bfsMaps - Swiss Maps 'ThemaKart'

by Andri Signorell

Helsana Versicherungen AG, Health Sciences, Zurich HWZ University of Applied Sciences in Business Administration, Zurich andri@signorell.net

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The representation of map material with R is powerful and flexible, but also quite technically organized, and therefore challenging for occasional users. In order to reduce the complexity of the task, this R package has been created to allow Swiss cantons, districts and municipal information to be displayed more quickly and easily. High quality maps for Switzerland are available free of charge from the Swiss Federal Office of Statistics (SFOS/BfS).

'bfsMaps' uses functions from the packages 'sf, 'DescTools' available on CRAN, which must be installed additionally:

install.packages(c("sf","DescTools"))

Questions, comments and bug reports are welcome! Thank you.

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Note: For all the examples in this document, library(bfsMaps) must be declared.

1 Installation

'ThemaKart', the SFSO cartographic centre, offers numerous map bases (geometries) for most official geographic divisions, which are used in maps and atlases of the Federal Statistical Office. An annually updated set of these geometries is freely available.

Federal Statistical Office Service 'ThemaKart' Espace de l'Europe 10 CH-2010 Neuchâtel Switzerland

engl:

https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/regional-statistics/base-maps/cartographic-bases.html

german

https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/regionalstatistik/kartengrundlagen/basisgeometrien.html

The Cartographic bases set contains the latest years and the state for the Population Censuses of 2000 and 2010 for the major geographic divisions, plus additional years for communes and districts, polygons for districts within the 17 largest Swiss cities. Total areas are shown in polygons which come in two versions: total area surfaces (gf, ge: "Gesamtfläche") and vegetation surfaces (vf, ge: "Vegetationsfläche"). Additionally, the topographic information is enriched by numerous layers for lakes and rivers.

There is also a detailed information brochure with more information on the contents and references behind this offer, as well as a list of nomenclatures used and the application of copyrights (brochure available only in German and French).

For the use with this package the maps must be downloaded separately and unpacked into any folder. The root folder must then be declared as an option in the R options, e.g.:

options(bfsMaps.base="C:/Users/andri/Documents/MapData/ThemaKart2023")

The 'bfsMaps' package uses a meta file containing the path information for accessing the maps. This file is named maps.csv and can either be located in the root directory of the mapdata or in the /extdata directory of the package (usually ~/extdata, where ~ is the library path returned by system.file(package="bfsMaps")). The GetMap() function will search for it along these two paths, taking the first file it finds.

The file consists of an optional shortname for the maps and the according path to the shapefile (with the extension .shp).

A	A	В
1	name_x	path_x
2	fluss1.map	00_TOPO/K4_flusyyyymmdd/k4flusyyyymmdd11_ch2007.shp
3	fluss2.map	00_TOPO/K4_flusyyyymmdd/k4flusyyyymmdd22_ch2007.shp
4	fluss3.map	00_TOPO/K4_flusyyyymmdd/k4flusyyyymmdd33_ch2007.shp
5	fluss4.map	00_TOPO/K4_flusyyyymmdd/k4flusyyyymmdd44_ch2007.shp
6	fluss5.map	00_TOPO/K4_flusyyyymmdd/k4flusyyyymmdd55_ch2007.shp
7	see1.map	00_TOPO/K4_seenyyyymmdd/k4seenyyyymmdd11_ch2007Poly.shp
8	see2.map	00_TOPO/K4_seenyyyymmdd/k4seenyyyymmdd22_ch2007Poly.shp
9	stkt.pnt	00_TOPO/K4_stkt19970101/k4stkt19970101kk_ch2007Pnts.shp
10		01_INST/Gesamtfläche_gf/K4_bezk20001205_gf/K4bezk20001205gf_ch2007Poly.shp
11		01_INST/Gesamtfläche_gf/K4_bezk20001205_gf/K4bezk20001205zg_ch2007Pnts.shp
12		01_INST/Gesamtfläche_gf/K4_bezk20101231_gf/K4bezk20101231gf_ch2007Poly.shp

For the specific functions PlotKant(), PlotPolg(), etc. to work, the according short names must be found in the maps.csv file.

These are:

type	stem	map	pnt	vf.map	vf.pnt	used by
Rivers 1 (large)	fluss1	X				AddRivers()
Rivers 2	fluss2	X				AddRivers()
Rivers 3	fluss3	X				AddRivers()
Rivers 4	fluss4	X				AddRivers()
Rivers 5 (small)	fluss5	X				AddRivers()
Lakes (large)	see1	X				AddLakes()
Lakes (small)	see2	X				AddLakes()
Capitals of cantons	stkt		X	X	X	
Switzerland	ch	X	X	X	X	PlotCH()
Greater Regions	greg	X	X	X	X	PlotGreg()
Cantons	kant	X	X	X	X	PlotKant()
MS Regions	msre	X	X	X	X	PlotMSRe()
Districts	bezk	X	X	X	X	PlotBezk()
Municipalities	polg	X	X	X	X	PlotPolg()
Metropolitan areas	metr	X	X	X	X	PlotMetr()

vf.map denotes the maps with vegetational area, pnt are the centroid points of the specific area, map is the general map.

A default maps.csv file is included in the package, based on the filenames of 'ThemaKart' 2023 ©. So earlier data can be displayed as well with the same functions, but then the user must make sure, that the maps.csv is updated correctly and points to the appropriate maps.

The required installation steps for using the 'bfsMaps' package are either:

A) As long as the url below is valid (for the 2023 maps), the function

```
url <- "
https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/regionalstatistik/kartengrundlagen
/basisgeometrien.assetdetail.24025646.html"
DownloadBfSMaps(url=url, path=paste0(path.expand("~"), "/MapData"))</pre>
```

will do the job and return the required string for the options file.

- B) if A) didn't work, you might have to do it all by hand:
 - 1. Download maps zip file from www.bfs.admin.ch:
 Basisgeometrien (de), cartographic-bases (engl)
 - 2. Unzip and place maps somewhere in your filesystem. E.g.: C:\Users\Andri\Documents\MapData\ThemaKart2023
 - 3. Set R options(bfsMaps.base="your directory where you placed the maps").
 E.g.: options(bfsMaps.base = "C:/Users/andri/Documents/MapData/ThemaKart2023")
 - 4. Make sure maps.csv in system.file(package="bfsMaps")/extdata is correct
 - 5. Use package...

Switching between maps of different years can so be performed by setting the bfsMaps.base option to the required map library.

Have fun and success!

2 Plot Switzerland

The first example represents the whole of Switzerland without any small-scale division. The waters can either be included by setting the argument panel.first(AddLakes()) or be omitted in the PlotCH() function for the time being so that they can be added later by the functions AddLakes() and AddRivers(), if e.g. other colors are required.

```
library(bfsMaps)
# set the path to the map root directory
options(bfsMaps.base="C:/Users/andri/Documents/MapData/ThemaKart2023")
# Plot Switzerland map in borders of 1848
PlotCH(col="red")
sw <- 15000; xc <- 2671975; yc <- 1200600; ccol <- rgb(1,1,1,0.85)
rect(xleft=xc-sw, ytop=yc-sw, xright=xc+sw, ybottom=yc+sw, col=ccol, border=NA)
rect(xleft=(xc-2*sw)-sw, ytop=yc-sw, xright=(xc-2*sw)+sw, ybottom=yc+sw,
     col=ccol, border=NA)
rect(xleft=(xc+2*sw)-sw, ytop=yc-sw, xright=(xc+2*sw)+sw, ybottom=yc+sw,
     col=ccol, border=NA)
rect(xleft=xc-sw, ytop=(yc-2*sw)-sw, xright=xc+sw, ybottom=(yc-2*sw)+sw,
     col=ccol, border=NA)
rect(xleft=xc-sw, ytop=(yc+2*sw)-sw, xright=xc+sw, ybottom=(yc+2*sw)+sw,
     col=ccol, border=NA)
title(main="Switzerland")
```

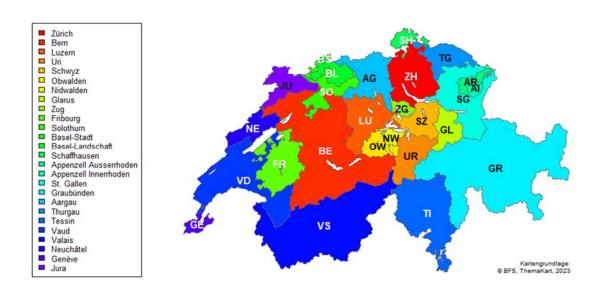
Switzerland



3 Plot Swiss Cantons

Plot of the cantons with the canton names in the (area) centroid of the canton. The area centroids of the cantons are available in the dataset kant.pnt as x, y coordinates. This allows texts to be written directly on the map.

Use specialized function PlotKant():



4 Cantons with capitals

Plot of the cantons with display of their capitals. The coordinates of the capitals are stored in the file stkt.pnt and can be extracted with stkt.pnt@coords.

The chart is constructed so, that first the smallest spatial units (municipalities) are drawn, then the next larger ones (districts) and finally the top units (cantons). Capitals and waters are drawn over the map last.

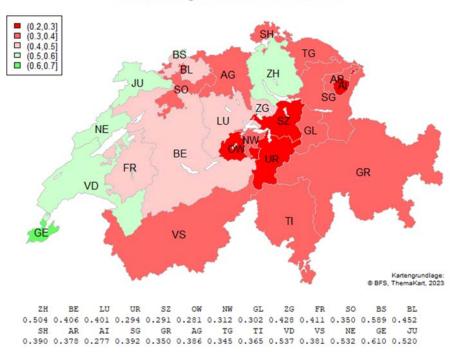


5 Numeric Based Colorcoding for Cantons

Plot of the cantons with a colour-coded variable and table in the same plot.

```
# Combine map with tabular results
waffen <- c(0.504,0.406,0.401,0.294,0.291,0.281,0.312,0.302,0.428,0.411,0.350,0.589,
            0.452,0.390,0.378,0.277,0.392,0.350,0.386,0.345,0.365,0.537,0.381,0.532,
            0.610, 0.520)
names(waffen) <- levels(d.bfsrg$kt_x)</pre>
cols <- colorRampPalette(c("red", "white", "green"), space = "rgb")(6)[</pre>
  cut(waffen, breaks=c(seq(0.2,0.8,0.1))) ]
layout( matrix(c(1,2), nrow=2, byrow=TRUE), heights=c(2,0.5), TRUE)
usr <- par(mar=c(0,4.1,4.1,2.1))
PlotKant(col=cols, main="Volksinitiative «Für den Schutz vor
Waffengewalt»\nAbstimmungsresultate vom 13.02.2010",
         labels=kant.map$idx )
legend(x="topleft", inset=0.02, cex=0.8,
       fill=colorRampPalette(c("red", "white", "green"), space = "rgb")(6)[1:5],
       legend=levels( cut(waffen, breaks=c(seq(0.2,0.8,0.1))))[1:5])
par(usr)
usr <- par(mar=c(0,0,0,0))
out <- capture.output(round(waffen[1:13],3), round(waffen[14:26],3))</pre>
plot(1, axes=FALSE, frame.plot=FALSE, type="n", xlab="", ylab="")
text(labels=out, x=1,
     y= 0.85 + rev(1:length(out)) * strheight( "S", cex=1.0 ) * 1.3,
     adj=c(0.5,0.5), family="mono", cex=0.8)
par(usr)
layout(1)
```

Volksinitiative «Für den Schutz vor Waffengewalt» Abstimmungsresultate vom 13.02.2010

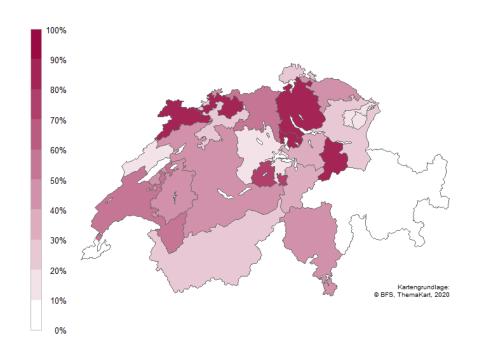


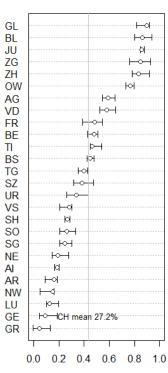
6 Combine Cantons with a Dotplot

A presentation of cantonal data that has proven to be very useful in practice is the simultaneous presentation of maps and a dotplot in which the numerical value to be depicted can be made well visible with possible confidence intervals. The graphic area is divided for this purpose with layout(). This process is encapsulated in the function PlotMapDot() and simplifies the coding.

```
# get some proportions and simulated confidence intervals
set.seed(1964)
ptab <- data.frame(val=runif(n=26, max = 0.9))</pre>
ptab$lci <- ptab$val - runif(n = 26, 0.01, 0.1)</pre>
ptab$uci <- ptab$val + runif(n = 26, 0.01, 0.1)</pre>
rownames(ptab) <- kt
# prepare the layout for the map and the dotplot
PlotMapDot()
# define the a color ramp with 10 colors
cols <- colorRampPalette(colors = c("white", hred))(10)</pre>
PlotKant(rownames(ptab), col=FindColor(ptab$val, cols = cols, min.x=0, max.x=1),
border="grey40")
ColorLegend(x="left", width=10000, labels=paste(seq(0, 100, 10), "%", sep=""),
            cols=cols, cex=0.8, adj=c(1,0.5), frame="grey", inset=c(-0.09, 0))
ptab <- Sort(ptab, decreasing=TRUE)</pre>
PlotDot(ptab$val,labels = rownames(ptab),
        args.errbars = list(from=ptab$lci, to=ptab$uci, mid=ptab$val),
        cex=1, xlim=c(0, 1), bg="white", pch=21, col="grey10")
abline(v=mean(ptab$val), col="grey")
text(x=mean(ptab$val), y=2, "CH mean 27.2%", cex=0.8)
```

Any extrapolated distribution CH in 2020

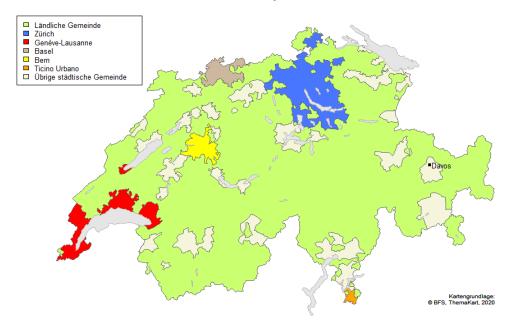




7 Metropolitan Regions

Plot metropolitan regions Switzerland.

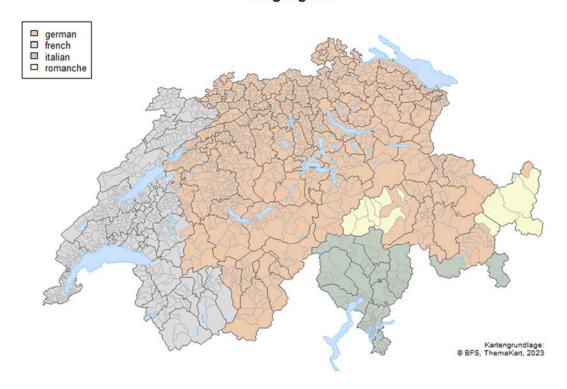
Swiss metropolitan areas



8 Language Regions

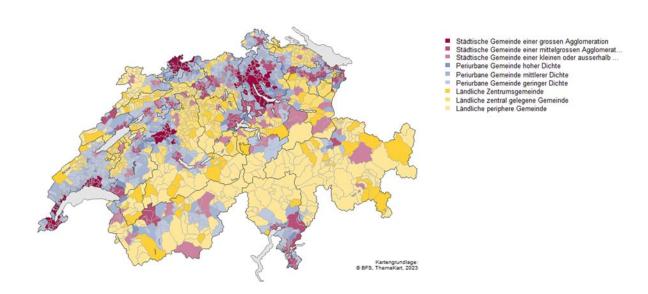
Display language regions or any other data from the attached recordset d.bfsrg.

Language CH



9 Community Types

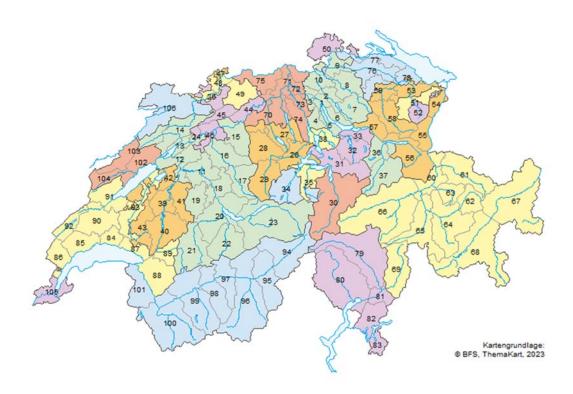
We have several community types in Switzerland. Communities who show a high degree of urbanisation and such with more rural characteristics. The variable <code>gem_typ9_x</code> contains a grouping factor of 9 levels.



10 MS-Regions

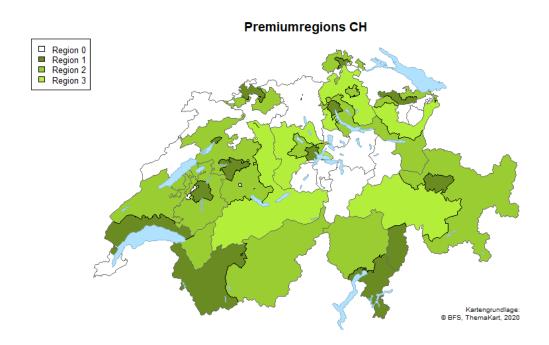
Plot MS Regions ('mobilité spatiale') in Switzerland, a special, artificial spatial partitioning of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office.

106 MS-Regions



11 Premium Regions

For plotting the premium regions as own areas, we have first to combine the polygons of the municipalities. The data is made available by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health FOPH – BAG. It is included in the internal dataset d.bfsrg of the package 'bfsMaps'.



12 Vegetation Area

For the vegetation area, uninhabited, vegetation-free areas (lakes, glaciers, rock) are subtracted from the total area and not shown, thus achieving a more realistic spatial representation for most statistical results. In the map below the unfertile area is shown in dark.

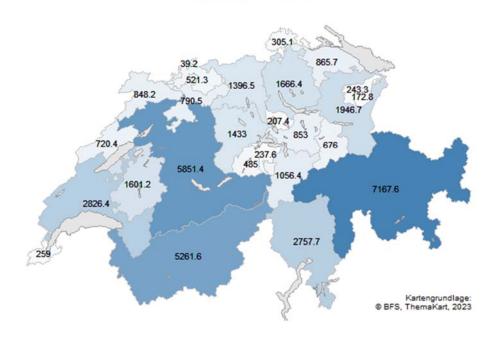
```
PlotCH(col="wheat3", col.vf="wheat", border="wheat3", main="CH Vegetation Area")
AddRivers()
AddLakes()
PlotKant(col=NA, border="wheat4", add=TRUE, lwd=1)
```



13 Further Information of geometry

Further information can be accessed by sf functions – a real relief! Here is an example for the area of the cantons.

Cantons' area in km2



14 Single Cantons

We can also plot only single cantons.

Beautiful Grisons



15 More Single Cantons

This plot shows the municipalities just for the single canton Zurich. The lakes that should been plotted can be found with sf::st_intersects.

```
# get the maps
zh.map <- GetMap("kant.map")[which(kt == "ZH"),]</pre>
zh.lakes <- lapply(GetMap(gettextf("see%s.map", 1:2)),</pre>
                   function(x)
                     x[sf::st_intersects(x, zh.map, sparse=FALSE),] )
# just preparing the plot...
Mar(bottom=5)
plot(zh.map$geometry, asp=1, axes=FALSE, xlab="", ylab="", border=NA,
     main="Mighty Zurich")
# Plot only municipalities of Zurich canton
zh_gem <- d.bfsrg$gem_id[d.bfsrg$kt_x=="ZH"]</pre>
cols <- colorRampPalette(colors=c("white", hecru))(300)</pre>
zh_cols <- cols[round(runif(length(zh_gem), 1, 100))]</pre>
PlotPolg(id=zh_gem, col=zh_cols, border = "grey", add=TRUE)
PlotKant(id="ZH", border = "darkgrey", add=TRUE, lwd=2)
# add the lakes
lapply(lapply(zh.lakes, "[", "geometry"), plot, add=TRUE, col = "lightskyblue1",
border = "lightskyblue3")
# the centroids of communities
coms <- GetMap("polg.map") |>
        (\(.) .[.$name %in% c("Pfäffikon", "Russikon", "Flaach", "Uitikon"),
                 "geometry"])()
points(sf::st coordinates(sf::st centroid(coms)),
       pch=21, bg="red", col="darkgrey", cex=1.2)
ColorLegend(x="bottom", cols = cols, horiz = TRUE, width=50000, height=2000,
            inset=-0.1, frame = "grey", title="Anzahl Personen",
            labels = seq(0,16,4))
```

Mighty Zurich



16 Determine neighbours

To determine the neighbours adjacent to a region, the Neighbours() function can be used. The function requires the specification of the map and a vector with the IDs of the regions whose neighbours are to be determined. The result consists of a list. For each region a vector with the IDs of the direct neighbours is returned.

Neighbours





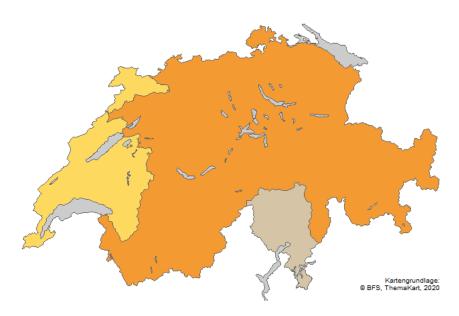
The determination is not limited to cantons but can be used with all spatial divisions. If neighbours are sought for several municipalities, several ids (municipality numbers) can be passed to the function as vectors. Also here <code>Neighbours()</code> returns the neighbours organized as a list.

17 Combining geographical areas

With the functions <code>CombinePolg()</code> and <code>CombineKant()</code>, cantonal or municipal areas can be combined into new units. This is useful, for example, for the display of premium regions or hospital service areas. Here it is sufficient to pass the region ID as an argument to the function and to provide grouping information for each region ID. The function then compiles the regions and returns them as plottable map objects.

The determination is not limited to cantons or municipalities, but can be done with all spatial divisions using the more general function CombinePolygons().

Languages in CH



18 Swiss-Locator

Particularly in data cleansing at the municipal level, it happens that municipal areas remain white and one wants to know quickly which municipality(s) are involved.

The function SwissLocator() helps here. You can interactively click on any point on the CH map and get back information about the coordinates, canton and municipality affiliation etc. as a result.

- # after having plotted a map, e.g. with PlotKant(), first start the locator
 SwissLocator()
 - # ... the cursor changes to black cross lacktriangle
- [... then do some clicks on the map ...]



[... finish by pressing [ESC] or clicking on Finish ...]

The function reports the coordinates for the clicks, the according political community, the district, the MS-region and the canton. Coordinates outside the Swiss area will return as NA.

```
> SwissLocator()
Note: -----
  Found communities: 3732, 5049, 576.
x y gem_id gemeinde_x
1 2743318 1190791 3732
                                                      bezk x
                                                     Imboden
                                                                 Surselva
                                                                             GR
2 2714675 1163682
                     5049
                                                                 Tre Valli
                                Blenio
                                                      Blenio
                                                                             TI
3 2642045 1167774
                      576 Grindelwald Interlaken-Oberhasli Oberland-Ost
```

This resulting data frame will be stored in the bfsMaps own environment tkart under the name tkart\$found , where it can be accessed subsequently.