Tutorial (vignette) for the eurostat R package

2018-03-28

R Tools for Eurostat Open Data

This rOpenGov R package provides tools to access Eurostat database, which you can also browse on-line for the data sets and documentation. For contact information and source code, see the package website.

Installation

Release version (CRAN):

```
install.packages("eurostat")
```

Development version (Github):

library(devtools)

install_github("ropengov/eurostat")

Overall, the eurostat package includes the following functions:

clean_eurostat_cache Clean Eurostat Cache

Polishes the Labels

dic_order Order of Variable Levels from Eurostat

Dictionary.

eurotime2date Date Conversion from Eurostat Time Format eurotime2num Conversion of Eurostat Time Format to Numeric

get_eurostat Read Eurostat Data

get_eurostat_geospatial

Download Geospatial Data from GISCO
get_eurostat_json Get Data from Eurostat API in JSON
get_eurostat_raw Download Data from Eurostat Database

Sets

harmonize_country_code

Harmonize Country Code

label_eurostat Get Eurostat Codes

merge_eurostat_geodata

Merge Preprocessed Geospatial Data from GISCO

 $\label{lem:control_def} \mbox{with data_frame from Eurostat}$

search_eurostat Grep Datasets Titles from Eurostat

tgs00026 Auxiliary Data

Finding data

Function get_eurostat_toc() downloads a table of contents of eurostat datasets. The values in column 'code' should be used to download a selected dataset.

```
# Load the package
library(eurostat)
library(rvest)

# Get Eurostat data listing
toc <- get_eurostat_toc()

# Check the first items
library(knitr)
kable(head(toc))</pre>
```

title	code	type	last update of data	last table structure
Database by themes	data	folder	NA	NA
General and regional statistics	general	folder	NA	NA
European and national indicators for short-term analysis	euroind	folder	NA	NA
Business and consumer surveys (source: DG ECFIN)	ei_bcs	folder	NA	NA
Consumer surveys (source: DG ECFIN)	ei_bcs_cs	folder	NA	NA
Consumers - monthly data	ei bsco m	dataset	27.03.2018	27.03.2018

With search_eurostat() you can search the table of contents for particular patterns, e.g. all datasets related to passenger transport. The kable function to produces nice markdown output. Note that with the type argument of this function you could restrict the search to for instance datasets or tables.

```
# info about passengers
kable(head(search_eurostat("passenger transport")))
```

title

Volume of passenger transport relative to GDP

Modal split of passenger transport

Railway transport - total annual passenger transport (1 000 pass., million pkm)

Railway transport - passenger transport by type of transport (detailed reporting only) (1 000 pass.)

Railway transport - passenger transport by type of transport (detailed reporting only) (million pkm)

International railway passenger transport from the reporting country to the country of disembarkation (1 000 passengers)

Codes for the dataset can be searched also from the Eurostat database. The Eurostat database gives codes in the Data Navigation Tree after every dataset in parenthesis.

Downloading data

The package supports two of the Eurostats download methods: the bulk download facility and the Web Services' JSON API. The bulk download facility is the fastest method to download whole datasets. It is also often the only way as the JSON API has limitation of maximum 50 sub-indicators at a time and whole datasets usually exceeds that. To download only a small section of the dataset the JSON API is faster, as it allows to make a data selection before downloading.

A user does not usually have to bother with methods, as both are used via main function <code>get_eurostat()</code>. If only the table id is given, the whole table is downloaded from the bulk download facility. If also filters are defined the JSON API is used.

Here an example of indicator 'Modal split of passenger transport'. This is the percentage share of each mode of transport in total inland transport, expressed in passenger-kilometres (pkm) based on transport by passenger cars, buses and coaches, and trains. All data should be based on movements on national territory, regardless of the nationality of the vehicle. However, the data collection is not harmonized at the EU level.

Pick and print the id of the data set to download:

```
[1] "t2020 rk310"
```

Get the whole corresponding table. As the table is annual data, it is more convient to use a numeric time variable than use the default date format:

```
dat <- get_eurostat(id, time_format = "num")</pre>
```

Investigate the structure of the downloaded data set:

```
str(dat)
```

unit	vehicle	geo	time	values
$\overline{\text{PC}}$	BUS_TOT	AT	1990	11.0
PC	BUS_TOT	BE	1990	10.6
PC	BUS_TOT	CH	1990	3.7
PC	BUS_TOT	DE	1990	9.1
PC	BUS_TOT	DK	1990	11.3
PC	BUS_TOT	EL	1990	32.4

Or you can get only a part of the dataset by defining filters argument. It should be named list, where names corresponds to variable names (lower case) and values are vectors of codes corresponding desidered series (upper case). For time variable, in addition to a time, also a sinceTimePeriod and a lastTimePeriod can be used.

```
dat2 <- get_eurostat(id, filters = list(geo = c("EU28", "FI"), lastTimePeriod=1), time_format = "num")
kable(dat2)</pre>
```

Replacing codes with labels

By default variables are returned as Eurostat codes, but to get human-readable labels instead, use a type = "label" argument.

Eurostat codes in the downloaded data set can be replaced with human-readable labels from the Eurostat dictionaries with the label_eurostat() function.

```
datl <- label_eurostat(dat)
kable(head(datl))</pre>
```

unit	vehicle	geo	time	values
Percentage	Motor coaches, buses and trolley buses	Austria	1990	11.0
Percentage	Motor coaches, buses and trolley buses	Belgium	1990	10.6
Percentage	Motor coaches, buses and trolley buses	Switzerland	1990	3.7
Percentage	Motor coaches, buses and trolley buses	Germany (until 1990 former territory of the FRG)	1990	9.1
Percentage	Motor coaches, buses and trolley buses	Denmark	1990	11.3
Percentage	Motor coaches, buses and trolley buses	Greece	1990	32.4

The label_eurostat() allows conversion of individual variable vectors or variable names as well.

```
label_eurostat_vars(names(datl))
```

Vehicle information has 3 levels. You can check them now with:

```
levels(datl$vehicle)
```

Selecting and modifying data

EFTA, Eurozone, EU and EU candidate countries

To facilitate smooth visualization of standard European geographic areas, the package provides ready-made lists of the country codes used in the eurostat database for EFTA (efta_countries), Euro area (ea_countries), EU (eu_countries) and EU candidate countries (eu_candidate_countries). These can be used to select specific groups of countries for closer investigation. For conversions with other standard country coding systems, see the countrycode R package. To retrieve the country code list for EFTA, for instance, use:

```
data(efta_countries)
kable(efta_countries)
```

code	name
IS	Iceland
LI	Liechtenstein
NO	Norway
CH	Switzerland

EU data from 2012 in all vehicles:

```
dat_eu12 <- subset(datl, geo == "European Union (28 countries)" & time == 2012)
kable(dat_eu12, row.names = FALSE)</pre>
```

EU data from 2000 - 2012 with vehicle types as variables:

Reshaping the data is best done with spread() in tidyr.

```
library("tidyr")
dat_eu_0012 <- subset(dat, geo == "EU28" & time %in% 2000:2012)
dat_eu_0012_wide <- spread(dat_eu_0012, vehicle, values)
kable(subset(dat_eu_0012_wide, select = -geo), row.names = FALSE)</pre>
```

unit	time	BUS_TOT	CAR	TRN
PC	2000	10.4	82.4	7.2
PC	2001	10.2	82.7	7.1
PC	2002	9.9	83.3	6.8
PC	2003	9.9	83.5	6.7
PC	2004	9.8	83.4	6.8
PC	2005	9.8	83.3	6.9
PC	2006	9.7	83.2	7.1
PC	2007	9.8	83.1	7.1
PC	2008	9.9	82.8	7.4
PC	2009	9.3	83.6	7.1
PC	2010	9.4	83.5	7.2
PC	2011	9.4	83.2	7.3
PC	2012	9.5	82.8	7.7

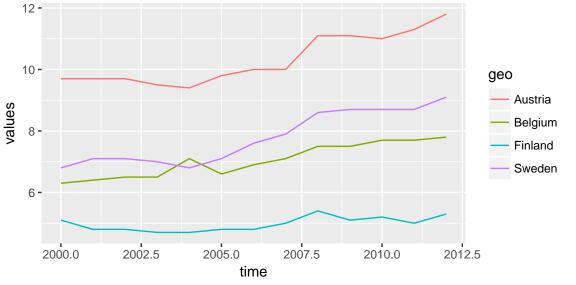
Train passengers for selected EU countries in 2000 - 2012

unit	time	Austria	Belgium	Finland	Sweden
Percentage	2000	9.7	6.3	5.1	6.8
Percentage	2001	9.7	6.4	4.8	7.1
Percentage	2002	9.7	6.5	4.8	7.1
Percentage	2003	9.5	6.5	4.7	7.0
Percentage	2004	9.4	7.1	4.7	6.8
Percentage	2005	9.8	6.6	4.8	7.1
Percentage	2006	10.0	6.9	4.8	7.6
Percentage	2007	10.0	7.1	5.0	7.9
Percentage	2008	11.1	7.5	5.4	8.6
Percentage	2009	11.1	7.5	5.1	8.7
Percentage	2010	11.0	7.7	5.2	8.7
Percentage	2011	11.3	7.7	5.0	8.7
Percentage	2012	11.8	7.8	5.3	9.1

Visualization

Visualizing train passenger data with ggplot2:

```
library(ggplot2)
p <- ggplot(dat_trains, aes(x = time, y = values, colour = geo))
p <- p + geom_line()
print(p)</pre>
```

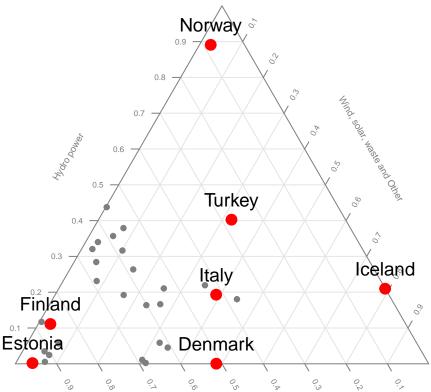


Triangle plot

Triangle plot is handy for visualizing data sets with three variables.

```
library(tidyr)
library(plotrix)
library(eurostat)
library(dplyr)
library(tidyr)
# All sources of renewable energy are to be grouped into three sets
dict <- c("Solid biofuels (excluding charcoal)" = "Biofuels",</pre>
 "Biogasoline" = "Biofuels",
 "Other liquid biofuels" = "Biofuels",
 "Biodiesels" = "Biofuels",
 "Biogas" = "Biofuels",
 "Hydro power" = "Hydro power",
 "Tide, Wave and Ocean" = "Hydro power",
 "Solar thermal" = "Wind, solar, waste and Other",
 "Geothermal Energy" = "Wind, solar, waste and Other",
 "Solar photovoltaic" = "Wind, solar, waste and Other",
 "Municipal waste (renewable)" = "Wind, solar, waste and Other",
 "Wind power" = "Wind, solar, waste and Other",
 "Bio jet kerosene" = "Wind, solar, waste and Other")
# Some cleaning of the data is required
 energy3 <- get_eurostat("ten00081") %>%
 label eurostat(dat) %>%
 filter(time == "2013-01-01",
```

```
product != "Renewable energies") %>%
mutate(nproduct = dict[as.character(product)], # just three categories
geo = gsub(geo, pattern=" \\(.*", replacement="")) %>%
select(nproduct, geo, values) %>%
group_by(nproduct, geo) %>%
summarise(svalue = sum(values)) %>%
group_by(geo) %>%
mutate(tvalue = sum(svalue),
svalue = svalue/sum(svalue)) %>%
filter(tvalue > 1000) %>% # only large countries
spread(nproduct, svalue)
# Triangle plot
par(cex=0.75, mar=c(0,0,0,0))
positions <- plotrix::triax.plot(as.matrix(energy3[, c(3,5,4)]),</pre>
                     show.grid = TRUE,
                     label.points= FALSE, point.labels = energy3$geo,
                     col.axis="gray50", col.grid="gray90",
                     pch = 19, cex.axis=0.8, cex.ticks=0.7, col="grey50")
# Larger labels
ind <- which(energy3$geo %in% c("Norway", "Iceland","Denmark","Estonia", "Turkey", "Italy", "Finland"
df <- data.frame(positions$xypos, geo = energy3$geo)</pre>
points(df$x[ind], df$y[ind], cex=2, col="red", pch=19)
text(df$x[ind], df$y[ind], df$geo[ind], adj = c(0.5,-1), cex=1.5)
```



Maps

Disposable income of private households by NUTS 2 regions at 1:60mln resolution using tmap

The mapping examples below use tmap package.

```
library(dplyr)
library(eurostat)
library(tmap)
# Load example data set
data("tgs00026")
# Can be retrieved from the eurostat service with:
# tgs00026 <- get_eurostat("tgs00026", time_format = "raw")
# Data from Eurostat
sp_data <- tgs00026 %>%
  # subset to have only a single row per geo
  dplyr::filter(time == 2010, nchar(as.character(geo)) == 4) %>%
  # categorise
  dplyr::mutate(income = cut_to_classes(values, n = 5)) %>%
  # merge with geodata
  merge_eurostat_geodata(data = ., geocolumn = "geo", resolution = "60",
                         output_class = "spdf", all_regions = TRUE)
```

```
##
##
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##
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##
         <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/gisco/geodata/reference-data/administrative-units-statistica</pre>
##
         is used in any printed or electronic publication,
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##
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##
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##
         information regarding their licence agreements.
##
## Reading cache file /tmp/RtmppHZSYC/eurostat/spdf60.RData
## SpatialPolygonDataFrame at resolution 1: 60 read from cache file: /tmp/RtmppHZSYC/eurostat/spdf60.
```

```
Load example data (map)
```

```
data(Europe)
```

Construct the map

##

Interactive maps can be generated as well

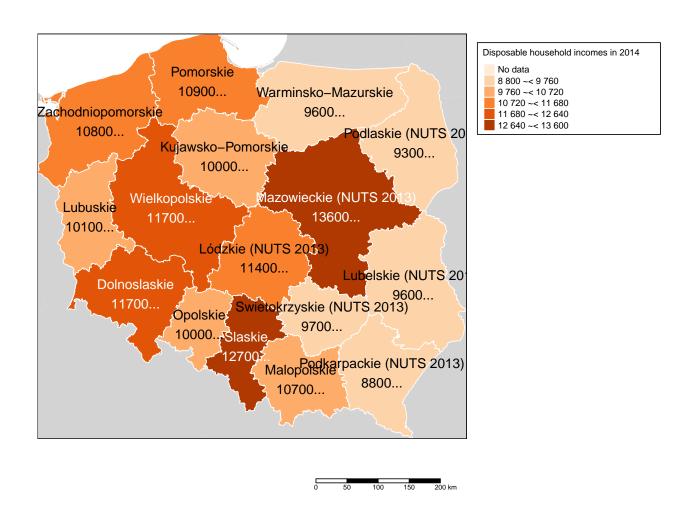
```
# Interactive
tmap_mode("view")
map1

# Set the mode back to normal plotting
tmap_mode("plot")
print(map1)
```

Disposable income of private households by NUTS 2 regions in Poland with labels at 1:1mln resolution using tmap

```
library(eurostat)
library(dplyr)
library(ggplot2)
library(RColorBrewer)
\# Downloading and manipulating the tabular data
sp_data <- tgs00026 %>%
  # subsetting to year 2014 and NUTS-3 level
  dplyr::filter(time == 2014, nchar(as.character(geo)) == 4, grepl("PL",geo)) %>%
  # label the single geo column
  mutate(label = paste0(label_eurostat(.)[["geo"]], "\n", values, "€"),
         income = cut_to_classes(values)) %>%
  # merge with geodata
  merge_eurostat_geodata(data=.,geocolumn="geo",resolution = "01", all_regions = FALSE, output_class="s
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##
## Reading cache file /tmp/RtmppHZSYC/eurostat/spdf01.RData
## SpatialPolygonDataFrame at resolution 1: 01 read from cache file: /tmp/RtmppHZSYC/eurostat/spdf01.
# plot map
map2 <- tm_shape(Europe) +</pre>
  tm_fill("lightgrey") +
  tm_shape(sp_data, is.master = TRUE) +
  tm_polygons("income", title = "Disposable household incomes in 2014",
              palette = "Oranges", border.col = "white") +
  tm_text("label", just = "center") +
  tm_scale_bar() +
  tm_format_Europe(legend.outside = TRUE, attr.outside = TRUE)
map2
```



Disposable income of private households by NUTS 2 regions at 1:60mln resolution using spplot

```
library(sp)
library(eurostat)
library(dplyr)
dat <- tgs00026 %>%
  # subsetting to year 2014 and NUTS-3 level
  dplyr::filter(time == 2014, nchar(as.character(geo)) == 4) %>%
  # classifying the values the variable
  dplyr::mutate(cat = cut_to_classes(values)) %>%
  # merge Eurostat data with geodata from Cisco
  merge_eurostat_geodata(data = .,geocolumn = "geo",resolution = "10",
                         output_class = "spdf", all_regions = FALSE)
##
##
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```

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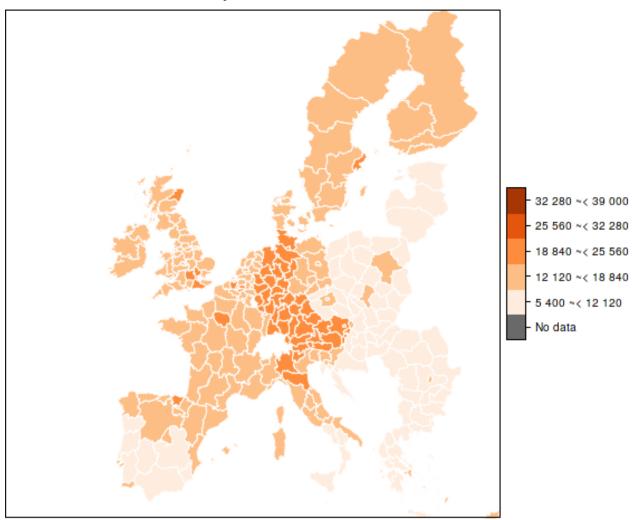
##

##

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/gisco/geodata/reference-data/administrative-units-statistica</pre>

```
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##
## Reading cache file /tmp/RtmppHZSYC/eurostat/spdf10.RData
## SpatialPolygonDataFrame at resolution 1: 10 read from cache file: /tmp/RtmppHZSYC/eurostat/spdf10.
# plot map
sp::spplot(obj = dat, "cat", main = "Disposable household income",
       xlim = c(-22,34), ylim = c(35,70),
           col.regions = c("dim grey", brewer.pal(n = 5, name = "Oranges")),
       col = "white", usePolypath = FALSE)
```





SDMX

Eurostat data is available also in the SDMX format. The eurostat R package does not provide custom tools for this but the generic rsdmx R package can be used to access data in that format when necessary:

```
library(rsdmx)

# Data set URL
url <- "http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/SDMX/diss-web/rest/data/cdh_e_fos/..PC.FOS1.BE/?startperiod=2005&ex

# Read the data from eurostat
d <- readSDMX(url)

# Convert to data frame and show the first entries
df <- as.data.frame(d)

kable(head(df))</pre>
```

Further examples

For further examples, see the package homepage.

Citations and related work

Citing the data sources

Eurostat data: cite Eurostat.

Administrative boundaries: cite EuroGeographics

Citing the eurostat R package

For main developers and contributors, see the package homepage.

This work can be freely used, modified and distributed under the BSD-2-clause (modified FreeBSD) license:

```
citation("eurostat")
```

```
## Kindly cite the eurostat R package as follows:
##
##
     (C) Leo Lahti, Janne Huovari, Markus Kainu, Przemyslaw Biecek.
     Retrieval and analysis of Eurostat open data with the eurostat
##
     package. R Journal 9(1):385-392, 2017. Version 3.1.6001 Package
##
##
     URL: http://ropengov.github.io/eurostat Manuscript URL:
     https://journal.r-project.org/archive/2017/RJ-2017-019/index.html
##
##
## A BibTeX entry for LaTeX users is
##
##
     @Misc{,
       title = {eurostat R package},
##
##
       author = {Leo Lahti and Janne Huovari and Markus Kainu and Przemyslaw Biecek},
##
       journal = {R Journal},
       volume = \{9\},
##
       number = \{1\},
##
       pages = \{385-392\},
##
##
       year = \{2017\},\
##
       url = {https://journal.r-project.org/archive/2017/RJ-2017-019/index.html},
       note = {Version 3.1.6001},
##
     }
##
```

Related work

This rOpenGov R package is based on the earlier CRAN packages statfi and smarterpoland.

The independent reurostat package develops related Eurostat tools but seems to be in an experimental stage at the time of writing this tutorial.

The more generic quandl, datamart, rsdmx, and pdfetch packages may provide access to some versions of eurostat data but these packages are more generic and hence, in contrast to the eurostat R package, lack tools that are specifically customized to facilitate eurostat analysis.

Contact

For contact information, see the package homepage.

Version info

This tutorial was created with

sessionInfo()

```
## R version 3.4.3 (2017-11-30)
## Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
## Running under: Ubuntu 17.10
## Matrix products: default
## BLAS: /home/lei/bin/R-3.4.3/lib/libRblas.so
## LAPACK: /home/lei/bin/R-3.4.3/lib/libRlapack.so
##
## locale:
##
  [1] LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8
                                   LC NUMERIC=C
    [3] LC_TIME=en_US.UTF-8
                                   LC_COLLATE=en_US.UTF-8
##
  [5] LC_MONETARY=en_US.UTF-8
                                   LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
  [7] LC PAPER=en US.UTF-8
                                   LC NAME=C
## [9] LC_ADDRESS=C
                                   LC_TELEPHONE=C
## [11] LC_MEASUREMENT=en_US.UTF-8 LC_IDENTIFICATION=C
##
## attached base packages:
                 graphics grDevices utils
## [1] stats
                                               datasets methods
                                                                    base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] sp_1.2-7
                           RColorBrewer_1.1-2 tmap_1.11-1
                                              ggplot2_2.2.1.9000
##
   [4] dplyr_0.7.4
                           plotrix_3.7
## [7] tidyr_0.8.0
                           bindrcpp_0.2
                                              rvest_0.3.2
## [10] xml2_1.2.0
                           eurostat_3.1.6001 rmarkdown_1.8
## [13] knitr_1.19
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] nlme 3.1-131
                           bitops 1.0-6
                                              sf 0.6-0
                           webshot_0.5.0.9000 gmodels_2.16.2
##
  [4] satellite_1.0.1
   [7] httr_1.3.1
                           rprojroot_1.3-2
                                              mapview_2.3.0
## [10] tools_3.4.3
                           backports_1.1.2
                                              rgdal_1.2-16
## [13] R6_2.2.2
                           KernSmooth_2.23-15 DBI_0.7
## [16] spData 0.2.7.0
                           rgeos_0.3-26
                                              lazyeval 0.2.1
                                              withr 2.1.1.9000
## [19] colorspace 1.3-2
                           raster_2.6-7
## [22] tidyselect_0.2.3
                           leaflet_1.1.0
                                              curl 3.1
## [25] compiler_3.4.3
                           Cairo_1.5-9
                                              expm_0.999-2
## [28] labeling_0.3
                                             rmapshaper_0.3.0
                           scales_0.5.0.9000
## [31] classInt_0.1-24
                           readr_1.1.1
                                              stringr_1.2.0
## [34] digest_0.6.15
                           R.utils_2.6.0
                                              base64enc_0.1-3
## [37] dichromat_2.0-0
                           pkgconfig_2.0.1
                                              htmltools_0.3.6
## [40] highr_0.6
                           jsonvalidate_1.0.0 htmlwidgets_1.0
## [43] rlang_0.1.6.9003
                                              bindr_0.1
                           shiny_1.0.5
## [46] jsonlite_1.5
                           crosstalk_1.0.0
                                              gtools_3.5.0
```

##	[49]	R.oo_1.21.0	spdep_0.7-4	RCurl_1.95-4.10
##	[52]	magrittr_1.5	geosphere_1.5-7	Matrix_1.2-12
##	[55]	Rcpp_0.12.15	munsell_0.4.3	R.methodsS3_1.7.1
##	[58]	stringi_1.1.6	yaml_2.1.16	MASS_7.3-48
##	[61]	tmaptools_1.2-3	plyr_1.8.4	grid_3.4.3
##	[64]	gdata_2.18.0	udunits2_0.13	deldir_0.1-14
##	[67]	lattice_0.20-35	splines_3.4.3	$hms_0.4.1$
##	[70]	pillar_1.1.0	boot_1.3-20	<pre>gdalUtils_2.0.1.7</pre>
##	[73]	<pre>geojsonlint_0.2.0</pre>	stats4_3.4.3	codetools_0.2-15
##	[76]	LearnBayes_2.15	osmar_1.1-7	XML_3.98-1.9
##	[79]	glue_1.2.0	evaluate_0.10.1	V8_1.5
##	[82]	png_0.1-7	httpuv_1.3.5	foreach_1.4.4
##	[85]	gtable_0.2.0	purrr_0.2.4	assertthat_0.2.0
##	[88]	mime_0.5	xtable_1.8-2	e1071_1.6-8
##	[91]	coda_0.19-1	<pre>viridisLite_0.3.0</pre>	class_7.3-14
##	[94]	tibble_1.4.2	iterators_1.0.9	$units_0.5-1$