

How can I change the order of facets in ggplot2?

Authored by
stats writer

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GGplot2 is a data visualization package in R that allows users to create high-quality graphics and charts. One of its main features is the ability to arrange data into different facets, which are essentially subsets of the data that are displayed separately. However, by default, the facets are arranged in alphabetical order. To change the order of facets in GGplot2, users can utilize the "facet_grid" function and specify the desired order using the "levels" argument. This allows for a more customized and organized display of data in the desired order.

Change the Order of Facets in ggplot2 (With Example)

You can use the following basic syntax to specify the order of facets in ggplot2:

```
p +  
facet_grid(~factor(my_variable, levels=c('val1', 'val2',  
'val3', ...)))
```

The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.

Example: Change Order of Facets in ggplot2

Suppose we have the following data frame in R:

```
#create data frame  
df <- data.frame(team=c('A', 'A', 'B', 'B', 'C', 'C', 'D', 'D'),  
points=c(8, 14, 20, 22, 25, 29, 30, 31),  
assists=c(10, 5, 5, 3, 8, 6, 9, 12))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team points assists
```

```
1 A 8 10
```

```
2 A 14 5
```

```
3 B 20 5
```

```
4 B 22 3
```

```
5 C 25 8
```

```
6 C 29 6
```

```
7 D 30 9
```

```
8 D 31 12
```

The following code shows how to use `facet_grid()` to create a grid that displays a scatterplot of assists vs. points for each team:

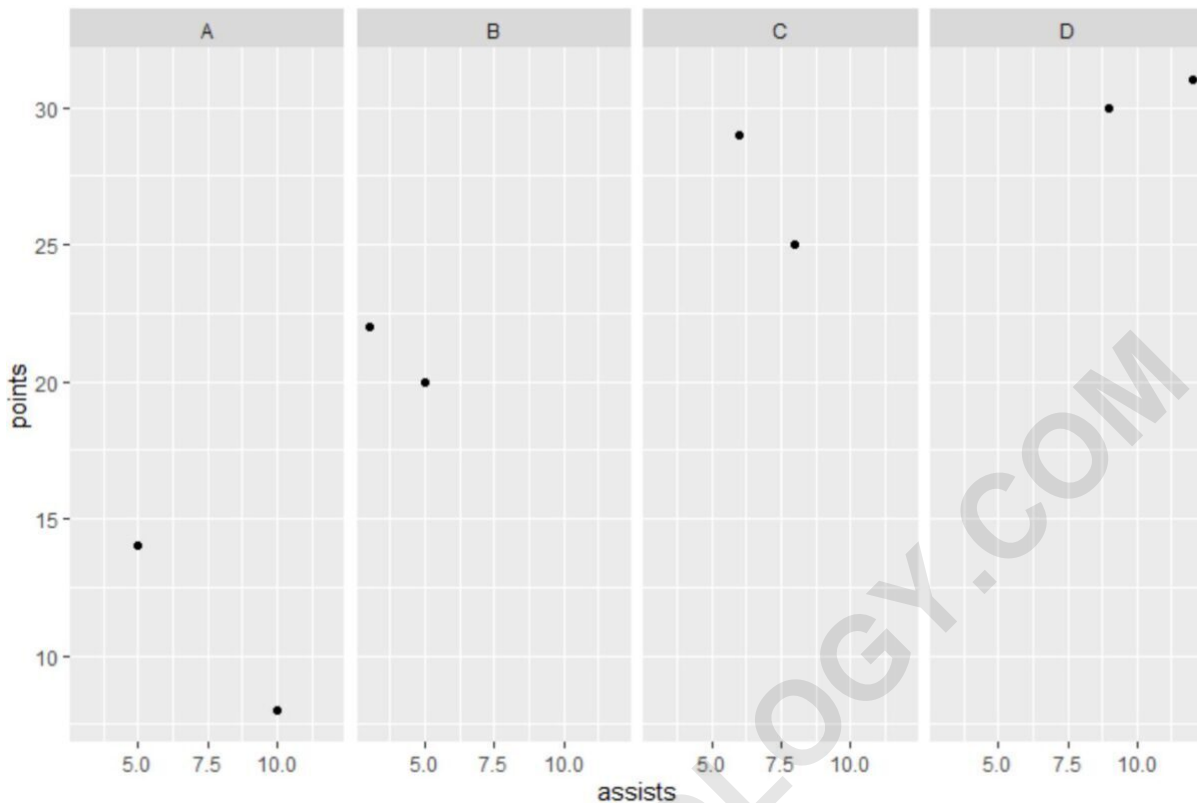
```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create multiple scatter plots using facet_grid
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(assists, points)) +
```

```
geom_point() +
```

```
facet_grid(~team)
```



By default, ggplot2 places the scatter plots in order based on which values appear first in the team variable in the data frame.

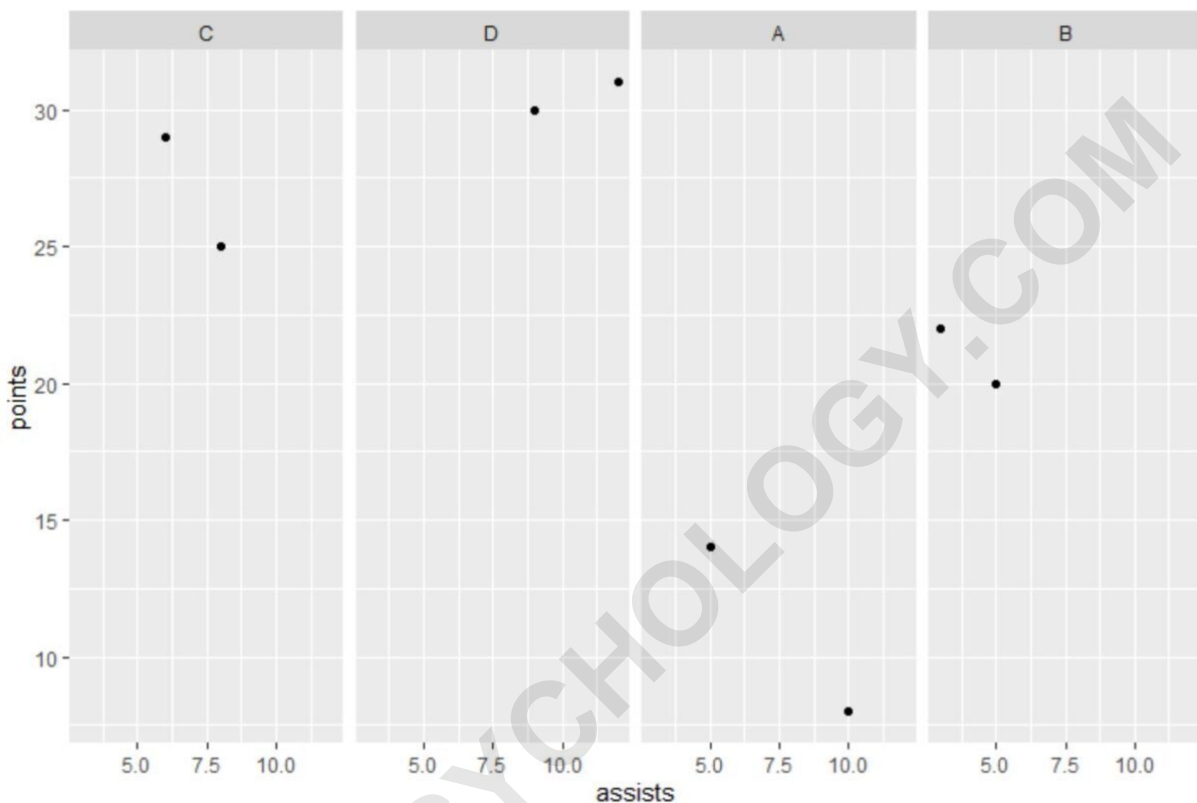
However, we can convert team to a factor variable and use the levels argument to specify the order that the teams should be placed in the plot:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create multiple scatter plots using facet_grid with  
specific order
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(assists, points)) +
```

```
geom_point() +  
facet_grid(~factor(team, levels=c('C', 'D', 'A', 'B')))
```



Notice that the scatter plots are now in order based on the order we specified within the levels argument: C, D, A, B.

The advantage of using this approach is that we don't actually modify the underlying data.

Instead, we only change the levels within the `facet_grid()` function.