

ggmatplot: An R package for data visualization on wide-format data

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Summary

`ggmatplot` is a quick and easy way of plotting the columns of two matrices or data frames against each other using `ggplot2`. `ggmatplot` is built upon `ggplot2`, and its functionality is inspired by `matplot`. Therefore, `ggmatplot` can be considered as a `ggplot` version of `matplot`.

Statement of need

The increased use of a tidy approach in structuring datasets results in wrangling datasets into wide format: with variables as columns and observations as rows(<https://vita.had.co.nz/papers/tidy-data.html>). While this introduces a more meaningful mapping of the data into its structure, the grammar of graphics requires wide format data to be wrangled back into long format for visualizing. This can be quite cumbersome when creating simple plots, and converting a tidy data frame back to a long format with multiple variables stacked upon each other can also be considered counter-intuitive.

Therefore, the motivation for `ggmatplot` is to provide a solution that allows `ggplot2` to handle wide format data. Although `ggmatplot` doesn't provide the same flexibility as `ggplot2`, it can be used as a workaround for having to wrangle wide format data into long format and creating simple plots using `ggplot2`.

Examples

Acknowledgements

References