

# Stat 201: Statistics I

## Chapter 10



Date



# Chapter 10

## Correlation and Regression

# Comparing samples from two populations

## Example

Consider the following data:

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Y	90	90	66	86	99	85

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- Suppose the data are scores from the midterm and the final for one set of students.
  - One possible analysis would be a matched pairs t-test comparing the mean difference between the midterm and the final for each student.

# Comparing samples from two populations, cont.

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- Suppose X is a students score on the statistics final and Y is that students yearly salary, in thousands of dollars, a year later.



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- Suppose X is a student's score on the statistics final and Y is that student's yearly salary, in thousands of dollars, a year later.
  - It doesn't really make sense to compare means. The two samples represent entirely different kinds of data. There is no meaningful way to compare means.
  - It is useful to examine the association between the data. Is a higher test score associated with a higher salary? Or are the samples independent, values of one having no effect on values of the other?

# Section 10.1

## Correlation

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- A positive correlation indicates that as one value in a pair increases the other will tend to increase.
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- No correlation indicates that the two values of a pair have no relationship with each other. They are independent.



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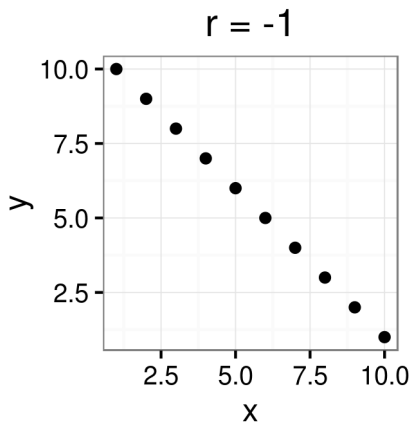
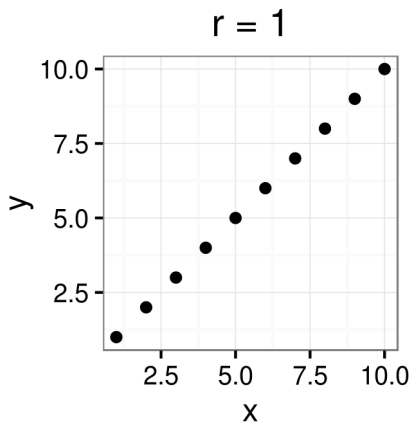
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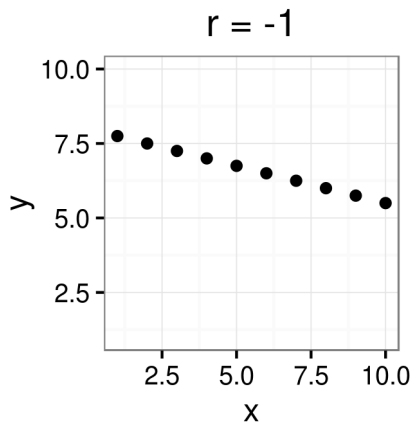
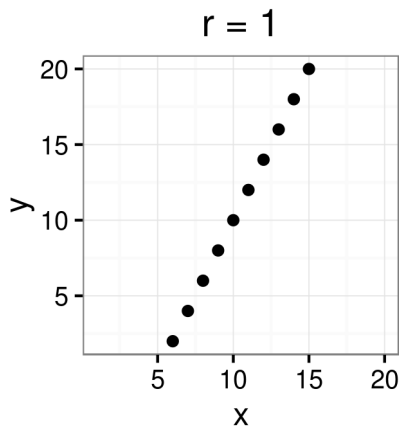
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- The units of the values also have no effect on  $r$ . A correlation on height will be the same whether it is measured in inches, feet or meters, for example.



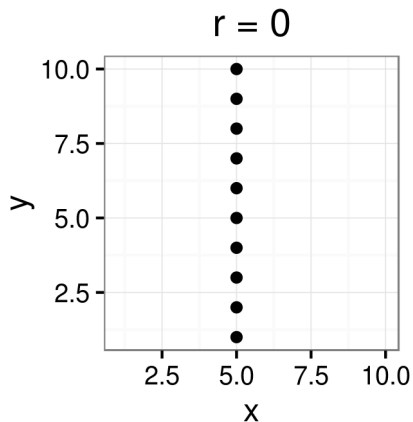
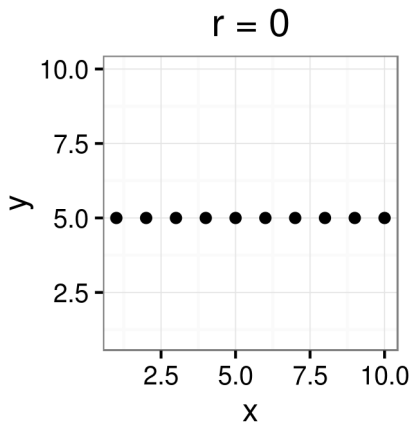
# Perfect correlation



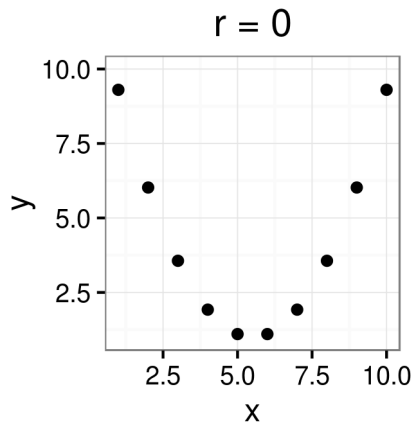
# Perfect correlation, cont.



# Zero correlation

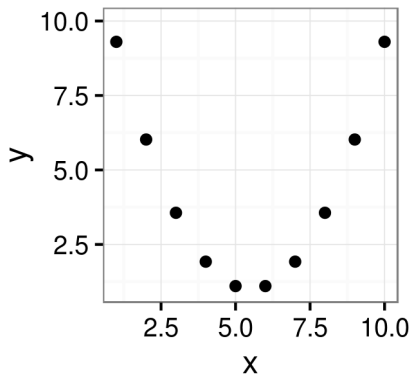


# Non-linear correlation

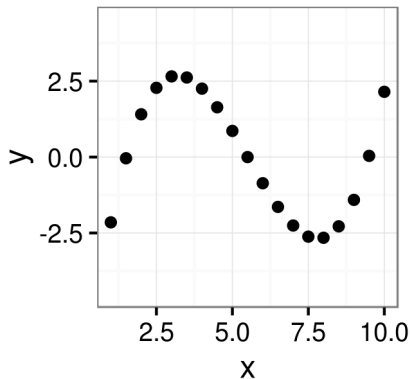


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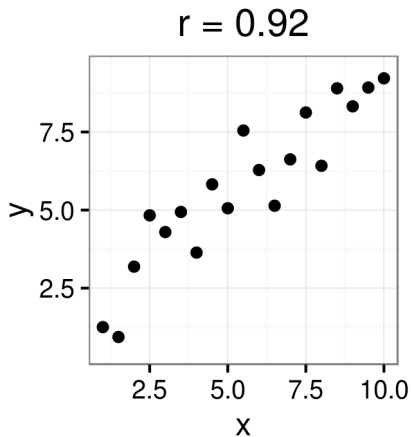
$r = 0$



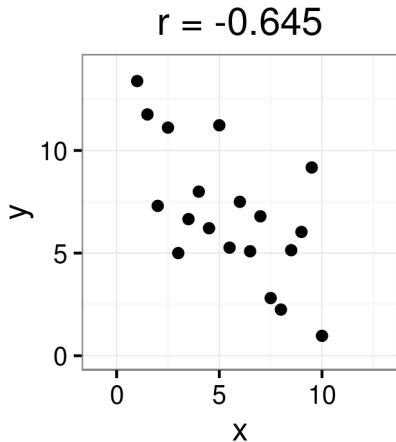
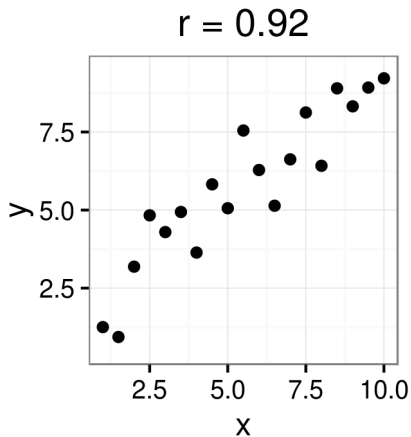
$r = -0.39$



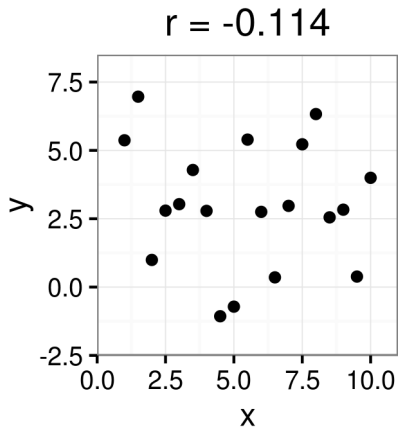
# “Real world” correlation



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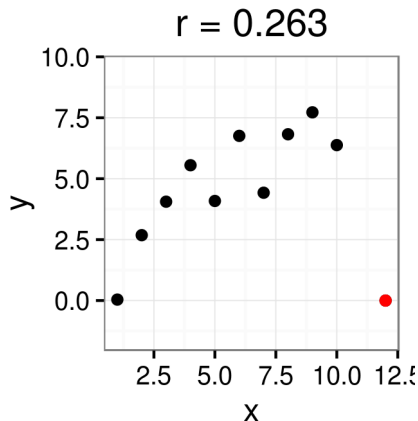
## “Real world” correlation, cont.





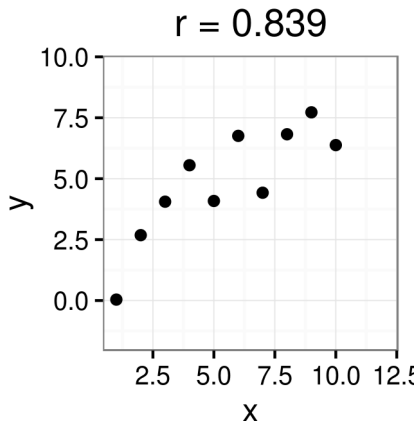
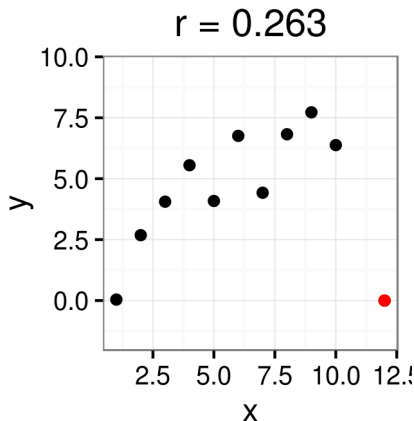
# Correlation and outliers

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# Calculating correlation coefficient

The book uses the following formula for calculating  $r$ :

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- While this formula will give you a value for  $r$  (after much work), it doesn't help much in understanding how the correlation coefficient works.
- Since technology should be used to calculate the correlation calculation anyway, it would be useful to look at  $r$  defined with a more informative formula.

## Calculating correlation coefficient, cont.

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- If when  $x$  values are far away from  $\bar{x}$  then  $y$  values are also far away from  $\bar{y}$  (whether positive or negative), then  $r$  is proportional to the sum of larger numbers and will be closer to 1 or -1.

# Calculating correlation coefficient, example

## Example

X	2	4	6	8	$\bar{x} = 5$
Y	1	6	7	12	$\bar{y} = 6.5$

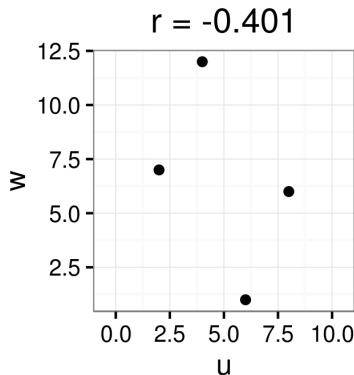
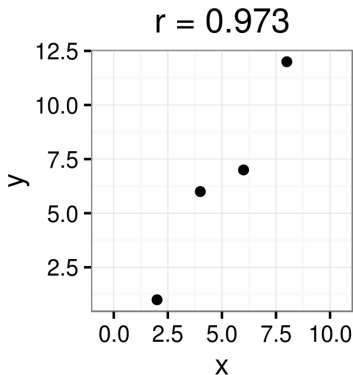
U	2	4	6	8	$\bar{u} = 5$
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# Calculating correlation coefficient, example

## Example

$x$	$y$	$(x - \bar{x})$	$(y - \bar{y})$	$(x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})$
2	1	-3	-5.5	16.5
4	6	-1	-0.5	0.5
6	7	1	0.5	0.5
8	12	3	5.5	16.5

$$r \propto 34$$

# Calculating correlation coefficient, example

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$u$	$w$	$(u - \bar{u})$	$(w - \bar{w})$	$(u - \bar{u})(w - \bar{w})$
2	7	-3	0.5	-1.5
4	12	-1	5.5	-5.5
6	1	1	-5.5	-5.5
8	6	3	-0.5	-1.5

$$r \propto -14$$

# Correlation hypothesis tests

The sample correlation coefficient  $r$  is an unbiased estimator for the population correlation coefficient  $\rho$  (rho).

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- Make a decision, two ways:

- P-value: If  $p < \alpha$ , reject null hypothesis

- Critical value (from table A-6): If  $|t| > t_{crit}$ , reject null hypothesis

# Correlation coefficient and p-value in StatCrunch

- Stat → Summary Stats → Correlation
- Select the columns which contain the data
- Check “Two-sided P-value”
- Click “Compute!”
- The correlation coefficient  $r$  is given, the p-value is in parentheses

Note: The test statistic for the hypothesis test can be found in StatCrunch by doing a regression, discussed in the next section.

# Strength of correlation

Even with statistically significant correlation, it might be useful to specify the strength of the correlation. While, like many things in statistics, the description of strength can be subjective and dependent of the context of the data, the following rule of thumb may be used:

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Thus,  $r = 0.5$  indicates a moderate positive correlation and  $r = -0.8$  indicates a strong negative correlation.

# Correlation, example

## Example

In 1886, Sir Francis Galton, a British sociologist, published the paper “Regression towards Mediocrity in Hereditary Statures”, in which he examined the heights of parents and their adult children. The core of modern uses of correlation and regression come from this paper (he also invented standard deviation). His data for fathers and sons is in the file “Galton-father-son.csv” on D2L.

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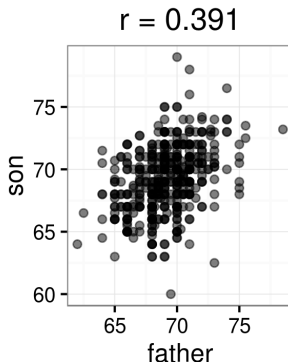
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- $H_0 : \rho = 0$   
 $H_a : \rho \neq 0$
- $r = 0.39131736$   
 $p < 0.0001$

# Correlation, example

## Example

- $p < 0.0001 < \alpha = 0.5$ . Reject null hypothesis
- There is evidence that there is a correlation between the heights of fathers and their adult sons. However,  $r < 0.4$  indicates weak correlation.



# Coefficient of determination

The **coefficient of determination**, designated by  $R^2$ , represents the proportion of variation in one variable that is explained by the association with the other variable.

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## Example

In the previous example, heights of fathers and sons had a correlation coefficient of  $r = 0.391$ . Thus,  $R^2 = (0.391)^2 = 0.153$ .

About 15% of the variation of the heights of adult men can be explained by the association with their fathers heights.

If a sample of paired data has a correlation coefficient that is zero or very low, that does not necessarily mean that there is not a association between the variables, only that there is not a *linear* association.



# Cautions

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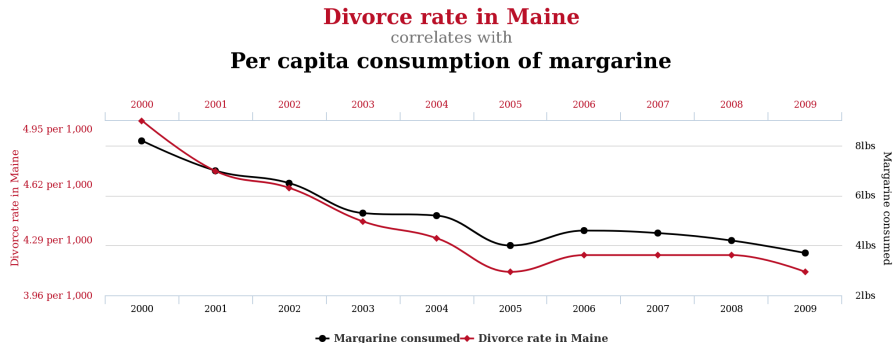
!!!

Correlation does not imply causation.

# Spurious correlations

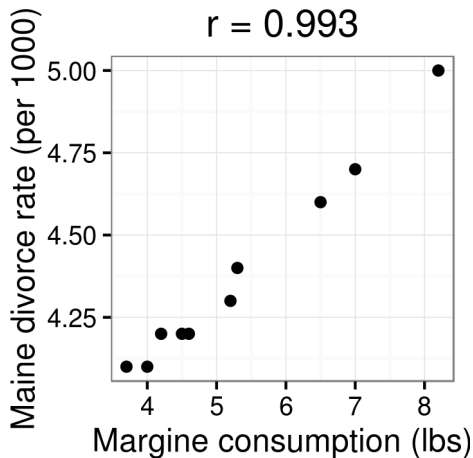
From the *Spurious Correlations* website:

<http://www.tylervigen.com/spurious-correlations>

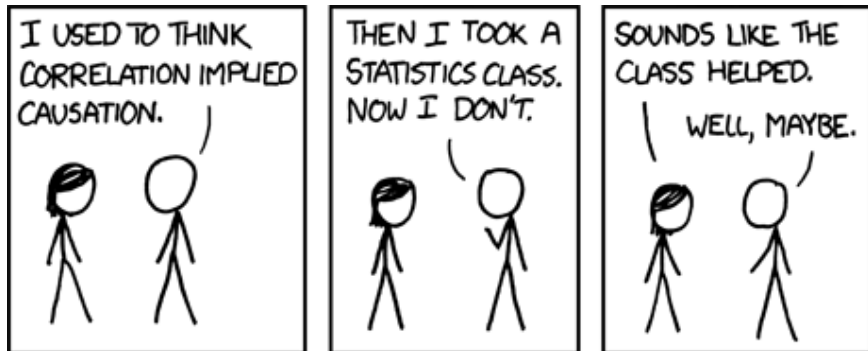


tylervigen.com

## Spurious correlations, cont.



# Correlation does not imply causation



# Group work

- For all the questions, complete parts (a) and (b).

## Section 10.2

### Regression

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**Regression** is the statistical technique for finding the line that best describes a linear relationship between two paired variables.

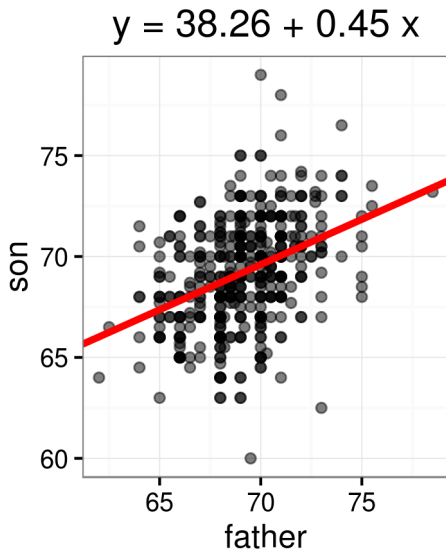


Once it has been determined that two variables have a linear relationship, that is they have an association described by a straight line, the next logical question is what is that line.

**Regression** is the statistical technique for finding the line that best describes a linear relationship between two paired variables.

The line found is known as the **regression line** or the line of best fit.

# Regression, example



# Algebra review, lines

The equation for a line generally has the following form:

$$y = b + mx$$

- $b$  is the  $y$ -intercept, or where the line crosses the  $y$ -axis ( $x = 0$ ).
- $m$  is the slope of the line. It is the amount the  $y$  value increases as the  $x$  value increase by one.

# Regression population models

A linear relationship between populations of variables  $X$  and  $Y$  can be described by:

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- Like other population parameters,  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  are thought of as fixed, but unknown
- $\epsilon$  (epsilon) is a random error term. It is usually assumed that  $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ .

# Regression lines

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- $b_1$  can be calculated from the correlation coefficient,  $b_1 = r \frac{s_y}{s_x}$
- $b_0$ , the  $y$ -intercept of the regression line, is usually not of much interest.

If there is no correlation between values of paired data (if failed to reject null hypothesis for correlation test), then the best predictor for the response variable is simply  $\bar{y}$ .

# Predictions

If there is no correlation between values of paired data (if failed to reject null hypothesis for correlation test), then the best predictor for the response variable is simply  $\bar{y}$ .

However, if there is a valid regression equation, it can be used to make predictions of the response variable for given values of the predictor variable. Replace  $x$  in the equation with the given predictor value and calculate the predicted response  $\hat{y}$ .



# Predictions, example

## Example

The regression line equation from the Galton data, for fathers height as predictor  $x$  and sons height as response  $y$ , is

$$\hat{y} = 38.26 + 0.45x$$

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What is the predicted adult height of a son whose father is 68 inches tall?

- $\hat{y} = 38.26 + 0.45 \times 68 = 68.86$  inches

# Extrapolating

Predictions for predictor values outside the range of  $x$  values used to find the regression line are highly suspect. This is known as **extrapolating** and should be avoided.

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## Example

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$$\hat{y} = -208.69 + 5.46x$$

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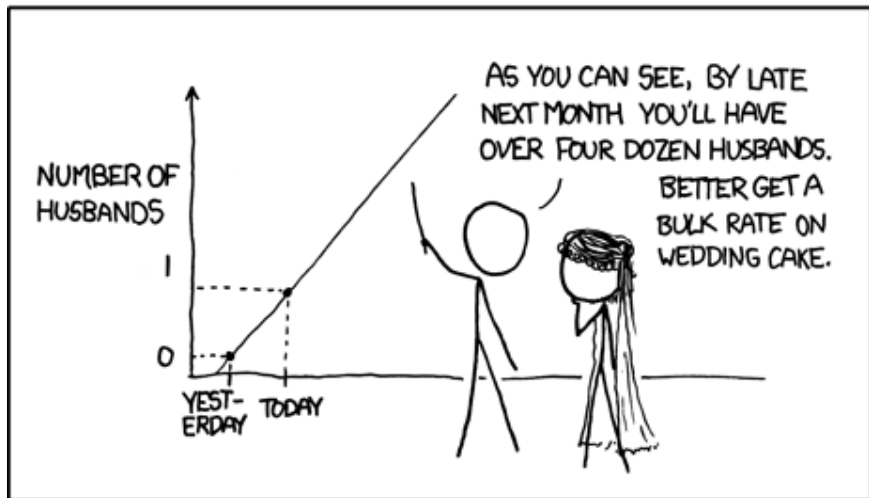
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The GM for the Timberwolves wants to know how many games the team would win if they could get their FG% up to 60%, based on this data.

- $\hat{y} = -208.69 + 5.46 \times 60 = 118.91$  games won

# Extrapolating, example

## MY HOBBY: EXTRAPOLATING



# Regression in StatCrunch

- Stat → Regression → Simple Linear
- Select columns for X and Y variables
- Select “Hypothesis tests” (default values are fine)
- If desired, enter “X value(s)” for “Prediction of Y”
- If desired, select graphs to generate (the default “Fitted line plot” is usually best)
- Click “Compute!”

# Interpreting regression results in StatCrunch

- “Simple linear regression results” section contains:
  - The regression equation in the form of “YVAR = intercept + slope XVAR”
  - The correlation coefficient  $r$  as “R (correlation coefficient)”
  - The coefficient of determination  $R^2$  as “R-sq”
- The “Parameter estimates” table contains:
  - The estimates for intercept ( $b_0$ ) and slope ( $b_1$ )
  - The t statistic and p-value for the slope are the same as for a correlation hypothesis test with this data
- Ignore “Analysis of variance table for regression model”
- If predicted values were asked for, they will be in the “Predicted values” table
- Click on the right arrow at the bottom of the results window to get to any graphs that were selected



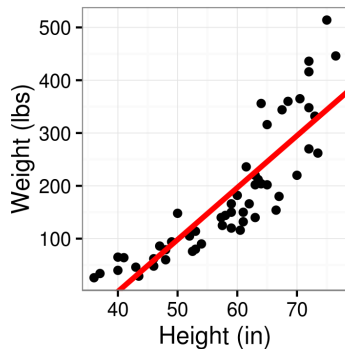
# Regression, example

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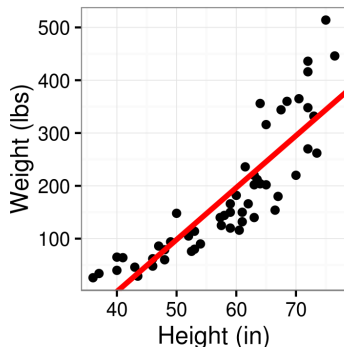
The Department of Natural Resources wishes to track the weight of bears in the wild. While it is very difficult to weigh a bear, it is fairly easy to estimate the length of bear using photos. The data set “bears.csv” on D2L contains measurements made from anesthetized wild bears.

- Find a relationship, if any, between the length and weight of bears using the data.
- What is the best predicted weight of a bear thought to be 71 inches long?
- Would it be appropriate to predict the weight of a bear 39 inches long? 89 inches?

# Regression, example



# Regression, example



## Example

From the StatCrunch results:

- $r = 0.864$ ,  $R^2 = 0.747$ .
- About 75% of the variation in bear weight is explained by the association with bear height.

# Regression, example

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- It would be appropriate to predict the weight of a bear that is 39 inches long, because 39 is within the range of lengths used to find the regression line (36, 76.5).
- 89 inches is not in that range, so it would not be appropriate to try to predict the weight of a 89 inch long bear.



# Group work

- For all the questions, complete parts (c) and (d).