# Simple linear regression

WiSe23/24

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```
library(broman)
# function to format p-values
format_pval <- function(pval){
    dplyr::case_when(
        pval < .001 ~ "< .001",
        pval < .05 ~ "< .05",
        TRUE ~ broman::myround(pval, 3)
    )
}

# round to nearest non-zero decimal
my_round = function(x, n=2) {
    max(abs(round(x, n)), abs(signif(x, 1))) * sign(x)
}</pre>
```

# **Learning Objectives**

Today we will learn...

- how to fit a simple linear model with the lm() function
- how to interpret our model output
- how to report our model

### Workflow

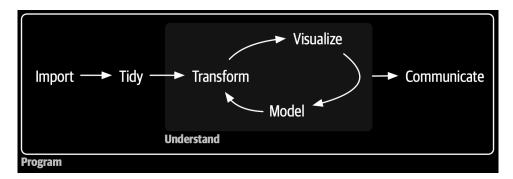


Figure 1: Image source: Wickham et al. (2023) (all rights reserved)

### **Set-up environment**

- always start with a clean R Environment (Session > Restart R)
  - go to the Session > select Restart R
  - or use the keyboard shortcut :Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+0  $\,$
- I usually runoptions(scipen=999) to supress scientific notation

```
# suppress scientific notation
options(scipen=999)
```

• load in our required packages

• and set my preferred ggplot2 theme

```
# set ggplot theme
theme set(theme bw())
```

## Simple linear model: RT ~ frequency

- $y \sim x$  can be read as "y as a function of x", or "y predicted by x"
- following Winter (2019), we will first model some word frequency data.
- our first model will be:

```
RT \sim frequency
```

### Load data

- load our data using the read\_csv() function from readr
- the clean\_names() function from the janitor package tidies up variable names (e.g., no spaces, all lower case).

```
# load ELP_frequency.csv
df_freq <- read_csv(here("data", "ELP_frequency.csv")) |>
  clean_names()
```

### Mini-EDA

- Exploratory Data Analysis is usually first step once collecting data
  - involves plotting and summarising variables of interest
- let's explore the data a little bit, which is what we would normally do before fitting any models

#### head()

• let's use head() from base R to see the first 6 rows of our data

```
# print head of df_freq
head(df_freq)
```

```
# A tibble: 6 x 3
  word
            freq
                    rt
           <dbl> <dbl>
  <chr>
           55522 622.
1 thing
2 life
           40629 520.
3 door
           14895 507.
4 angel
            3992 637.
5 beer
            3850
                  587.
6 disgrace
             409
                  705
```

- 3 columns: word, freq, and rt
- we can assume that they correspond to the word, its frequency, and the reaction time, respectively
- We can also see in our global environment that there are 12 observations, meaning 12 rows

### summary()

- summary() provides summaries of each variable in a dataframe
- numeric variables: descriptive statistics for the centre and spread of the data (mean, median, quartiles)
- categorical data: count per category
- character variables: number of observations

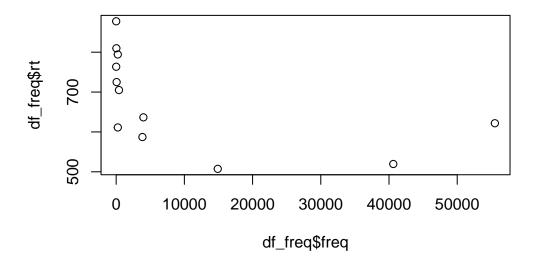
```
summary(df_freq)
```

word		freq			rt	
Length:12		Min.	:	4.0	Min.	:507.4
Class	:character	1st Qu.	:	57.5	1st Qu	:605.2
Mode	:character	Median	:	325.0	Median	:670.8
		Mean	:	9990.2	Mean	:679.9
		3rd Qu.	:	6717.8	3rd Qu	:771.2
		Max.	: !	55522.0	Max.	:877.5

### **Plotting**

• what does the relationship between freq and rt look like?

```
plot(df_freq$freq, df_freq$rt)
```



- ullet a lot of frequency values below roughly 400
  - these seem to have higher reaction times than those with a higher frequency value
- let's fit these data to our first linear model to explore this effect of frequency on reaction times

### lm()

- lm() function fits simple linear models
- as arguments it takes a formula (y x) and a dataset, at minimum
- for now, we will use 1 for our predictor, which is a placeholder for the intercept

$$lm(outcome \sim 1 + predictor, data = df\_name)$$

- the intercept is included by default
  - so if you omit the 1 the intercept is still included in the formula
- if you wanted to remove the intercept (which you often don't), you could replace  ${\tt 1}$  with  ${\tt 0}$

### Running a model

• to run such a model with our df\_freq data:

or, to save the model as an object so that we can call on it later, assign it a name (name <- value)</li>

```
fit_rt_1 <- lm(rt ~ 1, data = df_freq)</pre>
```

### Object naming

- the letters df in df\_freq stand for 'data frame'
  - this serves as a reminder of what exactly that object in our environment is
- we are saving our model as fit\_rt\_1, using 'fit' to signal that this object is a model fit. You could also save it as mod\_freq\_1, lm\_freq\_1, or whatever you see fit (there are no rules)
- if we plot the frequency data, we could call save the plot as fig\_freq or plot\_freq
- this simply helps keep our environment structured, which will become useful when you begin having more objects in your environment at a time

### Model ouput

• print our model

```
# print model
fit_rt_1
```

### Call:

```
lm(formula = rt ~ 1, data = df_freq)
```

#### Coefficients:

(Intercept)

679.9

- intercept and slope are called coefficients
  - Why do we only see Intercept?
  - because we didn't include any predictors in our model.

<sup>•</sup> We typically use the summary() function to print full model outputs.

```
summary(fit_rt_1)
Call:
lm(formula = rt ~ 1, data = df_freq)
Residuals:
     Min
               1Q
                    Median
                                         Max
-172.537 -74.677
                    -9.137
                             91.296 197.613
Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error t value
                                              Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)
             679.92
                          34.02 19.99 0.00000000538 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Residual standard error: 117.8 on 11 degrees of freedom
```

## • broom package

The broom package has some useful functions for printing model outputs

- tidy() produces a tibble (type of dataframe) of the coefficients
- glance() produces goodness of fit measures (which we won't discuss)

The outputs from tidy() and glance() can be fed into kable and/or kable\_styling() to create formatted tables

```
tidy(fit_rt_1)
# A tibble: 1 x 5
 term
             estimate std.error statistic p.value
                          <dbl>
  <chr>
                 <dbl>
                                     <dbl>
                                              <dbl>
                           34.0
                 680.
                                      20.0 5.38e-10
1 (Intercept)
  glance(fit_rt_1)
# A tibble: 1 x 12
 r.squared adj.r.squared sigma statistic p.value df logLik
                                                                 AIC
                                                                       BIC
```

```
<dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
      <dbl>
                     <dbl> <dbl>
                                      <dbl>
                                               <dbl> <dbl>
                         0 118.
                                         NA
                                                  NA
                                                         NA
                                                             -73.7
                                                                    151.
1
                                                                           152.
# i 3 more variables: deviance <dbl>, df.residual <int>, nobs <int>
augment() adds model values as columns to your dataframe (e.g., useful for plotting
observed vs. fitted values).
  augment(fit_rt_1, data = df_freq) %>% summary()
```

### Interpreting model output

• let's take a closer look at our model summary

```
summary(fit_rt_1)
Call:
lm(formula = rt ~ 1, data = df_freq) #<1>
Residuals:
     Min
                    Median
                                 3Q
               1Q
                                         Max
                    -9.137
-172.537 -74.677
                             91.296
                                     197.613
                                                #<2>
Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error t value
                                               Pr(>|t|)
                                                           #<3>
(Intercept)
              679.92
                          34.02
                                  19.99 0.00000000538 *** #<4>
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1 #<5>
Residual standard error: 117.8 on 11 degrees of freedom #<6>
```

- (1) formula repetition
- (2) residuals: differences between observed values and those predicted by the model
- (3) names for columns Estimates, standard error, t-value, p-value (Pr(>|t|))
- (4) Intercept  $(b_0)$
- **5** Significance codes
- (6) Standard deviation of residuals/error in our model (lower = better)

### Intercept

• intercept is roughly 679.9 milliseconds; what does this number represent?

```
# print model intercept
coef(fit_rt_1)['(Intercept)']

(Intercept)
  679.9167

# print data mean
mean(df_freq$rt)
```

### [1] 679.9167

- intercept corresponds to the mean reaction time value
  - why is this?

### Plotting rt ~ 1

- Figure ?? shows the intercept (red dot) amongst the observed data (black dots)
  - along the x-axis we have abstract numerical units (the values don't mean anything)
  - what would the values of the intercept be?

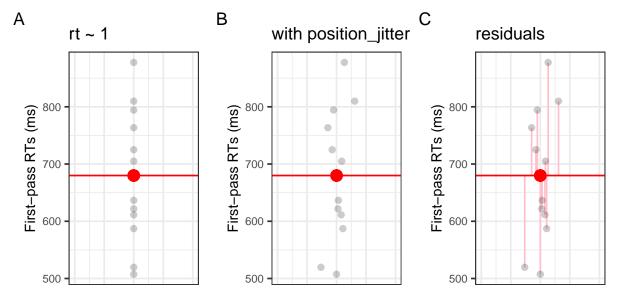
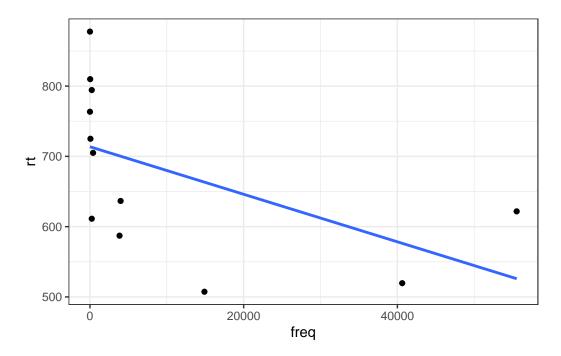


Figure 2: Visualisation of 'rt  $\sim$  1': observed values (black) and mean (intercept; red). Residuals would be the distance from each black dot to the y-value of the read dot

### Adding a fixed effect (slope)

- ullet let's include a predictor, which will give us a slope
- the slope represents the change in y (DV: rt) when we move 1-unit along y (IV: freq)
  - it tells us the *effect* our IV has on the DV (although be weary of making causal inferences)
- let's first plot the data again, but with a line:

```
df_freq |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(x = freq, y = rt) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE)
```



• what does this tell us?

### Fit model (treatment contrasts)

```
# fit simple linear model
fit_rt_freq <- lm(rt ~ freq, data = df_freq)</pre>
```

### **Model summary**

```
summary(fit_rt_freq)
```

#### Call:

lm(formula = rt ~ freq, data = df\_freq)

#### Residuals:

```
Min 1Q Median 3Q Max -155.947 -73.141 2.117 85.050 163.837
```

#### Coefficients:

```
Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 713.706298 34.639105 20.60 0.0000000016 ***
freq -0.003382 0.001699 -1.99 0.0746 .
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
Residual standard error: 104.6 on 10 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.2838, Adjusted R-squared: 0.2121
F-statistic: 3.962 on 1 and 10 DF, p-value: 0.07457
```

### Intercept

713.7063

• our intercept is no longer the grand mean of first-pass reading times...what is it?

```
# print model intercept
coef(fit_rt_freq)['(Intercept)']
(Intercept)
```

```
# print data mean
mean(df_freq$rt)
[1] 679.9167
```

### Slope

- the slope is -0.0033823
  - what does this correspond to?

```
# print slope
coef(fit_rt_freq)['freq']

freq
-0.003382289
```

- change in y (our DV rt) for a 1-unit change in x (our IV: freq)
  - how we interpret this value depends on the measurement unit your variables are

# **Exploring the model**

• we can extract information from our model and compare it to our observed data

```
# how many observed values did we enter into the model?
df_freq |>
    nrow()

[1] 12

# how many fitted values does our model have?
length(fitted(fit_rt_freq))
```

### **Exploring the model: residuals**

[1] 12

```
# what do our FITTED values look like?
  head(fitted(fit_rt_freq))
       1
                         3
                                            5
525.9148 576.2873 663.3271 700.2042 700.6845 712.3229
  # what do our OBSERVED values look like?
  head(df_freq$rt)
[1] 621.77 519.56 507.38 636.56 587.18 705.00
  # what is the difference between the FITTED and OBSERVED values?
  head(df_freq$rt) - head(fitted(fit_rt_freq))
                                                                        6
 95.855154 -56.727276 -155.947103 -63.644200 -113.504485
  # what are our RESIDUALS?
  head(residuals(fit_rt_freq))
          1
                                                                        6
 95.855154 -56.727276 -155.947103 -63.644200 -113.504485
                                                               -7.322942
Exploring the model: predicted values
  • what were our coefficients?
  coef(fit_rt_freq)
  (Intercept)
                       freq
713.706297951 -0.003382289
  • what would be our predicted reaction time for a word with frequency of 0?
```

coef(fit\_rt\_freq)['(Intercept)'] + coef(fit\_rt\_freq)['freq'] \* 0

```
(Intercept)
713.7063
```

- ignore the (Intercept) label here, R just takes the first label when performing an operation on 2 vectors
- what is the predicted reaction time for a word with frequency score of 5000?

```
coef(fit_rt_freq)['(Intercept)'] + coef(fit_rt_freq)['freq'] * 5000
(Intercept)
696.7949
```

### Model assumptions

- is our model a good fit for our data?
- linear regression makes assumptions about our data
  - these assumptions relate to the *residuals* of our model, not the raw data points themselves
- we'll focus on two assumptions for now:
  - assumptions of *normality* of the residuals
  - the constant *variance* of the residuals
- both assumptions are often diagnosed visually, so it takes some practice to learn what looks right

### **Normality**

- a model's residuals (i.e., the difference between the fitted and observed values) should be approximately normally distributed
- Normality is typically visualised using a histogram (Figure ?? A) and/or a quantile-quantile (Q-Q) plot (Figure ?? B).

#### Constant variance

- if a model satisfies the constant variance assumption (also called *homoscedasticity*, or the absence of *heteroscedasticity*), the spread of residuals will be equal across the regression line
- typically visualised using a residual plot, which should look like a blob (Figure ?? C).

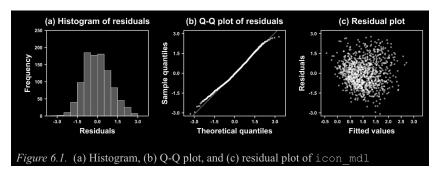


Figure 3: Image source: Winter (2019) (all rights reserved)

### Visualising model assumptions

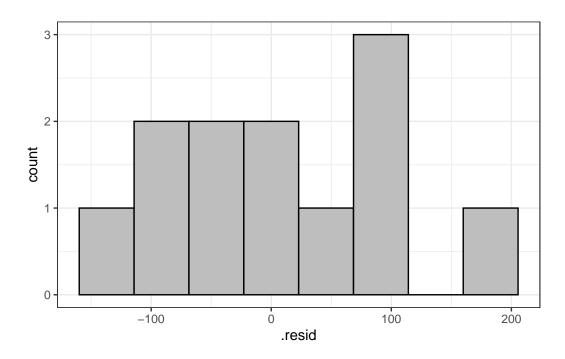
• let's plot our residuals to assess whether our model satisfies the assumptions of normality and constant variance

### Histogram

• let's use use the augment() function from broom to append model values to our original data frame, and then feed this into ggplot() from ggplot2 (or even feed it into hist()).

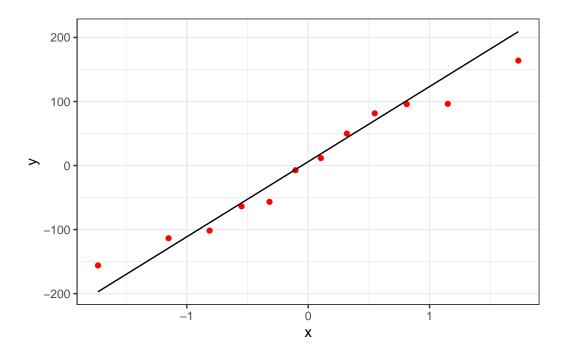
```
df_freq <- broom::augment(fit_rt_freq, df_freq)

# and create ggplot
df_freq |>
    ggplot() +
    aes(x = .resid) +
    geom_histogram(bins = 8, fill = "grey", colour = "black") +
    theme_bw()
```



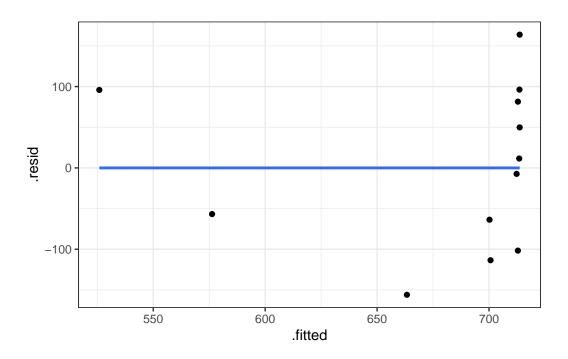
# Q-Q plot

```
df_freq |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(sample = .resid) +
  geom_qq(colour = "red") +
  geom_qq_line()
```



# Residual plot

```
df_freq |>
  ggplot() +
  aes(x = .fitted, y = .resid) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = F)
```



# Reporting our model

- following Sonderegger (2023) (Section 4.6.1), we should report
  - our individual coefficients (coefficient estimate, standard error, test statistic (e.g., t-value) and corresponding p-value)
  - measures of model fit

### Coefficients

• this can be written

Higher-frequency words had longer reaction times, but this effect was not significant  $(\hat{\beta} = -0.003; t = -1.99)$ .

• and/or presented in a table