scatter plot
A way of visualizing the correlation of random variables by plotting the values of one variable as dots offset from the $x$-axis and the other one as dots offset from the $y$-axis. See figure SCP. 

![Figure SCP: scatter plots; left: correlated variables (correlation coefficient: $r = 0.59$); right: very weakly correlated variables (coefficient: $r = -0.0043$); dotted line = regression line](image)

When the scatter plot shows some shape, like a diagonal line, a skewed triangle, or a parabola, there usually is more than a weak correlation. When the data points appear to be scattered randomly, the correlation is so weak that the variables can be assumed to be uncorrelated.

When drawing a regression line through a scatter plot, a horizontal line will indicate a weak correlation or no correlation at all, a line with an ascending slope indicates correlation, and a descending slope indicates anticorrelation.