

An Introduction to R

2.1 Descriptive statistics

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Central tendency

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- **Commands:**
 - Calculate means using `mean()`
 - Calculate medians using `median()`
 - Find the mode using `modeOf()` [`lsr` package]

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> mean( expt$age )  
[1] 25.25
```

```
> median( expt$age )  
[1] 25
```

Central tendency

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 - Calculate medians using `median()`
 - Find the mode using `modeOf()` [`lsr` package]

```
> mean( expt$age )  
[1] 25.25
```

```
> median( expt$age )  
[1] 25
```

```
> library(lsr)  
> modeOf( expt$age )  
[1] 25
```

What if there are missing data?

- Sometimes there are missing data
 - These are represented as `NA` values
 - Different functions handle `NA` values differently

What if there are missing data?

- Sometimes there are missing data
 - These are represented as NA values
 - Different functions handle NA values differently
- What is the mean of 3, 4, 5 and NA?
 - **Pragmatic answer**: ignore the missing data, and calculate the average of 3,4 and 5... i.e., mean = 4
 - **Cautious answer**: we don't know the missing value, so we don't know the mean either... i.e. mean = NA

What if there are missing data?

```
> age <- c( 32, 19, NA, 64 )  
> mean( age )  
[1] NA
```

By default, mean() gives the conservative “don't know” answer

What if there are missing data?

```
> age <- c( 32, 19, NA, 64 )  
> mean( age )  
[1] NA
```

```
> mean( age, na.rm=TRUE )  
[1] 38.33333
```

But we can force it to be a pragmatist: tell R to remove the NA values by specifying `na.rm=TRUE`

(the `na.rm` argument shows up in quite a lot of functions)

Calculating a trimmed mean

```
> score <- c( 3, 2, 1, 5, 7,  
             12, 3, 1, 4, 10000 )  
  
> mean( score )  
[1] 1003.8
```

Sometimes the mean isn't a compelling measure of central tendency, but we'd prefer not to resort to the median because the sample size is so small

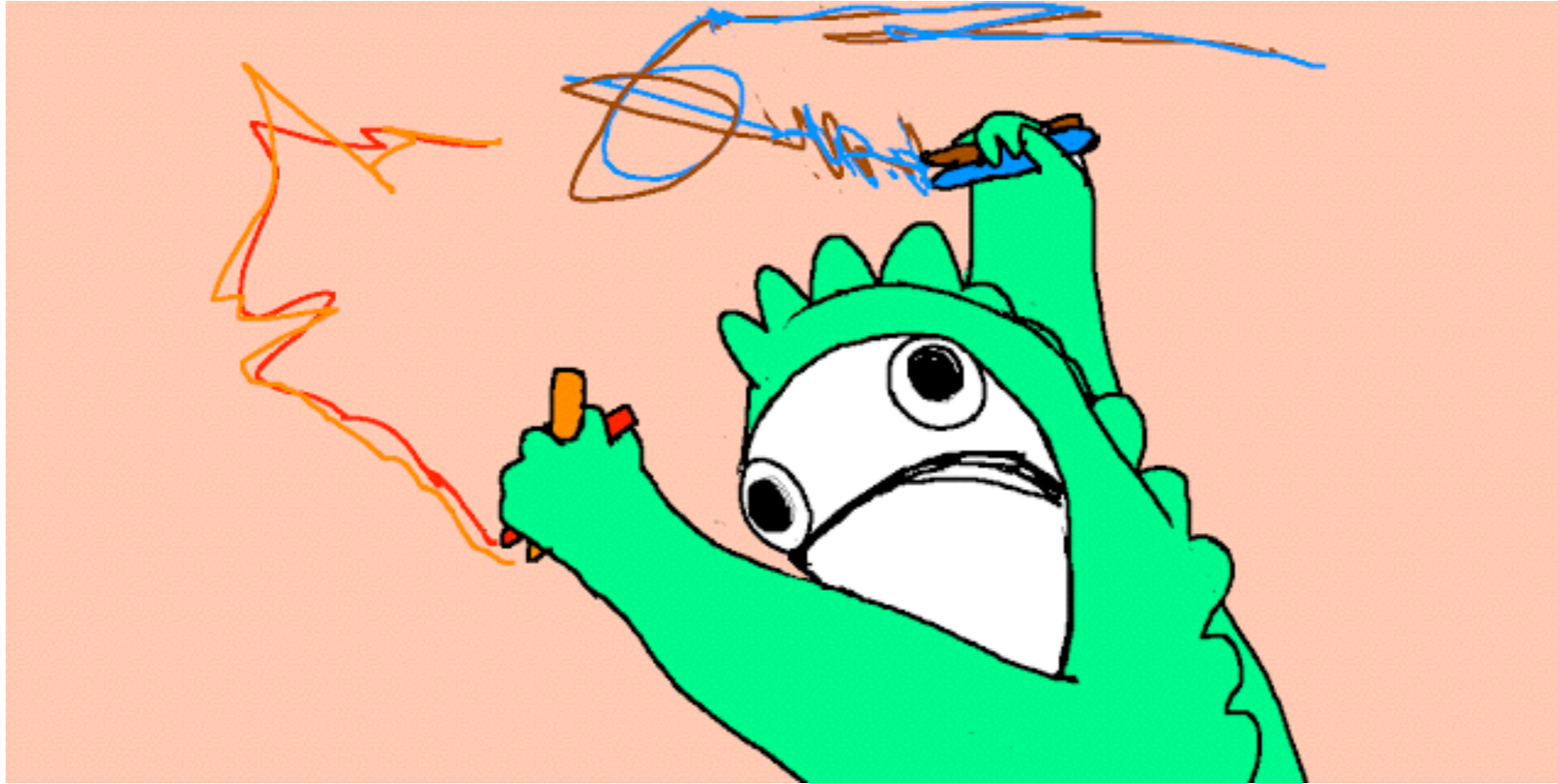
Calculating a trimmed mean

```
> score <- c( 3, 2, 1, 5, 7,  
             12, 3, 1, 4, 10000 )  
  
> mean( score )  
[1] 1003.8
```

```
> mean( score, trim=.1 )  
[1] 4.625
```

This gives the 10% trimmed mean, a more robust measure of central tendency than the mean

Try it yourself (Exercise 2.1.1)



Spread

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- Standard deviation: `sd()`
- Range: `range()`
- Interquartile range: `IQR()`
- Specific quantiles: `quantile()`

Spread

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- Range: `range()`
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```
> sd( expt$age )  
[1] 3.250874
```


Spread

- Standard deviation: `sd()`
- Range: `range()`
- Interquartile range: `IQR()`
- Specific quantiles: `quantile()`

```
> sd( expt$age )  
[1] 3.250874
```

```
> range( expt$age )  
[1] 19 30
```

Spread

- Standard deviation: `sd()`
- Range: `range()`
- **Interquartile range: `IQR()`**
- Specific quantiles: `quantile()`

```
> sd( expt$age )  
[1] 3.250874
```

```
> range( expt$age )  
[1] 19 30
```

```
> IQR( expt$age )  
[1] 4.25
```

Spread

- Standard deviation: `sd()`
- Range: `range()`
- Interquartile range: `IQR()`
- Specific quantiles: `quantile()`

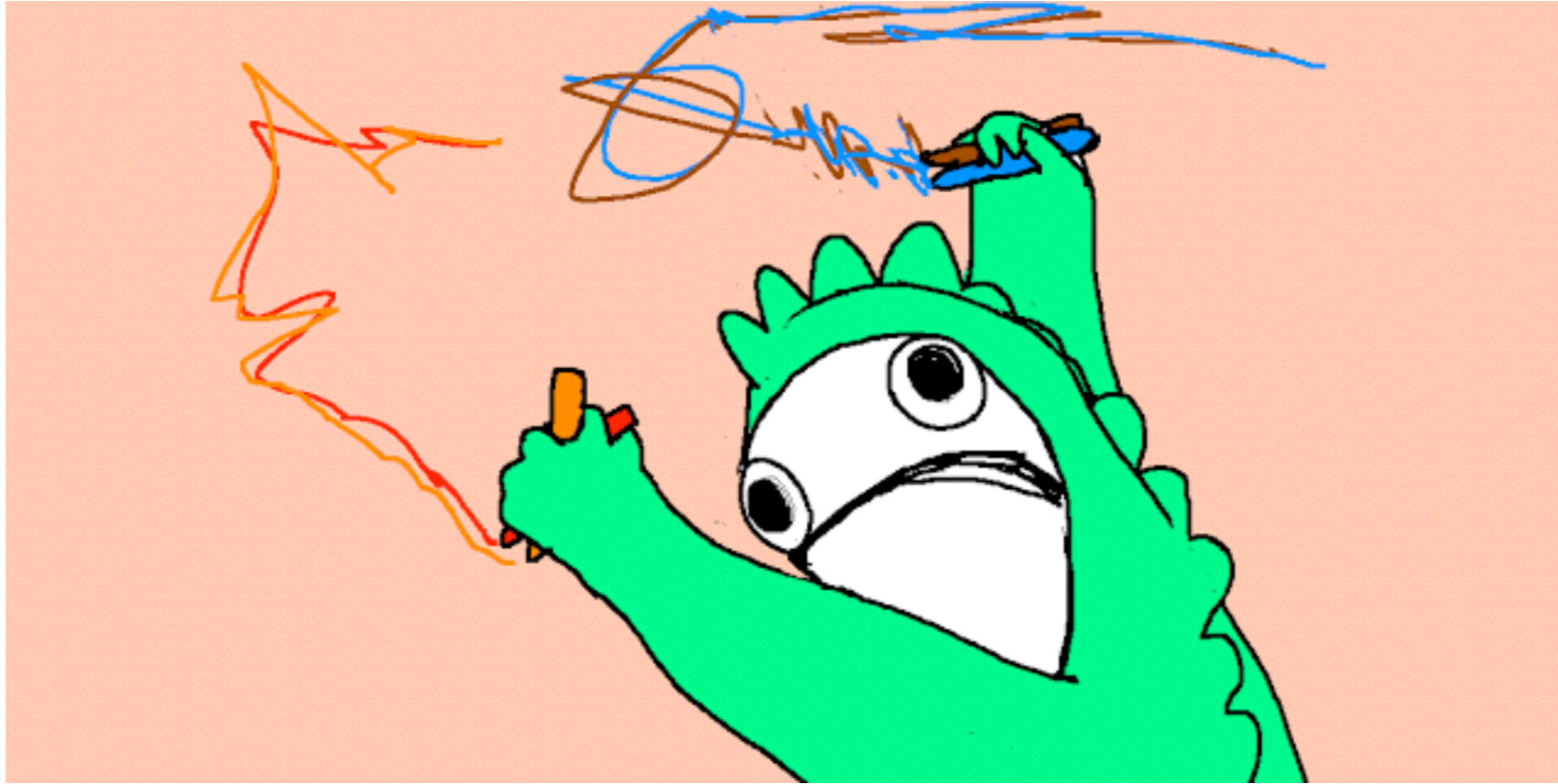
```
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[1] 3.250874
```

```
> range( expt$age )  
[1] 19 30
```

```
> IQR( expt$age )  
[1] 4.25
```

```
> quantile( expt$age, probs=c(.05,.25,.5,.75,.95))  
 5%   25%   50%   75%   95%  
20.10 23.75 25.00 28.00 29.45
```

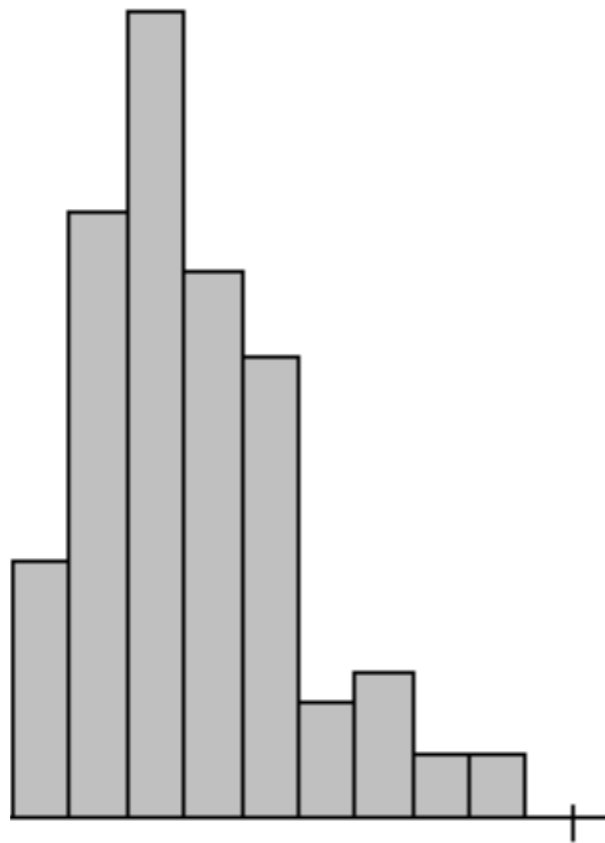
Try it yourself (Exercise 2.1.2)



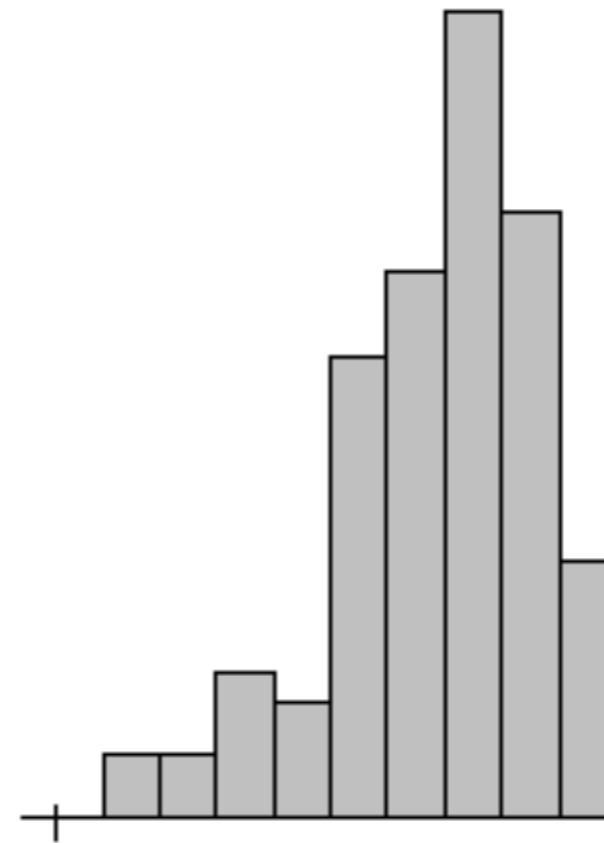
Higher order moments:
Skew and kurtosis
(briefly)

Skewness = asymmetry

positive skewness... the data “skews” out to the right (i.e. a long tail of large values)

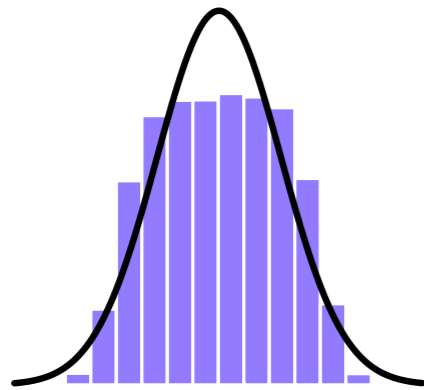


negative skewness... the data “skews” out to the left (i.e. a long tail of small values)



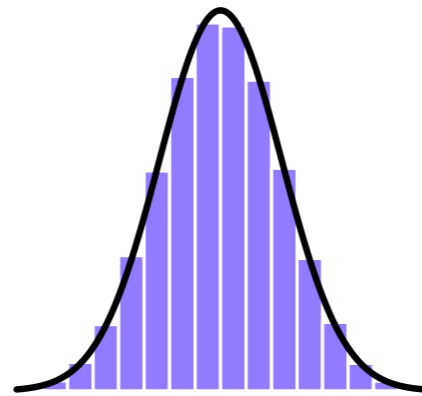
Kurtosis = pointiness

Platykurtic
("too flat")



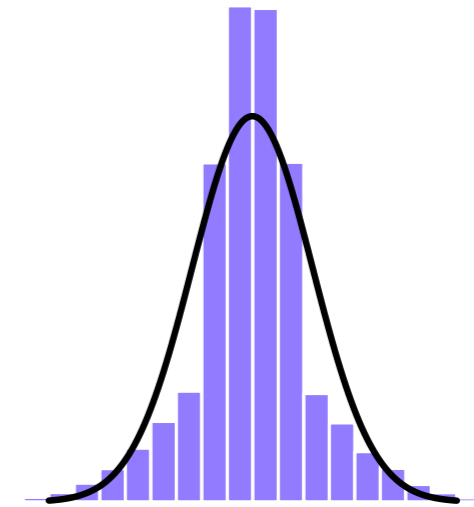
kurtosis < 0

Mesokurtic



kurtosis $= 0$

Leptokurtic
("too pointy")



kurtosis > 0

Skew and kurtosis

- Skew: `skew()` [`psych` package]
- Kurtosis: `kurtosi()` [`psych` package]

Skew and kurtosis

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- Kurtosis: `kurtosi()` [`psych` package]

```
> library(psych)

> skew( expt$age )
[1] -0.3210882

> kurtosi( expt$age )
[1] -0.9841378
```

Tabulating and cross-tabulating categorical variables

R always has lots of ways to do things

- Here are two ways to tabulate variables
 - The `table()` function
 - The `xtabs()` function
- Normally I wouldn't bother showing both, but there's a very good reason in this case...

Tabulating using `table()`

```
> table( expt$treatment )
```

control	drug1	drug2
4	4	4

Frequency table for
the treatments

Tabulating using `table()`

```
> table( expt$treatment )  
control  drug1  drug2  
      4     4     4
```

```
> table( expt$treatment, expt$gender )  
      male female  
control    2     2  
drug1      2     2  
drug2      2     2
```

We can get a cross tabulation simply by listing more variables in the input

```
> table( expt$age, expt$treatment, expt$gender )  
, , = male
```

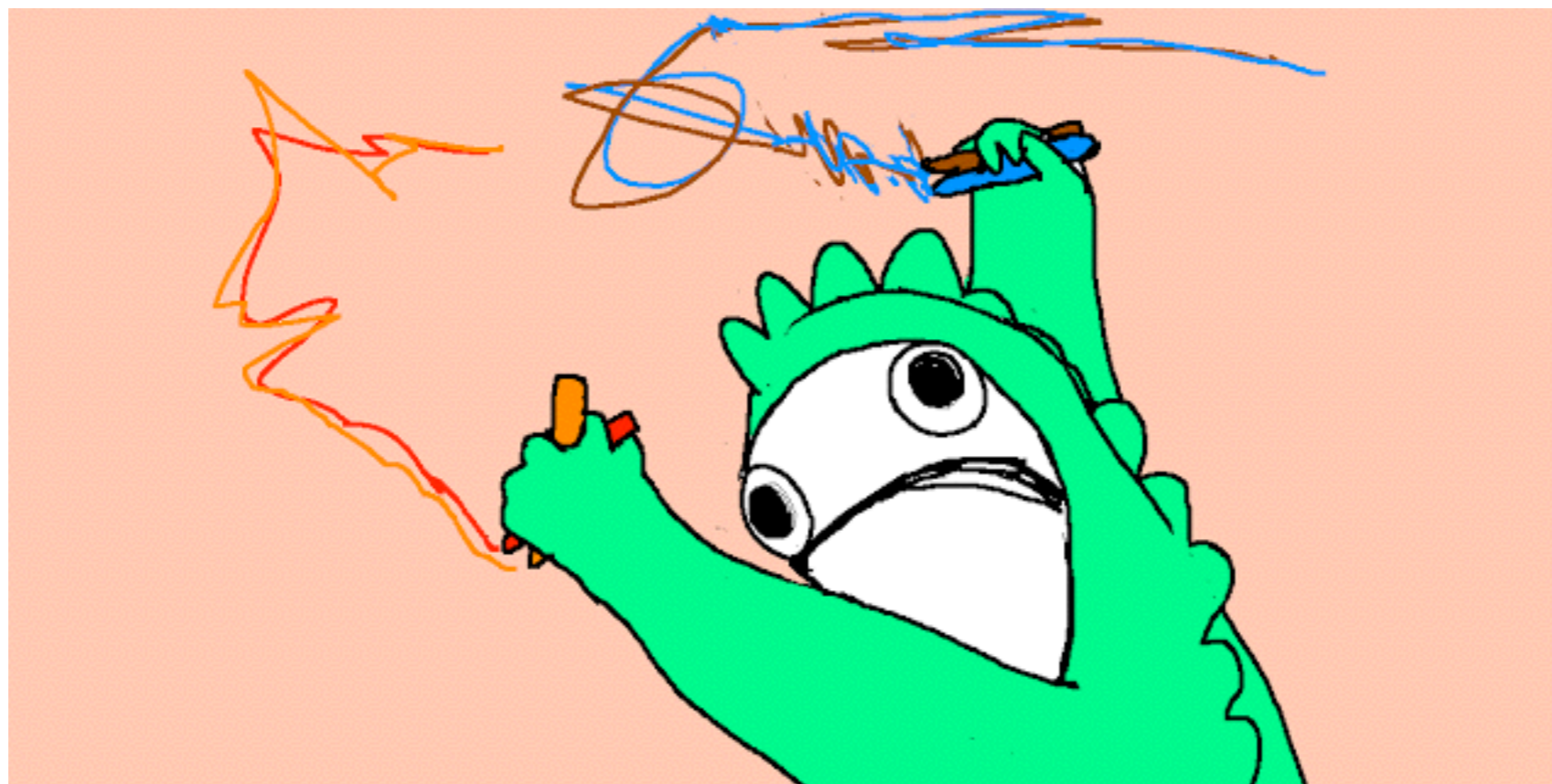
	control	drug1	drug2
19	0	0	0
21	0	0	0
23	0	1	0
24	0	1	0
25	1	0	1
26	0	0	0
28	1	0	1
29	0	0	0
30	0	0	0

Adding a third variable
gives a three way
cross-tabulation

```
, , = female
```

	control	drug1	drug2
19	0	1	0
21	0	0	1
23	0	0	0
24	0	0	0
25	1	0	0
26	1	0	0
28	0	0	0
29	0	1	0
30	0	0	1

Try it yourself (Exercise 2.1.3)



table() versus xtabs()

```
> table( expt$treatment, expt$gender )
```

	male	female
control	2	2
drug1	2	2
drug2	2	2

When we do the cross tabulation using table(), we type in a list of variable names

table() versus xtabs()

```
> table( expt$treatment, expt$gender )
```

	male	female
control	2	2
drug1	2	2
drug2	2	2

```
> xtabs(  
  formula = ~ treatment + gender,  
  data = expt  
)
```

	gender	
treatment	male	female
control	2	2
drug1	2	2
drug2	2	2

xtabs() works a bit differently.

We specify the name of the data frame (ie. expt), and a formula that indicates which variables need to be cross-tabulated

Digression: Formulas

Formulas

- A formula is an abstract way to write down **variable relationships**
 - The precise meaning depends on the context
 - Formulas get used a lot in R, so it's helpful to see some examples...

Examples

- In `xtabs()`, a “one-sided” formula is used to specify a set of variables to cross tabulate...

```
~ variable1 + variable2
```

```
~ variable1
```

Examples

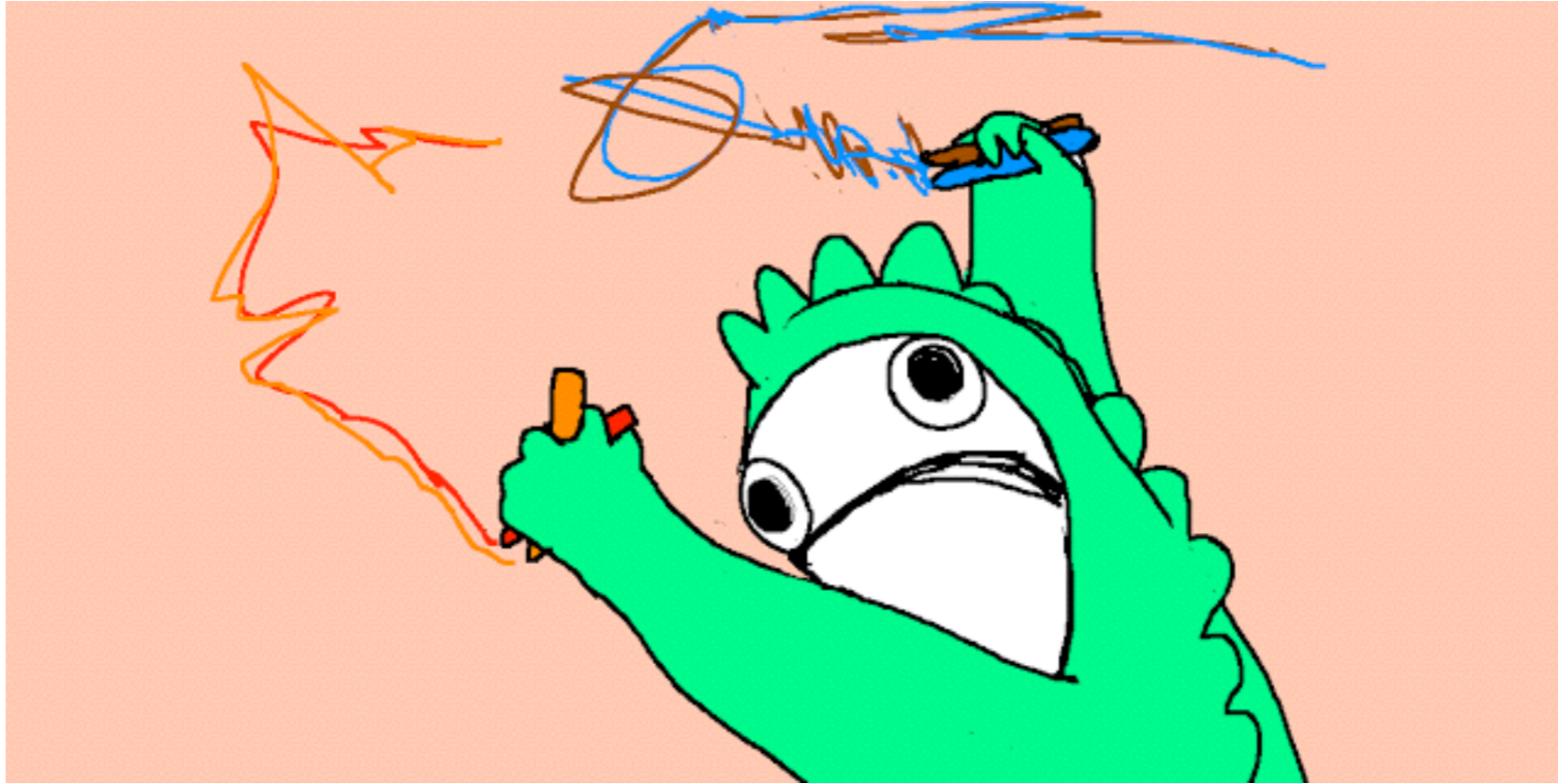
- In `xtabs()`, a “one-sided” formula is used to specify a set of variables to cross tabulate...

```
~ variable1 + variable2  
~ variable1
```

- In `lm()`, a “two-sided” formula is used to specify a regression model...

```
outcome ~ predictor1 + predictor2  
outcome ~ predictor1 * predictor2
```

Try it yourself (Exercise 2.1.4)



Getting lots of descriptive statistics
quickly and easily...

Useful commands

- Getting lots of descriptive information for several variables at once:
 - `describe()` [psych package]
 - `summary()`
- Getting descriptive statistics separately for several groups:
 - `describeBy()` [psych package]
 - `by()` and `summary()`
 - `aggregate()`

Describe

```
> library( psych )  
> describe( expt )
```

	var	n	mean	sd	median	trimmed	mad	min	max	range	skew	kurtosis	se
id	1	12	6.50	3.61	6.50	6.50	4.45	1.00	12.00	11.00	0.00	-1.50	1.04
age	2	12	25.25	3.25	25.00	25.40	3.71	19.00	30.00	11.00	-0.32	-0.98	0.94
gender*	3	12	1.50	0.52	1.50	1.50	0.74	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	-2.16	0.15
treatment*	4	12	2.00	0.85	2.00	2.00	1.48	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	-1.74	0.25
hormone	5	12	43.59	24.86	42.15	41.80	23.28	6.70	98.40	91.70	0.51	-0.39	7.18
happy	6	12	3.71	1.02	3.42	3.69	0.84	2.00	5.69	3.69	0.28	-0.88	0.29
sad	7	12	3.42	1.60	3.23	3.46	1.91	0.34	6.12	5.78	-0.16	-0.96	0.46

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	var	n	mean	sd	median	trimmed	mad	min	max	range	skew	kurtosis	se
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Each row contains descriptive statistics for one of the variables in the data frame.

Variables with asterisks next to the names are factors: the asterisk here is a reminder that most of these measures are inappropriate for nominal scale variables

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Number of observations

Describe

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> library( psych )  
> describe( expt )
```

	var	n	mean	sd	median	trimmed	mad	min	max	range	skew	kurtosis	se
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Mean, standard deviation and median

Describe

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> library( psych )  
> describe( expt )
```

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10% trimmed mean

Describe

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A robust estimator of the standard deviation that is computed by a transformation of the median absolute deviation (mad) from the sample median

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Information about the range

Describe

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> describe( expt )
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Skew and kurtosis

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Standard error of the mean
(computed by the usual normal
theory estimate)

Summary

```
> summary( expt )
```

id	age	gender	treatment
Min. : 1.00	Min. :19.00	male :6	control:4
1st Qu.: 3.75	1st Qu.:23.75	female:6	drug1 :4
Median : 6.50	Median :25.00		drug2 :4
Mean : 6.50	Mean :25.25		
3rd Qu.: 9.25	3rd Qu.:28.00		
Max. :12.00	Max. :30.00		

hormone	happy	sad
Min. : 6.70	Min. :2.000	Min. :0.340
1st Qu.:23.82	1st Qu.:3.107	1st Qu.:2.540
Median :42.15	Median :3.425	Median :3.235
Mean :43.59	Mean :3.712	Mean :3.423
3rd Qu.:55.88	3rd Qu.:4.522	3rd Qu.:4.633
Max. :98.40	Max. :5.690	Max. :6.120

Summary

```
> summary( expt )
```

```
      id          age
Min.   : 1.00    Min.   :19.00
1st Qu.: 3.75    1st Qu.:23.75
Median : 6.50    Median :25.00
Mean   : 6.50    Mean   :25.25
3rd Qu.: 9.25    3rd Qu.:28.00
Max.   :12.00    Max.   :30.00
```

```
      hormone      happy      sad
Min.   : 6.70    Min.   :2.000    Min.   :0.340
1st Qu.:23.82    1st Qu.:3.107    1st Qu.:2.540
Median :42.15    Median :3.425    Median :3.235
Mean   :43.59    Mean   :3.712    Mean   :3.423
3rd Qu.:55.88    3rd Qu.:4.522    3rd Qu.:4.633
Max.   :98.40    Max.   :5.690    Max.   :6.120
```

```
      gender      treatment
male   :6        control:4
female:6        drug1   :4
                        drug2   :4
```

Summary produces a frequency table for the factor variables

Summary

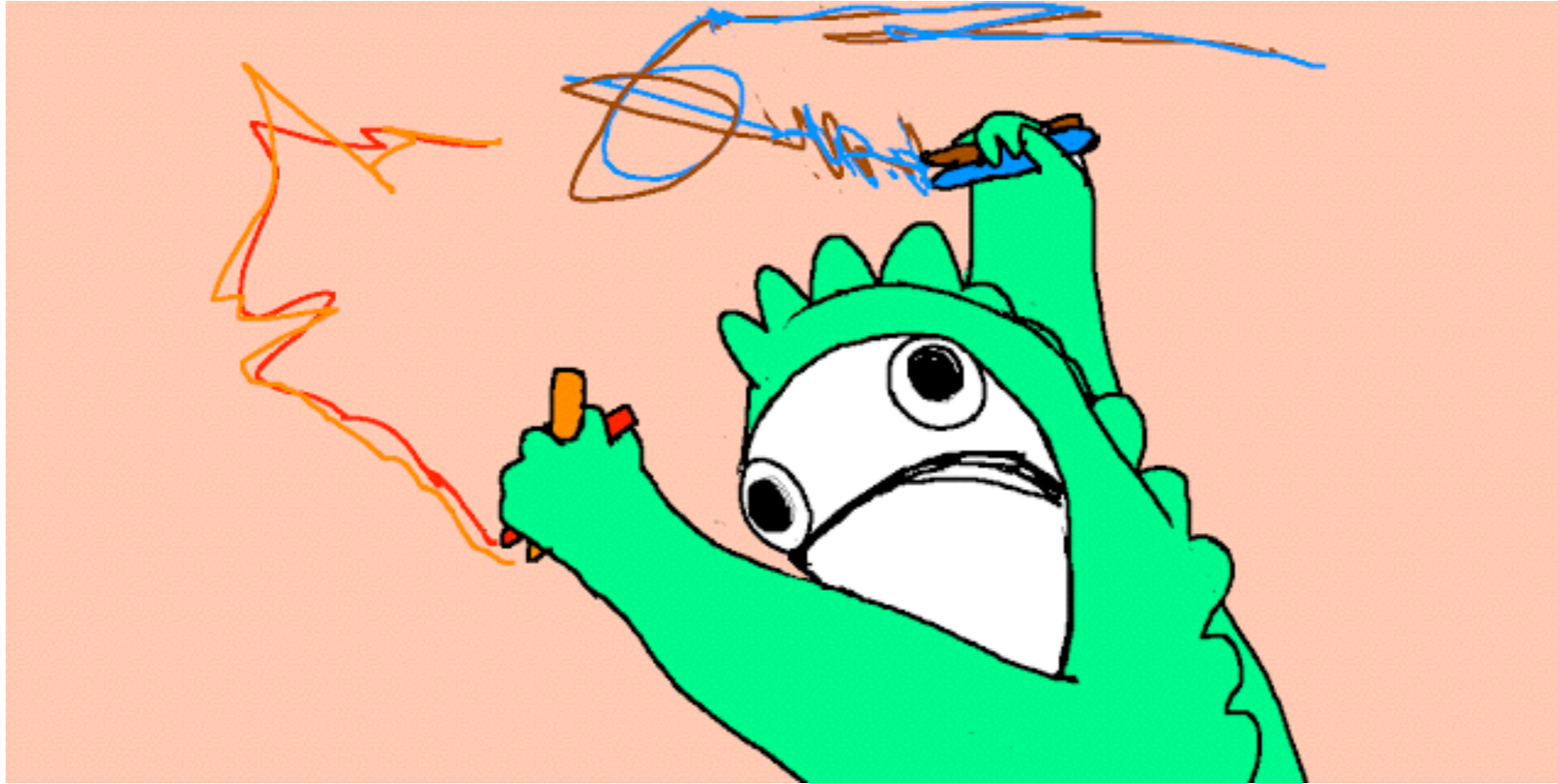
```
> summary( expt )
```

```
      id          age          gender  treatment
Min.   : 1.00    Min.   :19.00   male   :6    control:4
1st Qu.: 3.75    1st Qu.:23.75   female:6   drug1  :4
Median : 6.50    Median :25.00
Mean   : 6.50    Mean   :25.25
3rd Qu.: 9.25    3rd Qu.:28.00
Max.   :12.00    Max.   :30.00

      hormone          happy          sad
Min.   : 6.70    Min.   :2.000    Min.   :0.340
1st Qu.:23.82    1st Qu.:3.107    1st Qu.:2.540
Median :42.15    Median :3.425    Median :3.235
Mean   :43.59    Mean   :3.712    Mean   :3.423
3rd Qu.:55.88    3rd Qu.:4.522    3rd Qu.:4.633
Max.   :98.40    Max.   :5.690    Max.   :6.120
```

For numeric variables it gives the mean, plus the 0th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th percentiles

Try it yourself (Exercise 2.1.5)



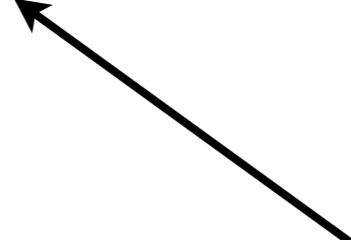
Useful commands

- Getting lots of descriptive information for several variables at once:
 - `describe()` [psych package]
 - `summary()`

- Getting descriptive statistics separately for several groups:
 - `describeBy()` [psych package]
 - `by()` and `summary()`
 - `aggregate()`

describeBy()

```
> describeBy( expt, group=expt$gender )
```



data frame containing all the
variables to be described

the variable used to
define the groups

describeBy()

```
> describeBy( expt, group=expt$gender )
```

group: male

	var	n	mean	sd	median	trimmed	mad	min	max	range	skew	kurtosis	se
id	1	6	3.50	1.87	3.50	3.50	2.22	1.00	6.00	5.00	0.00	-1.80	0.76
age	2	6	25.50	2.07	25.00	25.50	2.22	23.00	28.00	5.00	0.22	-1.90	0.85
gender*	3	6	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	NaN	NaN	0.00
treatment*	4	6	2.00	0.89	2.00	2.00	1.48	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	-1.96	0.37
hormone	5	6	38.55	32.02	31.75	38.55	16.38	6.70	98.40	91.70	0.88	-0.78	13.07
happy	6	6	3.65	1.30	3.38	3.65	1.24	2.00	5.69	3.69	0.32	-1.49	0.53
sad	7	6	3.98	1.97	4.53	3.98	0.96	0.34	6.12	5.78	-0.82	-0.81	0.80

group: female

	var	n	mean	sd	median	trimmed	mad	min	max	range	skew	kurtosis	se
id	1	6	9.50	1.87	9.50	9.50	2.22	7.00	12.00	5.00	0.00	-1.80	0.76
age	2	6	25.00	4.34	25.50	25.00	5.93	19.00	30.00	11.00	-0.18	-1.85	1.77
gender*	3	6	2.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	NaN	NaN	0.00
treatment*	4	6	2.00	0.89	2.00	2.00	1.48	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	-1.96	0.37
hormone	5	6	48.63	16.54	54.90	48.63	8.75	18.50	65.20	46.70	-0.82	-0.98	6.75
happy	6	6	3.77	0.76	3.67	3.77	0.99	2.83	4.78	1.95	0.12	-1.90	0.31
sad	7	6	2.87	1.03	2.67	2.87	0.52	1.87	4.82	2.95	0.94	-0.67	0.42

Using aggregate()

```
> aggregate(  
  formula = age ~ gender + treatment,  
  data = expt,  
  FUN = mean  
)
```

Using aggregate()

```
> aggregate(  
  formula = age ~ gender + treatment,  
  data = expt,  
  FUN = mean  
)
```

Tells R you want to summarise “age”, broken down separately by “gender” and “treatment”

Using aggregate()

```
> aggregate(  
  formula = age ~ gender + treatment,  
  data = expt,  
  FUN = mean  
)
```

Tells R that the variables are all stored in the data frame called “expt”

Using aggregate()

```
> aggregate(  
  formula = age ~ gender + treatment,  
  data = expt,  
  FUN = mean  
)
```

The name of the function that produces the descriptive statistic that you want... e.g., mean, sd, IQR, etc

Using aggregate()

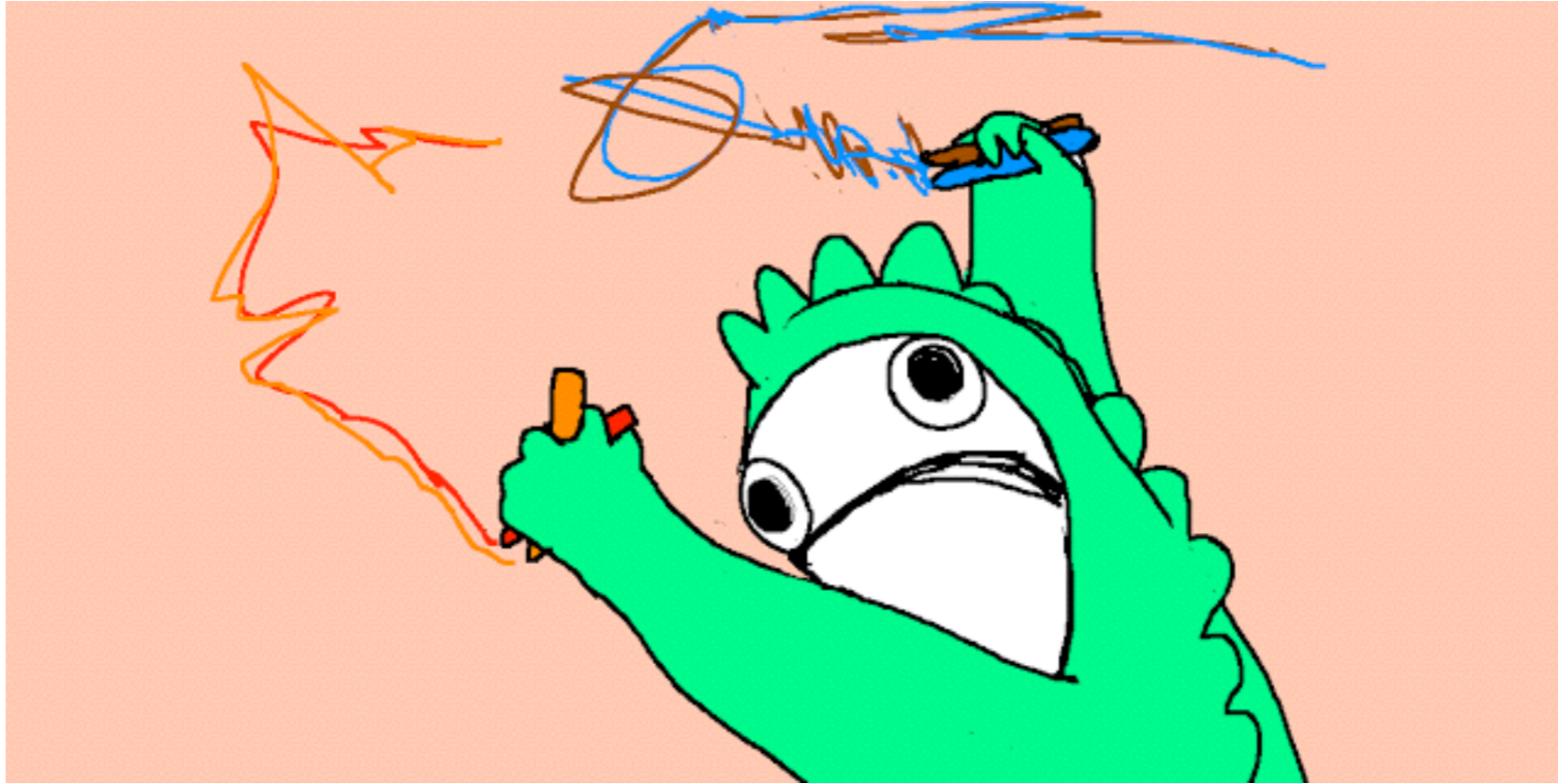
```
> aggregate(  
  formula = age ~ gender + treatment,  
  data = expt,  
  FUN = mean  
)
```

	gender	treatment	age
1	male	control	26.5
2	female	control	25.5
3	male	drug1	23.5
4	female	drug1	24.0
5	male	drug2	26.5
6	female	drug2	25.5

The output contains the
mean age for every group



Try it yourself (Exercise 2.1.6)



Briefly.. another trick is to use by()

```
> by( expt, INDICES=expt$gender, summary )
```

```
expt$gender: male
```

id	age	gender	treatment	hormone	happy	sad
Min. :1.00	Min. :23.00	male :6	control:2	Min. : 6.70	Min. :2.000	Min. :0.340
1st Qu.:2.25	1st Qu.:24.25	female:0	drug1 :2	1st Qu.:21.48	1st Qu.:3.007	1st Qu.:3.768
Median :3.50	Median :25.00		drug2 :2	Median :31.75	Median :3.380	Median :4.525
Mean :3.50	Mean :25.50			Mean :38.55	Mean :3.650	Mean :3.977
3rd Qu.:4.75	3rd Qu.:27.25			3rd Qu.:41.42	3rd Qu.:4.270	3rd Qu.:4.758
Max. :6.00	Max. :28.00			Max. :98.40	Max. :5.690	Max. :6.120

```
-----  
expt$gender: female
```

id	age	gender	treatment	hormone	happy	sad
Min. : 7.00	Min. :19.00	male :0	control:2	Min. :18.50	Min. :2.830	Min. :1.870
1st Qu.: 8.25	1st Qu.:22.00	female:6	drug1 :2	1st Qu.:44.95	1st Qu.:3.248	1st Qu.:2.340
Median : 9.50	Median :25.50		drug2 :2	Median :54.90	Median :3.675	Median :2.675
Mean : 9.50	Mean :25.00			Mean :48.63	Mean :3.775	Mean :2.870
3rd Qu.:10.75	3rd Qu.:28.25			3rd Qu.:56.23	3rd Qu.:4.357	3rd Qu.:2.882
Max. :12.00	Max. :30.00			Max. :65.20	Max. :4.780	Max. :4.820

Descriptives 2: Correlating two variables

Correlations

```
> cor( expt$happy, expt$sad )  
[1] -0.7331656
```

Pearson correlation

Correlations

```
> cor( expt$happy, expt$sad )  
[1] -0.7331656
```

```
> cor( expt$happy, expt$sad, method="spearman" )  
[1] -0.7075317
```

Spearman
correlation

Correlations

```
> cor( expt$happy, expt$sad )  
[1] -0.7331656
```

```
> cor( expt$happy, expt$sad, method="spearman" )  
[1] -0.7075317
```

```
> cor( expt$happy, expt$sad, method="kendall" )  
[1] -0.5343667
```

Kendall's tau

All pairwise correlations

```
> library( lsr )  
> correlate( expt )
```

Just a reminder that you need to have the lsr package loaded for this command to work!

The correlate command itself



All pairwise correlations

```
> library( lsr )  
> correlate( expt )
```

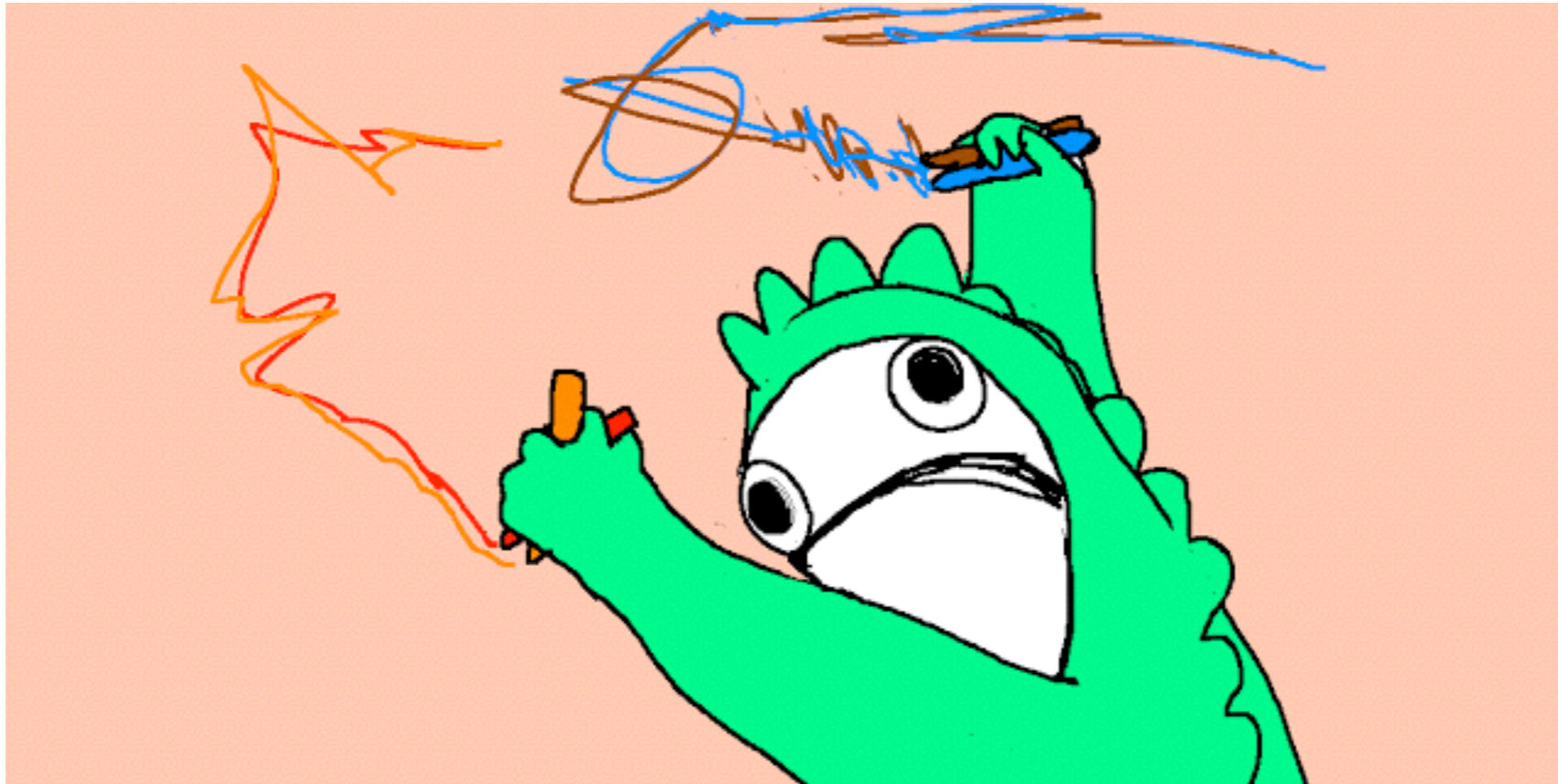
CORRELATIONS

=====

- correlation type: pearson
- correlations shown only when both variables are numeric

	id	age	gender	treatment	hormone	happy	sad
id	.	-0.012	.	.	0.316	0.120	-0.486
age	-0.012	.	.	.	0.238	0.203	-0.265
gender	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
treatment	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
hormone	0.316	0.238	.	.	.	0.880	-0.952
happy	0.120	0.203	.	.	0.880	.	-0.733
sad	-0.486	-0.265	.	.	-0.952	-0.733	.

Try it yourself (Exercise 2.1.7)



End of this section