

Advanced statistics: Statistical modeling

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Statistical models

What is a statistical model ?

A **statistical model** is a set of equations involving random variables, with associated distributional assumptions, devised in the context of a **question** and a body of **data concerning some phenomenon**, with which **tentative answers** can be derived, along with **measures of uncertainty** concerning these answers.

questions + data answers + measures model of uncertainty

(from Terry Speed)

Modeling Overview

Want to capture important features of the *relationship between* a (set of) *variable(s)* and one or more *response(s)*

Many models are of the form

 $g(Y) = f(x) + error$

with *differences* in the form of g, f and distributional assumptions about the error term.

A word of caution !

Modelling is not about just finding the right type of equation to describe the data, and finding the right algorithm to estimate the parameters of this equation !

In other words, we should not consider that the modeling problem consists only of simple pairs of data points (e.g. response and explanatory variables).

Other information of interest include for example how the data was collected, how it is structured, what we expect from the model (description ? Prediction ?), and what other variables were *not* observed.

We will not discuss this in detail, but we will touch on it briefly in some places.

Essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful.

Georges Box

Model formulas in R

A simple *model formula* in R looks something like:

yvar ~ xvar1 + xvar2 + xvar3

Can read **~** as "*described (or modeled) by*".

We could write this model (algebraically) as

 $Y = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + b_3 x_3$

By default, an intercept is included in the model – you don't have to include a term in the model formula If you want to leave the intercept out:

```
yvar ~ -1 + xvar1 + xvar2 + xvar3
```
More on model formulas

The generic form is **response ~ predictors** The predictors can be **numeric** or **factor** Other symbols to create formulas with *combinations of variables* (e.g. *interactions*)

- **+** to *add* more variables
- **-** to *leave out* variables
- : to introduce *interactions* between two terms
- ***** to include *both interactions and the terms*

 $(a * b)$ is the same as $a + b + a:b$

- **^n** *adds all terms* including interactions up to order n
- **I()** treats what's in () as a *mathematical expression*

Linear models

Some references

Peter Dalgaard. *Introductory Statistics with R* (second edition). Springer, 2008.

William N. Venables and Brian D. Ripley. *Modern Applied Statistics with S* (fourth edition). Springer, 2002.

John Fox. *Applied Regression, Generalized Linear Models, and Related Methods* (second Edition). Sage Publications, 2008.

John Fox. *An R and S-PLUS Companion to Applied Regression*. Sage Publications, 2002.

Can we predict the height of a teenager using his age ?

Example: scatterplot of age vs height in teenagers

Simple linear regression refers to drawing a (particular, special) line through a scatterplot

It is used for 2 broad purposes: **explanation** and **prediction**.

The equation for a line to predict y knowing x (in slopeintercept form) looks like

$$
y = a + b x
$$

where *a* is called the *intercept* and *b* is the *slope.*

Linear regression

What is the "best" line which fits this data ? Can we use it to summarise the relation between x and y ?

The least-squares procedure finds the straight line with the **smallest sum of squares of vertical errors**.

Linear models (simple case)

Formalization and extension of linear regression

$$
Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \varepsilon_i
$$

$$
i = 1, \dots, n
$$

 ε_i : error term ~ $N(0, \sigma^2)$ (estimated) : predictor (known) *X i* β_0, β_1 : model parameters (estimated) :response (known) *Y i*

Y represents **one** data point

Minimizing \sum *i* ε_i^2 yields b_0 and b_1 estimators of β_0 and β_1

$$
b_1 = \frac{\sum (X_i - \overline{X})(Y_i - \overline{Y})}{\sum (X_i - \overline{X})^2} \qquad b_0 = \overline{Y} - b_1 \overline{X}
$$

Over all possible straight lines, $y = 1 - 0.6x$ is the "best" possible line according to this criterion.

Interpretation of parameters

The regression line has two parameters: the *slope* and the *intercept*

The regression *slope* is *the average change in Y when X increases by 1 unit*

The *intercept* is *the predicted value for* Y when $X = 0$

If the slope = 0, then *X* does not help in predicting *Y* (linearly)

There is an *error* in making a regression prediction:

error = observed Y – predicted Y
=
$$
y - (a + b x)
$$

These errors are called *residuals*

The regression equation is calculated so that the sum (and mean) of the residuals is 0 (« in average, the model is correct »).

Ideally, we want the regression to include all the predictable variance, so that the distribution of the residuals is random and does not depend on X or on the predicted X.

Linear models (general case)

p parameter linear model

$$
Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \beta_2 X_{i2} + \dots + \beta_{p-1} X_{ip-1} + \varepsilon_i \qquad i = 1, \dots, n
$$

$$
\text{or} \qquad Y_i = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \beta_k X_{ik} + \varepsilon_i \qquad \text{with} \quad X_{i0} \equiv 1
$$

Yi response (e.g. expression of a gene)

- X_{ik} predictor variables (e.g. dose of drug [continuous], or KO vs wt)
- β_k model parameter (measurement of magnitude of effect associated to predictor variable)
- \mathcal{E}_i error term (measurement of departure from ideal case)

Matrix form of linear models

$$
Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \beta_2 X_{i2} + \dots + \beta_{p-1} X_{ip-1} + \varepsilon_i
$$

is equivalent to

$$
\begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & X_{11} & X_{12} & \cdots & X_{1p-1} \\ 1 & X_{21} & X_{22} & \cdots & X_{2p-1} \\ 1 & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & X_{n1} & X_{n2} & \cdots & X_{np-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_{p-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \varepsilon_n \end{bmatrix}
$$

or
$$
\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}
$$

Linear models (parameter estimation)

Least-square estimation of regression coefficients

 $\{\beta_k\}$ such that

$$
Q = \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i}^{2} = \sum_{i} (Y_{i} - \beta_{0} - \beta_{1}X_{i1} - \beta_{2}X_{i2} - \dots - \beta_{p-1}X_{ip-1})^{2}
$$
 minimum

 $\mathbf{b} = (b_0 \! \cdots \! b_{p-1})'$ estimator of $\, \boldsymbol{\beta} \,$ is computed as follows:

$$
Y = X\beta + \varepsilon
$$

\n
$$
X'Xb = X'Y
$$

\n
$$
E\{\varepsilon\} = 0
$$

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

Linearity is about the model parameters

$$
Y_{i} = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1}X_{i1} + \beta_{2}X_{i2} + \cdots + \beta_{p-1}X_{ip-1} + \varepsilon_{i}
$$
\n
$$
Y_{i} = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1}X_{i} + \beta_{2}X_{i}^{2} + \beta_{3}X_{i}^{3} + \varepsilon_{i}
$$
\n
$$
Y_{i} = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1}\log X_{i1} + \beta_{2}X_{i2} + \varepsilon_{i}
$$
\n
$$
Y_{i} = \beta \sin X_{i} + \varepsilon_{i}
$$
\n
$$
Y_{i} = \beta_{0} + \log(\beta_{1}X_{i1} + \beta_{2}X_{i2}) + \beta_{3}X_{i3} + \varepsilon_{i}
$$
\n
$$
Y_{i} = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1}\exp(\beta_{2}X_{i} + \beta_{3}) + \varepsilon_{i}
$$
\nNot linear in β s

A concrete example in R

Using the CLASS dataset, from the program SAS (units have been modified from imperial to metric)

data <- read.table("http://lausanne.isb-sib.ch/~schutz/data/class.txt")

Use statistical models to answer the question:

"Can we predict the height of a teenager, using his age, sex and weight ?"

data <- read.table("http://lausanne.isb-sib.ch/~schutz/data/class.txt")

The CLASS dataset from SAS

> pairs(data[,-1])

```
> model <- lm( Height ~ Age )
> model
Call:
lm(formula = Height ~ Age)
Coefficients:
(Intercept) Age 
     64.07 7.08
```
Model: Height = 64.07 + 7.08 x Age

> plot(Age, Height) > abline(model, col="red", lwd=2)

plot(Age, Height, xlim=range(0,Age), ylim=range(coef(model)[1], Height)) abline(model, col="red", lwd=2)

Example of summary results of the lm command in R

```
> summary( lm( Height ~ Age) )
Call:
lm(formula = Height ~ Age)
Residuals:
     Min 1Q Median 3Q Max 
-12.59000 -3.57300 -0.07867 3.49000 15.57133 
Coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|) 
(Intercept) 64.069 16.565 3.868 0.00124 ** 
Age 7.079 1.237 5.724 2.48e-05 ***
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1 
Residual standard error: 7.832 on 17 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.6584, Adjusted R-squared: 0.6383 
F-statistic: 32.77 on 1 and 17 DF, p-value: 2.48e-05
```
Function call

```
> model <- lm( Height ~ Age )
…
> summary( model )
Call:
lm(formula = Height ~ Age)
```
Distribution of the residuals

Five-number summary of the residuals (but no mean – why ?), equivalent to

> fivenum(residuals(model)) 8 11 17 4 7 -12.590 -3.573 -0.078 3.490 15.571

or, graphically, using a boxplot:

> boxplot(residuals (model), horizontal=T)

Coefficients

These statistical tests tell us if the parameters are significantly different from 0. It is not interesting for the intercept, but usually interesting for the slope.

Estimate and std. Error are obtained from the matrices of the model.

T-value = Estimate / Std. Error

This assumes that the residuals follow a normal distribution !

RSE (Residual Standard Error) and degrees of freedom

Residual standard error: 7.832 on 17 degrees of freedom

The *number of degrees* of freedom indicates the number of independant pieces of data that are available to estimate the error

While we have 19 residuals here, they are not all independent: for example, the last one is constrained because the sum of all residuals must be 0.

The number of DF is

total observations – number of parameters estimated

Two parameters are estimated (intercept + coefficient), so 19-2 = 17

Residual standard error: 7.832 on 17 degrees of freedom

The residual standard error is the standard deviation of the residuals (which we would usually like to be small)

It is not exactly equal to what the sd command would return:

```
> sd(residuals(model))
[1] 7.611075
> sqrt(sum(residuals(model)^2)/18)
[1] 7.611075
```
Here, we must divide by the number of degrees of freedom to get the same number:

```
> sqrt(sum(residuals(model)^2)/17)
[1] 7.831732
```
Multiple and adjusted R-squared

Multiple R-squared: 0.6584, Adjusted R-squared: 0.6383

 $R²$ is the proportion of the total variance in the response data that is explained by the model (if R^2 =1, the data fits perfectly on a straight line, and the model explains all the variance).

In the case of simple regression, it is equal to the square of the correlation coefficient between the two variables:

```
> summary(model)$r.squared
[1] 0.6584257
> cor(Age, Height)^2
[1] 0.6584257
```
The Adjusted R-squared is similar to R-squared, but it takes into account the number of variables in the model (we will come back to this later).

F-statistic: 32.77 on 1 and 17 DF, p-value: 2.48e-05

The F-statistic allows us to test if the whole regression (adding all variables *vs* having only the intercept in) is significant.

With only one variable, it provides *exactly* the same result as the t-test for the significance of the coefficient of this variable.

Multiple regression: assessing the effect of several variables *together*

Two separate simple regressions

Can we say anything about what would happen if both variables were included the same model ?

One multiple regression with two variables

```
Call:
lm(formula = Height ~ Age + Weight)
Residuals:
     Min 1Q Median 3Q Max 
-9.20695 -3.30604 -0.04478 2.11432 10.41880 
Coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|) 
(Intercept) 81.77355 12.90896 6.335 9.92e-06 ***
Age 3.11575 1.34668 2.314 0.03431 *<br>Weight 0.35064 0.08827 3.973 0.00109 *
Weight 0.35064 0.08827 3.973 0.00109 ** 
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1 
Residual standard error: 5.728 on 16 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.828, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8065 
F-statistic: 38.52 on 2 and 16 DF, p-value: 7.646e-07
```
This model allows us to determine the respective contribution of each variable separately !

Coefficients

This is similar to the simple regression case.

Each test is conducted assuming that the tested parameter is the **last one entering the model**:

« If *weight* is already in the model, is the coefficient for *age* significantly different from 0 ? »

Two single regressions vs one multiple regression

While both age and weight seem significant by themselves, age is much less significant when weight is already included (see also the $R²$)

It is likely that a lot of the information provided by the age is also provided by the weight, so that there may be little need to have both terms in the model.

Multiple R-squared: 0.828, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8065

As before, $R²$ is the proportion of the total variance in the response data that is explained by the model.

Adding a new variable in the model will always increase R2, up to 1 when there the number of degrees of freedom is 0 (number of parameters to estimate = number of observations).

Multiple and adjusted R-squared

Multiple R-squared: 0.828, Adjusted R-squared: 0.8065

The adjusted R-squared adjusts for the number of variables in the model, and does not necessarily increase when the number of variables increase; it can even be negative.

It is always equal or below R^2 .

Example

```
y <- rnorm(10)
x1 <- rnorm(10); x2 <- rnorm(10); ...; x9 <- rnorm(10)\texttt{summaxy}(\texttt{lm}(y \sim x1)); \texttt{summaxy}(\texttt{lm}(y \sim x1+x2)); ...
```


The last regression from the example

Again, the F-statistic allows us to test if the whole regression (adding all variables *vs* having only the intercept in) is significant.

If any of the tests for the individual variables is significant, the F-test will generally be significant as well.

However, even if no individual variable is significant (e.g. $p < 0.05$), the F-test can still be significant.

Categorical variables, dummy variables and contrasts

We'd like to use categorical variables in a linear model, as in:

Height = b_0 + b_1 Age + b_2 « Gender » + error

Intuitively, we want to estimate a « Male » and a « Female » effect.

In practice, categorical variables (factors in R) are turned (by default, based on alphabetical order) into **dummy variables** of the form •

$$
Gender = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} 0 \text{ if Female} \\ 1 \text{ if Male} \end{array} \right.
$$

and the model can be interpreted as follows:

 $- b_0$ is the baseline for height among women

 $-$ b₂ represent the increase/decrease of this baseline for men.

Example of summary results of the lm command in R

```
Call:
lm(formula = Height ~ Age + Gender)
Residuals:
   Min 1Q Median 3Q Max 
-8.8462 -4.8523 -0.8102 3.3677 13.5058 
Coefficients:
          Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|) 
(Intercept) 62.291 14.957 4.165 0.00073 ***
Age 6.928 1.117 6.202 1.27e-05 ***
GenderM 7.204 3.251 2.216 0.04152 * 
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1 
Residual standard error: 7.061 on 16 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.7387, Adjusted R-squared: 0.706 
F-statistic: 22.61 on 2 and 16 DF, p-value: 2.176e-05
```


The model considers that the value for « Females » is the baseline.

The factor GenderM corresponds to the difference in baseline for Males compared to females.

Graphical interpretation

The model specifies 2 straight lines, with the same slope but different y-intercepts:

We could also compute the difference in means between males and females directly:

```
> means <- tapply( data$Height, data$Gender, FUN=mean )
> means
       F M
153.8958 162.3314 
> diff(means)
      M 
8.435622
```
This result is slightly different from the 7.20 cm difference found with the linear model.

Where does the difference come from ?

Interactions

So far, we have assumed a difference between the lines, but the same slope; that is, for both men and women, the effect of age is the same.

If this assumption is incorrect, it means that there is an *interaction* between the factors « age » and « gender », that is, the effect of age is different depending on the gender.

Interactions are modeled in R in the following way:

Coefficients with an interaction

The coefficients can be interpreted as follows:

According to the model, the *height* is equal to

56.26 (the intercept) plus 17.13, but only for males plus 7.38 times the person's age minus 0.75 times the person's age, but only for males.

Different slopes

No interaction With interaction

What if Males were the baseline ?

What if my variable has more than 2 levels ?

The interpretation was straightforward with two levels: one was the baseline, and we estimated the difference between the second one and the baseline.

With more than two levels, there are different ways, termed contrasts, of looking at the coefficients. The most common one is called **treatment contrasts**, and corresponds to taking the first level as the baseline/intercept (as a control), and all the other coefficients correspond to differences of each level with the control (« treatments).

For more information on this, see e.g. Venables and Ripley, section 6.2.

Matrix form of linear models

$$
Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \beta_2 X_{i2} + \dots + \beta_{p-1} X_{ip-1} + \varepsilon_i
$$

is equivalent to

$$
\begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & X_{11} & X_{12} & \cdots & X_{1p-1} \\ 1 & X_{21} & X_{22} & \cdots & X_{2p-1} \\ 1 & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & X_{n1} & X_{n2} & \cdots & X_{np-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 \\ \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_{p-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \varepsilon_n \end{bmatrix}
$$

or
$$
\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}
$$

Continuous vs dummy predictors

X is the $\mathbf{design\ matrix}$; a column of $\left\|X_{ij}\right\|$ can be used to encode

Discrete conditions require "zeros and ones" coding.

Reference condition coded as zero, alternative coded as one. Discrete conditions with N levels require N-1 columns with 0/1.

Design matrix in R

Diagnostic tools

It is always possible to fit a linear model and find a slope and intercept

… but it does not mean that the model is meaningful !

Examination of *residuals*: (which should show no obvious trend, since any systematic effect in the residuals should ideally be captured by the model):

- Normality
- Time effects
- Nonconstant variance
- Curvature

Detection of *influential observations*

– *Hat matrix*

Works only for simple regression (only one variable on x axis)

Residuals

Works also for multiple regression

plot(fitted(model), residuals(model))

High leverage ('influential') points are far from the center, and have potentially greater influence

One way to assess points is through the *hat values* (obtained from the *hat matrix H*):

$$
\hat{y} = Xb = X(X'X)^{-1}X'y = Hy
$$

$$
h_i = \sum_j h_{ij}^2
$$

Average value of $h =$ number of coefficients/n (including the intercept) = p/n

Cutoff typically 2p/n or 3p/n

hat <- lm.influence(model) plot(hat\$hat) abline(h=c(c(2,3)*2/19),lty=c(2,3),col=c("blue","red"))

Confidence bands

Narrow bands: describe the uncertainty about the regression line
Wide bands: describe where most (95% by default) predictions describe where most (95% by default) predictions would fall, assuming normality and constant variance.

In R: ?predict.lm

What if the data is not linear ?

Use a polynomial regression

$$
y = b_0 + b_1 x + b_2 x^2
$$

This is still linear for b_i ; it is as if we had added a new variable.

What if the data is not linear ?

6

8

10

5000

 $\mathbf{0}$

10000

X

15000

20000

 O

 $\mathbf 2$

 $\overline{4}$

 $\log(x)$

Example: predicting cell concentration

The hellung dataset

" Diameter and concentration of *Tetrahymena* cells with and without glucose added to growth medium."

> library(ISwR); data(hellung)

Can we predict the concentration of cells using the diameter and the presence/absence of glucose ?

Hellung dataset: Diameter vs Concentration

> plot(hellung\$diameter, hellung\$conc, xlab="Diameter", ylab="Concentration")

Linear model predicting Concentration from Diameter

> model <- lm(conc ~ diameter, data=hellung) > abline(model)

Hat values

Linear model predicting log(Concentration) from Diameter

modellog <- lm(logconc ~ diameter, data=hellung) abline(modellog)

Details of the linear model

log(concentration) = $25.7 - 0.63 \times$ diameter

summary(modellog) Call: lm(formula = logconc ~ diameter) Residuals: Min 1Q Median 3Q Max -1.227992 -0.388761 0.003015 0.424183 1.215852 Coefficients: Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|) (Intercept) 25.72239 1.09418 23.51 <2e-16 * diameter -0.62815 0.04743 -13.24 <2e-16 *** --- Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1 Residual standard error: 0.6105 on 49 degrees of freedom Multiple R-squared: 0.7817, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7772 F-statistic: 175.4 on 1 and 49 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16**

Residuals vs fitted values

Predicting Concentration from diameter

We have a linear model for predicting the log of the concentration:

 $log(concentration) = 25.7 - 0.63 \times diameter$

We have a function that links this prediction to our value of interest (concentration):

log / exponential

This allows us to make predictions for the concentration:

Concentration = $148 \times 10^9 \times e^{-0.63 \times Diameter}$

The Hellung data in R

R help for the Hellung data

R help for the Hellung data

Reminder: using categorical variables as explanatory variables

We would like to use categorical variables in a linear model, as in:

Concentration = b_0 + b_1 Diameter + b_2 « Glucose » + error

Intuitively, we want to estimate a « No glucose » and a « Glucose » effect.

Prediction of log Concentration according to Diameter and Glucose

Pitfalls in regression

We don't know what the relationship between X and Y looks like outside the range of the data.

Extrapolating the model outside of this range is likely to give meaningless results.

