



GGPlot

Marco Torchiano

Version 1.0.0 - April 2021

License

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

- You are free to:

- Share - copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- Adapt - remix, transform, and build upon the material

for any purpose, even commercially.

The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

- Under the following terms:

- **Attribution** - You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
- **ShareAlike** - If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

Introduction

What is ggplot2?

The `ggplot2` is package for producing statistical graphics.

- ggplot2 is based on a grammar
 - allows composing graphs as combination of independent components
- ggplot2 takes care of fiddly details
 - defaults let produce publication-quality graphics in seconds
- ggplot2 is designed to work incrementally
 - start raw data, then add layers of annotations and statistical summaries

Graphics Grammar

Plot is composed of:

- **data** the information to be visualized (data frame)
- **mapping** of data onto aesthetic attributes
 - layer
 - geometric elements (geom)
 - statistical transformations (stat)
 - scale: maps data to attributes (e.g., color, size ..)
 - coord system: maps data coordinates to the plane
 - facet: breaks up the plot as small multiples
 - theme: provide support elements and controls details

5

Basic elements

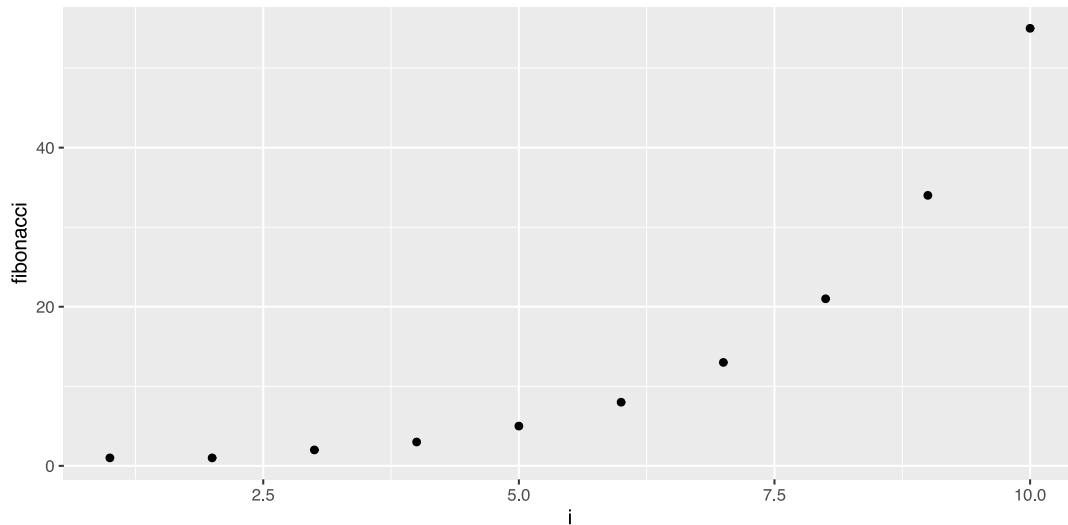
Any ggplot2 plot has three key components:

- the data
- aesthetic mappings
 - maps data variables to aesthetics features
 - coordinates or attributes
- visual layer (at least one)
 - define the visual object
 - maps aesthetics features to geometric properties

6

Basic elements

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=i,y=fibonacci))+geom_point()
```



7

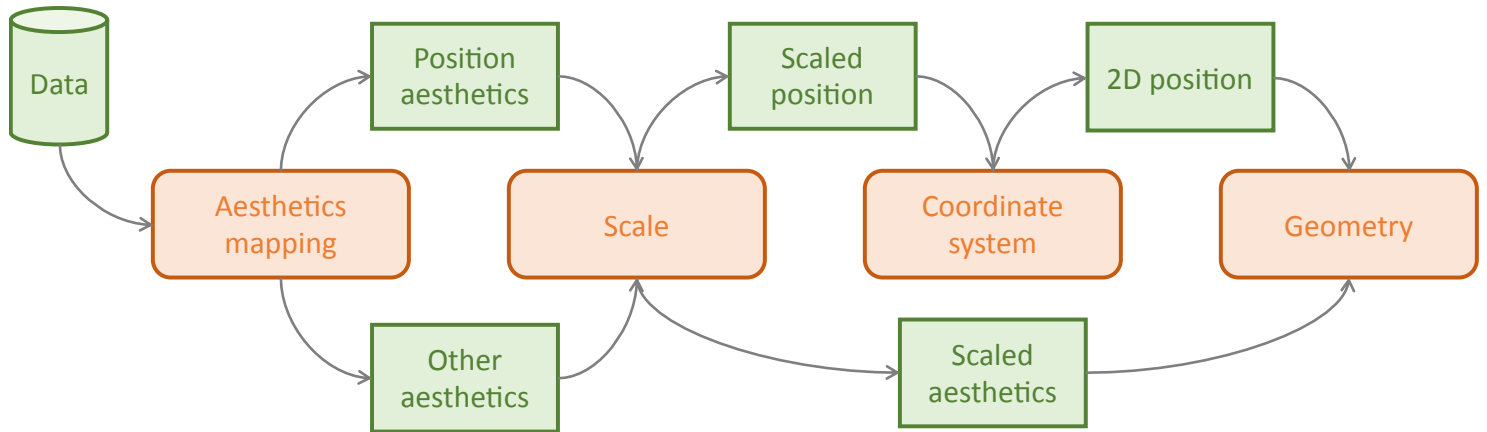
Basic elements

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=i,y=fibonacci))+geom_point()
```

- `series`: defines the data to be used
- `aes(x=i,y=fibonacci)`: maps data to visual characteristics
 - `i` and `fibonacci` to the x and y coordinates respectively
 - cartesian coordinates are implied by default
 - linear scales implied
- `geom_point()`: defines a layer that map data to points
 - shape, color, size of points are implied by default

8

Mappings



- Scale depends on the type of aesthetics
 - for position (x, y) is by default a simple linear scale
 - for other types of aesthetics may vary

9

Scales and coordinates

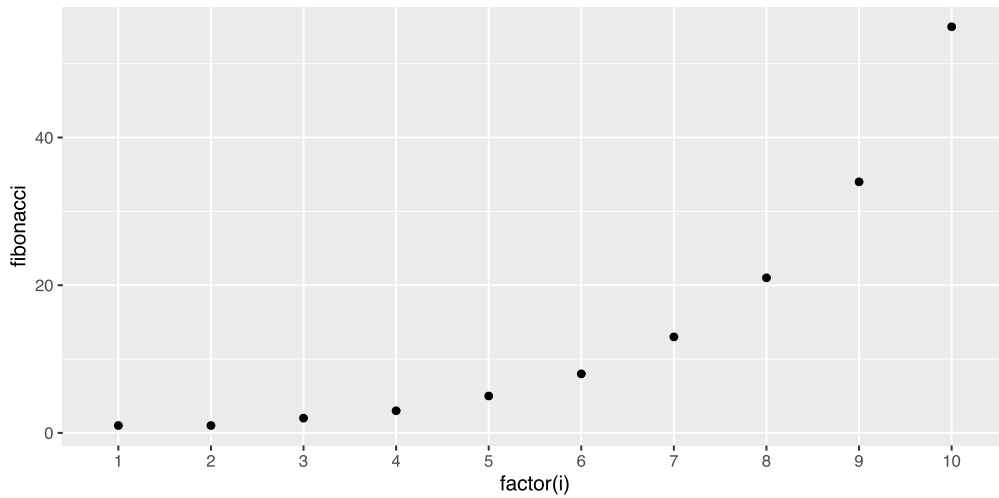
Both scale and coordinates have (implicit) defaults:

- the default scale depends on
 - the specific aesthetics
 - the type of the variable
- the default coordinate system is `coord_cartesian()`
 - another option is `coord_polar()`

10

Default scale adapts to variable

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=factor(i), y=fibonacci))+geom_point()
```

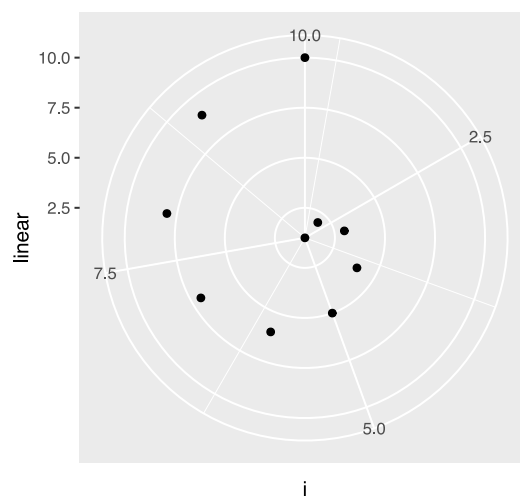


A `factor` is mapped to equidistant slots along the axis

11

Different coordinate system

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=i, y=linear))+geom_point()+  
  coord_polar()
```

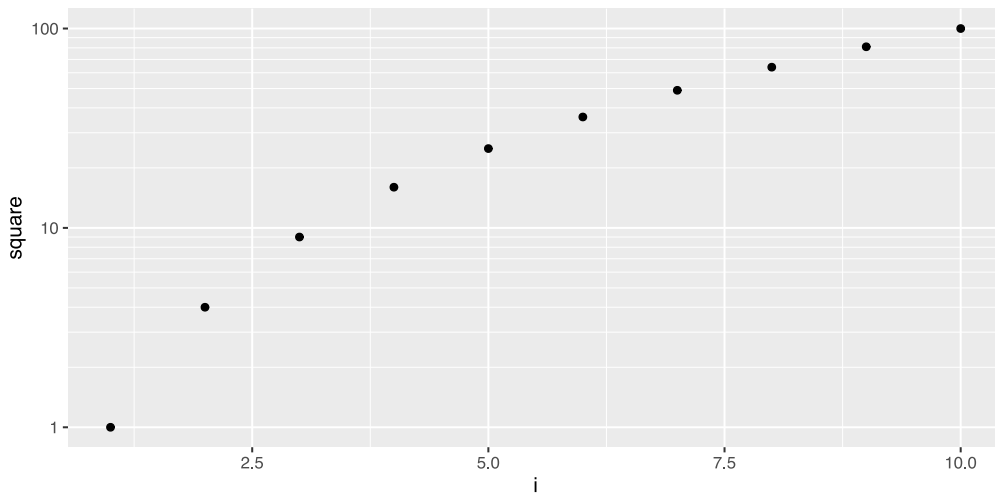


`x` maps to θ (with `max(x)` $\rightarrow 2\pi$) and `y` maps to ρ

12

Different y axis scale

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=i,y=square))+geom_point()+  
  scale_y_log10(minor_breaks=c(1:10,1:10*10))
```



Applied a log scale to the position `y`

13

Additional aesthetics

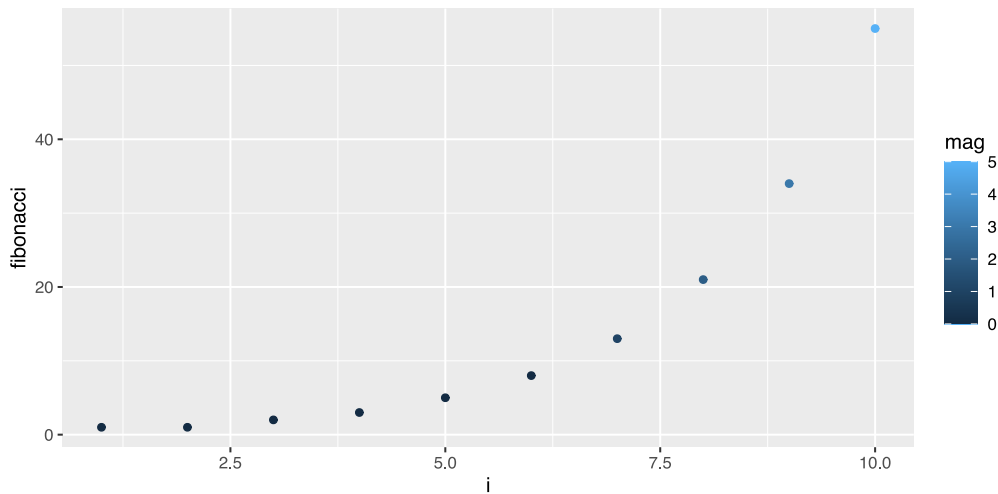
Aesthetics include:

- position (`x`, `y`)
- grouping (`group`)
- other:
 - `color` : line or simbol color
 - `fill` : area fill color
 - `shape` : type of shape
 - `size` : size of the object

14

Additional aesthetics

```
ggplot(series %>% mutate( mag = fibonacci %/% 10 ),  
       aes(x=i, y=fibonacci, color=mag))+ geom_point()
```

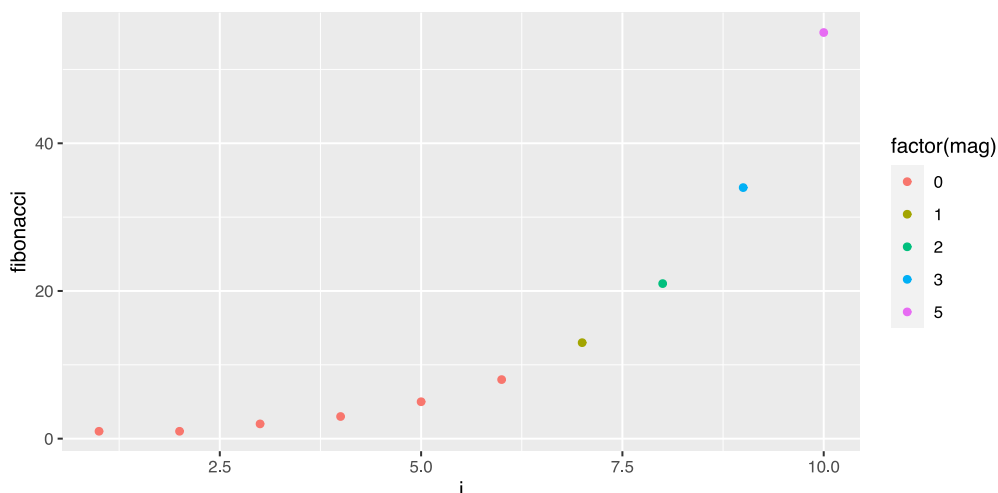


A gradient scale is used for a continuous (`numeric`) variable

15

Additional features

```
ggplot(series%>%mutate( mag = fibonacci %/% 10 ),  
       aes(x=i, y=fibonacci, color=factor(mag)))+ geom_poi
```



Discrete color scale is used for a `factor` variable

16

Scales

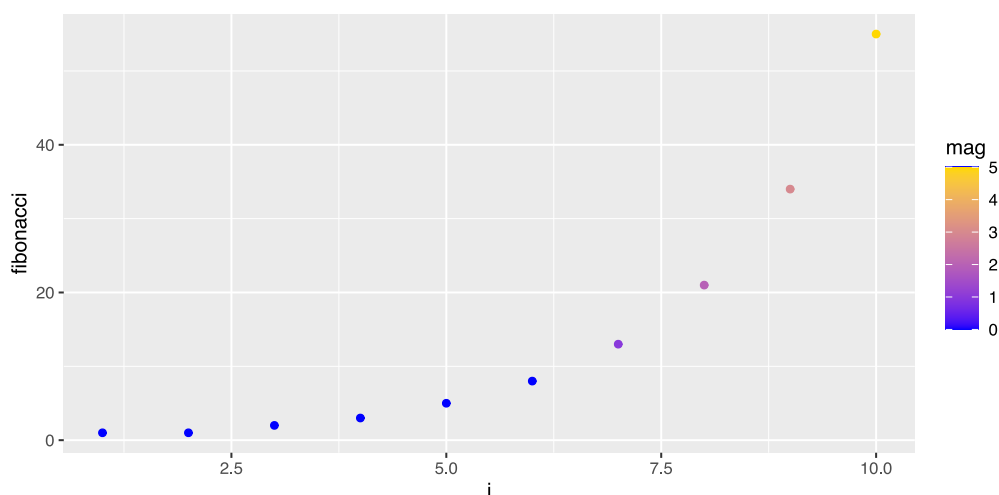
For each aesthetics type a few scales are provided:

- `scale_x_..`, `scale_y_..`
- `scale_color_..`
- `scale_fill_..`
- `scale_shape_..`
- `scale_size_..`

17

Additional feature and scale

```
ggplot(series%>%mutate( mag = fibonacci %/% 10),  
  aes(x=i, y= fibonacci, color=mag))+  
  scale_color_gradient(low="blue",high="gold")+  
  geom_point()
```



18

Geometry layers

Geometry function add new layers

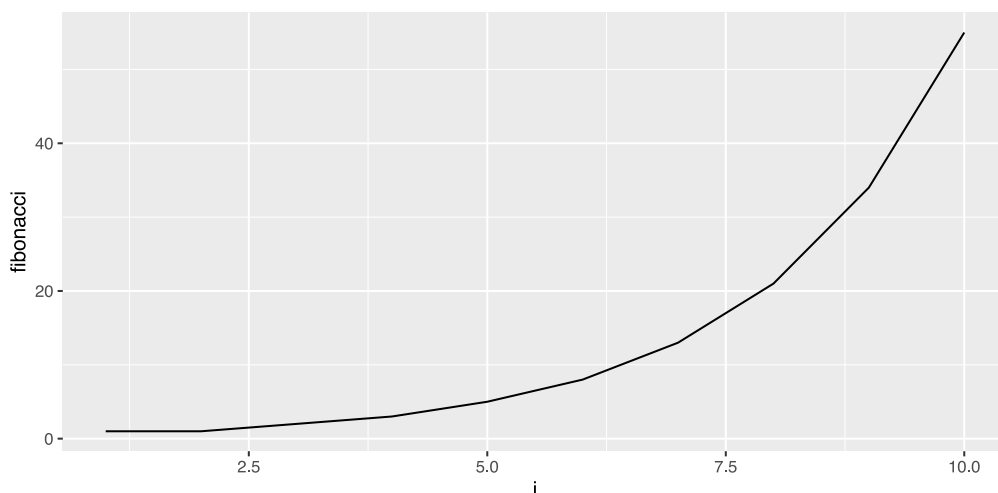
- `geom_point()` : draw points
- `geom_line()` : draw lines connecting positions
- `geom_text()` and `geom_label()` : write a text or label
- `geom_area()` : draw a filled area

Layers are drawn in order of declaration, with the latest on top.
The order of all other statements is irrelevant.

19

Changing geometry

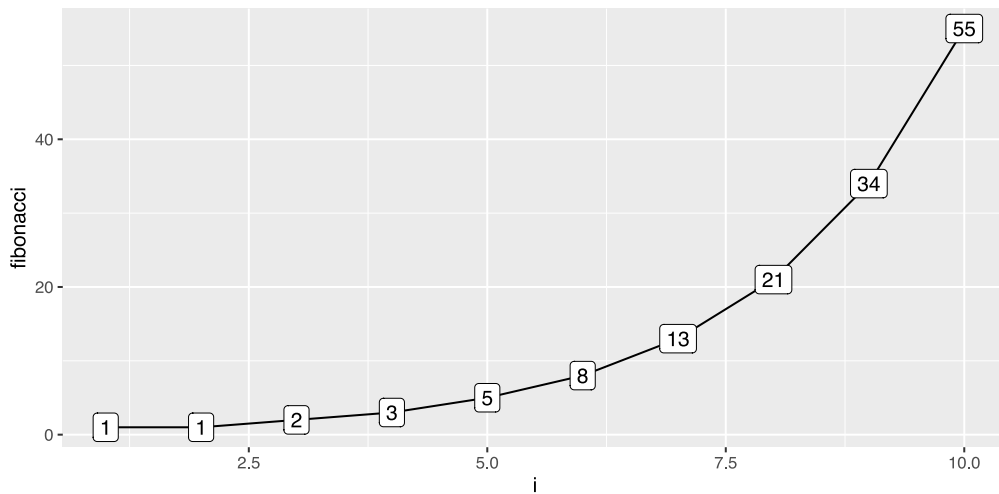
```
ggplot(series, aes(x=i, y=fibonacci))+  
  geom_line()
```



20

Using multiple layers

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=i, y=fibonacci, label=fibonacci))+  
  geom_line() + geom_label()
```



21

Geometries with statistical transformation

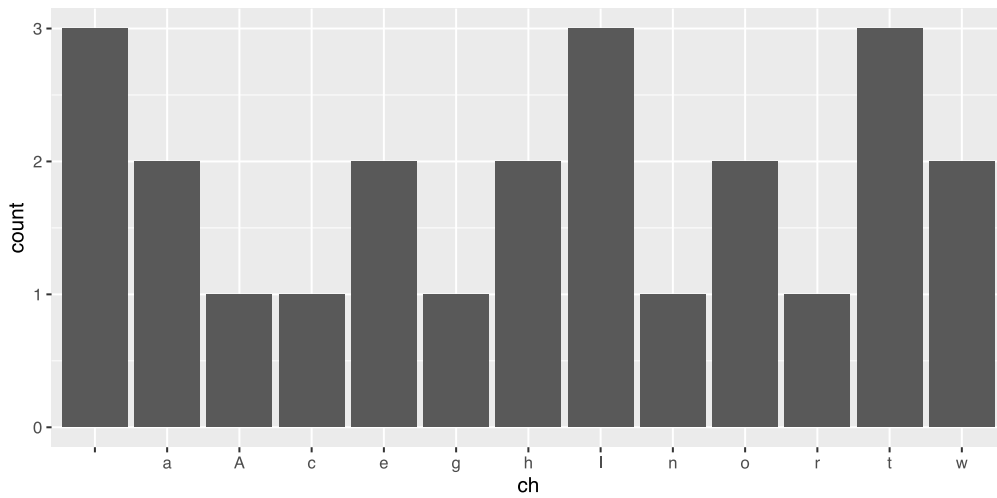
A few geometries perform a transformation before mapping to an object

- `geom_bar()` : compute frequencies of discrete variables
- `geom_histogram()` : compute frequencies of bins of continuous vars
- `geom_boxplot()` : compute boxplot
- `geom_violin()` : compute a violin plot

22

Computing frequencies

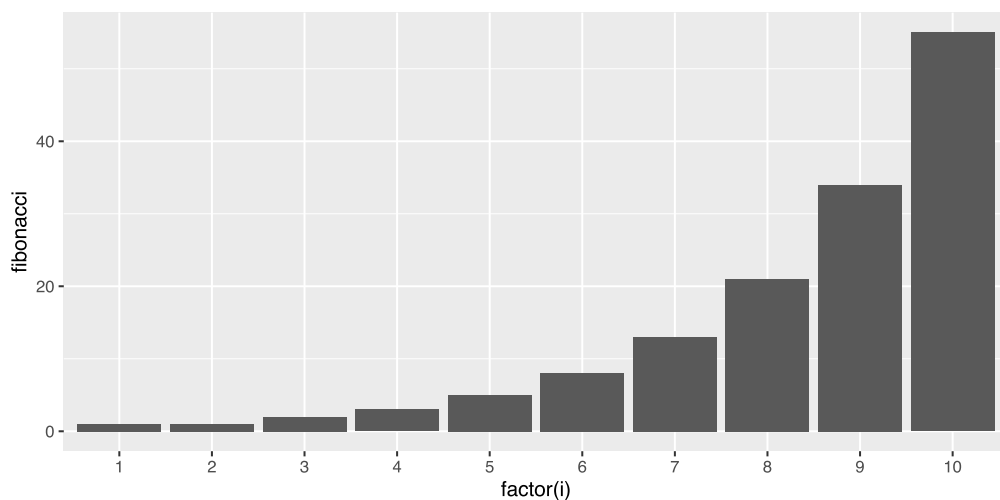
```
ch = strsplit("All along the watchtower",c())[[1]]  
ggplot(data.frame(ch=ch), aes(x=ch))+ geom_bar()
```



23

Regular barplot

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=factor(i),y=fibonacci))+  
  geom_bar(stat="identity")
```

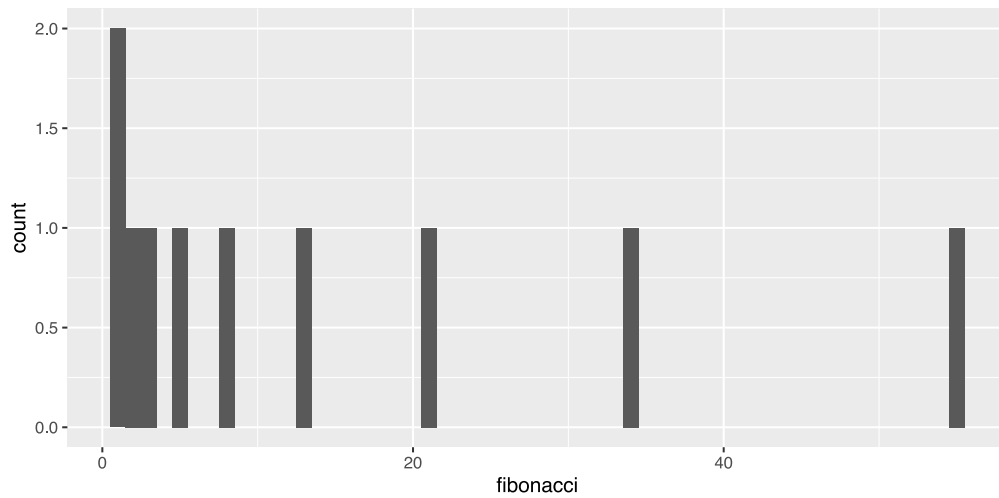


Conventional bar plot uses stat `identity` (instead of `count`)

24

Histogram geometry

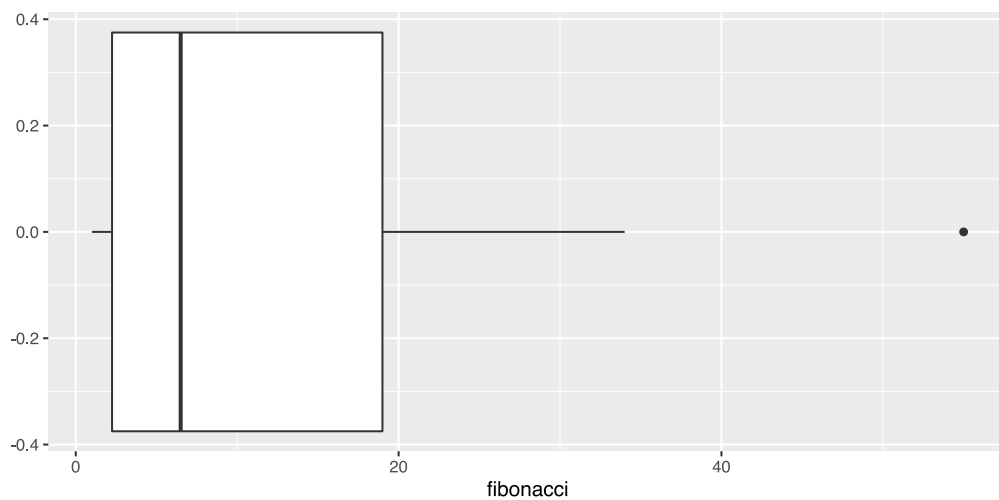
```
ggplot(series, aes(x=fibonacci))+  
  geom_histogram(binwidth=1)
```



25

Boxplot geometry

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=fibonacci))+  
  geom_boxplot()
```



26

Theme

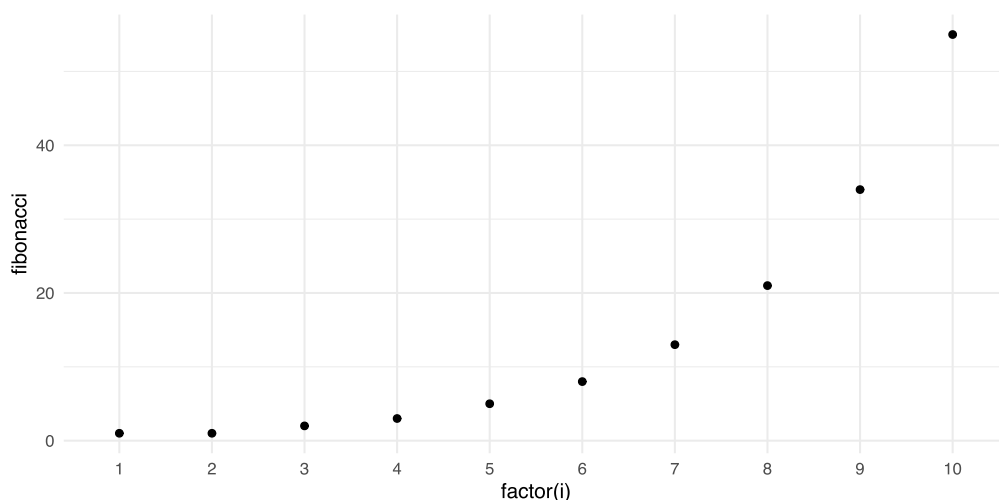
The support elements and default visual features are defined by a theme

- `theme_classic()` : similar to base functions
- `theme_gray()` : the default theme (gray background)
- `theme_bw()` : same as default but with white background
- `theme_light()` : same as bw but with lighter lines
- `theme_dark()` : dark gray background
- `theme_minimal()` : minimalistic theme
- `theme_void()` : no supporting elements

27

Changing the theme

```
ggplot(series, aes(x=factor(i),y=fibonacci))+geom_point()+  
  theme_minimal()
```



28

References

- Hadley Wickham, Danielle Navarro, and Thomas Lin Pedersen. “ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis”, in-progress
 - <https://ggplot2-book.org/>
- Winston Chang, “R Graphics Cookbook” O’Reilly, 2013