

kmaps

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Description

This note documents a code snippet that I use to produce maps like the ones on the next page. It might help people working on European country-level data, which is fairly common in comparative politics.

The code works with the companion dataset and shapefiles; see [README](#) for a description of both. It relies on ISO-2 alphabetical country codes to match them together.

I still need to write a full-fledged function to make the data and graphics completely flexible.

Use

You will need R, your data and a few ESRI shapefiles that can be read with the `maptools` package. The current version of the code also uses `ggplot2` to draw the maps with maximum gusto.

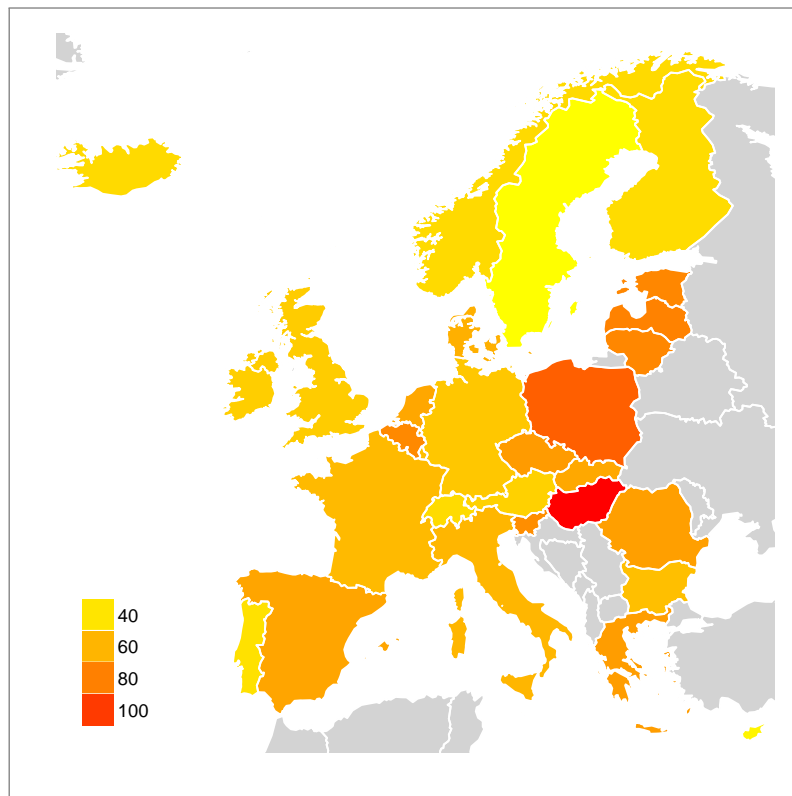
The most important chunk of code follows:

```
> # Match.  
> map@data$id <- rownames(map@data)           # coded by Hadley Wickham (thanks!)  
> map.points <- fortify(map, region = "id")    # fixed by Roger Peng (thanks!)  
> map.df <- join(map.points, map@data, by="id") # match map and rows  
> map.df <- join(map.df, eco, by="iso2")       # match map and data
```

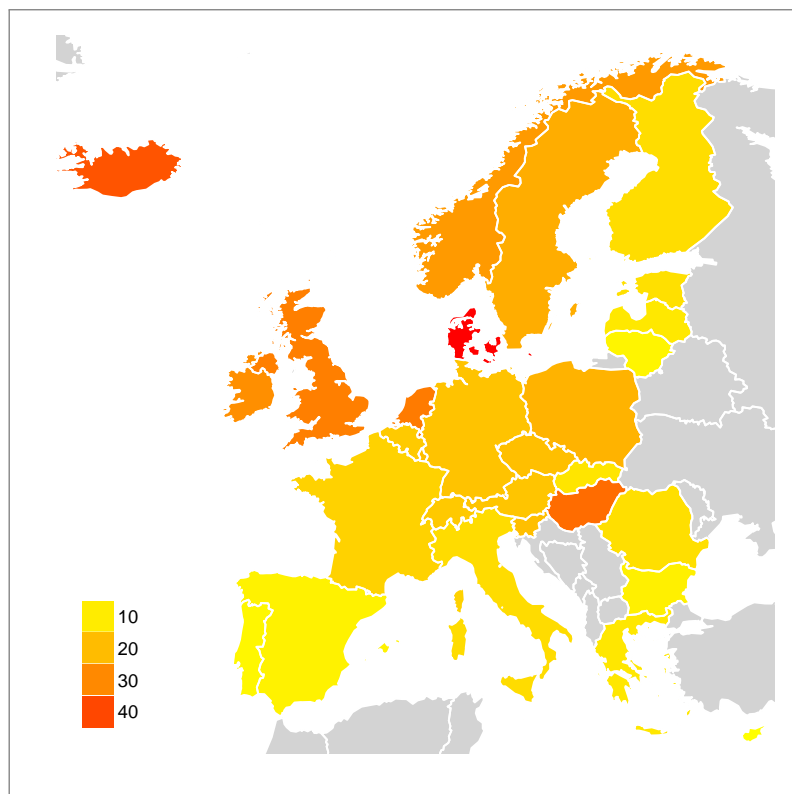
Coordinates

The map is tentatively centred on the European Union by passing Cartesian coordinates to `ggplot2`. I use a range of `[-24, 35]` for longitude and a range of `[34, 72]` for latitude.

The next page shows two examples.



(a) Males



(b) Females

Figure 1: Estimated lung cancer mortality in European countries, 2008. All rates are age-standardised to the European population. Data: European Cancer Observatory. Maps: GISCO – Eurostat, European Commission, 2006.

Credits

Thanks go to [Baptiste Coulmont](#) and [Roger Peng](#) for helping a lot with bugs, to [Joël Gombin](#) and [Éric Verdeil](#) for commenting on early drafts, and to [Osmo Salomaa](#) and [Hadley Wickham](#) for contributing some code fragments. Additional help was also available at all times from the Stack Exchange network.