## Data Visualization with ggplot2 Adam Kuczynski



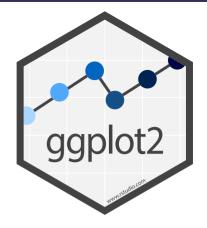
# ggplot2()

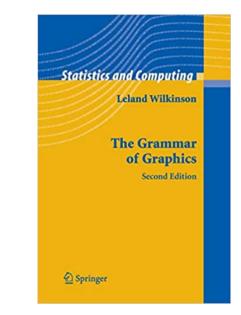
The ggplot2 package is based on a philosophy outlined in <u>The Grammar</u> <u>of Graphics</u>

Understanding the philosophy is 90% of understanding how to create figures with ggplot2

The remaining 10% is learning the various functions that correspond with each part of the philosophy

This lecture is focused on understanding that philosophy, but we will also play around with some example code





## The Grammar of Graphics

**Central Idea**: Instead of creating a function for every single type of plot,<sup>1</sup> decompose graphics its its separate components/layers that can be used flexibly to create (almost) any type of plot you want

Data
Mapping
Geometries
Statistics
Scale
Facets
Coordinates
Theme

[1] New types of plots are being created nearly every day, so this would be impossible to accomplish

## Example Data: gapminder

We will be using the gapminder data from the gapminder package for this lecture

str(gapminder)

```
## tibble [1,704 × 6] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
## $ country : Factor w/ 142 levels "Afghanistan",..: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ continent: Factor w/ 5 levels "Africa", "Americas",..: 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 ...
## $ year : int [1:1704] 1952 1957 1962 1967 1972 1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 ...
## $ lifeExp : num [1:1704] 28.8 30.3 32 34 36.1 ...
## $ pop : int [1:1704] 8425333 9240934 10267083 11537966 13079460 14880372 1
## $ gdpPercap: num [1:1704] 779 821 853 836 740 ...
```

- 142 countries (country)
- 5 continents (continent)
- 12 discrete years from 1952 to 2007 (year)
- life expectancy (lifeExp)
- population estimate (pop)
- GDP per capita (gpsPercap)

## Constructing a ggplot

ggplot figures are created started with the ggplot() function

ggplot(data = NULL, mapping = aes(), ..., environment = parent.frame())

- data defined within a call to ggplot() are defined globally, which means each layer will used these data for plotting by default
- mapping defined within a call to ggplot() are also defined globally for each layer to use by default

```
# A blank ggplot template
ggplot()
```



```
ggplot() +
  geom_layer() +
  another_geom_layer() +
  facet_layer() +
  theme_layer()
```

Layers are added on top of each other, so the order matters

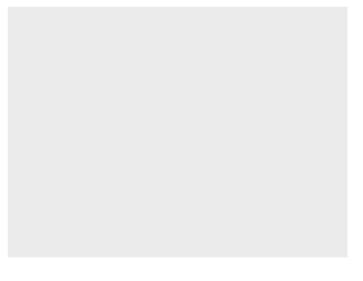
Unlike base R plots, ggplots can be saved as objects

```
p <- ggplot() + ...</pre>
```

### Data

- This layer refers to the data that go into your figure
- Can be one dataframe (defined globally) or many dataframes (defined at each layer)
- Creating graphics is mostly about getting your data cleaned and in the format you need
  - Most of the time your data will need to be in long (aka "tidy") format
  - Sometimes you will need to supply data of summary statistics (e.g., for geom\_errorbar()), but most of the time you will control the summary statistics within the statistics layer

# Set global data as flights
# (from nycflights13 package)
ggplot(data = gapminder)



Because we do not have any geometry, the plot is still blank

# Mapping

Once you have your data, you need to inform the graphics function how those data fit into the plot you want to create

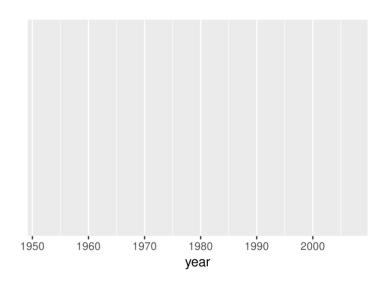
In other words, you need to tell the graphics which variable represents x, y, etc.

There are *tons* of different aesthetic specifications, which can be found in <u>this</u> <u>documentation</u>. Some of the most common are:

- x, y (x and y axis)
- color, fill
- shape
- linetype

Mapping occurs inside a function called aes(), which stands for for **aes**thetics

## Aesthetic mapping: ## \* `x` -> `my\_x\_var` ## \* `y` -> `my\_y\_var`



data are plotted because we have not added a geometry layer

# Mapping



Calls to aes() are *always* made within other ggplot2 functions (i.e., they are attributes of a layer, not their own layer)

Most of the time mapping will take column names for your data that you want to map on to each aesthetic of a plot

However, aes() can also take expressions (i.e., R code) that determine the axes, color groups, etc.

For example:

From the gapminder data:

- map year onto the x-axis
- total GDP (gdpPercap \* pop) on the y-axis
- different colors where contintent == and != "Asia"

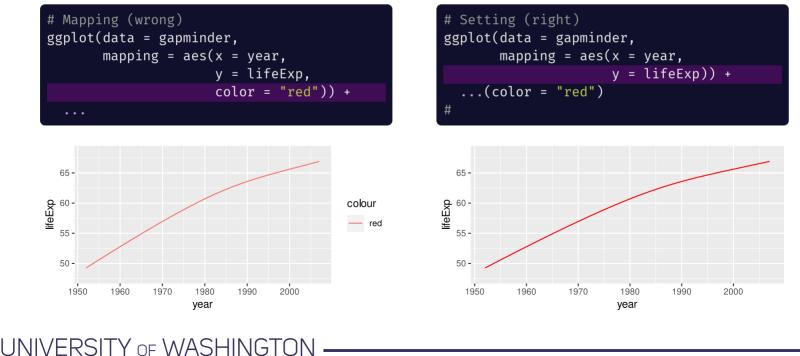
## Mapping vs. Setting

Arguments inside aes() (color, size, shape, etc.) **map** aesthetics to the data such that the colors, sizes, shapes, etc. depend on the data

• Used to plot different colors, shapes, sizes, etc. based on groups/condition in your data

These same arguments placed outside aes() (e.g., within geom\_\*()) set aesthetics to the layer such that the colors do not depend on the data

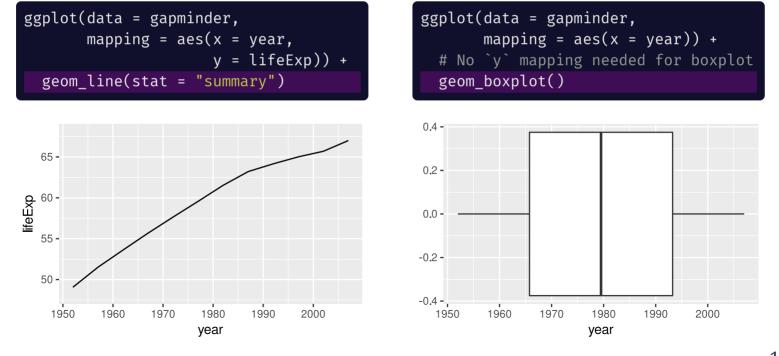
• Used to change the colors, shapes, sizes, etc. of the entire plot/layer



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## Geometries

- Mostly what you think about in ggplot2
- Take all the **scale** values from come from mapping and may have been transformed by **statistics** and interprets/plots them in some way
  - e.g., a line geometry (geom\_line()) interprets data on way and creates lines on your figure while a boxplot geometry (geom\_boxplot()) interprets the data another way

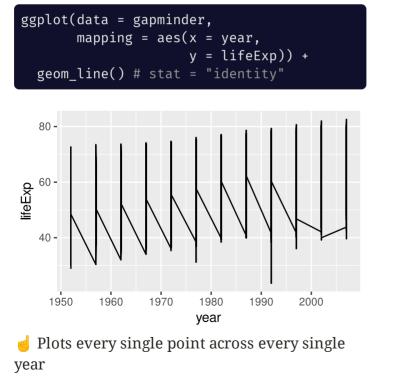


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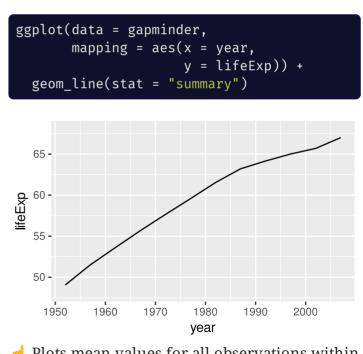
### Geometries

- Geometries are intimately intertwined with **statistics**, and each geom\_\*() has a default statistic (stat) assigned
- The default statistic for geom\_line() is <u>identity</u>, which means ("leave the data as is").

If we create a line geometry with the data "as is" we get the following plot:



When we change the default to <u>summary</u>, we get a plots of mean values (changed with fun)



Plots mean values for all observations within each year

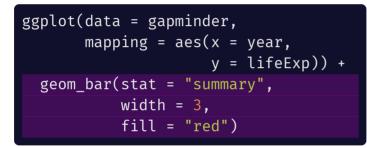
## Geometries

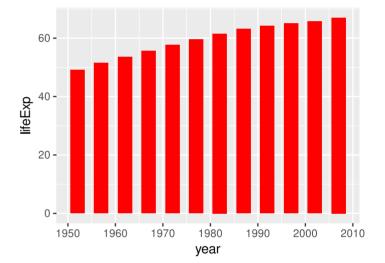
- Different geometries do not necessary share the same mapping. For example, geom\_point() needs (at minimum) an x and y mapping, but geom\_histogram() only needs an x mapping (the statistic determines the y-axis)
- There is an "Aesthetics" section in the help page for each geom that describes the required and optional mapping parameters
  - For example, goem\_linerange() needs x or y, ymin or xmin, and ymax or xmax while geom\_histogram() needs only x or y

### Multiple Geometries

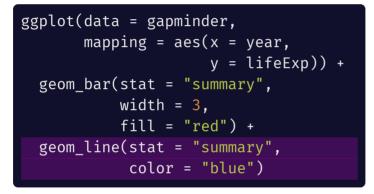
- You can (and often will) have multiple layers of geometries in the same figure
- The order or your geometries matter, because each later is plotted on top of the previous layers

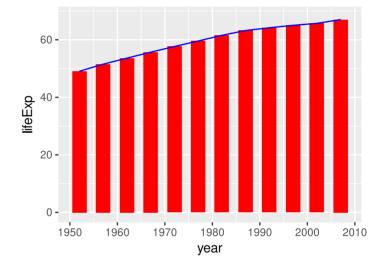




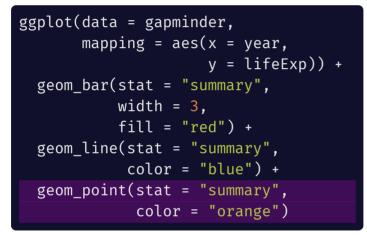


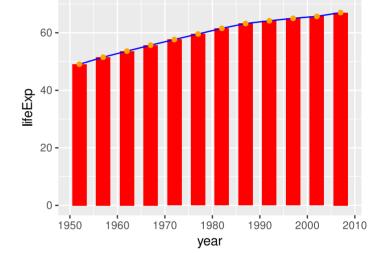




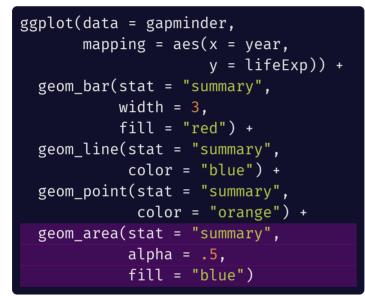


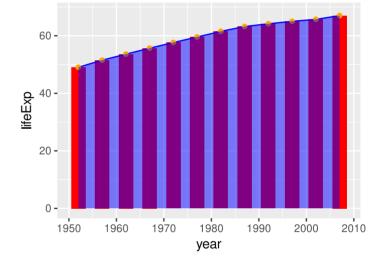
# Geometries Add point geometry





# Geometries Add area geometry



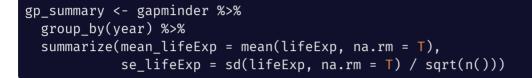


- Your data do not always have the required statistics for each type of figure
  - For example, plotting a boxplot requires calculating the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles of your data and the interquartile range
  - Sometimes your data are exactly what is needed (e.g., creating a scatterplot), in which case you set your statistic to **identity** which just passes your data on to that layer
- Provides convenience and flexibility because you do not need to know how your data need to be manipulated for each type of figure
- However, sometimes you do need to manipulate your data to get the correct aesthetic mapping for a geom (e.g., creating errobars)

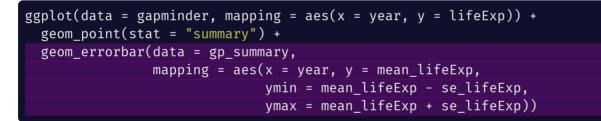
Error: geom\_errorbar requires the following missing aesthetics: ymin and ymax or xmin and xmax

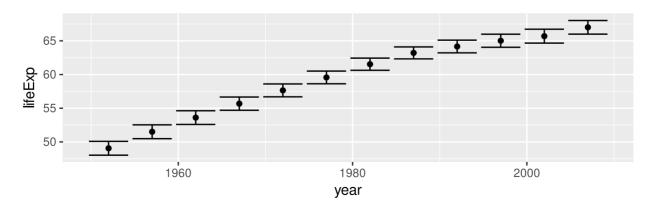
## Statistics: Errorbars

Step 1: create summary statistics from our data (mean and standard error) :



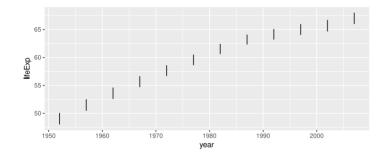
Step 2: Supply these data to the geom\_errorbar() layer to control the height of the errorbars



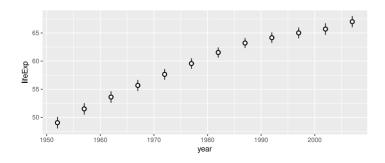


## Errorbar Types

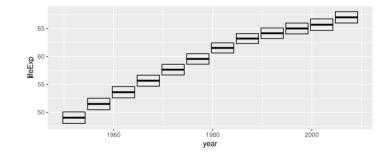
#### geom\_linerange()



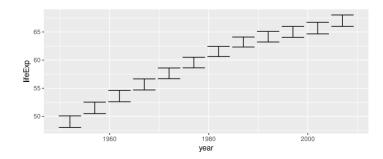
geom\_pointrange()



#### geom\_crossbar()



geom\_errorbar()



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Statistics are linked to geometries such that each geometry requires a statistic (and vice versa: each statistic requires a geometry)

Thus, geometries have default statistics that try to guess what you want to plot but that can also be changed

Defaults for common geometries:

- geom\_point(stat = "identity"
- geom\_count(stat = "sum")
- geom\_jitter(stat = "identity")
- geom\_bar(stat = "count")
- geom\_density(stat = "density")
- geom\_histrogram(stat = "bin")

- geom\_boxplot(stat = "boxplot")
- geom\_violin(stat = "ydensity")
- geom\_rug(stat = "identity")
- geom\_freqpoly(stat = "bin")
- geom\_quantile(stat = "quantile")
- geom\_smooth(stat = "smooth")

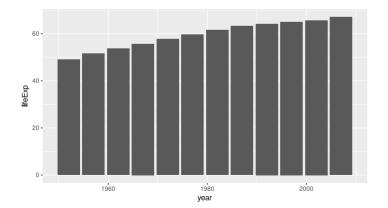
Geometries can be created using geom\_\*() and passing in the statistic as an argument (as we have seen) *or* using stat\_\*() and passing the geometry in as an argument

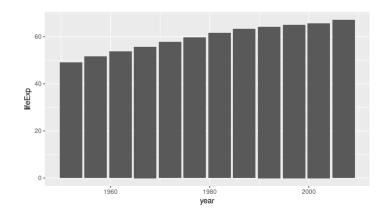
There's no one right way to do this, although it is most common to create the geometry with geom\_\*() rather than stat\_\*()

geom\_\*()



```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
mapping = aes(x = year,
y = lifeExp)) +
stat_summary(geom = "bar")
```





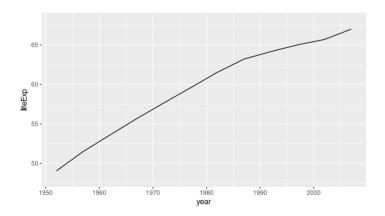
## Mapping



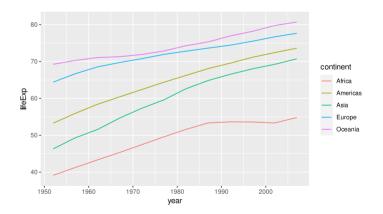
Now that we know how to create geometry and statistics layers we can understand aesthetic mapping more completely

#### No color mapping

```
ggplot(data = gapminder,
mapping = aes(x = year,
y = lifeExp)) +
# No color mapping
geom_line(stat = "summary")
```

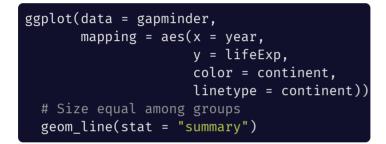


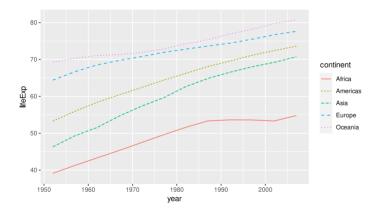
#### Color mapped to continent

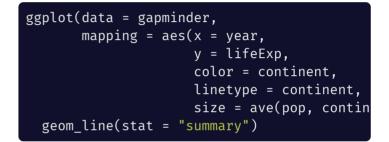


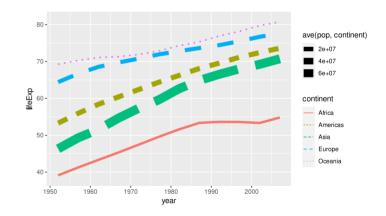
## Mapping

You can map the same (or different) columns to multiple aesthetics within one call to aes()





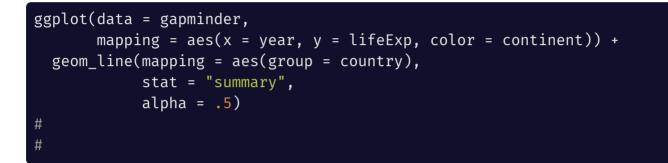


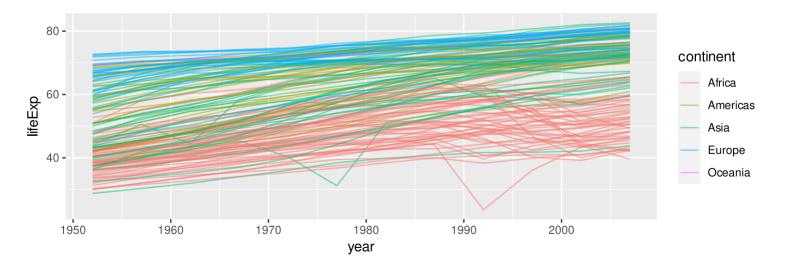


## Mapping: Layer-level



Line geometry for each country, color by continent

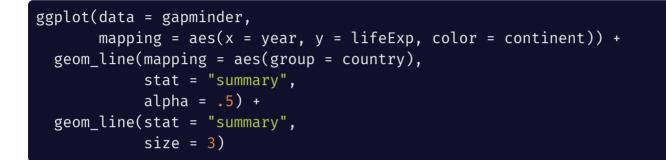


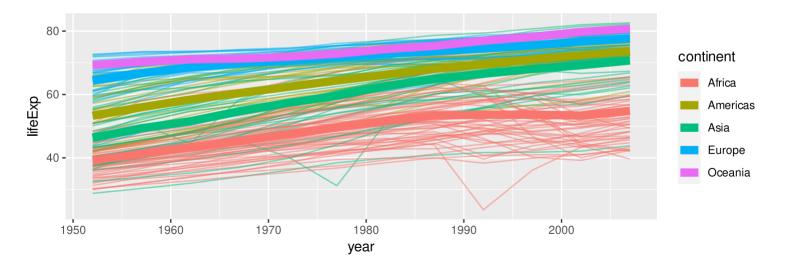


## Mapping: Layer-level

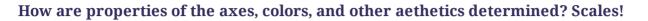


#### Line geometry for each continent, color by continent





## Scales



**Scales** control the details of how data values are translated to visual properties (e.g., plot Africa with #F8766D, Americas with #B79F00, etc.)

All geometries are given default scales which you can override with the scale\_\*() function

To get the scales for each layer of your ggplot figure, use build\_ggplot()

```
'data.frame':
                60 obs. of 11 variables:
   $ colour
              : chr "#F8766D" "#F8766D" "#F8766D" "#F8766D" ...
##
##
   $ x
              : num 1952 1957 1962 1967 1972 ...
   $ group
             : int 111111111...
##
##
   $ v
             : num 39.1 41.3 43.3 45.3 47.5 ...
   $ ymin
             : num 38.4 40.5 42.5 44.5 46.6 ...
##
##
   $ ymax
             : num 39.8 42 44.1 46.2 48.3 ...
##
   $ PANEL
             : Factor w/ 1 level "1": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
   $ flipped aes: logi FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE ...
##
   $ size
              ##
   $ linetype
##
             : num 111111111...
## $ alpha
             : logi NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
```

## Scales

Scale functions have the syntax: scale\_<aesthetic>\_<type> where <aesthetic> refers to each
aesthetic mapping (x, y, color, etc.) and <type> refers to the type of scale (continuous, discrete,
log10, etc.)

#### **Axes scales**

- scale\_x\_continous(), scale\_y\_continuous() (transform with trans argument)
- scale\_x\_log10(), scale\_y\_log10()
- scale\_x\_sqrt(), scale\_y\_sqrt()
- scale\_x\_reverse(), scale\_y\_reverse()
- scale\_x\_discrete(), scale\_y\_discrete()
- scale\_x\_binned(), scale\_y\_binned()

#### Color, shape, size scales

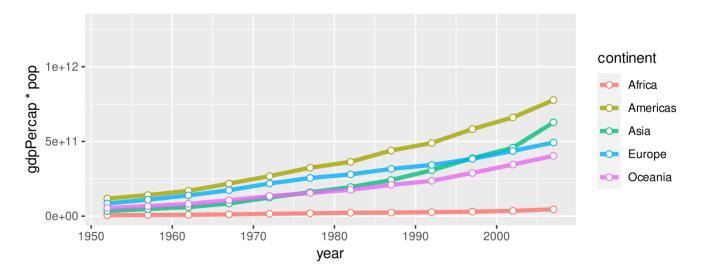
- scale\_color\_continuous(), scale\_shape\_continuous(), scale\_size\_continuous()
- scale\_color\_discrete(), scale\_shape\_discrete(), scale\_size\_discrete()
- scale\_color\_binned(), scale\_shape\_binned(), scale\_size\_binned()
- scale\_color\_brewer(), scale\_shape\_brewer(), scale\_size\_brewer()

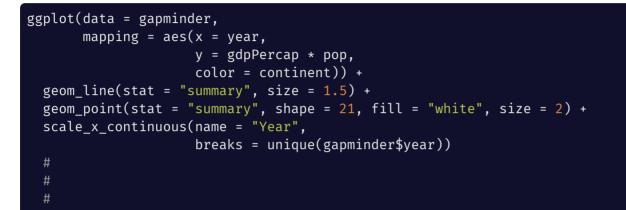
There are dozens of different types of scales in ggplot2, all of which can be found in <u>this</u> <u>documentation</u>.

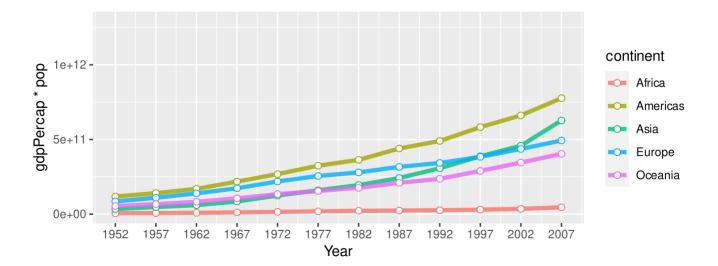
Also check out the <u>scales</u> package

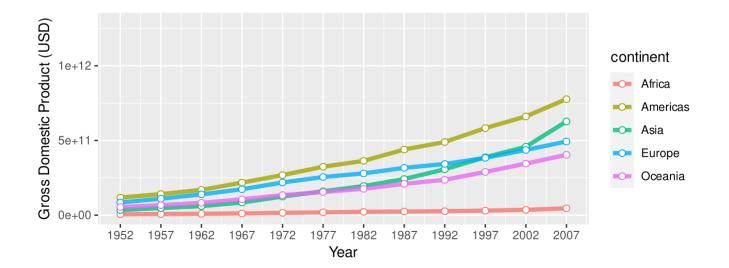
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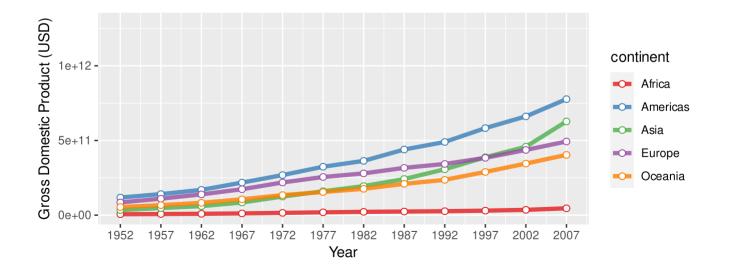




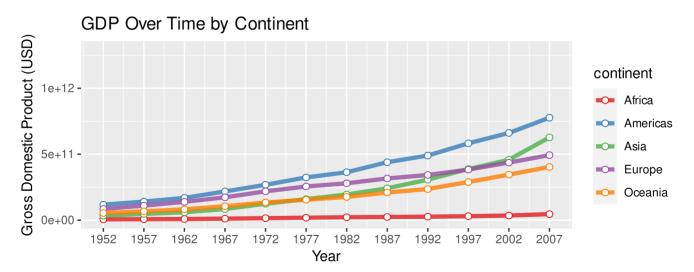




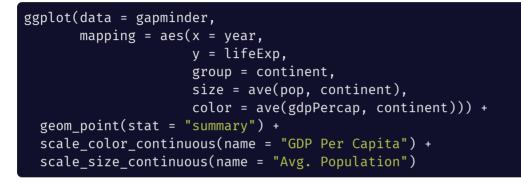


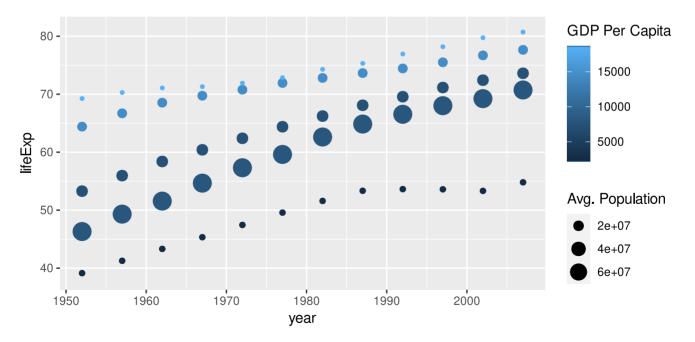






## Scales: Continuous Color

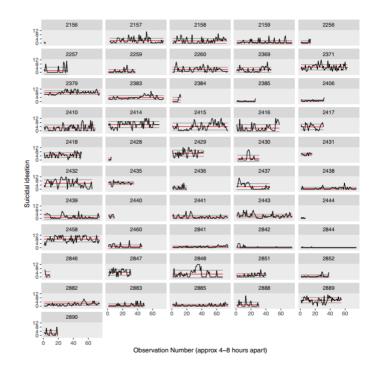




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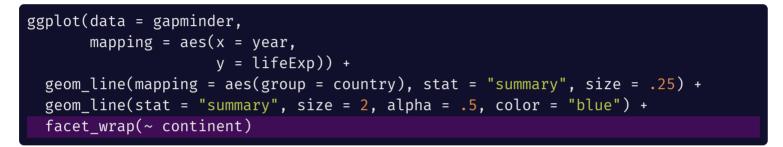
### Facets

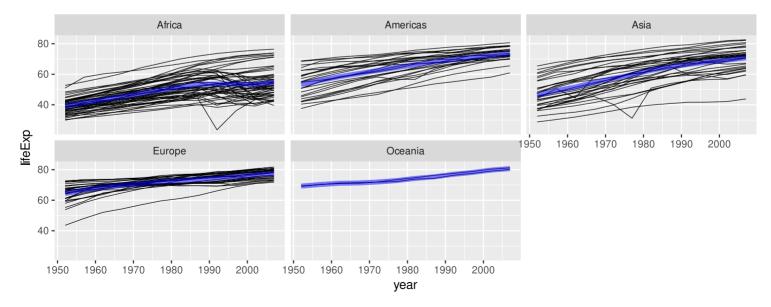
- Often we are focused on creating one figure per plotting area, but we are not constrained to this and may want to create multiple subplots when looking at our data
- <u>Facets</u> are multiple panels of plots, with the same plotting logic, on different groups of your data
- Facets are most helpful when you are investigating your data, but they may help you create figures for publication as in <u>Kleiman et al. (2017)</u>
- Use facets to prevent overplotting (plotting too much data in one figure)
- Two different kinds of facets: facet\_wrap() and facet\_grid()
- Because facets are extendable, there are packages (e.g., <u>ggh4x</u>) with additional types of facets



## Facets:facet\_wrap()

facet\_wrap() takes a column from your data with a grouping structure and creates several
subplots for each group(facet\_wrap(~ groupvar))



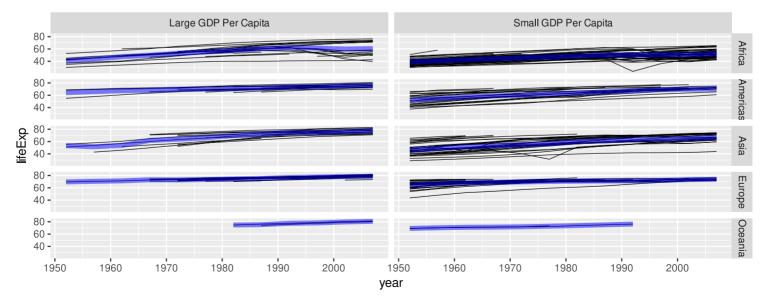


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# Facets:facet\_grid()

facet\_grid() takes two grouping variables and creates plots that show the intersection
between them (facet\_grid(group1 ~ group2))

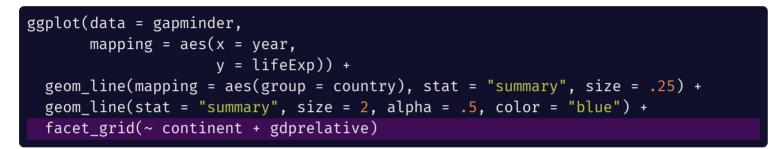


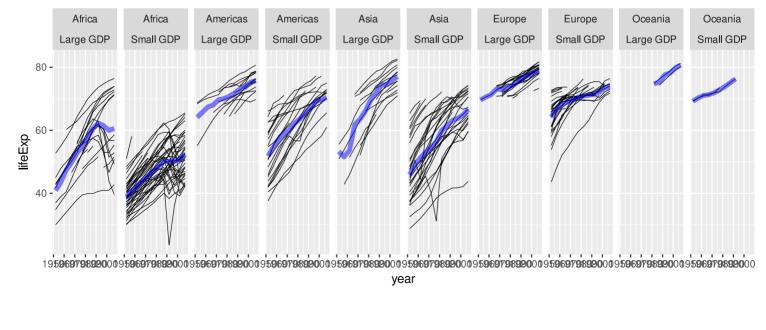


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# Facets:facet\_grid()

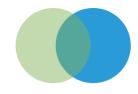
facet\_grid() can also be arranged with  $n_{groups}$  panels with ~ group1 + group2



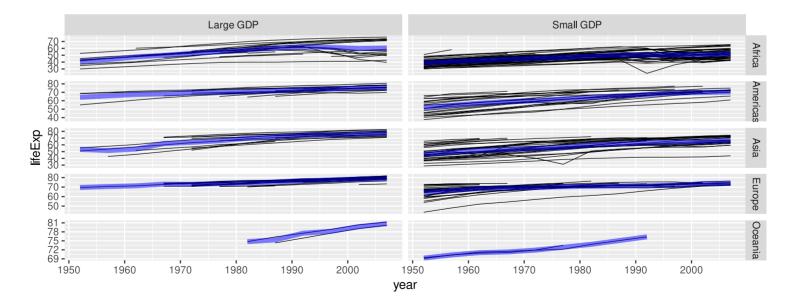


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### Facets + Scales



- By default, facets fix the x and y scales across all plots
- Often this makes sense, because you want to compare the same data across different groups, but sometimes you may want to free either/both of the axis scales. You can do this with the scales argument ("free", "free\_x", "free\_y")



## Coordinates

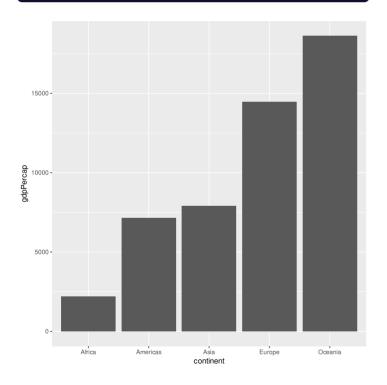
The **coordinate** system represents a physical mapping of the plot's aesthetics onto the screen

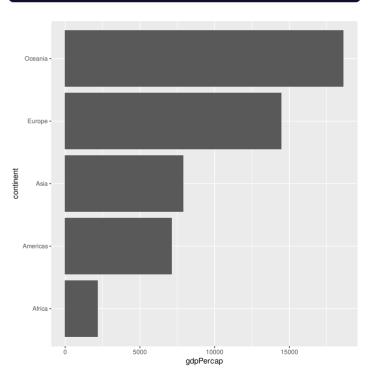
Many types of coordinate systems, but we are most used to the Cartesian system (x, y value pairs)

Types of coordinate systems in ggplot2:

- coord\_cartesian(): Cartesian coordinates
- coord\_trans(): Transformed Cartesian coordinate system
- coord\_fixed(): Cartesian coordinates with a fixed aspect ratio
- coord\_flip(): Cartesian coordinates with x and y flipped
- coord\_polar() polar coordinates
- coord\_map(), coord\_quickmap(): map projections (latitude, longitude)

## Coordinates:coord\_flip()



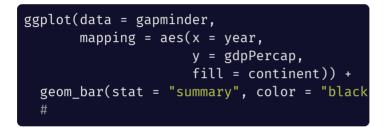


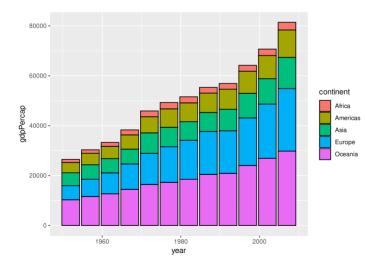
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### Coordinates:coord\_polar()

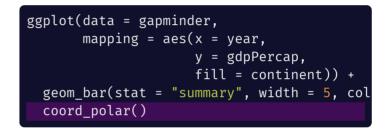
coord\_polar() interprets x and y as the radius and angle, respecitvely

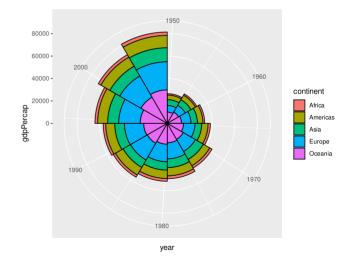
#### **Bar Chart**





#### **Coxcomb Plot**





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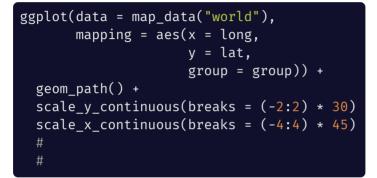
# Coordinates:coord\_polar()

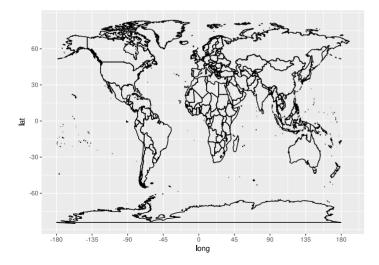
### Pie Chart



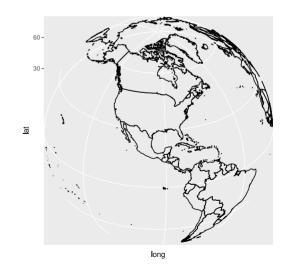
### Coordinates:coord\_map()

#### **Cartesian System**





#### **Azimuthal (orthographic) Projection**



## Scales vs. Coordinates



#### **Scales**

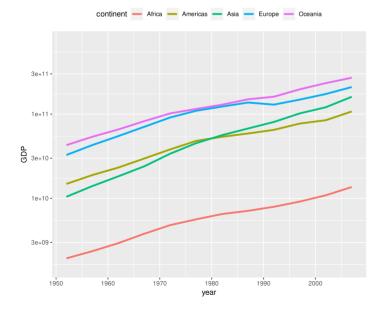
- 1. Transform data
- 2. Estimate statistic

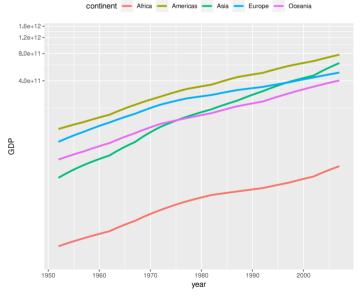
# log10(GDP) %>% mean()
ggplot(...) +
 scale\_y\_log10(name = "GDP")

#### Coordinates

- 1. Estimate statistic
- 2. Transform data

# mean(GDP) %>% log10
ggplot(...) +
 coord\_trans(y = "log10")



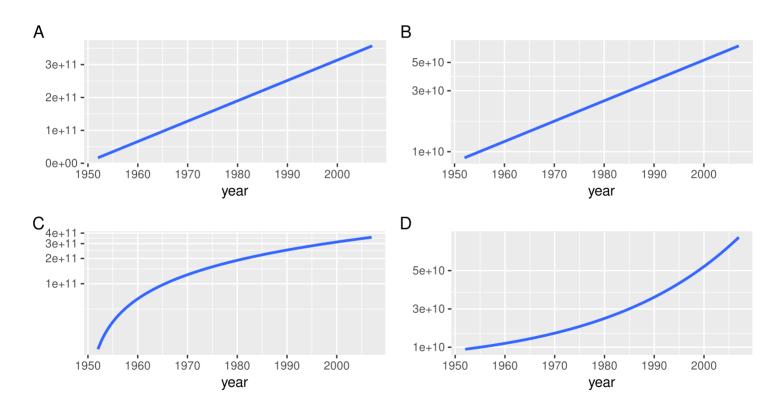


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## Scales vs. Coordinates



You can use both **scales** and **coordinates** together to estimate your model on the transformed data and transform is back for interpretation



(A) Linear model on original data - does not fit well; (B) linear model on log10 transformed GDP - fits well; (C) Linear model on original data, then log10 transform y-axis (not in original scale); (D) log10 transform GDP, estimate model, backtransform axes to get original scale

### Theme

The **theme** encompasses every part of the graphic that is not part of the data (i.e., has no mapping to the data)

There are several <u>pre-made themes</u> that come with ggplot2:

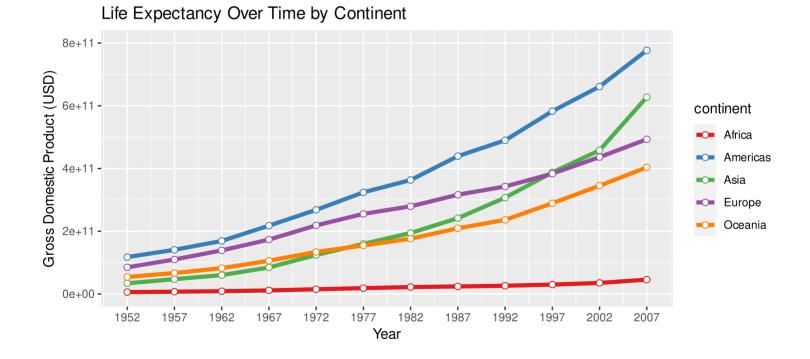
- theme\_grey() 
  default
- theme\_bw()
- theme\_linedraw()
- theme\_light()
- theme\_dark()

- theme\_minimal()
- theme\_classic()
- theme\_void()
- theme\_test()

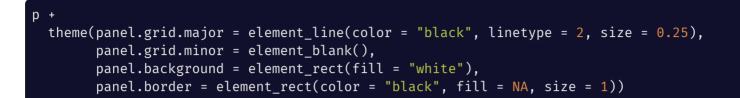
### Theme

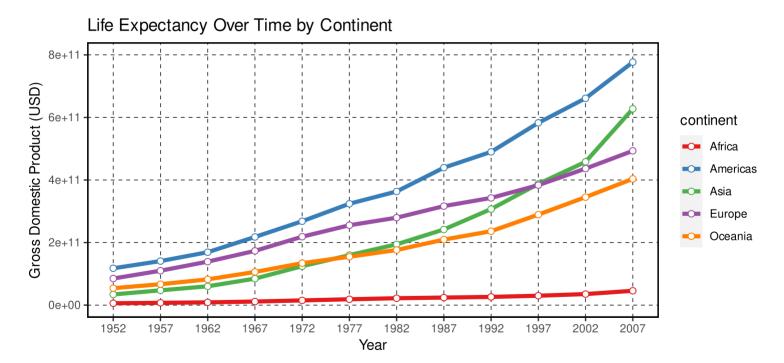
To tweak other aspects of your plots them you can use the theme() function, which has 94 arguments to give you complete control over all elements of your plot

To demonstrate, we'll use the following base plot from Slide 32:

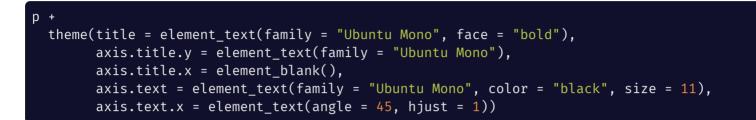


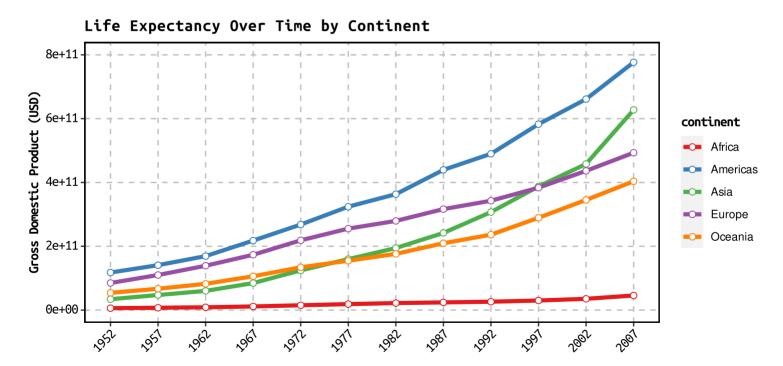
### Theme: panel





### Theme: axes



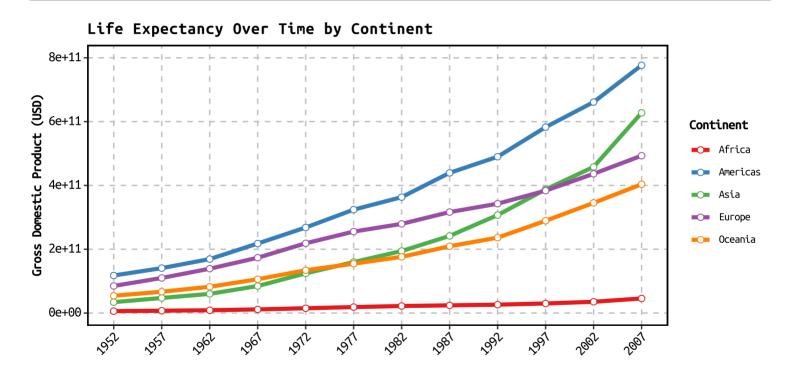


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### Theme: legend

+

p theme(legend.key = element blank(), legend.text = element\_text(family = "Ubuntu Mono")) + guides(color = guide\_legend(title = "Continent"))



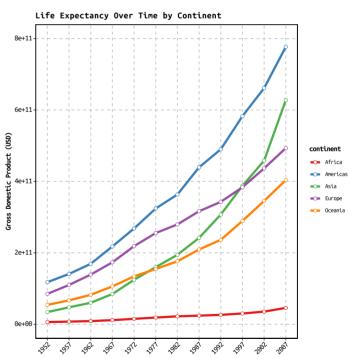
### Theme

Just like ggplot2 comes with pre-made themes, you can create your own themes to use repeatedly throughout your data visualizations

p



#### + theme monotype





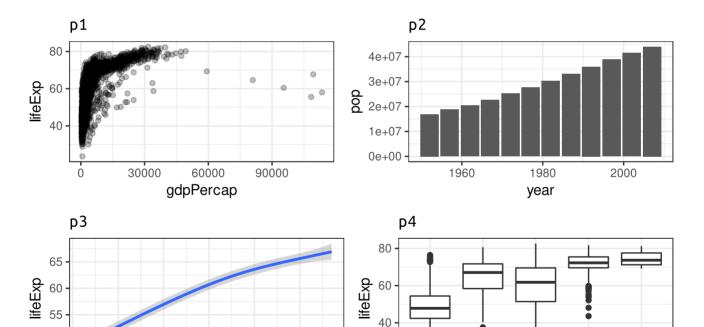


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# What is patchwork?

Patchwork is a package created by <u>Thomas Lin Pedersen</u> (also the maintainer of ggplot2) to help you easily and flexibly combine several ggplots into the same graphic

Consider the following four plots (p1, p2, p3, p4):



Africa

Asia

continent

Americas

Europe Oceania

1960

1970

1980

year

1990

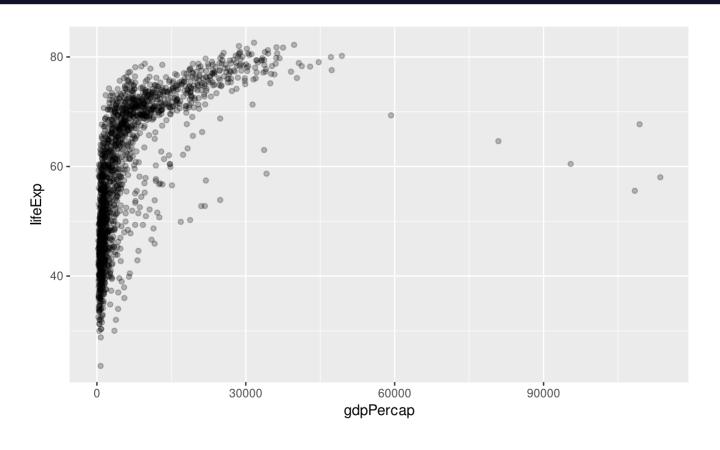
2000

50

1950

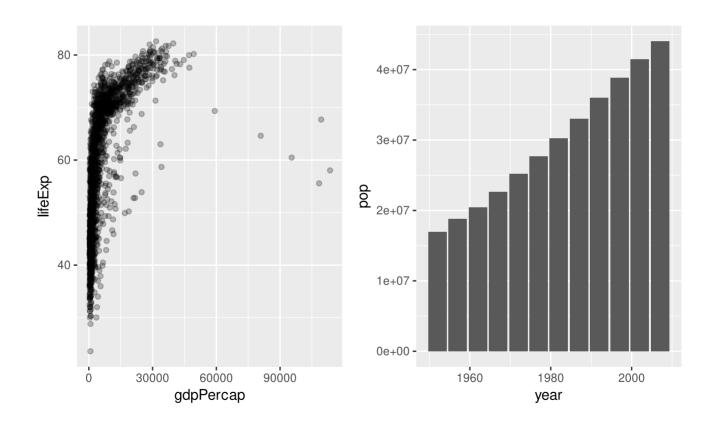
Patchwork uses arithmetic (+, -, \*, /) and logical  $(|, \delta)$  operators to control the layout of your figure

(p1)



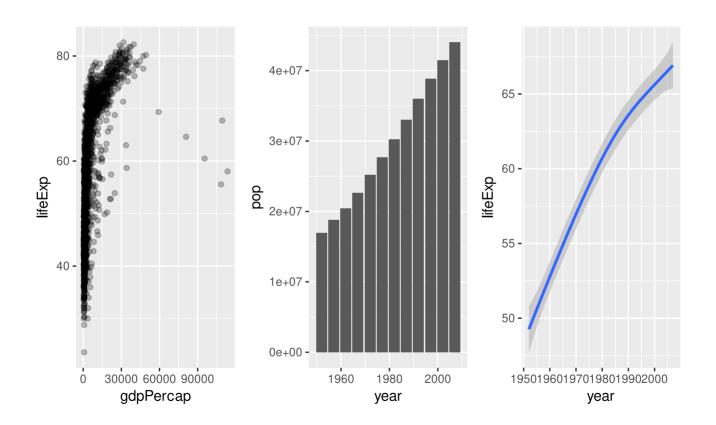
#### Add p2

(p1 + p2)



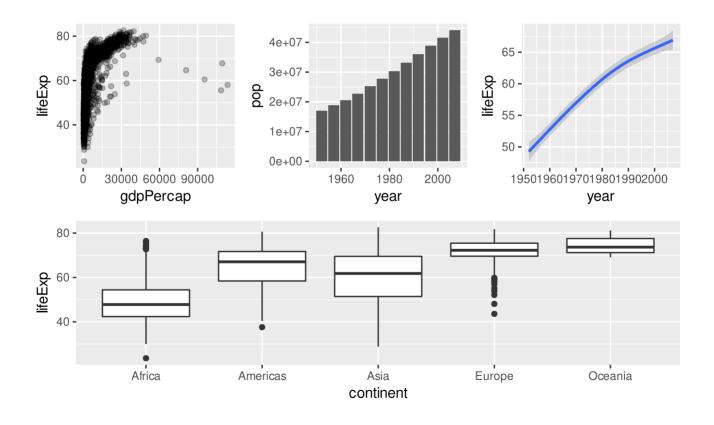
#### Add p3

(p1 + p2 + p3)



#### Add p4

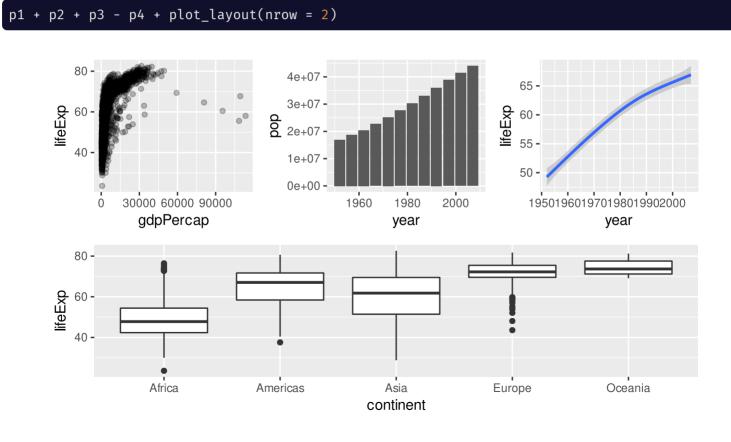
(p1 + p2 + p3) / p4



# plot\_layout()

You can also use plot\_layout() to control the layout of your plots

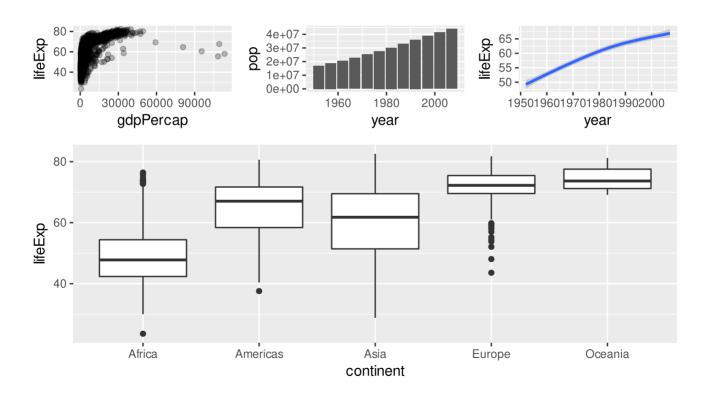
The – sign ensures that all the patchwork on the LHS (p1 + p2 + p3) and on the RHS (p4) are grouped (i.e., nested) together



# plot\_layout()

Use plot\_layout() to control the heights and widths of your patchwork elements

(p1 + p2 + p3) / p4 + plot\_layout(heights = c(1, 2))



### Combine multiple patchworks

To keep your code organized in a complex patchwork, you can save individual patchworks and combine them at the end

```
patchwork1 <- (p1 + p3 + coord polar() + p2) + plot layout(widths = c(1, 1, 4))
patchwork2 <- (p3 + p4) + plot layout(widths = c(3, 1))
patchwork1 / patchwork2 + plot layout(height = c(1, 4))
      lifeExp
                             lifeExp
         80
60
                                   000 96
                                              dod
                                                              1960
                                                                             1980
                                                                                           2000
            030060090000
                                    vear
             qdpPercap
                                                                            year
                                                                              80 -
         65 -
                                                                           lifeExp
      lifeExp
                                                                              60
         60 -
         55 -
                                                                              40
```

1990

2000

1970

1980

year

1960

50 -

1950

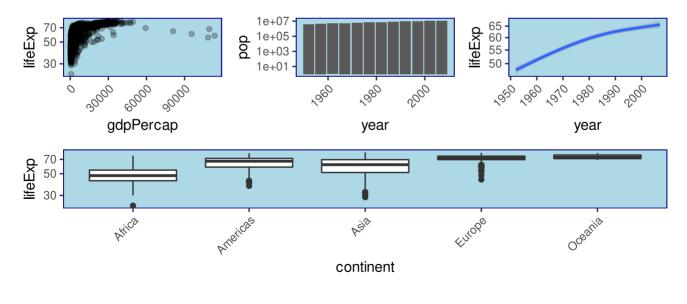
AfricamericassiaEuropeeania

continent

# Add layers to all ggplots

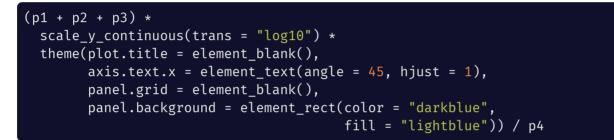
With patchwork, you can control the layers (e.g., geoms, theme) of your ggplots all at once using the & operator. This is useful, for example, when you have several plots with the same theme or want to add a layer to every plot without adding this code to each and every plot

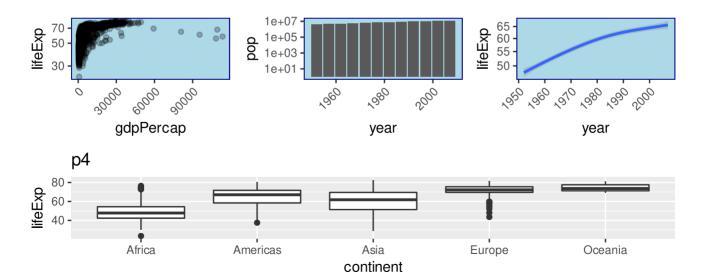




# Add layers to some ggplots

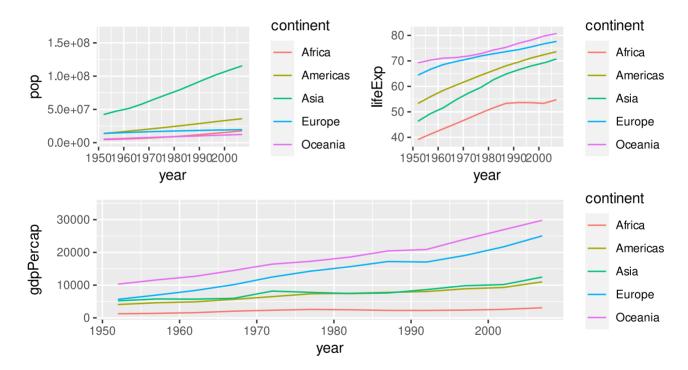
While the & operator adds layers to all ggplots in a patchwork, the \* operator adds layers only to the current nesting level





# Controlling Legends

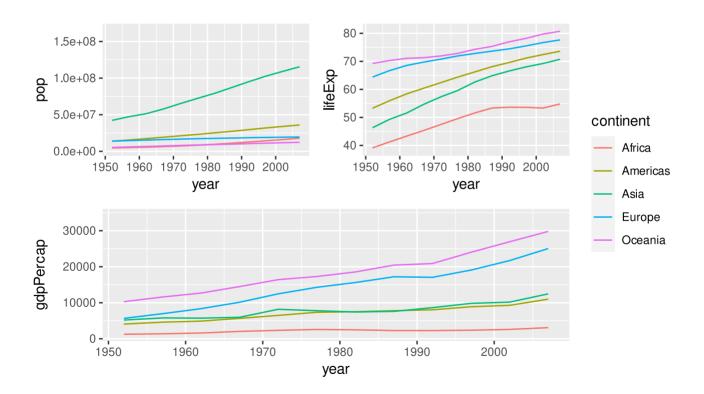
Imagine you have the following three plots configured using patchwork ((p1 + p2) / p3). The legends are identical and it is only necessary to have one of them for the entire figure.



# Controlling Legends

Combine identical legends with guides = "collect"

(p1 + p2) / p3 +
 plot\_layout(guides = "collect")



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# Titles & Tags

When you have a multi-plot figure such as that in the previous slide, it is common to label each plot to refer to in your manuscript. To apply titles and tags to the entire plotting window, you can use plot\_annotation()

