

Finding Relationships Among Variables

BUS 230: Business and Economic Research and
Communication

- Specific goals:
 - Re-familiarize ourselves with basic statistics ideas: sampling distributions, hypothesis tests, p-values.
 - Be able to distinguish different types of data and prescribe appropriate statistical methods.
 - Conduct a number of hypothesis tests using methods appropriate for questions involving only one or two variables.
- Learning objectives:
 - LO2: Interpret data using statistical analysis.
 - LO2.3: Formulate conclusions and recommendations based upon statistical results.

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What to Look For

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- There is a closed-book, closed-note quiz tomorrow.
- For each test, remember the following:
 - In plain English, be able to describe the purpose of the test.
 - Know whether the test is a parametric test or a non-parametric test.
 - Know the null and alternative hypotheses.
 - Know what types of variables are appropriate for applying the test.

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Correlation

3 / 20

- A **correlation** exists between two variables when one of them is related to the other in some way.
- The **Pearson linear correlation coefficient** is a measure of the strength of the linear relationship between two variables.
 - Parametric test!
 - Null hypothesis: there is zero linear correlation between two variables.
 - Alternative hypothesis: there is a linear correlation (either positive or negative) between two variables.
- Spearman's Rank Test
 - Non-parametric test.
 - Behind the scenes - replaces actual data with their *rank*, computes the Pearson using ranks.
 - Same hypotheses.

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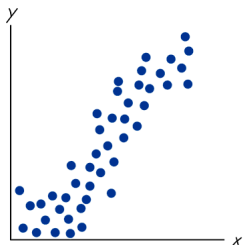
Correlation

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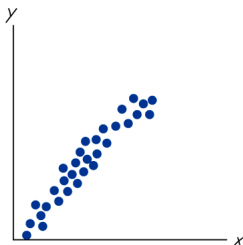
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Positive linear correlation

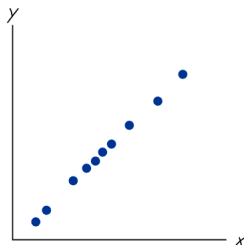
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(a) Positive correlation between x and y



(b) Strong positive correlation between x and y

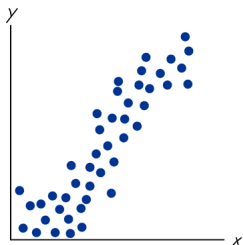


(c) Perfect positive correlation between x and y

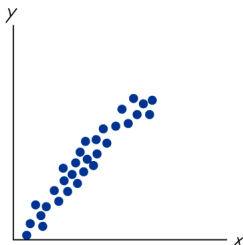
- Positive correlation: two variables move in the same direction.
- Stronger the correlation: closer the correlation coefficient is to 1.
- Perfect positive correlation: $\rho = 1$

Positive linear correlation

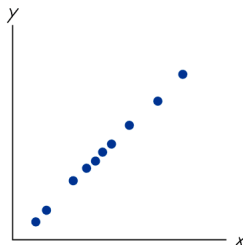
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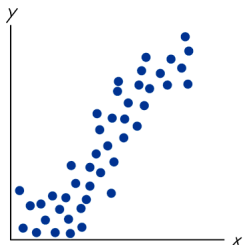


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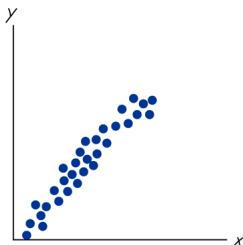
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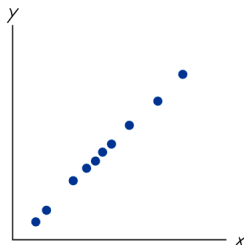
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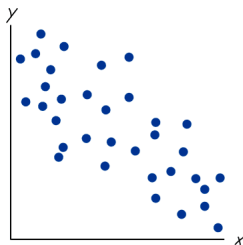
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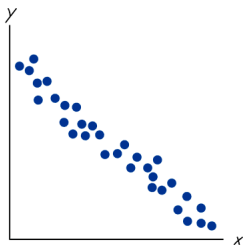
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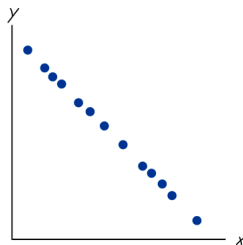
Negative linear correlation



(d) Negative correlation between x and y



(e) Strong negative correlation between x and y

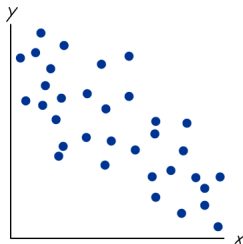


(f) Perfect negative correlation between x and y

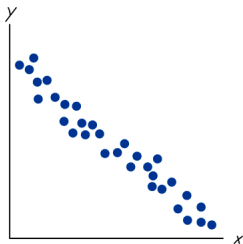
- Negative correlation: two variables move in opposite directions.
- Stronger the correlation: closer the correlation coefficient is to -1 .
- Perfect negative correlation: $\rho = -1$

Negative linear correlation

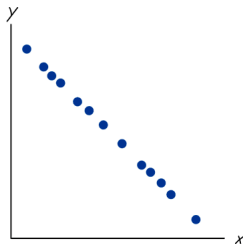
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(d) Negative correlation between x and y



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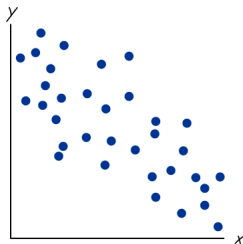
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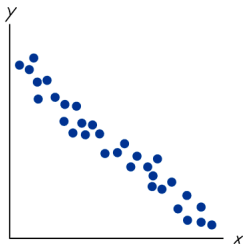
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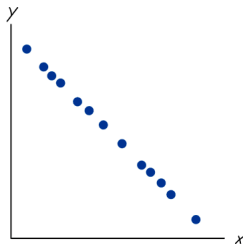
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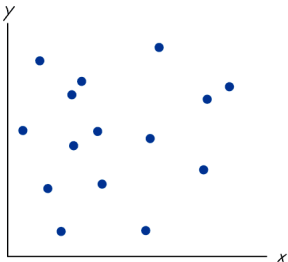


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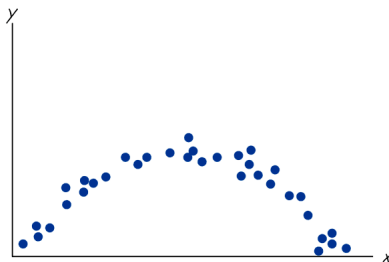
- Negative correlation: two variables move in opposite directions.
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No linear correlation

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(g) No correlation
between x and y

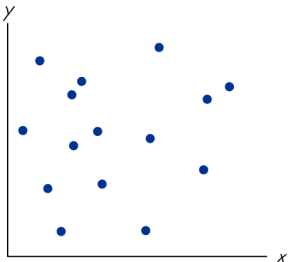


(h) Nonlinear relationship
between x and y

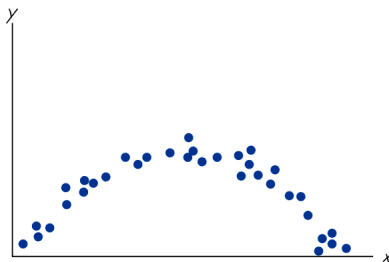
- Panel (g): no relationship at all.
- Panel (h): strong relationship, but not a *linear* relationship.
 - Cannot use regular correlation to detect this.

No linear correlation

6 / 20



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Chi-Squared Test for Independence

7 / 20

- Used to determine if two categorical variables (eg: nominal) are related.
- Example: Suppose a hotel manager surveys guest who indicate they will not return:

Reason for Stay	Reason for Not Returning		
	Price	Location	Amenities
Personal/Vacation	56	49	0
Business	20	47	27

- Data in the table are always frequencies that fall into individual categories.
- Could use this table to test if two variables are independent.

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Test of independence

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- **Null hypothesis:** there is no relationship between the row variable and the column variable (independent)
- **Alternative hypothesis:** There is a relationship between the row variable and the column variable (dependent).
- Test statistic:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

- O : observed frequency in a cell from the contingency table.
- E : expected frequency computed with the *assumption that the variables are independent*.
- Large χ^2 values indicate variables are dependent (reject the null hypothesis).

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Regression

9 / 20

- Regression line: equation of the line that describes the linear relationship between variable x and variable y .
- Need to assume that *independent variables* influence *dependent variables*.
 - x : *independent or explanatory variable*.
 - y : *dependent variable*.
 - Variable x can influence the value for variable y , but not vice versa.
- Example: How does advertising expenditures affect sales revenue?

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Regression line

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- Population regression line:

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

- The actual coefficients β_0 and β_1 describing the relationship between x and y are unknown.
- Use sample data to come up with an estimate of the regression line:

$$y_i = b_0 + b_1 x_i + e_i$$

- Since x and y are not perfectly correlated, still need to have an error term.

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Predicted values and residuals

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- Given a value for x_i , can come up with a **predicted value** for y_i , denoted \hat{y}_i .

$$\hat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1 x_i$$

- This is not likely be the actual value for y_i .
- Residual** is the difference *in the sample* between the actual value of y_i and the predicted value, \hat{y}_i .

$$e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i = y_i - b_0 - b_1 x_i$$

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Predicted values and residuals

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- Given a value for x_i , can come up with a **predicted value** for y_i , denoted \hat{y}_i .

$$\hat{y}_i = b_0 + b_1 x_i$$

- This is not likely be the actual value for y_i .
- Residual** is the difference *in the sample* between the actual value of y_i and the predicted value, \hat{y}_i .

$$e_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i = y_i - b_0 - b_1 x_i$$

Multiple Regression

12 / 20

- Multiple regression line (population):

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1,i} + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_{k-1} x_{k-1} + \epsilon_i$$

- Multiple regression line (sample):

$$y_i = b_0 + b_1 x_{1,i} + b_2 x_2 + \dots + b_k x_k + e_i$$

- k : number of parameters (coefficients) you are estimating.
- ϵ_i : error term, since linear relationship between the x variables and y are not perfect.
- e_i : residual = the difference between the predicted value \hat{y} and the actual value y_i .

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Interpreting the slope

13/ 20

- Interpreting the slope, β : amount the y is predicted to increase when increasing x by one unit.
- When $\beta < 0$ there is a negative linear relationship.
- When $\beta > 0$ there is a positive linear relationship.
- When $\beta = 0$ there is no linear relationship between x and y .
- SPSS reports sample estimates for coefficients, along with...
 - Estimates of the standard errors.
 - T-test statistics for $H_0 : \beta = 0$.
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Sum of Squares Measures of Variation

14 / 20

- **Sum of Squares Regression (SSR)**: measure of the amount of variability in the dependent (Y) variable that is explained by the independent variables (X's).

$$SSR = \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - \bar{y})^2$$

- **Sum of Squares Error (SSE)**: measure of the unexplained variability in the dependent variable.

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Coefficient of determination

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- The **coefficient of determination** is the percentage of variability in y that is explained by x .

$$R^2 = \frac{SSR}{SST}$$

- R^2 will always be between 0 and 1. The closer R^2 is to 1, the better x is able to explain y .
- The more variables you add to the regression, the higher R^2 will be.

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Adjusted R^2

17 / 20

- R^2 will likely increase (slightly) even by adding nonsense variables.
- Adding such variables increases in-sample fit, but will likely hurt out-of-sample forecasting accuracy.
- The Adjusted R^2 penalizes R^2 for additional variables.

$$R_{\text{adj}}^2 = 1 - \frac{n-1}{n-k-1} (1 - R^2)$$

- When the adjusted R^2 increases when adding a variable, then the additional variable really did help explain the dependent variable.
- When the adjusted R^2 decreases when adding a variable, then the additional variable does not help explain the dependent variable.

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F-test for Regression Fit

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- F-test for Regression Fit: Tests if the regression line explains the data.
- Very, very, very similar to ANOVA F-test.
- $H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_k = 0$.
- H_1 : At least one of the variables has explanatory power (i.e. at least one coefficient is not equal to zero).

$$F = \frac{SSR/(k-1)}{SSE/(n-k)}$$

- Where k is the number of explanatory variables.

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Assumptions from the CLT

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- Using the normal distribution to compute p-values depends on results from the Central Limit Theorem.
- Sufficiently large sample size (much more than 30).
 - Useful for normality result from the Central Limit Theorem
 - Also necessary as you increase the number of explanatory variables.
- Normally distributed dependent and independent variables
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Crucial Assumptions for Regression

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- **Linearity:** a straight line reasonably describes the data.
 - Exceptions: experience on productivity, ordinal data like education level on income.
 - Consider transforming variables.
- **Stationarity:**
 - The central limit theorem: behavior of statistics as sample size approaches infinity!
 - The mean and variance must exist and be constant.
 - Big issue in economic and financial time series.
- **Exogeneity of explanatory variables.**
 - Dependent variable must not influence explanatory variables.
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 - Example problem: how does advertising affect sales?

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