# 4.1 Scatter Diagrams and Linear Correlation with work

## 4.1 Scatter Diagrams and Linear Correlation

## **Essential Questions:**

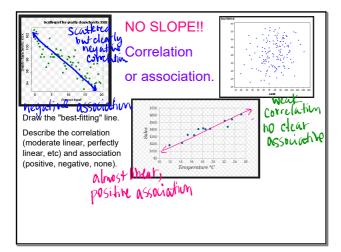
How does correlation help me analyze the relationship I am comparing?

## **Focus Points:**

- Make a scatter diagram.
- Visually estimate the location of the "best-fitting" line for a scatter diagram.
- Use sample data to compute the sample correlation coefficient, r.
- Investigate the meaning of the correlation coefficient, r.

A scatter diagram is a graph in which data pairs (x, y) are plotted as individual points on a grid with horizontal axis x and vertical axis y. We call x the explanatory variables and y the response variable.

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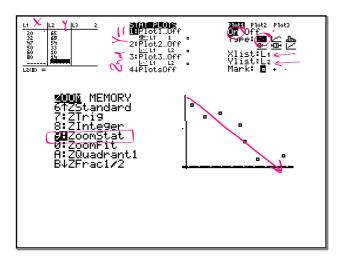
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## WHAT DOES A SCATTER PLOT TELL US?

A scatter diagram shows the relationship between two paired variables x and y. For each pair (x, y) of the data set, we plot the point on a grid with horizontal axis x and vertical axis y.

- To the extent the data points on the graph fall closer to a straight line, we can say that the relationship between x and y is more linear.
- To the extent the data pairs are scattered over the graph, we can say no linear relationship between x and y is apparent.

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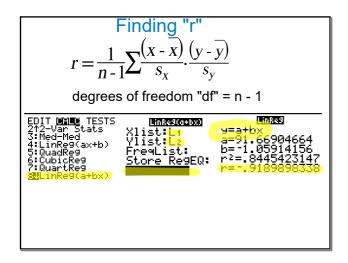


The sample correlation coefficient, r is a numerical measurement that assesses the strength of a *linear* relationship between two variables x and y.

- r is a unitless measurement between -1 and 1. In symbols,
   -1 ≤ r ≤ 1. If r = 1, there is a perfect positive linear correlation. If r = -1, there is perfect negative linear correlation. If r = 0, there is no linear correlation. The closer r is to 1 or -1, the better a line describes the relationship between the two variables x and y.
- Positive values of r imply as x is increasing, y tends to increase. Negative values of r imply that as x increases, y tends to decrease.
- r will not change if variables are converted to different units.

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What does the correlation coefficient, r, is a sample statistic

from a data set of ordered pairs (x, y). It is a measurement

• r is a unitless measurement from -1 to 1.

left to right.

variables.

from left to right.

indicating the strength of a linear relationship between x and y.

• r close to 1 means positive linear relationship increasing from

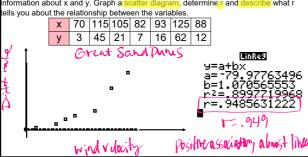
• r close to -1 means negative linear relationship decreasing

r close to 0 means no linear relationship between the

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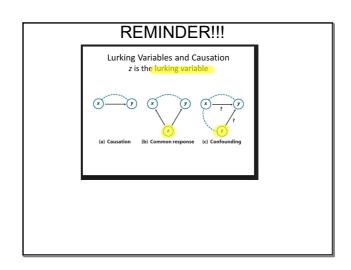
Example 1: Sand Dunes

Sand driven by wind creates large, beautiful dunes at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, Colorado. Of course, the same natural forces also create large dunes in the Great Sahara Desert and Saudi Arabia. Is there a linear correlation between wind velocity and sand drift rate? Let x be a random variable representing wind velocity (in 10 cm/sec) and let y be a random variable representing drift rate of sand (in 100 gm/cm/sec). A test site at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument gave the following information about x and y. Graph a scatter diagram, determine r and describe what r



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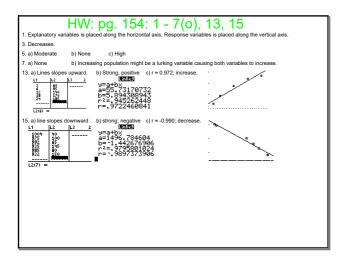
p is used for population correlation coefficient



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# 4.1 Scatter Diagrams and Linear Correlation with work



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