

# Correlation & Linear Regression

Slides adopted from the Internet

# Roadmap

- *Linear Correlation*
- Spearman's rho correlation
- Kendall's tau correlation
- Linear regression

# Linear correlation

## Recall: Covariance

$$\text{cov}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{X})(y_i - \bar{Y})}{n-1}$$

# Interpreting Covariance

$\text{cov}(X,Y) > 0 \rightarrow$  X and Y are positively correlated

$\text{cov}(X,Y) < 0 \rightarrow$  X and Y are inversely correlated

$\text{cov}(X,Y) = 0 \rightarrow$  X and Y are independent

# Correlation coefficient

- Pearson's Correlation Coefficient is standardized covariance (unitless):

$$r = \frac{\text{covariance}(x, y)}{\sqrt{\text{var } x} \sqrt{\text{var } y}}$$

# Calculating by hand...

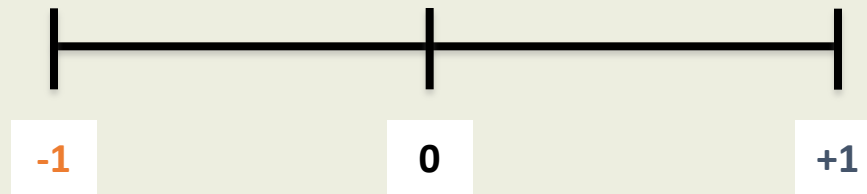
$$\hat{r} = \frac{\text{covariance}(x, y)}{\sqrt{\text{var } x} \sqrt{\text{var } y}} = \frac{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{n-1}}{\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}{n-1}}}$$

# Correlation

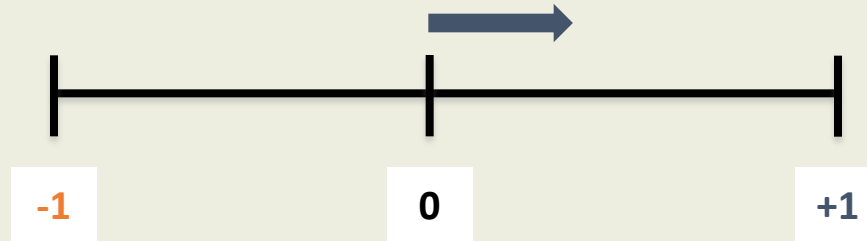
- Measures the relative strength of the *linear* relationship between two variables
- Unit-less
- Ranges between  $-1$  and  $1$
- The closer to  $-1$ , the stronger the negative linear relationship
- The closer to  $1$ , the stronger the positive linear relationship
- The closer to  $0$ , the weaker any positive linear relationship



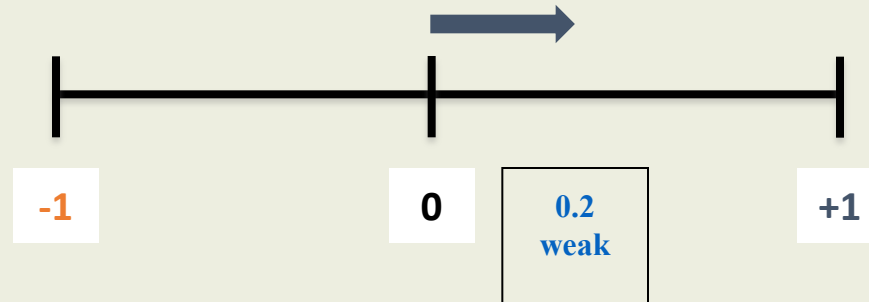
- The strength of the relationship depends on the **decimal value**.



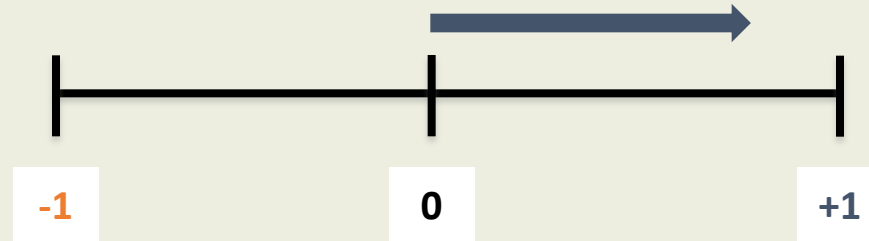
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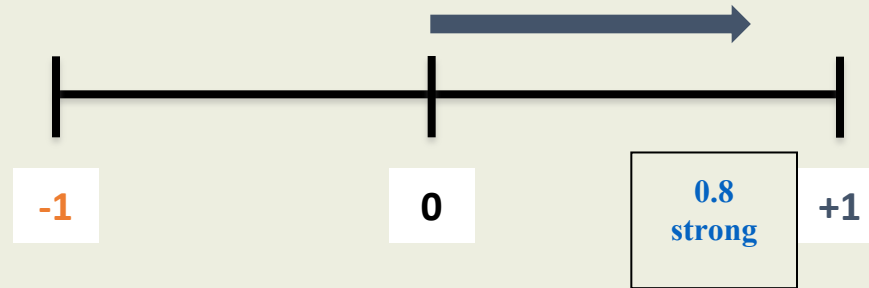
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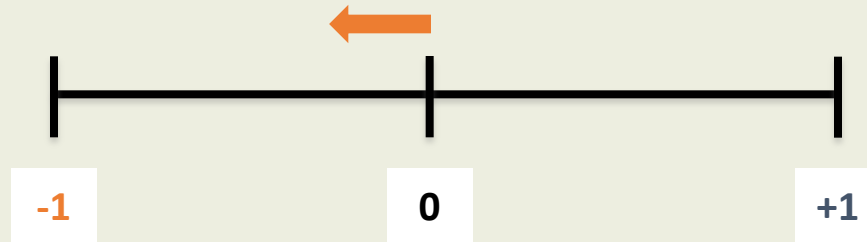
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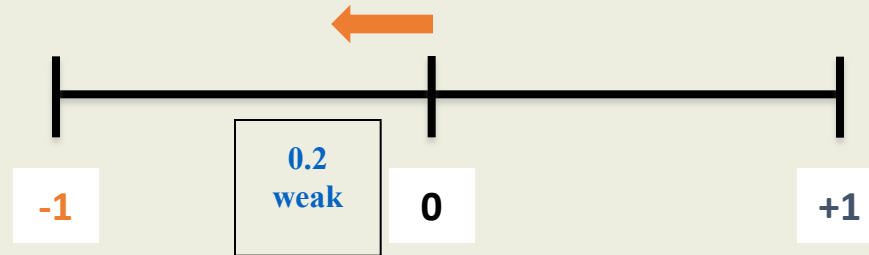
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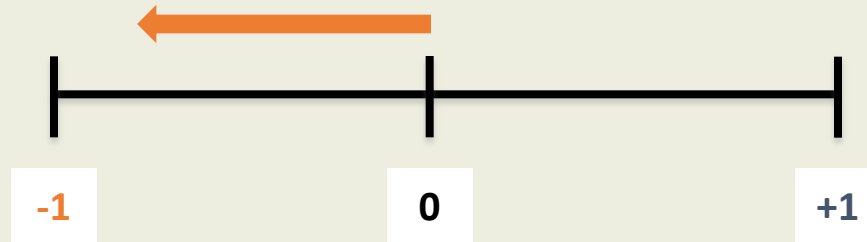
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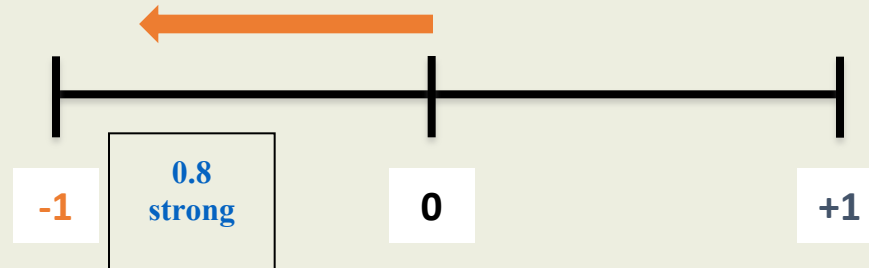


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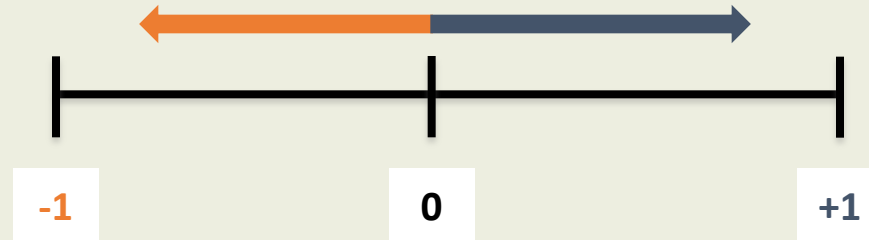




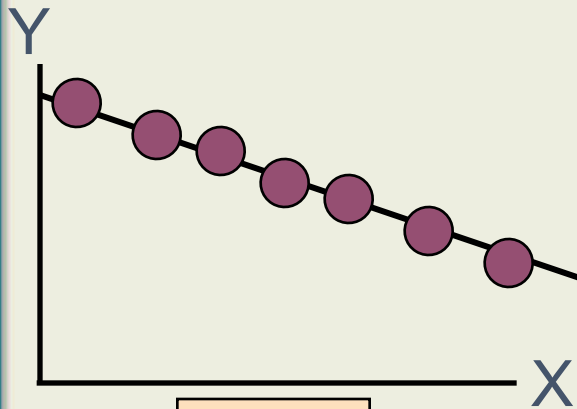
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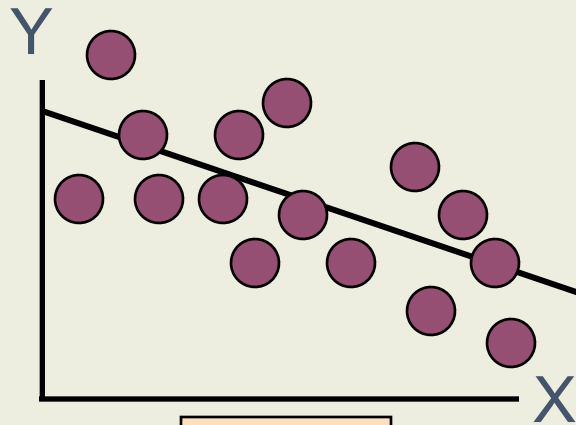
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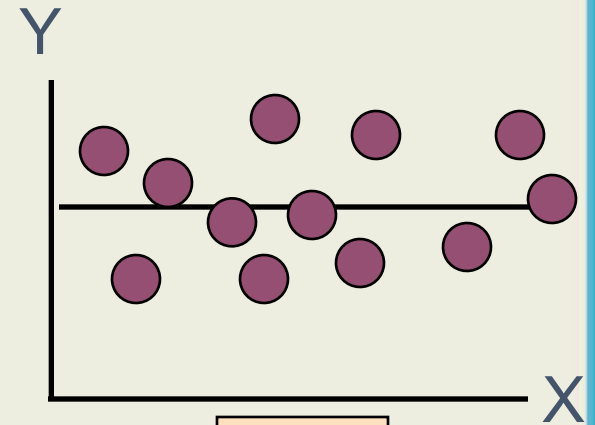
# Scatter Plots of Data with Various Correlation Coefficients



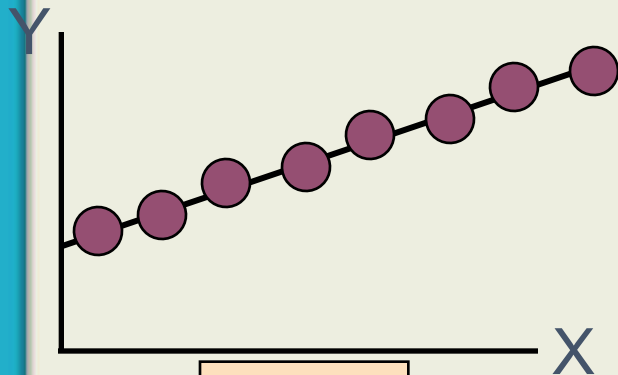
$r = -1$



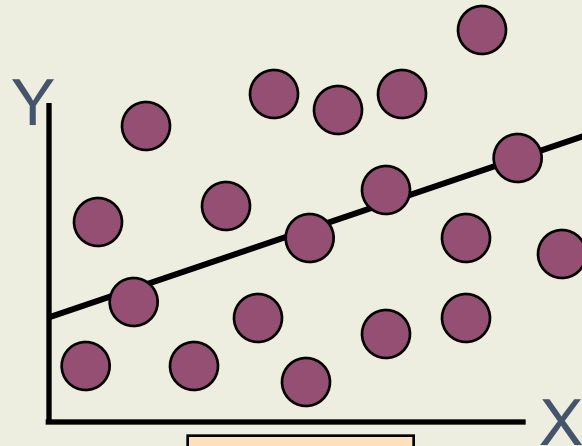
$r = -.6$



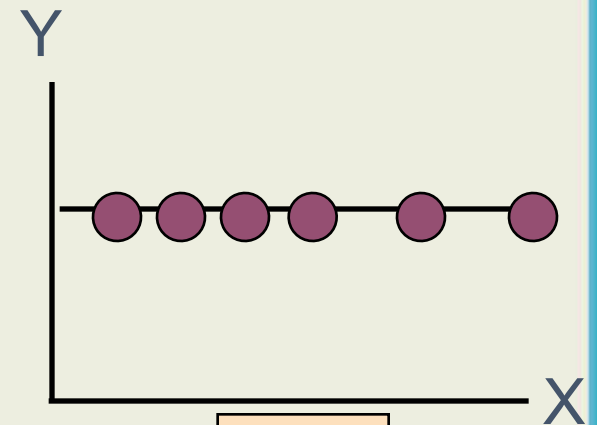
$r = 0$



$r = +1$



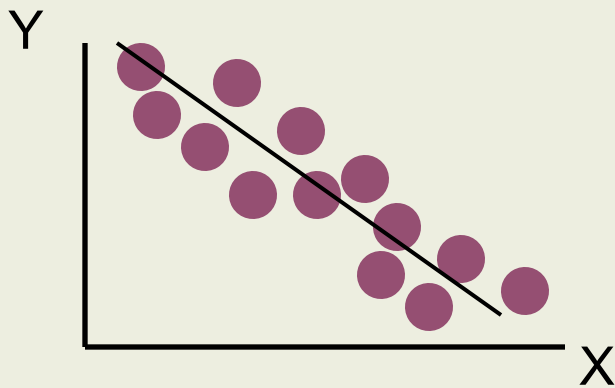
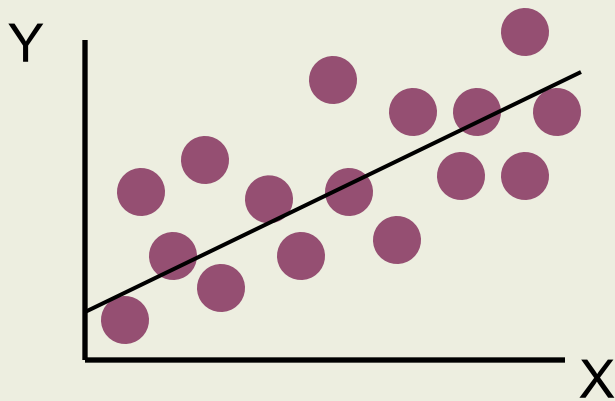
$r = +.3$



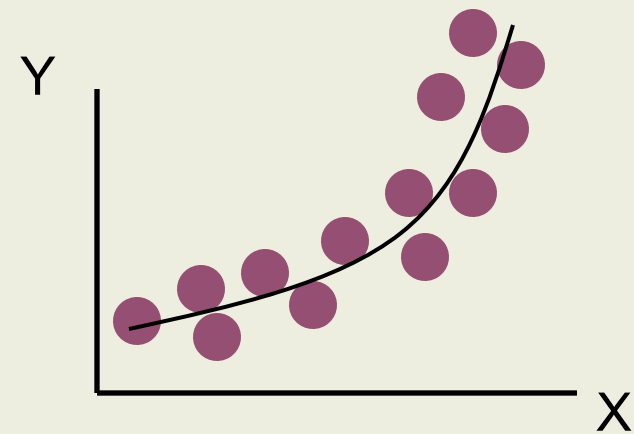
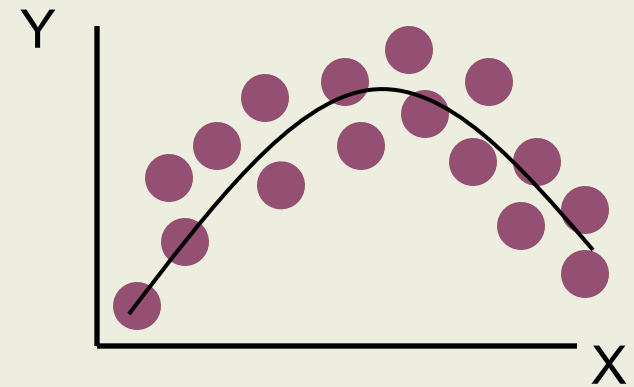
$r = 0$

# Linear Correlation

Linear relationships

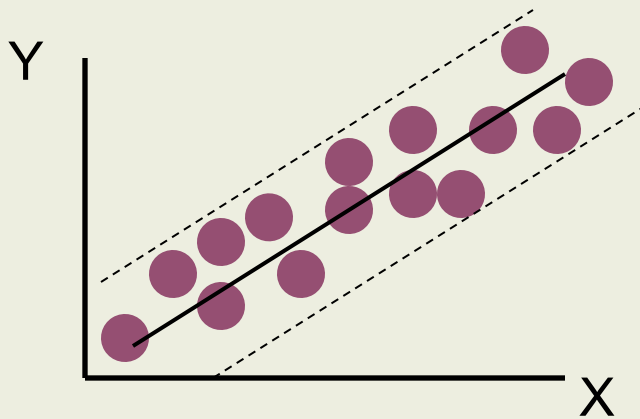


Curvilinear relationships

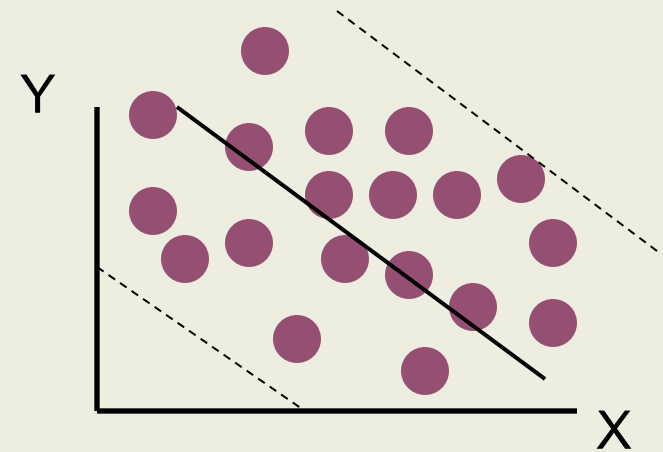
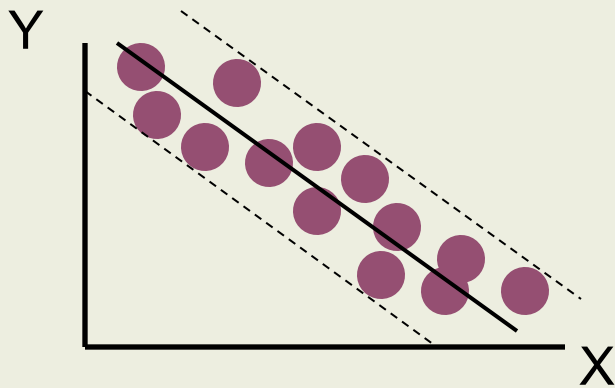
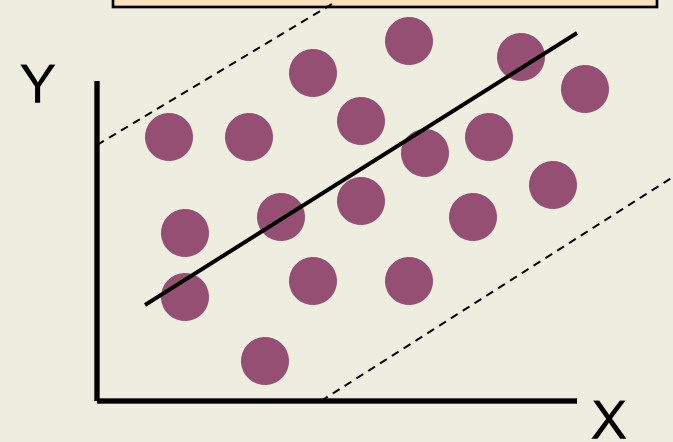


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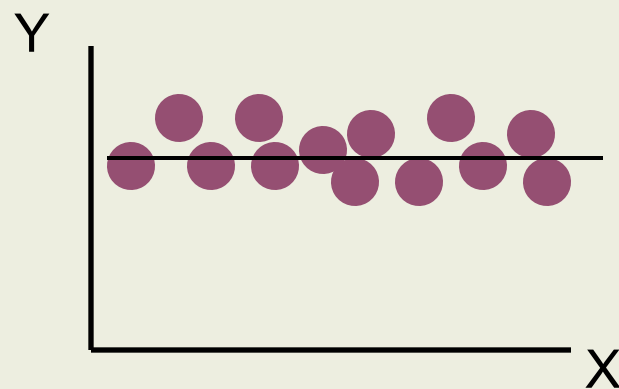
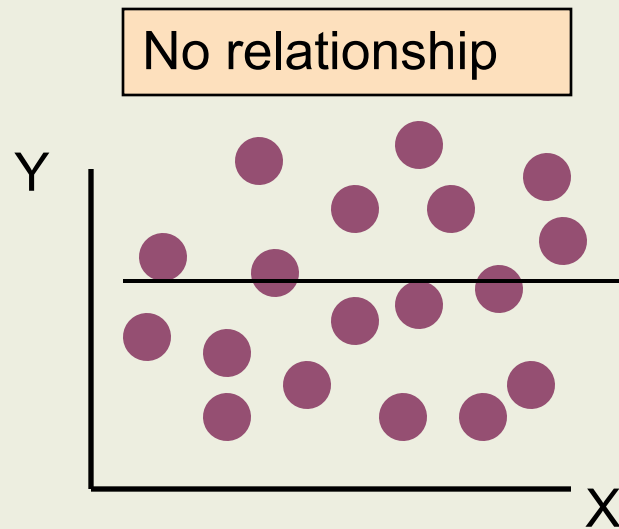
Strong relationships



Weak relationships

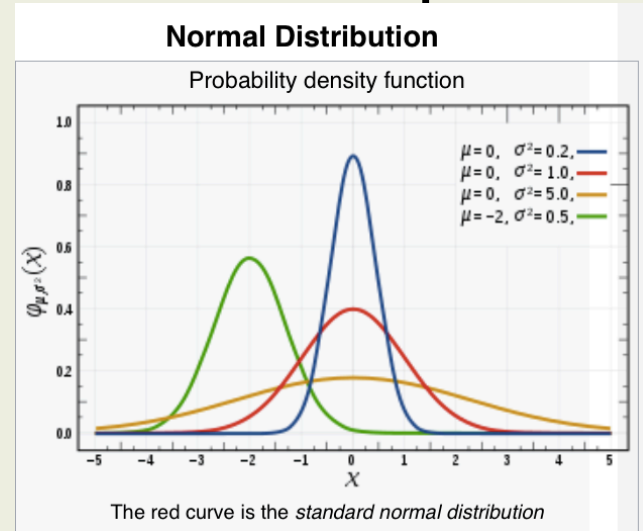


# Linear Correlation



# Pearson r correlation assumptions

- Both variables should be normally distributed
- A straight-line (linear) relationship between two variables
- Data are normally distributed around the regression line



# Roadmap

- Linear Correlation
- *Spearman's rho correlation*
- Kendall's tau correlation
- Linear regression



# Spearman's Rank-Order Correlation

*For Independence Questions*

## What is Spearman's Rho?

Welcome to the Spearman's Rho Test of Independence Learning Module

## What is Spearman's Rho?

(i.e., does not assume data distribution)

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- Spearman's "Rho" is a non-parametric analogue to the Pearson Product Moment Correlation.
- Spearman's Rho is designed to estimate the coherence or lack of coherence of two variables (as in the Pearson Product Moment Correlation).
- It is calculated based on the rank-ordered (ordinal) data rather than the means and standard deviation used in the Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

## What is Spearman's Rho?

- Here is an illustration of the difference between a Pearson Correlation and a Spearman's Rho

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| Individuals | Biking Event race times | Running Event race times |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bob         | 4.5 hours               | 4.0 hours                |
| Conrad      | 7.0 hours               | 2.5 hours                |
| Dallen      | 5.2 hours               | 2.8 hours                |
| Ernie       | 6.0 hours               | 2.9 hours                |
| Fen         | 6.3 hours               | 3.3 hours                |
| Gaston      | 5.1 hours               | 2.3 hours                |



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- Are race times of athletes who participated in both biking and running competitions independent of one another? (*This is a Pearson Correlation question because we are dealing with continuous variables*)
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- This is a Spearman's Rho question if we are dealing with rank ordered or ordinal data:*



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| Conrad      | 6 <sup>th</sup>         | 2 <sup>nd</sup>          |
| Dallen      | 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | 3 <sup>rd</sup>          |
| Ernie       | 4 <sup>th</sup>         | 4 <sup>th</sup>          |
| Fen         | 5 <sup>th</sup>         | 5 <sup>th</sup>          |
| Gaston      | 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | 1 <sup>st</sup>          |

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- For example -

# What is Spearman's Rho?

Interval or  
continuous Data

Ordinal or rank-  
ordered Data

| Individuals | Biking Event<br>race times in minutes | Running Event<br>placement |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bob         | 55                                    | 6 <sup>th</sup>            |
| Conrad      | 25                                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup>            |
| Dallen      | 29                                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup>            |
| Ernie       | 33                                    | 4 <sup>th</sup>            |
| Fen         | 39                                    | 5 <sup>th</sup>            |
| Gaston      | 23                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup>            |

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- or

**Ordinal or rank-ordered Data**

**Interval or continuous Data**

| Individuals | Biking Event<br>placement | Running Event<br>race times |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bob         | 1 <sup>st</sup>           | 4.0 hours                   |
| Conrad      | 6 <sup>th</sup>           | 2.5 hours                   |
| Dallen      | 3 <sup>rd</sup>           | 2.8 hours                   |
| Ernie       | 4 <sup>th</sup>           | 2.9 hours                   |
| Fen         | 5 <sup>th</sup>           | 3.3 hours                   |
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Because this data is ordinal or rank ordered we will use Spearman's Rho

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**Interval –heavily skewed data**

**Interval normally distributed Data**

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| Conrad      | 4.6 hours               | 2.5 hours                |
| Dallen      | 4.7 hours               | 2.8 hours                |
| Ernie       | 5.0 hours               | 2.9 hours                |
| Fen         | 20.0 hours              | 3.3 hours                |
| Gaston      | 28.0 hours              | 2.3 hours                |

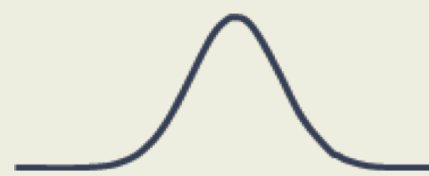
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## What is Spearman's Rho?

# How to calculate Rho?

$$\rho = 1 - \frac{6 \sum d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

Where:

P= Spearman rank correlation

d<sub>i</sub>= the difference between the ranks of corresponding values X<sub>i</sub> and Y<sub>i</sub>

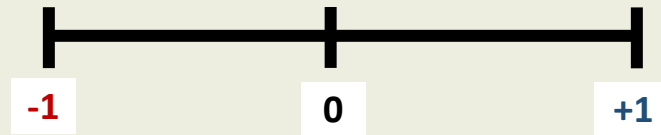
n= number of value in each data set

## What is Spearman's Rho?

- Spearman's Rho renders a result that is similar to the Pearson Correlation

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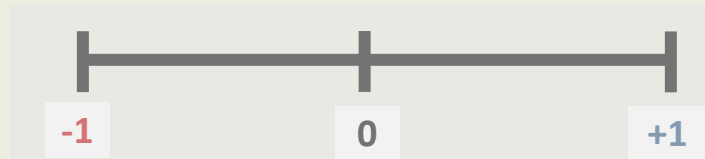
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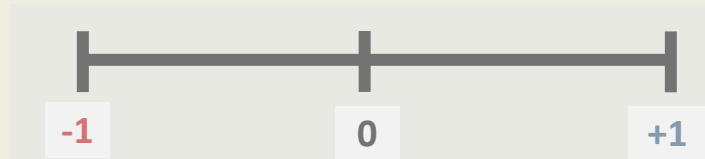
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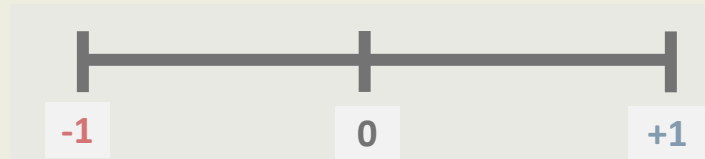
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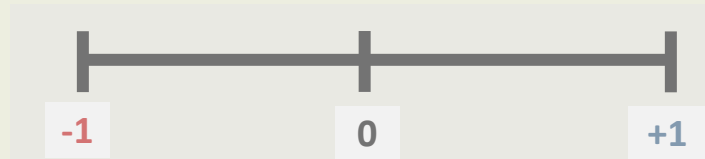
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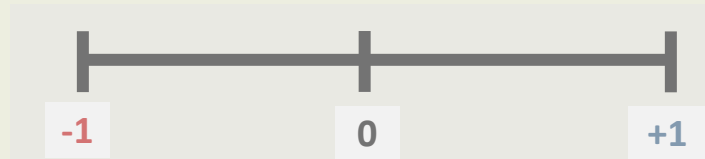
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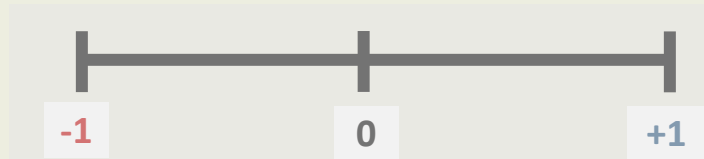
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A result like this would be evidence of independence

## What is Spearman's Rho?

- It differs from Kendall's Tau in one simple way. The Spearman's Rho **CANNOT** handle ties. The Kendall's Tau can:

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- For example:



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- It differs from Kendall's Tau in one simple way. The Spearman's Rho cannot handle ties. The Kendall's Tau can:
- For example:

| Individuals | Rank order for Biking Event | Rank order for Running Event |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bob         | 1 <sup>st</sup>             | 1 <sup>st</sup>              |
| Conrad      | 2 <sup>nd</sup>             | 1 <sup>st</sup>              |
| Dallen      | 2 <sup>nd</sup>             | 2 <sup>nd</sup>              |
| Ernie       | 3 <sup>rd</sup>             | 3 <sup>rd</sup>              |
| Fen         | 4 <sup>th</sup>             | 4 <sup>th</sup>              |
| Gaston      | 5 <sup>th</sup>             | 4 <sup>th</sup>              |

\*use Kendall's Tau when there are rank ordered ties.

# Spearman's Rho Assumptions

- non-parametric: it does not assume any assumptions about the distribution of the data
- Is the appropriate correlation analysis when the variables are measured on a scale that is at least ordinal.
- Scores on one variable must be monotonically related to the other variable.
- Cannot deal with ties

# Roadmap

- Linear Correlation
- Spearman's rho correlation
- *Kendall's tau correlation*
- Linear regression

## What is Kendall's Tau?

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Kendall's Tau is a nonparametric analogue to the Pearson Correlation.

## What is Kendall's Tau?

Similar to Spearman's Rho, Kendall's Tau operates on rank-ordered (ordinal) data but is particularly useful when there are tied ranks.

## What is Kendall's Tau?

**Let's consider an investigation that would lend itself to being analyzed by Kendall's Tau:**

## What is Kendall's Tau?

An iron man competition consists of three consecutive events:



## What is Kendall's Tau?

An iron man competition consists of three consecutive events: **Biking 110 miles,**



## What is Kendall's Tau?

An iron man competition consists of three consecutive events: Biking 110 miles, **Swimming 2.5 miles**



## What is Kendall's Tau?

An iron man competition consists of three consecutive events: Biking 110 miles, Swimming 2.5 miles and **Running 26.2 miles**



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An iron man competition consists of three consecutive events: Biking 110 miles, Swimming 2.5 miles and Running 26.2 miles. Researchers are interested in the relationship between the rank ordered results from the biking and the running events.

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An iron man competition consists of three consecutive events: Biking 110 miles, Swimming 2.5 miles and Running 26.2 miles. Researchers are interested in the relationship between the rank ordered results from the biking and the running events. [Here is the data for 6 individuals who competed:](#)

# What is Kendall's Tau?

| Individuals | Rank order for Biking Event | Rank order for Running Event |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bob         |                             |                              |
| Conrad      |                             |                              |
| Dallen      |                             |                              |
| Ernie       |                             |                              |
| Fen         |                             |                              |
| Gaston      |                             |                              |

# What is Kendall's Tau?

| Individuals | Rank order for Biking Event | Rank order for Running Event |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bob         | 1 <sup>st</sup>             |                              |
| Conrad      | 2 <sup>nd</sup>             |                              |
| Dallen      | 2 <sup>nd</sup>             |                              |
| Ernie       | 3 <sup>rd</sup>             |                              |
| Fen         | 4 <sup>th</sup>             |                              |
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**Note** – even if only one variable were ordinal and the other were scaled or nominal, you would still use Kendall's Tau or a Spearman's Rho by virtue of having *one ordinal variable*.

## What is Kendall's Tau?

Because there are ties in the data, we will use Kendall's Tau *instead* of the Spearman's Rho.

## What is Kendall's Tau?

# How to calculate Tau?

Let  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$  be a set of observations of the joint random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  respectively, such that all the values of  $(x_i)$  and  $(y_i)$  are unique. Any pair of observations  $(x_i, y_i)$  and  $(x_j, y_j)$  are said to be *concordant* if the ranks for both elements agree: that is, if both  $x_i > x_j$  and  $y_i > y_j$  or if both  $x_i < x_j$  and  $y_i < y_j$ . They are said to be *discordant*, if  $x_i > x_j$  and  $y_i < y_j$  or if  $x_i < x_j$  and  $y_i > y_j$ . If  $x_i = x_j$  or  $y_i = y_j$ , the pair is neither concordant nor discordant.

The Kendall  $\tau$  coefficient is defined as:

$$\tau = \frac{(\text{number of concordant pairs}) - (\text{number of discordant pairs})}{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)} \quad [3]$$

| Individuals | Rank order for Biking Event | Rank order for Running Event |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ...         | ...                         | ...                          |
| i           | <b>x_i</b>                  | <b>y_i</b>                   |
| ...         | ...                         | ...                          |
| j           | x_j                         | y_j                          |
| ...         | ...                         | ...                          |
| ...         | ...                         | ...                          |

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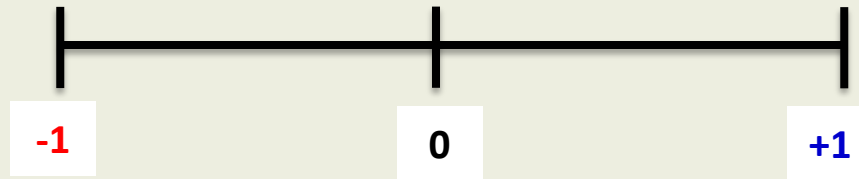
pairs: (Bob,Dallen), (Bob, Ernie), (Bob, Fen), (Bob,Gaston), (Conrad,Ernie)....

## What is Kendall's Tau?

Kendall's Tau renders a result that is similar to Spearman's Rho and the Pearson Correlation

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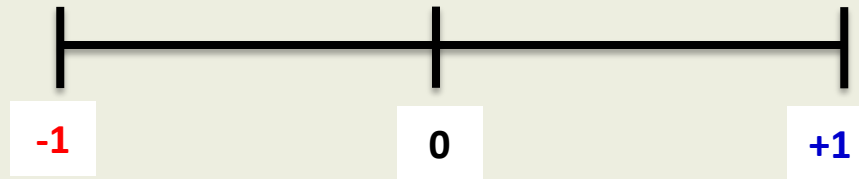
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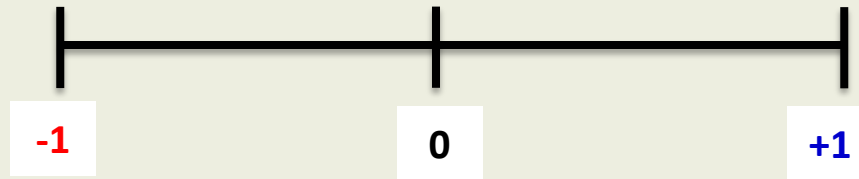
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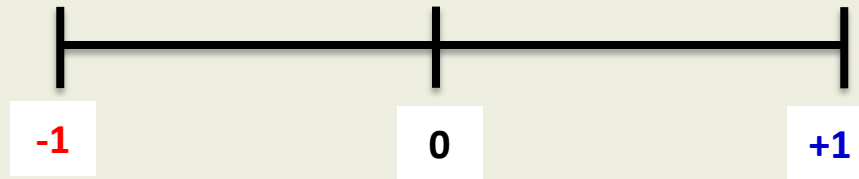
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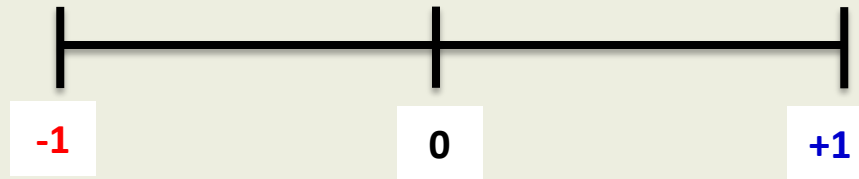
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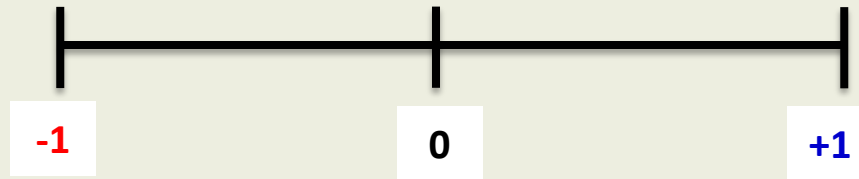
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  - It ranges from -1 to +1.
  - It's direction is determined by the sign (- +)
  - The closer the value is to -1 or +1, the stronger the relationship
  - **The closer the value is to 0, the weaker the relationship.**

# Kendall's Tau Assumptions

- non-parametric: does not assume any assumptions about the distribution of the data
- Is the appropriate correlation analysis when the variables are measured on a scale that is at least ordinal.
- Can deal with ties

# Binned Kendall's Correlation

Use this “binned” Kendall correlation under two scenarios:

- Skewed data distribution
  - To this end, we look at the average value for each bin and compute the correlation on the binned data.
- Amount of the data so large that rank correlation is computationally expensive
  - The binned correlation retains the qualitative properties that we want to highlight with lower compute cost.

# Roadmap

- Linear Correlation
- Spearman's rho correlation
- Kendall's tau correlation
- *Linear regression*



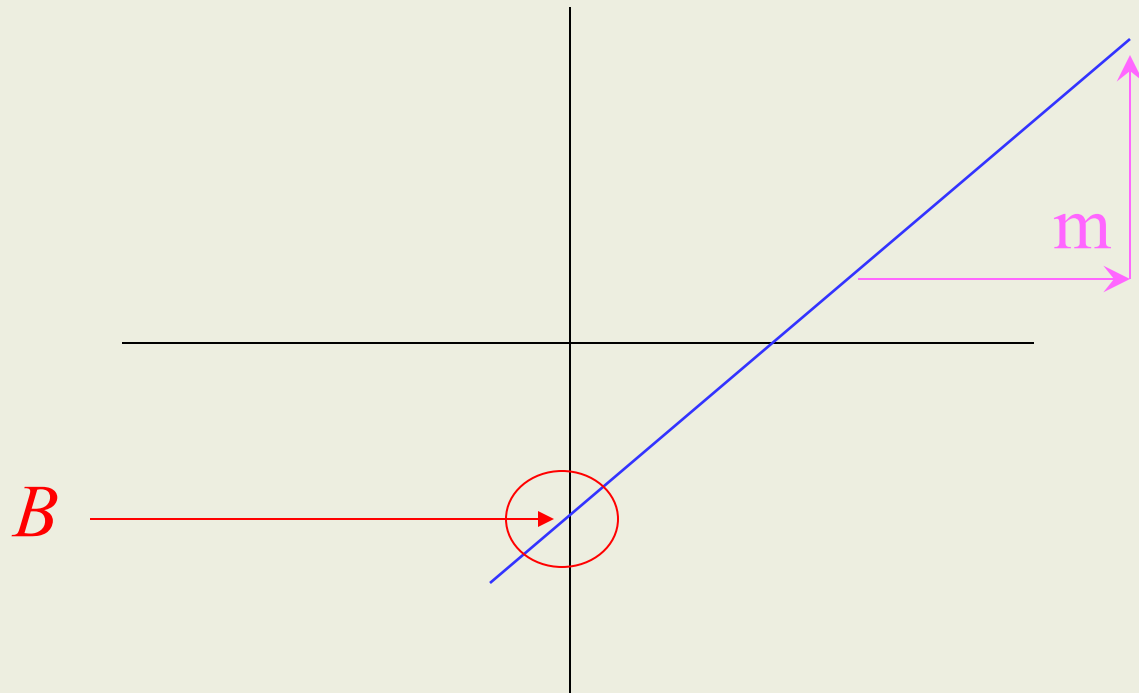
# Linear regression

In correlation, the two variables are treated as equals. In regression, one variable is considered independent (=predictor) variable ( $X$ ) and the other the dependent (=outcome) variable  $Y$ .

# What is “Linear” ?

■ Remember this:

■  $Y=mX+B?$



# What's Slope?

A slope of 2 means that every 1-unit change in  $X$  yields a 2-unit change in  $Y$ .

# Predicted value for an individual...

$$\hat{y}_i = \underbrace{\alpha + \beta * x_i}_{\text{Fixed - exactly on the line}} + \boxed{\text{random error}_i}$$

Fixed –  
exactly  
on the  
line

Assumption: Follows a  
normal distribution

# Estimating the intercept and slope: least squares estimation

## \*\* Least Squares Estimation

A little calculus....

What are we trying to estimate?  $\beta$ , the slope, from

What's the constraint? We are trying to minimize the squared distance (hence the “least squares”) between the observations themselves and the predicted values, or (also called the “residuals”, or left-over unexplained variability)

$$\text{Difference}_i = y_i - (\beta x_i + \alpha) \quad \text{Difference}_i^2 = (y_i - (\beta x_i + \alpha))^2$$

Find the  $\beta$  that gives the minimum sum of the squared differences. How do you maximize a function? Take the derivative; set it equal to zero; and solve. Typical max/min problem from calculus....

$$\frac{d}{d\beta} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (\beta x_i + \alpha))^2 = 2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta x_i - \alpha)(-x_i) \right)$$

$$2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (-y_i x_i + \beta x_i^2 + \alpha x_i) \right) = 0 \dots$$

From here takes a little math trickery to solve for  $\beta$ ...

# Resulting formulas...

Slope (beta coefficient) =

$$\hat{\beta} = \frac{Cov(x, y)}{Var(x)}$$

Intercept=

$$\text{Calculate: } \hat{\alpha} = \bar{y} - \hat{\beta}\bar{x}$$

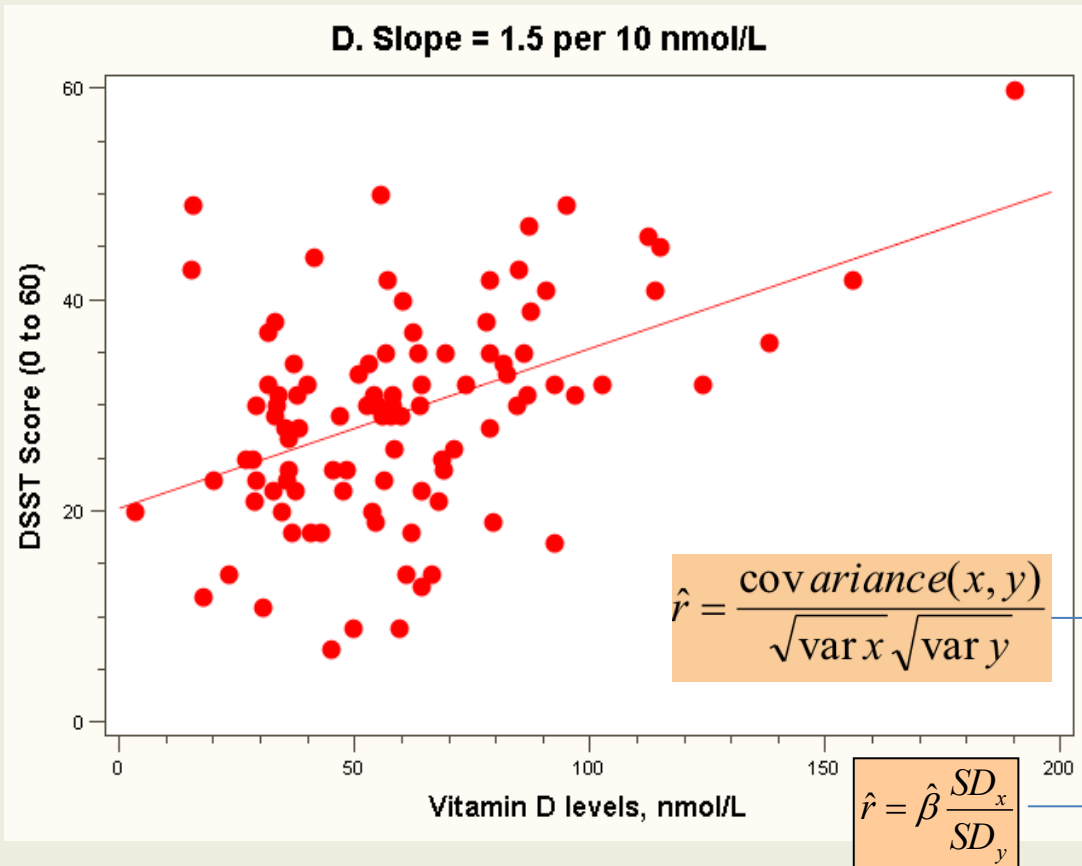
Regression line always goes through the point:  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$

# Relationship with correlation

$$\hat{r} = \hat{\beta} \frac{SD_x}{SD_y}$$

In correlation, the two variables are treated as equals. In regression, one variable is considered independent (=predictor) variable ( $X$ ) and the other the dependent (=outcome) variable  $Y$ .

# Example:



**$SD_x = 33$  nmol/L**

**$SD_y = 10$  points**

**$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 163$   
points\*nmol/L**

**$\text{Beta} = 163/33^2 = 0.15$   
points per nmol/L  
= 1.5 points per 10  
nmol/L**

**$r = 163/(10*33) = 0.49$**

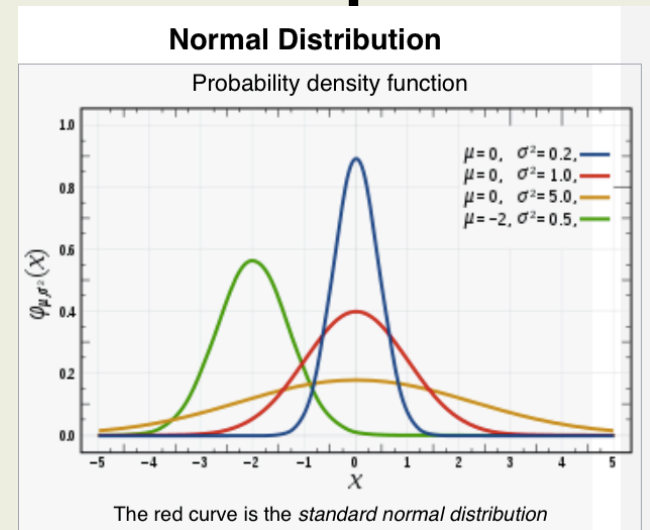
**Or**

**$r = 0.15 * (33/10) = 0.49$**



# Pearson r correlation assumptions

- Both variables should be normally distributed



- A straight-line (linear) relationship between two variables
- Data are normally distributed around the regression line

# What is Kendall's Tau?

## Summary

| Assumptions                        | Pearson r<br>/linear regression                          | Spearman's Rho       | Kendall's Tau      |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| distributions of two variables     | both are normally distributed                            | no assumption        | no assumption      |
| variable property                  | both are numbers   | at least ordinal     | at least ordinal   |
| relationship between two variables | linear   |                      |                    |
| misc.                              | data are normally distributed around the regression line | cannot deal with tie | can deal with ties |