# Using the Google Visualisation API with R

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Project site: http://code.google.com/p/google-motion-charts-with-r/

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In 2006 Hans Rosling gave an inspiring talk at TED  (Rosling, 2006) about social and economic developments in the world over the last 50 years, which challenged the views and perceptions of many listeners. Rosling had used extensive data analysis to reach his conclusions. To visualise his talk, he and his team at Gapminder (Gapminder Foundation, 2010) had developed animated bubble charts, aka motion charts.

Rosling's presentation popularised the idea and use of interactive charts, and as a result the software behind Gapminder was bought by Google and integrated as motion charts into their Visualisation API (Google Inc., 2010h) one year later.

In 2010 Sebastián Pérez Saaibi (Saaibi, 2010) presented at the R/Rmetrics Workshop on Computational Finance and Financial Engineering the idea to link Google motion charts with R using the **R.rsp** package (Bengtsson, 2009).

Inspired by those talks and the desire to use interactive data visualisation tools to foster the dialogue between data analysts and others the authors of this article started the development of the **googleVis** package (Gesmann and de Castillo, 2011).

The **googleVis** package provides an interface between *R* and the Google Visualisation API. The Google Visualisation API offers interactive charts which can be embedded into web pages.  With the **googleVis** package users can create easily web pages with interactive charts based on *R* data frames and display them either via the *R* HTTP help server locally or within their own sites. The current version 0.2.4 of the package provides interfaces to Motion Charts, Annotated Time Lines, Maps, Geo Maps, Tables and Tree Maps.

This session will provide an overview of the package functionality and the authors will share examples and experiences with the audience.

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