

Class 08: Topic 7: Displaying and Describing Distributions

Held: Friday, 8 February 2008

Summary: We consider some techniques for describing and visualizing a quantitative variable.

Notes:

- Homework for Monday: Activities 6-26, 6-30, 7-8, 7-12.
- Also prepare topic 8.
- Advance notice: Our first exam will be on February 20. We'll have a review day on February 18.
- Preparation: Overview and Preliminaries for Topic 7.
- Handouts: R notes on activity 7-5.
- Due: Activities 6-6, 6-10, 6-26, 6-30 [cancelled].

Overview:

- Reporting on quantitative variables.
- Group activity: The Matching Game.
- Topic 7.
- Computer activity: Histograms.

Preliminaries

- Context: We are considering the ways to describe and illustrate different kinds of data.
- Yesterday, we considered ways to examine pairs of categorical variables (one explanatory, one response).
- Today, we look at a different kind of data: Collections of quantitative data for a single variable.
- You've seen one way to view such collections: Dot plots.
- We consider two more visualizations: Histograms and Stem Plots
- We also consider some language for talking about distributions.

Matching Game

- We'll pause after fifteen minutes or so to go over your answers to the matching game.

Histograms

- We'll stop when there are fifteen or twenty minutes left to jump to activity 7-5.
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