

Tips and Tricks about R and Quarto

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Table of contents

Preface	3
1 Tips and Trick to write your Thesis in Quarto	4
2 Captions	5
2.1 Add short captions to List of Tables with pandoc filters and LaTeX	5
2.1.1 Pandoc filter : short-captions	5
2.1.2 captioner package	5
2.1.3 Built-in Quarto attribute using fig-scrap	6
3 Cross-references	9
3.1 Automatically bold cross-reference (Figure, Table #)	9
3.2 Add your table of content to the pdf bookmark	9
3.3 Cross-Reference showing the section number instead of figure	10
3.4 How to set subfigure to uppercase	10
3.5 Continuous figure numbering	10
3.5.1 Explanation :	11
4 Lists of figures and tables	12
4.1 Remove a section from your table of contents in pandoc	12
4.2 Suppress a biblatex field in the bibliography	12
4.3 Delete the biber cache	13
5 Bibliography	14
5.1 Include an organization name in citeproc	14
6 ggplot2	15
6.1 Non Standard Evaluation - Programming with ggplot2	15
6.1.1 Problem with programming color inside	15
6.2 Correct automatic brackets	17
References	21

Preface

Greetings, fellow data enthusiasts and document aficionados,

Within these pages, you'll find a curated collection of insights and practical wisdom gathered through my personal exploration of R and Quarto. While this isn't an exhaustive guide to either tool, it is a compilation of valuable tips and tricks that I've discovered along the way.

This ebook is intended to serve as a reference and resource for individuals at various stages of their journey with R and Quarto. Whether you're an experienced practitioner or a novice eager to expand your knowledge, I hope you'll find the contents of this book to be both informative and useful.

The motivation behind creating this ebook stems from the desire to share knowledge and simplify the complexities that can arise when working with data and document generation tools. It's a humble attempt to contribute to the community by offering practical solutions to common challenges and sharing insights that have been gained through hands-on experience.

I invite you to explore this book at your own pace, experiment with the techniques presented, and adapt them to your specific projects. May it enhance your proficiency and bring efficiency to your work, all while serving as a trustworthy companion during your endeavors with R and Quarto.

Remember that the pursuit of knowledge is a journey of continuous learning and growth. Embrace the challenges, celebrate the discoveries, and consider sharing your own insights with others. Together, we can foster an environment of collaborative learning and improvement.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with me. I hope you find this ebook to be a valuable resource in your quest to harness the potential of R and Quarto for data analysis and document generation.

Wishing you success and fulfillment in your coding and document crafting endeavors.

1 Tips and Trick to write your Thesis in Quarto

Below are some tips and tricks that I needed to use alongside the regular Quarto settings, which were unfortunately not enough to fully format my thesis just like how I wanted. I had to scour the internet and stackoverflow alongside some latex documentation, and I hope this will help someone one day. Or else it serves as a nice little documentation for future usage.

2 Captions

2.1 Add short captions to List of Tables with pandoc filters and LaTeX

How to add only part of figure caption in list of figures but keep the full description in the caption.

2.1.1 Pandoc filter : short-captions

Based on this [discussion](#) which leads to the usage of the [short-captions](#) pandoc filter.

First add the filter to the yaml header:

```
filters:
  - "pandoc-filters/short-captions.lua"
```

```
!["**Bold caption.** Additional caption. End with a citation. [@citation]](figures/figure.p
```

[Cross-reference](#) in-line with this syntax : @fig-label

2.1.2 captioner package

Based on [this thread](#), or [this one](#) from stackoverflow, you can run this LaTeX code to do so :

```
\begin{figure}
\includegraphics{figure.jpg}
\caption[\textbf{Bold caption.}]
{\textbf{Figure or table description. (\cite{Meza-Meza.2020}) or Adapted from \textcite{Au}
\label{fig-label}
\end{figure}
```

Note that I return to a new line to make it easier to read.

Write `\listoffigures` to generate the list of figures.

Then you can crossreference the figure using a LaTeX command : `**(Figure \ref{label})**`

I originally used this method because I didn't know about the pandoc filters. I'd have to say the pandoc way is easier to write, and you can have a miniature image in source or visual mode inside R Studio.

One minor hiccup of the latex way is that if you ever switch to the source pane, any bolded cross-reference with latex syntax will be undone. Such as : From `**(Figure \ref{fig:vitd3})**` to `**(Figure** \ref{fig:vitd3})` when going to source and back. This is quite annoying. So I'd rather use pandoc from now.

Update : The `cleveref` package Section [3.1](#) solves this problem.

2.1.3 Built-in Quarto attribute using `fig-scrap`

Unknowingly, the figure attribute `fig-scrap` solves the problem.

```
! [Long caption] (R_logo.png) {#fig-label fig-scrap="A short caption"}
```



Figure 2.1: Long caption

List of Figures

2.1	A short caption	7
-----	---------------------------	---

3 Cross-references

3.1 Automatically bold cross-reference (Figure, Table #)

Instead of using (**Figure** `\ref{figure:stuff}`), use `\cref{figure:stuff}` which will automatically put “Figure” or “Table” or something else as appropriate.

To add automatic bold, add to the preamble :

```
header-includes:
- \usepackage[capitalise,noabbrev,nameinlink]{cleveref} # Allows \cref{} to cite latex ta
# Specify which cross-reference should automatically be bolded : Tables and Figures
# Use \cref{} ; For some reason this only works with this exact disposition :
# Only #1, nameinlink and each of the reference specified. namelink + #1#2#3 would give an
- \crefdefaultlabelformat{#2\textbf{#1}#3} # <-- Only #1 in \textbf
- \crefname{table}{\textbf{Table}}{\textbf{Tables}}
- \Crefname{table}{\textbf{Table}}{\textbf{Tables}}
- \crefname{figure}{\textbf{Figure}}{\textbf{Figures}}
- \Crefname{figure}{\textbf{Figure}}{\textbf{Figures}}
```

The parameter `nameinlink` could be removed, but it allows the link to span both the number and the cross-referenced material (Table + #) and not just the number, which I find more practical.

[Stackoverflow reference](#)

3.2 Add your table of content to the pdf bookmark

The generated pdf document has a convenient bookmark function for ease of navigation. The bookmark automatically includes pandoc headers, except your table of content.

Add the bookmark package to include headers, and then use the following command:

```
header-includes:
- \usepackage{setspace} # Example of another package used. This syntax will not work with
- \usepackage{bookmark}
```

```
% Add the command just before the toc.
\pdfbookmark[section]{\contentsname}{toc}
% Next command is to rename the table of content
\renewcommand{\contentsname}{Table des matières}
\tableofcontents{}
\newpage
```

3.3 Cross-Reference showing the section number instead of figure

Well that's [simple](#):

Move `\label{fig: hasse}` after `\caption{Hasse diagram}` since `\caption` has to come before `\label`. This applies to figures and tables in general. I would not use spaces in label names. Also note Gonzalos comment regarding `\centering`.

Instead of the center environment you could use the command right after `\begin{figure}[htbp]`; the environment adds extra vertical space which (in most cases) is undesired – Gonzalo Medina

3.4 How to set subfigure to uppercase

Use `\renewcommand{\thesubfigure}{\Alph{subfigure}}` in your preamble.

[Source](#).

3.5 Continuous figure numbering

If you want something like Figure 1, Figure 2 instead of Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2, you need to use the following latex command :

```
- \counterwithout{figure}{chapter}
- \counterwithout{figure}{section}
```

This is working for me, using `scrreport` as the document class (KOMA class).

3.5.1 Explanation :

Changing the numbering of (e.g.) figures involves two modifications:

- Redefining whether or not the figure counter will be reset whenever the chapter/section counter is incremented;
- Redefining the “appearance” of the figure counter (3.0), i.e., removing (or adding) the chapter/section prefix.

`\counterwithout{somecounter}{anothercounter}`

`\counterwithout{somecounter}{anothercounter}` removes the link between *somecounter* and *anothercounter* so that they are independent. For any pair of counters, you can switch between using `\counterwithout` and `\counterwithin`, as the following example shows for the `example` and `section` counters—you can open this example in Overleaf using the link provided below the code.

4 Lists of figures and tables

4.1 Remove a section from your table of contents in pandoc

You need to combine `.unlisted` with `.unnumbered` to achieve this, as stated in [Pandoc documentation](#).

(I have looked inside the Pandoc documentation however and I have no idea where that is stated).

Also, I discovered it was literally marked in the [Quarto documentation](#) itself !

```
# Abstract {.unnumbered .unlisted}

# Acknowledgements {.unnumbered .unlisted}

# Chapter 1
```

4.2 Suppress a biblatex field in the bibliography

Can be used only in the [preamble](#):

If you compile your bibliography with biber, simply add:

```
header-includes:
# Define a command to remove the "note" field from the bibliography
- \AtEveryBibitem{\clearfield{note}}
```

[How can I remove common fields using biblatex?](#)

4.3 Delete the biber cache

If for some unknown reason, you're trying to generate your bibliography and Quarto hits you with

```
generating bibliography
```

```
  Couldn't load any math lib(s), not even fallback to Calc.pm at C:\Users\Minh-Anh\AppData\Local\Temp\quarto-bibliography\mathlib\mathlib.lua:1: attempt to call method 'load' (a nil value).  
etc.
```

Go to the specified file path and delete the folders. What a headache.

Also, `biber --cache` shows you where it is (and if it's bugged, you'll be greeted with this awesome bug error).

5 Bibliography

5.1 Include an organization name in citeproc

Just include double brackets around your `{{organization}}` and citeproc will format correctly.

```
@article{IOM.2011.org,  
  year = {2011},  
  title = {{Dietary Reference Intakes for Calcium and Vitamin D}},  
  author = {{Institute of Medicine}},  
  journal = {The National Academies Press},  
  doi = {10.17226/13050},  
  pages = {1115},  
  keywords = {},  
}
```

6 ggplot2

6.1 Non Standard Evaluation - Programming with ggplot2

6.1.1 Problem with programming color inside

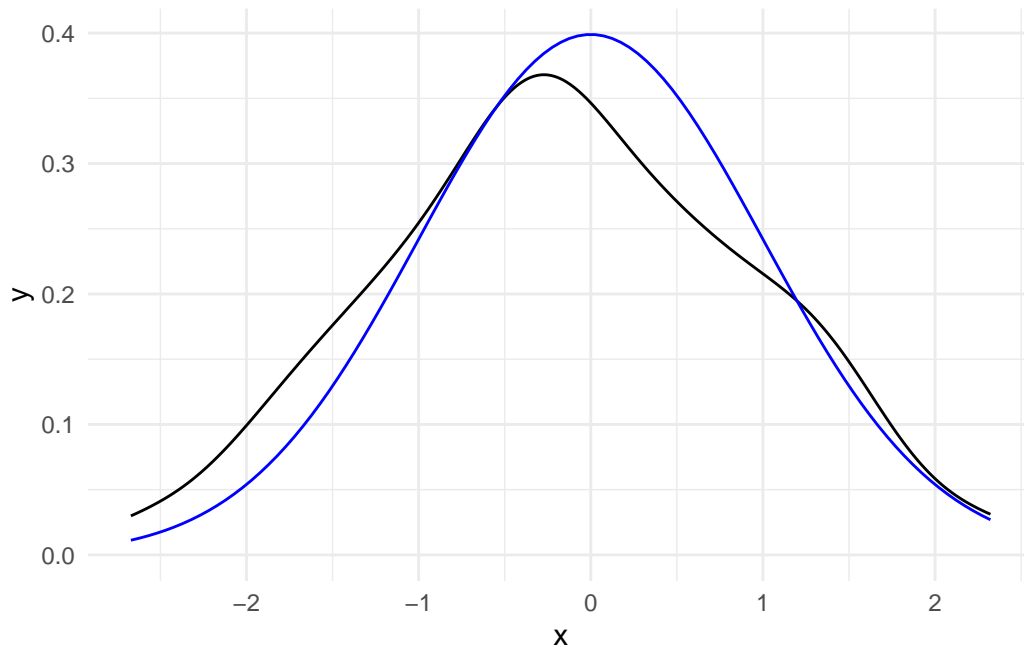
aes uses tidy-evaluation

```
librarian::shelf(ggplot2, ragg, quiet = TRUE)
# Sample data
df <- data.frame(
  a = seq(0, 100, by = 10),
  b = seq(100, 200, by = 10)
)

# Your base plot
base_plot <- ggplot(data.frame(x = rnorm(100)), aes(x)) +
  geom_density() +
  theme_minimal()

# Create the plot
plot <- base_plot + geom_function(
  fun = dnorm,
  show.legend = TRUE,
  aes(color = "ATK"),
  colour = "blue"
) + scale_colour_manual(name = "Legend", values = c("Line" = "red"))

# Display the plot
print(plot)
```



Why is the plot not displaying the legend with a red color ?

ChatGPT: The issue you're encountering with the legend not displaying the color red and the legend being removed when you include the `colour = "blue"` argument in the `geom_function` is related to how aesthetics are mapped in ggplot2. When you use `aes(color = "line")`, you are mapping the color aesthetic to a constant string "line", which means that all the points or lines will have the same color, and that color will be determined by the color scale associated with the "line" category. However, when you include `colour = "blue"` within the `geom_function`, you are effectively overriding the color aesthetic that you set with `aes(color = "line")`. This means that all elements drawn by this specific `geom_function` will be colored in blue, and ggplot2 will not create a legend because there's no mapping of aesthetics that varies. If you want to specify a different color for this specific `geom_function` and still have a legend, you can do the following:

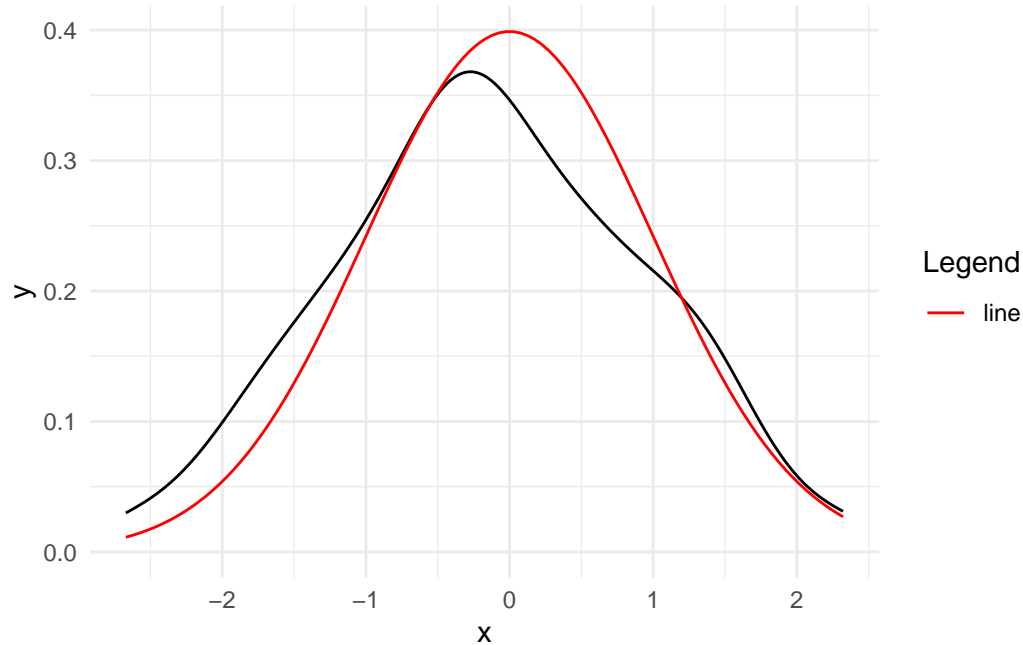
```
base_plot +
  geom_function(
    fun = dnorm,
    aes(color = "line"),
    show.legend = TRUE
  ) +
  scale_colour_manual(
```



```

name = "Legend",
values = c("line" = "red")
)

```



More information : [Indirectly referring to a variable](#)

6.2 Correct automatic brackets

```

# Install ggpubr package
librarian::shelf(ggpubr, tidyr, quiet = TRUE)

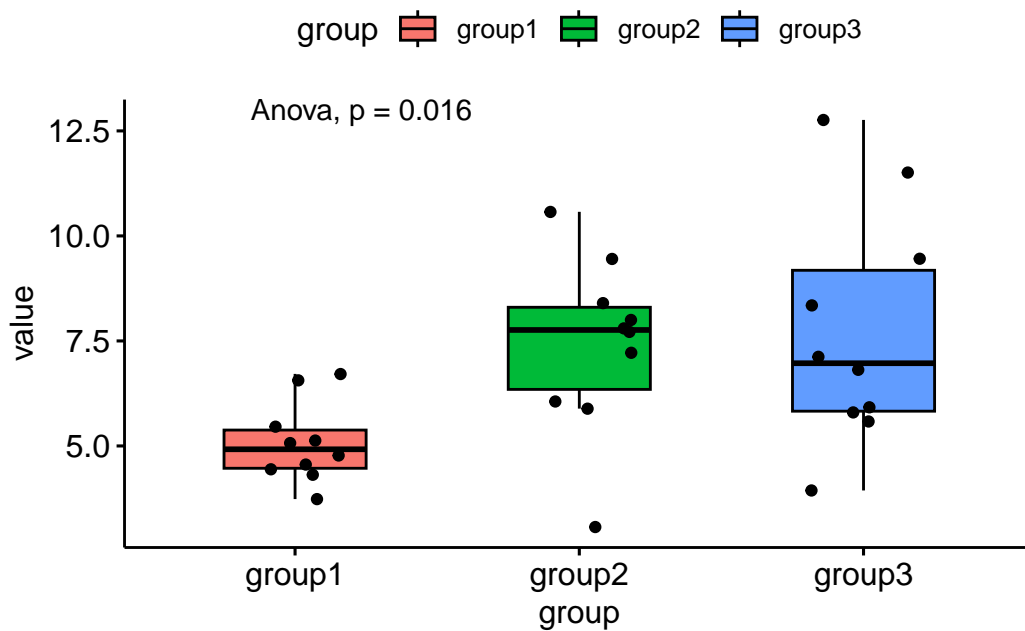
# Create some dummy data
set.seed(123)
group1 <- rnorm(10, mean = 5, sd = 1)
group2 <- rnorm(10, mean = 7, sd = 2)
group3 <- rnorm(10, mean = 9, sd = 3)

# Combine the data into a data frame
data <- data.frame(group1, group2, group3) %>%
  pivot_longer(cols = everything(), names_to = "group")

```

```
# Note that ggpubr works for tidy data, hence using pivot_longer()

# Create the plot
plot <- ggboxplot(data,
  x = "group",
  y = "value",
  width = 0.5,
  fill = "group",
  add = "jitter"
)
plot + stat_compare_means(method = "anova")
```



Now let's add some brackets:

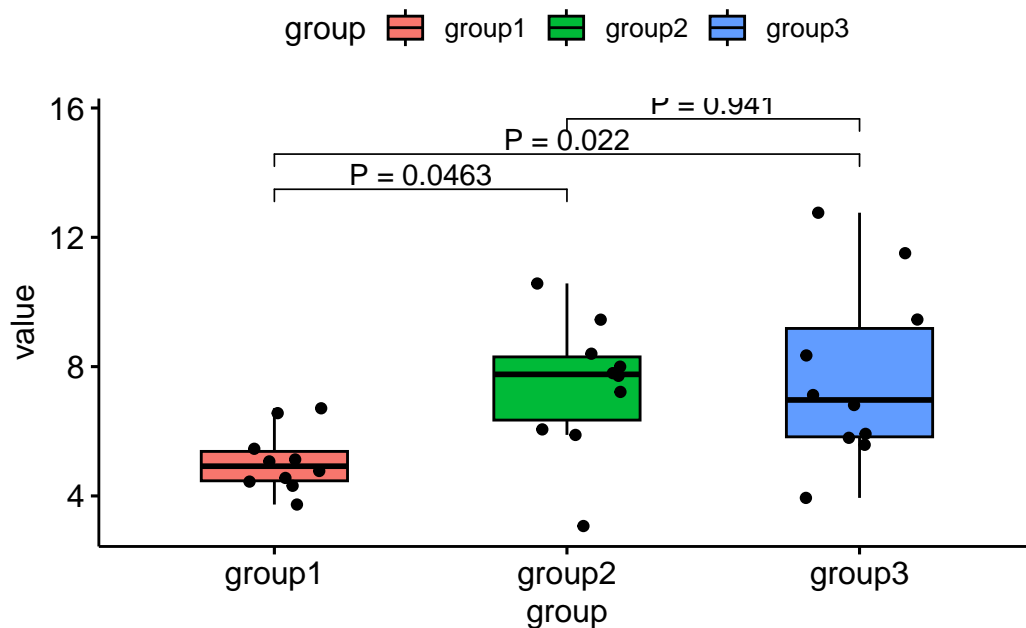
```
# Note that ggpubr seems to also load rstatix
librarian::shelf(rstatix, quiet = TRUE)

# Here is how you can add brackets with P values in your plot:
aov_results <- suppressWarnings(anova_test(value ~ group, data = data))
if (aov_results$p <= 0.05) {
```

```

tukey_test <- tukey_hsd(data, value ~ group) %>% add_y_position()
plot + stat_pvalue_manual(tukey_test, label = "P = {p.adj}")
}

```



```

# Note that it is recommended to use an italic *P* in uppercase. I don't think
# this is possible in an R code, so a simple uppercase P should suffice. However
# now the problem is that the automatic p for the anova test is in lowercase.

```

In the [datanovia](#) example, you see `add_xy_position()` used, however that can mess up the order of the brackets. Instead, stick with `add_y_position`, as the x positions can be already determined in some functions. Here both functions work however. Perhaps `rstatix` got updated ? This was documented in this [git issue](#).

```

tukey_hsd(data, value ~ group) -> test

```

```

# Alternatively with P symbols (not recommended anymore):
# From ?stat_compare_means()
symnum.args <-
  list(
    cutpoints = c(0, 0.0001, 0.001, 0.01, 0.05, Inf),

```

```

    symbols = c("****", "***", "**", "*", "ns")
  )
# Brackets for anova would not work, so you need another test
my_comparisons <-
  list(
    c("group1", "group2"),
    c("group2", "group3"),
    c("group1", "group3")
  )
plot + stat_compare_means(
  method = "wilcox.test",
  comparisons = my_comparisons,
  symnum.args = symnum.args
)

# Note that the following code doesn't work:
aov_results <- anova_test(value ~ group, data = data) %>%
  tukey_hsd() %>%
  add_xy_position()
# Instead, don't start from anova and use the test directly:
tukey_test <- tukey_hsd(data, value ~ group) %>% add_y_position()

```

References