CB2-101: R introduction

Malay (malay@uab.edu) November 7, 2016

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1 History of R

R is the *lingua franca* of statistical software. It is a dialect of S, a computer language developed by John Chambers in 1976 at Bell Labs. In 1988, the system was rewritten in C. The software changed hand frequently, until in 1993, R appeared in the scene. It was a *free* implementation of S, written by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

2 Starting R

If you're in command-line environment you can start R by typing the command R. In our example will will use a far nicer environment called RStudio. It is available from: https://www.rstudio.com/.

3 R environment

- 1. getwd() Get the current directory
- 2. setwd() Set the current directory
- 3. ls() Lists the objects created.
- 4. rm() Will remove objects.
- 5. list.files() or dir() List the files in the current directory
- 6. source() Reads a R file

3.1 Exercise

Create a file called source_test.R to have the following code.

```
myfunction <- function () {
    x <- rnorm(100)
    mean(x)
}</pre>
```

myfunction()

[1] 0.1151949

Type source("source_test.R") in the R console. Type ls(), you'll see the object myfunction has been created in the workspace. You can also run the script from the command line.

Rscript source test.R

[1] 0.1298947

4 Getting help

- 1. CRAN The Comprehensive R Archive Network (http://cran.r-project.org/). About ~4000 packages and data available for use.
- 2. R website (http://www.r-project.org/) and FAQs (http://cran.r-project.org/doc/FAQ/R-FAQ.html)
- 3. R related projects are difficult to search using Google. Use R-specific search engine RSEEK (http://www.rseek.org/).
- 4. A very good guide to R is "R Inferno" (http://www.burns-stat.com/pages/Tutor/R inferno.pdf).
- 5. Hadley Wickham's "Advanced R" (http://adv-r.had.co.nz/).

4.1 Some useful online documentation

- 1. An introduction to R (http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-intro.pdf)
- 2. R Data Import/Export (http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-data.pdf)

A full list of such manuals can be found at http://cran.r-project.org/manuals.html.

4.2 Finding help inside R

- 1. help(object) will show the help page of any object including function in R.
- 2. ?object is same thing as above.
- 3. help.search("string") will search for a string pattern in all help files.
- 4. ??string is the same thing as above
- 5. help(package="packagename") will show the start help page of a package.

4.3 R for bioinformatics

- 1. **Bioconductor project http://www.bioconductor.org/** A set of R modules specifically meant for biological data analysis. Distributed separately from CRAN.
- 2. Some biological data related module in CRAN, such as ape, a phylogenetic analysis package. Or, seqinr, a basic sequence analysis package. A brief introduction to using R for bioinformatics can be found here.

5 Installing packages in R

install.packages('Packagename') will install any package in R. To use the package you need to use library('Packagename').

6 Assignment

Assignment operator in R is <-.

```
x<- 1:20
x
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
```

7 Basic data types in R

- 1. character
- 2. numeric All numbers in R are double precision real numbers. If you want an integer, you need to specify L suffix. 1 is numeric, but 1L is integer.
- 3. integer
- 4. complex
- 5. logical (True/False)

Undefined data in R is represented as either 'NaN' or 'NA' types. Infinity is represented as Inf.

8 R data structures

8.1 Vectors and List

- 1. A array like objects. Vector contains only one type of objects.
- 2. A list can contain various data types.
- 3. Empty vector can be created using vector() function.
- 4. Empty list can be created using list() function.
- 5. Properties are attributes(), class(), length().
- 6. Individual elements can be *concatenated* using c() function.
- 7. Can be converted to other data types using as.x() functions.

```
x <- 0:6
as.numeric(x)

## [1] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
as.logical(x)

## [1] FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE
as.character(x)

## [1] "0" "1" "2" "3" "4" "5" "6"
as.complex(x)

## [1] 0+0i 1+0i 2+0i 3+0i 4+0i 5+0i 6+0i</pre>
```

8.2 Matrix

Special type of vector with "dimension" attributes.

```
m<-matrix (nrow=2, ncol=3)
dim(m)</pre>
```

```
## [1] 2 3
attributes(m)
## $dim
## [1] 2 3
Matrix is constructed column-wise.
m<-matrix(1:6, nrow=2, ncol=3)</pre>
##
       [,1] [,2] [,3]
          1 3
## [1,]
## [2,]
m <- 1:10
dim(m) < -c(2,5)
        [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4] [,5]
## [1,]
                          7
          1 3
                    5
## [2,]
           2
                4
                     6
                          8
                              10
You can create matrix out of vectors using column-binding or row-binding:
x<- 1:3
y <- 10:12
cbind(x,y)
     х у
##
## [1,] 1 10
## [2,] 2 11
## [3,] 3 12
rbind(x,y)
     [,1] [,2] [,3]
## x 1 2 3
## y 10 11
                 12
```

8.3 Factor

Categorical data. Can be ordered or unordered.

```
x<- factor (c("yes", "yes", "no"))
```

Factors have levels:

```
table(x)
## x
## no yes
```

Factors are basically numerical data under the hood. Each string is given a number. We can view the underlying assignment using this:

```
unclass(x)
```

```
## [1] 2 2 1
```

```
## attr(,"levels")
## [1] "no" "yes"
```

Explicit ordering can be specified using levels arguments to factor. If we want to make no before yes:

```
x<- factor (c("yes", "no"), levels=c("Yes", "no"))</pre>
```

8.4 Missing values

Undefined values in R are represented by "NaN" and "NA". NA values can have class of numeric, integer, etc. NaN is also NA but the converse is not true. There are two functions to find NaN and NA is R:

```
is.na()
is.nan()

x<- c(1,2, NA, 10, 3)
is.na(x)

## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE
is.nan(x)

## [1] FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE

x<- c(1,2,NaN,NA,4)
is.na(x)

## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE
is.nan(x)</pre>
## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE
```

8.5 Data frames

Key data type in R. It stores tabular data. Column of a data frame can have different types of data, unlike matrix (same type). Special attributes row.names. To read use read.table() or read.csv(). Data frame can be converted to matrix data.matrix().

```
x <-data.frame (foo=1:4, bar=c(T,T,F,F))
X
##
     foo
           bar
## 1
       1 TRUE
       2 TRUE
## 2
## 3
       3 FALSE
       4 FALSE
## 4
nrow(x)
## [1] 4
ncol(x)
## [1] 2
```

8.5.1 Reading and writing data-frame

```
data(iris) # Read iris data sets
head(iris) # View the first few line of the iris data
     Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
                          3.5
## 1
              5.1
                                        1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 2
              4.9
                          3.0
                                        1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 3
              4.7
                          3.2
                                                    0.2 setosa
                                        1.3
## 4
              4.6
                           3.1
                                        1.5
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 5
              5.0
                          3.6
                                        1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 6
              5.4
                           3.9
                                        1.7
                                                    0.4 setosa
write.table(iris,"iris.txt",quote=F) # Write a sample file out
dir() # Check that we have written a file
## [1] "airquality.pdf" "Intro_to_R.pdf" "Intro_to_R.Rmd" "iris.txt"
## [5] "source_test.R"
test_data<-read.table("iris.txt", header=T) # read the data back into test_data
head(test_data) # Check the first few lines of the data
##
     Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1
              5.1
                          3.5
                                        1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 2
              4.9
                          3.0
                                        1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 3
              4.7
                           3.2
                                        1.3
                                                    0.2 setosa
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 4
              4.6
                           3.1
                                        1.5
## 5
              5.0
                           3.6
                                        1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
              5.4
                          3.9
                                                    0.4 setosa
## 6
                                        1.7
To read a data frame from a gzipped file:
d<-read.table(gzfile("myzipped.gz"))</pre>
```

9 Names

Each type of of data in R can have names. But they are most important for Matrix and Data-frames.

```
m<- matrix(1:4, nrow=2, ncol=2)</pre>
dimnames(m) <- list (c("a","b"), c("c","d"))</pre>
##
     c d
## a 1 3
## b 2 4
d < -data.frame(c(1,2,3),c(4,5,6))
d
     c.1..2..3. c.4..5..6.
##
## 1
                1
## 2
                2
                            5
                3
                            6
names(d)<- c("A","B")</pre>
```

10 Subsetting

Subsetting is a way to select a subset of data. There are 3 basic ways to subset data in R:

- 1. []
- 2. [[]]
- 3. \$

10.1 Subsetting vector

```
x<-c ("a","b", "c")
x[1]
## [1] "a"
x[2]
## [1] "b"
x[1:3]
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
x[-2]
## [1] "a" "c"
x[x > "a"]
## [1] "b" "c"

## [1] FALSE TRUE TRUE
x[u]
## [1] "b" "c"
```

10.2 Subsetting list

```
x <- list (foo=1:4, bar=0.6)
x[1]
## $foo
## [1] 1 2 3 4
x[[1]]
## [1] 1 2 3 4</pre>
```

```
x$bar
## [1] 0.6
x["bar"]
## [1] 0.6
x["bar"]
## $bar
## [1] 0.6
```

10.3 Removing missing values

```
x <- c(1,2, NA, 4, NA, 5)
bad <- is.na(x)
x[!bad]
## [1] 1 2 4 5</pre>
```

10.4 Matrix subsetting

```
x<- matrix (1:6, 2, 3) # Create a sample 2x3 matrix
x # print the matrix out
##
        [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,]
                3
## [2,]
           2
x[1,2] # what is the value in row 1, column 2
## [1] 3
x[2,1] # what is the value in row 2, column 1
## [1] 2
We can select the whole row or columns:
x[1,] # select whole row 1
## [1] 1 3 5
x[,2] # select whole column 2
## [1] 3 4
```

10.5 Subsetting data-frame

All the operations of matrix also work with data-frame. However, you will more often use \$ to extract individual columns of a data-frame.

```
x<-data.frame(c(1:3),c(4:6)) # create a small data frame
names(x)<-c("A","B") # Give each column a nice name
x</pre>
```

```
## A B
## 1 1 4
## 2 2 5
## 3 3 6

x$A # Extract the column A
## [1] 1 2 3
```

11 Vectorized operations

Instead of using loops, you should all the time try to use "vectorized" operations. That means if you are interested in operations performed on each element of a "collection", you should use the collection as a whole, not individual elements. This gives the computer to parallelize the operation and usually results in faster runtime.

```
x<-1:4; y<-6:9
x+y

## [1] 7 9 11 13
x-y

## [1] -5 -5 -5 -5
x*y

## [1] 6 14 24 36
x/y</pre>
```

```
## [1] 0.1666667 0.2857143 0.3750000 0.4444444
```

When you multiply two matrices using the "*", it multiplies element by element multiplications. This is different that standard matrix multiplication. If you are interested standard matrix multiplication, use "%*%" operator.

```
m1<-matrix(1:4,2,2)
m1
##
         [,1] [,2]
## [1,]
            1
## [2,]
m1*m1
         [,1] [,2]
## [1,]
            1
## [2,]
                16
m1 %*% m1
         [,1] [,2]
## [1,]
            7
                15
## [2,]
           10
                22
```

12 Some programming concepts in R

12.1 Functions

```
myfunction<-function() {
    cat("Hello world\n");
}</pre>
```

12.2 For loop and if condition

```
for (i in 1:3) {
    if (i > 1) {
        cat("I said hello", i, "times\n")
    }else {
        cat("I said hello", i, "time\n")
    }
}

## I said hello 1 time
## I said hello 2 times
## I said hello 3 times
```

13 Summary statistics

```
x < -rnorm(50)
mean(x)
## [1] 0.07559275
sd(x)
## [1] 1.11394
var(x)
## [1] 1.240863
median(x)
## [1] -0.1834748
sum(x)
## [1] 3.779637
You need to skip NA for doing summary statistics:
data(airquality)
mean(airquality$0zone)
## [1] NA
mean(airquality$0zone,na.rm=T)
## [1] 42.12931
```

summary() will give you a nice summary of data:

summary(airquality)

```
##
        Ozone
                          Solar.R
                                              Wind
                                                                Temp
                                                : 1.700
##
    Min.
           : 1.00
                      Min.
                              : 7.0
                                        Min.
                                                          Min.
                                                                  :56.00
##
    1st Qu.: 18.00
                       1st Qu.:115.8
                                        1st Qu.: 7.400
                                                           1st Qu.:72.00
##
    Median : 31.50
                      Median :205.0
                                        Median : 9.700
                                                          Median :79.00
##
    Mean
            : 42.13
                      Mean
                              :185.9
                                        Mean
                                                : 9.958
                                                           Mean
                                                                  :77.88
                                                           3rd Qu.:85.00
##
    3rd Qu.: 63.25
                       3rd Qu.:258.8
                                        3rd Qu.:11.500
##
    Max.
            :168.00
                      Max.
                              :334.0
                                        Max.
                                                :20.700
                                                           Max.
                                                                  :97.00
            :37
##
    NA's
                      NA's
                              :7
##
        Month
                           Day
##
    Min.
            :5.000
                             : 1.0
                     \mathtt{Min}.
##
    1st Qu.:6.000
                     1st Qu.: 8.0
##
    Median :7.000
                     Median:16.0
   Mean
            :6.993
                     Mean
                             :15.8
##
    3rd Qu.:8.000
                     3rd Qu.:23.0
##
    Max.
            :9.000
                     Max.
                             :31.0
##
```

14 Random numbers

We can generate random numbers from the normal distribution using rnorm() function.

```
x<- rnorm(10)

x

## [1] -0.6749130 -0.4569832 0.7927797 0.7530320 -0.5574371 -0.9468041

## [7] -1.5347621 -0.2568266 -0.2316516 2.4223756
```

If we are interested in generating random numbers using a particular mean and standard deviation, we should you this:

```
x<-rnorm(10, mean=5, sd=2)
x
## [1] 4.535727 3.895807 5.604022 4.949604 4.515961 4.033741 6.559642
```

[8] 7.502815 3.198598 5.894565
In R, you can sample other distributions, I will leave it up to you to explore.

15 Plotting in R

There are 3 graphical libraries in R:

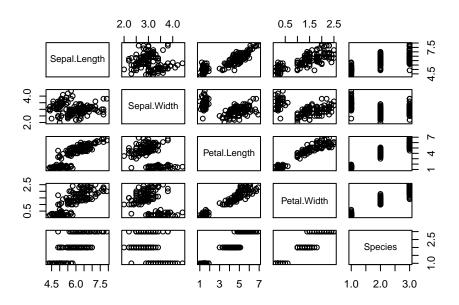
- 1. Base graphics
- 2. Lattice
- 3. gglplot2()

In this tutorial we will discuss only base graphics.

15.1 Plot

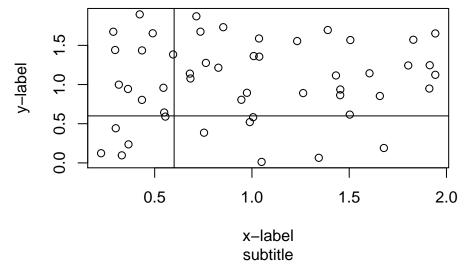
plot function is pretty intelligent. If you just give a dataframe, it will plot a graph with all vs all variables.

data(iris)
plot(iris)



```
x<-runif(50,0,2) # create a vector from uniform distribution
y<-runif (50,0,2) # create another one
plot(x,y, main="Main title",sub="subtitle",xlab="x-label", ylab="y-label")
abline(h=0.6,v=0.6)</pre>
```

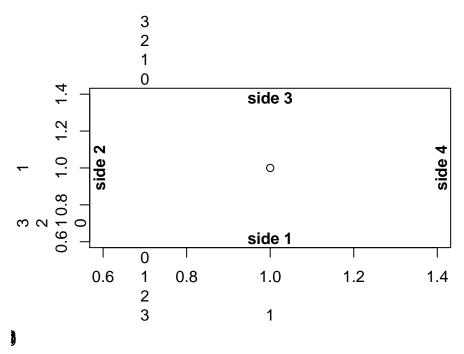
Main title



Each side of the plot

have specific margins.

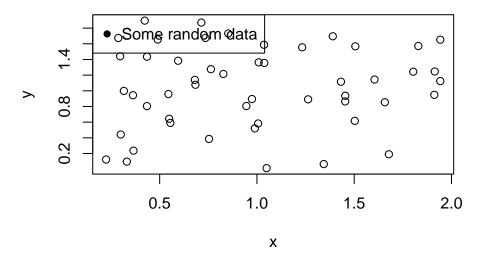
```
plot(1,1)
for (side in 0:3) mtext (0:3,side=side,at=0.7,line=0:3)
mtext(paste("side",1:4),side=1:4,line = -1, font=2)
```



15.1.1 Building a plot from pieces

```
plot (x, y, type="n", xlab="",ylab="", axes=F) # Draw an empty plot area
points(x,y) # Draw point
axis(1) # Draw the first axis
axis(2, at=seq(0.2,1.8,0.2)) # Draw second axis with tick at specific scale
box() # Draw the surrounding box
title(main="Main title",xlab="x",ylab="y") # Write the main title and the labels
legend("topleft",legend="Some random data",pch=16)
```

Main title



15.1.2 Plotting characters

pchShow() will show you all the plotting characters.

15.2 Drawing devices in R

Normally when you create a plot, it is drawn on the default computer screen. But you can create all sorts of images, such PDF (good for high resolution publication quality graphs), or bitmap images such as PNG. In all cases, the steps are identical. You open a device, draw your plot and close the device. For e.g., you can create a PDF drawing like this.

```
data(airquality)
pdf("airquality.pdf",width=8.5,height=11)
plot(airquality)
dev.off()
## pdf
```

15.3 par

##

par function controls every parameter of a plot. The function has several parameters. But the most common ones are as follows:

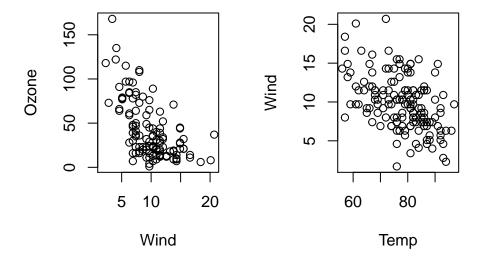
- 1. pch- point type used for plotting
- 2. lty Line type
- 3. lwd line width
- 4. cex character magnification. It has several variations for different regions of the plot.
- 5. las rotation of the axis labels
- 6. bg background color of the plot
- 7. mar margin of the plot

- 8. oma outer margin of the plot
- 9. mfrow draws multiple plots

15.4 Drawing multiplots

You can modify mfrow in par(). For e.g, to draw a 1 row two column plot,

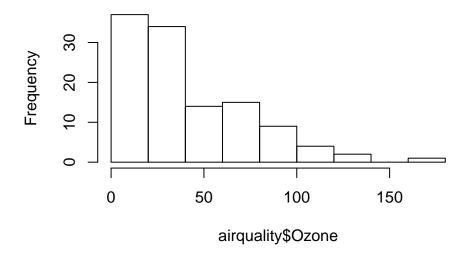
```
data(airquality)
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
with(airquality, {plot(Wind,Ozone);plot(Temp,Wind)})
```



15.5 Histograms

```
data("airquality")
hist(airquality$0zone)
```

Histogram of airquality\$Ozone

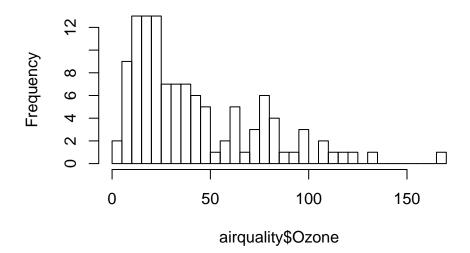


No of breaks in the his-

togram can be controlled:

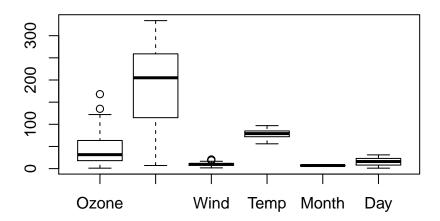
hist(airquality\$0zone, breaks=50)

Histogram of airquality\$Ozone



15.6 Boxplots

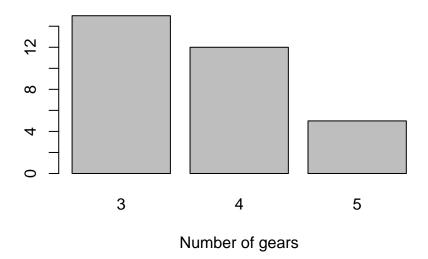
Boxplot is an summary plot showing the median and the distributions of data. You can give it a data frame. boxplot(airquality)



15.7 Barplots

```
data(mtcars)
head(mtcars)
                      mpg cyl disp hp drat
##
                                               wt qsec vs am gear carb
## Mazda RX4
                               160 110 3.90 2.620 16.46
                     21.0
## Mazda RX4 Wag
                            6 160 110 3.90 2.875 17.02
                     21.0
## Datsun 710
                     22.8
                              108 93 3.85 2.320 18.61
                                                                       1
## Hornet 4 Drive
                     21.4
                               258 110 3.08 3.215 19.44
                                                                       1
## Hornet Sportabout 18.7
                            8 360 175 3.15 3.440 17.02
                                                                       2
## Valiant
                     18.1
                            6 225 105 2.76 3.460 20.22
                                                                       1
counts<-table(mtcars$gear)</pre>
barplot(counts, main="Car number of gear distribution", xlab="Number of gears")
```

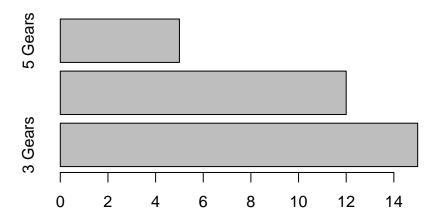
Car number of gear distribution



You can make a horizontal bar plot.

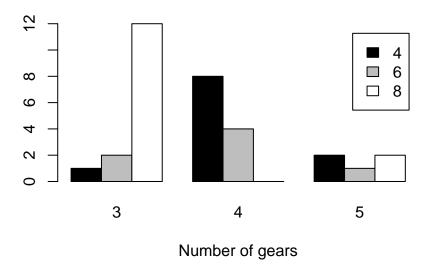
```
barplot(counts, main="Car distribution", horiz=T, names.arg=c("3 Gears", "4 Gears", "5 Gears"))
```

Car distribution



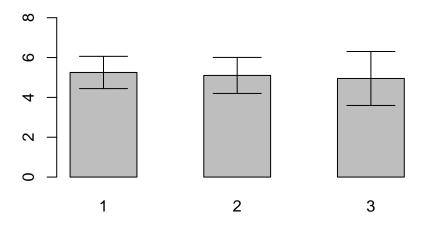
You can draw a grouped bar plot like this.

Gear and cylinder



15.8 Barplots with error bars

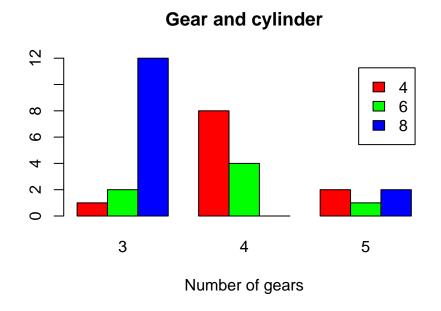
There is no inbuilt way to generate error bars in R. But we have to hack a solution. We will use arrows to generate error bars. The trick is arrows take an argument of angle. If you give angle=90 it will generate an error bar.



16 Colors in R

If you have drawn figures in Excel, you might have used colors like this

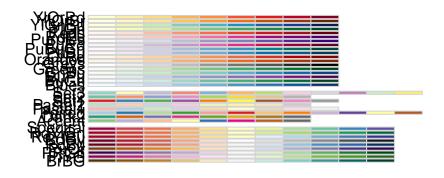
barplot(counts, main="Gear and cylinder", xlab="Number of gears", col=c("red", "green", "blue"), legend=ro



This is what I call

"Christmas" plot. You should never use color like this. In R you can use sophisticated color palette.

library(RColorBrewer)
display.brewer.all()

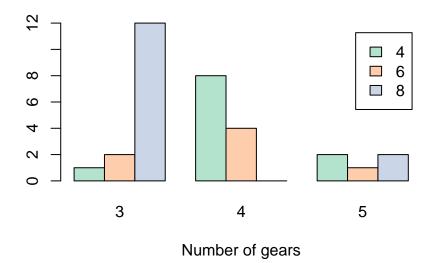


There are 3 palettes: se-

quential, quantitative, and contrasting. Now choose a nice color for our plot.

```
nice<-brewer.pal(3,"Pastel2")
barplot(counts, main="Gear and cylinder", xlab="Number of gears", col=nice,legend=rownames(counts),besi</pre>
```

Gear and cylinder



17 Linear regression and correlation

17.1 Linear regression

We will use the women datasets in R for this example. These is a simple datasets with "weight" and "height" of women in the US.

```
data(women)
head(women)
     height weight
## 1
          58
                115
## 2
          59
                117
## 3
                120
          60
                123
## 4
          61
## 5
          62
                126
```

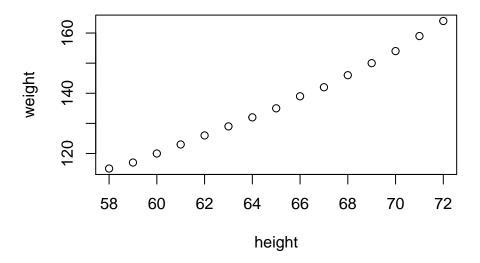
If we plot a simple scatterplot of this data, we will see there is an obvious correlation between this two variables.

```
plot(women)
```

63

129

6



Let's do a linear regres-

sion between this two variables.

```
1 <- lm(women$weight~women$height)
summary(1)</pre>
```

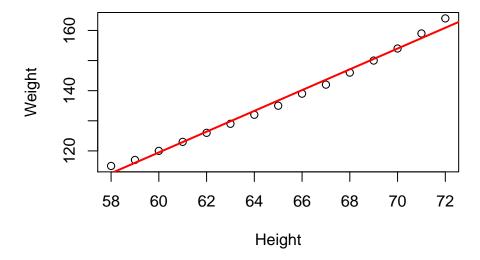
```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = women$weight ~ women$height)
##
## Residuals:
## Min 1Q Median 3Q Max
## -1.7333 -1.1333 -0.3833 0.7417 3.1167
```

```
##
## Coefficients:
##
                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) -87.51667
                            5.93694 -14.74 1.71e-09 ***
## women$height
                 3.45000
                            0.09114
                                      37.85 1.09e-14 ***
##
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 1.525 on 13 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.991, Adjusted R-squared: 0.9903
## F-statistic: 1433 on 1 and 13 DF, p-value: 1.091e-14
```

You can safely ignore the (Intercept) line. But the adjusted r^2 is 0.99 with P-value 1.1e-14, which is highly significant. Let's put the regression line on the plot.

```
plot(women$height,women$weight,main="Women height vs weight",xlab="Height",ylab="Weight")
abline(1,lwd=2,col="red")
```

Women height vs weight



You can extract the P-

value and the r² values for printing

```
s<-summary(1)
s$adj.r.squared

## [1] 0.9903183
s$coefficients[2,4]</pre>
```

17.2 Correlations

[1] 1.090973e-14

We can also do a correlation between this two variables

```
s<-cor.test(women$weight,women$height,alternatives="tow.sided")
s</pre>
```

```
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data: women$weight and women$height
## t = 37.855, df = 13, p-value = 1.091e-14
\#\# alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.9860970 0.9985447
## sample estimates:
##
        cor
## 0.9954948
s$p.value
## [1] 1.090973e-14
s$estimate
         cor
## 0.9954948
```