## BIOST 546 HW 1

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- Q1. In this problem, we will make use of the data set Medical\_Cost\_2.RData.
  - (a) Load the data set with the command load and check if there are missing data
  - (b) If any, remove the missing data using the command na.omit.

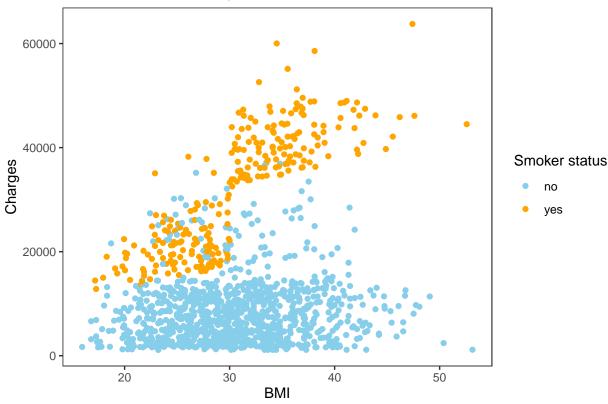
```
# load data
load("./dataset/Medical_Cost_2.RData")
str(df)
                    1338 obs. of 7 variables:
## 'data.frame':
             : int 19 18 28 33 32 31 46 37 37 60 ...
              : Factor w/ 2 levels "female", "male": 1 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 1 ...
              : num 27.9 33.8 33 22.7 28.9 ...
  $ children: int 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 3 2 0 ...
   $ smoker : Factor w/ 2 levels "no", "yes": 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
   $ region : Factor w/ 4 levels "northeast", "northwest", ...: 4 3 3 2 2 3 3 2 1 2 ...
  $ charges : num 16885 1726 4449 21984 3867 ...
# check for missing data in `df` data frame
# if returned value is non-zero, there are missing data
sum(is.na(df) == TRUE)
## [1] 60
# remove the missing data from `df`
df <- na.omit(df)</pre>
str(df)
## 'data.frame':
                    1278 obs. of 7 variables:
              : int 19 18 28 33 32 31 46 37 37 60 ...
              : Factor w/ 2 levels "female", "male": 1 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 1 ...
   $ sex
              : num 27.9 33.8 33 22.7 28.9 ...
   $ children: int 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 3 2 0 ...
  $ smoker : Factor w/ 2 levels "no", "yes": 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ region : Factor w/ 4 levels "northeast", "northwest", ..: 4 3 3 2 2 3 3 2 1 2 ...
## $ charges : num 16885 1726 4449 21984 3867 ...
   - attr(*, "na.action")= 'omit' Named int [1:60] 22 37 39 40 84 111 129 193 248 252 ...
    ..- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:60] "22" "37" "39" "40" ...
```

Initial loading of data, we had a data frame with 1338 observations and p = 7 variables. After using the command na.omit, the resulting data frame contains 1278 observations and p = 7 variables.

(c) We decide to focus on the outcome variable charges (individual medical costs billed by health insurance) and the predictors bmi (body mass index) and smoker (whether the subjects is a smoker or not).

Make a scatter plot with bmi on the x-axis, charges on the y-axis, and with the color of each dot representing whether the subject is a smoker or not.

# Medical costs billed by health insurance vs. BMI



- (d) Fit a least-squares linear model, with intercept, in order to predict:
  - charges using bmi as the only predictor;
  - charges using bmi and smoker as predictors;
- charges using bmi and smoker as in the previous model; but allowing for an interaction term between the variables bmi and smoker

For each of the three models:

- Present your results in the form of a table where you report the estimated regression coefficients and their interpretations (be careful with the dummy variables);
- Report the 95% confidence interval for the coefficient of the variable bmi, and provide a sentence explaining the meaning of this confidence interval;
- Draw the regression line(s) of the model on the scatter plot produced in point (c);
- Report the (training set) mean squared error of the model;
- Predict the medical costs billed by the health insurance company to a smoker with a bmi that is 29 and 31.5;
- Compute the predicted difference in charges between a smoker with bmi 31.5 and one with bmi 29. Do the same for non-smokers. Comment on the results

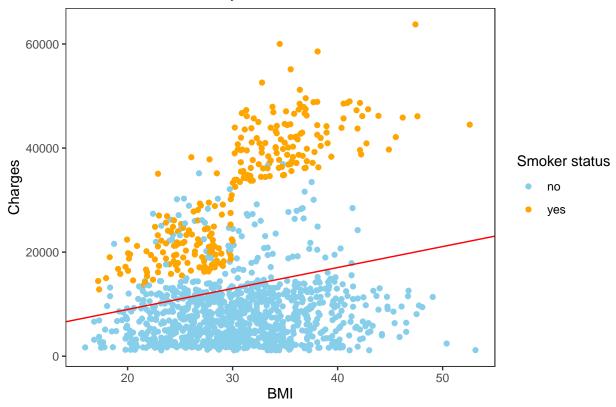
```
# functions for answering modeling and prediction questions
# returns a table containing model coefficient estimates, standard errors, t-values,
# p-values, and upper and lower limits of 95% CIs
results table <- function(linear model) {</pre>
  coeffs <- cbind(as.data.frame(summary(linear model)$coefficients),</pre>
                   confint(linear model))
  colnames(coeffs) <- c("Estimate", "Std. Error", "t-value", "p-value",</pre>
                         "95% CI LL", "95% CI UL")
  coeffs <- coeffs %>%
    mutate(Estimate = round(Estimate, 2),
           `Std. Error` = round(`Std. Error`, 2),
           `t-value` = round(`t-value`, 2),
            `p-value` = format(`p-value`, scientific = TRUE, digits = 3),
           `95% CI LL` = round(`95% CI LL`, 2),
           `95% CI UL` = round(`95% CI UL`, 2))
  coeffs
}
# calculates the mean squared error of the training model
calc_mse <- function(linear_model) {</pre>
  x <- mean(linear model$residuals^2)</pre>
 print(paste("The training set mean squared error of the model is:", round(x, 0)))
# calculates the predicted charges for smokers and non-smokers at different BMIs
pred_costs <- function(linear_model, smoker, bmi) {</pre>
  round(predict(linear_model, data.frame(smoker, bmi)), 2)
}
# calculates the difference in charges at different BMIs
diff_costs <- function(linear_model, smoker, bmi) {</pre>
  round(max(pred_costs(linear_model, smoker, bmi)) -
          min(pred costs(linear model, smoker, bmi)), 2)
```

General linear regression models can be defined as:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times x_1 + \dots + \beta_p \times x_p$$

### $Model 1: charges \sim bmi$

# Medical costs billed by health insurance vs. BMI



	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	95% CI LL	95% CI UL
(Intercept)	938.44	1682.00	0.56	5.77e-01	-2361.35	4238.23
bmi	402.65	53.85	7.48	1.40e-13	297.01	508.28

The general model for linear regression models with only one predictor is defined as:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times x_1$$

Thus, the model for both smokers and non-smokers is given as:

$$charges = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times bmi,$$

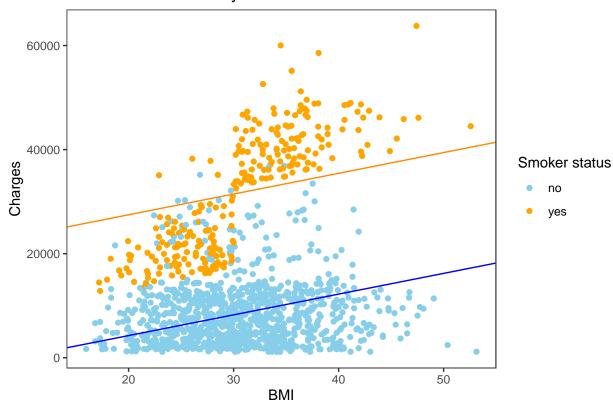
where  $\beta_0$  (the intercept) is equal to 938.44 and  $\beta_1$  (the slope) is equal to 402.65. The coefficient of variable bmi was estimated to be 402.65 with a 95% confidence interval of (297.01, 508.28). In other words, there is a 95% chance that the interval (297.01, 508.28) contains the true value of the coefficient of variable bmi. Additionally, for every unit increase in bmi, there will be an average increase in medical charges of between \$297.01 and \$508.28.

```
calc mse(charges lm1)
## [1] "The training set mean squared error of the model is: 138358366"
# predict the medical costs billed by the health insurance company to a smoker
# with a `bmi` that is 29 and 31.5 and compute the difference in charges.
pred_costs(charges_lm1, smoker = "yes", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
          1
## 12615.22 13621.84
diff_costs(charges_lm1, smoker = "yes", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
## [1] 1006.62
# Do the same for non-smokers. Comment on the results
pred_costs(charges_lm1, smoker = "no", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
##
         1
## 12615.22 13621.84
diff_costs(charges_lm1, smoker = "no", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
## [1] 1006.62
```

The predicted difference in charges between individuals with BMI 31.5 (\$13,621.84 for both smokers and non-smokers) and BMI 29 (\$12615.22 for both smokers and non-smokers) is the same between smokers and non-smokers, which is a difference of \$1006.62. This makes sense because the model is not dependent on smoking status and only uses BMI as the predictor (i.e. the model treats smokers and non-smokers as the same and only looks at BMI).

### Model 2: Using bmi and smoker as predictors

## Medical costs billed by health insurance vs. BMI



	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	95% CI LL	95% CI UL
(Intercept)	-3711.68	1018.78	-3.64	2.80e-04	-5710.35	-1713.02
bmi	398.47	32.46	12.27	8.12e-33	334.78	462.15
smokeryes	23218.77	491.04	47.28	1.02e-282	22255.43	24182.11

The general model for linear regression models with two predictors is defined as:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times x_1 + \beta_2 \times x_2$$

or in this case:

$$charges = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times bmi + \beta_2 \times smoker$$

Thus the models are as follows:

- If the individual is a smoker:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_2 + \beta_1 \times bmi$
- If the individual is a non-smoker:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times bmi$

The smoker model is has a slope of  $\beta_1$  and intercept of  $\beta_0 + \beta_2$ , whereas the non-smoker model has a slope of  $\beta_1$  and intercept of  $\beta_0$ , where  $\beta_0 = -3711.68$ ,  $\beta_1 = 398.47$ , and  $\beta_2 = 2.32 \times 10^4$ . The coefficient of variable bmi was estimated to be 398.47 with a 95% confidence interval of (334.78, 462.15). For every unit increase in bmi, there will be an average increase in medical charges of between \$334.78 and \$462.15.

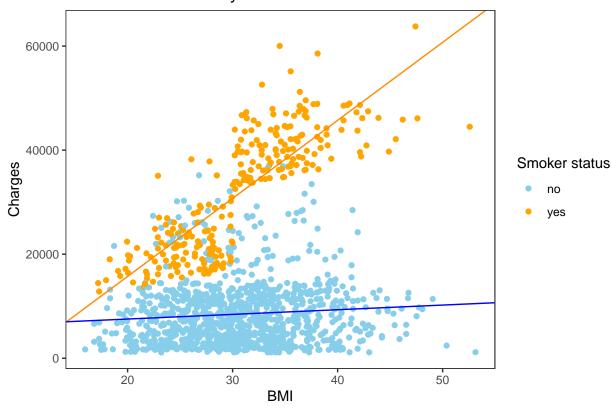
```
calc_mse(charges_lm2)
## [1] "The training set mean squared error of the model is: 50246296"
# predict the medical costs billed by the health insurance company to a smoker
# with a `bmi` that is 29 and 31.5 and compute the difference in charges.
pred costs(charges lm2, smoker = "yes", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
##
          1
## 31062.62 32058.78
diff_costs(charges_lm2, smoker = "yes", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
## [1] 996.16
# Do the same for non-smokers. Comment on the results
pred_costs(charges_lm2, smoker = "no", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
        1
## 7843.84 8840.01
diff_costs(charges_lm2, smoker = "no", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
## [1] 996.17
```

The predicted difference in charges between individuals with BMI 31.5 and BMI 29 is the same between smokers and non-smokers, which is \$996.17. This makes sense because the smoker and non-smoker models have the same slope of  $\beta_1 = 398.47$ , so the change in charges will be the same with each unit increase in BMI. However, the individual costs between smokers and non-smokers at the different BMIs are different. Smokers are charged \$31,062.62 and \$32,058.78 at BMI 29 and 31.5, respectively, while non-smokers will be billed \$7,843.84 and \$8,840.01 at BMI 29 and 31.5, respectively. This is a difference of about \$23,000, the approximate value of  $\beta_2$  (which is the difference between the two models).

The difference in charges between smokers and non-smokers at BMI 29 is \$23,218.78 while the difference in charges between smokers and non-smokers at BMI 31.5 is \$23,218.77.

Model 3: Using bmi and smoker as predictors with an interaction term between bmi and smoker

### Medical costs billed by health insurance vs. BMI



	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	95% CI LL	95% CI UL
(Intercept)	5750.97	991.45	5.80	8.33e-09	3805.92	7696.03
bmi	89.47	31.76	2.82	4.92e-03	27.17	151.78
smokeryes	-20008.39	2122.67	-9.43	1.94e-20	-24172.70	-15844.07
bmi:smokeryes	1410.05	67.84	20.78	7.42e-83	1276.96	1543.15

The general model with two predictors and an interaction term between the two predictors is defined as:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times x_1 + \beta_2 \times x_2 + \beta_3 \times x_1 x_2$$

or in this case:

$$charges = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times bmi + \beta_2 \times smoker + \beta_3 \times bmi \times smoker$$

Thus the models are as follows:

- If the individual is a smoker:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_2 + bmi \times (\beta_1 + \beta_3)$
- If the individual is a non-smoker:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times bmi$

The smoker model has a slope of  $\beta_1 + \beta_3$  and intercept of  $\beta_0 + \beta_2$  while the non-smoker model has a slope of  $\beta_1$  and intercept of  $\beta_0$ , where  $\beta_0 = 5750.97$ ,  $\beta_1 = 89.47$ ,  $\beta_2 = -2 \times 10^4$ , and  $\beta_3 = 1410.05$ . The coefficient of variable bmi was estimated to be 89.47 with a 95% confidence interval of (27.17, 151.78). For every unit increase in bmi, there will be an average increase in medical charges of between \$27.17 and \$151.78.

```
calc_mse(charges_lm3)
## [1] "The training set mean squared error of the model is: 37522941"
# predict the medical costs billed by the health insurance company to a smoker
# with a `bmi` that is 29 and 31.5 and compute the difference in charges.
pred_costs(charges_lm3, smoker = "yes", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
##
## 29228.89 32977.71
diff_costs(charges_lm3, smoker = "yes", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
## [1] 3748.82
# Do the same for non-smokers. Comment on the results
pred_costs(charges_lm3, smoker = "no", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
         1
                 2
## 8345.72 8569.40
diff_costs(charges_lm3, smoker = "no", bmi = c(29, 31.5))
## [1] 223.68
```

The predicted difference in charges between individuals with BMI 31.5 and BMI 29 is different between smokers and non-smokers. This makes sense because the models do not have the same slope so charges will not increase at the same rate with each unit increase in BMI. For smokers, the difference in charges at BMI 31.5 (\$32,977.71) and BMI 29 (\$29,228.89) is \$3,748.82. For non-smokers, the difference in charges at BMI 31.5 (\$8,569.40) and BMI 29 (\$8,345.72) is \$223.68. The change in charges has a smaller increase for every unit increase in BMI for non-smokers compared to smokers.

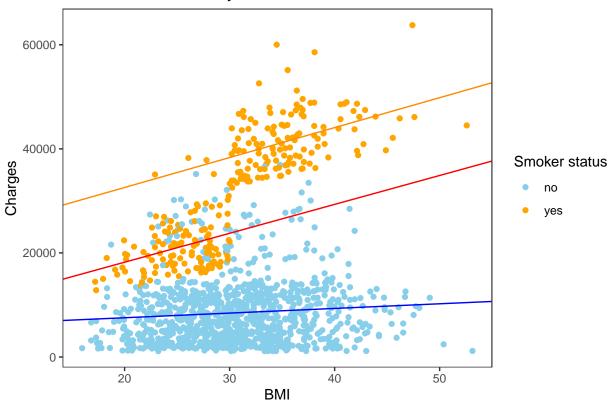
The difference in charges between smokers and non-smokers at BMI 29 is \$20,883.17 while the difference in charges between smokers and non-smokers at BMI 31.5 is \$24,408.31.

#### Model 4: Using bmi, smoker, and smoker\_bmi30p as predictors with interaction terms

- (e) Now define and add to the data set a new Boolean variable smoker\_bmi30p that is True only if the subject is a smoker and has a bmi greater than 30. Use this newly defined variable, together with bmi and smoker, to fit the linear model represented in Figure 1 by carefully defining the interaction terms (allow each of the three straight lines to have their own intercept and slope, but use the command lm only once).
- Present your results in the form of one table where you report the estimated coefficients of the model.
- For each predictor, comment on whether you can reject the null hypothesis that there is no (linear) association between that predictor and charges, conditional on the other predictors in the model.
- Explain the interpretation of the non-significant variables in the model (p > 0.05) and explain how Figure 1 would change if we were to discard those variables, i.e., perform variable selection.
- According to this newly defined model, compute the predicted difference in charges between a smoker with bmi 31.5 and one with bmi 29. Do the same for non-smokers. Compare the analogous results in point (d) and comment on the results.

```
# create new variable `smoker_bmi30p` that is TRUE when subject is both a smoker
# and has a BMI greater than 30, and FALSE when subject is either not a smoker
# or is a smoker with a BMI less than 30
df <- df %>%
  mutate(smoker_bmi30p = ifelse(smoker == "yes" & bmi > 30, TRUE, FALSE))
# linear model using `bmi`, `smoker`, and `smoker_bmi30p` as predictors but also
# allowing for interaction terms
charges_lm4 <- lm(charges ~ bmi + smoker + smoker_bmi30p + bmi*smoker +
                    bmi*smoker bmi30p, data = df)
kable(results_table(charges_lm4))
q1c_plot +
  # non-smoker model
  geom_abline(slope = coef(charges_lm4)[2],
              intercept = coef(charges_lm4)[1],
              col = "blue") +
  # smoker & bmi <= 30 model
  geom_abline(slope = sum(coef(charges_lm4)[c(2, 5)]),
              intercept = sum(coef(charges_lm4)[c(1, 3)]),
              col = "red") +
  # smoker & bmi > 30 model
  geom_abline(slope = sum(coef(charges_lm4)[c(2, 5, 6)]),
              intercept = sum(coef(charges lm4)[c(1, 3, 4)]),
              col = "dark orange")
```

### Medical costs billed by health insurance vs. BMI



	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value	95% CI LL	95% CI UL
(Intercept)	5750.97	941.29	6.11	1.32e-09	3904.33	7597.62
bmi	89.47	30.15	2.97	3.06e-03	30.32	148.63
smokeryes	1353.55	4350.79	0.31	7.56e-01	-7181.97	9889.07
$smoker\_bmi30pTRUE$	13966.45	6022.46	2.32	2.05e-02	2151.40	25781.51
bmi:smokeryes	466.10	168.81	2.76	5.84 e-03	134.92	797.29
bmi:smoker_bmi $30$ pTRUE	19.70	204.39	0.10	9.23 e-01	-381.28	420.68

The three models are as follows:

- Non-smokers:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times bmi$
- Smoker & BMI  $\leq$  30:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_2 + (\beta_1 + \beta_4) \times bmi$ Smoker & BMI > 30:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_2 + \beta_3 + (\beta_1 + \beta_4 + \beta_5) \times bmi$

Null hypothesis: there is no association between the predictor and charges Alternative hypothesis: there is an association between the predictor and charges

- bmi: We reject the null hypothesis because p-value = 0.00306 < 0.05
- smoker: We fail to reject the null hypothesis because p-value = 0.75577 > 0.05
- smoker\_bmi30p: We reject null hypothesis because p-value = 0.02055 < 0.05
- bmi and smoker interaction: We reject the null hypothesis because p-value = 0.00584 < 0.05
- bmi and smoker\_bmi30p interaction: We fail to reject the null hypothesis because p-value = 0.92324> 0.05

If we were to discard the non-significant variables smoker and the interaction between bmi and smoker\_bmi30p, then the models will then become:

- Non-smokers:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times bmi$  (unchanged)
- Smoker & BMI  $\leq 30$ :  $charges = \beta_0 + (\beta_1 + \beta_3) \times bmi$
- Smoker & BMI > 30:  $charges = \beta_0 + \beta_2 + (\beta_1 + \beta_3) \times bmi$

The model for smokers with BMI  $\leq 30$  has the same intercept as the non-smoker model ( $\beta_0$ ).

```
calc mse(charges lm4)
## [1] "The training set mean squared error of the model is: 33769007"
# predict the medical costs billed by the health insurance company to a smoker
# with a `bmi` that is 29 and 31.5 and compute the difference in charges.
smoker_bmi29 <- round(predict(charges_lm4, data.frame(smoker = "yes",</pre>
                                                        smoker_bmi30p = FALSE,
                                                        bmi = 29)), 2)
smoker_bmi31.5 <- round(predict(charges_lm4, data.frame(smoker = "yes",</pre>
                                                          smoker_bmi30p = TRUE,
                                                          bmi = 31.5)), 2)
# Do the same for non-smokers. Comment on the results
nonsmoker_bmi29 <- round(predict(charges_lm4, data.frame(smoker = "no",</pre>
                                                        smoker bmi30p = FALSE,
                                                        bmi = 29)), 2)
nonsmoker_bmi31.5 <- round(predict(charges_lm4, data.frame(smoker = "no",</pre>
                                                        smoker_bmi30p = FALSE,
                                                        bmi = 31.5)), 2)
```

The difference in charges between smokers and non-smokers at BMI 29 is \$14,870.47 while the difference in charges between smokers and non-smokers at BMI 31.5 is \$30,622.63. The difference in charges between smokers and nonsmokers at BMI greater than 30 is more than twice the difference in charges between smokers and nonsmokers at BMI less than 30.

- Q2. This problem has to do with the notation of bias-variance trade-off. For (a) and (b), it's okay to submit hand-sketched plots: this is a conceptual exercise.
  - (a) Make a plot, like the one we saw in class, with "flexibility" on the x-axis. Sketch the following curves: squared bias, variance, irreducible error, expected prediction error. Be sure to label each curve. Indicate which level of flexibility is *best*.
  - (b) Make a plot with "flexibility" on the x-axis. Sketch curves corresponding to the training error and the test error. Be sure to label each curve. Indicate which level of flexibility is "best".

- Q3. This problem has to do with numerical explorations of the bias-variance trade-off phenomenon. You will generate simulated data, and will use these data to perform **linear regression**. Set the seed with set.seed(0) before you begin.
  - (a) Use the rnorm() function to generate a predictor vector  $\mathbf{X}$  of length n=30, and use runif() to generate a noise vector  $\epsilon$  of length n=30.
  - (b) Generate a response vector Y of length n=30 according to the model:  $Y=f^{true}(X)+\epsilon$ , with  $f^{true}(X)=3+2X+3*X^3$

```
set.seed(0)

X <- rnorm(30)
e <- runif(30)
f_true <- 3 + 2*X + 3*X^3
Y <- f_true + e

train_set <- data.frame(Y, X)</pre>
```

- (c) Fit the model  $Y = f(X) + \epsilon$  to the data (using the lm() function), for the following choices of f:
- 1.  $f(X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times X$ 2.  $f(X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times X + \beta_2 \times X^2$ 3.  $f(X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times X + \beta_2 \times X^2 + \beta_3 \times X^3 + \beta_4 \times X^4$ 4.  $f(X) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times X + \beta_3 \times X^3$
- (d) For each of the models above, compute the training mean squared error (MSE). Comment on the results.

Training.MSE	Model
26.580	1
13.205	2
0.055	3
0.057	4

As the models increases in complexity, the training MSE decreases until it reaches close to 0.

(e) Now generate 10K (new) **test** observations following steps 3(a) and 3(b). Compute the test MSE of the models fitted in 3(c) on these **test** observations. Report and comment on the results.

```
set.seed(0)
X_test <- rnorm(10000)</pre>
e_test <- runif(10000)</pre>
Y_{\text{test}} \leftarrow 3 + 2*X_{\text{test}} + 3*X_{\text{test}}^3 + e_{\text{test}}
test_set <- data.frame(Y_test, X_test)</pre>
colnames(test_set) <- c("Y", "X")</pre>
Q3c1_pred <- predict(Q3c1, test_set)
Q3c1_mse <- mean((Y_test - Q3c1_pred)^2)
Q3c2_pred <- predict(Q3c2, test_set)
Q3c2_mse <- mean((Y_test - Q3c2_pred)^2)
Q3c3_pred <- predict(Q3c3, test_set)
Q3c3_mse <- mean((Y_test - Q3c3_pred)^2)
Q3c4_pred <- predict(Q3c4, test_set)
Q3c4_mse <- mean((Y_test - Q3c4_pred)^2)
kable(data.frame(`Model` = c(1, 2, 3, 4),
                   `Training MSE` = round(c(mean(Q3c1$residuals^2),
                                              mean(Q3c2$residuals^2),
                                              mean(Q3c3$residuals^2),
                                              mean(Q3c4$residuals^2)), 3),
                   `Test MSE` = round(c(Q3c1_mse, Q3c2_mse,
                                          Q3c3_mse, Q3c4_mse), 3)))
```

Test.M	Training.MSE	Model
49.0	26.580	1
78.7	13.205	2
0.1	0.055	3
0.0	0.057	4

(f) Compute the training and test MSEs of the true regression function  $f^{true}$ . Compare to those of the models fitted in 3(c). Comment on the results.

```
set.seed(0)
```