Machine Learning for Official Statistics and SDGs

Statistical learning: *You've seen this before*



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 Data Scientist: "Person who is better at statistics than any software engineer and

 better at software than any statistician."

J. Wills (2012)

" Statistical learning refers to a vast set of tools for understanding data"

Gareth James, Daniela Witten, Trevor Hastie, Robert Tibshirani (2021)

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- ► Involves building statistical models

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- ► Involves building statistical models
- Goals are estimation or prediction

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Introduction

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- ► We **do not** observe the outcome *y* but **only** several *x*s

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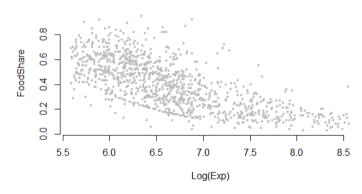
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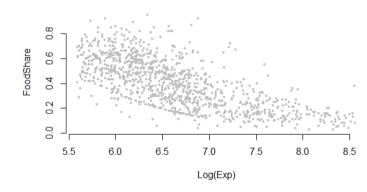
STATISTICAL LEARNING ON AN EXAMPLE

Scatter plot of Food Share vs Log(exp)



STATISTICAL LEARNING ON AN EXAMPLE

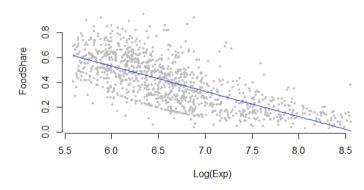
Scatter plot of Food Share vs Log(exp)



We may be interested in the relationship between the two variables

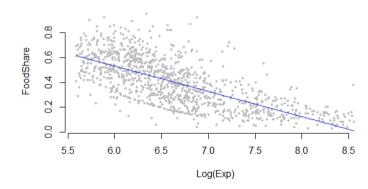
Understanding = estimate $f(\cdot)$

Linear regression



UNDERSTANDING = ESTIMATE $f(\cdot)$

Linear regression



 $f(\cdot)$ is the regression line

► Inference

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Introduction

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Predict y for any new x using $f(\cdot)$

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$$y = f(x) + \varepsilon$$

WHY ESTIMATING $f(\cdot)$?

Inference

Introduction

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We denote by $\widehat{f(\cdot)}$ the estimate of $f(\cdot)$

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▶ The goal is to find the line that is **minimizing** the distance to the observed points (x_i, y_i) . The distance is computed as the Mean Square Error (MSE):

$$MSE(\beta_0, \beta_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - (\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i))^2$$

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$$Min_{(\beta_0,\beta_1)} MSE(\beta_0,\beta_1)$$

K-NN

Wrap-up

How to estimate $f(\cdot)$?

Introduction

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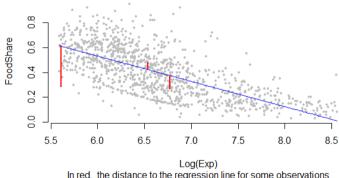
▶ The regression line, defined by β_0 and β_1 , is simply the solution of:

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The MSE it is the *cost function* used to estimate $(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1)$

HOW TO ESTIMATE $f(\cdot)$: IN PRACTICE

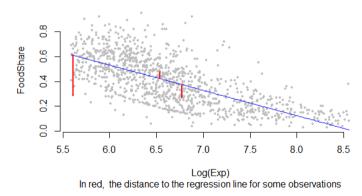
Linear regression



In red, the distance to the regression line for some observations

How to estimate $f(\cdot)$: In practice

Linear regression



The regression line is found by minimizing the sum of all distances or MSE

$$\text{Results:}\, \widehat{f(\cdot)}$$

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From the result and the estimated parameters $(\widehat{\beta}_0, \widehat{\beta}_1)$, we see that there is a relation, and that it is decreasing.

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	1.75	0.04	41.09	0
ltexp	-0.20***	0.01	-31.84	0

The quality of the adjustment may be measured by the $R^2 = 0.478$

► Is the line fitting the data?

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with:
$$TSS = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$
 and $RSS = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{f}(x_i))^2$

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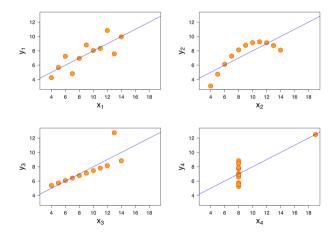
- $ightharpoonup R^2$ is a very popular measure. The closer to 1, the better.
- $ightharpoonup R^2$ can be very misleading

Wrap-up

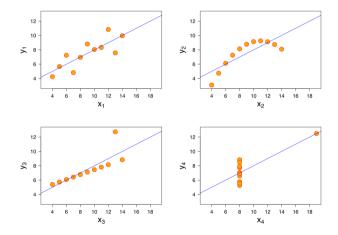
BEWARE OF R^2 : ANSCOMBE QUARTET (1973)

Introduction

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In all these data sets the R^2 is 0.67

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- ► Practice of Statistical learning can be challenging
- → Need to compute good indicators

Wrap-up

PRACTICE OF STATISTICAL LEARNING

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- Practice of Statistical learning can be challenging
- → Need to compute good indicators
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Introduction

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- ► Practice of Statistical learning can be challenging
- \rightarrow Need to compute good indicators
- → Need to understand the indicators computed
- → Need to go beyond linearity

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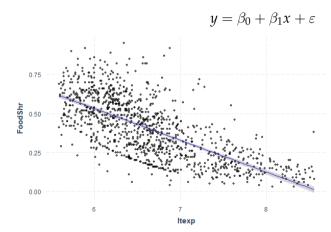
Machine Learning for Official Statistics and SDGs

Statistical learning: *Beyond linearity*



Introduction

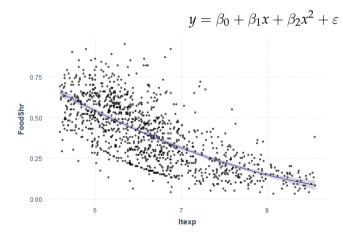
► A linear model may be unadapted or too simple



The fit (measured by R^2) is: $R^2 = 0.478$

Introduction

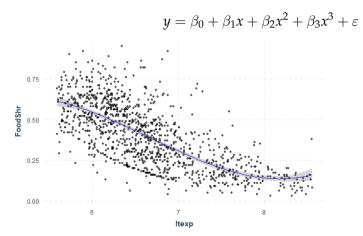
► A Polynomial model may be better adapted: **Quadratic** model



Do we have a better fit? $R^2 = 0.484$

Introduction

► Polynomial may be better adapted: **Cubic** model



Do we have a better fit? $R^2 = 0.490$

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Introduction

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How to choose the degree p?

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How to choose the degree p?

Collinearity of x^p and x^q for $p \neq q$?

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Machine Learning project

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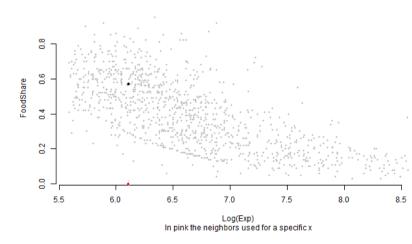
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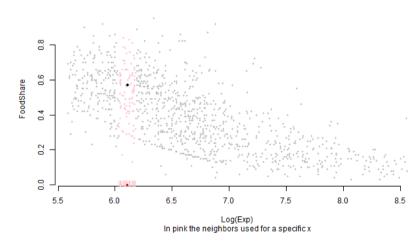
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- ► The method follows a very general idea:
 - "Observations close in the x dimension should be close in the y dimension"

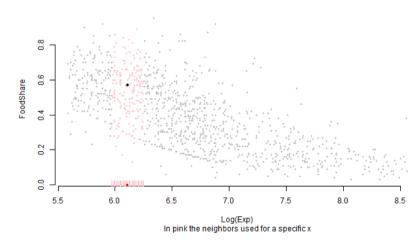
K-NN regression with k= 1



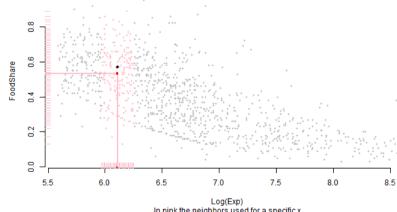
K-NN regression with k= 100



K-NN regression with k= 200

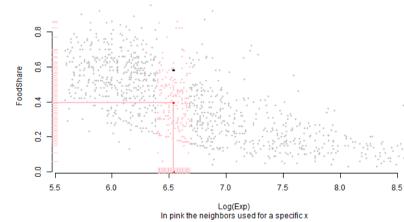


K-NN regression with k= 200

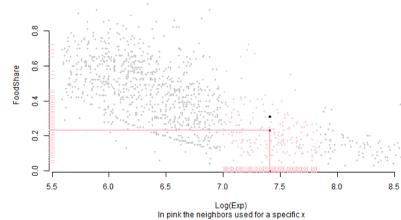


In pink the neighbors used for a specific x

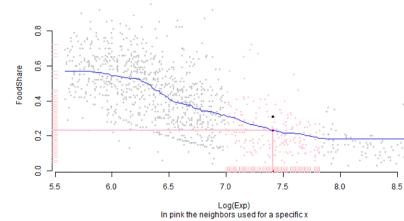
K-NN regression with k= 200



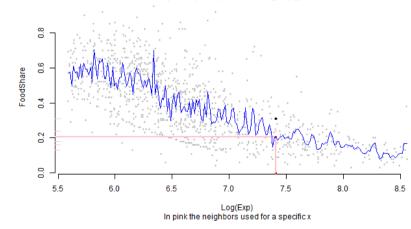
K-NN regression with k= 200



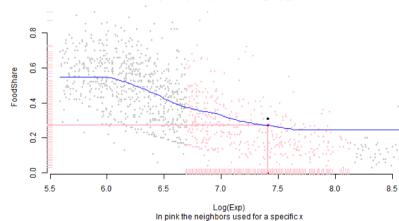
K-NN regression with k= 200



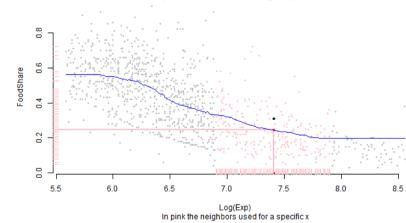
K-NN regression with k= 5



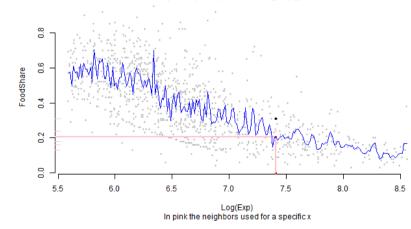
K-NN regression with k= 400



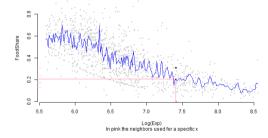
K-NN regression with k= 249



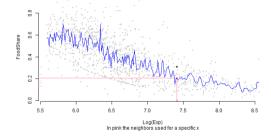
K-NN regression with k= 5



K-NN regression with k= 5 For this point xi (i= 937) the distance (yi - f(xi)) is: 0.106

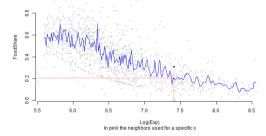


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Overfitting has many consequences

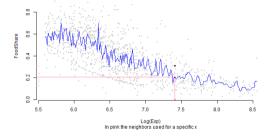




Overfitting has many consequences

► The estimated curve follows the data too closely

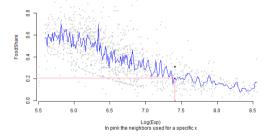
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- ► The estimated curve follows the **errors** too closely





Overfitting has many consequences

- ► The estimated curve follows the data too closely
- ► The estimated curve follows the **errors** too closely
- ► The estimated function will not provide good estimates on **new observations**

Machine Learning for Official Statistics and SDGs

Statistical learning: *vs* Machine Learning



The goal is to estimate $f(\cdot)$

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 - \hookrightarrow this is the goal of **Statistical Learning**
- ► In practice we'll use both tools to "understand the data"

The classical approach

▶ So far, we have estimated $f(\cdot)$ on the whole data set

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The classical approach

Introduction

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- ▶ We have estimated $f(\cdot)$ by $\widehat{f}(\cdot)$ and minimized some cost function such as the $MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i \widehat{f}(x_i))^2$
- ▶ The data serve both for estimating $\hat{f}(\cdot)$ and computing the prediction error

A different approach: resampling

▶ Our goal is evaluate the prediction accuracy of $\widehat{f}(\cdot)$ on a new, **unseen**, data set

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 \blacktriangleright And the true value of y_i will be available to compute MSE of the prediction

WHY DIFFERENT SETS?

Predicting using predictions capability

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- ▶ When estimating $f(\cdot)$ on the whole data set, over-fitting may occur
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WHY DIFFERENT SETS?

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Wrap-up

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Predicting using predictions capability

- lacktriangle When estimating $f(\cdot)$ on the whole data set, over-fitting may occur
- ► The validation set provides a good way to evaluate the prediction capabilities of a model and the prediction error on a new data set



▶ Prediction accuracy (using $\hat{f}(\cdot)$) is then evaluated on the validation set **only**

CONSTRUCTING TRAINING & VALIDATION SETS

In practice, the validation set is not a block



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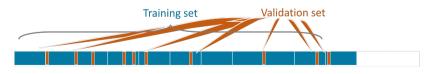
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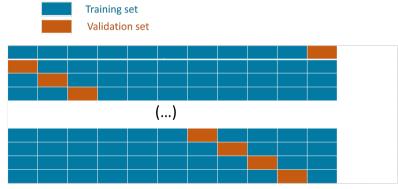


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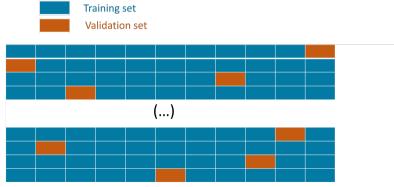
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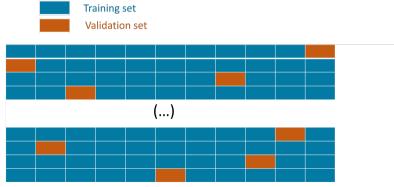
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Introduction

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Machine Learning project

Many DIFFERENT SETS!

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- ▶ In practice $m \in 5, \dots, 10$ shows good performances

Machine Learning involves several tasks, some are time consuming

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- ▶ Data analysis ← this is the core of this course

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- ► The train + validation sets approach is central in machine learning