A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO R

Gavin L. Simpson CSEE 2015 · May 20th 2015 Loading required package: methods Loading required package: grid

WHY R?

Why use a complicated, command-line driven stats package like R?

- · It's free!
- · Widley used by statisticians for new statistical methods
- · If something doesn't work the way you like, you can change it
- · R is a programming language you can write your own functions
- · R scripts, Sweave, & knitr for reproducible research
- · Works everywhere (Windows, OS X, Linux, ...)
- · R was designed for expressive data analysis

R BASICS

R BASICS

Start RStudio — take a look around

R will be running in either your home directory or where is was installed

Set the working directory to folder containing your analysis

GETTING HELP

R comes with a lot of documentation

To get help on functions or concepts within R, use the "?" operator

For help on the <code>getwd()</code> function use: <code>?getwd</code>

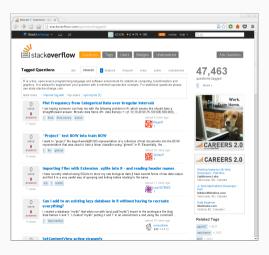
Function help.search("foo") will search through all packages installed for help pages with foo in them

R-Help mailing list: http://www.r-project.org/mail.html

cran.r-project.org/web/views/



stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/r



WORKING WITH R

Type commands at the prompt > - R evaluates them when you hit Return

If a line is *not* syntactically complete, the prompt changes to +

Create an object by assigning something to it

```
radius <- 5
pi * radius^2
```

[1] 78.53982

If we don't assign, R prints a representation of the object

PACKAGES

R comes with a basic set of functionality plus some reccomended packages

Additional functionality added via packages from CRAN, github, Bioconductor, drat repos

```
install.packages(c("gapminder", "ggplot2"))
library("gapminder")
library("ggplot2")
```

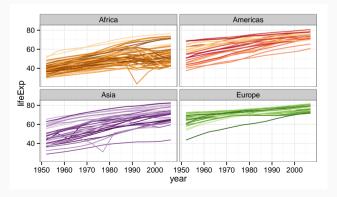
READING DATA INTO R

6 Afghanistan

Asia 1977 38.438 14880372 786.1134

THIS IS WHERE WE ARE HEADING

```
ggplot(subset(gapminder, continent != "Oceania"),
        aes(x = year, y = lifeExp, group = country, color = country)) +
geom_line(show_guide = FALSE) + facet_wrap(~ continent) +
scale_color_manual(values = country_colors) +
theme_bw()
```



R OBJECTS

What kind of object is **gapminder**?

```
str(gapminder)
'data frame': 1704 obs. of 6 variables:
 $ country : Factor w/ 142 levels "Afghanistan"...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
 $ continent: Factor w/ 5 levels "Africa", "Americas",...: 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 ...
 $ vear
       : int 1952 1957 1962 1967 1972 1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 ...
 $ lifeExp : num 28.8 30.3 32 34 36.1 ...
 $ pop
           : num 8425333 9240934 10267083 11537966 13079460 ...
 $ gdpPercap: num 779 821 853 836 740 ...
class(gapminder)
[1] "data.frame"
```

DATA FRAMES

A data frame is R's version of an Excel spreadsheet

Columns are variables

Rows are observations

Different **types** of data in columns

Each column (component) is of the same length

Is a special case of a list

Access the columns of a data frame using [, [[or \$

\$ is simple:

Access just a single variable

head(gapminder\$country)

[1] Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan 142 Levels: Afghanistan Albania Algeria Angola Argentina ... Zimbabwe

Uses the name of required variable

Partial matching

head(gapminder\$cou)

[1] Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan Afghanistan 142 Levels: Afghanistan Albania Algeria Angola Argentina ... Zimbabwe

```
[[ is a little more flexible:
```

Access just a single variable

Use the name of required variable

```
head(gapminder[["continent"]])
```

```
[1] Asia Asia Asia Asia Asia Levels: Africa Americas Asia Europe Oceania
```

Or select the *n*th component

```
head(gapminder[[2]])
```

```
[1] Asia Asia Asia Asia Asia Levels: Africa Americas Asia Europe Oceania
```

Partial matching optional — gapminder[["cont", exact = FALSE]]

```
[ is a even more flexible:
```

Access one or more variables

Use the name(s) of required variable

```
head(gapminder[c("country", "continent")])
```

```
country continent
1 Afghanistan Asia
2 Afghanistan Asia
3 Afghanistan Asia
4 Afghanistan Asia
5 Afghanistan Asia
6 Afghanistan Asia
```

Or select the *n*th component(s)

```
head(gapminder[1:2])
```

country continent 1 Afghanistan Asia 2 Afghanistan Asia 3 Afghanistan Asia 4 Afghanistan Asia 5 Afghanistan Asia 6 Afghanistan Asia

```
Or we can index by rows and columns: [rows, cols, other_args]
```

```
head(gapminder[1:4, c(1,3)])
```

```
country year
```

- 1 Afghanistan 1952
- 2 Afghanistan 1957
- 3 Afghanistan 1962
- 4 Afghanistan 1967

Leaving the row or column identifier blank means "give me all of the rows (columns)"

```
head(gapminder[1:4, ])
                                       # all columns, rows 1--4
      country continent year lifeExp
                                         pop gdpPercap
1 Afghanistan
                  Asia 1952
                             28.801 8425333 779.4453
2 Afghanistan
                  Asia 1957 30.332 9240934 820.8530
3 Afghanistan
                  Asia 1962 31.997 10267083 853.1007
4 Afghanistan
                  Asia 1967 34.020 11537966 836.1971
head(gapminder[, 1:3], 3)
                                       # all rows. columns 1--3
      country continent year
1 Afghanistan
                  Asia 1952
2 Afghanistan
                  Asia 1957
3 Afghanistan
                  Asia 1962
```

Empty dimensions get **dropped** if you select a single column

```
head(gapminder[, 2], 3)
                                      # just column 2
[1] Asia Asia Asia
Levels: Africa Americas Asia Europe Oceania
Preserve dimensions using drop = FALSE
head(gapminder[, 2, drop = FALSE], 3) # all rows, columns 1--3
  continent
      Asia
      Asia
      Asia
```

Can use a range of index types

- · Numeric values select the **n**th elements
- · Negative numeric values select all but those elements
- · Character values select elements by name (possibly with partial matching)
- · Logical values select (TRUE) & deselect (FALSE) elements
- · Logical indices are recycled to the correct length

```
(1:10)[c(FALSE, TRUE)]

[1] 2 4 6 8 10

(1:9)[c(FALSE, TRUE)] # no warning
```

[1] 2 4 6 8

VECTORS

str(gapminder)

What are the columns of gapminder?

```
'data.frame': 1704 obs. of 6 variables:
$ country : Factor w/ 142 levels "Afghanistan",..: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
$ continent: Factor w/ 5 levels "Africa", "Americas",..: 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 ...
$ year : int 1952 1957 1962 1967 1972 1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 ...
$ lifeExp : num 28.8 30.3 32 34 36.1 ...
$ pop : num 8425333 9240934 10267083 11537966 13079460 ...
$ gdpPercap: num 779 821 853 836 740 ...
```

Each component is a vector, of which there are several types: numeric, character, logical, factor, integer

VECTORS — NUMERIC & INTEGER

R normally stores numeric data as doubles (decimal values)

There is an integer type too

```
class(gapminder$lifeExp)

[1] "numeric"

class(gapminder$year)

[1] "integer"
```

VECTORS — NUMERIC & INTEGER

```
Create numeric vectors using c() or:
```

```
c(1,3,5,7,9)
[1] 1 3 5 7 9
1:10
```

[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

x:y is shorthand for seq(from = x, to = y, by = 1)

VECTORS — CHARACTER

Character vectors contain text (strings)

```
c("foo","bar")
[1] "foo" "bar"
```

Quote each string using single or double quotes

VECTORS — LOGICAL

Logical vectors are vectors of TRUE or FALSE values

```
c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE)
[1] TRUE TRUE FALSE
```

- · FALSE is 0
- \cdot TRUE is anything else, but is coerced to 1

```
as.numeric(c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE))
```

[1] 1 1 0

VECTORS — FACTORS

Factors are a special kind of vector

- · stored internally as a vector of codes
- the codes index a set of levels or categories, which can be numeric of character

```
f <- factor(c("Male", "Female", "Male"))</pre>
levels(f)
[1] "Female" "Male"
f \leftarrow factor(c(1,2,5,5,2,1))
as.numeric(f)
                                           # WRONG! Gets internal codes
[1] 1 2 3 3 2 1
as.numeric(as.character(f))
                                           # RIGHT! correct coercion
[1] 1 2 5 5 2 1
```

SEQUENCES & PATTERNED VECTORS

Sequences and patterned vectors are very useful in some circumstances

```
seq(from = 1, to = 10, by = 2)
[1] 1 3 5 7 9
1:5
[1] 1 2 3 4 5
rep(1:3, each = 2)
[1] 1 1 2 2 3 3
rep(1:3, times = 3:1)
[1] 1 1 1 2 2 3
```



FUNCTIONS

[8] 5.049838 1.887431 -3.856392

Pretty much everyting in R is either a function or the result of a call to one

Called with following format: fun_name(arg1 = value1, arg2 = value2)

```
rnorm(10)
 [1] 0.26225849 -0.44882572 0.01023055 -0.52419573 -0.93363066
 [6] -0.63689938 -0.87347879 -0.63486581 -0.79731712 -1.68350867
args(rnorm)
function (n. mean = 0. sd = 1)
NULL
rnorm(10. mean = 2. sd = 4)
 [1] -2.038808 4.445248 4.609071 6.462982 10.390252 -2.320591 4.360110
```

FUNCTIONS

Can use positional matching for argument names, but don't except for the first

```
rnorm(10, 2, 4)  # What the heck does this do?

[1] 7.9504510  2.5050757  1.3142966 -2.6856997 -2.0826316 -0.8252653
[7] 10.5205840  7.8822262  4.4565896  3.4448368
```

If you name arguments can be in any order (can be partial names)

```
rnorm(sd = 4, mean = 2, n = 10)

[1] -0.1235672 -0.2620203  2.5597837  3.9062834 -3.5814213 -0.1317407
[7]  1.4856301  7.5251081  0.7260785  3.2503350
```

FUNCTIONS

[1] 100

You can write your own functions using the function() function

32

SPLIT-APPLY-COMBINE

SPLIT-APPLY-COMBINE

The split-apply-combine model is a common type of data analysis

- · split data into chunks based on one or more factors
- · apply a function to each chunk
- · combine the outputs of applying the function to each chunk

Several R packages provide consistent and efficient implementations of the split-apply-combine model

· plyr, dply, data.table

But base R has useful functions too

- aggregate(), split() + apply()-family + c|rbind()

SPLIT-APPLY-COMBINE

aggregate applies FUN to a vector, split up by one or more factors:

```
aggregate(pop ~ continent, data = gapminder, FUN = median)

continent pop
1 Africa 4579311
2 Americas 6227510
3 Asia 14530830
4 Europe 8551125
5 Oceania 6403492
```

SPLIT-APPLY-COMBINE

Can do this by hand too

```
with(gapminder, sapply(split(pop, f = continent), FUN = median))

Africa Americas Asia Europe Oceania
4579311 6227510 14530830 8551125 6403492
```

SPLIT-APPLY-COMBINE — APPLY FAMILY

The **apply** family provides very general approaches to applying function to aspects of data

- · apply applies a function to the MARGINs of a matrix, array, or data frame
- sapply applies the function to components of a list or data frame & simplifies if possible
- · lapply applies the function to components of a list or data frame & returns a list
- · tapply applies the function to chunks of data created by splitting on a factor
- mapply, vapply(), rapply() are specialist alternatives

SPLIT-APPLY-COMBINE — APPLY FAMILY

SPLIT-APPLY-COMBINE — APPLY FAMILY

```
with(gapminder, lapply(split(pop, f = continent), FUN = median))
$Africa
[1] 4579311
$Americas
[1] 6227510
$Asia
[1] 14530830
$Europe
[1] 8551125
$Oceania
[1] 6403492
```





PLOTTING

Your R installation comes with two main plotting toolboxes

- · base graphics
- · grid graphics

Grid graphics is extremely flexible butthat comes at a cost of complexity Two high-level interfaces to grid provides extensive plotting capabailities

- · lattice, which comes with R
- · ggplot2, which needs to be installed from CRAN

BASE GRAPHICS

These are the standard types of plots available in & produced by R & add-on packages

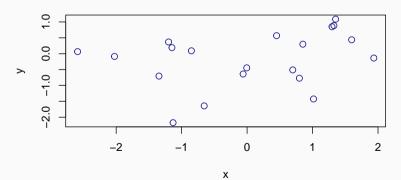
The main function is plot(), with points(), lines(), text(), segments(),
polygons(), etc acting as lower-level elements

The look and feel of the plots is essentially controlled via graphical parameters — ?par

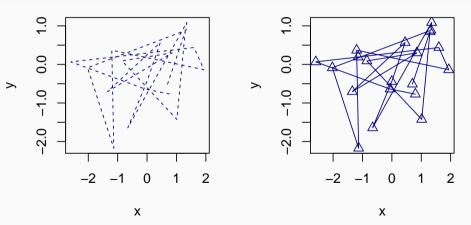
Other high-level functions provide to access to the main plot types — boxplot(),
hist(), stripchart(), barchart()

BASE GRAPHICS

```
x <- rnorm(20)
y <- rnorm(20)
plot(x, y, pch = 1, col = "navyblue", cex = 1.2, type = "p")</pre>
```

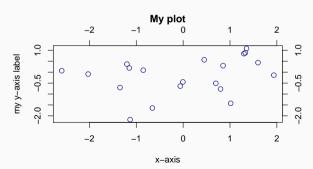


```
plot(x, y, lty = "dashed", col = "navyblue", cex = 1.2, type = "l")
plot(x, y, pch = 2, col = "navyblue", cex = 1.2, type = "o")
```



BASE GRAPHICS

```
op <- par(mar = c(5,4,5,4) + 0.1)  # alter margins
plot(x, y, pch = 1, col = "navyblue", cex = 1.2, type = "p", ann = FALSE, axes = FALSE)
axis(side = 1); axis(side = 2)  # add axis, can be customised
axis(side = 3); axis(side = 4)
box()  # draw the box round the plot
title(main = "My plot", xlab = "x-axis", ylab = "my y-axis label")
par(op)  # reset plotting parameters</pre>
```



Base graphics are serviceable but require a lot of cruft code to go beyond basic plots — encoding size, colour, etc using data

This is where lattice and ggplot2 graphics come in

These are high-level plotting toolboxes that provide interfaces espousing Trellis Graphics and The Grammar of Graphics ideas, both built on top of **grid**

These are *not* general purpose graphics toolkits — need to follow the ideas & theory behind the respective paradigm

If you want general-purpose, you need to use base graphics or grid

Can't (easily) mix base and grid graphics

GGPLOT

ggplot2 is an implementation of Leland Wilkinson's Grammar of Graphics (hence gg in the name)

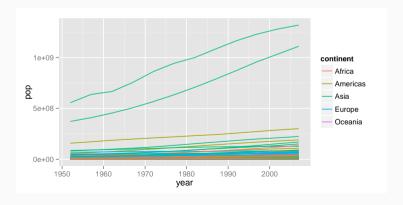
Three key components of a ggpplot2 plot

- · data the data must be in the form of a data frame
- · aesthetics how should data be represented on the plot
 - · essentially **mappings** from variables to coordinates, size, colour, shape, transparency
- · **geometries** how to physically draw the data & mappings

ggplot graphics consist of zero or more layers

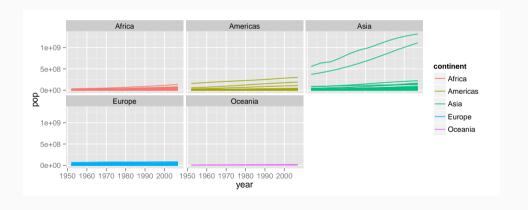
Additionally, **stats** transform variables, **scales** control axis scaling & legends, **themes** control overall look & feel, **facets** split data into panels

GGPLOT — A BASIC PLOT

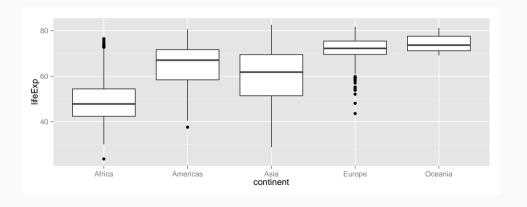


GGPLOT — FACETING

plt + facet_wrap(~ continent) # facet by continent

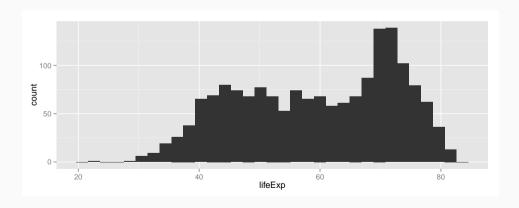


GGPLOT — STATS



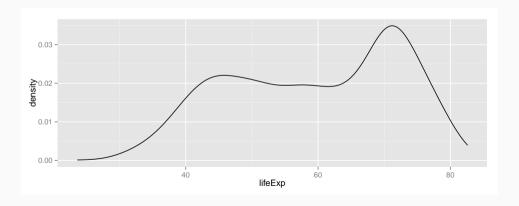
GGPLOT — STATS

```
ggplot(gapminder, mapping = aes(x = lifeExp)) +
  geom_histogram()  # has a default stat "bin"
```

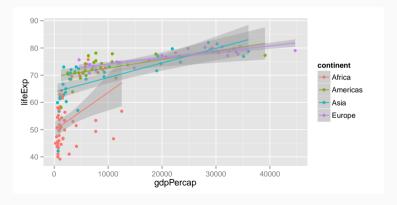


GGPLOT — STATS

```
ggplot(gapminder, mapping = aes(x = lifeExp)) +
   geom_line(stat = "density")  # change the stat
```

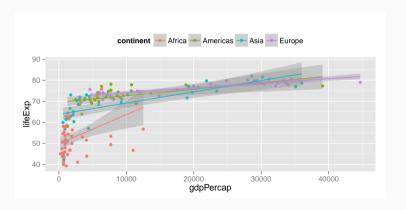


GGPLOT — GROUPING & SMOOTHS



GGPLOT — THEMES

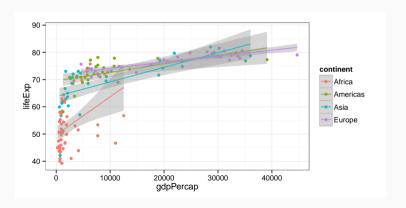
p2 + theme(legend.position = "top") # move the legend, see ?theme



GGPLOT — PRESENT THEMES



a simple theme



ggplot plots can be exported to disk using ggsave()

· If the image is on screen (last plot)

```
ggsave(file = "filename.pdf")
```

· If the plot is saved as an object

```
ggsave(p2, file = "filename.pdf")
```

· Specify the size

```
ggsave(file = "filename.pdf", width = 6, height = 4)
```

· Change the file type by modifying the extension

```
ggsave(file = "filename.png")
```

RE-USE

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