

rCharts NYT Interactive Home Price

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Great NYT Interactive – Now Reusable with rCharts

Another Favorite from NYT

I think we all know the data visualization team at NYT is simply amazing. Earlier this year in my post `d3 <- R with rCharts and slidify` I adapted and recreated the 512 Paths to the White House to work with R data through **rCharts**. Unfortunately, I was not creative enough to think of other data sets to plug into the visualization. When Scott Murray tweeted,

Over at @nytgraphics, @KevinQ and @shancarter really know how to wiggle a baseline. <http://t.co/gS9gHrSLIu>
— Scott Murray (@alignedleft) June 25, 2013

I immediately knew the Case Shiller Home Price Index visualization would be perfect for reuse with any cumulative growth time series data. This is a bit of a hack of **rCharts** and should not be considered best practices, but it is a demonstration of the very flexible design of the package. In the spirit of this discussion, I did not want to just copy entirely. I was able to add a couple key innovations to the visualization:

- Generalize the d3 code a little more to adapt to the data
- Build in R with **rCharts** to make it reusable.

Reusable Version in rCharts As I mentioned above, this visualization works well with any cumulative growth time series, so let's apply it to the **managers** dataset supplied by the **PerformanceAnalytics** package.

Get Data and Transform

```
#get the data and convert to a format that we would expect from melted xts
#will be typical
#also original only uses a single value (val) and not other
require(reshape2)
require(PerformanceAnalytics)
#data(managers)
#managers <- na.omit(managers)
#managers.melt <- melt(
#  data.frame( index( managers ), coredata(cumprod( managers+1 )*100 ) ),
#  id.vars = 1
#)
#colnames(managers.melt) <- c("date", "manager","val")
#managers.melt[, "date"] <- format(managers.melt[, "date"], format = "%Y-%m-%d")
```

Draw The Graph

```
require(rCharts)
#p2 <- rCharts$new()
#p2$setLib('libraries/widgets/nyt_home')
#p2$setTemplate(script = "libraries/widgets/nyt_home/layouts/nyt_home.html")
#p2$set(
#  description = "This data comes from the managers dataset included in the R package PerformanceAnalyt
#  data = managers.melt,
#  groups = "manager"
```

```
#)
#cat(noquote(p2$html()))
```

Thanks

As I hope you can tell, this post was more a function of the efforts of others than of my own.

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