

WEEK 3

RELATIONSHIPS & COMPARISONS

DATA VISUALIZATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

LECTURER: JEFFREY ZIEGLER, PHD

TEACHING FELLOW: SHEKHAR KEDIA

ASDS - TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

SPRING 2026

ROAD MAP FOR TODAY

■ Today:

- ▶ Dual y-axes in `ggplot()`
- ▶ Combining plots with `patchwork`
- ▶ Correlations, scatterplot matrices, and correlograms
- ▶ Regression, predictions, and marginal effectsd plot them with `ggplot2`

LEGAL DUAL Y-AXES

- Safe when both axes measure same underlying quantity
 - ▶ Ex: counts vs %, Fahrenheit vs Celsius, pounds vs kilograms
- In ggplot2: use `sec.axis` inside `scale_y_continuous()`

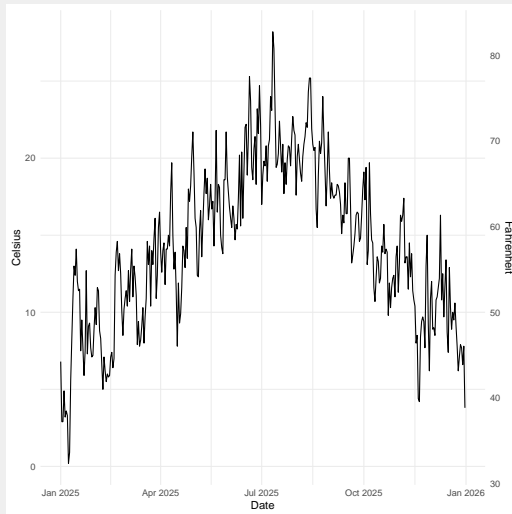
EX: DUAL Y-AXES: FAHRENHEIT & CELSIUS

- Historical weather for Dublin: Met Éireann
- Variables include temperature, humidity, wind speed, precipitation, etc
- C to F conversion: $F = (C) \times \frac{9}{5} + 32$

EX: MAX TEMP BY DAY IN 2025 FOR DUBLIN

```
1 # we'll only look at 2025
2 DUB_weather <- DUB_weather[30317:
  nrow(DUB_weather),]
3 CORK_weather <- CORK_weather[23012:
  nrow(CORK_weather),]
4 IRE_weather <- rbind(subset(DUB_
  weather, select=-c(g_rad)),
  CORK_weather)
5 # need to alter date variable to
  not be character
6 IRE_weather$date <- dmy(DUB_weather
  $date)
```

```
1 ggplot(IRE_weather[IRE_weather$
  station=="Dublin",], aes(x =
  date, y = maxtp)) +
2 geom_line() +
3 scale_y_continuous(sec.axis = sec
  _axis(trans = ~ (. * 9/5) +
  32, name = "Fahrenheit")) +
4 labs(x = "Date", y = "Celsius") +
5 theme_minimal()
```

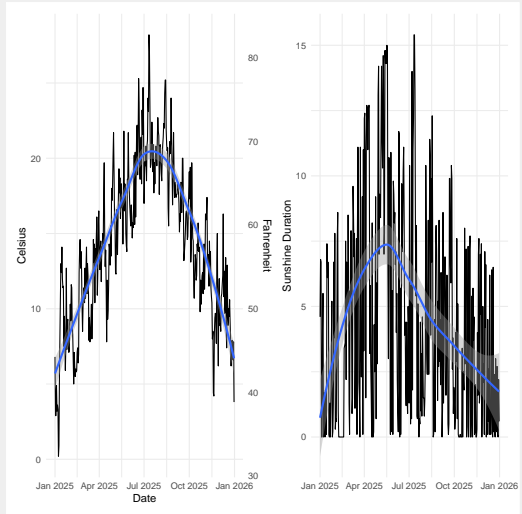


COMBINING PLOTS WITH PATCHWORK

- Alternative to dual axes: separate, aligned plots
- `patchwork` combines `ggplots`
 - ▶ To use `patchwork`, we need to (1) save our plots as objects and (2) add them together with `+`
- Supports layouts, relative heights, and more

EX: RELATIONSHIP OF TEMP & SUNSHINE DURATION

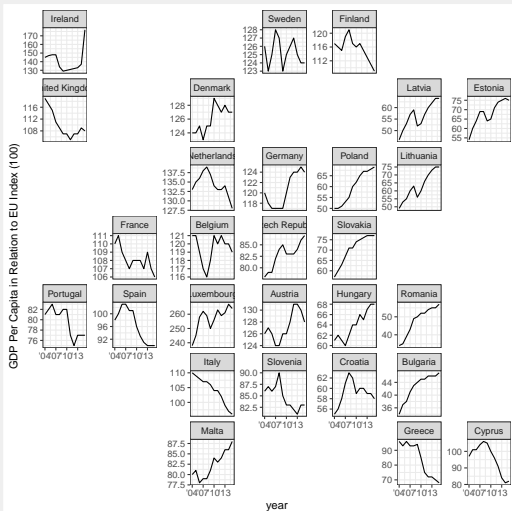
```
1 sun_plot <- ggplot(IRE_weather[IRE_weather$station=="Dublin",],  
  aes(x = date, y = sun)) +  
2   geom_line() +  
3   geom_smooth() +  
4   labs(x = NULL, y = "Sunshine  
   Duration") +  
5   theme_minimal()  
  
1 # library(patchwork)  
2 temp_plot + sun_plot
```



COMPARING TIME SERIES

- Many-group (i.e., country, city) line charts can become difficult to read
- Strategies:
 - ▶ Highlight a few focal groups
 - ▶ Use small multiples (facets)
 - ▶ Use map-based facet layouts with geofacet
 - geofacet arranges country facets in map-like grids
 - Preserves some geographic structure while showing small multiples
 - Useful for regional or global comparisons

GEOFACET EXAMPLE

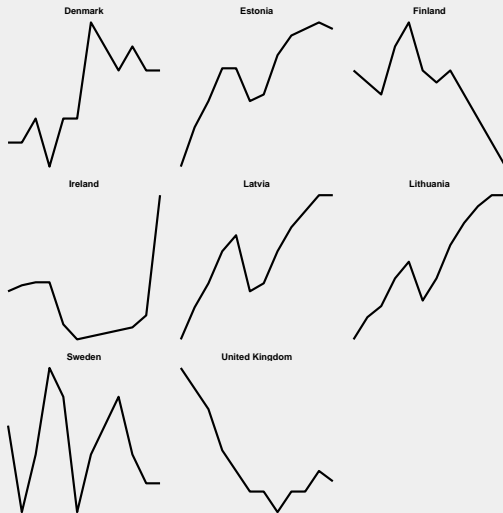


```
1 # library("geofacet")
2 ggplot(eu_gdp, aes(year, gdp_pc)) +
3   geom_line() +
4   facet_geo(~ name, grid = "eu_
5     grid1", scales = "free_y") +
6   scale_x_continuous(labels =
7     function(x) paste0("'", substr
8       (x, 3, 4))) +
9   ylab("GDP Per Capita in Relation
10     to EU Index (100)") +
11   theme_bw()
```

EX: SMALL MULTIPLES - EU GDP IN NORTHERN EUROPE

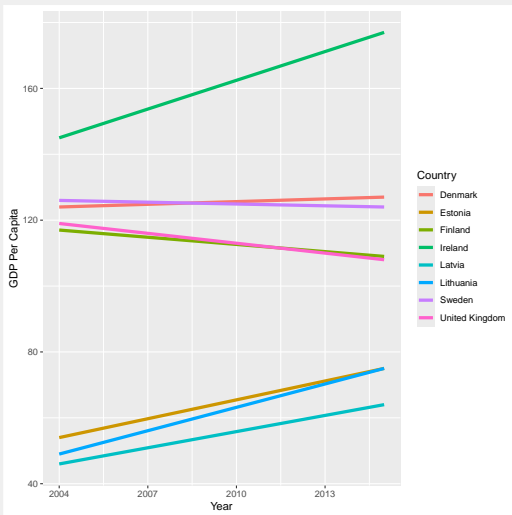
```
1 # create "Northern Europe"
  indicator based on UN
  geoscheme
2 eu_gdp$north_europe <- ifelse(eu_
  gdp$name %in% c("Denmark", "
  Estonia", "Finland", "Ireland"
  , "Latvia", "Lithuania", "
  Norway", "Sweden", "United
  Kingdom"), 1, 0)

1 ggplot(data = eu_gdp |> filter(
  north_europe == 1), aes(x =
  year, y = gdp_pc)) +
2 geom_line(linewidth = 1) +
3 facet_wrap(vars(name), scales = "
  free_y", nrow = 3) +
4 theme_void() +
5 theme(strip.text = element_text(
  face = "bold"))
```



SLOPEGRAPHS

Show only change in GDP per capita between two time periods



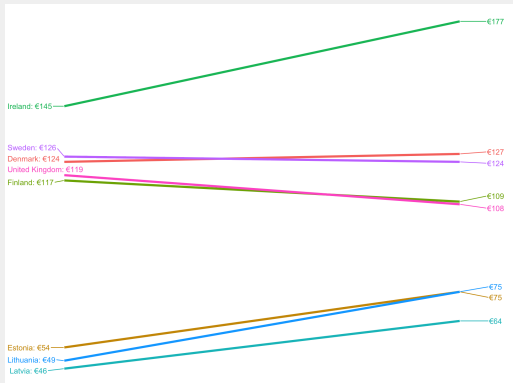
```
1 north_europe_gdp <- eu_gdp |>
  filter(north_europe == 1) |>
  filter(year %in% c(2004, 2015)
) |>

2 mutate(label_first = ifelse(year
  == 2004, paste0(name, ":",
    label_dollar(prefix = " ")(
      round(gdp_pc))), NA),
3       label_last = ifelse(year
  == 2015, label_dollar(prefix =
    " ")(round(gdp_pc, 0)), NA)
)

4 ggplot(north_europe_gdp, aes(x =
  year, y = gdp_pc, group = name
  , color = name)) +
5 geom_line(linewidth = 1.5) +
6 labs(y="GDP Per Capita", x="Year"
  , color="Country")
```

LABELING SELECTED POINTS WITH GGREPEL

```
1 ggplot(north_europe_gdp, aes(x =  
  year, y = gdp_pc, group = name  
  , color = name)) +  
2 geom_line(linewidth = 1.5) +  
3 geom_text_repel(aes(label = label  
  _first), direction = "y",  
  nudge_x = -1, seed = 1234) +  
4 geom_text_repel(aes(label = label  
  _last), direction = "y", nudge  
  _x = 1, seed = 1234) +  
5 guides(color = "none") +  
6 theme_void()
```



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

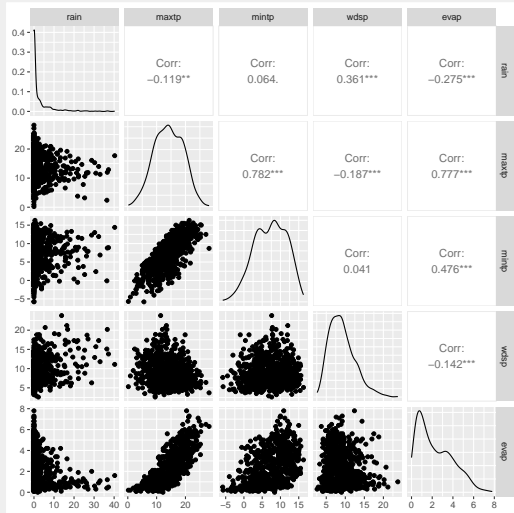
- Use sorting and consistent scales to clarify comparisons
- Prefer small multiples over overloaded single panels
- Highlight only a few key labels; avoid label clutter
- Use log scales when data span orders of magnitude

EXPLORING CORRELATIONS

- Use `GGally::ggpairs()` for scatterplot matrices
- Visualize relationships among several variables at once
- Good for exploration; often too dense for publication

SCATTERPLOT MATRIX WITH GGPAIRS

```
1 # library(GGally)
2 weather_cor <- IRE_weather |> select(rain, maxtp, mintp, wdsp, evap)
```



CORRELATION PATTERNS

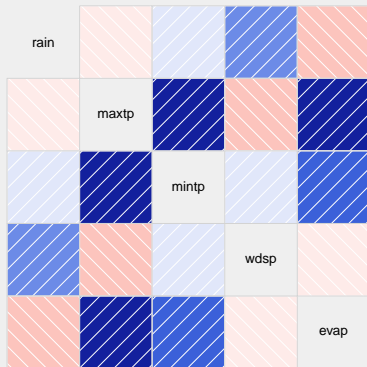
- High vs low temperature: very strong positive correlation ($r \approx 0.78$)
- High temp vs evaporation: very strong positive correlation ($r \approx 0.77$)
- Wind speed vs rain: moderate positive correlation
- Wind speed vs temperature: minor negative correlation
- Little or no correlation for some variable pairs (e.g., wind speed vs min temp)

CORRELOGRAMS

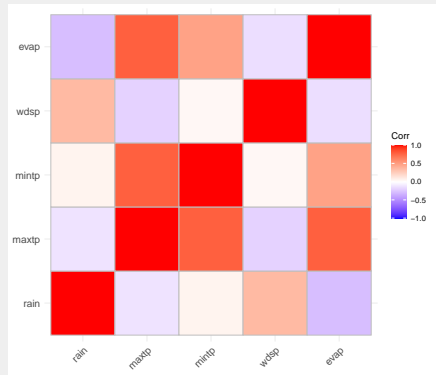
- Heatmaps of correlation coefficients
- More suitable for publication than full scatterplot matrices
- Depending on package, need to compute a correlation matrix and tidy it

EX: CORRELOGRAM WITH WEATHER

```
1 # library(corrgram)
2 corrgram(weather_cor)
```



```
1 # library(ggcorrplot)
2 ggcorrplot(corr(weather_cor))
```



SIMPLE REGRESSION: IDEA

- Outcome: Daily high temperature
- Predictor: Rain

```
1 # run our "simple" regression w/ max temp as outcome
2 model_simple <- lm(maxtp ~ rain, data = IRE_weather)
3 # library(broom)
4 tidy(model_simple, conf.int = TRUE)
```

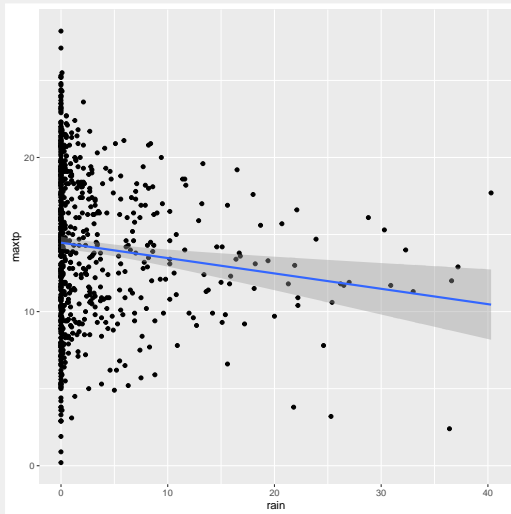
```
# A tibble: 2 × 7
  term          estimate std.error statistic p.value conf.low conf.high
<chr>         <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>   <dbl>    <dbl>    <dbl>
1 (Intercept)  14.5         0.204      70.9    0        14.1     14.9
2 rain        -0.0997     0.0307     -3.24  0.00124  -0.160  -0.0393
```

We can interpret these coefficients like so:

- Intercept: Average temperature when there's no rain is 14.5°C
- β_{rain} : \uparrow 1mm of rain is associated with a 0.0997° decrease in max temp, on average

VISUALIZING SIMPLE REGRESSION

```
1 ggplot(IRE_weather,  
2       aes(x = rain, y = maxtp)) +  
3   geom_point() +  
4   geom_smooth(method = "lm")
```



MULTIPLE REGRESSION

- Add predictors: humidity, moon phase, rain probability, wind speed, pressure, cloud cover
- Hard to visualize directly in original space
- Use coefficient plots and predicted values

MULTIPLE REGRESSION

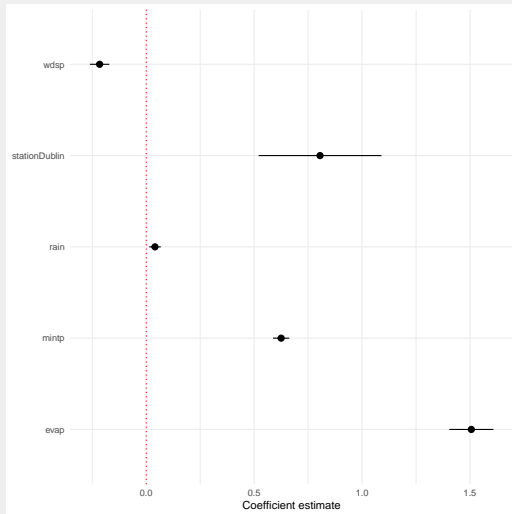
```
1 # run our "complex" regression w/ max temp as outcome
2 model_complex <- lm(maxtp ~ rain + mintp + wdsp + evap + station ,
3                       data = IRE_weather)
4 tidy(model_complex, conf.int = TRUE)
```

```
# A tibble: 6 × 7
term      estimate std.error statistic  p.value conf.low conf.high
<chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>      <dbl>    <dbl>    <dbl>    <dbl>
1 (Intercept)  7.70      0.267      28.8 3.38e-122  7.17    8.22
2 rain         0.0406    0.0136      2.98 3.00e- 3   0.0138  0.0674
3 mintp        0.625    0.0192     32.6 2.87e-144  0.587   0.663
4 wdsp        -0.216    0.0228     -9.46 4.16e- 20 -0.261 -0.171
5 evap         1.51     0.0521      28.9 8.80e-123  1.40    1.61
6 stationDublin 0.805     0.145      5.56 3.79e- 8   0.521   1.09
```

- β_{rain} : On average, \uparrow 1mm of rain is associated with a 0.0406°C increase in max temp, holding all else constant
- β_{Dublin} : On average, Dublin has a 0.805°C higher max temp than Cork, holding all else constant

COEFFICIENT PLOT

```
1 ggplot(tidy(model_complex, conf.int  
  = TRUE) |> filter(term != "(  
  Intercept)"),  
2       aes(x = estimate, y = term))  
  +  
3   geom_vline(xintercept = 0, color  
  = "red", linetype = "dotted")  
  +  
4   geom_pointrange(aes(xmin = conf.  
  low, xmax = conf.high)) +  
5   labs(x = "Coefficient estimate",  
  y = NULL) +  
6   theme_minimal()
```



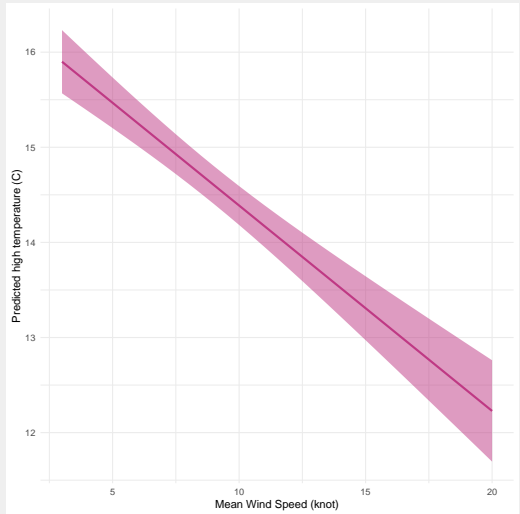
USING MARGINALEFFECTS

- `predictions()` for predicted values with CIs
- `slopes()` for marginal effects (slopes)
- `datagrid()` constructs scenarios, holding other variables at typical values

MARGINALEFFECTS - WIND

```
1 # library(marginaleffects)
2 # Calculate predictions across a
  range of windSpeed
3 predicted_values_easy <-
  predictions(model_complex,
4   newdata = datagrid(wdsp = seq(3,
    20, 0.5))
5 )

1 ggplot(predicted_values_easy, aes(x
  = wdsp, y = estimate)) +
2   geom_ribbon(aes(ymin = conf.low,
3     ymax = conf.high),
4     fill = "#BF3984",
5     alpha = 0.5) +
6   geom_line(linewidth = 1, color =
7     "#BF3984") +
8   labs(x = "Mean Wind Speed (knot)"
9     , y = "Predicted high
10    temperature (C)") +
```



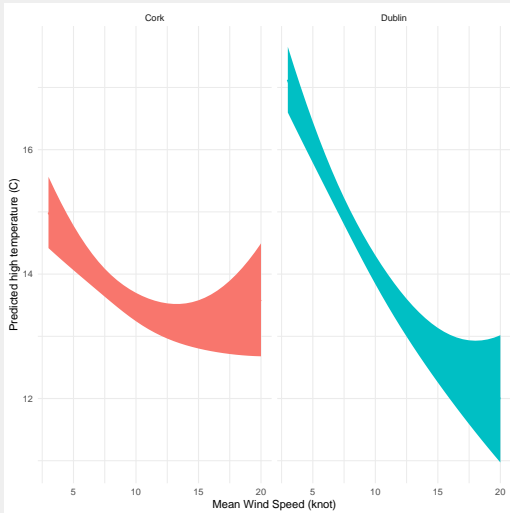
NONLINEAR AND INTERACTION MODEL

You could:

- Add quadratic term for wind speed
- Add interaction: wind speed \times station

```
1 model_wild <- lm(maxtp ~ rain + mintp + wdsp + evap + station + I(wdsp^2) + wdsp:station ,  
  data = IRE_weather)  
2  
3 predicted_values_wild <- predictions(  
4   model_wild,  
5   newdata = datagrid(  
6     wdsp = seq(3, 20, 0.5),  
7     station = c("Cork", "Dublin")))
```

MARGINALEFFECTS - INTERACTIONS



```
1 ggplot(predicted_values_wild, aes(x = wdsp, y = estimate)) +  
2   geom_ribbon(aes(ymin = conf.low, ymax = conf.high, fill =  
3     station)) +  
4   geom_line(aes(color = station), linewidth = 1) +  
5   labs(x = "Mean Wind Speed (knot)", y = "Predicted high  
6     temperature (C)") +  
7   theme_minimal() +  
8   guides(fill = "none", color = "none") +  
9   facet_wrap(vars(station), nrow = 1)
```

WRAP UP

- Dual y-axes are safe when measuring the same quantity in different units
- patchwork simplifies multi-plot layouts
- Correlograms give compact views of many correlations
- broom + marginalesffects streamline predictions and marginal effects

CLASS BUSINESS

- Read required (and suggested) online materials