

# **Topic 9 – Describing relationships**

ENVX1002 Statistics in Life and Environmental Sciences

**Si Yang Han**

The University of Sydney

Feb 2026

## About me

- Research topics: spatial modelling and mapping, precision agriculture, winter grains
- Timeline at USYD
  - BSc (Hons) in Agricultural Science
  - PhD in Digital Agriculture
  - Postdoc in Spatial Modelling
  - Associate Lecturer in Agricultural Data Science



Figure 1: Faba beans at Trangie

## Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Demonstrate proficiency in utilizing R and Excel to effectively explore and describe data sets in the life sciences.
- LO2. Evaluate and interpret different types of data in the natural sciences by visualising probability distributions and calculating probabilities using RStudio and Excel.
- LO3. Apply parametric and non-parametric statistical inference methods to experimental data using RStudio and effectively interpret and communicate the results in the context of the data.
- LO4. Apply both linear and non-linear models to describe relationships between variables using RStudio and Excel, demonstrating creativity in developing models that effectively represent complex data patterns.
- LO5. Articulate statistical and modelling results clearly and convincingly in both written reports and oral presentations, working effectively as an individual and collaboratively in a team, showcasing the ability to convey complex information to varied audiences.

## Module overview

- **Week 9. Describing Relationships**

- Correlation (calculation, interpretation)
- Regression (model structure, model fitting)
- What/when/why/how

- Week  
10.

Simple Linear Regression

- Can we use the model? (assumptions, hypothesis testing)
- How good is the model? (interpretation, model fit)

- Week  
11.

Multiple Linear Regression

- Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) modelling
- Assumptions, interpretation and the principle of parsimony

- Week  
12.

## Nonlinear Regression

- ▶ Common nonlinear functions
- ▶ Transformations

## Module overview

- **Week 9. Describing Relationships**
  - Correlation (calculation, interpretation)
  - Regression (model structure, model fitting)
  - What/when/why/how

## Example - Galton's Data

```
library(HistData)
head(Galton)
```

```
  parent child
1   70.5  61.7
2   68.5  61.7
3   65.5  61.7
4   64.5  61.7
5   64.0  61.7
6   67.5  62.2
```

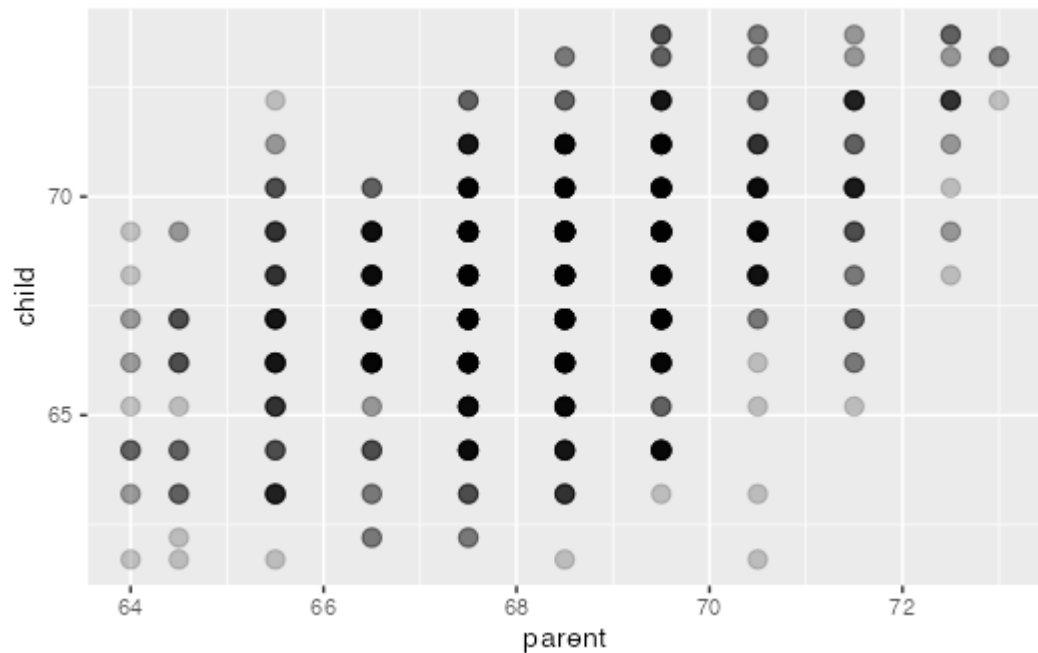
- 928 children of 205 pairs of parents
- Average height of both parents and child measured in inches
- Size classes were binned (hence data looks discrete)

## Example - Galton's Data

We can visually inspect the relationship between the two variables using a scatterplot:

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(Galton, aes(x = parent, y = child)) +
  geom_point(alpha = .2, size = 3)
```





... but this is not a very good way to assess the strength of the relationship between the two variables.

Is the relationship:

- Linear?
- Positive or negative?
- Weak, moderate or strong?

# Correlation

## Correlation

The **correlation coefficient** is a number between  $-1$  and  $1$  that describes the relationship between two **continuous** variables.

- **Direction:**
  - Positive – both variables increase together
  - Negative – one variable increases as the other decreases
- **Strength:**
  - $-1 \rightarrow$  perfect negative relationship
  - $0 \rightarrow$  no relationship
  - $1 \rightarrow$  perfect positive relationship
  - Common terms: *weak* ( $\sim 0.1$ – $0.3$ ), *moderate* ( $\sim 0.4$ – $0.6$ ) or *strong* ( $\sim 0.7$ – $1.0$ ) – useful but subjective!

## Correlation

Pearson's Correlation ( $r$ ) Formula:

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

Covariance divided by the product of the standard deviations.

Karl Pearson developed the **correlation coefficient** in 1800s (based on the work by Francis Galton)



Pearson's  $r$  is:

- The most commonly used correlation coefficient
- For normally distributed data only (parametric)
- For linear relationships only (i.e. a straight line)

## Luckily we have Excel and R

- Excel: `=CORREL()` formula, or use the Analysis Toolpak
  - R: `cor()` function
    - By default this calculates Pearson's correlation coefficient
    - Can also calculate other types of correlation (`cor(x, y, method = "spearman")`)
- 

```
# Generate synthetic data
set.seed(123)
rainfall <- rnorm(100, mean = 50, sd = 10)
plant_growth <- rainfall + rnorm(100, mean = 0, sd = 5)

# Calculate correlation coefficient
correlation_coef <- cor(rainfall, plant_growth)

# Plot data using ggplot2
library(ggplot2)
p1 <- ggplot(data = data.frame(rainfall, plant_growth), aes(x = rainfall, y = plant_growth)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE) +
```

```

labs(
  title = "Positive correlation",
  x = "Rainfall", y = "Crop Yield",
  subtitle = paste("Pearson's r: ", round(correlation_coef, 2))
)

# Generate synthetic data
set.seed(123)
insulin ← rnorm(100, mean = 50, sd = 10)
blood_glucose ← 100 - insulin + rnorm(100, mean = 0, sd = 5)

# Calculate correlation coefficient
correlation_coef ← cor(insulin, blood_glucose)

# Plot data using ggplot2
p2 ← ggplot(data = data.frame(insulin, blood_glucose), aes(x = insulin, y = blood_glucose)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE) +
  labs(
    title = "Negative correlation",
    x = "Insulin", y = "Blood Glucose",

```

```

    subtitle = paste("Pearson's r: ", round(correlation_coef, 2))
  )
library(patchwork)

# Set the seed for reproducibility
set.seed(1249)

# Generate the data
x <- rnorm(50, mean = 50, sd = 10)
y <- rnorm(50, mean = 100, sd = 20)
df1 <- data.frame(x, y) # combine the two variables into a dataframe
correlation_coef <- cor(x, y) # calculate the correlation coefficient

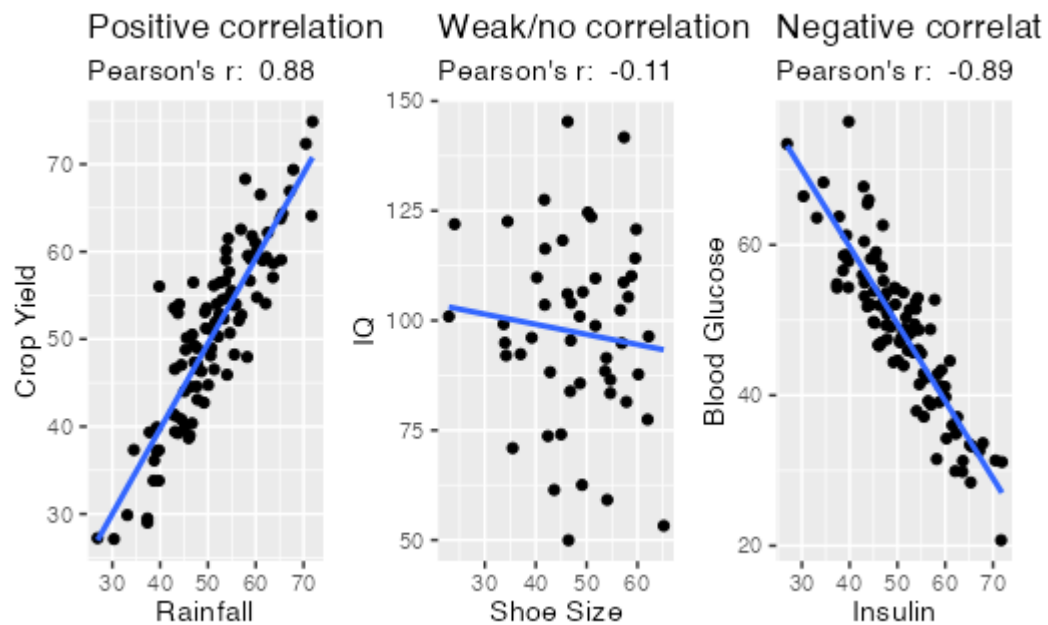
# Scatter plot
p3 <- ggplot(df1, aes(x, y)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE) +
  labs(
    title = "Weak/no correlation",
    x = "Shoe Size", y = "IQ",
    subtitle = paste("Pearson's r: ", round(correlation_coef, 2))
  )

```



)

p1 + p3 + p2



(Note: not real data)

A **weak** or **nonexistent** relationship is one where the correlation coefficient is close to 0.

A **moderate** relationship falls closer to 0.5.

A **strong** relationship is one where the correlation coefficient is close to  $-1$  or  $1$ .

The exact values are subjective and vary between fields of study.

## Example - Galton's Data

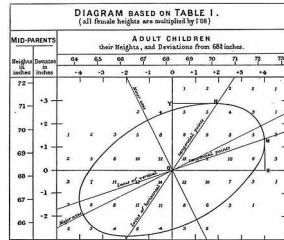
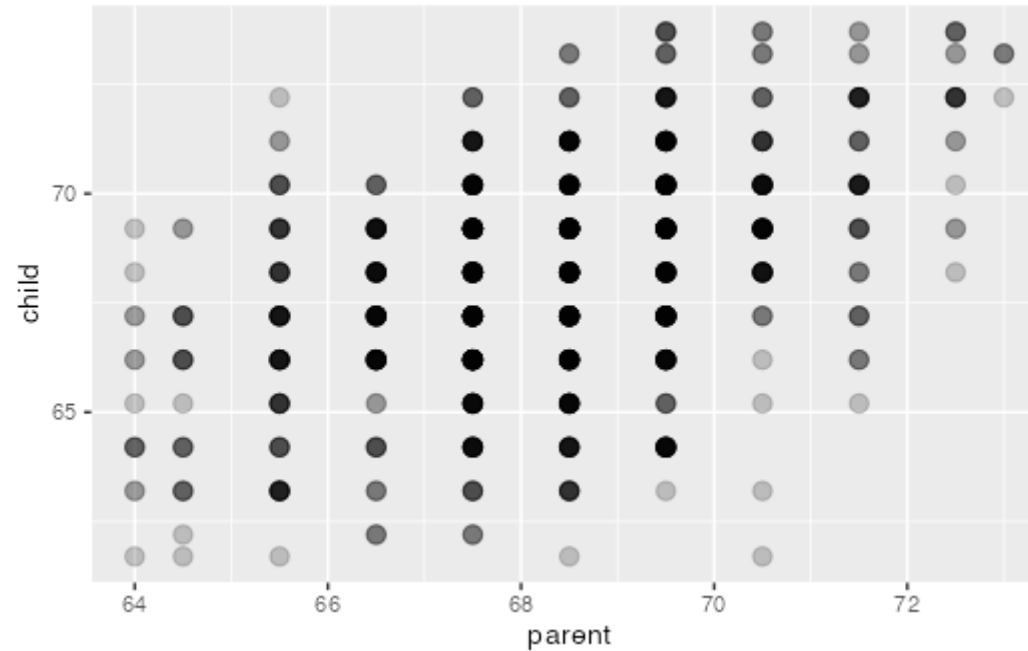


Figure 1: Galton's Results

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(Galton, aes(x = parent, y = child)) +
  geom_point(alpha = .2, size = 3)
```



```
cor(Galton$parent, Galton$child)
```

```
[1] 0.4587624
```

Is the relationship:

- Linear? **Seems to be**
- Positive or negative? **Positive**
- Weak, moderate or strong? **Moderate**

In words: “There is a moderate positive linear relationship between the height of parents and the height of their children.”

## Anscombe's Quartet

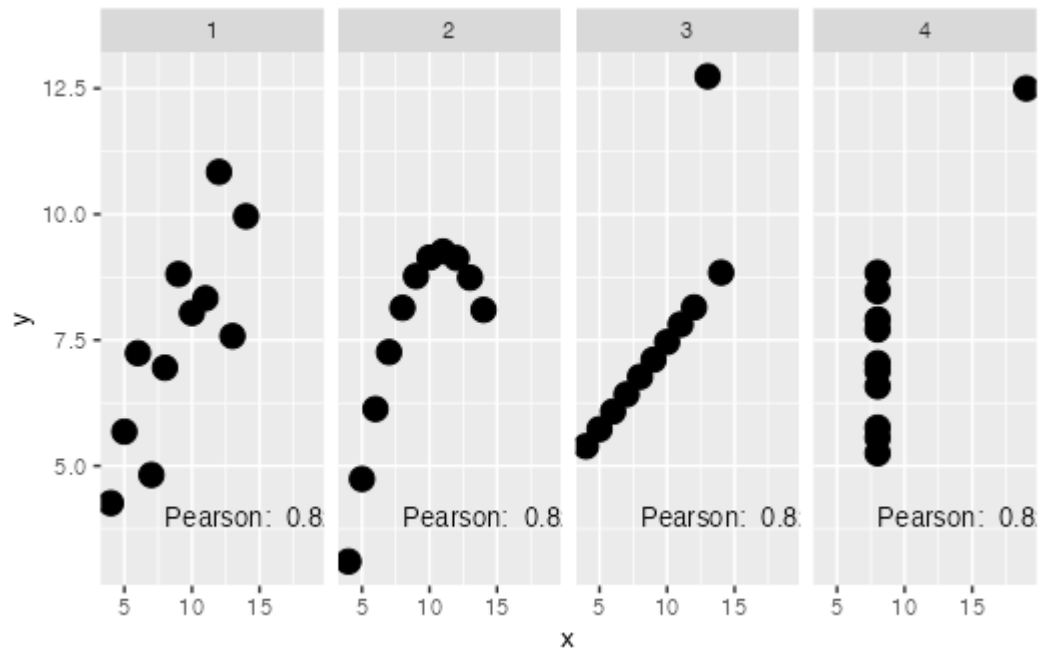
A set of four datasets that are nearly identical in simple descriptive statistics but have very different distributions.

```
library(tidyverse)

# Compute Pearson, Spearman, and Kendall correlations for each set
cor_values <- anscombe %>%
  pivot_longer(everything(),
               names_to = c(".value", "set"),
               names_pattern = "(.)(.)") %>%
  group_by(set) %>%
  summarise(
    pearson = cor(x, y, method = "pearson"))

# Create the plot with the correlation values added as text annotations
anscombe %>%
  pivot_longer(everything(),
               names_to = c(".value", "set"),
               names_pattern = "(.)(.)") %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = x, y = y)) +
```

```
geom_point(size = 4) +
facet_wrap(~set, ncol = 4) +
# Add text annotations for Pearson, Spearman, and Kendall correlations
geom_text(data = cor_values, aes(x = 8, y = 4, label =
  paste("Pearson: ", round(pearson, 2))),
  inherit.aes = FALSE, size = 3.5, color = "black", hjust = 0)
```

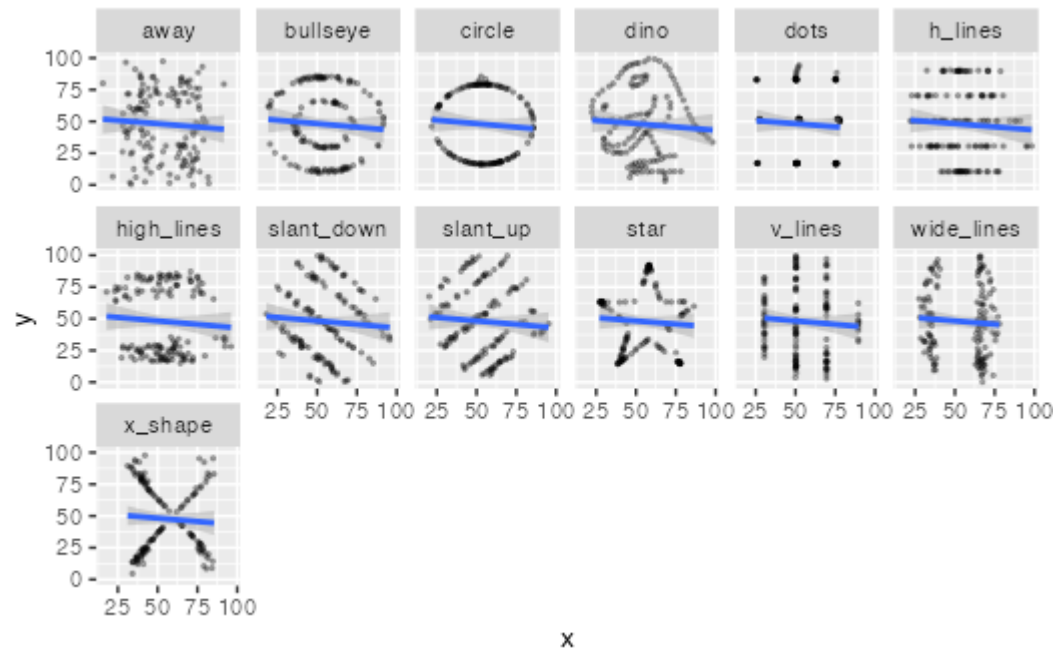


Correlation coefficients are **not reliable** in inferring the ‘type’ of relationship between variables – we must visualise.

## Datasaurus Dozen

```
library(datasauRus)
ggplot(datasaurus_dozen, aes(x = x, y = y)) +
  geom_point(size = .5, alpha = .3) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE) +
  facet_wrap(~dataset, ncol = 6)
```





*All of these data have a correlation coefficient close to zero!*

## Monotonic vs linear relationships

- **Monotonic**: a relationship that is consistently increasing or decreasing
- **Linear**: a relationship that is increasing or decreasing at a *constant rate* i.e. a straight line

Pearson's correlation is only for linear relationships.

**Spearman's rank** and **Kendall's tau** are correlation coefficients for all monotonic relationships.

- Works with non-parametric data
- More 'conservative' i.e. values can be smaller in magnitude, but more robust against outliers

```
library(tidyverse)

set.seed(123)
x <- seq(0, 10, length.out = 100)
x_length <- length(x)

# Create the data for each relationship
y_straight <- 2 * x + 5
y_exponential <- exp(x)
y_log <- logb(x+1, base = 2)
```

```

y_sigmoid ← 1 / (1 + exp(-x))
y_quadratic ← -1 * (x - 5)^2 + 100
y_polynomial ← x^3 - 4 * x^2 + 3 * x + 2

# Function to scale y-values to a specific range [0, 100]
scale_to_range ← function(y_values, new_min = 0, new_max = 100) {
  old_min ← min(y_values)
  old_max ← max(y_values)
  scaled_values ← (y_values - old_min) / (old_max - old_min) * (new_max - new_min) + new_min
  return(scaled_values)
}

# Apply scaling to each relationship
y_straight_scaled ← scale_to_range(y_straight)
y_exponential_scaled ← scale_to_range(y_exponential)
y_log_scaled ← scale_to_range(y_log)
y_sigmoid_scaled ← scale_to_range(y_sigmoid)
y_quadratic_scaled ← scale_to_range(y_quadratic)
y_polynomial_scaled ← scale_to_range(y_polynomial)

# Combine the data into a tibble

```

```

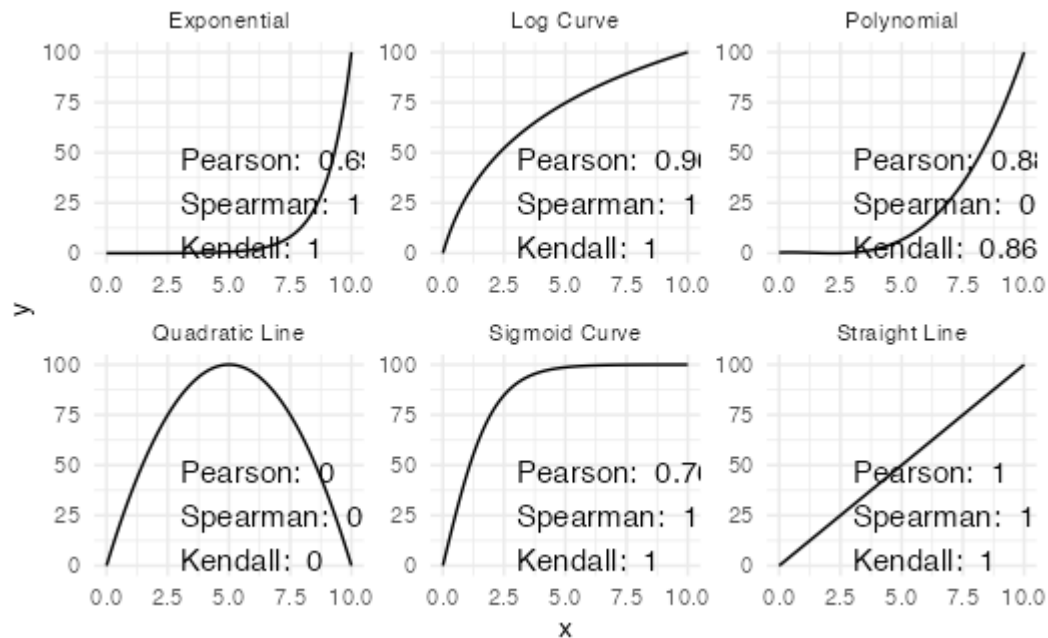
data <- tibble(
  x = rep(x, 6),
  y = c(y_straight_scaled, y_exponential_scaled, y_log_scaled, y_sigmoid_scaled,
y_quadratic_scaled, y_polynomial_scaled),
  type = rep(c("Straight Line", "Exponential", "Log Curve", "Sigmoid Curve", "Quadratic Line",
"Polynomial"), each = x_length)
)

# Calculate the correlation coefficients for each relationship type
cor_values <- data %>%
  group_by(type) %>%
  summarise(
    pearson = cor(x, y, method = "pearson"),
    spearman = cor(x, y, method = "spearman"),
    kendall = cor(x, y, method = "kendall")
  )

# Plot the data and add correlation coefficients
ggplot(data, aes(x = x, y = y)) +
  geom_line() +
  facet_wrap(~type, scales = 'free') +

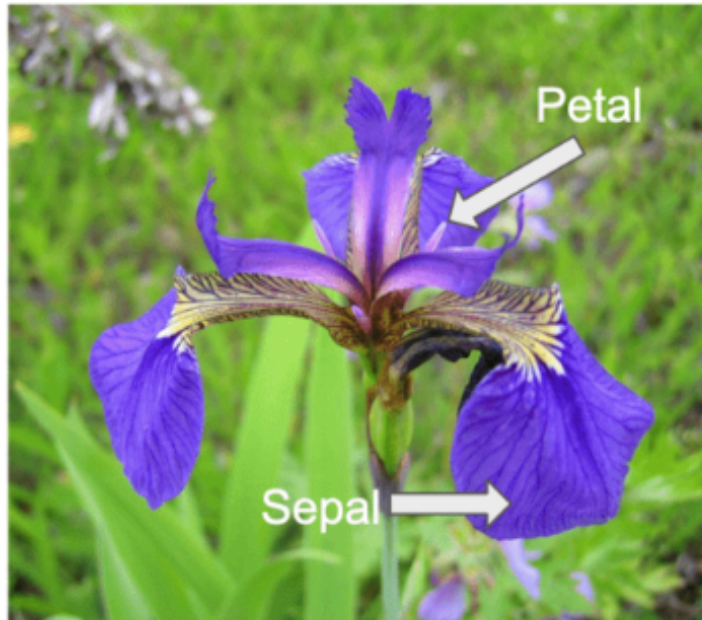
```

```
geom_text(data = cor_values, aes(x = 3, y = 25, label =
                                paste("Pearson: ", round(pearson, 2),
                                      "\nSpearman: ", round(spearman, 2),
                                      "\nKendall: ", round(kendall, 2))),
          inherit.aes = FALSE, size = 4, color = "black", hjust = 0) +
theme_minimal()
```

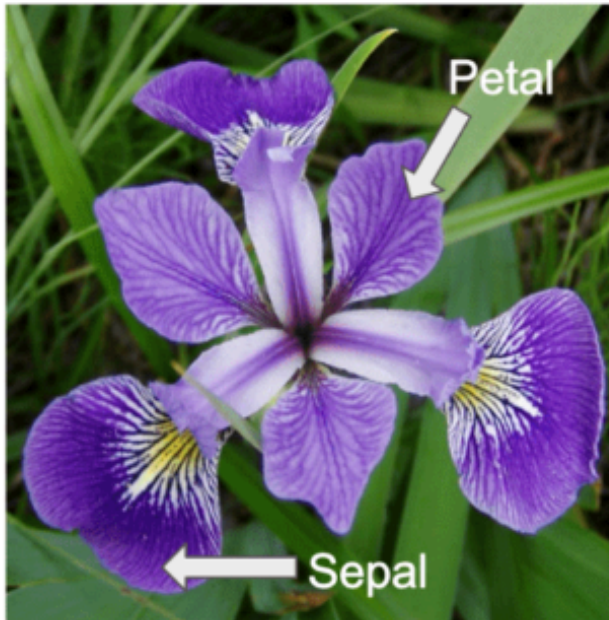


## Example - iris Dataset

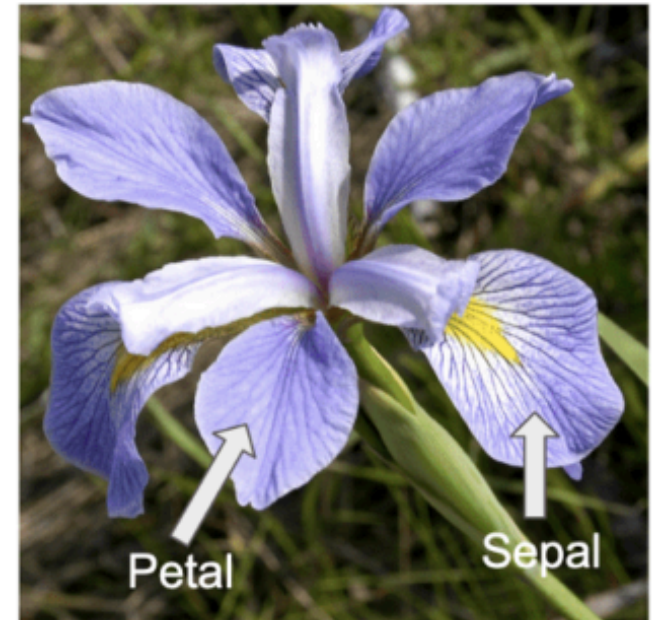
*Iris setosa*



*Iris versicolor*



*Iris virginica*



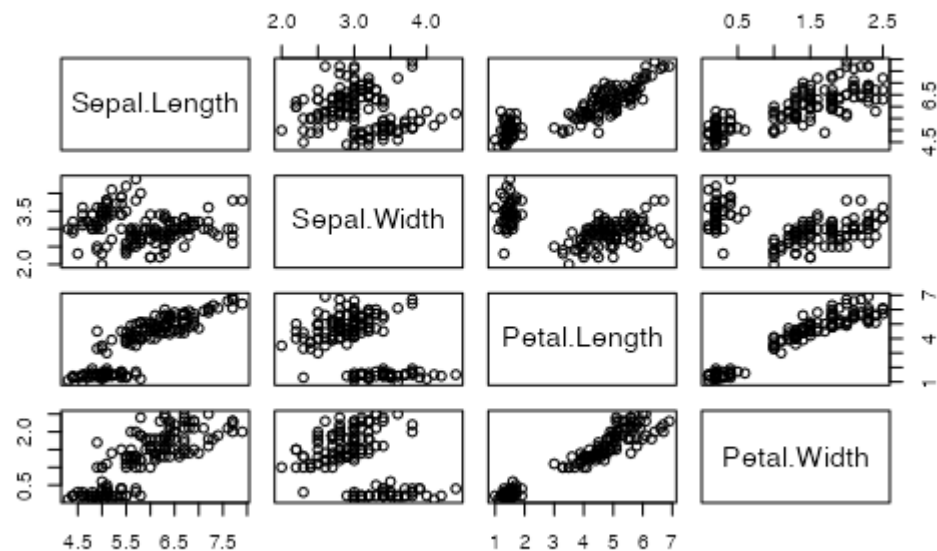
```
head(iris)
```

	Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width	Species
1	5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2	setosa
2	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2	setosa
3	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2	setosa
4	4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2	setosa
5	5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2	setosa
6	5.4	3.9	1.7	0.4	setosa

## Example - iris Dataset

Which correlation coefficient do we use?

```
plot(iris[, -5])
```





## Example - iris Dataset

```
cor(iris[, -5]) |> round(2)
```

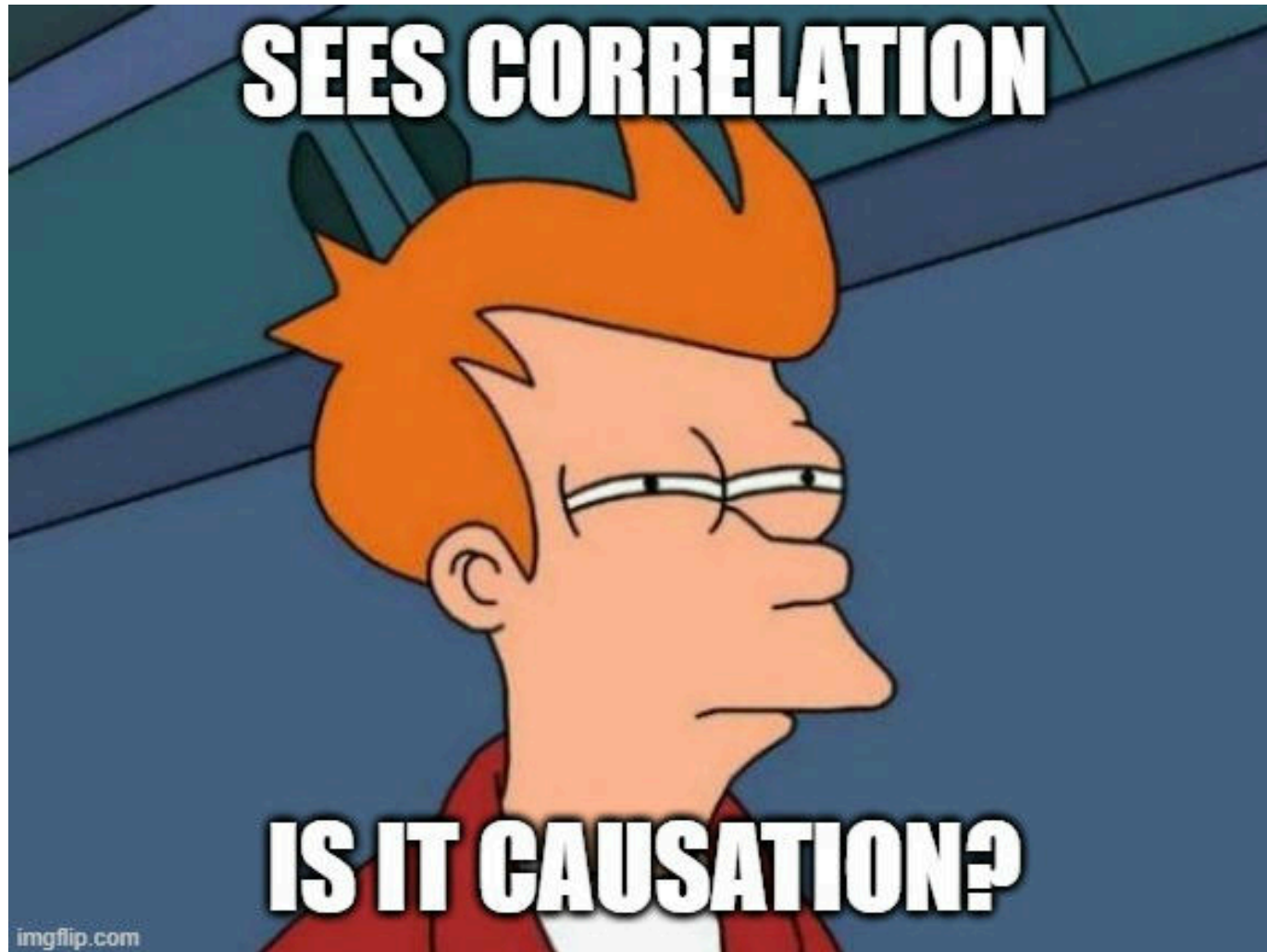
	Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width
Sepal.Length	1.00	-0.12	0.87	0.82
Sepal.Width	-0.12	1.00	-0.43	-0.37
Petal.Length	0.87	-0.43	1.00	0.96
Petal.Width	0.82	-0.37	0.96	1.00

Correlation analysis **identifies** variables that have a strong linear relationship **quickly and easily**.

- We want to *predict* the `Petal.Width` of an iris flower
- Which variables would be *good predictors*?
  - Either `Petal.Length` and `Sepal.Length` would be good predictors
- Which variables are likely to present issues for *model fitting*?
  - e.g. `Petal.Length` and `Sepal.Length` are strongly correlated - including both would cause multicollinearity – (L1 MLR)

## Correlation $\neq$ causation

**Spurious correlations:** a relationship between two variables does not imply that one causes the other.



## What comes after correlation?

- We have data with two or more numerical variables
- We conduct correlation analysis to describe *possible* linear relationships
  - Fast, easy, interpretable, and widely used

But, we can't infer causation: - Is there *reason()* to expect a relationship between the two variables? - Do you have a hypothesis\* about the relationship between the two variables?

If we have a hypothesis about the relationship between two variables, we can use **regression analysis** to test it.

# Regression modelling

- Regression is a *statistical* method to fit a model to data
- In linear regression this is a straight line that best fits the data – i.e. line of best fit

## Why regression?

### Describe the relationship between two variables

What is the relationship between a response variable  $Y$  and a predictor variable  $x$ ?

Common Terms:  $Y$  = response, independent variable, target, outcome etc.  $x$  = predictor, dependent variable, feature, input etc.

### Explain the relationship between two variables

How much variation in  $Y$  can be explained by a relationship with  $x$ ?

### Predict the value of a response variable

What is the value of  $Y$  for a given value of  $x$ ?

Often we can easily measure/obtain  $x$  but not  $Y$ , so we need to *predict*  $Y$  from  $x$ .

## A gateway to the world of modelling

Many types of regression models exist:

- **Simple linear regression (one predictor i.e.  $x$ )**
- Multiple linear regression (more than one predictor)
- Non-linear regression, using functions such as polynomials, exponentials, logarithms, etc.

...

Asking ChatGPT for help with the next slide:

Using R code, can you generate some data that is useful to demonstrate simple linear regression, multiple linear regression, polynomial, exponential and logarithmic regressions in ggplot2?

Sure! Here's an example code that generates a sample dataset and visualizes it using ggplot2 library in R.

## Visualising regression models

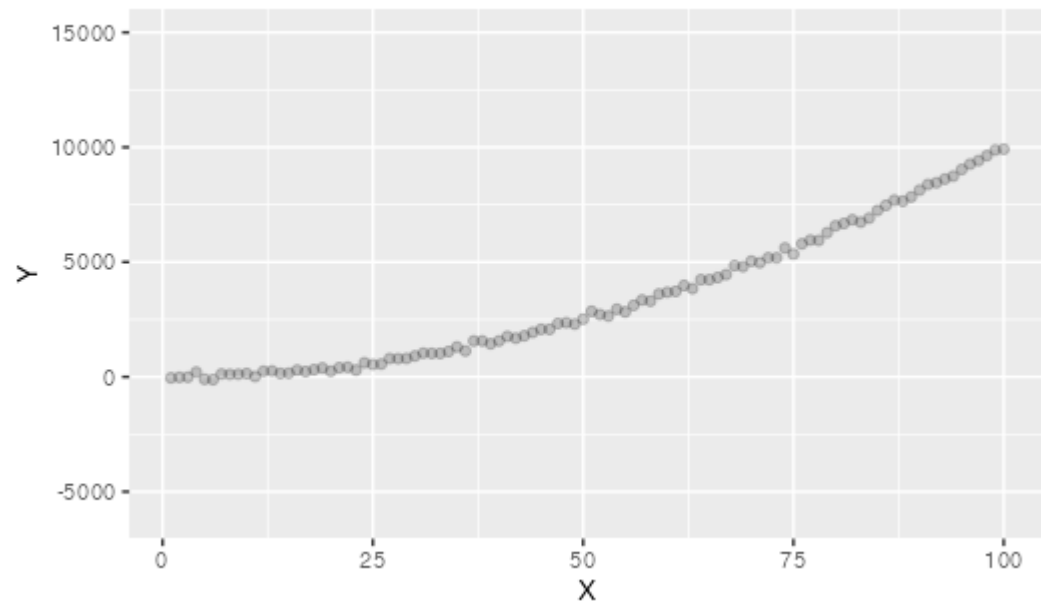
```
library(ggplot2)

# Generate sample data
set.seed(136)
x ← 1:100
y ← x^2 + rnorm(100, sd = 100)

# Plot the data and regression lines
ggplot(data.frame(x = x, y = y), aes(x, y)) +
  ggtitle("Regression Models") +
  geom_point(alpha = .2) +
  xlab("X") +
  ylab("Y") +
  ylim(-6000, 15000)
```



Regression Models



## Visualising regression models

```
library(ggplot2)

# Generate sample data
set.seed(136)
x ← 1:100
y ← x^2 + rnorm(100, sd = 100)

# Define regression functions
slr ← function(x, y) {
  mod ← lm(y ~ x)
  return(list(
    data.frame(x = x, y = predict(mod), model_type = "Simple Linear Regression"),
    paste("y =", round(coefficients(mod)[[2]], 2), "x +", round(coefficients(mod)[[1]], 2))
  ))
}

mlr ← function(x, y, z) {
  mod ← lm(y ~ x + z)
  return(list(
```

```

    data.frame(x = x, z = z, y = predict(mod), model_type = "Multiple Linear Regression"),
    paste("y =", round(coefficients(mod)[[3]], 2), "x +", round(coefficients(mod)[[2]], 2), "z
+", round(coefficients(mod)[[1]], 2))
  ))
}

poly_reg <- function(x, y, degree) {
  mod <- lm(y ~ poly(x, degree, raw = TRUE))
  x_new <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = 100)
  y_new <- predict(mod, newdata = data.frame(x = x_new))
  return(list(
    data.frame(x = x_new, y = y_new, model_type = paste("Polynomial Regression (", degree, ")",
sep = "")),
    paste(paste("x^", degree, sep = ""), ":", paste(round(coefficients(mod), 2), collapse = " +
"))
  ))
}

exp_reg <- function(x, y) {
  mod <- lm(log(y) ~ x)
  x_new <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = 100)

```

```

y_new <- exp(predict(mod, newdata = data.frame(x = x_new)))
return(list(
  data.frame(x = x_new, y = y_new, model_type = "Exponential Regression"),
  paste("y =", round(exp(coefficients(mod)[[2]]), 2), "* e^(", round(coefficients(mod)[[1]],
2), "x", ")")
))
}

log_reg <- function(x, y) {
  mod <- lm(y ~ log(x))
  x_new <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = 100)
  y_new <- predict(mod, newdata = data.frame(x = x_new))
  return(list(
    data.frame(x = x_new, y = y_new, model_type = "Logarithmic Regression"),
    paste("y =", round(coefficients(mod)[[2]], 2), "* log(x) +", round(coefficients(mod)[[1]],
2))
  ))
}

# Create regression line dataframes and equations
reg_data <- list(slr(x, y), mlr(x, y, rnorm(100, sd = 10)), poly_reg(x, y, 3), exp_reg(x, y),

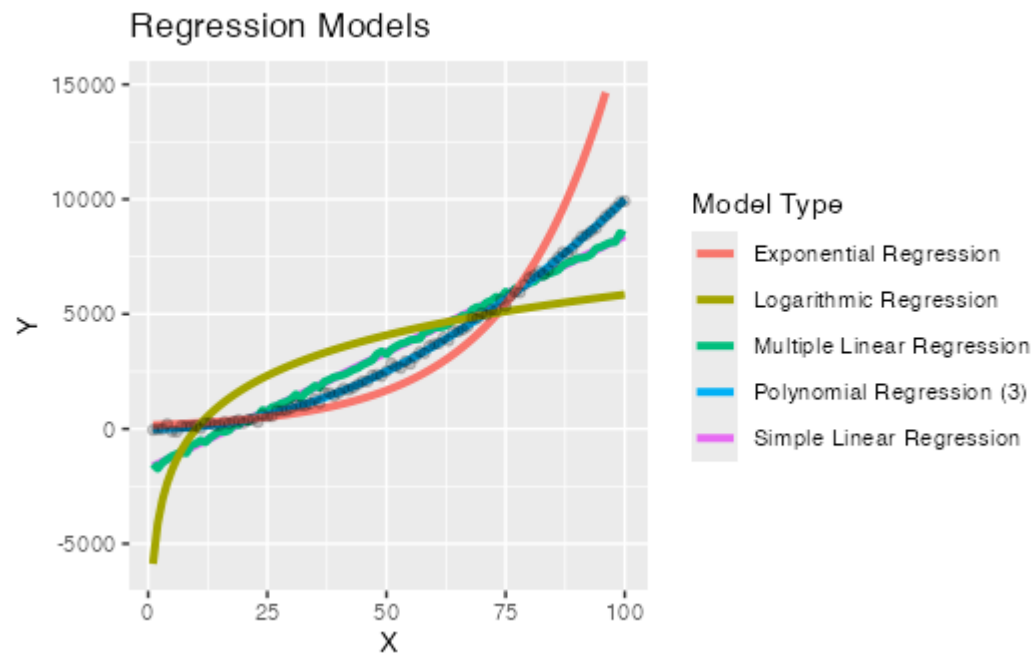
```

```

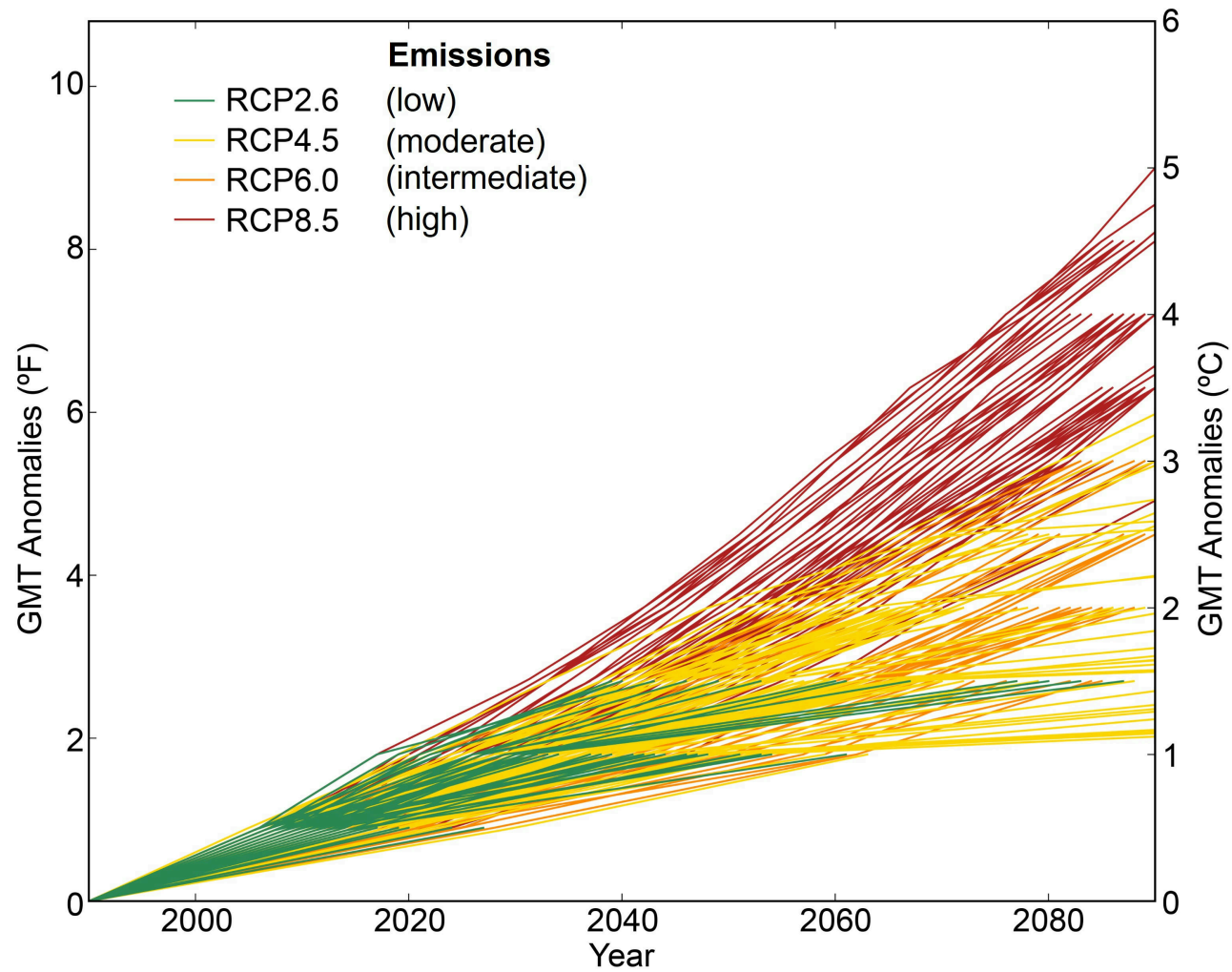
log_reg(x, y))
reg_eqs ← sapply(reg_data, function(x) x[[2]])

# Plot the data and regression lines
ggplot(data.frame(x = x, y = y), aes(x, y)) +
  lapply(seq_along(reg_data), function(i) geom_line(data = reg_data[[i]][[1]], aes(x, y, color =
reg_data[[i]][[1]]$model_type), linewidth = 1.4)) +
  ggtitle("Regression Models") +
  geom_point(alpha = .2) +
  xlab("X") +
  ylab("Y") +
  scale_color_discrete(name = "Model Type") + # This line adds the title to the legend
  ylim(-6000, 15000) +
  theme(legend.position = "right") # Modify this to display the legend (default position is
'right')

```



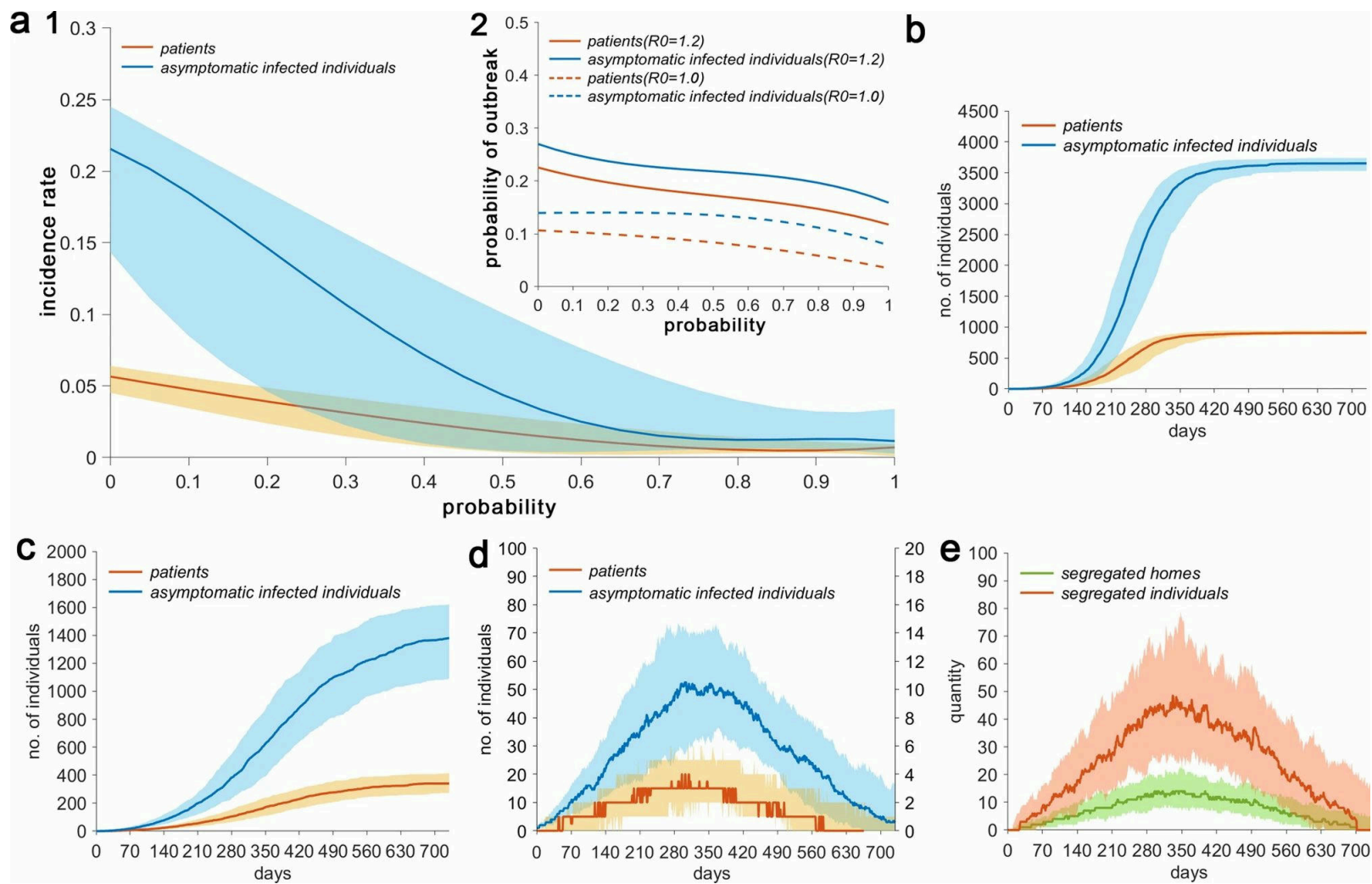
## Example: climate change modelling





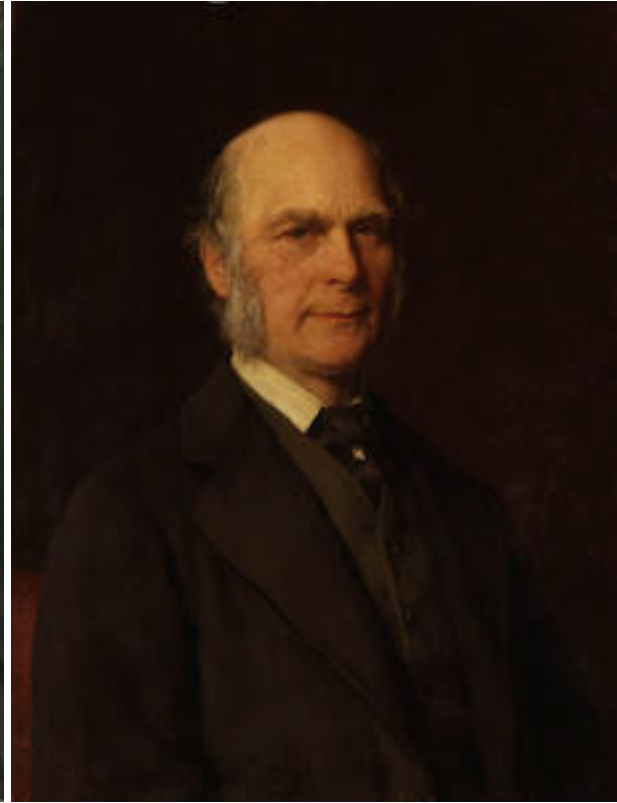
Source: <https://science2017.globalchange.gov/chapter/4/>

## Example: COVID-19 transmission modelling



Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-84893-4/figures/1>

## How does regression work?



Adrien-Marie Legendre, Carl Friedrich Gauss, Francis Galton

**i** Note

Many other people contributed to the development of regression analysis, but these three are the most well-known.

## How does regression work?

- **Method of least squares** first theorised by Adrien-Marie Legendre in 1805
- **Technique of least squares** first used by Carl Friedrich Gauss in 1809 (to fit a parabola to the orbit of the asteroid Ceres)
- **Model fitting** first published by Francis Galton in 1886 (predicting the height of a child from the height of the parents)

## Least squares

When we fit a line, there is error between the observed and predicted values.

$$\hat{\epsilon}_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$$

The **method of least squares** fits a line of best fit by minimising the sum of the squared errors.

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{\epsilon}_i)^2$$

```
# simulate example data

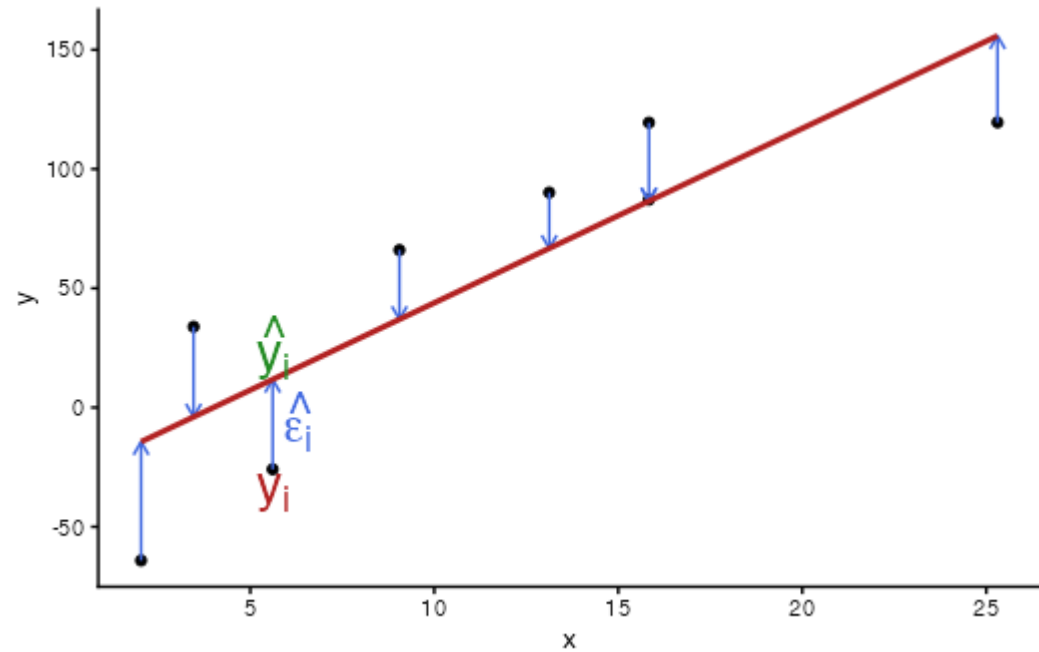
set.seed(340)
x <- runif(8, 0, 30)
y <- 5 * x + rnorm(8, 0, 40)
df <- data.frame(x, y)

# fit linear model, add residual vertical lines as arrows
mod <- lm(y ~ x, data = df)
p1 <- ggplot(df, aes(x, y)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_segment(aes(xend = x, yend = fitted(mod)),
    arrow = arrow(length = unit(0.2, "cm")),
    color = "royalblue"
  ) +
  labs(x = "x", y = "y")

p1 +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE, color =
```



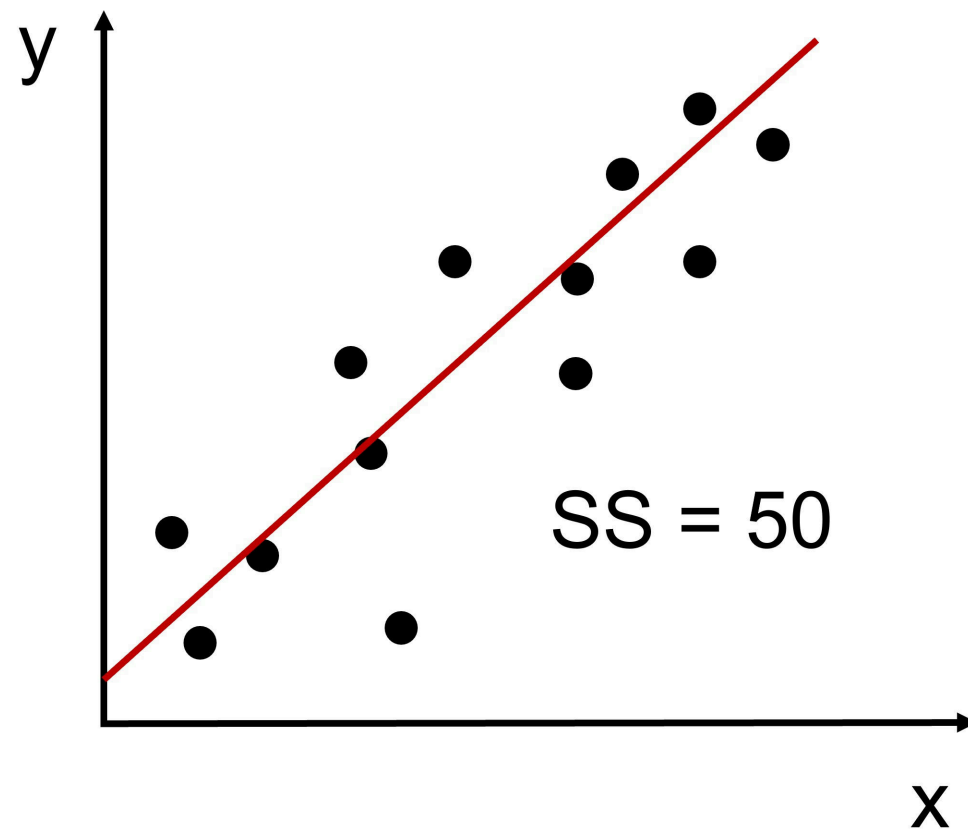
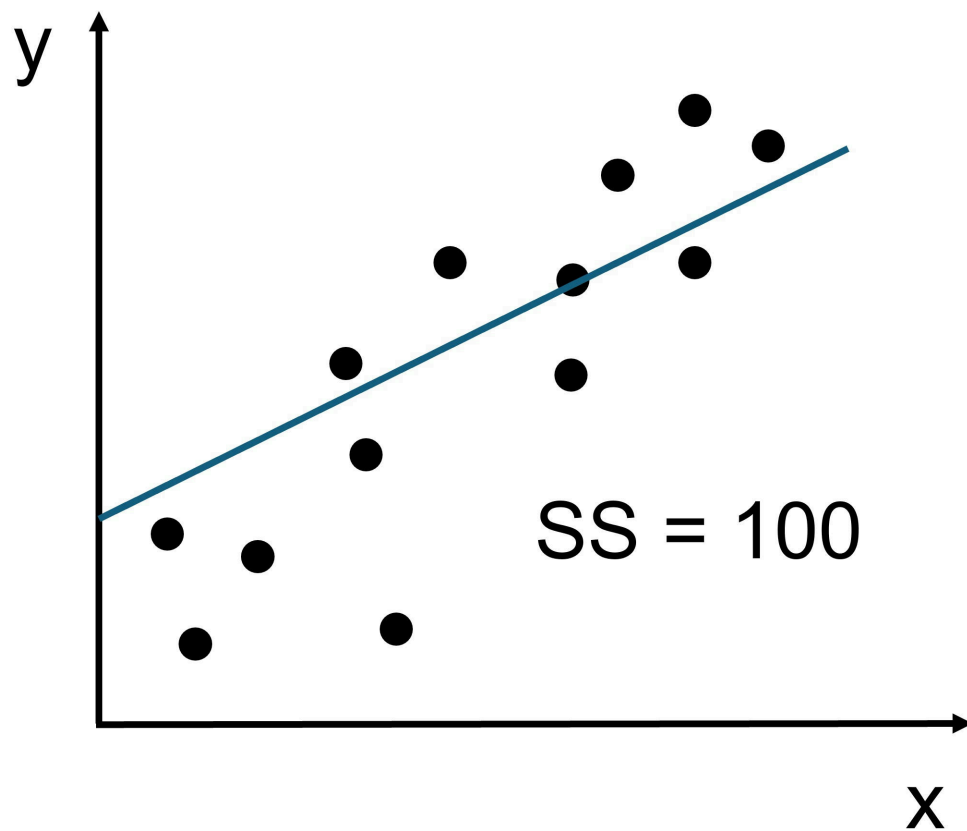
```
"firebrick") +  
  annotate("text",  
    x = 6.3, y = -6, size = 7,  
    label = expression(hat(epsilon[i])), colour =  
"royalblue"  
  ) +  
  annotate("text",  
    x = 5.6, y = 25, size = 7,  
    label = expression(hat(y[i])), colour = "forestgreen"  
  ) +  
  annotate("text",  
    x = 5.6, y = -36, size = 7,  
    label = expression(y[i]), colour = "firebrick"  
  ) +  
  theme_classic()
```



**i** Note

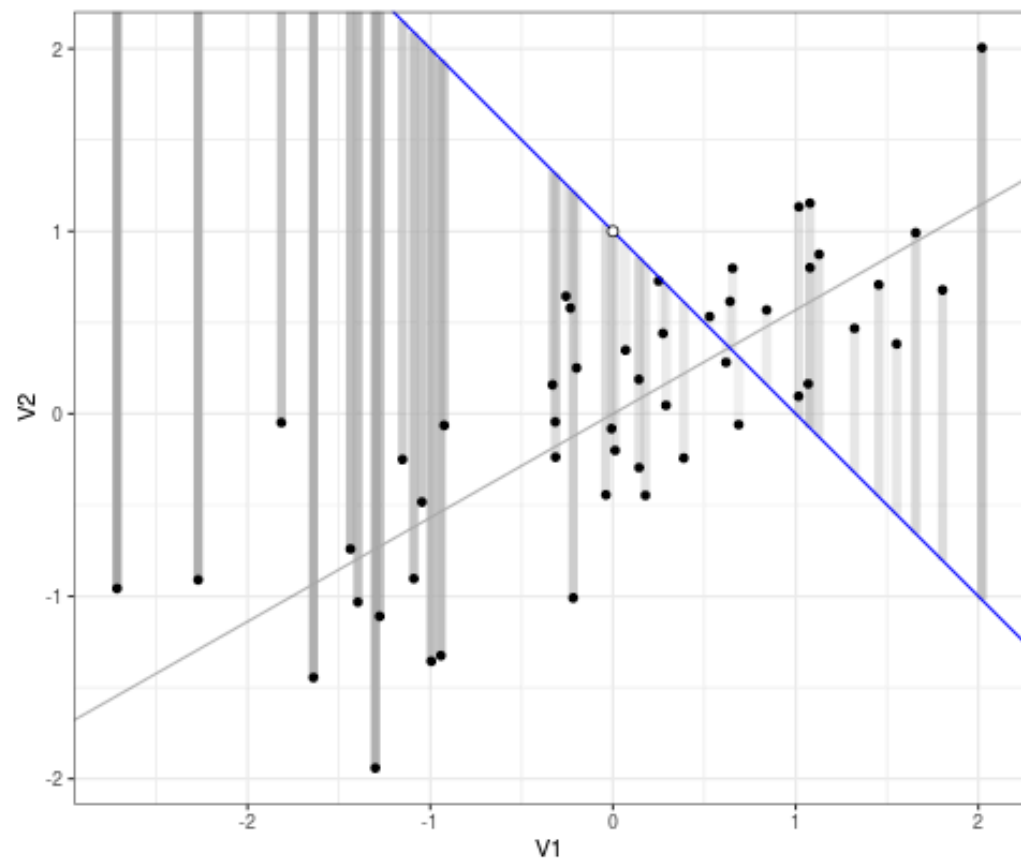
The error is squared so positive and negative errors do not cancel each other out.

## Least squares



Which line fits the data better?

**How does a computer fit a line of best fit?**



The line is fitted again and again until the squared error stabilises. A computer can do this very quickly!

# Simple linear regression

- The goal is to fit the line of best fit between a numerical response and a numerical predictor.



## Simple linear regression model

We want to relate the response  $Y$  to a predictor  $x$  for  $i$  number of observations:

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

where

$$\epsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

- $Y_i$ , the *response*, is an observed value of the dependent variable.
- $\beta_0$ , the *constant*, is the y-intercept and is **fixed**.
- $\beta_1$  is the population *slope* parameter, and like  $\beta_0$ , is also **fixed**.
- $\epsilon_i$  is the error associated with predictions of  $y_i$ , and unlike  $\beta_0$  or  $\beta_1$ , it is *not fixed*.

### **i** Note

$\epsilon_i$  is generally associated with the **residual** (*observed* – *predicted*). **True error** occurs during data collection (e.g. faulty instruments, selection bias, etc.) and often immeasurable.

## Different wordings

Different ways to think about the response:

- Response = Prediction + Error
- Response = Signal + Noise
- Response = Model + Unexplained
- Response = Deterministic + Random
- Response = Explainable + Everything else
- $Y = f(x)$
- Dependent variable =  $f(\text{Independent variable})$

## Model fitting

Two approaches; analytical and numerical:

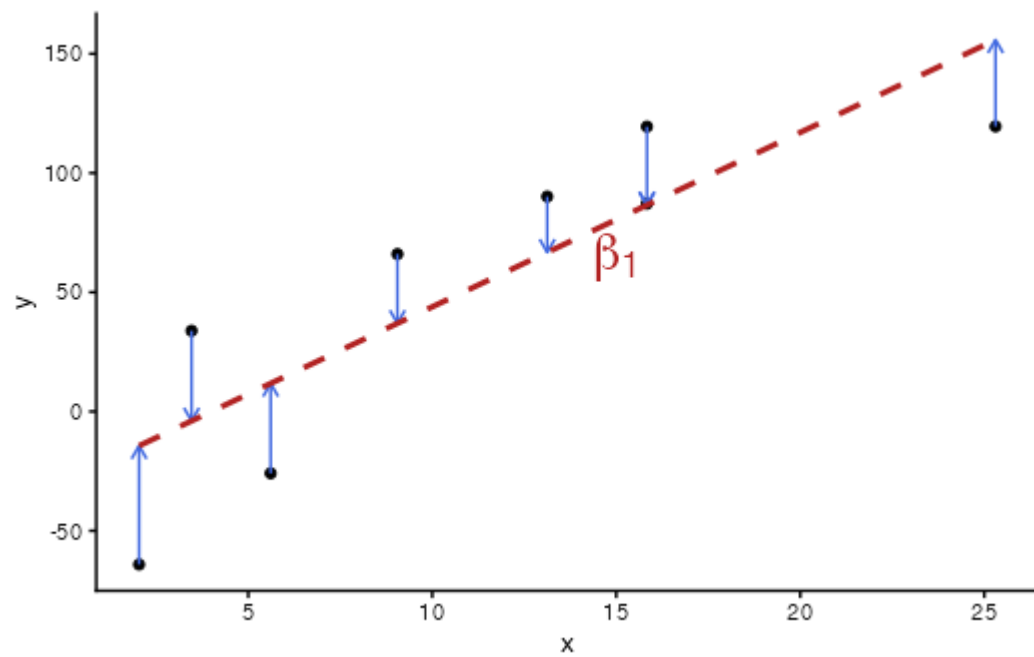
- **Analytical**: equation(s) used directly to find solution
- **Numerical**: computer uses “random guesses” to find set of parameters to that minimises objective function, in this case residual sum of squares

## Analytical: Slope, $\beta_1$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} = \frac{Cov(x, y)}{Var(x)} = \frac{SS_{xy}}{SS_{xx}}$$

```
# Calculate slope from df
beta1 ← sum((df$x - mean(df$x)) * (df$y - mean(df$y))) /
  sum((df$x - mean(df$x))^2)
# beta0 ← mean(df$y) - beta1 * mean(df$x)

p1 +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE, color = "firebrick", linetype = 2) +
  # label the line
  annotate("text",
    x = 15, y = 65, size = 7,
    label = expression(beta[1]), colour = "firebrick"
  ) +
  theme_classic()
```



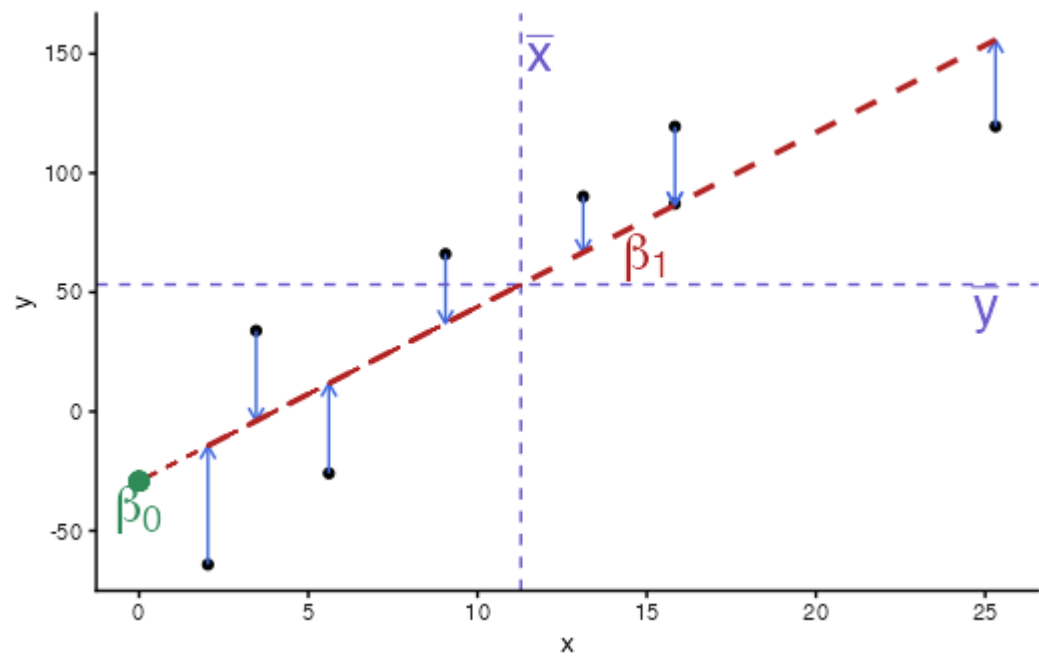
## Analytical: Intercept

$$\beta_0 = \bar{y} - \beta_1 \bar{x}$$

```
# calculate mean y from df
ybar <- mean(df$y)
xbar <- mean(df$x)
beta0 <- ybar - beta1 * xbar

p1 + geom_vline(xintercept = xbar, linetype = "dashed", color = "slateblue") +
  geom_hline(yintercept = ybar, linetype = "dashed", color = "slateblue") +
  # label the lines
  annotate("text",
    x = 25, y = ybar * 0.8, size = 7,
    label = expression(bar(y)), colour = "slateblue"
  ) +
  annotate("text",
    x = xbar * 1.05, y = 150, size = 7,
    label = expression(bar(x)), colour = "slateblue"
  ) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE, color = "firebrick", linetype = 2) +
```

```
# extend the geom_smooth line to intercept x=0
geom_segment(aes(x = xbar, y = ybar, xend = 0, yend = beta0),
  color = "firebrick", linetype = 2
) +
# label the slope line
annotate("text",
  x = 15, y = 65, size = 7,
  label = expression(beta[1]), colour = "firebrick"
) +
# add a dot at the intercept
geom_point(aes(x = 0, y = beta0), color = "seagreen", size = 3) +
# label the intercept
annotate("text",
  x = 0, y = beta0 * 1.4, size = 7,
  label = expression(beta[0]), colour = "seagreen"
) +
theme_classic()
```





## Example: back to Galton's data

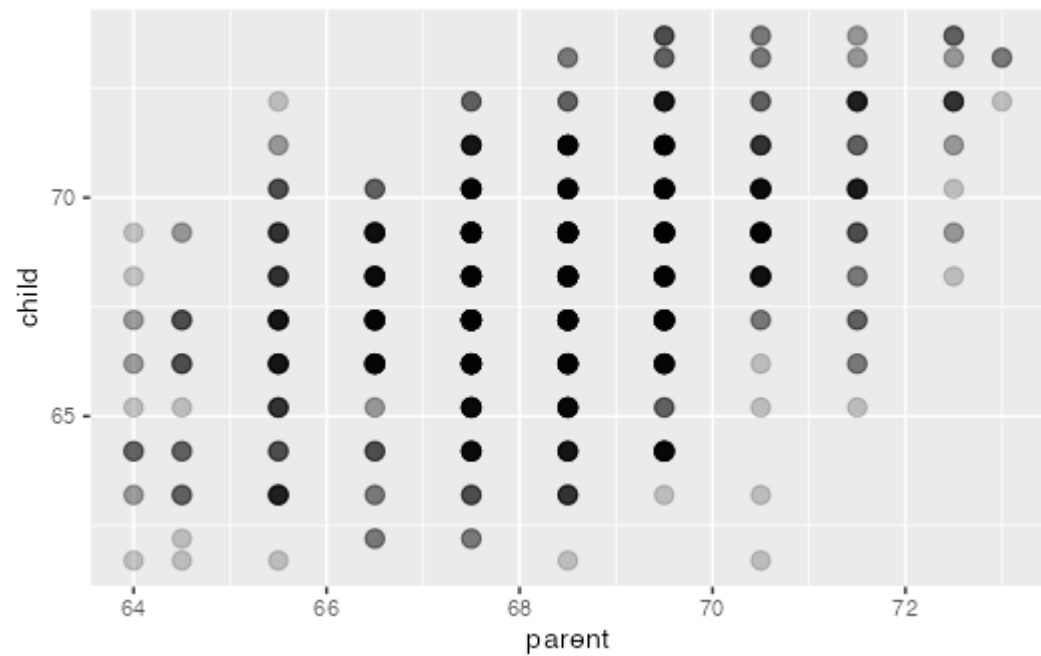
What can we understand about the relationship between `child height` and `parent height`?

■ Let's do this in R - much easier

## Linearity check

Recap - there appears to be a linear relationship between `child height` and `parent height` (plot). This is a moderately positive relationship (correlation).

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(Galton, aes(x = parent, y = child)) +
  geom_point(alpha = .2, size = 3)
```



```
cor(Galton$parent, Galton$child)
```

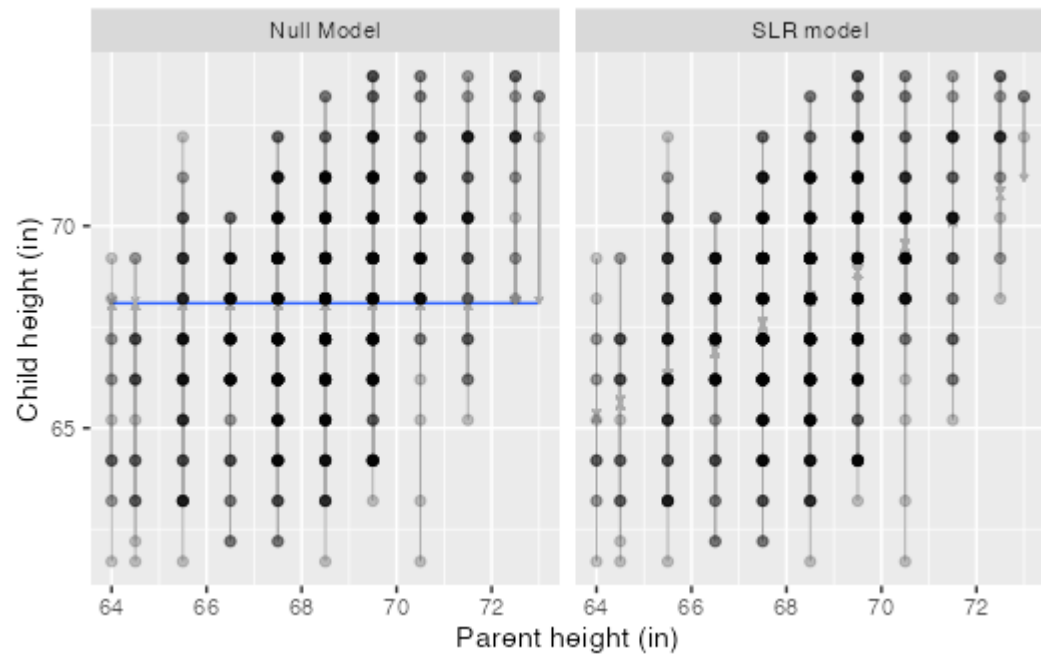
```
[1] 0.4587624
```

## Hypothesis testing

- The **null hypothesis** for a linear model:  $H_0 : \beta_1 = 0$ 
  - If there is no slope ( $\beta_1 = 0$ ) then  $y = \beta_0$  (the mean)
  - i.e. is the mean ( $\bar{y}$ ) a better fit than a linear model?
- The **alternative hypothesis** for a linear model:  $H_0 : \beta_1 \neq 0$ 
  - i.e. the estimate from the linear model ( $\hat{y}$ ) fits the data better than the mean ( $\bar{y}$ )

```
null_model <- Galton %>%  
  lm(child ~ 1, data = .) %>%  
  broom::augment(Galton)  
lin_model <- Galton %>%  
  lm(child ~ parent, data = .) %>%  
  broom::augment(Galton)  
models <- bind_rows(null_model, lin_model) %>%  
  mutate(model = rep(c("Null Model", "SLR model"), each = nrow(Galton)))  
  
ggplot(data = models, aes(x = parent, y = child)) +  
  geom_smooth(  
    data = filter(models, model == "Null Model"),
```

```
  method = "lm", se = FALSE, formula = y ~ 1, size = 0.5
) +
geom_smooth(
  data = filter(models, model == "SLR Model"),
  method = "lm", se = FALSE, formula = y ~ x, size = 0.5
) +
geom_segment(
  aes(xend = parent, yend = .fitted),
  arrow = arrow(length = unit(0.1, "cm")),
  size = 0.3, color = "darkgray"
) +
geom_point(alpha = .2) +
facet_wrap(~model) +
xlab("Parent height (in)") +
ylab("Child height (in)")
```



## Simple linear regression

We fit the model in one simple line of code: `fit <- lm(child ~ parent, data = Galton)`

```
fit <- lm(child ~ parent, data = Galton)
```

...

And then we can use `summary()` to get a summary of the model:

```
summary(fit)
```

Call:

```
lm(formula = child ~ parent, data = Galton)
```

Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-7.8050	-1.3661	0.0487	1.6339	5.9264

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	23.94153	2.81088	8.517	<2e-16 ***
parent	0.64629	0.04114	15.711	<2e-16 ***

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 2.239 on 926 degrees of freedom  
Multiple R-squared: 0.2105, Adjusted R-squared: 0.2096  
F-statistic: 246.8 on 1 and 926 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16



## Summary

Correlation is a measure of the relationship between two numerical variables between  $-1$  and  $1$ .

- A correlation coefficient measures the *strength* and *direction* of the relationship.
- Pearson's correlation is for linear relationships, Spearman's/Kendall's correlation is for monotonic relationships.
- Correlation  $\neq$  causation.

Regression is an analysis that models the relationship between a dependent variable and independent variable(s).

- The most common method for regression is least squares, which minimises the sum of the squared residuals.
- Simple linear regression fits a straight line between two variables.

■ Next week: interpreting results and assumptions for simple linear regression.

# Thanks!

This presentation is based on the [SOLES Quarto reveal.js template](#) and is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#).