# CEE 616: Probabilistic Machine Learning M2 Linear Methods: L2C Linear Regression

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**UMassAmherst** 

College of Engineering

Thu, Oct 2, 2025

#### Outline

- Introduction
- OLS
- 3 Considerations
- 4 Irregularities
- **6** WLS
- **6** Outlook

L2C: Linear Regression

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Model of the form:

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Model of the form:

$$p(y|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(y|\mathbf{w}^{\top}\mathbf{x}, \sigma^2)$$



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L2C: Linear Regression

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- D: number of features

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For any fixed value of the independent variable x, the dependent variable y is related to x via the **model equation**:

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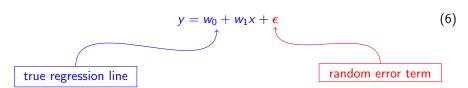
$$y = w_0 + w_1 x + \epsilon \tag{6}$$

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# Alternative view of simple linear regression model

For any fixed value of the independent variable x, the dependent variable y is related to x via the **model equation**:



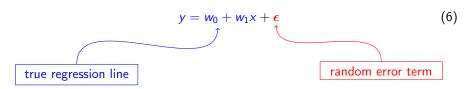
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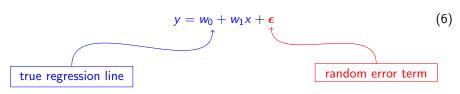
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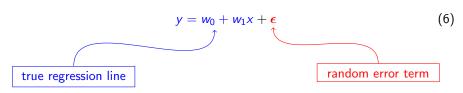
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 $w_0$  (intercept) and  $w_1$  (slope) are the regression coefficients

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## Alternate view 1D LR (cont.)

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Further considerations:



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## Alternate view 1D LR (cont.)

#### Further considerations:

 The linear regression model: y is treated as a random variable whose mean depends on x

$$y = w_0 + w_1 x + \epsilon$$
 [Response] = [mean (depending on  $x$ )] + [error]

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• 
$$\mathbb{E}(y|x) = w_0 + w_1 x$$

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- Given data  $x_n$ , n = 1, ..., N, x is **treated as fixed**.
- $\epsilon$  error term (random variable), accounts for:
  - measurement error of y
  - the effects of other variables not in the model

#### Model in matrix notation

• With n independent observations on Y and the associated values of  $x_n$ , the complete model:

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In matrix notation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \epsilon_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} + \mathbf{\epsilon}$$

 We typically assume an intercept (represented by column of 1's in X), except where explicitly noted otherwise.

### Residual sum of squares (RSS)

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Residual

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# Residual sum of squares (RSS)

#### Residual

Given n independent observations  $(x_1, y_1)...(x_n, y_n)$ , with  $\hat{y}_n$  as the predicted value for each  $y_n$ ,

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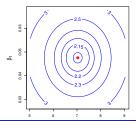
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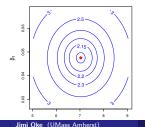
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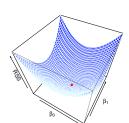
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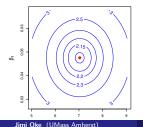
#### Residual

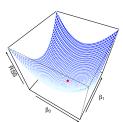
Given n independent observations  $(x_1, y_1)...(x_n, y_n)$ , with  $\hat{y}_n$  as the predicted value for each  $y_n$ , the residual  $e_n$  is defined as:

$$e_n = y_n - \hat{y}_n \tag{8}$$

The RSS is an overall measure of the fitness of a regression model:

$$RSS = e_1^2 + e_2^2 + \dots + e_n^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N} e_n^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_n - \hat{y}_n)^2$$
 (9)





RSS plotted against  $w_0$  and  $w_1$  for a given dataset using a contour plot (Left) and 3-D plot (right). The least squares estimate  $(\hat{w}_0, \hat{w}_1)$  is indicated by the red dots.

#### Coefficient of determination

The **total sum of squares** is a measure of the total variance in the data.



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$$TSS = \sum_{n=1}^{N} (y_n - \overline{y}_n)^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} y_n^2 - \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N} y_n \right)^2$$
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The coefficient of determination  $R^2$  is a measure of the **proportion of variance** explained by the regression model:

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# Ordinary least squares (OLS) model

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{w} + \epsilon$$

$$(N \times 1) \cdot (N \times (D+1) \cdot ((D+1) \times 1) \cdot (N \times 1)$$
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# Obtaining predictions

Once we have the OLS estimate,  $\hat{w}_{OLS}$ , we can predict a set of responses  $\hat{y}$  from observations X using:

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### OLS assumptions

The ordinary least squares estimate for regression coefficients gives the Best Linear Unbiased Estimate (BLUE): Gauss-Markov theorem.

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### **OLS** assumptions

The ordinary least squares estimate for regression coefficients gives the Best Linear Unbiased Estimate (BLUE): Gauss-Markov theorem.

Assumes the following conditions are met:

Linearity: the parameters we are estimating using the OLS method must be themselves linear.

Randomness: our data must have been randomly sampled from the population.

NoN-Collinearity: the regressors being calculated are not perfectly correlated with each other.

Exogeneity: the regressors are not correlated with the error term.

Homoscedasticity: no matter what the values of our regressors might be, the error of the variance is constant.

### Qualitative predictors

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- These predictors are referred to as factors

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For instance, if X is a factor denoting married status, then:

$$x_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{th person is unmarried} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{th person is married} \end{cases}$$

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A factor with two possible values is represented by an **indicator** (or **dummy**) variable.

For instance, if X is a factor denoting married status, then:

$$x_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{th person is unmarried} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{th person is married} \end{cases}$$

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An alternative to the  $\{0/1\}$  scheme is  $\{-1/1\}$ .

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When more than two levels exist, additional dummy variables may be used.

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## Representing qualitative predictors: multi-level case

When more than two levels exist, additional dummy variables may be used.

Generally, k-1 dummy variables are used to represent k levels.

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$$x_{nB} = \begin{cases} 0 & \notin B \\ 1 & \in B \end{cases}$$
$$x_{nC} = \begin{cases} 0 & \notin C \\ 1 & \in C \end{cases}$$

$$y_n = w_0 + w_B x_{nB} + w_C x_{nC} = \begin{cases} w_0 + \epsilon_n & \notin B \cup C \\ w_0 + w_B + \epsilon_n & \in B \\ w_0 + w_C + \epsilon_n & \in C \end{cases}$$

The level with no dummy variable is termed the **baseline**. If  $A = \overline{B \cup C}$ , then A is the baseline.

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### Interaction terms

We introduce interaction terms into a linear model if *synergistic* effects are observed between two variables, i.e. the effect of one variable depends on the value of the other.

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$$Y = w_0 + w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + w_3 x_1 x_2 + \epsilon \tag{26}$$

In models with interaction terms, the **main effects** must be included by keeping the single variables.

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# Polynomial regression

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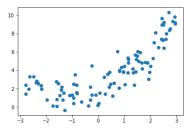
### Polynomial regression

In some cases, a polynomial function provides a good approximation to the true regression function for a given dataset.



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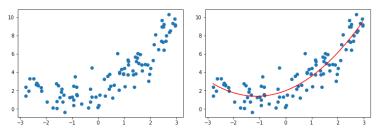


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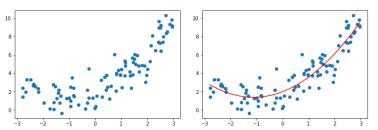


d-th degree polynomial regression model equation

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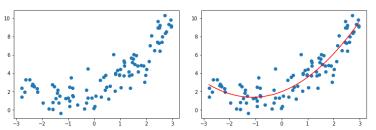
#### d-th degree polynomial regression model equation

$$y = w_0 + w_1 x + w_2 x^2 + \dots + w_d x^d + \epsilon$$
 (27)

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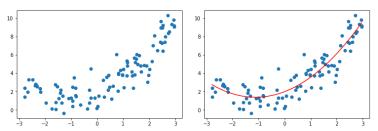
where  $\epsilon$  is normally distributed:

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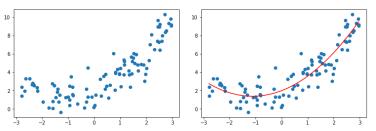
where  $\epsilon$  is normally distributed:  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ 

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This means that the expected value of y given x can be written as:

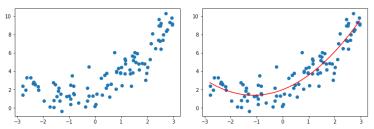
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This means that the expected value of y given x can be written as:

$$\mathbb{E}(y|x) = w_0 + w_1 x + w_2 x^2 + \dots + w_d x^d$$
 (28)

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# Polynomial regression and multiple regression

Polynomial regression can be considered a special case of multiple linear regression.

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Polynomial regression can be considered a special case of multiple linear regression.

For example, consider the model:

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If we set  $x \to z_1$  and  $x^2 \to z_2$ , then the model becomes:

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which can be taken as a multiple linear regression model with two predictor variables.

# Improving model quality via higher-order terms

The presence of nonlinearity in the "residuals vs. fitted" plot usually indicates the form of the required polynomial.

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The presence of nonlinearity in the "residuals vs. fitted" plot usually indicates the form of the required polynomial.

### Example 2.1: $\overline{\text{mpg}} \sim \overline{\text{weight}}$

In the Auto dataset, we regress mpg on weight.

## Improving model quality via higher-order terms

The presence of nonlinearity in the "residuals vs. fitted" plot usually indicates the form of the required polynomial.

### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight

In the Auto dataset, we regress mpg on weight.

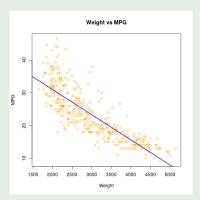


Figure: Simple linear model:  $y = w_0 + w_1 x$ .  $R^2 = 0.69$ . Is this a good fit?

### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight (cont.)

We observe a pattern in the residual plot against the fitted values.

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# Improving model quality via higher-order terms (cont.)

### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight (cont.)

We observe a pattern in the residual plot against the fitted values.

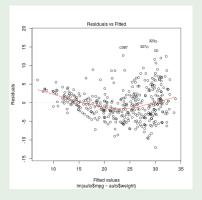


Figure: "Residuals vs. fitted values" plot for the simple linear model. What do you observe?

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# Improving model quality via higher-order terms (cont.)

### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight (cont.)

We observe a pattern in the residual plot against the fitted values.

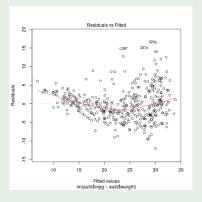


Figure: "Residuals vs. fitted values" plot for the simple linear model. What do you observe?

This further confirms that a linear fit is not the best approximation for this data.

Example  $\overline{2.1}$ : mpg  $\sim$  weight (cont.)

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### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight (cont.)

Now, we try the model:

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### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight (cont.)

Now, we try the model:  $Y = w_0 + w_1 X + w_2 X^2$ .

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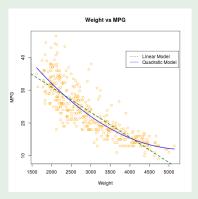


Figure: Linear and quadratic models for regressing mpg on weight.

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## Improving model quality via higher-order terms (cont.)

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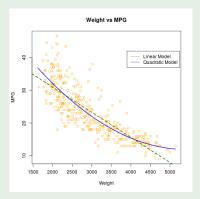


Figure: Linear and quadratic models for regressing mpg on weight.

The adjusted  $R^2$  is now 0.71.

Example 2.1: mpg  $\sim$  weight (cont.)

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### Improving model quality via higher-order terms (cont.)

### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight (cont.)

We compare the residual plots.

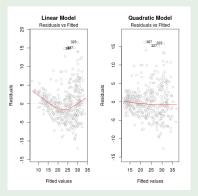


Figure: Residual plots for the linear and quadratic models for regressing mpg on weight.

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# Improving model quality via higher-order terms (cont.)

### Example 2.1: mpg $\sim$ weight (cont.)

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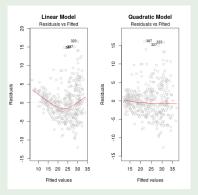


Figure: Residual plots for the linear and quadratic models for regressing mpg on weight. While we have explained some of the variance with the second-order term, the statistics reveal that other variables may also be important predictors.

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In some cases, assumptions for the ordinary least squares may not hold due a combination of the following.



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#### Data issues encountered in linear regression

Nonlinearity

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In some cases, assumptions for the ordinary least squares may not hold due a combination of the following.

#### Data issues encountered in linear regression

- Nonlinearity
- Correlation of error terms

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# When OLS assumptions fail

In some cases, assumptions for the ordinary least squares may not hold due a combination of the following.

#### Data issues encountered in linear regression

- Nonlinearity
- Orrelation of error terms
- 3 Non-constant variance of error (heteroscedasticity)

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#### Data issues encountered in linear regression

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- Nonlinearity
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- Outliers
- 6 High-leverage points
- 6 Collinearity

We discuss a few approaches to handle these.

# Nonlinearity

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### Nonlinearity

There are situations in which we can tell from investigations that the predictors do not exhibit a linear relationship with the response variable.

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To handle these, we consider **linearly transforming** the data (either the inputs or outputs or both.)

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#### Useful intrinsically linear functions

$$\mathbf{1} \ y = \alpha e^{\mathbf{w} \times} \quad \xrightarrow{\mathbf{y'} = \ln(\mathbf{y})}$$

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1 
$$y = \alpha e^{wx}$$
  $\xrightarrow{y' = \ln(y)}$   $y' = \ln(\alpha) + wx$   
2  $y = \alpha x^w$   $\xrightarrow{y' = \ln(y), x' = \ln(x)}$ 

$$y = \alpha x^{\mathbf{w}} \qquad \frac{y' = \ln(y), x' = \ln(x)}{y'}$$

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#### Useful intrinsically linear functions

$$3 \ y = \alpha + \mathbf{w} \cdot \log(x) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x'} = \log(x)}$$

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### Useful intrinsically linear functions

$$\mathbf{4} \ \mathbf{y} = \alpha + \mathbf{w} \cdot \frac{1}{\mathbf{x}}$$

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### Useful intrinsically linear functions

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There are situations in which we can tell from investigations that the predictors do not exhibit a linear relationship with the response variable.

To handle these, we consider **linearly transforming** the data (either the inputs or outputs or both.)

$$\mathbf{3} \ \ y = \alpha + \mathbf{w} \cdot \log(x) \quad \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}' = \log(x)} \quad \ y = \alpha + \mathbf{w} \mathbf{x}'$$

$$\mathbf{4} \ y = \alpha + \mathbf{w} \cdot \frac{1}{x} \quad \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}' = \frac{1}{x}}$$

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$$\mathbf{0} \ \ y = \alpha + \mathbf{w} \cdot \frac{1}{x} \qquad \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}' = \frac{1}{x}} \qquad y = \alpha + \mathbf{w} x'$$

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### Autocorrelation

Correlation of error terms can lead to underestimation of coefficient standard errors:

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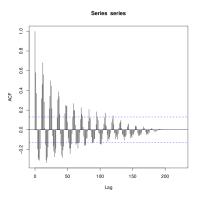


Figure: Example of error correlations for a time series dataset. The blue dashed lines represent the 95% confidence interval. Correlations outside of this band are statistically

### Non-constant variance of error terms

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Recall a fundamental assumption of linear regression is homoscedasticity, i.e.

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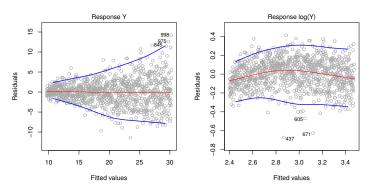


Figure: Heteroscedasticity (left) and homoscedasticity (right); fixed by log-transformation of the response.

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### Outliers

### Outliers

 Outliers occur when some observations produce residuals that are significantly larger than average

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- They can be efficiently identified using **studentized residuals**:

$$t_n = \frac{\hat{e}_n}{RSE\sqrt{1-h_n}} \tag{30}$$

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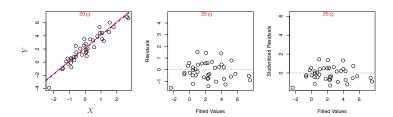


Figure: Outlier in a regression model. The studentized residual confirms the outlier cannot be ignored.

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## High leverage points

#### Leverage

The leverage of an observation is a measure of its influence on the regression model:

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- Leverage is often plotted against the standardized residuals to identify problematic observations
- Another quantity, the Cook's distance, explicitly computes the scaled average of the changes to regression model when the observation of interest is removed
- $\frac{1}{n} \le h_n \le 1$ ;  $\mathbb{E}(h_n) = \frac{p+1}{n}$

## Collinearity

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## Collinearity

Collinearity arises when two or more predictors are correlated.

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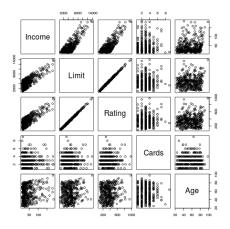


Figure: Correlation plot for a few of the predictors in the Credit dataset. Which of the

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Consequences



#### Consequences

Increases uncertainty of model estimates (standard errors)



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### Identifying collinearity

#### Consequences

- Increases uncertainty of model estimates (standard errors)
- Reduces the power of the hypothesis test (probability of correctly rejecting the null hypothesis)

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To correct for [multi]collinearity, there are two approaches:



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$$Y = w_0 + w_1 X_1 + w_2 X_2 + w_3 X_3 + w_4 X_4$$

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Income: 2.52 Limit: 149 Rating: 149 Age: 1.03

### Correcting for collinearity (cont.)

Example: Regressing Balance on Income, Limit, Rating and Age (Credit dataset); cont.



## Correcting for collinearity (cont.)

Example: Regressing Balance on Income, Limit, Rating and Age (Credit dataset); cont.

We see from the VIF that Limit and Age are highly correlated.

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#### Correcting for collinearity (cont.)

# Example: Regressing Balance on Income, Limit, Rating and Age (Credit dataset); cont.

We see from the VIF that Limit and Age are highly correlated. So we remove Limit  $(X_2)$  and estimate the new model:

$$Y = w_0 + w_1 X_1 + w_3 X_3 + w_4 X_4$$

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#### Correcting for collinearity (cont.)

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The adjusted  $R^2$  is only slightly lower at 0.875, and the VIFs are:

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Age: 1.02

### Correcting for collinearity (cont.)

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Thus, we have corrected for collinearity without decreasing the quality of the fit.

### Weighted least squares (WLS)

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### Weighted least squares (WLS)

When variances are not heteroskedastic (i.e. they are not constant), then we use the WLS model:

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WLS

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- In WLS, we assume  $\epsilon_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2(x_n)^2)$  [non-constant variance; different for each observation]

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# WLS (cont.)

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- When **W** is not known, some common estimators are:  $w_n = \frac{1}{x_n}$  or  $w_n = n$
- Weights can also be iteratively estimated

## Reading assignments

- **PMLI** 11.1-2
- **ESL** 3.2
- **PMLCE** 8.1

Note: Appendices follow in the next 2 dozen slides.



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# Hypothesis testing

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## Hypothesis testing

Hypothesis testing provides a framework for evaluating parameter(s) of a population with respect to a desired or known outcome.

Given that in most cases, we can only estimate these parameters, hypothesis testing allows us to determine if the estimate supports a **research hypothesis**.

The results of this testing is useful for **decision-making**.

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- **6** Decide. If the test statistic is in the critical region, reject  $H_0$ . If not, do not reject  $H_0$  (fail to reject it)

## One-sided tests

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## One-sided tests

Case A: upper tail

## One-sided tests

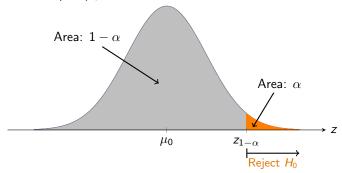
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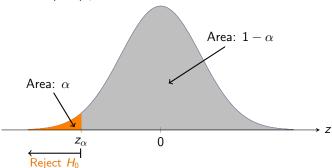
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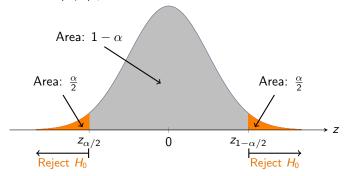
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In the case where the **sample mean** as the test statistic:

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- ② If the variance is unknown, we use the t-distribution (N-1 degrees of freedom) to find the probability of the standardized T-statistic  $\frac{\overline{X}-\mu}{s/\sqrt{n}}$  and compare it to the appropriate critical value to test our hypotheses

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#### Two-tailed tests: unknown variance

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#### Example 2: Golf ball production

A premium golf ball production line must produce all of its balls to 1.615 ounces in order to get the top rating (and therefore the top dollar). Samples are drawn hourly and checked. If the production line gets out of sync with a statistical significance of more than 1%, it must be shut down andrepaired. This hour's sample of 18 balls has a mean of 1.611 oz and a standard deviation of 0.065 oz. Do you shut down the line?

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$$= \frac{1.611 - 1.615}{0.065 / \sqrt{18}} = -0.261$$

 $\alpha = 1\% = 0.01.$ 

Given that this is a two-tailed test, we have two critical regions with areas:  $\frac{\alpha}{2} = \frac{0.01}{2} = 0.005$ .

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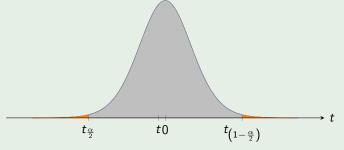
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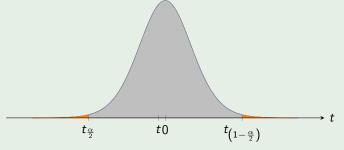


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In real terms, this means that the sample was within the bounds of what would be acceptable if the population mean were 1.615 oz. Therefore, we would not stop the production line.

p-values

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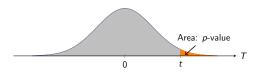
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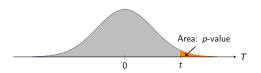
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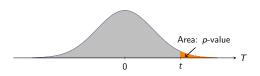


*p*-value: area in upper tail



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$$p = 1 - F_T(t_\nu) \qquad (39)$$

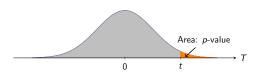


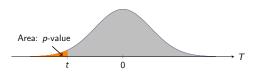


# *p*-value: area in upper tail

$$p = 1 - F_T(t_{\nu})$$
 (39)

*p*-value: area in lower tail





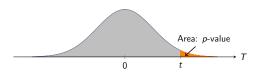
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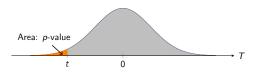
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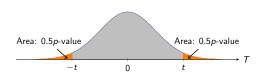
*p*-value: area in lower tail

$$p = F_T(t_\nu) \qquad (40)$$

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# *p*-value: area in upper tail

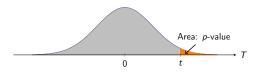
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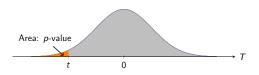
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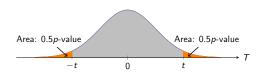
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*p*-value: sum of area in both tails







# *p*-value: area in upper tail

$$p = 1 - F_T(t_{\nu})$$
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*p*-value: area in lower tail

$$p = F_T(t_\nu) \qquad (40)$$

*p*-value: sum of area in both tails

$$p = 2(1 - F_T|t_{\nu}|))$$
 (41)

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#### Estimates and standard error

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$$\hat{\mu} = \overline{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum y_n \tag{42}$$

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Based on the Gauss-Markov theorem, the least squares estimates are also unbiased:

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$$E\left(\hat{w}_{0}\right) = w_{0} \tag{44}$$

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The standard error of mean estimate is given by:

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$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\sum (y - \hat{y})^2}{N - 2} = \frac{RSS}{N - 2} = RSE^2 \tag{47}$$

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# Model accuracy

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We use the standard errors to evaluate the accuracy of the coefficient estimates.

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$$Var(\hat{\mu}) = SE(\hat{\mu})^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$
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$$SE(\hat{w}_0)^2 = \sigma^2 \left[ \frac{1}{n} + \frac{\overline{x}^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_n - \overline{x})^2} \right]$$

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### Decision

Reject null hypothesis if  $t \le t_{\alpha/2,N-2}$  or  $t \ge t_{1-\alpha/2,N-2}$ .

The right-tail F test gives the exact same result as the model utility t test because:

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# Regression and the F test

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Analysis of variance (ANOVA) table for simple linear regression:

Source of	d.o.f.	Sum of	Mean	F
variation		Squares	Square	

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Regression	1	TSS – RSS	TSS – RSS	$\frac{(TSS-RSS)}{RSS/(N-2)}$

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Source of variation	d.o.f.	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F
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Total	N - 1	TSS		

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# $R^2$ and correlation coefficient

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# R<sup>2</sup> and correlation coefficient

Recall the sample correlation coefficient:

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Recall the sample correlation coefficient:

$$r = \frac{\sum (x_n - \overline{x})(y_n - \overline{y})}{\sqrt{\sum (x_n - \overline{x})^2 \sum (y_n - \overline{y})^2}}$$
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Thus,  $R^2$  is also a measure of the linear relationship between X and Y.

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