### Political Methodology III: Model Based Inference

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May 23rd, 2017

- 1) Task:
  - Estimate conditional expectation function (regression)  $E[Y|m{X}]$
  - Estimate empirical distribution function  $\hat{f}(x)$
  - Estimate conditional empirical distribution function  $\hat{f}(x|\mathbf{Z})$
- 2) Objective Function
  - Mean Square Error → Average (Predictive) Risk
  - Balance Bias-Variance Tradeoff
- 3) Optimization
  - Local Linear Regression
- 4) Validation
  - Bias/Variance Tradeoff in fitting data
  - LOOCV will be a workhorse tool

# Nonparametric Regression

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$$\boldsymbol{x}_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{iJ})$$

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We're going to consider more flexible functional forms for f(x) Our estimator  $\hat{f}(x)$  will estimate f(x)



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And accompanying covariates  $(x_1, \ldots, x_N)$ , then

$$\widehat{f}(x) = \text{average in each bin}$$
 
$$= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} y_i I(x_i = x)}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} I(x_i = x)}$$

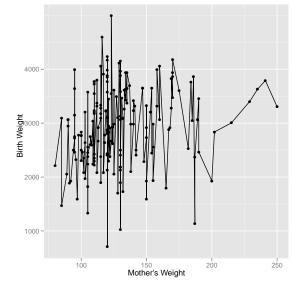
Hard Case: suppose X is continuous

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Then all values of  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_N$  are distinct.

If we calculate conditional mean naively, we get the observed values of  $y_1, \dots, y_N$ :



< R Code >
library(ggplot2)
qplot(lwt, bwt,
geom=c('point'),
xlab='Mothers Weight',
ylab='Birth Weight')
+geom\_line()

Minimize variance:

Minimize variance: assume  $\widehat{f}(\boldsymbol{x})$  is constant

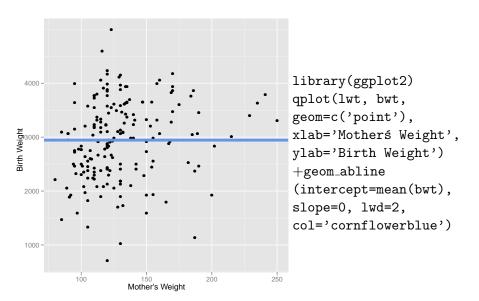
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This yields:



# Compromise

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$$N \times \Pr(\mathbf{X} \in [-0.1, 0.1] \times [-0.1, 0.1] \times \ldots \times [-0.1, 0.1]) =$$

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$$N \times \left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^{10} = \frac{N}{10,000,000,000}$$

# Bias-Variance Tradeoff

$$Y = f(x_i) + \epsilon_i$$
 Suppose  $f(x_i) \equiv \beta_0 + \beta_{i=1}^J x_{ij}$  and  $\pmb{x} = (1, x_1, \dots, x_J).$ 

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$$= \underbrace{\boldsymbol{x}'}_{1 \times J} \underbrace{\left( \boldsymbol{X}' \boldsymbol{X} \right)^{-1}}_{J \times N} \underbrace{\boldsymbol{X}'}_{N \times 1} \boldsymbol{Y}$$
 
$$= \sum_{1 \times J} h_i(\boldsymbol{x}) Y_i$$

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#### Definition

We will say  $\hat{f}(x)$ , an estimator of f(x), is a linear smoother if for each x there exists a vector  $h(x) = (h_1(x), h_2(x), \dots, h_N(x))$  such that

$$\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} h_i(\boldsymbol{x}) Y_i$$

This implies that fitted values  $\widehat{m{Y}} \ = \ (\hat{f}(m{x}_1),\hat{f}(m{x}_2),\ldots,\hat{f}(m{x}_N))$  and

$$\widehat{m{Y}} = m{H}m{Y}$$

where  $i^{th}$  row is  $\boldsymbol{h}(\boldsymbol{x}_i) = (h_1(\boldsymbol{x}_1), h_2(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \dots, h_N(\boldsymbol{x}_1))$ 

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#### Definition

The matrix H is the smoothing matrix. The row  $h(x_i)$  is called the effective kernel for observation i, and the effective number of parameters  $\nu = tr(H)$ .

### "Regressogram"

- Suppose we have one variable  $x_i$
- Suppose we divide our data into K bins, $B_k = \{x : a < x < b\}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \ldots, K$  so that there are 3 observations in each bin  $|B_k| = 3$  for all k
- We will say that the fitted value for  $x_i$  is then

$$\hat{f}(x_i) = \sum_{x_i \in B_k} \frac{Y_i}{3}$$

#### "Regressogram"

■ In smoothing terms (sorting observations according to  $x_i$  values)

# Local Averages

- Define  $B_x = \{i : |x_i x| < b\}$  and  $|B_x| = n_x$ .
- $\blacksquare \text{ If } n_x > 0,$

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{i \in B_x} \frac{Y_i}{n_x}$$

In smoothing terms

$$h_i(x) = 0 \text{ if } |x_i - x| > b$$
  
$$h_i(x) = \frac{1}{n_x} \text{ if } |x_i - x| < b$$

### More Sophisticated Weights → Kernels

■ Previous examples are binary (in/out)

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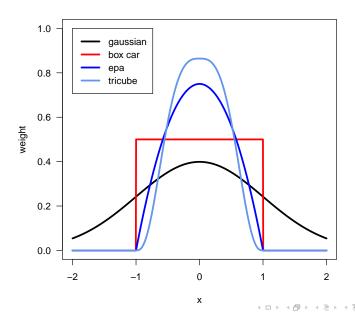
- Previous examples are binary (in/out)
- Continuous weights via Kernel
- Some famous examples (Define  $I(x) \equiv 1$  if |x| < 1, otherwise 0)

$$K(x) = \frac{1}{2}I(x) \text{ (Box Car)}$$

$$K(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\frac{-x^2}{2}\right) \text{ (Gaussian)}$$

$$K(x) = \frac{3}{4}(1-x^2)I(x) \text{ (Epanechnikov)}$$

$$K(x) = \frac{70}{81}(1-|x|^3)^3I(x) \text{ (Tri-cube)}$$



Define b > 0 to be the bandwidth.

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$$\frac{1}{2}I\left(\frac{x-x_i}{100}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \text{ if } |x-x_i| < 100$$

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$$\begin{split} &\frac{1}{2}I\left(\frac{x-x_i}{1}\right) &= &\frac{1}{2} \text{ if } |x-x_i| < 1 \\ &\frac{1}{2}I\left(\frac{x-x_i}{100}\right) &= &\frac{1}{2} \text{ if } |x-x_i| < 100 \\ &\frac{1}{2}I\left(\frac{x-x_i}{0.01}\right) &= &\frac{1}{2} \text{ if } |x-x_i| < 0.01 \end{split}$$

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Consider the box-car kernel

$$\begin{split} &\frac{1}{2}I\left(\frac{x-x_i}{1}\right) &= &\frac{1}{2} \text{ if } |x-x_i| < 1 \\ &\frac{1}{2}I\left(\frac{x-x_i}{100}\right) &= &\frac{1}{2} \text{ if } |x-x_i| < 100 \\ &\frac{1}{2}I\left(\frac{x-x_i}{0.01}\right) &= &\frac{1}{2} \text{ if } |x-x_i| < 0.01 \end{split}$$

 $b \rightsquigarrow \text{controls the sensitivity of Kernel}$ 



# Local Regression

#### Definition

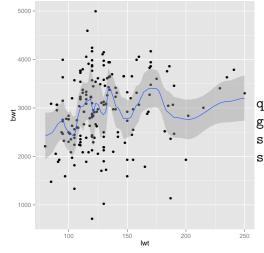
Suppose b > 0. Define the local regression estimator  $\hat{f}(x)$  of f(x) as

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} h_i(x) Y_i$$

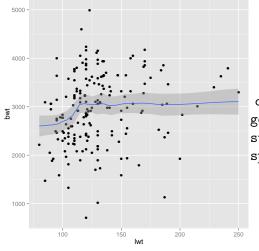
where

$$h_i(x) = \frac{K\left(\frac{x-x_i}{b}\right)}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} K\left(\frac{x-x_j}{b}\right)}$$

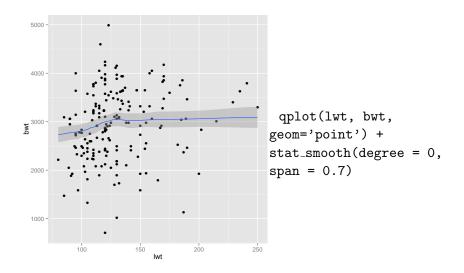
 $\boldsymbol{H} = N \times N$  matrix with  $H_{ij} = h_j(x_i)$ 

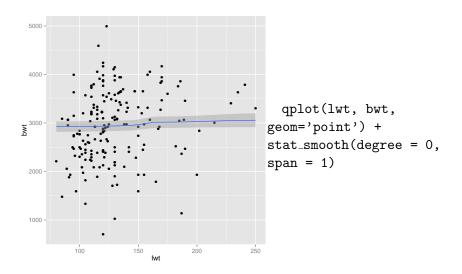


qplot(lwt, bwt,
geom='point') +
stat\_smooth(degree = 0,
span = 0.1)



qplot(lwt, bwt, geom='point') + stat\_smooth(degree = 0, span = 0.4)





# Local Regression

$$w_i(x) = K\left(\frac{x_i - x}{b}\right)$$

$$\hat{a} = \arg\min_{a} \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i(x)(Y_i - a)^2$$

$$\hat{a} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i(x)Y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i(x)}$$

$$\hat{a} = \hat{f}(x)$$

# Local Polynomial regression

$$(\hat{a}, \hat{b}, \hat{c}) = \arg \min_{a,b,c} \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i(x) (Y_i - a - bx_i - cx_i^2)^2$$

Define  $X_x$  to be an  $N \times 3$  matrix:

$$X_x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 - x & (x_1 - x)^2 \\ 1 & x_2 - x & (x_2 - x)^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_N - x & (x_N - x)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\boldsymbol{W}_x = N \times N$  matrix where  $W_{ii} = w_i(x)$ .

$$\hat{f}(x) = \left(\boldsymbol{X}_{x}'\boldsymbol{W}_{x}\boldsymbol{X}_{x}\right)^{-1}\boldsymbol{X}_{x}'\boldsymbol{W}_{x}\boldsymbol{Y}$$

# Local Polynomial Regression

#### Definition

Suppose b>0. Define the local polynomial regression estimator  $\hat{f}(x)$  of f(x) as

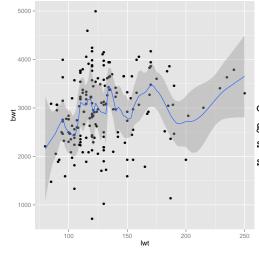
$$\hat{f}(x) = \left( \boldsymbol{X}_{x}^{'} \boldsymbol{W}_{x} \boldsymbol{X}_{x} \right)^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}_{x}^{'} \boldsymbol{W}_{x} \boldsymbol{Y}$$

We can write this as  $\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} h_i(x)Y_i$ , where  $h(x) = (h_1(x), h_2(x), \dots, h_N(x))$ 

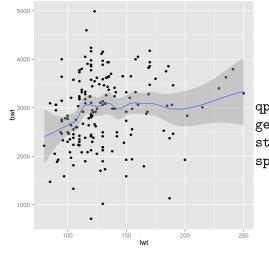
$$h(x) = e_1 \left( \boldsymbol{X}_x' \boldsymbol{W}_x \boldsymbol{X}_x \right)^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}_x' \boldsymbol{W}_x$$

where  $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ .

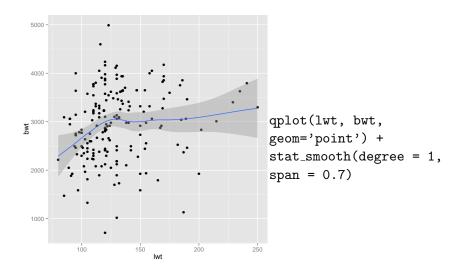
 $\boldsymbol{H}$  is an  $N \times N$  matrix with typical entry  $H_{ij} = h_j(x_i)$ .

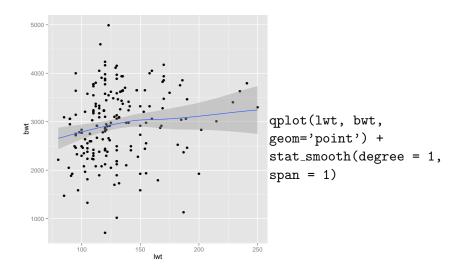


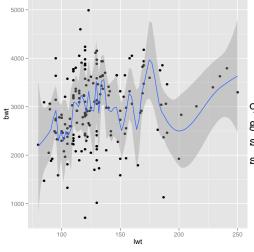
qplot(lwt, bwt, geom='point') + stat\_smooth(degree = 1, span = 0.1)



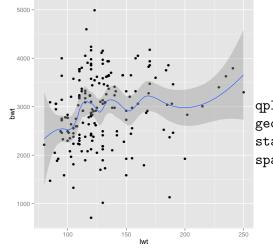
qplot(lwt, bwt,
geom='point') +
stat\_smooth(degree = 1,
span = 0.4)



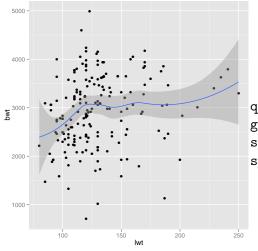




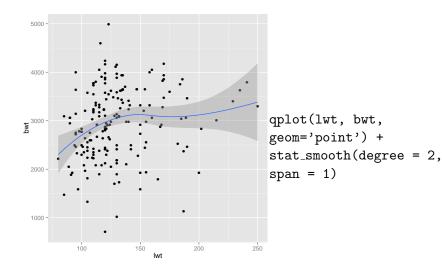
qplot(lwt, bwt,
geom='point') +
stat\_smooth(degree = 2,
span = 0.1)

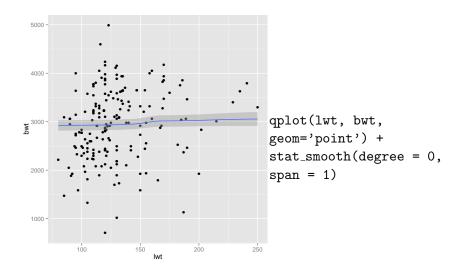


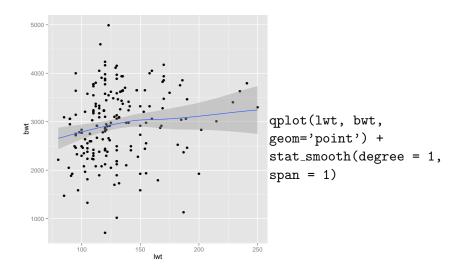
qplot(lwt, bwt,
geom='point') +
stat\_smooth(degree = 2,
span = 0.4)

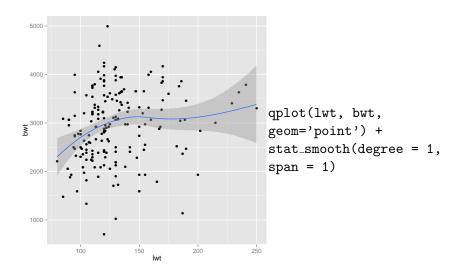


qplot(lwt, bwt, geom='point') + stat\_smooth(degree = 2, span = 0.7)









# Bandwidth Selection

#### Leave One Out Cross Validation LOOCV

- Define  $\hat{f}_{-i,b}(x)$  to be the linear smooth estimator without observation i and bandwidth b.
- The LOOCV statistic will be

$$\mathsf{CV}(\mathsf{b}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (Y_i - \hat{f}_{-i,b}(x))^2$$

Theorem

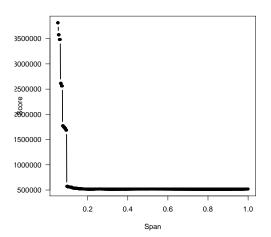
Suppose  $\hat{f}(x)$  is a linear smoother. Then CV(b) can be written as

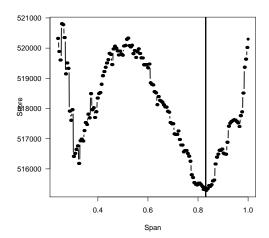
$$CV(b) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \frac{Y_i - \hat{f}_b(x)}{1 - H_{ii}} \right)^2$$

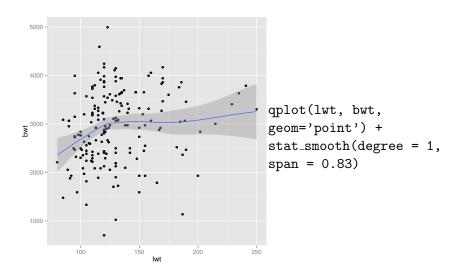
And is often approximated with the Generalized Cross Validation (GCV):

$$GCV(b) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \frac{Y_i - \hat{f}_b(x)}{1 - \nu/N} \right)^2$$

where  $\nu = tr(\boldsymbol{H})$ 







Many models:

Many models: condition on many factors in order to learn relationship

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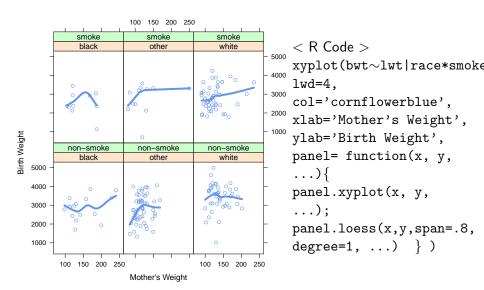
$$f(x, z_1, z_2) = E[Y|X = x, Z_1 = z_1, Z_2 = z_2]$$

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Suppose we have continuous random variable X and discrete random variables  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$ .

Then we might estimate

$$f(x, z_1, z_2) = E[Y|X = x, Z_1 = z_1, Z_2 = z_2]$$
  
= 
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f(y|X = x, Z_1 = z_1, Z_2 = z_2) dy$$



# **Densities**

Simplest case: probability mass functions

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Will converge on the probability mass function (by weak law of large numbers)

#### Histogram, Probability Density Function

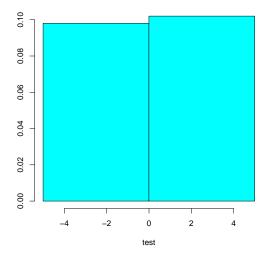
#### Harder case: probability density functions

- Suppose we observe  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_N$ , with X's continuous
- Goal: estimate the pdf f(x).
- Define a set of bins  $b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_M$  such that
  - $b_1 \leq x_1$  and  $b_M \geq x_N$
- Then, we can define an estimator for the pdf f(x) as

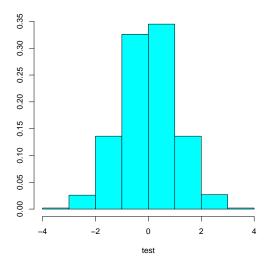
$$\widehat{f(x)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} I(x_i > b_z \text{ and } x_i \leq b_{z+1})}{N} \times I(x \in (b_z, b_{z+1}])$$

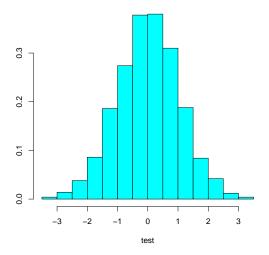
In words:  $\widehat{f(x)}$  is equal to proportion of observations in the bandwidth that x resides in

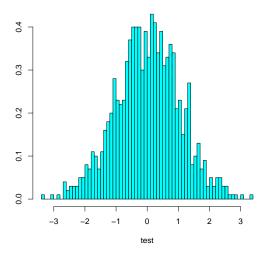
#### Bias Variance Tradeoff on Bin Size

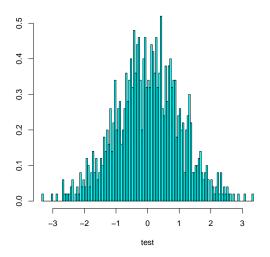


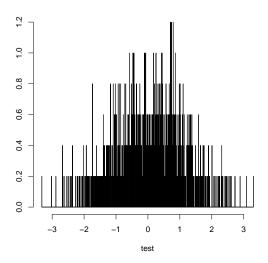
#### Bias Variance Tradeoff on Bin Size







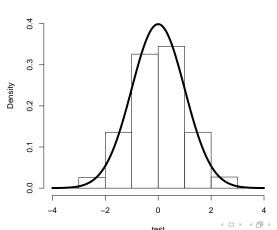




# Bias-Variance Tradeoff/Guidance

Classic problem:

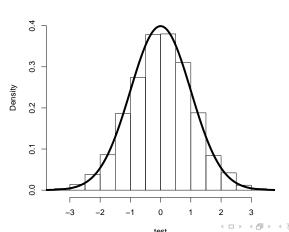
Bias-Variance Tradeoff



# Bias-Variance Tradeoff/Guidance

Classic problem:

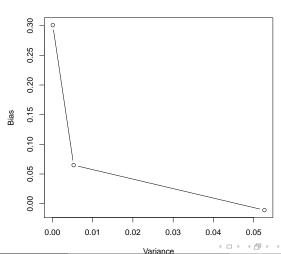
Bias-Variance Tradeoff



# Bias-Variance Tradeoff/Guidance

Classic problem:

Bias-Variance Tradeoff



# Navigating the Bias Variance Tradeoff

Two formulas for navigating bias-variance tradeoff for data  $\boldsymbol{x}$ 

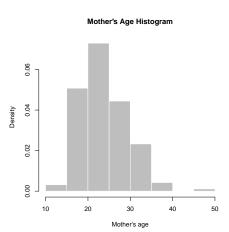
1) width= 
$$\frac{3.5 \times sd(x)}{n^{1/3}}$$
 (Scott 1979)

$$2)$$
 width=  $\frac{2(Q_3-Q_1)}{n^{1/3}}$  (Freedman and Diaconis (1981) )

# Histogram Creation

```
< R Code >
```

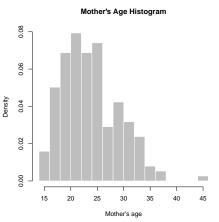
truehist(birthwt\$age, xlab='Motherś age',
ylab='Density', main='Mother's Age Histogram', col='gray',
border='white')



# Histogram Creation

< R Code >

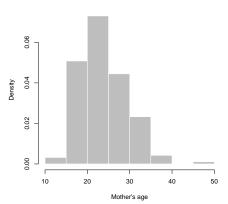
truehist(birthwt\$age, xlab='Motherś age',
ylab='Density', main='Mother's Age Histogram', col='gray',
border='white', nbins='fd')



# Histogram Creation

```
< R Code >
```

truehist(birthwt\$age, xlab='Motherś age',
ylab='Density', main='Mother's Age Histogram', col='gray',
border='white', nbins='scott')

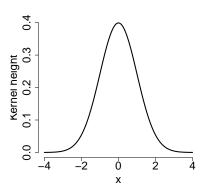


Histograms make continuous data discrete Density estimators "smooth" out histograms. We will use Kernels again

### Gaussian Kernel

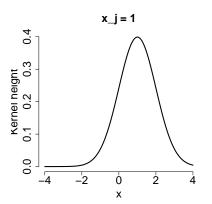
Define

$$K(x) = \frac{\exp[-x^2]}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$



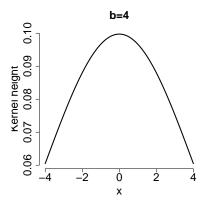
# Gaussian Kernel Define

$$K(\frac{x-x_j}{b}) = \frac{\exp[-\left(\frac{x-x_j}{b}\right)^2]}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$



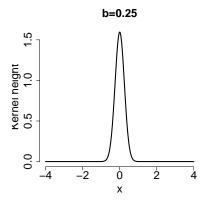
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For all values  $x \in \Re$  define the kernel density estimator as,

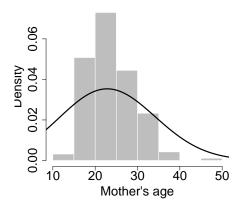
$$\widehat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{nb} \sum_{j=1}^{n} K(\frac{x - x_j}{b})$$

In words: at each point x, calculate weighted average of points, where weight is given by kernel

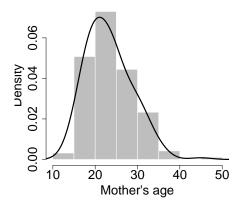
- As b increases, weight on nearby points is more evenly distributed (redistributed away from x)
- As b decreases, weight on nearby points is more concentrated (redistributed towards x )

Another bias variance tradeoff!

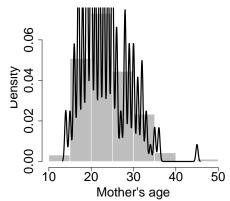
```
truehist(birthwt$age, xlab='Motherś age',
ylab='Density', main='Motherś Age Histogram', col='gray',
border='white', nbins='scott')
   lines(density(birthwt$age, width=40), lwd=3)
```



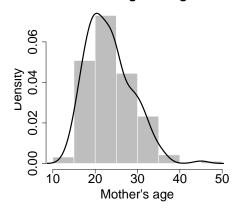
```
truehist(birthwt$age, xlab='Motherś age',
ylab='Density', main='Motherś Age Histogram', col='gray',
border='white', nbins='scott')
   lines(density(birthwt$age, width=10), lwd=3)
```



```
truehist(birthwt$age, xlab='Motherś age',
ylab='Density', main='Motherś Age Histogram', col='gray',
border='white', nbins='scott')
   lines(density(birthwt$age, width=1), lwd=3)
```



```
truehist(birthwt$age, xlab='Motherś age',
ylab='Density', main='Motherś Age Histogram', col='gray',
border='white', nbins='scott')
   lines(density(birthwt$age, width='SJ-dpi'), lwd=3)
```



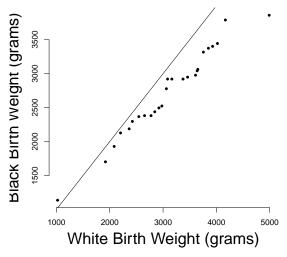
An initial inference:

An initial inference: Compare (contrast):

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 $\widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{white}) \quad \text{ and } \quad \widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{black})$ 

#### **Comparing Birthweight across Racial Groups**

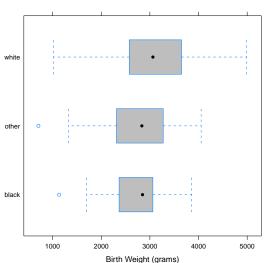


qqplot( bwt[which(race2=='white')], bwt[which(race2=='black')], xlab='White Birth Weight (grams)', ylab='Black Birth Weight (grams)', frame.plot=F, main='Comparing Birth Weight across Racial Groups', pch=20arrows(0,0, 1e7, 1e7)

- QQ-plots compare two distributions directly

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- Often want to compare many distributions (and readers are uncomfortable with qq-plots)

#### Birth Weight and Race

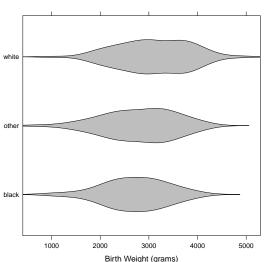


< R Code > library(lattice)  $bwplot(race2 \sim bwt,$ xlab='Birth Weight (grams)', frame.plot=F,main = 'Birthweight and Race', panel=function(...){ panel.bwplot(..., fill='gray', lty=1, lwd=2, pch=20) } )

- Box plots can obscure variation in distributions [histogram]

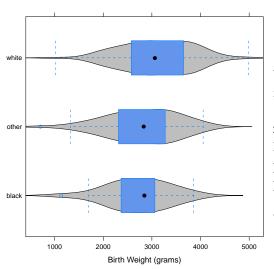
- Box plots can obscure variation in distributions [histogram]
- Violin plots allow smooth estimates of data distribution [density]

#### Birth Weight and Race



< R Code > library(lattice) bwplot(race2~bwt, xlab='Birth Weight (grams)', frame.plot=F, main='Birth Weight and Race', panel=function(...){ panel.violin(..., col='gray', bw='SJ-dpi') } )

#### Birth Weight and Race



< R Code > library(lattice) bwplot(race2~bwt, xlab='Birth Weight (grams)', frame.plot=F, main='Birth Weight and Race'. panel=function(...){ panel.violin(..., col='gray', bw='SJ-dpi') } )

- Comparing distributions within strata (buckets)

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  - Here: compare distribution of birth weights across race, by smoker and non-smoker

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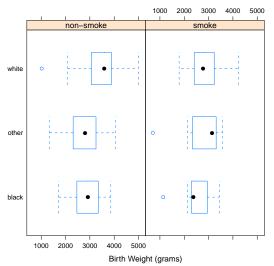
- Comparing distributions within strata (buckets)
  - Here: compare distribution of birth weights across race, by smoker and non-smoker
- Formally:

```
\begin{split} \widehat{p}(y|\text{black, smoke}) \\ \widehat{p}(y|\text{white, smoke}) \\ \widehat{p}(y|\text{other, smoke}) \end{split}
```

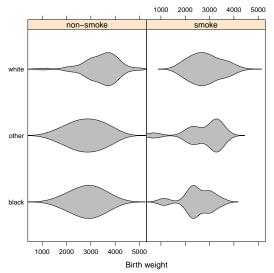
- Comparing distributions within strata (buckets)
  - Here: compare distribution of birth weights across race, by smoker and non-smoker
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```
\begin{split} \widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{black,\,smoke}) & \ ; \quad \widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{black,\,non\text{-}smoke}) \\ \widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{white,\,smoke}) & \ ; \quad \widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{white,\,non\text{-}smoke}) \\ \widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{other,\,smoke}) & \ ; \quad \widehat{p}(y|\mathsf{other,\,non\text{-}smoke}) \end{split}
```

#### Birth Weight and Race, Given Smoking



library(lattice)
bwplot(race2~bwt|smoke,
xlab='Birth Weight
(grams)',
frame.plot=F,main =
'Birth Weight and Race,
Given Smoking')



library(lattice)
bwplot(race2~bwt|smoke,
xlab='Birth weight',
panel=function(...){
panel.violin(...,
col='gray',bw='SJ-dpi')
} )

 $Nonparametrics: \ Bias/Variance \ Tradeoff$