Utrecht University

ggplot2
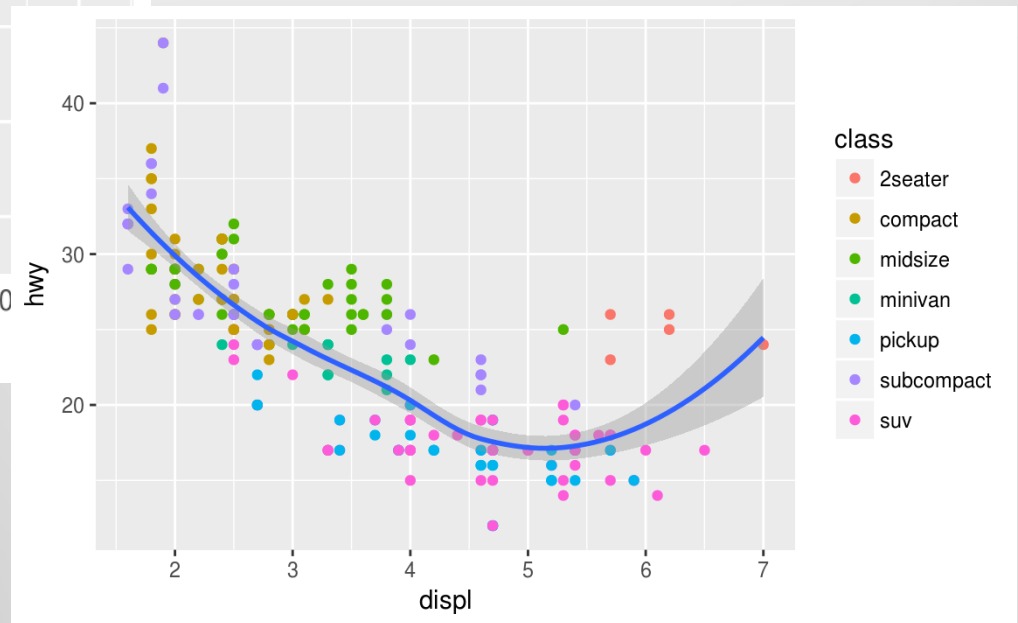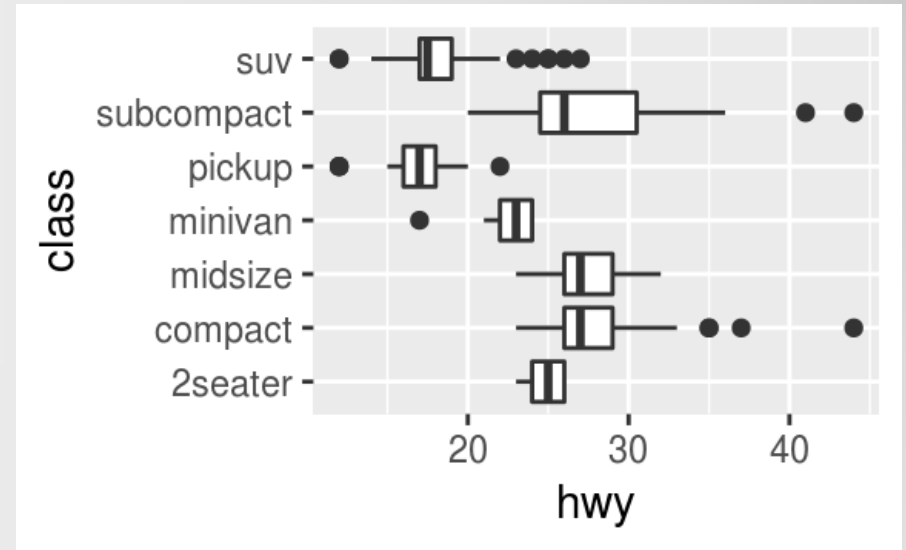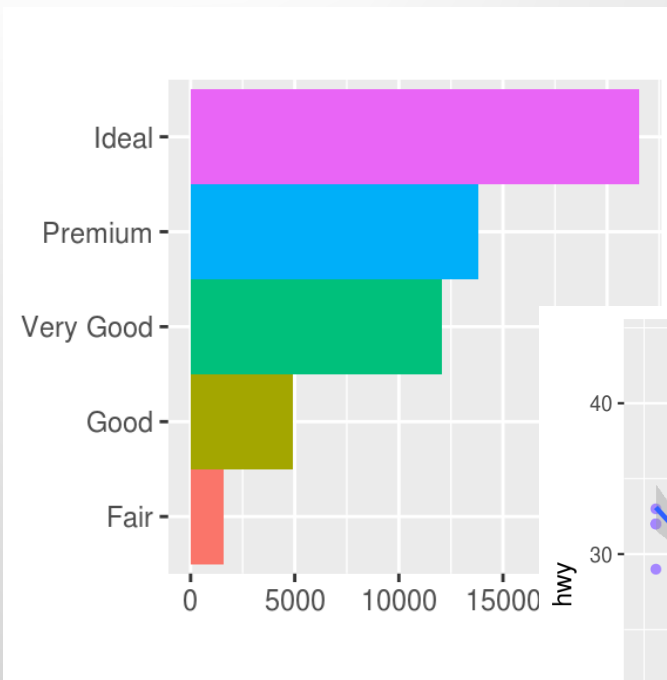
Jonathan de Bruin & Tessa Pronk

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What is ggplot2?

- **ggplot2** is an extremely popular data visualization package for R
- Developed and maintained by Hadley Wickham

- Based on the book: The Grammar of Graphics (Wilkinson, 2005)

- Simple syntax, easy to learn, nice plots

Examples

When to use?

- Static plots
- Complex plots
- 2 dimensional plots

Extensions of ggplot for:
- 3D plots (ggplotly)
- Plotting maps (ggmap)
- Interactive plots (ggplotly)
- Graphs and networks (ggraph)
- Animations (gganimate)

ggplot2 alternatives

- Base R!

- Plot.ly
- Lattice
- googleVis
- Highcharter
- Leaflet (for plotting maps)

qplot() and ggplot()

- Two main functions in ggplot2: qplot() and ggplot2

qplot
- Quick plot
- Easy to use
- Limited functionality

ggplot
- Works with layers
- Almost unlimited functionality