

Statistics 3

Qualitative Variables

MA 101 Enrollment

Category	Number of Students	Percentage	Pie Angle Size
Freshman	57		
Sophomore	8		
Junior	13		
Senior	44		
Other	9		
Total	131	100%	

Categories -- The values of a qualitative variable are often called categories or classes.

Pie Chart -- An alternative to the bar graph in the case of a qualitative variable with a small number of categories.

Pie Chart of MA 101 Enrollment

Turning Quantitative Variables into Qualitative Ones

Class intervals, the intervals into which the data values of a quantitative variable are subdivided, are normally all the same size. However, Prof. Blackbeard used unequal ones in assigning letter grades.

Stat 101 Mid Term Exam Grades

Class Intervals	Letter Grade	Frequency	Percentage
0-8	F	10	
9-10	D	26	
11-13	C	30	
14-17	B	8	
18-25	A	1	
Total		75	100%

We plot the resulting relative frequencies versus the assigned letter grades. By doing so, we have converted a quantitative variable (test scores) into a qualitative variable (letter grades).

Pie Chart of Stat 101 Letter Grades

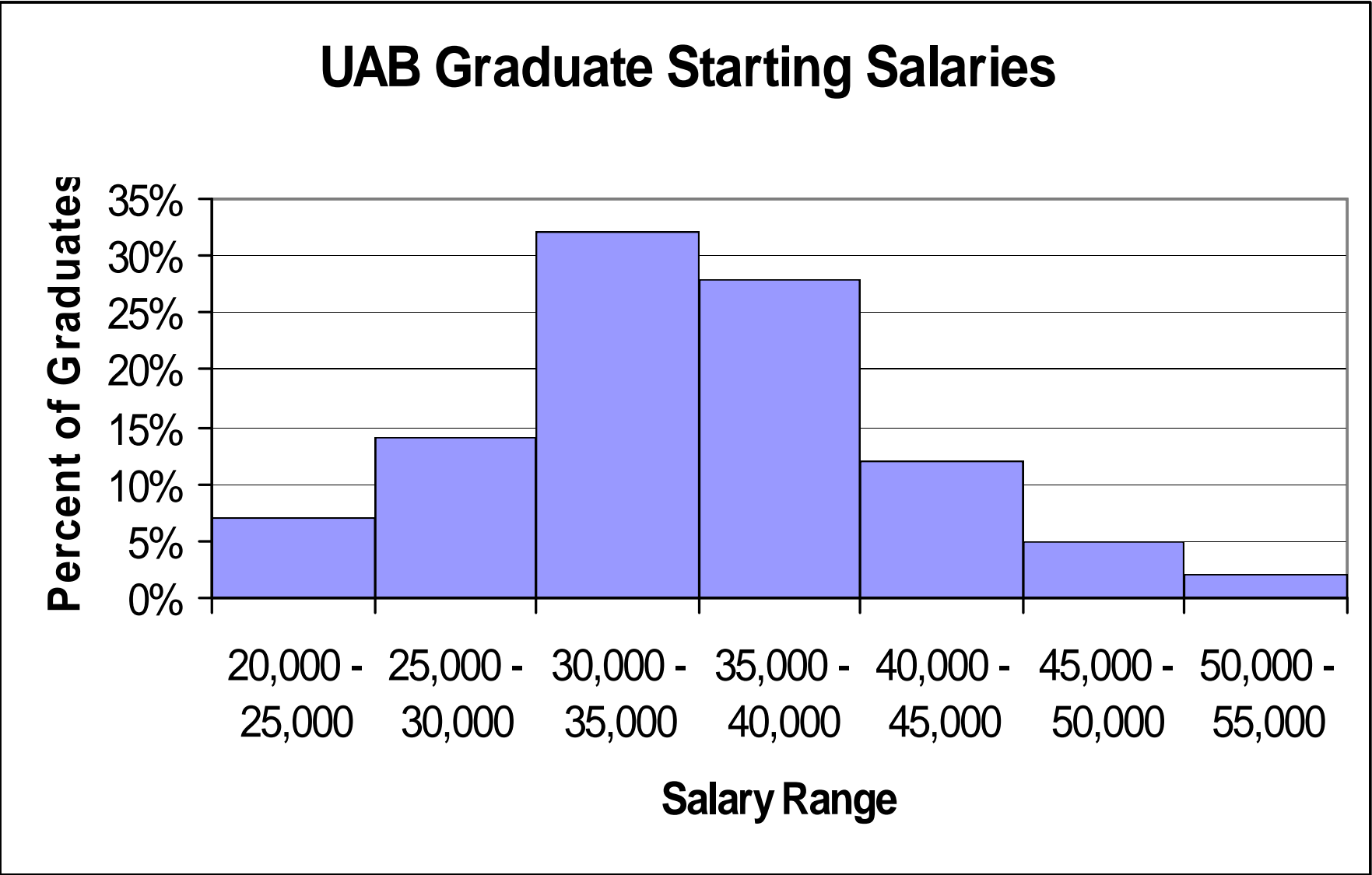
Histograms

When the quantitative variable is continuous, we use a special type of bar graph called a *histogram*. In a histogram there are no gaps between the class intervals. **Endpoint convention** – we agree that salaries that fall exactly on a boundary between class intervals are placed in the lower class interval.

Starting salaries of UAB graduates, 1992

Salary Range	Nbr. Of Graduates	Percent
20,000 – 25,000	228	7%
25,000 – 30,000	456	14%
30,000 – 35,000	1043	32%
35,000 – 40,000	912	28%
40,000 – 45,000	391	12%
45,000 – 50,000	163	5%
50,000 – 55,000	65	2%
Total	3258	100%

Histogram of UAB Graduate Starting Salaries



Five Number Summary

The following five numbers provide a useful numerical summary of a data set, and for that reason are called collectively the *five number summary*.

Stat 101 Exam

	Score
• Minimum: Min	1
• First Quartile: Q_1	9
• Median: M	11
• Third Quartile: Q_3	12
• Maximum: Max	24

Box Plots

A convenient and eye-catching way to display the five number summary is the *box plot*.

The *horizontal axis* is the scale on which the data values fall.

The *central box* runs from the first quartile Q_1 to the third quartile Q_3 .

The median is represented by a *vertical line* at its appropriate location inside the central box.

The *whiskers* on each side reach from the quartiles to the Min and Max data values.

Example. Recall that the star forward of UAB's basketball team in his first 12 games makes the following *sorted* scores.

3 18 20 21 22 24 25 26 27 29 33 39

Min = 3 $Q_1 = 20.5$ M = 24.5 $Q_3 = 28$ Max = 30

Basketball Player's Scores in 12 Games

Using Box Plots for Comparisons

Example. Box plots are particularly useful for driving home comparisons for two or more populations.

SCHOOL	MIN	Q ₁	MEDIAN	Q ₃	MAX
Engineering	28,000	35,000	40,000	44,000	49,000
Humanities	22,000	25,000	34,000	39,000	54,000

Box Plots on Same Axis



Observations

- The starting salaries in the Humanities are more spread out.
- Three-fourths of Humanities graduates earn less than the median of Engineering graduates.
-