

# STAT 110: Week 6

University of Otago

# Outline

- Previous lectures:
  - ▶ Explored statistical models for normally distributed data
  - ▶ Data are modelled as normal with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$
  - ▶ Found confidence interval for  $\mu$
  - ▶ Hypothesis test for  $\mu$
- Today: begin to look at relationships between variables
  - ▶ Relationship between a continuous variable and a categorical variable
  - ▶ Continuous variable: can take any value
    - e.g. height, weight, time to run 100 m
    - It could be limited a range (e.g. height must be positive)
  - ▶ Categorical variable: represents categories or groups
    - e.g. sex, country of birth, blood type, etc.

# Motivation

- What is the effect of sensory deprivation?<sup>1</sup>
  - ▶ Study designed to explore this question, where all participants were prisoners
- Twenty participants were selected
  - ▶ 82 inmates initially volunteered
    - Removed: medically unfit, low IQ, history of behaviour or psychiatric problems in prison
- The 20 participants were randomly allocated into two groups
  - ▶ Solitary confinement
  - ▶ Control (ordinary prison life)
- EEG<sup>2</sup> frequencies were obtained on day 7
  - ▶ Is there a difference in arousal levels? (as measured by EEG frequency)

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<sup>1</sup> From Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 1972, **79**, 54–59

<sup>2</sup> EEG (Electroencephalogram) measures the frequency of brain waves

## Data: EEG frequencies

- Import the data

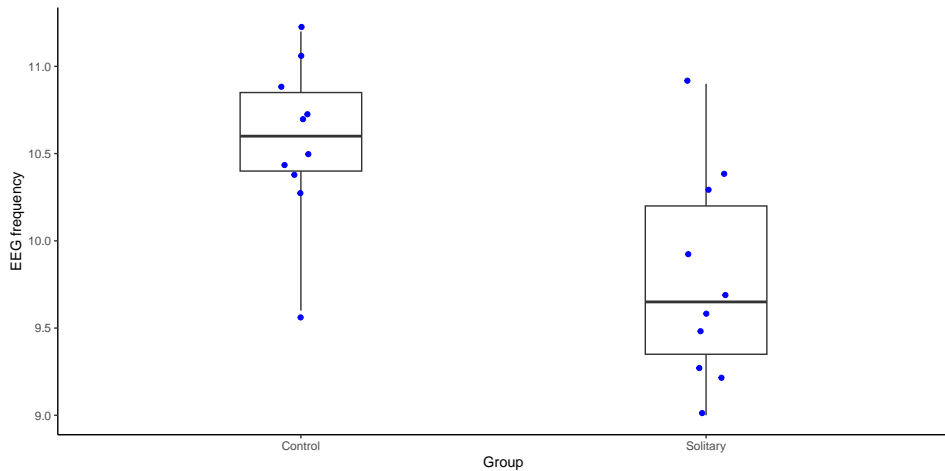
```
EEG = read.csv('EEG.csv')
```

- Have a look at the data:

```
head(EEG)

##      Group Freq
## 1 Control 10.7
## 2 Control 10.7
## 3 Control 10.4
## 4 Control 10.9
## 5 Control 10.5
## 6 Control 10.3
```

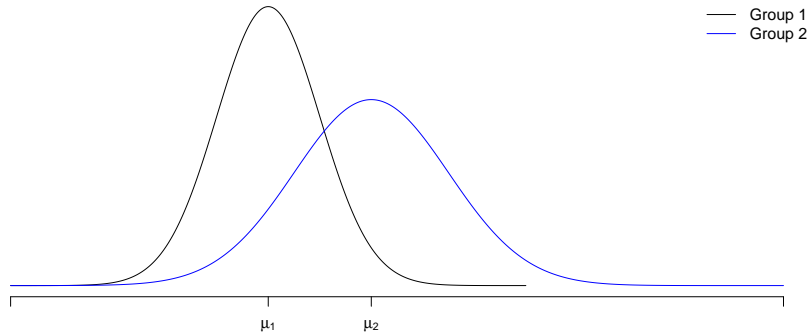
# Visualise the data



# Problem

- We have looked at models:
  - ▶ Data are normally distributed with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$
  - ▶ Focus has been on the estimation of a (single) mean  $\mu$
- We need to extend our model to allow for two groups of data
  - ▶ Group 1 (experimental): normally distributed with mean  $\mu_1$  and variance  $\sigma_1^2$
  - ▶ Group 2 (control): normally distributed with mean  $\mu_2$  and variance  $\sigma_2^2$
- Interest is in the difference in means between the two groups
  - ▶  $\mu_1 - \mu_2$  (or  $\mu_2 - \mu_1$ )
- Difference in the mean arousal level between the deprived and the controls

## Model (graphical representation)



## Other examples

- There are other applications we could have used to motivate:
  - ▶ Cuckoos are avian brood parasites: they lay their eggs in the nest of other birds
    - Compare the length of cuckoo eggs in wren and robin nests
  - ▶ Explore differences in chemical composition of wine or olives
    - Different cultivars (wine)
    - Different regions (olives)
  - ▶ Comparing athletic performance
    - Comparing resistance training and traditional training for athletes in some sport
  - ▶ Survival time for breast cancer patients
    - Comparing candidate drug and placebo
  - ▶ Gene expression in a section of the brain
    - Comparing diseased, with healthy controls
  - ▶ You will see some of these in the Assignment



## How to find a confidence interval

- Much of what we have learned previously 'carries over'
- Use statistics (from sample) to estimate parameters (from population)
  - ▶ Parameter:  $\mu_1 - \mu_2$
  - ▶ Statistic:  $\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2$
- Standard error for  $\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2$ 
  - ▶ Tells us about the variation in  $\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2$  in repeated samples
  - ▶ Estimated standard error:  $s_{\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2} = \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}$
- The confidence interval is given as

$$\underbrace{\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2}_{\text{statistic}} \pm \underbrace{t_{\nu, 1-\alpha/2}}_{\text{multiplier}} \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}}_{\text{standard error}}$$

## Standard error

- The standard error is different from before, but similar
  - ▶ Follows from variance rules (week 3; ice cream)
  - ▶ Observations in the two groups are independent

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2) &= \text{Var}(\bar{y}_1) + \text{Var}(\bar{y}_2) \\ &= \frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2} \end{aligned}$$

# Multiplier

- The multiplier is again given by the  $t$ -distribution
  - ▶ The use of the  $t$ -distribution relies on an approximation
    - Approximation is accurate provided we have more than a handful of observations ( $n_1 > 5, n_2 > 5$ )
- The degrees of freedom,  $\nu$ , we use is given by a complicated formula
  - ▶ You have no need to know or learn this

$$\nu = \frac{\left( \frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2} \right)^2}{\frac{s_1^4}{n_1^2(n_1-1)} + \frac{s_2^4}{n_2^2(n_2-1)}}.$$

- If software isn't available, simpler approximations for  $\nu$  are sometimes used
  - ▶ e.g. using smaller of  $n_1 - 1$  and  $n_2 - 1$
  - ▶ Conservative

# Calculating the confidence interval

- We could calculate the confidence interval by hand:
  - ▶ Find the sample mean in each group:  $\bar{y}_1, \bar{y}_2$
  - ▶ Find the sample variance in each group:  $s_1^2, s_2^2$
  - ▶ Find the standard error
  - ▶ Calculate the degrees of freedom
  - ▶ Find the  $t$ -multiplier
  - ▶ Construct the confidence interval
- Tedious task
  - ▶ Important to know how the interval is constructed
    - You may be asked to do various aspects of it for assignment/test/exam
  - ▶ Easier to use R to calculate the interval

## In R

- We use the same function as before: `t.test`
  - This requires us to have the data for each group separately
  - Currently our data are in a single data frame

```
head(EEG)
```

```
##      Group Freq  
## 1 Control 10.7  
## 2 Control 10.7  
## 3 Control 10.4  
## 4 Control 10.9  
## 5 Control 10.5  
## 6 Control 10.3
```

- The variable `Group` distinguishes which group the observation is from
  - Either `Control` or `Solitary`

## In R

- There are several ways in R we could separate into two groups
  - ▶ We will use `subset`
    - Subsets the data based on a specified criteria
  - ▶ Only cover 'basic' data handling in STAT 110
    - See STAT 260

```
control = subset(EEG, Group == "Control")  
solitary = subset(EEG, Group == "Solitary")
```

- We use two equal signs (`==`) to *check* equality
  - ▶ `Group == "Solitary"` is checking which observations are Solitary

# In R

- Check each of these objects

control

| ##    | Group   | Freq |
|-------|---------|------|
| ## 1  | Control | 10.7 |
| ## 2  | Control | 10.7 |
| ## 3  | Control | 10.4 |
| ## 4  | Control | 10.9 |
| ## 5  | Control | 10.5 |
| ## 6  | Control | 10.3 |
| ## 7  | Control | 9.6  |
| ## 8  | Control | 11.1 |
| ## 9  | Control | 11.2 |
| ## 10 | Control | 10.4 |

solitary

| ##    | Group    | Freq |
|-------|----------|------|
| ## 11 | Solitary | 9.6  |
| ## 12 | Solitary | 10.4 |
| ## 13 | Solitary | 9.7  |
| ## 14 | Solitary | 10.3 |
| ## 15 | Solitary | 9.2  |
| ## 16 | Solitary | 9.3  |
| ## 17 | Solitary | 9.9  |
| ## 18 | Solitary | 9.5  |
| ## 19 | Solitary | 9.0  |
| ## 20 | Solitary | 10.9 |

# In R

- Each of the groups is a separate argument in `t.test`

```
out = t.test(control$Freq, solitary$Freq)
out

##
##  Welch Two Sample t-test
##
## data:  control$Freq and solitary$Freq
## t = 3, df = 17, p-value = 0.004
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##   0.297 1.303
## sample estimates:
## mean of x mean of y
##    10.58    9.78
```



## R output

- R calculates the degrees of freedom for us:  $\nu = 16.875$
- R gives us the means

```
out$estimate # gives the samples means of the two groups
## mean of x mean of y
##      10.58      9.78

out$estimate[1] - out$estimate[2] # find the diff in sample means
## mean of x
##        0.8
```

- When interpreting, we must be careful to not confuse the order
  - ▶ Mean of  $x$  corresponds to the first argument: controls
  - ▶ Mean of  $y$  corresponds to the second argument: solitary
  - ▶ Confidence interval is for  $\mu_x - \mu_y$ , or  $\mu_{\text{control}} - \mu_{\text{solitary}}$

# Confidence interval

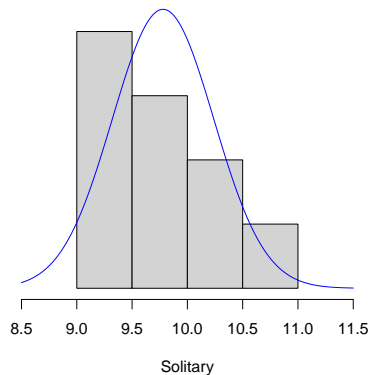
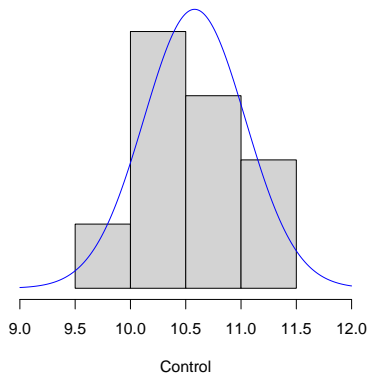
- The confidence interval is

```
out$conf.int  
## [1] 0.297 1.303  
## attr(,"conf.level")  
## [1] 0.95
```

- We are 95% confident that the mean EEG frequency for the control group is between (0.297, 1.303) higher than those in solitary confinement
- The confidence interval has the same properties as before
  - ▶ In the long run, we would expect 95% of the confidence intervals we calculate to include the true difference  $\mu_1 - \mu_2$ 
    - If we were to repeatedly sample from the population and repeat this analysis

## Checking assumptions

- We are assuming a normal model for each group
- Check fitted model



# Checking assumptions

- No major departures from normality
- Enough to make us cautious
  - ▶ Small sample size: normality assumption very important
    - It is hardest to assess normality assumptions, when it matters the most
- Want to be cautious in our conclusions

# Hypothesis test

- This study was set up to look into a specific hypothesis
  - ▶ Confirmatory
- Theory was that sensory deprivation changes EEG frequency
- Null hypothesis: status quo / assumption of no difference
  - ▶ The two groups have the same mean:  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$
  - ▶  $H_0 : \mu_1 - \mu_2 = 0$
- The alternative hypothesis
  - ▶ The two groups differ:  $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$
  - ▶  $H_A : \mu_1 - \mu_2 \neq 0$

# Hypothesis test

- The same function (`t.test`) is used to calculate a hypothesis test

```
out = t.test(control$Freq, solitary$Freq)
out
##
##  Welch Two Sample t-test
##
## data:  control$Freq and solitary$Freq
## t = 3, df = 17, p-value = 0.004
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##  0.297 1.303
## sample estimates:
## mean of x mean of y
##      10.58      9.78
```

# Interpretation

- The  $p$ -value is 0.004
  - ▶ Evidence of incompatibility between data and null hypothesis
  - ▶ Data provide support for the alternative hypothesis
    - Difference in EEG frequency between the control and solitary groups
- Given the small sample and cautiousness in checking assumptions
  - ▶ We have provided evidence in support of EEG differing
  - ▶ Larger studies desirable to provide further confirmation

## Confidence intervals vs hypothesis testing

- In this example we look at both confidence intervals and hypothesis test
- The  $p$ -value does not tell us how strong an effect is
  - ▶ We could have  $p$ -value of 0.05 with  $\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2 = 10$ 
    - Small sample size
  - ▶ We could have  $p$ -value of 0.001 with  $\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_2 = 0.002$ 
    - Large sample size
- Confidence interval gives an interval estimate of effect



## Independent groups

- We have assumed the two groups are independent
  - ▶ Important assumption
- What does that mean?
  - ▶ The outcome from one group does not affect the outcome from the other group
- This will not always be the case:
  - ▶ Students take a test before undertaking a course
  - ▶ Same students undertake the same test after the course
    - Same participants in each 'group'
    - It is likely that someone who scored well in first test will also score well in the second test
- Look into this more tomorrow

# Summary

- First look at relationship between variables
  - ▶ How EEG frequency varies by sensory deprivation
- Relationship between a continuous variable and a categorical variable
  - ▶ EEG frequency (continuous); sensory deprivation yes/no (categorical)



# Outline

- Previous:
  - ▶ Started to look at relationships between variables
    - Frequency of brain waves (EEG) and sensory deprivation
  - ▶ Examples of relationship between one continuous and one categorical variable
    - Two groups are independent
- Today:
  - ▶ Look at paired data (two groups are not independent)
  - ▶ Start looking at relationships between two continuous variables

## Motivating example

- Reaction time (ms) for 23 participants (press a button after stimulus)
  - ▶ University students
- There are two stimuli:
  - ▶ Auditory (a burst of white noise)
  - ▶ Visual (a circle flashing on a computer screen)
- Each participant exposed to both stimuli
  - ▶ Shouldn't use the approach from previous lecture
  - ▶ The two groups are not independent
    - We might expect someone with fast reaction time (auditory) to have a fast reaction (visual)
- Example of paired data
  - ▶ Each observation in group one has correspondence to an observation in group two
- This is an exploratory study

# Data

```
AV = read.csv('AV.csv')  
head(AV)
```

```
##      auditory visual  
## 1         226     256  
## 2         188     309  
## 3         280     364  
## 4         234     379  
## 5         181     268  
## 6         178     288
```

## Paired: find the differenceback to the future

- Look at the difference in the outcomes for each pair

```
AV$differ = AV$visual - AV$auditory
```

```
# this adds another variable (called differ) to the data frame AV
```

```
head(AV)
```

| ##   | auditory | visual | differ |
|------|----------|--------|--------|
| ## 1 | 226      | 256    | 29.3   |
| ## 2 | 188      | 309    | 121.9  |
| ## 3 | 280      | 364    | 83.7   |
| ## 4 | 234      | 379    | 144.8  |
| ## 5 | 181      | 268    | 87.1   |
| ## 6 | 178      | 288    | 109.9  |

## Paired: back to the future

- Model the differences as if they were a single sample
  - ▶ The data are the differences and are given by  $y_d$
  - ▶ The differences  $y_d$  are assumed to be normal with mean  $\mu_d$  and variance  $\sigma_d^2$
  - ▶  $\mu_d$  is a parameter representing the mean difference in the population
- For our example:
  - ▶  $y_d$  is the difference in reaction time (visual - auditory)
  - ▶  $\mu_d$  is the population mean difference in reaction time (visual - auditory)



# In R

- For paired data: two ways to find confidence intervals and hypothesis tests in R
- Option 1: use `t.test` on the differenced values

```
t.test(AV$differ)

##
##  One Sample t-test
##
## data:  AV$differ
## t = 4, df = 22, p-value = 2e-04
## alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##  32.3 87.9
## sample estimates:
## mean of x
##      60.1
```

# In R

- For paired data: two ways to find confidence intervals and hypothesis tests in R
- Option 2: specify the two groups and include option `paired = TRUE`

```
t.test(AV$visual, AV$auditory, paired = TRUE)

##
## Paired t-test
##
## data: AV$visual and AV$auditory
## t = 4, df = 22, p-value = 2e-04
## alternative hypothesis: true mean difference is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 32.3 87.9
## sample estimates:
## mean difference
## 60.1
```

# Output and interpretation

- Both approaches give identical confidence intervals
- Minor differences
  - ▶ Input differs: (1) input the differences; (2) input each group
  - ▶ Wording differences in output
    - 'One sample t-test' vs 'Paired t-test'
    - 'true mean' vs 'true mean difference'
    - 'mean of x' vs 'mean difference'
- Interpretation:
  - ▶ We are 95% confident that mean difference in the reaction times between visual and auditory stimuli is between (32.3, 87.9) ms

# Hypothesis test

- Often with an exploratory study: use confidence interval
  - ▶ Calculate hypothesis test here as an example
- The hypothesis test is in terms of  $\mu_d$
- Null hypothesis: assumption of no difference ( $\mu_d = 0$ )
  - ▶  $H_0 : \mu_d = 0$
  - ▶  $H_A : \mu_d \neq 0$
- The  $p$ -value is  $1.85 \times 10^{-4}$ 
  - ▶ Evidence that data are incompatible with the null hypothesis
  - ▶ There is evidence (at the  $\alpha = 0.05$  level) that the data are incompatible with assumption of no difference

## Extension

- Many applications may have more than two groups
  - ▶ Data from multiple independent groups
  - ▶ Multiple observations of each subject (repeated measures)
- There are statistical models for both cases
  - ▶ Independence: ANOVA (analysis of variance)
    - We will see this later in the course
  - ▶ Repeated measures: complex model
    - Outside the scope of this course

## Relationship between continuous variables

- Previous examples: relationship between a continuous variable and a categorical variable
  - ▶ Continuous: reaction time; categorical: stimuli
  - ▶ Continuous: EEG frequency; categorical: sensory status (solitary/control)
- We are now going to consider relationships between two continuous variables

# Motivating examples

- We are going to introduce three motivating examples

## 1. The size of brushtail possums

- Compare total length (mm) to head length (cm)
- $n = 104$  observations

## 2. Height of STAT 110 students

- Compare father's height (cm) to son's height (cm)
- $n = 279$  observations

## 3. Squat weight of international power lifters

- Comparing body weight (kg) to max squat weight (kg)
- Photo from [powerliftingtechnique.com](http://powerliftingtechnique.com)
- The athlete pictured (Kelly Branton) is in the dataset
- $n = 9045$  observations (athletes)

- All of these involve two continuous variables



# Brushtail possums

- Import the data

```
possum = read.csv('possum.csv')
```

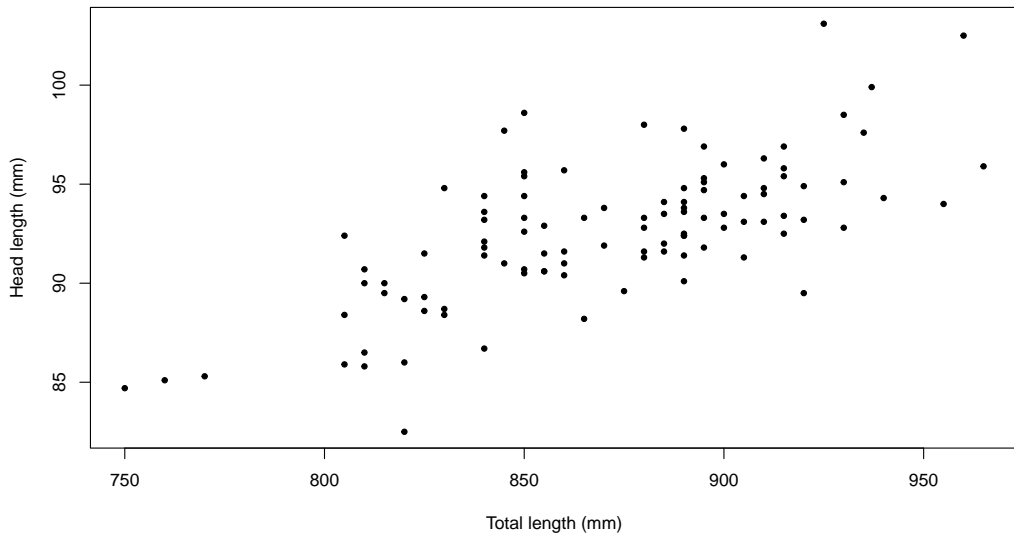
- Have a look at the data:

```
head(possum)
```

| ##   | total_l | head_l |
|------|---------|--------|
| ## 1 | 890     | 94.1   |
| ## 2 | 915     | 92.5   |
| ## 3 | 955     | 94.0   |
| ## 4 | 920     | 93.2   |
| ## 5 | 855     | 91.5   |
| ## 6 | 905     | 93.1   |



## Brushtail possums: scatterplot



# Father & son height

- Import the data

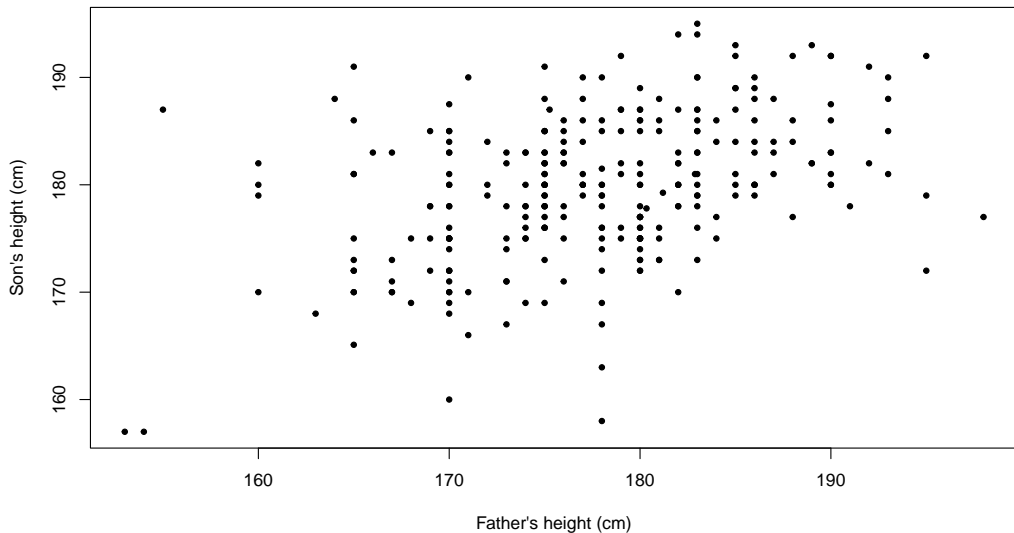
```
height = read.csv('height.csv')
```

- Have a look at the data:

```
head(height)
```

```
##      son father
## 1 176      178
## 2 180      190
## 3 180      174
## 4 181      179
## 5 184      187
## 6 180      182
```

## Father & son height: scatterplot



# Powerlifting

- Import the data

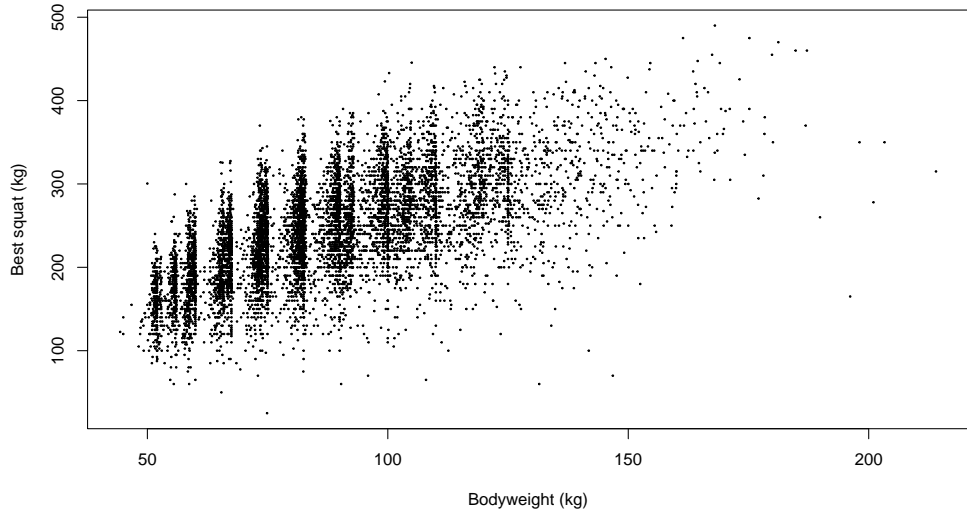
```
powerlift = read.csv('powerlift.csv')
```

- Have a look at the data:

```
head(powerlift)

##   bodyweight bestsquat
## 1      59.6        228
## 2      67.2        255
## 3      67.4        270
## 4      59.9        260
## 5      59.9        250
## 6      56.0        210
```

## Powerlift: scatterplot



## Back to the beginning

- What was the first thing we did when we first encountered data in STAT 110?
  - ▶ Found data summaries: sample mean and sample variance
- What summary describes the relationship between two continuous variables?

# Correlation

- Correlation describes the strength of a linear relationship between two variables (let's call them  $x$  and  $y$ )
  - ▶ Always takes a value between -1 and 1
  - ▶ Population correlation represented by  $\rho$  (greek letter rho)
  - ▶ Sample correlation represented by  $r$
- With data  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ , the correlation is given by

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

- We will calculate the correlation using the R function `cor`

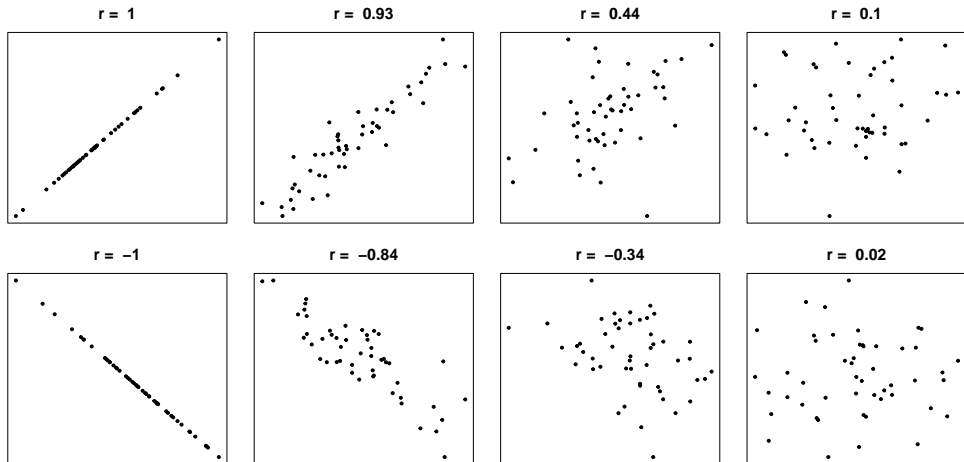
```
cor(possum$total_l, possum$head_l)
## [1] 0.691
```

# Understanding correlation

- Positive correlation:
  - ▶ If  $y$  is above its mean, then  $x$  is likely to be above its mean (and vice versa)
- Negative correlation
  - ▶ If  $y$  is above its mean, then  $x$  is likely to be below its mean (and vice versa)
- If the relationship is strong and positive
  - ▶  $r$  will be close to 1
- If the relationship is strong and negative
  - ▶  $r$  will be close to  $-1$
- If there is no apparent (linear) relationship between  $x$  and  $y$ 
  - ▶  $r$  will be close to 0



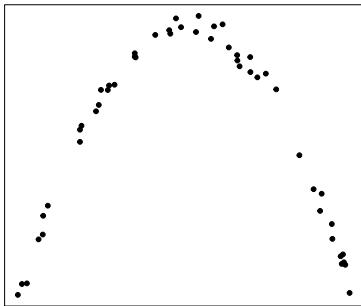
# Understanding correlation: graphically I



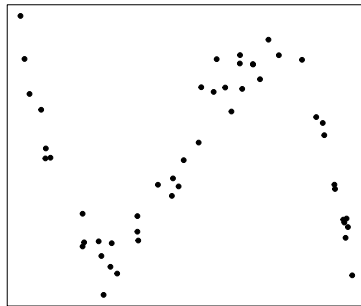
## Understanding correlation: graphically II

- $r$  measures the strength of the linear relationship
  - ▶ Strong non-linear relationships can produce  $r$  values that do not reflect the strength of the relationship

$r = -0.1$

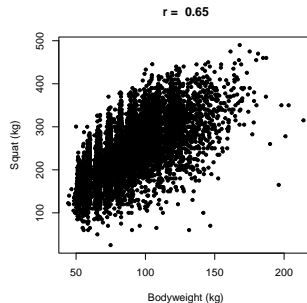
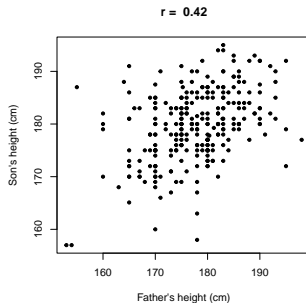
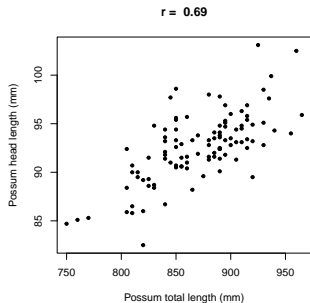


$r = 0.08$



# Data

```
rposs = cor(possum$total_l, possum$head_l)
rheight = cor(height$son, height$father)
rpower = cor(powerlift$bodyweight, powerlift$bestsquat)
```



# Practice

- Guess the correlation

# Limitations

- The correlation  $r$  is a useful summary
  - ▶ We may want to learn how precise it is: confidence interval
  - ▶ Such intervals can be found: `cor.test` in R
    - We will not consider them in STAT 110
- The correlation as a summary is limited
- What might we want to know?
  1. Possum data: predict head length from a measurement of total length
  2. Height data: understanding and quantifying heritability of height as a trait
  3. Powerlifting: compare the squat weight of an athlete to their peers of a similar weight
- Correlation does not help us for 1 and 3
  - ▶ Limited for 2: quantifies the linear relationship, but does not describe it
    - What is the expected difference in height between a son with father who is 170 cm tall, and a son with father who is 180 cm tall?

# Summary

- Looked at paired data
  - ▶ Model the difference between the two groups
  - ▶ Confidence intervals
  - ▶ Hypothesis test
- Looked at relationships between two continuous variables
- Explored a data summary: correlation
  - ▶ Gives the strength of a linear relationship between two variables
  - ▶ Always between -1 and +1
  - ▶ Easy to calculate in R



# Outline

- Continue to explore relationships between two variables
- Go beyond summary statistics
  - ▶ Look into a statistical model for the relationship
    - What the model looks like
    - Fitted model
    - Residuals



## Recall: motivating examples

- The size of brushtail possums
  - Compare total length (mm) to head length (cm)
- Height of STAT 110 students
  - Compare father's height (cm) to son's height (cm)
- Squat weight of international power lifters
  - Comparing body weight (kg) to max squat weight (kg)

## Recall: correlation

- The correlation  $r$  measures the strength of linear relationship between two variables  $x$  and  $y$
- The correlation is limited
- What might we want to know?
  1. Possum data: predict head length from a measurement of total length
  2. Height data: understanding and quantifying heritability of height as a trait
  3. Powerlifting: compare the squat weight of an athlete to their peers of a similar weight
- Correlation does not help us for 1 and 3
  - ▶ Limited for 2: quantifies the linear relationship, but does not describe it
    - What is the expected difference in height between a son with father who is 170 cm tall, and a son with father who is 180 cm tall?

# Statistical model

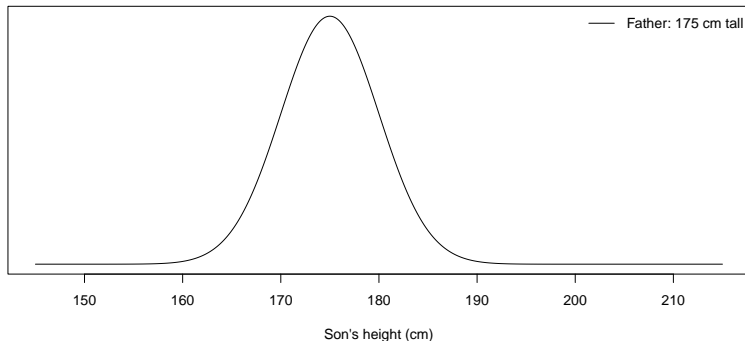
- To overcome these problems we will look to a statistical model
  - ▶ Extension of our previous models
- Explore relationship between continuous variables  $x$  and  $y$ 
  - ▶ e.g.  $x$  is father's height,  $y$  is son's height
- The variable  $y$  is referred to as the outcome variable
  - ▶ Can also be called the response variable, or dependent variable
- The variable  $x$  is referred to as the predictor variable
  - ▶ Can also be called the explanatory variable, or independent variable
- The idea: the predictor variable helps us 'predict' the outcome variable

# Statistical model

- Our description will make use of the father/son height example
  - ▶ Interest is in understanding the relationship the height of NZ male university students and their fathers
  - ▶ Sample is from (former) students in STAT 110
- Using probability to describe data
- Recall concept of conditional probability:  $Pr(A|B)$ 
  - ▶ Here we are looking at a probability density for  $y|x$ 
    - We have the height of a father ( $x$ ) and son ( $y$ )
    - Given a father's height ( $x$ ), we specify a model for son's height ( $y$ )
    - We will specify a normal model
- Look at it graphically

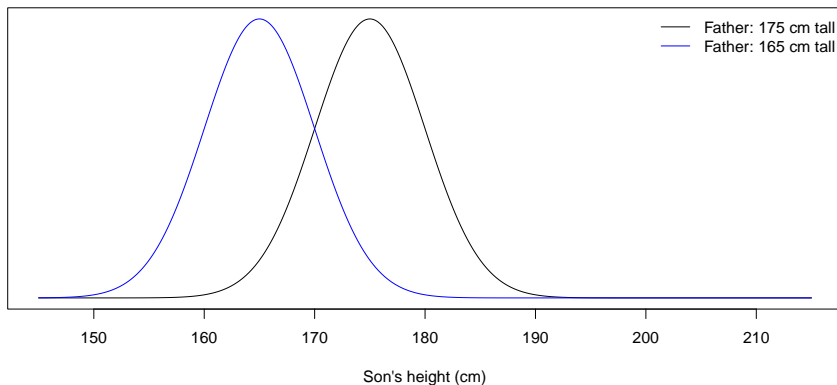
## Statistical model

- Consider the subpopulation at particular value of  $x$ 
  - ▶ e.g. sons with fathers who are 175 cm tall ( $x = 175$ )
  - ▶ Assume that son's height is normally distribution
    - For the sake of explanation: sons are expected to be the same height as their fathers



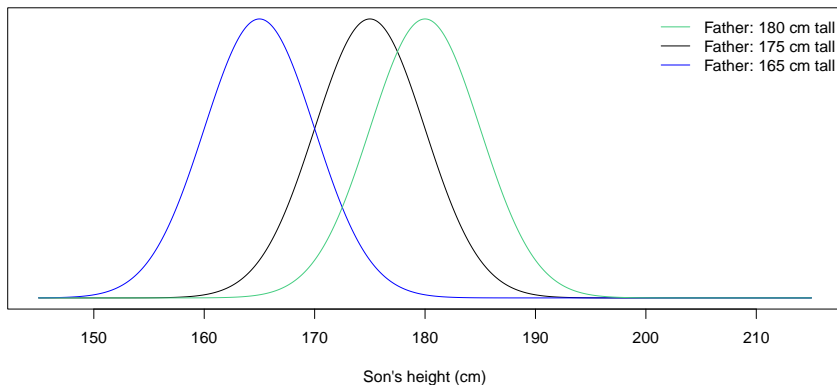
## Statistical model

- Subpopulation at a given value of  $x$ : outcome variable is normally distributed
- For fathers who are 165 cm tall (blue)



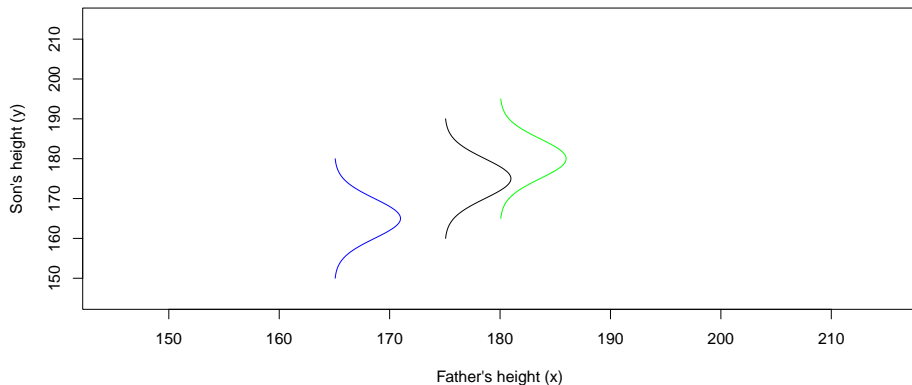
## Statistical model

- Subpopulation at a given value of  $x$ : outcome variable is normally distributed
- For fathers who are 180 cm tall (green)



## Turning it sideways

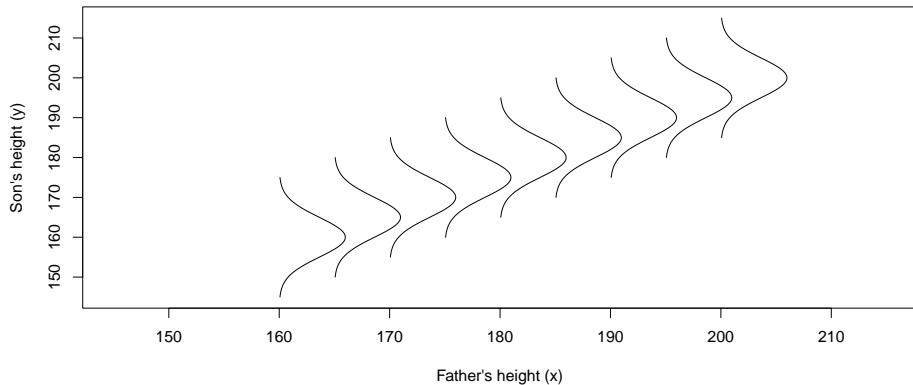
- Visualise it with outcome variable on y-axis, and predictor variable on x-axis
  - The same distributions are given below





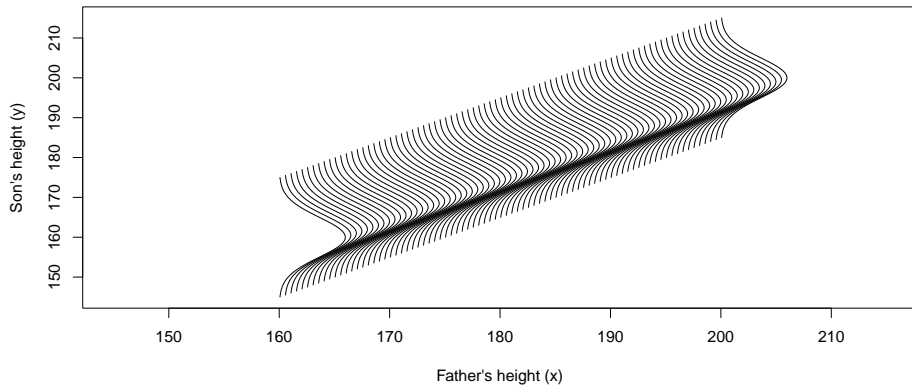
## Turning it sideways

- Including some other values of  $x$  (father's height)



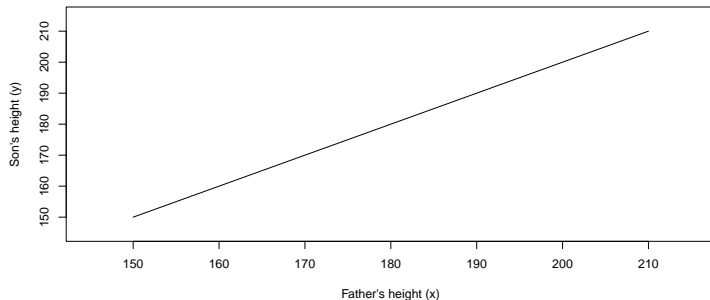
## Turning it sideways

- Including even more values of  $x$  (father's height)



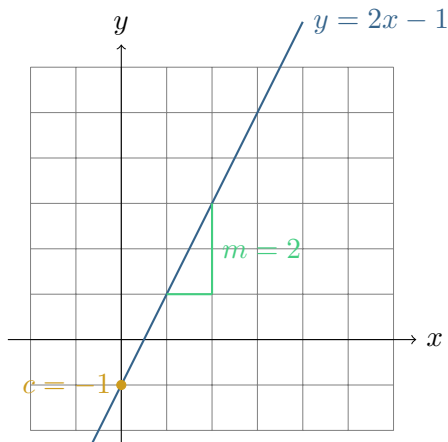
# Linear regression

- The outcome variable,  $y$ , can be written in terms of two pieces:
  - ▶  $\text{outcome} = \text{mean response} + \text{error}$
- The mean response (what we expect) is assumed to vary with the predictor  $x$ 
  - ▶ Expected height of a son is different if father is 165 cm vs father who is 180 cm
- We assume the mean response is a straight line
  - ▶ e.g. continuing the father and son height example, the mean response is



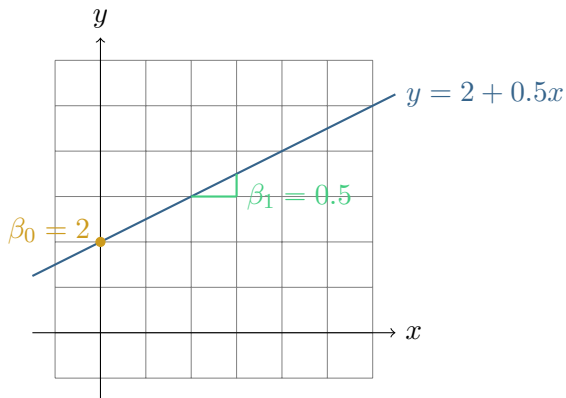
## Revision: equation for a straight line

- Mathematical equation:  $y = mx + c$ 
  - Intercept  $c$ : where it crosses the y-axis ( $x = 0$ )
  - Slope  $m$



## Revision: equation for a straight line

- We will use the equation:  $\beta_0 + \beta_1 x$ 
  - Convention: use  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  in place of  $c$  and  $m$ 
    - Intercept  $\beta_0$ : where it crosses the y-axis ( $x = 0$ )
    - Slope  $\beta_1$



## Understanding the model: population level

- Putting this together we have:

$$\underbrace{y}_{\text{outcome}} = \underbrace{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x}_{\text{mean response}} + \underbrace{\varepsilon}_{\text{error}}$$

- The mean response is given by the straight line:  $\mu_y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$ 
  - Gives us the expected value of  $y$  in the population for a given value of  $x$
- The mean will be different for two different values of  $x$
- For  $x = 165$  cm:
  - Mean is:  $\mu_y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times 165$
- For  $x = 180$  cm:
  - Mean is:  $\mu_y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times 180$

# Interpretation

- What do  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  represent?
- The mean will be different for two different values of  $x$ 
  - ▶ Mean is:  $\mu_y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$
- For someone with a father one cm taller ( $x + 1$ ), the mean response is
  - ▶ Mean is:  $\mu_y = \beta_0 + \beta_1(x + 1) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_1$
- $\beta_1$  is the difference between these
  - ▶  $\beta_1$  is the change in mean response when  $x$  increases by one unit
    - Change in the expected height of two male NZ university students whose fathers differ in height by 1 cm
- $\beta_0$  is the mean response when  $x = 0$ 
  - ▶ May make no sense in many examples
    - Mean response for a son with a father of height 0 cm: physically impossible

## From mean response to individual response

- The linear regression model is

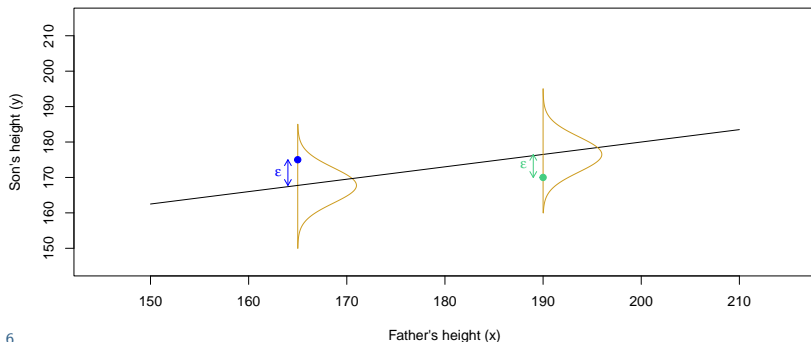
$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \varepsilon$$

- Error term  $\varepsilon$  (greek letter epsilon) describes how an individual response differs from the mean of their subpopulation
  - ▶ Subpopulation: all individuals in the population with the same value of  $x$
- We assume that variation within a given subpopulation is normally distributed
  - ▶  $\varepsilon$  is normally distributed with mean 0 and variance  $\sigma_\varepsilon^2$ 
    - $\sigma_\varepsilon$  tells us how variable individual observations are within their subpopulation



## Visualising subpopulation

- Suppose that the true regression model for height is  $y = 110 + 0.35x + \varepsilon$ 
  - Mean response (black line)
  - Normal model for the errors (gold)
  - Individual with  $y = 175$  and  $x = 165$  (blue point)
  - Individual with  $y = 170$  and  $x = 190$  (green point)

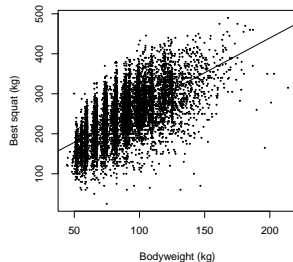
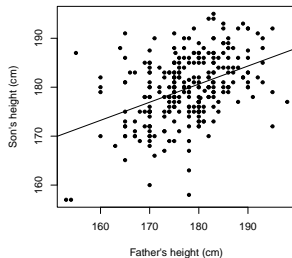
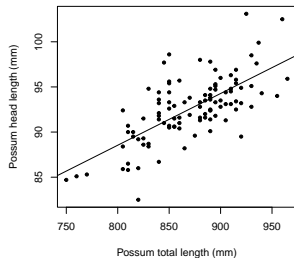


# Statistical model: data

- The linear regression model is

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \varepsilon$$

- The errors mean that data will not fall exactly on the line
  - ▶ Like the data we have!



## It's quiz time!

- Suppose that the true regression model for height is

$$y = 110 + 0.35x + \varepsilon$$

- Decide whether the following statements are true or false:
  1. Consider the subpopulation of all students with fathers of height  $x = 200$  cm. The mean height of those students is 180 cm.
  2. On average, students with fathers of height  $x = 201$  cm are 0.35 cm taller than students with fathers of height  $x = 200$ cm.
  3. All students with fathers of height  $x = 190$  cm are taller than all students with fathers of height  $x = 170$  cm.
  4. Students with fathers of height  $x = 0$  cm are 110 cm tall on average

# Summary

- Introduced a statistical model for the relationship between  $x$  and  $y$ 
  - ▶ Outcome variable,  $y$
  - ▶ Predictor variable,  $x$
  - ▶ For a given value of  $x$ ,  $y$  is assumed to be normally distributed
- Understand the linear regression model
  - ▶ Mean response
  - ▶ Error
  - ▶ Interpretation
- Looking forward: how do we fit a linear regression to data?