Plastic Pollution in Oceans Group 2 Report - CMM507

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Objective

- To understand the composition of plastic pollutants in the ocean
- To understand the sources of plastic pollutants
- To understand how plastic pollution gets distributed across the oceans

1 Problem Statement

H1 = The % of plastic pollution remains constant over time.

H0 = The % of plastic pollution does not remain constant over time.

1.1 Overview

Marine pollution is a major global issue which impacts on environment, economy and human health. Although marine pollution is caused by many different materials, plastics consist of 60-80% of the marine litter ([1]; Reisser, 2015 Reisser 2013?, Barboza et al., 2019 Barboza 2020?).

Synthetic organic polymer derived from polymerisation of monomers extracted from oil and gas make up the plastics [1] [2]. The lightweight feature and its durability make it very suitable to make a range of products that we use in our everyday life (Barnes et al., 2009 not in bib; [3]). These same features have been a major cause of pollution due to overuse and non-managed waste disposal system worldwide with plastic contributing to the 10% of the waste generated worldwide (Barnes et al., 2009 not in bib). Due to its buoyancy, plastic debris can be dispersed over long distances and they can persist for a long time. Although, plastic litter has been a major cause of marine pollution for a while, its seriousness has only been realised recently. Jambeck et al., [4] reported that in 2010 alone, between 4.8 million to 12.7 million metric tons of plastics entered the ocean. Plastics are now everywhere in the marine environment and urgent action is required to mitigate this problem and reduce the harmful impact [2] [5].

1.2 Motivation

Impact on marine life Plastics in ocean is one of the many forms of human impact that threatens marine life. There is still very little information available on the impact of plastic pollution on the ocean's ecosystem. Due to the realisation on impact of human on climate and environment, there has been a lot of awareness

activities to reduce the impact of pollution. Ban on single use plastic bags are being applied to many countries in order to protect the environment.

Over 700 marine wildlife species are affected due to entanglement in plastic ropes and materials and ingestion of plastics in the ocean [6]. Over 340 species of marine animals were found to be entangled [7]. Reducing plastic waste is a major challenge worldwide. It is almost impossible to estimate the number of marine animals affected by marine pollution globally due to the vastness of the ocean. However, studies carried out on the gut contents of thousands of seabirds, found the significant increase in the ingestion of plastics during the 10-15 years interval [8]. This result might correlate to the rapid increase of plastic production and plastic use globally. In a study carried out over fourteen years, Moser and Lee [9] found that more 50% of the seabird species contained plastic particles in the gut which increased over time. This could be due the increase in plastic availability over time. Entanglement in plastic debris is another cause of marine life suffering. Discarded fishing gear and floating mastic masses in ocean are serious threat to marine animals. Some animals such as seals are attracted to the floating plastics where they get entangled and get suffocated. Harmful effect of litter on marine life has been reviewed extensively (Ryan, 2015 not in bib; [7] [6] [10]). Floating plastics over long distances can disperse alien species as well as some pathogens. Drifting plastic debris are also the source of alien species introduction and thus affecting the native marine biodiversity (Gregory, 2009not in bib [11]).

Impact on environment and human health Plastic debris floating in the oceans and the littering the coastal areas are not a pleasant sight. Masses of plastic accumulation and discarded objects made from plastics are found everywhere nowadays.

Over time plastic disintegrates into small microplastics which are easily consumed by fish and they enter the food chain. Plastics have been found in a third of fish caught in the UK which included the popular fishes such as cod, haddock and mackerel. Impact of plastic entering the human food chain and the effects of it are still to be studied. Plastic toxicity and the occurrence of microplastics and nanoplastics in the water supply can also be a direct impact on human health in addition to the contamination in seafood ([5]; Markic et al., 2019 Markic 2020?).

Reducing plastic pollution has recently been a global aim. Research in plastic pollution in marine environment has played a big role in reducing it and raising awareness all over the world. In order to understand the plastic pollution in marine environments and its effect in long term, it is essential to keep collecting data on patterns of marine debris around the world. Effective monitoring of plastic debris is very essential in order to reduce the abundance of plastic debris everywhere. In addition, monitoring the type, frequency and the source of the litter is also important for prevention initiative of marine pollution. Most of the monitoring are done by surveys looking at frequencies of beach litter collected by organisations and volunteers [12]. Most abundant litter can be found close to urban areas where beach visitor numbers are higher [13].

1.3 Objectives

The main objectives of this project can be outlined as follows:

2 Research

Things we found

Sources of pollution: 10 river dataset, 50km2 coastline dataset, pollution density and body of water dataset....

3 Methods

This paper is conducted using secondary data collection methods only. The authors did not collect or create any new data using primary methods.

3.1 Dataset Description

• The data was taken from *marine debris tracker* between 2010 till February 19th 2020. The time of 2010 was chosen as there was no data before that time.

- The dataset was composed by combining the multiple csv files gathered from the marine debris tracker into a single set after this was done the date data type was renamed "Time".
- The dataset created from the combined csv files contain more than 360000 rows of data and consists of the following variables.
 - ListID is the ID code for the list
 - ListName is the name of the list
 - ItemID is the ID code given to the item of debris
 - ItemName is the name we give to item of debris
 - LogID is the ID code given to the location of the debris
 - Latitude, Longitude and Altitude are the coordinates of the location where the observation was made
 - Quantity is the number of pieces of debris in the observation.
 - Error radius is the radius around the observation site within the error for reasonable doubt.
 - Location is the area the observation of debris was made in.
 - Description is the description of the area the debris was found in.
 - MaterialID is the ID code of the material that the debris was composed of.
 - Material Description is the description given to the material that composes the debris.
 - Time is the time that the observation was made.
 - There were a number of problems with the dataset namely;
 - * There were a number of cases of missing data in the dataset.
 - * data anomalies (lat/long values don't match named regions)

*

3.2 Dataset Pre-processing

Everything below is from Stuart's RNW file

```
library(tidyverse)
library(purrr)
library(magrittr)
library(treemap)
library(mapdata)
library(viridis)
library(lubridate)
library(lubridate)
library(imager)

data <- list.files(path = "data/debris/", full.names = TRUE) %>%
    lapply(FUN = read_csv, col_types = "ififiddddddcfcif") %>%
    reduce(rbind)
```

```
# Data wrangling
#replace the column for time as a date data type, renaming it "Time"
data$Time <- data$Timestamp %>%
   parse_datetime(format = "%Y%m%d%H%M%S")
data$Timestamp <- NULL

#MissingValues
data %>% select_if(function(x) any(is.na(x))) %>% colnames()
```

```
## [1] "Location" "Description"

#explicit missing value for the location factor
data$Location <- data$Location %>% fct_explicit_na()

#Remove redundant data
#Both "ListID" and "ListName" don't give us any information, so we will remove them both.
data <- data %>% select(-ListID,-ListName)
```

Unique values for each column:

##	ItemID	ItemName	LogID
##	55	55	363368
##	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
##	142707	136490	135214
##	Quantity	Error Radius	Location
##	496	18374	1458
##	Description	Material ID	Material Description
##	8494	8	8
##	Time		
##	248436		

Lets see if there are any "ItemNames" associated with more than one "Material Descriptions".

So rubber gloves are associated with two material descriptions, but otherwise a one to many relationship exists between "Material Description" and "ItemName".

```
data %>% select(`Material Description`, ItemName, Quantity) %>%
  filter(ItemName == "Rubber Gloves") %>%
  group_by(`Material Description`) %>%
  summarise(Quantity = sum(Quantity))
```

It seems that most rubber gloves are classified as plastic rather than rubber. I'm going to search for any extra descriptions given in the observations to try and gain some insight.

```
data %>% select(`Material Description`, ItemName, Description) %>%
    filter(ItemName == "Rubber Gloves", !is.na(Description))
```

All instances of rubber gloves with non-missing descriptions are categorised as plastic. We also see that the descriptions suggest that the categorisation may be innaccurate: the last two instances here have "Balloon" in the extra descriptions... why aren't they categorised as such?

3.3 Distribution of observed debris:

MaterialQuantities

```
data %>% select(Quantity,Description,`Material Description`) %>%
  group_by(`Material Description`) %>%
  summarise(Quantity = sum(Quantity)) %>%

ggplot(aes(x = reorder(`Material Description`, Quantity), y = Quantity)) +
  geom_col() +
  ylab("Total recorded quantity") +
  xlab("Material class") +
  coord_flip()
```

Figure 1: Material Quantities

So the most populated material class is Plastic. Note that this does not necessarily mean that plastic is the largest quantity of debris, just that the individual number of items categorised is largest. A tree map of material quantities:

Cigarettes are the most common item recorded. Perhaps some of the debris is not actually from the sea, but rather from people littering by the coastline? Does debris littered on the coastline end up in the oceans? We have locational data, so lets check for any geographical observation bias.

```
world <- map_data("world")
data %>%
  select(Latitude, Longitude, Quantity, Location, `Material Description`) %>%
  ggplot() +
    geom_polygon(data = map_data("world"), aes(x = long, y = lat, group = group), fill = "grey", alpha
    geom_hex(aes(x = Longitude, y = Latitude), bins = 50) +
    scale_fill_viridis(trans = "log", breaks = c(5, 50, 500, 5000, 50000)) +
    theme_void() +
    guides(fill=guide_legend(title="Observations"))

#ggsave("plots/map.png", width = 20, height = 10, units = "cm")
```

There seems to be a strong bias towards North America in our dataset. We will try a logarithmic plot to see things more clearly:

```
data %>%
  select(Latitude, Longitude, Quantity, Location, `Material Description`) %>%
  ggplot() +
    geom_polygon(data = map_data("world"), aes(x = long, y = lat, group = group), fill = "grey", alpha
    geom_hex(aes(x = Longitude, y = Latitude, fill = stat(log(count))), bins = 50) +
    scale_fill_viridis() +
    theme_void()
```

We need to know how reliable the location data is. I'm going to filter for "united kingdom" in the location field and plot the raw coordinates.

```
data %>%
  mutate(Location = str_to_lower(Location)) %>%
  filter(str_detect(Location, "united kingdom")) %>%
  select(Latitude, Longitude) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Latitude, y = Longitude)) +
    geom_point(position = "jitter")
```

We have a outliers here. Maybe a difference in standards used for Longitude and Latitude? Some systems put the Latitude origin close to the UK.

Questions Distribution of plastic by location. Are the distributions of plastic fairly constant for the locations with the most observations? Let's look:

```
topLocations <- data %>%
    group_by(Location) %>%
    summarise(sumQuantity = sum(Quantity)) %>%
    arrange(desc(sumQuantity)) %>%
    top_n(5,sumQuantity)

data %>%
    filter(Location %in% topLocations$Location) %>%
    group_by(Location, `Material Description`) %>%
    summarise(sumQuantity = sum(Quantity)) %>%
    arrange(desc(sumQuantity)) %>%
    gplot(aes(x = `Material Description`, y = sumQuantity, fill = Location)) +
        geom_col()
```

We see that the Location "unknown" has the most plastic... note that this is distinct from "(Missing)", which was our original NA values. Maybe we should merge these. Question: Are observed plastic item proportions time invariant?

```
filter(year > 2010) %>%
group_by(month, year, ItemName) %>%
summarise(`Total Quantity` = sum(Quantity)) %>%
ggplot(aes(x = month, y = `Total Quantity`, fill = ItemName)) +
    geom_col(colour = "black", size = 0.2, position = "fill") +
    facet_wrap(~year, nrow = 2) +
    scale_fill_hue(l=50, c=150) +
    xlab("Month") +
    ylab("Proportion of Items")
    #scale_fill_viridis_d(option = "magma")

ggsave("plots/pastic_debris_plot.png", width = 40, height = 20, units = "cm")
```

4th July and Firework link? (Karen's Idea)

```
data %>%
  mutate(year = year(Time)) %>%
  filter(year > 2010, year < 2020) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  summarise(quan = sum(Quantity)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = year, y = quan)) +
    geom_line() +
    geom_point() +
    scale_x_continuous(breaks = 2011:2019) +
    xlab("Year") +
    ylab("Quantity") +
```

Recategorisation

```
# all cigarette related waste: 1, 4, 6, 22
# Food related waste: 3, 2,7,9,10, 17, 23, 11
# Non food related waste: 8, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 20
# Plastic bags and Styrofoam packaging:12, 13
# Fragments: 5, 23, 24,25
recategorise <- function(x){
  out = ""
  if(x %in% c(1,4,6,22)){out = "Cigarette related waste"}
  if(x \%in\% c(2,3,7,9,10,17,23,11)) out = "Food related waste"
  if(x \%in\% c(8,14,15,16,18,19,21,20)) out = "Other"
  if(x %in% c(12,13)) out = "Plastic bags and Styrofoam packaging"
  if(x \%in\% c(5,23,24,25)) out = "Fragments"
  if(out == "") stop(paste("Error in recategorise:", x))
  return(out)
plastic_types <- data %>%
  filter(`Material Description` == "PLASTIC") %>%
  select(ItemName, ItemID) %>%
  distinct() %>%
  mutate(label = 1:n()) %>%
  mutate(category = purrr::map(label, recategorise)) %>%
  mutate(category = as_factor(as.character(category))) %>%
  select(ItemID, category)
plastic <- data %>%
 filter(`Material Description` == "PLASTIC") %>%
  full_join(plastic_types, by = "ItemID")
plastic %>%
  mutate(month = month(Time, label = FALSE),
         year = as.integer(year(Time))) %>%
  filter(year > 2010) %>%
  group_by(month, year, category) %>%
  summarise(`Total Quantity` = sum(Quantity)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = month, y = `Total Quantity`, fill = category)) +
    geom_col(colour = "black", size = 0.2, position = "fill") +
    facet_wrap(~year, nrow = 2) +
    scale fill viridis(discrete = TRUE, option = "plasma") +
    xlab("Month") +
    ylab("Proportion of Items") +
    ggtitle("Rel. frequencies of observed plastic waste by category") +
    scale_x_continuous(breaks = 1:12) +
    theme(panel.grid.major.x = element_blank(),
```

```
panel.grid.minor.x = element_blank()) +
guides(fill=guide_legend(title="Category"))

#ggsave("plots/pastic_debris_plot_recategorised.png", width = 40, height = 20, units = "cm")
```

After the issues with the dataset that were identified in the section above, it was decided that it would be best to transform the dataset in the following ways:

- reclassified some labels because variation was too high (there were too many labels)
- The values of the missing data were removed.
- It was decided that subsets that were not needed were removed while retaining the necessary subsets.

4 Exploration

Here we describe the things we found...

4.1 Proportion Trends

How pollutant proportions change over time.

Cigarette butts proportions and raw counts decrease over time: possibly less people smoking, or moving to vaping

General pollution count going down over time?

Old pollutants fall away (cigarette butts) but new ones are introduced

4.2 Event-Driven Pollution

Fireworks found in July and North-America only: possibly 4th July celebrations

4.3 Location-Driven Pollution

Rubber found in Indonesia only: possibly a recording bias.

Certain classes are found in certain regions only: not because they don't exist elsewhere but because of recording bias focus in those areas

4.4 Item Pairing

(e.g. are 6-pack beer rings observed at the same time as fireworks?)

5 Predictive Modelling

The authors of this report built a model to predict the proportion of plastics given Month and Location. This would give more accurate predictions as opposed to a simple linear model, given we know that event-driven pollution will determine different pollutants are different times.

5.1 Description of Model

Georgios' script

```
plasticN <- plastic %>%
  mutate(year = as.integer(year(Time))) %>%
  filter(year > 2010) %>%
  group_by(year, category) %>%
  summarise(`Total Quantity` = sum(Quantity))
  ####
library(dplyr)
df11N <- plasticN %>%
 filter(year == 2011) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
 mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
df12N <- plasticN %>%
 filter(year == 2012) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
df13N <- plasticN %>%
  filter(year == 2013) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
df14N <- plasticN %>%
 filter(year == 2014) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
df15N <- plasticN %>%
 filter(year == 2015) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
df16N <- plasticN %>%
 filter(year == 2016) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
df17N <- plasticN %>%
 filter(year == 2017) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
df18N <- plasticN %>%
 filter(year == 2018) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
 mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
```

```
df19N <- plasticN %>%
  filter(year == 2019) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  mutate(freq = `Total Quantity` / sum(`Total Quantity`))
dfTotN <- rbind(df11N, df12N, df13N, df14N, df15N, df16N, df17N, df18N, df19N)
# plot for observing the data
(time_plotfr2N <- ggplot(dfTotN, aes(x = year, y = freq, color=category, fill = category)) +</pre>
  geom_smooth(method="lm") +
  geom_point(size=3) +
 theme_bw() +
  xlab("Years") +
  ylab("freq") +
  ggtitle("portion of plastic") +
  expand_limits(y=0) +
  scale_y_continuous() +
  scale_x_continuous()+
  theme(legend.position="bottom")+
  theme(legend.text = element_text(size=5, face="bold")))
  ### MODELING with new categorisation
# create train and test set
n <- nrow(dfTotN) # Number of observations
ntrain <- round(n*0.75) # 75% for training set
set.seed(314)  # Set seed for reproducible results
tindex <- sample(n, ntrain) # Create a random index</pre>
train_dfTotN <- dfTotN[tindex,] # Create training set</pre>
test_dfTotN <- dfTotN[-tindex,]</pre>
# Pr(>/t/) is the p-value, defined as the probability of observing any value equal or larger than t if
# linear model on train set
print("train model")
set.seed(1234)
dfTot_train.modelN <- lm(freq ~ year, data = train_dfTotN)</pre>
summary(dfTot_train.modelN)
# plotting frequencies according to train data
ggplot(data = train_dfTotN, aes(x = year, y = freq)) +
geom_point() +
stat_smooth(method = "lm", col = "dodgerblue3") +
theme(panel.background = element_rect(fill = "white"),
axis.line.x=element_line(),
axis.line.y=element_line()) +
ggtitle("Linear Model Fitted to Data")
print("PREDICTION")
```

```
predN <- predict(dfTot_train.modelN, test_dfTotN)
summary(predN)

# make actuals_predicteds dataframe
actuals_preds <- data.frame(cbind(actuals=test_dfTotN$freq, predicteds=predN))
head(actuals_preds)
# A simple correlation between the actuals and predicted values can be used as a form of accuracy measu
correlation_accuracy <- cor(actuals_preds) # 5.31%
min_max_accuracy <- mean(apply(actuals_preds, 1, min) / apply(actuals_preds, 1, max))
# => 53.73%, min_max accuracy
mape <- mean(abs((actuals_preds$predicteds - actuals_preds$actuals))/actuals_preds$actuals)
# => 99.4%, mean absolute percentage deviation
# Intrestingly enough min_max accuracy and mostly mean absolute percentage deviation score quite well
# but still on a model that can not be trusted.
```

5.2 Model Evaluation

5.3 Model Results

Time does not impact plastic composition.

6 Discussion

7 Conclusion and Future Work

Our hypothesis stands/does not stand.

8 Project Management

8.1 Facilities

Group 2 communicated using a dedicated Slack Channel, Github repository and weekly 1 hour meetings before the wednesday lab. All project documents used and the final report can be accessed from the *Public Github Repository*

8.2 Project Progress

```
require(openxlsx);
require(readxl)
library(stringr); library(data.table)
library(XLConnect)
library(xtable)

# Sheets names
fileName <- 'data/meetings.xlsx'
sheets <- readxl::excel_sheets(fileName)
#length(sheets)
# Read 1st sheet (you shouldn't have more than one sheet for this task)
# read sheet into dataframe, and rbind
dfs <- readWorksheet(loadWorkbook("data/meetings.xlsx"), sheet=1)
dfs$Date <-as.character(dfs$Date)</pre>
```

8.3 Peer-assessment

```
require(openxlsx);
require(readxl)
library(stringr); library(data.table)
library(XLConnect)
library(xtable)
# Sheets names
fileName <- 'data/peers.xlsx'</pre>
sheets <- readxl::excel_sheets(fileName)</pre>
#length(sheets)
# Read 1st sheet (you shouldn't have more than one sheet for this task)
# read sheet into dataframe, and rbind
dfs <- readWorksheet(loadWorkbook("data/peers.xlsx"), sheet=1)</pre>
# convert fields into chars
dfs[, ] <- lapply(dfs[, ], as.character)</pre>
print(xtable(dfs,
                     caption = "Peer Assessment out of 100",
                     label = "tab:two",
                     table.placement = "",
                     # align changes subject to number of columns
                     align = "lllllll"),include.rownames=FALSE,
                     caption.placement = "top")
```

8.4 Section on figure referencing - keep for referencing

In this project iris was used, the dataset is made of 150 rows and four features.

Notice how we generate graphics within the sweave document. Check the following code, we will create a function that either finds x^2 or x^3 subject to parameters passed in the function.

An easy way to check that our function is desired the right calculation is to plot the results. The code below

An easy way to check that our function is doing the right calculation is to plot the results. The code below will generate a figure similar to Figure 2:

Figure 2: Simple Plot of $f(x) = x^3$ Function

8.5 Experiments

Now we can show how the function $f(x) = x^2$ looks like (Figure 3)

References

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