PLSC 503 – Spring 2025 Introduction + Bivariate Regression Review

January 13, 2025

"Multivariate Analysis for Political Research"

- "Regression" course
- Texts: Weisberg (2014) / Gelman-Hill-Vehtari (2020)
- Class materials: https://github.com/PrisonRodeo/PLSC503-2025-git
- Preceptor: Morrgan Herlihy
- ullet Software: $R > {\sf Stata} > {\sf _{others}}$
- Grading: Ten homework assignments (@ 50 points), plus a final project (500 points)

Things We Will And Won't Do

Will: "Regression":

$$Y = f(\mathbf{X})$$

Won't: Multivariate regression:

$$\mathbf{Y} = f(\mathbf{X})$$

Won't: Measurement (e.g. PCA, factor analysis, etc.):

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{W}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{X}$$

Won't: Classification:

- Cluster Analysis
- Classification and Regression Trees → Random Forests, etc.
- Pattern Recognition
- Machine Learning, Support Vector Machines, etc.

Regression

"Regression," conceptually:

$$Pr(Y|X) = f(X)$$

Two important things:

- The distribution of Y is conditional on all variables in X, and
- The conditional distribution of *Y* is conditional on the *joint* distribution of the elements of **X**.
- \rightarrow Regression is <u>hard</u>...

Why regression?

	Description	Explanation	Prediction
Task	Summarize data	Correlation/causation	Forecast OOS / future data
Emphasis	Data	Theory / Hypotheses	Outcomes
Focus	Univariate	Multivariate	Multivariate
Typical Application	Summarize / "reduce" data	Discuss marginal associations between predictors and an outcome of interest	Optimize out-of- sample predictive power / minimize prediction error

Linear Regression...

A random variable:

$$Y_i = \mu + u_i \tag{1}$$

A linear function:

$$\mu_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$$

so:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + u_i \tag{2}$$

Goals:

- Estimate $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$
- Estimate the variability $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$
- Assess model fit

Regression (continued)

If we have $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$, then:

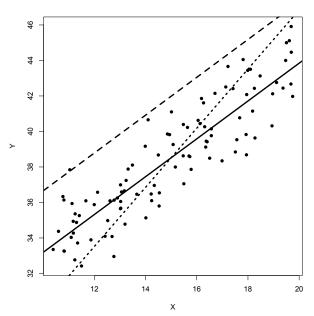
$$\hat{Y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_i \tag{3}$$

and

$$\hat{u}_i = Y_i - \hat{Y}_i
= Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i$$
(4)

Q: How to estimate $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$?

Scatterplot: X and Y (with regression lines)



Ordinary Least Squares

Choose $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$ to minimize $\hat{S} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{u}_i^2$.

$$\hat{S} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (Y_i - \hat{Y}_i)^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} (Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 X_i)^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} (Y_i^2 - 2Y_i \hat{\beta}_0 - 2Y_i \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{\beta}_0^2 + 2\hat{\beta}_0 \hat{\beta}_1 X_i + \hat{\beta}_1^2 X_i^2)$$

OLS (continued)

Differentiate:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{S}}{\partial \hat{\beta}_{0}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (-2Y_{i} + 2\hat{\beta}_{0} + 2\hat{\beta}_{1}X_{i})$$

$$= -2\sum_{i=1}^{N} (Y_{i} - \hat{\beta}_{0} - \hat{\beta}_{1}X_{i})$$

$$= -2\sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{u}_{i}$$

$$\frac{\partial \hat{S}}{\partial \hat{\beta}_1} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (-2Y_iX_i + 2\hat{\beta}_0X_i + 2\hat{\beta}_1X_i^2)$$

$$= -2\sum_{i=1}^{N} (Y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1X_i)X_i$$

$$= -2\sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{u}_iX_i$$

OLS (continued)

Yields:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_{i} = N\hat{\beta}_{0} + \hat{\beta}_{1} \sum_{i=1}^{N} X_{i}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i X_i = \hat{\beta}_0 \sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i + \hat{\beta}_1 \sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i^2$$

OLS (continued)

Solving yields:

$$\hat{\beta}_{1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (X_{i} - \bar{X})(Y_{i} - \bar{Y})}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (X_{i} - \bar{X})^{2}}$$

$$= \frac{\text{Covariance of } X \text{ and } Y}{\text{Variance of } X}$$
(5)

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{Y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{X} \tag{6}$$

Variation in Y

$$Var(Y) = Var(\hat{Y} + \hat{u})$$

$$= Var(\hat{Y}) + Var(\hat{u}) + 2 Cov(\hat{Y}, \hat{u})$$

$$= Var(\hat{Y}) + Var(\hat{u})$$
"Systematic" "Stochastic"

$$\mathsf{TSS} = \mathsf{MSS} + \mathsf{RSS}$$
 ("Total") + ("Estimated," or "Model") + ("Residual")

Running Example: Infant Mortality

```
> url <- getURL("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/PrisonRodeo/
   PLSC503-2025-git/master/Data/IMDPT25.csv")
> Data <- read.csv(text = url) # read the "countries" data
> rm(url)
>
> # Summary statistics
>
> # install.packages("psych") <- Install psych package, if necessary
> library(psych)
> with(Data, describe(InfantMortalityPerK))
                    sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
  vars
            mean
     1 177 44.26 40.41 29.3 38.85 34.69 2.9 167 164.1 0.99
X 1
                                                                  0.03 3.04
> with(Data, describe(DPTpct))
                    sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis
  vars
         n mean
Х1
     1 177 81.85 19.57
                           90
                                85.22 11.86 24 99
                                                       75 -1.3
                                                                  0.59 1.47
```

OLS Regression

```
> IMDPT<-lm(InfantMortalityPerK~DPTpct,data=Data,na.action=na.exclude)
> summary.lm(IMDPT)

Call:
lm(formula = InfantMortalityPerK ~ DPTpct, data = Data, na.action = na.exclude)

Residuals:
    Min    1Q Median    3Q    Max
    -56.8    -16.3    -5.1    11.8    86.6
```

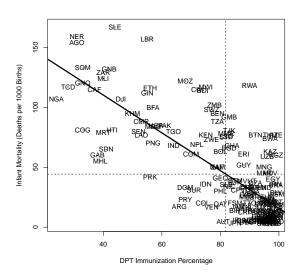
Coefficients:

```
Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 173.277 8.489 20.4 <2e-16 ***

DPTpct -1.576 0.101 -15.6 <2e-16 ***
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

Residual standard error: 26.2 on 175 degrees of freedom Multiple R-squared: 0.582, Adjusted R-squared: 0.58 F-statistic: 244 on 1 and 175 DF, p-value: <2e-16

Scatterplot: Infant Mortality and DPT Immunization Rates



Analysis of Variance

```
Response: InfantMortalityPerK

Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)

DPTpct 1 167423 167423 244 <2e-16 ***

Residuals 175 120033 686
```

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

> anova(IMDPT)

Analysis of Variance Table

Moving Parts

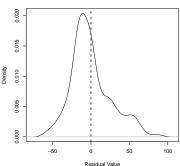
```
TSS = \text{total variability in } Y \text{ around its mean}
                      =\sum (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2
                       = 167423 + 120033
                       = 287456
MSS (\equiv 	exttt{DPTpct}) = model ("explained" or "regression") sum of squares
                      = \sum (\hat{Y}_i - \bar{Y})^2
                      = 167423
RSS(= Residuals) = residual ("unexplained" or "error") sum of squares
                         =\sum \hat{u}_i^2
                         = 120033
                                 \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{RSS}{N-k}
                                      =\frac{\sum \hat{u}_i^2}{N-2}
                                      = \frac{120033}{175}
\hat{\sigma} = "SEE" (the standard error of the estimate, a/k/a the Residual standard error)
    =\sqrt{\hat{\sigma}^2}
```

 $= \sqrt{686}$ = **26.2**

Fitted Values, Residuals, etc.

- > # Residuals (u):
 > Data\$IMDPTres <- with(Data, residuals(IMDPT))
 > describe(Data\$IMDPTres)
- var n mean sd median mad min max range skew kurtosis se 1 1 177 0 26.12 -5.1 19.42 -56.8 86.59 143.4 0.75 0.44 1.96

Density Plot: Regression Residuals

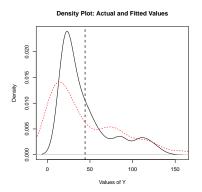


Fitted Values

- > # Fitted Values:
- > Data\$IMDPThat<-fitted.values(IMDPT)
- > describe(Data\$IMDPThat)

var n mean sd median mad min max range skew kurtosis se 1 1 177 44.26 30.84 31.41 18.7 17.22 135.4 118.2 1.3 0.59 2.32

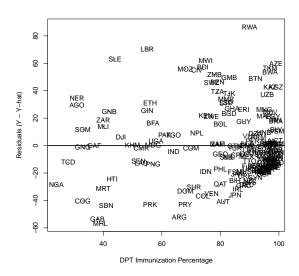
Figure: Density Plot: Actual (Y) and Fitted Values (\hat{Y})



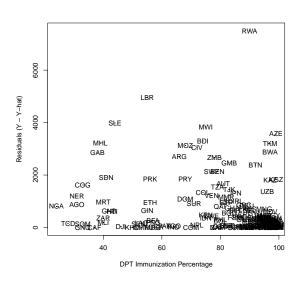
Some Correlations

```
Corr(Y, X):
> with(Data, cor(InfantMortalityPerK,DPTpct,use="complete.obs"))
[1] -0.7632
Corr(\hat{u}, Y):
> with(Data, cor(IMDPTres,InfantMortalityPerK,use="complete.obs"))
[1] 0.6462
Corr(\hat{u}, X):
> with(Data, cor(IMDPTres,DPTpct,use="complete.obs"))
[1] 9.573e-17
Corr(\hat{Y}, Y):
> with(Data, cor(IMDPThat,InfantMortalityPerK,use="complete.obs"))
[1] 0.7632
Corr(\hat{Y}, X):
> with(Data, cor(IMDPThat,DPTpct,use="complete.obs"))
\lceil 1 \rceil -1
Corr(\hat{u}, \hat{Y}):
> with(Data, cor(IMDPTres,IMDPThat,use="complete.obs"))
[1] 6.335e-17
```

Regression Residuals (\hat{u}) vs. DPT Percentage



Squared Residuals vs. DPT Percentage



Inference and Model Fit

Inference

The key point:

The estimators $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$ are random variables.

Due to (inter alia):

- Sampling variability: Random samples from a population \rightarrow slightly different $\hat{\beta}_0$ s and $\hat{\beta}_1$ s.
- Random variability in X: In cases where X is also a random variable...
- Intrinsic variability in **Y**: Because $Y_i = \mu + u_i$.

Start by assuming:

$$u_i \sim \text{i.i.d. } N(0, \sigma^2)$$

which means that:

$$Var(Y|X,\beta) = \sigma^2$$

SO:

$$\operatorname{Var}(\hat{\beta}_{1}) = \operatorname{Var}\left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(X_{i}-\bar{X})Y_{i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(X_{i}-\bar{X})^{2}}\right]$$

$$= \left[\frac{1}{\sum(X_{i}-\bar{X})^{2}}\right]^{2}\sum(X_{i}-\bar{X})^{2}\operatorname{Var}(Y)$$

$$= \left[\frac{1}{\sum(X_{i}-\bar{X})^{2}}\right]^{2}\sum(X_{i}-\bar{X})^{2}\sigma^{2}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma^{2}}{\sum(X_{i}-\bar{X})^{2}}.$$

$\mathsf{Var}(\hat{eta}_0)$ and $\mathsf{Cov}(\hat{eta}_0,\hat{eta}_1)$

Similarly:

$$Var(\hat{\beta}_0) = \frac{\sum X_i^2}{N \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \sigma^2$$

and:

$$\mathsf{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{-\bar{X}}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \sigma^2$$

Important Things

Note that:

- $Var(\hat{\beta}_0)$ and $Var(\hat{\beta}_1) \propto \sigma^2$
- $Var(\hat{\beta}_0)$ and $Var(\hat{\beta}_1) \propto -\sum (X_i \bar{X})^2$
- $Var(\hat{\beta}_0)$ and $Var(\hat{\beta}_1) \propto -N$
- $\operatorname{sign}[\operatorname{Cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1)] = -\operatorname{sign}(\bar{X})$

For:

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}$$

Rewrite:

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (X_i - \bar{X}) Y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (X_i - \bar{X})^2} = \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (X_i - \bar{X})}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right] Y_i.$$

Define "weights" k:

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \sum k_i Y_i$$

with
$$k_i = \frac{X_i - \bar{X}}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}$$
.

Gauss-Markov (continued)

Alternative (non-LS) estimator:

$$\tilde{\beta}_1 = \sum w_i Y_i$$

Unbiasedness requires:

$$E(\tilde{\beta}_1) = \sum_i w_i E(Y_i)$$

$$= \sum_i w_i (\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i)$$

$$= \beta_0 \sum_i w_i + \beta_1 \sum_i w_i X_i$$

Gauss-Markov (continued)

Variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{Var}(\tilde{\beta}_1) &= \mathsf{Var}\left(\sum w_i Y_i\right) \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum w_i^2 \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum \left[w_i - \frac{X_i - \bar{X}}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} + \frac{X_i - \bar{X}}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right]^2 \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum \left[w_i - \frac{X_i - \bar{X}}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right]^2 + \sigma^2 \left[\frac{1}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Gauss-Markov (continued)

Because $\sigma^2 \left| \frac{1}{\sum (X - \bar{X})^2} \right|$ is a constant, min[Var($\tilde{\beta}_1$)] minimizes

$$\sum \left[w_i - \frac{X_i - \bar{X}}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}\right]^2.$$

Minimized at:

$$w_i = \frac{X_i - X}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}.$$

implying:

$$Var(\tilde{\beta}_1) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}$$
$$= Var(\hat{\beta}_1)$$

If $u_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$, then:

$$\hat{eta}_0 \sim N[eta_0, \mathsf{Var}(\hat{eta}_0)]$$

and

$$\hat{eta}_1 \sim \mathcal{N}[eta_1, \mathsf{Var}(\hat{eta}_1)]$$

Which means:

$$z_{\hat{\beta}_1} = \frac{(\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_1)}{\sqrt{\mathsf{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)}}$$
$$= \frac{(\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_1)}{\mathsf{s.e.}(\hat{\beta}_1)}$$
$$= \sim N(0, 1)$$

A Small Problem...

$$\sigma^2 = ???$$

Solution: use

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\sum \hat{u}_i^2}{N - k}$$

Yields:

$$\widehat{\mathsf{Var}(\hat{eta}_1)} = rac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2},$$

$$\widehat{\operatorname{Var}(\hat{\beta}_0)} = \frac{\sum X_i^2}{N \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \hat{\sigma}^2$$

Inference (continued)

$$\widehat{\text{s.e.}(\hat{\beta}_1)} = \sqrt{\widehat{\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)}}$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}}$$

$$= \frac{\hat{\sigma}}{\sqrt{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}}$$

implies:

$$t_{\hat{\beta}_{1}} \equiv \frac{(\hat{\beta}_{1} - \beta_{1})}{\widehat{s.e.}(\hat{\beta}_{1})} = \frac{(\hat{\beta}_{1} - \beta_{1})}{\sqrt{\sum (X_{i} - \bar{X})^{2}}}$$

$$= \frac{(\hat{\beta}_{1} - \beta_{1})\sqrt{\sum (X_{i} - \bar{X})^{2}}}{\hat{\sigma}}$$

$$\sim t_{N-k}$$

Predictions and Variance

Point prediction:

$$\hat{Y}_k = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_k$$

 \hat{Y}_k is an unbiased estimate of Y_k :

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{E}(\hat{Y}_k) &= \mathsf{E}(\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_k) \\ &= \mathsf{E}(\hat{\beta}_0) + X_k \mathsf{E}(\hat{\beta}_1) \\ &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_k \\ &= \mathsf{E}(Y_k) \end{split}$$

Variability:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}(\hat{Y}_k) &= \operatorname{Var}(\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_k) \\ &= \frac{\sum X_i^2}{N \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \sigma^2 + \left[\frac{\sigma^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right] X_k^2 + 2 \left[\frac{-\bar{X}}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \sigma^2 \right] X_k \\ &= \sigma^2 \left[\frac{1}{N} + \frac{(X_k - \bar{X})^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Variability of Predictions

$$\operatorname{Var}(\hat{Y}_k) = \sigma^2 \left[\frac{1}{N} + \frac{(X_k - \bar{X})^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right]$$

means that $Var(\hat{Y}_k)$:

- Decreases in N
- Decreases in Var(X)
- Increases in $|X \bar{X}|$

Predictions and Inference

Estimated standard error of the prediction:

$$\widehat{\text{s.e.}(\hat{Y}_k)} = \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}^2 \left[\frac{1}{N} + \frac{(X_k - \bar{X})^2}{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \right]}$$

 \rightarrow (e.g.) confidence intervals:

95% c.i.(
$$\hat{Y}_k$$
) = $\hat{Y}_k \pm [1.96 \times \widehat{\text{s.e.}(\hat{Y}_k)}]$

Back to the Example

```
> summary(IMDPT)
Call:
lm(formula = InfantMortalityPerK ~ DPTpct, data = Data)
Residuals:
  Min 10 Median 30 Max
-56.8 -16.3 -5.1 11.8 86.6
Coefficients:
          Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 173.277 8.489 20.4 <2e-16 ***
DPTpct -1.576 0.101 -15.6 <2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
Residual standard error: 26.2 on 175 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.582, Adjusted R-squared: 0.58
F-statistic: 244 on 1 and 175 DF, p-value: <2e-16
```

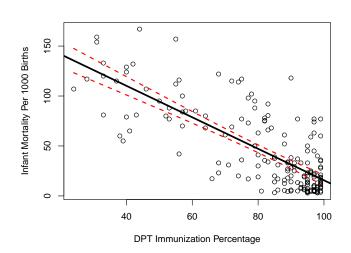
Things

```
Var(\hat{\beta}):
> vcov(IMDPT)
            (Intercept) DPTpct
(Intercept) 72.0677 -0.83317
DPTpct
       -0.8332 0.01018
95 percent c.i.s:
> confint(IMDPT)
             2.5 % 97.5 %
(Intercept) 156.523 190.032
DPTpct -1.775 -1.377
```

Predictions

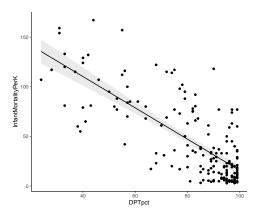
A Plot, With Confidence Intervals

Scatterplot of Infant Mortality and DPT Immunizations, along with Least-Squares Line and 95% Prediction Confidence Intervals



Same Plot, But Easier

```
> library(marginaleffects)
> plot_predictions(IMDPT,condition="DPTpct",points=1) +
> theme_classic()
```



Model Fit

General ideas:

- The closeness of the mapping between model-based values of Y and actual values of Y...
- Can be *in-sample* or *out-of-sample* (\rightarrow "overfitting")
- Is (in part) a function of *model specification* (choice of predictors, functional form, interactions, etc.)
- Related (but not identical) to prediction / predictive ability

R^2 Introduced

$$R^{2} = \frac{MSS}{TSS}$$

$$= \frac{\sum (\hat{Y}_{i} - \bar{Y})^{2}}{\sum (Y_{i} - \bar{Y})^{2}}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{RSS}{TSS}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{\sum \hat{u}_{i}^{2}}{\sum (Y_{i} - \bar{Y})^{2}}$$

R-squared:

- is "the proportion of variance explained"
- $\bullet \in [0,1]$
 - $\cdot R^2 = 1.0 \equiv a$ "perfect (linear) fit"
 - $\cdot R^2 = 0 \equiv \text{no (linear)} X Y \text{ association}$

For a single X,

$$R^{2} = \hat{\beta}_{1}^{2} \frac{\sum (X_{i} - \bar{X})^{2}}{\sum (Y_{i} - \bar{Y})^{2}}$$
$$= r_{XY}^{2}$$

Adjusted R^2 is:

$$R_{adj.}^2 = 1 - \frac{(1 - R^2)(N - c)}{(N - k)}$$

where c=1 if there is a constant in the model and c=0 otherwise.

$R_{adj.}^2$:

- $R_{adi.}^2 \to R^2$ as $N \to \infty$
- $R_{adj.}^2$ can be > 1, or < 0...
- $R_{adj.}^2$ increases with model "fit," but
- The extent of that increase is discounted by a factor proportional to the number of covariates.

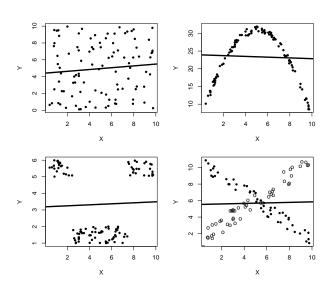
R^2 Alternatives

• Standard Error of the Estimate:

$$\mathsf{SEE} = \sqrt{\frac{\mathsf{RSS}}{N - k}}$$

- *F*-tests (later...)
- ROC / AUC
- Graphical methods

Caution: Different Ways to get $R^2 \approx 0$



Reporting

The results:

```
> summary(IMDPT)
Call:
lm(formula = InfantMortalityPerK ~ DPTpct, data = Data)
Residuals:
  Min 10 Median 30 Max
-56.8 -16.3 -5.1 11.8 86.6
Coefficients:
          Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 173.277 8.489 20.4 <2e-16 ***
DPTpct -1.576 0.101 -15.6 <2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
Residual standard error: 26.2 on 175 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.582, Adjusted R-squared: 0.58
F-statistic: 244 on 1 and 175 DF, p-value: <2e-16
```

A Better Table (using default-y stargazer)

Table: OLS Regression Model of Infant Mortality Rates, 2000

	Model I
(Constant)	173.30***
	(8.49)
DPT Immunization Rate	-1.58***
	(0.10)
Observations	177
R^2	0.58
Adjusted R ²	0.58
Residual Std. Error	26.19 (df = 175)
F Statistic	244.10*** (df = 1; 175)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Some Guidelines ("Rules"?)

Tables:

- Use column headings descriptively.
- Use multiple rows / columns rather than multiple tables.
- Learn about significant digits, and don't report more than 4-5 of them.
- Use a figure to replace a table when you can.
- Be aware of norms about *s.

Figures:

- Report the scale of axes, and label them.
- Use as much "space" as you need, but no more.
- Use color sparingly.