Exercise II: Lattice Graphics Visualization of Atlantic Hurricanes

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The US National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center archive a database of hurricane Best Track Data (HURDAT2). By May 2019, the subset for Atlantic hurricanes, known as the Atlantic HURDAT2 (https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat/hurdat2-format-atlantic.pdf) covers the time period of 1851-2018. The subset for Northeast and North Central Pacific hurricanes the NE/NC Pacific HURDAT2 (https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat/hurdat2-format-nencpac.pdf) has a time range of 1949 to 2017.

Both datasets have a comma-delimited, text format with six-hourly information on the location, maximum winds, central pressure, and (beginning in 2004) size of all known tropical cyclones and subtropical cyclones.

In this exercise, we practice the Atlantic HURDAT2 data visualization using **R**'s lattice graphics. The package lattice is included with the R Base package in the typical R CRAN (http://cran.r-project.org) distribution. It is an implementation of Trellis Graphics.

References: Landsea, C. W. and J. L. Franklin, 2013: Atlantic Hurricane Database Uncertainty and Presentation of a New Database Format. *Mon. Wea. Rev.*, **141**, 3576-3592.

Sarkar, D, 2008: Lattice: Multivariate Data Visualization with R, Springer. ISBN: 978-0-387-75968-5 http://Imdvr.r-forge.r-project.org/ (http://Imdvr.r-forge.r-project.org/)

Cleveland, W. S., 1993: Visualizing Data, Hobart Press, Summit, New Jersey.

Becker, R. A., Cleveland, W. S., and Shyu, M. J., 1996: The Visual Design and Control of Trellis Display, *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, **5(2)**, 123–155.

1. Atlantic Hurricane Best Track Data

1.1 What's in Atlantic HURDAT2

HURDAT2: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/#hurdat (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/#hurdat)

- Direct Download (can wait): https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat/hurdat2-1851-2018-051019.txt (https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat2-1851-2018-051019.txt)
- File has a comma-delimited, text format with essentially six-hourly information of all known tropical cyclones and subtropical cyclones from 1851 to 2016:
 - location in geographic coordinates (degrees)
 - maximum one-minute near-surface (~ 10 m) wind speeds in knots (1 kt = .5144 m/s)
 - minimum central pressure in millibars (1 mb = 1 hPa)
 - size (beginning in 2004).
 - Non-synoptic best track times (other than 00, 06, 12, and 18 Universal Time Coordinate, UTC) mainly to indicate landfalls and intensity maxima
- Codebook http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat/hurdat2-format-atlantic.pdf
 (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat/hurdat2-format-atlantic.pdf)

1.2 Load the Atlantic HURDAT2 R dataframe

Option 1: Using the R HURDAT package

If you have **R** version 3.4.0 and above and tidyverse package completely installed, you could load the Atlantic HURDAT2 data up to 2017 using this option.

- First, install once by typing in your **R** console the command install.packages("HURDAT").
- Then, attach it as a library by typing library(HURDAT).

Option 2: Use the ALHURDAT.RDATA

The R data object can be downloaded here

(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u5kSYVsod3wCIESFtdYOJXuX9BwJUOGA/view?usp=sharing). The file was created by reading the original raw text file, minimal pre-processing the data, and writing the data into a data frame. This is the faster way, and is therefore used in this exercise. Load it into **R** by **attach("ALHURDAT.RDATA")** or **load("ALHURDAT.RDATA")**.

1.3 Explore Atlantic HURDAT2

A quick look of the original Atlantic HURDAT2 data file, we notice that:

- Cyclones not named are simply referred to as "UNNAMED". We could therefore use the variable "Name" and year information to extract a known storm, such as Katrina (2005) and Sandy (2012).
- Cyclones are referenced by their "Key", a string of alphanumeric characters identifying basin, the number of the storm for the year, followed by the four-digit year.

• For example, in the key AL011851:

- AL = Atlantic Basin ('Basin')
- 01 = First storm of the year ('YearNum')
- 1851 = Year of the storm ('Year')

Question 1: Please attach the data file ALHURDAT.RDATA. Then, show the objects in the file. (Hint: know your working directory and workspace)

Answer

Question 2: The file contains the data frame AL. Please show the structure of AL and display summaries of its variables with str and summary functions.

Answer

Question 3: We have found summary information for following variables. Use the HURDAT codebook (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat/hurdat2-format-atlantic.pdf) to find out more about their units and physical meaning. Feel free to ask your instructors for more insights. Please note that if you import the data use methods other than attaching ALHURDAT.RDATA, your will likely have slightly different output from below.

- Key: Length:50911, Class:character
- Name: Length:50911, Class:character
- DateTime: Length:50911, Class:character
- Record: Length:50911, Class:character
- Status: Length:50911, Class:character
- Lat (numeric)
- Lon (numeric)
- Wind (numeric)
- Pressure (numeric)
- NE34 (numeric)
- and more wind radii (numeric)
- Year (numeric)

Factoring character variables

In the console, type factor(AL\$Key), factor(AL\$Name), factor(AL\$Record), and factor(AL\$Status), we will further see that:

- Key has 1864 Levels: AL011851 AL011852 AL011853 AL011854 AL011855 AL011856 AL011857 ... AL312005
 - There are 1864 cases of tropical and extra-tropical cyclones
- Name has 289 Levels: ABBY ABLE AGNES ALBERTO ALEX ALFA ALICE ALICIA ALLEN ALLISON ALMA ... ZETA
 - Over the North Atlantic Ocean, tropical or subtropical cyclones are named by the National Hurricane Center when they are judged to have intensified into a tropical storms with winds of at least 34 knots (39 mph; 17.49 m/s).
- Record has 9 Levels: C G I L P R S T W
- Status has 10 Levels: DB EX HU LO SD SS TD TS WV, and a mysterious ET not in the codebook

More on the Record and Status identifiers based on HURDAT codebook (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/hurdat/hurdat2-format-atlantic.pdf)

Record identifiers:

- C Closest approach to a coast, not followed by a landfall
- G Genesis
- I An intensity peak in terms of both pressure and wind
- L Landfall (center of system crossing a coastline)
- P Minimum in central pressure
- R Provides additional detail on the intensity of the cyclone when rapid changes are underway
- S Change of status of the system
- T Provides additional detail on the track (position) of the cyclone
- W Maximum sustained wind speed

Status of system:

- TD Tropical cyclone of tropical depression intensity (< 34 knots)
- TS Tropical cyclone of tropical storm intensity (34-63 knots)
- HU Tropical cyclone of hurricane intensity (> 64 knots)
- EX Extra-tropical cyclone (of any intensity)
- SD Subtropical cyclone of subtropical depression intensity (< 34 knots)
- SS Subtropical cyclone of subtropical storm intensity (> 34 knots)

- LO A low that is neither a tropical cyclone, a subtropical cyclone, nor an extra-tropical cyclone (of any intensity)
- WV Tropical Wave (of any intensity)
- DB Disturbance (of any intensity)

1.4 Subsetting the data frame

For your convenience, a column of Year has been added to AL when generating ALHURDAT.RDATA. Following code block shows you how it could be done.

```
#### Extract the Year characters from DateTime, then convert to numeric.
#### This step has been performed for ALHURDAT.RDATA, so you don't have to.
AL[, "Year"] <- as.numeric(format(as.Date(AL$DateTime), "%Y"))</pre>
```

Now, we can use Name and Year to extract a specific storm, such as Katrina (2005):

```
#### Extract a subset for Katrina (2005)
Kt <- subset(AL, Year==2005 & Name == "KATRINA")</pre>
```

Question 4: Explore the structure and summarize the variables in the Katrina data subset κt .

Answer

Question 5: Are you able to find out which storm has the mysterious "ET" status? Can you make a conjecture of what the status means?

Answer

2. Visualizing Atlantic HURDAT2

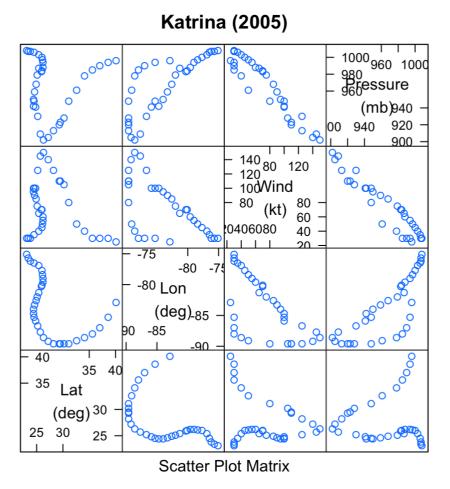
2.1 Introduction to Trellis Display via **R**'s Lattice Graphics.

Load the lattice package

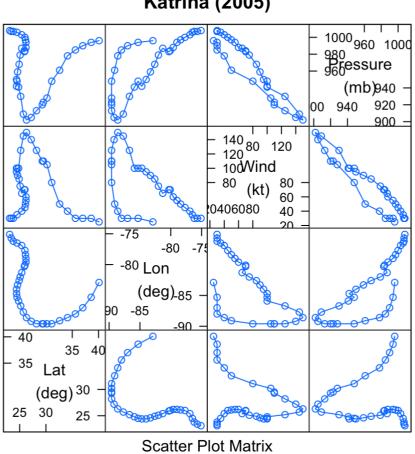
library(lattice)

2.1.1 Scatter plot matrices splom()

Explore some variables in the Katrina (2005) subset. Example 1:



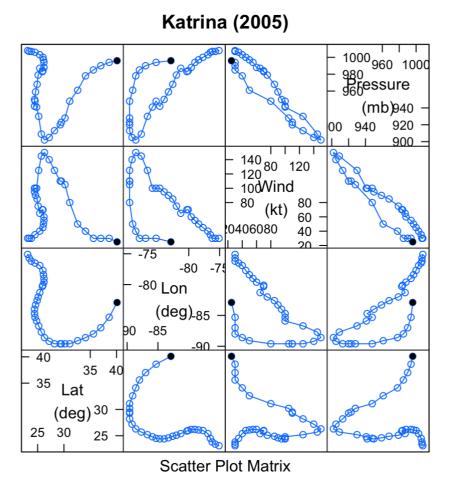
splom() Example 2:



Katrina (2005)

splom() Example 3:

```
# Fill the last data points with color black
nstep <- dim(Kt)[1]</pre>
splom(~Kt[,c(6:9)],
      varnames = c("Lat\n(deg)",
                    "Lon\n(deg)",
                    "Wind\n(kt)",
                    "Pressure\n(mb)"),
      type="b",
      main="Katrina (2005)",
      panel = function(x,y,...){
        panel.splom(x,y,...)
        panel.xyplot(x[nstep],y[nstep], pch = 16,
                      col="black")
        }
      )
```



Question 6: Following the previous examples, first extract Sandy (2012) and save it as a new data frame sd. Then, apply splom. In addition to the black filled last data point, fill the first data point with color red.

Answer

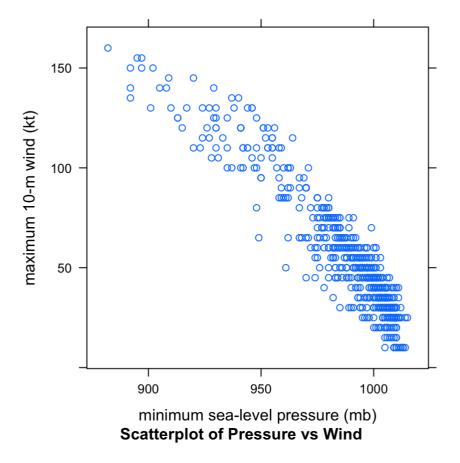
2.1.2 Common bivariate scatterpots xyplot()

There appears to be some inverse relation between Wind and Pressure (maximum wind and minimum pressure near the surface) in the cases we observed thus far.

Therefore, we plot Wind vs. Pressure for Year 2005



2005 All Storms



Question 7: Subset Wind and Pressure data for Year 2012 and create a bivariate scatterplot.

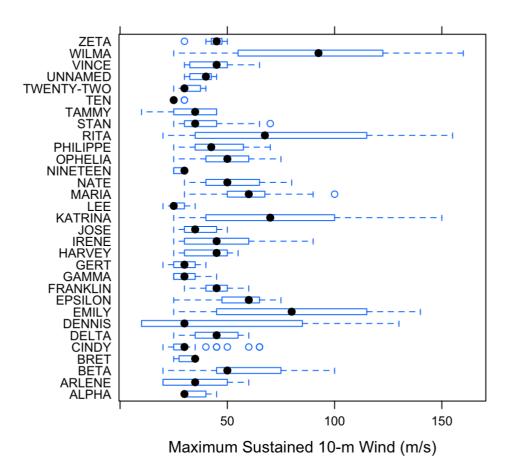
Answer

2.1.3 The box-and-whisker plots bwplot()

Box and whisker plots summarize the distribution of a variable using a few quantiles. Here, we create box-andwhisker plots of the maximum sustained 10-m wind observations for each storm in 2005. Note that in **R**, even a figure is an object. As in the example blow, we could assign the plot to \times . The class of \times is "trellis", meaning it was generated using Trellis Graphics. We could print or edit \times later.

[1] "trellis"

print(x)



By default the whiskers produced by bwplot() extend to the most extreme data points no more than 1.5 times the length of the box away from the box, and any data points outside that range are marked as potential outliers.

Question 8: Similar to the example, create a box-and-whisker plot for Year 2012. Describe what you observe.

Answer

2.1.4 One-dimensional scatterplots stripplot()

In the following, we create a 1-D scatterplot of maximum sustained 10-m wind speed for each named storm in 2012 using stripplot.

TONY		0	0	0	0	0											
SANDY		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAFAEL		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
PATTY		0	0	0	0												
OSCAR		0	0	0	0	0											
NADINE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
MICHAEL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LESLIE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
KIRK			0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		
JOYCE		0	0	0													
ISAAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
HELENE		0	0	0	0												
GORDON			0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	
FLORENCE		0	0	0	0	0	0										
ERNESTO			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0			
DEBBY			0	0	0	0	0	0									
CHRIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	0					
BERYL		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
ALBERTO		0	0	0	0	0	0										
					10												100
	20				40				60				80				100
Maximum Sustained 10-m Wind (m/s)																	

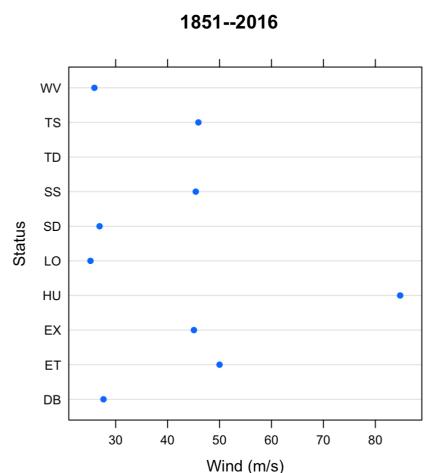
Question 9: Jitter the data points by changing jitter to TRUE. Describe what you see and what you think jittering the data help here?

Answer

2.1.5 Cleveland dot plots dotplot()

Let us exploit the Status of storms. Find out the mean of Wind of each Status throughout the record. The code also demonstrates the use of one of \mathbf{R} 's "apply" function, tapply. It applies the operation of taking mean value to the Wind values grouped according to the storm Status.

```
status.mean <- tapply(AL$Wind, AL$Status, mean)
dotplot( names(status.mean)~status.mean,
aspect = 1,
main = "1851--2016",
ylab = "Status",
xlab = "Wind (m/s)" )</pre>
```



Question 10: Did you notice something wrong with the mean maximum sustained 10m wind for TD? What could have been wrong? How do you fix it?

####	Answer	

Question 11: Following code cell is missing critial parts. Complete it to find out the mean of minimum central pressure, Pressure, of each Status from 1990 and beyond.

```
#### Answer
statusP.mean <- tapply(
   subset(AL,Year>= )$Pressure,
   subset(AL,Year>= )$Status, mean)
dotplot( ,
   aspect = 1,
   main = "1990 -- 2018",
   ylab = "Status",
   xlab = "Pressure (mb)"
)
```

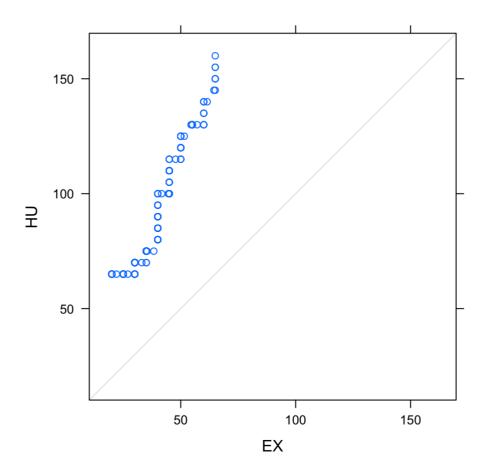
2.1.6 Quantile-Quantile Plots

qq()

The function qq displays quantile-quantile plots for comparing two distributions.

- Recall these Status identifiers:
 - TS Tropical cyclone of tropical storm intensity (34-63 knots)
 - HU Tropical cyclone of hurricane intensity (> 64 knots)
 - EX Extra-tropical cyclone (of any intensity)
 - SS Subtropical cyclone of subtropical storm intensity (> 34 knots)
- In the following, we can compare the quantiles of HU- and EX-strength maximum sustained 10-m winds in 2005

```
qq(Status ~ Wind,
data = subset(AL, Year==2005 ),
subset = Status=="HU" | Status=="EX",
aspect = 1
)
```



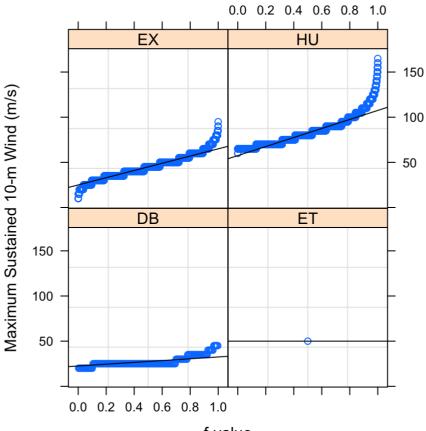
Question 12: Compare the quantiles of HU- and TS-strength Winds in 2005. Comment the plot and compare it with the previous plot.

Answer

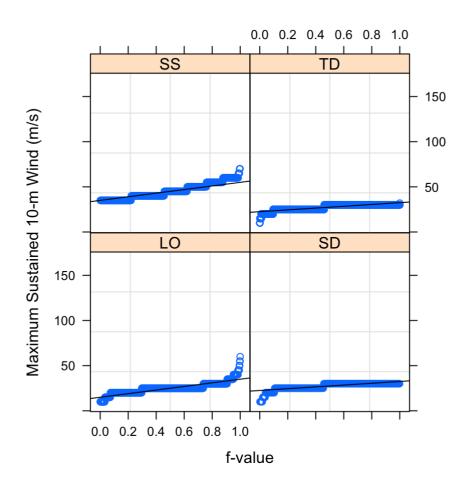
qqmath()

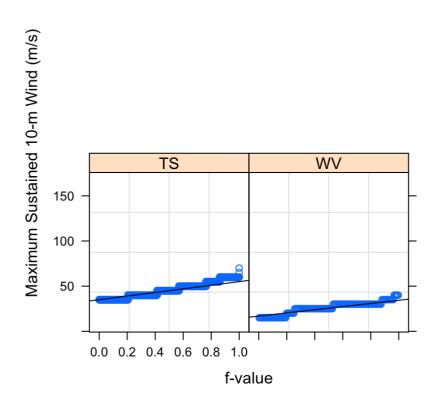
To compare a sample distribution against a theoretical distribution, we use <code>qqmath</code>. In the following code, we compare the maximum sustained 10-m wind, conditioned on the storm status, against the theoretical uniform distribution for all years.

```
qqmath(~Wind | Status,
distribution = qunif,
data = AL,
panel = function(x, ...) {
panel.grid()
panel.qqmath(x,...)
panel.qqmathline(x, probs = c(0.25, 0.75),...)
},
layout = c(2,2),
aspect = 1,
xlab = "f-value",
ylab = "Maximum Sustained 10-m Wind (m/s)")
```





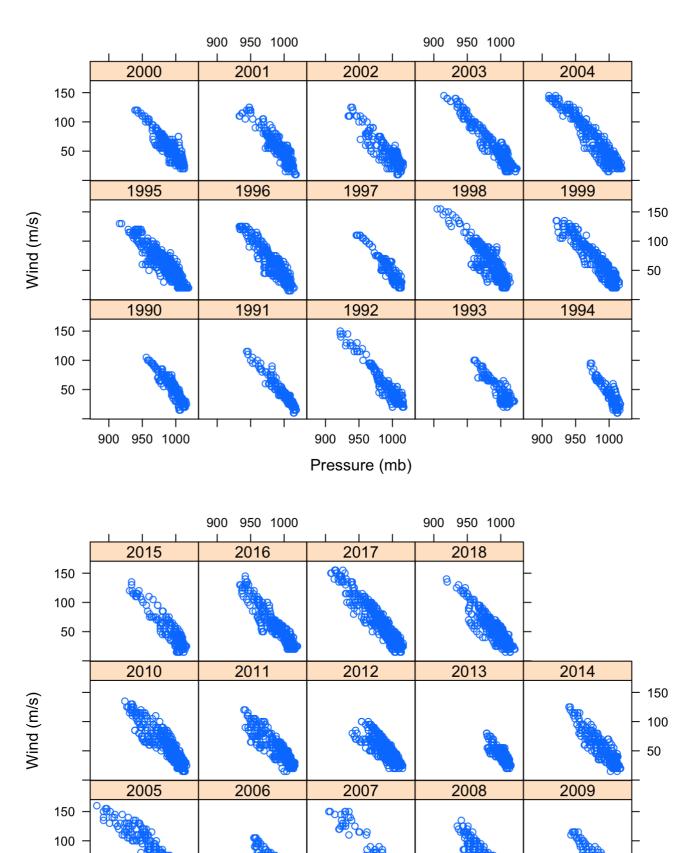




2.2 Multiple panel displays

Trellis Display implemented in lattice has a powerful multiple panel display feature unmatched by ggplot2. It renders faster and can extend to multiple pages, therefore very suitable for detailed visualization of big data.

Example 1: Multiple xyplot with fixed scales to show Wind vs Pressure from year 1990 to beyond.

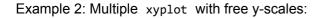


900 950 1000

Pressure (mb)

900

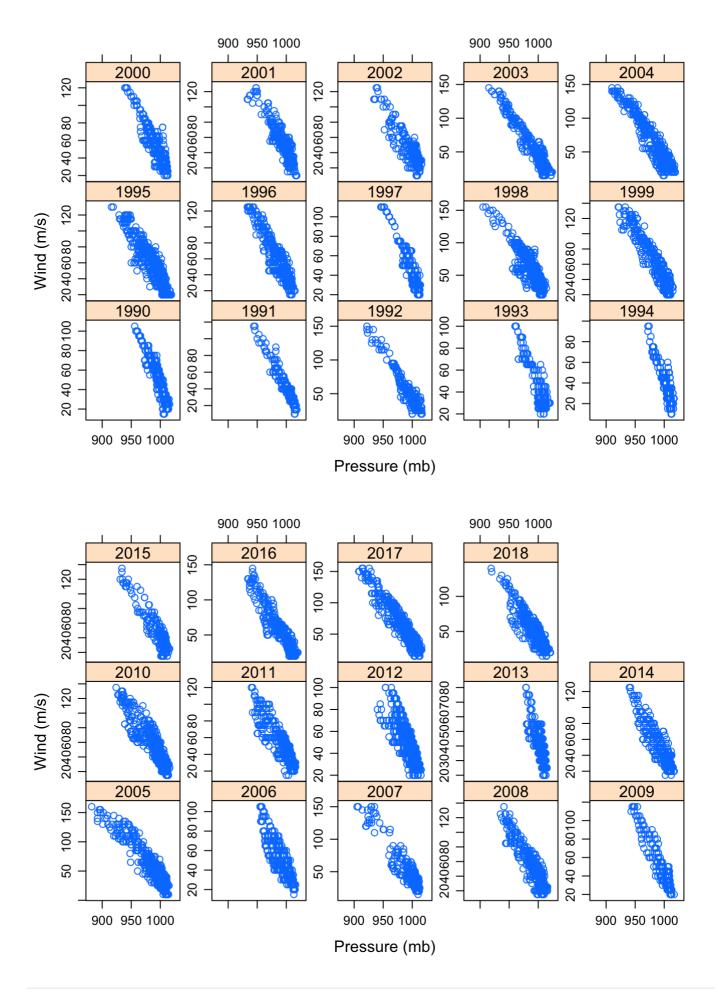
950 1000



950 1000

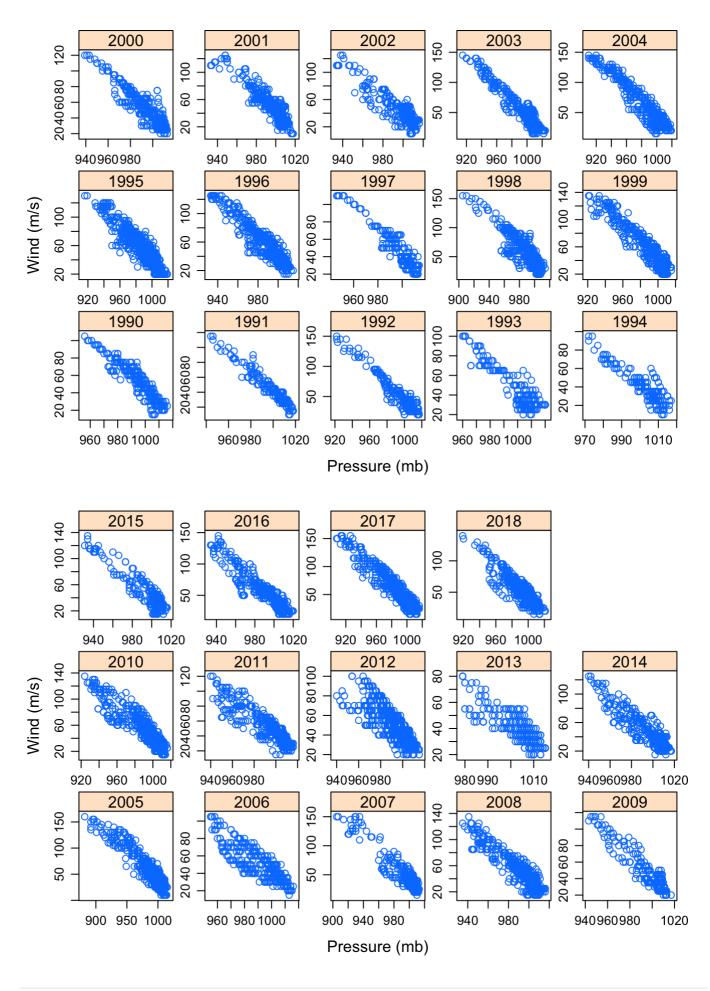
900

50

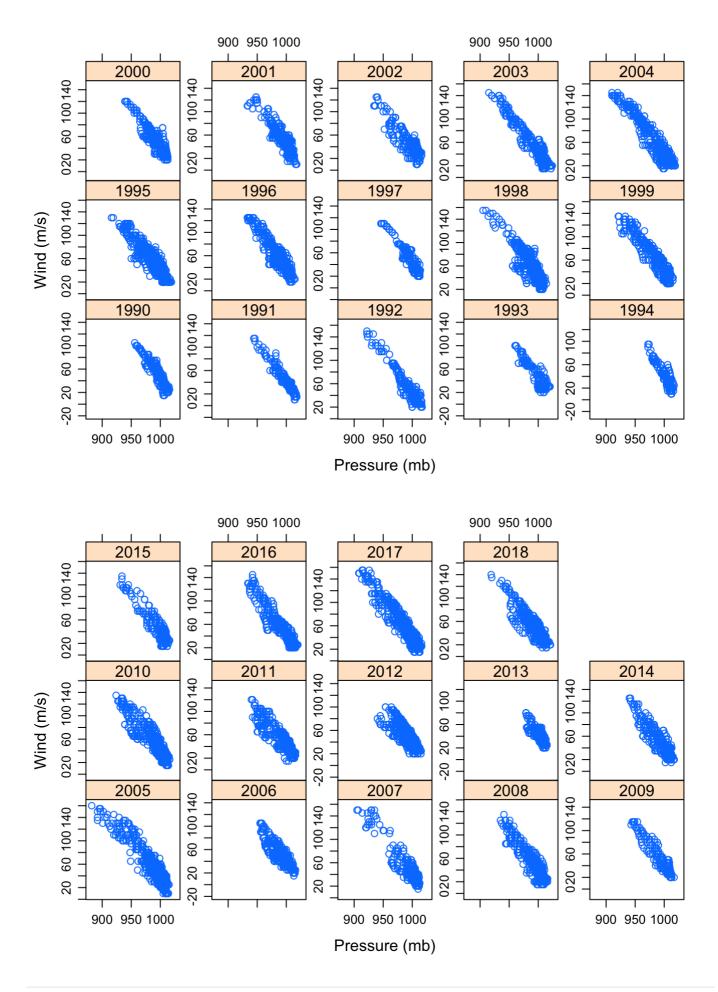


Example 3: Multiple xyplot with free x- and y-scales:

```
xyplot(Wind~Pressure | as.factor(Year),
    data=subset(AL,Year >= 1990),
    layout=c(5,3),
    scales = list(y="free", x="free"),
    xlab="Pressure (mb)",
    ylab="Wind (m/s)"
    )
```

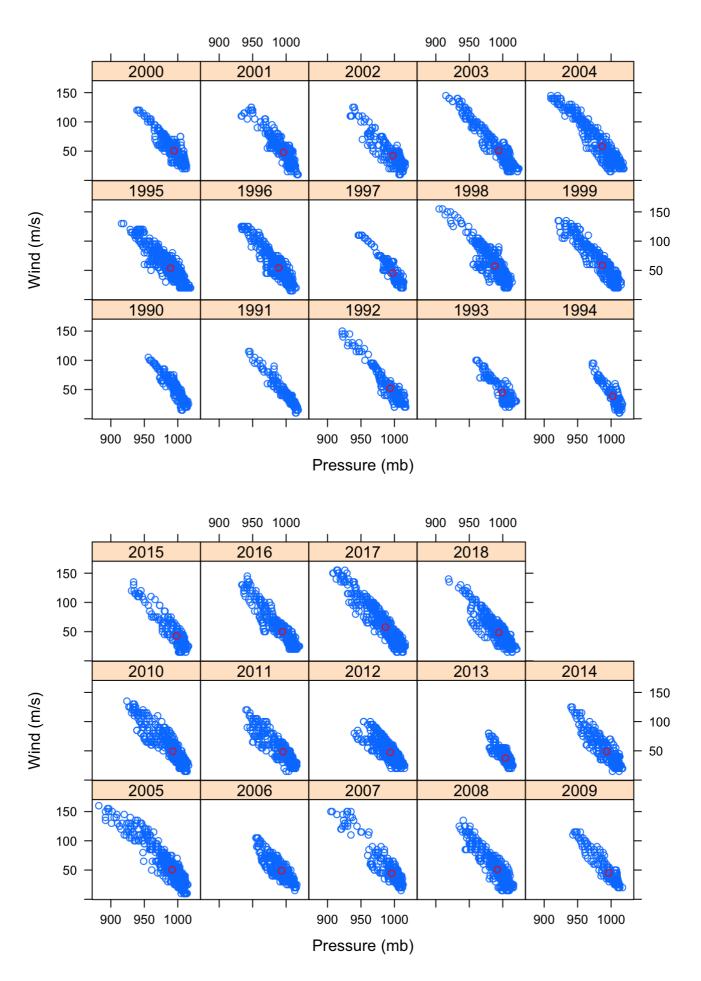


Example 4: Multiple xyplot with sliced y-scales and 8 ticks:



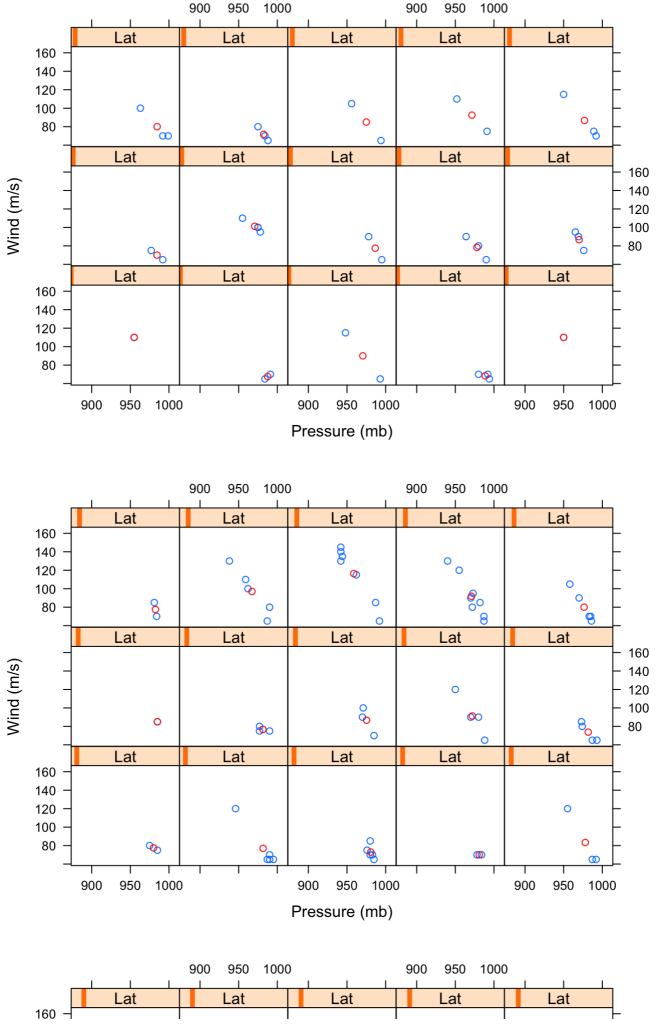
2.2.1 Panel functions

Example 1: Use panel.points to indicate mean values in each panel.



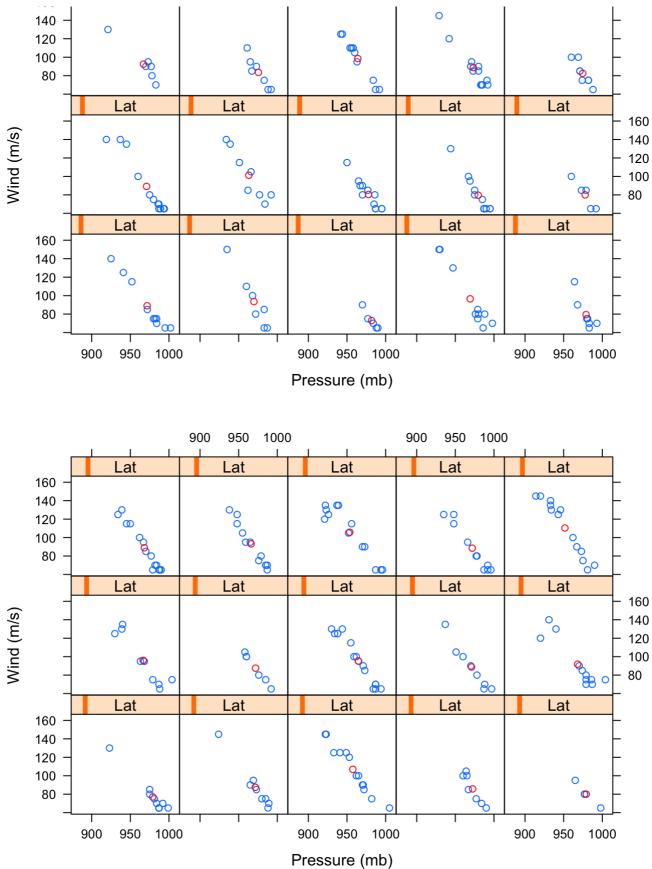
Example 2: Further conditioned on latitude (Lat). Note this generates many figures.

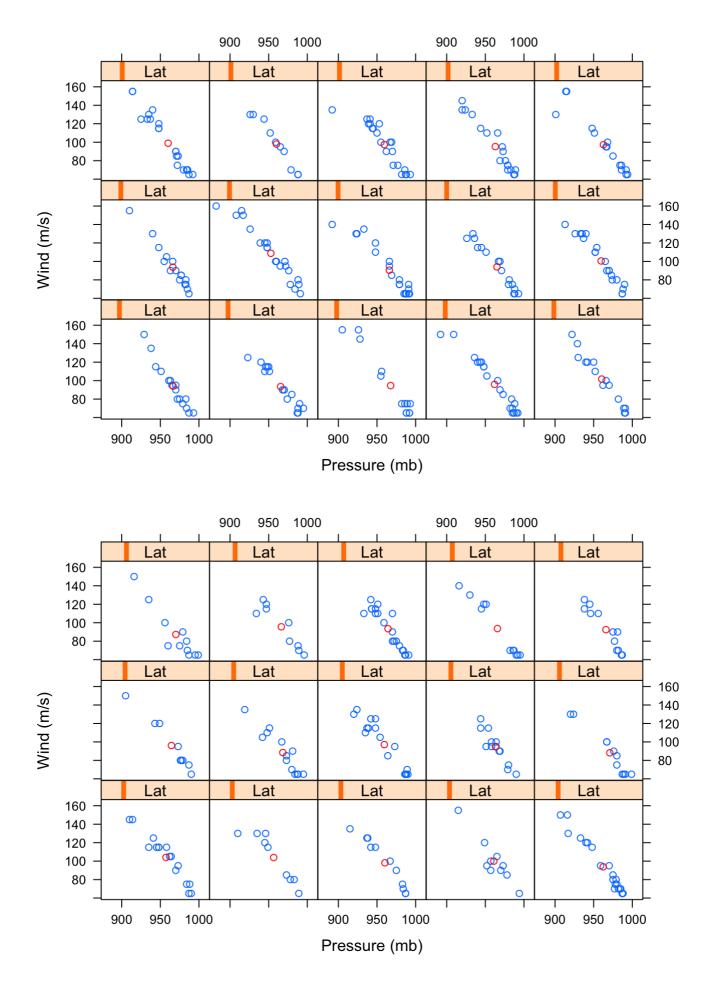
```
xyplot(Wind~Pressure | Lat,
    # try changing this to as.factor(Lat)
    data=subset(AL,Year >= 1990 & Status == "HU" & Lat >=10),
    layout=c(5,3),
    panel = function(x,y,...){
        panel.xyplot(x,y,...)
        panel.points(mean(x), mean(y), col="red")
        },
        xlab="Pressure (mb)",
        ylab="Wind (m/s)"
        )
```

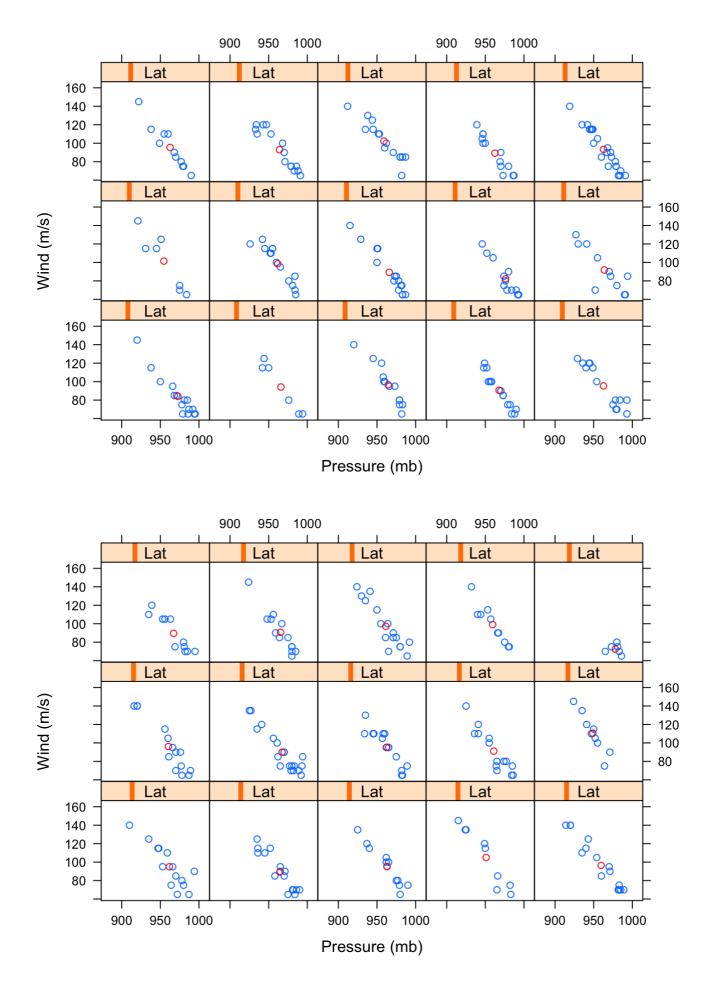


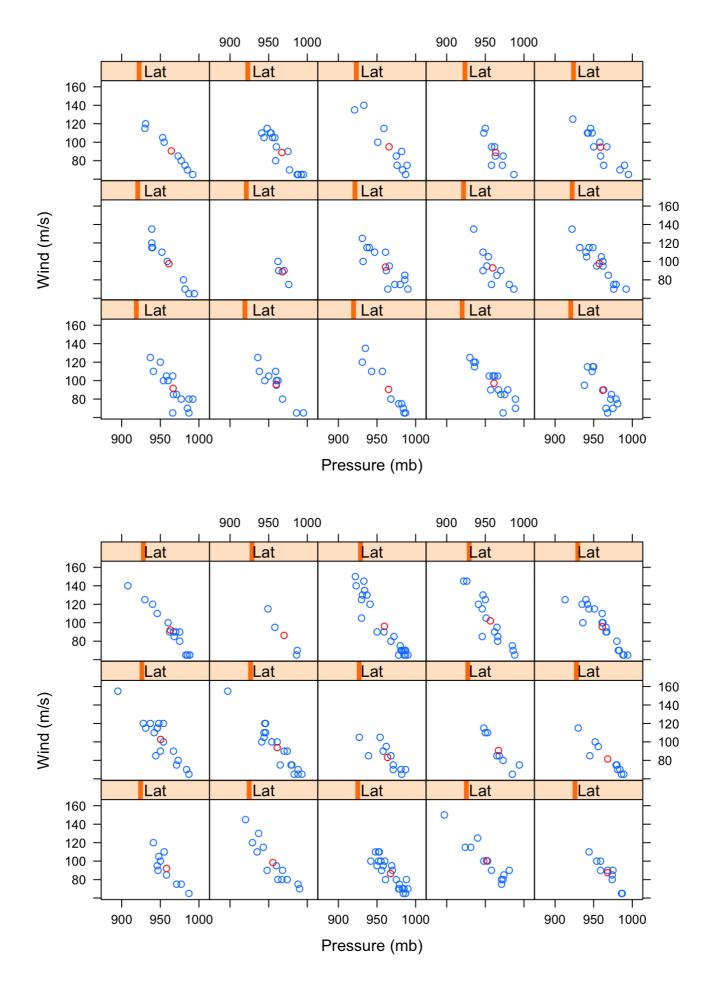


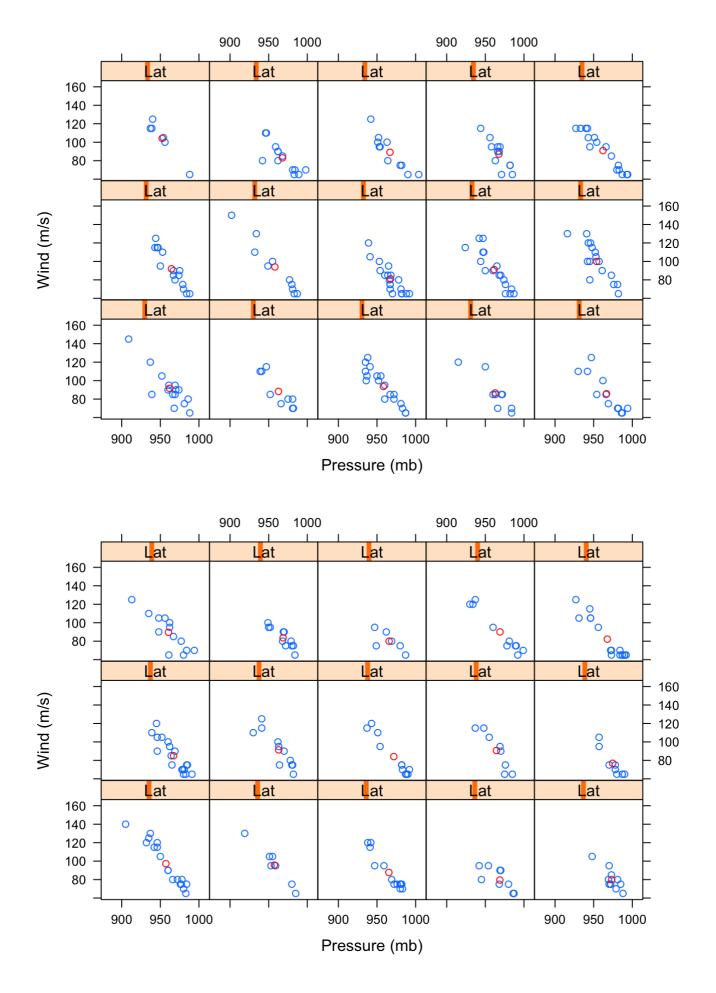
Exercise II: Lattice Graphics Visualization of Atlantic Hurricanes

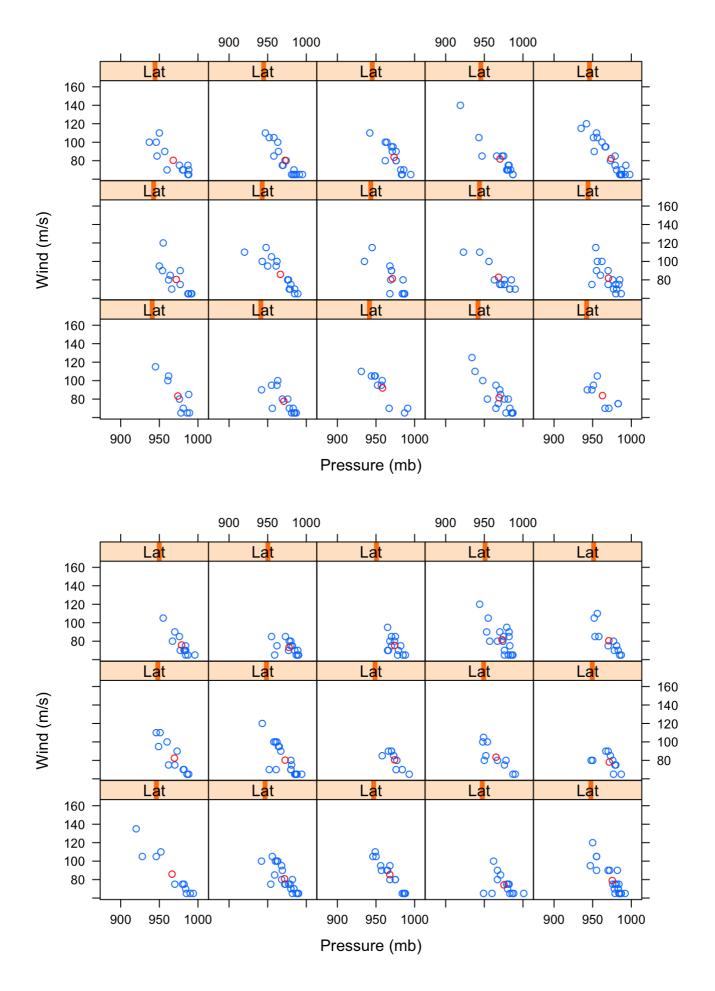


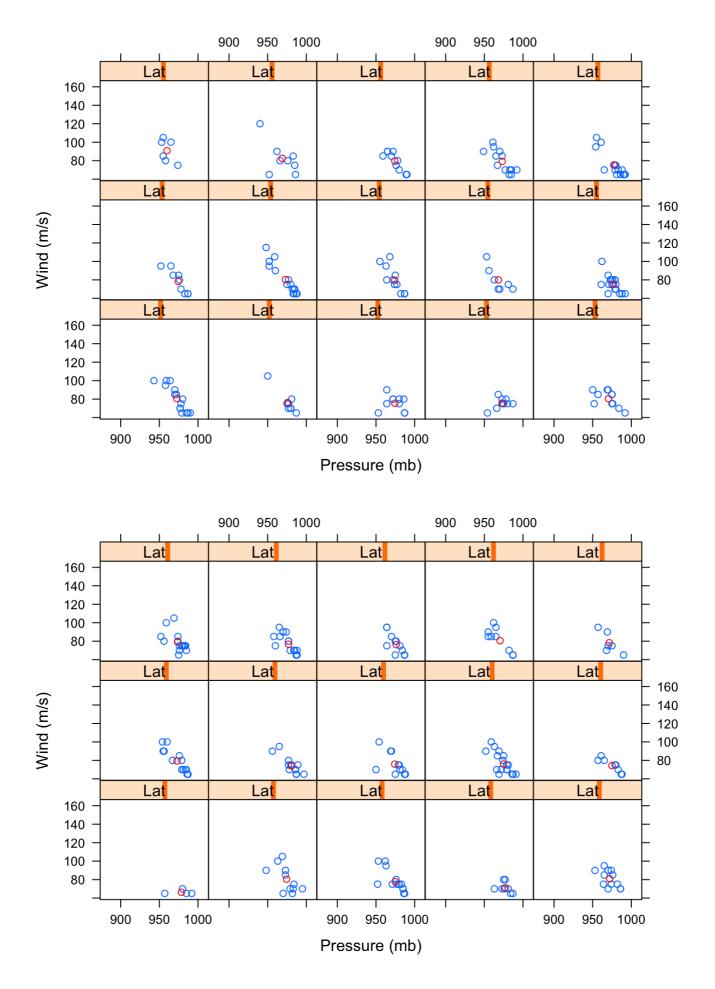




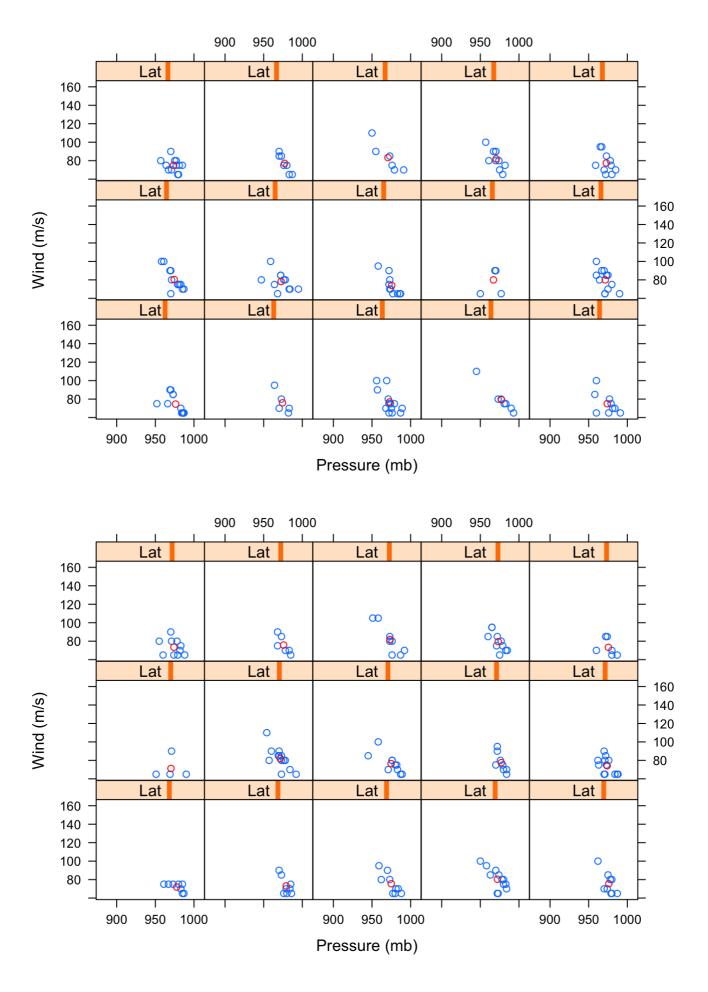


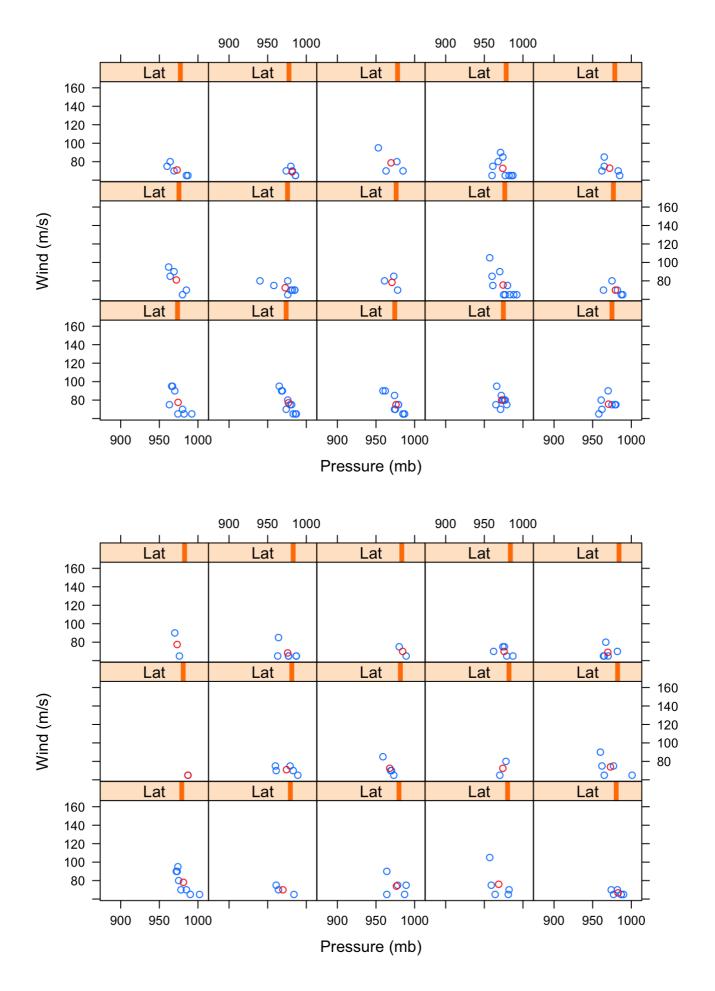


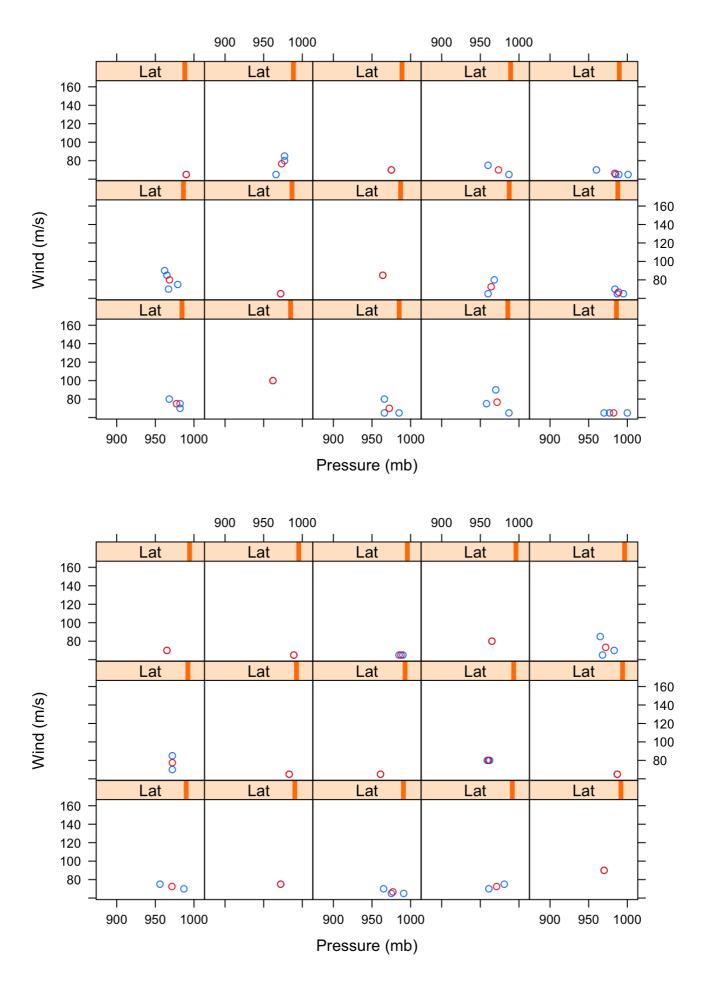


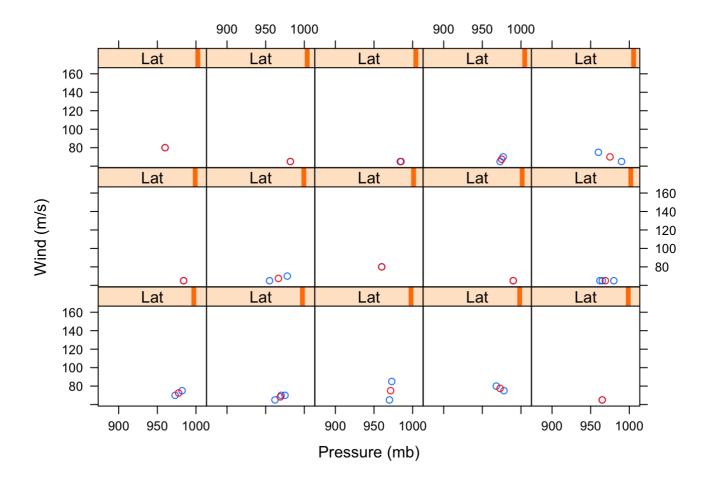


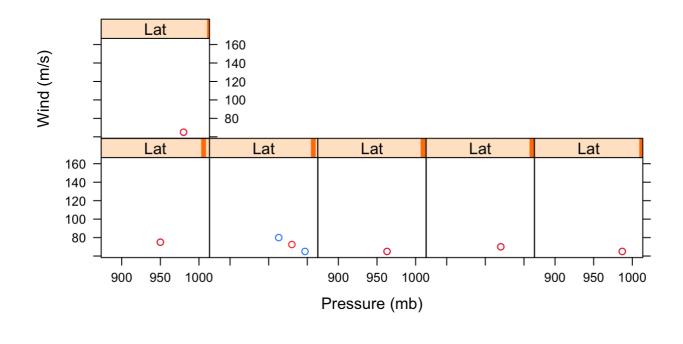






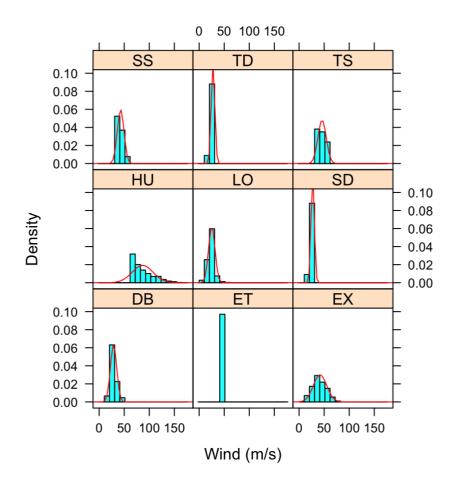


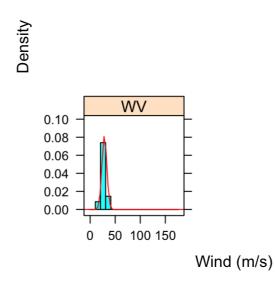




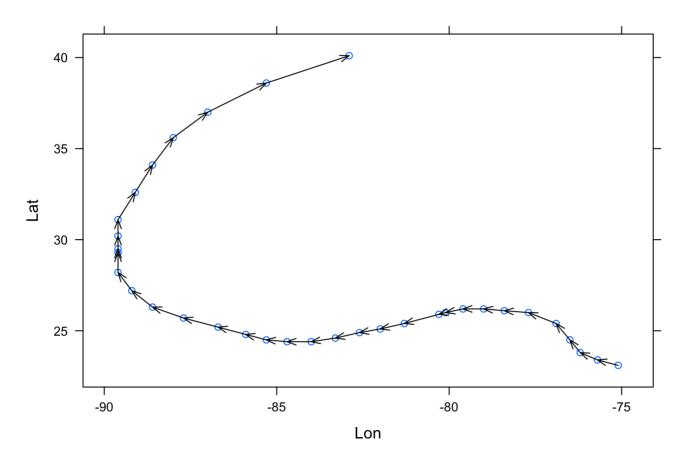
Example 3: Use panel.mathdensity to estimate and plot a theoretical probability density function (normal in this case) given data in each panel.

```
histogram( ~Wind | Status,
           data = subset(AL,Year >= 1990),
           nint = 17,
           type = "density",
           endpoints = c(0, 175),
           layout = c(3, 3),
           aspect = 1,
           xlab = "Wind (m/s)",
           panel = function(x,...){
             panel.histogram(x,...)
             panel.mathdensity(dmath = dnorm,
                               col = "red",
                               lwd = 1,
                               args = list(mean=mean(x),
                                            sd=sd(x)), ...)
             }
)
```



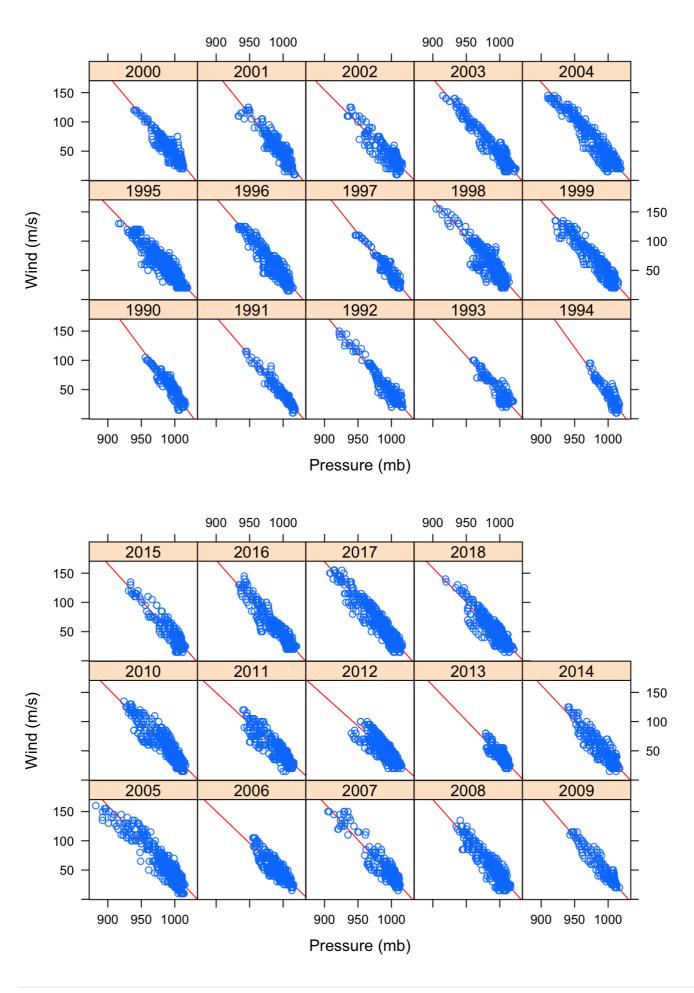


Example 4: Use panel.arrows to draw arrows.



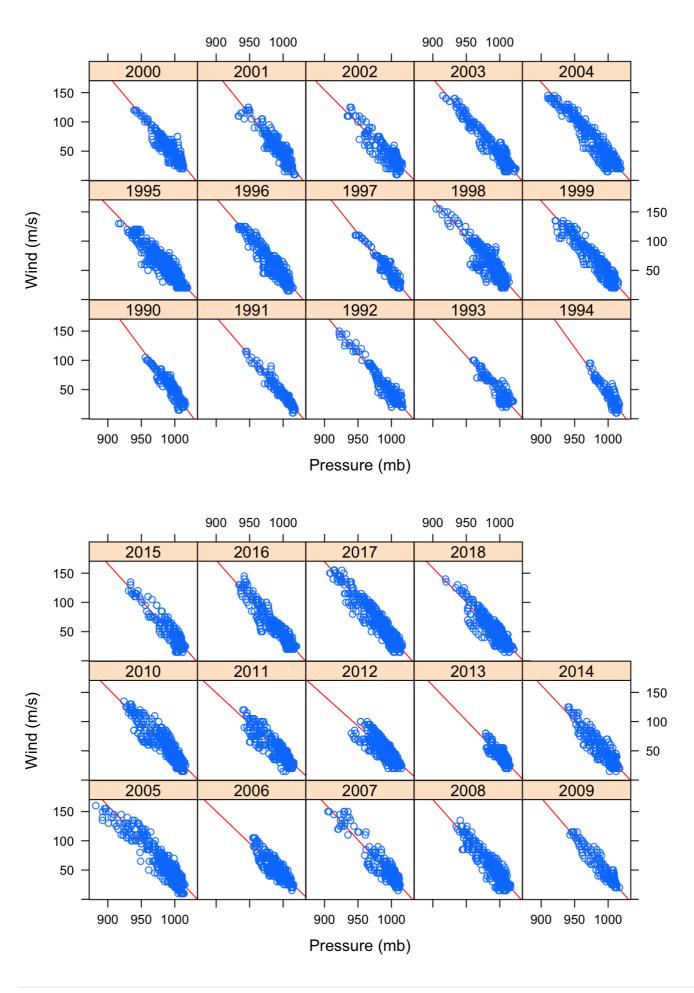
Katrina (2005)

Example 5: Use panel.abline to draw a straight line. Option 1:

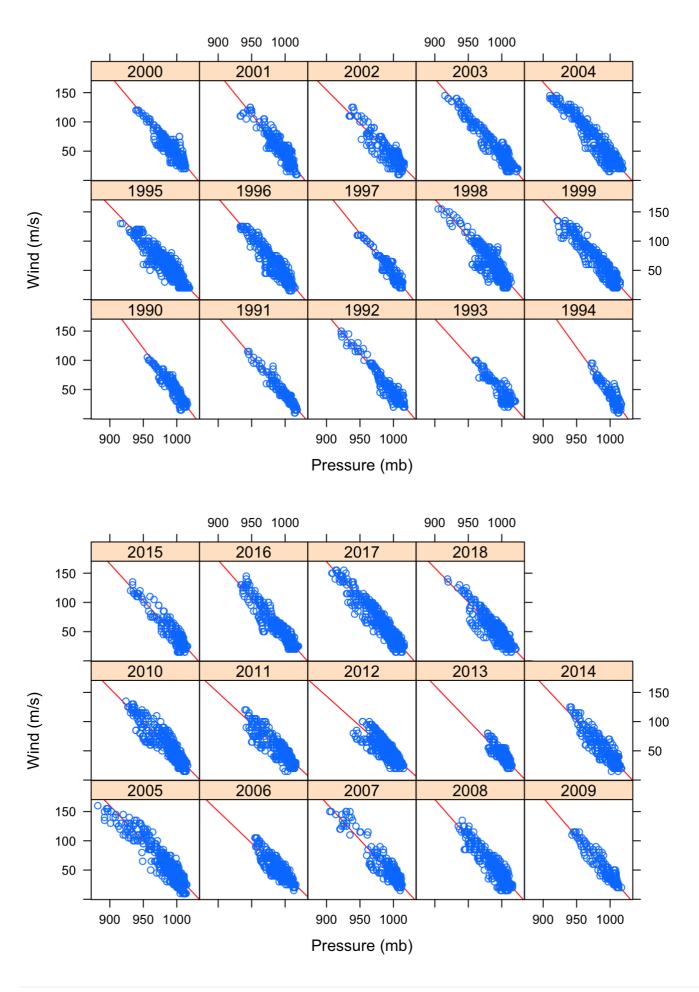


Option 2:

```
xyplot(Wind~Pressure | as.factor(Year),
    data=subset(AL,Year >= 1990),
    layout=c(5,3),
    panel = function(x,y,...){
      cof <- lm(y~x)
      panel.abline(reg = cof, col="red", ...)
      panel.xyplot(x,y,...)
      },
      xlab="Pressure (mb)",
      ylab="Wind (m/s)"
      )
```

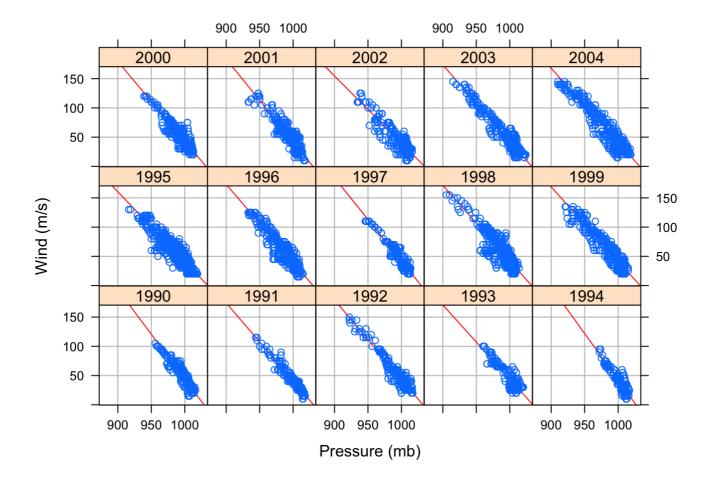


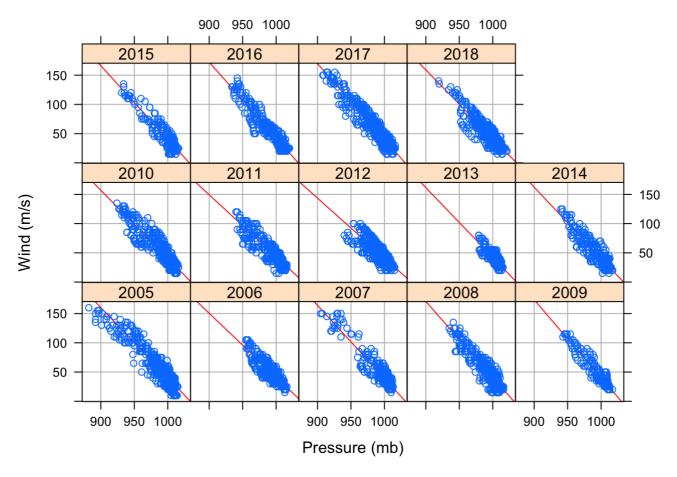
Option 3:



Example 6: Use panel.grid to put grid lines over each panel.







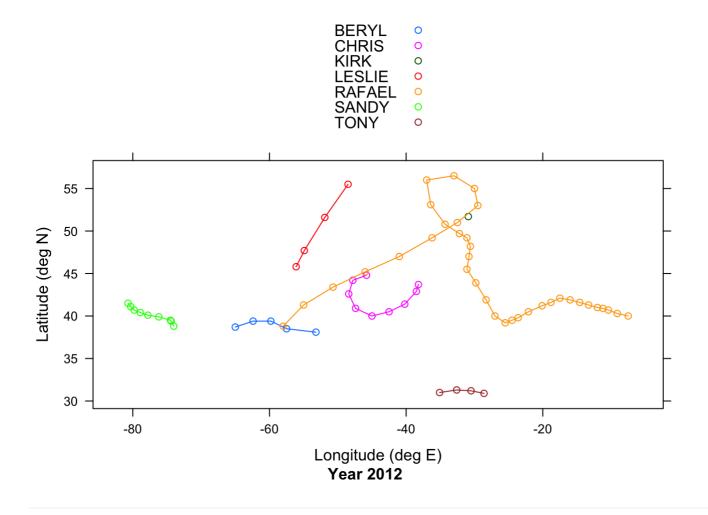
2.3 Use key or legend

2.3.1 Use auto.key for fast key generation

It is very common, and desirable, to use a key (legend) when a grouping variable is specified. The lattice package uses groups to control the grouping and auto.key to automatically produce a suitable legend. If auto.key=TRUE, a suitable legend will be drawn if a groups argument is also provided, and not otherwise.

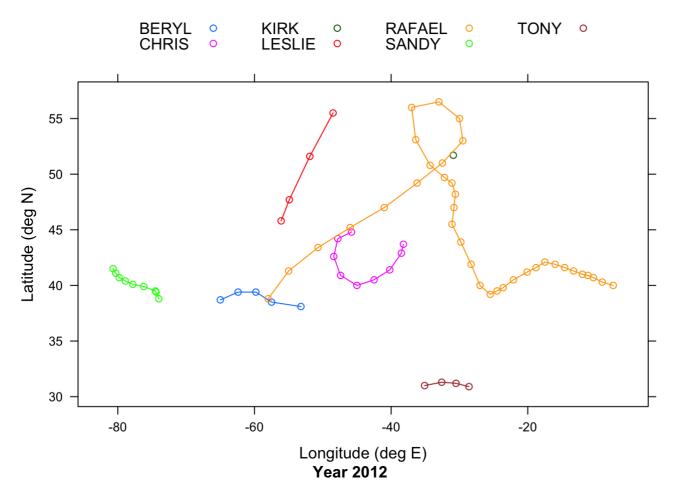
In the following code, the locations of named extra-tropical cyclones in 2012 are grouped by each storm name. A legend is generated above the figure.

```
xyplot(Lat~Lon,
groups = as.factor(Name),
data = subset(AL, Year==2012 & Status=="EX"),
auto.key = TRUE,
type = "b",
scales = list(y=list(tick.number=8)),
xlab="Longitude (deg E)",
ylab="Latitude (deg N)",
sub = "Year 2012"
)
```



We can modify auto.key, for example, auto.key = list(columns=4) below creates a legend split into four columns.

```
xyplot(Lat~Lon,
groups = as.factor(Name),
data = subset(AL, Year==2012 & Status=="EX"),
auto.key = list(columns=4),
type = "b",
scales = list(y=list(tick.number=8)),
xlab="Longitude (deg E)",
ylab="Latitude (deg N)",
sub = "Year 2012"
)
```

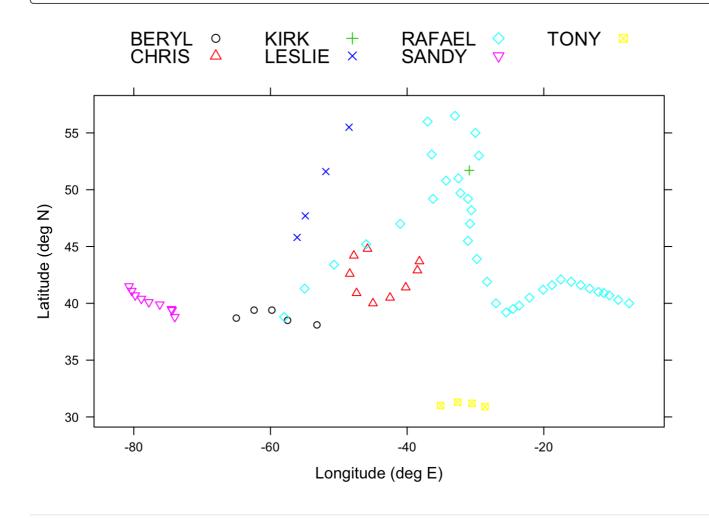


2.3.2 Use key for fine-tuned legends

In the following code, the list of arguments for key specifies detailed appearance of the legend.

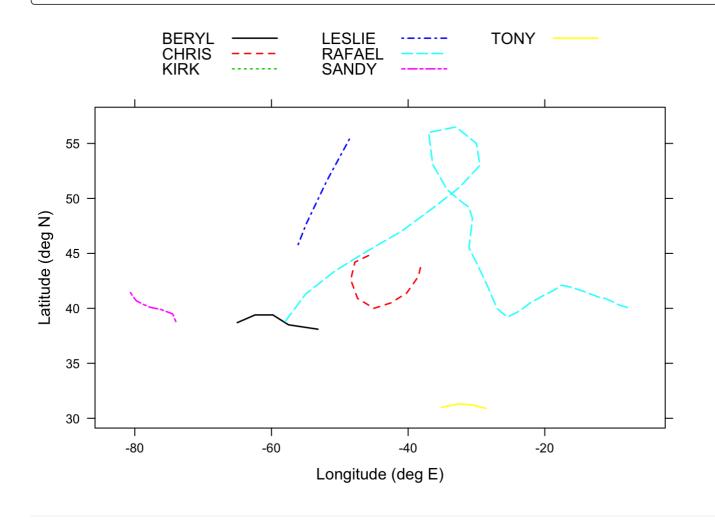
Example 1: The key uses the same group symbols/colors as in the plot.

```
namelabel <- levels(as.factor(subset(AL, Year==2012 & Status=="EX")$Name))</pre>
xyplot(Lat~Lon,
       groups = as.factor(Name),
       data = subset(AL, Year==2012 & Status=="EX"),
       type = "p",
       pch = 1:7,
       col = 1:7,
       key = list(type = c("p"),
           text = list(label = namelabel, cex = 1.2),
           points = list(col=1:7, pch = 1:7),
           column = 4,
           space = "top"),
       scales = list(y=list(tick.number=8)),
       xlab="Longitude (deg E)",
       ylab="Latitude (deg N)"
)
```



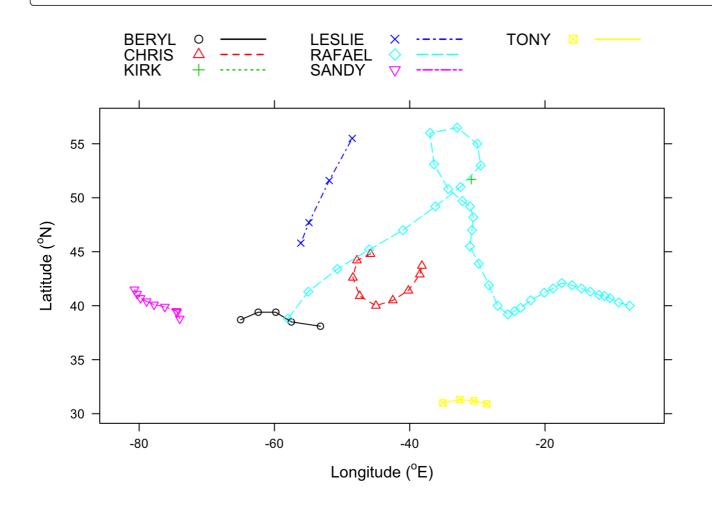
Example 2: The key uses the same group line styles/colors as in the plot.

```
xyplot(Lat~Lon,
       groups = as.factor(Name),
       data = subset(AL, Year==2012 & Status=="EX"),
       type = "1",
       lty = 1:7,
       1wd = 1.5,
       col = 1:7,
       key = list(type = "1",
           text = list(label = namelabel),
           lines = list(col=1:7, lty= 1:7, lwd=1.5),
           column = 3,
           space = "top"),
       scales = list(y=list(tick.number=8)),
       xlab="Longitude (deg E)",
       ylab="Latitude (deg N)"
)
```



Example 3: The key uses the same group symbols as well as line styles/colors as in the plot.

```
xyplot(Lat~Lon,
       groups = as.factor(Name),
       data = subset(AL, Year==2012 & Status=="EX"),
       type = "b",
       lty = 1:7,
       pch = 1:7,
       col = 1:7,
       key = list(type = c("l"),
           text = list(label = namelabel),
           points = list(col=1:7, pch = 1:7),
           lines = list(col=1:7, lty= 1:7, lwd=1.5),
           column = 3,
           space = "top"),
       scales = list(y=list(tick.number=8)),
       xlab=expression(paste("Longitude (", {}^o,"E)")),
       ylab=expression(paste("Latitude (", {}^o,"N)"))
)
```



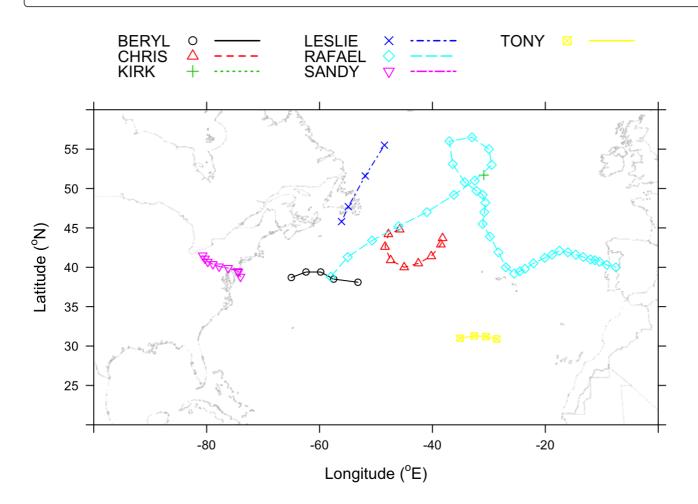
2.4 Overlay continental outlines

It is often desirable to overlay our data visualization with a map or continental outlines for geographical information. The following code uses the maps library, although it is not the only method. Note how the ylim and xlim are consistently assigned for mp in panal.map and in the xyplot.

library(maps)

Warning: package 'maps' was built under R version 3.4.4

```
mp <- map("world", ylim=c(20,60), xlim=c(-100, 0),plot = FALSE, fill=FALSE)</pre>
panel.map <- function(x,y,...)</pre>
{panel.xyplot(mp$x, mp$y,pch=".",col="gray",alpha=0.25)
panel.xyplot(x,y,...)
}
xyplot(Lat~Lon,
       groups = as.factor(Name),
       data = subset(AL, Year==2012 & Status=="EX"),
       type = "b",
       lty = 1:7,
       pch = 1:7,
       col = 1:7,
       key = list(type = c("1"),
           text = list(label = namelabel),
           points = list(col=1:7, pch = 1:7),
           lines = list(col=1:7, lty= 1:7, lwd=1.5),
           column = 3,
           space = "top"),
       scales = list(y=list(tick.number=8)),
       xlab=expression(paste("Longitude (", {}^o,"E)")),
       ylab=expression(paste("Latitude (", {}^o,"N)")),
       ylim=c(20,60), xlim=c(-100, 0),
       panel=panel.map
)
```



Question 13: Create multipanel plots of the tracks (Lat vs. Lon) by storm name Name in Year 2005 using xyplot. Overlay each panel with a map. Note that the command pair trellis.device and dev.off() will output this figure into a pdf file in your working directory instead of showing it on your screen.

Answers
trellis.device(pdf,file="Question12.pdf")

Write your code for visiaulzation between these two lines.

dev.off()