

Covariance, Correlation, and Regression Tutorial

Professor Christopher J. Schmank

2025-02-04

Load Libraries

```
library(tidyverse)
library(mice)
library(psych)
library(jmv)
library(apaTables)
```

Variance and Covariance Assessment: Complete Data Examples

```
var(attitude)
```

##	rating	complaints	privileges	learning	raises	critical
## rating	148.17126	133.77931	63.46437	89.10460	74.68851	18.84253
## complaints	133.77931	177.28276	90.95172	93.25517	92.64138	24.73103
## privileges	63.46437	90.95172	149.70575	70.84598	56.67126	17.82529
## learning	89.10460	93.25517	70.84598	137.75747	78.13908	13.46782
## raises	74.68851	92.64138	56.67126	78.13908	108.10230	38.77356
## critical	18.84253	24.73103	17.82529	13.46782	38.77356	97.90920
## advance	19.42299	30.76552	43.21609	64.19770	61.42299	28.84598
##	advance					
## rating	19.42299					
## complaints	30.76552					
## privileges	43.21609					
## learning	64.19770					
## raises	61.42299					
## critical	28.84598					
## advance	105.85747					

```
cov(attitude)
```

```
##           rating complaints privileges learning raises critical
## rating      148.17126   133.77931    63.46437   89.10460   74.68851  18.84253
## complaints  133.77931   177.28276    90.95172   93.25517   92.64138  24.73103
## privileges   63.46437    90.95172   149.70575   70.84598   56.67126  17.82529
## learning     89.10460    93.25517    70.84598  137.75747   78.13908  13.46782
## raises       74.68851    92.64138    56.67126   78.13908  108.10230  38.77356
## critical     18.84253    24.73103    17.82529   13.46782   38.77356  97.90920
## advance      19.42299    30.76552    43.21609   64.19770   61.42299  28.84598
##           advance
## rating      19.42299
## complaints   30.76552
## privileges   43.21609
## learning     64.19770
## raises       61.42299
## critical     28.84598
## advance     105.85747
```

- These functions will work interchangeably by default IF AND ONLY IF there is no missing data!

Variance and Covariance Assessment: Incomplete Data Examples

```
var(nhanes)
```

```
##           age bmi hyp chl
## age  0.69  NA  NA  NA
## bmi   NA  NA  NA  NA
## hyp   NA  NA  NA  NA
## chl   NA  NA  NA  NA
```

```
cov(nhanes) # By default this function sets `use = "everything"`
```

```
##           age bmi hyp chl
## age  0.69  NA  NA  NA
## bmi   NA  NA  NA  NA
## hyp   NA  NA  NA  NA
## chl   NA  NA  NA  NA
```

- When missing data is present and default `var()` and `cov()` are used they result in same variance-covariance matrices —unusable in this form!!

```
var(nhanes, na.rm=TRUE) #ALL cases with NA removed
```

```
##           age           bmi           hyp           chl
## age  0.5641026 -1.1621795  0.1602564   21.935897
## bmi -1.1621795  21.1158974  0.2153846   83.687179
## hyp  0.1602564  0.2153846  0.1923077    9.173077
## chl  21.9358974  83.6871795  9.1730769  2378.064103
```

```
cov(nhanes, use = "complete.obs") #All cases with NA removed
```

```
##          age          bmi          hyp          chl
## age  0.5641026 -1.1621795 0.1602564  21.935897
## bmi -1.1621795 21.1158974 0.2153846  83.687179
## hyp  0.1602564  0.2153846 0.1923077   9.173077
## chl 21.9358974 83.6871795 9.1730769 2378.064103
```

```
cov(nhanes, use = "pairwise.complete.obs") #Pairwise deletion --- different N's
```

```
##          age          bmi          hyp          chl
## age  0.6900000 -1.3075000 0.18382353  18.328571
## bmi -1.3075000 17.76783333 0.09666667  83.687179
## hyp  0.1838235  0.09666667 0.19117647   8.554945
## chl 18.3285714 83.68717949 8.55494505 2044.400000
```

Calculating Correlation Matrix

Correlations can be generated with several different functions in base R but get familiar with the `psych` and `JMV` package function calls for correlation matrices

1. If all you want is a correlation matrix without any additional information: Use `cor()`

```
cor(attitude)
```

```
##          rating complaints privileges learning raises critical
## rating      1.0000000  0.8254176  0.4261169 0.6236782 0.5901390 0.1564392
## complaints 0.8254176  1.0000000  0.5582882 0.5967358 0.6691975 0.1877143
## privileges 0.4261169  0.5582882  1.0000000 0.4933310 0.4454779 0.1472331
## learning   0.6236782  0.5967358  0.4933310 1.0000000 0.6403144 0.1159652
## raises     0.5901390  0.6691975  0.4454779 0.6403144 1.0000000 0.3768830
## critical   0.1564392  0.1877143  0.1472331 0.1159652 0.3768830 1.0000000
## advance    0.1550863  0.2245796  0.3432934 0.5316198 0.5741862 0.2833432
##          advance
## rating      0.1550863
## complaints 0.2245796
## privileges 0.3432934
## learning   0.5316198
## raises     0.5741862
## critical   0.2833432
## advance    1.0000000
```

```
cor(attitude[1:4]) #Can use subsetting to only pull certain variables into matrix
```

```
##          rating complaints privileges learning
## rating      1.0000000  0.8254176  0.4261169 0.6236782
## complaints 0.8254176  1.0000000  0.5582882 0.5967358
## privileges 0.4261169  0.5582882  1.0000000 0.4933310
## learning   0.6236782  0.5967358  0.4933310 1.0000000
```

```
cor(nhanes) #If missing data is present you must remove it or set `use =` argument
```

```
##      age bmi hyp chl
## age   1  NA  NA  NA
## bmi  NA   1  NA  NA
## hyp  NA  NA   1  NA
## chl  NA  NA  NA   1
```

2. If you want to get correlation on ONLY 2 variables at once: Use `cor.test()`

```
cor.test(~rating + learning, data = attitude)
```

```
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data:  rating and learning
## t = 4.2219, df = 28, p-value = 0.0002311
## alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##  0.3397475 0.8034243
## sample estimates:
##          cor
## 0.6236782
```

- Provides *t*-test, degrees of freedom, and *p*-value to assess if correlation is statistically significantly different from zero
- Provides correlation coefficient and 95% confidence interval
- Provides type of correlation coefficient calculated (i.e., Pearson's product-moment correlation)

3. For more detail and details needed for publication: Use `corr.test()` or `corrMatrix`

```
corr.test(attitude)
```

```
## Call:corr.test(x = attitude)
## Correlation matrix
##           rating complaints privileges learning raises critical advance
## rating      1.00      0.83      0.43      0.62      0.59      0.16      0.16
## complaints  0.83      1.00      0.56      0.60      0.67      0.19      0.22
## privileges  0.43      0.56      1.00      0.49      0.45      0.15      0.34
## learning    0.62      0.60      0.49      1.00      0.64      0.12      0.53
## raises      0.59      0.67      0.45      0.64      1.00      0.38      0.57
## critical    0.16      0.19      0.15      0.12      0.38      1.00      0.28
## advance     0.16      0.22      0.34      0.53      0.57      0.28      1.00
## Sample Size
## [1] 30
## Probability values (Entries above the diagonal are adjusted for multiple tests.)
##           rating complaints privileges learning raises critical advance
## rating      0.00      0.00      0.19      0.00      0.01      1.00      1.00
## complaints  0.00      0.00      0.02      0.01      0.00      1.00      1.00
## privileges  0.02      0.00      0.00      0.07      0.15      1.00      0.51
## learning    0.00      0.00      0.01      0.00      0.00      1.00      0.03
## raises      0.00      0.00      0.01      0.00      0.00      0.36      0.01
## critical    0.41      0.32      0.44      0.54      0.04      0.00      0.90
## advance     0.41      0.23      0.06      0.00      0.00      0.13      0.00
##
## To see confidence intervals of the correlations, print with the short=FALSE option
```

```
corrMatrix(attitude,
            vars = vars(rating, complaints, privileges, learning))
```

```
##
## CORRELATION MATRIX
##
## Correlation Matrix
## _____
##           rating      complaints      privileges      learning
## _____
## rating      Pearson's r      —
##              df              —
##              p-value         —
##
## complaints  Pearson's r      0.8254176      —
##              df              28          —
##              p-value      < .0000001      —
##
## privileges  Pearson's r      0.4261169      0.5582882      —
##              df              28          28          —
##              p-value      0.0188770      0.0013455      —
##
## learning    Pearson's r      0.6236782      0.5967358      0.4933310      —
##              df              28          28          28          —
##              p-value      0.0002311      0.0005000      0.0056024      —
## _____
```

4. If you need to save a correlation matrix for later use: Use `corr.test()` or `cor()`

```
cor_dat <- corr.test(attitude[1:4])
```

```
cor_dat$r # Calls for ONLY the correlation matrix portion of corr.test() output
```

```
##           rating complaints privileges  learning
## rating      1.0000000  0.8254176  0.4261169  0.6236782
## complaints  0.8254176  1.0000000  0.5582882  0.5967358
## privileges  0.4261169  0.5582882  1.0000000  0.4933310
## learning    0.6236782  0.5967358  0.4933310  1.0000000
```

```
cor_dat_r <- cor_dat$r # May also want to make an R object for the correlations
```

```
cor_dat2 <- cor(attitude) # This code creates a similar object as `cor_dat_r` above
cor_dat2
```

```
##           rating complaints privileges  learning   raises  critical
## rating      1.0000000  0.8254176  0.4261169  0.6236782  0.5901390  0.1564392
## complaints  0.8254176  1.0000000  0.5582882  0.5967358  0.6691975  0.1877143
## privileges  0.4261169  0.5582882  1.0000000  0.4933310  0.4454779  0.1472331
## learning    0.6236782  0.5967358  0.4933310  1.0000000  0.6403144  0.1159652
## raises      0.5901390  0.6691975  0.4454779  0.6403144  1.0000000  0.3768830
## critical    0.1564392  0.1877143  0.1472331  0.1159652  0.3768830  1.0000000
## advance     0.1550863  0.2245796  0.3432934  0.5316198  0.5741862  0.2833432
##           advance
## rating      0.1550863
## complaints  0.2245796
## privileges  0.3432934
## learning    0.5316198
## raises      0.5741862
## critical    0.2833432
## advance     1.0000000
```

Creating Correlation Table Document

The `apaTables` package can be used to create quick correlation matrices and linear regression tables—these can be helpful but are VERY difficult to reformat or make changes to.

Make sure that you know how to create these tables using other programs like Excel and Word as these allow for much more customization!

```
apa.cor.table(data = attitude[1:4],
              filename = "attitude-correlation-matrix.doc",
              table.number = 1)
```

```
##
##
## Table 1
##
## Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals
##
##
## Variable      M      SD    1          2          3
## 1. rating      64.63 12.17
##
## 2. complaints 66.60 13.31 .83**
##                      [.66, .91]
##
## 3. privileges 53.13 12.24 .43*      .56**
##                      [.08, .68] [.25, .76]
##
## 4. learning   56.37 11.74 .62**      .60**      .49**
##                      [.34, .80] [.30, .79] [.16, .72]
##
##
## Note. M and SD are used to represent mean and standard deviation, respectively.
## Values in square brackets indicate the 95% confidence interval.
## The confidence interval is a plausible range of population correlations
## that could have caused the sample correlation (Cumming, 2014).
## * indicates  $p < .05$ . ** indicates  $p < .01$ .
##
```

Writing Up Correlation

Can be achieved with three statements:

1. Was correlation statistically significantly different from zero; what was the magnitude and direction (adding confidence intervals is a good practice)?
2. How does the magnitude compare to correlation cutoff values?
3. Does result align with predictions/hypotheses?

The correlation between attitude rating and being too critical ratings was not statistically significantly different from zero, $r(29) = .16$, 95% CI $[-.22, .16]$, $p = .41$. According to criteria provided by Cohen (1988), the size (i.e., magnitude) of this correlation fell above a weak correlation, but well below what would be considered moderate. The sign of the correlation was positive, however the lack of statistical significance implies that this direction is not stable within this sample of data.

Conducting and Writing Up Linear Regression

```
# Easy coding method requires linear model
# Followed by `anova()` and `summary()` calls for description of model
# Output is less than ideal but coding is efficient
lm <- lm(rating ~ privileges, data = attitude)
anova(lm)
```

```
## Analysis of Variance Table
##
## Response: rating
##           Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value    Pr(>F)
## privileges  1  780.2   780.22   6.2121 0.01888 *
## Residuals  28 3516.7   125.60
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
summary(lm)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = rating ~ privileges, data = attitude)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -20.9357  -5.7397  -0.1691   5.6026  23.3582
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)  42.1087     9.2661   4.544 9.63e-05 ***
## privileges    0.4239     0.1701   2.492  0.0189 *
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 11.21 on 28 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.1816, Adjusted R-squared:  0.1523
## F-statistic: 6.212 on 1 and 28 DF,  p-value: 0.01888
```

```
# JMV coding method requires several argument calls as shown below
# Output is clean but coding gets more difficult with more predictors
linReg(attitude,
       dep = rating,
       covs = ("privileges"),
       blocks = list(
         list("privileges")),
       modelTest = TRUE,
       stdEst = TRUE,
       ciStdEst = TRUE)
```



```
##
## LINEAR REGRESSION
##
## Model Fit Measures
```

Model	R	R ²	F	df1	df2	p
1	0.4261169	0.1815756	6.212078	1	28	0.0188770

```
## Note. Models estimated using sample size of N=30
```

```
## MODEL SPECIFIC RESULTS
```

```
## MODEL 1
```

```
## Model Coefficients - rating
```

Predictor	Estimate	SE	t	p	Stand. Estimate	Lower	Up
Intercept	42.1086576	9.2660624	4.544396	0.0000963			
privileges	0.4239274	0.1700877	2.492404	0.0188770	0.4261169	0.07590847	0.7763253

The linear regression predicting attitude ratings from ratings towards allowing special privileges indicated that allowing special privileges accounted for approximately 18% of the variance in attitude ratings , $F(1,28) = 6.21$, $p = .02$, $R^2 = .182$. The unstandardized and standardized regression coefficients were statistically significantly different from zero, $b = 0.424$, $\beta = .426$ (95% CI [.08, .78]), $t(29) = 2.49$, $p = .02$.The value of these coefficients respectively demonstrate: (1) for every one-unit increase in allowing special privileges there was an increase of 0.424 units in attitude ratings and (2) for every one standard deviation unit increase in allowing special privileges there was an increase of 0.426 standard deviation units in attitude ratings .

Creating Regression Table Document

```
# Generate Linear model using
lm <- lm(rating~privileges, data = attitude)

# Create Word Document with APA style Regression Table

apa.reg.table(lm,
              filename = "regression_table.doc",
              table.number = 2)
```

```
##
##
## Table 2
##
## Regression results using rating as the criterion
##
##
## Predictor      b      b_95%_CI beta  beta_95%_CI sr2 sr2_95%_CI  r
## (Intercept) 42.11** [23.13, 61.09]
## privileges  0.42*   [0.08, 0.77] 0.43 [0.08, 0.78] .18 [.00, .41] .43*
##
##
##
## Fit
##
##
## R2 = .182*
## 95% CI[.00,.41]
##
##
## Note. A significant b-weight indicates the beta-weight and semi-partial correlation are also significant.
## b represents unstandardized regression weights. beta indicates the standardized regression weights.
## sr2 represents the semi-partial correlation squared. r represents the zero-order correlation.
## Square brackets are used to enclose the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval.
## * indicates  $p < .05$ . ** indicates  $p < .01$ .
##
```

```
apa.reg.boot.table(lm,
  filename = "regression_boot.doc",
  table.number = 2,
  number.samples = 1000)
```

```
##
##
## apa.reg.boot.table is a beta version.
## Block 1: Generating 1000 bootstrap samples
## Bootstrap for Delta RSQ in progress
```

```
##
##
## Table 2
##
## Regression results using rating as the criterion
##
##
## Predictor      b      b_95%_CI beta  beta_95%_CI sr2 sr2_95%_CI  r
## (Intercept) 42.11** [23.45, 60.42]
## privileges  0.42*   [0.10, 0.79] 0.43 [0.10, 0.69] .18 [.01, .48] .43*
##
##
##
## Fit
##
##
## R2 = .182*
## 95% CI[.01,.48]
##
##
## Note. A significant b-weight indicates the beta-weight and semi-partial correlation are also significant.
## b represents unstandardized regression weights. beta indicates the standardized regression weights.
## sr2 represents the semi-partial correlation squared. r represents the zero-order correlation.
## Square brackets are used to enclose the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval.
## * indicates  $p < .05$ . ** indicates  $p < .01$ .
##
```