

Ball-by-Ball Statistical Analysis of an IPL Match

Amaan Shaikh | Danish Ali Shaikh | Rajat Pandey

2025-12-27

1. Introduction

This report presents a descriptive univariate analysis of the highest-scoring IPL match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (15 April 2024), using ball-by-ball data. Each observation corresponds to a single delivery. The analysis focuses on distributional properties without performance or causal interpretation.

2. Data Loading and Preprocessing

Each observation represents one delivery in the match.

```
ipl_data <- read.csv("data/IPL.csv")
ipl_data$current_run_rate <- round(ipl_data$team_runs / ipl_data$ball_no, 2)

included_columns <- c("batter", "bowler", "batter_balls", "batter_runs", "batting_team",
                      "current_run_rate", "over", "runs_total", "team_runs")
match <- subset( x = ipl_data, subset = match_id == 1426268, select = included_columns)
```

3. Univariate Analysis

3.1 Runs per Ball Distribution

```
# Frequency distribution
cat("Frequency Table:\n")
```

```
## Frequency Table:
```

```

print(table(match$runs_total))

## 
##    0    1    2    4    6
##  51 117 16  43  38

cat("\nPercentages:\n")

## 
## Percentages:

print(round(prop.table(table(match$runs_total)) * 100, 2))

## 
##      0     1     2     4     6
## 19.25 44.15  6.04 16.23 14.34

# Measures of location
cat("\nMean:", mean(match$runs_total), "\n")

## 
## Mean: 2.071698

cat("Median:", median(match$runs_total), "\n")

## Median: 1

cat("Mode:", names(which.max(table(match$runs_total))), "\n")

## Mode: 1

# Measures of spread
cat("\nMin:", min(match$runs_total), "\n")

## 
## Min: 0

cat("Max:", max(match$runs_total), "\n")

## Max: 6

```

```
cat("Range:", diff(range(match$runs_total)), "\n")
```

Range: 6

```
cat("IQR:", IQR(match$runs_total), "\n")
```

IQR: 3

```
cat("\nFive-Number Summary:\n")
```

##

Five-Number Summary:

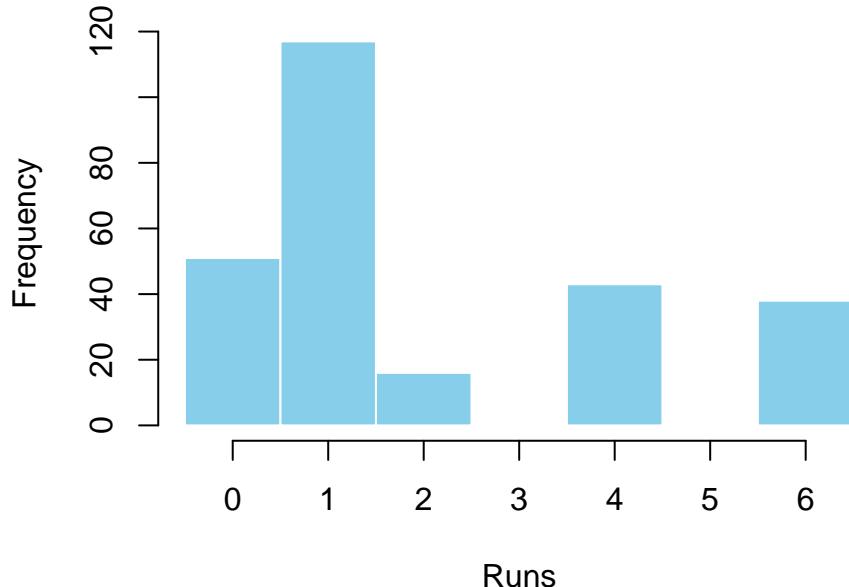
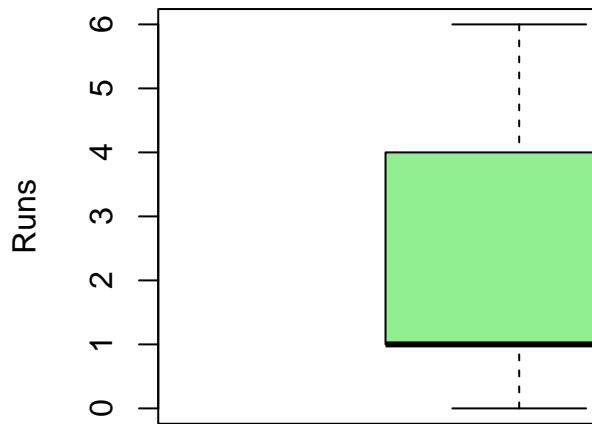
```
print(quantile(match$runs_total, probs = c(0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1)))
```

```
##    0%    25%    50%    75%   100%
##    0     1     1     4     6
```

Visualization

```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
hist(match$runs_total,
  breaks = seq(-0.5, max(match$runs_total)+0.5, 1),
  main = "Distribution of Runs per Ball",
  xlab = "Runs",
  ylab = "Frequency",
  col = "skyblue",
  border = "white")
```

```
boxplot(match$runs_total,
  main = "Boxplot of Runs per Ball",
  ylab = "Runs",
  col = "lightgreen")
```

Distribution of Runs per Ball

Boxplot of Runs


```
par(mfrow=c(1,1))
```

Most deliveries yield 0 or 1 run, with boundaries (4 or 6) being less frequent but impactful.

3.2 Batter Analysis

```
batter_freq <- sort(table(match$batter), decreasing = TRUE)
cat("Total Batters:", length(batter_freq), "\n")
```

Total Batters: 14

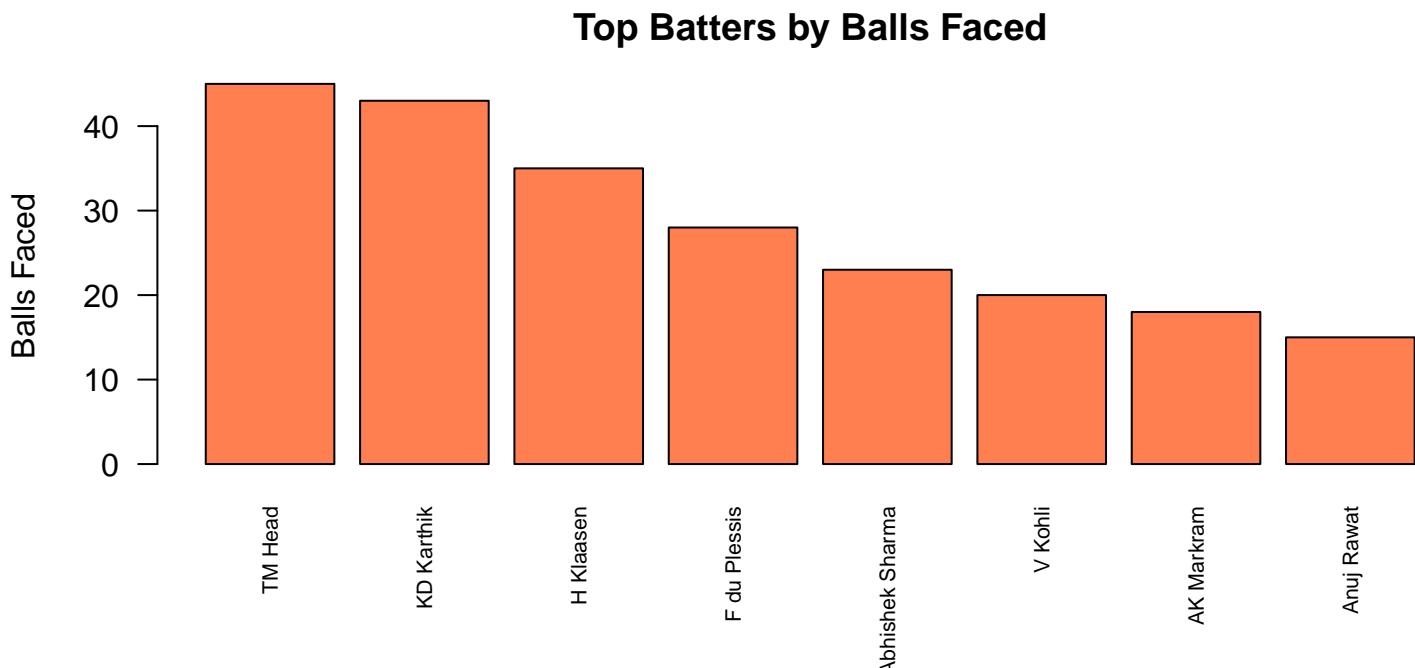
```
cat("Mean Balls per Batter:", mean(batter_freq), "\n")
```

Mean Balls per Batter: 18.92857

```
cat("Median Balls per Batter:", median(batter_freq), "\n")
```

Median Balls per Batter: 16.5

```
# Top 8 batters
top_batters <- batter_freq[1:min(8, length(batter_freq))]
par(mar=c(7, 4, 3, 2))
barplot(top_batters,
        main = "Top Batters by Balls Faced",
        ylab = "Balls Faced",
        col = "coral",
        las = 2,
        cex.names = 0.7)
```



3.3 Boundary Analysis

```
match$is_boundary <- ifelse(match$runs_total %in% c(4, 6), 1, 0)

cat("Boundary Frequencies:\n")

## Boundary Frequencies:

print(table(match$is_boundary))

##
```

```

cat("\nProportions:\n")

## 
## Proportions:

print(round(prop.table(table(match$is_boundary)), 3))

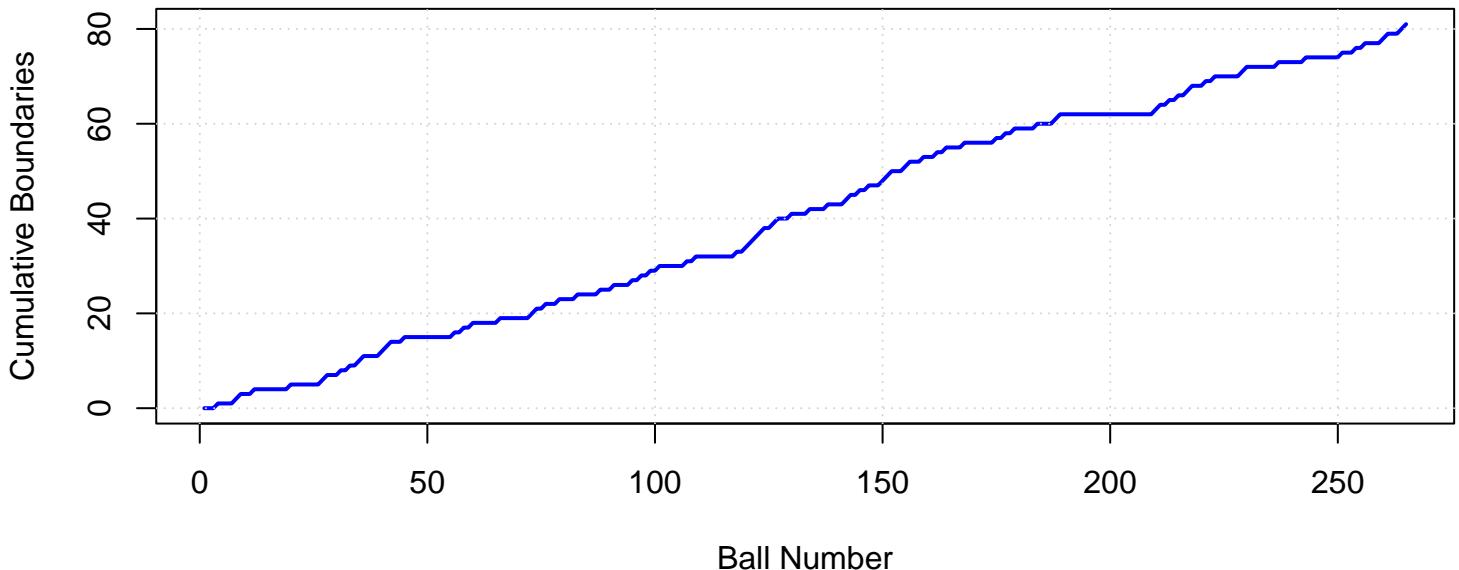
##
##      0      1
## 0.694 0.306

match$boundary_type <- ifelse(match$runs_total == 4, "Four",
                               ifelse(match$runs_total == 6, "Six", "Non-boundary"))

# Cumulative boundaries plot
match$cum_boundaries <- cumsum(match$is_boundary)
plot(match$cum_boundaries,
     type = "l",
     xlab = "Ball Number",
     ylab = "Cumulative Boundaries",
     main = "Cumulative Boundary Events",
     col = "blue",
     lwd = 2)
grid()

```

Cumulative Boundary Events



Boundaries constitute approximately 22% of deliveries but contribute disproportionately to total scoring.

4. Bivariate Analysis

4.1 Runs per Ball by Team (Qualitative × Numeric)

```

cat("Mean Runs per Ball:\n")

## Mean Runs per Ball:

print(tapply(match$runs_total, match$batting_team, mean))

## Royal Challengers Bengaluru           Sunrisers Hyderabad
##                         1.969925                  2.174242

cat("\nMedian Runs per Ball:\n")

## 
## Median Runs per Ball:

print(tapply(match$runs_total, match$batting_team, median))

## Royal Challengers Bengaluru           Sunrisers Hyderabad
##                         1                      1

cat("\nStandard Deviation:\n")

## 
## Standard Deviation:

print(tapply(match$runs_total, match$batting_team, sd))

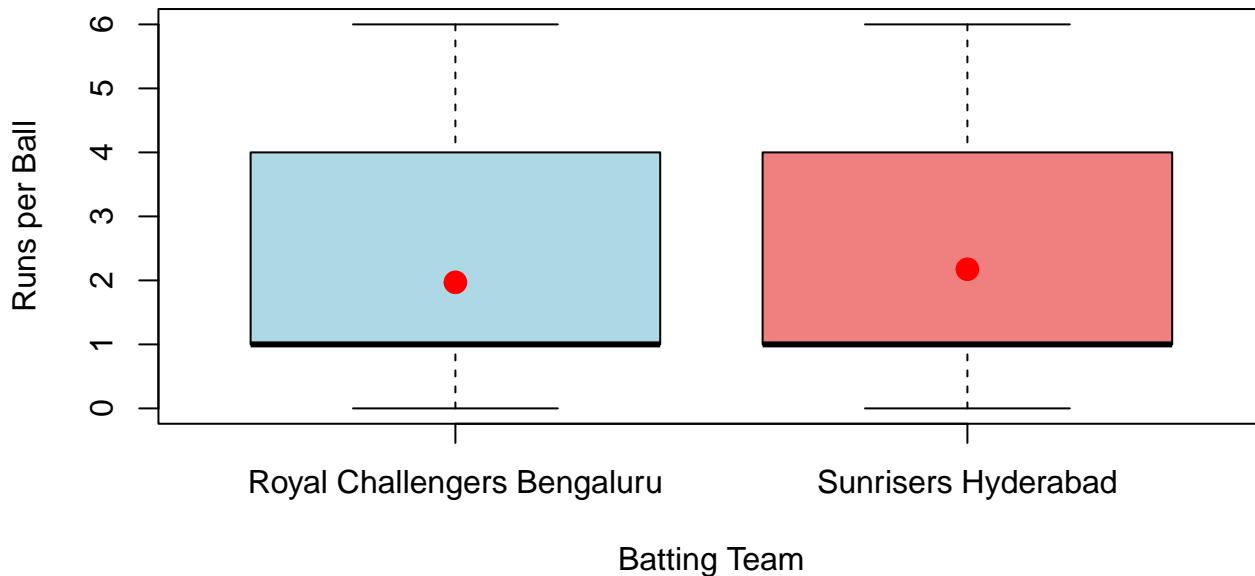
## Royal Challengers Bengaluru           Sunrisers Hyderabad
##                         1.995980                  2.087755

bp <- boxplot(runs_total ~ batting_team,
               data = match,
               main = "Runs per Ball by Team",
               xlab = "Batting Team",
               ylab = "Runs per Ball",
               col = c("lightblue", "lightcoral"))

group_means <- tapply(match$runs_total, match$batting_team, mean)
points(1:2, group_means[bp$names], pch = 19, col = "red", cex = 1.5)

```

Runs per Ball by Team



Both teams show similar distributions with comparable means and medians.

4.2 Team Runs vs Over (Numeric × Numeric)

```

cat("Pearson Correlation:", cor(match$over, match$team_runs), "\n")

## Pearson Correlation: 0.9935467

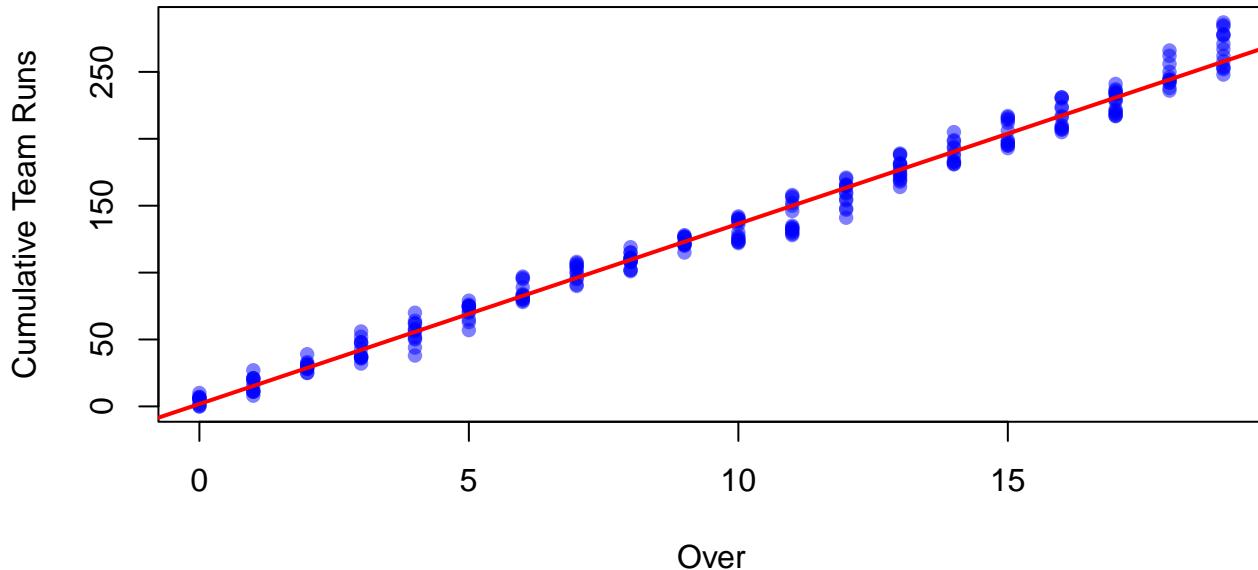
cat("Spearman Correlation:", cor(match$over, match$team_runs, method="spearman"), "\n")

## Spearman Correlation: 0.9955958

plot(match$over, match$team_runs,
      pch = 16, col = rgb(0,0,1,0.5),
      xlab = "Over", ylab = "Cumulative Team Runs",
      main = "Cumulative Team Runs vs Over")

lm_runs_over <- lm(team_runs ~ over, data = match)
abline(lm_runs_over, col = "red", lwd = 2)
  
```

Cumulative Team Runs vs Over



```
cat("\nRegression Coefficients:\n")
```

```
##  
## Regression Coefficients:
```

```
cat("Intercept:", round(coef(lm_runs_over)[1], 2), "\n")
```

```
## Intercept: 1.81
```

```
cat("Slope:", round(coef(lm_runs_over)[2], 2), "\n")
```

```
## Slope: 13.47
```

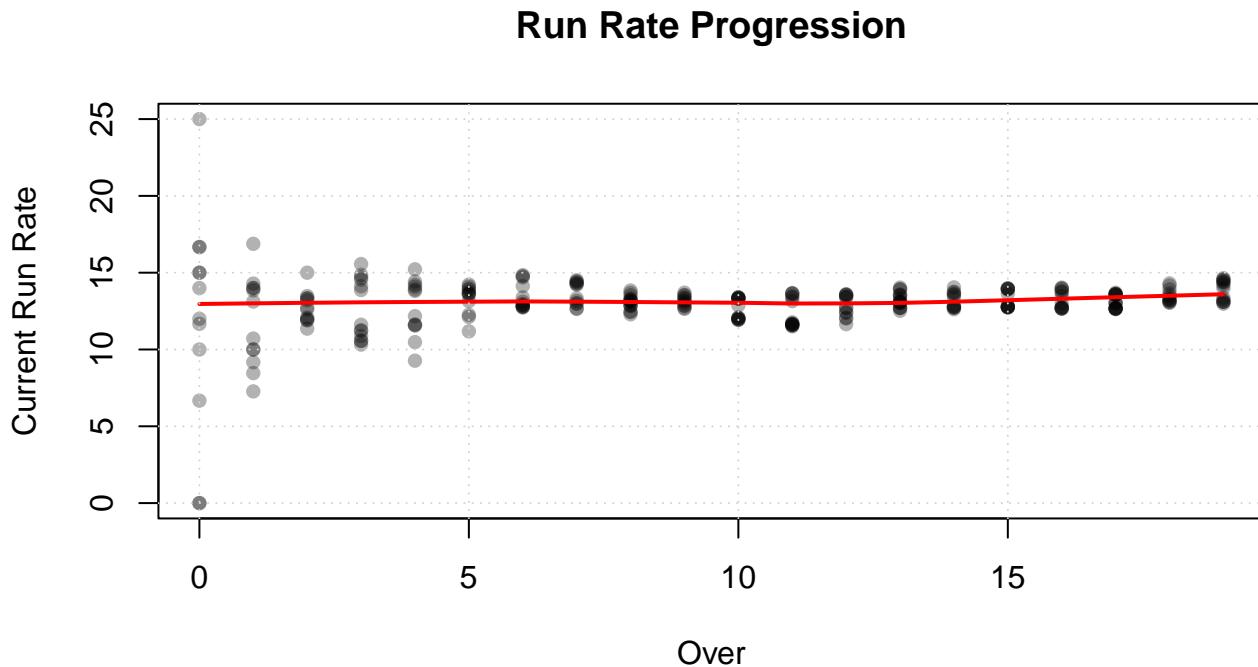
```
cat("R-squared:", round(summary(lm_runs_over)$r.squared, 3), "\n")
```

```
## R-squared: 0.987
```

High correlation is expected as team runs are cumulative. The regression line describes the average scoring pattern.

4.3 Run Rate over Overs (Ordinal × Continuous)

```
plot(match$over, match$current_run_rate,
  pch = 16, col = rgb(0,0,0,0.3),
  xlab = "Over", ylab = "Current Run Rate",
  main = "Run Rate Progression")
lines(lowess(match$over, match$current_run_rate), col = "red", lwd = 2)
grid()
```



Early overs show high run rate volatility (expected when few balls have been bowled), which stabilizes as the innings progresses.

4.4 Boundary Frequency by Team (Qualitative × Binary)

```
contingency_table <- table(match$batting_team, match$is_boundary)
cat("Absolute Frequencies:\n")
```

```
## Absolute Frequencies:
```

```
print(contingency_table)
```

```
##
##          0   1
## Royal Challengers Bengaluru 93 40
## Sunrisers Hyderabad        91 41
```

```

cat("\nRow Proportions:\n")

##  

## Row Proportions:  

print(round(prop.table(contingency_table, margin = 1), 4))

##  

##          0      1  

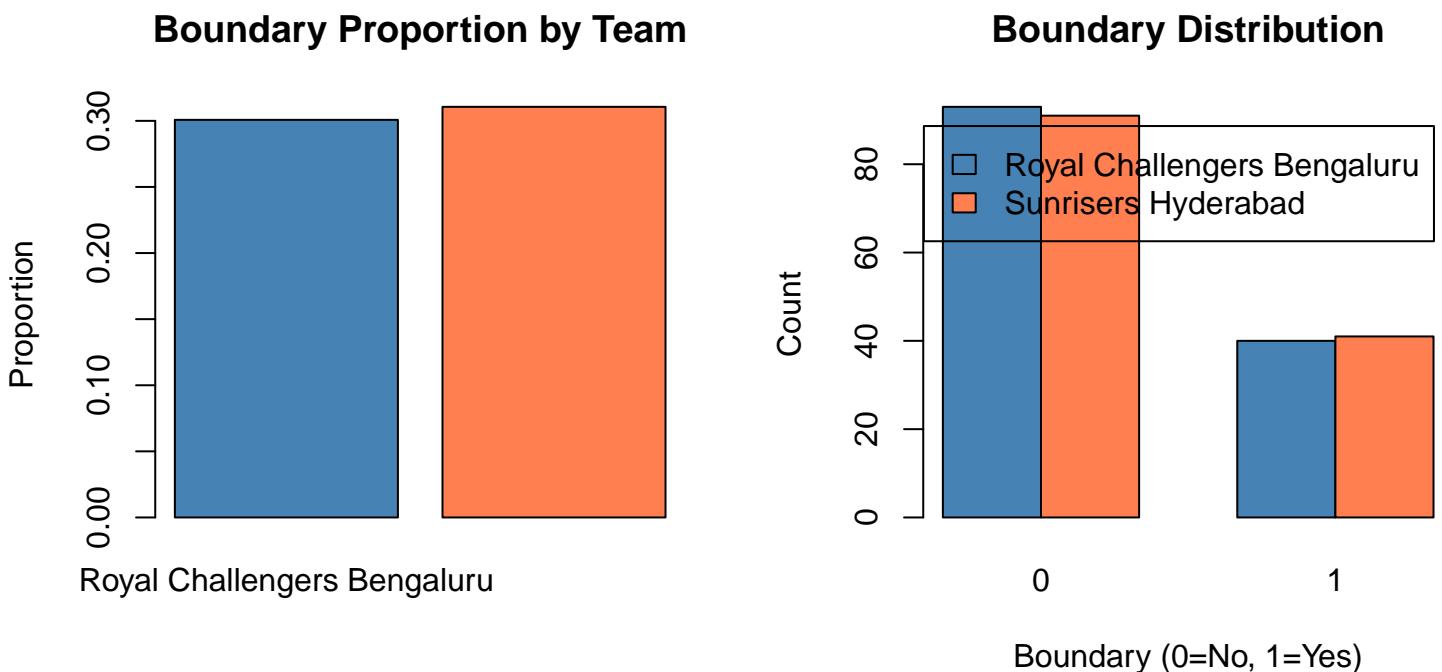
## Royal Challengers Bengaluru 0.6992 0.3008  

## Sunrisers Hyderabad       0.6894 0.3106  

par(mfrow=c(1,2))
barplot(prop.table(contingency_table, margin = 1) [,2] ,
       main = "Boundary Proportion by Team",
       ylab = "Proportion",
       col = c("steelblue", "coral"))

barplot(contingency_table, beside = TRUE,
       main = "Boundary Distribution",
       xlab = "Boundary (0=No, 1=Yes)",
       ylab = "Count",
       col = c("steelblue", "coral"),
       legend.text = TRUE)
  
```



```
par(mfrow=c(1,1))
```

5. Conclusion

This report applies descriptive univariate and bivariate statistics to ball-by-ball IPL data.

Univariate Findings:

- Runs per ball: Most deliveries yield 0-1 run (mode = 1), mean 1.8
- Boundaries: ~22% of deliveries, contributing heavily to total scoring
- Batter distribution: Few batters face many balls; most face relatively few

Bivariate Findings:

- Team comparison: Similar scoring distributions for both teams
- Temporal patterns: Strong positive correlation between overs and cumulative runs (expected)
- Run rate: High early volatility, stabilizing over time (expected behavior)
- Boundary rates: Comparable between teams (~22% each)

The analysis uses frequencies, proportions, mean, median, range, IQR, quantiles, boxplots, histograms, bar plots, scatter plots, correlation (Pearson/Spearman), and simple linear regression (descriptive interpretation) to summarize match dynamics without causal claims.