

QUANTIFYING PREDICTABILITY

COMMON CORE ALGEBRA I



In the last few lessons we have worked with generating **lines and curves of best fit** for **bivariate** data sets. In every circumstance, though, the data did not fall on a straight line or on a perfect curve. We have never answered the question of how well specifically a **linear model** does in predicting the **correlation** between the two variables.

Exercise #1: Your teacher will explain how to ensure that your calculator has its “r-value” on. Since this varies by graphing calculator, write down the procedure below if necessary.

Exercise #2: In the following exercises four data sets with equal x -values are given to illustrate different types of **positive correlations**. For each, enter the data, observe the scatter plot, and record the r -value, known as the **correlation coefficient**, for a **linear fit** to the nearest *thousandth*.

(a)

x	2	5	8	11	15	18
y	4	13	22	29	43	52

(b)

x	2	5	8	11	15	18
y	16	14	22	41	37	51

(c)

x	2	5	8	11	15	18
y	18	8	41	28	62	44

(d)

x	2	5	8	11	15	18
y	44	51	30	55	45	47

(d) How does the **correlation coefficient** quantify the fit of a positive correlation?

Exercise #3: The following data set is that of two variables that have a **negative correlation**. Enter the data, produce the scatter plot, and record the r -value. How is the negative correlation reflected in the r -value?

x	2	5	8	11	15	18
y	52	47	28	32	25	10



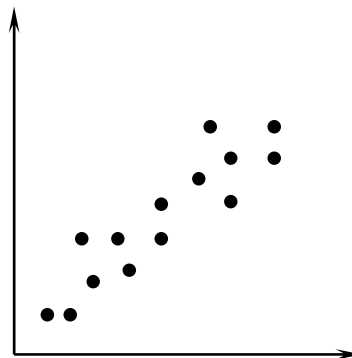
Exercise #4: Given the scatter plot shown below, which of the r -values would most likely represent the correlation between the two variables? Explain your choice.

(1) $r = 0.88$

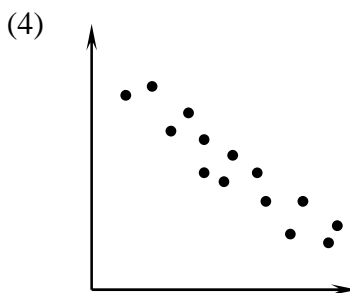
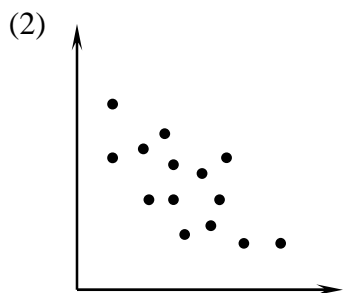
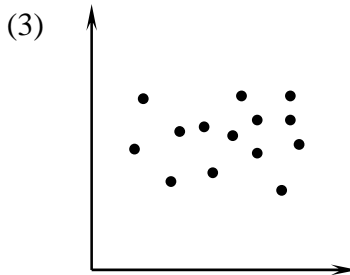
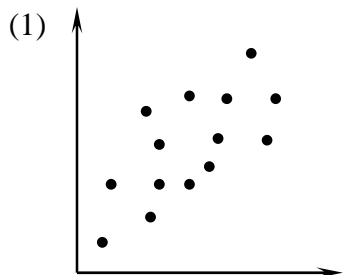
(3) $r = 1$

(2) $r = 0.28$

(4) $r = -0.94$



Exercise #5: Which of the following scatter plots would have a correlation coefficient closest to -1 ?



Exercise #6: There are two primary types of crude oil sold in the world, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent Crude. Each is priced differently on a daily basis and each has a correlation with the average price per gallon for unleaded gasoline. The two linear regression models, along with their r -values, are shown below. Give a prediction for the price per gallon of unleaded gasoline, y , on a day when the price for WTI is \$103 and the price for Brent is \$109, x . Which model did you choose and why?

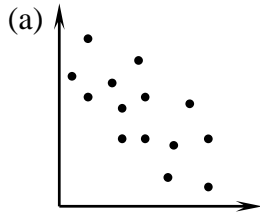
Brent Crude: $y = 0.028x + 0.71, r = 0.973$

WTI Crude: $y = 0.031x + 0.67, r = 0.924$



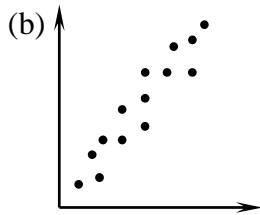
QUANTIFYING PREDICTABILITY
COMMON CORE ALGEBRA I HOMEWORK

1. Below there are six scatter plots, six correlation coefficients, and six terms. Match the appropriate r -value with the scatter plot it most likely corresponds to. Then match the term you think is most appropriate to the r -value as well (not to the graph).



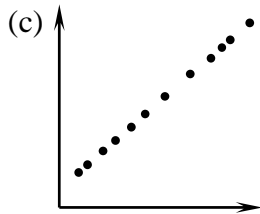
$r = 1.0$

Weak Negative



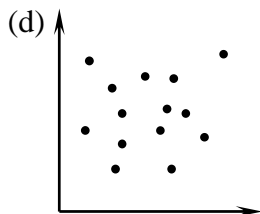
$r = 0.35$

Perfect Positive



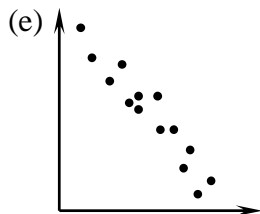
$r = -0.82$

Strong Positive



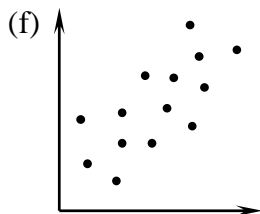
$r = 0$

Weak Positive



$r = -0.56$

Moderate Negative



$r = 0.93$

No Correlation

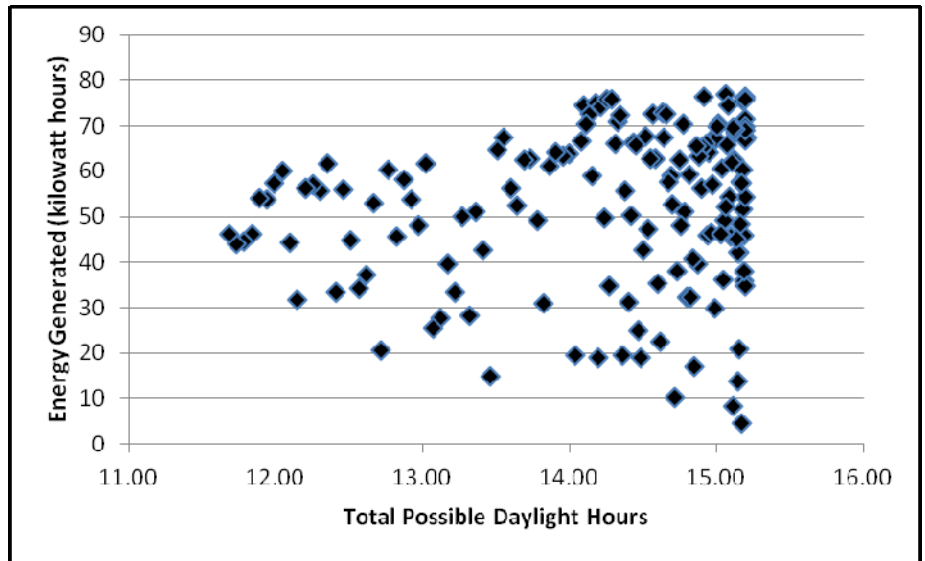


2. A solar power company is trying to correlate the total possible hours of daylight (simply the time from sunrise to sunset) on a given day to the production from solar panels on a residential unit. They created a scatter plot for one such unit over the span of five months. The scatter plot is shown below.

The equation line of best fit for this bivariate data set was:

$$y = 2.26x + 20.01.$$

- (a) How many kilowatt hours would the model predict on a day that has 14 hours of possible daylight?



- (b) To the nearest tenth of an hour, how many hours of possible daylight would be needed to produce 50 kilowatt hours of energy?
- (c) The correlation coefficient for this regression was $r = 0.134$. Would you characterize this as strongly positive, moderately positive, or a weakly positive correlation? Explain.
- (d) Based on (c), do you have confidence in the model to accurately predict the energy production based on the total possible daylight hours? Explain.
- (e) What environmental factors might contribute to the “noise” in the data? Noise are factors that prevent the correlation from being perfect.

