

Angle between Two lines of Regression.

Equation of the two lines of regression are $y - \bar{y} = b_{yx}(x - \bar{x})$ and $x - \bar{x} = b_{xy}(y - \bar{y})$

We have, $m_1 =$ slope of the line of regression of y on $x = b_{yx} = r \cdot \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x}$

$m_2 =$ Slope of line of regression of x on $y = \frac{1}{b_{xy}} = \frac{\sigma_y}{r \cdot \sigma_x}$

$$\therefore \tan \theta = \pm \frac{m_2 - m_1}{1 + m_1 m_2} = \pm \frac{\frac{\sigma_y}{r \sigma_x} - \frac{r \sigma_y}{\sigma_x}}{1 + \frac{r \sigma_y}{\sigma_x} \cdot \frac{\sigma_y}{r \sigma_x}} = \pm \frac{(\sigma_y - r^2 \sigma_y) \sigma_x}{r \sigma_x^2 + r \sigma_y^2} = \pm \frac{(1 - r^2) \sigma_x \sigma_y}{r(\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2)}$$

Here the positive sign gives the acute angle θ , because $r^2 \leq 1$ and σ_x, σ_y are positive.

$$\therefore \tan \theta = \frac{1 - r^2}{r} \cdot \frac{\sigma_x \sigma_y}{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2} \quad \dots(i)$$

Note: If $r = 0$, from (i) we conclude $\tan \theta = \infty$ or $\theta = \pi/2$ i.e., two regression lines are at right angles.

If $r = \pm 1$, $\tan \theta = 0$ i.e., $\theta = 0$, since θ is acute i.e., two regression lines coincide.