

Customizing Pie Chart Colours

Different colours can be specified for the pie slices with a col= argument. For example:

> pie(meat, main = "New Zealand Meat Consumption", col = hcl(seq(0, 240, by = 60)))

A Single Categorical Variable

- We often need to display a set of values each of which is associated with a single category of a factor or ordered factor.
- Most commonly the values are counts or proportions.
- Here is a typical example.

New Zealand Meat Consumption (1997)

LambMuttonPigmeatPoultryBeef8%10%16%25%41%

• Proportions are often presented in pie charts.

Producing a Pie Chart with R

A basic pie chart is produced from a vector of named values. such a vector can be created as follows:

Once the data vector is created, the plot is easy to create.



Pie Charts

- Perceptual theory suggests that pie charts are not a good way of presenting information because they are based on angles or areas.
- Often pie charts are presented with the values as part of or close to the pie slice labels. This indicates that it is hard to decode the encoded values.
- Pie charts are only useful for proportions. They can't be used for other kinds of values.

Bar Charts

- Bar charts provide a useful alternative way of presenting a set of values associated with the levels of a factor.
- Bar charts can be used for values other than proportions.
- Bar charts use position on a common scale to encode their values.
- This means they provide a better way of delivering information than pie charts.







Producing a Bar Chart with R

A basic bar chart is produced as follows:

In pie charts it is very important to colour the slices different colours. In bar charts it is less important, but it can still be done.

```
> barplot(meat,
    main = "New Zealand Meat Consumption",
    col = hcl(h = seq(0, 240, by = 60)),
    las = 1)
```

(Note the use of las=1 here to rotate the *y* axis labels.)



Horizontal Bars

It can be useful to draw the bars of bar-chart horizontally. In R, this is done by specifying horiz=TRUE.

```
> barplot(meat,
    main = "New Zealand Meat Consumption",
    col = hcl(seq(0, 240, by = 60)),
    horiz = TRUE,
    las = 1)
```



Pareto Charts

- Pareto charts are a bar plot variation which are used in quality control work.
- A Pareto chart sorts the bars of a barplot from biggest to smallest, left to right across the graphs.
- They are typically used to determine an importance ordering of faults detected in a manufacturing process.
- Pareto charts can be produced in R using the function sort.

```
> barplot(sort(meat, decreasing = TRUE),
    main = "New Zealand Meat Consumption",
    col = hcl(120), las = 1)
```



Dot Charts

- Dot charts are very similar to a horizontal bar chart.
- The bars are replaced by a single "dot" and a horizontal grid line.
- Dot charts have the advantage that many more bars can be plotted horizontally.
- In R, dotcharts are easy to produce.

```
> dotchart(meat,
    main = "New Zealand Meat Consumption",
    xlab = "Percentage")
```



Two Category Bar Charts

Here is a set of data which is cross-classified by two factors.

Percentage of the New Zealand Population With a Potentially Hazardous Drinking Pattern

	Age			
Sex	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Male	41	28	21	9
Female	26	9	4	.5

This is exactly the form of data produced by table. It is also possible to input this data directly as a matrix.

Data for Two Category Bar Charts

```
> alcohol = matrix(c(41, 26,
     28, 9, 21, 4, 9, 0.5),
     nr = 2)
> dimnames(alcohol) = list(Sex = c("Male",
      "Female"), Age = c("15-24",
     "25-44", "45-64", "65+"))
> alcohol
       Age
       15-24 25-44 45-64 65+
Sex
          41 28 21 9.0
 Male
                  9
                        4 0.5
           26
 Female
```

This is a 2×4 matrix with row and column labels.

Bar Chart Layout

There are two ways in which a barchart for cross-classified variables can be produced:

- stacked bars.
- side-by-side bars.

Both of these layouts are possible in R.

The simplest bar chart command is:

> barplot (alcohol)



Improving the Default Layout

- There are clear problems with default barplot.
- The colours are awful!
- The plot needs a *legend* explaining what the two colours mean.
- The plot needs an overall title and labels for the *x* and *y* axes.
- The tick mark labels should be horizontal.
- The tick marks should span the full height of the bars.

Improving the Default Layout

```
> barplot(alcohol,
    legend = rownames(alcohol),
    col = hcl(c(240, 120)),
    ylim = c(0, 70),
    las = 1,
    main = main,
    xlab = "Age Group",
    ylab ="Percentage")
```

The legend could also be added with a separate legend statement. This is more flexible.



Side-by-Side Bars

Instead of drawing the "stacked" form of bar chart, it is also possible to produce a "side-by-side" form.

```
> barplot(alcohol, beside = TRUE,
    legend = rownames(alcohol),
    col = hcl(c(240, 120)),
    ylim = c(0, 50),
    las = 1,
    main = main,
    xlab = "Age Group",
    ylab ="Percentage")
```



Choosing a Layout

- The side-by-side bar plot variant encodes all its values as positions on a common scale (i.e. the position of the top of bar).
- The stacked bar plot variant encodes some of its information in the lengths of the stacked bars.
- Perceptual theory tells us that the side-by-side version will work best.
- Occasionally the stacked version is useful this is when the combined height of the bars is meaningful.

This is the basic bar chart produced by Excel.



Gradient Background. Three dimensional bars.

Tourism-Related Gross Receipts/Sales 1996-2000 in Billions



Gross sales generated by the Minnesota tourism industry grew 31% from 1996 to 2000. Adjusted for inflation, this represents a real average annual growth rate of almost 4%.

A Two Dimensional Bar Chart



Some Examples

- There are thousands of examples of bar charts on the Web.
- To see a sample of them go to Google Images and search for "bar chart."
- Here a few examples.

