

What We Learned From Lab 3

- It is my opinion that, usually, it is more valuable to have histograms with relative frequency (or percentages) y axis values, rather than raw counts, because that information is more generalizable. Note that shape is the same for both displays (frequency vs relative frequency).
- We found out through trial and error that the base of the natural logarithm, e , is elicited when you type `exp(1)`, which will give the 2.74... irrational number presentation.
- When you ask R to open up a data file or a script file (which we shall learn about later), the default location R looks the file up is in the DOCUMENTS folder. If it doesn't find it there, you get an error message that the file cannot be found. The default location for R files to be stored is some other place on our lab computers. So, we need to tell R to change the search to another location using the DOS path commands as shown in the lab, or you can just locate all uploadable files to DOCUMENTS on your home computers. We will find out next week how to make R look automatically elsewhere (e.g., on our desktop) for files we create.
- If you can't get R to look in the right spot for your files, or you are unfamiliar with DOS commands which list the path to find the file of interest, you can "cheat" by having R Commander do your file uploads more automatically for you. Just remember, once you have R Commander upload your files, you need to keep using R Commander for the rest of your R session. You cannot easily go back to R Console.
- We use NOTEPAD or other basic text editor in order to type scripts up in R. We don't want to use WORD or WORDPERFECT or other "fancy" word processor for this script writing, because there are too many extraneous formatting characters which are inserted into the text to make R confused by the information. "Keep it simple" is the basic philosophy for using text editors to construct R scripts with.