

Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation

Definition: The Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation between two variables X and Y is denoted by $\rho(X, Y)$ or r is defined as

$$\rho(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var } X} \sqrt{\text{Var } Y}} = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \cdot \sigma_Y}$$

where $\text{Var } X$ and $\text{Var } Y$ denotes the variances of X and Y , while σ_X and σ_Y are S.D.

Note: Correlation coefficient r is a measure of the linear relationship between two variables X and Y .

Note: The value of r ranges from $-1 \leq r \leq 1$.

Note: If $r = \pm 1$, then the variables have perfect correlation.

For $r = +1$ perfect positive correlation.

$r = -1$ perfect negative correlation.

Note: If $r = 0$, then there is no correlation between the variables X and Y .

Ques (1) The Covariance between the length and weight of five items is 6 and their standard deviations are 2.45 and 2.61 respectively. Find Correlation coefficient between length and weight.

Solution: Let $X \rightarrow$ length $Y \rightarrow$ weight

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 6 \quad \sigma_x = 2.45 \quad \sigma_y = 2.61$$

$$r = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_x \cdot \sigma_y} = \frac{6}{2.45 \times 2.61} = \frac{6}{6.3945} = 0.9383$$

$$\boxed{r = 0.9383} \quad \underline{\text{Ans}}$$

Ques (2) If Covariance of 10 pairs of items is 7, Variance of X is 36, $\sum (Y - \bar{Y})^2 = 90$. Find out r .

Solution: Here, we have $n = 10$, $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 7$

$$\text{Var}(X) = 36 \Rightarrow \sigma_x = \sqrt{\text{Var} X} = 6$$

$$\sum (Y - \bar{Y})^2 = 90$$

$$\sigma_y = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (Y - \bar{Y})^2}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{90}{10}} = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$r = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_x \cdot \sigma_y} = \frac{7}{6 \times 3} = \frac{7}{18} = 0.39 \text{ (Approx)} \quad \underline{\text{Ans}}$$

Ques (3) The coefficient of correlation between two variables X and Y is 0.3 and covariance is 9. If $\text{Var}(X) = 16$ find σ_y .