

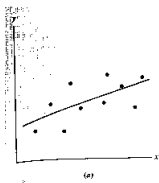
# Correlation

**Goal:** Find cause and effect links between variables.

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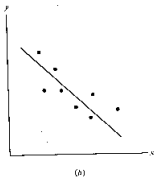
**Goal:** Find cause and effect links between variables.

What can we conclude when two variables are highly **correlated**?



## Positive Correlation

High values of  $x$   
are associated with  
high values of  $y$ .



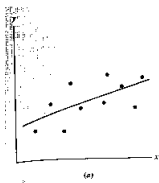
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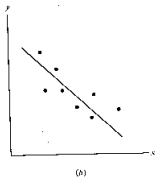
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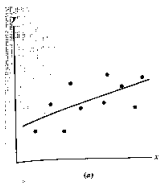
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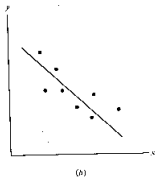
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The **correlation coefficient**,  $R^2$  is a number between 0 and 1. Values near 1 show **strong correlation** (data lies almost on a line). Values near 0 show **weak correlation** (data doesn't lie on a line).

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▶ The **total corrected sum of squares**: 
$$SST = \sum_i [y_i - \bar{y}]^2,$$
  
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## Calculating the $R^2$ Statistic

**Example.** (cont'd from notes p. 32) What is  $R^2$  for the data set:  
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► Now calculate  $R^2 = 1 - \frac{SSE}{SST} = 1 - \frac{0.0210}{2.06} = 1 - .01 = 0.99$ .

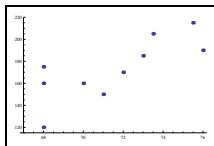
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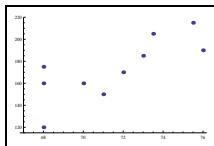
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We calculate the line of best fit:

$$(\text{weight}) = 7.07(\text{height}) - 333.$$



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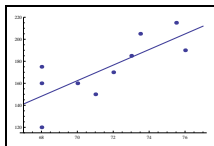
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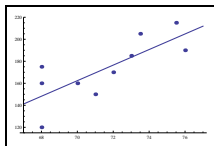
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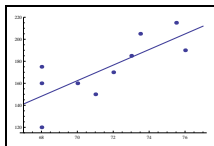
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$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^{10} [w_i - (7.07 h_i - 333)]^2 \approx 2808$$

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$$\text{So } R^2 = 1 - (2808/6910) = 0.59$$

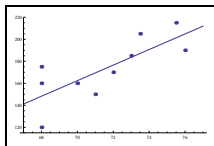
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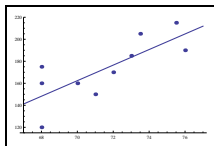
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We can introduce another variable to see if the fit improves.

# Multiple Linear Regression

Add waist measurements to the data!

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70	32	160
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We wish to calculate a *linear* relationship such as:

$$(\text{weight}) = a(\text{height}) + b(\text{waist}) + c.$$

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Do a regression to find the *best-fit plane*:

Use the least-squares criterion. Minimize:

$$SSE = \sum_{(h_i, ws_i, wt_i)} [wt_i - (a \cdot h_i + b \cdot ws_i + c)]^2.$$

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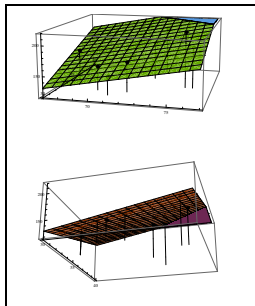
This finds that the best fit plane is (coeff sign)

$$(\text{weight}) = 4.59(\text{height}) + 6.35(\text{waist}) - 368.$$

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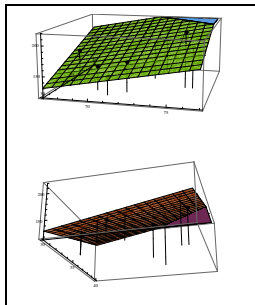
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► Now calculate  $R^2$ .

Calculate  $SSE = \sum_{i=1}^{10} (w_i - f(h_i, ws_i))^2 \approx 955$

$SST$  does not change: (why?)

$\sum_{i=1}^{10} (w_i - 173)^2 = 6910$



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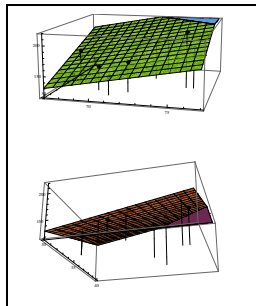
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So  $R^2 = 1 - (955/6910) = 0.86$ , an excellent correlation.



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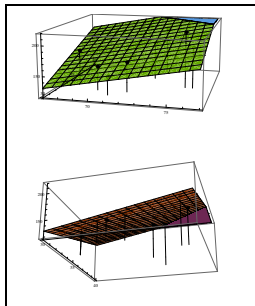
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- When you introduce more variables,  $SSE$  can only go down, so  $R^2$  always increases.

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**Example.** Time and Distance (pp. 190)

Data collected to predict driving time from home to school.

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$T = 1.89M + 8.05$ , with an  $R^2 = 0.867$ .

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- ▶  $R^2$  increases as the number of variables increase.
- ▶ This doesn't mean that the fit is better!

## Notes about the Correlation Coefficient

**Example.** Cancer and Fluoridation. (pp. 188–189)

Does fluoride in the water cause cancer?

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**Example.** Cancer and Fluoridation. (pp. 188–189)

Does fluoride in the water cause cancer?

Variables:

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$C$  = cancer mortality rate

Use a linear regression to find that

$C = \mathbf{27.1}T + 181$ , with an  $R^2 = 0.047$ .

## Notes about the Correlation Coefficient

**Example.** Cancer and Fluoridation. (pp. 188–189)

Does fluoride in the water cause cancer?

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