

# What is the cause of the error “invalid plotting method” in the function stripchart.default(x1, ...)?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The error "invalid plotting method" occurs in the function `stripchart.default(x1, ...)` when the specified method for plotting the data is not recognized or is not compatible with the input data. This can be caused by using a non-existent or misspelled plotting method, or trying to plot data that is not in a suitable format for the chosen method. It is important to carefully check the input data and the specified plotting method to ensure compatibility and avoid this error.

## **Fix: Error in stripchart.default(x1, ...) : invalid plotting method**

**One error you may encounter in R is:**

**Error in stripchart.default(x1, ...) : invalid plotting method**

**This error usually occurs when you attempt to create a scatter plot using a data frame instead of a vector.**

**This tutorial shares exactly how to fix this error.**

**How to Reproduce the Error**

**Suppose we have the following data frame in R:**

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(x=c(1, 2, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9),  
y=c(5, 5, 8, 10, 13, 13, 18))
```

```
#view data frame
```

**df**

**x y**

**1 1 5**

**2 2 5**

**3 2 8**

**4 4 10**

**5 7 13**

**6 8 13**

**7 9 18**

Now suppose we attempt to use the following syntax to create a scatter plot:

```
#attempt to create scatter plot  
plot(df, df)
```

**Error in stripchart.default(x1, ...) : invalid plotting method**

We receive an error because both df and df are actually data frames and the plot() function only accepts vectors as input.

We can use the class() function to verify that df and df

**are both data frames:**

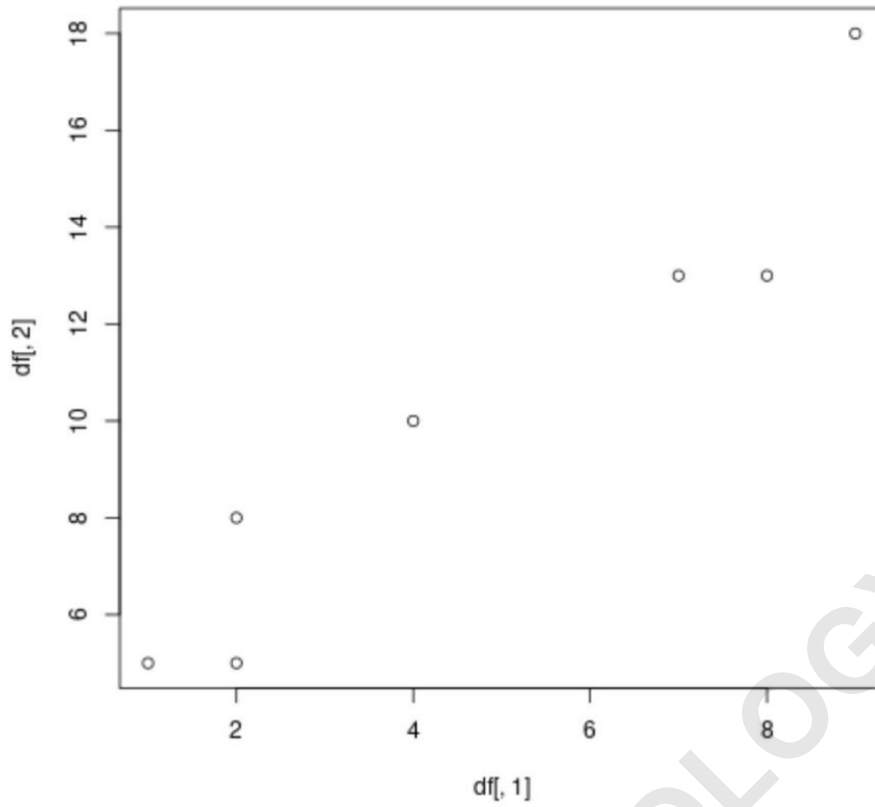
```
#display class of df and df  
class(df);class(df) "data.frame"  
"data.frame"
```

**How to Fix the Error**

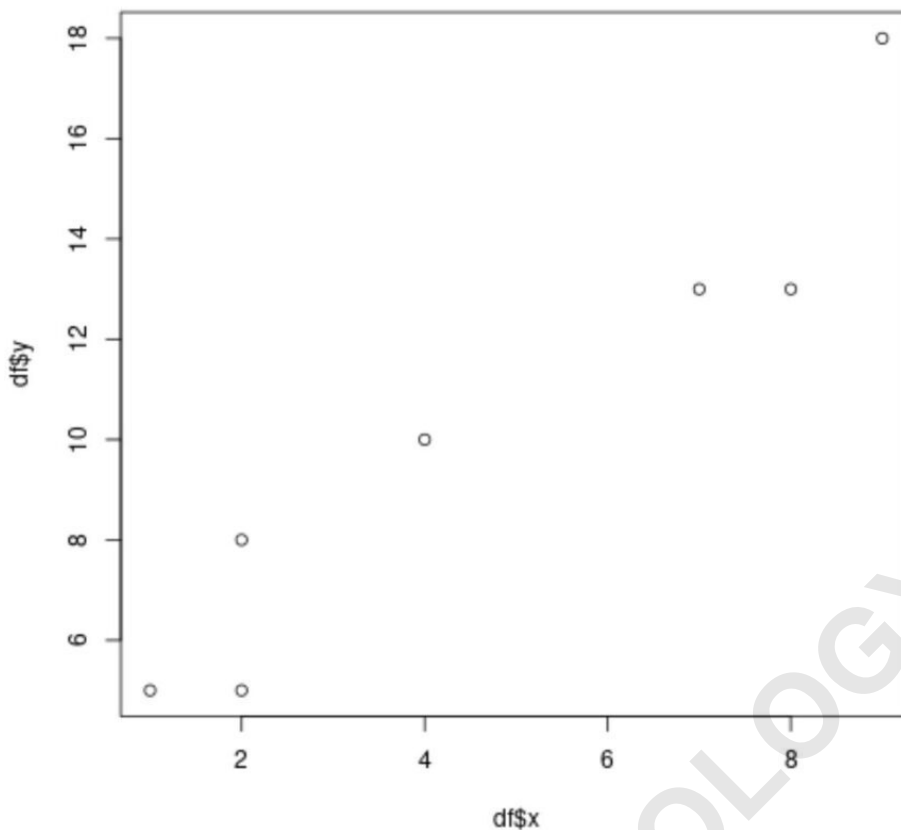
**The way to fix this error is to make sure that we use vectors as inputs for the plot() function.**

**For example, we can use the following syntax to create a scatter plot:**

```
#create scatter plot  
plot(df, df)
```



**#create scatter plot**  
**plot(df\$x, df\$y)**



Notice that we're able to create a scatter plot using either method without any errors because we used vectors as inputs to the plot() function each time.

#### Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to troubleshoot other common errors in R:

**How to Fix in R: longer object length is not a multiple of shorter object length**