

Chapter 9 - Multiple Regression

Baby weights, Part I. (9.1, p. 350) The Child Health and Development Studies investigate a range of topics. One study considered all pregnancies between 1960 and 1967 among women in the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan in the San Francisco East Bay area. Here, we study the relationship between smoking and weight of the baby. The variable *smoke* is coded 1 if the mother is a smoker, and 0 if not. The summary table below shows the results of a linear regression model for predicting the average birth weight of babies, measured in ounces, based on the smoking status of the mother.

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	123.05	0.65	189.60	0.0000
smoke	-8.94	1.03	-8.65	0.0000

The variability within the smokers and non-smokers are about equal and the distributions are symmetric. With these conditions satisfied, it is reasonable to apply the model. (Note that we don't need to check linearity since the predictor has only two levels.)

- Write the equation of the regression line.
- Interpret the slope in this context, and calculate the predicted birth weight of babies born to smoker and non-smoker mothers.
- Is there a statistically significant relationship between the average birth weight and smoking?

Absenteeism, Part I. (9.4, p. 352) Researchers interested in the relationship between absenteeism from school and certain demographic characteristics of children collected data from 146 randomly sampled students in rural New South Wales, Australia, in a particular school year. Below are three observations from this data set.

	eth	sex	lrn	days
1	0	1	1	2
2	0	1	1	11
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
146	1	0	0	37

The summary table below shows the results of a linear regression model for predicting the average number of days absent based on ethnic background (**eth**: 0 - aboriginal, 1 - not aboriginal), sex (**sex**: 0 - female, 1 - male), and learner status (**lrn**: 0 - average learner, 1 - slow learner).

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	18.93	2.57	7.37	0.0000
eth	-9.11	2.60	-3.51	0.0000
sex	3.10	2.64	1.18	0.2411
lrn	2.15	2.65	0.81	0.4177

- Write the equation of the regression line.
- Interpret each one of the slopes in this context.
- Calculate the residual for the first observation in the data set: a student who is aboriginal, male, a slow learner, and missed 2 days of school.
- The variance of the residuals is 240.57, and the variance of the number of absent days for all students in the data set is 264.17. Calculate the R^2 and the adjusted R^2 . Note that there are 146 observations in the data set.

Absenteeism, Part II. (9.8, p. 357) Exercise above considers a model that predicts the number of days absent using three predictors: ethnic background (**eth**), gender (**sex**), and learner status (**lrn**). The table below shows the adjusted R-squared for the model as well as adjusted R-squared values for all models we evaluate in the first step of the backwards elimination process.

	Model	Adjusted R^2
1	Full model	0.0701
2	No ethnicity	-0.0033
3	No sex	0.0676
4	No learner status	0.0723

Which, if any, variable should be removed from the model first?