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Subject: Re: Histogram

Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Fri, 01 Jul 2005 18:37:27 GMT

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"James" <adelante@bigmir.net> wrote in message

news:op.ss286rralbjj6@pc008427.hq.eso.org...

> Hi guys !

>

> I have a question regarding histograms in general. Is there a "right"

> criteria (e.g. strict mathematical rule, etc..) of choosing the bin size ?

> I'm playing with some data and obviously the histogram looks differently

> with different bin sizes. Any help and references would be extremely

> helpful !

>

> Cheers,

> James

It depends on what question the histogram is supposed to answer.

Obviously larger bins will have a smoother appearance, but perhaps normalizing the bins, so that it is a density rather than a mere count would help it look more similar for different bin sizes.

(i.e. divide the count in each bin by the binsize)

Cheers,

bob

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