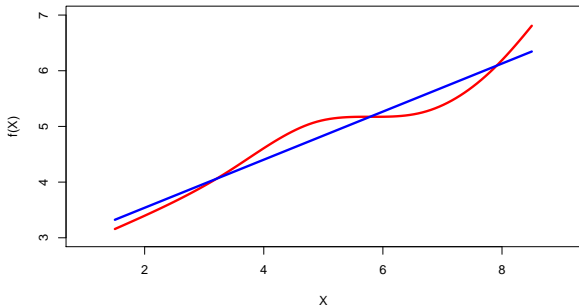


## Linear regression

- Linear regression is a simple approach to supervised learning. It assumes that the dependence of  $Y$  on  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_p$  is linear.

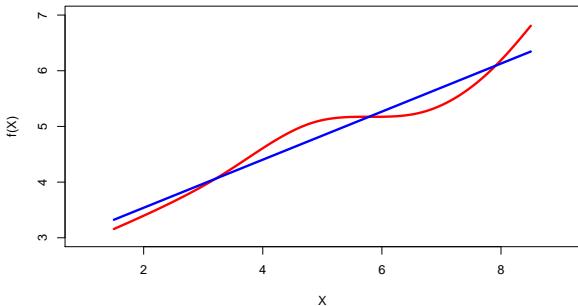
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- although it may seem overly simplistic, linear regression is extremely useful both conceptually and practically.

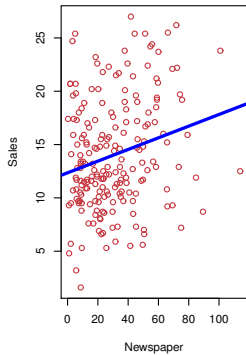
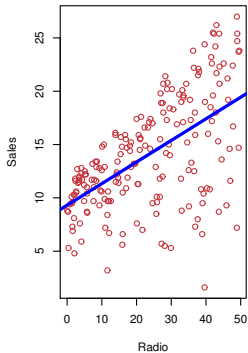
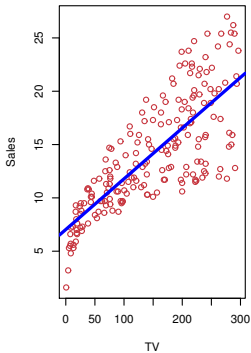
## Linear regression for the advertising data

Consider the advertising data shown on the next slide.

Questions we might ask:

- Is there a relationship between advertising budget and sales?
- How strong is the relationship between advertising budget and sales?
- Which media contribute to sales?
- How accurately can we predict future sales?
- Is the relationship linear?
- Is there synergy among the advertising media?

# Advertising data



## Simple linear regression using a single predictor $X$ .

- We assume a model

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

where  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  are two unknown constants that represent the *intercept* and *slope*, also known as *coefficients* or *parameters*, and  $\epsilon$  is the error term.

- Given some estimates  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$  for the model coefficients, we predict future sales using

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x,$$

where  $\hat{y}$  indicates a prediction of  $Y$  on the basis of  $X = x$ .

## Estimation of the parameters by least squares

- Let  $\hat{y}_i = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_i$  be the prediction for  $Y$  based on the  $i$ th value of  $X$ . Then  $e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$  represents the  $i$ th *residual*

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- We define the *residual sum of squares* (RSS) as

$$\text{RSS} = e_1^2 + e_2^2 + \cdots + e_n^2,$$

or equivalently as

$$\text{RSS} = (y_1 - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_2)^2 + \cdots + (y_n - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_n)^2.$$



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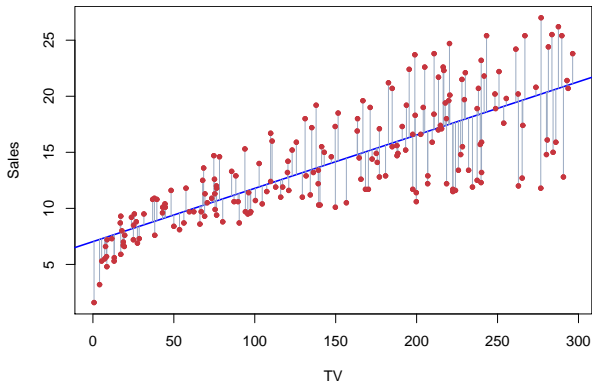
- The least squares approach chooses  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$  to minimize the RSS. The minimizing values can be shown to be

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2},$$

$$\hat{\beta}_0 = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}_1 \bar{x},$$

where  $\bar{y} \equiv \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i$  and  $\bar{x} \equiv \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$  are the sample means.

## Example: advertising data



The least squares fit for the regression of **sales** onto **TV**.  
In this case a linear fit captures the essence of the relationship, although it is somewhat deficient in the left of the plot.

## Assessing the Accuracy of the Coefficient Estimates

- The standard error of an estimator reflects how it varies under repeated sampling. We have

$$\text{SE}(\hat{\beta}_1)^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}, \quad \text{SE}(\hat{\beta}_0)^2 = \sigma^2 \left[ \frac{1}{n} + \frac{\bar{x}^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \right],$$

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where  $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(\epsilon)$

- These standard errors can be used to compute *confidence intervals*. A 95% confidence interval is defined as a range of values such that with 95% probability, the range will contain the true unknown value of the parameter. It has the form

$$\hat{\beta}_1 \pm 2 \cdot \text{SE}(\hat{\beta}_1).$$

## Confidence intervals — continued

That is, there is approximately a 95% chance that the interval

$$\left[ \hat{\beta}_1 - 2 \cdot \text{SE}(\hat{\beta}_1), \hat{\beta}_1 + 2 \cdot \text{SE}(\hat{\beta}_1) \right]$$

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For the advertising data, the 95% confidence interval for  $\beta_1$  is [0.042, 0.053]

## Hypothesis testing

- Standard errors can also be used to perform *hypothesis tests* on the coefficients. The most common hypothesis test involves testing the *null hypothesis* of

$H_0$  :     There is no relationship between  $X$  and  $Y$   
              versus the *alternative hypothesis*

$H_A$  :     There is some relationship between  $X$  and  $Y$ .

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- Mathematically, this corresponds to testing

$$H_0 : \beta_1 = 0$$

versus

$$H_A : \beta_1 \neq 0,$$

since if  $\beta_1 = 0$  then the model reduces to  $Y = \beta_0 + \epsilon$ , and  $X$  is not associated with  $Y$ .



## Hypothesis testing — continued

- To test the null hypothesis, we compute a *t-statistic*, given by

$$t = \frac{\hat{\beta}_1 - 0}{\text{SE}(\hat{\beta}_1)},$$

- This will have a *t*-distribution with  $n - 2$  degrees of freedom, assuming  $\beta_1 = 0$ .

## Results for the advertising data

	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-statistic	p-value
<b>Intercept</b>	7.0325	0.4578	15.36	< 0.0001
<b>TV</b>	0.0475	0.0027	17.67	< 0.0001

## Assessing the Overall Accuracy of the Model

- We compute the *Residual Standard Error*

$$\text{RSE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-2} \text{RSS}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2},$$

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- *R-squared* or fraction of variance explained is

$$R^2 = \frac{\text{TSS} - \text{RSS}}{\text{TSS}} = 1 - \frac{\text{RSS}}{\text{TSS}}$$

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- It can be shown that in this simple linear regression setting that  $R^2 = r^2$ , where  $r$  is the correlation between  $X$  and  $Y$ :

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}.$$

## Advertising data results

Quantity	Value
Residual Standard Error	3.26
$R^2$	0.612
F-statistic	312.1

# Multiple Linear Regression

- Here our model is

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \cdots + \beta_p X_p + \epsilon,$$

- We interpret  $\beta_j$  as the *average* effect on  $Y$  of a one unit increase in  $X_j$ , *holding all other predictors fixed*. In the advertising example, the model becomes

$$\text{sales} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times \text{TV} + \beta_2 \times \text{radio} + \beta_3 \times \text{newspaper} + \epsilon.$$

## Interpreting regression coefficients

- The ideal scenario is when the predictors are uncorrelated — a *balanced design*:
  - Each coefficient can be estimated and tested separately.
  - Interpretations such as “*a unit change in  $X_j$  is associated with a  $\beta_j$  change in  $Y$ , while all the other variables stay fixed*”, are possible.
- Correlations amongst predictors cause problems:
  - The variance of all coefficients tends to increase, sometimes dramatically
  - Interpretations become hazardous — when  $X_j$  changes, everything else changes.
- *Claims of causality* should be avoided for observational data.



## The woes of (interpreting) regression coefficients

*“Data Analysis and Regression” Mosteller and Tukey 1977*

- a regression coefficient  $\beta_j$  estimates the expected change in  $Y$  per unit change in  $X_j$ , *with all other predictors held fixed*. But predictors usually change together!

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- Example:  $Y$  total amount of change in your pocket;  $X_1 = \#$  of coins;  $X_2 = \#$  of pennies, nickels and dimes. By itself, regression coefficient of  $Y$  on  $X_2$  will be  $> 0$ . But how about with  $X_1$  in model?

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- $Y =$  number of tackles by a football player in a season;  $W$  and  $H$  are his weight and height. Fitted regression model is  $\hat{Y} = b_0 + .50W - .10H$ . How do we interpret  $\hat{\beta}_2 < 0$ ?

## Estimation and Prediction for Multiple Regression

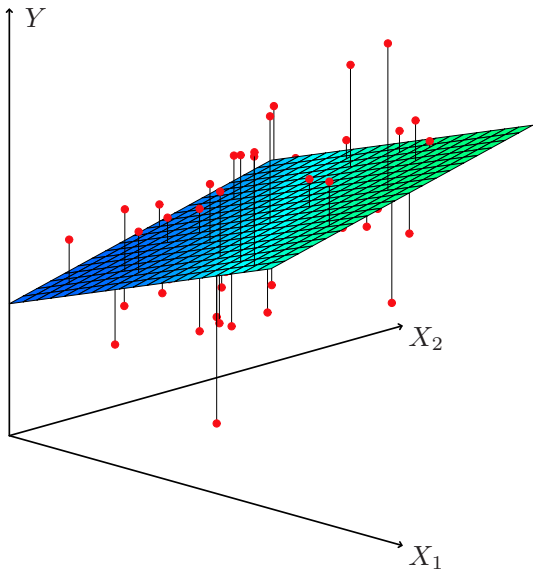
- Given estimates  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \dots, \hat{\beta}_p$ , we can make predictions using the formula

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 x_2 + \dots + \hat{\beta}_p x_p.$$

- We estimate  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_p$  as the values that minimize the sum of squared residuals

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RSS} &= \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_{i1} - \hat{\beta}_2 x_{i2} - \dots - \hat{\beta}_p x_{ip})^2. \end{aligned}$$

This is done using standard statistical software. The values  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1, \dots, \hat{\beta}_p$  that minimize RSS are the multiple least squares regression coefficient estimates.



## Results for advertising data

	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-statistic	p-value
Intercept	2.939	0.3119	9.42	< 0.0001
TV	0.046	0.0014	32.81	< 0.0001
radio	0.189	0.0086	21.89	< 0.0001
newspaper	-0.001	0.0059	-0.18	0.8599

Correlations:

	TV	radio	newspaper	sales
TV	1.0000	0.0548	0.0567	0.7822
radio		1.0000	0.3541	0.5762
newspaper			1.0000	0.2283
sales				1.0000

## Some important questions

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2. *Do all the predictors help to explain  $Y$ , or is only a subset of the predictors useful?*
3. *How well does the model fit the data?*
4. *Given a set of predictor values, what response value should we predict, and how accurate is our prediction?*

## Is at least one predictor useful?

For the first question, we can use the F-statistic

$$F = \frac{(\text{TSS} - \text{RSS})/p}{\text{RSS}/(n - p - 1)} \sim F_{p, n-p-1}$$

Quantity	Value
Residual Standard Error	1.69
$R^2$	0.897
F-statistic	570