DATA VISUALIZATION WITH GGPLOT

Based on R-ecology lesson - Data Carpentry

Marco Chiapello, PhD

March 29, 2017

IMPORTANCE OF DATA VISUALIZATION

SUMMARY STATISTICS VS DATA VISUALIZATION Ascomb's quartet

Use the file example "scraping.R" in Resource directory

PLOTTING SYSTEMS

Base package

- Static canvas
- They can not be modified once they are plotted

Grid package

- Provide low-level graphic functions to construct complex plots
- Two fundamentals components:
 - ★ Create graphic outputs
 - ★ Layer and position outputs with veiwports

What is ggplot2

- ggplot2 is a plotting system for R, based on the grammar of graphics
 - It is a tool that enables us to concisely describe the components of a graphic [http://vita.had.co.nz/papers/layered-grammar.pdf]
- ggplot2 makes simple to create complex plots from data in a dataframe
- help creating publication quality plots with a minimal amount of settings and tweaking
- ggplot graphics are built step by step by adding new elements

To build a ggplot we need to:

• bind the plot to a specific data frame using the data argument

```
library(tidyverse)
surveys_complete <- read.csv("surveys_complete.csv")
ggplot(data = surveys_complete)</pre>
```

To build a ggplot we need to:

• bind the plot to a specific data frame using the data argument

```
library(tidyverse)
surveys_complete <- read.csv("surveys_complete.csv")
ggplot(data = surveys_complete)</pre>
```

• define aesthetics (aes), by selecting the variables to be plotted

```
ggplot(data = surveys_complete,
    aes(x = weight, y = hindfoot_length))
```

• add **geoms** – graphical representation of the data in the plot

```
ggplot(data = surveys_complete,
   aes(x = weight, y = hindfoot_length)) +
   geom_point()
```

• add geoms - graphical representation of the data in the plot

```
ggplot(data = surveys_complete,
   aes(x = weight, y = hindfoot_length)) +
  geom_point()
```

 The + in the ggplot2 package is particularly useful because it allows you to modify existing ggplot objects

 Set up plot "templates" and conveniently explore different types of plots

Building plots with ggplot is typically an **iterative process**

We start by:

defining the dataset

Building plots with ggplot is typically an iterative process

We start by:

- defining the dataset
- lay the axes

Building plots with ggplot is typically an iterative process

We start by:

- defining the dataset
- lay the axes
- choose a geom

We start **modifying this plot** to extract more information from it:

Add transparency to avoid overplotting

```
surveys_plot + geom_point(alpha = 0.1)
```

We start **modifying this plot** to extract more information from it:

• Add transparency to avoid overplotting

```
surveys_plot + geom_point(alpha = 0.1)
```

• We can also add colors for all the points

```
surveys_plot + geom_point(alpha = 0.1, color = "blue")
```

Building your plots iteratively

We start **modifying this plot** to extract more information from it:

• Add transparency to avoid overplotting

```
surveys_plot + geom_point(alpha = 0.1)
```

• We can also add colors for all the points

```
surveys_plot + geom_point(alpha = 0.1, color = "blue")
```

Color each species in the plot differently

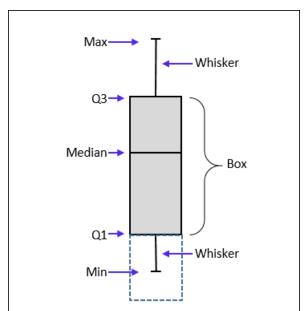
```
surveys_plot + geom_point(alpha = 0.1, aes(color = species_id))
```

CHALLANGE

- Plot a scatter plot with different colors for male and female
- Plot a scatter plot with different shapes for male and female
- Plot a scatter plot with different color and shapes for male and female
- Plot a scatter plot with point size 10

CHALLANGE

- Plot a scatter plot with different colors for male and female
- Plot a scatter plot with different shapes for male and female
- Plot a scatter plot with different color and shapes for male and female
- Plot a scatter plot with point size 10



Visualising the distribution of hindfoot_length within each species

 By adding points to boxplot, we can have a better idea of the number of measurements and of their distribution

 By adding points to boxplot, we can have a better idea of the number of measurements and of their distribution

- Boxplots are useful summaries, BUT hide the shape of the distribution.
- Notice how the boxplot layer is behind the jitter layer?
- What do you need to change in the code to put the boxplot in front of the points such that it's not hidden?

- An alternative to the boxplot is the violin plot, where the shape is drawn.
 - Replace the box plot we produced with a violin plot

- An alternative to the boxplot is the violin plot, where the shape is drawn.
 - ▶ Replace the box plot we produced with a violin plot

```
surveys_plot + geom_violin(alpha = 0)
```

- In many types of data, it is important to consider the scale of the observations
 - Create boxplot for species_id and weight and represent weight on the log10 scale; see scale_y_log10()

- In many types of data, it is important to consider the scale of the observations
 - Create boxplot for species_id and weight and represent weight on the log10 scale; see scale_y_log10()

- In many types of data, it is important to consider the scale of the observations
 - Create boxplot for species_id and weight and represent weight on the log10 scale; see scale_y_log10()

• Then add color to the datapoints on your boxplot according to the plot from which the sample was taken (plot_id)

- In many types of data, it is important to consider the scale of the observations
 - ► Create boxplot for species_id and weight and represent weight on the log10 scale; see scale_y_log10()

 Then add color to the datapoints on your boxplot according to the plot from which the sample was taken (plot_id)

```
ggplot(data = surveys_complete, aes(x = species_id, y = weight)) +
    geom_jitter(aes(color = as.factor(plot_id))) +
    geom_boxplot(alpha = 0) +
    scale_y_log10()
```

- Let's calculate **number of counts per year** for each species
 - ► To do that we need to **group data** first and count records within each group

- Let's calculate **number of counts per year** for each species
 - ► To do that we need to **group data** first and count records within each group

- Let's calculate **number of counts per year** for each species
 - ► To do that we need to **group data** first and count records within each group

 Timelapse data can be visualised as a line plot with years on x-axis and counts on y-axis

- Unfortunately this does not work, because we plot data for all the species together
 - We need to group the data by species_id

We will be able to distinguish species in the plot if we will add colors

- Create a new data set called month_counts [group by month and species_id]
- Plot time series
- Add points

- Create a new data set called month_counts [group by month and species_id]
- Plot time series
- Add points

FACETING

 ggplot has a special technique called faceting that allows to split one plot into multiple plots based on a factor included in the dataset

 Now we would like to also split line in each plot by sex of each individual measured

 Now we would like to also split line in each plot by sex of each individual measured

 Now we would like to also split line in each plot by sex of each individual measured

 Now we would like to also split line in each plot by sex of each individual measured

Add a double split

```
timeseries_plot + geom_line() + facet_wrap(species_id ~ sex)
```

- Take a look at the ggplot2 cheat sheet, and think of ways to improve the plot
- Usually plots with white background look more readable when printed.
 We can set the background to white using the function theme_bw()

```
timeseries_plot + geom_line() +
    theme_bw() +
    facet_wrap(~ species_id)
```

- Take a look at the ggplot2 cheat sheet, and think of ways to improve the plot
- Usually plots with white background look more readable when printed. We can set the background to white using the function theme_bw()

```
timeseries_plot + geom_line() +
    theme_bw() +
    facet_wrap(~ species_id)
```

Remove completely the grid

```
timeseries_plot + geom_line() +
    theme_bw() +
    theme(panel.grid.major.x = element_blank(),
        panel.grid.minor.x = element_blank(),
        panel.grid.major.y = element_blank(),
        panel.grid.minor.y = element_blank()) +
    facet_wrap(~ species_id)
```

Let's change names of axes to something more informative

Let's change names of axes to something more informative

```
timeseries_plot + geom_line() + facet_wrap(~ species_id) +
   labs(title = 'Observed species in time',
        x = 'Year of observation',
        y = 'Number of species') +
   theme_bw()
```

 The axes have more informative names, but their readability can be improved

 Let's change the orientation of the labels and adjust them vertically and horizontally so they don't overlap

 If you like the changes you created, you can save them as an object to easily apply them

 With all of this information in hand, please try to improve one of the plots we generated, creating a beautiful graph of your own

SAVE PLOT

 After creating your plot, you can save it to a file in your favourite format

```
my plot <- ggplot(data = yearly sex counts, aes(x = year, y = n,
                                      color = sex, group = sex)) +
    geom line() +
    facet wrap(~ species id) +
    labs(title = 'Observed species in time',
        x = 'Year of observation'.
        v = 'Number of species') +
    theme bw() +
    theme(axis.text.x = element_text(colour="grey20", size=12,
                                     angle=90, hjust=.5, vjust=.5),
          axis.text.y = element_text(colour="grey20", size=12),
          text=element_text(size=16, family="Arial"))
ggsave("name_of_file.png", my_plot, width=15, height=10)
```

- Download the data from [https://ndownloader.figshare.com/files/1797870]
- Play with the data an plot them as beautiful as you like