Motor Trends - MPG Analysis

Gene Kaufman

March 17, 2016

Executive Summary

An analysis of the **mtcars** dataset was performed for *Motor Trend* magazine to answer the question of how MPG is effected by transmission type. A basic analysis of only this variable determined that cars with **Manual** transmissions performed better than **Automatic** transmissions, with **Manual** transmissions getting an average **7.24** mpg better than **Automatics**. When factoring in other dependent variables (**cyl, hp, wt**), **Manual** transmissions only achieved an average **1.81** better gas mileage than cars with **Automatic** transmissions.

Data preparation

The dataset contained a number of fields that needed to be converted to factors, as they just include categorical data.

```
data(mtcars)

mtcars$cyl <- as.factor(mtcars$cyl)
mtcars$vs <- as.factor(mtcars$vs)
mtcars$gear <- as.factor(mtcars$gear)
mtcars$carb <- as.factor(mtcars$carb)
mtcars$am <- factor(mtcars$am,labels=c('Auto','Manual'))
```

Exploratory Data Analysis

A boxplot (Appendix figure 1) shows that, ignoring all other variables, **Manual** transmissions get better mileage than **Automatics**. A pairs plot was produced (Appendix figure 2), showing possible correlations between **mpg** and the **cyl, disp, hp, drat, wt, vs and am** variables. Further multiple regression is needed to confirm and quantify any correlations.

Simple Linear Regression

First, let's see the results of regressing all the variables:

```
fit.all <- lm(mpg ~ . , data=mtcars)
summary(fit.all)$coef
```

```
##                Estimate  Std. Error     t value   Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 23.87913244 20.06582026  1.19004018 0.25252548
## 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
## vs1          1.93085054  2.87125777  0.67247551 0.51150791
## amManual     1.21211570  3.21354514  0.37718957 0.71131573
## 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
```

(The full summary for this model is in Appendix, Table 1.) The p-values for this summary show that there might be too many variables for any one variable to show a significant effect on the outcome. We'll obviously need to do more in-depth regression.

Since we've been asked to specifically analyse transmission type, let's see the simple regression against just the **am** variable.

```
fit.am.only <- lm(mpg ~ am , data=mtcars)
summary(fit.am.only)$coef
```

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

(The full summary for this model is in Appendix, Table 2.) This shows us that when using only the **am** variable, cars with **Manual** transmissions have a **7.24** increase in mean gas mileage (for a total mean **mpg** of **24.39**), compared to the mean **mpg** of **17.15** for **Automatic** transmissions.

Multiple Regression

Now we'll use R's **step** function to repeatedly build models with different combinations of variables to determine which model includes only those variables deemed significant to the outcome. We'll start with the model that includes the full set of variables.

```
fit.best <- step(fit.all, direction="both")
```

The best model:

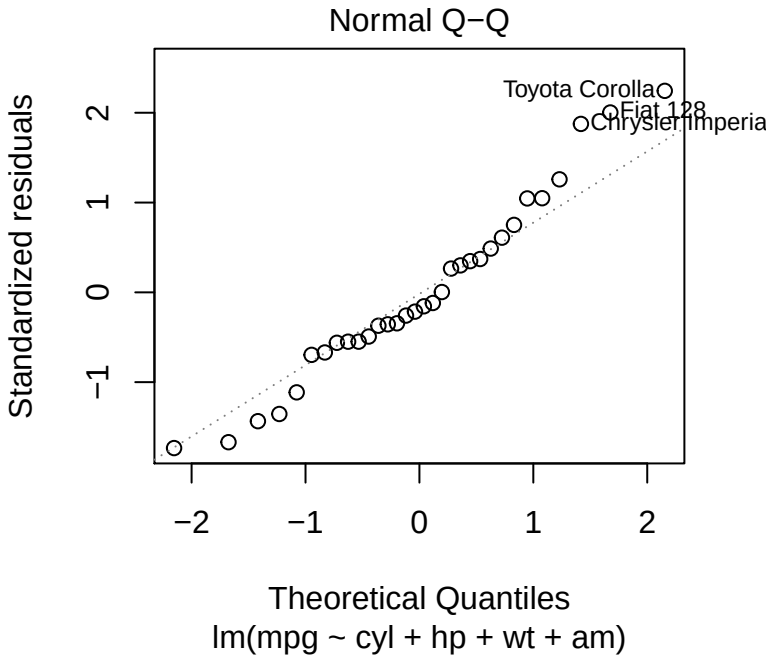
```
## lm(formula = mpg ~ cyl + hp + wt + am, data = mtcars)
```

```
##                Estimate Std. Error   t value     Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 33.70832390 2.60488618 12.940421 7.733392e-13
## cyl6        -3.03134449 1.40728351 -2.154040 4.068272e-02
## cyl8        -2.16367532 2.28425172 -0.947214 3.522509e-01
## hp          -0.03210943 0.01369257 -2.345025 2.693461e-02
## wt          -2.49682942 0.88558779 -2.819404 9.081408e-03
## amManual     1.80921138 1.39630450  1.295714 2.064597e-01
```

(The full summary for this model is in Appendix, Table 3.) This tells us that while holding all other variables constant, cars with **Manual** transmissions saw an increase in mean MPG of **1.81** miles/gallon. The adjusted R-squared value for this model is **0.84**, indicating that **84%** of the variability is explained by this model.

Residual Plot

A look at the best model's residuals with a Normal Q-Q plot shows that most points fall on the line and are therefore normally distributed:



Appendix

Figure 1: Boxplot of MPG per Transmission Type

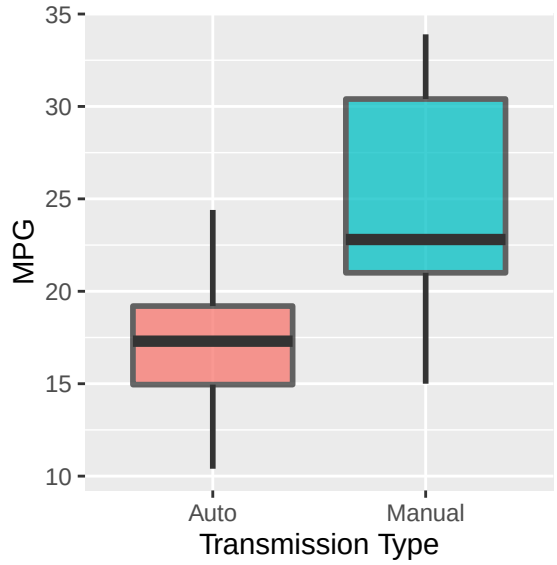


Figure 2: PAIRS plot of mtcars

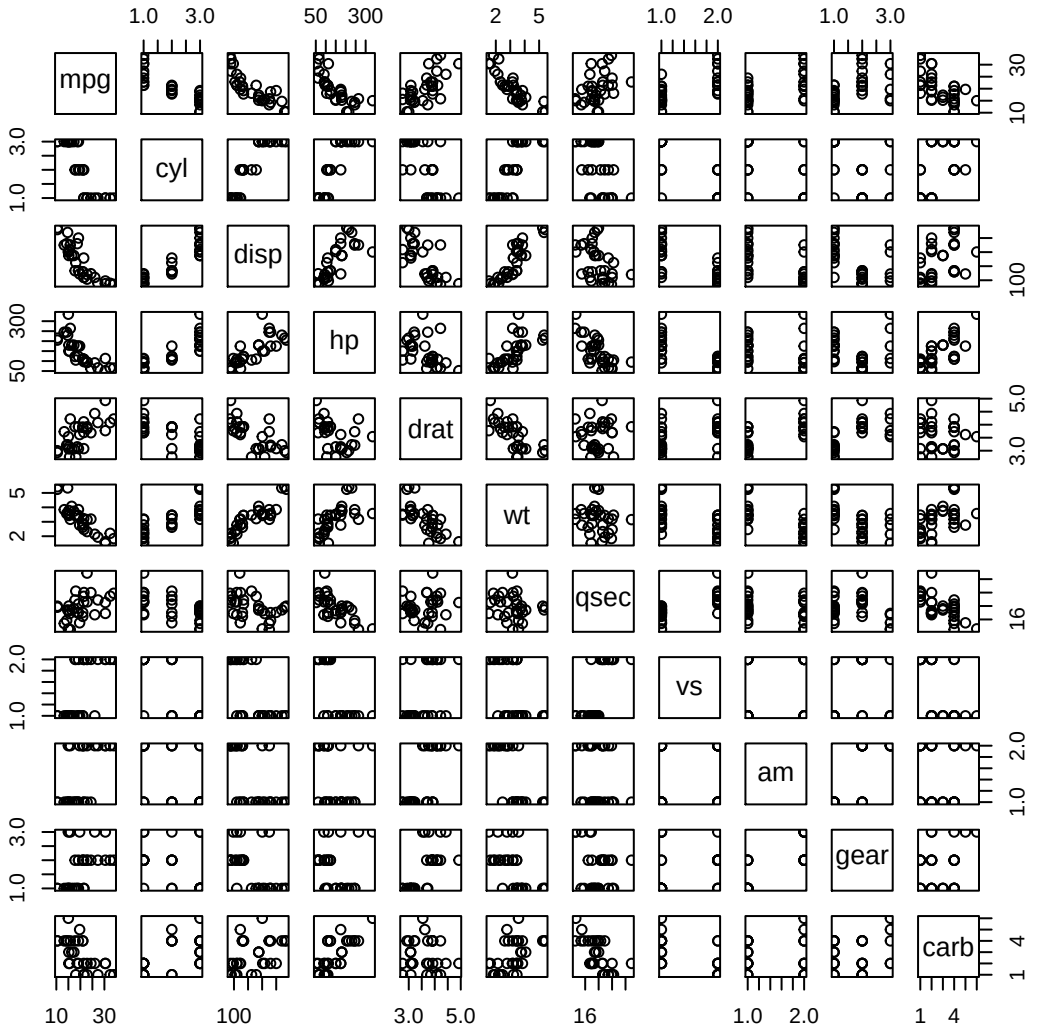


Table 1: Summary of Basic Regression Model - All variables

```
summary(fit.all)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = mpg ~ ., data = mtcars)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -3.5087 -1.3584 -0.0948  0.7745  4.6251
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 23.87913   20.06582   1.190   0.2525
## cyl6        -2.64870    3.04089  -0.871   0.3975
## cyl8        -0.33616    7.15954  -0.047   0.9632
```

```
## disp         0.03555    0.03190   1.114   0.2827
## hp          -0.07051    0.03943  -1.788   0.0939 .
## drat         1.18283    2.48348   0.476   0.6407
## wt          -4.52978    2.53875  -1.784   0.0946 .
## qsec         0.36784    0.93540   0.393   0.6997
## vs1          1.93085    2.87126   0.672   0.5115
## amManual     1.21212    3.21355   0.377   0.7113
## gear4        1.11435    3.79952   0.293   0.7733
## gear5        2.52840    3.73636   0.677   0.5089
## carb2       -0.97935    2.31797  -0.423   0.6787
## carb3        2.99964    4.29355   0.699   0.4955
## carb4        1.09142    4.44962   0.245   0.8096
## carb6        4.47757    6.38406   0.701   0.4938
## carb8        7.25041    8.36057   0.867   0.3995
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 2.833 on 15 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.8931, Adjusted R-squared:  0.779
## F-statistic:  7.83 on 16 and 15 DF,  p-value: 0.000124
```

Table 2: Summary of Basic Regression Model - Only AM variable

```
summary(fit.am.only)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = mpg ~ am, data = mtcars)
##
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -9.3923 -3.0923 -0.2974  3.2439  9.5077
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)   17.147      1.125  15.247 1.13e-15 ***
## amManual       7.245      1.764   4.106 0.000285 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 4.902 on 30 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.3598, Adjusted R-squared:  0.3385
## F-statistic: 16.86 on 1 and 30 DF,  p-value: 0.000285
```

Table 3: Summary of Best Fitted Model

```
summary(fit.best)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = mpg ~ cyl + hp + wt + am, data = mtcars)
##
```

```
## Residuals:
##     Min      1Q  Median      3Q     Max
## -3.9387 -1.2560 -0.4013  1.1253  5.0513
##
## Coefficients:
##             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 33.70832    2.60489  12.940 7.73e-13 ***
## cyl6        -3.03134    1.40728  -2.154  0.04068 *
## cyl8        -2.16368    2.28425  -0.947  0.35225
## hp          -0.03211    0.01369  -2.345  0.02693 *
## wt          -2.49683    0.88559  -2.819  0.00908 **
## amManual     1.80921    1.39630   1.296  0.20646
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 2.41 on 26 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.8659, Adjusted R-squared:  0.8401
## F-statistic: 33.57 on 5 and 26 DF,  p-value: 1.506e-10
```