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flavanols - organic molecules found among other foods in chocolate, green tea and red wine and cognitive ability. Now I haven't read the literature on flavanols and cognitive ability, but I am sure that flavanols themselves can't possibly be responsible for improved cognitive ability. They are part of a complex cocktail of dietary and environmental factors affecting brain function.

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But let's say that's true; flavanols are indeed a strong indicator of cognitive function. From this idea the author basically jumps to the dubious and frankly bizarre question of whether chocolate consumption could possibly account for Nobel Prize winning ability. However, from a purely scientific standpoint the hypothesis is testable, so the author decides to simply plot the number of Nobel prize winners per 10 million people in different countries counted from 1900-2011 vs the chocolate consumption

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dependent ones both correlated to it and causing it, and in fact causing each other.

There's also going to be thousands correlated with it but not causing it. Chocolate consumption is going to be a small dot in this complex universe of potential factors, and it's certainly not the cause. [See Subscription Options](#)

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What other factor might possibly be related to the number of Nobel Laureates? I think the graph provides a strong suggestion and I am again surprised that the author missed speculating about it. The Scandinavian countries rank at the top of the graph on the right and they are known to rank high both on the [Human Development Index \(HDI\)](#) and in per capita income. Couldn't it just be possible that higher chocolate consumption simply means greater affluence and an improved lifestyle? Put simply, people who eat more chocolate are likely to be better off (and perhaps even happier?)

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