

# Correlation Theory

Still bi-variate statistics

$X \sim$  random variable

$Y \sim$  random variable

# Covered Topics

- Pearson's Correlation
- Spearman's Rank Correlation

# Population Covariance (1)

## Definition

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{XY} &= E[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)] \\ &= \iint (x - \mu_X)(y - \mu_Y) f(x, y) dx dy\end{aligned}$$

a constant

# Population Covariance (2)

## Sign of Covariance

Positive  $\implies$  if one RV is above or below its mean, the other RV tends to be also above or below its mean

Negative  $\implies$  if one RV is above or below its mean, the other RV tends to be below or above its mean

# Population Covariance (3)

## Magnitude of Covariance

unbounded

depends on the units of both RV's

## Unit of covariance

= unit of X times unit of Y

e.g., X is in Baht and Y is in Kilogram

$\sigma_{XY}$  is in Baht-Kilogram

# Population Correlation (1)

- Definition

$$\rho_{XY} = \frac{\sigma_{XY}}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$$

- Sign of Correlation

—same as that of Covariance

# Population Correlation (2)

## Magnitude of Correlation

always bounded between -1 and 1

$$-1 \leq \rho_{XY} \leq +1$$

## Unit of Correlation

no unit

comparable between populations

# Population Correlation (3)

## Interpretation of Correlation

$\rho_{XY} = +1 \implies$  If a variable is above or below its mean, the other will be above or below its own mean with certainty

$\rho_{XY} = -1 \implies$  If a variable is above or below its mean, the other will be below or above its own mean with certainty

$\rho_{XY} = 0 \implies$  If a variable is deviated from its mean, the other will be expected at its mean



# Sample Covariance

$s_{XY}$  is an estimator for  $\sigma_{XY}$

Required paired sample

Estimator

$$s_{XY} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{n-1}$$

# Paired Sample of Size $n$

$i$	$X_i$	$Y_i$
1	$X_1$	$Y_1$
2	$X_2$	$Y_2$
:	:	:
:	:	:
$n$	$X_n$	$Y_n$

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# Sample Correlation (1)

$r_{XY}$  is an estimator of  $\rho_{XY}$

Definition 
$$r_{XY} = \frac{S_{XY}}{S_X S_Y}$$

Sign of sample Correlation

same as that of sample Covariance

# Sample Correlation (2)

## Magnitude of Sample Correlation

same as population correlation

always bounded between -1 and 1

$$-1 \leq r_{XY} \leq +1$$

## Unit of sample Correlation

no unit

comparable between data sets

# Test for Zero Correlation

$$H_0 : \rho_{XY} = 0$$

$$H_1 : \rho_{XY} \neq 0$$

Theorem

$$t_{cal} = \frac{r_{XY}}{\sqrt{\frac{1-r_{XY}^2}{n-2}}} \sim t(n-2)$$

Perform a Two-sided test.

# Test for Non-zero Correlation (1)

$$H_0 : \rho_{XY} = a, \quad a \neq 0$$

$$H_1 : \rho_{XY} \neq a$$

Theorem

$$\omega = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1+r}{1-r} \right),$$

$$\mu_\omega = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1+\rho}{1-\rho} \right)$$

# Test for Non-zero Correlation (2)

$$\omega \sim N\left(\mu_{\omega}, \frac{1}{n-3}\right)$$

$$Z_{cal} = \frac{\omega - \mu_{\omega}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n-3}}} \sim N(0,1)$$

Perform a Two-sided test.

# Rank Correlation(1)

Two judges (A and B) are to rank  $n$  different objects (contestants)

**Question:** Are the two judges correlated?

How can similarity or dissimilarity be measured?



# Rank Correlation(2)

Spearman's Rank Correlation (sample)

$$r' = 1 - \frac{6 \sum_i D_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

No definition for population rank correlation

# Rank Correlation(3)

$R_{ij}$  = rank given to object  $i$  by judge  $j$

$D_i$  = rank difference for object  $i$

$$= R_{iA} - R_{iB}$$

# Rank Correlation(4)

## Paired Sample of Size $n$

$i$	$RA_i$	$RB_i$
1	$RA_1$	$RB_1$
2	$RA_2$	$RB_2$
:	:	:
:	:	:
$n$	$RA_n$	$RB_n$

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# Rank Correlation(5)

## Magnitude of Correlation

always bounded between -1 and 1

$$-1 \leq r'_{XY} \leq +1$$

## Unit of Correlation

no unit

comparable between populations

# Rank Correlation(6)

## Interpretation of Sample Rank Correlation

$r'_{XY} = +1 \implies$  If both judges totally agree on the rankings of all the  $n$  objects

$r'_{XY} = -1 \implies$  If both judges totally disagree on the rankings of all the  $n$  objects

$r'_{XY} = 0 \implies$  If the two judges are uncorrelated

# Test for Zero Rank Correlation

$$H_0 : \rho'_{XY} = 0$$

$$H_1 : \rho'_{XY} \neq 0$$

Theorem

$$z_{cal} = \frac{r'_{XY}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1}}} \sim N(0,1)$$

Perform a Two-sided Z-test.

# Test for Non-zero Rank Correlation

No such a thing??