

Introduction to ggplot2

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May 29, 2014

Goals

What I will try to do

- ▶ give a tour of `ggplot2`
- ▶ explain how to think about plots the `ggplot2` way
- ▶ prepare/encourage you to learn more later

What I can't do in one session

- ▶ show every bell and whistle
- ▶ make you an expert at using `ggplot2`

The Births78 data set – revised edition

```
require(dplyr)
require(mosaic)
require(lubridate)
Births2 <- Births78 %>%
  mutate(
    date = mdy(date) - years(100), # y2k fix
    wd = wday(date),               # as a number
    wday = wday(date, label=TRUE, abbr=TRUE) # as text (
  )
head(Births2, 2)
```

```
##           date births dayofyear wd wday
## 1 1978-01-01    7701           1  1  Sun
## 2 1978-01-02    7527           2  2  Mon
```

The grammar of graphics

geom: the geometric “shape” used to display data (glyph)

- ▶ bar, point, line, ribbon, text, etc.

aesthetic: an attribute controlling how geom is displayed

- ▶ x position, y position, color, fill, shape, size, etc.

stat: a transformation applied to data before geom gets it

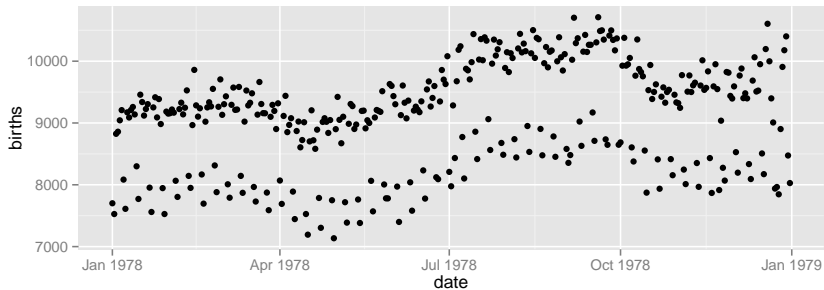
- ▶ example: histograms work on binned data

scale: conversion of raw data to visual display

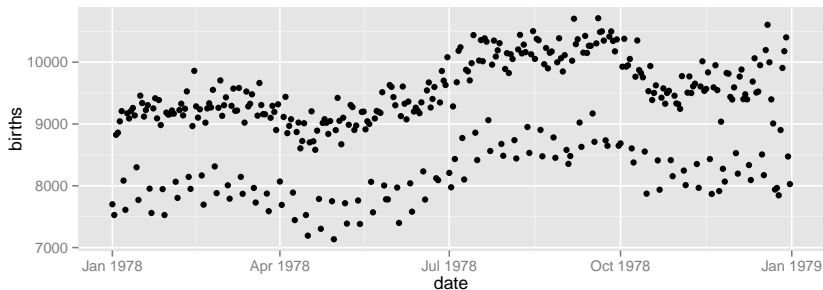
- ▶ particular assignment of colors, shapes, sizes, etc.

guide: helps user convert visual data back into raw data (legends, axes)

How do we make this plot?

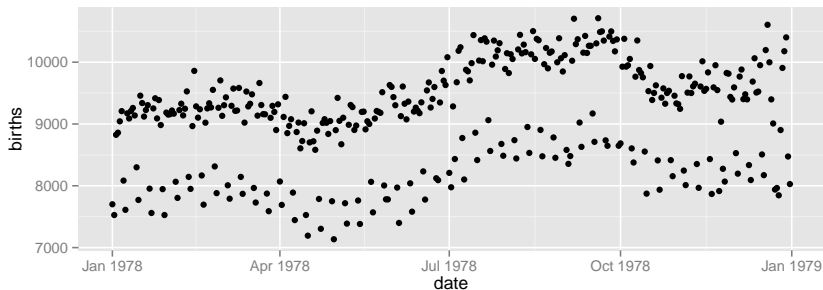


How do we make this plot?



What does R need to know?

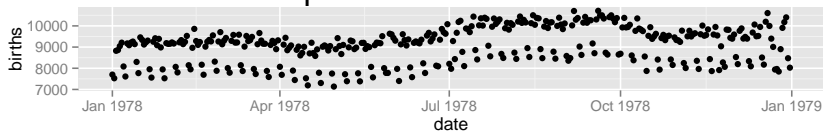
How do we make this plot?



What does R need to know?

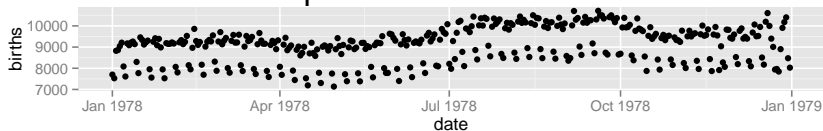
- ▶ data source
- ▶ aesthetics
- ▶ geom – dots

How do we make this plot?



What does R need to know?

How do we make this plot?

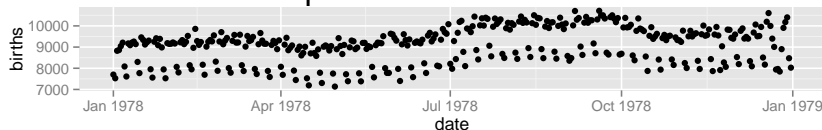


What does R need to know?

- data frame containing the data: `ggplot(data=)`

```
ggplot(data=Births2)
```

How do we make this plot?



What does R need to know?

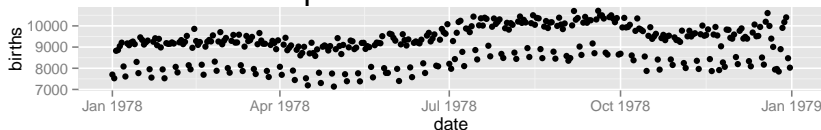
- data frame containing the data: `ggplot(data=)`

```
ggplot(data=Births2)
```

* how we want to map our aesthetics: `aes()`

```
ggplot(data=Births2, aes(x=date, y=births))
```

How do we make this plot?



What does R need to know?

- ▶ data frame containing the data: `ggplot(data=)`

```
ggplot(data=Births2)
```

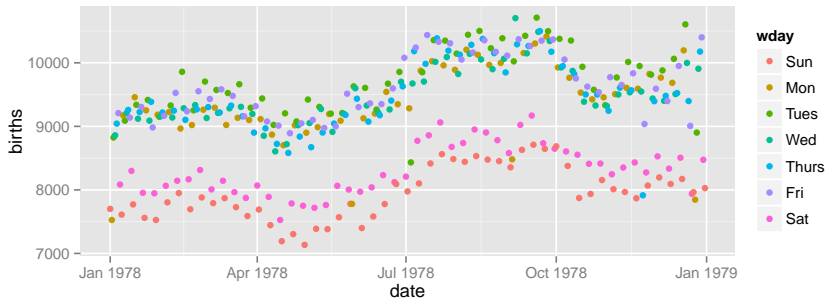
* how we want to map our aesthetics: `aes()`

```
ggplot(data=Births2, aes(x=date, y=births))
```

- ▶ what geom we want to use: `+ geom_point()`

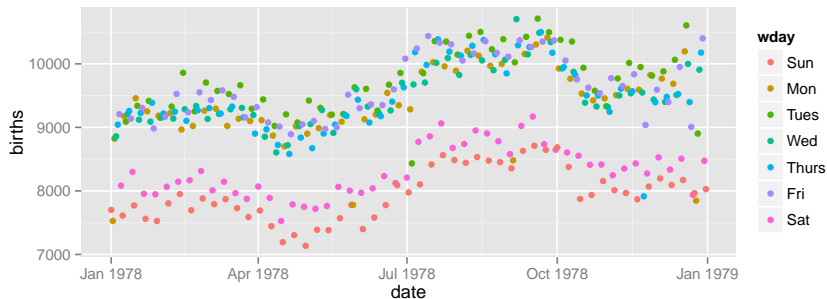
```
ggplot(data=Births2, aes(x=date, y=births)) + geom_point()
```

How do we make this plot?



What information has changed?

How do we make this plot?

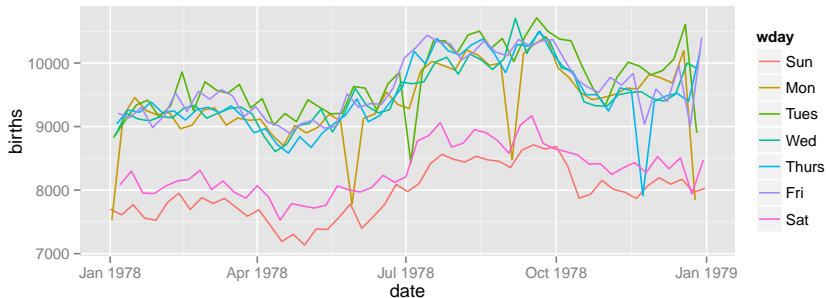


What information has changed?

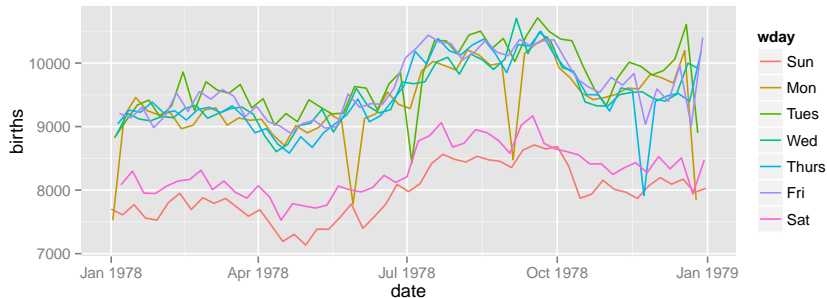
- new aesthetic: mapping color to day of week

```
ggplot(data=Births2, aes(x=date, y=births, color=wday)) +  
  geom_point()
```

How do we make this plot?



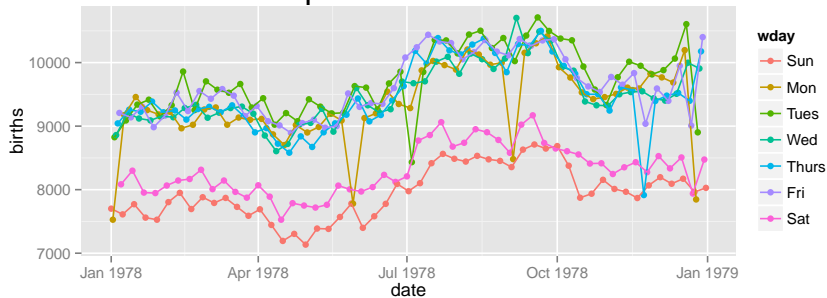
How do we make this plot?



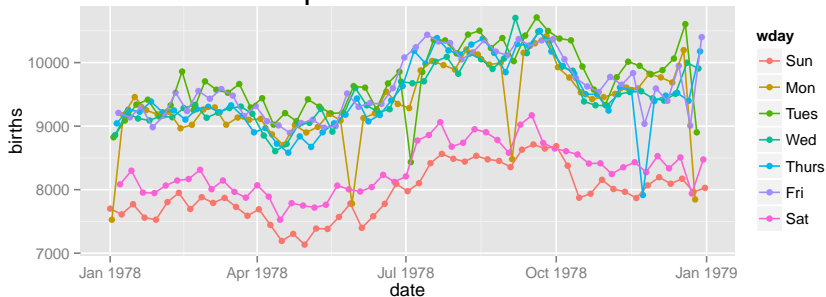
This time we use lines instead of dots

```
ggplot(data=Births2, aes(x=date, y=births, color=wday)) +  
  geom_line()
```

How do we make this plot?



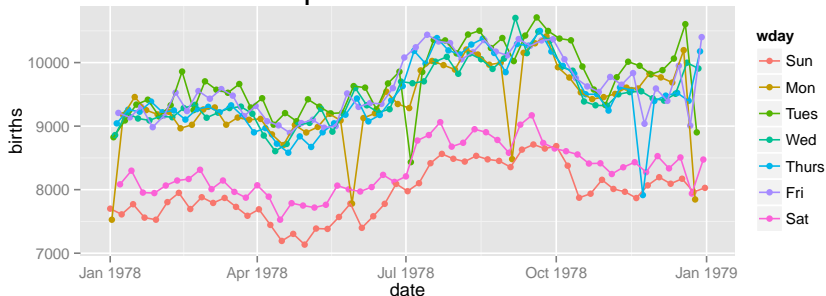
How do we make this plot?



This time we have two **layers**, one with points and one with lines

```
ggplot(data=Births2,  
       aes(x=date, y=births, color=wday)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line()
```

How do we make this plot?



This time we have two **layers**, one with points and one with lines

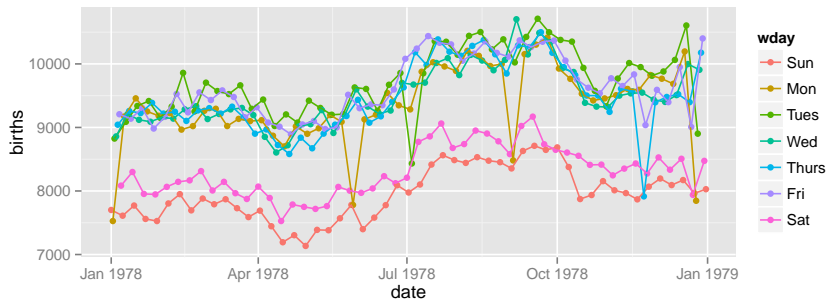
```
ggplot(data=Births2,  
       aes(x=date, y=births, color=wday)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line()
```

- The layers are placed one on top of the other: the points are *below* and the lines are *above*. Sometimes the order of the layers can be important because of overplotting.

Alternative Syntax

```
Births2 %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=date, y=births, color=wday)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line()
```

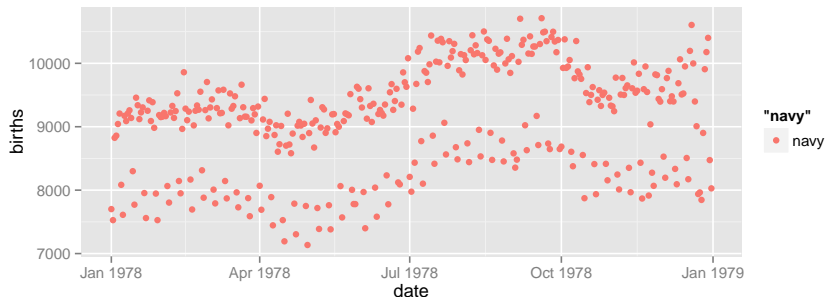


What does this do?

```
Births2 %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=date, y=births, color="navy")) +  
  geom_point()
```

What does this do?

```
Births2 %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=date, y=births, color="navy")) +  
  geom_point()
```

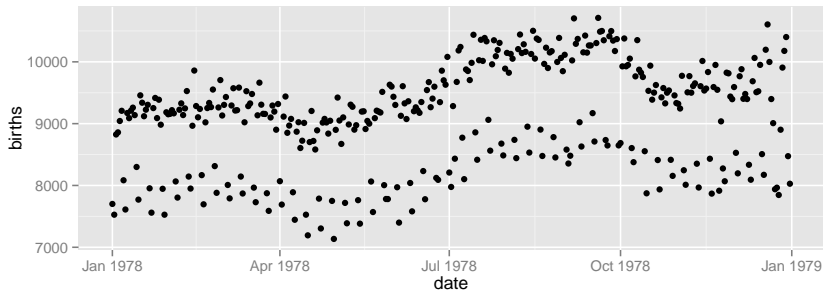


This is *mapping* the color aesthetic to a new variable with only one value (“navy”). So all the dots get set to the same color, but it’s not navy.

Setting vs. Mapping

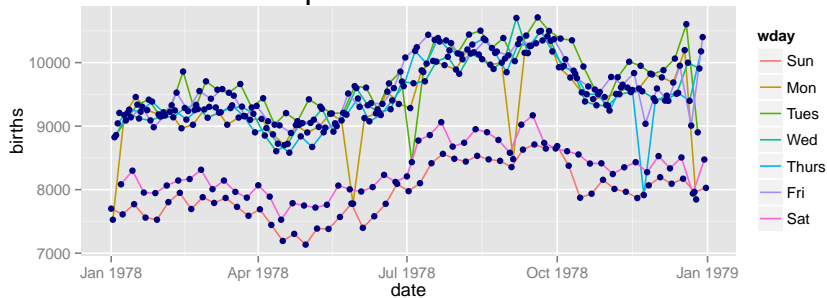
If we want to *set* the color to be navy for all of the dots, we do it this way:

```
Births2 %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=date, y=births), color="navy") +  
  geom_point()
```

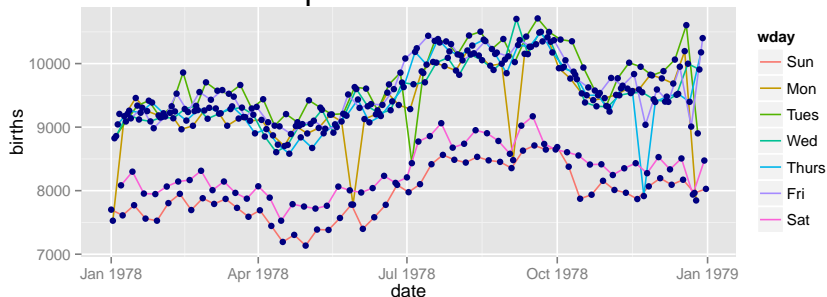


- Note that `colour = "navy"` is now outside of the aesthetics list. That's how `ggplot2` distinguishes between mapping and setting.

How do we make this plot?



How do we make this plot?



```
Births2 %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=date, y=births)) +  
    geom_line(aes(color=wday)) +  
    geom_point(color="navy")
```

- ▶ `ggplot()` establishes the default data and aesthetics for the geoms, but each geom may change these defaults.
- ▶ good practice: put into `ggplot()` the things that affect all (or most) of the layers; rest in `geom_blah()`

Other geoms

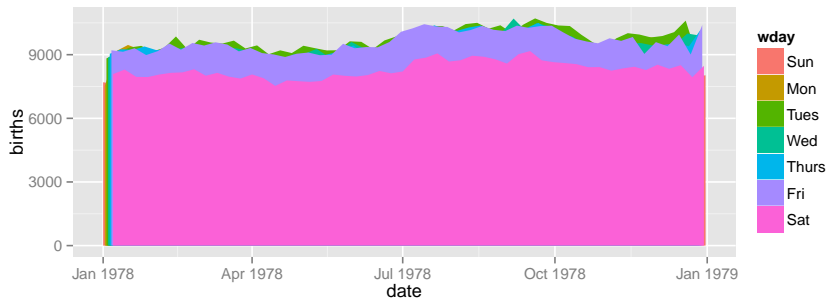
```
apropos("^geom_")
```

[1] "geom_abline"	"geom_area"	"geom_bar"
[4] "geom_bin2d"	"geom_blank"	"geom_boxplot"
[7] "geom_contour"	"geom_crossbar"	"geom_density"
[10] "geom_density2d"	"geom_dotplot"	"geom_errorbar"
[13] "geom_errorbarh"	"geom_freqpoly"	"geom_hex"
[16] "geom_histogram"	"geom_hline"	"geom_jitter"
[19] "geom_line"	"geom_linerange"	"geom_map"
[22] "geom_path"	"geom_point"	"geom_pointrange"
[25] "geom_polygon"	"geom_quantile"	"geom_rangeframe"
[28] "geom_raster"	"geom_rect"	"geom_ribbon"
[31] "geom_rug"	"geom_segment"	"geom_smooth"
[34] "geom_step"	"geom_text"	"geom_tile"
[37] "geom_tufteboxplot"	"geom_violin"	"geom_vline"

help pages will tell you their aesthetics and default stats

Let's try geom_area

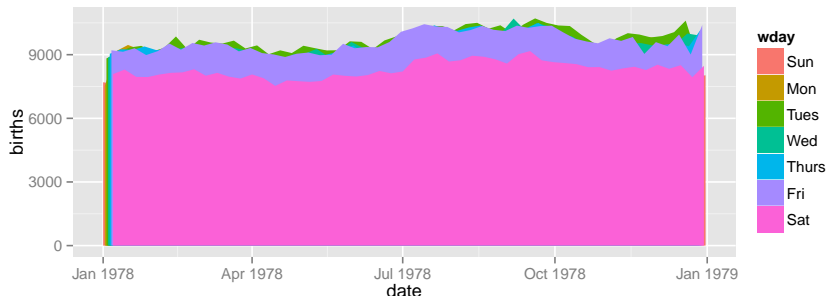
```
Births2 %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=date, y=births, fill=wday)) +  
  geom_area()
```



This is not a good plot

Let's try geom_area

```
Births2 %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=date, y=births, fill=wday)) +  
  geom_area()
```



This is not a good plot

- ▶ overplotting is hiding much of the data
- ▶ extending y-axis to 0 may or may not be desirable.

Side note: what makes a plot good?

Most (all?) graphics are intended to help us make comparisons

- ▶ How does something change over time?
- ▶ Do my treatments matter? How much?
- ▶ Do men and women respond the same way?

Key plot metric: Does my plot make the comparisons I am interested in

- ▶ easily, and
- ▶ accurately?

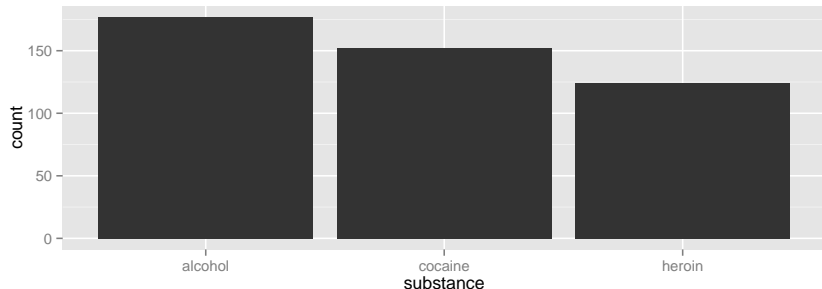
Time for some different data

HELPrct: Health Evaluation and Linkage to Primary care
randomized clinical trial

?HELPrct

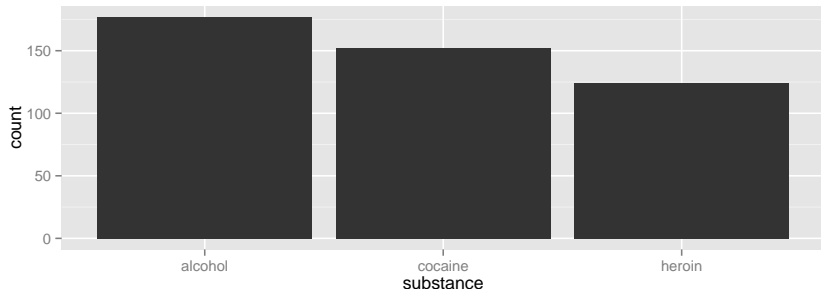
Why are these people in the study?

```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=substance)) +  
  geom_bar()
```



Why are these people in the study?

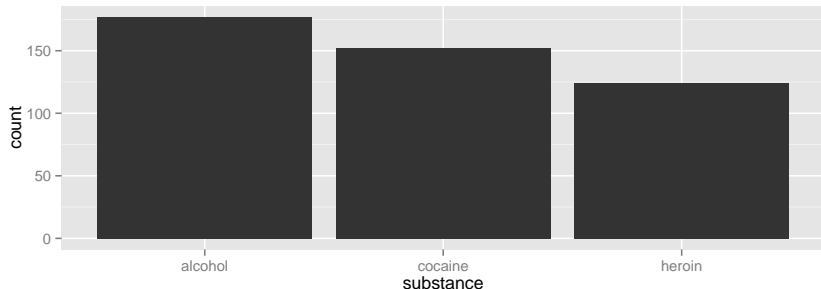
```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=substance)) +  
  geom_bar()
```



► Hmm. What's up with y?

Why are these people in the study?

```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=substance)) +  
  geom_bar()
```



- ▶ Hmm. What's up with y?
 - ▶ `stat_bin()` is being applied to the data before the `geom_bar()` gets to do its thing. Binning creates the y values.

Data Flow

org data $\xrightarrow{\text{stat}}$ statified $\xrightarrow{\text{aesthetics}}$ aesthetic data $\xrightarrow{\text{scales}}$ scaled data

Simplifications:

- ▶ aesthetics get computed twice, once before the stat and again after. Examples: bar charts, histograms
- ▶ item we need to look at the aesthetics to figure out which variable to bin
 - ▶ then the stat does the binning
 - ▶ bin counts become part of the aesthetics for geom:
`y=..count..`
- ▶ This process happens *in each layer*
- ▶ `stat_identity()` is the “do nothing” stat.

How old are people in the HELP study?

How old are people in the HELP study?

```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  geom_histogram()
```

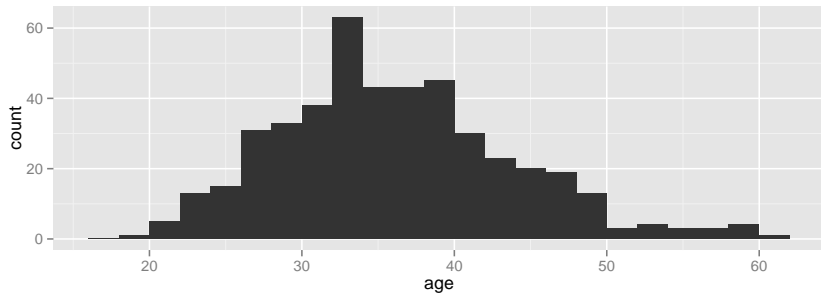


Notice the messages

- ▶ `stat_bin`: Histograms are not mapping the raw data but binned data.
`stat_bin()` performs the data transformation.
- ▶ `binwidth`: a default binwidth has been selected, but we should really choose our own.

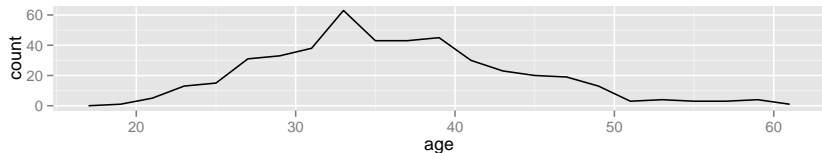
Setting the binwidth manually

```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  geom_histogram(binwidth=2)
```

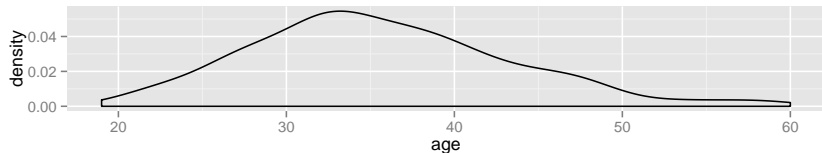


How old are people in the HELP study? – Other geoms

```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  geom_freqpoly(binwidth=2)
```



```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  geom_density()
```

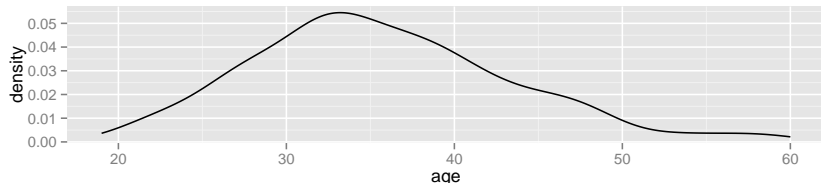


Selecting stat and geom manually

Every geom comes with a default stat

- ▶ for simple cases, the stat is `stat_identity()` which does nothing
- ▶ we can mix and match geoms and stats however we like

```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  geom_line(stat="density")
```

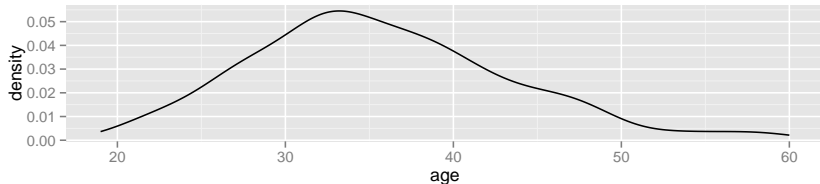


Selecting stat and geom manually

Every stat comes with a default geom

- ▶ we can specify stats instead of geom, if we prefer
- ▶ we can mix and match geoms and stats however we like

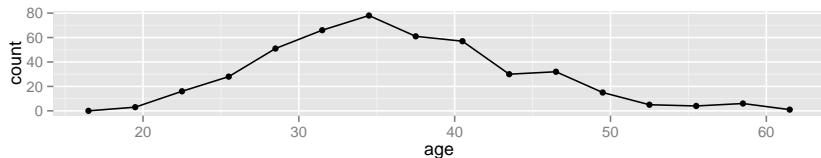
```
HELPrct %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  stat_density(geom="line")
```



More combinations

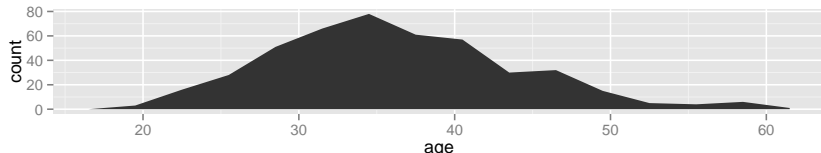
```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  geom_point(stat="bin", binwidth=3) +  
  geom_line(stat="bin", binwidth=3)
```



```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=age)) +  
  geom_area(stat="bin", binwidth=3)
```



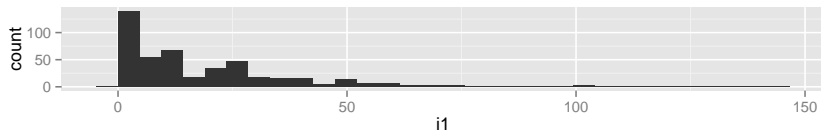
Your turn: How much do they drink? (i1)

Create a plot that shows the distribution of the average daily alcohol consumption in the past 30 days (i2).

How much do they drink? (i1)

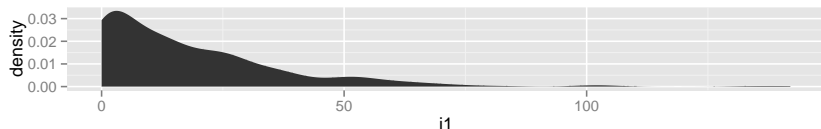
```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=i1)) + geom_histogram()
```



```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=i1)) + geom_area(stat="density")
```



Covariates: Adding in more variables

Q. How does alcohol consumption (or age, your choice) differ by sex and substance (alcohol, cocaine, heroin)?

Decisions:

- ▶ How will we display the variables: `i1` (or age), `sex`, `substance`
- ▶ What comparisons are we most interested in?

Give it a try.

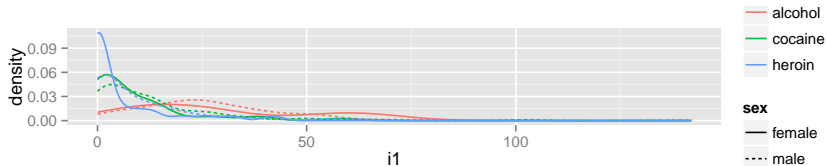
- ▶ Note: I'm cheating a bit. You may want to do some things I haven't shown you yet. (Feel free to ask.)

Covariates: Adding in more variables

Using color and linetype:

```
HELPrct %>%
```

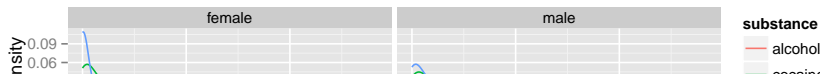
```
  ggplot(aes(x=i1, color=substance, linetype=sex)) +  
  geom_line(stat="density")
```



Using color and facets

```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=i1, color=substance)) +  
  geom_line(stat="density") + facet_grid( . ~ sex )
```

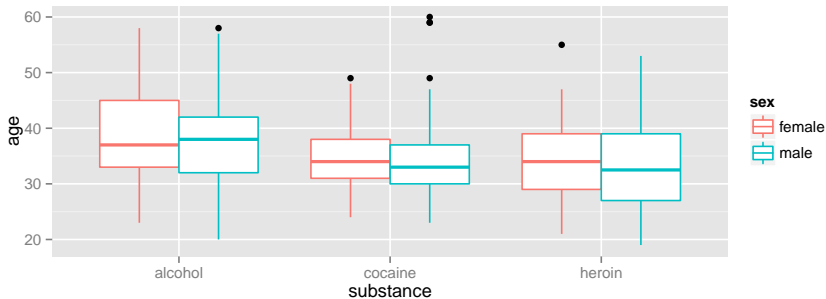


Boxplots

Boxplots use `stat_quantile()` which computes a five-number summary (roughly the five quartiles of the data) and uses them to define a “box” and “whiskers”. The quantitative variable must be y, and there must be an additional x variable.

```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=substance, y=age, color=sex)) +  
  geom_boxplot()
```

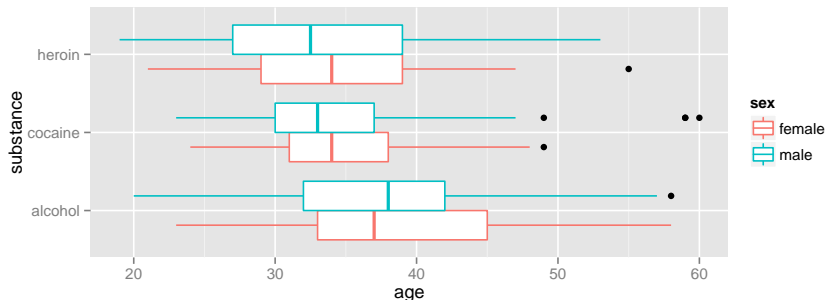


Horizontal boxplots

Horizontal boxplots are obtained by flipping the coordinate system:

```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=substance, y=age, color=sex)) +  
  geom_boxplot() +  
  coord_flip()
```



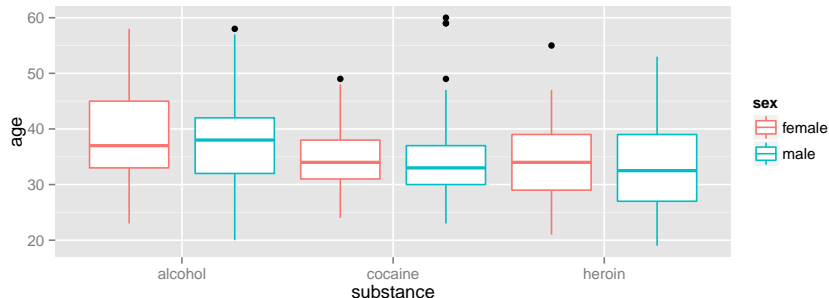
- `coord_flip()` may be used with other plots as well to reverse the roles of `x` and `y` on the plot.

Give me some space

We've triggered a new feature: `dodge` (for dodging things left/right). We can control how much if we set the `dodge` manually.

```
HELPrct %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=substance, y=age, color=sex)) +  
  geom_boxplot(position=position_dodge(width=1))
```

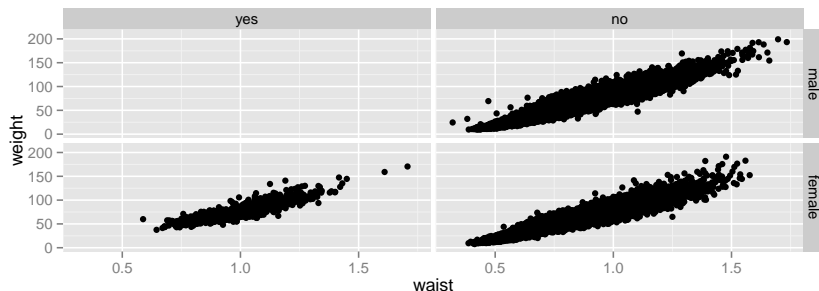


Issues with bigger data

```
dim(NHANES)
```

```
## [1] 31126    53
```

```
NHANES %>% ggplot(aes(x=waist, y=weight)) +  
  geom_point() + facet_grid( sex ~ pregnant )
```



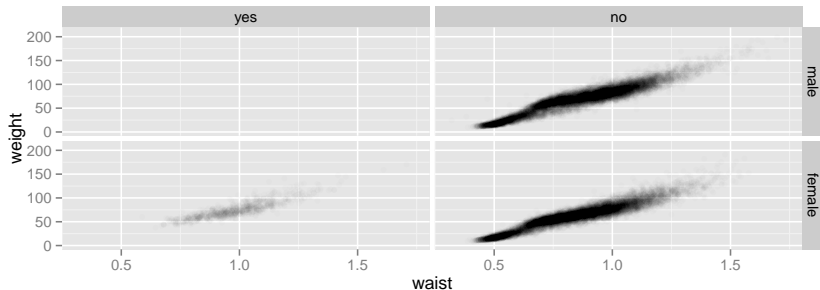
- Although we can see a generally positive association (as we would expect), the overplotting may be hiding information.

Using alpha (opacity)

One way to deal with overplotting is to set the opacity low.

```
NHANES %>%
```

```
  ggplot(aes(x=waist, y=weight)) +  
  geom_point(alpha=0.01) + facet_grid( sex ~ pregnant )
```

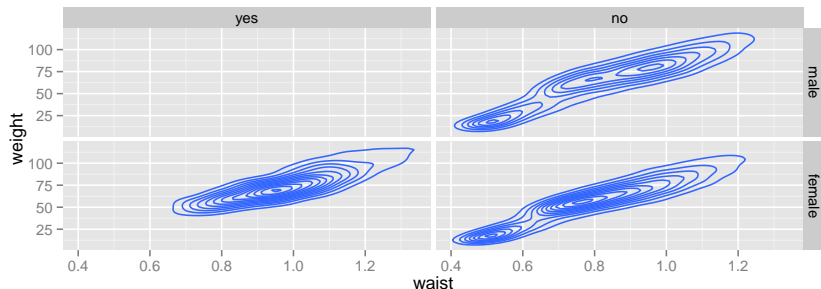


geom_density2d

Alternatively (or simultaneously) we might prefer a different geom altogether.

```
NHANES %>%
```

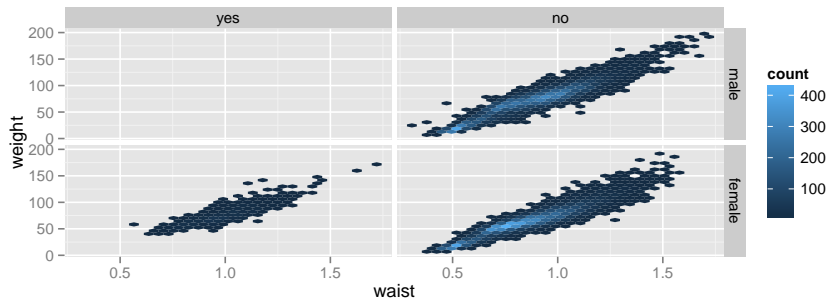
```
  ggplot(aes(x=waist, y=weight)) +  
  geom_density2d() + facet_grid( sex ~ pregnant )
```



geom_hex

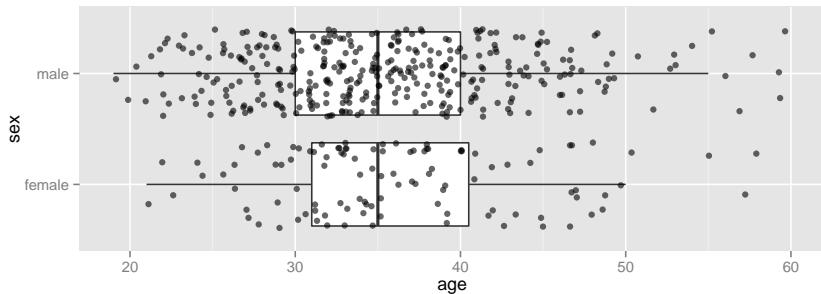
NHANES %>%

```
ggplot(aes(x=waist, y=weight)) +  
  geom_hex() + facet_grid( sex ~ pregnant )
```



Multiple layers

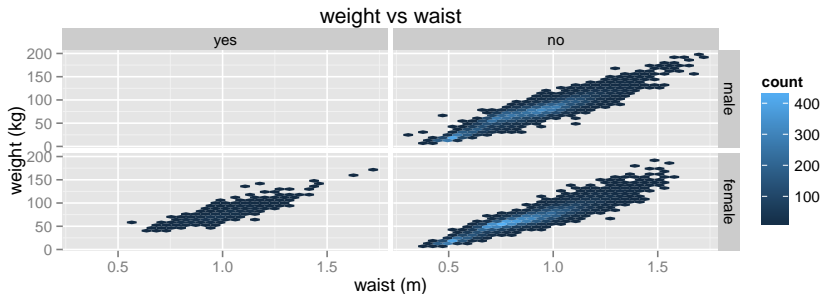
```
ggplot( data=HELPrct, aes(x=sex, y=age)) +  
  geom_boxplot(outlier.size=0) +  
  geom_jitter(alpha=.6) +  
  coord_flip()
```



Labeling

NHANES %>%

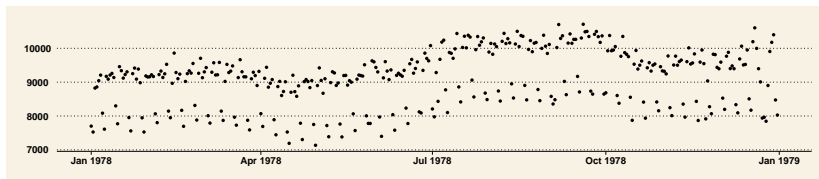
```
ggplot(aes(x=waist, y=weight)) +  
geom_hex() + facet_grid( sex ~ pregnant ) +  
labs(x="waist (m)", y="weight (kg)", title="weight vs wa
```



Things I haven't mentioned (much)

- ▶ scales (fine tuning mapping from data to plot)
- ▶ guides (so reader can map from plot to data)
- ▶ coords (coord_flip() is good to know about)
- ▶ themes (for customizing appearance)

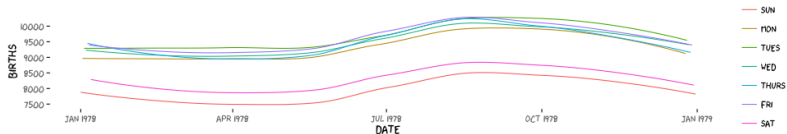
```
require(ggthemes)
qplot( x=date, y=births, data=Births2) + theme_wsj()
```



Things I haven't mentioned (much)

- ▶ scales (fine tuning mapping from data to plot)
- ▶ guides (so reader can map from plot to data)
- ▶ coords (coord_flip() is good to know about)
- ▶ themes (for customizing appearance)

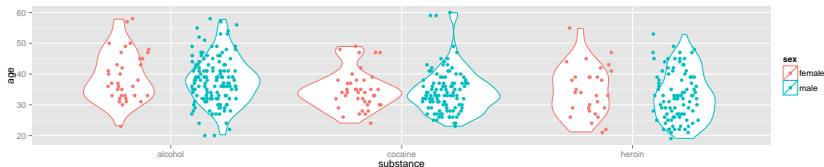
```
require(xkcd)
qplot( x=date, y=births, data=Births2, color=wday,
       geom="smooth", se=FALSE) +
  theme_xkcd()
```



Things I haven't mentioned (much)

- ▶ scales (fine tuning mapping from data to plot)
- ▶ guides (so reader can map from plot to data)
- ▶ coords (coord_flip() is good to know about)
- ▶ themes (for customizing appearance)
- ▶ position (position_dodge() can be used for side by side bars)

```
ggplot( data=HELPrct, aes(x=substance, y=age, color=sex)) +  
  geom_violin(coef = 10, position=position_dodge()) +  
  geom_point(aes(color=sex, fill=sex), position=position_jitter)
```



Things I haven't mentioned (much)

- ▶ scales (fine tuning mapping from data to plot)
- ▶ guides (so reader can map from plot to data)
- ▶ themes (for customizing appearance)
- ▶ position (`position_dodge()`, `position_jitterdodge()`, `position_stack()`, etc.)

A little bit of everything

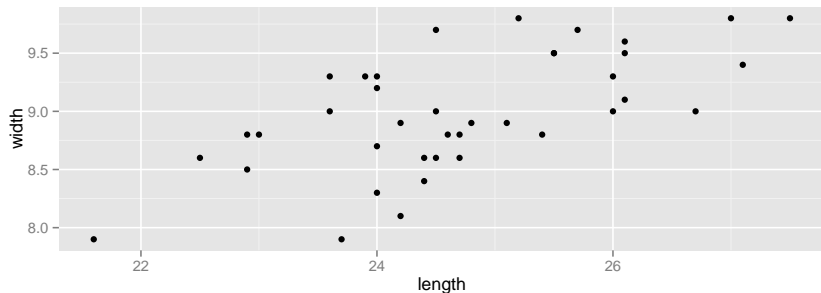
```
ggplot( data=HELPrct, aes(x=substance, y=age, color=sex)) +  
  geom_boxplot(coef = 10, position=position_dodge(width=1)) +  
  geom_point(aes(fill=sex), alpha=.5,  
            position=position_jitterdodge(dodge.width=1)) +  
  facet_wrap(~homeless)
```



Some short cuts

1. `qplot()` provides “quick plots” for `ggplot2`

```
qplot(length, width, data=KidsFeet)
```

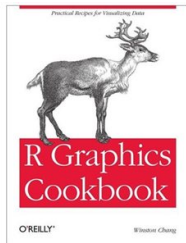


2. `mpplot(dataframe)` provides an interactive plotting tool for both `ggplot2` and `lattice`.

```
mpplot(HELPrct)
```

Want to learn more?

- ▶ docs.ggplot2.org/
- ▶ Winston Chang's: *R Graphics Cookbook*



What's around the corner?

`ggvis`

- ▶ dynamic graphics (brushing, sliders, tooltips, etc.)
- ▶ uses Vega (D3) to animate plots in a browser
- ▶ similar structure to `ggplot2` but different syntax and names
- ▶ version 0.3 just released to github

Dynamic documents

- ▶ combination of RMarkdown, `ggvis`, and `shiny`
- ▶ beta testing now