

Advanced data visualization with ggplot2

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Notation of the slides

- Code or Pseudo-Code chunk starts with " ➤ ", e.g.
 ➤ print("Hello world!")
- Link is underlined

- Important terminology is in **bold** font
- Practice comes with



Workshop goals

Master the syntax and grammar of ggplot2



Use online resources to to generate publication-quality figures







Develop a mindset and taste for better data visualizations

Agenda

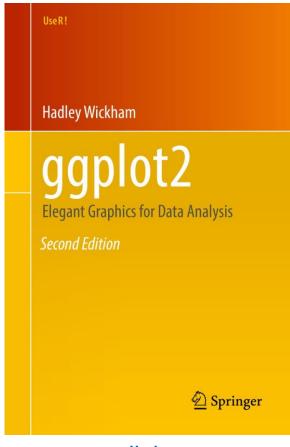
- Day 1: Data visualization basics
 - Getting started with ggplot2
 - Recap of data wrangling functions
- Day 2: Building a plot layer by layer
 - Exploring different plot types
 - Getting more control on the plots
- Day 3: Examples and useful packages
 - Practical examples and principles
 - Introducing some useful packages





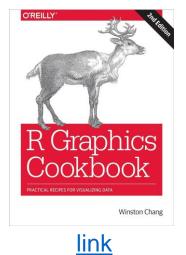


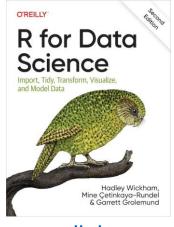
Reference

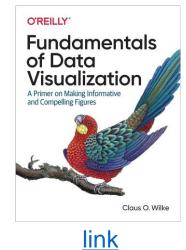


<u>link</u>

Other useful references







The creator

"for influential work in statistical computing, visualization, graphics, and data analysis; for developing and implementing an impressively comprehensive computational infrastructure for data analysis through R software; for making statistical thinking and computing accessible to large audience; and for enhancing an appreciation for the important role of statistics among data scientists."

—— 2019 COPSS President's Award



Hadley Wickham Chief Scientist, Rstudio/posit

Environment setup

Go to the official download website



DOWNLOAD

RStudio Desktop

Used by millions of people weekly, the RStudio integrated development environment (IDE) is a set of tools built to help you be more productive with R and Python.

Don't want to download or install anything? Get started with RStudio on <u>Posit Cloud for free</u>. If you're a professional data scientist looking to download RStudio and also need common enterprise features, don't hesitate to <u>book a call with us</u>.

1: Install R

RStudio requires R 3.3.0+. Choose a version of R that matches your computer's operating system.

2: Install RStudio

DOWNLOAD RSTUDIO DESKTOP FOR WINDOWS

Released: 2023-10-17

7

Environment setup

Go to the official download website

Install R and RStudio desktop based on your operating system

The Comprehensive R Archive Network

Download and Install R

Precompiled binary distributions of the base system and contributed packages, Windows and Mac users most likely want one of these versions of R.

- Download R for Linux (Debian, Fedora/Redhat, Ubuntu)
- Download R for macOS
- · Download R for Windows

R is part of many Linux distributions, you should check with your Linux package management system in addition to the link above.

ource Code for all Platform:

Windows and Mac users most likely want to download the precompiled binaries listed in the upper box, not the source code. The sources have to be compiled before you can use them. If you do not know what this means, you probably do not want to do it!

- The latest release (2023-10-31, Eye Holes) R-4.3.2.tar.gz, read what's new in the latest version.
- Sources of R alpha and beta releases (daily snapshots, created only in time periods before a planned release).
- Daily snapshots of current patched and development versions are <u>available here</u>. Please read about <u>new features and bug fixes</u> before filing corresponding feature requests or bug reports.
- · Source code of older versions of R is available here.
- Contributed extension packages

Ouestions About R

If you have questions about R like how to download and install the software, or what the license terms are, please read our <u>answers to frequently asked questions</u> before you send an email.

Environment setup

Go to the official download website

Install R and RStudio desktop based on your operating system

- Install the necessary package(s) in RStudio Console
 - install.packages("tidyverse")



Day 1: Data visualization basics

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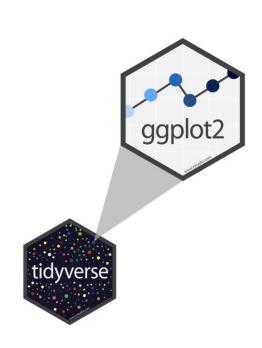
Overview

Time

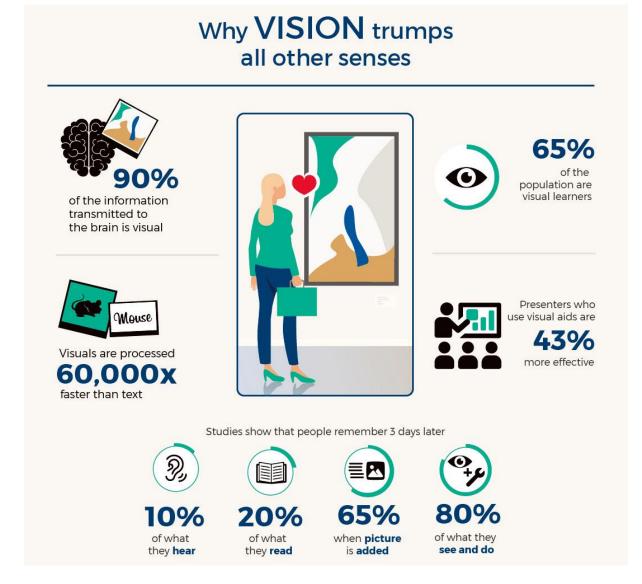
• 3-hour workshop (45min + 45min + 30min + practice/Q&A)

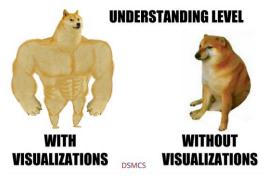
Topics

- Introduction
- ☐ Getting started with ggplot2
- ☐ Recap of data wrangling functions
 - Variable types, factors, data frame
 - dplyr::filter(), select(), mutate(), left_join(), bind_rows() ...
 - tidyr::pivot_longer(), pivot_wider() ...
- □ Aesthetic mapping



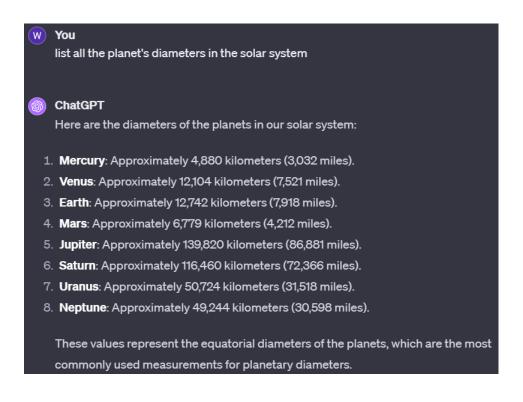
Facts on how our brain reacts to visuals

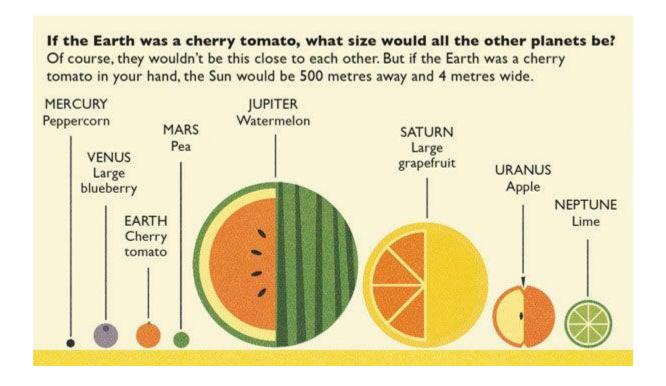




"A picture may be worth a thousand words"

Example





But the visualization can be imprecise (e.g. the distance between planets)

"A picture may be worth a thousand words"

Remark Whether the traversal is clockwise, is undefined in the case of the degenerate triangle, i.e. a "triangle" with its vertices on a straight line, but in that case its area equals zero and its sign is irrelevant. Also, please note that the theorems

$$\triangle XYZ = -\triangle ZYX$$

 $\triangle XYZ = \triangle YZX$

hold independently of the sign of AXYZ,

i.e., for both



and X

A picture may be worth a thousand words, a formula is worth a thousand pictures. (End of Remark.)

— A first exploration of effective reasoning (1996)

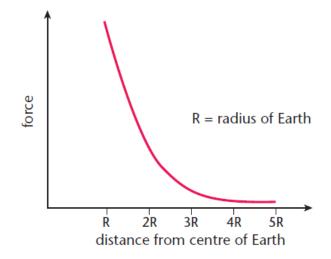


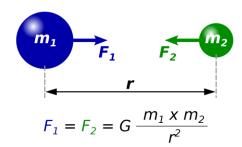
Edsger Dijkstra (1930-2002)

"A formula is worth a thousand pictures"

A picture may be worth a thousand words, a formula is worth a thousand pictures. (End of Remark.)

Newton's law of gravitation:



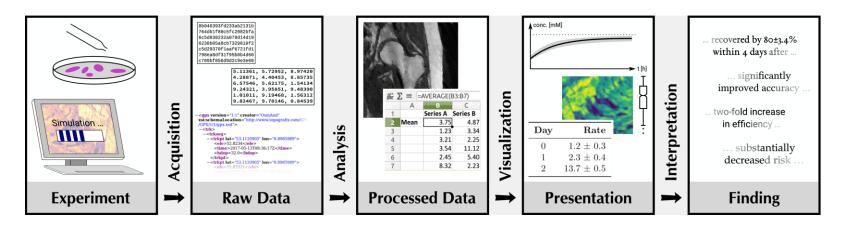




Edsger Dijkstra (1930-2002)

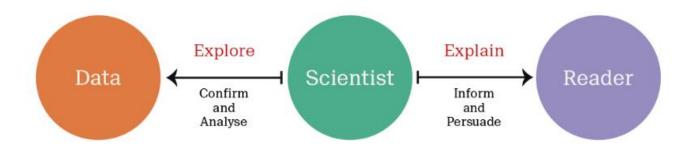
Question: What is worth than a thousand formulas?

The role of data visualization in science



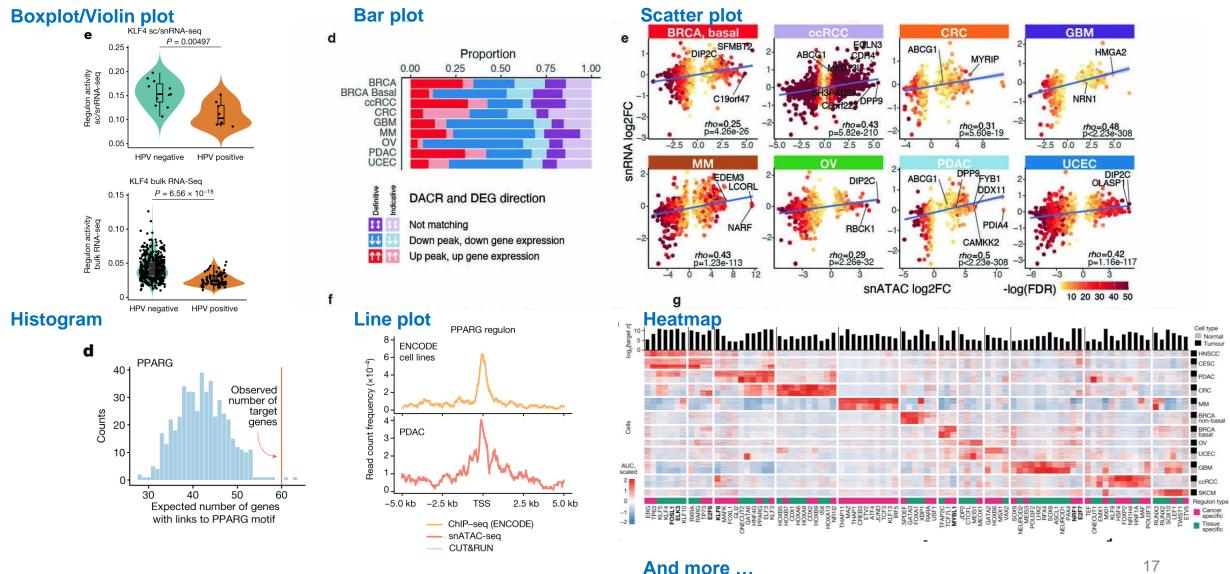
Typical steps in scientific work involving data analysis

(Schwen et al. Plos Computational Biology, 2018)



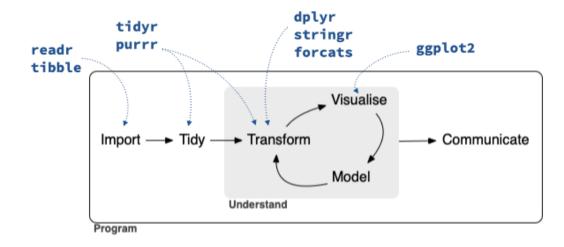
As a scientist, we use data visualization techniques to explore and explain

The role of data visualization in science (example)



Terekhanova, et al. Nature (2023)

ggplot2: a core member of tidyverse



a typical data science project

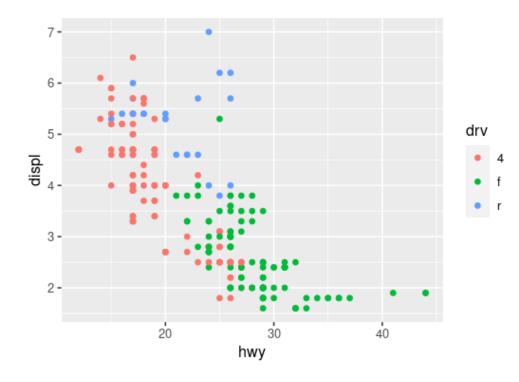


tidyverse: a collection of R packages for data science

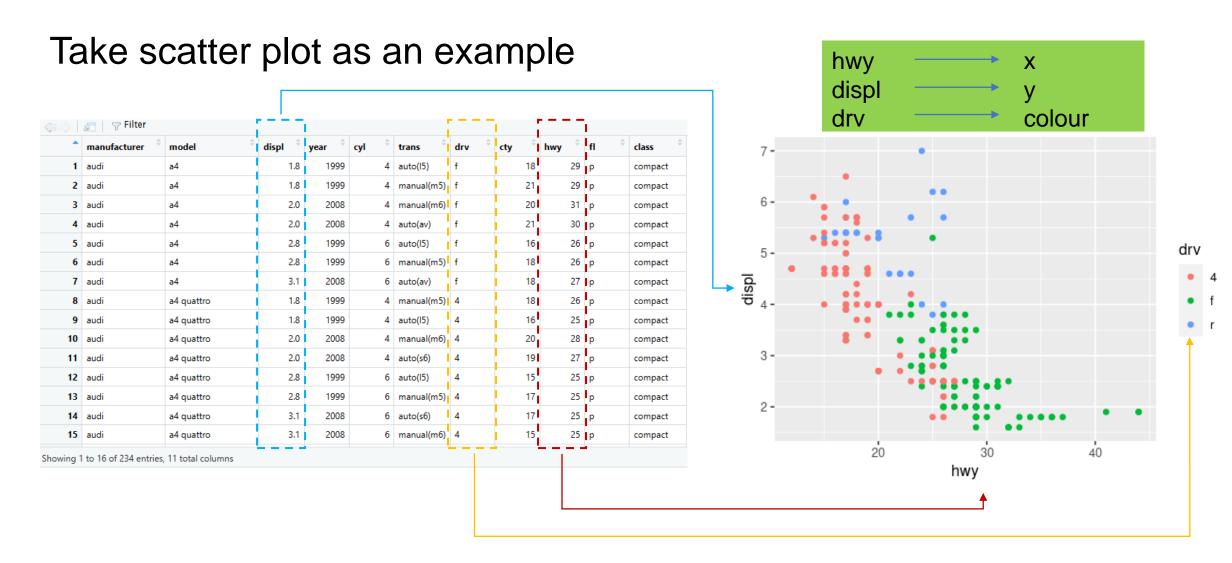
Idea behind ggplot2 visualization

Take scatter plot as an example

^	manufacturer	model	displ	year	cyl	trans	drv	cty	hwy	fl [‡]	class
1	audi	a4	1.8	1999	4	auto(I5)	f	18	29	p	compact
2	audi	a4	1.8	1999	4	manual(m5)	f	21	29	р	compact
3	audi	a4	2.0	2008	4	manual(m6)	f	20	31	p	compact
4	audi	a4	2.0	2008	4	auto(av)	f	21	30	p	compact
5	audi	a4	2.8	1999	6	auto(I5)	f	16	26	p	compact
6	audi	a4	2.8	1999	6	manual(m5)	f	18	26	р	compact
7	audi	a4	3.1	2008	6	auto(av)	f	18	27	р	compact
8	audi	a4 quattro	1.8	1999	4	manual(m5)	4	18	26	p	compact
9	audi	a4 quattro	1.8	1999	4	auto(I5)	4	16	25	p	compact
10	audi	a4 quattro	2.0	2008	4	manual(m6)	4	20	28	р	compact
11	audi	a4 quattro	2.0	2008	4	auto(s6)	4	19	27	р	compact
12	audi	a4 quattro	2.8	1999	6	auto(I5)	4	15	25	р	compact
13	audi	a4 quattro	2.8	1999	6	manual(m5)	4	17	25	p	compact
14	audi	a4 quattro	3.1	2008	6	auto(s6)	4	17	25	p	compact
15	audi	a4 quattro	3.1	2008	6	manual(m6)	4	15	25	p	compact
owina 1	to 16 of 234 entries,	11 total columns									



Idea behind ggplot2 visualization



Create a ggplot object

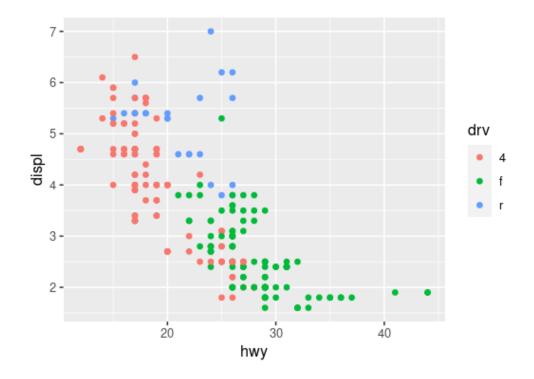
Create the initial plot object

```
ggplot(data = NULL, mapping = aes(), ...)
data: dataset to use for plot
mapping: list of aesthetic mappings to use for plot
...: other arguments
```

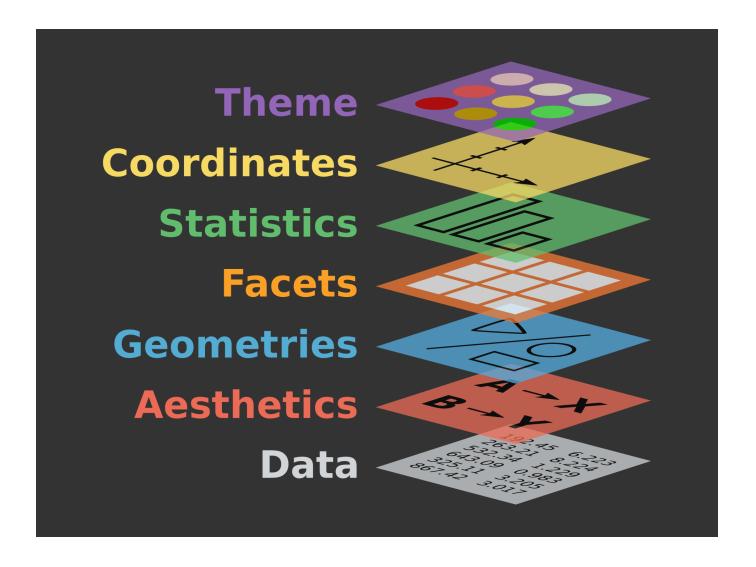
- The data = and mapping = specifications are optional, so long as the data and mapping are passed into the function in the right order
- ggplot() is usually followed by a plus sign (+) to add additional components/layers to the plot

Key components of a ggplot object

- The data
- A set of aesthetic mappings between variables and visual properties
- At least one layer describing how to render the observations

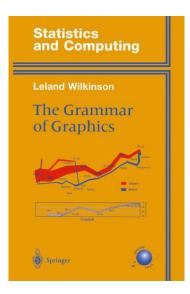


The layered grammar of graphics



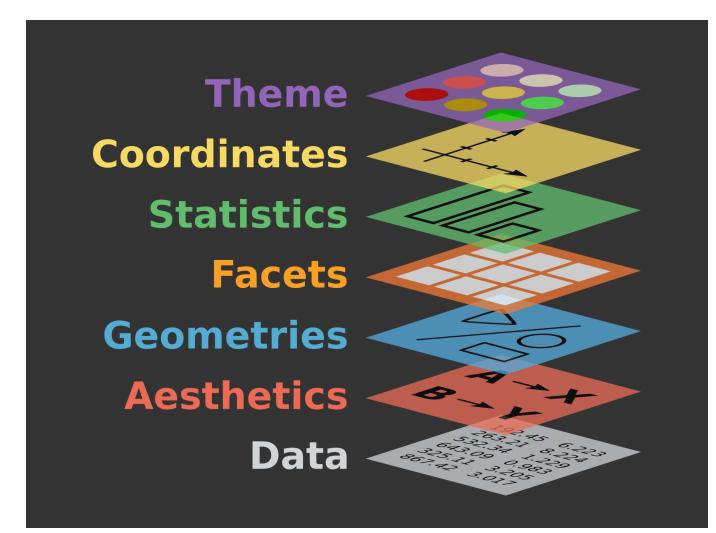


Leland Wilkinson (1944-2021)



The Grammar of Graphics (1999)

The layered grammar of graphics



Describes all the non-data ink

Plotting space for the data

Statistical models and summaries

Rows and columns of sub-plots

Shapes used to represent the data

Scales onto which data is mapped

The actual variables to be plotted

Components of the layered grammar

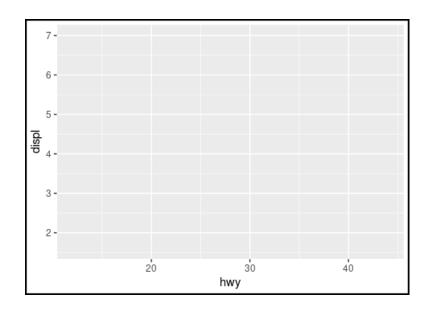
- □ A default dataset and set of mappings from variables to aesthetics
- ☐ One or more layers, each composed of
 - a geometric object (visual object in the plot)
 - a statistical transformation
 - a position adjustment
 - optionally, a dataset and aesthetic mappings
- ☐ One scale for each aesthetic mapping
 - map values in the data space to values in the aesthetic space
- ☐ A coordinate system
 - map data coordinates to the plane of the graphic
- ☐ The faceting specification
 - specifies how to break up and display subsets of data

```
p + layer(
  mapping = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  geom = "point",
  stat = "identity",
  position = "identity"
)
```

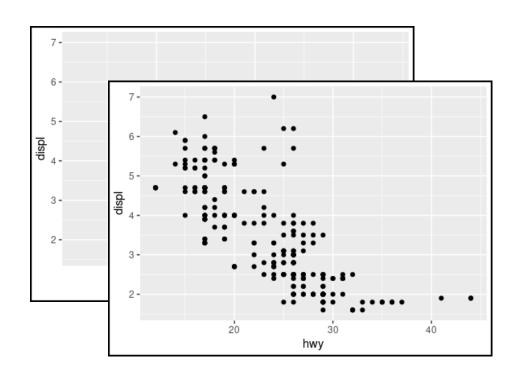
p + geom_point()

3 ways to invoke ggplot()

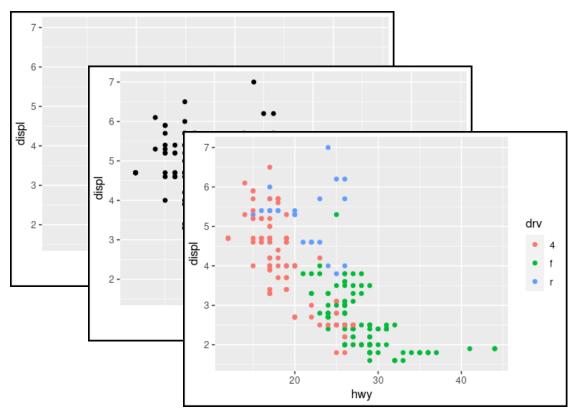
- > ggplot(data = df, mapping = aes(), ...)
 - when all layers use the same data and the same set of aesthetics
- ggplot(data = df)
 - when layers use the same data, but use different aesthetics
- > ggplot()
 - when multiple data frames are used to produce different layers



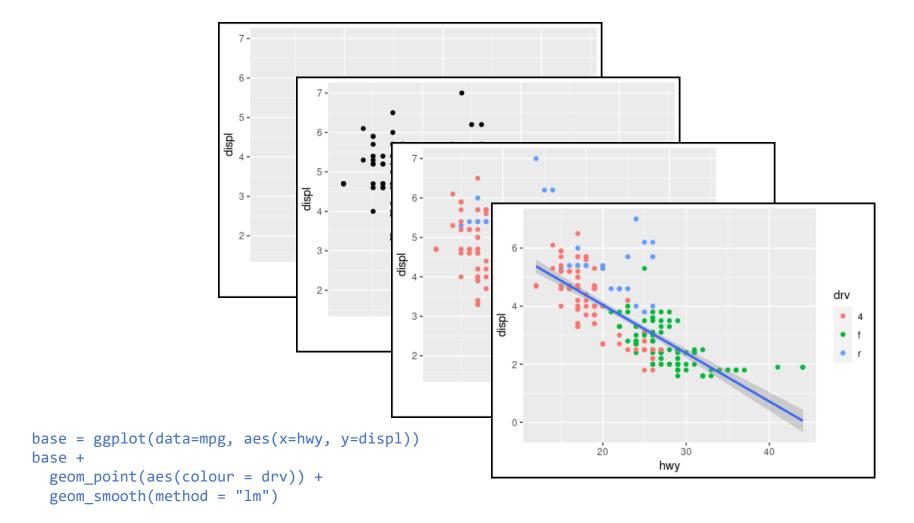
```
base = ggplot(data=mpg, aes(x=hwy, y=displ))
base
```

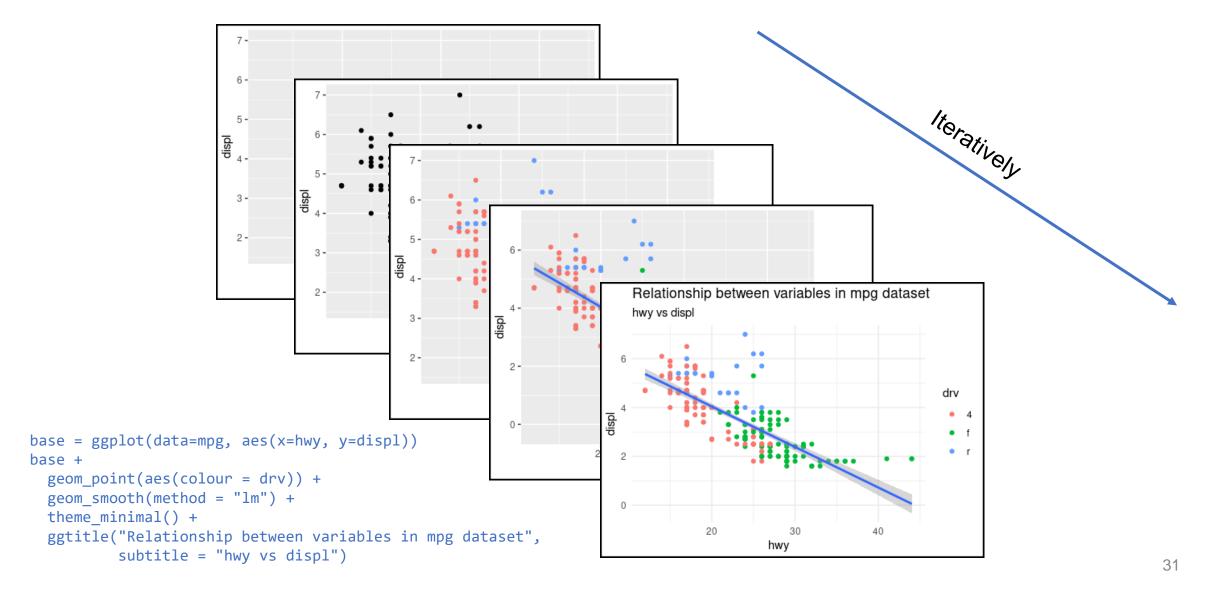


```
base = ggplot(data=mpg, aes(x=hwy, y=displ))
base +
  geom_point()
```



```
base = ggplot(data=mpg, aes(x=hwy, y=displ))
base +
  geom point(aes(colour = drv))
```





Let's do some practice!

p git clone https://github.com/wbvguo/qcbio-DataViz_w_ggplot2.git



Data

"Once you have

- ☐ the right data,
- ☐ in the right format,
- ☐ aggregated in the right way, the right visualization is often obvious"



Variables

The container for storing values

• Categorical variables: take discrete values

```
x = c("apple", "banana") # nominal variables: without an order
> y = c("low", "medium", "high")# ordinal variables: with an order
```

Continuous variables: take any values within a range

```
\geq z = c(0.05, 1, -2)
```

Variables

The container for storing values

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```

• Continuous variables: take any values within a range

```
\geq z = c(0.05, 1, -2)
```

Factors: takes the categorical variable and stores data in levels

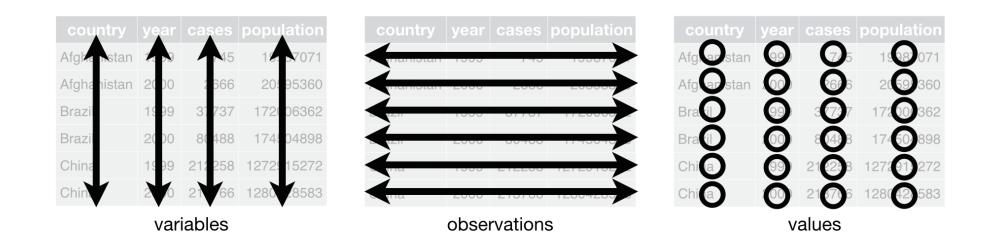
 Use function factor() to convert categorical (nominal) and ordered categorical (ordinal) variables to factors

Exercise: compare the following 2 lines' results, what do you find?

```
> y1 = factor(y)
> y2 = factor(y, levels = c("low", "medium", "high"))
```

Data frame

A generic data object that are used to store tabular data

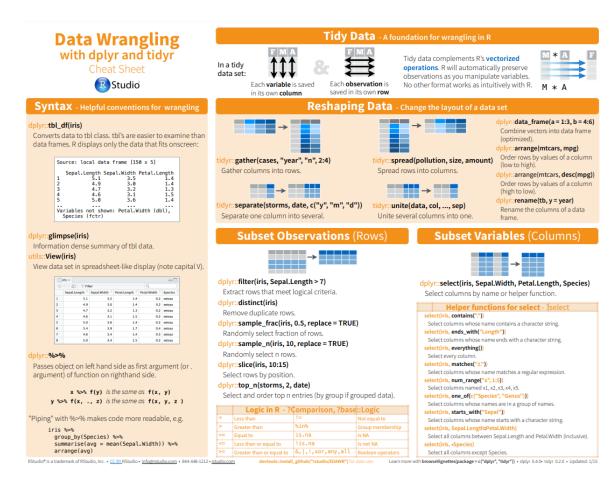


Use function data.frame() to create a data frame

```
\triangleright df = data.frame(x = c(1,2,3), y = c("low", "medium", "high"))
```

Data wrangling functions

- Manipulate observations (rows)
 - filter()
 - arrange()
 - bind_rows()
- Manipulate variables (columns)
 - select()
 - mutate()
 - left_join(), right_join() ...
- Reshape the data
 - pivot_longer(), pivot_wider()
- Group and summarize
 - group_by()
 - summarize()



For more information, check the <u>cheatsheet</u>

Manipulate observations

filter(): keep rows that satisfy certain conditions

- The first argument is a data frame
- The second and subsequent arguments must be logical vectors

Create logical vectors:

- □ Comparison operators
 - x == y: x and y are equal.
 - x != y: x and y are not equal.
 - x %in% c("a", "b", "c"): x is one of the values in the right hand side.
 - x > y, x >= y, x < y, x <= y: greater than, greater than or equal to, less than, less than or equal to.

☐ Logical operators

- !x (pronounced "not x"), flips TRUE and FALSE so it keeps all the values where x is FALSE.
- x & y: TRUE if both x and y are TRUE.
- x | y: TRUE if either x or y (or both) are TRUE.
- xor(x, y): TRUE if either x or y are TRUE, but not both (exclusive or).





Manipulate observations

arrange(): orders observations according to variables

- The first argument is a data frame
- The second and subsequent arguments are variables or function of variables
- .by_group: If TRUE, will sort first by grouping variable. Applies to grouped data frames only



Note:

- the default sorting order is ascending
- use desc() to sort a variable in descending order

Manipulate observations

bind_rows(): Bind any number of data frames by row

- The first and subsequent arguments are data frames to combine
- Columns are matched by name, and missing columns will be filled with NA

bind_rows() →

Exercise: let's do some practice



select(): keep or drop variables using their names and types

- The first argument is a data frame
- The second and subsequent arguments are unquoted expressions separated by comma

Useful functions

select

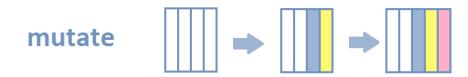
- all_of(): Matches variable names in a character vector
- starts_with()/ends_with(): Starts/ends with a substring
- where(): Applies a function to all variables and selects those for which the function returns TRUE

Useful Operators

- !: take the complement of a set of variables
- & or |: select the intersection or union of two sets of variables
- c() : combine selections

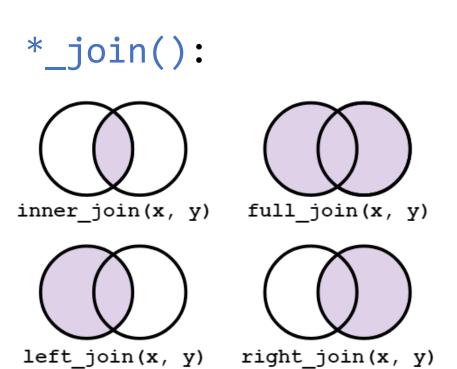
mutate(): create new variables

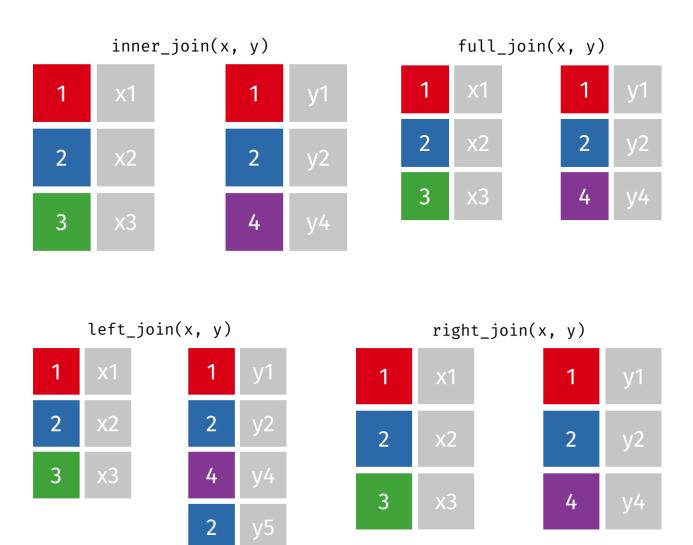
- The first argument is a data frame.
- The second and subsequent arguments are name-value pairs (named expression that generate the new variables)



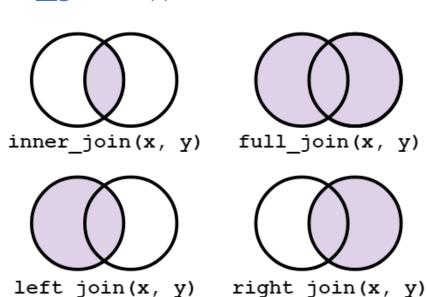
The values can be

- Vector of length 1
- Vector of the same length as whole data frame or current group (for grouped data frame)
- NULL to remove the column

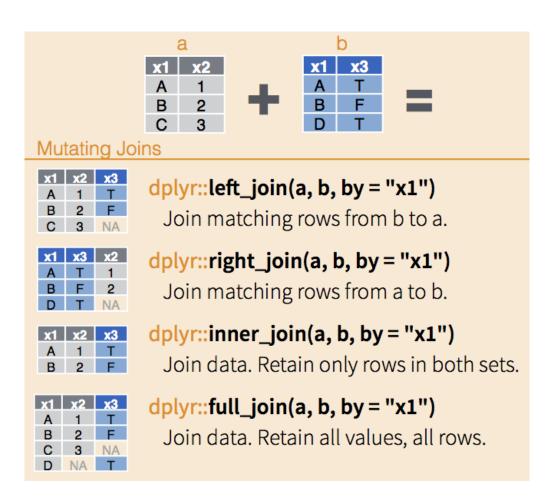




*_join():



Exercise: let's do some practice





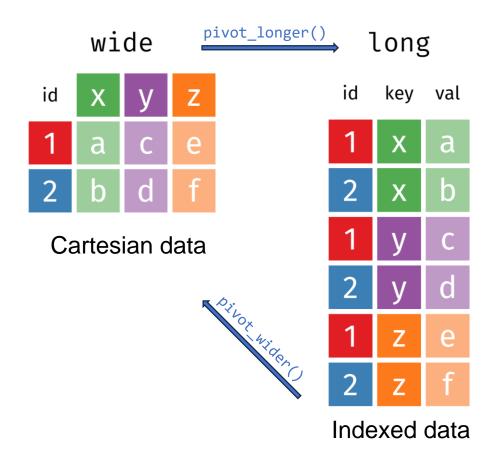
Reshape data frame

pivot_longer(): pivot into long format

- The first argument is a data frame
- The second argument is columns to pivot into longer format
- names_to: new column name for column names
- values_to: new column name for cell values

pivot_wider(): pivot into wide format

- The first argument is a data frame
- names_from: column to get the names of output column
- values_from: column to get the cell values



Reshape data frame

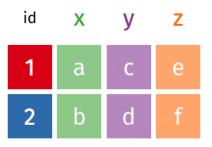
pivot_longer(): pivot into long format

- The first argument is a data frame
- The second argument is columns to pivot into longer format
- names_to: new column name for column names
- values_to: new column name for cell values

pivot_wider(): pivot into wide format

- The first argument is a data frame
- names_from: column to get the names of output column
- values_from: column to get the cell values

wide



Group and summarize

group_by(): Define the grouping variables

- The first argument is a data frame
- The second and subsequent arguments are variables used for grouping



summarise()/summarize():

- The first argument is a data frame
- The second and subsequent arguments are name-value pairs for summary function
 - Counts: n(), n_distinct(x).
 - Middle: mean(x), median(x).
 - Spread: sd(x), mad(x), IQR(x).
 - Extremes: quartile(x), min(x), max(x).
 - Positions: first(x), last(x), nth(x, 2).

Chain the functions together using pipe (%>%)

```
# By using intermediate values
cut_depth <- group_by(diamonds, cut, depth)
cut_depth <- summarise(cut_depth, n = n())
cut_depth <- filter(cut_depth, depth > 55, depth < 70)
cut_depth <- mutate(cut_depth, prop = n / sum(n))</pre>
```

```
# By "composing" functions
mutate(
    filter(
        summarise(
            group_by(
                diamonds,
                cut,
                 depth
        ),
            n = n()
        ),
        depth > 55,
        depth < 70
      ),
        prop = n / sum(n)
)</pre>
```

cut_depth <- diamonds %>%

group_by(cut, depth) %>%

mutate(prop = n / sum(n))

filter(depth > 55, depth < 70) %>%

summarise(n = n()) %

Question: Which one do you think is the most elegant?

Chain the functions together using pipe (%>%)

```
# By using intermediate values
cut_depth <- group_by(diamonds, cut, depth)
cut_depth <- summarise(cut_depth, n = n())
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# By "composing" functions
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    filter(
        summarise(
            group_by(
                diamonds,
                cut,
                 depth
            ),
                 n = n()
            ),
                 depth < 70
            ),
                 prop = n / sum(n)
)</pre>
```

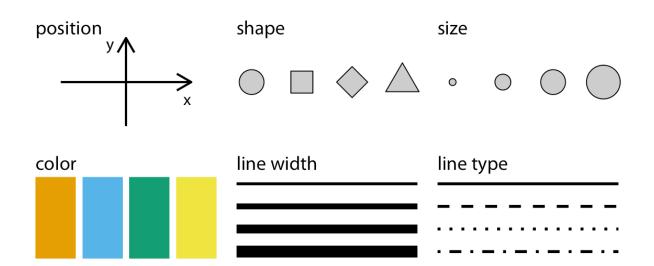
```
cut_depth <- diamonds %>%
  group_by(cut, depth) %>%
  summarise(n = n()) %>%
  filter(depth > 55, depth < 70) %>%
  mutate(prop = n / sum(n))
```

%>% works by taking the object on the left hand side (LHS) and using it as the first argument to the function on the right hand side (RHS)

Exercise: rewrite g(f(x, y), z) using pipe



Aesthetics



Aesthetic mappings

Aesthetic mappings aes() describe how variables are mapped to visual properties or aesthetics. It takes aesthetic-variable pairs

 \triangleright aes(x = displ, y = hwy, colour = class)

Aesthetic	Description			
х	x-axis position			
У	y-axis position			
colour	Color of points or outlines of other shapes			
fill	Fill color			
size	size of the point or thickness of line			
alpha	Transparency of the shape			
linetype	Line type such a solid, dashed, dotted			
labels	Text on the plot			
shape	Shape of the geometry			

Aesthetic mappings

Aesthetic mappings aes() describe how variables are mapped to visual properties or aesthetics. It takes aesthetic-variable pairs

 \triangleright aes(x = displ, y = hwy, colour = class)

Check available options

vignette("ggplot2-specs")

linetype		shape						
	solid	Outline	0	1	<u>^2</u>	3	4 ×	
	dashed		5	6	7 ⊠	8	9	
	dotted		10	11 XX	12 	13 ×	14	
	dotdash		\oplus	ΧX	Ш	⊗		
	longdash	Fill	15	16 •	17	18 ◆	19	20
	twodash		21	22	23	24	25	

Aesthetic	Description			
х	x-axis position			
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colour	Color of points or outlines of other shapes			
fill	Fill color			
size	size of the point or thickness of line			
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linetype	Line type such a solid, dashed, dotted			
labels	Text on the plot			
shape	Shape of the geometry			

Aesthetic mappings and setting



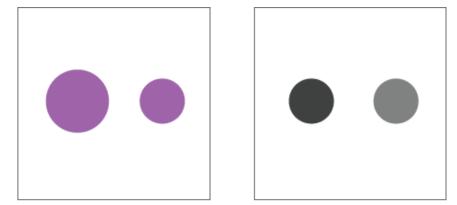
- The function supports some simple transformation (e.g. log(x))
 - \triangleright aes(x = log(displ), y = hwy, colour = class)
- Within each layer, you can add, override, or remove mappings

- Aesthetics mapping vs setting
 - Map an aesthetic to a variable when the appearance is governed by a variable
 - Set the aesthetic atrribute to a single value in the layer parameters

```
> ggplot(mpg) + geom_point(aes(displ, hwy, colour = "blue"))
> ggplot(mpg) + geom point(aes(displ, hwy), colour = "blue")
```

Things to consider when using aes()

- Choose visual aesthetics based on the type of data variables
 - colour and shape work well with categorical variables
 - size works well for continuous variables (bubble plot)



Size works better for quantitative variables than lightness

- Don't make the plot too busy, less is more
 - It's difficult to see the simultaneous relationships among colour, shape and size

Where to get help?

https://community.rstudio.com/tag/ggplot2



https://www.google.com



https://chat.openai.com/





