# [STAT W4702] Statistical Inference & Modelling Group Project

Babies

12 December 2015

#### Abstract

#### Data Set

This project was conducted on the Low Birth Weight dataset collected in 1986 at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts as a part of a bigger study on the factors influencing newborn infants' health and risk of serious health problems potentially leading to death. This dataset is distributed as a part of MASS library and contains 189 observations and 10 variables, among which but represents the exact amount of newborn infant's weight in grams and is used as the variable of interest we are trying to predict. The other 9 variables stand for different factors related to mothers' physiological parameters, such as age, weight and race, their health-related habits and behavior during pregnancy (smoking habits, presence of uterine irritability and number of physician visits). Also there is a low birth weight indicator low, which is defined as a binary variable showing whether the weight of an infant is below 2500 grams or not. Brief description of each variable is provided in the table below.

The goal of our research is to identify relationship between these variables and infant weight and understand the influence of each of them on the explained variable. The project pursue both inferential and predictive goals as it is equally important to be able to obtain inference about factors affecting newborn's health and to be able to react on the potential health risks in a timely manner, when the model predicts the low birth weight outcome for a certain observation. In order to accomplish this goal we tried to fit multiple linear and non-linear models exploring the rationale that could provide the evidence for certain types of models and finding balance between interpretability and predictive power of the model.

#### Cleaning Dataset

For the purposes of the research the dataset was cleaned in the following way:

- factor variable race was assigned with proper labels white, black and other;
- physisian visits were converted to a factor variable ftv with 3 labels 0, 1 and 2+;
- response is defined as an exact amount of infant's weight from bwt;
- all the columns are assigned with meaningful names.

Variable description table and summary statistics of the tidy dataset are provided below.

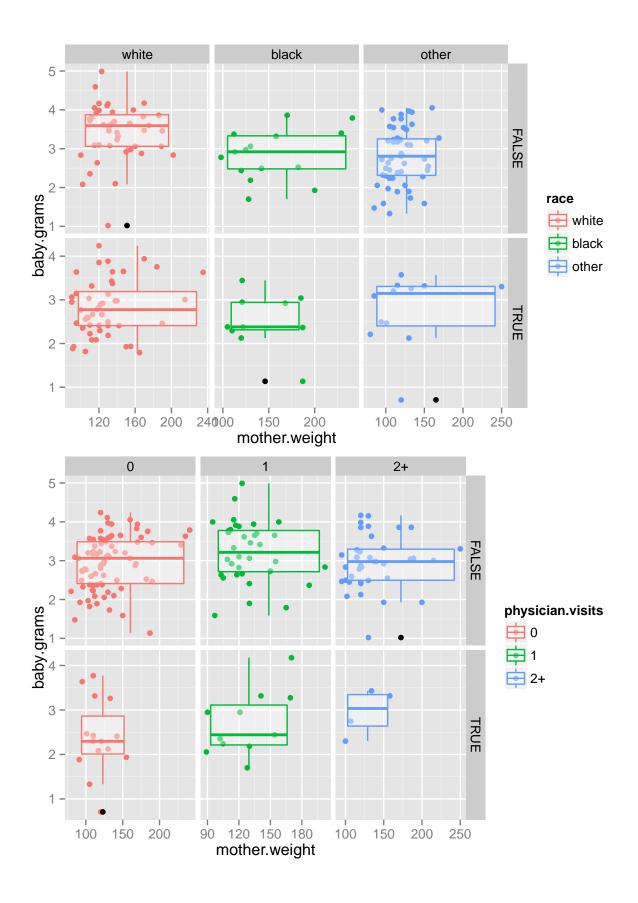
Variable	Description
baby.grams	weight of newborn infant in grams
mother.age	mother's age in years
mother.weight	mother's weight in pounds at last menstrual period
race	mother's race, factor variable with following labels: white, black or other
smoke	smoking status during pregnancy, binary variable
prem.labor	binary variable showing whether mother had premature labors before or not
hypertension	binary variable showing whether mother had hypertension or not

Variable	Description
uterine physician.visits	binary variable showing presence of uterine irritability number of physician visits during the first trimester: $0$ , $1$ or $2+$

```
mother.weight
##
      baby.grams
                       mother.age
                                                          race
    Min.
           :0.709
                     Min.
                            :14.00
                                     Min.
                                             : 80.0
                                                      white:96
    1st Qu.:2.414
                     1st Qu.:19.00
                                     1st Qu.:110.0
##
                                                      black:26
    Median :2.977
                     Median :23.00
                                     Median :121.0
                                                      other:67
##
    Mean
           :2.945
                     Mean
                            :23.24
                                     Mean
                                             :129.8
    3rd Qu.:3.487
                     3rd Qu.:26.00
                                      3rd Qu.:140.0
           :4.990
                            :45.00
                                             :250.0
##
    Max.
                     Max.
                                     Max.
##
      smoke
                     prem.labor
                                 hypertension
                                                   uterine
##
    Mode :logical
                     FALSE:159
                                 Mode :logical
                                                  Mode :logical
    FALSE:115
                     TRUE : 30
                                 FALSE:177
                                                  FALSE:161
##
    TRUE :74
                                 TRUE :12
                                                  TRUE :28
##
##
    NA's :0
                                 NA's :0
                                                  NA's :0
##
##
##
    physician.visits
##
    0 :100
   1 : 47
##
    2+: 42
##
##
##
```

Datatset has only 3 quantitative variables, however, as shown in the table below, they do not demonstrate

```
## baby.grams mother.age mother.weight
## baby.grams 1.00000000 0.09031781 0.1857333
## mother.age 0.09031781 1.00000000 0.1800732
## mother.weight 0.18573328 0.18007315 1.0000000
```



```
set.seed(1)
train <- sample(1:nrow(bwt.grams), floor(0.75*nrow(bwt.grams)))</pre>
library(MASS)
data(birthwt)
bwt <- with(birthwt, {</pre>
  race <- factor(race, labels = c("white", "black", "other"))</pre>
  ptd <- factor(ptl > 0)
 ftv <- factor(ftv)</pre>
  levels(ftv)[-(1:2)] <- "2+"
  data.frame(low, age, lwt, race, smoke = (smoke > 0),
             ptd, ht = (ht > 0), ui = (ui > 0), ftv)
colnames(bwt) <- c("below.2500", "mother.age",</pre>
                       "mother.weight", "race",
                       "smoke", "prem.labor",
                       "hypertension", "uterine",
                       "physician.visits")
bwt.grams <- with(birthwt, {</pre>
  bwt <- bwt/1000
  race <- factor(race, labels = c("white", "black", "other"))</pre>
  ptd <- factor(ptl > 0)
  ftv <- factor(ftv)</pre>
  levels(ftv)[-(1:2)] <- "2+"
  data.frame(bwt, age, lwt, race, smoke = (smoke > 0),
             ptd, ht = (ht > 0), ui = (ui > 0), ftv
})
colnames(bwt.grams) <- c("baby.grams", "mother.age",</pre>
                       "mother.weight", "race",
                       "smoke", "prem.labor",
                       "hypertension", "uterine",
                       "physician.visits")
summary(bwt)
      below.2500
                                     mother.weight
##
                       mother.age
                                                         race
## Min. :0.0000
                     Min. :14.00
                                    Min. : 80.0
                                                     white:96
                     1st Qu.:19.00
## 1st Qu.:0.0000
                                     1st Qu.:110.0
                                                     black:26
## Median :0.0000
                     Median :23.00
                                     Median :121.0
                                                      other:67
## Mean :0.3122
                     Mean :23.24
                                     Mean :129.8
## 3rd Qu.:1.0000
                     3rd Qu.:26.00
                                     3rd Qu.:140.0
## Max.
         :1.0000 Max.
                            :45.00
                                     Max.
                                            :250.0
##
      smoke
                    prem.labor hypertension
                                                 uterine
## Mode :logical
                    FALSE:159
                                Mode :logical
                                                 Mode :logical
## FALSE:115
                    TRUE: 30
                                FALSE:177
                                                 FALSE:161
## TRUE :74
                                TRUE:12
                                                 TRUE:28
## NA's :0
                                NA's :0
                                                 NA's :0
##
##
## physician.visits
## 0 :100
## 1 : 47
## 2+: 42
```

#### summary(bwt.grams)

```
##
      baby.grams
                      mother.age
                                     mother.weight
                                                        race
##
                                     Min. : 80.0
    Min.
           :0.709
                    Min.
                           :14.00
                                                     white:96
                    1st Qu.:19.00
##
    1st Qu.:2.414
                                     1st Qu.:110.0
                                                     black:26
    Median :2.977
                    Median :23.00
                                     Median :121.0
                                                      other:67
##
   Mean
           :2.945
                    Mean
                           :23.24
                                     Mean
                                           :129.8
                    3rd Qu.:26.00
##
    3rd Qu.:3.487
                                     3rd Qu.:140.0
                                            :250.0
##
    Max.
           :4.990
                            :45.00
                    Max.
                                     Max.
##
      smoke
                    prem.labor
                                hypertension
                                                  uterine
##
    Mode :logical
                    FALSE:159
                                 Mode :logical
                                                 Mode :logical
                    TRUE : 30
##
    FALSE:115
                                 FALSE: 177
                                                 FALSE:161
##
    TRUE :74
                                 TRUE :12
                                                 TRUE :28
##
    NA's :0
                                 NA's :0
                                                 NA's :0
##
##
##
   physician.visits
##
   0:100
   1:47
##
##
    2+: 42
##
##
##
```

#### bwt[0:10,]

```
below.2500 mother.age mother.weight race smoke prem.labor hypertension
##
## 1
               0
                          19
                                        182 black FALSE
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
## 2
               0
                          33
                                        155 other FALSE
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
## 3
               0
                          20
                                        105 white TRUE
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
## 4
                0
                          21
                                        108 white
                                                   TRUE
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
                                        107 white TRUE
## 5
               0
                          18
                                                                            FALSE
                                                              FALSE
## 6
                0
                          21
                                        124 other FALSE
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
## 7
               0
                          22
                                                                            FALSE
                                        118 white FALSE
                                                              FALSE
## 8
                0
                          17
                                        103 other FALSE
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
## 9
               0
                          29
                                        123 white
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
                                                   TRUE
## 10
               0
                          26
                                        113 white
                                                   TRUE
                                                              FALSE
                                                                            FALSE
##
      uterine physician.visits
## 1
         TRUE
                              0
## 2
        FALSE
                             2+
## 3
        FALSE
                              1
## 4
         TRUE
                             2+
## 5
                              0
         TRUE
                              0
## 6
        FALSE
## 7
        FALSE
                              1
## 8
        FALSE
                              1
## 9
        FALSE
                              1
## 10
        FALSE
                              0
```

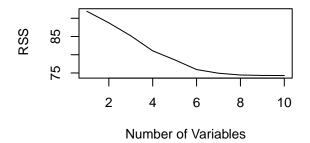
```
bwt.grams[0:10,]
##
      baby.grams mother.age mother.weight race smoke prem.labor hypertension
## 1
           2.523
                        19
                                     182 black FALSE
                                                          FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
## 2
           2.551
                         33
                                     155 other FALSE
                                                          FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
## 3
           2.557
                        20
                                     105 white TRUE
                                                         FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
                                     108 white TRUE
## 4
           2.594
                        21
                                                         FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
## 5
           2.600
                        18
                                     107 white TRUE
                                                          FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
## 6
           2.622
                        21
                                     124 other FALSE
                                                         FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
## 7
           2.637
                        22
                                     118 white FALSE
                                                         FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
## 8
                        17
                                     103 other FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
           2.637
                                                          FALSE
## 9
           2.663
                        29
                                     123 white TRUE
                                                         FALSE
                                                                       FALSE
                                     113 white TRUE
                                                         FALSE
## 10
           2.665
                        26
                                                                       FALSE
##
      uterine physician.visits
## 1
        TRUE
## 2
       FALSE
                            2+
## 3
       FALSE
                            1
## 4
        TRUE
                            2+
## 5
        TRUE
                            0
## 6
       FALSE
                            0
## 7
       FALSE
                            1
## 8
       FALSE
                            1
## 9
       FALSE
                            1
## 10
                             0
       FALSE
attach(bwt.grams)
library (leaps)
regfit.full=regsubsets(baby.grams~., bwt.grams, nvmax =19)
reg.summary = summary(regfit.full)
reg.summary$rsq
   [1] 0.08061477 0.11225032 0.14782772 0.18905712 0.21364404 0.24039446
## [7] 0.25042689 0.25537670 0.25647316 0.25682243
par(mfrow = c(2,2))
plot(reg.summary$rss ,xlab=" Number of Variables ",ylab=" RSS", type="1")
plot(reg.summary$adjr2 ,xlab =" Number of Variables ", ylab=" Adjusted RSq",type="1")
max.adjr2=which.max (reg.summary$adjr2)
max.adjr2
## [1] 8
points (max.adjr2, reg.summary$adjr2[max.adjr2], col ="red",cex =2, pch =20)
plot(reg.summary$cp ,xlab =" Number of Variables ", ylab="Cp", type='1')
min.cp= which.min (reg.summary$cp )
min.cp
```

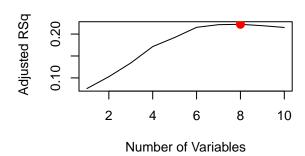
## [1] 7

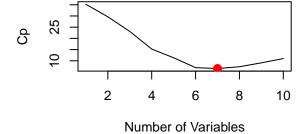
```
points (min.cp, reg.summary$cp[min.cp], col ="red",cex =2, pch =20)
min.bic = which.min(reg.summary$bic)
min.bic
```

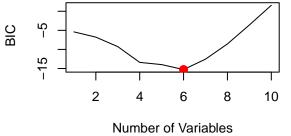
#### ## [1] 6

```
plot(reg.summary$bic ,xlab=" Number of Variables ",ylab=" BIC", type='1')
points (min.bic, reg.summary$bic [min.bic], col =" red",cex =2, pch =20)
```









```
plot(regfit.full ,scale ="r2")
plot(regfit.full ,scale ="adjr2")
plot(regfit.full ,scale ="Cp")
plot(regfit.full ,scale ="bic")
```

```
20013
                  mother.age
              (Intercept)
                      mother.weight
                          raceblack
                                 smokeTRUE
                                        hypertensionTRUE
                                            uterineTRUE
                                                    physician.visits2+
                                                                                      (Intercept)
                                                                                          mother.age
                                                                                             mother.weight
                                                                                                 raceblack
                                                                                                         smokeTRUE
                                                                                                            prem.laborTRUE
                                                                                                                hypertensionTRUE
                                                                                                                    uterineTRUE
                                                                                                                           physician.visits2+
                              raceother
                                     prem.laborTRUE
                                                physician.visits1
                                                                                                     raceother
                                                                                                                        physician.visits1
                  mother.age
                      mother.weight
                                     orem.laborTRUE
                                         pertensionTRUE
                                            uterineTRUE
                                                    hysician.visits2+
                                                                                          mother.age
                                                                                                            orem.laborTRUE
                                                                                                                            hysician.visits2+
              (Intercept)
                          raceblack
                              raceother
                                 smokeTRUE
                                                physician.visits1
                                                                                      (Intercept)
                                                                                              mother.weight
                                                                                                 raceblack
                                                                                                     raceother
                                                                                                         smokeTRUE
                                                                                                                DertensionTRUE
                                                                                                                    uterineTRUE
                                                                                                                        physician.visits1
coef(regfit.full, max.adjr2)
##
              (Intercept)
                                       mother.weight
                                                                           raceblack
                                                                                                        raceother
##
              2.799714010
                                           0.004194539
                                                                      -0.453359173
                                                                                                   -0.305169792
                 smokeTRUE
##
                                      prem.laborTRUE
                                                               hypertensionTRUE
                                                                                                     uterineTRUE
##
             -0.294468372
                                         -0.235263456
                                                                      -0.577857003
                                                                                                   -0.478599299
##
    physician.visits1
              0.125220667
##
coef(regfit.full, min.cp)
                                    mother.weight
                                                                      raceblack
##
             (Intercept)
                                                                                                 raceother
##
            2.871512227
                                        0.004043831
                                                                 -0.465601219
                                                                                            -0.333878191
                smokeTRUE
##
                                   prem.laborTRUE hypertensionTRUE
                                                                                              uterineTRUE
           -0.325081991
##
                                      -0.207834528
                                                                 -0.573799253
                                                                                            -0.491143889
coef(regfit.full, min.bic)
##
             (Intercept)
                                                                      raceblack
                                                                                                 raceother
                                    mother.weight
##
              2.83726392
                                         0.00424155
                                                                   -0.47505760
                                                                                              -0.34815038
##
                smokeTRUE hypertensionTRUE
                                                                   uterineTRUE
##
             -0.35632095
                                        -0.58519312
                                                                   -0.52552390
classfit.full=regsubsets(below.2500~., bwt, nvmax =19)
class.summary = summary(classfit.full)
class.summary$rsq
```

[1] 0.07279919 0.09555397 0.12812223 0.14603025 0.16130952 0.17290333

[7] 0.18432185 0.19036572 0.19240164 0.19259390

```
par(mfrow =c(2,2))
plot(class.summary$rss ,xlab=" Number of Variables ",ylab=" RSS", type="l")
plot(class.summary$adjr2 ,xlab =" Number of Variables ", ylab=" Adjusted RSq",type="l")
max.adjr2=which.max (class.summary$adjr2)
max.adjr2
```

#### ## [1] 8

```
points (max.adjr2, class.summary$adjr2[max.adjr2], col ="red",cex =2, pch =20)

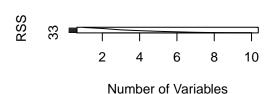
plot(class.summary$cp ,xlab =" Number of Variables ", ylab="Cp", type='l')
min.cp= which.min (class.summary$cp )
min.cp
```

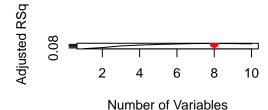
#### ## [1] 7

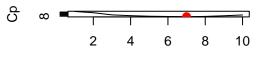
```
points (min.cp, class.summary$cp[min.cp], col ="red",cex =2, pch =20)
min.bic = which.min(class.summary$bic)
min.bic
```

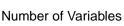
#### ## [1] 3

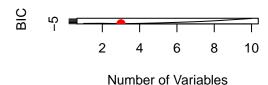
```
plot(class.summary$bic ,xlab=" Number of Variables ",ylab=" BIC", type='1')
points (min.bic, class.summary$bic [min.bic], col =" red",cex =2, pch =20)
```











```
plot(classfit.full ,scale ="r2")
plot(classfit.full ,scale ="adjr2")
plot(classfit.full ,scale ="Cp")
plot(classfit.full ,scale ="bic")
                                                                          <u>₹</u>00£5
2001
                   mother.age
                                                                                             mother.age
                           raceblack
                               raceother
                                          hypertensionTRUE
                                              uterineTRUE
                                                                                         (Intercept)
                                                                                                         raceother
                                                                                                                                 physician.visits2+
                       mother.weight
                                  smokeTRUE
                                      prem.laborTRUE
                                                      physician.visits2+
                                                                                                 mother.weight
                                                                                                             smokeTRUE
                                                                                                                 prem.laborTRUE
                                                                                                                     hypertensionTRUE
                                                                                                                         uterineTRUE
               (Intercept)
                                                  physician.visits1
                                                                                                     raceblack
                                                                                                                             physician.visits1
                   mother.age
                                                                                             mother.age
               (Intercept)
                       mother.weight
                           raceblack
                               raceother
                                  smokeTRUE
                                      orem.laborTRUE
                                          pertensionTRUE
                                              uterineTRUE
                                                  physician.visits1
                                                      nysician.visits2+
                                                                                         (Intercept)
                                                                                                 mother.weight
                                                                                                     raceblack
                                                                                                         raceother
                                                                                                             smokeTRUE
                                                                                                                 orem.laborTRUE
                                                                                                                     pertensionTRUE
                                                                                                                         uterineTRUE
                                                                                                                             physician.visits1
                                                                                                                                 hysician.visits2+
coef(classfit.full, max.adjr2)
##
               (Intercept)
                                         mother.weight
                                                                              raceblack
                                                                                                            raceother
##
                0.47731870
                                             -0.00269524
                                                                            0.21446267
                                                                                                          0.11814439
##
                  smokeTRUE
                                       prem.laborTRUE
                                                                 hypertensionTRUE
                                                                                                         uterineTRUE
                                              0.26509425
                                                                            0.36294635
                                                                                                          0.14095381
##
                0.12582999
##
    physician.visits1
##
               -0.08816014
coef(classfit.full, min.cp)
##
             (Intercept)
                                      mother.weight
                                                                         raceblack
                                                                                                     raceother
##
             0.426770003
                                        -0.002589136
                                                                      0.223081542
                                                                                                  0.138356202
##
                smokeTRUE
                                    prem.laborTRUE hypertensionTRUE
                                                                                                  uterineTRUE
             0.147383151
                                         0.245783235
                                                                      0.360089535
##
                                                                                                  0.149785677
coef(classfit.full, min.bic)
##
             (Intercept)
                                                                 prem.laborTRUE hypertensionTRUE
                                      mother.weight
```

0.313205471

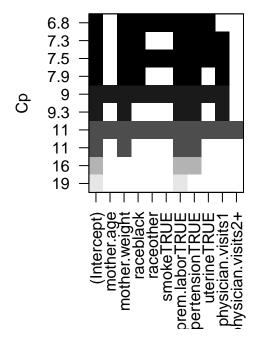
0.370930320

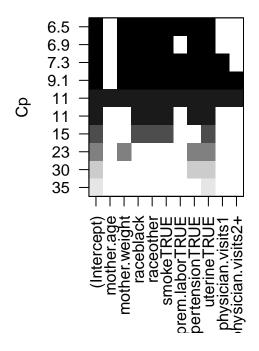
##

0.607928770

-0.002842709

```
#Let's compare classification and regression
par(mfrow =c(1,2))
plot(classfit.full ,scale ="Cp")
plot(regfit.full ,scale ="Cp")
```





#Logistic regression with the predictors selected by best subset
log.fit = glm( below.2500~ mother.weight+race+smoke+hypertension+uterine, family = binomial, data=bwt[t.summary(log.fit)

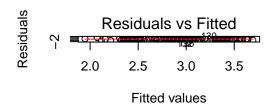
```
##
## Call:
## glm(formula = below.2500 ~ mother.weight + race + smoke + hypertension +
       uterine, family = binomial, data = bwt[train, ])
##
##
## Deviance Residuals:
      Min
                 10
                      Median
                                   30
                                           Max
  -1.8144
           -0.7984 -0.4335
                               0.8262
                                        2.1800
##
##
## Coefficients:
##
                     Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
                                1.153607
## (Intercept)
                                         -0.125 0.90090
                    -0.143646
## mother.weight
                    -0.019410
                                0.008422
                                          -2.305 0.02119 *
## raceblack
                     1.671922
                                0.653759
                                           2.557
                                                  0.01055 *
## raceother
                     1.395900
                                0.561766
                                           2.485
                                                  0.01296 *
## smokeTRUE
                     1.543006
                                0.511265
                                           3.018
                                                  0.00254 **
## hypertensionTRUE 2.023435
                                0.777850
                                           2.601 0.00929 **
## uterineTRUE
                     1.041207
                                0.545658
                                           1.908 0.05637 .
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
```

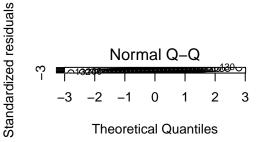
```
Null deviance: 175.05 on 140 degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 142.72 on 134 degrees of freedom
## AIC: 156.72
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5
confint(log.fit)
## Waiting for profiling to be done...
                            2.5 %
                                         97.5 %
## (Intercept)
                     -2.32618747
                                    2.220864159
                     -0.03731747 -0.004067736
## mother.weight
## raceblack
                                   3.005448309
                       0.41072752
## raceother
                       0.33601380
                                    2.561460286
## smokeTRUE
                       0.58304495
                                    2.610272893
## hypertensionTRUE 0.54469293
                                    3.659423231
## uterineTRUE
                     -0.02878761
                                   2.132040177
par(mfrow = c(2, 2))
plot(log.fit)
                                                 Std. deviance resid.
Residuals
              Residuals vs Fitted
                                                                  Normal Q-Q
                                    2
                                                                                   2
                Predicted values
                                                               Theoretical Quantiles
(Std. deviance resid.)
                                                 Std. Pearson resid.
               Scale-Location
                                                             Residuals vs Leverage
                                    2
                                                          0.00
                                                                0.05
                                                                      0.10 0.15 0.20
                Predicted values
                                                                     Leverage
pred.train <- predict(log.fit, type = "response")</pre>
low.train <- sapply(pred.train, function(x) {ifelse(x > 0.5, 1, 0)})
table(low.train, bwt$below.2500[train])
##
## low.train 0 1
##
           0 87 25
```

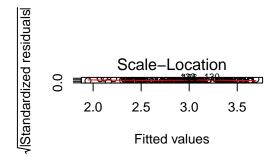
1 10 19

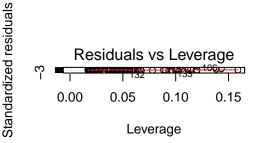
##

```
mean(low.train == bwt$below.2500[train])
## [1] 0.751773
pred.test <- predict(log.fit, newdata = bwt[-train, -1], type = "response")</pre>
low.test <- sapply(pred.test, function(x) {ifelse(x > 0.5, 1, 0)})
table(low.test, bwt$below.2500[-train])
##
## low.test 0 1
      0 29 11
##
        1 4 4
mean(low.test == bwt$below.2500[-train])
## [1] 0.6875
#Linear regression with the predictors selected by best subset
lm.fit = lm( baby.grams~ mother.weight+race+smoke+hypertension+uterine, data=bwt.grams)
summary(lm.fit)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = baby.grams ~ mother.weight + race + smoke + hypertension +
      uterine, data = bwt.grams)
##
##
## Residuals:
               1Q
                  Median
                              3Q
## -1.84214 -0.43319 0.06709 0.45921 1.63103
## Coefficients:
                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
                2.837264  0.243676  11.644  < 2e-16 ***
## (Intercept)
                ## mother.weight
                ## raceblack
## raceother
                ## smokeTRUE
                ## hypertensionTRUE -0.585193   0.199644   -2.931   0.003810 **
                ## uterineTRUE
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 0.6459 on 182 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.2404, Adjusted R-squared: 0.2154
## F-statistic: 9.6 on 6 and 182 DF, p-value: 3.601e-09
confint(lm.fit)
##
                        2.5 %
                                  97.5 %
## (Intercept)
                 2.3564706569 3.318057183
```





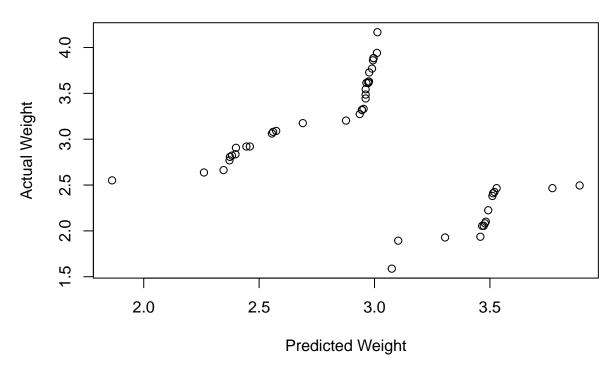




## Polynomial Models

## [1] 0.4813745

#### **Predicted vs Actual**



When we fit a polynomial model on the predictors obtained from best subset, we observe a Mean Squared Error of 0.4813745. The smaller the Mean Squared Error, the closer the fit is to the data. But, as he value of MSE is high, it suggests that this model does not provide a good fit for the data. The plot also shows that there are irregularities in the prediction and that the polynomial model of degree 2 obtained by using predictors suggested by the best subset is not sufficient.

Different models were tried by increasing the degree of the polynomial but still using the predictors suggested by the best subset and the following results were obtained:

## [1] 0.4640868

## [1] 0.4619314

We note that as the degree of the polynomial increases, the MSE decreases, but the drop is not significant, suggesting that these predictors are not sufficient enough to predict the correct baby weight.

When we remove the predictors with very low *p-values*, which were suggested by the best subset - namely smoke, race and add other predictors which were rejected by the best-subset, namely - mother.age, prem.labor

and physician.visits, we see that the Mean Squared Error starts to decrease. A low MSE denotes a better fit. Thus, the predictors which were rejected by the best subset selection, were actually significant in predicting the correct birthweight.

```
## [1] 0.3890751
```

When we fit a polynomial model using mother.age as one of the predictors, we see a significant change in the Mean Squared Error value. Even though best-subset rejected mother.age, the lower Mean Squared Error denotes that the predictor does affect the baby weight - baby.grams. Thus, clearly the fact that mother.age affects the baby.grams cannot be rejected.

Now, we try another model, where we will choose some of the predictors suggested by the best-subset and some predictors from the previous model. We fit a polynomial of degree 2 on mother.age and a degree 3 polynomial on mother.weight. When the predict the baby.grams on the test set, we observe a mean squared error of 0.3865828, which is not a big significant change from 0.3890751 - the mean squared error from poly.fit.4.

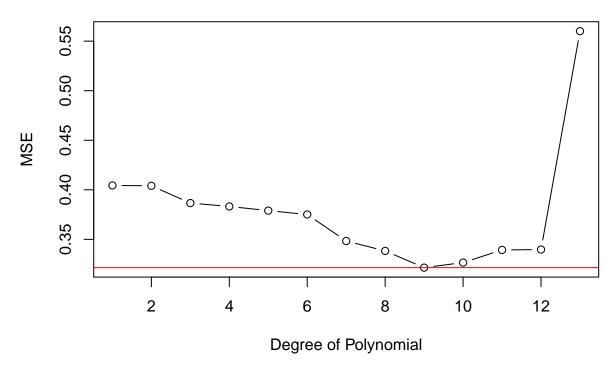
```
## [1] 0.3865828
```

Now we increase the degrees of the polynomials to figure out if the mean squared error reduces as the degree of the polynomial increases.

```
## [1] 0.3214657
```

It is no surprise that the MSE decreases as the degree of the polynomial increases. The lowest MSE obtained is 0.3214657 which is obtained when mother.weight is used as a predictor as a polynomial of degree 9. This can be confirmed from the following plot:

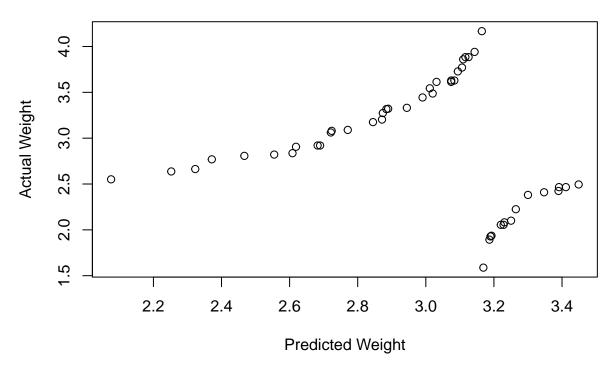
### **Evolution of the MSE**



The plot above suggests that the lowest MSE is obtained when the degree is 9 and as the degree of the polynomial increases above 9, the MSE starts increasing. The MSE versus Degree of Polynomial plot is a U-shaped curve.

We now plot the predicted weight vs actual weight of the babies on the test data set:

## **Predicted vs Actual**



If we compare this plot to the first plot of Predicted vs Actual baby weight, we can clearly see that this is a much better fitting model.