



# R for Beginners Course Exercises

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# Chapter 1

# Introduction

In this document you will find some exercises about these sections:

- Data Objects
- Data Import and Export
- $\bullet \ \ Data \ Manipulation \ with \ dplyr$
- $\bullet \ \ Data \ \ Visualization \ with \ ggplot 2$

## Chapter 2

# **Data Import**

First of all, set your working directory in the data folder, using setwd() function, like in this example

setwd("C:/Users/Veronica/Documents/rbase/data)

We will work inside this folder.

## 2.1 Text Files

#### 2.1.1 Exercise 1

- a. Import text file named "tuscany.txt" and save it in an R object named tuscany\_df.

  Open the text file before importing it to control if the first row contains column names and to control the field and the decimal separator characters. Remember to not import the character columns as factors.
- b. Visualize the first rows of tuscany\_df

## 2.1.2 Exercise 2

Import 7 rows of the text file named "solar.txt" skipping the first two rows. Save it in the object solar df.

Open the text file before importing it to control if the first row contains column names and to control the field and the decimal separator characters. Remember to not import the character columns as factors.

#### 2.1.3 Exercise 3

Considering the following data frame, named df:

Save it in a .txt file named "exercise-3.txt" in data folder.

## 2.2 Excel Files

#### 2.2.1 Exercise 1

a. Import .xlsx file "flowers.xlsx" using XLConnect function loadWorkbook() and save it in a R workbook object named flowers.

Remember to load XLConnect package, supposing it is already installed.

```
require(XLConnect)
```

b. Read iris sheet with readWorksheet() function and save it in flower\_df object. Then, visualize its first rows.

#### 2.2.2 Exercise 2

- a. Create a new file xlsx, named "exercise-2.xlsx", and save it in the R worksheet object, named ex\_2. Use: loadWorkbook() and saveWorkbook() functions of XLConnect.
- b. Create a sheet, named df, in the R workbook object using createSheet() function. Remember to save the changes also in .xlsx file (use saveWorkbook() function).
- c. Considering the following data frame, named numbers\_df:

Add it to df sheet of ex\_2 R workbook object, starting from row 3 and from column 2. Use the function writeWorksheet(). Remember to save the changes also in .xlsx file (use saveWorkbook() function).

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## 2.3 Databases

## **2.3.1** Exercise 1

a. Connect to "plant.sqlite" SQLite database, using dbConnect() function of RSQLite package. Save the connection in an R object, named con.

Remember to load RSQLite package, supposing it is already installed.

## require(RSQLite)

- b. See the list of available tables in "plant.sqlite" db, using dbListTables() function.
- c. See list of fields in "PlantGrowth" table of "plant.sqlite" db, using dbListFields() function.
- d. Send query to "PlantGrowth" table of "plant.sqlite" which select the records with weight greater than 5.5.
- e. Disconnect from the database, using dbDisconnect() function.

## 2.4 R Data Files

### **2.4.1** Exercise 1

Given the following data frame, named df\_rdata:

```
df_rdata <- data.frame(a=1:20, b=20:1)</pre>
```

Save it in .Rda format in the file "df\_rdata.Rda", using save() function.

### 2.4.2 Exercise 2

Load "drug.Rda" file into the environment, using load() function.

## Chapter 3

## Data Object

## 3.1 Vectors

#### 3.1.1 Exercise 1

- a. Create a vector, named vec1, containing the following values: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90
- b. Select the 5-th element of vec1.
- c. Select the first 10 elements of vec1.
- d. Select all the elements of vec1 apart from the 2nd and the 6th element.

### 3.1.2 Exercise 2

- a. Generate a vector, named vec2, containing the numbers from 1 to 10 and of length 8, using the function seq().
- b. Select the values of vec2 which are greater than 4.
- c. Select the values of vec2 which are equal or less than 2 or which are equal or greater than 6.

### 3.1.3 Exercise 3

- a. Generate the following vector using the function rep():
   vec3 <- c("one", "two", "one", "two", "one", "two")</pre>
- b. Generate a new vector, named vec5, combining the previous vector, vec3, with the following one:

```
vec4 <- c("three", "four")</pre>
```

## 3.2 Matrices

## **3.2.1** Exercise 1

Generate a matrix, named mat1, with 5 rows and 3 columns, using matrix() function:

```
[,1] [,2] [,3]
##
## [1,]
           1
## [2,]
           4
                 5
                      6
## [3,]
           7
                 8
                      9
## [4,]
          10
                11
                     12
## [5,]
          13
                14
                     15
```

## 3.2.2 Exercise 2

Starting from the following vector:

```
mat2 <- 1:8
```

Generate a matrix with 2 rows and 4 columns using dim() function.

## 3.2.3 Exercise 3

a. Generate a matrix, named mat3, combining the following columns:

```
a <- 1:3
b <- 7:9
c <- 8:6
```

b. Add the following row to mat3:

```
d <- 4:6
```

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### **3.2.4** Exercise 4

Considering the following matrix, named mat4:

```
mat4 <- matrix(1:24, nrow = 6, ncol = 4, byrow = TRUE)</pre>
mat4
         [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
##
## [1,]
            1
                 2
                       3
## [2,]
                 6
                             8
            5
                       7
## [3,]
            9
                10
                      11
                            12
           13
## [4,]
                14
                      15
                            16
## [5,]
           17
                18
                            20
                      19
## [6,]
           21
                 22
                      23
                            24
```

- a. Select the third and the fifth row of mat4.
- b. Select all columns of mat4 apart from the first.
- c. Select second and third rows and second and third columns of  $\mathtt{mat4}$ .

## 3.3 Lists

## **3.3.1** Exercise 1

a. Generate a list, named list1 that contains the following R elements:

```
vec <- 1:10
mat <- matrix(1:9, ncol = 3)
name <- "Oscar"</pre>
```

b. Add to list1 the following element:

```
letters <- c("a", "b", "c", "d")
```

### 3.3.2 Exercise 2

Given the following list, named list2:

```
list2 <- list(vec = c(1,3,5,7,8), mat = matrix(1:12, ncol = 4),
              sub_list = list(names = c("Veronica", "Enrico", "Andrea", "Anna"),
                              numbers = 1:4))
list2
## $vec
## [1] 1 3 5 7 8
##
## $mat
        [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
##
## [1,]
                     7
                         10
           1
                4
## [2,]
           2
                5
                     8
                         11
                6
                     9
## [3,]
           3
                         12
##
## $sub_list
## $sub_list$names
## [1] "Veronica" "Enrico"
                              "Andrea"
                                         "Anna"
##
## $sub_list$numbers
## [1] 1 2 3 4
```

- a. Entract the first element of list2.
- b. Extract the objects contained in the first element of list2.
- c. Extract the element named sub\_list of list2.
- d. Extract the second rows of the matrix included in the second element of list2.

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## 3.4 Factors

## **3.4.1** Exercise 1

Starting from the vector:

```
fac1 <- c("F", "F", "M", "M" , "F")</pre>
```

Generate the corresponding factor with two levels: "F" and "M"

## 3.4.2 Exercise 2

Starting from the vector:

```
fac2 <- c(1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2)
```

- a. Generate the corresponding factor considering that 1 = "Female", 2 = "Male" e 3 = "Trans".
- b. Select the all elements of fac2 apart from "Male".

## 3.5 Data Frames

## **3.5.1** Exercise 1

a. Generate a data frame, named df1, corresponding to:

```
##
      id
             name class mean
## 1
       1
             Luca
                     5A 6.0
## 2
       2
          Chiara
                     5A 7.0
## 3
                     5A 5.0
       3
             Lisa
## 4
                     5A 6.5
       4
          Matteo
## 5
       5
            Alice
                     5A 7.5
                     5B 4.5
## 6
       6
            Marco
## 7
       7 Veronica
                     5B 9.0
                     5B 8.0
## 8
       8
           Nicola
## 9
       9
            Elena
                     5B 8.5
## 10 10 Daniele
                     5B 7.0
```

Remember to maintain character vectors as they are, specifying stringsAsFactors = FALSE.

- b. Select the first 3 rows of df1.
- c. Select the last 6 rows and the first 3 columns of df1.
- d. Select the column class of df1.
- e. Convert the column class of df1 in a factor with levels: "5A" and "5B"
- f. How many columns and rows df1 has?
- g. Generate another dataframe, named df2 composed by the columns name and mean of df1, specifying the argument stringsAsFactors = FALSE.
- h. Show the first rows and the structure of df2.

## Chapter 4

## Data Manipulation with dplyr

Load dplyr package, supposing it is already installed.

```
require(dplyr)
```

## 4.1 Data

All the following exercises are based on the nycflights13 data, taken from the nycflights13 package.

So first of all, install and load this package

```
install.packages("nycflights13")
require(nycflights13)
```

The nycflights13 package contains information about all flights that departed from NYC (e.g. EWR, JFK and LGA) in 2013: 336,776 flights in total.

```
ls(pos = "package:nycflights13")
## [1] "airlines" "airports" "flights" "planes" "weather"
```

To help understand what causes delays, it includes a number of useful datasets:

- flights: information about all flights that departed from NYC
- weather: hourly meterological data for each airport;
- planes: construction information about each plane;
- airports: airport names and locations;

• airlines: translation between two letter carrier codes and names.

Let us explore the features of flights datasets, which will be used in the following exercises.

```
data("flights")
```

## 4.1.1 flights

This dataset contains on-time data for all flights that departed from NYC (i.e. JFK, LGA or EWR) in 2013. The data frame has 16 variables and 336776 observations. The variables are organised as follow:

- Date of departure: year, month, day;
- Departure and arrival times (local tz): dep\_time, arr\_time;
- Departure and arrival delays, in minutes: dep\_delay, arr\_delay (negative times represent early departures/arrivals);
- Time of departure broken in to hour and minutes: hour, minute;
- Two letter carrier abbreviation: carrier;
- Plane tail number: tailnum;
- Flight number: flight;
- Origin and destination: origin, dest;
- Amount of time spent in the air: air\_time;
- Distance flown: distance.

```
dim(flights)
```

```
## [1] 336776 16
```

#### head(flights)

```
year month day dep_time dep_delay arr_time arr_delay carrier tailnum flight
## 1 2013
                  1
                          517
                                      2
                                              830
                                                         11
                                                                     N14228
                                                                               1545
              1
## 2 2013
                          533
                                              850
                                                         20
                                                                     N24211
              1
                  1
                                                                 UA
                                                                               1714
                                                                     N619AA
## 3 2013
                  1
                          542
                                      2
                                              923
                                                         33
                                                                               1141
              1
                                                                  AA
## 4 2013
                          544
                                             1004
                                                        -18
                                                                     N804JB
                                                                                725
              1
                  1
                                     -1
                                                                 B6
## 5 2013
              1
                  1
                          554
                                     -6
                                              812
                                                        -25
                                                                  DL
                                                                      N668DN
                                                                                 461
                          554
                                                         12
                                                                     N39463
                                                                               1696
## 6 2013
              1
                  1
                                     -4
                                              740
                                                                 UA
##
     origin dest air_time distance hour minute
## 1
        EWR IAH
                       227
                                1400
                                         5
                                               17
## 2
        LGA IAH
                       227
                                1416
                                         5
                                               33
```

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```
160
                            42
## 3
     JFK MIA
                    1089
                        5
## 4
     JFK BQN
             183
                   1576 5
                             44
## 5
     LGA ATL
             116
                    762 5
                              54
## 6
   EWR ORD
             150
                     719
                        5
                              54
```

### str(flights)

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 336776 obs. of 16 variables:
## $ month : int 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ day : int 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ dep_time : int 517 533 542 544 554 554 555 557 557 558 ...
## $ dep_delay: num 2 4 2 -1 -6 -4 -5 -3 -3 -2 ...
## $ arr time : int 830 850 923 1004 812 740 913 709 838 753 ...
## $ arr_delay: num 11 20 33 -18 -25 12 19 -14 -8 8 ...
## $ carrier : chr "UA" "UA" "AA" "B6" ...
## $ tailnum : chr "N14228" "N24211" "N619AA" "N804JB" ...
## $ flight : int 1545 1714 1141 725 461 1696 507 5708 79 301 ...
## \$ origin : chr "EWR" "LGA" "JFK" "JFK" ...
## $ dest : chr "IAH" "IAH" "MIA" "BQN" ...
## $ air_time : num 227 227 160 183 116 150 158 53 140 138 ...
## $ distance : num 1400 1416 1089 1576 762 ...
## $ hour : num 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 ...
## $ minute : num 17 33 42 44 54 54 55 57 57 58 ...
```

## 4.2 Select

## **4.2.1** Exercise 1

Extract the following information:

- month;
- day;
- air\_time;
- distance.

## **4.2.2** Exercise 2

Extract all information about flights except hour and minute.

## **4.2.3** Exercise 3

Extract tailnum variable and rename it into tail\_num

## 4.3 Filter

### **4.3.1** Exercise 1

Select all flights which delayed more than 1000 minutes at departure.

## 4.3.2 Exercise 2

Select all flights which delayed more than 1000 minutes at departure or at arrival.

### 4.3.3 Exercise 3

Select all flights which took off from "EWR" and landed in "IAH".

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## 4.4 Arrange

### **4.4.1** Exercise 1

Sort the flights in chronological order.

### 4.4.2 Exercise 2

Sort the flights by decreasing arrival delay.

### 4.4.3 Exercise 3

Sort the flights by origin (in alphabetical order) and decreasing arrival delay.

## 4.5 Mutate

### 4.5.1 Exercise 1

Add the following new variable to the flights dataset:

• the speed in miles per hour, named speed (distance / air\_time \* 60).

Consider that times are in minutes and distances are in miles.

## 4.5.2 Exercise 2

Add the following new variables to the flights dataset:

- the gained time in minutes (named gain), defined as the difference between delay at departure and delay at arrival;
- the gain time per hours, defined as gain / (air\_time / 60)

## 4.6 Summarise

### 4.6.1 Exercise 1

Calculate minimum, mean and maximum delay at arrival. Remember to add na.rm=TRUE option to all calculations.

## 4.7 Group by

### **4.7.1** Exercise 1

Calculate number of flights, minimum, mean and maximum delay at departure for flights by month.

Remember to add na.rm=TRUE option to all calculations.

#### 4.7.2 Exercise 2

Calculate number of flights (using n() operator), mean delay at departure and at arrival for flights by origin.

Remember to add na.rm=TRUE option to mean calculations.

## 4.8 Chain multiple operations (%>%)

### 4.8.1 Exercise 1

Calculate number of flights, minimum, mean and maximum delay at departure for flights by month

Remember to add na.rm=TRUE option to all calculations.

#### 4.8.2 Exercise 2

Calculate the monthly mean gained time in minutes, where the gained time is defined as the difference between delay at departure and delay at arrival. Remember to add na.rm=TRUE option to mean calculations.

#### 4.8.3 Exercise 3

For each destination, select all days where the mean delay at arrival is greater than 30 minutes. Remember to add na.rm=TRUE option to mean calculations.

## Chapter 5

# Data Visualization with ggplot2

Load ggplot2 package, supposing it is already installed.

```
require(ggplot2)
```

## 5.1 Data

#### 5.1.1 iris

Almost all the following exercises are based on the iris dataset, taken from the datasets package.

It is a base package so it is already installed and loaded.

```
data("iris")
```

This dataset gives the measurements in centimeters of length and width of sepal and petal, respectively, for 50 flowers from each of 3 species of iris. The species are Iris setosa, versicolor, and virginica.

iris dataset contains the following variables:

- Sepal.Length: length of iris sepal
- Sepal.Width: width of iris sepal
- Petal.Length: length of iris petal
- Petal.Width: width of iris petal
- Species: species of iris

dim(iris)

```
## [1] 150 5
```

#### head(iris)

```
Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1
            5.1
                        3.5
                                    1.4
                                              0.2 setosa
             4.9
                                    1.4
                                               0.2 setosa
## 2
                        3.0
## 3
            4.7
                        3.2
                                    1.3
                                               0.2 setosa
## 4
            4.6
                        3.1
                                    1.5
                                               0.2 setosa
## 5
            5.0
                        3.6
                                    1.4
                                               0.2 setosa
## 6
            5.4
                        3.9
                                    1.7
                                               0.4 setosa
```

#### str(iris)

```
## 'data.frame': 150 obs. of 5 variables:
## $ Sepal.Length: num 5.1 4.9 4.7 4.6 5 5.4 4.6 5 4.4 4.9 ...
## $ Sepal.Width : num 3.5 3 3.2 3.1 3.6 3.9 3.4 3.4 2.9 3.1 ...
## $ Petal.Length: num 1.4 1.4 1.3 1.5 1.4 1.7 1.4 1.5 1.4 1.5 ...
## $ Petal.Width : num 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.2 0.1 ...
## $ Species : Factor w/ 3 levels "setosa", "versicolor", ..: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
```

## $5.1.2 \quad mpg$

Some of the exercises are based on mpg dataset, taken from the ggplot2 package.

```
data("mpg")
```

This dataset contains the fuel economy data from 1999 and 2008 for 38 popular models of car. mpg dataset contains the following variables:

- manufacturer
- model
- displ: engine displacement, in litres
- year
- cyl: number of cylinders
- trans: type of transmission
- drv: drivetrain type, f = front-wheel drive, r = rear wheel drive, 4 = 4wd
- cty: city miles per gallon

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```
• hwy: highway miles per gallon
 • fl: fuel type
dim(mpg)
## [1] 234 11
head(mpg)
## # A tibble: 6 × 11
## manufacturer model displ year cyl trans drv cty hwy fl
## <chr> <chr< <chr> <chr> <chr< <chr< <chr> <chr< <chr< <chr> <chr< <chr< <chr< <chr> <chr< 
                           audi a4 1.8 1999 4 auto(15) f 18
## 1
                                                                                                                                                                      29 p
## 2
                           audi a4 1.8 1999
                                                                                              4 manual(m5)
                                                                                                                                         f
                                                                                                                                                        21
                                                                                                                                                                       29
## 3
                           audi a4 2.0 2008 4 manual(m6)
                                                                                                                                        f 20
                                                                                                                                                                       31
                                                                                                                                                                                        р
## 4
                            audi a4 2.0 2008 4 auto(av)
                                                                                                                                        f 21
                                                                                                                                                                       30
                                                                                                                                                                                        р
                            audi a4 2.8 1999 6 auto(15)
## 5
                                                                                                                                       f 16
                                                                                                                                                                      26
                                                                                                                                                                                        р
                                                  a4 2.8 1999 6 manual(m5) f 18
## 6
                             audi
                                                                                                                                                                       26
                                                                                                                                                                                        р
## # ... with 1 more variables: class <chr>
str(mpg)
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':
                                                                                                                   234 obs. of 11 variables:
## $ manufacturer: chr "audi" "audi" "audi" "audi" ...
## $ model : chr "a4" "a4" "a4" "a4" ...
## $ displ
                                        : num 1.8 1.8 2 2 2.8 2.8 3.1 1.8 1.8 2 ...
## $ year
                                       : int 1999 1999 2008 2008 1999 1999 2008 1999 1999 2008 ...
                                       : int 4444666444 ...
## $ cyl
                                       : chr "auto(15)" "manual(m5)" "manual(m6)" "auto(av)" ...
## $ trans
                                          : chr "f" "f" "f" "f" ...
## $ drv
                                       : int 18 21 20 21 16 18 18 18 16 20 ...
## $ cty
                                       : int 29 29 31 30 26 26 27 26 25 28 ...
## $ hwy
                                       : chr "p" "p" "p" "p" ...
```

: chr "compact" "compact" "compact" ...

## \$ fl ## \$ class

## 5.2 Scatterplot

Let us consider iris dataset.

## 5.2.1 Exercise 1

- a. Generate a scatterplot to analyze the relationship between  ${\tt Sepal.Width}$  and  ${\tt Sepal.Length}$  variables.
- b. Set the size of the point as 3 and their colour (colour and fill arguments as "green").

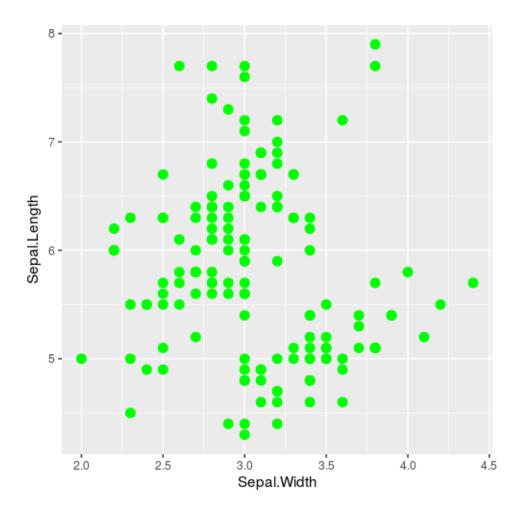


Figure 5.1:

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## 5.2.2 Exercise 2

a. Generate a scatterplot to analyze the relationship between Petal.Width and Petal.Length variables according to iris species, mapped as colour aes.

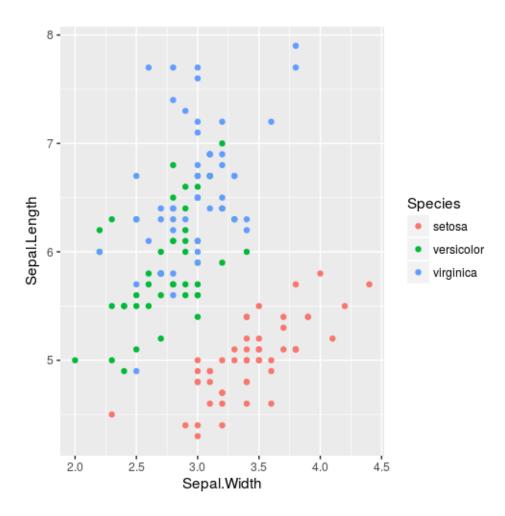


Figure 5.2:

## 5.3 Box Plot

Let us consider iris dataset.

## 5.3.1 Exercise 1

- a. Build a box plot to compare the differences of sepal width accordingly to the type of iris species.
- b. Set the fill colour of boxes as "#00FFFF", the lines colour of boxes as "#0000FF" and the outliers colour as "red".
- c. Add the plot title: "Boxplot of Sepal.Width vs Species"

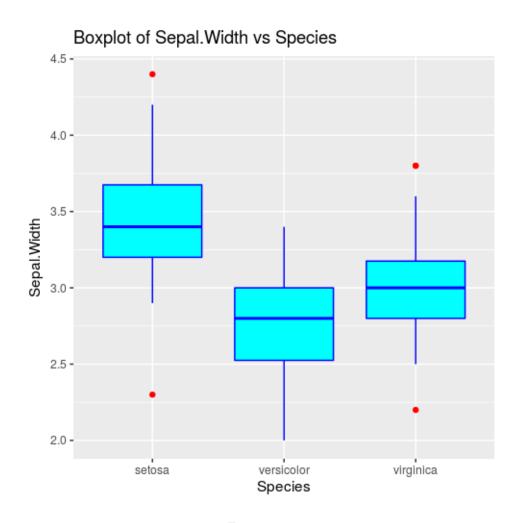


Figure 5.3:

5.4. HISTOGRAM 31

## 5.4 Histogram

Let us consider iris dataset.

## 5.4.1 Exercise 1

- a. Represent the distribution of Sepal\_Length variable with an histogram.
- b. Set bins fill colour as "hotpink" and bins line colour as "deeppink".
- c. Set the number of bins as 15.

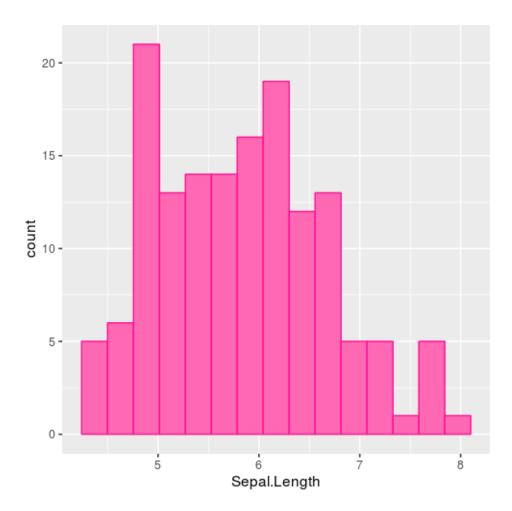


Figure 5.4:

## 5.5 Line graph

## **5.5.1** Exercise 1

Let us suppose that the observations on iris are taken along time. So let us consider the following dataset, named iris2, in which time variable is added:

```
require(dplyr)
iris2 <- iris %>% mutate(time=1:150)
```

a. Build a line graph to visualize the measures of Sepal.Length variable along time.

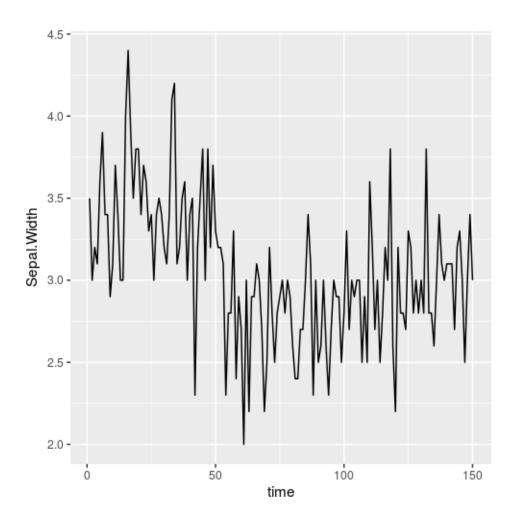


Figure 5.5:

5.5. LINE GRAPH 33

## 5.5.2 Exercise 2

Let us suppose that the observations on iris are taken along time. So let us consider the following dataset, named iris3, in which time variable is added:

```
iris3 <- iris %>% mutate(time=rep(1:50, times=3))
```

- a. Build a line graph to visualize the measures of Sepal.Length variable along time, according to the Species variable, mapped as colour aes.
- b. Set linetype as "twodash".

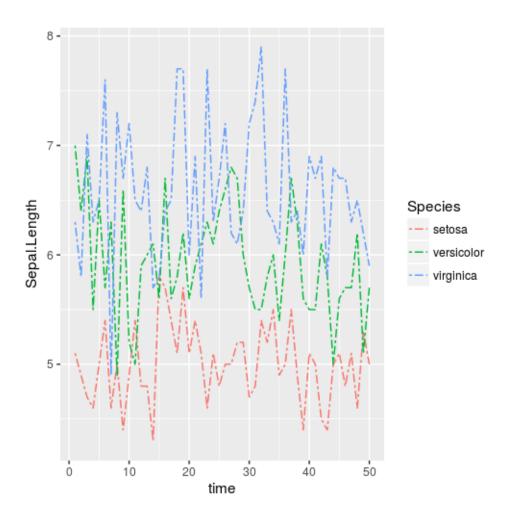


Figure 5.6:

## 5.6 Bar graph

Let us consider mpg dataset.

## 5.6.1 Exercise 1

- a. Represent graphically with a bar graph how many cars there are for each class.
- b. Represent horizontal bars and set bars width as 0.6.

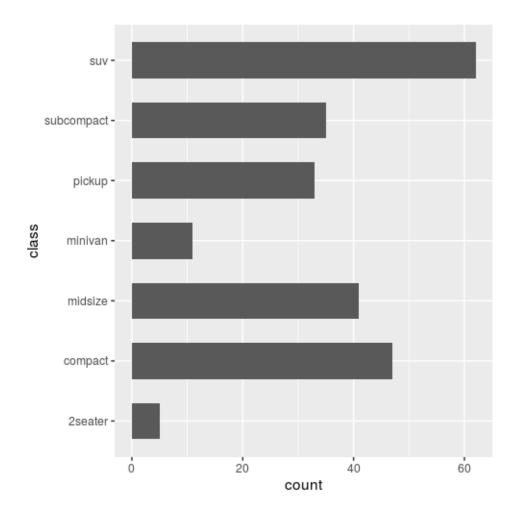


Figure 5.7:

5.6. BAR GRAPH 35

## 5.6.2 Exercise 2

a. Represent graphically with a bar graph how many cars there are for each class according to manifacturer.

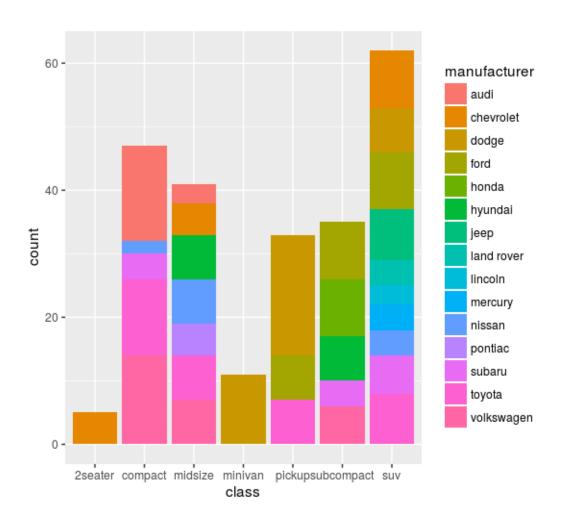


Figure 5.8:

b. Represent graphically with a bar graph, the distribution of manifacturer or each class (set position argument of geom\_bar).

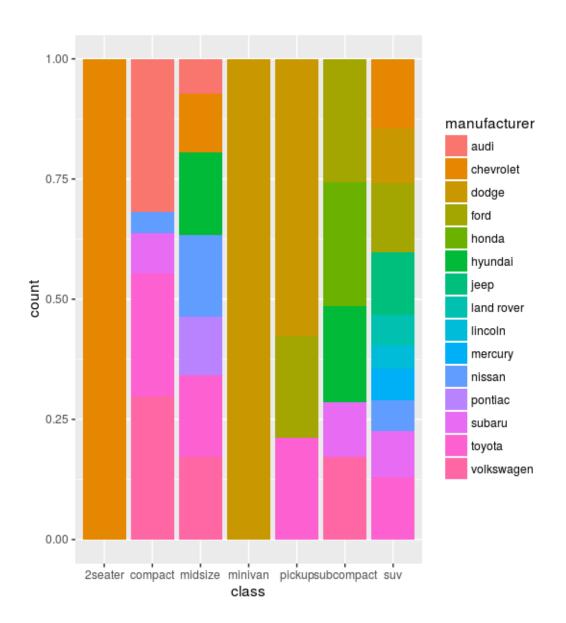


Figure 5.9: