

Statistics

Chapter Two

- **Frequency Distribution** a systematic arrangement of data values, with a count of how many times each value occurred in a data set
- Elements of a typical frequency distribution
 - Data values → Absolute frequencies → Cumulative relative frequencies → Relative frequency (%)
 - Cumulative frequencies do not make sense w nominal data
- When a variable has many different possible values, a regular frequency distribution would be lengthy (no weight)
 - then a **grouped frequency distribution** would make more sense
- In a grouped frequency distribution **contiguous values get grouped into sets (class intervals)**
 - Each class must be mutually exclusive e.g. 15,000 - 19,999
- **Bar graph**: used for **nominal (and many ordinal) level variables**
 - horizontal x-axis specifies categories & vertical y-axis specifies either frequencies or %; bars do not touch
- **Pie chart**: used for **nominal & ordinal level variables**
- **Histograms**: used for **interval & ratio level data**; bars touch one another, discrete variables
- **Frequency polygon**: for **interval & ratio level data**, preferred for **continuous, connected data** not bars

Chapter Two

• Shape of distribution → Modality

→ **unimodal**: 1 Peak → **Bimodal**: 2 peaks → **Multimodal**

• **Symmetric distributions**: the two halves of the distribution folded in the middle are identical

• **Asymmetric distributions**: Peaks are "off centre" and there is a tail trailing off

→ **Positive skew**: longer tail trails off to the right (fewer people w higher values)

→ **Negative skew**: longer tail trails off to the left

• **Skewness index** quantifies the degree of skewness

→ If skewness index is less than $2 \times$ the value of its standard error, distribution can be treated as not skewed (in spec)

• **Kurtosis**: degree of pointiness or flatness of the distribution peak

→ **leptokurtic**: very thin, sharp peak

→ **Platykurtic**: flat peak

→ **Mesokurtic**: neither pointy nor flat

→ Positive values = greater peak, Negative values = flatter