

# Plotting FLR objects with ggplot2 and ggplotFL

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## Using ggplot2 with FLR objects

The ggplot2 <sup>1</sup> package provides a powerful alternative paradigm for creating simple and complex plots in R using the *Grammar of Graphics* <sup>2</sup>

To facilitate the use of ggplot2 methods in FLR, the ggplotFL package has been created. The main resources on offer in this package are overloaded versions of the ggplot() method that take directly certain FLR classes, a new set of basic plots for some FLR classes, based on ggplot2 instead of lattice, and some examples and documentation on how best make use of ggplot2's powerful paradigm and implementation to obtain high quality plots for even fairly complex data structures.

## The overloaded ggplot method

### FLQuant

```
ggplot(data = catch(ple4), aes(year, data)) + geom_point() +  
  geom_line()
```

### FLQuants

```
ggplot(data = FLQuants(Yield = catch(ple4), SSB = ssb(ple4),  
  F = fbar(ple4)), aes(year, data)) + geom_line() +  
  facet_wrap(~qname, scales = "free", nrow = 3)
```

### FLStock

### plot() for FLR classes

The ggplotFL package also provides new versions of the plot method for a number of FLR classes. Each S4 class defined in any FLR package should have a plot() method defined that provides a visual summary of the contents of the object.

<sup>1</sup> <http://ggplot2.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Wilkinson, L. 1999. *The Grammar of Graphics*, Springer. ISBN 0-387-98774-6.

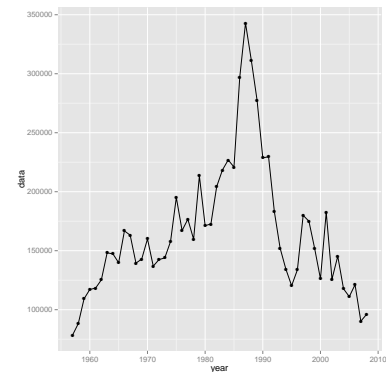


Figure 1: Combined line and point plot of a time series from an FLQuant object.

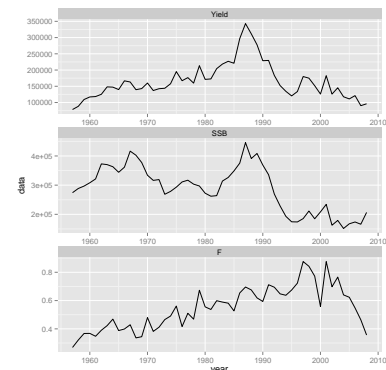


Figure 2: Facet wrap line plot of some time series from an FLQuants object.

*FLStock**Converting to data.frame*

The methods shown above simply depend on conversion of FLR objects into `data.frame`, which can then be passed to `ggplot()`. Calling `ggplot` on an FLR object takes care of this conversion behind the scenes, but to obtain certain plots, it is best to directly convert the FLR objects into a `data.frame`.

*Example: plot quantiles of a simulation*

To have full control over a plot of the median (or mean) and the confidence or probability intervals of a simulated or randomized time series, i.e. an `FLQuant` object with `iters`, we need to arrange the different values computed from the object in separate columns of a `data.frame`.

If we start with some random `FLQuant` object, such as

```
fla <- rlnorm(100, FLQuant(exp(cumsum(rnorm(25, 0,
  0.1)))), 0.1)
ggplot(fla, aes(factor(year), data)) + geom_boxplot() +
  xlab("")
```

we can first compute the necessary statistics on the object itself, as these operations are very efficient on an array. `quantile()` on an `FLQuant` will return the specified quantiles along the `iter` dimension. Let's extract the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th quantiles.

```
flq <- quantile(fla, c(0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9))
```

The object can now be coerced to a `data.frame`

```
fdf <- as.data.frame(flq)
```

and inspected to see how the 100 iters have been now turned into the five requested quantiles

```
head(fdf)
```

```
##   quant year  unit season  area iter  data
## 1   all    1 unique    all unique 10% 2.307
## 2   all    2 unique    all unique 10% 2.462
## 3   all    3 unique    all unique 10% 2.159
## 4   all    4 unique    all unique 10% 2.441
## 5   all    5 unique    all unique 10% 2.295
## 6   all    6 unique    all unique 10% 2.564
```

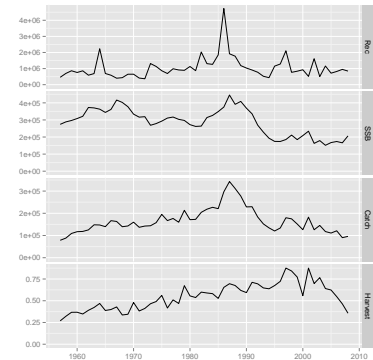


Figure 3: `ggplot2` version of the standard `plot()` for `FLStock`, as applied to `ple4`

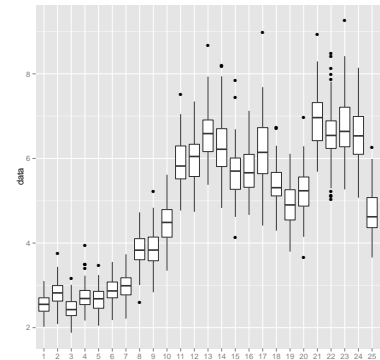


Figure 4: plot of chunk `exsim1`

The long format data.frame can be reshaped into a wide format one so that we can instruct ggplot to use the quantiles, now in separate columns, to provide limits for the shaded areas in geom\_ribbon. To do this we can use cast, as follows

```
fdw <- cast(fdf, quant + year + unit + season + area ~
  iter, value = "data")
```

This creates a wide data.frame in which the iter column is spread into five columns named as the levels of its conversion into factor

```
levels(fdf[, "iter"])
```

```
## [1] "10%" "25%" "50%" "75%" "90%"
```

We can now use those five quantile columns when plotting shaded areas using geom\_ribbon. Please note that the columns names returned by quantile() need to be quoted using backticks.

```
ggplot(data = fdw, aes(x = year, y = '50%')) + geom_line() +
  geom_ribbon(aes(x = year, ymin = '10%', ymax = '90%',
    fill = "red", alpha = 0.15) + geom_ribbon(aes(x = year,
    ymin = '25%', ymax = '75%'), fill = "red", alpha = 0.25) +
  ylab("data")
```

### Example: Using FLQuants

Coercion using as.data.frame, combined with the use of cast and melt (from the reshape package), provides the FLR user with most tools required to create a large range of ggplots out of any FLR object.

### Some extra examples

#### Simulation trajectories plot

#### More information

- The latest version of ggplotFL can always be installed using the devtools package, by calling

```
library(devtools)
install_github("ggplotFL", "flr")
```

- To learn about ggplot2, visit the ggplot2 website <sup>3</sup>, or read the ggplot2 book.<sup>4</sup>

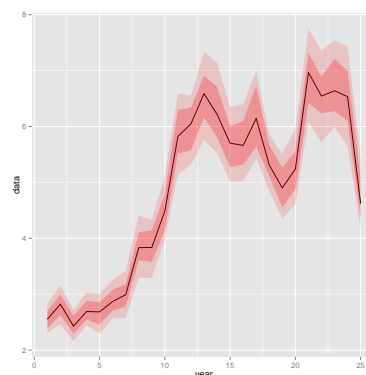


Figure 5: plot of chunk exsim7

<sup>3</sup> <http://ggplot2.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Wickham, H. 2009. *ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis*. Springer, Use R! Series. ISBN 978-0-387-98140-6

*Package versions*

- R: R version 3.0.1 (2013-05-16)
- ggplot2: 0.9.3.1
- ggplotFL: 2.15.20130807
- FLCore: 2.5.20130820