

Using posterdown to generate reproducible conference posters via RMarkdown > Knitr > Markdown > Pandoc > Latex > PDF workflow



Author One¹ Author Two²

¹Department of Poster Layouts, University of Markdown; ²Deparment of Another Institution, Institution University

Introduction

Welcome to posterdown! This is my attempt to provide a semi-smooth workflow for those who wish to take their RMarkdown skills to the conference world. Many creature comforts from RMarkdown are available in this package such as Markdown section notation, figure captioning, and even citations like this one [holden_identifying_2012] The rest of this example poster will show how you can insert typical conference poster features into your own document.

Study Site

Here is a map made to show the study site using ggplot2, ggspatial, and sf and you can even reference this with a hyperlink, this will take you to Figure ??. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, [middleton_geological_nodate] consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

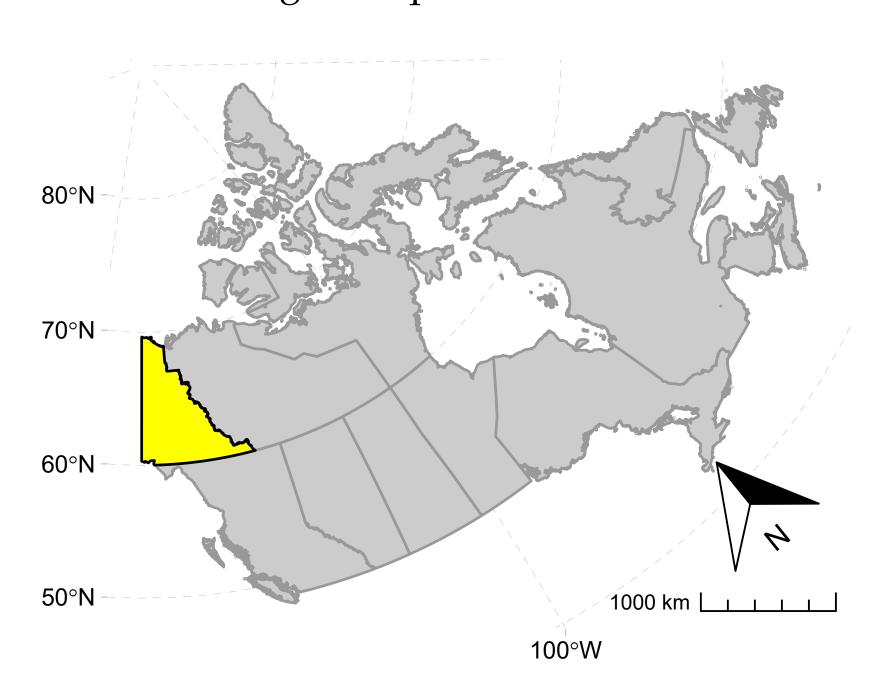


Figure 1: This is a map of Canada, the ggspatial package is great for GIS folks in R!

Objectives

- 1. Easy to use reproducible poster design.
- 2. Integration with RMarkdown.
- 3. Easy transition from posterdown to thesisdown or rticles

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Methods

This package uses the same workflow approach as the RMarkdown you know and love. Basically it goes from RMarkdown > Knitr > Markdown > Pandoc > Latex > PDF.

Results

Usually you want to have a nice table displaying some important results that you have calcualated. In posterdown this is as easy as using the kable table formatting you are probably use to as per typical RMarkdown formatting. I suggesting checking out the kableExtra package and its in depth documentation on customizing these tables found here.

Table 1: Tables are a breeze with Kable and Kable extra package!

Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width	Species
5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2	setosa
4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2	setosa
4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2	setosa
4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2	setosa

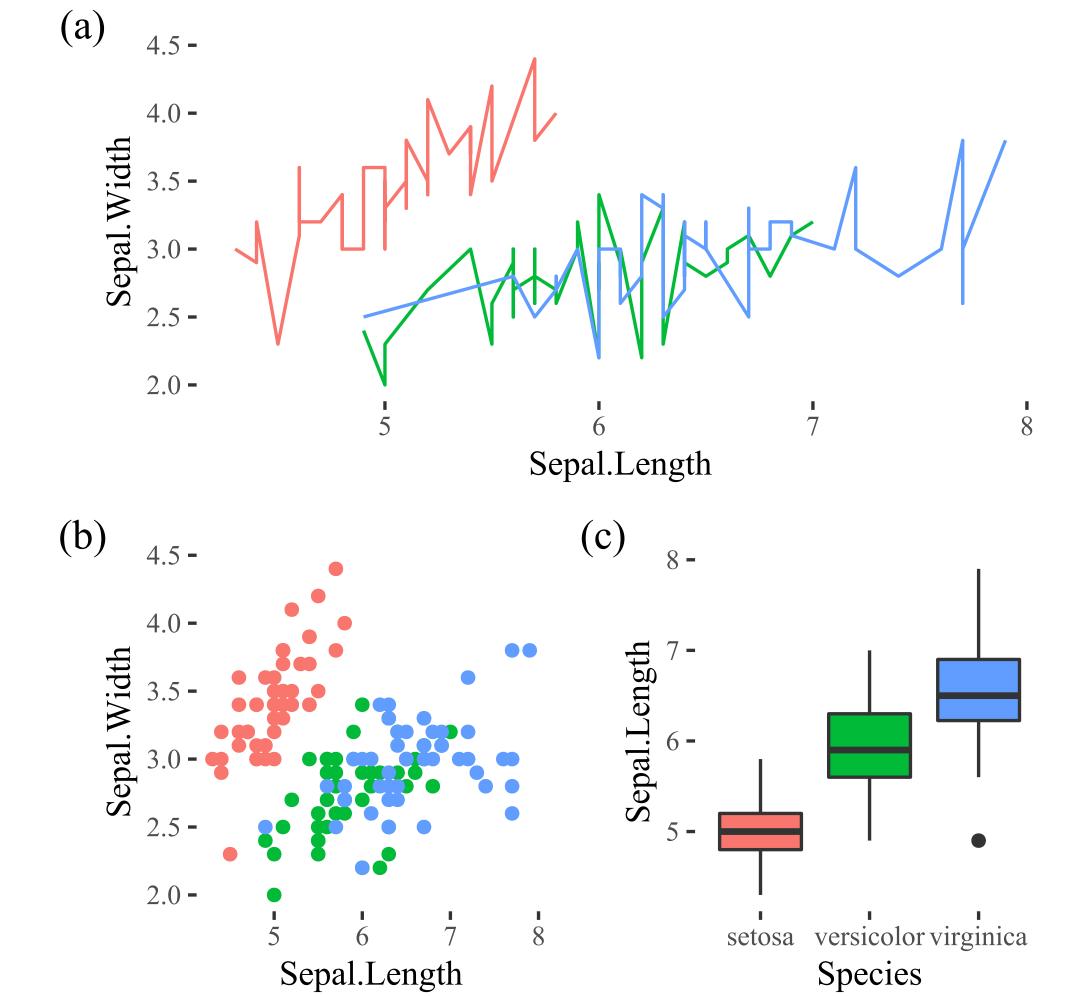


Figure 2: Using ggplot and patchwork to generate a layout of multiple plots in one figure. The iris dataset was used to generate (a) a line graph, (b) a scatterplot, and (c) a boxplot all together!

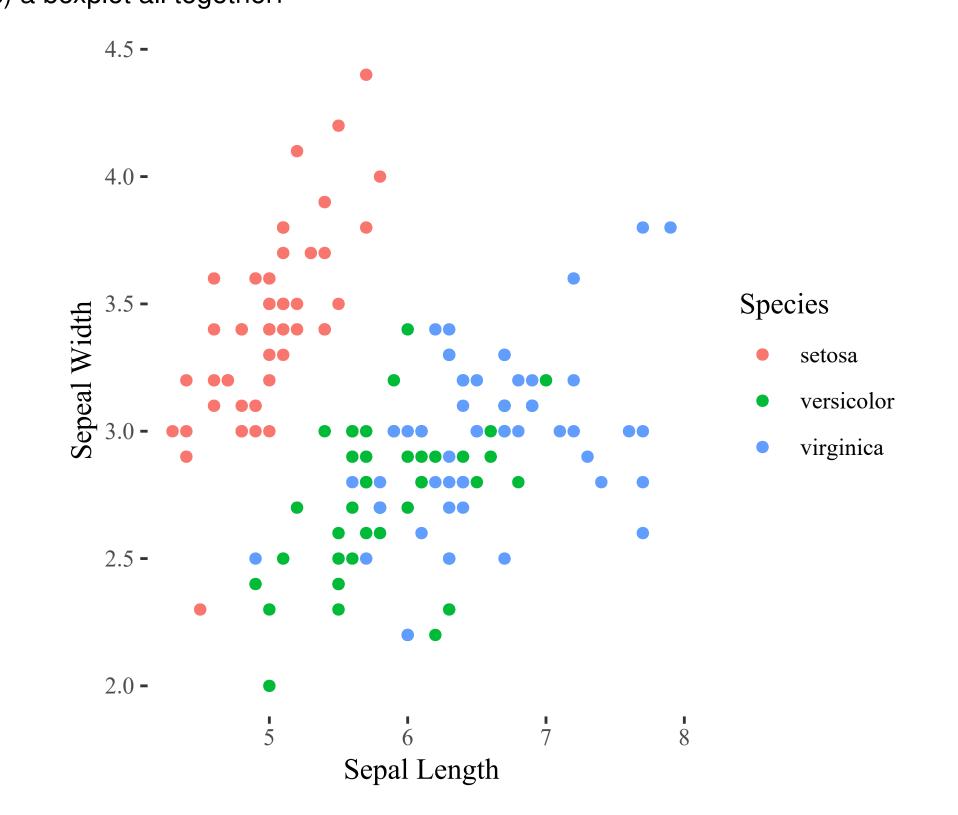


Figure 3: Another typical plot using ggplot, this time with a different theme and code chunk options for fig.width and fig.height.

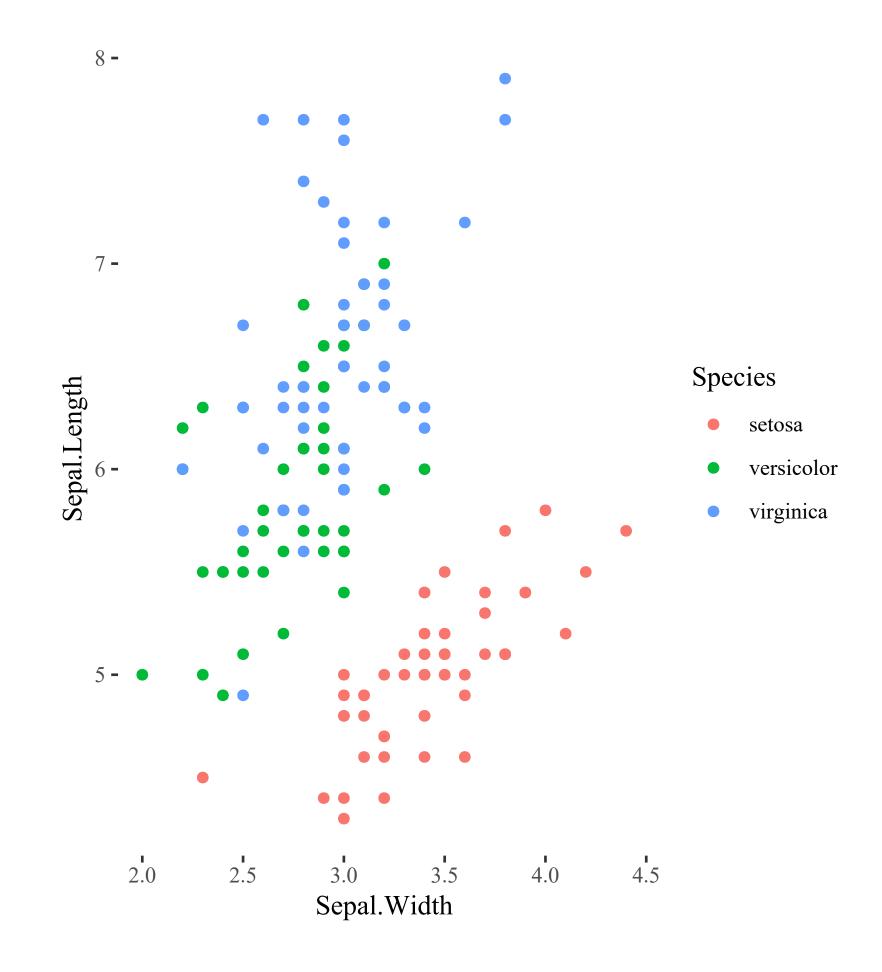


Figure 4: Another figure showing how base R plots might look on this poster!

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Next Steps

There is still **A LOT** of work to do on this package which include (but are note limited to):

- Better softcoding for front end user options in YAML
- Images in the title section for logo placement which is a common attribut to posters as far as I have come to know.

- Figure out compatiability with natbib which wasn't
- working during the initial set up.

 MUCH BETTER PACKAGE DOCUMENTATION.
- For example, there is nothing in the README...Include References section only if initiated by the user like in RMarkdown.