# Data Science and Data Visualization 

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## Plan for today

- What is Data Science?
- Data science in the real-world
- Data visualization


## Computers and Data

The historical meaning of the term "computer":
"one who computes" (i.e., a person)

Since the 1700's, statisticians have been using "computers" to analyze data - so its not a new idea


For example, Karl Pearson, one of the founders of statistics, directed a team of "computers" in his lab in London around the early 1900’s
.....but for many years, "computers" could only work on relatively small problems


## Statistics and Modern Computing

- Post World War II
- Increasing use of computing to solve algorithmic aspects of statistical analyses
- 1960's
- Development of statistical computing and exploratory data analysis
- 1980's
- Computing allowed statisticians to explore more flexible models
- Increase in use of "non-parametric" techniques and simulation methods
- 1990's
- Development of "machine learning" - very flexible predictive modeling techniques developed in computer science
- Today
- Data science $=$ computing + statistics + applications


## Data storage became cheaper



## Data revolution in Biology

Cost per Human Genome


## A Paradigm shift in data analysis

- Technological drivers
- Sensors (cheap and ubiquitous, e.g., GPS on your phone)
- Data storage (we are all "data owners")
- Computational power
- Data analysis methods (statistics and machine learning)
- Internet and wireless communication (can collect and share data)
- Convergence - tremendous demand for data analysis
- In business, in sciences, in medicine, in engineering, and more......
- In the past, this demand was met by statistics
- Does not scale up - there are not nearly enough statisticians
- Need more tools than just statistics: need databases, algorithms, machine learning,...


## What is Data Science?

- Data science involves the full lifecycle of data: from messy unstructured data to predictions and decisions
- Data science is broader than just databases, statistics, ML, algorithms, but these are all critical components
- Key aspects of data science include
- Domain knowledge and problem definition
- Data preparation/organization/management
- Understanding of uncertainty (statistics)
- Computing, algorithms, fitting models, machine learning
- Iterative exploration and experimentation
- Human judgement and interpretation


## Components of Data Science



## Components of Data Science



## Components of Data Science



## Data pipeline



## How is Data Science used?

Organizations
Data Science Applications


## How does Amazon forecast how many items for its warehouses?



## How does Facebook predict what content to show you?



## How do companies decide what ads to show you?



## How can we make personalized recommendations in medicine?



## How do public health workers predict infectious disease outbreaks? <br> Influenza Observations and Forecast


https://cpid.iri.columbia.edu

## Orange County, CA COVID-19 Situation Report, December 28, 2020

Report period: Nov 15 - Dec 20 (we don't use the most recent data due to reporting delays)
The goal of this report is to inform interested parties about dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 spread in Orange County, CA and to predict epidemic trajectories. Methodological details are provided below and in the accompanying manuscript. We are also contributing to COVID Trends by UC Irvine project that provides data visualizations of California County trends across time and space.

Latent \& observed trajectories, posterior median \& $50 \%, 80 \%, 95 \%$ credible intervals



https://www.stat.uci.edu/oc_covid_model/

## Questions?

## Data visualization: why visualize and explore?

- People are good at pattern recognition
- At spotting clusters, trends, outliers, structure, etc. that computers many miss
- Usually two types of users

1. The data scientist who wants to explore/analyze/understand

- For the data scientist, visualization and exploration are part of an iterative process

2. The person who needs a quick summary to make a decision

- For the consumer we want to communicate information quickly and clearly
> e.g., for a medical doctor, for a policy-maker, for a company executive
- For data scientists...its always a good idea to look at your data
- Helps to understand where the semantics of the data...what the measurements actually mean


## What is exploratory data analysis?

- EDA is broader than just visualization
- EDA $=\{$ visualization, clustering, dimension reduction,...\}
- For small numbers of variables, EDA = visualization
- For large numbers of variables, we need to be cleverer
- Clustering, dimension reduction, embedding algorithms
- These are techniques that essentially reduce high-dimensional data to something we can look at
- Pioneered by John Tukey (statistician at Bell Labs, Princeton) in the 1960's
- "let the data speak"


## Recommended reading

Fundamentals of Data Visualization
Claus O. Wilke
https://serialmentor.com/dataviz/


## Mapping data onto aesthetics

Types of aesthetics:


Scales map data values onto aesthetics:


## Mapping data onto aesthetics - example

| Table 2.2: First 12 rows of a dataset listing daily temperature normals for four weather stations. Data source: NOAA. |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Month | Day | Location | Station ID | Temperature |
| Jan | 1 | Chicago | USW00014819 | 25.6 |
| Jan | 1 | San Diego | USW00093107 | 55.2 |
| Jan | 1 | Houston | USW00012918 | 53.9 |
| Jan | 1 | Death Valley | USC00042319 | 51.0 |
| Jan | 2 | Chicago | USW00014819 | 25.5 |
| Jan | 2 | San Diego | USW00093107 | 55.3 |
| Jan | 2 | Houston | USW00012918 | 53.8 |
| Jan | 2 | Death Valley | USC00042319 | 51.2 |
| Jan | 3 | Chicago | USW00014819 | 25.3 |
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temperature ( ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ )

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Both plots use three scales in total: two
position scales and one color scale

## Color as a tool to distinguish



Figure 4.2: Population growth in the U.S. from 2000 to 2010. States in the West and South have seen the largest increases, whereas states in the Midwest and Northeast have seen much smaller increases or even, in the case of Michigan, a decrease. Data source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Color as a tool to highlight



Grab color scales at<br>http://<br>colorbrewer2.org

Figure 4.8: From 2000 to 2010, the two neighboring southern states Texas and Louisiana have experienced among the highest and lowest population growth across the U.S. Data source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Color to represent data values



Figure 4.4: Median annual income in Texas counties. The highest median incomes are seen in major Texas metropolitan areas, in particular near Houston and Dallas. No median income estimate is available for Loving County in West Texas and therefore that county is shown in gray. Data source: 2015 Five-Year American Community Survey

## Sequential color scale



Figure 4.6: Percentage of people identifying as white in Texas counties. Whites are in the majority in North and East Texas but not in South or West Texas. Data source: 2010 Decennial U.S. Census

Divergent color scale

Okabe, M., and K. Ito. 2008. "Color Universal Design (CUD): How to Make Figures and Presentations That Are Friendly to Colorblind People." http://jfly.iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp/color/.

## Visualizing amounts


heatmap


## Visualizing amounts - example 1

Table 6.1: Highest grossing movies for the weekend of December 22-24, 2017. Data source: Box Office Mojo (http://www.boxofficemojo.com/). Used with permission

| Rank | Title | Weekend gross |
| :---: | :--- | ---: |
| 1 | Star Wars: The Last Jedi | $\$ 71,565,498$ |
| 2 | Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle | $\$ 36,169,328$ |
| 3 | Pitch Perfect 3 | $\$ 19,928,525$ |
| 4 | The Greatest Showman | $\$ 8,805,843$ |
| 5 | Ferdinand | $\$ 7,316,746$ |



## Visualizing amounts — example 2




## Visualizing amounts — example 2





## Visualizing amounts — example 3



This dataset is not suitable for being visualized with bars. The bars are too long and they draw attention away from the key feature of the data, the differences in life expectancy among the different countries. Data source: Gapminder project

## Visualizing distributions






## Visualizing distributions - examples

Table 7.1: Numbers of passenger with known age on the Titanic.

| Age range | Count |
| :--- | ---: |
| $0-5$ | 36 |
| $6-10$ | 19 |
| $11-15$ | 18 |
| $16-20$ | 99 |
| $21-25$ | 139 |
| $26-30$ | 121 |


| Age range | Count |
| :--- | ---: |
| $31-35$ | 76 |
| $36-40$ | 74 |
| $41-45$ | 54 |
| $46-50$ | 50 |
| $51-55$ | 26 |
| $56-60$ | 22 |


| Age range | Count |
| :--- | ---: |
| $61-65$ | 16 |
| $66-70$ | 3 |
| $71-75$ | 3 |






When making a histogram, always explore multiple bin widths

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Verify that density doesn't predict the existence of nonsensical data

## Visualizing multiple distributions





To visualize several
distributions at once, kernel
density plots will generally
work better than
histograms.

## Visualizing many distributions



## Visualizing many distributions




## Visualizing many distributions




## Visualizing many distributions





## Visualizing many distributions






## Visualizing proportions



## Visualizing proportions



## Visualizing proportions




## Visualizing proportions




Table 10.1: Pros and cons of common approaches to visualizing proportions: pie charts, stacked bars, and side-by-side bars.

 Pie chart | Clearly visualizes the data as |
| :--- |
| proportions of a whole |
| Allows easy visual comparison of <br> the relative proportions |
| Visually emphasizes simple <br> fractions, such as $1 / 2,1 / 3,1 / 4$ <br> Looks visually appealing even for <br> very small datasets |
| Works well when the whole is <br> broken into many pieces |
| Works well for the visualization of <br> many sets of proportions or time <br> series of proportions |

## When side-by-side bars win



Figure 10.4: Market share of five hypothetical companies, A-E, for the years 2015-2017, visualized as pie charts.
This visualization has two major problems: 1. A comparison of relative market share within years is nearly impossible. 2. Changes in market share across years are difficult to see.

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Humans are not good at computing integrals in their heads, so comparing lengths is much easier than comparing areas.

## Visualizing x-y relationships



## Visualizing x-y relationships



- female birds male birds



## Visualizing x-y relationships




## Scatter matrix plot

- female birds - male birds



## Correlograms



## Correlograms



## Correlograms



Non-Linear Dependence


Lack of linear correlation does not imply lack of dependence

## Dimension reduction



## Dimension reduction







## Paired data

Scatterplots and slopegraphs are two main choices for plotting paired data.


The last plot shows that slopegraph can accomodate short time series.

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## Visualizing time series - univariate



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## Visualizing time series - univariate





For dense time series, connect the dots and omit them.

## Visualizing time series - multivariate



## Visualizing time series - multivariate



## Visualizing time series - multivariate




## Visualizing time series - multivariate




Consider replacing legends with direct labeling.

Make sure it is easy to compare objects of interest

## Visualizing geospatial data



## Visualizing geospatial data



## Visualizing geospatial data



## Visualizing geospatial data



## Visualizing geospatial data without maps



## Visualizing geospatial data without maps



## Visualizing the uncertainty of point estimates



## The principle of proportional ink

The principle of proportional ink: The sizes of shaded areas in a visualization need to be proportional to the data values they represent.


Bars on a linear scale must always start at 0 .

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## Common pitfalls of color use



## Common pitfalls of color use




## Figures without legends



## Figures without legends




## Figures without legends





## Figures without legends



## Multi-panel figures



## Multi-panel figures



## Titles and captions

- Always label your axes!
- Captions of figures and tables should be self-explanatory.


## Your axis labels are too small






## Don’t go 3D




