

Normal quantile plots

The normal quantile plot

- ▶ 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

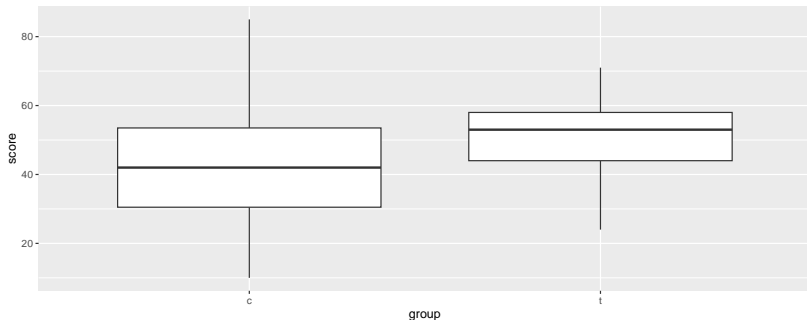
Rows: 44

Columns: 2

```
$ group <chr> "t", "t", "t", "t", "t", "t", "t", "t", "t",
```

```
$ score <dbl> 24, 61, 59, 46, 43, 44, 52, 43, 58, 67, 62, 5
```

```
ggplot(kids, aes(x = group, y = score)) + geom_boxplot()
```



Groups look normal, at least close to symmetric.

Get the groups separately

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

to check

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

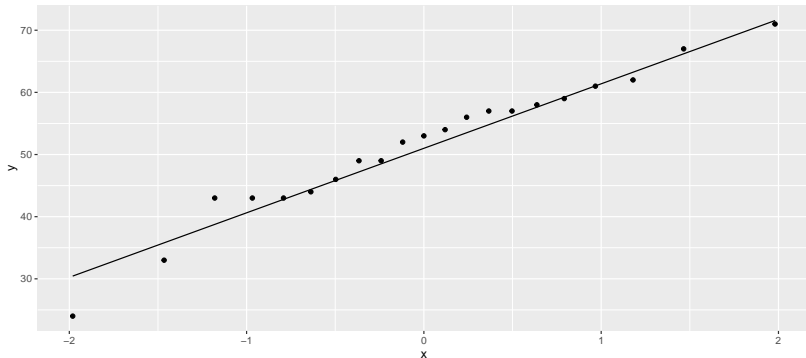
```
# A tibble: 1 x 2  
  group      n  
  <chr> <int>  
1 t         21
```

```
control %>% count(group)
```

```
# A tibble: 1 x 2  
  group      n  
  <chr> <int>  
1 c         23
```

The treatment group

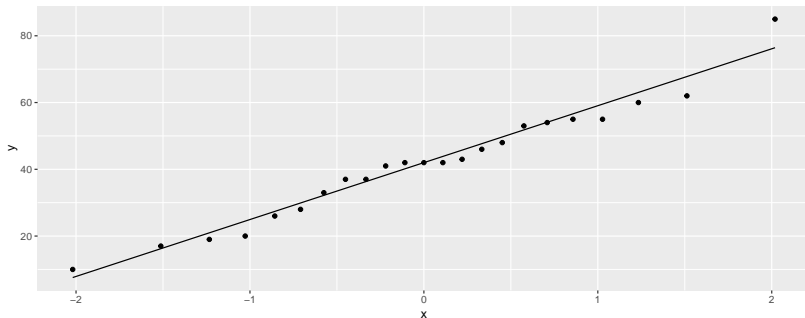
```
ggplot(treatment, aes(sample = score)) +  
  stat_qq() + stat_qq_line()
```



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

Control group

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

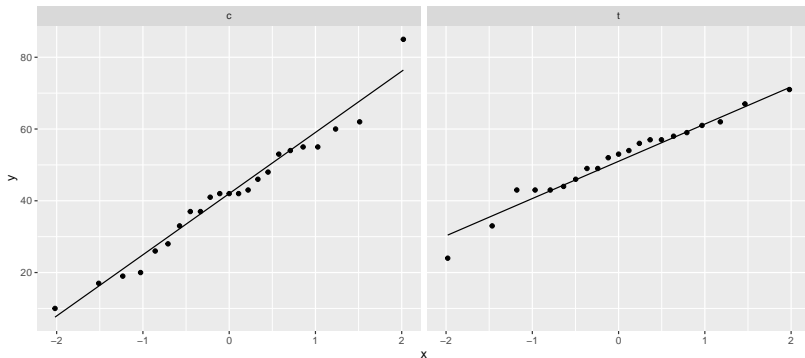


This time, highest value a little too high, but again, no real problem with normality.

Facetting more than one sample

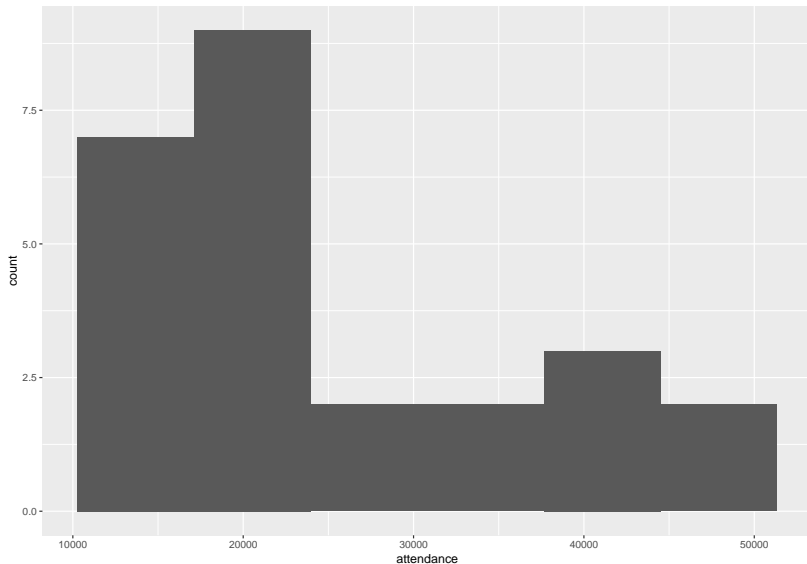
Use the whole data set and facet by groups

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



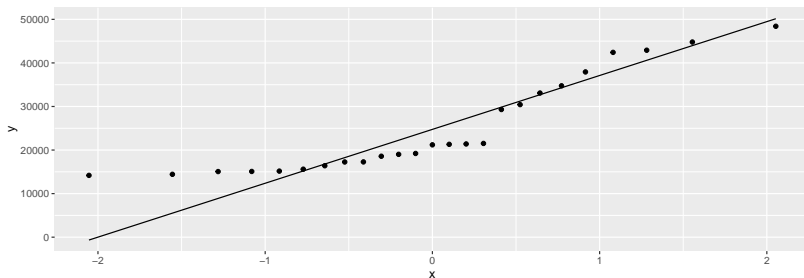
Blue Jays attendances, skewed to right

```
ggplot(jays, aes(x = attendance)) + geom_histogram(bins = 6)
```



On a normal quantile plot

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



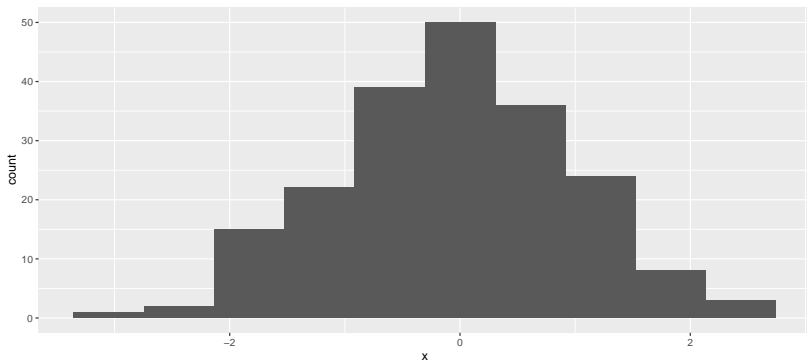
- ▶ Attendances at low end too bunched up: skewed to right.
- ▶ Right-skewness can also show up as highest values being too high, or as a curved pattern in the points.

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.

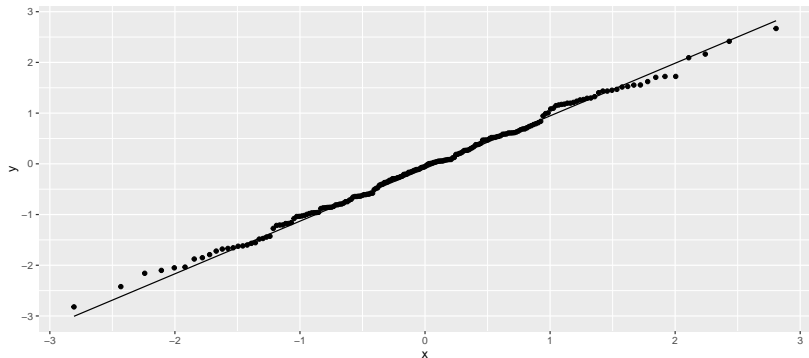
Normal data, large sample

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



The normal quantile plot

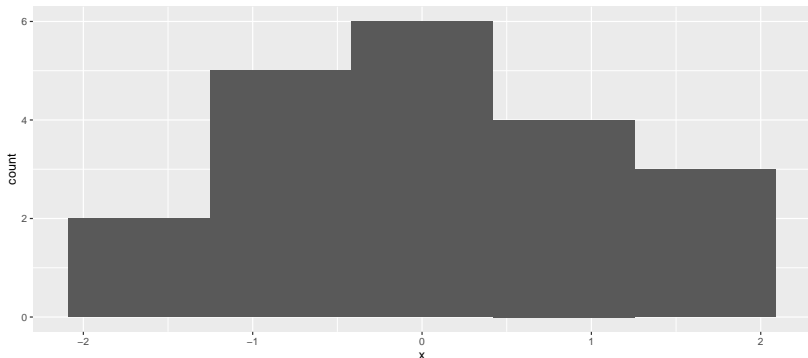
```
ggplot(d,aes(sample=x))+stat_qq()+stat_qq_line()
```



Normal data, small sample

- Not so convincingly normal, but not obviously skewed:

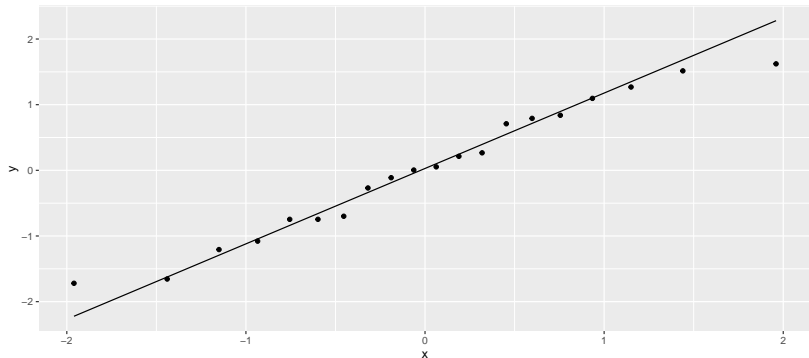
```
d <- tibble(x=rnorm(20))  
ggplot(d, aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=5)
```



The normal quantile plot

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

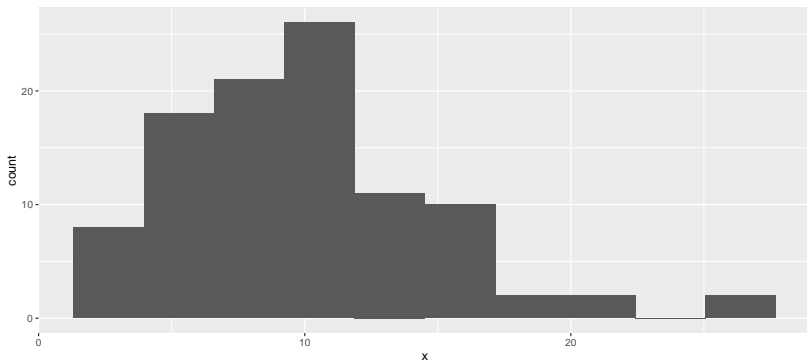
```
ggplot(d, aes(sample=x)) + stat_qq() + stat_qq_line()
```



Chi-squared data, $df = 10$

Somewhat skewed to right:

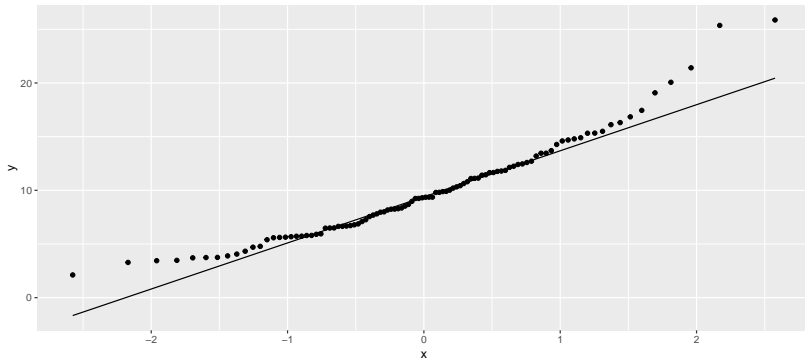
```
d <- tibble(x=rchisq(100, 10))  
ggplot(d,aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=10)
```



The normal quantile plot

Somewhat opening-up curve:

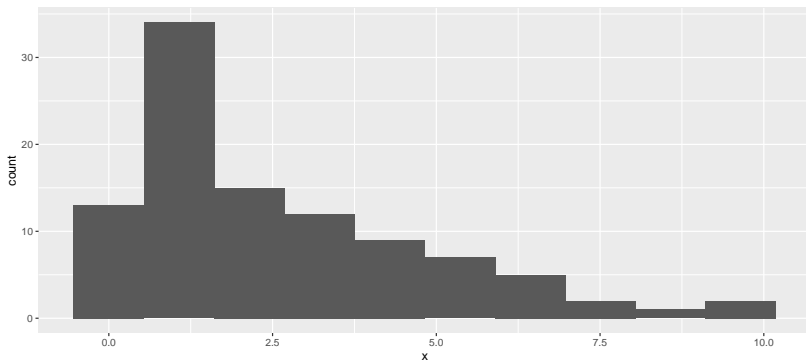
```
ggplot(d,aes(sample=x))+stat_qq()+stat_qq_line()
```



Chi-squared data, $df = 3$

Definitely skewed to right:

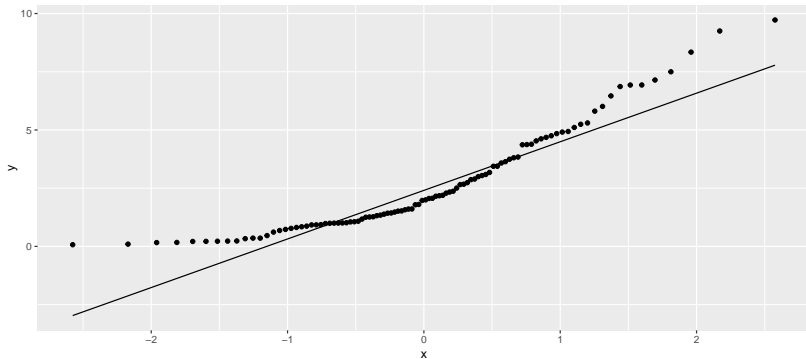
```
d <- tibble(x=rchisq(100, 3))  
ggplot(d, aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=10)
```



The normal quantile plot

Clear upward-opening curve:

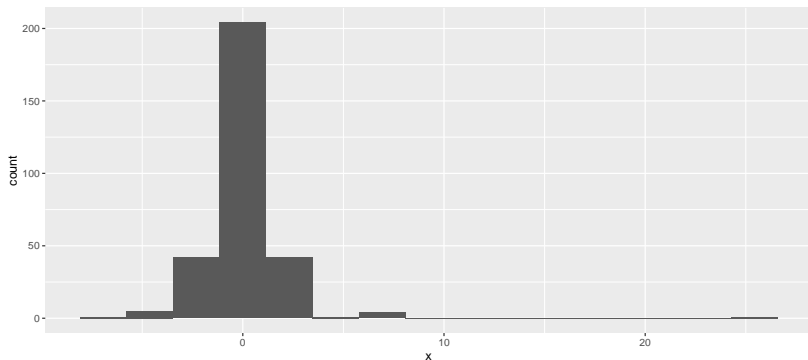
```
ggplot(d,aes(sample=x))+stat_qq()+stat_qq_line()
```



t-distributed data, $df = 3$

Long tails (or a very sharp peak):

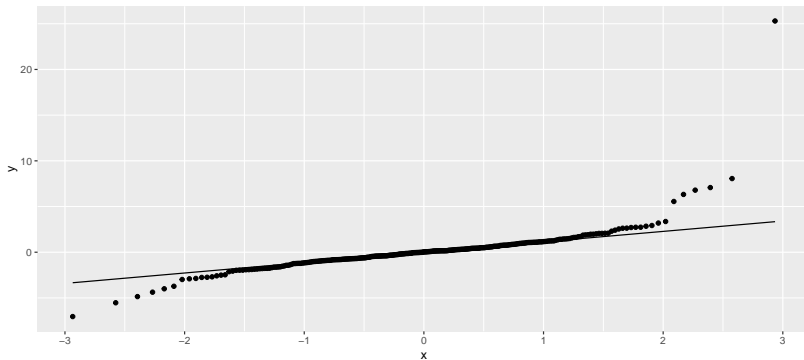
```
d <- tibble(x=rt(300, 3))  
ggplot(d, aes(x=x)) + geom_histogram(bins=15)
```



The normal quantile plot

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

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



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).