R for Relationship

It is important to know how the relationship between the values of the x-axis and the values of the y-axis is, if there are no relationship the linear regression can not be used to predict anything.

This relationship - the coefficient of correlation - is called r.

The r value ranges from -1 to 1, where 0 means no relationship, and 1 (and -1) means 100% related.

Python and the Scipy module will compute this value for you, all you have to do is feed it with the x and y values.

Example

How well does my data fit in a linear regression?

from scipy import stats  
  
x = [5,7,8,7,2,17,2,9,4,11,12,9,6]  
y = [99,86,87,88,111,86,103,87,94,78,77,85,86]  
  
slope, intercept, r, p, std\_err = stats.linregress(x, y)  
  
print(r)

**Note:** The result -0.76 shows that there is a relationship, not perfect, but it indicates that we could use linear regression in future predictions.

Predict Future Values

Now we can use the information we have gathered to predict future values.

Example: Let us try to predict the speed of a 10 years old car.

To do so, we need the same myfunc() function from the example above:

def myfunc(x):  
  return slope \* x + intercept

Example

Predict the speed of a 10 years old car:

from scipy import stats  
  
x = [5,7,8,7,2,17,2,9,4,11,12,9,6]  
y = [99,86,87,88,111,86,103,87,94,78,77,85,86]  
  
slope, intercept, r, p, std\_err = stats.linregress(x, y)  
  
def myfunc(x):  
  return slope \* x + intercept  
  
speed = myfunc(10)  
  
print(speed)

The example predicted a speed at 85.6, which we also could read from the diagram:

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

Bad Fit?

Let us create an example where linear regression would not be the best method to predict future values.

These values for the x- and y-axis should result in a very bad fit for linear regression:

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
from scipy import stats  
  
x = [89,43,36,36,95,10,66,34,38,20,26,29,48,64,6,5,36,66,72,40]  
y = [21,46,3,35,67,95,53,72,58,10,26,34,90,33,38,20,56,2,47,15]  
  
slope, intercept, r, p, std\_err = stats.linregress(x, y)  
  
def myfunc(x):  
  return slope \* x + intercept  
  
mymodel = list(map(myfunc, x))  
  
plt.scatter(x, y)  
plt.plot(x, mymodel)  
plt.show()

Result:

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

And the r for relationship?

You should get a very low r value.

import numpy  
from scipy import stats  
  
x = [89,43,36,36,95,10,66,34,38,20,26,29,48,64,6,5,36,66,72,40]  
y = [21,46,3,35,67,95,53,72,58,10,26,34,90,33,38,20,56,2,47,15]  
  
slope, intercept, r, p, std\_err = stats.linregress(x, y)  
  
print(r)