

2.6 The Least-Squares Regression Line (Part 1)

A good regression line makes the residuals as small as possible so that the predicted values are close to the actual values. For this reason, statisticians prefer using the **least-squares regression line**.

Use the website (highschool.bfwpub.com/spa3e) to calculate the least-squares regression line.

Click on *Two Quantitative Variables*, and after entering your information, press *Begin Analysis* and then find the "Calculate Least-Squares Regression Line" to get your equation.

Example: The following table shows the foot length (in centimeters) and the height (in centimeters) for a random sample of six high school seniors. Use technology to calculate the least-squares regression line for predicting height from foot length.

| Foot length (cm) | Height (cm) | Foot length (cm) | Height (cm) |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| 23 | 167 | 28 | 163 |
| 32 | 188 | 28 | 185 |
| 22 | 150 | 23 | 155 |

$$\hat{y} = 82 + 3.308x$$