

# **Creating Beautiful Data Visualizations in R:**

**a `ggplot2` Crash Course**

**Samantha Tyner, Ph.D.**

**July 21, 2020, 2:00-4:00pm EDT**

# How to watch this webinar

For optimum learning:

- Have both the webinar software and rstudio.cloud visible at all times
  - Material available at <https://rstudio.cloud/project/1442337>
- Follow along with the code (`project/code/03-follow-along.R`) or the slides (`project/slides/slides.Rmd`) and run the code as we go
- Use the ask question and chat features to communicate with TAs and ask questions
- Have fun!

# Learning Goals

Upon completion of this tutorial, you will be able to:

1. **identify** the appropriate plot types and corresponding `ggplot2` `geom`s to consider when visualizing your data;
2. **implement** the `ggplot2` grammar of graphics by using `ggplot()` and building up plots with the `+` operator;
3. **iterate** through multiple visualizations of your data by **changing** the aesthetic mappings, geometries, and other graph properties;
4. **incorporate** custom elements (colors, fonts, etc.) into your visualizations by adjusting `ggplot2` theme elements; and
5. **investigate** the world of `ggplot2` independently to expand upon the skills learned in the course.

# Motivating the motivating example

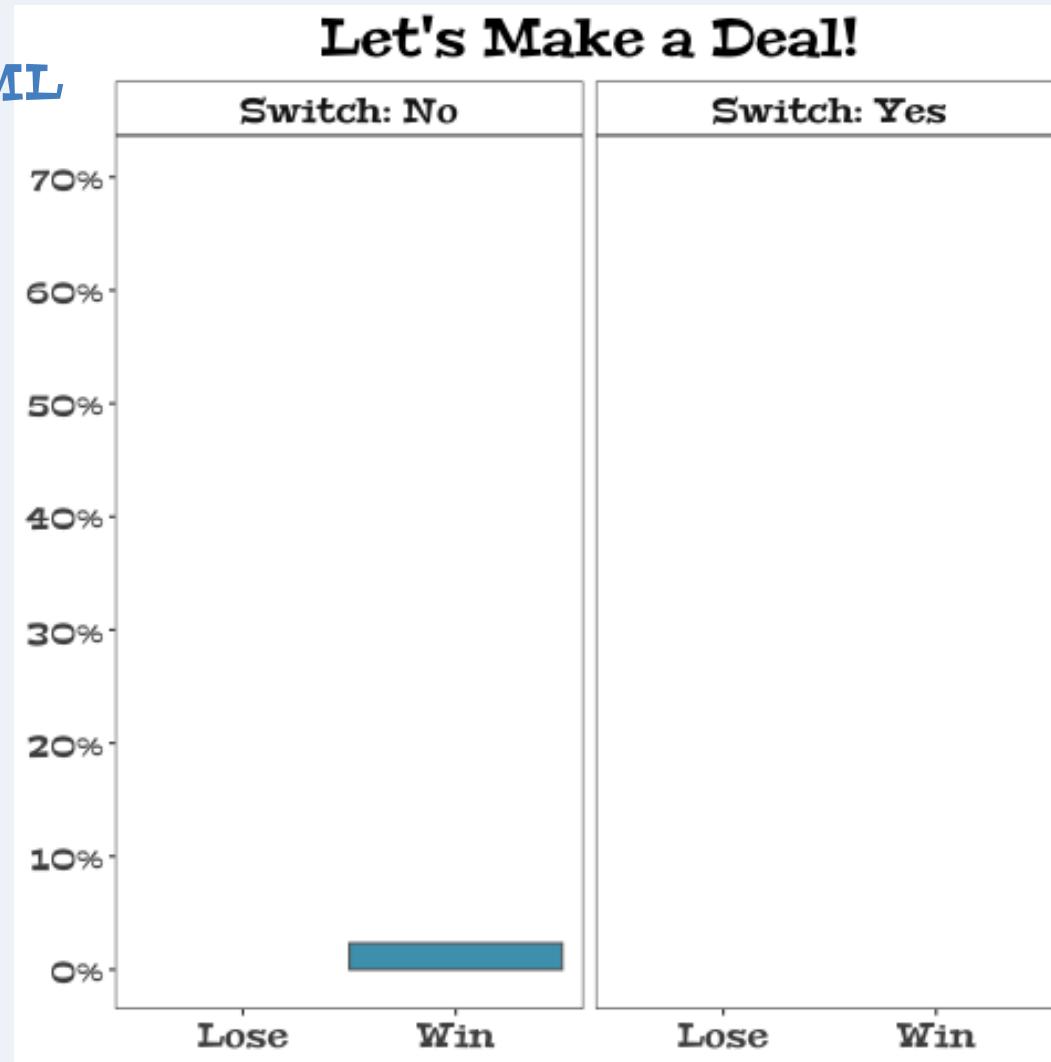
Clip from *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, Season 4, Episode 8:

<https://youtu.be/QGxyIQzLeUc>



# Motivating example

GIF viewable on HTML  
version of slides  
available on  
[rstudio.cloud](#).



# ggplot2 and its Grammar of Graphics



Artwork by @allison\_horst

# What is the grammar of graphics?

From a book, *The Grammar of Graphics* by Leland Wilkinson (1999)

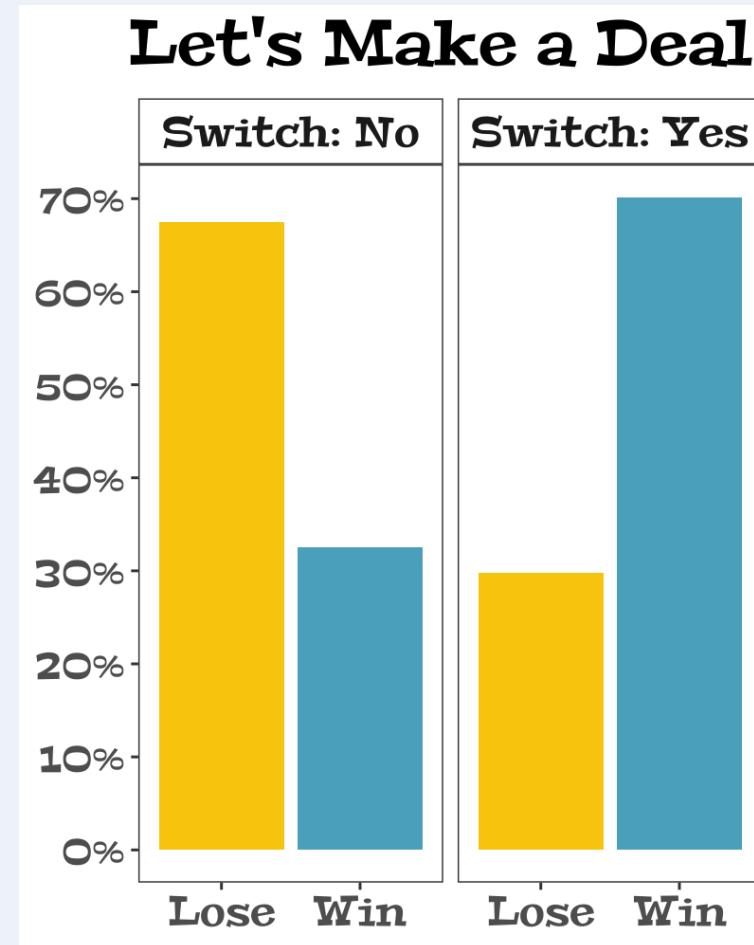
grammar (noun): (1) the study of the classes of words, their inflections, and their functions and relations in the sentence; (2) the principles or rules of an art, science, or technique

grammar of graphics (noun): a set of principles for constructing data visualizations

**grammar of language : sentence :: grammar of graphics : data visualization**

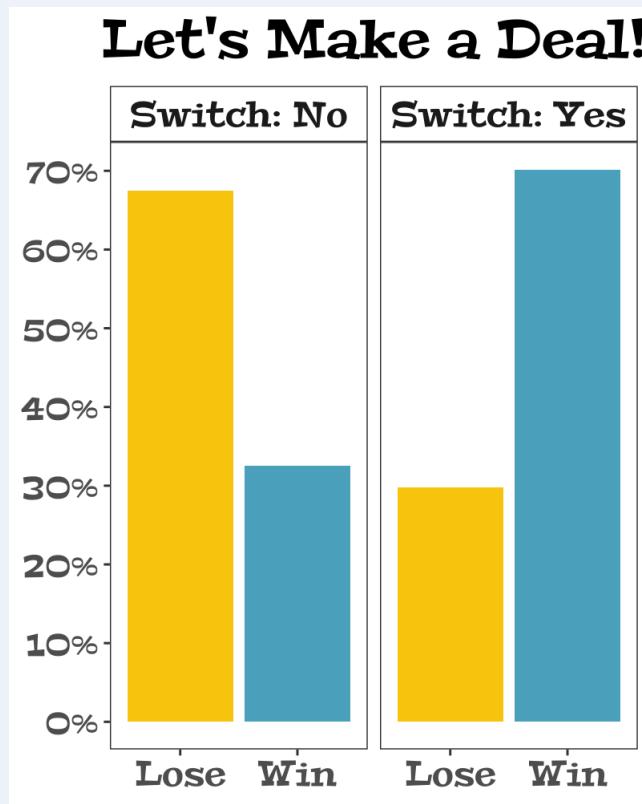
📢 I will try to use "data visualization" instead of "plot", "graph", "chart", or "graphic" because it is a more precise term.

# A simple data viz



# Data $\leftrightarrow$ Noun

## Data Visualization (Sentence)

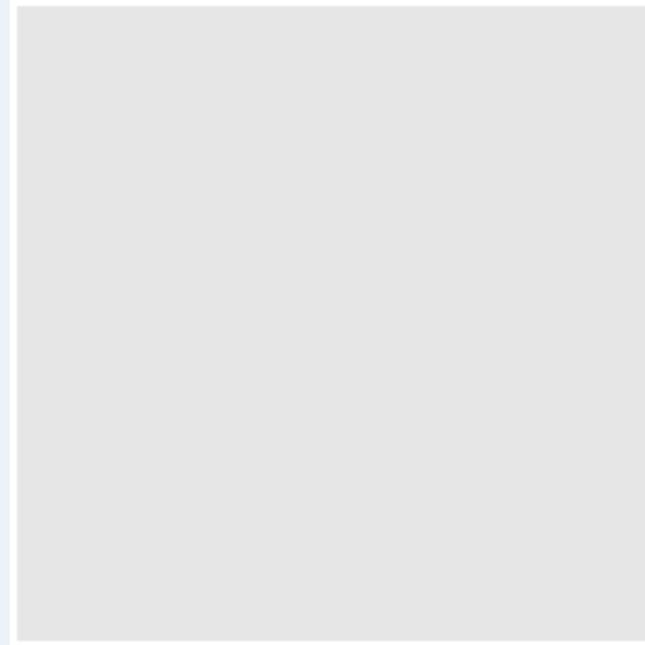


## Data (Noun)

Switch	Win	n	perc
No	Lose	29	0.6744186
No	Win	14	0.3255814
Yes	Lose	17	0.2982456
Yes	Win	40	0.7017544

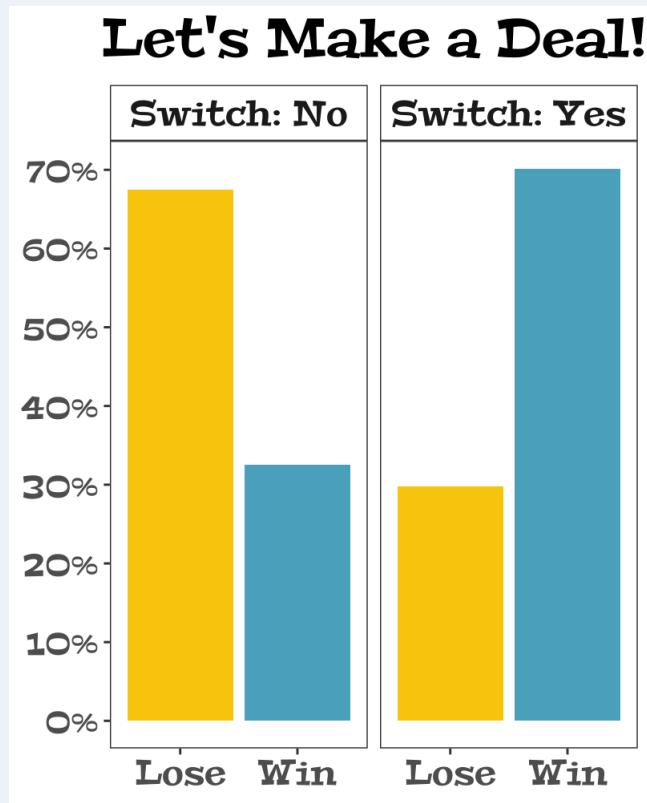
# ggplot2 code

```
mh_sims ← readr::read_csv("dat/monty_hall.csv")
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(data = mh_sims)
```



# Geom ↔ Verb

## Data Visualization (Sentence)



## Geom (Verb)

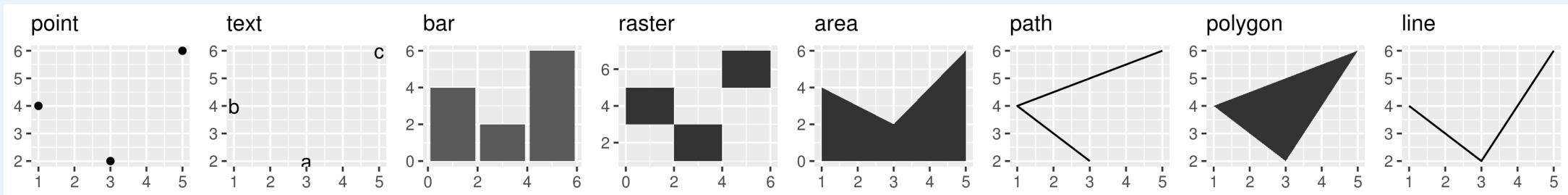
- bar chart a.k.a. column chart
- geom\_col()

# In ggplot2 code

We build up a data visualization in ggplot2 with the `+` operator.

```
ggplot(data = mh_sims) +  
  geom_col()  
  
## Error: geom_col requires the following missing aesthetics: x, y
```

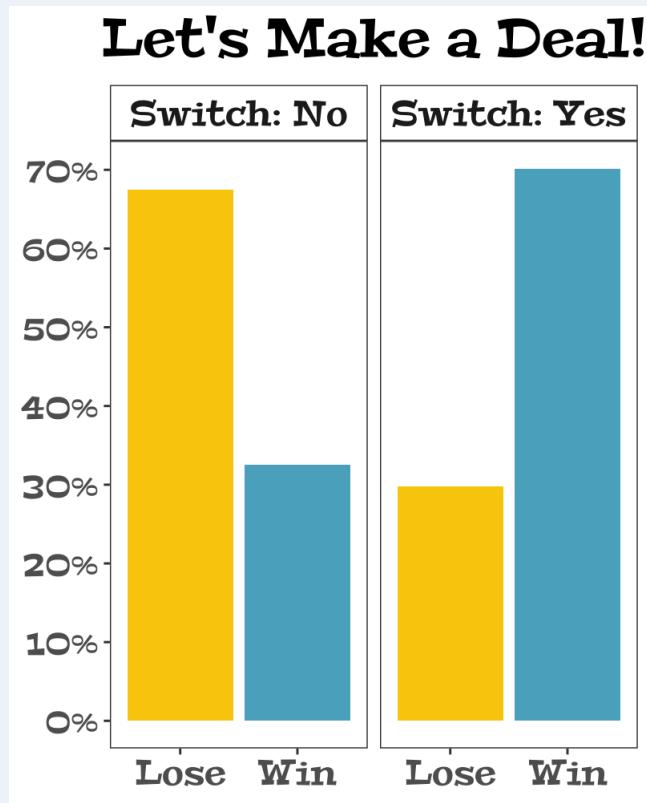
 The `geom_*` suite of functions can take many arguments, which vary by the geom type



Source: ggplot2 book

# aes mapping ↔ Pronouns

## Data Visualization (Sentence)



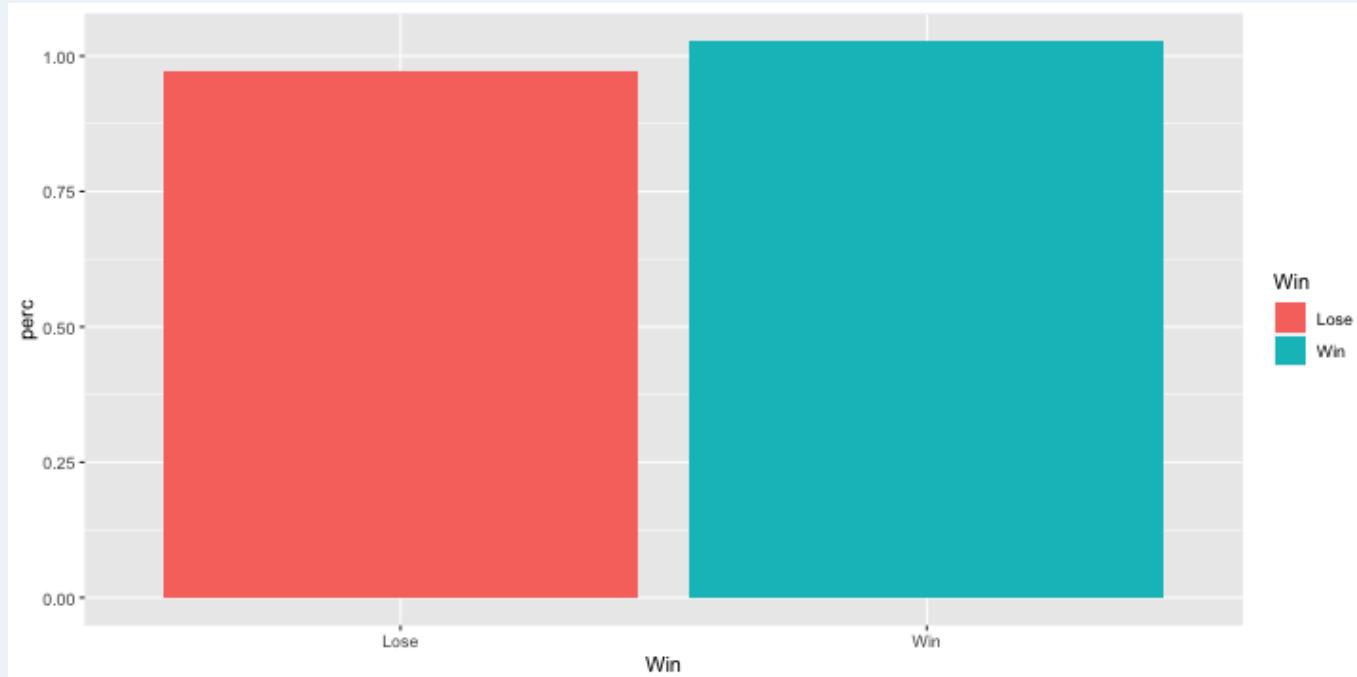
## aes mapping (pronouns)

- x-axis: Outcome (win or lose)
- y-axis: % of outcomes in switch group
- Fill color: Outcome

# In ggplot2 code

Use the `aes()` function inside `ggplot()`. (Can also use in `geom_col()`.)

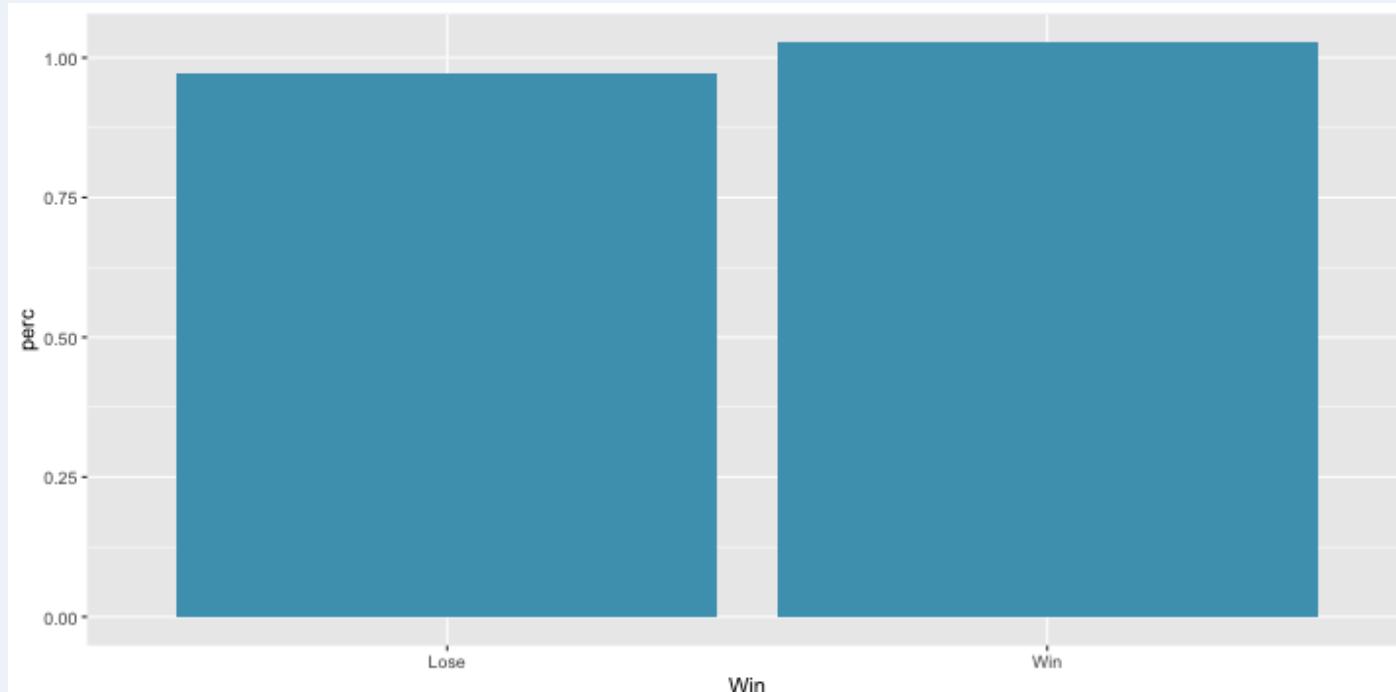
```
ggplot(data = mh_sims,  
       aes(x = Win, y = perc, fill = Win)) +  
  geom_col()
```



# In ggplot2 code

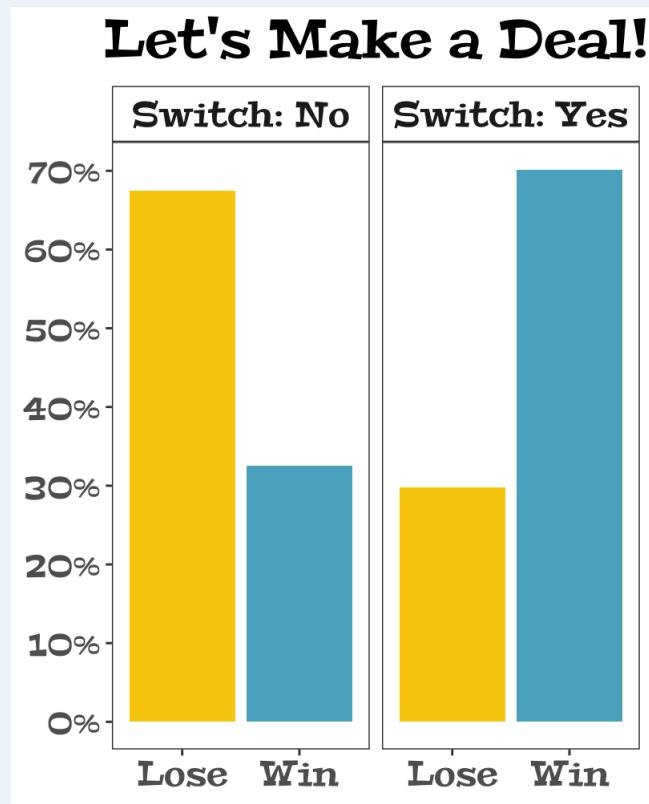
- Note: aesthetics / aes values do not have to be connected to data.
- To change an aes value for the entire plot, use the aes value *outside* of the aes() function.

```
ggplot(data = mh_sims, aes(x = Win, y = perc, fill = Win)) +  
  geom_col(fill = "#4AA0BB")
```



# Stat $\leftrightarrow$ Adverb

## Data Visualization (Sentence)



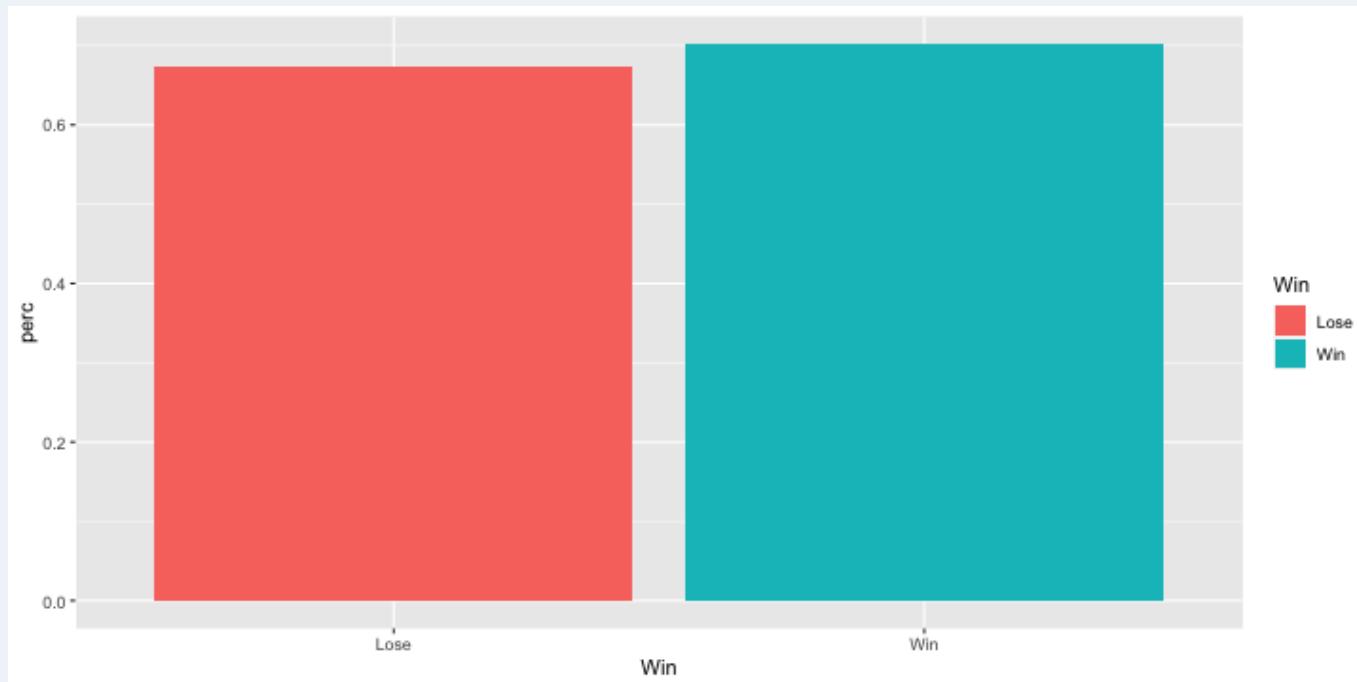
## stat (adverb)

- Identity: The data are not altered in any way

Switch	Win	n	perc
No	Lose	29	0.6744186
No	Win	14	0.3255814
Yes	Lose	17	0.2982456
Yes	Win	40	0.7017544

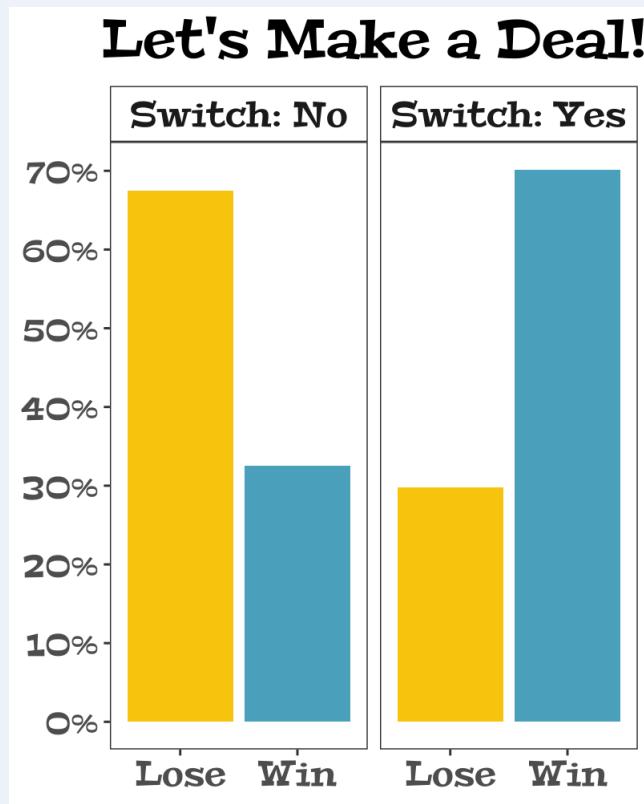
# In ggplot2 code

```
ggplot(data = mh_sims,  
       aes(x = Win, y = perc, fill = Win)) +  
  stat_identity(geom="col")
```



# Theme ↔ Adjective

## Data Visualization (Sentence)



## Theme (adjectives)

- white background
- no gridlines
- text font, size & face

# In ggplot2 code

The `theme()` function can modify any non-data element of the plot.

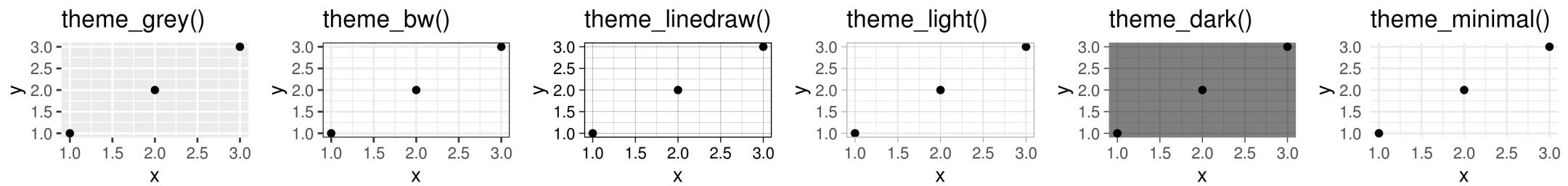
```
p ← ggplot(data = mh_sims,  
            aes(x = Win, y = perc, fill = Win)) +  
            geom_col()
```

📣 This is a common trick. Create an object `p` that is the `ggplot` to add to later on.

# In ggplot2 code

Can use pre-made `theme_*`() functions and the `theme()` function to alter any non-data element of the plot.

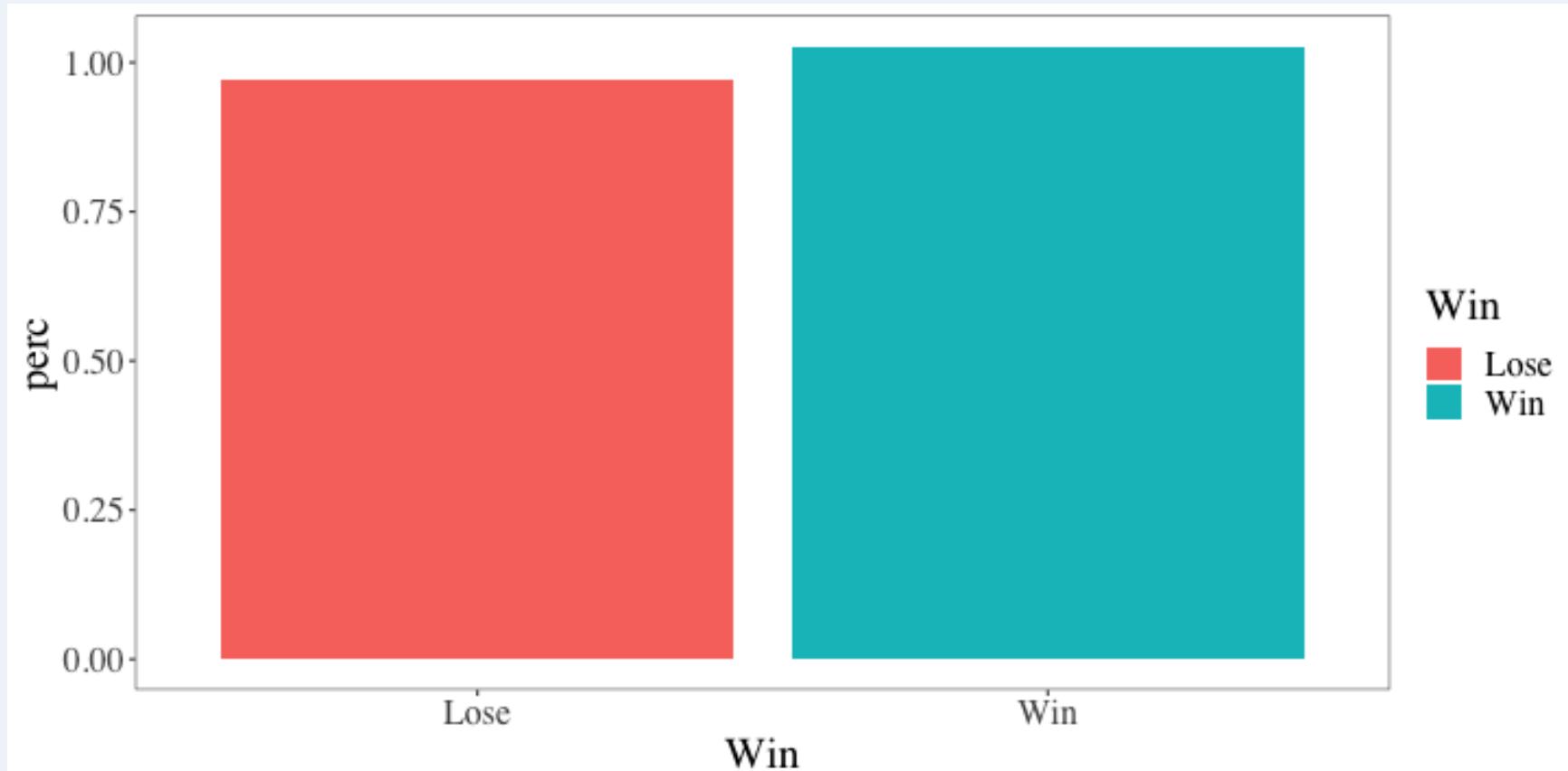
```
p2 <- p +
  theme_bw() +
  theme(text = element_text(family = "serif", size = 20),
        panel.grid = element_blank())
```



Source: ggplot2 book

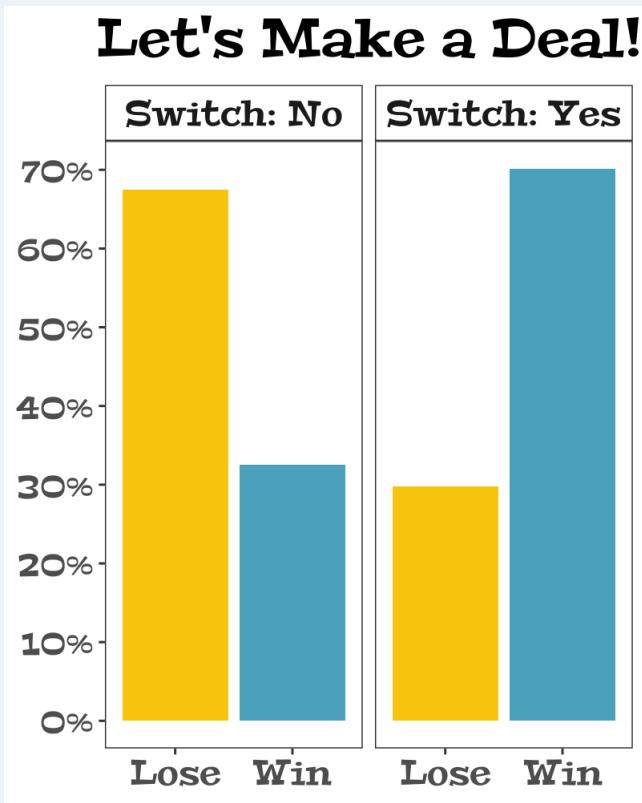
# In ggplot2 code

p2



# Guides ↔ Prepositions

## Data Visualization (Sentence)



## guide (preposition)

- There is no guide/legend.
- Not needed here, because color and x-axis are the same.

# In ggplot2 code

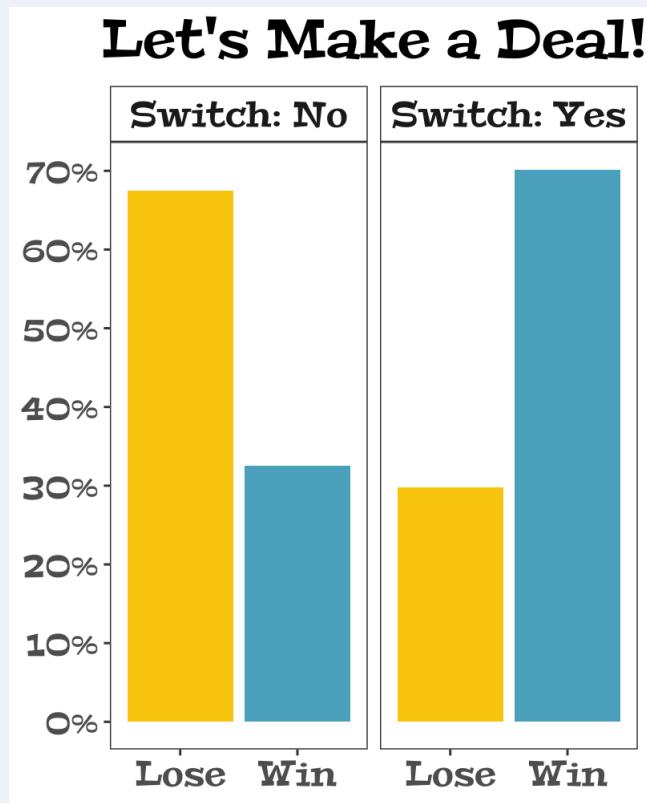
The `guides()` function controls all legends by connecting to the aes.

```
p3 <- p2 + guides(fill = "none")  
p3
```



# Facets $\leftrightarrow$ Conjunctions

## Data Visualization (Sentence)

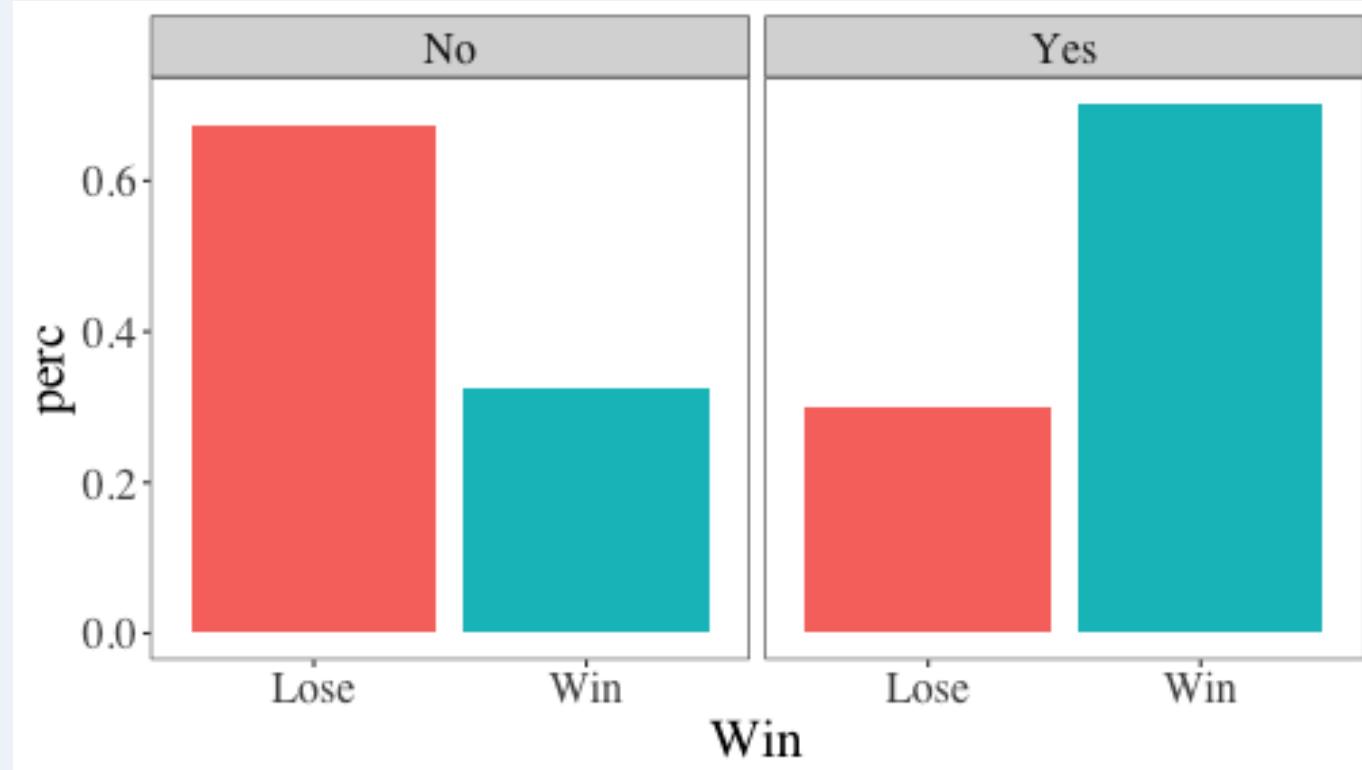


## Facets (conjunction)

- Facet by the Switch variable

# ggplot2 code

```
p4 <- p3 + facet_grid(cols = vars(Switch))  
p4
```



# Other grammar elements

**Scales:** control how data are translated to visual properties  
**(sentence structure)**

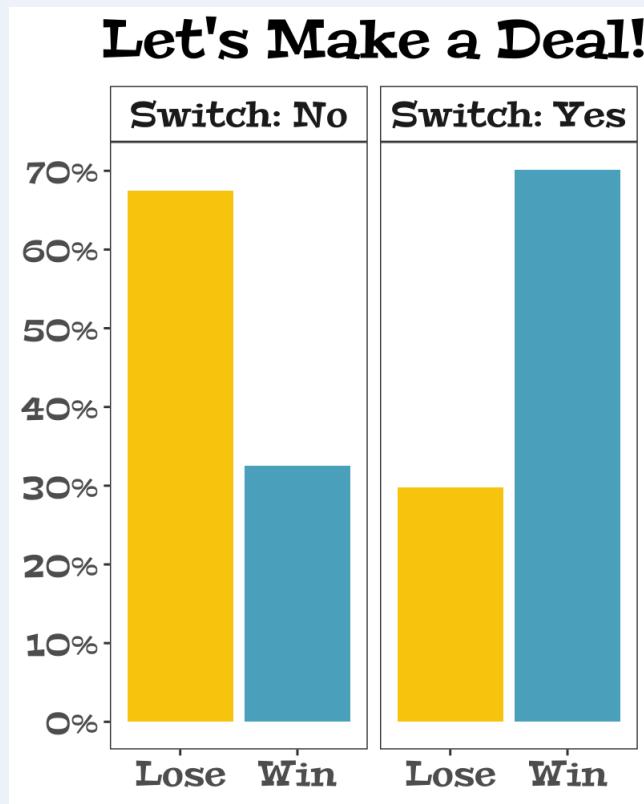
**Coordinate system:** how data are positioned in a 2D data visualization  
**(verb tense)**

**Position:** How to deal with overlap, if any  
**(word order)**

- "native speakers" don't have to think about these too much
- ggplot2 has smart defaults here, less work for you
- Largely up to individual taste/style

# Example

## Data Visualization (Sentence)



Scales, coordinate systems, positions (sentence structure, verb tense, word order)

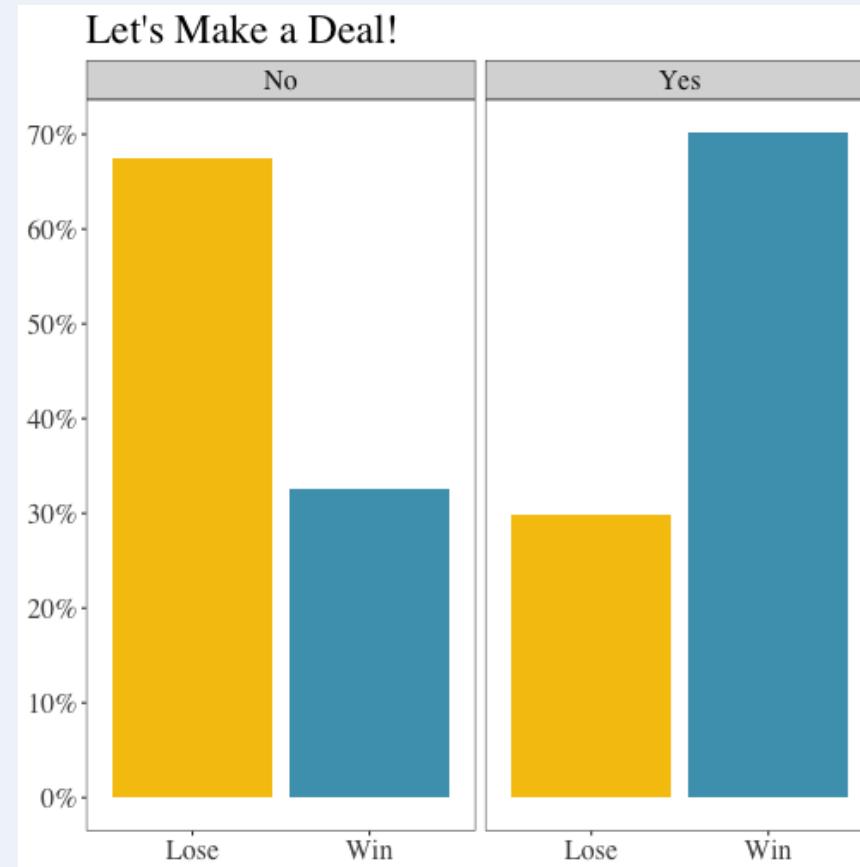
- Scale: y-axis labeled every 10%
- Scale: color of bars
- Scale: axes & plot titles
- Coordinate system: cartesian (automatic)
- Position: no position shift (identity)

# ggplot2 code

There are no overlapping elements, so no position needed.

```
p4 +
  scale_y_continuous(name = NULL,
                     breaks = seq(0, .7, by = .1), label = scales::label_percent(accuracy = 1)) +
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("#F6C40C", "#4AA0BB")) +
  labs(x = NULL, title = "Let's Make a Deal!")
```

# Final Result (for now)



# Complete ggplot2 code

```
ggplot(data = mh_sims,
       aes(x = Win, y = perc, fill = Win)) +
  geom_col() +
  facet_grid(cols = vars(Switch)) +
  scale_y_continuous(name = NULL,
                     breaks = seq(0, .7, by = .1), label = scales::label_percent(accuracy = 1)) +
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("#F6C40C", "#4AA0BB")) +
  labs(x = NULL, title = "Let's Make a Deal!") +
  theme_bw() +
  theme(text = element_text(family = "serif", size = 20),
        panel.grid = element_blank()) +
  guides(fill = "none")
```

# Complete ggplot2 code

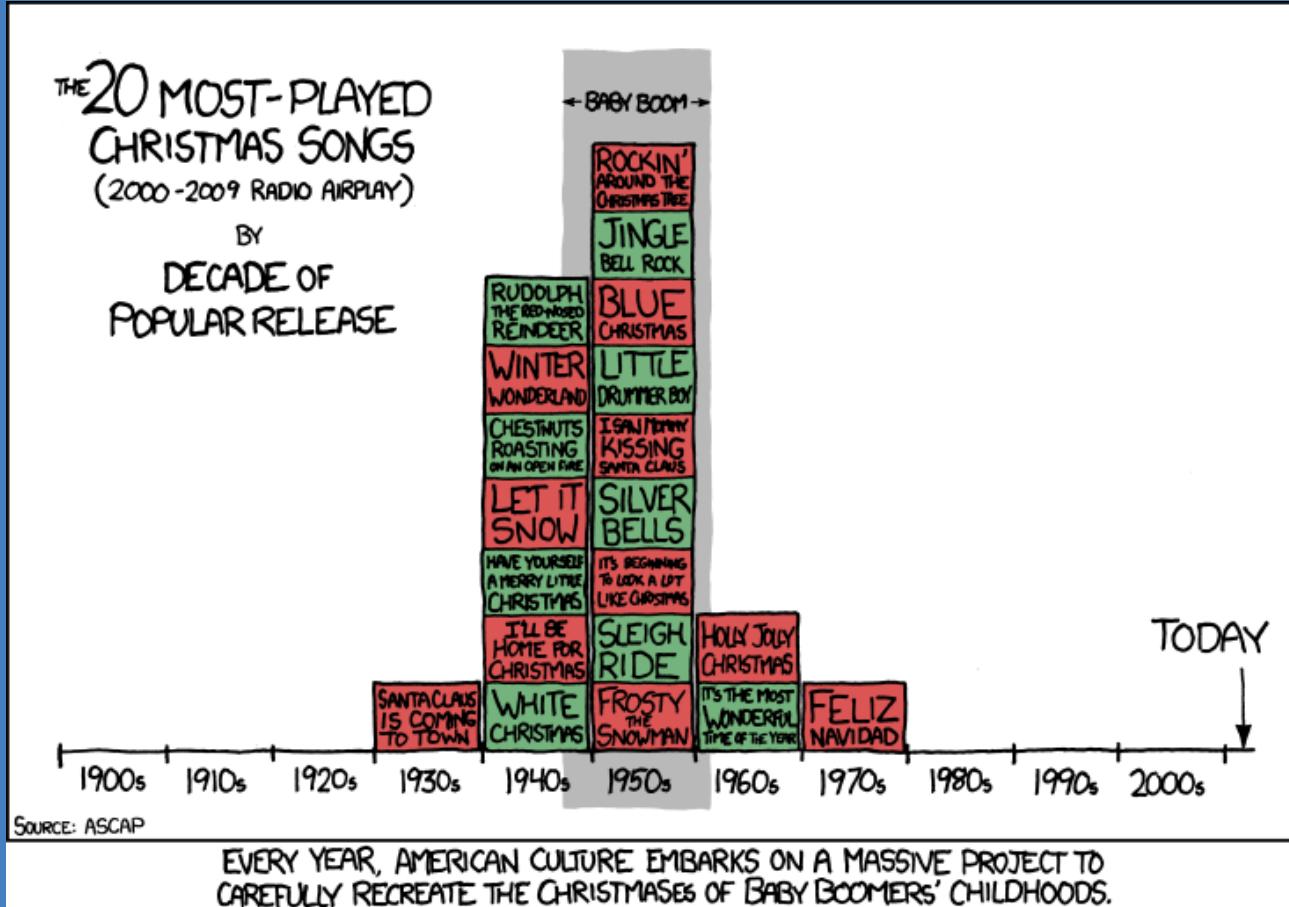
```
ggplot(data = mh_sims,
       aes(x = Win, y = perc, fill = Win)) +
  geom_col() +
  facet_grid(cols = vars(Switch)) +
  scale_y_continuous(name = NULL,
                     breaks = seq(0, .7, by = .1), label = scales::label_percent(accuracy = 1)) +
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("#F6C40C", "#4AA0BB")) +
  labs(x = NULL, title = "Let's Make a Deal!") +
  theme_bw() +
  theme(text = element_text(family = "serif", size = 20),
        panel.grid = element_blank()) +
  guides(fill = "none")
```

# What's next?

More and more detail on the `ggplot2` universe:

- `geom`s for one- and two-variable visualization
- Including three or more variables in the visualization
  - Colors, sizes, shapes, linetypes
  - Grouping & faceting
  - Maps

# One-variable visualization



xkcd.com/988/

# Histogram

A **histogram** approximates the distribution of a single numeric variable. It shows frequency of values in specified ranges.

## **geom\_histogram**

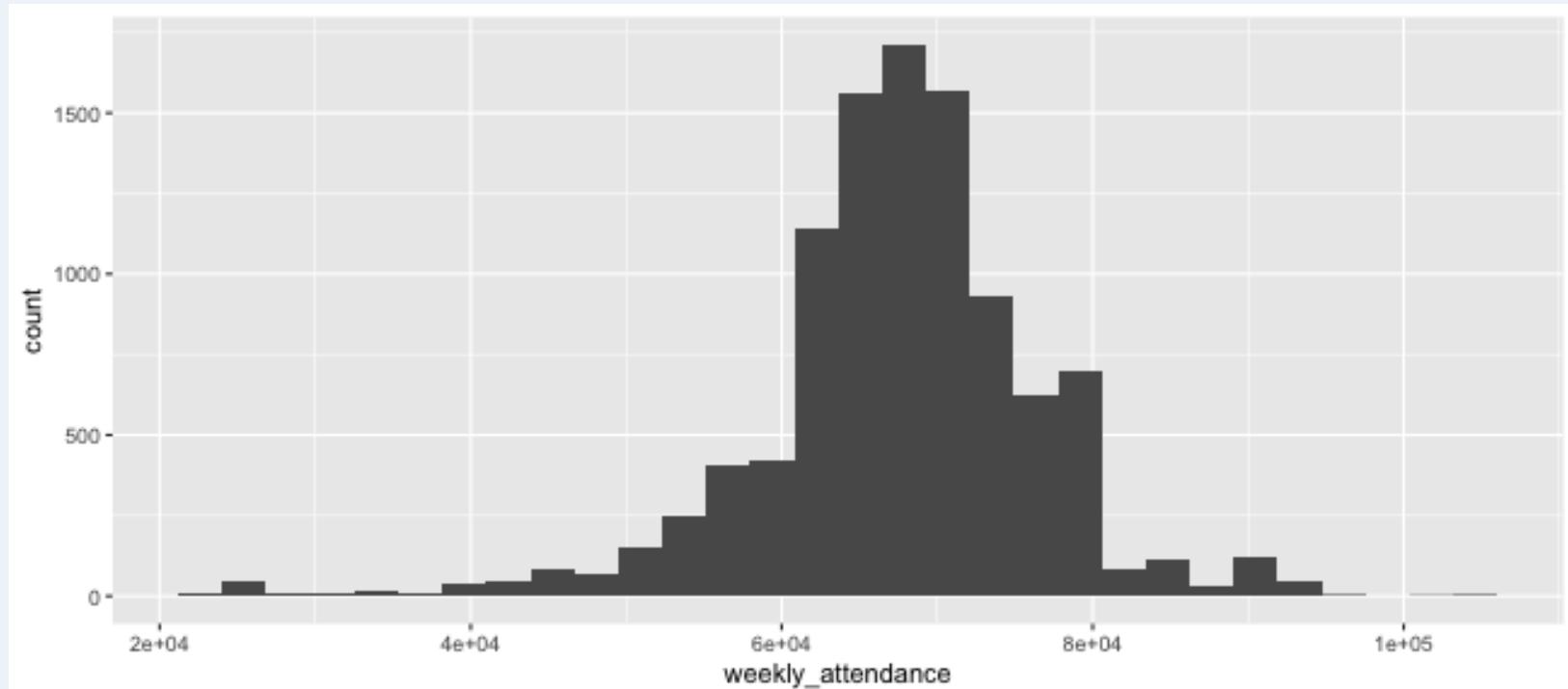
- requires the `x` aesthetic inside `aes()`
- Specify width of bars with the `bins` or `binwidth` argument
- Can change appearance of the bars with `color`, `fill`, `alpha` arguments

# Your Turn

02 : 00

Complete the code below to recreate the histogram of weekly NFL attendance. (Source: Tidy Tuesday)

```
library(readr)
attendance <- read_csv("dat/nfl_attendance.csv")
ggplot(data = ???, aes(x = ???)) +
  geom_????()
```



# Bar chart

A **bar chart** displays counts of a categorical variable, and is the categorical equivalent of the histogram.

## `geom_bar`

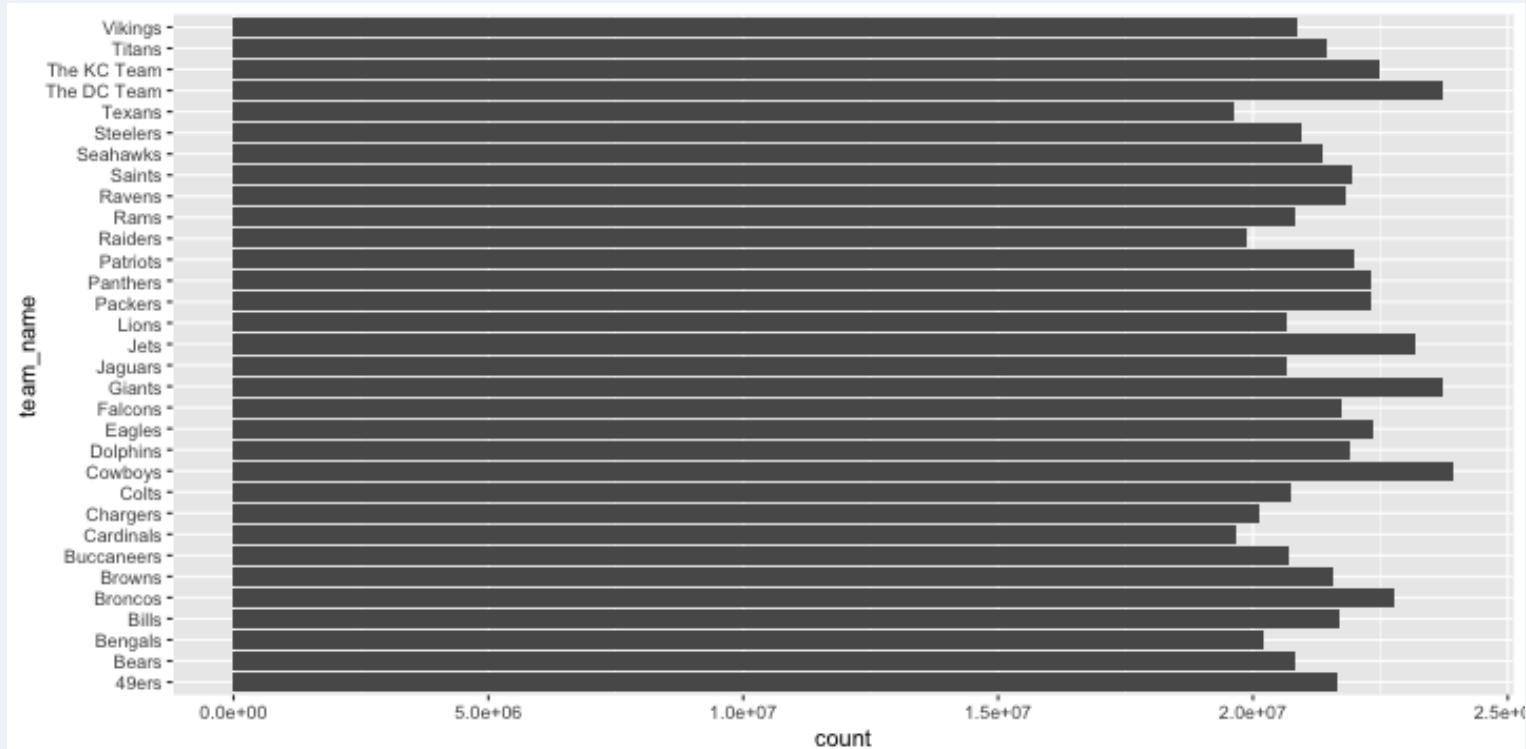
- requires the `x` aesthetic inside `aes()`
- Can change appearance of the bars with `color`, `fill`, `alpha` arguments

# Your Turn

02 : 00

Complete the code below to display a bar chart of total NFL attendance from 2000-2019 by team.

```
ggplot(??? = attendance, ???(??? = ???, weight = weekly_attendance)) +  
  geom_bar() +  
  coord_flip()
```



# Density plot

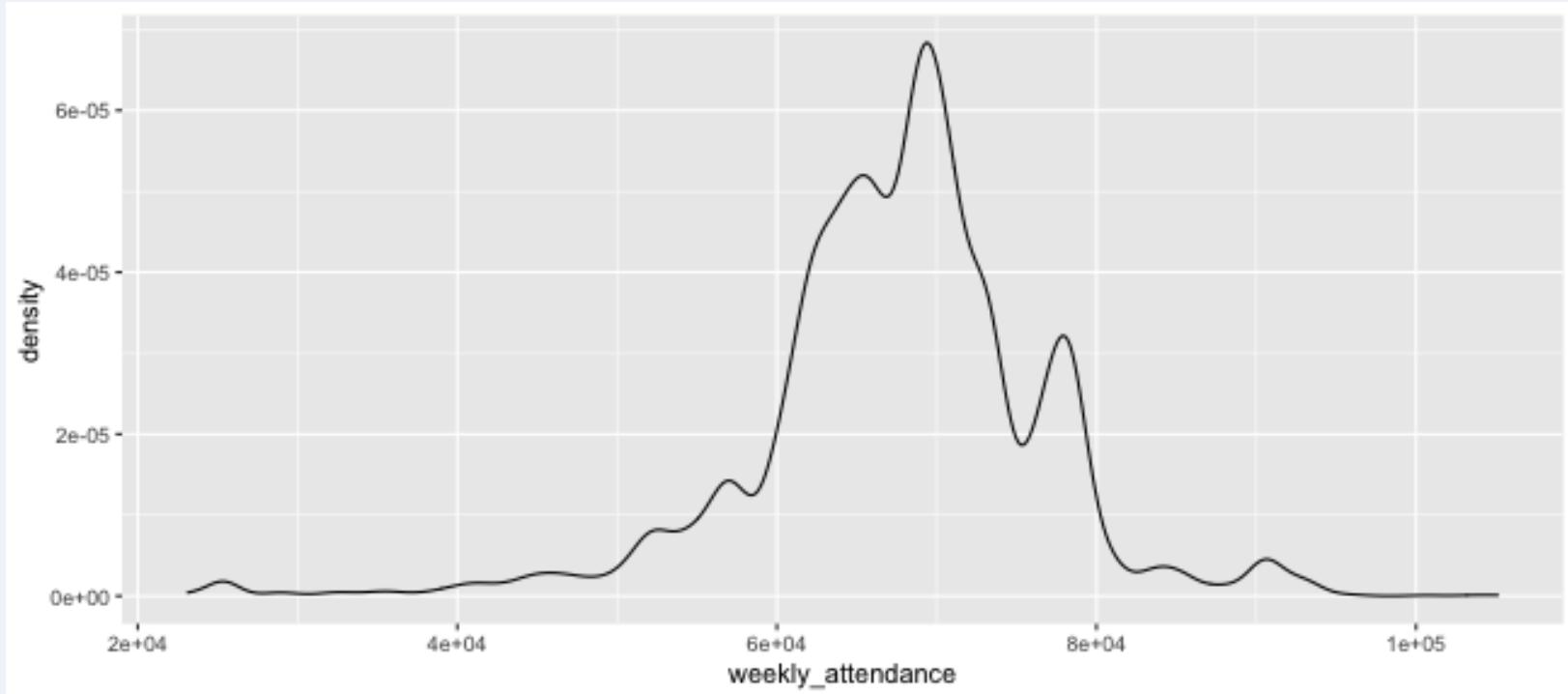
A density estimate is a smoothed version of the histogram which is especially useful if the data come from a continuous distribution.

## geom\_density

- requires the `x` aesthetic inside `aes()`
- change the underlying kernel smoother with the `kernel` parameter
- change bandwidth with the `adjust` parameter
- Can change appearance of the bars with `color`, `fill`, `alpha` arguments

# Example

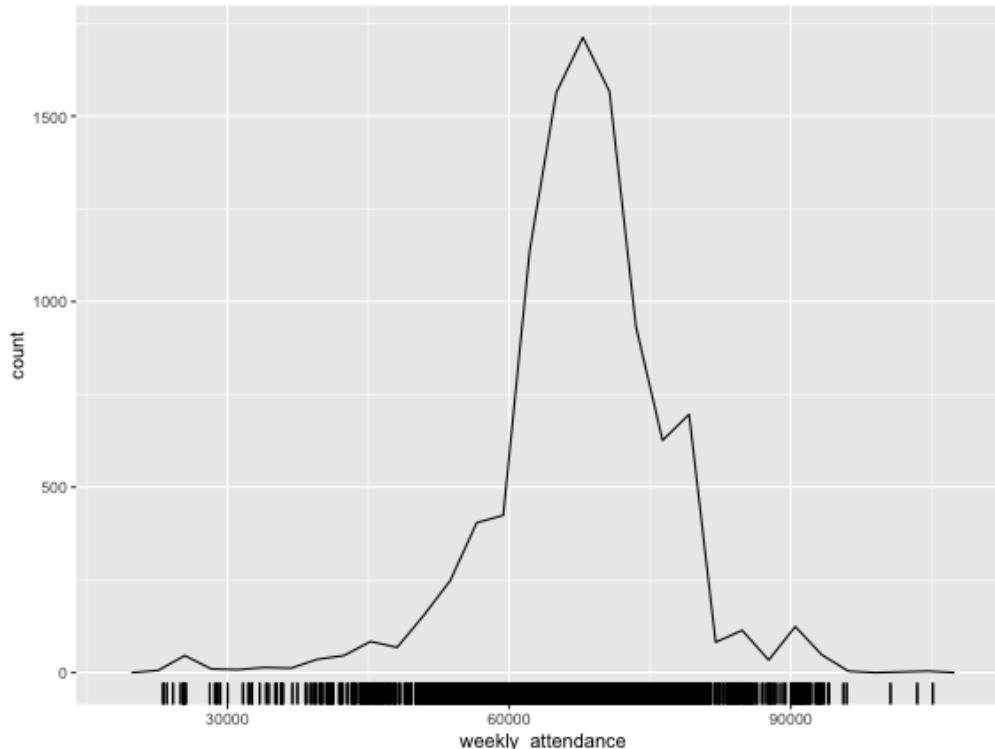
```
ggplot(data = attendance, aes(x = weekly_attendance)) +  
  geom_density()
```



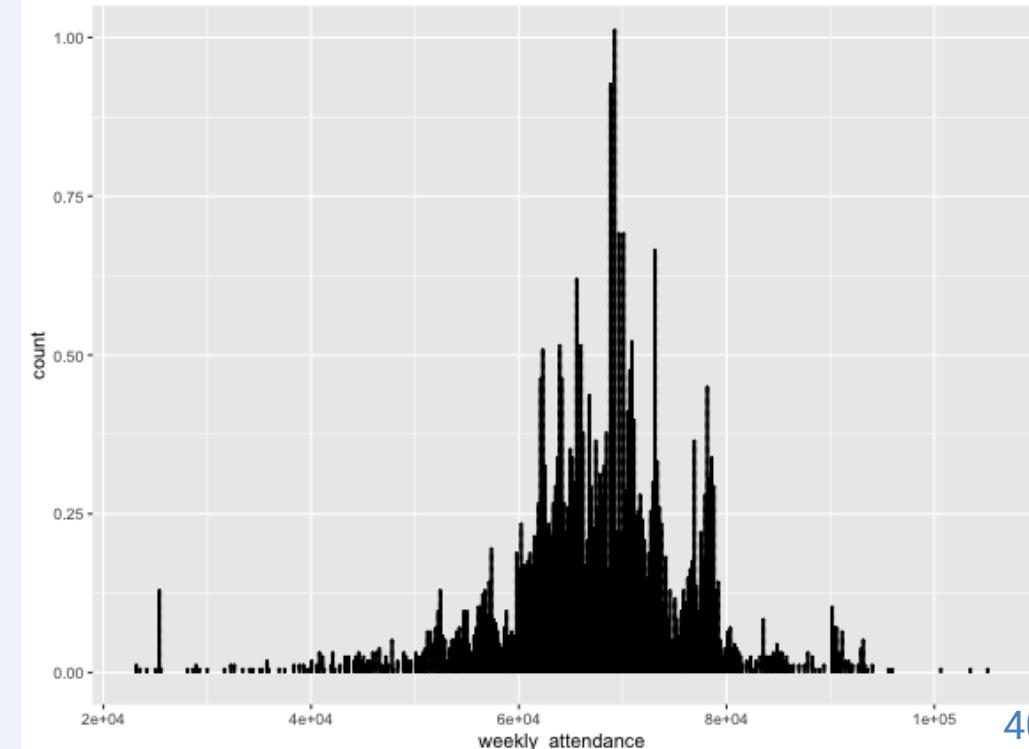
# Other one-variable viz

- `geom_freqpoly`: behaves the same as `geom_histogram` but with connected lines instead of bars
- `geom_dotplot`: show values in bins as individual dots
- `geom_rug`: place lines along an axis for each observation

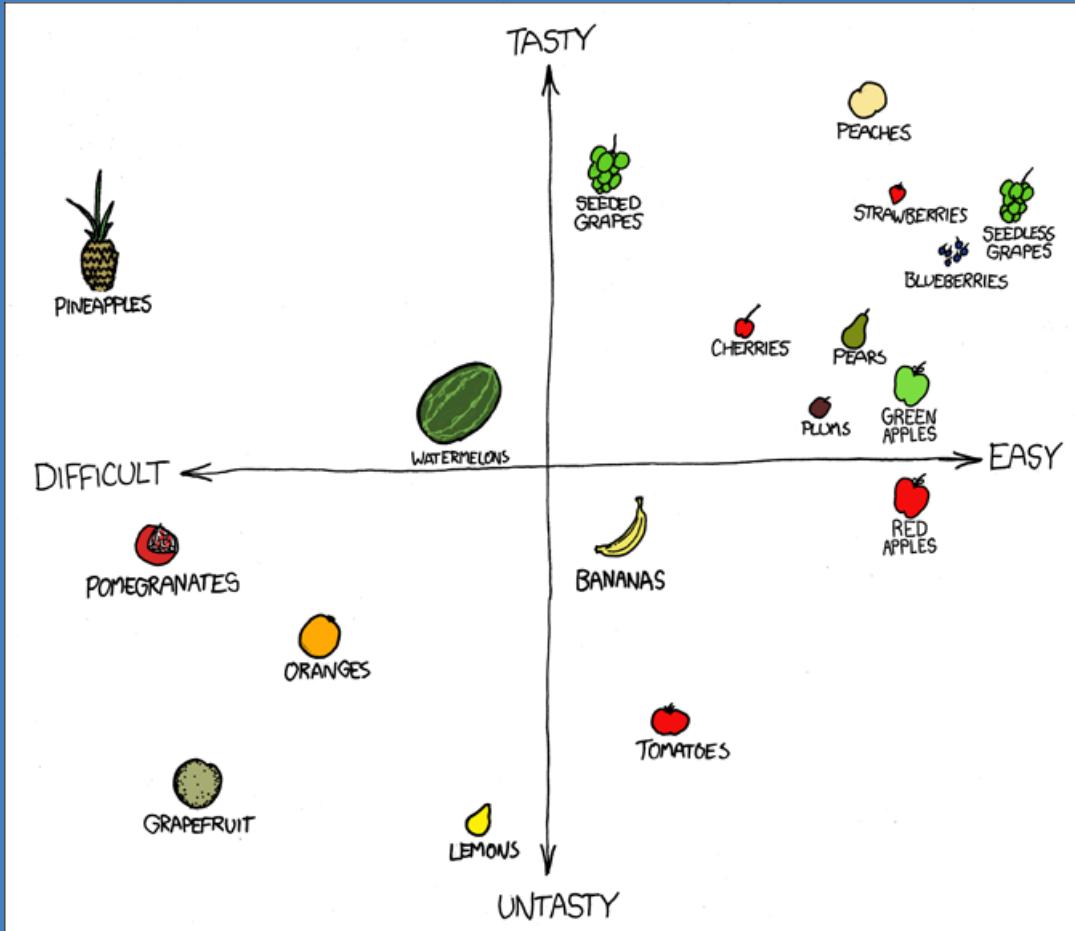
`geom_freqpoly + geom_rug`:



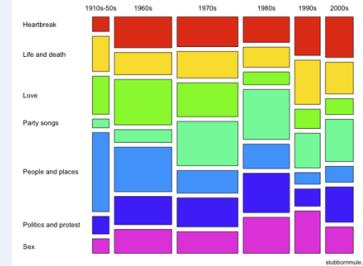
`geom_dotplot`:



# Two-variable visualization



# Which variables?

	Numerical	Categorical
Numerical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scatter plot (point)</li><li>2D binning (bin2d, hex)</li><li>Contour plot (density2d)</li><li>Quantiles (quantile, qq)</li><li>Lines (line, smooth)</li><li>Ribbons (ribbon, area)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Boxplot (boxplot, violin)</li><li>Counts (count, tile)</li><li>Error bars (errorbar)</li><li>Columns (col)</li></ul>
Categorical	<p><i>Which ggplot2 data viz is right for your data?</i></p> <p>(geoms in parentheses)</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mosaic (ggmosaic::geom_mosaic)</li><li>Counts (count, tile)</li></ul>

# Two numeric variables

## time, weekly\_attendance

Using data from The DC Team.

```
library(dplyr)
dc <- attendance %>% filter(team_name == "The DC Team")
```

## geom\_line

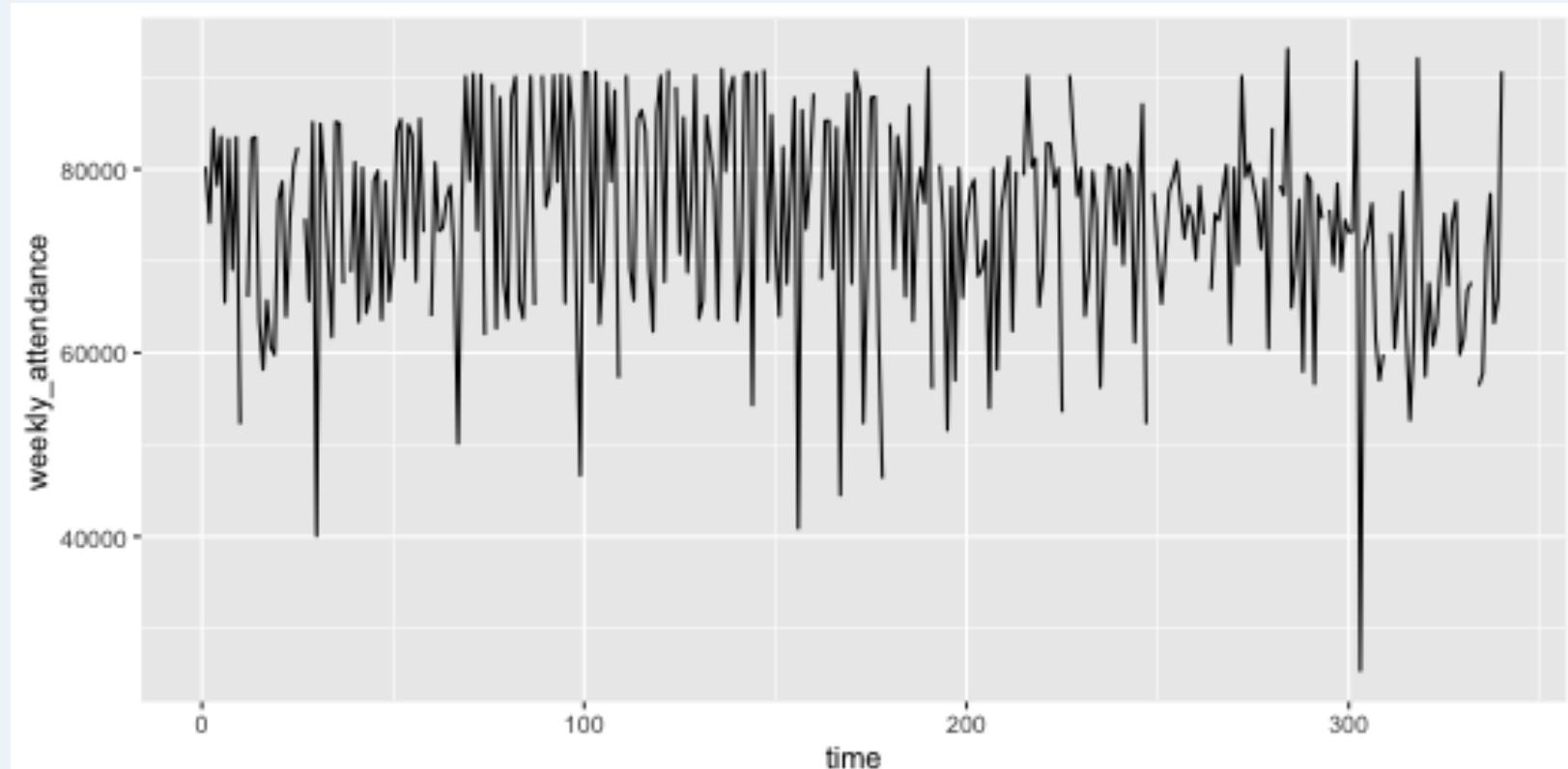
- requires the x, y aesthetics inside aes()
- Can change appearance of the lines with color, linetype, alpha arguments
- The group aes draws lines according to a grouping variable (later)

# Your Turn

02 : 00

Complete the code to make the time series chart of weekly attendance from 2000-2019 for the DC Team.

```
???(data = ???, aes(x = ???, y = ???)) +  
  geom_???
```



# One numeric, one categorical

## `team, weekly_attendance`

Return to the full attendance dataset.

## `geom_boxplot`

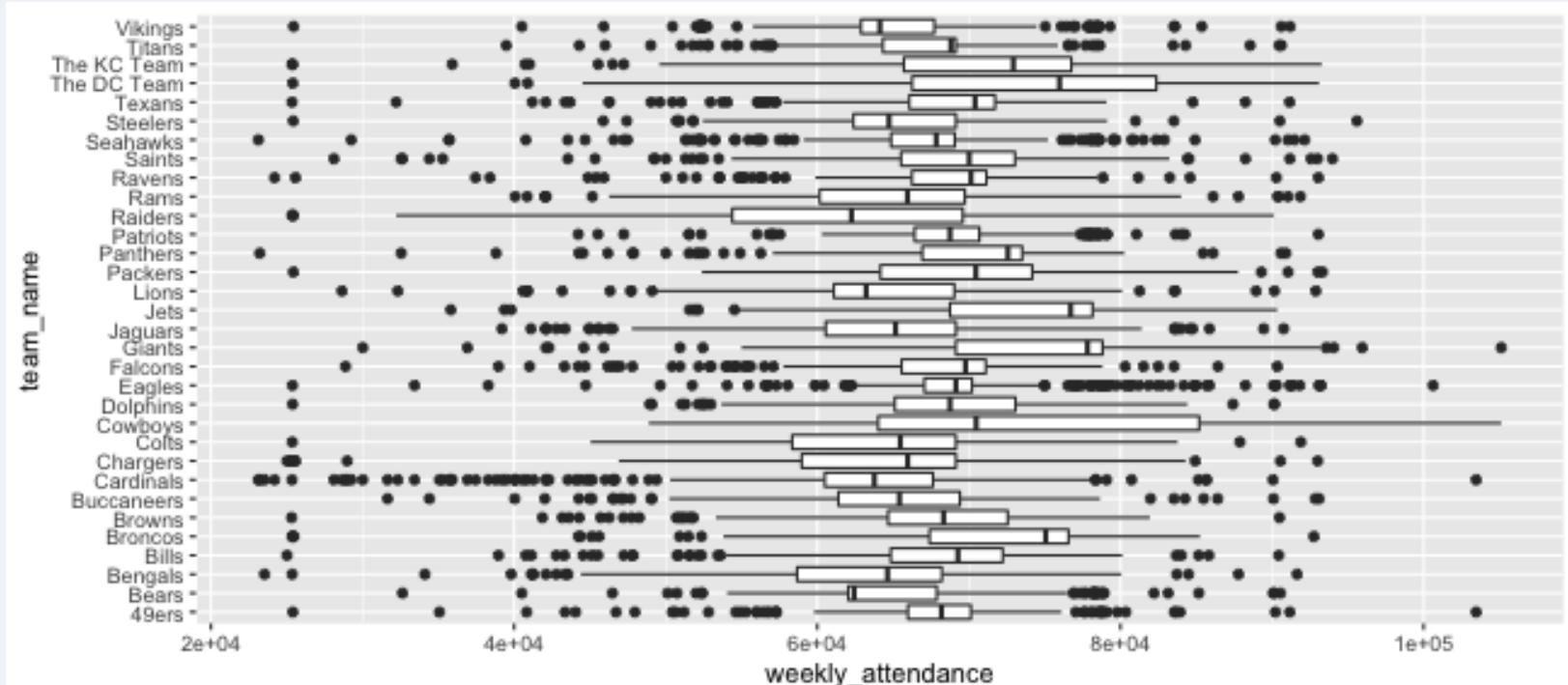
- requires the `x, y aesthetics inside aes()`
- Can change appearance of the boxes with `color, fill, alpha` arguments

# Your Turn

02 : 00

Modify the code below to create box plots for weekly attendance by team name.

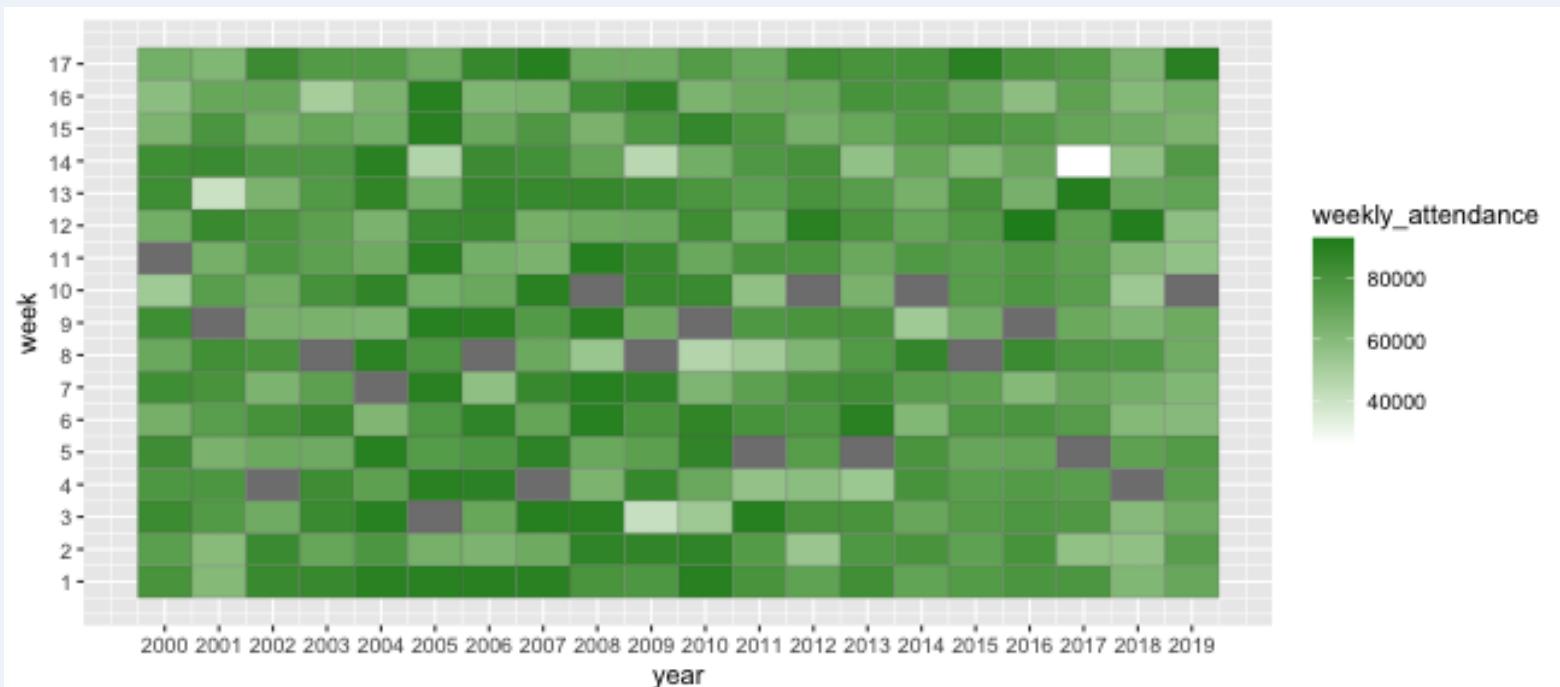
```
ggplot(data = ???, aes( ??? , ???)) +  
  geom_????() +  
  coord_flip()
```



# Two categorical variables

**year, week**

```
ggplot(data = dc, aes(x = year, y = week, fill = weekly_attendance)) +  
  geom_tile(color = "grey40") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = 2000:2019) + scale_y_continuous(breaks = 1:17) +  
  scale_fill_gradient(low = "white", high = "forestgreen")
```



# Three or more variable visualization



# The limits of ggplot2

`ggplot2` does not do 3D visualization

- (there are ways...but you won't see them here.)

`ggplot2` is not interactive

- See the `plotly` package and its `ggplotly()` function.

**But, there are plenty of other ways to make informative graphics with `ggplot2`**

# Additional aes() mappings

Add a third variable to a plot with:

⌚ **color**: color, fill

☒ **size**: size, stroke

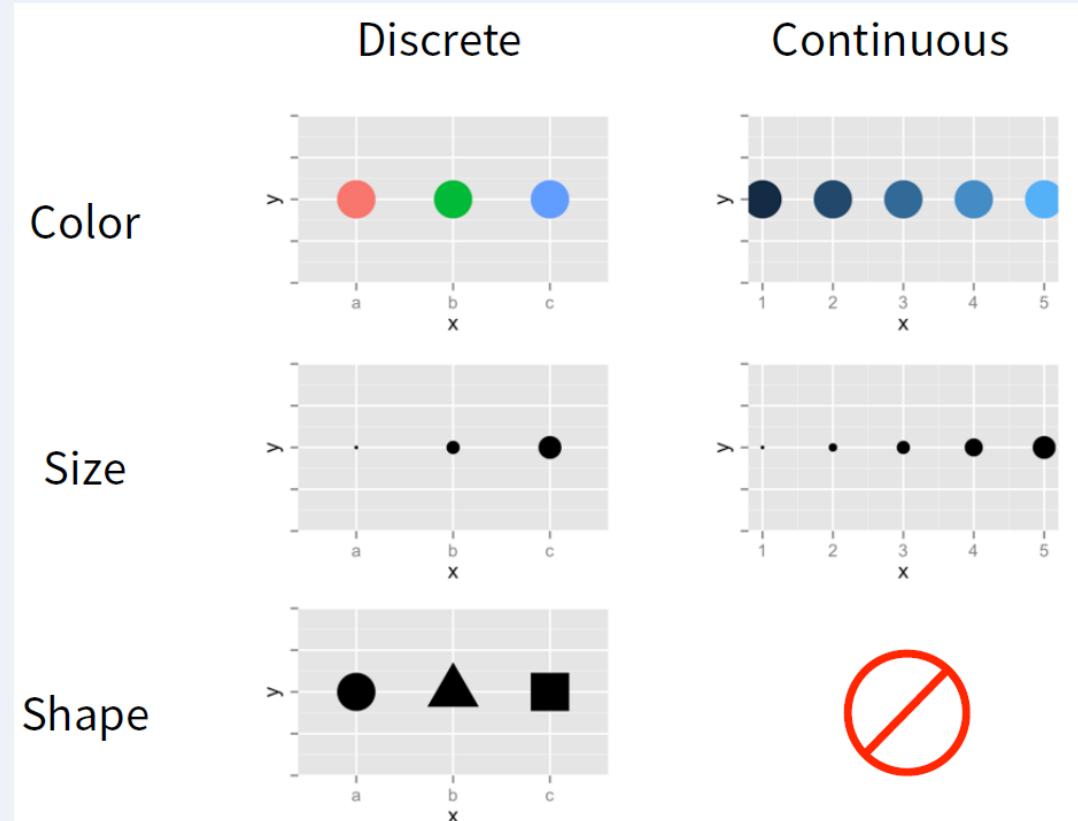
●▲ **shape**: shape, linetype

≋ **contour lines**: geom\_contour(), geom\_density\_2d(), z

📊 **bins**: geom\_bin2d(), geom\_hex(), geom\_tile()

# Choosing a mapping

Image from Garrett Grolemund's 2019 JSM tidyverse tutorial.



# Add a discrete/categorical variable

New York has two teams: the Giants and the Jets.

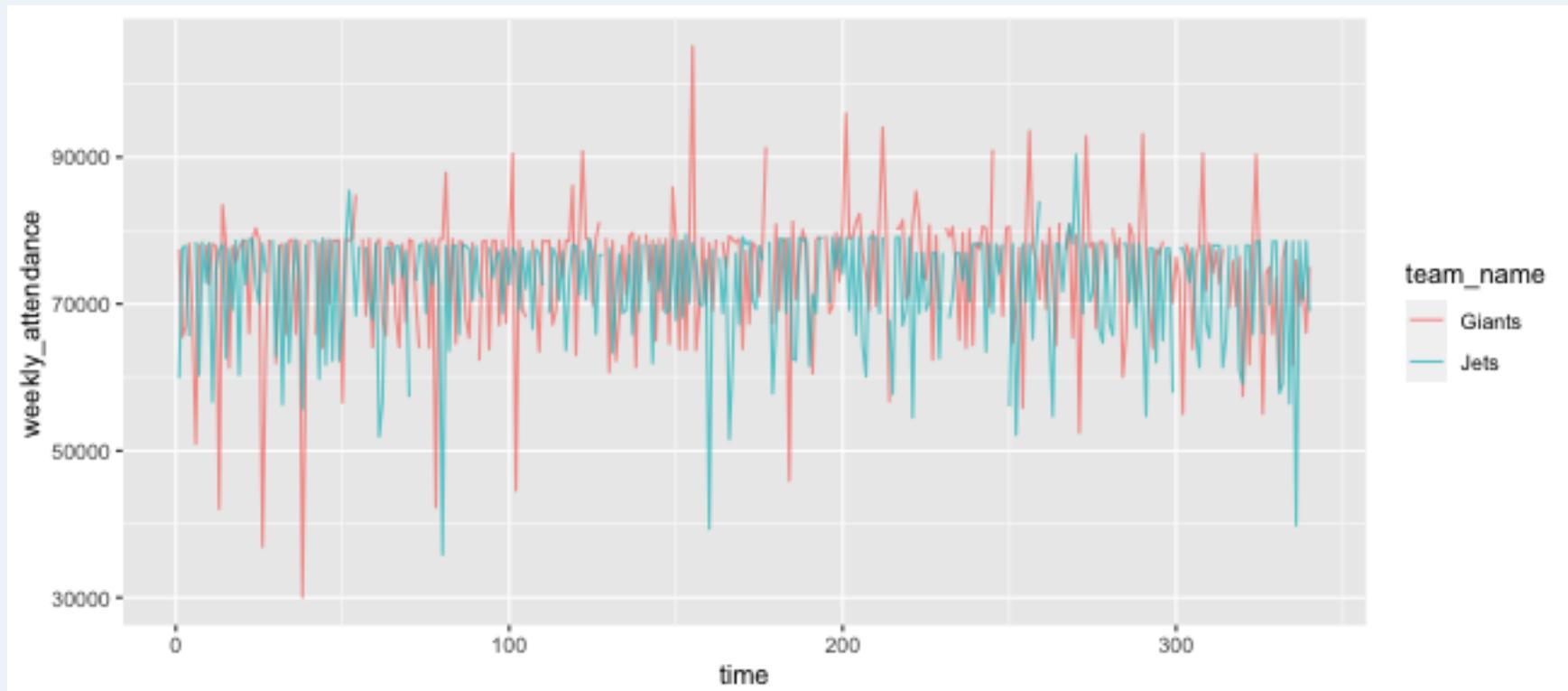
```
ny ← attendance %>% filter(team = "New York")
glimpse(ny)

## # Rows: 680
## # Columns: 11
## # $ team              <chr> "New York", "New York", "New York", "New York", "New York", ...
## # $ team_name          <chr> "Giants", "Giants", "Giants", "Giants", "Giants", ...
## # $ year               <dbl> 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, ...
## # $ total              <dbl> 1135455, 1135455, 1135455, 1135455, 1135455, 1135455, 113545...
## # $ home               <dbl> 624085, 624085, 624085, 624085, 624085, 624085, 624085, 6240...
## # $ away               <dbl> 511370, 511370, 511370, 511370, 511370, 511370, 511370, 5113...
## # $ week               <dbl> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1...
## # $ weekly_attendance <dbl> 77434, 65530, 66944, 78216, 68341, 50947, 78189, NA, 78087, ...
## # $ time               <dbl> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1...
## # $ conference          <chr> "NFC", "NFC", "NFC", "NFC", "NFC", "NFC", "NFC", "NFC...
## # $ division            <chr> "East", "East", "East", "East", "East", "East", "East", "Eas...
```

# Two time series, one plot

Use color to indicate team

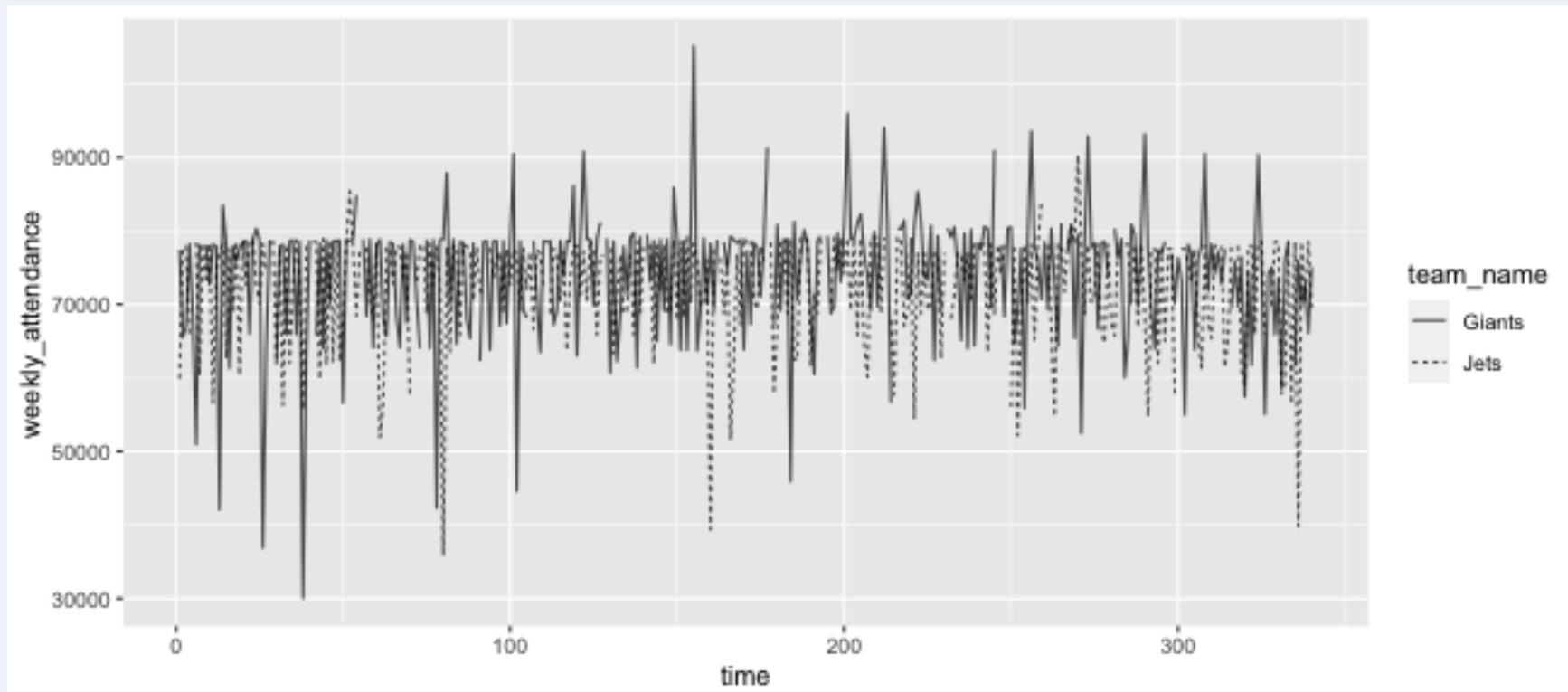
```
ggplot(data = ny, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance, color =team_name)) +  
  geom_line(alpha = .7)
```



# Two time series, one plot

Use linetype to indicate team

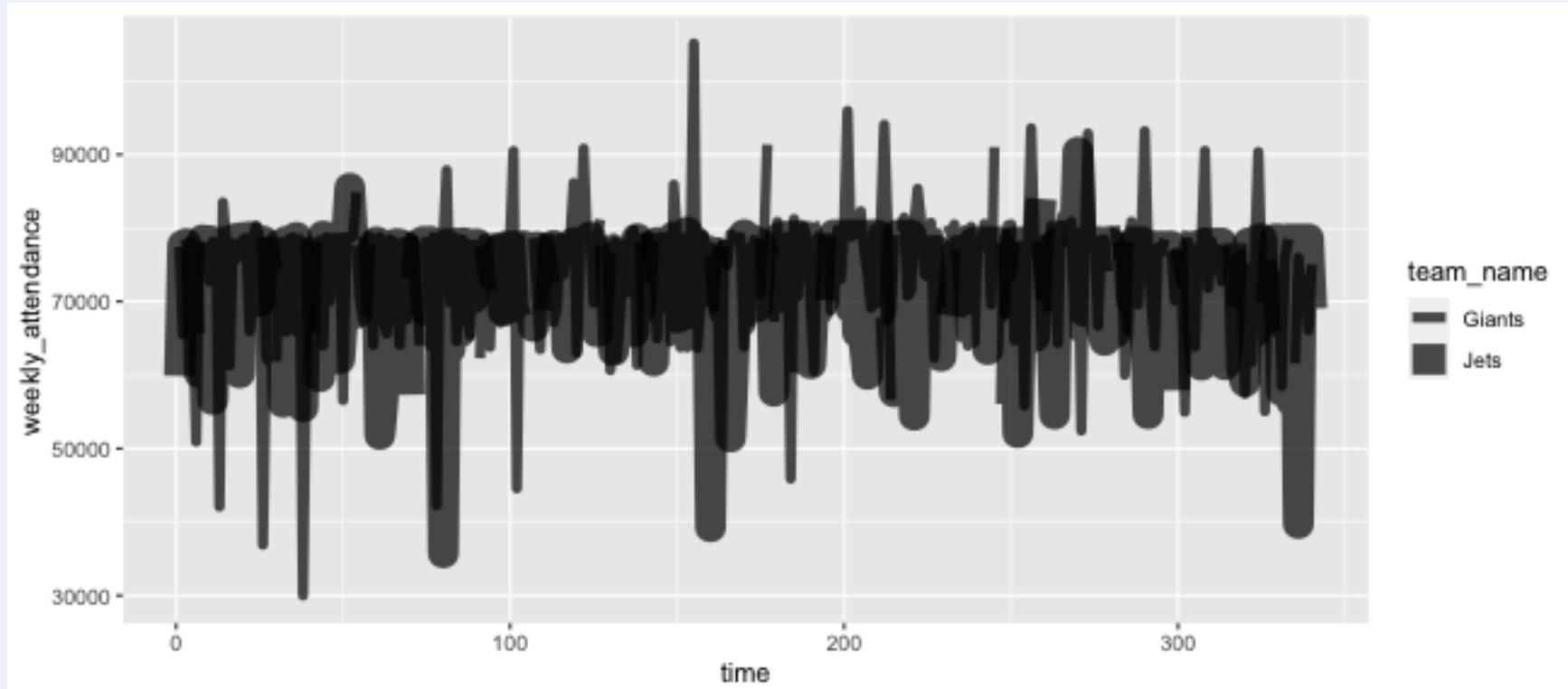
```
ggplot(data = ny, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance, linetype = team_name)) +  
  geom_line(alpha = .7)
```



# Two time series, one plot

Use size to indicate team.  Note: I do not recommend this! Why?

```
ggplot(data = ny, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance, size =team_name)) +  
  geom_line(alpha = .7)
```



# Adding a continuous/numeric variable

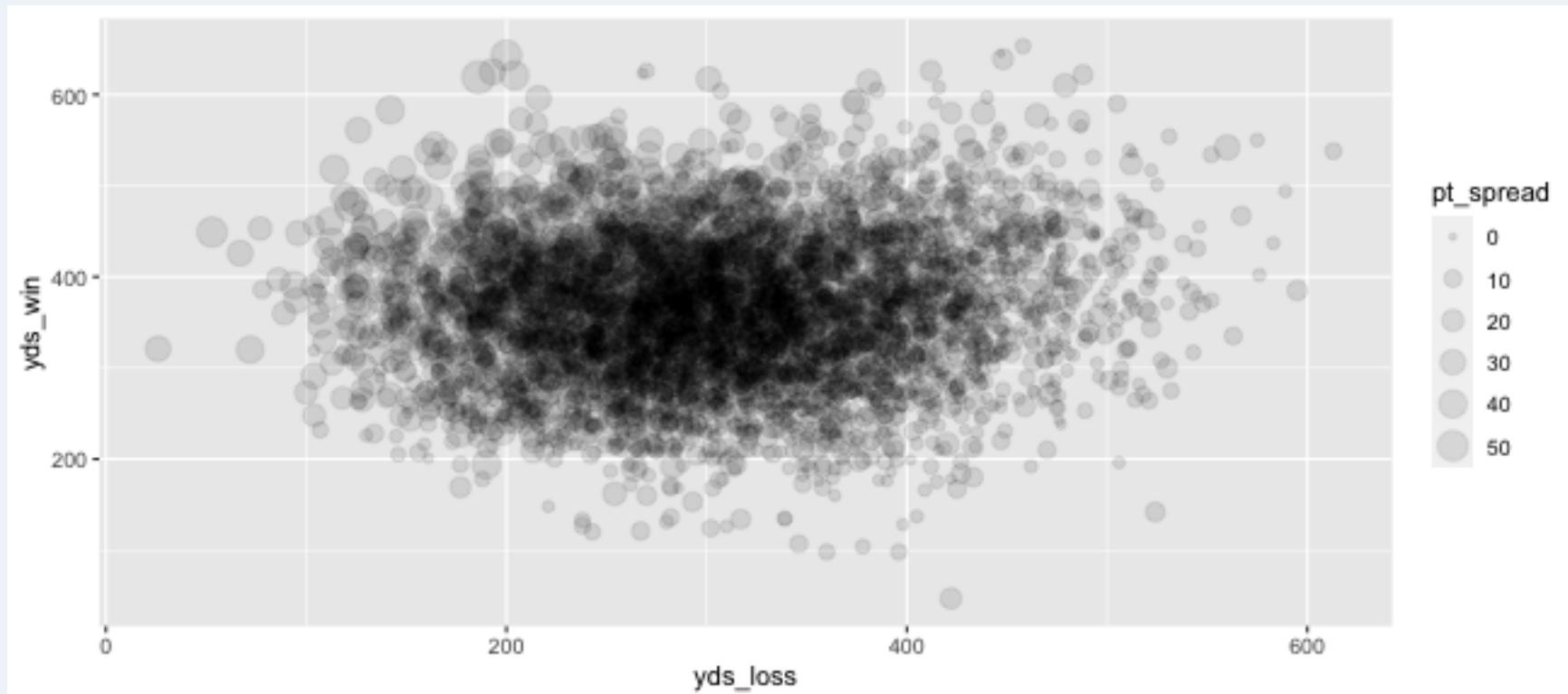
Using the `games` data from Tidy Tuesday:

```
games ← read_csv("dat/nfl_games.csv")
glimpse(games)
```

```
## #> #> Rows: 5,324
## #> #> Columns: 20
## #> #> $ year          <dbl> 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 200...
## #> #> $ week          <chr> "1", "1", "1", "1", "1", "1", "1", "1", "1", "1", ...
## #> #> $ home_team      <chr> "Minnesota Vikings", "Kansas City Team", "Washington Team", "At...
## #> #> $ away_team      <chr> "Chicago Bears", "Indianapolis Colts", "Carolina Panthers", "Sa...
## #> #> $ winner         <chr> "Minnesota Vikings", "Indianapolis Colts", "Washington Redskins...
## #> #> $ tie             <chr> NA, ...
## #> #> $ day             <chr> "Sun", "Sun", "Sun", "Sun", "Sun", "Sun", "Sun", ...
## #> #> $ date            <chr> "September 3", "September 3", "September 3", "September 3", "Se...
## #> #> $ time            <time> 13:00:00, 13:00:00, 13:01:00, 13:02:00, 13:02:00, 13...
## #> #> $ pts_win          <dbl> 30, 27, 20, 36, 16, 27, 21, 14, 21, 41, 9, 23, 20, 16, 41, 13, ...
## #> #> $ pts_loss          <dbl> 27, 14, 17, 28, 0, 7, 16, 10, 16, 14, 6, 0, 16, 13, 36, 7, 7, 3...
## #> #> $ yds_win           <dbl> 374, 386, 396, 359, 336, 398, 296, 187, 395, 425, 233, 308, 379...
## #> #> $ turnovers_win     <dbl> 1, 2, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 2, 2, 3, 0, 1, 1, 0, 3, 4, 1, 0, 0, 1, 2, ...
## #> #> $ yds_loss           <dbl> 425, 280, 236, 339, 223, 249, 278, 252, 355, 167, 255, 143, 211...
## #> #> $ turnovers_loss    <dbl> 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 3, 4, 2, 4, 6, 2, 1, 0, 1, 3, 3, 4, 3, 4, ...
## #> #> $ home_team_name   <chr> "Vikings", "The KC Team", "The DC Team", "Falcons", "Steelers", ...
```

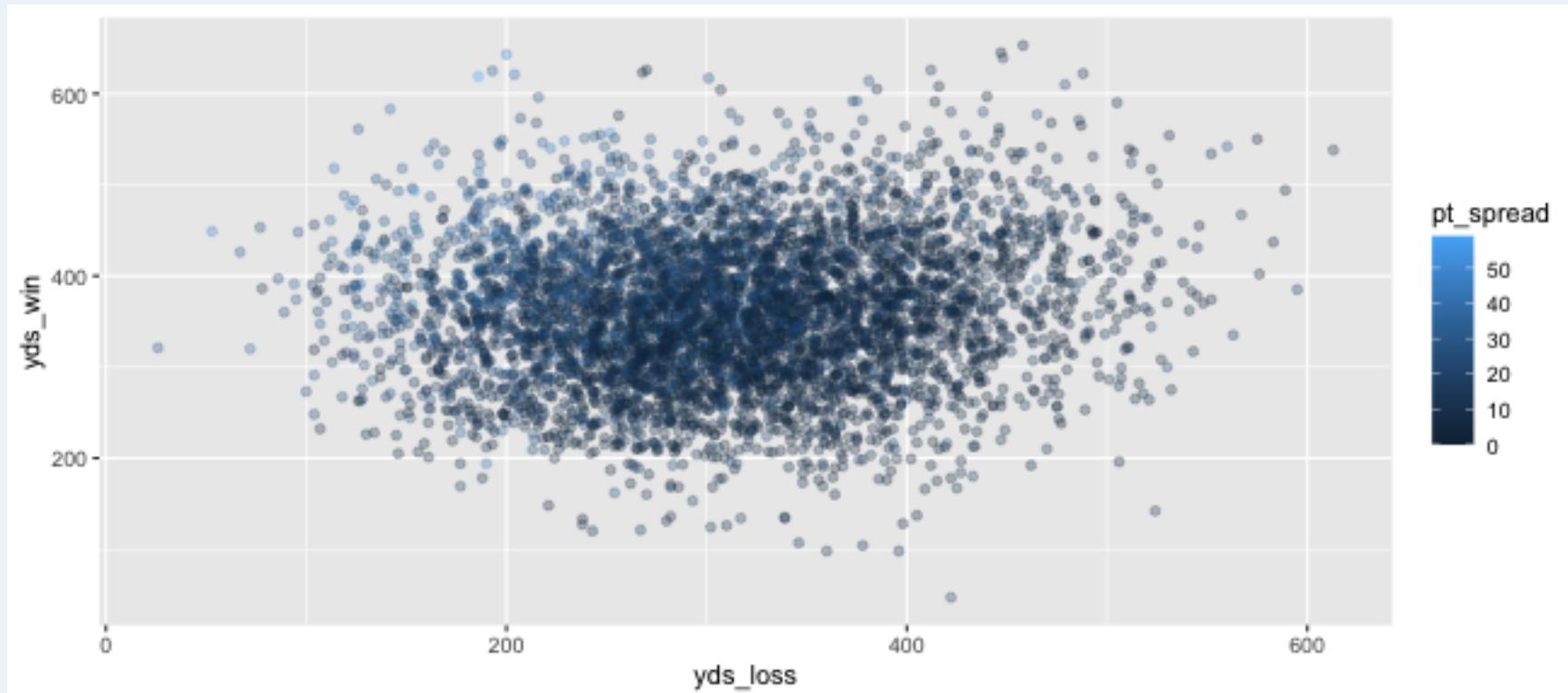
# Size

```
ggplot(data = games, aes(x = yds_loss, y = yds_win, size = pt_spread)) +  
  geom_point(alpha = .1)
```



# Color

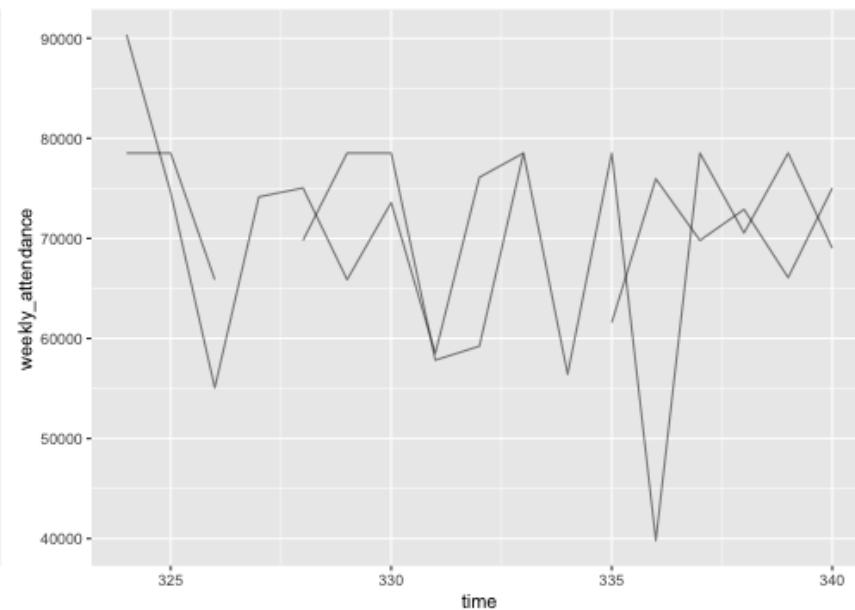
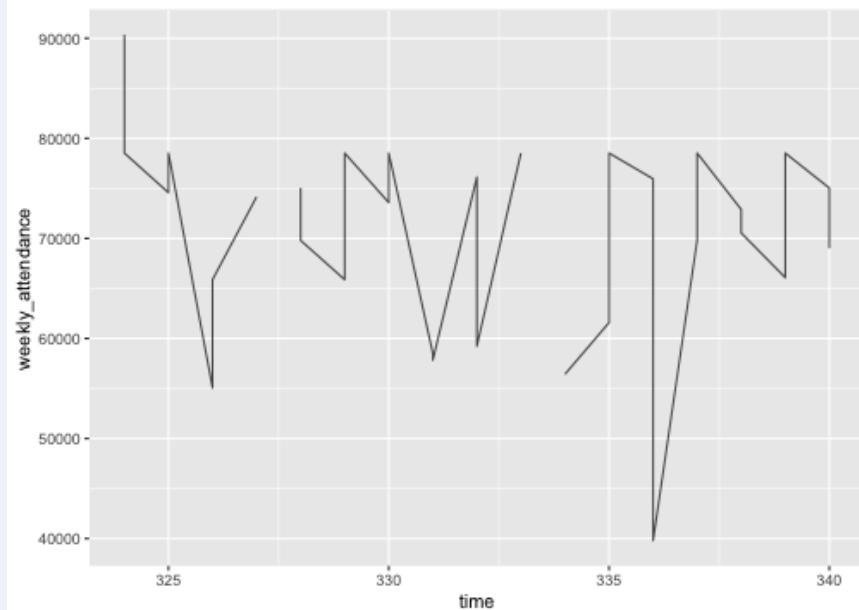
```
ggplot(data = games, aes(x = yds_loss, y = yds_win, color = pt_spread)) +  
  geom_point(alpha = .3)
```



# Grouping

The group aesthetic partitions the data for plotting into groups

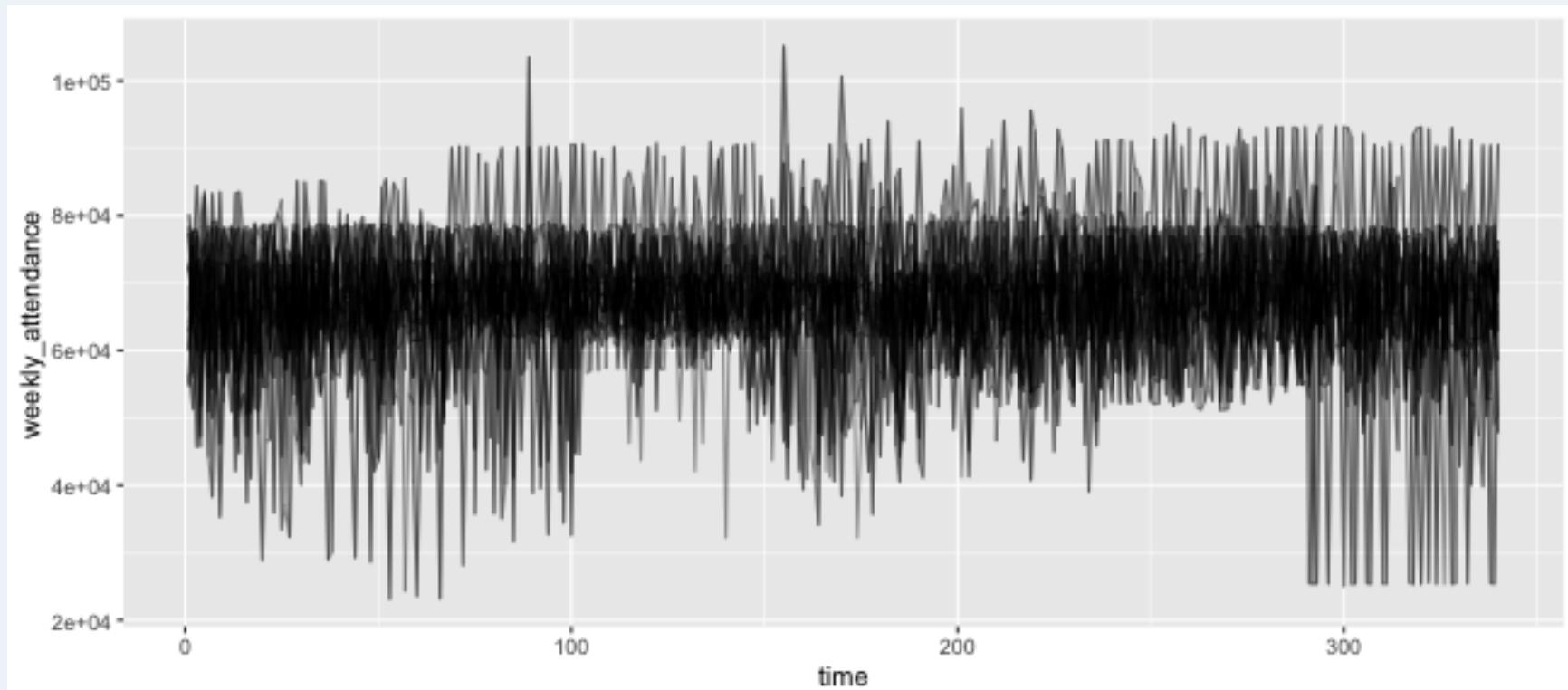
```
ny19 <- ny %>% filter(year == 2019)
ggplot(data = ny19, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance)) + geom_line(alpha = .7)
ggplot(data = ny19, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance, group = team_name)) + geom_line(alpha = .5)
```



# Many groups

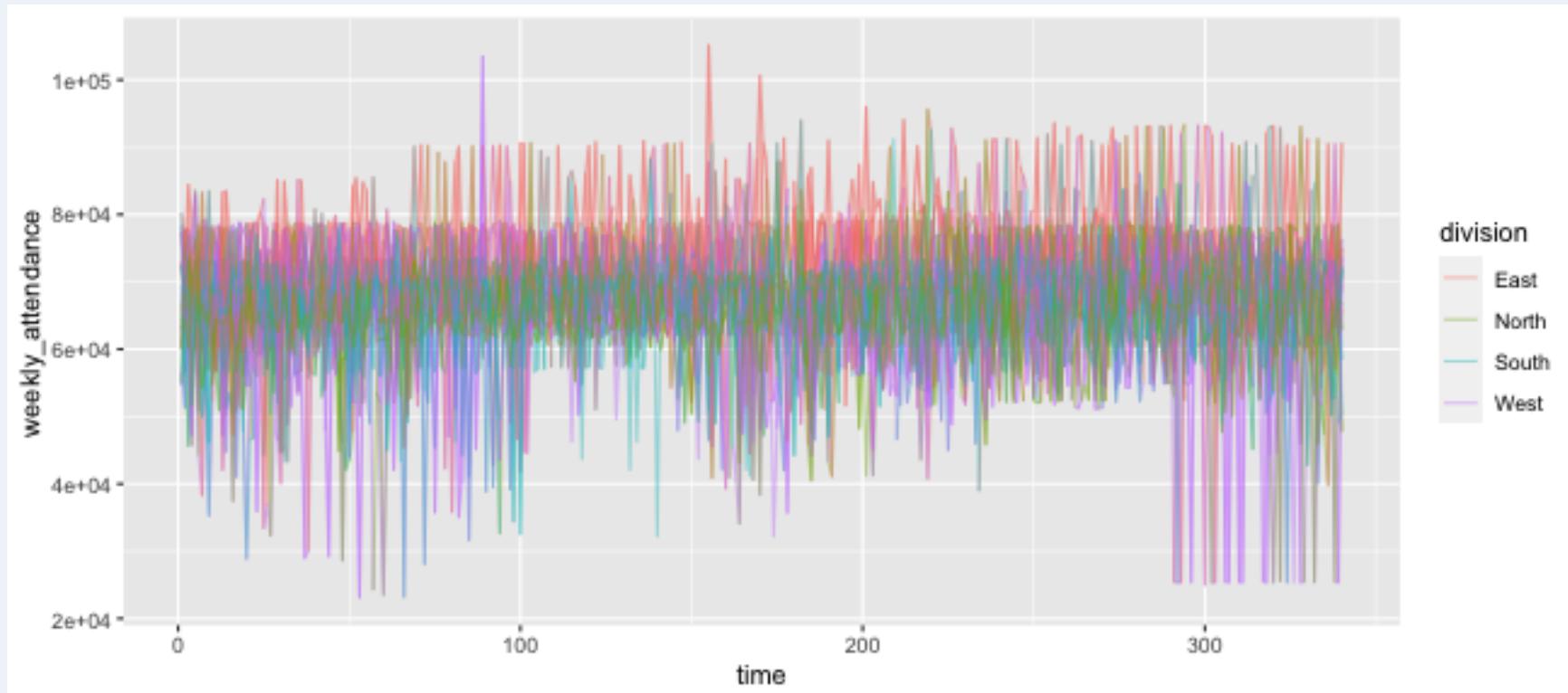
Look at all attendance for all teams

```
ggplot(data = attendance, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance, group = team_name)) +  
  geom_line(alpha = .4)
```



# Add another variable

```
ggplot(data = attendance, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance, group = team_name, color = division))+  
  geom_line(alpha = .4)
```



# Facets

Faceting generates small multiples, each displaying a different subset of the data. Facets are an alternative to aesthetics for displaying additional discrete variables.

- plot subgroups separately
- can be arranged by rows, columns, or both
- can be "wrapped" for many subgroups
- great for exploratory analyses

# Faceting functions

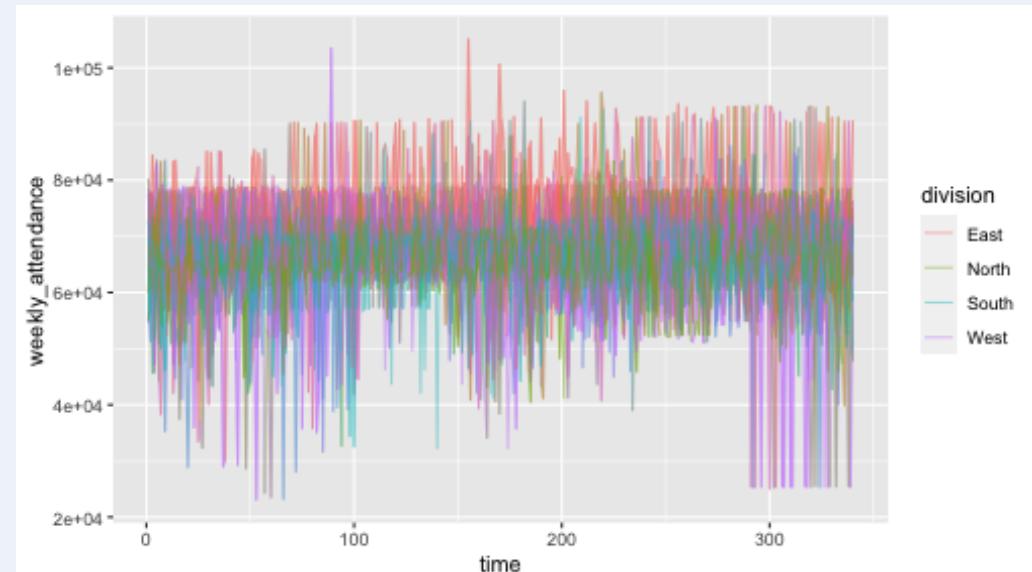
## facet\_grid()

- create a grid of graphs, by rows and columns
- use `vars()` to call on the variables
- adjust scales with `scales = "free"`

## facet\_wrap()

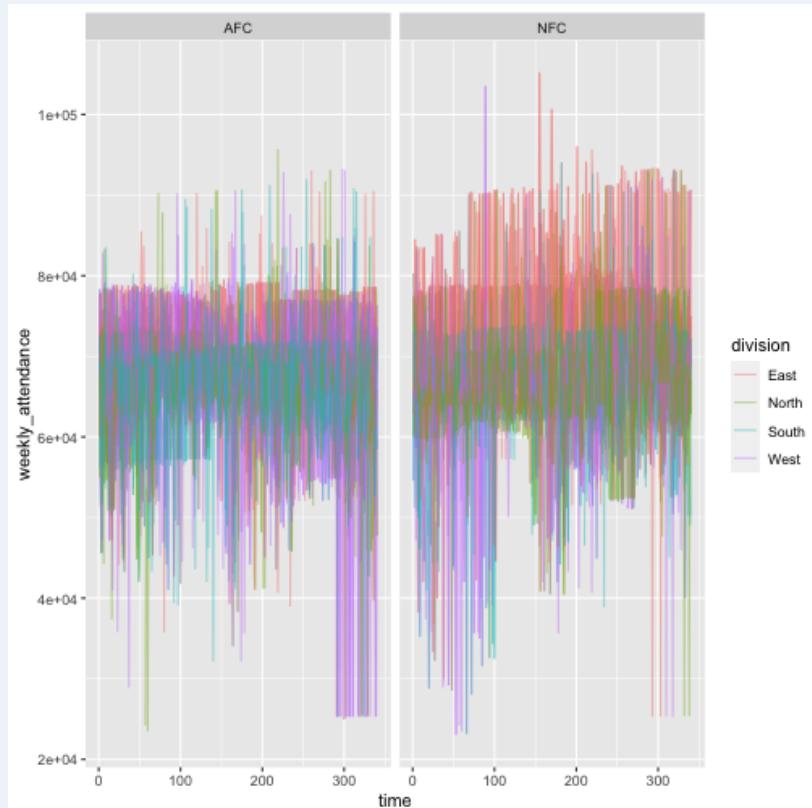
- create small multiples by "wrapping" a series of plots
- use `vars()` to call on the variables
- `nrow` and `ncol` arguments for dictating shape of grid

```
p ← ggplot(data = attendance, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance))  
  geom_line(alpha = .4)  
p
```

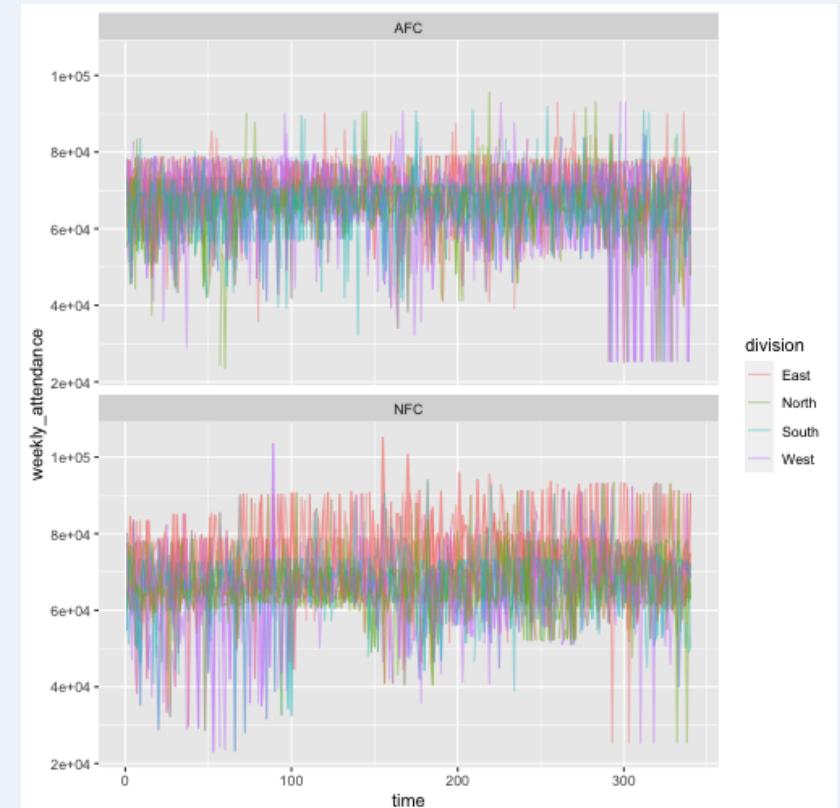


# Faceting example

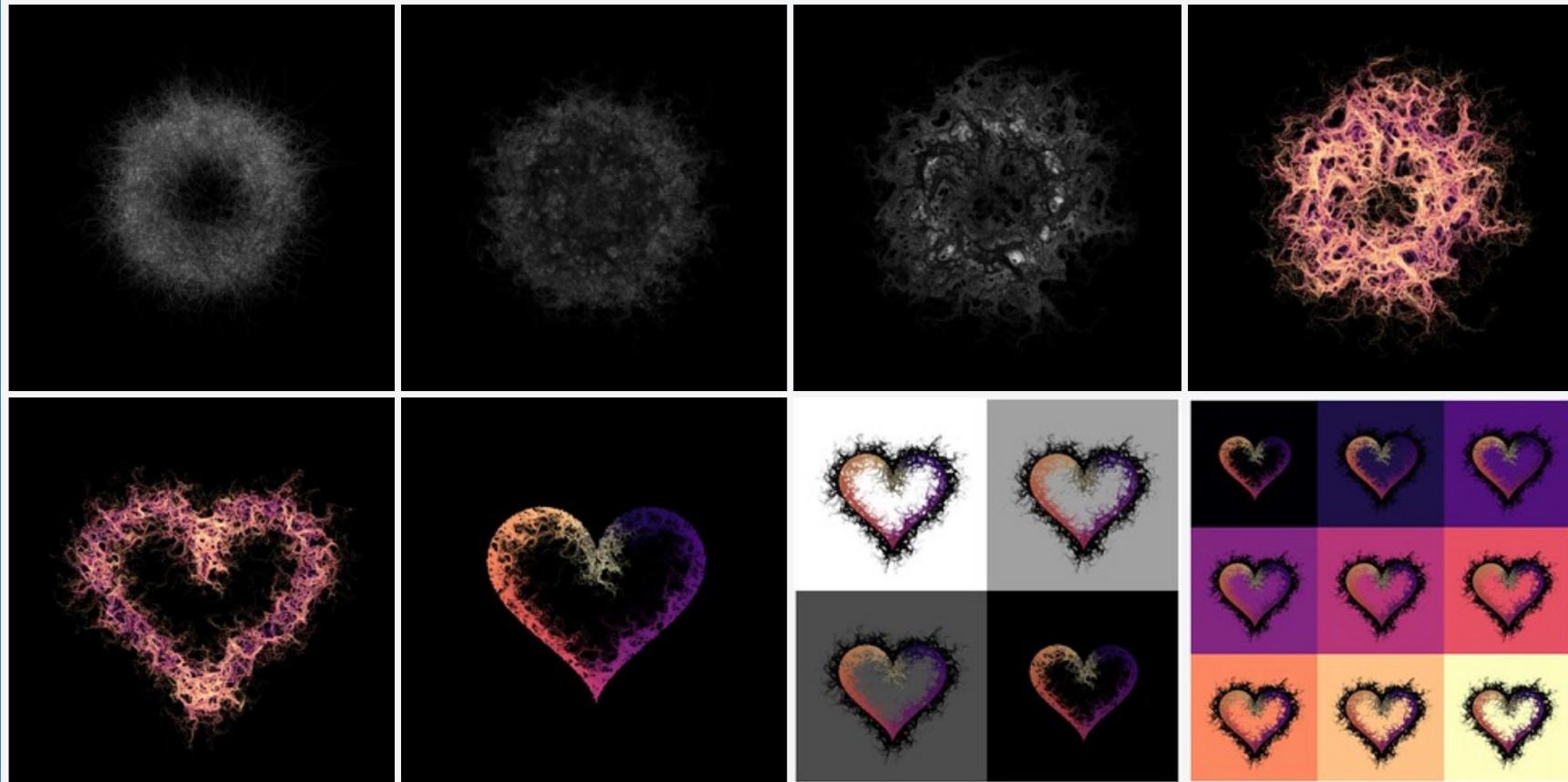
```
p + facet_grid(cols = vars(conference))
```



```
p + facet_wrap(vars(conference), nrow = 2)
```



# Part 2: Advanced customization



Source @djnavarro

# Combining layers

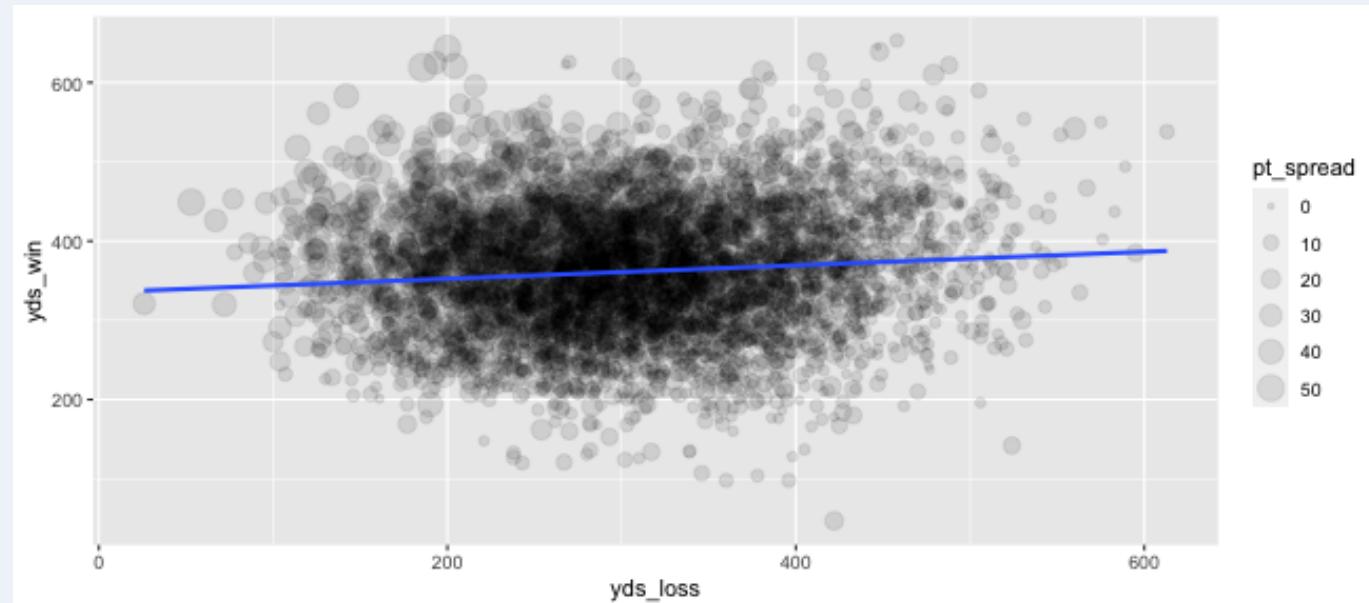


Image from [skillgaze.com](http://skillgaze.com)

# Using the same data

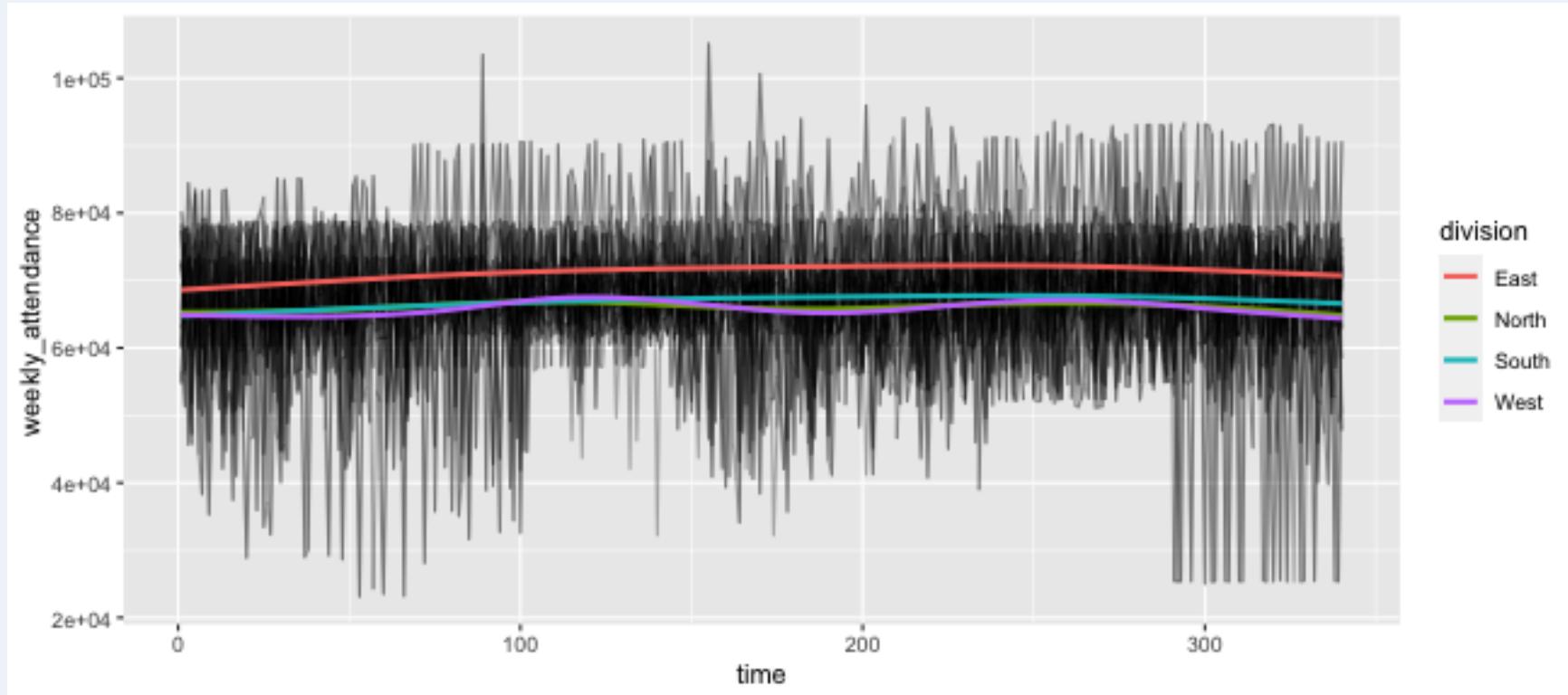
Add another layer by adding a different geom

```
ggplot(data = games, aes(x = yds_loss, y = yds_win)) +  
  geom_point(aes(size = pt_spread), alpha = .1) +  
  geom_smooth(se = FALSE, method = "lm")
```



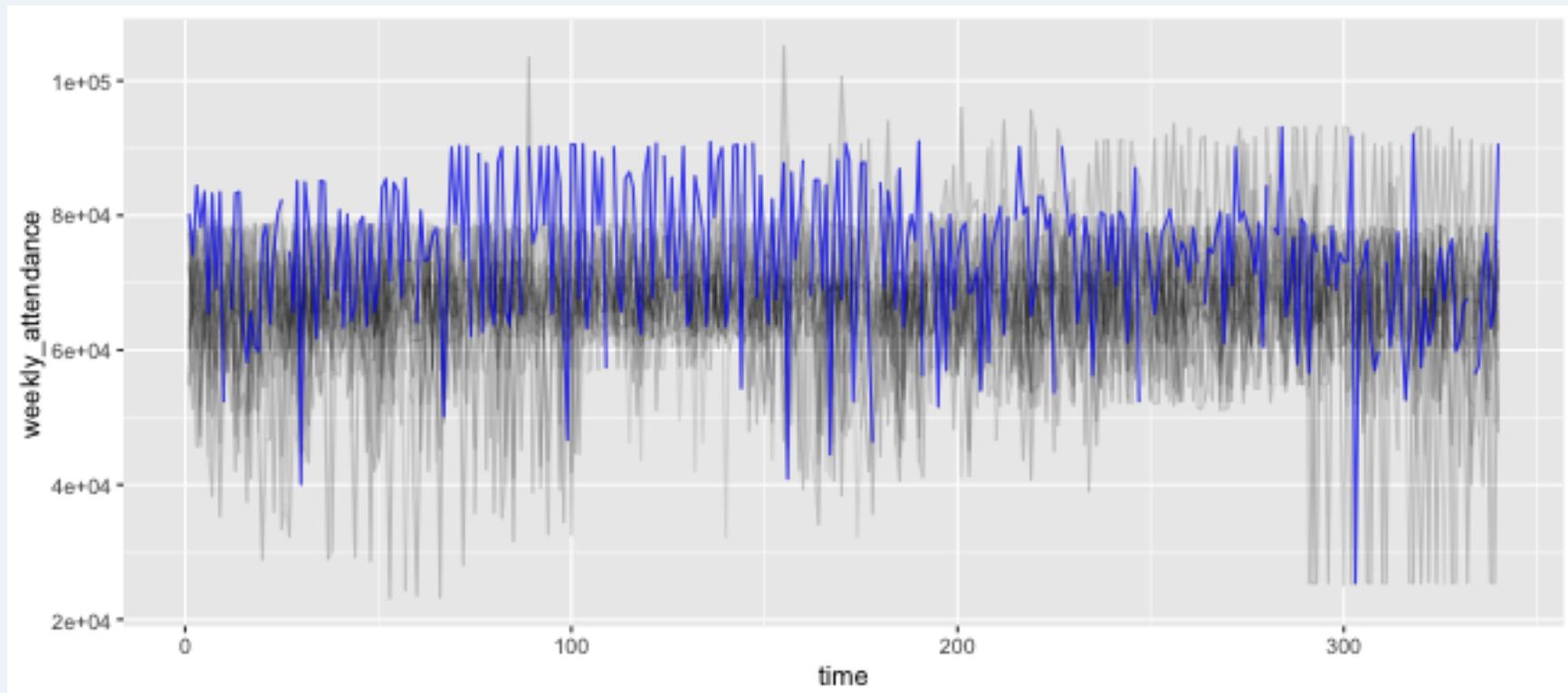
# Your Turn

03 : 00



# Using different data

```
ggplot() +  
  geom_line(data = attendance, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance, group = team_name), alpha = .1) +  
  geom_line(data = dc, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance), alpha = .7, color = "blue")
```



# Graph appearance



Image by @w\_r\_chase

# Scales

| "Scales control the details of how data values are translated to visual properties."

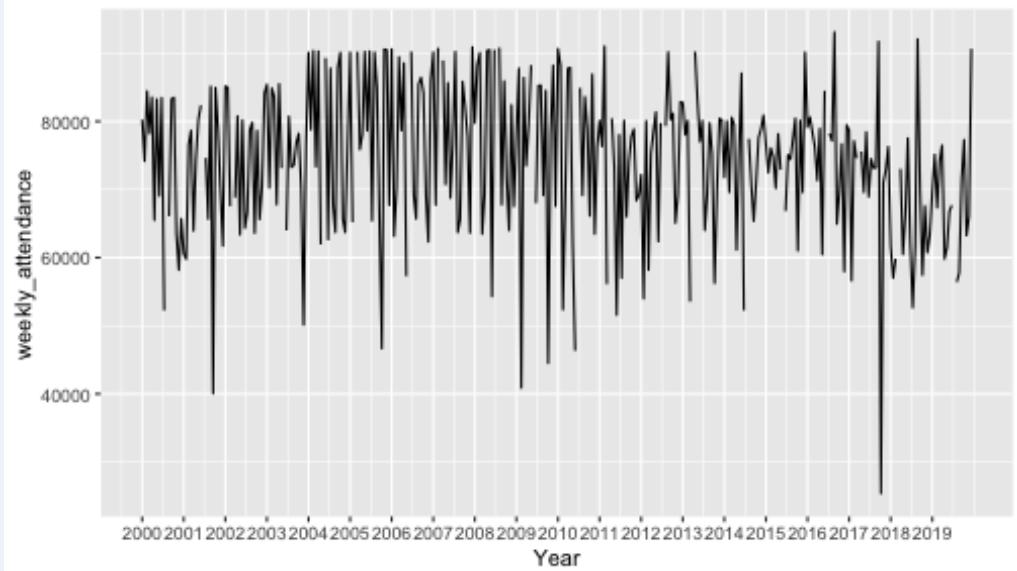
- Every aes value has a corresponding family of scales functions
- Of the form `scale_{aes}_*()`, e.g. `scale_x_continuous()`
- Values of the \* depend on the aes
- Possible scale function arguments:
  - name: label of the axis/legend
  - breaks: numeric positions of breaks on axes/legends
  - labels: labels of the breaks on axes/legends
  - limits: continuous axis limits
  - expand: padding around data
  - na.value: what to do with missings
  - trans: continuous transformations of data
  - guide: function to create guide/legend
  - date\_breaks: breaks for date variables

# Scales for axes

`scale_x_*, scale_y_*`

- continuous
- discrete
- binned
- log10
- sqrt
- date
- datetime
- reverse

```
ggplot(dc, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 340, by = 17),  
                     labels = 2000:2019, name = "Year")
```

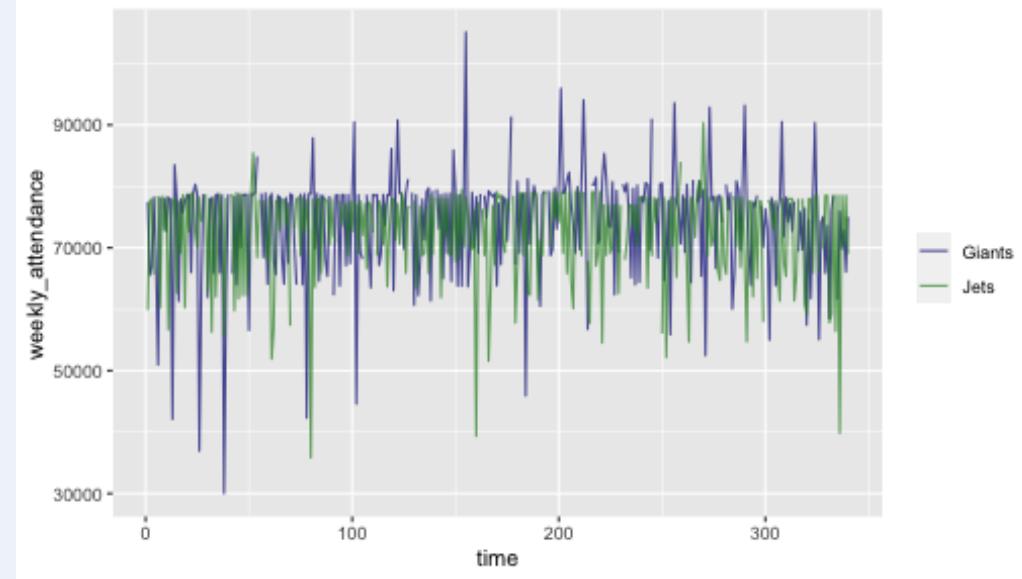


# Scales for color

`scale_color_*, scale_fill_*`

- manual
- continuous
- brewer/distiller/fermenter
- gradient/gradient2/gradientn
- steps
- viridis

```
ggplot(ny, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance,  
color = team_name)) + geom_line(alpha = .7) +  
  scale_color_manual(name = NULL,  
  values = c("navy", "forestgreen"))
```

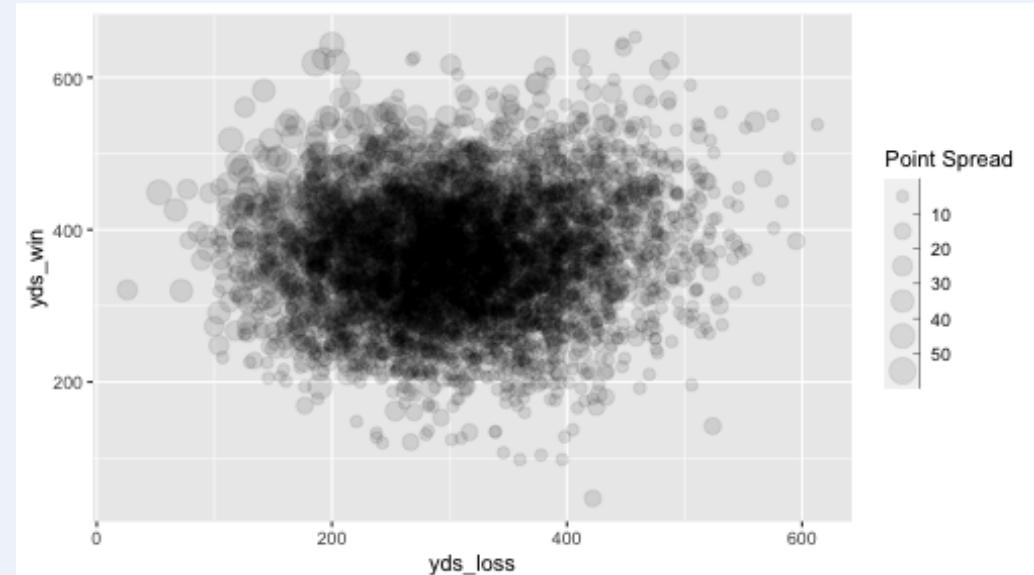


# Scales for size

scale\_\*

- size
- radius
- size\_binned
- size\_area
- size\_binned\_area

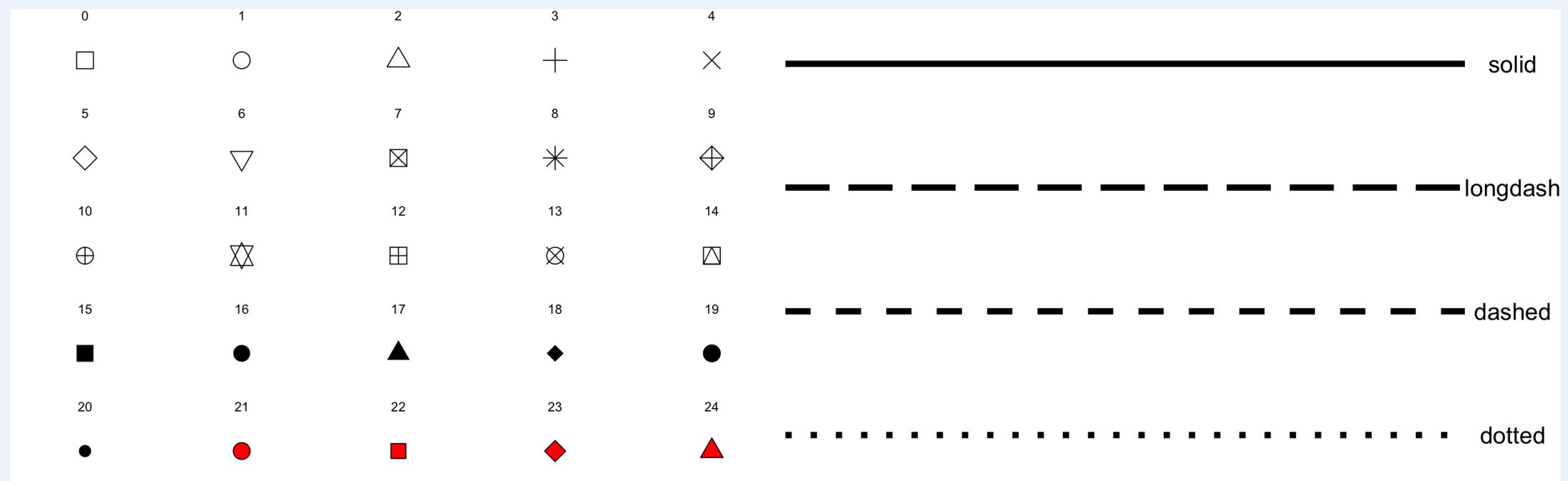
```
ggplot(data=games, aes(x = yds_loss,  
y = yds_win, size = pt_spread)) +  
  geom_point(alpha = .1) +  
  scale_size_binned("Point Spread",  
    n.breaks = 5)
```



# Other scale functions

- `scale_alpha_*`( ): for mapping a variable to transparency
- `scale_linetype_*`( ): for mapping a variable to linetype (`geom_line`)
- `scale_shape_*`( ): for mapping a variable to shape (`geom_point`)

**⚠ Note that linetype and shape have relatively few possible values by default, and are best for variables with only a few levels.**



# Labels

Labels are also scale elements

- `ggtitle(main, subtitle)`: plot title & subtitle
- `xlab()`, `ylab()`: axes titles
- `labs()`: all of the above plus captions, tags, and other aes values
  - e.g. `color = "My variable"` names the legend "My variable"
  - `title`: plot title
  - `subtitle`: plot subtitle
  - `caption`: text for bottom right corner of plot area e.g. to ID data source
  - `tag`: text for top left corner of plot area, e.g. A, B, C when combining many plots together

# Coordinates

The `coord_*`() family of functions dictate position aesthetics (e.g. `x`, `y`):

- Controls the "canvas" the data are "drawn" on
- Especially useful for maps

Function examples:

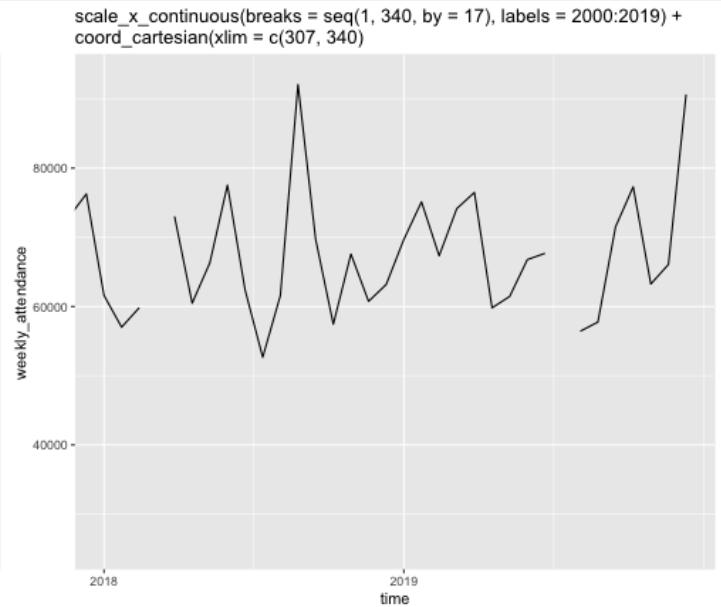
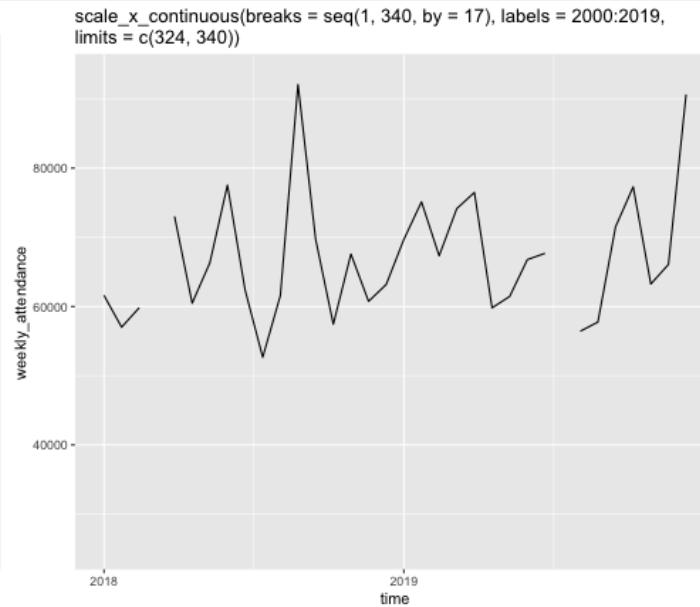
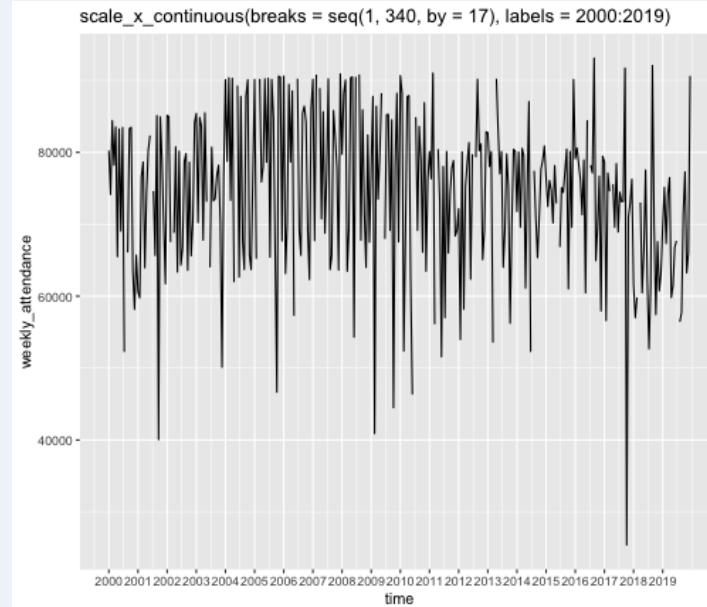
- `coord_cartesian()`: the default. `x`, `y` axes
- `coord_polar()`: `x` becomes radius, `y` becomes angle

 You can apply limits and transformations to axes in scales or coordinates (e.g. `xlim()`, `ylim()`) but using coordinates is probably what you want.

# Example

All three visualizations below begin with the same plot code:

```
ggplot(dc, aes(x = time, y = weekly_attendance)) + geom_line() +
```



# Themes

Specific themes:

- `theme_grey()`: default
- `theme_bw()`: white background, gray gridlines
- `theme_classic()`: looks more like base R plots
- `theme_void()`: removes all background elements, all axes elements, keeps legends

General `theme` function for advanced customization:

- `theme()`
  - adjust the appearance every "non-data element" of the viz
  - fonts, background, text positioning, legend appearance, facet appearance, etc.
-  Rule of thumb: when changing an element that shows data, use `aes()` and `scales`. Otherwise, use `themes`.

# Theme elements

Every theme element is either a line, a rect, or text. See documentation for more.

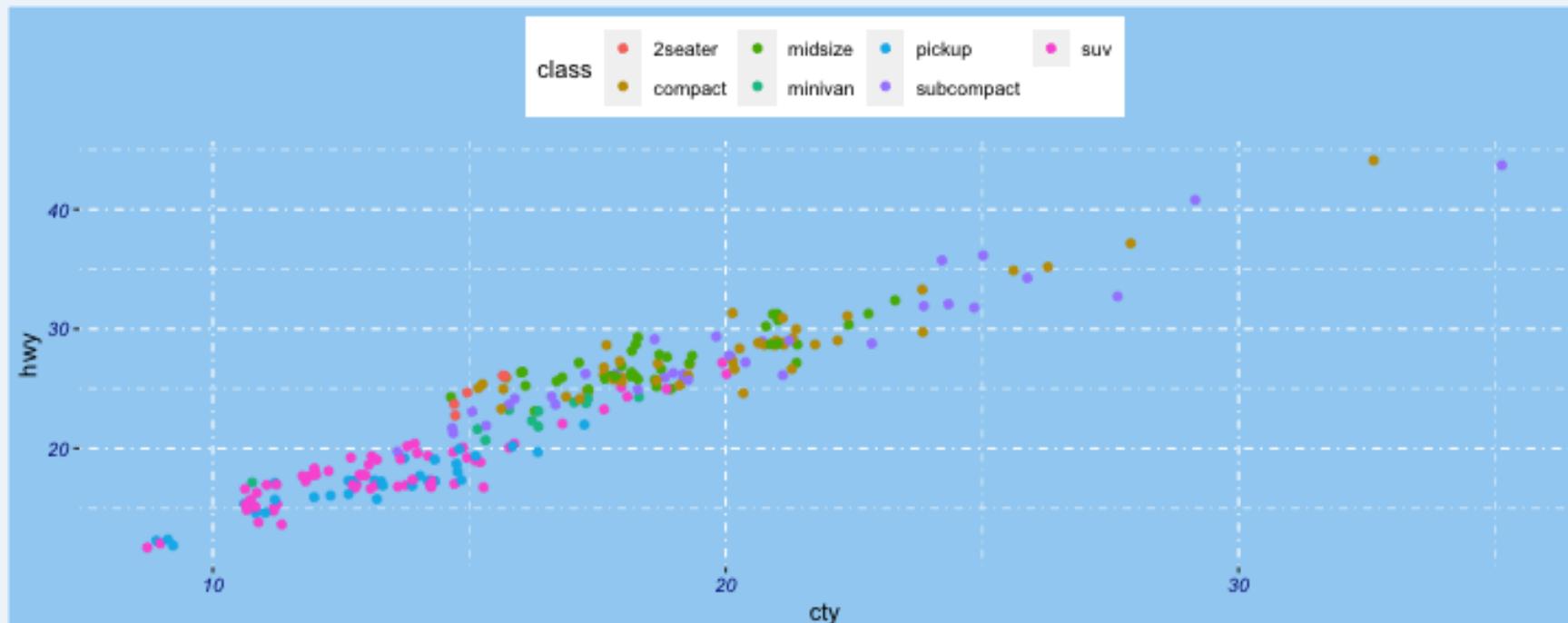
To modify a theme element, use:

- `element_line()`: change lines' appearance (color, linetype, size, etc.)
- `element_rect()`: change rectangles' appearance (fill, border lines, etc.)
- `element_text()`: change text elements' appearance (family, face, color, etc.)
- `element_blank()`: draw nothing. Use to remove a theme element.

 Note: there are 92 possible arguments used to modify a ggplot theme. Usually, we will only need to call on a handful.

# Example

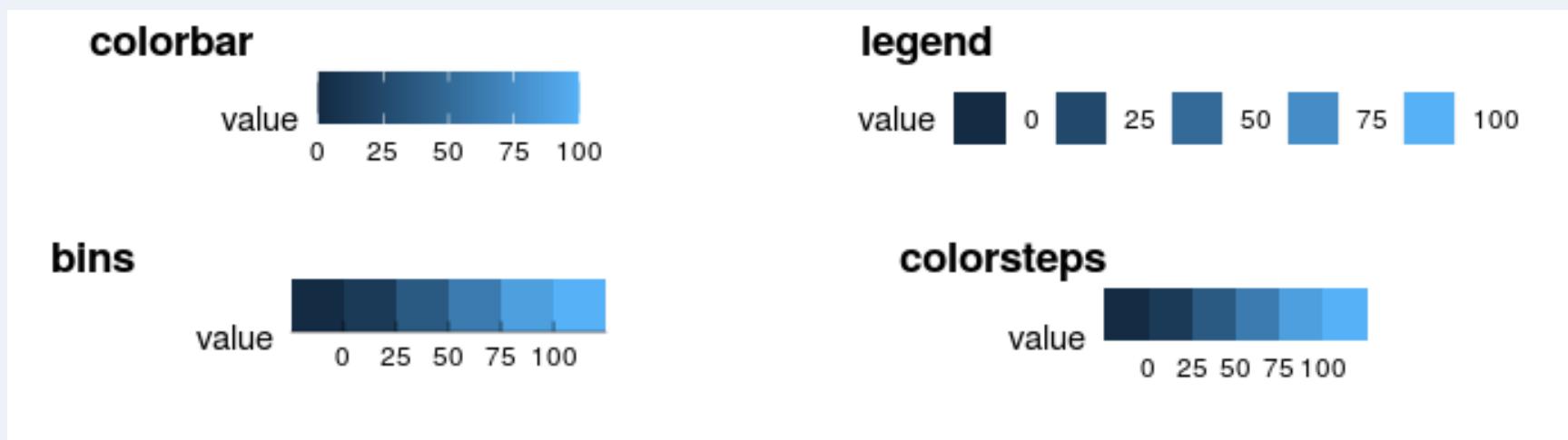
```
mytheme <- theme(legend.position = "top",
  axis.text = element_text(face = "italic", color = "navy"),
  plot.background = element_rect(fill = "#a0d1f2"),
  panel.background = element_rect(),
  panel.grid = element_line(linetype = "dotdash"))
ggplot(data = mpg) + geom_jitter(aes(x = cty, y = hwy, color = class)) + mytheme
```



# Legends

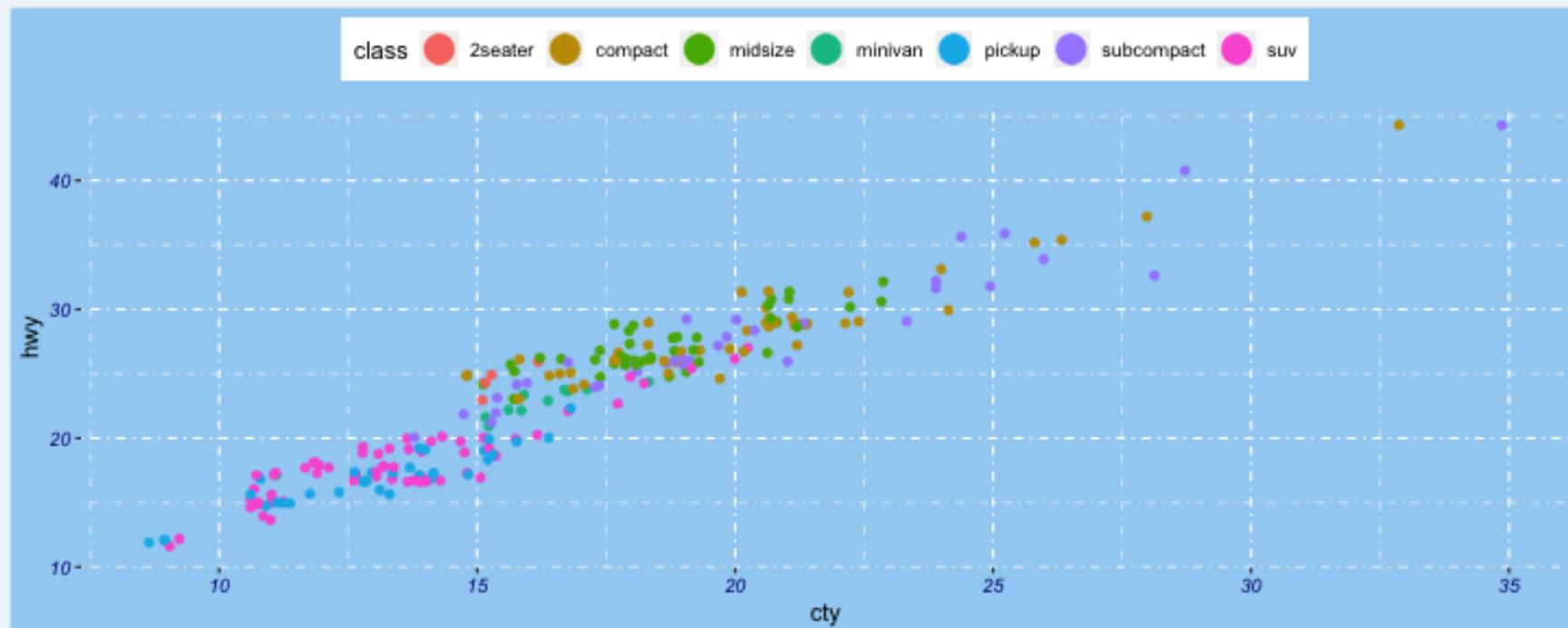
The `guides()` family of functions control legends' appearance

- `guide_colorbar()`: continuous colors
- `guide_legend()`: discrete values (shapes, colors)
- `guide_axis()`: control axis text/spacing, add a secondary axis
- `guide_bins()`: creates "bins" of values in the legend
- `guide_colorsteps()`: makes colorbar discrete



# Example

```
ggplot(data = mpg) +  
  geom_jitter(aes(x = cty, y = hwy, color = class),key_glyph = draw_key_pointrange) +  
  mytheme +  
  guides(color = guide_legend(nrow = 1))
```



# Fonts

To change fonts in a `ggplot2` viz:

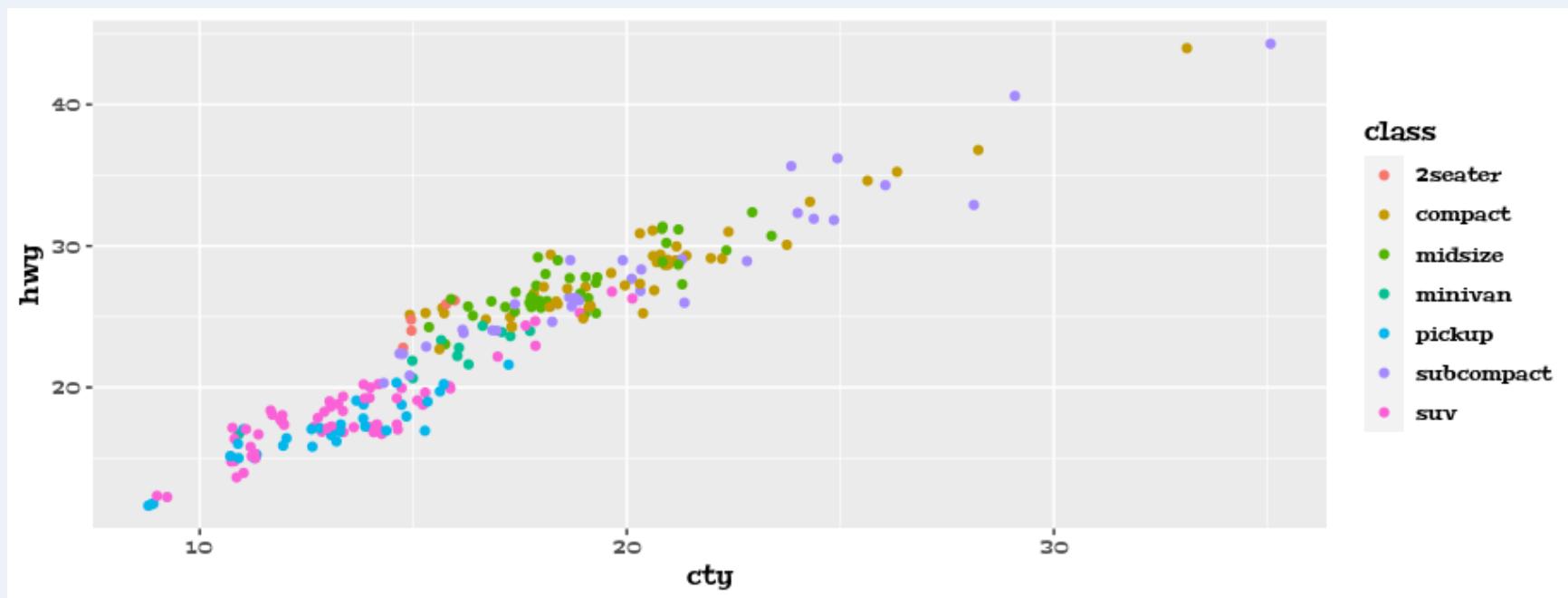
- Use the `element_text()` function inside of `theme()`
  - `family`: font family
  - `face` : bold, italic, bold.italic, plain
  - `color`, `size`, `angle`, etc.
- Include additional fonts with the `extrafont` package:

```
library(extrafont)
font_import() # will take 2-3 minutes. Only need to run once
loadfonts()
fonts()
fonttable()
```

 Restart R after importing the fonts for the first time, and load `extrafont` and `loadfonts` BEFORE loading `ggplot2`.

# Example

```
ggplot(data = mpg) +  
  geom_jitter(aes(x = cty, y = hwy, color = class)) +  
  theme(text = element_text(family = "Peralta"))
```

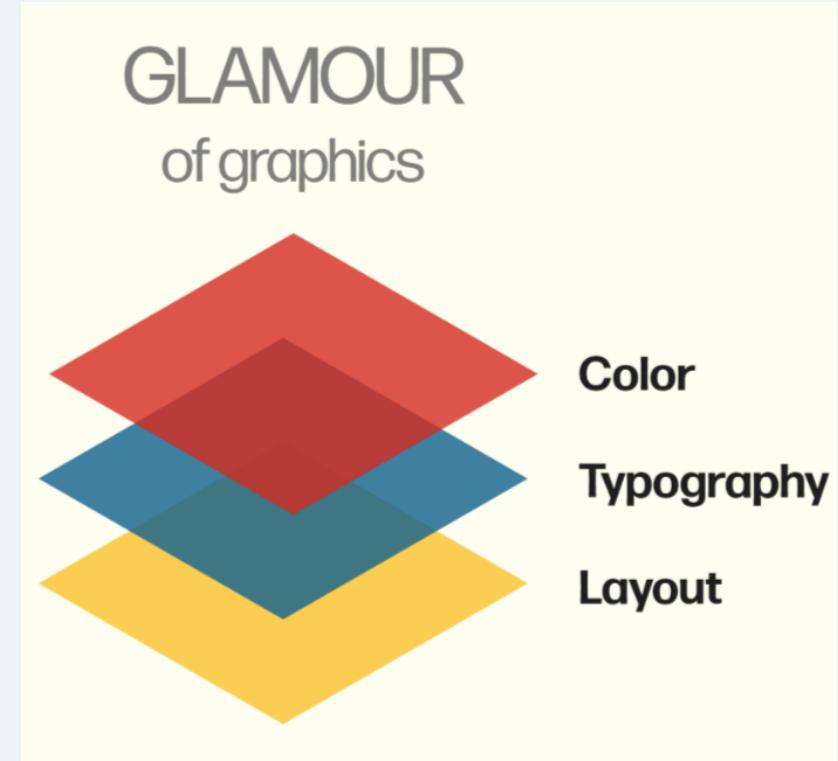


# Design principles

Advice on data visualization design from Will Chase.

- Left-align text
- Don't make people tilt their heads!
- Remove borders & gridlines
- Directly label in place of legends
- White space is your friend
- Use simple, clear fonts
- Color is hard. (Stick to the available palettes)

Watch Will's talk here.



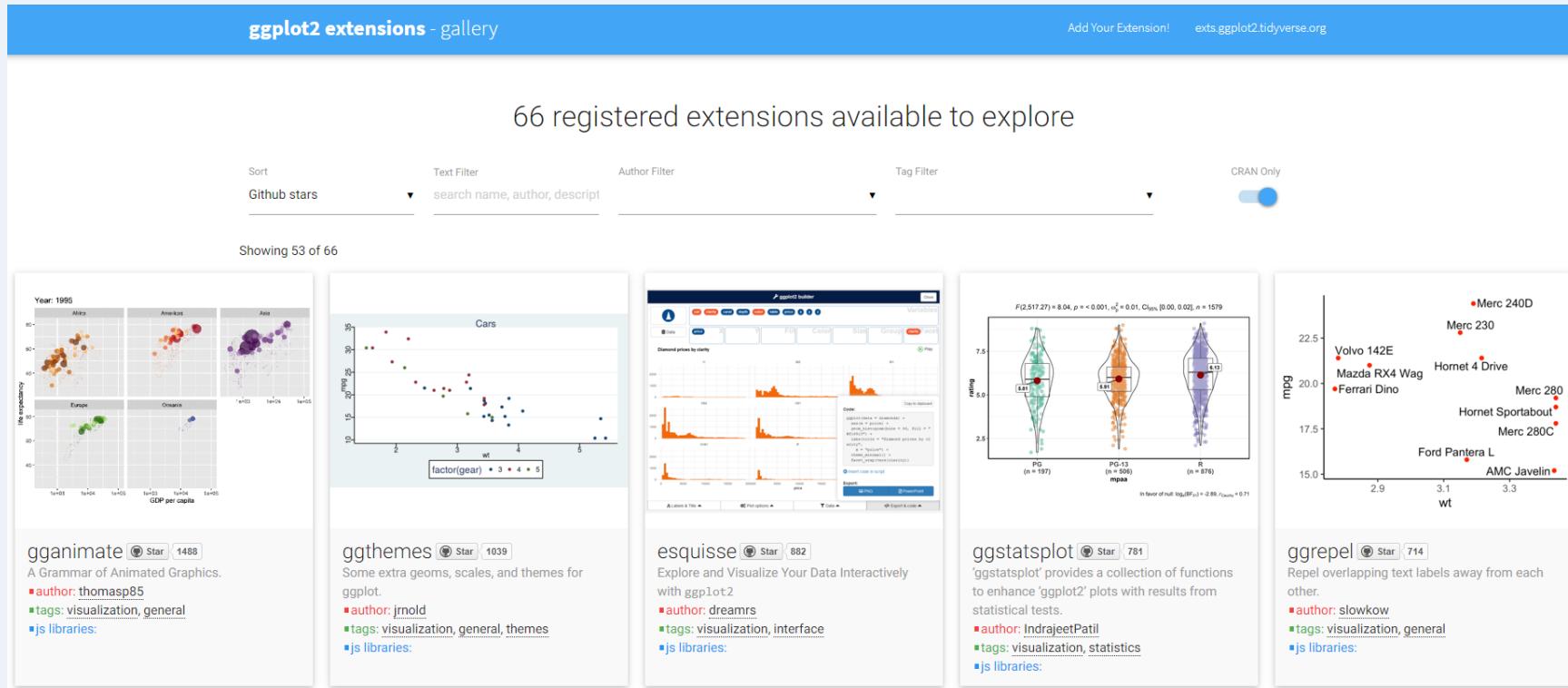
# ggplot2 extensions



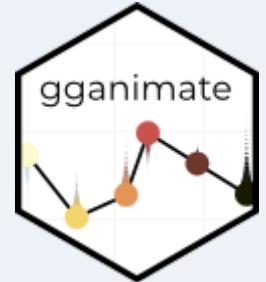
Image by @allison\_horst

# Where to find them

Maintainers of packages can put their `ggplot2` extension on [exts.ggplot2.tidyverse.org/gallery](https://exts.ggplot2.tidyverse.org/gallery)



# Animation



gganimate: a grammar of animated graphics

From the documentation, here are the `gganimate` function families:

- `transition_*`( ): defines how the data should be spread out and how it relates to itself across time.
- `view_*`( ): defines how the positional scales should change along the animation.
- `shadow_*`( ): defines how data from other points in time should be presented in the given point in time.
- `enter_*`( )/`exit_*`( ): defines how new data should appear and how old data should disappear during the course of the animation.
- `ease_aes( )`: defines how different aesthetics should be eased during transitions.

**📢** For optimum performance, use the `animate()` and `anim_save()` functions to create and save animations.

# Example (data)

Full simulated data:

```
## Rows: 100
## Columns: 9
## $ sim      <dbl> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20...
## $ switch   <dbl> 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, ...
## $ win       <dbl> 1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, ...
## $ Switch    <chr> "Yes", "No", "No", "No", "No", "No", "No", "Yes", "Yes", "No", "No", ...
## $ Win       <chr> "Win", "Lose", "Lose", "Win", "Win", "Lose", "Lose", "Win", "Lose", "...
## $ count     <dbl> 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 1, 5, 3, 6, 3, 7, 2, 3, 4, 4, 8, 9, 10, 5, 4, ...
## $ n_switch  <dbl> 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 4, 10, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 8...
## $ perc      <dbl> 0.02127660, 0.01886792, 0.03773585, 0.01886792, 0.03773585, 0.0566037...
## $ perc2     <dbl> 0.00000000, 0.00000000, 0.01886792, 0.00000000, 0.01886792, 0.0377358...
```

# Example (code)

```
library(gganimate)
ggplot(data = sims) +
  geom_col(aes(x = Win, y = perc, fill = Win, group = seq_along(sim))) +
  facet_grid(cols = vars(Switch), labeller = label_both) +
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("#F6C40C", "#4AA0BB")) +
  theme_bw() +
  theme(legend.position = "none",
        text = element_text(family = "Peralta", size = 20),
        panel.grid = element_blank(),
        strip.background = element_rect(fill = NA),
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = .5),
        plot.background = element_rect(fill = NA),
        panel.background = element_rect(fill = NA)) +
  labs(title = "Let's Make a Deal!", subtitle = "Sim: {frame_along}") +
  transition_reveal(seq_along(sim))
```

# Example (animation)

GIF viewable on HTML  
version of slides  
available on  
[rstudio.cloud](#).

# Your Turn

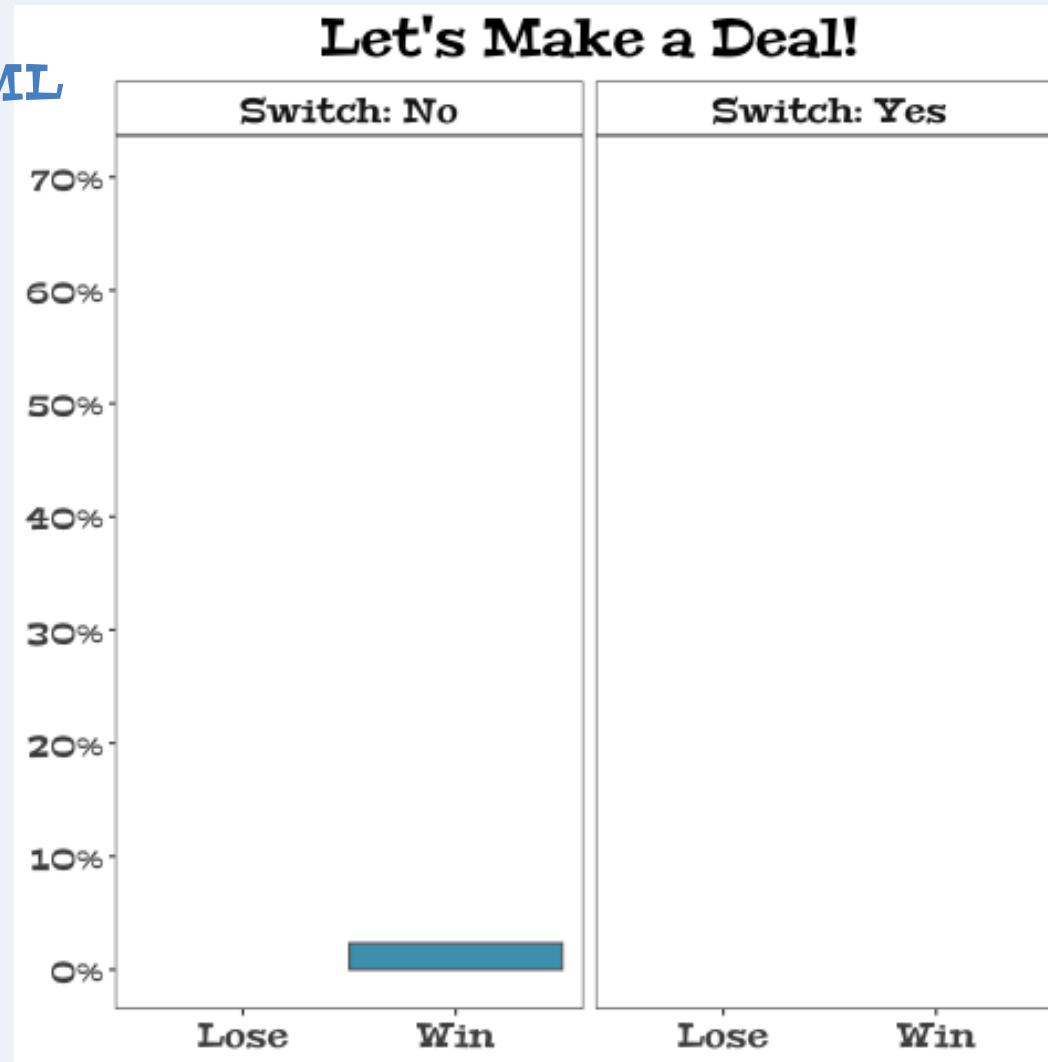
06 : 00

Complete the code to recreate the GIF from the motivating example. (GIF on next slide)

```
ggplot(data = sims) +  
  geom_???(aes(xmin = win - .5, xmax = win + .5, ymin = perc2, ymax = perc, fill = Win,  
               group = seq_along(sim)),  
         color = "grey40") +  
  facet_grid(cols = vars(Switch), labeller = label_both) +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = c(0,1), labels = ???) +  
  scale_y_continuous(breaks = ???, labels = scales::label_percent(accuracy = 1)) +  
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("#F6C40C", "#4AA0BB")) +  
  theme_bw() +  
  theme(legend.position = "none",  
        text = element_text(family = "Peralta", size = 20),  
        panel.grid = element_blank(),  
        strip.background = element_rect(fill = NA),  
        plot.title = element_text(hjust = .5),  
        plot.background = element_rect(fill = NA),  
        panel.background = element_rect(fill = NA)) +  
  labs(title = "Let's Make a Deal!") +  
  transition_???(sim, transition_length = 10, state_length = 5) +  
  shadow_????(color = NA)
```

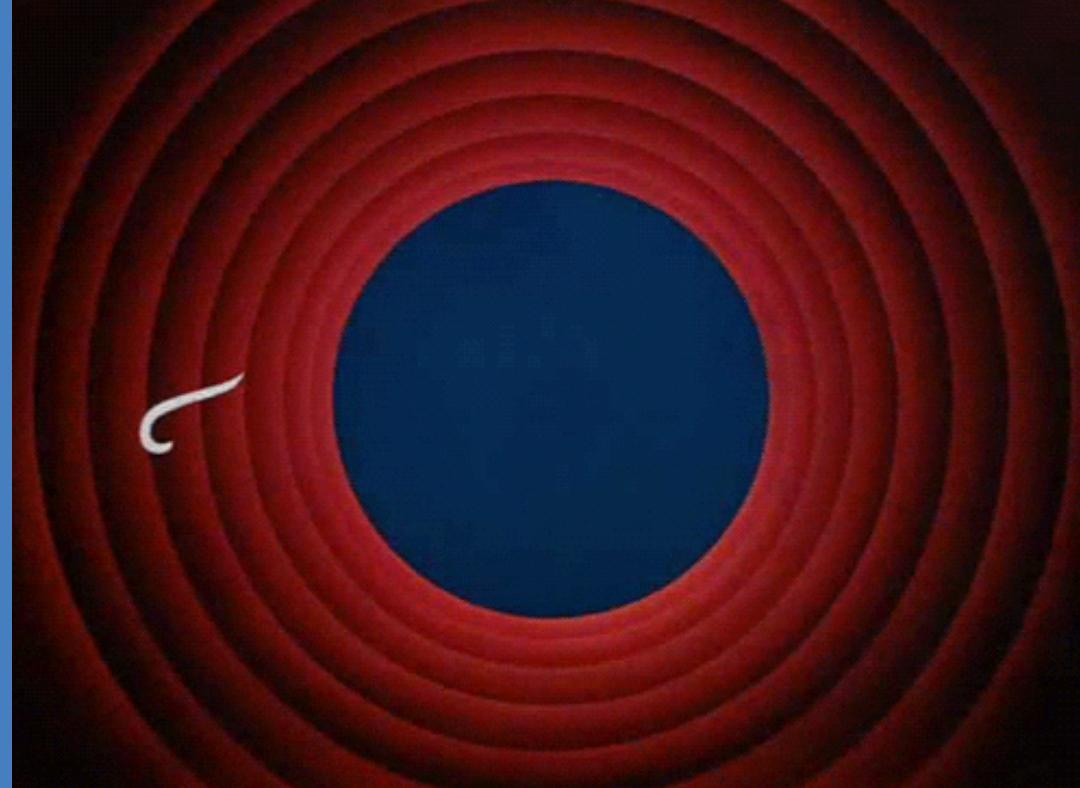
# Motivating example (again)

GIF viewable on HTML  
version of slides  
available on  
[rstudio.cloud](#).



**GIF viewable on HTML  
version of slides  
available on  
rstudio.cloud.**

# Conclusion



# Additional resources

- ggplot2 book
- plotly book
- R for Data Science book
- Tidy Tuesday
- My advice for getting help in R
- Thomas Lin Pedersen's ggplot2 webinar: part 1 and part 2
- RStudio Cheat Sheets
- Will Chase's Design Talk at rstudio::conf
- The 4-hour version of this workshop
- More in the resources/ folder

Many of these and more are  
in the `rstudio.cloud` project