Using Pandoc with knitR

Ramnath Vaidyanathan

March 20, 2012

This is a short example illustrating how to use `knitr` with `pandoc` to write a single document in `markdown` and have it rendered in multiple formats, especially `pdf` and `html`. For the purposes of illustration, I have chosen two code chunks, one generating a plot and the other generating a table to illustrate the power of `pandoc` + `knitr`.

We first need to tell `knitr` to render the output of code chunks in the `gfm` format, which `pandoc` will understand.

The chunk below is a plot chunk. You need to have the package `ggplot2` installed for it to work.

```
library(ggplot2)
qplot(wt, mpg, data = mtcars)
```

The second chunk produces a table. You need to have the package `ascii` installed for this to work.

```
library(ascii)
x <- head(mtcars[, 1:5])
options(asciiType = "pandoc")
ascii(x)
```

	mpg	**cyl**	**disp**	**hp**	**drat**
Mazda RX4	21.00	6.00	160.00	110.00	3.90
Mazda RX4 Wag	21.00	6.00	160.00	110.00	3.90
Datsun 710	22.80	4.00	108.00	93.00	3.85
Hornet 4 Drive	21.40	6.00	258.00	110.00	3.08
Hornet Sportabout	18.70	8.00	360.00	175.00	3.15
Valiant	18.10	6.00	225.00	105.00	2.76

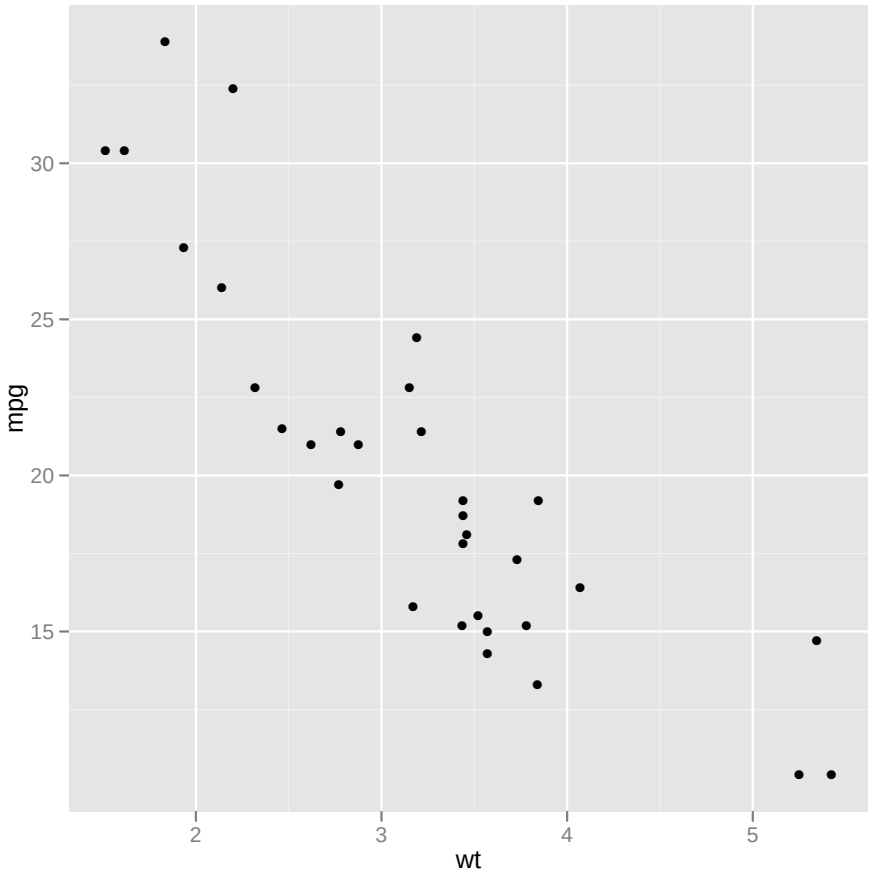

Figure 1: plot of chunk plot-chunk