

How can I reorder the bars in a stacked bar chart in ggplot2?

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One can use the "reorder" function in ggplot2 to reorder the bars in a stacked bar chart. This function allows for the bars to be rearranged based on a specific variable, such as alphabetical order or numerical value. By specifying the desired variable in the "reorder" function, the bars in the stacked bar chart can be reordered accordingly. This feature in ggplot2 provides flexibility and customization in the presentation of data in a stacked bar chart.

Reorder Bars in a Stacked Bar Chart in ggplot2

You can use the following basic syntax to reorder the position of bars in a stacked bar chart in ggplot2:

```
#specify order of bars (from top to bottom)
```

```
df$fill_var <- factor(df$fill_var, levels=c('value1',  
'value2', 'value3', ...))
```

```
#create stacked bar chart
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=x_var, y=y_var, fill=fill_var)) +  
geom_bar(position='stack', stat='identity')
```

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

Example: Reorder Bars in Stacked Bar Chart in ggplot2

Suppose we have the following data frame in R that shows the points scored by various basketball players:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team=c('A', 'A', 'A', 'B', 'B', 'B', 'C', 'C',  
'C'),  
position=c('G', 'F', 'C', 'G', 'F', 'C', 'G', 'F', 'C'),  
points=c(22, 12, 10, 30, 12, 17, 28, 23, 20))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team position points
```

```
1 A G 22
```

```
2 A F 12
```

```
3 A C 10
```

```
4 B G 30
```

```
5 B F 12
```

```
6 B C 17
```

```
7 C G 28
```

```
8 C F 23
```

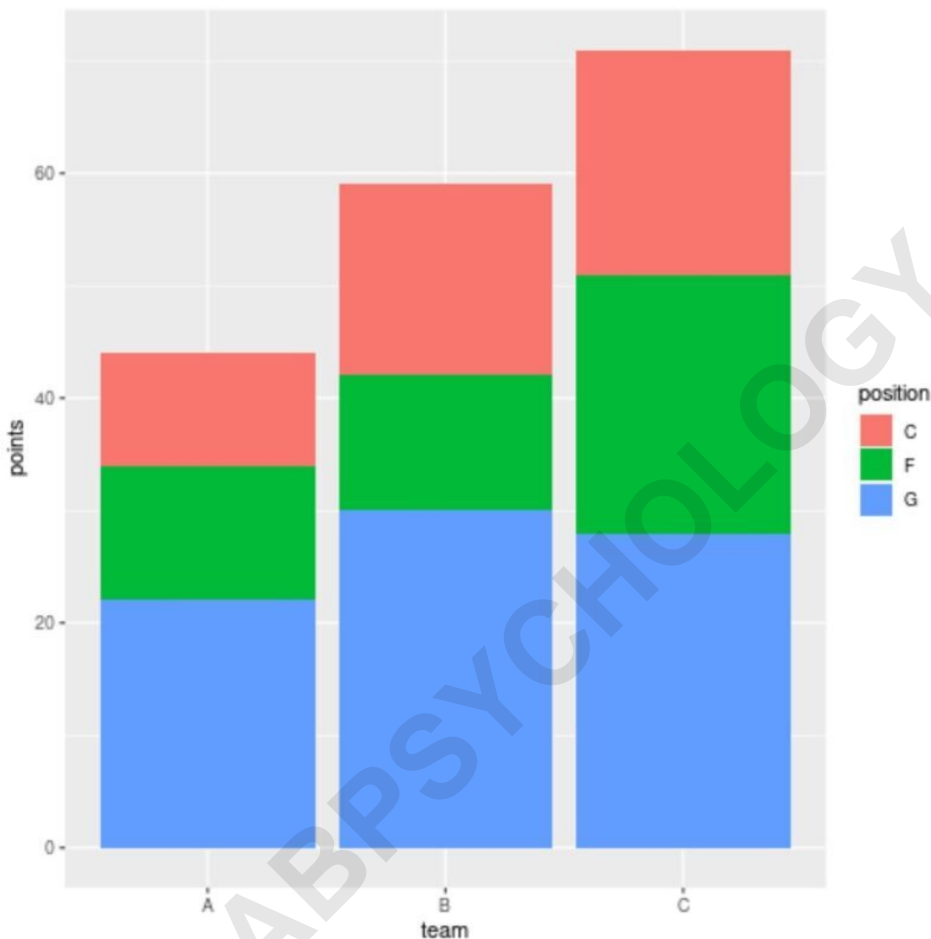
```
9 C C 20
```

If we create a stacked bar chart to visualize the points scored by players on each team, ggplot2 will automatically stack the bars in alphabetical order:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

#create stacked bar chart

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=team, y=points, fill=position)) +  
geom_bar(position='stack', stat='identity')
```



Notice that each stacked bar displays the position (from top to bottom) in alphabetical order.

To reorder the bars in a specific way, we can convert the position variable to a factor and use the levels argument to specify the order that the bars should be in

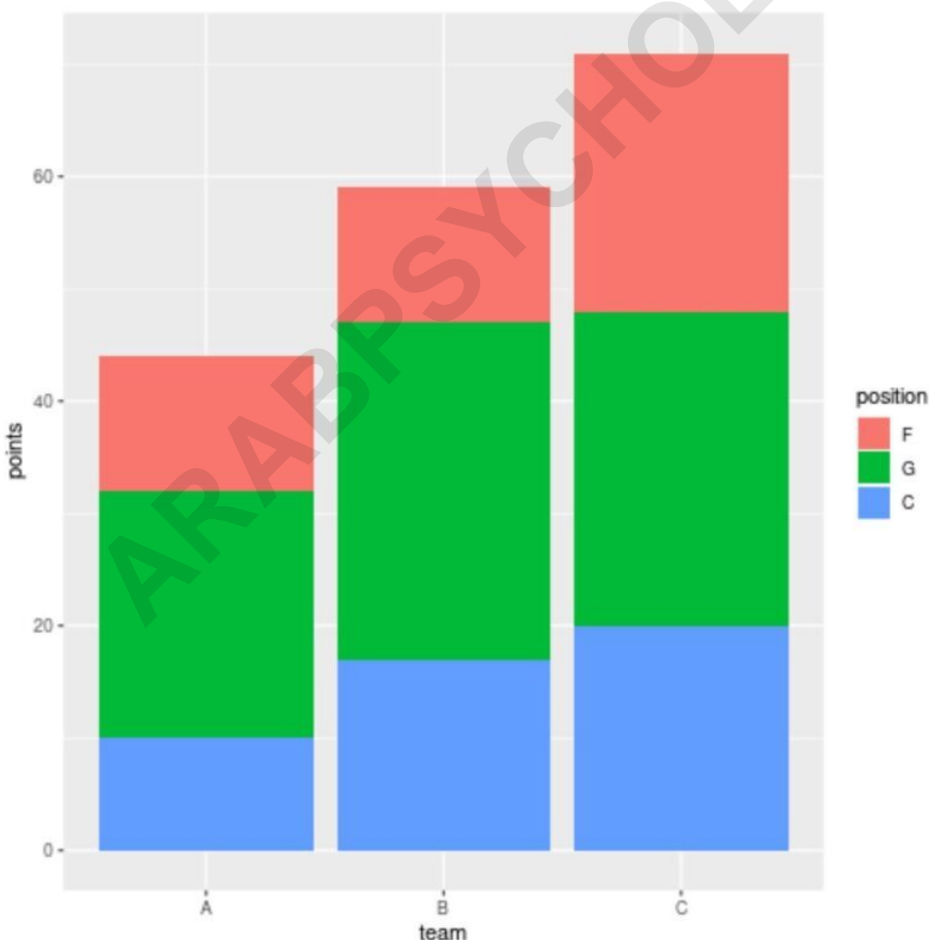
(from top to bottom) in the stacked bar chart:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#convert 'position' to factor and specify level order  
df$position <- factor(df$position, levels=c('F', 'G', 'C'))
```

```
#create stacked bar chart
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=team, y=points, fill=position)) +  
geom_bar(position='stack', stat='identity')
```



The bars are now stacked (from top to bottom) in the exact order that we specified within the levels argument.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in ggplot2:

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