

AP Stats Notes

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using *The Practice of Statistics for the AP Exam: 6th Edition* by Starnes and Tabor

1 Data Analysis

1.1 What is Statistics?

Definition 1 (Statistics). The science of collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data.

Data is collected from *individuals* about certain *variables*.

Definition 2 (Individual, Variable). **Individuals** are objects described in a dataset. Typically people, but not always.

Variables are attributes that can take different values for different individuals.

For example, *individuals* may be households, and *variables* may be region, number of people, household income, etc. It's important to distinguish between *categorical* and *quantitative* variables:

Definition 3 (Categorical and Quantitative Variables). **Categorical Variables** are variables whose values can be placed into distinct categories.

Quantitative Variables are variables whose values are quantities, typically counts or measurements.

For example, region would be categorical, while household income would be quantitative. *Not all numbers are quantitative*; eg. zip code.

1.2 Analyzing Categorical Data

1.2.1 One-Variable Categorical Data

Definition 4 (Frequency and Relative Frequency Tables). **Frequency Tables** shows the number of individuals that have values of a certain category. **Relative Frequency Tables** shows the proportion or percent of individuals in each category.

Note (relative) frequencies are not data; they summarize data. Bar graphs and Pie Graphs summarize relative frequency tables.

Beware of misleading graphs; we mainly react to the area of each bar, not the actual height.

| | Like Skateboards | Do Not Like Skateboards | Totals |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Like Snowmobiles | 80 | 25 | 105 |
| Do not like Snowmobiles | 45 | 10 | 55 |
| Totals | 125 | 35 | 160 |

MathBits.com

Figure 1: An example two-way table with additional summary information.

1.2.2 Two-Variable Categorical Data

Use a two-way table to summarize data about two categorical variables. These tables can be used to answer questions about *marginal*, *joint*, and *conditional relative frequencies*.

Margial relative frequencies give the percent or proportion of individuals that have a given value for one categorical variable. For example, the marginal relative frequency of liking skateboards is $\frac{125}{160} \approx 78.125\%$.

Joint relative frequencies give the percent or proportion of individuals that have a specific value for both categorical variables. For example, the joint frequency of liking both skateboards and snowmobiles is $\frac{80}{160} = 50\%$.

Conditional relative frequencies give the percent or proportion of individuals that have a specific value for one categorical variable relative to other individuals with the same other categorical variable. For example, the conditional relative frequency of those who like snowmobiles out of all individuals that like skateboards is $\frac{80}{125} = 64\%$.

These frequencies can be summarized in *side by side bar graphs*, *segregated bar graphs*, or *mosaic plots*.

Graphs and these tables can be used to show **association** between two variables. There is association between two variables if knowing the value of one helps to predict the other. For example, knowing that an individual likes skateboards helps predict whether they like snowmobiles ($\frac{80}{125} = 64\%$ vs $\frac{25}{35} \approx 71.4\%$). **ASSOCIATION DOES NOT IMPLY CAUSATION!**

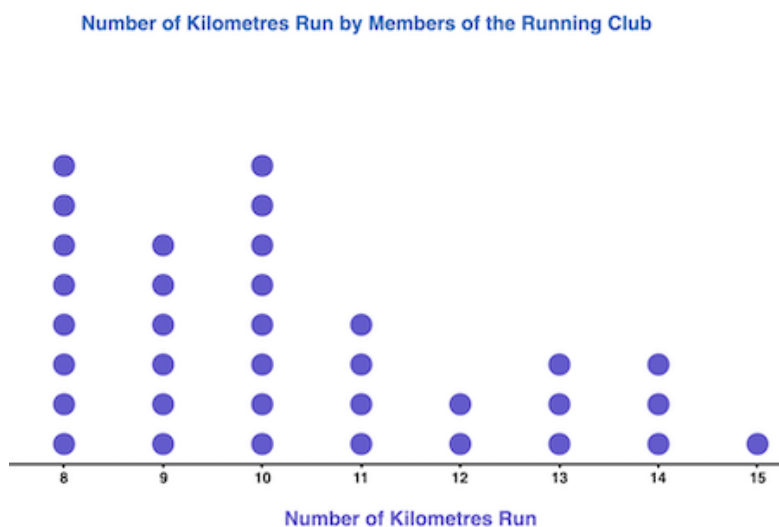


Figure 2: A dotplot showing the distribution of kilometers run by members of the running club.

1.3 Analyzing Quantative Data with Graphs

Dotplots (as shown above) show each individual as a dot above their quantitative data value.

When describing the shape of a dotplot (or other quantitative graphs), *focus on main features*: major peaks, clusters, or gaps. Especially note whether the distribution is roughly symmetric or skewed:

Definition 5 (Symmetric, Skewed). A distribution is roughly **symmetric** if the right side of the graph has roughly the same shape as the left side.

A distribution is **skewed to the right** if the right 'tail' has less values than the left; typically, the left has a peak whereas the right does not. **Left-skewed** definition are defined similarly to right-skewed distributions.

For example, the distribution of the number of kilometers run is right-skewed because the right 'tail' has less values.

Graphs with a single peak are considered *unimodal*, like the dotplot. Distributions with two peaks are considered *bimodal*, and beyond that is considered *multimodal*.

When describing a distribution of quantitative data, use the acronym ROCS: **R**ange (max - min), **O**utliers (clear departures from the data), **C**enter (mean or median), and **S**hape (symmetry, skew, gaps, peaks).

Leaf plots exist. Stem represents first few digits, leaf represents final digit.

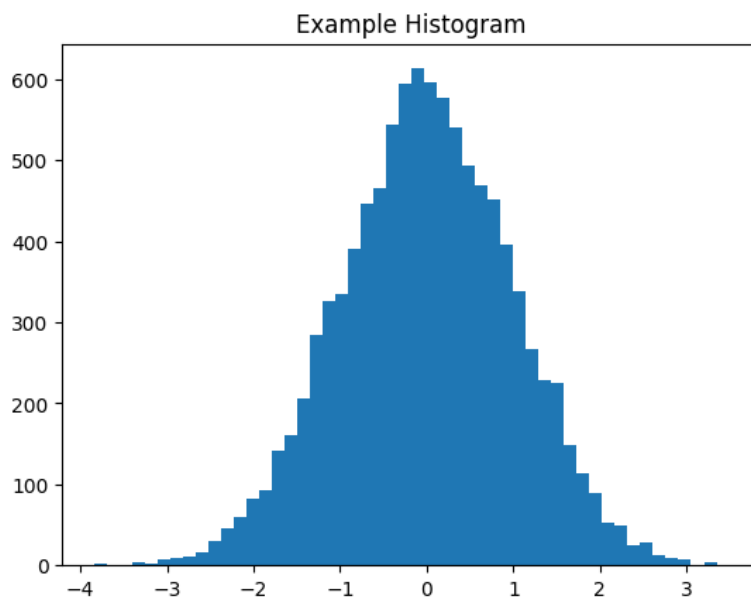


Figure 3: An example histogram with a normal distribution.

Histograms are a notable way of displaying quantative data, as they avoid showing individual data points. Histograms divide the variable into many 'bins' (bars), with the height representing the frequency. Smaller bins show more detail at the cost of a less clear pattern.

Don't confuse histograms and bar graphs. Histograms are used for quantative data, while bar graphs are used for qualatative data.

Use percentages when comapring to distributions in order to remove the effect of a larger sample.

1.4 Describing Quantative Data with Numbers

Definition 6 (Mean: \bar{x}, μ). The average of all individual data values. If there are n observations x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , the sample mean is calculated by

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}$$

The mean of a **sample** is referred to using \bar{x} , while the mean of a **population** is referred to using μ .

Statistics come from **samples** (small subset of population) and **parameters** come from **populations** (all possible samples of what's being tested).

The mean is not **resistant** as it is sensitive to strong outliers in a distribution. The median *is* a resistant measure of the center of the distribution.

Definition 7 (Median). The 'midpoint' of a distribution. Either the middle element (n is odd) or the average of the two middle elements (n is even) in a **SORTED** distribution.

Using both the mean and the median, one can predict the skew of the data. If a distribution is roughly symmetric without outliers, **the mean and median will be similar**. If a distribution is strongly skewed, **the mean will be pulled in the direction of the skew**. (Mean < Median for left-skewed, Mean > Median for right-skewed)

The **range** (max - min) is one way to show the variability of a distribution. Note that the range is *not* resistant.

Definition 8 (Standard Deviation). The **standard deviation** (s_x, σ) measures the 'average' distance of the values in a distribution from the mean. Standard deviation is calculated by

$$s_x = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$$

The squared stdev is known as **variance** (s_x^2, σ^2). Remember, s_x refers to a sample while σ refers to a population. Larger stdev indicates greater variation, but is not a resistant measure of variability. **Stdev measures variance around the mean; if the mean is skewed, so will stdev!**

The **Interquartile Range (IQR)** is another way to measure variance, using $IQR = Q_3 - Q_1$ where Q represents the quartiles. IQR can be thought of as the range of the 'middle half' of the distribution. *IQR is a resistant measure.*

Lower Outliers < $Q_1 - 1.5 \times IQR$ or High Outliers > $Q_3 + 1.5 \times IQR$

boxplots and the five-number summary = min, Q1, median, Q3, and max exist. **Boxplots don't show gaps, clusters, or multiple peaks.**

be careful with language- 'skews' is a shape, IQR and range are single numbers (no 'in the middle of the IQR')

2 Modelling Distributions

3 Two-Variable Data

4 Collecting Data

5 Probability

6 Random Variables and Distributions

7 Sampling Distributions

8 Confidence Intervals

9 Significance Tests

10 Estimating Means

11 Confidence with Means

12 Chi-Square Tests

13 Inference for Slopes and Tables