
Subject: Histogram and bin sizes

Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Wed, 20 Feb 2008 19:20:40 GMT

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

Jeff
