

Re: r-Squared Question

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.stat.math/2005-07/msg00255.html>

- *From:* "Predictor" <predictr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 12 Jul 2005 12:40:00 -0700
-

Let's assume some observed data, which I hope makes my question clearer:

```
X Y
1 101
2 102
3 103
4 104
5 105
6 106
7 107
8 108
9 109
10 110
```

The relationship here is obvious, but bare with me. Assume that some regression procedure (obviously not least squares) produces a linear model, YHat:

```
X Y YHat
1 101 97
2 102 99
3 103 101
4 104 103
5 105 105
6 106 107
7 107 109
8 108 111
9 109 113
10 110 115
```

YHat has a correlation (r) with Y of 1.0. r -squared is hence 1.0. What I'm getting at is: the r -squared is at its best possible value, yet the model is obviously suboptimal. Have I gone wrong somewhere, or is this a fundamental weakness of r -squared?

Thanks very much,
Will

Re: r-Squared Question

Radford Neal wrote:

> In article <1121175957.796245.150510@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,

> Predictor <predictr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

>

>>I am trying to undertand r-squared (the coefficient of determination)

>>of regression lines. If r, which is squared to obtain r-squared, is

>>the correlation between the predicted Y and the observed Y, then

>>doesn't that mean that any regression line whose predicted Y is a

>>perfect linear function of the observed Y has an r (and thus r-squared)

>>of 1?

>

> That's true. You may be a bit confused, however. The only way that

> the predicted and observed Y can be related by a linear function is if

> the predicted and observed Y are identical (ie, the linear function is

> observed=predicted). You may be confusing "predicted value" with

> "predictor" (also known as a covariate or explanatory variable). The

> predicted value is the linear function of the covariates in which the

> coefficients are those found by fitting to the data.

>

> -----

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• *Follow-Ups:*

◆ *Re: r-Squared Question*

◇ *From:* Jerry Dallal

◆ *Re: r-Squared Question*

◇ *From:* Eric Bohlman

◆ *Re: r-Squared Question*

◇ *From:* Radford Neal

• *References:*

◆ *r-Squared Question*

◇ *From:* Predictor

◆ *Re: r-Squared Question*

◇ *From:* Radford Neal

• Prev by Date: *Re: standard deviation for digits*

• Next by Date: *Kurtosis approximations*

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