



MONASH BUSINESS SCHOOL

**ETC2450**

# **Applied forecasting for business and economics**

**5: Multiple regression**

[OTexts.org/fpp/5/](https://OTexts.org/fpp/5/)

# Outline

**1 Some useful predictors for linear models**

2 Residual diagnostics

3 Selecting predictors and forecast evaluation

4 Matrix formulation

5 Correlation, causation and forecasting

# Multiple regression and forecasting

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1,t} + \beta_2 x_{2,t} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{k,t} + e_t.$$

- $y_t$  is the variable we want to predict: the “response” variable
- Each  $x_{j,t}$  is numerical and is called a “predictor”. They are usually assumed to be known for all past and future times.
- The coefficients  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k$  measure the effect of each predictor after taking account of the effect of all other predictors in the model. That is, the coefficients measure the **marginal effects**.
- $e_t$  is a white noise error term

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# Dummy variables

If a categorical variable takes only two values (e.g., 'Yes' or 'No'), then an equivalent numerical variable can be constructed taking value 1 if yes and 0 if no. This is called a **dummy variable**.

	A	B
1	Yes	1
2	Yes	1
3	No	0
4	Yes	1
5	No	0
6	No	0
7	Yes	1
8	Yes	1
9	No	0
10	No	0
11	No	0
12	No	0
13	Yes	1
14	No	0

# Dummy variables

If there are more than two categories, then the variable can be coded using several dummy variables (one fewer than the total number of categories).

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Monday	1	0	0	0
2	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
3	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
4	Thursday	0	0	0	1
5	Friday	0	0	0	0
6	Monday	1	0	0	0
7	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
8	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
9	Thursday	0	0	0	1
10	Friday	0	0	0	0
11	Monday	1	0	0	0
12	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
13	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
14	Thursday	0	0	0	1
15	Friday	0	0	0	0



# Beware of the dummy variable trap!

- Using one dummy for each category gives too many dummy variables!
- The regression will then be singular and inestimable.
- Either omit the constant, or omit the dummy for one category.
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# Uses of dummy variables

## Seasonal dummies

- For quarterly data: use 3 dummies
- For monthly data: use 11 dummies
- For daily data: use 6 dummies
- What to do with weekly data?

Outliers

Public holidays

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When using a dummy variable, the model assumes that the relationship between the variable and the outcome is linear. If there are outliers, the model may be biased. One way to handle outliers is to use a robust regression method, such as the Huber-White estimator.

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## Public holidays

- For daily data: if it's a public holiday, use a dummy variable (taking value 1 for that observation and 0 elsewhere).
- Same for bank holidays.

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# Trend

## Linear trend

$$x_t = t$$

## Piecewise linear trend with bend at $\tau$

$$x_{1,t} = t$$

$$x_{2,t} = \begin{cases} 0 & t < \tau \\ (t - \tau) & t \geq \tau \end{cases}$$

## Quadratic or higher order trend

$$x_{1,t} = t, \quad x_{2,t} = t^2, \quad \dots$$

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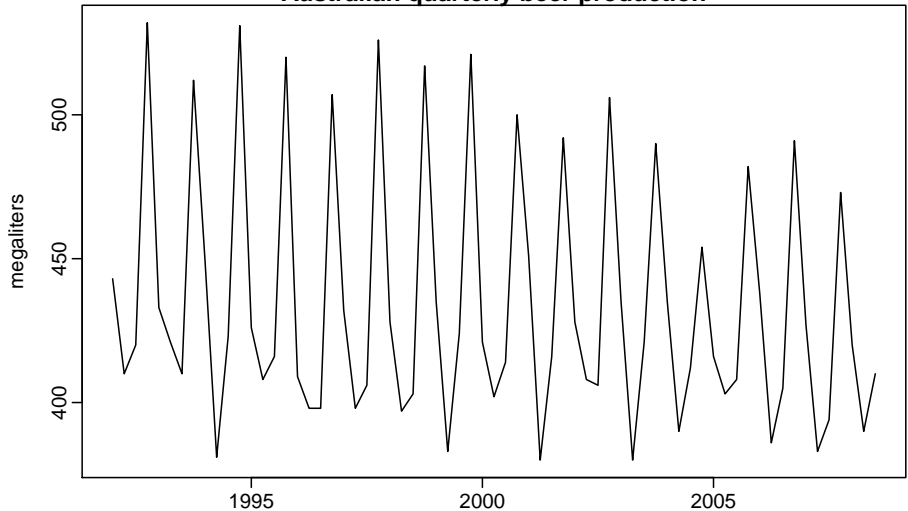
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# Beer production revisited

Australian quarterly beer production



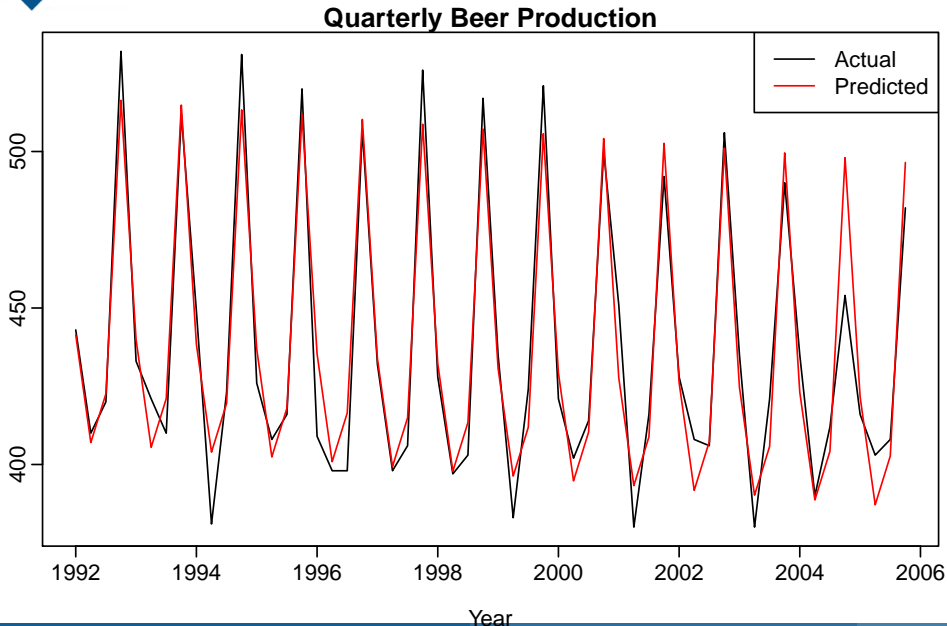
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## Regression model

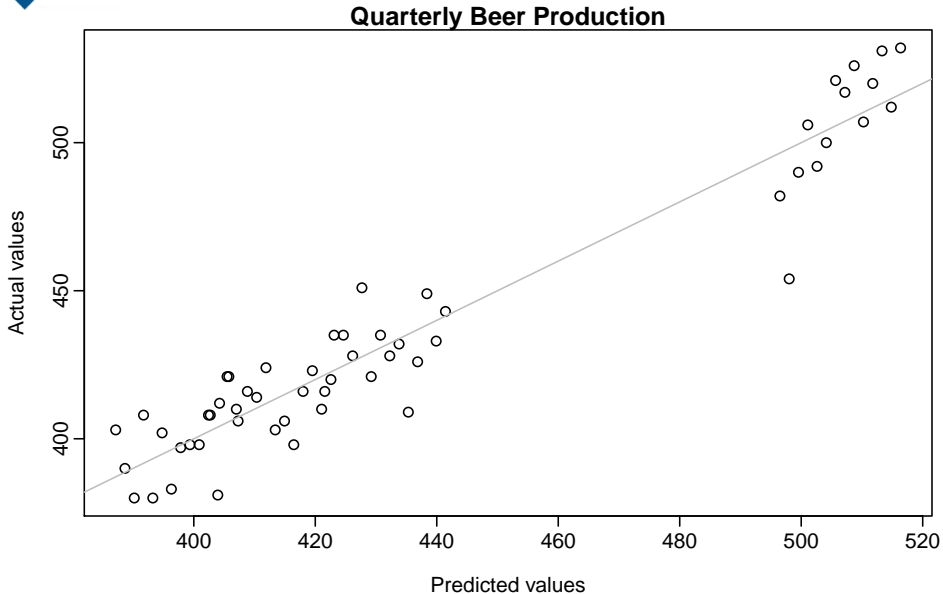
$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 t + \beta_2 d_{1,t} + \beta_3 d_{2,t} + \beta_4 d_{3,t} + e_t$$

- $d_{i,t} = 1$  if  $t$  is quarter  $i$  and 0 otherwise.

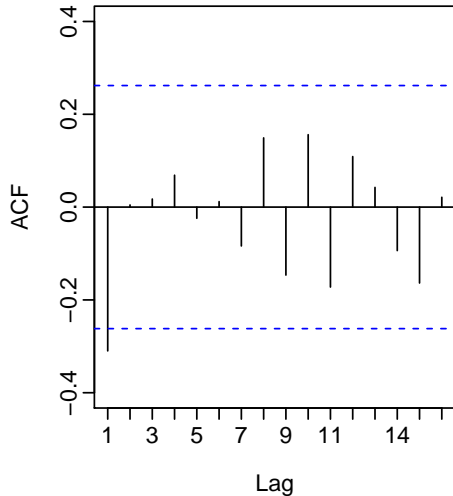
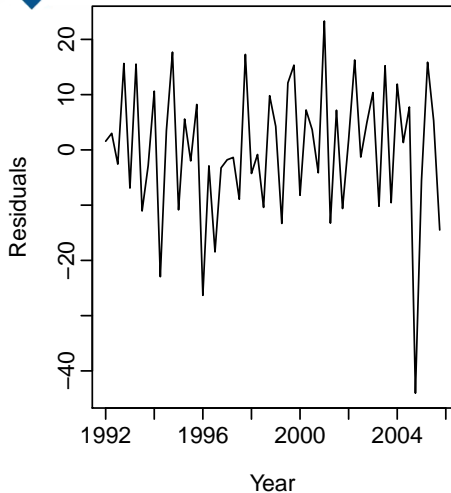
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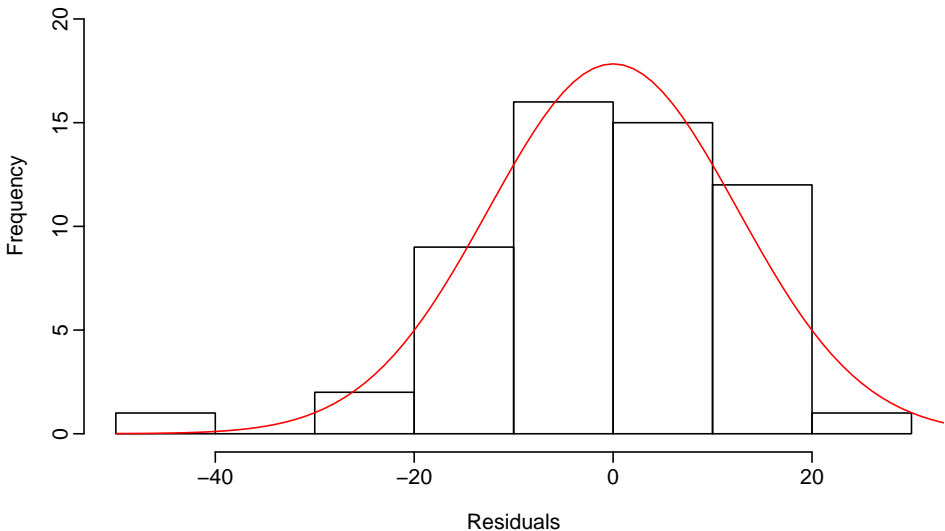


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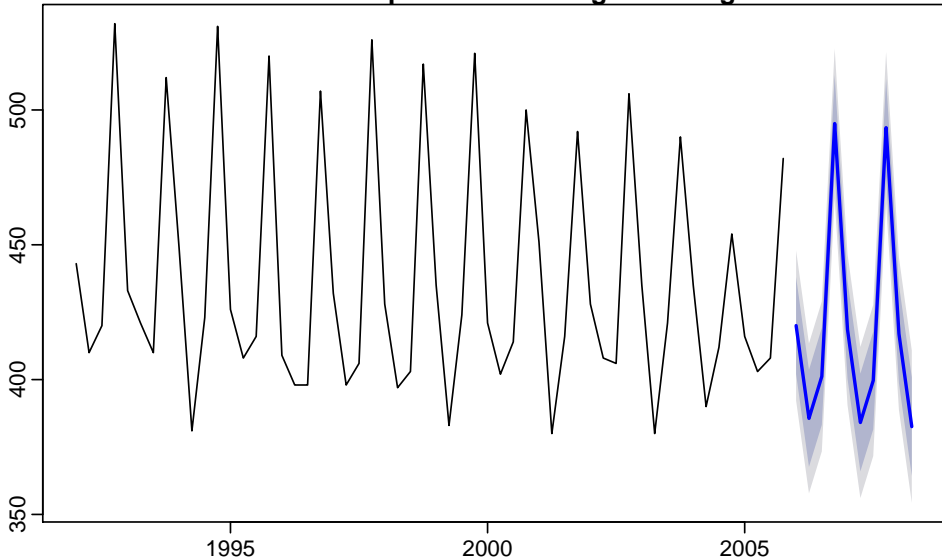
# Beer production revisited

Histogram of residuals



# Beer production revisited

Forecasts of beer production using linear regression



# How to do this in R

```
beer2 <- window(ausbeer,start=1992,end=2006-.1)
plot(beer2, main="Quarterly Australian beer production",
     ylab="Megaliters", xlab="Year")
```

```
fit <- tslm(beer2 ~ trend + season)
plot(beer2, main="Quarterly Beer Production")
lines(fitted(fit),col=2)
legend("topright", lty=1, col=c(1,2),
     legend=c("Actual","Predicted"))
```

```
res <- residuals(fit)
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(res,ylab="Residuals",xlab="Year")
Acf(res,main="ACF of residuals")
hist(res)
```

```
fcast <- forecast(fit)
plot(fcast, main="Forecasts of beer production")
```



# Intervention variables

## Spikes

- Equivalent to a dummy variable for handling an outlier.

## Steps

- Variable takes value 0 before the intervention and 1 afterwards.

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# Holiday and trading day variations

## For monthly data:

- Christmas: always in December so part of monthly seasonal effect
- Easter: use a dummy variable  $v_t = 1$  if any part of Easter is in that month,  $v_t = 0$  otherwise.
- Trading days:

$z_1 = \#$  Mondays in month;

$z_2 = \#$  Tuesdays in month;

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# Fourier terms for seasonality

Periodic seasonality can be handled using pairs of Fourier terms:

$$s_k(t) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi kt}{m}\right) \quad c_k(t) = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi kt}{m}\right)$$

$$y_t = a + bt + \sum_{k=1}^K [\alpha_k s_k(t) + \beta_k c_k(t)] + e_t$$

- Every periodic function can be approximated by sums of sin and cos terms for large enough  $K$ .
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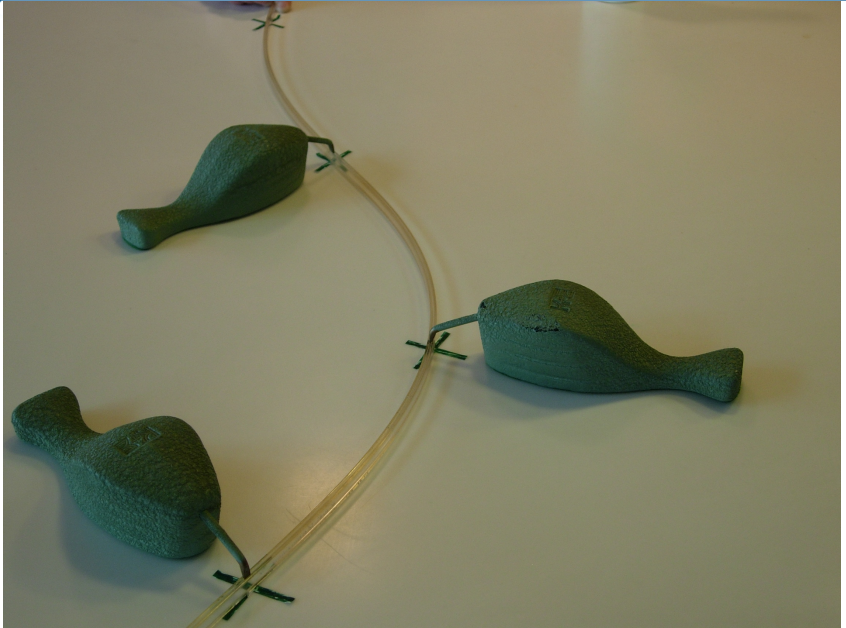
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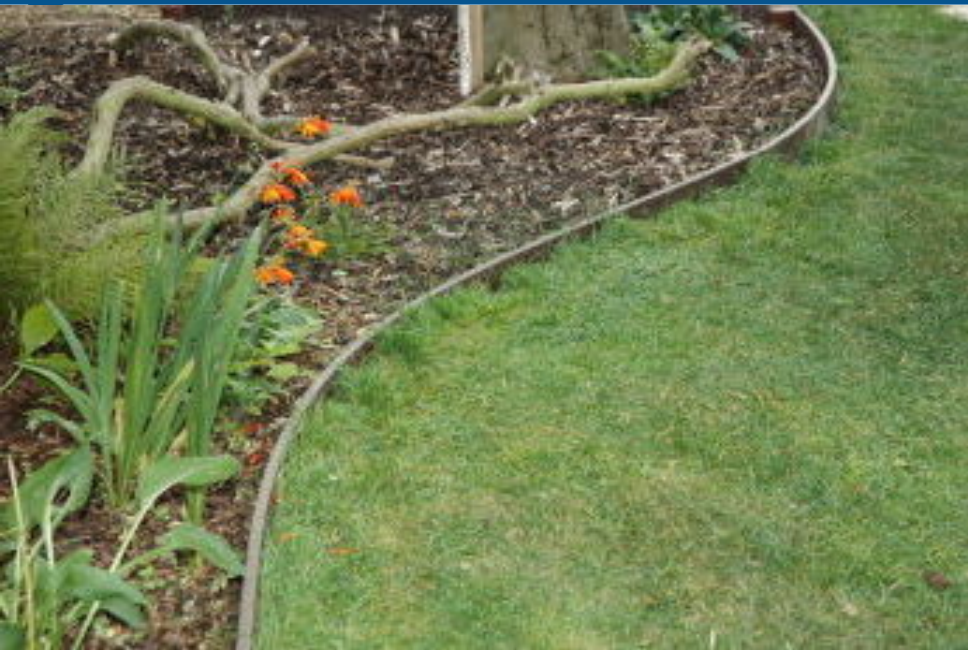
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Points:  $(\kappa_j, y_j)$  for  $j = 1, \dots, K$ .

A spline is a continuous function  $f(x)$  interpolating all points and consisting of polynomials between each consecutive pair of 'knots'  $\kappa_j$  and  $\kappa_{j+1}$ .

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# General linear regression splines

- Let  $\kappa_1 < \kappa_2 < \dots < \kappa_K$  be “knots” in interval  $(a, b)$ .
- Let  $x_1 = x$ ,  $x_j = (x - \kappa_{j-1})_+$  for  $j = 2, \dots, K + 1$ .
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- Let  $x_1 = x$ ,  $x_2 = x^2$ ,  $x_3 = x^3$ ,  
 $x_j = (x - \kappa_{j-3})_+^3$  for  $j = 4, \dots, K + 3$ .
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# Spline bases

## Truncated power basis of degree $p$

$$1, x, \dots, x^p, (x - \kappa_1)_+^p, \dots, (x - \kappa_K)_+^p$$

- $p - 1$  continuous derivatives
- In penalized regression splines, none of the polynomial coefficients is penalized.

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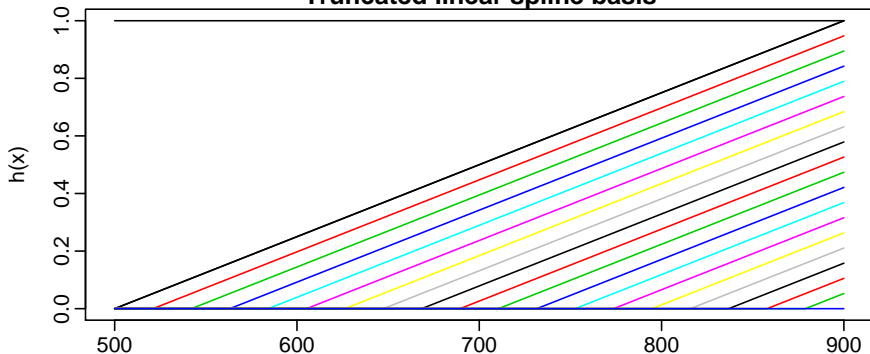
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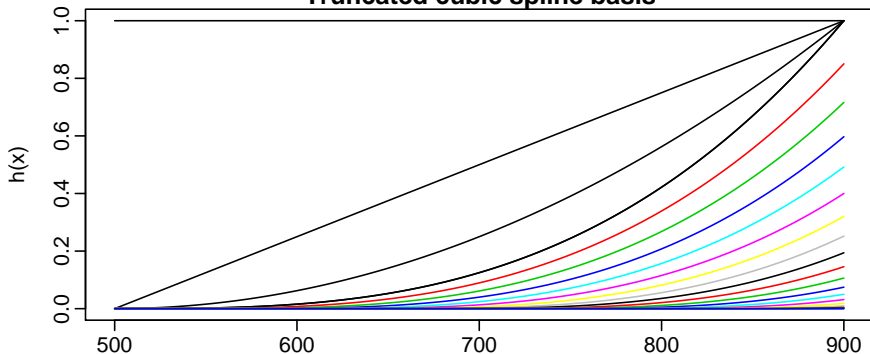
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# Residual plots

Useful for spotting outliers and whether the straight a linear model was appropriate.

- Scatterplot of residuals  $e_t$  against each predictor  $x_{j,t}$ .
- Scatterplot residuals against the fitted values  $\hat{y}_t$
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Useful for spotting outliers and whether the straight a linear model was appropriate.

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- If a plot of the residuals vs any predictor in the model shows a pattern, then the relationship is nonlinear.
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# Durbin-Watson test

## If residuals from a linear model:

- DW tests hypothesis that there is no lag one autocorrelation present in the residuals.
- If there is no autocorrelation, the DW distribution is symmetric around 2, its mean value.
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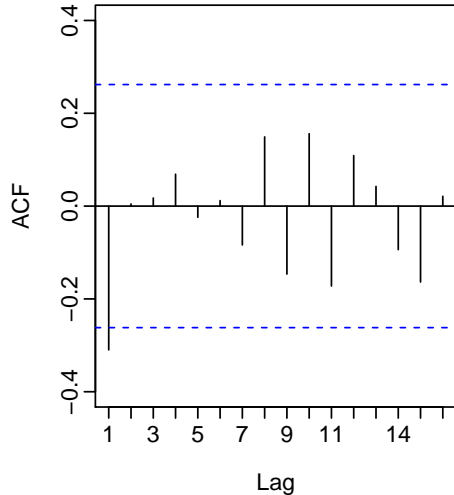
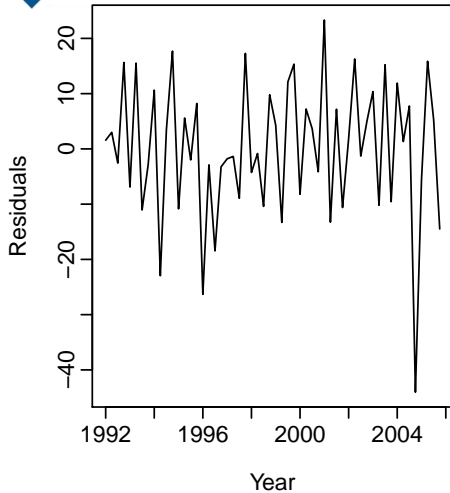
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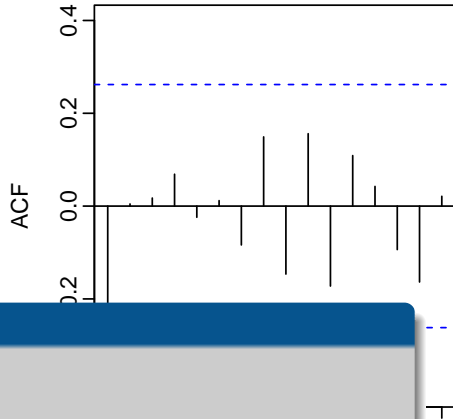
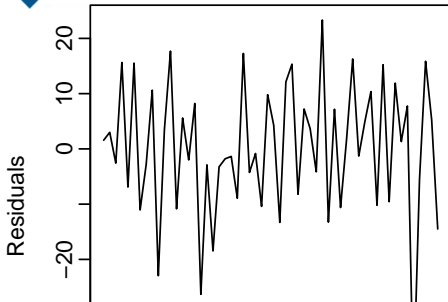
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# Beer production again



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## Durbin-Watson test

```
> dwtest(fit,alt="two.sided")
```

Durbin-Watson test

data: fit

DW = 2.5951, p-value = 0.02764

alternative hypothesis: true autocorrelation is not 0



# Durbin-Watson test

## If the model fails the Durbin-Watson test . . .

- The forecasts are not wrong, but have higher variance than they need to.
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- This is done with a regression model with ARMA errors which will be covered later in the course.

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# Outline

- 1 Some useful predictors for linear models
- 2 Residual diagnostics
- 3 Selecting predictors and forecast evaluation**
- 4 Matrix formulation
- 5 Correlation, causation and forecasting

# Selecting predictors

- When there are many predictors, how should we choose which ones to use?
- We need a way of comparing two competing models.

## What not to do!

Plot  $y$  against a particular predictor ( $x_i$ ) and if it shows no noticeable relationship, drop it.

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- Plot  $y$  against a particular predictor ( $x_j$ ) and if it shows no noticeable relationship, drop it.

Use multiple linear regression to select predictors and discard all variables whose  $p$ -value is greater than 0.05.  
This is not a good idea!

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# Comparing regression models

Computer output for regression will always give the  $R^2$  value. This is a useful summary of the model.

- It is equal to the square of the correlation between  $y$  and  $\hat{y}$ .
- It is often called the “coefficient of determination”.
- It can also be calculated as follows:

$$R^2 = \frac{\sum(\hat{y}_t - \bar{y})^2}{\sum(y_t - \bar{y})^2}$$

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- Adding *any* variable tends to increase the value of  $R^2$ , even if that variable is irrelevant.

To overcome this problem, we can use *adjusted*  $R^2$ :

$$\bar{R}^2 = 1 - (1 - R^2) \frac{T - 1}{T - k - 1}$$

where  $k$  = no. predictors and  $T$  = no. observations.

Maximizing  $\bar{R}^2$  is equivalent to minimizing  $\hat{\sigma}^2$ .

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- Problems can be overcome by measuring true *out-of-sample* forecast accuracy. That is, total data divided into “training” set and “test” set. Training set used to estimate parameters. Forecasts are made for test set.
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# Cross-validation

## Cross-validation for regression

- Select one observation for test set, and use *remaining* observations in training set.  
Compute error on test observation.
- Repeat using each possible observation as the test set.
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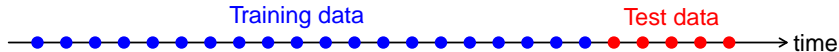
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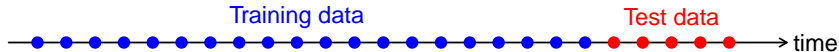
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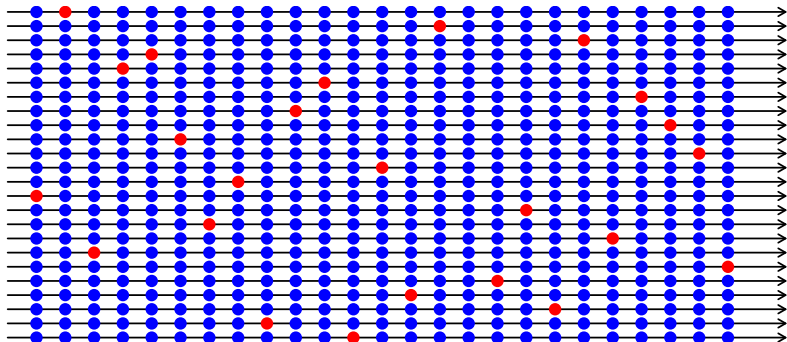


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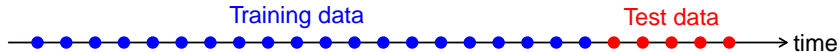


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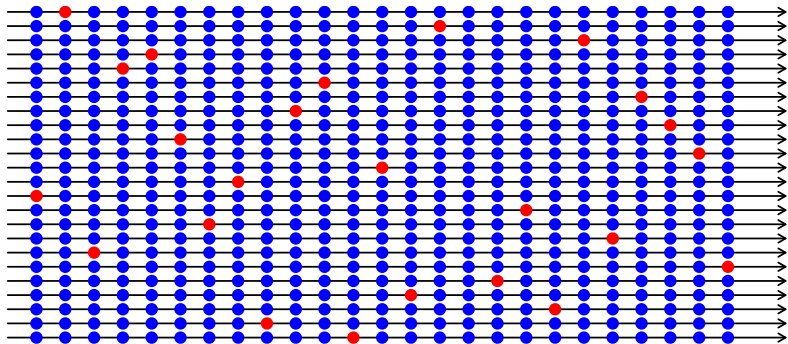


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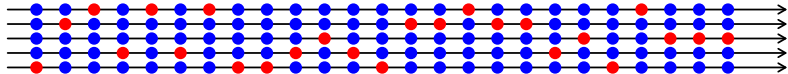
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## Leave-one-out cross-validation



## Five-fold cross-validation



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Leave-one-out cross-validation for regression can be carried out using the following steps.

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The best model is the one with minimum CV



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## Ten-fold cross-validation

- Randomly select ten observations for test set, and use remaining observations in training set. Compute accuracy measures on test observations.
- Repeat many times
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# Akaike's Information Criterion

$$\text{AIC} = -2 \log(L) + 2(k + 1)$$

where  $L$  is the likelihood and  $k$  is the number of predictors in the model.

- This is a *penalized likelihood* approach.
- *Minimizing* the AIC gives the best model for prediction.
- AIC penalizes terms more heavily than  $R^2$ .
- Minimizing the AIC is equivalent to maximizing the log-likelihood minus the number of parameters.



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# Corrected AIC

For small values of  $T$ , the AIC tends to select too many predictors, and so a bias-corrected version of the AIC has been developed.

$$\text{AIC}_C = \text{AIC} + \frac{2(k+2)(k+3)}{T-k-1}$$

As with the AIC, the  $\text{AIC}_C$  should be minimized.

# Bayesian Information Criterion

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Stepwise regression is not guaranteed to lead to the most suitable model.



# Choosing regression variables

## Backwards stepwise regression

- Start with a model containing all variables.
- Try subtracting one variable at a time. Keep the model if it has lower CV or AICc.
- Iterate until no further improvement.

### Notes:

- Stepwise regression is not guaranteed to lead to the best possible model.
- Difference in  $R^2$  between initial model and best model is small.

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# Outline

- 1 Some useful predictors for linear models
- 2 Residual diagnostics
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- 5 Correlation, causation and forecasting

# Matrix formulation

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1,t} + \beta_2 x_{2,t} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{k,t} + e_t.$$

Let  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_T)'$ ,  $\mathbf{e} = (e_1, \dots, e_T)'$ ,  
 $\boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k)'$  and

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{1,1} & x_{2,1} & \cdots & x_{k,1} \\ 1 & x_{1,2} & x_{2,2} & \cdots & x_{k,2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{1,T} & x_{2,T} & \cdots & x_{k,T} \end{bmatrix}.$$

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$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{e}.$$

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# Matrix formulation

## Least squares estimation

Minimize:  $(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})'(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})$

Differentiate wrt  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  gives

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{y}$$

(The “normal equation”.)

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{T - k - 1}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})'(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})$$

**Note:** If you fall for the dummy variable trap,  $(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})$  is a singular matrix.

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# Likelihood

If the errors are iid and normally distributed, then

$$\mathbf{y} \sim \mathbf{N}(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}).$$

So the likelihood is

$$L = \frac{1}{\sigma^T (2\pi)^{T/2}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})' (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) \right)$$

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# Multiple regression forecasts

## Optimal forecasts

$$\hat{y}^* = E(y^* | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{x}^* \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{x}^* (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}'\mathbf{y}$$

where  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is a row vector containing the values of the regressors for the forecasts (in the same format as  $\mathbf{X}$ ).

## Forecast variance

$$\text{Var}(y^* | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{x}^*) = \sigma^2 \left[ 1 + \mathbf{x}^* (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1} (\mathbf{x}^*)' \right]$$

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where  $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'$  is the “hat matrix”.

## Leave-one-out residuals

Let  $h_1, \dots, h_T$  be the diagonal values of  $\mathbf{H}$ , then the cross-validation statistic is

$$CV = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T [e_t / (1 - h_t)]^2,$$

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# Correlation is not causation

- When  $x$  is useful for predicting  $y$ , it is not necessarily causing  $y$ .
- e.g., predict number of drownings  $y$  using number of ice-creams sold  $x$ .
- Correlations are useful for forecasting, even when there is no causality.
- Better models usually involve causal relationships (e.g., temperature  $x$  and people  $z$  to predict drownings  $y$ ).



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# Multicollinearity

In regression analysis, multicollinearity occurs when:

- Two predictors are highly correlated (i.e., the correlation between them is close to  $\pm 1$ ).
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- the numerical estimates of coefficients may be wrong (worse in Excel than in a statistics package)
- don't rely on the  $p$ -values to determine significance.
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# Outliers and influential observations

## Things to watch for

- *Outliers*: observations which produce large residuals.
- *Influential observations*: An observation is influential if removing it would markedly change the position of the regression line. (Often outliers in the  $x$  variable).
- *Lurking variable*: a predictor which was not included in the regression but has an important effect on the response.

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