A simple, legible beamer template

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Acknowledgements

Inspired by notes from Professor James Scott

Formatting guidelines

- In general, set the format of your presentation to target the "lowest common denominator"
 - Use a 4×3 aspect ratio for older projectors
 - Use large text for the body and plots
 - Use color palettes readable by those who are colorblind
- Body text on a screen is most readable when it is sans-serif, but also use a standard serif font (e.g. Palatino) which has rich math support for math equations
 - Lato for body text
 - Palatino for math
 - Inconsolata for fixed width text.
- Don't overload the slide like I did here :-)

Preview of font appearances

The density of the univariate Gaussian random variable denoted by $x \sim \mathcal{N}$ is given by $f(x; \mu, \sigma^2)$, for location parameter μ and scale parameter $\sigma > 0$,

$$f(x; \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x - \mu)^2\right]$$

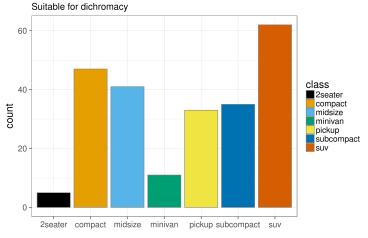
Generally, there is also the multivariate Gaussian $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{m}, \Sigma)$. The maximum likelihood estimate is

$$(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}^2) = \max_{\mu, \sigma} \prod_{i=1}^N f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2).$$

Plotting

• When saving plots, remember that the slides have a 4×3 aspect ratio, and try to fill up the slide

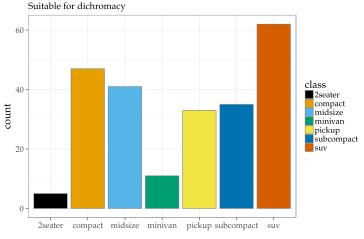
Plotting with a colorblind-friendly palette



Source: http://jfly.iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp/color/

The default ggplot2 typeface is Helvetica, which looks OK except for the tight spacing between characters.

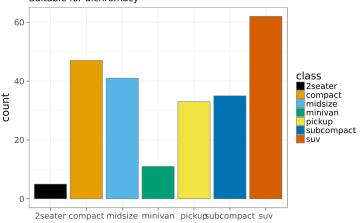
Plotting with a colorblind-friendly palette



Source: http://jfly.iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp/color/

Palatino looks nice, but serifs are not optimal for legibility of text on a screen.

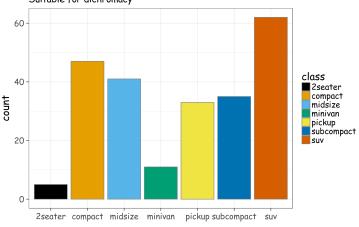
Plotting with a colorblind-friendly palette Suitable for dichromacy



Source: http://jfly.iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp/color/

Lato Sans is like Helvetica, with more generous spacing.

Plotting with a colorblind-friendly palette Suitable for dichromacy



Source: http://jfly.iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp/color/

Comic Sans is hard to beat when it comes to legibility, and is also good for those with dyslexia.

Quotation

Don't believe everything you read on the Internet.

—Mark Twain¹

¹Not really.

Theorem

Theorem (Mass-energy equivalence)

For mass m, speed of light c = 299,792,458 m/s², the energy equivalence is given by $E = mc^2$.

Columns

To the right we two emoji of line graphs.





Conclusion

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