

# Class 5: Data Viz with ggplot

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Today we are exploring the **ggplot** package and how to make nice figures in R.

There are lots of ways to make figures and plot in R. These include:

- so called “base” R
- and add on packages like **ggplots2**

Here is a simple “base” R plots.

```
head(cars)
```

	speed	dist
1	4	2
2	4	10
3	7	4
4	7	22
5	8	16
6	9	10

We can simply pass to the `plot()` function.

```
plot(cars)
```



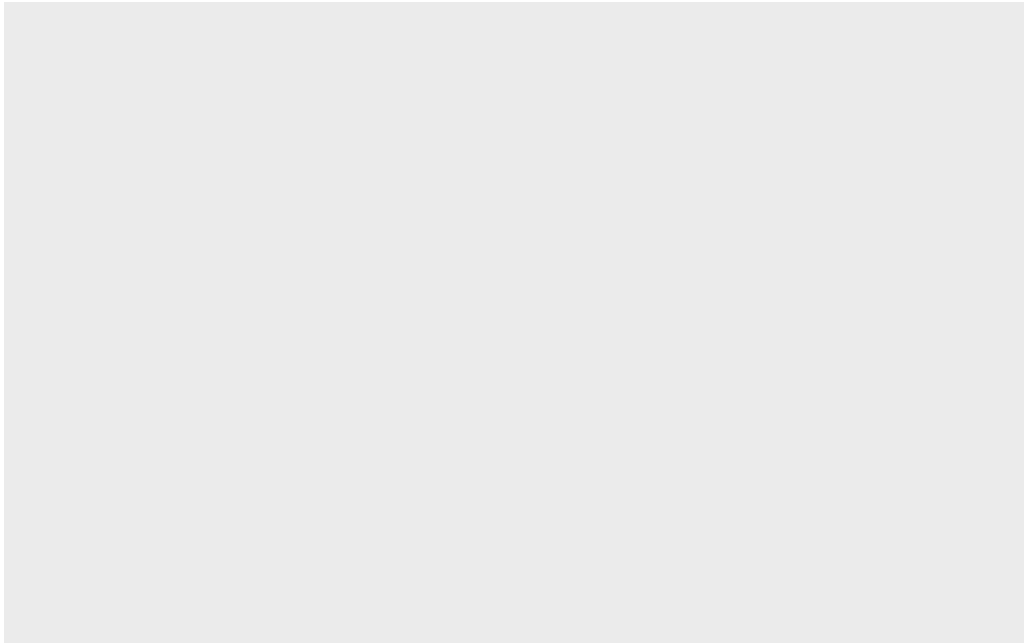
Key-point: Base R is quick but not so nice looking.

Let's see how we can plot this with **ggplot2**...

1st I need to install this add-on package. For this we use the `install.package()` function - **We DO THIS IN THE CONSOLE, NOT our report**. This is a one time only deal.

2nd We need to load the package with `library()` function every time we want to use it.

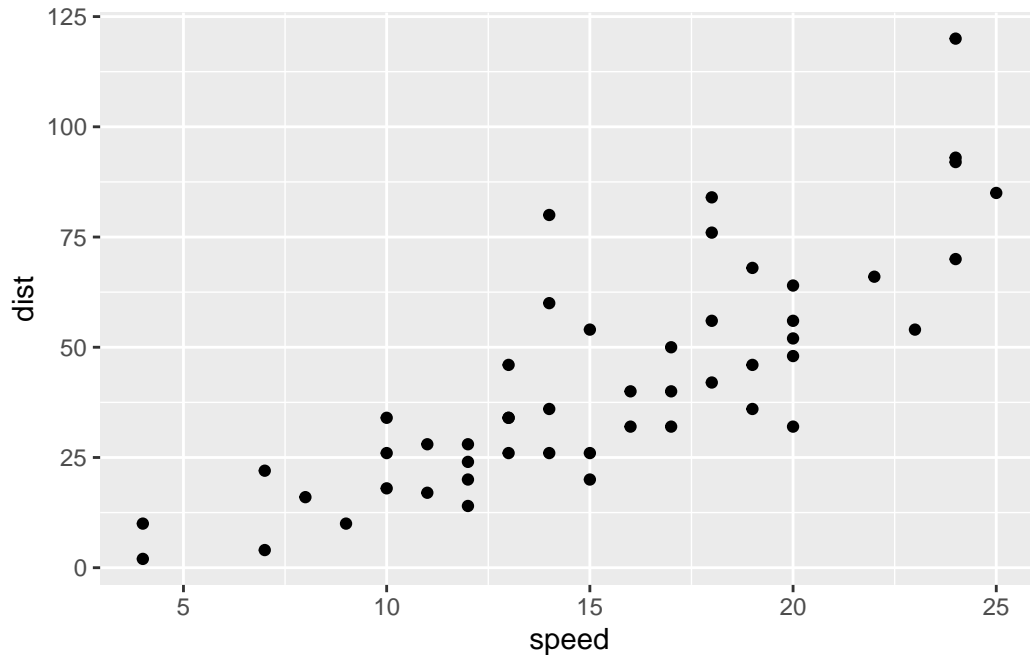
```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(cars)
```



Every ggplot is composed of at least 2 layers:

- **data** (i.e a data.frame with the things to plot),
- aesthetics **aes()** that map the columns of data to the plot features (i.e aesthetics)
- geoms like **geom\_point()** that srt how the plot appears

```
ggplot(cars) +  
  aes(x=speed, y=dist) +  
  geom_point()
```



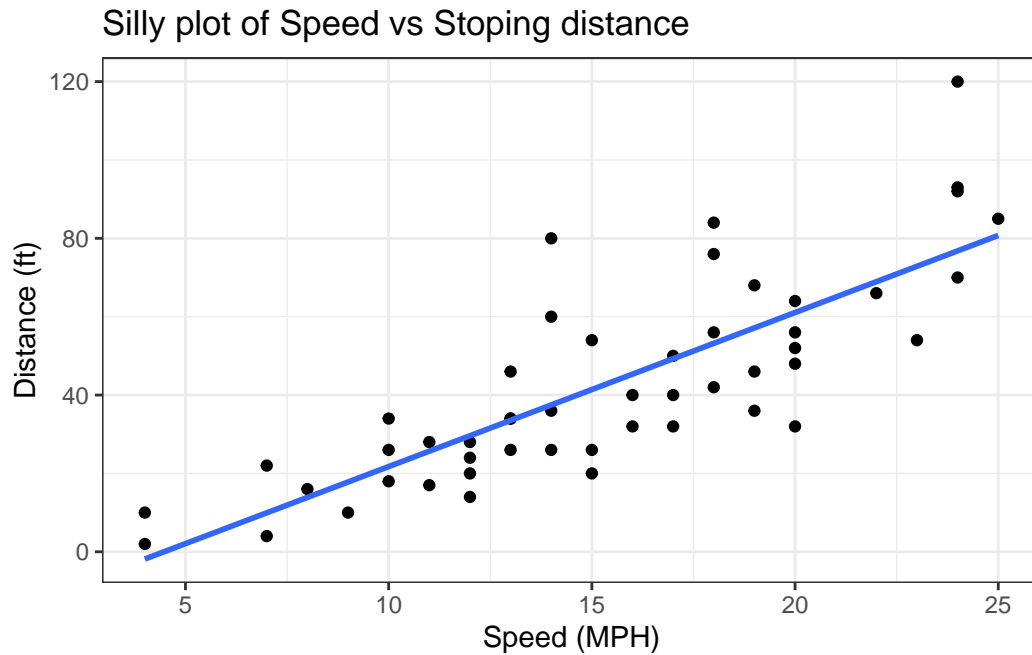
Key point: For simple “canned” graphs base R is quicker but as things get more custom and elaborate then ggplot wins out...

Let’s add more layers to our ggplot

Add a line showing the relationship between x and y Add a title Add custom axis labels “Speed(MPH)” and Distance(ft)” Change the theme...

```
ggplot(cars) +
  aes(x=speed, y=dist) +
  geom_point()+
  geom_smooth(method="lm", se=FALSE)+
  labs(title="Silly plot of Speed vs Stopping distance", x = "Speed (MPH)",
        y = "Distance (ft)")+
  theme_bw()
```

`geom\_smooth()` using formula = 'y ~ x'



## Going further

Read some gene expression data

```
url <-
  "https://bioboot.github.io/bimm143_S20/class-material/up_down_expression.txt"
genes <- read.delim(url)
head(genes)
```

	Gene	Condition1	Condition2	State
1	A4GNT	-3.6808610	-3.4401355	unchanging
2	AAAS	4.5479580	4.3864126	unchanging
3	AASDH	3.7190695	3.4787276	unchanging
4	AATF	5.0784720	5.0151916	unchanging
5	AATK	0.4711421	0.5598642	unchanging
6	AB015752.4	-3.6808610	-3.5921390	unchanging

Q1. How many genes are in this wee dataset?

```
nrow(genes)
```

```
[1] 5196
```

```
ncol(genes)
```

```
[1] 4
```

Q2. How many “up” regulated genes are there?

```
sum(genes$State == "up")
```

```
[1] 127
```

A useful function for counting up occurrences of things in a vector is the `table()` function.

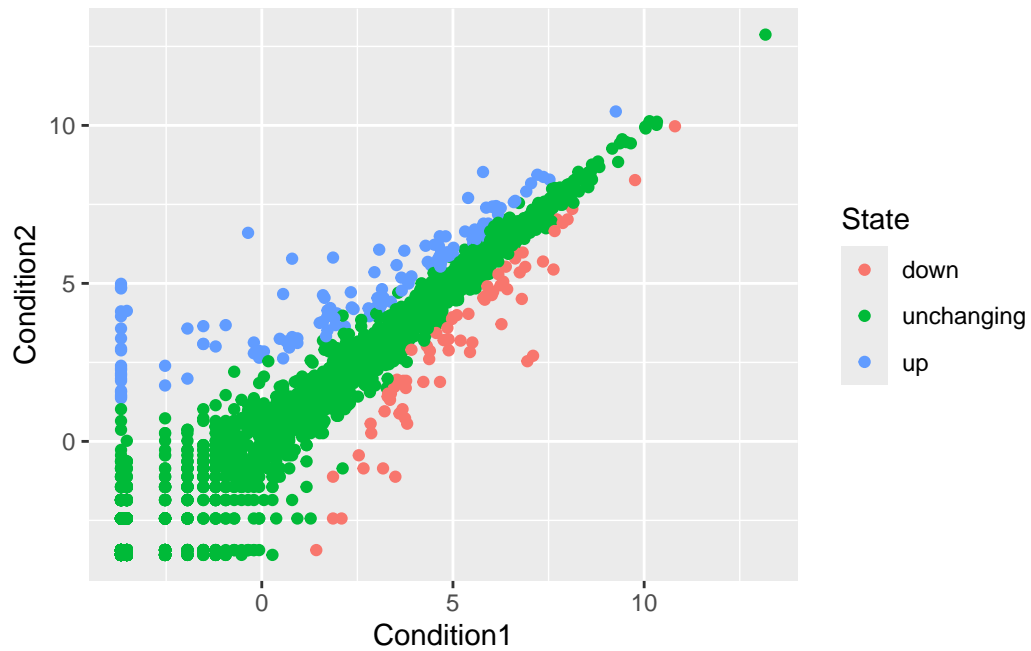
```
table(genes$State)
```

down	unchanging	up
72	4997	127

Make a v1 figure

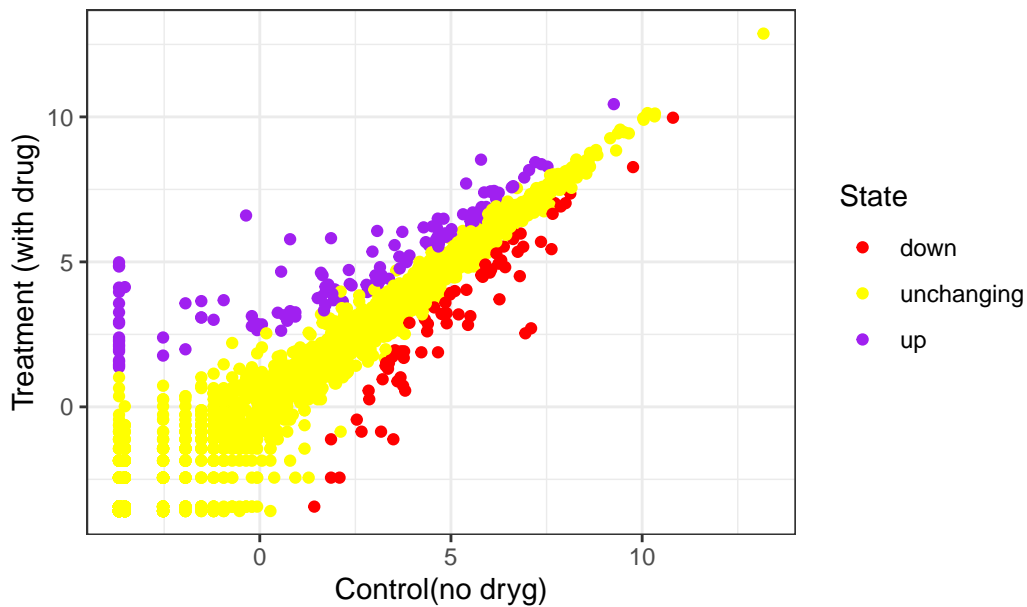
```
p <- ggplot(genes)+  
  aes(x=Condition1, y=Condition2, col=State)+  
  geom_point()
```

```
p
```



```
p +
  scale_colour_manual(values=c("red", "yellow", "purple"))+
  labs(title="Gene expression changes upon drug treatment",x="Control(no dryg)",
        y="Treatment (with drug)")+
  theme_bw()
```

## Gene expression changes upon drug treatment



## More Plotting

Reading in the gapminder dataset

```
# File location online
url <-
  "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jennybc/gapminder/master/inst/extdata/gapminder.tsv"

gapminder <- read.delim(url)
```

Lets have a wee peak

```
head(gapminder, 3)
```

	country	continent	year	lifeExp	pop	gdpPercap
1	Afghanistan	Asia	1952	28.801	8425333	779.4453
2	Afghanistan	Asia	1957	30.332	9240934	820.8530
3	Afghanistan	Asia	1962	31.997	10267083	853.1007



```
tail(gapminder, 3)
```

	country	continent	year	lifeExp	pop	gdpPercap
1702	Zimbabwe	Africa	1997	46.809	11404948	792.4500
1703	Zimbabwe	Africa	2002	39.989	11926563	672.0386
1704	Zimbabwe	Africa	2007	43.487	12311143	469.7093

Q4. How many different country values are in the dataset?

```
nrow(gapminder)
```

```
[1] 1704
```

```
length(table(gapminder$country))
```

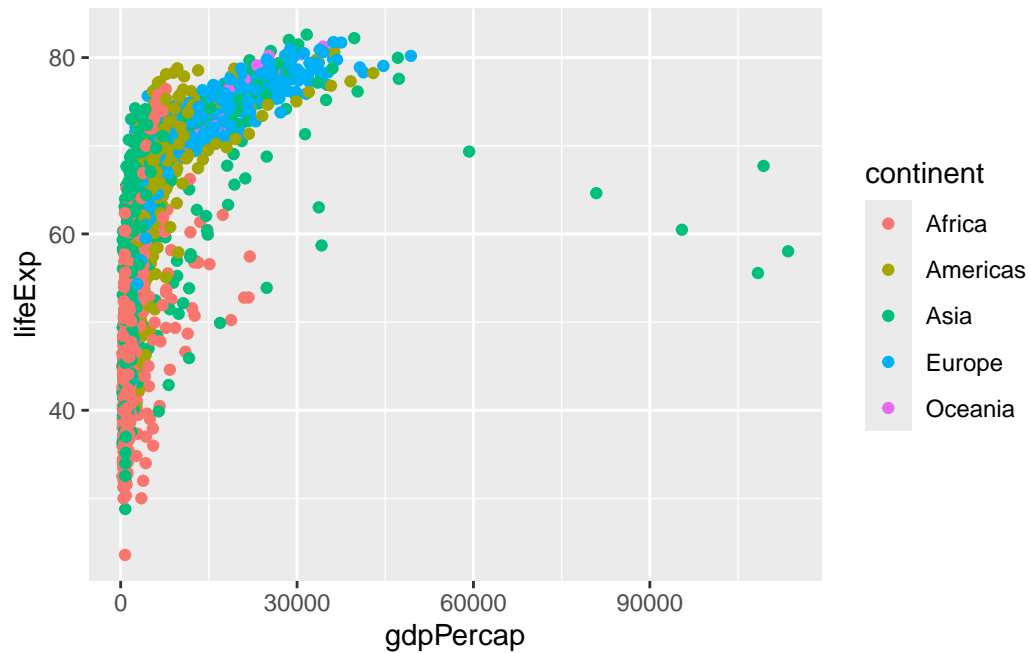
```
[1] 142
```

Q5. How many different continent values are in this dataset

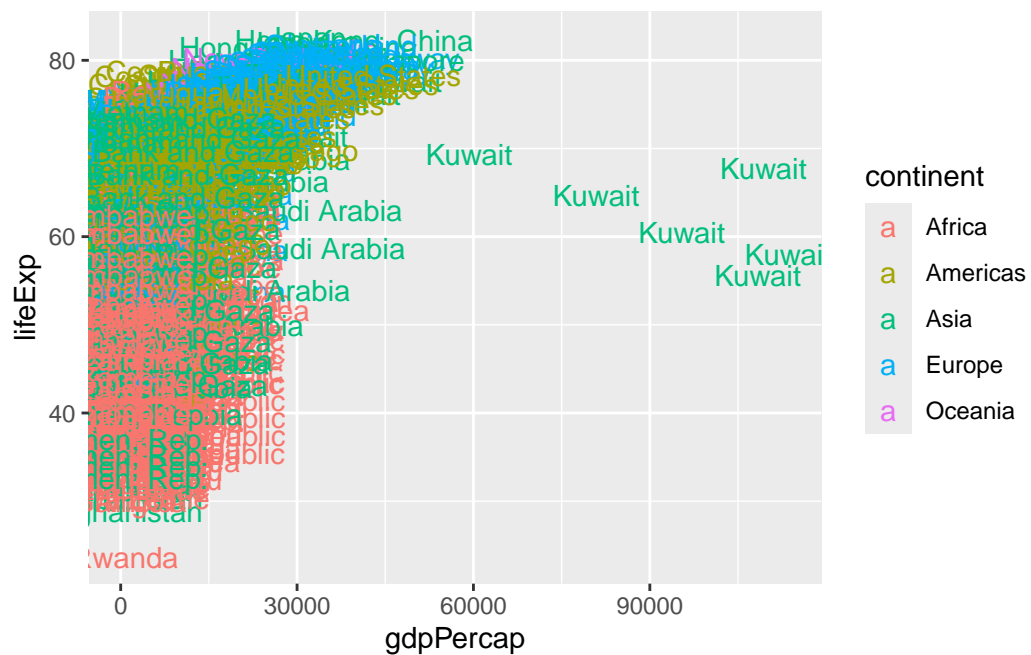
```
unique(gapminder$continent)
```

```
[1] "Asia"      "Europe"    "Africa"    "Americas" "Oceania"
```

```
ggplot(gapminder) +  
  aes(gdpPercap, lifeExp, col=continent) +  
  geom_point()
```



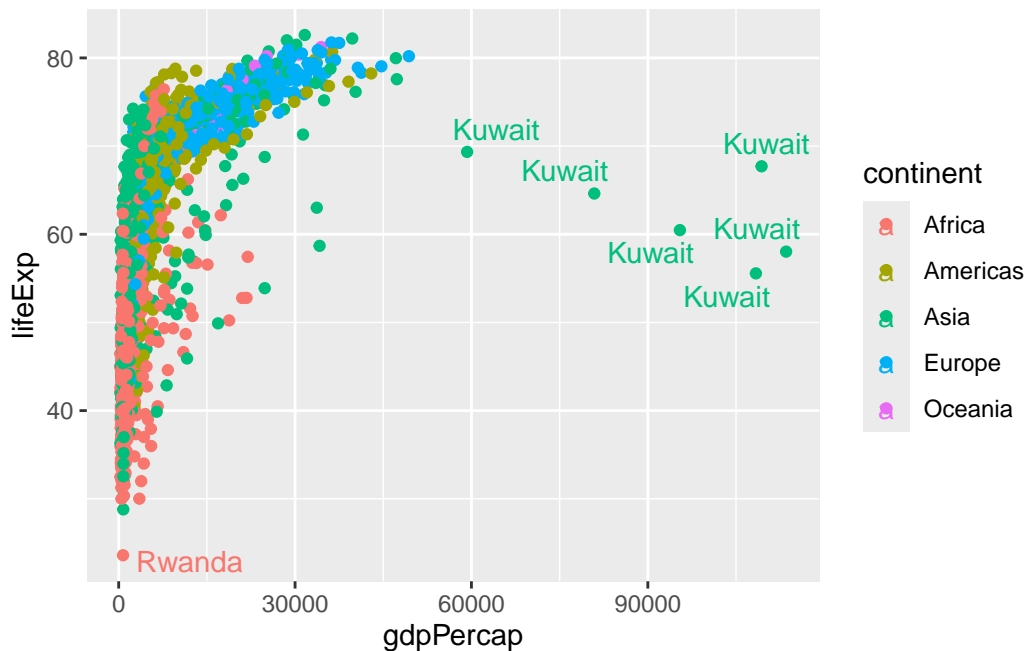
```
ggplot(gapminder) +
  aes(gdpPercap, lifeExp, col=continent, label=country) +
  geom_text()
```



I can use the **ggrepel** package to make more sensible labels here.

```
library(ggrepel)
ggplot(gapminder) +
  aes(gdpPercap, lifeExp, col=continent, label=country) +
  geom_point()+
  geom_text_repel()
```

Warning: ggrepel: 1697 unlabeled data points (too many overlaps). Consider increasing max.overlaps



I want to separate pannel per continent

```
library(ggrepel)
ggplot(gapminder) +
  aes(gdpPercap, lifeExp, col=continent, label=country) +
  geom_point()+
  geom_text_repel()+
  facet_wrap(~continent)
```

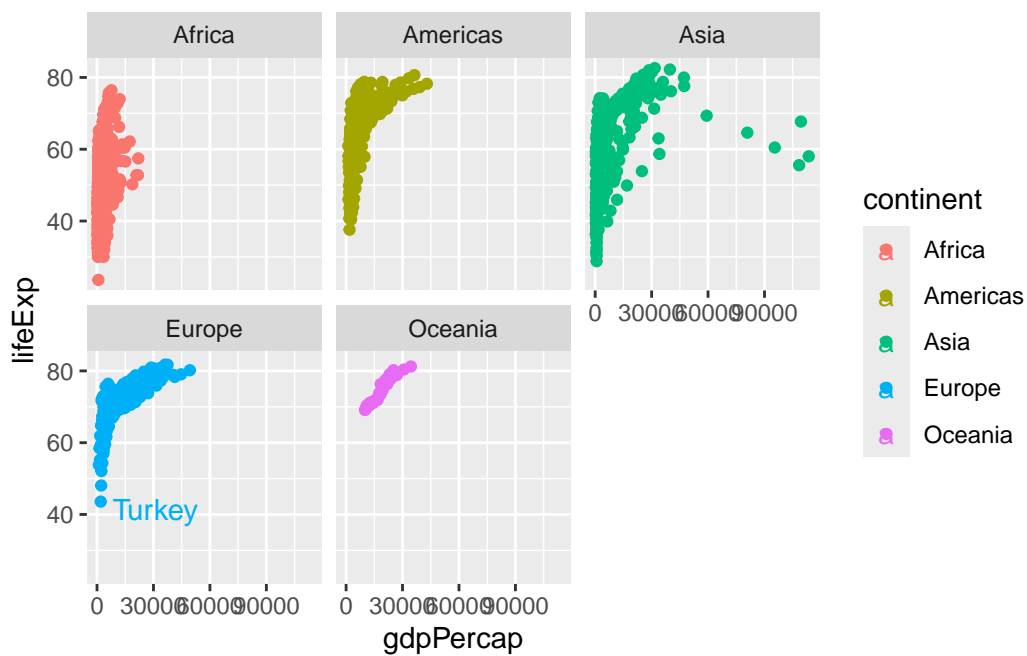
Warning: ggrepel: 624 unlabeled data points (too many overlaps). Consider increasing max.overlaps

Warning: ggrepel: 359 unlabeled data points (too many overlaps). Consider increasing max.overlaps

Warning: ggrepel: 300 unlabeled data points (too many overlaps). Consider increasing max.overlaps

Warning: ggrepel: 24 unlabeled data points (too many overlaps). Consider increasing max.overlaps

Warning: ggrepel: 396 unlabeled data points (too many overlaps). Consider increasing max.overlaps



## Summary

ggplot2 offers several main advantages over base R plotting:

1. Layered grammar: ggplot2 builds plots by adding layers (data, aesthetics, geoms, themes) in a consistent, stepwise fashion, making complex plots easier to construct and modify[1], [2], [3], [5], [4].
2. Declarative syntax: You specify what you want to see (mapping data to aesthetics), rather than how to draw each element, which simplifies code and improves readability[1], [2], [3], [5], [4].

3. Publication-quality output: ggplot2 produces attractive, professional figures by default, with sensible color schemes, legends, and layouts[\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#).
4. Customization: It is easier to customize and extend plots (e.g., adding color, labels, themes) compared to base R, which often requires more manual tweaking[\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[5\]](#).
5. Consistency: The same grammar applies to all plot types, reducing the need to learn different functions for each plot style[\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[5\]](#).