R FOR DATA SCIENCE: QUICK GUIDE.

GENNARO TEDESCO[†]

[†]gennarotedesco@gmail.com

Without data you're just another person with an opinion

W. E. Deming

The following is a quick reference guide to some of the `R` packages used in data science. It is by no means to be intended as exhaustive and the reader is assumed to be already familiar with the language. Errors in text and formulae may occur: I am grateful to anybody who will point them out.

CONTENTS

In the following a quick guide to common features of some `R` packages is shown. It is by no means intended to be a guide to the language, rather an introductory primer to some libraries useful in data science for the ones who are already familiar with the language. And still, no claim of completeness is assumed.
As best practice, the reader is always addressed to the official documentation; moreover, given any `R` function, the line `?<function>` prompts the corresponding definitions and in-built help.

A full list of functions according to the package they are defined in is available here.[1]

Unless specified otherwise, minimal working examples are shown by making use of the sample datasets provided by `R`, in particular we will mainly refer to `data(iris)`, `data(mtcars)` and `data(morley)`. We will henceforth refer to a generic data frame as to `df`. Another set of data we will make use of is the following quark data set:

```
set.seed(1)
lab      <- sample (LETTERS[1:6], 100, replace = TRUE)
flavour  <- sample(c("up", "down", "charme", "strange",
                     "top", "bottom"), 100, replace = TRUE)
S_z      <- sample(c("1/2", "-1/2"), 100, replace = TRUE)
quarks   <- data.table(lab, flavour, S_z)

R: head(quarks, 5)

   lab flavour  S_z
1:   B strange  1/2
2:   C  charme  1/2
3:   D    down -1/2
4:   F  bottom  1/2
5:   B strange  1/2
```

1 http://www.rdocumentation.org/

Given a data frame, the functions of the family `apply` allow to perform vectorised operations on rows and columns thereof, without having the manually access each entry to loop through.

2.1 *apply*

The general wrapper for such operations is the `apply` function, where rows and columns can be accessed specifying the labels $(1, 2, \ldots)$ (and higher if any other multi-dimensional object is contained therein). It returns a vector (or a list) of values obtained by applying a function to the rows (columns, respectively) of a data frame, coerced to matrix first. The general syntax is `apply(df, margin, fun)`, with `margin` being $1, 2, \ldots$ and `function` being any function.

```
R: cars <- head(mtcars[,1:7],4)
R: cars
                   mpg cyl disp  hp drat    wt  qsec
Mazda RX4         21.0   6  160 110 3.90 2.620 16.46
Mazda RX4 Wag     21.0   6  160 110 3.90 2.875 17.02
Datsun 710        22.8   4  108  93 3.85 2.320 18.61
Hornet 4 Drive    21.4   6  258 110 3.08 3.215 19.44

# choose 1 for rows
R: apply(cars, 1, mean)

Mazda RX4  Mazda RX4 Wag      Datsun 710  Hornet 4 Drive
45.71143       45.82786        36.08286        60.16214

# choose 2 for columns
R: apply(cars, 2, mean)

    mpg      cyl     disp       hp     drat       wt     qsec
21.5500   5.5000 171.5000 105.7500   3.6825   2.7575  17.8825
```

In the simple cases of the function being the sum or the mean, specific operators exist as `colSums` and `colMeans`, and equivalently for rows:

```
R: colSums(cars)

   mpg    cyl   disp     hp   drat     wt   qsec
 86.20  22.00 686.00 423.00  14.73  11.03  71.53

R: rowMeans(cars)

Mazda RX4  Mazda RX4 Wag      Datsun 710  Hornet 4 Drive
45.71143       45.82786        36.08286        60.16214
```

2.2 *lapply and sapply*

`lapply` applies a function to each element of a list and returns a list back. Equivalently, `sapply` does the same job but returns a vector back instead. As a data frame can be seen as a list of columns, one can have

```
R: head(quarks)

   lab flavour  S_z
1:   B strange  1/2
2:   C  charme  1/2
3:   D    down -1/2
4:   F  bottom  1/2
5:   B strange  1/2
6:   F    down -1/2

R: lapply(quarks, mode)
$lab
[1] "C"

$flavour
[1] "strange"
```

```
$S_z
[1] "1/2"

R: sapply(quarks, mode)

lab    flavour        S_z
"C" "strange"      "1/2"
```

2.3 *Vectorised assignments*

Vectorised assignments in `R` commute with functions, namely the operator `c` is such that `c(f) = f(c)`.

```
f <- function(x) sin(x) - cos(2*x)

set.seed(1234)
x <- f(c(rnorm(5)))

set.seed(1234)
y <- c(f(rnorm(5)))

x == y

[1] TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE
```

Likewise, `ifelse` evaluates a given condition on each element of a vector, thus replacing an entire loop: the two examples below are indeed equivalent, the latter sparing memory and being faster

```
set.seed(1234)
x <- rnorm(5)

R: for(i in seq(1:length(x))){
      if(x[i] < 0){
        print("negative")
      } else {
        print("positive")
      }
    }

[1] "negative"
[1] "positive"
[1] "positive"
[1] "negative"
[1] "positive"


R: ifelse(x < 0, "negative", "positive")

[1] "negative" "positive" "positive" "negative" "positive"
```

The function `cumsum` returns the cumulative sums of values elementwise, easily replacing a loop through:

```
set.seed(1234)
x <- rnorm(5)

R: x
[1] -1.2070657  0.2774292  1.0844412 -2.3456977  0.4291247

R: cumsum(x)
[1] -1.2070657 -0.9296365  0.1548047 -2.1908930 -1.7617683
```

As a more general result, given a vector of values, the operator `Reduce` applies a function on pairs of values at a time, defined as

```
Reduce(f, x) = ...f(f(f(x[1],x[2]),x[3]),...)

set.seed(1234)
x <- rnorm(5)

R: x
[1] -1.2070657  0.2774292  1.0844412 -2.3456977  0.4291247

R: Reduce(max, x, accumulate = TRUE)
[1] -1.2070657  0.2774292  1.0844412  1.0844412  1.0844412
```

```
install.packages('data.table')
library('data.table')
```

A `data.table` is a `data.frame` plus additional features that allow to strongly simplify a large set of operations on data as subsetting according to constraints, grouping by specific categories, behaviours and functions as well as easy joins between them based on different common keys and values. As such, we recommend as best practice to always transform any set of data into such format first and then start performing anything, as they are the most memory efficient.

A `data.table` does not have row numbers because they are deprecated, as joins and subsets must occur on keys and common values insted. As such, one assigns:

```
iris <- data.table(iris)
R: key(iris)
NULL

R: setkey(iris, Species)
R: key(iris)
[1] "Species"

R: dim(iris)
[1] 150   5
```

Multiple keys can be set and the data table will be sorted accordingly (also refer here[2]). For instance:

```
R: setkey(iris, Species, Sepal.Length)

    Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width   Species
 1:          4.3         3.0          1.1         0.1    setosa
 2:          4.4         2.9          1.4         0.2    setosa
 3:          4.4         3.0          1.3         0.2    setosa
 4:          4.4         3.2          1.3         0.2    setosa
 5:          4.5         2.3          1.3         0.3    setosa
```

If we want the opposite (descending) order

```
R: setorder(iris, Species, -Sepal.Length)

    Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width   Species
 1:          5.8         4.0          1.2         0.2    setosa
 2:          5.7         4.4          1.5         0.4    setosa
 3:          5.7         3.8          1.7         0.3    setosa
 4:          5.5         4.2          1.4         0.2    setosa
 5:          5.5         3.5          1.3         0.2    setosa
```

Also note:

```
R: names(iris)
[1] "Sepal.Length" "Sepal.Width"  "Petal.Length"
       "Petal.Width"  "Species"

R: setnames(iris, c("Sepal.Length","Sepal.Width"),
                  c("sep_length", "sep_width"))
R: names(iris)
[1] "sep_length"   "sep_width"    "Petal.Length"
                "Petal.Width"  "Species"
```

3.1 *Subsetting a data table upon constraints*

The general syntax form for a data table is `dt[i,j, by = k]`, meaning to subset the rows using `i`, then apply `j` as a function grouped by `k`. The syntax is totally equivalent to the standard `SQL`, with `i,j` replacing `where` and `select` clauses, respectively. Any formal expression or function can be used as `j`.

2 http://stackoverflow.com/a/20057411/5017267

Columns in a data table can be accessed by name or by position reference: the two methods below are indeed equivalent in the result (notice `with = FALSE` in the latter)

```
R: iris[, .(Species, Petal.Width, Petal.Length)]
R: iris[, c(5,4,3), with = FALSE]

       Species Petal.Width Petal.Length
  1:    setosa         0.2          1.4
  2:    setosa         0.2          1.4
  3:    setosa         0.2          1.3
  4:    setosa         0.2          1.5
  5:    setosa         0.2          1.4
```

Equivalently, new columns can be defined and added with

```
R: iris[, .(new_value = Sepal.Length/Sepal.Width, Species)]

     new_value   Species
  1:  1.457143    setosa
  2:  1.633333    setosa
  3:  1.468750    setosa
  4:  1.483871    setosa
  5:  1.388889    setosa
```

and can be deleted as `iris[, c('Petal.Width','Petal.Length') := NULL]`.

Rows can be subset according to constraints:

```
subset(iris,
       Species == 'virginica'
       & (Petal.Width > 2.3 | Sepal.Width < 3))

subset(iris,
       Species %in% c('virginica','setosa'))
```

The `not in` operator in `R` is obtained by negating the variable instead of negating the set it belongs to, i. e. `subset(iris, !Species %in% c('virginica','setosa'))` gives the subset of variable whose Species are neither *virginica* nor *setosa*. The above are equivalent to directly impose the subset on the rows as

```
R: iris[Species == 'virginica']
R: iris[Species %in% c('virginica','setosa')]
R: iris[!Species %in% c('virginica','setosa')]
```

The `.I` operator shows the row number in correspondence of a matching constraint, should we want the data to be grouped by some other variables. For example

```
R: iris[, .I[Petal.Length = max(Petal.Length)],
               by = Species]

      Species  V1
1:     setosa   1
2: versicolor  55
3:  virginica 106
```

The variable `V1` contains the actual row number at the match, which in turnI can be plugged in the data table again, by reference, to have back the entire rows in correspondece thereof

```
R: iris[iris[, .I[Petal.Length = max(Petal.Length)],
               by = Species]$V1]

   Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width    Species
1:          5.1         3.5          1.4         0.2     setosa
2:          6.5         2.8          4.6         1.5 versicolor
3:          7.6         3.0          6.6         2.1  virginica
```

Simple frequencies counts per group can be obtained via the `.N` operator.

```
R: iris[, .N ,by = Species]

      Species  N
1:     setosa 50
2: versicolor 50
3:  virginica 50
```

The `.SD` operator creates a data table whose values are the original values except the variables grouped by. Such new data table can be accessed on the fly to perform operations upon:

```
R: iris[, lapply(.SD, sd), by = Species]

      Species Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width
1:     setosa    0.3524897   0.3790644    0.1736640   0.1053856
2: versicolor    0.5161711   0.3137983    0.4699110   0.1977527
3:  virginica    0.6358796   0.3224966    0.5518947   0.2746501
```

The `[` operator can be used in sequence to allow partial groupings as in the example below:

```
# simple use would be:
groups <- quarks[,
                 .N,
                 keyby = c("flavour", "lab")
                 ]

R: head(groups)

   flavour lab N
1:  bottom   B 3
2:  bottom   C 3
3:  bottom   D 2
4:  bottom   E 4
5:  bottom   F 6
6:  charme   A 1

# we can normalise each count N to
# the overall number of counts per
# flavour, piping the [
groups <- quarks[,
                 .N,
                 keyby = c("flavour", "lab")
                 ][,
                   c("flavour_sum", "lab_freq") :=
                       list(sum(N), N/sum(N)),
                   by = "flavour"
                   ]

R: head(groups)

   flavour lab N flavour_sum   lab_freq
1:  bottom   B 3          18 0.16666667
2:  bottom   C 3          18 0.16666667
3:  bottom   D 2          18 0.11111111
4:  bottom   E 4          18 0.22222222
5:  bottom   F 6          18 0.33333333
6:  charme   A 1          17 0.05882353
```

3.2 *Random and unique rows*

In order to show the power of random and distinct sampling we will make use of the `quarks` data table as defined in (1). Random samples are easily obtained:

```
R: set.seed(1)
R: quarks[sample(.N,10)]

    lab flavour  S_z
 1:   A strange  1/2
 2:   E strange -1/2
 3:   B strange  1/2
 4:   B  bottom  1/2
```

```
 5:    E strange  1/2
 6:    B    down  1/2
 7:    C      up  1/2
 8:    B  bottom  1/2
 9:    D      up  1/2
10:    F    down -1/2
```

The function `unique(dt, by = c(first, second))` allows to fetch the *first occurrence* of unique row according to the variables "first, second".

```
R: unique(quarks, by = c("flavour"))

   lab flavour S_z
1:   A strange 1/2
2:   B  bottom 1/2
3:   B    down 1/2
4:   C      up 1/2

R: unique(quarks, by = c("flavour", "S_z"))

   lab flavour  S_z
1:   A strange  1/2
2:   E strange -1/2
3:   B  bottom  1/2
4:   B    down  1/2
5:   C      up  1/2
6:   F    down -1/2
```

3.3 *Grouping by*

Variables can by grouped by according to the following grammar:

```
R: iris[,.(width = mean(Petal.Width), dev = sd(Petal.Width), .N),
        by = Species]

      Species  mean       dev  N
1:     setosa 0.246 0.1053856 50
2: versicolor 1.326 0.1977527 50
3:  virginica 2.026 0.2746501 50


R: quarks[,.(observations = .N),
        keyby = c("lab", "flavour")]

    lab flavour observations
 1:   A  charme            1
 2:   A    down            3
 3:   A strange            5
 4:   A     top            2
 5:   B  bottom            3
 6:   B  charme            3
```

3.4 *Joining data tables*

Inner joins

Given two data tables having at least one common variable, the syntax `merge(first, second, by = c('var1', 'var2'))` performs inner join based on the variables "var1, var2". In the following example different laboratories perform measures of the spin projections of different quarks. We want to find what each lab has measured when the same quark has appeared:

```
set.seed(10)
first <- quarks[sample(.N, 10)]

set.seed(20)
second <- quarks[sample(.N, 10)]

       first         |       second
-------------------------------------------
   lab flavour  S_z | lab flavour  S_z
```

```
1:   D  bottom  1/2 |   C    down  1/2
2:   E  charme -1/2 |   F strange  1/2
3:   C strange -1/2 |   F strange -1/2
4:   C strange  1/2 |   A     top  1/2
5:   D strange -1/2 |   D      up -1/2
6:    ...........   |   ..............

R: merge(first, second, by = c("lab", "flavour"))

   lab flavour S_z.x S_z.y
1:   B strange   1/2  -1/2
2:   C strange  -1/2   1/2
3:   C strange   1/2   1/2
4:   C strange   1/2   1/2
5:   D  bottom   1/2   1/2
6:   F  bottom   1/2   1/2
```

The above can equivalently obtained with the syntax `first[second, nomatch=0]` once we set the variables we want to join on as keys. In fact

```
R: setkey(first, lab, flavour)
R: setkey(second, lab, flavour)
R: first[second, nomatch = 0]

   lab flavour  S_z i.S_z
1:   B strange  1/2  -1/2
2:   C strange -1/2   1/2
3:   C strange  1/2   1/2
4:   C strange  1/2   1/2
5:   D  bottom  1/2   1/2
6:   F  bottom  1/2   1/2
```

gives the same results, as also `second[first, nomatch=0]`. The condition `nomatch=0` ensure the inner join as all the non-matching rows get discarded.

Left joins

The two equivalent give the same results:

```
# notice all.x = TRUE
R: merge(first, second, by = c("lab", "flavour"),
         all.x = TRUE)[order(flavour)]

# notice nomatch = 0 has been taken off
R: second[first]

    lab flavour  S_z i.S_z
 1:   D  bottom  1/2   1/2
 2:   F  bottom  1/2   1/2
 3:   B  charme   NA   1/2
 4:   C  charme   NA  -1/2
 5:   E  charme   NA  -1/2
 6:   B strange -1/2   1/2
 7:   C strange  1/2  -1/2
 8:   C strange  1/2   1/2
 9:   C strange  1/2   1/2
10:   D strange   NA  -1/2
```

The advantage of the latter is that ordering is automatically performed on keys.

Full joins

Full joins are given by `merge(first, second, by = c("flavour", "S_z"), all = TRUE)`

Cartesian products

In order to perform cartesian products we refer to the non-in-built function shown in (A) `cross.join(first, second)`.

```
install.packages('dplyr')
library('dplyr')
```

`dplyr` allows pretty much the same operations as `data.table`, only with a different grammar. We will exploit its features showing the equivalent `data.table` syntax for comparison.

4.1 *Subsetting a data set upon constraints*

Data sets can be ordered by columns values as follows:

```
                dplyr
R: arrange(iris , Species , desc(Sepal.Length))

                data.table
R: setorder(iris , Species , -Sepal.Length)

   Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
1           5.8         4.0          1.2         0.2  setosa
2           5.7         4.4          1.5         0.4  setosa
3           5.7         3.8          1.7         0.3  setosa
4           5.5         4.2          1.4         0.2  setosa
5           5.5         3.5          1.3         0.2  setosa
```

Columns in a data set can be accessed by name or position reference:

```
                dplyr
R: select(iris , Species , Petal.Width, Petal.Length)
R: select(iris , c(5,4,3))

                data.table
R: iris[, .(Species , Petal.Width, Petal.Length)]
R: iris[, c(5,4,3), with = FALSE]

   Species Petal.Width Petal.Length
1  setosa         0.2          1.4
2  setosa         0.2          1.4
3  setosa         0.2          1.3
4  setosa         0.2          1.5
5  setosa         0.2          1.4
```

New columns can be defined and added as

```
                dplyr
R: mutate(iris , new_value = Sepal.Length/Sepal.Width)
R: select(iris , new_values, Species)

# to only keep the new variables use
R: transmute(iris , new_value = Sepal.Length/Sepal.Width, Species)

                data.table
R: iris[, .(new_value = Sepal.Length/Sepal.Width, Species)]

     new_value   Species
  1:  1.457143    setosa
  2:  1.633333    setosa
  3:  1.468750    setosa
  4:  1.483871    setosa
  5:  1.388889    setosa
```

and can be deleted as `select(iris, -Petal.Width, -Petal.Length)`.

Rows can be subset according to constraints

```
                dplyr
R: filter(iris ,
       Species == 'virginica'
       & (Petal.Width > 2.3 | Sepal.Width <3))

R: filter(iris ,
          !Species %in% c("virginica", "setosa"))
```

```
                data.table
R: subset(iris,
       Species == 'virginica'
      & (Petal.Width > 2.3 | Sepal.Width < 3))

R: subset(iris,
         !Species %in% c("virginica", "setosa"))
```

The rows in correspondence of a match can be extracted with

```
                dplyr
R: iris %>%
     group_by(Species) %>%
       filter(Petal.Length == max(Petal.Length))

                data.table
R: iris[
       iris[,
            .I[Petal.Length = max(Petal.Length)],
            by = Species]$V1
      ]

   Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width    Species
1:          5.1         3.5          1.4         0.2     setosa
2:          6.5         2.8          4.6         1.5 versicolor
3:          7.6         3.0          6.6         2.1  virginica
```

Simple frequencies counts per group can be obtained via the `count` function

```
                dplyr
R: iris %>%
     count(Species)

                data.table
R: iris[,
        .N,
        by = Species
        ]

     Species  n
1     setosa 50
2 versicolor 50
3  virginica 50
```

The equivalent of `lapply(.SD, fun)` is:

```
                dplyr
R: iris %>%
     group_by(Species) %>%
       summarise_each(funs(sd))

                data.table
R: iris[,
        lapply(.SD, sd),
        by = Species
        ]

     Species Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width
1     setosa    0.3524897   0.3790644    0.1736640   0.1053856
2 versicolor    0.5161711   0.3137983    0.4699110   0.1977527
3  virginica    0.6358796   0.3224966    0.5518947   0.2746501
```

4.2 *Random and unique rows*

Random rows can be easily subset with

```
                dplyr
R: set.seed(1)
R: sample_n(quarks, 10)

                data.table
R: set.seed(1)
R: quarks[sample(.N,10)]
```

and unique values can be fetched on constraints as

```
                dplyr
R: quarks %>%
     distinct(flavour, S_z)

                data.table
R: unique(quarks, by = c("flavour", "S_z"))
```

4.3 *Grouping by*

Variables can by grouped by according to the following grammar:

```
                dplyr
R: iris %>%
    group_by(Species) %>%
        summarise(mean = mean(Petal.Width), dev = sd(Petal.Width))

R: iris[,
        .(mean = mean(Petal.Width), dev = sd(Petal.Width)),
        by = Species
        ]

      Species  mean       dev
1:     setosa 0.246 0.1053856
2: versicolor 1.326 0.1977527
3:  virginica 2.026 0.2746501
```

4.4 *Joining data sets*

Joins in `dplyr` can be performed using straightforward although verbose syntax, as shown in the following.

Inner joins

Given two data sets with at least one common variable, inner joins are performed using the following expression:

```
set.seed(10)
first <- sample_n(quarks,10)

set.seed(20)
second<- sample_n(quarks,10)

R: inner_join(first, second, by = c("lab", "flavour"))

  lab flavour S_z.x S_z.y
1   B strange   1/2  -1/2
2   C strange  -1/2   1/2
3   C strange   1/2   1/2
4   C strange   1/2   1/2
5   D  bottom   1/2   1/2
6   F  bottom   1/2   1/2
```

Left joins

Equivalently for left joins

```
R: left_join(first, second, by = c("lab", "flavour"))

   lab flavour S_z.x S_z.y
1    B  charme   1/2    NA
2    B strange   1/2  -1/2
3    C  charme  -1/2    NA
4    C strange  -1/2   1/2
5    C strange   1/2   1/2
6    C strange   1/2   1/2
7    D  bottom   1/2   1/2
8    D strange  -1/2    NA
9    E  charme  -1/2    NA
10   F  bottom   1/2   1/2
```

Unlike the `X[Y]` method in `data.table`, columns are here not automatically sorted after having been merged.

Full joins

Along the same lines:

```
R: full_join(first, second, by = c("lab", "flavour"))

  lab flavour S_z.x S_z.y
1   C strange  -1/2   1/2
2   C strange   1/2   1/2
3   D strange  -1/2  <NA>
4   E  charme  -1/2  <NA>
5   D  bottom   1/2   1/2
6   B  charme   1/2  <NA>
7   C  charme  -1/2  <NA>
...
```

Anti-joins

The anti-joins returns all the rows in the first data sets not present in the second one

```
R: anti_join(first, second, by = c("lab", "flavour"))

  lab flavour  S_z
1   B  charme  1/2
2   C  charme -1/2
3   D strange -1/2
4   E  charme -1/2
```

```
install.packages('reshape')
library('reshape')
```

The library `reshape` is mainly based on two functions: `cast` and `melt` to reshape the data. The former transforms a *long* data frame into a *wide* one and the latter does viceversa.

A long data frame is such when one (or more variables) are arranged as row entries rather than columns instead. If so, those variables can be re-arranged back into columns whose values will be function of other choses ones. For instance, given the `quarks` data table, we can calculate the mode (making use of the function in A) for each quark in each laboratory. The syntax is `cast(dt, col1 + ... + colN ~variable, fun.aggregate = fun)`

```
R: cast(quarks, lab ~flavour, fun.aggregate = mode)

   Using S_z as value column. Use the value argument
   to cast to override this choice lab bottom charme
   down strange top up

   lab bottom charme down strange top up
1   A   <NA>    1/2  1/2    1/2 -1/2 <NA>
2   B    1/2    1/2  1/2    1/2  1/2 <NA>
3   C    1/2    1/2  1/2    1/2  1/2  1/2
4   D    1/2    1/2  1/2   -1/2  1/2  1/2
5   E    1/2   -1/2 -1/2   -1/2  1/2 -1/2
6   F    1/2    1/2 -1/2   -1/2 <NA> -1/2
```

`cast` does not work when more than a value is present per variable: a function must be provided (`mode` in the example above). To illustrate the converse behaviour we are using the in-built data set `airquality`.

```
R: head(airquality)

  Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
1    41     190  7.4   67     5   1
2    36     118  8.0   72     5   2
3    12     149 12.6   74     5   3
4    18     313 11.5   62     5   4
5    NA      NA 14.3   56     5   5
6    28      NA 14.9   66     5   6
```

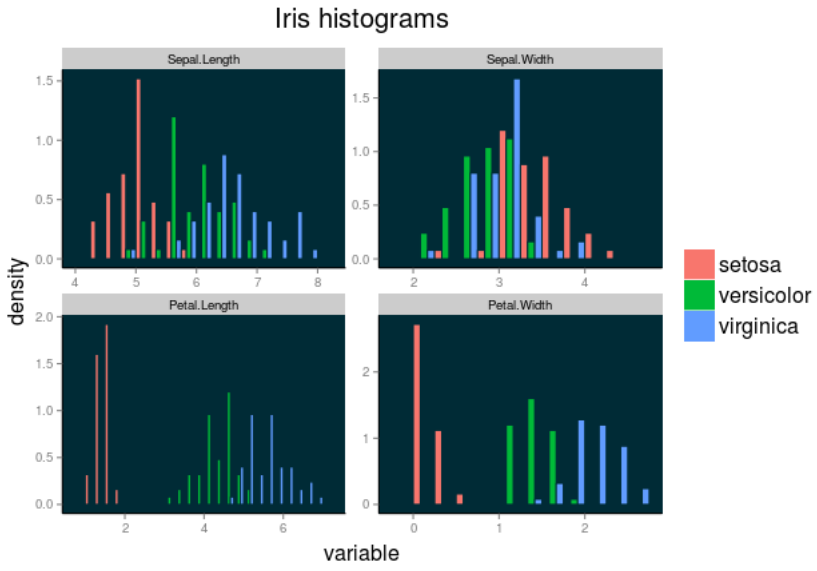
One may want to make some of the columns row entries instead, keeping just some others as fixed. For instance we fix "Month" and "Day" and melt the rest accordingly

```
melt(airquality, id.vars = c("Month", "Day"))

R: head(melt(airquality, id.vars = c("Month", "Day")))
  Month Day variable value
1     5   1    Ozone    41
2     5   2    Ozone    36
3     5   3    Ozone    12
4     5   4    Ozone    18
5     5   5    Ozone    NA
6     5   6    Ozone    28

R: tail(melt(airquality, id.vars = c("Month", "Day")))
    Month Day variable value
607     9  25     Temp    63
608     9  26     Temp    70
609     9  27     Temp    77
610     9  28     Temp    75
611     9  29     Temp    76
612     9  30     Temp    68

R: data.table(melt(airquality, id.vars =
                     c("Month", "Day")))[sample(.N,5)]
   Month Day variable value
1:     9  14     Wind  10.9
```

```
2:     7  13  Solar.R 175.0
3:     5  18     Temp  57.0
4:     5   7    Ozone  23.0
5:     8  21     Temp  77.0
```

Molten data are meant to be used to plot statistics in groups, especially histograms for each molten variable. The below is an example:

```
R: iris.molten <- melt(iris, id.vars = "Species")
R: iris.molten <- data.table(iris.molten)
R: iris.molten[sample(.N,5)]

      Species     variable value
1:  virginica  Sepal.Width   2.9
2: versicolor  Sepal.Width   2.5
3:  virginica  Petal.Width   2.0
4: versicolor Sepal.Length   6.1
5:     setosa Sepal.Length   4.5

p <- ggplot(iris.molten, aes(x=value, fill = Species))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill
                                               = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title    = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_histogram(aes(y = ..density..), position = "dodge",
                        binwidth = 0.25, colour = "#002b36")
p <- p + facet_wrap( ~ variable, scales="free")
p <- p + guides(fill = guide_legend(override.aes =
                                    list(colour = NULL)))
p <- p + labs(title = "Iris histograms")
p <- p + labs(x = "variable")
p <- p + labs(y = "density")
show(p)
```



Molten data set histograms

Obviously, if we cast the molten data table back, we obtain the data we started with, by definition.

```
R: cast(melt(airquality, id.vars = c("Month", "Day")),
        Month + Day ~ variable)

   Month Day Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp
1      5   1    41     190  7.4   67
2      5   2    36     118  8.0   72
3      5   3    12     149 12.6   74
4      5   4    18     313 11.5   62
5      5   5    NA      NA 14.3   56
6      5   6    28      NA 14.9   66
```

```
install.packages('ggplot2')
library('ggplot2')
```

The package `ggplot2` allows to produce graphs, plots and visual representations constructing the aesthetics step by step, incrementally adding different layers at the graphs. It is highly customisable due to this particular feature; we are going to show some of its main characteristics in the below.

6.1 *General aesthetics*

Given a data frame, `ggplot` is invoked as `p <- ggplot(df)`, which corresponds to the basic underlying plot object where we will construct the rest of the layers upon, incrementally. Each additional layer is given by a set of points to be represented in the form of aesthetics that can be plotted as points, lines, bars and so on and so forth. Background colour is set by the option `panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36')` within the `theme` aesthetics. General syntax is:

```
morley <- head(morley,20)
p <- ggplot(morley, aes(x=Run))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title    = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_line(aes(y=Speed), colour = '#268bd2' )
p <- p + geom_point(aes(y=Speed), colour = '#cb4b16')
p <- p + scale_x_discrete(breaks = morley$Run)
p <- p + labs(title = "Morley runs")
p <- p + labs(x = "Runs")
p <- p + labs(y = "Speed")
show(p)
```

Simple plot

6.2 *Error bars*

If we want to add error bars we just have to add

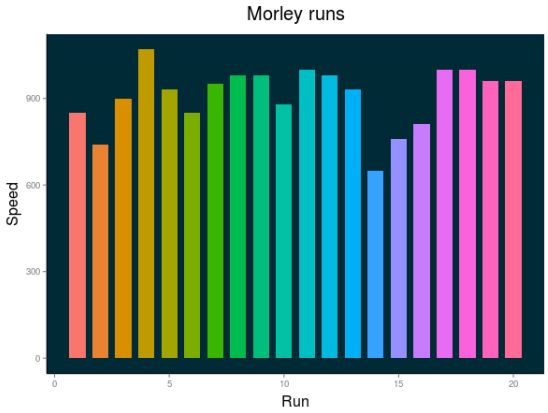
```
error  <- 10*rnorm(20)
dodge  <- position_dodge(width=0.9)
p      <- p + geom_errorbar(aes(ymin= Speed - error,
                ymax = Speed + error), position = dodge,
                colour="blue", width=.1)
```

Error bars

6.3 *Barplots*

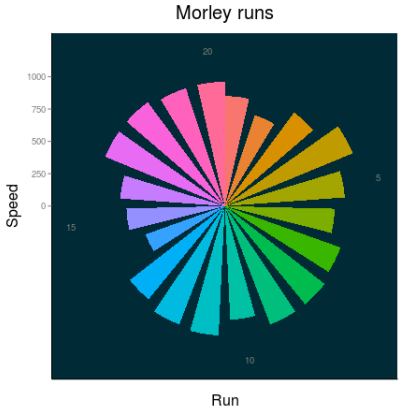
If, instead, we want to have a barplot thereof, just replace `geom_line` (`geom_point` respectively) with

```
p <- p + geom_bar(aes(y=Speed), stat='identity', width=.7,
         fill='#657b83', color= '#6c71c4')
```



Barplot

How about we unfold the bars in polar coordinates instead?
`p <- p + coord_polar()`



Barplot in polar coordinates

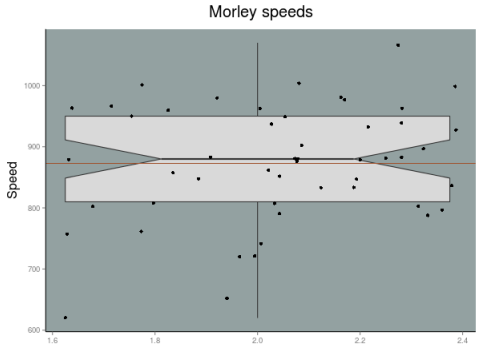
6.4 *Boxplots*

A boxplot is obtained as follows (`theme` is kept as before):

```
p <- ggplot(morley, aes(x=2, y=morley$Speed))
p <- p + geom_boxplot(outlier.colour = "blue", fill="grey85")
p <- p + labs(title = "Morley speeds")
p <- p + labs(y = "Speed")
p <- p + labs(x = "")
show(p)
```

where the values of the x axis is irrelevant. Additional options can be included with

```
p <- p + geom_boxplot(notch = TRUE)
p <- p + geom_jitter()
p <- p + geom_hline(aes(yintercept=mean(morley$Speed)),
        colour="sienna")
```



Boxplot with jitters and notches

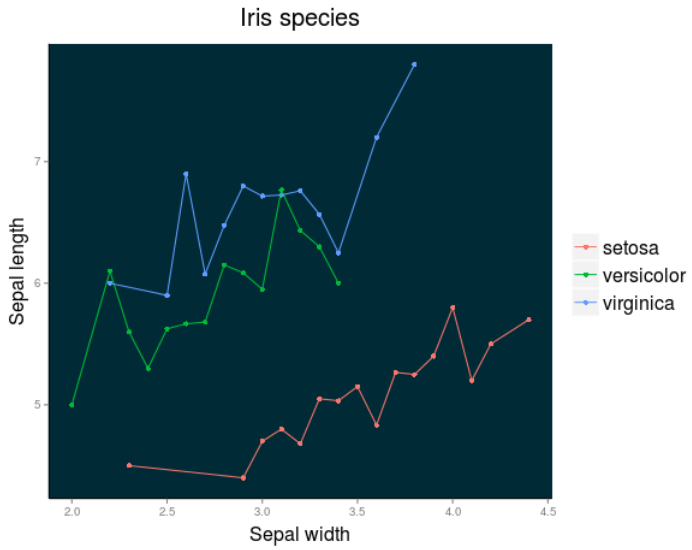
6.5 *Data grouped by*

Should we have data belonging to different groups, it would be convenient to represent each one of them with different colours, lines and bars. Here is how:

```
library(data.table)
iris   <- data.table(iris)
groups <- iris[, .(length = mean(Sepal.Length)),
             by = c("Species", "Sepal.Width")]

p <- ggplot(groups, aes(x=Sepal.Width, y=length,
                    group = Species, colour= Species))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title   = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_point()
p <- p + geom_line()
p <- p + scale_colour_discrete()
p <- p + labs(title = "Iris species")
p <- p + labs(x = "Sepal width")
p <- p + labs(y = "Sepal length")
show(p)
```

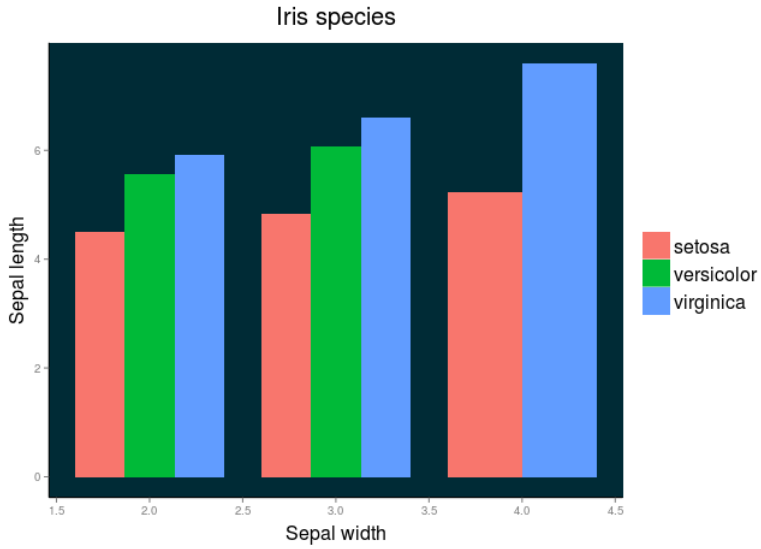
Equivalently with barplots

```
iris <- data.table(iris)
iris$Sepal.Width <- round(iris$Sepal.Width)
groups <- iris[, .(length = mean(Sepal.Length)),
                 by = c("Species", "Sepal.Width")]
```



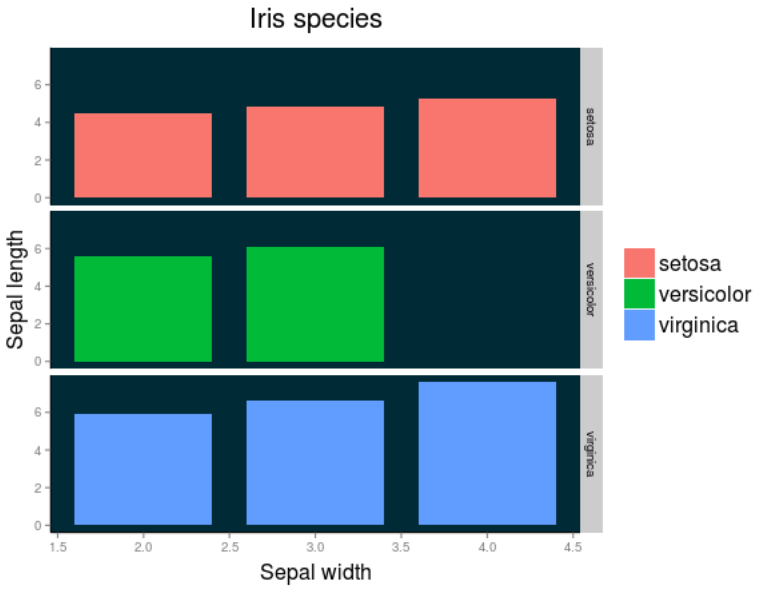
Data grouped by distinguished by colours

```
p <- ggplot(groups, aes(x=Sepal.Width, y=length))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title    = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_bar(aes(fill=Species), width = 0.8,
                  position = "dodge", stat = "identity")
p <- p + scale_colour_discrete()
p <- p + labs(title = "Iris species")
p <- p + labs(x = "Sepal width")
p <- p + labs(y = "Sepal length")
show(p)
```



Barplot of data grouped by

The option `position = "dodge"` ensures that the bars lie by one other. Taking that off would make a stacked barplot instead. Adding the option `faced_grid` allows to move different groups to different windows of the graph `p <- p + facet_grid(Species ~.)`

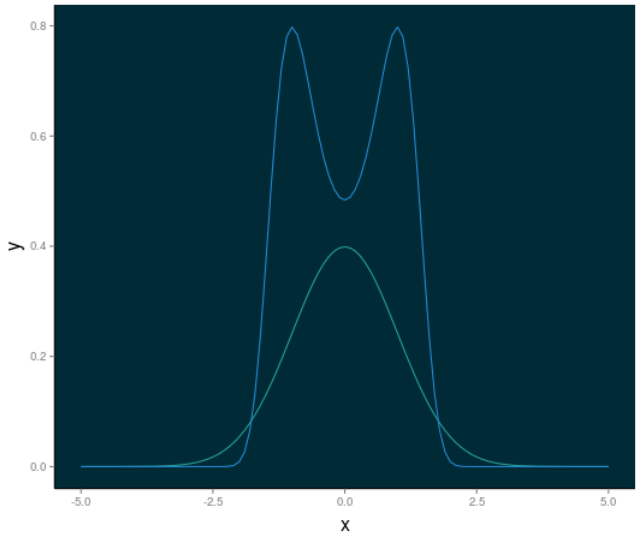


Barplots in different windows

6.6 *Plotting functions*

In order to plot several functions on the same graph

```
p <- ggplot(data.frame(x = c(-5, 5)), aes(x))
p <- p + stat_function(fun = dnorm, colour = "#2aa198")
p <- p + stat_function(fun = function(x) 2*dnorm(x^2-1),
                       colour = "#268bd2")
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title    = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
show(p)
```

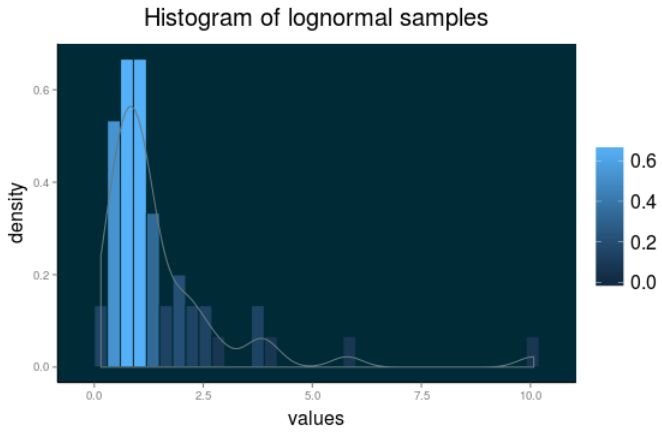


Plot of more than one function

6.7 *Histograms*

`geom_histogram` does the job. The values have to nevertheless be made into a data table format, that has to be invoked as first argument of `ggplot`

```
dt <- data.table(values = rlnorm(50))

p <- ggplot(dt, aes(x=values))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title    = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_histogram(aes(y=..density.., fill = ..density..),
                        colour="#002b36", binwidth = 0.3)
p <- p + geom_density(color = "#657b83")
# the below is to manually set the gradient
# p <- p + scale_fill_gradient(low = "red", high = "green")
p <- p + labs(title = "Histogram of normal samples")
show(p)
```



Histogram

6.8 *Tiles*

```
install.packages(scale)
library(scale)
```

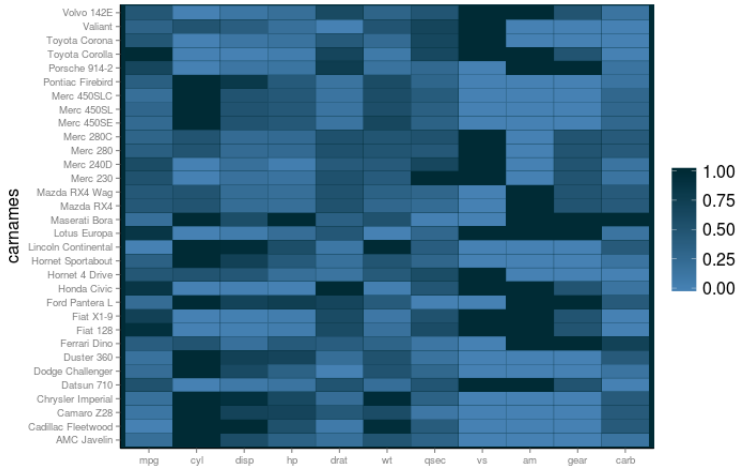
A powerful visualisation method for many variables at a time is provided by `geom_tile`, where different values of each variable are represented by different tiles filled on gradient according to the value: the set of data must be molten first and then the variables values have to be scaled between $[0,1]$ so that one can assign standard gradient fillings. The example below clarifies the issue:

```
cars          <- data.table(mtcars)
cars$carnames <- rownames(mtcars)
cars.molten   <- melt(cars)

R: cars.molten <- data.table(cars.molten)
R: cars.molten[sample(.N,5)]

                carnames variable value
1:             Merc 230     qsec 22.90
2:          Honda Civic       am  1.00
3:            Merc 240D     drat  3.69
4: Lincoln Continental      mpg 10.40
5:            Merc 450SL       am  0.00
```

We now make use of the `rescale` function in the `scale` package as:

```
cars.molten <- ddply(cars.molten, .(variable), transform,
                     rescale = rescale(value))
R: cars.molten <- data.table(cars.molten)
R: cars.molten[sample(.N,5)]

                carnames variable value   rescale
1:           Camaro Z28      mpg  13.3 0.1234043
2:           Merc 450SE      mpg  16.4 0.2553191
3:           Camaro Z28     disp 350.0 0.6956847
4: Lincoln Continental       hp 215.0 0.5759717
5:            Merc 280C     qsec  18.9 0.5238095

p <- ggplot(cars.molten, aes(x=variable, y = carnames,
                                        fill = rescale))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill
                                          = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0,
                                   size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title    = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_tile(colour = "#002b36")
p <- p + scale_fill_gradient(low = "steelblue",
                             high = "#002b36")
p <- p + labs(x = "")
show(p)
```

Tiled results are shown in the plot below, whit the row names arranged on the y axis and the variables displayed horizontally instead.



Tiled heatmap

Hierarchical clustering and dendograms

Hierarchical clustering pairwise groups variables according to the minimum distances, and so on and so forth until the entire data set is reconstructed and tree shaped. Distances between points can be calculated using any distance $d(x,y)$ via `dist(df, method = <method>)`, the data frame containing the rows as points whose distances one wants to calculate.

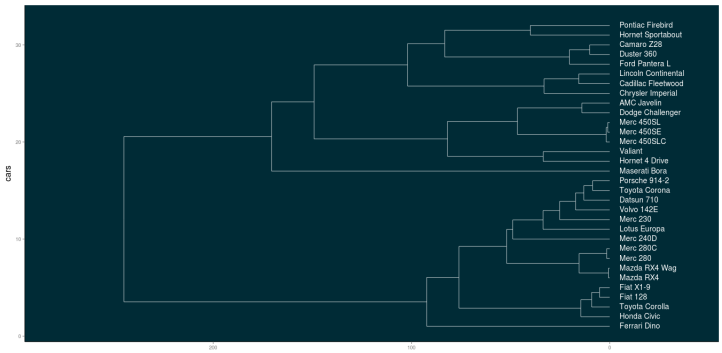
As an example we can hierarchically cluster a subset of the `mtcars` data starting from calculating its euclidean distances among different rows (which, in turn, represent the different points that we want to cluster)

```
distances <- dist(iris, method = "euclidean")
dendog    <- hclust(distances, method = "ave")
```

The function `hclust` pairwise couples the points according to the minimum distance, going up in pairs until the whole data set is exhausted. The dendogram can be plotted making use of the following packages:

```
library("ggplot2")
install.packages("ggdendro")
library("ggdendro")
```

```
# dendro_data extracts the dendogram
# objects numerical data
dendog    <- dendro_data(dendog, type = "rectangle")

p <- ggplot(segment(dendog))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill
                                               = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title   = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_segment(aes(x = x, y = y,
                          xend = xend, yend = yend),
                          colour = "white", alpha = 0.7)
p <- p + geom_text(data = label(dendog), colour = "white",
                   aes(x = x+0.5, y = -5, label = label),
                   vjust = 1.2, hjust = 0)
p <- p + coord_flip()
p <- p + scale_y_reverse(expand = c(0.2, 0))
p <- p + labs(x = "cars")
p <- p + labs(y = "")
show(p)
```



Hierarchical clustering dendogram

k-means clustering groups the data in clusters according to the shortest distances to the centres of the cluster, whose number may be manually set. How to properly calculate the correct number of clusters and their centres will not be investigated here and we refer the reader to standard literature for that.

`kmeans` needs a set of data whose rows represent different point, whose coordinates are in turn given as column entries; all the provided values must be in numerical format. Different methods to calculate the clusters can be specified as additional arguments and options parameters.

```
# storing the names
names <- iris[,5]
iris  <- iris[-5]

cluster <- kmeans(iris, centers = 3)

# coordinates of the centres
R: cluster$centers

  Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width
1     5.006000    3.428000     1.462000    0.246000
2     5.901613    2.748387     4.393548    1.433871
3     6.850000    3.073684     5.742105    2.071053

# dimensions of the clusters
R: cluster$size

[1] 50 62 38

# each labelled row belongs to the specified cluster
R: cluster$cluster

  [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1...
 [38] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 3 2 2 2 2...
 [75] 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2...
[112] 3 3 2 2 3 3 3 3 2 3 2 3 2 3 3 2 2 3 3 3...
[149] 3 2
```

Additional information can be gained investigating the outcome values of the function `kmeans`. However, row names can be placed back against the clusters labels as

```
R: table(names, cluster$cluster)

names          1  2  3
  setosa      50  0  0
  versicolor   0 48  2
  virginica    0 14 36
```

Clustering can be made use of to spot possible outliers in the set of data, as those point having the furthest distances from any of the clusters centres.

```
centres   <- cluster$centers[cluster$cluster,]
distances <- sqrt(rowSums((iris-centres)^2))

outliers  <- head(iris[order(distances, decreasing = TRUE),])

R: outliers

    Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width
99           5.1         2.5          3.0         1.1
58           4.9         2.4          3.3         1.0
94           5.0         2.3          3.3         1.0
61           5.0         2.0          3.5         1.0
119          7.7         2.6          6.9         2.3
118          7.7         3.8          6.7         2.2
```

The above can be made into a function, such that, given a data set, one can return the first M outliers once a clustering around N groups has been performed:

```
outlier.by.clustering <- function(df,N,M){
    cluster   <- kmeans(df, centers = N)
    centres   <- cluster$centers[cluster$cluster,]
    distances <- sqrt(rowSums((df-centres)^2))
    outliers  <- head(df[order(distances,
                       decreasing = TRUE),],M)
    return(outliers)
}

R: outlier.by.clustering(iris,3,5)

    Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width
99           5.1         2.5          3.0         1.1
58           4.9         2.4          3.3         1.0
94           5.0         2.3          3.3         1.0
61           5.0         2.0          3.5         1.0
119          7.7         2.6          6.9         2.3
```

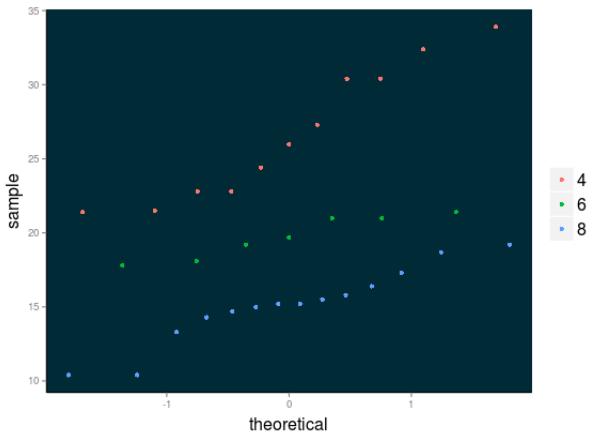
8.1 *Normality tests and qq-plots*

Hypotheses tests *against* the normal Gaußian distribution can be performed starting with the `shapiro.test(values)`. The sample size affects the results of the normality test:

```
set.seed(1)
x <- rlnorm(20, 0 ,.4)
y <- rlnorm(100, 0, .4)

R: shapiro.test(x)
R: shapiro.test(y)

                Shapiro-Wilk normality test

data:  x                        | data: y
W = 0.98049, p-value = 0.9403   | W = 0.91864, p-value = 1.193e-05
```

In small sample sizes, even big departures from normality are not detected. QQ-plots help us to represent deviations from normality, as in the example below:

```
R: mtcars[, .(p.value = shapiro.test(mpg)[2]),
             by = "cyl"]

   cyl   p.value
1:   6 0.3251776
2:   4 0.2605931
3:   8 0.3228563

p <- ggplot(mtcars, aes(sample = mpg, colour = factor(cyl)))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title   = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + stat_qq()
show(p)
```



QQ-plot for data grouped by

Let us define a function that shows the rejection tests against the normal distribution for a set of grouped data, once an initial p-value is set.

```
shapiro.p.value <- function(my.column) {
    my.p.value <- '0.05'
    if(shapiro.test(my.column)[2] < my.p.value){
        return("rejected")
    } else {
        return("not_rejected")
```

```
    }
}

R: iris[, lapply(.SD, shapiro.p.value), by = Species]

      Species Sepal.Length  Sepal.Width Petal.Length  Petal.Width
1:     setosa not rejected not rejected not rejected not rejected
2: versicolor not rejected not rejected not rejected     rejected
3:  virginica not rejected not rejected not rejected not rejected
```

8.2 *t-tests*

Student's t-test can be performed againts two sets of values to have the null hypothesis that their means and variances to be the same, under the underlying assumption for both samples to come from a normal distribution. If this were true, then the t-test statistic $t = \frac{(\bar{x}-\mu_0)}{(s/\sqrt{n})(\sigma/\sqrt{n})}$ would follow a Student's t-distribution with $n_1 + n_2 - 2$ degrees of freedom, n_1, n_2 being the samples sizes. For additional references, please see[3]

As an example we consider two normal samples and test the t-statistic obtained after N t-tests. Given two sets of data x, y then

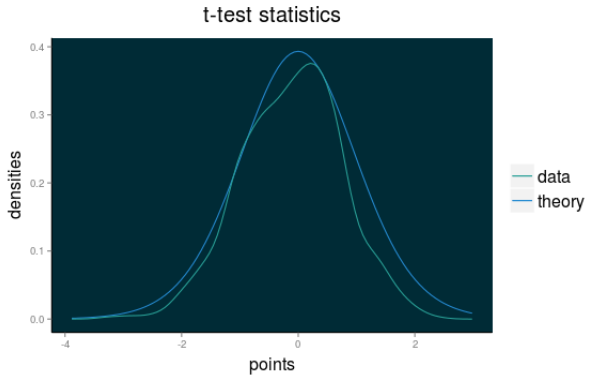
```
set.seed(1)
tt <- t.test(rnorm(10), rnorm(10))

R: tt

        Welch Two Sample t-test

data:  rnorm(10) and rnorm(10)
t = -0.27858, df = 16.469, p-value = 0.784
alternative hypothesis: true difference
in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 -1.0022169  0.7689325
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
0.1322028 0.2488450

R: names(tt)
[1] "statistic"   "parameter"   "p.value"     "conf.int"
[6] "estimate"    "null.value"  "alternative" "method"
[10] "data.name"
```

where we are interested in the `statistic` parameter. Therefore

```
    N <- 10000
tstat <- replicate(N, t.test(rnorm(10),rnorm(10))$statistic)

points <- seq(range(tstat)[1], range(tstat)[2], length=100)

# theoretical values of the t-distribution
theory <- dt(points, df = 10+10-2)
# density values of the obtained t-statistics.
num    <- density(tstat, n=100)$y

data   <- data.table(points = points, theory = theory,
                     num = num)

p <- ggplot(data, aes(x=points))
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title   = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_line(aes(y=theory, colour = "theory"))
```

3 http://statistics.berkeley.edu/computing/r-t-tests

```
p <- p + geom_line(aes(y=num, colour = "data"))
p <- p + scale_colour_manual(values=c("#2aa198","#268bd2"))
p <- p + labs(title = "t-test statistics")
p <- p + labs(y = "densities")
show(p)
```



t-test statistics densities

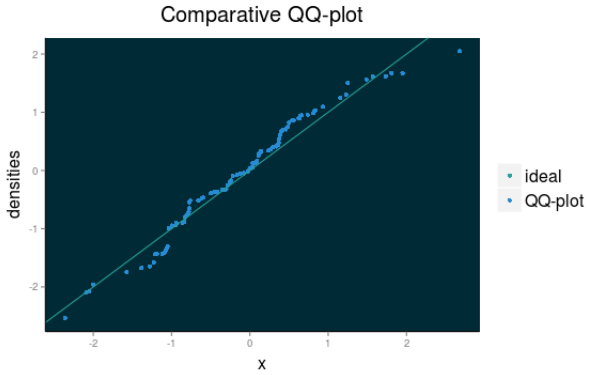
Another way to compare two densities is with a quantile-quantile plot. In this type of plot the quantiles of two samples are calculated at a variety of points in the range $[0, 1]$, and then are plotted against each other. If the two samples came from the same distribution with the same parameters, we would see a straight line through the origin with unit slope; in other words, we are testing to see if various quantiles of the data are identical in the two samples. If the two samples came from similar distributions, but their parameters were different, we would still see a straight line, but not through the origin.

We will get `qqplot` to perform the necessary calculations and then use `ggplot2` to display them.

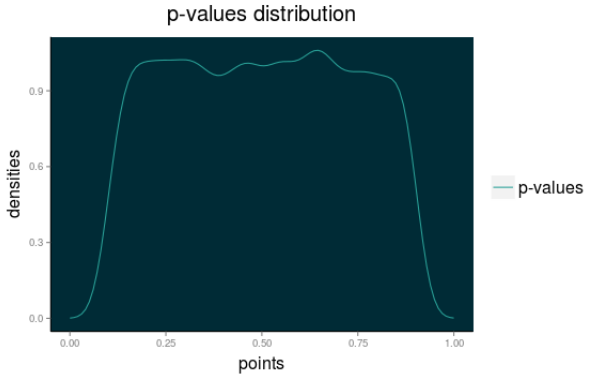
```
x <- rnorm(100)
y <- rnorm(100)

dt <- as.data.table(qqplot(x, y, plot.it=FALSE))

p <- ggplot(dt)
p <- p + theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
               panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
               panel.background = element_rect(fill = '#002b36'),
               axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"),
               legend.text=element_text(size=16),
               legend.title=element_blank(),
               axis.title.x = element_text(vjust=0, size=16),
               axis.title.y = element_text(vjust=1, size=16),
               plot.title   = element_text(vjust=1.5, size=20))
p <- p + geom_point(aes(x=x, y=y, colour = "QQ-plot"))
p <- p + geom_abline(aes(colour="ideal"),
                     intercept = 0, slope = 1)
p <- p + scale_colour_manual(values=c("#2aa198","#268bd2"))
p <- p + labs(title = "t-test statistics")
p <- p + labs(y = "densities")
show(p)
```

Equivalently, if the null hypothesis were true, namely if the two sets of data came from the same distribution, the p-value distribution would be uniform. Doing so on the above analysis we have

```
     N <- 10000
tpstat <- replicate(N,t.test(rnorm(10),rnorm(10))$p.value)
points <- seq(range(tpstat)[1], range(tpstat)[2], length=100)
# density values of the obtained p-values.
num    <- density(tpstat, n=100)$y
data   <- data.table(points = points, num = num)
```



QQ-plots to compare two distributions



p-value uniform distribution

8.3 *Kruskal-Wallist test*

A collection of data samples are independent if they come from unrelated populations and the samples do not affect each other. Using the Kruskal-Wallis Test, we can decide whether the population distributions are identical without assuming them to follow the normal distribution.

As a matter of example we can test whether the petal width in the `iris` data set come from different distributions, according the species. The null hypothesis is that they are identical populations:

```
R: kruskal.test(Petal.Width ~ Species, data = iris)

        Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test

data:  Petal.Width by Species
Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared = 131.19, df = 2, p-value < 2.2e-16
```

It is therefore very *unlikely* (p-value < 0.05) the populations are identical.

8.4 *Dunn's test*

After having found out that a certain sets of data come from dissimilar distributions, it is possible to pairwise compare them to realise which specific couplings disturb the entire set. The above is obtained by means of the Dunn's test.

```
R: dunn.test(iris$Sepal.Width, g = iris$Species)

        Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test

data: x and group
Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared = 63.5711, df = 2, p-value = 0
```

```
                Comparison of x by group
                  (No adjustment)
Col Mean-|
Row Mean |      setosa    versicol
---------+----------------------
versicol |    7.787706
         |      0.0000
         |
virginic |    5.374419   -2.413287
         |      0.0000      0.0079

R: dunn.test(iris$Sepal.Width, g = iris$Species)$P

[1] 3.411812e-15 3.841494e-08 7.904669e-03
```

The pairwise p-values are smaller than any threshold, hence all three groups come from three dissimilar populations.

The function `as.Date` converts the most date formats given to *input* them into the rules of the ISO-8601 international standard, which expresses the dates as year-month-day. The format to be converted must correspond to the introduced date format:

```
date1 <- as.Date("19/02/87", format = "%d/%m/%y")
date2 <- as.Date("04-06-15", format = "%d-%m-%y")

R: date1
[1] "1987-02-19"

R: date1 > date2
[1] FALSE

R: year(date1)
[1] 1987

R: week(date1)
[1] 8
```

Different placeholders after the percentage sign % correspond to different date formats. A full list is available here[4]. Also, the function `strptime` converts between character representations and objects obigf classes "POSIXlt" and "POSIXct" representing calendar dates and times; consequently, it is used to *output* a given date in a different desired time format or representation. The functions `as.POSIXct` and `as.POSIXlt` give representation in the central (local, respectively) time stamp format as

```
R: as.POSIXct(Sys.Date())
[1] "2015-10-17 02:00:00 CEST"

R: as.POSIXlt(Sys.Date())
[1] "2015-10-17 UTC"
```

The package `lubridate` simplifies the date and time arithmetics as

```
install.package(lubridate)
library(lubridate)

R: date1  + weeks(5)
[1] "1987-03-26"

R: date1 - years(2)
[1] "1985-02-19"
```

Also notice the additional functions giving back precise information on the weekday and position in the year as `ymd_hms` or

```
R: wday(Sys.Date())
[1] 7

R: wday(Sys.Date(), label = TRUE)
[1] Sat
```

and the function `isoweek`

```
date1 <- as.Date("2014-12-31")

R: isoweek(date1)
[1] 1
R: week(date1)
[1] 53
```

4 https://stat.ethz.ch/R-manual/R-patched/library/base/html/strptime.html

Below is an example on how to write out and read in data sets.

```
set.seed(10)
mtcars <- data.table(mtcars)
cars   <- mtcars[sample(.N,5), sample(11,4), with = FALSE]

write.table(cars, file = "my_file.csv", sep = "\t",
            quote = FALSE, append = FALSE, na = "NA",
            dec = ".", row.names = FALSE)

read_cars <- read.table("my_file.csv", sep = "\t", quote = "",
                        header = TRUE, dec = ".", fill = FALSE,
                        na.strings = c("NA", "-"),
                        stringsAsFactors = FALSE)

R: cars                    | R: read_cars

    disp carb gear drat    |     disp carb gear drat
1: 440.0    4    3 3.23    |1: 440.0    4    3 3.23
2: 167.6    4    4 3.92    |2: 167.6    4    4 3.92
3: 275.8    3    3 3.07    |3: 275.8    3    3 3.07
4: 120.1    1    3 3.70    |4: 120.1    1    3 3.70
5: 108.0    1    4 3.85    |5: 108.0    1    4 3.85
```

The option `na.strings = c("NA", "-")` decides which lines must be interpreted as `NA`. Likewise `fill = TRUE` allows to skip and continue whenever inconsistencies in the data are present: on the other hand `fill = FALSE` throws an error whenever so (and hence allows control on the inconsistent data). To trim leading and tailing space from unquoted strings use `strip.white = TRUE`.

The `data.table` package makes use of `fread` to read data file in, this being much faster (especially for large sets of data), while keeping the same syntax.

```
install.package(stringr)
library(stringr)
```

Use `str_trim` to trim leading and tailing white spaces:

```
s <- ' Hello, world! '

R: str_trim(s, side = "left") | R: str_trim(s, side = "right")
[1] "Hello, world! "          | [1] " Hello, world!"

R: str_trim(s)                | R: str_trim("\n\nHello, world!\t")
[1] "Hello, world!"           | [1] "Hello, world!"
```

In order to replace *all* white space (and likewise any other character) use `str_replace_all`.

```
R: str_replace_all(s, fixed(" "), "")

[1] "Hello,world!"

R: str_replace_all(s, "l", "!")
[1] " He!!o, wor!d! "
```

The functions `tolower` and `toupper` do the job as named:

```
R: tolower(s)          | R: toupper(s)
[1] "hello, world!"    | [1] "HELLO, WORLD!"
```

Strings can be alphabetically sorted using the `sort` numerical function plus a little manipulation of the characters. This can be useful when checking whether a certain number of words having the same number of characters are anagrams of one other: the standars procedure is to split their letters and sort them alphabetically to match them.

```
sort.word <- function(x){
 x <- tolower(x)
 x <- str_replace_all(x, fixed(" "), "")
 x <- paste(sort(unlist(strsplit(x, ""))), collapse = "")
 return(x)
}

is.anagram <- function(x,y){
    return(sort.word(x) == sort.word(y))
}

first  <- "Eleven plus Two"
second <- "Twelve plus One"
third  <- "Ten plus three"

R: is.anagram(first, second)     | R: is.anagram(first, third)
[1] TRUE                         | [1] FALSE
```

A collection of useful (non-in-built) functions.

- *Mode*:

```
mode <- function(x) {
        ux <- unique(x)
        ux[which.max(tabulate(match(x, ux)))]
}

R: mode(quarks$flavour)
[1] "strange"
```

- *na2zero*:

```
na2zero <- function(x) {
        x[] <- lapply(x,function(x){x[is.na(x)] <- 0; x})
        x
}
```

- *Cartesian product*

```
cross.join <- function(a, b) {
        idx <- expand.grid(seq(length=nrow(a)),
                           seq(length=nrow(b)))
        cbind(a[idx[,1],], b[idx[,2],])
}
```

- *Shapiro p-value rejections*

```
shapiro.p.value <- function(my.column) {
        my.p.value <- '0.05'
        if(shapiro.test(my.column)[2] < my.p.value){
                return("rejected")
        } else {
                return("not rejected")
        }
}

R: iris[, lapply(.SD, shapiro.p.value), by = Species]
      Species Sepal.Length  Sepal.Width Petal.Length
1:     setosa not rejected not rejected not rejected
2: versicolor not rejected not rejected not rejected
3:  virginica not rejected not rejected not rejected
```

- *Anagrams*

```
sort.word <- function(x){
 x <- tolower(x)
 x <- str_replace_all(x, fixed(" "), "")
 x <- paste(sort(unlist(strsplit(x, ""))), collapse = "")
 return(x)
}

is.anagram <- function(x,y){
    return(sort.word(x) == sort.word(y))
}

first  <- "Eleven plus Two"
second <- "Twelve plus One"

R: is.anagram(first, second)
[1] TRUE
```

- *Outliers by clustering*

```
outlier.by.clustering <- function(df,N,M){
    cluster   <- kmeans(df, centers = N)
    centres   <- cluster$centers[cluster$cluster,]
    distances <- sqrt(rowSums((df-centres)^2))
    outliers  <- head(df[order(distances,
                        decreasing = TRUE),],M)
    return(outliers)
```

```
}

R: outlier.by.clustering(mtcars[,1:7], 5, 5)

                     mpg cyl disp  hp drat    wt  qsec
Maserati Bora       15.0   8  301 335 3.54 3.570 14.60
Cadillac Fleetwood  10.4   8  472 205 2.93 5.250 17.98
Lincoln Continental 10.4   8  460 215 3.00 5.424 17.82
Hornet Sportabout   18.7   8  360 175 3.15 3.440 17.02
Pontiac Firebird    19.2   8  400 175 3.08 3.845 17.05
```

A.1 *RXKCD*

```
install.packages(RXKCD)
library(RXKCD)
```

The above fetches comic strips from XKCD[5]

```
R: getXKCD(which = "random")
```

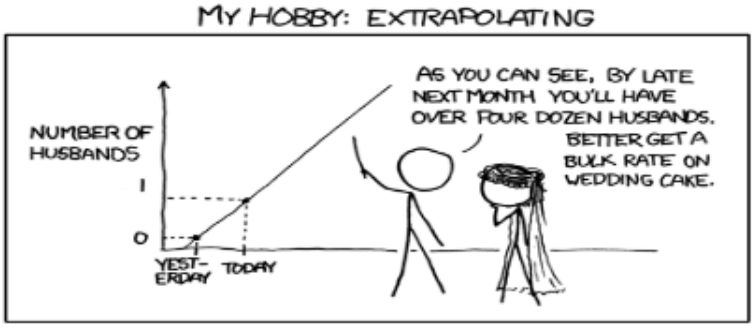


Figure 1: XKCD strip fetched in R

A.2 *Colour palette*

I have used the following colour palette (inspired from "Solarized"[6])

- Background: #002b36
- Bars: #657b83
- Lines: #2aa198, #268bd2

5 http://xkcd.com/
6 http://ethanschoonover.com/solarized