# BRSM Descriptive Statistics, Correlation

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#### Descriptive

Organising, summarising & describing data

**Statistics** 

Inferential

Correlational

Generalising

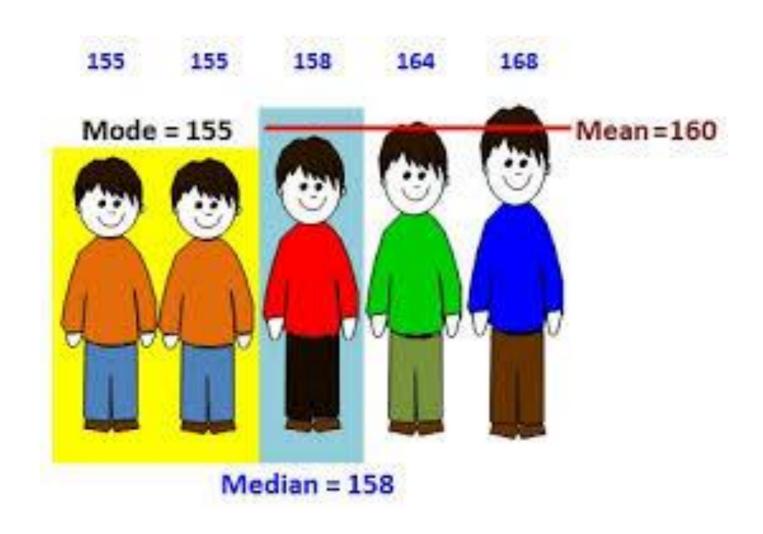
Relationships

Significance

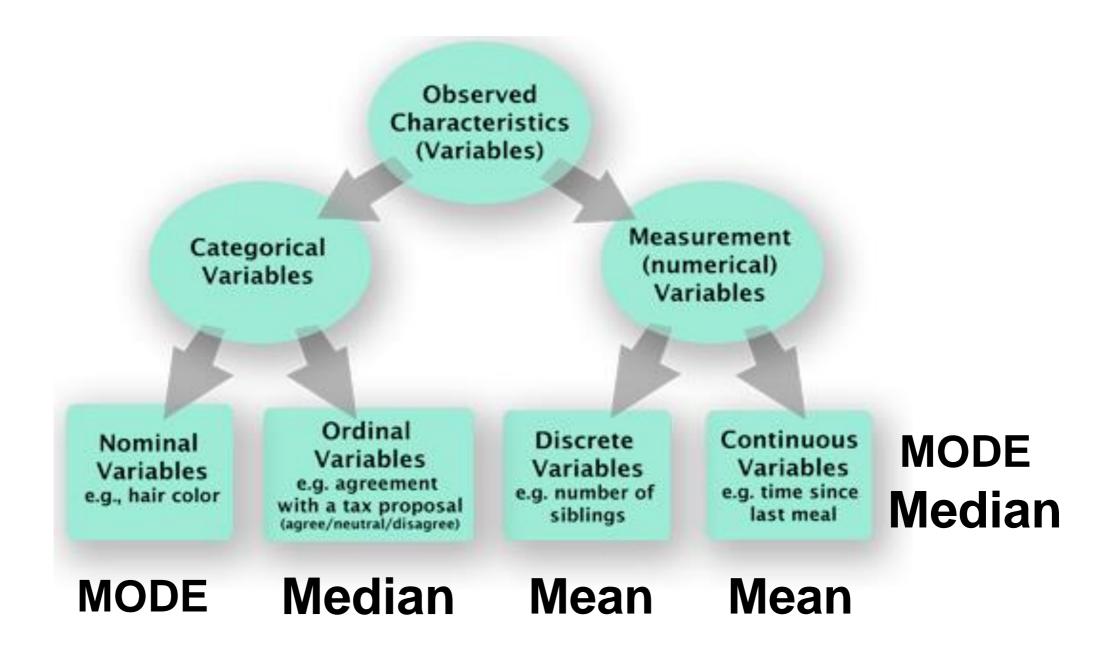
#### Descriptive Statistics

- Common descriptive statistics are:
  - Measure of central tendency
    - the most typical value of a given group of values
  - Measure of dispersion
    - how much all the other values in the group vary around the typical value

#### Measures of central tendency



# Central Tendency for Variable Types

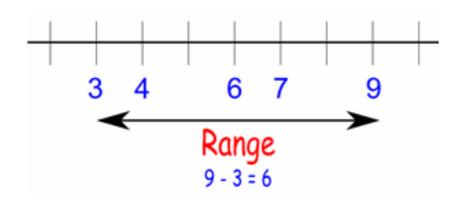


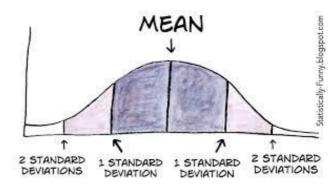
## Measures of central tendency

	Advantages Disadvantages	
Mean		
Median		

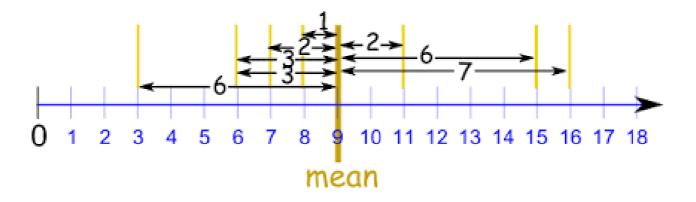
MODE

# Measures of dispersion/spread





$$ext{SD} = \sqrt{rac{\sum |x - ar{x}|^2}{n}}$$

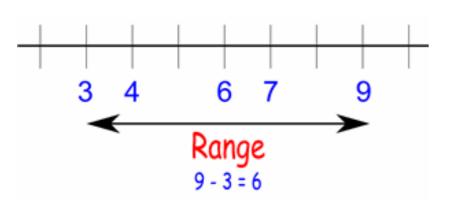


$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\Sigma(x-\mu)^2}{N}$$

#### Measures of dispersion/spread

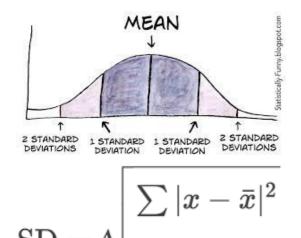
#### **Advantages**

#### **Disadvantages**



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distorted by extreme values no indication of grouping around the mean

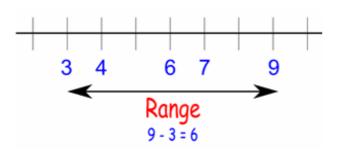


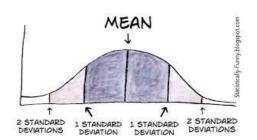
- Fundamental to significance testing, and forms basis of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
- Enables population parameters to be estimated from a sample of people



?

#### MODE MEDIAN

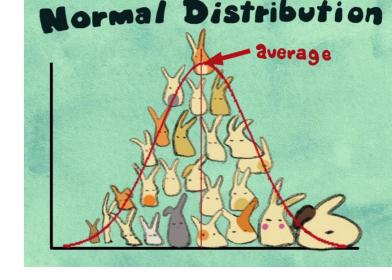




# When do these measures fail to be representative ????

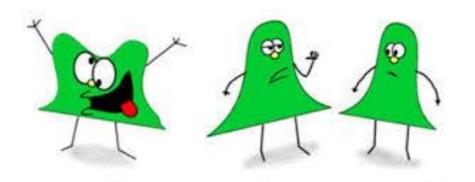


#### Normal Distribution



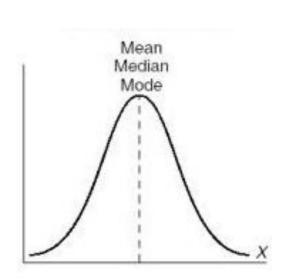
- A bell-shaped mathematical curve describing how values are distributed
- Data taken from a sample is assumed to be 'normally distributed', and must approximate this shape in order to use parametric tests of significance
- Inferential statistics (eg: t-tests, F-tests, regression analyses) require in some sense that the numeric variables are approximately normally distributed
- Note: it does not fit all populations

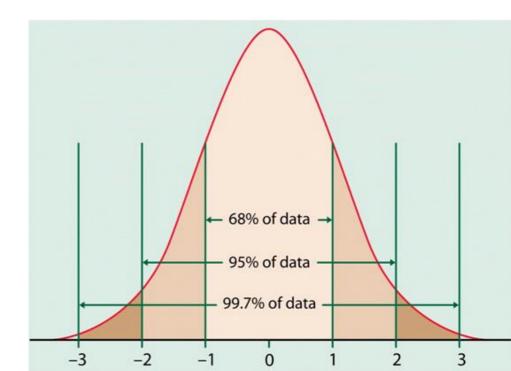
#### Normal Distribution



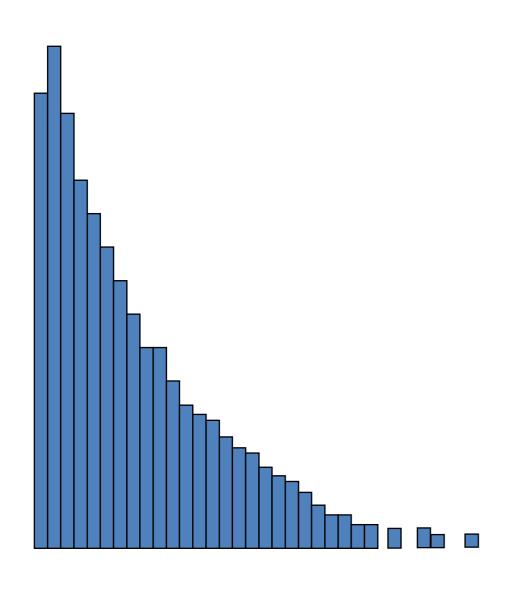
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT GUY, TOM. HES NOT, YOU KNOW...NORMAL!

- symmetrical about the horizontal axis midpoint
- mean, median, and mode all fall on the midpoint
- No matter what  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  are, the area between
  - $\mu$ - $\sigma$  and  $\mu$ + $\sigma$  is about 68%;
  - $\mu$ -2 $\sigma$  and  $\mu$ +2 $\sigma$  is about 95%;
  - $\mu$ -3 $\sigma$  and  $\mu$ +3 $\sigma$  is about 99.7%
- Almost all values fall within 3 standard deviations



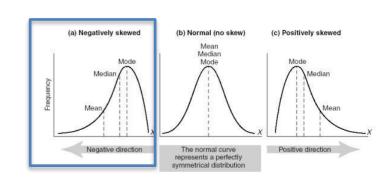


#### **Skewed Distribution**



- Resembles an exponential distribution
- Lots of extreme values far from mean or mode
- Not straightforward to do useful statistical tests with this type of distribution

#### **Skewed Distribution**



#### Negative skew

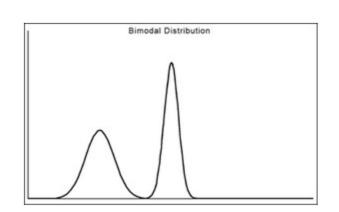
- Result from relatively easy tasks, due to a ceiling effect

#### Positive skew

 Results from tasks which are hard to improve upon, due to a floor effect (such as RT —reaction time)

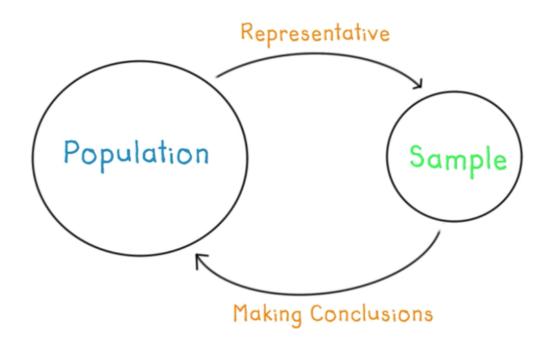
#### Bimodal

- Two distinct peaks
- probable indicator of groups
- ex: completion time of marathon runners

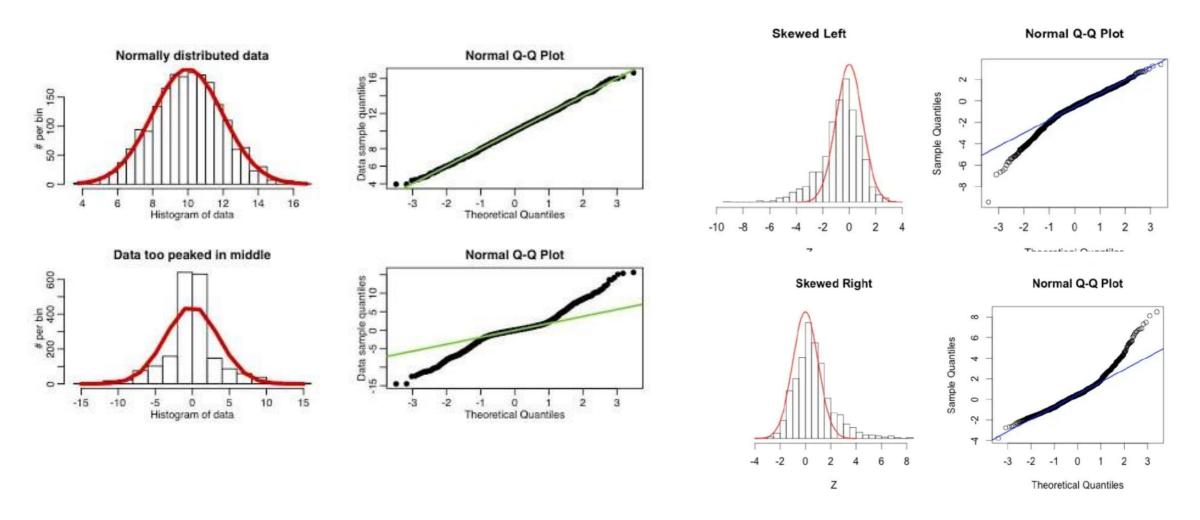


#### Normality in Real-World Data

- real-world data is usually skewed
- parametric tests assume that we are sampling from a normally distributed population



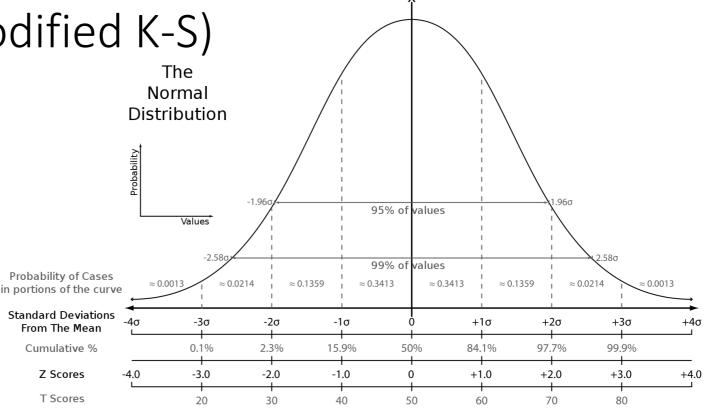
## Testing Normality



- Q-Q plot: graphical technique (can also use it to test any theoretical distribution)
- theoretical quantiles plotted on x-axis and sample quantiles plotted on y-axis

#### **Testing Normality**

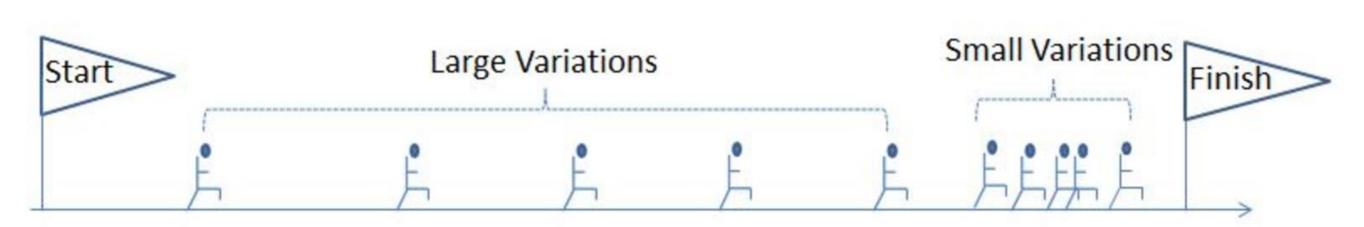
- Tests to assess normality (null hypothesis: data are sampled from a population that follows a normal distribution)
  - Kolmogorov-Smirnov (≥ 50)
  - Shapiro-Wilk (for smaller sample size, i.e. < 50)
  - Anderson-Darling (modified K-S)
  - Lilliefors test
  - Cramer-von Mises
  - etc...

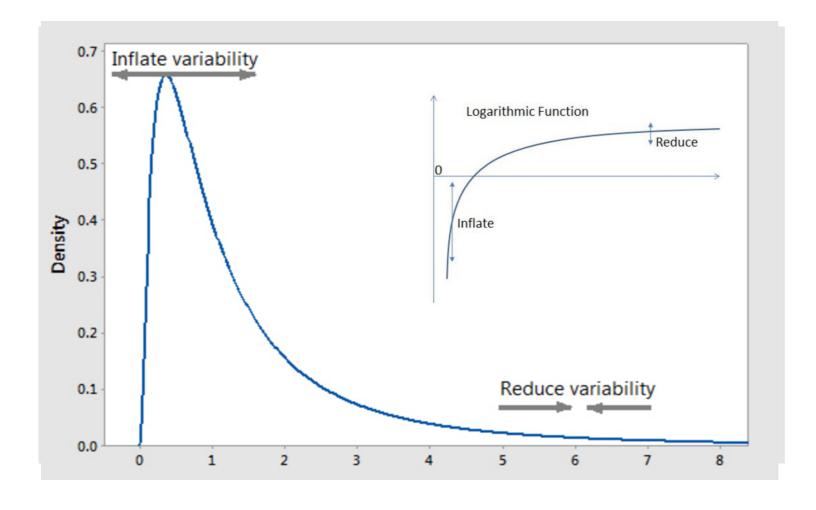


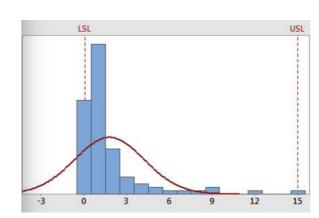
#### **Testing Normality**

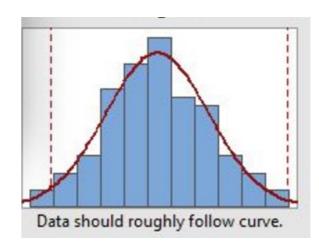
- For non-normal data
  - transform to normal distribution (eg: sqrt, log)
    - if it works use parametric tests
    - if still not normal use non-parametric tests
  - if you have groups of data, you **MUST** test each group for normality.











# Normality Transforms

Moderately positive skewness	sqrt(X)	
Substantially positive skewness	log <sub>10</sub> X	
Substantially positive skewness (with zero values)	log <sub>10</sub> (X + C)	
Moderately negative skewness	sqrt(K-X)	
Substantially negative skewness	log <sub>10</sub> (K-X)	

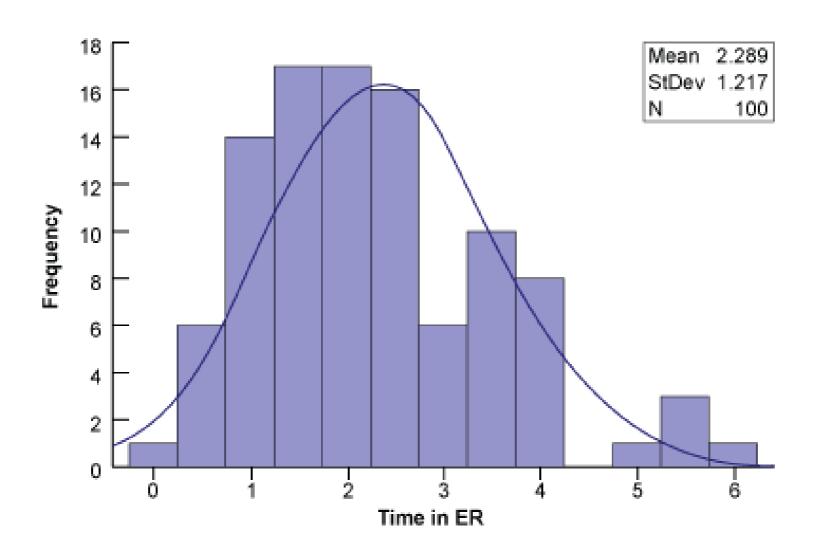
C = a constant added to each score so that the minimum score is 1 K = a constant from which each score is subtracted so that the minimum score is 1

#### Box-Cox transformation

- Box & Cox (1964) developed a procedure to identify an appropriate exponent (Lambda = I) to use to transform non-normal data into a "normal shape."
- power transformation
- increases the applicability and usefulness of statistical techniques based on the normality assumption
- is **not** a guarantee for normality
- only works if all the data is positive and greater than 0 (adding a constant (c) to all data)



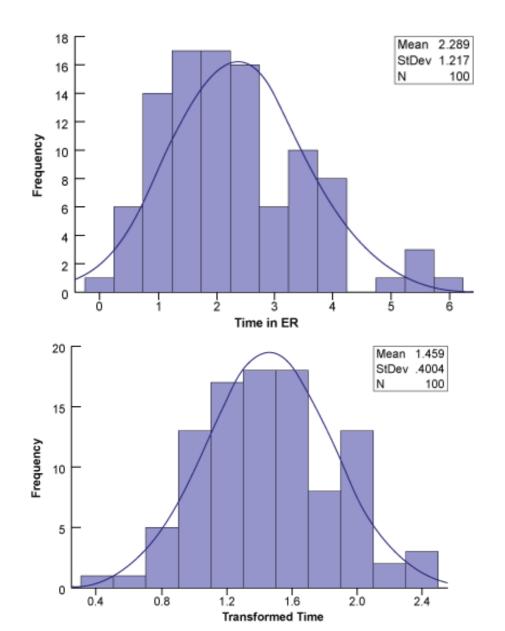
hospital's target time for processing, diagnosing and treating patients entering the ER

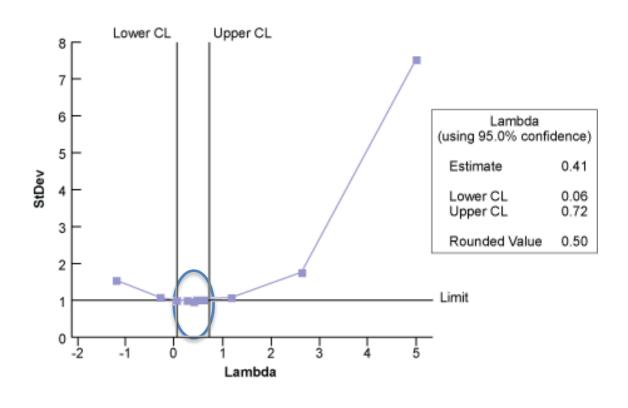




hospital's target time for processing, diagnosing and treating patients entering the ER

the "optimal value" is the one which results in the best approximation of a normal distribution curve





$$w_t = \left\{ egin{array}{ll} \log(y_t) & ext{if } \lambda = 0; \ (y_t^{\lambda} - 1)/\lambda & ext{otherwise.} \end{array} 
ight.$$

#### Descriptive

Organising, summarising & describing data

#### **Statistics**

Correlational

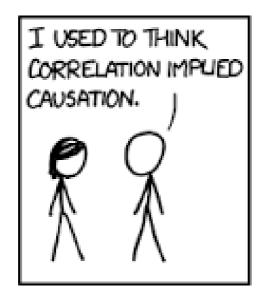
Relationships

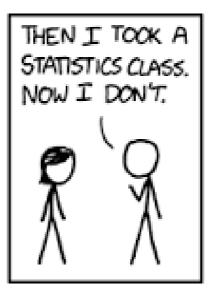
Inferential

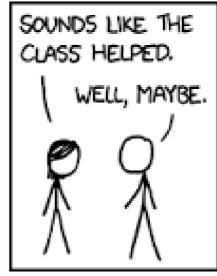
Generalising

Significance

#### Correlation





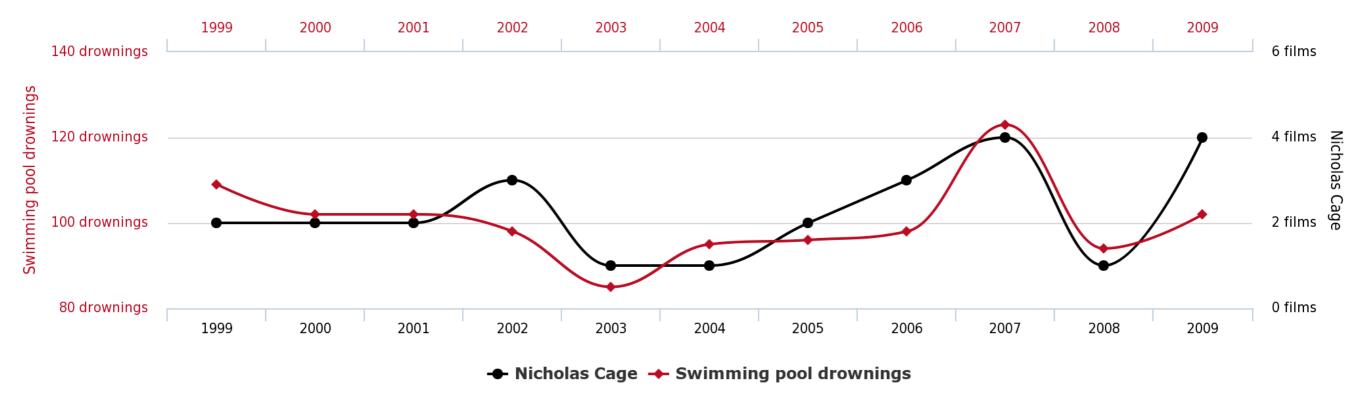


# **Not Causality**

#### Number of people who drowned by falling into a pool

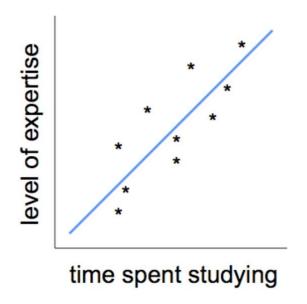
correlates with

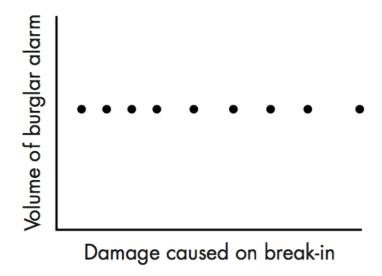
#### Films Nicolas Cage appeared in

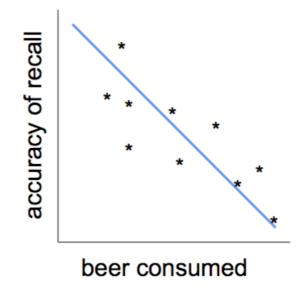


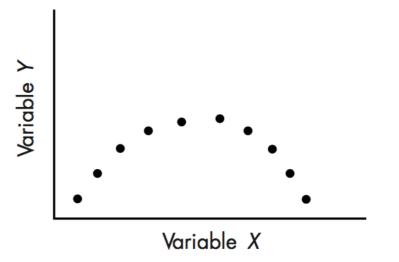
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#### Correlation

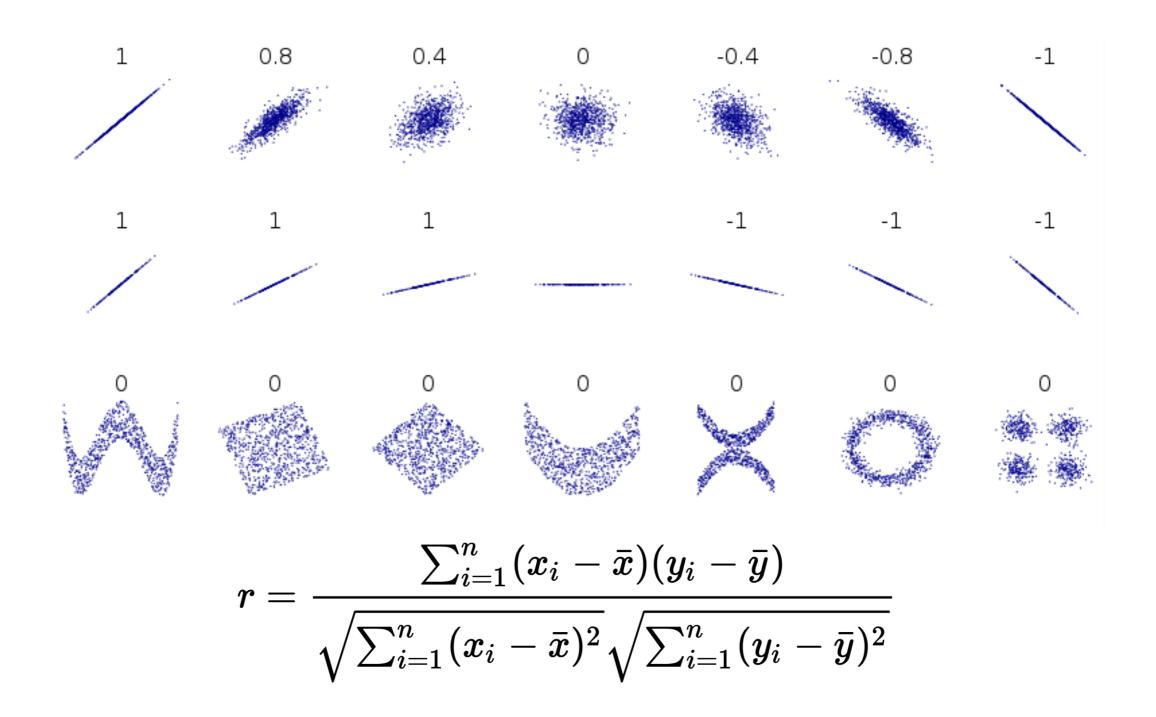








#### Pearson's r



#### Correlation

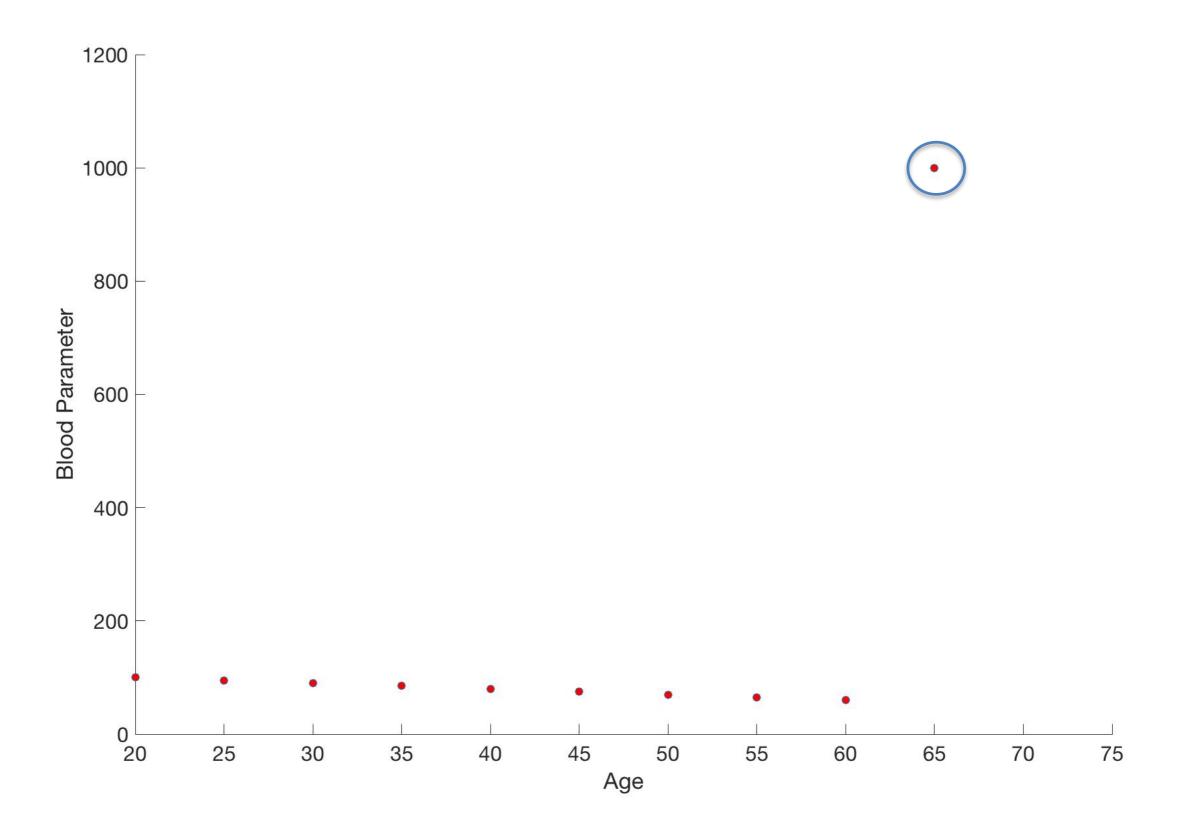
- calculation of correlation between two variables is a descriptive measure of the association
- testing the correlation for significance is an inferential procedure

Variable Y\X	Quantitiative X	Ordinal X	Nominal X
Quantitative Y	Pearson r	Biserial r <sub>b</sub>	Point Biserial $r_{ m pb}$
Ordinal Y	Biserial r <sub>b</sub>	Spearman rho/Tetrachoric r <sub>tet</sub>	Rank Biserial rrb
Nominal Y	Point Biserial rpb	Rank Bisereal r <sub>rb</sub>	Phi, L, C, Lambda

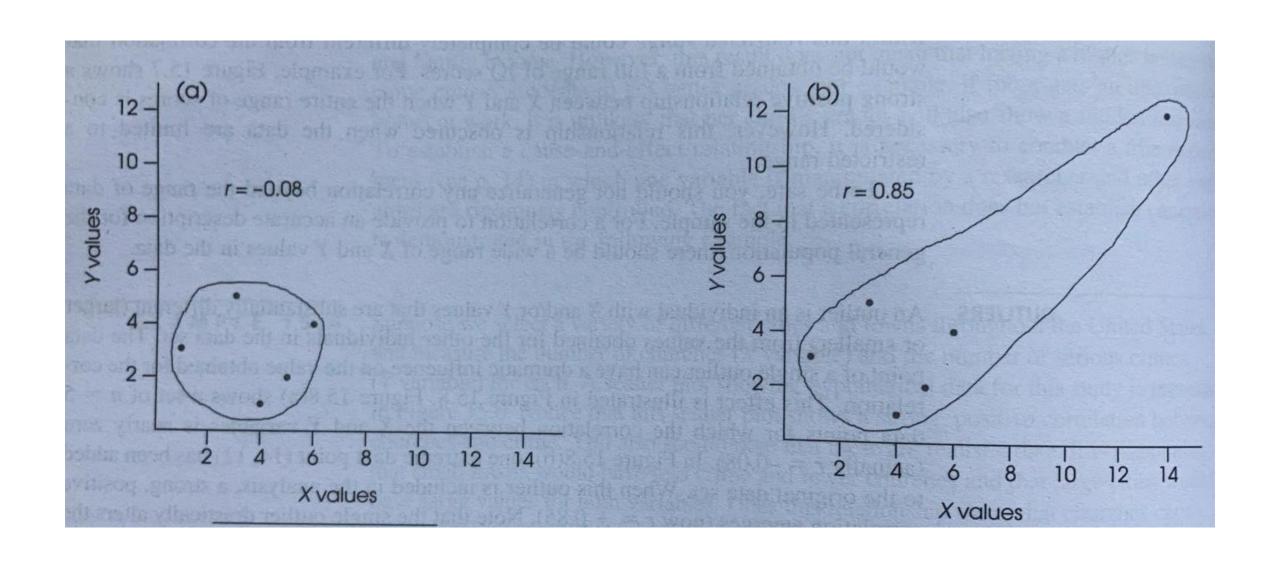
r = correlation coefficient  $r^2$  = coefficient of determination

r = ?

Pearson's r = .48

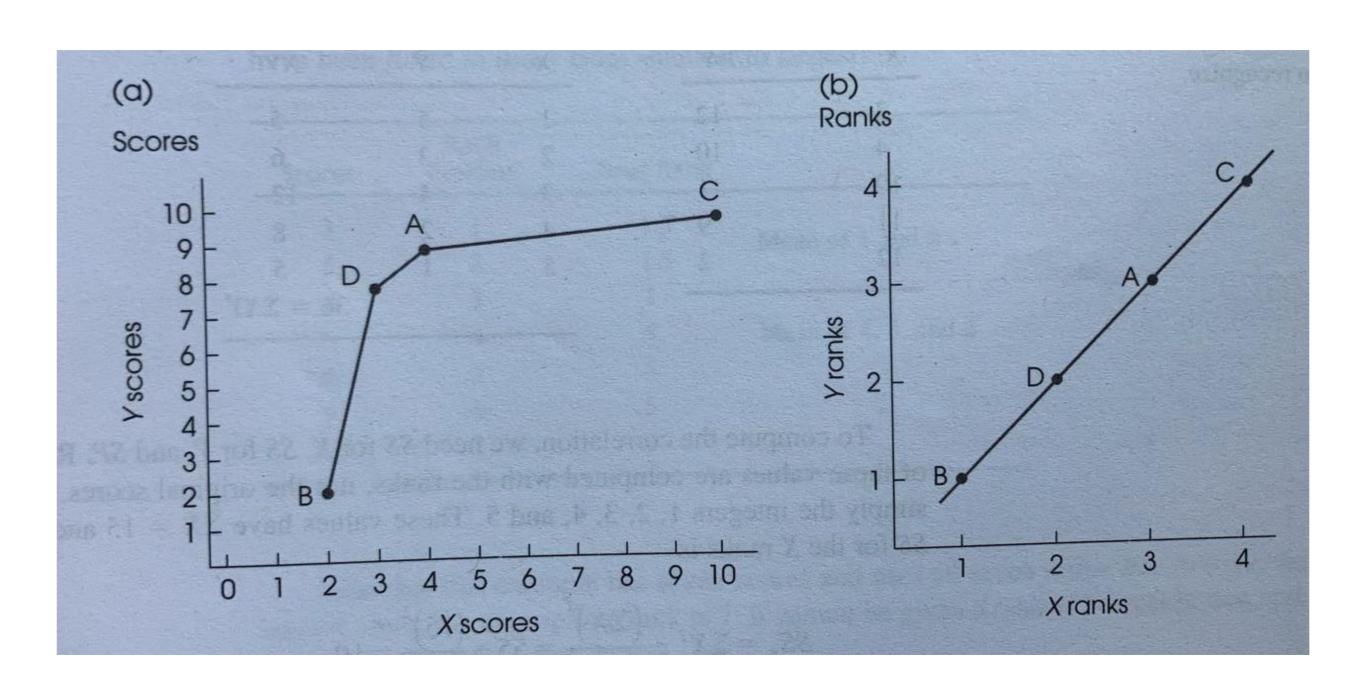


#### Pearson's r



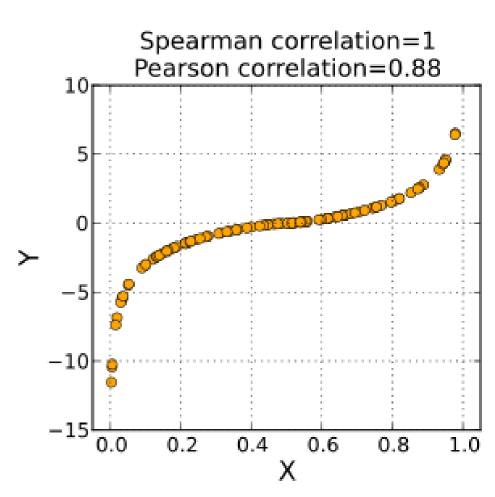
sensitive to outliers

# Spearman's rho



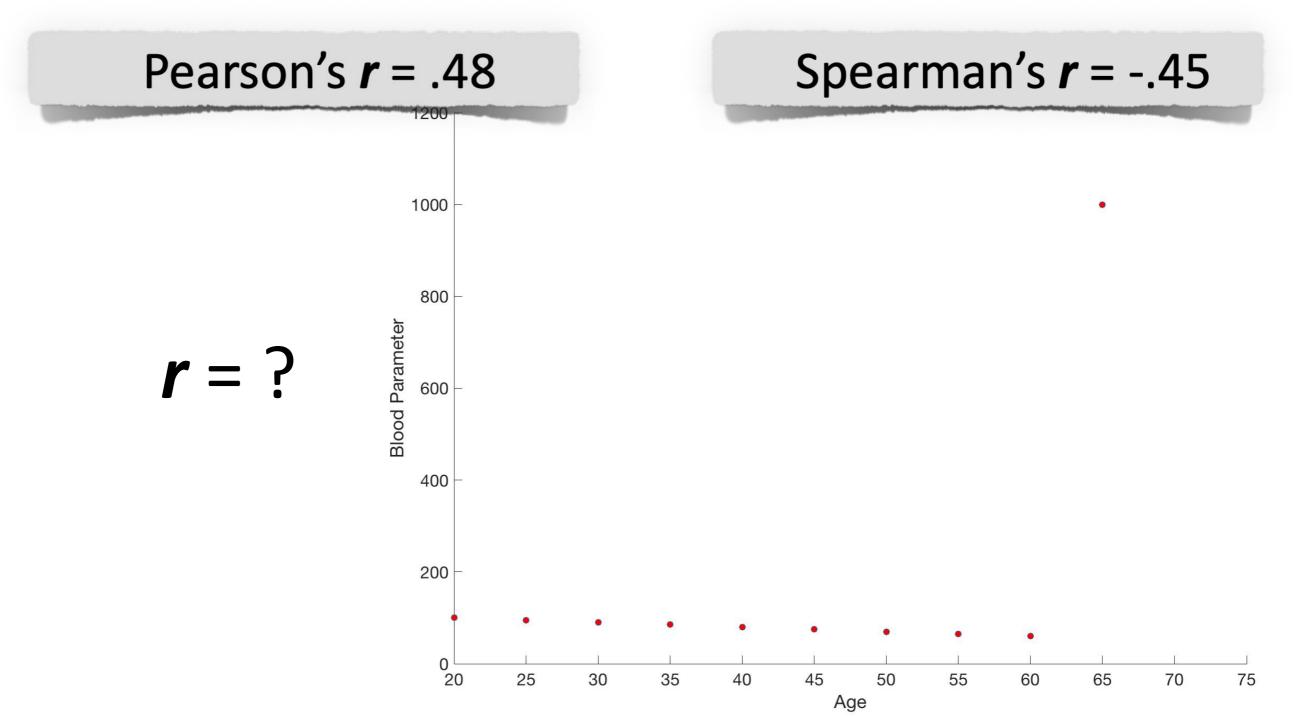
#### Spearman's rho

- Pearson's correlation coefficient on the ranks of the data
- deals with ordinal data
- If there are no repeated values, a perfect Spearman's correlation occurs when each of the variables is a perfect monotone function of the other



## Pearson's r vs Spearman's rho

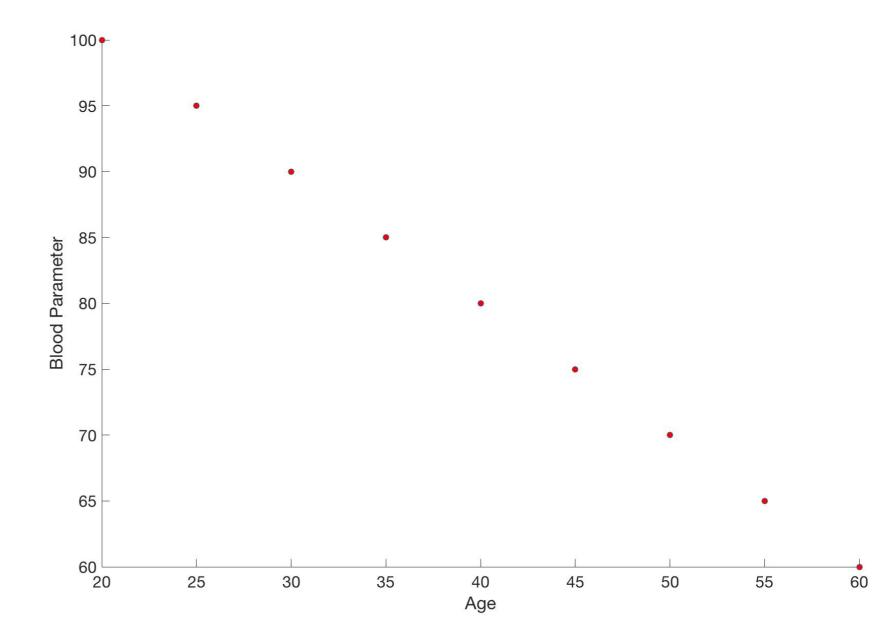
Pearson's sensitive to outliers



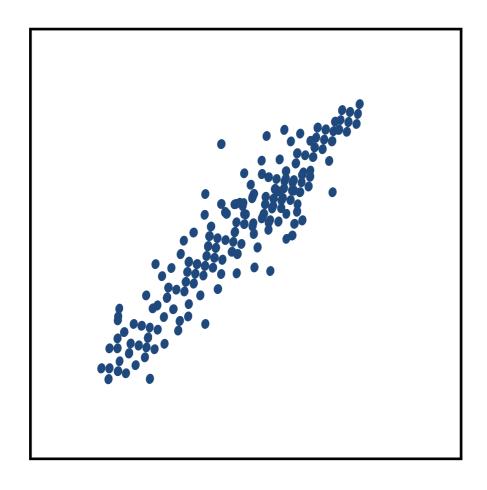
#### Pearson's r vs Spearman's rho

Pearson's r = -1

Spearman's r = -1



#### Significance of Correlation



r = 0.85

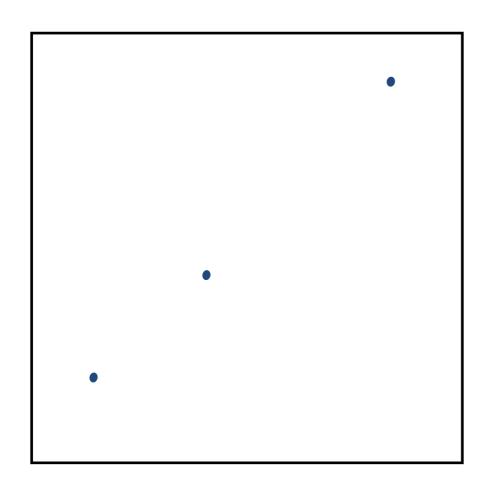
r = 0.99

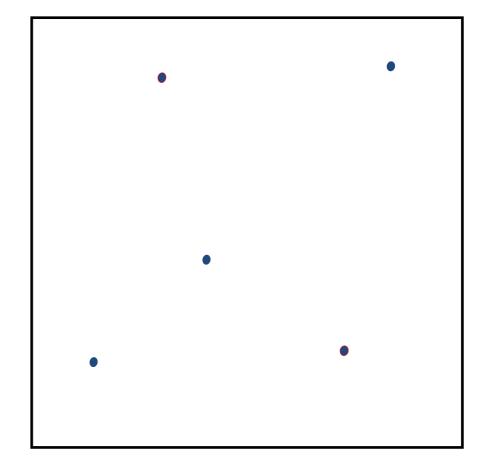
Is this significant?

Is this significant?

## Significance of Correlation

Add 2 more points to the plot





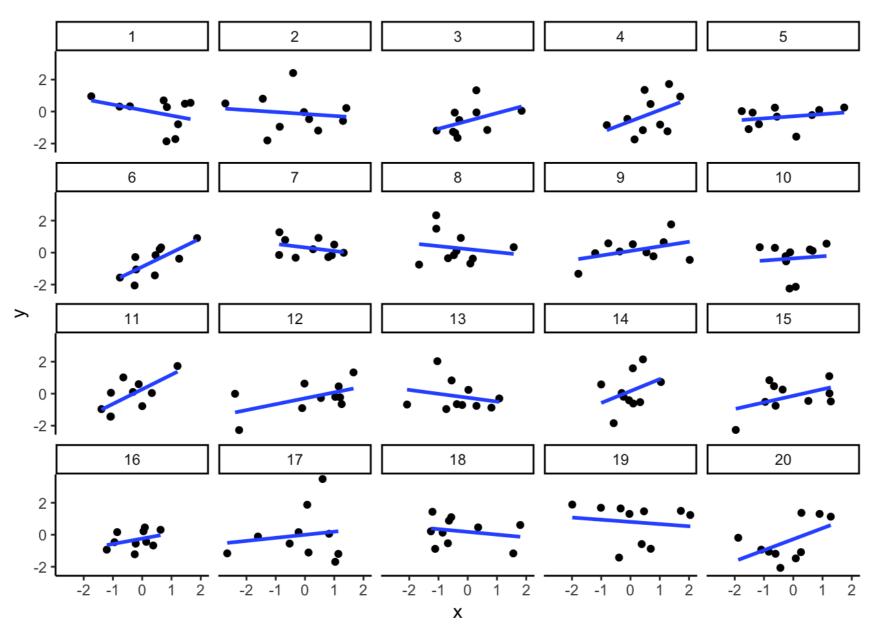
r = 0.99

r = 0.05

#### Strength & Significance

- Strong relationship shown by correlation coefficient close to +/-1
  - apparently 'strong' relationships may not be statistically significant
  - e.g., sample size when n is low, the odds are high that a 'good' correlation will occur by chance

#### Let's Simulate

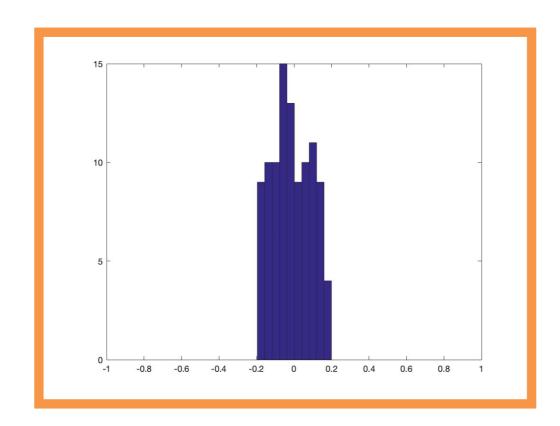


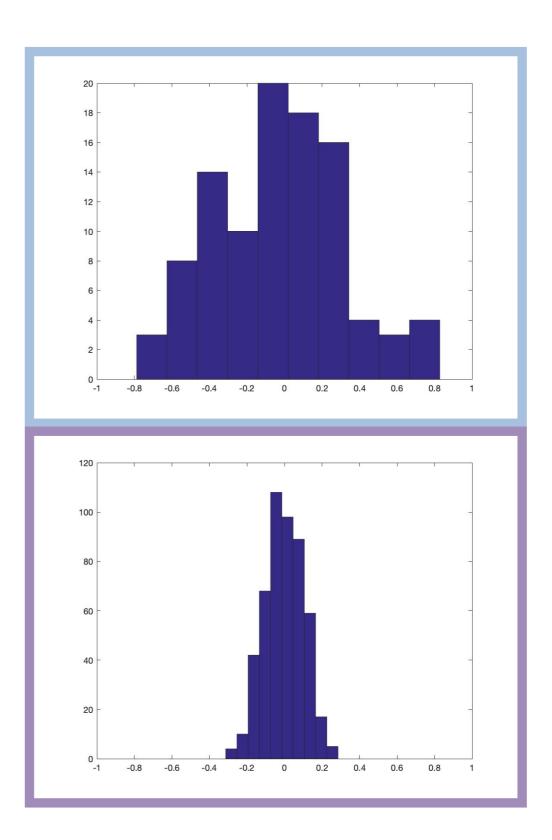
Let's make fake data: 20 draws/iterations of random numbers for two variables For each, sample size will be 10 and scatter plot them.

#### Let's Simulate

How would the distributions of *r* look like for the following:

- i) sample size = 10, iterations = 100
- ii) sample size = 100, iterations = 100
- iii) sample size = 100, iterations = 500



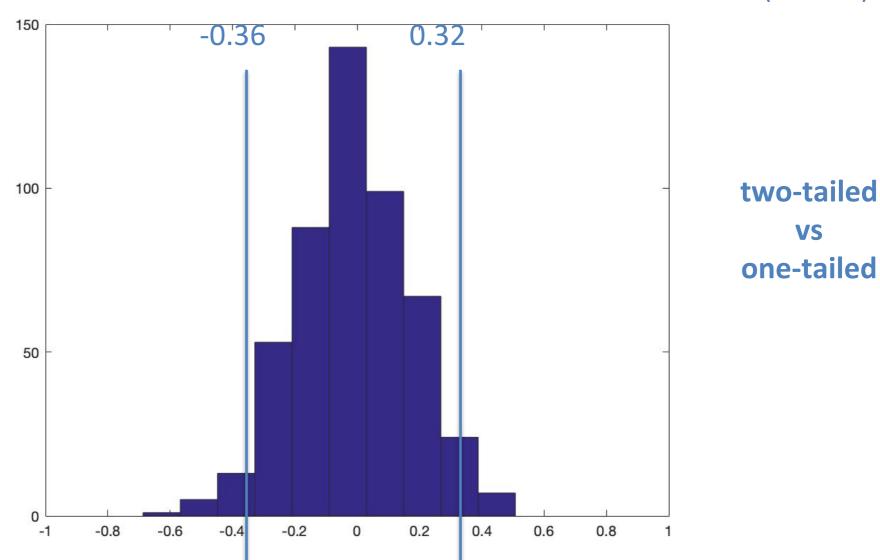


#### Let's Simulate

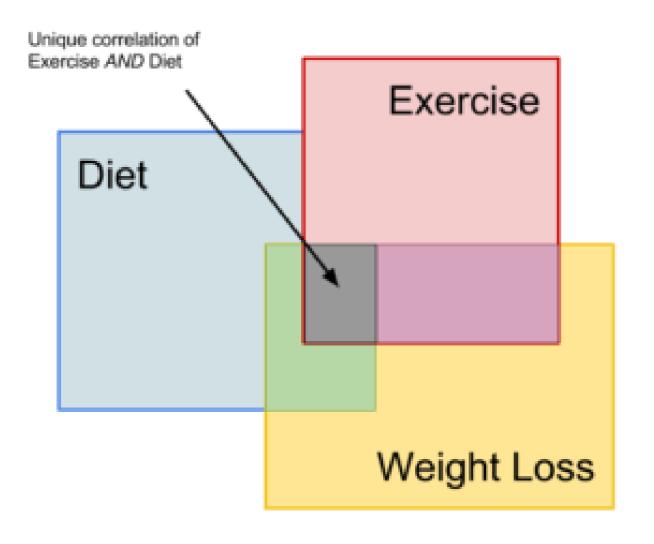
What would the critical *r* values be for a sample size of 30?

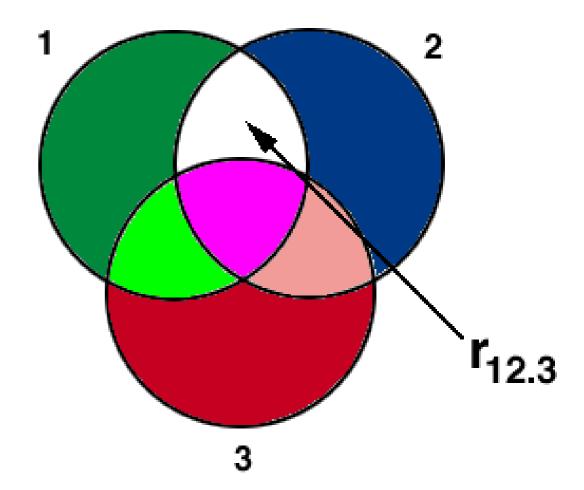
*i*) n = 30, iterations = 500

critical values ( $\alpha$  < .05)



#### Partial Correlation





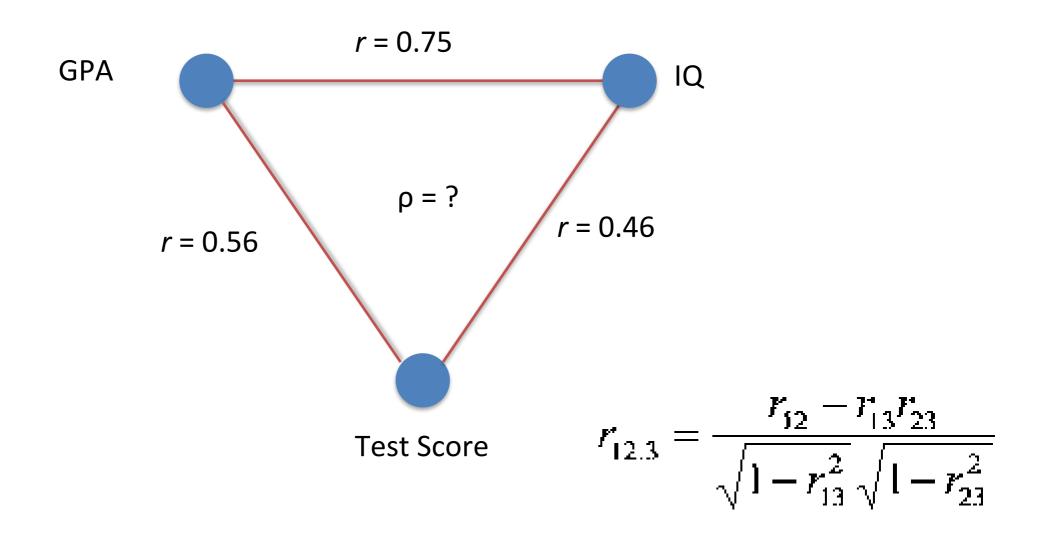
#### Partial Correlation

- measure of association between two variables, while controlling or adjusting the effect of one or more additional variables
  - What is the relationship between test scores and IQ scores after controlling for no. of hours of study?

#### Partial Correlation

- assumptions (Pearson)
  - all pairs of variables have a linear relationship
  - points are independent of each other
  - pairs of variables are bivariate normal (typically each variable is normally distributed)
  - non-parametric version for non-linear and or non-normal data

#### Activity/Assignment: Partial Correlation



#### Semi-Partial Correlation

- measure of association between two variables, while controlling or adjusting the effect of one or more additional variables only on one of the two variables
  - eg: you are interested in understanding the relationship between study time, tutoring, and exam scores while considering the potential confounding effect of study time on the relationship between tutoring and exam scores
  - how would you proceed?

