

2. Learning to Draw

Ken Rice Thomas Lumley

Universities of Washington and Auckland

Liège, September 2011

Graphics

R can produce graphics in many formats, including:

- on screen
- PDF files for LATEX or emailing to people
- PNG or JPEG bitmap formats for web pages (or on non-Windows platforms to produce graphics for MS Office). PNG is also useful for graphs of large data sets.
- On Windows, metafiles for Word, Powerpoint, and similar programs

Setup

Graphs should usually be designed on the screen and then may be replotted on eg a PDF file (for Word/Powerpoint you can just copy and paste)

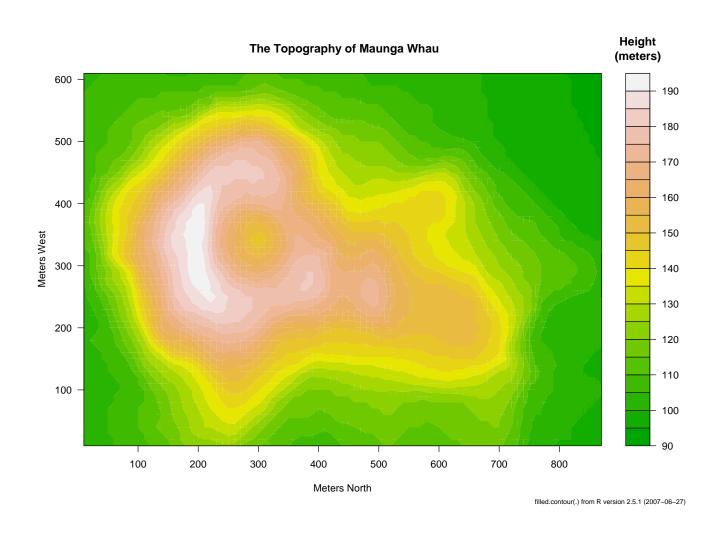
For printed graphs, you will get better results if you design the graph at the size it will end up, eg:

```
## on Windows
windows(height=4,width=6)
## on Unix
x11(height=4,width=6)
```

Word or LATEX can rescale the graph, but when the graph gets smaller, so do the axis labels...

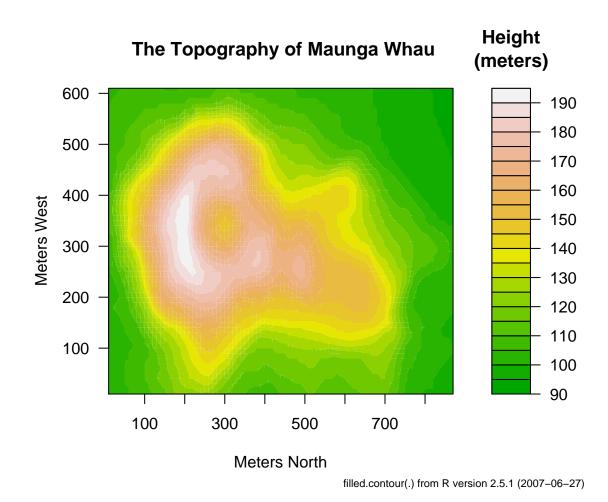
Setup

Created at full-page size (11×8.5 inches)



Setup

Created at 6×5 inches



Finishing

After you have the right commands to draw the graph you can produce it in another format: eg

```
## start a PDF file
pdf("picture.pdf",height=4,width=6)
## your drawing commands here
...
### close the PDF file
dev.off()

You may find dir(), getwd() and setwd() helpful
```

Drawing

Usually, use plot() to create a graph and then lines(), points(), legend(), text(), and other commands to annotate it. There is no 'erase' function, so keep your commands in a script.

plot() is a generic function: it does appropriate things for different types of input

```
## scatterplot
plot(salary$year, salary$salary)
## boxplot
plot(salary$rank, salary$salary)
## stacked barplot
plot(salary$field, salary$rank)
and others for other types of input.
```

Formula interface

The plot() command can also be used this way;

plot(salary~rank, data=salary)

where we introduce the formula system, that is also used for regression models. Here, think of $Y \sim X$.

The variables in the formula are automatically looked up in the data = argument.

Designing graphs

Two important aspects of designing a graph

- It should have something to say
- It should be legible

Having something to say is *your* problem; software can help with legibility.

Designing graphs

Important points

- Axes need labels (with units, large enough to read)
- Color can be very helpful (but not if the graph is going to be printed in black and white).
- Different line or point styles usually should be labelled.
- Points plotted on top of each other won't be seen

After these are satisfied, it can't hurt to have the graph look nice.

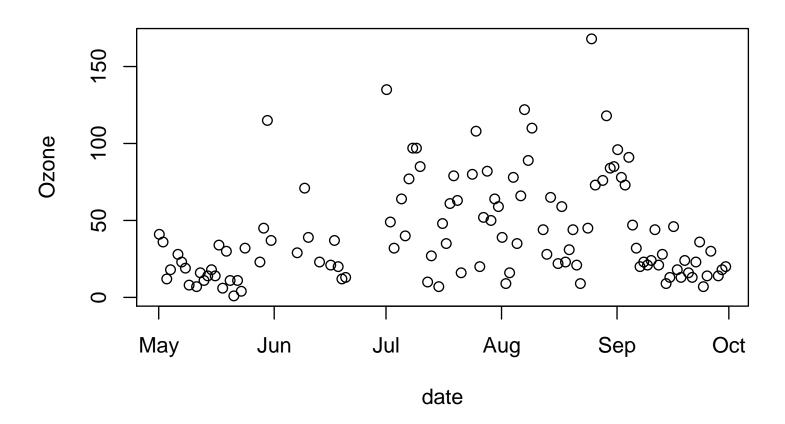
Options

First we set up the data — in this case, a built-in dataset, containing daily ozone concentrations in New York, summer 1973

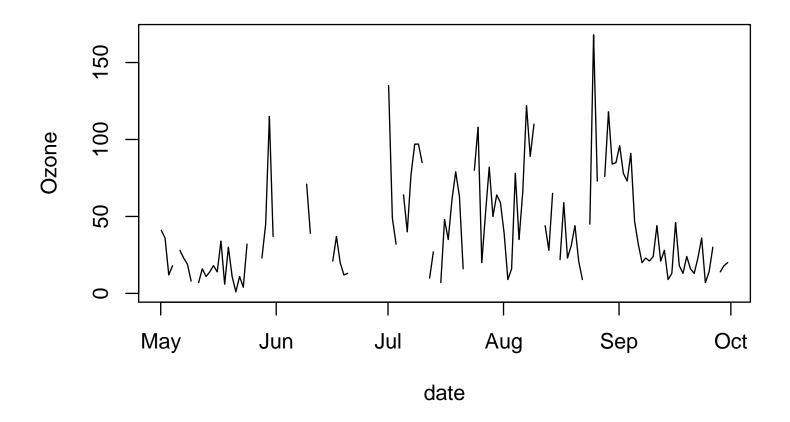
```
data(airquality)
names(airquality)
airquality$date<-with(airquality, ISOdate(1973, Month, Day))</pre>
```

All these graphs were designed at $4in \times 6in$ and stored as PDF files

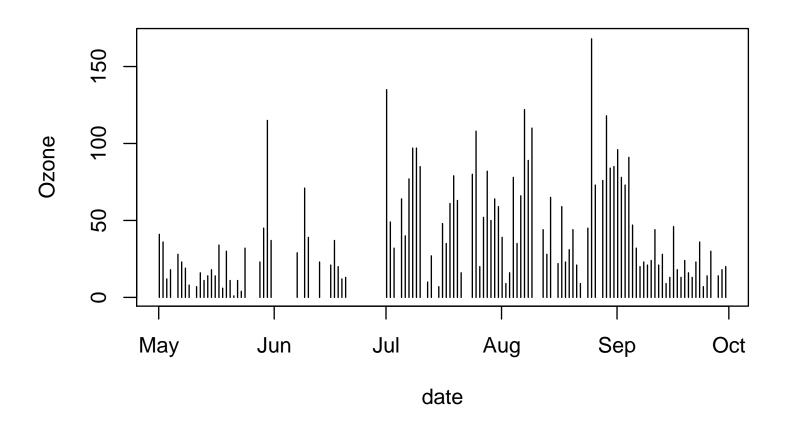
plot(Ozone~date, data=airquality)



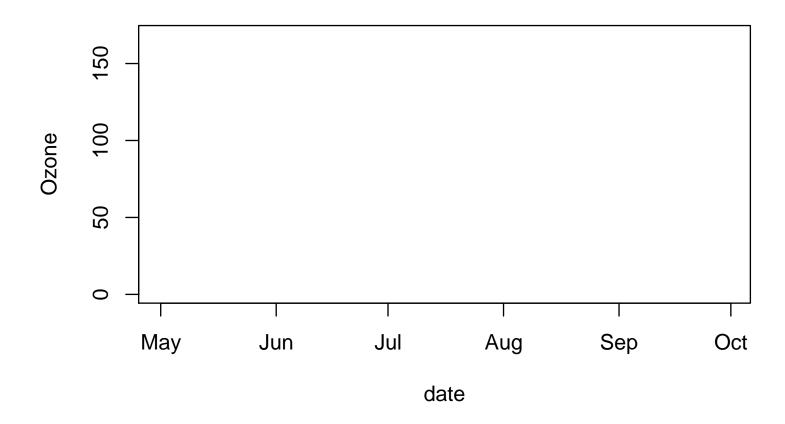
plot(Ozone~date, data=airquality,type="1")



plot(Ozone~date, data=airquality,type="h")

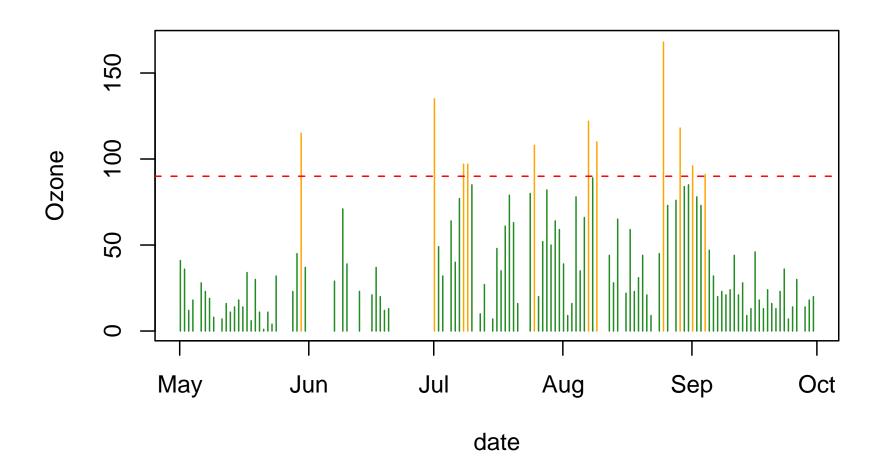


plot(Ozone~date, data=airquality,type="n")



Commands to do a more complex plot;

```
bad <- ifelse(airquality$0zone>=90, "orange", "forestgreen")
plot(Ozone~date, data=airquality, type="h", col=bad)
abline(h=90, lty=2, col="red")
```



Notes

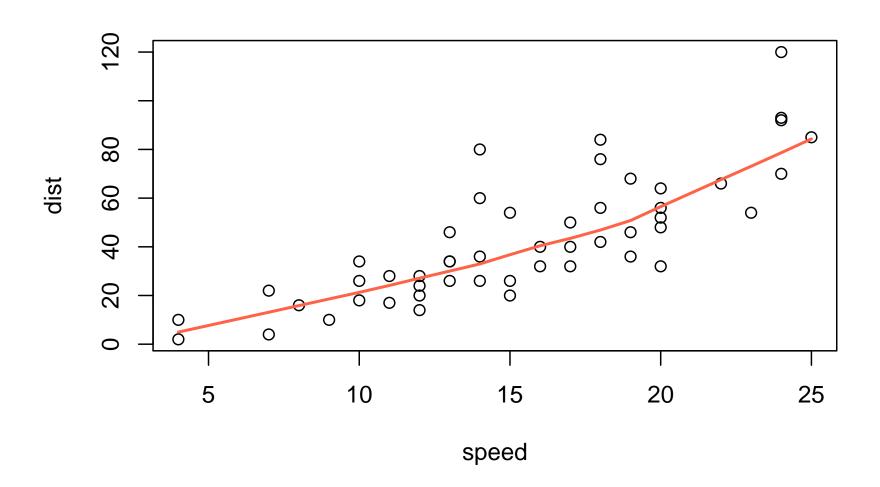
- type= controls how data are plotted. type="n" is not as useless as it looks: it can set up a plot for latter additions.
- Colors can be specified by name (the colors() function gives all the names), by red/green/blue values ("#rrggbb" with six base-sixteen digits) or by position (1:8) in the standard palette of 8 colors.
- abline draws a single straight line on a plot
- ifelse() selects between two vectors based on a logical variable.
- 1ty specifies the line type: 1 is solid, 2 is dashed, 3 is dotted, then it gets more complicated. See ?par, then search for 1ty

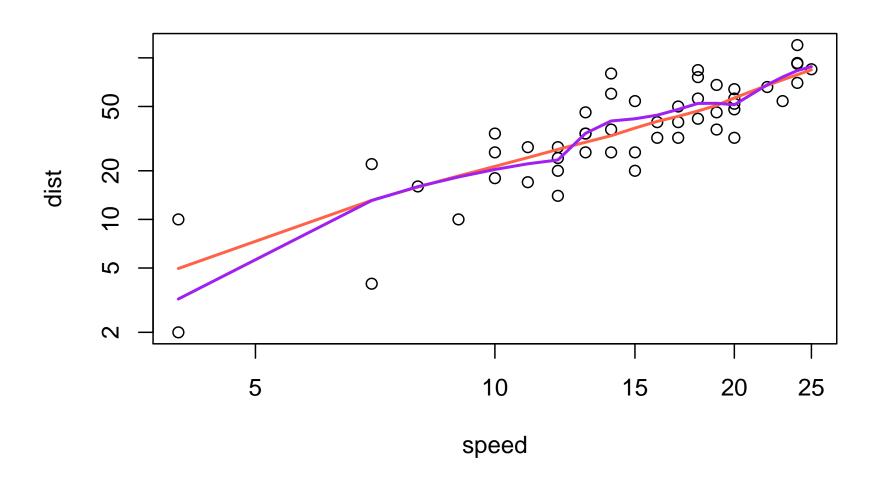
More example commands

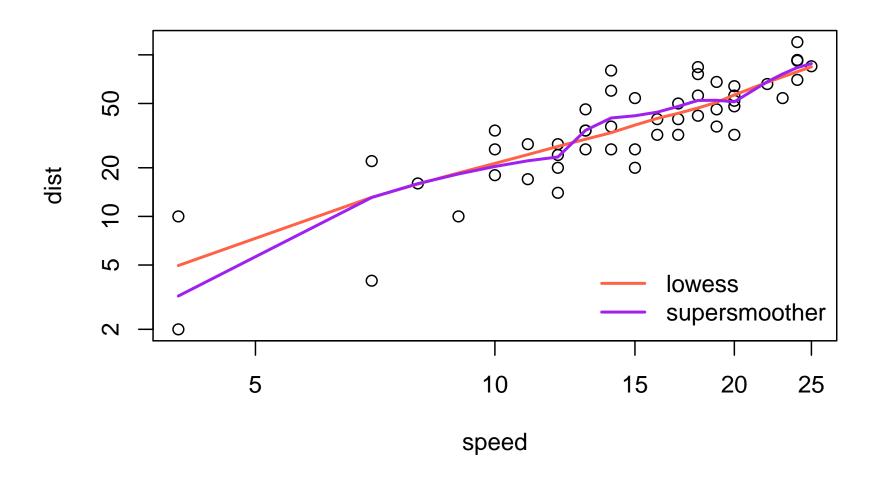
```
data(cars)
plot(dist~speed,data=cars)
with(cars, lines(lowess(speed, dist), col="tomato", lwd=2))

plot(dist~speed,data=cars, log="xy")
with(cars, lines(lowess(speed, dist), col="tomato", lwd=2))
with(cars, lines(supsmu(speed, dist), col="purple", lwd=2))

legend("bottomright", legend=c("lowess","supersmoother"),bty="n", lwd=2, col=c("tomato","purple"))
```







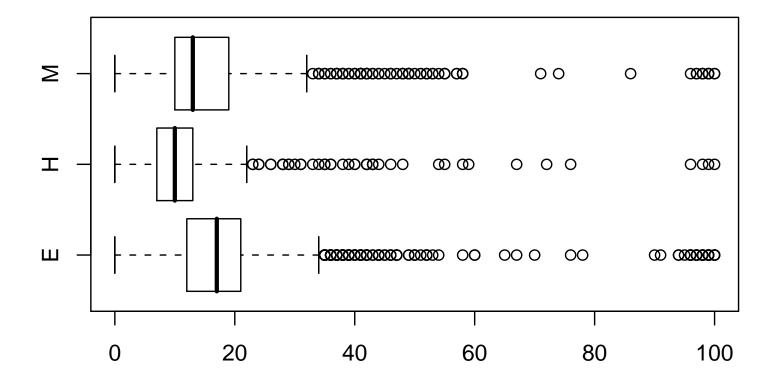
Notes

- lines() adds lines to an existing plot (and points() adds points)
- lowess() and supsmu() are scatterplot smoothers. They calculate smooth curves that fit the relationship between y and x locally. Their output has attributes x and y, that generic function lines() can cope with
- log="xy" asks for both axes to be logarithm (log="x" would just be the x-axis)
- legend() adds a legend

Boxplots

```
data(api, package="survey")
boxplot(mobility~stype,data=apipop, horizontal=TRUE)
```

Boxplots



Notes

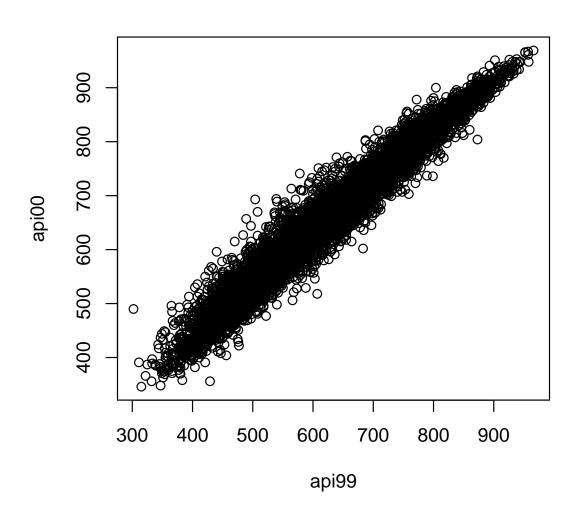
- data() makes data from a package available in your current
 R session we'll see more packages later
- boxplot computes and draws boxplots.
- horizontal=TRUE turns a boxplot sideways
- xlab and ylab are general options for x and y axis labels.

Large data sets

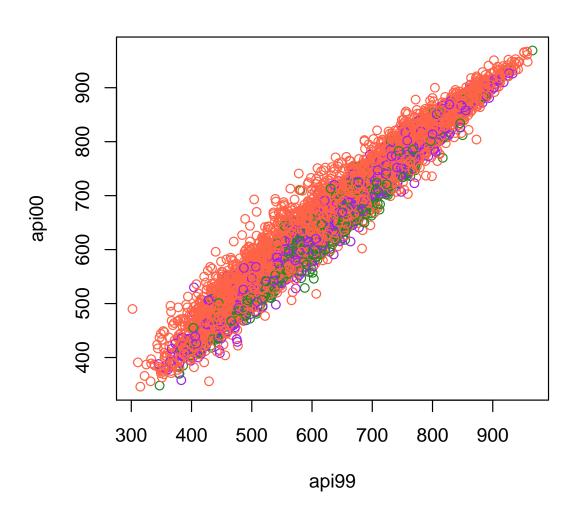
Scatterplots quickly get crowded. For example, the California Academic Performance Index is reported on 6194 schools

```
> plot(api00~api99,data=apipop)
> colors<-c("tomato","forestgreen","purple")[apipop$stype]
> plot(api00~api99,data=apipop,col=colors)
```

Large data sets



Large data sets



Density plots

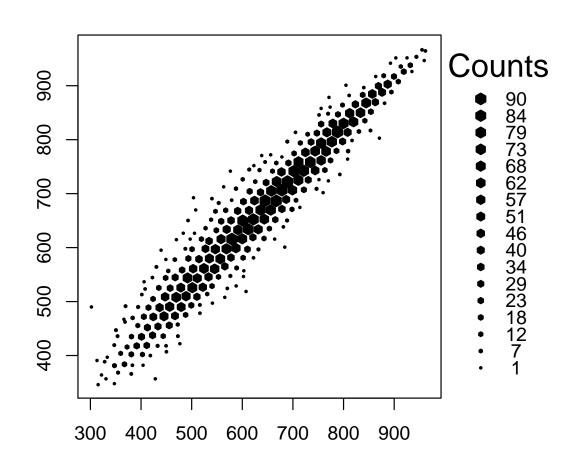
For a single large scatterplot some form of aggregation is useful

```
library("hexbin")
with(apipop, plot(hexbin(api99,api00), style="centroids"))
```

hexbin() is a function in the hexbin package. It computes the number of points in each hexagonal bin.

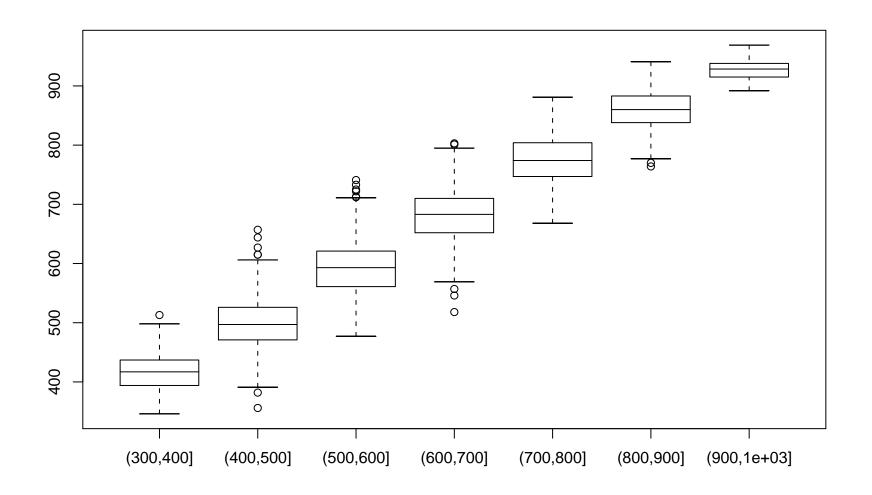
The style="centroids" option plots filled hexagons, at the centroid of each bin. The sizes of the plotted hexagons are proportional to the number of points in each bin.

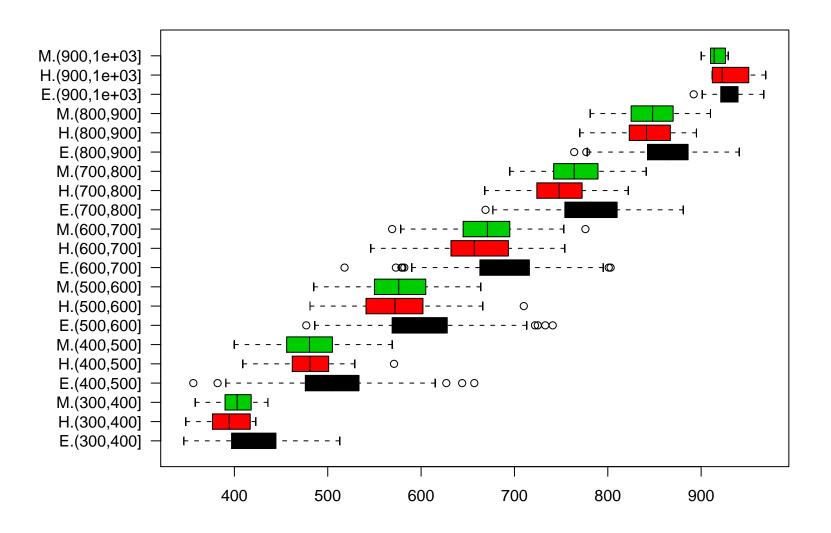
Density plots

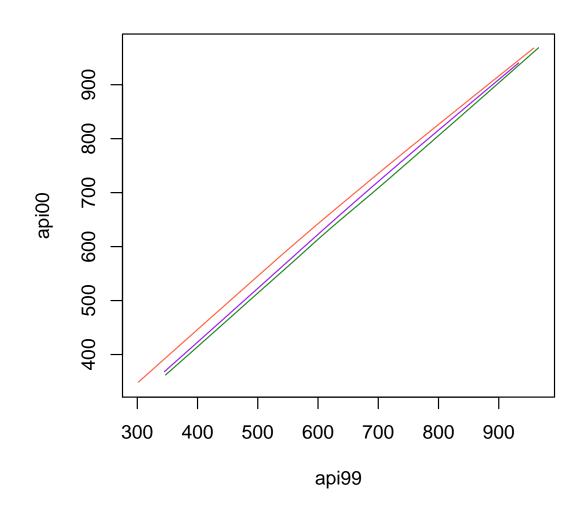


For showing multiple groups, a scatterplot smoother or perhaps boxplots may be better.

```
> boxplot(api00~cut(api99,(3:10)*100), data=apipop)
> par(las=1)
> par(mar=c(5.1,10.1,2.1,2.1))
> boxplot(api00~interaction(stype,
                            cut(api99,(3:10)*100)),
          data=apipop, horizontal=TRUE,col=1:3)
 plot(api00~api99,data=apipop,type="n")
 with(subset(apipop, stype=="E"),
      lines(lowess(api99, api00), col="tomato"))
 with(subset(apipop, stype=="H"),
      lines(lowess(api99, api00), col="forestgreen"))
 with(subset(apipop, stype=="M"),
      lines(lowess(api99, api00), col="purple"))
```





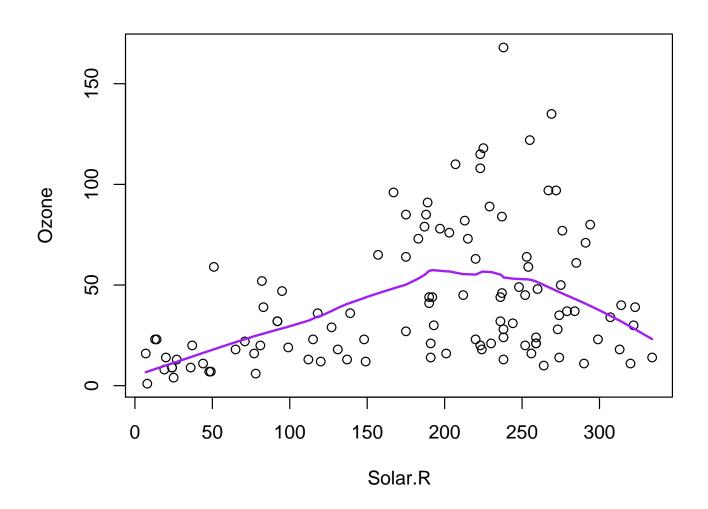


Notes

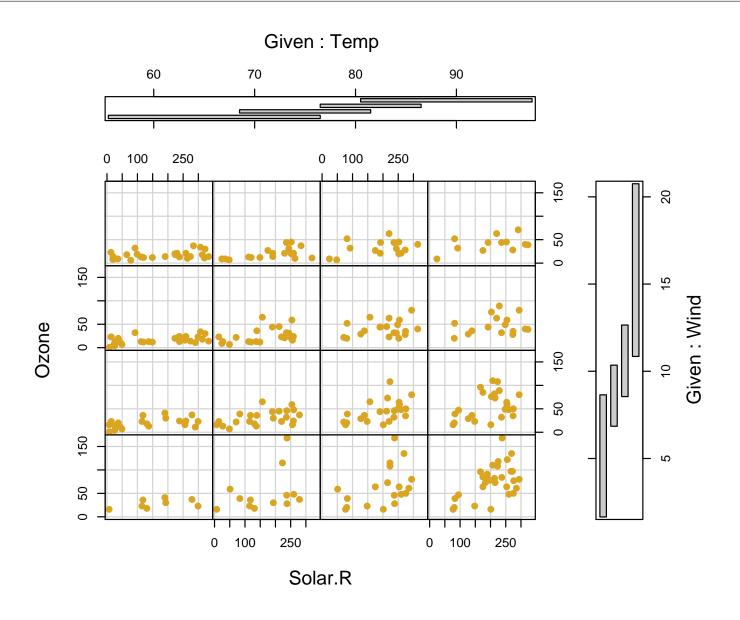
- cut() turns a variable into a factor by cutting it at the specified points.
- Note the use of type="n"
- par(mar=) sets the margins around the plot. We need a large left margin for the labels.
- subset() returns a subset of a data frame.

Ozone is a secondary pollutant, it is produced from organic compounds and atmostpheric oxygen in reactions catalyzed by nitrogen oxides and powered by su nlight.

However, looking at ozone concentrations in NY in summer we see a non-monotone relationship with sunlight



Here we draw a scatterplot of Ozone vs Solar.R for various subranges of Temp and Wind. For more examples like this, see the commands in the lattice package.



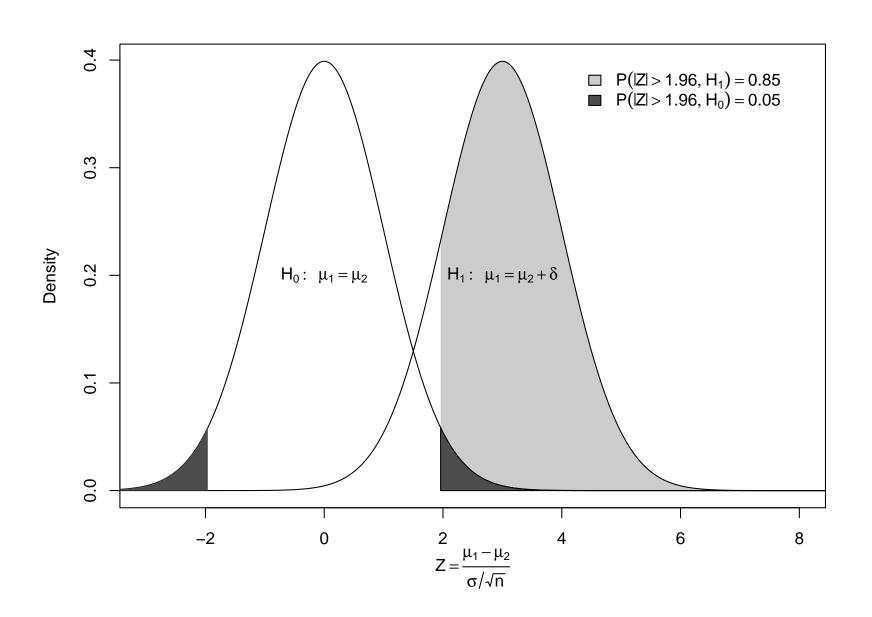
Toys: Mathematical annotation

An expression can be specified in R for any text in a graph (help(plotmath) for details). Here we annotate a figure drawn with polygon().

```
x < -seq(-10, 10, length = 400)
y1 < -dnorm(x)
y2 < -dnorm(x, m=3)
par(mar=c(5,4,2,1))
plot(x,y2,xlim=c(-3,8),type="n",
    xlab=quote(Z==frac(mu[1]-mu[2],sigma/sqrt(n))),
    vlab="Density")
polygon(c(1.96,1.96,x[240:400],10),
        c(0, dnorm(1.96, m=3), y2[240:400], 0),
        col="grey80", lty=0)
lines(x,y2)
lines(x,y1)
polygon(c(-1.96,-1.96,x[161:1],-10),
        c(0,dnorm(-1.96,m=0),y1[161:1],0),
        col="grey30",lty=0)
polygon(c(1.96,1.96,x[240:400],10),
        c(0, dnorm(1.96, m=0), y1[240:400], 0),
        col="grey30")
```

Toys: Mathematical annotation

Toys: Mathematical annotation



Toys: Maps

Toys: Maps

Proportion Hispanic

