During our research on the effect of prednisone consumption during pregency on health outcomes of the baby (Palmsten K, Rolland M, Hebert MF, et al., Patterns of prednisone use during pregnancy in women with rheumatoid arthritis: Daily and cumulative dose. Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf. 2018 Apr;27(4):430-438. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29488292>) we developed a custom plot to visualize for each patient their daily and cumulative consumption of prednisone during pregenancy. Since the publication these plots have raised some interest so here is the code used to produce them.

Data needs to be in the following format:  
1 line per patient  
1 column for the patient ID (named id) and then 1 column per unit of time (here days) reporting the measure for that day  
To illustrate the type of data we dealt with I first generate a random dataset containing 25 patients followed for n days (n different for each patient, randomly chosen between 50 and 200) with a daily consumption value randomly selected between 0 and a maximum dose (randomly determined for each patient between 10 and 50 ).

Then we compute the cumulated consumption ie sum of all previous days.

# initial parameters for simulating data

n\_indiv <- 25

min\_days <- 50

max\_days <- 200

min\_dose <- 10

max\_dose <- 50

# list of ids

id\_list <- str\_c("i", 1:n\_indiv)

# intializing empty table

my\_data <- as.data.frame(matrix(NA, n\_indiv, (max\_days+1)))

colnames(my\_data) <- c("id", str\_c("d", 1:max\_days))

my\_data$id <- id\_list

# daily simulated data

set.seed(113)

for(i in 1:nrow(my\_data)){

# n days follow up

n\_days <- round(runif(1, min\_days, max\_days))

# maximum dose

dose <- round(runif(1, min\_dose, max\_dose))

# random daily value

my\_data[i,2:ncol(my\_data)] <- c(runif(n\_days, 0, max\_dose), rep(NA,(max\_days-n\_days)))

}

# cumulative simulated data

my\_cum\_data <- my\_data

for(i in 3:ncol(my\_cum\_data)){

my\_cum\_data[[i]] <- my\_cum\_data[[i]] + my\_cum\_data[[i-1]]

}

Our plots use the legend.col function found here: <https://aurelienmadouasse.wordpress.com/2012/01/13/legend-for-a-continuous-color-scale-in-r/>

Here is the longitudinal heat plot function:

# Color legend on the top

long\_heat\_plot <- function(my\_data, cutoff, xmax) {

# my\_data: longitudinal data with one line per individual, 1st column with id, and then one column per unit of time

# cutoff: cutoff value for color plot, all values above cutoff are same color

# xmax: x axis max value

n\_lines <- nrow(my\_data)

line\_count <- 1

# color scale

COLS <- rev(heat.colors(cutoff))

# plotting area

par(oma=c(1,1,4,1), mar=c(2, 2, 2, 4), xpd=TRUE)

# plot init

plot(1,1,xlim=c(0,xmax), ylim=c(1, n\_lines), pch='.', ylab='Individual',xlab='Time unit',yaxt='n', cex.axis = 0.8)

# plot line for each woman one at a time

for (i in 1 : n\_lines) {

# get id

id1 <- my\_data$id[i]

# get trajectory data maxed at max\_val

id\_traj <- my\_data[my\_data$id == id1, 2:ncol(my\_data)]

# get last day

END <- max(which(![is.na](http://is.na)(id\_traj)))

# plot dotted line

x1 <- 1:xmax

y1 <- rep(i,xmax)

lines(x1, y1, lty=3)

for (j in 1 : (ncol(my\_data) - 1)) {

# trim traj to max val

val <- min(id\_traj[j], cutoff)

# plot traj

points(j, i, col=COLS[val], pch=20, cex=1)

}

# add limit line

points((END+1), i, pch="|", cex=0.9)

}

# add legend

legend.col(col = COLS, lev = 1:cutoff)

mtext(side=3, line = 3, 'unit of measurement')

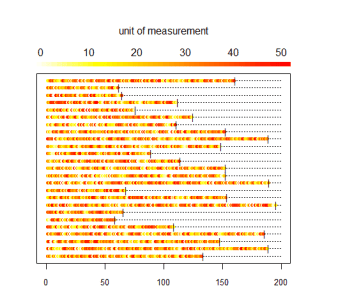
opar <- par()

text\_size <- opar$cex.main

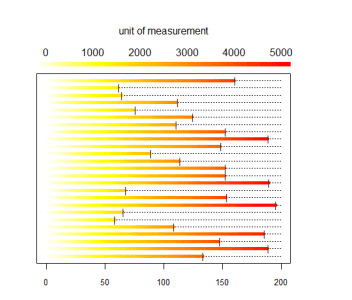
}

Then we generate the corresponding plots:

long\_heat\_plot(my\_data, 50, 200)



long\_heat\_plot(my\_cum\_data, 5000, 200)



And here is what we did in our study:

