



R Tutorials

Stem and Leaf Plots on R

We will use the weight variable in the databank data set (which is given in **pounds**). We will construct a stem-and-leaf plot of the weight variable in **kilograms**. We first convert to kilograms by multiplying the weight in pounds by 0.4536:

- 1. Open the databank. RData workspace that you created in the introductory lab using File->Load Workspace (on a Mac: workspace > load workspace file).
- **2.** We first convert the weight column to kilograms:

```
weight < - databank $ weight
weight kg<-weight*0.4536
```

3. To display the stem-and-leaf plot, we use the stem.leaf function, which is part of the aplpack package. (Note: If the below command doesn't work, then it could be because you don't have the aplpack package installed. Go back to the introductory lab and install it.)

```
library("aplpack")
stem.leaf(weight kg,na.rm=T,trim.outliers=F)
1 | 2: represents 12
 leaf unit: 1
            n: 100
    1
          4* | 4
    8
          4. | 5888999
   21
          5* | 0000002333444
   36
          5. | 555667888899999
   45
          6* | 011444444
  (11)
          6. | 56777788889
   44
          7* | 00012233333344
   30
          7. | 555677889
         8* | 111233344
   21
          8. | 5666778
   12
          9* | 03
    5
          9. | 67
    3
         10* |
         10. | 6
    1
```

Note that stem.leaf has used the intervals 40-45, 45-50, 50-55, 55-60, etc. i.e., each stem has been separated into m = 2 parts. We have used the na.rm=T option so that NA's are removed from the data, and we have used the trim.outliers=F option so that R does not remove outliers when creating the stem and leaf plot.

4. If we want to use intervals of length 10, we have to split each stem into m = 1 part:

```
stem.leaf(weight kg,na.rm=T,trim.outliers=F,m=1)
1 | 2: represents 12
 leaf unit: 1
           n: 100
   8
         4 | 45888999
   36
          5 | 0000002333444555667888899999
  (20)
          6 | 01144444456777788889
   44
          7 | 00012233333344555677889
   21
          8 | 11123333445666778
    5
          9 | 0367
```

1 10 | 6

Explanation of Depths: The column of numbers at the left of the plot are called **depths.** The brackets around (20) mean two things. First of all, it means that there are 20 observations in that row, i.e., 20 observations between 60 and 70 (not including 70). Secondly, it means that the median is in that row, i.e., the median is somewhere between 60 and 70 (not including 70). The numbers **above** (20), i.e., 36 and 8 give the number of observations that are **less than or equal to** the numbers in that row. So, for example, the 36 means that there are 36 observations that are less than or equal to 59. i.e., there are a total of 36 observations in the **first two rows combined**. The numbers **below** (20), i.e., 44, 21, 5, and 1 give the number of observations that are **greater than or equal to** the numbers in that row. So, for example there are 44 observations that are greater than or equal to 70. i.e., there are a total of 44 observations in the **last four rows combined**.