

# How can the `scale_y_continuous` function be utilized in `ggplot2` to adjust the y-axis scale? Can you provide some examples?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The `scale_y_continuous` function is a powerful tool in `ggplot2` that allows users to adjust the scale of the y-axis in their graphs. This function can be utilized by specifying the desired range of values for the y-axis, as well as any other desired formatting options, such as labels and breaks.

For example, if we have a scatter plot with y-values ranging from 0 to 100, but we want to focus on the data points between 20 and 80, we can use `scale_y_continuous` to set the y-axis limits to 20 and 80. This will zoom in on the relevant data and make it easier to analyze.

Another way to use `scale_y_continuous` is to adjust the axis breaks and labels. For instance, if our y-values are in millions, we can use the function to set breaks at every million and add a "M" label to the end of each number. This allows for a more concise and understandable presentation of the data.

Overall, the `scale_y_continuous` function is a versatile tool that allows for customization of the y-axis scale in `ggplot2`. By specifying the desired range, breaks, and labels, users can effectively adjust the y-axis to best represent their data and enhance their visualizations.

## Use `scale_y_continuous` in `ggplot2` (With Examples)

You can use the `scale_y_continuous()` function in `ggplot2` to customize the y-axis of a given plot.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
p +  
scale_y_continuous(breaks, n.breaks, labels, limits, ...)
```

where:

**breaks:** A numeric vector of positions for breaks on the y-axis.  
**n.breaks:** An integer vector specifying the number of total breaks on the y-axis.  
**labels:** A character vector of

**labels to use for the y-axis limits: A numeric vector that specifies the min and max value for the y-axis**

**The following examples show how to use this function in different scenarios with the following data frame in R:**

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(points=c(5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 19, 22, 25),  
assists=c(4, 3, 2, 3, 7, 8, 5, 7))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
points assists
```

```
1 5 4
```

```
2 7 3
```

```
3 12 2
```

```
4 13 3
```

```
5 15 7
```

```
6 19 8
```

```
7 22 5
```

```
8 25 7
```

**Example 1: Use `scale_y_continuous` with Custom Axis Breaks**

**The following code shows how to create a scatterplot in**

**`ggplot2` and use `scale_y_continuous()` with the `breaks` argument to specify custom axis breaks of 2, 5 and 8:**

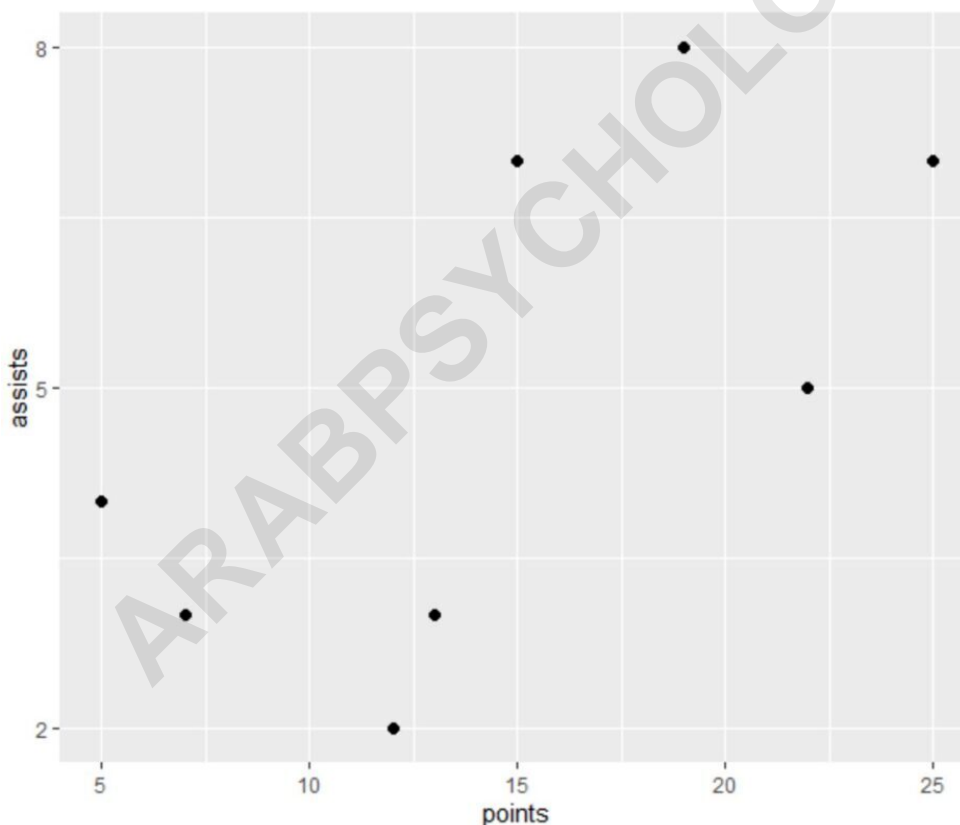
```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create scatterplot with custom y-axis breaks
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=points, y=assists)) +
```

```
geom_point(size=2) +
```

```
scale_y_continuous(breaks=c(2, 5, 8))
```



**Notice that the y-axis only contains axis breaks at 2, 5 and 8, just as we specified using the `breaks` argument.**

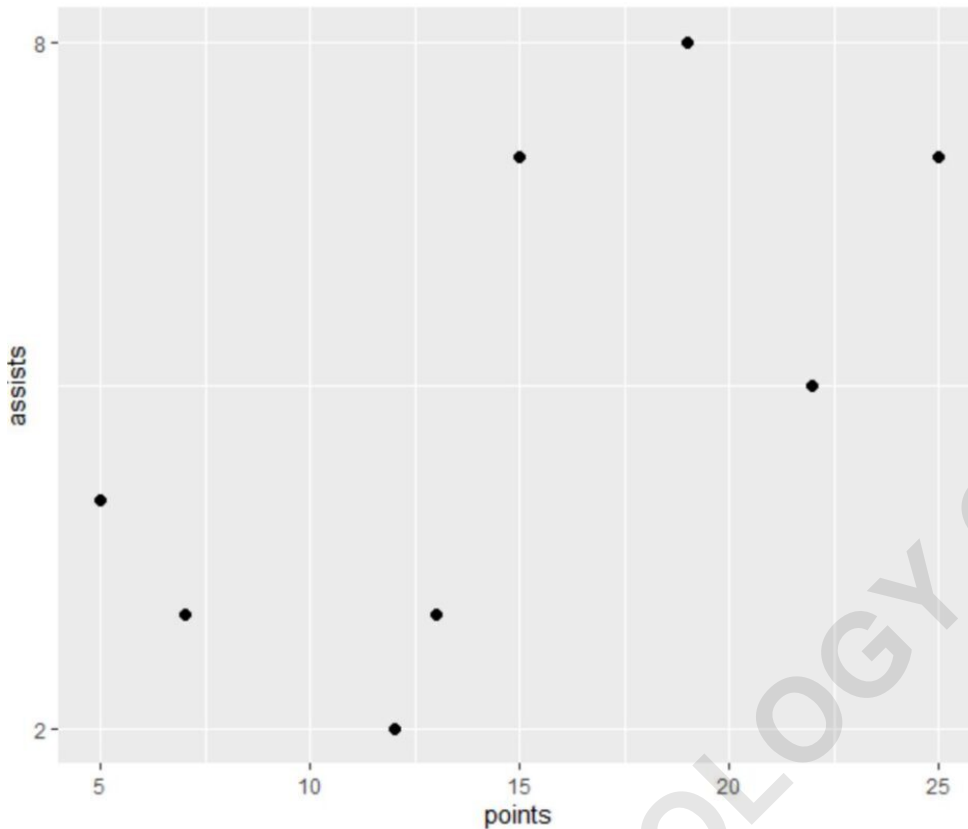
## Example 2: Use `scale_y_continuous` with Custom Number of Breaks

The following code shows how to create a scatterplot in `ggplot2` and use `scale_y_continuous()` with the `n.breaks` argument to place exactly 2 axis breaks on the y-axis:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create scatterplot with custom number of breaks on y-axis
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=points, y=assists)) +  
geom_point(size=2) +  
scale_y_continuous(n.breaks=2)
```



Notice that the y-axis contains exactly 2 axis breaks, just as we specified using the `n.breaks` argument.

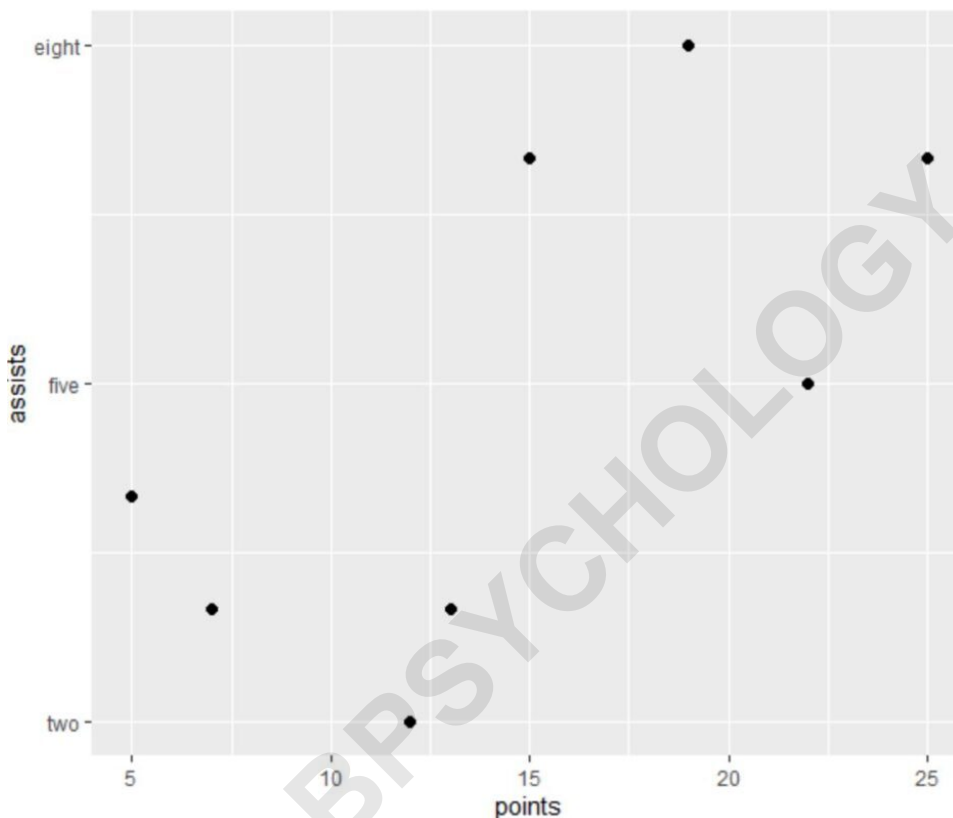
Example 3: Use `scale_y_continuous` with Custom Labels

The following code shows how to create a scatterplot in `ggplot2` and use `scale_y_continuous()` with the `labels` argument to specify the label names to place on the y-axis:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create scatterplot with custom labels
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=points, y=assists)) +  
geom_point(size=2) +  
scale_y_continuous(breaks=c(2, 5, 8), labels=c('two',  
'five', 'eight'))
```



Notice that the y-axis contains 3 axis breaks each with custom labels, just as we specified using the `labels` argument.

**Example 4: Use `scale_y_continuous` with Custom Limits**

The following code shows how to create a scatterplot in

**ggplot2** and use `scale_y_continuous()` with the `limits` argument to specify custom y-axis limits of 0 and 20:

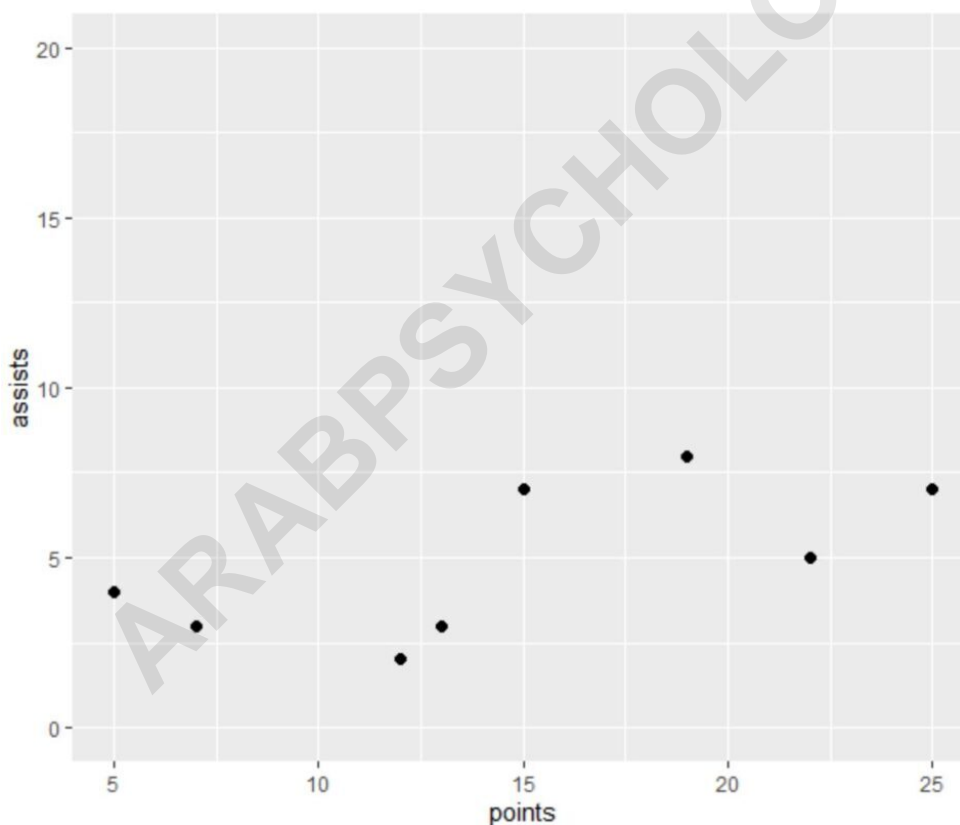
```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
#create scatterplot with custom y-axis limits
```

```
ggplot(df, aes(x=points, y=assists)) +
```

```
geom_point(size=2) +
```

```
scale_y_continuous(limits=c(0, 20))
```



**Notice that the y-axis ranges from 0 to 20, just as we specified using the `limits` argument.**

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

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