



# Visualization with seaborn

Bruno Gonçalves

*www.data4sci.com/newsletter*

<https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn>



# Who Am I?



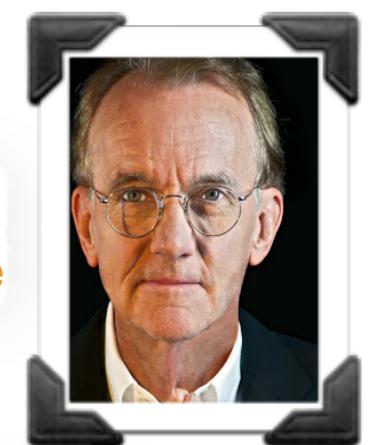
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- **Work:** Senior Data Scientist
- **Background:** Physics (PhD) and Computer Science (MS)
- **Experience:** 10+ years using large scale datasets to analyze individual human behavior.
- **Website:** [www.data4sci.com](http://www.data4sci.com)
- **Twitter:** @data4sci
- **Email:** [bgoncalves@data4sci.com](mailto:bgoncalves@data4sci.com)

# Why Visualization?



"Information Visualization is a form of **knowledge compression**"

**D. McCandless**



"There is **no such thing as information overload**. There is only bad design."

**E. Tufte**



"Never leave a number all by itself. Never believe that one number on its own can be meaningful. If you are offered one number, always ask for at least one more."

**Something to compare it with.**"

**H. Rosling**



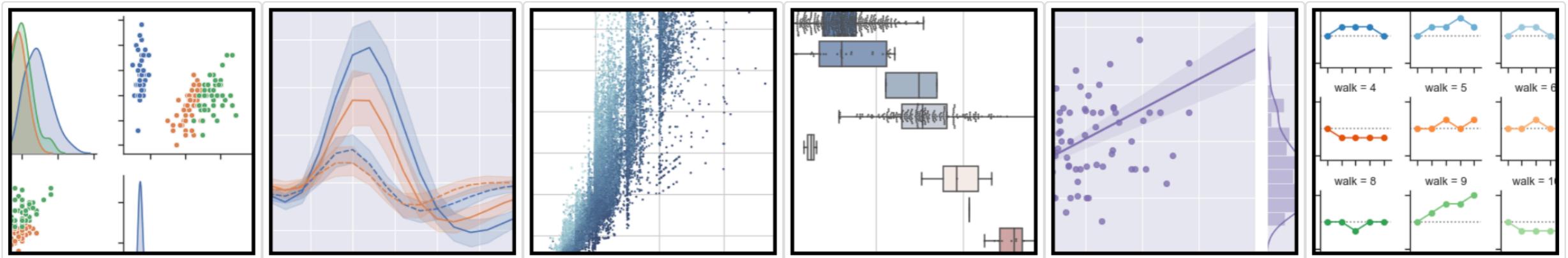
"The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to **notice what we never expected to see.**"

**J. Tukey**

# Why **seaborn**?

[seaborn.pydata.org](https://seaborn.pydata.org)

## seaborn: statistical data visualization



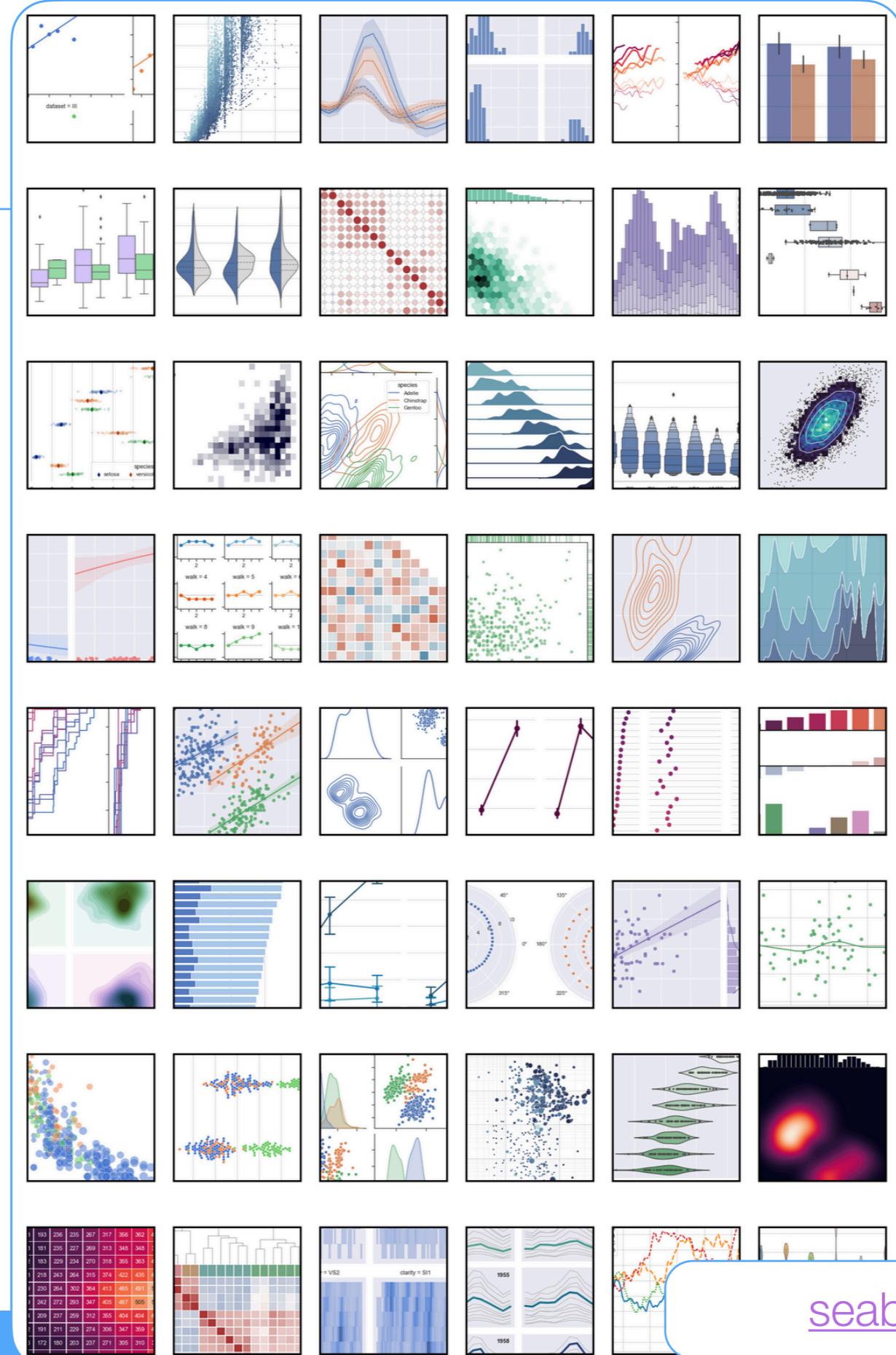
"**Seaborn** is a library for making statistical graphics in Python. It is built on top of **matplotlib** and closely integrated with **pandas** data structures.

**Seaborn** aims to make visualization a central part of exploring and understanding data. Its dataset-oriented plotting functions operate on dataframes and arrays containing whole datasets and internally perform the necessary semantic mapping and statistical aggregation to produce informative plots."



# seaborn

Extensive gallery  
that provides the  
source code for all  
the figures shown



[seaborn.pydata.org](http://seaborn.pydata.org)

@bgoncalves



[seaborn.pydata.org](https://seaborn.pydata.org)

- The first step is to import the `seaborn` module:

```
import seaborn as sns
```

- The convention is to import `seaborn` as `sns` (`sns` is a geeky reference to Sam Norman Seaborn, a fictional character on the television show *The West Wing*)
- The `sns` module contains all the functions we will use as direct members.

# Datasets

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- The `sns` module contains all the functions we will use as direct members.
- For ease of learning and demonstration, `seaborn` makes it easy to access standard datasets.
- The datasets can be accessed easily by calling the `load_dataset` function with the file name (sans extension) as a parameter.

<a href="#">anscombe.csv</a>
<a href="#">attention.csv</a>
<a href="#">brain_networks.csv</a>
<a href="#">car_crashes.csv</a>
<a href="#">diamonds.csv</a>
<a href="#">dots.csv</a>
<a href="#">exercise.csv</a>
<a href="#">flights.csv</a>
<a href="#">fmri.csv</a>
<a href="#">gammas.csv</a>
<a href="#">iris.csv</a>
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<a href="#">planets.csv</a>
<a href="#">tips.csv</a>
<a href="#">titanic.csv</a>

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- The datasets can be accessed easily by calling the `load_dataset` function with the file name (sans extension) as a parameter.
- `.load_dataset(name)` - where name is “`iris`”, “`mpg`”, etc...
- datasets are returned as “tidy” `pandas` dataframes

	total_bill	tip	sex	smoker	day	time	size
0	16.99	1.01	Female	No	Sun	Dinner	2
1	10.34	1.66	Male	No	Sun	Dinner	3
2	21.01	3.50	Male	No	Sun	Dinner	3
3	23.68	3.31	Male	No	Sun	Dinner	2
4	24.59	3.61	Female	No	Sun	Dinner	4

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# Types of plots

- **seaborn** can handle a large number of different kinds of plots

- `sns.scatterplot()`

Relationship plots

- `sns.lineplot()`

- `sns.stripplot()`

Categorical plots

- `sns.swarmplot()`

- `sns.boxplot()`

- `sns.violinplot()`

- `sns.boxenplot()`

- `sns.pointplot()`

- `sns.barplot()`

- `sns.countplot()`

# Types of plots

## Axes level

- `sns.scatterplot()`
- `sns.lineplot()`
- `sns.stripplot()`
- `sns.swarmplot()`
- `sns.boxplot()`
- `sns.violinplot()`
- `sns.boxenplot()`
- `sns.pointplot()`
- `sns.barplot()`
- `sns.countplot()`

## Figure level

Relationship plots

`sns.relplot()`

Figure level functions are equivalent to the axes level ones, (with the right `kind` setting) but more adapted for ease of exploration

Categorical plots

`sns.catplot()`

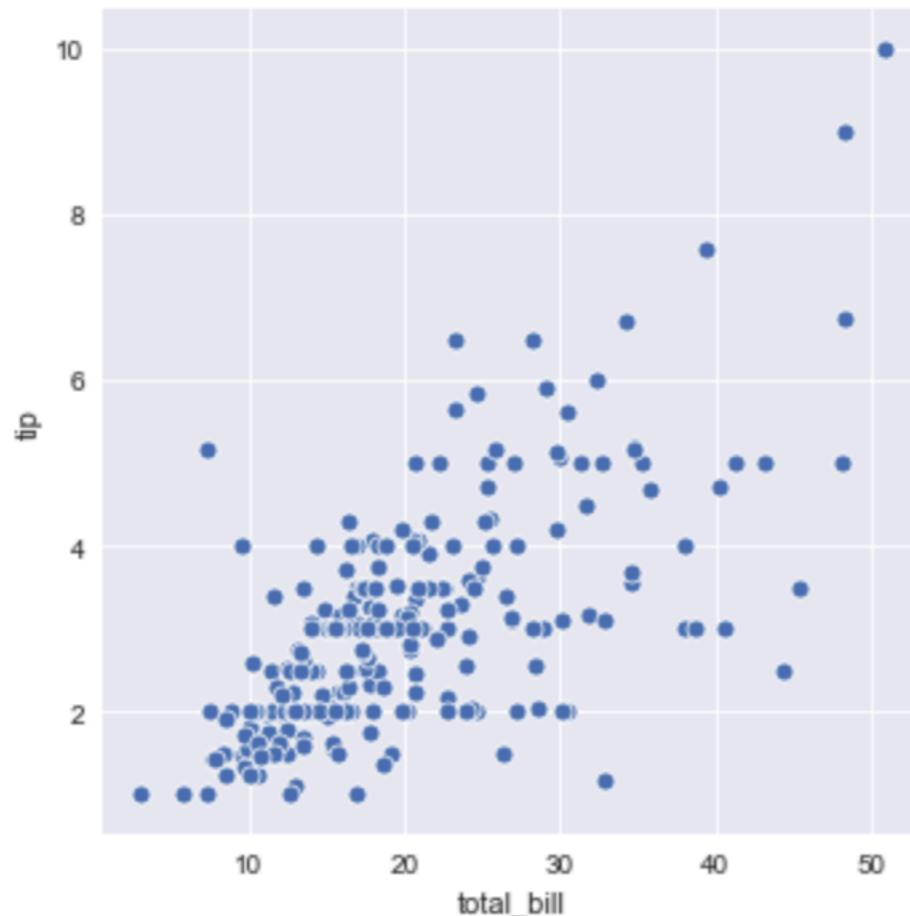
- `kind="scatter"`
- `kind="line"`
- `kind="strip"`
- `kind="swarm"`
- `kind="box"`
- `kind="violin"`
- `kind="boxen"`
- `kind="point"`
- `kind="bar"`
- `kind="count"`

# Figure vs Axes level

[github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn](https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn)

## Figure level

```
1 fg = sns.relplot(x="total_bill", y="tip", data=tips, kind="scatter")
```

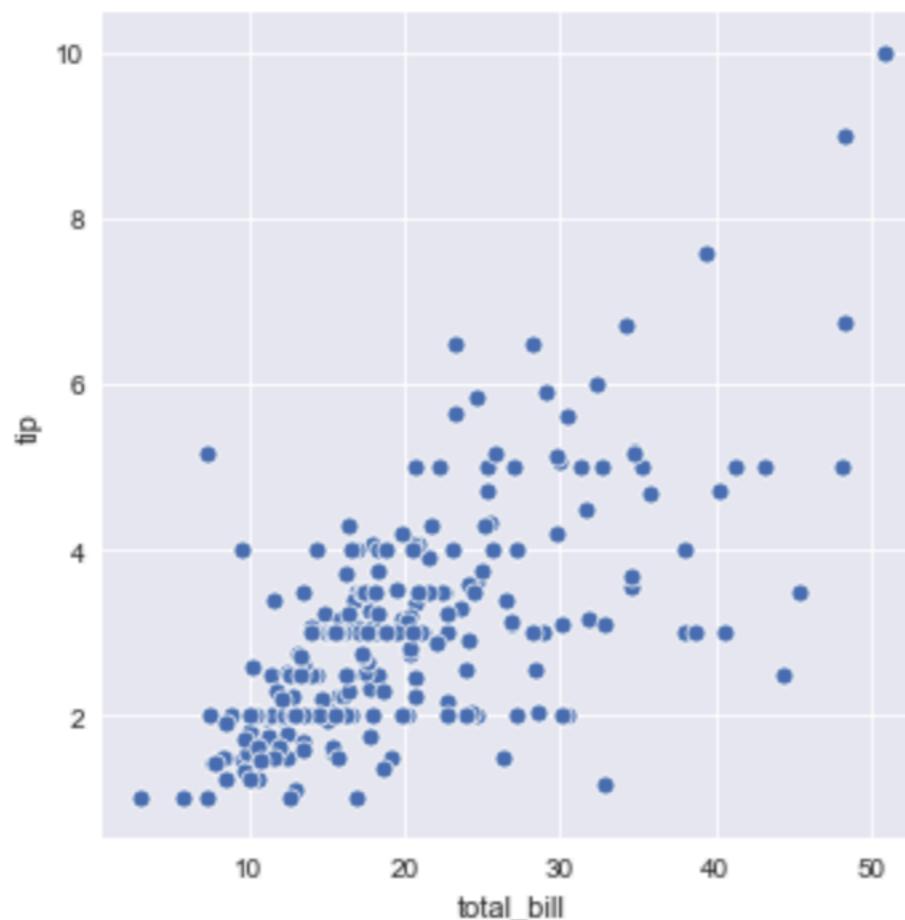


# Figure vs Axes level

[github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn](https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn)

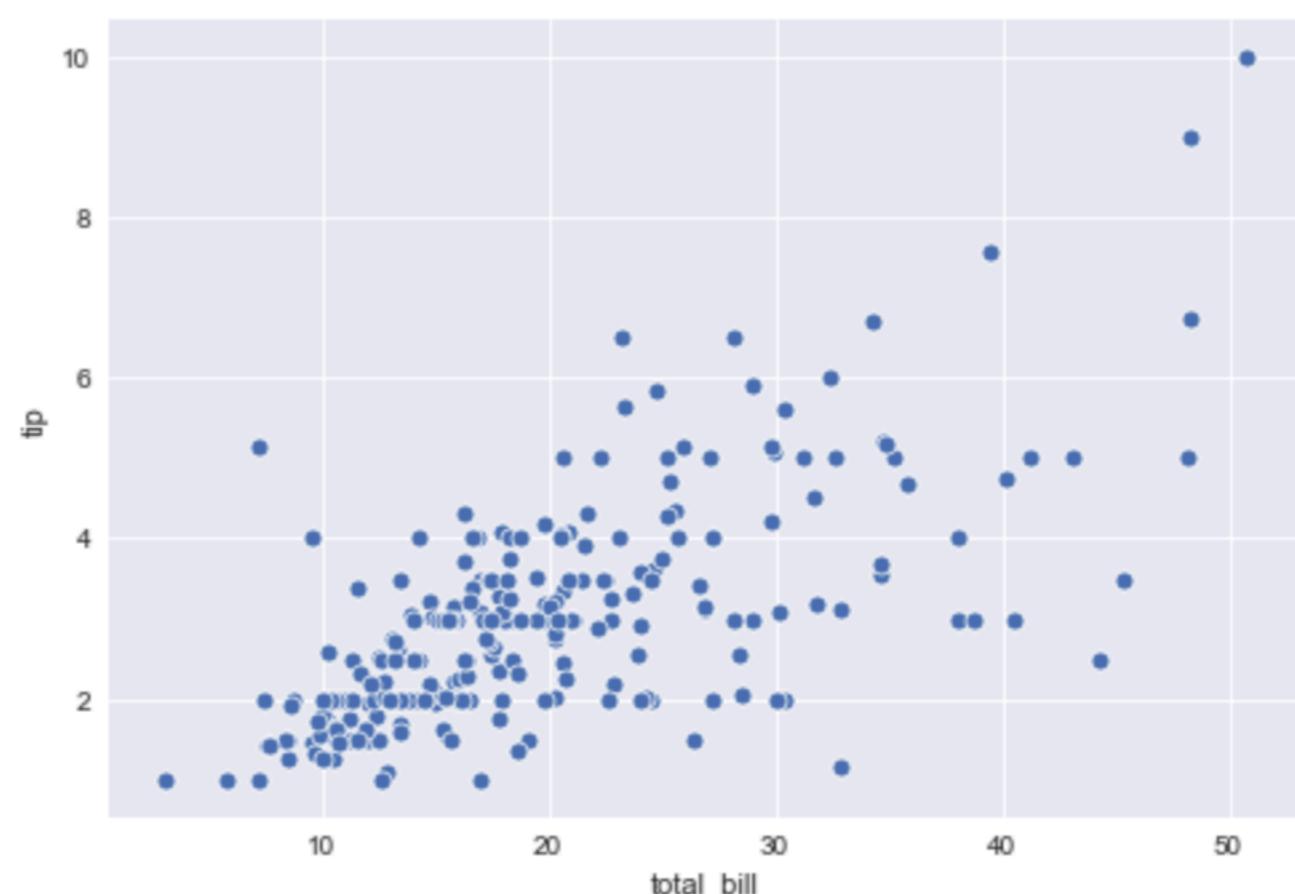
## Figure level

```
1 fg = sns.relplot(x="total_bill", y="tip", data=tips, kind="scatter")
```



Axes level

```
1 ax = sns.scatterplot(x="total_bill", y="tip", data=tips)
```

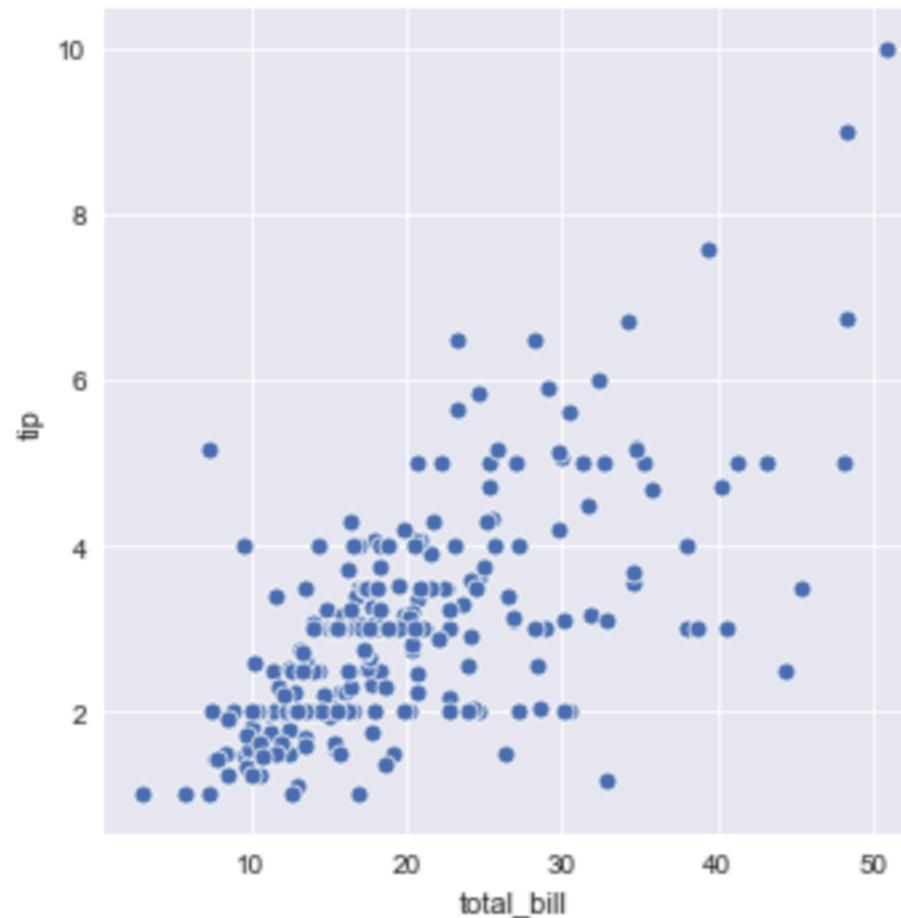


# Figure vs Axes level

[github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn](https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn)

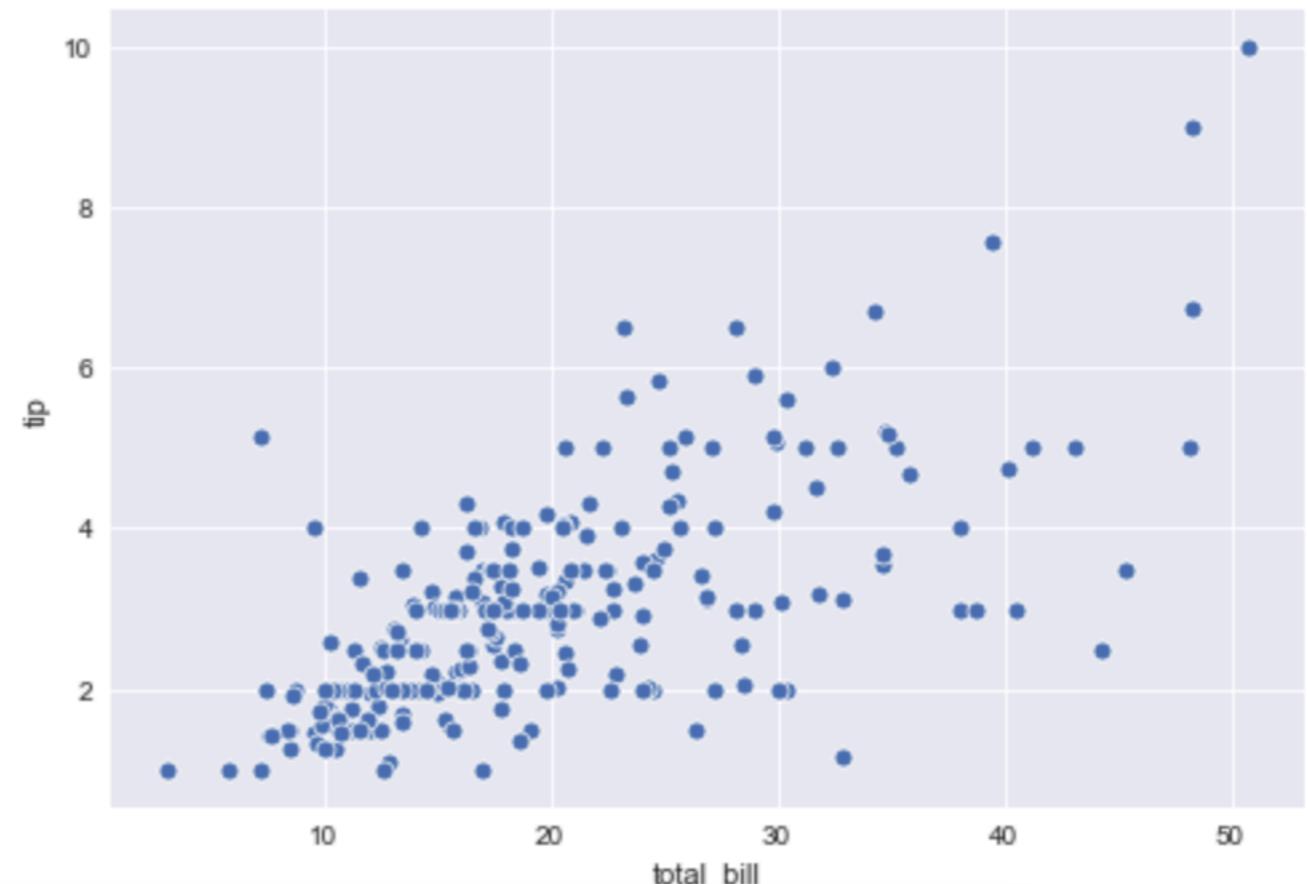
## Figure level

```
1 fg = sns.relplot(x="total_bill", y="tip", data=tips, kind="scatter")
```



Axes level

```
1 ax = sns.scatterplot(x="total_bill", y="tip", data=tips)
```



The two approaches produce slightly different results.  
For convenience, we will focus mostly on **Figure level** functions

# Basic function structure

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- The basic plotting functions are designed to work directly with **pandas** data frames
- Every plotting function takes a **data** parameter that is used to pass the correct **DataFrame** to the function
- There is no limitation on the number of columns that the **DataFrame** can contain.
- The specific **columns** to be plotted are passed by setting other parameters to the respective column names. In particular:
  - **x** - column to plot along the x-axis
  - **y** - column to plot along the y axis
- Plot properties such as **hue**, **size**, **style**, etc can also be set using column names
- In the case of figure level functions, the **kind** parameter determines what specific **type of plot** is produced.

# Figure level functions

---

- `sns.relplot(x, y, hue, size, style, data, kind)`
  - `x, y` - column names to plot in each axes
  - `hue` - column name specifying how to color each data element
  - `size` - column name to use to determine the size of each element
  - `style` - column name to use to determine the style of each element
  - `data` - dataframe containing the data to plot
  - `kind` - string specifying the type of plot to produce
- `sns.catplot(x, y, hue, order, data, orient, kind)`
  - `orient` - specifies the orientation of the plot ('v' or 'h' for vertical or horizontal)
  - `order` - specifies the order in which the categorical variable (`x` or `y`) is plotted
  - `*_order` - family of parameters that determiner the order in which the respective categorical value (`hue_order`, `style_order`, `size_order`, etc...) is plotted

# Figure level functions

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- As we saw, axes level and figure level functions are equivalent. Every plot you can generate with an **axes level** function can also be generated by a **figure level** function
- The converse is, however, not true.
- One of the main advantages of **figure level** functions is their ability to easily generate subplots by just passing a couple of extra parameters:
  - **row, col** - specifies the column names to be used to split the dataset and plot along rows and columns
  - **col\_wrap** - width at which to wrap the column. Incompatible with a row setting.
  - **row\_order, col\_order** - work similarly to the other **\*\_order** parameters
- The return types of **axes level** functions and **figure level** function are also different:
  - **Axes** level functions return a **matplotlib Axis** object
  - **Figure** level functions return a **seaborn FacetGrid** object
- Axes level functions can be easily added to a pre-existing **matplotlib** plot by passing an **matplotlib Axis** object to the **ax** parameter.

# Figure level functions

[github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn](https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn)

```
1 sns.relplot(x="total_bill", y="tip", data=tips, kind="scatter",
2               hue="sex", size="size",
3               col='smoker', row='day', style='time',
4               row_order=["Thur", "Fri", "Sat", 'Sun']
5 )
```

# Figure level functions

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# FacetGrid

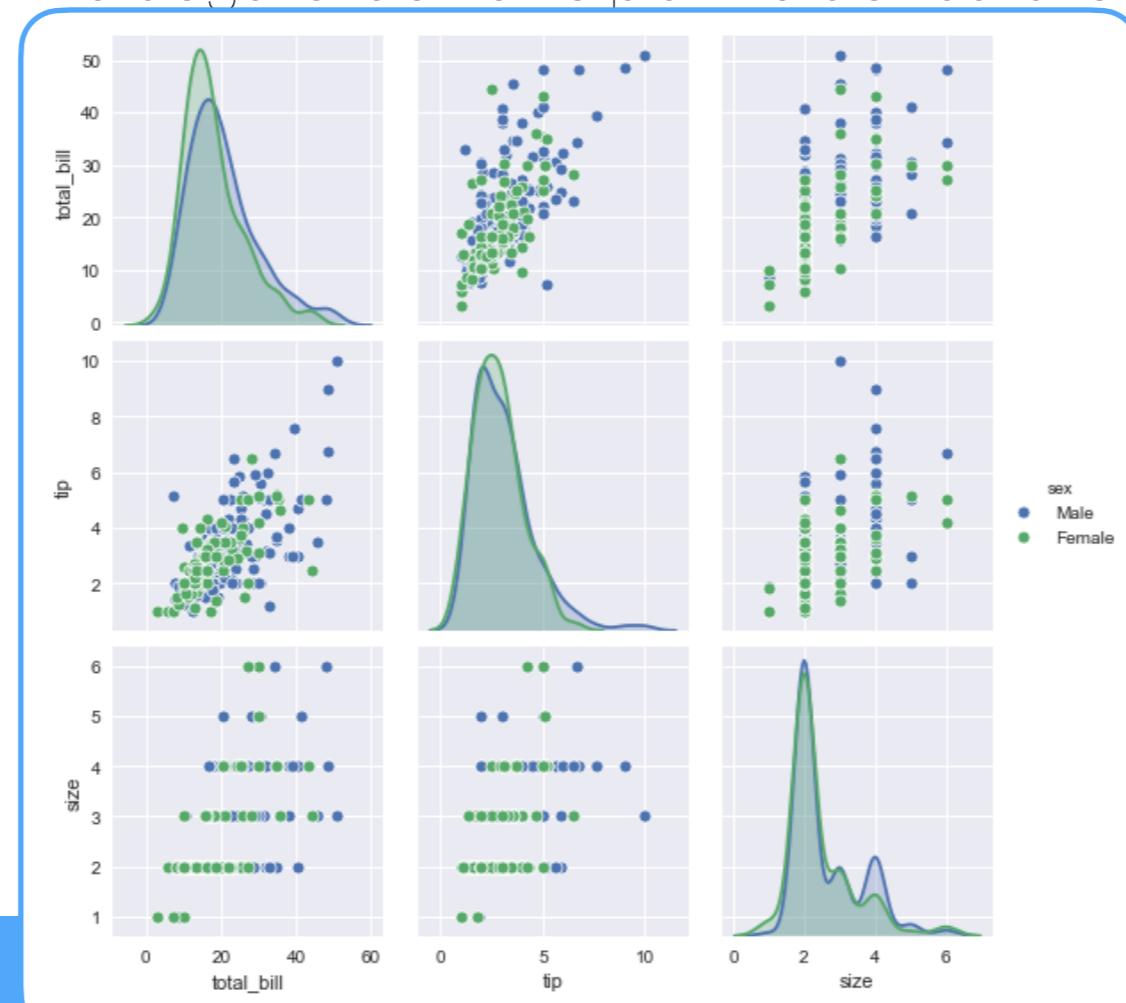
<https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.FacetGrid.html>

- **FacetGrid** is the object that **seaborn** uses in the background to generate the subplots.
- You can easily use **FacetGrid** with any **matplotlib** "compatible" plotting function.
- The process is divided into two parts:
  - First, you instantiate a **FacetGrid** object with the correct data frame and basic plotting parameters (these are the same parameters you would use with any other **seaborn** function).
  - Second, you use the **FacetGrid.map** method to initialize the **FacetGrid** object with the **function** that will generate the plot along with any extra parameters you require.
- Any function that modifies the currently active **Axis** object can be used (both **matplotlib** functions and **custom** functions)
- Any extra parameters passed to **map()** will be passed directly to the plotting function. This function should accept a **\*\*kwargs** argument
- **FacetGrid** will pass the sliced data as **Series** to the plotting function

# FacetGrid

<https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.FacetGrid.html>

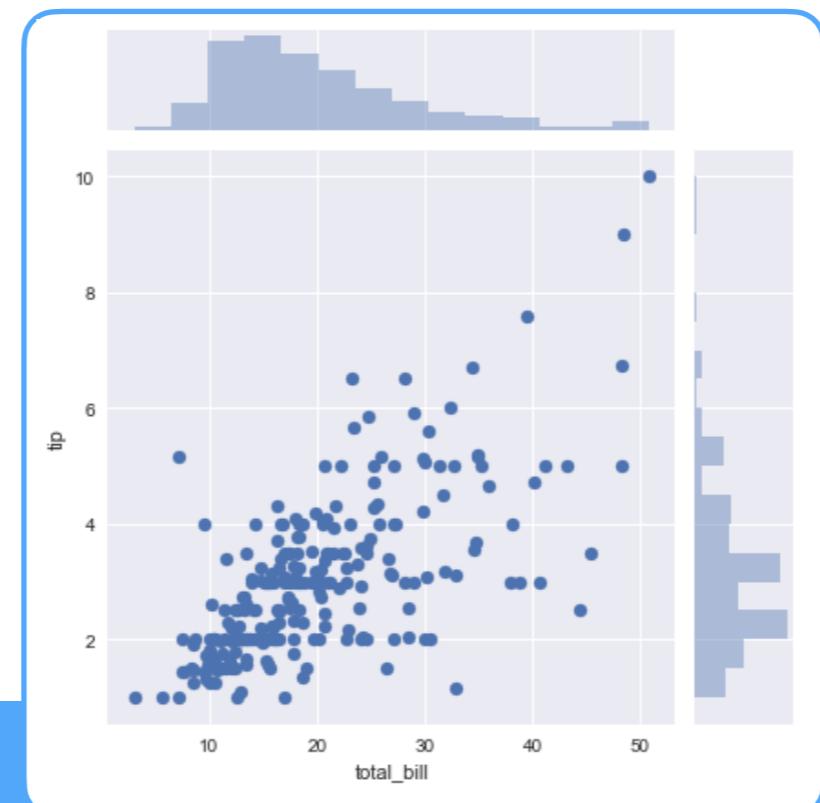
- After plotting the **FacetGrid** will contain a field **axes** containing an array with references to all the **matplotlib Axes** objects it generated.
- We can further customize the plot by directly using **matplotlib** functionality.
- **FacetGrid** is a general concept with several specialized variations within **seaborn**
  - **PairPlot** - specialized **FacetGrid** that automatically plots every pairwise relationship of numerical features. The diagonal elements plot the distributions of the respective feature.



# FacetGrid

<https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.FacetGrid.html>

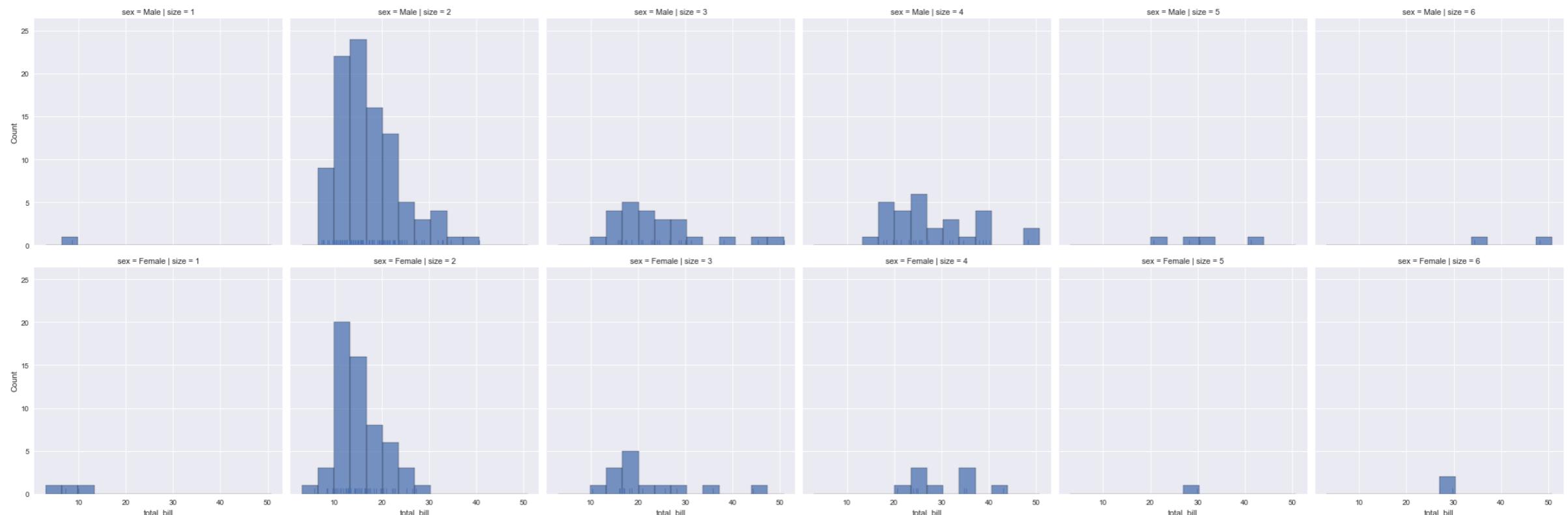
- After plotting the **FacetGrid** will contain a field **axes** containing an array with references to all the **matplotlib Axes** objects it generated.
- We can further customize the plot by directly using **matplotlib** functionality.
- **FacetGrid** is a general concept with several specialized variations within **seaborn**
  - **PairPlot** - specialized **FacetGrid** that automatically plots every pairwise relationship of numerical features. The diagonal elements plot the distributions of the respective feature.
  - **JointPlot** - specialized **FacetGrid** that uses marginal right and top plots to visualize the distributions of the X and Y features.



# Distribution plots

<https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.displot.html>

- We have covered the two main kinds of **Figure Level** plotting functions, `sns.relplot()` for Relationship Plots and `sns.catplot()` for Categorical Plots.
- The **third class** of function is `sns.displot()` for Distribution Plots and it allows us to generate a **FacetGrid** plot of the distributions underlying our data.
- Supports univariate and bivariate distribution of data
- Allows slicing using `hue`, `row`, `col`, etc.



# Distribution plots

<https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.displot.html>

- `sns.displot(x, y, hue, data, kind)`
  - **x, y** - column names to plot in each axes. Specify only **x** for univariate distribution and both **x** and **y** for bivariate distributions
  - **hue** - column name specifying how to color each data element
  - **data** - dataframe containing the data to plot
  - **row, col** - Column names to define the rows and columns of the **FacetGrid**
  - **kind** - string specifying the type of plot to produce
    - “**hist**” - Plot 1D or 2D histogram
    - “**kde**” - Plot histogram using Kernel Density Estimation
    - “**ecdf**” - Plot empirical Cumulative Distribution Function

# Types of plots

## Axes level

- `sns.histplot()`
- `sns.kdeplot()`
- `sns.ecdfplot()`

## Figure level

Distribution plots  
`sns.displot()`

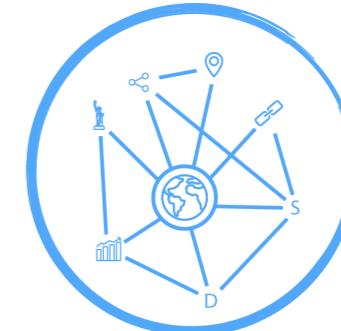
- `kind="hist"`
- `kind="kde"`
- `kind="ecdf"`



Code - Seaborn

<https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn>

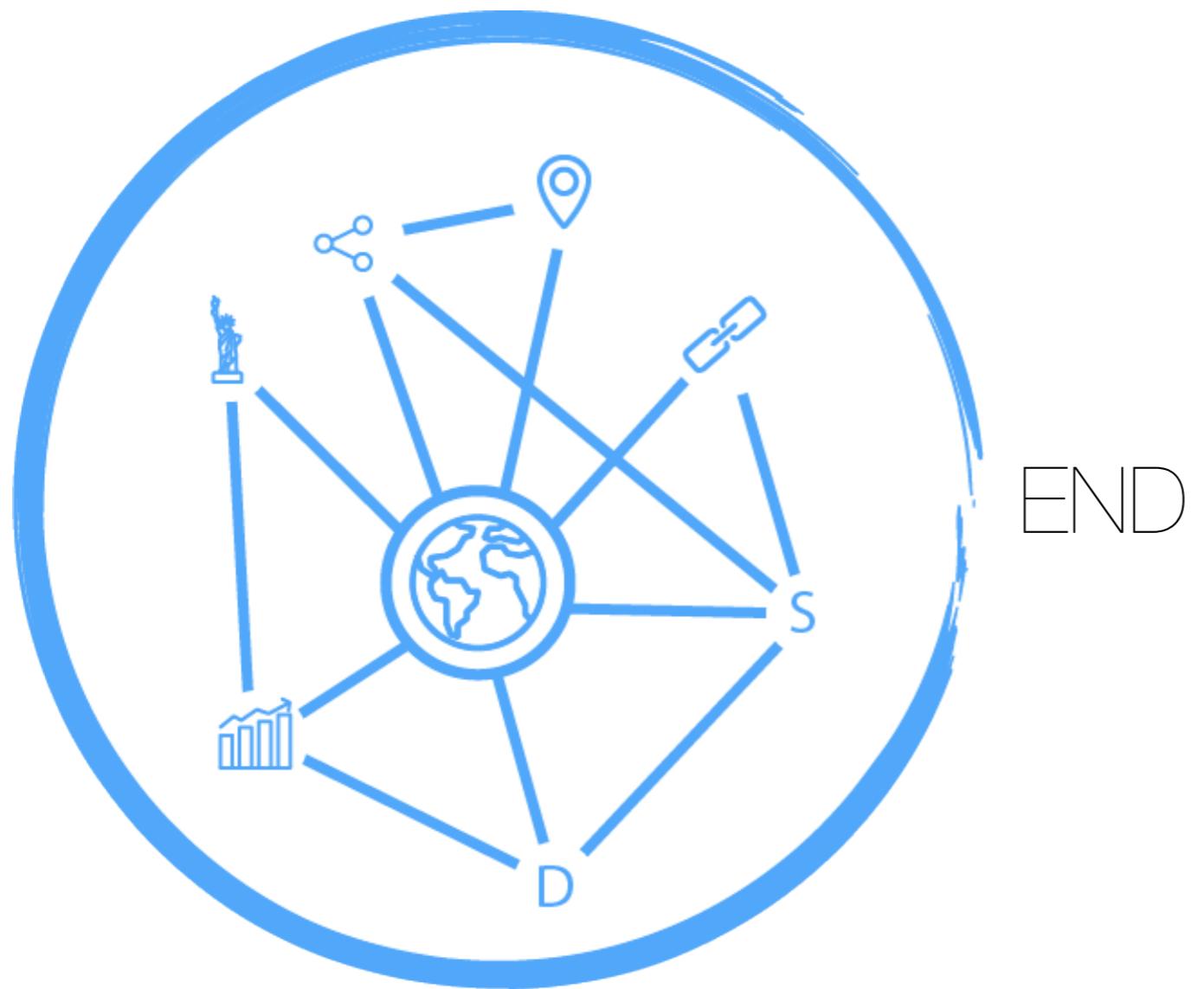
# Thank you!



[www.data4sci.com/newsletter](http://www.data4sci.com/newsletter)



- Hope you enjoyed this talk. Looking forward to your questions and thoughts.
- Don't forget to download the Jupyter notebook from [GitHub](https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn): [github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn](https://github.com/DataForScience/Seaborn)
- Please feel free to reach out on Social Media!
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