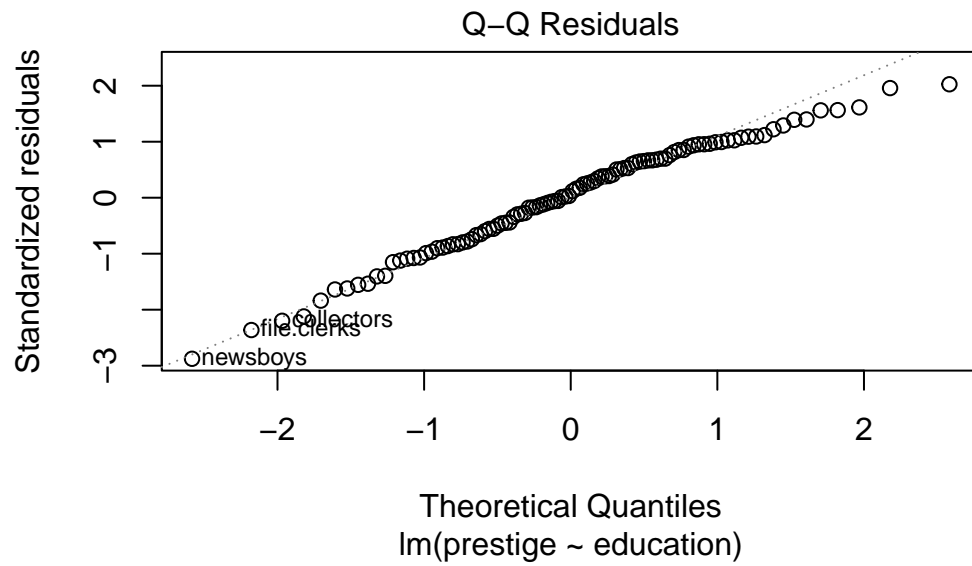
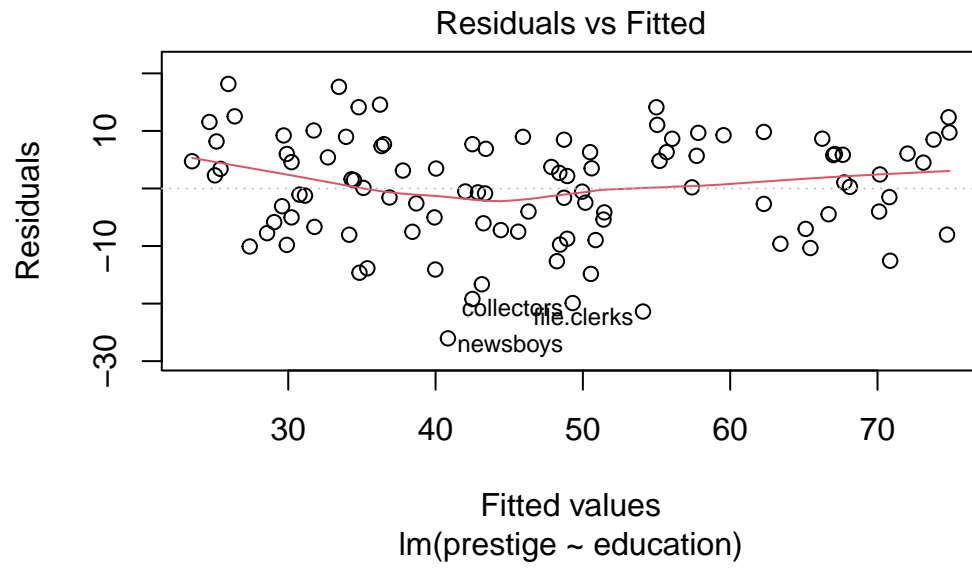
```
PrestigeReg <- Prestige |>
mutate(
  Residuals = residuals(lmp),
```

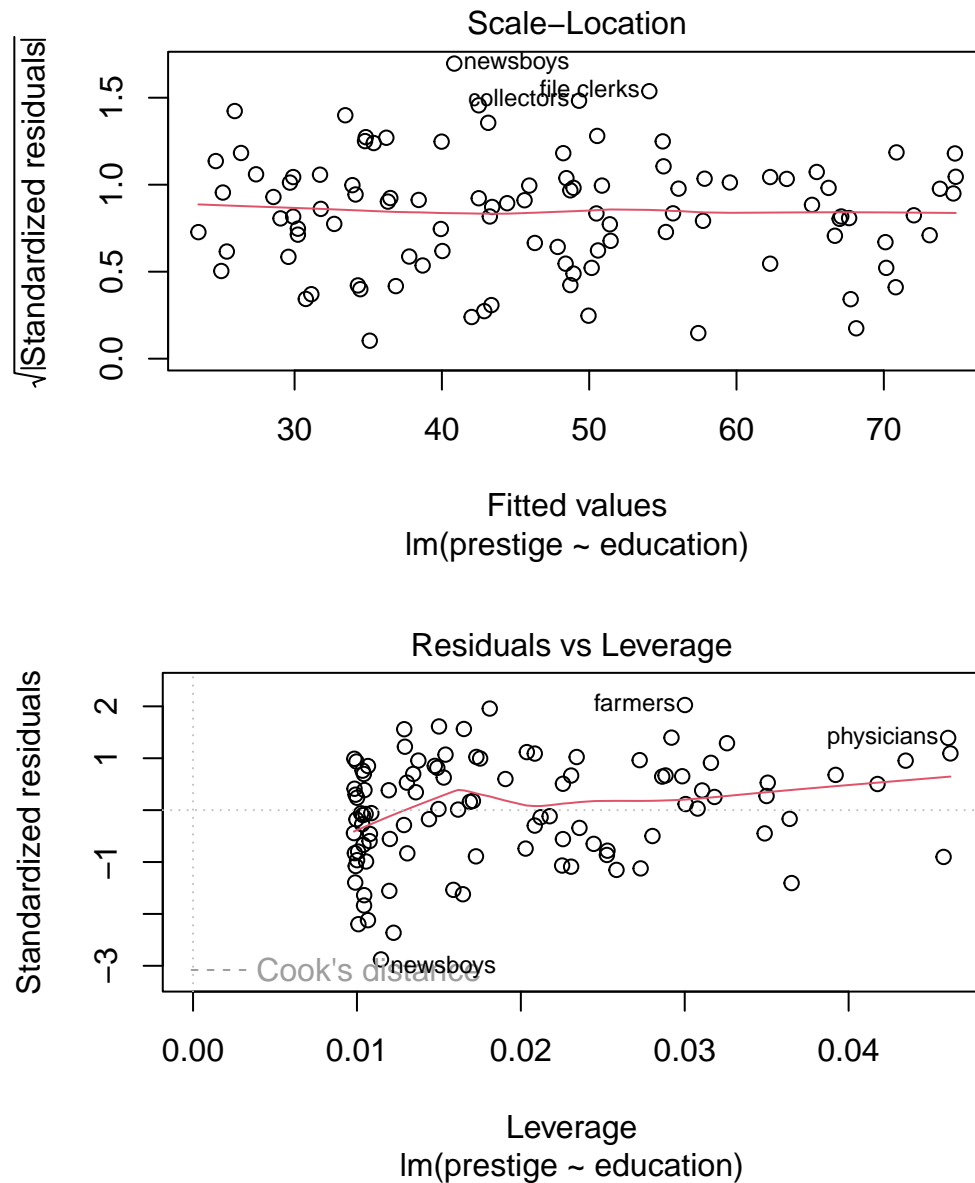
```
Fits = fitted(lmp)
)
```

```
PrestigeReg |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(x=education, y=prestige) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_line(aes(x=education, y=Fits))
```



```
plot(lmp)
```





Robust regression

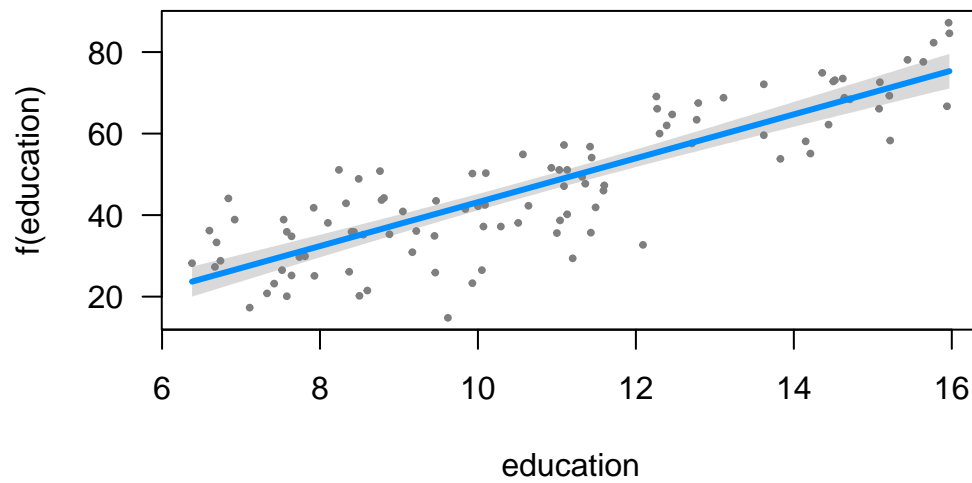
Fit a robust regression using a function in the MASS package.

```
library(visreg)
library(car)
library(MASS)
```

```
rlmp <- rlm(prestige ~ education, data = Prestige)
```

Plot using the visreg package.

```
visreg(rlmp)
```



Note:

- More R code examples are [here](#)