

# How to plot pairwise comparisons in ggplot2 (only sample statistics)

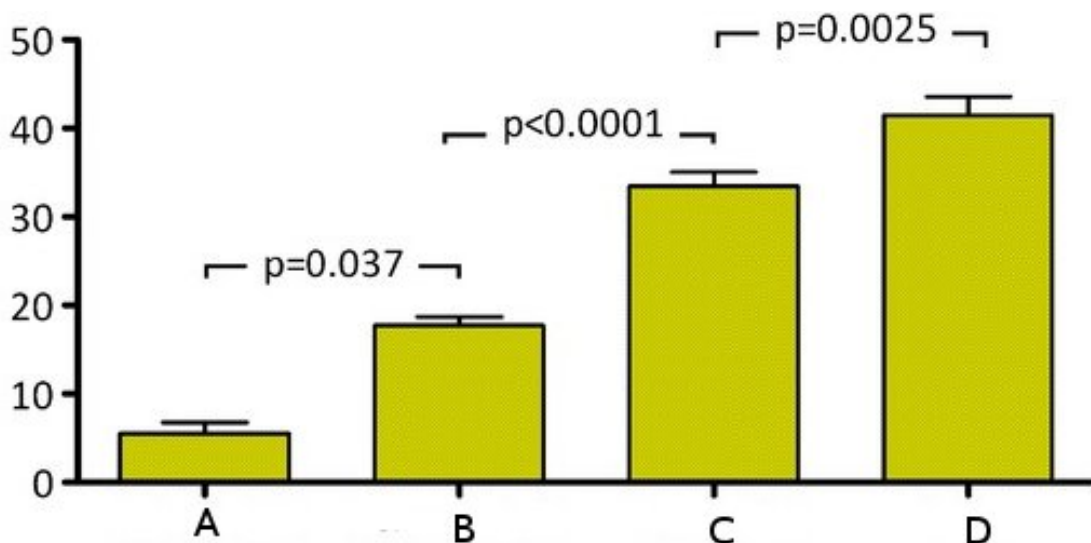
Asked 6 years, 2 months ago   Modified 6 years, 2 months ago   Viewed 5k times

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I would like to make a bar graph that shows the means, the standard error of the means, and significant pairwise comparisons.

-1

Something similar to this:



The data I have are only the means and standard error of the means.

| group | x | mean  | se of mean |
|-------|---|-------|------------|
| a     | 1 | 3.650 | 0.092      |
| a     | 2 | 4.232 | 0.081      |
| a     | 3 | 3.653 | 0.068      |
| a     | 4 | 3.871 | 0.13       |
| b     | 1 | 3.984 | 0.07       |
| b     | 2 | 4.150 | 0.073      |
| b     | 3 | 4.058 | 0.054      |
| b     | 4 | 4.010 | 0.132      |
| c     | 1 | 2.915 | 0.1        |
| c     | 2 | 3.475 | 0.1        |
| c     | 3 | 3.246 | 0.086      |
| c     | 4 | 3.069 | 0.16       |

Any ideas?

R

r

ggplot2

## 2 Answers

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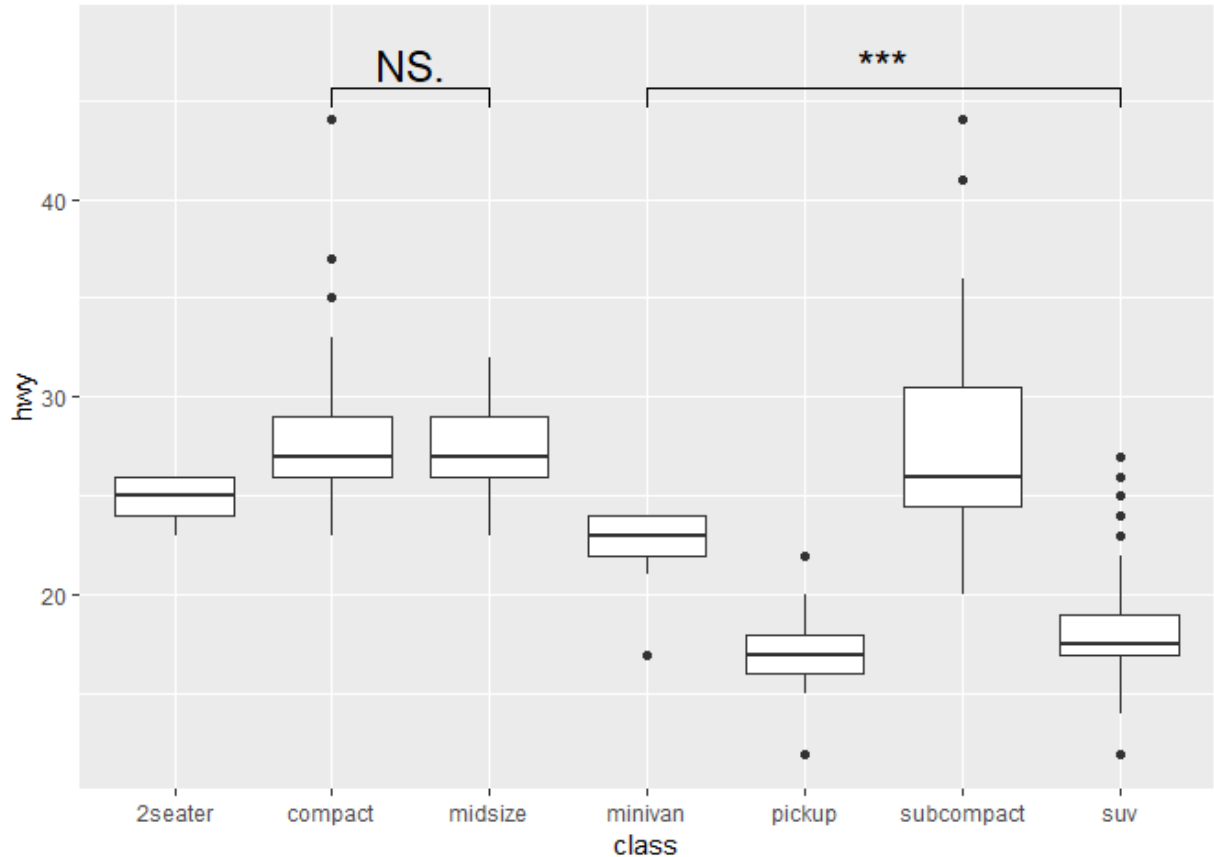
1

You can use the package `ggsignif` (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ggsignif/README.html>) to plot the significance for pairwise comparisons:



```
library(ggplot2)
library(ggsignif)

# plot
ggplot(mpg, aes(class, hwy)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_signif(
    comparisons = list(c("compact", "midsize"), c("minivan", "suv")),
    map_signif_level = TRUE,
    textsize = 6
  ) +
  ylim(NA, 48)
#> Warning in wilcox.test.default(c(29, 29, 31, 30, 26, 26, 27, 26, 25, 28, :
#> cannot compute exact p-value with ties
```





Thank you! I'm almost able to create the graph that I want, except that for the section: `comparisons = list(c("compact", "midsize"), c("minivan", "suv"))`. I'm unable to refer to the specific contrasts I want, since I have groups within my x-axis. So for example, how would I refer to a contrast between group a, x=1 vs. group b, x=3? – [s\\_suzuki](#) Oct 6, 2018 at 3:59

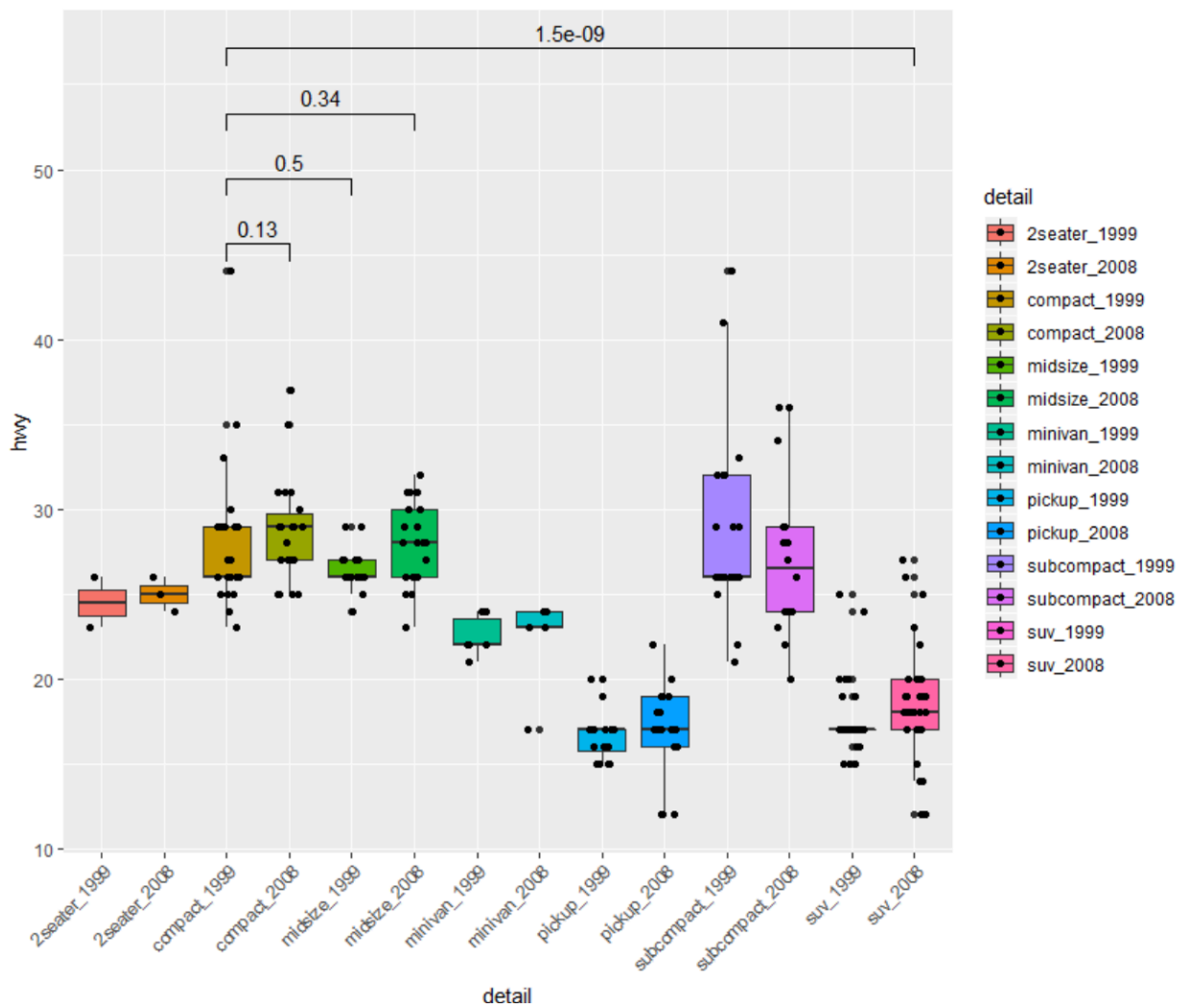
Using mpg data, I suppose you want to compare the **hwy** between class= minivan in year 1999 and class = suv in year 2008, which is similar to what you need.

0

You can add a new column to paste the two variable together, create something like minivan\_1999, suv\_2008. Using `ggpubr::stat_compare_means`, I demonstrate part of pairs for you:

```
mpg$detail <- paste(mpg$class, mpg$year, sep = "_")
my_comparison <- combn(unique(mpg$detail), 2)
pairs <- list() # creating comparisons :list of pairs
for (i in 1:ncol(my_comparison)) {
  pairs[[i]] <- c(my_comparison[1,i], my_comparison[2,i])
}

ggplot(data = mpg, aes(x = detail, y = hwy, fill = detail)) +
  geom_boxplot(position = position_dodge(0.8)) +
  geom_point(position = position_jitterdodge()) +
  stat_compare_means(comparisons = pairs[1:4]) +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45, vjust = 1, hjust = 1))
```



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answered Oct 6, 2018 at 8:36

 Xi wa  
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