# 3.2 - Scatter Plots and Correlation

A scatter plot is a graph that is made up of a set of points between two variables.

- They help us visualize trends in graphs
- They help us make inferences (conclusions) from our data

Scatter plots help us see if two variables are **correlated** - might have some sort of relationship. The correlation could be...



**Example 1:** Determine whether the scatter plots below show a positive, negative or null correlation.



**Example 2:** Describe the following as positive, negative or no correlation.

a) The amount of popcorn left in a bowl and the time into the movie.

b) The size of your hand and the number of rings you own

1

c) The outside temperature and the number of people swimming

Positive

We can also describe the **strength** of the correlation as weak, strong or perfect. The closer the points are to following a line **(linear)** or another pattern **(non-linear)**, the stronger the correlation.

**Example 3:** Using the word bank below, describe the correlations for each of the following scatter plots.



#### [weak, strong, perfect, positive, negative, linear, non-linear]

## **Variables**



### Using a Graph to Make Predictions:

**Line of Best Fit:** a line that best fits the data. Can be used for predciting trends in your scatter plot.

**Interpolation:** If you predict a value that is in <u>between</u> points on your scatter plot.

Extending outside the data

Extrapolation: If you predict a value that is beyond the points on your





LoBF by Hand: Same number of points above & below the line spread across entire line

**Example 5:** Draw a Line of Best Fit (LoBF) for this data and answer the questions that follow.

a) What were the sales when the temperature was 21°C? Did you interpolate or extrapolate to find your answer? About \$480





b) What will the sales be when the temperature is 26°C? Did you interpolate or extrapolate to find your answer? About  $\frac{1}{2}670$ 

Extrapolation Since it was past our last data pt.

c) What temperature would result in sales of \$500? Did you interpolate or extrapolate



An outlier: a point that doesn't follow the same trend as the other points.

- Sometimes it is caused by a measurement error.
- It can "distort" the trend/line of best fit.
- Removing the outlier can result in a Line of Best Fit that more accurately reflects the trend of the data.



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**Example 6:** Simon is investigating to see if there is a relationship between a person's height (in cm) and the length of their foot (in cm). They recorded the data in the table below.



c) Describe the correlation between foot length and height.

Strong, positive, linear

d) Estimate the height of someone who has a 24cm foot. Did you use **interpolation** or **extrapolation**?

~ ISS CM

e) Estimate the foot length of someone who is 200cm tall. Did you use **interpolation** of **extrapolation**?

~ 31.5cm

Yes

f) Is there an outlier? Should it be removed?

Yes, because without it there is a strong correlation.