



Fundamentals of Genomic Prediction and Data-Driven Crop Breeding (November 24-28, 2025)

Understanding Regression and Ordinary Least Squares

Module 2
November 25, 2025

**Waseem Hussain, Mahender Anumalla and
Margaret Catolos**
Rice Breeding Innovations Platform
IRRI

Ordinary Least squares (OLS)

The aim is to estimate α and β (fixed) parameters by minimizing the squared errors

Simple Linear Regression:

$$\hat{Y}_i = \alpha + \beta x_i + \varepsilon_i$$

dependent variable

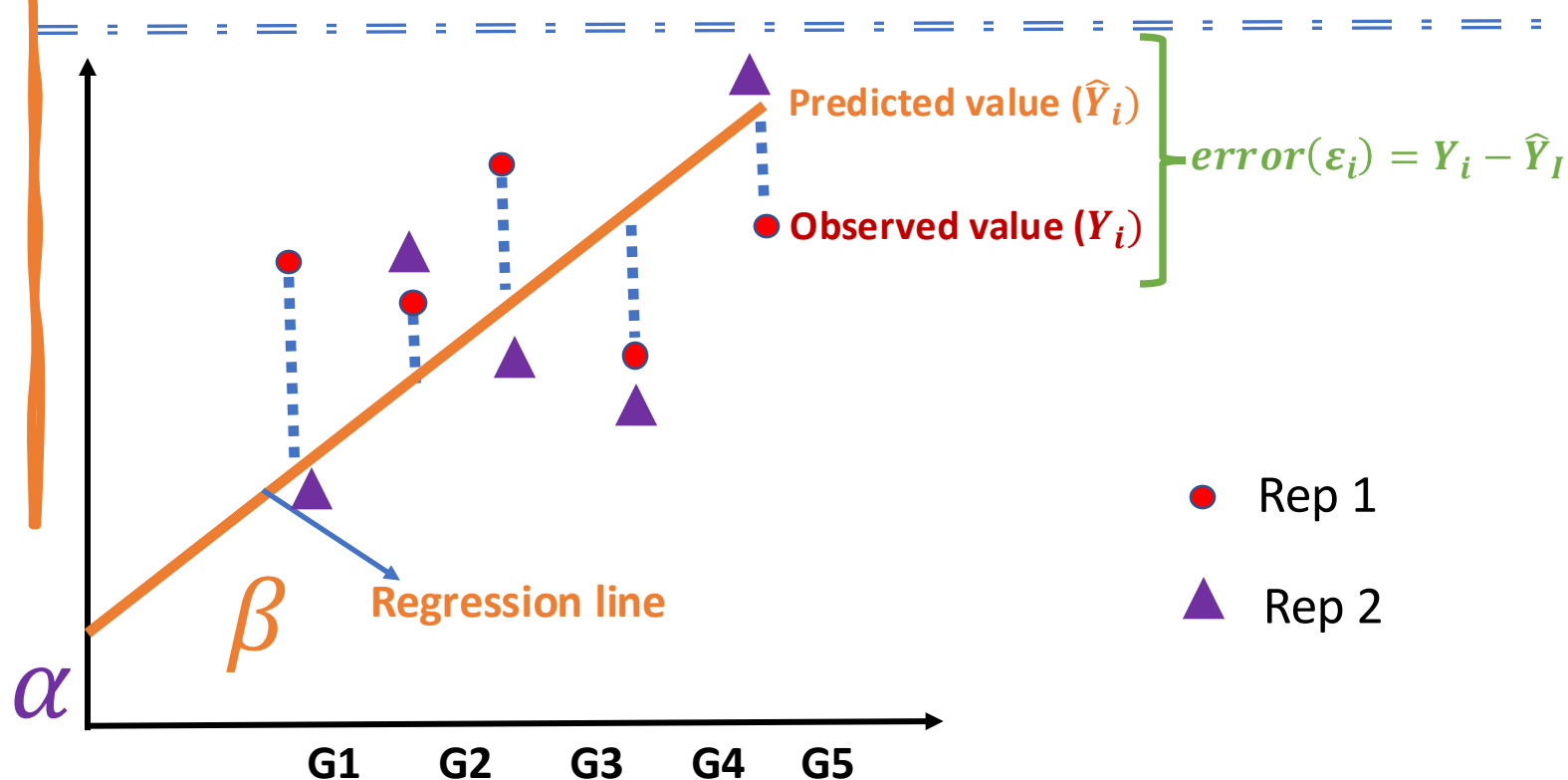
intercept

coefficient

Independent variable

error

Parameters (un-observed)



OLS Extended to Markers

Simple marker regression model

$$Y_n = \mu_m + X_m \beta_n + \varepsilon$$

y_1
y_2
y_3
y_4
.
.
y_n

Y_n are the phenotypic values of n th plants/individuals

μ_m is mean of n th marker

	SNP ₁	SNP _m
y_{11}	0	0
y_{21}	2	2
y_{31}	2	2
y_{41}	0	0
y_{51}	0	0
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.
y_{m1}	2	2

X_m is a vector or design matrix containing alleles (0, 2 or 1) and connecting it to phenotypic values.

β_n is the additive effect of n th marker

error for marker assumed $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma_e^2)$, with mean 0 and marker variance σ_e^2

Aim is to minimize residual squares

$$\operatorname{argmin}(\varepsilon' \varepsilon) = \operatorname{argmin}(y - X\beta)'(y - X\beta)$$

$$\beta = (\acute{X}X)^{-1} \acute{X}Y$$

Determines β such that residual squares are minimal called as **Least Squares**

$$V_\beta = (\acute{X}X)^{-1} \sigma_e^2$$

where, $\sigma_e^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum (y_i - \beta_i)^2$

variance-covariance estimate for the sample estimates

Numeric Conversion is Key for Regression

Nucleotide Format

	SNP1	SNP2	SNP3	SNP4	SNP5	SNPm
Allele	A/G	C/T	G/A	T/C	A/G	C/T	A/G
Genotype 1	AA	CC	GA	TT	GG	CC	AA
Genotype 2	AA	TT	AA	TT	GG	TT	AA
Genotype 3	AG	TT	GG	TT	GG	TT	AG
Genotype 4	GG	CC	AA	TC	AA	CC	NA
Genotype n	AG	TT	AA	TC	AG	TT	GG

Numeric Format

	SNP1	SNP2	SNP3	SNP4	SNP5	SNPm
Reference Allele	A/G	C/T	G/A	T/C	A/G	C/T	A/G
Genotype 1	2	2	1	2	0	2	2
Genotype 2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2
Genotype 3	1	0	2	2	0	0	2
Genotype 4	0	2	0	1	2	2	NA
Genotype n	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

General Linear Model

$$y = X\beta + \varepsilon$$

where,

y = vector of dependent values (observed)

X = Design matrix for observations

β = unknown parameter to estimate

ε = residuals (deviations) and are equal to $y - X\beta$

Ordinary Least Square (OLS)

$$\varepsilon \sim MNV(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I)$$

$$\beta = (X'X)^{-1} X'Y$$

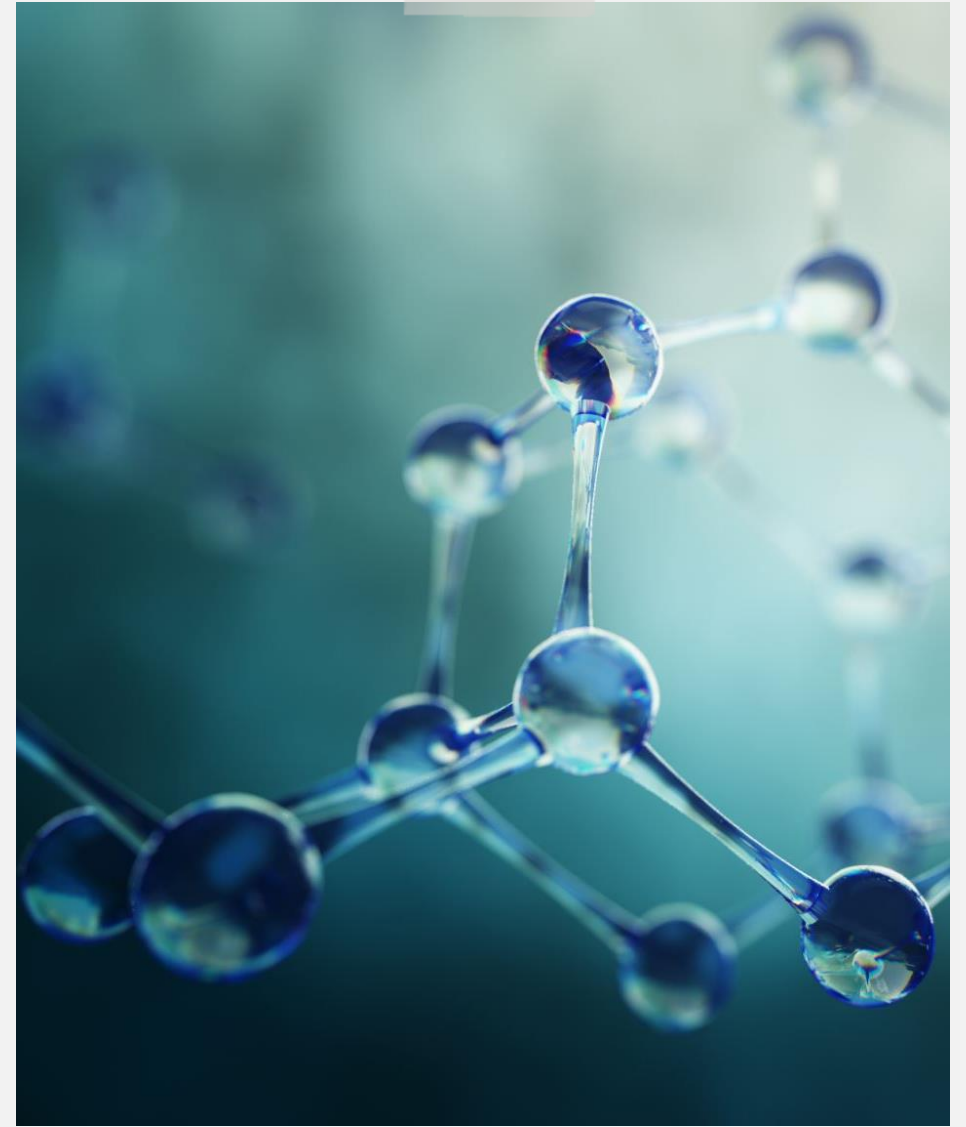
Residuals are homoscedastic and uncorrelated

Generalized Least Square (GLS)

$$\varepsilon \sim MNV(0, V)$$

$$\beta = (X'V^{-1}X)^{-1} X'V^{-1}Y$$

Residuals are heteroscedastic and/or dependent,



OLS is BLUE?

Expected value:

$$\begin{aligned} E(\widehat{\beta}) &= (X'X)^{-1} X' E(Y) \\ &= (X'X)^{-1} X' \beta \end{aligned}$$

$$E(\widehat{\beta}) = \beta$$

estimation is true β , and when this condition is met, it is called *unbiased*

When Gauss Markov Theorem is met

1. $E(\varepsilon) = 0$ (*expectation of error is 0*)
2. $\text{variance} = I\sigma^2$ (*errors are uncorrelated*)
3. Homoscedasticity of errors

Then, **OLS** \longrightarrow **BLUE**

Baseline Model of GS

$$y = \mu + \sum_k x_k \beta_k + \varepsilon$$


How the marker effects (β) are distributed

Solution

- Markers are fitted as random
- We constrain these markers (penalty).
- What distribution are these markers sampled from (Optimization of the constraints)