Introduction to Psychology 313

James H. Steiger

Department of Psychology and Human Development Vanderbilt University

Psychology 313 Introduction

- Introduction What's It All About?
- Questions of Causality
- The Course Website
- What Will You Need?

What's it About?

Relationships

What's it About?

• (Bi-variate) Relationships

(HOW are two variables related?)

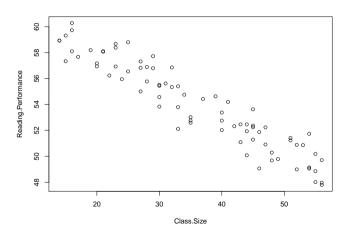
What's it About?

• (Multi-variate) Relationships

(HOW are several variables related?)

A Bivariate Relationship

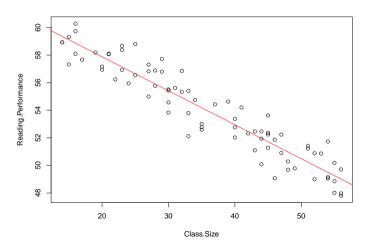
Class Size vs. Reading Performance



What is the relationship?

Begin with a Model

A Straight Line Model?



Is the model Perfect?

$$Data = Model + Error$$

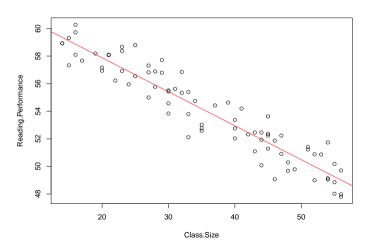
What do you GAIN from a MODEL?

What might the MODEL mean?



What do you GAIN from the ERROR?

A Straight Line Model?



What's it About?

Establishing Causality



What's it About?

Will making CLASS SIZES SMALLER...

...lead to...

BETTER READING PERFORMANCE?

The Course Website

- I have a personal website at http://www.statpower.net. All course materials are available at this website, including:
 - The Course Information Sheet
 - The Course Syllabus and Schedule of Activities
 - Lecture Slides
 - 4 Handouts
 - 6 Homework Problems
- Simply click on the *Psychology 313* link on the side of the opening page.

What Will You Need?

- The most important things you will need to take the course are:
 - The two textbooks
 - A computer (preferably a laptop)
 - An internet connection
 - Software installed on your computer
- We'll give you full details on all of these in handouts and videos on the website.