Biostatistics week 10

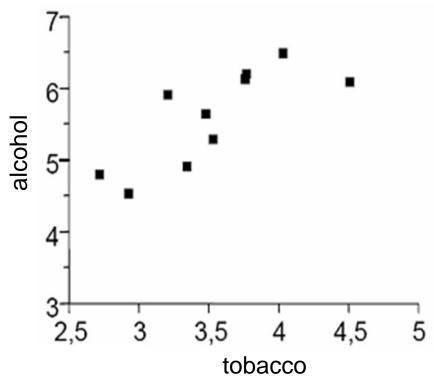
- Recap: correlation and parameter estimates in linear regression
- > The origin of the term "regression": Regression to the mean
- Coefficient of Determination R²: unadjusted or adjusted
- Model and Variable selection with some warnings
- ➤ Linear regression with factor variables
 - interaction between a factor and a continuous predictor
 - t-Test or linear regression with a 2-level factor variable
 - One-way-ANOVA or linear regression with a factor variable
- ➤ Non-parametric tests for group comparison with >2 groups

Is there an association between 2 variables?

Example: observational study conducted in the UK: Weekly expenses for alcohol and tobacco

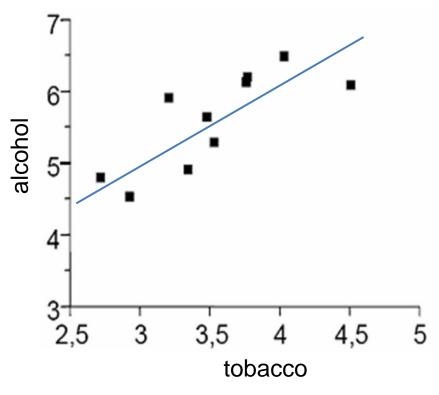
region	alcohol	tobacco
North	6,47	4,03
Yorkshire	6,13	3,76
Northeast	6,19	3,77
East Midlands	4,89	3,34
West Midlands	5,63	3,47
East Anglia	4,52	2,92
Southeast	5,89	3,2
Southwest	4,79	2,71
Wales	5,27	3,53
Scotland	6,08	4,51

cor_{Pearson}=0.83



$$cor(x, y) = \frac{cov(y, x)}{sd(x) \cdot sd(y)} = r_{XY} = \frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2}}$$

Fit a linear regression model



$$Q(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - (\alpha + \beta x_i))^2 = \min!$$

Find parameter via minimizing the sum of squared residuals

$$Q(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - (\alpha + \beta x_i))^2 = \min!$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \alpha} = 0$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} (2)(y_i - \hat{\alpha} - \hat{\beta}x_i)(-1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{\alpha} - \hat{\beta}x_i) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \beta} = 0$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} (2)(y_i - \hat{\alpha} - \hat{\beta}x_i)(-x_i) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i(y_i - \hat{\alpha} - \hat{\beta}x_i) = 0$$

Solution:

$$\hat{\beta} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \overline{x})(y_i - \overline{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \overline{x})^2}$$

$$\hat{\alpha} = \overline{y} - \hat{\beta}\overline{x}$$

Interpretation of parameter formula

$$Y_i = a + b \cdot X_i + \varepsilon_i$$
, $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0.\sigma^2)$

$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{a} + \hat{b} \cdot x_i$$

slope:

$$\hat{b} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \overline{y}) \cdot (x_i - \overline{x})}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \overline{x})^2} = \frac{\operatorname{cov}(x, y)}{\operatorname{var}(x)} = \frac{\operatorname{cov}(x, y)}{\operatorname{sd}(x) \cdot \operatorname{sd}(x)} \cdot \frac{\operatorname{sd}(y)}{\operatorname{sd}(y)} = \operatorname{cor}(x, y) \cdot \frac{\operatorname{sd}(y)}{\operatorname{sd}(x)}$$

Slope given by $\Delta y/\Delta x = sd(y)/sd(x)$ which gets shrinked in case of non deterministic relationships

Intercept

$$\hat{a} = \overline{y} - \hat{b} \cdot \overline{x}$$

Each regression line goes through center of mass

Lineare Regression: Recap

$$Y_i = a + b \cdot X_i + \varepsilon_i$$
, $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0.\sigma^2)$

$$\hat{y}_i = \hat{a} + \hat{b} \cdot x_i \qquad y(\overline{x}) = \hat{a} + \hat{b}\overline{x} = \overline{y}$$

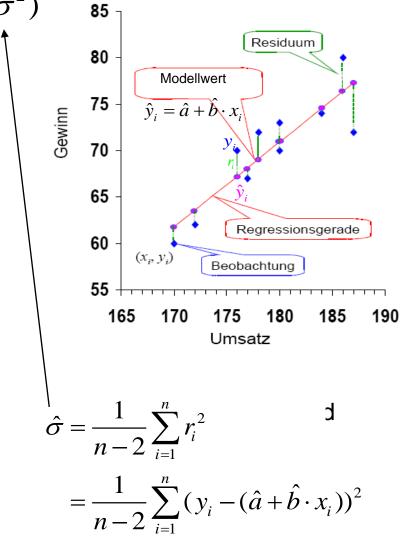
Pearson Correlation Standarddeviation of X and Y

Steigung:

$$\hat{b} = r_{xy} \cdot \frac{s_y}{s_x}$$

y-Achsenabschnitt:

$$\hat{a} = \overline{y} - \hat{b} \cdot \overline{x}$$

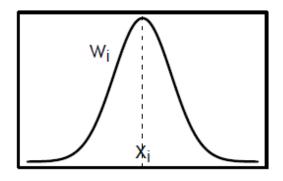


Side track: Errors in explanatory variables

In regression we assume that the explanatory variables are fixed and error-free.

However, in some situations we should assume that the error-free x cannot be observed and instead we observe an error-prone value w.

Classical ME model



$$W_i = x_i + U_i$$
$$U_i \sim N(0, \sigma_u^2)$$

Side track: Errors in explanatory variables ctd.

We show know that the slope is underestimated if the explanatory variable is not error free:

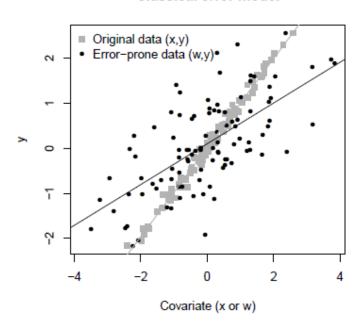
true model: $y = \beta_0 + \beta_x \cdot x + \varepsilon$

error model: w=x+u, $u \perp y, \varepsilon$

naive model: $y = \beta_0^* + \beta_x^* \cdot w + \varepsilon$

estimate with true predictor: $\hat{b} = r_{xy} \cdot \frac{S_y}{S_x}$

Classical error model



naive estimate:
$$\hat{b}^* = r_{(x+u)y} \cdot \frac{s_y}{s_{(x+u)}} = r_{xy} \cdot \frac{s_y}{s_x + s_u} < \hat{b}$$

Galton on the search for causality



Galton in 1877 at the Friday Evening Discourse at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London.

Francis Galton (first cousin of Charles Darwin) was interested to **explain** how traits like "intelligence" or "height" is passed from generation to generation.

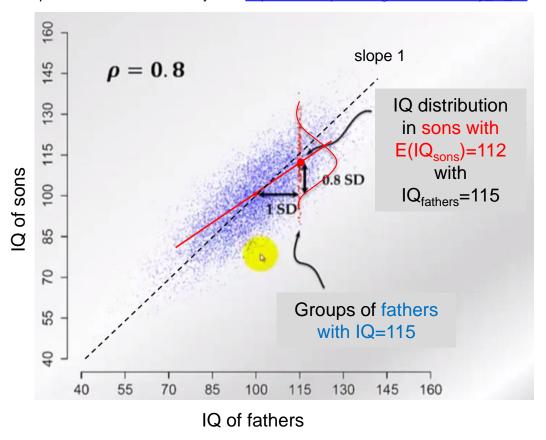
Galton presented the "quincunx" (Galton nailboard) as causal model for the inheritance.

Balls "inherit" their position in the quincunx in the same way that humans inherit their stature or intelligence.

The stability of the observed spread of traits in a population over many generations contradicted the model and puzzled Galton for years.

Galton's discovery of the regression line

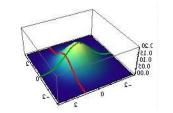
Remark: Correlation of IQs of parents and children is only 0.42 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heritability_of_IQ



X1 ~
$$N(\mu_1 = 100, \ \sigma_1^2 = 15^2)$$

X2 ~ $N(\mu_1 = 100, \ \sigma_1^2 = 15^2)$

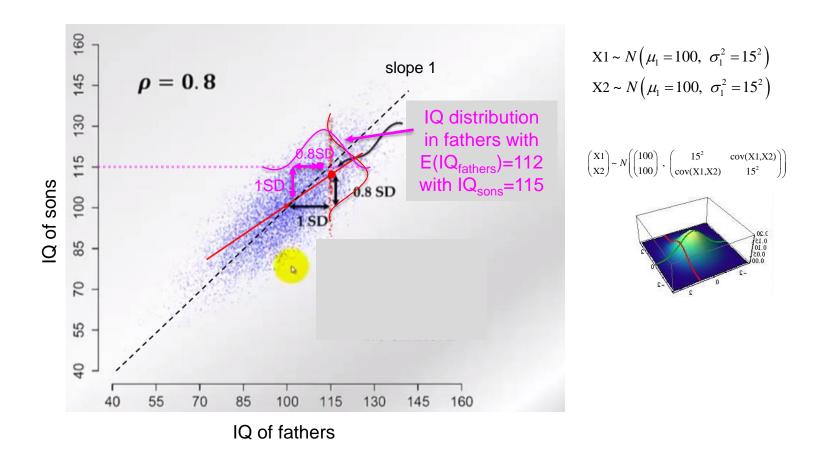
$$\begin{pmatrix} X1 \\ X2 \end{pmatrix} \sim N \begin{pmatrix} 100 \\ 100 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 15^2 & \text{cov}(X1,X2) \\ \text{cov}(X1,X2) & 15^2 \end{pmatrix}$$



For each group of father with fixed IQ, the mean IQ of their sons is closer to the overall mean IQ (100) -> Galton aimed for a causal explanation.

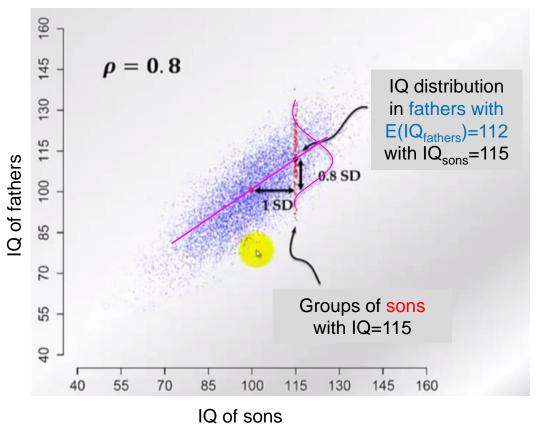
All these predicted E(IQ_{son}) fall on a "regression line" with slope<1.

Galton's discovery of the regression to the mean phenomena



Also the mean of all fathers who have a son with IQ=115 is only 112.

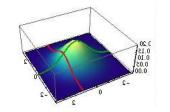
Galton's discovery of the regression to the mean phenomena



X1 ~
$$N(\mu_1 = 100, \ \sigma_1^2 = 15^2)$$

X2 ~ $N(\mu_1 = 100, \ \sigma_1^2 = 15^2)$

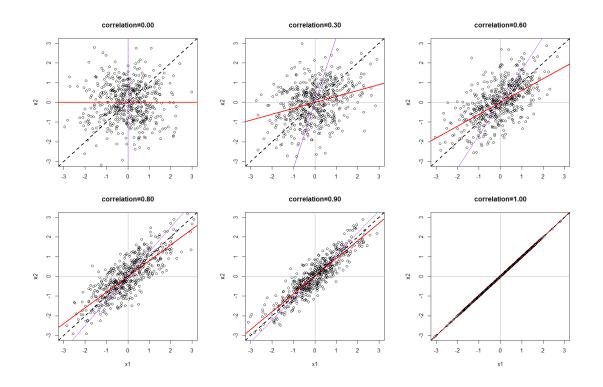
$$\begin{pmatrix} X1 \\ X2 \end{pmatrix} \sim N \begin{pmatrix} 100 \\ 100 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 15^2 & \text{cov}(X1,X2) \\ \text{cov}(X1,X2) & 15^2 \end{pmatrix}$$



After switching the role of sons's IQ and father's IQ, we again see that $E(IQ_{fathers})$ fall on the regression line with the same slope <1.

There is no causality in this plot -> causal thinking seemed unreasonable.

Pearson's mathematical definition of correlation unmasks "regression to the mean" as statistical phenomena



The correlation c of a bivariate Normal distributed pair of random variables are given by the slope of the regression line after standardization!

c quantifies strength of linear relationship and is only 1 in case of deterministic relationship.

After standardization of the RV:

$$X1 \sim N(\mu_1 = 0, \ \sigma_1^2 = 1^2)$$

 $X2 \sim N(\mu_2 = 0, \ \sigma_2^2 = 1^2)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} X1 \\ X2 \end{pmatrix} \sim N \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{X1}^2 = 1 & c \\ c & \sigma_{X2}^2 = 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Regression line equation:

$$\hat{X}_{2} = E(X_{2} | X_{1}) = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1} \cdot X_{1}$$

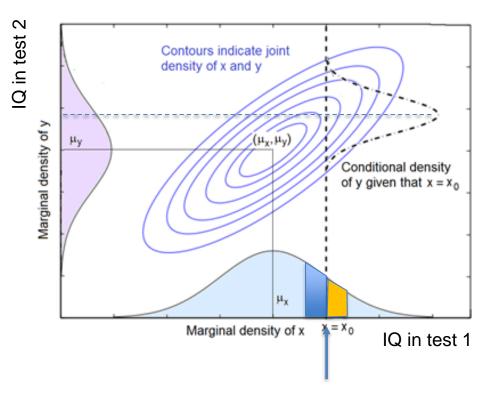
$$\beta_1 = c \cdot \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1}$$
 stand. β_1 quantifies regression to the mean

 $\beta_0 = \mu_2 - \beta_1 \cdot \mu_1 \stackrel{\text{stand.}}{=} 0$

$$c = \frac{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_{i1} - \overline{x}_{1}) \cdot (x_{i2} - \overline{x}_{2})}{\text{sd}(x_{1}) \cdot \text{sd}(x_{2})}$$

Intuitive explanation of "regression to the mean"

IQ test result (at both time points) = true IQ + luck or bad luck

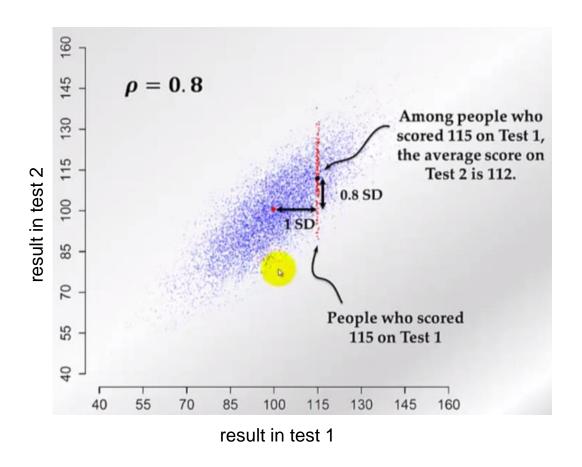


Not reproducible in second test

To get this test result, a person might

- have truly this high IQ (this are some people)
- have a lower true IQ (many people have a lower IQ) but had luck
- have a higher true IQ (fewer people have a higher IQ) but had bad luck

Regression to the mean occurs in all test-retest situations



Retesting a extreme group (w/o intervention in between) in a second test leads in average to a results that are closer to the overall-mean -> to assess experimentally the effect of an intervention also a control group is needed!

Regression to the mean gets easily forgotten



Three things that every medical writer should know about statistics

by Stephen Senn

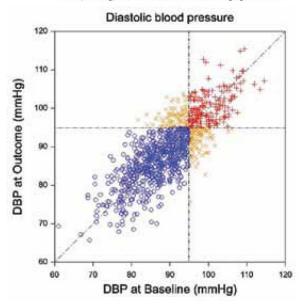
Introduction

The joke goes that there are three kind of statistician: those who can count and those who can't. Therefore, readers of the Write Stuff will forgive me, I hope, if I end up writing about more than three things. It should be obvious, in that case, as to which sort of statistician I am. There are, of course, many more things than three that every medical writer should know about statistics because there are many things about statistics that anybody working in drug development should know and medical writers are in the unenviable position of having to know about everything. However, everybody has to start somewhere and three is a number with a great tradition. The three things I am going to write about are regression to the mean [1], the error of the transposed conditional [2] and individual response [3]. The first is a widespread phenomenon that has a powerful influence on the way that results appear to us, the second is a pernicious fallacy and the third is a sort of Holy Grailcum-wild goose chase that is responsible for leading many a researcher astray.

Regression to the mean

Regression to the mean is the tendency for members of a population who have been selected because they are extreme to be less extreme when measured again [4, 5]. Be-

Figure 1 Simulated results at baseline and outcome for diastolic blood pressure (mmHg) for 1000 individuals in a population.



Now consider a plot of a subset of the individuals, namely those who are 'hypertensive' on at least one occasion. This plot is given in figure 2. Just as was the case in figure 1 there is no assential difference as to whether we look at

Correlation versus simple Regression

Both, correlation and regression investigate the association between 2 continuous variables.

For the correlation X and Y play equal roles.

For correlation we assume a bivariate Normal Distribution.

For the regression, there is no distribution assumption for X or Y but the conditional distribution (Y|X) must follow a Normal distribution.

In case of regression x is the predictor variable (independent variable, explanatory variable), which is known precisely and has no error term

Y is the target variable (dependent variable, response variable, output variable), which depends on the value of X and also has an random error term imposed and therefore is a random variable.

Investigate ph effect on height of trees

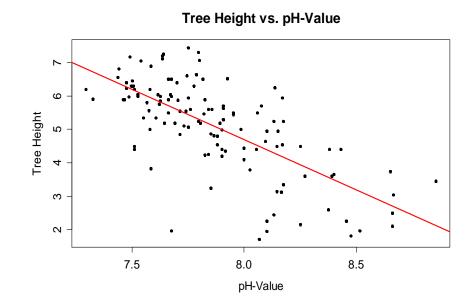
```
> summary(fit)
Call: lm(formula = height ~ phvalue, data =
treeheight)

Coefficients: Estimate Std. Error t-value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 28.7227 2.2395 12.82 <2e-16 ***
phvalue -3.0034 0.2844 -10.56 <2e-16 ***</pre>
```

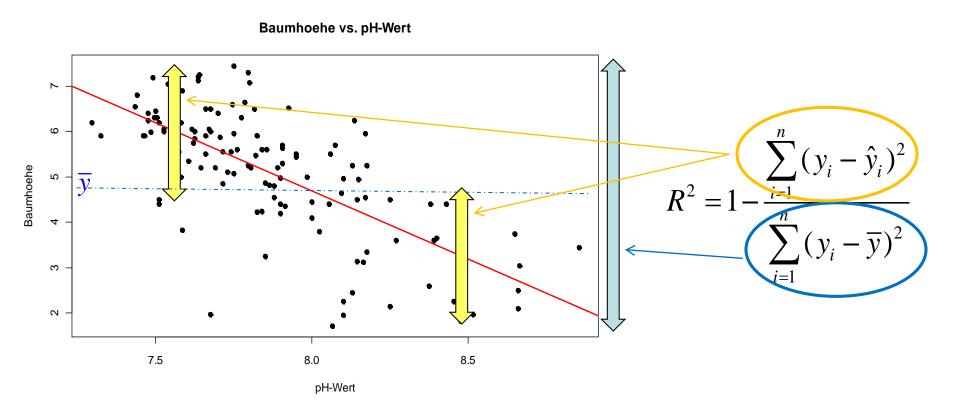
Residual stand. err.: 1.008 on 121 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.4797,

what does it mean?



R²: How good explains the model the data?



We compare the sum of squared residuals to the mean with the sum of squared residuals to the fitted line.

Intuitively: the smaller the yellow range is compared to the blue one, the more useful the model is -> R² closte to 1 is good.

R²: Coefficient of Determination

If the model assumptions are fulfilled, the R², named Coefficient or Determination is often used as performance measure. :

$$R^{2} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \hat{y}_{i})^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \overline{y})^{2}} \in [0,1]$$

What is a good value for R² ? In observational studies, a value of 0.6 can mostly be considered as good. There are no formal criteria for judging this, however.

Warning: Outliers can have high impact on R²: always perform a residual analysis.

Investigate pollution effect on mortality by regression

In an observational study mortality rates and many possible predictors were collected. Here we only use three of the predictors – we are interested in the effect of SO2 and adjust for the influence of the other two predictors.

what does it mean?

Remark: Before making any interpretation we should check if the assumptions for the linear regression model are not violated.

adjR²: Adjusted Coefficient of Determination

- If we add more and more predictor variables to the model,
 R-squared will always increase, and never decreases
- We should adjust for the number of predictors!

$$adjR^{2} = 1 - \frac{n-1}{n-(p+1)} \cdot \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \hat{y}_{i})^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \overline{y})^{2}} \in [0,1]$$

What does the F-value and the global p-Value in 1m mean?

Question: is there any relation between predictors and response?

We test the null hypothesis (the mean alone is already a good model)

$$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = ... = \beta_p = 0$$

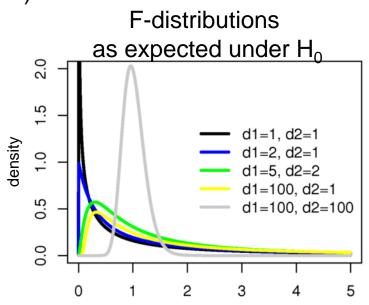
against the alternative (we need at least 1 predictor)

for at least one j in 1,..., p

$$H_A: \beta_j \neq 0$$

The test statistic is:

$$F = \frac{n - (p+1)}{p} \cdot \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\hat{y}_i - \overline{y})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2} \sim F_{p,n-(p+1)}$$



If the F-Value calculated from the fits get to big ($>^{95\%}q_F$), then the p-value (area under density right from F_{got}) get small and we can reject H_0 .

Model selection: compare nested model?

- Question: does the model improve significantly if I include more predictors?
- We test the H₀: the smaller model with j predictors is already good

```
fit.small = lm(y \sim x1 + x2 + ... + xj, data=my.dat)
```

against H_A: we need a bigger model with (k-j) additional predictors

fit.big =
$$lm(y \sim x1 + x2 + ... + xj + ... + xk, data=my.dat)$$

• The test statistic to compare the performance of both models is based on the unadjusted R²-values of the fitted models:

$$F = \frac{n-k}{k-j} \cdot \frac{R_k^2 - R_j^2}{1 - R_k^2} \stackrel{unter H_0}{\sim} F_{k-j,n-k}$$

anova(fit.big, fit.small) # as result we get the F- and p-value

In **anova** the sum of squared residuals are compared within the different groups or models and a F-Value is determined – if we get a big F-value and a small p-value (>5%), we can reject H₀ and conclude that the bigger model is significantly better.

Variable Selection

Goal: We want to develop a simple model by dropping all predictors f from the regression model which are not necessary.

How: In a step-by-step manner, e.g. the least significant predictor is dropped from the model, as long as we have significant p-values.

In R:

```
> fit <- update(fit, . ~ . - colx)
> summary(fit)
```

Warning: The p-values of the individual hypothesis tests are based on the assumption that the other predictors remain in the model and do not change. Therefore, you must not drop more than one single non-significant predictor at a time! Moreover, after variable selection the remaining coefficients and p-values are biased leading to an overestimation of effect size and significance.

Main pitfalls when selecting variables for a linear regression model

- Variable selection can lead to
 - biased parameter estimates
 - biased p-values
- Including collider-variables lead to distorted associations

Why coefficients estimates are not unbiased after model selection

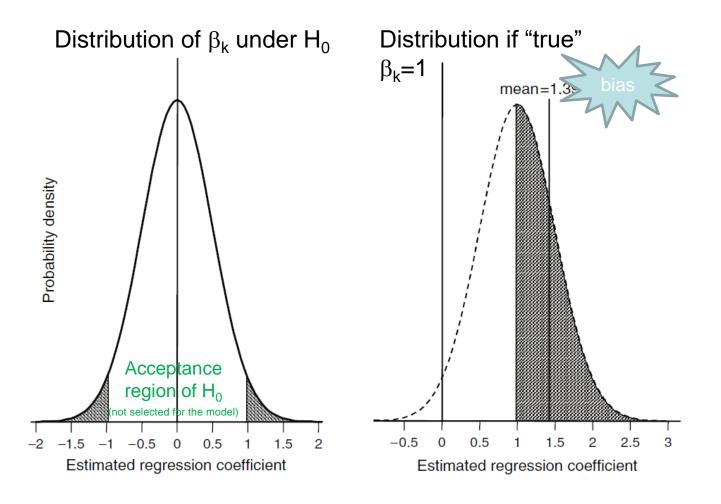


Fig. 5.5 Illustration of testimation bias. In case of a noise variable, the average of estimated regression coefficients is zero, and 2.5% of the coefficients is below -0.98 ($1.96 \times SE$ of 0.5), and 2.5% of the coefficients is larger than +0.98 ($1.96 \times SE$ of 0.5). In case of a true coefficient of 1 the estimated coefficients are statistically significant in 52%. For these cases, the average of estimated coefficients is 1.39 instead of 1

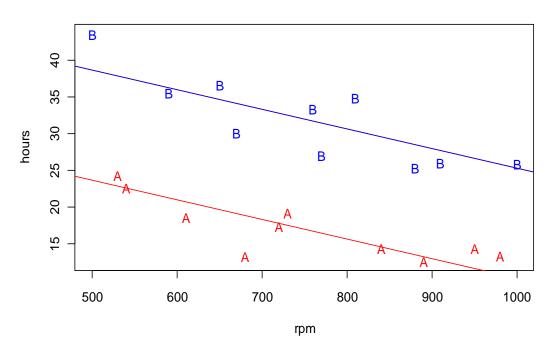
Linear Regression with continuous and factorial predictors

Output: hours: lifetime of a cutting tool

Predictor 1: rpm: speed of the machine in rpm

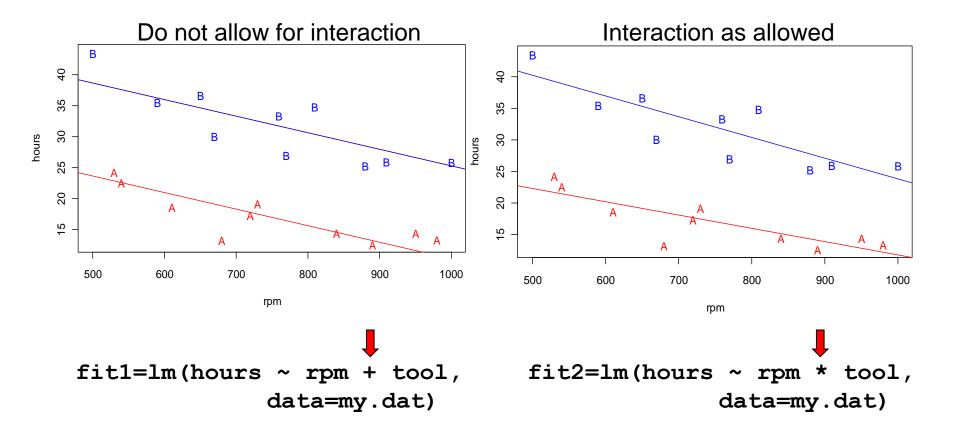
Predictor 2: tool: tool type A or B

fit1 <- lm(hours ~ rpm + tool, data=my.dat)</pre>



We have an additive model: the difference between the tools is a shift.

What does interaction mean? Different slopes of continuous variables at different levels of a factor



In case of interaction, the slope of the predictor "rpm" changes for different levels of the second predictor "tool".

Do we get the same slope in rpm for tool A and tool B? Is there an interaction between rpm and tool?

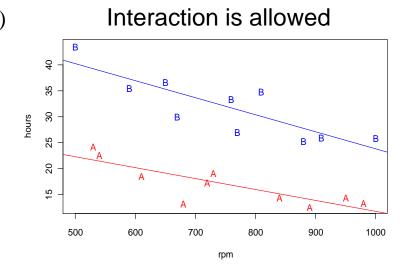
```
fit2 <- lm(hours ~ rpm * tool, data=my.dat)</pre>
> summary(fit2)
Coefficients:
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 32.774760
                         4.633472 7.073 2.63e-06 ***
         -0.020970 0.006074 -3.452 0.00328 **
rpm
toolB 23.970593 6.768973 3.541 0.00272 **
                        0.008842 - 1.351 0.19553
rpm:toolB -0.011944
Residual standard error: 2.968 on 16 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.9105, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8937
F-statistic: 54.25 on 3 and 16 DF, p-value: 1.319e-08
 hour = 32.8 + -0.02 \cdot \text{rpm} + 24 \cdot \text{toolB} -0.01 \cdot (\text{rpm} \cdot \text{toolB})
```

The main effects are hard to interpret in case of interactions.

Here the interactions seems not to be significant. With ANOVA we can test for nested models if the more complex model leads to a significant improvement:

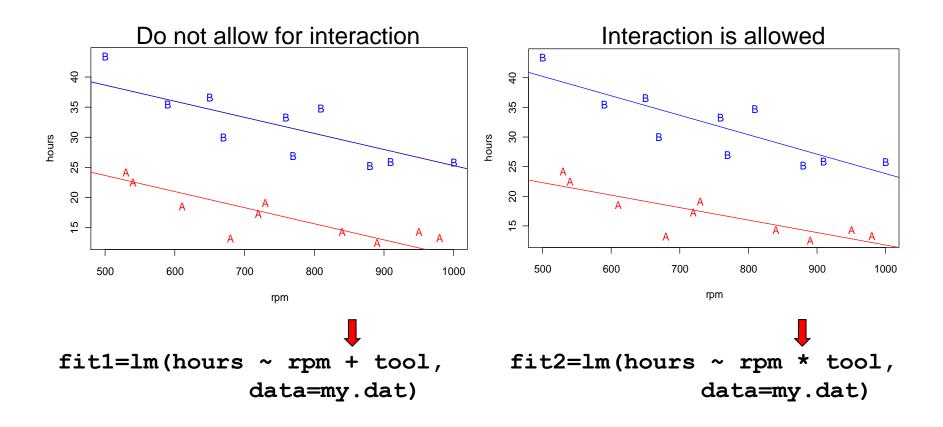
How to read a model with interaction?

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{hour} = 32.8 - 0.02 \cdot \text{rpm} + 24 \cdot \text{toolB} - 0.01 \cdot (\text{rpm} \cdot \text{toolB}) \\ &\text{toolB} \ \, (\text{toolB} = 1): \\ &\text{hour} = 32.8 - 0.02 \cdot \text{rpm} + 24 \cdot 1 - 0.01 \cdot (\text{rpm} \cdot 1) \\ &\text{hour} = 56.9 - 0.03 \cdot \text{rpm} \\ &\text{toolA} \ \, (\text{toolB} = 0): \\ &\text{hour} = 32.8 - 0.02 \cdot \text{rpm} + 24 \cdot 0 - 0.01 \cdot (\text{rpm} \cdot 0) \\ &\text{hour} = 32.8 - 0.02 \cdot \text{rpm} \end{aligned}$$



In case of interaction, the slope of the predictor "rpm" changes for different levels of the second predictor "tool" – also the intercept is changing for the two tools.

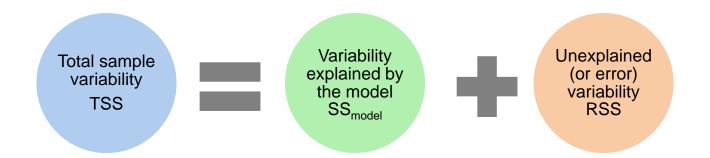
Do we need the complex model with the interaction?



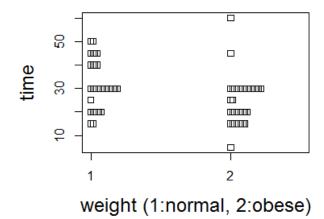
anova(fit2,fit1)

p>5%, therefore interaction is not needed

ANalysis Of Variance (ANOVA) = linear regression with factor variables

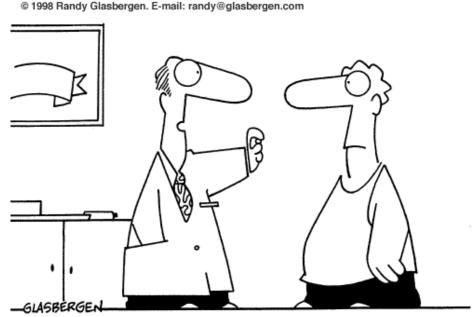


Example with one factorial predictor Do medical doctors spend less time with obese patients?



weight (1:normal, 2:obese)

In an observational study it was measured how much time doctors spend with a patient.

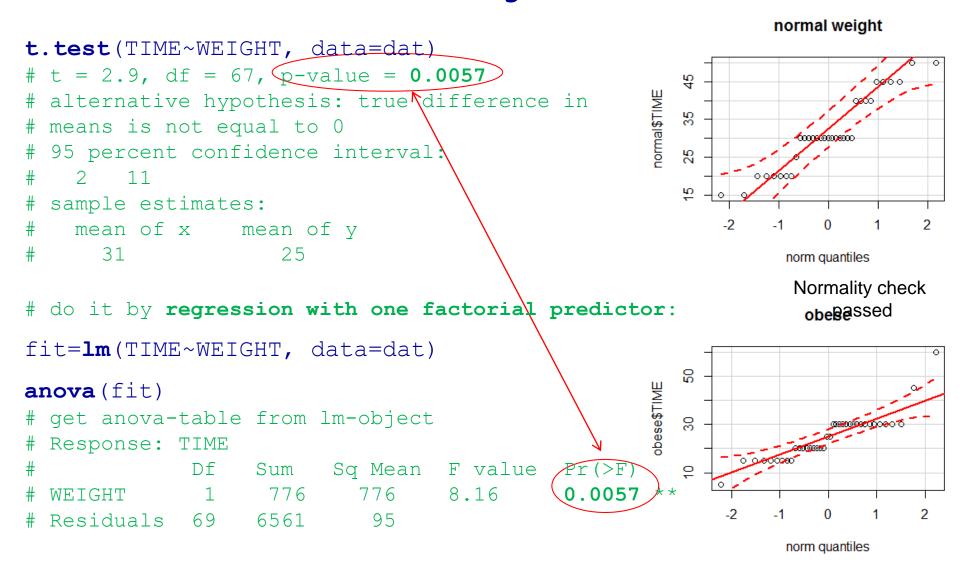


"To prevent a heart attack, take one aspirin every day.

Take it out for a jog, then take it to the gym,

then take it for a bike ride...."

Do medical doctors spend less time with obese patients? How can we test this with linear regression and ANOVA?



How to test for an effect between >2 groups? Applying 1-way ANOWA with >2 levels

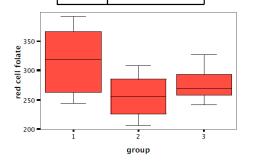
Here, we want to investigate, if three different treatments result in different levels of the output: folate in red blood cells

We can apply a regression with the group factor as predictor to investigate this question, given the folate values y in each group are i.i.d. normal distributed (check not shown).

```
fit=lm(folate~group, data=dat)
anova(fit)  # p=0.044
```

Since p<5%, we can conclude that there are differences, i.e. the folate level is not the same in all groups.

group	red cell folate	
1	243	
1	251	
1	275	
1	291	
1	347	
1	354	
1	380	
1	392	
2	206	
2	210	
2	226	
2	249	
2	255	
2	273	
2	285	
2	295	
2	309	
3	241	
3	258	
3	270	
3	293	
3	328	

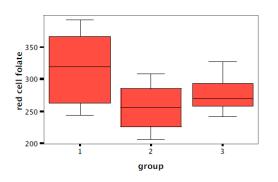


The ANOVA gets significant Between which groups are the differences?

The significant ANOVA result, only tells us, that there are any differences. We need to perform post-hoc tests to investigate, between which groups we can really find differences.

We can perform three pair-wise t-tests. Only the t-test comparing group 1 versus 2 gets significant.

We need to correct for multiple testing, e.g. by Bonferroni-correction. Here, this correction leads to non-significance for all 3 tests.



Result of (uncorrected) pair-wise t-tests:

	Mean Diff.	DF	t-Value	P-Value
1 vs. 2	60.181	15	2.558	0.0218
1 vs. 3	38.625	11	1.327	0.2115
2 vs. 3	-21.556	12	-1.072	0.3046

List of post-hoc tests (from wiki)

- Fisher's least significant difference: LSD
- Bonferroni correction
- Duncan's new multiple range test
- Friedman test
- Newman–Keuls method
- Scheffé's method
- Tukey's range test
- Dunnett's test

Non-parametric one-way ANOVA between >2 groups

If outcome-values given a certain predictor-value do not follow a Normal-distribution, we use a non-parametric test.

Case1: Data are independent, uncorrelated, un-paired

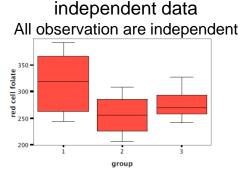
For the former example, it would look like:

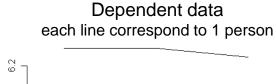
kruskal.test(folate~group, data=dat)

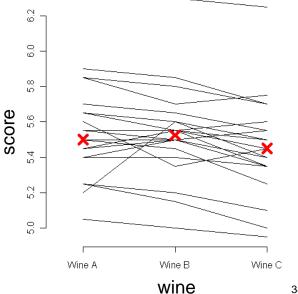
Case2: Data are dependent, matched, grouped

Three different wines were tasted and scored by 22 people, where each person scored every wine. The data are not independent, since we have a persongrouping. To take account for individual differences in scoring, we perform the friedman-test:

friedman.test(Taste ~ Wine | Taster, data=WineTasting)







Remark: Paired post-hoc tests are needed in addition.

How to assess if there is a change of a numeric output variable when explanatory variables (treatment) change?

Parametric tests: The obse fixed values of the input varia		ons are normally distributed under	Non-parametric tests	
Variable	un-paired independent	<pre>paired, dependent, correlated</pre>	if the normality assumption is violated or the sample size is small	
Continuous (e.g. pain scale, conc., cognitive	Unpaired t-test= 1-way ANOVA with 2 groups: compares means between two independent groups	Paired t-test: compares means between two related groups (e.g., the same subjects before and after)	Non-parametric statistics Wilcoxon sign-rank test: non-parametric alternative to the paired t-test for 2 groups	
function)	ANOVA: compares means between more than two independent groups: is there any difference between groups?	Repeated-measures ANOVA: compares changes over time in the means of ≥ 2 groups (repeated measurements)	Wilcoxon sum-rank test (=Mann-Whitney U test): non- parametric alternative to the unpaired t-test for 2 groups Kruskal-Wallis test:	
	Pearson's correlation coefficient (linear correlation): shows linear correlation between two continuous variables Linear regression: multivariate regression technique used when the outcome is continuous; gives slopes	Mixed models/GEE modeling: multivariate regression techniques to compare changes over time between two or more groups; gives rate of change over time	non-parametric alternative to ANOVA for >2 independent groups. Friedman test: non-parametric alternative to ANOVA >2 dependent groups. Spearman rank correlation coefficient: non-parametric alternative to Pearson's correlation coefficient	

Steps in linear modelling

0) Preprocessing

- learning the meaning of all variables, check for correlations
- give short and informative names
- check for impossible values, errors
- if they exist (missing, error): set them to NA
- be very careful with imputation methods, are missings systematic?

1) First-aid transformations

- bring all variables to a suitable scale (use also field knowledge)
- routinely apply the first-aid transformations

2) Find a good model

- start with a model including important confounders
- perform a residual analysis
- improve model by transformations or adding better predictors
- reduce step by step complexity and use anova for comparison
- use your specific knowledge to choose between variables

Limits of linear Regression

If your residuals do not follow a Normal distribution (even after transformations) use generalized linear modeling (glm – e.g. logisitic regression)

If your predictors show a strong correlation use shrinkage methods (e.g. lasso)

If your data are not independent use mixed models or methods for time-series.

If you do not have a linear relation, use non-linear regression (e.g. nlm) or generalizes additive models (e.g. gam) or tree models