Inference for Regression: Test for Linear Association Between Two Quantitative Variables

T. Scofield

You may click here to access the .qmd file.

The Model Utility Test

There are things you can do whenever you have bivariate quantitative data, such as

- produce a scatterplot of the data.
- calculate the (sample) correlation r.
- find the slope b_1 and intercept b_0 (both sample statistics) of the least squares regression line.

As we discussed in Chapter 2, the correlation is not always meaningful. But, in this chapter, we will assume that it is—that we have variables X and Y where the average response value $\mu_Y(x)$ at any particular value of X is given linearly as

$$\mu_Y(X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X,$$

making it meaningful to discuss the true correlation ρ .

An association between X and Y exists if the true slope $\beta_1 \neq 0$ or, equivalently, if the true correlation $\rho \neq 0$. Otherwise the variables are independent, meaning X has no value in predicting Y. To conduct a test, called the **model utility test**, of

$$\mathbf{H}_0$$
: $\beta_1 = 0$ vs. \mathbf{H}_a : $\beta_1 \neq 0$,

or equivalent stated as

$$\mathbf{H}_0$$
: $\rho = 0$ vs. \mathbf{H}_a : $\rho \neq 0$,

we will need sample data, producing a sample slope b_1 or sample correlation r.

Scatterplots; calculating b_1 , r in R

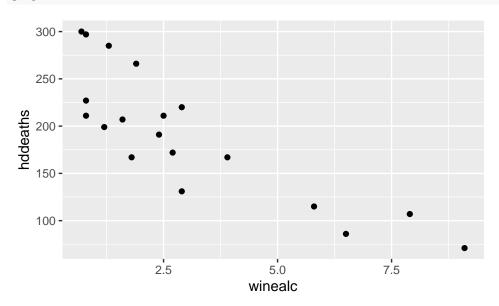
The data set found at http://scofield.site/teaching/data/csv/heartDiseaseDeathsAndWine.csv contains a variable winealc that measures wine consumption (measured in liters per person per year) in various countries and another variable hddeaths which measures heart disease mortality rates (deaths per thousand). We import this data, view a scatterplot, and calculate the sample values.

hdAndWine <- read.csv("http://scofield.site/teaching/data/csv/heartDiseaseDeathsAndWine.csv")
head(hdAndWine)

##		country	winealc	hddeaths
##	1	Australia	2.5	211
##	2	Netherlands	1.8	167
##	3	Austria	3.9	167
##	4	New Zealand	l 1.9	266
##	5	Belgium	n 2.9	131
##	6	Norway	0.8	227

In making a scatterplot, we must decide which variable (between winealc and hddeaths) to consider explanatory, placing it on the horizontal axis. Either could serve in that role, but in most discussions involving these variables, it is the alcohol consumption that people generally adopt as explanatory. So, it appears on the right side of the tilde in the command

gf_point(hddeaths ~ winealc, data=hdAndWine)



We can get the coefficients (intercept b_0 and slope b_1) of the best-fit line for the data via the command lm(hddeaths ~ winealc, data=hdAndWine)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = hddeaths ~ winealc, data = hdAndWine)
##
## Coefficients:
## (Intercept) winealc
```

Note that, by adding \$coefficients, the output is less "wordy",

```
lm(hddeaths ~ winealc, data=hdAndWine)$coefficients
```

-22.97

```
## (Intercept) winealc
## 260.56338 -22.96877
```

260.56

and by altering this to coefficients [2] we obtain just the slope.

```
lm(hddeaths ~ winealc, data=hdAndWine)$coefficients[2]
```

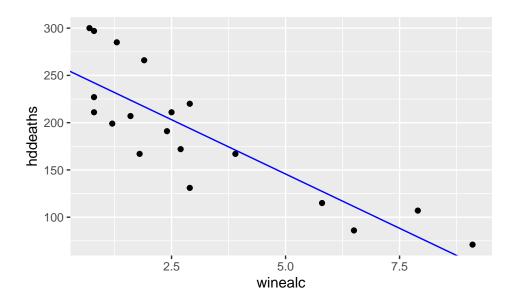
```
## winealc
## -22.96877
```

##

This last version, isolating the response to *slope* only, will be helpful in generating randomization distributions for b_1 .

We can overlay a line by "piping" the scatterplot to the gf_lm() command with specified slope and intercept:

```
gf_point(hddeaths ~ winealc, data=hdAndWine) |>
gf_abline(slope = ~-22.97, intercept = ~260.56, color="blue")
```



With the switches for gf_abline(), we can designate any line we wish. Most of the time, we want the line to be the least-squares regression line, and would rather not have to specify the slope and intercept ourselves. This can be done by piping to the simpler gf lm() command.

```
gf_point(hddeaths ~ winealc, data=hdAndWine) |> gf_lm(color="blue")
```

To calculate the sample correlation, instead, we change lm() to cor():

```
cor(hddeaths ~ winealc, data=hdAndWine)
```

[1] -0.8428127

Question: Would we get the same slope and intercept if we exchanged the roles of the variables, in this case making hddeaths the explanatory variable? Would we get the same correlation?

Randomization

-2.911761

Randomization distributions are meant to simulate the null distribution—what sort of values we expect, and how frequently, out of our sample statistic when the null hypothesis (no association between the quantitative variables) holds. We simulate it by shuffling one of the variables.

Randomization distribution for b_1 : In the context of our wine-and-heart-disease-deaths data, one randomization statistic b_1 arises from

```
lm(hddeaths ~ shuffle(winealc), data=hdAndWine)$coefficients[2]
## shuffle(winealc)
```

We get an approximate P-value when we generate lots of these randomization statistics, locate our test statistic (the slope for the original data), and determining how often something that extreme (or more so)

```
manyb1s <- do(5000) * lm(hddeaths ~ shuffle(winealc), data=hdAndWine)$coefficients[2]
head(manyb1s)</pre>
```

winealc

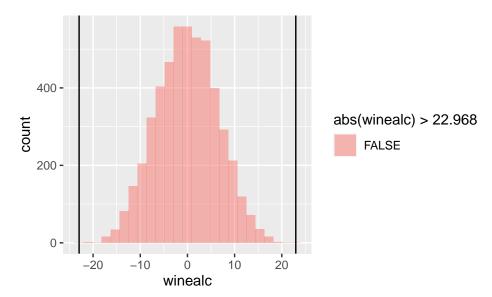
##

occurs:

```
## 1 3.138857
## 2 5.006081
## 3 -3.904028
## 4 10.955268
## 5 -3.100512
## 6 -6.602109
```

This randomization distribution with the test statistic can be visualized in a manner like we have used before:

```
gf_histogram(~winealc, data=manyb1s, fill = ~abs(winealc)>22.968) |>
gf_vline(xintercept = ~ 22.968) |>
gf_vline(xintercept = ~ -22.968)
```



This graph makes it appear that occurrences of $b_1 = 22.96877$, or even further distant from 0, are extremely rare. Indeed, if we count how often it happened in our 5000 tries, we have

```
2 * prop( ~(winealc < -22.968), data=manyb1s )
## prop_TRUE
## 0</pre>
```

Randomization distribution for r: Consider another dataset, the RestaurantTips data from the Lock5withR package. The question here is whether there is an association between a bill for the meal at a restaurant, and the tip as a percentage-of-the-bill-as-tip (variable name PctTip). There are other ways to state this question of association. In the text, the Locks state it (roughly) as, "Is Bill an effective predictor of the size of the tip as a percentage of the bill?" The null hypothesis says, "no, it isn't", or $\rho = 0$.

To generate a randomization distribution for r under this null hypothesis, we start with the command that generates the r from the original data:

```
cor(PctTip ~ Bill, data=RestaurantTips)
```

```
## [1] 0.1352976
```

That is our test statistic.

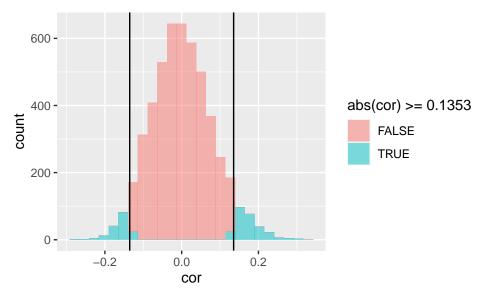
The generation of a single randomization statistic r comes from shuffling one of the variables:

```
cor(PctTip ~ shuffle(Bill), data=RestaurantTips)
```

```
## [1] 0.002450605
```

If we do this often, we get a randomization distribution for r. We locate our test statistic on this distribution and use it as a boundary to determine the P-value.

```
manyCors <- do(5000) * cor(PctTip ~ shuffle(Bill), data=RestaurantTips)
head(manyCors)</pre>
```



##

0.0892

```
prop( ~(abs(cor) >= 0.13529), data=manyCors )
## prop_TRUE
```

This P-value is not smaller than $\alpha = 0.05$, so at that level we fail to reject the null hypothesis, that the true correlation ρ (and the true slope β_1) is zero. That is, if someone tends to think that patrons of restaurants tip the same percentage regardless of the overall tab, we have not found here evidence sufficient to conclude otherwise.

Exercise: Throughout the discussion above, it has been implied that it didn't matter which test statistic you randomized, r or b_1 . Convince yourself that this is the case by playing with randomization distributions and P-values for bivariate quantitative data in StatKey. The confirmation that "it does not matter" would be that, when working with a fixed dataset, when you generate a P-value corresponding to your test statistic r, it is roughly the same as the P-value corresponding to your test b_1 .

Model Utility Test without randomization: Simple Linear Regression model

People have been conducting the Model Utility Test for a long while, since before computers were on every desktop, before it was feasible to generate randomization distributions, when only hand calculations were possible. Upon request, R will generate the kind of results those hand calculations produced. Naturally the lm() command is used, but so is summary(). In the case of the PctTip-and-Bill data, the request goes like this:

```
summary( lm(PctTip ~ Bill, data=RestaurantTips) )
```

```
##
## Call:
##
  lm(formula = PctTip ~ Bill, data = RestaurantTips)
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
                10 Median
                                 3Q
                                        Max
##
  -8.9927 -2.3096 -0.6455
                            1.4679 25.5335
##
## Coefficients:
##
               Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 15.50965
                           0.73956
                                      20.97
                                              <2e-16 ***
                           0.02871
## Bill
                0.04881
                                       1.70
                                              0.0911 .
##
                   0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Signif. codes:
##
## Residual standard error: 4.36 on 155 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.01831,
                                     Adjusted R-squared:
## F-statistic: 2.89 on 1 and 155 DF, p-value: 0.09112
```

Notice the result contains information about both coefficients. The (Intercept) row says

Our point estimate b_0 for β_0 is 15.50965, has $SE_{b_0} = 0.73956$, and standardized t-score t = 20.97.

The other row, the one about slope, is always of greater interest to us. It says

Our point estimate b_1 for β_1 is 0.04881, has $SE_{b_1} = 0.02871$, and standardized t-score t = 1.70.

We see that the process our forbears devised in lieu of randomization led them to deal, again, with t-distributions. Specifically, since in the Model Utility Test we hypothesize that $\beta_1 = 0$, standardizing leads to the reported t-score:

$$t = \frac{0.04881 - 0}{0.02871} = 1.700.$$

To get the resulting P-value the way they (and this command) did, we find how often a t-score is as extreme or more so than this one—i.e., compute the tail area and double it. We get the tail area using a t-distribution, but with how many degrees of freedom? If there are n cases in the dataset, regression computes degrees of freedom in this way:

```
df = n - 1 - (number of predictor variables).
```

What is implied here is that it is possible to consider more than 1 explanatory/predictor variable. When we do, it is called **multiple regression**. Since we are considering only 1 predictor variable, the number of degrees of freedom is df = n - 2. So, in the case of PctTip-as-predicted-by-Bill data, which has n = 157 cases, R determined its P-value above by doing what the following command does:

```
2 * (1 - pt(1.7, df=155))
```

```
## [1] 0.09113667
```

This standard error SE_{b_1} can be used the way we have used standard errors in the past, not only in the calculation of a standardized t-statistic above, but also in the **construction of a confidence interval for** the true slope β_1 :

(point est.)
$$\pm t^*$$
 SE, or $b_1 \pm t^*$ SE_{b₁}.

You choose the critical value t^* as in Chapter 6, but now using n-2 degrees of freedom. So, to get a 92% CI for β_1 for the PctTip-as-predicted-by-bill data, with sample size

nrow(RestaurantTips)

[1] 157

we get our critical value

tstar <- qt(0.96, df=155); tstar

[1] 1.76224

and our confidence interval

lm(PctTip ~ Bill, data=RestaurantTips)\$coefficients[2] + c(-1,1) * tstar * 0.02871

[1] -0.001781462 0.099406336

As we have seen before, there is a connection between the P-value of a Model Utility Test and this confidence interval for β_1 . Since the null value, 0, is inside a 92% CI, we would have expected correspondingly that the P-value of the Model Utility Test to be *larger* than 0.08, and above we found it to be 0.091, confirming that.

Question: Our forbears also developed the formula for the standardized t-statistic of the sample correlation r to be

$$t = \frac{r\sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{1-r^2}},$$

which also has n-2 degrees of freedom when there is one predictor variable. What is the resulting P-value, and what hypotheses would we be testing?

Caution about using results based on a theoretical t-distribution: As in the previous chapters, beginning with Chapter 5, whenever we have turned to a theoretical distribution (a normal distribution, a t distribution, a chi-square distribution, or an F distribution) to compute a P-value, there have been conditions which validate the approach and, in the absence of such, leave us in some doubt about the conclusions. The same is true with the results above.

Conditions for the **Simple Linear Regression Model**. What has been assumed, and validates the approach, may be described as follows. Many different observed Y-values are possible for any fixed X-value, but

- they are normally distributed with mean $\mu_Y(X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X$, and
- the standard deviation is σ , a number that doesn't change with X.

The output from summary(lm(...)) above includes an estimate for σ . It is the number reported as Residual standard error. For the PctTip-as-predicted-by-Bill data, the estimate for σ is 4.36

Some pictures from the textbook:

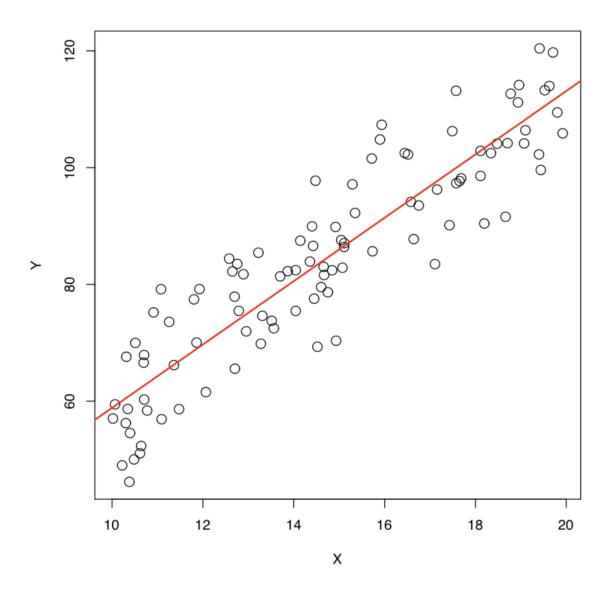


Figure 1: Good: conditions appear to be met

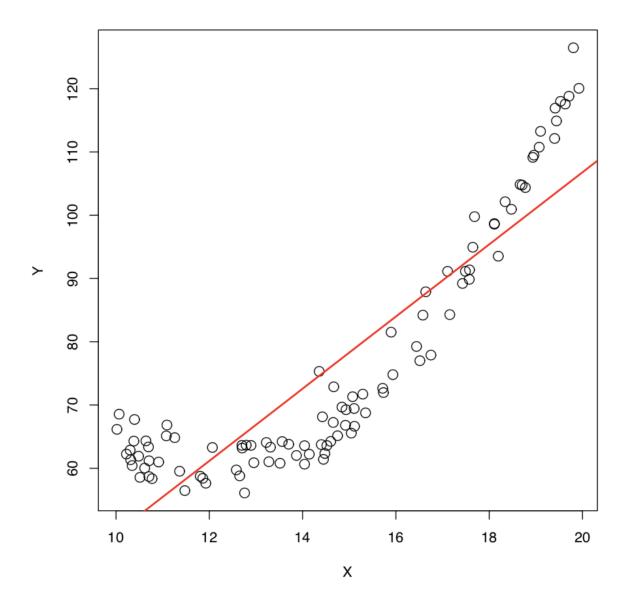


Figure 2: Bad: Not a linear association

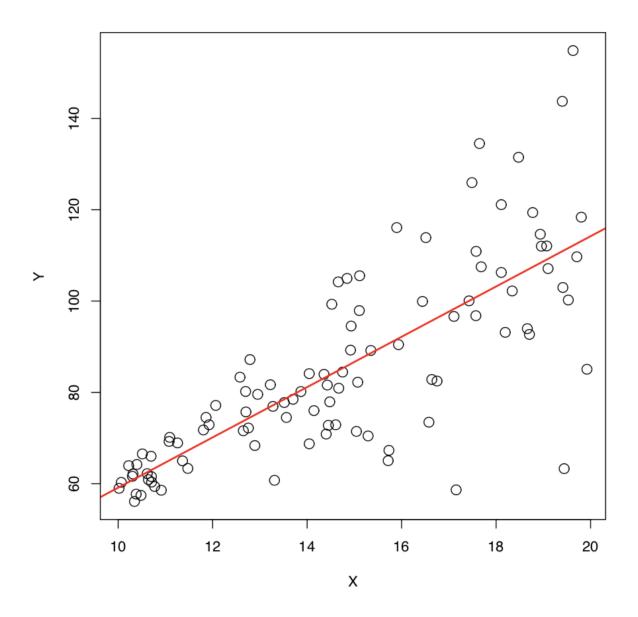


Figure 3: Bad: standard deviation changes with \boldsymbol{X}

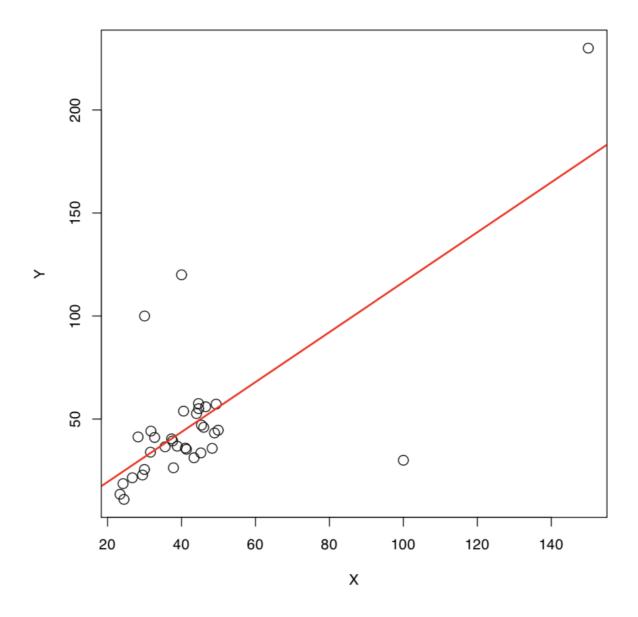


Figure 4: Bad: Outliers/influential points are present

ANOVA for regression

In Chapter 8, the quantitative response variable was used to generate SSG, SSE, and SST. In regression, we continue to have a quantitative response, the y-coordinates (known as **observed** values) of the data points

$$(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), (x_3, y_3), \dots (x_n, y_n).$$

We can, therefore, produce similar sum-of-squares values such as

$$SSTotal = \sum (y_i - \overline{y})^2 = (n-1)s_y^2.$$

Here, \overline{y} is the mean of observed responses,

$$\overline{y} = \frac{1}{n}(y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum y_i.$$

As before, this SSTotal breaks into two parts, SSModel, or SSM (formerly called SSG)

$$SSModel = \sum (\widehat{y}_i - \overline{y})^2,$$

and SSResid (or SSE)

$$SSE = \sum (y_i - \widehat{y}_i)^2.$$

Here, \hat{y}_i refers to a **predicted** or **fitted value**; more specifically, the subscript i is associated with a point (x_i, y_i) in the data, and the x_i from that point is what generates our point estimate of the mean response at that $X = x_i$, namely

$$\widehat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1 x_i.$$

Note, from Chapter 2 we defined a residuals to be the difference between an observed and predicted value,

$$\epsilon_i = y_i - \widehat{y}_i,$$

and SSResid is simply the quantity we sought to make as small as possible in order to choose our least squares regression line.

As when we defined these quantities in Chapter 8, the relationship between them is

$$SSTotal = SSModel + SSResid$$
, or $SST = SSM + SSE$.

When SSE is small in comparison with SST, that is indicative of a strong linear relationship between the variables; the line does a good job of explaining the variation in observed values. A good measure of how well the variability in response values Y is explained by the linear model $b_0 + b_1 X$ is the ratio

$$R^2 = \frac{SSM}{SST} = \frac{SST - SSE}{SST},$$

known as the **coefficient of determination**. It might have been better to use a lower-case r, and call it r^2 , since the coefficient of determination is equal to the square of the correlation.

Example: InkjetPrinters. In the text, the Locks propose using PPM, the number of pages a printer can turn out per minute, to explain Price. The first few rows of the raw data are as follows.

head(InkjetPrinters)

##						N	Model	\mathtt{PPM}	PhotoTime	Price	${\tt CostBW}$	CostColor
##	1	HP	${\tt Photosmart}$	Pro	8500A	e-All-ir	n-One	3.9	67	300	1.6	7.2
##	2				Canor	n Pixma N	1X882	2.9	63	199	5.2	13.4
##	3			I	exmarl	x Impact	S305	2.7	43	79	6.9	9.0
##	4			Lexm	ark In	nterpret	S405	2.9	42	129	4.9	13.9
##	5			E	Epson V	Vorkforce	e 520	2.4	170	70	4.9	14.4
##	6			Е	rother	r MFC-J69	910DW	4.1	143	348	1.7	7.9

A scatterplot makes a linear relationship appear reasonable. The black points represent the data, while the purple points, lying on the line, are the *fits*. By storing the result of the lm() command, R can be asked to provide the fitted values (in the same order as the original data)

```
lmRes <- lm(Price ~ PPM, data=InkjetPrinters)
lmRes$fitted</pre>
```

```
##
                      2
                                 3
                                           4
                                                      5
                                                                 6
                                                                            7
                                                                                      8
## 260.20270 169.32464 151.14902 169.32464 123.88560 278.37832 214.76367 160.23683
##
                     10
                                11
                                           12
                                                     13
                                                                14
                                                                           15
                                                                                     16
##
  178.41244 196.58806 151.14902 151.14902 105.70999 132.97341 151.14902
                                                                               60.27095
##
          17
                     18
                                19
## 160.23683
                         69.35876 278.37832
              69.35876
```

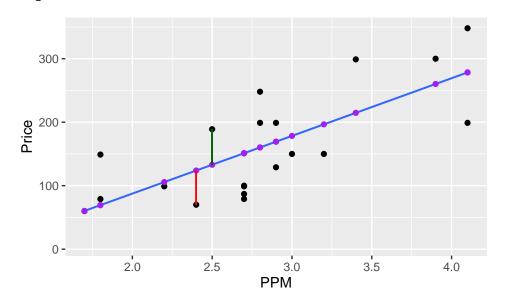
as well as the residuals

lmRes\$residuals

```
2
                                        3
                                                      4
                                                                                6
##
              1
                                                                   5
                             -72.1490222
##
    39.7972965
                 29.6753642
                                           -40.3246358 -53.8856019
                                                                      69.6216830
                           8
                                        9
                                                     10
##
                                                                  11
                                                                               12
##
    84.2363304
                 87.7631710
                             -28.4124425
                                           -46.5880561
                                                         64.1490222
                                                                      -51.1490222
##
                          14
                                        15
                                                                  17
             13
                                                     16
                                                                               18
##
    -6.7099884
                 56.0265913
                             -52.1490222
                                            -0.2709545
                                                         38.7631710
                                                                      79.6412387
             19
##
                          20
     9.6412387 -79.3783170
##
```

The vertical green line is from the 14th observed value, the observed price of \$189 for a Dell V715 w inkjet printer, down to its fitted price of \$132.97, a positive residual of 189 - 132.97 = 56.03. The red vertical line is from the 5th observed value, the price of \$70 for an Epson Workforce 520 up to its fitted price of \$123.89, a negative residual of 70 - 123.89 = -53.89.

```
## Warning: Using the `size` aesthetic with geom_line was deprecated in ggplot2 3.4.0.
## i Please use the `linewidth` aesthetic instead.
## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.
## Call `lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()` to see where this warning was
## generated.
```



Take a look at the output from the following commands applied to this data. First the summary from lm()

(recall that lmResult stores output from lm()).

summary(lmRes)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = Price ~ PPM, data = InkjetPrinters)
##
## Residuals:
##
     Min
              1Q Median
                            3Q
                                  Max
## -79.38 -51.40 -3.49 43.85
                                87.76
##
## Coefficients:
               Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
                 -94.22
                             56.40 -1.671 0.112086
## (Intercept)
                  90.88
                                     4.663 0.000193 ***
## PPM
                             19.49
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 58.55 on 18 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.5471, Adjusted R-squared: 0.522
## F-statistic: 21.75 on 1 and 18 DF, p-value: 0.0001934
```

See there is a number reported at the bottom with the label Multiple R-squared. That is the coefficient of determination, R^2 , we defined above. It says about 55% of the variability in sampled printer prices is "explained" by the variable PPM through the linear model

$$\widehat{\text{Price}} = -94.22 + 90.88(\text{PPM}).$$

Next look at the correlation:

```
cor(Price ~ PPM, data=InkjetPrinters)
```

[1] 0.7396862

Squaring this correlation

$$(0.7396862)^2 \doteq 0.5471$$

yields the same number as Multiple R-squared reported above.

Now look at an ANOVA table:

anova(lmRes)

The reported sum-of-squares values are SSM = 74540 and SSE = 61697, which means SST = 74540 + 61697 = 136237. We defined R^2 to be the ratio

$$\frac{SSM}{SST} = \frac{74540}{136237} = 0.5471,$$

again matching Multiple R-squared.

Question: Consider the command

```
sum( lmRes$residuals^2 )
```

[1] 61696.79

Can you guess what number this will give and find its value using the ANOVA table? Run the command and check that you are correct.

Looking more carefully at this ANOVA table, we see that, out of the n=20 cases (printers) in the **InkjetPrinters** dataset, n-2=18 degrees of freedom have been "assigned" to the **Residuals**, and 1 degree of freedom to PPM, for a total of 18+1=19=n-1. In simple linear regression (i.e., regression with just 1 predictor variable), the number of degrees of freedom on the residual row is always n-2. The calculations of quantities such as MSM (we called it MSG in Chapter 8), MSE and F which appear in the ANOVA table are done exactly as in 1-way ANOVA:

$$MSModel = \frac{SSModel}{1}, \qquad MSE = \frac{SSE}{n-2}, \qquad \text{and} \qquad F = \frac{MSM}{MSE},$$

and the resulting P-value, obtained with the command like

is exactly the same as P-value from the Model Utility Test, representing another way to compute it.

Prediction and confidence intervals

If the conditions for the simple linear model are met, and if we have rejected the null hypothesis in the Model Utility Test in favor of the alternative, that the explanatory variable has some usefulness as a predictor of values of the response variable, it is typical to see the model used that way. There are two sorts of prediction-type questions we might ask.

- 1. What is the average response Y at a particular X? We denote this number by $\mu_Y(X)$, which is a parameter specific to the subpopulation of response one can see for that particular value of X.
- 2. What is the *next* response Y I expect to see for a particular X?

Example. For predicting Price of an inkjet printer from its PPM, we have the coefficients

```
lm(Price ~ PPM, data=InkjetPrinters)
```

which we express as a linear model

$$\widehat{\text{Price}} = -94.22 + 90.88(\text{PPM}).$$

The best single number to

1. estimate the average price for an inkjet printer that prints 3.5 pages per minute is

$$-94.22 + 90.88(3.5) = 223.86,$$

or \$223.86.

2. estimate the price of the next inkjet printer that prints 3.5 pages is, likewise, -94.22+90.88(3.5)=223.86.

But this number is most likely wrong, as it merely *estimates* answers to these questions. We would prefer to give an interval of values, along the lines of a confidence interval,

```
(point estimate) \pm (margin of error).
```

As one might expect, the margin of error is larger when predicting the next response value at X than it is for the average response. Formulas are available for these two margins of errors, but they are ugly. (You can find them incorporated into the interval formulas in the box on p. 553.)

We will use software to generate these intervals, and the easiest approach I know in R is to use the (stored) model to make an *estimator* function:

```
lmResult <- lm(Price ~ PPM, data=InkjetPrinters)
printerPriceEstimator <- makeFun( lmResult )</pre>
```

The resulting function printerPriceEstimator() (it seemed an appropriate name, given the situation), can be used to repeat my calculation of a single-number estimate above:

```
printerPriceEstimator(PPM = 3.5)
```

```
## 1
## 223.8515
```

It can also be used to generate a **confidence interval for the mean response** when PPM equals 3.5, a better answer to Question 1 than any single number can be:

```
printerPriceEstimator(PPM = 3.5, interval="confidence")
```

```
## fit lwr upr
## 1 223.8515 184.5706 263.1324
```

Finally, the same estimator function, with switch interval="prediction", gives an interval that responds to Question 2, known as a **prediction interval for a response value** at a given choice of the explanatory variable.

```
printerPriceEstimator(PPM = 3.5, interval="prediction")
```

```
## fit lwr upr
## 1 223.8515 94.73146 352.9715
```

Not surprisingly, both the confidence interval and the prediction interval are centered at 223.85 (the single-number estimate), but the prediction interval is (much) wider. For both answers, the level of confidence was 95%. Using the level switch, we can tweak the level of confidence, changing it, say, to 90%.

```
printerPriceEstimator(PPM = 3.5, interval="prediction", level=0.9)
```

```
## fit lwr upr
## 1 223.8515 117.2781 330.4248
```

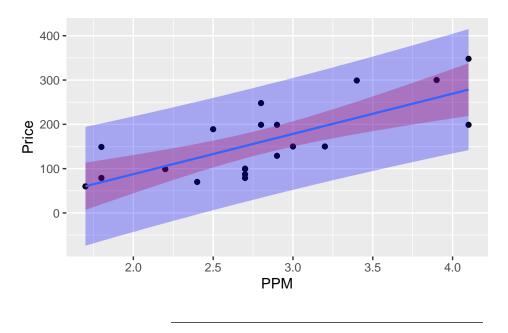
An older way of producing a similar prediction interval, now supplanted by using makeFun(), is found in this unexecuted code

```
lmResult <- lm(Price ~ PPM, data=InkjetPrinters)
predict(lmResult, newdata=data.frame(PPM=3.5), interval="prediction", level=0.9)</pre>
```

It can be instructive to envision confidence and prediction intervals spread out around the regression line.

```
gf_point(Price ~ PPM, data=InkjetPrinters) |>
gf_lm(interval="confidence", fill="red") |>
gf_lm(interval="prediction",fill="blue")
```

- ## Warning: Using the `size` aesthetic with geom_ribbon was deprecated in ggplot2 3.4.0.
- ## i Please use the `linewidth` aesthetic instead.
- ## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.
- ## Call `lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()` to see where this warning was
- ## generated.



Exercise: Use commands like those above to both a confidence interval for the mean response, and a prediction interval when PPM = 3.0. Compare your answers to those given in Example 9.19 on p. 554.

18