

# Statistical Inference for Data Science

Dr. Anja Mühlemann

26. August 2025

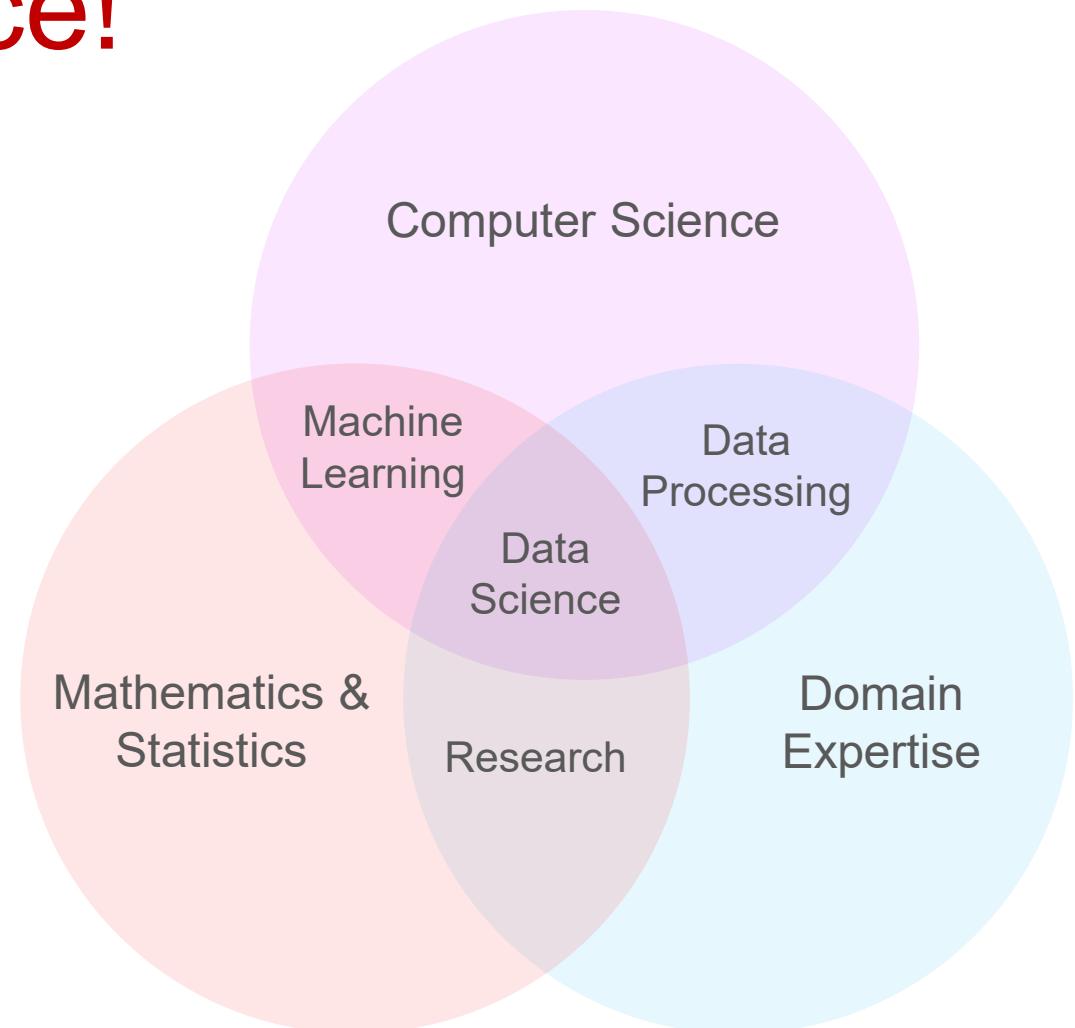


# Welcome to Data Science!

**Data Science** uses

- Mathematics and Statistics
- Computer Science
- Domain expertise

on data to build information and extract knowledge.



# Module 2

**Tuesday**

09:00 - 12:30 Descriptive Statistics

13:30 - 17:00 Notebook 2 (self study)

**Wednesday**

09:00 - 12:30 Parameter estimation

13:30 - 17:00 Self study

**Thursday**

09:00 - 12:30 Hypothesis testing

13:30 - 17:00 Prepare test for presentation (self study)

**Friday**

09:00 - 10:30 Presentations

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 Notebook 5



## Caution

- This module aims to give a brief overview on basic statistics.
- That means in a short amount of time we'll see lot.
- While this may be repetition for some,
- For others there may be a lot of new things.
- I'll try my best to accommodate everyone's needs.

# Teaching

- Introductionary lectures
- In-depth self-study of the content with notebooks
- Discussion sessions based on your questions  
**Please ask questions ☺**
- I am open to modifications if wished for!

# Project



## Formal

- Group of 2-3 people
- 15min presentation, 15min discussion
- Half-day presence on presentation session

## Content

- Choose your own data set
- answer research questions using statistics

# Iris data set

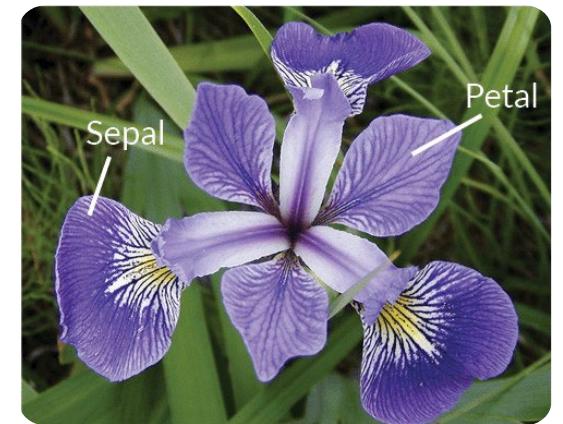
- Due to time restrictions we use a **single** data set in this module
- 3 classes: versicolor, setosa, virginica
- 4 characteristics
  - petal: *length, width*
  - sepal: *length, width*



*Iris setosa*



*Iris virginica*

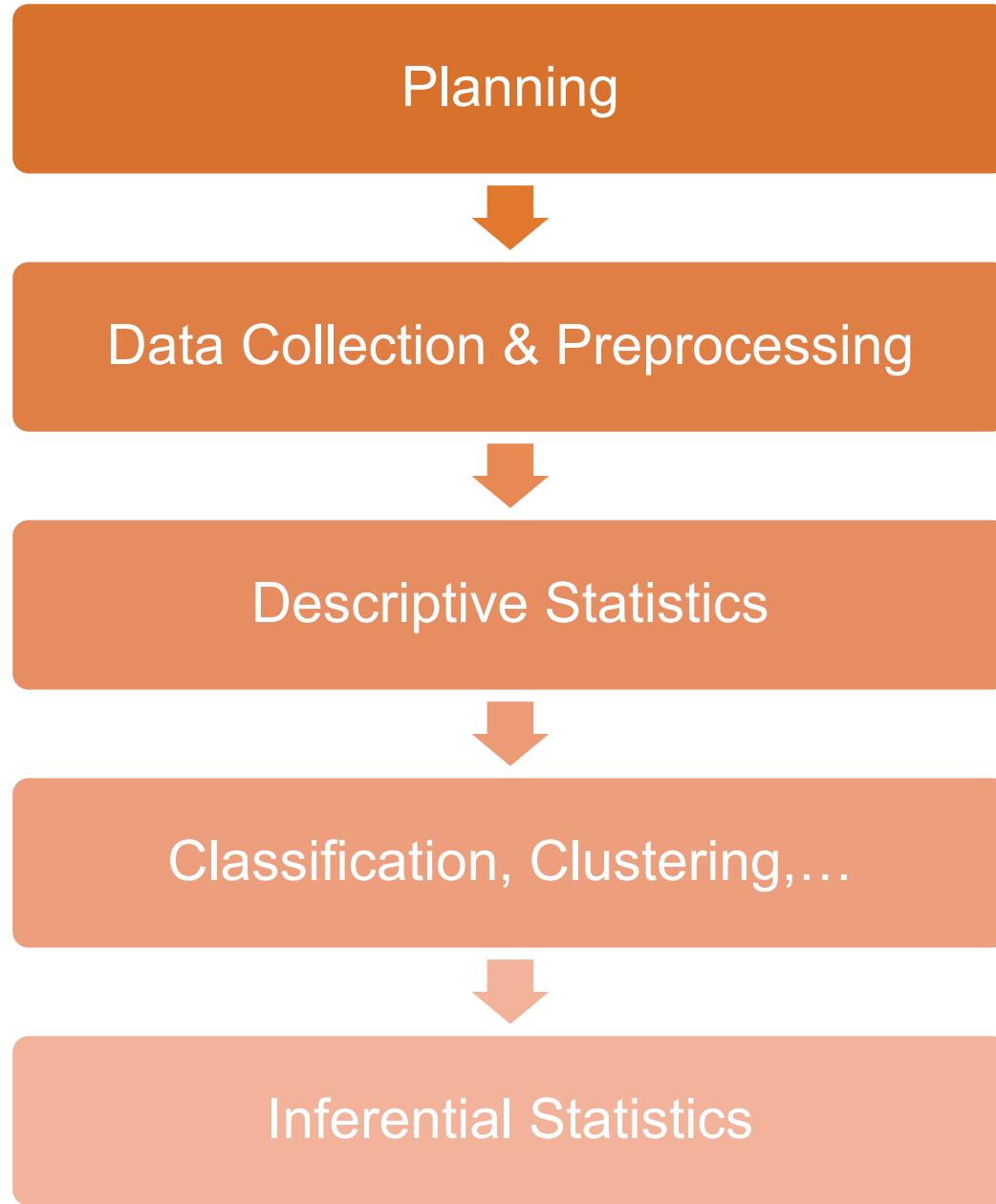


*Iris versicolor*



Any questions so far?

# General Procedure



# Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive Statistics: if you know your whole data set / if you're only interested in your own data set

vs. Inferential Statistics

## Why?

- Get an overview of the data
- Identify Patterns
- Identify possible problems eg. outliers
- Get a feeling for the quality of the data



good description is the basis for good inference

# Descriptive Statistics

The two **main tasks** of descriptive statistics are

- the quantitative description and summary, and
- the graphical representation of data

What tools are suitable depends on the type of the variable we want to describe.

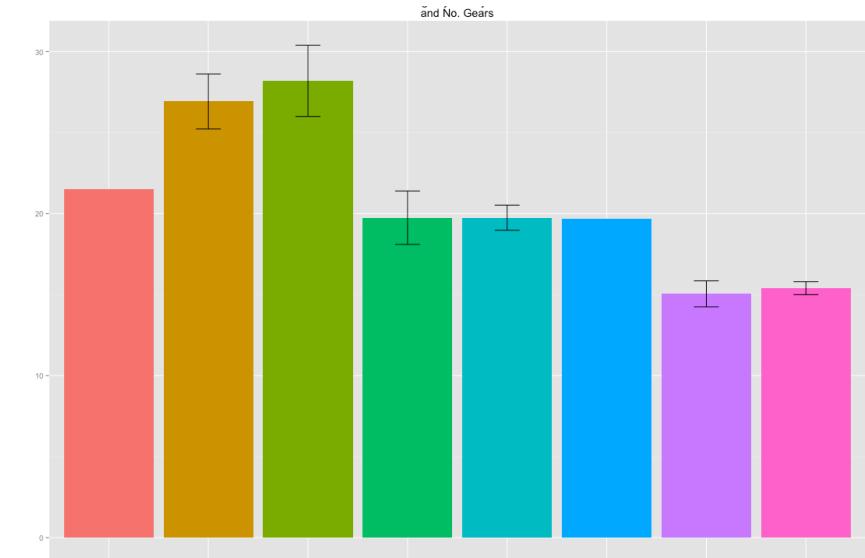
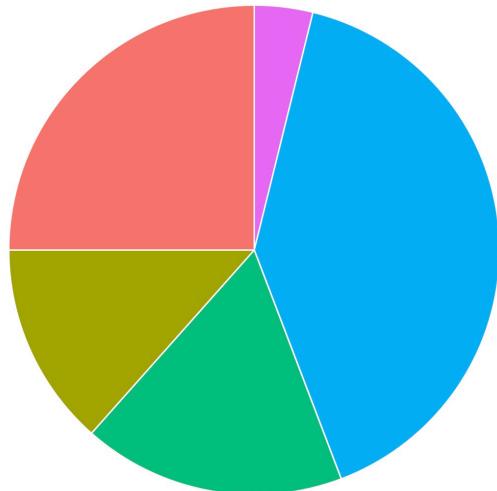
# Categorical Variables

(quantitative)

- Absolute frequency (eg. number of female participants)
- Relative frequency (eq. number of female participants divided by the sample size)

# Categorical Variables

(graphical)



(Either absolute or relative frequencies can be displayed)

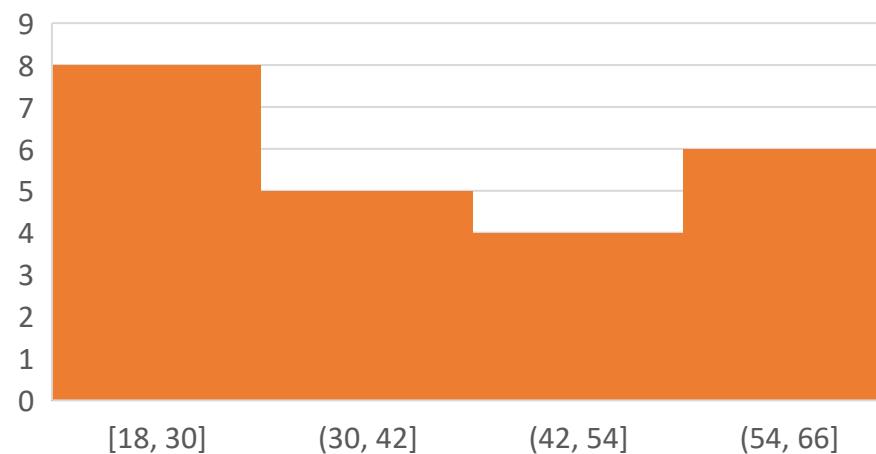
# Numerical Variables

(categorization)

## Summary tables

Age	Nr. of People
18-30	8
30-42	5
42-54	4
54-66	6

## Histograms



# Location

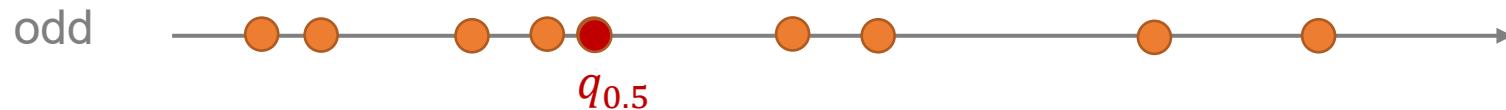
(Numerical Variables)

*What are typical values for the variable X?*

- Sample Mean:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n}{n}$$

- Sample Median: «center of the observations»



→ median ist more robust than the mean

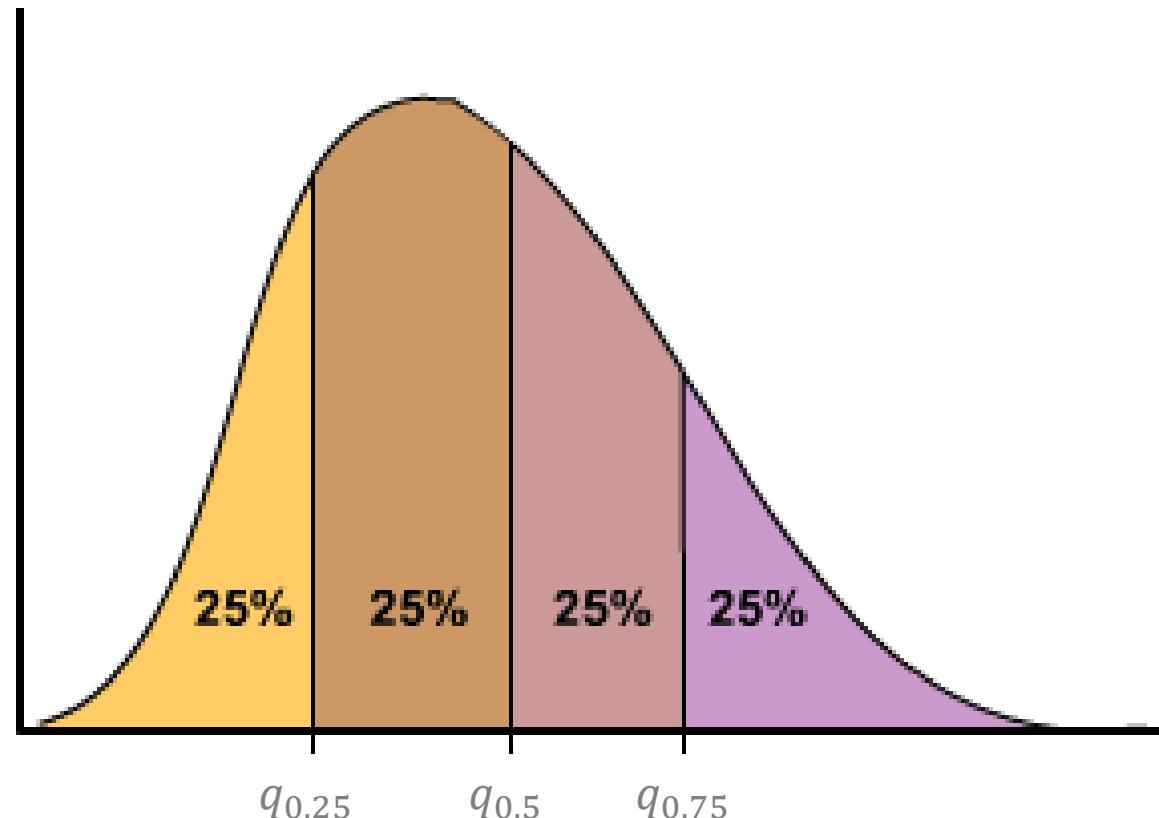
# Quantiles

(Numerical Variables)

Generalizing the idea of the median to other fractions.

Typical for descriptive analyses:  $q_{0.25}, q_{0.5}, q_{0.75}$

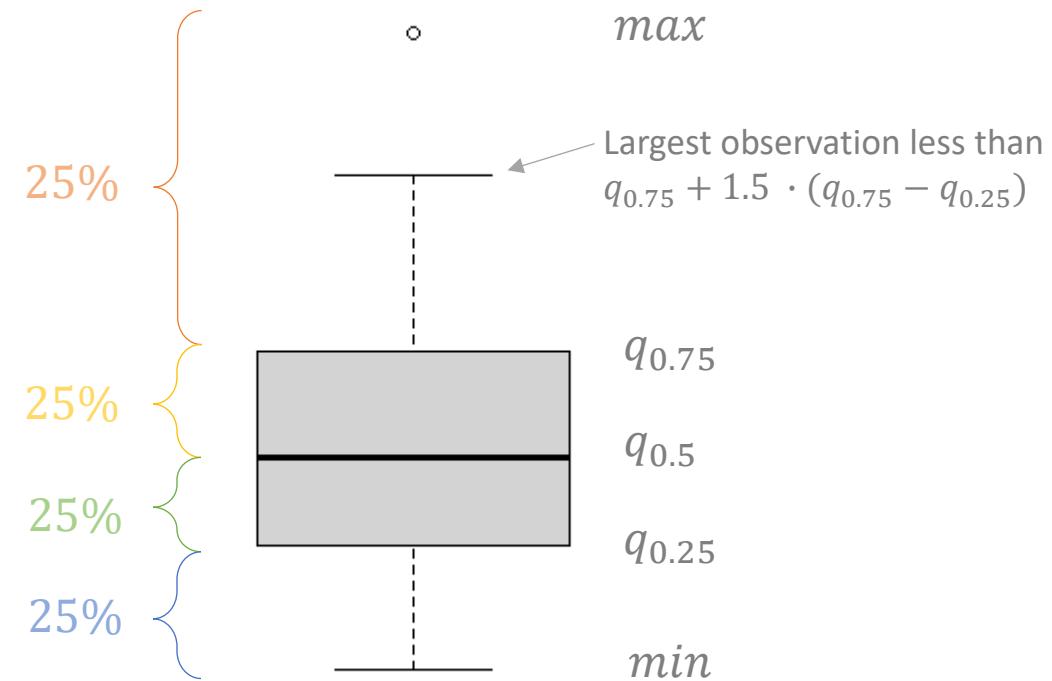
Typical for hypothesis testing:  $q_{0.01}, q_{0.05}, q_{0.95}, q_{0.99}$



# Boxplots

(Numerical Variables)

Graphical display of the quantiles



# Spread

(Numerical Variables)

*How strong is the deviation from the center?*

- Sample standard deviation:

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

- IQR (inter quartile range):

$$IQR = q_{0.75} - q_{0.25}$$



$$S = 1.16, IQR = 1.34$$



$$S = 4.05, IQR = 5.93$$

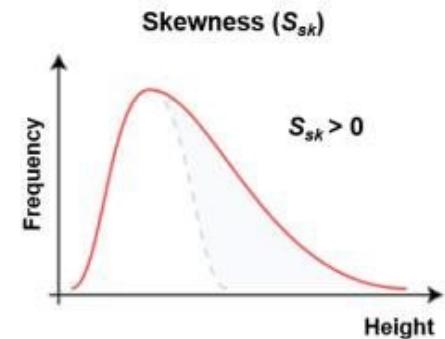
# Shape

(Numerical Variables)

*Is the distribution symmetric?*

- Skewness:

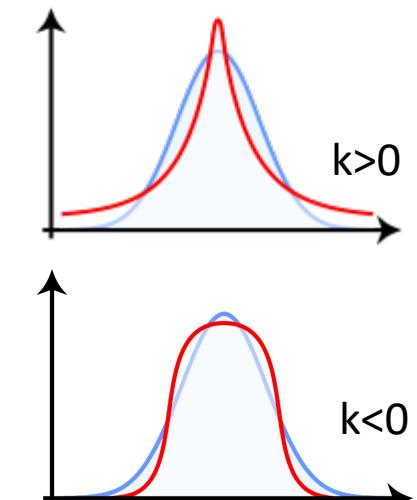
$$S_{sk} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - \bar{x})^3}{s^3}$$



*Does the distribution look like a bell curve?*

- Kurtosis:

$$k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - \bar{x})^4}{s^4} - 3$$

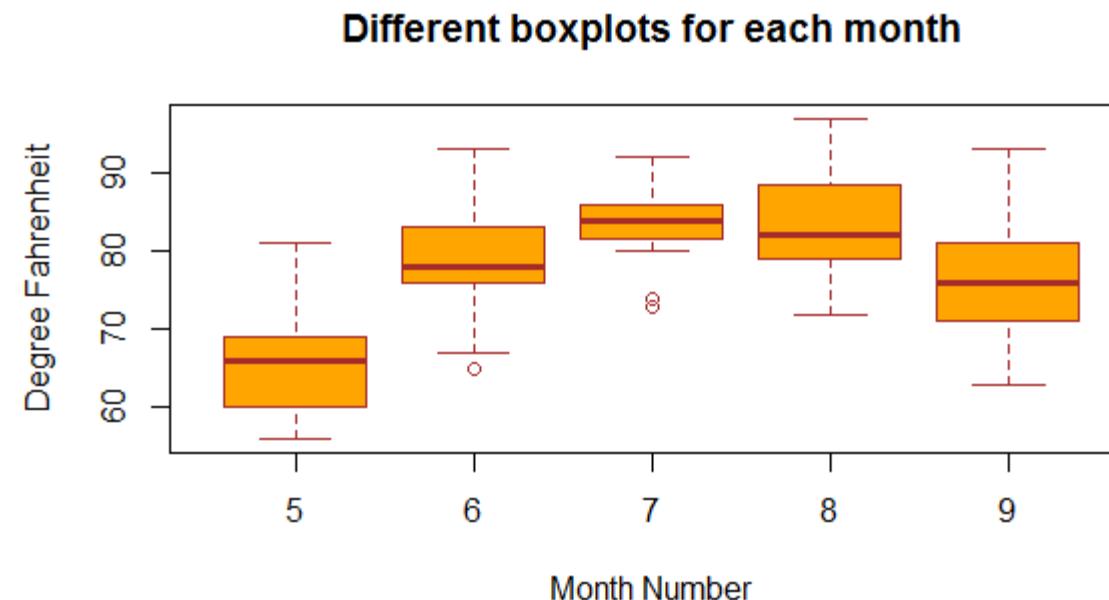


# Simultaneous description (of two features)

- Contingency table (2 categorical features)

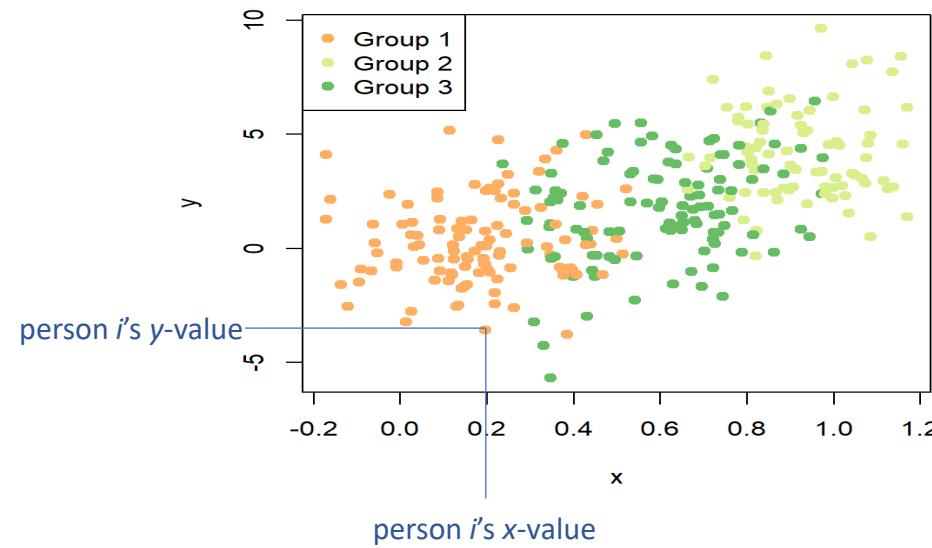
	Male	Female	Total
Blonde	4	8	12
Brunette	7	9	16
Total	11	17	28

- Boxplots (1 categorical and 1 numerical feature)



# Simultaneous description (of two features)

- Scatterplot (2 numerical features)

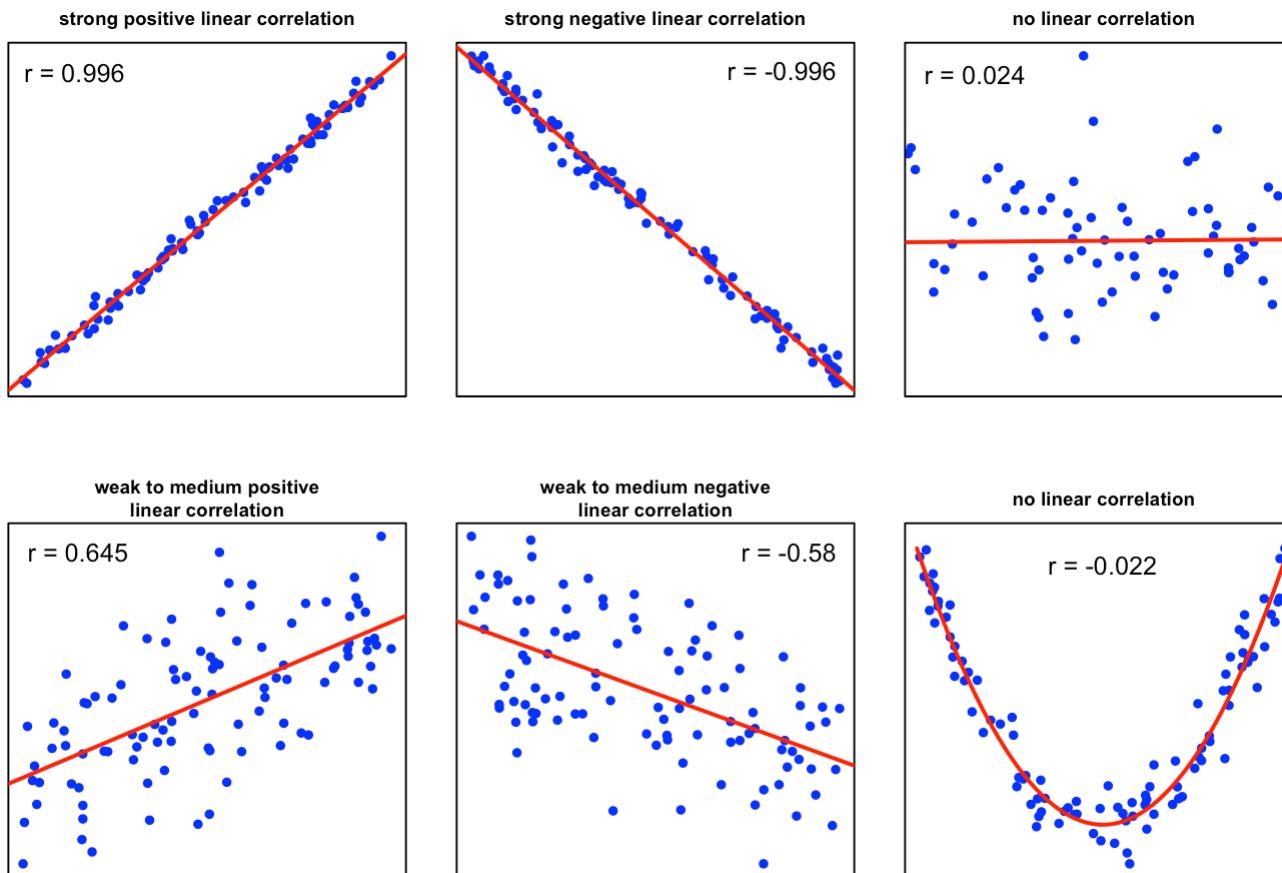


- Pearson Correlation (2 numerical features)

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

# Simultaneous description (of two features)

- Pearson Correlation (2 numerical features)

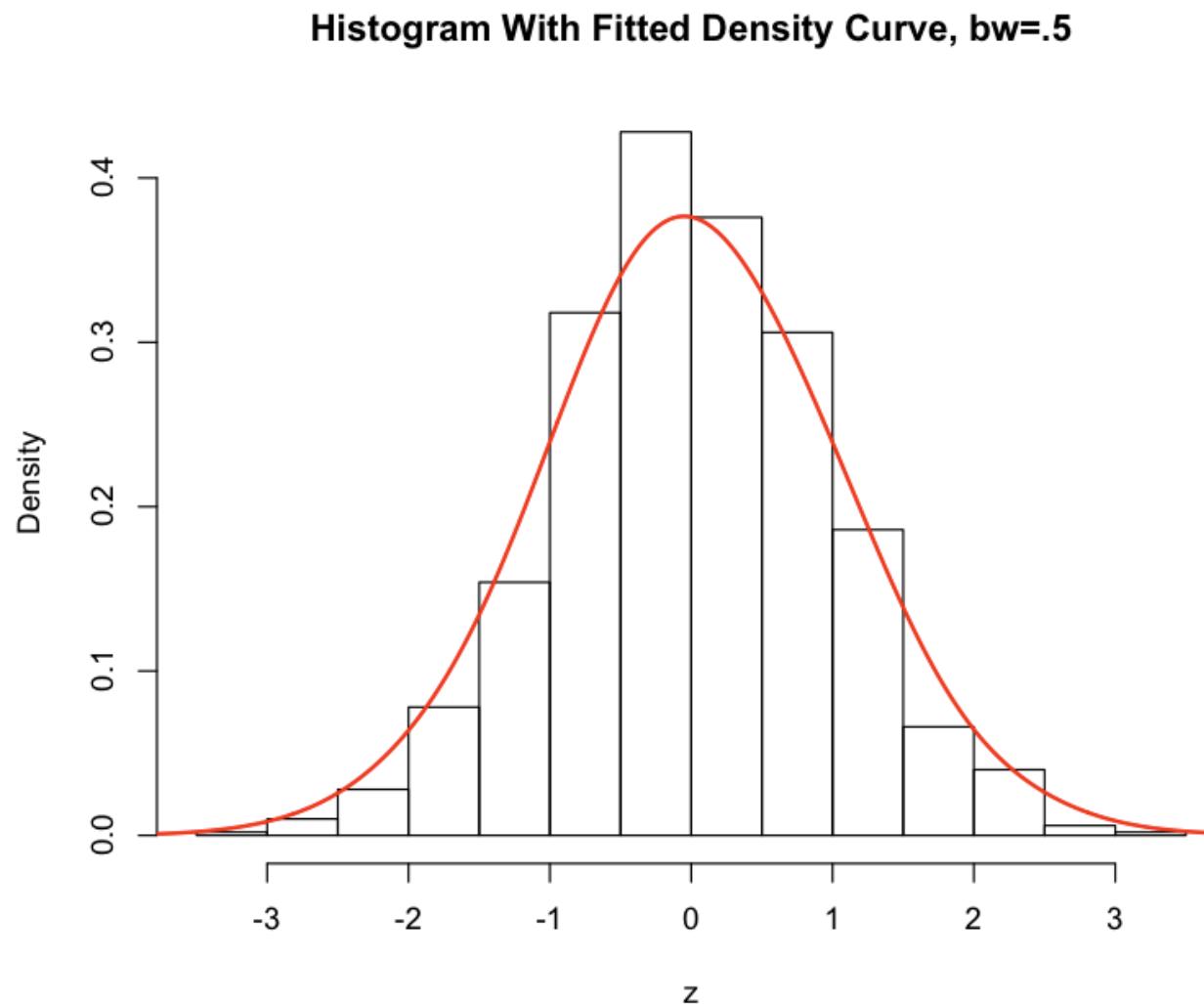


# Probability

- Descriptive statistic is an important first step but does not provide us with the means we aim for eventually.
- In general, we want confirm a hypothesis on a population based on sample of said population.
- To this end, we need a mathematical framework for dealing this uncertainty.
- To quantify the uncertainty one often works with probability distributions.

# Probability

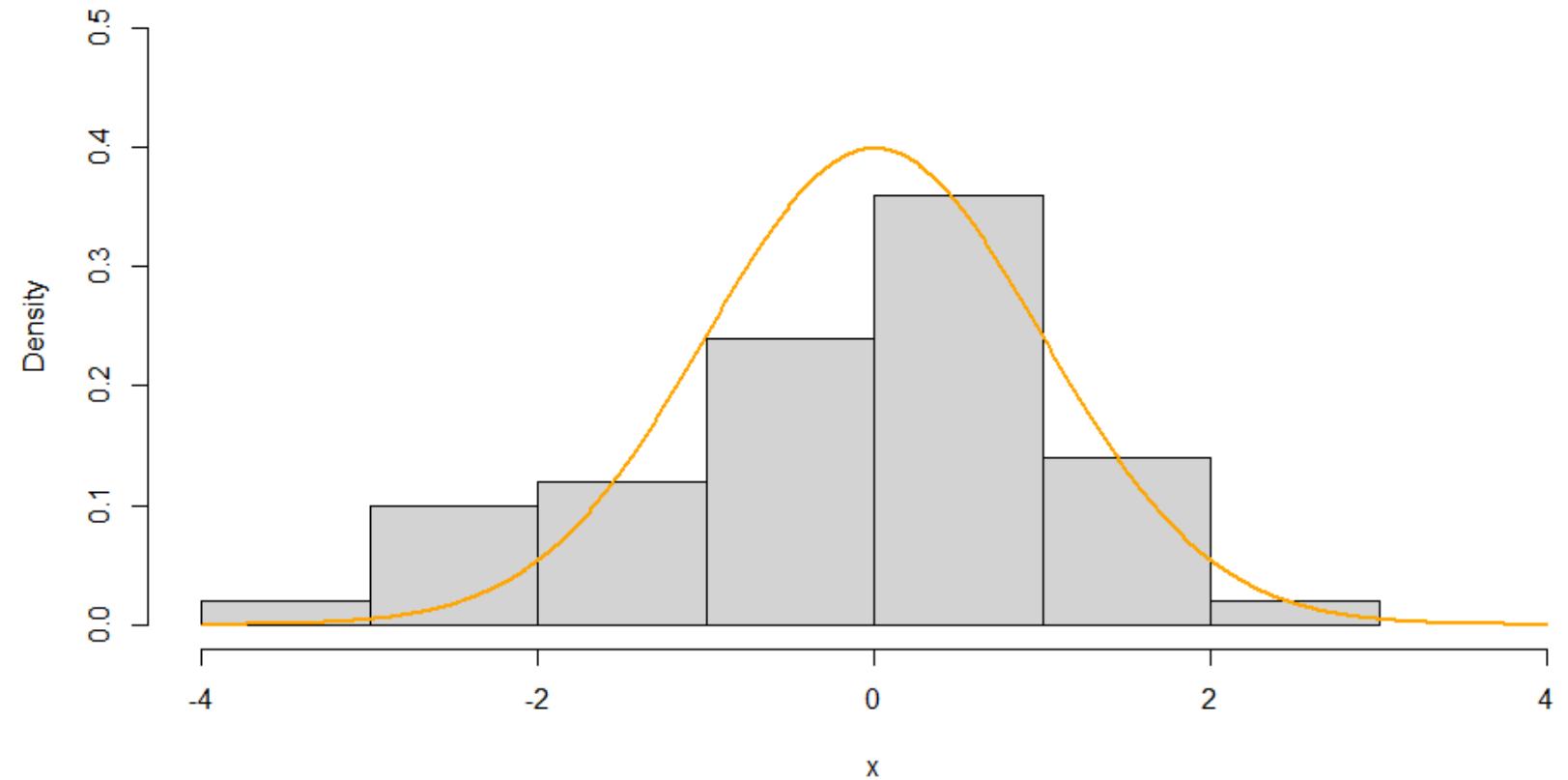
## Probability density function (pdf)



# Probability

## Probability density function (pdf)

$n = 50$



# Sketch of idea

