

M358K: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

## Correlation. Linear Transform.

### Recall: Variables in Calculus.

$x$ ... independent variable (say, time): on the horizontal axis  
 $y$ ... dependent variable (say, position): on the vertical axis



$$x \xrightarrow{f} y$$
$$y = f(x)$$

### Recall: Covariance

Say that  $X$  and  $Y$  are two numerical random variables.

- Set:
- $\mu_X, \mu_Y$ ... the means (both finite)
  - $\text{Var}[X], \text{Var}[Y]$ ... the variances (both finite)
  - $\sigma_X, \sigma_Y$ ... the standard deviations

Def'n. The covariance between  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}[X, Y] &:= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y] - \mu_X \cdot \mu_Y\end{aligned}$$

Q: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent,  $\text{Cov}[X, Y] = ?$

$$\begin{aligned}\rightarrow: \text{Cov}[X, Y] &= \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mu_X \cdot \mu_Y \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y] - \mu_X \cdot \mu_Y = 0 \quad \checkmark\end{aligned}$$

↑  
independence

Q:  $\text{Cov}[X, X] = \cancel{X} \text{Var}[X]$ .

Q: If above average values of  $X$  are associated w/ above average values of  $Y$ , then  $\text{Cov}[X, Y] > 0$ .

Q: If above average values of  $X$  are associated w/ below average values of  $Y$ , then  $\text{Cov}[X, Y] < 0$ .

$\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are two real constants

$\text{Var}[\alpha \cdot X + \beta \cdot Y] =$  (write the variance down by def'n;  
use the linearity of expectation;  
tidy up)

$$= \alpha^2 \cdot \text{Var}[X] + 2 \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \text{Cov}[X, Y] + \beta^2 \cdot \text{Var}[Y]$$

Correlation (coefficient).

$$\rho_{X,Y} = \text{corr}[X, Y] := \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sigma_X \cdot \sigma_Y}$$

Q: In which units is the correlation?

→: **Unitless!**

Q: What values can the correlation take?

→:  $-1 \leq \rho_{X,Y} \leq 1$

Q: What if  $\rho_{X,Y} = 1$ ?

→:  $\text{Var}\left[Y - \frac{\sigma_Y}{\sigma_X} \cdot X\right] =$

$$= \text{Var}[Y] - 2 \cdot \frac{\sigma_Y}{\sigma_X} \cdot \text{Cov}[X, Y] + \frac{\sigma_Y^2}{\sigma_X^2} \cdot \text{Var}[X]$$

$$= \sigma_Y^2 - 2 \cdot \frac{\sigma_Y}{\cancel{\sigma_X}} \cdot \cancel{\sigma_X} \cdot \sigma_Y \cdot \underbrace{\rho_{X,Y}}_{=1} + \frac{\sigma_Y^2}{\cancel{\sigma_X^2}} \cdot \cancel{\sigma_X^2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Var}\left[Y - \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x} \cdot X\right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow Y - \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x} \cdot X = \text{constant} = b$$

$$\Rightarrow Y = \underbrace{\left(\frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x}\right)}_{=a} X + b$$

$\Rightarrow Y$  is a linear transform of  $X$ .

Q: What if  $\beta_{X,Y} = -1$ ? Think @ home!

Def'n. For observations  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ , we define the **sample correlation** as

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