

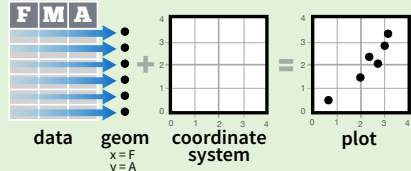
Data Visualization with ggplot2

Cheat Sheet



Basics

ggplot2 is based on the **grammar of graphics**, the idea that you can build every graph from the same few components: a **data** set, a set of **geoms**—visual marks that represent data points, and a **coordinate system**.



To display data values, map variables in the data set to aesthetic properties of the geom like **size**, **color**, and **x** and **y** locations.



Build a graph with **ggplot()** or **qplot()**

ggplot(data = mpg, aes(x = cty, y = hwy))

Begins a plot that you finish by adding layers to. No defaults, but provides more control than **qplot()**.

data

```
ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy, cty)) +  
  geom_point(aes(color = cyl)) +  
  geom_smooth(method = "lm") +  
  coord_cartesian() +  
  scale_color_gradient() +  
  theme_bw()
```

add layers, elements with +

layer = geom + default stat + layer specific mappings

additional elements

Add a new layer to a plot with a **geom_*()** or **stat_*()** function. Each provides a geom, a set of aesthetic mappings, and a default stat and position adjustment.

aesthetic mappings **data** **geom**

qplot(x = cty, y = hwy, color = cyl, data = mpg, geom = "point")

Creates a complete plot with given data, geom, and mappings. Supplies many useful defaults.

last_plot()

Returns the last plot

ggsave("plot.png", width = 5, height = 5)

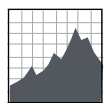
Saves last plot as 5' x 5' file named "plot.png" in working directory. Matches file type to file extension.

Geoms - Use a geom to represent data points, use the geom's aesthetic properties to represent variables. Each function returns a layer.

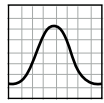
One Variable

Continuous

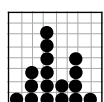
a <- ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy))



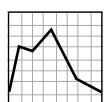
a + geom_area(stat = "bin")
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size
b + geom_area(aes(y = ..density..), stat = "bin")



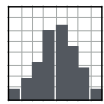
a + geom_density(kernel = "gaussian")
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight
b + geom_density(aes(y = ..county..))



a + geom_dotplot()
x, y, alpha, color, fill



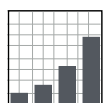
a + geom_freqpoly()
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size
b + geom_freqpoly(aes(y = ..density..))



a + geom_histogram(binwidth = 5)
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight
b + geom_histogram(aes(y = ..density..))

Discrete

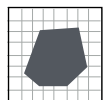
b <- ggplot(mpg, aes(fl))



b + geom_bar()
x, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

Graphical Primitives

c <- ggplot(map, aes(long, lat))

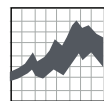


c + geom_polygon(aes(group = group))
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

d <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))

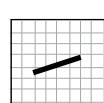


d + geom_path(lineend = "butt", linejoin = "round", linemitre = 1)
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

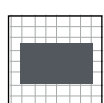


d + geom_ribbon(aes(ymin = unemploy - 900, ymax = unemploy + 900))
x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

e <- ggplot(seals, aes(x = long, y = lat))



e + geom_segment(aes(xend = long + delta_long, yend = lat + delta_lat))
x, xend, y, yend, alpha, color, linetype, size

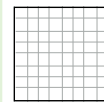


e + geom_rect(aes(xmin = long, ymin = lat, xmax = long + delta_long, ymax = lat + delta_lat))
xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

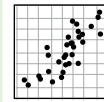
Two Variables

Continuous X, Continuous Y

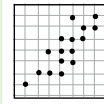
f <- ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy))



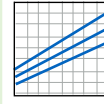
f + geom_blank()
(Useful for expanding limits)



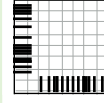
f + geom_jitter()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size



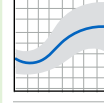
f + geom_point()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size



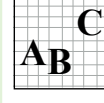
f + geom_quantile()
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size, weight



f + geom_rug(sides = "bl")
alpha, color, linetype, size



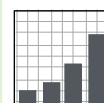
f + geom_smooth(model = lm)
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight



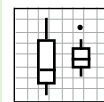
f + geom_text(aes(label = cty))
x, y, label, alpha, angle, color, family, fontface, hjust, lineheight, size, vjust

Discrete X, Continuous Y

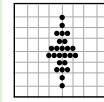
g <- ggplot(mpg, aes(class, hwy))



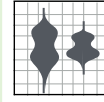
g + geom_bar(stat = "identity")
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight



g + geom_boxplot()
lower, middle, upper, x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, shape, size, weight



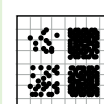
g + geom_dotplot(binaxis = "y", stackdir = "center")
x, y, alpha, color, fill



g + geom_violin(scale = "area")
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

Discrete X, Discrete Y

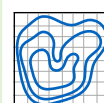
h <- ggplot(diamonds, aes(cut, color))



h + geom_jitter()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size

Three Variables

seals\$z <- with(seals, sqrt(delta_long^2 + delta_lat^2))
m <- ggplot(seals, aes(long, lat))



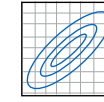
m + geom_contour(aes(z = z))
x, y, z, alpha, colour, linetype, size, weight

Continuous Bivariate Distribution

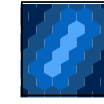
i <- ggplot(movies, aes(year, rating))



i + geom_bin2d(binwidth = c(5, 0.5))
xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight



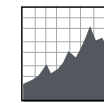
i + geom_density2d()
x, y, alpha, colour, linetype, size



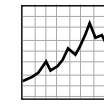
i + geom_hex()
x, y, alpha, colour, fill size

Continuous Function

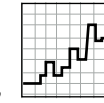
j <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))



j + geom_area()
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size



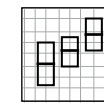
j + geom_line()
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size



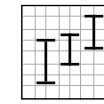
j + geom_step(direction = "hv")
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

Visualizing error

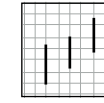
df <- data.frame(grp = c("A", "B"), fit = 4:5, se = 1:2)
k <- ggplot(df, aes(grp, fit, ymin = fit-se, ymax = fit+se))



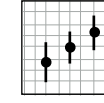
k + geom_crossbar(fatten = 2)
x, y, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size



k + geom_errorbar()
x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, linetype, size, width (also **geom_errorbarh()**)



k + geom_linerange()
x, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, linetype, size



k + geom_pointrange()
x, y, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, fill, linetype, shape, size

Maps

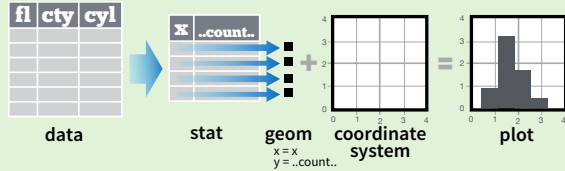
data <- data.frame(murder = USArrests\$Murder, state = tolower(rownames(USArrests)))
map <- map_data("state")
l <- ggplot(data, aes(fill = murder))



l + geom_map(aes(map_id = state), map = map) + expand_limits(x = map\$long, y = map\$lat)
map_id, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

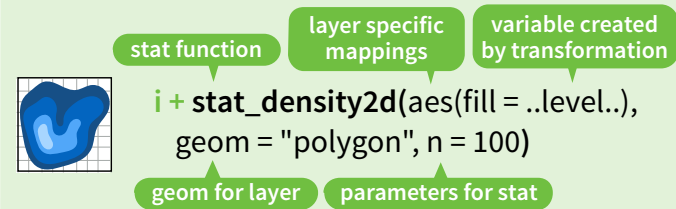
Stats - An alternative way to build a layer

Some plots visualize a **transformation** of the original data set. Use a **stat** to choose a common transformation to visualize, e.g. `a + geom_bar(stat = "bin")`



Each stat creates additional variables to map aesthetics to. These variables use a common **..name..** syntax.

stat functions and geom functions both combine a stat with a geom to make a layer, i.e. `stat_bin(geom="bar")` does the same as `geom_bar(stat="bin")`



a + stat_bin(binwidth = 1, origin = 10) 1D distributions
x, y | ..count.., ..ncount.., ..density.., ..ndensity..
a + stat_bindot(binwidth = 1, binaxis = "x")
x, y, | ..count.., ..ncount..
a + stat_density(adjust = 1, kernel = "gaussian")
x, y, | ..count.., ..density.., ..scaled..

f + stat_bin2d(bins = 30, drop = TRUE) 2D distributions
x, y, fill | ..count.., ..density..
f + stat_binhex(bins = 30)
x, y, fill | ..count.., ..density..
f + stat_density2d(contour = TRUE, n = 100)
x, y, color, size | ..level..

m + stat_contour(aes(z = z)) 3 Variables
x, y, z, order | ..level..
m + stat_spoke(aes(radius = z, angle = z))
angle, radius, x, xend, y, yend | ..x.., ..xend.., ..y.., ..yend..
m + stat_summary_hex(aes(z = z), bins = 30, fun = mean)
x, y, z, fill | ..value..
m + stat_summary2d(aes(z = z), bins = 30, fun = mean)
x, y, z, fill | ..value..

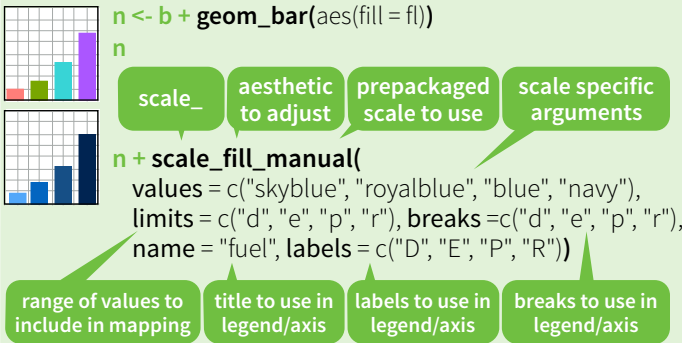
g + stat_boxplot(coef = 1.5) Comparisons
x, y | ..lower.., ..middle.., ..upper.., ..outliers..
g + stat_ydensity(adjust = 1, kernel = "gaussian", scale = "area")
x, y | ..density.., ..scaled.., ..count.., ..n.., ..violinwidth.., ..width..

f + stat_ecdf(n = 40) Functions
x, y | ..x.., ..y..
f + stat_quantile(quantiles = c(0.25, 0.5, 0.75), formula = y ~ log(x), method = "rq")
x, y | ..quantile.., ..x.., ..y..
f + stat_smooth(method = "auto", formula = y ~ x, se = TRUE, n = 80, fullrange = FALSE, level = 0.95)
x, y | ..se.., ..x.., ..y.., ..ymin.., ..ymax..

ggplot() + stat_function(aes(x = -3:3), fun = dnorm, n = 101, args = list(sd = 0.5)) General Purpose
x | ..y..
f + stat_identity()
ggplot() + stat_qq(aes(sample = 1:100), distribution = qt, dparams = list(df = 5))
sample, x, y | ..x.., ..y..
f + stat_sum()
x, y, size | ..size..
f + stat_summary(fun.data = "mean_cl_boot")
f + stat_unique()

Scales

Scales control how a plot maps data values to the visual values of an aesthetic. To change the mapping, add a custom scale.



General Purpose scales

Use with any aesthetic:
alpha, color, fill, linetype, shape, size

scale_*_continuous() - map cont' values to visual values
scale_*_discrete() - map discrete values to visual values
scale_*_identity() - use data values as visual values
scale_*_manual(values = c()) - map discrete values to manually chosen visual values

X and Y location scales

Use with x or y aesthetics (x shown here)

scale_x_date(labels = date_format("%m/%d"), breaks = date_breaks("2 weeks")) - treat x values as dates. See ?strptime for label formats.
scale_x_datetime() - treat x values as date times. Use same arguments as scale_x_date().
scale_x_log10() - Plot x on log10 scale
scale_x_reverse() - Reverse direction of x axis
scale_x_sqrt() - Plot x on square root scale

Color and fill scales

Discrete

Continuous

n + geom_bar(aes(fill = fl))
n + scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Blues")
For palette choices:
library(RColorBrewer)
display.brewer.all()
n + scale_fill_grey(start = 0.2, end = 0.8, na.value = "red")
o + geom_dotplot(aes(fill = ..x..))
o + scale_fill_gradient(low = "red", high = "yellow")
o + scale_fill_gradient2(low = "red", high = "blue", mid = "white", midpoint = 25)
o + scale_fill_gradientn(colours = terrain.colors(6))
Also: rainbow(), heat.colors(), topo.colors(), cm.colors(), RColorBrewer::brewer.pal()

Shape scales

p + geom_point(aes(shape = fl))
p + scale_shape(solid = FALSE)
p + scale_shape_manual(values = c(3:7))
Shape values shown in chart on right
Manual shape values
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
□ ○ △ ☆ × ◇ ⊕ ⊗ ⊛ ⊞ ⊠ ⊡ ⊢ ⊣ ⊤ ⊥ ⊦ ⊧ ⊨ ⊩ ⊪ ⊫ ⊬ ⊭ ⊮ ⊯ ⊰ ⊱ ⊲ ⊳ ⊴ ⊵ ⊶ ⊷ ⊸ ⊹ ⊺ ⊻ ⊼ ⊽ ⊾ ⊿ ⊺ ⊻ ⊼ ⊽ ⊾ ⊿

Size scales

q + geom_point(aes(size = cyl))
q + scale_size_area(max = 6)
Value mapped to area of circle (not radius)

Coordinate Systems

r <- b + geom_bar()
r + coord_cartesian(xlim = c(0, 5))
xlim, ylim
The default cartesian coordinate system
r + coord_fixed(ratio = 1/2)
ratio, xlim, ylim
Cartesian coordinates with fixed aspect ratio between x and y units
r + coord_flip()
xlim, ylim
Flipped Cartesian coordinates
r + coord_polar(theta = "x", direction = 1)
theta, start, direction
Polar coordinates
r + coord_trans(ytrans = "sqrt")
xtrans, ytrans, limx, limy
Transformed cartesian coordinates. Set xtrans and ytrans to the name of a window function.
z + coord_map(projection = "ortho", orientation = c(41, -74, 0))
projection, orientation, xlim, ylim
Map projections from the mapproj package (mercator (default), azequalarea, lagrange, etc.)

Position Adjustments

Position adjustments determine how to arrange geoms that would otherwise occupy the same space.

s <- ggplot(mpg, aes(fl, fill = drv))
s + geom_bar(position = "dodge")
Arrange elements side by side
s + geom_bar(position = "fill")
Stack elements on top of one another, normalize height
s + geom_bar(position = "stack")
Stack elements on top of one another
f + geom_point(position = "jitter")
Add random noise to X and Y position of each element to avoid overplotting

Each position adjustment can be recast as a function with manual **width** and **height** arguments

s + geom_bar(position = position_dodge(width = 1))

Themes

r + theme_bw()
White background with grid lines
r + theme_classic()
White background no gridlines
r + theme_grey()
Grey background (default theme)
r + theme_minimal()
Minimal theme
ggthemes - Package with additional ggplot2 themes

Faceting

Facets divide a plot into subplots based on the values of one or more discrete variables.

t <- ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy)) + geom_point()
t + facet_grid(. ~ fl)
facet into columns based on fl
t + facet_grid(year ~ .)
facet into rows based on year
t + facet_grid(year ~ fl)
facet into both rows and columns
t + facet_wrap(~ fl)
wrap facets into a rectangular layout

Set **scales** to let axis limits vary across facets

t + facet_grid(y ~ x, scales = "free")
x and y axis limits adjust to individual facets
• "free_x" - x axis limits adjust
• "free_y" - y axis limits adjust

Set **labeller** to adjust facet labels

t + facet_grid(. ~ fl, labeller = label_both)
fl: c fl: d fl: e fl: p fl: r
t + facet_grid(. ~ fl, labeller = label_bquote(alpha ^ .(x)))
 α^c α^d α^e α^p α^r
t + facet_grid(. ~ fl, labeller = label_parsed)
c d e p r

Labels

t + ggtitle("New Plot Title")
Add a main title above the plot
t + xlab("New X label")
Change the label on the X axis
t + ylab("New Y label")
Change the label on the Y axis
t + labs(title = "New title", x = "New x", y = "New y")
All of the above

Use scale functions to update legend labels

Legends

t + theme(legend.position = "bottom")
Place legend at "bottom", "top", "left", or "right"
t + guides(color = "none")
Set legend type for each aesthetic: colorbar, legend, or none (no legend)
t + scale_fill_discrete(name = "Title", labels = c("A", "B", "C"))
Set legend title and labels with a scale function.

Zooming

Without clipping (preferred)
t + coord_cartesian(xlim = c(0, 100), ylim = c(10, 20))
With clipping (removes unseen data points)
t + xlim(0, 100) + **ylim**(10, 20)
t + scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0, 100)) + **scale_y_continuous**(limits = c(0, 100))