

MSc Introduction to Quantitative Methods

Homework 3

Due: 10 February 2010

1. You have some data about a set of students and need to summarize them using measures of central tendency.

Name	Age	Nationality	Points
Amy	18	English	99
Ted	19	American	88
Fred	23	English	77
Balazs	20	Hungarian	100
Olga	19	Russian	92
Sein	20	Irish	95
Fionula	21	English	98
Francois	27	French	56
Vladimir	29	Russian	63
Jiang	24	Chinese	58
Arthur	23	English	60
Thomas	20	English	93
Jane	19	American	59
Brad	22	English	89
Han	31	Chinese	97

Compute measures of central tendency for the age, nationality, and points variables, excluding those measures that are inappropriate for a given variable, although you must explain why it is inappropriate for a variable.

You must use R to compute these and you must show the code. There is no need to discuss your answers, just copy the R output that includes the answer. You can get this data into R using the `data.frame()` command. Try `?data.frame`.

2. In R, plot a density estimate of the Points variable from (1) above, and given this result, briefly discuss the suitability of using a median to summarize the central tendency of the Points variable. Note: Show the command you used and also paste the plot into your answer.
3. Load in the Benoit and Marsh (2008) `dail2002.Rdata` dataset we have been using. Use R to create a table showing median votes1st for each party. Hint: this can be done in a single command: `try ?tapply`