

ggplot2
theme elements
reference

Set `minimal` as the baseline theme:
`theme_minimal() +
theme(theme.element = element_type())`

Use `element_blank()` to remove an element

Axis titles, text, ticks, and lines can be specified per axis using theme inheritance by putting `.x/.y` at the end of the theme element.

`axis.line.y = element_line()`

`axis.title.y = element_text()`

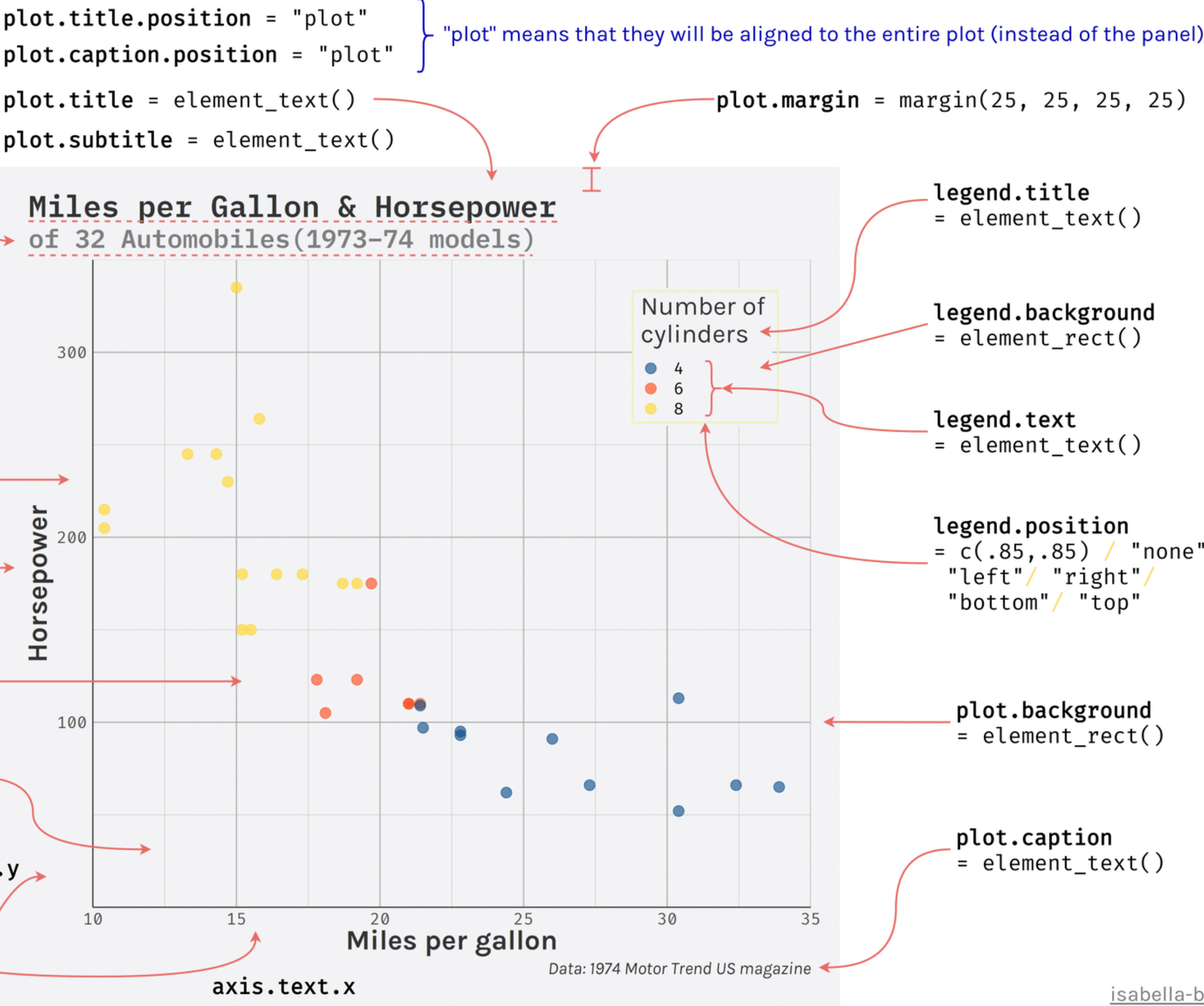
`panel.grid.major = element_line()`

`panel.grid.minor = element_line()`

`axis.text.y`

`axis.text = element_text()`

`axis.text.x`




`text = element_text()` ← modifications will be applied to all text elements

Full list of elements at ggplot2.tidyverse.org/reference/theme

A few days ago I came across Henry Wang’s “ggplot2 Theme Elements Demonstration” on Twitter and thought it was such a smart way to refer to the theme elements in `ggplot2` (check it out if you haven’t already!). Since I always customize my plots, every time I make one I end up having to google the list of theme elements. In an attempt to minimize the time spent doing that, I decided to make my own version of Henry’s demonstration for myself, using the theme elements I frequently use and tweak.

I also made a PDF version so that it’s easy to copy-paste the code. In case it would be useful to anyone else, I’ve linked them below 😊

 **June 7, 2020:** The example plot used for this sheet was replaced with a plot using `mtcars` data instead of `iris` data.

[PDF](#) [PNG](#)

I included a part in the sheet where I said “Set `minimal` as the baseline theme” since I always do this, but of course that’s just my personal workflow.

There are *many* more theme elements that you can set and inheritances available, so be sure to check them out in [ggplot2’s documentation](#)!

The plot was made using `ggplot2` and the outer part of the sheet describing the theme elements was made using [draw.io](#).

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