

# Can I use ggsave to quickly save my ggplot2 plots?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Yes, you can use the `ggsave` function in R to quickly save your `ggplot2` plots. This function allows you to easily export your plots to various file formats, such as PNG, JPEG, PDF, or SVG. It also provides options for adjusting the size and resolution of your saved plot. Using `ggsave` can save you time and effort compared to manually exporting each plot individually.

## Use ggsave to Quickly Save ggplot2 Plots

You can use the `ggsave()` function to quickly save plots created by `ggplot2`.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
ggsave(  
filename,  
plot = last_plot(),  
device = NULL,  
path = NULL,  
scale = 1,  
width = NA,  
height = NA,  
units = c("in", "cm", "mm", "px"),"  
...  
)
```

**where:**

**filename:** File name to use when saving plot (e.g.

**"my\_plot.pdf")plot:** The plot to save. Default is to save last plot displayed.  
**device:** Device to use  
**path:** Path to save file to  
**scale:** Multiplicative scaling factor  
**width:** width of plot in units specified  
**height:** height of plot in units specified  
**units:** Units to use when specifying size of plot

The following examples show how to use the `ggsave()` function in practice to save the following scatter plot created in `ggplot2`:

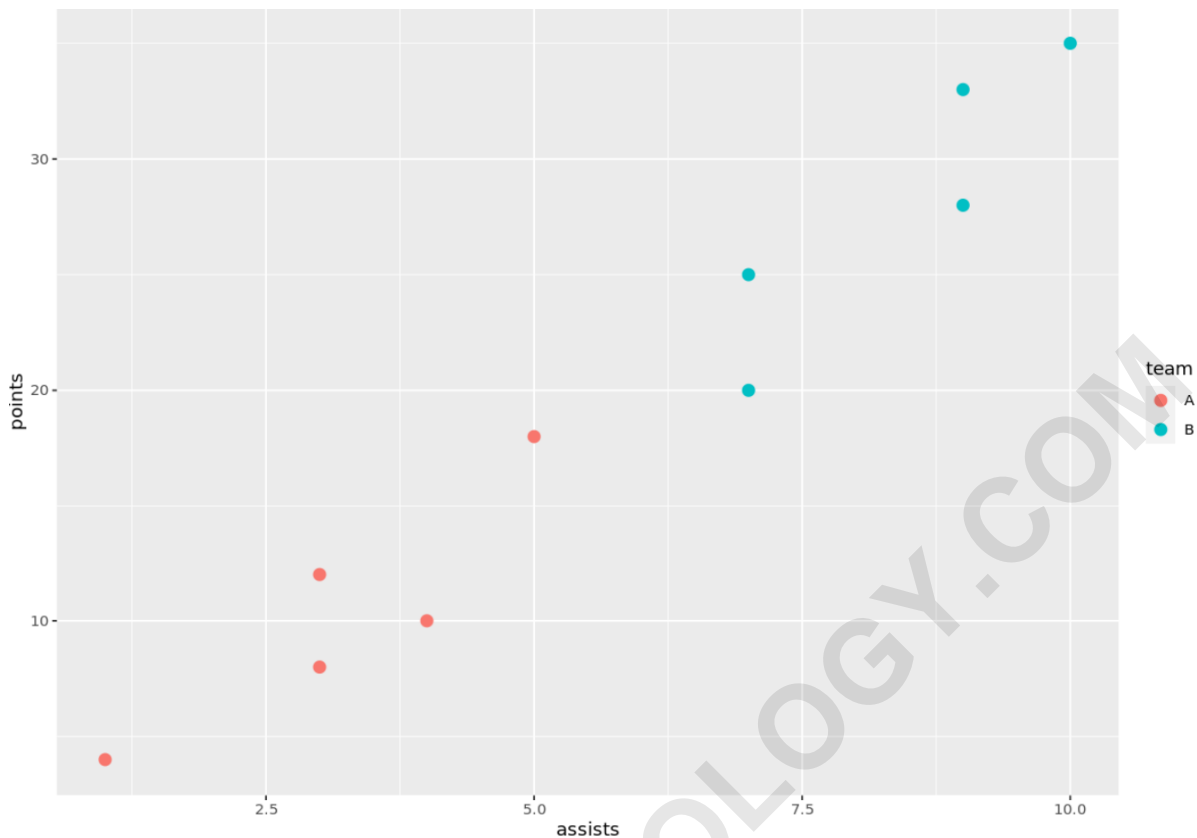
```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team=rep(c('A', 'B'), each=5),  
assists=c(1, 3, 3, 4, 5, 7, 7, 9, 9, 10),  
points=c(4, 8, 12, 10, 18, 25, 20, 28, 33, 35))
```

```
#create scatter plot
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=assists, y=points)) +  
geom_point(aes(color=team), size=3)
```



### Example 1: Use ggsave() to Save Plot with Default Settings

We can use the following syntax with `ggsave()` to save this scatter plot to a PDF file called `my_plot.pdf` with all of the default settings:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

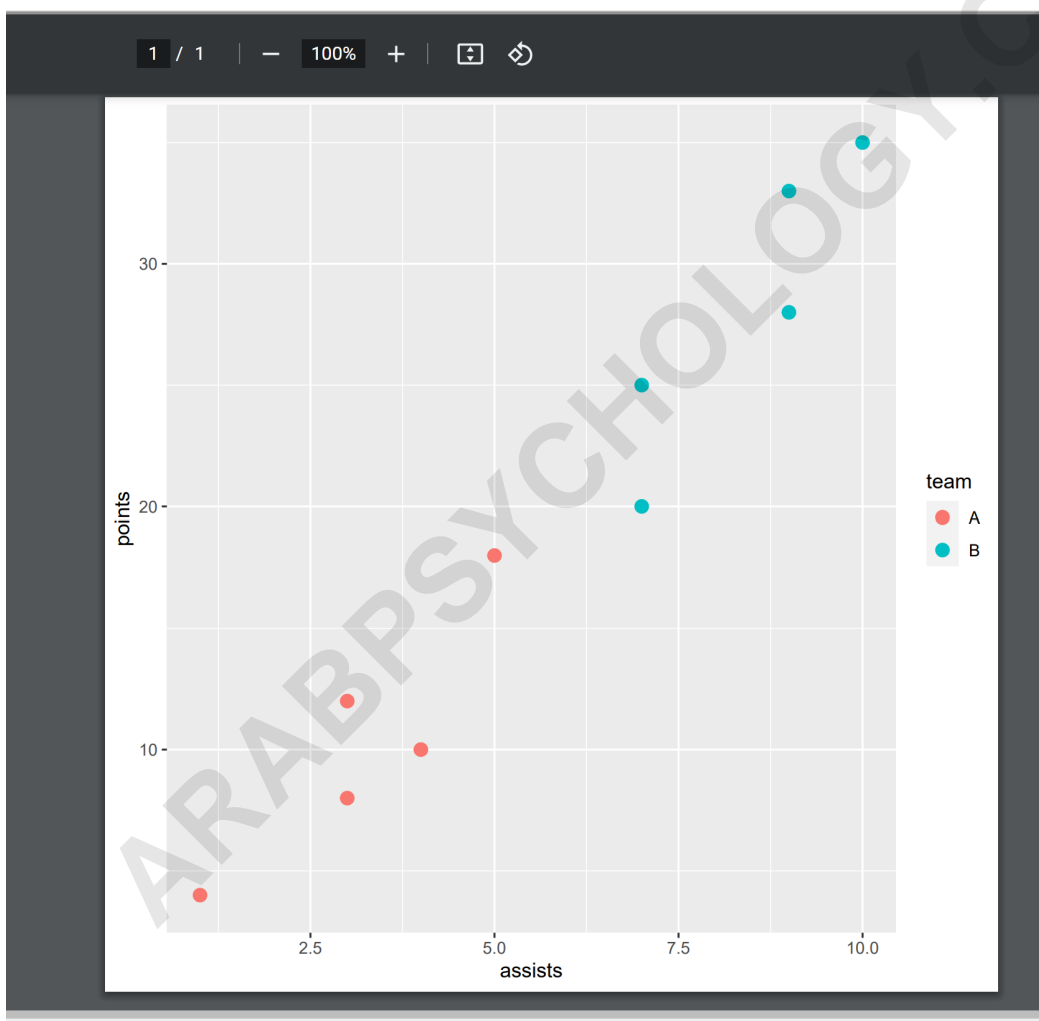
```
#save scatter plot as PDF file
```

```
ggsave('my_plot.pdf')
```

Since we didn't specify a path or a size for our plot, the

scatter plot will simply be saved as a PDF in the current working directory with the size of the current graphics device.

If I navigate to my current working directory, I can view the PDF file:



I can see that the plot has been saved as a PDF file with the size of the current graphics device.

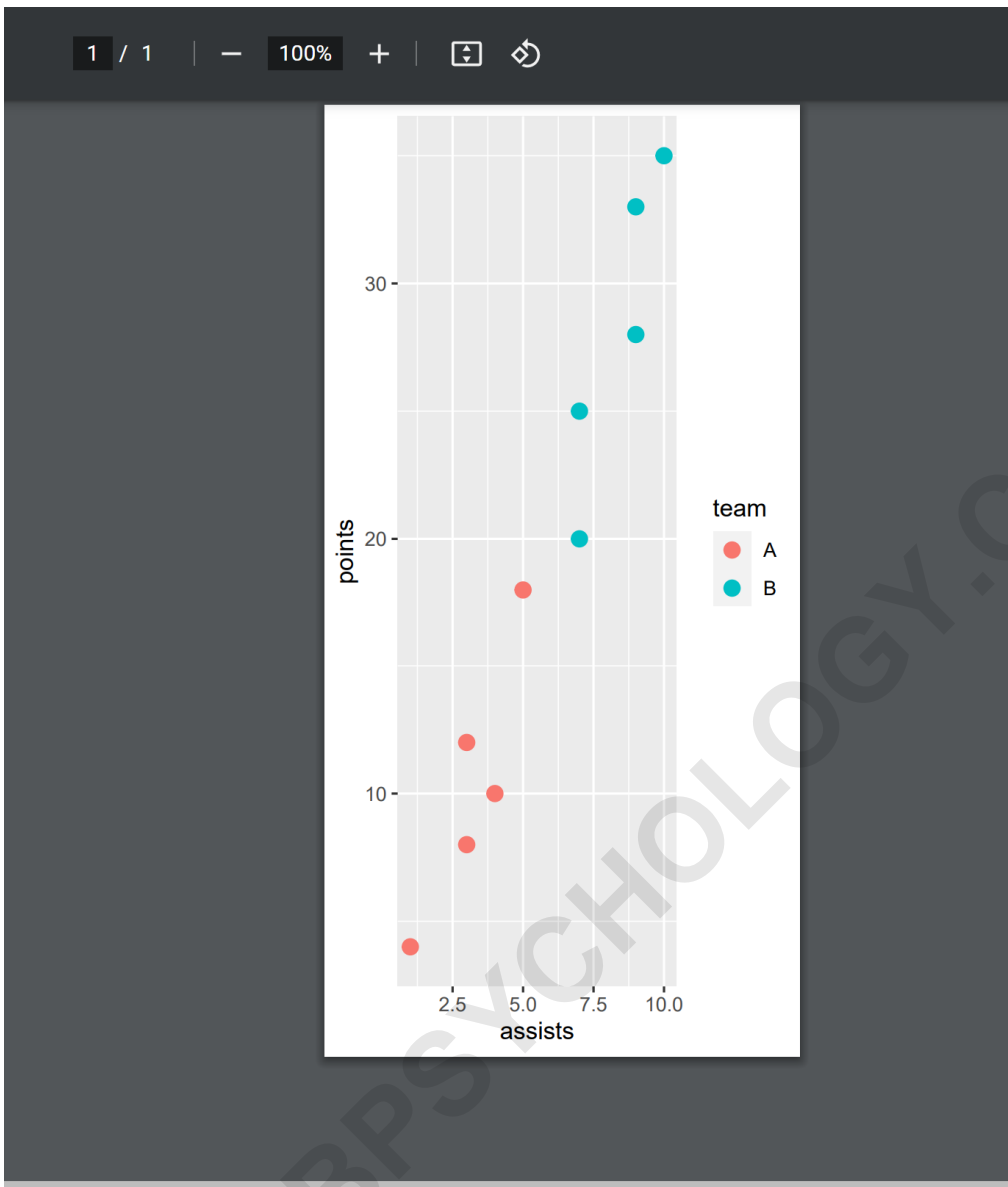
## Example 2: Use ggsave() to Save Plot with Custom Settings

We can use the following syntax with ggsave() to save this scatter plot to a PDF file called my\_plot2.pdf with a size of 3 inches wide by 6 inches tall:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#save scatter plot as PDF file with specific dimensions  
ggsave('my_plot2.pdf', width=3, height=6, units='in')
```

If I navigate to my current working directory, I can view the PDF file:



I can see that the plot has been saved as a PDF file with the dimensions that I specified.

**Note:** In these examples we chose to save the plots from ggplot2 as PDF files, but you can also specify jpeg, png, or other file formats.