# Making figures in R

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6/21/2023

## Plotting the data

One of the most powerful parts of R besides the stats and packages is the ability to meaningfully plot data and show others what we see. There are many packages that can be used in R to plot data and the goal of this tutorial is to go over a few to get started making publication quality figures.

#### Plotting with base R no packages

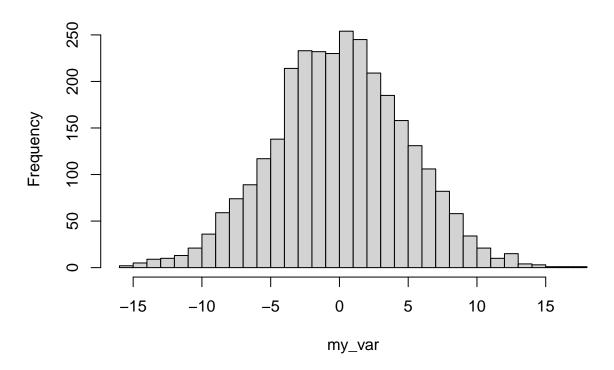
In R there are base functions, those that come with R without the need to upload any packages. Since R is a statistical package it of course comes with its own plotting functions to reveal data patterns of interest. Here we will plot some synthetic data using base R only no packages.

## Histograms and density plots

First we will make some synthetic data to play with using rnorm(). We will use set.seed() to set the random generator starting point, this will make the randomness reproducible and should only be used to teach debug code involving random numbers. This will generate a random normal distribution with the mean and standard deviation chosen. Then we plot the histogram with hist().

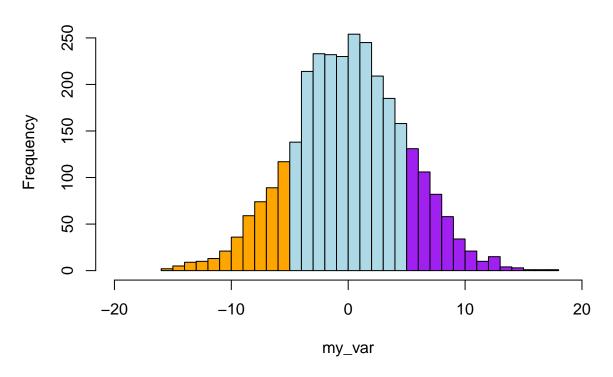
```
set.seed(543)
my_var <- rnorm(n = 3000, mean = 0, sd = 5)
histo <- hist(my_var, breaks = 40)</pre>
```

# Histogram of my\_var



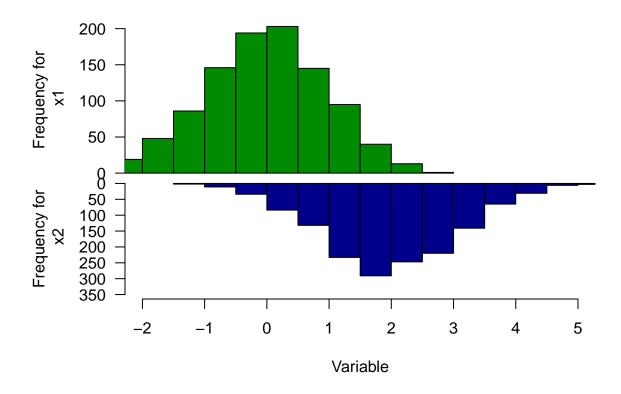
Now we will spice it up a bit and add colors to the tails. This would be a great way to highlight these data in a distribution of p-values for example. To accomplish this we need to create the histogram but not print it and then we can access the object created and use a conditional statement to create our colored ends to then plot using the plot() function.





#### Mirrored histogram

Now we will make a mirrored histogram, great for visually comparing the distributions of two datasets. We are using a new function here par(). This is a graphics function that controls graphical parameters like margins, background, size of text labels and much more. The mfrow parameter controls the layout of the graphs plotted by (number of rows, number of columns), this giving us two rows and one column. Next we use the mar parameter to set the margins on each plot so they do not overlap.

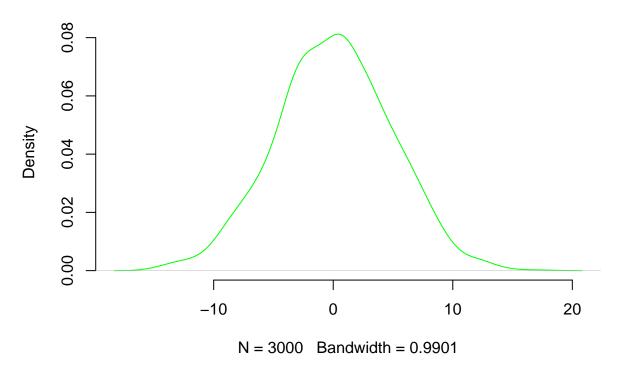


## Density plots

Here we can use the density() function to estimate the kernel density of a dataset. We can reuse the my\_var variable we made previously.

```
dens <- density(my_var,bw = "sj")
plot(dens, main = "Density Plot",col="green",frame=F)</pre>
```

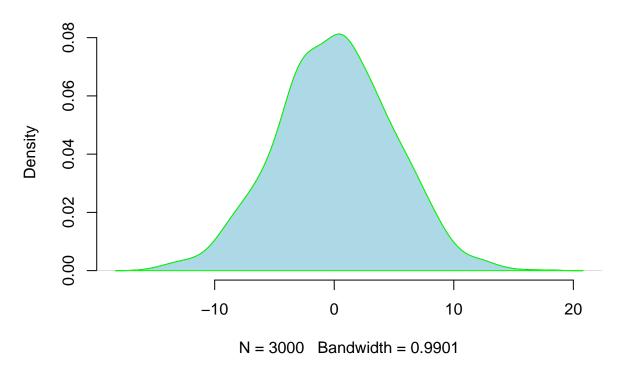
# **Density Plot**



Then we can add color beneath the line graph generated for the density.

```
plot(dens, main = "Density Plot",frame=F)
polygon(dens,col="lightblue",border = "green")
```



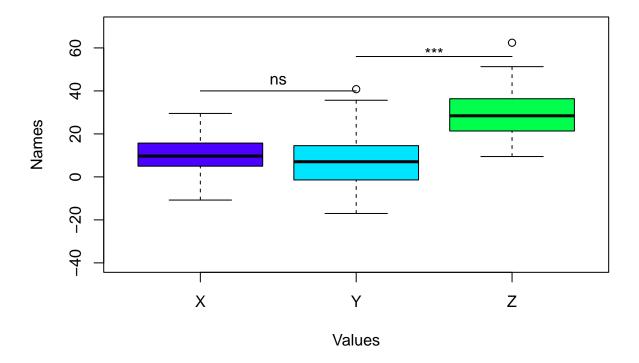


## **Boxplots and Barplots**

### **Boxplots**

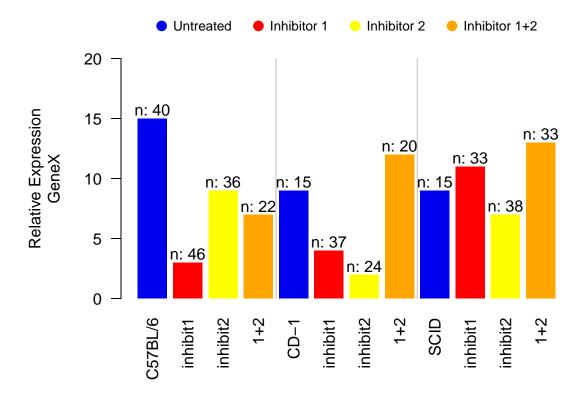
Box and whisker plots can be made with the base R boxplot() function. Here we make a example dataset. We can use box plots to understand the mean differences between groups. Then we can calculate the p-values between each group using an ANOVA method, aov().

```
text(x=2.5,y = 59,labels="***")
segments(2,56,3,56)
```



#### **Barplots**

Here we make some random data and plot using the barplot() function. The example is supposed to represent an experiment measuring geneX expression for three different mouse strains when treated with two different inhibitors.



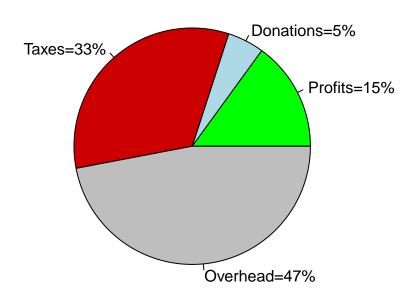
#### Pie charts

Next we use the pie() function to plot the expenses of an imaginary business. Something that would be quickly understood by anyone in the room and informative enough to spark discussion, like should we reduce donations since they make up a fourth of our profits.

```
df <- data.frame(
  group = c("Profits", "Donations", "Taxes", "Overhead"),
  prop = c(15,5,33,47)
)</pre>
```

```
# Create labels
pie_labels <- paste0(df$group, "=", df$prop, "%")
# Choose colors for the chart
pie_colors <- c("green","lightblue","red3","grey")
pie(df$prop, labels = pie_labels,col = pie_colors, radius = 1,main = "Corporate Budget")</pre>
```

## **Corporate Budget**



There are even more base plots in R that can be used including the qqnorm(), curve(), and stripchart(). These base R plots are great but next we will look into a very powerful R package ggplot2.

## Beautiful reproducible plots with ggplot2

Here we will make a few figures using a ggplot2, a powerful package for making publication quality figures. First we will need some data to play with, the datasets library should do, and then we can explore some data using ggplot().

```
library("datasets")
library("ggplot2")
```

To do this effectively we will try and look at 2-3 datasets that have interesting data that we need to find a way to present to an average audience. This is a great real world example of what you would want to do for a job or school work.

```
sleep_data <- sleep</pre>
```

The sleep data will be our first study to understand, because sleep is sooooo important!! It is student sleep data as described by the datasets package, but lets see what data they have collected. This can be accomplished by viewing the column and row names usually. Here the row names are just the index of the rows.

```
colNames <- colnames(sleep_data)
rowNames <- rownames(sleep_data)
colNames</pre>
```

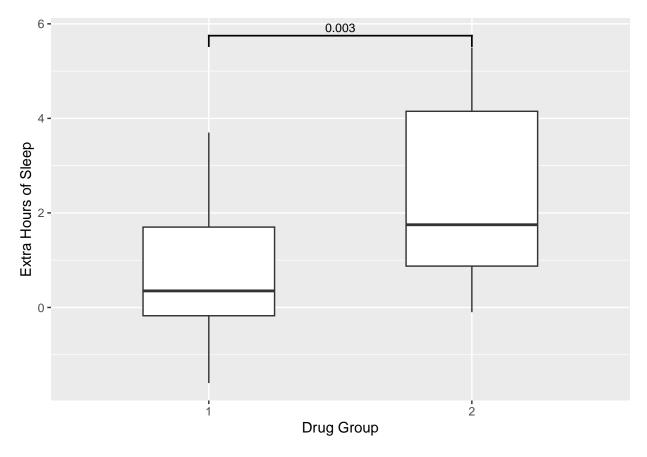
```
## [1] "extra" "group" "ID"
```

rowNames

```
## [1] "1" "2" "3" "4" "5" "6" "7" "8" "9" "10" "11" "12" "13" "14" "15" ## [16] "16" "17" "18" "19" "20"
```

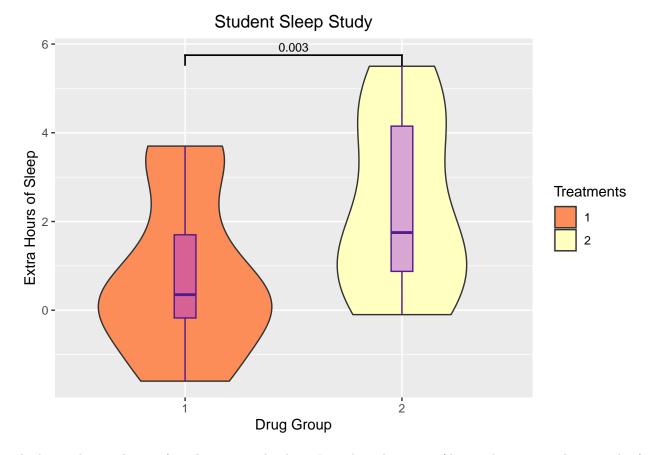
We can look up what these column names actually mean for this dataset, which is testing two drugs to see the influence on sleep. The extra column is the extra sleep the patients got vs control patients. The group column separates the drugs used and the ID column is of course for an ID for each patient. So now you need to come up with a way to look at this data to answer certain questions made by you or your boss. One good question is how much on average extra sleep did patients get for each group/drug treatment?

First how do we plot the data so we can see the trends between group 1 and group 2. A boxplot() from ggplot2 works well to show an overview of the data. Here we will also add the pvalue using the ggprism package add\_pvalue() function.



Or we can do this with a combination plot to show the spread of the data with a violin plot and the minimum, first quartile, median, third quartile, and maximum with a box plot at once.

```
ggplot(sleep_data, aes(x=group, y=extra))+
  geom_violin(width=0.8,aes(fill=group))+
  geom_boxplot(width = 0.1, color="purple4",fill = "purple", alpha =0.4)+
  scale_fill_brewer(palette ="Spectral")+
  xlab("Drug Group")+ylab("Extra Hours of Sleep")+
  ggtitle("Student Sleep Study")+labs(fill="Treatments")+
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))+ #Adjusts the title to center of graph
  add_pvalue(df_pval)
```



And now that we have a few plots to see the data. It is clear that group/drug 1 do not provide as much of a benefit to sleep with a median close to 0hrs while group/drug 2 has a median closer to 2hrs of sleep. The pvalue lower than 0.05 would also suggest the difference it real between the two groups. The sleep dataset is fairly simple and doesn't require any extra sorting or data cleaning, so let's move onto something a little more complex and challenging.

#### A better dataset

Another dataset that contains the daily air quality measurements in New York from May to September in 1973. This dataset is missing some Ozone and solar radiation (Solar.R) values. What to do when data has missing values is a debated topic. Some users just remove the data with missing values and others will imputate to replace the data with the median or mean of the column as this should have little influence on downstream analyses. Here we will try removing the NAs and mean imputation.

```
air <- data.frame(airquality)
head(air)</pre>
```

```
##
     Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1
         41
                 190
                      7.4
                             67
                                     5
                                          1
## 2
         36
                 118
                     8.0
                             72
                                     5
                                          2
## 3
                 149 12.6
                             74
                                     5
                                          3
         12
                 313 11.5
                                     5
                                          4
## 4
         18
                             62
                  NA 14.3
                                     5
                                          5
## 5
         NA
                             56
                                     5
                                          6
## 6
         28
                  NA 14.9
                             66
```

Check the dimensions of the data.

```
dim(air)
```

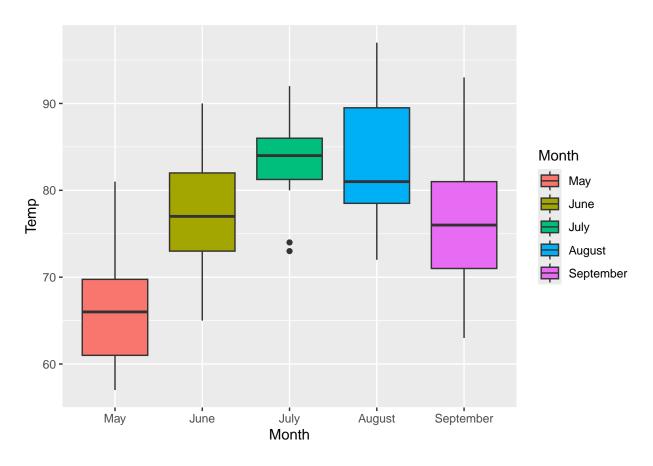
```
## [1] 153 6
```

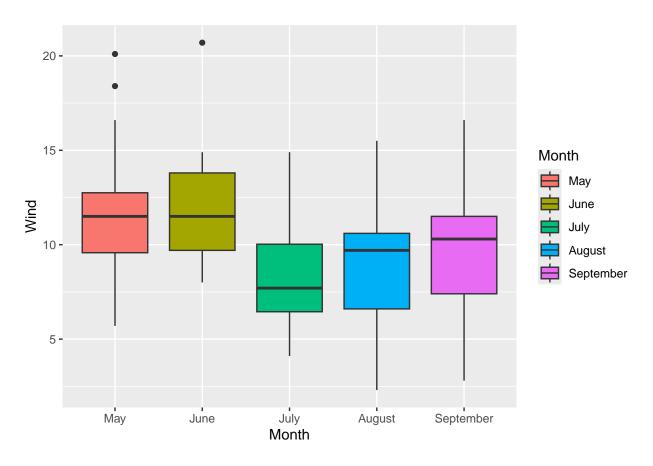
Data removal for NAs Here we make somecleanAir. Removing all rows that contain anyNA' values. This takes us down to just 111 rows out of the original 153.

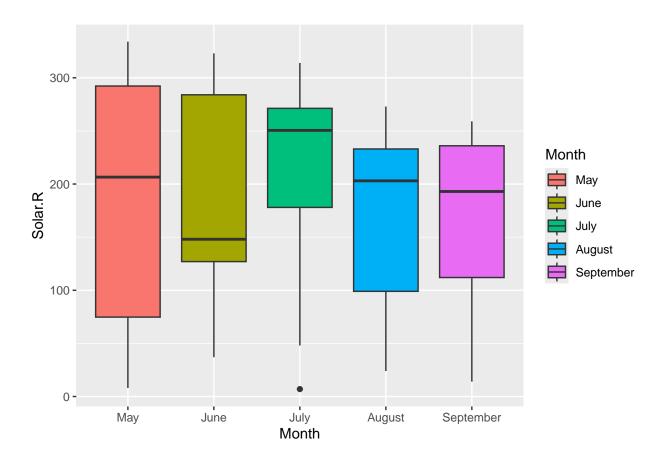
```
cleanAir <- na.omit(air) # Removes rows with NA in all columns
dim(cleanAir)</pre>
```

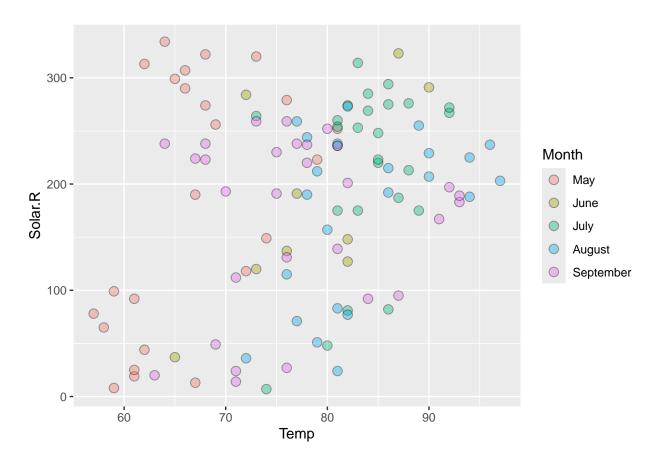
```
## [1] 111 6
```

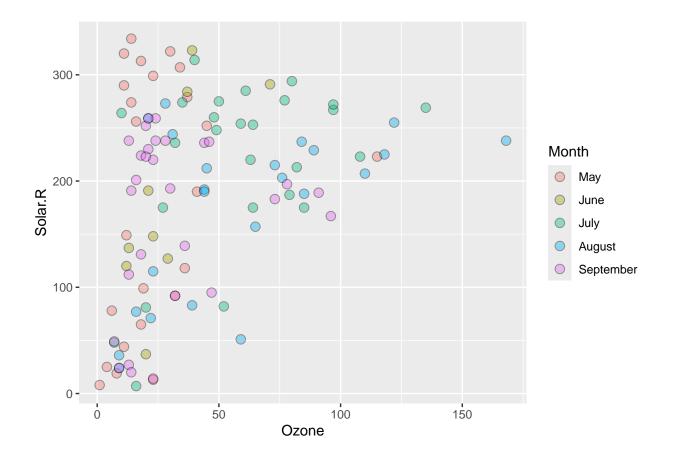
Quick graph to see the data





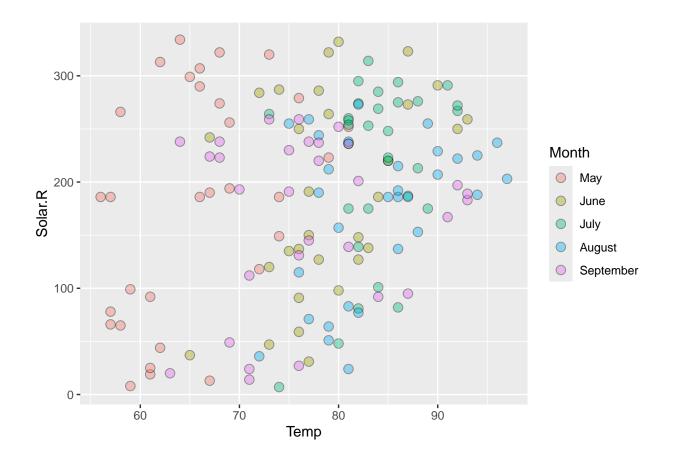






#### Mean imputation for NA data

All the True values in this list are the position of the NAs in this dataset. So say you want to make all the NAs a different value or you want to ignore them when plotting.



## A bigger dataset

We used a dataset from kaggle.com you can find it (here) [https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/soylevbeytullah/ds4work-human-resources/data]

```
hrdat <- read.csv("data/Human_Resources.csv",header = T)
head(hrdat)</pre>
```

##		Age	Attrition	Busin	essT:	ravel	DailyRate		Dep	partment	
##	1	41	Yes	Trave	el_Ra	arely	1102			Sales	
##	2	49	No	Travel_F	ceque	ently	279	Research	& Deve	elopment	
##	3	37	Yes	Trave	el_Ra	arely	1373	Research	& Deve	elopment	
##	4	33	No	Travel_F	ceque	ently	1392	Research	& Deve	elopment	
##	5	27	No	Trave	el_Ra	arely	591	Research	& Deve	elopment	
##	6	32	No	Travel_F	ceque	ently	1005	Research	& Deve	elopment	
##		Dist	tanceFromHo	ome Educa	tion	Educa	ationField	EmployeeC	ount E	EmployeeN	lumber
##	1			1	2	Life	Sciences		1		1
##	2			8	1	Life	Sciences		1		2
##	3			2	2		Other		1		4
##	4			3	4	Life	Sciences		1		5
##	5			2	1		Medical		1		7
##	6			2	2	Life	e Sciences		1		8
##		Env	ironmentSat	tisfaction	n Ger	nder H	HourlyRate	JobInvolv	ement	JobLevel	-
##	1			:	2 Fe	$\mathtt{male}$	94		3	2	2
##	2			;	3 1	Male	61		2	2	2

```
## 3
                                  Male
                                                 92
                                                                   2
                                                                             1
## 4
                              4 Female
                                                 56
                                                                   3
                                                                             1
## 5
                                  Male
                                                 40
                                                                   3
                                                                             1
                                                 79
                                                                   3
## 6
                                  Male
                                                                             1
##
                     JobRole JobSatisfaction MaritalStatus MonthlyIncome MonthlyRate
## 1
                                              4
                                                                          5993
            Sales Executive
                                                        Single
         Research Scientist
                                              2
                                                                                      24907
                                                       Married
                                                                          5130
## 3 Laboratory Technician
                                              3
                                                        Single
                                                                          2090
                                                                                       2396
## 4
         Research Scientist
                                              3
                                                       Married
                                                                          2909
                                                                                      23159
                                              2
## 5 Laboratory Technician
                                                       Married
                                                                          3468
                                                                                      16632
  6 Laboratory Technician
                                                        Single
                                                                          3068
                                                                                      11864
##
     NumCompaniesWorked Over18 OverTime PercentSalaryHike PerformanceRating
## 1
                        8
                                Y
                                        Yes
                                                              11
                                                                                   3
## 2
                                Y
                                                                                   4
                        1
                                         No
                                                              23
## 3
                        6
                                Y
                                        Yes
                                                              15
                                                                                   3
## 4
                        1
                                Y
                                        Yes
                                                              11
                                                                                   3
## 5
                        9
                                Y
                                                              12
                                                                                   3
                                         No
## 6
                        0
                                Y
                                         No
                                                              13
                                                                                   3
##
     RelationshipSatisfaction StandardHours StockOptionLevel TotalWorkingYears
## 1
                               1
## 2
                               4
                                              80
                                                                  1
                                                                                     10
## 3
                               2
                                              80
                                                                  0
                                                                                      7
                               3
## 4
                                                                  0
                                                                                      8
                                              80
## 5
                               4
                                              80
                                                                                      6
## 6
                               3
                                                                  0
                                              80
     {\tt Training Times Last Year \ Work Life Balance \ Years At Company \ Years In Current Role}
## 1
                                                               6
                            0
                                              1
## 2
                            3
                                              3
                                                              10
                                                                                    7
                            3
                                              3
                                                                                    0
## 3
                                                               0
                            3
                                              3
                                                               8
                                                                                    7
## 4
                                                                                    2
## 5
                            3
                                              3
                                                               2
## 6
                            2
                                                                                    7
     YearsSinceLastPromotion YearsWithCurrManager
## 1
                              0
                                                      7
## 2
                              1
## 3
                              0
                                                     0
## 4
                              3
                                                      0
## 5
                              2
                                                      2
## 6
                              3
                                                      6
```

#### dim(hrdat)

#### ## [1] 1470 35

This dataset is large and we should probably try to understand the 35 columns and what they mean. First we can checkout the column names with the names() function and then check the data types for all the columns with lapply().

#### names(hrdat)

```
## [1] "Age" "Attrition"
## [3] "BusinessTravel" "DailyRate"
## [5] "Department" "DistanceFromHome"
```

```
[7] "Education"
                                    "EducationField"
   [9] "EmployeeCount"
                                    "EmployeeNumber"
## [11] "EnvironmentSatisfaction"
                                    "Gender"
## [13] "HourlyRate"
                                    "JobInvolvement"
                                    "JobRole"
## [15] "JobLevel"
## [17] "JobSatisfaction"
                                    "MaritalStatus"
## [19] "MonthlyIncome"
                                    "MonthlyRate"
## [21] "NumCompaniesWorked"
                                    "Over18"
## [23] "OverTime"
                                    "PercentSalaryHike"
## [25] "PerformanceRating"
                                    "RelationshipSatisfaction"
## [27] "StandardHours"
                                    "StockOptionLevel"
## [29] "TotalWorkingYears"
                                    "TrainingTimesLastYear"
## [31] "WorkLifeBalance"
                                    "YearsAtCompany"
## [33] "YearsInCurrentRole"
                                    "YearsSinceLastPromotion"
## [35] "YearsWithCurrManager"
```

## lapply(hrdat, typeof)

```
## $Age
## [1] "integer"
## $Attrition
## [1] "character"
##
## $BusinessTravel
## [1] "character"
##
## $DailyRate
## [1] "integer"
##
## $Department
## [1] "character"
##
## $DistanceFromHome
## [1] "integer"
## $Education
## [1] "integer"
##
## $EducationField
## [1] "character"
##
## $EmployeeCount
## [1] "integer"
##
## $EmployeeNumber
##
  [1] "integer"
##
## $EnvironmentSatisfaction
## [1] "integer"
##
## $Gender
## [1] "character"
##
```

```
## $HourlyRate
## [1] "integer"
## $JobInvolvement
## [1] "integer"
##
## $JobLevel
## [1] "integer"
##
## $JobRole
## [1] "character"
## $JobSatisfaction
## [1] "integer"
## $MaritalStatus
## [1] "character"
## $MonthlyIncome
## [1] "integer"
##
## $MonthlyRate
## [1] "integer"
## $NumCompaniesWorked
## [1] "integer"
##
## $0ver18
## [1] "character"
## $OverTime
## [1] "character"
## $PercentSalaryHike
## [1] "integer"
## $PerformanceRating
## [1] "integer"
## $RelationshipSatisfaction
## [1] "integer"
## $StandardHours
## [1] "integer"
## $StockOptionLevel
## [1] "integer"
##
## $TotalWorkingYears
## [1] "integer"
## $TrainingTimesLastYear
## [1] "integer"
##
```

```
## $WorkLifeBalance
## [1] "integer"
##
## $YearsAtCompany
## [1] "integer"
##
## $YearsInCurrentRole
## [1] "integer"
##
## $YearsSinceLastPromotion
## [1] "integer"
##
## $YearsWithCurrManager
## [1] "integer"
```

Some of the columns are described below, these will be ordinal data. Those columns with characters are most likely categorical data and the rest will be values recorded or measured meaning continuous data. This will be important to what statistical tests and plotting we perform below.

- Education: 1=Below College, 2=College, 3=Bachelor, 4=Master, 5=Doctor
- EnvironmentSatisfaction: 1=Low, 2=Medium, 3=High, 4=Very High
- JobInvolvement: 1=Low, 2=Medium, 3=High, 4=Very High
- JobSatisfaction: 1=Low, 2=Medium, 3=High, 4=Very High
- PerformanceRating: 1=Low, 2=Good, 3=Excellent, 4=Outstanding
- RelationshipSatisfaction: 1=Low, 2=Medium, 3=High, 4=Very High
- WorkLifeBalance: 1=Bad, 2=Good, 3=Better, 4=Best
- Attrition: 0=Stayed, 1=Left

#### Asking questions of our data

We have an interesting data set here we can try to answer some questions. What does life balance correlate with? Do higher salaries correlate with high retention rates? Do performance ratings correlate with better salaries? We can investigate this by calculating  $\mathbb{R}^2$  values for two continuous variables or use spearman's or polyserial correlations.

To calculate the R<sup>2</sup> value you can use the lm() function stands for linear model and summary().

```
model <- lm(MonthlyRate ~ DailyRate, data = hrdat)
modelSum <- summary(model)
modelSum$r.squared</pre>
```

#### ## [1] 0.001035655

Then we can use Spearman's correlation for ordinal and continuous data comparisons.

#### ## [1] 0.01735044

#### ## [1] 0.02321426

There is a positive weak monotonic relationship between work life balance and education, monthly income, and years in the current role.

Another test for ordinal and continuous data is the polyserial correlation instead of Spearman's. The polyserial correlation value assumes an underlying bivariate normal distribution for a latent continuous variable that the ordinal variable represents. But still only a weak correlation between monthly income and work life balance. I guess it is true money can not buy happiness.

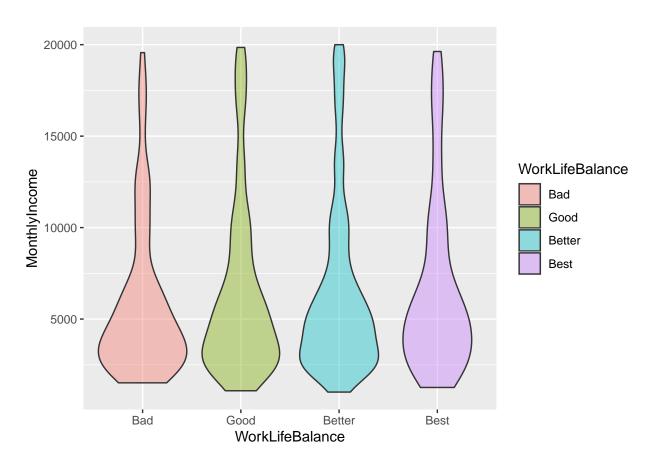
```
# install.packages("polycor")
library(polycor)

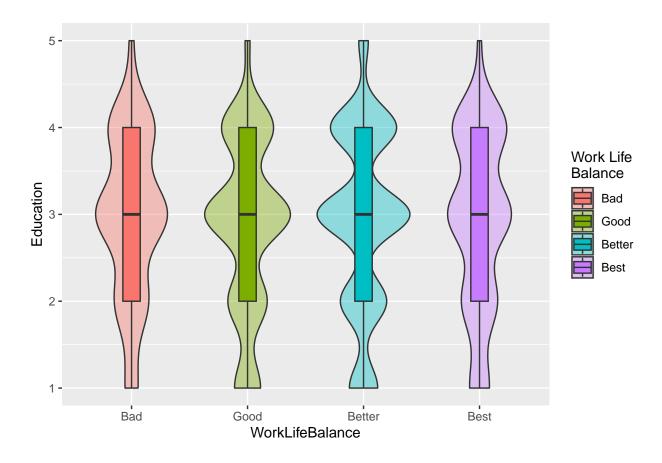
# x=ordinal_var y=continuous_var
polyserial(hrdat$MonthlyIncome,hrdat$WorkLifeBalance)
```

#### ## [1] 0.03426368

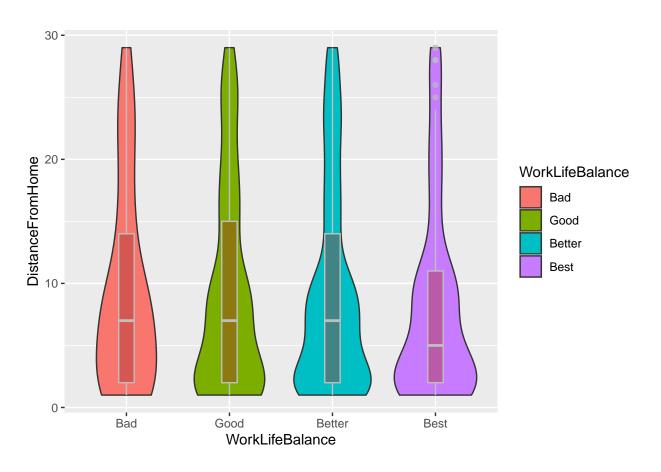
Making the work life balance column a factor with levels and changing the values for plotting.

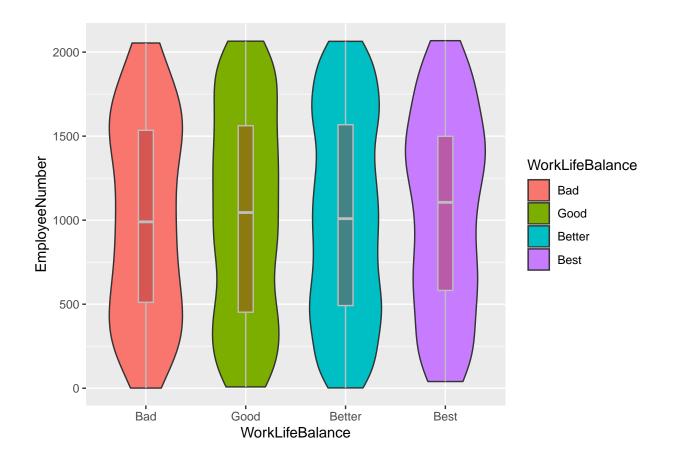
```
ggplot(hrdat, aes(x=WorkLifeBalance,y=MonthlyIncome,fill=WorkLifeBalance))+
geom_violin(alpha=0.4)
```







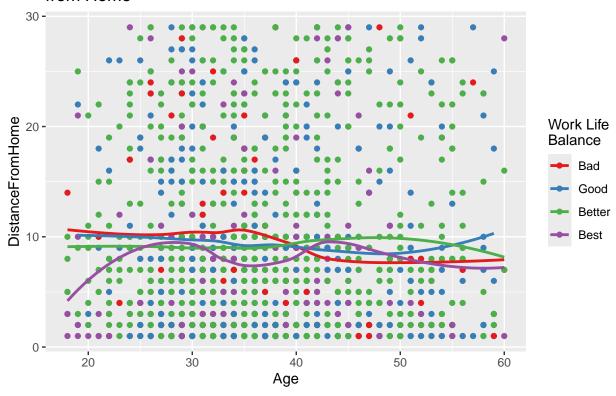




#### Rproducible graphs with ggplot

Next we will introduce theme() a useful function that allows you to change all the aspects of the graph itself and gives you reproducible graphs across types. In science we will sometimes need to change the text to italics or we like to bold important data, but to do this for each graph is unnecessary with theme(). A quick example will illustrate this. Take any plot we have made previously.

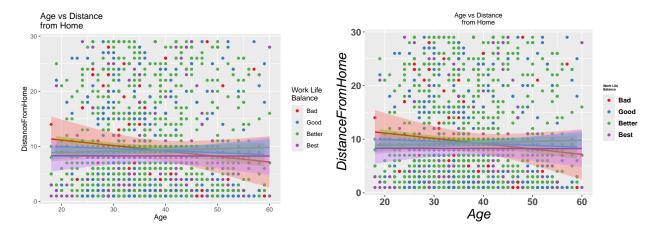
# Age vs Distance from Home



We will change the graph title and axis text size the axis titles to italics, center the graph title, then we will bold the legend text and increase the size and shrink the legend title.

Now add the theme to the graph.

```
the_theme
p1
p2
```



And this theme can be added to any graph you make, meaning all the graphs you make will have the same styling which is great for many projects including making figures for publication.



The theme() function has many parameters that cover all aspects of a graph, use the args() function to get a look.

#### args(theme)

```
## function (..., line, rect, text, title, point, polygon, geom,
##
       spacing, margins, aspect.ratio, axis.title, axis.title.x,
##
       axis.title.x.top, axis.title.x.bottom, axis.title.y, axis.title.y.left,
##
       axis.title.y.right, axis.text, axis.text.x, axis.text.x.top,
##
       axis.text.x.bottom, axis.text.y, axis.text.y.left, axis.text.y.right,
##
       axis.text.theta, axis.text.r, axis.ticks, axis.ticks.x, axis.ticks.x.top,
##
       axis.ticks.x.bottom, axis.ticks.y, axis.ticks.y.left, axis.ticks.y.right,
##
       axis.ticks.theta, axis.ticks.r, axis.minor.ticks.x.top, axis.minor.ticks.x.bottom,
##
       axis.minor.ticks.y.left, axis.minor.ticks.y.right, axis.minor.ticks.theta,
##
       axis.minor.ticks.r, axis.ticks.length, axis.ticks.length.x,
##
       axis.ticks.length.x.top, axis.ticks.length.x.bottom, axis.ticks.length.y,
##
       axis.ticks.length.y.left, axis.ticks.length.y.right, axis.ticks.length.theta,
##
       axis.ticks.length.r, axis.minor.ticks.length, axis.minor.ticks.length.x,
##
       axis.minor.ticks.length.x.top, axis.minor.ticks.length.x.bottom,
##
       axis.minor.ticks.length.y, axis.minor.ticks.length.y.left,
##
       axis.minor.ticks.length.y.right, axis.minor.ticks.length.theta,
##
       axis.minor.ticks.length.r, axis.line, axis.line.x, axis.line.x.top,
##
       axis.line.x.bottom, axis.line.y, axis.line.y.left, axis.line.y.right,
##
       axis.line.theta, axis.line.r, legend.background, legend.margin,
##
       legend.spacing, legend.spacing.x, legend.spacing.y, legend.key,
       legend.key.size, legend.key.height, legend.key.width, legend.key.spacing,
##
```

```
legend.key.spacing.x, legend.key.spacing.y, legend.key.justification,
##
##
       legend.frame, legend.ticks, legend.ticks.length, legend.axis.line,
       legend.text, legend.text.position, legend.title, legend.title.position,
##
##
       legend.position, legend.position.inside, legend.direction,
       legend.byrow, legend.justification, legend.justification.top,
##
##
       legend.justification.bottom, legend.justification.left, legend.justification.right,
##
       legend.justification.inside, legend.location, legend.box,
       legend.box.just, legend.box.margin, legend.box.background,
##
##
       legend.box.spacing, panel.background, panel.border, panel.spacing,
##
       panel.spacing.x, panel.spacing.y, panel.grid, panel.grid.major,
##
       panel.grid.minor, panel.grid.major.x, panel.grid.major.y,
       panel.grid.minor.x, panel.grid.minor.y, panel.ontop, panel.widths,
##
       panel.heights, plot.background, plot.title, plot.title.position,
##
##
       plot.subtitle, plot.caption, plot.caption.position, plot.tag,
##
       plot.tag.position, plot.tag.location, plot.margin, strip.background,
##
       strip.background.x, strip.background.y, strip.clip, strip.placement,
##
       strip.text, strip.text.x, strip.text.x.bottom, strip.text.x.top,
       strip.text.y, strip.text.y.left, strip.text.y.right, strip.switch.pad.grid,
##
##
       strip.switch.pad.wrap, complete = FALSE, validate = TRUE)
## NULL
```

#### To make figure files (PNG, TIFF, and PDF)

R has the ability to make figures using built-in graphic devices like png(), tiff(), and pdf() and more. This can be great when making figure panels. Here is an example making a figure out of the plots we already made. It can take some time to find the right fit for the plot desired so some trial and error are required. This where using ggplot objects is convenient packaging all parts of the graph in one place. You should make an output folder for figures when making them, this will keep the working directory from being cluttered with images.

```
#Make a pnq
png(filename = "output/my_bar_test1.png",res=600,
    width=8,height=5,units="in",
    bg = "white",
    type ="cairo")
p1
dev.off()
#Make a tiff
tiff(filename = "output/my_bar_test2.tiff",res=600,
    width=8, height=5, units="in",
    bg = "white",
    type ="cairo")
p2
dev.off()
#Make a pdf
pdf(file = "output/my_bar_test3.pdf",
    width=8,height=5,
    bg = "white")
p2
dev.off()
```

## Conclusions

Now you can plot data with base R and using the ggplot2 package and reproduce plots easily with themes. There are so many packages that extend ggplot2 even further and you should learn these as your plotting needs change.