

Gov 50: 15. More Regression and Model Fit

Matthew Blackwell

Harvard University

Roadmap

1. Linear regression in R
2. Model fit

1/ Linear regression in R

2/ Model fit

Presidential popularity and the midterms

- Does popularity of the president or recent changes in the economy better predict midterm election outcomes?

Name	Description
<code>year</code>	midterm election year
<code>president</code>	name of president
<code>party</code>	Democrat or Republican
<code>approval</code>	Gallup approval rating at midterms
<code>rdi_change</code>	% change in real disposable income over the year before midterms
<code>seat_change</code>	change in the number of House seats for the president's party

```
library(gov50data)  
midterms
```

```
## # A tibble: 20 x 6
```

```
##      year president party approval seat_change rdi_change
##      <dbl> <chr>      <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>      <dbl>
##  1  1946 Truman      D          33        -55        NA
##  2  1950 Truman      D          39        -29        8.2
##  3  1954 Eisenhower R          61         -4         1
##  4  1958 Eisenhower R          57        -47        1.1
##  5  1962 Kennedy      D          61         -4         5
##  6  1966 Johnson      D          44        -47        5.3
##  7  1970 Nixon        R          58         -8        6.6
##  8  1974 Ford          R          54        -43        6.4
##  9  1978 Carter        D          49        -11        7.7
## 10  1982 Reagan        R          42        -28        4.8
## 11  1986 Reagan        R          63         -5        5.1
## 12  1990 H.W. Bush     R          58         -8        5.6
## 13  1994 Clinton      D          46        -53        3.9
## 14  1998 Clinton      D          66         5        5.6
## 15  2002 W. Bush       R          63         6        2.6
## 16  2006 W. Bush       R          38        -30        5.7
## 17  2010 Obama         D          45        -63        3.5
## 18  2014 Obama         D          40        -13        4.6
## 19  2018 Trump         R          38        -42        4.1
## 20  2022 Biden         D          42         NA       -0.003
```

Fitting the approval model

```
fit.app <- lm(seat_change ~ approval, data = midterms)
```

```
fit.app
```

```
##
```

```
## Call:
```

```
## lm(formula = seat_change ~ approval, data = midterms)
```

```
##
```

```
## Coefficients:
```

```
## (Intercept)      approval
```

```
##      -96.58          1.42
```

For a one-point increase in presidential approval, the predicted seat change increases by 1.42

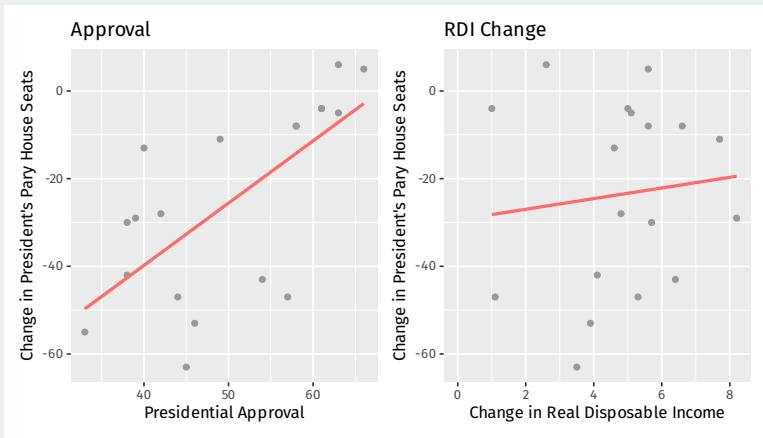
Fitting the income model

```
fit.rdi <- lm(seat_change ~ rdi_change, data = midterms)
fit.rdi

##
## Call:
## lm(formula = seat_change ~ rdi_change, data = midterms)
##
## Coefficients:
## (Intercept)    rdi_change
##      -29.41         1.21
```

For a one-point increase in the change in real disposable income, the predicted seat change increases by 1.21

Comparing models



- How well do the models “fit the data”?
 - How well does the model predict the outcome variable in the data?

Model prediction error:

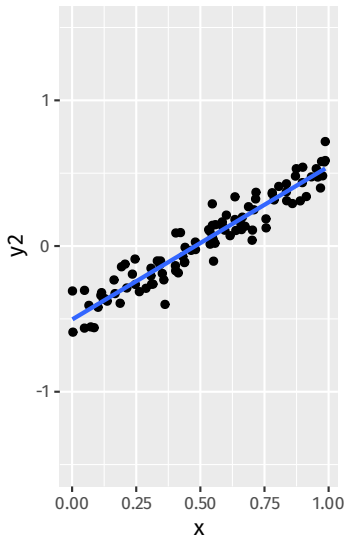
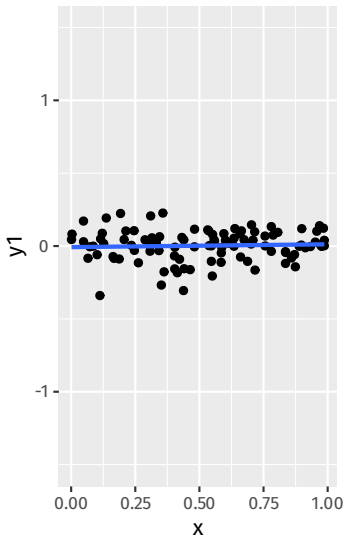
$$\text{prediction error} = \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{actual}_i - \text{predicted}_i)^2$$

Prediction error for regression: **Sum of squared residuals**

$$\text{SSR} = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \hat{Y}_i)^2$$

Lower SSR is better, right?

These two regression lines have approximately the same SSR:



Benchmarking model fit

Benchmarking our predictions using the **proportional reduction in error**:

$$\frac{\text{reduction in prediction error using model}}{\text{baseline prediction error}}$$

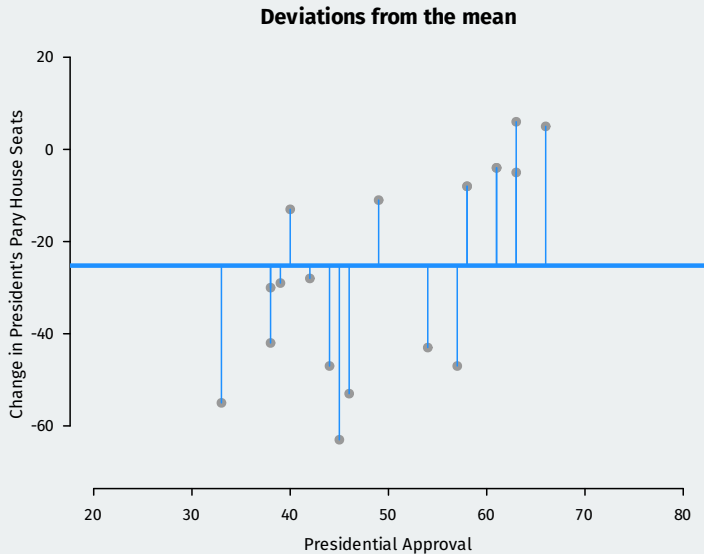
Baseline prediction error without a regression is using the mean of Y to predict. This is called the **Total sum of squares**:

$$TSS = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2$$

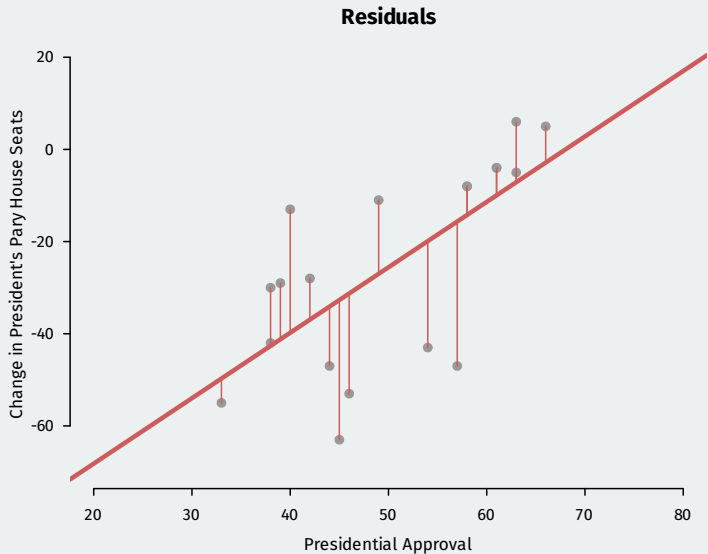
Leads to the **coefficient of determination**, R^2 , one summary of LS model fit:

$$R^2 = \frac{TSS - SSR}{TSS} = \frac{\text{how much smaller LS prediction errors are vs mean}}{\text{prediction error using the mean}}$$

Total SS vs SSR



Total SS vs SSR



Model fit in R

- To access R^2 from the `lm()` output, use the `summary()` function:

```
fit.app.sum <- summary(fit.app)
fit.app.sum$r.squared
```

```
## [1] 0.45
```

- Compare to the fit using change in income:

```
fit.rdi.sum <- summary(fit.rdi)
fit.rdi.sum$r.squared
```

```
## [1] 0.012
```

- Which does a better job predicting midterm election outcomes?

Accessing model fit via broom package

We can also access summary statistics like model fit using the `glance()` function from broom:

```
library(broom)
glance(fit.app)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 12
##   r.squared adj.r.squared sigma statistic p.value    df
##   <dbl>      <dbl> <dbl>      <dbl>   <dbl> <dbl>
## 1    0.450      0.418  16.9      13.9 0.00167     1
## # i 6 more variables: logLik <dbl>, AIC <dbl>, BIC <dbl>,
## #   deviance <dbl>, df.residual <int>, nobs <int>
```

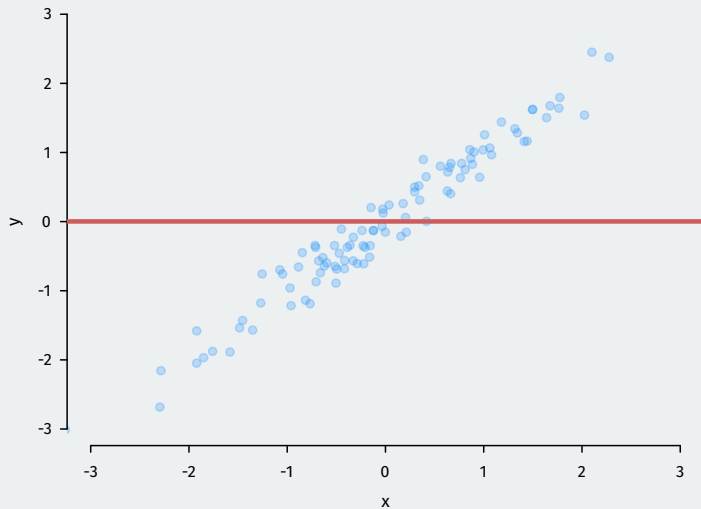
Fake data, better fit

- Little hard to see what's happening in that example.
- Let's look at fake variables x and y:

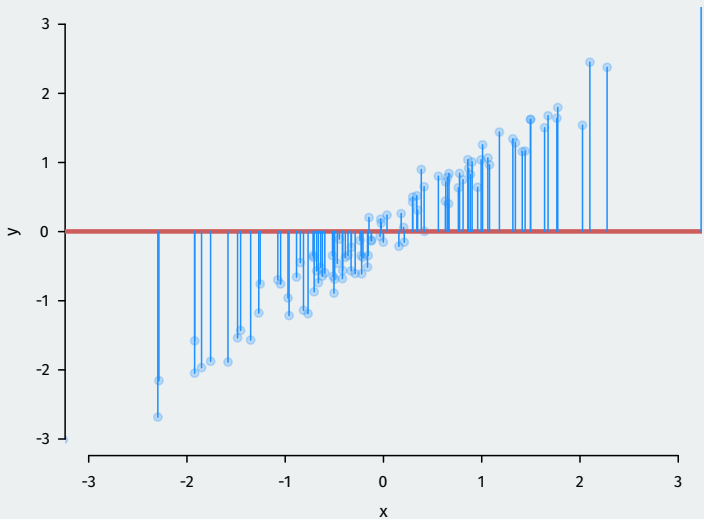
```
fit.x <- lm(y ~ x)
```

- Very good model fit: $R^2 \approx 0.95$

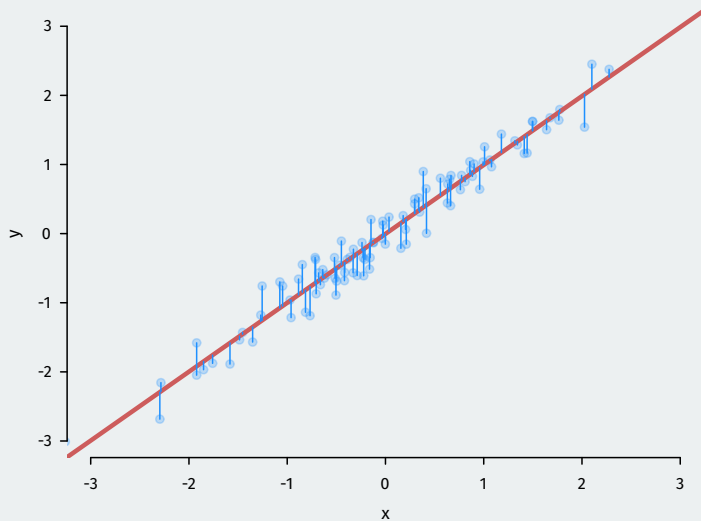
Fake data, better fit



Fake data, better fit

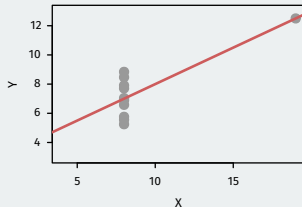
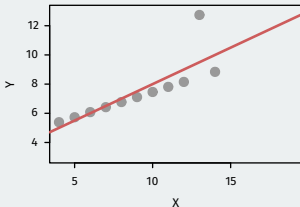
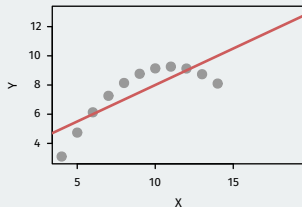
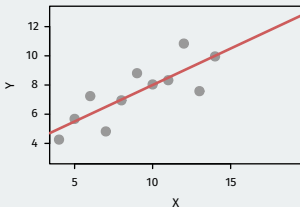


Fake data, better fit



Is R-squared useful?

- Can be very misleading. Each of these samples have the same R^2 even though they are vastly different:



Overfitting

- **In-sample fit:** how well your model predicts the data used to estimate it.
 - R^2 is a measure of in-sample fit.
- **Out-of-sample fit:** how well your model predicts new data.
- **Overfitting:** OLS optimizes in-sample fit; may do poorly out of sample.
 - Example: predicting winner of Democratic presidential primary with gender of the candidate.
 - Until 2016, gender was a **perfect** predictor of who wins the primary.
 - Prediction for 2016 based on this: Bernie Sanders as Dem. nominee.
 - Bad out-of-sample prediction due to overfitting!