

Tips and Tricks about R and Quarto

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Preface

This is my homecooked R and Quarto tips and tricks that I found while writing my thesis and debugging my stuff that I haven't found in the basic tutorial and guides. This serves as my personal quick reference so that I don't look for guides again when I've already found the solution. Perhaps it can be helpful as well to others.

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 | 8 |
|-----|---------------------------|---|

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:
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 Git in R

6.1 Setting up Git

Quick settings :

- Have a Github account
- Open an R project.
- Use package `usethis` :

```
library(usethis) ## or library(devtools)
use_git_config(user.name = "Jane Doe", user.email = "jane@example.com")

# check by running a git situation-report:
# - your user.name and user.email should appear in global Git config
git_sitrep()

use_git() # Initialize git
use_github(private = TRUE) # Create github repo, private or not
```

<https://happygitwithr.com/> This is the best [guide for Git in R](#) currently.

6.1.1 Create a PAT

How to create a [Personal Access Token](#) (PAT).

```
library(gitcreds)
gitcreds_get()
gitcreds_set()
```

6.2 Using Git with multiple local accounts

The idea behind using Git with multiple accounts including multiple Github account is to be able to separate your personal from your office work.

Happy Git with R recommends HTTPS instead of SSH. [Happy Git with R](#)

There's plenty of guides that explain how to do it:

- [How To Work With Multiple Github Accounts on a single Machine](#)
- <https://www.howtogeek.com/devops/how-to-manage-multiple-git-accounts-on-one-system/>

Use `usethis::git_sitrep()` to troubleshoot things.

However they fail to mention one thing:

The current git (local) protocol used is determined by the remote link of the current git repo.

Use `git remote -v`

As such, you can easily have a main account with PAT, and have a local git folder with SSH for your other account. You just need to choose the correct protocol.

7 ggplot2

7.1 Non Standard Evaluation - Programming with ggplot2

7.1.1 Problem with programming color inside

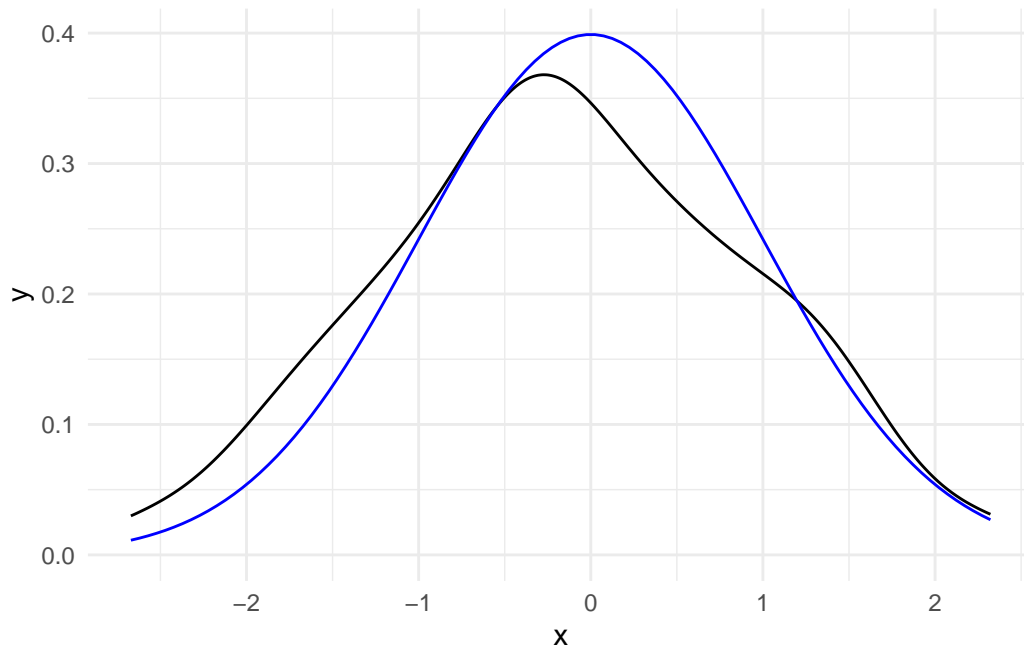
aes uses tidy-evaluation

```
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 ?

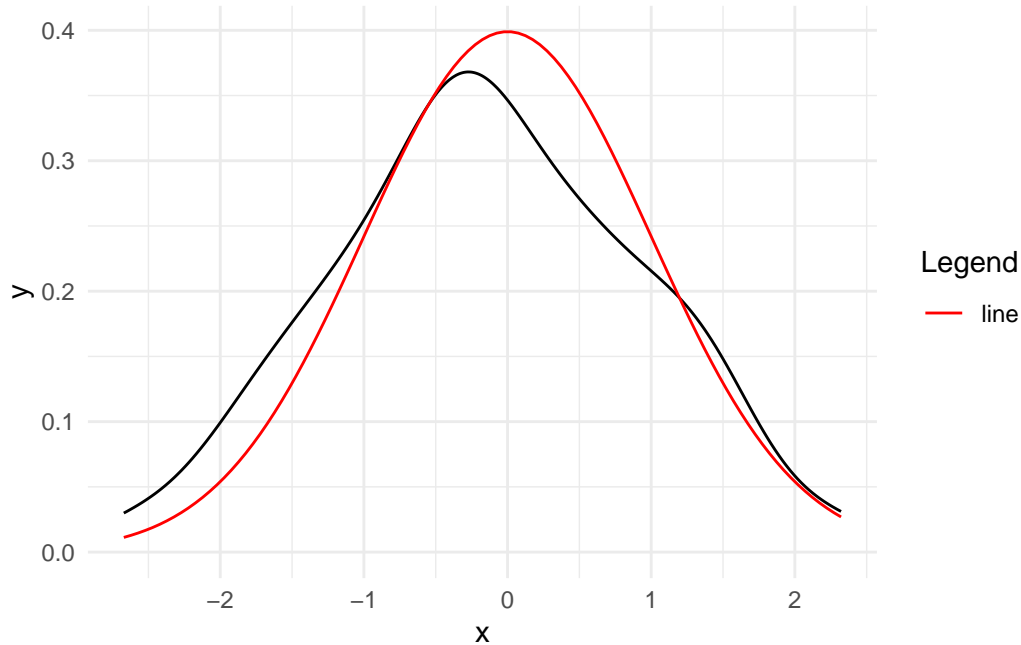
ChatGPT: The issue you're encountering with the legend not displaying the color red and the legend being removed when you include the `colour = "blue"` argument in the `geom_function` is related to how aesthetics are mapped in ggplot2. When you use `aes(color = "line")`, you are mapping the color aesthetic 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](#)

7.2 Correct automatic brackets

```

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

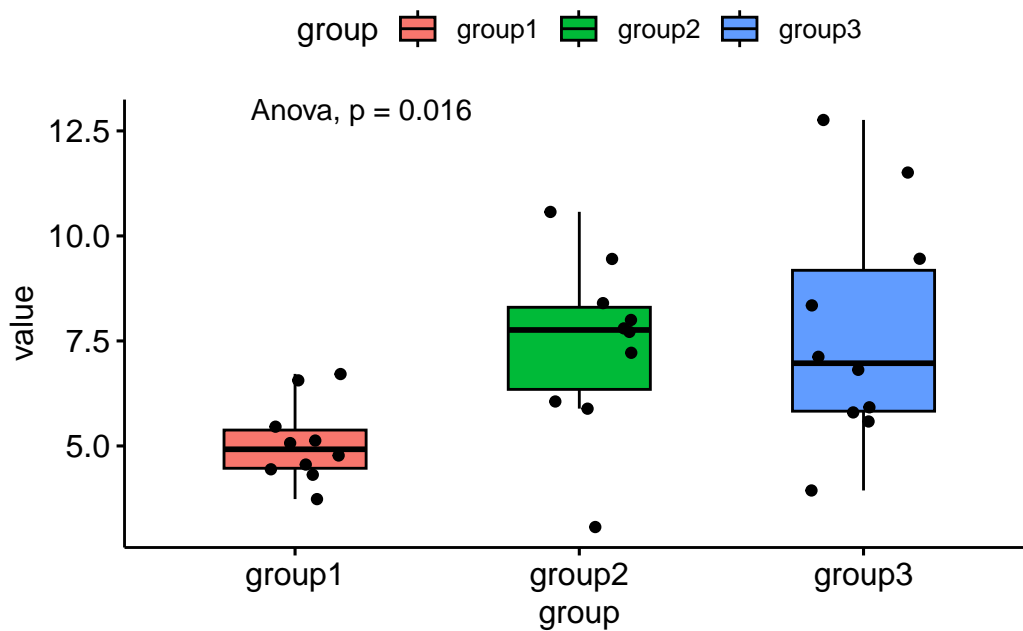
# Create some dummy data
set.seed(123)
group1 <- rnorm(10, mean = 5, sd = 1)
group2 <- rnorm(10, mean = 7, sd = 2)
group3 <- rnorm(10, mean = 9, sd = 3)

# 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:

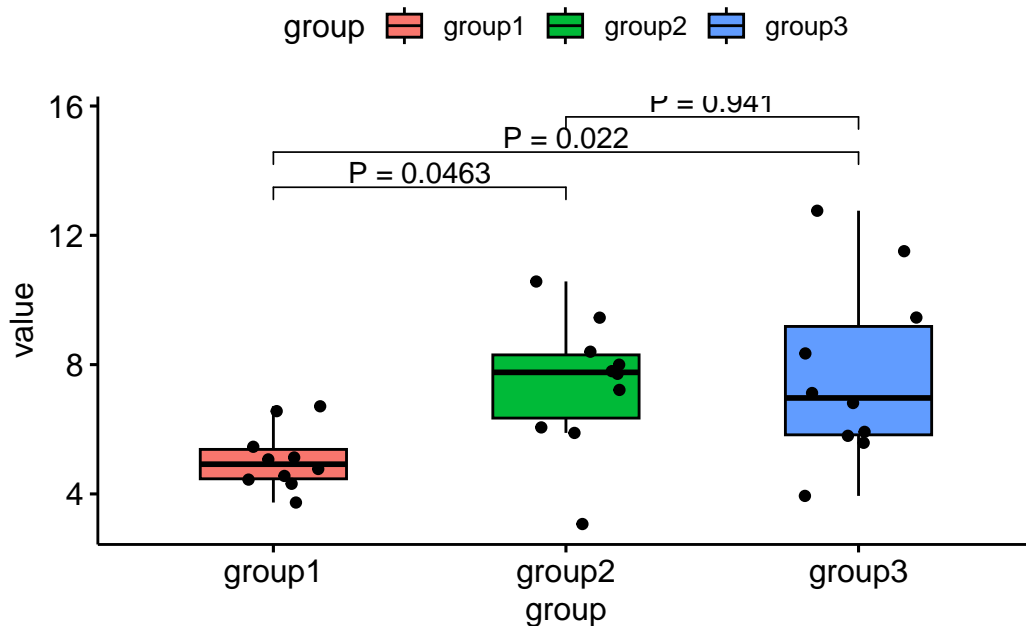
```
# Note that ggpubr seems to also load rstatix
librarian::shelf(rstatix, quiet = TRUE)

# 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