Bush 631-603: Quantitative Methods Lecture 6 (02.22.2022): Prediction vol. I

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What is today's plan?

- Why predictions?
- Tech basics loops, conditional statements.
- Making predictions with data: elections, FP expenses, military aid.
- Using dates data.
- R work: loops, if{}, if{}else{}, as.date(), line plots.
- Task II: Working with R

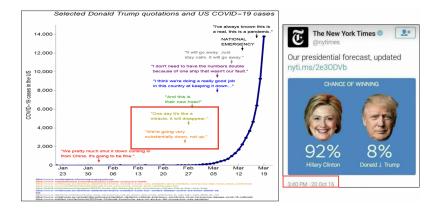
Predicting with data

Social science research:

- Establish causality.
- The role of measurement.
- Predictions:
 - Support for causal statements.
 - Generate accurate predictions about potential outcomes.

Not the best... predictions!

Oh no...



Some more gems

Daily Mail - December 5, 2000



Some more gems

Well. . .



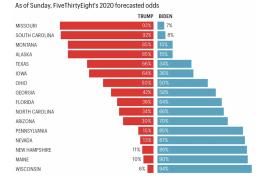
Some groundwork

LOOPS

Useful to repeat the same operation multiple times.

How likely candidates are to win key states

Efficient analysis tool.



Loops in ${\sf R}$

Run similar code chunk repeatedly.



- Elements of loop:
 - i: counter (change as you like).
 - X: Vector of ordered values for the counter.
 - expression: set of expressions to run repeatedly.
 - {}: curly braces define the beginning and end of a loop.

Loops in R

```
weeks <- c(1,2,3,4,5)
n <- length(weeks)
t <- rep(NA,n)

# loop counter
for (i in 1:n){
    t[i] <- weeks[i] * 2
    cat("I completed Swirl HW number", weeks[i], "in",
        t[i], "minutes", "\n")
}</pre>
```

I completed Swirl HW number 1 in 2 minutes
I completed Swirl HW number 2 in 4 minutes
I completed Swirl HW number 3 in 6 minutes
I completed Swirl HW number 4 in 8 minutes
I completed Swirl HW number 5 in 10 minutes

Debugging a loop

- Check code for errors (prevalent in loops).
- Run loop (code) with simple example.
- Use Google to identify problem.
- More information and ideas \rightarrow Link

Conditional statements



 General form - implement code chunks based on logical expressions. Syntax: if(x = a condition){set of commands} Run command(s) only if value if X is TRUE

```
weather <- "rain"
if (weather == "rain"){
  cat("I should take my umbrella")
}</pre>
```

I should take my umbrella

Flexible if statements

```
Using if(){} else {}
```

```
weather <- "sunny"
if (weather == "rain"){
  cat("I should take my umbrella")
} else {
  cat("I should wear my Aggie hat")
}</pre>
```

I should wear my Aggie hat

Complex conditional statements

Join conditional statements into a loop.

```
days <- 1:7
n <- length(days)
for (i in 1:n){
    x <- days[i]
    r <- x ½ 2
    if (r == 0){
        cat("Day", x, "is even and I need my umbrella \n")
    } else {
        cat("Day", x, "is odd and I need my Aggie cap \n")
    }
}</pre>
```

Day 1 is odd and I need my Aggie cap
Day 2 is even and I need my umbrella
Day 3 is odd and I need my Aggie cap
Day 4 is even and I need my umbrella
Day 5 is odd and I need my Aggie cap
Day 6 is even and I need my umbrella
Day 7 is odd and I need my Aggie cap

Conditional statements

Integrate conditional statements within a conditional statement.

```
output$tab <- function(){</pre>
## Season 2016: Tables
   if(input$year == 2016){
     data2016 <- mydata %>%
        filter(season == 2016)
   if (input$data == "QBR") {
     dat_tab <- data2016 %>%
       filter(QBR rank < 16) %>%
       select(First, Last, QBR)
     dat tab %>%
       knitr::kable("html") %>%
       kable_styling(font_size = 15, "striped", full_width = F, position = "center") %>%
       add header above(c("QBR: Top 15" = 3)) %>%
       scroll_box(height = "250px", width = "450px")
     if (input$data == "EPA") {
       dat tab <- data2016 %>%
         filter(EPA_rank < 16) %>%
          select(First, Last, EPA play) %>%
          arrange(-EPA play)
```

Conditional statements

Caution:

- if(){} else{} are complex.
- Double check the curly braces for each statement.
- Use the automatic indentation.
- 'Space-out' your code.
- ► Add comments (using #) to clearly mark each step.

Predictions

- Awesome research tool...with the right design.
- Predict: elections, economic trends, behavior, Superbowl winners, etc.

Elections winner



US electoral system

Electoral college

Plurality of votes in a state: "Winner-take-all"



Election predictions

Measurement problem:

- National vote vs. electoral votes.
- Bush Gore (2000).
- Clinton Trump (2016).

Electoral vote:

- Number of electors does not align with number of voters per state.
- Votes are "unaccounted".
- A Prediction problem:
 - Accurate forecast of **each state** winner.

Polls and election predictions

Data: 2016 elections (polls)

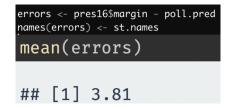
hea	ead(polls16)									
##		state	r	niddate	e dayslo	eft		I	oollster	
##	1	AK	8	8/11/16	;	89	Lake	Research I	Partners	
##	2	AK	8	8/20/16	5	80		Surve	eyMonkey	
##	3	AK	1(9/20/16	5	19			YouGov	
##	4	AK	10	9/26/16	,	13	Google	Consumer	Surveys	
##	5	AK	9	9/30/16	,	39	Google	Consumer	Surveys	
##	6	AK	1(9/12/16	;	27	Google	Consumer	Surveys	
##		clinto	n	trump	margin					
##	1	30.	0	38.0	8.00					
##	2	31.	0	38.0	7.00					
##	3	37.	4	37.7	0.30					
##	4	38.	0	39.0	1.00					
##	5	47.	5	36.7	-10.76					
##	6	34.	6	30.0	-4.62					

Poll prediction by states (using R loop)

```
poll.pred <- rep(NA, 51) # place holder</pre>
# get list of unique state names to iterate over
st.names <- unique(polls16$state)</pre>
# add labels to holder
names(poll.pred) <- st.names</pre>
for (i in 1:51) {
  state.data <- subset(polls16, subset = (state == st.names[i]))</pre>
  latest <- state.data$daysleft == min(state.data$daysleft)</pre>
  poll.pred[i] <- mean(state.data$margin[latest])</pre>
head(poll.pred)
##
       AK
              AL
                    AR AZ
                                     CA
   14.73 29.72 20.02 2.50 -23.00 -7.05
##
```

Errors in polling

Prediction error = actual outcome - predicted outcome



Root mean-square-error (RMSE): average magnitude of prediction error

Prediction of binary outcome variable \rightarrow classification problem Wrong prediction \rightarrow misclassification:

- 1. true positive: predict Trump wins when he actually wins.
- 2. false positive: predict Trump wins when he actually loses.
- 3. true negative: predict Trump loses when he actually loses.
- 4. false negative: predict Trump loses when he actually wins.

2016 elections: misclassification rate was high: 9.8% (5/51 states).

Predictions in INTA



Military expenditures:

- Increase arms? The security dilemma.
- Risky environment (Israel in Middle-east).

Research questions:

- 1. How increase in expenditures drive conflicts?
- 2. Arms expansion and the probability of war?
- 3. Arms expenditure and preventive strike?

Does increase in spending (arms race) leads to conflict?

Arms and war??

Early findings (1960 study) \rightarrow not too promising

1. HAVE MOST WARS BEEN PRECEDED BY ARMS RACES? ARE ARMS RACES A RECENT INNOVATION?

HISTORIANS mention arms races only for 10 out of 84 wars that ended between 1820 and 1929. Those 10 wars are listed in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Dates of Beginnings and Sites of Wars

1914, World 1865, La Plata 1892, Armenia 1829, Caucasus; 1845, Punjab; 1859, Italy; 1878, Tekke Turkomans; 1892, Central Africa; 1894, Madagascar; 1926, China

Arms and war??

Improved measurements; study dyads (1979)

war.⁵ This polynomial function shall be used to estimate the time rate of change (delta) for each nation for the year prior to the dispute. The existence of an arms race prior to the dispute or war shall be determined by obtaining the *product* of the national rates of change for each side, with higher values representing "arms-race" dyads. By calculating national



	Arms	No Arms
	Race	Race
War	23	3
No War	5	68

Arms and war??

Problems - case selection (remove world wars).

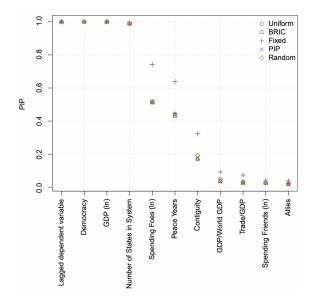
Improved methods and data (Sample 1998):

Probabilities of Escalation to War, 1816-1993, Based on the Estimated Coefficients in Table 2

	р
Baseline; all independent variables at 0	.08
Mutual military buildup; all other independent variables at 0	.21
High defense burden; all other independent variables at 0	.18
Military buildup and defense burden; all other independent variables at 0	.40
Dispute over issue of territory; all other independent variables at 0	.16
Military buildup, defense burden, and territorial dispute; all other independent variables at 0 Military buildup, defense burden, territorial dispute, parity, transition, and rapid approach;	.59
nuclear at zero	.69
Nuclear; all other independent variables at 0	.02
Military buildup and nuclear; all other independent variables at 0	.05
All variables at 1	.25

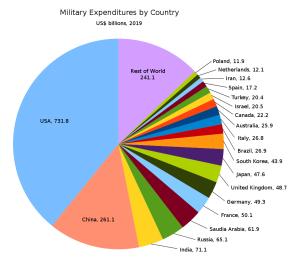
Related research question

What drives the decision to increase military expenditures?

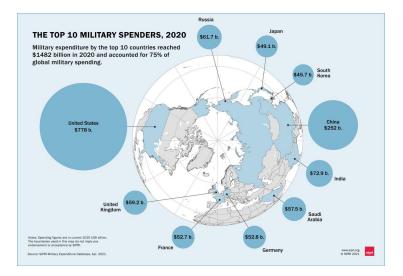


Arms race

$\mathsf{Measure} \to \mathsf{military} \ \mathsf{expenditures}$



Military spending across the globe



Predicting military spending

Our data:

- 157 Countries
- Time frame: 1999-2019
- Measure: military spending as proportion of total gov't spending.

Why this measure?

- Reflect state's preferences.
- ► Trade-off: *Guns vs. Butter*.

Our predictions:

- Using 1999-2019 data to predict 2020 levels.
- Test predictions with actual data.

Military spending data

dim(mil_exp)

[1] 157 25

head(mil_exp, n=8)

A tibble: 8 x 25

Group1 Subgroup1 `1999` `2000` `2001` `2002` `2003` `2004` `2 ## Country ## <chr> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <</pre> Africa North Af~ 0.118 0.120 0.122 0.108 0.101 0.107 0. ## 1 Algeria ## 2 Libva Africa North Af~ 0.115 0.103 0.0630 0.0524 0.0484 0.0490 0. ## 3 Morocco Africa North Af~ 0.145 0.0898 0.145 0.125 0.134 0.123 0. ## 4 Tunisia Africa North Af~ 0.0618 0.0614 0.0605 0.0590 0.0603 0.0591 0. ## 5 Angola Africa Sub-Saha~ 0.274 0.129 0.108 0.0919 0.109 0.116 0. ## 6 Benin Africa Sub-Saha~ 0.0452 0.0264 0.0232 0.0407 0.0473 0.0506 0. ## 7 Botswana Africa Sub-Saha~ 0.0759 0.0817 0.0899 0.0900 0.0915 0.0848 0. ## 8 Burkina Faso Africa Sub-Saha~ 0.0576 0.0624 0.0588 0.0605 0.0610 0.0596 0. ## # ... with 15 more variables: 2006 <dbl>, 2007 <dbl>, 2008 <dbl>, 2009 <dbl> 2010 <dbl>, 2011 <dbl>, 2012 <dbl>, 2013 <dbl>, 2014 <dbl>, 2015 <dbl>, ## # ## # 2016 <dbl>, 2017 <dbl>, 2018 <dbl>, 2019 <dbl>, 2020 <dbl>

Reshaping the data

- Use the gather() function
- Increase the data size.
- Each case (country for us) has multiple observations (rows).

countries	population_in_million	gdp_percapita			countries	time	value
A	100	2000	то		A	population_in_million	100
В	200	7000			В	population_in_million	200
С	120	15000		Long	С	population_in_million	120
					А	gdp_percapita	2000
					В	gdp_percapita	7000
	wide			1	С	gdp_percapita	15000
	what						
•	wide			Ţ	В	gdp_percapita	

Reshaping the data

```
gather() function: long-form data.
```

```
spend_long <- mil_exp2 %>%
gather(year, exp, '1999':'2019',-Country, -Group1, -Subgroup1) %>%
arrange(Country)
```

```
head(spend_long, n=9)
```

```
## # A tibble: 9 \times 5
##
    Country Group1
                               Subgroup1 year
                                                  exp
##
    <chr>
          <chr>
                               <chr> <chr> <chr> <dbl>
## 1 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 1999 NA
## 2 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2000 NA
## 3 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2001
                                              NA
## 4 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2002
                                              NA
## 5 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2003 NA
## 6 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2004 0.161
## 7 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2005
                                              0.127
## 8 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2006 0.104
## 9 Afghanistan Asia & Oceania South Asia 2007 0.119
```

Predicting spending

Predict 2020 \rightarrow mean of spending (1999-2019)

Use loop to calculate means for all countries

```
## loop
pred.mean <- rep(NA,157)
c.names <- unique(spend_long$Country)
names(pred.mean) <- as.character(c.names)
for (i in 1:157){
    c.dat <- subset(spend_long, subset = (Country == c.names[i]))
    pred.mean[i] <- mean(c.dat$exp, na.rm = T)
}</pre>
```

Predicting spending for 2020

pred.mean					
Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Angola	Argentina	Armenia
7.693784e-02	4.803755e-02	1.167886e-01	1.142081e-01	2.865062e-02	1.572688e-01
Australia	Austria	Azerbaijan	Bahrain	Bangladesh	Belarus
5.117444e-02	1.621721e-02	1.159260e-01	1.365441e-01	1.024893e-01	3.055717e-01
Belgium	Belize	Benin	Bolivia	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Botswana
2.104063e-02	3.481603e-02	4.312747e-02	5.311684e-02	3.023730e-02	7.708387e-02
Brazil	Brunei	Bulgaria	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cambodia
3.954679e-02	8.537055e-02	5.727167e-02	6.086991e-02	1.238733e-01	9.068995e-02
Cameroon	Canada	Cape Verde	Central African Rep.	Chad	Chile
7.432152e-02	2.898024e-02	1.845547e-02	1.090412e-01	1.641743e-01	1.010081e-01
China	Colombia	Congo, Dem. Rep.	Congo, Republic of	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire
8.147621e-02	1.133810e-01	9.082535e-02	8.326183e-02	0.000000e+00	7.179591e-02
Croatia	Cyprus	Czechia	Denmark	Djibouti	Dominican Rep.
4.203798e-02	4.971926e-02	3.230034e-02	2.517054e-02	1.513522e-01	4.516247e-02
Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador	Equatorial Guinea	Estonia	eSwatini
7.900969e-02	6.539493e-02	4.407673e-02	5.624585e-02	4.613709e-02	6.040772e-02
Ethiopia	Fiji	Finland	France	Gabon	Gambia
1.032980e-01	5.669500e-02	2.704904e-02	3.599000e-02	7.089440e-02	3.735918e-02
Georgia	Germany	Ghana	Greece	Guatemala	Guinea
1.093521e-01	2.686035e-02	2.040455e-02	5.686649e-02	3.739819e-02	1.172825e-01
Guinea-Bissau	Guyana	Haiti	Honduras	Hungary	Iceland
9.553127e-02	4.376836e-02	6.134272e-06	4.366182e-02	2.511546e-02	0.000000e+00
India	Indonesia	Iran	Iraq	Ireland	Israel
9.692641e-02	4.121770e-02	1.431855e-01	6.366464e-02	1.471538e-02	1.420280e-01
Italy	Jamaica	Japan	Jordan	Kazakhstan	Kenya
3.099443e-02	2.671973e-02	2.559871e-02	1.535606e-01	4.722987e-02	6.172174e-02
Korea, South	Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Latvia	Lebanon
1.276501e-01	1.222232e-01	4.838694e-02	2.179216e-02	3.728258e-02	1.416378e-01
Lesotho	Liberia	Libya	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Madagascar
4.794950e-02	2.041134e-02	6.558880e-02	3.439832e-02	1.313624e-02	5.316299e-02
Malawi	Malaysia	Mali	Malta	Mauritania	Mauritius
2.908423e-02	6.375313e-02	8.162525e-02	1.457119e-02	1.070985e-01	7.006463e-03

Good prediction?

Checking for errors:

```
# Calculate errors & assign country names
errors <- mil_exp$`2020` - pred.mean
names(errors) <- c.names</pre>
```

```
# Average error
mean(errors, na.rm = T)
```

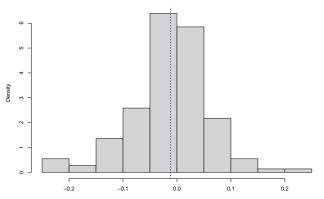
```
## [1] -0.01210775
# RMSE
sqrt(mean(errors^2, na.rm = T))
```

[1] 0.07380063

Prediction errors

```
How far off are we?
```

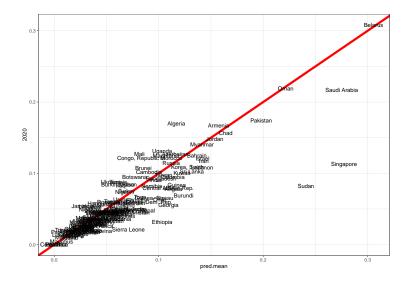
hist(errors, freq = FALSE)
abline(v = mean(errors, na.rm = T), lty = "dashed", col = "blue")



Histogram of errors

errors

Accuracy of predictions



Find outlier predictions

Identify where we were off...

Errors distribution
summary(n.dat\$error)

Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's ## -0.164364 -0.017092 -0.004715 -0.008734 0.000374 0.053107 10 # Create variable for large outliers n.dat\$large.inc <- NA n.dat\$large.inc[n.dat\$error > 0.01] <- "Much More"</pre> n.dat\$large.inc[n.dat\$error < -0.01] <- "Much Less"</pre> # Create subset of outliers: less than average n.dat2 <- n.dat %>% filter(large.inc == "Much Less") %>% mutate(error = error * 100) %>% select(Group1, error) %>% arrange(desc(error))

tail(n.dat2, n=9)

##		Group1	error
##	Chile	Americas	-3.785553
##	Nepal	Asia & Oceania	-4.102959
##	Sierra Leone	Africa	-4.945523
##	Georgia	Europe	-5.375066
##	Burundi	Africa	-5.521676
##	Saudi Arabia	Middle East	-5.806989
##	Ethiopia	Africa	-7.119952
##	Sudan	Africa	-15.832405
##	Singapore	Asia & Oceania	-16.436356

Time series and predicted value

Focus on big-5 spenders

Format data to long-form

```
dat3 <- n.dat %>%
filter(Country == "Russia" | Country == "USA" |
Country == "China" | Country == "Iran" | Country == "Israel") %>%
select(-Subgroup1, -error, -large.inc)
dat3.1 <- dat3 %>%
gather(year, exp, '1999':'2020',-Country, -Group1, -pred.mean) %>%
arrange(Country) %>%
mutate(exp = round(exp*100,2))
```

Working with dates

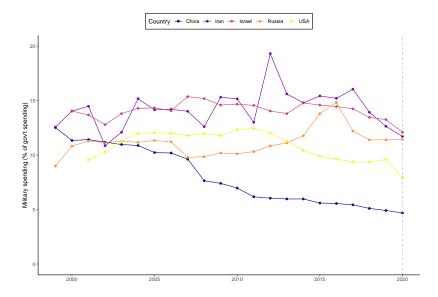
Working with dates:

- ▶ Package → library(lubridate)
- Define variables as dates and choose format
- We can calculate number of days between date variables

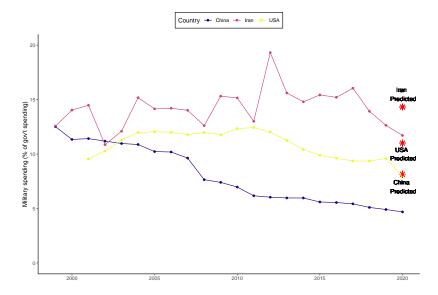
```
# Working with dates
arrive <- as.Date("2015-07-01")
today <- as.Date("2022-02-22")
# How long have I been in the US?
today - arrive</pre>
```

```
## Time difference of 2428 days
# Define dates in our expenditures data
dat3.l$year.f <- as.Date(dat3.l$year, format = "%Y")
dat3.l$year.f2 <- year(dat3.l$year.f)</pre>
```

Spending over time



Spending over time (and predicted 2020 - the 'big 3')



US Military Aid

- Approximately \$11-12 Billion per year.
- ▶ FP tool with various goals:
 - quid-pro-quo compliance with target government.
 - Augment US national security.
 - Require aid target cooperation.
- Outcomes? Not too promising...
 - Reduce cooperation (2011).
 - Reduce terrorism under certain conditions (2014).
 - Limited in lowering civil conflict (2018).
- Great data resource: ForeignAssistance.gov (Link)

Aid data

▶ US Aid (1990-2006)

Explore Military aid data
dim(mil_aid2)

[1] 2643 34

summary(mil_aid2\$militaryaid)

Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's ## 0.00 0.00 0.20 34.49 1.30 3365.70 3

Predicting US Military Aid

##

115,82500

81.24375

- ▶ Predict 2006 levels \rightarrow mean of aid (1990-2005)
- Use loop to calculate means for all countries

```
## Loop procedure
pred.aid <- rep(NA, 168)
c.names <- unique(mil_aid2$country)</pre>
names(pred.aid) <- as.character(c.names)</pre>
for (i in 1:168){
  c.dat <- subset(mil_aid2, subset = (country == c.names[i]))</pre>
  pred.aid[i] <- mean(c.dat$militaryaid, na.rm = T)</pre>
}
pred.aid[pred.aid > 80]
##
        Greece
                     Turkey
                                    Iraq
                                                Egypt
                                                            Jordan
##
     196.29375
                  309.69375
                              179.95625 1595.04999
                                                        154.68125
                                                                    2516.30624
## Afghanistan
                 Pakistan
```

Israel

Predicting Aid

```
    Check our predictions
```

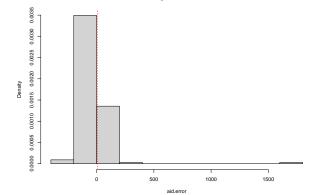
```
# Error vectors and plot
aid.error <- mil_aid3$militaryaid - pred.aid
names(aid.error) <- c.names
mean(aid.error, na.rm = T)</pre>
```

```
## [1] 5.719636
sqrt(mean(aid.error<sup>2</sup>, na.rm = T))
```

[1] 139.2933

Plot errors (outliers?)

hist(aid.error, freq = FALSE)
abline(v = mean(aid.error, na.rm = T), lty = "dashed", col = "red")

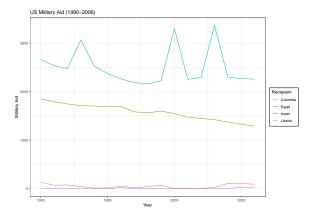


Histogram of aid.error

aid.error[aid.error > 1000]

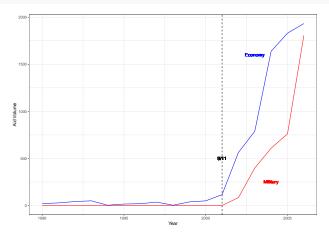
##	<na></na>	<na></na>	Afghanistan
##	NA	NA	1691.175

US Military aid: Time trends



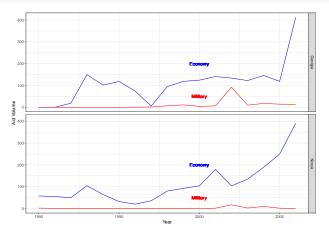
Military and Economic aid: Afghanistan (1990-2006)

```
mil_aid %>%
filter(country == "Afghanistan") %>%
ggplot() +
geom_line(aes(year,economicaid), color = "blue") + xlab("Year") +
geom_line(aes(year,militaryaid), color = "red") + ylab("Aid Volume") +
geom_text(aes(x = 2003, y = 1600, label = "Economy"), color = "blue") +
geom_text(aes(x = 2004, y = 250, label = "Military"), color = "blue") +
geom_text(aes(x = 2004, y = 250, label = "Military"), color = "black") +
geom_text(aes(x = 2001, y = 500, label = "9/1"), color = "black") + theme_bw()
```



Military and Econ aid: Always tracking??

```
mil_aid %>%
filter(country == "Georgia" | country == "Kenya") %>%
ggplot(aes(group = country)) +
geom_line(aes(year,economicaid), color = "blue") + xlab("Year") +
geom_line(aes(year,militaryaid), color = "red") + ylab("Aid Volume") +
geom_text(aes(x = 2000, y = 200, label = "Economy"), color = "blue") +
geom_text(aes(x = 2000, y = 50, label = "Military"), color = "red") +
facet_grid(country-.) + theme_bw()
```



Military and Economic aid (1990-2006)

Checking for correlations

type value
1 Military 33.08976
2 Economic 66.11048

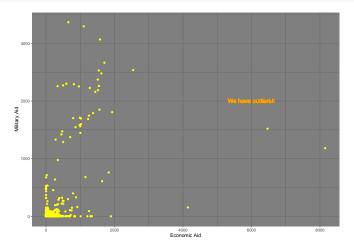
Correlation

cor(mil_aid\$militaryaid, mil_aid\$economicaid, use = "complete.obs")

[1] 0.5559843

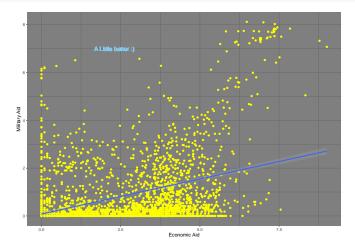
Plotting correlation

```
ggplot(mil_aid, aes(x=economicaid, y=militaryaid)) +
geom_point(color = "yellow") +
xlab("Economic Aid") + ylab("Military Aid") +
geom_text(aes(x =6000, y = 2000, label = "We have outliers!!"), color = "orange", size = 4.5) +
theme_dark()
```



Plotting correlations: "Remove" outliers

```
ggplot(mil_aid, aes(x=logeconomicaid, y=logmilitaryaid)) +
geom_point(color = "yellow") +
geom_smooth(method = "lm") +
xlab("Economic Aid") + ylab("Military Aid") +
geom_text(aes(x =2.3, y = 7, label = "A Little better :)"), color = "skyblue", size = 4.5) +
theme_dark()
```



Wrapping up week 6

Summary:

- Predictions. . .
- Using data to 'best- guess' some quantity.
- Repeated computations? Use Loops.
- Always check for prediction errors.
- Classification errors: false positive and false negative.
- Data over time
- US military aid data: predictions, errors and some insights

Almost done \downarrow

Task 2: R

- Explore INTA data.
- Answer all questions with R Markdown.
- Use revised template:
 - ► Be organized.
 - Add comments to your work (using #).
 - Add spaces using \vspace{1em}
 - When plotting remember your reader!