



A small multiple plot of selected population pyramids

Instead of an animation, let's make the less-flashy but, frankly, in all likelihood more useful small multiple plot seen here. With the package installed we can produce it as follows:

```
1
2 library(tidyverse)
3 library(uscenpops)
4
5 uscenpops
6 #> # A tibble: 10,520 x 5
7 #>   year age   pop  male female
8 #>
9 #> 1  1900     0 1811000 919000 892000
10 #> 2  1900     1 1835000 928000 907000
11 #> 3  1900     2 1846000 932000 914000
12 #> 4  1900     3 1848000 932000 916000
13 #> 5  1900     4 1841000 928000 913000
14 #> 6  1900     5 1827000 921000 906000
15 #> 7  1900     6 1806000 911000 895000
16 #> 8  1900     7 1780000 899000 881000
17 #> 9  1900     8 1750000 884000 866000
18 #> 10 1900     9 1717000 868000 849000
19 #> # ... with 10,510 more rows
20
```

That's what the dataset looks like. We'll lengthen it, calculate a relative frequency (that we won't use in this particular plot) and add a base value that we'll use for the ribbon boundaries below.

```

1
2
3 pop_pyr <- uscenpops %>% select(year, age, male, female) %>%
4   pivot_longer(male:female, names_to = "group", values_to = "count") %>%
5   group_by(year, group) %>%
6   mutate(total = sum(count),
7           pct = (count/total)*100,
8           base = 0)
9
10 pop_pyr
11
12 #> # A tibble: 21,040 x 7
13 #> # Groups:   year, group [240]
14 #>   year  age group  count    total  pct  base
15 #>
16 #> 1  1900     0 male  919000 38867000 2.36    0
17 #> 2  1900     0 female 892000 37227000 2.40    0
18 #> 3  1900     1 male  928000 38867000 2.39    0
19 #> 4  1900     1 female 907000 37227000 2.44    0
20 #> 5  1900     2 male  932000 38867000 2.40    0
21 #> 6  1900     2 female 914000 37227000 2.46    0
22 #> 7  1900     3 male  932000 38867000 2.40    0
23 #> 8  1900     3 female 916000 37227000 2.46    0
24 #> 9  1900     4 male  928000 38867000 2.39    0
25 #> 10 1900     4 female 913000 37227000 2.45    0
26 #> # ... with 21,030 more rows
27

```

Next we set up some little vectors of labels and colors, and then make a mini-dataframe of what we'll use as labels in the plot area, rather than using the default strip labels in `facet_wrap()`.

```

1
2
3 ## Axis labels
4 mbreaks <- c("1M", "2M", "3M")
5
6 ## colors
7 pop_colors <- c("#E69F00", "#0072B2")
8
9 ## In-plot year labels
10 dat_text <- data.frame(
11   label = c(seq(1900, 2015, 5), 2019),
12   year  = c(seq(1900, 2015, 5), 2019),
13   age = rep(95, 25),
14   count = rep(-2.75e6, 25)
15 )
16

```

As before, the trick to making the pyramid is to set all the values for one category (here, males) to negative numbers.

```

1
2
3 pop_pyr$count[pop_pyr$group == "male"] <- -pop_pyr$count[pop_pyr$group == "male"]
4
5 p <- pop_pyr %>%
6   filter(year %in% c(seq(1900, 2015, 5), 2019)) %>%
7   ggplot(mapping = aes(x = age, ymin = base,
8                         ymax = count, fill = group))
9
10 p + geom_ribbon(alpha = 0.9, color = "black", size = 0.1) +
11   geom_label(data = dat_text,
12             mapping = aes(x = age, y = count,
13                           label = label), inherit.aes = FALSE,
14             vjust = "inward", hjust = "inward",
15             fontface = "bold",
16             color = "gray40",
17             fill = "gray95") +
18   scale_y_continuous(labels = c(rev(mbreaks), "0", mbreaks),
19                       breaks = seq(-3e6, 3e6, 1e6),
20                       limits = c(-3e6, 3e6)) +
21   scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(10, 100, 10)) +
22   scale_fill_manual(values = pop_colors, labels = c("Females", "Males")) +
23   guides(fill = guide_legend(reverse = TRUE)) +
24   labs(x = "Age", y = "Population in Millions",
25        title = "Age Distribution of the U.S. Population, 1900-2019",
26        subtitle = "Age is top-coded at 75 until 1939, at 85 until 1979, and at 100
27 since then",
28        caption = "Kieran Healy / kieranhealy.org / Data: US Census Bureau.",
29        fill = "") +
30   theme(legend.position = "bottom",
31         plot.title = element_text(size = rel(2), face = "bold"),
32         strip.background = element_blank(),
33         strip.text.x = element_blank()) +
34   coord_flip() +
35   facet_wrap(~ year, ncol = 5)

```

The calls to `geom_ribbon()` and `geom_label()` draw the actual plots, and everything else is just a little attention to detail in order to make it come out nicely.