

Twitter Thread by Prof. K V Subramanian



Prof. K V Subramanian

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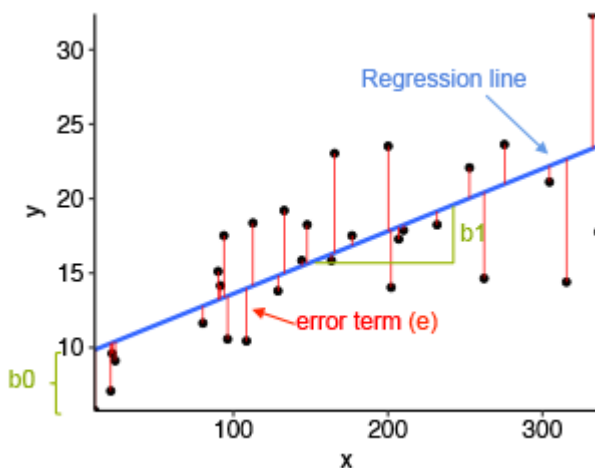


As some people question based on inadequate understanding & stereotypes, I'll write a longer blog explaining it later. Now, ■to explain briefly. Key to understanding is that science as we know it is a SUBSET of REASON... they are not one & the same. 1/n

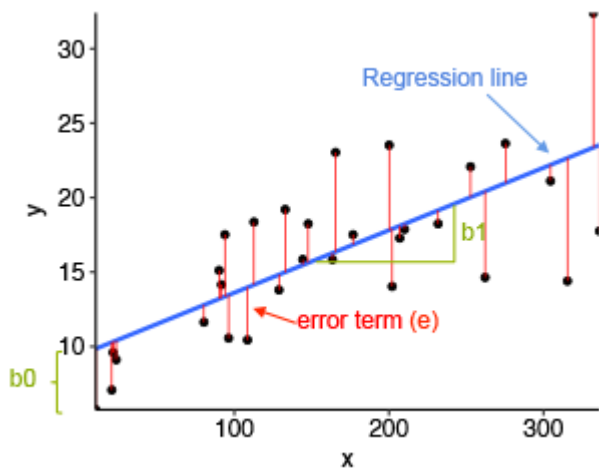
I will do Pitru Tarpanam today as it is Amavasya Tithi. That sits perfectly well with the scientific temper I gained from studying at @IITKanpur @IIM_Calcutta @UChicago. Our rishis created these processes with deep understanding; they are NOT superstition for those who understand <https://t.co/6g6hcvzKFT>

— Prof. K V Subramanian (@SubramanianKri) August 27, 2022

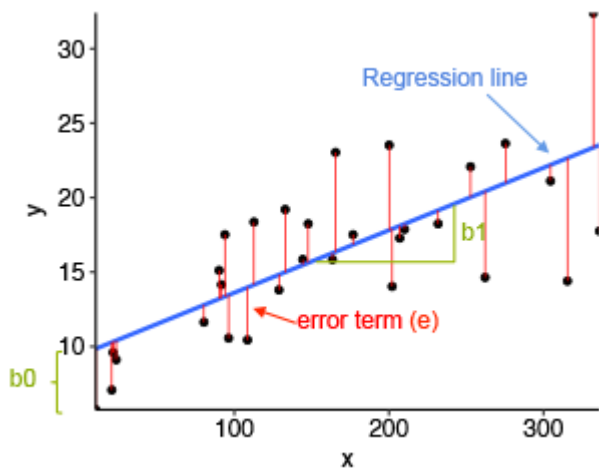
A parallel using statistics to explain: Consider a simple regression (w/ figure below) $y=b_0+b_1x+e$, x is a variable explaining outcome y while e is "unexplained part of variation in y ", often incorrectly called "error term". 2/n



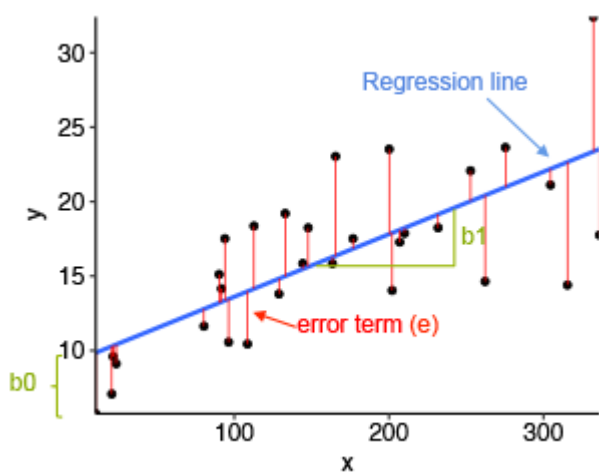
Key point #1: JUST BCOS ONE CAN'T EXPLAIN THE "e" IN THE REGRESSION DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT DOESN'T EXIST. Does recognizing that "e" is unexplained part of y , but it does exist, imply superstition? No!! Read on as I connect this to life, scientific temper & Vedic rituals. 3/n



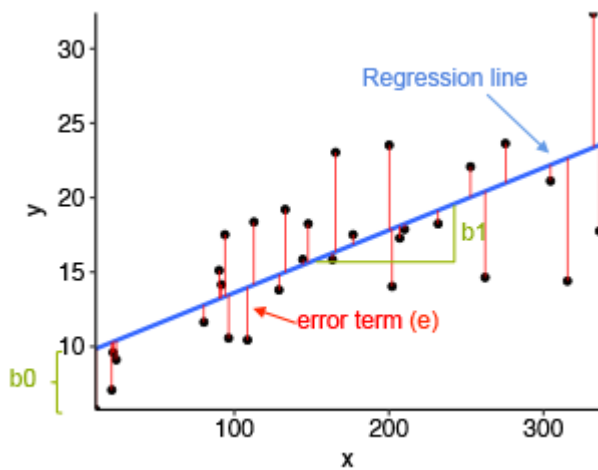
What's essence of "science as we know it"? Replicability! Scientific experiments must be replicable. Can you replicate what you can't measure? No! So, replicability needs measurement, which needs observation using 1 or more of 5 senses, which is the "explained part" x below $4/n$



Key point #2: "x" IN A REGRESSION CORRESPONDS IN LIFE TO WHAT CAN BE OBSERVED USING ONE OR MORE OF THE FIVE SENSES. $5/n$



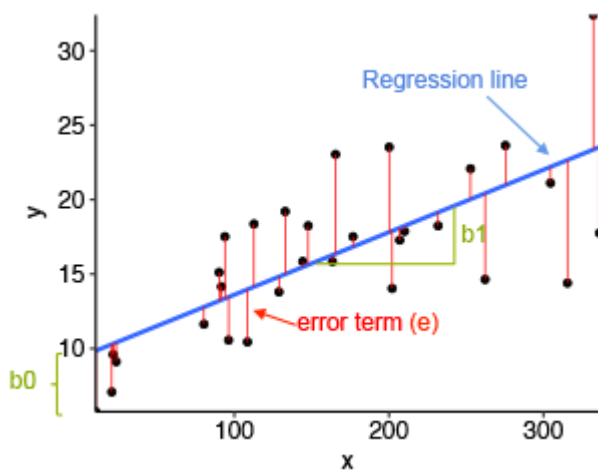
Now combine Key points #1 & #2. What can be observed/perceived using 1 or more of the five senses is not the ONLY part of what exists life. Or, just bcos you can't observe/perceive something doesn't mean it doesn't exist. $6/n$



Our Rishis had the phenomenal understanding that limiting our life experience to only what is observed/perceived using the 5 senses is v limiting. The REASON behind many Vedic rituals got lost over time. We threw away the banana & kept the banana peel, which is slippery. 7/n

As the Rishis left this wealth of knowledge in our Vedic literature, those who have made the effort to read & understand this literature have experienced the pleasure & benefits of eating the banana instead of only seeing the banana peel. 8/n

Understand as follows: If one gets a better understanding that y can be explained better using one more variable z that is a "proxy" for something unobserved/unexplained (apart from observed x), the R-squared (=part of y that is explained) goes up. 9/n



Another parallel using Linear Algebra: Think of "perceiving" an n-dimensional object using a space of only m (m

If I project a 3-d object on the floor I see an image. If I project it on the wall, I see a different projection/image. Just bcos I'm limited by the 2 dimensions of wall or floor, does the 3-d object not exist? Is recognizing the limitations of perception "superstition"? 11/n

Using this 3-d example, now return back to the n-dimension object & m

Finally, read this speech by none other than Swami Vivekananda, where he explains many of the deeper concepts that our Rishis understood v well. A framework where why u r born where u r born is taken as a lottery is no framework whatsoever.
13/n <https://t.co/Ccr4QOWqx6>

If where u r born (to what kind of parents), which determines sooo much of life's outcomes, is thought to be a LOTTERY, is that even a framework??? It is not as "Anything goes" is not much of a theory!!! Vedic literature doesn't have "Anything goes" as the framework of life! 14/n

If one falls prey to stereotypes, one can neither recognize nor appreciate deep concepts. THINK using this thread, which is what our Upanishads exhort a human being to do. End of ■ n/n