

ggwordcloud

a word cloud geometry for ggplot2



E. Le Pennec 
X ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE

Word Clouds?



A collage of various languages spelling out the word "LOVE". The words are arranged in a cluster, with "LOVE" being the central focus. The languages include Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

Text visualization tool

- **Words scaled** according to the a quantity (often a count or a proportion)
 - Nice (**meaningless**) word **position**/order.
 - For documents, vocabulary often pruned (stop words/rarely used words)

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Word Clouds in R



wordcloud

- **base graphics**
- fast but crude placement algorithm in R

wordcloud2

- **html graphics**
- placement algorithm in js
- lots of bells and whistles
(arbitrary rotation, mask...)



A new ggplot2 geometry

- **ggplot2 ecosystem**
 - a **new geometry** similar to geom_text and geom_text_repel
 - fast placement algorithm in C
 - more functionalities than wordcloud and wordcloud2...

geom_text_wordcloud

```
library(ggwordcloud)
data("love_words_small")
set.seed(42)
ggplot(love_words_small,
       aes(label = word,
           size = speakers)) +
  geom_text_wordcloud() +
  scale_size_area(max_size = 24)
theme_minimal()
```



A dedicated text geometry

- geometry with the **geom_text syntax**:
 - label for the word
 - size for the count
- automatic placement without overlapping around a default (0,0) position

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Text Scaling



Pag-ibig Tinh yêu
محبّت اُشک بھالے واسا پندو پرمے
پیما ر Amore Amor 爱 Amor حبّ حبّ اموري
لیبوویں Amour Cinta عشق قیسے
کارما رکس ترسنا سینتا سویسا
આમોર લેવીન્દું પ્રેમી લીબે સિંતા

A collage of various languages spelling out the word "LOVE". The words are arranged in a cluster, with "LOVE" appearing prominently in the center. The languages include English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and many others, each contributing a letter or part of the word.

geom_text_wordcloud

- **Font size proportional to**
(the square root of) the
count/proportion.
 - Ink area depends on the
number of letters...

geom_text_wordcloud_area

- Ink area proportional to the count/proportion.
 - Perception not biased by number of letters.

Rotation and Facet



Rotation

- **Arbitrary rotation** with angle aesthetic.

native_speakers

speakers



Facet

- Compatible with **ggplot2 facetting system**.

Shapes and Mask



square

triangle-forward

A collage of various languages spelling out the word "Love". The words are arranged in a cluster, with "Love" appearing in several different scripts and languages like English, Spanish, French, German, and Bengali.

star

Shapes

- Cloud may have **different base shapes**.

Mask

- Words stay within a **prescribed mask**.

- Other functionalities: color, position, fonts...

Algorithm



Algorithm

- Compute text area using `textGrob` and deduce font size
- Draw text using again `textGrob` and compute a mask made of small bounding boxes
- Use a fast spiraling placement algorithm (in C++) to place the words without any boxes overlap
- **Bottleneck:** text size computation!

Algorithm



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Word Zones

Robert Kosara 🇫🇷 @eagereyes - 23 avr.
New post on the @vis_research group blog: Word Clouds: We Can't Make Them Go Away, So Let's Improve Them

Traduire le Tweet

Word Clouds: We Can't Make Them Go Away, So Let's Improve Them
Grouping words visually that have related meaning improves people's ability to detect underlying categories.

medium.com

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Erwan Le Pennec
@ELePennec

En réponse à @eagereyes @vis_research

If you are a ggplot2 fan, you can try the ggwordcloud package. It can draw wordzones. I wasn't aware of the concept but accidentally make them possible... #rstats #ggwordcloud

Interest of a Grammar

- Can produce graphs which were not planned!

Thank you to the R ecosystem



ggrepel
ggplot2
rhub
wordcloud
wordcloud2
testthat
rstudio
usethis
devtools
pkgdown

Code and algorithm

- ggplot2: environment
- ggrepel: basis of the code
- wordcloud/wordcloud2:
source of inspiration

Environment

- rstudio...
- usethis: package skeleton
- testthat: unit testing
- devtools/rhub: package dev/testing before CRAN
- pkgdown: documentation



A word cloud geometry for ggplot2

- A lovely, easy to use and full of functionalities package.
 - Available on CRAN.
 - Source and bug tracker at
<https://github.com/lepennec/ggwordcloud>
 - **Website:** <https://lepennec.github.io/ggwordcloud/>