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Faceting

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Start of transcript. Skip to the end.

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RAFAEL IRIZARRY: We could easily plot the 2012

data in the same way we did for 1962.

But for comparison, side by side plots are preferable.

In ggplot, we can achieve this by faceting variables.

We stratify the data by some variable and make the same plot for each strata

Video

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Textbook link

This video corresponds to the textbook section on faceting.

Key points

- Faceting makes multiple side-by-side plots stratified by some variable. This is a way to ease comparisons.
- The `facet_grid()` function allows faceting by up to two variables, with rows faceted by one variable and columns faceted by the other variable. To facet by only one variable, use the dot operator as the other variable.
- The `facet_wrap()` function facets by one variable and automatically wraps the series of plots so they have readable dimensions.
- Faceting keeps the axes fixed across all plots, easing comparisons between plots.
- The data suggest that the developing versus Western world view no longer makes sense in 2012.

Code

```
# facet by continent and year
filter(gapminder, year %in% c(1962, 2012)) %>%
    ggplot(aes(fertility, life_expectancy, col = continent)) +
    geom_point() +
    facet_grid(continent ~ year)

# facet by year only
filter(gapminder, year %in% c(1962, 2012)) %>%
    ggplot(aes(fertility, life_expectancy, col = continent)) +
    geom_point() +
    facet_grid(. ~ year)

# facet by year, plots wrapped onto multiple rows
years <- c(1962, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2012)
continents <- c("Europe", "Asia")
gapminder %>%
    filter(year %in% years & continent %in% continents) %>%
    ggplot(aes(fertility, life_expectancy, col = continent)) +
    geom_point() +
    facet_wrap(~year)
```

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