

# Package ‘nomiShape’

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**Title** Visualization and Analysis of Nominal Variable Distributions

**Version** 1.0.1

**Description** Provides tools for visualizing and analyzing the shape of discrete nominal frequency distributions. The package introduces centered frequency plots, in which nominal categories are ordered from the most frequent category at the center toward less frequent categories on both sides, facilitating the detection of distributional patterns such as uniformity, dominance, symmetry, skewness, and long-tail behavior. In addition, the package supports Pareto charts for the study of dominance and cumulative frequency structure in nominal data. The package is designed for exploratory data analysis and statistical teaching, offering visualizations that emphasize distributional form rather than arbitrary category ordering.

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**Imports** dplyr, ggplot2

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**VignetteBuilder** knitr

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categories	<i>Categories: Uniform Distribution of Bikinibottom Species</i>
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## Description

A dataset of dummy nominal data inspired by characters/species from the Bikini Bottom universe (SpongeBob SquarePants). This dataset simulates a roughly uniform distribution across 11 species, with a total of 250 observations. It was intentionally designed to be uniform-like for testing nominal distribution visualization functions.

A simple dataset of categorical values used for examples.

## Usage

```
categories
```

```
categories
```

## Format

A data frame with 250 rows and 1 variable:

**animal** Character. Species/animal names. 11 species inspired by Bikini Bottom.

A data frame with 1 column:

**animal** Factor with animal categories as letters

## Source

Generated for examples

### Examples

```
categories
# Ranked bar plot of species frequencies
ranked_barplot(categories, "animal")

# Centered bar plot (most frequent in the center)
centered_barplot(categories, "animal")

# Centered dot plot with theoretical shape overlays
shape_comp_plot(categories, "animal")
```

---

categories2

*Categories2: Triangular Distribution of Bikinibottom Species*

---

### Description

A dataset of dummy nominal data inspired by characters/species from the Bikini Bottom universe (SpongeBob SquarePants). This dataset simulates a roughly triangular distribution of frequencies.

### Usage

```
categories2
```

### Format

A data frame with 250 rows and 11 variables:

**animal** Character. Species/animal names.

**freq** Integer. Frequency of each species, forming a triangular pattern.

### Examples

```
ranked_barplot(categories2, "animal")
```

---

categories3

*Categories3: Exponential/Dominance Distribution of Bikinibottom Species*

---

### Description

A dataset of dummy nominal data inspired by characters/species from the Bikini Bottom universe (SpongeBob SquarePants). This dataset simulates a highly skewed distribution where a few species dominate most of the frequency (long-tail / exponential pattern). It was intentionally designed for pedagogical purposes to demonstrate dominance and Pareto-like behavior in nominal data.

**Usage**

```
categories3
```

**Format**

A data frame with 250 rows and 1 variable:

**animal** Character. Species/animal names. 11 species inspired by Bikini Bottom.

**Examples**

```
categories3
# Centered dot plot showing exponential/long-tail pattern
shape_comp_plot(categories3, "animal")

# Pareto chart highlighting cumulative frequency and dominance
pareto(categories3, "animal")

# Optional: ranked or centered bar plots
ranked_barplot(categories3, "animal")
centered_barplot(categories3, "animal")
```

---

categories4

*Categories4: Structured (triangular / normal-like) nominal distribution*

---

**Description**

A dataset of dummy nominal data inspired by characters or species from the Bikini Bottom universe (SpongeBob SquarePants).

**Usage**

```
categories4
```

**Format**

A data frame with 250 rows and 1 variable:

**animal** Character or species name (11 categories inspired by Bikini Bottom).

**Details**

The dataset represents a structured nominal distribution in which a limited number of categories dominate, followed by a gradual and approximately symmetric decline in frequencies. This pattern is consistent with a triangular or normal-like shape rather than a strongly long-tailed (Pareto/exponential) distribution.

The dataset was intentionally designed for pedagogical purposes to illustrate dominance, symmetry, and modal structure in nominal data, and to serve as a contrast with truly long-tailed distributions included elsewhere in the package.

**Examples**

```

categories4

# Centered dot plot showing a structured (normal-like) pattern
shape_comp_plot(categories4, "animal")

# Pareto chart showing dominance without a strong long tail
pareto(categories4, "animal")

# Ranked and centered bar plots
ranked_barplot(categories4, "animal")
centered_barplot(categories4, "animal")

```

---

centered_barplot	<i>Centered Frequency Bar Plot for Nominal Variables Creates a centered bar plot for discrete nominal variables by placing the most frequent category at the center and progressively less frequent categories alternately to the left and right.</i>
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---

**Description**

Centered Frequency Bar Plot for Nominal Variables Creates a centered bar plot for discrete nominal variables by placing the most frequent category at the center and progressively less frequent categories alternately to the left and right.

**Usage**

```
centered_barplot(df, var, title = NULL, scale = c("count", "percent"))
```

**Arguments**

df	A data frame containing the nominal variable.
var	A character string giving the name of the nominal variable in df.
title	Optional character string specifying the plot title.
scale	Character string specifying the scale of the frequencies: "count" (default) for raw counts or "percent" for percentages.

**Value**

A ggplot2 object.

**Examples**

```

centered_barplot(categories, "animal")
centered_barplot(categories, "animal", scale = "percent")

```

---

`centered_dotplot`*Centered Dot Plot for Nominal Variables*

---

### Description

Creates a centered dot plot for a nominal variable, ordering categories from the most frequent at the center toward less frequent categories on both sides. Optionally connects points with a line and shades the area under the line.

### Usage

```
centered_dotplot(  
  df,  
  var,  
  connect = FALSE,  
  shade = FALSE,  
  scale = c("count", "percent")  
)
```

### Arguments

<code>df</code>	A data.frame or tibble containing the variable.
<code>var</code>	Character. Name of the nominal variable in <code>df</code> .
<code>connect</code>	Logical; if TRUE, connects points with a line.
<code>shade</code>	Logical; if TRUE, shades the area under the line (requires <code>connect = TRUE</code> ).
<code>scale</code>	Character; either "count" (default) or "percent".

### Value

A ggplot2 object.

### Examples

```
centered_dotplot(categories, "animal")  
centered_dotplot(categories, "animal", connect = TRUE)  
centered_dotplot(categories, "animal", connect = TRUE, shade = TRUE)  
centered_dotplot(mpg, "manufacturer", scale = "percent")
```

---

central\_concentration *Central Concentration Index for Nominal Variables*

---

**Description**

Computes a measure of how concentrated counts are around the center of a nominal variable, based on the centered plotting order.

**Usage**

```
central_concentration(df, var, top_k = 3, weighted = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the variable.
var	Character. Name of the nominal variable in df.
top_k	Numeric. Number of central categories to consider (default: 3).
weighted	Logical. If TRUE, applies a weight decreasing with distance from center.

**Value**

A numeric value between 0 and 1 representing the central concentration.

**Examples**

```
central_concentration(categories, "animal")  
central_concentration(categories2, "animal", top_k = 5)  
central_concentration(categories3, "animal", weighted = TRUE)
```

---

dominance\_index *Dominance Index for Nominal Variables*

---

**Description**

Computes dominance for a nominal variable using the Simpson index, quantifying the degree to which a few categories dominate the distribution.

**Usage**

```
dominance_index(df, var)
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the nominal variable.
var	Character. Name of the nominal variable in df.

**Details**

Dominance is calculated as:

$$D = \sum p_i^2$$

where  $p_i$  is the relative frequency of category  $i$ .

Higher values indicate stronger dominance by fewer categories.

**Value**

A numeric value representing dominance.

**Examples**

```
dominance_index(categories, "animal")  
dominance_index(categories2, "animal")  
dominance_index(categories3, "animal")
```

---

mpg

*MPG dataset*

---

**Description**

Car fuel economy data (from ggplot2) for examples.

**Usage**

mpg

**Format**

A data frame

**Source**

ggplot2::mpg

---

pareto	<i>Pareto Plot for Nominal Variables</i>
--------	--

---

**Description**

Creates a Pareto chart for a nominal variable, displaying frequencies and cumulative percentages.

**Usage**

```
pareto(df, var, show_table = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the variable.
var	Character. Name of the variable in df.
show_table	Logical; if TRUE, prints the frequency table. Default is FALSE.

**Value**

A ggplot2 object representing the Pareto chart.

**Examples**

```
pareto(categories, "animal")
```

---

pielou_evenness	<i>Pielou's Evenness for Nominal Variables</i>
-----------------	--

---

**Description**

Computes Pielou's evenness index based on Shannon entropy for a nominal variable recorded as individual-level observations.

**Usage**

```
pielou_evenness(df, var)
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the nominal variable.
var	Character string giving the name of the nominal variable in df.

**Details**

Pielou's evenness is defined as:

$$E = H / \log(S)$$

where  $H$  is Shannon entropy and  $S$  is the number of observed categories.

Values range from 0 (complete dominance by one category) to 1 (perfectly even distribution).

**Value**

A numeric value representing Pielou's evenness.

**Examples**

```
pielou_evenness(categories, "animal")
pielou_evenness(categories2, "animal")
pielou_evenness(categories3, "animal")
```

---

ranked\_barplot

*Ranked Bar Plot for Nominal Variables*

---

**Description**

Creates a bar plot for a nominal variable, with categories ordered from most frequent to least frequent.

**Usage**

```
ranked_barplot(df, var, scale = c("count", "percent"), title = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the variable.
var	Character string giving the name of the variable in df.
scale	Character; either "count" (default) or "percent".
title	Optional character string specifying the plot title.

**Value**

A ggplot2 object representing the ranked bar plot.

**Examples**

```
ranked_barplot(categories, "animal")
ranked_barplot(categories, "animal", scale = "percent")
```

---

ranked_dotplot	<i>Ranked Dot Plot for Nominal Variables</i>
----------------	--

---

## Description

Creates a ranked dot plot for a nominal variable, displaying category frequencies or percentages from highest to lowest. Optionally connects points with a line and shades the area under the line.

## Usage

```
ranked_dotplot(  
  df,  
  var,  
  connect = FALSE,  
  shade = FALSE,  
  scale = c("count", "percent")  
)
```

## Arguments

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the variable.
var	Character. Name of the nominal variable in df.
connect	Logical; if TRUE, connects points with a line.
shade	Logical; if TRUE, shades the area under the line. Default is FALSE.
scale	Character; either "count" (default) or "percent".

## Value

A ggplot2 object.

## Examples

```
ranked_dotplot(categories, "animal")  
ranked_dotplot(categories, "animal", connect = TRUE)  
ranked_dotplot(categories, "animal", connect = TRUE, shade = TRUE)  
ranked_dotplot(mpg, "manufacturer", scale = "percent")
```

---

shape_aic	<i>Fit Nominal Data to Theoretical Shapes Using AIC (Safe Exponential)</i>
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---

**Description**

Computes the multinomial log-likelihood of observed counts against four theoretical distributions (uniform, triangular, normal-like, and exponential/Pareto-like) and returns AIC and DeltaAIC values.

**Usage**

```
shape_aic(df, var, rate_exp = 0.7, eps = 1e-12)
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the nominal variable.
var	Character string giving the name of the nominal variable in df.
rate_exp	Numeric. Default exponential rate. Only used if tail not clearly exponential.
eps	Small numeric value added to probabilities to avoid log(0). Default is 1e-12.

**Value**

A data.frame with columns: Shape, AIC, DeltaAIC.

---

shape_comp_plot	<i>Compare Observed Nominal Distribution with Theoretical Shapes</i>
-----------------	--

---

**Description**

Plots a centered dotplot of a nominal variable and overlays four theoretical distributions: uniform, triangular, exponential (Pareto-like), and normal-like.

**Usage**

```
shape_comp_plot(df, var, rate_exp = 0.7, scale = c("count", "percent"))
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the nominal variable.
var	Character string giving the name of the nominal variable in df.
rate_exp	Numeric. Rate parameter for the exponential distribution (Pareto-like). Default is 0.7.
scale	Character. Whether to scale frequencies as counts ("count") or percentages ("percent"). Default is "count".

**Details**

The function orders categories from most frequent at the center outwards. Observed frequencies are plotted as points and lines, and each theoretical distribution is overlaid with a different color and line type.

**Value**

A ggplot2 object.

**Examples**

```
shape_comp_plot(categories, "animal")
shape_comp_plot(categories2, "animal")
shape_comp_plot(categories3, "animal")
```

---

starwars

*Star Wars dataset*

---

**Description**

Character info from Star Wars (from dplyr/ggplot2 examples)

**Usage**

```
starwars
```

**Format**

A data frame

**Source**

dplyr::starwars

---

tail_index	<i>Tail Index for Nominal Variables</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

Computes the proportion of categories contributing to the lower part of the distribution. Useful to quantify long-tail structure in nominal distributions.

**Usage**

```
tail_index(df, var, threshold = 0.8)
```

**Arguments**

df	A data.frame or tibble containing the variable.
var	Character. Name of the nominal variable in df.
threshold	Numeric. Cumulative proportion of counts defining the "dominant" categories (default 0.8).

**Value**

Numeric between 0 and 1 representing the tail proportion.

**Examples**

```
tail_index(categories3, "animal")
tail_index(categories2, "animal", threshold = 0.9)
```

---

ufo	<i>UFO Sightings: Nominal distribution of reported UFO shapes</i>
-----	---

---

**Description**

A large real-world dataset of UFO sighting reports collected by the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), a non-profit organization dedicated to the collection and dissemination of objective UFO data.

**Usage**

```
ufo
```

## Format

A data frame with 63,561 rows and 8 variables:

**date\_sighted** Character. Date of the UFO sighting (YYYY-MM-DD).

**latitude** Numeric. Latitude of the sighting location.

**longitude** Numeric. Longitude of the sighting location.

**city** Character. City where the sighting occurred.

**state** Character. State or region of the sighting.

**shape** Character. Reported shape of the UFO (nominal variable of interest).

**duration\_sec** Numeric. Duration of the sighting in seconds.

**comments** Character. Free-text comments describing the sighting.

## Details

The dataset contains over 63,000 reported sightings spanning several decades and includes information on sighting date, geographic location, duration, narrative comments, and—most importantly for `nomiShape`— the reported *shape* of the observed object.

The shape variable is a nominal variable with many categories (e.g., "light", "circle", "triangle", "sphere"), exhibiting strong dominance by a few common shapes followed by a gradual decline across rarer categories. Despite the presence of a highly frequent leading category ("light"), the overall frequency structure is better described as triangular or normal-like rather than strictly exponential or Pareto.

This dataset is included as a realistic, large-sample example for exploring dominance, modality, and shape classification of nominal distributions using visual and information-theoretic tools.

## Source

National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), <https://nuforc.org>

## Examples

```
ufo

# Centered bar plot highlighting dominance and symmetry
centered_barplot(ufo, "shape")

# Centered dot plot with connections and shading
centered_dotplot(ufo, "shape", connect = TRUE, shade = TRUE)

# Shape comparison plot
shape_comp_plot(ufo, "shape")

# AIC-based shape classification
shape_aic(ufo, "shape")
```

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