# **§4 Regression Diagnostics**

**Objectives:** after the study of regression diagnostics has been completed, students will be able to:

- State regression assumptions
- Explain what each regression assumption means
- Identify the key components of a regression diagnostics exercise
- Identify the statistical tools used in performing regression diagnostics
- Explain how each of the statistical tools in a regression diagnostics exercise works, and how the results obtained from each tool are interpreted
- Perform a start-to-finish regression diagnostics workup (using SAS and/or R), including:
  - Checking for clean data
  - o Examining the validity of regression assumptions
  - Identifying outliers
  - o Checking for multicollinearity
- Identify potential remedies for issues identified during the diagnostics exercise
- Report on regression diagnostics findings

#### §4.1.0 Introduction

We have learned about the assumptions behind the simple and multiple linear regression models (see §3.1.5). These assumptions must not be severely ("grossly") violated in a regression analysis if model inferences are to be valid, and the results are to be believed. We must, therefore, be able to check the validity of the assumptions. Please note: we will be looking for gross violations of assumptions only; mild or moderate violations will not be a problem --classical regression analysis is robust against mild or moderate violations of assumptions.

Besides gross violations of regression assumptions, other serious issues can exist which can corrupt regression analysis results: incorrect data values, outliers and "multicollinearity". "Regression Diagnostics" is the name for the set of techniques used to investigate the validity of our regression analysis. The key components of a regression diagnostics workup are described below.

#### §4.1.1 Check for Clean Data

The first phase in regression diagnostics work involves a close examination of the data on Y and the independent variable(s). Do the numbers for each variable make sense? Are they all within plausible limits? Did any data entry or coding errors occur? We must answer questions like these, and correct any problems that we find, before using the data in a regression analysis. This is accomplished by examining summary statistics (5 number summary, frequency listings, extreme observation listing) and plots (stem-and-leaf or histogram, boxplots, etc) for each variable (dependent and independent). We should, at the very least, be able to detect the most obvious of the errors and implausible values in the data in this way.

Note that we must be careful not to automatically discard data values that are deemed questionable. Instead, we should first attempt to verify (by going back to original records, whenever possible) that the data are in fact incorrect. If they are, then every attempt must be made to determine the correct value(s). If the correct value cannot be determined, only then should the value be set to missing (note that the entire observation usually should NOT be deleted). If it is not possible to conclusively and objectively determine that a questionable data point is in error, then it should not be deleted.

We will see an example of this phase of our regression work in a later example.

## §4.1.2 Graphical Residual Analysis (Checking for Assumption Violations)

Several of the assumptions of linear regression can be checked using a few easily constructed graphs.

- i) Simple Scatterplot of Y vs X (for a simple linear regression of Y on X)
  The linearity assumption for simple linear regression can be checked informally using this plot. We have done this several times in lab.
- ii) Partial plots of Y vs  $X_i$ , i=1,...,k (for a multiple regression of Y on  $X_1,...,X_k$ ) In a multiple regression, analysts often will look at K simple scatterplots (or even a (K+1) x (K+1) matrix of each of the K+1 variables in the regression model plotted against each other). That is a ok way to start. However, in multiple linear regression, the linearity assumption should ultimately be checked using *partial plots* (also known as 'partial residual plots' or 'partial regression residual plots') rather than simple scatterplots of Y versus each X. This is because a simple scatterplot of Y vs  $X_i$  does not in any way take into account the other independent variables in the multiple regression. Since there may be relationships between the independent variables, it is important to adjust or control for these relationships when viewing scatterplots. A partial plot of Y vs  $X_1$  is a scatterplot that is adjusted for (i.e. that 'controls for the effects of') all other independent variables  $(X_2,...,X_k)$ . Partial plots are easily obtained in SAS using the 'PARTIAL' option on the MODEL statement in PROC REG. However, the plots are not easy to create by hand. Here is how the plots would be created by hand:

Suppose that we are checking assumptions for a linear regression of Y on  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ . The partial plot of Y vs  $X_1$  is created as follows:

- the vertical axis values for the plotted points consist of the <u>residuals</u> from the regression of **Y** on  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ . Intuitively, these residuals represent that 'part' of Y that does not depend on  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ . Another way to say this is that these residuals represent Y after adjusting for  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ .
- The horizontal axis values for the plotted points consist of the <u>residuals</u> from the regression of  $X_1$  on  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ . Intuitively, these residuals represent that 'part' of  $X_1$  that does not depend on  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ . Another way to say this is that these residuals represent  $X_1$  after adjusting for  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ .

The partial plot therefore represents a plot of that part of Y that does not depend on  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  versus that part of  $X_1$  that does not depend on  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ . It is a plot of Y vs X free from the influence of the other independent variables.

Partial plots of Y vs  $X_2$  and Y vs  $X_3$  would also be necessary for this regression, and they would be constructed similarly.

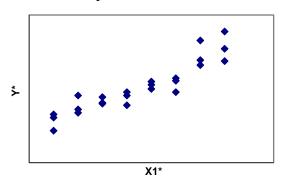
Once the partial plots have been obtained, they are used in the same way as an ordinary scatterplot in simple linear regression: if a linear relationship is apparent, then the linearity assumption is probably valid; if a distinctly non-linear relationship is apparent, there may be a violation of the assumption requiring modification of the model (see examples below.) If absolutely no relationship is apparent, then no action will be necessary -- the independent variable in question will probably be insignificant in the multiple regression model. In a multiple regression with k independent variables, there would be k partial plots to inspect.

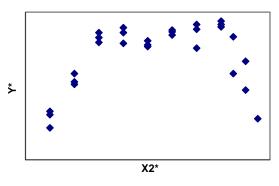
**Example:** Partial plots for a multiple linear regression of Y on  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ , and  $X_3$ . See the plots on the next page. In plot a, a linear relationship is evident between Y and  $X_1$  after controlling for  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  (no violation of the linearity assumption.) In plot b, a curvilinear relationship exists between Y and  $X_2$ , controlling for  $X_1$  and  $X_3$ ; linearity is violated, and the model may need to be transformed to account for the curvature (perhaps using  $1/X_2^2$  instead of  $X_2$ .) In plot c, no relationship seems to exist between Y and  $X_3$ , controlling for the effects of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ ;  $X_3$  will probably be insignificant in the multiple linear regression of Y on  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ , and the

analyst will need to consider whether or not the variable should be removed from the model.

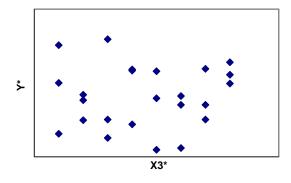
Plot a: Partial plot of Y vs  $X_1$ :

Plot b: Partial plot of Y vs  $X_2$ :





Plot c: Partial plot of Y vs  $X_3$ :



[In the plots above, the tick mark labels were omitted on purpose; these labels would represent *residual values* from the regressions needed to create the partial plot, and are not useful for interpretation purposes. The variable names on the axis have been changed from Y to  $Y^*$ ,  $X_1$  to  $X_1^*$ , to reinforce the idea that the values being plotted are not the actual values of the dependent and independent variables, but residuals from the regressions described above.]

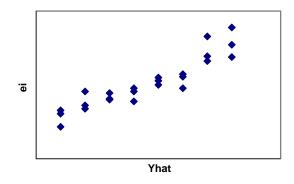
### iii) Plot of Residuals vs Predicted Values (for both simple and multiple linear regression)

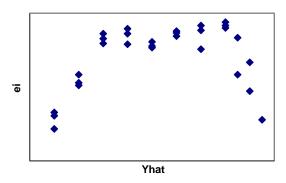
A plot of the residuals,  $e_i = Y_i - \hat{Y}_i$  versus the predicted values,  $\hat{Y}_i$ , (known as a 'residual plot') is informative in several ways. Remember that the residuals are estimates of the error in the model. Since the error is assumed to be random and, on average, equal to zero, we would expect the plotted values to be displayed with no apparent pattern and to be distributed evenly around the line  $e_i = 0$ . If they are not (i.e. if a [pattern is evident) then the error is not random, and some kind of assumption violation must have occurred.

Examine the plots on the next page. If a residual plot shows a pattern such as the linear and curved patterns in plots a and b below, then a violation of *linearity* has probably occurred. If the plot shows that the spread of the residuals varies with the value of  $\hat{Y}$ , then the homoscedasticity assumption has been violated (see residual plot c). Finally, it may be possible to check the independence assumption using a residual plot. For example, consider residual plot d, from a simple linear regression of cholesterol level (Y) on age (X). The square plotting points represent data from males, the dots data from females. Clearly, the residuals depend on gender, and are not, therefore, independent. Note that if the same plotting symbol had been used for all data points, the lack of independence would not have been detected; so, sometimes, detecting assumption violations using these plots requires good experience, subject-matter knowledge and even creativity on the part of the analyst.

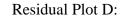
Residual Plot a:

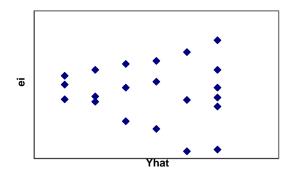
Residual Plot b:

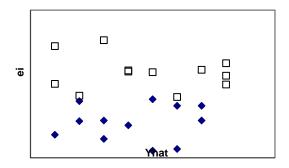




Residual Plot c:







If the data in a study were collected over time, it might be helpful to plot the residuals over time to detect any lack of independence due to a time-effect.

The graphs above show us how to use the residual plot with the predicted value of Y on the horizontal axis to detect gross violations of linearity, homoscedasticity and independence. If gross violations are found, it is often useful to plot the residuals vs. each independent variable, to determine which variable is involved in the violation. For example, if the residual plot with Yhat on the horizontal axis has a grossly curved appearance, then by plotting the same residuals vs. X1, X2, X3 etc. we can determine whether the non-linearly problem involves X1, or X2, or X3; this might help us determine how to remedy the violation; for example, to remedy a non-linear relationship between Y and X2, we might transform Y or transform X2 or both (see section on remedies below).

#### iv) Normal Probability Plot and Histogram of the Residuals

The normality assumption can be checked by inspecting a normal probability plot and a histogram of the residuals. These are produced by default by PROC REG when ODS graphics is on. Note that in many real-life analyses, the subjective decision as to whether there is a gross violation of the normality assumption or not can be difficult to make. In such cases, it is recommended that the analyst also consider the results of normality tests such as the Shapiro-Wilk and Kolmogorov tests as well as others produced by SAS's PROC UNIVARIATE (you will have to output the residuals from PROC REG to a data set in order to run PROC UNIVARIATE on them –check with a lab instructor on how to do that). If the burden of the evidence indicates no gross lack of normality, then it should be concluded that there is no gross violation of the normality assumption that needs to

# §4.1.3 Regression Diagnostics: Ways to Fix Assumption Violations

1)	Transformations. See pp. 371-372 in the Kleinbaum text.
2)	Weighted Least Squares
3)	Non-parametric techniques
4)	Call your statistician. Treating assumption violations can be tricky. It can involve "playing" with transformations and advanced techniques, sometimes without adequate resolution of the problem; and, sometimes, transformations correct one assumption violation but introduce other violations!

Assundifficu	option violations are not the only problems that can arise in a regression analysis. Outliers can also pose alties. An observation is an outlier if it lies "far away" from the main body of the data. Outliers may ent errors in the data and/or they may "influence" the regression estimates:
	servation can be an outlier with respect to the independent variables, or with respect to the dependent le, or with respect to both:
regress consid about	ly, gross outliers can often be detected on scatterplots of Y vs X (for SLR) or on partial plots (in multiple sion). However, some important outliers may not be detectable in this manner; for these outliers, we will er three numerical detection measures. Don't worry about the actual formulas for these measures, or all the mathematical details presented in Kleinbaum's book. Just learn the basic ideas behind the res, and learn how to apply them to a real data set!
1)	Leverage values (" $h_i$ "the index i represents the observation number): used to detect outliers with respect to the independent variables. $h_i$ is, roughly speaking, a measure of the distance of an observation from the "center" of the independent variable values.
	If $h_i > 2(k+1)/n$ , then observation i has been identified as an outlier with respect to the independent variables, and should be scrutinized more carefully.
2)	Cook's Distance $(d_i)$ : detects outliers with respect to the independent and /or dependent variables. $d_i$ is a

measure of the influence of the ith observation on the estimates of  $\beta_j$  's. If  $d_i > 4/n$  then observation i has

been identified as an influential outlier, and should be scrutinized more carefully.

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Jacknife residuals (r<sub>-i</sub>). Detects outliers w.r.t. the independent and /or dependent variables. r<sub>-i</sub> is the residual standardized in such a way as to prevent the observation from masking its own effect. (What is "masking"?).

If the absolute value of  $r_{\text{-}i}$  is greater than 2, then observation i has been identified as a moderately influential outlier, and should be scrutinized more carefully (why choose 2? Think about it.) Note: some people will use the more stringent cutoff of 3 (looking only for severe outliers rather than moderately influential outliers). And other people use a still more refined cutoff: if  $r_{\text{-}i}$  is greater than  $t_{n\text{-}k\text{-}2,\,0.05/2}$ , it is an influential outlier.

**Treating Outliers**: Once an observation has been identified as an outlier, the values of Y,  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  etc. that make up that observation need to be scrutinized, and the offending value(s) located. It must then be judged as to whether the values are incorrect (in which case every effort should be made to correct the value). If it is not possible to say for sure that a value is incorrect, then a judgment must be made as to whether or not it is plausible. If plausible, the value must be left alone. If not plausible, the value should be set to missing. The judgment regarding plausibility should be made after very careful, scientific consideration; the decision to set a value to missing should not be taken lightly.

Sometimes, an entire observation must be thrown out completely because all or most of the values for that observation are judged to be impossible. HOWEVER, this situation should arise very rarely. The decision to throw out an observation should not be taken lightly.

# Diagnostics Example: Bodyfat regressed on triceps skinfold thickness and

thigh circumference

(Analyst's choice: Use alpha=0.1)

#### Original and Correct Paper Record of the Data 19.5 43.1 11.9 24.7 49.8 22.8 2 30.7 51.9 18.7 3 4 29.8 54.3 20.1 19.1 42.2 12.9 5 25.6 53.9 21.7 7 31.4 58.5 27.1 27.9 52.1 25.4 8 22.1 49.9 21.3 9 10 25.5 53.5 19.3 11 31.1 56.6 25.4 12 30.4 56.7 27.2 13 18.7 46.5 11.7 14 19.7 44.2 17.8 15 14.6 42.7 12.8 16 29.5 54.4 23.9 27.7 55.3 22.6 17 18 30.2 58.6 25.4 19 22.7 48.2 14.8 20 25.2 51.0 21.1

#### SAS Program for Regression Diagnostics

```
ods graphics on /imagemap=on;
data one; input subject triceps thigh bodyfat @@;
datalines;
    19.5 43.1 11.9 2 24.7 49.8 22.8 30.7 51.9 18.7 4 29.8 54.3 20.1 19.1 42.2 12.9 6 25.6 53.9 2.17 31.4 58.5 27.1 8 27.9 52.1 25.4 22.1 49.9 21.3 10 25.5 53.5 19.3 31.1 56.6 25.4 12 30.4 56.7 27.2
1
3
 5
 9
11
    18.7 46.5 11.7 14
                        19.7 44.2 17.8
13
                        29.5 54.4 23.9
    14.6 42.7 12.8 16
15
17 27.7 55.3 22.6 18
                        30.2 58.6 25.4
19 22.7 48.2 14.8 20 25.2 51.0 12.1
;
run;
*****************
* FIRST DO DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS
************************************
proc univariate plot data=one;
var triceps thigh bodyfat;
run:
***********************************
* CORRECT DATA ERRORS FOUND
data two; set one;
if subject=6 then bodyfat=21.7;
**************
* RUN THE REGRESSION...BUT WE WILL FOCUS ON OUTLIER
* DETECTION BEFORE ACTUALLY LOOKING AT MODEL ESTIMATES ;
proc reg data=two;
 model bodyfat=triceps thigh /influence r;
*****************
* OUTLIER CORRECTION AND THEN RE-RUN REGRESSION
data three:
 set two;
 if subject=20 then bodyfat=21.1;
**************
* RE-RUN PROC REG & PERFORM GRAPHICAL RESIDUAL ANALYSIS ;
proc reg data=three;
 model bodyfat=triceps thigh
       /partial
        vif;
*Above: 'partial' produces partial plots
        'vif' produces variance inflation factors used to
        Detect collinearity;
run:
```

# §4 Diagnostics

The UNIVARIATE Procedure

Variable: triceps   Moments							'I'he	UNIVARIATE	Procedur
N         20         Sum Weights         20           Mean         25.305         Sum Observations         506.1           Std Deviation         5.02325906         Variance         25.2331316           Skewness         -0.5318842         Kurtosis         -0.7945173           Uncorrected SS         13286.29         Corrected SS         479.4295           Coeff Variation         19.8508558         Std Error Mean         1.12323487           Basic Statistical Measures           Location         Variability           Mean         25.30500         Std Deviation         5.02326           Median         25.55000         Variance         25.23313           Mode         Range         16.80000           Interquartile Range         9.10000           Extreme Observations          Lowest        Highest           Value         Obs           14.6         15         30.2         18           18.7         13         30.4         12           19.1         5         30.7         3           19.5         1         31.1         11			Variable:	triceps					
Mean         25.305         Sum Observations         506.1           Std Deviation         5.02325906         Variance         25.2331316           Skewness         -0.5318842         Kurtosis         -0.7945173           Uncorrected SS         13286.29         Corrected SS         479.4295           Coeff Variation         19.8508558         Std Error Mean         1.12323487           Basic Statistical Measures           Location         Variability           Mean         25.30500         Std Deviation         5.02326           Median         25.55000         Variance         25.23313           Mode         Range         16.80000           Interquartile Range         9.10000           Extreme Observations          Lowest        Highest           Value         Obs           14.6         15         30.2         18           18.7         13         30.4         12           19.1         5         30.7         3           19.5         1         31.1         11			Mom	ents					
Std Deviation         5.02325906         Variance         25.2331316           Skewness         -0.5318842         Kurtosis         -0.7945173           Uncorrected SS         13286.29         Corrected SS         479.4295           Coeff Variation         19.8508558         Std Error Mean         1.12323487           Basic Statistical Measures           Location         Variability           Mean         25.30500         Std Deviation         5.02326           Median         25.55000         Variance         25.23313           Mode         Range         16.80000           Interquartile Range         9.10000           Extreme Observations          Lowest        Highest           Value         Obs           14.6         15         30.2         18           18.7         13         30.4         12           19.1         5         30.7         3           19.5         1         31.1         11	N		20	Sum Weight	s	20			
Skewness	Mean		25.305	Sum Observ	ations	506.1			
Uncorrected SS 13286.29 Corrected SS 479.4295 Coeff Variation 19.8508558 Std Error Mean 1.12323487  Basic Statistical Measures  Location Variability  Mean 25.30500 Std Deviation 5.02326  Median 25.55000 Variance 25.23313  Mode Range 16.80000  Interquartile Range 9.10000  Extreme Observations Lowest Value Obs Value Obs  14.6 15 30.2 18  18.7 13 30.4 12  19.1 5 30.7 3  19.5 1 31.1 11	Std Deviatio	n	5.02325906	Variance		25.2331316			
Basic Statistical Measures   Location   Variability   Mean   25.30500   Std Deviation   5.02326   Median   25.55000   Variance   25.23313   Mode   Range   16.80000   Interquartile Range   9.10000      Extreme Observations  Highest   Value   Obs   Value   Obs   14.6   15   30.2   18   18.7   13   30.4   12   19.1   5   30.7   3   19.5   1   31.1   11	Skewness		-0.5318842	Kurtosis		-0.7945173			
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18.7     13     30.4     12       19.1     5     30.7     3       19.5     1     31.1     11									
19.1 5 30.7 3 19.5 1 31.1 11									
19.5 1 31.1 11									

The	UNIVAR	IATE I	Procedure
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Variable: thigh Moments

N	20	Sum Weights	20
Mean	51.17	Sum Observations	1023.4
Std Deviation	5.23461153	Variance	27.4011579
Skewness	-0.417494	Kurtosis	-0.9315992
Uncorrected SS	52888	Corrected SS	520.622
Coeff Variation	10.2298447	Std Error Mean	1.17049472

# Basic Statistical Measures Location Variabili

Loca	ation	Variability	
Mean	51.17000	Std Deviation	5.23461
Median	52.00000	Variance	27.40116
Mode	•	Range	16.40000
		Interquartile Range	7.50000

#### Extreme Observations

Lowe	st	Highe	est
Value	Obs	Value	Obs
42.2	5	55.3	17
42.7	15	56.6	11
43.1	1	56.7	12
44.2	14	58.5	7
46.5	13	58.6	18

#### The UNIVARIATE Procedure Variable: bodyfat

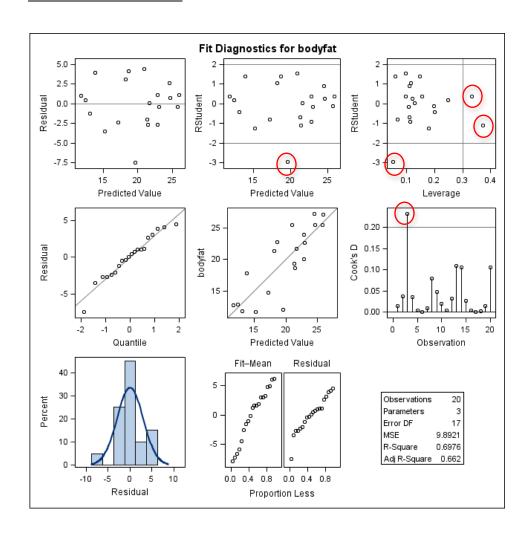
	Mom	ents	
N	20	Sum Weights	20
Mean	18.7685	Sum Observations	375.37
Std Deviation	6.65715703	Variance	44.3177397
Skewness	-0.7327395	Kurtosis	0.21978709
Uncorrected SS	7887.1689	Corrected SS	842.037055
Coeff Variation	35.4698406	Std Error Mean	1.48858557

#### Basic Statistical Measures Variability

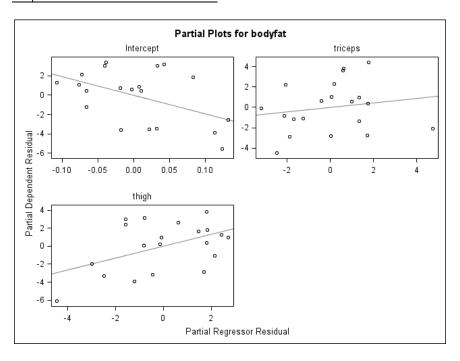
Loca	ation	Variability	
Mean	18.76850	Std Deviation	6.65716
Median	19.70000	Variance	44.31774
Mode	25.40000	Range	25.03000
		Interguartile Range	11.80000

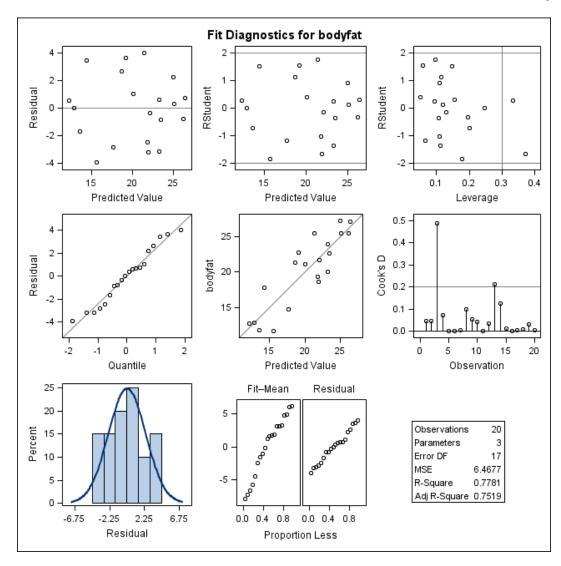
#### Extreme Observations ----Highest-------Lowest----Value Obs Value 2.17 6 25.4 8 11.70 13 25.4 11 11.90 25.4 1 18 12.10 20 27.1 7 12.80 15 27.2 12

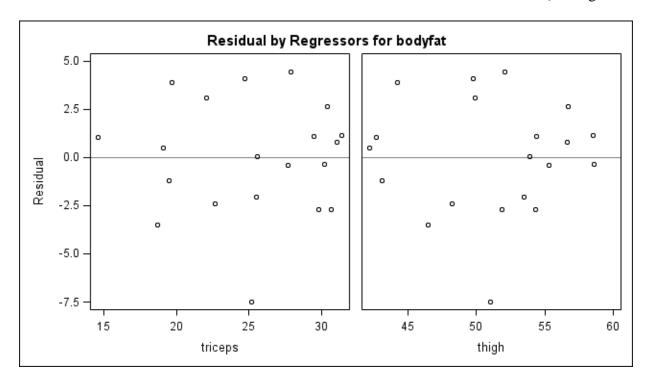
#### Plot from first PROG REG



### Output from Second PROC REG run:







# Model: MODEL1 Dependent Variable: bodyfat

Number of Observations Read 20 Number of Observations Used 20

		Aı	nalysis of Vari	ance		
			Sum of	Mean		
Source		DF	Squares	Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model		2	385.43871	192.71935	29.80	<.0001
Error		17	109.95079	6.46769		
Corrected	Total	19	495.38950			
			0.54045		0 5504	
		MSE	2.54317	R-Square	0.7781	
	Depe	endent Mean	20.19500	Adj R-Sq	0.7519	
	Coef	f Var	12.59305			
		]	Parameter Estim	nates		
		Parameter	Standard			
/ariable	DF	Estimate	Error	t Value	Pr >  t	
Intercept	1	-19.17425	8.36064	-2.29	0.0348	
riceps	1	0.22235	0.30344	0.73	0.4737	
thigh .	1	0.65942	0.29119	2.26	0.0369	
-						

## §4.3 Multicollinearity

Multicollinearity (or collinearity) is a problem that can result in inaccurate estimates of regression coefficients, standard errors of coefficients and p-values for inferences in a multiple linear regression. It exists when *independent variables* are strongly linearly associated with *each other*.

Symptoms of multicollinearity:

- 1. Large correlations between the independent variables.
- 2. Large changes in estimates of regression coefficients, and/or in their standard errors when independent variables or observations are added/deleted.
- 3. Large standard errors for the estimated coefficients.
- 4. Non-significant results for regression coefficients that should be significant
- 5. Wrong signs on slope coefficient estimates.
- 6. Overall test for regression significant, but partial tests insignificant.
- 7. Large variance inflation factors (VIF's ... see below)

**Example:** Regressions were run with: Y = body fat,  $X_1 = triceps$  skinfold thickness,  $X_2 = Thigh$  circumference,  $X_3 = Midarm$  circumference. The independent variables were added sequentially to the model (so 3 regressions were run.) The **following** Symptoms of collinearity were noted:

1) Large correlations between the X's:

#### Correlation Matrix:

	Y	X1	X2	X3
Y	1	.843	.878	.142
X1		1	(.924)	.458
X2			1	.085
X3				1

2) Unstable regression results; parameter estimates and/or partial test results change substantially each time a new variable is added to the model:

Estimate of reg. model with  $X_1$ :  $\hat{Y} = -1.496 + 0.8572X_1$ 

overall test significant

Estimate of reg. model with  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ :  $\hat{Y} = -19.174 + 0.2224X_1 + 0.6594X_2$ 

- overall test significant
- partial test for X1 not significant
- partial test for X2 significant

Estimate of reg. model with  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  &  $X_3$ :  $\hat{Y} = 117.08 + 4.333X_1 - 2.857X_2 - 2.186X_3$ 

- none of partial tests are significant!
- the sign of  $\hat{\beta}_2$  has changed!

## §4.3.1 Variance Inflation Factors: A Tool for Detecting Multicollinearity

Variance Inflation Factors (VIF) are statistics that can be used to confirm the presence of collinearity in a multiple regression. One VIF is calculated for each independent variable; a VIF ( > 10) is usually considered to be indicative of collinearity; however, note that values "close" to 10 are also worth noting. For the jth independent variable,  $X_j$ , the VIF is:  $VIF_j = 1 / (1 - R^2_{X_j \mid \text{all other } X's}),$  where  $R^2_{X_j \mid \text{all other } X's} = SSR/SSX_j$  from the regression of  $X_j$  on all the other independent variables. That is,  $R^2_{X_j \mid \text{all other } X's}$  is the r-squared value from this regression:

$$X_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + ... + \beta_{i-1} X_{i-1} + \beta_{i+1} X_{i+1} + ... + \beta_k X_K + E$$

For the example above, the VIF=s were calculated to be:

 $VIF(X_1) = 709$ 

 $VIF(X_2) = 654$ 

 $VIF(X_3) = 105$ 

Note: Some software packages report a related measure: tolerance (TOL) = 1/VIF

Clearly, severe collinearities exist in the bodyfat data, since all the VIF's were > 10. The fact that all were large, and the fact that they were *much larger* than 10 indicates that the collinearity is extremely severe here.

# §5.3.2 Remedies for Multicollinearity

Remedying multicollinearity problems can be difficult. The possible solutions are:

- 1. The easiest and most often implemented remedy is to remove one or more of the variables that have high VIFs, in iterative fashion: remove a collinear variable, re-run the model, re-examine VIFs, remove another collinear variable if necessary, and so on until the VIFs are no longer large. Variables with high VIFs should be selected for removal based on subject-matter concerns, and not on the basis of p-values (since the latter are not reliable in the presence of severe collinearity).
- 2. Specialized statistical techniques such as Ridge Regression. For more read *Applied Linear Statistical Models* by Kutner, Nachtschiem, Wasserman and Neter.
- 3. Break the pattern of collinearity by collecting observations where the linear relationships between the independent variables do not hold. This is sometimes possible in experimental studies, but may not be possible at all in observational studies.
- 4. In observational studies, collect larger quantities of data; larger datasets are more likely to contain observations in which the problematic linear relationships do not hold.
- 5. Use "centered" independent variables; that is, use  $X_j \bar{X}_j$  in place of  $X_j$ . This may work when the original model was in polynomial form (that is, the original model was like the following:  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2^2 + ... + E$ ).

# Example: in the body fat example, perform a collinearity analysis

```
***********************

* Collinearity analysis;

**********************

proc reg data=three;

model bodyfat=triceps thigh/vif;

*vif produces variance inflation factors;
run;
```

		Para	meter Estir	nates		
Variable	DF	Parameter Estimate		t Value	Pr >  t	Variance Inflation
Intercept	1	-19.17425	8.36064	-2.29	0.0348	0
triceps	1	0.22235	0.30344	0.73	0.4737	6.82524
thigh	1	0.65942	0.29119	2.26	0.0369	6.82524

Example: in the body fat example, data were also collected on midarm circumference...perform a collinearity analysis

```
********************************

* Collinearity analysis;

*******************************

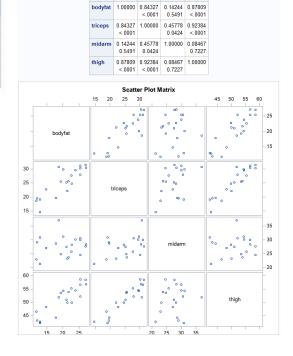
proc reg data=three;

model bodyfat=triceps thigh/vif;

*vif produces variance inflation factors;
run;

proc corr data=one plots=matrix;
var bodyfat triceps midarm thigh;
run;
```

Parameter Estimates						
Variable	DF	Parameter Estimate		t Value	Pr >  t	Variance Inflation
Intercept	1	117.08469	99.78240	1.17	0.2578	0
triceps	1	4.33409	3.01551	1.44	0.1699	708.84291
midarm	1	-2.18606	1.59550	-1.37	0.1896	104.60601
thigh	1	-2.85685	2.58202	-1.11	0.2849	564.34339



bodyfat triceps midarm thigh