EDS 240: Discussion 2

Recreating US Drought Monitor viz

Part 1: graphic form
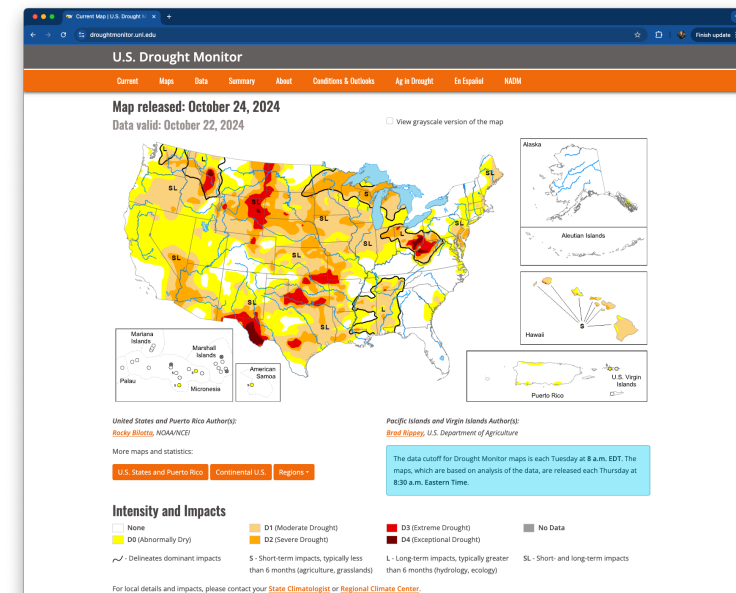
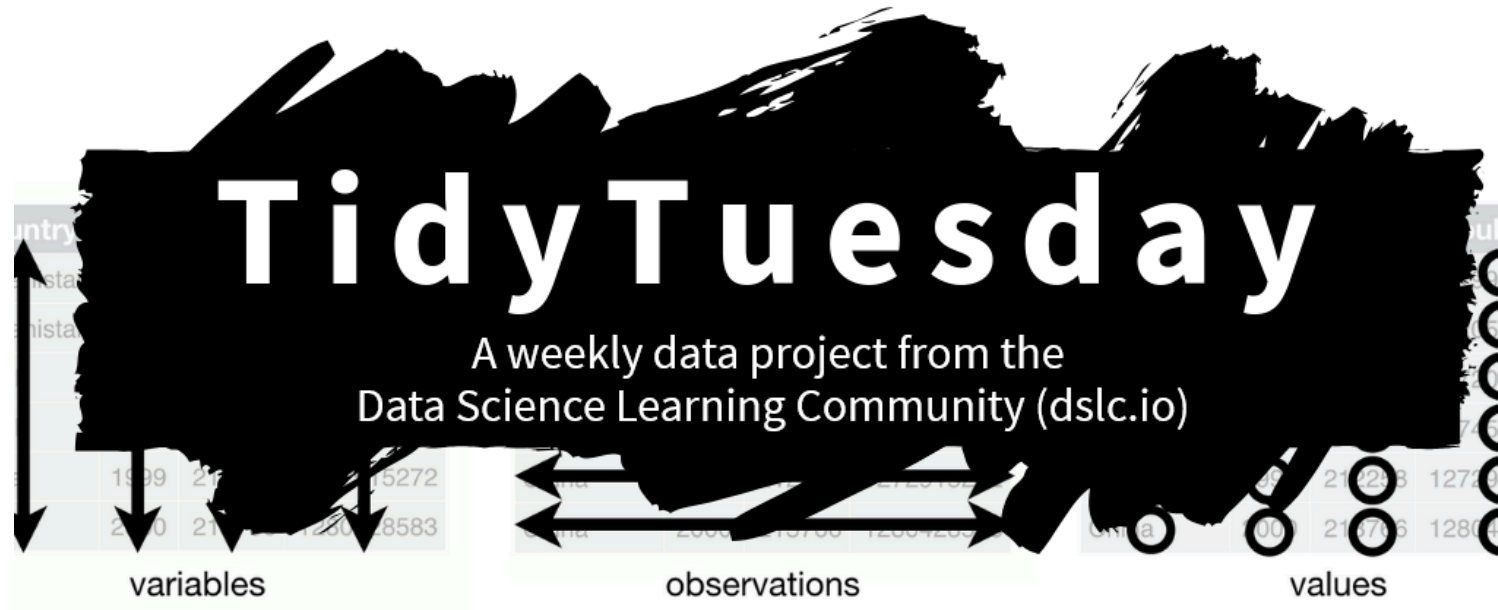Week 2 | January 14th, 2025

What is the U.S. Drought Monitor?

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a collection of measures that allows experts to assess droughts in the United States.

It is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. You can download and explore comprehensive statistics through their data portal.
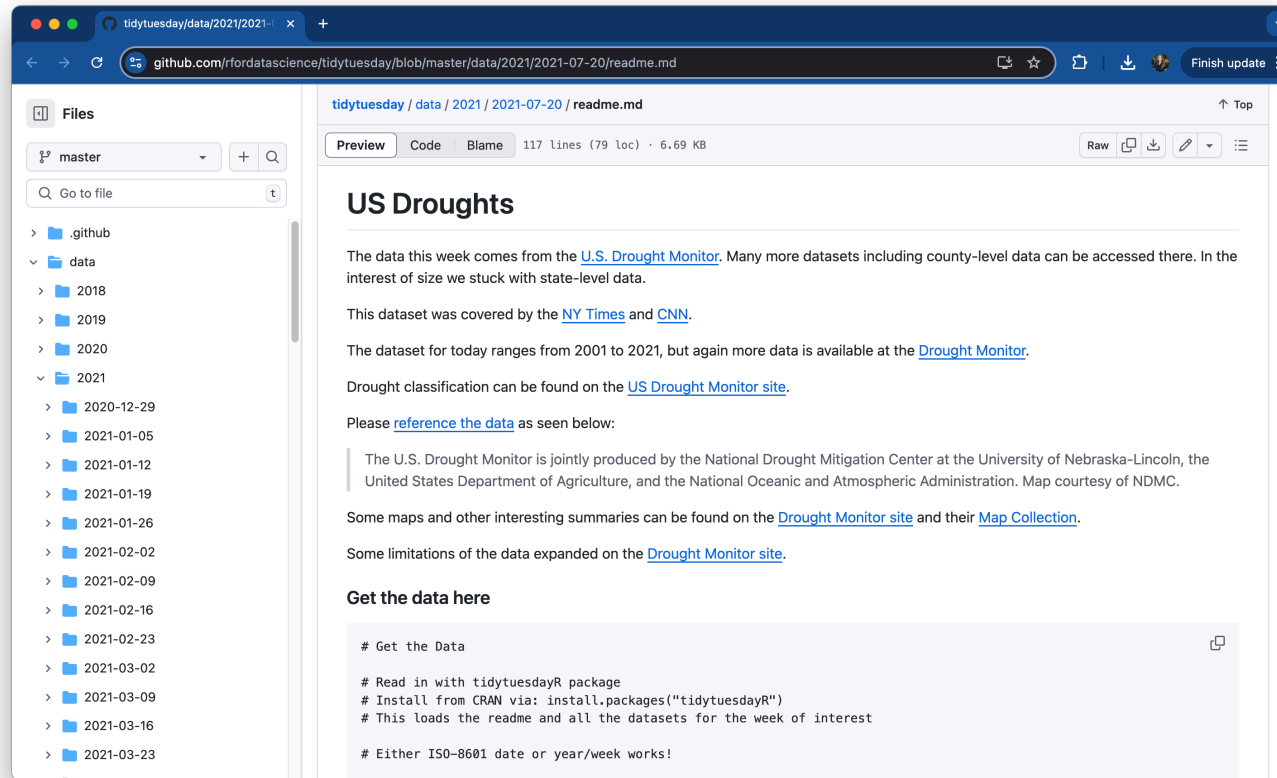
What is the TidyTuesday?

TidyTuesday is a "weekly social data project" organized by the Data Science Learning Community. It's goal is to **"make it easier to learn to work with data, by providing real-world datasets."**

Since 2018, participants of all skill levels have imported, wrangled, and visualized weekly data sets, then shared their creations + code on social media. It's a fun, low-stakes way to learn new data visualization skills and approaches from one another – check it out!
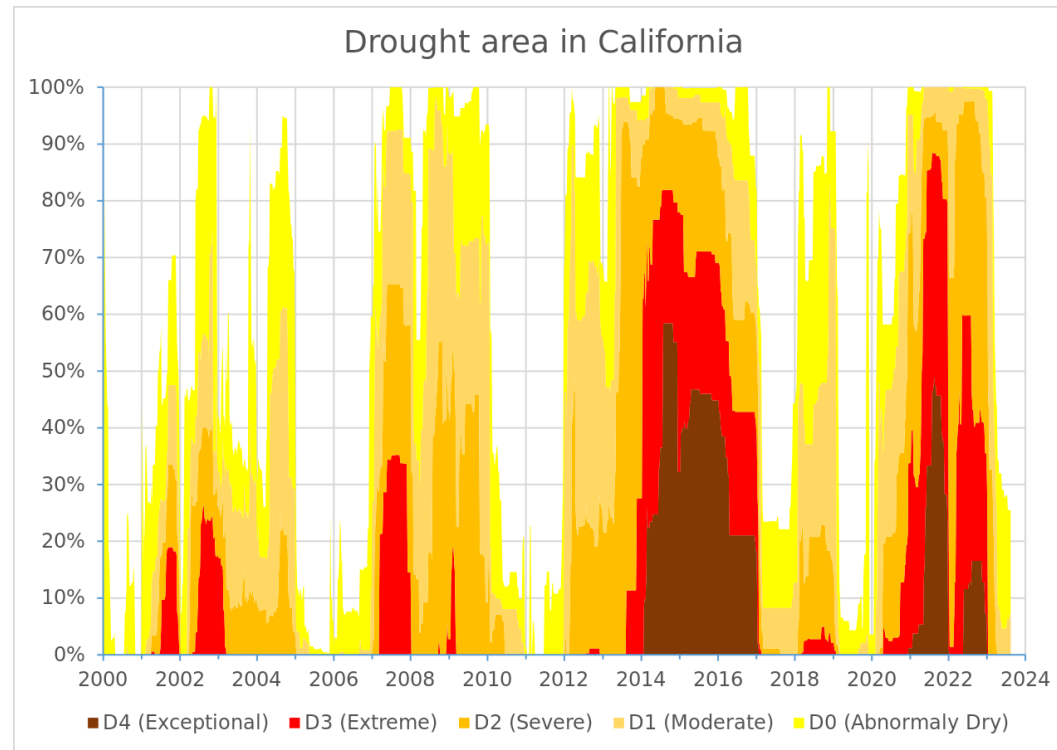
USDM x TidyTuesday

The TidyTuesday community wrangled and visualized USDM data back in 2021 (2021-07-20, week 30), so we'll import some *minimally-tidied data directly from the TidyTuesday GitHub repository.

Let's recreate this USDM viz!

We'll be recreating this data visualization produced by U.S. Drought Monitor (you can find on the *Droughts in California* Wikipedia page!):

This week, we'll focus on the data layer, geometric layer, and scales. During week 4 discussion, we'll work on tweaking the theme (all non-data elements) to get it to look just like the U.S. Drought Monitor's version.