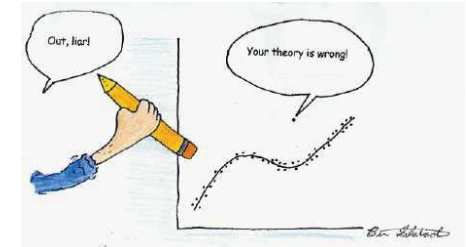


# Regression diagnostics (I thought I was done when I fit the model)

Psychology 6140

# Topics

- Assumptions of the linear regression model
- Patterns in residual plots
- Assessing normality of residuals
- Diagnosing non-constant variance
- Unusual data: Leverage & Influence
- Partial plots



Sometimes a few “bad” points can ruin a theory (Duncan data)

Sometimes, they can help suggest a better one (Fuel data)

# What is a regression model?

- A **model** is a merely a representation / description of reality.
- A **regression model** specifies how a quantitative variable (Y) is related to other variables (Xs), with certain **assumptions**.
- But reality is often too complicated to be perfectly represented / described.
  - All models are wrong – or simply **partial** descriptions.
  - That’s OK: we don’t need perfect models – just **adequate** ones.
  - But, we do need to make sure that inferences / **conclusions are correct!**
- We should try to formulate models that closely represent reality.
  1. Fit the model
  2. Check assumptions
  3. If necessary, modify model, go back to 1.

# Linear regression model

- Model:
 
$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \beta_2 X_{i2} + \dots + \beta_p X_{ip} + \varepsilon_i$$
- Assumptions:
  - **Linearity:** Predictors (possibly transformed) are linearly related to the outcome, **y**. [This just means linear in the parameters.]
  - **Specification:** No important predictors have been omitted; only important ones included. [This is often key & overlooked.]
  - The “holy trinity”:  $\varepsilon_i \sim_{iid} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ 
    - **Independence:** the errors are uncorrelated
    - **Homogeneity of variance:**  $\text{Var}(\varepsilon_i) = \sigma^2 = \text{constant}$
    - **Normality:**  $\varepsilon_i$  have a normal distribution

# Model fitting & model criticism

- Bad news:
  - Any statistical model we fit is probably wrong (or incomplete).
  - Hope for a decent summary & valid inference.
- Good news:
  - Info about the “explained” portion → fitted values
  - Info about the “unexplained” portion → residuals
- Residual plots help to guide us:
  - Model assumptions: NQQ plots, spread vs. level plots
  - Model specifications: partial residual plots ( $Y, X_i \mid$  other  $X_s$ )
- Other problems:
  - Outliers, leverage → Influence plots

5

# Why look at residuals?

- Our model claims that values of  $Y$  are the result of two components:

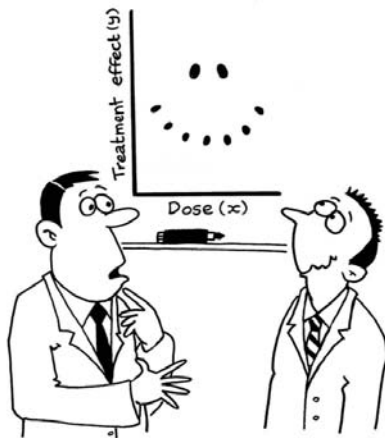
$X$ 's contribution (regression line)    error or individual differences

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \varepsilon_i$$

- The model does not say that **nothing else** is related to  $Y$ .
  - Only that-- anything else is random, **not systematic**
  - The remaining part – the residual -- is considered as random error or individual differences.
- Since we think that there is nothing systematically related to  $Y$  beyond  $X$ ,
    - if there are any other variables available to us, we should explore the relationship between such variables and  $e$ .

6

# Patterns in residual plots

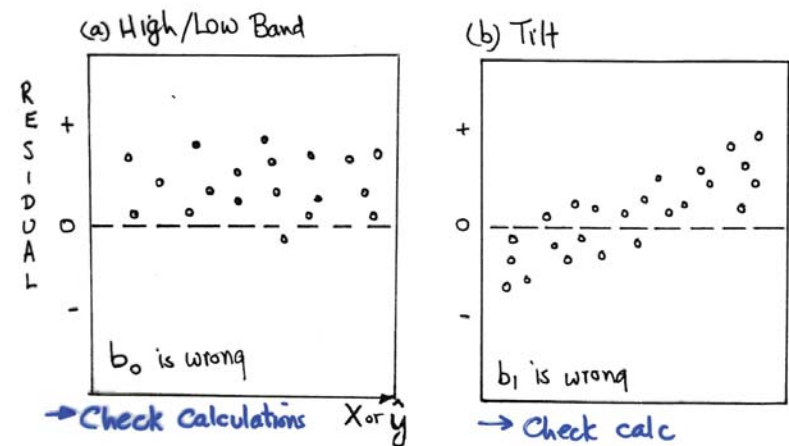


"It's a non-linear pattern with outliers.....but for some reason I'm very happy with the data."

- Residual plots show what has **not yet** been accounted for in a model
- As such, they offer an opportunity to learn something **more**.
- Sometimes, we can truly be happy, learning something not shown in **model summaries**.
- Need to know what to look for

7

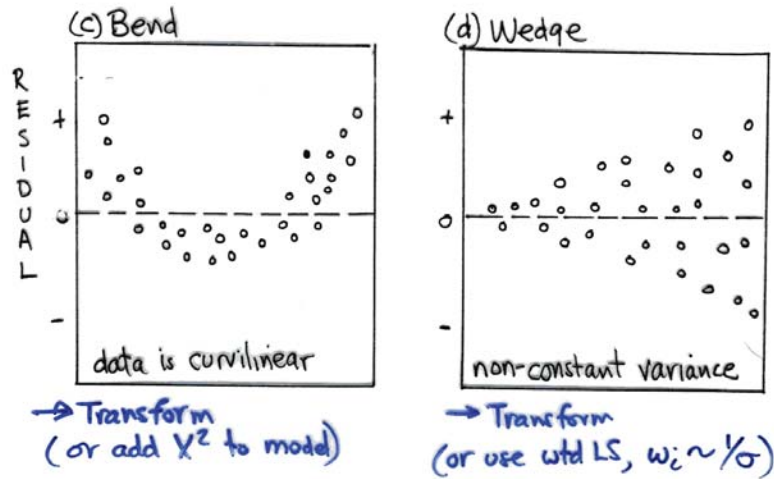
# Patterns in residual plots



Patterns like these rarely occur, except in hand calculations or excel

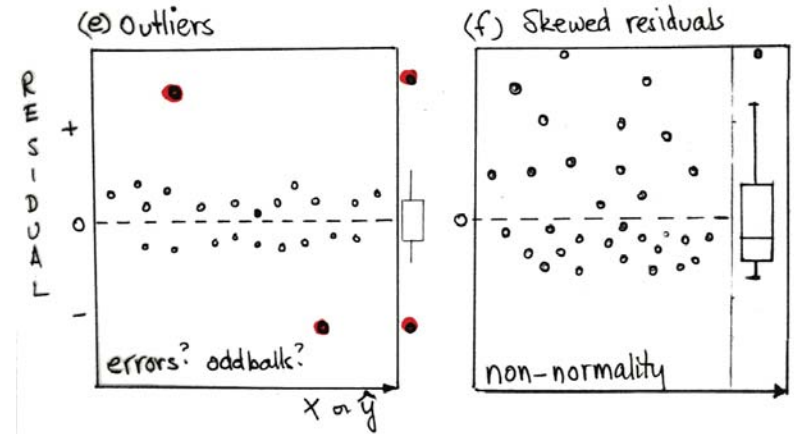
8

# Patterns in residual plots



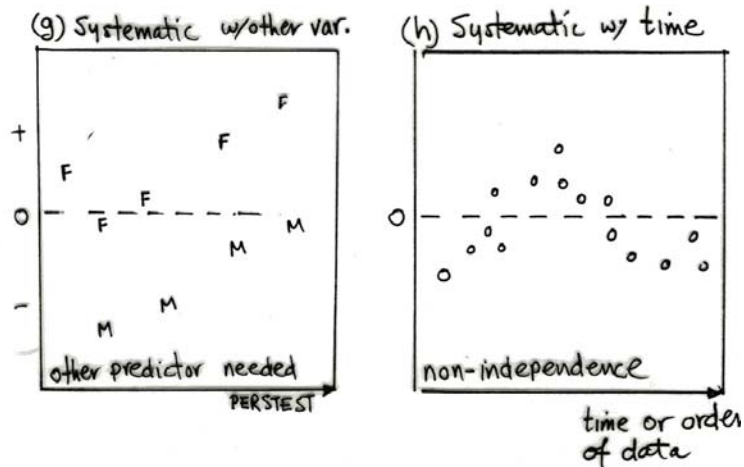
More common, but usually less pronounced than these cartoons

# Patterns in residual plots



More subtle patterns, often better revealed by other plots

# Patterns in residual plots



More subtle still: need to think about what not yet included

# Running example: Duncan data

- Duncan (1961) studied how well one could predict occupational prestige (hard to measure) from available census measures
  - **Income:** proportion of males in an occupation with income > \$3500 in 1950 census
  - **Educ:** proportion of males with >= high school
  - **Prestige:** % of people rating an occupation as “good” or “excellent” (survey of 3000 people)
- Issue: relative effects of Income & Educ --- are they **equally important** as determinants of occ. Prestige?

## Statistical results:

- Model fits well ( $R^2 = 0.83$ )
- Income & educ both significant (& approx. equal!)
- What's not to like?

### Analysis of Variance

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model	2	36181	18090	101.22	<.0001
Error	42	7506.70	178.73		
Corrected Total	44	43688			

Root MSE 13.369 R-Square 0.8282  
 Dependent Mean 47.689 Adj R-Sq 0.8200

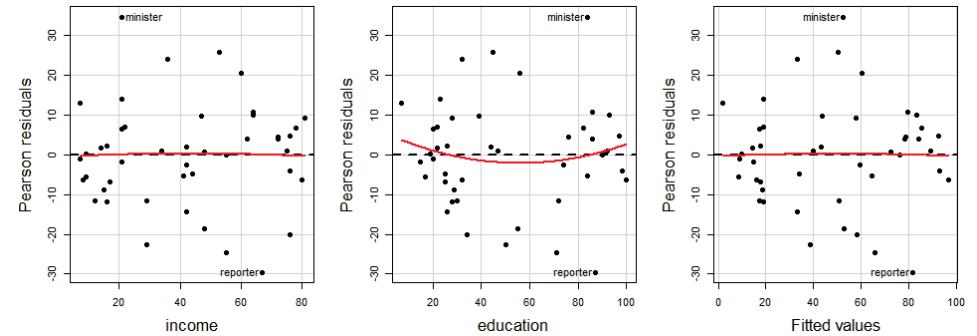
### Parameter Estimates

Variable	Label	DF	Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr >  t
Intercept	Intercept	1	-6.065	4.27194	-1.42	0.1631
income	Income	1	0.599	0.11967	5.00	<.0001
educ	Education	1	0.546	0.09825	5.56	<.0001

13

```
library(car)
data("Duncan", package="car")
duncan.mod <- lm(prestige ~ income + education, data=Duncan)
# basic residual plots
residualPlots(duncan.mod, layout=c(1,3), id.n=2)
```

All residual plots look OK (~flat). But two points have large residuals



Smoothing is often essential to see the overall trend, particularly with small N  
 Automatic labeling of unusual points is helpful too.

14

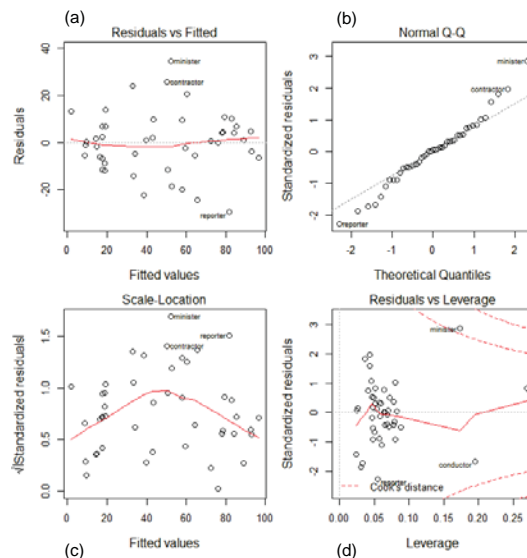
In R, always good to “plot the model” first → the regression quartet

```
plot(duncan.mod)
```

These help to diagnose:  
 (a) Systematic residuals?  
 (b) Normality?  
 (c) Heterogeneous variance?  
 (d) Influential observations?

I'll take up the details of each next.

There are better versions of these plots in other packages (car), but this should be a first step



15

## Assessing normality of residuals

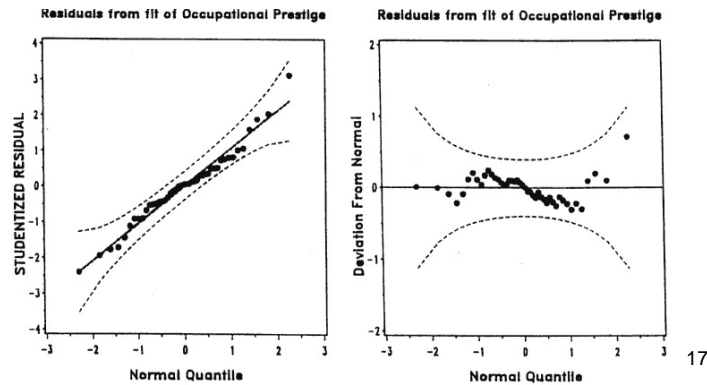
- The linear model **does not** require  $y$  to be normally distributed— only the errors,  $\epsilon$
- Neither are quantitative  $X$ s required to be normal
  - but highly skewed  $X$ s may cause other problems— **non-linearity**
- Practical impact of violation of normality of  $\epsilon$  :
  - Univariate tests of normality (e.g., K-S test) are highly sensitive to small departures; don't need exact normality
  - small effect on  $p$ -values, unless **highly** non-normal
  - High kurtosis – long tails (outliers) more a threat than skewness
- Graphical method (NQQ plot) sufficient in practice

16

# Assessing normality: NQQ plots

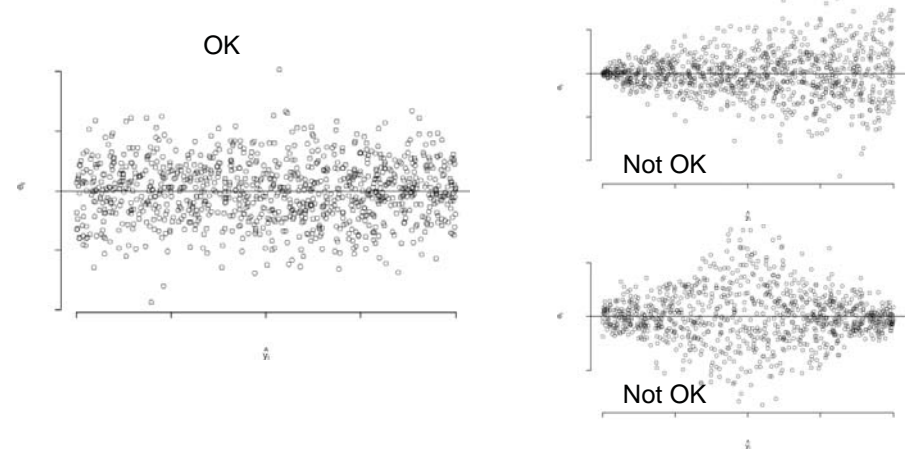
- standard NQQ plot: plot sorted residuals,  $e_{[i]}$  vs.  $z_i =$  quantiles in a  $N(0,1)$  distribution— should follow a 45° line
- Better: show confidence envelope for assessing departures
- Better yet: detrended version plots ( $e_{[i]} - z_i$ ) vs.  $z_i$  – should follow a flat line

SAS: nqplot  
macro  
R: car::qqPlot



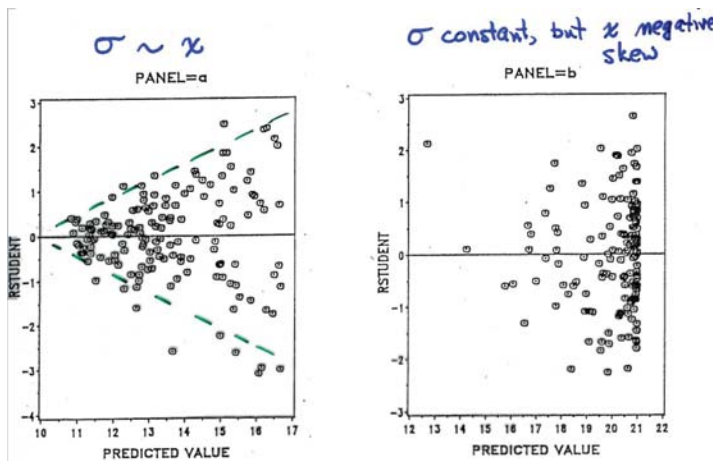
# Diagnosing non-constant variance

- Usual method: plot residuals vs. fitted values: look for differences in residual variance



# Diagnosing non-constant variance

- This doesn't always work, e.g., if the distribution of predicted values is highly skewed, the plot can be misleading due to number of observations.



# Diagnosing non-constant variance

- Better: plot absolute value,  $|e_i|$  vs. predicted, w/ smoothed curve to show variation

The smooth should be flat

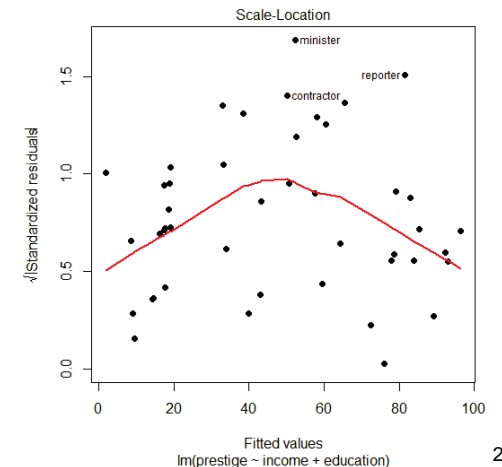
Here, occupational prestige is a proportion, and

$$\text{var}(p) = \sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$$

Is maximal at  $p=0.5$

This suggests a transformation:

$$p \rightarrow \begin{cases} \log p / 1 - p & (\text{logit}) \\ \sin^{-1} \sqrt{p} & (\text{arcsin}) \end{cases}$$





# Correcting non-constant variance

- As always, two options:
  - Transform  $y$  to make  $\sigma^2 \sim$  constant
  - Fit a more general model that allows  $\sigma^2$  to vary with  $E(y|x)$ – a *generalized* linear model (E.g.,: logistic regression, poisson regression)
- For now, the transformation route is easier– stays within the classical linear model
- A *spread-level plot* gives an easy way to find a power transformation, if spread varies with level

21

# Spread-Level plots: theory

Commonly used variance stabilizing techniques		
Relationship of $\sigma^2$ to $E[y]$	Transformation	comment
$\sigma^2 \propto \text{constant}$	$y' = y$	no transformation
$\sigma^2 \propto E[y]$	$y' = \sqrt{y}$	Poisson data
$\sigma^2 \propto E[y](1 - E[y])$	$y' = \sin^{-1}(\sqrt{y})$	binomial proportions,
$\sigma^2 \propto (E[y])^2$	$y' = \log(y)$	$y > 0$
$\sigma^2 \propto (E[y])^3$	$y' = y^{-1/2}$	$y > 0$
$\sigma^2 \propto (E[y])^4$	$y' = y^{-1}$	

$$\sigma \propto E[y]^b \Rightarrow \log(\sigma) \propto b \cdot \log(E[y])$$

- These suggest: transform  $y$  with the *power  $p = 1-b$*
- Thus, plot  $\log(\text{spread})$  vs.  $\log(\text{level})$  & use 1-slope as the power
- (Works *if* the plot is reasonably linear)
- (Proportions require something different– folded power transformations)

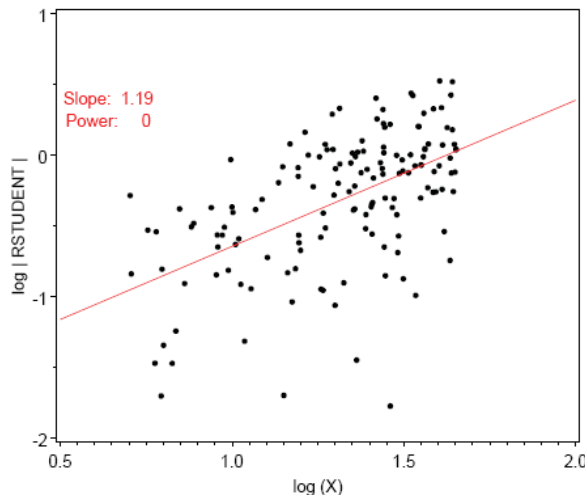
22

# Spread-Level plots

- Spread vs. level plots: Plot  $\log(|e_i|/\hat{\sigma})$  vs.  $\log(x)$
- If linear, with slope  $b$ , transform  $y \rightarrow y^p$ , with  $p = 1 - b$ .

SAS: spredplot macro

R:  
car::spreadLevelPlot()



- Artificial data, generated so that  $\sigma \sim x$ : Power = 0  $\rightarrow$  analyze  $\log(y)$  23

This method doesn't work for the Duncan data, because  $\log(\text{spread})$  is not *linearly* related to  $\log(\text{fitted value})$

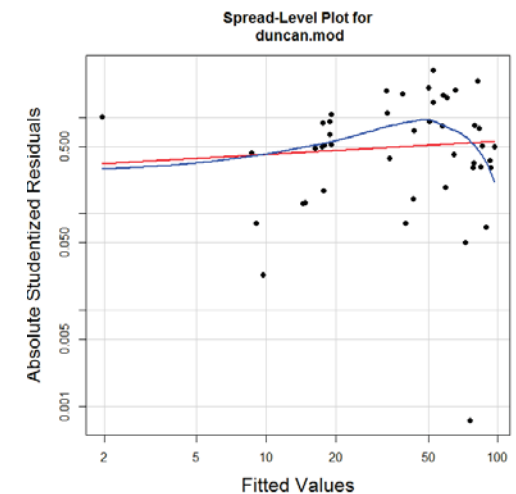
`spreadLevelPlot(duncan.mod)`

Suggested power transformation: 0.865

i.e., no power transform helps

The *loess smoothed* curve shows that residual variance is not constant, but a power transformation can't cure this.

As suggested earlier, a better analysis would have used a logit or arcsine transform of prestige to stabilize variance



NB: both are plotted on log scales

24

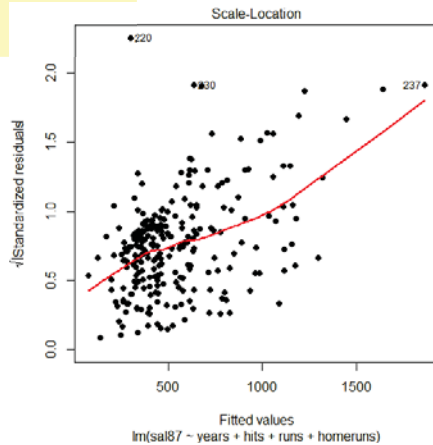
# Baseball data: scale-location plot

```
data("Baseball", package="vcd")
bb.mod <- lm(sal87 ~ years + hits + runs + homeruns,
             data=Baseball)
# standard plot method
plot(bb.mod, which=3, pch=16, lwd=2)
```

This plot shows that residual variance increases with fitted value

It doesn't diagnose a corrective power transformation, but:

Increasing  $\rightarrow p < 1$  (down scale of powers)



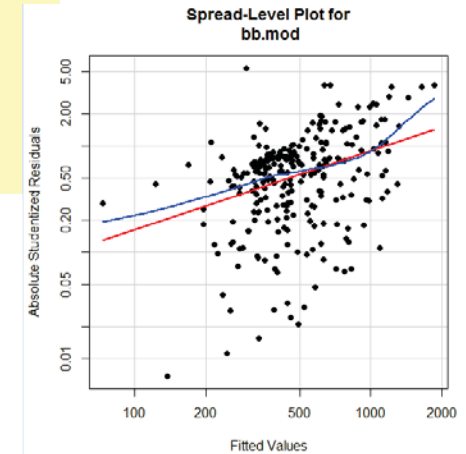
# car::spreadLevelPlot

Spread-level plot for a model object:

```
data("Baseball", package="vcd")
bb.mod <- lm(sal87 ~ years + hits + runs + homeruns,
             data=Baseball)
library(car)
spreadLevelPlot(bb.mod, pch=16)

# show smooth fit
fit <- fitted(bb.mod)
res <- abs(rstudent(bb.mod))
lines(loess.smooth(fit, res), col="blue", lwd=2)
```

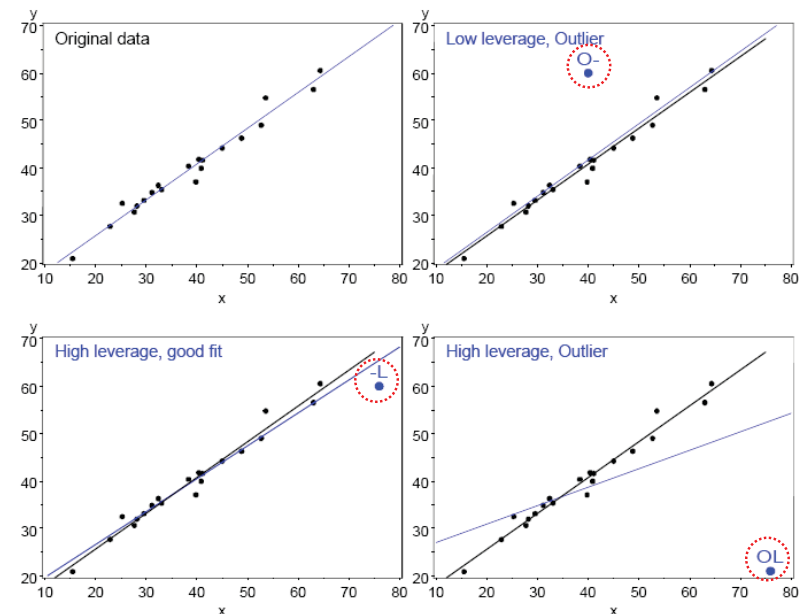
This gives:  
Suggested power transformation:  
0.261  
i.e.,  $\log(y)$  or  $y^{1/4}$



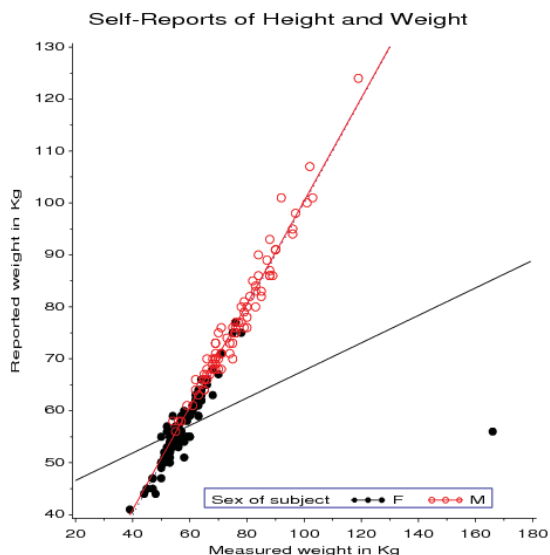
# Unusual data: Leverage & Influence

- “Unusual” observations can have dramatic effects on least-squares estimates in linear models
- Three archtypical cases:
  - Typical X (low leverage), bad fit -- Not much harm
  - Unusual X (high leverage), good fit -- Not much harm
  - Unusual X (high leverage), bad fit -- **BAD, BAD, BAD**
- Influential observations: unusual in *both* X & Y
- Heuristic formula:  
Influence = X leverage x Y residual

Effect of adding one more point (new line in blue):



Dramatic example: Davis' data on reported and measured weight of men and women

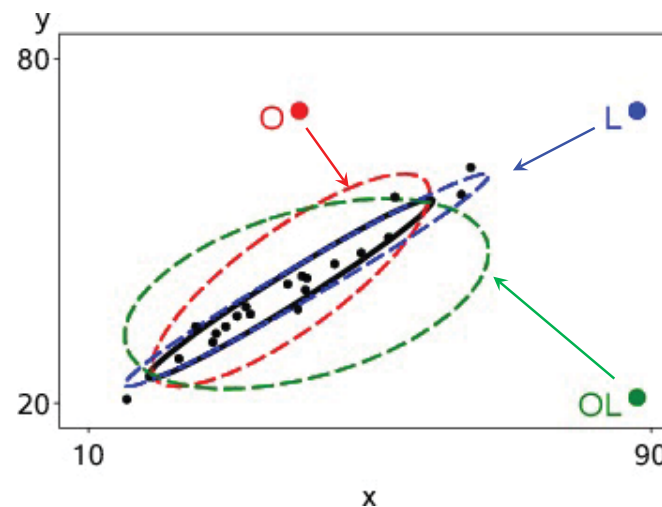


This one bad point is both of high leverage (X) and has a huge residual (Y)

32

Unusual points also affect precision of estimates:

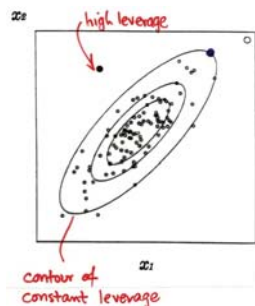
- OL: biases slope & increases std. error
- O: no bias, but increases std. error
- L: decreases std. error ("good leverage" point)



33

## Measuring leverage

- **Leverage:** measured by "Hat values,"  $h_i$ .
  - so-called because fitted values can be expressed as  $\hat{y} = Hy$
  - For simple linear regression,  $h_i \sim (x - \bar{x})^2$
  - For  $p$  predictors,  $h_i \propto$  squared distance of  $x_i$  from centroid,  $\bar{x}$  (Mahalanobis squared distance)
  - All hat values range from  $1/n$  to 1, and average is  $\bar{h} = (p + 1)/n$ .
  - $\rightarrow$  observations with  $h_i > 2\bar{h}$  (or  $h_i > 3\bar{h}$  in small samples) are typically considered "high leverage" points



- In general, leverage is  $\sim$  Mahalanobis squared distance for the predictors from their means

34

## Detecting outliers: Studentized residuals

- **Ordinary residuals:**  $e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$ , not useful because:
  - Even if errors,  $\epsilon_i$  have constant variance (as assumed), residuals *do not*—variance of  $e_i$  varies inversely with leverage— $\text{Var}(e_i) = \sigma^2(1 - h_i)$
  - Outliers on Y pull the regression line (surface) toward them
- **Studentized residuals:**
  - Standardized residual (RSTUDENT) calculated for  $y_i$  deleting observation  $i$ . Using subscript  $(-i)$  to mean deleting  $i$ ,

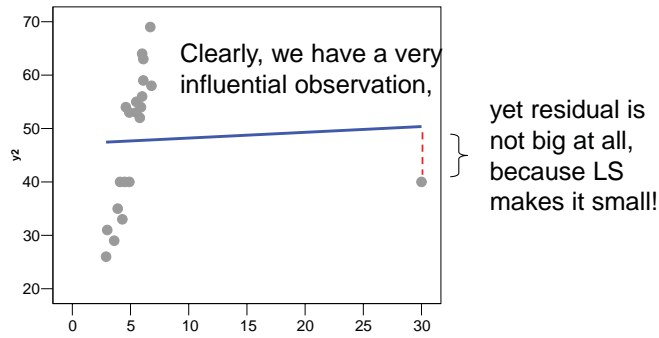
$$\text{RSTUDENT} \equiv e_i^* = \frac{e_i}{s_{(-i)}\sqrt{1 - h_i}}$$

- Gives a test for "mean-shift" outlier model,  $H_0 : \mathcal{E}(y_i | X) \neq \mathcal{E}(y_{(-i)} | X)$
- $e_i^* \sim t(n - p - 2)$ 
  - $\rightarrow |e_i^*| > t_{1-\alpha/2}(n - p - 2)$  significant *a priori*
  - $\rightarrow |e_i^*| > t_{1-\alpha/2n}(n - p - 2)$  significant *a posteriori* (Bonferroni)

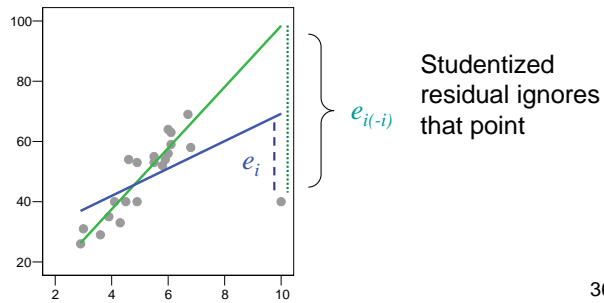
35



## Ordinary residuals



## Studentized residuals



36

# Influence = Leverage x Residual

- **Cook's D:** Scale-invariant (*squared*) measure of “distance” between  $\beta$  (all) and  $\beta_{(-i)}$  (deleting obs.  $i$ )

$$\text{COOKD}_i \equiv D_i = \left( \frac{e_i^2}{(p+1)s^2} \right) \times \frac{h_i}{1-h_i^2}$$

- “Large” values:  $D_i > 4/n$  [or  $D_i > 4/(n-p-1)$ ]

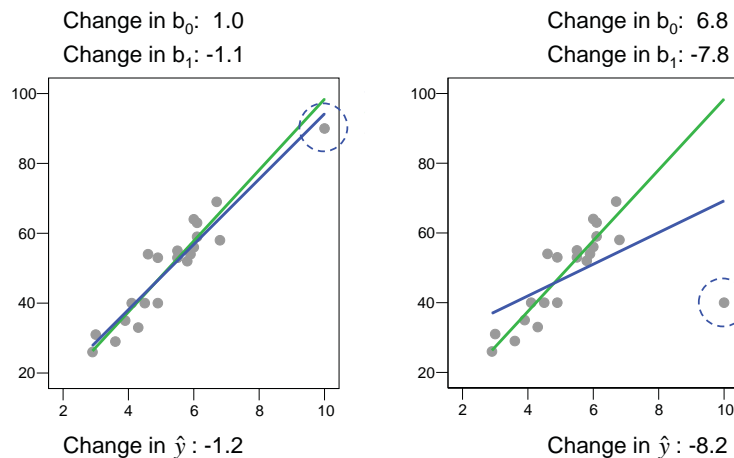
- **DFFITS:** Scaled measure of (*signed*) change in predicted value for  $y_i$ , deleting obs.  $i$

$$\text{DFFITS}_i = \frac{\hat{y}_i - \hat{y}_{(-i)}}{s_{(-i)}\sqrt{h_i}} = \left( \frac{e_i}{s_{(-i)}} \right) \times \frac{\sqrt{h_i}}{1-h_i^2}$$

- “Large” values:  $|\text{DFFITS}_i| > 2\sqrt{(p+1)/n}$

37

## Example: Consider the circled observation



Low influence – a “good” leverage point

High influence – a “bad” leverage point

38

## Influence diagnostics with SAS

- **PROC REG** (ODS GRAPHICS → regression diagnostic plots)
  - influence option on model statement gives printed values
- **inflplot macro**
  - Fits model using PROC REG, influence statistics → output dataset
  - Plots RSTUDENT vs. Hat value, bubble size ~ Cook's D or DFFITS
  - Labels “noteworthy” observations— large RSTUDENT and/or Hat value
  - Shows nominal cutoffs for “unusual” values
- **Similar macros**
  - **infglogis** macro— logistic regression (PROC LOGISTIC)
  - **infglim** macro— generalized linear models (PROC GENMOD)

See: <http://www.math.yorku.ca/SCS/sssg/inflplot.html>

39

## Example: Duncan's Occupational prestige data

PROC REG step, with influence option

```

1 %include data(duncan);
2 proc reg data=duncan;
3   model prestige = Income Educ / influence;
4   id job;
5 run;

```

inflplot macro:

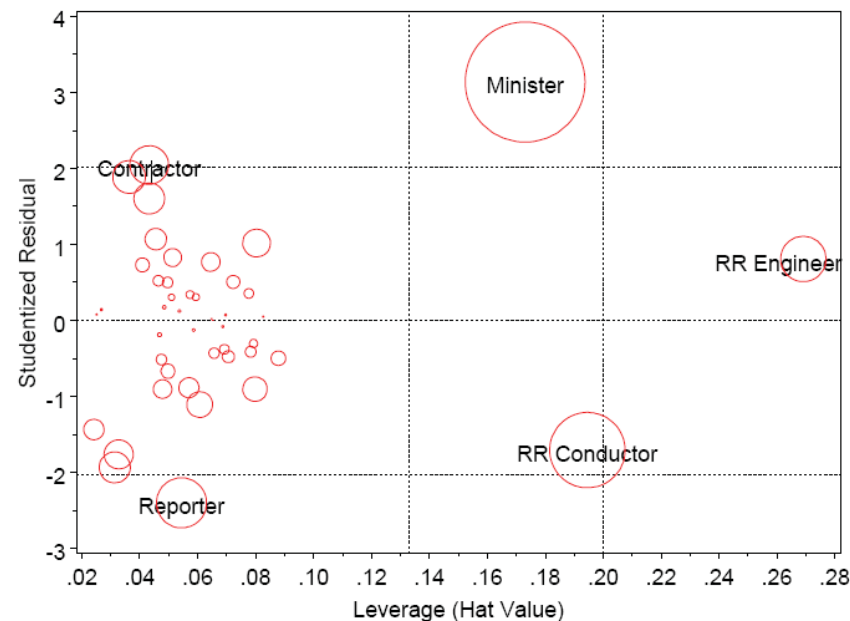
```

6 title 'Duncan data: Influence Plot';
7 title2 "Bubble size: Cook's Distance";
8 %inflplot(data=duncan,
9   y=Prestige, /* response */
10  x=Income Educ, /* predictors */
11  id=job, /* ID variable */
12  bubble=cookd /* bubble ~ Cook's D */
13 );

```

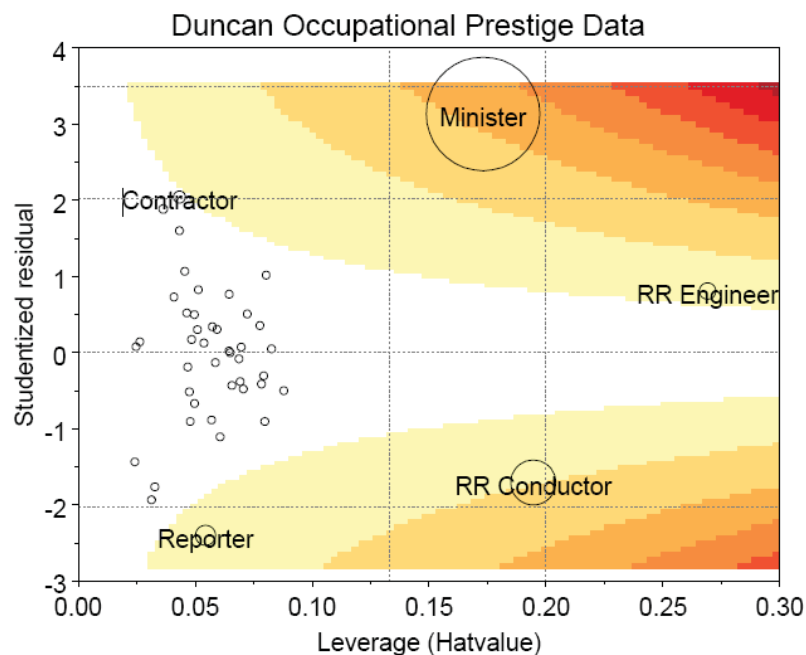
10

Duncan data: Influence Plot  
Bubble size: Cook's Distance



41

Showing contours of Cook's D:



42

## Example: Duncan's Occupational prestige data

Influence on coefficients is substantial:

- All  $n = 45$  cases

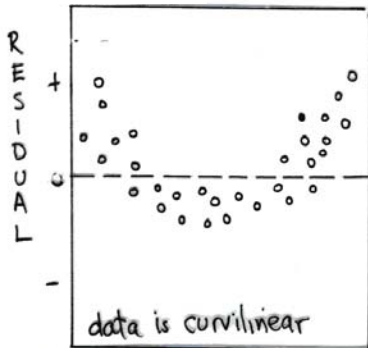
Variable	Label	DF	Parameter Estimates			
			Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr >  t
Intercept	Intercept	1	-6.06466	4.27194	-1.42	0.1631
income	Income	1	0.59873	0.11967	5.00	<.0001
educ	Education	1	0.54583	0.09825	5.56	<.0001

- Deleting Minister, RR Conductor, RR Engineer

Variable	Label	DF	Parameter Estimates			
			Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr >  t
Intercept	Intercept	1	-6.31736	3.67962	-1.72	0.0939
income	Income	1	0.93066	0.15375	6.05	<.0001
educ	Education	1	0.28464	0.12136	2.35	0.0242

45

# Patterns in residual plots: Marginal vs. partial relations



→ Transform  
(or add  $X^2$  to model)

- For a one predictor model, this plot is helpful.
- But with two+ predictors, such plots only show the marginal relationships (ignoring other Xs)
- The multiple regression model is about partial relationships – controlling for other Xs
- → We need to see the partial relation between Y and  $X_i$ , holding other Xs constant.

# Partial regression plots

## Problems

- Correlated predictors— Ordinary scatterplots cannot show the *unique* effects of one predictor, *controlling* for others
- Joint influence— Single deletion diagnostics cannot show whether sets of observations are *jointly influential*, or *offset* each other

## Solution: Partial regression (added-variable) plots

- For  $x_k$ , plot  $y \mid \text{other } x\text{s}$  vs.  $x_k \mid \text{other } x\text{s}$ . (others  $\equiv X[-k]$ )

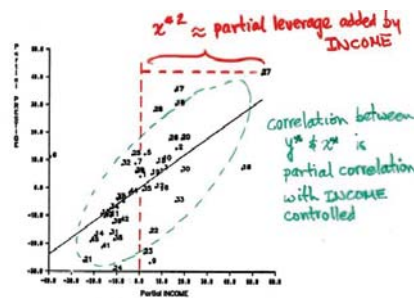
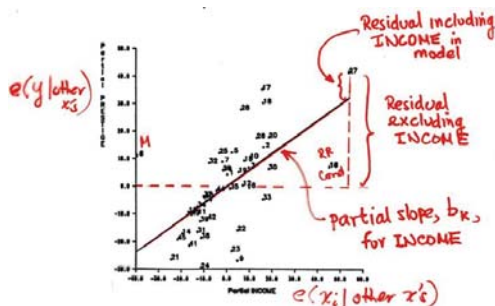
$$y \mid \text{others} \equiv y_k^* = y - \hat{y}_{X[-k]}$$

$$x_k \mid \text{others} \equiv x_k^* = x_k - \hat{x}_{X[-k]}$$

- $y_k^*$  = residuals from regression of  $y$  on  $X[-k]$
- $x_k^*$  = residuals from regression of  $x_k$  on  $X[-k]$
- → unique relation of  $y$  to  $x_k$ , controlling/adjusting for all other  $x\text{s}$ .

# Partial regression plots: Properties

- slope of  $y_k^*$  on  $x_k^*$  =  $b_k$ , the estimate of the (partial) regression coefficient,  $\beta_k$ , in the full model.
- residuals from the regression line in this plot  $\equiv$  residuals for  $y$  in the full model, i.e.,
 
$$y_k^* = b_k x_k^* + e$$
- simple correlation between  $y_k^*$  and  $x_k^*$  = partial correlation between  $y$  and  $x_k$  with the other  $x$  variables partialled out or controlled.
- plot shows *partial* leverage ( $\sim x_{ik}^{*2}$ ) and influence



# Partial regression plots: Example

PROC REG step, with partial option → printer plots

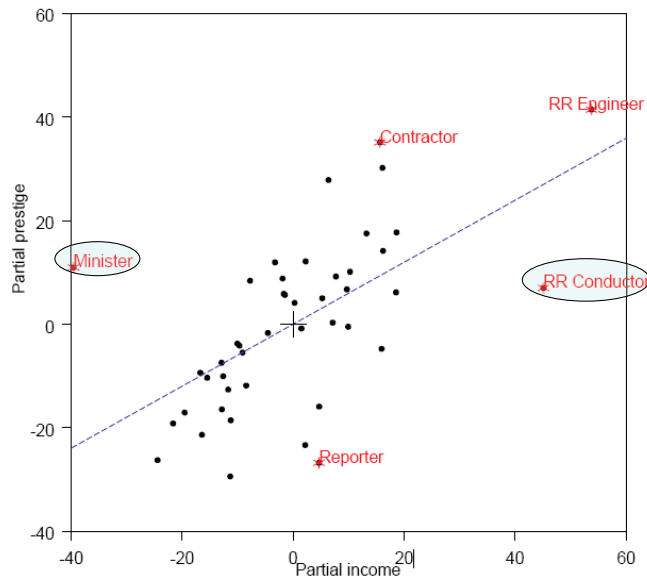
```

1 %include data(duncan);
2 proc reg data=duncan;
3     model prestige = Income Educ / partial;
4     id job;
5     run;
    
```

partial macro: high-res plots

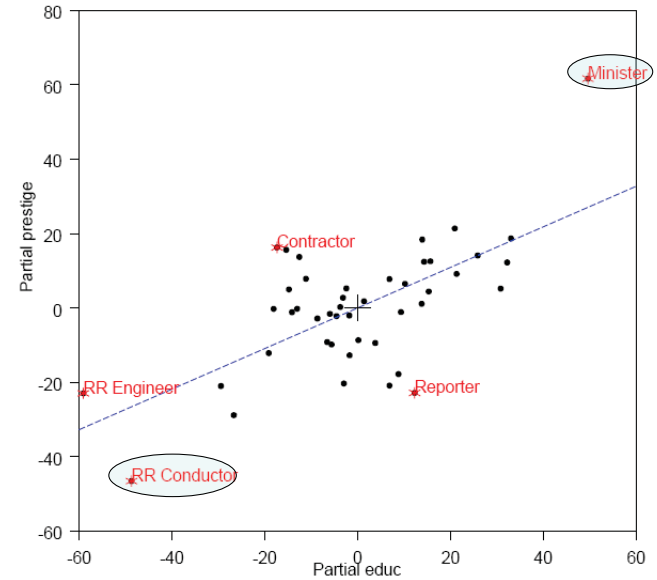
```

1 %partial(data=duncan,
2     yvar=prestige, /* response */
3     xvar=Income Educ, /* predictors */
4     id=job, /* ID variable */
5     label=INFL /* label influential pts */
6 );
    
```



■ Minister and RR Conductor are *jointly influential*— decrease slope for Income

50



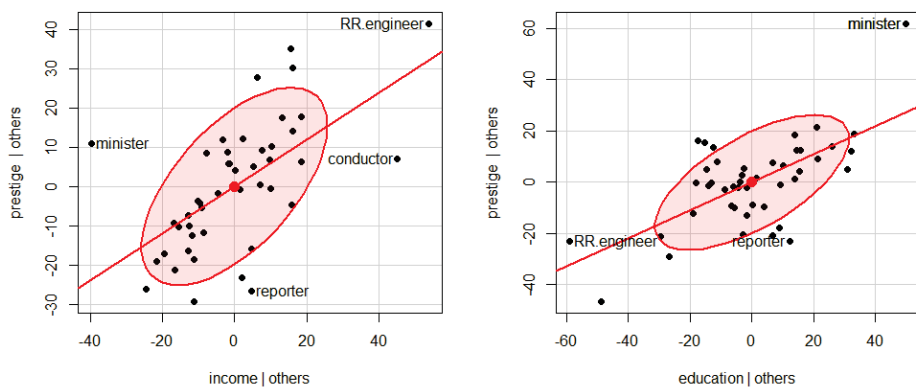
■ Minister and RR Conductor are *jointly influential*— increase slope for Education

51

## car::avPlots

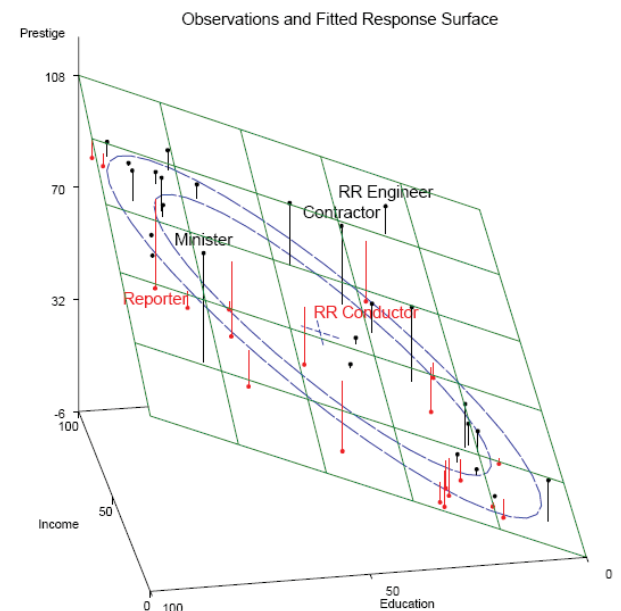
```
duncan.mod <- lm(prestige ~ income + education, data=Duncan)
avPlots(duncan.mod, id.n=2, ellipse=TRUE, ...)
```

Added-Variable Plots



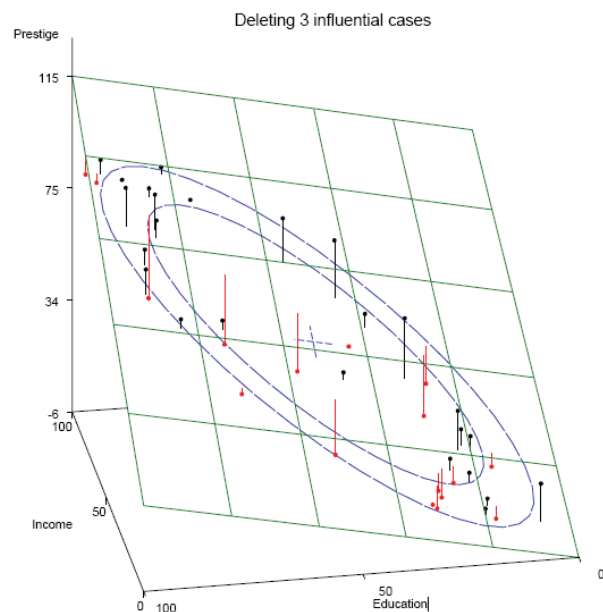
53

3D view:



4

3D view:



5

## How to handle influential cases

- Observations in error, or from an extraneous population
  - delete or exclude them ?
  - Recall that in the fuel data, outliers suggested a better model!
- **Robust methods** – fit using a method that down-weights outliers
  - SAS: PROC ROBUSTREG
  - R: `MASS::rlm()`; `robust::lmRob()`
- **Sensitivity analysis** – effect on your conclusions?
  - Compare  $Q_{all}$  vs  $Q_{(-i)}$  for any statistic,  $Q$
  - Are there likely to be more observations like  $x_i$  in future samples?
  - Duncan data: Minister, RR Conductor clearly special – report main results excluding them, footnote  $Q_{all}$

56

## Summary

- Fitting a model is just the first step
  - Need to check whether assumptions are satisfied
  - If not, revise/change the model, or transform/modify the data
- Residuals: what you **have not** (yet) accounted for!
- Residual plots are your friend
  - Residuals vs.  $X$  or fitted  $Y$ : patterns?
  - NQQ plots to check for normality
  - Spread-level plots to check for constant variance

57

## Summary

- Outliers & influential observations
  - Distinguish between “good leverage” points and “bad leverage” points
  - Influence =  $X$ -Leverage  $\times$   $Y$ -residual
  - Influence plots show effects of both
- Partial regression (added variable) plots
  - Show the relation of  $Y$  to  $X_i$ , **controlling for** all other  $X$ s
  - Help you see **exactly** what the model is fitting
  - Visualize **how** and **why** observations are influential

58