
Subject: Re: Histogram and bin sizes

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Wed, 20 Feb 2008 19:43:35 GMT

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jeffnettles4...@gmail.com wrote:

- > I've always wondered why you have to use a constant bin size with
- > HISTOGRAM().
- > To quote J.D.'s famous tutorial: "a histogram
- > represents nothing more than a fancy way to count." Doesn't an
- > imposed constant bin size imply that this is the only way it's ok to
- > count? I can think of several reasons i wouldn't want to do this - I
- > used logarithmic bin sizes in my dissertation, for example (now i'm
- > hoping someone isn't going to answer this post saying i screwed up in
- > my dissertation :-)).

I use logarithmic bins myself quite often, and the fact that a logarithmic bin size is the same as a constant bin size in log space, makes it is easy to use histogram to get that. Less regulars binning don't work with histogram, but nobody stops you from writing your own version to work with them (it will not be as fast as histogram though).

Ciao,
Paolo

- > And besides, Excel lets you use arbitrary bin
 - > sizes....and if Excel lets you do it, it has to be ok, right???? ;-)
 - >
 - > Jeff
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