ggplot {ggplot2} R Documentation

Create a new ggplot

Description

`ggplot()` initializes a ggplot object. It can be used to declare the input data frame for a graphic and to specify the set of plot aesthetics intended to be common throughout all subsequent layers unless specifically overridden.

Usage

```
ggplot(data = NULL, mapping = aes(), ..., environment = parent.frame())
```

Arguments

`data`	Default dataset to use for plot. If not already a data.frame, will be converted to one by `fortify()`. If not specified, must be supplied in each layer added to the plot.
`mapping`	Default list of aesthetic mappings to use for plot. If not specified, must be supplied in each layer added to the plot.
`...`	Other arguments passed on to methods. Not currently used.
`environment`	lifecycle deprecated Used prior to tidy evaluation.

Details

`ggplot()` is used to construct the initial plot object, and is almost always followed by a plus sign (+) to add components to the plot.

There are three common patterns used to invoke `ggplot()`:

- `ggplot(data = df, mapping = aes(x, y, other aesthetics))`

- `ggplot(data = df)`
- `ggplot()`

The first pattern is recommended if all layers use the same data and the same set of aesthetics, although this method can also be used when adding a layer using data from another data frame.

The second pattern specifies the default data frame to use for the plot, but no aesthetics are defined up front. This is useful when one data frame is used predominantly for the plot, but the aesthetics vary from one layer to another.

The third pattern initializes a skeleton `ggplot` object, which is fleshed out as layers are added. This is useful when multiple data frames are used to produce different layers, as is often the case in complex graphics.

The `data =` and `mapping =` specifications in the arguments are optional (and are often omitted in practice), so long as the data and the mapping values are passed into the function in the right order. In the examples below, however, they are left in place for clarity.

See Also

The first steps chapter of the online ggplot2 book.

Examples

Run examples

```
# Create a data frame with some sample data, then create a data frame
# containing the mean value for each group in the sample data.
set.seed(1)

sample_df <- data.frame(
  group = factor(rep(letters[1:3], each = 10)),
  value = rnorm(30)
)

group_means_df <- setNames(
  aggregate(value ~ group, sample_df, mean),
  c("group", "group_mean")
)
```

```r
# The following three code blocks create the same graphic, each using
# of the three patterns specified above. In each graphic, the sample d
# are plotted in the first layer and the group means data frame is use
# plot larger red points on top of the sample data in the second layer

# Pattern 1
# Both the `data` and `mapping` arguments are passed into the `ggplot(
# call. Those arguments are omitted in the first `geom_point()` layer
# because they get passed along from the `ggplot()` call. Note that th
# second `geom_point()` layer re-uses the `x = group` aesthetic throug
# that mechanism but overrides the y-position aesthetic.
ggplot(data = sample_df, mapping = aes(x = group, y = value)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_point(
    mapping = aes(y = group_mean), data = group_means_df,
    colour = 'red', size = 3
  )

# Pattern 2
# Same plot as above, passing only the `data` argument into the `ggplo
# call. The `mapping` arguments are now required in each `geom_point()
# layer because there is no `mapping` argument passed along from the
# `ggplot()` call.
ggplot(data = sample_df) +
  geom_point(mapping = aes(x = group, y = value)) +
  geom_point(
    mapping = aes(x = group, y = group_mean), data = group_means_df,
    colour = 'red', size = 3
  )

# Pattern 3
# Same plot as above, passing neither the `data` or `mapping` argument
# into the `ggplot()` call. Both those arguments are now required in
# each `geom_point()` layer. This pattern can be particularly useful w
# creating more complex graphics with many layers using data from mult
# data frames.
ggplot() +
  geom_point(mapping = aes(x = group, y = value), data = sample_df) +
  geom_point(
    mapping = aes(x = group, y = group_mean), data = group_means_df,
    colour = 'red', size = 3
  )
```
