

Analyzing Roll Call Votes from the US Senate

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#Setting up libraries and imports
require(RSQLite)

## Loading required package: RSQLite
## Loading required package: DBI

require(ggplot2)

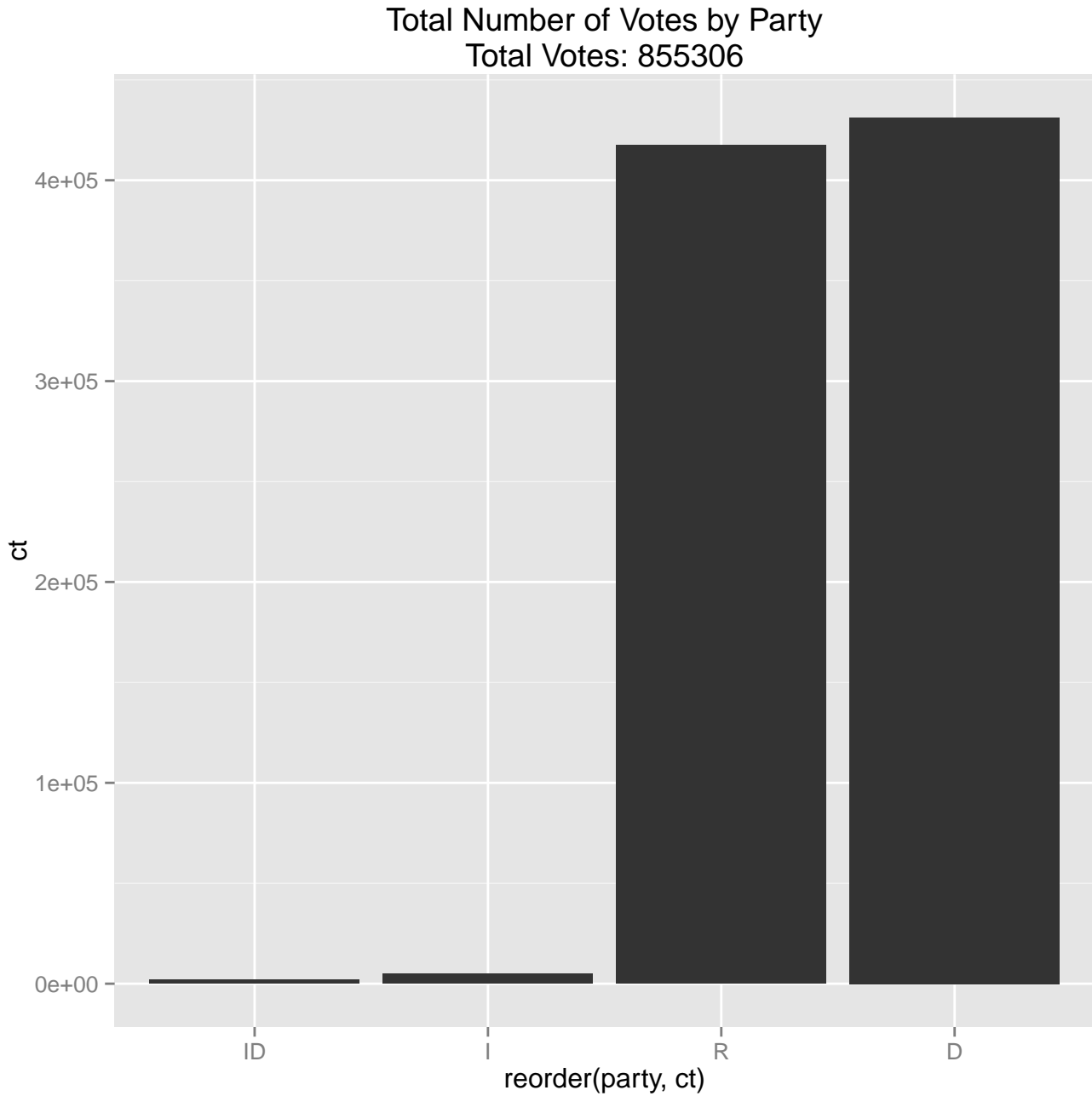
## Loading required package: ggplot2

source("../sampleconfig.R")
source("../voteAnalysis.R")
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query = "SELECT party, count(*) as ct FROM votes GROUP BY party"
partyVoteTotals = queryDB(query, "data.sqlite")
ggplot(partyVoteTotals, aes(x = reorder(party, ct), y = ct)) + geom_bar(stat = "identity") +
  ggtitle(sprintf("Total Number of Votes by Party\nTotal Votes: %s", sum(partyVoteTotals$ct)))

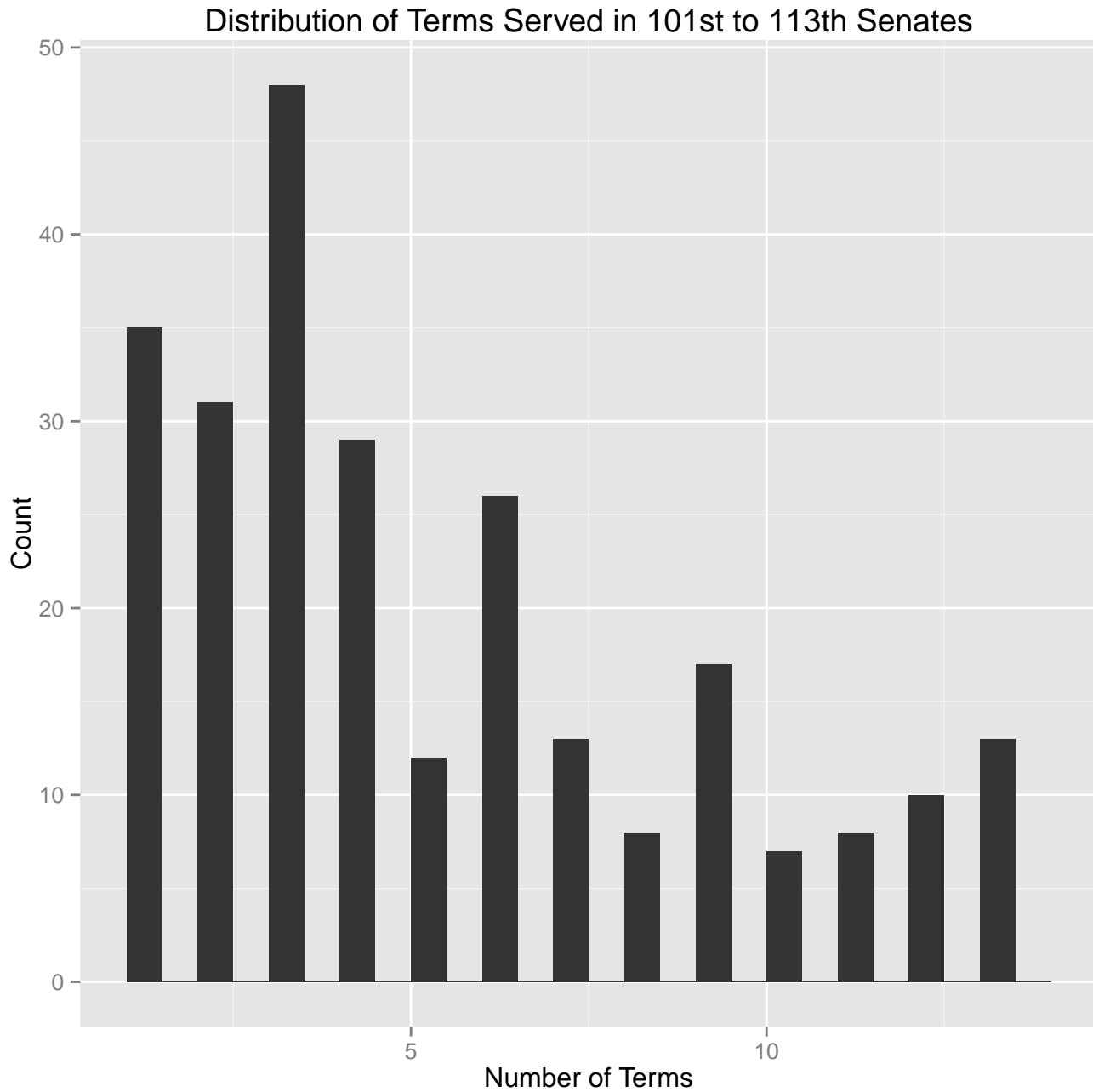
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query = "SELECT id, first_name, last_name, party, seniority, count(*) AS ct FROM members GROUP BY id ORDER BY ct"
senatorTotals = queryDB(query, "data.sqlite")
ggplot(senatorTotals, aes(x = ct)) + xlim(1, 14) + geom_bar(binwidth = 0.5) +
  xlab("Number of Terms") + ylab("Count") + ggtitle("Distribution of Terms Served in 101st to 113th Senates")

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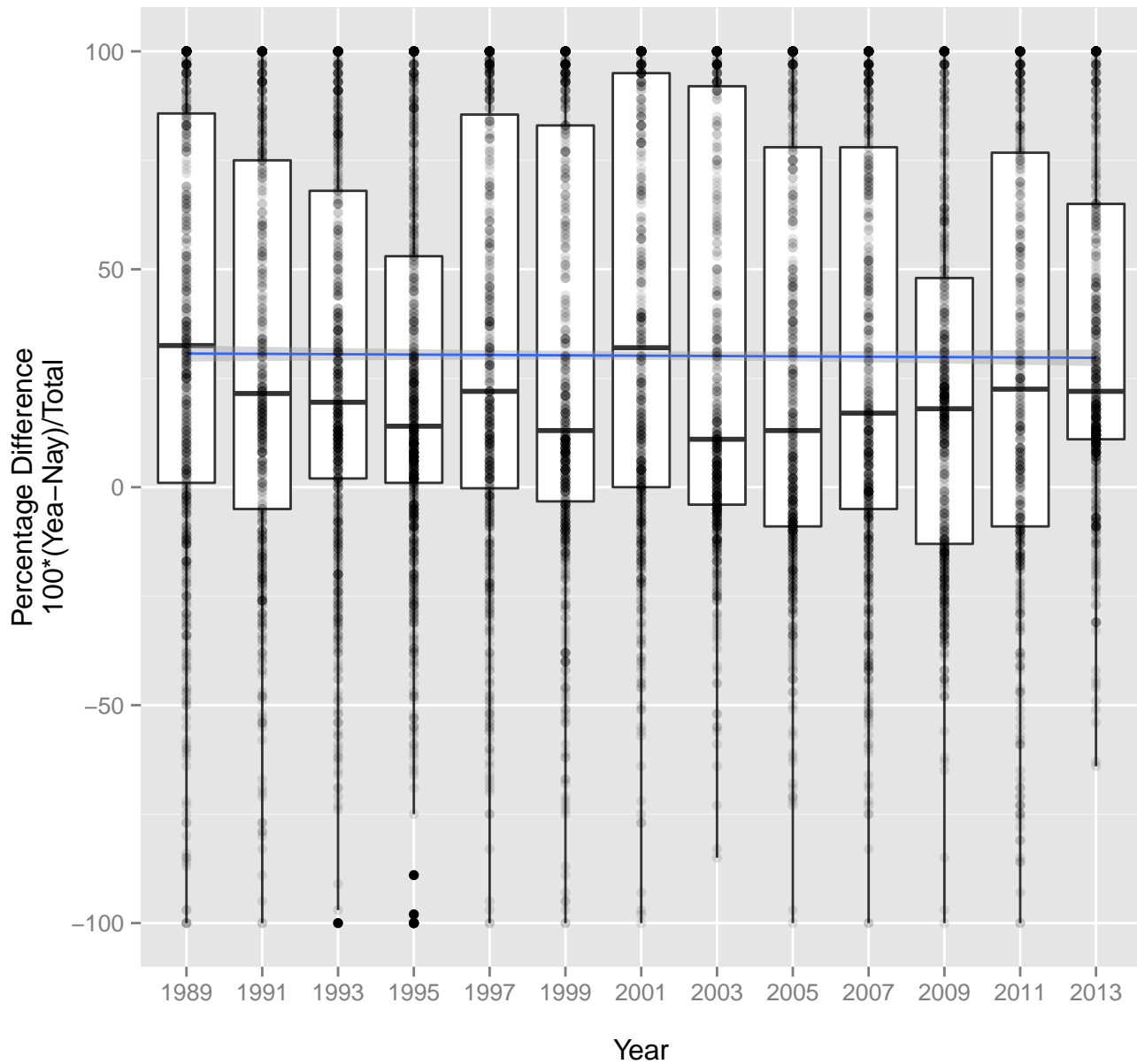


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query = "SELECT yeas, nays, (yeas+nays) as total, (100*(yeas-nays)/(yeas+nays)) as voteDiff, congressNumber, ses
rollCallStats = queryDB(query, "data.sqlite")
rollCallStats$year = apply(rollCallStats, 1, function(x) {
  congressToYear(x["congressNumber"], x["sessionNumber"])
})
ggplot(rollCallStats, aes(x = as.factor(year), y = voteDiff)) + geom_boxplot() +
  geom_smooth(aes(group = 1), method = "lm") + geom_point(alpha = 0.1) + ggtitle("Roll-call Vote Disagreement
xlab("\nYear") + ylab("Percentage Difference\n100*(Yea-Nay)/Total")

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Roll-call Vote Disagreement by Year



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query = "select r.year as year, r.voteNumber as voteNumber,
      abs(r.c - d.c) * 1.0 / (r.c + d.c) as diff
from (select voteNumber, year, count(*) as c
      from votes
      where vote == 'Yea' and party == 'R' group by year, voteNumber)
      as r
join
(select voteNumber, year, count(*) as c
      from votes
      where vote == 'Yea' and party == 'D' group by year, voteNumber)
      as d
      on r.voteNumber == d.voteNumber and r.year == d.year"
yeaDiff = queryDB(query, "data.sqlite")
yeaDiffMean = setNames(aggregate(diff ~ year, yeaDiff, mean), c("year", "mean"))
yeaDiffSd = setNames(aggregate(diff ~ year, yeaDiff, sd), c("year", "std"))
yeaDiffDistribution = merge(yeaDiffMean, yeaDiffSd, by="year")
ggplot(yeaDiffDistribution) +
  aes(x = year, y = mean) +
  scale_x_discrete(breaks=c(1989,1994,1999,2004,2009,2014)) +
  labs(title="Mean of difference of 'yea' votes of two majority parties
    \ndivided by total 'yea' votes from 1989 to 2014") +
  xlab("Year") +
  ylab("Mean difference of each year") +
  geom_bar(stat="identity")

```

Mean of difference of 'yea' votes of two majority parties

divided by total 'yea' votes from 1989 to 2014

