

Gapminder exploration

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1 Introduction

Gapminder is an excellent organization aimed at increasing the use and understanding of statistics on a number of global topics. They collect a variety of data from many sources and aim to produce fact-based statistics reflecting the current state of our world. The data we are exploring throughout this analysis consists of population, life expectancy and GDP information for many countries through time.

The data can be found from <https://raw.githubusercontent.com/resbaz/r-novice-gapminder-files/master/data/gapminder-FiveYearData.csv> if you would like to download it yourself.

Fortunately, the data was already very clean, so we did not conduct any major modifications to the data.

2 Visualizing the gapminder data (ggplot2)

We are interested in exploring life expectancy as a function of GDP. Figure 1 shows a scatterplot of life expectancy versus GDP.

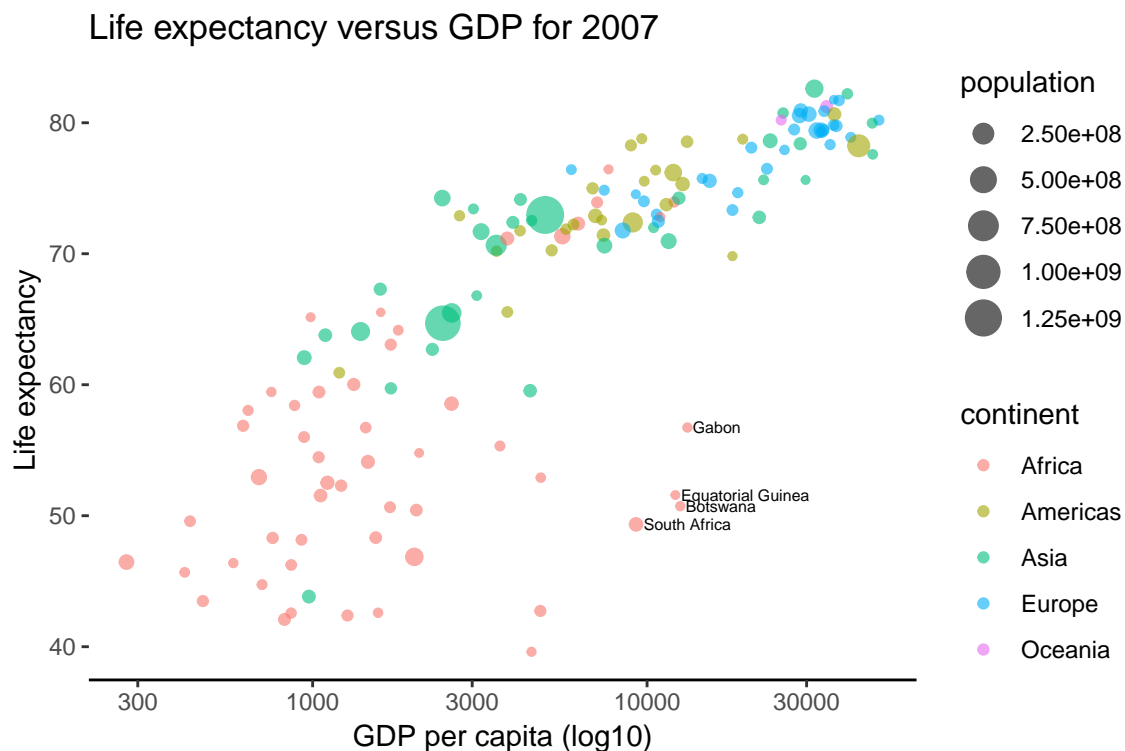


Figure 1: Life expectancy versus GDP for all countries in the year 2007

It certainly appears as though there is some kind of rapid increase in the low GDP range, which slows to a gradual increase in the high GDP range. Several African countries have surprisingly low life expectancy for their GDP.

Next, we explore change in life expectancy over time. Figure 2 shows a series of boxplots, one for each year-continent combination. Each data point corresponds to the life expectancy of a country for the given year in the given continent.

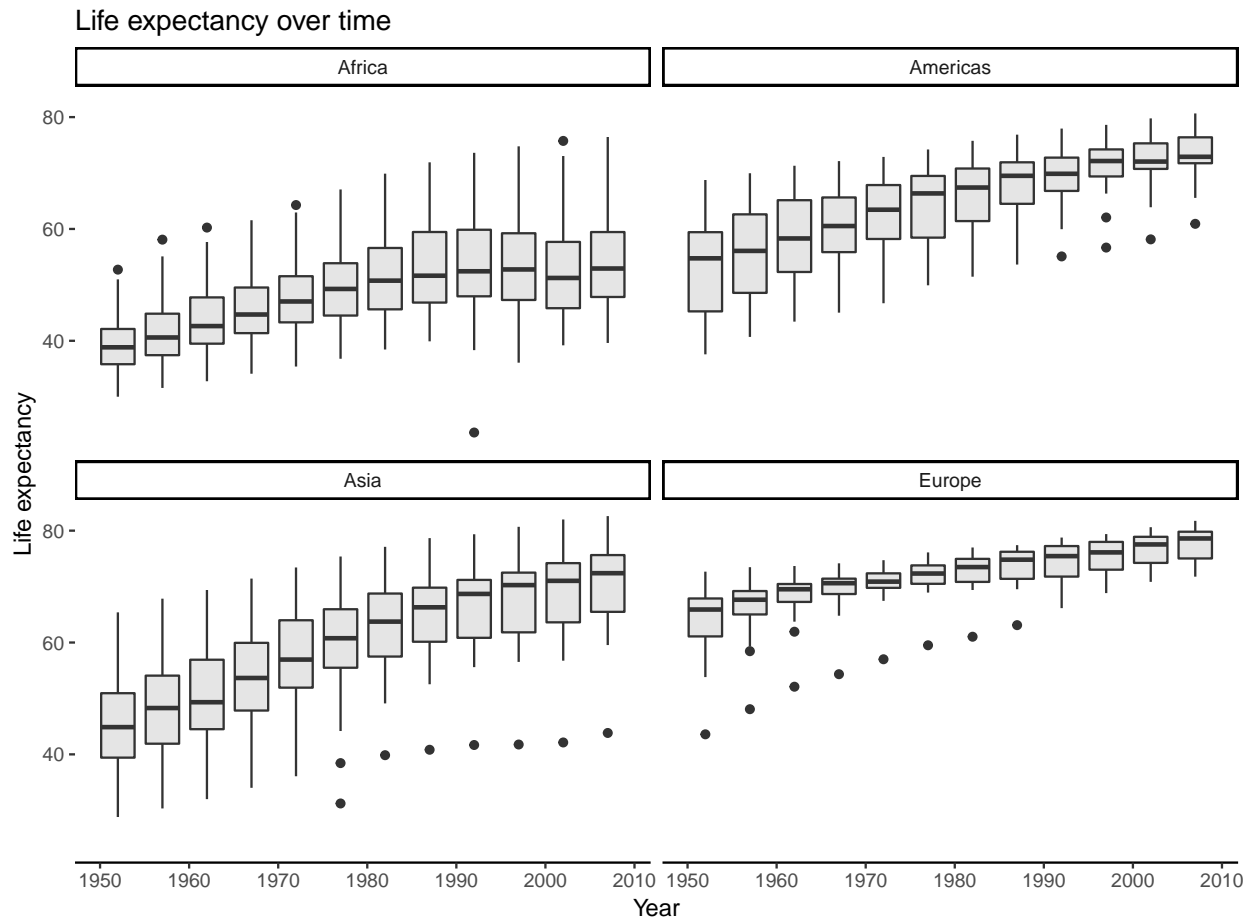


Figure 2: Life expectancy over time

We see that the life expectancy increased in Africa from 1950 up until the 1990s but has stayed fairly constant with a median of around 50 years since the 1990s. The Americas, Asia, and Europe on the other hand, have experienced continued growth.

2.1 Comparing GDP across continents (dplyr)

Table 1 compares GDP per capita across continents.

continent	countries	mean	SD
Oceania	2	29810.19	6540.99
Europe	30	25054.48	11800.34
Asia	33	12473.03	14154.94
Americas	25	11003.03	9713.21
Africa	52	3089.03	3618.16

Table 1: A table displaying the mean and standard deviation of GDP per capita in 2007 for each continent

Clearly Oceania is leading the way in terms of GDP per cap.

Next, we want to ask about raw GDP (i.e. overall GDP for each country, rather than standardized by per capita). Table 2 shows the average total GDP for each continent for 2007.

continent	countries	mean	SD
Americas	25	777	2573
Asia	33	628	1344
Europe	30	493	678
Oceania	2	404	424
Africa	52	46	92

Table 2: A table displaying the mean and standard deviation of GDP (in billions) in 2007 for each continent

3 tidyr()

See <http://swcarpentry.github.io/r-novice-gapminder/14-tidyr/> for more ways to use “tidyr()” on this data. The gapminder data that we used for visualization was already in a clean usable format. Here we are given a dataset that requires some processing to get in a more useful form.

```
# load the wide format of the data
gapminder_wide <- loadGapminderData(path = "data/",
                                   filename = "gapminder_wide.csv")

# look at wide_data compared to original
dim(gapminder_wide)

## [1] 142 38

dim(gapminder)

## [1] 1704 6

head(gapminder_wide)[, c(1:4, 37:38)]

##   continent    country gdpPercap_1952 gdpPercap_1957 pop_2002 pop_2007
## 1   Africa  Algeria    2449.0082      3013.9760 31287142 33333216
## 2   Africa   Angola    3520.6103      3827.9405 10866106 12420476
## 3   Africa   Benin     1062.7522       959.6011  7026113  8078314
## 4   Africa Botswana     851.2411       918.2325  1630347  1639131
## 5   Africa Burkina Faso  543.2552       617.1835 12251209 14326203
## 6   Africa  Burundi    339.2965       379.5646  7021078  8390505

head(gapminder)
```

```
##      country year population continent life_exp gdp_per_cap
## 1 Afghanistan 1952      8425333      Asia    28.801    779.4453
## 2 Afghanistan 1957      9240934      Asia    30.332    820.8530
## 3 Afghanistan 1962     10267083      Asia    31.997    853.1007
## 4 Afghanistan 1967     11537966      Asia    34.020    836.1971
## 5 Afghanistan 1972     13079460      Asia    36.088    739.9811
## 6 Afghanistan 1977     14880372      Asia    38.438    786.1134
```

We can that the wide version now has a separate column for each year of GDP, life expectancy, and population. This data becomes much easier to work with and understand if we can make year into a column. First, we use the “gather()” function to create a long version of the data where we only have 4 columns, one each for continent and country, one (obstype_year) that gives the key for the values (obs_values) in the fourth column.

```
gapminder_long <- gapminder_wide %>%
  gather(key = obstype_year, # name new column for ID variable
         value = obs_values, # name column that will contain the observations
         starts_with('pop'), # only include columns that start
         starts_with('lifeExp'), # pop, lifeExp, or gdpPercap
         starts_with('gdpPercap'))
```

```
head(gapminder_long)
```

```
##      continent      country obstype_year obs_values
## 1      Africa      Algeria      pop_1952    9279525
## 2      Africa      Angola      pop_1952    4232095
## 3      Africa      Benin      pop_1952    1738315
## 4      Africa      Botswana    pop_1952    442308
## 5      Africa Burkina Faso    pop_1952    4469979
## 6      Africa      Burundi    pop_1952    2445618
```

```
tail(gapminder_long)
```

```
##      continent      country obstype_year obs_values
## 5107      Europe      Sweden gdpPercap_2007 33859.748
## 5108      Europe Switzerland gdpPercap_2007 37506.419
## 5109      Europe      Turkey gdpPercap_2007  8458.276
## 5110      Europe United Kingdom gdpPercap_2007 33203.261
## 5111      Oceania      Australia gdpPercap_2007 34435.367
## 5112      Oceania New Zealand gdpPercap_2007 25185.009
```

Next, we separate the obstype_year variable into two separate columns, one that contains the year of the observation and another that tells whether the value in obs_values is gdp, life expectancy, or population.

```
# separate the obstype_year into two
gapminder_long <- gapminder_long %>%
  separate(obstype_year,
           into = c('obs_type', 'year'),
           sep = "_")
```

```
head(gapminder_long)
```

```
##      continent      country obs_type year obs_values
```

```
## 1 Africa Algeria pop 1952 9279525
## 2 Africa Angola pop 1952 4232095
## 3 Africa Benin pop 1952 1738315
## 4 Africa Botswana pop 1952 442308
## 5 Africa Burkina Faso pop 1952 4469979
## 6 Africa Burundi pop 1952 2445618
```

```
tail(gapminder_long)
```

```
##      continent      country obs_type year obs_values
## 5107 Europe Sweden gdpPercap 2007 33859.748
## 5108 Europe Switzerland gdpPercap 2007 37506.419
## 5109 Europe Turkey gdpPercap 2007 8458.276
## 5110 Europe United Kingdom gdpPercap 2007 33203.261
## 5111 Oceania Australia gdpPercap 2007 34435.367
## 5112 Oceania New Zealand gdpPercap 2007 25185.009
```

Finally, we spread the long version of the data to get the original intermediate version.

```
gapminder_normal <- gapminder_long %>%
  spread(obs_type, obs_values)
```

```
# check that it looks like the original data
head(gapminder_normal)
```

```
##      continent country year gdpPercap lifeExp      pop
## 1 Africa Algeria 1952 2449.008 43.077 9279525
## 2 Africa Algeria 1957 3013.976 45.685 10270856
## 3 Africa Algeria 1962 2550.817 48.303 11000948
## 4 Africa Algeria 1967 3246.992 51.407 12760499
## 5 Africa Algeria 1972 4182.664 54.518 14760787
## 6 Africa Algeria 1977 4910.417 58.014 17152804
```

```
dim(gapminder_normal)
```

```
## [1] 1704 6
```

```
dim(gapminder_long)
```

```
## [1] 5112 5
```