

Data Science for Social Scientists: An applied course using IPUMS data

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Preface

An applied methods class for social scientists that uses real-world IPUMS data. This course is:

Open-source and customizable - All materials available on Github

Made with open-source tools - R, RStudio, bookdown

Driven by ^(nearly) open-source data - Harmonized across time and space: IPUMS

What is IPUMS

IPUMS started as a project to digitize the historical records of the US census. It has expanded to include 9 data collections, which are united in their methods and principles of making social science research easier. IPUMS data consists of individual-level census and survey data from more than 100 countries around the world. Notably:

- IPUMS **harmonizes** these data ensuring consistently coded values across time and space.
- IPUMS provides harmonized GIS Shapefiles for most census and survey data.
- IPUMS provides extensive metadata, including:
 - Original questionnaire text.
 - Universe definition and comparability statements.
 - Alerts about notable changes in variable definition, universe, or coding schema

IPUMS data is free to use for education and research purposes. Researchers need only to register with an email address and brief project description. Nothing too formal - we're just trying to understand what kinds of questions researchers are interested in. For educators, we have additional resources to facilitate set up of classroom accounts - making it easy to get your students registered and share IPUMS data with them.

Why make this course

In a world where information and data are increasingly accessible, it is of utmost importance for individuals to understand data science and the interpretation of data. We believe that education should be easily accessible and teaching resources should be freely available to aid in this endeavor. While we (DEE) may be slightly biased, we think IPUMS is a fantastic resource for both **Education** and **Research**. Real-world example datasets provide the bulk of the content for this course, providing an applied context we hope students (and instructors) will find engaging. We also know many instructors may be teaching across multiple disciplines, in large departments, or be the only "data person" at their institution. We think IPUMS data is useful to virtually any social science field. We provide some example lessons, and encourage instructors to develop their own, using our lesson_template.Rmd to tailor this course to their subject or interest.

Getting Started

In order to use this textbook, you will need to:

- download and install RStudio
 - This link also contains instructions and links to download R from $CR\,\Delta N$
 - Be sure you download the appropriate file for your Mac or PC
- Register for an with IPUMS account. We provide **limited example data**, but in order take full advantage of these exercises:
 - IPUMS registration for individuals
 - IPUMS registration for instructors

Course Description

This course is broken down into 3, 5-week units. Unit 1 focuses on familiarizing yourself with R and the IPUMS dataset. In Unit 2, each week will showcase a method/analysis using preselected variables. In class, students will walk through a given problem set and produce a lab report by the end of class. In Unit 3, students will work towards answering a research question that they pose, creating a research paper with literature review, data analysis, conclusion, and data outputs.

Course Aims

Provide students with relevant, hands on, methodological training in data literacy and visualization.

Learning Outcomes

After this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the depth of the IPUMS database and the variables it has to offer
- Compose R code to analyze the IPUMS data
- Produce visually pleasing data outputs in R
- Synthesize the information in a written report
- Present the analysis in a poster format for other students

Guiding Principles

- Phenomenon-based learning
 - try to start the class with a **question** or **problem**
 - why does the data look the way it does
 - structure class so students work towards solving the problem

- Relevant examples
 - Drawn from multiple disciplines (eg, economics, demography)
 - Can be added as modular examples/exercises

Syllabus

Overview

This syllabus is initially envisioned as 3 5-week sections. However, compilation and content are intended to be modular with templates for instructors to include their own specialties.

The basic structure of this course is:

Unit 1 (Weeks 1-5): Understanding and Testing Data

- Students use simple datasets bundled with the course or provided by the instructor.
- Simplified data to illustrate trends.
 - EG: plotting continuous variable (AGE); Table of categorical variable (SEX); Crosstabs

Unit 2 (Weeks 6-10): Finding Data and Asking Questions

- Students begin to analyze real world, IPUMS, datasets, provided by course/instructor.
- Students begin to model real world phenomena
 - EG: SEX ~ EDUATTAIN ; SEX ~ EDATTAIN + EMPSTAT
- Students learn to perform exploratory analysis, hypothesis testing, and statistical inference.
- Students learn to navigate IPUMS website, and find relevant data to thier research interest.

Unit 3 (Weeks 11-15): Discussing Data and Student Research

- Students develop a research question to be answered with IPUMS data.
 - Students are encouraged to fit it to their interests/major/discipline.

- Course time should be devoted to individual/small-group research.
- Instructor/class present on recent research.
 - Instructor models constructive / scholarly criticism.
 - Encourage students to critique published work responsibly.

Detailed Syllabus

Unit 1 Understanding and Testing Data

Students become gain familiarity and comfortability navigating RStudio, coding in R and performing simple data manipulation and visualization exercises. Datasets in this section consist of real-world (or synthetic) data, but the focus is on understanding data types (EG: using Age as a continuous variable; sex, education, employment as categorical; etc). Instructors should acknowledge these as **educational** datasets and make explicit trends found within these data are devoid of context, and must be taken with a (rather large) grain of salt, if at all

By the end of Unit 1, students will be able to:

- Download R and RStudio
- Read data into R and
- Write (save) data out of R
- Summarize data visually
 - Using base R
 - Using ggplot (tidyverse)
- Summarize data in tables
 - Using base R
 - Using gttable / tidyverse
- Formally state and test assumptions of data
 - EG: t-test, anova, correlations, regression

By the end of Unit 1, students will understand

- Main types of data
 - EG: logical, numeric, character, etc
 - R specic vs general terms
- How to create and describe various data distributions
 - EG: normal, poisson, normal-skewed, etc
- Know which types statistical tests are appropriate for a given set of data.

- Week 1: Intro to R, data types, data structures
- Week 2: Plotting Data, Distributions
- Week 3: Statistical testing of simple data sets
- Week 4: Correlation and Relationships of simple data sets

Week 5: (TBD)

Unit 2 Finding Data and Asking Questions (Using IPUMS Data)

Here we demonstrate two **different** approaches to conducting research. Students become familiar writing up short lab reports detailing their findings. For Section ??, we/instructor provides students with simple datasets from IPUMS (or other real-world data). Students will learn exploratory data analysis techniques and how to create lab reports to summarize key findings.

For unit ??, students will learn to develop their own simple research questions or social-science hypotheses. They will seek out data to answer these questions, learning to navigate ipums.org, and create **data extracts**, as well as hypothesistesting statistical methods. Again, lab reports to summarize findings.

0.0.0.1 Week 6: Intro to IPUMS

Week 7: Exploratory analysis

If you've just collected a survey, or other raw data, you may not know what you're looking for. This is perfectly ok but goes against the scientific method most people learned in grade school.

This unit begins by presenting data/distributions and asking students to begin interpreting the data . visual exploration is encouraged and basic of data manipulation are taught *EG: how to subset data, how to reshape data, how to re-code data, how to convert from one data type to another.

Example lab exercise:

Students given a data set (xls, csv, etc) * load data, perform manipulations, basic summaries + cross tabs + group means by a covariate * inspect data visually + DESCRIBE the distribution - is it normal? significant? * FIND aquestion in the spread of the data + how can you test this (maybe small group work) * write up/ present results + think on confounding factors / biases

Week 8: Hypothesis Testing

If, on the other hand you have an a pre-existing idea you want to test. We can follow the traditional *scientific method*. With a question in mind, the first question is: where to look. What better place than IPUMS!

Begin introducing navigation of web resources - mainly IPUMS international

Students should become comfortable working through lab exercises: * Define a question (or be presented with one) * Download variables from IPUMS (course downloads possible) * Perform a basic analysis (discussed in Unit 1) * Generate a **visual argument** for your analysis + Include explanation/interpretation/reflection on the question at hand, and the data used + Any obvious biases + Any obvious confounding factors

Week 9: Statistical Inference

Week 10: (TBD)

Unit 3 Discussing Data and Student Research

Students will select their own research question that can be answered with the IPUMS data set and will spend five weeks conducting a research project complete with data analysis, visualization, and interpretation.

In this section we encourage the instructor to provide ample time for independent student/small-group research. Some class time should be devoted to modeling healthy discussion and critique of methods. Students should learn to discuss not just *how* to answer a research question but *why* they are asking/answering it. What impact does the question/answers have. Is the question releveant/meaningful, and importantly, Is this research question perpetuating racist ideas.

We provide some examples here but encourage instructors (or students) to bring in recent journal/popular articles that do (or do not) apply data science methods well.

Week 11: Students develop research Question

Week 12: Students find relevant variables from IPUMS

Week 13: Students test and evaluate results

Week 14: Students prepare presentations of results

Week 15: Students present work (slides, poster, podium, etc)

DEV NOTES

TO DO

- UPDATE TODO LIST
- Make chapter 1 chapter 2
- Anna Adds chapter con data science intro exclusive of R/IPUMS
- discuss style
 - key terms section for each chapter?
 - key terms in **bold**
 - italics for *emphasis*
 - are we pro-hyphens, or are they pedantic?

MISC IDEAS

- Application forward
- Present research/ analysis/results FIRST, then explain the mathematical principals behind it
- daily/weekly "i'm stuck on..."
 - Students send in questions (night before class) and instructor spends 10-15 mins talking through (or collaboratively working through with class) solutions
 - Alternatively, once a month maybe a longer class covering "common problems asked this month" daily/weekly "recent research"
- pick out a recent article with good visualization (or bad) and spend 5-10 mins discussing what makes it good (or bad)
 - Encourage students to find articles for extra credit

Documentation

This function grabs any packages in your project and adds them to a local list that can be referenced using R-pacakgename * NOTE in practice, that needs to be wrapped in markdown syntax, eg: [@R-bookdown] * See help files for more info - might be able to create/add a citation file

Unit 1: The Basics

0.1 Lesson 0:

Lesson 0 files should contain a brief summary of the topics within each unit Lesson 0 can also be used for a brainstorming space to sketch out ideas before creating Unit#_Lesson# files.

- 0.2 Lesson 1: What IS Data / Collecting / Visualizing Data
- 0.3 Lesson 2: Intro to R, data types, data structures
- 0.4 Lesson 3: Comparing Data
- 0.5 Lesson 4:
- 0.6 Lesson 5:

Unit-wide glossary?

Chapter 1

Lesson 1: WHAT IS DATA

1.1 POV:

In a social science class, your teacher tells you that the CDC reports average male height in the United States to be 69 inches or 5ft 9in. You have been using online dating sites and noticed that the men you match with all report that they are 6ft or over. You become curious if this is a bias in reporting, or if the area where you live and attend college has significantly taller men. To test your theory, you want to collect data on height from individuals in your data science class to test if males are truly taller on campus than the country average.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Source:} & https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/body-measurements. \\ htm** \end{tabular}$

Data is defined as "facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis." As seen in Figure 1.1, there are two types of data: quantitative and qualitative. **Quantitative data** are able to be expressed in numerical format and are countable. These data are either discrete or continuous where **discrete data** uses numeric bins. For example, we use our age as discrete quantitative data, we round our age to the previous year (eg., 20, 21, 22). **Continuous data** does not use bins, but rather includes all of the fractions between two whole numbers. An example could be most physical measures like height, weight, the speed at which an individual runs.

Qualitative data describes characteristics or categories and can be broken down into two categories, nominal or ordinal. **Nominal data** has no inherent ordering but it can be categorized. Examples include country or origin, gender,

¹This is from the internet and needs to be our words

hair color, race, etc. **Ordinal data** can both be categorized and orders (e.g., first, second, and third place is a race).

Going back to our hypothesis of male height on campus, heights are continuous, qualitative data. It is difficult for people to report their specific height and you assume that most individuals will report it rounded to the closest inch. This makes the data you will actually use, discrete quantitative data.

1.2 COLLECTING DATA

The first step to answering a research question is to collect your data. Broadly, data comes in two forms, primary and secondary. (Fig 1.2) **Primary data** is data that is collected directly by the researcher. Surveys, observations, experimentation, questionnaires, and interviews are all examples of primary data. **Secondary data** is collected from published or unpublished literature. It is collected by different researchers and compiled for use by a second scientist. This type of data includes data found in published articles, books, journals, biographies, and government records like the US Census.

Once compiled, you now have a data set which is comprised of observations and variables. An **observation** is all of the measures taken for one person or item. A **variable** is what is being measured.

The US CDC data is secondary, but you are collecting height data yourself in class as a comparison. The survey or questionnaire you use on your classmates is primary data. Each individual is an observation and the variable of interest is height.

1.3 POPULATIONS AND SAMPLING

Random Sampling: It is a sampling method in which all the items have an equal chance of being selected and the individuals who are selected are just like the ones who are not selected

Stratified Random Sampling: It is a process to gather data by separating the actual population into the distinct subset or strata, and then choosing simple random samples from each stratum Your research question is about the height of all males at your college, but recording height data for each individual would be very difficult and time consuming. You instead decide to use a sample of males in your data science class. This is a random sample as each male individual has an equally likely chance of being samples (that is, unless a prerequisite exists).

Sampling strategy can lead to bias

If you had chosen a different sample, like the men's basketball team, your results would have been biased.

1.4 Review "In-Class" Results

1.4.1 Load the Data

Thanks for filling out our simple survey! Below, we'll tabulate results. Make sure to update the data_template.xlsx file located in: inst/unit1_data

```
dir_path <- file.path("inst","unit1_data")
survey_path <- file.path(dir_path, "data_template.xlsx")

data <- readxl::read_excel(survey_path)</pre>
```

1.4.2 Inspect the Data

What is data?? Below we call the class() function on data and see that it has 3 classes: tbl_df, tbl, data.frame

The first two classes, tbl_df, tbl indicate it is a special kind of table, in the tibble format. In general, you can interact with these like a matrix or data.frame but they have additional features.

```
class(data)
## [1] "tbl_df" "tbl" "data.frame"
```

We can call colnames() on data, like a regular data.frame or matrix. Or we can take advantage of the tibble structure and use the glimpse() function which provides a succinct summary of your data.

Summarize Data

Continuous Data

For continuous data, we often want to summarize our data by describing the mean, median, and/or range. Mean and median describe the *central tendency* of the data, while range describes the full extant of the data, as seen below.

NOTE: if NA are present in the data, be sure to use the na.rm=TRUE flag for these operations.

```
mean(data$Height_inches, na.rm = T)

## [1] 66.5625

median(data$Height_inches, na.rm = T)

## [1] 66.5

range(data$Height_inches, na.rm = T)

## [1] 55 76
```

All in summary()

Mean, median, and range will all be reported by calling summary() on a numeric vector, such as Height_inches. In addition, the lower and upper quartiles will be reported, along with the number of NA responses.

NOTE: $\mathtt{summary}()$ does NOT require special handling for NA values, in fact - it expects them!

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 55.00 64.00 66.50 66.56 70.00 76.00
```

1.5. MODE 23

1.5 Mode

You're probably familiar with **mean** and **median** being talked about with a third term, **mode**. The **mode** is the most commonly occuring value in a dataset. It's often important to know the **modal response** of survey data. While a commonly reported metric(??), there is no **mode()** function included in **base** r...

so we'll just have to create our own!

1.5.1 Mode Code

One common measure of data reported is the mode, or most frequently occuring value. For whatever reason, this is not a default function in R, but we can easily write our own function like so:

```
my_mode <- function(x){
  tt <- table(x) ## find frequencies
  tt <- tt[order(tt, decreasing = TRUE)] ## resort based on freq

## check number of modes
max <- max(tt)
n_max <- sum(tt==max)

if(n_max > 1 ){
  warning("More than one mode detected")
  return(tt[tt==max])
} else {
    ## return only the first value
    return(tt[1]) ## return whatever the highest frequency is
}
```

1.5.2 Mode Results

Now that we've created out own function, it's easy to find the mode

```
my_mode(data$Height_inches)
```

Warning in my_mode(data\$Height_inches): More than one mode detected

```
## x
## 64 65 69 70
## 4 4 4 4
```

1.6 Visualizing Data

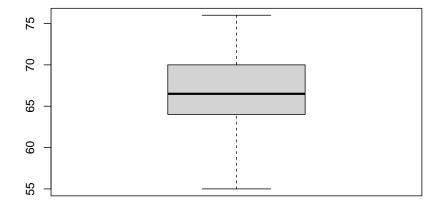
The above summaries describe data with numbers, but we can also describe data visually.

1.6.1 Continuous Data - Boxplots

Univariate continuous data, like height, can be visualized using a box and whisker plot, which shows many of the components of summary:

- ullet the **median** is the black bar in the middle
- the quartiles (25th and 75th percentiles) are represented by the extents of the boxes
- The **range** is shown by the whiskers, with outliers shown indvidually, if needed.

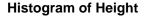
boxplot(data\$Height_inches)

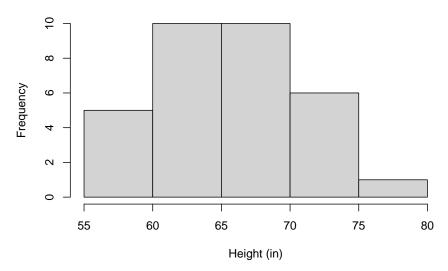


1.6.2 Continuous Data - Histograms

Continuous data, can also be broken into **bins** and plotted as a **histogram**. The **hist()** function will attempt to find the optimum number of bins for you, but you can specify a different number with the **breaks** argument.

hist(data\Height_inches, main = "Histogram of Height", xlab = "Height (in)")





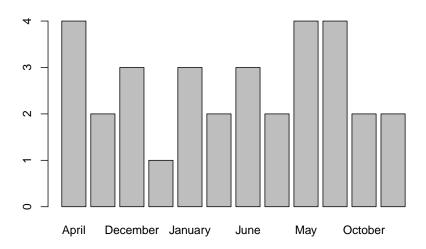
1.6.3 Categorical Data

Categorical data is already in discrete units. In general with categorical data, we want to count the **frequency** of unique values. There are many ways to do this, but one of the easiest is the table() function. Saving the results of the table to an object, birth_freq, allows you to save and print the results at any time.

```
birth_freq <- table(data$Birth_Month)
birth_freq</pre>
```

We can also visualize our tabulated results using a ${f barplot}$ as below.

barplot(birth_freq)



1.7 Glossary

Chapter 2

Week 2: Intro to R, data types, data structures

NEEDS WORK

How to make more engaging

2.1 Load the Data

From last week

We'll load the same data as last week and inspect some elements.

OR We could collect NEW data for this lesson. shrug

```
dir_path <- file.path("inst","unit1_data")
survey_path <- file.path(dir_path, "data_template.xlsx")

data <- readxl::read_excel(survey_path)</pre>
```

2.2 Inspect the Data

What is data?? Below we call the class() function on data and see that it has 3 classes: tbl_df , tbl , data.frame

The first two classes, tbl_df, tbl indicate it is a special kind of table, in the tibble format. In general, you can interact with these like a matrix or data.frame but they have additional features.

class(data)

\$ Birth_Month

\$ Height_inches <dbl> 70, 64, 72, 61, 55, 65, 72, 75, 69, 75, 76, 70, 70, 69, ~

<chr> "January", "September", "March", "April", "April", "Octo~

Chapter 3

Lesson 3: Comparing Data

NEEDS A LOT OF WORK

3.1 Data Distributions

3.1.1 Normal Distributions

First we'll generate a normal distribution with the rnorm() function. This takes 3 arguments: n, mean, sd, which you can see filled in below. While we could print out a list of all these values, it's not easy to understand a list of numbers

```
## [1] 9.680512 9.447173 7.853036 10.157932 8.736846 9.829390 11.157730
## [8] 9.017380 10.575141 10.498866 9.611413 11.097496 9.725323 9.404714
## [15] 11.556588 10.473005 8.549590 11.266608 9.366024 12.572795 9.934475
## [22] 11.485842 11.418824 9.004911 9.508470 10.626440 8.548497 7.671528
## [29] 10.527503 10.531995 9.656686 11.071017 10.054315 11.083450 11.887085
## [36] 9.704494 9.277565 11.612676 9.940209 10.057560 9.658273 9.165655
## [43] 10.484185 11.271172 9.652442 9.066940 9.344698 10.559483 11.044649
## [50] 10.488245 11.656939 9.717851 9.313283 9.515281 9.047581 9.102487
## [57] 8.881277 11.669710 10.518029 8.168743 12.010339 10.425016 9.247912
```

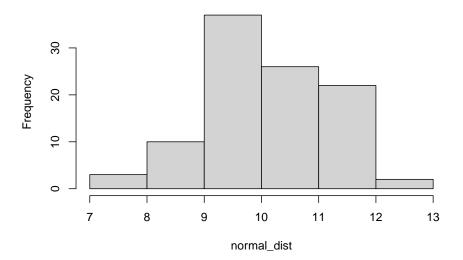
```
##
          8.535376 10.984268 10.955307
                                         9.780281
                                                   9.543226 8.587863 10.587480
         11.372921 10.440479
                              9.630434
                                         8.935841 10.625756 11.674066
##
    [71]
                                                                       9.961672
##
        10.513221
                    9.137040 11.715587 10.218078
                                                   9.005953
                                                             8.446976 10.788626
##
        11.336962
                    9.474207 11.640810
                                         9.430017
                                                   7.726157 10.571803 11.307789
                    8.767137 10.859770
                                         9.827686
                                                   9.480415 10.356826 11.666501
##
    [92]
          9.027122
##
    [99] 11.027576 10.920745
```

Another better way to look at data would be to **visualize** or **plot** it. One way to to that is with a **histogram**, which groups **continuous values** into **bins**, then plots the **frequency** for each bin.

In R, we use the hist() function to plot a histogram of data. We can (try to) control the number of bins with the breaks argument, but note that it doesn't always match up. The hist() function will adjust based on the distribution of the data.

hist(normal_dist,breaks = 5)

Histogram of normal_dist



Another way to visualize this would be with a d

3.1.2 What is normal?

3.1.2.1 Quantitative summaries

5
num summary * Min, 25th percentile, median, 75th percentile, Max

```
tab_normal_dist <- summary(normal_dist)</pre>
```

We can print the table in R by calling its name.

```
tab_normal_dist
```

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 7.672 9.337 10.008 10.091 10.963 12.573
```

Mean, standard deviation

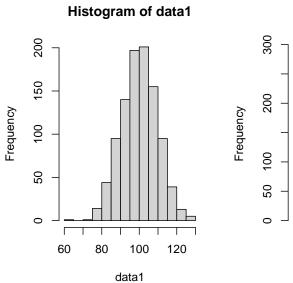
3.1.2.2 Meaningful Comparisons

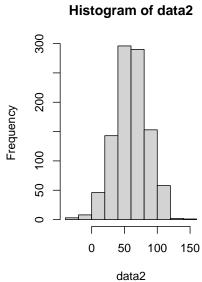
How to compare apples to oranges? Standardize the units / standardize the data

Are these the same distribution?

Any issues??

```
layout(matrix(1:2, ncol = 2))
hist(data1)
hist(data2)
```

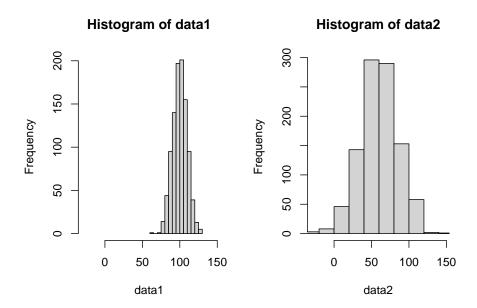




```
total_range <- range(data1, data2)</pre>
```

Are they the same?

```
layout(matrix(1:2, ncol = 2))
hist(data1, xlim = total_range)
hist(data2, xlim = total_range)
```



Numerically / tabularly

}

Often times its important to tables of summary statistics

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## [1,] 64.35177 93.47098 100.2106 100.04156 106.55680 127.2911
## [2,] -28.53824 43.31471 60.5833 60.32341 77.63046 146.6801
```

Making the table a little nicer. Also an example of **conditional programming**.

```
rownames(norm_comp_tab) ## they're null

## NULL

if(is.null(rownames(norm_comp_tab))){
  rownames(norm_comp_tab) <- c("data1", "data2")</pre>
```

When working with **Rmarkdown** we can take advantage of knitr and pandoc to nice looking tables even easier.

knitr::kable(norm_comp_tab)

	Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3rd Qu.	Max.
data1	64.35177	93.47098	100.2106	100.04156	106.55680	127.2911
data2	-28.53824	43.31471	60.5833	60.32341	77.63046	146.6801

How transform the data

Simple transformation (multiply all values by 100) * to convert units * other examples?

Complex transformations * log-transformation ($DEE: not \ a \ fan$) * z-scores ($DEE: a \ better \ option$)

Why transform the data? * Real world applications? * Is it always appropriate to transform data?

3.1.3 Skews

What to do if the data are **not** normal?

3.2 Statistical testing of simple data sets

3.2.1 t-tests, ANOVA, chi2

3.3 Relationships between variables in simple data sets

3.3.1 Correlation, Linear Regression

${\bf 3.3.1.1}\quad {\bf Simple~LM}$

3.3.1.2 Complex LM

3.3.2 Genearlized Linear Model

For now, I have 3 main chapters for each of the main sections: * Basics of data science / R ?? * Applications/critiques using IPUMS data ?? * Student-driven projects ??

Each of these **Chapters** contains multiple sections. We'll likely want to break these sections out into their own .Rmd files as they get fleshed out. For now, I'll try to keep the abundance of files limited.

NOTE: As these actually get filled out, we will probably want to insert different parts to the book (EG, the content of Unit 1 is covered in Part I). * Declare parts with # (PART) Part I {-} immediately before the first chapter # it contains.

Topics to include: * What is data? * Everything can be data * How do we interpret data * Tables * Plots * Univariate distributions * What can they tell us * Multi-modality in distributions * Categorical vs continuous data * Don't need to get ahead of this yet * Add in a grouping category - multi state/multi-national dataset * Ttest / anova

Type of Data: Age distributions Specifically generate a dataset with old/young folks over-represented to highlight a bimodal distribution

Start with single state/country Add a second state/country to demo ttest Add more to demo anova

Alternatively, income by education level - may be more interesting/relevant to college students (or depressing)

3.4 Intro to R/RStudio

3.5 Reading Data / Distributions

3.5.1 What is a normal distribution

3.5.1.1 How normal is it?

show increasingly unclear examples of normal vs not introduce tests of normality

3.5.1.2 Measuring normality - single sample

reinforce [concept of statistical] normality

is a value from a sample? - one way ttest something about tails

3.5.1.3 comparing normality - two saples

standard / two-way t test

3.5.1.4 comparing more than two - ANOVA

3.6 Glossary

Data Quantitative Qualitative Discrete Continuous Nominal Ordinal

IPUMS

Lesson 6 Introduction to IPUMS

Some text to break up the sub-section headers

Intro to IPUMS website

background on ipums

navigating website

Find certain (very common) variables to answer (common) social science questions.

Lesson 7 Exploratory analysis

If you've just collected a survey, or other raw data, you may not know what you're looking for. This is perfectly ok but goes against the scientific method most people learned in grade school (More on that to follow(include_link)).

This unit begins by presenting data/distributions and asking students to begin interpreting the data . visual exploration is encouraged and basic of data manipulation are taught *EG: how to subset data, how to reshape data, how to recode data, how to convert from one data type to another.

Example lab exercise:

Students given a data set (xls, csv, etc) * load data, perform manipulations, basic summaries + cross tabs + group means by a covariate * inspect data visually + DESCRIBE the distribution - is it normal? significant? * FIND aquestion in the spread of the data + how can you test this (maybe small group work) * write up/ present results + think on confounding factors / biases

Advanced Exploration - Change Over Time

Here we demonstrate an approach to looking at how Family Structure (inferred from household relationships) has changed over time.

Setup / Load Data

Install/update R packages

```
install.packages("ipumsr")
install.packages("tidyverse")
```

Data extract created online using the datacart system.

```
library(ipumsr)
library(dplyr)

ddi <- read_ipums_ddi("Data/ipumsi_00005.xml")
data <- read_ipums_micro(ddi)</pre>
```

Inspect the Data Using haven labeled values.

```
data$RELATE[1:100]
class(data$RELATE)

data %>% count(RELATE)
data %>% count(SEX)
```

What were those codes ??

```
## need to convert this to an image or something similar; kable table?
ipums_view(ddi)
```

Visualize A simple plot

```
plot(AGE ~ YEAR, data = data)
```

A fancier plot

```
plot(AGE~YEAR, data = data, type = "n", main = "Age by Sex, over Time, CO")
points(data$YEAR[data$SEX==1]-1, data$AGE[data$SEX==1], pch = 16, col = hsv(.6,.6,.8,.2))
points(data$YEAR[data$SEX==2]+1, data$AGE[data$SEX==2], pch = 16, col = hsv(1,.6,.8,.2))
abline(lm(AGE~YEAR, data = data), col = "green")
```

Asking (logical) questions Here we demonstrate how setting up logical questions can be used to easily filter/subset data.

```
age_test <- data$AGE > 18

class(age_test)

age_test
```

Logical vectors are stored as TRUE or FALSE, but can also be evaluated numerically as 1 or 0 respectively. We can therefore sum() the number of TRUE values and divide by total rows for a proportion.

```
sum(age_test)/nrow(data)
```

HH vs persons A unique characteristic of census and some survey data is the nested-structure with individuals being grouped into households. Often times it is necessary to choose to work at the hh or person level, and data must be appropriately manipulated to fit that case.

```
hh_total <- length(unique(data$SERIAL))
hh_total
ipums_view(ddi)</pre>
```

Nuclear Family

First we look at a nuclear family, comprising only parents and their immediate children.

```
library(ipumsr)
library(dplyr)

ddi <- read_ipums_ddi("/pkg/ipums/personal/ehrli097/AABA_2022/Data/ipumsi_00005.xml")
all_data <- read_ipums_micro(ddi)</pre>
```

```
census_years <- c(1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010)
## subset census only
d2 <- all_data %>% filter(YEAR %in% census_years)
## make a household dataframe
hhs <- d2 %% distinct(YEAR, SERIAL, .keep_all = TRUE) %>% select(YEAR, SERIAL, GEO1_US)
hhs %>% View()
hhs \leftarrow d2 %>% filter(RELATE ==4) %>%
  distinct(YEAR, SERIAL) %>% mutate(extended_test=TRUE) %>% right_join(hhs, by = c("YE
hhs <- d2 %>% filter(!RELATE %in% c(1, 2, 3) |
                  (RELATE == 3 &
                     MARST %in% c(2, 3, 4))
                ) %>%
  distinct(YEAR, SERIAL) %>% mutate(nuclear_test = FALSE) %>% right_join(hhs, by = c("
table(hhs$extended_test,hhs$nuclear_test)
  hhs <- d2 %>% filter(RELATED %in% c(4200, 4210, 4211, 4220, 4500, 4510, 4600)) %>% d
  hhs <- d2 %% filter(RELATED %in% c(4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4300, 4301, 4302)) %>% d
```

```
"nuclear_test" = hhs %>% group_by(YEAR, nuclear_test,GEO1_US) %>% summarize(.groups="drop",n
  "extended_test" = hhs %>% group_by(YEAR, extended_test, GEO1_US) %>% summarize(.groups="drop",r
  "parent_test" = hhs %>% group_by(YEAR, parent_test, GEO1_US) %>% summarize(.groups="drop",n = r
  "children_test" = hhs %% group_by(YEAR, children_test, GEO1_US) %>% summarize(.groups="drop",r
collapsed_results <- res_tabs %>% purrr::map(function(x){
  x <- x %>% group_by(across(names(x)[1:3])) %>% summarize(.groups="drop",n = sum(n))
})
collapsed_results <- lapply(collapsed_results, function(x){</pre>
  colnames(x)[2] <- "test"</pre>
  colnames(x)[3] <- "state"</pre>
  return(x)
})
combined <- collapsed_results %>% purrr::reduce(full_join, by = c("YEAR", "test", "state"))
colnames(combined) <- c("YEAR", "test", "state", "n_nuclear", "n_extended", "n_parent", "n_childre
combined[is.na(combined)] <- 0</pre>
to_plot <- combined %>% group_by(YEAR, state) %>% mutate(n_tot = sum(n_nuclear)) %>% ungroup() %>
```

Tabulate results

res_tabs <- list(

```
to_plot <- to_plot %>% filter(test==TRUE)

plot(to_plot$YEAR, to_plot$pct$n_nuclear, col = hsv(.4, .6,.8), pch = 16, ylim =c(0,1), xlab = ""
```

Visualize Nuclear Families

Extended Family

Next we look at hhs with extended families present. IE, any that contain more relationships than just Parent/Child/Sibling (between children only)

```
to_plot <- to_plot %>% filter(test==TRUE)
glm_hist <- glm(pct$n_extended ~ YEAR, data = to_plot[to_plot$YEAR < 1950,], family = 0
glm_hist_x <- seq(from=1860, to = 1910, length.out = 100)
glm_hist_y <- predict(glm_hist, list(YEAR = glm_hist_x), type = "response")</pre>
glm_mod <- glm(pct$n_extended ~ YEAR, data = to_plot[to_plot$YEAR> 1950,], family = qu
glm_mod_x \leftarrow seq(from = 1960, to = 2010, length.out = 100)
glm_mod_y <- predict(glm_mod, list(YEAR = glm_mod_x), type = "response")</pre>
mods <- list("hist"=list(),</pre>
              "mod" = list()
mods_plots <- list("hist"=list(),</pre>
                    "mod" =list()
for(i in names(to_plot$pct)){
  hist_x <- to_plot$YEAR[to_plot$YEAR < 1950]
mod_x <- to_plot$YEAR[to_plot$YEAR > 1950]
  mods$hist[[i]] <- lm(pct[[i]] ~ YEAR, data = to_plot[to_plot$YEAR < 1950,])</pre>
  mods_plots$hist[[i]] <-</pre>
    data.frame("x" = hist x,
                "y" = predict(mods$hist[[i]],
                              list(YEAR =hist_x),
                               type = "response")
```

Gernerate models

Visualize

Even more DETAIL - maybe remove

```
ipums_view(ddi)

hhs <- d2 %>% filter(RELATED %in% c(4200, 4210, 4211, 4220, 4500, 4510, 4600)) %>%

distinct(YEAR, SERIAL) %>% mutate(parent_test=TRUE) %>% right_join(hhs, by = c("YEAR", "SERIAL")

hhs <- d2 %>% filter(RELATED %in% c(4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4300, 4301, 4302)) %>% distinct(YEAR)
```

Parents Supporting Parents

```
pch = 23,
bg = hsv(.55,.6,.8))

points(to_plot$YEAR,
     to_plot$pct$n_extended,
     pch = 23,
     bg = hsv(.95,.6,.8))
```

Parents Supporting (extended) children

Lesosn 8: Hypothesis Testing

If, on the other hand you have an a pre-existing idea you want to test. We can follow the traditional *scientific method*. With a question in mind, the first question is: where to look. What better place than IPUMS!

Begin introducing navigation of web resources - mainly IPUMS international

Students should become comfortable working through lab exercises: * Define a question (or be presented with one) * Download variables from IPUMS (course downloads possible) * Perform a basic analysis (discussed in Unit 1) * Generate a **visual argument** for your analysis + Include explanation/interpretation/reflection on the question at hand, and the data used + Any obvious biases + Any obvious confounding factors

Lesson 9: Statistical Inference

Lesson 10: (TBD)

We describe our methods in this chapter.

Math can be added in body using usual syntax as follows. This may be useful, particularly for explaining the math side of things.

Unit 3: Independent Research

Students will select their own research question that can be answered with the IPUMS data set and will spend five weeks conducting a research project complete with data analysis, visualization, and interpretation.

In this section we encourage the instructor to provide ample time for independent student/small-group research. Some class time should be devoted to modeling healthy discussion and critique of methods. Students should learn to discuss not just *how* to answer a research question but *why* they are asking/answering it. What impact does the question/answers have. Is the question releveant/meaningful, and importantly, Is this research question perpetuating racist ideas.

We provide some examples here but encourage instructors (or students) to bring in recent journal/popular articles that do (or do not) apply data science methods well.

Lesson 11: Students develop research Question

Lesson 12: Students find relevant variables from IPUMS

Lesson 13: Students test and evaluate results

Lesson 14: Students prepare presentations of results

Lesson 15: Students present work (slides, poster, podium, etc)

By this point, students should be familiar with basic concepts from Chapter ??. These include:

- Basic Coding
 - read/write data in/out of R
 - basic manipulations
- Theoretical Basis
 - looking at data distributions
 - formal assessment of distributions

Students will also be familiar with how these concepts are applied from Chapter ??. Hopefully students will be able to:

- Come up with a social science question they are interested in
 - Critically think about target variable(s) of interest. Any *a priori* covariates? confounders?
 - Acquire relevant data from IPUMS
 - Analyze, Summarize, Visualize Data
 - * scope and complexity at student/teach discretion
 - Present research to class
 - * potentially critically discuss/evaluate each others work.
 - * science is collaborative everyone should be out to do their best work and represent the data as best we can. We all have conscious and unconscious biases, and the best way to confront them is share and receive (respectful) feedback.

During this Unit, we suggest giving ample class time for independent student research, peer-to-peer collaboration, and basic R/stats troubleshooting. This would also be a great time to model how to give respectful criticism by discussing recent research papers. * We could maybe come up with 1-2 seed examples, with a few talking points

3.7 Example one

3.8 Example two

Chapter 4

Example RMD code

For now, this chapter is a bit of a placeholder. I'm not sure what/how the references.Rmd file actually fits in to the code/construction (it looks automatic) so I want to keep that in place and need a section to note that.

I also want a more centralized reference point to put any example code I find helpful while working in R/bookdown. This section could get really unrully really fast, but oh well.

4.1 Core

index.Rmd is required and treated as file 00. Chapters *should* be numbered for ease of sorting but custom orders are possible by specifying filenames somewhere in this file

Remember each Rmd file contains one and only one chapter, and a chapter is defined by the first-level heading #. + **IE** beyond the YAML header this file functions as a normal chapter since it starts with a top level header. + Note that <code>index.Rmd</code> has its own YMAL in addition to the various .yml files...not sure exactly how these relate.

Reference a figure by its code chunk label with the fig: prefix, e.g., see Figure @ref(fig:norm_dist_plot). Similarly, you can reference tables generated from knitr::kable(), e.g., see Table @ref(tab:norm_summary_tab). * Again, this prints an auto-generated numeral * also leaving this in the context of the plots in Chapter ??

You can write citations, too. See knitr::write_bib() for more on this. Quick example from demo/index (may not work without write_bib() though): we are using the **bookdown** package (Xie, 2022) in this sample book, which was built

on top of R Markdown and **knitr** (Xie, 2015). * If included, "References" section gets added to each chapter. * Not exactly sure where

Embed html renders (EG, fancy tables (IPUMS_var_desc), or any shiny app) with webshot R package and phantomJS.

```
install.packages("webshot")
webshot::install_phantomjs()
```

Embed figures from a folder.

For this, it's usually best to use a code-chunk and knitr. There are a number of graphical parameters you can set (or ignore) out.width will scale your image accordingly - irrespective of unit/display fig.align should be "left", "right", or "center" fig.cap allows you to provide "mouse over" captions for the image. echo=FALSE is important if you ONLY want the image (IE the result of the code). If you want the code itself to show, (IE, or echo) set echo=TRUE.



Figure 4.1: the ipums logo

4.2 Tips

*Autonumber sections Note the {-} used to indicate "do not number this section" eg: preface.

LABEL EVERYTHING you'll likely want to reference it later * code chunks that produce figures can be referenced via @\ref(fig:[LABEL])

You can label chapter and section titles using {#label} after them, e.g., we can reference Chapter??. If you do not manually label them, there will be automatic labels anyway, * No idea how the automatic references work, so always be sure to declare them. * NOTE these display as the relevant Chapter numeral.

4.3 Syntax

italics or italics (can handle spaces) bold code equations

4.3. SYNTAX 53

4.3.1 Math

Randal Pruim features an extensive list of common math expression on their github page. Here are some quick notes:

In-line equations can be written within \$ and will be displayed right there: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. In contrast, you can also add equation chunks by using \$\$

This can be coded in-line,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{10} n^2$$

, but will result in a page break.

Alternatively, a more "classic" equation chunk:

\$\$ Plain text doesnt get spaces

how

very

odd

\$\$

4.3.1.1 more math example

p is unknown but expected to be around 1/3. Standard error will be approximated

$$SE = \sqrt(\frac{p(1-p)}{n}) \approx \sqrt{\frac{1/3(1-1/3)}{300}} = 0.027$$

You can also use math in footnotes like this¹. Footnotes are helpful because they re-link to where you left off.

We will approximate standard error to 0.027^2

The longnote footnote seems particularly useful.

To compile this example to PDF, you need XeLaTeX. You are recommended to install TinyTeX (which includes XeLaTeX): https://yihui.name/tinytex/.

$$SE = \sqrt{(\frac{p(1-p)}{n})} \approx \sqrt{\frac{1/3(1-1/3)}{300}} = 0.027$$

 $^{^1}$ where we mention $p=\frac{a}{b}$ 2p is unknown but expected to be around 1/3. Standard error will be approximated

Bibliography

Xie, Y. (2015). Dynamic Documents with R and knitr. Chapman and Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, Florida, 2nd edition. ISBN 978-1498716963.

Xie, Y. (2022). bookdown: Authoring Books and Technical Documents with R Markdown. R package version 0.30.