# Lecture 7: Numeric Prediction

#### Outline

Numeric Prediction

- Regression Methods
  - Simple Linear Regression
  - Multiple Linear Regression
  - Regression Trees and Model Trees

#### Numeric Prediction

# The construction and evaluation of models used to generate predictions of numeric values of a target variable.

- Complement of classification which generates predictions of categorical values.
- Predictors, features or input variables (or attributes) may be either numeric or categorical.

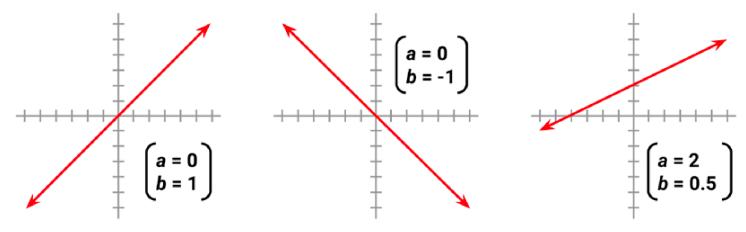
#### Regression Methods

- Regression is concerned with specifying relationships between
  - A single numeric dependent variable (the target variable)
  - One or more independent variables (the predictors)
  - •The dependent variable depends upon the value of the independent variable or variables.

$$y = a + bx$$

#### Regression Methods

•The simplest forms of regression assume that the relationship between the independent and dependent variables follows a straight line.



The machine's job is to identify values of a and b so that the specified line is best able to relate the supplied x values to the values of y.

- •Lines can be defined in a slope-intercept form: y = a + bx
  - The letter y indicates the **dependent variable** and x indicates the **independent variable**
  - The **slope term** *b* specifies how much the line rises for each increase in x
  - Positive values defines lines that slope upward while negative values define lines that slope downward.
  - The term a is known as the intercept because it specifies the point where the line crosses, or intercepts the vertical y axis.

#### Regression Methods

- Regression analysis is an umbrella for a large number of methods that can be adapted to many data mining tasks.
  - •The most basic linear regression models those that use straight lines
    - When there is only a single independent variable it is known as simple linear regression
    - In the case of two or more independent variables, it is known as multiple linear regression or multiple regression
  - Regression can be also used for classification task
    - Logistic regression is used to model a binary categorical outcome.

#### Predicting Medical Expenses – Example

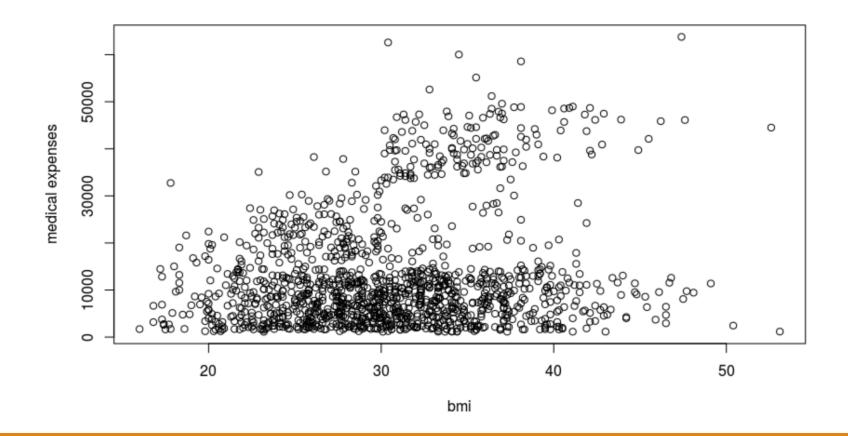
- Predicting medical expenses using multiple linear regression
  - In order for a health insurance company to make money, it needs to collect more in yearly premium than it spends on medical care to its beneficiaries.
  - Insurance companies develop models that can accurately forecast medical expenses for its clients.
  - •Goal: use patient data to estimate the medical care expenses given the health condition of a patient.
  - •The estimate can be used to set the price of yearly premiums.

#### Insurance data

age	sex	bmi	children	smoker	region	expenses
19	female	27.9	0	yes	southwest	16884.92
18	male	33.8	1	no	southeast	1725.55
28	male	33	3	no	southeast	4449.46
33	male	22.7	0	no	northwest	21984.47
32	male	28.9	0	no	northwest	3866.86
31	female	25.7	0	no	southeast	3756.62
46	female	33.4	1	no	southeast	8240.59
37	female	27.7	3	no	northwest	7281.51
37	male	29.8	2	no	northeast	6406.41
60	female	25.8	0	no	northwest	28923.14
25	male	26.2	0	no	northeast	2721.32

- Simple Linear Regression
  - Dependent variable: expenses
  - Independent variable: bmi

Scatterplot of bmi and expenses



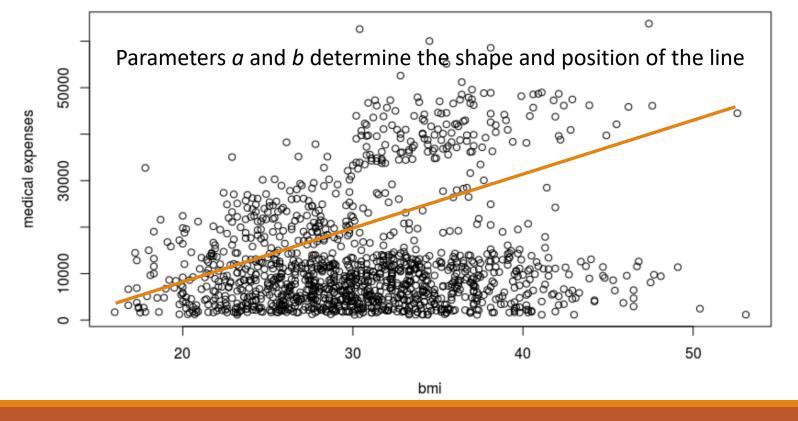
- •To model the relationship between bmi and expenses, we can turn to simple linear regression.
- A simple linear regression model defines the relationship between a dependent variable and a single independent predictor variable using a line defined by an equation in the following form

$$y = a + bx$$

Suppose we know that the estimated regression parameters in the equation for the shuttle launch data are: a = 785.25

and b = 409.90.

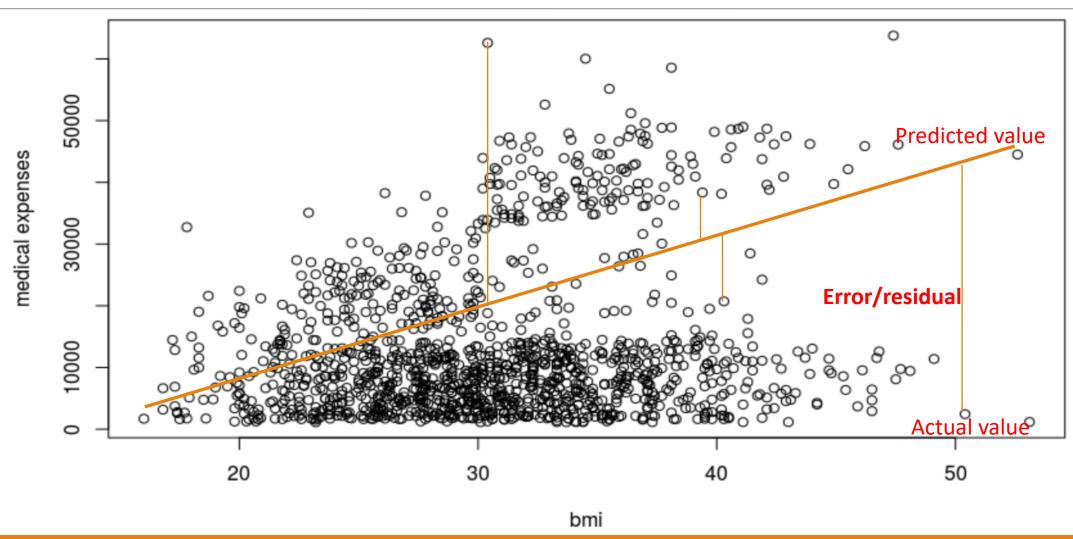
The line doesn't pass through each data point exactly. Instead, it cuts through the data somewhat evenly, with some predictions lower or higher than the line.



# Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Estimation

- In order to determine the optimal estimates of a and b, an estimation method known as **Ordinary Least Squares** (**OLS**) was used.
- In OLS regression, the slope and intercept are chosen so that they minimize the sum of the squared errors, that is, the vertical distance between the predicted *y* value and the actual *y* value. These errors are known as **residuals**.

## Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Estimation



# Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Estimation

- These errors are known as  $\sum (y_i \hat{y}_i)^2 = \sum e_i^2$ 
  - This equation defines *e* (the error) as the difference between the actual *y* value and the predicted *y* value. The error values are squared and summed across all the points in the data.
  - The goal of OLS regression: minimize the squared errors

$$a = \overline{y} - b\overline{x}$$

$$b = \frac{\sum (x_i - \overline{x})(y_i - \overline{y})}{\sum (x_i - \overline{x})^2}$$

R provides functions to perform the estimation automatically.

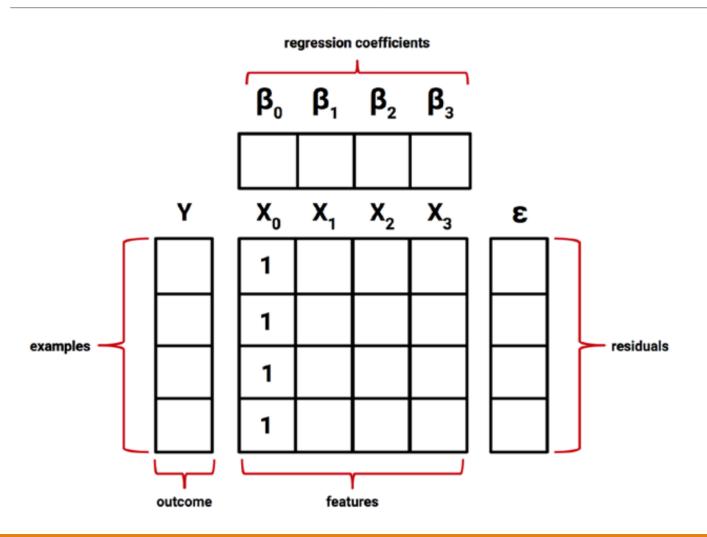
•Most real-world analyses have more than one independent variable: using multiple linear regression for most numeric prediction tasks.

Strengths	Weaknesses
By far the most common approach for modeling numeric data	Makes strong assumptions about the data
Can be adapted to model almost any modeling task	The model's form must be specified by the user in advance
<ul> <li>Provides estimates of both the strength and size of the relationships among features and the outcome</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Does not handle missing data</li> <li>Only works with numeric features, so categorical data requires extra processing</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Requires some knowledge of statistics to understand the model</li> </ul>

- •Multiple linear regression is an extension of simple linear regression.
  - It has additional terms for additional independent variables
  - The goal: find values of beta coefficients that minimize the prediction error of a linear equation.
- •Multiple linear regression equation:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_i x_i + \varepsilon$$

- The dependent variable y is specified as the sum of an intercept term  $\beta_0$  plus the product of the estimated  $\beta$  value and the x values for each of the i features.
- An error term (epsilon) has been added as a reminder that the predictions are not perfect. The error term represents the residual term noted previously.



$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_i x_i + \varepsilon$$
$$\mathbf{Y} = \boldsymbol{\beta} \mathbf{X} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y}$$

#### Insurance data

age	sex	bmi	children	smoker	region	expenses
19	female	27.9	0	yes	southwest	16884.92
18	male	33.8	1	no	southeast	1725.55
28	male	33	3	no	southeast	4449.46
33	male	22.7	0	no	northwest	21984.47
32	male	28.9	0	no	northwest	3866.86
31	female	25.7	0	no	southeast	3756.62
46	female	33.4	1	no	southeast	8240.59
37	female	27.7	3	no	northwest	7281.51
37	male	29.8	2	no	northeast	6406.41
60	female	25.8	0	no	northwest	28923.14
25	male	26.2	0	no	northeast	2721.32

#### > summary(insurance)

age	sex	bmi	children	smoker	region	expenses
Min. :18.00	female:662	Min. :16.00	Min. :0.000	no :1064	northeast:324	Min. : 1122
1st Qu.:27.00	male :676	1st Qu.:26.30	1st Qu.:0.000	yes: 274	northwest:325	1st Qu.: 4740
Median :39.00		Median :30.40	Median :1.000		southeast:364	Median : 9382
Mean :39.21		Mean :30.67	Mean :1.095		southwest:325	Mean :13270
3rd Qu.:51.00		3rd Qu.:34.70	3rd Qu.:2.000			3rd Qu.:16640
Max. :64.00		Max. :53.10	Max. :5.000			Max. :63770

- The intercept is the predicted value of expenses when the independent variables are equal to zero.
  - Intercept is of little value alone because it is impossible to have values of zero for all features
- •The beta coefficients indicate the estimated increase in expenses for an increase of one in each of the features, assuming all other values are held constant.

```
Call:
lm(formula = expenses ~ ., data = datTrain)
Residuals:
    Min
             10 Median
-11575.9 -2809.9
                  -832.8
                           1524.5 29716.8
Coefficients:
                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
              -12305.15
                           1147.21 -10.726 < 2e-16 ***
(Intercept)
                 247.66
                            14.01 17.674 < 2e-16 ***
age
sexmale
                 228.55
                           392.78 0.582 0.56078
                 346.93
                           33.97 10.213 < 2e-16 ***
bmi
                 467.67
                           164.30 2.846 0.00452 **
children
               23919.45
smokeryes
                           483.93 49.427 < 2e-16 ***
regionnorthwest
                  12.00
                            566.76 0.021 0.98311
                -658.35
regionsoutheast
                            563.93 -1.167 0.24333
regionsouthwest
                -553.26
                            560.17
                                  -0.988 0.32358
```

Residual standard error: 5978 on 929 degrees of freedom Multiple R-squared: 0.7605, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7585 F-statistic: 368.8 on 8 and 929 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\* 0.001 '\*\* 0.01 '\* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' '1

- •Im() function automatically applied a technique known as dummy coding to each of the factor-type variables we included in the model.
- The results of the linear regression model make logical sense: old age, smoking, and obesity tend to be linked to additional health issues, while additional family member dependents may result in an increase in physician visits and preventive care such as vaccinations and yearly physical exams.

```
Call:
lm(formula = expenses ~ ., data = datTrain)
Residuals:
    Min     1Q     Median     3Q     Max
-11575.9    -2809.9    -832.8     1524.5     29716.8
Coefficients:
```

```
Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
              -12305.15
                          1147.21 -10.726 < 2e-16 ***
(Intercept)
                            14.01 17.674 < 2e-16 ***
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regionsoutheast
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regionsouthwest
                -553.26
                           560.17 -0.988 0.32358
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Residual standard error: 5978 on 929 degrees of freedom Multiple R-squared: 0.7605, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7585 F-statistic: 368.8 on 8 and 929 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

- 1. The **residuals** section provides summary statistics for the errors in our predictions, some of which are apparently quite substantial.
  - 50 percent of errors fall within the 1Q and 3Q values (the first and third quartile), so the majority of predictions were between \$2,809.90 over the true value and \$1,523.50 under the true value.

```
lm(formula = expenses ~ ., data = datTrain)
Residuals:
    Min
                   Median
-11575.9 -2809.9
                   -832.8
                            1524.5 29716.8
Coefficients:
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                            1147.21 -10.726 < 2e-16
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                             392.78
                                     0.582 0.56078
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                             566.76
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                 -658.35
regionsoutheast
                             563.93 -1.167 0.24333
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                 -553.26
                             560.17
                                    -0.988 0.32358
               0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '. '0.1 ' '1
Signif. codes:
Residual standard error: 5978 on 929 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.7605,
                              Adjusted R-squared: 0.7585
F-statistic: 368.8 on 8 and 929 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

Call:

- 2. For each estimated regression coefficient, the **p-value**, denoted Pr(>|t|), provides an estimate of the probability that the true coefficient is zero given the value of the estimate.
  - Small p-values suggest that the true coefficient is very unlikely to be zero, which means that the feature is extremely unlikely to have no relationship with the dependent variable.
  - p-values less than the significance level are considered statistically significant.

```
lm(formula = expenses ~ ., data = datTrain)
Residuals:
    Min
                  Median
-11575.9 -2809.9
                   -832.8
                            1524.5 29716.8
Coefficients:
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                                    -0.988 0.32358
              0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '. '0.1 ' '1
Signif. codes:
Residual standard error: 5978 on 929 degrees of freedom
```

Multiple R-squared: 0.7605, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7585

F-statistic: 368.8 on 8 and 929 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

Call:

- 3. The multiple R-squared value provides a measure of how well our model as a whole explains the values of the dependent variable.
  - The model explains nearly 76 percent of the variation in the dependent variable.
  - High R-squared on training data indicates overfitting.

```
Call:
lm(formula = expenses ~ ., data = datTrain)
Residuals:
    Min
                   Median
-11575.9 -2809.9
                   -832.8
                            1524.5 29716.8
Coefficients:
                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)
               -12305.15
                            1147.21 -10.726 < 2e-16
                  247.66
                              14.01 17.674 < 2e-16 ***
age
                  228.55
sexmale
                             392.78
                                      0.582 0.56078
                  346.93
                              33.97 10.213 < 2e-16 ***
bmi
children
                  467.67
                             164.30
                                      2.846 0.00452 **
smokeryes
                23919.45
                             483.93 49.427 < 2e-16 ***
regionnorthwest
                   12.00
                             566.76
                                      0.021 0.98311
regionsoutheast
                 -658.35
                             563.93 -1.167 0.24333
regionsouthwest
                 -553.26
                             560.17
                                     -0.988 0.32358
               0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '. '0.1 ' '1
Sianif. codes:
Residual standard error: 5978 on 929 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.7605,
                               Adjusted R-squared: 0.7585
F-statistic: 368.8 on 8 and 929 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

#### R squared and adjusted R squared

- R-squared = Explained variation / Total variation
- Adjusted R-squared is the variation of R-squared that adjusts to the number of predictors in a model.
- •Adjusted R square calculates the proportion of the variation in the dependent variable accounted by the explanatory variables.

#### R squared and Adjusted R Squared

•The total sum of squares:

$$SS_{tot} = \sum_{i} (y_i - \overline{y_i})^2$$

•The sum of squares of residuals, also called the residual sum of squares

$$SS_{res} = \sum_{i} (y_i - \widehat{y}_i)^2$$

•The most general definition of the coefficient of determination is

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{SS_{res}}{SS_{tot}}$$

■The adjusted R<sup>2</sup>

$$\overline{R^2} = 1 - (1 - R^2) \frac{n-1}{n-p-1} = R^2 - (1 - R^2) \frac{p}{n-p-1}$$

p is the total number of independent variables in the model (not including the constant term), and n is the sample size.

## Multiple Linear Regression Evaluation

#### Splitting method for evaluation

age	sex	bmi	children	smoker	region	expenses	
19	female	27.9	0	yes	southwest	16884.92	
18	male	33.8	1	no	southeast	1725.55	70% training data
28	male	33	3	no	southeast	4449.46	7070 training data
33	male	22.7	0	no	northwest	21984.47	
32	male	28.9	0	no	northwest	3866.86	
31	female	25.7	0	no	southeast	3756.62	
46	female	33.4	1	no	southeast	8240.59	
37	female	27.7	3	no	northwest	7281.51	
37	male	29.8	2	no	northeast	6406.41	
60	female	25.8	0	no	northwest	28923.14	30% testing data
25	male	26.2	0	no	northeast	2721.32	

## Multiple Linear Regression Evaluation

#### Train Multiple Linear Regression model on training data (70%)

age	sex	bmi	children	smoker	region	expenses	_				
19	female	27.9	C	) yes	southwest	16884.92			0 0		0
18	male	33.8	1	l no	southeast	1725.55	0		0	0	
28	male	33	3	no no	southeast	4449.46	5000		888 80		0 0
33	male	22.7	C	) no	northwest	21984.47	anses –	0	\$200 8 <b>4</b> 000		0
32	male	28.9	C	) no	northwest	3866.86	expe	0	)	0000	
31	female	25.7	C	) no	southeast	3756.62	dical ex		800 8000000000000000000000000000000000		
46	female	33.4	1	no	southeast	8240.59	Ë _	0 0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		00 80000	
37	female	27.7	3	no	northwest	7281.51	10000			000 8000 8000 8000 8000 8000 8000 8000	8 0
37	male	29.8	2	no	northeast	6406.41	100				
60	female	25.8	C	) no	northwest	28923.14	0 -		CARACTER COMPANY CONTROL OF THE	 	
25	male	26.2	C	) no	northeast	2721.32		20	30	40	50
'		'		'	'				bmi		
							u =	$=\beta_0+\beta_1$	$x_1 + \beta_2 x$	$x_2 + +$	$\beta_i x_i +$

Calculate the coefficients

# Multiple Linear Regression Evaluation

Make predictions on testing data (30%) and training data

(	7	0	%	)
---	---	---	---	---

(/0/0)						Ĺ	Predicted	1
age	sex	bmi	children	smoker	region	expenses	expenses	1
	female	27.9	0	yes	southwest	16884.92	15445.54	70% training data
	male	33.8		no	southeast	1725.55	1455.21	1
	male	33		no	southeast	4449.46	6799.98	i
	male	22.7		no	northwest	21984.47	12351.13	1
	male	28.9		no	northwest	3866.86	2434.12	1
	female	25.7		no	southeast	3756.62	1235.12	i
46	female	33.4	1	no	southeast	8240.59	6394.12	1
37	female	27.7	3	no	northwest	7281.51	5450.74	1
37	male	29.8	2	no	northeast	6406.41	2509.23	i
60	female	25.8	0	no	northwest	28923.14	39455.26	1
25	male	26.2	0	no	northeast	2721.32	2311.65	30% testing data
			1	1				

#### **Evaluation Metrics for Numeric Prediction**

#### Mean Absolute Error (MAE)

- The mean absolute error (MAE) is a quantity used to measure how close forecasts or predictions are to the eventual outcomes.
- This is known as a scale-dependent accuracy measure and therefore cannot be used to make comparisons between series using different scales  $MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{n} |y_t \widehat{y_t}|$

#### Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)

• RMSE gives a relatively high weight to large errors. This means the RMSE should be more useful when large errors are particularly undesirable.  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (x_n - x_n)^2$ 

 $RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n} (y_t - \widehat{y}_t)^2}{n}}$ 

#### Mean absolute percentage error (MAPE)

- The mean absolute percentage error (MAPE) measures this accuracy as a percentage.
- It cannot be used if there are zero values because there would be a division by zero.

MAPE = 
$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \left| \frac{y_t - \widehat{y_t}}{y_t} \right|$$
 Not depend on the scale

#### Relative absolute error (RAE)

The **relative absolute error** takes the total absolute error and normalizes it by dividing by the total absolute error of the mean estimator.  $RAE = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n} |y_t - \widehat{y_t}|}{\sum_{t=1}^{n} |y_t - \widehat{y_t}|}$ 

#### Evaluation Metrics for Numeric Prediction

#### Explanatory vs Predictive Power

#### Explanatory power

- Of explaining which and how predictors affect the dependent variable most significantly.
- Model elements and metrics to be used: correlation coefficients, beta coefficients, p-values, R-squared

#### Predictive power

- Evaluate prediction accuracy and generalizability.
- Performance metrics to be used: MAE, RMSE, MAPE, and RAE

# Improving Model Performance: Adding non-linear relationships

- In linear regression, the relationship between independent variable and the dependent variable is assumed to be **linear**. Yet this may not necessarily be true.
  - •The effect of age on medical cost may not be constant throughout all the age values
  - •To account for a non-linear relationship, we can add a higher order term to the regression model. We will be modeling relationship like this:

$$y = \alpha + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2$$

# Improving Model Performance: Adding non-linear relationships

```
Call:
lm(formula = expenses ~ ., data = datTrain)
Residuals:
    Min
              10 Median
-11072.2 -2769.9 -946.4 1266.9 31341.4
Coefficients:
               Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
              -5586.259
                         2002.048 -2.790 0.005374 **
(Intercept)
                          94.806 -1.286 0.198832
             -121.903
age
sexmale
          -43.789
                          389.571 -0.112 0.910528
           345.390
                         34.058 10.141 < 2e-16 ***
bmi
          621.231
children
                         165.583 3.752 0.000186 ***
              23847.010
                          481.129 49.565 < 2e-16 ***
smokeryes
regionnorthwest -823.050
                          551.922 -1.491 0.136238
regionsoutheast -1725.564
                          563.951 -3.060 0.002279 **
regionsouthwest -949.741
                          562.308 -1.689 0.091555 .
                          1.182 4.071 5.07e-05 ***
age2
                  4.813
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Residual standard error: 5921 on 928 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.7612, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7589
F-statistic: 328.6 on 9 and 928 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

```
Increase age from 20 to 30
```

■ (900 – 400) \* 4.813 + (30-20)\* (– 121.903)

Increase age from 40 to 50

■ (2500 – 1600) \* 4.813 + (50-40)\* (– 121.903)

# Improving Model Performance: Adding non-linear relationships

#### Improving Model Performance: Converting a numeric variable into a binary indicator

- The effect of a numeric feature is not cumulative, rather it has an effect only after a specific threshold has been reached.
  - •BMI may have zero impact on medical expenditures for individuals in the normal weight range
  - It may be strongly related to higher costs for the obese (that is, BMI of 30 or above).
- •Create a binary obesity indicator variable that is 1 if the BMI is at least 30, and 0 if less.
  - The estimated beta for this binary feature would then indicate the average net impact on medical expenses for individuals with BMI of 30 or above, relative to those with BMI less than 30

#### Improving Model Performance: Converting a numeric variable into a binary indicator

- To create the feature, we can use the ifelse() function
- •For BMI greater than or equal to 30, we will return 1, otherwise 0:
  - > insurance\$bmi30 <- ifelse(insurance\$bmi >= 30, 1, 0)
- Include the bmi30 variable in our improved model, either replacing the original bmi variable or in addition
  - Depending on whether or not we think the effect of obesity occurs in addition to a separate linear BMI effect.

# Improving Model Performance: Adding Interaction Effects

- So far, we have only considered each feature's individual contribution to the outcome.
  - •What if certain features have a combined impact on the dependent variable?
  - For instance, smoking and obesity may have harmful effects separately.
  - Their combined effect may be worse than the sum of each one alone.
- When two features have a combined effect, this is known as an interaction.
  - If we suspect that two variables interact, we can test this hypothesis by adding their interaction to the model.

# Improving Model Performance

```
Call:
lm(formula = expenses ~ . + bmi30 * smoker, data = datTrain)
Residuals:
    Min
              10 Median
                                       Max
-16954.0 -1659.8 -1195.4
                           -509.8 23935.7
Coefficients:
                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)
                -670.4243 1602.0246 -0.418 0.67569
                            70.3592 -0.248 0.80444
                 -17.4262
age
                -255.8048
                           288.6159 -0.886 0.37568
sexmale
bmi
               133.0085
                            40.6899
                                    3.269 0.00112 **
                           127.4982 5.149 3.2e-07 ***
children
                656.4572
smokeryes
              13467.7242
                           521.2449 25.838 < 2e-16 ***
                  50.1895
                           415.8849
                                     0.121 0.90397
regionnorthwest
regionsoutheast -653.1946
                           414.0931 -1.577 0.11504
regionsouthwest -1300.5816
                           411.9940 -3.157 0.00165 **
age2
                   3,4873
                             0.8752
                                     3.984 7.3e-05 ***
bmi 30
               -1029.9937
                           501.4441 -2.054 0.04025 *
smokeryes:bmi30 19477.2235
                           710.6592 27.407 < 2e-16 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Residual standard error: 4385 on 926 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.8716, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8701
```

F-statistic: 571.3 on 11 and 926 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

For non-obese patients:

Smoker increases the expenses by 13467.7242

For obese patients:

Smoker increases the expenses by 13467.7242 + 19477.2235

# Improving Model Performance

# An Improved Regression Model

- Based on domain knowledge of how medical costs may be related to patient characteristics, we developed what we think is a more accurately specified regression formula.
- To summarize the improvements, we:
  - Added a non-linear term for age
  - Created an indicator for obesity
  - Specified an interaction between obesity and smoking

# Regression Trees and Model Trees

#### Trees for Numeric Prediction

A decision tree can also be used for numeric prediction by making only small adjustments to the tree-growing algorithm.

- Trees for numeric prediction fall into two categories:
  - Regression trees
  - Model trees

#### Trees for Numeric Predictions

#### Regression tree

- Similar in construction to classification tree
- Predicted value of each leaf node is typically reported as mean value of output variable for all training observations belonging to node.
- SDR (Standard deviation reduction) or squared error reduction is used to choose a predictor to split a node, similar to the way classification error is used in decision tree.
- Model tree
  - A Model Tree is grown in a similar way to Regression Tree
  - In each of the leaf, an MLR model is built using data in the leaf

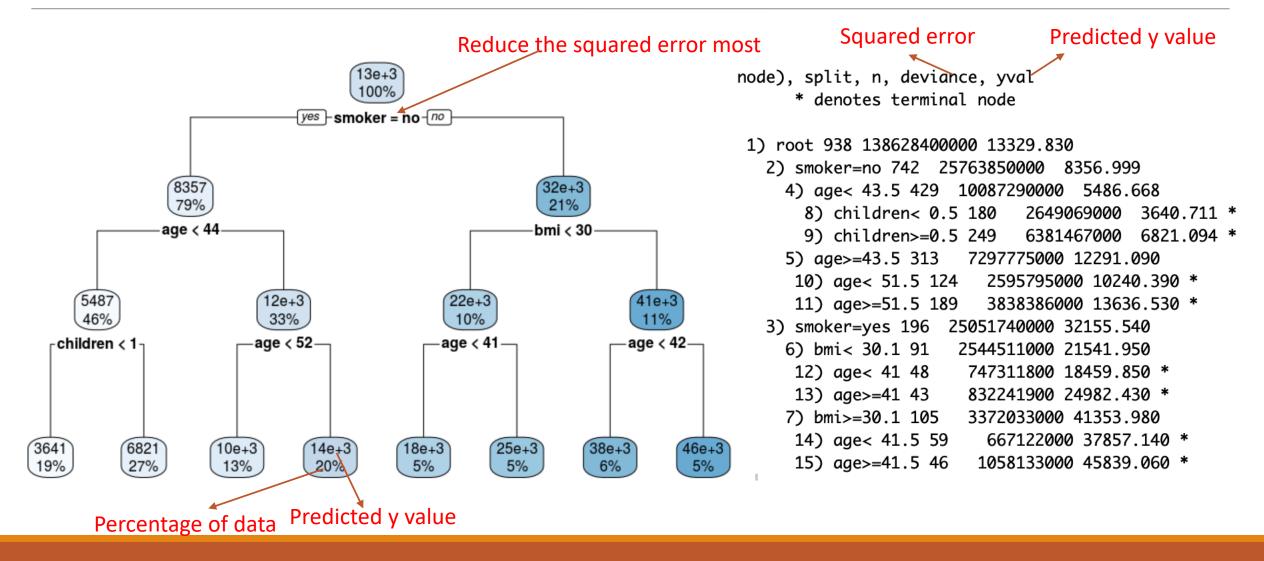
## Regression Tree

- Decision trees offer distinct advantages over traditional regression models.
  - Decision trees may be better suited for tasks with many complex, non-linear relationships among features and outcome.

## Regression Tree

- Trees for numeric prediction are built in much the same way as they are for classification.
  - Beginning at the root node, the data is partitioned according to the feature that will result in the greatest increase in homogeneity in the outcome.
  - •For numeric decision trees, homogeneity is measured by statistics such as variance, standard deviation, or absolute deviation from the mean.

# Regression Tree



#### Trees for Numeric Prediction

#### Model Trees

- A model tree improves on regression trees by replacing the leaf nodes with regression models.
  - This often results in more accurate results than regression trees, which use only a single value for prediction at the leaf nodes.

#### Model Trees

```
M5 pruned model tree:
(using smoothed linear models)

smoker=yes <= 0.5 : LM1 (742/37.018%)
smoker=yes > 0.5 :
| bmi <= 30.1 : LM2 (91/29.743%)
| bmi > 30.1 : LM3 (105/26.163%)

Root relative squared error
```

```
LM num: 1
expenses =
        254.6446 * age
        + 4.9247 * sex=male
        + 564.9711 * children
        + 9.3549 * smoker=yes
        + 1966.8791 * region=northeast, northwest, southeast
        - 698.2696 * region=southeast
        - 3595.6991
LM num: 2
expenses =
        230.3609 * age
        + 17.6683 * sex=male
        + 566.2788 * bmi
        + 23.7739 * children
        + 33.5622 * smoker=yes
        + 1699.4966 * region=northeast, northwest, southeast
        - 3688,6548
LM num: 3
expenses =
        259.8892 * age
        + 17.6683 * sex=male
        + 559.4363 * bmi
        + 23.7739 * children
        + 33.5622 * smoker=yes
        + 1699.4966 * region=northeast, northwest, southeast
        + 7354.11
```

#### Model Trees