Data Visualization in R

Prakash Lamichhane

2023-10-09

Contents

1	Introduction to $ggplot2$	1
	1.1 Learn by examples	1
	1.2 Graph as object	
2	Univariate Graph	L 4
	2.1 Categorical	14
	2.2 Quantitative	36
3	Bivariate Graphs 4	17
	3.1 Categorical vs. Categorical	47

1 Introduction to ggplot2

ggplot2 is a popular data visualization package in R, developed by Hadley Wickham. It's part of the tidyverse ecosystem and is widely used for creating elegant and customizable data visualizations. The name "ggplot2" stands for "Grammar of Graphics," emphasizing its underlying philosophy of representing data visualization as a structured grammar.

1.1 Learn by examples

The functions in the ggplot2 package build up a graph in layers. We'll build a complex graph by starting with a simple graph and adding additional elements, one at a time.

The example dataset is a tips dataset downloaded from the source link tips dataset.

First lets import the data in R.

```
setwd("E:/broadwaylearning/R-Training/Data_visualization in R")
tips <- read.csv("tips.csv")</pre>
```

In building a ggplot2 graph, only the first two functions described below are required. The others are optional and can appear in any order.

1.1.1 ggplot package

The first function in building a graph is the ggplot function. It specifies the data frame to be used and the mapping of the variables to the visual properties of the graph. The mappings are placed within the **aes** function, which stands for aesthetics.

```
# install if needed
if (!requireNamespace("ggplot2", quietly = TRUE)) {
   install.packages("ggplot2")
} # This code downloads and install the package only if it is not available before.
```

Let's start by looking at the relationship between tip and total bill.

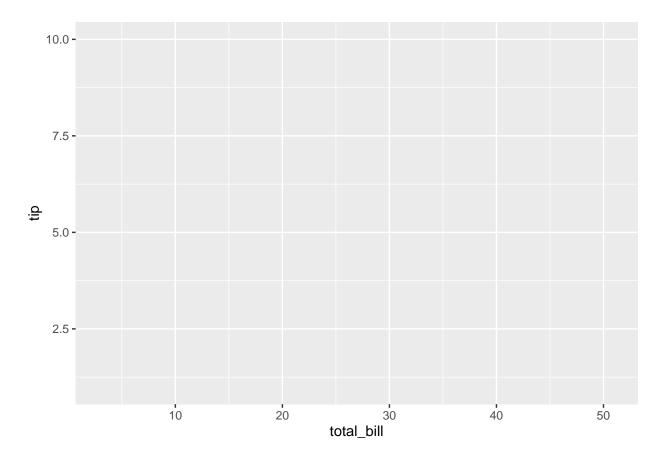


Figure 1: create a gpplot grapph

We can see the empty box here. Because we have entered the x and y axis but did not specified what to show inside the graph. To specify it we have to add **geom()** to the plot.

1.1.2 Geom

Geoms are the geometric objects (points, lines, bars, etc.) that can be placed on a graph. They are added using functions that start with geom_. In this example, we'll add points using the geom_point function, creating a scatterplot.

In ggplot2 graphs function are chained together using the + sign to build a final plot.

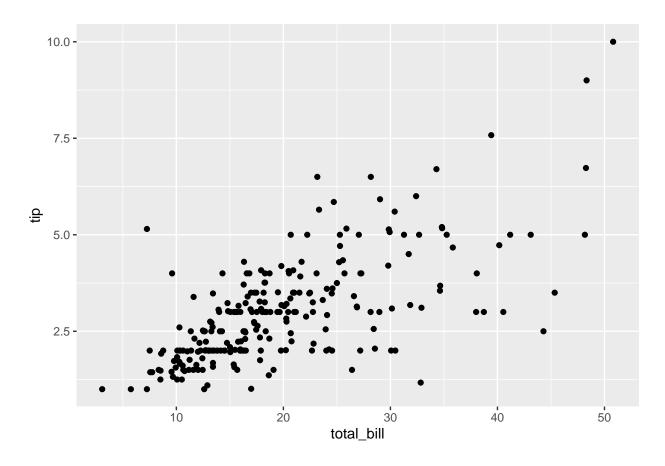


Figure 2: Add points to graph

The figure explains that saturday has the highest bill amount paid by customers followed by sunday.

A number of parameters(options) can be specified in a geom_function. Options for the geom_point function include color, size, and alpha. These control the point color, size, and transparency, respectively.

Transparency ranges from 0 (completely transparent) to 1 (completely opaque). Adding a degree of transparency can help visualize overlapping points.

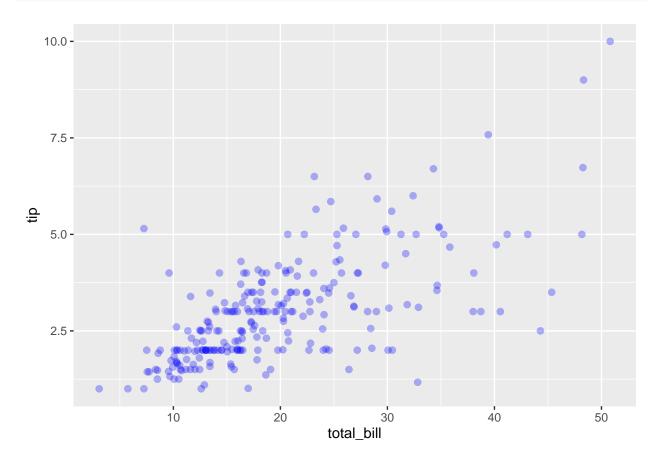


Figure 3: Modify point color, transparency, and size

Next, let's add a line of best fit. We can do this with the geom_smooth function. Options control the type of line (linear, quadratic, nonparametric), the thickness of the line, the line's color, and the presence or absence of a confidence interval. Here we request a linear regression (method = lm) line (where lm stands for linear model).



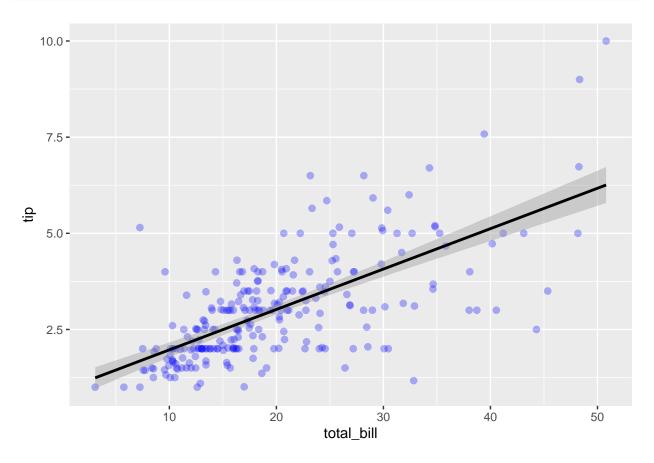
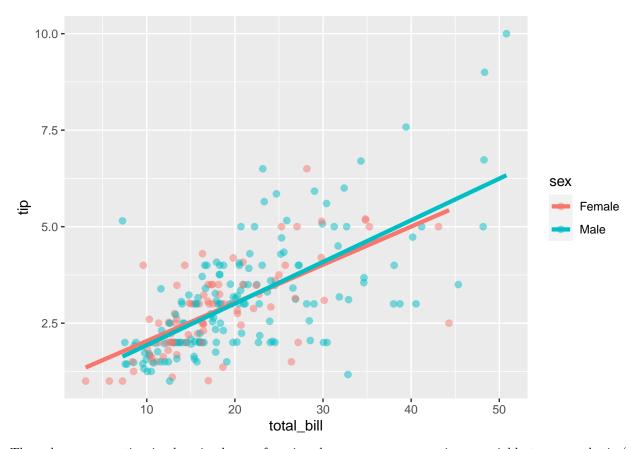


Figure 4: Add a best fit line and cutomize it

1.1.3 Grouping

In addition to mapping variables to the x and y axes, variables can be mapped to the color, shape, size, transparency, and other visual characteristics of geometric objects. This allows groups of observations to be superimposed in a single graph.

Let's add sex status to the plot and represent it by color.



The color = sex option is place in the aes function, because we are mapping a variable to an aesthetic (a visual characteristic of the graph). The geom_smooth option (se = FALSE) was added to suppresses the confidence intervals.

It appears that sex Male tend to provide higher tip than female.

1.1.4 Scales

Scales control how variables are mapped to the visual characteristics of the plot. Scale functions (which start with scale_) allow you to modify this mapping. In the next plot, we'll change the x and y axis scaling, and the colors employed.

```
# modifying the axis and its scale
ggplot(data = tips,
       mapping = aes(x = total_bill,
                     y = tip,
                     color = sex)) +
  geom_point(alpha = .5,
             size = 2) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm",
              se = FALSE,
              size = 1.5) +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(0, 60, 10),
                     label = scales::dollar) +
  scale_y_continuous(breaks = seq(0, 10, 2),
                     label = scales::dollar) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("red",
                                 "blue"))
```

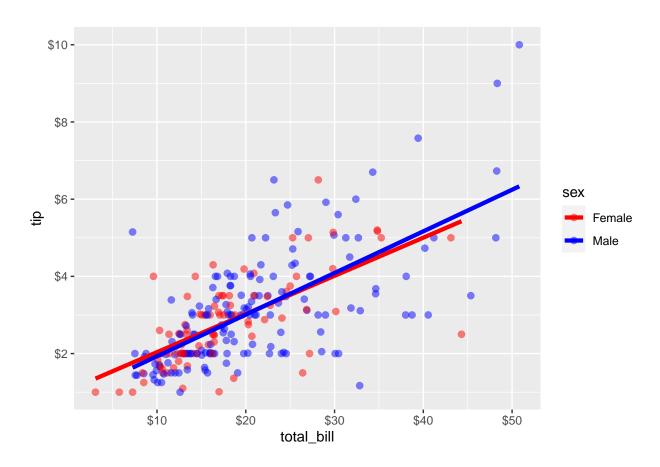


Figure 5: Adding scale to modify mapping

We're getting there. Here is a question. Is the relationship between total bill, tips and sex the same for each days?

Let's repeat this graph once for each day status in order to explore this.

1.1.5 Facet

Facets reproduce a graph for each level a given variable (or pair of variables). Facets are created using functions that start with facet_. Here, facets will be defined by the days in the data.

```
# adding days as facets
ggplot(data = tips,
       mapping = aes(x = total_bill,
                     y = tip,
                     color = sex)) +
  geom_point(alpha = .5,
             size = 2) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm",
              se = FALSE,
              size = 1.5) +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(0, 60, 10),
                     label = scales::dollar) +
  scale_y_continuous(breaks = seq(0, 10, 2),
                     label = scales::dollar) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("red",
                                 "blue")) +
  facet_wrap(~day)
```

1.1.6 Labels

Graphs should be easy to interpret and informative labels are a key element in achieving this goal. The labs function provides customized labels for the axes and legends. Additionally, a custom title, subtitle, and caption can be added.

```
# adding labels to graph
ggplot(data = tips,
       mapping = aes(x = total_bill,
                     y = tip,
                     color = sex)) +
  geom_point(alpha = .5,
             size = 2) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm",
              se = FALSE,
              size = 1.5) +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(0, 60, 10),
                     label = scales::dollar) +
  scale_y_continuous(breaks = seq(0, 10, 2),
                     label = scales::dollar) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("red",
                                "blue")) +
  facet wrap(~day) +
  labs(title = "Relationship between customer demographies and expenses",
       subtitle = "A resturant",
       caption = "Source : https://kaggle.com/",
       x = "Amount of expenses in resturant",
       y = "Amount of tip",
```

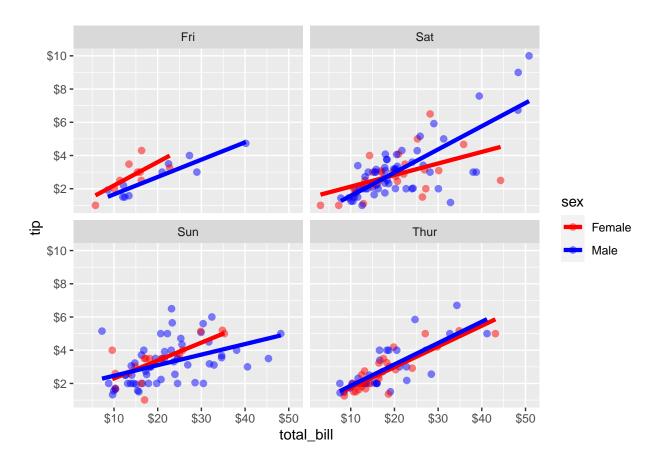


Figure 6: Separating the plots for each day.



Relationship between customer demographies and expenses A resturant

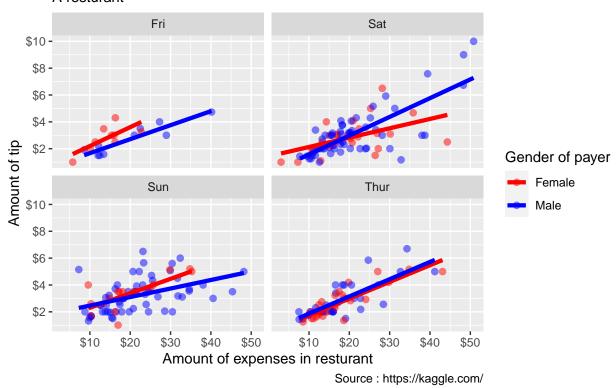


Figure 7: Adding labels to the graph

Now a viewer doesn't need to guess what the labels expenses and age mean, or where the data come from.

1.1.7 Theme

Finally, we can fine tune the appearance of the graph using themes. Theme functions (which start with theme_) control background colors, fonts, grid-lines, legend placement, and other non-data related features of the graph. Let's use a cleaner theme.

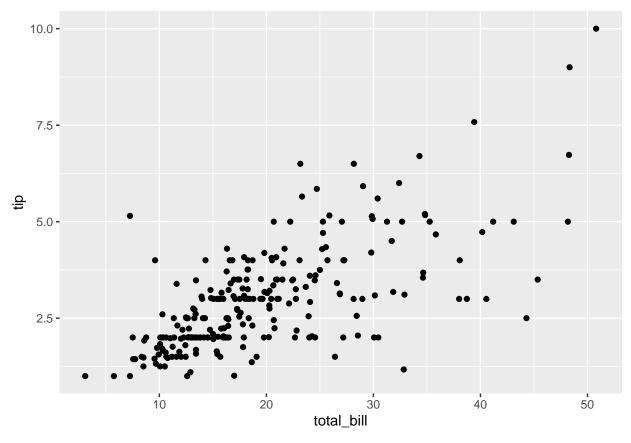
Relationship between customer demographies and expenses A resturant



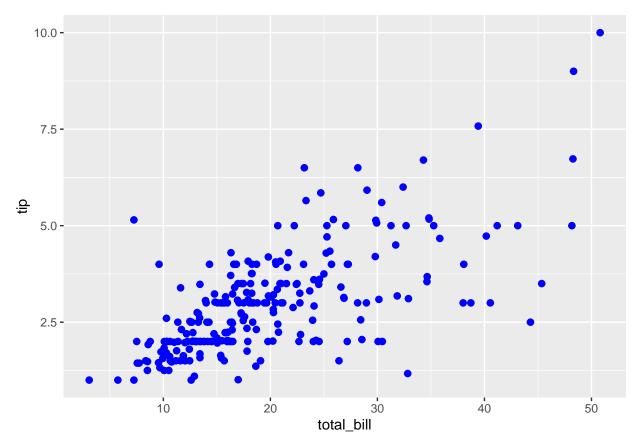
Figure 8: Modifying the themes for better look

1.2 Graph as object

A ggplot2 graph can be saved as a named R object (like a data frame), manipulated further, and then printed or saved to disk.

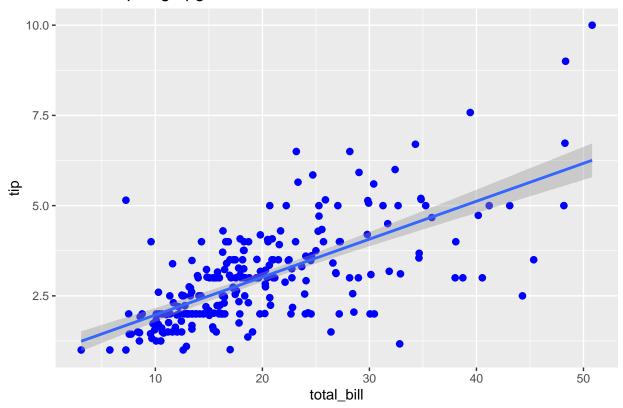


```
# make the points larger and blue
# then print the graph
myplot <- myplot + geom_point(size = 2, color = "blue")
myplot</pre>
```



```
# print the graph with a title and line of best fit
# but don't save those changes
myplot + geom_smooth(method = "lm") +
labs(title = "More simpler grapph")
```

More simpler grapgh



2 Univariate Graph

The initial phase of a thorough data analysis process involves examining each individual variable separately. Univariate graphs are used to visualize the distribution of data for a single variable, which can be either categorical (such as race, sex, or political affiliation) or quantitative (like age, weight, or income).

In this analysis, we will focus on exploring the distribution of three specific variables sourced from the "Marriage" dataset. These variables include the ages and racial backgrounds of the individuals involved in the weddings, as well as the occupations of the officials who officiated the weddings. The dataset in question pertains to the marriage records of 98 individuals in Mobile County, Alabama.

2.1 Categorical

The race of the participants and the occupation of the officials are both categorical variables. The distribution of a single categorical variable is typically plotted with a bar chart, a pie chart, or (less commonly) a tree map or waffle chart.

2.1.1 Barchart

2.1.1.1 Count / Frequency Bar chart is used to display the distribution of categorical variable.

```
# Use base R
# install.packages("mosaicData")
library(mosaicData)

# plot with base R
# Plotting with base R requires the frequency table of the categorical variable.
```

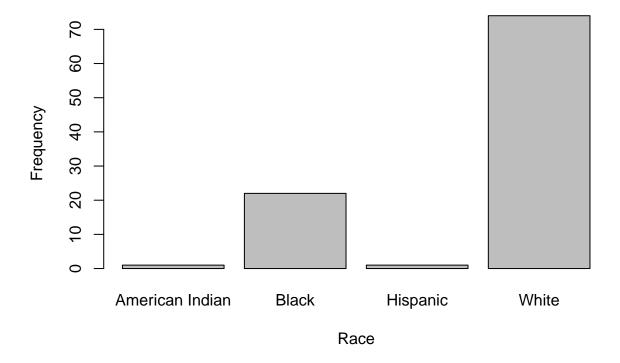


Figure 9: Bar chart by base R

It's always better to graph using ggplot2 because it has better visualization technique and customizing options.

2.1.1.2 Parcent Bars can represent percentage in value (y-axis) rather than count or frequency. For bar charts, the code aes(x=race) is actually a shortcut for $aes(x=race, y=after_stat(count))$, where count is a special variable representing the frequency within each category. You can use this to calculate percentages, by specifying y variable explicitly.

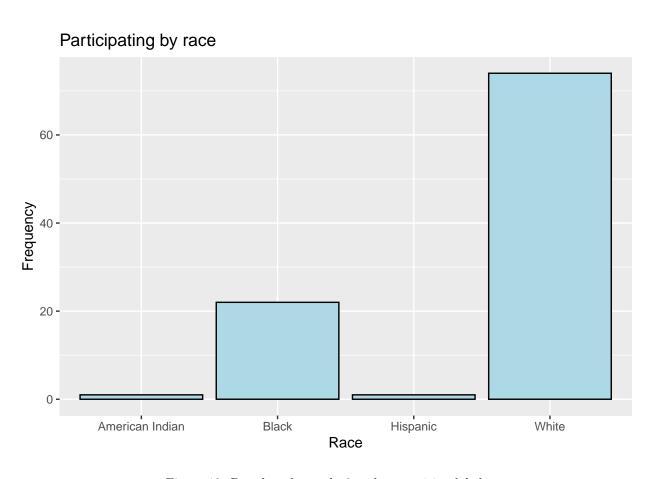


Figure 10: Bar chart by ggplot2 and customizing labels

Participating by race

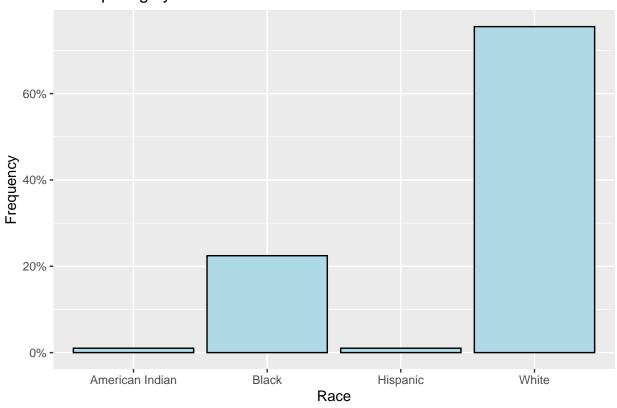


Figure 11: Bar chart by percentage

2.1.1.3 Sorting categories It is often helpful to sort the bars by frequency. In the code below, the frequencies are calculated explicitly. Then the reorder function is used to sort the categories by the frequency. The option stat="identity" tells the plotting function not to calculate counts, because they are supplied directly.

```
# calculate number of participants in each race category
library(dplyr)
##
## Attaching package: 'dplyr'
```

```
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
## filter, lag

## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
## intersect, setdiff, setequal, union

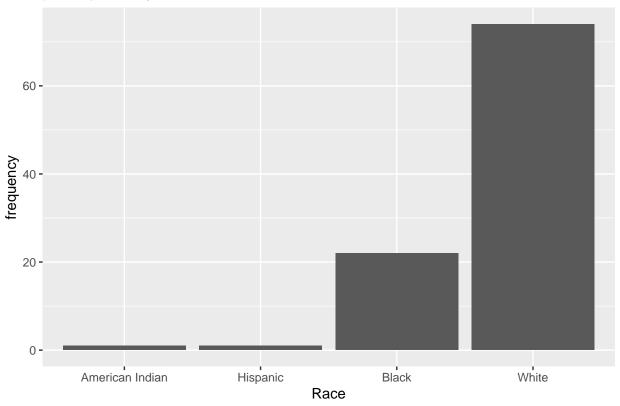
library(mosaicData)
plot_data <- Marriage %>%
    count(race)
knitr::kable(plot_data, caption = "Number of participants in each race", digits = 2)
```

Table 1: Number of participants in each race

race	n
American Indian	1
Black	22
Hispanic	1
White	74

Now use this data set to graph the plot

participants by race



You can change code reorder(race,n) to reorder(race,desc(n)) or reorder(race,-n) to invert the bar plot so that higher value come first.

2.1.1.4 labelling the bars You may want to see the label in each bar for better visualization. To do so use $geom_text()$ function.

Here geom_text adds the labels, and vjust controls vertical justification.

Putting these ideas together, you can create a graph like the one below. The minus sign in reorder(race, -pct) is used to order the bars in descending order.

```
library(dplyr)
library(scales)
plot_data <- Marriage %>%
   count(race) %>%
   mutate(pct = n / sum(n),
        pctlabel = pasteO(round(pct*100), "%"))
# plot the bars as percentages, in descending order with bar labels
```

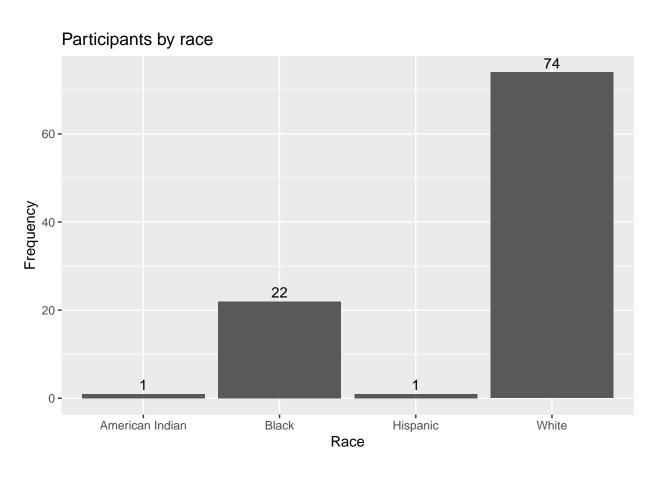
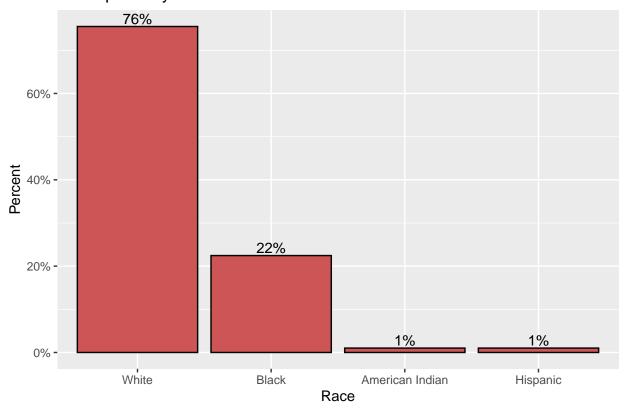


Figure 12: Barchart with numerical labels

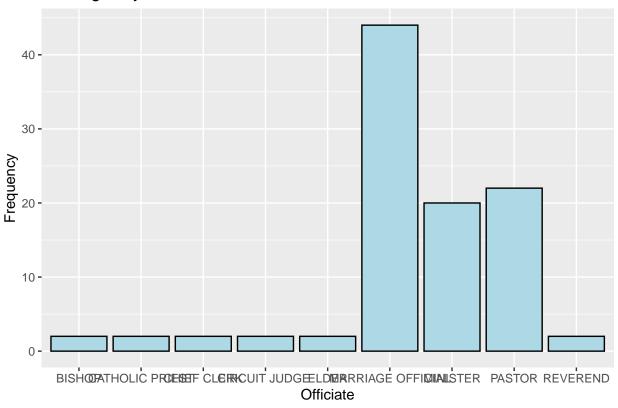
Participants by race



Overlapping labels

category labels may overlap if thee are many categories or the labels are long. Consider the distribution of marriage officials.

Marriages by officiate



You can flip the x and y axes with the **coord_flip()** function.

Sometimes its better to rotate the x labels.

Finally, you can try staggering the labels. The trick is to add a newline to every other label.

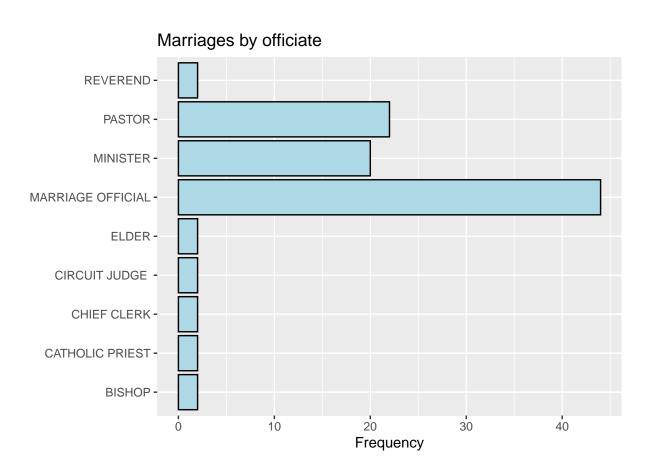


Figure 13: Horizontal Bar chart

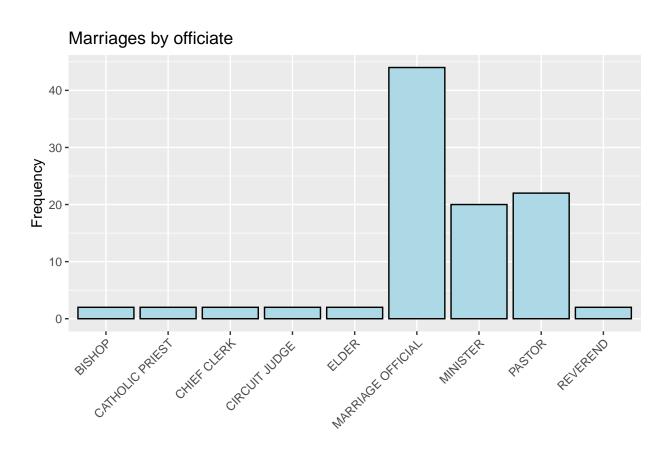


Figure 14: Barchart by rotated x labels

```
geom_bar() +
labs(x = "",
    y = "Frequency",
    title = "Marriages by officiate")
```

Marriages by officiate

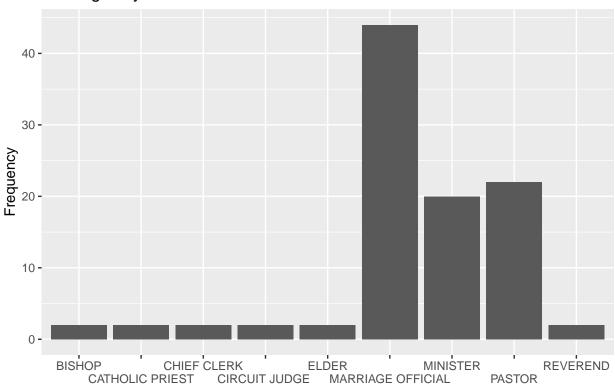


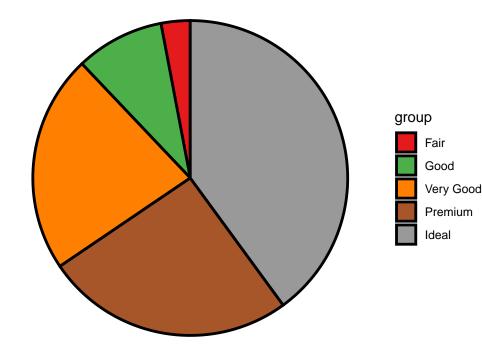
Figure 15: Bar chart by staggered labels

2.1.2 Pie chart

Pie charts are controversial in statistics. If your goal is to compare the frequency of categories, you are better off with bar charts and if your goal is compare each category with the whole and the number of categories is small, then pie charts may work for you.

Pie charts are easily created with ggpie function in the ggpie package. The format is ggpie(data, variable), where data is a data frame, and variable is the categorical variable to be plotted.

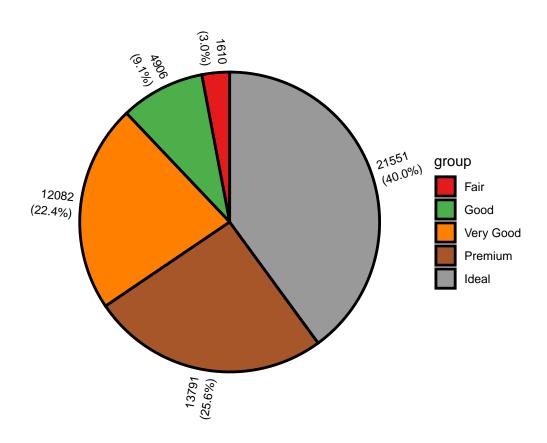
```
library(ggpie)
library(ggplot2)
# with no label
ggpie(
  data = diamonds, group_key = "cut", count_type = "full",
  label_info = "all", label_type = "none"
)
```



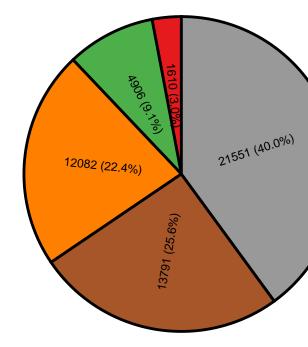
2.1.2.1 Without label

```
\#\#\#\# circle label and out of pie
```

```
# circle label and out of pie
ggpie(
  data = diamonds, group_key = "cut", count_type = "full",
  label_info = "all", label_type = "circle",
  label_size = 3, label_pos = "out"
)
```

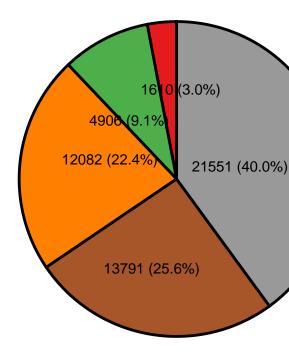


```
# circle label and in pie plot, with no split
ggpie(
  data = diamonds, group_key = "cut", count_type = "full",
  label_info = "all", label_type = "circle", label_split = NULL,
  label_size = 3, label_pos = "in"
)
```



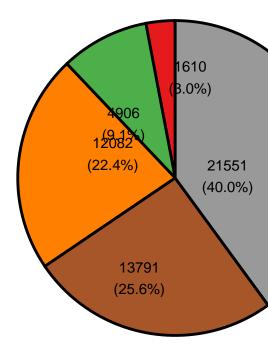
2.1.2.2 circle label and in pie plot, with no split

```
# horizon label and in pie plot, with no split
ggpie(
  data = diamonds, group_key = "cut", count_type = "full",
  label_info = "all", label_type = "horizon", label_split = NULL,
  label_size = 4, label_pos = "in"
)
```



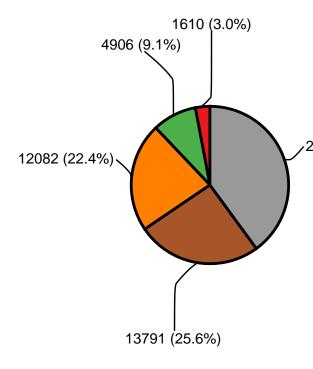
${\bf 2.1.2.3}\quad {\bf horizon\ label\ and\ in\ pie\ plot,\ with\ no\ split}$

```
# horizon label and in pie plot, split with space
ggpie(
  data = diamonds, group_key = "cut", count_type = "full",
  label_info = "all", label_type = "horizon",
  label_size = 4, label_pos = "in"
)
```



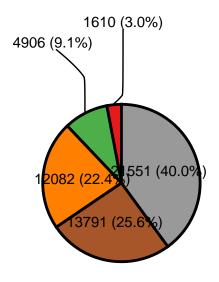
2.1.2.4 horizon label and in pie plot, split with space

```
# horizon label and out pie plot, with no split
ggpie(
  data = diamonds, group_key = "cut", count_type = "full",
  label_info = "all", label_type = "horizon", label_split = NULL,
  label_size = 4, label_pos = "out"
)
```



2.1.2.5 horizon label and out pie plot, with no split

```
# with label threshold
ggpie(
  data = diamonds, group_key = "cut", count_type = "full",
  label_info = "all", label_type = "horizon", label_split = NULL,
  label_size = 4, label_pos = "in", label_threshold = 10)
```





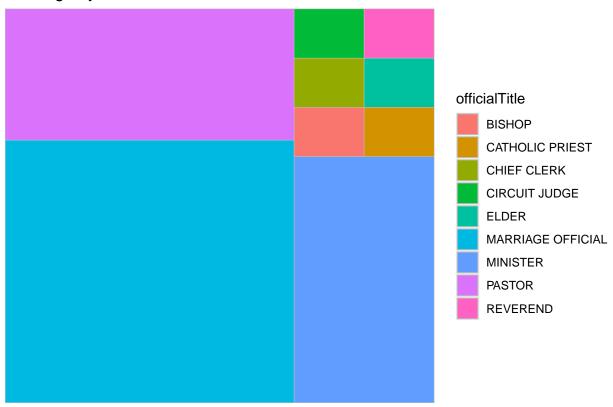
2.1.2.6 with label threshold

These are the different type of style in ggpie for pi chart. This is the example in package documentation in R.

2.1.3 Tree map

An alternative to the lie chart is a tree map. Unlike pie charts, it can handle categorical variables that have many levels. For this we need a *tree mapify* package.

Marriage by officiate



Now with better labels

Marriages by officiate



Now add label = n in aes to add the numbers in the tree map.

Marriages by officiate



2.1.4 Wafle Chart

A waffle chart, sometimes called a gridplot or square pie chart, is a visualization that presents data using squares in a grid, where each square represents a portion or percentage of the whole. In R, you can construct a waffle chart using the geom_waffle function from the waffle package.

Now, let's create a waffle chart to visualize the distribution of wedding officiant professions. As with tree maps, we begin by summarizing the data into groups and counting the occurrences of each profession.

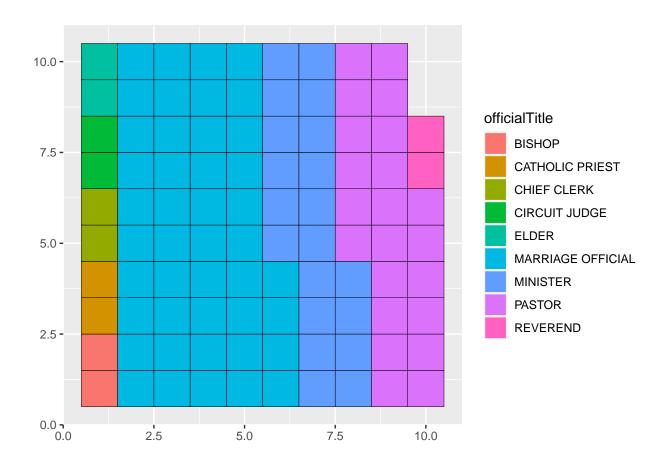
Let's create a waffle chart for the professions of wedding officiates. As with tree maps, start by summarizing the data into groups and counts.

```
library(dplyr)
plot_data <- Marriage %>%
   count(officialTitle)
```

Next, create the ggplot2 grapph. Set fill to the grouping variables and values to the counts. Don't specify an x and y.

The following code produces the default waffle plot.

```
# create a basic waffle chart
if (!requireNamespace("waffle", quietly = TRUE)) {
   install.packages("waffle")
}
library(waffle)
ggplot(plot_data, aes(fill = officialTitle, values=n)) +
   geom_waffle(na.rm=TRUE)
```



2.2 Quantitative

In the Marriage dataset, age is quantitative variable. The distribution of a single quantitative variable is typically plotted with a histogram, kernel density plot, or dot plot.

2.2.1 Histogram

Histograms are the most common approach to visualizing a quantitative variable. In a histogram, the values of a variable are typically divided up into adjacent, equal width ranges(bins), and the number of observations in each bin is plotted with a vertical bar.

Histogram colors can be modified using two options

- fill : fill color for the bars
- color : border color around the bars

```
# plot the histogram with blue bars and white borders
ggplot(Marriage, aes(x = age)) +
```

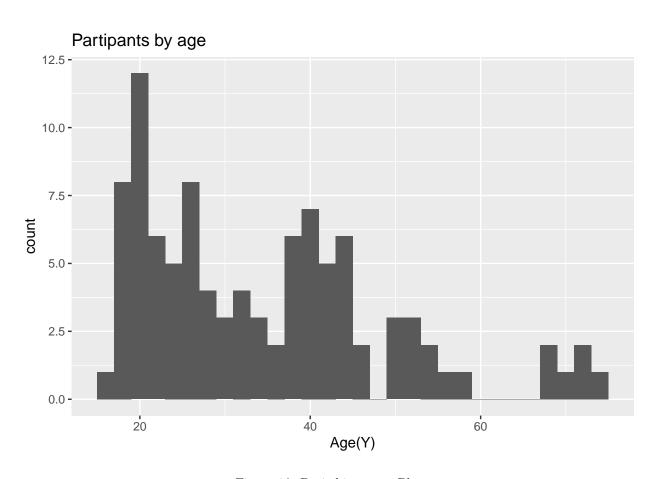


Figure 16: Basic histogram Plot



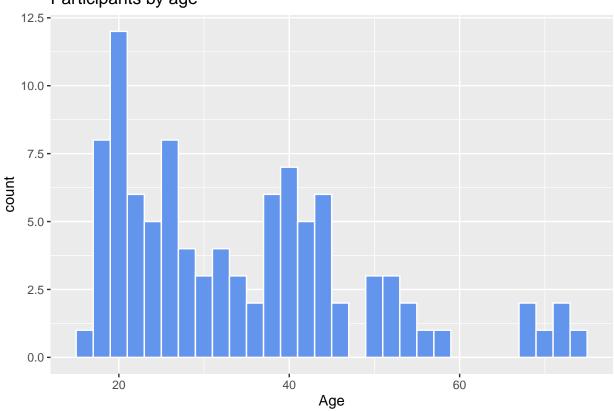
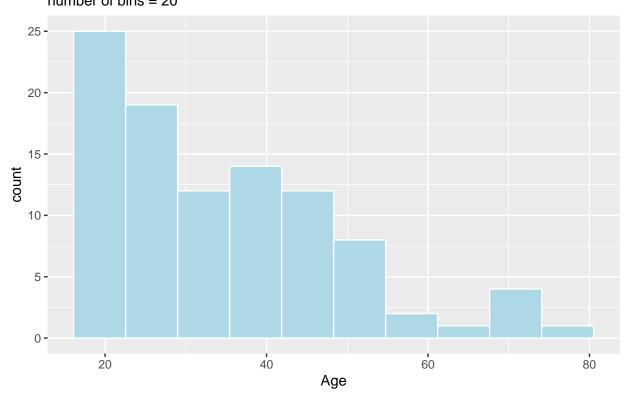


Figure 17: Histogram with modified color

2.2.1.1 Bins and bandwidths The "bins" parameter is a crucial option when creating histograms as it determines how many intervals or bars the numeric variable is divided into. By adjusting the number of bins, you can gain a clearer understanding of the data distribution. The default value is typically set at 30, but experimenting with smaller or larger values can provide valuable insights into the shape and characteristics of the distribution.

Participants by age number of bins = 20



Or, you can specify the binwidth, the width of the bins represented by the bars.

2.2.1.2 Bins and bandwidths The "bins" parameter is a crucial option when creating histograms as it determines how many intervals or bars the numeric variable is divided into. By adjusting the number of bins, you can gain a clearer understanding of the data distribution. The default value is typically set at 30, but experimenting with smaller or larger values can provide valuable insights into the shape and characteristics of the distribution.

As with bar charts, the y-axis can represent counts or percent of the total.

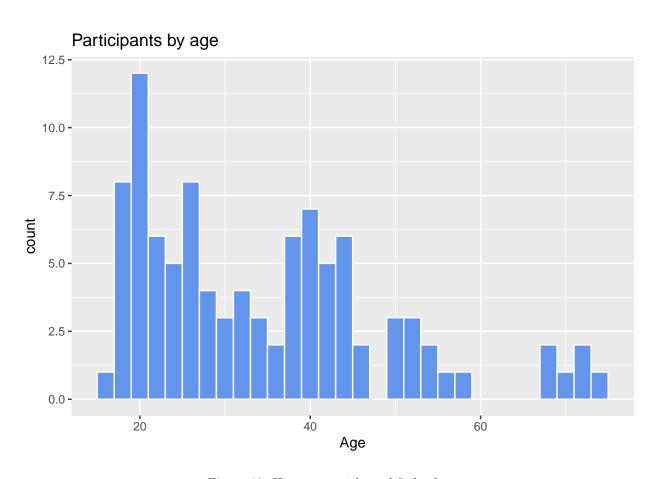


Figure 18: Histogram with modified color

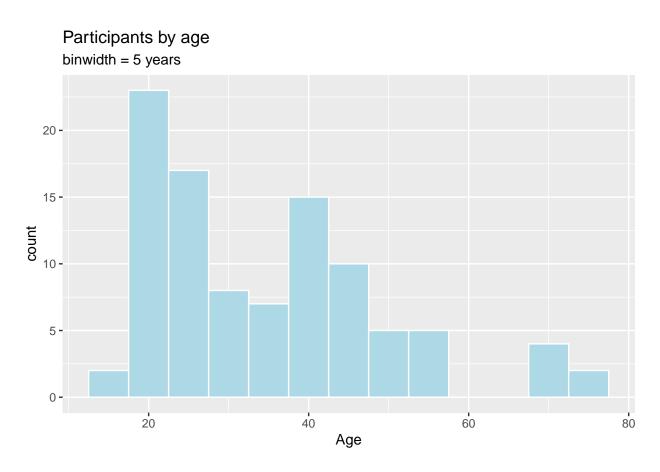


Figure 19: Histogram with modified width of bins

A Percentage by age

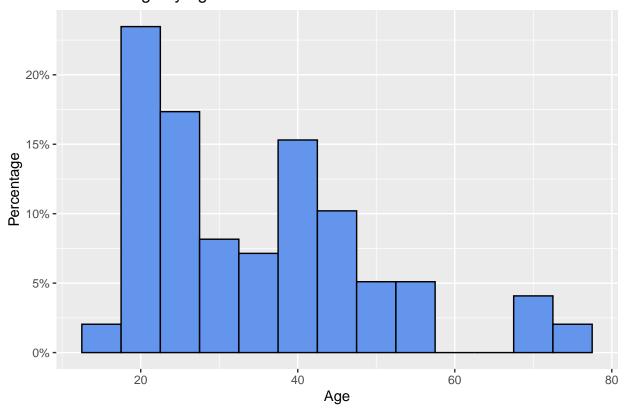
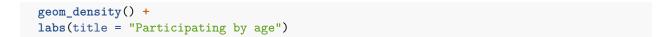


Figure 20: A histograph with percent in y axis

2.2.2 Kernel density Plot

An alternative to a histogram is the kernel density plot. Technically, kernel density estimation is a non parametric method for estimating the probability density function of a continuous random variable (what??). Basically, we are trying to draw a smoothened histogram. Where the area under the curve equals one.



Participating by age

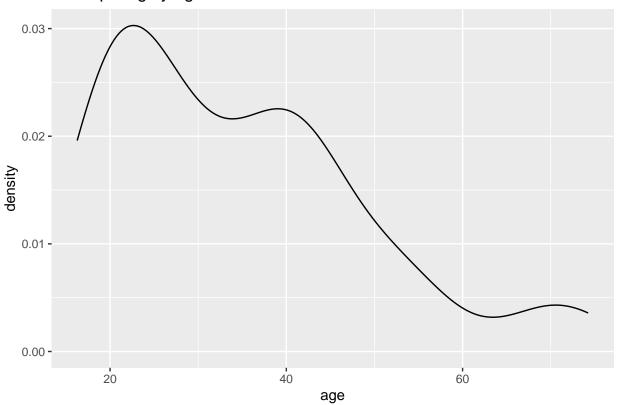


Figure 21: Kernel density plot

The graph shows the distribution of scores. For example, the proportion of cases between 20 and 40 years old would be represented by the area under the curve between 20 and 40 on the x-axis.

As with previous charts, we can use fill and color to specify the fill and border colors.

```
ggplot(data = Marriage,
    mapping = aes(x = age)) +
    geom_density(fill = 'red')+
    labs(title = "Participation by age")
```

Smoothing parameter

The degree of smoothness is controlled by the bandwidth parameter bw. To find the default value for a particular variable, use the bw.nrd0 function. Values that are larger will result in more smoothing, while values that are smaller will produce less smoothing.

```
# default bandwidth for the age variable
bw.nrd0(Marriage$age)

## [1] 5.181946

# Create a kernel density plot of age
ggplot(data = Marriage,
```

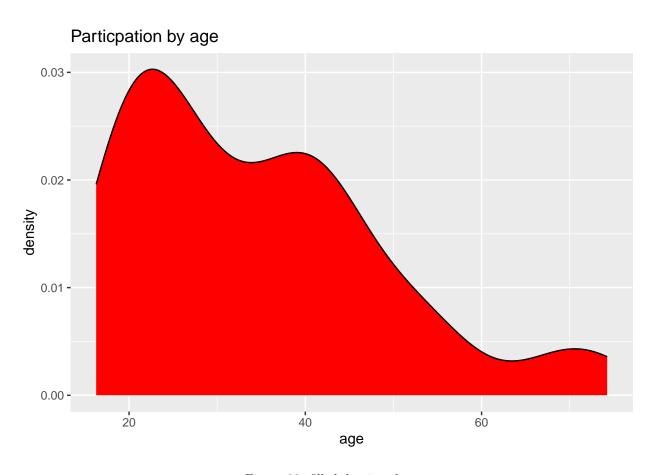
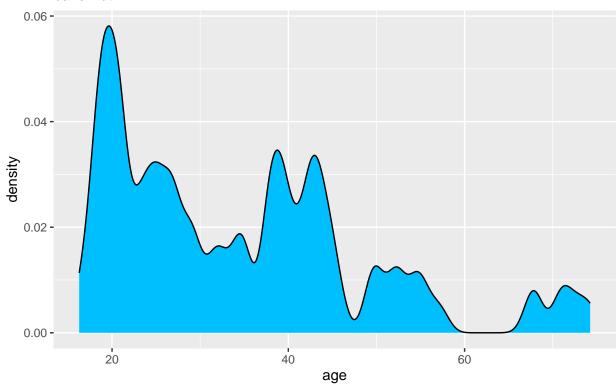


Figure 22: filled density plot

participation by age





2.2.3 Dot chart

Another alternative to the histogram is the dot chart. Again, the quantitative variable is divided into bins, but rather than summary bars, each observation is represented by a dot. By default, the width of a dot corresponds to the bin width, and dots are stacked, with each dot representing one observation. This works best when the number of observations is small (say, less than 150).

The fill and color options can be used to specify the fill and border color of each dot respectively.

```
# Plot ages as a dot plot using
# gold dots with black borders
ggplot(Marriage, aes(x = age)) +
  geom_dotplot(fill = "yellow",
```

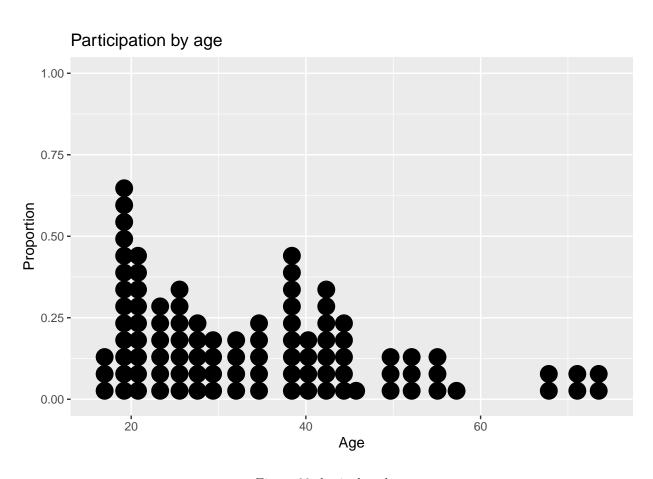


Figure 23: basic dot plot

```
color="blue") +
labs(title = "Participants by age",
    y = "Proportion",
    x = "Age")
```

Participants by age

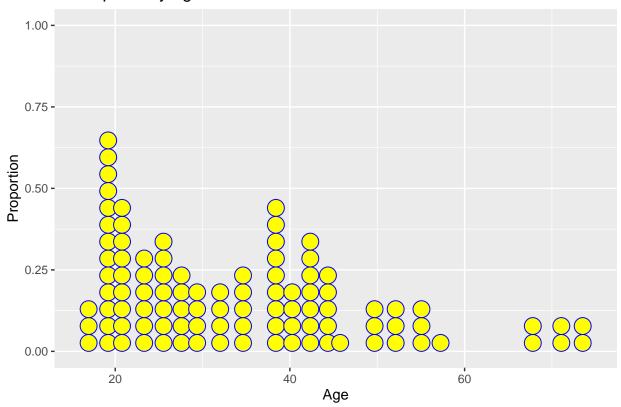


Figure 24: Filled dot plot

3 Bivariate Graphs

One of the most fundamental questions in research is "What is the relation ship between two variables i.e., A and B". Bivariate graphs display the relationship between two variables. The type of graph will depend on the measurement level of each variable (Categorical or quantitative).

3.1 Categorical vs. Categorical

When plotting the relationship between two categorical variables, stacked, grouped or segmented bar charts are typically used.

In this section, we will look at the automobile characteristics contained in mpg dataset that comes with the ggplot2 package. It provides fuel efficiency data for 38 popular car models in 1998 and 2008.

```
library(ggplot2)
# Stacked bar chart
ggplot(data = mpg,
```

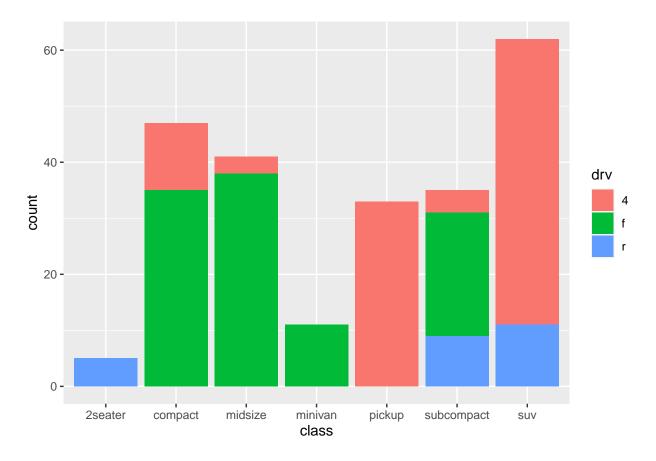


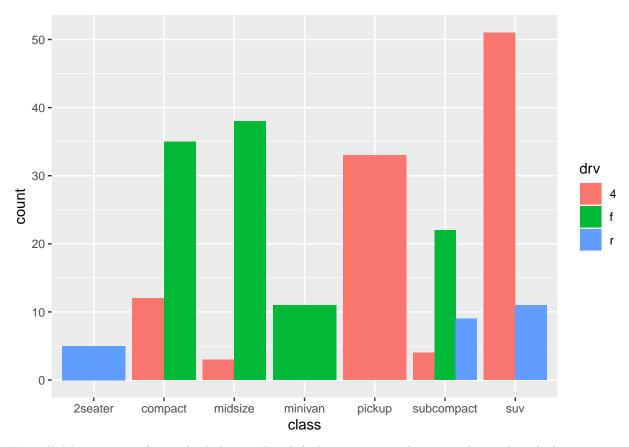
Figure 25: A stacked bar plot

From the Figure we can see for example, that the most common vehicle is the SUV. All 2 seater cars are rear wheel drive, while most, but not all SUVs are 4-wheel drive.

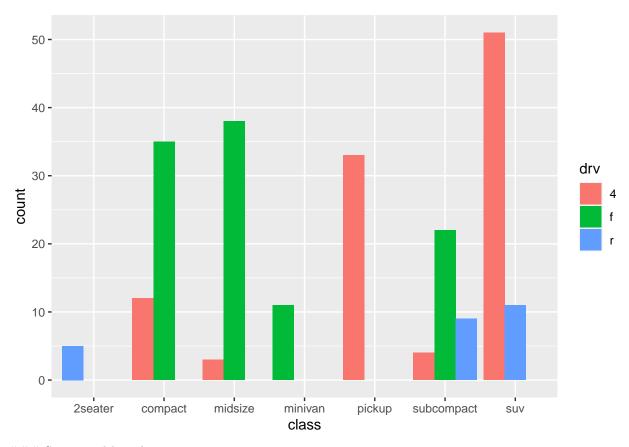
Stacked is the default, so the last line could have also been written as $geom_bar()$.

3.1.1 Grouped bar chart

Grouped bar charts place bars for the second categorical variable side-by-side. To create a grouped bar plot use the position = "dodge" option.

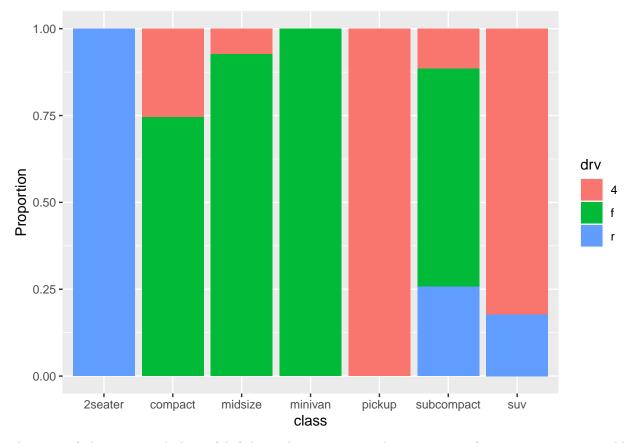


Here all Minivars are front-wheel drive. By default, zero count bars are dropped and the remaining bars are made wider. This may not the behaviour we want. You can modify this using the position = position_dodge(preserve = "single")



Segmented bar chart

A segmented barplot is a stacked barplot where each bar represents 100 percent. You can create a segmented bar chart using the position = "filled" option.



This type of plot is particularly useful if the goal is to compare the percentage of a category in one variable across each level of another variable. For example, the proportion of front-wheel drive cars go up as you move from compact, to midsize, to minimum.

3.1.2 Improving the color and labeling

You can additional options to improve color and labeling. In the graph below

- factor modifies the order of the categories for the class variable and both the order and the labels for the drive variable
- scale_y_continuous modifies the y-axis tick mark labels
- labs provides a title and changed the labels for the x and y axes and the legend
- scale fill brewer changes the fill color scheme
- theme_minimal removes the grey background and changed the grid color

Automobile Drive by Class

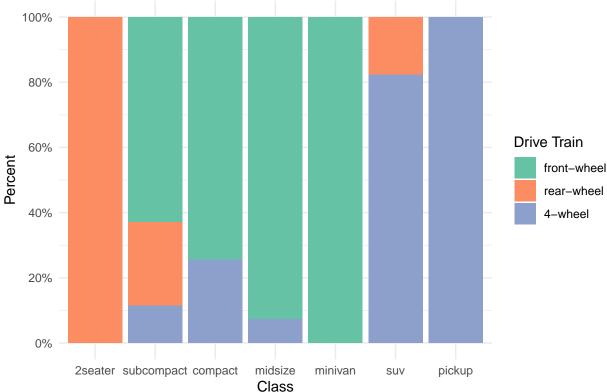


Figure 26: Segmented bar chart with improved labeling and color

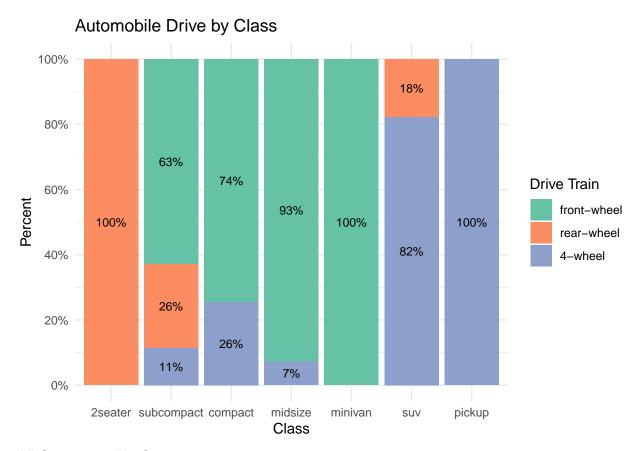
Next, let's add percent labels to each segment. First, we'll create a summary dataset that has the necessary labels.

plot_data

```
## # A tibble: 12 x 5
## # Groups: class [7]
##
     class
                drv
                              pct lbl
                          n
##
     <chr>
                <chr> <int> <dbl> <chr>
## 1 2seater
                r
                         5 1
                                   100%
## 2 compact
                4
                         12 0.255
                                   26%
## 3 compact
                f
                         35 0.745
                                   74%
## 4 midsize
                         3 0.0732 7%
                4
## 5 midsize
                f
                         38 0.927
                                   93%
## 6 minivan
                f
                         11 1
                                   100%
## 7 pickup
                         33 1
                                   100%
                         4 0.114 11%
## 8 subcompact 4
                         22 0.629
                                   63%
## 9 subcompact f
## 10 subcompact r
                         9 0.257
                                   26%
## 11 suv
                4
                         51 0.823
                                   82%
## 12 suv
                r
                         11 0.177
                                   18%
```

Next, we'll use this dataset and the geom_txt function to add labels to each bar segment.

```
# create segmented bar chart
# adding labels to each segment
ggplot(plot_data,
       aes(x = factor(class,
                      levels = c("2seater", "subcompact",
                                 "compact", "midsize",
                                  "minivan", "suv", "pickup")),
           y = pct,
           fill = factor(drv,
                         levels = c("f", "r", "4"),
                         labels = c("front-wheel",
                                     "rear-wheel",
                                    "4-wheel")))) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity",
           position = "fill") +
  scale_y_continuous(breaks = seq(0, 1, .2),
                     label = percent) +
  geom_text(aes(label = lbl),
            size = 3,
            position = position_stack(vjust = 0.5)) +
  scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Set2") +
  labs(y = "Percent",
       fill="Drive Train",
       x = "Class",
       title = "Automobile Drive by Class") +
  theme_minimal()
```



Quantitative Vs. Quantitative

The relationship between two quantitative variables is typically displayed using scatter plot and line graphs.