

Statistics

Chapter Nine

• Pearson's R

- A descriptive index that summarizes magnitude and nature (direction) of a relationship between two high-level variables in a sample
- Can also be used to make inferences about relationships in the population

• Basic Hypotheses

- Correlational hypotheses are about ρ (rho), the population correlation coefficient
- Basic null hypothesis: ρ is zero
- The alternative hypothesis is the opposite
 - $H_1: \rho \neq .00$ (positive or negative)

• Sampling Distribution (Theoretical distribution)

- The mean of a sampling distribution of the correlation coefficient is ρ , the population coefficient
- When the null hypothesis is true ($\rho = .0$):
 - The theoretical sampling distribution is centred on .00
 - The sampling distribution is approximately normal

• Assumptions and Requirements

- Pearson's R is suitable for interval & ratio (high level) variables and detecting linear relationships
- Pearson's R can be used inferentially:
 - If the variables have an underlying distribution that is bivariate normal. Pearson's R is robust to this if sample size > 15
 - If values of both variables are homoscedastic (for each value of X, variability of Y scores about the same)
† tested using Levene's test

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• Testing Significance

- Value of computed r must be compared to critical values in a table for which df is known & significance is established
- Pearson's r $df: N - 2$

• r to z Transformation

- Testing differences b/w two correlations requires that the two correlation coefficients be transformed
- Then use normal distribution to see if values are significantly different

• Magnitude of Effect

- $r^2 =$ magnitude of effect
- Tells you the proportion of the variability in one variable that is explained by the other variable
- r^2 is sometimes called the coefficient of determination
 - r^2 is analogous to η^2 : it represents the ratio of explained variance to total variance
 - $r^2 = \frac{SS_{\text{explained}}}{SS_{\text{total}}}$

• Precision and Pearson's r

- Confidence intervals can be built around the value of r to indicate the precision of the population estimate
- Ex. \bar{r} a sample of 50, the 95% CI around $r = .26$ is $-.02$ to $.50$
 - This includes the possibility that the population correlation is zero - the null hypothesis

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• Power and Pearson's r

- In power analysis, r = effect size index
- Table can be used to estimate sample size needed (to minimize the risk of a Type II error)
- As a last resort, small, medium, and large effects corresponds to r s of .10, .30, and .50 respectively
 - This corresponds to needed N s of 785, 25, and 29

• The Factors Affecting r

- The magnitude of r can be affected by:
 - Having variables w/ restricted ranges of values
 - Using groups at both extremes of a distribution of values
 - Having outliers in the data
 - Measuring the variables w/ instruments having low reliability

• Nonparametric Correlations

- Spearman's rho (r_s): Based on ranks of the original data values
- Kendall's tau (T): A complex formula, sometimes a preferred index bc of its statistical properties
- Both range from -1.00 (through .00) to 1.00

• Pearson's r Formula

$$\rightarrow r_{xy} = \frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{[\sum (x - \bar{x})^2][\sum (y - \bar{y})^2]}}$$

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• Regression: Technique used to analyze relationships btwn variables and to make predictions about values of variables

• Simple linear regression involves regressing one variable (Y) on another variable (X)

→ Y: the dependent (outcome) variable - trying to predict

→ X: the independent variable - predictor variable

→ The goal is to predict new values of Y based on values of X

• linear regression builds on the equation for a straight line

because the relationship btwn the two is assumed to be linear

→ A straight line should yield the best "fit" of the data points in a scatterplot

• Any straight line can be described by:

→ $Y = a + bX$

→ Y: values on one variable

→ X: values on the other variable

→ a: the intercept concept (where line crosses Y axis)

→ b: the slope of the line

• Regression Equation

→ $Y' = a + bX$

→ Y' : predicted value of Y

→ X: actual value of X

→ a: intercept constant

→ b: slope of the line (regression coefficient)

$$b = \frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})}{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}$$

$$a = \bar{y} - b\bar{x}$$

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- Prediction and Regression

- Regression equations yield predictions of new values of Y based on known values of X

- Compare predicted Y to actual Y

- Errors of Prediction: differences b/w actual and predicted values of Y , also called residuals, symbolized as e

- The regression equation uses a least-squares criterion in solving for a & b

- The squares of the errors of prediction (e^2) are minimized