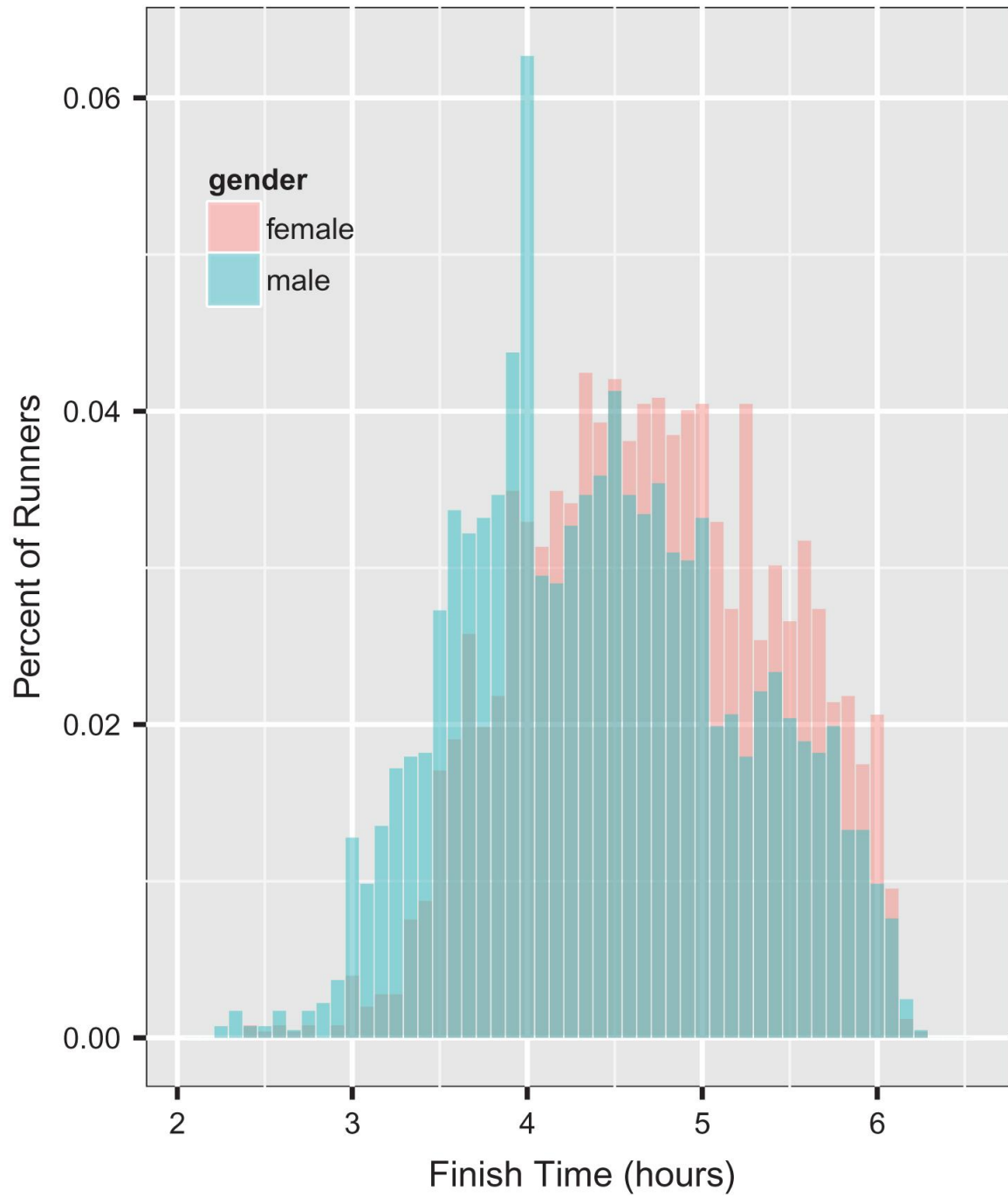


Histogram of Finish Time by Gender



Comment on the graph
What do you think it shows?

What The Graph 40: teacher notes

Notes/comments

- This comes from an academic journal article, and looks at the finish times of competitors at the Houston Marathon in 2013.
- The main focus of the article was research showing that men were far more over-confident about their own ability than women. The runners predicted their own finishing time beforehand and this was compared to their actual time. Men over-estimated their ability much more than women did.
- The graph shows the finish times. In a running race, a smaller time is better,.
- Men are shown in turquoise (teal?), and women in orange (salmon?), with both being shown in the darker green.
- It is possible to see the men's graph (by ignoring the orange parts) and the women's graph (by ignoring the turquoise parts) on the same axes, which is a clever representation.
- We can't see the overall finishing times easily though, because we would need to add the green ones to the turquoise or orange bars to get the total for that time.
- Very few men finish in 4-and-a-bit hours. Maybe they trained really hard to get 4 hours or below? Maybe they pushed themselves during the race to finish in under 4 hours?
- There appears to be a similar effect at 3 hours (for men and for women).
- Are there any other 'spikes' like this? (Men at 5 hours? Men at 4.5 hours?)

Source: <https://ip.ios.semcs.net/articles/journal-of-sports-analytics/jsa0008#jsa-2-jsa0008-g001>