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Histograms and Boxplots
Data Analysis Tool Pack
Scaling and Unit Conversions

Ways of Graphing Numerical Data (one set of numerical data)

Histogram is similar to a bar graph, but the “categories” are bins (ranges) of values.

To do this by hand:

First decide on the number of bins (categories) – something between 5 and 20

Find the range of the data (max minus the min)

Divide the range by the number of bins – gives you the bin width – you should generally round up a little bit to get a nice value to work with.

Start with the min and add the bin width to get the bottom value of the next bin.

For example, if the range of values in the data is from 10 to 50 and the bin width is 7:

The first bin goes from 10 to <17

The second bin goes from 17 to <24

Third bin goes from 24 to <31

Fourth bin goes from 31 to <38

Fifth bin goes from 38 to <45

Sixth bin goes from 45 to 50 (largest value) <52

Build a summary table and count the number of values in each range (bin)

From that summary table you build essentially a bar graph. The bins are labeled: either by their endpoints, or some plot the midpoint of the bins. Excel writes intervals.

This is one way of looking at the way numerical data is distributed.

Boxplots (Box and Whisker Plots)

The simplest box plots are built from the 5-number summary: minimum, 1st quartile, median, 3rd quartile, maximum.

Draw the central box between the 1st and 3rd quartiles. Mark the median in the box with a line. Extend a whisker (line) from one end of the box to the minimum. And another from the other end of the box to the maximum.

Some boxplots (like in Excel) will also mark the extreme values.

Depends on the IQR.

Boundary of the extreme value range is determined by the fences. Lower fence is $1^{\text{st}} Q - 1.5 * IQR$. Upper fence is $3^{\text{rd}} Q + 1.5 * IQR$.

Any values beyond this are extreme values. They get marked on the box plot with dots. The whisker will only extend to the last value less (or greater) than the fence.

Outer fences: are $3 * IQR$ away from the quartiles, and some programs will mark these values differently than ones merely beyond the (inner) fences.

Go to Excel for examples.

Good graphs:

Descriptive Title

Axis titles (if there is only one boxplot, then you can get away with only one axis title).

Adjust the axes or bin sizes as needed to make the graph easier to read and interpret

Be able to describe the shape of the distribution as roughly symmetric, right-skewed, or left-skewed.

Skewness is determined by the tail.

Scaling and Conversions

American Linear Units		American to Metric Units		American Capacity	
12 inches (in)	1 foot (ft)	1 inch	2.540 centimeters	8 fluid ounces (fl oz)	1 cup
3 feet	1 yard (yd)	1 foot	0.305 meters	16 fluid ounces	2 cups
36 inches	1 yard	1 yard	0.914 meters	2 cups	1 pint (pt)
63,360 inches	1 mile (mi)	1 mile	1.609 kilometers	16 fluid ounces	1 pint
5,280 feet	1 mile	1 gallon	3.78 Liters	2 pints	1 quart (qt)
1,760 yards	1 mile	1 quart	0.95 Liter	4 quarts	1 gallon
		1 pound	0.45 kilogram	8 pints	1 gallon
		1 ounce	28.35 grams	32 fluid ounces	1 quart
Weight and Mass		1 fluid ounce	29.57 mL	8 fluid dram	1 fluid ounce
1 Ton (T)	2,000 pounds	1 grain	60 milligrams (mg)	3 teaspoon (tsp)	1 tablespoon (tbsp)
1 pound (lb)	16 ounces (oz)	1 teaspoon (tsp)	5 mL	6 teaspoon	1 fluid ounce
1 Ton	32,000 ounces	1 fluid dram	4 mL	2 tablespoon	1 fluid ounce
1 metric ton (t)	1000 kg	1 tablespoon (tbsp)	15 mL	1 drop (gtt)	1 minim
60 grains	1 dram	1 pint (pt)	500 mL (approx)	60 drop	1 fluid dram
		1 quart (qt)	1000 mL (approx)	100 drop	1 teaspoon
		1 pound (lb)	453.6 g	60 minims	1 fluid dram
Converting American Units					
Larger unit → smaller unit	<i>Multiply</i>				
smaller unit → Larger unit	<i>Divide</i>				
Metric Units					
mega (M)	*	kilo (k)	hector (h)	deka (da)	unit (m, g, L)
			deci (d)	centi (c)	milli (m)
					micro (mc) (u)
When going from larger unit to smaller unit move decimal to the right					
When going from smaller unit to larger unit move decimal to the left					
Time		Metric to American Units		Temperature Formulas	
1 day	24 hours	1 km	0.621 miles	$C = \frac{(F - 32)}{1.8}$ $F = 1.8 \cdot C + 32$	
1 hour (hr)	60 minutes (min)	1 meter	1.094 yards		
1 minute	60 seconds (sec)	1 meter	3.281 feet		
1 year (yr)	365.25 days	1 meter	39.370 inches		
1 week	7 days	1 cm	0.3937 inch		
1 year	12 months (mon)	1 Liter	0.26 gallon	Medical Application (Micrograms)	
1440 minutes	1 day	1 Liter	1.06 quarts	1,000,000 micrograms (mcg)	1 gram
3600 seconds	1 hour	1 kg	2.20 lbs	1,000,000 micrograms	1,000 mg
		1 gram	0.035 oz	1 mL = 1 cc = 1 cm ³	
		1 gram	15 grains	1 gram = 1 cm ³	
Stones		1 gram	15 grains	Nursing students 1fl oz = 30 mL	
1 carat (karat)	200 mg	1 milliliter (mL)	15 minims	Nursing students 1 in. = 2.5 cm	

What is the equivalent distance in miles for 400 km?

$$X \text{ miles} = 400 \text{ km} * \frac{0.621 \text{ miles}}{1 \text{ km}} = 248.4 \text{ miles}$$

What is the equivalent distance in kilometers for 750 miles?

$$X \text{ km} = 750 \text{ miles} * \frac{1 \text{ km}}{0.621 \text{ miles}} = 1207.7 \text{ km}$$

$$X \text{ km} = 750 \text{ miles} * \frac{1.609 \text{ km}}{1 \text{ miles}} = 1206.75 \text{ km}$$

How many miles is 1000 yards?

$$X \text{ miles} = 1000 \text{ yards} * \frac{1 \text{ miles}}{1760 \text{ yards}} = 0.568 \text{ miles}$$

Temperature conversions:

$$F = \frac{9}{5}C + 32$$

$$C = \frac{5}{9}(F - 32)$$

Convert 41-degrees Fahrenheit to Celsius.

$$C = \frac{5}{9}(41 - 32) = 5 \text{ degrees}$$

The temperature is -3 degrees Celsius, what is that in Fahrenheit?

$$F = \frac{9}{5}(-3) + 32 = 26.6 \text{ degrees}$$

Scaling

When you are scaling in distances (lengths) then scaling is like converting. But when you are scaling area, area is a squared-length unit and so the scaling factor also needs to be squared. When you are scaling volume, you need to multiply by the cube of the scaling factor.

Suppose you have built a scale model of a new fighter jet that needed a volume of 10 m^3 of metal to construct, and you want to scale up to the full-size model. If the model is a $1/6$ scale model, how much metal will be needed to construct the full-size fighter jet?

$1/6$ scale is telling you how each dimension is being scaled.

$$10 \text{ m} \times \text{m} \times \text{m} \times (6) \times (6) \times (6) = 2160 \text{ m}^3$$

Suppose I have a full-size replication of Captain America in plastic. And I want to scale it down to a $1/20$ size action figure. If I used 5 ft^3 of plastic in the full-size model, how much will I need to make the action figure?

$$5 \text{ ft}^3 \times \left(\frac{1}{20}\right)^3 = 0.000625 \text{ ft}^3$$

Suppose I have a painting that is 100 square inches and I am being commissioned to scale it up for a wall mural that is 100 square feet. What is the scaling factor?

$$100 \text{ in}^2 \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ ft}}{12 \text{ in}}\right)^2 = \frac{100}{144} \text{ ft}^2 = 0.694 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$\frac{100}{0.6944 \dots} = 144 \text{ (this is the scale of the area change)}$$

Scaling factors are always given in one-dimensional units. For an area, take the square root of the ratio:

$$\sqrt{144} = 12$$