# Normal quantile plots

- see that normal distributions of data (or being normal enough) important
- only tools we have to assess this are histograms and maybe boxplots
- a better tool is normal quantile plot:
  - plot data against what you expect if data actually normal
  - ▶ look for points to follow a straight line, at least approx
- ggplot code: aes sample; geoms stat\_qq and stat\_qq\_line

# **Packages**

The usual:

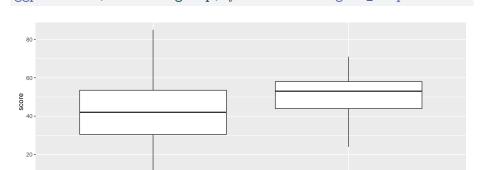
library(tidyverse)

### Kids learning to read

Rows: 44

\$ score <dbl> 24, 61, 59, 46, 43, 44, 52, 43, 58, 67, 62, 57,

ggplot(kids, aes(x = group, y = score)) + geom\_boxplot()



group

## Get the groups separately

```
kids %>% filter(group == "t") -> treatment
kids %>% filter(group == "c") -> control
```

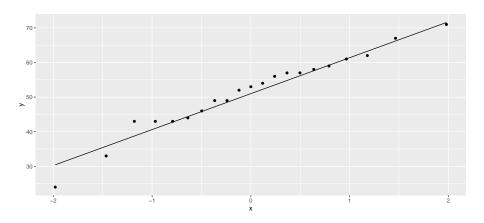
to check

```
treatment %>% count(group)
```

#### control %>% count(group)

## The treatment group

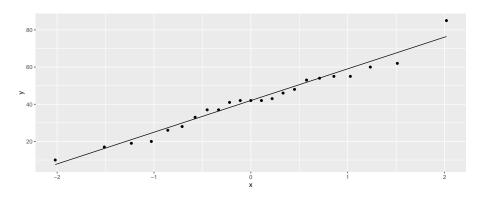
```
ggplot(treatment, aes(sample = score)) +
stat_qq() + stat_qq_line()
```



only problem here is lowest value a little too low (mild outlier).

## Control group

```
ggplot(control, aes(sample = score)) +
stat_qq() + stat_qq_line()
```

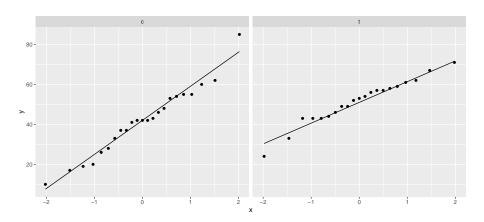


This time, highest value a little too high, but again, no real problem with normality.

## Facetting more than one sample

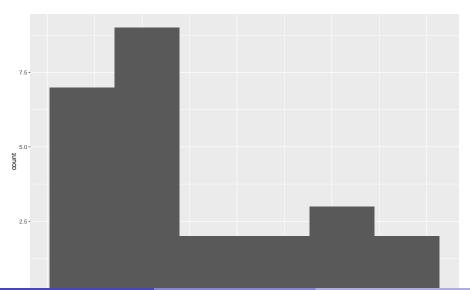
Use the whole data set and facet by groups

```
ggplot(kids, aes(sample = score)) +
stat_qq() + stat_qq_line() + facet_wrap(~group)
```



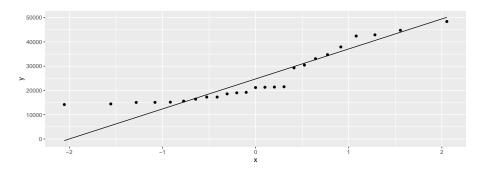
# Blue Jays attendances, skewed to right

ggplot(jays, aes(x = attendance)) + geom\_histogram(bins = 6)



## On a normal quantile plot

```
ggplot(jays, aes(sample = attendance)) +
stat_qq() + stat_qq_line()
```



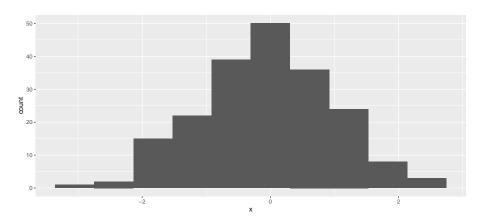
- Attendances at low end too bunched up: skewed to right.
- Right-skewness can also show up as highest values being too high, or as a curved pattern in the points.

## More normal quantile plots

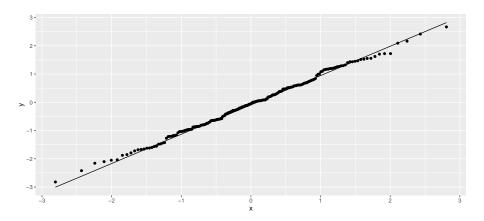
- How straight does a normal quantile plot have to be?
- There is randomness in real data, so even a normal quantile plot from normal data won't look perfectly straight.
- With a small sample, can look not very straight even from normal data.
- Looking for systematic departure from a straight line; random wiggles ought not to concern us.
- Look at some examples where we know the answer, so that we can see what to expect.

## Normal data, large sample

```
d <- tibble(x=rnorm(200))
ggplot(d, aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=10)</pre>
```



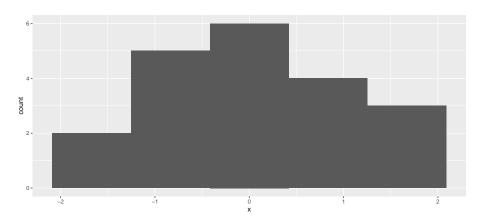
ggplot(d,aes(sample=x))+stat\_qq()+stat\_qq\_line()



#### Normal data, small sample

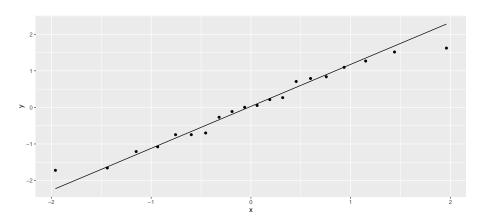
• Not so convincingly normal, but not obviously skewed:

```
d <- tibble(x=rnorm(20))
ggplot(d, aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=5)</pre>
```



Good, apart from the highest and lowest points being slightly off. I'd call this good:

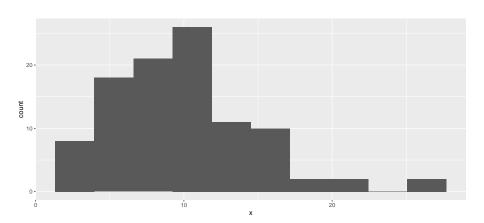
```
ggplot(d, aes(sample=x)) + stat_qq() + stat_qq_line()
```



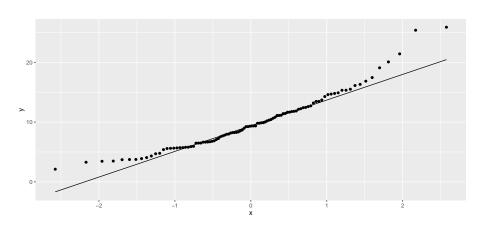
## Chi-squared data, df = 10

Somewhat skewed to right:

```
d <- tibble(x=rchisq(100, 10))
ggplot(d,aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=10)</pre>
```



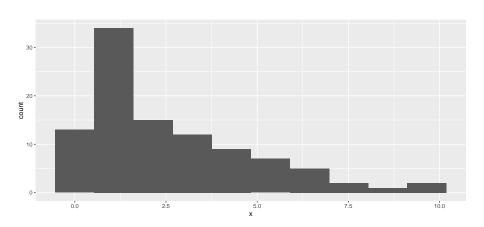
Somewhat opening-up curve:



## Chi-squared data, df = 3

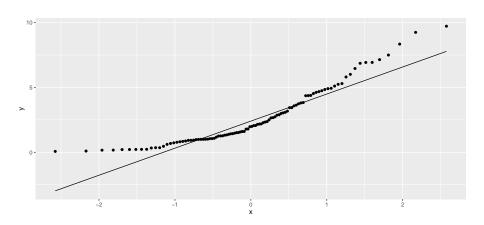
Definitely skewed to right:

```
d <- tibble(x=rchisq(100, 3))
ggplot(d, aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=10)</pre>
```



#### Clear upward-opening curve:

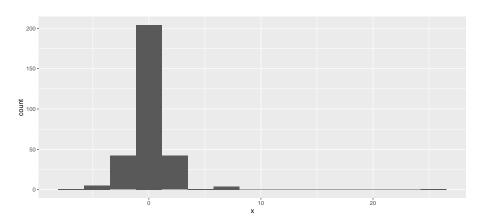
```
ggplot(d,aes(sample=x))+stat_qq()+stat_qq_line()
```



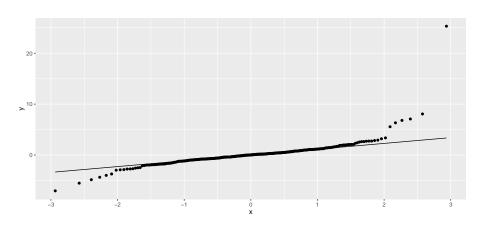
## t-distributed data, df = 3

Long tails (or a very sharp peak):

```
d <- tibble(x=rt(300, 3))
ggplot(d, aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=15)</pre>
```



Low values too low and high values too high for normal.



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## Summary

#### On a normal quantile plot:

- points following line (with some small wiggles): normal.
- kind of deviation from a straight line indicates kind of nonnormality:
  - ▶ a few highest point(s) too high and/or lowest too low: outliers
  - else see how points at each end off the line:

	High points	
Low points	Too low	Too high
Too low	Skewed left	Long tails
Too high	Short tails	Skewed right

• short-tailed distribution OK for t (mean still good), but others problematic (depending on sample size).