Data Handling Assignment #2: Partialling

Due: Tues., Feb. 24
Worth: 10 pts. (5% of your course grade)

Please type, double-spaced, your write-up, and hand in everything in hard copy. As always, attach your SPSS output WITH syntax showing.

1. From the Group Humor data set, select three variables appropriate to correlational analyses—one DV and two IVs. Examine the simple (zero-order) correlations between X1 and Y, and between X2 and Y. (You’ll need Analyze–> Correlate–> Bivariate.) Also run scatterplots for the two relationships. Comment on what you find.

For Scatterplots in SPSS 12.0:
Graphs–> Scatter–> Simple

For Scatterplots in SPSS 15.0:
Graphs–> Interactive–> Scatterplot, then Click the Fit tab and indicate Regression as the Method

2. Use partial correlation analysis to examine the (first-order) partial between X1 and Y controlling for X2, and between X2 and Y controlling for X1. (You’ll need Analyze–> Correlate–> Partial.) Discuss what you find with regard to partial redundancy, full redundancy, and/or suppression. What does this mean in terms of the variables you’ve chosen? That is, what have you found? Give some interpretation.

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NOTE: It is required that you adjust your scatterplots in two ways for this assignment:
1. Show how many cases occur at each point, and
2. Show the regression line of best fit.

In SPSS 12.0:
Double click on graph. . . In SPSS Chart Editor, double click on any data point. Select the Point Bins tab in the Properties window and then click (in order) Bins, Marker Size, Apply, and Close. Back in the Chart Editor, click Char–> Add Chart Element–> Fit Line at total. Then click Close in the Properties window and return to the Output view by closing out the Chart Editor window.

In SPSS v.15.0:
Double click on graph. . . In SPSS Chart Editor, double click on any data point. Select Jittering and click “Jitter all scale variables,” and pull bar up to about 3%. Apply and close out. The fit line will have been generated with the Fit tab, as described above.