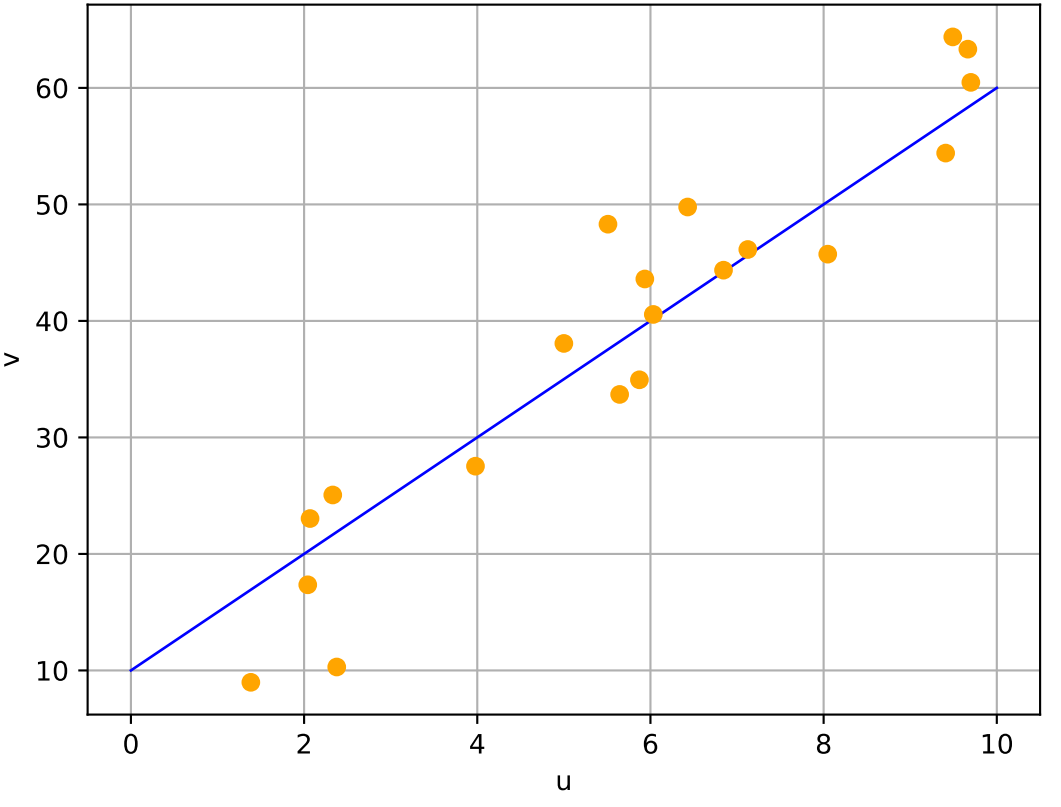... because the rank transformation turns any monotonic trend into a linear relation for which Pearson's correlation is relevant