

Simple Linear Regression and the Method of Least Squares

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*This material is part of the **statsTeachR** project*

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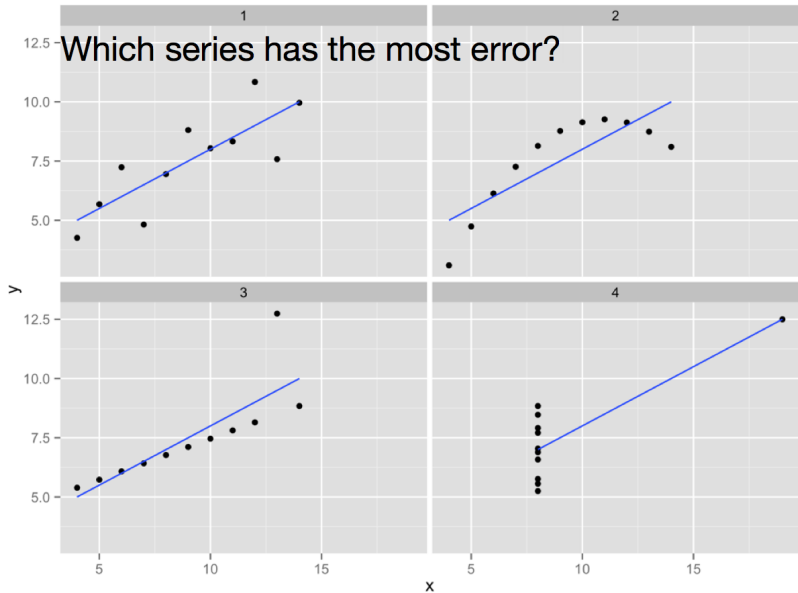
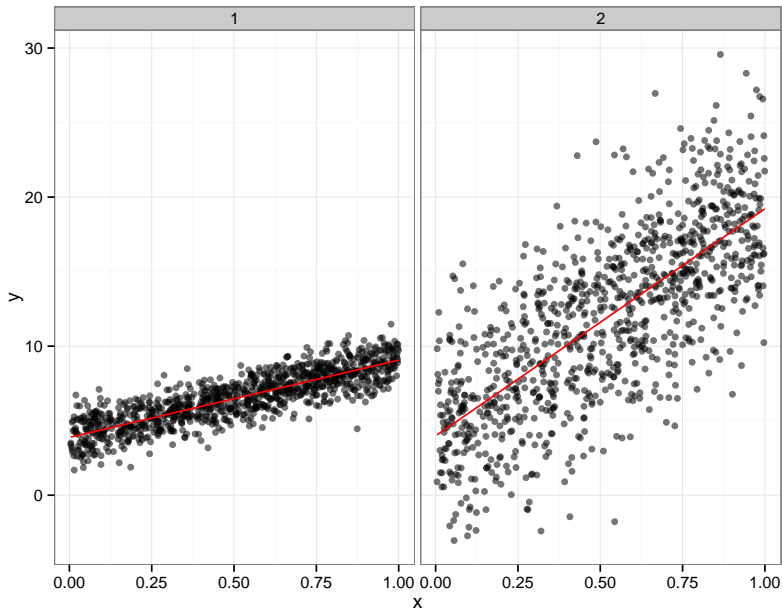


Figure acknowledgements to [Hadley Wickham](#).

Which data show a stronger association?



Goals for this class

You should be able to...

- interpret regression coefficients.
- derive estimators for SLR coefficients.
- implement a SLR from scratch (i.e. not using `lm()`).
- explain why some points have more influence than others on the fitted line.

Regression modeling

- Want to use predictors to learn about the outcome distribution, particularly conditional expected value.
- Formulate the problem parametrically

$$E(y \mid x) = f(x; \beta) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots$$

- (Note that other useful quantities, like covariance and correlation, tell you about the joint distribution of y and x)

Brief Detour: Covariance and Correlation

$$\text{cov}(x, y) = \mathbb{E}[(x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y)]$$

$$\text{cor}(x, y) = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\sqrt{\text{var}(x)\text{var}(y)}}$$

Simple linear regression

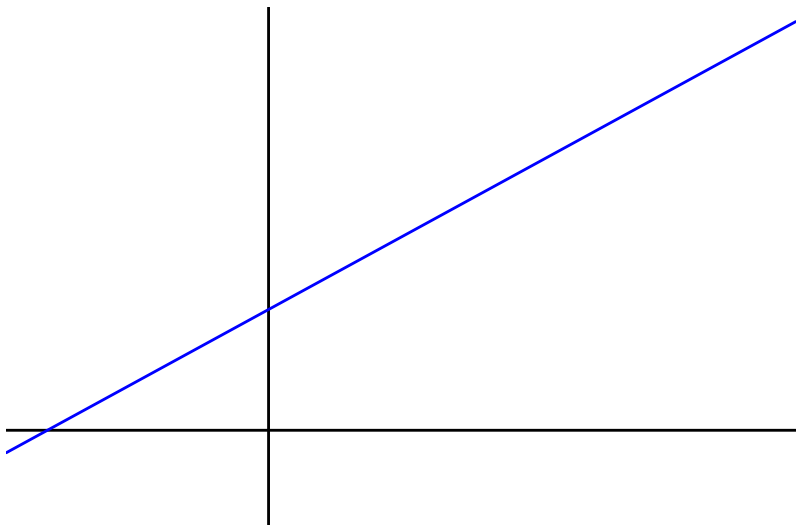
- Linear models are a special case of all regression models; simple linear regression is the simplest place to start
- Only one predictor:

$$E(y \mid x) = f(x; \beta) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1$$

- Useful to note that $x_0 = 1$ (implicit definition)
- Somehow, estimate β_0, β_1 using observed data.

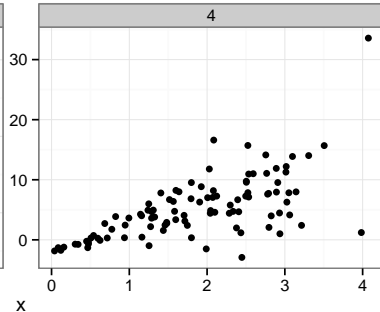
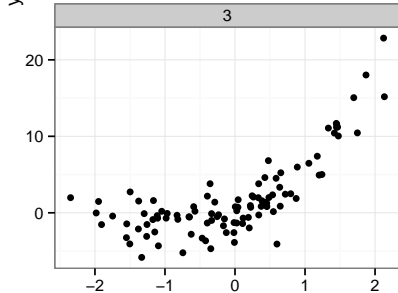
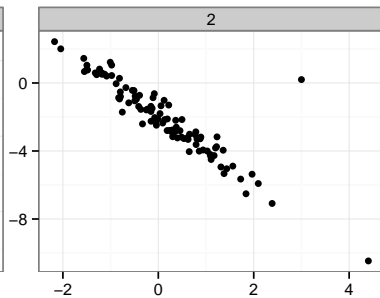
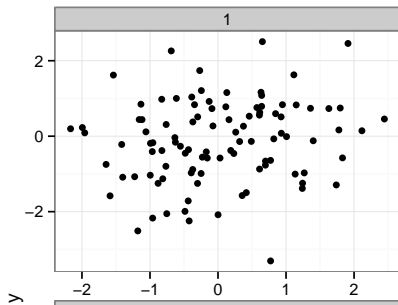
Coefficient interpretation

Coefficient interpretation



Step 1: Always look at the data!

- Plot the data using, e.g. the `plot()` or `qplot()` functions
- Do the data look like the assumed model?
- Should you be concerned about outliers?
- Define what you expect to see before fitting any model.



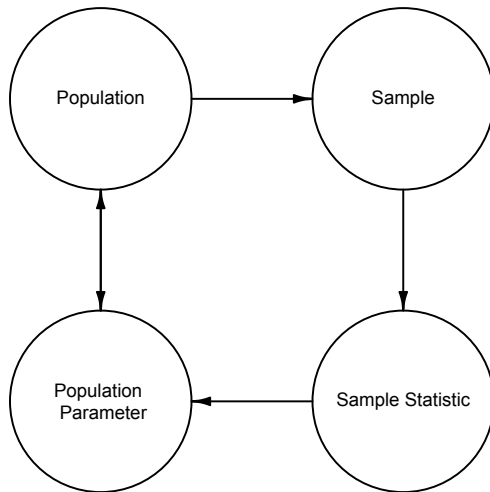
Least squares estimation

- Observe data (y_i, x_i) for subjects $1, \dots, I$. Want to estimate β_0, β_1 in the model

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \epsilon_i; \epsilon_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} (0, \sigma^2)$$

- Recall the assumptions:
 - A2: $E(\epsilon | x) = E(\epsilon) = 0$
 - A3: Uncorrelated errors
 - A4: Constant variance
 - A5: Normal distribution not needed for least squares, but **is** needed for inference.]

Circle of Life



Least squares estimation

- Recall that for a single sample $y_i, i \in 1, \dots, N$, the sample mean $\hat{\mu}_y$ minimizes the sum of squared deviations.

$$RSS(\mu_y) = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \mu_y)^2$$

Least squares estimation

Find $\hat{\beta}_0$ and β_1 . By minimizing RSS relative to each parameter.

$$RSS(\beta_0, \beta_1) = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \mathbb{E}[y_i|x_i])^2$$

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\beta}_0 &= b_0 = \bar{y} - b_1 \bar{x} \\ \hat{\beta}_1 &= b_1 = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}\end{aligned}$$

Notes about LSE

Relationship between correlation and slope

$$\rho = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\sqrt{\text{var}(x)\text{var}(y)}}; \quad \hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\text{var}(x)}$$

Why we need to keep watch for outliers

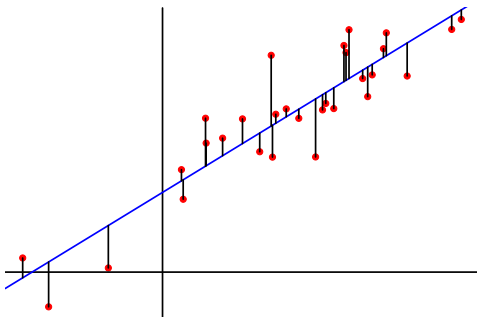
$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\beta}_1 &= \frac{\sum (y_i - \bar{y})(x_i - \bar{x})}{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \\ &= \frac{\sum \frac{y_i - \bar{y}}{x_i - \bar{x}} (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \\ &= \sum \frac{y_i - \bar{y}}{x_i - \bar{x}} \omega_i\end{aligned}$$

Note that weight ω_i increases as x_i gets further away from \bar{x} .

Geometric interpretation of least squares

Least squares minimizes the sum of squared vertical distances between observed and estimated y 's:

$$\min_{\beta_0, \beta_1} \sum_{i=1}^I (y_i - (\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i))^2$$



Least squares foreshadowing

- Didn't have to choose to minimize squares – could minimize absolute value, for instance.
- Least squares estimates turn out to be a “good idea” – unbiased, BLUE.
- Later we'll see about maximum likelihood as well.