

Seaborn Review

Seaborn is a really great package for quickly producing nice plots. It's basic structure looks like this



The top row (the larger boxes) are figure-level plots. They handle much of the busywork of making a nice figure for you, and also allow you to select which underlying plot type to use (e.g. lineplot vs scatterplot). The underlying plots are axes-level plots. If you call them directly, they will return a `matplotlib axes` object, which you can then use to customize the plot. The topmost underlying plots are the default plot types for the figure-level plots.

There are also a couple functions, `pairplot()` and `jointplot()` that produce some common figures using a mix of plot types. We've made examples of both of these "by hand" already in this course.

Seaborn is built on top of matplotlib so, ultimately, everything in a seaborn figure is an `axes` or other matplotlib `artist`. This means that you can always use matplotlib methods if you need to do some low level customization of your figures.

Preliminaries

First, let's import what we'll need:

```
In [1]: # This is all we should need in theory
import seaborn as sns

# But I had to do this to get plots to show for some random reason
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
```

Figure level plots

We'll start with some figure level plots.

Relational plots

Several example data sets come with seaborn. Here's one about tipping:

```
In [2]: tips = sns.load_dataset("tips")
```

Let's peek at the data set after loading (always!):

```
In [3]: tips
```

Out [3]:

	total_bill	tip	sex	smoker	day	time	size
0	16.99	1.01	Female	No	Sun	Dinner	2
1	10.34	1.66	Male	No	Sun	Dinner	3
2	21.01	3.50	Male	No	Sun	Dinner	3
3	23.68	3.31	Male	No	Sun	Dinner	2
4	24.59	3.61	Female	No	Sun	Dinner	4
...
239	29.03	5.92	Male	No	Sat	Dinner	3
240	27.18	2.00	Female	Yes	Sat	Dinner	2
241	22.67	2.00	Male	Yes	Sat	Dinner	2
242	17.82	1.75	Male	No	Sat	Dinner	2
243	18.78	3.00	Female	No	Thur	Dinner	2

244 rows × 7 columns

Use the cell below to describe the numerical data in tips :

```
In [4]: print(tips.describe())
```

	total_bill	tip	size
count	244.000000	244.000000	244.000000
mean	19.785943	2.998279	2.569672
std	8.902412	1.383638	0.951100
min	3.070000	1.000000	1.000000
25%	13.347500	2.000000	2.000000
50%	17.795000	2.900000	2.000000
75%	24.127500	3.562500	3.000000
max	50.810000	10.000000	6.000000

Based on this summary of the numerical data in `tips`, do you think this is a recent US data set?

i would think so, yes

Count the number of smokers in `tips`.

```
In [5]: smokers = tips['smoker'].value_counts()['Yes']  
print("Number of smokers in the 'tips' dataset:", smokers)
```

Number of smokers in the 'tips' dataset: 93

Does this confirm or refute your guess about the origin of the data made on the numerical summary?

not really sure, it could have been made in the day since 93 people out of 244 are smokers, but i also feel like people nowadays also have been smoking a lot so not sure.

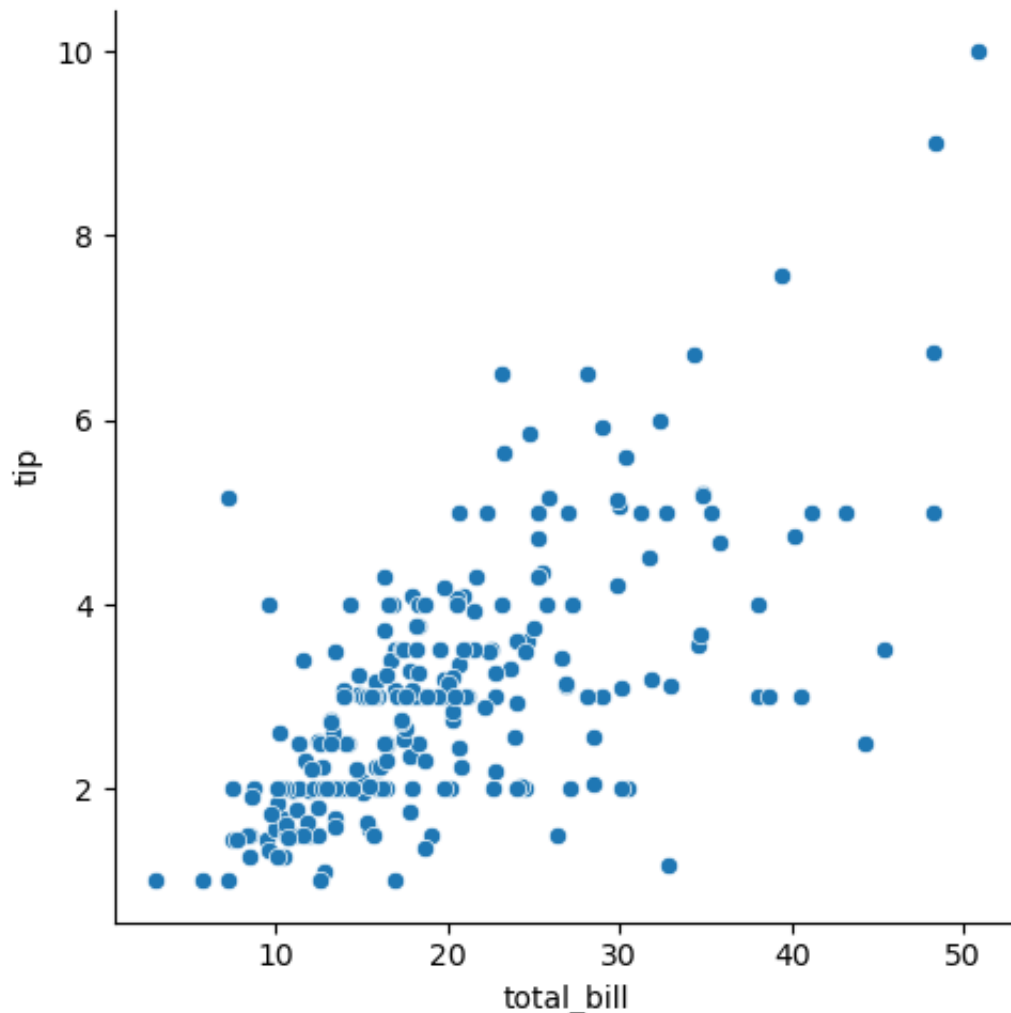
scatter plots

Let's make a call to `relplot`:

```
In [6]: sns.relplot(data=tips, x="total_bill", y="tip")
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[6]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x1240df750>
```



We can see that the vast majority of tips fall below a 20% line, so it probably is an old data set (assuming its from the US).

In terms of the plot *per se* though... so far, not a huge jump up from `matplotlib` ...

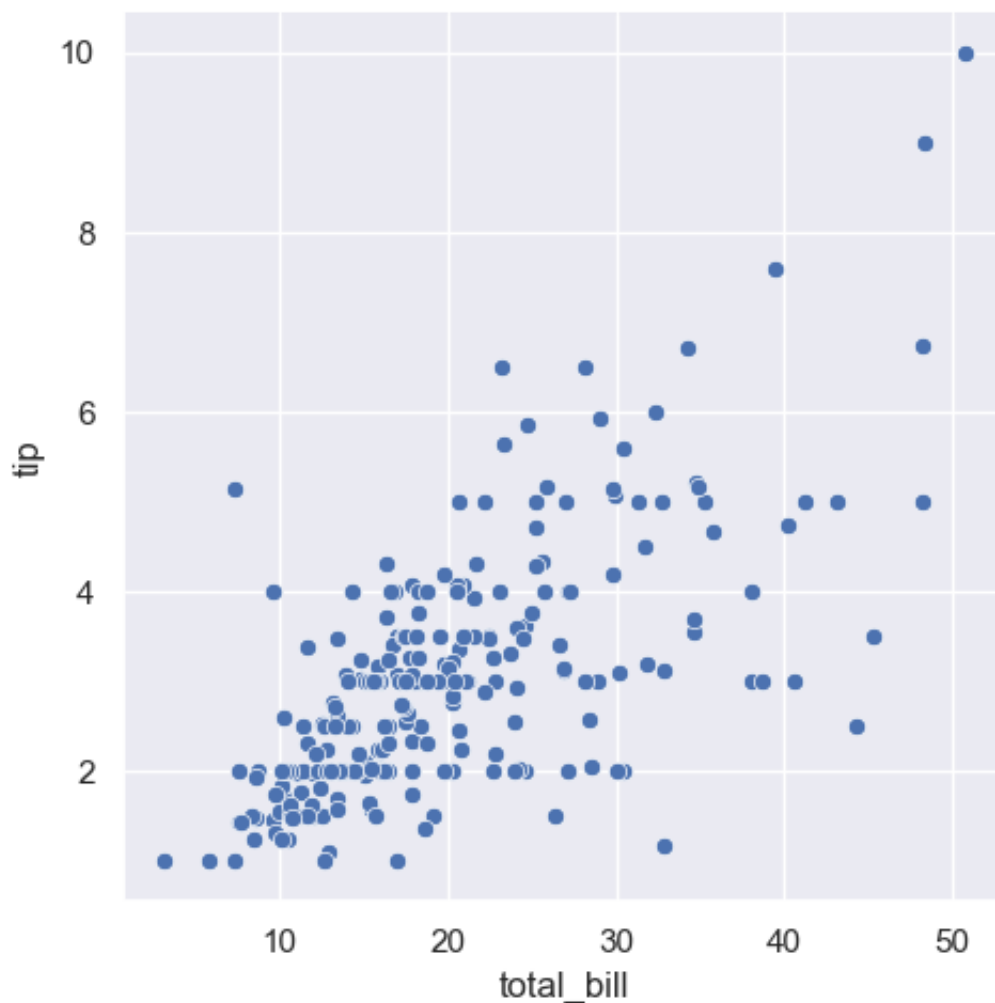
Seaborn has five built in themes: `darkgrid` (the default), `whitegrid`, `dark`, `white`, and `ticks`. Let's set the default theme and replot.

```
In [7]: sns.set_theme()
```

```
In [8]: sns.relplot(data=tips, x="total_bill", y="tip")
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[8]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x124151e10>
```



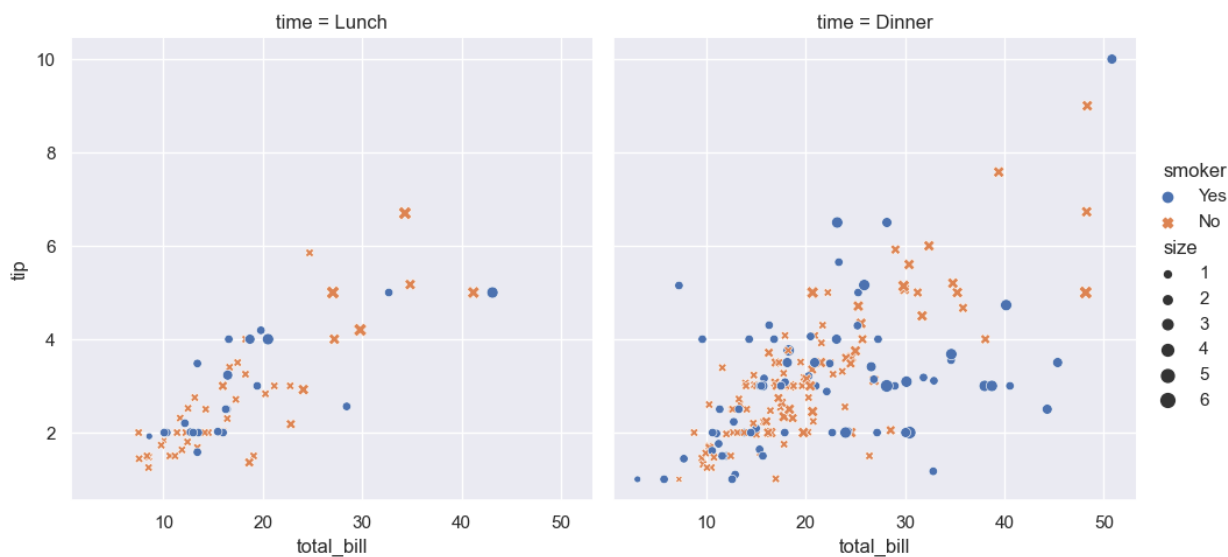
That's better, and not unlike ggplot2's default theme in R!

Now, let's look at how easy it is to make a fancy plot by assigning other variables to plot aesthetic properties.

```
In [9]: sns.relplot(
        data=tips,
        x="total_bill", y="tip", col="time",
        hue="smoker", style="smoker", size="size",
    )
```

/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
 118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
 self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)

Out [9]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x1243e9f10>



Now that's a lot of plot for very little effort!

scatter plot with regression

Let's look at the tipping rate for females vs. males.

```
In [11]: sns.lmplot(data=tips, x="total_bill", y="tip", col="time", hue="sex")
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
      self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
      self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[11]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x1245f3dd0>
```



Those look identical, so there is (was) gender equality in tipping at least.

But let's do take a moment at what seaborn has done under the hood for us here. It has:

- run a linear regression on tip vs. bill separately for each group that we defined with our column and color specification
- plotted the regression lines
- computed 95% CIs on the fits, and plotted those as shaded areas.

Impressive. For those of you coming from R/tidyverse land, this is probably reminding you of `ggplot()` in more ways than the appearance of the background.

You might be wondering where we got `lmplot()`, as it's not one of the plots listed in the seaborn diagram above. Seaborn does have some "hidden gems" like `lmplot()` and `jointplot()` that you'll only discover by looking at the seaborn documentation.

Pro tip: There are two *really* useful places in the seaborn documentation to look for stuff:

- the [function interface reference](https://seaborn.pydata.org/api.html#function-interface) (<https://seaborn.pydata.org/api.html#function-interface>)
- the [gallery](https://seaborn.pydata.org/examples/index.html) (<https://seaborn.pydata.org/examples/index.html>)

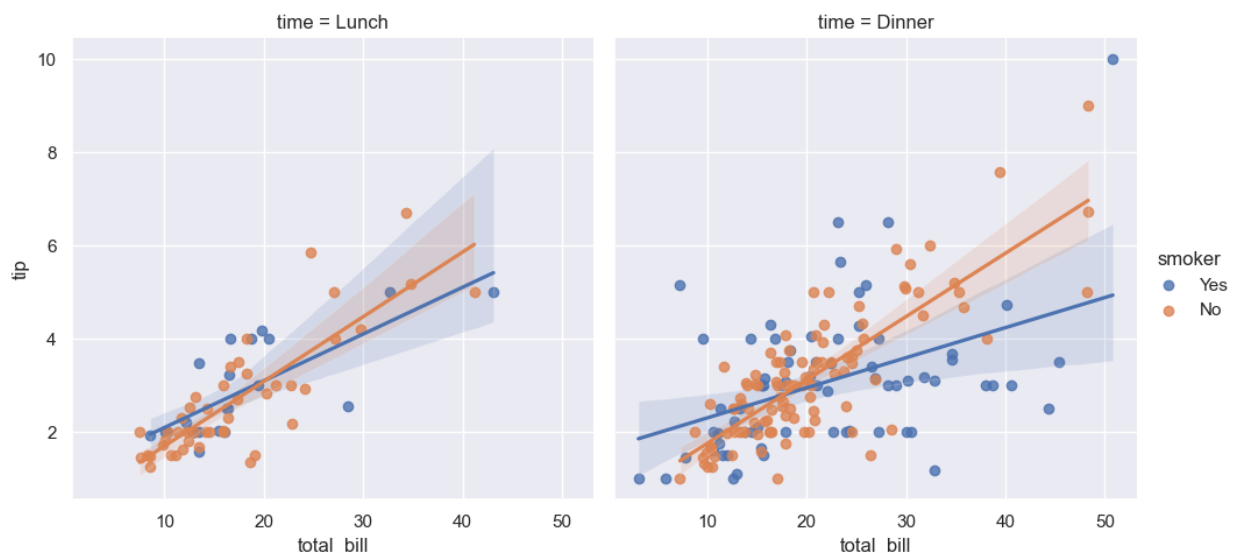
In the [gallery](https://seaborn.pydata.org/examples/index.html) (<https://seaborn.pydata.org/examples/index.html>), you can browse plot types by appearance; the mouse-over text will tell you the function used to make the plot, and clicking on the plot will take you to the example code!

Now let's look at the tipping rate for smokers vs. non-smokers.

```
In [12]: sns.lmplot(data=tips, x="total_bill", y="tip", col="time", hue="smoker")
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
      self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
      self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[12]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x124629210>
```



Hm. It looks like, at dinner at least, smokers may tip less (although the uncertainty on the fits is too high to be completely sure).

line plots

Scatter plots are usefully for pairwise data in which the pairs themselves are independent of one another.

In other cases, the data are ordered by the x values. Often this is due to the y values unfolding over time.

Let's load another data set to look at this.

```
In [13]: dots = sns.load_dataset("dots")
```

```
In [14]: dots
```

```
Out[14]:
```

	align	choice	time	coherence	firing_rate
0	dots	T1	-80	0.0	33.189967
1	dots	T1	-80	3.2	31.691726
2	dots	T1	-80	6.4	34.279840
3	dots	T1	-80	12.8	32.631874
4	dots	T1	-80	25.6	35.060487
...
843	sacc	T2	300	3.2	33.281734
844	sacc	T2	300	6.4	27.583979
845	sacc	T2	300	12.8	28.511530
846	sacc	T2	300	25.6	27.009804
847	sacc	T2	300	51.2	30.959302

848 rows × 5 columns

The main data here are the firing rate of a neuron in the superior colliculus (a brain area crucial for moving the eyes) as a function of time. In the experiment, moving stimuli of various strengths ('coherence') appear on the screen, and the subject has to decide which way they moved (left or right, say). Later, the stimuli disappear and are replaced by two targets. The subject has to indicate their choice by moving their eyes to the appropriate target (left or right). Sometimes, the target corresponding to the subject's choice was within the neurons "area of responsibility" in the visual field (choice = T1), and sometimes without (choice = T2)

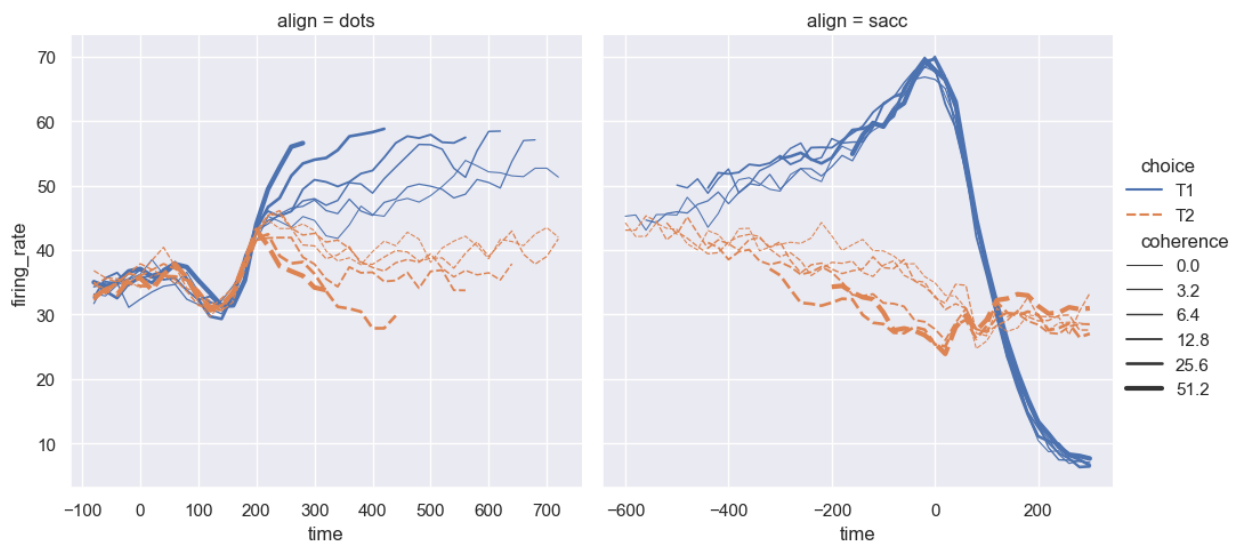
The neural recordings can either be aligned in time to the moment the stimuli appeared (align = dots) or to the precise moment the eye movement (a saccade) began (align = sacc)

Let's plot!

```
In [15]: sns.relplot(
    data=dots, kind="line",
    x="time", y="firing_rate", col="align",
    hue="choice", size="coherence", style="choice",
    facet_kws=dict(sharex=False),
)
```

/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)

Out[15]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x1244021d0>



Even if we knew nothing about the experiment, we could see that there is cool stuff going on. The plot makes it very clear that there is a huge effect of choice (eye movement direction), there is differential build-up of activity starting about 200 msec after the stimulus comes on, and that this neuron is almost certain involved in driving the eye movement in the T1 direction.

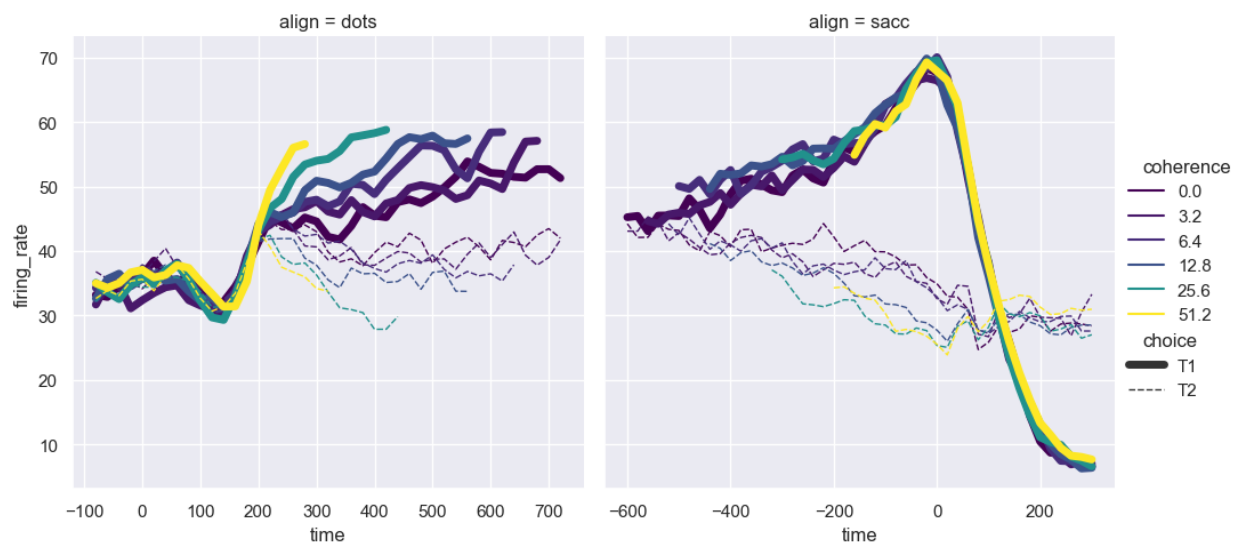
That's a lot of plot for very little effort. Notice that we didn't even have to remember to use different arguments for `size` and `style` when we switched from scatter to line plots – we used the same arguments and seaborn interpreted them as "line size" or "marker size", etc., as appropriate.

Re-make the above plot so that color codes stimulus strength and size codes choice.

```
In [16]: sns.relplot(
    data=dots, kind="line",
    x="time", y="firing_rate", col="align",
    hue="coherence", size="choice", style="choice",
    palette="viridis", sizes=(1, 5),
    facet_kws=dict(sharex=False),
)
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
    self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[16]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x12481bdd0>
```



Whether that made the plot better or worse is debatable, but the point is that we could so easily change it and see!

Automagic uncertainties (graphical stats)

Let's load another data set. This data set is from a functional MRI experiment.

```
In [17]: fmri = sns.load_dataset("fmri")
```

```
In [18]: # peek at the data
fmri
```

Out[18]:

	subject	timepoint	event	region	signal
0	s13	18	stim	parietal	-0.017552
1	s5	14	stim	parietal	-0.080883
2	s12	18	stim	parietal	-0.081033
3	s11	18	stim	parietal	-0.046134
4	s10	18	stim	parietal	-0.037970
...
1059	s0	8	cue	frontal	0.018165
1060	s13	7	cue	frontal	-0.029130
1061	s12	7	cue	frontal	-0.004939
1062	s11	7	cue	frontal	-0.025367
1063	s0	0	cue	parietal	-0.006899

1064 rows × 5 columns

So we have a fairly large data set consisting of 5 variables:

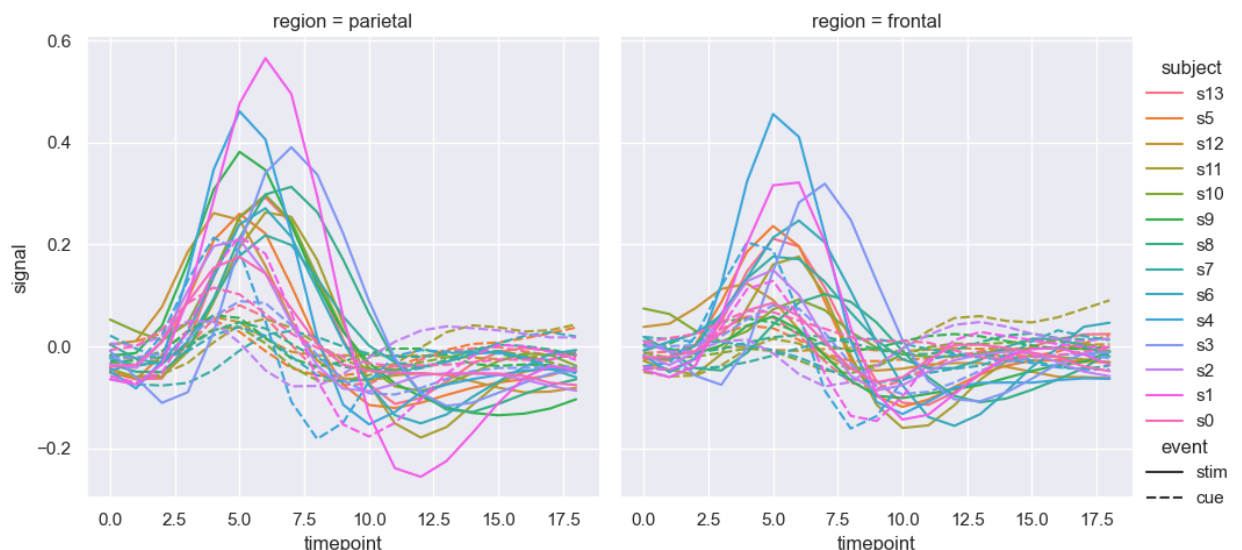
- an fMRI signal
- time
- brain area
- type of event
- person

We can assign all 5 variables to aesthetic elements of a figure:

```
In [19]: sns.relplot(
    data=fmri, kind="line",
    x="timepoint", y="signal", col="region",
    hue="subject", style="event",
)
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[19]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x124b7d650>
```



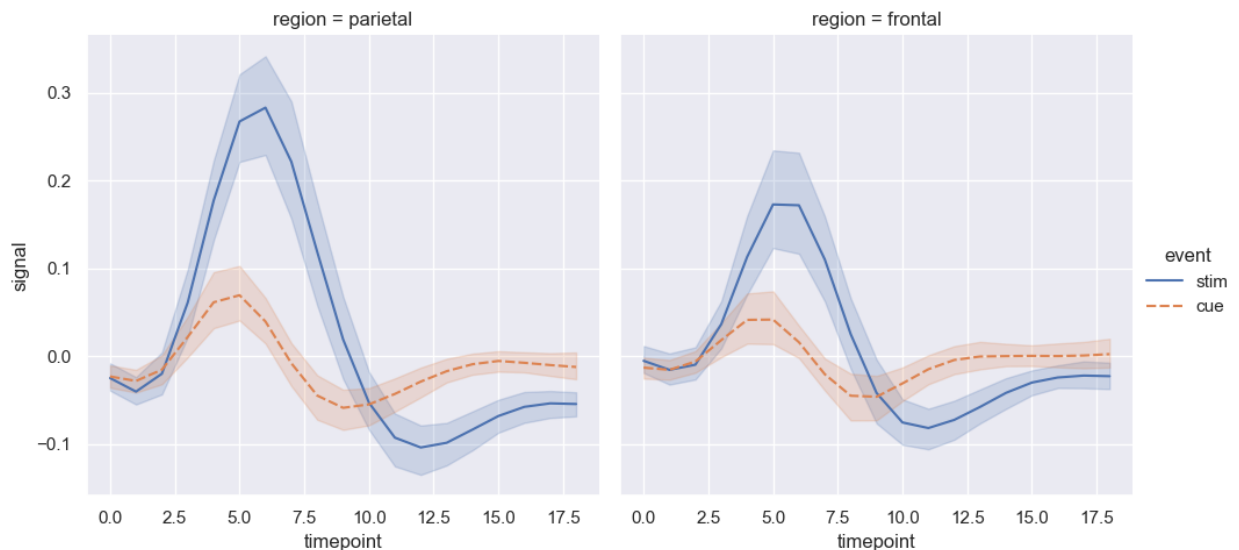
That worked, and an aficionado might be able to see what's going on. But the plot might be easier to interpret if we took the mean across subjects and just plot that (which was probably the whole point of running multiple subjects in this experiment).

Let's see what happens if we leave subject out of our aesthetic specification...

```
In [20]: sns.relplot(
    data=fmri, kind="line",
    x="timepoint", y="signal", col="region",
    hue="event", style="event",
)
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
    self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[20]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x124c1ea10>
```



Nice! The `relplot()` function figured out that, if we didn't a given variable explicitly coded in our plot, then we probably wanted to average across it.

And because seaborn was written by an actual scientist, `lineplot()` (which we called above via the `kind` argument) also included 95% CIs on the mean computed by bootstrapping.

In the above plot, it looks like the standard deviation of activation might be proportional to mean activation.

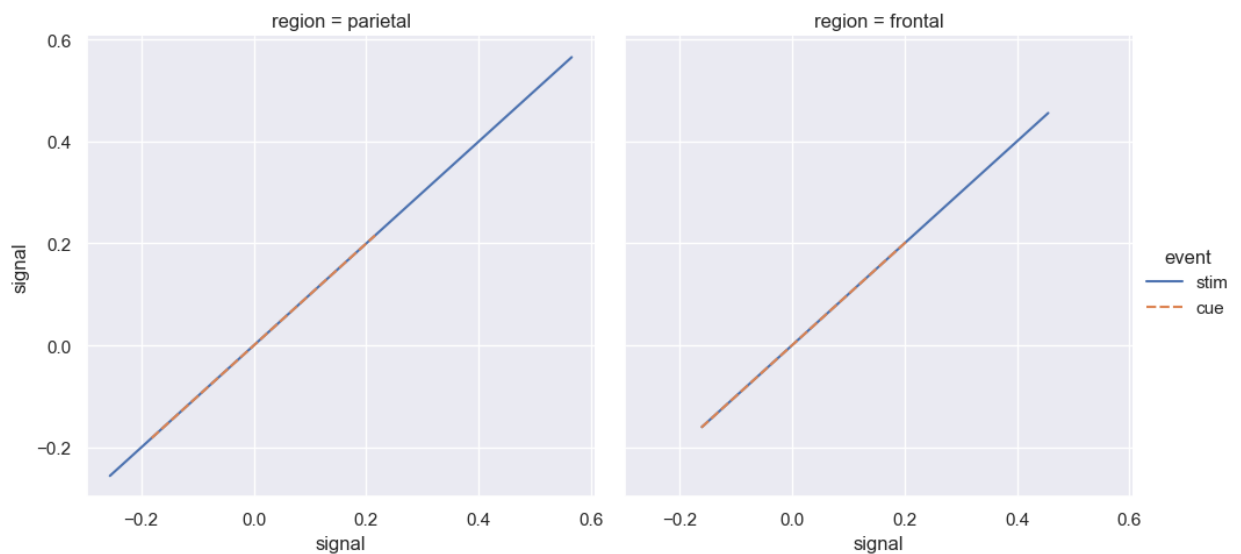
Check this quickly by just re-making the above plot, but having seaborn compute the standard deviation instead of the mean for us.

The doc page for `lineplot()` is [here](https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.lineplot.html#seaborn.lineplot) (<https://seaborn.pydata.org/generated/seaborn.lineplot.html#seaborn.lineplot>).

```
In [21]: import numpy as np
sns.relplot(
    data=fmri, kind="line",
    x="signal", y="signal", col="region",
    hue="event", style="event",
    estimator=np.std,)
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
      self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[21]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x124e89a10>
```



Sure enough!

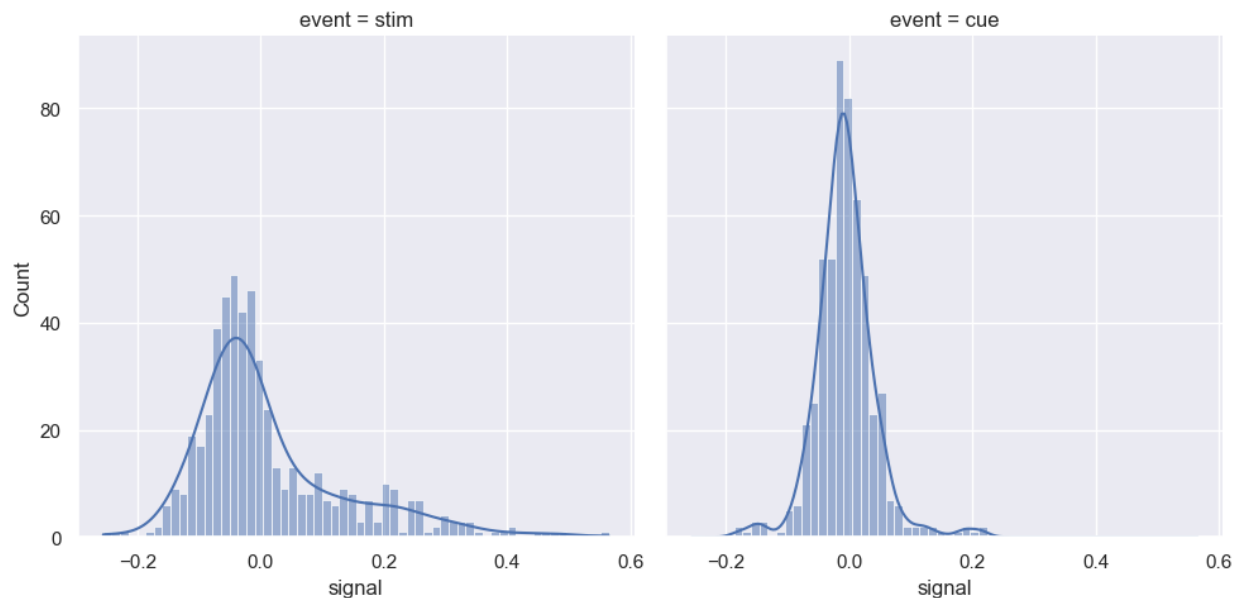
Distribution plots

Seaborn makes it very easy to plot data distributions. Here's one for our fMRI data. The `kde` argument is going to add a 'kernel density estimate' (a best guess as to what the smooth version of the distribution looks like) for us.

```
In [22]: sns.displot(data=fmri, x="signal", col="event", kde=True)
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[22]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x124dfe650>
```

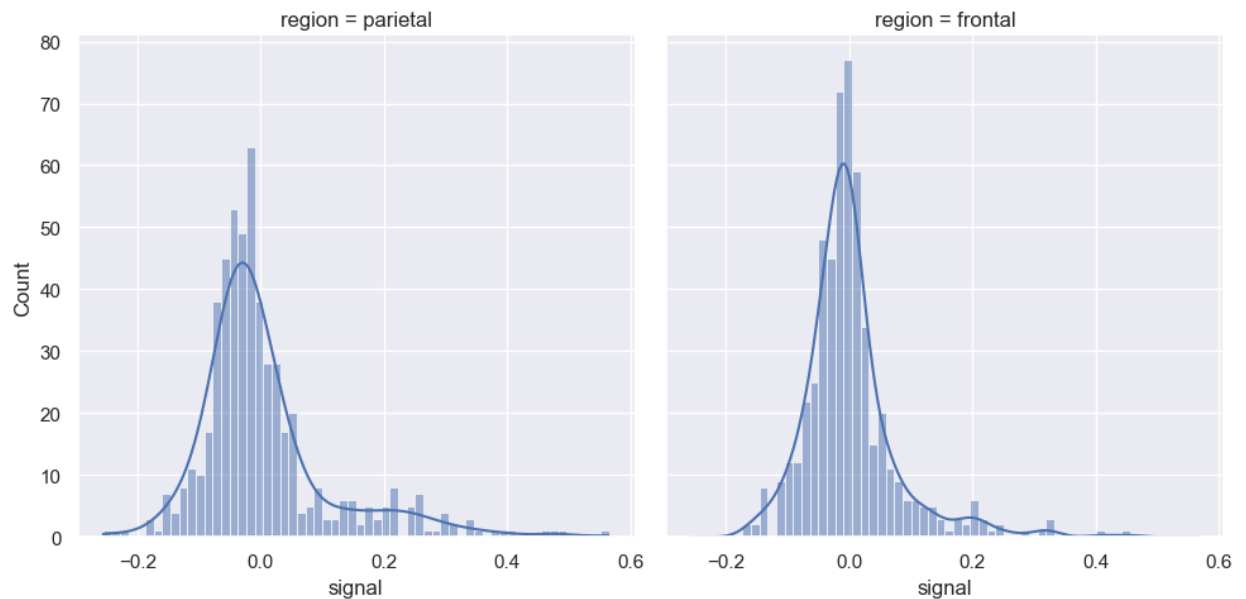


That was easy but it's a little hard to compare these two distributions as is. Is overall activation higher for stimuli vs. cue? Or is overall activation the thing that matters?

Re-make the figure above so that visually comparing these distributions is easier. Hint: change the aesthetic property that 'event' maps to.


```
In [23]: sns.displot(data=fmri, x="signal", col="region", kde=True)
```

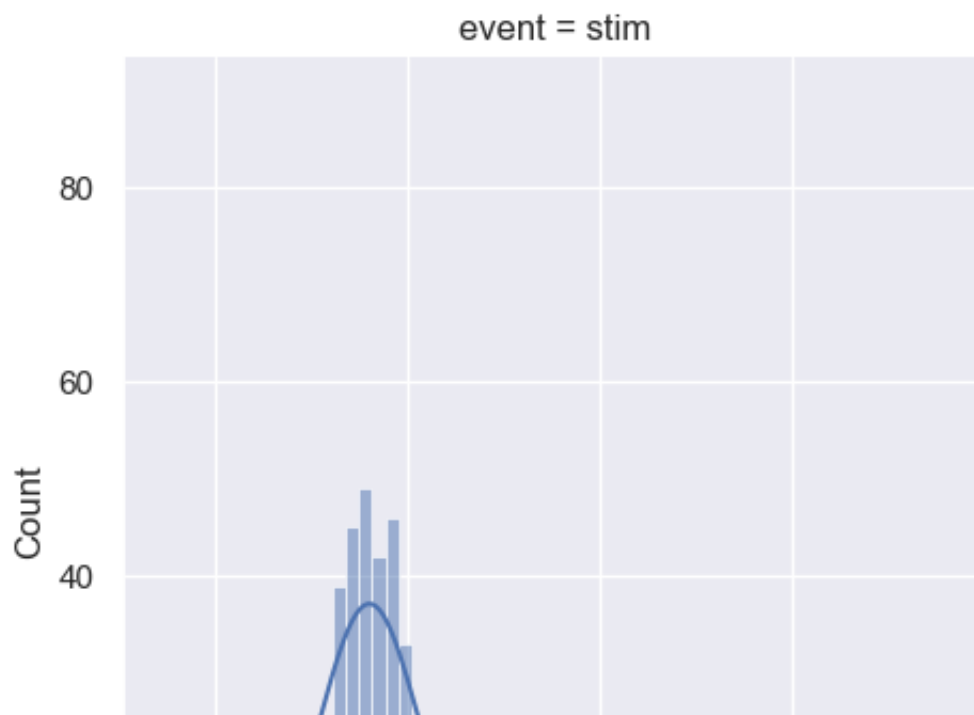
```
Out[23]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x125056650>
```

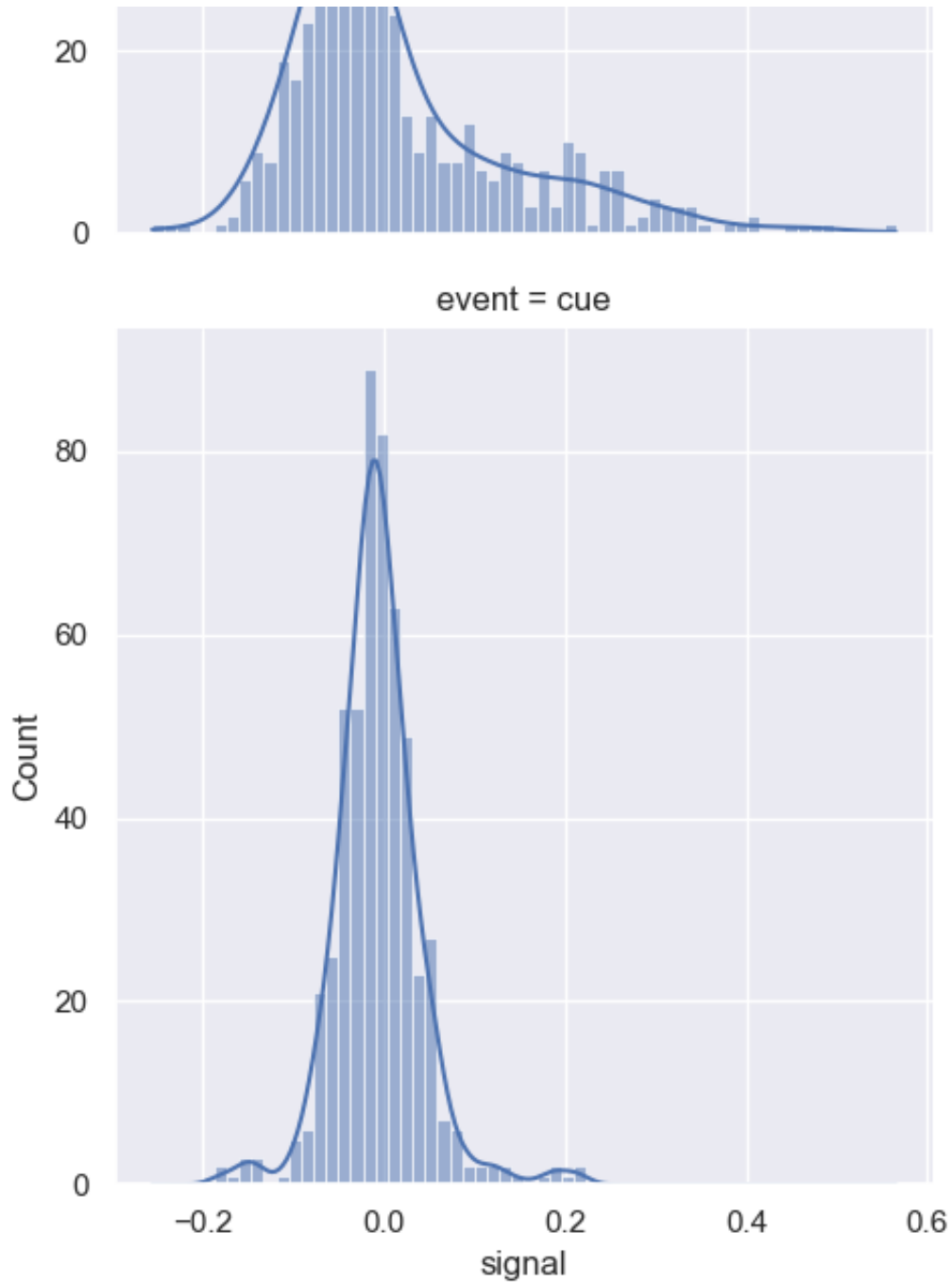


```
In [24]: sns.displot(data=fmri, x="signal", row="event", kde=True)
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[24]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x12505b1d0>
```



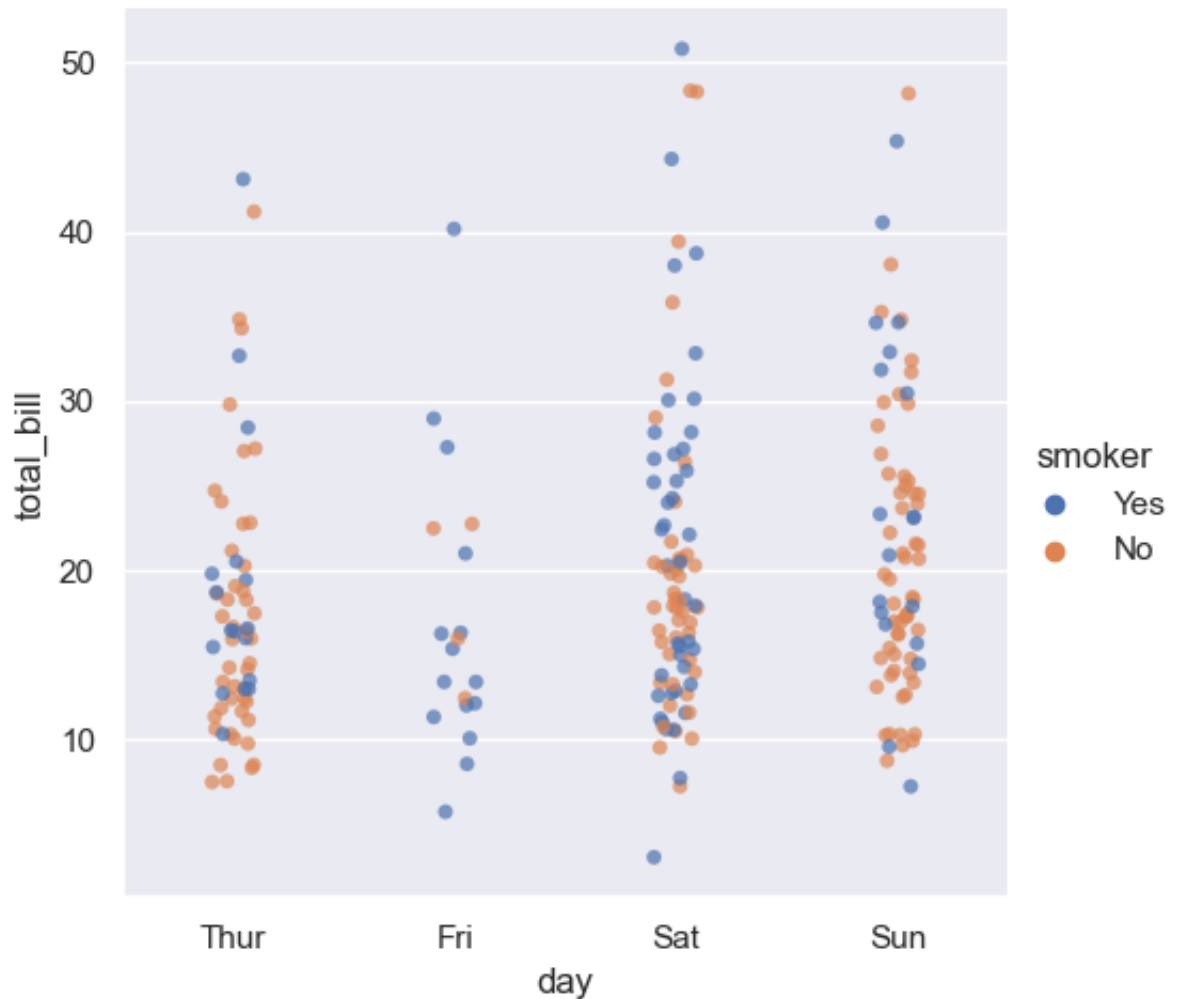


Categorical plots

Let's try playing with `catplot()`

```
In [25]: sns.catplot(data=tips, x="day", y="total_bill", hue="smoker", alpha =  
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:  
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight  
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

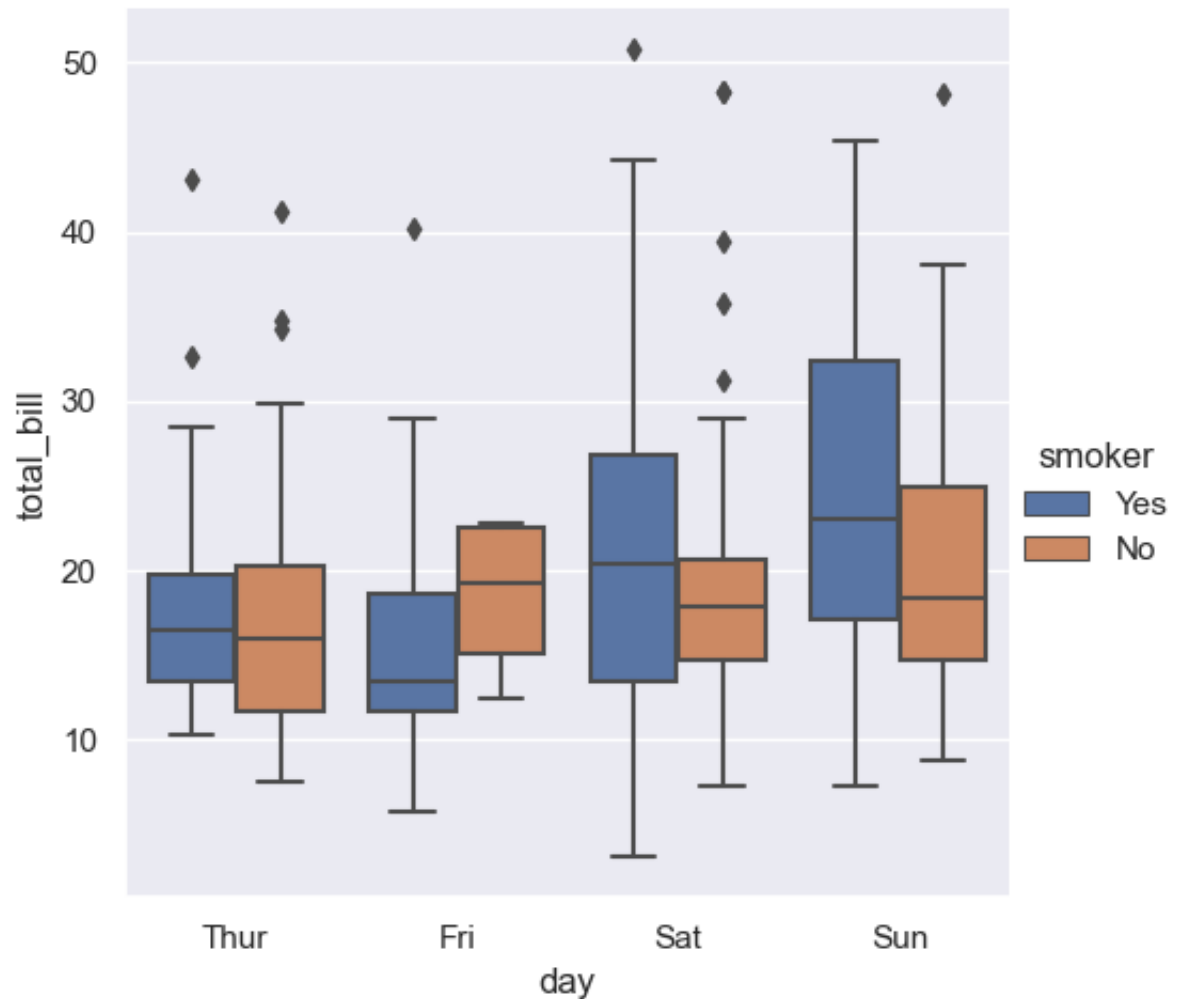
```
Out[25]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x125497c50>
```



A `striplot` is the default axes-level plot for `catplot()` (and notice that the default axes-level plots are the first ones listed under their corresponding figure-level counterparts. But we can have it call `boxplot()` for us by telling it that we want `kind="box"` .

```
In [26]: sns.catplot(data=tips, kind="box", x="day", y="total_bill", hue="smoker",
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

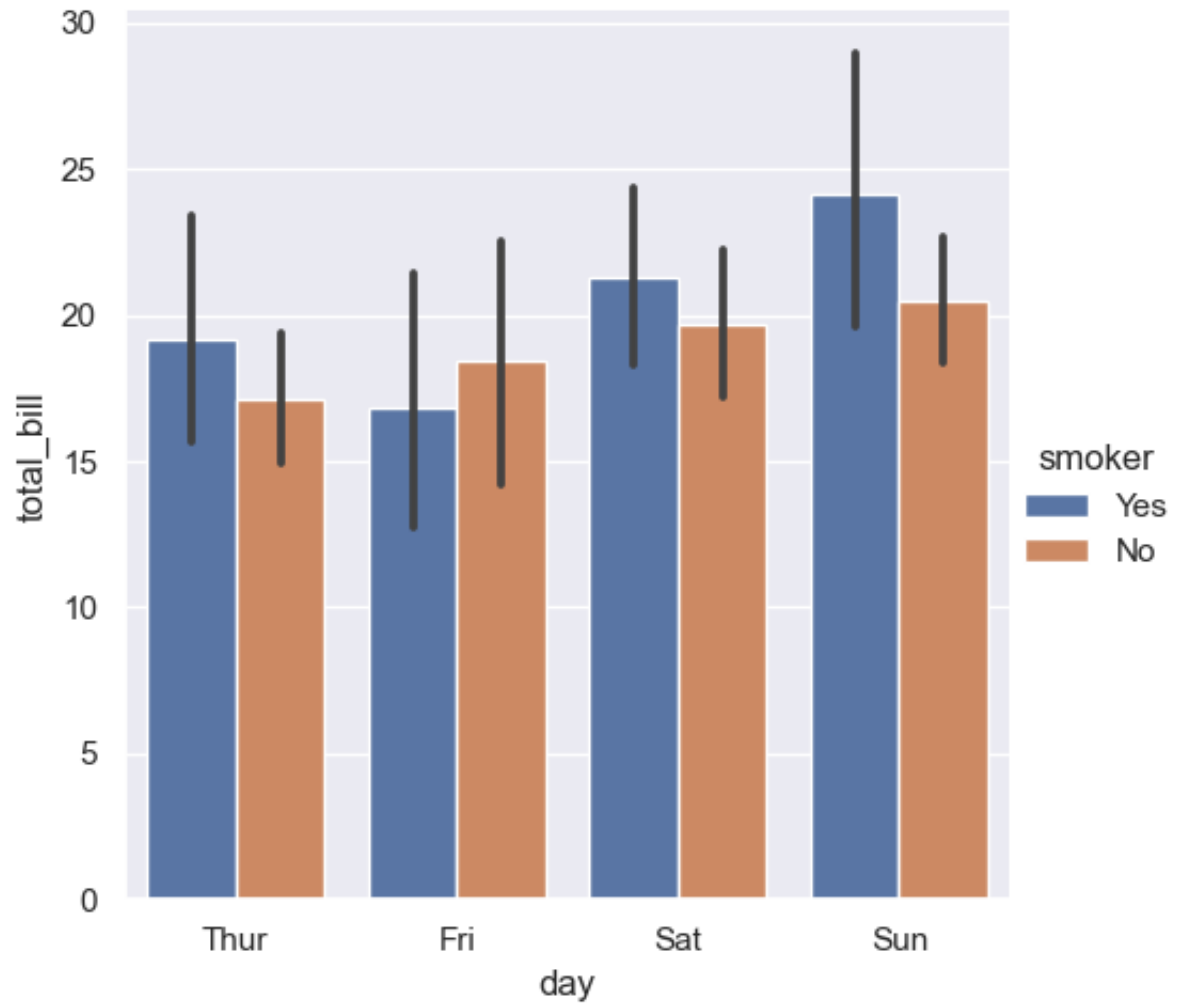
```
Out[26]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x1253ac710>
```



If we request a bar plot, notice that seaborn computes and plots the means and also displays confidence intervals – another indication that seaborn was written by a scientist, not a programmer.

```
In [27]: sns.catplot(data=tips, kind="bar", x="day", y="total_bill", hue="smoker",
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[27]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x125693790>
```



Make a violin plot showing signal (y axis) broken out by brain region and event type.

In [28]:

```
-----
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call
last)
Cell In[28], line 5
      2 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
      4 plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
----> 5 sns.violinplot(data=data, x="brain region", y="signal", hue="
event type", split=True)
      6 plt.show()
```

NameError: name 'data' is not defined

<Figure size 1200x800 with 0 Axes>

Useful built in plots

Let's remake a plot similar to one we've made before.

First, we'll import numpy and pandas so we can make and store some data.

```
In [29]: import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
```

Then make some data like we did when reviewing matplotlib, but we'll convert to a pandas DataFrame at the end.

```
In [30]: ### make some data to play with
my_means = [0, 0]
my_cov = [[2, -1.9], [-1.9, 3]]
my_n = 5000

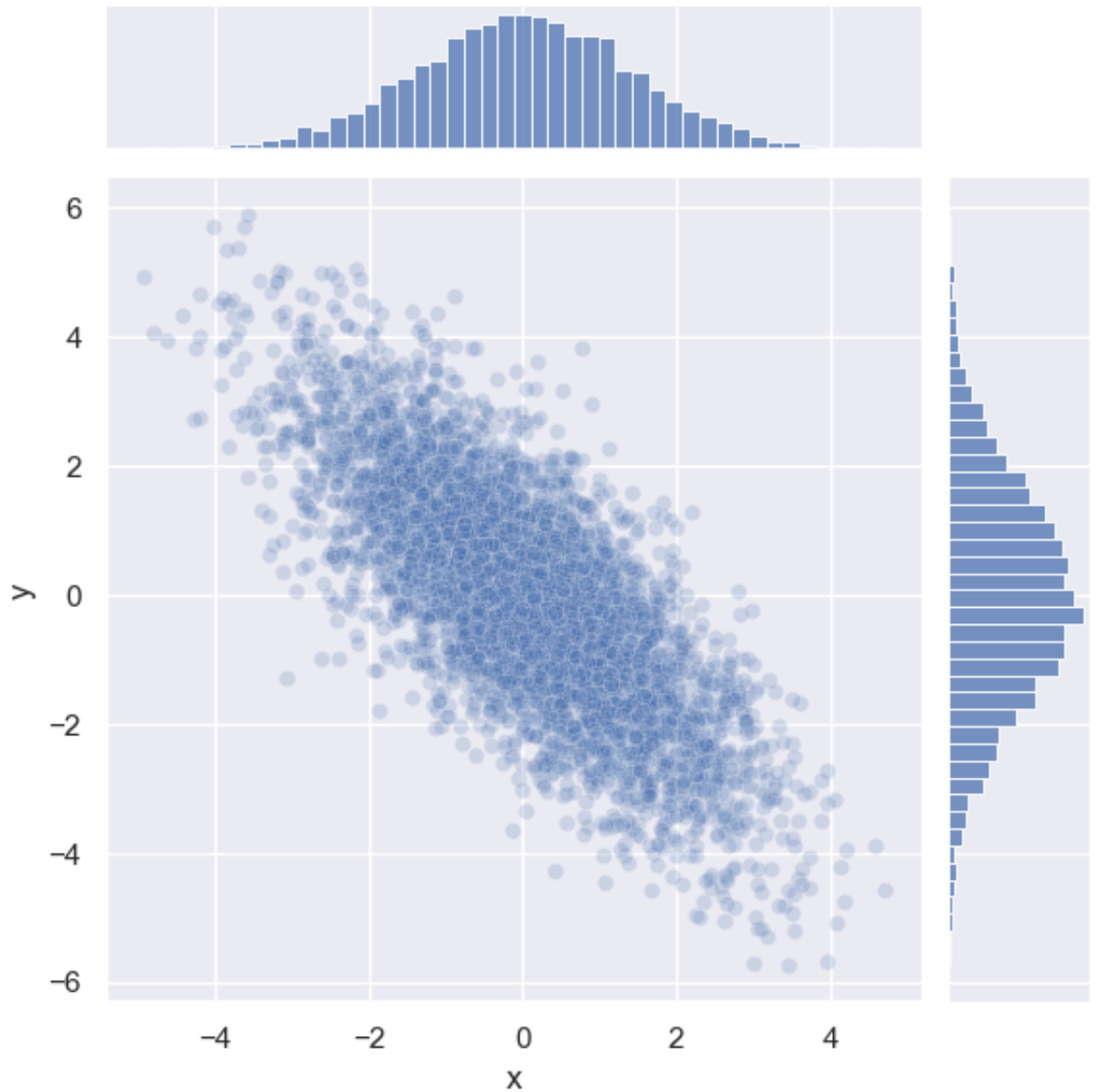
my_rng = np.random.default_rng(42)
x, y = my_rng.multivariate_normal(my_means, my_cov, my_n).T

df = pd.DataFrame(dict(x=x, y=y))
```

And then we'll call the seaborn function `jointplot()` to make a "joint distribution plot".

```
In [31]: sns.jointplot(data=df, x='x', y='y', alpha = 0.2)
```

```
Out[31]: <seaborn.axisgrid.JointGrid at 0x125718f90>
```



That was easy!

In order to really flex seaborn's muscles, though, let's load the built-in "penguins" data set.

In [32]:

```
penguins = sns.load_dataset("penguins")
```

In [33]: penguins

Out[33]:

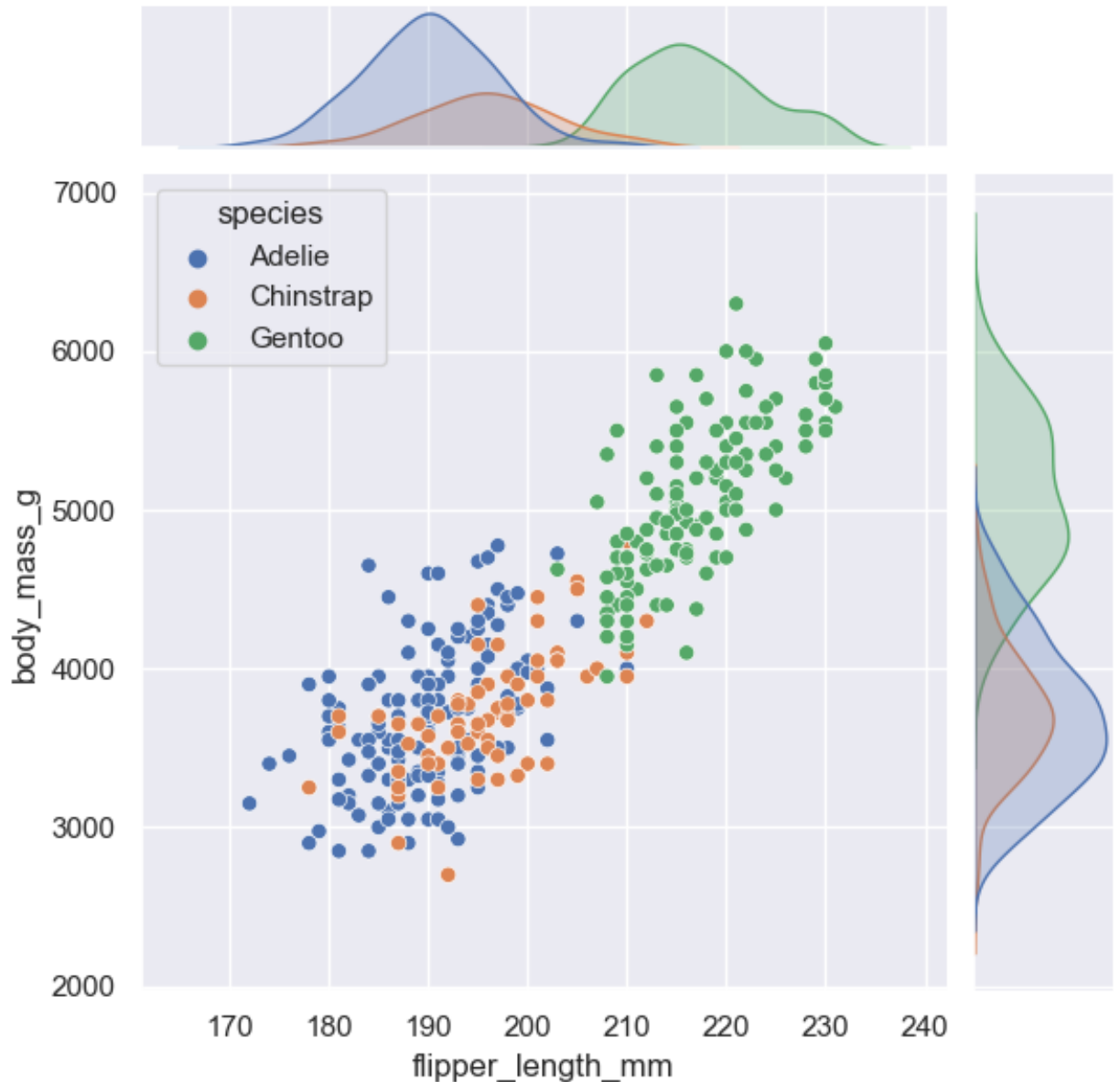
	species	island	bill_length_mm	bill_depth_mm	flipper_length_mm	body_mass_g	sex
0	Adelie	Torgersen	39.1	18.7	181.0	3750.0	Male
1	Adelie	Torgersen	39.5	17.4	186.0	3800.0	Female
2	Adelie	Torgersen	40.3	18.0	195.0	3250.0	Female
3	Adelie	Torgersen	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
4	Adelie	Torgersen	36.7	19.3	193.0	3450.0	Female
...
339	Gentoo	Biscoe	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
340	Gentoo	Biscoe	46.8	14.3	215.0	4850.0	Female
341	Gentoo	Biscoe	50.4	15.7	222.0	5750.0	Male
342	Gentoo	Biscoe	45.2	14.8	212.0	5200.0	Female
343	Gentoo	Biscoe	49.9	16.1	213.0	5400.0	Male

344 rows × 7 columns

So it looks like we have four measurements taken on penguins of different species, etc. Let's make a joint plot of some of these data.


```
In [34]: sns.jointplot(data=penguins, x="flipper_length_mm", y="body_mass_g", h
```

```
Out[34]: <seaborn.axisgrid.JointGrid at 0x1264d6450>
```

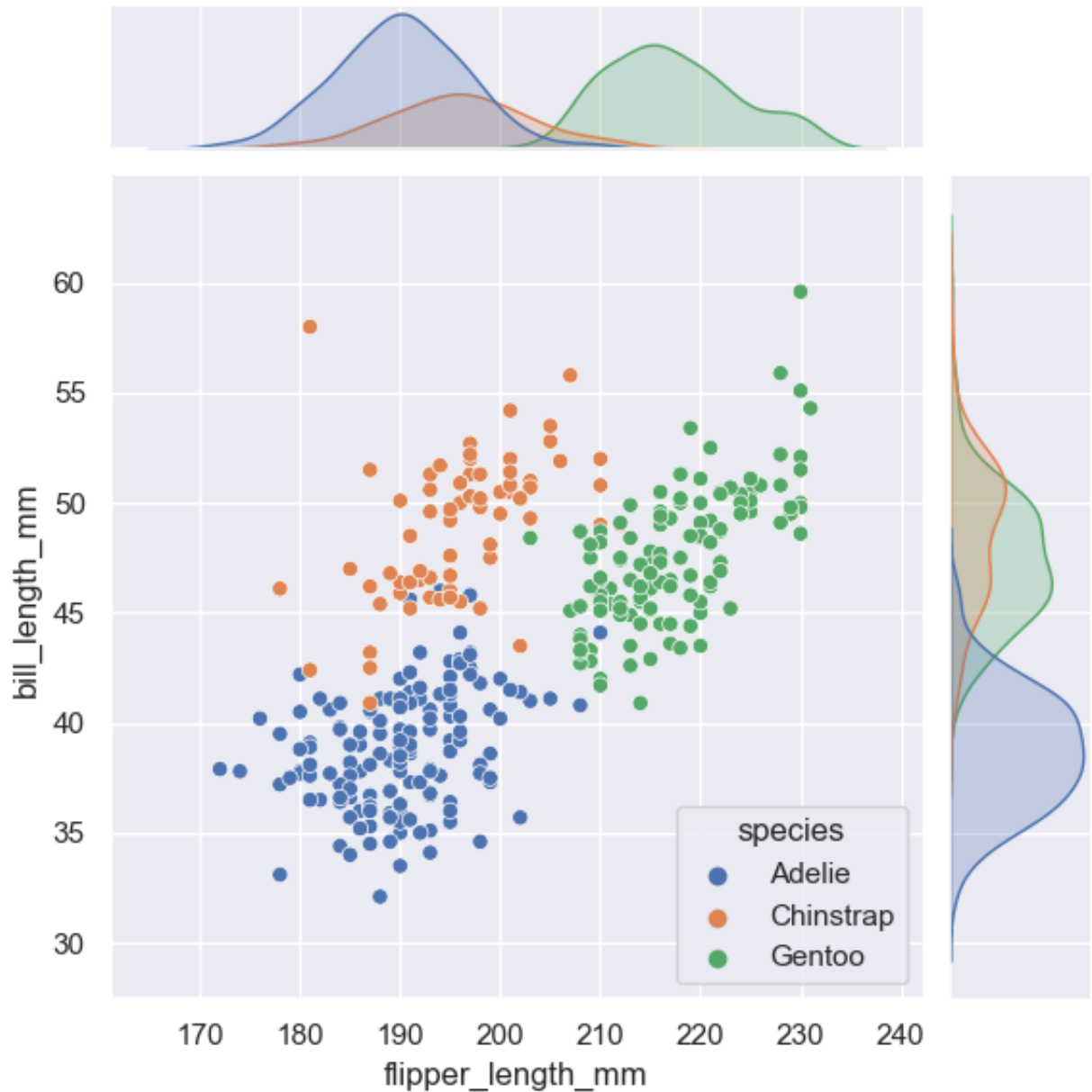


Ah, that's nice! We can see that body weight and flipper length are about as correlated as any biological measurement can get. Moreover, Gentoos are clearly biggest of the three types of dinosaur.

Re-make the above plot using bill length instead of body mass on the y axis.

```
In [35]: sns.jointplot(data=penguins, x="flipper_length_mm", y="bill_length_mm")
```

```
Out[35]: <seaborn.axisgrid.JointGrid at 0x124526050>
```



What does this plot tell you? Could you discriminate amongst the species using either one of the variables alone? How about using both variables?

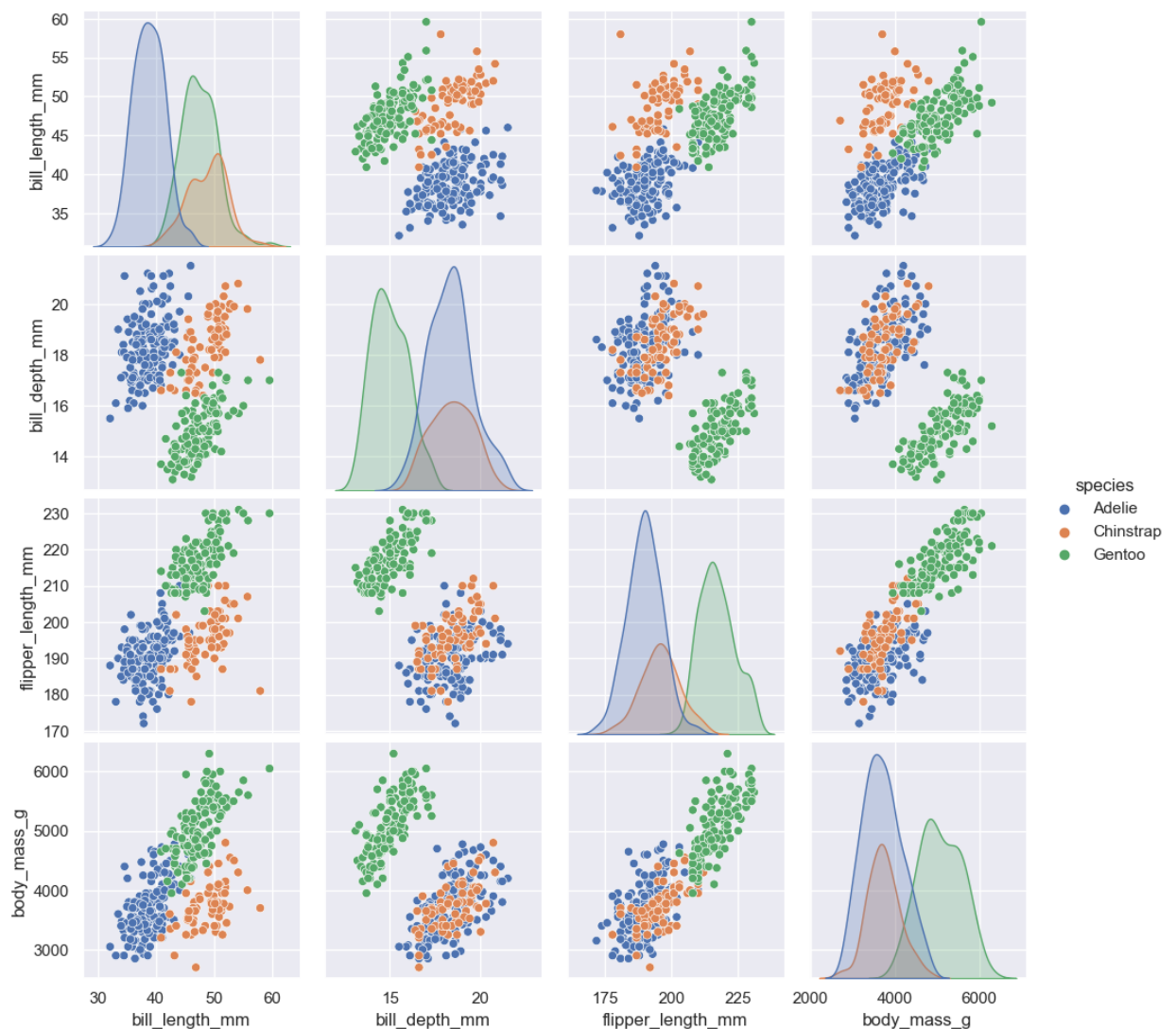
seems to be a positive correlation between longer flippers and longer bills

Make a `pairplot()` of the penguin data, using species to set the color.

```
In [36]: sns.pairplot(data=penguins, hue="species")
```

```
/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
      self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)
```

```
Out[36]: <seaborn.axisgrid.PairGrid at 0x125bd4ad0>
```



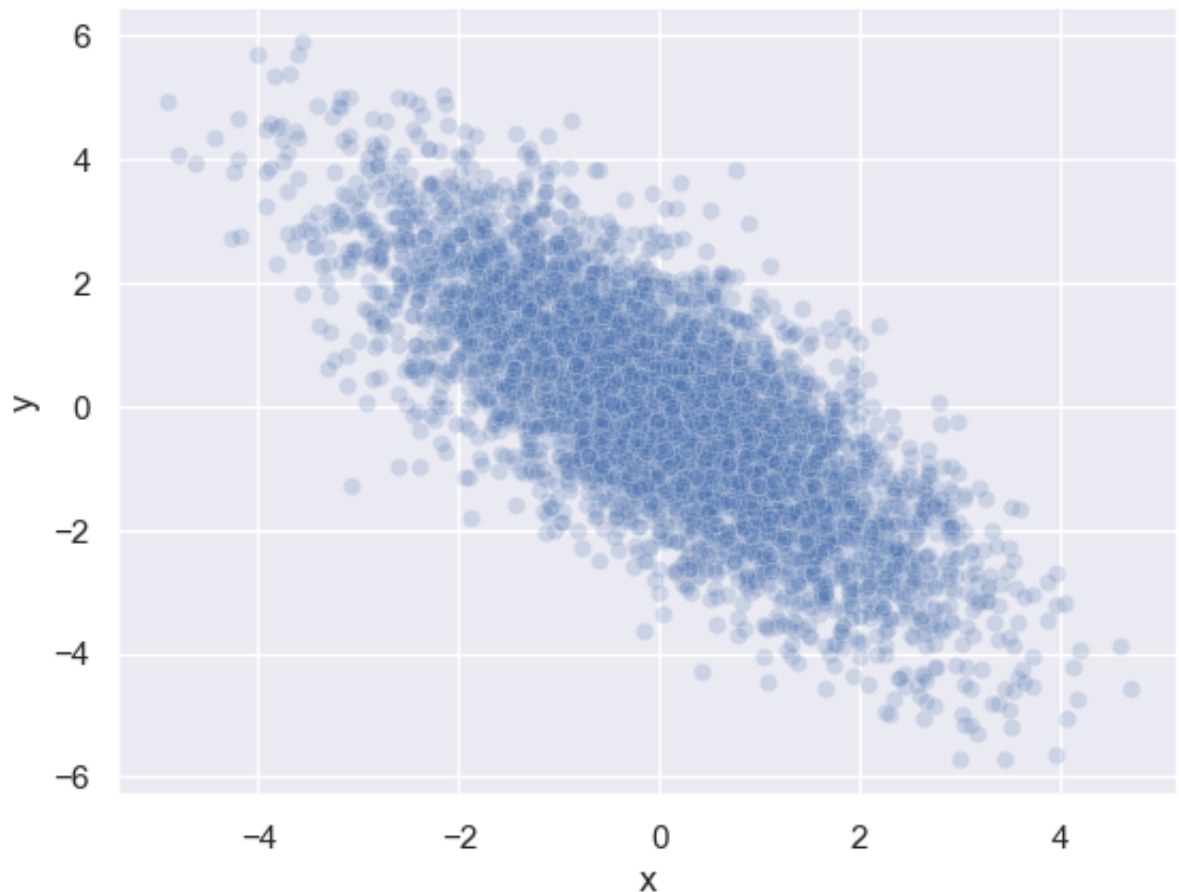
What combinations of variables would allow you to do a decent job of categorizing the species? Could you do it just based on bill measurements?

Type *Markdown* and LaTeX: α^2

matplotlib style customization

The axes-level functions return a matplotlib axes object.

```
In [37]: ax = sns.scatterplot(data=df, x='x', y='y', alpha = 0.2)
```



We can verify this by checking its type.

```
In [38]: type(ax)
```

```
Out[38]: matplotlib.axes._axes.Axes
```

You can use this to customize your plot using the matplotlib axes methods, like `set_label()`, etc., just as though you had created the plot directly in matplotlib.

```
In [39]: ax = sns.scatterplot(data=df, x='x', y='y', alpha = 0.2)
ax.set_xlabel("Ex")
ax.set_ylabel("Why?")
ax.set_title('Why vs. Ex')
```

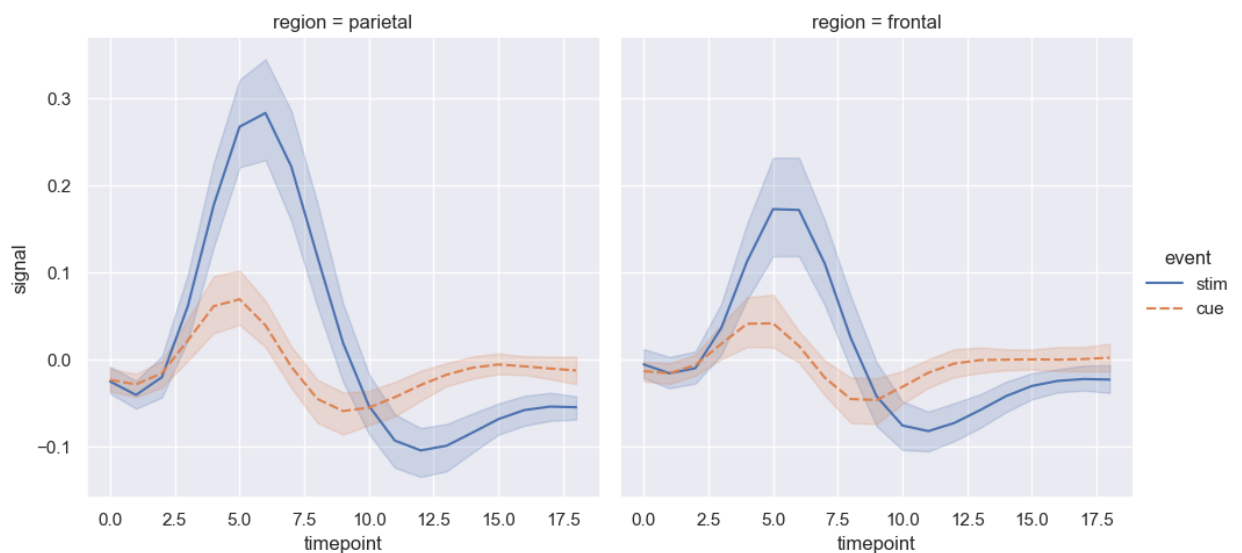
```
Out[39]: Text(0.5, 1.0, 'Why vs. Ex')
```



If we use one of the higher level plotting functions, we get back something called a FacetGrid that seaborn has created.

```
In [40]: fg = sns.relplot(
    data=fmri, kind="line",
    x="timepoint", y="signal", col="region",
    hue="event", style="event",
)
```

/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)



```
In [ ]: type(fg)
```

If we type "fg." and hit <TAB>, we can see that it has a lot of methods we can put to work for us.

```
In [43]: fg.add_legend
```

```
Out[43]: <bound method Grid.add_legend of <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid object at 0x126f73d50>>
```

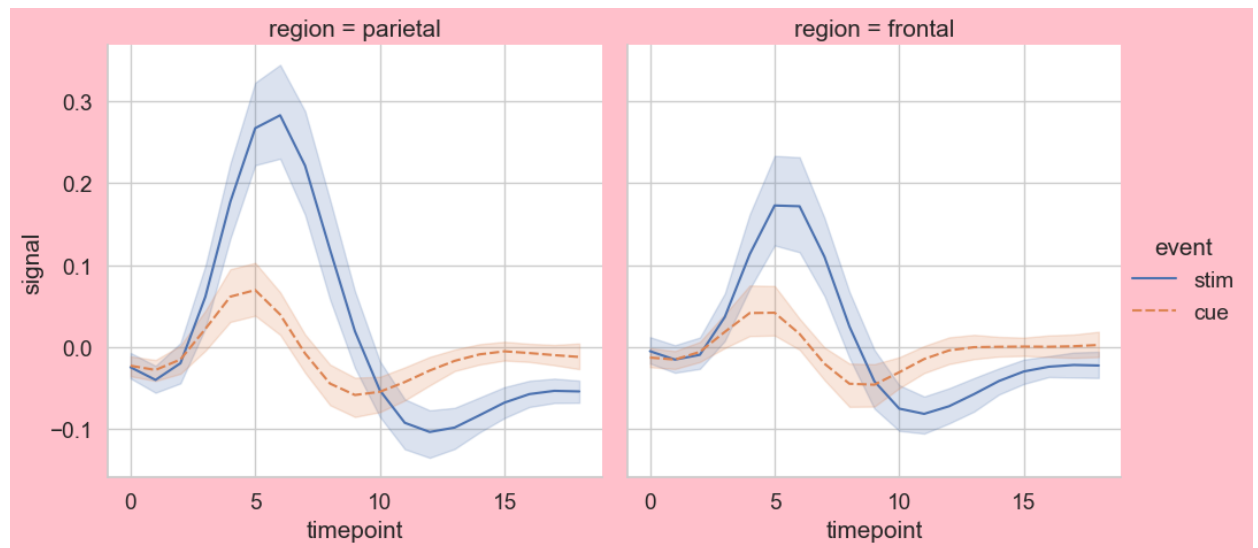
It also gives us access to the matplotlib figure via `fg.fig`, so we can set figure level properties.

In the cell below, add a line at the bottom to set the figure's background to a different color.

```
In [50]: fg = sns.relplot(
    data=fmri, kind="line",
    x="timepoint", y="signal", col="region",
    hue="event", style="event",
)

# set background to a different color
fg.fig.set_facecolor('pink')
```

/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
 118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
 self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)

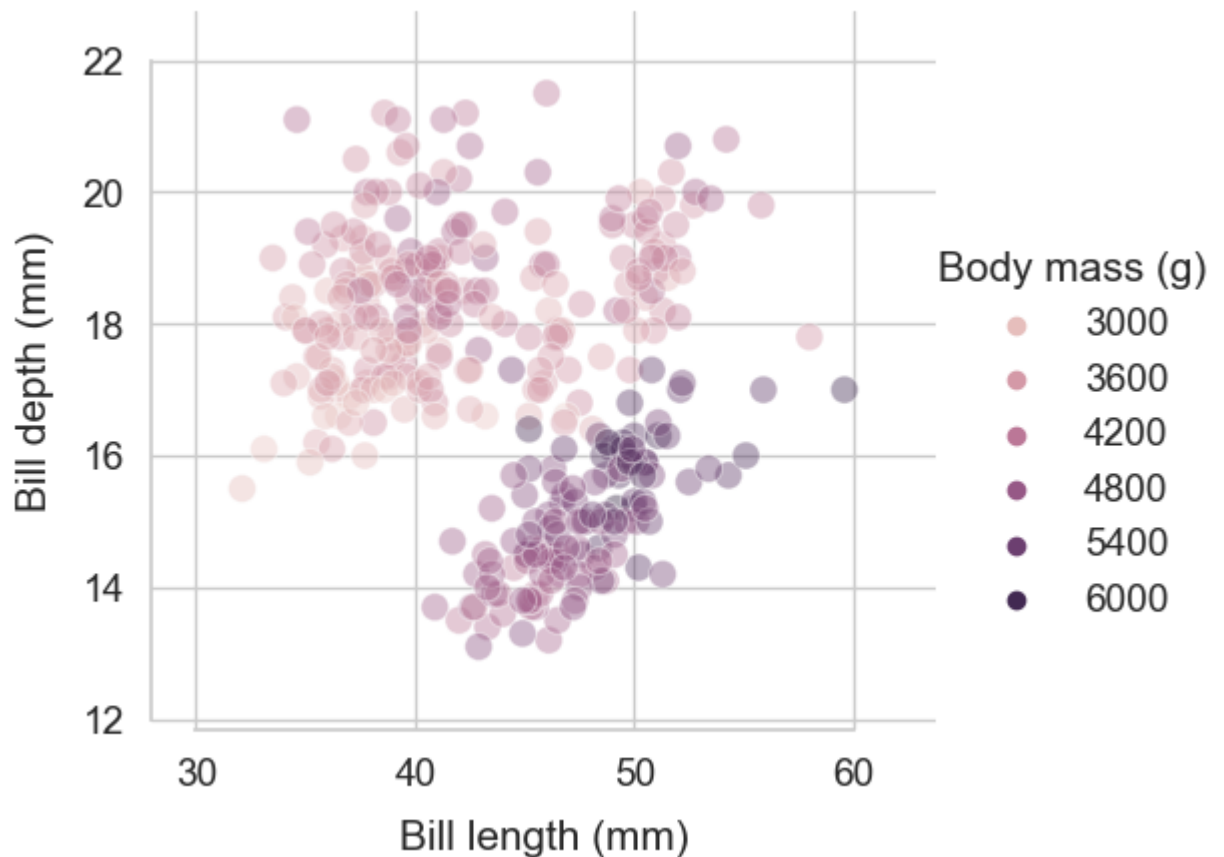


Here's a fancy example.

```
In [45]: sns.set_theme(style="whitegrid", font_scale=1.25)
fg = sns.relplot(
    data=penguins,
    x="bill_length_mm", y="bill_depth_mm", hue="body_mass_g",
    marker="o", s=100, alpha = 0.4
)
fg.set_axis_labels("Bill length (mm)", "Bill depth (mm)", labelpad=10)
fg.legend.set_title("Body mass (g)")
fg.figure.set_size_inches(6.5, 4.5)
fg.ax.margins(.15)
fg.despine(trim=True)
```

/Users/ra/anaconda3/lib/python3.11/site-packages/seaborn/axisgrid.py:
118: UserWarning: The figure layout has changed to tight
self._figure.tight_layout(*args, **kwargs)

Out[45]: <seaborn.axisgrid.FacetGrid at 0x12807ea10>



Conclusion

Seaborn is a very powerful plotting package. It gives us both high-level easy plotting combined with the ability to do low-level customization if we wish. For custom figure layouts, matplotlib might be required. But for many plotting tasks, seaborn makes nice looking plots and can be a huge time saver!