

# Data visualization with ggplot2

Day 2 - Introduction to Data Analysis with R

Selina Baldauf

Freie Universität Berlin - Theoretical Ecology

October 17, 2023

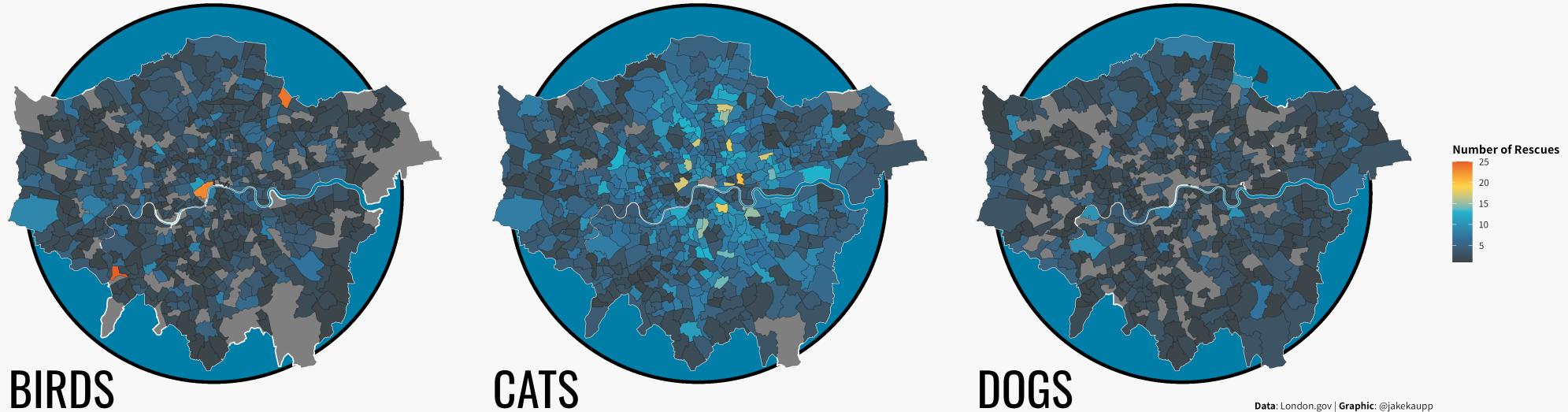
# A ggplot showcase

Example plots you can create with ggplot

# A ggplot showcase

## Frequency of Rescues of Birds, Cats and Dogs in London from 2009-2021

Illustrated below in three choropleth maps are rescues of birds, cats and dogs in London wards. Darker colors indicate lower rescue numbers while brighter colors indicate a greater number of rescues in that ward.



Data: London.gov | Graphic: @jakekaupp

Visualization by [Jake Kaupp](#), code available on [Github](#)

# A ggplot showcase

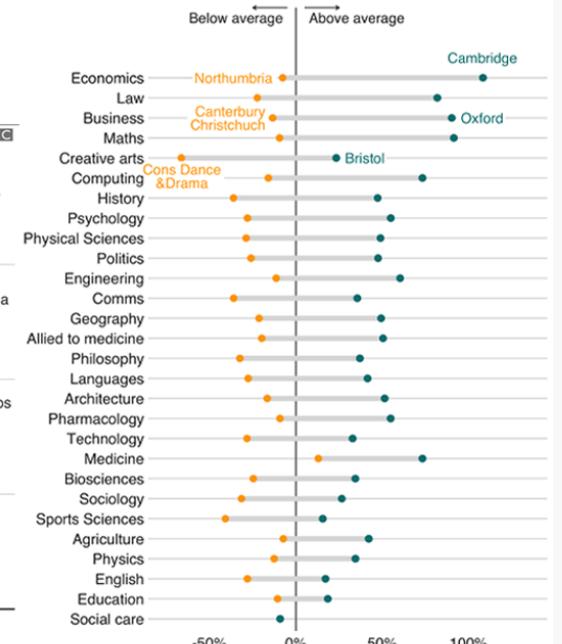
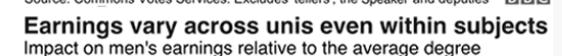
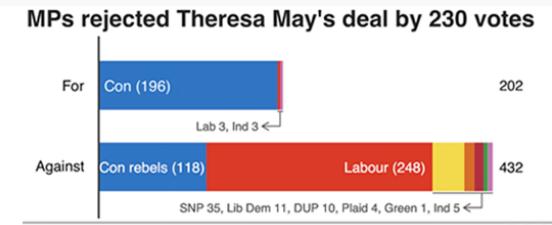
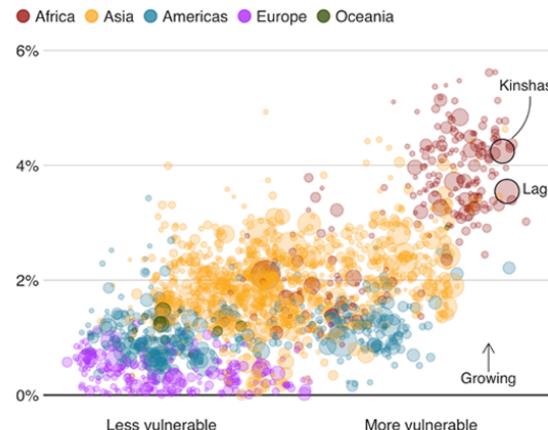


Source: AP, 19:01 ET



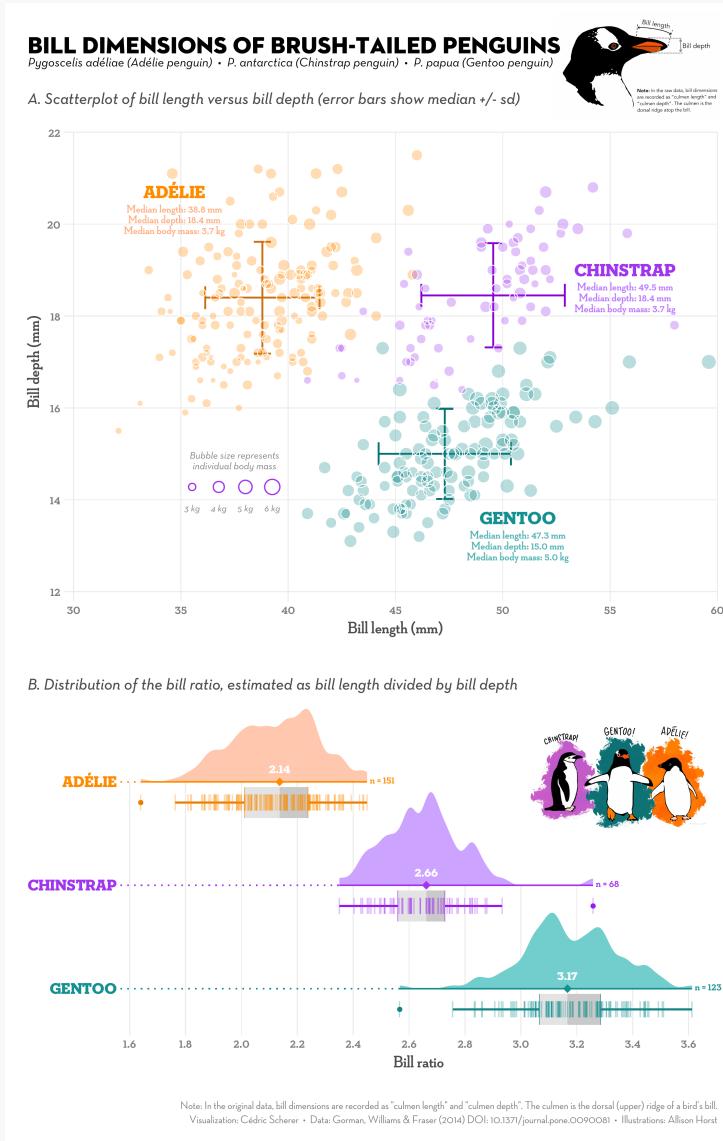
Roberto Baggio's penalty miss in the 1994 final against Brazil

In West Virginia 3, Dems failed to turn the seat despite a 20% swing their way



Visualizations produced by the BBC News data team

# A ggplot showcase



Visualization by Cédric Scherer, code available on [Github](#).  
Selma Baldau // Data visualization with ggplot2

# Advantages of ggplot

- **Consistent** grammar/structure
- **Flexible** structure allows you to produce any type of plots
- Highly customizable appearance (themes)
- Many **extension packages** that provide additional plot types, themes, colors, animation, ...
- Active community that provides help and inspiration
- Perfect package for **exploratory data analysis** and **beautiful plots**

# The data

Data set `and_vertebrates` with measurements of a trout and 2 salamander species in different forest sections.

- `year`: observation year
- `section`: CC (clear cut forest) or OG (old growth forest)
- `unittype`: channel classification (C = Cascade, P = Pool, ...)
- `species`: Species measured
- `length_1_mm`: body length [mm]
- `weight_g`: body weight [g]



References: Kaylor, M.J. and D.R. Warren. (2017) and  
Gregory, S.V. and I. Arismendi. (2020) as provided in the

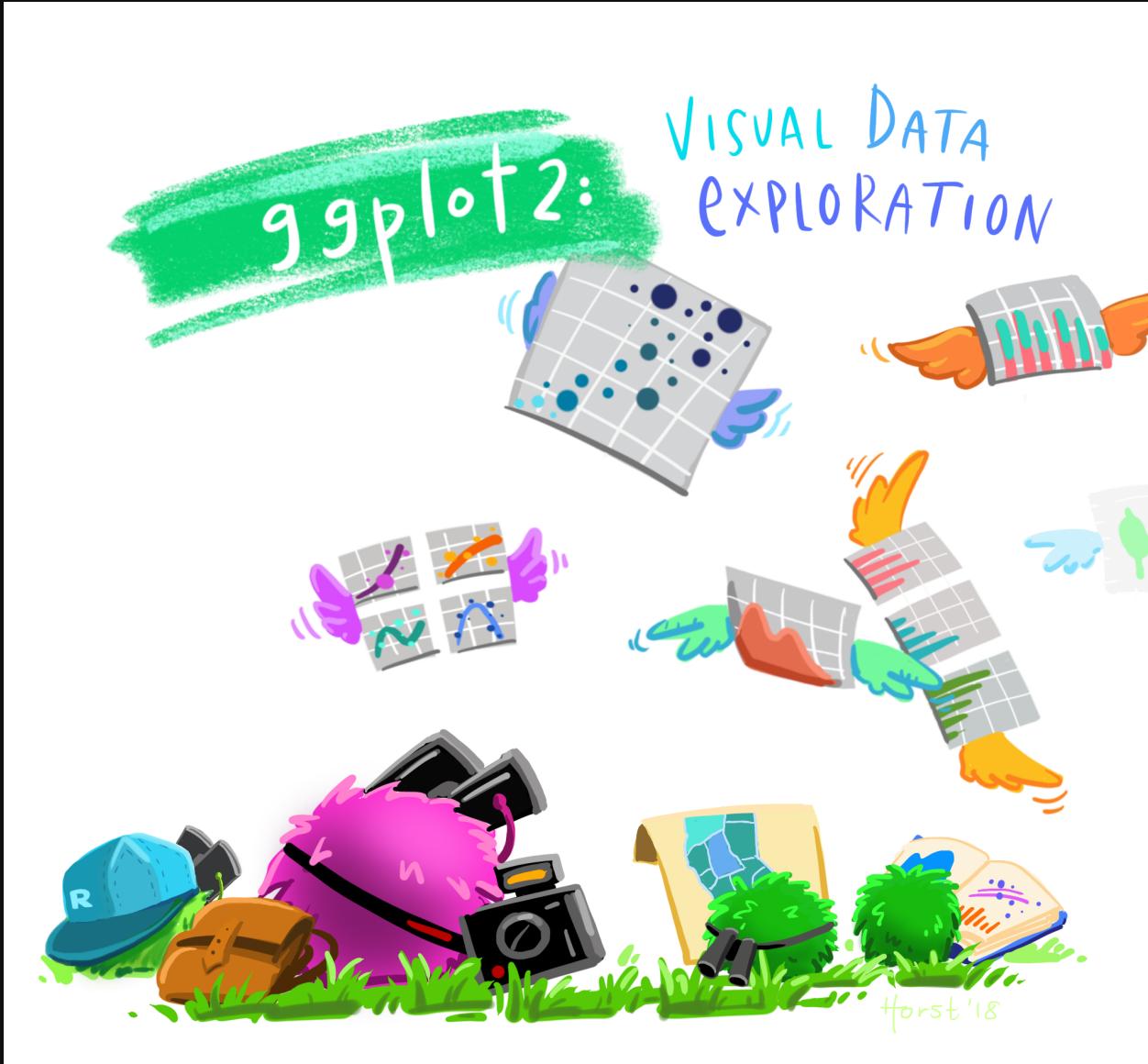
Selina Baldauf // Data visualization with ggplot2

Coastal giant salamander (terrestrial form)  
Andrews Forest Program by Lina DiGregorio  
via CC-BY from  
<https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu>

# The data

Data set `and_vertebrates` with measurements of a trout and 2 salamander species in different forest sections.

```
library(lterdatasampler)
and_vertebrates
#> # A tibble: 32,191 × 6
#>   year section unittype species      length_1_mm weight_g
#>   <dbl> <chr>    <chr>     <chr>           <dbl>     <dbl>
#> 1 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout      58      1.75
#> 2 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout      61      1.95
#> 3 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout      89      5.6
#> 4 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout      58      2.15
#> 5 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout      93      6.9
#> 6 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout      86      5.9
#> 7 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout     107     10.5
#> 8 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout     131     20.6
#> 9 1987 CC       R         Cutthroat trout     103     9.55
#> 10 1987 CC      R         Cutthroat trout     117     13
#> # i 32,181 more rows
```



Artwork by Allison Horst

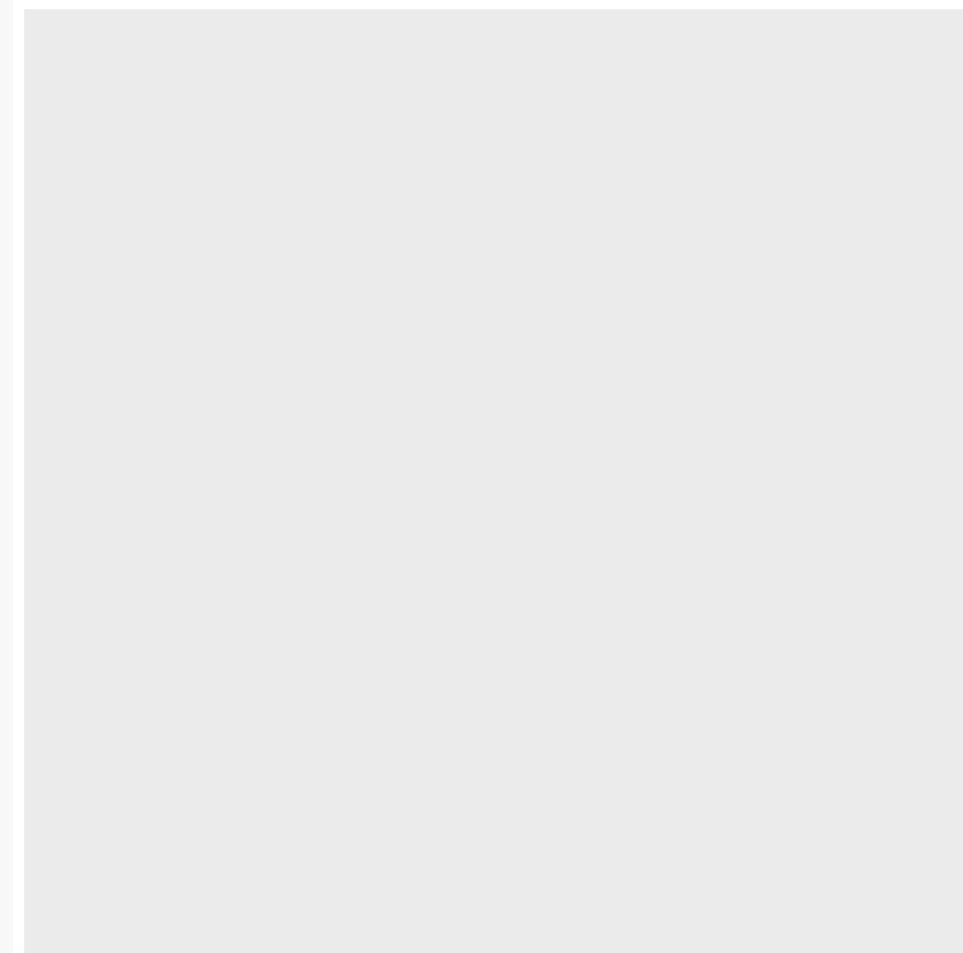
# ggplot(data)

The `ggplot()` function initializes a ggplot object. Every ggplot needs this function.

```
library(ggplot2)
# or library(tidyverse)

ggplot(data = and_vertebrates)
```

- Empty plot because we did not specify the mapping of data variables

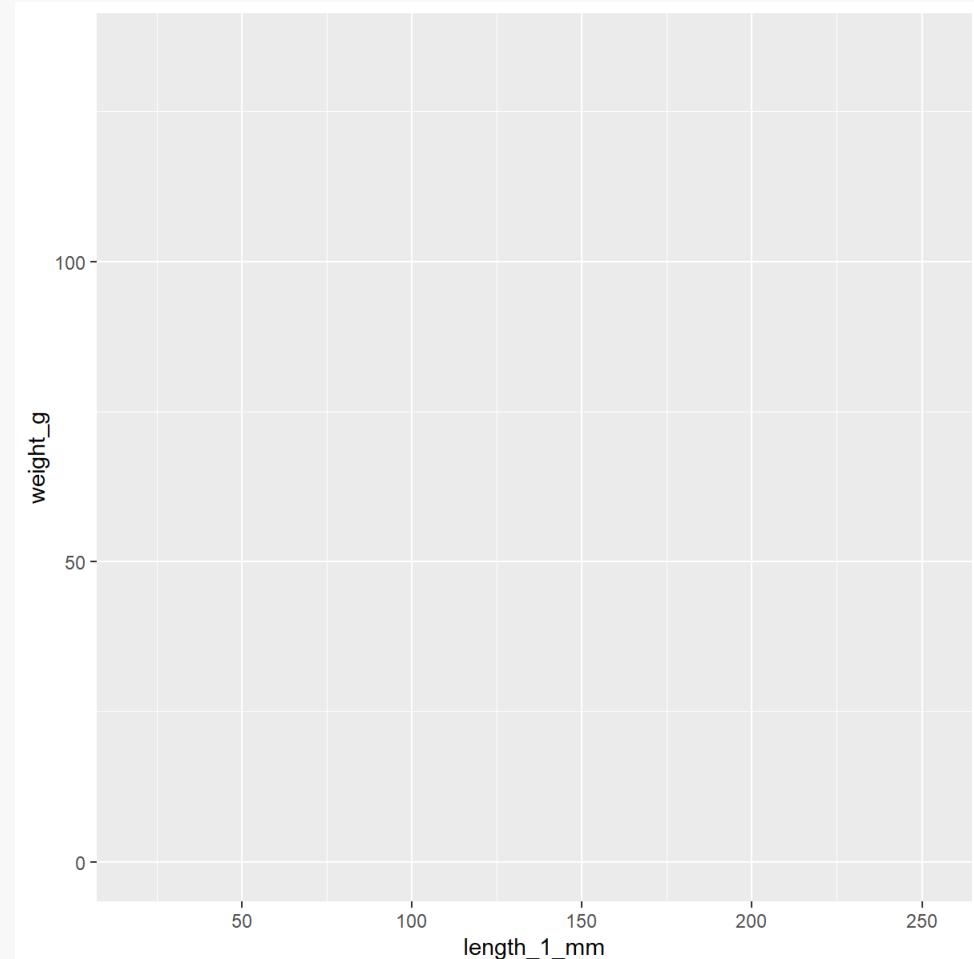


# aes(x, y)

The **aesthetics** define how data variables are mapped plot properties.

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  mapping = aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g  
  )  
)
```

- Map variable `length_1_mm` to x-axis and `weight_g` to y-axis
- Default scales are automatically adapted to range of data



# aes(x, y)

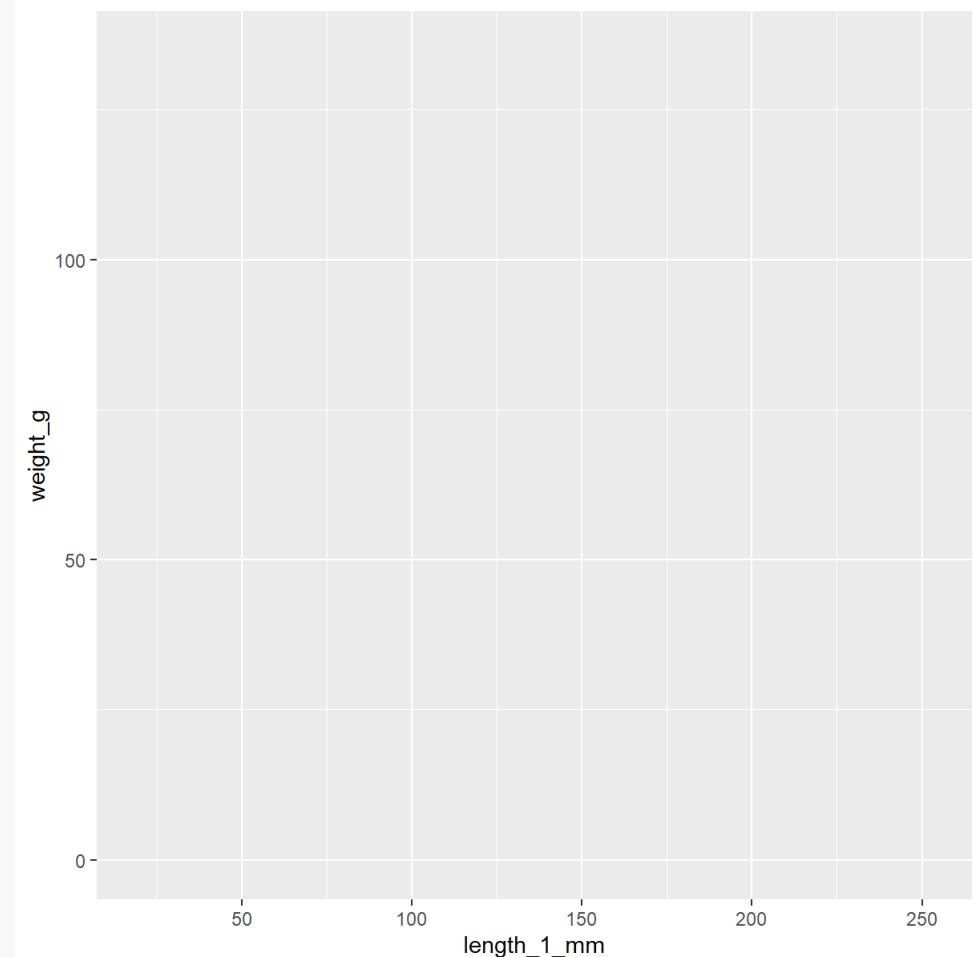
The **aesthetics** define how data variables are mapped plot properties.

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  mapping = aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g  
)  
)
```

This is the same but shorter:

```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g)  
)
```

Remember argument matching by position?



# geom\_\*

geoms define how data points are represented. There are many different geoms to chose from

<p><b>a + geom_blank()</b> (Useful for expanding limits)</p> <p><b>b + geom_curve(aes(yend = lat + 1, xend = long + 1), curvature = 1)</b> - x, yend, y, xend, alpha, angle, color, curvature, linetype, size</p> <p><b>a + geom_path(lineend = "butt", linejoin = "round", linemetre = 1)</b> x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>a + geom_polygon(aes(group = group))</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>b + geom_rect(aes(xmin = long, ymin = lat, xmax = long + 1, ymax = lat + 1))</b> - xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size</p> <p><b>a + geom_ribbon(aes(ymin = unemploy - 900, ymax = unemploy + 900))</b> - x, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>LINE SEGMENTS</b> common aesthetics: x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size</p> <p><b>b + geom_abline(aes(intercept = 0, slope = 1))</b></p> <p><b>b + geom_hline(aes(intercept = lat))</b></p> <p><b>b + geom_vline(aes(xintercept = long))</b></p>	<p><b>e + geom_label(aes(label = cty), nudge_x = 1, nudge_y = 1, check_overlap = TRUE)</b> x, y, label, alpha, angle, color, family, fontface, hjust, lineheight, size, vjust</p> <p><b>e + geom_jitter(height = 2, width = 2)</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size</p> <p><b>e + geom_point()</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size, stroke</p> <p><b>e + geom_quantile()</b> x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size, weight</p> <p><b>e + geom_rug(sides = "bl")</b> x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size</p> <p><b>e + geom_smooth(method = lm)</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size, weight</p> <p><b>e + geom_text(aes(label = cty), nudge_x = 1, nudge_y = 1, check_overlap = TRUE)</b> x, y, label, alpha, angle, color, family, fontface, hjust, lineheight, size, vjust</p>	<p><b>h + geom_bln2d(binwidth = c(0.25, 500))</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight</p> <p><b>h + geom_density2d()</b> x, y, alpha, colour, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>h + geom_hex()</b> x, y, alpha, colour, fill, size</p>
<b>continuous function</b>		
<p>i &lt;- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))</p>		
<p><b>i + geom_area()</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size</p> <p><b>i + geom_line()</b> x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>i + geom_step(direction = "hv")</b> x, y, alpha, color, group, linetype, size</p>	<p><b>visualizing error</b></p>	<p>df &lt;- data.frame(grp = c("A", "B"), fit = 4:5, se = 1:2) j &lt;- ggplot(df, aes(grp, fit, ymin = fit - se, ymax = fit + se))</p>
<p><b>f + geom_col()</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>f + geom_boxplot()</b> x, y, lower, middle, upper, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, shape, size, weight</p> <p><b>f + geom_dotplot(binaxis = "y", stackdir = "center")</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, group</p> <p><b>f + geom_violin(scale = "area")</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size, weight</p>	<p><b>j + geom_crossbar(fatten = 2)</b> x, y, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>j + geom_errorbar()</b> x, y, max, ymin, alpha, color, group, linetype, size, width (also <b>geom_errorbarh()</b>)</p> <p><b>j + geom_linerange()</b> x, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, group, linetype, size</p> <p><b>j + geom_pointrange()</b> x, y, ymin, ymax, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, shape, size</p>	<p><b>maps</b></p>
<p>c &lt;- ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy)); c2 &lt;- ggplot(mpg)</p>	<p><b>maps</b></p>	<p>data &lt;- data.frame(murder = USArests\$Murder, state = tolower(rownames(USArests))) map &lt;- map_data("state") k &lt;- ggplot(data, aes(fill = murder))</p>
<p><b>c + geom_area(stat = "bin")</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size</p> <p><b>c + geom_density(kernel = "gaussian")</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, group, linetype, size, weight</p> <p><b>c + geom_dotplot()</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill</p> <p><b>c + geom_freqpoly()</b> x, y, alpha, color, group, size</p> <p><b>c + geom_histogram(binwidth = 5)</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight</p>	<p><b>g + geom_count()</b> x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size, stroke</p>	<p><b>k + geom_map(aes(map_id = state), map = map) + expand_limits(x = map\$long, y = map\$lat)</b>, map_id, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size</p>

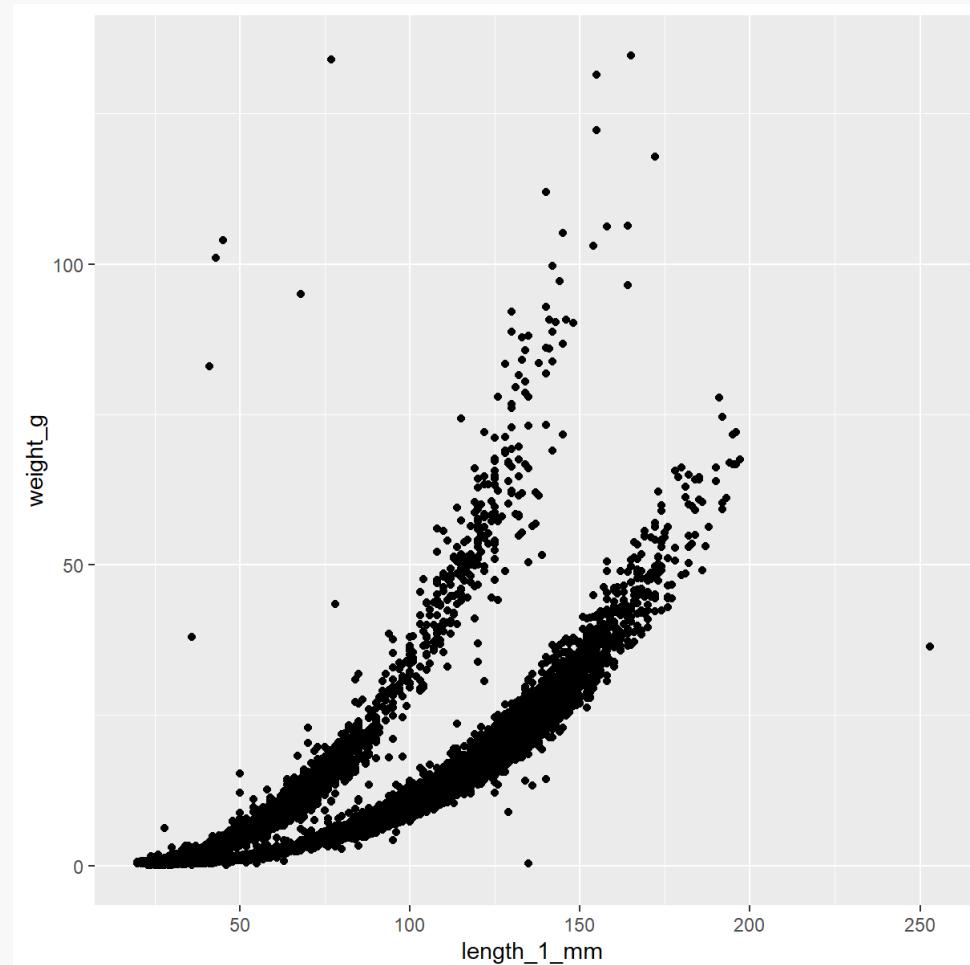
from [ggplot cheatsheet](#)

# geom\_point

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g  
  )  
) +  
  geom_point()
```

```
#> Warning: Removed 13270 rows containing missing  
values (`geom_point()`).
```

- New plot layers added with `+`
- Warning that points could not be plotted due to missing values
- `data` and `aes` defined in `ggplot` call are inherited to all plot layers



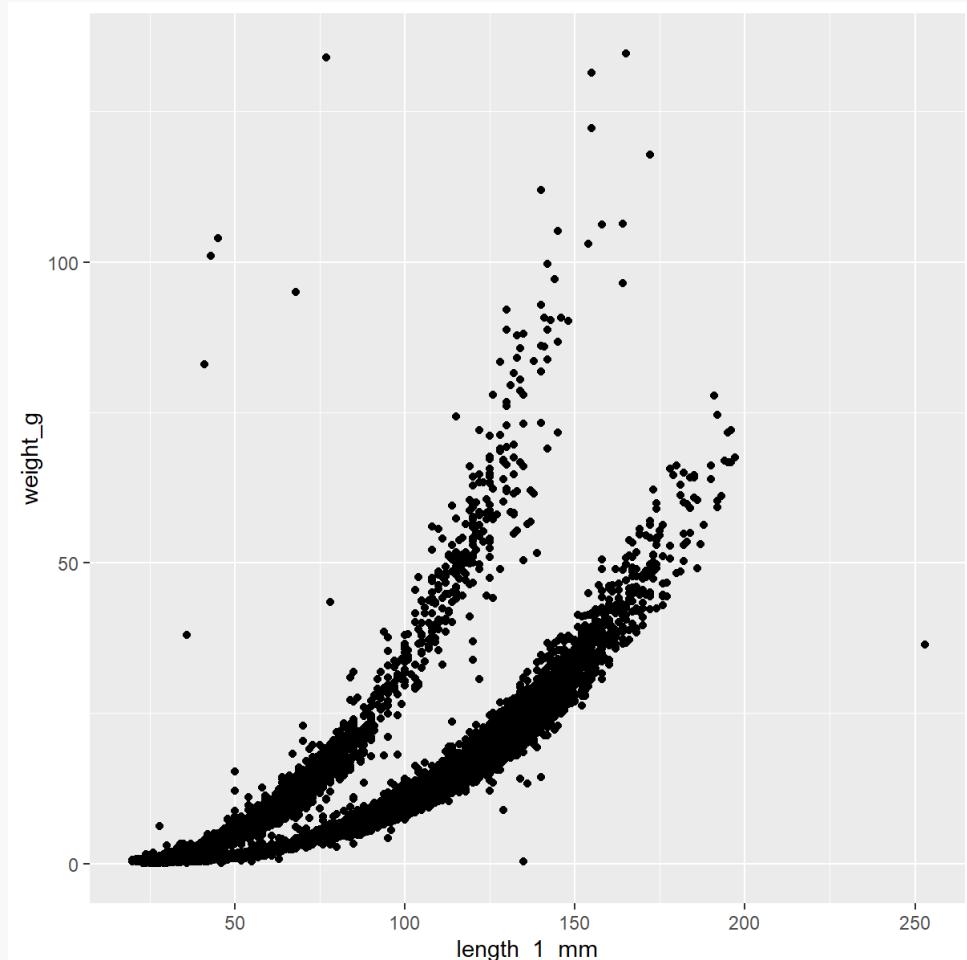
# geom\_point

```
ggplot() +  
  geom_point(  
    data = and_vertebrates,  
    aes(  
      x = length_1_mm,  
      y = weight_g  
    )  
  )
```

```
#> Warning: Removed 13270 rows containing missing  
values (`geom_point()`).
```

- `data` and `aes` can also be local to a layer:

Here, it does not make a difference in the result.

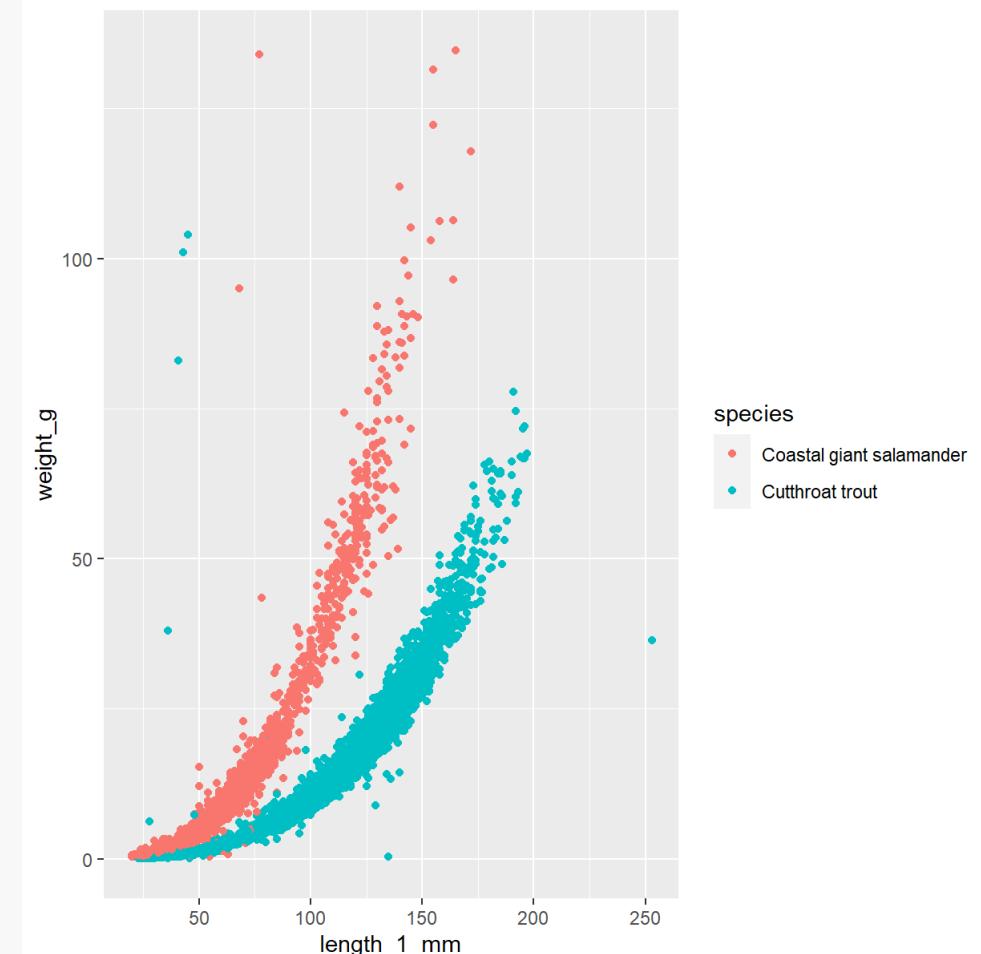


# aes (color): mapping color to a variable

Looks like there are two groups of data: Map color of points to a variable by adding it to aesthetics:

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    color = species  
)  
) +  
  geom_point()
```

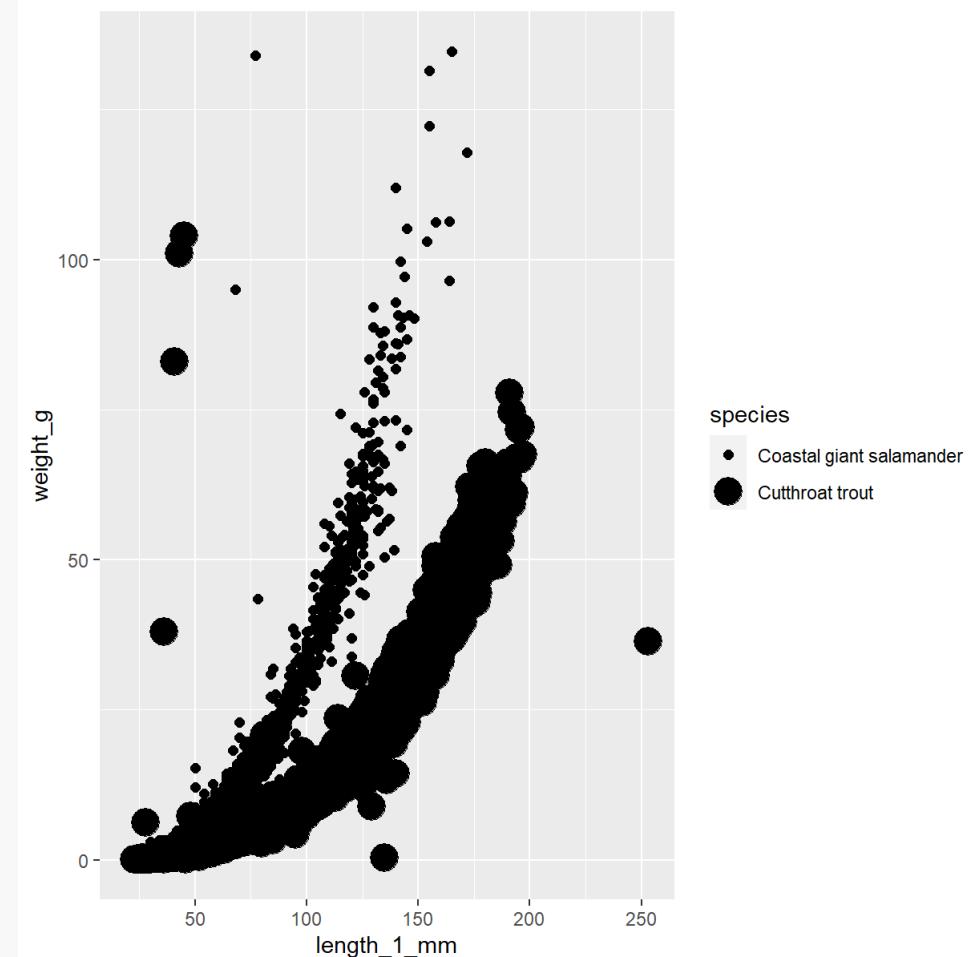
- Map the `species` variable to the color aesthetic of the plot



# aes (size): mapping size to a variable

We can do the same with size:

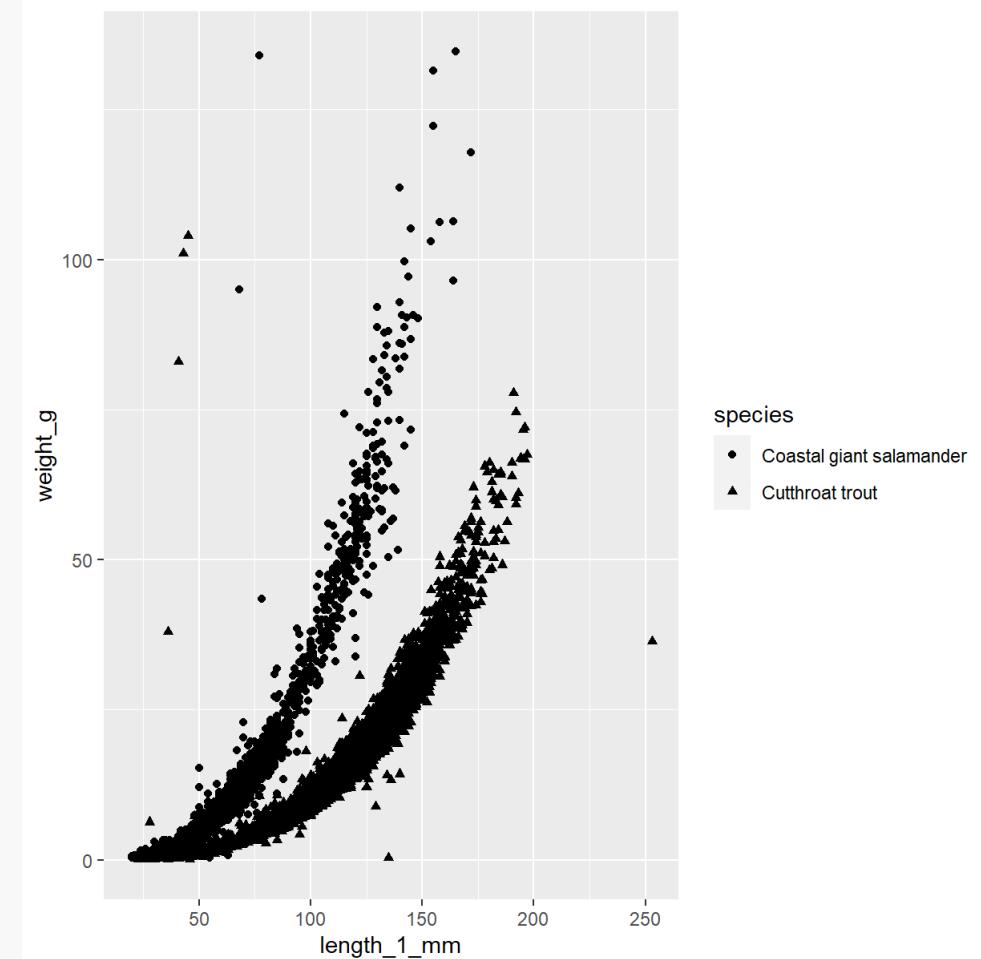
```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    size = species  
)  
) +  
  geom_point()
```



# aes (shape): mapping shape to a variable

We can do the same with shape:

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    shape = species  
)  
) +  
  geom_point()
```

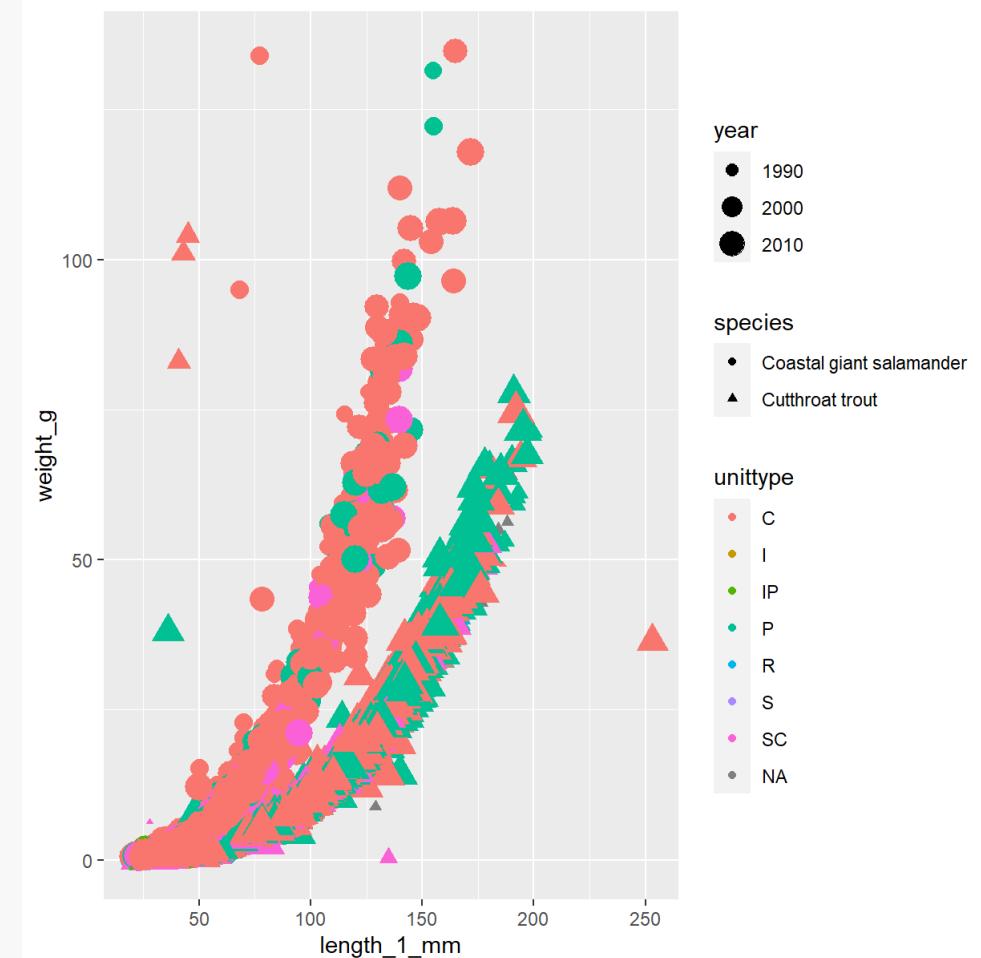


# Combine color, size and shape

We can also combine these aesthetics and map different variables

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    color = unittype,  
    shape = species,  
    size = year  
  )  
)  
+  
  geom_point()
```

- This is a bit too much for this plot, but sometimes can be useful

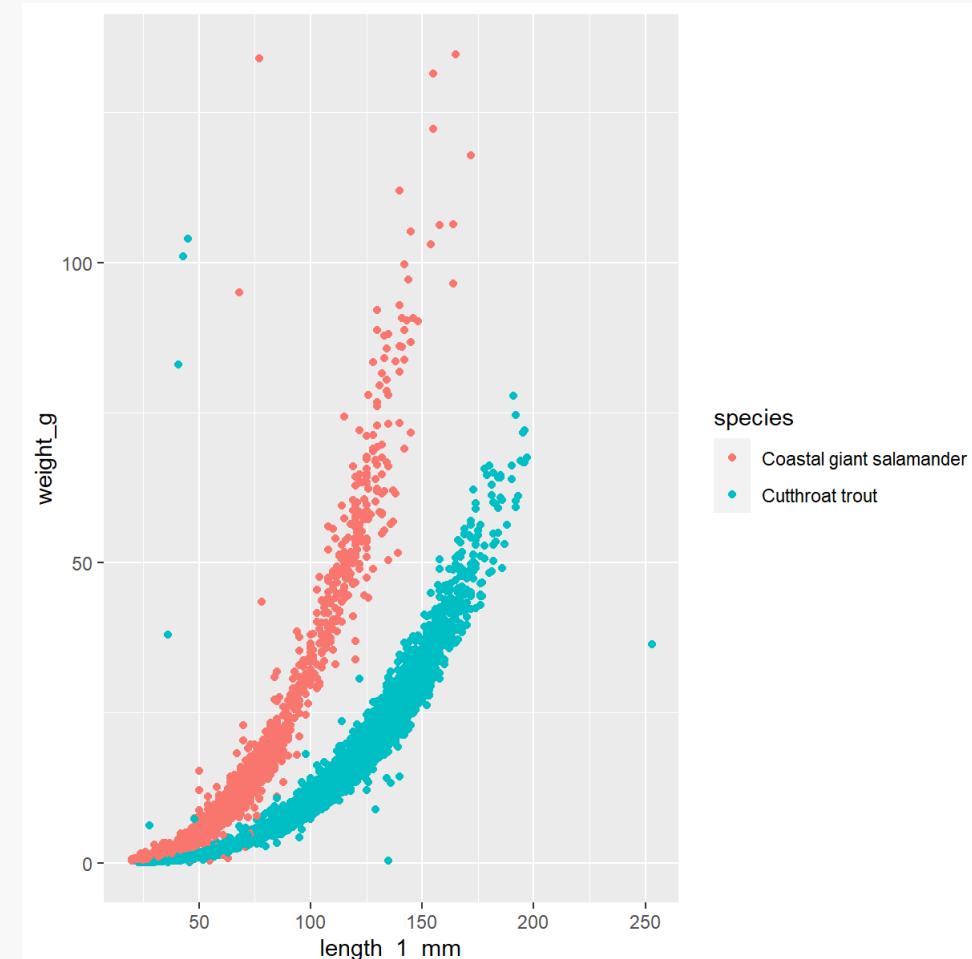


# Changing the scales of the aesthetics

The scales onto which the aesthetic elements are mapped can be changed.

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    color = species  
  )  
) +  
  geom_point()
```

- Exponential relationship?
- How does it look like on the log scale?



# scale\_x\_log10

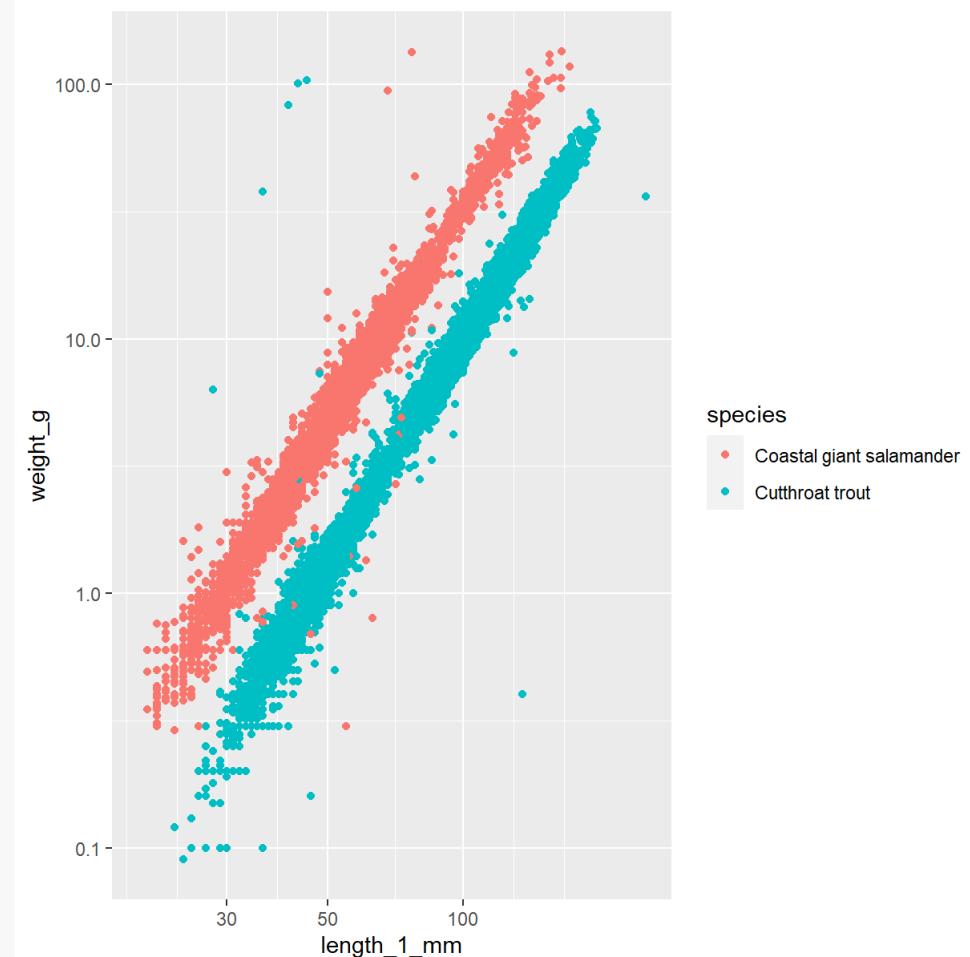
The scales onto which the aesthetic elements are mapped can be changed.

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    color = species  
  )  
) +  
  geom_point() +  
  scale_x_log10() +  
  scale_y_log10()
```

- Scales can be changed for all elements of `aes`:

`scale_`**aes-name**`_`**scale-type**

In this example we scale the **x** and the **y** aesthetic to **log10**.

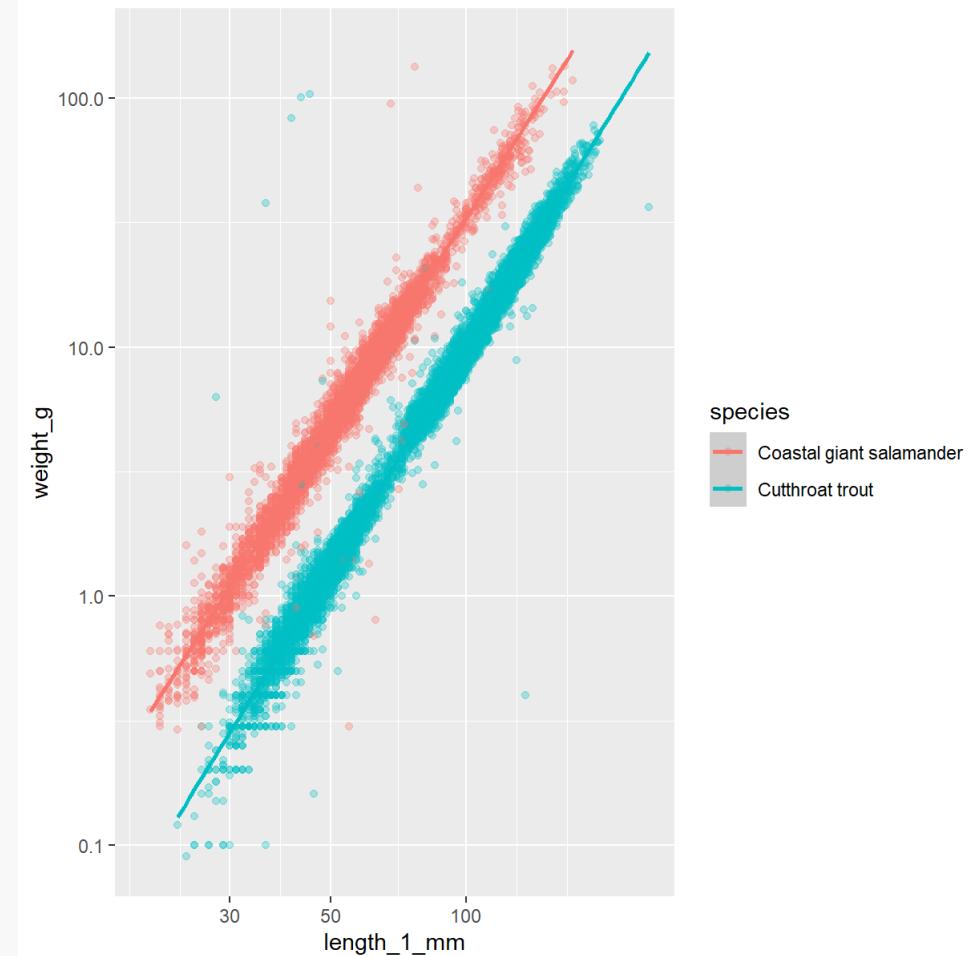


# geom\_smooth

Add a smoothing line that helps see patterns in the data

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    color = species  
)  
)+  
  geom_point(alpha = 0.3) +  
  geom_smooth(method = "lm") +  
  scale_x_log10() +  
  scale_y_log10()
```

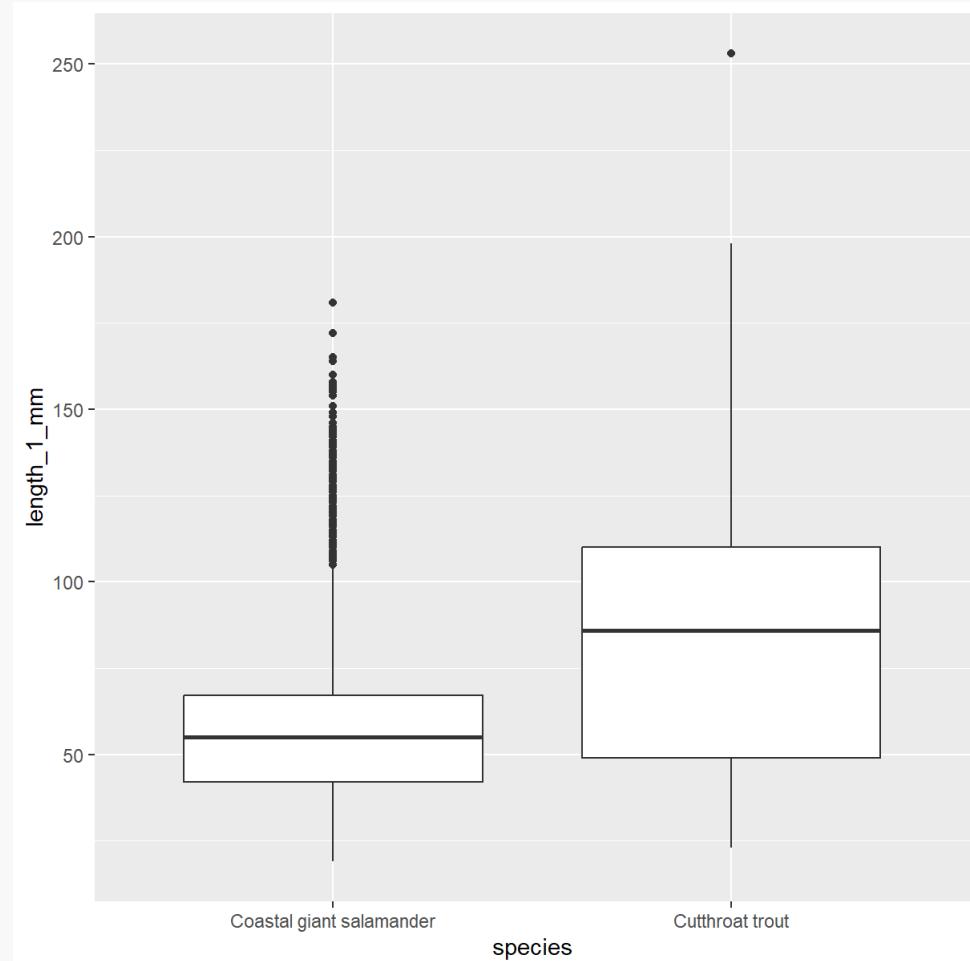
- With `method = "lm"`, a linear regression line is added
- All geoms done separately for species because color is defined globally
- Alpha makes points transparent (0-1)



# geom\_boxplot

Compare groups using a boxplot

```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = species,  
    y = length_1_mm  
)  
) +  
  geom_boxplot()
```

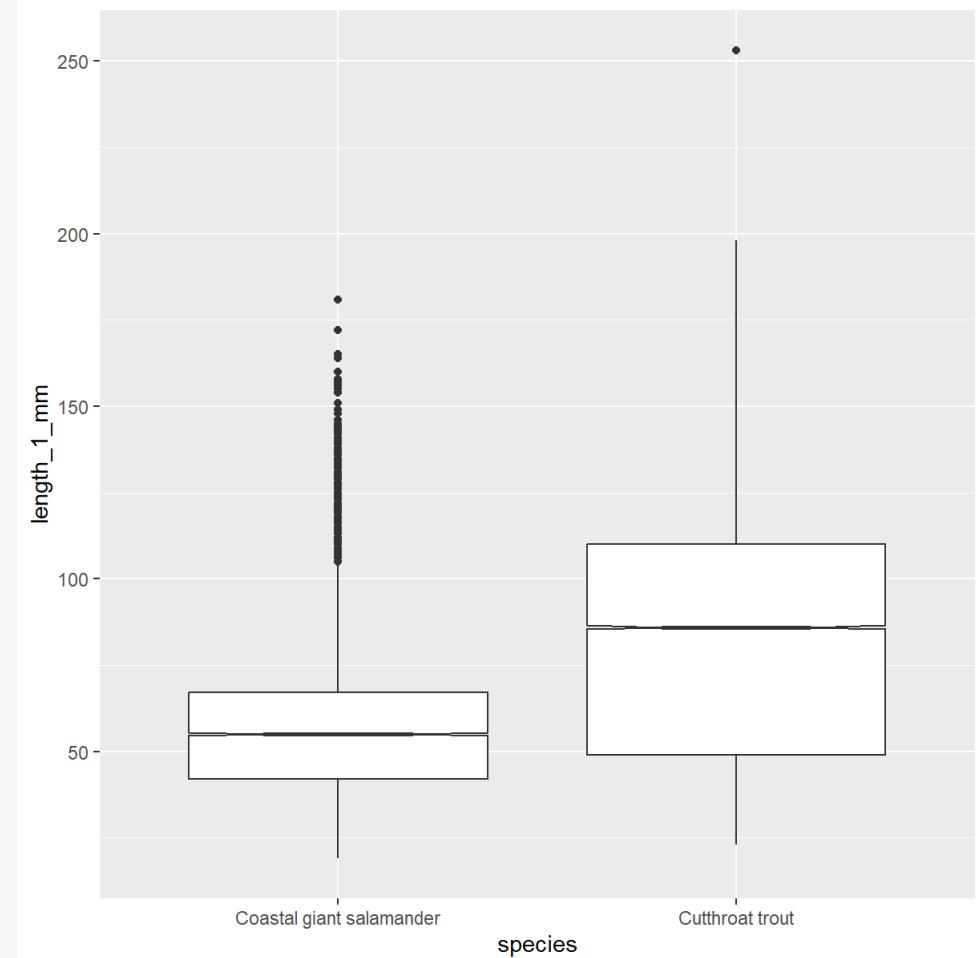


# geom\_boxplot

Compare groups using a boxplot

```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = species,  
    y = length_1_mm  
  )  
) +  
  geom_boxplot(notch = TRUE)
```

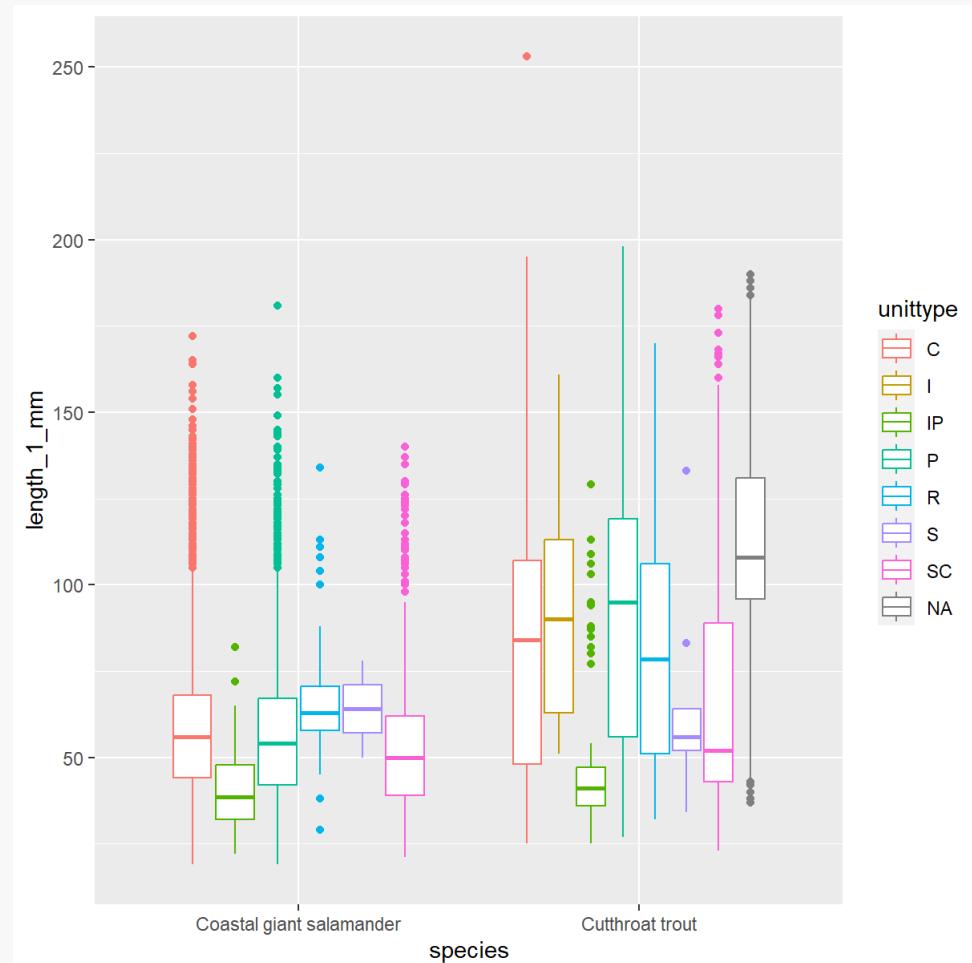
- If notches don't overlap, the medians of the groups are likely different



# geom\_boxplot

Map the `unittype` to the `color` aesthetic of the boxplot

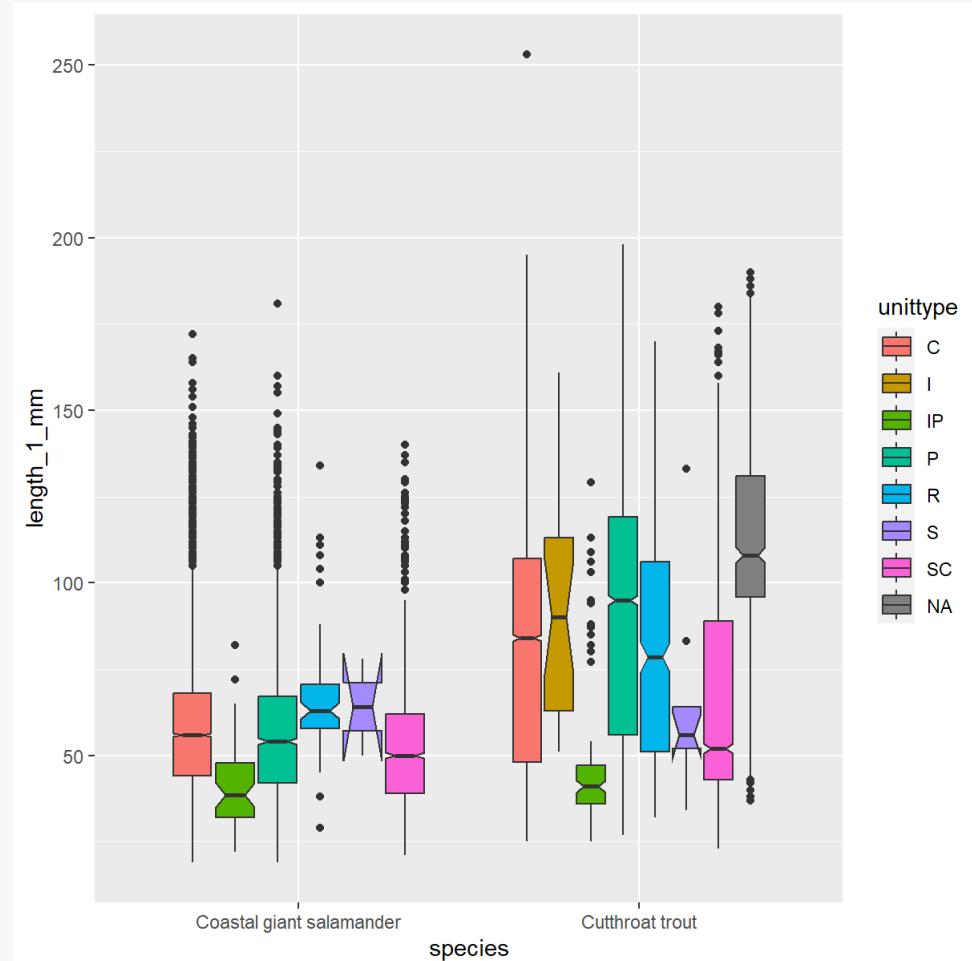
```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = species,  
    y = length_1_mm,  
    color = unittype  
)  
)+  
  geom_boxplot()
```



# geom\_boxplot

Map the `unittype` to the `fill` aesthetic of the box

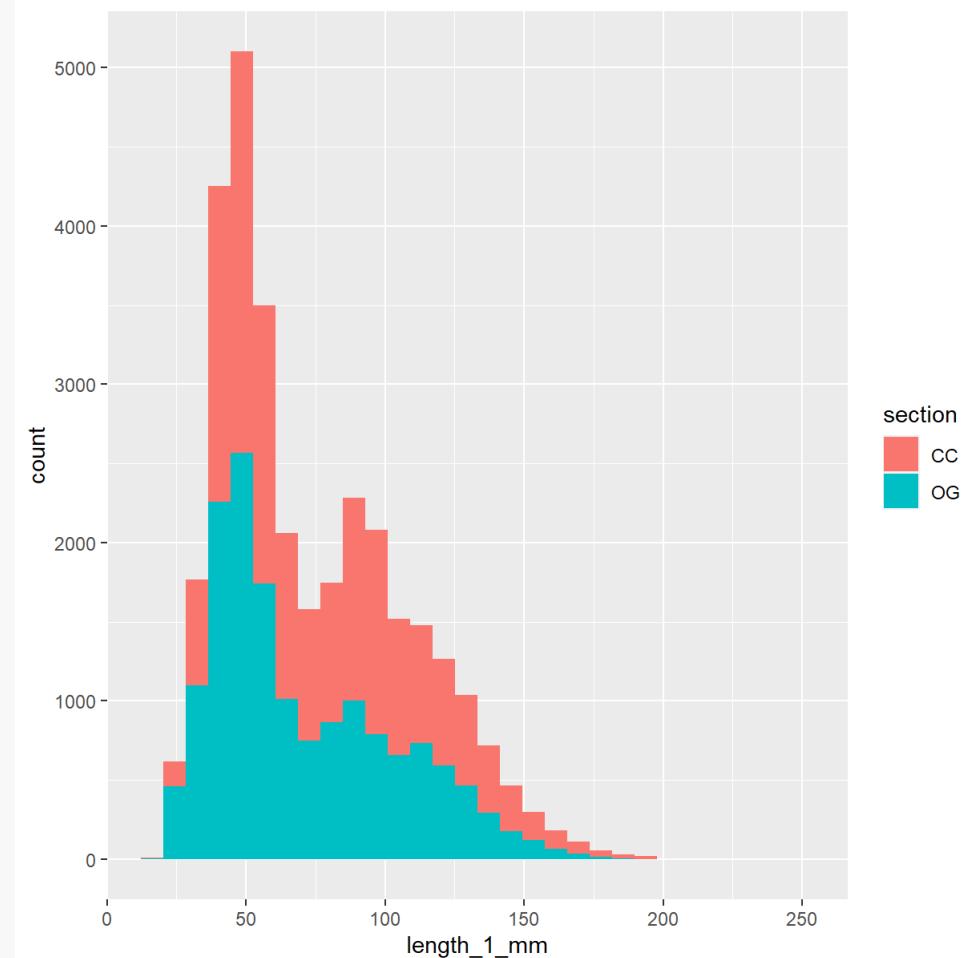
```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = species,  
    y = length_1_mm,  
    fill = unittype  
)  
) +  
  geom_boxplot(notch = TRUE)
```



# geom\_histogram

```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    fill = section  
  )  
)  
+  
  geom_histogram()
```

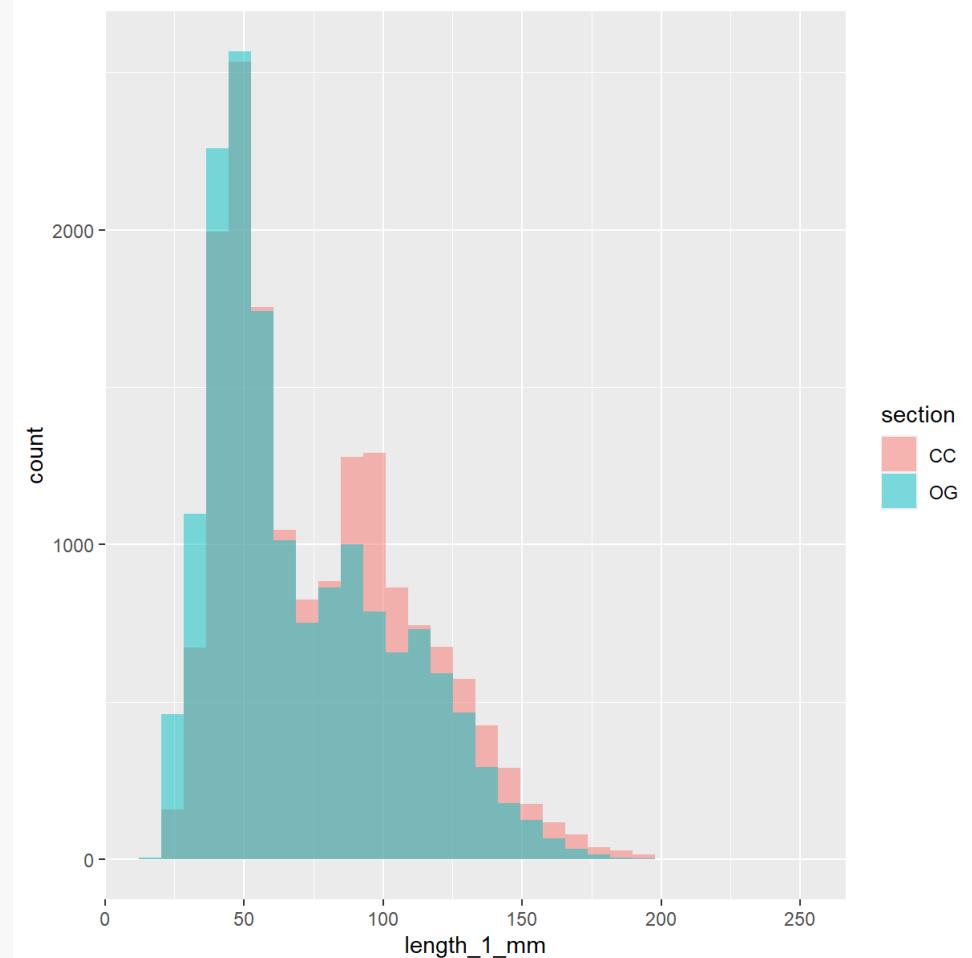
- Careful: By default the histogram is stacked for the different groups!



# geom\_histogram

```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    fill = section  
)  
) +  
  geom_histogram(  
    position = "identity",  
    alpha = 0.5  
)
```

- Change the position of the histogram to "identity", if you don't want it stacked
- `alpha` makes sure that you see overlapping areas

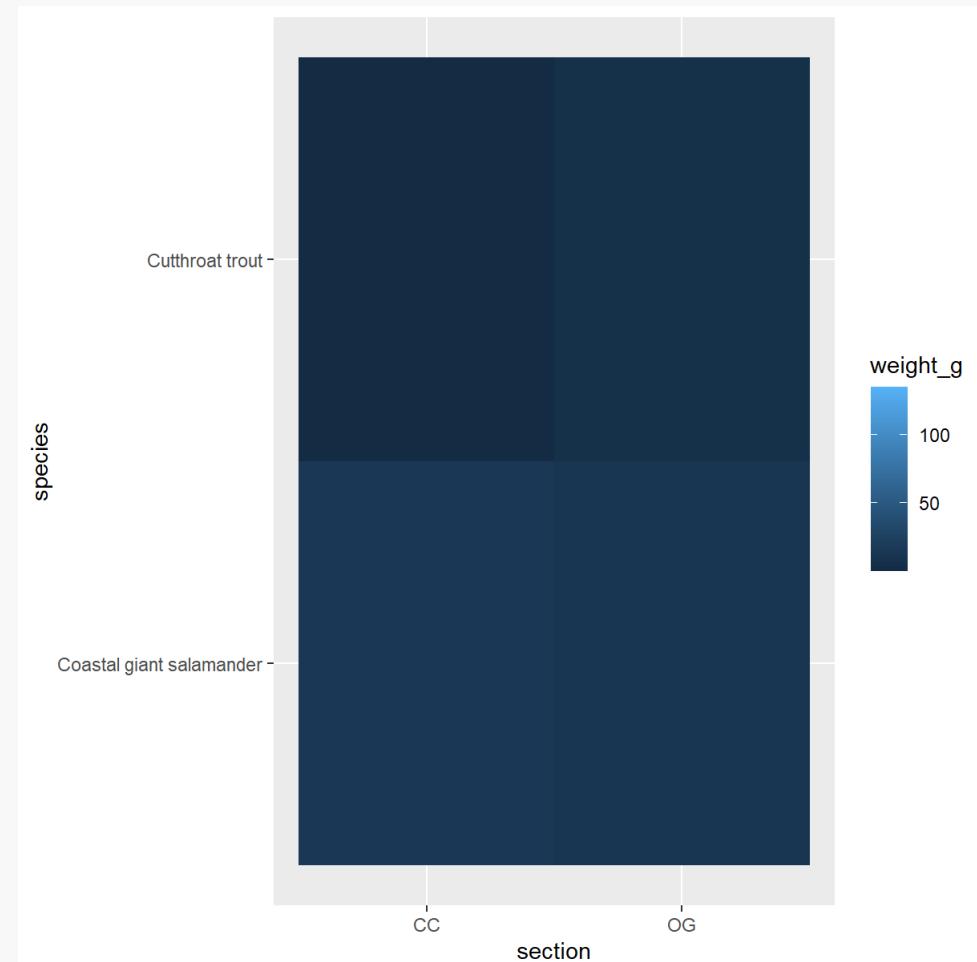


# geom\_tile

You can create a simple heatmap with `geom_tile`

```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = section,  
    y = species,  
    fill = weight_g  
  )  
) +  
  geom_tile()
```

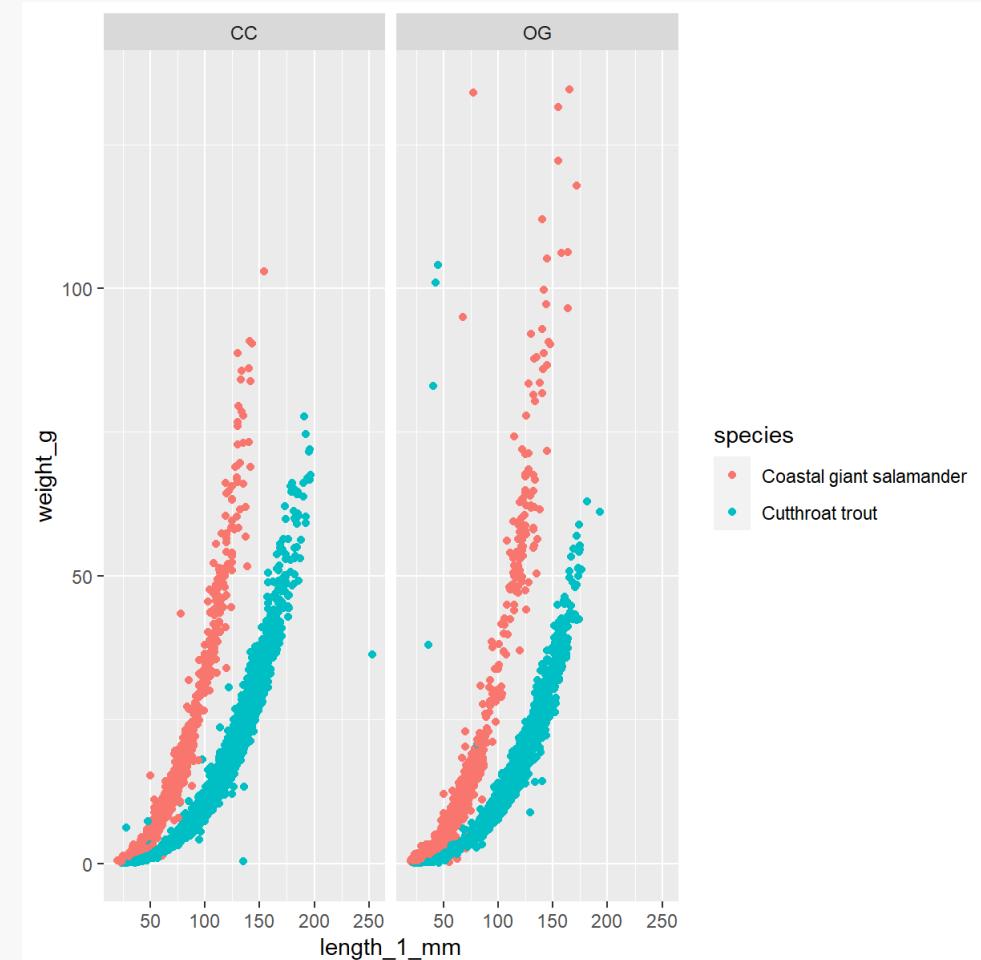
- Here we would have to choose a different color scheme to see differences



# Small multiples with `facet_wrap`

Split your plots along one variable with `facet_wrap`

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    color = species  
  )  
) +  
  geom_point() +  
  facet_wrap(~section)
```



# Small multiples with `facet_wrap`

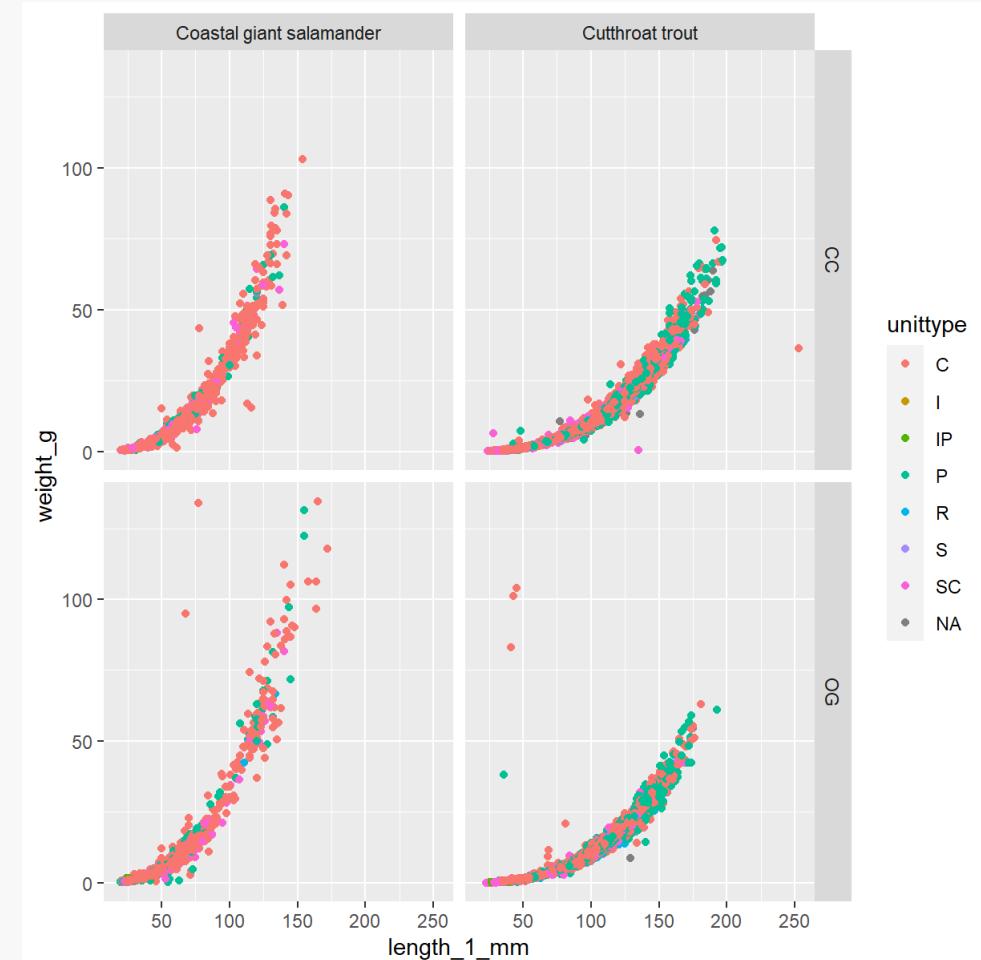
Split your plots along one variable with `facet_wrap`

# Small multiples with `facet_grid`

Split your plots along two variables with `facet_grid`

```
ggplot(  
  data = and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = length_1_mm,  
    y = weight_g,  
    color = unittype  
  )  
) +  
  geom_point() +  
  facet_grid(section ~ species)
```

- `facet_grid(rows ~ columns)`



# Now you

Task 1.1 - 1.2 (45 min)

Exploratory data analysis with the penguin data set

Find the task description [here](#)

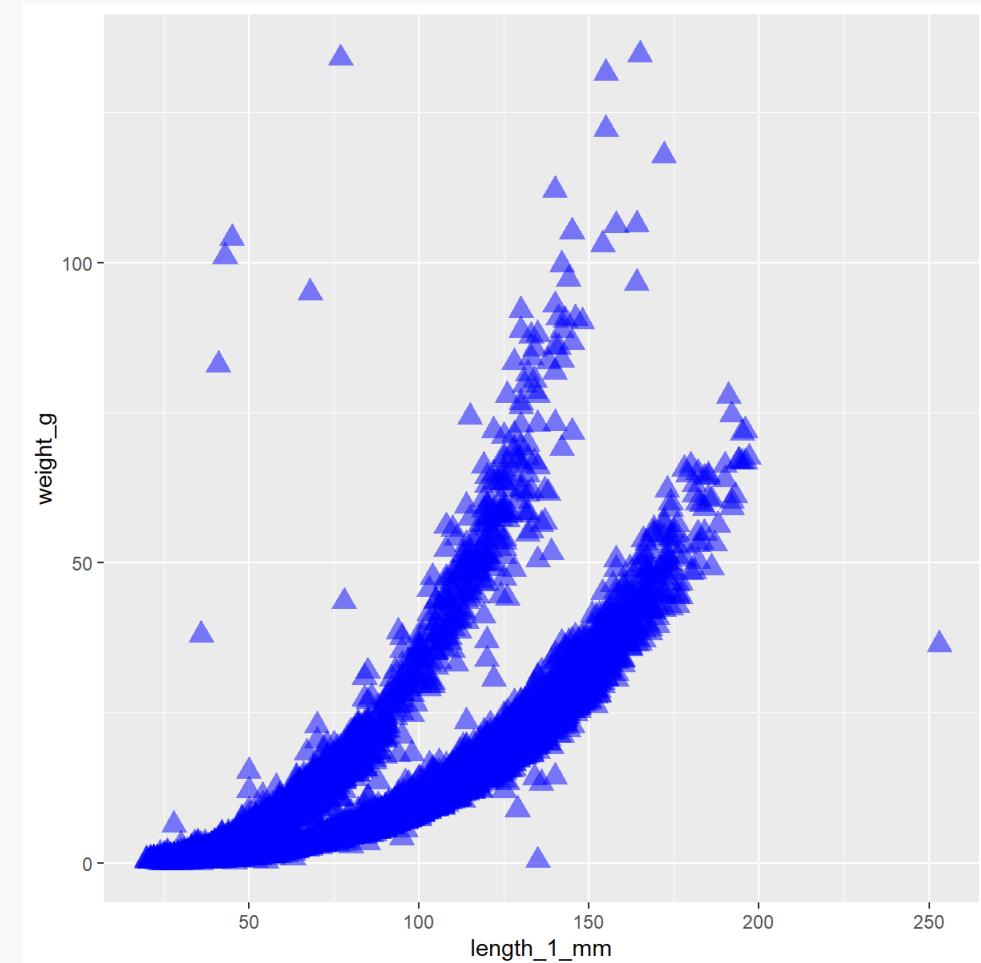
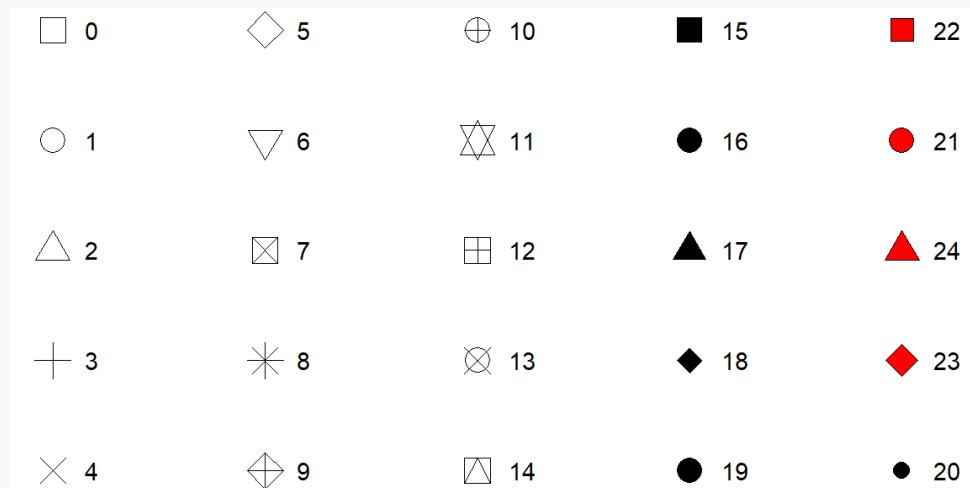
(Don't do the "Beautify" task)



Artwork by Allison Horst

# Change appearance of points

```
ggplot(and_vertebrates, aes(  
  x = length_1_mm,  
  y = weight_g  
) +  
  geom_point(  
    size = 4,  
    shape = 17,  
    color = "blue",  
    alpha = 0.5  
)
```



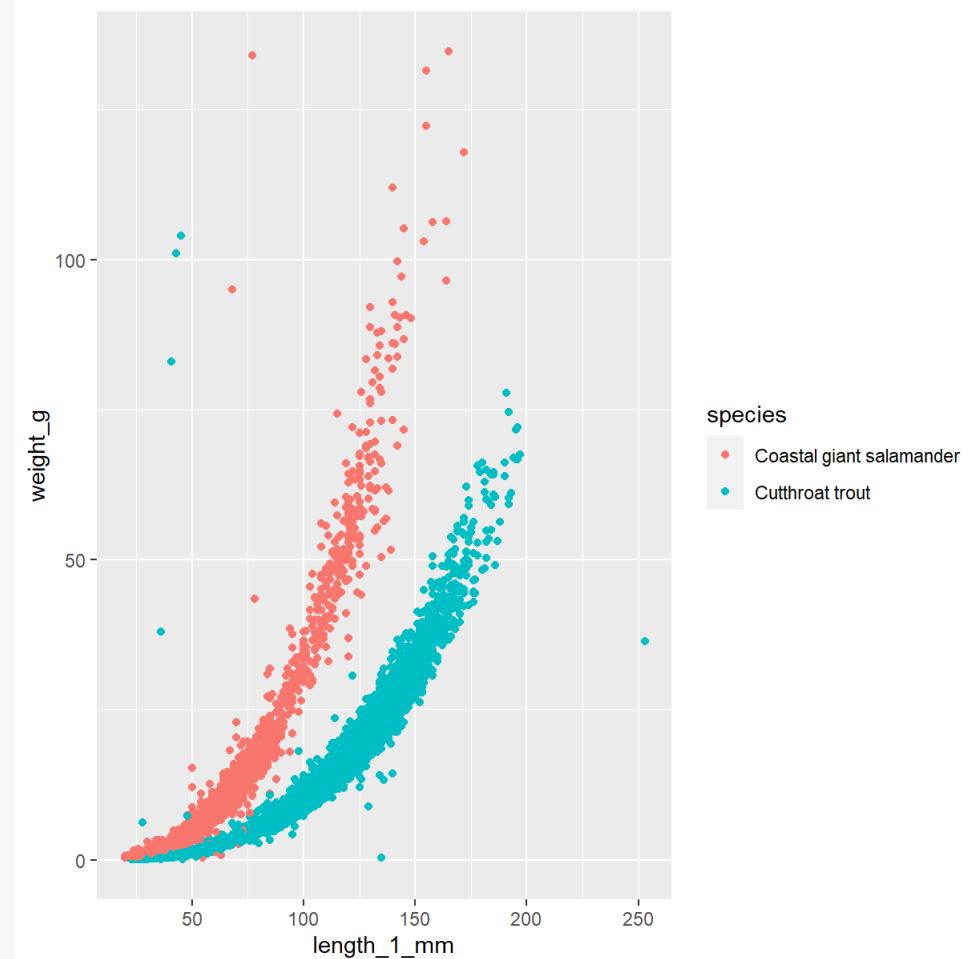
Shape and color codes

# Change color scale

We can also save a plot in a variable

```
g <- ggplot(and_vertebrates, aes(  
  x = length_1_mm,  
  y = weight_g,  
  color = species  
) +  
  geom_point()  
  
g
```

- Other plot layers can still be added to `g`

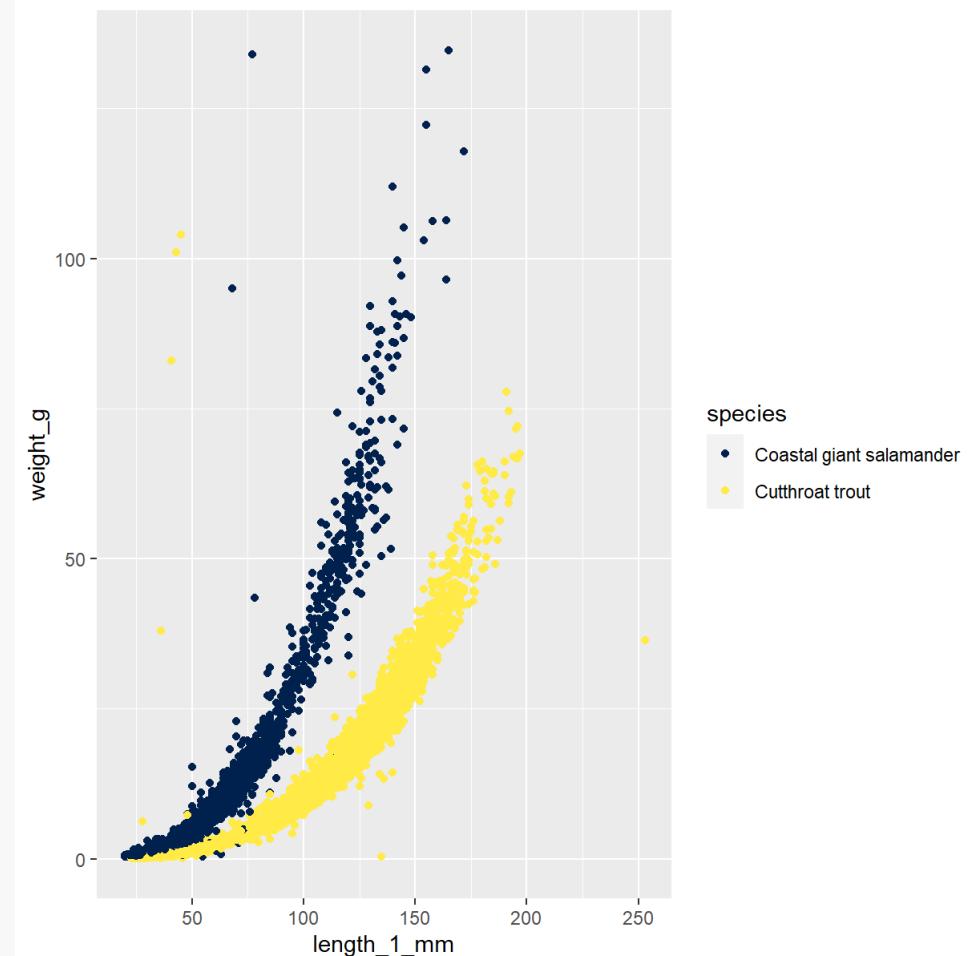


# scale\_color\_viridis\_d

Change the colors of the color aesthetic:

```
g +
  scale_color_viridis_d(
    option = "cividis"
  )
```

- The viridis color palette is designed for viewers with common forms of color blindness
- Different options of viridis color palettes: "magma", "inferno", "plasma", "viridis", "cividis"

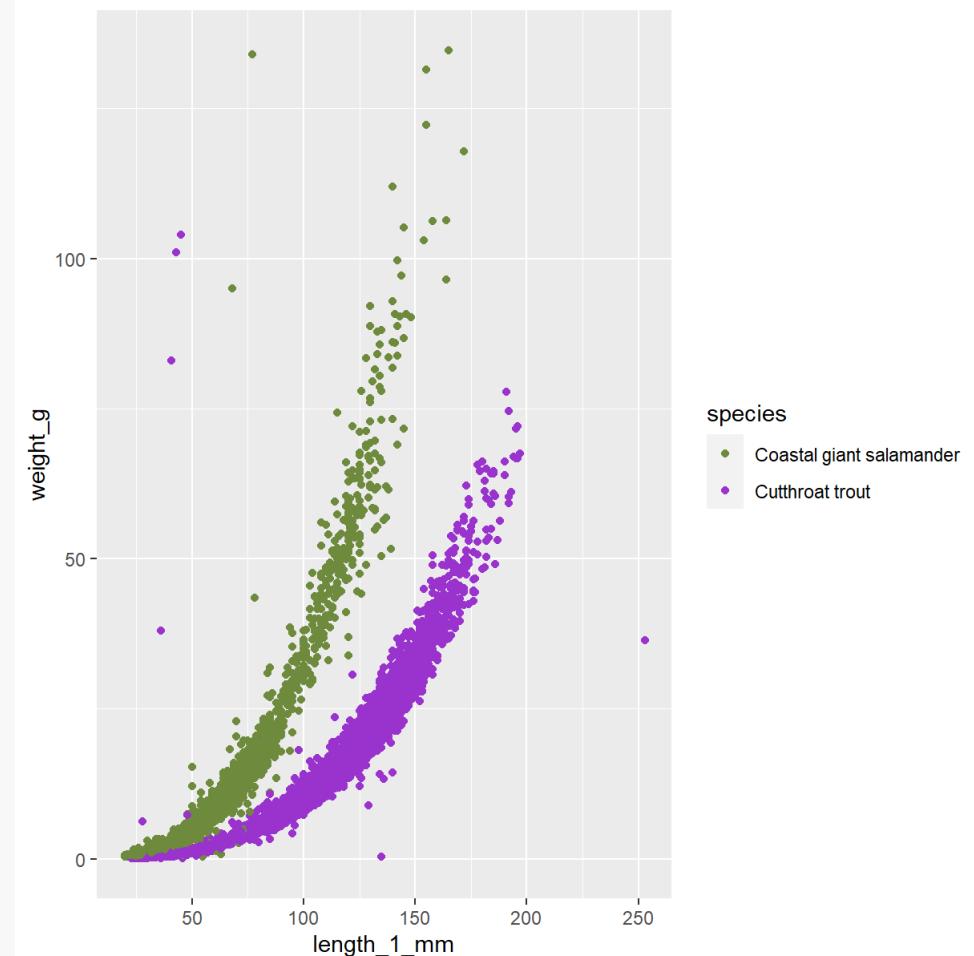


# scale\_color\_manual

We can also manually specify colors:

```
g +  
  scale_color_manual(  
    values = c(  
      "darkolivegreen4",  
      "darkorchid3"  
    )  
  )
```

- Length of color vector has to match number of levels in your aesthetic
- Specify colors
  - Via their [name](#)
  - Via their Hex color codes (use websites to generate your own color palettes, e.g. [here](#))

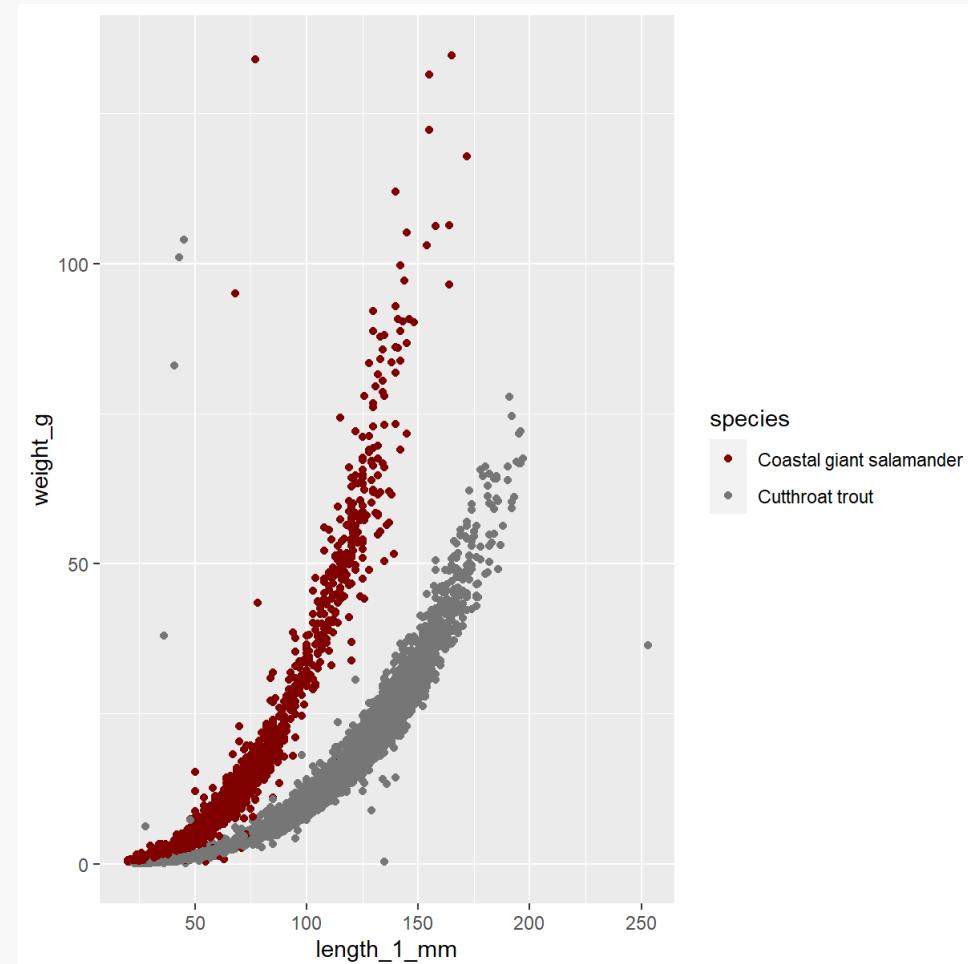


# Other color scales

You can use the `paletteer` package to access color scales from many packages.

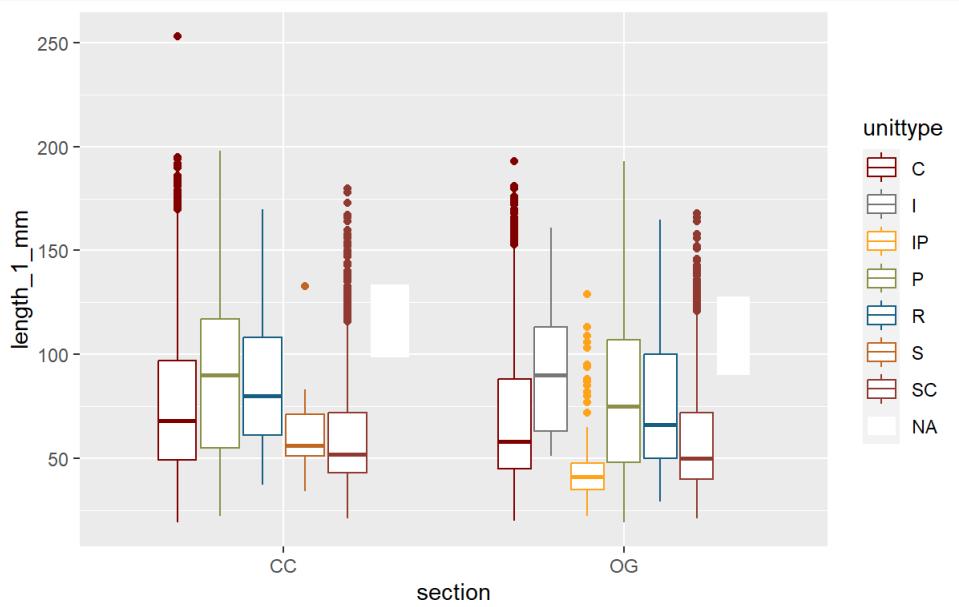
```
# install.packages("paletteer")
library(paletteer)
g <- g +
  scale_color_paletteer_d(
    palette = "ggsci::default_uchicago"
  )
g
```

- Use `scale_color_paletteer_d` for discrete and `scale_color_paletteer_c` for continuous color scales
- Check out all palettes available [here](#)

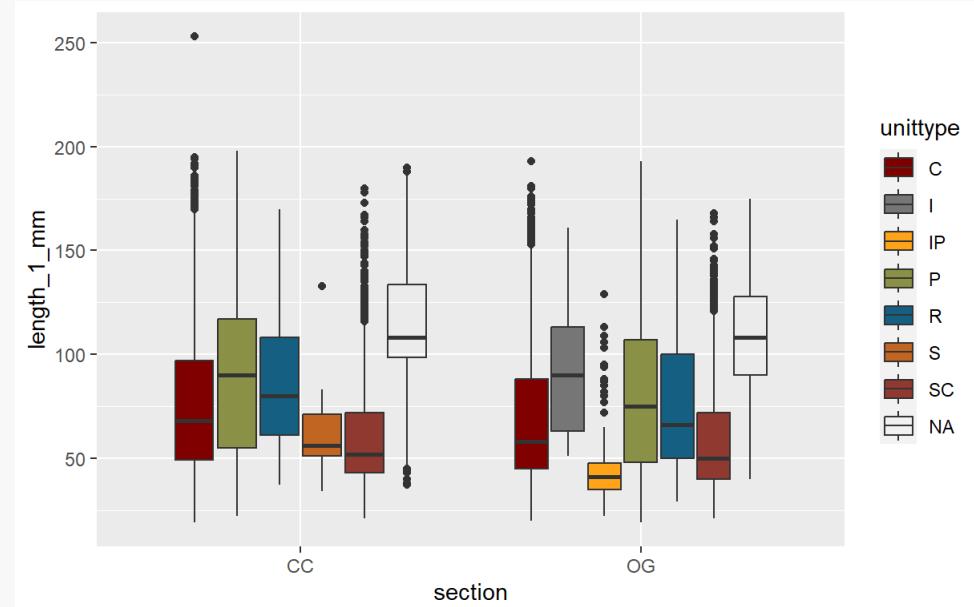


# scale\_fill\_\* vs. scale\_color\_\*

```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = section,  
    y = length_1_mm,  
    color = unittype)) +  
  geom_boxplot() +  
  paletteer::scale_color_paletteer_d(  
    palette = "ggsci::default_uchicago"  
)
```



```
ggplot(  
  and_vertebrates,  
  aes(  
    x = section,  
    y = length_1_mm,  
    fill = unittype)) +  
  geom_boxplot() +  
  paletteer::scale_fill_paletteer_d(  
    palette = "ggsci::default_uchicago"  
)
```



# labs: Change axis and legend titles and add plot title

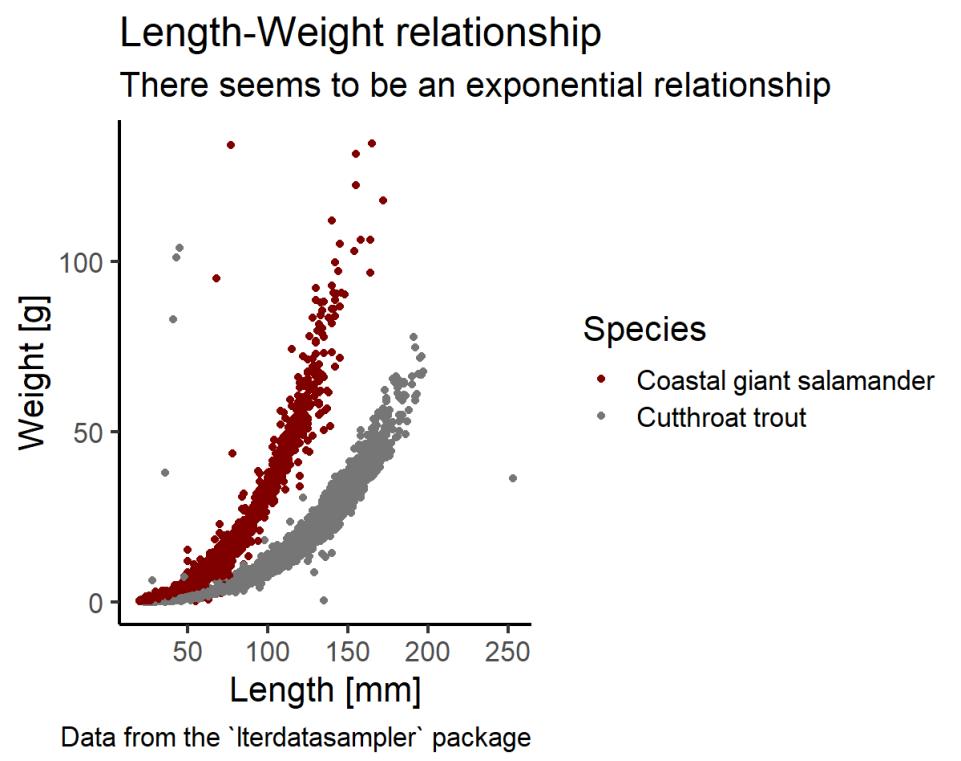
```
g <- g +  
  labs(  
    x = "Length [mm]",  
    y = "Weight [g]",  
    color = "Species",  
    title = "Length-Weight relationship",  
    subtitle = "There seems to be an exponential relationship",  
    caption = "Data from the `lterdatasampler` package"  
)  
g
```

# **labs:** Change axis and legend titles and add plot title

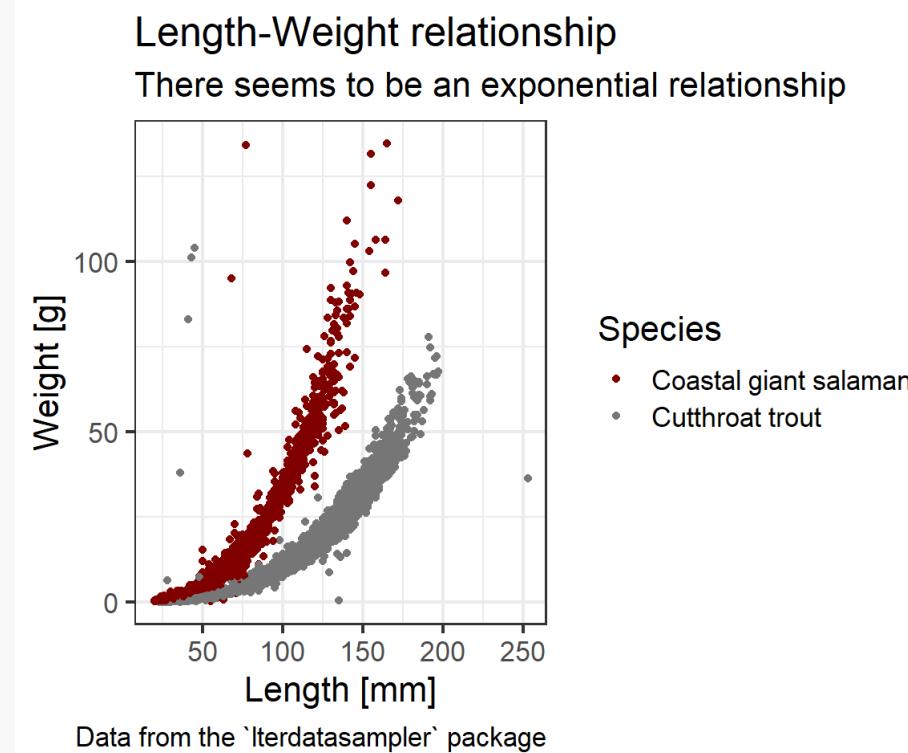
# theme\_\*: change appearance

`ggplot2` offers many pre-defined themes that we can apply to change the appearance of a plot.

```
g +  
  theme_classic()
```



```
g +  
  theme_bw()
```



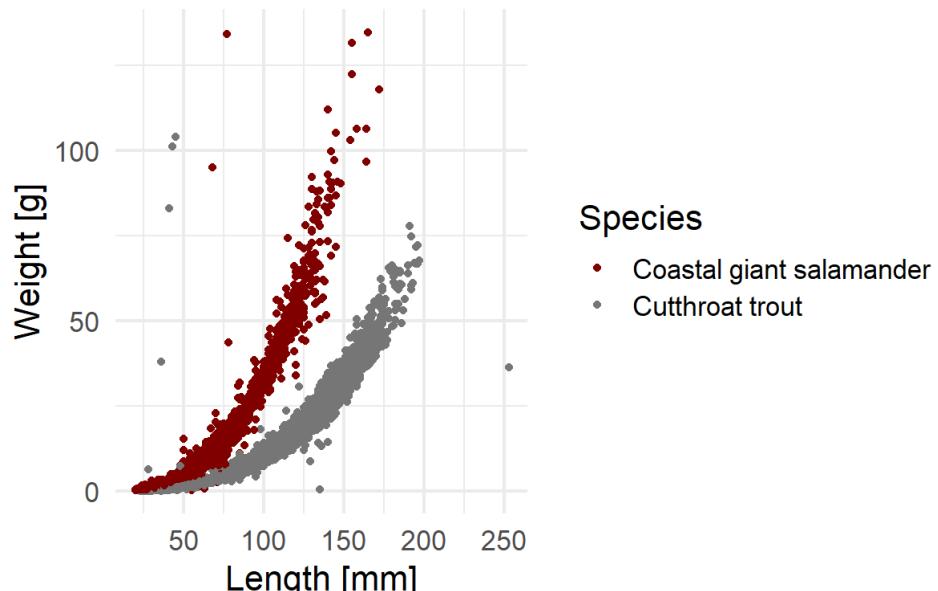
# theme\_\*: change appearance

`ggplot2` offers many pre-defined themes that we can apply to change the appearance of a plot.

```
g +  
  theme_minimal()
```

Length-Weight relationship

There seems to be an exponential relationship

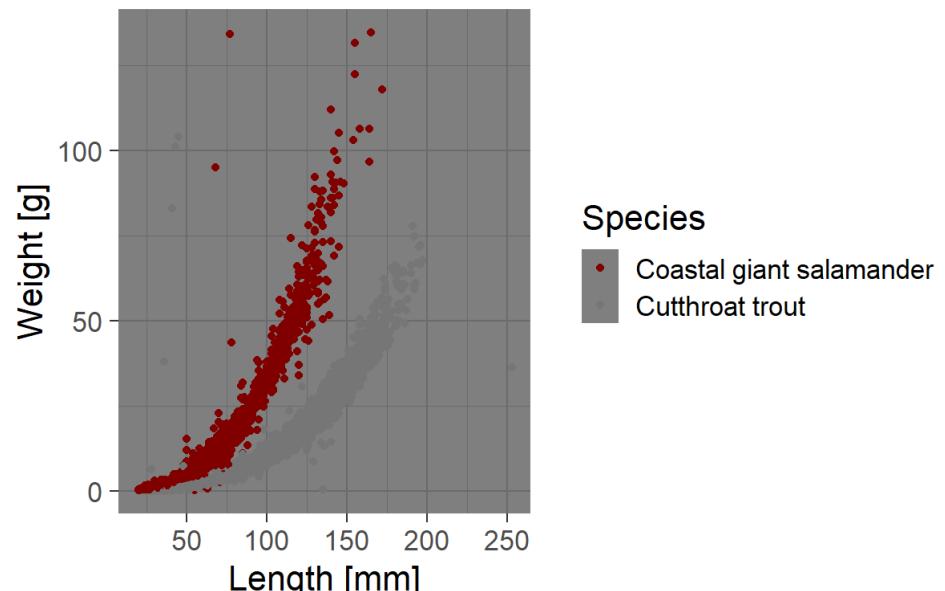


Data from the 'Iterdatasampler' package

```
g +  
  theme_dark()
```

Length-Weight relationship

There seems to be an exponential relationship



Data from the 'Iterdatasampler' package

## theme() : customize theme

You can manually change a theme or even create an entire theme yourself. The elements you can control in the theme are:

- titles (plot, axis, legend, ...)
- labels
- background
- borders
- grid lines
- legends

If you want a full list of what you can customize, have a look at

```
?theme
```

- Look [here](#) for an overview of the elements that you can change and the corresponding functions

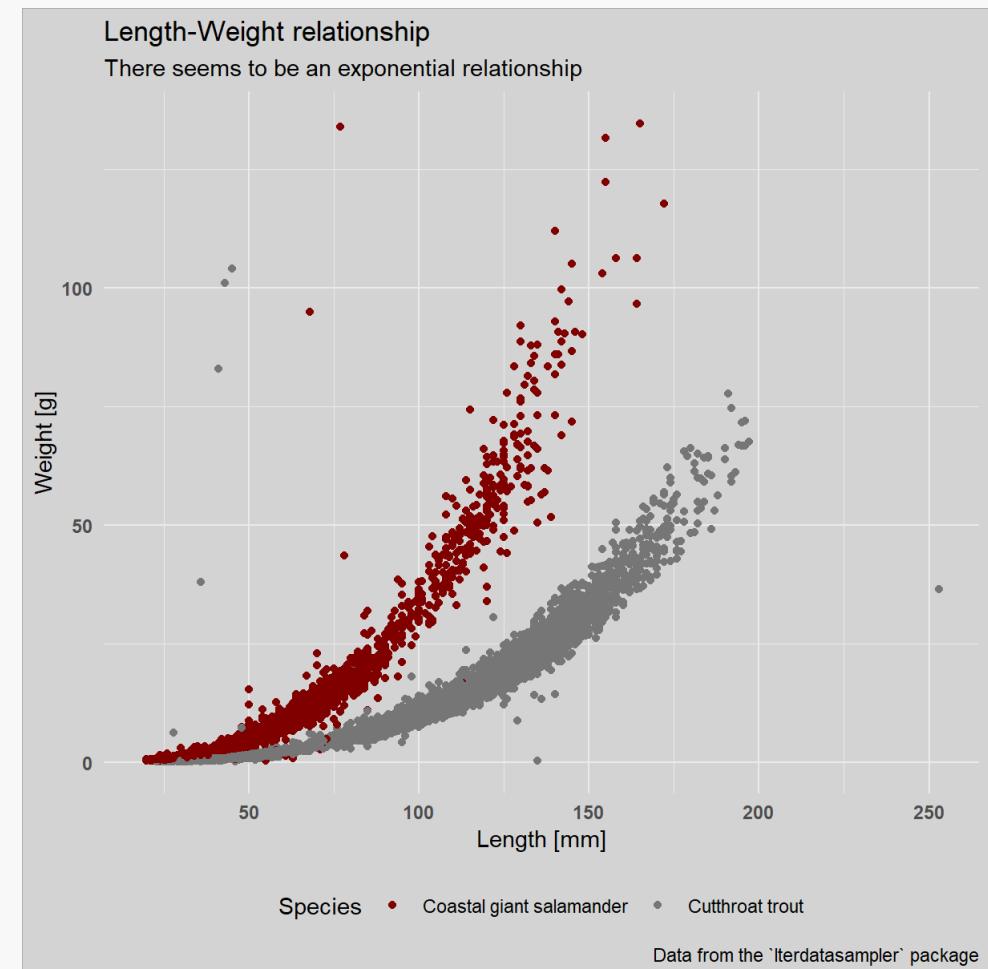
# theme () : customize theme

To edit a theme, just add another `theme()` layer to your plot.

```
g +  
  theme_minimal() +  
  theme(  
    legend.position = "bottom",  
    axis.text = element_text(  
      face = "bold"  
    ),  
    plot.background = element_rect(  
      fill = "lightgrey",  
      color = "darkred"  
    )  
)
```

The basic functioning of theme elements is:

```
theme(  
  element_name = element_function()  
)
```



# theme\_set(): set global theme

You can set a global theme that will be applied to all ggplot objects in the current R session.

```
# Globally set theme_minimal as the default theme  
theme_set(theme_minimal())
```

Add this to the beginning of your script.

You can also specify some defaults, e.g. the text size:

```
theme_set(theme_minimal(base_size = 16))
```

This is very practical if you want to achieve a consistent look, e.g. for a scientific journal.

# ggsave()

A ggplot object can be saved on disk in different formats.

Without specifications:

```
# save plot g in img as my_plot.pdf  
ggsave(filename = "img/my_plot.pdf", plot = g)  
# save plot g in img as my_plot.png  
ggsave(filename = "img/my_plot.png", plot = g)
```

Or with specifications:

```
# save a plot named g in the img directory under the name my_plot.png  
# with width 16 cm and height 9 cm  
ggsave(  
  filename = "img/my_plot.png",  
  plot = g,  
  width = 16,  
  height = 9,  
  units = "cm"  
)
```

Have a look at `?ggsave` to see all options.

# Now you

Task 2 (30 min)

Make your penguin plots more beautiful

Find the task description [here](#)

