Lab-10

your name here

March 31, 2022

Preface

The goal of this assignment is to help you gain more familiarity with using **ggplot** to visualize geospatial data. As always, please come to office hours and reach out to your teaching staff if you have any questions.

Knitting

Since the maps in this lab contain a lot of data, knitting may be slower than usual. We recommend running your code interactively (e.g., in chunks) so you can work on each problem separately without needing to knit the entire document repeatedly. Then you can knit the final product for submission when ready.

Data

We will work with data on Airbnb listings from Inside Airbnb.¹ For this lab, we will start by using listing location data contained in listings.csv. Each row corresponds to a listing id, and variables summarize the key details for that listing. Import these data and assign them to a name.

¹Inside Airbnb is a mission driven activist project with the objective to: Provide data that quantifies the impact of short-term rentals on housing and residential communities; and also provides a platform to support advocacy for policies to protect our cities from the impacts of short-term rentals.

1. We'll start by plotting locations without formally treating them as spatial data. Use <code>geom_point()</code> to make a scatter plot of listing locations. Adjust the transparency to make it easier to see which locations have higher and lower densities of listings. Color by borough (e.g., Bronx, Brooklyn, etc.).

2. Use read_sf() to read in the shapefile nybb_22a/nybb.shp and assign it to boroughs. Then use geom_sf() to plot the spatial data contained in boroughs, and fill by BoroName.

3. Now we'll combine the listings data with these spatial data. Use count() or summarize() to count the number of listings in each borough. Join the resulting data frame with boroughs. Use geom_sf() to plot the boroughs as in 2, but now fill by the number of Airbnb listings in each borough to make a choropleth map. Add scale_fill_viridis_c() to alter the default fill colors.²

 $^{^2}$ Several viridis scales are loaded with tidyverse, since they are included in the package ggplot2 we have used for all our plots.

4. Now use the joined data to compute the number of listings per square mile, then use that to recreate your choropleth map from 3. Do the patterns look similar to or different from the map you created in 3? Do you think one is better than the other? Why or why not?

Hint: print boroughs and look at the type information for geometry to try to figure out what units Shape_Area is in, and/or use google to try to figure it out.

5. Let's do some data work. Use st_as_sf() to convert the Airbnb listings in Manhattan to an sf data frame. Set the coordinate reference system by including the argument crs = st_crs("WGS84") in your call to st_as_sf(). Assign this new object to listing_locations.

Next, create a sf data frame with one row that contains the location of Times Square. Use the same coordinate reference system ("WGS84").

Hint: see slide 41 from Tuesday's lecture if you aren't sure where to start.

Use mutate() and st_distance() to create a new variable in listing_locations that contains the distance between each listing and Times Square.

Tip: it will simplify plotting if you convert the distance measure to a numeric in order to strip the units (meters). You may also want to convert from meters to kilometers.

Finally, plot the listings in Manhattan and color by the distance to Times Square. Add scale_color_viridis_c() to customize the color scheme.

Optional: start with the boroughs map of Manhattan and add points for an aesthetically pleasing result.

6. Read in review_summary.csv.³ Isolate the properties with at least 10 reviews and review_scores_location of at least 4. Join the review_scores_location variable to listing_locations. Make a scatter plot of the listings using geom_sf(), and color by review_scores_location. Make sure there are no listings with missing values for review_scores_location on the plot. Adjust transparency as needed. Does proximity to Times Square seem to matter for location ratings?

Optional: start with the boroughs map of Manhattan and add points for an aesthetically pleasing result.

³As a reminder from a previous assignment: each row corresponds to a listing id, and variables summarize all the reviews for that listing. For context, here is the reviews page for the first listing in the data. In the top left corner you can see that Airbnb reviews include an overall rating (review_scores_rating) and several sub-ratings for specific things (e.g., cleanliness, stored in the column review_scores_cleanliness).

7. Use a linear regression model to confirm your visual analysis of whether proximity to Times Square matters for location ratings. Use review_scores_location as the dependent variable and distance to Times Square as the independent variable. Print a summary() of the results and comment on your findings. Do you think this is a good model of location ratings?

8. Do something else interesting with these data, or with other spatial data. You could analyze other airbnb rating measures, or use other variables like price. You could compute the distance to wherever you will spend spring break, or make a map of that location. Or just stop here and go enjoy your break. Your choice!