

9 A 1. Correlation: positive vs. negative

Describe a realistic situation in which two variables would have a **high positive correlation**.

Describe another situation for which the correlation would be **highly negative**.

9 A 2. Association does NOT imply causation, in observational studies

A recent medical study found that the moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages is **associated with** the fewest heart attacks (as compared to heavy drinking or no drinking).

It was suggested that the alcohol caused the **beneficial effects**.

Devise an **explanation** for this relationship that assumes there is **no direct causal link** between drinking alcohol and having a heart attack. (*Hint : Consider personality.*)

9 A \*7. Low Pearson's r

A psychologist is studying the relationship between the reported vividness of visual imagery and the ability to rotate objects mentally. A sample of graduate students at a leading school for architecture is tested on both variables, but the Pearson's r turns out to be **disappointingly low**.

Which of the following is the most likely explanation for why Pearson's r was **not higher**?

- a.) One or both of the variables has a restricted range.
- b.) The relationship between the two variables is curvilinear.
- c.) The number of degrees of freedom is too small.
- d.) One variable was just a linear transformation of the other.

9 B \*5. Test for Association: Pearson's r

Code: R notebook

A psychiatrist has noticed that the schizophrenics who have been in the hospital the longest score the lowest on a mental orientation test. The data for 10 schizophrenics are listed in the following table:

Years of Hospital (X)	Orientation Test (Y)
5	22
7	26
12	16
5	20
11	18
3	30
7	14
2	24
9	15
6	19

a) Calculate **Pearson's r** for the data.

$r = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

b) Test for statistical significance at the **.05** level (**two-tailed**). (SPSS)

- Evidence of linear association
- No such evidence

**2-tail: p =**  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

9 B \*6. Reliability: Pearson's r for test-retest scores

Code: R notebook

If a test is reliable, each participant will tend to get the same score each time he or she takes the test. Therefore, the correlation between two administrations of the test (test-retest reliability) **should be high**. The **reliability** of the verbal GRE score was tested using five participants, as shown in the following table:

Verbal GRE (1)	Verbal GRE (2)
540	570
510	520
580	600
550	530
520	520

a) Calculate **Pearson's r** for the test-retest reliability of the verbal GRE score.

$r = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

b) Test for statistical significance at the **.05** level (**one-tailed**).

- Evidence of linear association
- No such evidence

**1-tail: p =**  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Would this correlation be significant with a **two-tailed** test?

- Evidence of linear association
- No such evidence

**2-tail: p =**  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

a) Create a scatter plot of **phobia** (X) versus **statquiz** (Y).

From looking at the plot, do you think the **Pearson's r** will be:

positive -or-  negative

Large -or-  medium -or-  small?

b) Create a scatter plot of **baseline anxiety** (X) versus **postquiz anxiety** (Y).

From looking at the plot, do you think the **Pearson's r** will be:

positive -or-  negative

Large -or-  medium -or-  small?

a) Compute the Pearson's r between **phobia** (X) versus **statquiz** (Y), for ALL students.

r = \_\_\_\_\_

Also, compute the Pearson's r between **baseline anxiety** (X) versus **postquiz anxiety** (Y).

r = \_\_\_\_\_

b) Use `dplyr::filter()` to **delete** any student whose baseline anxiety is **over 29**, and repeat part b of the first exercise:

Create a scatter plot of **baseline anxiety** (X) versus **postquiz anxiety** (Y).

From looking at the plot, do you think the **Pearson's r** will be:

positive -or-  negative

Large -or-  medium -or-  small?

Also, re-run the Pearson's r between **baseline anxiety** (X) versus **postquiz anxiety** (Y).

r = \_\_\_\_\_

What **happened** to the Pearson's r?

Use the **change in the scatter plot** to explain the change in the correlation coefficient.

9 C 3. Calculate Pearson's r, report APA style

Code: R notebook

a) Compute Pearson's r s among the three measures of anxiety. Write up the results in **APA style**.

b) Compute the average of the three measures of anxiety, and then compute the correlation between each measure of anxiety and the average, so that the output contains a **single column** of correlations.

Anxiety Measure	Average Anxiety
Baseline	r = _____
Pre-quiz	r = _____
Post-quiz	r = _____

9 C 4. Pearson's r: Missing values

Code: R notebook

a) Compute Pearson's r for the following list of variables:

Mathquiz  
Statquiz  
phobia

	Mathquiz	Statquiz	phobia
Mathquiz			
Statquiz	r = _____		
phobia	r = _____	r = _____	

b) Repeat part a after selecting **Exclude cases listwise**

	Mathquiz	Statquiz	phobia
Mathquiz			
Statquiz	r = _____		
phobia	r = _____	r = _____	

Which correlation was **changed**? Explain **why**.