Hussain Sarfraz

Dr. Kates

DATA-101-610-2021C

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Visualization Homework

To practice the skills we learned in this topic (Visualization), please solve the following problems:

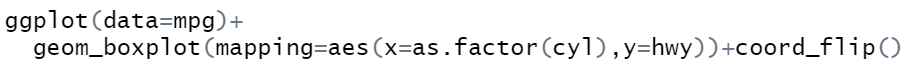
1. Investigate the relationship between the number of cylinders (<cyl>) and highway fuel efficiency. Look at the variables, and decide which type of plot (scatterplot, line plot, boxplot, or bar chart) best summarizes their relationship. Comment on that relationship. HINT: you may need to use the as.factor(cyl) syntax in the graph (as we did for year above).

A boxplot would be the best graph to display the relationship between the number of cylinders(cyl) and highway fuel efficiency(hwy). The reason for this is because cyl is a categorical nominal (or can also be seen as numerical discrete) x-variable while hwy is a continuous y-variable.

To display a box plot I typed this in R:

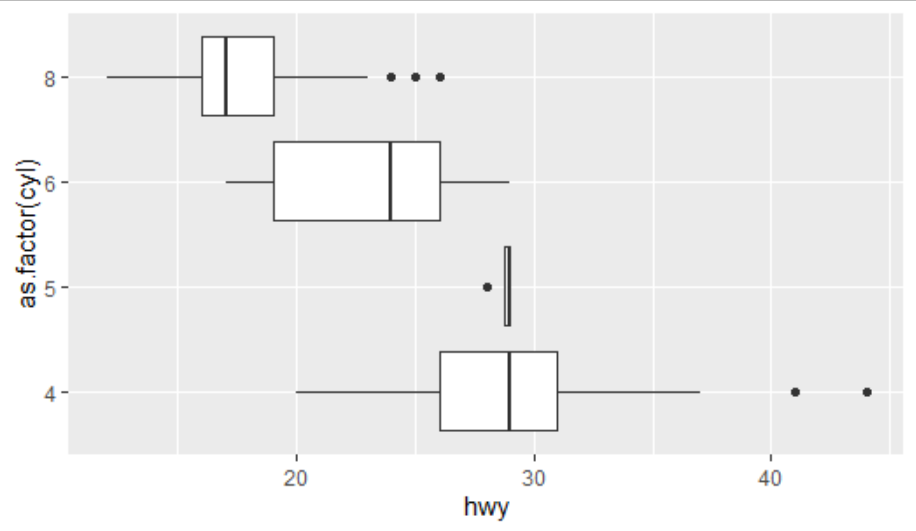
NOTE: I had to add as.factor() around cyl to let R know that the cyl column type should be a factor/categorical variable and not a numeric type

INPUT



I then got this graph as a result:

OUTPUT



*Figure 1: A boxplot that shows the distribution of fuel efficiency in each type of cylinder that a car has*

From looking at the graph you can observe that cars with less cylinders have higher fuel efficiency since the median for the boxplot with 4 and 5 cylinders is approximately 28 miles per gallon. This result is way larger than the median milage shown for cars with 6 and 8 cylinders which is approximately 23 and 17 respectively.

I determined that cyl is a categorical nominal (or numerical discrete variable depending on how you look at it) because the number of cylinders can only be a whole number and cannot include decimals. Also, when I entered the command “mpg$cyl” in R the number of cylinders shows these four repeated values only: 4,5,6,8. The number of cylinders is only limited to four groups based on the results of displaying all the values. For this reason, I have said that cyl is a categorical/discrete variable.

I determined that hwy is a numerical continuous variable because highway miles (per gallon) can be presented as a decimal with an infinite value. I even typed the command “mpg$hwy” in R to see if my initial observations were correct and I saw that the values for highway fuel efficiency were not repeated like the values shown for the number of cylinders. There were many different values shown for hwy. These observations led me to say that hwy is a continuous variable

1. In section 3.9.1 of the textbook, solve problem #4 (on the relationship between city and highway fuel efficiency). What substantive conclusions can you draw about the relationship between these variables?

What does the plot below tell you about the relationship between city and highway mpg?

The plot tells us that the two variables have a positive linear correlation which means that as city mpg increases highway mpg increases as well. The reason why highway mpg is greater than city mpg is due to the fact that there are less stops in a highway whereas in a city a car’s fuel is used on frequent stops in the traffic light or rush hours.

Why is coord\_fixed() important?

coord\_fixed() is important since it defines the aspect ratio of the line graph shown in problem #4. Adjusting a graphs aspect ratio helps with data visualization. The aspect ratio ensures that the x and y axis have a consistent ratio in a graph, no matter the size of the output window. In the example problem, the aspect ratio helped compress the data points and place the line at a specific angle so observations and conclusions can easily be seen and made.

BEFORE coord\_fixed()

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

*Figure 2: This is a graph without the coord\_fixed() function. As you can see it is a bit hard to see any patterns since the data points are spread out a bit*

AFTER coord\_fixed()

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

*Figure 3: This is a graph with the coord\_fixed() function. The points in this graph are closer together than in figure 2 which shows that using the coord\_fixed() function allows an individual to make better observations about data since the patterns are easier to see. Also, the aspect ratio for the graph is set which would allow different users to see the graph in one form instead of in different sizes (a graphs initial size can be altered through a individuals output window size).*

What does geom\_abline() do?

geom\_abline() creates a line which has a slope of 1. It is different from the regression line which is used to show whether two variables are correlated. Since geom\_abline() has a slope of 1 it represents a scenario where city mpg and highway mpg are the same. This is because if city mph is 1 then the highway mpg will be 1 as well. Both values would be the same.

The regression line lies consistently above the equality line, showing that highway mpg is always greater than city mpg. On average, cars get about 5–10 mpg more on highways than in cities. This makes sense, as cars generally achieve better fuel efficiency at steady highway speeds compared to stop-and-go city driving.

Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated

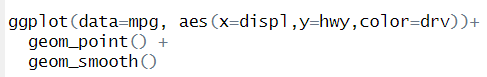
*Figure 4: I added the geom\_smooth() function to the graph to see if my observations were correct. The variables cty and hwy are correlated since they are closely surrounded by the blue line. The regression line is above the geom\_abline() which means highway mpg is always greater than city mpg.*

1. Look at how the type of drivetrain influences fuel economy (<drv>). For a given engine size (<displ>), in general, do four-wheel drive, front wheel drive, or rear wheel drive engines have the highest fuel economy?

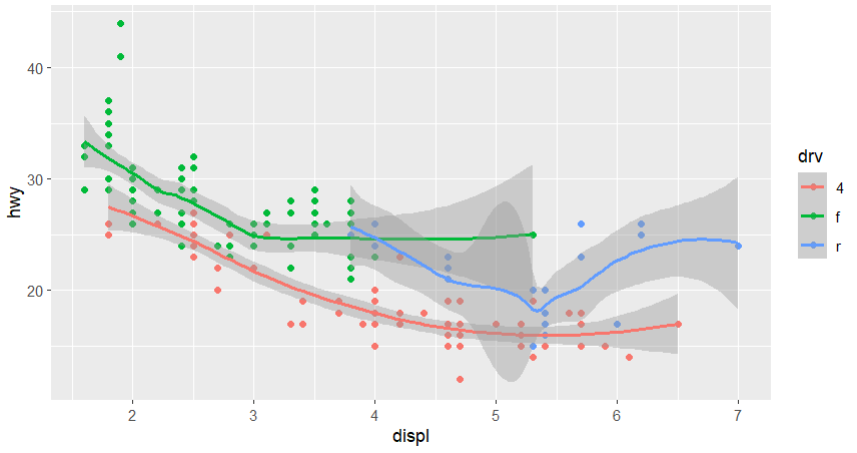
Front wheel drives have the highest fuel economy since the scatterplot in figure 5 shows that majority of the front wheel drivetrains are in the upper left-hand corner (green points in graph). Also, the front wheel drivetrains have a small engine size which reveals that cars with a small engine size have greater fuel efficiency.

There are some four-wheel drivetrains (red points in graph) that do mix with the green points, but majority of the red points are in the lower right-hand corner of the graph. This means that there are some four-wheel drivetrains that have a high fuel economy, but majority of the four-wheel drivetrains do not have a high fuel economy.

INPUT



OUTPUT



*Figure 5: A scatterplot which compares the 2 continuous variables displ and hwy. The categorical variable drv color codes each point to show the type of drive that is represented by each point.*