Data Science for Everyone

Section, Week 3: Causality & Programming Preliminaries

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Outline

- · Course info
- Causality concept review
- Programming preliminaries
- · Code demo

Course Info

- · Homework 1 due at 8 p.m. on Tues., Feb. 18
- · Lab 1 out, due at 8 p.m. on Weds., Feb. 19

Identify all samples that are a random sample of DS-UA 111 students.

- (a) All DS-UA 111 students who attended lab the first week
- (b) Every 10th person starting with the first person in the lecture hall on a random day of lecture
- (c) 50 students picked randomly from the DS-UA 111 course roster
- (d) All sophomores in DS-UA 111
- (e) None of the above

A study followed 369 people with cardiovascular disease, randomly selected from hospital patients. A year later, those who owned a dog were four times more likely to be alive than those who didn't.

- True or False: This study is a randomized controlled experiment.
- True or False: This study shows that dog owners live longer than cat owners on average.
- True or False: This study shows that for someone with cardiovascular disease, adopting a dog will probably cause them to live longer.

Independent variable X: a treatment/control that may explain Y

Dependent variable Y: an outcome we want to explain

Confounder Z:

Independent variable X: a treatment/control that may explain Y

Dependent variable Y: an outcome we want to explain

Confounder Z: causes/affects both X and Y

Python

Which of the following is correct?

- 1. x = 'a' and 'a' = x are equivalent statements.
- 2. x == 'a' and 'a' == x are equivalent statements.
- 3. x = 'a' and x == 'a' are equivalent statements.

Python



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Useful links

Official Python documentation/tutorial Interactive way to learn Python basics

A programmer's best friends are documentation and Stack Overflow!

Demo

Coding demo and time to work on lab/homework

References

Causality questions adapted from UC Berkeley's Data 8 course materials