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Subject: alcohol correlation...

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Tue, 28 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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I am sure someone else must have noticed this in the IDL 5.3 help file on "Correlation Analysis." Here is a quote:

"Although a high degree of correlation (a value close to +1 or -1) indicates a good mathematical fit to a linear model, its applied interpretation may be completely nonsensical. For example, there may be a high degree of correlation between the number of scientists using IDL to study atmospheric phenomena and the consumption of alcohol in Russia, but the two events are clearly unrelated."

While I am not Russian, I can claim that my alcohol consumption has increased since I began using IDL to study atmospheric phenomena 3 months ago... is there a possible correlation here after all?

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