Regression Models: Transmission Type Effect on MPG

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Executive Summary

Motor Trend is an automobile magazine interested in exploring the factors that affect the miles per gallon or MPG. In particular, in this report, we look at the impact of transmission type (automatic and manual) to MPG and quantify the difference if any. To summarize the findings, we note that manual transmission cars show 2.94 MPG lead over automatics when considering the confounding variables weight and acceleration capacity.

Exploratory Analysis

Loading the Data

We will be using a built in dataset `mtcars`.

```
data(mtcars)
head(mtcars,3)
```

```
##                mpg cyl disp  hp drat    wt  qsec vs am gear carb
## Mazda RX4     21.0   6  160 110 3.90 2.620 16.46  0  1    4    4
## Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0   6  160 110 3.90 2.875 17.02  0  1    4    4
## Datsun 710    22.8   4  108  93 3.85 2.320 18.61  1  1    4    1
```

The columns are interpreted as follows:

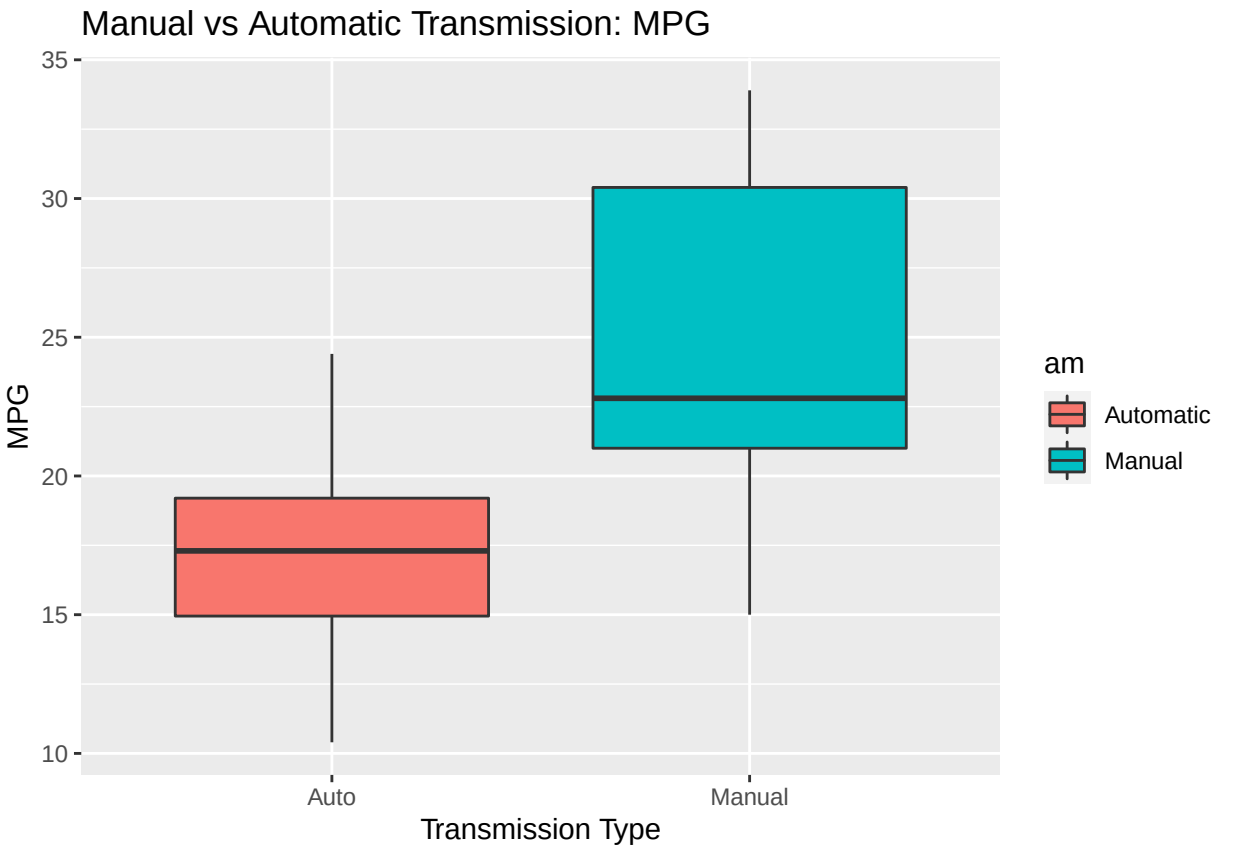
`mpg` Miles per Gallon
`cyl` Number of cylinders
`disp` Displacement
`qsec` 1/4 mile time
`am` Type of transmission where 0 = automatic and 1 = manual
`wt` Weight

To make use of the `am` column as factor, we do a conversion and rename the levels to make it more intuitive.

```
mtcars$am <- as.factor(mtcars$am)
levels(mtcars$am)<-c("Auto","Manual")
```

To get a general idea of what the MPG trend is based on transmission type, we can look at the below boxplot.

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = am,y = mpg))+
  geom_boxplot(aes(fill =am))+
  labs(x ="Transmission Type",
       y = "MPG",
       title = "Manual vs Automatic Transmission: MPG")+
  scale_fill_discrete(labels = c("Automatic", "Manual"))
```



Visually, the difference seems significant. We can use the t test to formalize that the difference is significant. We let our null hypothesis be that the two means are not significantly different.

```
t.test(mtcars$mpg[mtcars$am=="Auto"],mtcars$mpg[mtcars$am=="Manual"])
```

```
##
##  Welch Two Sample t-test
##
## data:  mtcars$mpg[mtcars$am == "Auto"] and mtcars$mpg[mtcars$am == "Manual"]
## t = -3.7671, df = 18.332, p-value = 0.001374
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##  -11.280194  -3.209684
## sample estimates:
## mean of x mean of y
##  17.14737  24.39231
```

With the p-value $0.00134 < 0.05$, we can conclude that at 95% confidence, we can reject the null hypothesis and that the means are significantly different.

Regresion Analysis

Now that we know there is significant difference in MPG between transmission types, we want to assign a number to quantify that difference. To do this, we'll be using various methods: simple linear regression and multivariable linear regression. We then check for the significance of the varibles considered in the multivariable regression in predicting MPG.

Simple Linear Regression

We want to see the slope of the line generated by a linear model to see how much difference is made by shifting from automatic to manual.

```
lmFit <- lm(mpg ~ am,mtcars)
summary(lmFit)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = mpg ~ am, data = mtcars)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -9.3923 -3.0923 -0.2974  3.2439  9.5077
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)   17.147      1.125  15.247 1.13e-15 ***
## amManual       7.245      1.764   4.106 0.000285 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 4.902 on 30 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.3598, Adjusted R-squared:  0.3385
## F-statistic: 16.86 on 1 and 30 DF,  p-value: 0.000285
```

From the results above, we see that from automatic to manual we have a 7.245 change in MPG. The R^2 value, however, tells us that this model explains only 36 of the variance in MPG. The change, therefore, can be attributed to other variables correlated with transmission type.

Multi-Variable Linear Regression

We want to see which variables do we have to consider in order to get the full picture of the effect of transmission type. To do this we do a step linear regression to find the other variables that contribute to change in MPG.

```
stepLM <- step(lm(mpg~.,data=mtcars),direction="both")
```

```
summary(stepLM)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = mpg ~ wt + qsec + am, data = mtcars)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -3.4811 -1.5555 -0.7257  1.4110  4.6610
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)   9.6178     6.9596   1.382 0.177915
## wt           -3.9165     0.7112  -5.507 6.95e-06 ***
## qsec          1.2259     0.2887   4.247 0.000216 ***
## amManual      2.9358     1.4109   2.081 0.046716 *
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
##
## Residual standard error: 2.459 on 28 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.8497, Adjusted R-squared:  0.8336
## F-statistic: 52.75 on 3 and 28 DF,  p-value: 1.21e-11
```

This shows us taht we want wt and qsec along with am to predict mpg. The 85% R^2 value we have with the multivariable regression suggests that this model is a better predictor of mpg than just the transmission type. Since we currently have different values for the transmission type coefficient, we can run an ANOVA test on the two models.

Let our null hypothesis be that adding `wt` and `qsec` to our model will not change it significantly enough.

```
simpleLM <- lm(mpg ~ am, mtcars)
multiLM <- lm(mpg ~ am + wt + qsec, mtcars)
anova(simpleLM, multiLM)
```

```
## Analysis of Variance Table
##
## Model 1: mpg ~ am
## Model 2: mpg ~ am + wt + qsec
##   Res.Df    RSS Df Sum of Sq      F   Pr(>F)
## 1     30 720.90
## 2     28 169.29  2    551.61 45.618 1.55e-09 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

With the p-value so close to 0, the ANOVA tells us that we should reject the null hypothesis and take the model with `wt` and `qsec` included.

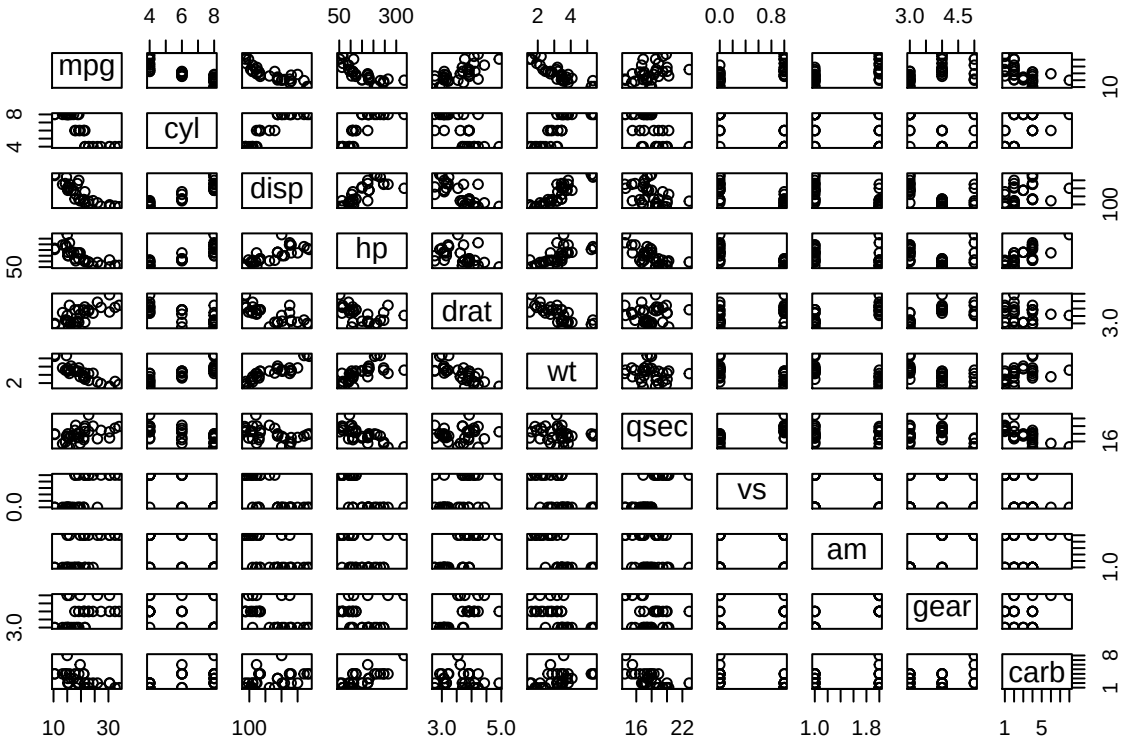
Conclusion

From the tests above, when we hold the weight and acceleration capacity of a car constant, manual transmission cars offer a 2.94 MPG lead over automatics.

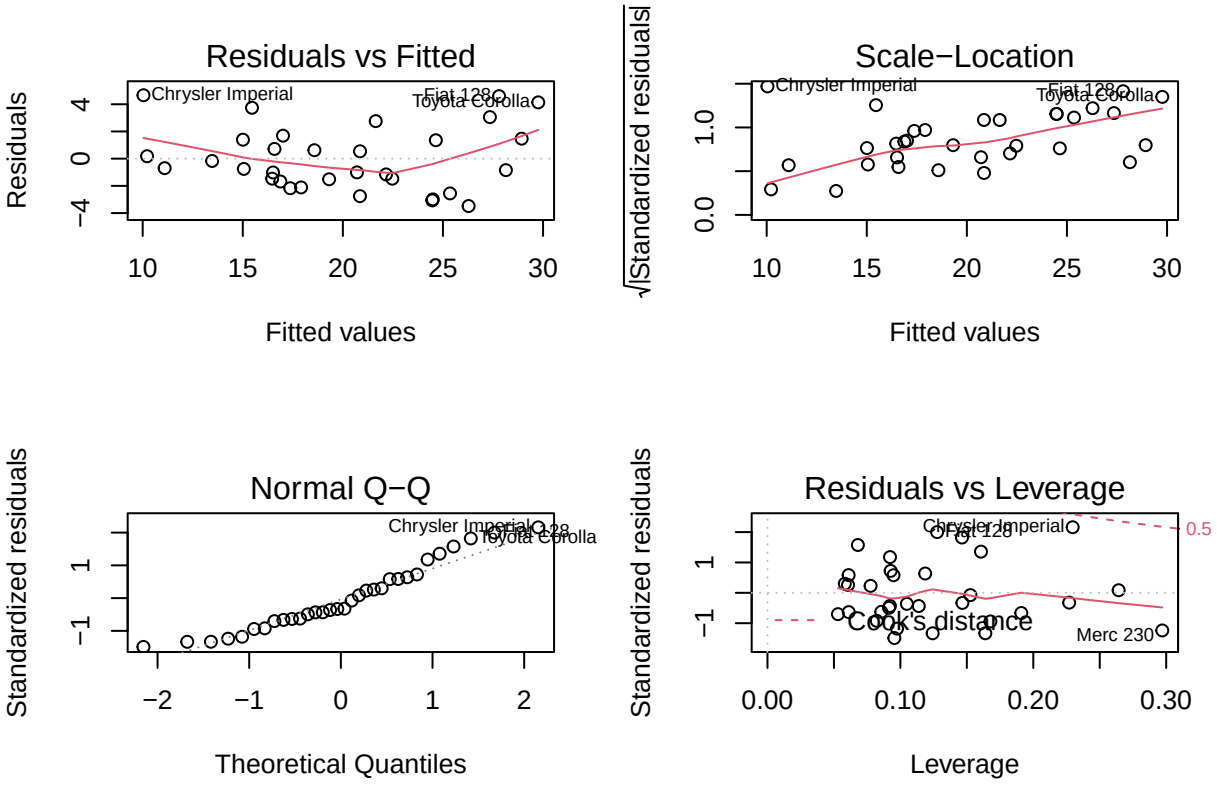
Appendix

Correlation Plot of Variables

```
pairs(mpg ~ ., data = mtcars)
```


mpg
cyl
disp
hp
drat
wt
qsec
vs
am
gear
carb

Diagnostic Plots



Step on Linear Model

```
stepLM <- step(lm(mpg~.,data=mtcars),direction="both")
```

```
## Start:  AIC=70.9
## mpg ~ cyl + disp + hp + drat + wt + qsec + vs + am + gear + carb
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## - cyl   1    0.0799 147.57 68.915
## - vs    1    0.1601 147.66 68.932
## - carb  1    0.4067 147.90 68.986
## - gear  1    1.3531 148.85 69.190
## - drat  1    1.6270 149.12 69.249
## - disp  1    3.9167 151.41 69.736
## - hp    1    6.8399 154.33 70.348
## - qsec  1    8.8641 156.36 70.765
## <none>              147.49 70.898
## - am    1   10.5467 158.04 71.108
## - wt    1   27.0144 174.51 74.280
##
## Step:  AIC=68.92
## mpg ~ disp + hp + drat + wt + qsec + vs + am + gear + carb
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
```

```
## - vs    1    0.2685 147.84 66.973
## - carb  1    0.5201 148.09 67.028
## - gear  1    1.8211 149.40 67.308
## - drat  1    1.9826 149.56 67.342
## - disp  1    3.9009 151.47 67.750
## - hp    1    7.3632 154.94 68.473
## <none>              147.57 68.915
## - qsec  1   10.0933 157.67 69.032
## - am    1   11.8359 159.41 69.384
## + cyl   1    0.0799 147.49 70.898
## - wt    1   27.0280 174.60 72.297
##
## Step:  AIC=66.97
## mpg ~ disp + hp + drat + wt + qsec + am + gear + carb
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## - carb  1    0.6855 148.53 65.121
## - gear  1    2.1437 149.99 65.434
## - drat  1    2.2139 150.06 65.449
## - disp  1    3.6467 151.49 65.753
## - hp    1    7.1060 154.95 66.475
## <none>              147.84 66.973
## - am    1   11.5694 159.41 67.384
## - qsec  1   15.6830 163.53 68.200
## + vs    1    0.2685 147.57 68.915
## + cyl   1    0.1883 147.66 68.932
## - wt    1   27.3799 175.22 70.410
##
## Step:  AIC=65.12
## mpg ~ disp + hp + drat + wt + qsec + am + gear
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## - gear  1     1.565 150.09 63.457
## - drat  1     1.932 150.46 63.535
## <none>              148.53 65.121
## - disp  1    10.110 158.64 65.229
## - am    1    12.323 160.85 65.672
## - hp    1    14.826 163.35 66.166
## + carb  1     0.685 147.84 66.973
## + vs    1     0.434 148.09 67.028
## + cyl   1     0.414 148.11 67.032
## - qsec  1    26.408 174.94 68.358
## - wt    1    69.127 217.66 75.350
##
## Step:  AIC=63.46
## mpg ~ disp + hp + drat + wt + qsec + am
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## - drat  1     3.345 153.44 62.162
## - disp  1     8.545 158.64 63.229
## <none>              150.09 63.457
## - hp    1    13.285 163.38 64.171
## + gear  1     1.565 148.53 65.121
## + cyl   1     1.003 149.09 65.242
```

```
## + vs    1     0.645 149.45 65.319
## + carb  1     0.107 149.99 65.434
## - am    1    20.036 170.13 65.466
## - qsec  1    25.574 175.67 66.491
## - wt    1    67.572 217.66 73.351
##
## Step:  AIC=62.16
## mpg ~ disp + hp + wt + qsec + am
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## - disp  1     6.629 160.07 61.515
## <none>              153.44 62.162
## - hp    1    12.572 166.01 62.682
## + drat  1     3.345 150.09 63.457
## + gear  1     2.977 150.46 63.535
## + cyl   1     2.447 150.99 63.648
## + vs    1     1.121 152.32 63.927
## + carb  1     0.011 153.43 64.160
## - qsec  1    26.470 179.91 65.255
## - am    1    32.198 185.63 66.258
## - wt    1    69.043 222.48 72.051
##
## Step:  AIC=61.52
## mpg ~ hp + wt + qsec + am
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## - hp    1     9.219 169.29 61.307
## <none>              160.07 61.515
## + disp  1     6.629 153.44 62.162
## + carb  1     3.227 156.84 62.864
## + drat  1     1.428 158.64 63.229
## - qsec  1    20.225 180.29 63.323
## + cyl   1     0.249 159.82 63.465
## + vs    1     0.249 159.82 63.466
## + gear  1     0.171 159.90 63.481
## - am    1    25.993 186.06 64.331
## - wt    1    78.494 238.56 72.284
##
## Step:  AIC=61.31
## mpg ~ wt + qsec + am
##
##        Df Sum of Sq    RSS    AIC
## <none>              169.29 61.307
## + hp    1     9.219 160.07 61.515
## + carb  1     8.036 161.25 61.751
## + disp  1     3.276 166.01 62.682
## + cyl   1     1.501 167.78 63.022
## + drat  1     1.400 167.89 63.042
## + gear  1     0.123 169.16 63.284
## + vs    1     0.000 169.29 63.307
## - am    1    26.178 195.46 63.908
## - qsec  1   109.034 278.32 75.217
## - wt    1   183.347 352.63 82.790
```