

Instructions for R Homework 1*

This assignment will explore a sample of homes in Boston suburbs. It comes from the paper [Hedonic housing prices and the demand for clean air](#) which tries to estimate how much people are willing to pay to live in homes with cleaner air.

To use this dataset, use the function `read.csv` with the url https://mattbutner.github.io/data/housing_df.csv as done in the introduction_to_R.pdf document.

Remember that you need to include the code that loads the dataset into your R Markdown file.

This data set has the following variables

VARIABLE	INFO
CRIM	Per capita crime rate by town
ZN	Proportion of residential land zoned for lots over 25,000 sq. ft.
INDUS	Proportion of non-retail business acres per town
CHAS	Charles River dummy variable (=1 if census tract touches river; 0 otherwise)
NOX	Nitric oxides concentration (parts per 10 million)
RM	Average number of rooms per dwelling
AGE	Proportion of owner-occupied units built prior to 1940
DIS	weighted distances to five Boston employment centres
RAD	index of accessibility to radial highways
TAX	Full-value property-tax rate per \$10,000
PTRATIO	Pupil-teacher ratio by town
B	Formula involving % Black
LSTAT	% lower status of the population
MEDV	Median value of owner-occupied homes in \$1000's

* For all HW assignments, I need to see all the code used

Question 1

Look in the `Environment` panel of R studio, how many variables and how many observations are in this data set? Which of the variables are quantitative, which of the variables are categorical?

Question 2

Each observation is a town in the suburbs or boston. First, we want to get a sense of the distribution of the *median* value of owner-occupied homes of towns in the Boston suburb at this time.

Use the function `mean()` and `sd()` to find the average median value of owner-occupied homes in \$1000's. Report the R code and number to two digits (see the option chunk option `echo = TRUE/FALSE` from the [rmarkdown website](#)).

Question 3

To practice with R coding. Use the functions `sqrt()`, `sum()`, `^2`, `length()`, and `mean()`, but not `var()` or `sd()`, calculate the sample standard deviation median value of owner-occupied homes in \$1000's. Report the R code and number to two digits.

Question 4

Use the `hist()` function, create a histogram of NOX pollution. With this distribution is the mean or median a better measure of central tendency?

Question 5

Now with a sense of the distribution of the two variables of interest. Let's make a scatter plot of `MEDV` on the x-axis and `NOX` on the y-axis. You can use the `plot(x = ____, y = ____)` function for this. Include the plot in the output. To improve the plot, you can use additional parameters `xlab = ""`, and `ylab = ""` to improve the axis labels.

Use the chunk option `fig.cap = ""` to describe the relationship between neighborhood NOX levels and home prices.