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Module 1: The Basics of R and Introduction to the Course > Introductory Lecture > Correlation versus Causation - Quiz

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Question 1

(1/1 point)

True or false: Controlling for all kinds of related variables or factors allows us to better isolate the relationship that we are interested in.

○ a. True ✔

○ b. False

EXPLANATION

True. If we are able to control for a wide range relevant variables, this should allow us to better isolate the relationship of interest. However the difficulty is to be sure we have controlled for all the relevant variables.

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Question 2

(1/1 point)

True or false: by hunting for correlations in the data, one can easily find entirely spurious patterns.

⦿ a. True ✔

○ b. False

EXPLANATION

True. When running many regressions in a data set, there is the risk of "overfitting": finding patterns by random chance in a particular data set that would not be found elsewhere because they are not real. We will see later in the course how this can be avoided, with a model (the position traditional econometrics take) or with statistical techniques (the position of Machine Learning)

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