The BEST-FIT Line

In real life the data you collect rarely fits exactly on a line. It is our job as mathematicians to find a BEST-FIT line that accurately represents the data. There is no single list of rules that will obtain the best line every time but the guidelines below will help you end up with a reasonably good fit.

1. The line should show the direction of the points. The smallest rectangle that contains the points shows the general direction of the line.

2. The line should divide the points equally. There should be about as many points above the as below the line.

3. As many points as possible should be on the line, but the previous two guidelines are more important.

4. The points above the line should not be concentrated at one end, nor should the points below the line.

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Scatterplots 1-2

I can create an appropriate scatterplot for the given data.

I can draw a line of best fit using the box method.

I can use a scatterplot to make predictions.