

# Data visualization with ggplot2 : : CHEATSHEET

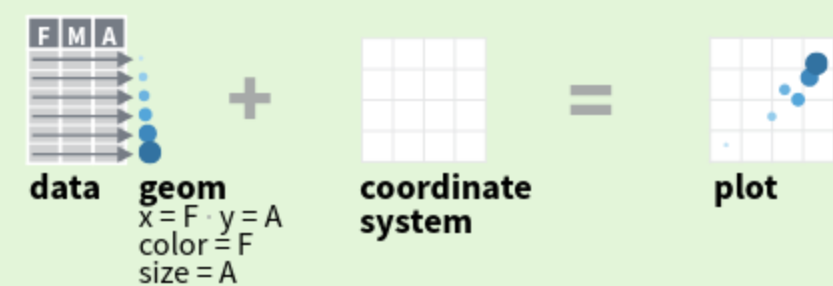


## Basics

**ggplot2** is based on the **grammar of graphics**, the idea that you can build every graph from the same components: a **data** set, a **coordinate system**, and **geoms**—visual marks that represent data points.



To display values, map variables in the data to visual properties of the geom (**aesthetics**) like **size**, **color**, and **x** and **y** locations.



Complete the template below to build a graph.

```
ggplot (data = <DATA>) +  
<GEOM_FUNCTION> (mapping = aes (<MAPPINGS>),  
  stat = <STAT>, position = <POSITION>) +  
<COORDINATE_FUNCTION> +  
<FACET_FUNCTION> +  
<SCALE_FUNCTION> +  
<THEME_FUNCTION>
```

**required**

**Not required, sensible defaults supplied**

**ggplot**(data = mpg, aes(x = cty, y = hwy)) Begins a plot that you finish by adding layers to. Add one geom function per layer.

**last\_plot()** Returns the last plot.

**ggsave**("plot.png", width = 5, height = 5) Saves last plot as 5' x 5' file named "plot.png" in working directory. Matches file type to file extension.

## Aes

Common aesthetic values.

**color** and **fill** - string ("red", "#RRGGBB")

**linetype** - integer or string (0 = "blank", 1 = "solid", 2 = "dashed", 3 = "dotted", 4 = "dotdash", 5 = "longdash", 6 = "twodash")

**size** - integer (line width in mm)

**shape** - integer/shape name or a single character ("a")

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
□ ○ △ + × ◇ ▼ ☆ ✱ ✧ ✨ ✨ ✨  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧

## Geoms

Use a geom function to represent data points, use the geom's aesthetic properties to represent variables. Each function returns a layer.

### GRAPHICAL PRIMITIVES

```
a <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))  
b <- ggplot(seals, aes(x = long, y = lat))
```

**a + geom\_blank()** and **a + expand\_limits()**  
Ensure limits include values across all plots.

**b + geom\_curve**(aes(yend = lat + 1, xend = long + 1, curvature = 1) - x, xend, y, yend, alpha, angle, color, curvature, linetype, size)

**a + geom\_path**(lineend = "butt", linejoin = "round", linemitre = 1) - x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size

**a + geom\_polygon**(aes(alpha = 50)) - x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, subgroup, linetype, size

**b + geom\_rect**(aes(xmin = long, ymin = lat, xmax = long + 1, ymax = lat + 1)) - xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

**a + geom\_ribbon**(aes(ymin = unemploy - 900, ymax = unemploy + 900)) - x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size

### LINE SEGMENTS

common aesthetics: x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

```
b + geom_abline(aes(intercept = 0, slope = 1))  
b + geom_hline(aes(yintercept = lat))  
b + geom_vline(aes(xintercept = long))
```

```
b + geom_segment(aes(yend = lat + 1, xend = long + 1))  
b + geom_spoke(aes(angle = 1:1155, radius = 1))
```

### ONE VARIABLE continuous

```
c <- ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy)); c2 <- ggplot(mpg)
```

**c + geom\_area**(stat = "bin")  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

**c + geom\_density**(kernel = "gaussian")  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size, weight

**c + geom\_dotplot**()  
x, y, alpha, color, fill

**c + geom\_freqpoly**()  
x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size

**c + geom\_histogram**(binwidth = 5)  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

**c2 + geom\_qq**(aes(sample = hwy))  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

### discrete

```
d <- ggplot(mpg, aes(fl))
```

**d + geom\_bar**()  
x, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

### TWO VARIABLES

#### both continuous

```
e <- ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy))
```

**e + geom\_label**(aes(label = cty), nudge\_x = 1, nudge\_y = 1) - x, y, label, alpha, angle, color, family, fontface, hjust, lineheight, size, vjust

**e + geom\_point**()  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size, stroke

**e + geom\_quantile**()  
x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size, weight

**e + geom\_rug**(sides = "bl")  
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

**e + geom\_smooth**(method = lm)  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size, weight

**e + geom\_text**(aes(label = cty), nudge\_x = 1, nudge\_y = 1) - x, y, label, alpha, angle, color, family, fontface, hjust, lineheight, size, vjust

#### one discrete, one continuous

```
f <- ggplot(mpg, aes(class, hwy))
```

**f + geom\_col**()  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size

**f + geom\_boxplot**()  
x, y, lower, middle, upper, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, shape, size, weight

**f + geom\_dotplot**(binaxis = "y", stackdir = "center")  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, group

**f + geom\_violin**(scale = "area")  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size, weight

#### both discrete

```
g <- ggplot(diamonds, aes(cut, color))
```

**g + geom\_count**()  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size, stroke

**e + geom\_jitter**(height = 2, width = 2)  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size

### THREE VARIABLES

```
seals$z <- with(seals, sqrt(delta_long^2 + delta_lat^2)); l <- ggplot(seals, aes(long, lat))
```

**l + geom\_contour**(aes(z = z))  
x, y, z, alpha, color, group, linetype, size, weight

**l + geom\_contour\_filled**(aes(fill = z))  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size, subgroup

### continuous bivariate distribution

```
h <- ggplot(diamonds, aes(carat, price))
```

**h + geom\_bin2d**(binwidth = c(0.25, 500))  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

**h + geom\_density\_2d**()  
x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size

**h + geom\_hex**()  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, size

### continuous function

```
i <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))
```

**i + geom\_area**()  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

**i + geom\_line**()  
x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size

**i + geom\_step**(direction = "hv")  
x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size

### visualizing error

```
df <- data.frame(grp = c("A", "B"), fit = 4:5, se = 1:2)  
j <- ggplot(df, aes(grp, fit, ymin = fit - se, ymax = fit + se))
```

**j + geom\_crossbar**(fatten = 2) - x, y, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size

**j + geom\_errorbar**() - x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, group, linetype, size, width  
Also **geom\_errorbarh**()

**j + geom\_linerange**()  
x, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, group, linetype, size

**j + geom\_pointrange**() - x, y, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, shape, size

### maps

```
data <- data.frame(murder = USArrests$Murder,  
  state = tolower(rownames(USArrests)))
```

```
map <- map_data("state")  
k <- ggplot(data, aes(fill = murder))
```

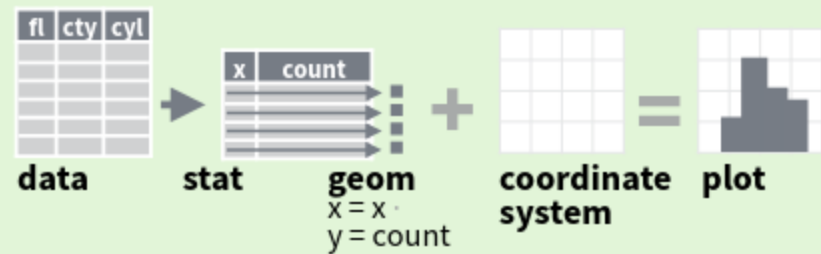
**k + geom\_map**(aes(map\_id = state), map = map) + **expand\_limits**(x = map\$long, y = map\$lat)  
map\_id, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size



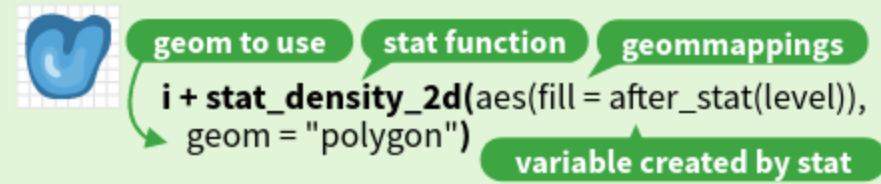
## Stats

An alternative way to build a layer.

A stat builds new variables to plot (e.g., count, prop).



Visualize a stat by changing the default stat of a geom function, **geom\_bar(stat="count")** or by using a stat function, **stat\_count(geom="bar")**, which calls a default geom to make a layer (equivalent to a geom function). Use **after\_stat(name)** syntax to map the stat variable **name** to an aesthetic.



**c + stat\_bin**(binwidth = 1, boundary = 10)  
**x, y** | count, ncount, density, ndensity

**c + stat\_count**(width = 1) **x, y** | count, prop

**c + stat\_density**(adjust = 1, kernel = "gaussian")  
**x, y** | count, density, scaled

**e + stat\_bin\_2d**(bins = 30, drop = T)  
**x, y, fill** | count, density

**e + stat\_bin\_hex**(bins = 30) **x, y, fill** | count, density

**e + stat\_density\_2d**(contour = TRUE, n = 100)  
**x, y, color, size** | level

**e + stat\_ellipse**(level = 0.95, segments = 51, type = "t")

**l + stat\_contour**(aes(z = z)) **x, y, z, order** | level

**l + stat\_summary\_hex**(aes(z = z), bins = 30, fun = max)  
**x, y, z, fill** | value

**l + stat\_summary\_2d**(aes(z = z), bins = 30, fun = mean)  
**x, y, z, fill** | value

**f + stat\_boxplot**(coef = 1.5)  
**x, y** | lower, middle, upper, width, ymin, ymax

**f + stat\_ydensity**(kernel = "gaussian", scale = "area") **x, y** | density, scaled, count, n, violinwidth, width

**e + stat\_ecdf**(n = 40) **x, y** | x, y

**e + stat\_quantile**(quantiles = c(0.1, 0.9), formula = y ~ log(x), method = "rq") **x, y** | quantile

**e + stat\_smooth**(method = "lm", formula = y ~ x, se = T, level = 0.95) **x, y** | se, x, y, ymin, ymax

**ggplot()** + **xlim**(-5, 5) + **stat\_function**(fun = dnorm, n = 20, geom = "point") **x** | x, y

**ggplot()** + **stat\_qq**(aes(sample = 1:100))  
**x, y, sample** | sample, theoretical

**e + stat\_sum**() **x, y, size** | n, prop

**e + stat\_summary**(fun.data = "mean\_cl\_boot")

**h + stat\_summary\_bin**(fun = "mean", geom = "bar")

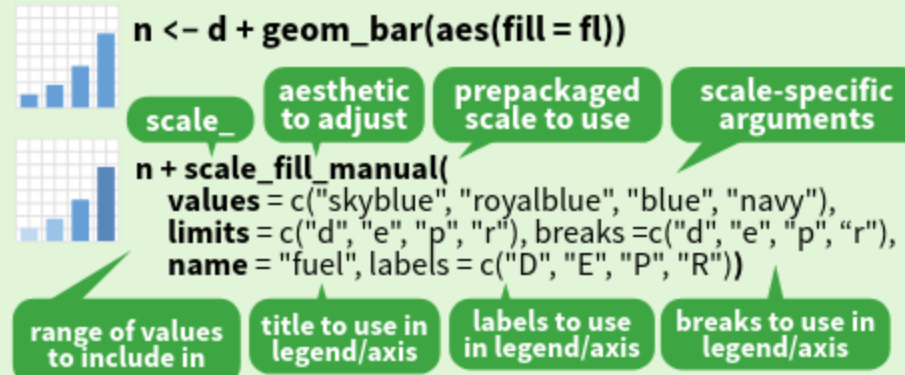
**e + stat\_identity**()

**e + stat\_unique**()

## Scales

Override defaults with **scales** package.

**Scales** map data values to the visual values of an aesthetic. To change a mapping, add a new scale.



### GENERAL PURPOSE SCALES

Use with most aesthetics

**scale\_\*\_continuous()** - Map cont' values to visual ones.

**scale\_\*\_discrete()** - Map discrete values to visual ones.

**scale\_\*\_binned()** - Map continuous values to discrete bins.

**scale\_\*\_identity()** - Use data values as visual ones.

**scale\_\*\_manual**(values = c()) - Map discrete values to manually chosen visual ones.

**scale\_\*\_date**(date\_labels = "%m/%d"), date\_breaks = "2 weeks") - Treat data values as dates.

**scale\_\*\_datetime()** - Treat data values as date times. Same as **scale\_\*\_date()**. See ?strptime for label formats.

### X & Y LOCATION SCALES

Use with x or y aesthetics (x shown here)

**scale\_x\_log10()** - Plot x on log10 scale.

**scale\_x\_reverse()** - Reverse the direction of the x axis.

**scale\_x\_sqrt()** - Plot x on square root scale.

### COLOR AND FILL SCALES (DISCRETE)

**n + scale\_fill\_brewer**(palette = "Blues")

For palette choices:  
RColorBrewer::display.brewer.all()

**n + scale\_fill\_grey**(start = 0.2, end = 0.8, na.value = "red")

### COLOR AND FILL SCALES (CONTINUOUS)

**o <- c + geom\_dotplot**(aes(fill = x))

**o + scale\_fill\_distiller**(palette = "Blues")

**o + scale\_fill\_gradient**(low="red", high="yellow")

**o + scale\_fill\_gradient2**(low = "red", high = "blue", mid = "white", midpoint = 25)

**o + scale\_fill\_gradientn**(colors = topo.colors(6))  
Also: rainbow(), heat.colors(), terrain.colors(), cm.colors(), RColorBrewer::brewer.pal()

### SHAPE AND SIZE SCALES

**p <- e + geom\_point**(aes(shape = fl, size = cyl))

**p + scale\_shape()** + **scale\_size()**  
**p + scale\_shape\_manual**(values = c(3:7))

**p + scale\_radius**(range = c(1,6))  
**p + scale\_size\_area**(max\_size = 6)

## Coordinate Systems

**r <- d + geom\_bar()**

**r + coord\_cartesian**(xlim = c(0, 5)) - xlim, ylim  
The default cartesian coordinate system.

**r + coord\_fixed**(ratio = 1/2)  
ratio, xlim, ylim - Cartesian coordinates with fixed aspect ratio between x and y units.

**r + coord\_flip()**  
Flip cartesian coordinates by switching x and y aesthetic mappings.

**r + coord\_polar**(theta = "x", direction=1)  
theta, start, direction - Polar coordinates.

**r + coord\_trans**(y = "sqrt") - x, y, xlim, ylim  
Transformed cartesian coordinates. Set xtrans and ytrans to the name of a window function.

**π + coord\_quickmap()**  
**π + coord\_map**(projection = "ortho", orientation = c(41, -74, 0)) - projection, xlim, ylim  
Map projections from the mapproj package (mercator (default), azequalarea, lagrange, etc.).

## Position Adjustments

Position adjustments determine how to arrange geoms that would otherwise occupy the same space.

**s <- ggplot**(mpg, aes(fl, fill = drv))

**s + geom\_bar**(position = "dodge")  
Arrange elements side by side.

**s + geom\_bar**(position = "fill")  
Stack elements on top of one another, normalize height.

**e + geom\_point**(position = "jitter")  
Add random noise to X and Y position of each element to avoid overplotting.

**e + geom\_label**(position = "nudge")  
Nudge labels away from points.

**s + geom\_bar**(position = "stack")  
Stack elements on top of one another.

Each position adjustment can be recast as a function with manual **width** and **height** arguments:  
**s + geom\_bar**(position = position\_dodge(width = 1))

## Themes

**r + theme\_bw()**  
White background with grid lines.

**r + theme\_gray()**  
Grey background (default theme).

**r + theme\_dark()**  
Dark for contrast.

**r + theme\_classic()**  
**r + theme\_light()**  
**r + theme\_linedraw()**  
**r + theme\_minimal()**  
**r + theme\_void()**

**r + theme()** Customize aspects of the theme such as axis, legend, panel, and facet properties.  
**r + ggtitle**("Title") + **theme**(plot.title.position = "plot")  
**r + theme**(panel.background = element\_rect(fill = "blue"))

## Faceting

Facets divide a plot into subplots based on the values of one or more discrete variables.

**t <- ggplot**(mpg, aes(cty, hwy)) + **geom\_point**()

**t + facet\_grid**(. ~ fl)  
Facet into columns based on fl.

**t + facet\_grid**(year ~ .)  
Facet into rows based on year.

**t + facet\_grid**(year ~ fl)  
Facet into both rows and columns.

**t + facet\_wrap**(~ fl)  
Wrap facets into a rectangular layout.

Set **scales** to let axis limits vary across facets.

**t + facet\_grid**(drv ~ fl, scales = "free")  
x and y axis limits adjust to individual facets:  
"free\_x" - x axis limits adjust  
"free\_y" - y axis limits adjust

Set **labeller** to adjust facet label:

**t + facet\_grid**(. ~ fl, labeller = label\_both)

**fl: c** **fl: d** **fl: e** **fl: p** **fl: r**

**t + facet\_grid**(fl ~ ., labeller = label\_bquote(alpha ^ .(fl)))

**α<sup>c</sup>** **α<sup>d</sup>** **α<sup>e</sup>** **α<sup>p</sup>** **α<sup>r</sup>**

## Labels and Legends

Use **labs()** to label the elements of your plot.

**t + labs**(x = "New x axis label", y = "New y axis label", title = "Add a title above the plot", subtitle = "Add a subtitle below title", caption = "Add a caption below plot", alt = "Add alt text to the plot", <AES> = "New <AES> legend title")

**t + annotate**(geom = "text", x = 8, y = 9, label = "A")  
Places a geom with manually selected aesthetics.

**p + guides**(x = guide\_axis(n.dodge = 2)) Avoid crowded or overlapping labels with guide\_axis(n.dodge or angle).

**n + guides**(fill = "none") Set legend type for each aesthetic: colorbar, legend, or none (no legend).

**n + theme**(legend.position = "bottom")  
Place legend at "bottom", "top", "left", or "right".

**n + scale\_fill\_discrete**(name = "Title", labels = c("A", "B", "C", "D", "E"))  
Set legend title and labels with a scale function.

## Zooming

**Without clipping** (preferred):

**t + coord\_cartesian**(xlim = c(0, 100), ylim = c(10, 20))

**With clipping** (removes unseen data points):

**t + xlim**(0, 100) + **ylim**(10, 20)

**t + scale\_x\_continuous**(limits = c(0, 100)) + **scale\_y\_continuous**(limits = c(0, 100))