

Regression Models: Cars And MPG

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Executive Summary

Scenario: you work for Motor Trend, a magazine about the automobile industry. Looking at a data set of a collection of cars, they are interested in exploring the relationship between a set of variables and miles per gallon (MPG) (outcome). They are particularly interested in the following two questions:

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

This brief analysis considers cars fuel economy and a set of variables, in particular the car transmission (automatic versus manual). We use mtcars dataset made available by Motor Trend Magazine.

Technically, we evaluate this relationship using linear regression.

—— Based on the dataset we show that the manual transmission has an advantage over the automatic one when it comes to MPG (miles per gallon) - see Figure 1.

Prerequisites

Loading the libraries and the dataset.

```
library(ggplot2)
library(UsingR)
require(GGally)
data(mtcars)
```

The Data - performing data exploration

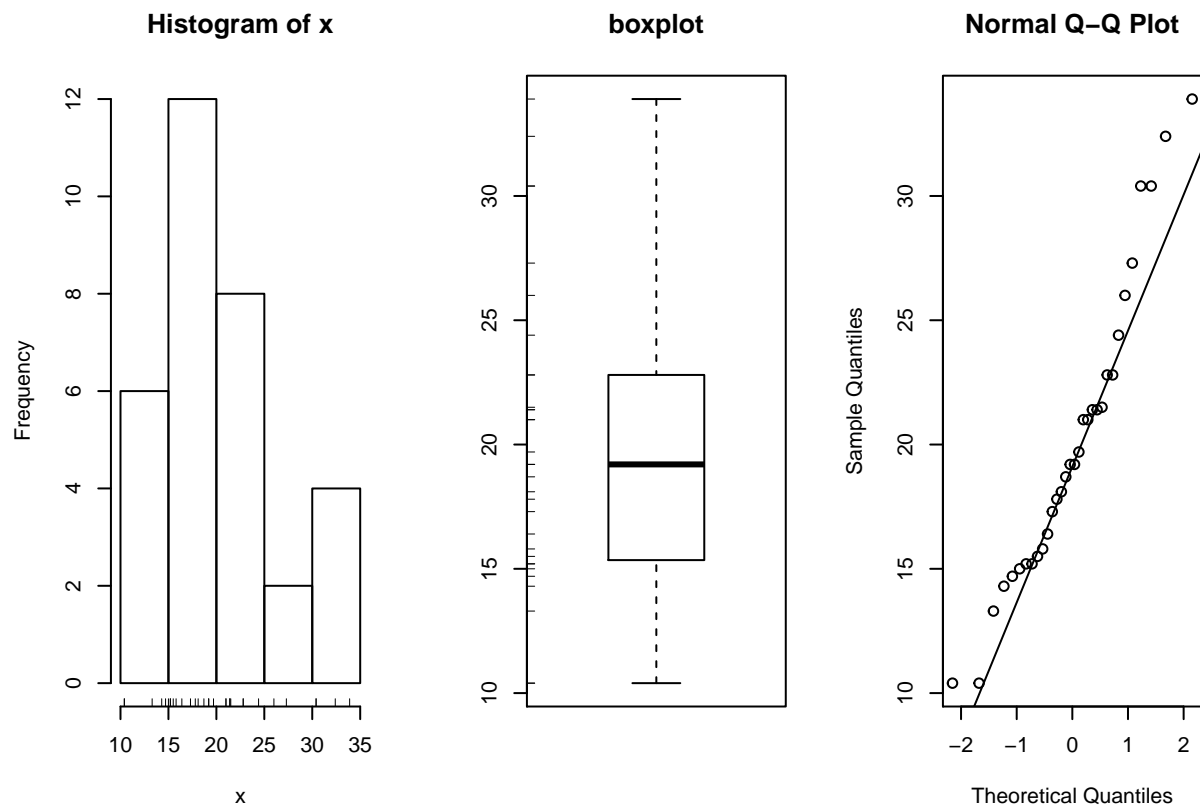
The mtcars dataset, data frame with 32 observations on 11 variables (source: <https://stat.ethz.ch/R-manual/R-devel/library/datasets/html/mtcars.html>).

```
[, 1] mpg Miles/(US) gallon
[, 2] cyl Number of cylinders
[, 3] disp Displacement (cu.in.)
[, 4] hp Gross horsepower
[, 5] drat Rear axle ratio
[, 6] wt Weight (1000 lbs)
[, 7] qsec 1/4 mile time
[, 8] vs V/S
[, 9] am Transmission (0 = automatic, 1 = manual)
[,10] gear Number of forward gears
[,11] carb Number of carburetors
```

MPG distribution

As MPG is the main subject of interest we are looking into how this variable is distributed using some normal probability plots.

```
simple.eda(mtcars$mpg)
```



We see in the above plots that:

- the cars within 15 to 25 mpg are more frequent (histogram)
- the mpg is symmetrically distributed with a regular tale, as opposed to skewed (boxplot)
- the QQ plot indicates that we can approximate this distribution as normal

Shapiro-Wilk Test - MPG distribution

Using Shapiro-Wilk Normality Test and getting a p-value = 0.1229 which translates in the fact that we cannot reject the NULL hypothesis that the samples came from a normal distribution.

```
shapiro.test(mtcars$mpg)
```

```
##  
##  Shapiro-Wilk normality test  
##  
## data:  mtcars$mpg  
## W = 0.9476, p-value = 0.1229
```

Exploring correlations

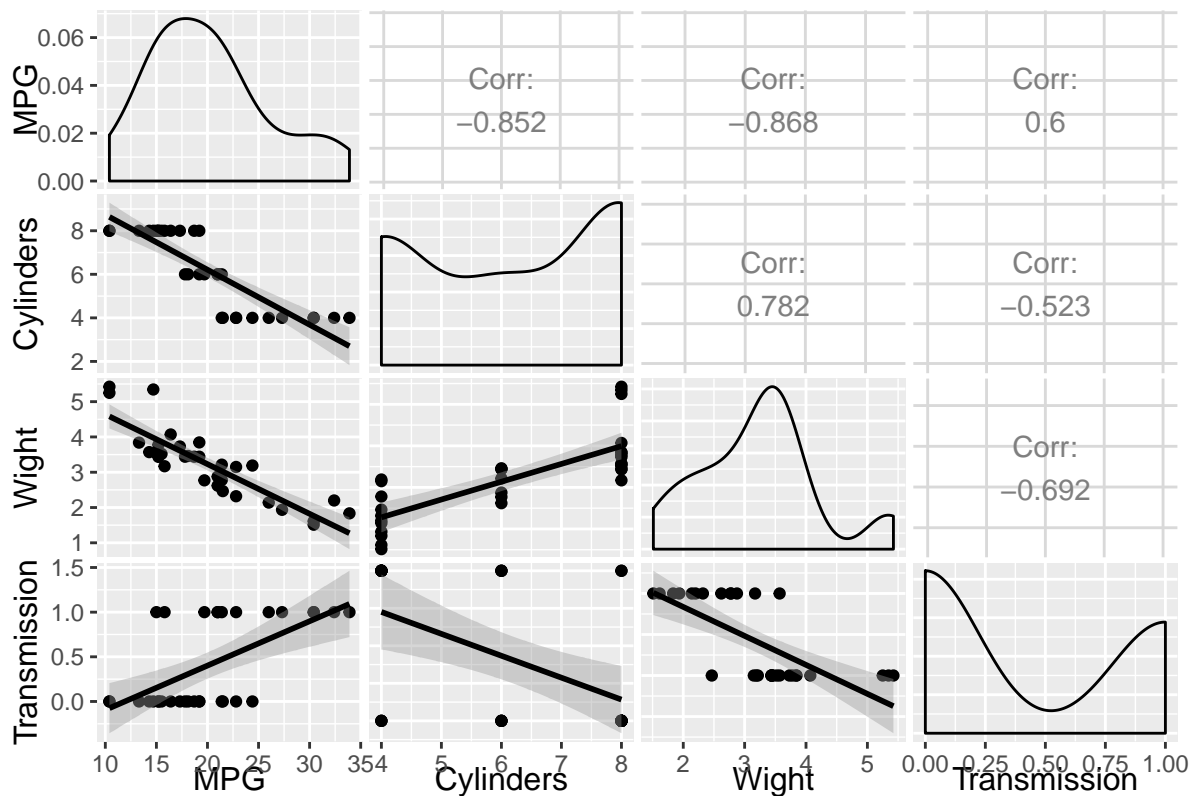
We pick a few variables and look for correlations between them. We ignored displacement, horsepower as it correlates with cylinders. We are mostly into correlations with MPGs.

```
cor(mtcars[,c("mpg", "cyl", "wt", "am", "gear")])
```

```
##           mpg           cyl           wt           am           gear
## mpg      1.0000000 -0.8521620 -0.8676594  0.5998324  0.4802848
## cyl     -0.8521620  1.0000000  0.7824958 -0.5226070 -0.4926866
## wt      -0.8676594  0.7824958  1.0000000 -0.6924953 -0.5832870
## am       0.5998324 -0.5226070 -0.6924953  1.0000000  0.7940588
## gear     0.4802848 -0.4926866 -0.5832870  0.7940588  1.0000000
```

We see a strong negative (-0.85) correlation between MPG and the weight of the car (as the car becomes heavier it gets lesser MPG). Number of gears doesn't seem to be an interesting variable. Another way to look into correlations:

```
cp1 = ggpairs(mtcars, columns = c("mpg", "cyl", "wt", "am"), columnLabels = c("MPG", "Cylinders", "Wight", "Transmission"),
              continuous = "smooth", combo = "facetdensity", diag = NULL)
cp1
```



We see a correlation factor of -0.852 between MPG and the Number of Cylinders which we can interpret as a strong downhill linear relationship which makes sense as a greater number of cylinders means generally a bigger engine consuming more gas.

MPG and transmission correlate with a coefficient of 0.6 which is a moderate positive relationship. The data set models the manual transmission as 1 and automatic as 0, hence one can say that a manual transmission tends to provide a better MPG.

T-test - comparing the means of MPG, transmission and number of cylindres

```
t.test(mtcars$mpg, mtcars$am, var.equal=TRUE, paired=FALSE)
```

```
##
## Two Sample t-test
##
## data: mtcars$mpg and mtcars$am
## t = 18.4126, df = 62, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 17.54734 21.82141
## sample estimates:
## mean of x mean of y
## 20.09062 0.40625
```

```
t.test(mtcars$mpg, mtcars$cyl, var.equal=TRUE, paired=FALSE)
```

```
##
## Two Sample t-test
##
## data: mtcars$mpg and mtcars$cyl
## t = 12.5116, df = 62, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 11.68184 16.12441
## sample estimates:
## mean of x mean of y
## 20.09062 6.18750
```

We get a very small p-value which translates in the fact that the difference in means is not by chance but indeed there is clear difference in these two populations. So we reject the NULL hypothesis: “these two samples have the same means.”

Regression Models

Building a regression model using Backward Stepwise Regression (starting with all predictors and removes the ones that are not statistically significant).

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

Sumarizing the best regression model

The most significant variables are identified as being:

- the weight of the car (wt)
- the 1/4 mile time (qsec) The transmission seems to be of a lower importance as predictor of MPG.

We see a really small p-value (1.21e-11 much smaller than 0.05) meaning a good model. We also see an decent R-squared: 0.8497 which translates to outcome variance explained by this model.

```
summary(best.model)
```

```
##
## 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 ***
## am            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
```

Appendix

Figure 1: Which transmission achieves better mileage (Miles per Gallon)?

As we can see from the boxplot below there is a distinct difference that favors the manual transmission over the automatic when it comes to get better millage.