In many ways, analysis of variance (ANOVA) is similar to linear regression. The main difference is in our treatment of the independent variable. Recall that in linear regression, we chose both variables to be numeric .

In ANOVA, the independent variables are categorical variables known as factors or occasionally ranked factors.

Roughly speaking, ANOVA is simply a different way of summarizing results.

**Typical ANOVA table**

*SS* denotes sum of squares and *df* denotes degrees of freedom.

