

Grammar of Graphics

A Very Brief Introduction

1 – Grammar of Graphics

The Grammar of Graphics describes fundamental features that underlie all statistical graphics.

The combination of independent components makes up a graphic.

- maps the data to the aesthetic attributes of geometric objects
- may include statistical transformations of data and coordinate system information
- may display subsets of data as multiples

Limitations

- does not suggest which graphics to use
- does not describe interactive graphics

2 – Graphic Components

2.1 – Key Components

- **Data**
the information to be visualized
- **Layer**
a collection of geometric elements and statistical transformations
 - **geom**
a geometric element to render observations, e.g. a point
 - **stat**
summarizes data, e.g. binning in a histogram
- **Scale**
maps variables to visual properties (aesthetics), e.g. color, shape, size, legend and axis
- **coord**
maps data coordinates to the graphic, e.g. Cartesian
- **facet**
specifies how to break up and display subsets of data as multiples
- **theme**
controls the overall appearance of a graphic, e.g. fonts, background color

2.2 – Components Illustrated

2.2.1 – data, aesthetic mapping, layer

```
library(ggplot2)
options(repr.plot.width = 6, repr.plot.height = 4)
ggplot(data = mpg, aes(x = displ, y = hwy, color = class)) +
  geom_point()
```

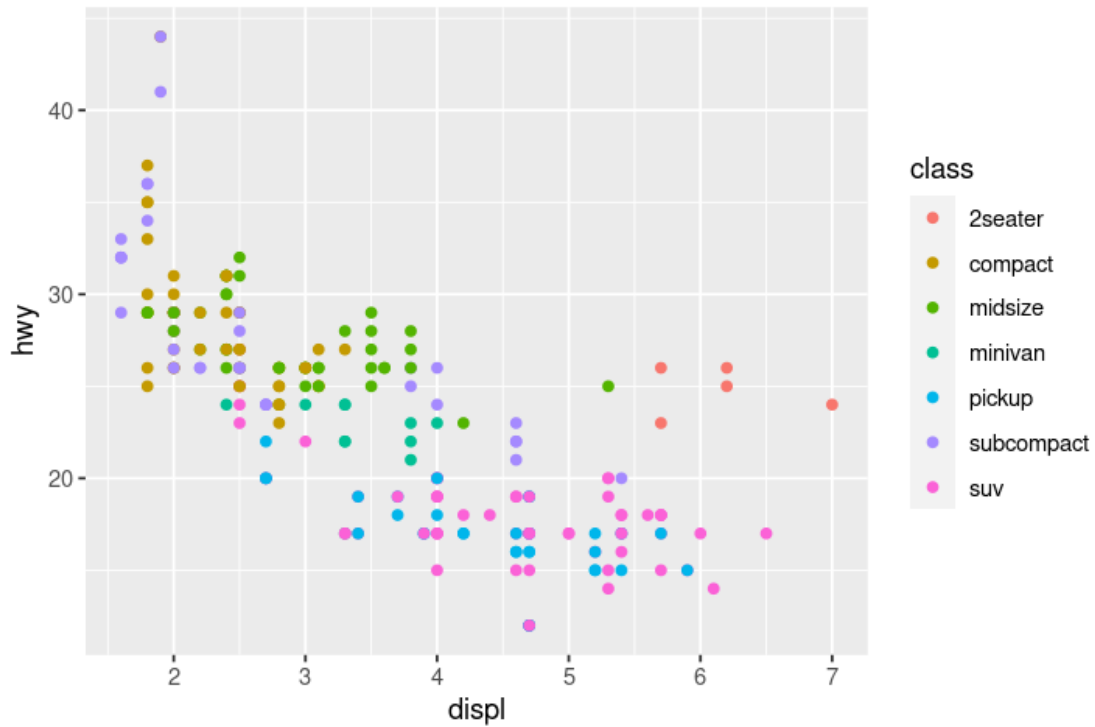


Figure 1: data, aesthetics, layer

2.2.2 – ... + facet, theme

```
library(ggplot2)
options(repr.plot.width = 6, repr.plot.height = 4)
ggplot(data = mpg, aes(x = displ, y = hwy)) +
  geom_point() +
  facet_wrap(~ class) +
  theme_bw()
```

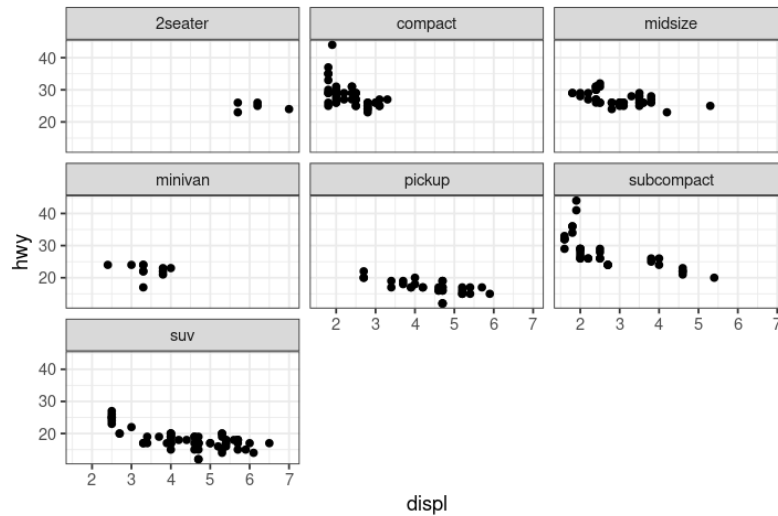


Figure 2: data, aesthetics, layer, facet, theme_bw()

```
library(ggplot2)
options(repr.plot.width = 6, repr.plot.height = 4)
ggplot(data = mpg, aes(x = displ, y = hwy)) +
  geom_point() +
  facet_wrap(~ class) +
  theme_light()
```

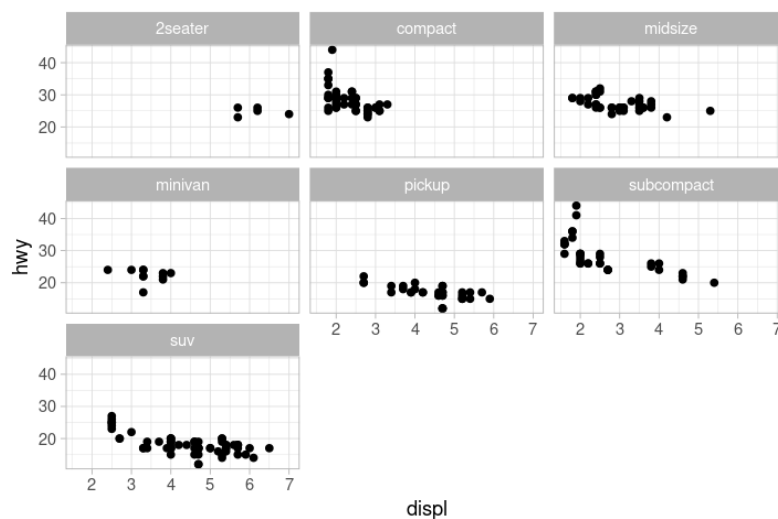


Figure 3: data, aesthetics, geom_layer, facet, theme_light()

2.2.3 – ... + coord

```
library(ggplot2)
options(repr.plot.width = 6, repr.plot.height = 4)
r <- seq(0, 3, length.out = 100)
theta <- 2 * pi * r
df <- data.frame(theta = theta, r = r)
ggplot(data = df, mapping = aes(x = theta, y = r)) +
  geom_path() +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0, 2*pi), oob = scales::oob_keep) +
  coord_polar()
```

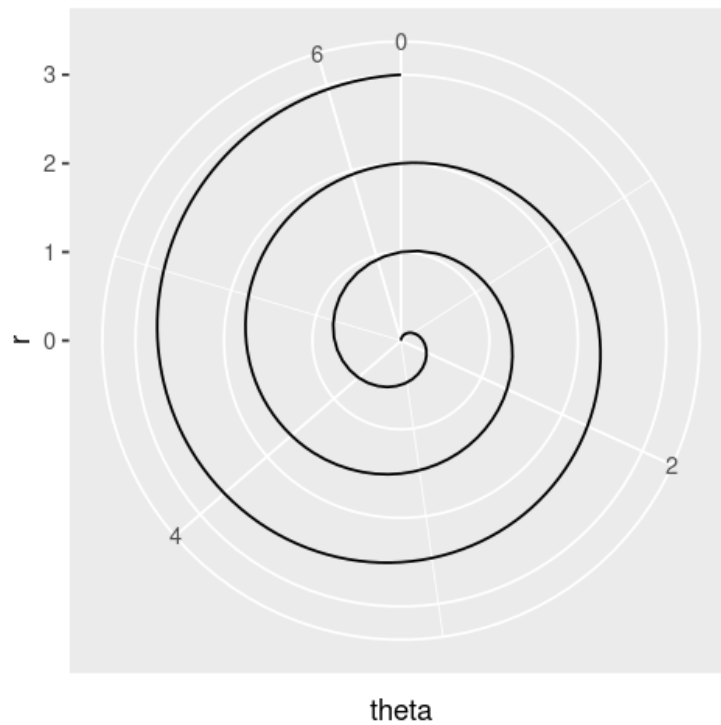


Figure 4: polar coordinates

3 – Implementation in R and Python

3.1 – R with ggplot2

```
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(mpg, aes(displ, hwy)) + geom_point() + geom_smooth(method = 'lm')
```

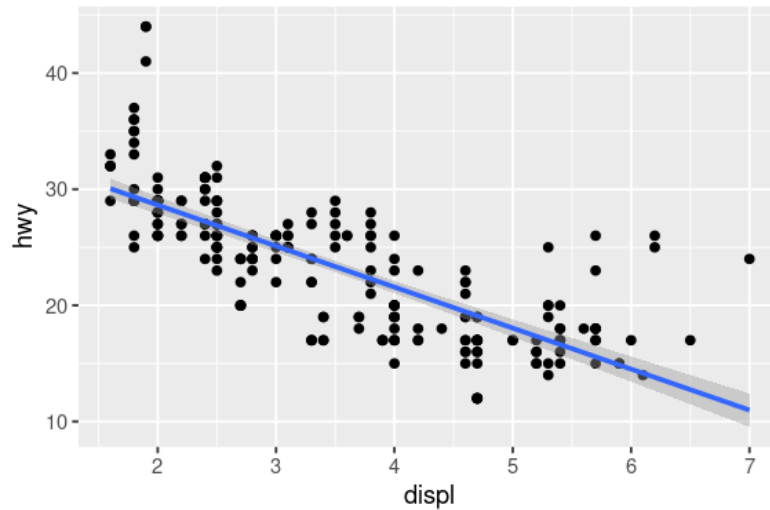


Figure 5: implementation in R

3.2 – Python with plotnine

```
from plotnine import *
from plotnine.data import mpg
p = ggplot(mpg, aes('displ', 'hwy')) + geom_point() + \
    geom_smooth(method = 'lm', color = 'b')
print(p)
```

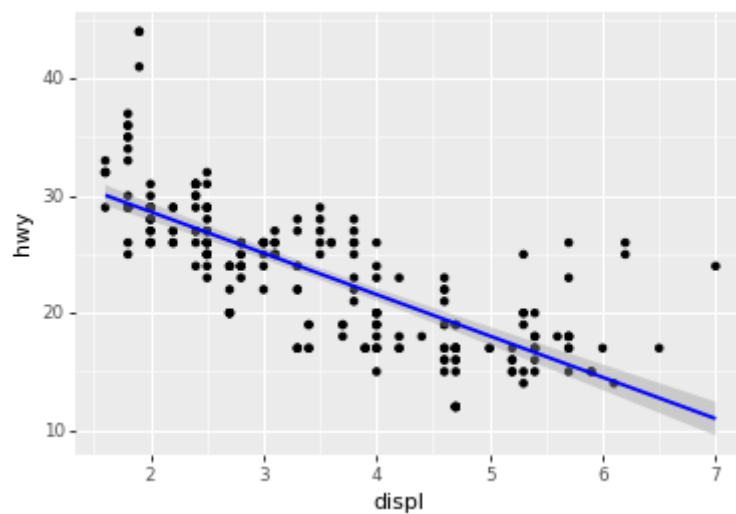


Figure 6: implementation in Python

3.3 – Geoms

- points
 - `geom_point()`
- lines
 - `geom_abline()`, `geom_hline()`, `geom_vline()`
 - `geom_line()`, `geom_path()`, `geom_step()`
 - `geom_function()`
- Bar charts
 - `geom_bar()`
 - `geom_col()`
- Histogram
 - `geom_histogram()`
 - `geom_freqpoly()`
- Box plot
 - `geom_boxplot()`
- Contour plot
 - `geom_contour()`, `geom_contour_filled()`
 - `geom_density_2d()`, `geom_density_2d_filled()`
- Kernel density
 - `geom_density()`
- Shades
 - `geom_ribbon()`
 - `geom_area()`
- and more ...

4 – Reference Documentation

- [ggplot2 function reference](#)
- [plotnine api reference](#)