iPlots 2.0

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iPlots: Motivation

• R is good at managing
  - data
  - models
  - (static) graphics
  but is less strong in exploratory data analysis

• Interactive Statistical Graphics (ISG) is good at
  - supporting exploratory analyses
  - checking data quality
  - revealing structure in data
  but can not be automated or scripted

• Solution: Bring both tools/paradigms together

Bringing Interactive Graphics and R together

• Different ways of bringing ISG and R together

1. Run two applications in parallel
   pros: full feature-set of both applications available
   cons: two different user interfaces, coupling relatively loose
   example: ggobi

2. Use R as stat-computing engine
   pros: no need to learn R, only one interface
   cons: only packaged functionality, no extensibility
   example: KLIMT, Mondrian (all via Rserve)

3. Add interactive plots within R
   pros: one interface, still “just” R, flat learning curve
   cons: can not be implemented using R graphics
   example: iPlots

iPlots Internals

• iPlots use JAVA to achieve interactivity
• Data is stored in so called iSets
• Each plot is associated to one iSet

iSets
  - iSet 1
  - iSet 2
  - iSet 3

iPlots
  - iPlot 1
  - iPlot 2
  - iPlot 3
iPlots Internals

- iPlots use JAVA to achieve interactivity
- Data is stored in so called iSets
- Each plot is associated to one iSet
- iObjects can be used to enhance iPlots

What is new in iPlots 2.0?

- Extensions to existing plots:
  - Histogram / Spinogram
  - Barplot / Spineplot
- New (multivariate) Plots
  - (parallel) Boxplots (y by x)
  - Parallel Coordinate Plots
  - Mosaic Plots (and its variants)
- New Features
  - Color Brushing
  - Better control through R calls
- OpenGL support to speed up glyph-based plots
- Custom plots allow creation of new interactive plots

iPlots: Past

- The first version of iPlots was presented at the DSC meeting in 2003.
- Features of Version “1.0”
  - implemented basic plots
    - histogram
    - barplot
    - scatterplot
  - defined API
    - as similar to existing R functions as sensible to flatten the learning curve
    - handling of iSets and iObjects
  - available from RoSuDa repository
  - “proof of concept”

Extensions to existing Plots

- Conditional plots for continuous and categorical data
- Spinogram
- Spineplot
New Multivariate Plots

Parallel Coordinates

Parallel Boxplots

Boxplot y by x

Mosaic Plot

Fluctuation Diagram

New Features

• Color Brushing, both
  – Quantitative and
  – Qualitative

• Extended Queries
  All objects – points, lines, axes, plot-canvas – can be queries. Results of extended queries can even be user defined.

• Full Parameter control from R

• $\alpha$ blending is implemented for all-glyph based plots to get crude density estimations and handle larger data decently.

AWT vs. 2D vs. OpenGL

• Java is platform independent, but graphics rendering is still done by the CPU (as of Version 5.0, 6.0, …)

• iPlots support three different “graphics” engines
  – AWT
  – Swing
  – OpenGL

• OpenGL speeds up glyph-based plot by factor
  – 2-3 point based plots
  – ~10 for line based plots

• Specific timings may vary, essential improvement is to push the rendering from the CPU to the GPU.
Custom Plots

- iPlots 2.0 support several standard plots which are defined on the JAVA side.

- In an extensible environment like R, we want to be able to build new plot, defined by R code.

- iPlots 2.0 expose the plot primitives (elementary objects like points, lines/polygons, bars, …) defined on the JAVA side within R.

- These plot primitives know about:
  - selection
  - highlighting
  - queries

- See also the Focus Session on Friday 15:00 - 18:30.

Conclusions

- iPlots 2.0 now feature the full set of statistical standard graphics.

- Advanced features like color brushing and extended queries

- Custom plots offer new perspective in prototyping and developing new interactive applications.

- Soon available on CRAN

- Still need a Logo? Any ideas?