JCGS-19-044 5 August 2019

We thank the reviewers for their helpful feedback which has led to many improvements in the paper. The point by point description of changes are below: the reviewers' comments are in red and our response is in black.

Reviewer 1 comments

More mini examples embeded throughout the manuscript. Mainly it didn't showcase to me tsibble's capability well enough but understandably this may make the manuscript long and may be better left to vignettes.

TODO.

Finding a duplicate is a nice touch but I don't understand the significance of the Figure 5 mosaic plot in demonstration for the capability of tsibble. I understand that finding duplicate/wrong entry is made easier by tsibble but besides filtering those duplicate/wrong entries, the data wrangling for mosaic plot is easily done without tsibble. More specifically what is the significance tsibble::index_by below? Could the authors explain what is the benefit of explicit defining index at this stage as opposed to explicit specification at a later stage?

TODO.

In relation to the above point, perhaps it would be helpful to have a definition of tidy temporal data much like the three rules in tidy data (every row is an observation etc..). E.g. in tsibble the semantics index is a variable with some inherent ordering from past to present.

Thanks for this great suggestion. We've given a definition of 'tsibble' following the 'tidy data' principles in the beginning of Section 3.

I hold a similar sentiment regarding the calendar plot in Figure 12. It's a great plot but I don't necessary think this is a plot that show cased the benefit of tsibble.

TODO.

Figure 11 with missing data was a great demonstration for tsibble and the data times series pipeline shown in Figure 3. It may be helpful to reduce the opacity of the points as there is a lot of overplotting. The top line which lumps a number of customers together is not particularly informative here. Perhaps it is better replaced with a histogram.

TODO.

Authors may like to add/change spread/gather verbs to pivot_longer/pivot_wider with the recent move to deprecate the former in tidyr. Likewise authors may like to consider to replace 'long data' to 'longer data' and 'wide data' to 'wider data' as long/wide implies absolute terms. https://tidyr.tidyverse.org/dev/articles/pivot.html

TODO.

Manuscript does implicitly feel more time series data oriented rather than a general temporal data. E.g. references of time points as index seems inherent from other time series data infrastructure (i.e. zoo and xts) and the presented case studies is not representative of any longitudinal study. This does not mean it should be changed but index to me was not as intuitive to be the temporal variable.

TODO.

Figure 4 animation doesn't play so authors may like to ensure that the final publication works. Github version works.

The JCGS peer-reviewed version is watermarked, which prevents the animation playing.

Have the authors thought about how to deal with mixed time resolutions for index? E.g. some subjects have exact day recorded; some missing day but month & year recorded; some only date range recorded.

TODO.

The emphasis of the manuscripts is in R but do other languages also tend to define time index implicitly?

TODO.

Thanks for the careful reading. We have done with minor comments.

Reviewer 2 comments

P5L37 'Temporal data tools need to catch up.' This is a little casual. Could perhaps be rephrased as 'This paper and the associated **tsibble** R package extends the tidy way of thinking to temporal data.'

Done.

P7L44 'A variable number of time representations can be spotted in the wild.' This is a little casual, and I'm not fond of 'variable number'. Perhaps 'Many different representations of temporal data can be spotted in the wild.' (The 'spotted in the wild' is still a little informal – but I like it.)

Done.

P7L50 'This diversity and time zone...' suggest rephrase 'The tsibble's index column leverages the date-time data type in R to accommodate diverse temporal representations and associated time zone information.'

TODO.

P8L16 'The identifying variables from which the key" is constituted remain the same as in the original table with no further tweaks." It's not totally clear to me what is meant here. Is it saying that like with grouping columns (i.e. columns supplied to group_by()), key columns cannot be altered in subsequent analyses? It might be useful to make the comparison to group_by() explicit as it also allows multiple fields. The distinction between group_by() and key() is clear in that the collection of columns that constitute a key must uniquely identify observations (obviously this isn't the case for grouping variables).

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P8L55 'fit models that expect regular time series.' Should regular be added to the sentence.

Done.

P10L19 'Duplicates signal a data quality...'

Done.

P12-13 Consider referencing 'fable: and possibly'mable" too.

TODO.

P14-15 I had to read section 5.2 a few times before I understood it... I think what threw me was the last paragraph starts with a reference to purrr, but the functions described in the remainder of the paragraph describes functions in the tsibble package. Perhaps move the purrr sentence up to the previous paragraph when functional programming is first mentioned.

TODO.

P15L46 '... table verb achieves in collapsing a tsibble...' perhaps '... table verb collapse a tsibble...'

Done.

P15L53 'On the other hand, these tsibble verbs can incorporate many third-party vector functions to step out of the current tsibble zone' perhaps 'The extensible design of the tsibble package means that the table verbs can incorporate many third-party vector functions.'

Done.

Fig 5 y-axis doesn't need the overall label 'Delayed' or if it stays, should be renamed 'Status'. Similarly for the legend label.

TODO.

Fig 6 Consider replacing gather() with pivot_longer() which is intended to be easier to use particularly for more complex 'gathering' operations. https://tidyr.tidyverse.org/dev/articles/pivot.html

TODO.

Fig 7 y-axis label should be 'Proportion of flights delayed' or similar. Legend label 'Originating airport' (but legend can also be removed, because it is covered by the facet labels.

TODO.

Fig 9 y-label 'Departure delay (mins)'. X-axis could be converted to time... e.g. ggplot2::scale_x_time() Could introduce some alpha transparency to the geom_line(). Caption text currently states 'Passengers are apt to hold up around 18 during a day, and are recommended to travel early. The variations increase substantially as the upper tails.' Both sentences need to be reworded.

TODO.

P22L3 'might be joined' should it be 'can be joined' or perhaps a bit more detail, 'Aggregating the half-hourly electricity data to the same daily time interval as the temperature data allows us to join the two data tables to explore...'

TODO.

P22L27 Suggest a reference to Wang, E, D Cook & RJ Hyndman (2018) to explicitly acknowledge that the frame_calendar() function is part of a different package (sugrrants).

TODO.

P22L37 'degrees C' to 'degrees Celsius' or °C

Done.

Fig 12 remove legend label 'hot'

TODO.

P25L19 It's not 'A missing piece of the tsibble package' because later in the paragraph it says that custom calendars are easily embedded in the tsibble framework. I suggest rephrasing the first sentence in a more positive light... 'The tsibble package can easily be extended to accommodate user-defined calendars.' Suggest also referencing at least one package that provides a user-defined calendar (perhaps a market-specific business calendar).

TODO.

P26L54 there's an errant

Fixed.

P28L22 Journal of Statistical Software

Fixed.