

K-Pop Data Analysis

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Starting in 2024.

Executive Summary

Write something here

Disclaimer

This manuscript is written solely by the author, not by ChatGPT or any other generative AI. The opinions and views expressed in this manuscript are those of the author, and do not necessarily state or reflect those of any institution or government entity.

1 Introduction

Important: Write about why K-Pop music is so popular across the globe.

K-Pop music has emerged popularity worldwide since the early 2010's (Khiun, 2013; Sun, 2022).

Then write about the author's motivation

The author became interested in K-Pop music (Korean pop music) from the debut of Tzuyu (Chou Tzu-Yu, 周子瑜).¹ Tzuyu is originally from Taiwan, the country in which the author grew up. In 2015, Tzuyu participated in the South Korean reality television show *SIXTEEN*,² and eventually got added to the newly-formed girl group *TWICE*.³ In early 2016, Tzuyu was forced to apologize after she raised the Taiwan flag in a Korean entertainment show.⁴ The flag controversy incident made headline news in Taiwan,⁵ and it was estimated to bring in 500,000 votes for the 2016 Taiwan presidential election.⁶

¹<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tzuyu>

²[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixteen_\(TV_program\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixteen_(TV_program))

³<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twice>

⁴<https://bit.ly/3DOcNIP>

⁵<https://bit.ly/4k5j7ps>

⁶<https://bit.ly/3CUQWsK>

Unfinished below

Then in 2017, another Taiwanese girl, Snowbaby (蔡瑞雪),⁷ joined the Korean live reality show *Idol School* (偶像學校).⁸ At the end, the show would select nine winners to form the girl group *fromis_9*.⁹ This also generated lots of discussion in the Mandarin-speaking community.¹⁰ Although Snowbaby was eliminated in the middle of the show, she still deserves praise for her courage to participate as an international contestant.¹¹ Since Snowbaby graduated from the same high school as the author did,¹² her experience motivated the author to learn more the K-Pop entertainment industry.

To become a K-Pop idol in Korea, aspiring kids usually start as a trainee at an entertainment company in their early teens. (citation needed)

vocal and dance lessons

Intense competition

Very few trainees can eventually get selected to debut and perform on stage as the company's official group.

(No wonder the K-Pop artist performances are always beautiful and well-rehearsed!)

While a performing group enjoys the spotlight and fame, the group typically lasts only a few years before the contract ends. (citation needed)

(a lot more content here)

Need a transition paragraph to explain what we are doing in this analysis

Important: Write about the K-Pop scandal revealed in 2019 and later.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mnet_vote_manipulation_investigation

Started with the *Produce X 101* (2019)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Produce_X_101

The mysterious 29978 number in *Produce X 101*:

<https://www.koreaboo.com/news/produce-x-101-rigged-votes-final-members/>

Mnet admitted to manipulating the votes in the *Produce 101* series and the subsequent reality shows, including *Idol School*.

<https://www.popdaily.com.tw/korea/846603>

Idol School: Vote Manipulation Investigation (2019)

<https://www.ptt.cc/bbs/KoreaStar/M.1624467107.A.D7F.html>

1.1 Technical Narrative

This manuscript is created using R Markdown (Allaire et al., 2024)¹³ for reproducible data analysis, just like our earlier technical report about the education in Taiwan (Chai, 2024). We have posted our code and data on GitHub,¹⁴ so readers can download the GitHub repository and play with the script themselves.

The rest of this manuscript is organized as follows.

e.g. Chapter 23 does something.

⁷Snowbaby's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@snowbaby>

⁸[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idol_School_\(2017_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idol_School_(2017_TV_series))

⁹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fromis_9

¹⁰<https://www.epochtimes.com/b5/17/7/2/n9346573.htm>

¹¹<https://bit.ly/41p3pym>

¹²<https://bit.ly/424u3gv>

¹³<https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/>

¹⁴<https://github.com/star1327p/K-Pop-Dataset>

2 *Idol School* Dataset (2017)

Idol School (偶像學校) (2017)

Emphasize that *Idol School* did not require vocal or dance experience and was willing to train the participants from scratch. Despite the low barrier to entry, many participants in the reality show had previously trained under various entertainment companies.

In the live reality show *Idol School*, nine winners were selected to form the girl group *fromis_9*.¹⁵ This girl group debuted in 2018 and remained active until the contract ended in 2024.

What happened to the group in January 2025?

Wikipedia: “In January 2025, five members of the group signed with ASND.”

Need to write the data description

Wikipedia data: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Idol_School_contestants

2.1 Read in the *Idol School* Dataset

We manually copy-pasted the contestant data from Wikipedia into a Microsoft Excel workbook (.xlsx), and used the R package `readxl` (Wickham and Bryan, 2023) to load the dataset. A main advantage of .xlsx over .csv is that we can have multiple data sheets in the same Excel file for consolidation. Moreover, Excel supports Chinese characters, so we can also include the Chinese names of each contestant. Since the English translation of Korean names look similar to each other (Kim, 2020), we also include the date of birth (DOB) to make it easier to uniquely identify each contestant. For those who are able to read Chinese, we put each contestant’s name in Chinese characters as well.

Specify the column names we included, also the column names we printed here.

Add the metadata in the Excel file or the Appendix ?!

Currently I prefer adding the metadata in the Excel file for proximity to the data itself.

```
library(readxl)
idol_school = read_excel("UNFINISHED_Idol_School_Dataset.xlsx",
                        sheet="Idol_School_Dataset")

# Date of birth (DOB) should be date only, not a full timestamp.
idol_school$DOB = as.Date(idol_school$DOB)

columns_to_show = c("Name_Chn", "Name_Eng", "DOB",
                    "Vocal", "Dance", "Physical", "Overall")

idol_school[1:20, columns_to_show]
```

```
## # A tibble: 20 x 7
##   Name_Chn Name_Eng      DOB      Vocal Dance Physical Overall
##   <chr>    <chr>    <date>    <dbl> <dbl>    <dbl>    <dbl>
## 1 NATTY    NATTY    2002-05-30  9.8    8        8.1    8.63
## 2 劉怡伶    Tasha    1993-10-11  8      9.5      8      8.5
## 3 李采映    Lee Chae Young 2000-05-14  8.5    8.5      7.5    8.17
## 4 宋河英    Song Ha Young 1997-09-29  8.6    5.9      9.8    8.1
## 5 金恩書    Kim Eun Suh 2000-11-14  6.3    6.9      10     7.73
```

¹⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fromis_9

## 6	金明智	Kim Myong Ji	1997-10-09	5.5	7.9	8.2	7.2
## 7	張圭悧	Jang Gyuri	1997-12-27	7.2	7.1	7	7.1
## 8	朴宣	Park Sun	2004-05-25	9.5	6.1	5.5	7.03
## 9	李悠汀	Lee Yoo Jeong	1997-02-26	5.8	6.2	9	7
## 10	金娜妍	Kim Na Yeon	1996-05-15	8.3	6	6.4	6.9
## 11	盧知宣	Roh Ji Sun	1998-11-23	6.5	7	6.5	6.67
## 12	裴恩英	Bae Eun Yeong	1997-05-23	7	9.3	3.5	6.6
## 13	朴池原	Park Ji Won	1998-03-20	7.9	5	6.2	6.37
## 14	曹侑彬	Cho Yu Bin	1999-10-09	5.9	9	4	6.3
## 15	李賽綸	Lee Sae Rom	1997-01-07	5	5.1	8.7	6.27
## 16	秋元喜	Chu Won Hui	1999-04-14	5.7	7.4	5	6.03
## 17	李多熙	Lee Da Hee	1996-04-25	6.4	4.9	4.9	5.4
## 18	賓荷娜	Sky / Bin Ha Neul	1999-12-14	4	5.4	6.1	5.17
## 19	李瑞淵	Lee Seo Yeon	2000-01-22	6.1	6.3	2	4.8
## 20	楊璉智	Yang Yeon Ji	1996-01-03	4.9	7.5	1.6	4.67

2.2 *Idol School*: Exploratory Data Analysis

Context: Write about how the vocal, dance, and physical scores were evaluated.

Physical testing contains a group exercise and an individual exercise.

Also mention the top performers in each category.

What changes did we make from the Wikipedia data?

Our presumption is that in each category, no two contestants should have the same score. However, after sorting the *Idol School* data by the physical scores, we found two 3.5's and two 1.2's. Especially that the two 3.5's belong to top-ranked contestants Bae Eun Yeong (裴恩英) and Park Ji Won (朴池原), this issue quickly caught our attention to make corrections to the data.

Physical: We found two 3.5's and two 1.2's after sorting the scores.

In the video clip, Park Ji Won (朴池原) and her partner were the first runner-up in the group physical exercise.¹⁶ We are surprised that Ji Won's physical score was only 3.5. According to the video's score table for contestants ranked 11th to 20th,¹⁷ Ji Won's physical score should be 6.2. The Wikipedia table shows an inconsistency in Ji Won's overall score, i.e., the average across the three categories. Ji Won's vocal score was 7.9, and her dance score was 5. These numbers seem to be reasonable for Ji Won, because she is known for excellent singing and good dancing as a performer.¹⁸ Therefore, we assume both scores to be correct. If the physical score had really been 3.5, then Ji Won's overall score would be 5.47, dropping her from 13th place to the 18th. If the overall score of 6.37 had been correct, then Ji Won's physical score should be 6.2. The second scenario is more likely to be true, given the evidence we found in the video clip. Hence we corrected Ji Won's physical score to 6.2.

Physical: We found additional two 1.2's after sorting the scores.

The two 1.2 scores are more difficult to check for the underlying values, probably because they occurred in two contestants of lower ranking.¹⁹ The two contestants, Jessica Lee (李瑟) and Michelle White (懷特·米雪兒), ranked in the lower half of all 41 contestants in terms of the overall ability test. Both of them got eliminated in the first round, so they did not receive much attention in the show. With the help of Google Translate,²⁰ we were able to translate the image of Korean text to (readable) English. Finally, we discovered that Michelle White's physical score should be 1.3, not 1.2.

¹⁶Screenshot of the group physical exercise: <https://bit.ly/4a7QT9m>

¹⁷<https://bit.ly/400KUhH>

¹⁸Park Ji Won was the main vocalist in *fromis_9*. <https://bit.ly/402yCFI>

¹⁹Physical scores of all contestants in *Idol School*: <https://bit.ly/3DRNK0Z>

²⁰<https://translate.google.com/>

Idol School (2017): Videos with subtitles in Simplified Chinese are available on the Bilibili platform.²¹

Screenshots saved:

https://github.com/star1327p/K-Pop-Dataset/tree/main/Idol_School_Rating_Screenshots

Still need to write the description

```
vocal_sorted = sort(idol_school$Vocal, decreasing = TRUE)
dance_sorted = sort(idol_school$Dance, decreasing = TRUE)
physical_sorted = sort(idol_school$Physical, decreasing = TRUE)

# UNFINISHED HERE
combined_all_three = cbind(vocal_sorted, dance_sorted, physical_sorted)
sorted_scores_df = as.data.frame(combined_all_three)
```

Test

```
sorted_scores_df[1:10,]
```

##	vocal_sorted	dance_sorted	physical_sorted
## 1	9.8	9.5	10.0
## 2	9.5	9.3	9.8
## 3	8.6	9.0	9.0
## 4	8.5	8.5	8.7
## 5	8.3	8.4	8.2
## 6	8.0	8.0	8.1
## 7	7.9	7.9	8.0
## 8	7.2	7.5	7.5
## 9	7.0	7.4	7.0
## 10	6.5	7.1	6.5

Test

```
sorted_scores_df[31:41,]
```

##	vocal_sorted	dance_sorted	physical_sorted
## 31	2.5	3.6	1.6
## 32	2.2	3.5	1.5
## 33	2.1	3.3	1.3
## 34	2.0	3.2	1.2
## 35	1.5	3.1	1.0
## 36	1.4	3.0	0.9
## 37	1.3	2.6	0.8
## 38	1.2	2.2	0.7
## 39	1.1	2.0	0.6
## 40	1.0	1.0	0.4
## 41	0.0	0.0	0.0

Explain why we removed the 41st contestant whose scores were all zeros.

Som Hye In (慎惠仁) left the *Idol School* show due to health reasons. She was unable to complete the basic test, so her score was zero in all three categories (vocal, dance, and physical).

Check for the mean and median of each category score

²¹<https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1554y1C7wj/>

```

# UNFINISHED HERE
# We MUST remove the 41st contestant's scores (all zeros)!!
idol_school = idol_school[1:40,]

# Output a table for the mean and median for (vocal, dance, physical)

metrics = c("Mean", "Median")
vocal_stats = c(mean(idol_school$Vocal), median(idol_school$Vocal))
dance_stats = c(mean(idol_school$Dance), median(idol_school$Dance))
physical_stats = c(mean(idol_school$Physical), median(idol_school$Physical))

idol_stats_df = data.frame(metrics, vocal_stats, dance_stats, physical_stats)
names(idol_stats_df) = c("Metrics", "Vocal", "Dance", "Physical")

# UNFINISHED HERE
# Rounding to two decimal places?!

idol_stats_df

```

```

##   Metrics Vocal Dance Physical
## 1   Mean 4.885 5.485  4.1925
## 2  Median 4.950 5.550  3.2500

```

Do we need to look at the five-number summary?!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five-number_summary

Five numbers = min, 1st quartile, median, 3rd quartile, max.
Add: mean

Explain why we removed the 41st contestant whose scores were all zeros.

```

# UNFINISHED HERE
# Convert to data.frame format like the median and mean above

# Combine all three summary tables into one data.frame

print("Summary Statistics")

```

```
## [1] "Summary Statistics"
```

```
print("Vocal:")
```

```
## [1] "Vocal:"
```

```
print(summary(idol_school$Vocal))
```

```
##   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
##  1.000  2.875   4.950   4.885  6.425   9.800
```

```
print("Dance:")
```

```
## [1] "Dance:"
```

```
print(summary(idol_school$Dance))
```

```
##      Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
##      1.000   3.825   5.550   5.485   7.025   9.500
```

```
print("Physical:")
```

```
## [1] "Physical:"
```

```
print(summary(idol_school$Physical))
```

```
##      Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
##      0.400   1.675   3.250   4.192   6.425  10.000
```

Shall we create a **box plot** using ggplot2 to compare the three sets of scores?

<https://www.sthda.com/english/wiki/ggplot2-box-plot-quick-start-guide-r-software-and-data-visualization>

Correlation matrix

Need to explain the correlation coefficients and the K-Pop context.

Diagonal elements are always exactly 1.

Create the scatterplots and/or correlation plots!

Use **ggplot** or not ?!

- Correlation between vocal and dance scores: 0.645
- Correlation between vocal and physical scores: 0.663
- Correlation between dance and physical scores: 0.509

The training at a K-Pop entertainment company in Korea usually includes vocal and dance lessons (Padget, 2017), so it is reasonable to see a high correlation between vocal and dance scores. Theoretically dance and physical should be highly correlated (Ngo et al., 2024), but in the Idol School dataset, we observed a slightly lower correlation in dance vs physical than in dance vs vocal. Physical strength is essential to dancing, but dance also includes other critical elements such as technique and aesthetic expression (Geukes et al., 2023).

Note that some contestants with a remarkably high score in dance but a low score in physical:

e.g. Bae Eun Yeong (裴恩英)

e.g. Lee Hae In (李海印)

Or because too many contestants did not do well in the physical part ?!

Evidence: Median in physical score is lower than the median in vocal or dance.

```
# UNFINISHED HERE
```

```
cor(idol_school[,c("Vocal", "Dance", "Physical")])
```

```
##           Vocal      Dance  Physical
## Vocal      1.0000000 0.6453742 0.6635910
## Dance      0.6453742 1.0000000 0.5086578
## Physical   0.6635910 0.5086578 1.0000000
```

Alternatively, we can also obtain the pairwise correlation of each category.

```
# UNFINISHED HERE
cor(idol_school$Vocal, idol_school$Dance)
```

```
## [1] 0.6453742
```

```
# UNFINISHED HERE
# Need to print all three pairs.
# cor(idol_school$Dance, idol_school$Physical)
# cor(idol_school$Vocal, idol_school$Physical)
```

2.3 Idol School: Additional Resources

Students who were eliminated from the show:

https://www.ptt.cc/bbs/fromis_9/M.1555819461.A.C73.html

Someone else used random forests to predict the final ranking:

<https://shavid.pixnet.net/blog/post/331691281>

3 Read in the *Produce 48* Dataset

Produce 48 dataset (2018)

Wikipedia data: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Produce_48

Need to write the data description

Produce 48 featured 96 contestants primarily from South Korea and Japan.

Footnote: Korea may include other countries, and the Korea-Japan split is not 1-1.

Some former contestants in *Idol School* tried again in the *Produce 48* reality show in 2018.

A total of 12 contestants were eventually selected from *Produce 48* to create the time-limited girl group *IZ*ONE*,²² which was active during 2018-2021 in both Korea and Japan.

```
produce_48_data = read_excel("UNFINISHED_Idol_School_Dataset.xlsx",
                           sheet="Produce_48_Dataset")

# Date of birth (DOB) should be date only, not a full timestamp.
produce_48_data$DOB = as.Date(produce_48_data$DOB)

columns_to_show = c("Name_Chn", "Name_Eng", "DOB",
                    "First_Eval", "Second_Eval", "Final_Rank")

produce_48_data[1:20, columns_to_show]
```

```
## # A tibble: 20 x 6
##   Name_Chn Name_Eng      DOB      First_Eval Second_Eval Final_Rank
##   <chr>    <chr>    <date>    <chr>        <chr>        <dbl>
## 1 張員瑛    Jang Won Young 2004-08-31 B          B            1
## 2 宮脇咲良 Miyawaki Sakura 1998-03-19 A          A            2
## 3 曹柔理    Jo Yuri       2001-10-22 A          F            3
```

²²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iz*One

##	4	崔叡娜	Choi Ye Na	1999-09-29	A	B	4
##	5	安俞真	An Yu Jin	2003-09-01	B	A	5
##	6	矢吹奈子	Yabuki Nako	2001-06-18	F	A	6
##	7	權恩妃	Kwon Eun Bi	1995-09-27	A	C	7
##	8	姜惠元	Kang Hye Won	1999-07-05	F	F	8
##	9	本田仁美	Honda Hitomi	2001-10-06	C	A	9
##	10	金采源	Kim Chae Won	2000-08-01	B	B	10
##	11	金玟周	Kim Min Ju	2001-02-05	D	C	11
##	12	李彩演	Lee Chae Yeon	2000-01-11	A	A	12
##	13	韓霄瑗	Han Cho Won	2002-09-16	D	B	13
##	14	李佳恩	Lee Ka Eun	1994-08-20	A	A	14
##	15	宮崎美穗	Miyazaki Miho	1993-07-30	D	D	15
##	16	高橋朱里	Takahashi Juri	1997-10-03	B	A	16
##	17	竹内美宥	Takeuchi Miyu	1996-01-12	A	B	17
##	18	下尾美羽	Shitao Miu	2001-04-03	D	D	18
##	19	朴海允	Park Hae Yoon	1996-01-10	A	D	19
##	20	白間美瑠	Shiroma Miru	1997-10-14	B	D	20

Data entry complete for all contestants in *Produce 48*, including those who left in the middle of the show.

Create a matrix for the two sets of ratings.

For each rating, also check how many contestants are from Korea and how many are from Japan.

Jo Yuri (曹柔理): A → F

What about other participants?

UNFINISHED HERE

```
produce_48_data[81:96, columns_to_show]
```

```
## # A tibble: 16 x 6
##   Name_Chn   Name_Eng   DOB       First_Eval Second_Eval Final_Rank
##   <chr>      <chr>      <date>    <chr>      <chr>      <dbl>
## 1 克利絲汀   Alex Christine 1996-12-09 B          C          82
## 2 栗原紗英   Kurihara Sae   1996-06-20 F          D          83
## 3 趙英燕     Cho Yeong In   2001-10-31 B          C          84
## 4 淺井裕華   Asai Yuuka     2003-11-10 F          D          85
## 5 安藝媛     Ahn Ye Won     2001-02-10 F          F          86
## 6 內木志     Naiki Kokoro   1997-04-06 D          C          87
## 7 金有彬     Kim Yu Bin     2003-02-27 B          D          88
## 8 趙思朗     Cho Sa Rang    2003-09-05 B          F          89
## 9 崔韶恩     Choi So Eun    2001-09-19 B          C          90
## 10 篠崎彩奈   Shinozaki Ayana 1996-01-08 F          F          91
## 11 元書妍     Won Seo Yeon   2000-05-23 C          F          92
## 12 月足天音   Tsukiashi Amane 1999-10-26 F          F          100
## 13 田中美久   Tanaka Miku    2001-09-12 F          C          100
## 14 梅山戀和   Umeyama Kokona 2003-08-07 F          X          100
## 15 植村梓     Uemura Azusa   1999-02-04 F          X          100
## 16 松井珠理奈 Matsui Jurina   1997-03-08 B          B          100
```

Nationality

```
# UNFINISHED HERE
table(produce_48_data$Country)
```

```
##
## China Japan Korea   USA
##      2    39    54    1
```

4 Tentative Placeholders

Write something here

4.1 Test for Non-English Characters

CJK = Chinese, Japanese, Korean

Chinese example

RStudio 有辦法打中文嗎？

```
print(" 大家好，很高興能認識你們！")
```

```
## [1] "大家好，很高興能認識你們！"
```

Japanese example

思い出にするにはまだ早すぎる

```
print(" みやわき さくら")
```

```
## [1] "みやわき さくら"
```

```
print(" 宮脇 咲良")
```

```
## [1] "宮脇 咲良"
```

This template does not support Korean characters yet.

4.2 R Markdown Narrative

This is an R Markdown document. Markdown is a simple formatting syntax for authoring HTML, PDF, and MS Word documents. For more details on using R Markdown see <http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com>.

When you click the **Knit** button a document will be generated that includes both content as well as the output of any embedded R code chunks within the document. You can embed an R code chunk like this:

```
summary(cars)
```

```
##      speed      dist
##  Min.   : 4.0    Min.   :  2.00
##  1st Qu.:12.0    1st Qu.: 26.00
##  Median :15.0    Median : 36.00
##  Mean   :15.4    Mean   : 42.98
##  3rd Qu.:19.0    3rd Qu.: 56.00
##  Max.   :25.0    Max.   :120.00
```

4.3 Including Plots

You can also embed plots, for example in Figure 1:

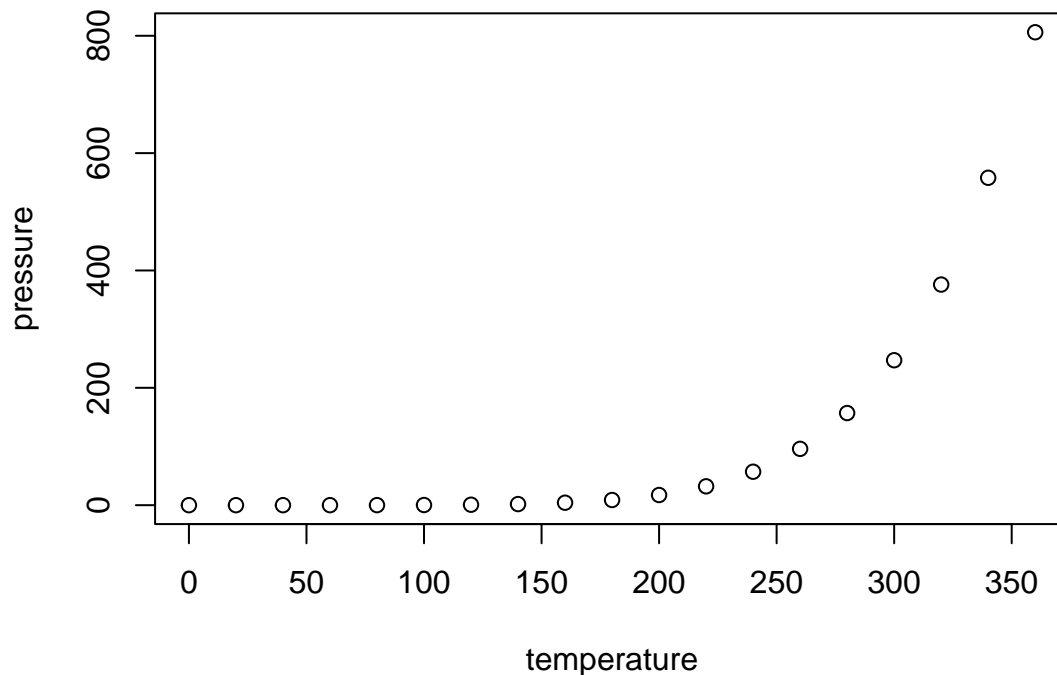


Figure 1: Test Plot

Note that the `echo = FALSE` parameter was added to the code chunk to prevent printing of the R code that generated the plot.

Acknowledgments

The author is immensely grateful to her significant other, Hugh Hendrickson, for providing his support in the author's professional development.

Technical discussions: Cheng-Shun (Adson) Liu and Chih-Kuang (Kevin) Lee.

References

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