Quantified Grad Student

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What I'm going to present

- Intro - why did I do this
- data collection - what kind of data did I gather
- analysis
- future directions - other questions?

Motivation

- entering grad school - how much time do I need to invest
- anecdotal: it will take all of your time

But, who am I?

Grad student in Plant Biology - Genomics (computational work), and local adaptation (field / greenhouse / lab work) - How do I compare to other Grad students? - I'm probably not very representative... but then what is a "normal" grad student?

Questions

- How much time do I invest in Grad School?
- how much time do I spend on campus?
- how much time am I working on grad school stuff?
- What percent of time that I am on campus am I actually getting work done?

Data Collection

Data collected - Time doing work - Time I'm on campus

Tools: - Android App: Gleeo - Google Spreadsheet on my phone

But how do I split my time up?

How many categories? - for a week, I tracked everything in a spreadsheet to get a sense of what I was doing - then, from that I tried to come up with categories to partition the tasks in the most meaningful way, with the least amount going into a “misc” bin - I’m still thinking about how best to partition my time, and am likely going to implement another scheme for the fall semester (starting September)

Tracked time breakdown

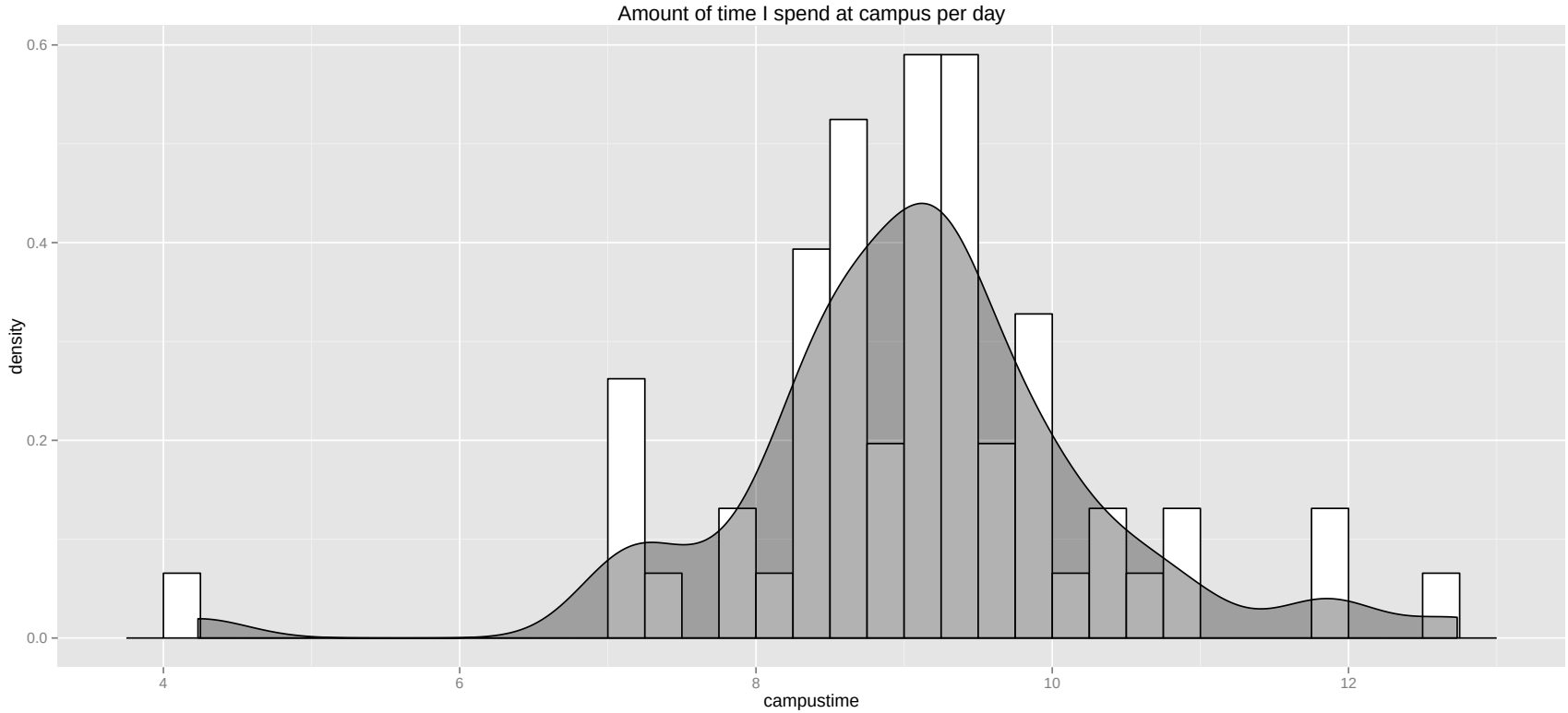
Tracked time as “Projects”, with task subset - general; checking email, misc stuff, and admin work - reading; reading articles and books - seminar; sitting in department / research seminars - meeting; meeting for projects, meeting with people about my thesis - service; aka outreach - hacking; doing fun stuff that benefits my grad school work (time tracking work, work on my website, tooling around in Linux) - planning; capturing everything that I need to do GTD-style, and putting it in my calendar

Categories, cont.

- funding; applying for funding, either for academic support, or research funding
- thesis; work towards my thesis – written prelims, oral exam, writing disseration, etc.
- MtHap; my RA work – genomics, also it pays the bills
- rhizpop; main thesis work, this involved field, greenhouse, and lab work
- TA; (in the future), TA prep, sitting in lecutre, and then office hours / student help

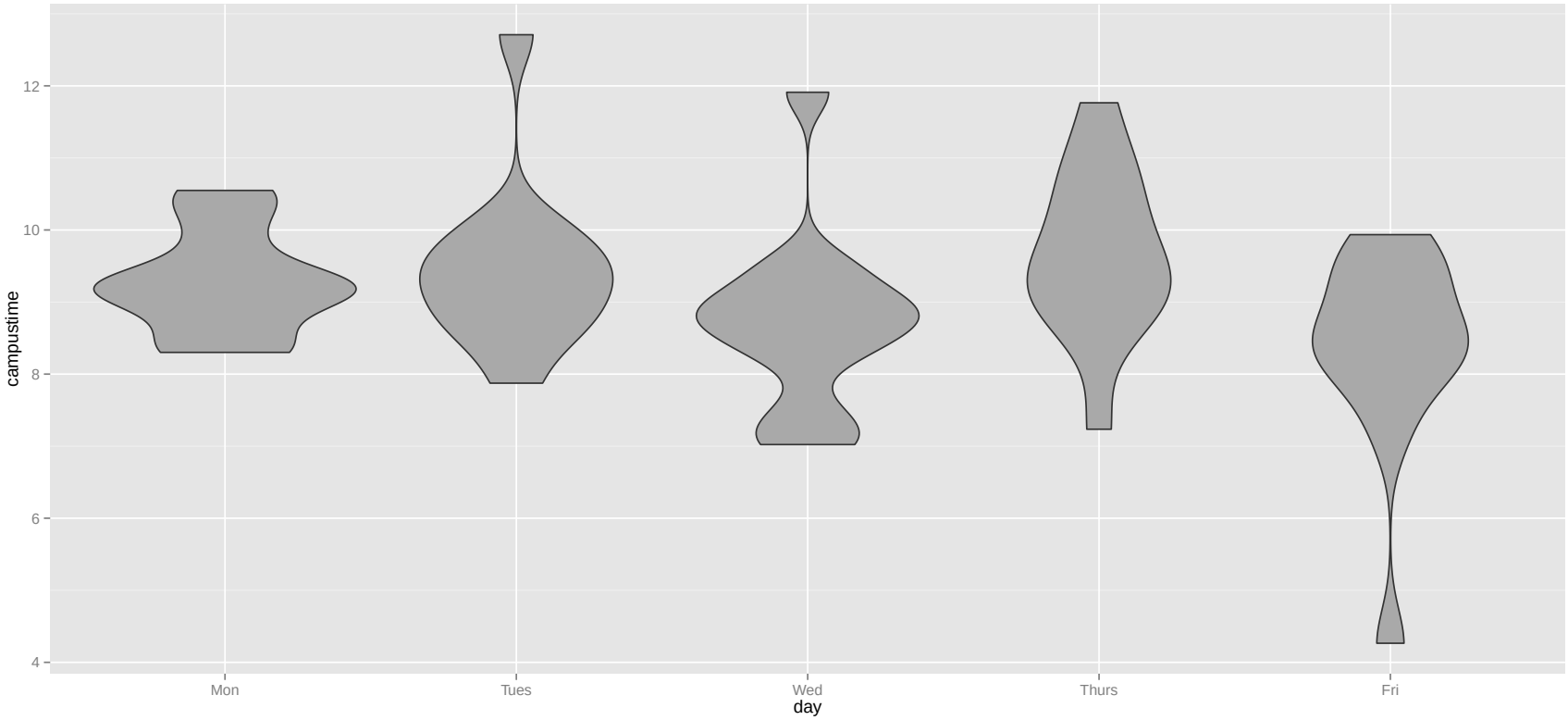
Analysis

How long am I at campus?

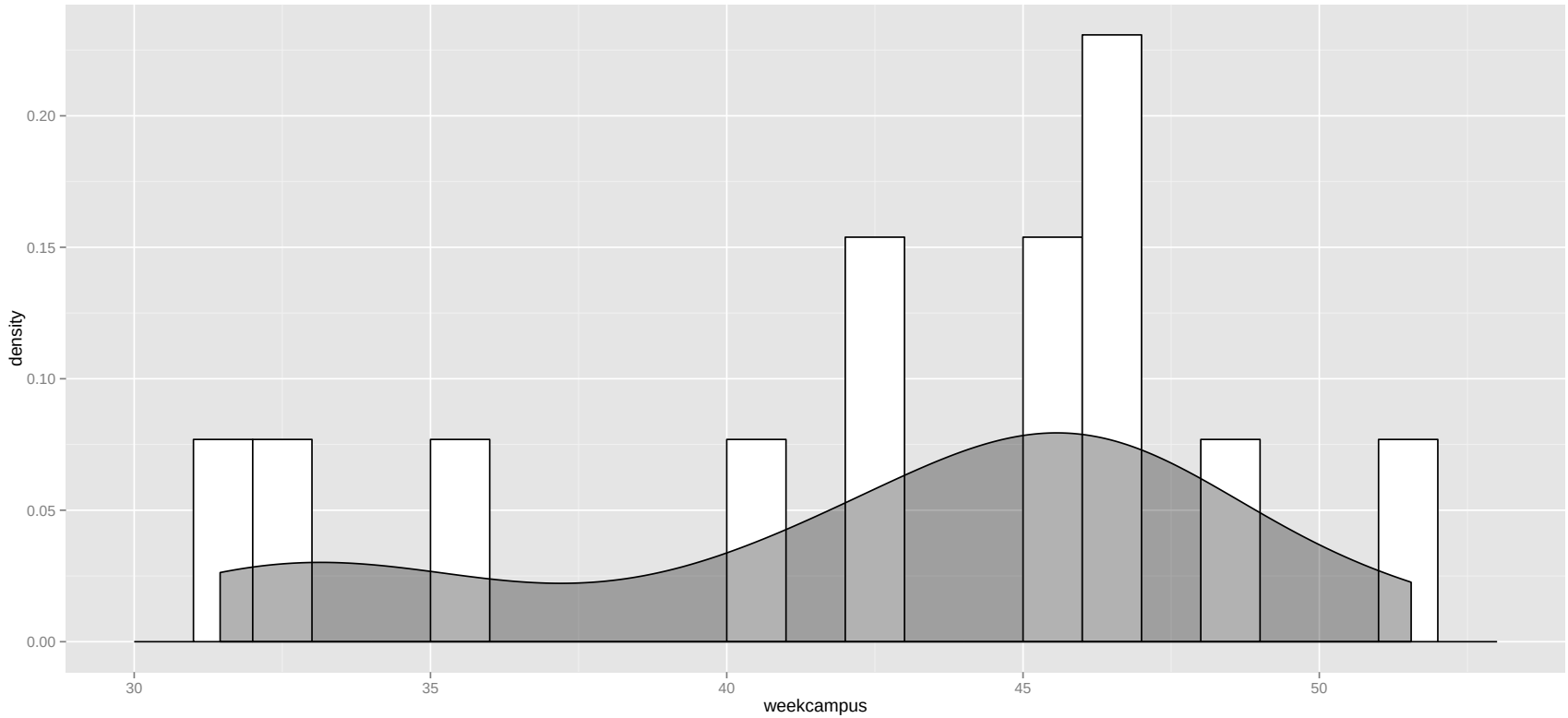



```
##   Min.   Mean   Max.
##   4.23   9.08 12.70
```

Grouped by weekday?



Week




```
## Min. Mean Max.
## 31.4 42.6 51.6
```

In Summary

I spend a mean of **9.08 hrs per day**, and **42.6 hrs per week** at campus

Day:

```
##  Min.  Mean  Max.
##  4.23  9.08 12.70
```

Week:

```
## Min. Mean Max.
## 31.4 42.6 51.6
```

Future work

More questions, more data – which are worth my time in pursuing? - Rescuetime seems easy to implement and yield more data on what I am doing when I am working on a computer - How much do I read? - time tracking data gets at this, but how many articles do I read? - I store my notes in markdown files, but this misses the ones that I read for my prelim (I read them, incorporated and cited them, without taking down notes)

- I want to get more "Deep Thought" time in (a la Cal Newport), what kind of metrics can I measure to view this
- what kind of metrics reflect success in Grad School?
- I've measured time in grad schol to get a sense of how much I am investing, but what can I measure to actually improve what I am doing?

Want more R?

TCRUG - Twin Cities R User Group meeting this Thursday, at 6:30pm on East Bank UMn