

# Overview of R Graphics and **ggplot2**

Data Visualization Workshop @ Scientific Computing Day

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Preliminaries

# Setup

- I am assuming that:
  - You have used R at least a little bit before today
  - You have R installed
  - You are using Rstudio as your interface to R
- You should also have followed the instructions in the email:

```
install.packages("tidyverse", dependencies = TRUE)  
install.packages("gcookbook")
```

- These commands need to be entered in the command window for R inside of RStudio
- These commands only need to be run once (assuming they work!)
- They must be run while your computer is connected to the internet

# Setup

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  - You have used R at least a little
  - You have R installed
  - You are using Rstudio as your interface to R
- You should also have followed the instruction

## IMPORTANT NOTE!!

Due to a webpage formatting issue, the double quote marks in the commands were formatted with quotes that are **incompatible** with R. If these commands failed for you, try **typing them in directly**. Then they should work!

```
install.packages("tidyverse", dependencies = TRUE)  
install.packages("gcookbook")
```

- These commands need to be entered in the command window for R inside of RStudio
- These commands only need to be run once (assuming they work!)
- They must be run while your computer is connected to the internet

# Setup

- You should also download the materials for the workshop today:

- Github: fork the repo, then clone your copy locally

<https://github.com/theEducationalCollective/2018-Scientific-Computing-Day-Visualization-Workshop>

<http://bit.ly/scd2018git>

- Or as a zip file:

<http://bit.ly/scd2018zip>

# Materials

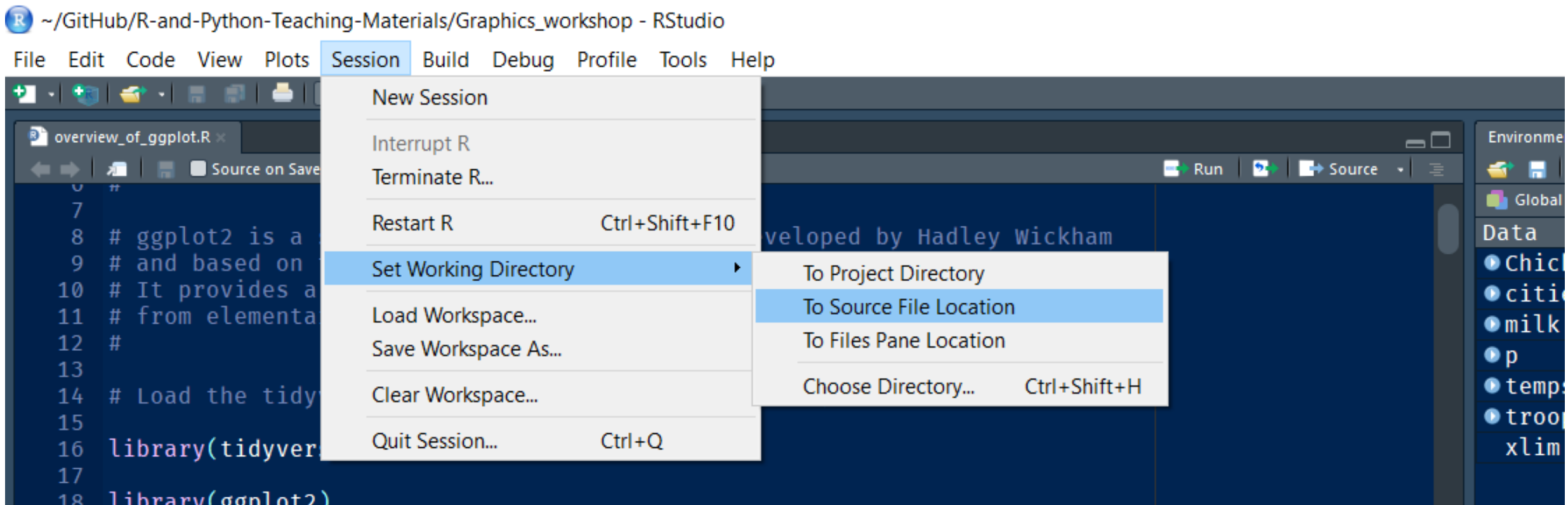
- In the downloaded folder (within a folder) there is:
  - This presentation: **overview\_of\_ggplot2.pdf**
  - The R code for the presentation: **overview\_of\_ggplot.R**
  - Data for the “milk” example: **milk\_data.csv**
  - Exercises for today: **ggplot2\_workshop\_exercises.R**
- Additional materials (not covered today):
  - R code for making publication quality graphics: **publication\_graphics.R**
  - Presentation files for working with R graphics in Microsoft Products:
    - **working\_with\_graphics\_in\_Microsoft\_Office.pptx**
    - **working\_with\_graphics\_in\_Microsoft\_Office.pdf**

# Setup: Two Important Things

- Rstudio allows you to change its working directory to the location of the file you are using from the RStudio menu (at top)
  - You should do this for each of the files from the workshop today when you load a new one
  - Failure to do this may break the file, if that happens, just go to the menu change the working directory and try again

# Setup: Two Important Things

- Rstudio allows you to change its working directory to the location of the file you are using from the RStudio menu (at top)





# Setup: Two Important Things

- Rstudio allows you to change its working directory to the location of the file you are using from the RStudio menu (at top)
  - You should do this for each of the files from the workshop today when you load a new one
  - Failure to do this may break the file, if that happens, just go to the menu change the working directory and try again
- You need to load the ggplot library before using it
  - This can be done in two ways. Use one of the following commands:
    - `library(ggplot2)`
    - `library(tidyverse)`
- This will be done in the examples files, but you have to **run the files in order** if you skip around you may need to remember this!

On to ggplot

# R Plotting Systems

- R has three plotting systems:
  1. Base R Graphics
  2. Lattice Graphics
  3. **ggplot2**
- Most people start with the base R graphics system
  - I will assume you have used this a little bit
- The ggplot2 system is built on top of it
- We'll focus on the ggplot2 system today because it is the easiest way to get good quality figures easily for a wide variety of types of data

# Note

- Some of the examples I will be using today come from a set of online notes from a course at [IDRE](https://stats.idre.ucla.edu) at UCLA
  - The course has slides at:  
[stats.idre.ucla.edu/stat/data/intro\\_ggplot2/ggplot2\\_intro\\_slidy.html](https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/stat/data/intro_ggplot2/ggplot2_intro_slidy.html)
  - The full set of materials for the UCLA workshop is at:  
[stats.idre.ucla.edu/r/seminars/ggplot2\\_intro/](https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/r/seminars/ggplot2_intro/)
- The presentation here will be somewhat simpler and assume less experience with R
- The UCLA workshop is a good follow-up for more

*Practical Recipes for Visualizing Data*



# R Graphics Cookbook

O'REILLY®

*Winston Chang*

Another good resource for ggplot and R graphics generally is Winston Chang's **R Graphics Cookbook** now available in a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

This book provides hundreds of examples of a wide variety of plots as well as some introduction to general use of ggplot, and a chapter on **data munging** (data cleaning/re-arrangement).

# History

- Leland Wilkinson developed a system for building graphic displays called the “grammar of graphics”
  - The idea was to develop a general language for describing plots of data
  - It allows more arbitrary mappings of data to the aesthetic aspects of pictures like size, color, position, etc.
- Hadley Wickham substantially extended and modified this system and implemented it in the R language
  - **ggplot1** was a prototype version with very different syntax
  - **ggplot2** is essentially the first (and only) version ever available
- This system has been continuously developed by many people

# Syntax: Overview

- **ggplot2** builds graphics in **layers** that are specified in *ascending* order
  - You build the plots from items in the **background** to the **foreground**
- Each layer specifies **aesthetic mappings**
  - More in a moment!
  - If these are not given, then they are inherited from the previous layer
- Finally, the physical parts of the plot are specified by “**geoms**”

# Syntax: Aesthetics

- Aesthetics are aspects of the plot that can be used to convey information
- Basically it is a list of physical aspects of the plot that could carry information
- These can be mapped to variables of interest



Some example aesthetics:

- **x**: positioning along x-axis
- **y**: positioning along y-axis
- **color**: color of objects; for 2-d objects, the color of the object's outline (compare to fill below)
- **fill**: fill color of objects
- **alpha**: transparency of objects (value between 0, transparent, and 1, opaque – inverse of how many stacked objects it will take to be opaque)
- **linetype**: how lines should be drawn (solid, dashed, dotted, etc.)
- **shape**: shape of markers in scatter plots
- **size**: how large objects appear

# Syntax: Geoms

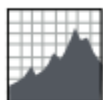
- Geoms are standard plot elements that we are used to using for displaying data
- Each geom function accepts a subset of the aesthetics available

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

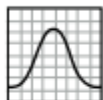
## One Variable

### Continuous

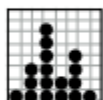
```
a <- ggplot(mpg, aes(hwy))
```



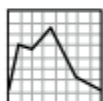
**a + geom\_area(stat = "bin")**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size  
b + geom\_area(aes(y = ..density..), stat = "bin")



**a + geom\_density(kernel = "gaussian")**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight  
b + geom\_density(aes(y = ..county..))



**a + geom\_dotplot()**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill



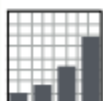
**a + geom\_freqpoly()**  
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size  
b + geom\_freqpoly(aes(y = ..density..))



**a + geom\_histogram(binwidth = 5)**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight  
b + geom\_histogram(aes(y = ..density..))

### Discrete

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



**b + geom\_bar()**  
x, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

## Graphical Primitives

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

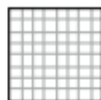


**c + geom\_polygon(aes(group = group))**

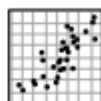
## Two Variables

### Continuous X, Continuous Y

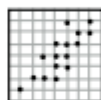
```
f <- ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy))
```



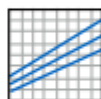
**f + geom\_blank()**



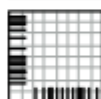
**f + geom\_jitter()**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size



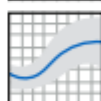
**f + geom\_point()**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, shape, size



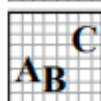
**f + geom\_quantile()**  
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size, weight



**f + geom\_rug(sides = "bl")**  
alpha, color, linetype, size



**f + geom\_smooth(model = lm)**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight



**f + geom\_text(aes(label = cty))**  
x, y, label, alpha, angle, color, family, fontface, hjust, lineheight, size, vjust

### Discrete X, Continuous Y

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



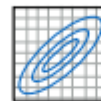
**g + geom\_bar(stat = "identity")**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight

### Continuous Bivariate Distribution

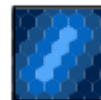
```
i <- ggplot(movies, aes(year, rating))
```



**i + geom\_bin2d(binwidth = c(5, 0.5))**  
xmax, xmin, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size, weight



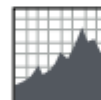
**i + geom\_density2d()**  
x, y, alpha, colour, linetype, size



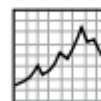
**i + geom\_hex()**  
x, y, alpha, colour, fill size

### Continuous Function

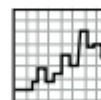
```
j <- ggplot(economics, aes(date, unemploy))
```



**j + geom\_area()**  
x, y, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size



**j + geom\_line()**  
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size



**j + geom\_step(direction = "hv")**  
x, y, alpha, color, linetype, size

### Visualizing error

```
df <- data.frame(grp = c("A", "B"), fit = 4:5, se = 1:2)  
k <- ggplot(df, aes(grp, fit, ymin = fit-se, ymax = fit+se))
```

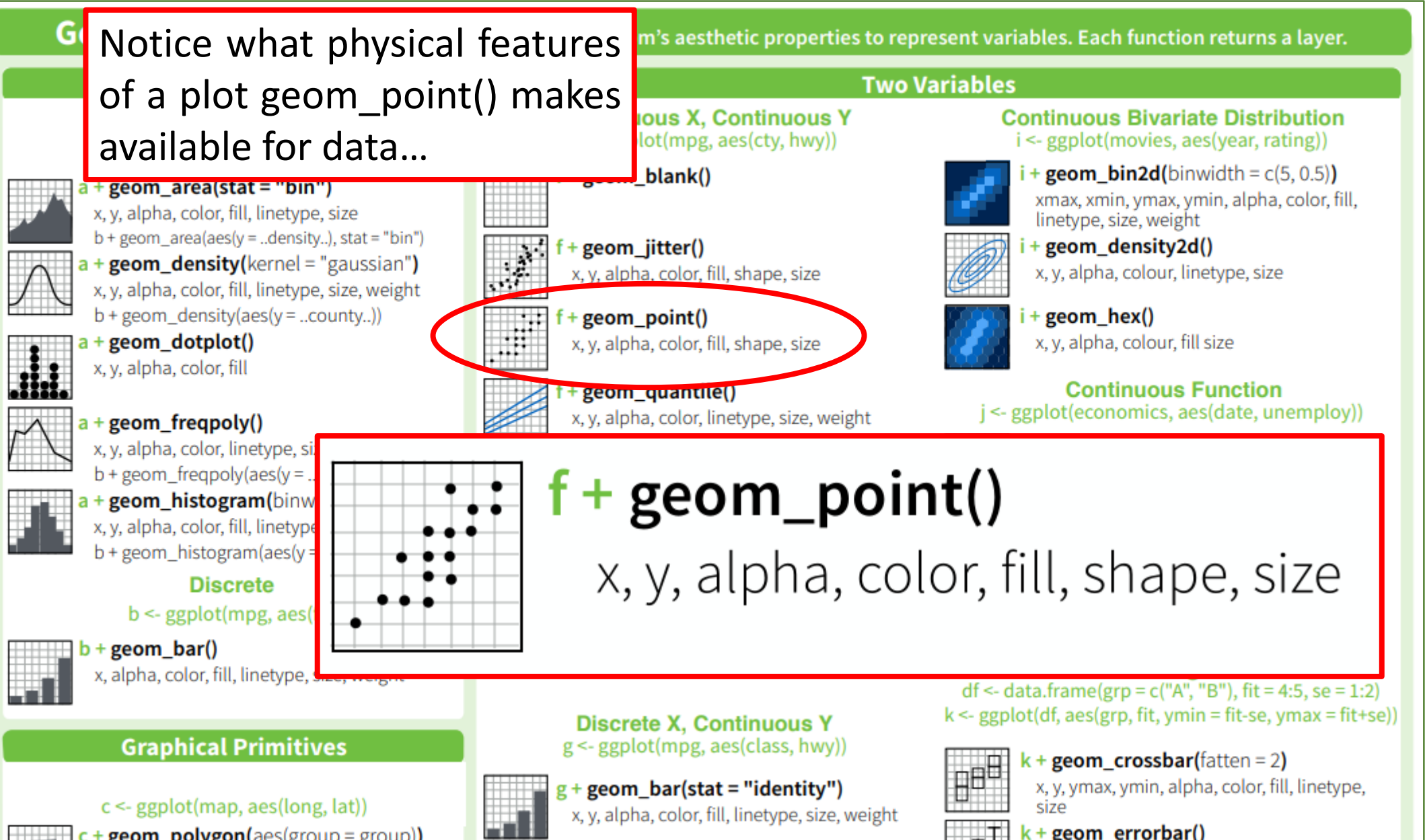


**k + geom\_crossbar(fatten = 2)**  
x, y, ymax, ymin, alpha, color, fill, linetype, size



**k + geom\_errorbar()**

Notice what physical features of a plot `geom_point()` makes available for data...



# Syntax

- All of your data needs to be in a single data frame for simple plots
- You may need to restructure your data a bit to make things work
  - Much of the **tidyverse** collection of R packages were made to make this easier
  - We only have time to just touch on the tidyverse today, if you are interested there is a lot of information available online (it is very powerful)

Simple Examples

```
library(tidyverse)
```

```
> library(tidyverse)
-- Attaching packages ----- tidyverse 1.2.1 --
v ggplot2 2.2.1      v purrr   0.2.4
v tibble  1.4.2      v dplyr   0.7.4
v tidyr   0.8.0      v stringr 1.3.0
v readr   1.1.1      v forcats 0.3.0
-- Conflicts ----- tidyverse_conflicts() --
x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
x dplyr::lag()     masks stats::lag()
```

Loading the **tidyverse** basically configures R to use the “tidy” data format:

- Rows are data “points” (subjects, observations, units, etc.)
- Columns are variables observed on units
- The tidy format is a “tall” data format: if you have multiple observations on a unit, each observation has its own row!

The **tidyverse** is a collection of tools to make this format easy to achieve and maintain as you process your data set.

```
library(tidyverse)
```

```
> library(tidyverse)
-- Attaching packages ----- tidyverse 1.2.1 --
v ggplot2 2.2.1      v purrr   0.2.4
v tibble  1.4.2      v dplyr   0.7.4
v tidyr   0.8.0      v stringr 1.3.0
v readr   1.1.1      v forcats 0.3.0
-- Conflicts ----- tidyverse_conflicts() --
x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
x dplyr::lag()     masks stats::lag()
```

```
data("diamonds")
head(diamonds)
dim(diamonds)
```

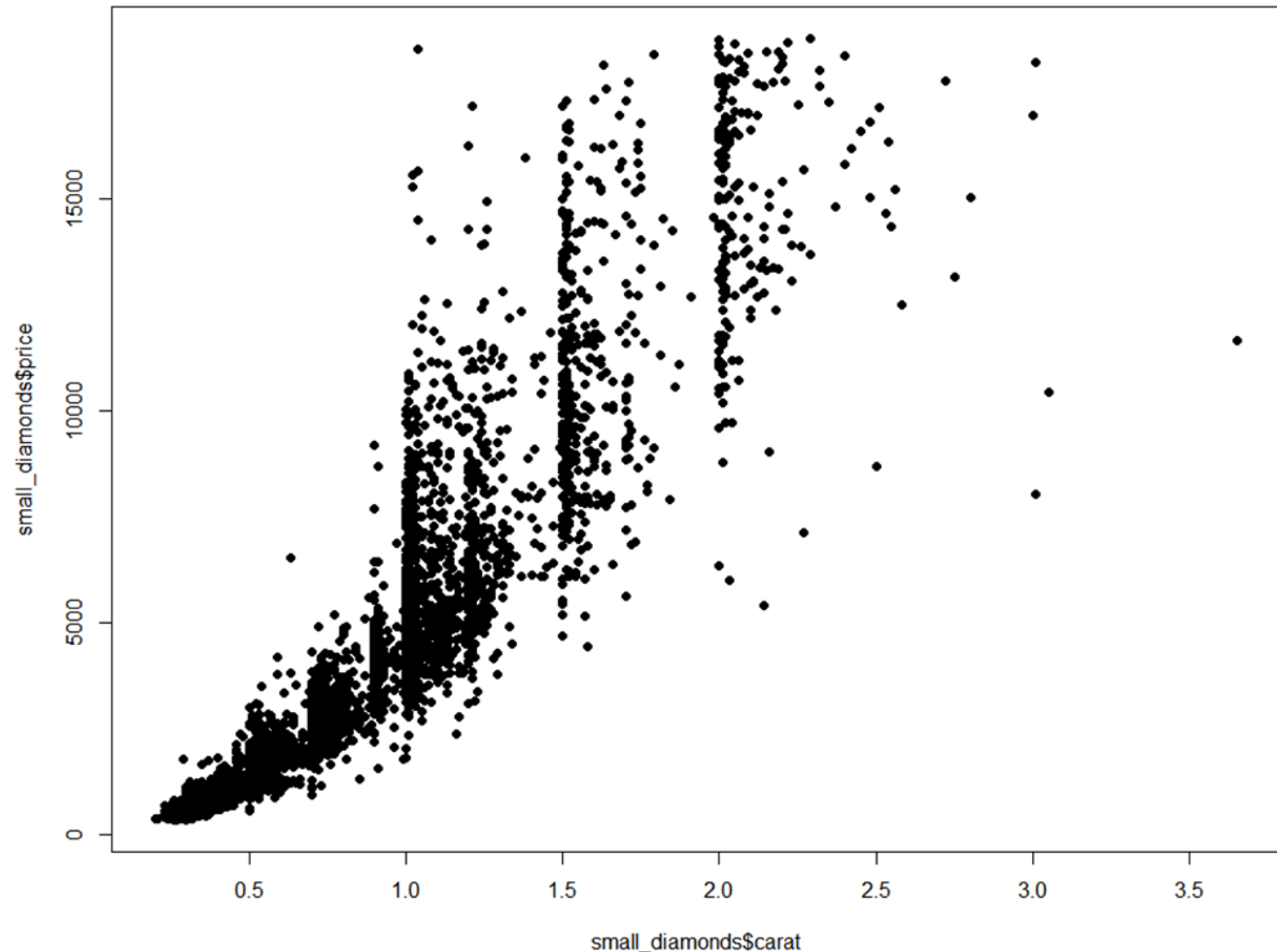
```
> head(diamonds)
# A tibble: 6 x 10
  carat cut      color clarity depth table price      x      y      z
  <dbl> <ord>    <ord> <ord>    <dbl> <dbl> <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
1  0.230 Ideal    E     SI2     61.5   55.    326   3.95   3.98   2.43
2  0.210 Premium  E     SI1     59.8   61.    326   3.89   3.84   2.31
3  0.230 Good     E     VS1     56.9   65.    327   4.05   4.07   2.31
4  0.290 Premium  I     VS2     62.4   58.    334   4.20   4.23   2.63
5  0.310 Good     J     SI2     63.3   58.    335   4.34   4.35   2.75
6  0.240 Very Good J     VVS2     62.8   57.    336   3.94   3.96   2.48
> dim(diamonds)
[1] 53940  10
```



```
small_diamonds <- sample_n(diamonds, size = 5000)
```

```
plot(small_diamonds$carat, small_diamonds$price, pch = 16)
```

This plot command is a base R graphics command and the sort that most people should be familiar with using. The output is fairly simple but we could add more nice features.

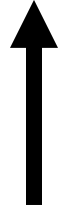


# How would this go in **ggplot2**?

- We begin by calling the `ggplot` command (no 2!) and setting our data source and baseline aesthetic

```
pvc <- ggplot(aes(x = carat, y = price), data = small_diamonds)
```

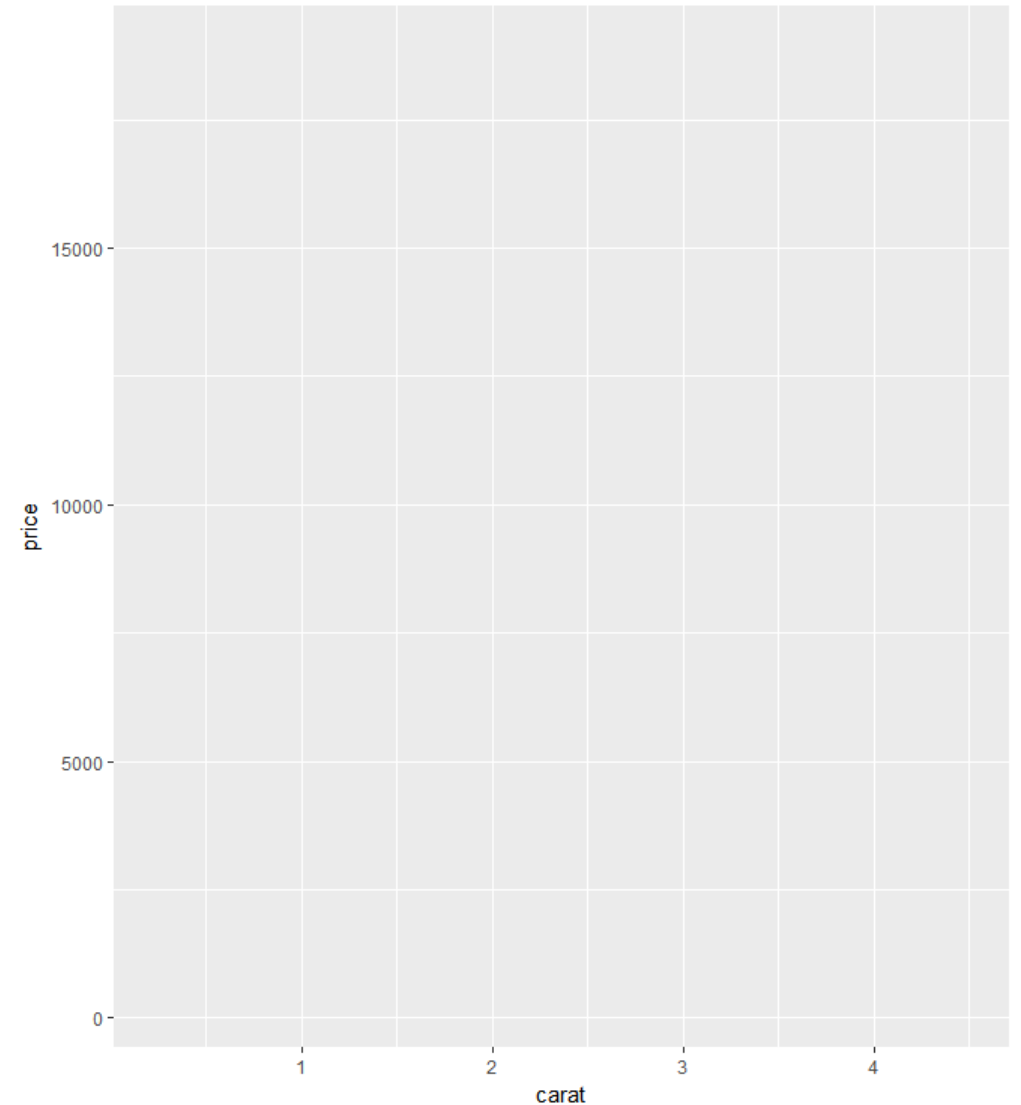
pvc



“aes” for aesthetic

In R, there are two ways to give variables to functions:

1. List them in order (like with the previous plot command)
2. Specify them by name (as done here)



# How would this go in **ggplot2**?

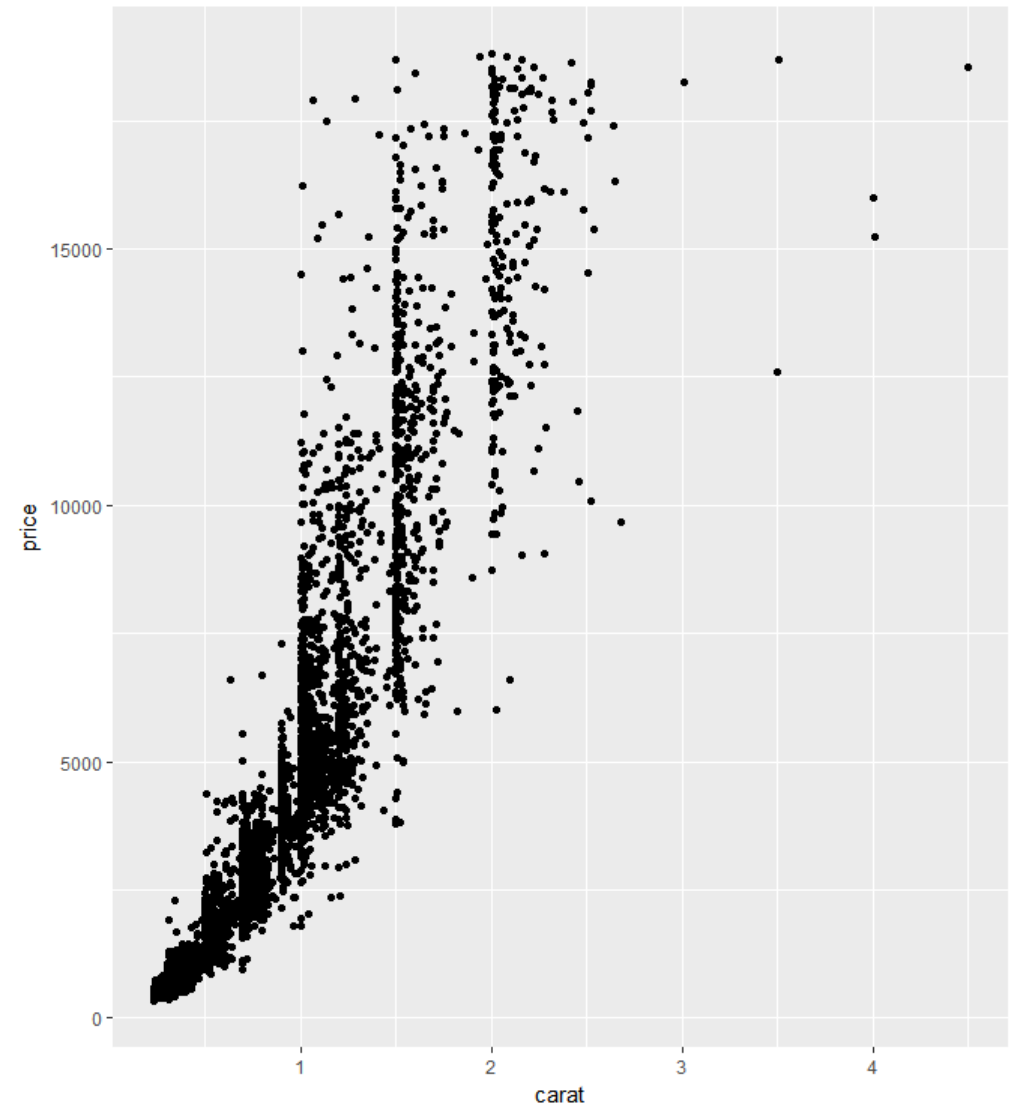
- We begin by calling the `ggplot` command (no 2!) and setting our data source and baseline aesthetic
- Notice:
  - No plot is made, but the axes are computed based on the data set
  - The first line sets the aesthetics and data
  - The second line shows the plot (just **pvc** – the name of the plot!)
- To actually make a figure, we need to add a “geom” (geometry or geometric object)
  - `ggplot` builds plots by adding together different plot objects

```
pvc <- ggplot(aes(x = carat, y = price), data = small_diamonds) +  
  geom_point()
```

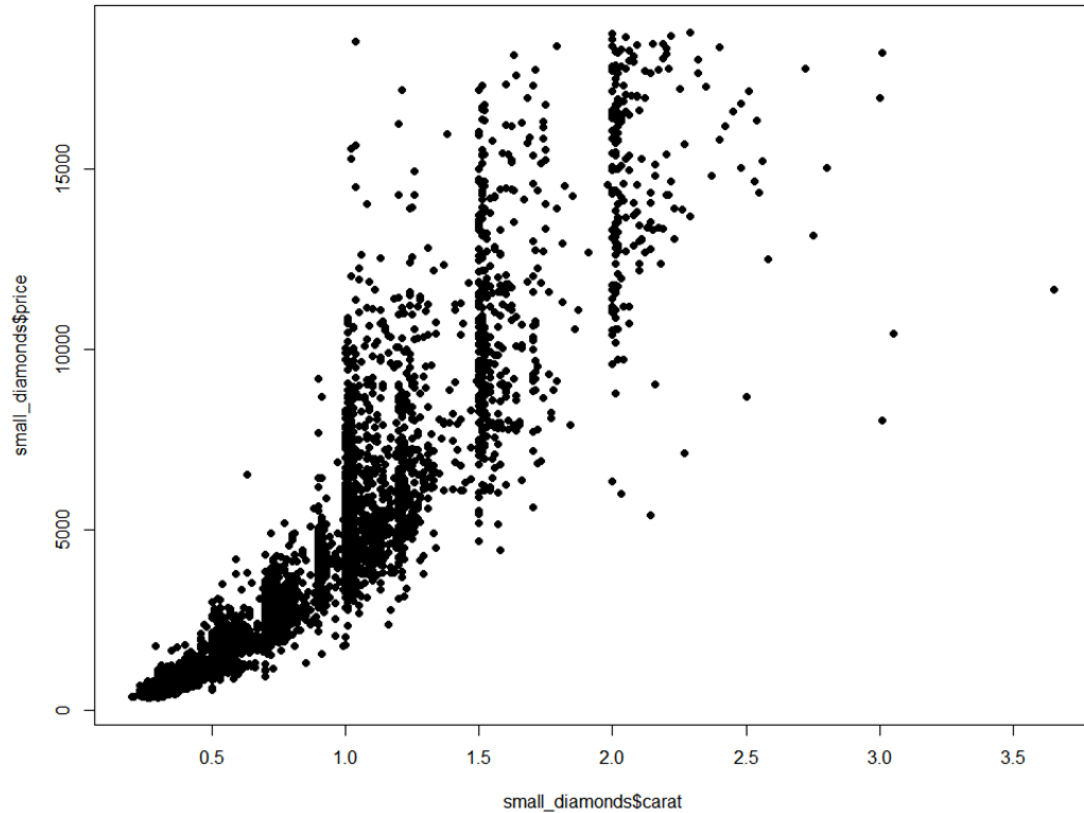
pvc

So for a really simple figure, ggplot is a little more complicated to start, but we get some nice features for free:

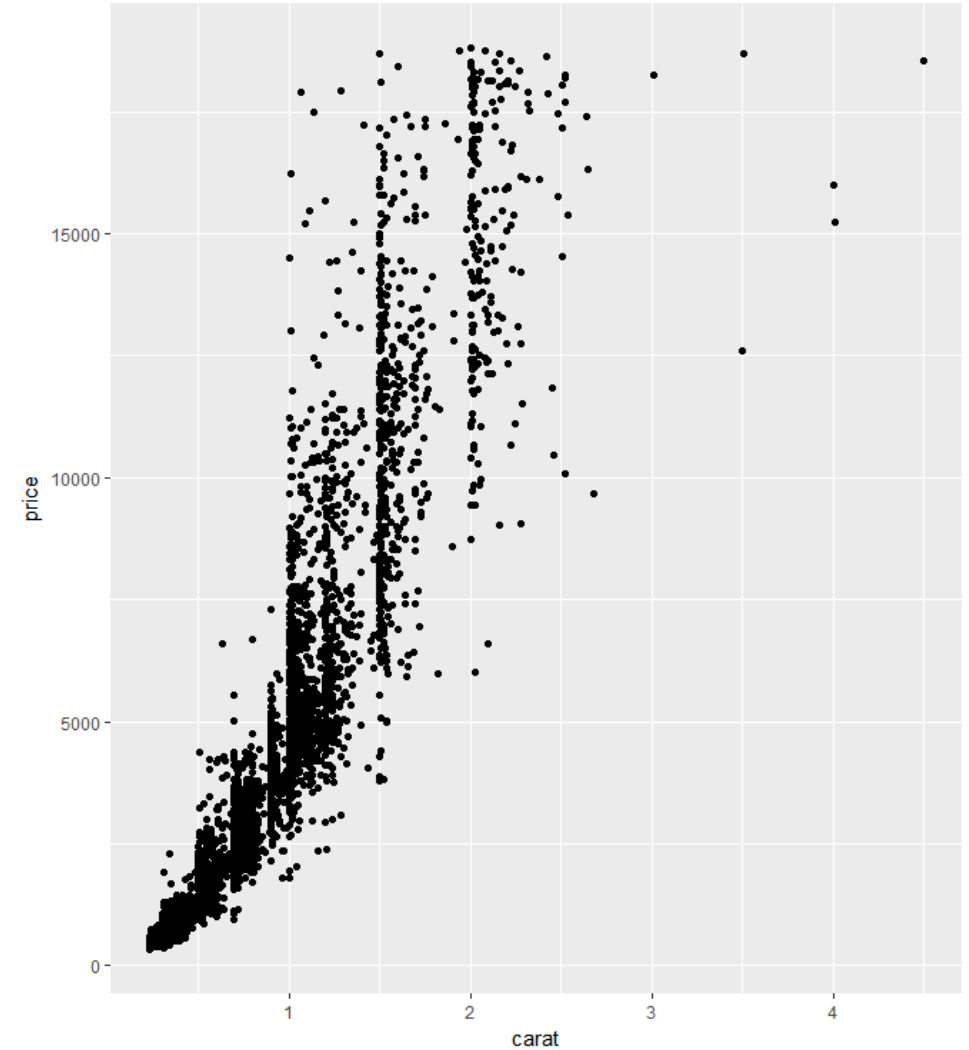
- Axis names are cleaner
- The grid background is visually helpful



It is worth noting that there is really nothing that you can do with ggplot that you cannot do with base R graphics, but doing those things can take a lot of code.



Base R Graphics



ggplot2

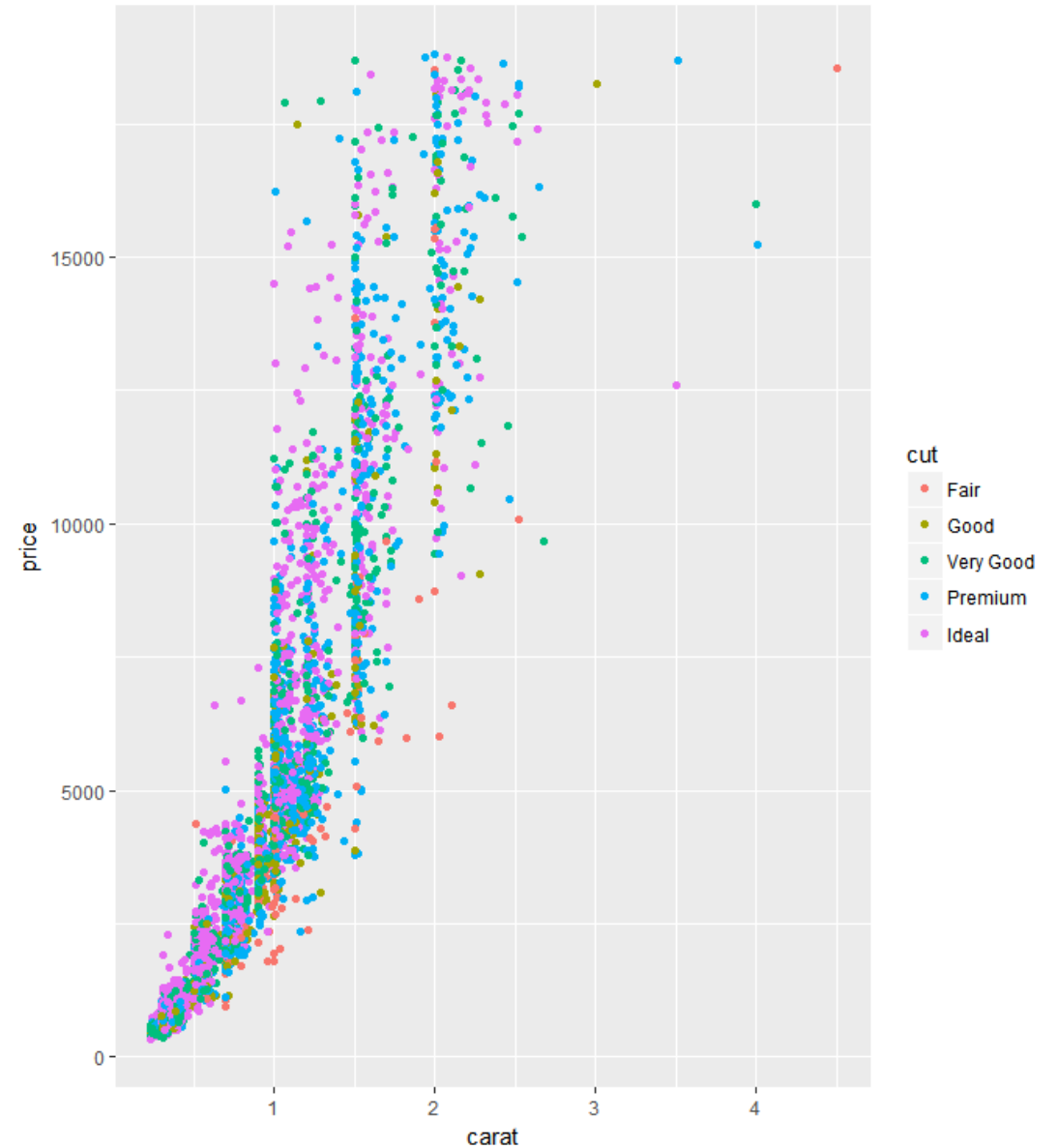
- The critical benefit of ggplot appears when you go beyond a basic plot
- For this example, let's add the cut of the diamond to the plot
  - In ggplot this is very easy...

```
pvc <- ggplot(aes(x = carat, y = price), data = small_diamonds) +  
  geom_point(aes(color = cut))  
pvc
```

The only change here is to add a new aesthetic relating the color of the points to the variable “cut.”

Notice that the plot region is shaped a little differently due to the legend being added for the colors.

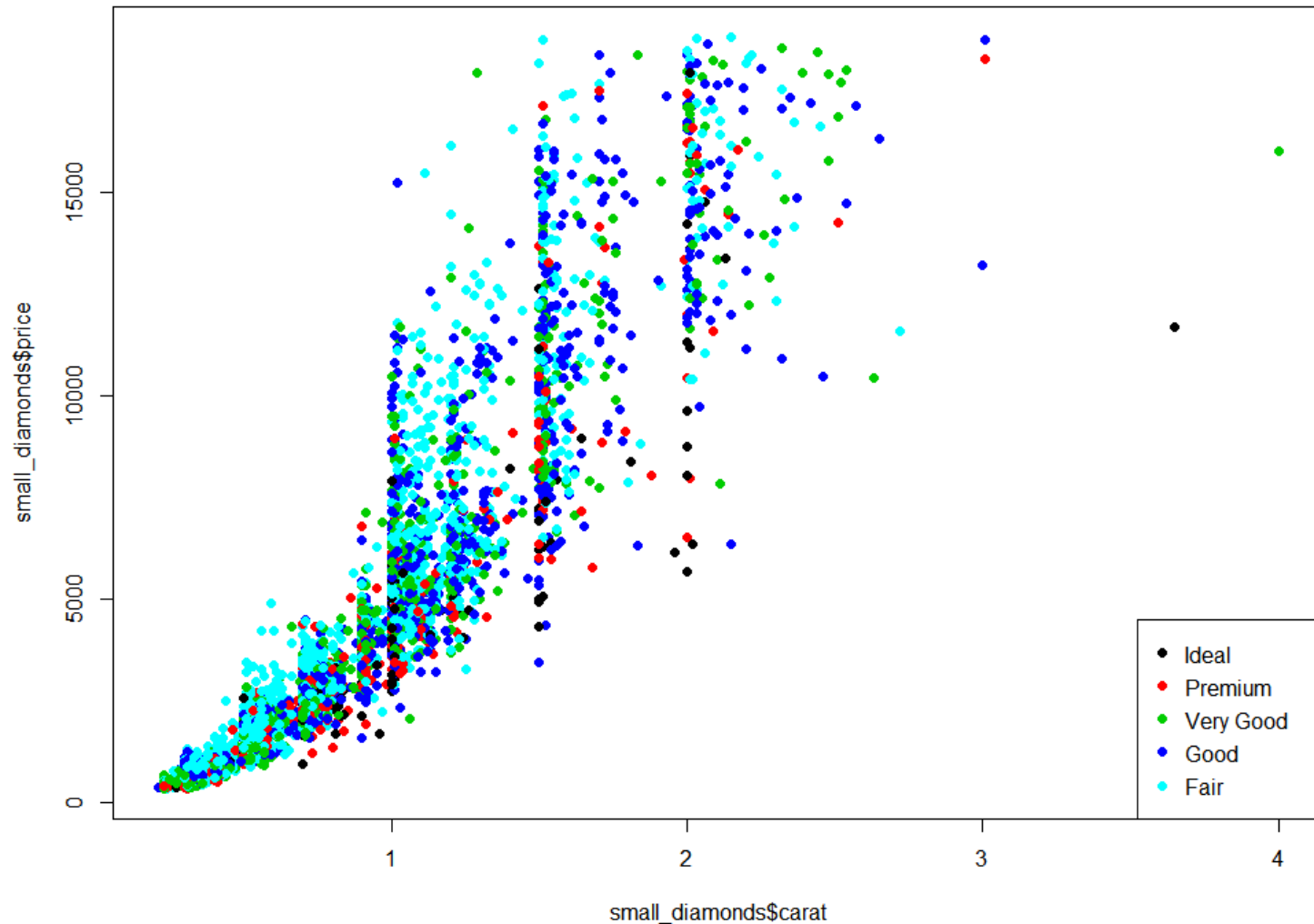
We can change this by adding a size specification to the region.





```
plot(small_diamonds$carat, small_diamonds$price,  
     col = small_diamonds$cut, pch = 16)  
legend("bottomright", legend = unique(small_diamonds$cut),  
      col = 1:length(small_diamonds$cut), pch = 16)
```

Base R Version



# Specifying and Modifying Aesthetics

- Notice that these two commands make the same plot:

```
pvc <- ggplot(aes(x = carat, y = price), data = small_diamonds) +  
  geom_point(aes(color = cut))
```

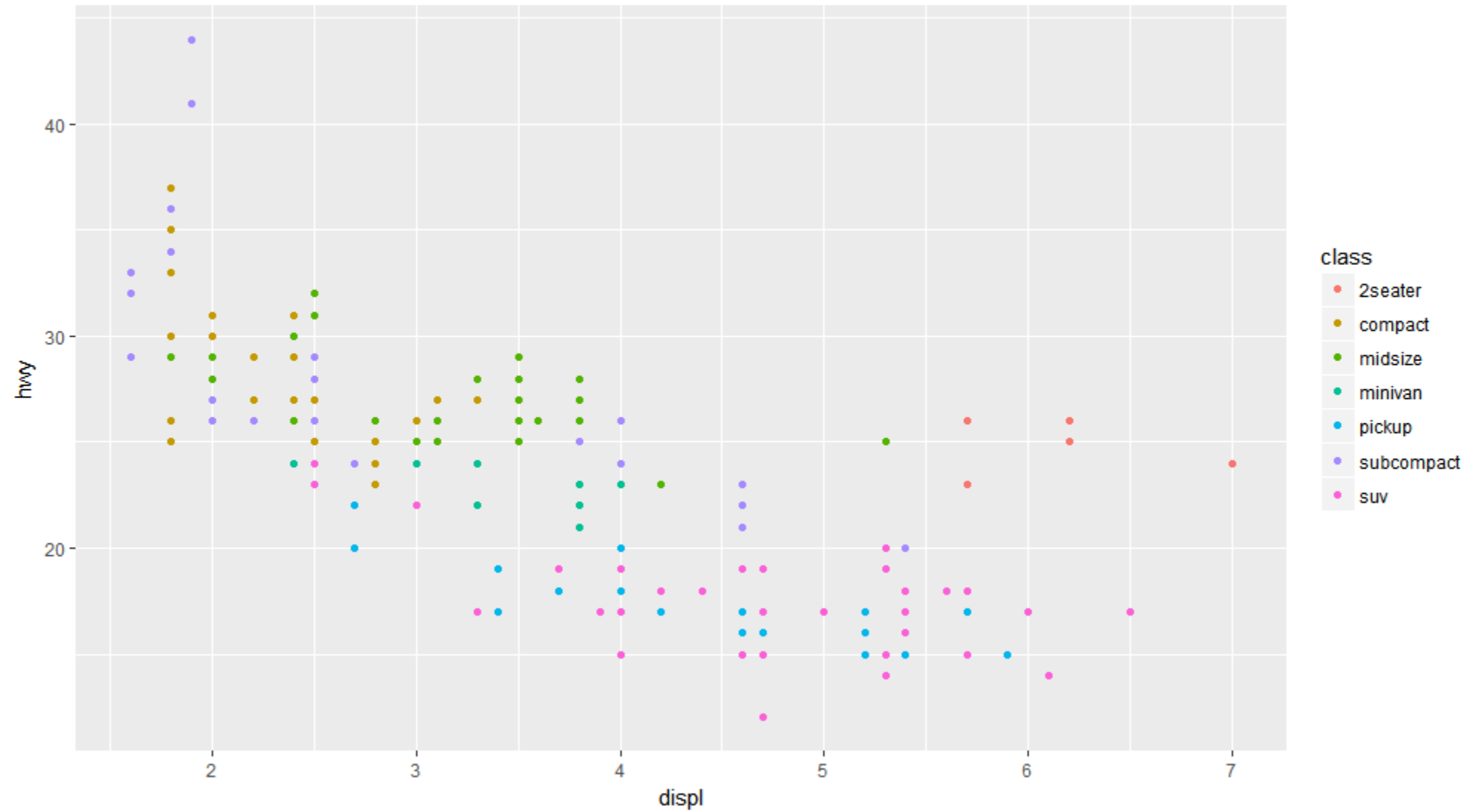
```
pvc <- ggplot(aes(x = carat, y = price, color = cut), data = small_diamonds) +  
  geom_point()
```

- So there are various places to specify aesthetics
- You can also change aesthetics as you add layers

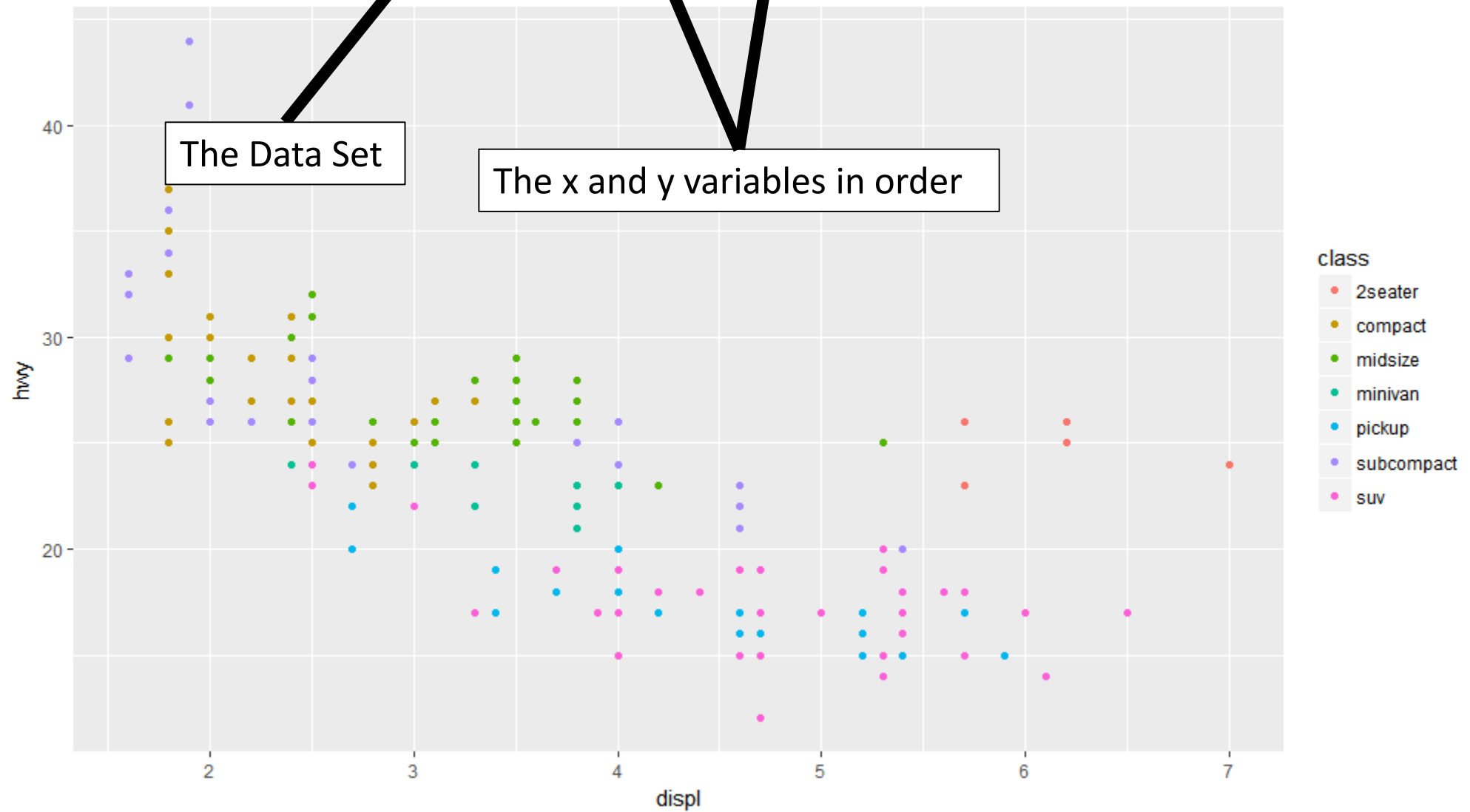
# Alternative Specifications of **aes()**

- There are various equivalent ways of specifying the aesthetic mappings as shown on the following slides...

```
mpg_plot <- ggplot(mpg, aes(displ, hwy, color = class)) + geom_point()
```



```
mpg_plot <- ggplot(mpg, aes(displ, hwy, color = class)) + geom_point()
```



# Specifying the aesthetics in the plot vs. in the layers

Aesthetic mappings can be supplied in the initial `ggplot()` call, in individual layers, or in some combination of both. All of these calls create the same plot specification:

```
ggplot(mpg, aes(displ, hwy, colour = class)) +  
  geom_point()  
ggplot(mpg, aes(displ, hwy)) +  
  geom_point(aes(colour = class))  
ggplot(mpg, aes(displ)) +  
  geom_point(aes(y = hwy, colour = class))  
ggplot(mpg) +  
  geom_point(aes(displ, hwy, colour = class))
```

**Notice that ggplot2 accepts both British and American spellings of color.**

# R Example File

- We will now continue inside the R file: **overview\_of\_ggplot2.R**