

# Base Graphics

Base graphics are used most commonly and are a very powerful system for creating 2-D graphics.

- There are two *phases* to creating a base plot
  - Initializing a new plot
  - Annotating (adding to) an existing plot
- Calling `plot(x, y)` or `hist(x)` will launch a graphics device (if one is not already open) and draw a new plot on the device
- If the arguments to `plot` are not of some special class, then the *default* method for `plot` is called; this function has *many* arguments, letting you set the title, x axis label, y axis label, etc.
- The base graphics system has *many* parameters that can be set and tweaked; these parameters are documented in `?par`; it wouldn't hurt to try to memorize this help page!