

# How can the point size in ggplot2 be changed?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can the point size in ggplot2 be changed?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=159126>

The point size in ggplot2 can be changed by using the "size" argument in the `geom_point()` function. This argument allows the user to specify the size of the points in the graph, ranging from 0 (no points) to a larger number (bigger points). Additionally, the user can also use the "scale\_size()" function to adjust the overall size of the points in the graph. By specifying a multiplier, the user can increase or decrease the size of the points in the plot. Furthermore, the user can also use the "aes()" function to map a variable in their dataset to the size of the points, allowing for a more dynamic and visually appealing plot. Overall, by utilizing these functions, the user can easily adjust the point size in ggplot2 to best suit their needs and create a more visually appealing graph.

## Change Point Size in ggplot2 (3 Examples)

**You can use the size argument to change the size of points in a ggplot2 scatterplot:**

```
some_ggplot +  
geom_point(size=1.5)
```

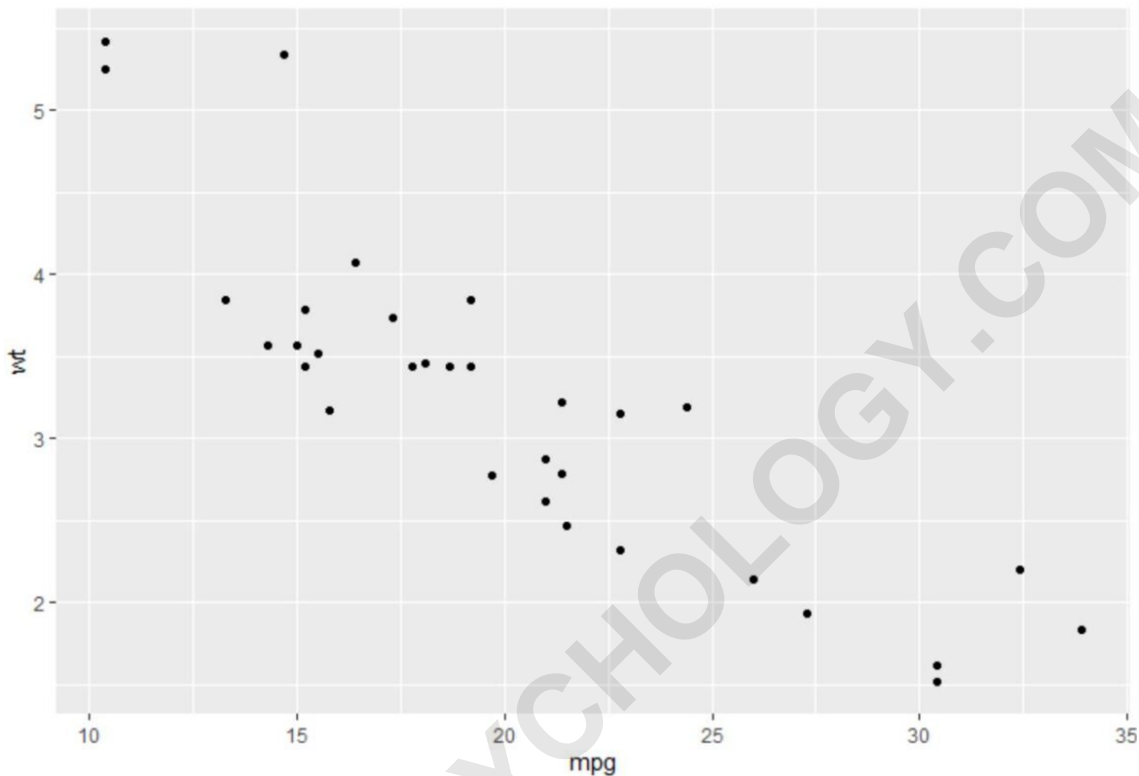
**The default size is 1.5 but you can decrease or increase this value to make the points smaller or larger.**

**The following examples show how to use each method in practice with the built-in dataset in R.**

**For reference, here's what a ggplot2 scatterplot looks like using the default size:**

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
ggplot(data=mtcars, aes(x=mpg, y=wt)) +  
geom_point()
```



### Example 1: Increase Point Size in ggplot2

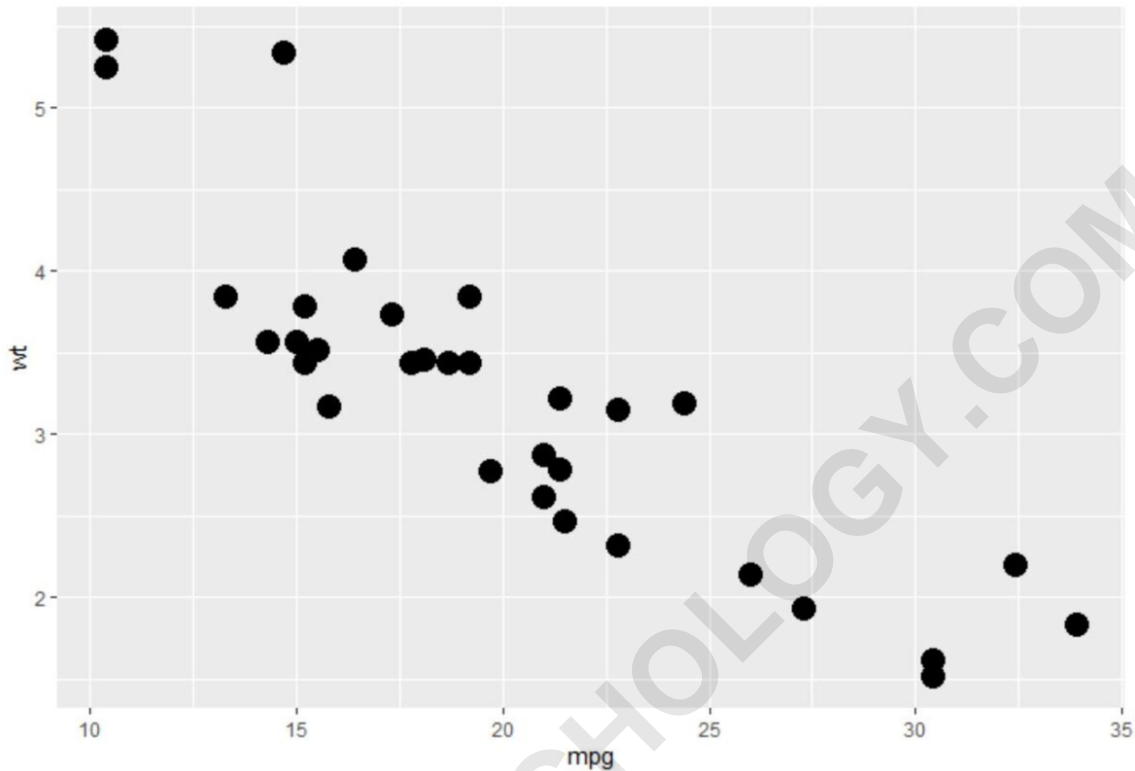
The following code shows how to create a scatterplot in ggplot2 and increase the point size by using the size argument:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create scatterplot with increased point size
```

```
ggplot(data=mtcars, aes(x=mpg, y=wt)) +
```

## geom\_point(size=5)



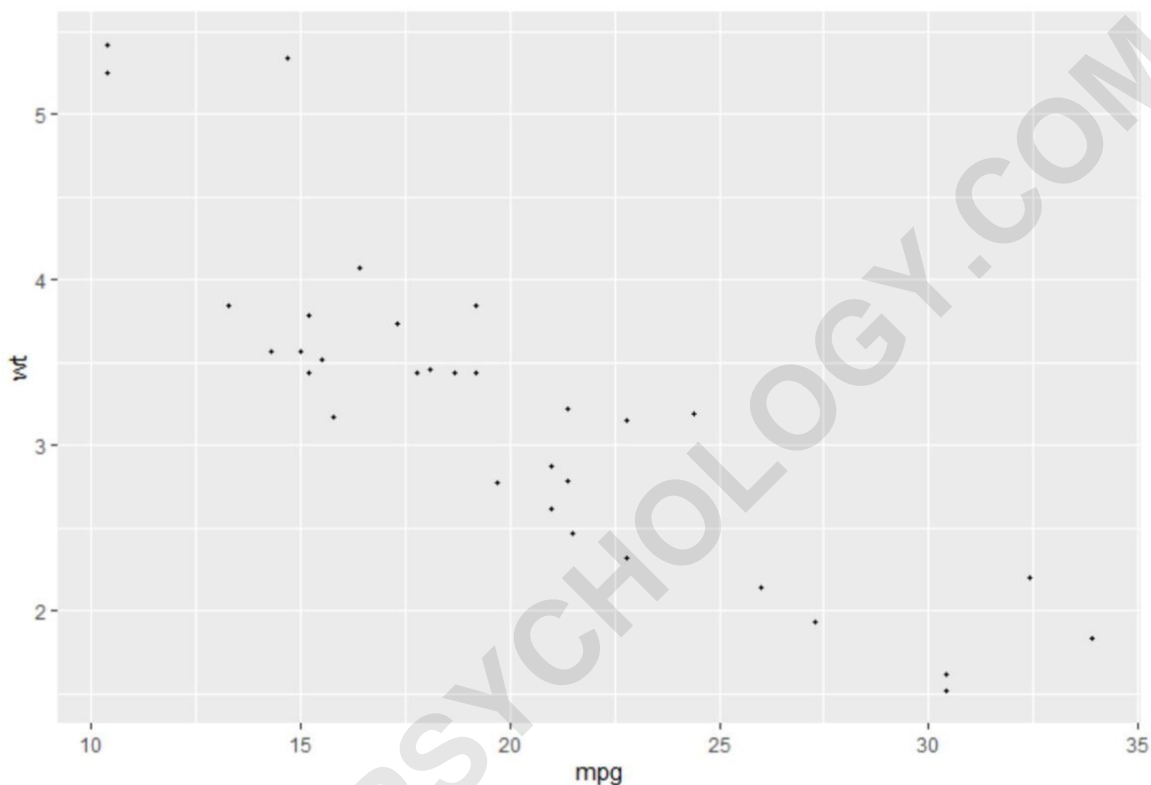
Notice that the points are much larger than the default size.

### Example 2: Decrease Point Size in ggplot2

The following code shows how to create a scatterplot in ggplot2 and decrease the point size by using the size argument:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create scatterplot with decreased point size  
ggplot(data=mtcars, aes(x=mpg, y=wt)) +  
geom_point(size=0.5)
```



**Notice that the points are much smaller than the default size.**

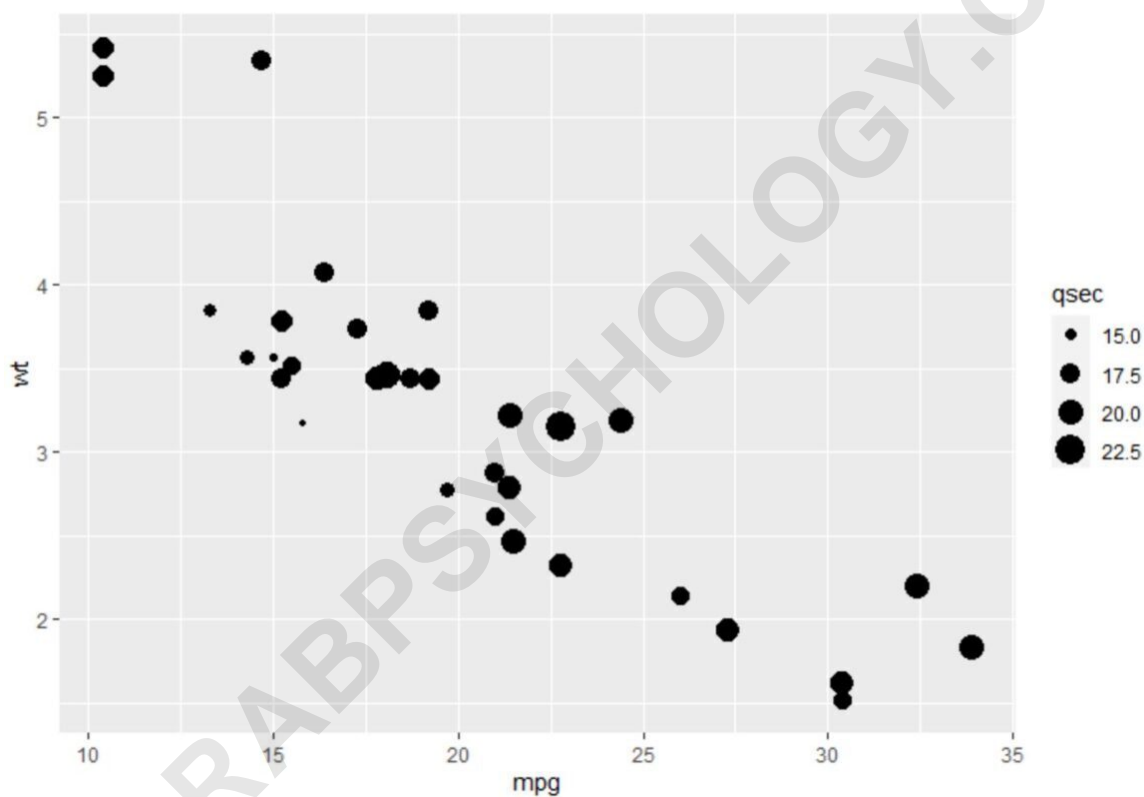
### **Example 3: Adjust Point Size Based on Variable**

**The following code shows how to create a scatterplot in ggplot2 and adjust each point size based on the value of another variable in the mtcars dataset called qsec:**

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create scatterplot with point size based on value of  
qsec
```

```
ggplot(data=mtcars, aes(x=mpg, y=wt)) +  
geom_point(aes(size=qsec))
```



The size of each point is now dependent on the value of the qsec variable.

Notice that ggplot2 also automatically adds a legend on the right side of the plot to help you understand how

**the value of the qsec variable is mapped onto the size of each point.**

**Note: You can find the complete documentation for the `geom_point()` function .**

### **Additional Resources**

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

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM