

Introductory course on the R software

P. Lafaye de Micheaux¹

¹Mathematics and Statistics Department
Université de Montréal
CANADA

New South Wales University
Sydney, Australia
June 24, 2014

<https://biostatisticien.eu/springeR/courseRw6.pdf>

Goals of today lecture

Describing the instructions for

- manipulating graphics windows ;
- drawing simple plots ;
- dealing with colors ;
- adding text on graphs ;
- improving titles, axes and captions ;
- interacting with plots ;
- fine-tuning graphical parameters.

Basic stuff

To open a new graphical window, use the instructions `windows()` or `win.graph()` (for MacOS, use `quartz()`).

To close some graphical device, use : `dev.off(device-number)`.

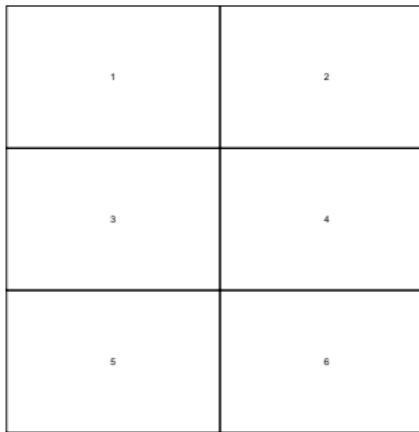
To save a plot that has already been drawn, use :
`savePlot(filename="Rplot", type="pdf")`.

You can also proceed as follows :

```
> pdf(file="mygraph.pdf")
> hist(runif(100))
> dev.off()
```

Splitting the Graphics Window

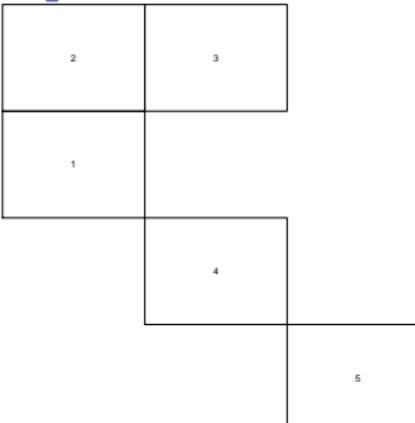
```
> par(mfrow=c(3, 2))
```



```
> par(mfcol=c(3, 2)) # by columns.
```

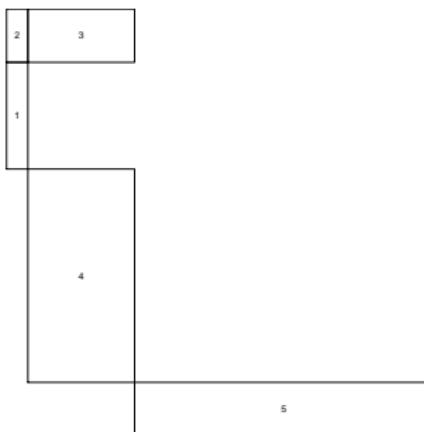
Splitting the Graphics Window

```
> (mat <- matrix(c(2,3,0,1,0,0,0,4,0,0,0,5), 4, 3, byrow=T))  
[,1] [,2] [,3]  
[1,]    2    3    0  
[2,]    1    0    0  
[3,]    0    4    0  
[4,]    0    0    5  
  
> layout(mat) ; layout.show(5)
```



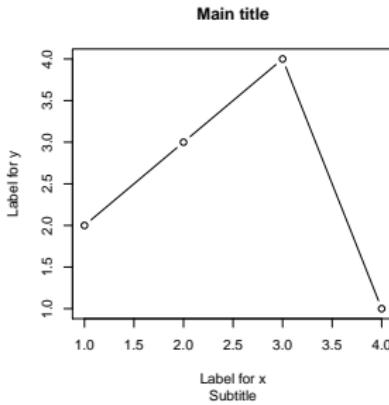
Splitting the Graphics Window

```
> layout(mat, widths=c(1,5,14), heights=c(1,2,4,1))  
> layout.show(5)
```



The functions plot() and points()

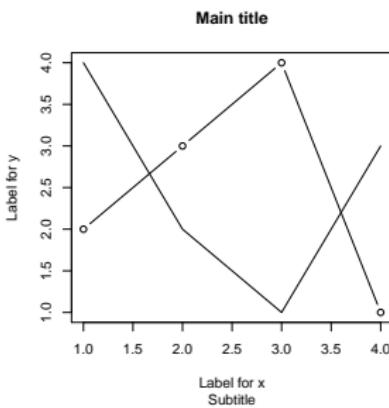
```
> plot(1:4,c(2,3,4,1),type="b",main="Main title",
+   sub="Subtitle",xlab="Label for x",ylab="Label for y")
```



Argument	Description
x	Vector of x coordinates of points to draw.
y	Vector of y coordinates of points to draw.
type	Specify the type of plotting : "p" for points, "l" for lines, "b" for both, "c" for empty points joined by lines, "o" for overplotted points and lines, "h" for vertical lines, "s" for stair steps and "n" to plot nothing (but to display the window, with axes).
main	Specify the main title.
sub	Specify the subtitle.
xlab	Specify the label of the x axis.
ylab	Specify the label of the y axis.
xlim	Vector of length 2. Specify the lower and upper bound for the x axis.
ylim	Vector of length 2. Specify the lower and upper bound for the y axis.
log	Character string which contains "x" (respectively "y", "xy" or "yx") if the x axis (respectively the y axis, both) is to be logarithmic.

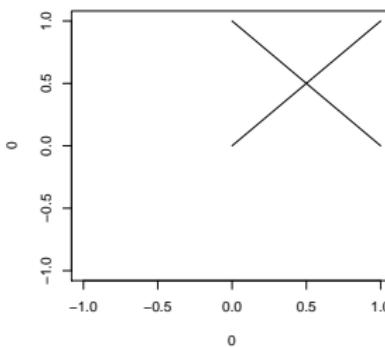
Note that successive calls of the function `plot()` create a new plot every time, which replaces the previous one (unless the graphics window has been split, as explained above). The function `points()` can remediate this issue by overlaying the new plot on top of the old one. It takes the same arguments as `plot()`.

```
> points(1:4, c(4, 2, 1, 3), type="l")
```



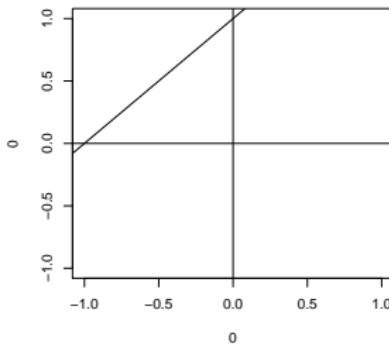
The functions segments(), lines() and abline()

```
> plot(0, 0, "n")
> segments(x0=0, y0=0, x1=1, y1=1)
> lines(x=c(1, 0), y=c(0, 1))
```



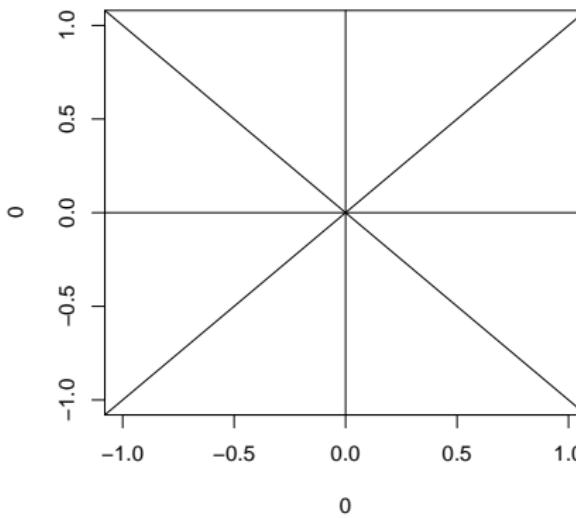
The function `abline()` is used to draw a straight line of equation $y = a + bx$ (specified by the arguments `a` and `b`), or a horizontal (argument `h`) or vertical (argument `v`) line.

```
> plot(0, 0, "n"); abline(h=0, v=0); abline(a=1, b=1)
```



Do it yourself

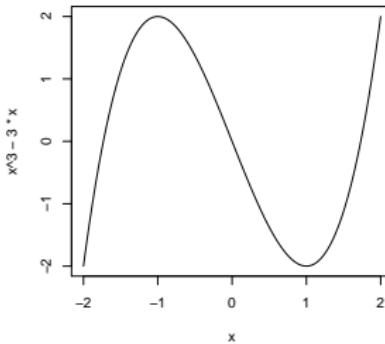
Reproduce this plot.



The function curve()

This function is used to draw a curve in a Cartesian coordinate system, on the interval specified by the bounds `from` and `to`.

```
> curve(x^3 - 3*x, from=-2, to=2)
```



The function colors()

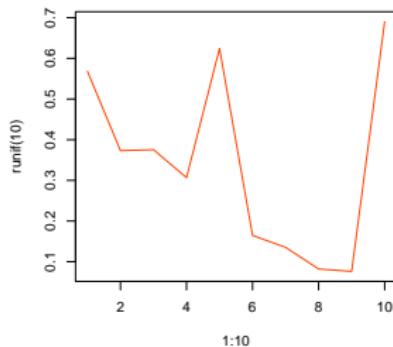
This function returns the names of the 657 colours known to R.

If you want to get the different shades of orange, you can use the instruction :

```
> colors() [grep("orange", colors())]
[1] "darkorange"   "darkorange1"  "darkorange2"  "darkorange3"
[5] "darkorange4"  "orange"       "orangel1"     "orange2"
[9] "orange3"      "orange4"      "orangered"   "orangered1"
[13] "orangered2"   "orangered3"  "orangered4"
```

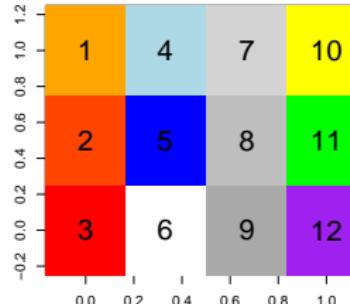
These colours can be used in your plots, for example with the argument `col` of the function `plot()`.

```
> plot(1:10, runif(10), type="l", col="orangered")
```



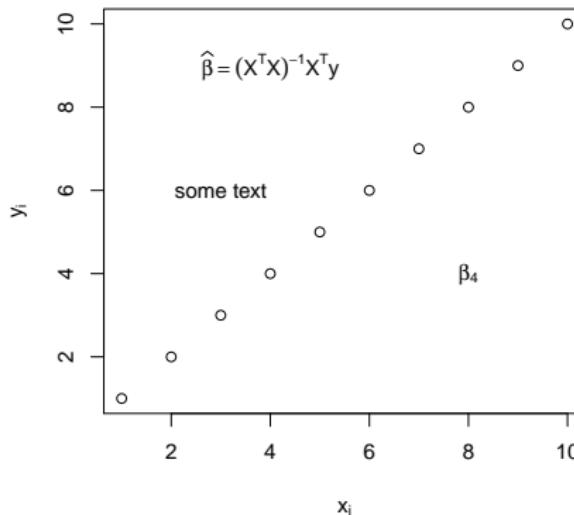
The function `image()`

```
> (X <- matrix(1:12, nrow=3))  
[,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]  
[1,]    1     4     7    10  
[2,]    2     5     8    11  
[3,]    3     6     9    12  
  
> colours <- c("orange", "orangered", "red", "lightblue",  
+                 "blue", "white", "lightgrey", "grey",  
+                 "darkgrey", "yellow", "green", "purple")  
> image(as.matrix(rev(as.data.frame(t(X)))), col=colours)  
> text(rep(c(0, 0.33, 0.67, 1), each=3), rep(c(1, 0.5, 0), 4), 1:12, cex=2)
```



The function `text()`

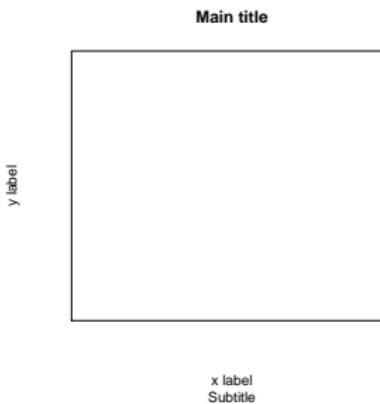
```
> plot(1:10, 1:10, xlab=bquote(x[i]), ylab=bquote(y[i]))  
> text(3, 6, "some text")  
> text(4, 9, expression(widehat(beta) == (X^T * X)^{-1} * X^T * y))  
> p <- 4; text(8, 4, bquote(beta[.(p)])) # Combining "math" and  
# numerical variables.
```



Use `mtext()` to add text in the margins of a plot.

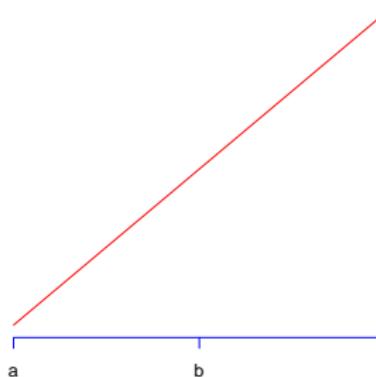
The function title()

```
> plot.new()  
> box()  
> title(main = "Main title", sub = "Subtitle",  
+       xlab = "x label", ylab = "y label")
```



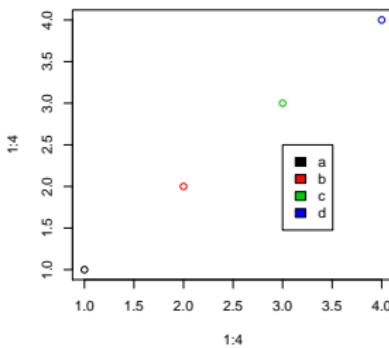
The function axis()

```
> plot.new()  
> lines(x=c(0,1),y=c(0,1),col="red")  
> axis(side=1,at=c(0,0.5,1),labels=c("a","b","c"),  
+       col="blue")
```

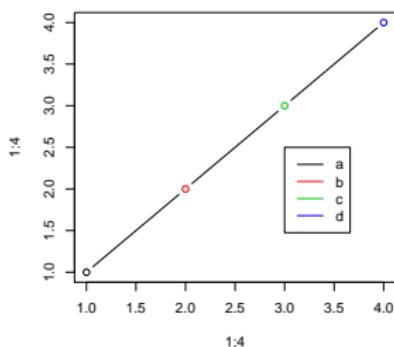


The function legend()

```
> plot(1:4,1:4,col=1:4)
> legend(x=3,y=2.5,legend=c("a","b","c","d"),fill=1:4)
```



```
> plot(1:4, 1:4, col=1:4, type="b")
> legend(x=3, y=2.5, legend=c("a", "b", "c", "d"), col=1:4,
+         lty=1)
```



The function locator()

It is used to place a point on a plot, or to get its coordinates with a click of the mouse. It can also be useful to add text (or a caption) at a specific location, thanks to the mouse.

Enter the following instructions, then click anywhere on the plot you get.

```
plot(1,1)
text(locator(1),labels="Here") # Click on the window.
```

The function `identify()`

It is used to identify and mark points already present on a plot.

Enter the following instructions, then click next to points on the plot.
Use a right-click to exit the interactive mode.

```
> plot(swiss[,1:2])
> x <- identify(swiss[,1:2], labels=rownames(swiss))
> x
```

The par() function

The function `par()` takes many arguments to fine-tune your plots.
Use this function to set (or query) general graphical parameters.
Here is how to use this instruction :

- `par(arg-name)` outputs the default value of the parameter *arg-name* of the function `par()` ;
- `par(arg-name=val)` changes the value of the parameter *arg-name* to the value *val* ;
- `par()` returns the list of all graphical parameters currently in use, as well as the current values.

Before changing the values of parameters of the function `par()`, you should save the old values. That way, you can restore them later if needed.

```
# Save the default values of par().  
save.par <- par(no.readonly = TRUE)  
# Now we can change some parameters.  
par(bg="red")  
# Then restore the old values.  
par(save.par)
```

There are a lot (really !) different argument for the function `par()`.
See `help("par")` or the book.

Your turn to work !

Do the Exercises and the Worksheet on pages 188–192.

<http://biostatisticien.eu/springeR/Rbook-chap7.pdf>