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Some thoughts on correlation and causation in the past and presence

Abstract

I shortly review what philosophers of science, Russel and K. Pearson, have thought of causality and how the invention of correlation due to Galton changed Pearson's thinking. Then I proceed to early causal inference of Wright and Haavelmo who developed the method of structural equations. After a short side track to potential outcome theory of Neyman and Rubin I end up with Pearl's theory of causality. Pearl's theory is illustrated through an empirical application.