

The Statistics of Pokemon

null

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```
library(GGally)
library(ggplot2)
library(RColorBrewer)
require(plyr)
library(leaps)
```

Introduction

Pokemon is an RPG (role-playing game) developed by GameFreak. The main video game series centers around the concept of “Pokemon Battles,” where titular Pokemon—fantastical creatures that display a wide range of characteristics—owned by “Pokemon Trainers” engage in turn-based battles until all Pokemon available to one side “faint.” As the franchise has developed, the range of Pokemon available in-game has expanded greatly. As of the current generation of Pokemon games, there are 807 canon Pokemon creatures, each with unique characteristics, which are outlined in a canonical Pokedex, present in the games and recorded in our API of choice. For our final project for S&DS361, we decided that this wealth of data may be interesting to analyze. In particular, with the rapid rise of Pokemon in popular culture, such analysis may be engaging for statisticians and non-statisticians alike.

The data

Pokemon have a myriad of characteristics associated with them. Below are the most well-characterized traits, which we decided to focus on analyses on:

- Type: Each Pokemon is a member of one or two Pokemon “types”, corresponding to elements or concepts (i.e. water, grass, ghost, normal). Each type is weak to certain types, and effective against other types, resulting in a rock-paper-scissors-like game dynamic.
- Height: Each Pokemon has a height associated with it in the Pokedex.
- Weight: Each Pokemon has a weight associated with it in the Pokedex.
- Growth Rate: Each Pokemon has a growth rate associated with it.
- Base Experience: When defeated, each Pokemon yields some amount of experience.
- Base Stats: Pokemon have attack/defense and health points (HP) indicators that determine their behavior in battle.
- Legendary status: a small number of Pokemon are *legendary*, which are unusually powerful and rare and associated with the lore.

API

To obtain these data, we made use of the PokeAPI, a free-to-use API containing information from all generations of the Pokemon games, complete with wrappers in numerous languages. However, an official R wrapper is not available, and while a wrapper package exists, we will make direct API calls to retrieve our data.

Data acquisition

The downloading of the data was done through LoadJSON requests from the PokeAPI. We first made a call which listed all the Pokemon in the database, after which we made a separate request for each Pokemon to obtain more detailed information. The JSON files provided by the API were then processed into a DataFrame for subsequent analyses.

Visualization

Load CSV

```
pokemons_df <- read.csv("../data/processed/pokemons.csv")
pokemons_df$legendary <- mapvalues(pokemons_df$is_legendary,
  from=c(TRUE,FALSE),
  to=c("Legendary","Normal"))

pokemons_df$log_height <- log10(pokemons_df$height)
pokemons_df$log_weight <- log10(pokemons_df$weight)

head(pokemons_df)
```

```
##   X      name base_experience height weight  species type_primary
## 1 1  bulbasaur          64      7     69  bulbasaur    poison
## 2 2   ivysaur         142     10    130   ivysaur     poison
## 3 3  venusaur         236     20   1000  venusaur     poison
## 4 4 charmander          62      6     85 charmander    fire
## 5 5 charmeleon         142     11    190 charmeleon    fire
## 6 6 charizard         240     17    905  charizard    flying
##   type_secondary speed_base speed_effort special_defense_base
## 1          grass          45           0                  65
## 2          grass          60           0                  80
```

```
## 3      grass      80      0      100
## 4      <NA>      65      1      50
## 5      <NA>      80      1      65
## 6      fire     100      0      85
##      special.defense_effort special.attack_base special.attack_effort defense_base
## 1              0              65              1              49
## 2              1              80              1              63
## 3              1             100              2              83
## 4              0              60              0              43
## 5              0              80              1              58
## 6              0             109              3              78
##      defense_effort attack_base attack_effort hp_base hp_effort is_legendary
## 1              0         49              0      45      0      FALSE
## 2              0         62              0      60      0      FALSE
## 3              0         82              0      80      0      FALSE
## 4              0         52              0      39      0      FALSE
## 5              0         64              0      58      0      FALSE
## 6              0         84              0      78      0      FALSE
##      legendary log_height log_weight
## 1      Normal  0.8450980  1.838849
## 2      Normal  1.0000000  2.113943
## 3      Normal  1.3010300  3.000000
## 4      Normal  0.7781513  1.929419
## 5      Normal  1.0413927  2.278754
## 6      Normal  1.2304489  2.956649
```

Type-stratified visualization

In general, a Pokemon's type determines its relative strength against another in battle. For instance, fire-type Pokemon tend to perform well against ice types, but are vulnerable to attacks by water types. Pokemon actually have up to two types, but for the purpose of this report, we will consider only the primary one.

Here, we examine the distributions of various traits with respect to type, first by defining a helper function for generating the plots by each type.

```
plot_by_primary <- function(var,var_name){

  # make the plot by type
  colourCount = length(unique(pokemons_df$type_primary))
  getPalette = colorRampPalette(brewer.pal(9, "Set3"))

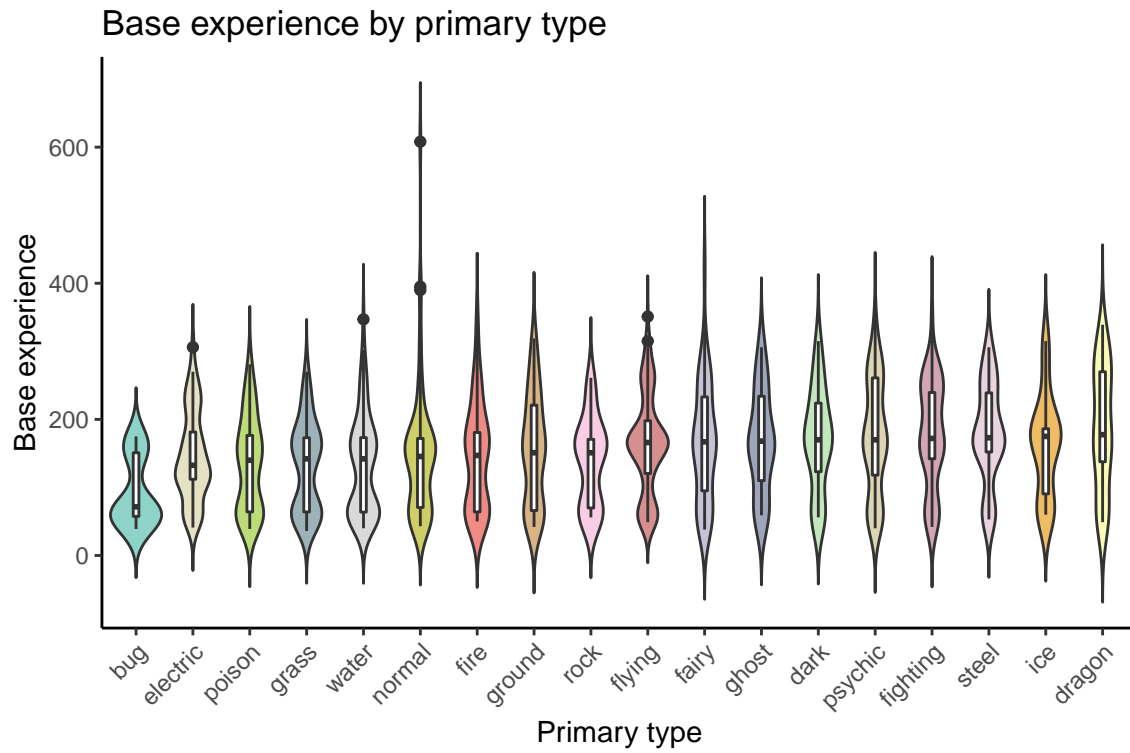
  bymedian <- reorder(pokemons_df$type_primary, pokemons_df[,var], median)

  plt <- ggplot(pokemons_df, aes_string(x=bymedian, y=var, fill="type_primary")) +
    geom_violin(trim=FALSE)+
    geom_boxplot(width=0.1, fill="white")+
    labs(title=paste(var_name,"by primary type"),x="Primary type", y = var_name) +
    scale_fill_manual(values = getPalette(colourCount)) +
    theme_classic() +
    theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45, hjust = 1),legend.position = "none")

  return(plt)
}
```

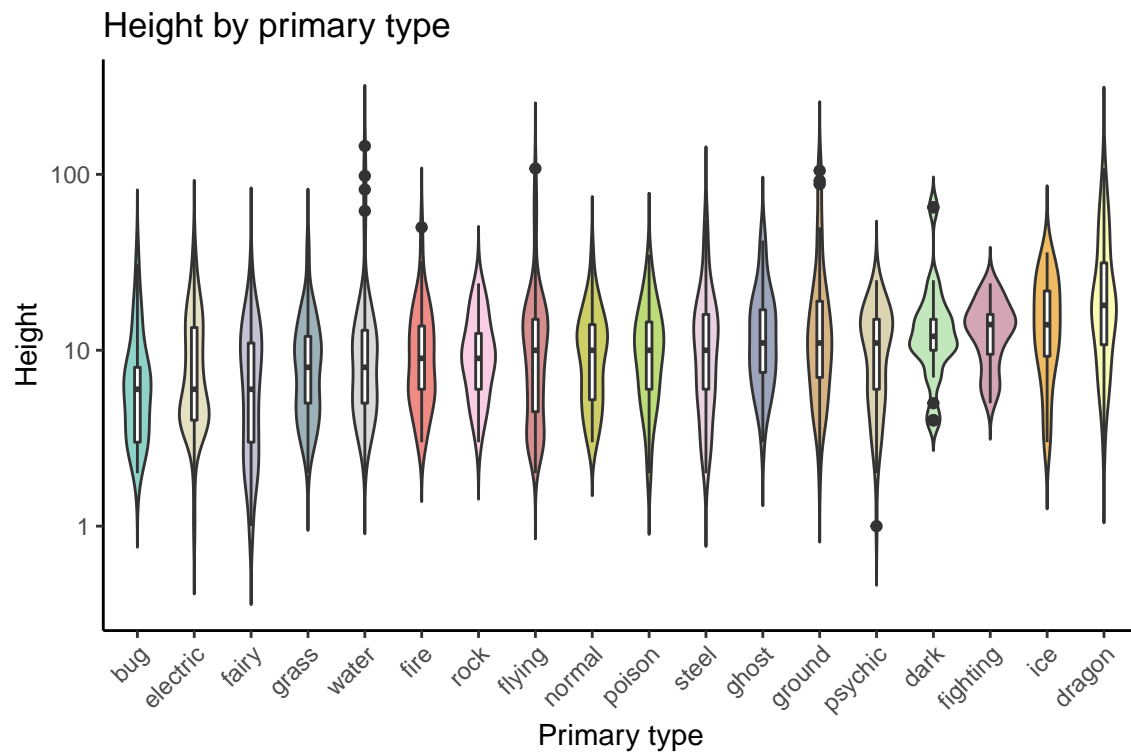
Base experience

```
plot_by_primary("base_experience", "Base experience")
```



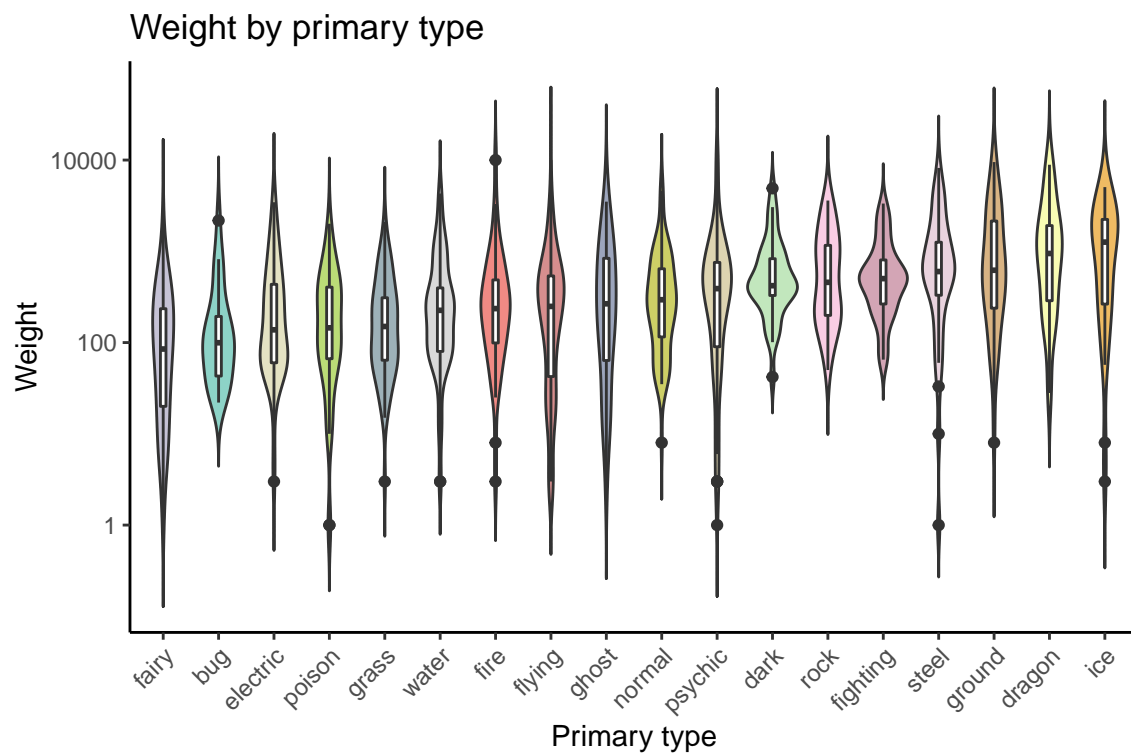
Height

```
plt <- plot_by_primary("height", "Height")  
plt + scale_y_continuous(trans='log10')
```



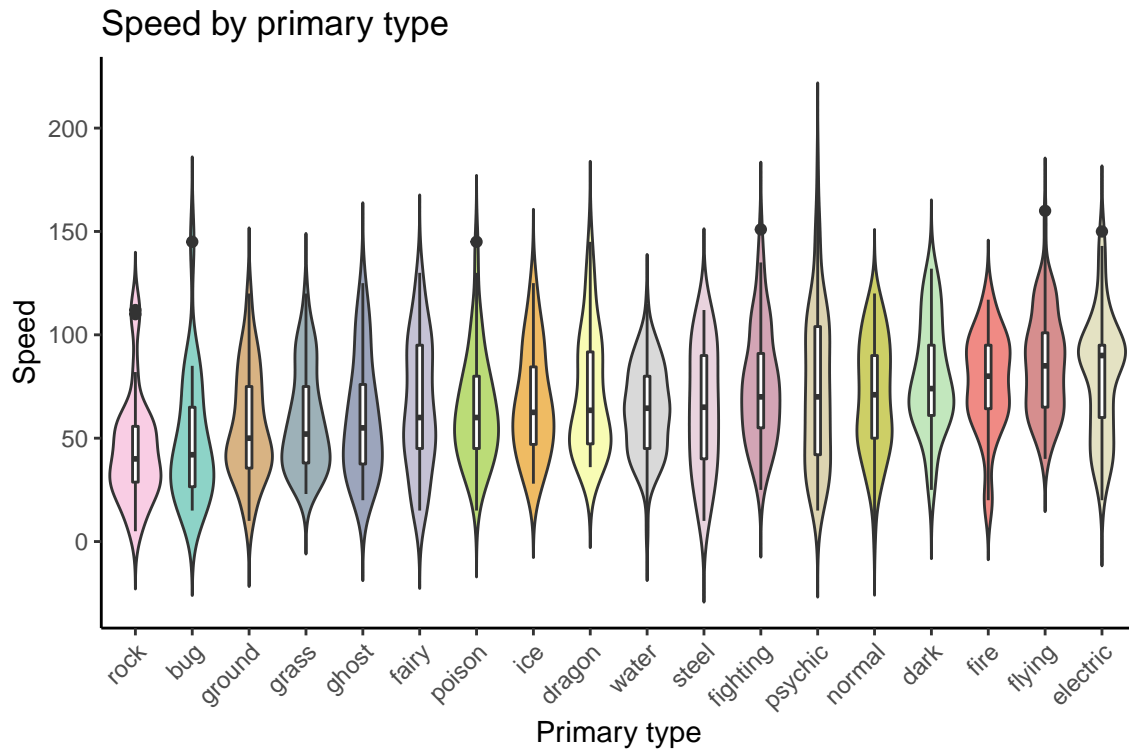
Weight

```
plt <- plot_by_primary("weight", "Weight")
plt + scale_y_continuous(trans='log10')
```



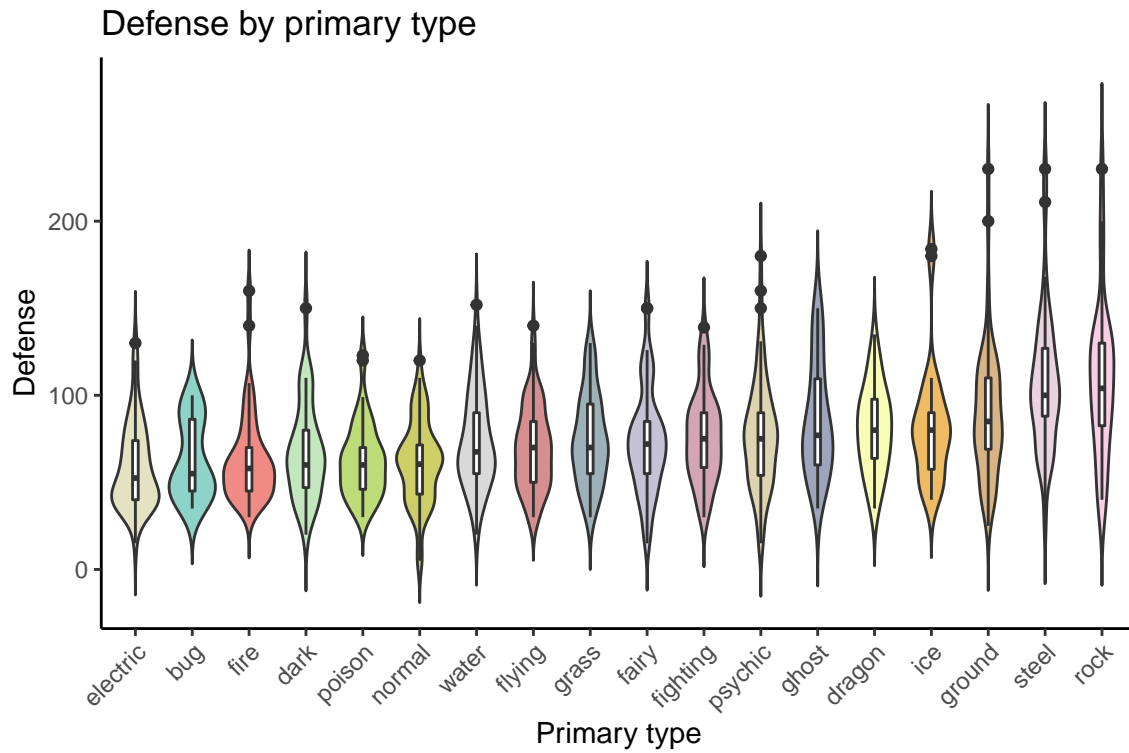
Speed

```
plot_by_primary("speed_base", "Speed")
```



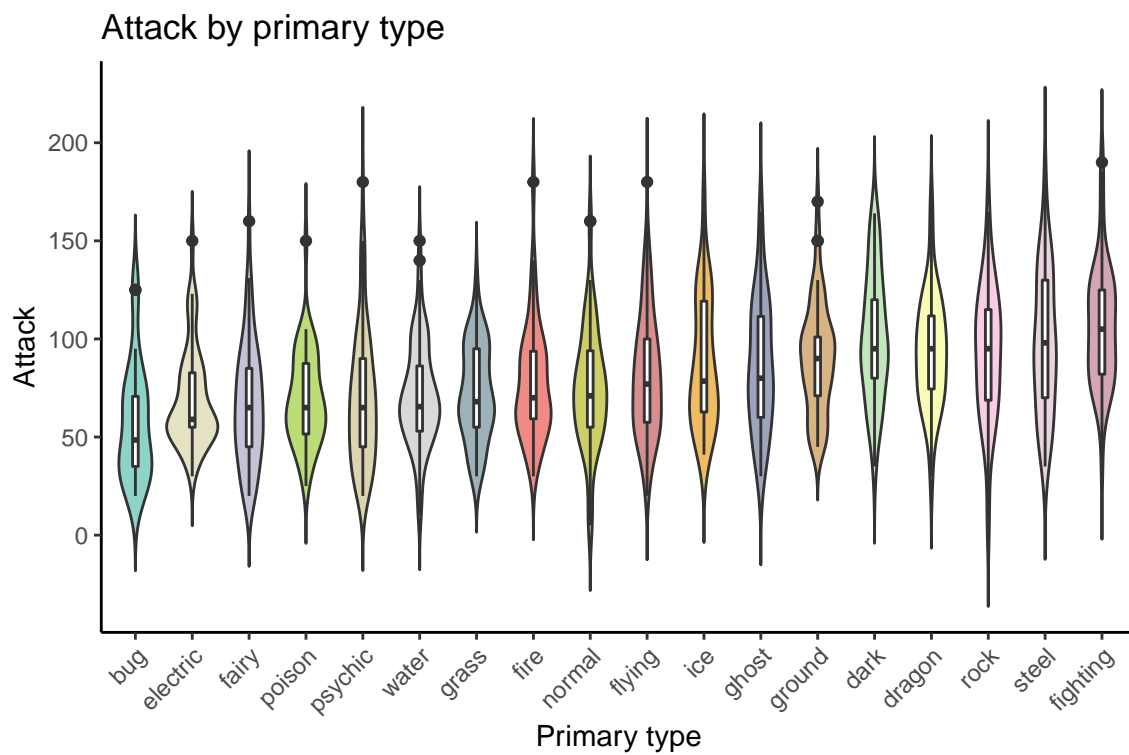
Base defense

```
plot_by_primary("defense_base", "Defense")
```



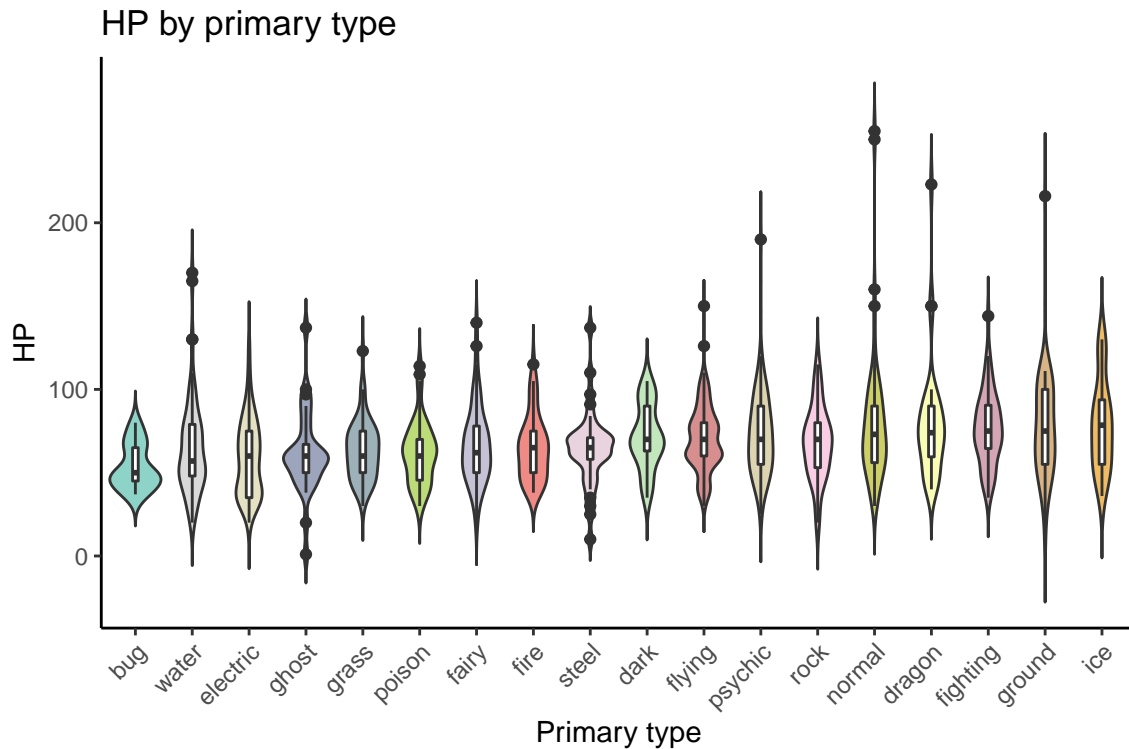
Base attack

```
plot_by_primary("attack_base", "Attack")
```



Base health

```
plot_by_primary("hp_base", "HP")
```

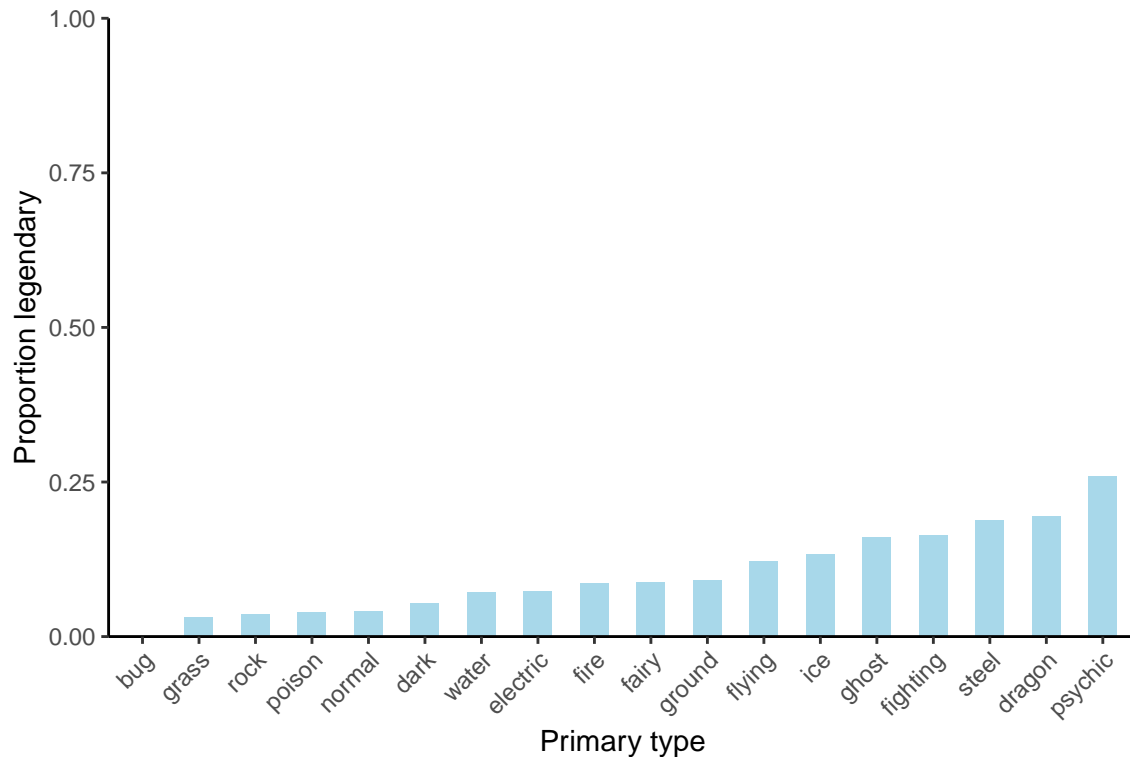


Proportions of legendary pokemon by type

Using the primary types, we can also take a preliminary look at the proportions of Pokemon within each type that are legendary, giving us a suggestion as to if type could be indicative of legendary status.

```
bymedian <- reorder(pokemons_df$type_primary, pokemons_df$is_legendary, mean)
order <- factor(pokemons_df$legendary, levels=c("Normal", "Legendary"))

ggplot(pokemons_df, aes(x = bymedian, fill = order)) +
  geom_bar(position = "fill", width=0.5) +
  scale_fill_manual(values=c("white", "#a8d8ea")) +
  theme_classic() +
  ylim(0,1)+
  scale_y_continuous(expand = c(0,0)) +
  xlab("Primary type") +
  ylab("Proportion legendary") +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45, hjust = 1), legend.position = "none")
```

Comparisons of normal and legendary Pokemon statistics

Legendary-type Pokemon are generally stronger than normal ones in battle. Here, we take a look at these differences in the performance indicators with respect to legendary status.

```
library(gridExtra)

p <- list()

select_vars = c("log_height", "log_weight", "base_experience", "speed_base", "defense_base", "special_defense_base")
select_names = c("Height (log10)", "Weight (log10)", "Experience", "Speed", "Defense", "Defense (special)")

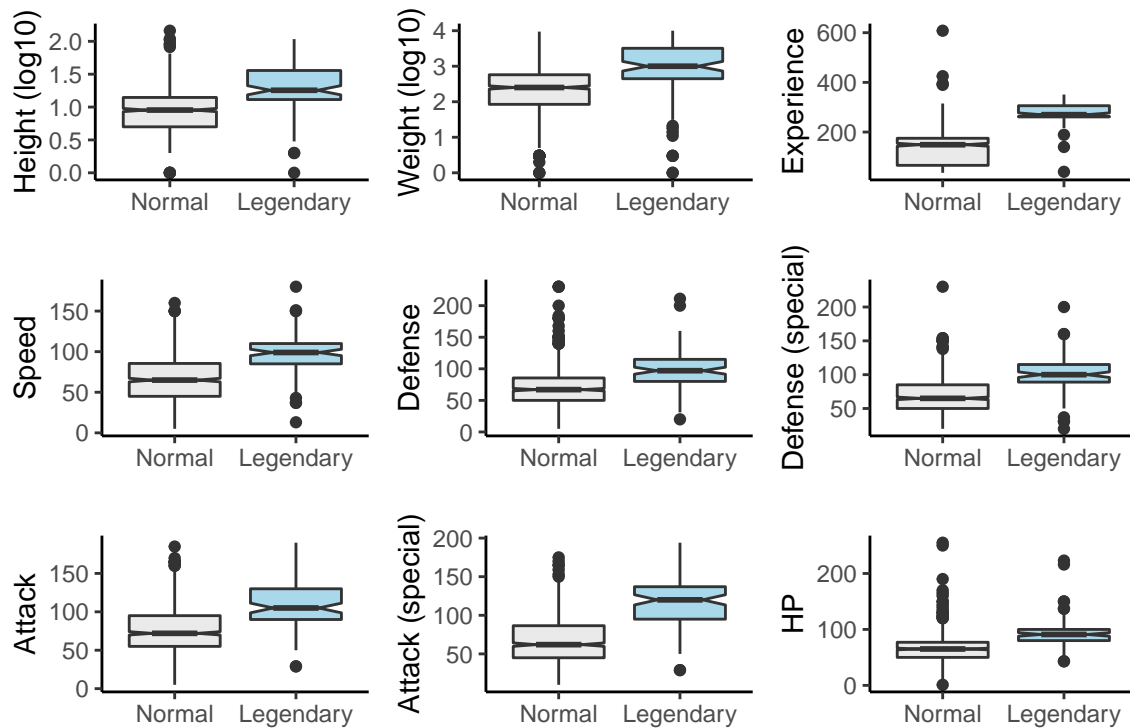
order <- factor(pokemons_df$legendary, levels=c("Normal", "Legendary"))

for (i in 1:length(select_vars)) {

  var <- select_vars[i]
  name <- select_names[i]

  p[[i]] <- ggplot(data=pokemons_df, aes_string(x=order, y=var)) +
    geom_boxplot(aes(fill=order), notch=TRUE) + guides(fill=FALSE) +
    theme(axis.title.y = element_text(size=14)) +
    xlab("") + ylab(name) +
    theme_classic() +
    scale_fill_manual(values=c("#eaeaea", "#a8d8ea"))
}

plots <- do.call(grid.arrange, c(p, ncol=3))
```



Q-Q plots of each characteristic

```
par(mfrow=c(2,4))

qqnorm(pokemons_df$height, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="Height")
qqline(pokemons_df$height, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)

qqnorm(pokemons_df$weight, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="Weight")
qqline(pokemons_df$weight, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)

qqnorm(pokemons_df$speed_base, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="Speed")
qqline(pokemons_df$speed_base, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)

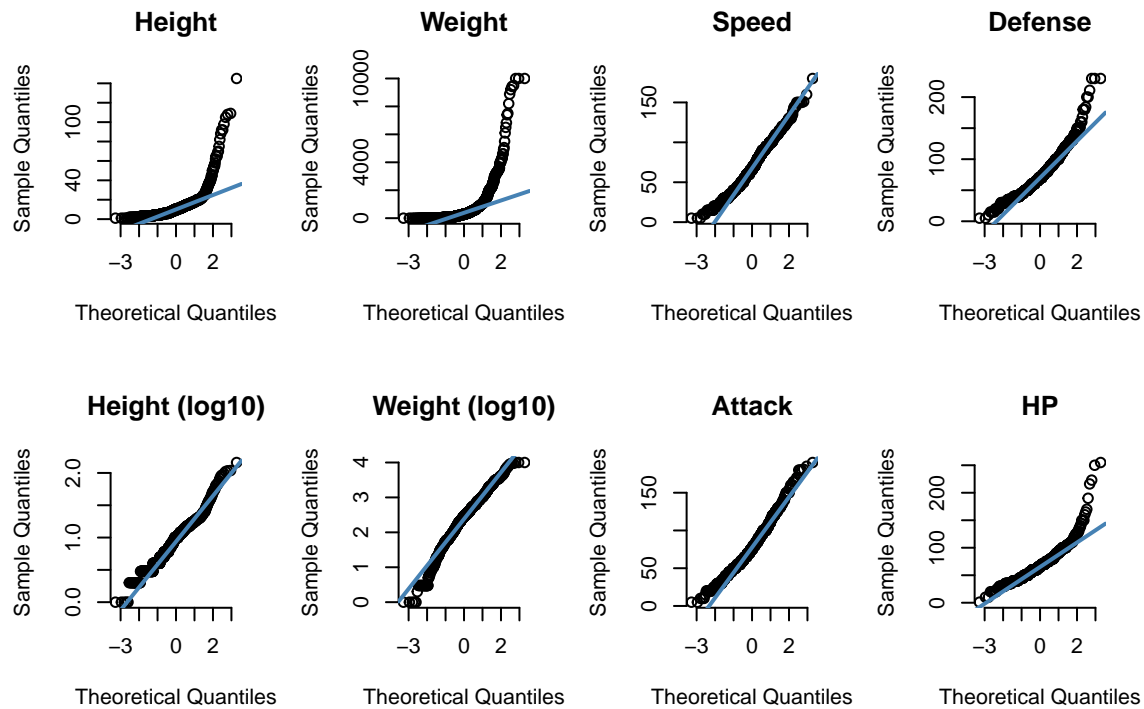
qqnorm(pokemons_df$defense_base, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="Defense")
qqline(pokemons_df$defense_base, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)

qqnorm(pokemons_df$log_height, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="Height (log10)")
qqline(pokemons_df$log_height, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)

qqnorm(pokemons_df$log_weight, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="Weight (log10)")
qqline(pokemons_df$log_weight, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)

qqnorm(pokemons_df$attack_base, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="Attack")
qqline(pokemons_df$attack_base, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)

qqnorm(pokemons_df$hp_base, pch = 1, frame = FALSE, main="HP")
qqline(pokemons_df$hp_base, col = "steelblue", lwd = 2)
```



Statistical analysis

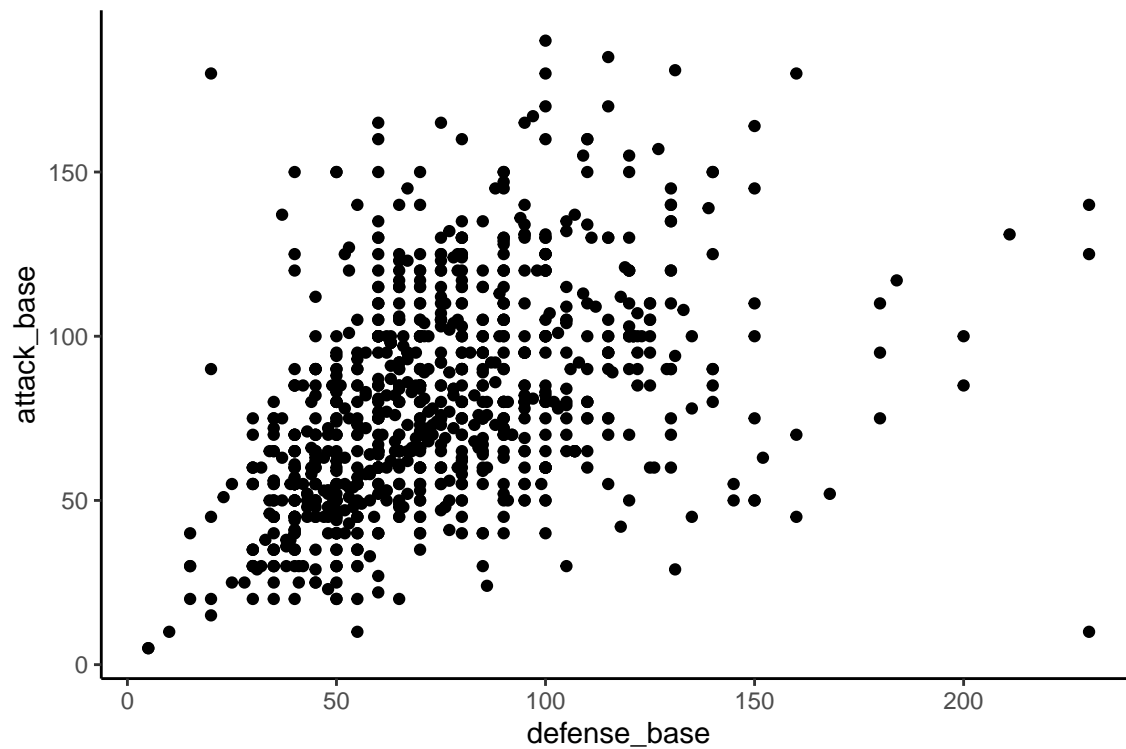
Bootstrap analysis

To test the significance of the correlations between various traits, we embarked on bootstrap analysis of the correlations obtained between traits.

Defense and attack

Plot

```
ggplot(pokemons_df, aes(x = defense_base, y = attack_base)) +
  geom_point() +
  theme_classic()
```



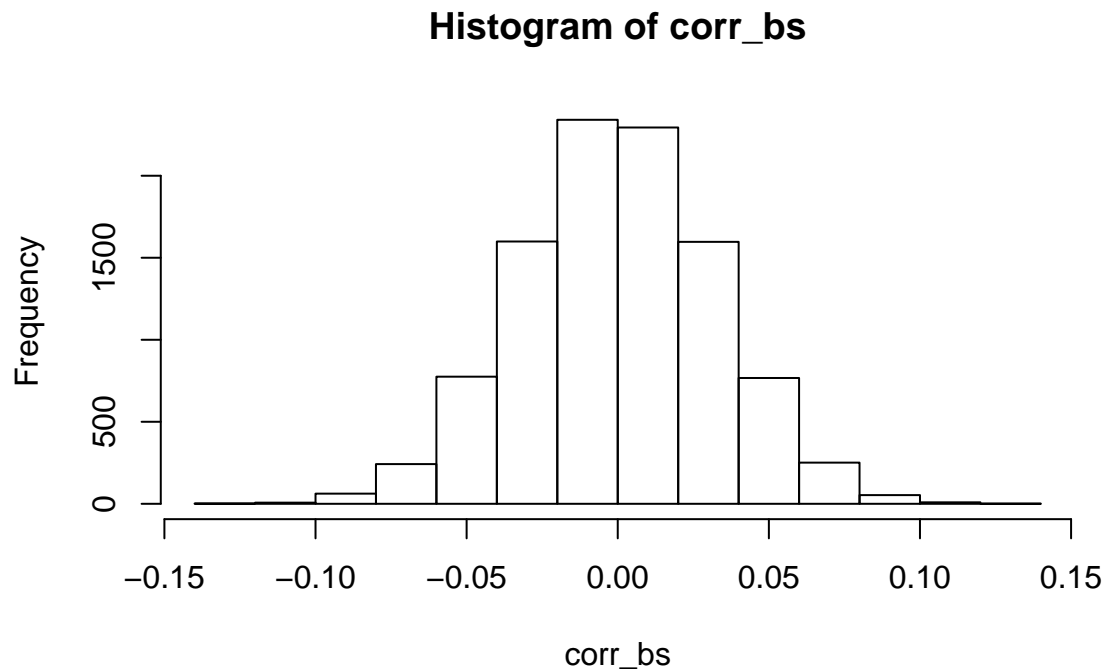
```
corr <- cor(pokemons_df$defense_base, pokemons_df$attack_base)
corr
```

```
## [1] 0.4425994
```

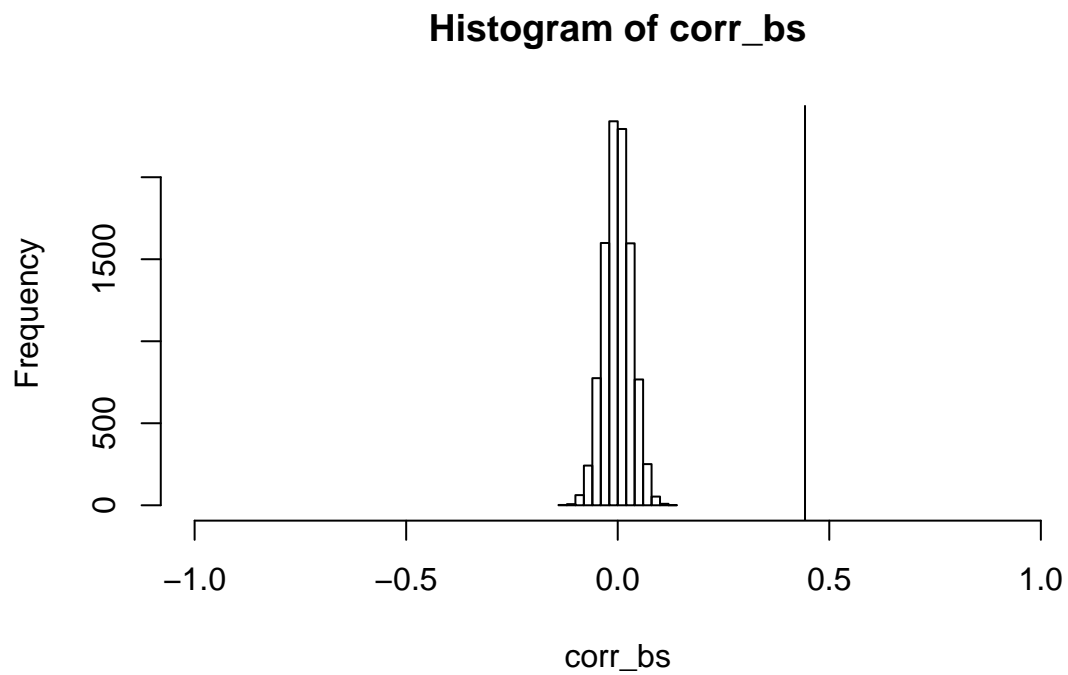
Testing significance with bootstrap

```
n <- 10000
corr_bs <- rep(0, n)
for (i in 1:n){
  defense_sample <- sample(pokemons_df$defense_base, length(pokemons_df$defense_base), replace = T)
  attack_sample <- sample(pokemons_df$attack_base, length(pokemons_df$attack_base), replace = T)
  corr_bs[i] <- cor(defense_sample, attack_sample)
}

plot(hist(corr_bs), xlim=c(-1,1))
```



```
abline(v = corr)
```



```
mean(as.numeric(corr_bs > corr))
```

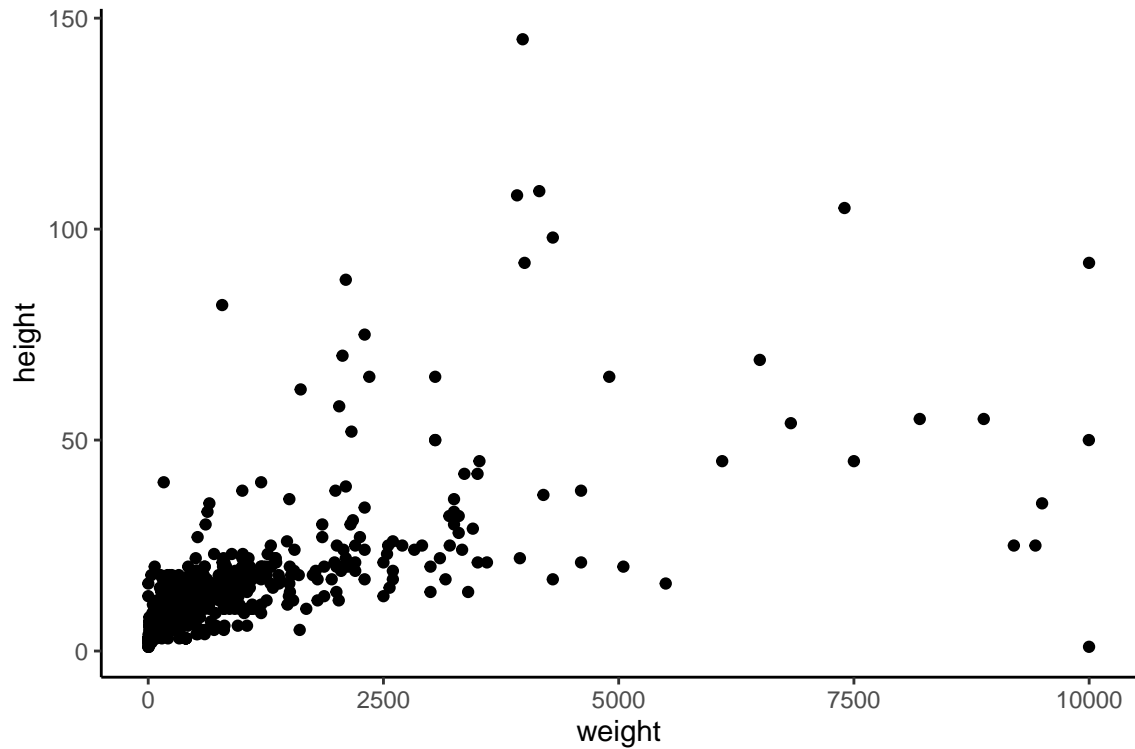
```
## [1] 0
```

From this result, we see that there is no density greater than the observed correlation in the null distribution.

Height and weight

Plot

```
ggplot(pokemons_df, aes(x = weight, y = height))+
  geom_point() +
  theme_classic()
```



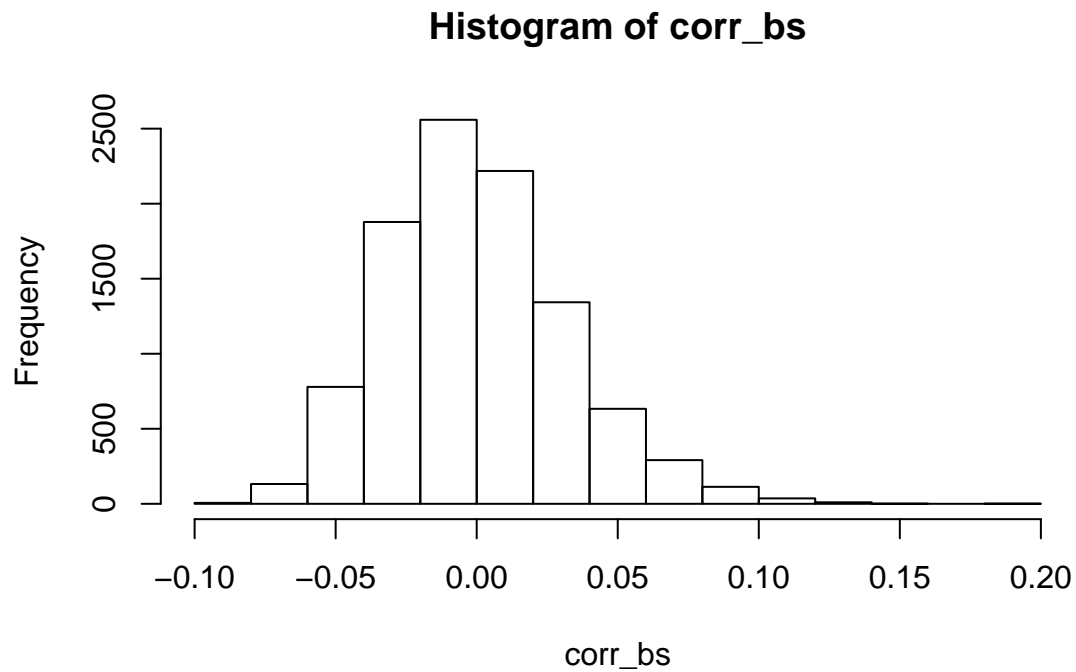
```
corr <- cor(pokemons_df$weight, pokemons_df$height)
corr
```

```
## [1] 0.6631623
```

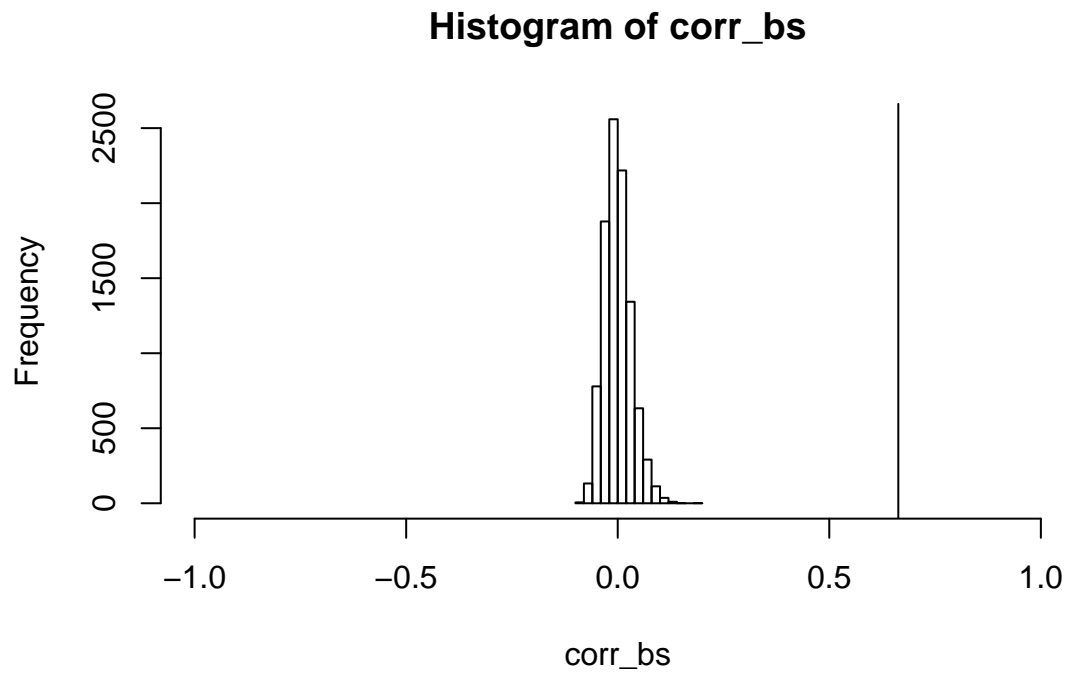
Testing significance with bootstrap

```
n <- 10000
corr_bs <- rep(0, n)
for (i in 1:n){
  weight_sample <- sample(pokemons_df$weight, length(pokemons_df$weight), replace = T)
  height_sample <- sample(pokemons_df$height, length(pokemons_df$height), replace = T)
  corr_bs[i] <- cor(weight_sample, height_sample)
}
```

```
plot(hist(corr_bs), xlim=c(-1,1))
```



```
abline(v = corr)
```



```
mean(as.numeric(corr_bs > corr))
```

```
## [1] 0
```

Again, there is no density above the observed correlation in the null distribution. Thus, we reject the null hypothesis that there is no correlation between weight and height.

Linear regression

Predicting base health

Naive full regression

```
nfr_hp <- lm(hp_base ~ . -X -name -species, pokemons_df)
```

```
summary(nfr_hp)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = hp_base ~ . - X - name - species, data = pokemons_df)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -67.835  -7.346  -0.390   7.005  65.597
##
## Coefficients: (1 not defined because of singularities)
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)    40.9117499   7.9682291   5.134 4.16e-07 ***
## base_experience    0.3301697   0.0430558   7.668 1.02e-13 ***
## height    -0.0597679   0.1015332  -0.589 0.556377
## weight     0.0020619   0.0008125   2.538 0.011485 *
## type_primarydark    2.8392859   6.3722035   0.446 0.656111
## type_primarydragon    2.7507907   6.5904580   0.417 0.676585
## type_primaryelectric 10.0300689   7.0786461   1.417 0.157164
## type_primaryfairy     2.2251681   6.2547248   0.356 0.722182
## type_primaryfighting   9.1434548   6.3238042   1.446 0.148881
## type_primaryfire     1.5612555   6.9555581   0.224 0.822496
## type_primaryflying    9.6002057   5.9386470   1.617 0.106646
## type_primaryghost     2.3324389   6.5372137   0.357 0.721407
## type_primarygrass     6.9994430   6.4137911   1.091 0.275697
## type_primaryground    2.7356142   6.1858238   0.442 0.658520
## type_primaryice     15.4265453   6.7713673   2.278 0.023164 *
## type_primarynormal    8.7655103   7.9662477   1.100 0.271754
## type_primarypoison    2.3251305   6.3286519   0.367 0.713489
## type_primarypsychic   9.1294625   6.2550116   1.460 0.145086
## type_primaryrock     11.3416169   7.0095233   1.618 0.106330
## type_primarysteel     1.9362569   6.3259535   0.306 0.759679
## type_primarywater     1.0933885   6.6213319   0.165 0.868912
## type_secondarydark    8.6287101   3.4828100   2.478 0.013582 *
## type_secondarydragon   0.1475247   3.6306706   0.041 0.967606
## type_secondaryelectric 1.7457230   3.7371454   0.467 0.640626
## type_secondaryfairy    1.2785470  10.0376881   0.127 0.898699
## type_secondaryfighting 3.6517942   5.0707605   0.720 0.471782
## type_secondaryfire     2.4242770   3.3347245   0.727 0.467602
## type_secondaryflying   9.3748154  10.3530532   0.906 0.365660
## type_secondaryghost    6.9684377   3.3053038   2.108 0.035540 *
## type_secondarygrass    4.3198236   2.8397499   1.521 0.128885
## type_secondaryground   4.0429993   3.6516644   1.107 0.268791
## type_secondaryice     5.5761036   4.2233364   1.320 0.187378
## type_secondarynormal   3.4284170   2.9337800   1.169 0.243160
## type_secondarypoison   5.6331222   3.6883721   1.527 0.127371
```



```
## type_secondarypsychic 0.1449710 3.5057130 0.041 0.967032
## type_secondaryrock 3.0766873 2.7676206 1.112 0.266850
## type_secondarysteel -4.2258602 3.7605064 -1.124 0.261696
## type_secondarywater 5.1737321 2.6943713 1.920 0.055440 .
## speed_base -0.1588987 0.0381480 -4.165 3.70e-05 ***
## speed_effort -8.3375054 2.7013719 -3.086 0.002146 **
## special.defense_base -0.1339550 0.0430524 -3.111 0.001976 **
## special.defense_effort -7.2768590 2.7476264 -2.648 0.008360 **
## special.attack_base -0.0375552 0.0395147 -0.950 0.342395
## special.attack_effort -8.8114239 2.6451564 -3.331 0.000933 ***
## defense_base -0.1291198 0.0429463 -3.007 0.002785 **
## defense_effort -9.9198130 2.7579559 -3.597 0.000356 ***
## attack_base -0.0536587 0.0393604 -1.363 0.173454
## attack_effort -6.3987494 2.6568801 -2.408 0.016410 *
## hp_effort 4.5799744 2.8123745 1.629 0.104090
## is_legendaryTRUE -0.7102800 2.5788975 -0.275 0.783115
## legendaryNormal NA NA NA NA
## log_height 7.7621879 5.5550232 1.397 0.162977
## log_weight 4.2725329 1.8568702 2.301 0.021834 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 13.51 on 468 degrees of freedom
## (444 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared: 0.72, Adjusted R-squared: 0.6895
## F-statistic: 23.6 on 51 and 468 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

From our naive regression, it seems that certain statistics (namely base experience, base speed, and weight) are significant coefficients. It also seems that we may drop the type factor.

```
hp1 <- lm(hp_base ~ . -X -type_primary -type_secondary -name -species, pokemons_df)
```

```
summary(hp1)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = hp_base ~ . - X - type_primary - type_secondary -
##     name - species, data = pokemons_df)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -74.029  -7.703  -0.434   6.543  61.941
##
## Coefficients: (1 not defined because of singularities)
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)    4.874e+01  5.009e+00   9.732 < 2e-16 ***
## base_experience  3.355e-01  4.137e-02   8.109 3.95e-15 ***
## height        -1.255e-01  9.913e-02  -1.266 0.205931
## weight         1.881e-03  7.864e-04   2.393 0.017095 *
## speed_base     -1.315e-01  3.493e-02  -3.763 0.000188 ***
## speed_effort   -1.013e+01  2.639e+00  -3.840 0.000139 ***
## special.defense_base -1.369e-01  4.123e-02  -3.320 0.000966 ***
## special.defense_effort -8.892e+00  2.677e+00  -3.321 0.000961 ***
## special.attack_base -3.075e-02  3.655e-02  -0.841 0.400533
## special.attack_effort -1.115e+01  2.573e+00  -4.335 1.76e-05 ***
```

```
## defense_base          -1.446e-01  3.803e-02 -3.801 0.000162 ***
## defense_effort        -1.172e+01  2.665e+00 -4.396 1.35e-05 ***
## attack_base           -5.137e-02  3.765e-02 -1.364 0.173096
## attack_effort         -8.456e+00  2.604e+00 -3.247 0.001243 **
## hp_effort              2.914e+00  2.769e+00  1.052 0.293132
## is_legendaryTRUE       -1.423e+00  2.477e+00 -0.574 0.565895
## legendaryNormal        NA          NA      NA      NA
## log_height             1.100e+01  5.300e+00  2.076 0.038405 *
## log_weight             4.703e+00  1.738e+00  2.707 0.007031 **
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 13.82 on 502 degrees of freedom
## (444 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared:  0.6857, Adjusted R-squared:  0.6751
## F-statistic: 64.43 on 17 and 502 DF,  p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

Finding an optimal model

```
hp1 <- regsubsets(hp_base ~ . -X -name -type_primary -type_secondary -species, data = pokemons_df, nvmax = 17)
```

Reordering variables and trying again:

```
hp1_sum <- summary(hp1)
hp1_sum$which
```

```
##      (Intercept) base_experience height weight speed_base speed_effort
## 1             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  FALSE      FALSE      FALSE
## 2             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  FALSE      FALSE      FALSE
## 3             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  FALSE      FALSE      FALSE
## 4             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  FALSE      FALSE      FALSE
## 5             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  FALSE      FALSE      FALSE
## 6             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  TRUE     FALSE      FALSE
## 7             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  TRUE     TRUE       FALSE
## 8             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  FALSE     TRUE       FALSE
## 9             TRUE             TRUE FALSE  TRUE     TRUE       FALSE
## 10            TRUE             TRUE FALSE  FALSE     TRUE       TRUE
## 11            TRUE             TRUE FALSE  TRUE     TRUE       TRUE
## 12            TRUE             TRUE FALSE  TRUE     TRUE       TRUE
## 13            TRUE             TRUE FALSE  TRUE     TRUE       TRUE
## 14            TRUE             TRUE  TRUE  TRUE     TRUE       TRUE
## 15            TRUE             TRUE  TRUE  TRUE     TRUE       TRUE
## 16            TRUE             TRUE  TRUE  TRUE     TRUE       TRUE
##      special.defense_base special.defense_effort special.attack_base
## 1             FALSE             FALSE             FALSE
## 2             FALSE             FALSE             FALSE
## 3             FALSE             FALSE             FALSE
## 4             FALSE             FALSE             FALSE
## 5             FALSE             FALSE             FALSE
## 6             FALSE             FALSE             FALSE
## 7             FALSE             FALSE             FALSE
## 8              TRUE             FALSE             FALSE
## 9              TRUE             FALSE             FALSE
## 10             TRUE             TRUE             FALSE
```

```

## 11          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE
## 12          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE
## 13          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE
## 14          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE
## 15          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE
## 16          TRUE          TRUE          TRUE
##      special.attack_effort defense_base defense_effort attack_base attack_effort
## 1          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE
## 2          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE
## 3          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE
## 4          FALSE          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE
## 5          FALSE          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 6          FALSE          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 7          FALSE          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 8          TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE
## 9          TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE
## 10         TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE          TRUE
## 11         TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE          TRUE
## 12         TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE          TRUE
## 13         TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE          TRUE
## 14         TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          FALSE          TRUE
## 15         TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          TRUE
## 16         TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          TRUE          TRUE
##      hp_effort isLegendary TRUE legendaryNormal log_height log_weight
## 1          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE
## 2          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE
## 3          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 4          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 5          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 6          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 7          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 8          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 9          TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 10         FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 11         FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 12         TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE
## 13         TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE          TRUE
## 14         TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE          TRUE
## 15         TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE          TRUE
## 16         TRUE          FALSE          FALSE          TRUE          TRUE

```

```
which(hp1_sum$cp == max(hp1_sum$cp))
```

```
## [1] 1
```

```
which(hp1_sum$bic == max(hp1_sum$bic))
```

```
## [1] 1
```

```
hp1_sum$aic <- length(pokemons_df$X) * log(hp1_sum$rss/length(pokemons_df$X)) + 2*15
hp1_sum$aic
```

```
## [1] 5063.840 4754.106 4628.071 4583.243 4554.873 4535.290 4523.412 4514.194
## [9] 4499.767 4493.710 4486.209 4478.427 4473.712 4470.020 4466.633 4465.310
```

From Cp, BIC, and AIC, it would seem that the submodel with only one parameter (as base experience) is the optimal model.