

Linear Regression

Meet Your Speaker





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- Faculty MIT, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Science
- Experienced in applying probabilistic models, statistical analysis and machine learning to diverse areas
- Certified Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma and Design for Six Sigma in GE

Learning Objectives



By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Relate correlation and simple linear regression in the context of understanding linear relationships.
- Explore simple linear regression models to capture the linear relationship between a pair of attributes.
- Build multiple linear regression to model relationships between two or more input attributes and the output, to predict business outcomes.
- Evaluate linear regression models and identify the levers to improve their performance.
- O Discover the applications of linear regression to solve a variety of business problems.

Agenda



In this session, we'll discuss:

- Business Problem and Solution Space
- Correlation and Linear Relationships
- Simple Linear Regression
- Multiple Linear Regression
- Categorical Variables in Regression
- Evaluation Metrics for Regression

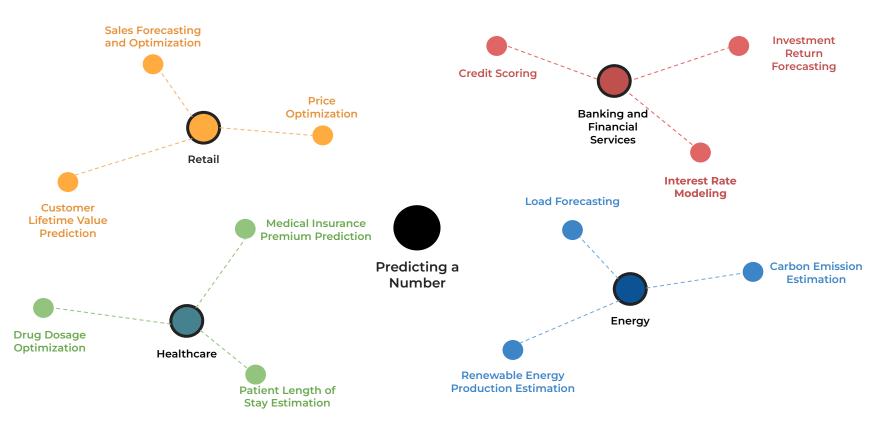
Common Business Questions



- How can we forecast sales based on historical sales data and marketing expenditure?
- How do we determine medical insurance premiums for customers based on attributes like blood pressure, blood sugar level, and smoking habits?
- How do we determine the credit card limit to be assigned to customers based on their past spending behavior, demographic information, etc?
- How can we predict future power load requirements to ensure reliable grid operation and prevent outages?

Problem Space



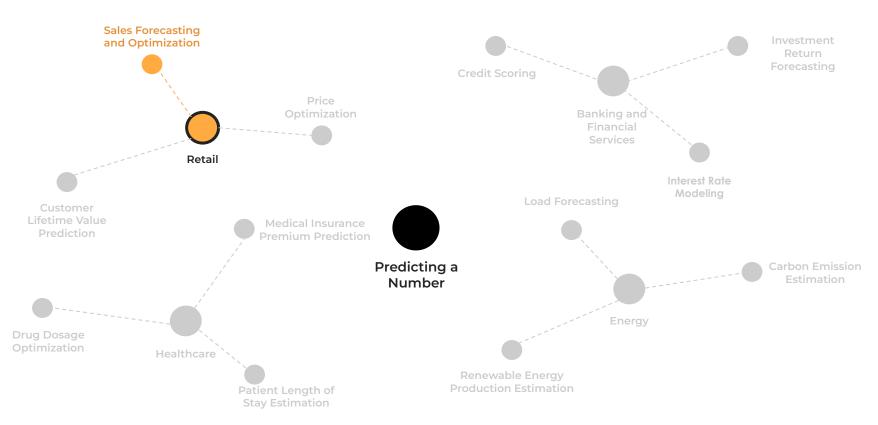


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Problem Space





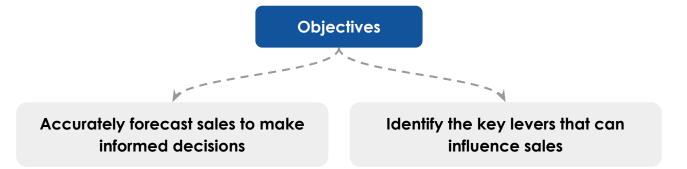
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Problem Statement



- Consider an online retailer of mobiles and tablets
- Crucial to stay ahead of market trends and consumer preferences to maximize sales
- Need to effectively manage inventory and marketing efforts to attract and retain customers



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Sales Forecasting and Optimization



Current State

Desired State

Gap / Key Questions

Unable to estimate the sales of a particular gadget for the next six months

Difficulty in allocating funds for marketing as we cannot identify factors driving the sales of a particular gadget How do we predict the number of units of iPhones that will sell in the next quarter?

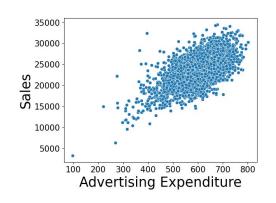
What are the factors that affect the sales of iPhones?

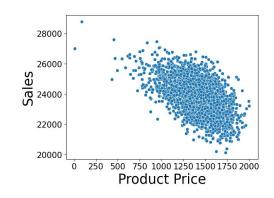
Developed a sales forecasting mechanism to estimate revenue for the next six months

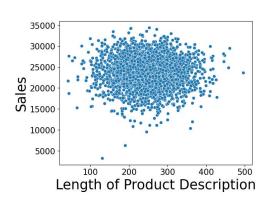
One unit increase in marketing spending will result in 20 units increase in iPhone sales

Visualizing Relationships









What happens to Sales as Advertising Expenditure increases?

What happens to Sales as Product Price increases?

No relationship



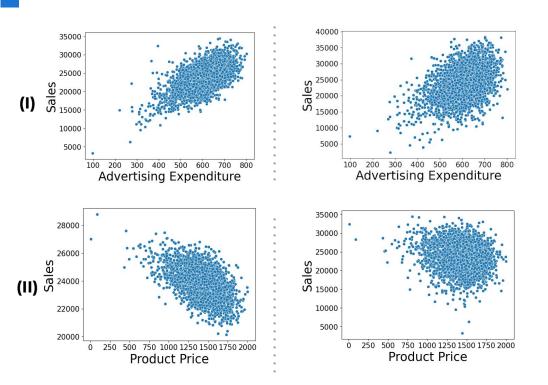


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Visualizing Relationships





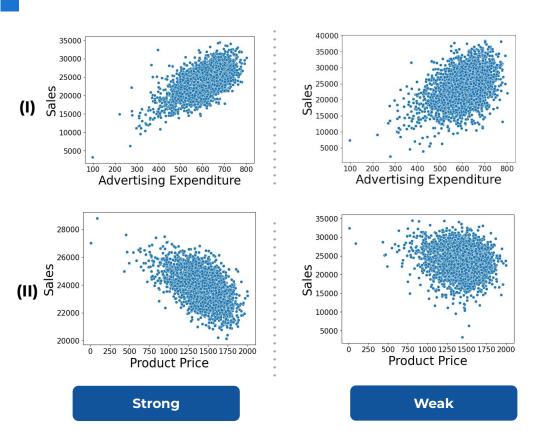
(I) In both the cases, we observe a **positive relationship** between sales and advertising expenditure

What is the **difference**?

(II) In both the cases, we observe a **negative relationship** between the sales and product price

Visualizing Relationships





The cases on the left - in both (I) and (II) - exhibit a **stronger relationship (positive** or **negative)** than the ones on the right

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Correlation



- We have seen how to **visually identify relationships** between a pair of variables from two aspects **direction** and **strength**
- O But we need a **quantitative measure** of the relationship

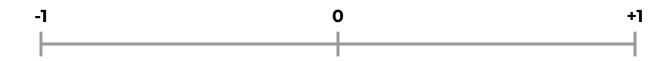
Correlation is a statistical measure that describes the strength and direction of a relationship between two variables.

- Indicates the degree to which two variables tend to change together
- Quantifies both the **direction** and **strength** of the relationship

Correlation



Correlation typically ranges between -1 and 1.



Perfect negative correlation

One variable decreases as the other increases

No correlation

Variables are independent of each other

Perfect positive correlation

Both variables increase together

Pearson's Correlation Coefficient



One of the most commonly used measures of correlation.

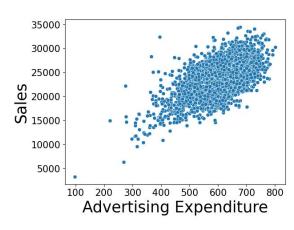
A statistical measure that quantifies the **strength** and **direction** of the **linear** relationship between two continuous variables.

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

Correlation vs. Causation

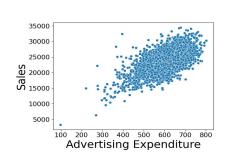


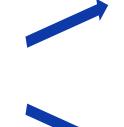
- We observed advertising expenditure exhibits a strong positive correlation with sales.
- As advertising expenditure increased, sales increased.
- Does it mean advertising expenditure **causes** an increase in sales?
- Not necessarily true!
- There might be other factors at play.

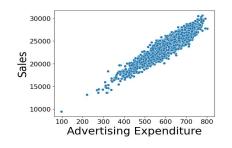


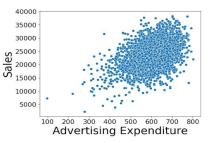
Correlation vs. Causation











Economic Zone 1

Economic Zone 2

- Let's split the data with respect to **another factor economic zone**.
- Economic Zone 1 has a **booming economy** sales will be higher here even if we don't spend as much on marketing.
- Economic Zone 2 has a **stagnant economy** sales might have been higher due to data collected in a festive season.

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Correlation vs. Causation







Variable 1 and Variable 2 are highly correlated

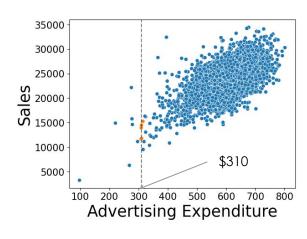


Variable 1 causes a change in Variable 2

The Need for Regression



- We observed advertising expenditure exhibits a strong positive correlation with sales.
- Let's say we now decide to spend \$310 for the marketing campaign of the latest iPhone.
- O How much sales should we expect?
- We don't know!
- Historically, we've had different sales for similar marketing spending.



Correlation measures the strength and direction of the relationship, but doesn't provide a way to predict the output given an input.

The Need for Regression

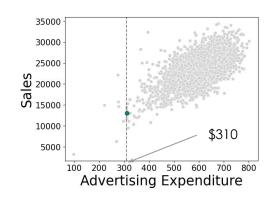


- It is important for us to be able to determine the output (sales).
- It is also important to identify the lever(s) that drive the output (sales).
- Hence, the need for a mathematical model.

Input value

(\$310 marketing spend)

Mathematical model



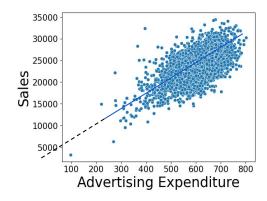
Output value (\$13040.50 sales)

Simple Linear Regression



The **simplest** mathematical model is **linear** - a **straight line**.

Linear Regression is a **statistical model** which **estimates** the **linear relationship** between a **response** and one or more **explanatory variables**.



- Simple Linear Regression one explanatory and one response variable.
- Assumes that there is a linear relationship between the explanatory (independent) variable and the response (dependent) variable.

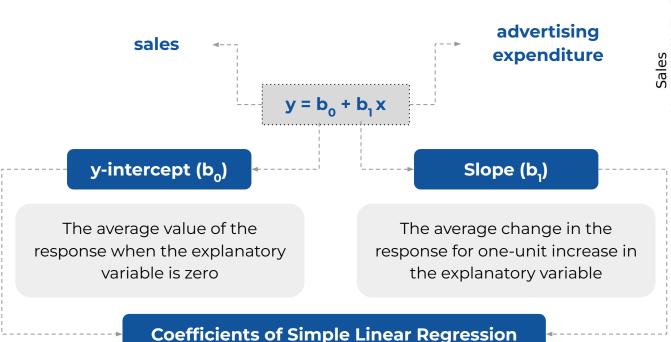
advertising expenditure

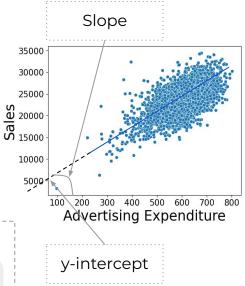
sales

Simple Linear Regression



The equation of line is represented by:





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O Consider the following model for our context:

sales = 1.01 + 2.45 * advertising expenditure

For a **unit increase** in advertising expenditure, the sales will increase by **2.45 units.**

This **interpretation** is **valid ONLY IF** the **assumptions** of linear regression hold **true**.



O Consider the following model for our context:

O If we have zero marketing expenditure:

Makes business sense — we can have organic sales.

What if the business context changes?



O Consider the case of predicting the price of a house using the following model:

house price = 291.07 + 105.45 * square footage

For a **unit increase** in square footage, the price of the house increases by **105.45 units.**

This **interpretation** is **valid ONLY IF** the **assumptions** of linear regression hold **true**.



O Consider the case of predicting the price of a house using the following model:

In the case of zero square footage:

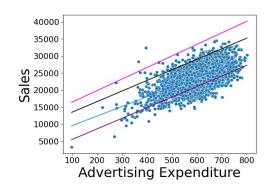
Doesn't make business sense!

y-intercept doesn't always make business sense.



- We observed one line that described the relationship between sales and advertising expenditure.
- But we can draw multiple lines!

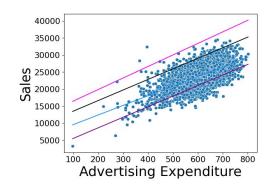
Which line do we choose?



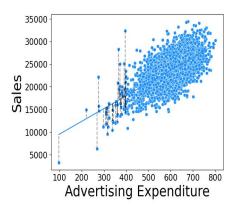


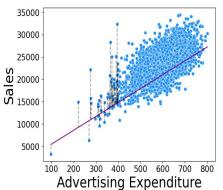
- We first need to understand the **difference** between these **lines**.
- We have actual data points (actual sales) and predicted data points (model's predicted sales).

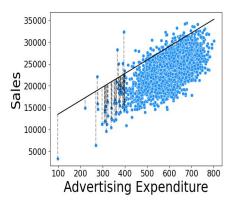
Prediction Error = Actual Value - Predicted Value

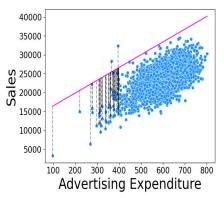






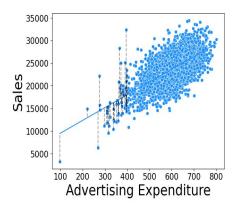


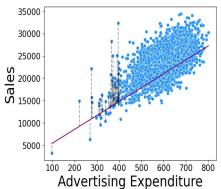


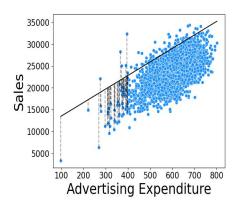


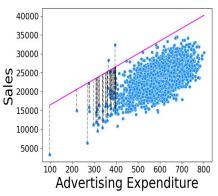
- O There are multiple data points to consider.
- O Take the aggregate of the errors across the data points.











The **line** with the **least aggregate error** across all data points is the one **we want.**

This is called the best-fit line.

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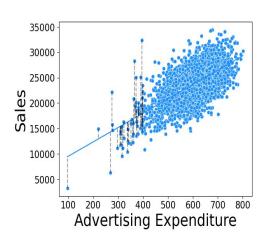
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O How to find the error?

$$Error = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)$$
 Actual Value Predicted Value



- Difference between actual and predicted values can be positive or negative
- O Direct addition will give a false picture of low overall error



Take absolute values

$$Error = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

$$\blacksquare$$

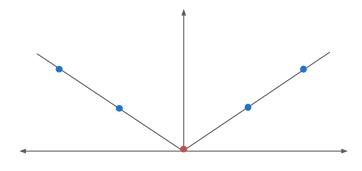
$$Error = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |y_i - (b_0 + b_1 x_i)|$$

How to minimize the error?



- Need to find the **values** of the **coefficients** (b₀ and b₁) that yield the **minimum error**
- Use differentiation

Differentiate the **error** with respect to the **coefficients** (b₀ and b₁)



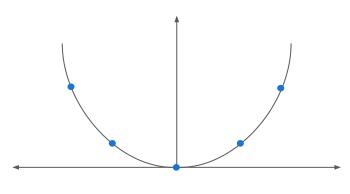
- Differentiable
- Not differentiable

Differentiating absolute values is mathematically inconvenient



O Use **squared values** instead

$$Error = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$



Differentiable

- Accommodates both positive and negative errors
- Mathematically convenient differentiable



Use squared values instead

Error =
$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$



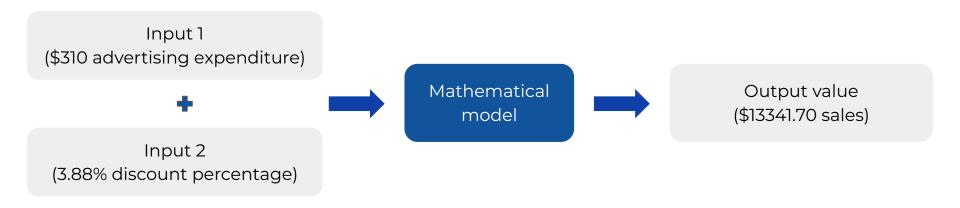
$$Error = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - (b_0 + b_1 x_i))^2$$

This is known as the **Method of Least Squares**

Multiple Linear Regression

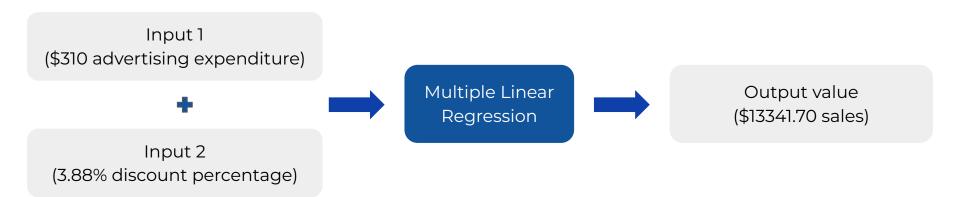


- We have checked the relationship between sales and advertising expenditure
- What if there is another variable which can be used to predict the sales?



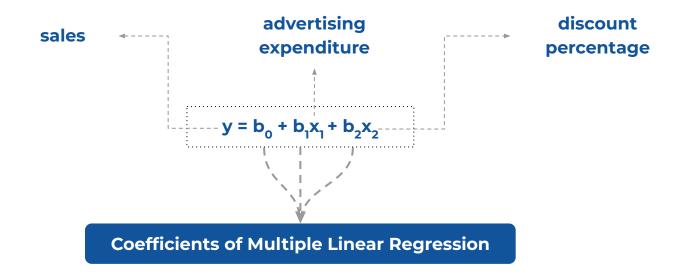


- Multiple Linear Regression two or more explanatory and one response variable
- Extension of Simple Linear Regression





Multiple Linear Regression equation - two explanatory variables

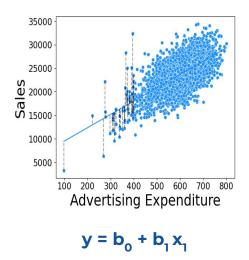


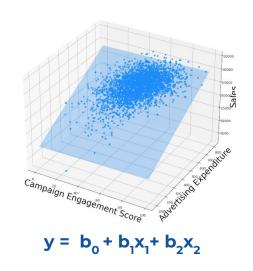
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- For **one explanatory variable**, the **equation** was that of a **line**
- For two explanatory variables, the equation will be that of a plane

Coefficient Interpretation



O Consider the following model for our context

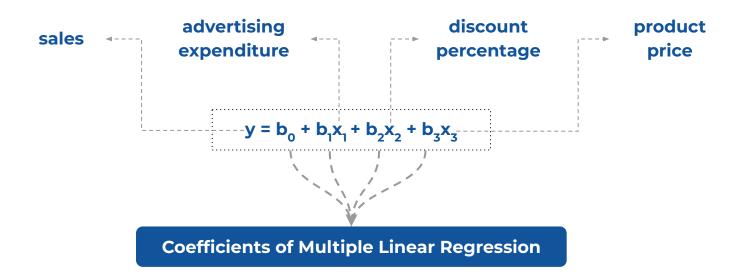
sales = 1.01 + 2.45 * advertising expenditure + 7.88 * discount percentage

- For a **unit increase** in advertising expenditure, the sales will increase by **2.45 units**, provided all other variables are held constant
- For a **unit increase** in discount percentage, the sales will increase by **7.88 units**, provided all other variables are held constant

These interpretations are valid ONLY IF the assumptions of linear regression hold true



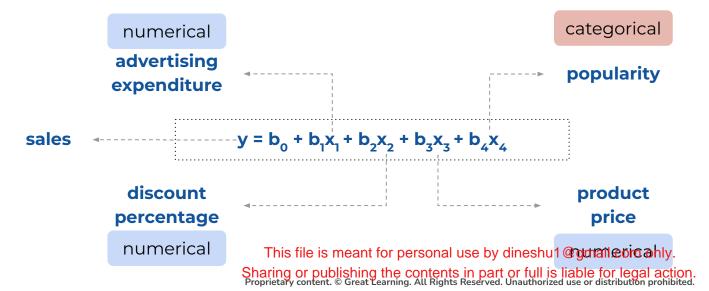
Multiple Linear Regression equation - more than two explanatory variables



Categorical Variables in Regression



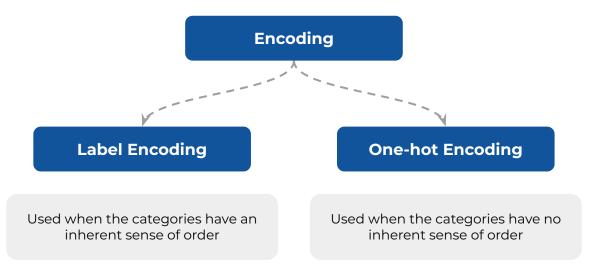
- O So far we've worked with **numerical variables**
- But real-world data often contains categorical variables
- O Consider the following case



Categorical Variables in Regression



- Categorical variables are not numbers even if they might be represented by numbers
- O Can't be utilized directly in a linear regression model
- Need to be converted into a numerical format



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Label Encoding



- Assigns a unique integer to each category
- Order of the integers represents the order of the categories

Popularity	Label Encoding	Popularity
Very Low		1
Low		2
Moderate		3
High		4
Very High		5

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One-hot Encoding



- A new column is created for each category
- O If the data point contains the category, corresponding column has value 1
- O If the data point doesn't contain the category, corresponding column has value 0

Region
East
South
West
East
North

One-hot Encoding

Region _North	Region _East	Region _West	Region _South
0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0

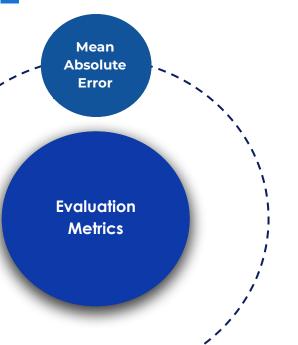
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- We have seen multiple models so far
- We don't know 'how well' these models are performing
- Need to evaluate the models to gauge if they're performing 'well'
- Model performance is measured using metrics
- **Quantify** how well the model predictions align with the actual values



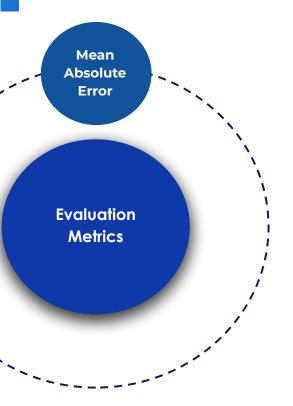


An intuitive metric

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

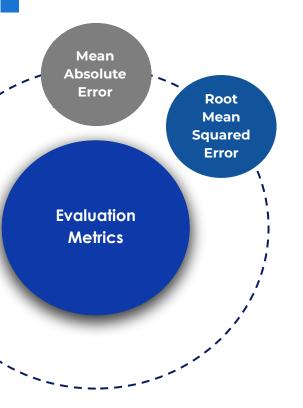
- Gives an idea of how much the model predictions deviate from the actual observations
- Relative to the range of the response





- Problem with considering the absolute value of errors is it doesn't penalize larger errors
- Needed to ensure that the model learns to do better when encountering edge cases



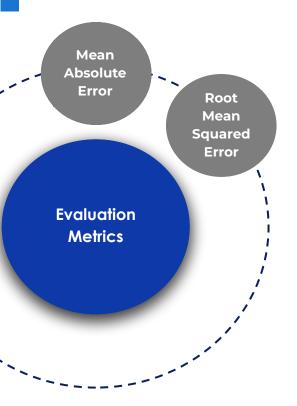


- Problem with considering the absolute value of errors is it doesn't penalize larger errors
- Needed to ensure that the model learns to do better when encountering edge cases

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}$$

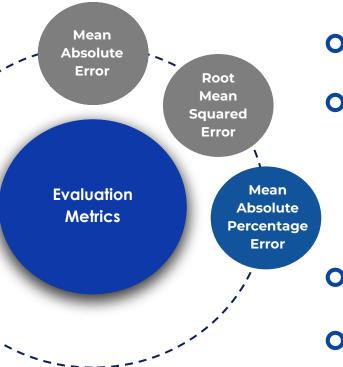
Relative to the range of the response





- MAE and RMSE are relative to the scale of the response
- Cannot compare models across different data and scale of response value



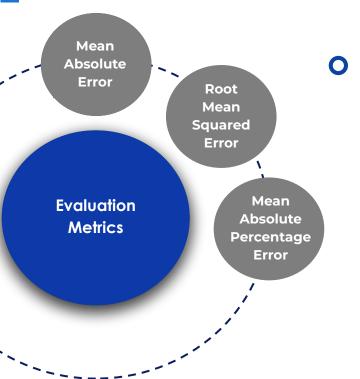


- MAE and RMSE are relative to the scale of the response
- Cannot compare models across different data and scale of response value

$$MAPE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left| \frac{y_i - \hat{y}_i}{y_i} \right| * 100$$

- Indifferent of the range of the response
- Needs to be adjusted when the actual value of the response is zero

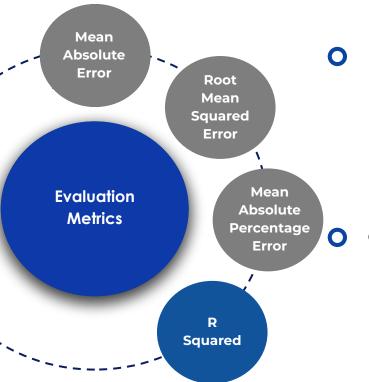




Previous metrics do not clearly quantify how well the model explains the variability in the data

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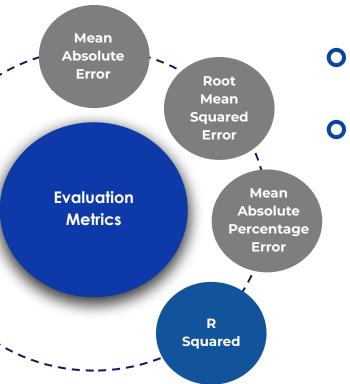


Previous metrics do not clearly quantify how well the model explains the variability in the data

$$R^{2} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \hat{y}_{i})^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \bar{y})^{2}}$$

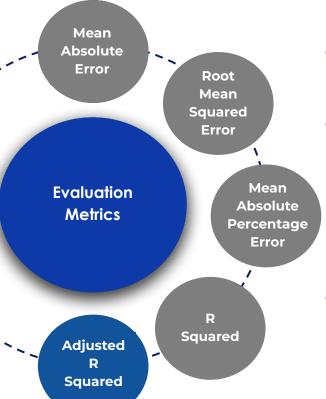
Generally ranges between 0 and 1





- Tends to increase when adding more explanatory variables
 - Does not account for the value addition from the added explanatory variables





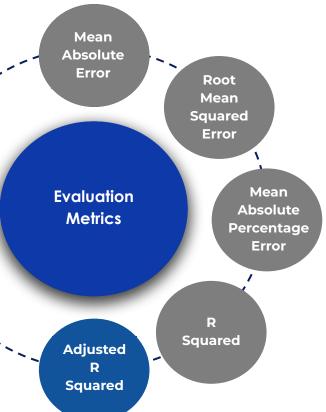
- Tends to increase when adding more explanatory variables
- Does not account for the value addition from the added explanatory variables

Adjusted
$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{(1 - R^2) * (n - 1)}{n - k - 1}$$

Accounts for the number of explanatory variables in the model

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- Gives a sense of which variables actually help in prediction and which ones do not
 - Provides a balance between model fit and complexity (number of explanatory variables)

Adjusted
$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{(1 - R^2) * (n - 1)}{n - k - 1}$$

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Summary



Here's a quick recap of what we've learned:

- Business Problem and Solution Space: Identifies the specific problem that linear regression aims to solve and defines the scope of its application in business contexts.
- Correlation and Linear Relationships: Explores how correlation measures the strength and direction of linear relationships between variables, laying the foundation for understanding linear regression.
- Simple Linear Regression: Introduces the basic concept of simple linear regression, which models the relationship between a dependent variable and one independent variable using a straight line.

Summary



- Multiple Linear Regression: Expands on the concept of simple linear regression by incorporating multiple independent variables to predict a dependent variable, accommodating more complex relationships.
- Categorical Variables in Regression: Discusses strategies for encoding categorical variables in regression models to include qualitative data effectively in predictive analysis.
- Evaluation Metrics for Regression: Covers key metrics such as Mean Squared Error (MSE), R-squared, and others used to assess the accuracy and performance of regression models in predicting outcomes.

Learning Outcomes



You should now be able to:

- Explain how correlation measures the strength and direction of linear relationships, and apply this understanding to build simple linear regression models effectively.
- Gain proficiency in constructing and interpreting simple linear regression models to analyze and predict relationships between two variables.
- Develop multiple linear regression models to enable the prediction of business outcomes using multiple input variables.

Learning Outcomes



- Evaluate linear regression models using key metrics and implement strategies to enhance model performance and accuracy.
- Identify and apply linear regression techniques to solve various real-world business problems, leveraging its predictive capabilities across different domains.



Happy Learning!

