

7.10 SPEARMAN'S RANK CORRELATION COEFFICIENT

The coefficient of rank correlation is based on the various values of the variates and is denoted by R . It is applied to the problems in which data cannot be measured quantitatively but qualitative assessment is possible such as beauty, honesty etc. In this case the best individual is given rank number 1, next rank 2 and so on. The coefficient of rank correlation is given by the formula :

$$R = 1 - \frac{6 \sum D^2}{n(n^2 - 1)},$$

where D^2 is the square of the difference of corresponding ranks, and n is the number of pairs of observations.

7.10-1. When the Ranks are Given.

WORKING RULE

- Step I.** Calculate the difference of ranks of x from the corresponding ranks of y and write it under the column headed by D .
- Step II.** Square the difference D and write it under the column headed by D^2 .
- Step III.** Apply the formula

$$R = 1 - \frac{6 \sum D^2}{n(n^2 - 1)},$$

where n is the total number of pairs of observations.

Example 19. Two judges in a beauty competition rank the 12 entries as follows.

X:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Y:	12	9	6	10	3	5	4	7	8	2	11	1

Calculate the rank correlation coefficient between X and Y .

Example 27. Quotation of index numbers of equity share prices of certain joint stock company and prices of preference share are given below:

Years :	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Equity :	97.5	99.4	90.6	96.2	95.1	98.4	97.1
Preference :	75.1	75.9	77.1	78.2	79.0	74.8	70.1

Use the method of rank correlation to determine the relationship between equity share and preference share prices.

Solution. Here first we assign the ranks in the descending orders.

Table : Computation of Rank Correlation Coefficient

X	Y	Rank of X R_1	Rank of Y R_2	$d = R_1 - R_2$	d^2
97.5	75.1	4	5	-1	1
99.4	75.9	1	4	-3	9
98.6	77.1	2	3	-1	1
96.2	78.2	6	2	4	16
95.1	79.0	7	1	6	36
98.4	74.0	3	6	-3	9
97.1	70.2	5	7	-2	4
				$\Sigma d = 0$	$\Sigma d^2 = 76$

Here $n = 7$

$$R = 1 - \frac{6 \Sigma d^2}{n(n^2 - 1)} = 1 - \frac{6 \times 76}{7(49 - 1)} = 1 - \frac{456}{336} = 1 - 1.357 = -0.357$$

Example 28. Ten competitors in a beauty contest are ranked by three judges in the following orders:

1st Judge :	1	6	5	10	3	2	4	9	7	8
2nd Judge :	3	5	8	4	7	10	2	1	6	9
3rd Judge :	6	4	9	8	1	2	3	10	5	7

Correlation

Use the correlation coefficient to determine which pair of judges has the nearest approach to common taste in beauty.

Solution. Let R_1, R_2, R_3 , respectively be the ranks given by first, second and third judge. Let r_{ij} be the rank correlation coefficient between the rank given by i th and j th judges, $i \neq j$, $i = 1, 2, 3, j = 1, 2, 3$. Let $D_{ij} = R_i - R_j$ be the difference of ranks of an individual given by i th and j th judge.

Table : Computation of Rank Correlation Coefficient

R_1	R_2	R_3	$D_{12} = R_1 - R_2$	$D_{13} = R_1 - R_3$	$D_{23} = R_2 - R_3$	D_{12}^2	D_{13}^2	D_{23}^2
1	3	6	-2	-5	-3	4	25	9
6	5	4	1	2	1	1	4	1
5	8	9	-3	-4	-1	9	16	1
10	4	8	6	2	-4	36	4	16
3	7	1	-4	2	6	16	4	36
2	10	2	-8	0	8	64	0	64
4	2	3	2	1	-1	4	1	1
9	1	10	8	-1	9	64	1	81
7	6	5	1	2	1	1	4	1
8	9	7	-1	1	2	1	1	4
			$\Sigma D_{12} = 0$	$\Sigma D_{13} = 0$	$\Sigma D_{23} = 0$	$\Sigma D_{12}^2 = 200$	$\Sigma D_{13}^2 = 60$	$\Sigma D_{23}^2 = 214$

Here

$$n = 10$$

\therefore

$$R_{12} = 1 - \frac{6 \Sigma D_{12}^2}{n(n^2 - 1)} = 1 - \frac{6 \times 200}{10 \times 99} = -\frac{7}{33} = -0.2121.$$

$$R_{13} = 1 - \frac{6 \Sigma D_{13}^2}{n(n^2 - 1)} = 1 - \frac{6 \times 60}{10 \times 99} = \frac{7}{11} = 0.6363.$$

$$R_{23} = 1 - \frac{6 \Sigma D_{23}^2}{n(n^2 - 1)} = 1 - \frac{6 \times 214}{10 \times 99} = -\frac{49}{165} = -0.2970.$$

Since R_{13} is maximum, so the pair of first and third judge has the nearest approach to the common taste of beauty.