

Exercise sheet 5: ViSta

On the 27th and 28th of May Professor Pedro Valero-Mora (U. Valencia) will give a two-day course in Augsburg based on his book "Visual Statistics Seeing Data with Dynamic Interactive Graphics" (Wiley 2006, with Friendly and Young). You can download the ViSta software from

www.uv.es/visualstats/Book/DownloadBook.htm

The software runs only under Windows (though it has also been tested successfully under Parallels on the Mac). Experiment with and test the software by trying out the following:

1. Plot a histogram of one of the test datasets supplied with the package. Can it handle a large dataset (e.g. 1000000 cases)?
2. Plot a scatterplot and try changing the aspect ratio and the X and Y scales.
3. Plot boxplots of a continuous variable for the categories of a nominal variable.
4. Plot a barchart. How can you change the order of the categories? How does the package handle a variable with many categories?
5. What mosaicplot alternatives are available in ViSta?
6. Can you plot parallel coordinate plots in ViSta?
7. Can you easily save your graphics to pdf or some other suitable format?