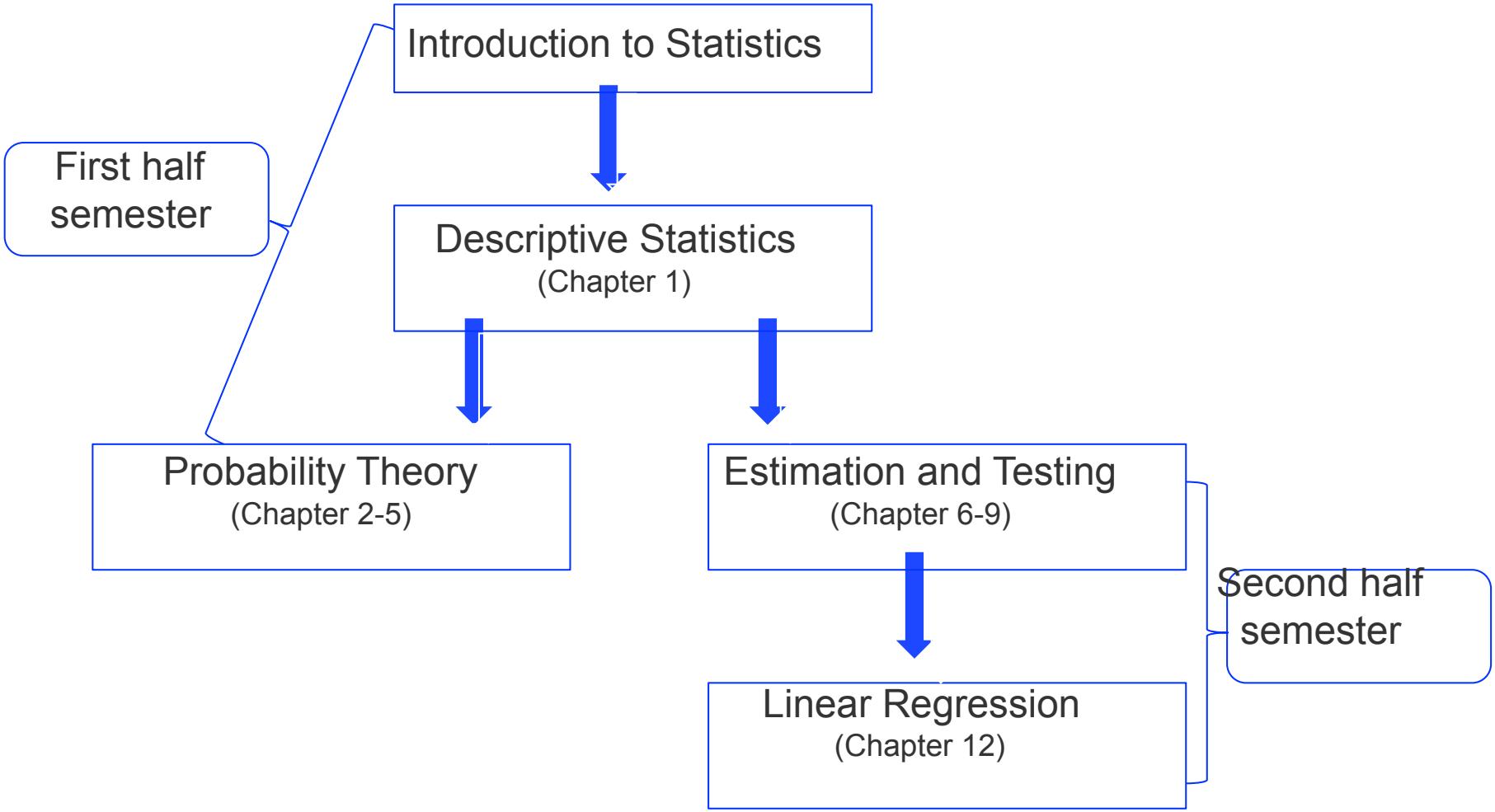
Overview of the course



Basic concepts

- **Population**: the whole class of individuals which an investigator is interested in.
- **Census**: the desired information is available for all objects in the population.
- **Sample**: a subset (part) of the population which is examined or observed.
- **Sample Size**: the number of observations in a single sample.
- **Variable**: any characteristic whose value may change from one object to another in the population, including *univariate*, *bivariate*, *multivariate*.

Probability

- What are random variables? Example: coin tosses.

- To describe random variables: *distribution*. This course will cover a variety of commonly used probability distributions.
  - Discrete distributions: Binomial, Poisson, etc.
  - Continuous distributions: Exponential, Normal (Gaussian), etc.

- Conditional probability.

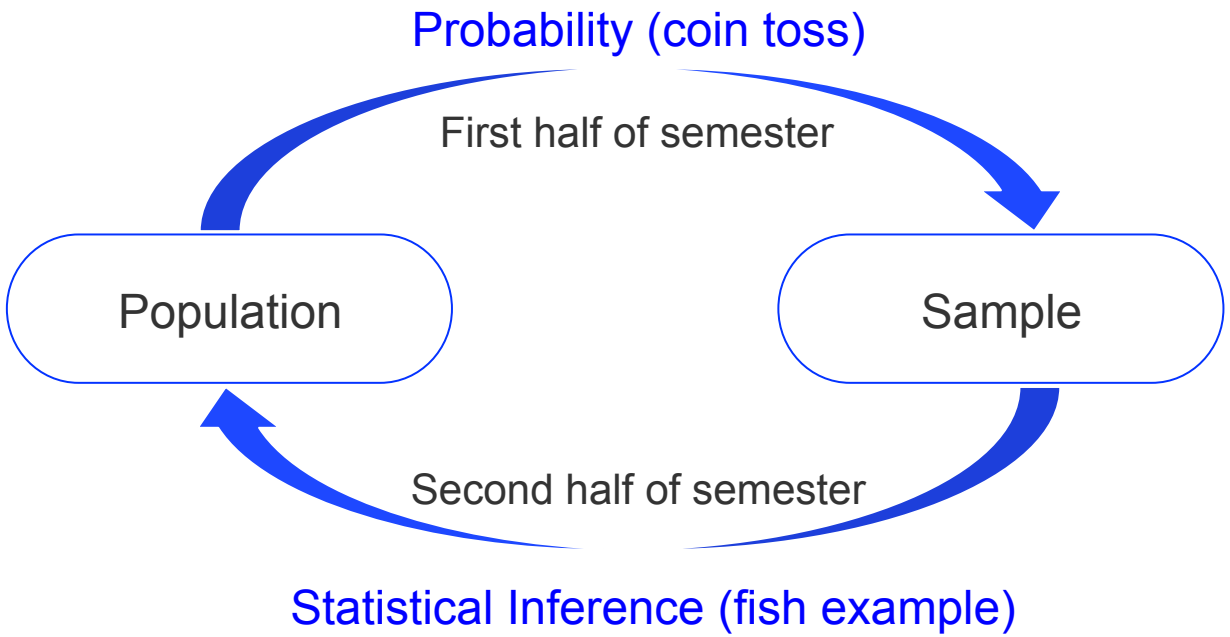
Statistical Inference

- Estimation:
  - Point estimation. Example: What is the total number of fish in a lake?
  - Interval estimation.

- Hypothesis testing:
  - One sample testing.
  - Two sample testing. Example: Is there a significant improvement in the new drug?

- Estimation and hypothesis testing are just two different ways of looking at the same problem.

Probability and Inference



Examining a new data set

1. Examine each variable by itself.
2. Study the relationship between variables.

For both steps 1 and 2 we want to:

- Display the data graphically.
- Summarize the data numerically (Statistics).
- Construct a mathematical model.

Descriptive Statistics

- Pictorial methods:
  - Stem-and-Leaf Displays.
  - Dotplots.
  - Histograms.

- All these methods convey information about the following aspects of the data:
  - Identification of a typical or representative value
  - Extent of spread about the typical value
  - Presence of any gaps in the data
  - Extent of symmetry in the distribution of values
  - Number and location of peaks
  - Presence of any outlying values

Stem-and-Leaf displays

- Steps for constructing a Stem-and-Leaf Display:
  1. Select one or more leading digits for the stem values. The trailing digits become the leaves.
  2. List possible stem values in a vertical column.
  3. Record the leaf for every observation beside the corresponding stem value.
  4. Indicate the units for stems and leaves someplace in the display.

- R demo for Stem-and-Leaf:
  - Command: `>stem(x)`
  - Option: `scale=`…, scale has to be a positive number. It controls the plot length. A value of scale=2 will cause the plot to be roughly twice as long as the default (=1).

More basic concepts

- **Discrete Variable**: Its set of possible values is either finite or else can be listed in an infinite sequence. (Gender, Age, etc.)

- **Continuous Variable**: Its possible values consist of an entire interval on the real number line. (Height, Weight, etc.)

- **Frequency**: Number of times a value occurs in the data set.

- **Relative Frequency**: Frequency/(Sample size).

Histogram

- Most commonly used tool in descriptive statistics.

- Histogram for discrete data:
  - Determine the frequency and relative frequency of each *x* value.
  - Mark possible x values on a horizontal scale.
  - Above each value, draw a rectangle whose height is the relative frequency (or the frequency) of that value.

- Histogram for continuous data:
  - Divide the range of the data into classes (5-10) of *equal width*. (It can also be unequal.)
  - Determine the frequency and relative frequency for each class.
  - Mark the class boundaries on a horizontal measurement axis.
  - Above each class interval, draw a rectangle whose height is the corresponding relative frequency (or frequency).

Constructing histogram

- Example: The maximum daily temperature in degrees Fahrenheit measured from May to September 1973 at La Guardia Airport. (154 observations)

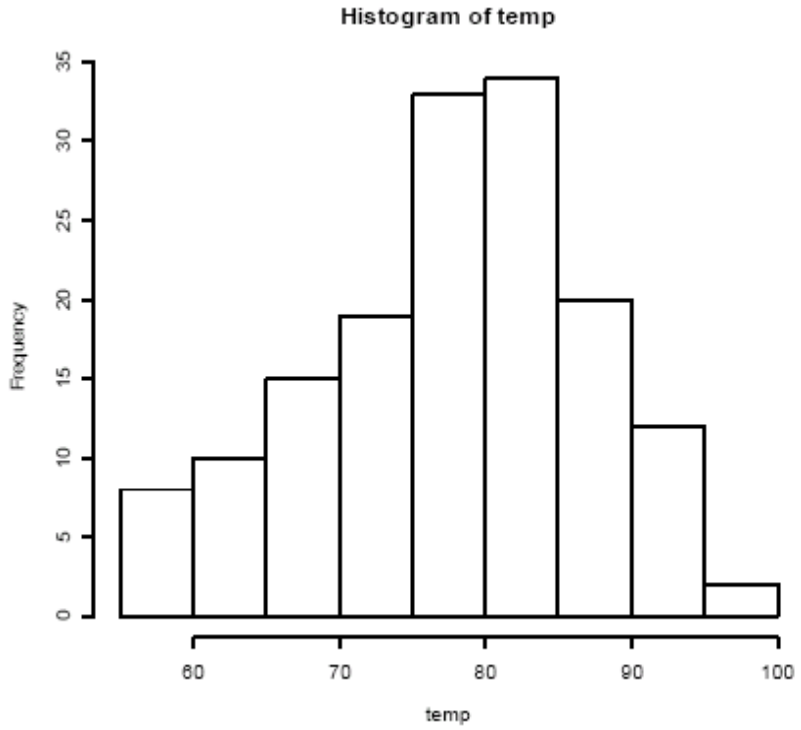
  Data

  {67 72 74 62 56 66 65 59 61 69 74 69 66 68 58 64 66 57 68 62 59 73 61 61 57
  58 57 67 81 79 76 78 74 67 84 85 79 82 87 90 87 93 92 82 80 79 77 72 65 73
  76 77 76 76 76 75 78 73 80 77 83 84 85 81 84 83 83 88 92 92 89 82 73 81 91
  80 81 82 84 87 85 74 81 82 86 85 82 86 88 86 83 81 81 81 82 86 85 87 89 90
  90 92 86 86 82 80 79 77 79 76 78 78 77 72 75 79 81 86 88 97 94 96 94 91 92
  93 93 87 84 80 78 75 73 81 76 77 71 71 78 67 76 68 82 64 71 81 69 63 70 77
  75 76 68}

  Draw a histogram.

Example cont.

Class	Count	Percent
55-59.9	8	5.2
60-64.9	10	6.5
65-69.9	15	9.8
65-74.9	19	12.4
75-79.9	33	21.6
80-84.9	34	22.2
85-89.9	20	13.1
90-94.9	12	7.9
95-99.9	2	1.3



- R demo. `>hist(x)` (option: `breaks=…`)

Density Histogram

- Besides Frequency/Relative Frequency histogram, there is another type of histogram: Density Histogram.
- The only difference is that in Density Histogram

$$\text{rectangle height} = \frac{\text{relative frequency}}{\text{class width}}$$

- Then the areas of all the rectangles add up to 1.
- We can also allow the class width to be unequal. Why?
- In `R` function `stem`, set argument `freq=FALSE` produces density histograms.

Examining distributions

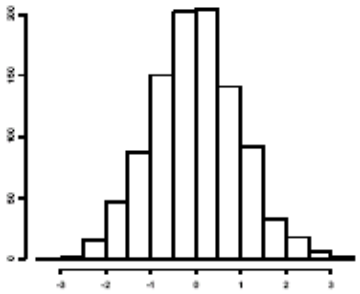
- When examining a distribution, look at its shape, center and spread. Look for clear deviations from the overall shape.

- We are interested in whether it is symmetric or skewed, as well as the number of modes.

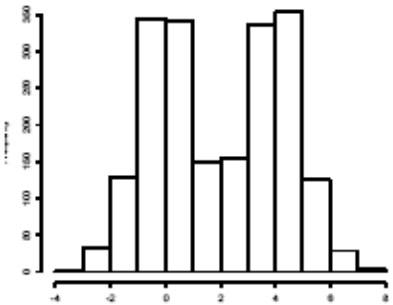
- Outliers are observations that lie outside of the overall pattern of a distribution.

Examining distributions

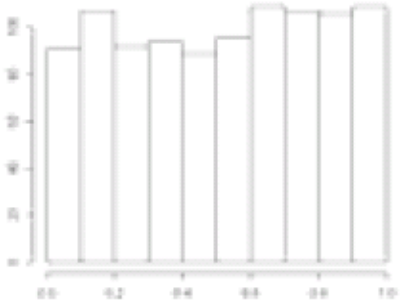
(a) Symmetric, unimodal



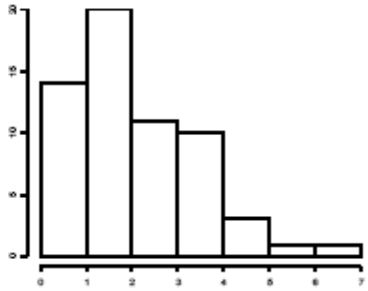
(b) bimodal



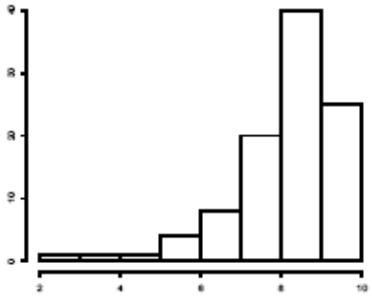
(c) Uniform



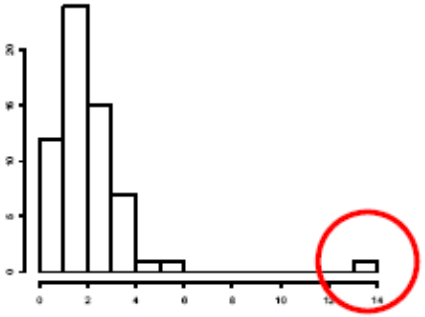
(d) right skewed



(e) left skewed



(f) Outlier



Describing distributions numerically

- For single variables, We are interested in summaries that provide information about the center and spread of the distribution.
- A statistic is a numerical summary of data.
- The two most common measures of center are the mean and median.
- “generous” vs. “selfish”.

Mean

- If we have *n* ,observations, their mean is defined by,

$$\bar{x} = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \cdots + x_n}{n}$$

or

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$$

Ex. Calculate the mean of the data set: {1,2,3,4,5}.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1+2+3+4+5}{5} = \frac{15}{5} = 3$$

Ex. Calculate the mean of the data set: {1,2,3,4,30}.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1+2+3+4+30}{5} = \frac{40}{5} = 8$$