

Statistical Modeling

CH.3 - Regression Diagnostics

2023 | | Prof. Dr. Buchwitz

Wirgeben Impulse

Outline

- 1 Organizational Information
- 2 Regression Diagnostics

Course Contents

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8	Analysis of Collinear Data
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Outline

- 1 Organizational Information
- 2 Regression Diagnostics

Introduction

- In this chapter we talk about the standard regressions assumptions, the consequences when violating them and how to detect violations so that we can focus on the remainder of the course on methods of how to correct or compensate for violations.
- When those assumptions are violated, the discussed and derived results for making inferences about the regression coefficients do not hold, which essentially means that conclusions drawn on the corresponding models are wrong.
- The majority of the discussed methods are graphical methods which means that they may be somewhat subjective here or there, which needs to be kept in mind when interpreting diagnostic plots.

Overview

- Assumptions about the form of the model.
- 2 Assumptions about the errors.
- 3 Assumptions about the predictors.
- 4 Assumptions about the observations.

The properties of the least squares estimators (BLUE) are based on the discussed assumptions!

Assumption 1: Model

■ The model that relates Y and X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_p is assumed to be linear in the regression parameters $\beta_0, \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_p$ so that

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Model:} \quad Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots + \beta_p X_p + \epsilon \\ &\text{Observation:} \quad y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \ldots + \beta_p x_{ip} + \epsilon_i, \ i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \end{aligned}$$

- This assumption is called the linearity assumption.
- In simple linear regression checking can be done using a scatterplot of Y versus X. For multiple linear regression there are other plotting techniques which we will discuss.
- When the linearity assumption does not hold, transforming the data may lead to linearity (transformations are discussed at a later point).

Assumption 2: Errors

- The errors $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n$ are assumed to be **independently and identically distributed** (iid) normal random variables each with mean zero and common variance σ^2 . This implies:
 - ▶ **Normality Assumption:** The error ϵ_i , i = 1, 2, ..., n has a normal distribution.
 - ▶ The errors $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \ldots, \epsilon_n$ have mean zero.
 - ▶ Constant Variance Assumption: The errors have the same (but unknown) variance σ^2 . When this assumption does not hold we have the heteroscedasticity problem.
 - ▶ Independent errors Assumption: $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n$ are independent of each other (pairwise covariances are zero). Violations lead to the *autocorrelation problem*.

Assumption 3: Predictors

- There are three assumptions for the predictor variables.
 - ▶ The predictor variables X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_p are **nonrandom**. This means the values $x_{1j}, x_{2,j}, \ldots, x_{nj}$ with $j = 1, 2, \ldots, p$ are fixed (which is usually only fully satisfied under experimental conditions). In practice the results presented hold, but results are conditional on the data.
 - ▶ The values $x_{1j}, x_{2,j}, \ldots, x_{nj}$ are measured without error (which is hardly ever satisfied). In practice it is sufficient, when the measurement error is small compared to the random error ϵ_i .
 - ▶ The predictor variables X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_p are assumed to be linearly independent of each other. This assumption guarantees the uniqueness of the least squares solution. If this assumption is violated this is referred to as the *collinearity problem*.

The first two assumptions cannot be checked and do not play a role in our analysis. They have to be kept in mind when collecting data.

Assumption 4: Observations

 All observations are equally reliable and have an approximately equal role in determining the regression results. This means that they are equally relied on when drawing conclusions.

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Conclusion

Small or minor violations of the underlying assumptions do not invalidate the inferences or conclusions drawn from the analysis. Gross validations, however, can seriously distort conclusions. It is essential to investigate all signs of assumption validations by *always* checking the structure of the residuals and the data patterns at least using graphs!

- Analysing residuals is a simple and effective method for detecting model deficiencies in regression analysis. In most analyses it is probably the most important part of an analysis.
- Residual plots may lead to suggestions for structure or point to information in the data that might be missed or overlooked. Those clues can lead to a better understanding (and possibly a better model) of the underlying process.
- Starting point for the analysis are the ordinary least squares residuals that can be calculated after obtaining the fitted values:

$$\begin{split} \hat{y}_i &= \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} + \hat{\beta}_2 x_{i2} + \ldots + \hat{\beta}_p x_{ip} \\ e_i &= y_i - \hat{y}_i \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \end{split}$$

■ The fitted values can also be written as function of the predictor variables, where p_{ij} only depends on the predictor variables (essentially values from the hat matrix **P**).

$$\hat{y}_i = p_{i1}y_1 + p_{i2}y_2 + \ldots + p_{in}y_n$$

■ When i = j the value p_{ii} represents the weight (leverage) given to y_i in determining the i-th fitted value \hat{y}_i . The n leverage values $p_{11}, p_{22}, \ldots, p_{nn}$ can be obtained by

$$p_{ii} = \frac{1}{n} + \frac{(x_i - \bar{x})^2}{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

A high leverage value indicates some "extremeness" in X.

The ordinary least squares residuals e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_p do not have unequal variances $Var(e_i) = \sigma^2(1 - p_{ii})$. Analyzing requires standardized residuals by calculating

$$z_i = \frac{e_i}{\sigma \sqrt{1 - p_{ii}}}$$

■ This requires an unbiased estimate for the unknown standard deviation σ of ϵ for which we have two unbiased estimates to choose from

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\sum e_i^2}{n - p - 1} = \frac{SSE}{n - p - 1} \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{\sigma}_{(i)}^2 = \frac{SSE_{(i)}}{(n - 1) - p - 1} = \frac{SSE_{(i)}}{n - p - 2}$$

■ $SSE_{(i)}$ is the sum of squared residuals when the *i*-th observation is left out so that the model is fitted using n-1 observations.

The choice of variance estimates results in two different types of residuals, although both are unbiased estimates.

Internally studentized residuals (using $\hat{\sigma}^2$)

$$r_i = \frac{e_i}{\hat{\sigma}\sqrt{1 - p_{ii}}}$$
 with $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{SSE}{n - p - 1}$

Externally studentized residuals (using $\hat{\sigma}_{(i)}^2$)

$$r_i^* = \frac{e_i}{\hat{\sigma}_{(i)}\sqrt{1-p_{ii}}}$$
 with $\hat{\sigma}_{(i)}^2 = \frac{SSE_{(i)}}{n-p-2}$

Called externally studentized because e_i is not involved in (external to) $\hat{\sigma}^2_{(i)}$.

In practice the difference between r_i and r_i^* is small and both could be used, so the difference is ignored in the following notation.

Graphical Methods

Dimensionality:

- One-dimensional graphs, indicate the distribution of a particular variable (e.g. symmetry, skewness) and allow identification of outliers.
- Two-dimensional graphs allow exploration of relationships (by pairing variables) and general patterns.

Step in Model Selection Process:

- Graphs before fitting a model, to e.g. correct data errors, select variables and preparation for model selection.
- Graphs after fitting a model to check assumptions and assessing the goodness of fit.

Example: Hamiltons Data

P103

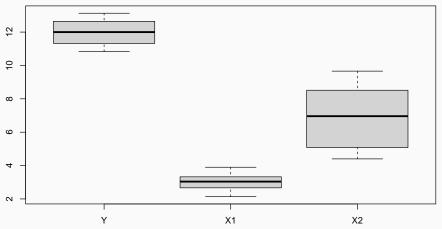
```
X1
##
          Y
                   X2
     12.37 2.23 9.66
## 2
     12.66 2.57 8.94
## 3
     12.00 3.87 4.40
     11.93 3.10 6.64
## 4
     11.06 3.39 4.91
## 5
## 6
     13.03 2.83 8.52
     13.13 3.02 8.04
## 7
## 8
     11.44 2.14 9.05
## 9 12.86 3.04 7.71
## 10 10.84 3.26 5.11
## 11 11.20 3.39 5.05
## 12 11.56 2.35 8.51
## 13 10.83 2.76 6.59
## 14 12.63 3.90 4.90
## 15 12.46 3.16 6.96
```

Graphs before fitting a Model

- 1 Boxplot
- 2 Histogram
- 3 Pairsplot

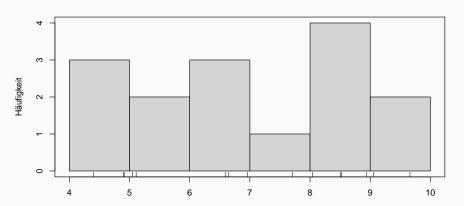
Boxplot





Histogram

```
hist(P103$X2, main = "", ylab = "Häufigkeit", xlab = "")
rug(P103$X2)
box()
```



Pairsplot

11.0 11.5 12.0

12.5 13.0

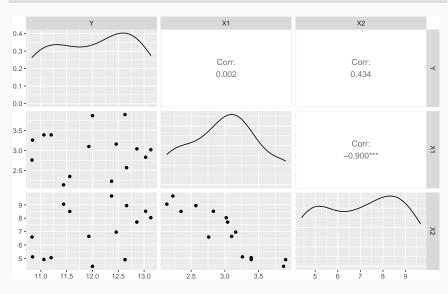
pairs(P103, upper.panel=panel.cor) 2.5 3.0 3.5 13.0 r = 0.43r = 00 3.5 3.0 X1 2.5 X2

5

7

Pairsplot

GGally::ggpairs(P103)



Pairsplot

Interpretation:

- The pairwise correlation should always be interpreted in conjunction with the scatter plots.
 - ▶ The correlation coefficient only measures linear dependence.
 - The correlation coefficient is non-robust and may be substantially influenced by few data points.
- The appearence of the scatter plot only serves as an indication of the results to be expected.
 - ▶ In simple linear regression the plot of Y and X is expected to **show a linear** pattern.
 - In mulitple linear regression the scatter plots between Y and each X may or may not show a linear pattern.

The absence of a linear pattern does not invalidate the linear model!

Graphs after fitting a Model

- Graphs for checking the linearity and normality assumptions
- Graphs for the detection of outliers and influential observations
- Diagnostic plots for the effect of variables

Model Fitting lm()

```
mod <- lm(Y - 1 + X1 + X2, data=P103) summary(mod)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = Y ~ 1 + X1 + X2, data = P103)
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min 1Q Median
                                        Max
## -0.01363 -0.00945 -0.00228 0.00863 0.01632
##
## Coefficients:
##
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) -4.51541 0.06114 -73.8 <2e-16 ***
## X1
      3.09701 0.01227 252.3 <2e-16 ***
## ¥2
           1.03186 0.00368 280.1 <2e-16 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.0107 on 12 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 1, Adjusted R-squared:
## F-statistic: 3.92e+04 on 2 and 12 DF. p-value: <2e-16
```

Model Fitting olsrr::ols_regress()

```
mod <- olsrr::ols_regress(Y ~ 1 + X1 + X2, data=P103)
mod</pre>
```

##			Model Sum						
##	R		1.000	RMSE		0.011			
##	R-Squared		1.000	Coef.	Var	0.089			
##	Adj. R-Square	ed	1.000	MSE		0.000			
##	Pred R-Square	ed	1.000	MAE		0.009			
##									
##	RMSE: Root M	fean Square	Error						
##	MSE: Mean So	uare Error	,						
##	MAE: Mean Ab	solute Err	or						
##									
##				NOVA					
##		Sum of							
		-			-	F	_		
	Regression								
	Residual					39222.343	0.0000		
	Total				0.000				
	10tai								
##									
##				Darame	ter Feti	matae			
	Parameter Estimates								
##	model	Beta	Std. Err	or St	d. Beta	t	Sig	lower	upper
##									
##	(Intercept)	-4.515	0.0	61		-73.851	0.000	-4.649	-4.382
##	X1	3.097	0.0	12	2.064	252.314	0.000	3.070	3.124
##	Х2	1.032	0.0	04	2.292	280.079	0.000	1.024	1.040
##									

Model Presentation: Stargazer

```
mod <- lm(Y ~ 1 + X1 + X2, data=P103)
stargazer::stargazer(mod, header=F, single.row = T)</pre>
```

Table 2

Dependent variable:				
Υ				
3.097*** (0.012)				
1.032*** (0.004)				
-4.515*** (0.061)				
15				
1.000				
1.000				
0.011 (df = 12)				
39,222.000*** (df = 2; 12)				
*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01				

Model Presentation: Texreg

```
mod <- lm(Y ~ 1 + X1 + X2, data=P103)
texreg::texreg(mod)</pre>
```

	Model 1	
(Intercept)	-4.52***	
	(0.06)	
X1	3.10***	
	(0.01)	
X2	1.03***	
	(0.00)	
R ²	1.00	
Adj. R ²	1.00	
Num. obs.	15	
*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$		

Table 3: Statistical models

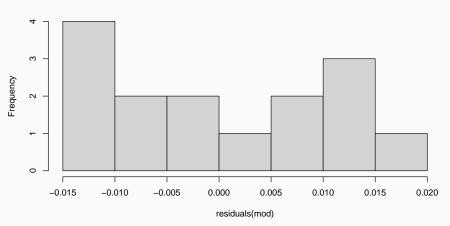
Linearity and Normality

- Residual Histogram: Under the assumptions the histogram should resemble a normal distribution with symmetric shape and most observations around the center and few observations in the tails.
- QQ-Plot: Plot of the residuals versus the normals scores, which are what we would expect to obtain if the residuals were taken from a normal distribution. Under normality this plot should resemble a (nearly) straight line.
- Residuals vs. Predictors: The residuals should be uncorrelated with each of the predictors. If the assumptions hold, the plot should be a random scatter of points. Any pattern indicates a violation of an assumption, which often can be fixed using transformations.
- Residuals vs. Fitted: The residuals should also be uncorrelated with the fitted values, therefore this plot should also be a random scatter of points.

Histogram

```
hist(residuals(mod), density = )
```

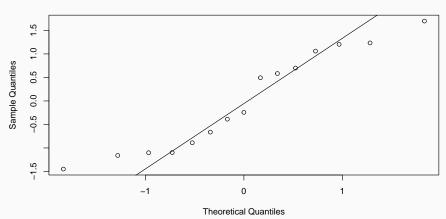
Histogram of residuals(mod)



QQ-Plot (Standardized Residuals)

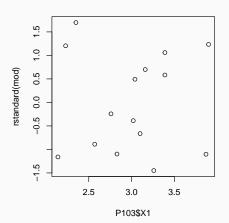
```
qqnorm(rstandard(mod))
qqline(rstandard(mod))
```

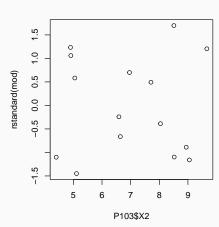




Standardized Residuals vs. Predictors

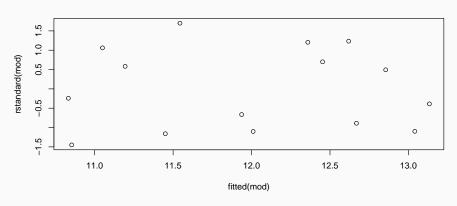
```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(y=rstandard(mod),x=P103$X1)
plot(y=rstandard(mod),x=P103$X2)
```





Standardized Residuals vs. fitted Values

```
par(mfrow=c(1,1))
plot(y=rstandard(mod), x=fitted(mod))
```



Leverage, Influence and Outliers

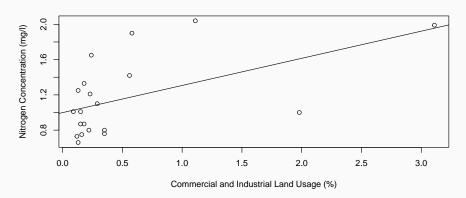
- We want to ensure that the model is not overly determined by one or a few observations. In multiple linear regression this cannot be simply detected graphically.
- When identifying influential data points (points that drag the regression line in their direction) looking at residuals does not necessarily help.
- Influential points can be identified, when the regression coefficients (fitted values, t-Tests, etc) change heavily, when we omit these points while estimating the model.

Outliers

- Outliers in the Response Variable: Observations with large standardized residuals are outliers in the response variable as they lie far from the fitted line (in Y direction). Outliers indicate a model failure for these observations.
- **Outliers in the Predictors:** Outliers can also occur in the X-Space. The leverage values p_{ii} allow to measure these discrepancies (based on distance from \bar{x}) and are called **high-leverage** points. It should be checked if those points are also **influential** before they are treated.

Inspecting the residuals is necessary but not sufficient as high-leverage points (usually twice the average size of (p+1)/n) usually have small residuals.

Example: River Data



Example: River Data

round(cbind(obs=P010\$ComIndl,residuals=rstandard(mod), leverage=hatvalue

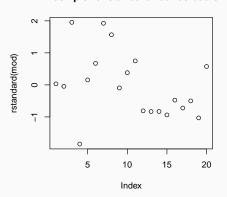
##		obs	residuals	leverage
##	Olean	0.29	0.03	0.05
##	Cassadaga	0.09	-0.05	0.07
##	Oatka	0.58	1.95	0.05
##	Neversink	1.98	-1.85	0.25
##	Hackensack	3.11	0.16	0.67
##	Wappinger	0.56	0.67	0.05
##	Fishkill	1.11	1.92	0.08
##	Honeoye	0.24	1.57	0.06
##	Susquehanna	0.15	-0.10	0.06
##	Chenango	0.23	0.38	0.06
##	Tioughnioga	0.18	0.75	0.06
##	West Canada	0.16	-0.81	0.06
##	East Canada	0.12	-0.83	0.06
##	Saranac	0.35	-0.83	0.05
##	Ausable	0.35	-0.94	0.05
##	Black	0.15	-0.48	0.06
##	Schoharie	0.22	-0.72	0.06
##	Raquette	0.18	-0.50	0.06
##	Oswegatchie	0.13	-1.03	0.06
##	Cohocton	0.13	0.57	0.06

A small residual value is desireable and the standardized residuals show no outlier. However, the small residual is not due to a good fit, but due to high leverage of the observations for Neversink and Hackensack.

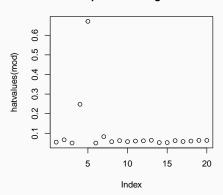
Example: River Data

```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(rstandard(mod), main="Index plot of standardized residuals")
plot(hatvalues(mod), main="Index plot fo leverage values")
```

Index plot of standardized residuals

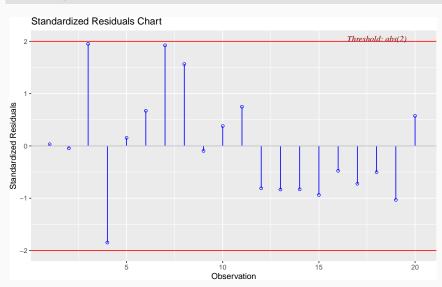


Index plot fo leverage values



Example: River Data

olsrr::ols_plot_resid_stand(mod)



Influence

- The influence of an observation may be measured by the effects on the fit when it is omitted from the data in the fitting process.
- $\hat{eta}_{0(i)}, \hat{eta}_{1(i)}, \ldots, \hat{eta}_{p(i)}$ denote the regression coefficients obtained when the *i*-th observation is deleted. $\hat{y}_{1(i)}, \hat{y}_{2(i)}, \ldots, \hat{y}_{n(i)}$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2_{(i)}$ denote the predicted values and residual mean square error when dropping the *i*-th observation respectively. The resulting observation equation for the model follows by

$$\hat{y}_{m(i)} = \hat{\beta}_{0(i)} + \hat{\beta}_{1(i)} x_{m1} + \ldots + \hat{\beta}_{p(i)} x_{mp}$$

■ Measures to assess influence usually look at differences produced in $\hat{\beta}_j - \hat{\beta}_{j(i)}$ or $\hat{y}_j - \hat{y}_{j(i)}$.

Cook's Distance

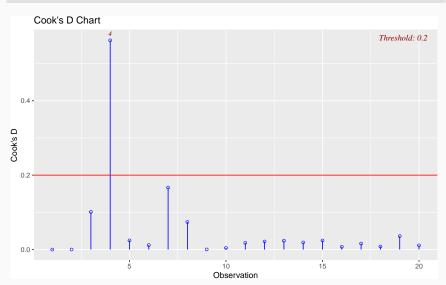
- Cook's distance measures the difference between the regression coefficients obtained from the full data and the regression coefficients obtained by deleting the i-th observation.
- The influence of the *i*-th observation for i = 1, ..., n is given by

$$C_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} (\hat{y}_j - \hat{y}_{j(i)})^2}{\hat{\sigma}^2(p+1)} = \frac{r_i^2}{p+1} \cdot \frac{p_{ii}}{1 - p_{ii}}$$

- Cook's distance is a product of the squared residual and the so called **potential function** $p_{ii}/(1-p_{ii})$.
- If C_i is large omitting a data point will cause large changes in the model. Points are said to be influential when their Cook's distance meets or exceeds the 50% point of the F-distribution with p+1 and n-p-1 degrees of freedom. A rule of thumb is do investigate points where $C_i \geq 1$.

Cook's Distance

olsrr::ols_plot_cooksd_chart(mod)



Welsch and Kuh Measure (DFITS)

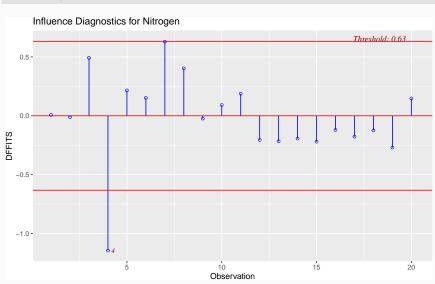
The measure proposed by Welsch and Kuh is the scaled difference between the *i*-th fitted value obtained from the full data and the *i*-th fitted value obtained by deleting the respective observation.

DFITS_i =
$$\frac{\hat{y}_i - \hat{y}_{i(i)}}{\sigma_{(i)}^2 \sqrt{p_{ii}}} = r_i^* \sqrt{\frac{p_{ii}}{1 - p_{ii}}}$$

- Points with $|DFITS_i| > 2\sqrt{(p+1)/(n-p-1)}$ are usually classified as influential.
- C_i and DFITS_i are functions of the residual and leverage values. It is often sufficient to inspect either the Cook's distance or DFITS.

Welsch and Kuh Measure (DFITS)

olsrr::ols_plot_dffits(mod)



What to do with outliers?

- Outliers and influential observations should not routinely be deleted or automatically down-weighted.
- Points with high leverage and high influence are not necessarily bad observations! They can be an indication of model misspecification (e.g. non-linearity in the data) or show that the data did not come from a normal polulation. In those cases they may be the most informative data points.
- Each outlier should be inspected with care and checked individually. If data points are removed this should be documented in the research including reasons for the decision.
- Another option is to use robust regression where less weight is given to data points with high leverage.

Role of Variables in Regression Models

- Predictors are usually **sequentially introduced** into a regression equation.
- Given a model that contains p predictors, what is the effect of deleting (or adding) one of the variables from (or to) the model?
- One indication can be obtained by the t-test. If the t-value is large in absolute terms, the variables will be retained, otherwise omitted.
- **The results of the t-test will only be valid if the underlying assumptions hold, therefore additional graphs should be inspected when deciding whether or not to include a variable in the regression model.

Example: Scottish Hills Races Data

P120

##			Distance	
	tle New Year Dash	965	2.5	650
## Carnethy		2901	6.0	
## Craig Du	nain	2019		
## Ben Rha		2736	7.5	800
## Ben Lomo	nd	3736	8.0	3070
## Goatfell		4393	8.0	2866
## Bens of	Jura	12277	16.0	7500
## Cairnpap	ple	2182	6.0	800
## Scolty		1785	5.0	800
## Traprain	Law	2385	6.0	650
## Lairig G	hru	11560	28.0	2100
## Dollar		2583	5.0	2000
## Lomonds	of Fife	3900	9.5	2200
## Cairn Ta	ble	2648	6.0	500
## Eildon T	`wo	1616	4.5	1500
## Cairngor	m	4335	10.0	3000
## Seven Hi	lls of Edinburgh	5905	14.0	2200
## Knock Hi	11	4719	3.0	350
## Black Hi	11	1045	4.5	1000
## Creag Be	ag	1954	5.5	600
## Kildoon		957	3.0	300
## Meall An	t-Suiche	1674	3.5	1500
## Half Ben	Nevis	2859	6.0	2200
## Cow Hill		1076	2.0	900
## North Be	rwick Law	1121	3.0	600
## Creag Du	ibh	1573	4.0	2000
## Burnswar	k	2066	6.0	800
## Largo		1714	5.0	950
## Criffel		3030	6.5	1750
## Achmony		1257	5.0	500
## Ben Nevi	s	5135	10.0	4400

Example: Scottish Hills Races Data

lapply(P120, summary)

```
## $Time
##
      Min. 1st Qu. Median
                              Mean 3rd Qu.
                                               Max.
##
       957
              1680
                      2385
                               3473
                                       4118
                                              12277
##
## $Distance
##
      Min. 1st Qu. Median
                              Mean 3rd Qu.
                                               Max.
##
      2.00
              4.50
                      6.00
                               7.53
                                       8.00
                                              28.00
##
## $Climb
##
      Min. 1st Qu.
                   Median
                              Mean 3rd Qu.
                                               Max.
               725
##
       300
                      1000
                               1815
                                       2200
                                               7500
```

Example: Scottish Hills Races Data

```
mod <- lm(Time - 1 + Distance + Climb, data=P120)
summary(mod)</pre>
```

```
##
## Call.
## lm(formula = Time ~ 1 + Distance + Climb, data = P120)
##
## Residuals:
     Min
          1Q Median
                              Max
   -973 -428
                -71 142 3907
## Coefficients:
##
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) -539.483 258.161 -2.09 0.045 *
## Distance 373.073 36.068 10.34 9.9e-12 ***
         0.663 0.123 5.39 6.4e-06 ***
## Climb
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 881 on 32 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.919, Adjusted R-squared: 0.914
## F-statistic: 182 on 2 and 32 DF. p-value: <2e-16
```

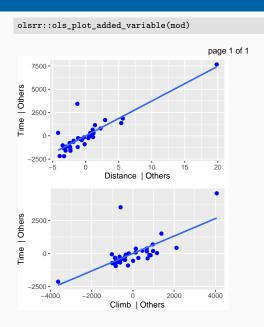
Added-Variable Plot

- The added-variable plot enables us to see the magnitude of the regression coefficient of the new variable that is being considered for inclusion.
- The slope of the least squares line representing the points in the plot is equal to the estimated regression coefficient of the new variable. Additionally, the plot shows data points that may be influential for this magnitude.

Added-Variable Plot

- The added variable plot is a plot between two pairs of residuals: the residuals when Y is regressed on predictors except X_j versus the residuals when regressing X_j on all other predictors.
 - First set of residuals corresponds to the remainder of Y that cannot be explained by the other regressors.
 - Second set of residuals corresponds to the part of X_j that cannot be explained by the other predictors.
 - The resulting slope is equal to $\hat{\beta}_j$ and essentially a visualization that is equivalent to the interpretation as partial regression coefficient.

Added-Variable Plot



Your turn

Do both variables contribute significantly to the model? Is there anything unusual that should be investigated further?

Effects of an additional Predictor

- When a new regressor is introduced two questions should be answered:
 - ▶ Is the regression coefficient of the new variable significant (different from zero)?
 - Does the introduction of the new variable substantially change the regression coefficients that are already in the model.

Effects of an additional Predictor

- **Option A:** insignificant and almost no change in coefficients → Should **not** be included unless theory dictates inclusion.
- Option B: significant and subtantial changes in coefficients. → Should be included, but needs to be checked for collinearity.
- Option C: significant but no substantial coefficient changes → Ideal condition as variable is uncorrelated with other regressors, variable should be retained.
- Option D: insignificant but substantial coefficient changes → indicates collinearity, corrective actions are required before discussion.