Univariate Continuous data (Part 2 of 2)

Chapter 11.

Exploring Univariate Continuous Data using ggplot2 and ggpubr

This chapter demonstrates the use of the popular ggplot2 and ggpubr packages to further explore *univariate*, *continuous* data.

- 1. ggplot2: In the ggplot2 package for instance, the function geom_boxplot() produces box plots, geom_violin() creates violin plots, and geom_histogram() and geom_density() generate histograms and density plots, respectively. The related ggbeeswarm package can be used for creating bee swarm plots. [1]
- 2. ggpubr: The ggpubr package in R augments ggplot2 by offering tools for creating publication-ready plots. It enables simplified plotting with easy-to-use functions like gghistogram(), ggdensity(), ggboxplot(), ggviolin, and makes it easy to merge multiple plots with ggarrange(), and provides specialized themes for a polished look. Essentially, ggpubr merges ggplot2's extensive customization with the ease of creating visually appealing and informative plots. [2]
- 3. We load the necessary packages, including ggplot2, dplyr and ggthemes packages. The package ggthemes allows us to use a variety of themes. [3]

```
# Load the required libraries, suppressing annoying startup messages
library(dplyr, quietly = TRUE, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
library(tibble, quietly = TRUE, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
library(ggplot2, quietly = TRUE, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
library(ggpubr, quietly = TRUE, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
library(rmarkdown, quietly = TRUE, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
library(knitr, quietly = TRUE, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
library(kableExtra, quietly = TRUE, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
```

library(ggthemes)

5. Data: Suppose we run the following code to prepare the mtcars data for subsequent analysis and save it in a tibble called tb.

```
# Read the mtcars dataset into a tibble called tb
data(mtcars)
tb <- as_tibble(mtcars)
# Convert relevant columns into factor variables
tb$cyl <- as.factor(tb$cyl) # cyl = {4,6,8}, number of cylinders
tb$am <- as.factor(tb$am) # am = {0,1}, 0:automatic, 1: manual transmission
tb$vs <- as.factor(tb$vs) # vs = {0,1}, v-shaped engine, 0:no, 1:yes
tb$gear <- as.factor(tb$gear) # gear = {3,4,5}, number of gears</pre>
```

- 5. Let's take a closer look at some of the most effective ways of Visualizing Univariate Continuous Data using ggplot2 and related packages, including
- Bee Swarm plots using ggbeeswarm
- Histograms using ggplot2 and ggpubr
- PDF and CDF Density plots using ggplot2 and ggpubr
- Bar plots using ggplot2
- Box plots using ggplot2 and ggpubr
- Violin plots using ggplot2 and ggpubr
- Quantile-Quantile (Q-Q) Plots using ggplot2

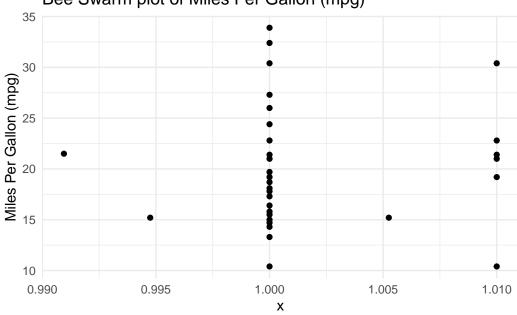
Note that it is inconvenient to create Stem-and-Leaf plots using ggplot2.

Bee Swarm plot using ggbeeswarm

- 1. The bee swarm plot is an alternative to the box plot, where each point is plotted in a manner that avoids overlap.
- 2. We use the ggbeeswarm package on the mpg column of the tb tibble.

```
# Load necessary libraries
library(ggplot2)
library(ggbeeswarm) # Provides the geom_beeswarm() function
# Create a bee swarm plot for visualizing the distribution of mpg
ggplot(tb,
```

```
aes(x = 1, # Dummy x-axis value
    y = mpg)) + # mpg values on the y-axis
geom_beeswarm() + # Use beeswarm plot points
labs(title = "Bee Swarm plot of Miles Per Gallon (mpg)",
    y = "Miles Per Gallon (mpg)") + # Label for the y-axis
theme_minimal() # theme for a clean and clear presentation
```



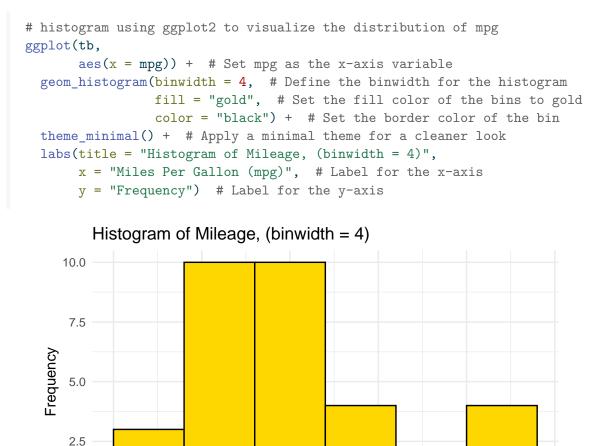
Bee Swarm plot of Miles Per Gallon (mpg)

- 3. Discussion:
- Initially, we declare our dataset and the aesthetic mappings, defining how variables in the data are visually represented. For the bee swarm plot, we only need a y aesthetic, which is mpg. We set the x aesthetic to 1 as a placeholder, because bee swarm plots require an x aesthetic, but we only have one variable.
- Following that, we append a bee swarm plot using the geom_beeswarm() function.
- We use the labs() function to label the plot.
- We then adopt a minimalist theme by using theme_minimal() to give our plot a sleek and simple look. [4]

Histogram using ggplot2

Histogram with binwidth

1. The following code creates a histogram using the ggplot2 package. Here, we pre-specify the bin width and the resulting number of bins in the histogram depend on the range of the data. [1]



2. Discussion:

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• The code ggplot(tb, aes(x = mpg)) initializes a plot using the tb data frame, mapping the mpg column to the x-axis.

Miles Per Gallon (mpg)

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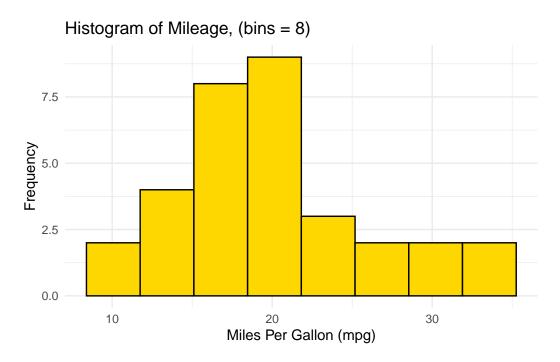
20

- The histogram is created with geom_histogram(), using an adjustable binwidth = 4. Given this bin width, the resulting number of bins in the histogram depend on the range of mpg.
- The **binwidth** argument specifies the width of the bins in the histogram, and we have chosen 4 as an arbitrary width.
- We use fill and color to set the bar colors to be gold with a black border.
- A clean appearance is achieved with theme_minimal(), and titles and labels are added using labs(). [1]

Histogram with bins

3. We could alternately set the number of bins in the histogram, instead of specifying the bin width. In this case, the bin-width gets calculated depending on the range of the data and the specified number of bins.

```
# Create a histogram of mpg from the tb dataset
ggplot(tb, aes(x = mpg)) +
geom_histogram(bins = 8, fill = "gold", color = "black") +
# Set histogram bins to 8 with gold fill and black border
theme_minimal() + # Use a minimalistic theme
labs(title = "Histogram of Mileage, (bins = 8)",
        x = "Miles Per Gallon (mpg)",
        y = "Frequency") # Add title and axis labels
```

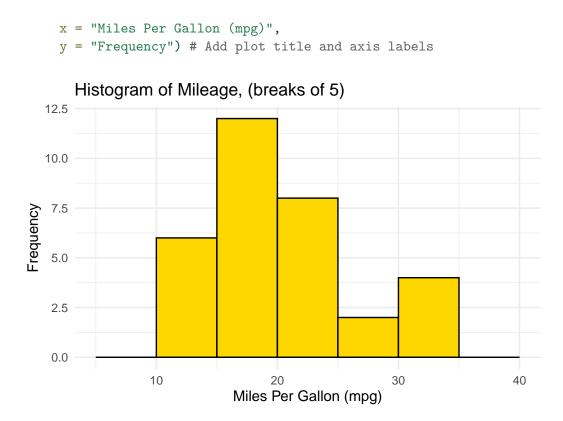


4. Discussion:

- We instruct R to create a histogram having 8 bins of equal width, by setting bins = 8 in geom_histogram()
- The width of each bin is adjusted by dividing the range of mpg by the number of specified bins. [1]

Histogram with bin range

5. Alternately, we can specify custom bin ranges in a histogram. In this this approach, we supply a vector of breakpoints which defines the range of each bin. For example, the following code defines histogram bins with ranges of 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-25, 25-30, 30-35, 35-40, for the mpg variable

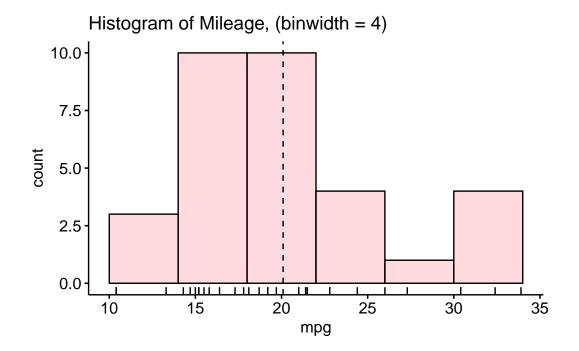


- 6. Discussion:
- ggplot(tb, aes(x = mpg)) initializes a ggplot object with the tb data frame and sets the mpg column as the x-axis variable.
- geom_histogram() adds a histogram layer, in which breaks = seq(5, 40, by = 5) specifies bin edges using a sequence that starts at 5, ends at 40, and increases by 5 units. This results in bins like [5,10), [10,15), and so on. [1]

Histogram using ggpubr

7. Recreating a histogram with binwidth of 4, using ggpubr:

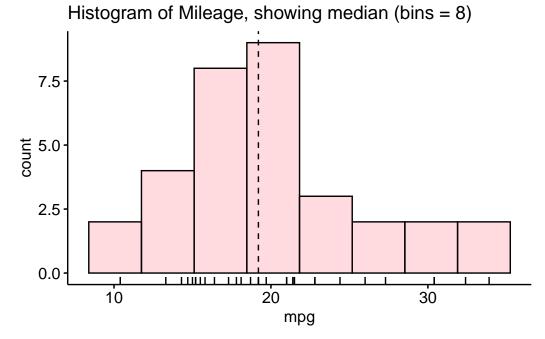
```
binwidth = 4, # Set the width of bins in the histogram
add = "mean", # Add a line indicating the mean of 'mpg'
rug = TRUE, # Add a rug plot to show individual data points
color = "black", # Set the color of bins to black
fill = "lightpink", # Set the fill color of bins to light pink
title = "Histogram of Mileage, (binwidth = 4)"
```



)

- Here, we're invoking the gghistogram() function from ggpubr to craft a histogram. The data source is specified as tb, and the variable of interest is mpg.
- x = "mpg": This denotes the variable from the we're visualizing.
- binwidth = 4: Each bin in the histogram will span a range of 4 units of mpg.
- add = "mean": Superimposes the mean of mpg on the histogram.
- rug = TRUE: Includes a rug plot at the base, which displays individual data points.
- color = "black": The outline of the bars will be in black.
- fill = "lightpink": Bars in the histogram will be filled with a light pink shade.
- title =: Gives a descriptive title to the histogram.

- In sum, we're visualizing the distribution of the mpg variable from the tb dataset as a light pink histogram, emphasized with black borders, with a bin width of 4 units. We've also marked the mean value and showcased individual data points as a rug plot beneath the histogram. [2]
- 9. Recreating a histogram with 8 bins, using package ggpubr:



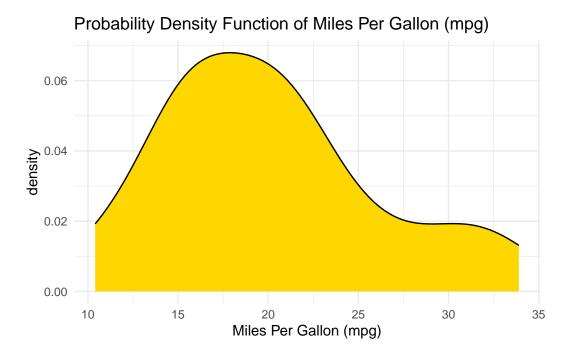
10. Discussion:

In essence, the difference is that this code visualizes the mpg data from the tb dataset as a histogram with 8 bins, set using bins = 8. [2]

Probability Density Function (PDF) plot using ggplot2

1. Recall that this type of plot shows the distribution of a single variable, and the area under the curve represents the probability of an observation falling within a particular range of values. The following code generates it using ggplot2:

```
# Use ggplot2 to create a density plot of mpg values from the tb dataset
ggplot(tb, aes(x = mpg)) +
geom_density(fill = "gold") + # density plot with gold fill color
theme_minimal() + # Apply a minimal theme for a clean appearance
labs(title = "Probability Density Function of Miles Per Gallon (mpg)",
x = "Miles Per Gallon (mpg)", # Label for the x-axis
y = "density") # Label for the y-axis
```



2. Discussion:

• We designate our data source and the aesthetic mappings using the ggplot() function. The aesthetic mapping for x is mpg.

• Subsequently, we append a density plot to our plot by using the geom_density() function. We fill the area under the curve by setting fill to "gold". [1]

PDF using ggpubr

3. The following R code creates a PDF of the mpg variable in the tb dataset, using the ggdensity() function from the ggpubr package.

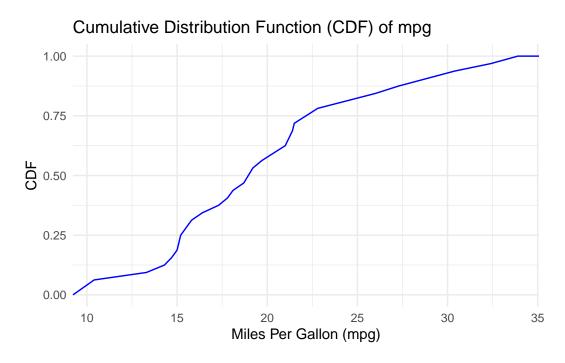
```
# Load the ggpubr package for enhanced data visualization
library(ggpubr)
# Create a probability density function plot for 'mpg' using ggdensity
ggdensity(tb,
         x = "mpg",
                     # Specify 'mpg' as the variable for the plot
          add = "mean", # Add a line indicating the mean of 'mpg'
         rug = TRUE, # rug plot to show individual data points
          color = "black", # color of the plot black
         fill = "lightpink", # Set the fill color to light pink
          title = "PDF of Miles Per Gallon (mpg), using ggpubr",
          xlab = "Mileage (mpg)",
          ylab = "Probability Density Function (PDF)"
)
          PDF of Miles Per Gallon (mpg), using ggpubr
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           10
                      15
                                             25
                                                        30
                                                                    35
                                 20
                                 Mileage (mpg)
```

- The ggdensity() function from ggpubr package, is utilized here to visualize a probability density function (PDF) of the mpg variable from the tb dataset.
- x = "mpg": This specifies the column mpg from the tb dataset as the variable we aim to visualize.
- add = "mean": This argument ensures that a line or marker is added to the plot, indicating the mean value of the mpg data.
- **rug** = **TRUE**: By setting this to TRUE, a rug plot is added at the bottom, showcasing individual data points.
- color = "black": This defines the border color of the density plot as black.
- fill = "lightpink": This fills the interior of the density plot with a light pink color.
- title = : This provides a descriptive title to our plot, aiding in clarity and understanding. [3]

Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) Plot using ggplot2

1. The following code generates a CDF using ggplot2:

```
# Load required library
library(ggplot2)
# Create a CDF (Cumulative Distribution Function) plot for mpg
ggplot(tb, aes(x = mpg)) +
  stat_ecdf(geom = "line", color = "blue") + # plot the CDF
  labs(x = "Miles Per Gallon (mpg)", y = "CDF",
        title = "Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) of mpg") +
  theme_minimal() # Apply a minimalistic theme for clarity
```



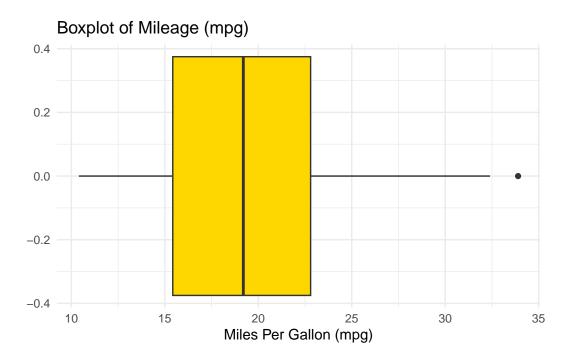
- Here, we're initiating a plot using the ggplot() function, specifying tb as our data source and the mpg column as the variable of interest. '
- We employ the stat_ecdf() function to represent the empirical cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the mpg data. The geom = "line" argument means the CDF will be displayed as a continuous line, and color = "blue" ensures this line is blue.
- The labs() function is used to define axis labels and a plot title, enhancing readability.
- By invoking theme_minimal(), we apply a clean and straightforward theme to our plot, which removes extraneous details and emphasizes content.
- To sum up, this code creates a plot depicting the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the mpg data from the tb dataset. [1]

Boxplots using ggplot2

1. The following code generates a boxplot using ggplot2:

```
# Use ggplot2 to create a boxplot for the mpg variable from the tb dataset
ggplot(tb, aes(y = mpg)) +
geom_boxplot(fill = "gold") + # Create a boxplot with gold color
```

theme_minimal() + # Apply a minimal theme for a clean appearance coord_flip() + # Flip coordinates to horizontal boxplot labs(title = "Boxplot of Mileage (mpg)", # Set the title y = "Miles Per Gallon (mpg)") # Label for the y-axis

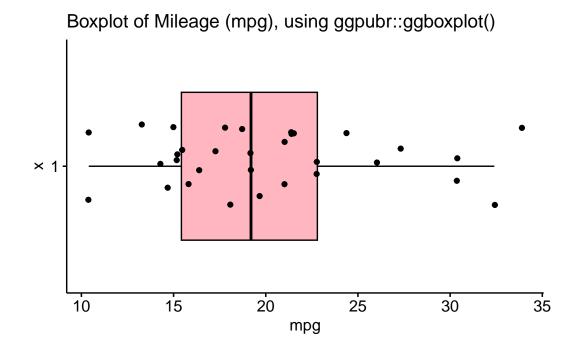


- 2. Discussion:
- ggplot(tb, aes(y = mpg)): Initializes a ggplot2 plot using tb with mpg as the y-axis.
- geom_boxplot(fill = "gold"): Adds a gold-filled boxplot layer.
- theme_minimal(): Applies a clean, minimalistic theme to the plot.
- coord_flip(): Flips the plot to display a horizontal boxplot.
- labs(): Sets the plot title to "Boxplot of Mileage (mpg)" and labels the x-axis as "Miles Per Gallon (mpg)".
- In summary, this code creates a horizontal boxplot of the mpg values from the tb data frame, with the boxes filled in gold color, presented with a minimalistic theme, and labeled appropriately. [1]

Boxplot using ggpubr

1. The following code recreates the boxplot using the ggboxplot() function from the ggpubr package.

```
# Load the ggpubr package for enhanced boxplot functionalities
library(ggpubr)
# Create a boxplot for the 'mpg' using ggboxplot from ggpubr
ggboxplot(tb,
    y = "mpg", # Specify 'mpg' as the variable for the boxplot
    orientation = "horizontal", # Set the orientation to horizontal
    rug = TRUE, # Add a rug plot to show individual data points
    color = "black", # Set the color to black
    fill = "lightpink", # Set the fill color to light pink
    add = "jitter", # Add jitter to display individual data points
    title = "Boxplot of Mileage (mpg), using ggpubr::ggboxplot()"
)
```



2. Discussion:

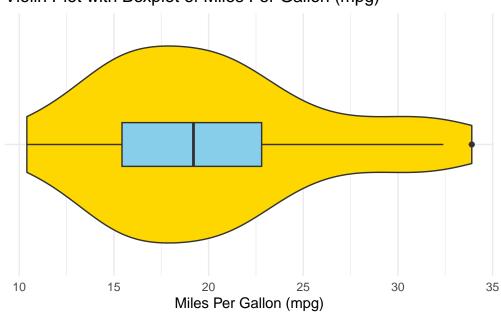
- ggboxplot(tb, y = "mpg"): Creates a boxplot of mpg values from the tb data frame.
- orientation = "horizontal": Sets the boxplot to display horizontally.

- rug = TRUE: Shows a rug plot indicating the density of data points.
- color = "black": Sets the boxplot's border color to black.
- fill = "lightpink": Colors the inside of the boxes light pink.
- add = "jitter": Adds jittered points to the boxplot for clearer data visualization.
- title = ...": Sets the plot's title. [2]

Violin plot using ggplot2

1. The following code generates a violin plot using ggplot2, adding a boxplot to the violin plot:

```
# Use ggplot2 to create a combined violin and boxplot for mpg values
ggplot(tb, aes(x = "", y = mpg)) +
geom_violin(fill = "gold") + # Create a violin plot with gold fill color
geom_boxplot(fill = "skyblue", width = 0.2) +
# Overlay a boxplot with sky blue fill and reduced width
labs(x = "", # Set labels for x and y axes (x-label is empty)
y = "Miles Per Gallon (mpg)",
title = "Violin Plot with Boxplot of Miles Per Gallon (mpg)") +
coord_flip() + # Flip coordinates to make the plot horizontal
theme_minimal() # Apply a minimal theme for a simple appearance
```



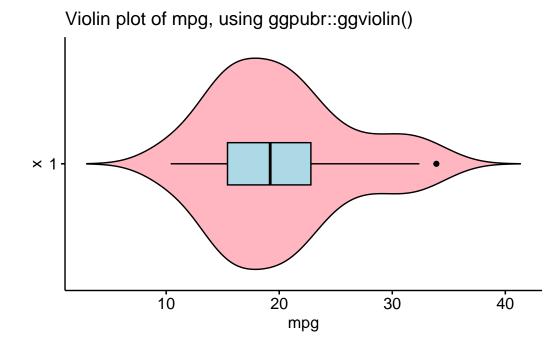
Violin Plot with Boxplot of Miles Per Gallon (mpg)

- 2. Discussion:
- geom_violin() generates the violin plot
- geom_boxplot() embeds a box plot within it. [1]

Violin plot using ggpubr

3. The following code recreates the violin plot using the ggviolin() function from the ggpubr package.

```
# Load the ggpubr package for enhanced data visualization
library(ggpubr)
# Create a violin plot for the 'mpg' variable using ggviolin
ggviolin(tb,
    y = "mpg", # Specify 'mpg' as the variable for the violin plot
    orientation = "horizontal", # Set the orientation to horizontal
    rug = TRUE, # Include a rug plot to show individual data points
    color = "black", # Outline color of the violin black
    fill = "lightpink", # Fill color of the violin light pink
    add = "boxplot", add.params = list(fill = "lightblue"),
    # Add a boxplot inside the violin plot with light blue fill
```



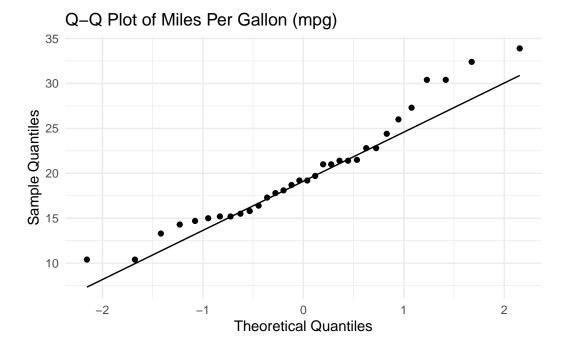
)

- tb: This refers to the dataset we're using. The dataset should have a variable named "mpg" as we've specified it in the next parameter.
- y = "mpg": This indicates that we want the "mpg" variable (Miles Per Gallon) from the tb dataset to be plotted on the y-axis.
- orientation = "horizontal": This parameter sets the orientation of the violin plot to be horizontal.
- rug = TRUE: This adds a "rug" to the plot, which essentially places small vertical bars (or ticks) at the actual data points along the axis.
- color = "black": The edge color of the violin plot is set to black.
- fill = "lightpink": This sets the main color inside the violin plot to light pink.
- add = "boxplot": This specifies that a boxplot should be added inside the violin plot. A boxplot provides a summary of the distribution, showing the median, quartiles, and potential outliers.
- add.params = list(fill = "lightblue"): This further customizes the added boxplot by setting its fill color to light blue.

- title = "Violin plot of Miles Per Gallon (mpg), using ggpubr::ggviolin()": This sets the title of the plot.
- In summary, the code generates a horizontal violin plot for the "mpg" variable from the tb dataset. The violin plot showcases the distribution of the "mpg" variable, colored in light pink with a light blue boxplot added inside. The rug adds an additional layer of visualization, showing the actual data points along the axis. [2]

Quantile-Quantile (Q-Q) Plots using ggplot2

1. Recall that a Q-Q plot is a graphical method for comparing two probability distributions by plotting their quantiles against each other. The following code generates a Quantile-Quantile (Q-Q) plot using ggplot2. [1]



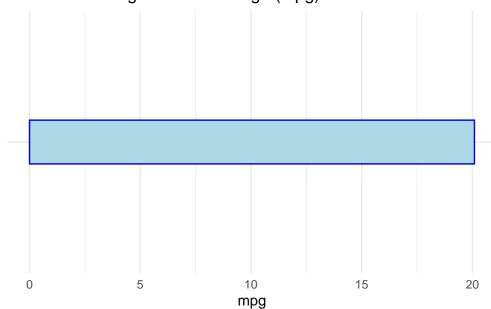
- ggplot(tb, aes(sample = mpg)) : Here, we initiate a ggplot graphic using the tb dataset and set the aesthetic (aes) to the "mpg" variable. In the context of the stat_qq() function (which we'll come to shortly), the sample aesthetic specifies the data variable for which we want to create the Q-Q plot.
- stat_qq() : This function adds the Q-Q plot points to the graphic. The x-axis of this plot represents the quantiles from a theoretical distribution (often the standard normal distribution), and the y-axis represents the quantiles from our sample data ("mpg").
- stat_qq_line() : This function adds a reference line to the Q-Q plot, which represents the expected line if the sample comes from the specified distribution (again, often the standard normal distribution). If our data points lie roughly on this line, it suggests that the data follows the theoretical distribution.
- In summary, this code produces a Q-Q plot for the "mpg" variable from the tb dataset. The plot compares the quantiles of "mpg" against the quantiles of a theoretical distribution, often the standard normal distribution. [1]

Bar Plot visualizing the Mean and SD using ggplot2

1. We can create a Bar Plot to visualize the mean of a continuous variable. [1]

```
# Create a summary data frame
mpgSummary <- tb %>%
  summarise(
   MeanMpg = mean(mpg, na.rm = TRUE), # Calculate the mean of mpg
    SDMpg = sd(mpg, na.rm = TRUE) # Calculate the standard deviation
  )
# Create a bar plot visualizing the mean
ggplot(mpgSummary,
       aes(y = "")
           x = MeanMpg)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity", # Use bars to represent values
           fill = "lightblue",
           color = "blue",
           width = 0.2 # Set bar color and width
           ) +
  labs(x = "mpg",
       y = "", # Set x-axis label to 'mpg' with y-axis label empty
```

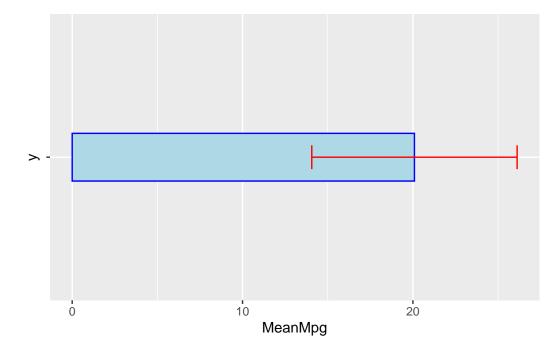
```
title = "Bar Plot showing Mean of Mileage (mpg)") +
theme_minimal()  # a minimal theme for a cleaner look
```



Bar Plot showing Mean of Mileage (mpg)

2. We can extend this to create a Bar Plot with Error Bars to visualization the Mean and the Standard Deviation of a continuous variable. [1]

```
# Create a summary data frame
mpgSummary <- tb %>%
summarise(
    MeanMpg = mean(mpg, na.rm = TRUE), # Calculate the mean of mpg
    SDMpg = sd(mpg, na.rm = TRUE) # Calculate the standard deviation
)
# Create a bar plot visualizing the mean and error bars visualizing the SD
ggplot(mpgSummary,
    aes(y = "",
        x = MeanMpg)) +
    geom_bar(stat = "identity",
        fill = "lightblue",
        color = "blue",
        width = 0.2 # Create a bar to represent the mean mpg
        ) +
```



Summary Data Frame (mpgSummary) Creation:

- mpgSummary <- tb %>% summarise(): This line is initializing the creation of mpgSummary data frame using the data in tb (which is assumed to contain the mtcars dataset) and the summarise function from the dplyr package.
- MeanMpg = mean(mpg, na.rm = TRUE): Calculates the mean of the mpg column, ignoring any NA values, and creates a new column MeanMpg in mpgSummary to store this value.
- SDMpg = sd(mpg, na.rm = TRUE): Calculates the standard deviation of the mpg column, ignoring any NA values, and creates a new column SDMpg in mpgSummary to store this value.

Bar Plot with Error Bars Creation:

- ggplot(mpgSummary, aes(y = "", x = MeanMpg)) +: Initializes the creation of a ggplot object using the mpgSummary data frame and sets the aesthetic mappings where x is mapped to MeanMpg and y is set to an empty string.
- geom_bar(stat = "identity", fill = "lightblue", color = "blue", width = 0.3): Adds a bar geometry to represent the mean mpg (MeanMpg). The bar is colored light blue with a blue border and has a width of 0.3.
- geom_errorbar(aes(xmin = MeanMpg SDMpg, xmax = MeanMpg + SDMpg), color
 = "red", width = 0.3): Adds error bars to represent the variability of mpg. The error bars extend from MeanMpg SDMpg to MeanMpg + SDMpg and are colored red with a width of 0.3.
- labs(x = "mpg", y = "", title = "Bar Plot showing (Mean +/- SD) of Mileage (mpg)"): Adds labels to the plot, with "mpg" as the x-axis label, no y-axis label, and a title indicating that the plot shows the mean and standard deviation of mileage.
- theme_minimal(): Applies a minimal theme to the plot for a clean and uncluttered appearance.
- The end result of executing this code is a bar plot visualizing the mean of the mpg column and error bars representing one standard deviation above and below the mean, giving a sense of the variability of the miles per gallon in the mtcars dataset.

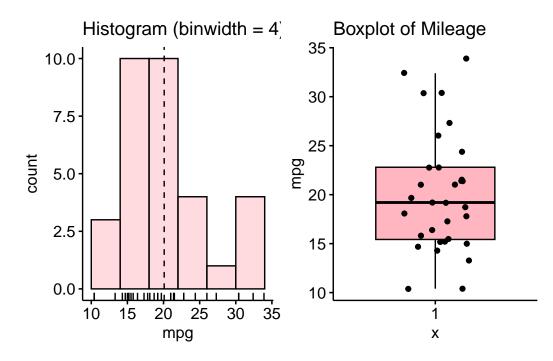
Combining Plots using ggarrange()

1. The following code showcases two plots side-by-side. [2]

```
# Create a box plot of the 'mpg' variable using ggboxplot
PlotBox <- ggboxplot(tb,
    y = "mpg", # Set 'mpg' as the variable for the box plot
    rug = TRUE, # Include a rug plot to show individual data points
    color = "black", # Set the color of the box plot to black
    fill = "lightpink", # Set the fill color of the box plot
    add = "jitter", # Add jitter to show individual data points
    title = "Boxplot of Mileage"
)
# Combine the plots using ggarrange()
combined_plot <- ggarrange(PlotHist, PlotBox, ncol = 2)</pre>
```

```
# Display the combined plot
print(combined_plot)
```

Arrange the histogram and box plot side by side



2. Discussion:

- We create a histogram and a boxplot using the same code discussed above.
- ggarrange(PlotHist, PlotBox, ncol = 2) : This code helps us combine multiple plots into one. Here, PlotHist (the histogram) and PlotBox (the boxplot) are arranged

side by side, as indicated by ncol = 2.

• In essence, this code facilitates a side-by-side comparison of the distribution of the mpg variable from the tb dataset using two different types of visualizations: a histogram and a boxplot. [1]

Summary of Chapter 11 – Univariate Continuous data (Part 2 of 2)

In this chapter, we explore how to visualize univariate continuous data using the ggplot2 package in R. We use the mtcars data set, converting it to a tibble called tb for easier manipulation.

The visualization methods we cover include histograms, density plots (Probability Density Function and Cumulative Density Function), box plots, bee swarm plots, violin plots, and Q-Q plots. These are created using functions like geom_histogram(), geom_density(), geom_boxplot(), geom_beeswarm(), geom_violin(), stat_qq(), and stat_qq_line().

For the histogram, we can adjust bin width, color, and number of bins, or define custom bin ranges. The density plots provide a visual representation of the distribution of a variable, and we can color the area under the curve. To create the CDF plot, we first arrange our data and calculate the cumulative distribution, which is plotted as a line graph. For the violin plot, we show how to add a box plot within the violin for additional information. Finally, we explore Q-Q plots, which compare the quantiles of our data to a theoretical distribution, useful for assessing if the data follows a certain theoretical distribution.

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