STAT 209 Data Computing and Visualization

February 5, 2018

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Outline

"Data Science"

Intros

Some Terminology

Course Outline

Data is the new black





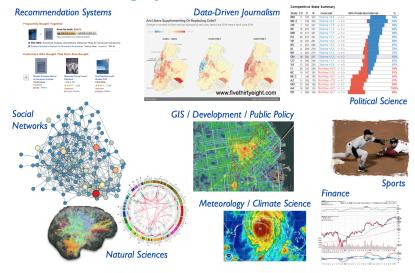


'DATA' IS THE NEW CURRENCY

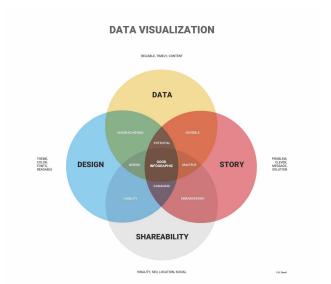
WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE YOU MISSING?



Some Cool Things you can do with data



Thanks to David Shuman at Macalester College for this slide



Brainstorm

What is the difference between "data" and "information"?

Cases

Cases When we collect data, we write down some measurements or characteristics of our **cases** — the individual "entities", sometimes called "observational units", that make up our dataset.

- ► The people in a survey or research study
- Plots of land in an agricultural experiment
- Days, in a weather dataset

Categorical vs. Quantitative Variables

For each case we record one or more variables. One of the most basic distinctions is between categorical (or "qualitative") and quantitative data.

Categorical: "Qualitative" variable that divides cases into groups

Quantitative: Measures something on a scale; arithmetic makes sense

Data Frames

A standard form for a dataset is a grid, called a data frame, where each row is a *case*, and each column is a *variable*.

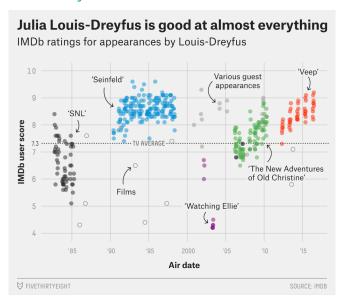
| ID | Major | Height |
|----|--------------|--------|
| 1 | Neuroscience | 67 |
| 2 | CS | 71 |
| | | |
| 21 | Economics | 64 |

Deconstructing Visualizations

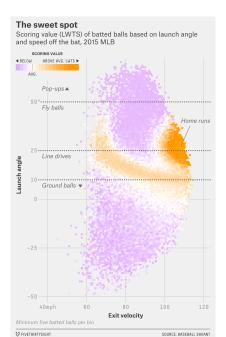
For each of the following visualizations:

- 1. What are the cases (think "rows" of a dataset)?
- 2. What variables are depicted (think "columns" of a dataset)?
- 3. What graphical element (position, color, etc.) is used to encode each variable?

Julia Louis-Dreyfuss



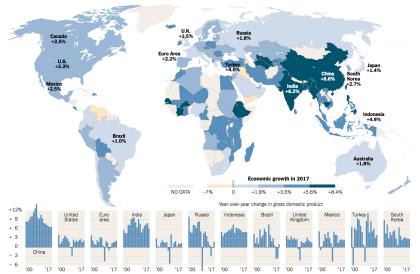
Baseball Hits



Global Economic Growth

Growth Across the Globe

For the first time since the financial crisis a decade ago, all of the world's major economies are growing.



Some figures are estimates

Source: The Conference Board: Bureau of Labor Statistics | By Karl Russell

Course Outline

- ▶ Part I: Basic Visualization (about 3 weeks)
- ▶ Part II: Data "Wrangling" (about 4 weeks)
- Part III: Dealing with "large" datasets (about 3 weeks)
- Part IV: Visualizing data with complex structure (spatial and text data) (about 2 weeks)

On the web

- Course Website: http://colindawson.net/stat209
 - ► Syllabus, schedule, homework, slides, code, etc., there
- Blackboard: only for things that need a login/password protection
 - HW Solutions (when applicable)
 - Electronic submission of (some) assignments
- Slack: stat209s2018.slack.com, or download the app to computer/mobile device
 - Convenient one-stop place for all course-related electronic communication
- DataCamp
 - Many interactive tutorials to learn/practice computing tools
 - First couple of homework assignments there
- GitHub (later): Good way to track code changes/share code

Graded Components

Course grade based on:

- ► Homework sets (15%)
- ▶ Labs (15%; completion/effort only)
- Four group visualization projects, one for each major "unit" (15% each)
- Participation/engagement (10%)
- Scheduled final exam day used for presentations of project
 4

See the syllabus for Honor Code guidelines

Structure of Class

- About half lecture/full group activities, half labs in small groups
 - Some labs are guided exercises to learn new tools
 - Final lab in each unit will ask you to "reverse engineer" a specific visualization from the web
- First three projects:
 - ▶ In class "workshop day", to work out the kinks together
 - In class "short presentation day", for feedback on a draft
 - Final writeup due a few days after that
- Project 4: longer presentation of a polished version during finals week

This Week

- First homework is to complete a DataCamp chapter on using RStudio
- Wednesday: Lab 1 to get comfortable with R/RStudio
- Friday: Start on basic elements of visualization