

**Exploration of Relevant Parameters of Climate Change
Using Multiple Linear Regression and Cross-Validation:
A 25 year Study (1984-2008)**

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OVERVIEW

One of humanity's most pressing issues today is climate change, characterized by long-term shifts in global temperature and weather patterns. Its consequences include higher global temperatures, more frequent severe storms, and widespread poverty due to displacement, among others. Understanding the root causes of these shifts is crucial for mitigating climate change and reducing its impacts. Crucially this report asks: What are the common elements that affect temperature and weather patterns, and how do they influence global temperatures?

Informed by exploratory analysis, we created a model that utilized the variables 'Year', 'MEI', 'CO2', 'CH4', 'N2O', 'CFC.11', 'CFC.12', 'Aerosols' by determining a model that best fit Climate Data from 1984-2008. After testing various models, we utilized multiple linear regression which is a supervised statistical method. After conductive statistical analysis and testing, we identified that CH4 and N2O may not have a significant impact on the variable.

PREVIOUS LITERATURE AND CONTEXTUALIZATION

To better understand our objectives and data we have conducted a literature review on climate change and the factors which accelerate or accelerate its process. This review informs our progression with our data analysis.

Aerosols have a profound effect on Earth's climate; however, since there is large variation in aerosols types, the overall effect of aerosols on climate is complex. Whether aerosols cool or warm the atmosphere is highly dependent on aerosol color: Darker aerosols, such as black carbon, absorb light and heat the atmosphere, while lighter aerosols, such as pure sulfates and nitrates, scatter light and cool the atmosphere. Between the two, the cooling impact of lighter aerosols is far more significant. For instance, the event of a volcanic eruption sends high volumes of sulfate dioxide, a reflective aerosol, into the atmosphere, causing a significant regional cooling effect. These once-in-a-while cooling effects highly outweigh the consistent heating effects of darker aerosols (Earth Observatory, 2010). It is likely that we observe a negative correlation between aerosols and global temperature.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are a man-made greenhouse gas. CFCs absorb specific wavelengths of radiation that other greenhouse gasses cannot, trapping heat in the atmosphere that would otherwise not be present. CFCs are incredibly effective at trapping heat and have long lifespans. CFCs were banned in response to their threat to global temperatures in an international agreement, which is around the time our data collection starts. Therefore, we may see a diminishing effect of CFCs and global temperature with time. (Stone, 2023).

Total Solar Radiance is the total solar radiation that enters Earth's atmosphere. This statistic indicates the total amount of solar energy within the climate system. TSI changes slowly with time, but has a large influence on global temperature. However, since TSI changes slowly with time, it may not be significant to include in our timespan of 24 years. (Ball et. al, 2022)

MEI describes the severity of El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), and contributes to variability in global climate. To discover patterns between global climate and ENSO, the Multivariate ENSO Index (MEI) serves as a basis. ENSO occurs due to a factor of multiple variables, six in total, meaning MEI can be difficult to accurately compute. (Wolter, 2011) However, we include the MEI variable in our study since although it oscillates there is a clear upward trend as time passes.

EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

Data Collection

To find a relevant dataset for our report, we utilized Kaggle. Through Kaggle, we were able to view a quick description of the contents of the dataset. We settled on the dataset entitled “climate change” because it had the relevant variables needed to conduct an analysis of greenhouse gasses and global temperature. Furthermore, the dataset includes extra variables for us to create more complex models, such as ones that consider aerosol concentrations or El Niño/Southern Oscillation variability.

Dataset Link: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/econdata/climate-change>

Data Exploration

First, we explore the data to better understand how to proceed with our analysis. We first view the dataset, then use str() to understand the structure of our dataset and view each of our variables: Year, Month, MEI, CO2, CH4, N2O, CFC-11, CFC-12, TSI, Aerosols, and Temp.

SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

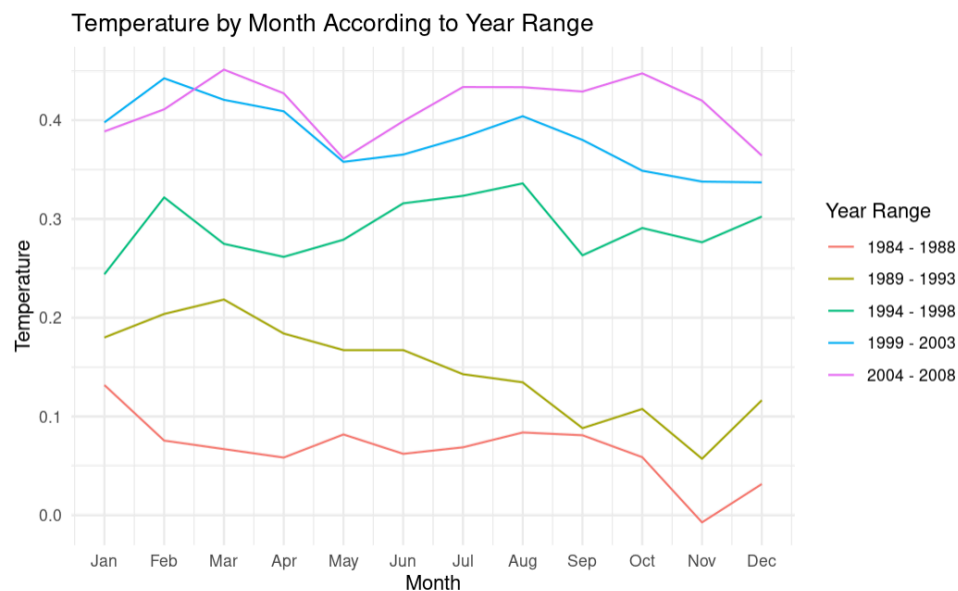
Variable	Description/Definition	Unit Measurement
CO2, N2O, CH4	The greenhouse gas with the highest concentration is Carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4) is 2nd, nitrous oxide (N2O) is 3rd	ppmv (parts per million by atmospheric volume)
CFC.11, CFC.12	Chlorofluorocarbon-11 (CFC.11) and Chlorofluorocarbon-12 (CFC-12). A man-made greenhouse gas found in small concentrations with a high warming potential.	ppbv (parts per billion by atmospheric volume)
Aerosols	Mean aerosol optical depth (effect aerosols have on scattering or absorbing solar radiation) per 550 nanometer.	N/A (dimensionless)
TSI	Total solar radiation entering Earth's atmosphere.	W/m ² (watts per meter squared)
MEI	The strength of current El Nino/Southern Oscillation.	N/A (dimensionless)
Temperature	Difference in global temperature and a single recorded temperature.	°C

APPENDIX: Data Loading ~ First and Last 10 Entries of Dataset

Year	Month	MEI	CO2	CH4	N2O	CF-11	CF-12	TSI	Aerosols	Temp	Year	Month	MEI	CO2	CH4	N2O	CF-11	CF-12	TSI	Aerosols	Temp	
<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	
2008	3	-1.64	386.	1793.	321.	245.	536.	1366.	0.0034	0.447	1	1983	5	2.56	346.	1639.	304.	191.	350.	1366.	0.0863	0.109
2008	4	-0.942	387.	1793.	321.	245.	536.	1366.	0.0033	0.278	2	1983	6	2.17	346.	1634.	304.	192.	352.	1366.	0.0794	0.118
2008	5	-0.355	388.	1796.	321.	245.	535.	1366.	0.0031	0.283	3	1983	7	1.74	344.	1633.	304.	193.	354.	1366.	0.0731	0.137
2008	6	0.128	388.	1792.	321.	245.	535.	1366.	0.0031	0.315	4	1983	8	1.13	342.	1631.	304.	194.	356.	1366.	0.0673	0.176
2008	7	0.003	386.	1783.	321.	244.	535.	1366.	0.0033	0.406	5	1983	9	0.428	340.	1648.	304.	194.	357.	1366.	0.0619	0.149
2008	8	-0.266	384.	1780.	321.	244.	535.	1366.	0.0036	0.407	6	1983	10	0.002	340.	1664.	304.	195.	359.	1366.	0.0569	0.093
2008	9	-0.643	383.	1795.	322.	244.	535.	1366.	0.0043	0.378	7	1983	11	-0.176	342.	1658.	304.	196.	361.	1366.	0.0524	0.232
2008	10	-0.78	383.	1814.	322.	244.	535.	1366.	0.0046	0.44	8	1983	12	-0.176	343.	1654.	304.	197.	362.	1366.	0.0486	0.078
2008	11	-0.621	384.	1812.	322.	244.	535.	1366.	0.0048	0.394	9	1984	1	-0.339	344.	1659.	304.	197.	363.	1365.	0.0451	0.089
2008	12	-0.666	386.	1813.	322.	244.	535.	1366.	0.0046	0.33	10	1984	2	-0.565	345.	1656.	304.	198.	364.	1366.	0.0416	0.013

By looking at the first and last 10 entries of the head and tail of the dataset we can identify certain immediate trends. The most identifiable difference is temperature. We can see that in May 1983, the recorded temperature differed from the global temperature by 0.109°C, while in December 2008, the recorded temperature differed by 0.33°C. Already, there is clear indication of warming. It is also clear that all aerosol concentrations, CO2, CH4, and N2O have increased from the first index from the last. (this hints at a correlation between those variables). The two variables that do not clearly increase with time are MEI and Aerosols, which indicates that we may have to take into account fluctuations with these variables in our model. We also notice how the data begins on month 5 of the year 1983. It may be beneficial to omit the first 8 rows of our data to make our data consistent(25 entries for each month). This preliminary analysis informs how we proceed with our data cleansing.

FIGURE 2: Exploration of How the Categorical Variable of Month Affects Temperature by Year



We then explore temperature by month according to a four year range. We clearly see an increasing trend in global temperature per 4 year period; the average difference in global temperature for each month is greater than that for the same month of the previous period, with an exception between the first 3 months of the 2004-2008 and 1999-2003 periods. Furthermore, every year follows similar monthly trends. For instance, temperature systemically dips throughout the year from January to December.

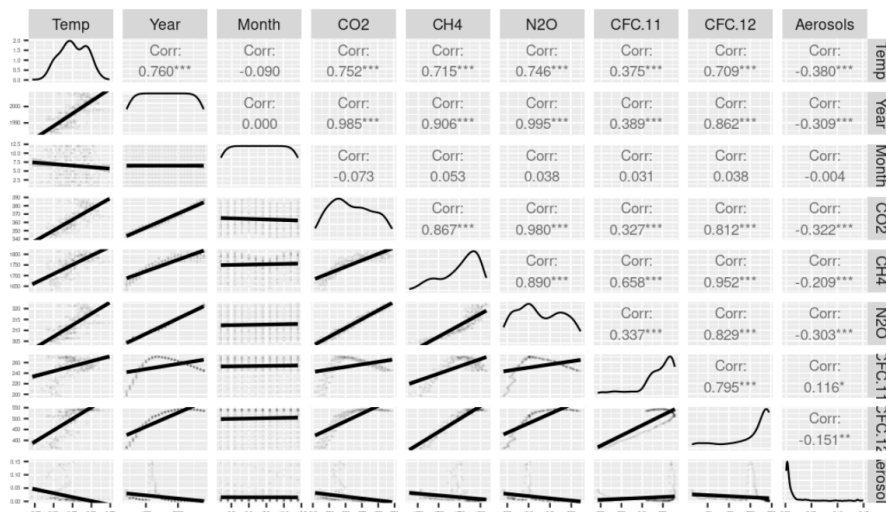
Descriptive Statistics (Summary and Correlations)

Next, we can take a look at a summary for each variable in the dataset:

Year		Month		CFC-11		CFC-12	
Min.	:1983	Min.	: 1.000	Min.	:191.3	Min.	:350.1
1st Qu.	:1989	1st Qu.	: 4.000	1st Qu.	:246.3	1st Qu.	:472.4
Median	:1996	Median	: 7.000	Median	:258.3	Median	:528.4
Mean	:1996	Mean	: 6.552	Mean	:252.0	Mean	:497.5
3rd Qu.	:2002	3rd Qu.	:10.000	3rd Qu.	:267.0	3rd Qu.	:540.5
Max.	:2008	Max.	:12.000	Max.	:271.5	Max.	:543.8
MEI		CO2		TSI		Aerosols	
Min.	:-1.6350	Min.	:340.2	Min.	:1365	Min.	:0.00160
1st Qu.	:-0.3987	1st Qu.	:353.0	1st Qu.	:1366	1st Qu.	:0.00280
Median	: 0.2375	Median	:361.7	Median	:1366	Median	:0.00575
Mean	: 0.2756	Mean	:363.2	Mean	:1366	Mean	:0.01666
3rd Qu.	: 0.8305	3rd Qu.	:373.5	3rd Qu.	:1366	3rd Qu.	:0.01260
Max.	: 3.0010	Max.	:388.5	Max.	:1367	Max.	:0.14940
CH4		N2O		Temp			
Min.	:1630	Min.	:303.7	Min.	:-0.2820		
1st Qu.	:1722	1st Qu.	:308.1	1st Qu.	: 0.1217		
Median	:1764	Median	:311.5	Median	: 0.2480		
Mean	:1750	Mean	:312.4	Mean	: 0.2568		
3rd Qu.	:1787	3rd Qu.	:317.0	3rd Qu.	: 0.4073		
Max.	:1814	Max.	:322.2	Max.	: 0.7390		

Above is the summary statistics for the dataset.. According to our temperature summary, it is clear that temperature increases on average, with its mean of 0.25°C hotter than the global average. We note the minimum, which is a negative number, meaning that there exists a year in the dataset the recorded temperature was less than the global average. A few other notable discoveries from our summary is that amongst the greenhouse gasses, CH4 has the widest range, with a minimum of 1630 and a maximum of 1814, not yet taking into account for outliers. N2O has the least spread, with a minimum of 303.7 and a maximum of 322.2, without taking into account outliers. Also, TSI barely varies, so we know the amount of solar radiation entering the atmosphere stays fairly constant; however, it may have a large impact on global temperature.

FIGURE 2: Scatter Plot Matrix (ANALYSIS OF CORRELATION)



We then conduct an analysis of correlation between the data set's variables. We are particularly interested in the first row and column, which shows us which variables positively correlate with temperature. Through the scatterplot matrix, we notice strong linear correlations between temperature and CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, CFC₁₂, with correlation coefficients of 0.76, 0.752, 0.746 and 0.709 respectively. We also note strong correlations between some of our greenhouse gas variables, for instance, CO₂ and N₂O with a correlation coefficient of 0.980. This affirms our choice of using multiple regression analysis.

Data Cleansing

After exploring the data (ie. Looking at the data's structure, conducting exploratory plotting, and looking at specific data points), we have a better understanding of what adjustments should be made to provide a more rigorous analysis. The following adjustments help increase the quality and consistency of our data:

- We used `na.omit()` as we load in our data to remove missing values
- We omit the first 8 rows with our data to make each year consistent 12 month periods. Now, our data starts on month 1 of the year 1984, and ends on month 12 of the year 2008.
- We omit TSI from our analysis. As stated in the literature review, TSI changes too slowly to have a notable effect within 25 years
- We retain MEI as it trends upwards (even if it is noisy)
- We ensure that there are no duplicates, by comparing the number of rows in the dataset with the number of rows in the dataset with the `unique()` applied. There are no duplicate data points.

METHODOLOGY

Upon testing other modeling forms, we found them to be inclusive. Forms such as logistic regression, linear discriminant analysis (LDA), and cluster analysis did not yield relevant results. We found our best modeling form to be multiple linear regression. We assure there is no overfitting by comparing adjusted R² and R², then by selecting the best MSE. Check APPENDIX section, Selection Criteria as well as the Relevant Model Testing Sections, for more information.

Therefore we are using the Multiple Regression Model:

The multiple regression model is a supervised statistical learning method that will analyze various dependent variables and a single independent variable and make an estimation of the relationship between the two. In the context of our analysis, we will use multiple regression to find a relationship between global temperature increase and various climate predictors (CO₂, N₂O, etc.). The function in R utilizes OLS (ordinary least squares) to find the optimal coefficients for each parameter.

The general form of the multiple regression model will be:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + \epsilon$$

Where:

- T is the temperature change.
- X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are the independent climate parameters.
- $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n$ are the regression coefficients.
- ϵ is the error term. which is $\sim \text{iid} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

Model Selection Using Leaps Package: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/leaps/leaps.pdf>

Regsubset in the leaps package performs an exhaustive search over all possible subsets of the predictors in a linear regression model and selects the best subset according to some criterion, typically AIC, BIC, or adjusted R². It identifies the best model at a given number of predictors (1-8 predictors for our purposes), where best is quantified using RSS. The syntax for this function is the same as lm().

After a List of Best predictors for each number of predictors is determined, we compare the MSE, R² and adjR² of each model to identify the model with the smallest MSE value that doesn't overfit the data. (adjR² is much smaller than R²). More Information and clarity is provided in the APPENDIX sections 'Deciding on the Best Model' and 'Selection Criteria.'

Cross-Validation Approach

Cross-validation is a statistical method used to evaluate the performance of a model by partitioning the data into subsets, training the model on some subsets, and validating it on the remaining subsets. This process is repeated multiple(k) times to ensure that the model's performance is robust and not overly dependent on any particular partition of the data. With various climate predictors at our disposal, we must ensure that our model is robust.

1. **k-Fold Cross-Validation:** The dataset will be divided into k subsets (folds). The model will be trained on k-1 folds and tested on the remaining fold. This process will be repeated k times with each fold being used as the test set once.
2. **Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation (LOOCV):** A special case of k-fold cross-validation where k equals the number of observations (most information but computationally intensive)

Notable insights that can be drawn from using cross-validation: Cross-validation ensures we choose a model with high predictive power. This is done by curtailing the risk of choosing a model that overfits or under-fits the data by finding the most optimal balance between bias and variance.

RESULTS AND FURTHER ANALYSIS (multiple regression)

```
Call:
lm(formula = best_model_formula, data = climate)

Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-0.269500 -0.064557  0.001331  0.057791  0.307282

Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)  69.0353507  25.7736212    2.679   0.00782 **
Year        -0.0398327   0.0148996   -2.673   0.00793 **
MEI          0.0618198   0.0065293    9.468   < 2e-16 ***
CO2          0.0097461   0.0030543    3.191   0.00157 **
CH4         -0.0003409   0.0005341   -0.638   0.52381
N2O          0.0217293   0.0136837    1.588   0.11338
CFC.11      -0.0066150   0.0020318   -3.256   0.00126 **
CFC.12       0.0053424   0.0013216    4.042   6.78e-05 ***
Aerosols    -1.7626952   0.2339216   -7.535   6.20e-13 ***
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 0.0963 on 291 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared:  0.7221,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.7144
F-statistic: 94.51 on 8 and 291 DF,  p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

REGRESSION TABLE

from Appendix Section: Analyzing Our Model

For our model $n = 300$ and $p(\text{predictors}) = 8$

Model Specification

$$Y = 69.0354 - (0.0398)\text{Year} + (0.0618)\text{MEI} + (0.0097)\text{CO}_2 - (0.0003)\text{CH}_4 + (0.0217)\text{N}_2\text{O} - 3(0.0066)\text{CFC.11} + (0.0053)\text{CFC.12} - (1.7627)\text{Aerosols} + \epsilon$$

- Y is the dependent variable (Temperature)
- Year, MEI, CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, CFC.11, CFC.12 and Aerosols are the included predictor variables.
- $\beta_0 = 69.0354$ is the intercept; when all variables are at 0 units, temperature is 69 degrees; which lacks applicable meaning.
- $\beta_1 = -0.0398$, $\beta_2 = 0.0618$, $\beta_3 = 0.0097$, $\beta_4 = -0.0003$, $\beta_5 = 0.0217$, $\beta_6 = -0.0066$, $\beta_7 = 0.0053$, and $\beta_8 = -1.7627$ are the coefficients for Year, MEI, CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, CFC.11, CFC.12, and Aerosols respectively
 - Each slope coefficient represents the expected increase(positive β) or decrease(negative β) in the dependent variable for a one-unit change in the corresponding independent variable, holding all other variables constant.
- **Standard Errors:** Each coefficient estimate comes with a standard error, which measures the variability of the estimate. Smaller standard errors indicate more precise estimates of the coefficients.

Statistical Testing

T-test for individual regression coefficients.

Null Hypothesis (H₀): $H_0: \beta_j = 0$ for $j = 1, \dots, 8$

- Implies that there is no linear relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_a): $H_1: \beta_j \neq 0$ for $j = 1, \dots, 8$

- Implies there is a significant linear relationship.

Compares the calculated $t_{\text{statistic}} = \frac{\beta_j}{SE(\beta_j)}$ to critical t-values with $df(n-p-1)$. **From the regression output and conducting T-tests all variables except for CH₄ and N₂O are significant under the $\alpha = 0.05$ significance level**

EXAMPLE (two-sided test):

$$|t_{\text{N}_2\text{O}}| = 1.588 < t_{\text{critical}} = t(0.05/2, df = 300 - 8 - 1) = 1.968$$

F-statistics APPENDIX Section: Analyzing Our Model and F-test Lack of Fit

1) **For overall model** (from regression output) tests the overall significance of the model:

Compares $F_{\text{statistic}} = \frac{\text{Mean Sq (Model)}}{\text{Mean Sq (Residuals)}}$ with $F_{\text{critical}} = F(\alpha, df_{\text{model}} = \text{total parameters} - 1 = p, df_{\text{residual}} = n-p-1)$

Since $F_{\text{statistic}} = 94.51168 > F_{\text{critical}} = 1.970285$ the model concludes that the overall model is statistically significant at the $\alpha=0.05$ level. This means that the predictors (independent variables) in your model collectively explain a significant amount of the variability in the dependent variable (response variable)

ANOVA TABLE from Appendix Section: Analyzing Our Model

Analysis of Variance Table

Response: Temp

	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	Pr(>F)
Year	1	5.6137	5.6137	605.3399	< 2.2e-16 ***
MEI	1	0.5917	0.5917	63.8094	3.220e-14 ***
CO2	1	0.0151	0.0151	1.6299	0.20274
CH4	1	0.0260	0.0260	2.8026	0.09519 .
N2O	1	0.0184	0.0184	1.9817	0.16028
CFC.11	1	0.0030	0.0030	0.3268	0.56797
CFC.12	1	0.2172	0.2172	23.4208	2.115e-06 ***
Aerosols	1	0.5266	0.5266	56.7824	6.195e-13 ***
Residuals	291	2.6986	0.0093		

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

2) **F-stat from ANOVA** compares the variability explained by the predictors with the variability not explained by the model (error/residuals):

Compares $F_{\text{statistic}} = \frac{\text{Sum of Mean Sq (Predictors)}}{\text{Mean Sq (Residuals)}}$ with $F_{\text{critical}} = F(\alpha, df_{\text{numerator}} = p, df_{\text{residual}} = n-p-1)$

Since $F_{\text{statistic}} = 756.0935 > F_{\text{critical}} = 1.970285$ the variability explained by the predictors (independent variables) in your model is statistically significantly different from the variability not explained by the model (residuals)

3) **Lack-of-Fit F-test**: This test specifically examines whether the chosen model adequately fits the data. It compares the lack-of-fit mean square with the residual mean square. If the model does not fit well, the lack-of-fit F-test would indicate a significant result:

Compares $F_{\text{Lack of Fit}} = \frac{\text{Mean Sq Lack of Fit}}{\text{Mean Sq (Residuals)}}$ with $F_{\text{critical}} = F(\alpha, df_{\text{Lack of Fit}} = n-p, df_{\text{residual}} = n-p-1)$

Since $F_{\text{Lack of Fit}} = 1 < F_{\text{critical}} = 1.213079$ We fail to reject the H_0 of no lack of fit and so we conclude that model adequately fits the data

Cross Validation

Conducting cross-validation is important for determining providing an unbiased estimate of model performance. It is a robust technique for assessing how a model will generalize to an independent dataset. The Mean Squared Error (MSE) calculated from cross-validation is the average squared difference between the observed actual outcomes and the predictions of our model. The MSE values provide a quantitative measure of how closely the model's predictions match the actual outcomes. Therefore, lower MSE values indicate a better fit of the model to the data.

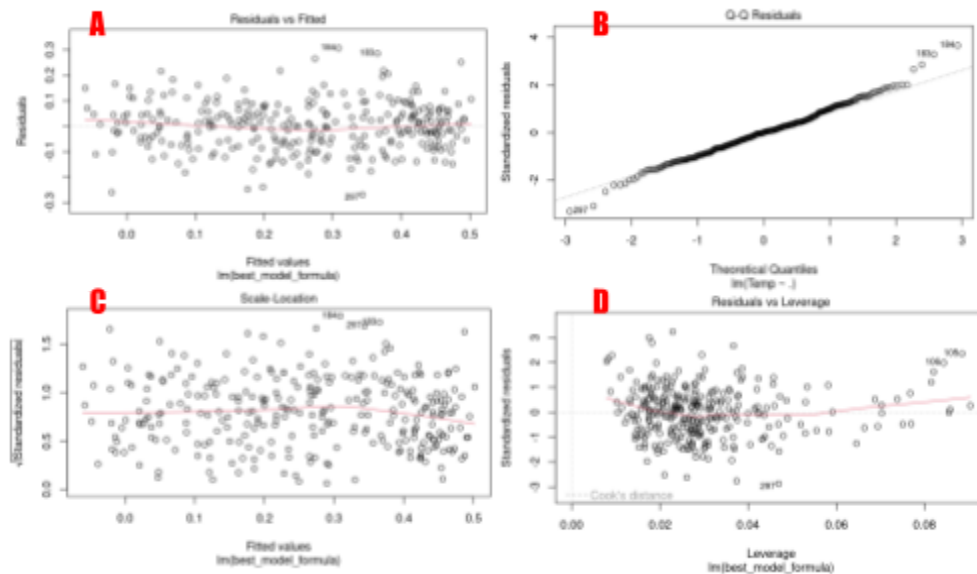
Using the Cross-Validation Techniques Defined in The Methodology our MSE values are:

- **LOOCV MSE:** 0.009562674
- **K-fold CV MSE:** 0.009526567

Both MSE values are sufficiently small, indicating that the model predictions are very close to the actual values. This implies that the model performs well and has a good fit to the data. The small difference between the LOOCV and K-fold CV MSE suggests that the model generalizes well across different subsets of the data, demonstrating robustness and reliability in its predictions

Residual Analysis

FIGURES 3 (A-D)



A) Residuals vs Fitted:

- **Purpose:** To check the linearity assumption and detect any non-linear patterns.
- **Interpretation:**
 - The residuals should be randomly scattered around the horizontal line ($y = 0$) without forming any specific patterns.
 - There seems to be no clear patterns which suggest a linear relationship between our predictors and independent variables.
 - **Does not violate assumption of homoscedasticity**

B) Normal Q-Q (Quantile-Quantile) Plot:

- **Purpose:** To assess whether the residuals are normally distributed.
- **Interpretation:**
 - The points should fall approximately along a straight diagonal line.
 - The deviations near the end of the QQplot suggest that the residuals may not be normally distributed.
 - As the QQplot is heavily tailed (upper end of the QQplot curve upward and the bottom end of the QQplot curves downward) this suggests that there are more extreme values (outliers) than expected under normality.

C) Scale-Location Plot (also called Spread-Location Plot):

- **Purpose:** To check the homoscedasticity (constant variance) of the residuals.
- **Interpretation:**
 - The plot shows the square root of standardized residuals against the fitted values.
 - For the most part, the the variance in square root of standardized residuals are constant, but there is a slight down curve towards the end indicates that the spread (variance) of residuals may changes systematically as the fitted values increase; This could be solvable with logistic transformations of the model
 - As there is no funnel shape (heteroscedasticity) the variance of the residuals appears constant

D) Residuals vs Leverage:

- **Purpose:** To identify influential observations and data points that might disproportionately affect the model fit.
- **Interpretation:**
 - We Look for points that have high leverage (i.e., they are far from the mean of the predictor variables) and high residuals (large vertical distances from the horizontal line $y = 0$).
 - Points outside of the Cook's distance(D) lines (the dashed lines which are not in the plot frame in the case of our model) may warrant investigation as they may need to be accounted for in the model

CONCLUSIONS

This study provides insight into the most critical factors driving climate change over a 25-year period and the effectiveness of multiple regression models in predicting future climate trends. The use of cross-validation ensures the robustness of the findings, offering a reliable tool for policymakers and researchers. The parameters we defined as significant (CO₂, MEI, CFC.11, CFC.12, Aerosols) grant insight into what causes of climate change policymakers should focus on when looking to diminish its effects on global temperatures. It is also important to note that manmade greenhouse gasses (CFC.11, CFC.12) prevail in significance compared to other naturally occurring gasses (N₂O, CH₄). In a broader context, this analysis reveals that other man-made factors should be scrutinized when analyzing climate change, as a small concentration of CFCs were found to have the most significant effects.

Future Directions:

As hinted previously, our research provides multiple avenues for advancing our research questions. We could analyze larger datasets with more variables over a longer timespan. Longitudinal Data would provide us with opportunities to create clearer parameters. We could also utilize a more robust model, by addressing issues such as non-normality in the residual by utilizing data transformations (box-cox, logistic) or nonparametric statistical learning forms.

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