Lesson 9: Introduction to Multiple Linear Regression (MLR)

Nicky Wakim 2025-02-05

Learning Objectives

- 1. Understand the population multiple linear regression model through equations and visuals.
- 2. Fit MLR model (in R) and understand the difference between fitted regression plane and regression lines.
- 3. Interpret MLR (population) coefficient estimates with additional variable in model
- 4. Based off of previous SLR work, understand how the population MLR is estimated.

Reminder of what we learned in the context of SLR

- SLR helped us establish the foundation for a lot of regression
 - But we do not usually use SLR in analysis

What did we learn in SLR??

Model Fitting

- Ordinary least squares (OLS)
- lm() function in R

Model Use

- Inference for variance of residuals
- Hypothesis testing for coefficients
- Interpreting population coefficient estimates
- ullet Calculated the expected mean for specific X values
- Interpreted coefficient of determination

Model Evaluation/Diagnostics

- LINE Assumptions
- Influential points
- Data Transformations

Let's map that to our regression analysis process

Model Selection

- Building a model
- Selecting variables
- Prediction vs interpretation
- Comparing potential models

Model Fitting

- Find best fit line
- Using OLS in this class
- Parameter estimation
- Categorical covariates
- Interactions

Model Evaluation

- Evaluation of model fit
- Testing model assumptions
- Residuals
- Transformations
- Influential points
- Multicollinearity

Model Use (Inference)

- Inference for coefficients
- Hypothesis testing for coefficients

ullet Inference for expected Y given X



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Simple Linear Regression vs. Multiple Linear Regression

Simple Linear Regression

Multiple Linear Regression

We use **one predictor** to try to explain the variance of the outcome

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \epsilon$$

We use **multiple predictors** to try to explain the variance of the outcome

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots + \beta_k X_k + \epsilon$$

- \bullet Has k+1 total coefficients (including intercept) for k predictors/covariates
- Sometimes referred to as *multivariable* linear regression, but *never multivariate*

• The models have similar "LINE" assumptions and follow the same general diagnostic procedure

Population multiple regression model

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots + \beta_k X_k + \epsilon$$

or on the individual (observation) level:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \ldots + \beta_k x_{ik} + \epsilon_i$$
, for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$

Observable sample data

- Y is our dependent variable
 - Aka outcome or response variable
- X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_k are our k independent variables
 - Aka predictors or covariates

Unobservable population parameters

- $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$ are **unknown** population parameters
 - From our sample, we find the population parameter estimates: $\widehat{\beta}_0, \widehat{\beta}_1, \widehat{\beta}_2, \dots, \widehat{\beta}_k$
- ϵ is the random error
 - And is still normally distributed
 - ullet $\epsilon \sim N(0,\sigma^2)$ where σ^2 is the population parameter of the variance

Going back to our life expectancy example

- Let's say many other variables were measured for each country, including food supply
 - Food Supply (kilocalories per person per day, kc PPD): the average kilocalories consumed by a person each day.
- In SLR, we only had one predictor and one outcome in the model:
 - Outcome: Life expectancy = the average number of years a newborn child would live if current mortality patterns were to stay the same.
 - Predictor: Adult literacy rate(predictor) is the percentage of people ages 15 and above who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life.

• Do we think adult female literacy rate is going to explain a lot of the variance of life expectancy between countries?

Loading the data

```
Columns: 18
                                      <chr> "Afghanistan", "Albania", "Angola",...
$ country
                                      <dbl> 0.4120, 1.7900, 1.2500, 5.3600, 4.6...
$ CO2emissions
$ ElectricityUsePP
                                      <dbl> NA, 2210, 207, NA, 2900, 1810, 258,...
                                      <dbl> 2110, 3130, 2410, 2370, 3160, 2790,...
$ FoodSupplykcPPD
$ IncomePP
                                      <dbl> 1660, 10200, 5910, 18600, 19600, 70...
$ LifeExpectancyYrs
                                      <dbl> 56.7, 76.7, 60.9, 76.9, 76.0, 73.8,...
$ FemaleLiteracyRate
                                      <dbl> 13.0, 95.7, 58.6, 99.4, 97.9, 99.5,...
$ population
                                      <dbl> 2.97e+07, 2.93e+06, 2.42e+07, 9.57e...
$ WaterSourcePrct
                                      <dbl> 52.6, 88.1, 40.3, 97.0, 99.5, 97.8,...
                                      <chr> "afg", "alb", "ago", "atg", "arg", ...
 geo
                                      <chr> "asia", "europe", "africa", "americ...
$ four regions
                                       <chr> "asia_west", "europe_east", "africa...
$ eight regions
```

Can we improve our model by adding food supply as a covariate?

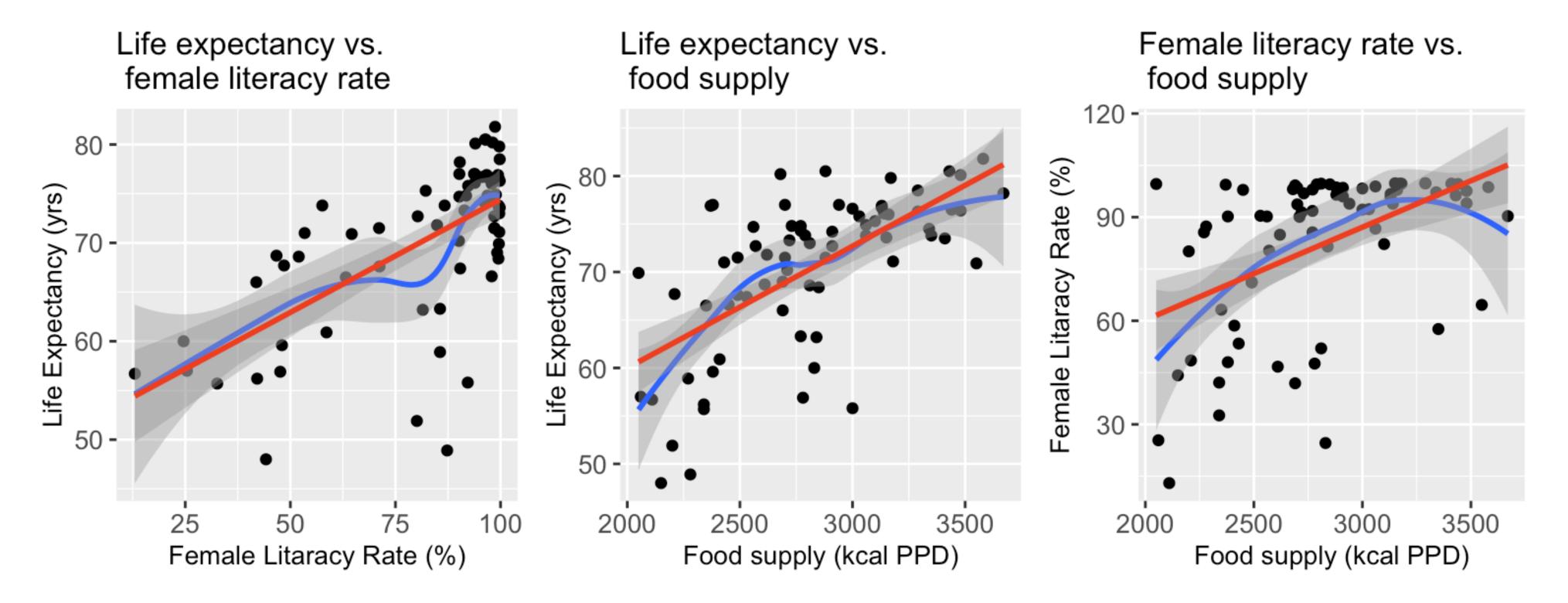
Simple linear regression population model

Life expectancy =
$$\beta_0 + \beta_1$$
Female literacy rate + ϵ
LE = $\beta_0 + \beta_1$ FLR + ϵ

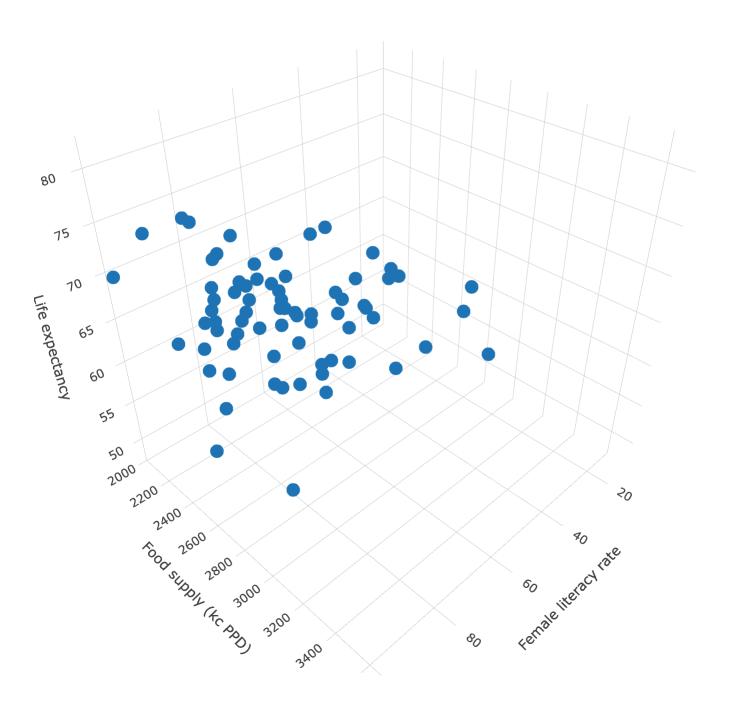
Multiple linear regression population model (with added Food Supply)

Life expectancy =
$$\beta_0 + \beta_1$$
Female literacy rate + β_2 Food supply + ϵ
LE = $\beta_0 + \beta_1$ FLR + β_2 FS + ϵ

Visualize relationship between life expectancy, female literacy rate, and food supply



Visualize relationship in 3-D



Poll Everywhere Question 1

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How do we fit a multiple linear regression model in R?

New population model for example:

$$LE = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FLR + \beta_2 FS + \epsilon$$

```
1 # Fit regression model:
2 mr1 <- gapm_sub %>%
3 lm(formula = LifeExpectancyYrs ~ FemaleLiteracyRate + FoodSupplykcPPD)
4 tidy(mr1, conf.int=T) %>% gt() %>% tab_options(table.font.size = 35) %>% fmt_number
```

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	conf.low	conf.high
(Intercept)	33.595	4.472	7.512	0.000	24.674	42.517
FemaleLiteracyRate	0.157	0.032	4.873	0.000	0.093	0.221
FoodSupplykcPPD	0.008	0.002	4.726	0.000	0.005	0.012

Fitted multiple regression model:

$$\widehat{\mathrm{LE}} = \widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 \mathrm{FLR} + \widehat{eta}_2 \mathrm{FS}$$
 $\widehat{\mathrm{LE}} = 33.595 + 0.157 \ \mathrm{FLR} + 0.008 \ \mathrm{FS}$

Don't forget summary () to extract information!

```
1 summary(mr1)
Call:
lm(formula = LifeExpectancyYrs ~ FemaleLiteracyRate + FoodSupplykcPPD,
   data = .)
Residuals:
   Min
            10 Median
                           3Q
                                  Max
-17.715 -2.328 1.052 3.022 9.083
Coefficients:
                  Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                 33.595479 4.472049 7.512 1.56e-10 ***
(Intercept)
FemaleLiteracyRate 0.156699 0.032158 4.873 6.75e-06 ***
FoodSupplykcPPD 0.008482 0.001795 4.726 1.17e-05 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Residual standard error: 5.391 on 69 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.563, Adjusted R-squared: 0.5503
F-statistic: 44.44 on 2 and 69 DF, p-value: 3.958e-13
```

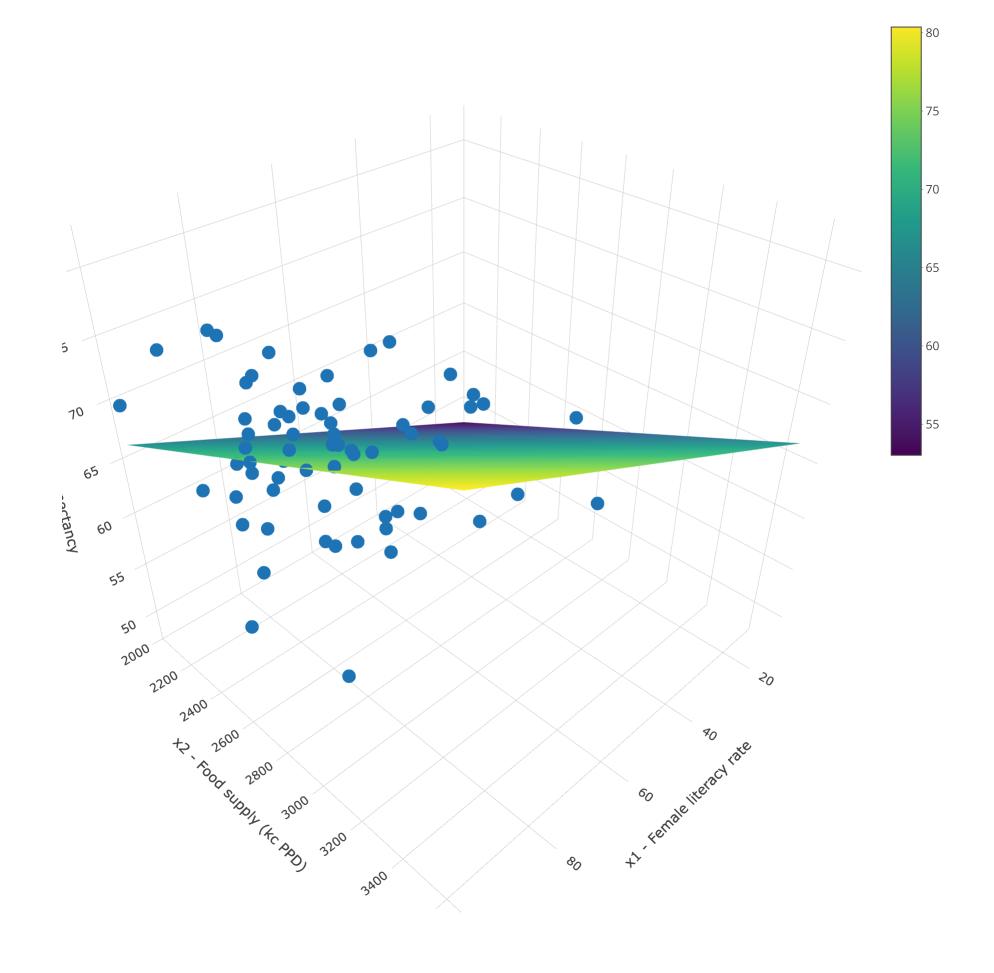
Visualize the fitted multiple regression model

The fitted model equation

$$\widehat{Y} = \widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 \cdot X_1 + \widehat{eta}_2 \cdot X_2$$

has three variables $(Y, X_1, \text{ and } X_2)$ and thus we need 3 dimensions to plot it

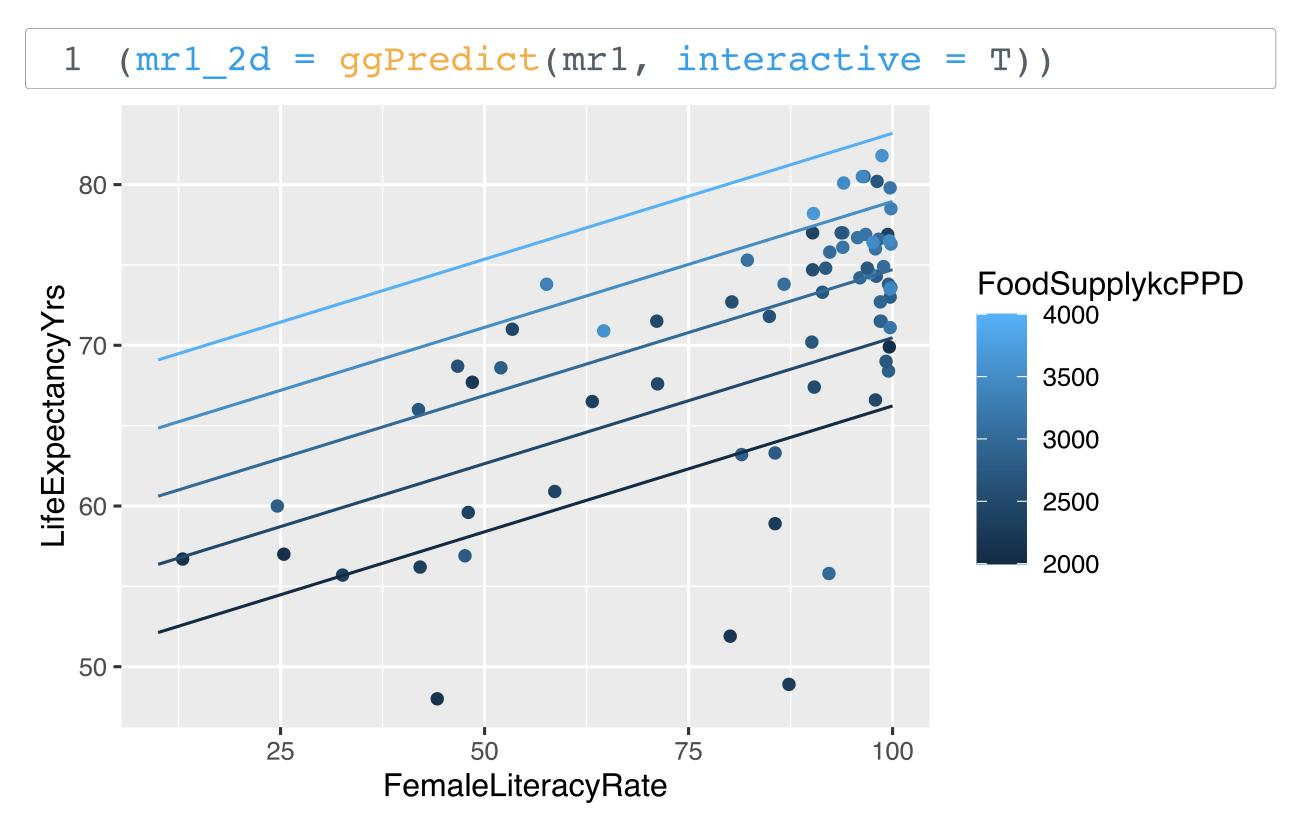
- Instead of a regression line, we get a regression plane
 - See code in qmd- file. I hid it from view in the html file.



Regression lines for varying values of food supply

$$\widehat{\mathrm{LE}} = \widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 \mathrm{FLR} + \widehat{eta}_2 \mathrm{FS}$$
 $\widehat{\mathrm{LE}} = 33.595 + 0.157 \ \mathrm{FLR} + 0.008 \ \mathrm{FS}$

- Note: when the food supply is held constant but the female literacy rate varies...
 - then the outcome values change along a line
- Different values of food supply give different lines
 - The intercepts change, but
 - the slopes stay the same (parallel lines)



How do we calculate the regression line for 3000 kc PPD food supply?

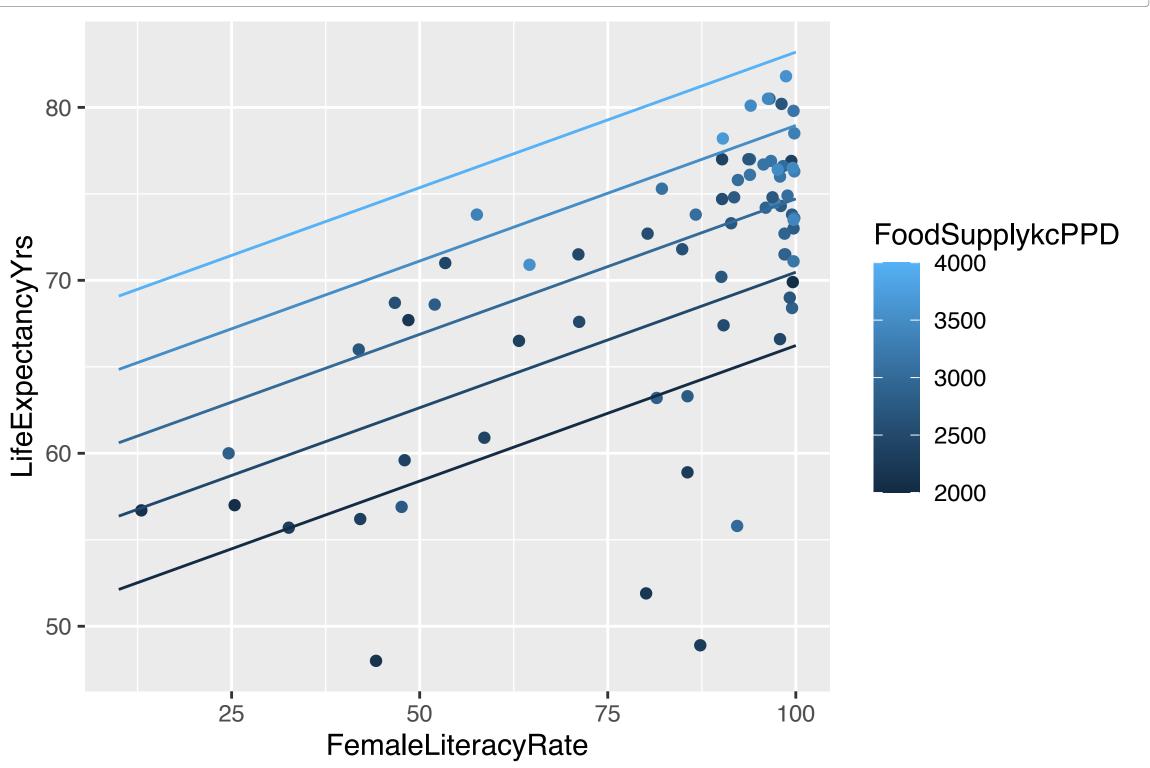
1 (mr1_2d = ggPredict(mr1, interactive = T))

$$\widehat{\text{LE}} = 33.595 + 0.157 \, \text{FLR} + 0.008 \, \text{FS}$$

$$\widehat{\text{LE}} = 33.595 + 0.157 \, \text{FLR} + 0.008 \cdot 3000$$

$$\widehat{ ext{LE}} = 33.595 + 0.157 \, ext{FLR} + 25.446$$

$$\widehat{\text{LE}} = 59.042 + 0.157 \, \text{FLR}$$



Poll Everwhere Question 2

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Interpreting the estimated population coefficients

For a population model:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \epsilon$$

- lacktriangle Where X_1 and X_2 are continuous variables
- lacktriangle No need to specify Y because it required to be continuous in linear regression

General interpretation for $\widehat{\beta}_0$

The expected Y-variable is (β_0 units) when the X_1 -variable is 0 X_1 -units and X_2 -variable is 0 X_1 -units (95% CI: LB, UB).

General interpretation for $\widehat{\beta}_1$

For every increase of $1\,X_1$ -unit in the X_1 -variable, adjusting/controlling for X_2 -variable, there is an expected increase/decrease of $|\widehat{\beta}_1|$ units in the Y-variable (95%: LB, UB).

General interpretation for $\widehat{\beta}_2$

For every increase of $1\,X_2$ -unit in the X_2 -variable, adjusting/controlling for X_1 -variable, there is an expected increase/decrease of $|\widehat{\beta}_2|$ units in the Y-variable (95%: LB, UB).

Interpreting the estimated population coefficient: \widehat{eta}_0

ullet For an estimated model: $\widehat{Y}=\widehat{eta}_0+\widehat{eta}_1X_2+\widehat{eta}_2X_2$

$$egin{aligned} \widehat{Y} = & \widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 0 + \widehat{eta}_2 0 \ \widehat{Y} = & \widehat{eta}_0 \end{aligned}$$

Interpretation: The expected Y-variable is ($\widehat{\beta}_0$ units) when the X_1 -variable is 0 X_1 -units and X_2 -variable is 0 X_1 -units (95% CI: LB, UB).

Interpreting the estimated population coefficient: $oldsymbol{eta}_1$

- ullet We will use: x_{1a} and $x_{1b}=x_{1a}+1$, with the implication that $\Delta x_1=x_{1b}-x_{1a}=1$
- Our goal is to get to a statement with $\widehat{\beta}_1$ alone:

$$egin{aligned} \widehat{Y}|x_{1a} = &\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 x_{1a} + \widehat{eta}_2 X_2 \ \widehat{Y}|x_{1b} = &\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 x_{1b} + \widehat{eta}_2 X_2 \ \widehat{Y}|x_{1b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{1a} = &\left[\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 x_{1b} + \widehat{eta}_2 X_2
ight] - \left[\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 x_{1a} + \widehat{eta}_2 X_2
ight] \ \widehat{Y}|x_{1b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{1a} = &\widehat{eta}_1 x_{1b} - \widehat{eta}_1 x_{1a} \ \widehat{Y}|x_{1b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{1a} = &\widehat{eta}_1 (x_{1b} - x_{1a}) \ \widehat{Y}|x_{1b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{1a} = &\widehat{eta}_1 \end{aligned}$$

Interpretation: For every increase of 1 X_1 -unit in the X_1 -variable, adjusting/controlling for X_2 -variable, there is an expected increase/decrease of $|\widehat{\beta}_1|$ units in the Y-variable (95%: LB, UB).

Interpreting the estimated population coefficient: eta_2

- ullet We can so the same for X_2 : x_{2a} and $x_{2b}=x_{2a}+1$, with the implication that $\Delta x_2=x_{2b}-x_{2a}=1$
- Our goal is to get to a statement with $\widehat{\beta}_1$ alone:

$$egin{aligned} \widehat{Y}|x_{2a} = &\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 x_{1a} + \widehat{eta}_2 X_2 \ \widehat{Y}|x_{2b} = &\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 x_{1b} + \widehat{eta}_2 X_2 \ \widehat{Y}|x_{2b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{2a} = &\left[\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 X_1 + \widehat{eta}_2 x_{2b}\right] - \left[\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 X_1 + \widehat{eta}_2 x_{2a}\right] \ \widehat{Y}|x_{2b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{2a} = &\widehat{eta}_2 x_{2b} - \widehat{eta}_2 x_{2a} \ \widehat{Y}|x_{2b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{2a} = &\widehat{eta}_2 (x_{2b} - x_{2a}) \ \widehat{Y}|x_{2b} - \widehat{Y}|x_{2a} = &\widehat{eta}_2 \end{aligned}$$

Interpretation: For every increase of 1 X_2 -unit in the X_2 -variable, adjusting/controlling for X_1 -variable, there is an expected increase/decrease of $|\widehat{\beta}_2|$ units in the Y-variable (95%: LB, UB).

Poll Everywhere Question 3

Getting these interpretations from our regression table

We fit the regression model in R and printed the regression table:

```
1 mr1 <- lm(LifeExpectancyYrs ~ FemaleLiteracyRate + FoodSupplykcPPD,
2 data = gapm_sub)</pre>
```

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	conf.low	conf.high
(Intercept)	33.595	4.472	7.512	0.000	24.674	42.517
FemaleLiteracyRate	0.157	0.032	4.873	0.000	0.093	0.221
FoodSupplykcPPD	0.008	0.002	4.726	0.000	0.005	0.012

Fitted multiple regression model: $\widehat{\mathrm{LE}} = 33.595 + 0.157~\mathrm{FLR} + 0.008~\mathrm{FS}$

Interpretation for $\widehat{\beta}_0$

The average life expectancy is 33.595 years when the female literacy rate is 0% and food supply is 0 kcal PPD (95% CI: 24.674, 41.517).

Interpretation for $\widehat{\beta}_1$

For every 1% increase in the female literacy rate, adjusting for food supply, there is an expected increase of 0.157 years in the life expectancy (95%: 0.093, 0.221).

Interpretation for β_2

For every 1 kcal PPD increase in the food supply, adjusting for female literacy rate, there is an expected increase of 0.008 years in life expectancy (95%: 0.005, 0.012).

What we need in our interpretations of coefficients (reference)

- Units of Y
- Units of X
- If discussing intercept: Mean or average or expected before Y
- If discussing coefficient for continuous covariate: Mean or average or expected before difference, increase, or decrease
 - OR: Mean or average or expected before Y
 - NOT: predicted
 - Only need before difference or Y!!
- Confidence interval

- If other covariates in the model
 - Discussing intercept: Must state that variables are equal to 0
 - or at their centered value if centered!
 - Discussing coefficient for covariate: Must state "adjusting for all other variables", "Controlling for all other variables", or "Holding all other variables constant"
 - If only one other variable in the model, then replace "all other variables" with the single variable name

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How do we estimate the model parameters?

- We need to estimate the population model coefficients $\widehat{\beta}_0, \widehat{\beta}_1, \widehat{\beta}_2, \ldots, \widehat{\beta}_k$
- This can be done using the ordinary least-squares method
 - Find the $\widehat{\beta}$ values that **minimize** the sum of squares due to error (SSE)

$$egin{aligned} SSE &= \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\epsilon}_i^2 \ SSE &= \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \widehat{Y}_i)^2 \ SSE &= \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - (\widehat{eta}_0 + \widehat{eta}_1 X_{i1} + \ldots + \widehat{eta}_1 X_{ik}))^2 \ SSE &= \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \widehat{eta}_0 - \widehat{eta}_1 X_{i1} - \ldots - \widehat{eta}_1 X_{ik})^2 \end{aligned}$$

Technical side note (not needed in our class)

- The equations for calculating the $\widehat{m{\beta}}$ values is best done using matrix notation (not required for our class)
- We will be using R to get the coefficients instead of the equation (already did this a few slides back!)
- How we have represented the population regression model:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots + \beta_k X_k + \epsilon$$

 How to represent population model with matrix notation:

$$oldsymbol{Y} = oldsymbol{X}oldsymbol{eta} + oldsymbol{\epsilon} \ oldsymbol{Y}_{n imes 1} = oldsymbol{X}_{n imes (k+1)}oldsymbol{eta}_{(k+1) imes 1} + oldsymbol{\epsilon}_{n imes 1}$$

- ullet $oldsymbol{X}$ is often called the design matrix
 - Each row represents an individual
 - Each column represents a covariate

$$m{Y} = egin{bmatrix} Y_1 \ Y_2 \ dots \ Y_n \end{bmatrix}_{n imes 1} \qquad m{X} = egin{bmatrix} 1 & X_{11} & X_{12} & \dots & X_{1,k} \ 1 & X_{21} & X_{22} & \dots & X_{2,k} \ dots & dots & dots & dots \ 1 & X_{n1} & X_{n2} & \dots & X_{n,k} \end{bmatrix}_{n imes (k+1)}$$

$$egin{array}{c} egin{array}{c} \epsilon_1 \ \epsilon_2 \ dots \ \epsilon_n \end{bmatrix}_{n imes 1}$$

$$oldsymbol{eta} = egin{bmatrix} eta_0 \ eta_1 \ dots \ eta_k \end{bmatrix}_{(k+1) imes 1}$$

LINE model assumptions

[L] Linearity of relationship between variables

The mean value of Y given any combination of X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_k values, is a linear function of $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_k$:

$$\mu_{Y|X_1,...,X_k} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots + \beta_k X_k$$

[I] Independence of the Y values

Observations $(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_k, Y)$ are independent from one another

[N] Normality of the Y's given X (residuals)

Y has a normal distribution for any any combination of X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_k values

• Thus, the residuals are normally distributed

[E] Equality of variance of the residuals (homoscedasticity)

The variance of Y is the same for any any combination of X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_k values

$$\sigma^2_{Y|X_1,X_2,\ldots,X_k} = Var(Y|X_1,X_2,\ldots,X_k) = \sigma^2$$

Summary of the LINE assumptions

- Equivalently, the residuals are independently and identically distributed (iid):
 - normal
 - with mean 0 and
 - constant variance σ^2

- ullet Residuals are still $\hat{\epsilon}_i = Y_i \widehat{Y}_i$ for each observation
 - It's just that \widehat{Y}_i is now calculated with many covariates (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k)

Variation: Explained vs. Unexplained

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \overline{Y})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (\widehat{Y}_i - \overline{Y})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \widehat{Y}_i)^2 \ SSY = SSR + SSE$$

- $Y_i \overline{Y}$ = the deviation of Y_i around the mean \overline{Y}
 - the total amount deviation
- $\widehat{Y}_i \overline{Y}$ = the deviation of the fitted value \widehat{Y}_i around the mean \overline{Y}
 - lacksquare the amount deviation **explained** by the regression at X_{i1},\ldots,X_{ik}
- ullet $Y_i-\widehat{Y}_i$ = the deviation of the observation Y around the fitted regression line
 - lacksquare the amount deviation **unexplained** by the regression at X_{i1},\ldots,X_{ik}

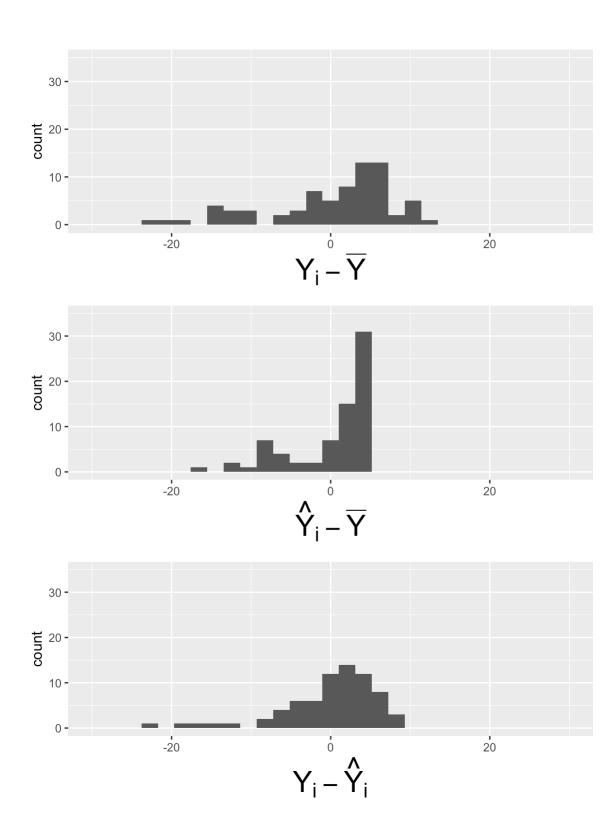
Poll Everywhere Question 4

SLR: Another way to think of SSY, SSR, and SSE

- Let's create a data frame of each component within the SS's
 - lacksquare Deviation in SSY: $Y_i \overline{Y}$
 - lacksquare Deviation in SSR: $\widehat{Y}_i \overline{Y}$
 - lacksquare Deviation in SSE: $Y_i \widehat{Y}_i$
- Using our simple linear regression model as an example:

SLR: Plot the components of each sum of squares

► Code to make the below plots



$$SSY = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \overline{Y})^2 = 64.64$$

$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n (\widehat{Y}_i - \overline{Y})^2 = 27.24$$

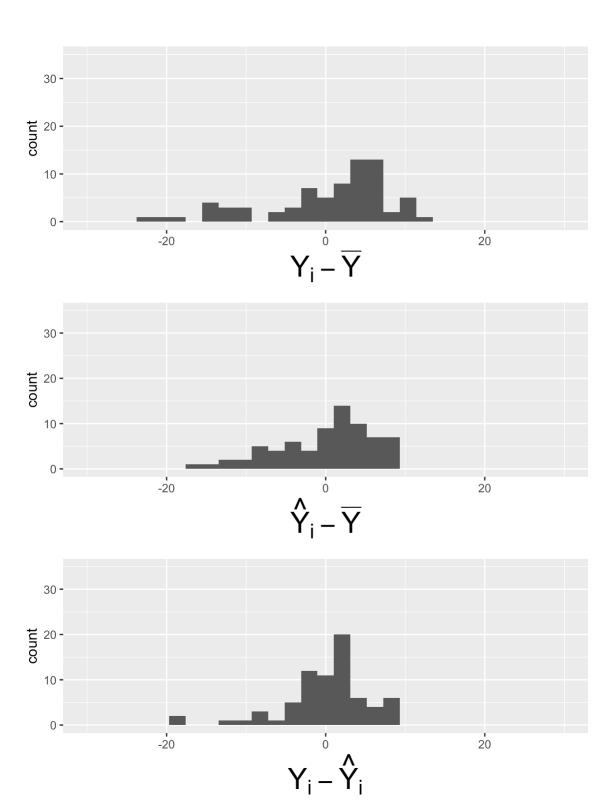
$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \widehat{Y}_i)^2 = 37.39$$

MLR: Another way to think of SSY, SSR, and SSE

- Let's create a data frame of each component within the SS's
 - lacksquare Deviation in SSY: $Y_i \overline{Y}$
 - lacksquare Deviation in SSR: $\widehat{Y}_i \overline{Y}$
 - lacksquare Deviation in SSE: $Y_i \widehat{Y}_i$
- Using our simple linear regression model as an example:

MLR: Plot the components of each sum of squares

► Code to make the below plots



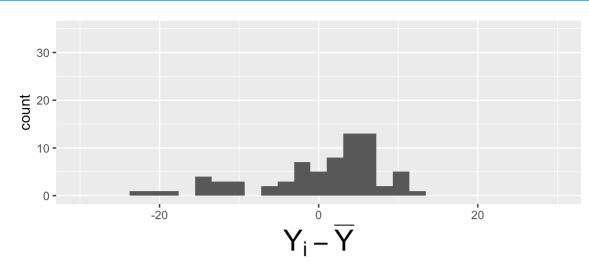
$$SSY = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Y_i - \overline{Y})^2 = 64.64$$

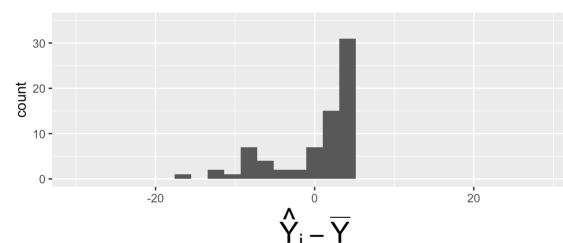
$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n (\widehat{Y}_i - \overline{Y})^2 = 36.39$$

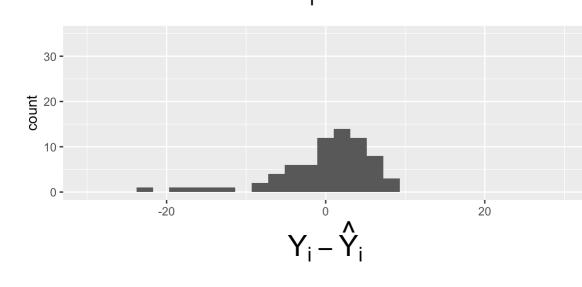
$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \widehat{Y}_i)^2 = 28.25$$

What did you notice in the plots?

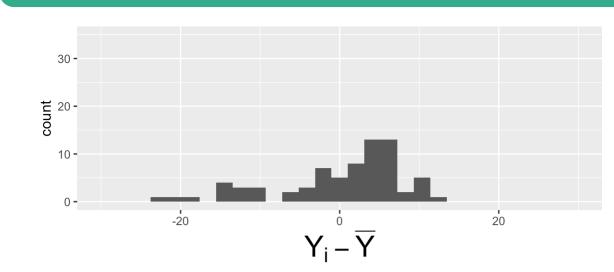
Simple Linear Regression





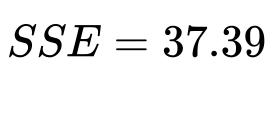


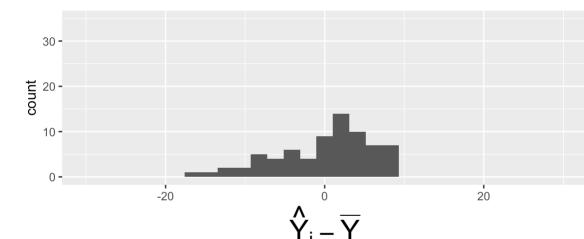
Multiple Linear Regression



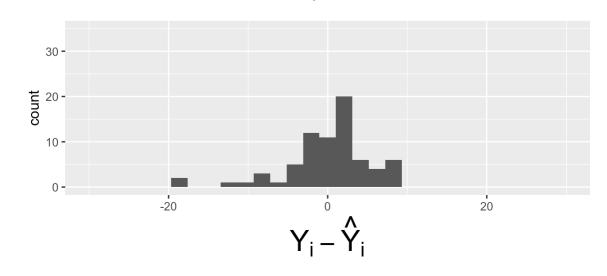
$$SSR = 27.24$$

SSY = 64.64





$$SE = 37.39$$



$$SSY = 64.64$$

$$SSR = 36.39$$

$$SSE = 28.25$$

• Next class: we can determine if model fit is better by comparing the SSE's of different models