Predictive Analytics: practical 1

Course R package

Installing the course R package[1] is straightforward. First install `drat`[2]

[1] A package is an *add-on* or a *module*. It provides additional functions and data.

[2] `drat` is a package that makes it easy to host and distribute packages.

```
install.packages("drat")
```

Then

```
drat::addRepo("rcourses")
install.packages("nclRpredictive", type="source")
```

This R package contains copies of the practicals, solutions and data sets that we require. It will also automatically install any packages[3] that we use during the course. To load the course package, use

[3] For example, we will need the `caret`, `mlbench`, `pROC` and `splines` to name a few.

```
library("nclRpredictive")

## Warning:  no function found corresponding to methods exports
from 'SparseM' for:  'coerce'
```

During this practical we will mainly use thehe `caret` package, we should load that package as well

```
library("caret")
```

The `cars2010` data set

The `cars2010` data set contains information about car models in 2010. The aim is to model the `FE` variable which is a fuel economy measure based on 13 predictors.[4]

The data is part of the `AppliedPredictiveModeling` package and can be loaded by

[4] Further information can be found in the help page, `help("cars2010", package = "AppliedPredictiveModeling")`.

```
data(FuelEconomy, package = "AppliedPredictiveModeling")
```

There are a lot of questions below marked out by bullet points. Don't worry if you can't finish them all, the intention is that there is material for different backgrounds and levels

Exploring the data

- Prior to any analysis we should get an idea of the relationships between variables in the data. Use the `pairs` function to explore the data. The first few are shown in figure 1.

  An alternative to using `pairs` is to specify a plot device that has enough space for the number of plots required to plot the response against each predictor

The `FE ~ .` notation is shorthand for `FE` against all variables in the data frame specified by the `data` argument.

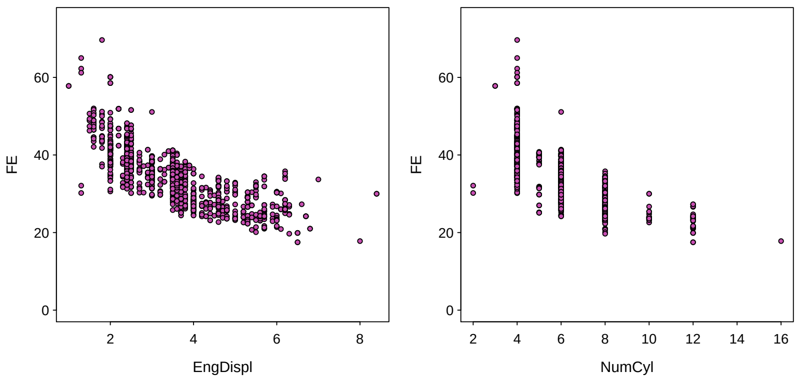

Figure 1: Plotting the response against some of the predictor variables in the `cars2010` data set.

```
op = par(mfrow = c(3, 5), mar = c(4, 2, 1, 1.5))
plot(FE ~ ., data = cars2010)
par(op)
```

We don't get all the pairwise information amongst predictors but it saves a lot of space on the plot and makes it easier to see what's going on. It is also a good idea to make smaller margins.

- Create a simple linear model fit of `FE` against `EngDispl` using the `train` function.[5]
- Examine the residuals of this fitted model, plotting residuals against fitted values
  We can add the lines showing where we expect the residuals to fall to aid graphical inspection

[5] Hint: use the `train` function with the `lm` method.

```
abline(h = c(-2, 0, 2), col = 2:3, lty = 2:1)
```

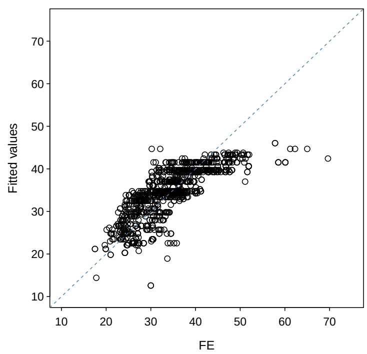

Figure 2: Plot of fitted against observed values. It's always important to pay attention to the scales.

- What do the residuals tell us about the model fit using this plot?
- Plot the fitted values vs the observed values
  - What does this plot tell us about the predictive performance of this model across the range of the response?
  - Produce other diagnostic plots of this fitted model, e.g. a q-q plot
  - Are the modelling assumptions justified?

Extending the model

- Do you think adding a quadratic term will improve the model fit?
- Fit a model with the linear and quadratic terms for `EngDispl` and call it `m2`
  - Assess the modelling assumptions for this new model.
  - How do the two models compare?
- How does transforming the response variable affect the fit?

Common transformations may be a log or square root function.

- Add `NumCyl` as a predictor to the simple linear regression model `m1` and call it `m3`
- Examine model fit and compare to the original.
- Does the model improve with the addition of an extra variable?

Visualising the model

The `nclRpredictive` package contains a `plot3d` function to help with viewing these surfaces in 3D as in figure 3.[6]

[6] We can also add the observed points to the plot using the `points` argument to this function, see the help page for further information.

```
## points = TRUE to also show the points
plot3d(m3,cars2010$EngDispl, cars2010$NumCyl,
       cars2010$FE, points = FALSE)
```

We can also examine just the data interactively, via

```
threejs::scatterplot3js(cars2010$EngDispl, cars2010$NumCyl,
                        cars2010$FE, size=0.5)
```

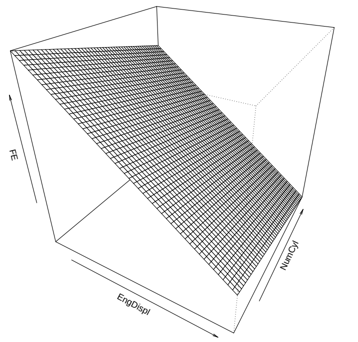

Figure 3: A surface plot from a linear model of fuel economy against the number of cylinders and engine displacement including the interaction term.

- Try fitting other variations of this model using these two predictors. For example, try adding polynomial and interaction terms

  ```
  m4 = train(FE~EngDispl*NumCyl + I(NumCyl^5), data = cars2010, method = "lm")
  ```

  how is prediction affected in each case? Don't forget to examine residuals, R squared values and the predictive surface.
- If you want to add an interaction term you can do so with the `:` operator, how does the interaction affect the surface?

One way to guage how well your model is performing is to hold out a set of observations from the training data. Then examine how well your model extends to the data that wasn't used for training. We will see more of this in coming chapters of the notes.

```
# set up a set of indicies that will be included
# in the training data
trainIndex = sample(nrow(cars2010), 900)
# create two data frames, a training and a test set
# by taking subsets using this set of indicies
# here we use 900 observations to train the model
# and the rest for testing
carstrain = cars2010[trainIndex,]
carstest = cars2010[-trainIndex,]
# train the model and predict
mtrain = train(FE~EngDispl + NumCyl, data = carstrain,
               method = "lm")
prediction = predict(mtrain, carstest)
```

```
# residuals of the test set
res = prediction - carstest$FE
# calculate RMSE
sqrt(mean(res*res))

## [1] 4.62
```

Having a small value here indicates that my model does a good job of predicting for observations that weren't used to train the model.

In the spirit of competition . . .

Try to fit the best model that you can using the `cars2010` data set and the above tools. I have a set of data that you haven't yet seen. Once you are happy with your model you can validate it using the `validate` function in the `nclRpredictive` package.

```
m1validated = validate(model = m1)
```

Other data sets

A couple of other data sets that can be used to try fitting linear regression models.

data set	Package	Response
diamonds	ggplot2	price
Wage	ISLR	wage
BostonHousing	mlbench	medv