

# hello ggplot2!

Dr. Jennifer (Jenny) Bryan  
Department of Statistics and Michael Smith Laboratories  
University of British Columbia

[jenny@stat.ubc.ca](mailto:jenny@stat.ubc.ca)

[@JennyBryan](https://twitter.com/JennyBryan)

<https://github.com/jennybc>

<http://www.stat.ubc.ca/~jenny/>



thanks to ...

organizers of this Workshop on Big Data in Environmental Science

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SFU Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

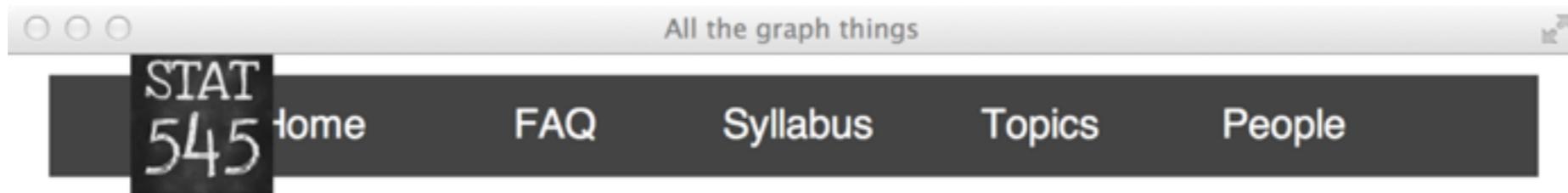
Casey Shannon, Nick Fishbane -- helpers @ the first offering of this tutorial

please see this GitHub repository for all references,  
examples worked with live coding, these slides, etc.

<https://github.com/jennybc/ggplot2-tutorial>

these slides just remind me to discuss some Big Ideas  
by putting them in a Big Font

See more of my figure making wisdom here:  
[http://stat545-ubc.github.io/graph00\\_index.html](http://stat545-ubc.github.io/graph00_index.html)



# All the graph things

We work on visualization throughout the course. Here are the bits in rough order of presentation.

- R graphics landscape *slides*
  - why we prefer `ggplot2` (or `lattice`) over base R graphics
  - the underappreciated importance of data.frames, tidy data, and factor management to graphics
  - basic jargon of `ggplot2`
- Learning `ggplot2` by using it
  - my `ggplot2` tutorial gives indicative code and all resulting figures
  - scatterplots, stripcharts, distributions, bars, themes, managing a color scheme, bubble and line plots
- Do's and don'ts of making effective graphs
  - Effective = easy for audience to decode numerical info
  - Our ability to decode position along common axis >> area, angle, color, etc.
- The R Graph Catalog presents a visual, clickable index of 100+ figures
  - mostly from Naomi Robbins' book "**Creating More Effective Graphs**"
  - see figure and the exact `ggplot2` code to produce it, side-by-side
  - code for all figures and app itself is on GitHub
- Colors
  - [Using colors in R](#)
  - [Taking control of qualitative colors in ggplot2](#)
- Practical pro tips, i.e. a return to mechanics
  - [Secrets of a happy graphing life](#): data.frames! tidy data! factors!
  - [Writing figures to file](#)
  - [Multiple plots on a page](#)

# stackoverflow is your friend

use tags!

The screenshot shows the Stack Overflow homepage with a search bar containing the query "suppress legend [ggplot2]". A red arrow points from the text "use tags!" at the top right towards the search bar. Below the search bar, the results summary "21 results" is visible, along with sorting options: relevance, newest, votes, and active.

**ggplot2** is an actively maintained open-source chart-drawing library for R, written by Hadley Wickham, based upon the principles of "Grammar of Graphics". It partially replaces R's basic plot and the lattice package, while providing a clean, powerful, orthogonal and fun API.

[learn more...](#) | [top users](#) | [synonyms \(2\)](#)

14  
votes

### A: [ggplot legend issue w/ geom\\_point\(\) and geom\\_text\(\)](#)

or, if you need to specify the size of text inside the aes, then **legend = FALSE** **suppress** drawing the **legends** of the geom:  
p <- ggplot(data = df, aes(x = x, y = y, size = count)) + geom\_point() p +  
geom\_text(aes(label = label, size = 150, vjust = 2), show\_guide = FALSE) ...

answered nov 19 '10 by [kohske](#)

11  
votes

### A: [removing a layer legend in ggplot](#)

) (this, ...) : "legend" argument in geom\_XXX and stat\_XXX is deprecated. Use show\_guide = TRUE or show\_guide = FALSE for display or **suppress** the guide display. I would recommend upgrading **ggplot2**. ... Depending on the version of **ggplot2** you are using you get this problem. Using **ggplot2** vs 0.9.0 on R2.14.1 I get this graph: which does not include the **legend** for the vline. In this version ...

answered mar 26 '12 by [Paul Hiemstra](#)

# stackoverflow is your friend

use tags!

The screenshot shows the Stack Overflow homepage with a search bar containing the query "are for loops evil [r]". A red arrow points from the text "use tags!" at the top right towards the search bar. Below the search bar, the results are displayed with a heading "6 results". The first result is titled "A: For loops in R and computational speed" and has 5 votes. The second result is titled "Q: Ranged/Filtered Cross Join with R data.table" and has 4 votes, 1 answer.

Search

are for loops evil [r]

search

6 results

relevance newest votes active

R is a free, open-source programming language and software environment for statistical computing, bioinformatics and graphics. Questions should have a minimal example, see [tinyurl.com/m3fryge](http://tinyurl.com/m3fryge). For statistical questions please use [stats.stackexchange.com](http://stats.stackexchange.com).

learn more... | top users | synonyms (1)

5 votes

A: For loops in R and computational speed

of information about R's for **loops** on the main Stackoverflow site. For example, the question Speed up the **Loop** Operation in **R** has at least two excellent answers which I found very helpful. Also, the **R Inferno** ... , particularly in a double for **loop**. That's why it's interesting that innocent-looking things like brackets are actually function calls.) The first place you will be told to look when trying to extend **R** ...

answered jun 23 by Flounderer

4 votes

1 answer

Q: Ranged/Filtered Cross Join with R data.table

it to be but at least is reasonable in terms of memory consumption (I will let it run overnight on my real scenario ~ 1 Million rows). I tried changing the data table keys (using the dates instead of id's); it did not have any impact. As expected, explicitly writing the **loop** in **R** (manualIter) crawls. ... suggest a high performing approach avoiding the full cross join? See test example below doing the job with the **evil** full cross join. library(data.table) # Test data. dt1 <- data.table(id1=1:10, D=2 ...

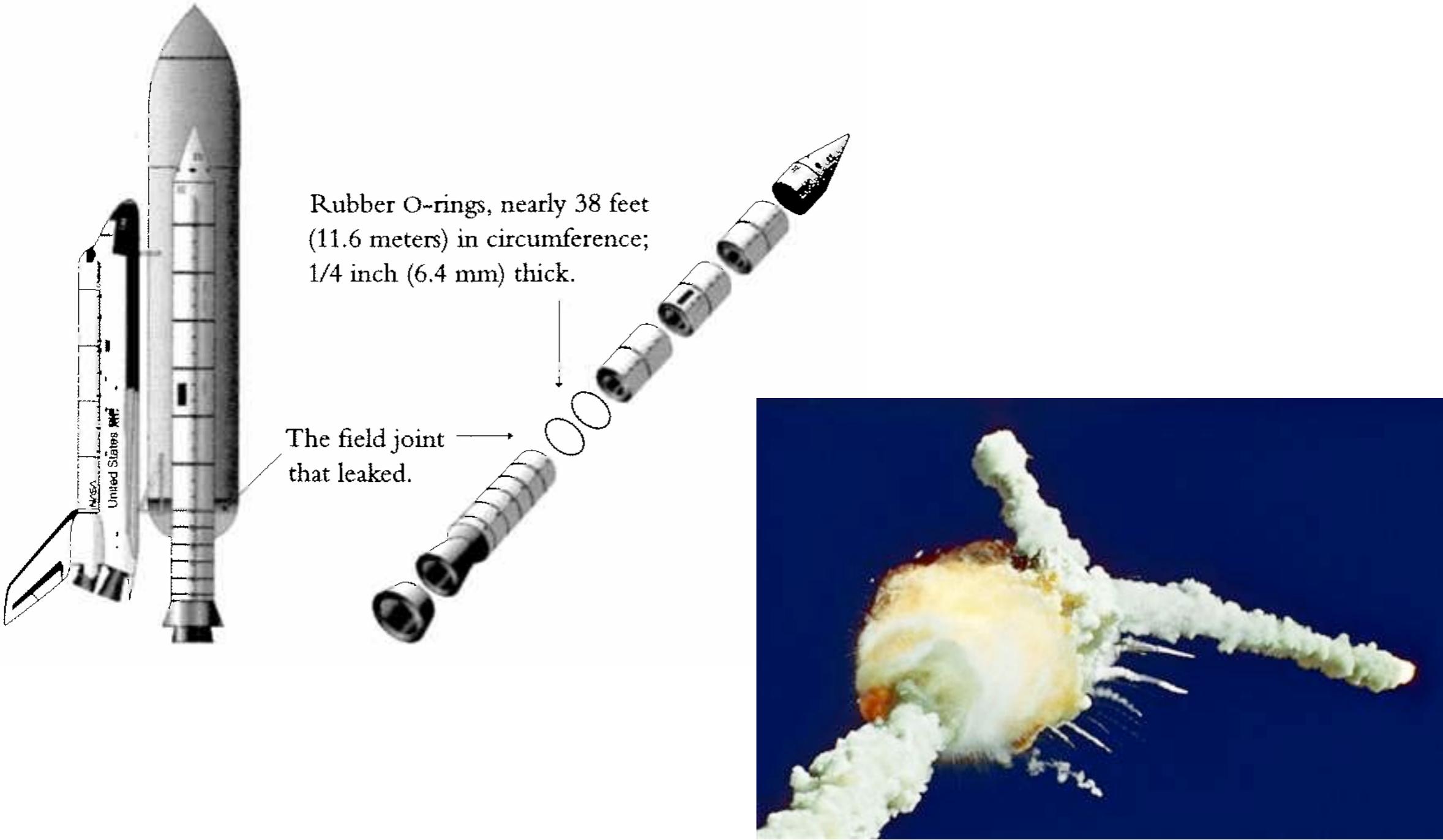
r data.table

asked feb 25 by Patrick

**“A picture is worth  
a thousand words”**

# 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster

## Favorite example of Edward Tufte



# TEMPERATURE CONCERN ON

## SRM JOINTS

27 JAN 1986

HISTORY OF O-RING DAMAGE ON SRM FIELD JOINTS

APT	SRM No.	Cross Sectional View			Top View		Clocking Location (deg)
		Erosion Depth (in.)	Perimeter Affected (deg)	Nominal Dia. (in.)	Length Of Max Erosion (in.)	Total Heat Affected Length (in.)	
61A LH Center Field**	22A	None	None	0.280	None	None	36°--66°
61A LH CENTER FIELD**	22A	NONE	NONE	0.280	NONE	NONE	338°-18°
51C LH Forward Field**	15A	0.010	154.0	0.280	4.25	5.25	163
51C RH Center Field (prim)***	15B	0.038	130.0	0.280	12.50	58.75	354
51C RH Center Field (sec)***	15B	None	45.0	0.280	None	29.50	354
41D RH Forward Field	13B	0.028	110.0	0.280	3.00	None	275
41C LH Aft Field*	11A	None	None	0.280	None	None	--
41B LH Forward Field	10A	0.040	217.0	0.280	3.00	14.50	351
STS-2 RH Aft Field	2B	0.053	116.0	0.280	--	--	90

\*Hot gas path detected in putty. Indication of heat on O-ring, but no damage.

\*\*Soot behind primary O-ring.

\*\*\*Soot behind primary O-ring, heat affected secondary O-ring.

Clocking location of leak check port - 0 deg.

OTHER SRM-15 FIELD JOINTS HAD NO BLOWHOLES IN PUTTY AND NO SOOT NEAR OR BEYOND THE PRIMARY O-RING.

SRM-22 FORWARD FIELD JOINT HAD PUTTY PATH TO PRIMARY O-RING, BUT NO O-RING EROSION AND NO SOOT BLOWBY. OTHER SRM-22 FIELD JOINTS HAD NO BLOWHOLES IN PUTTY.

## BLOW BY HISTORY

### SRM-15 WORST BLOW-BY

- 2 CASE JOINTS (80°), (110°) ARC
- MUCH WORSE VISUALLY THAN SRM-22

### SRM-22 BLOW-BY

- 2 CASE JOINTS (30-40°)

### SRM-13A, 15, 16A, 18, 23A 24A

- NOZZLE Blow-by

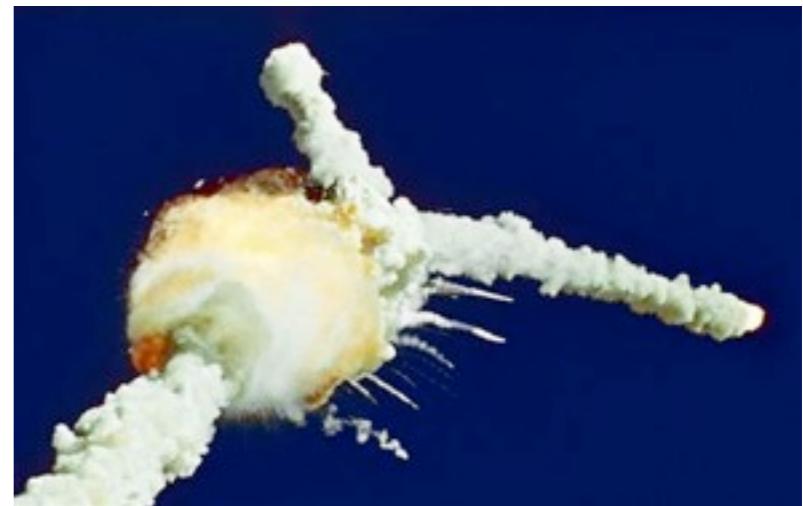
HISTORY OF O-RING TEMPERATURES  
(DEGREES - F)

MOTOR	MBT	AMB	O-RING	WIND
DM-4	68	36	47	10 MPH
DM-2	76	45	52	10 MPH
QM-3	72.5	40	48	10 MPH
QM-4	76	48	51	10 MPH
SRM-15	52	64	53	10 MPH
SRM-22	77	78	75	10 MPH
SRM-25	55	26	29 27	10 MPH 25 MPH

MOTOR	O-RING
DM-4	47
DM-2	52
QM-3	48
QM-4	51
SRM-15	53
SRM-22	75
SRM-25	29 27

# “A picture is worth a thousand words”

O-ring damage  
index, each launch



12

12

SRM 15

8

8

4

SRM 22

4

26°-29° range of forecasted temperatures  
(as of January 27, 1986) for the launch  
of space shuttle Challenger on January 28

0

0

25°

30°

35°

40°

45°

50°

55°

60°

65°

70°

75°

80°

85°

Temperature (°F) of field joints at time of launch

# “A picture is worth a thousand words”

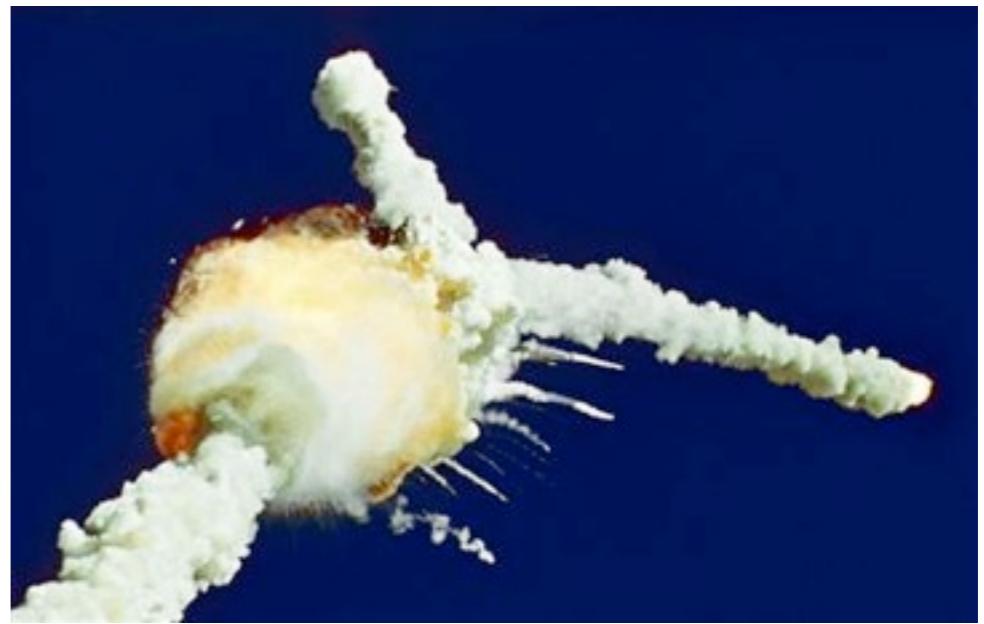
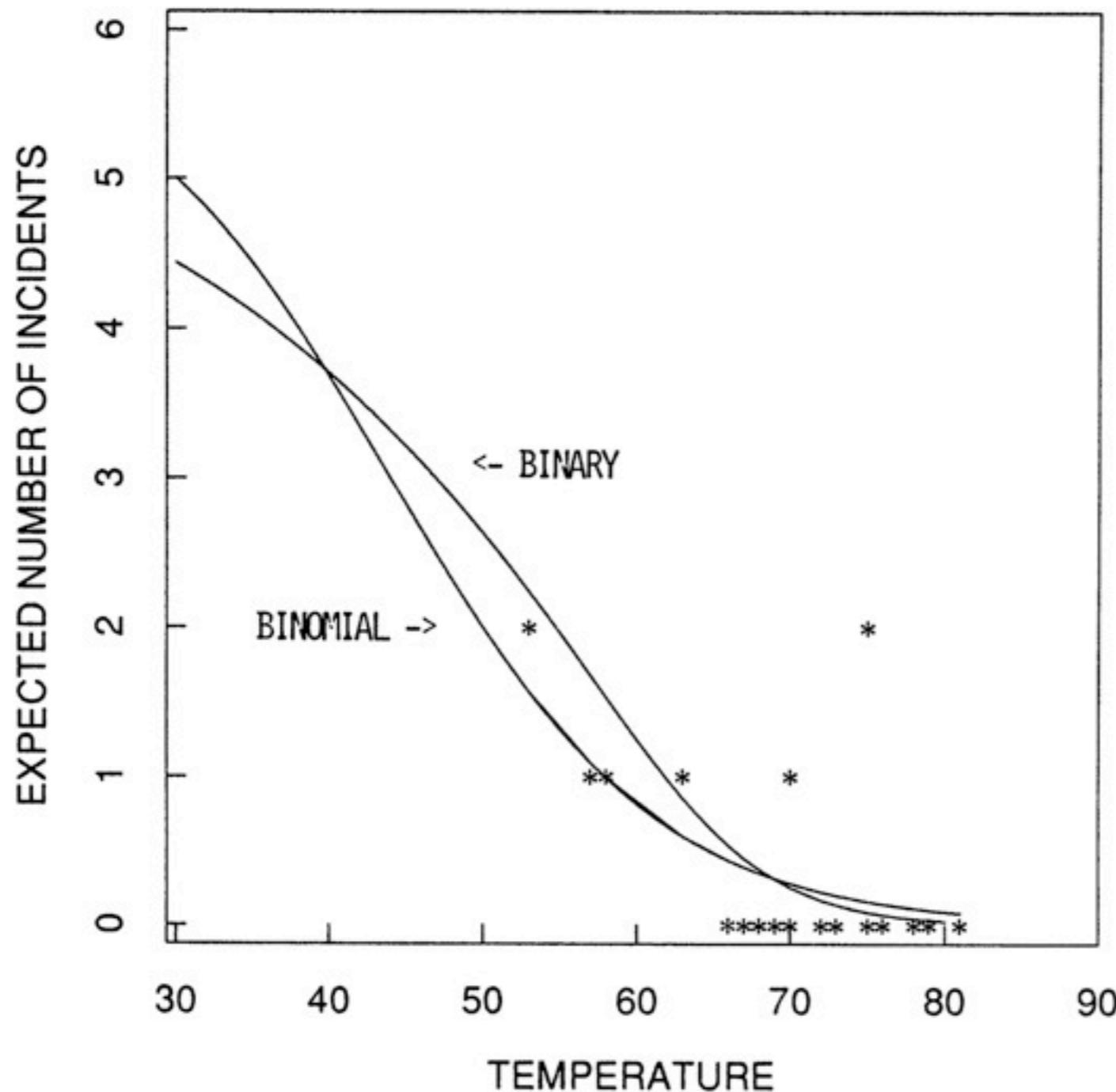


Figure 4. O-Ring Thermal-Distress Data: Field-Joint Primary O-Rings, Binomial-Logit Model, and Binary-Logit Model.

Siddhartha R. Dalal; Edward B. Fowlkes; Bruce Hoadley. Risk Analysis of the Space Shuttle: Pre-Challenger Prediction of Failure. JASA, Vol. 84, No. 408 (Dec., 1989), pp. 945-957. Access via [JSTOR](#).

Edward Tufte

<http://www.edwardtufte.com>

BOOK:

Visual Explanations: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative

Ch. 5 deals with the Challenger disaster

That chapter is available for \$7 as a downloadable booklet:

[http://www.edwardtufte.com/tufte/books\\_textb](http://www.edwardtufte.com/tufte/books_textb)

**“A picture is worth a thousand words”**

**Always, always, always plot the data.**

Replace (or complement) ‘typical’ tables of data or statistical results with figures that are more compelling and accessible.

Whenever possible, generate figures that overlay / juxtapose observed data and analytical results, e.g. the ‘fit’.

# base or traditional graphics

VS

## lattice package

ships with R, but must load  
`library(lattice)`

VS

## ggplot2 package

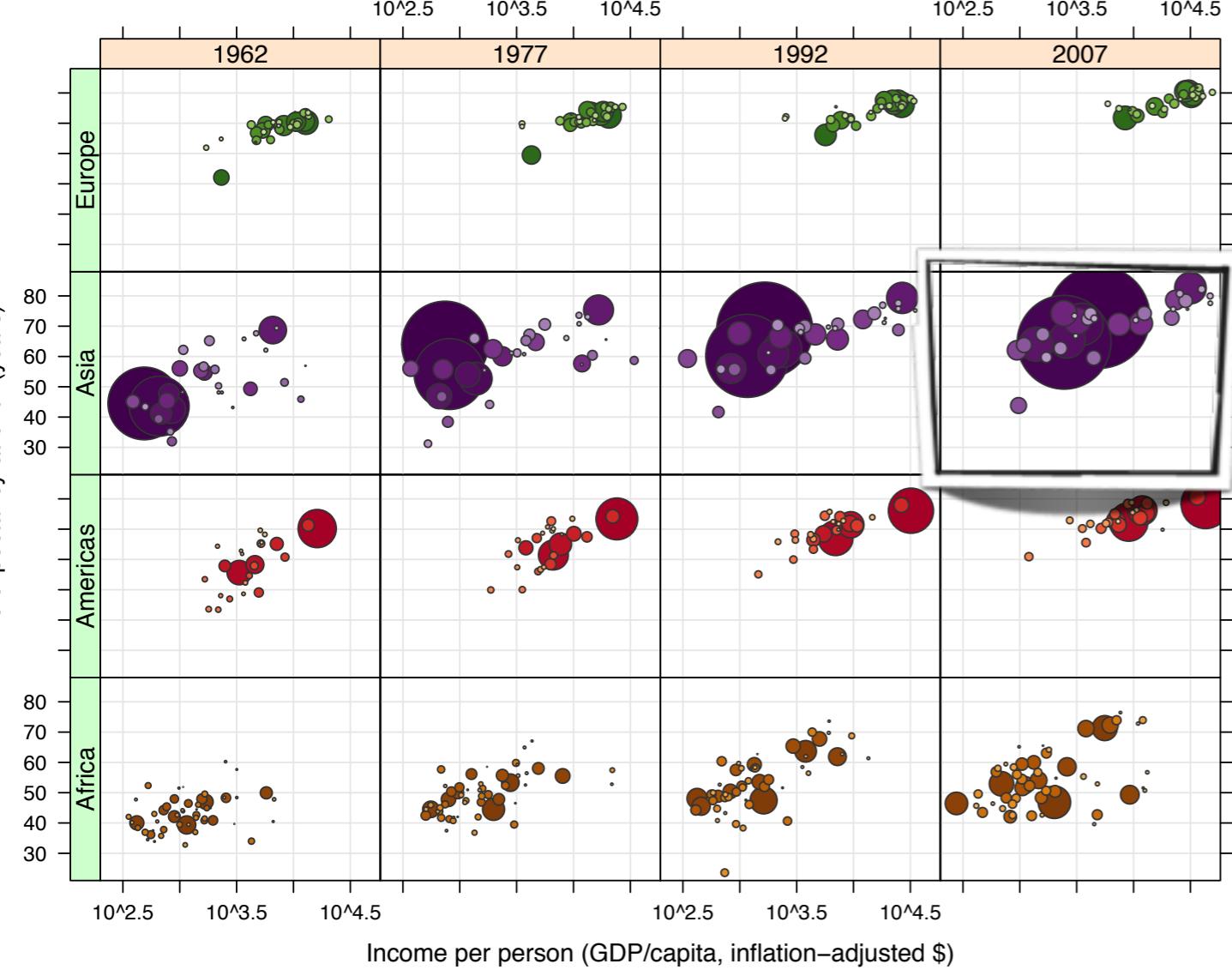
must be installed and loaded

```
install.packages("ggplot2", dependencies = TRUE)  
library(ggplot2)
```

# **Two main goals for statistical graphics**

- To facilitate comparisons.
- To identify trends.

**lattice and ggplot2 achieve these goals with less fuss**



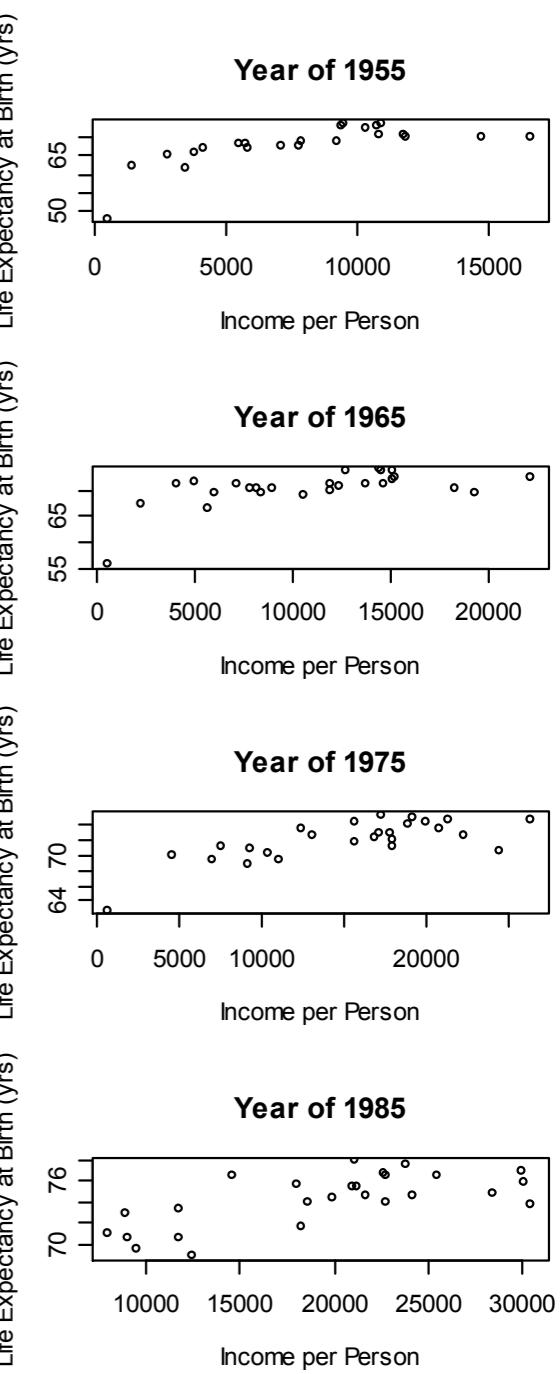
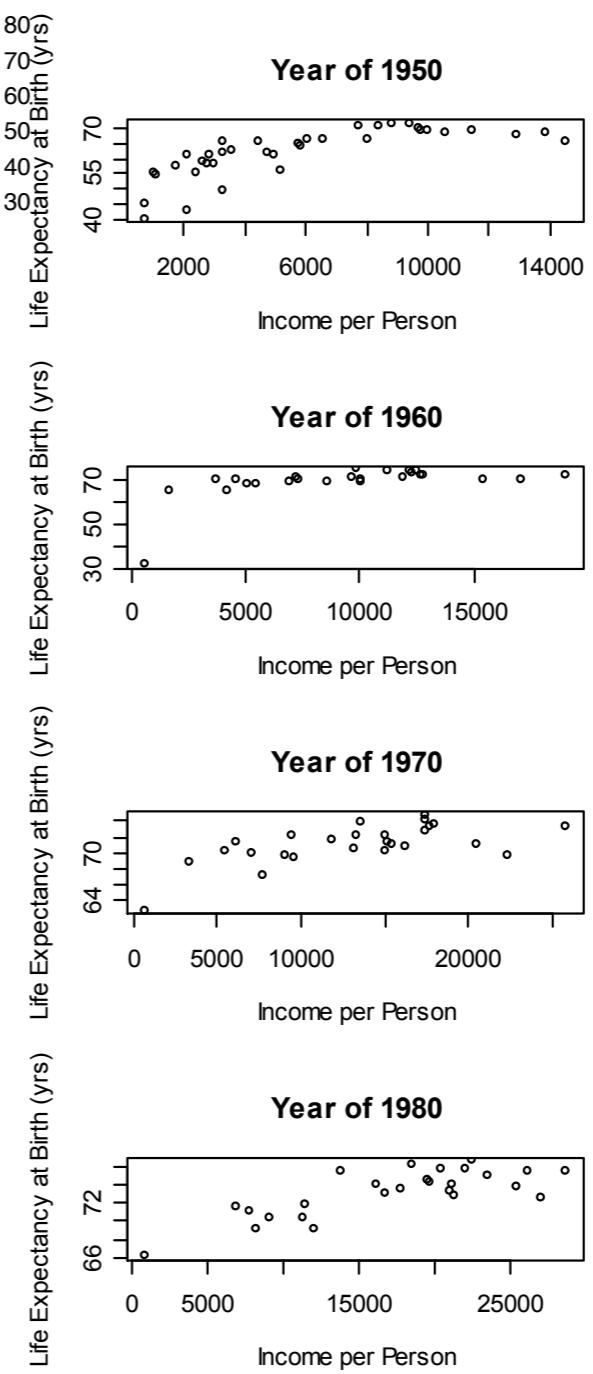
# base

# **lattice**

## “multi-panel conditioning”

lifeExp ~ gdpPercap | continent \* year

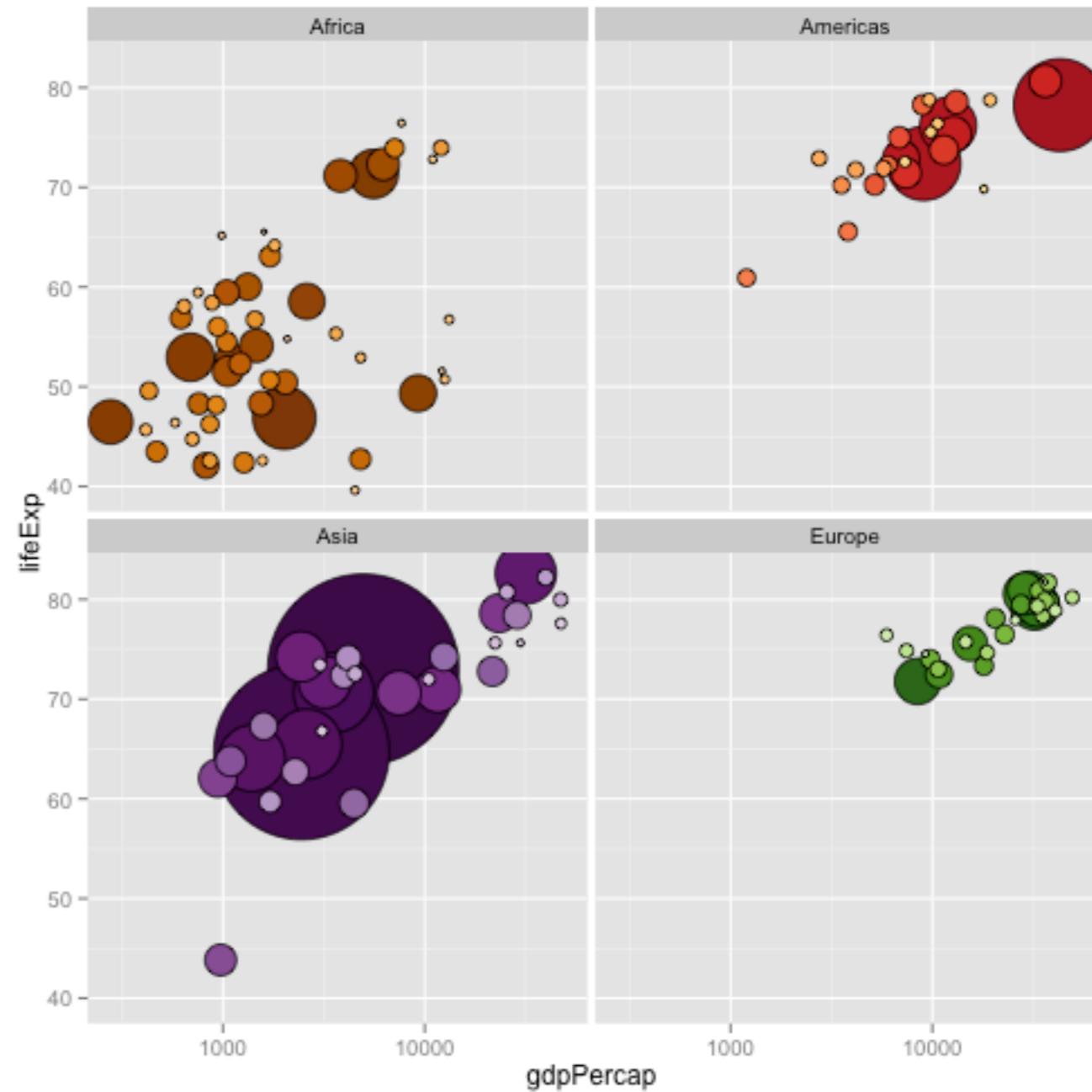
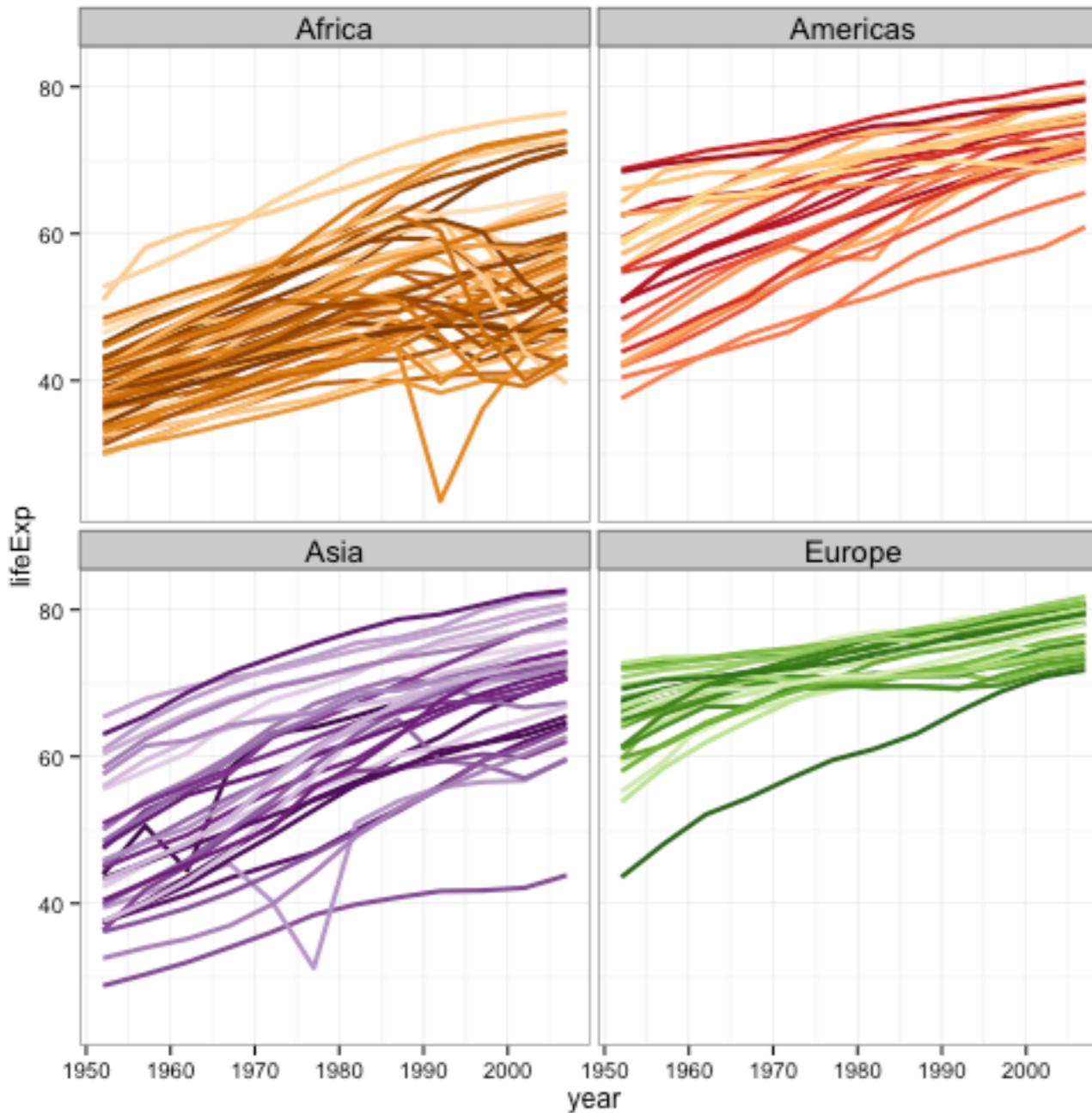
## Assignment 1: Best Set of Graphs

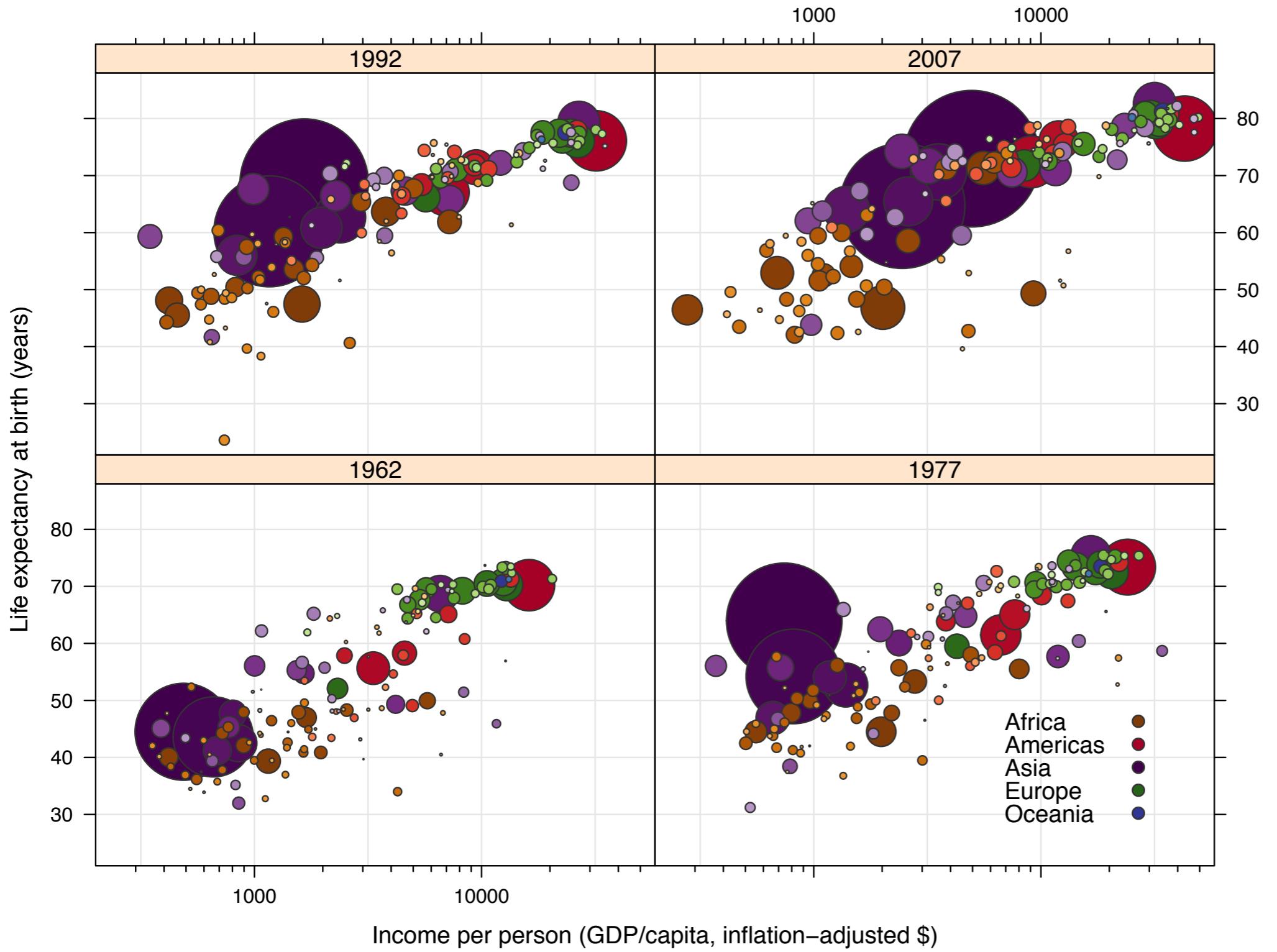


# ggplot2

“facetting”

```
ggplot(...) + ... +  
  facet_wrap(~ continent)
```





lattice

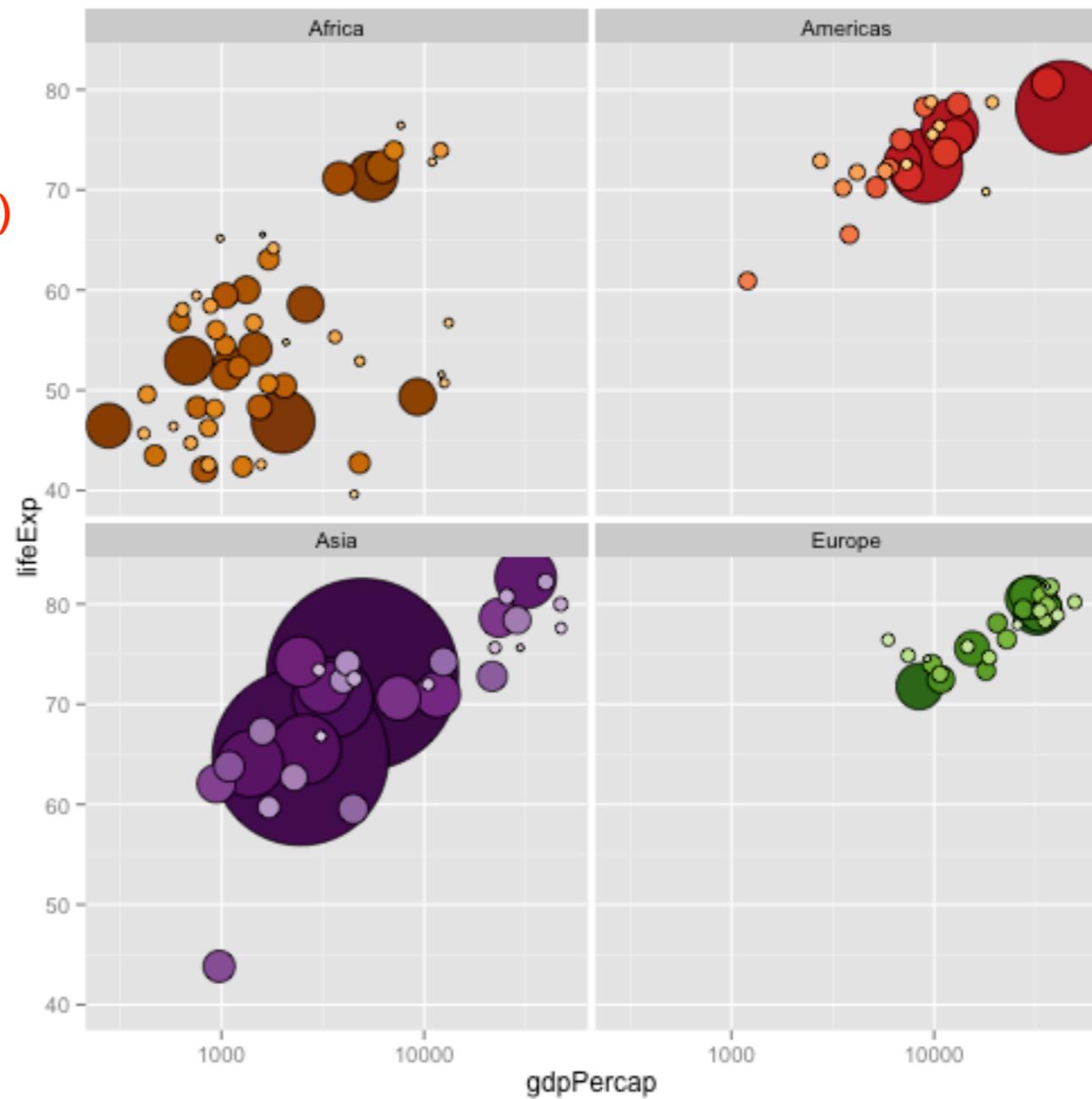
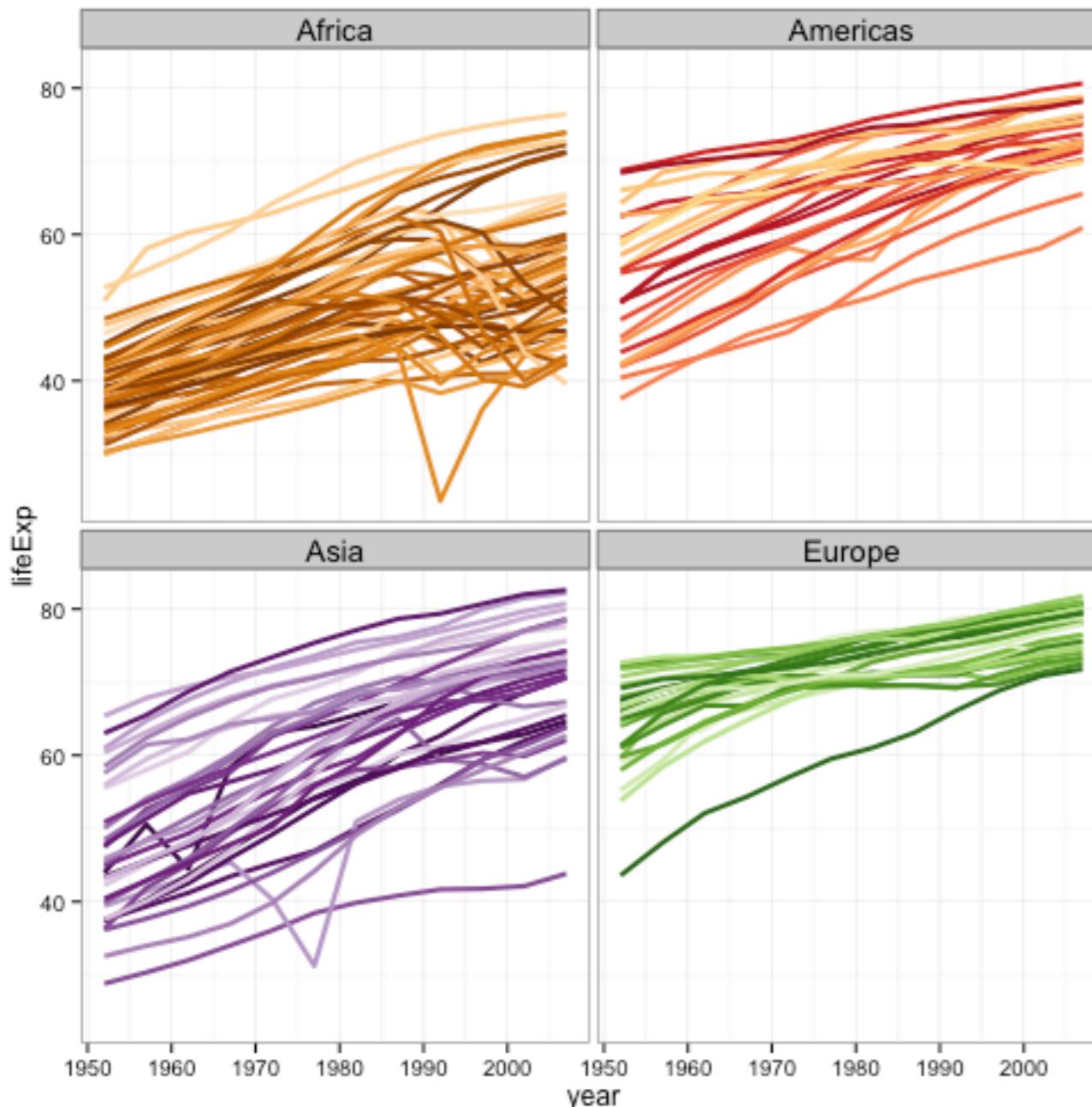
“groups and superposition”

`lifeExp ~ gdpPerCap | year, group = country`

# ggplot2

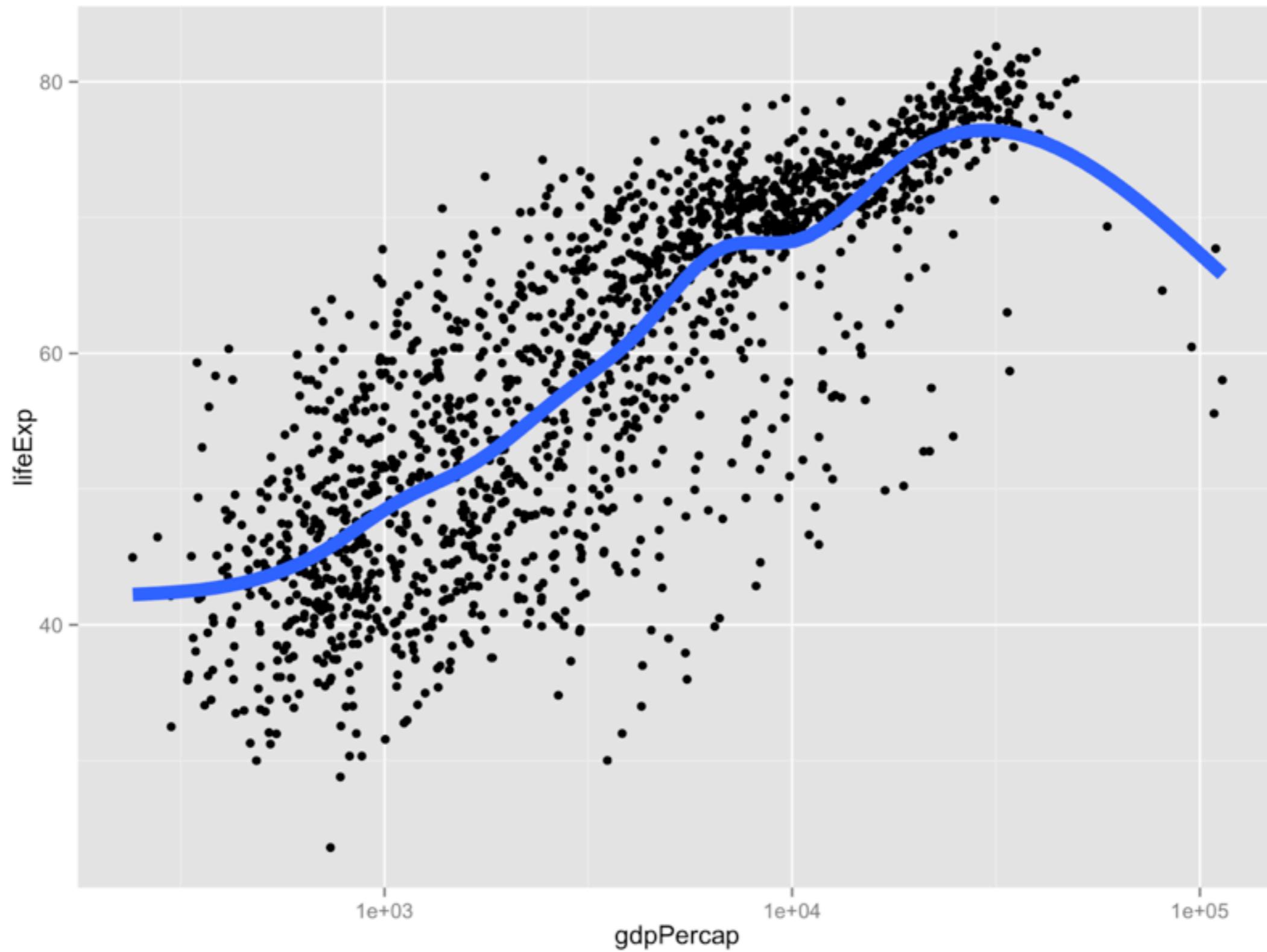
“aesthetic mapping”

```
ggplot(...) + ... +  
aes(fill = country)
```



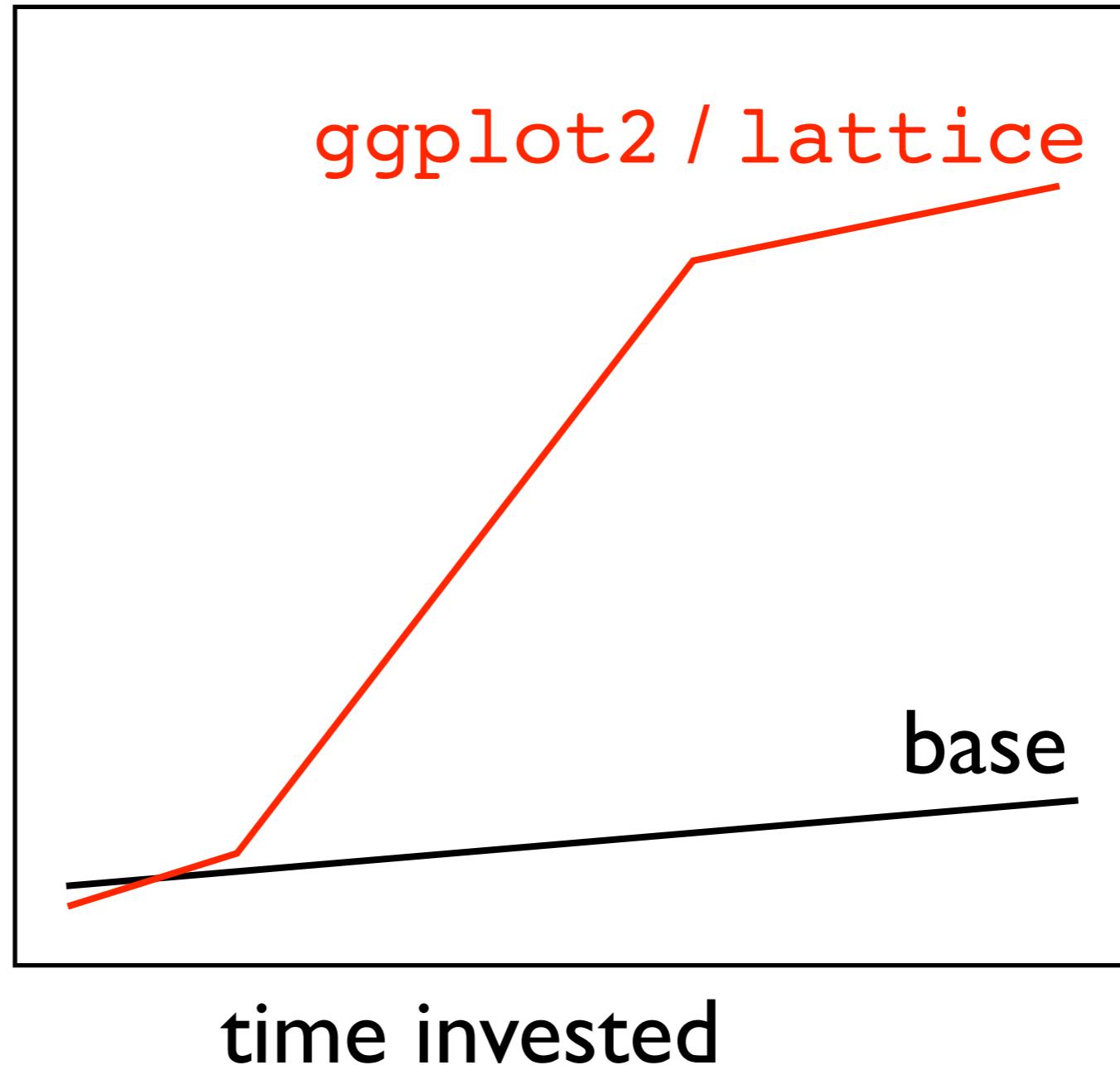
# ggplot2

adding a fitted curve  
ggplot(...) + ... +  
**geom\_smooth(...)**



week one ....

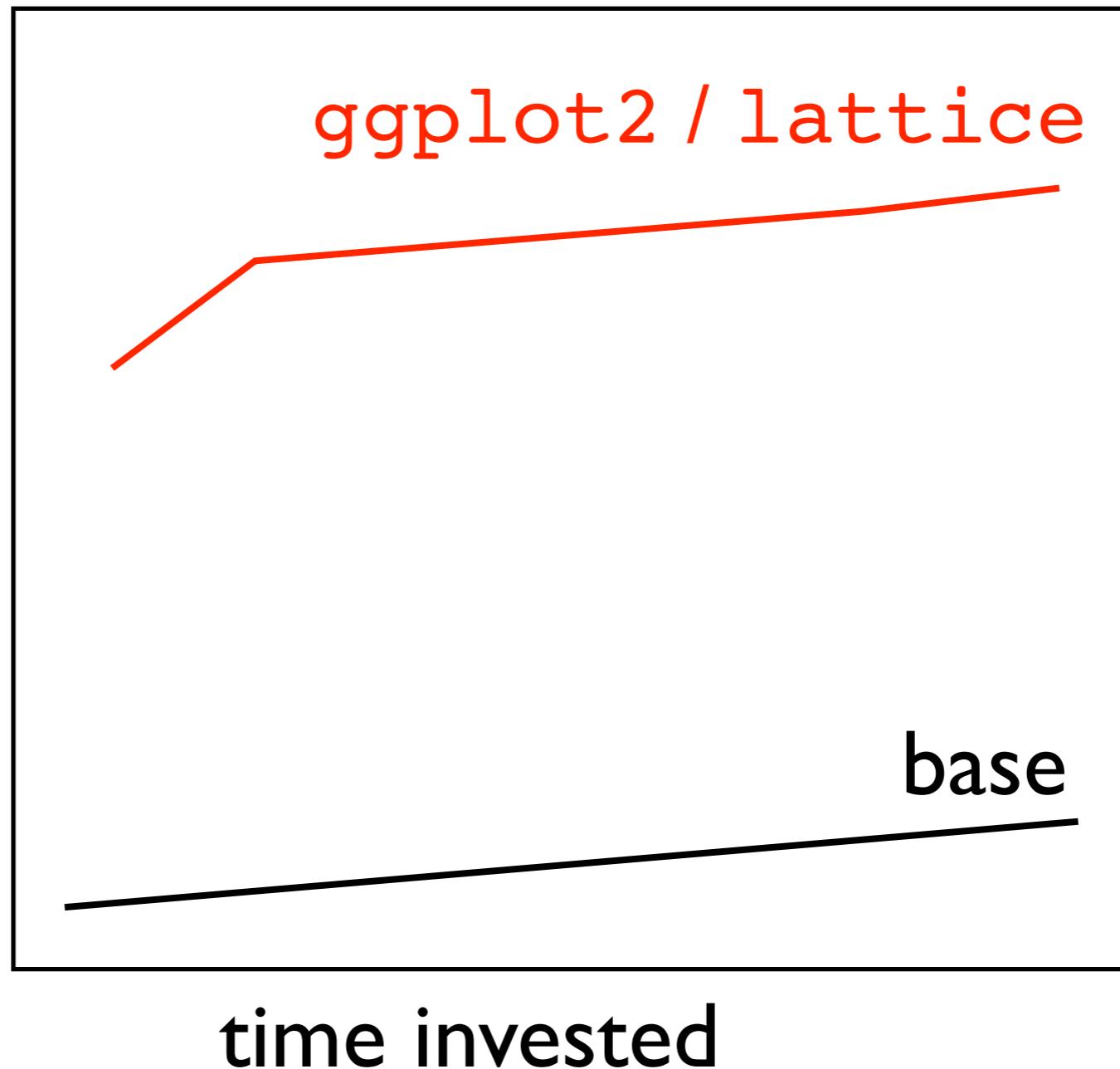
quality of  
output



\* figure is totally fabricated but, I claim, still true

after you've climbed the steepest part of the learning curve ...

quality of output



\* figure is totally fabricated but, I claim, still true

I make 99 figures for my eyeballs only for every one that I inflict on other people.

Main reason to use ggplot2 is to get great “value for ~~money~~time” for those 99 figures.

You can also make hyper-controlled figs for publication, but that is fiddly and time-consuming in *any* system. You may even go back to base graphics sometimes. Embrace diversity!



secrets of the Figure Whisperer

In my experience,  
the vast majority of  
graphing agony  
is due to  
insufficient data wrangling.

it should feel more like this



use data.frames

use factors

be the boss of your factors

keep your data tidy

reshape your data

if you are struggling with a plot,

ask yourself:

how many of these “rules” am I breaking?

often that is the real, hidden reason for struggle

use data.frames

use factors

be the boss of your factors

keep your data tidy

reshape your data

# master `read.table()`

```
read.table(file, header = FALSE, sep = "", quote = "\'\'",
          dec = ".", row.names, col.names,
          as.is = !stringsAsFactors,
          na.strings = "NA", colClasses = NA, nrows = -1,
          skip = 0, check.names = TRUE, fill = !blank.lines.skip,
          strip.white = FALSE, blank.lines.skip = TRUE,
          comment.char = "#",
          allowEscapes = FALSE, flush = FALSE,
          stringsAsFactors = default.stringsAsFactors(),
          fileEncoding = "", encoding = "unknown", text, skipNul = FALSE)
```

dplyr is fantastic new-ish package for working with  
data.frames (and more)

offers `tbl_df` as a flavor of `data.frame` with  
`stringsAsFactors` defaulting to FALSE and a  
nicer print method

readr is fantastic new package for data ingest

consider `read_delim()`, `read_csv()`,  
`read_tsv()`, `read_csv2()` as alternatives to  
`read.table()` and friends

**bottom line:**

**take control of your data at time of import**

**skillful use of the `read_this()` functions can  
eliminate a great deal of fanning around later**

# master reorder()

reorder.default {stats}

R Documentation

## Reorder Levels of a Factor

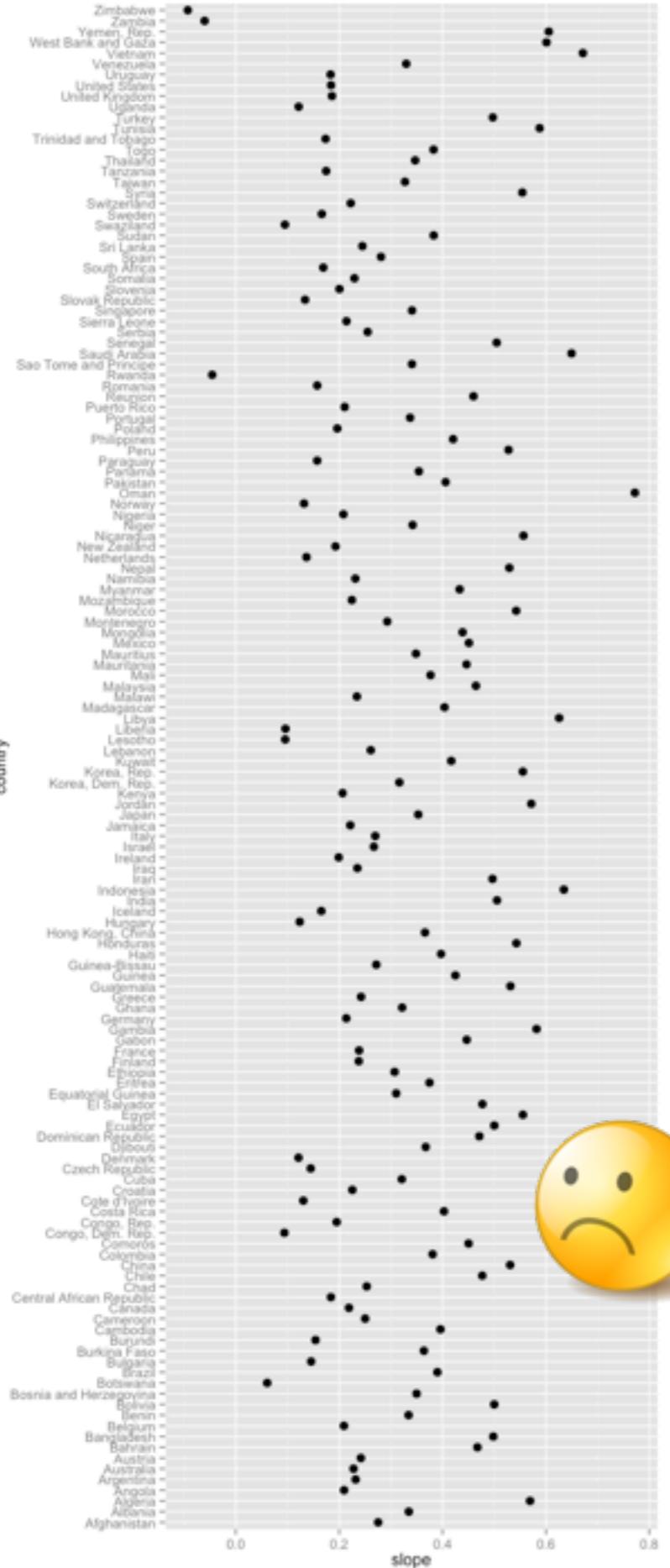
### Description

`reorder` is a generic function. The "default" method treats its first argument as a categorical variable, and reorders its levels based on the values of a second variable, usually numeric.

### Usage

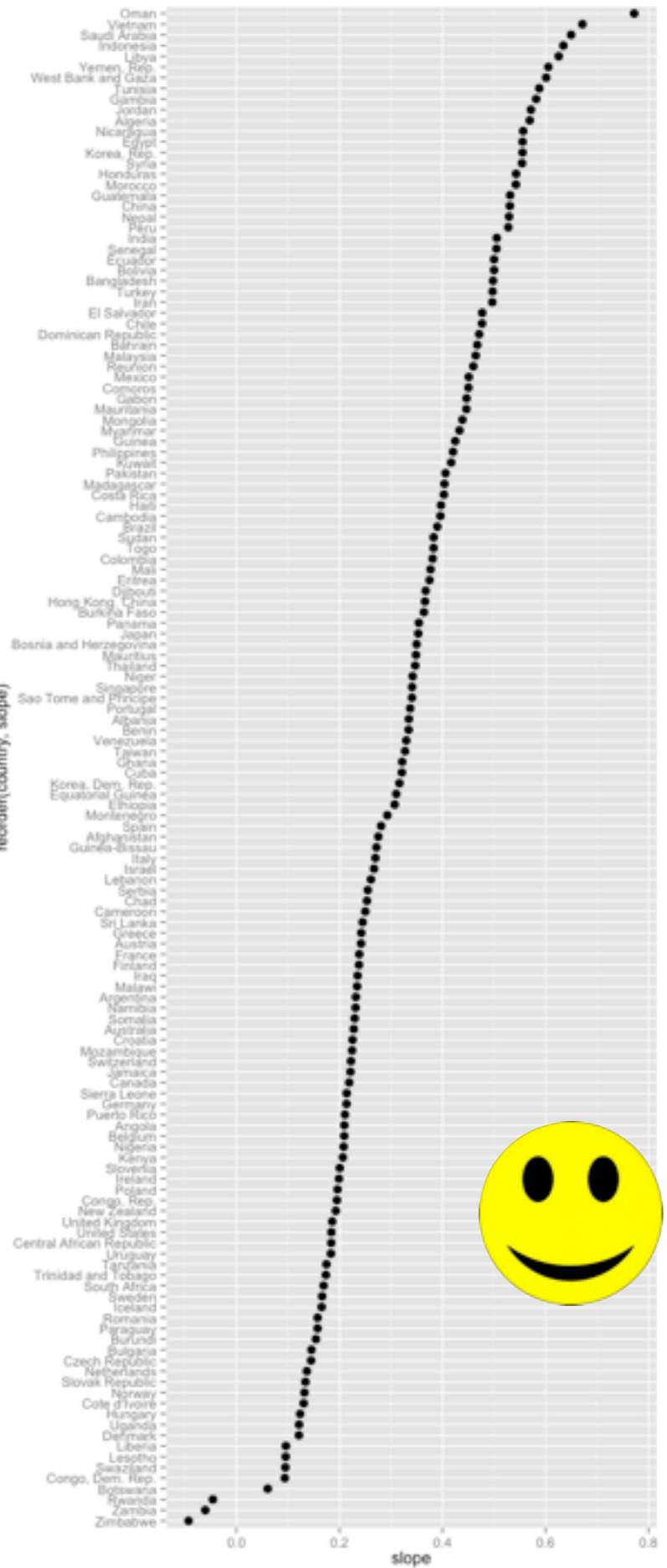
```
reorder(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
reorder(x, X, FUN = mean, ....,
       order = is.ordered(x))
```



**reorder() helps  
you order factor  
levels based on  
statistics  
computed from  
data as opposed  
to the A, B, C's**

**figures are much  
more valuable  
this way!**



In **tidy** data:

1. Each variable forms a column.
2. Each observation forms a row.
3. Each type of observational unit forms a table.

# messy

	treatmenta	treatmentb
John Smith	—	2
Jane Doe	16	11
Mary Johnson	3	1

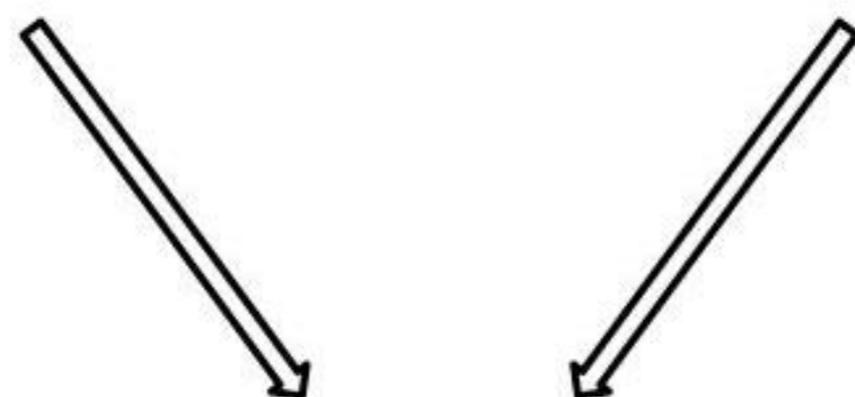
	John Smith	Jane Doe	Mary Johnson
treatmenta	—	16	3
treatmentb	2	11	1

# tidy

name	trt	result
John Smith	a	—
Jane Doe	a	16
Mary Johnson	a	3
John Smith	b	2
Jane Doe	b	11
Mary Johnson	b	1

Species	Habitat		
	X	Y	Z
A	0	3	0
B	1	0	2

Species	HabitatX	HabitatY	HabitatZ
A	0	3	0
B	1	0	2



Species	Habitat	Abundance
A	Y	3
B	X	1
B	Z	2

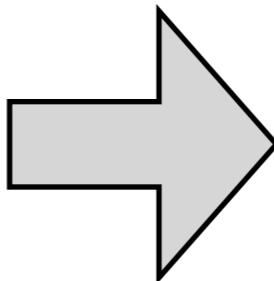
# reshape your data



data has a tendency to get shorter and wider, but tall and thin often better for analysis + visualization

# reshape2::melt tidyr::gather

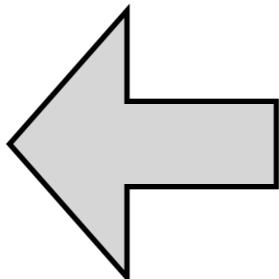
row	a	b	c
a	1	4	7
b	2	5	8
c	3	6	9



row	column	value
a	a	1
b	a	2
c	a	3
a	b	4
b	b	5
c	b	6
a	c	7
b	c	8
c	c	9

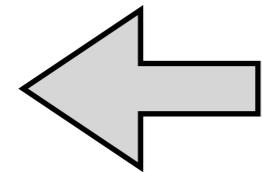
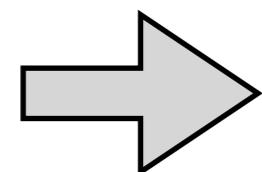
# reshape2::cast tidyr::spread

row	a	b	c
a	1	4	7
b	2	5	8
c	3	6	9



row	column	value
a	a	1
b	a	2
c	a	3
a	b	4
b	b	5
c	b	6
a	c	7
b	c	8
c	c	9

row	a	b	c
a	1	4	7
b	2	5	8
c	3	6	9



gather

row	column	value
a	a	1
b	a	2
c	a	3
a	b	4
b	b	5
c	b	6
a	c	7
b	c	8
c	c	9

spread

typical usage pattern:

**gather to facilitate analysis and visualization**

**spread to make compact tables that are nicer for eyeballs**

relevant data manipulation packages:

**tidyverse**

**reshape2**

**dplyr**

**plyr**

# RStudio's data wrangling cheatsheet

## Data Wrangling with dplyr and tidyr Cheat Sheet



### Syntax - Helpful conventions for wrangling

#### dplyr::tbl\_df(iris)

Converts data to `tbl` class. `tbl`'s are easier to examine than data frames. R displays only the data that fits onscreen:

```
Source: local data frame [150 x 5]
  Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length
1          5.1        3.5         1.4
2          4.9        3.0         1.4
3          4.7        3.2         1.3
4          4.6        3.1         1.5
5          5.0        3.6         1.4
...
Variables not shown: Petal.Width (dbl), Species (fctr)
```

#### dplyr::glimpse(iris)

Information dense summary of `tbl` data.

#### utils::View(iris)

View data set in spreadsheet-like display (note capital V).

iris x					
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 4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2	setosa	
5 5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2	setosa	
6 5.4	3.9	1.7	0.4	setosa	
7 4.6	3.4	1.4	0.3	setosa	
8 5.0	3.4	1.5	0.2	setosa	

#### dplyr::%>%

Passes object on left hand side as first argument (or . argument) of function on righthand side.

```
x %>% f(y) is the same as f(x, y)
y %>% f(x, ., z) is the same as f(x, y, z)
```

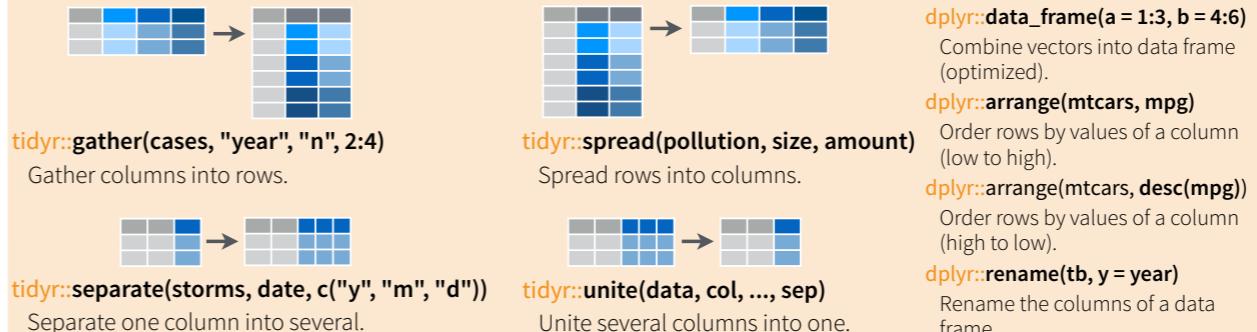
"Piping" with `%>%` makes code more readable, e.g.

```
iris %>%
  group_by(Species) %>%
  summarise(avg = mean(Sepal.Width)) %>%
  arrange(avg)
```

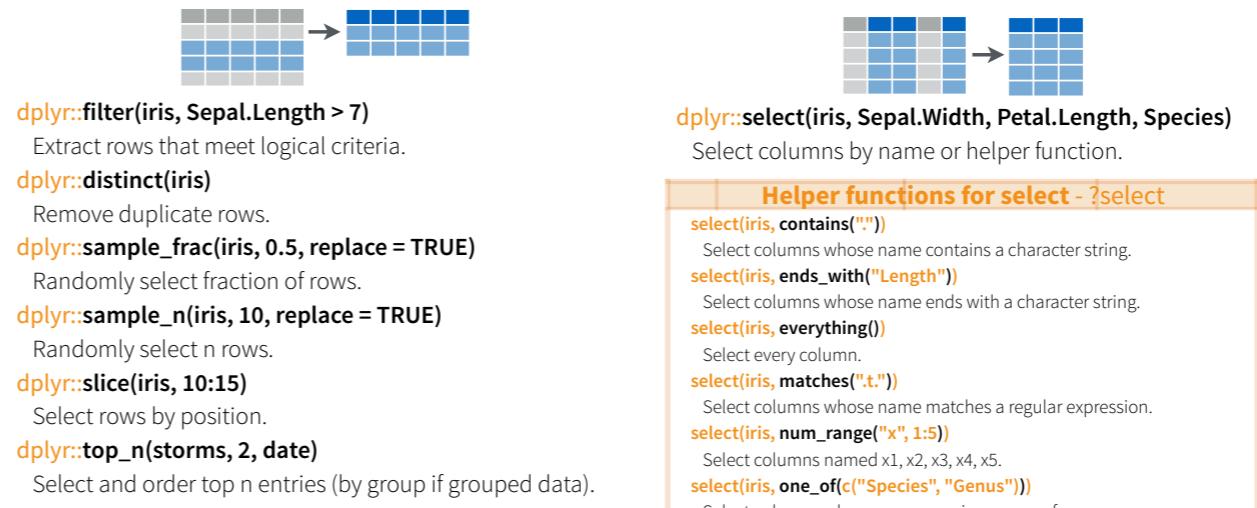
### Tidy Data - A foundation for wrangling in R



### Reshaping Data - Change the layout of a data set



### Subset Observations (Rows)



Logic in R - ?Comparison, ?base::Logic			
<	Less than	!=	Not equal to
>	Greater than	%in%	Group membership
==	Equal to	is.na	Is NA
<=	Less than or equal to	!is.na	Is not NA
>=	Greater than or equal to	&,  , !, xor, any, all	Boolean operators

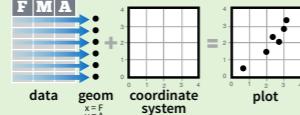
# RStudio's data visualization cheatsheet

## Data Visualization with ggplot2 Cheat Sheet

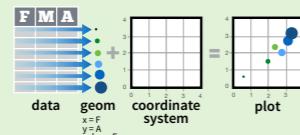


### Basics

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



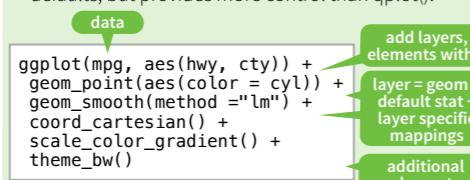
To display data values, map variables in the data set to aesthetic properties of the geom like **size**, **color**, and **x** and **y** locations.



Build a graph with **ggplot()** or **qplot()**

```
ggplot(data = mpg, aes(x = cty, y = hwy))
```

Begins a plot that you finish by adding layers to. No defaults, but provides more control than qplot().



Add a new layer to a plot with a **geom\_\***() or **stat\_\***() function. Each provides a geom, a set of aesthetic mappings, and a default stat and position adjustment.

```
qplot(x = cty, y = hwy, color = cyl, data = mpg, geom = "point")
```

Creates a complete plot with given data, geom, and mappings. Supplies many useful defaults.

**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.

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

#### One Variable

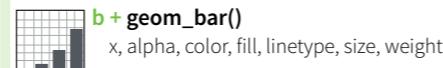
##### Continuous

```
a <- ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy))
```



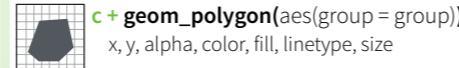
##### Discrete

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

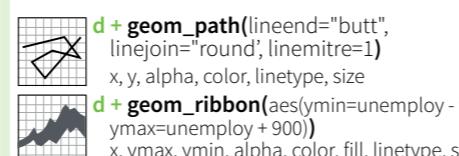


#### Graphical Primitives

```
c <- ggplot(map, aes(long, lat))
```



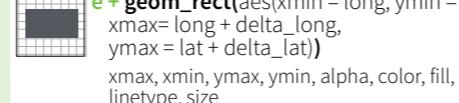
```
d <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))
```



```
e <- ggplot(seals, aes(x = long, y = lat))
```



```
e + geom_rect(aes(xmin = long, ymin = lat,
```



xmax = long + delta\_long, ymax = lat + delta\_lat))

xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size

seals\$z <- with(seals, sqrt(delta\_long^2 + delta\_lat^2))

m <- ggplot(seals, aes(long, lat))

m + geom\_raster(aes(fill = z), hjust=0.5,

vjust=0.5, interpolate=FALSE)

x, y, alpha, fill (fast)

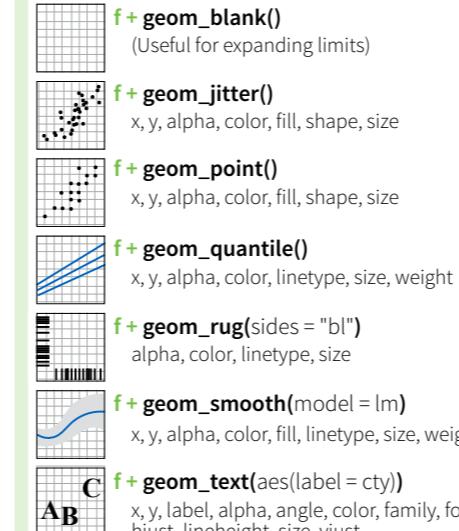
m + geom\_contour(aes(z = z))

x, y, z, alpha, colour, linetype, size, weight

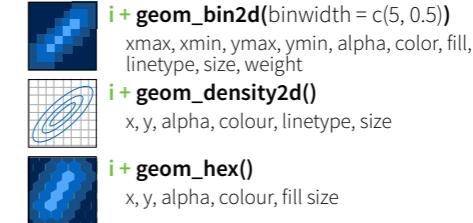
#### Two Variables

##### Continuous X, Continuous Y

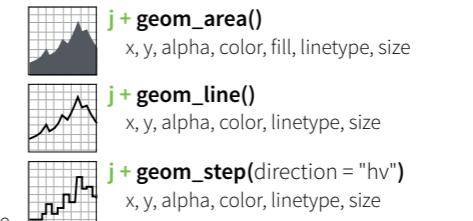
```
f <- ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy))
```



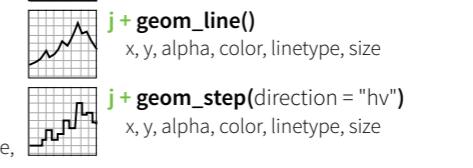
```
f + geom_hex()
```



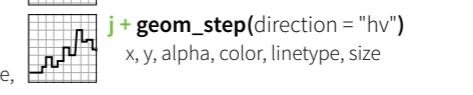
```
f + geom_rug(sides = "bl")
```



```
f + geom_smooth(model = lm)
```

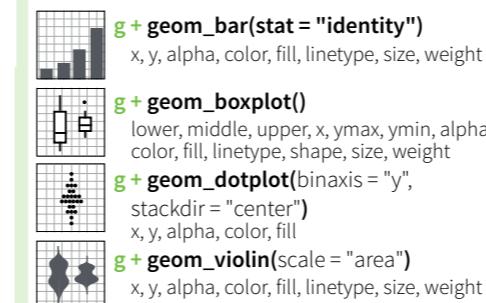


```
f + geom_text(aes(label = cty))
```



##### Discrete X, Continuous Y

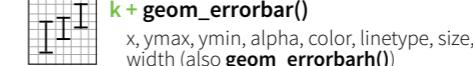
```
g <- ggplot(mpg, aes(class, hwy))
```



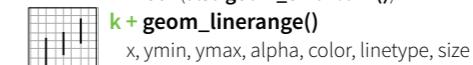
```
g + geom_bar(stat = "identity")
```



```
g + geom_boxplot()
```



```
g + geom_dotplot(binaxis = "y",
```



stackdir = "center")

```
g + geom_violin(scale = "area")
```



##### Discrete X, Discrete Y

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



```
h + geom_jitter()
```



seals\$z <- with(seals, sqrt(delta\_long^2 + delta\_lat^2))

m <- ggplot(seals, aes(long, lat))

m + geom\_raster(aes(fill = z), hjust=0.5,

vjust=0.5, interpolate=FALSE)

x, y, alpha, fill (fast)

m + geom\_contour(aes(z = z))

x, y, z, alpha, colour, linetype, size, weight

#### Three Variables

m + geom\_raster(aes(fill = z), hjust=0.5,

vjust=0.5, interpolate=FALSE)

x, y, alpha, fill (fast)

m + geom\_tile(aes(fill = z))

x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size (slow)

**ggplot2**

we will not use qplot() function

no training wheels

you're here ...

I assume you want to ride this bike

**data**, in `data.frame` form

**aesthetic**: map variables into properties people can perceive visually ... position, color, line type?

**geom**: specifics of what people see ... points? lines?

**scale**: map data values into “computer” values

**stat**: summarization/transformation of data

**facet**: juxtapose related mini-plots of data subsets

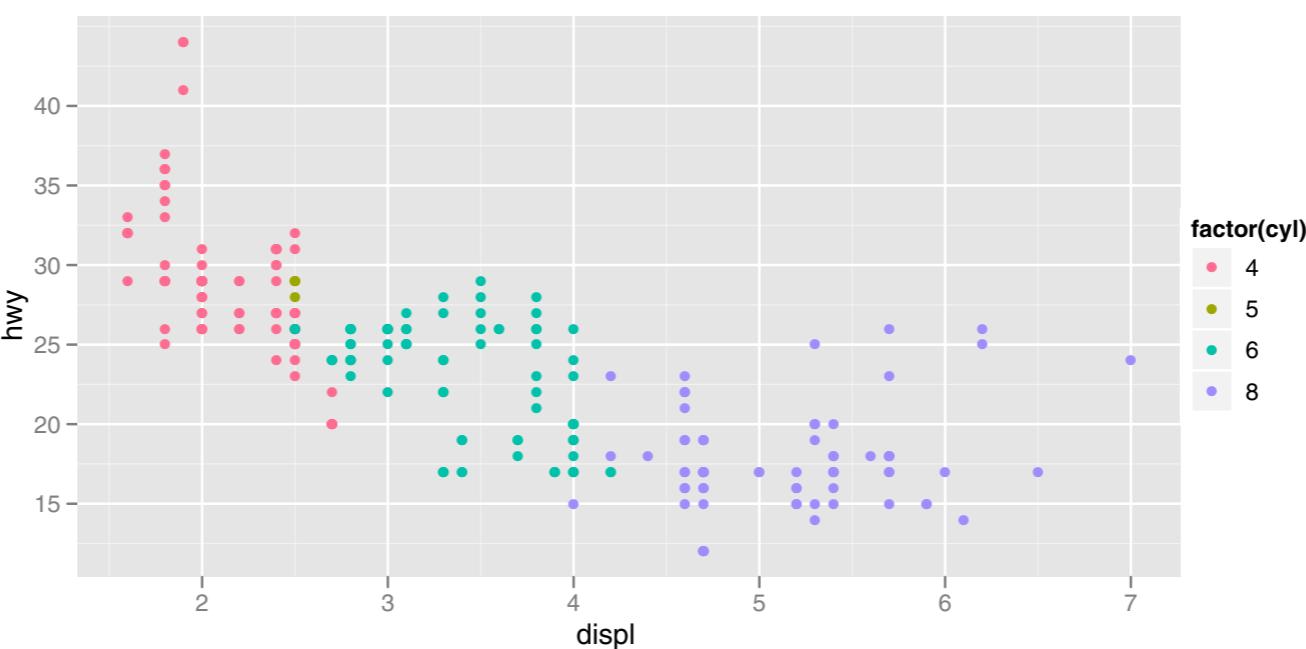


Fig. 3.1: A scatterplot of engine displacement in litres (displ) vs. average highway miles per gallon (hwy). Points are coloured according to number of cylinders. This plot summarises the most important factor governing fuel economy: engine size.

manufacturer	model	disp	year	cyl	cty	hwy	class
audi	a4	1.8	1999	4	18	29	compact
audi	a4	1.8	1999	4	21	29	compact
audi	a4	2.0	2008	4	20	31	compact
audi	a4	2.0	2008	4	21	30	compact
audi	a4	2.8	1999	6	16	26	compact
audi	a4	2.8	1999	6	18	26	compact
audi	a4	3.1	2008	6	18	27	compact
audi	a4 quattro	1.8	1999	4	18	26	compact
audi	a4 quattro	1.8	1999	4	16	25	compact
audi	a4 quattro	2.0	2008	4	20	28	compact



x	y	colour
1.8	29	4
1.8	29	4
2.0	31	4
2.0	30	4
2.8	26	6
2.8	26	6
3.1	27	6
1.8	26	4
1.8	25	4
2.0	28	4

x	y	colour	size	shape
0.037	0.531	#FF6C91	1	19
0.037	0.531	#FF6C91	1	19
0.074	0.594	#FF6C91	1	19
0.074	0.562	#FF6C91	1	19
0.222	0.438	#00C1A9	1	19
0.222	0.438	#00C1A9	1	19
0.278	0.469	#00C1A9	1	19
0.037	0.438	#FF6C91	1	19
0.037	0.406	#FF6C91	1	19
0.074	0.500	#FF6C91	1	19

mapping data  
to aesthetics

scaling:  
data units →  
“computer” units

base graphics cause a figure to exist as a “side effect”

ggplot2 (and lattice) construct the figure as an R object

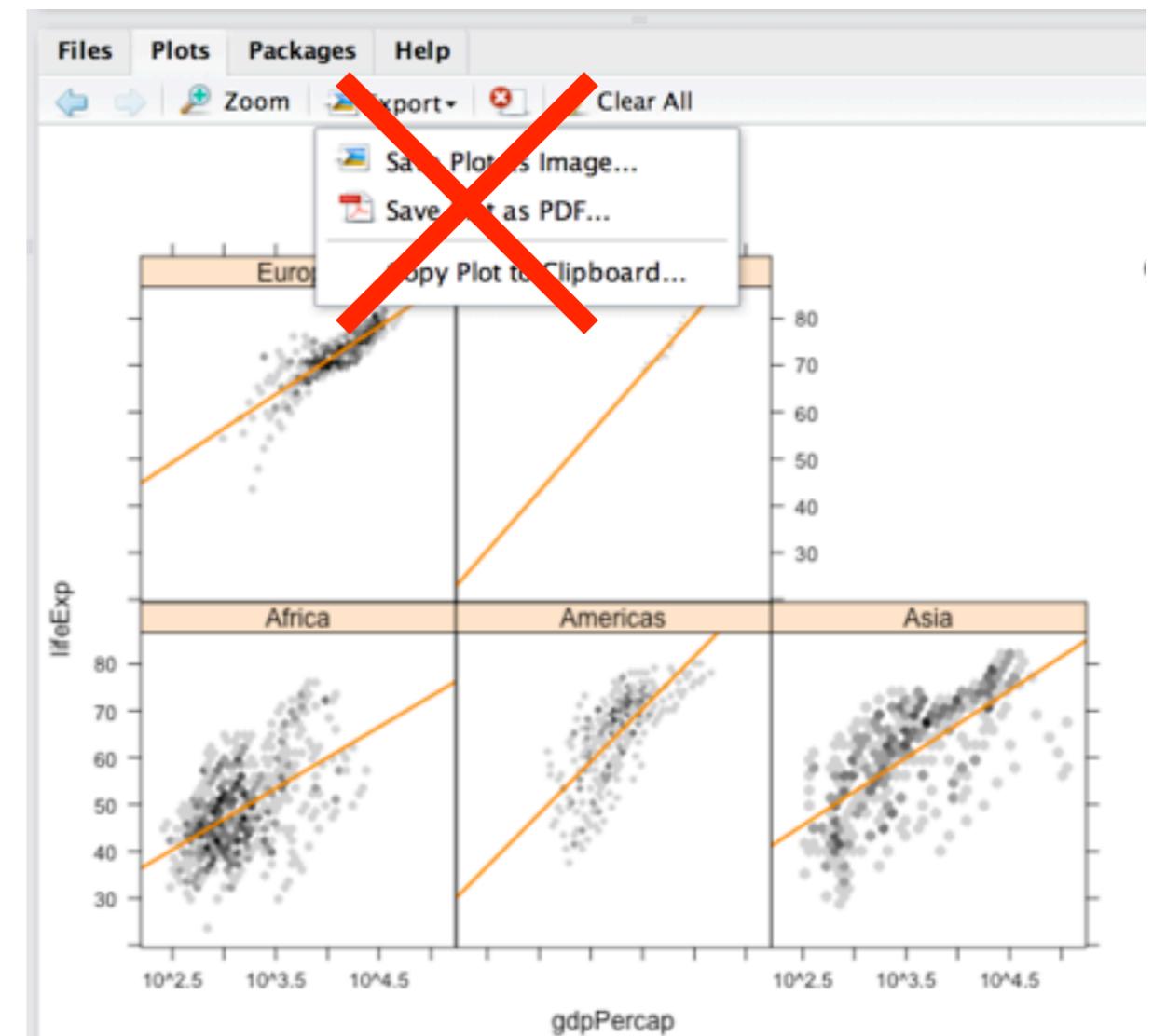
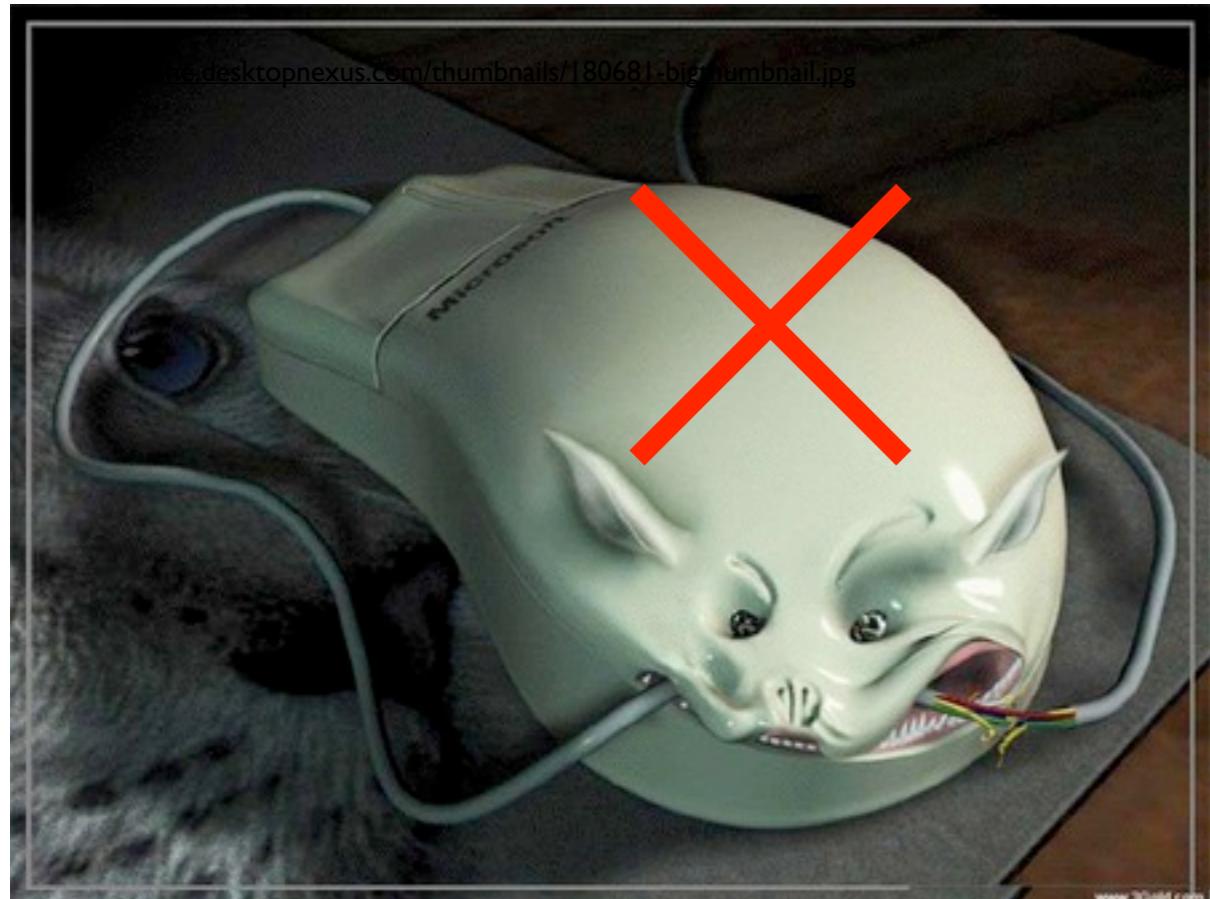
obviously you'll need to print it to see it

*this tutorial consisted largely of live  
coding ... see the repo for indicative content*

<https://github.com/jennybc/ggplot2-tutorial>

**saving figures to file**

**do not save figures mouse-y style**  
not self-documenting  
not reproducible



most correct method for base plots:

```
pdf("awesome_figure.pdf")
plot(1:10)
dev.off()

postscript(), svg(), png(), tiff(), ...
```

fine for everyday use:

```
plot(1:10)
dev.print(pdf, "awesome_figure.pdf")  
  
postscript(), svg(), png(), tiff(), ...
```

`ggplot2` has a special function, `ggsave()`, that is really  
really nice for saving plots

very smart defaults!

guesses file format from extension

doesn't force you to do annoying stuff with dots per  
inch (but you can!)

**next slide from here:**

# Data Visualization with R & ggplot2

Karthik Ram

September 2, 2013

- If the plot is on your screen

```
ggsave("~/path/to/figure/filename.png")
```

- If your plot is assigned to an object

```
ggsave(plot1, file = "~/path/to/figure/filename.png")
```

- Specify a size

```
ggsave(file = "/path/to/figure/filename.png", width = 6,  
height = 4)
```

- or any format (pdf, png, eps, svg, jpg)

```
ggsave(file = "/path/to/figure/filename.eps")  
ggsave(file = "/path/to/figure/filename.jpg")  
ggsave(file = "/path/to/figure/filename.pdf")
```

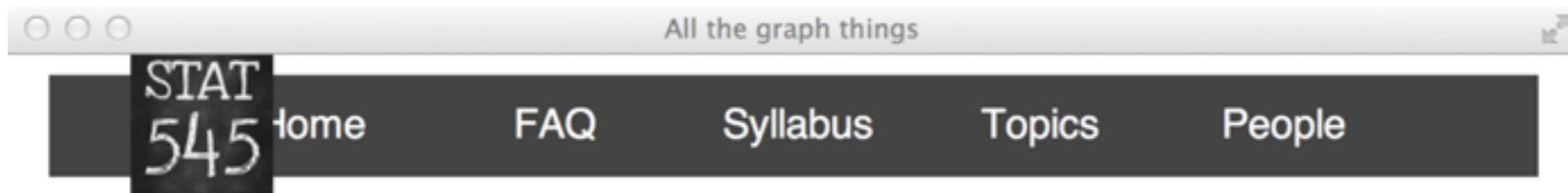
```
p <- ggplot(...) + ...  
p #delete or comment this out if non-interactive  
ggsave(p, file = “path/to/figure/filename.png”)
```

Use this workflow if the script might be run non-interactively.

Why? If you do not specify the plot explicitly, the default is to draw the last interactively drawn plot. That won't exist in a non-interactive session and your plot files will be blank.

This can be frustrating. Ask me how I know.

See more of my figure making wisdom here:  
[http://stat545-ubc.github.io/graph00\\_index.html](http://stat545-ubc.github.io/graph00_index.html)



# All the graph things

We work on visualization throughout the course. Here are the bits in rough order of presentation.

- R graphics landscape *slides*
  - why we prefer `ggplot2` (or `lattice`) over base R graphics
  - the underappreciated importance of data.frames, tidy data, and factor management to graphics
  - basic jargon of `ggplot2`
- Learning `ggplot2` by using it
  - my `ggplot2` tutorial gives indicative code and all resulting figures
  - scatterplots, stripcharts, distributions, bars, themes, managing a color scheme, bubble and line plots
- Do's and don'ts of making effective graphs
  - Effective = easy for audience to decode numerical info
  - Our ability to decode position along common axis >> area, angle, color, etc.
- The R Graph Catalog presents a visual, clickable index of 100+ figures
  - mostly from Naomi Robbins' book "**Creating More Effective Graphs**"
  - see figure and the exact `ggplot2` code to produce it, side-by-side
  - code for all figures and app itself is on GitHub
- Colors
  - [Using colors in R](#)
  - [Taking control of qualitative colors in ggplot2](#)
- Practical pro tips, i.e. a return to mechanics
  - [Secrets of a happy graphing life](#): data.frames! tidy data! factors!
  - [Writing figures to file](#)
  - [Multiple plots on a page](#)