Package 'gglinedensity'

July 22, 2025

Title Make DenseLines Heatmaps with 'ggplot2'

Version 0.2.0

Description Visualise overlapping time series lines as a heatmap of line density. Provides a 'ggplot2' statistic implementing the DenseLines algorithm, which ``normalizes time series by the arc length to compute accurate densities''
(Moritz and Fisher, 2018) <doi:10.48550/arXiv.1808.06019>.

License GPL (>= 3)

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

SystemRequirements Cargo (Rust's package manager), rustc >= 1.70.0

Config/gglinedensity/MSRV 1.70.0

Imports cli, ggplot2, lifecycle, rlang, scales, vctrs, vdiffr

URL https://github.com/hrryt/gglinedensity,
https://hrryt.github.io/gglinedensity/

BugReports https://github.com/hrryt/gglinedensity/issues

Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0)

Config/testthat/edition 3

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Harry Thompson [cre, aut, cph],
Dominik Moritz [aut] (Rust original,
<https://github.com/domoritz/line-density-rust>),
The authors of the dependency Rust crates [ctb] (see inst/AUTHORS file for details),
Hiroaki Yutani [ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3385-7233>,
Scripts where noted,
<https://yutannihilation.github.io/string2path>)

Maintainer Harry Thompson <harry@mayesfield.uk>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-05-22 23:40:02 UTC

Contents

`stat_line_density` *Create a DenseLines Heatmap*

Description

`stat_line_density()` is a 'ggplot2' statistic implementing the DenseLines algorithm described by Moritz and Fisher (2018). `stat_path_density()` is to `stat_line_density()` as `geom_path()` is to `geom_line()`.

Usage

```
stat_line_density(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  geom = "raster",
  position = "identity",
  ...,
  bins = 30,
  binwidth = NULL,
  drop = TRUE,
  orientation = NA,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = NA,
  inherit.aes = TRUE
)

stat_path_density(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  geom = "raster",
  position = "identity",
  ...,
  bins = 30,
  binwidth = NULL,
  drop = TRUE,
  orientation = NA,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  show.legend = NA,
  inherit.aes = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

mapping	Set of aesthetic mappings created by aes(). If specified and inherit.aes = TRUE (the default), it is combined with the default mapping at the top level of the plot. You must supply mapping if there is no plot mapping.
data	The data to be displayed in this layer. There are three options: If NULL, the default, the data is inherited from the plot data as specified in the call to ggplot(). A data.frame, or other object, will override the plot data. All objects will be fortified to produce a data frame. See fortify() for which variables will be created. A function will be called with a single argument, the plot data. The return value must be a data.frame, and will be used as the layer data. A function can be created from a formula (e.g. ~ head(.x, 10)).
geom	The geometric object to use to display the data for this layer. When using a stat_*() function to construct a layer, the geom argument can be used to override the default coupling between stats and geoms. The geom argument accepts the following: • A Geom ggproto subclass, for example GeomPoint. • A string naming the geom. To give the geom as a string, strip the function name of the geom_ prefix. For example, to use geom_point(), give the geom as "point". • For more information and other ways to specify the geom, see the layer geom documentation.
position	A position adjustment to use on the data for this layer. This can be used in various ways, including to prevent overplotting and improving the display. The position argument accepts the following: • The result of calling a position function, such as position_jitter(). This method allows for passing extra arguments to the position. • A string naming the position adjustment. To give the position as a string, strip the function name of the position_ prefix. For example, to use position_jitter(), give the position as "jitter". • For more information and other ways to specify the position, see the layer position documentation.
...	Other arguments passed on to layer()'s params argument. These arguments broadly fall into one of 4 categories below. Notably, further arguments to the position argument, or aesthetics that are required can *not* be passed through .... Unknown arguments that are not part of the 4 categories below are ignored. • Static aesthetics that are not mapped to a scale, but are at a fixed value and apply to the layer as a whole. For example, colour = "red" or linewidth = 3. The geom's documentation has an **Aesthetics** section that lists the available options. The 'required' aesthetics cannot be passed on to the params. Please note that while passing unmapped aesthetics as vectors is technically possible, the order and required length is not guaranteed to be parallel to the input data.

- When constructing a layer using a `stat_*()` function, the `...` argument can be used to pass on parameters to the geom part of the layer. An example of this is `stat_density(geom = "area", outline.type = "both")`. The geom's documentation lists which parameters it can accept.
- Inversely, when constructing a layer using a `geom_*()` function, the `...` argument can be used to pass on parameters to the `stat` part of the layer. An example of this is `geom_area(stat = "density", adjust = 0.5)`. The stat's documentation lists which parameters it can accept.
- The `key_glyph` argument of `layer()` may also be passed on through `....` This can be one of the functions described as key glyphs, to change the display of the layer in the legend.

`bins` numeric vector giving number of bins in both vertical and horizontal directions. Set to 30 by default.

`binwidth` Numeric vector giving bin width in both vertical and horizontal directions. Overrides `bins` if both set.

`drop` if `TRUE` removes all cells with 0 counts.

`orientation` The orientation of the layer. The default (`NA`) automatically determines the orientation from the aesthetic mapping. In the rare event that this fails it can be given explicitly by setting `orientation` to either `"x"` or `"y"`. See the *Orientation* section for more detail.

`na.rm` If `FALSE`, the default, missing values are removed with a warning. If `TRUE`, missing values are silently removed.

`show.legend` logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? `NA`, the default, includes if any aesthetics are mapped. `FALSE` never includes, and `TRUE` always includes. It can also be a named logical vector to finely select the aesthetics to display.

`inherit.aes` If `FALSE`, overrides the default aesthetics, rather than combining with them. This is most useful for helper functions that define both data and aesthetics and shouldn't inherit behaviour from the default plot specification, e.g. `borders()`.

Details

`stat_line_density()` provides the `density` variable, which normalises `count` by its sum in each column of bins with the same value of the variable on the `orientation` axis. This is also provided by `stat_path_density()`, but should be used with caution as the DenseLines algorithm assumes lines are connected in order of the variable on the `orientation` axis. `stat_path_density()` therefore defaults to `aes(fill = after_stat(count))` rather than `after_stat(density)`.

Aesthetics

`stat_line_density()` understands the following aesthetics (required aesthetics are in bold):

- `x`
- `y`
- `group`

Computed variables

These are calculated by the 'stat' part of layers and can be accessed with delayed evaluation.

- `after_stat(count)`
  number of lines in bin.
- `after_stat(density)`
  density of lines in bin. The result of the DenseLines algorithm.
- `after_stat(ncount)`
  count, scaled to maximum of 1.
- `after_stat(ndensity)`
  density, scaled to a maximum of 1.

Orientation

This geom treats each axis differently and, thus, can thus have two orientations. Often the orientation is easy to deduce from a combination of the given mappings and the types of positional scales in use. Thus, ggplot2 will by default try to guess which orientation the layer should have. Under rare circumstances, the orientation is ambiguous and guessing may fail. In that case the orientation can be specified directly using the `orientation` parameter, which can be either `"x"` or `"y"`. The value gives the axis that the geom should run along, `"x"` being the default orientation you would expect for the geom.

References

Moritz, D. & Fisher, D. (2018). Visualizing a Million Time Series with the Density Line Chart. arXiv preprint arXiv:1409.0473. doi:10.48550/arxiv.1808.06019.

See Also

`ggplot2::stat_bin_2d()`, `ggplot2::geom_line()`, `ggplot2::geom_raster()`.

Examples

```
library(ggplot2)

p <- ggplot(txhousing, aes(date, median, group = city))

p +
  stat_line_density(drop = FALSE, na.rm = TRUE)

p +
  aes(fill = after_stat(count)) +
  stat_line_density(
    aes(colour = after_stat(count)),
    geom = "point", size = 10, bins = 15, na.rm = TRUE
  ) +
  stat_line_density(
    aes(label = after_stat(ifelse(count > 25, count, NA))),
    geom = "label", size = 6, bins = 15, na.rm = TRUE
  )
```

```
ggplot(txhousing, aes(median, date, group = city)) +
  stat_line_density(
    aes(fill = after_stat(ndensity)),
    bins = 50, orientation = "y", na.rm = TRUE
  )

m <- ggplot(economics, aes(unemploy/pop, psavert, group = date < as.Date("2000-01-01")))
m + geom_path(aes(colour = after_stat(group)))
m + stat_path_density()
```

Index