# Data Visualization

# September 9-10, 2021

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## Output devices

##

To make any kind of plot, you need some sort of "canvas" to draw on. In the RStudio GUI, as a default, plots will be printed in the **Plots** window, or if you are using R Markdown they will appear inline.

The *device* directive controls the output stream, which by default is set to null device, meaning that they will appear directly on your screen. On a Windows machine it is actually a device called windows(); on a Mac it is called quartz().

In R, new plots will just overwrite old plots in the same device, unless you open a device to create a new canvas.

```
#open a new window
#windows() #on a pc
quartz() #on a mac

#current device
dev.cur()

## quartz
```

In RStudio they are saved in your current session and you can scroll through them. The Plots menu allows you to pop them open in a new window, or save them to a file using the menu.

Let's see what happens when we make a plot and redirect its output to a new device. First, let's use the built-in iris dataset, which contains measurements on sepals and petals of three different species of iris. Its class is data.frame.

First, let's use this dataset to make a plot that just gets sent to the screen from within this .Rmd file. Notice that the plot appears inline.

Then we will try different variants:

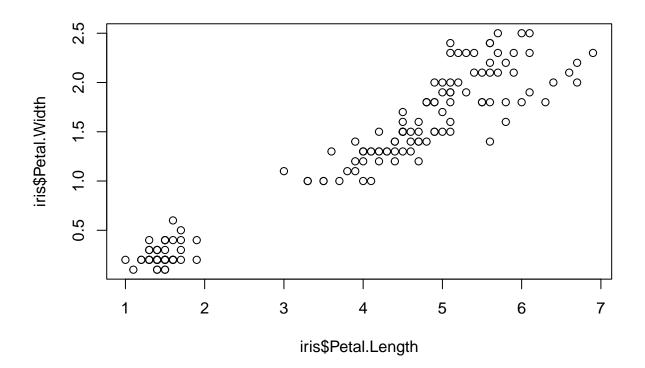
- paste the code into the console (do it more than once)
- start a new quartz() window in the console and write it there

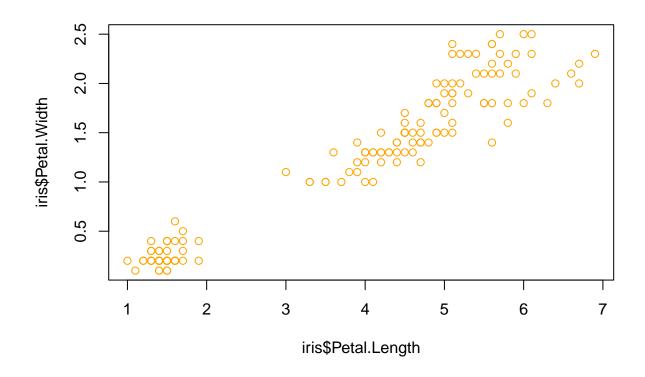
```
?iris
head(iris)
```

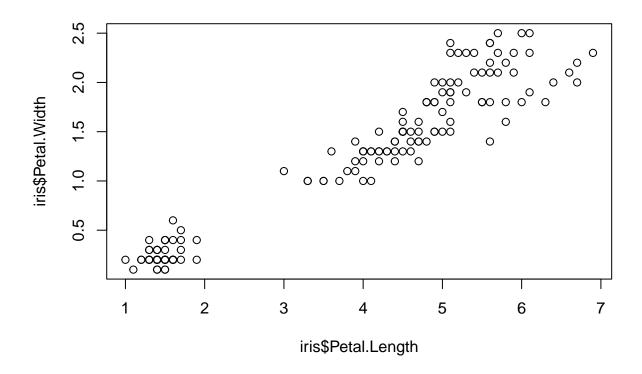
```
##
     Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1
                           3.5
              5.1
                                         1.4
                                                     0.2 setosa
                                                     0.2 setosa
## 2
              4.9
                           3.0
                                         1.4
              4.7
                           3.2
## 3
                                         1.3
                                                     0.2 setosa
                                                     0.2 setosa
## 4
              4.6
                           3.1
                                         1.5
## 5
              5.0
                           3.6
                                         1.4
                                                     0.2 setosa
## 6
              5.4
                                         1.7
                           3.9
                                                     0.4 setosa
```

```
str(iris)
## 'data.frame': 150 obs. of 5 variables:
```

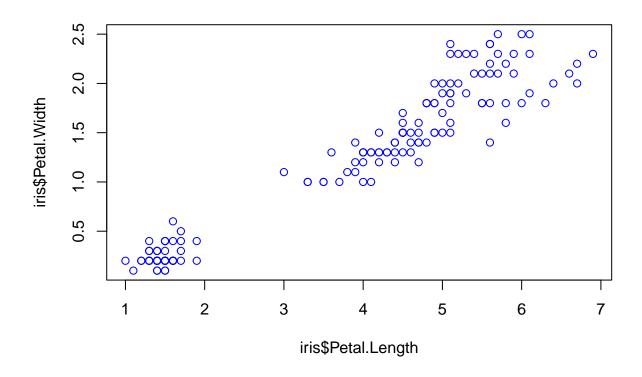
```
## $ Sepal.Length: num 5.1 4.9 4.7 4.6 5 5.4 4.6 5 4.4 4.9 ...
## $ Sepal.Width : num 3.5 3 3.2 3.1 3.6 3.9 3.4 3.4 2.9 3.1 ...
## $ Petal.Length: num 1.4 1.4 1.3 1.5 1.4 1.7 1.4 1.5 1.4 1.5 ...
## $ Petal.Width : num 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.2 0.1 ...
## $ Species : Factor w/ 3 levels "setosa", "versicolor", ..: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
```

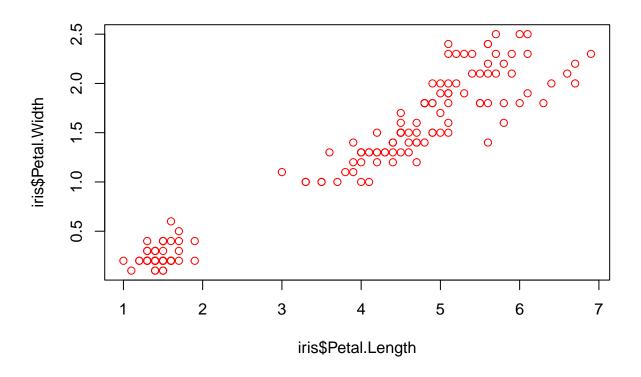




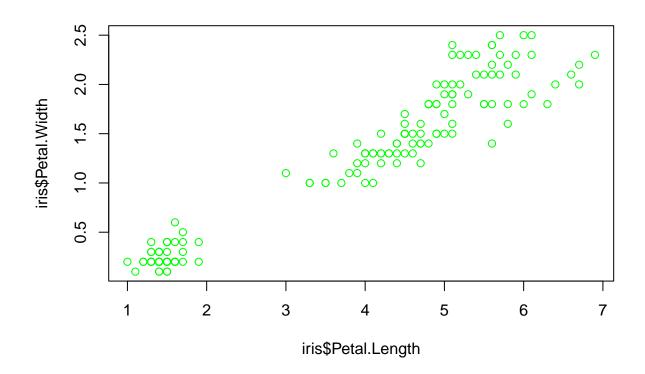


# plot directly from console, with blue points
plot(iris\$Petal.Length, iris\$Petal.Width, col="blue")





# plot directly from console, with blue points
plot(iris\$Petal.Length, iris\$Petal.Width, col="green")



```
dev.off() # what happened to the plot?
## quartz
## 3
```

## Writing to files

You can redirect your output to another type of device if you want to write your plot to a file.

- Different devices include: PDF, PostScript, bitmap, jpeg, png, and LaTeX.
- These devices will not print to the GUI instead they will save a file in the working directory.

PDF output is really useful. Let us try to write a random plot to a pdf file.

```
# ==========================#
# repeat in console

pdf("iris_plot.pdf")
plot(iris$Petal.Length, iris$Petal.Width, col="magenta")
dev.off()
## pdf
## 2

dev.cur()
## pdf
## 2
```

## Essentials of base R graphics

Here we introduce the basic elements of the **graphics** package, which is part of the base R distribution.

The **graphics** package provides *functions* for creating all kinds of plots. Many of these can be used to conveniently get a quick idea of what your data look like. They are simple yet powerful.

There are also many graphical *parameters* that can be set in order to control the appearance of points and lines, axis ticks, plot labels, text, and arrangement of plots when multiple plots are generated at the same time. Other packages will come with their own plotting functions, but generally they access the same range of parameters.

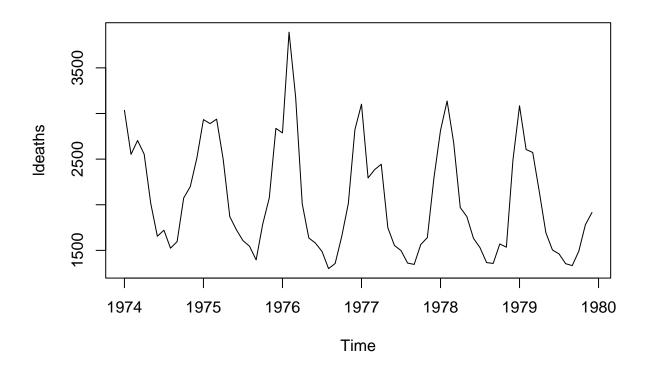
Learning to fine-tune the appearance of plots using the base graphics package can be very tedious and unrewarding. This is why we will transition to mainly using the **ggplot2** package to take our graphics to the next level. Nevertheless, we think it is important for you to know that these base functions exist and are available if you want to use them.

### The plot() function: automatic plot

The generic function for plotting R objects is aptly called plot(). The default output of the function depends on the object it is passed.

ldeaths is an object of class ts (time series) that is provided in R. This dataset provides the number of deaths in UK from 1974-1979 due to lung disease. Since it is a numerical vector, the plot function plots a line.

```
plot(ldeaths)
```



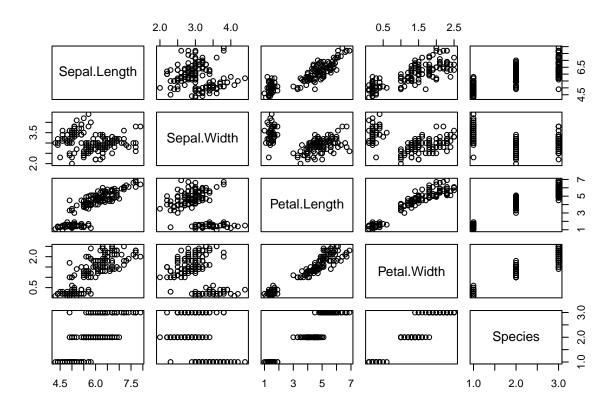
For the iris data frame, plot() shows all comparisons between the 5 columns in the data frame.

## head(iris)

```
Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
##
## 1
              5.1
                           3.5
                                         1.4
                                                      0.2
                                                          setosa
## 2
              4.9
                           3.0
                                         1.4
                                                      0.2
                                                           setosa
## 3
              4.7
                           3.2
                                         1.3
                                                      0.2
                                                           setosa
              4.6
                           3.1
## 4
                                         1.5
                                                      0.2
                                                           setosa
                                                      0.2 setosa
## 5
              5.0
                           3.6
                                         1.4
## 6
              5.4
                           3.9
                                         1.7
                                                      0.4
                                                          setosa
```

#### str(iris)

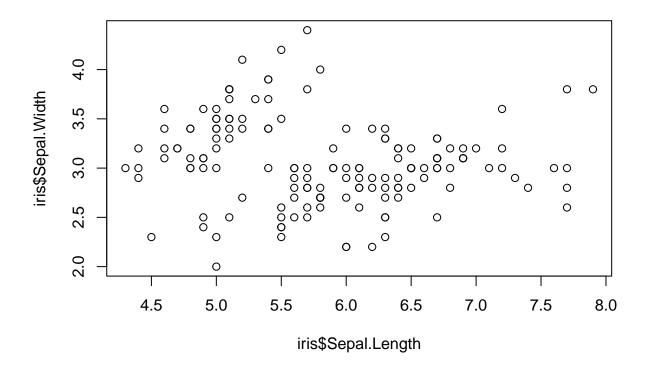
```
## 'data.frame': 150 obs. of 5 variables:
## $ Sepal.Length: num 5.1 4.9 4.7 4.6 5 5.4 4.6 5 4.4 4.9 ...
## $ Sepal.Width : num 3.5 3 3.2 3.1 3.6 3.9 3.4 3.4 2.9 3.1 ...
## $ Petal.Length: num 1.4 1.4 1.3 1.5 1.4 1.7 1.4 1.5 1.4 1.5 ...
## $ Petal.Width : num 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.2 0.1 ...
## $ Species : Factor w/ 3 levels "setosa", "versicolor", ..: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
plot(iris)
```



# The plot() function: scatter plot

Rather than relying on the ability of plot() to automatically recognize the structure of your R object, you can use this function to create simple scatter plots by explicitly specifying x and y parameters. We did this above already.

```
plot(x=iris$Sepal.Length,
    y=iris$Sepal.Width)
```



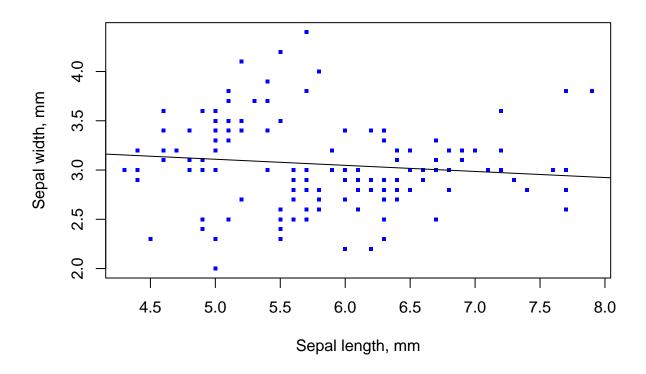
## Customizing parameters

Above, we also drew the points in different colors. You may also want to tweak some other things, like the shape and size of the points, and the axis labels, or overlay additional information, such as a regression line.

Somewhat confusingly, the plot() help file (see ?plot) does not describe any parameters to specify color. Instead, it says: ... Arguments to be passed to methods, such as graphical parameters (see par).

So you need to look up par in the Help to get a list of these. You can set parameters globally, or within a plot function. See **QuickR: Graphical Parameters** by Datacamp for more info on these parameters.

```
# add a regression line
# this throws an error if try to use dataframe cols directly
# this is because the function wants a matrix or vector object
abline(lm(y ~ x))
```



# Coloring by dataset

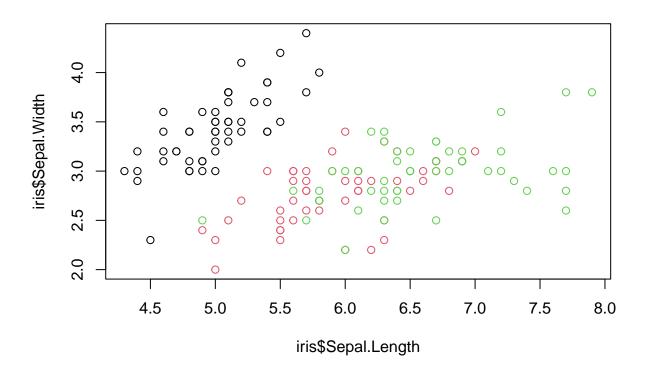
Above we used the col parameter to change the color of all the datapoints.

Even better, we can also color the points by **factor groupings**.

## Map colors to factor columns in a data frame

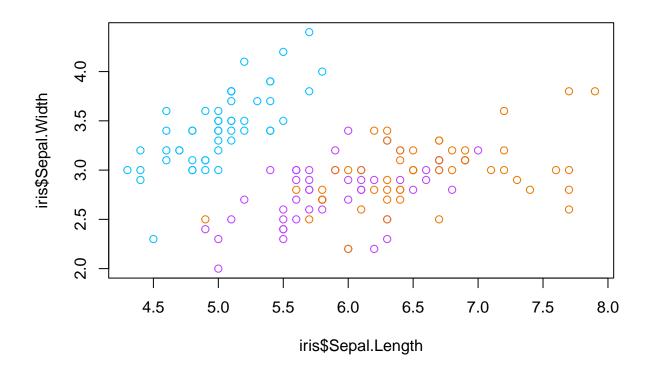
Below we color the points from the three *Species* according to the three *factors* defined for this data column.

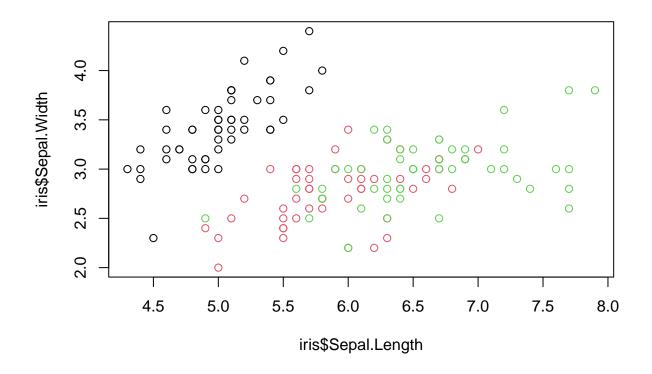
```
plot(x=iris$Sepal.Length,
    y=iris$Sepal.Width,
    col=iris$Species) # color the points by their species group/factor
```



## Map data with a different palette

Don't like the default colors? Change the palette!

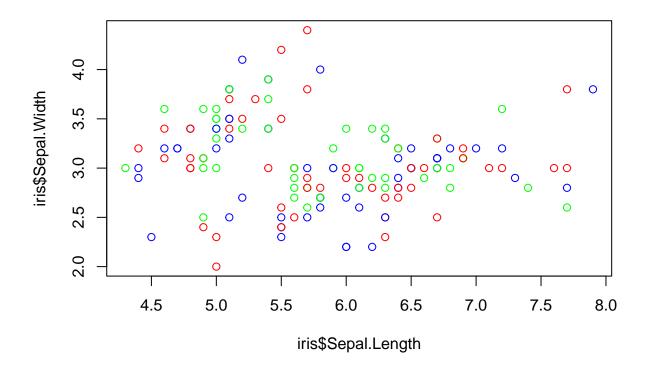




Note that R seems to know how to map palette() values onto factors automatically. HOWEVER, if the number of factors exceeds the number of colors in the palette, colors will just get recycled! (You can try this with the iris dataset by removing one of the colors above and remaking the plot.)

What if instead we just tried to use a random vector of three colors? Points will just get randomly assigned to colors! (Just like with the palette colors, these colors will get recycled until all of the points are colored; however there will be no relationship between factors and the color of each data point.)

Compare the graph below with the ones we just made above. Can you see the difference?



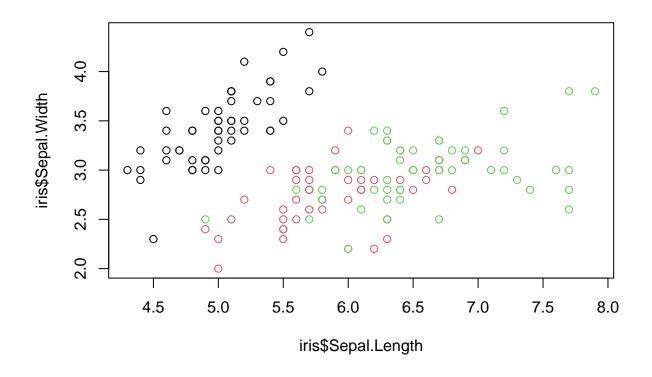
### Map data with a character column

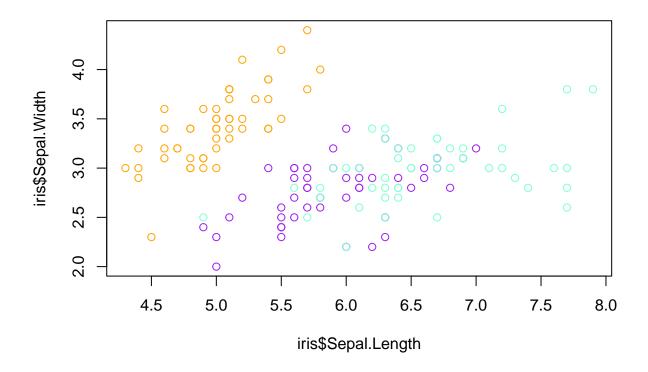
Abother way to color the data by groups/factors is using a *character vector* of the same length as the factor vector in the dataframe. This allows us to change the color mappings, but it is more complicated!

```
# make a copy of the Species column and check the levels
species_colors = iris$Species # a factor column
levels(species_colors)
                                # also a factor vector
## [1] "setosa"
                     "versicolor" "virginica"
# set color names as levels
levels(species_colors) = c("orange", "purple", "aquamarine")
                                # what is this vector?
species_colors
##
     [1] orange
                     orange
                                orange
                                            orange
                                                        orange
                                                                   orange
##
     [7] orange
                     orange
                                orange
                                            orange
                                                        orange
                                                                   orange
##
    [13] orange
                     orange
                                orange
                                            orange
                                                        orange
                                                                   orange
##
    [19] orange
                     orange
                                orange
                                            orange
                                                        orange
                                                                   orange
                                                                   orange
##
    [25] orange
                     orange
                                orange
                                            orange
                                                        orange
##
    [31] orange
                                                                   orange
                     orange
                                orange
                                            orange
                                                        orange
    [37] orange
##
                     orange
                                orange
                                            orange
                                                        orange
                                                                   orange
```

```
[43] orange
##
                  orange
                             orange
                                       orange
                                                  orange
                                                            orange
##
   [49] orange
                  orange
                             purple
                                                  purple
                                                            purple
                                       purple
   [55] purple
                                                            purple
##
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  purple
   [61] purple
##
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  purple
                                                            purple
##
   [67] purple
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  purple
                                                            purple
##
   [73] purple
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  purple
                                                            purple
##
   [79] purple
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  purple
                                                            purple
   [85] purple
##
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  purple
                                                            purple
##
   [91] purple
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  purple
                                                            purple
##
  [97] purple
                  purple
                             purple
                                       purple
                                                  aquamarine aquamarine
## [103] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## [109] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## [115] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## [121] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## [127] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## [133] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## [139] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## [145] aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine aquamarine
## Levels: orange purple aquamarine
str(species_colors)
                            # is it still a factor?
## Factor w/ 3 levels "orange", "purple", ...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
```

# try this





# Essentials of ggplot2

The following brief overview is adapted from an **STHDA tutorial** that covers all the basic types of plots you can make with ggplot.

The concept behind ggplot2 divides plot into three different fundamental parts:

#### Plot = Data + Aesthetics + Geometry

The principal elements of every plot can be defined as follows:

- **Data** is a data frame (variables) to be plotted.
- Aesthetics: the aes() function is used to indicate how to display the data:
  - which categories or measurements to map to x and y coordinates; or color, size or shape of points, etc.
- Geometry defines the type of graphics
  - e.g. histogram, box plot, line plot, density plot, dot plot, etc.

There are **two major functions** in the ggplot2 package:

- qplot() stands for quick plot, which can be used to produce easily simple plots.
- ggplot() function is more flexible and robust than qplot() for building a plot piece by piece.

Plots are constructed by **layering** geometries, additional aesthetics, and themes on top of the primary aesthetic mapping.

The basic syntax is:

Notice that as layers are added, a + symbol is added at the end of the previous layer. This signals that the plot is not finished.

The + symbol must always appear at the end of a line.

#### Aesthetics

If your data is **tidy**, then the columns of your data frame will contain the variables that you want to display. Let's take a minute to review tidy data by reviewing the page on the course website.

Remember how we said that R is a **vectorized** language? Vectors are the basic units of all data structures in R.

So, each **column** of a data frame can be **mapped** to different **aesthetics** of the graph (e.g. axis, colors, shapes, etc.). A few of the examples below are based on Chapter 3 from *R* for *Data Science*.

#### Specifying aesthetics

There are **two ways** to specify aesthetics:

- Mapping: This maps specific types of data to different visual elements
  - Mappings are are always included *inside* of an aes() directive.
    - \* In the data layer, mapping is applied to all geometries.
    - \* In the **geom** layer (or other layers), the mapping will be applied only to a particular geometry or feature.
- Setting: Manually set an aesthetic independently of data
  - Settings are placed *outside* of an aes() directive.

Aesthetic elements include things such as:

- x- and y- axes
- Colors
- The size of points (in mm)
- The shape of points (a number; see below)
- Transparency (range 0-1)

#### Geometries

Geometries control the type of visual paradigm you want to use to display your data, for example:

- geom\_bar() barchart
- geom\_histogram() histogram

- geom\_dotplot() dot plot, a.k.a. strip chart
- geom\_boxplot() boxplot
- geom violin() violin plot
- geom\_point() scatterplot

Geom functions also allow you to add additional features to a graph, for example:

- geom jitter() spread points out (e.g. on strip charts) to make the data more visible
- geom vline() add a vertical line (can also add other kinds of lines)

Statistical features can also be layered onto graphs, e.g.:

- geom\_smooth() a regression line (according to a global or local model)
- stat\_summary() add some kind of statistical function to a graph
  - This can also be done by adding stat = "something" inside another geometry (some examples below)

#### Themes

**Themes** are used to customize the **non-data components** of your graphs, such as titles, labels, fonts, background, gridlines, and legends.

- The **default** appearance of ggplot graphs produces graphs with a gray background and white gridlines. This can be changed to almost any look and feel by customizing their themes, which can also be used to give plots a consistent look for presentation.
- The \*\*ggthemes\* package provides a variety of defined themes that replicate the look and feel for different visual paradigms and applications.
- theme() components can also be set manually.

#### Plotting functions

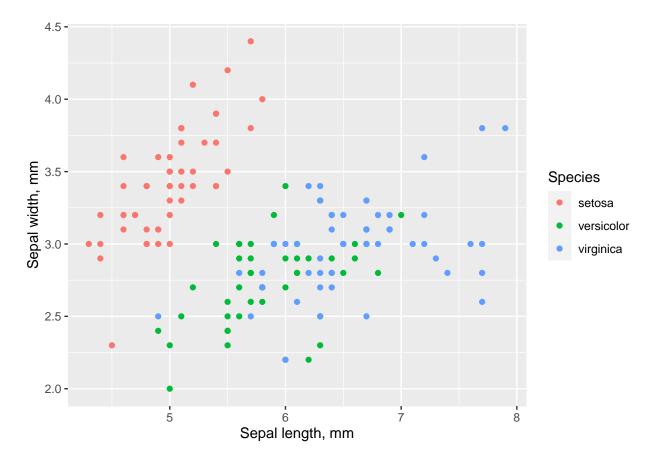
### The qplot() uses simple syntax to generate plots

The "quick plot" method uses simplified syntax resembling that of Base R. The biggest difference is that we explicitly add the **geometry**.

Let us recreate the Sepal.Length vs Sepal.Width scatterplot using qplot(). We'll also color the points by group, and add some axis labels.

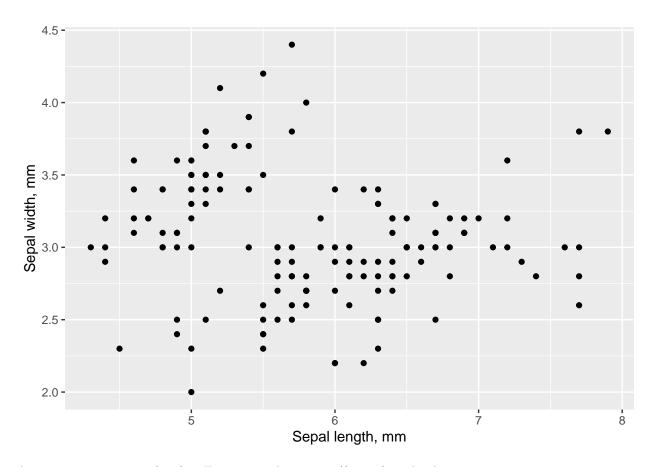
```
library(ggplot2)
head(iris)
```

```
Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
##
## 1
              5.1
                           3.5
                                         1.4
                                                     0.2 setosa
## 2
                           3.0
                                                     0.2 setosa
              4.9
                                         1.4
## 3
              4.7
                           3.2
                                         1.3
                                                     0.2 setosa
## 4
              4.6
                           3.1
                                         1.5
                                                     0.2 setosa
              5.0
                                                     0.2 setosa
## 5
                           3.6
                                         1.4
## 6
              5.4
                           3.9
                                         1.7
                                                     0.4 setosa
```

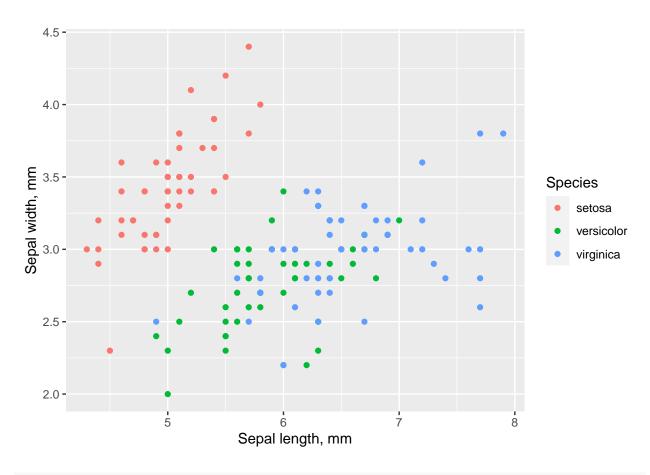


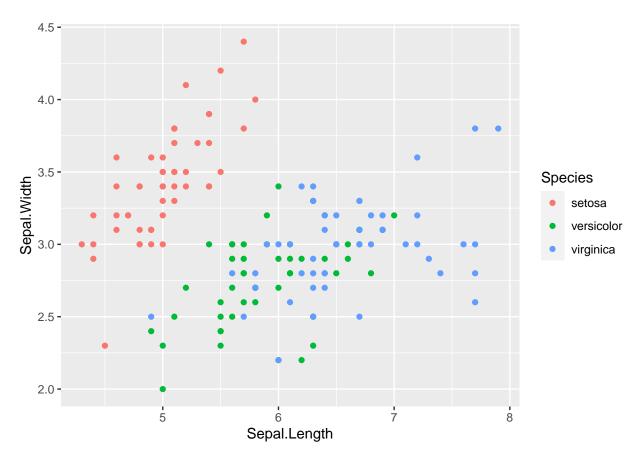
### The ggplot() function builds plots layer by layer

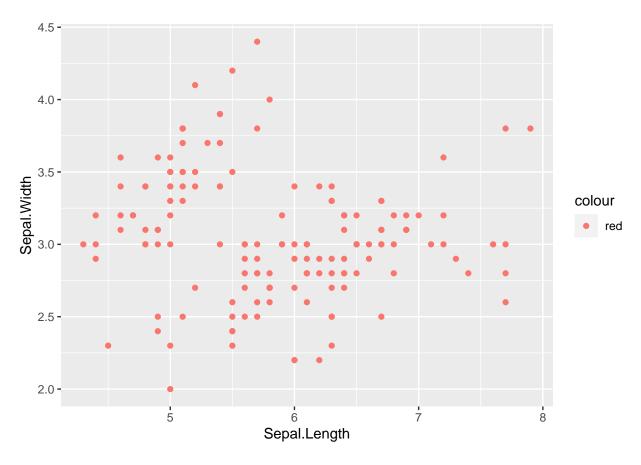
Let us recreate the Sepal.Length vs Sepal.Width scatterplot using ggplot().

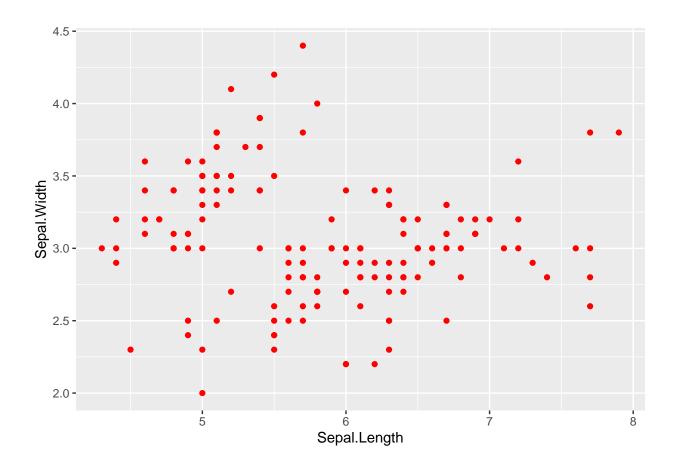


Again, you can set a **color** for all points, or by groups (factors) in the dataset.









# Histograms

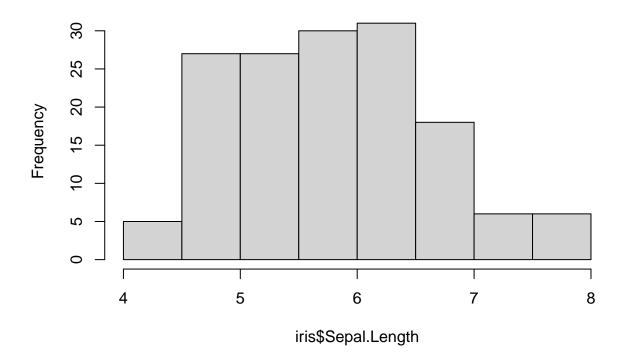
Histograms are good for showing the **distribution** of a **single quantitative variable**. Two or more distributions can be shown together on one histogram, though showing more than two or three gets really confusing.

### hist() in base R

Base R has a special function called hist(). It's great for very quick visualization.

hist(iris\$Sepal.Length)

# Histogram of iris\$Sepal.Length

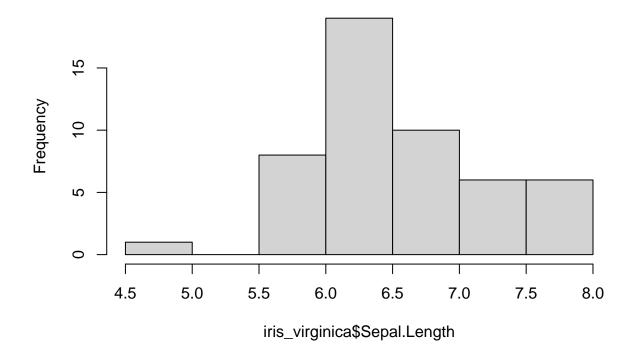


Keep in mind that iris contains data for three species, so the histogram above makes little biological sense because it is a mixture of measurements of three different species! There is no way to separate them inside hist(), so you have to split the data.frame manually.

Plot labels can get kind of ugly, so it's nice to add labels if you're going to share your plots with someone else.

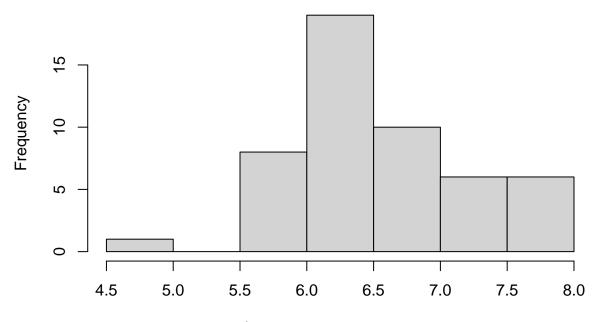
```
# do it in steps
virgnica_rows = which(iris$Species=='virginica')
iris_virginica = iris[virgnica_rows,]
hist(iris_virginica$Sepal.Length)
```

# Histogram of iris\_virginica\$Sepal.Length



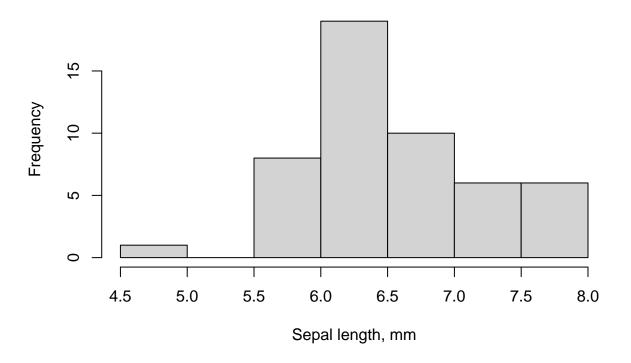
```
# ======== #
# do it in one go
hist(iris[which(iris$Species=='virginica'), "Sepal.Length"])
```

# Histogram of iris[which(iris\$Species == "virginica"), "Sepal.Length'



iris[which(iris\$Species == "virginica"), "Sepal.Length"]

# **Sepal length for Virginica**

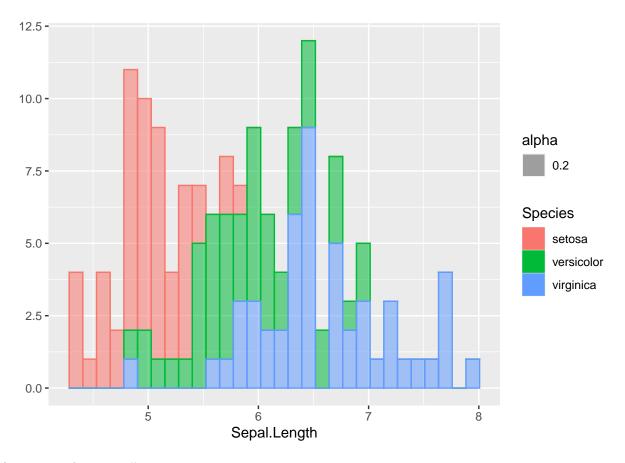


# qplot() and geom\_histogram() in ggplot2

qplot() provides an easy way to display the data for the three species overlayed.

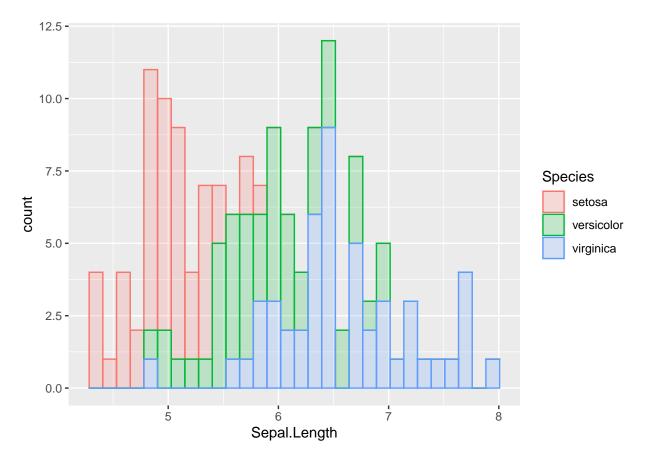
```
qplot(x=Sepal.Length,
    data=iris,
    fill=Species,
    color=Species,  # here color applies to the borders!
    alpha=0.2)  # make the bars semi-transparent
```

## 'stat\_bin()' using 'bins = 30'. Pick better value with 'binwidth'.



The same with ggplot():

## 'stat\_bin()' using 'bins = 30'. Pick better value with 'binwidth'.



There is an extension of ggplot2 that makes histograms look a little nicer (I'll find this and add to this worksheet later).

# Bar plots: comparing 1D categorical data

Bar plots are among the most common plots and are useful for comparing counts among individuals or groups.

## barplot() in base R

Base R has a built-in function barplot().

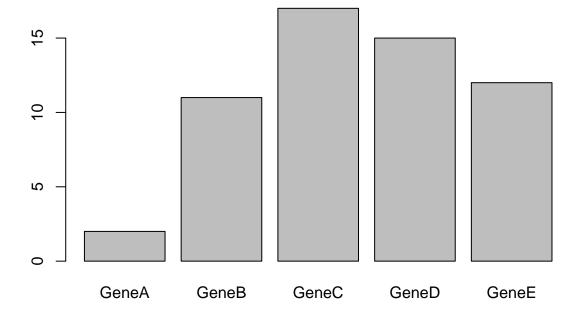
- The first argument to barplot() is height, which is expected to be a vector or a matrix.
- The arrangement of bars is given by the beside argument, which is FALSE by default.
- If height is a matrix, the default setting makes a stacked barplot.
- $\bullet~$  Set beside=TRUE to make a  $\mathbf{side-by-side}$  barplot.

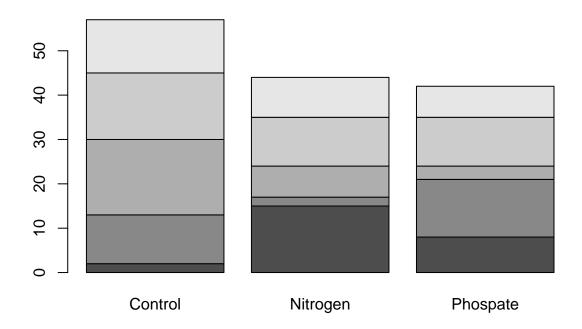
Again, there are a bunch of parameters that can be used to control other aspects of the plot's appearance.

Let's make a barplot for a toy dataset where we compare gene expression levels for five different *Arabidopsis* genes under different nutrient conditions.

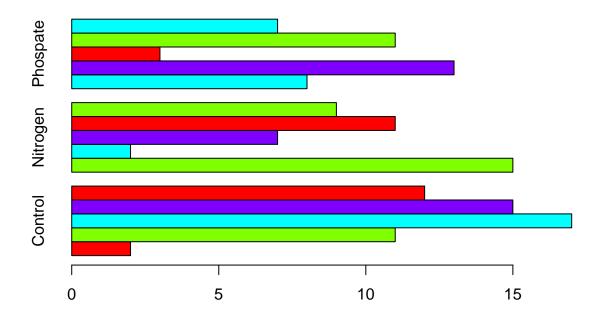
### ?barplot -> vector or matrix -> wide vs long -> settle on wide

```
##
       Control Nitrogen Phospate
## GeneA
           2
                 15
                   2
                         13
## GeneB
           11
                  7
## GeneC
          17
                          3
## GeneD
                 11
                          11
          15
         12
## GeneE
                   9
                           7
```



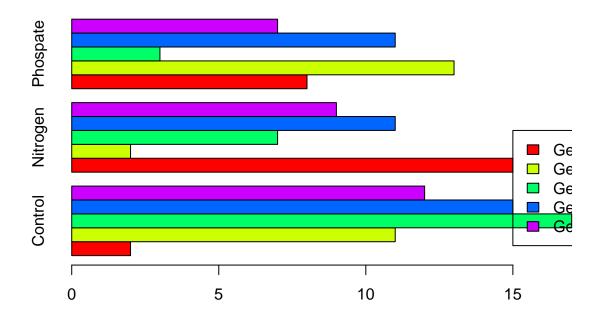


### this is nonsense!

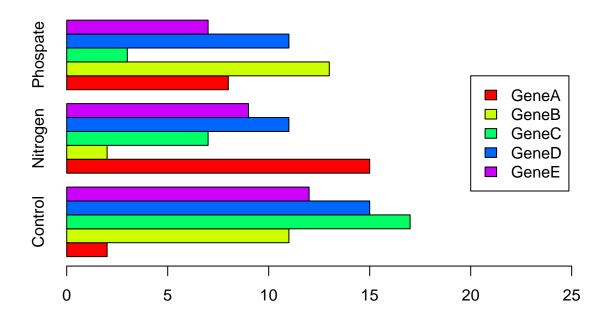


Oops! What happened? rainbow(4) makes a palette that just recycles four different colors. Since we have 5 genes, and we want the colors to match across groups, we need the right number of colors.

Let's fix this up, and also add a legend. We will place the legend somewhere on the graph by specifying x-and y-coordinates.



Well, we are getting there. To fix this up so the legend doesn't cover up any of the data, we also need to set the limits of the plot.



## geom\_bar() in ggplot2

To make a barplot grouped by **Condition** in ggplot2, we will need to transform **sampleData.df** into a different format. Let's review what **tidy** data is first by looking at the **tidy data** page on the course website.

Right now the data are in what's balled "wide" format. Each of the columns in the dataset actually represent variables of a global attribute, **Condition**.

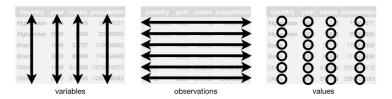


Figure 1: Wide format

To plot the numerical data grouped by both the **Gene** and **Condition** attributes, we need to put each of these three "dimensions" into its own **column**.

This means we need to **transform** our data from a *wide* format to a *long* format:

To do this we can use the stack() command. There are other commands to do this in the tidyverse package, which we will learn about later.

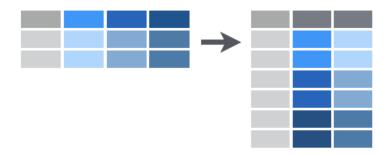
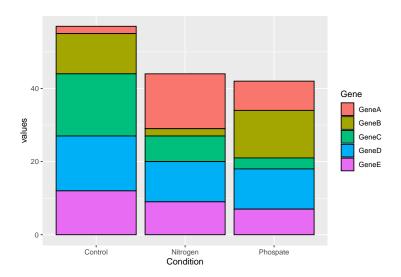


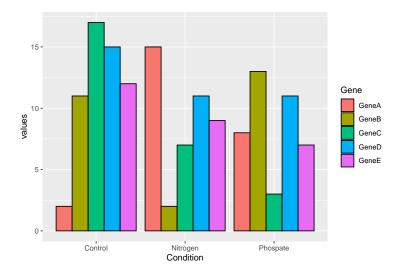
Figure 2: Long format

```
# ----- #
# transform wide to long format
sampleData.df.long = stack(sampleData.df) do stack(data.frame(sample_data_matrix))
head(sampleData.df.long) # check
##
   values
## 1
    2 Control
## 2
      11 Control
      17 Control
## 3
      15 Control
## 4
## 5
     12 Control
## 6
     15 Nitrogen
# ----- #
# Let's rename "ind" to "Condition"
colnames(sampleData.df.long)[2] = "Condition"
# ======== #
# Let's also add a "Gene" column
# Since there are 5 genes and 3 conditions, we will just replicate the 5 gene names 3 times.
sampleData.df.long$Gene = rep(rownames(sampleData.df),3)
head(sampleData.df.long) # check
  values Condition Gene
## 1
     2 Control GeneA
       11 Control GeneB
## 2
      17 Control GeneC
## 3
      15 Control GeneD
## 4
       12 Control GeneE
## 5
## 6
       15 Nitrogen GeneA
```

Now we can make our stacked and side-by-side bar plots.







Next time, we will look at boxplots, violin plots, faceting, and placing multiple graphs on the same plot in the style of a figure in a publication.