PlotsJL

March 24, 2017

0.1 An Introduction to Plots.jl

0.2 Idea

Plots.jl is a non-traditional plotting library

- It does not implement a "plotting backend" itself, it's a plotting API
- The API is easily extendable via recipes

0.2.1 Documentation

The rapidly growing documentation is at https://juliaplots.github.io

0.3 Backends

Plots.jl uses other plotting libraries as backends

- PyPlot (matplotlib): Slow but dependable
- GR: Feature-rich and fast, but new
- Plotly/PlotlyJS: Interactive and good for web
- PGFPlots: Native LaTeX rendering
- UnicodePlots: Plots to unicode for no-display situations

0.4 Using Backends

To switch backends, you simply use the name of the library: https://juliaplots.github.io/backends/

0.5 Attributes

The attributes work with each of the backends: https://juliaplots.github.io/attributes/
Compatibility of attributes is found in this chart: https://juliaplots.github.io/supported/
I find it easiest to use this page to find the right attributes: https://juliaplots.github.io/examples/pyplot/

0.6 Some Example useage

Let's try this out. Most of those examples come from the examples section of the plots website, so check it out for more.

0.7 Subplots

- We often want to build subplots, ie multiple plots in one figure.
- Plots.jl has a convenient layout argument that you can specify.

```
In [11]: # we can also sequentially build plots and then stack them together
         ty = [:line :histogram :scatter :steppre :bar]
         p = Any[]
         for typ in ty
             push!(p,plot(rand(100),t=typ,title="$typ plot"))
         end
         plot(p...)
In [12]: # ... and we can also add to the subplots in the same way
         plot!(rand(100,5),t=:scatter)
In [13]: # 3D plots
         plotlyjs()
         n = 100
         ts = linspace(0,8,n)
         x = ts .* map(cos,ts)
         y = (0.1ts) .* map(sin,ts)
         z = 1:n
         plot(x,y,z,zcolor=reverse(z),m=(10,0.8,:blues,stroke(0)),leg=false,cbar=true,w=5)
         plot!(zeros(n),zeros(n),1:n,w=10)
In [18]: #ădataframes
         using RDatasets, StatPlots, Plots
         iris = dataset("datasets", "iris")
INFO: Recompiling stale cache file /Users/florian.oswald/.julia/lib/v0.5/LineSearches.ji for mod
Out[18]: 150@5 DataFrames.DataFrame
          Row SepalLength SepalWidth PetalLength PetalWidth
                                                                   Species
          1
               5.1
                            3.5
                                         1.4
                                                      0.2
                                                                   "setosa"
                                                                   "setosa"
          2
               4.9
                                         1.4
                                                       0.2
                            3.0
          3
               4.7
                            3.2
                                         1.3
                                                      0.2
                                                                   "setosa"
          4
               4.6
                            3.1
                                         1.5
                                                      0.2
                                                                   "setosa"
          5
               5.0
                            3.6
                                         1.4
                                                      0.2
                                                                   "setosa"
          6
               5.4
                                         1.7
                                                      0.4
                            3.9
                                                                   "setosa"
          7
               4.6
                            3.4
                                         1.4
                                                      0.3
                                                                   "setosa"
               5.0
                            3.4
                                         1.5
                                                      0.2
                                                                   "setosa"
          9
               4.4
                            2.9
                                         1.4
                                                      0.2
                                                                   "setosa"
          10
               4.9
                            3.1
                                         1.5
                                                       0.1
                                                                   "setosa"
               5.4
                            3.7
                                         1.5
                                                      0.2
                                                                   "setosa"
          11
          139 6.0
                            3.0
                                         4.8
                                                       1.8
                                                                   "virginica"
          140 6.9
                            3.1
                                         5.4
                                                       2.1
                                                                   "virginica"
          141 6.7
                                         5.6
                                                      2.4
                                                                   "virginica"
                            3.1
          142 6.9
                            3.1
                                         5.1
                                                      2.3
                                                                   "virginica"
          143 5.8
                            2.7
                                         5.1
                                                      1.9
                                                                   "virginica"
          144 6.8
                            3.2
                                         5.9
                                                      2.3
                                                                   "virginica"
          145 6.7
                            3.3
                                         5.7
                                                      2.5
                                                                   "virginica"
```

| 146 | 6.7 | 3.0 | 5.2 | 2.3 | "virginica" |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| 147 | 6.3 | 2.5 | 5.0 | 1.9 | "virginica" |
| 148 | 6.5 | 3.0 | 5.2 | 2.0 | "virginica" |
| 149 | 6.2 | 3.4 | 5.4 | 2.3 | "virginica" |
| 150 | 5.9 | 3.0 | 5.1 | 1.8 | "virginica" |

0.8 Animations

Any plot can be animated: see https://juliaplots.github.io

0.9 Recipes

Recipes are abstract instructions for how to "build a plot" from data. There are multiple kinds of recipes. In execution order:

- User Recipes: Provides dispatches to plotting
- Type Recipes: Says how to interpret the data of an abstract type
- Plot Recipes: A pre-processing recipe which builds a set of series plots and defaults
- Series Recipes: What most would think of as a "type of plot", i.e. scatter, histogram, etc.

Since these extend Plots.jl itself, all of Plots.jl is accessible from the plotting commands that these make, and these recipes are accessible from each other.

[Series recipes are used to extend the compatibility of backends itself!] Check out of the Plots Ecosystem!

0.10 Type Recipe Example

0.11 Plot and Type Recipes Together

StatsPlots provides a type recipe for how to read DataFrames, and a series recipe marginalhist which puts together histograms into a cohesive larger plot

0.12 Series Type

A series type allows you to define an entirely new way of visualizing data into backends.