

Visualizing Frequency Distributions: Takeaways



by Dataquest Labs, Inc. - All rights reserved © 2020

Syntax

- Generating a bar plot for a frequency distribution table:

```
### Vertical bar plot ###
```

```
Series.value_counts().plot.bar()
```

```
### Horizontal bar plot ###
```

```
Series.value_counts().plot.barh()
```

- Generating a pie chart for a frequency distribution table:

```
### Using the defaults ###
```

```
Series.value_counts().plot.pie()
```

```
### Making the pie chart a circle and adding percentages labels ###
```

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
Series.value_counts().plot.pie(figsize = (6,6), autopct = '%.1f%%')
```

```
plt.ylabel('') # removes the label of the y-axis
```

- Generating a histogram for a `Series` :

```
Series.plot.hist()
```

Concepts

- To visualize frequency distributions for *nominal* and *ordinal* variables, we can use:
 - **Bar plots.**
 - **Pie charts.**
- To visualize frequency distributions for variables measured on an interval or ratio scale, we can use a **histogram**.
- Depending on the shape of the histogram, we can have:
 - **Skewed** distributions:
 - Left skewed (negatively skewed) — the tail of the histogram points to the left.
 - Right skewed (positively skewed) — the tail of the histogram points to the right.

- **Symmetrical** distributions:
 - **Normal** distributions — the values pile up in the middle and gradually decrease in frequency toward both ends of the histogram.
 - **Uniform** distributions — the values are distributed uniformly across the entire range of the distribution.

Resources

- [An introduction](#) to bar plots.
- [An introduction](#) to pie charts.
- [An introduction](#) to histograms.
- [An introduction](#) to skewed distributions.
- [More details](#) on the normal distribution.



Takeaways by Dataquest Labs, Inc. - All rights reserved © 2020