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Legends in R

How to modify the legend in R graphs. Nine examples of how to move, color, and hide the legend.



Python



R



Javascript

New to Plotly? [↗](#)

Plotly's R library is free and open source!

[Get started](#) by downloading the client and [reading the primer](#).

You can set up Plotly to work in [online](#) or [offline](#) mode.

We also have a quick-reference [cheatsheet](#) (new!) to help you get started!

Version Check [↗](#)

Version 4 of Plotly's R package is now [available](#)!

Check out [this post](#) for more information on breaking changes and new features available in this version.

```
library(plotly)
packageVersion('plotly')
```

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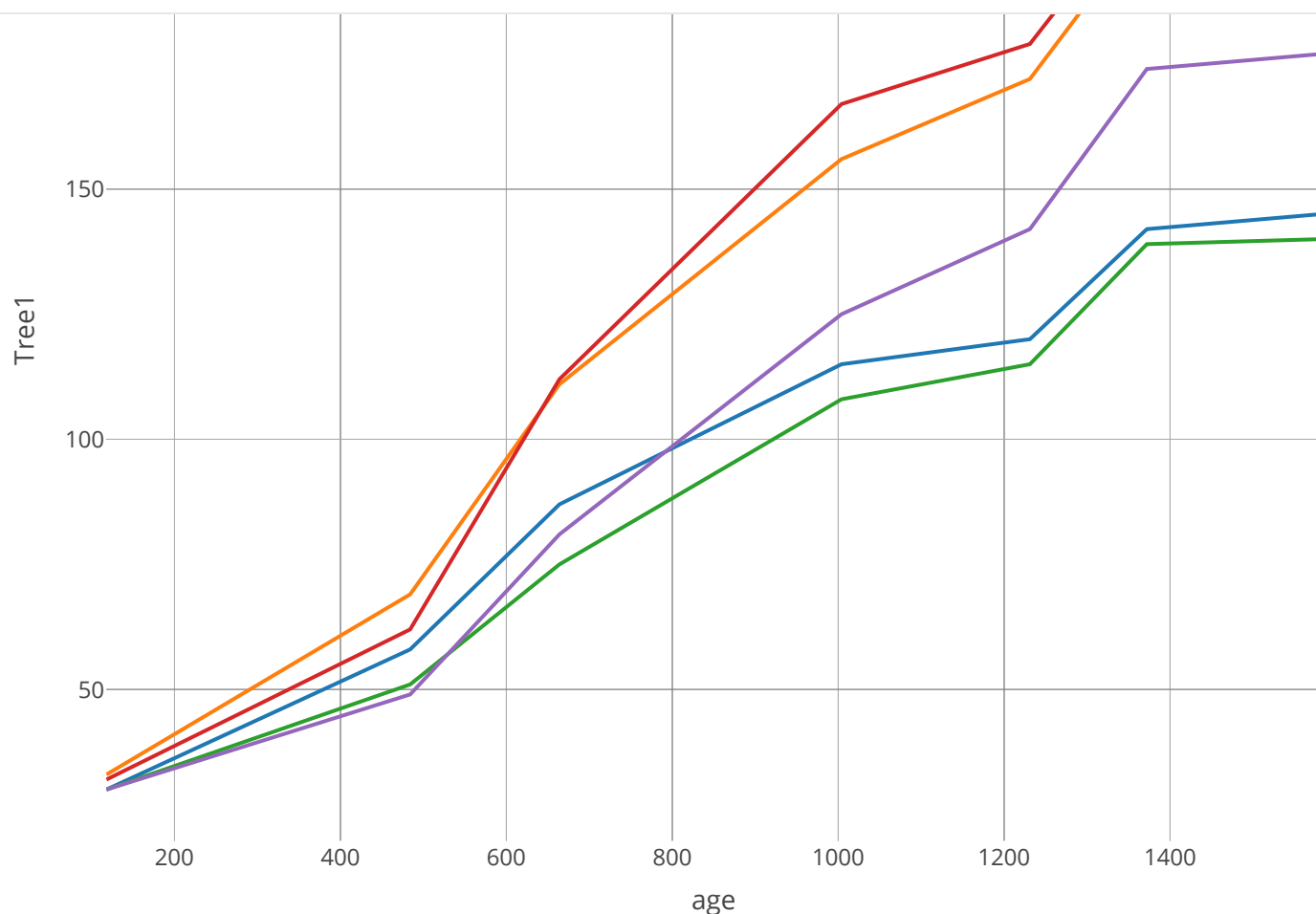
Legend Names [↗](#)

```
library(plotly)
library(tidyr)
library(plyr)

data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
data <- rename(data, c("1" = "Tree1", "2" = "Tree2", "3" = "Tree3", "4" = "Tree4",
"5" = "Tree5"))

p <- plot_ly(data, x = ~age, y = ~Tree1, type = 'scatter', mode = 'lines', name = 'Tree 1') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree2, name = 'Tree 2') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree3, name = 'Tree 3') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree4, name = 'Tree 4') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree5, name = 'Tree 5')

# Create a shareable link to your chart
# Set up API credentials: https://plot.ly/r/getting-started
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-names")
chart_link
```

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Hiding the Legend [↗](#)

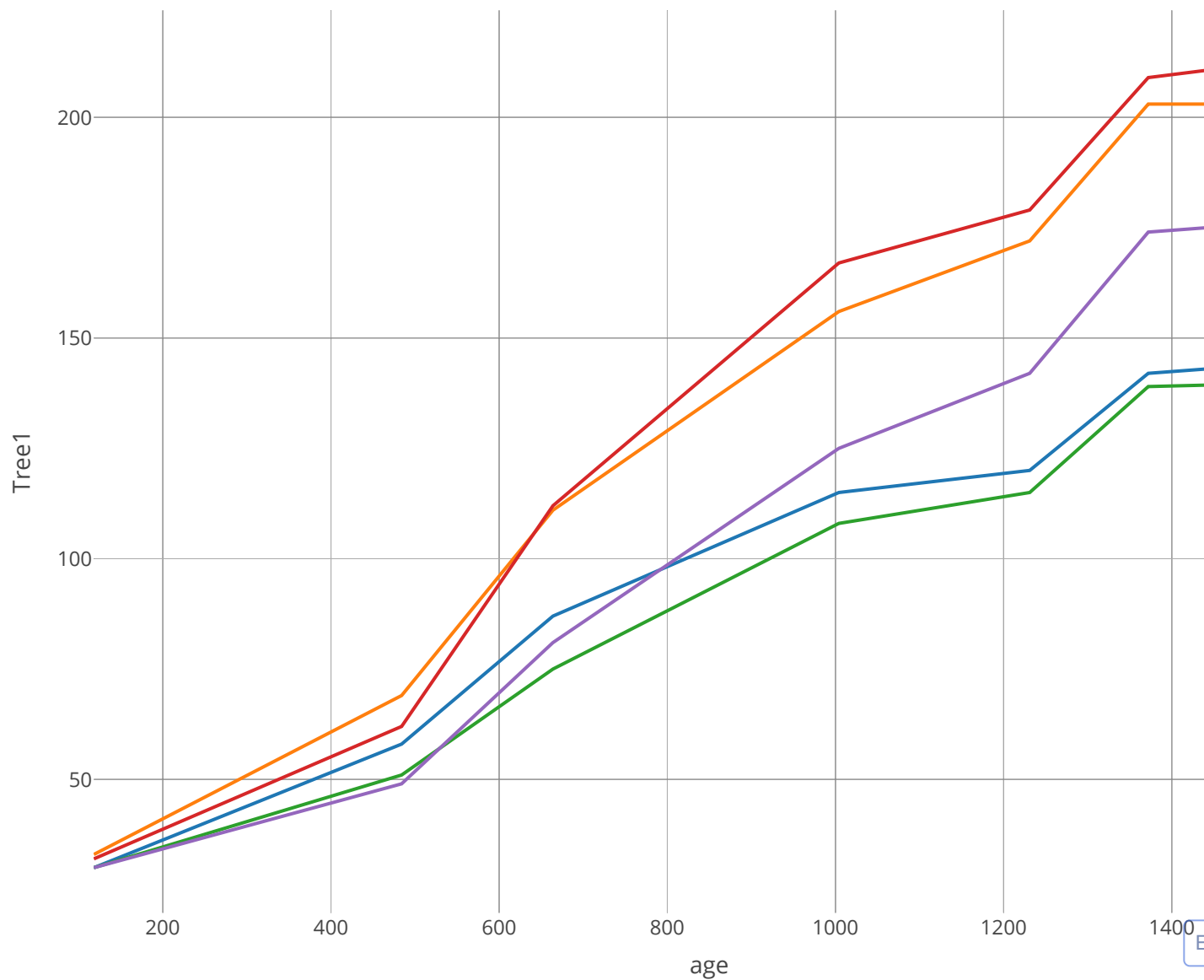
```
library(plotly)
library(tidyr)
library(plyr)

data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
data <- rename(data, c("1" = "Tree1", "2" = "Tree2", "3" = "Tree3", "4" = "Tree4",
"5" = "Tree5"))

p <- plot_ly(data, x = ~age, y = ~Tree1, type = 'scatter', mode = 'lines') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree2) %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree3) %>%
```

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```
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-hiding")  
chart_link
```



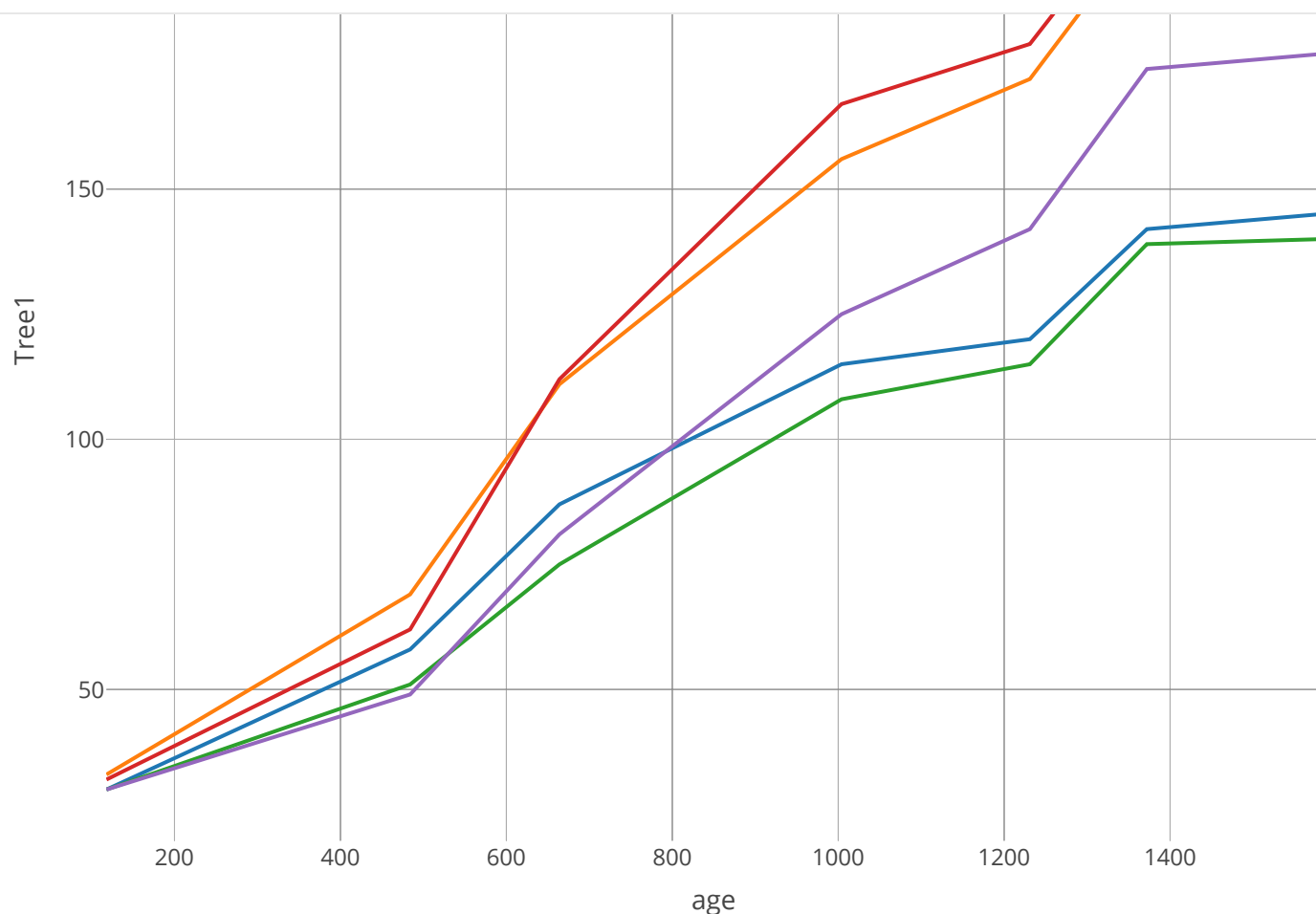
Hiding Legend Entries [↗](#)

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```
data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
data <- rename(data, c("1" = "Tree1", "2" = "Tree2", "3" = "Tree3", "4" = "Tree4",
"5" = "Tree5"))

p <- plot_ly(data, x = ~age, y = ~Tree1, type = 'scatter', mode = 'lines', name = 'Tree 1') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree2, name = 'Tree 2') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree3, name = 'Tree 3', showlegend = FALSE) %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree4, name = 'Tree 4') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree5, name = 'Tree 5')

# Create a shareable link to your chart
# Set up API credentials: https://plot.ly/r/getting-started
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-hiding2")
chart_link
```


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Positioning the Legend Inside the Plot [🔗](#)

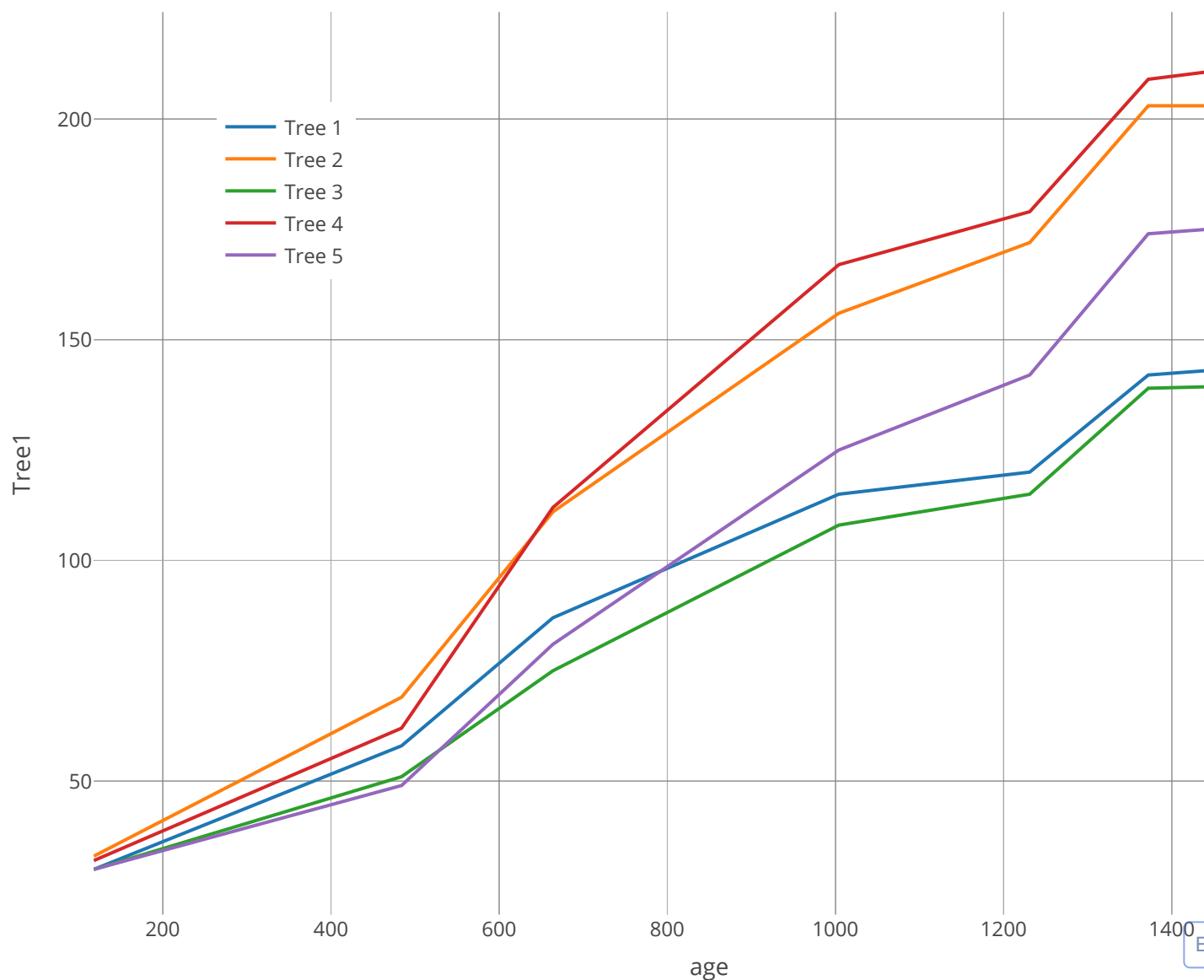
```
library(plotly)
library(tidyr)
library(plyr)

data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
data <- rename(data, c("1" = "Tree1", "2" = "Tree2", "3" = "Tree3", "4" = "Tree4",
"5" = "Tree5"))

p <- plot_ly(data, x = ~age, y = ~Tree1, type = 'scatter', mode = 'lines', name = 'Tree 1') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree2, name = 'Tree 2') %>%
```

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```
# Set up API credentials: https://plot.ly/r/getting-started
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-position_in")
chart_link
```



Positioning the Legend Outside the Plot [↗](#)

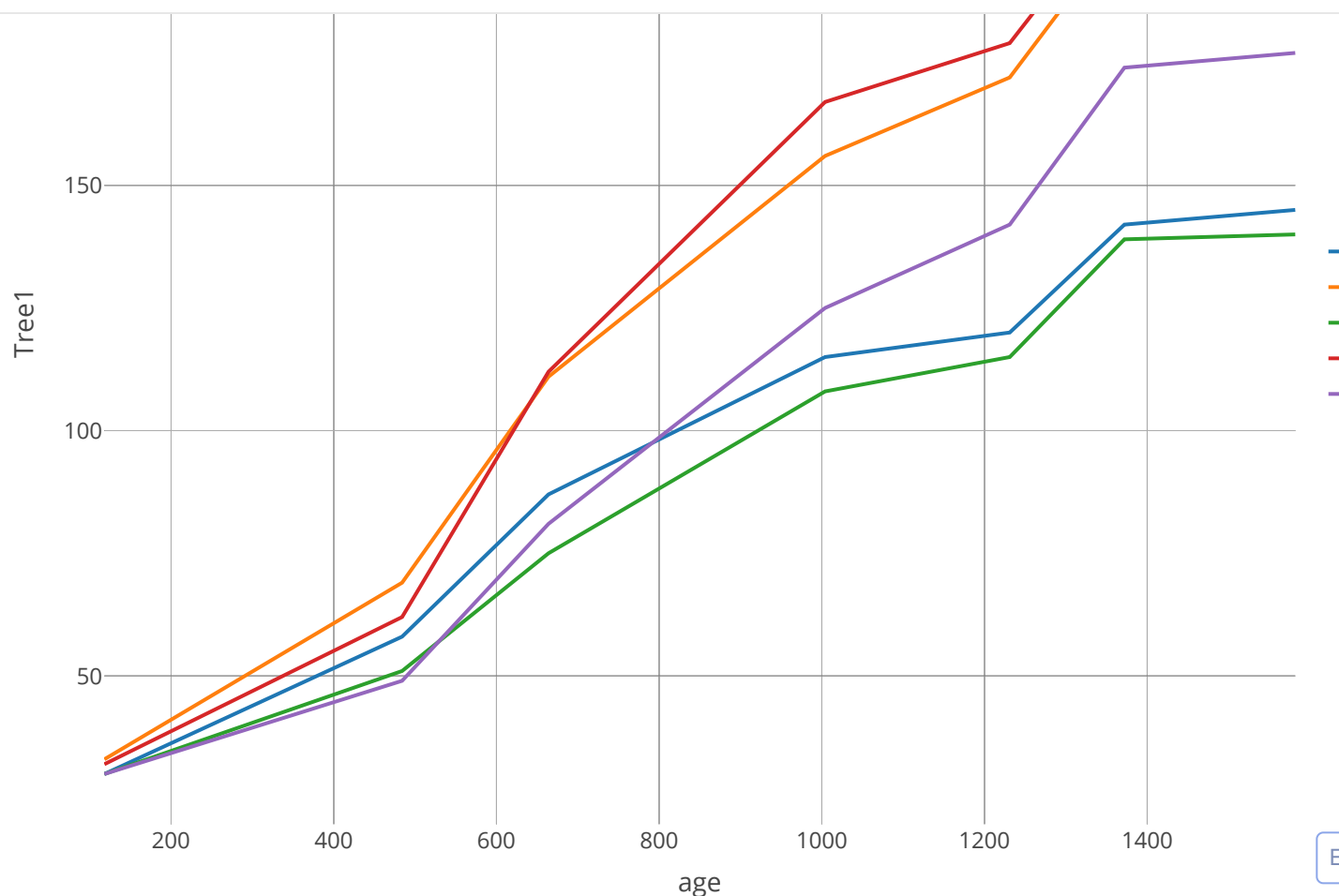
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```
data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
data <- rename(data, c("1" = "Tree1", "2" = "Tree2", "3" = "Tree3", "4" = "Tree4",
"5" = "Tree5"))

p <- plot_ly(data, x = ~age, y = ~Tree1, type = 'scatter', mode = 'lines', name = 'Tree 1') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree2, name = 'Tree 2') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree3, name = 'Tree 3') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree4, name = 'Tree 4') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree5, name = 'Tree 5') %>%
  layout(legend = list(x = 100, y = 0.5))

# Create a shareable link to your chart
# Set up API credentials: https://plot.ly/r/getting-started
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-position_out")
chart_link
```



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Changing the Legend Orientation [🔗](#)

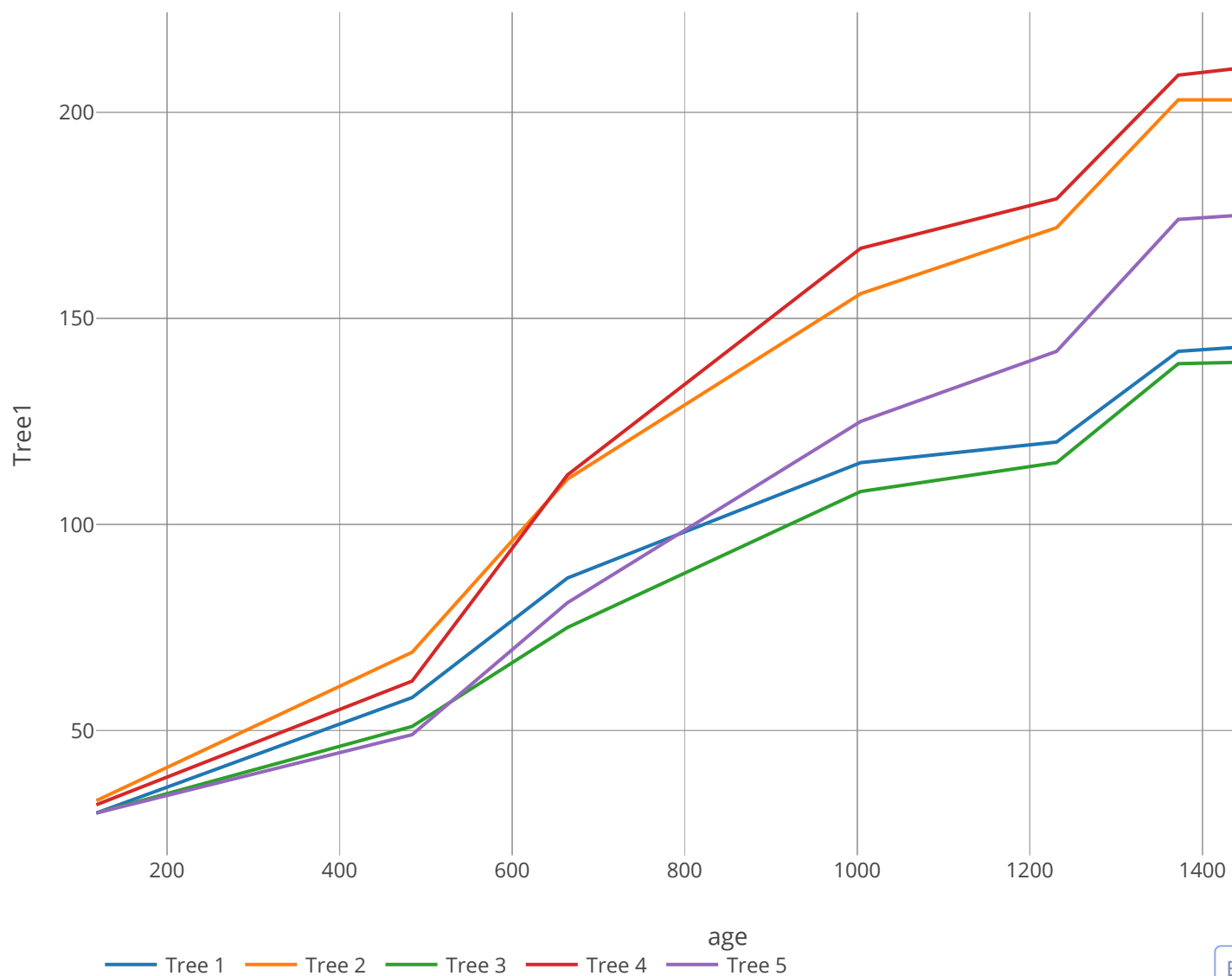
```
library(plotly)
library(tidyr)
library(plyr)

data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
data <- rename(data, c("1" = "Tree1", "2" = "Tree2", "3" = "Tree3", "4" = "Tree4",
"5" = "Tree5"))

p <- plot_ly(data, x = ~age, y = ~Tree1, type = 'scatter', mode = 'lines', name = 'Tree 1') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree2, name = 'Tree 2') %>%
```

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```
# Set up API credentials: https://plot.ly/r/getting-started
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-orientation")
chart_link
```



Styling the Legend [↗](#)

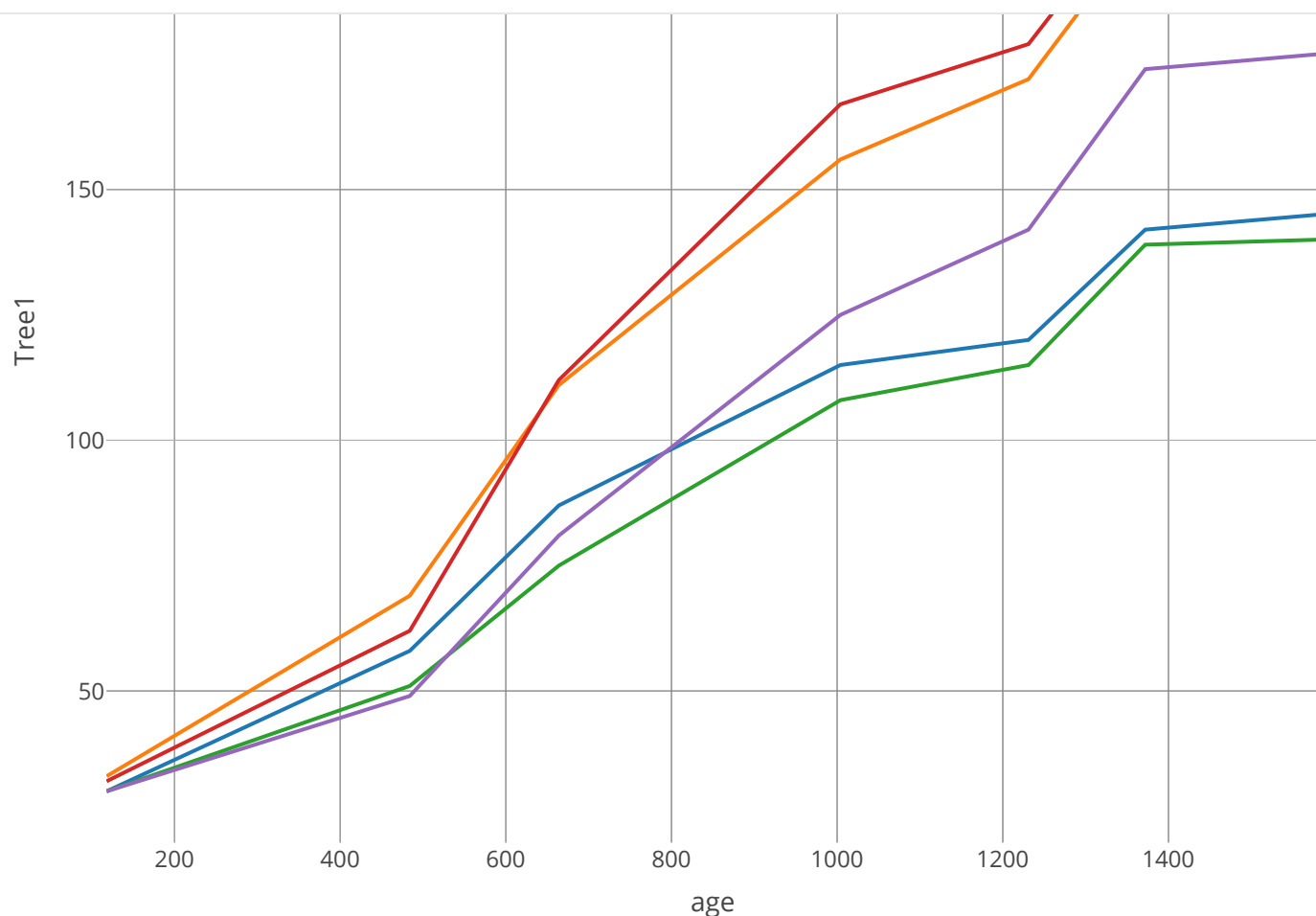
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```
data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
data <- rename(data, c("1" = "Tree1", "2" = "Tree2", "3" = "Tree3", "4" = "Tree4",
"5" = "Tree5"))

l <- list(
  font = list(
    family = "sans-serif",
    size = 12,
    color = "#000"),
  bgcolor = "#E2E2E2",
  bordercolor = "#FFFFFF",
  borderwidth = 2)

p <- plot_ly(data, x = ~age, y = ~Tree1, type = 'scatter', mode = 'lines', name = 'Tree 1') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree2, name = 'Tree 2') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree3, name = 'Tree 3') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree4, name = 'Tree 4') %>%
  add_trace(y = ~Tree5, name = 'Tree 5') %>%
  layout(legend = l)

# Create a shareable link to your chart
# Set up API credentials: https://plot.ly/r/getting-started
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-style")
chart_link
```

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Grouped Legend [↗](#)

Plotly legends are interactive. Click on the legend entries to hide and show traces. The `legendgroup` key groups legend entries so that clicking on one legend entry will hide or show all of the traces in that group.

```
library(plotly)
library(tidyr)
library(plyr)

data <- spread(Orange, Tree, circumference)
```


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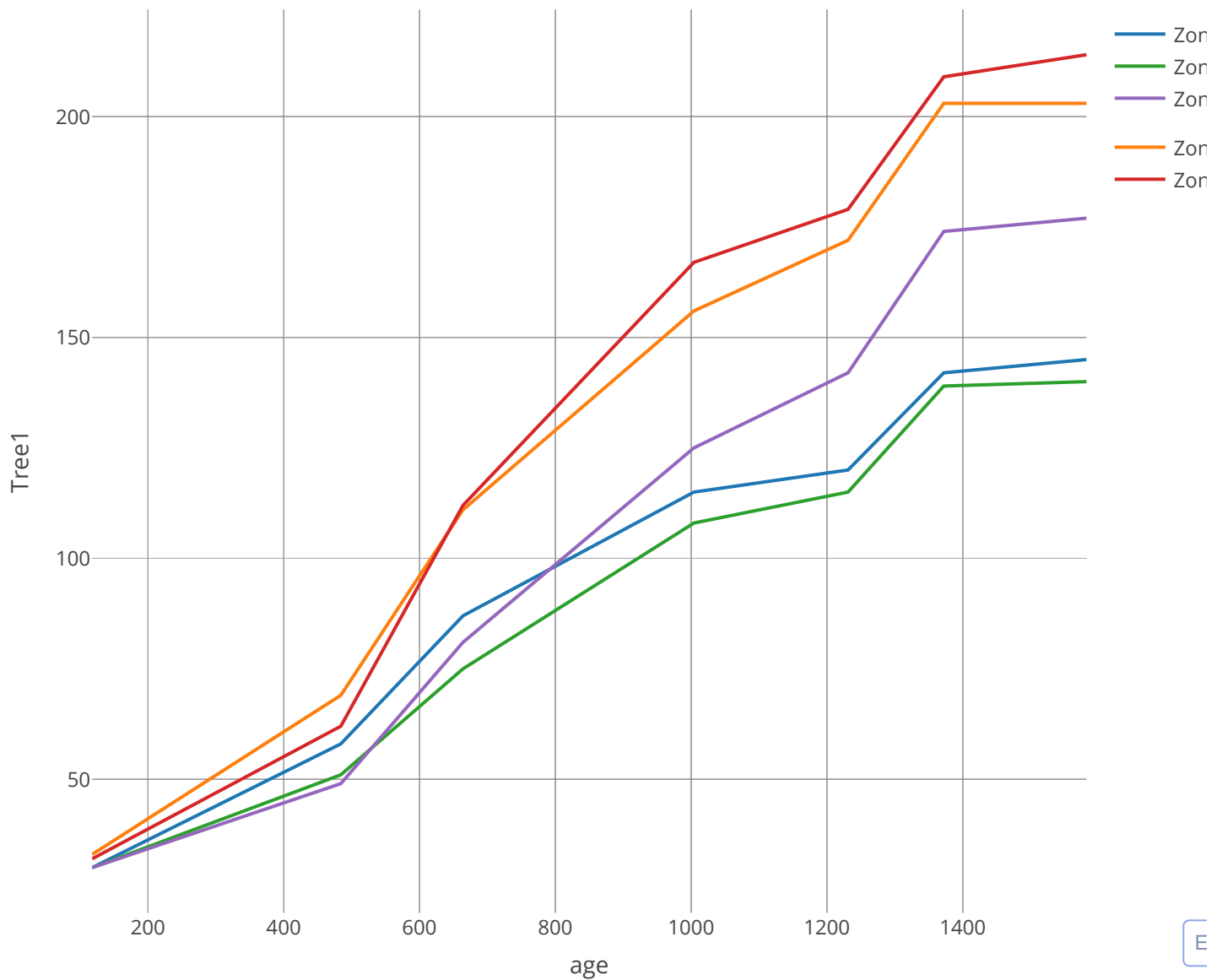
```
add_trace(y = ~Tree3, legendgroup = 'group1', name = 'Zone 1 - Tree 2') %>%
add_trace(y = ~Tree4, legendgroup = 'group2', name = 'Zone 2 - Tree 2') %>%
add_trace(y = ~Tree5, legendgroup = 'group1', name = 'Zone 1 - Tree 3')
```

Create a shareable link to your chart

Set up API credentials: <https://plot.ly/r/getting-started>

```
chart_link = api_create(p, filename="legend-grouped")
```

```
chart_link
```



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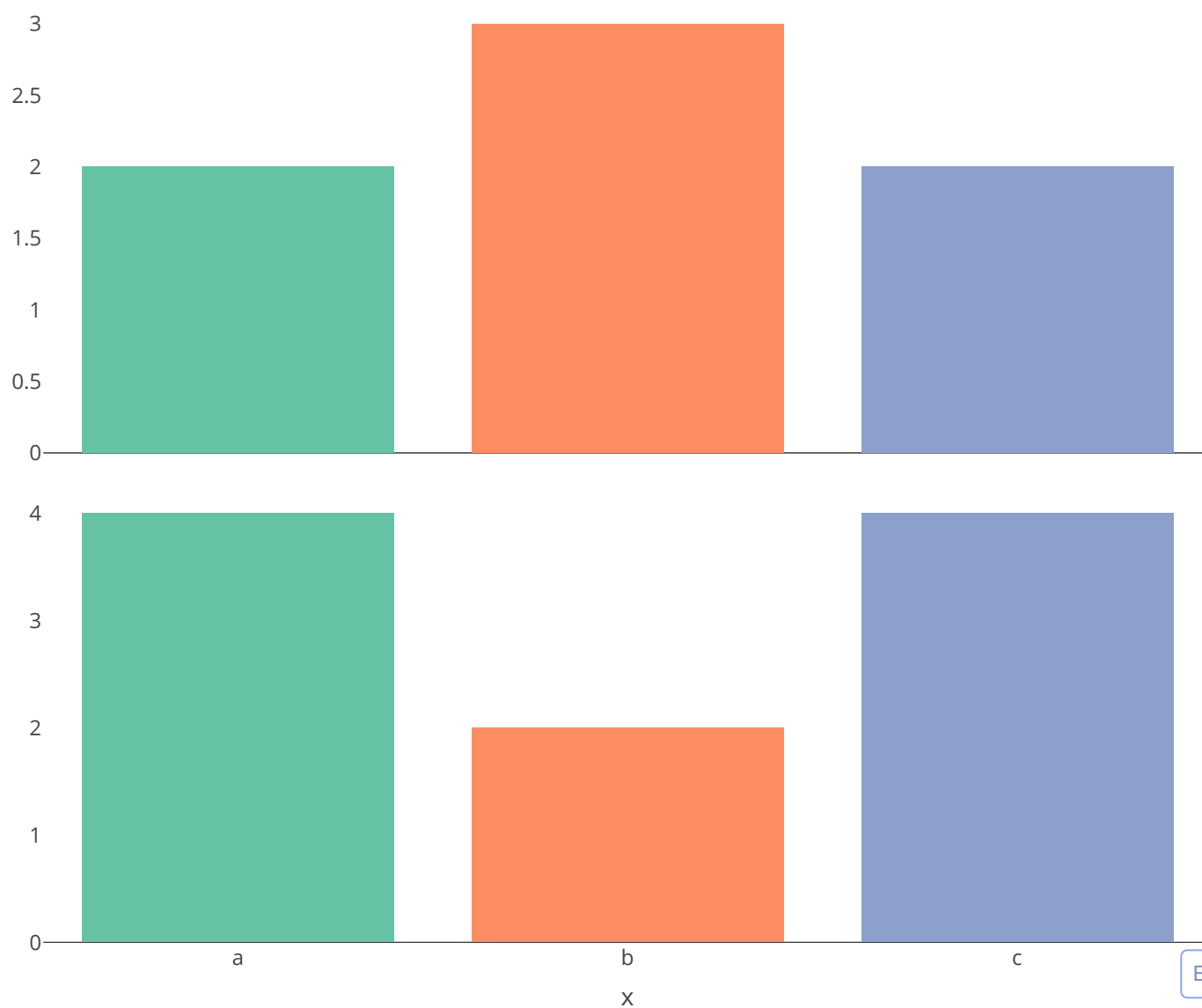
```
library(plotly)

df <- data.frame(x = c("a","b","c"), y = c(2,3,2), y2 = c(4,2,4))

p1 <- df %>%
  plot_ly(
    type = 'bar',
    x = ~x,
    y = ~y,
    color = ~x,
    legendgroup = ~x
  ) %>%
  layout(
    xaxis = list(
      showgrid = F
    ),
    yaxis = list(
      showgrid = F
    )
  )

p2 <- df%>%
  plot_ly(
    type = 'bar',
    x = ~x,
    y = ~y2,
    color = ~x,
    legendgroup = ~x,
    showlegend = F
  ) %>%
  layout(
    xaxis = list(
      showgrid = F
    ),
    yaxis = list(
      showgrid = F
    )
  )

p <- subplot(p1, p2, nrows = 2, shareX = T)
```

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Reference

See <https://plot.ly/r/reference/#layout-legend> for more information and chart attribute options!

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JOIN THE DASH CLUB

Dash Club is a no-fluff, twice-a-month email with links and notes on the latest Dash developments and community happenings.



Plotly: Getting started

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