Regression Project - MPG Analysis for Motor Trend

Conrad Wong

November 7, 2015

## Executive Summary

#### This analysis will use the mtcars dataset to analyze if there is a difference in MPG between manual and automatic cars. These are the steps to be followed:

#### - Data transformation and exploratory data analysis to get a sense of the shape and relationship between the different variables

#### - Find the regression model that maximizes percentage of explained variance in MPG

#### - Drive conclusions for two questions:

* Is an automatic or manual transmission better for MPG?
* Quantify the MPG difference between automatic and manual transmissions

## Data transformation and exploratory data analysis

library(ggplot2)  
library(GGally)  
library(car)  
library(knitr)  
  
data <- mtcars  
  
data$trans <- as.factor(ifelse(mtcars$am==0, "Auto", "Manual"))  
data <- data[, -9]  
data$vs <- as.factor(ifelse(data$vs==0, "V", "Straight"))  
data$cyl <- as.factor(data$cyl)  
data$carb <- as.factor(data$carb)  
data$gear <- as.factor(data$gear)

#### Key Findings: The pairs plot (Figure 1 in the Appendix) suggests there might be some colinearity between the variables in the mtcars dataset, as there are some pairs that are correlated, for example:

* disp and weight with corr= 0.89
* disp and hp with corr = 0.79

#### In addition, the boxplot (Figure 2 in the Appendix) suggests manual cars have higher mpg than automatic cars.

## Model selection

### Model 1: Fit of mpg by transmission

fit.by.trans <- lm(mpg~trans, data=data)  
summary(fit.by.trans)$coefficients

## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)  
## (Intercept) 17.147368 1.124603 15.247492 1.133983e-15  
## transManual 7.244939 1.764422 4.106127 2.850207e-04

#### Key Findings: Fitting by type of transmission, results in a statistical significant coefficient (p-value < 0.05), but the adjusted r2 is only 0.34. Need to look for other variables that help explain a bigger percentage of the variance in mpg. Next step is to fit a model with all variables

### Model 2: Fit of mpg by all variables in the mtcars dataset

fit.by.all <- lm (mpg~. , data=data)  
summary(fit.by.all)$coefficients

## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)  
## (Intercept) 25.80998298 20.26412882 1.27367839 0.22216055  
## cyl6 -2.64869528 3.04089041 -0.87102622 0.39746642  
## cyl8 -0.33616298 7.15953951 -0.04695316 0.96317000  
## disp 0.03554632 0.03189920 1.11433290 0.28267339  
## hp -0.07050683 0.03942556 -1.78835344 0.09393155  
## drat 1.18283018 2.48348458 0.47627845 0.64073922  
## wt -4.52977584 2.53874584 -1.78425732 0.09461859  
## qsec 0.36784482 0.93539569 0.39325050 0.69966720  
## vsV -1.93085054 2.87125777 -0.67247551 0.51150791  
## gear4 1.11435494 3.79951726 0.29328856 0.77332027  
## gear5 2.52839599 3.73635801 0.67670068 0.50889747  
## carb2 -0.97935432 2.31797446 -0.42250436 0.67865093  
## carb3 2.99963875 4.29354611 0.69863900 0.49546781  
## carb4 1.09142288 4.44961992 0.24528452 0.80956031  
## carb6 4.47756921 6.38406242 0.70136677 0.49381268  
## carb8 7.25041126 8.36056638 0.86721532 0.39948495  
## transManual 1.21211570 3.21354514 0.37718957 0.71131573

vif(fit.by.all)

## GVIF Df GVIF^(1/(2\*Df))  
## cyl 128.120962 2 3.364380  
## disp 60.365687 1 7.769536  
## hp 28.219577 1 5.312210  
## drat 6.809663 1 2.609533  
## wt 23.830830 1 4.881683  
## qsec 10.790189 1 3.284842  
## vs 8.088166 1 2.843970  
## gear 50.852311 2 2.670408  
## carb 503.211851 5 1.862838  
## trans 9.930495 1 3.151269

#### Key Findings: Fitting by all the variables in the mtcars dataset increases the adjusted r2 to 0.78, but non of the coefficients is statistical significant (all p-values are greater than 0.05). Looking at the VIF values suggests that there is colinearity between the variables. Next step is to remove the ones with a high GVIF^(1/(2\*Df)) value.

### Model 3: Fit of mpg by all variables where GVIF^(1/(2\*Df)) <= 3.15

# GVIF Df GVIF^(1/(2\*Df))  
#drat 6.809663 1 2.609533  
#vs 8.088166 1 2.843970  
#gear 50.852311 2 2.670408  
#carb 503.211851 5 1.862838  
#trans 9.930495 1 3.151269  
  
fit.by.some <- lm(mpg~ drat + vs + gear + carb + trans, data=data )  
summary(fit.by.some)$coefficients

## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)  
## (Intercept) 11.115682 6.536428 1.7005744 0.10378643  
## drat 3.074948 2.026808 1.5171382 0.14414237  
## vsV -1.483798 2.373431 -0.6251698 0.53859439  
## gear4 2.593340 2.934638 0.8837000 0.38686357  
## gear5 2.358218 3.568533 0.6608369 0.51590172  
## carb2 -1.854541 2.163592 -0.8571583 0.40103386  
## carb3 -2.771974 2.905391 -0.9540795 0.35089759  
## carb4 -7.217473 2.640080 -2.7338088 0.01243960  
## carb6 -5.915280 4.407054 -1.3422299 0.19385353  
## carb8 -10.369284 4.427655 -2.3419360 0.02911938  
## transManual 2.493866 2.565009 0.9722643 0.34198573

vif(fit.by.some)[,3]^2

## drat vs gear carb trans   
## 4.321481 5.265793 3.896788 1.517639 6.028156

#### Key Findings: The adjusted r2 decreases to 0.77, and we still have the problem of non statistical significant coefficients. Next step is to fit the model by a stepwise algorithm.

### Model 4: Fit of mpg following the stepwise algorithm

stepModel <- step(fit.by.all, k=log(dim(data)[1]), trace=FALSE)  
summary(stepModel)$coefficients

## Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)  
## (Intercept) 9.617781 6.9595930 1.381946 1.779152e-01  
## wt -3.916504 0.7112016 -5.506882 6.952711e-06  
## qsec 1.225886 0.2886696 4.246676 2.161737e-04  
## transManual 2.935837 1.4109045 2.080819 4.671551e-02

#### Key Findings: This approach results in the hightest adjusted r2: 0.83, and it finds three coefficients that are statistical significant (wt, qsec and transmission). Next step is to run some diagnostics for this model

### Diagnosis and residuals of stepwise model

#### Please refer to Figure 3 in the Appendix

#### Key Findings: There doesn't seem to be a pattern in the residuals, so the model is a good fit. It would be good to work with a subject matter expert to look at the lower and upper residuals in the QQ plot, and understand why they have a slight deviation from the normal distribution.

## Conclusion

### Is an automatic or manual transmission better for MPG?

#### - This analysis confirms that manual cars deliver more MPG than automatic cars

### Quantify the MPG difference between automatic and manual transmissions

coef <- summary(stepModel)$coefficients  
coef[4,1] + c(-1, 1) \* qt(.975, df = stepModel$df) \* coef[4, 2]

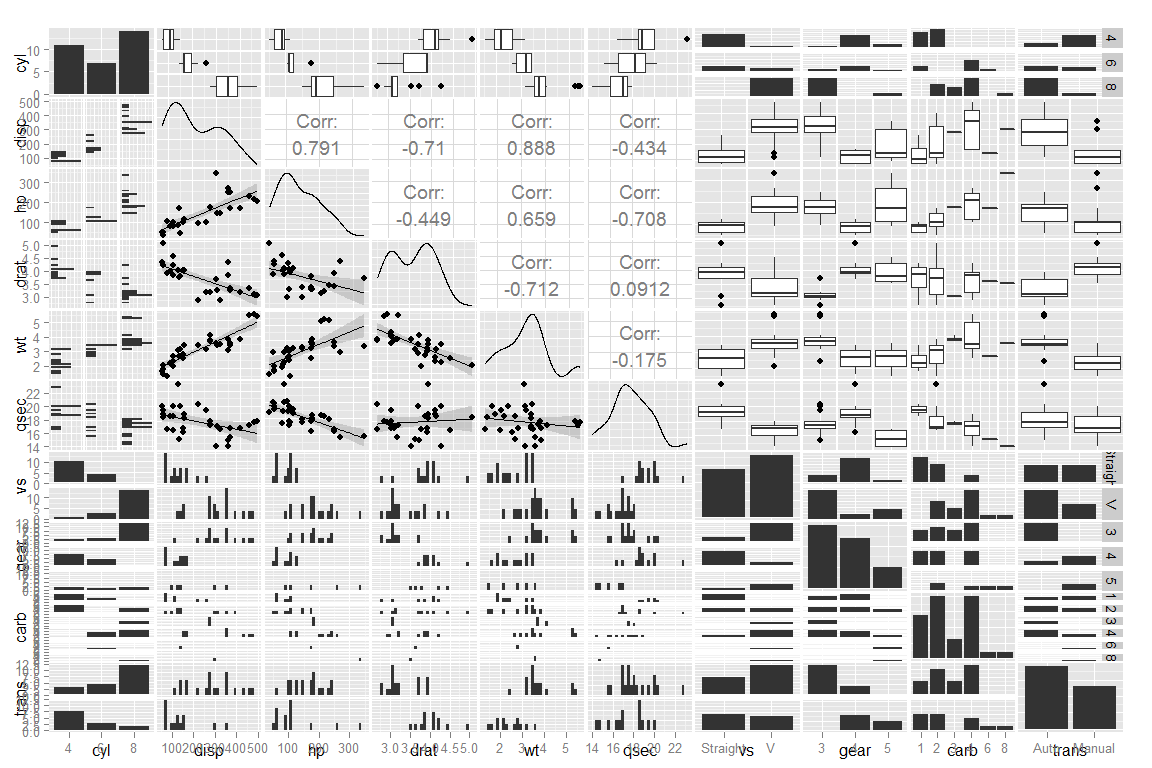
## [1] 0.04573031 5.82594408

#### - With 95% confidence, we estimate that manual cars deliver between 0.05 and 5.82 more MPG than automatic cars.

## Appendix

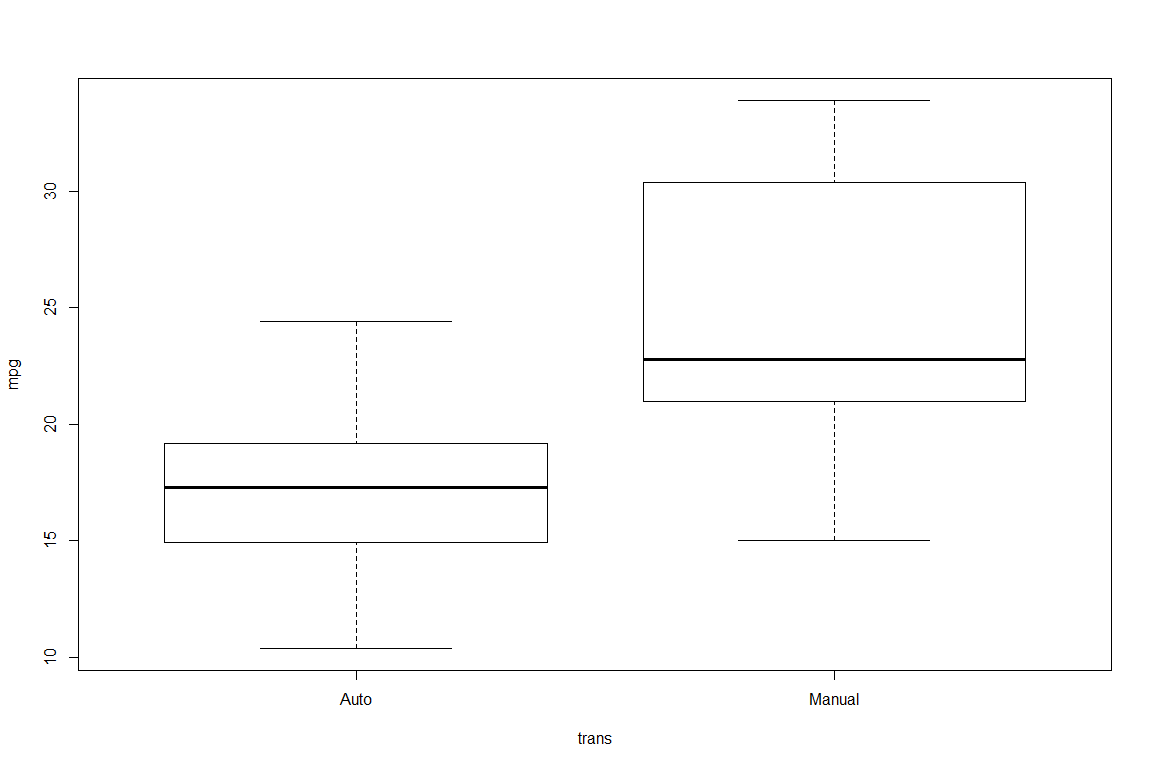
### Figure 1: GGPairs

ggpairs(data[, 2:11], lower=list(continuous="smooth"))



### Figure 2: Boxplot of MPG by Transmission

plot (mpg~trans, data=data)



### Figure 3: Residuals

