Lecture 7

September 13, 2018

Regression Terminology

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- Residual Standard Error
- Standardized or Studentized Residuals

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- It is therefore an in-sample measure of the prediction accuracy of the linear model.
- In general, RSS decreases (or remains the same) as we add more explanatory variables to the model.

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- What is a reasonable way to scale RSS?
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- For this, consider the following. Suppose we are told to predict the response of a future subject without using any of the data on the explanatory variables i.e., we are only supposed to use $y_1, \dots, y_n$.
- In this case, it is obvious that our prediction would be $\bar{y}$.

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- On the other hand, the RSS is the in-sample prediction accuracy of the linear model which uses the data on the explanatory variables.
- It should therefore be clear that RSS is always smaller than or equal to TSS (this fact is crucially reliant on the fact that there is an intercept in our model).

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  1. If R^2 is high, it means that RSS is much smaller compared to TSS and hence the explanatory variables are really useful in predicting the response.
  2. If R^2 is low, it means that RSS is only a little bit smaller than TSS and hence the explanatory variables are not useful in predicting the response.

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- In particular, these are the same subjects on whom the model is fitted (or trained), so R^2 can be made to look very good by fitting models with lots of parameters.
- When more parameters are added to the model, RSS decreases and R^2 increases.

Estimating σ: The Residual Standard Error

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- Recall that the Residual:df term above equals $n - p - 1$. This $\hat{\sigma}$ is called the Residual Standard Error.

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- We proved
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which proves that $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is an unbiased estimator of

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- The standard error gives an idea of the accuracy of $\hat{\beta}_i$ as an estimator of β_i. These standard errors are part of the R output for the summary of the linear model.

Standardized or Studentized Residuals

- Under the assumptions $\mathbb{E}Y = X\beta$ and $Cov(X) = \sigma^2 I_n$, what are the means and the variances of the residuals $\hat{e}_1, \ldots, \hat{e}_n$?

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- This implies therefore that

  $$Var(\hat{e}_i) = \sigma^2(1 - h_{ii}).$$

  where h_{ii} denotes the ith diagonal entry of H which is also known as the ith leverage (the above variance formula together with the formula that $Cov(\hat{Y}) = \sigma^2 H$ both imply that all leverages lie between 0 and 1).

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- The standardized residuals $r_1, \ldots, r_n$ are very important in regression diagnostics. Various assumptions on the unobserved errors $e_1, \ldots, e_n$ can be checked through them.

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- Next we want to test hypotheses of the form $H_0 : \beta_1 = 0$ against $H_1 : \beta_1 \neq 0$ and also to obtain confidence intervals for β_1 etc. For these, we need more distributional assumptions on Y.

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- Based on these, we computed $\hat{\beta} = (X^TX)^{-1}X^TY$.
- If we assume that Y is random, X is deterministic and that $\mathbb{E}Y = X\beta$ for some vector β, then $\hat{\beta}$ becomes an unbased estimate of β.
- If we also assume that $Cov(Y) = \sigma^2 I_n$, then $\hat{\beta}$ is the best linear unbiased estimator (BLUE) of β. We have also learned how to compute the standard errors of $\beta_0, \dots, \beta_p$.
- Next we want to test hypotheses of the form $H_0 : \beta_1 = 0$ against $H_1 : \beta_1 \neq 0$ and also to obtain confidence intervals for β_1 etc. For these, we need more distributional assumptions on Y.
- The most standard distributional assumption is that of normality: We assume that $Y \sim N(X, \sigma I_n)$. Under this assumption, a very nice theory of hypothesis testing and confidence intervals is available. This is what we study next.