

# Package ‘txtplot’

May 10, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Text Based Plots

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**Description** Provides functions to produce rudimentary ascii graphics directly in the terminal window. Provides a basic plotting function (and equivalents of curve, density, acf and barplot) as well as boxplot and image functions.

**Imports** Matrix

**License** LGPL

**LazyLoad** yes

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`txtboxplot`*Text based boxplot*

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**Description**

Produces rudimentary ascii boxplots. The boxplot statistics are produced using the `boxplot.stats` function.

**Usage**

```
txtboxplot(..., range = 1.5, legend = NULL, xlab = NULL,  
           width = round(options()$width * 0.8))
```

**Arguments**

<code>...</code>	Numeric vectors for which a boxplot should be produced
<code>range</code>	This determines how far the plot whiskers extend out from the box. See <a href="#">boxplot.stats</a> and the <code>coef</code> function for details.
<code>legend</code>	Logical determining whether a legend should be drawn. If <code>legend</code> is <code>NULL</code> there will be a legend drawn in case there is more than one boxplot.
<code>xlab</code>	label for x-axis of boxplot, if <code>NULL</code> no x-label will be plotted
<code>width</code>	Width of the plot

**Note**

Due to rounding to a relatively crude grid results can only be approximate. E.g. the equally spaced axis ticks may be non-equally spaced in the plot.

**Author(s)**

Bjoern Bornkamp

**See Also**

[txtplot](#)

**Examples**

```
rand1 <- rnorm(100, 1, 2)  
rand2 <- rnorm(50, 2, 2)  
rand3 <- rnorm(50, 2, 5)  
txtboxplot(rand1)  
txtboxplot(rand1, rand2, rand3)
```

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txtimage	<i>Display a Text Image of a Matrix</i>
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**Description**

Print a rudimentary image of a matrix on the R console using a user-supplied alphabet as a palette of sorts.

**Usage**

```
txtimage(z, width, height, yaxis = c('up', 'down'), transpose = TRUE,
         legend = TRUE, na.char = ' ', alphabet = 0:9, Lanczos = 3)
```

**Arguments**

z	Numeric matrix containing values to be plotted. NA and NaN are allowed, but infinities, being impossible to scale, cause an error.
width	Desired width in characters. Defaults to full screen (by means of <code>getOption('width')</code> ) or number of columns (rows if transposed) in z, whichever is less. Asking for more characters than there is in the supplied matrix results in an error.
height	Desired height in characters. Defaults to 25/80 of width or number of rows (columns if transposed) in z, whichever is less. Asking for more characters than there is in the supplied matrix results in an error.
yaxis	Direction of the Y axis, "up" or "down". Defaults to 'up' like in image.
transpose	Whether to arrange rows by the X axis, like image does. Defaults to TRUE.
legend	Whether to print the legend under the plot. If set, the returned object will have the 'cuts' and 'alphabet' attributes set containing the values separating the intervals and characters used for the intervals, respectively.
na.char	Character to substitute for values satisfying <code>is.na</code> . A warning is produced if <code>na.char</code> is found in the <code>alphabet</code> in presence of NA in z.
alphabet	Symbols to compose the plot of, linear scale. Either a single multi-character string or a vector of single-character strings. Defaults to 0:9.
Lanczos	Positive integer defining the size of the Lanczos filter kernel. Given a value of $a$ , the windowed sinc kernel will have $2a - 1$ lobes. Increasing the value may lead to better frequency response, but cause worse performance and wider undefined zones when the input contains NAs.

**Details**

By default, `txtimage` mimics the behaviour of `image`, drawing the rows of the matrix along the X axis and making the Y axis grow from bottom to the top of the plot. The function can be made to mimic `matrix print` instead (rows arranged vertically from top to bottom) by specifying `yaxis` and `image.transpose` arguments.

If requested width or height is different from dimensions of the matrix, it is resampled using the Lanczos filter for a given downsampling ratio  $r$  and window parameter  $a$ :

$$L(x) = \text{sinc}(x) \text{sinc}(x/a) |x| < a$$

$$S_{ij} = \sum_{k,l} s_{kl} L\left(i - \frac{k}{r}\right) L\left(j - \frac{l}{r}\right)$$

When resampling, the rows and columns are assumed to correspond to a uniform linear grid.

### Value

The function is called for its side effect of printing the textual plot on the R console using `cat`, but it also invisibly returns the resulting character matrix. If `legend` is `TRUE`, the `'cuts'` attribute contains the values separating the intervals used for characters in the alphabet (the copy of which is stored in the `'alphabet'` attribute).

### Note

Resampling constant signals may produce rounding errors that get greatly amplified after scaling them to `diff(range(z))`. For constant signals this is compensated by not allowing the resampling process to increase the range of the signal, but if the range of the matrix values is already really small (comparable to `.Machine$double.eps`, but not zero), the result of resampling process may not make sense.

Resampling high frequency signals (e.g. `outer(1:200, 1:200, function(x,y) cos(x*y))`) might give hard-to-interpret results.

### Author(s)

Ivan Krylov

### References

Szeliski, R. (2010) *Computer Vision: Algorithms and Applications*. Section 3.5.2: Decimation.

### See Also

`symnum`, `image`

### Examples

```
txtimage(datasets::volcano)
## Not run:
## try this if your terminal supports shade/block characters
txtimage(datasets::volcano, alphabet = "\u2591\u2592\u2593\u2588")

## End(Not run)
```

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 txtplot

*Ascii graphics*


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### Description

Provides a function to produce rudimentary ascii graphics directly in the terminal window.

txtplot provides the basic plotting function of two numeric vectors. All other functions below are based on this.

txtcurve is a text based equivalent of the curve function

txtdensity is a text based density estimation function based on the density function

txtacf is a text based equivalent of the acf function and based on the acf function.

txtbarchart is a text based barplot and plots the relative frequencies of the occurrences of the different levels of a factor (in percent)

### Usage

```
txtplot(x, y = NULL, pch = "*", width = round(options()$width*0.8),
        height = round(0.25*width), xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL,
        xlim = NULL, ylim = NULL)
```

```
txtcurve(expr, from = NULL, to = NULL, n = 101,
         pch = "*", width = round(options()$width*0.8),
         height = round(0.25*width), xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL)
```

```
txtdensity(x, pch = "*", width = round(options()$width*0.8),
           height = round(0.25*width), xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL)
```

```
txtacf(x, pch = "*", lag.max = 20, type = c("correlation", "covariance", "partial"),
       na.action = na.fail, demean = TRUE, width = round(options()$width*0.8),
       height = round(0.25*width), xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL)
```

```
txtbarchart(x, pch = "*", width = round(options()$width*0.8),
            height = round(0.25*width), ylab = NULL)
```

### Arguments

x	numeric containing the x-values to plot (for txtbarchart this needs to be of class factor). NA, NaN are removed for plotting. Infinities cause an error
y	numeric containing the x-values to plot (needs to be of the same length as x). If NULL the numeric x is plotted against 1:length(x). NA, NaN are removed for plotting. Infinities cause an error
pch	Plotting symbol
width, height	Width and height of the plots in points
xlab, ylab	labels for x and y axis

xlim, ylim	limits for x and y axis in plot, if equal to NULL automatically determined from x and y.
expr	An expression to plot (containing x)
from, to	Defines boundaries of plotting region for expr in txtcurve
n	integer specifying the number of x values between from and to
lag.max, type, na.action, demean	arguments for call of acf function, see ?acf for details

**Note**

Due to rounding to a relatively crude grid results can only be approximate! The equally spaced axis ticks, for example, may be non-equally spaced in the plot.

Due to the crude grid also there might be several points per pixel. The function uses the same plotting symbol no matter how many points coincide on one pixel

**Author(s)**

Bjoern Bornkamp

**See Also**

[txtboxplot](#)

**Examples**

```
## basic plotting function
require(stats)
txtplot(cars[,1], cars[,2])
## can include axis labels when desired
txtplot(cars[,1], cars[,2], xlab = "speed", ylab = "distance")

## text based density plot
txtdensity(rnorm(500))

## text based plotting of functions
txtcurve(x/(x+1), 0, 4, xlab = "Emax model")

## text based acf
txtacf(rnorm(100))

## text based barchart
x <- factor(c("orange", "orange", "red", "green", "green", "red",
              "yellow", "purple", "purple", "orange"))
txtbarchart(x)

## text based boxplots
rand1 <- rnorm(100, 1, 2)
rand2 <- rnorm(50, 2, 2)
rand3 <- rnorm(50, 2, 5)
txtboxplot(rand1)
```

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```
txtboxplot(rand1, rand2, rand3)
```

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