

Introduction to R and the tidyverse

– advanced plotting –

Paolo Crosetto

Tweaking ggplots

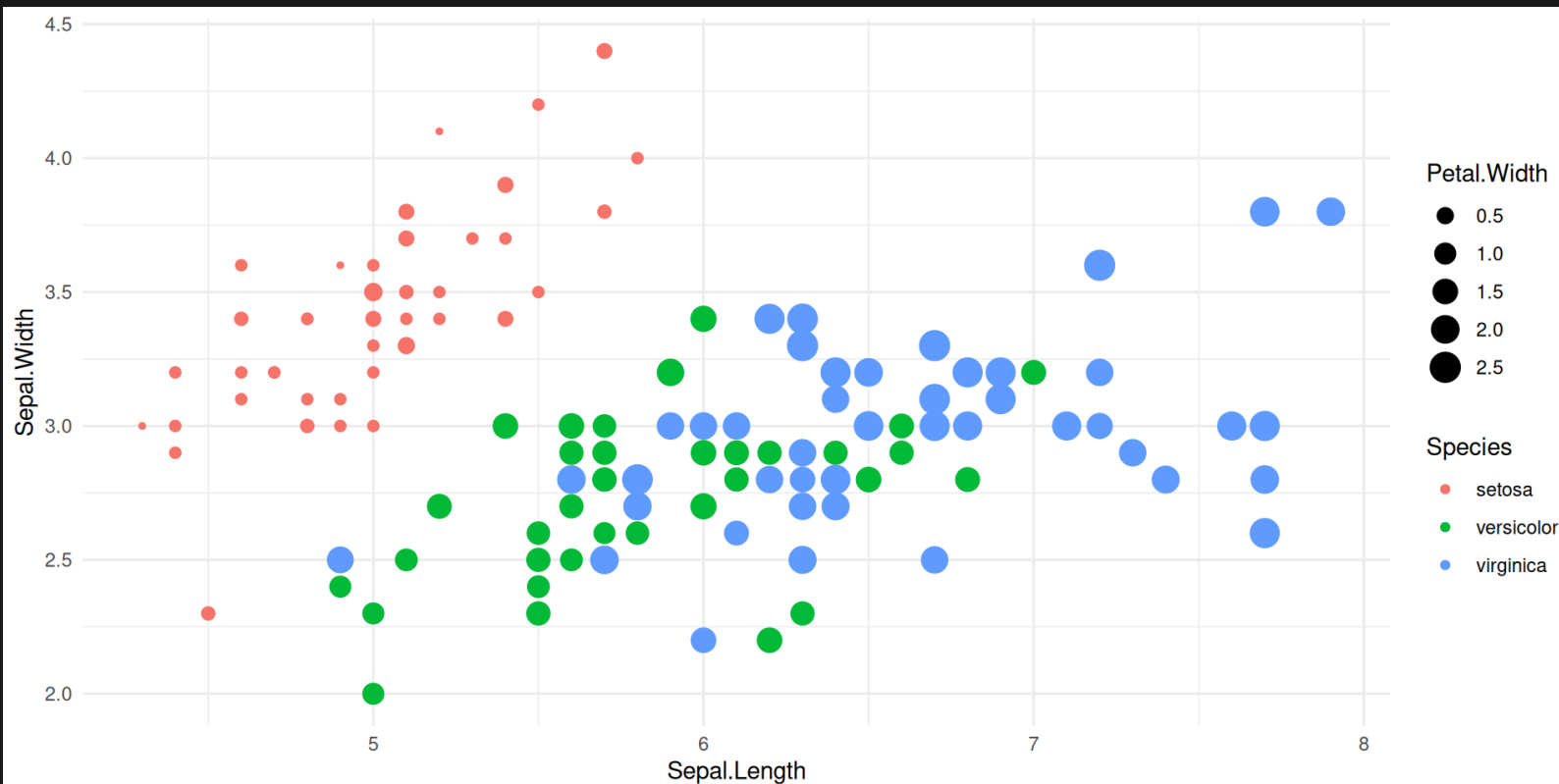
Quick recap of ggplot

A general ggplot template

```
ggplot(data = ...) +  
aes(x = ..., y = ..., ...) +  
geom_*() + add geometrical objects (points, lines, ...)  
facet_*() + split into subplots  
coord_*() + changes the coordinate system  
scale_*_*() + changes the way geoms look  
theme_*() changes the look & feel of the plot
```

A base plot to work with

```
1 base <- iris %>%  
2   ggplot(aes(x = Sepal.Length, y = Sepal.Width,  
3             color = Species, size = Petal.Width))+  
4   geom_point()  
5 base
```



1 · Coordinates

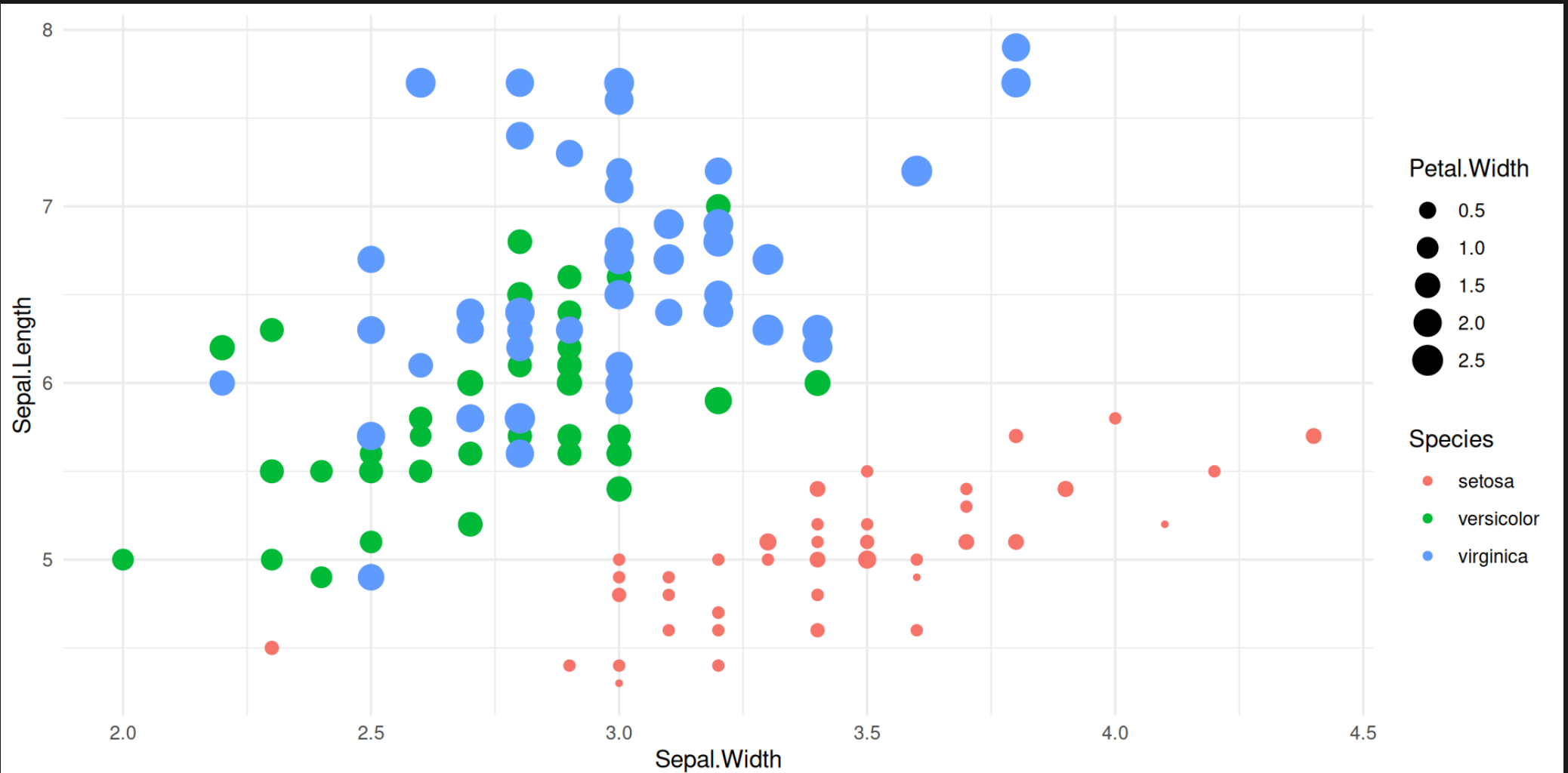
Coord_functions

`coord_*` functions change the behaviour of the axes

- invert coordinates
- boundaries
- scale (linear, log)
- type (cartesian, polar)

Invert axes

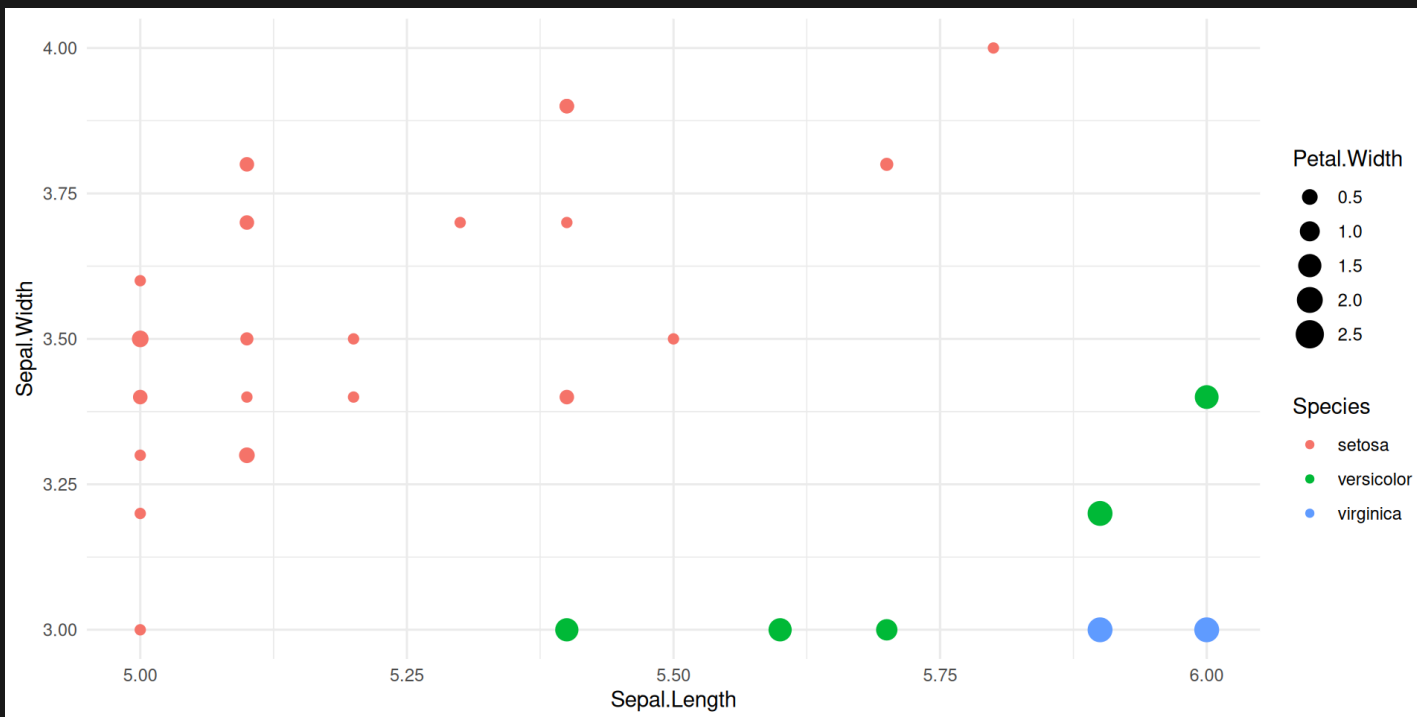
```
1 base + coord_flip()
```



Cartesian linear coordinates: limits

change the limits of the plot to 'zoom' on a part of it
(!!handle with care!!)

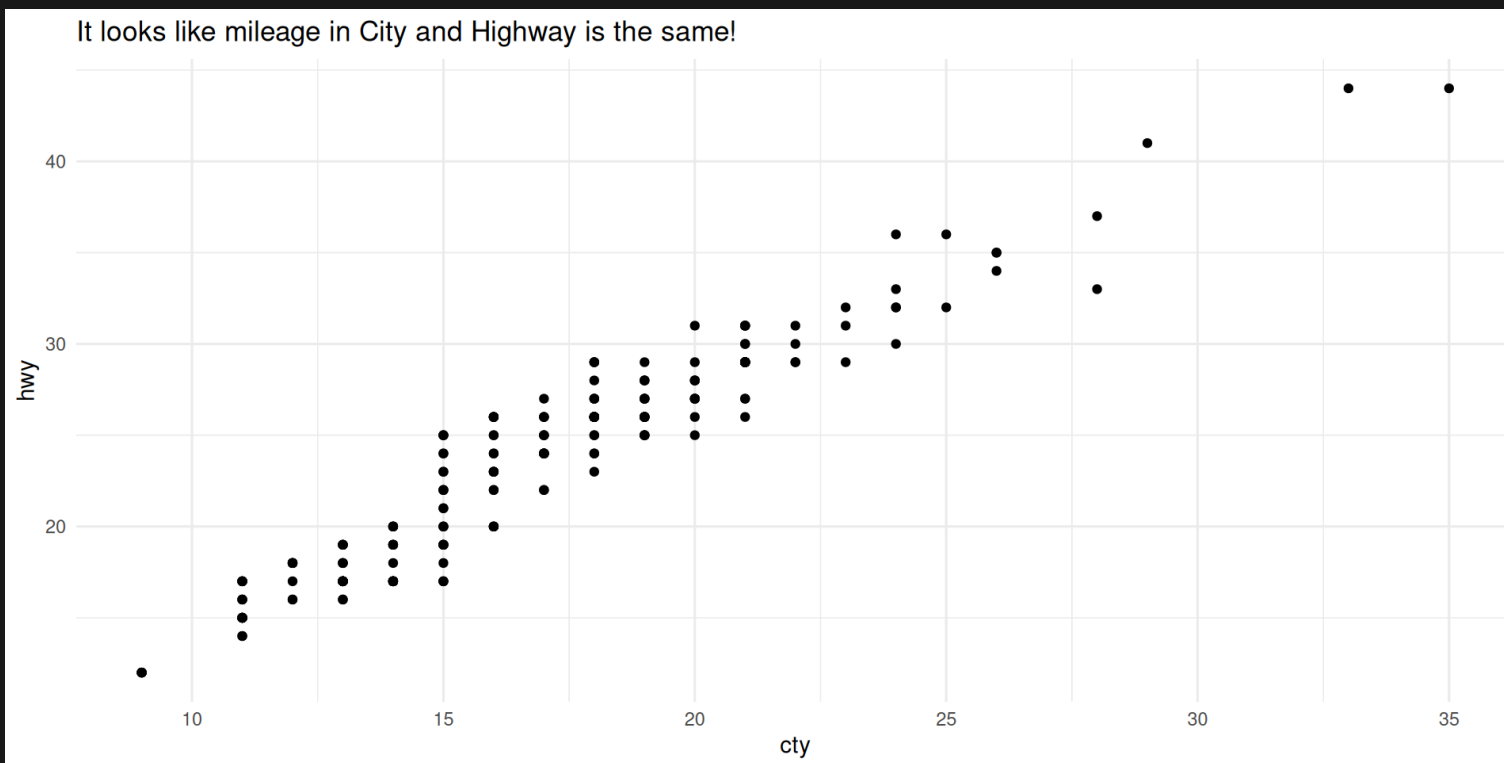
```
1 base + coord_cartesian(xlim = c(5, 6), ylim = c(3,4))
```



Cartesian linear coordinates: fixed

if you need the scales on the two axes to be comparable

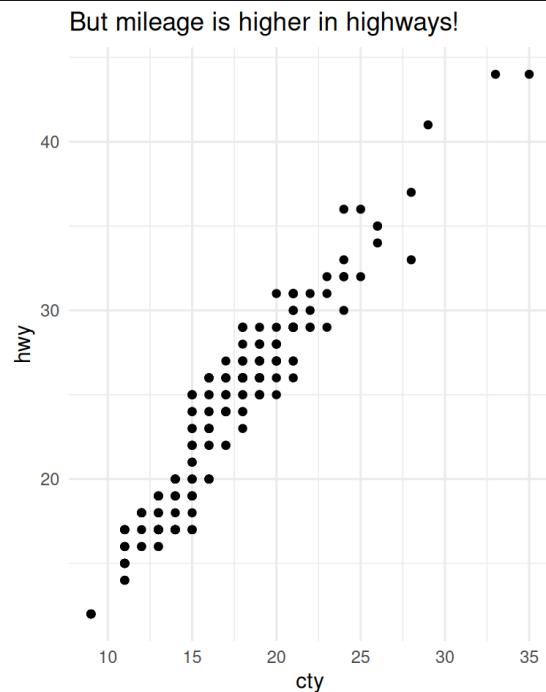
```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy)) + geom_point() +  
2   labs(title = "It looks like mileage in City and Highway is the same!")
```



Cartesian linear coordinates: fixed

if you need the scales on the two axes to be comparable

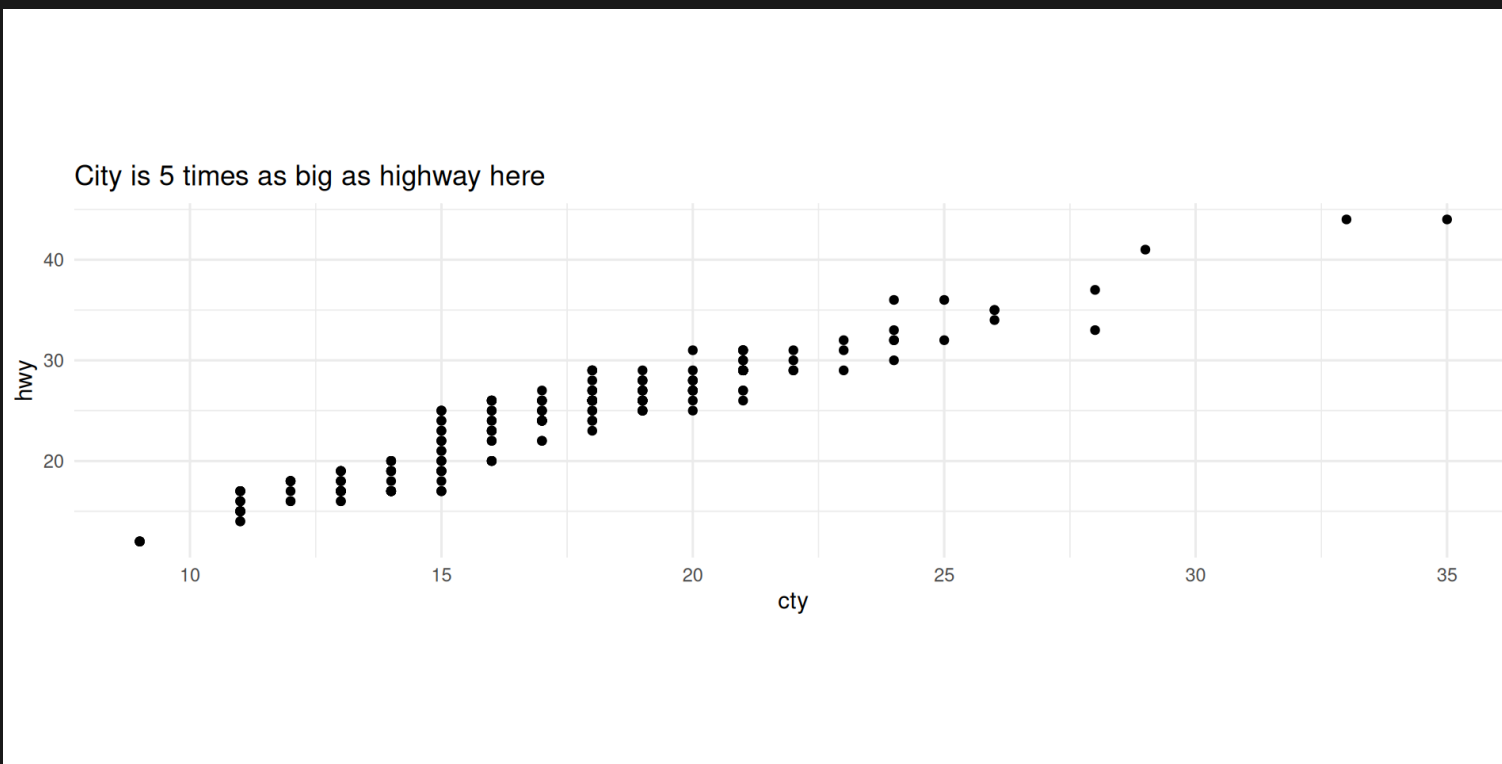
```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy)) + geom_point() +  
2   coord_fixed() +  
3   labs(title = "But mileage is higher in highways!")
```



Cartesian linear coordinates: fixed

if you need axes to be in an exact proportion

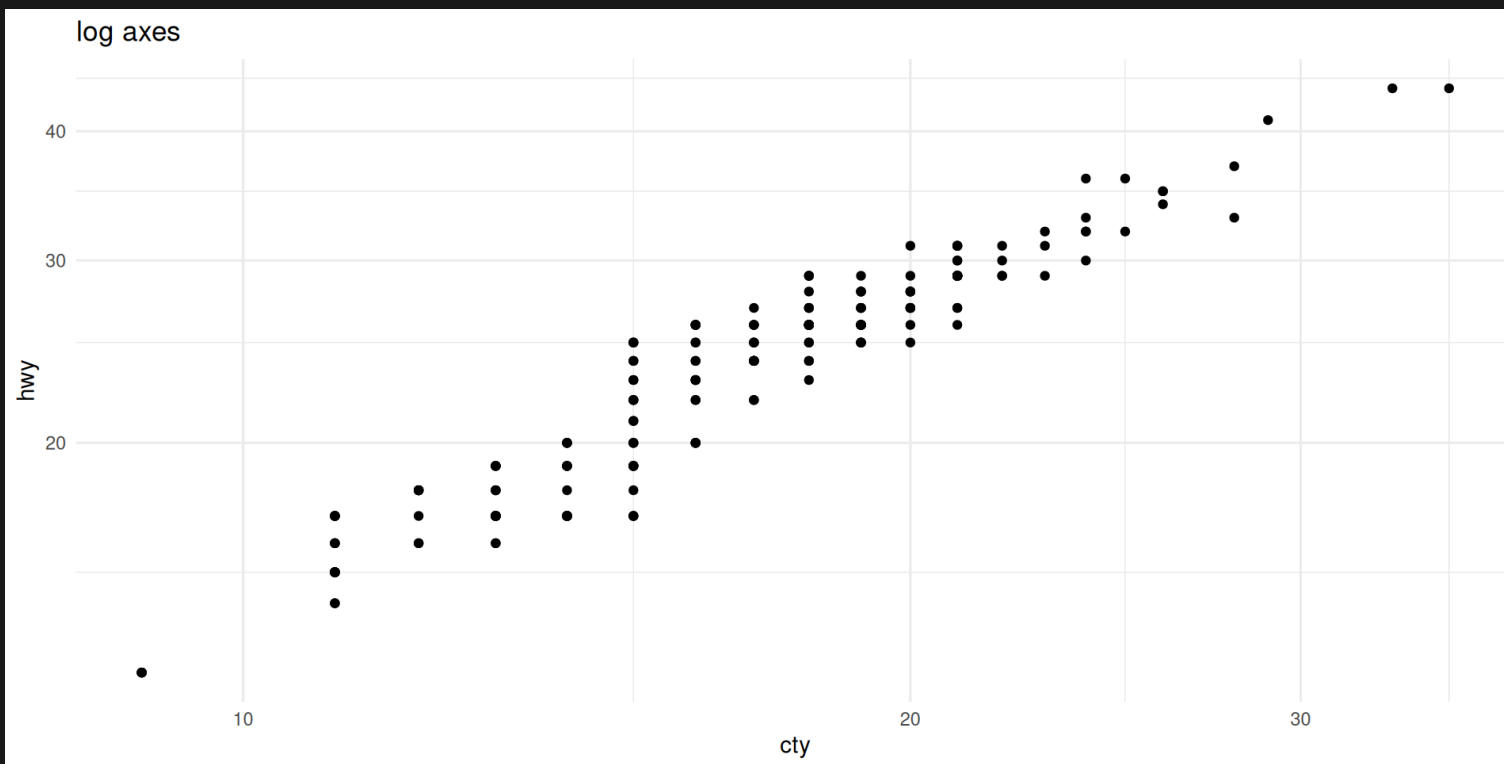
```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy)) + geom_point() +  
2   coord_fixed(ratio = 1/5) + labs(title = "City is 5 times as big as highway here")
```



coordinate transformations

log scales

```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(cty, hwy)) + geom_point() +  
2   coord_trans(x = "log10", y = "log10")+ labs(title = "log axes")
```



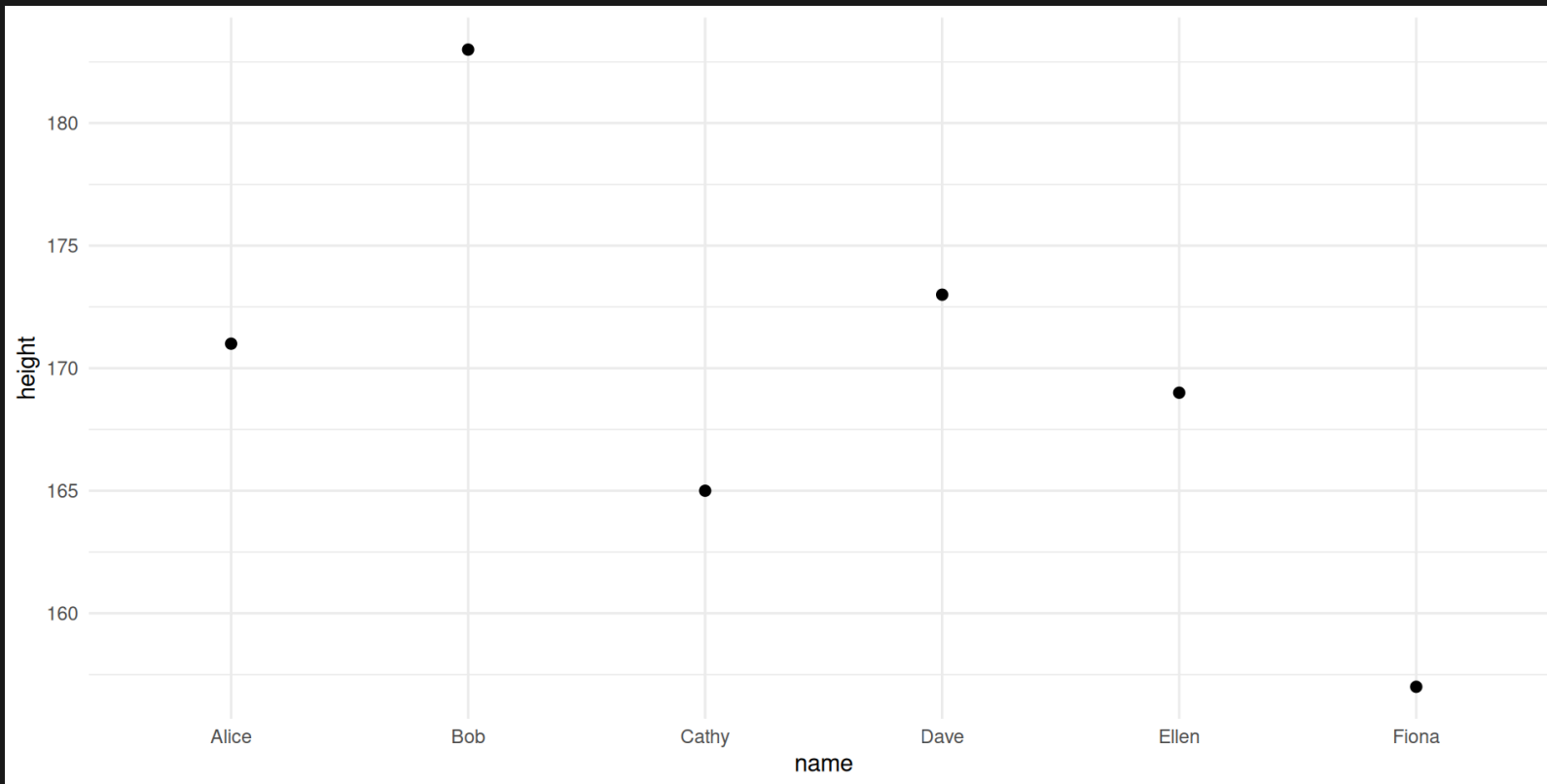
polar coordinates

we can also transform a (x,y) coordinate into a (distance, angle)

```
1 base + coord_polar()
```

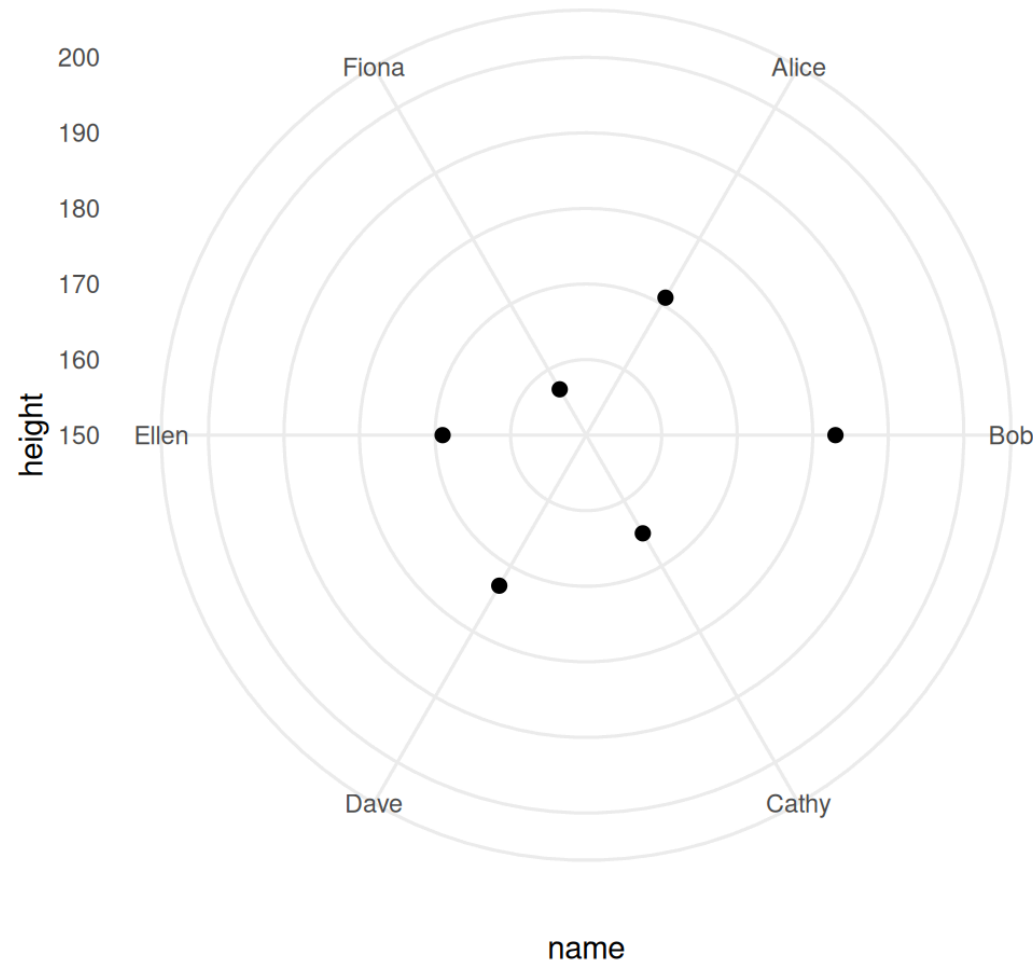
What are polar coordinates? /1

```
1 df1 <- tibble(name = c("Alice", "Bob", "Cathy", "Dave", "Ellen", "Fiona"),  
2               height = c(171, 183, 165, 173, 169, 157))  
3  
4 plot <- df1 %>% ggplot() + aes(name, height) + geom_point(size = 2)  
5 plot
```



What are polar coordinates? /2

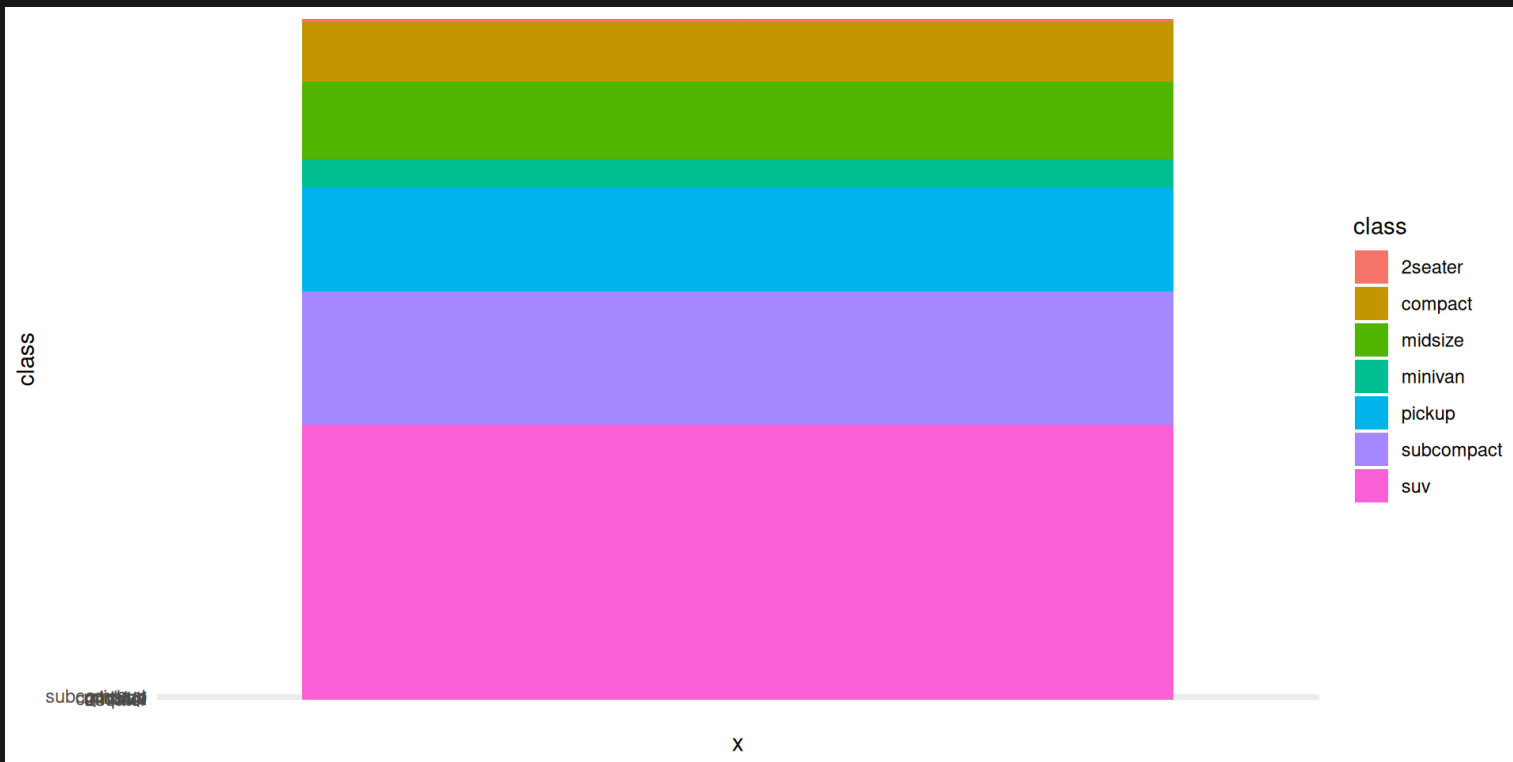
```
1 plot + coord_polar(clip = "off") + scale_y_continuous(limits = c(150, 200))
```



Polar coordinates: pie charts

a pie is a barplot in polar coordinates

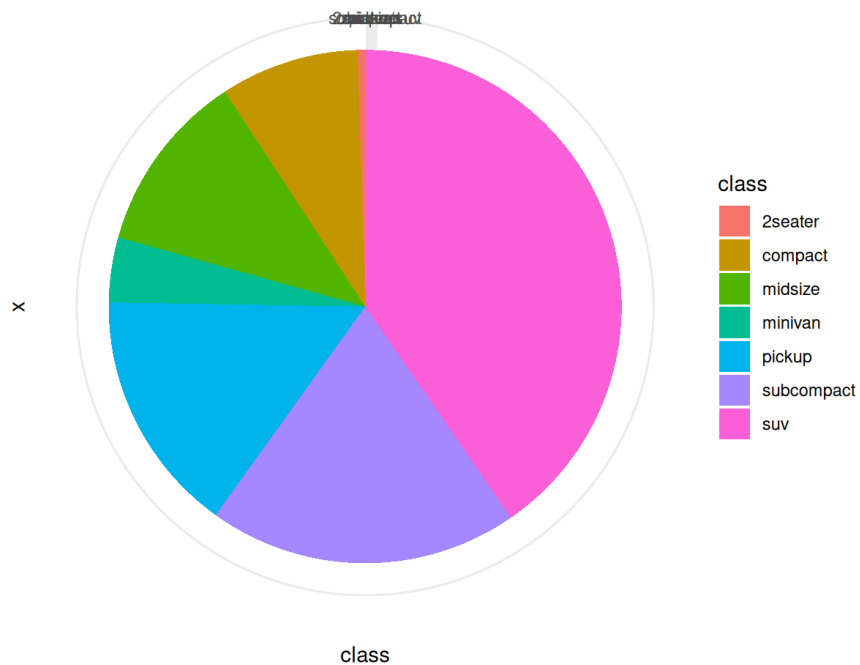
```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(x = "", y = class, fill = class)) +  
2   geom_col()
```



Polar coordinates: pie charts

a pie is a barplot in polar coordinates

```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(x = "", y = class, fill = class)) +  
2   geom_col() +  
3   coord_polar("y", start = 0)
```



2 · Scales

Scale functions

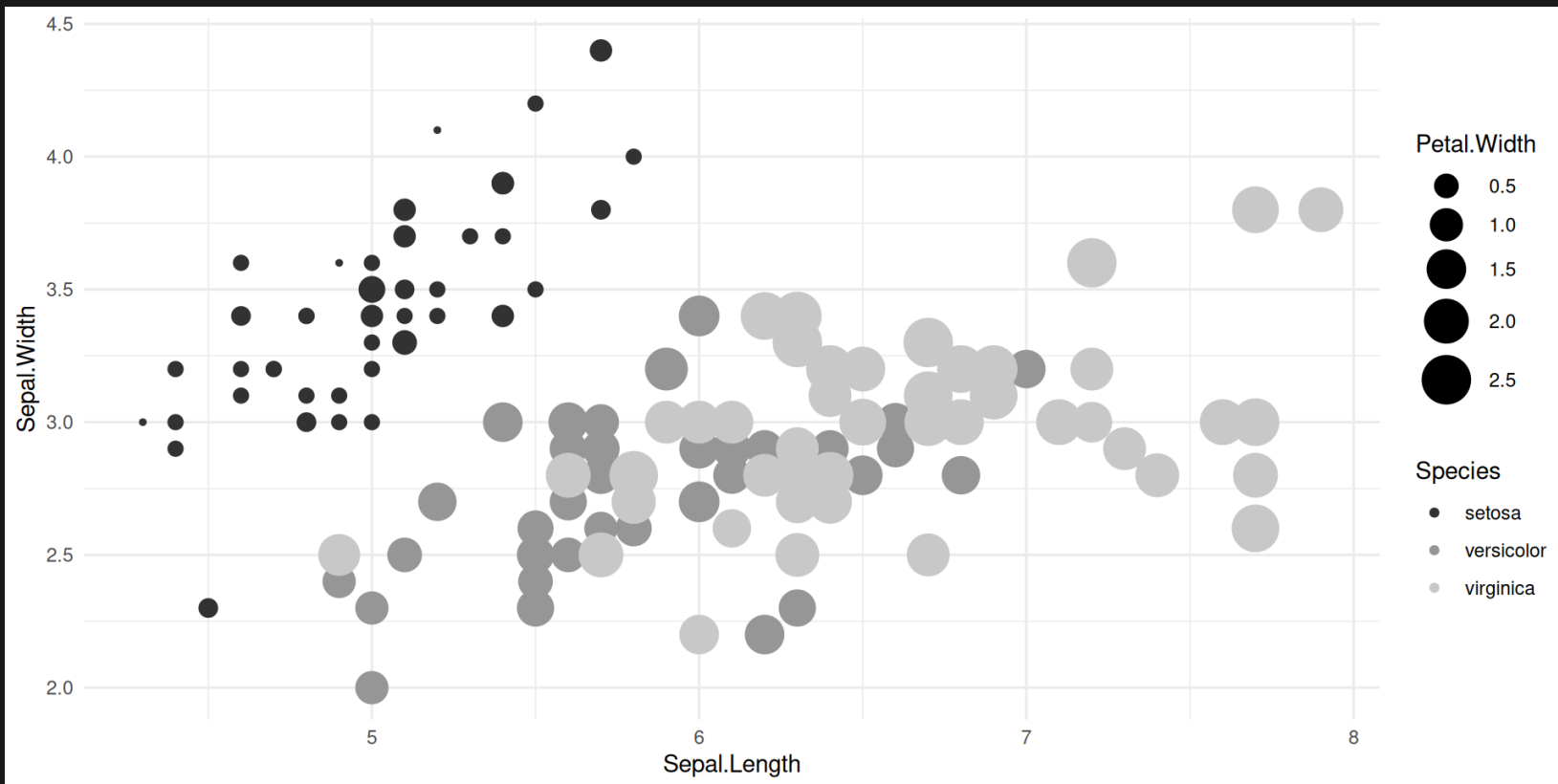
`scale_*_*` change the appearance of the mapping

- general usage: `scale_NAME_TYPE`
- `NAME` can take: `alpha`, `color`, `fill`, `linetype`, `shape`, `size`, `x`, `y`
- `TYPE` can take different values according to the scale type

A simple example

make our base plot greyscale and change the size mapping

```
1 base + scale_color_grey() + scale_size_continuous(range = c(1, 10))
```



Changing colors: `scale_color_*`

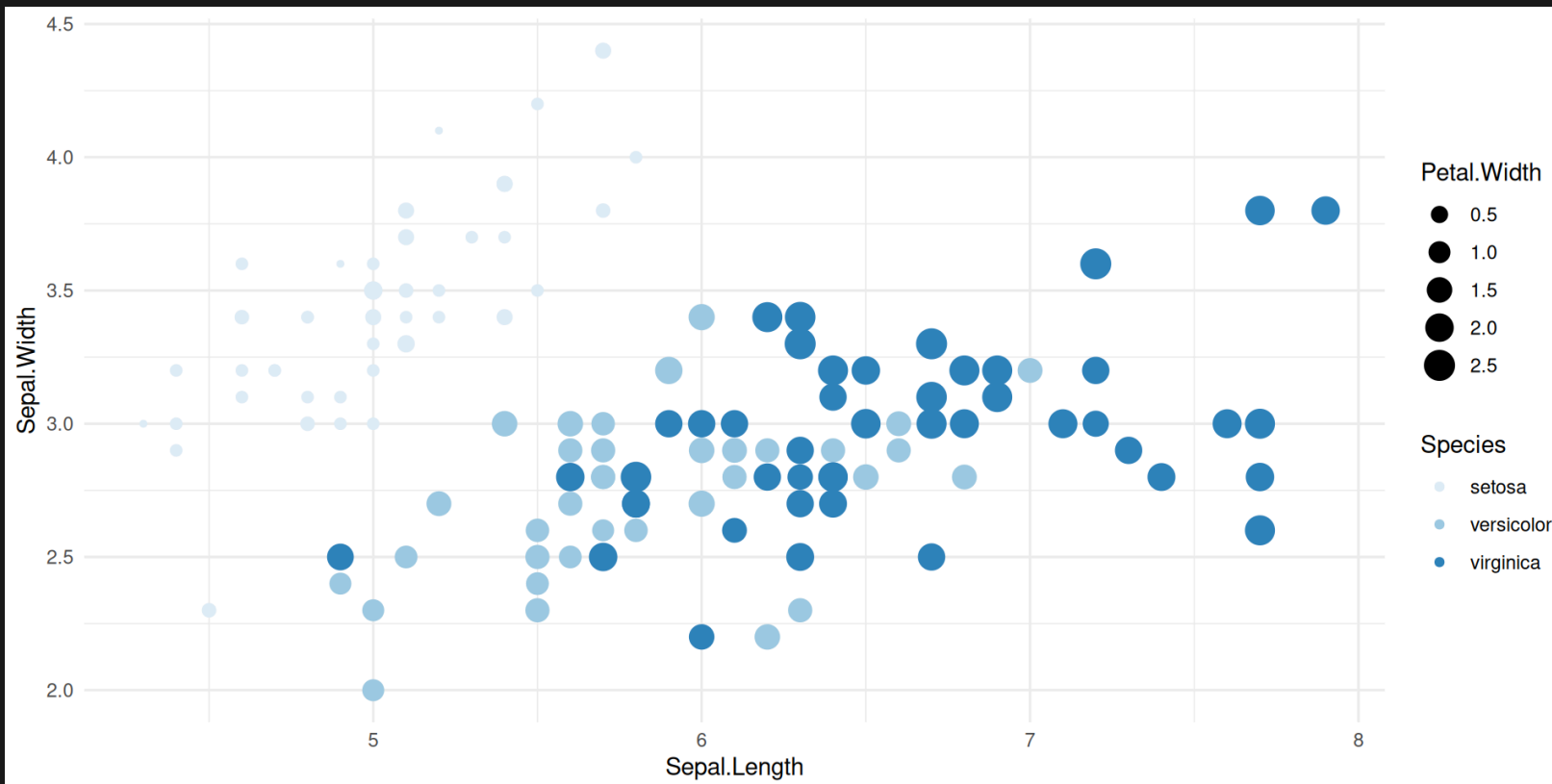
Manipulating colors is fun! but beware:

- is your color variable **continuous** or **discrete**?
- do you want a **gradient**?
- can **colorblind** people use your plot?

Discrete color scales

brewer palettes

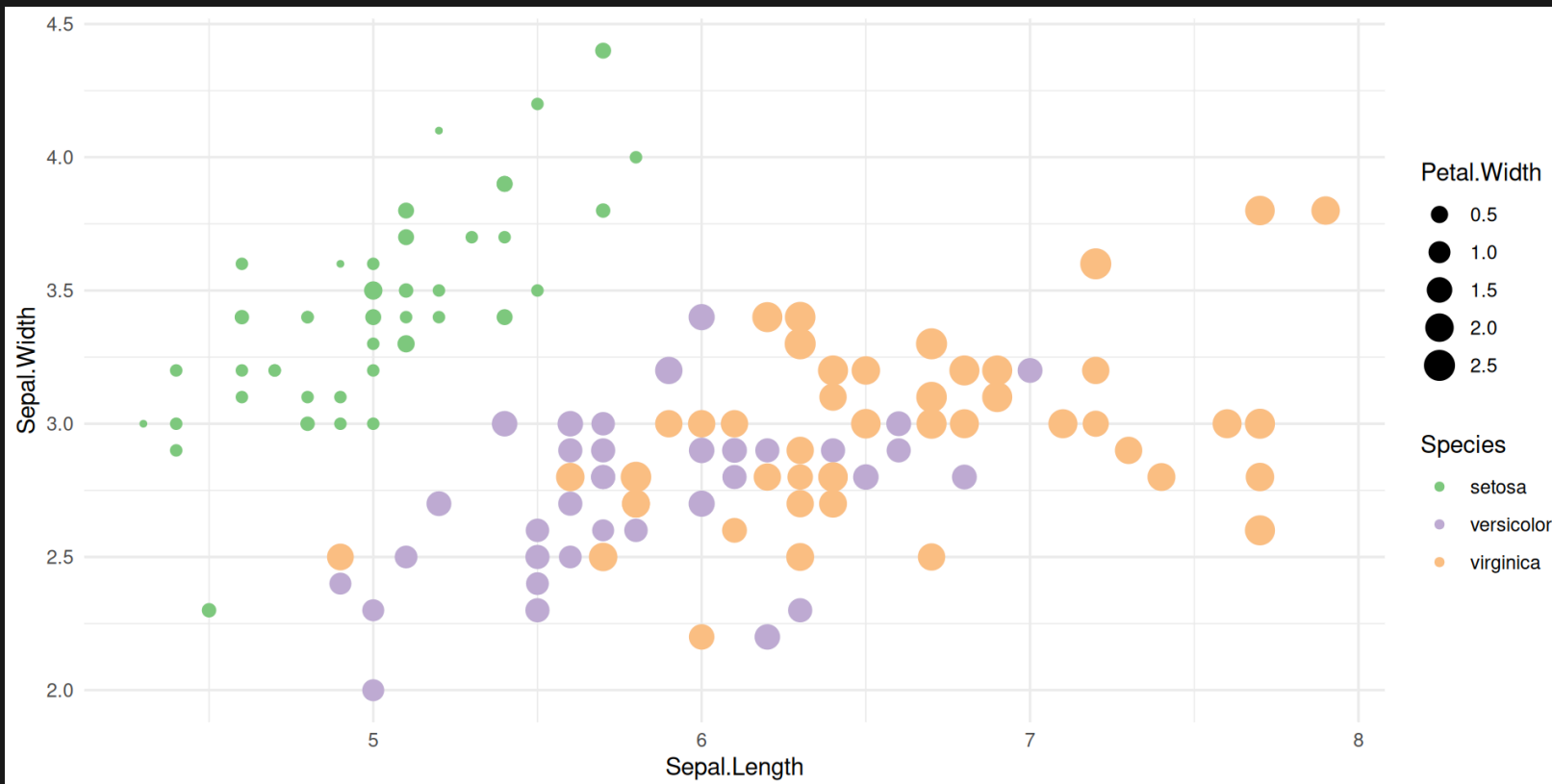
```
1 base + scale_color_brewer()
```



Discrete color scales

brewer palettes

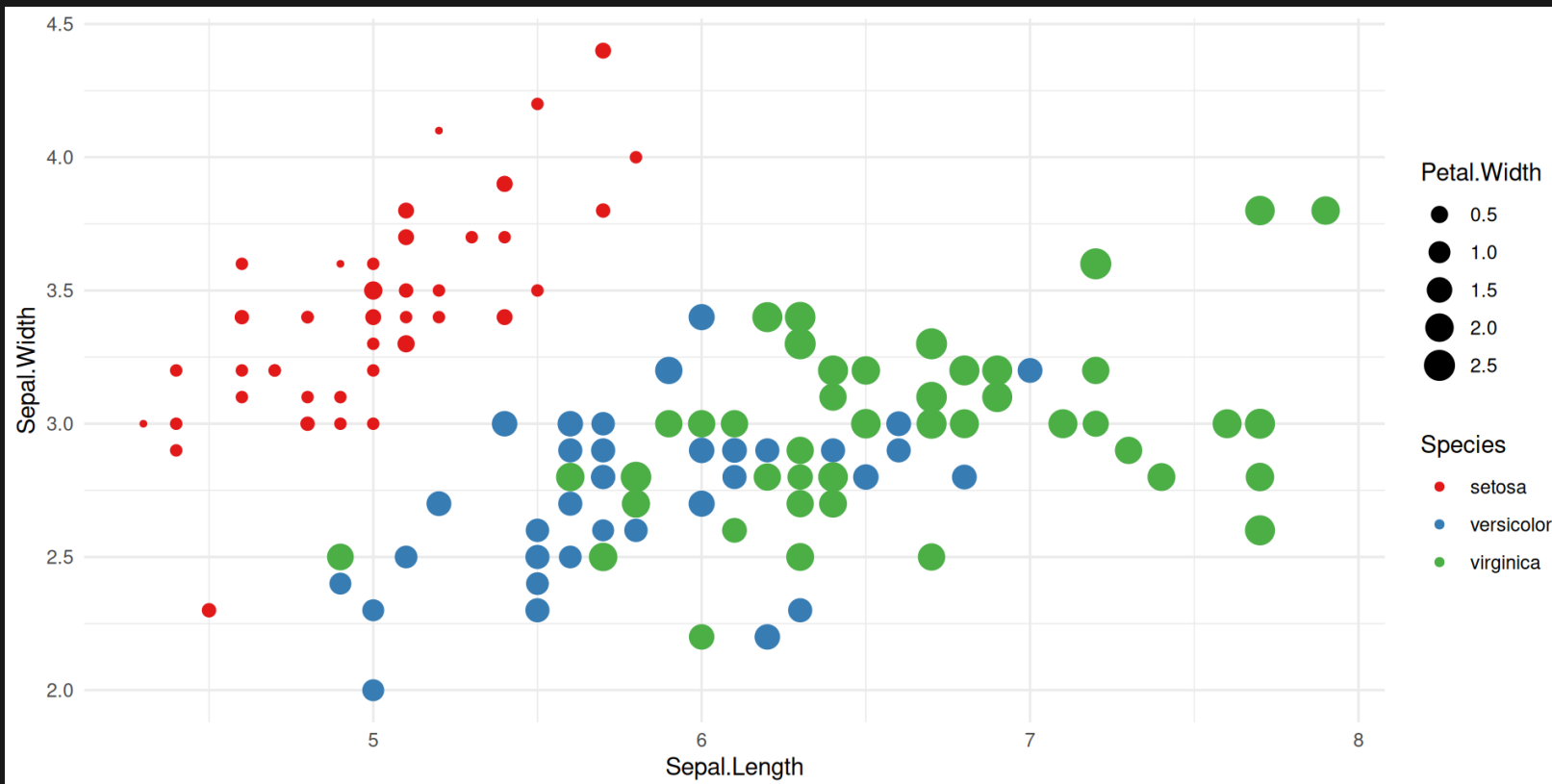
```
1 base + scale_color_brewer(type = "qual")
```



Discrete color scales

`brewer` has many palettes

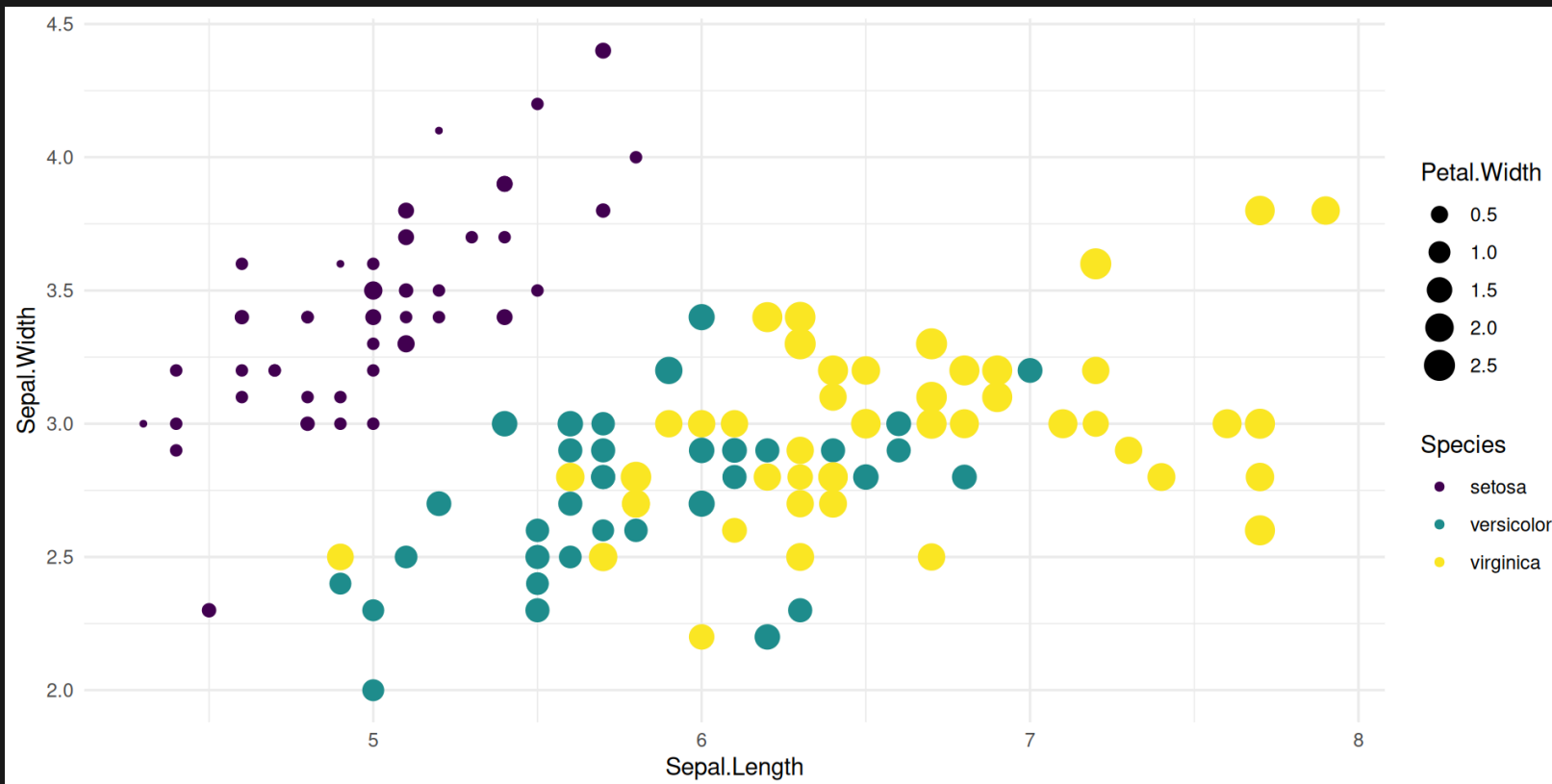
```
1 base + scale_color_brewer(palette = "Set1")
```



Discrete color scales

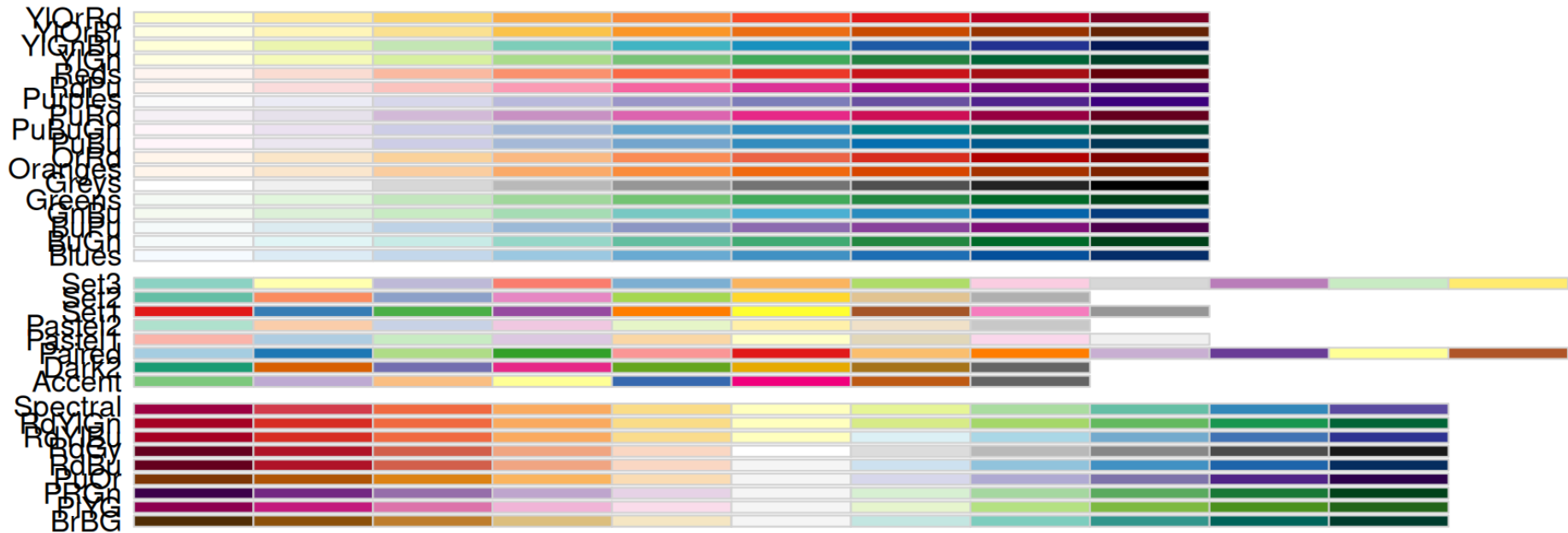
`viridis` palette (for colorblind)

```
1 base + scale_color_viridis_d()
```



Info on color palettes: **brewer**

```
1 RColorBrewer::display.brewer.all()
```



Info on color palettes: **viridis**

viridis



magma



plasma

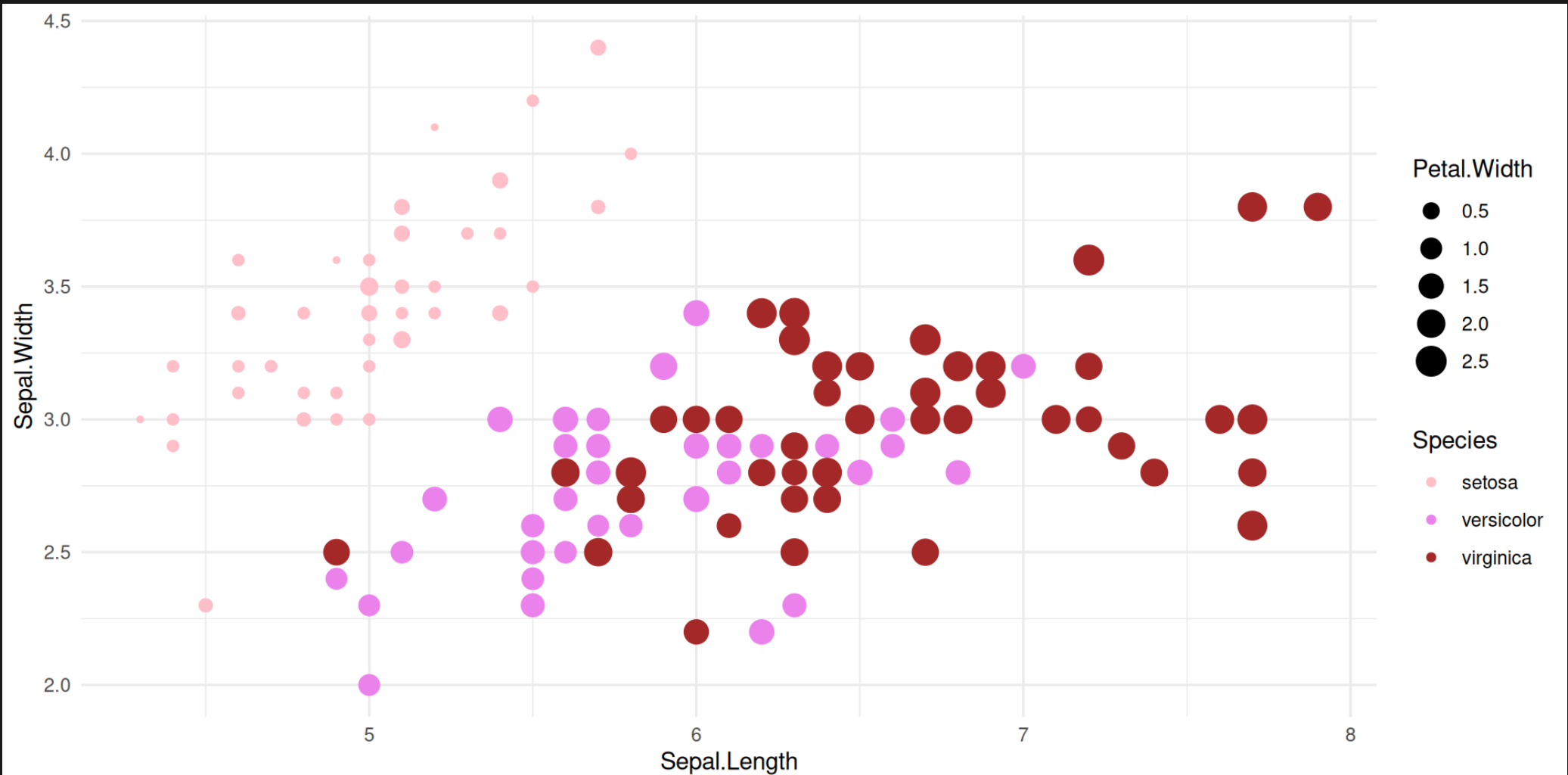


inferno



Still not enough colors? **manual** scales

```
1 base + scale_color_manual(values = c("pink", "violet", "brown"))
```



Colors in R

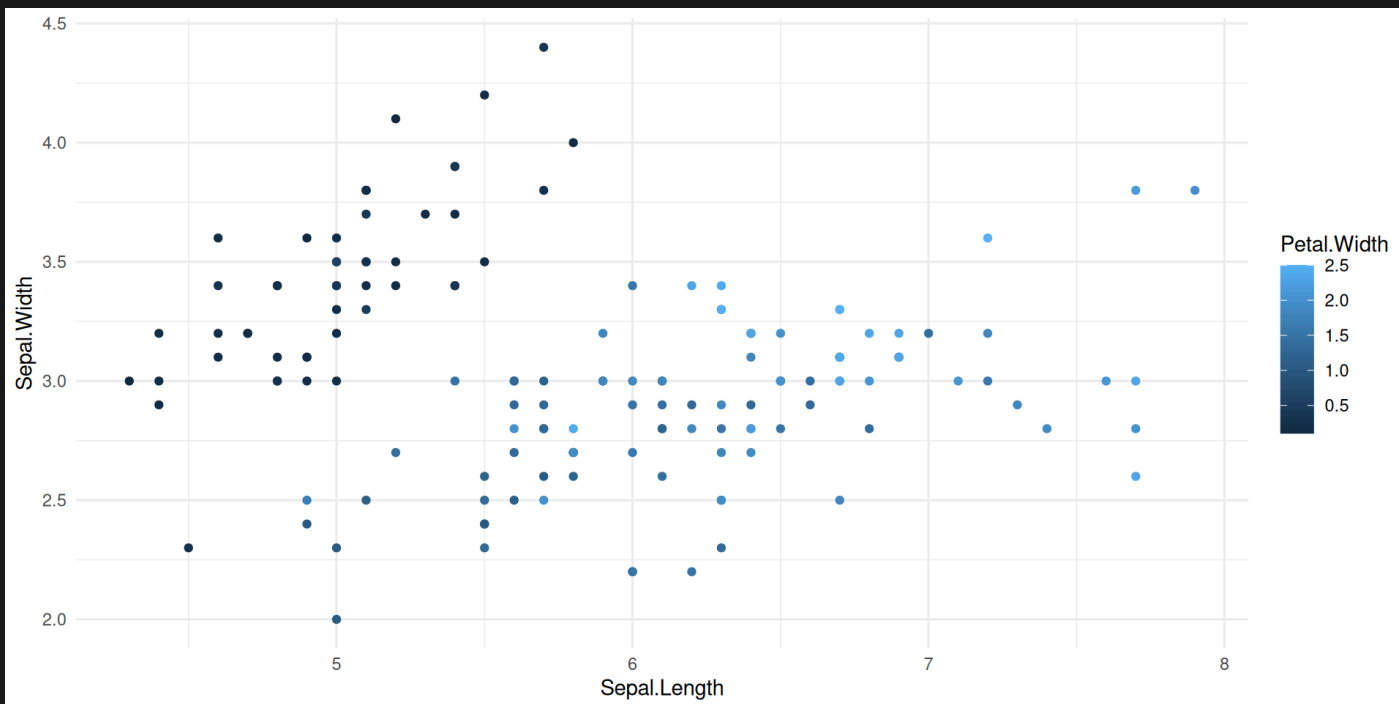
#1

	white		bisque2		burlywood4		coral4		darkgreen
	aliceblue		bisque3		cadetblue		cornflowerblue		darkgrey
	antiquewhite		bisque4		cadetblue1		cornsilk		darkkhaki
	antiquewhite1		black		cadetblue2		cornsilk1		darkmagenta
	antiquewhite2		blanchedalmond		cadetblue3		cornsilk2		darkolivegreen
	antiquewhite3		blue		cadetblue4		cornsilk3		darkolivegreen1
	antiquewhite4		blue1		chartreuse		cornsilk4		darkolivegreen2
	aquamarine		blue2		chartreuse1		cyan		darkolivegreen3
	aquamarine1		blue3		chartreuse2		cyan1		darkolivegreen4
	aquamarine2		blue4		chartreuse3		cyan2		darkorange
	aquamarine3		blueviolet		chartreuse4		cyan3		darkorange1
	aquamarine4		brown		chocolate		cyan4		darkorange2
	azure		brown1		chocolate1		darkblue		darkorange3
	azure1		brown2		chocolate2		darkcyan		darkorange4
	azure2		brown3		chocolate3		darkgoldenrod		darkorchid
	azure3		brown4		chocolate4		darkgoldenrod1		darkorchid1
	azure4		burlywood		coral		darkgoldenrod2		darkorchid2
	beige		burlywood1		coral1		darkgoldenrod3		darkorchid3
	bisque		burlywood2		coral2		darkgoldenrod4		darkorchid4
	bisque1		burlywood3		coral3		darkgray		darkred

Continuous color

a simple plot to showcase stuff

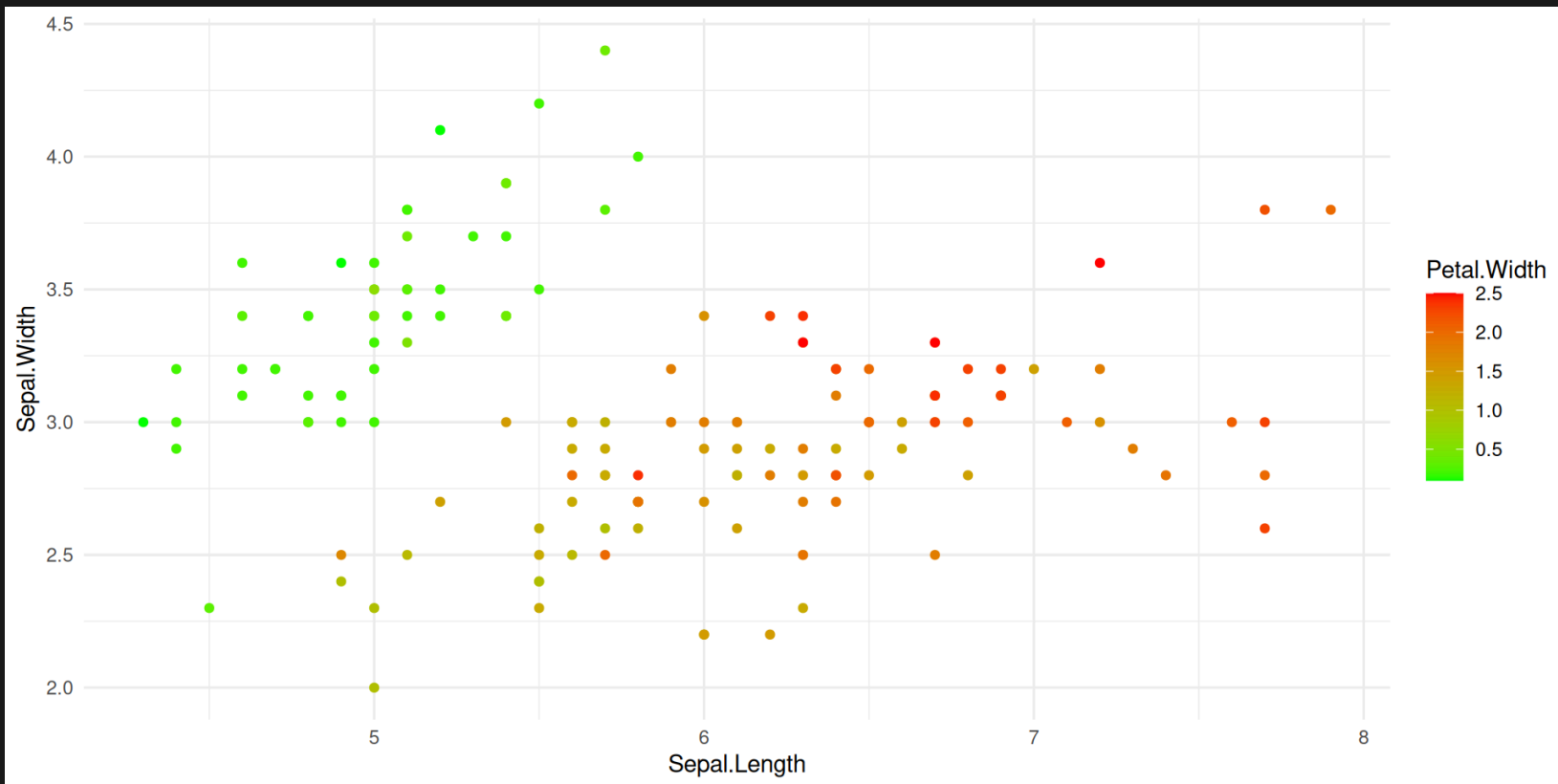
```
1 base2 <- ggplot(iris, aes(x = Sepal.Length, y = Sepal.Width, color = Petal.Width))
2   geom_point()
3 base2
```



Continuous color: gradients

change the gradient

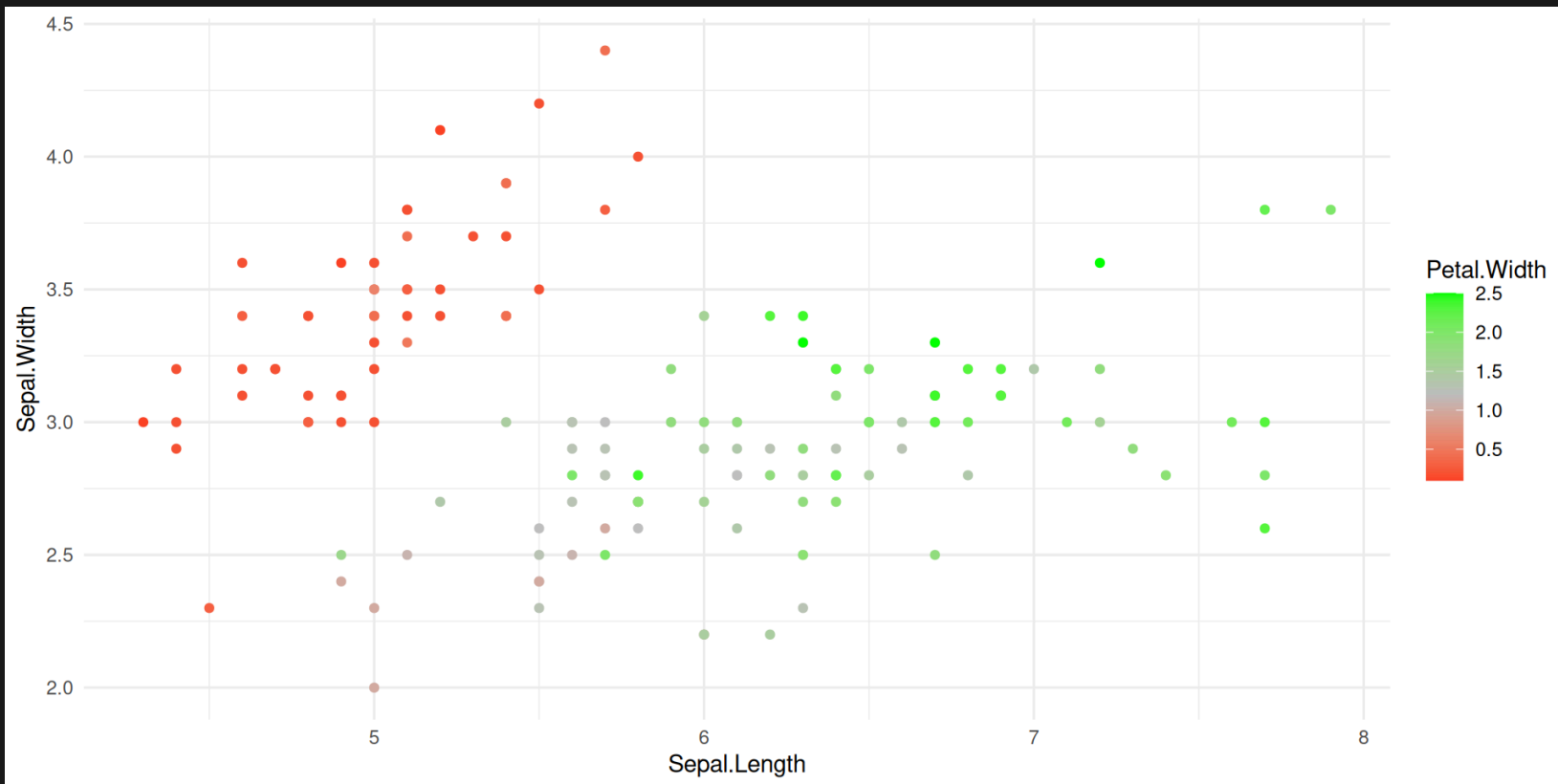
```
1 base2 + scale_color_gradient(low = "green", high = "red")
```



Continuous color: gradients

a gradient with an intermediate step

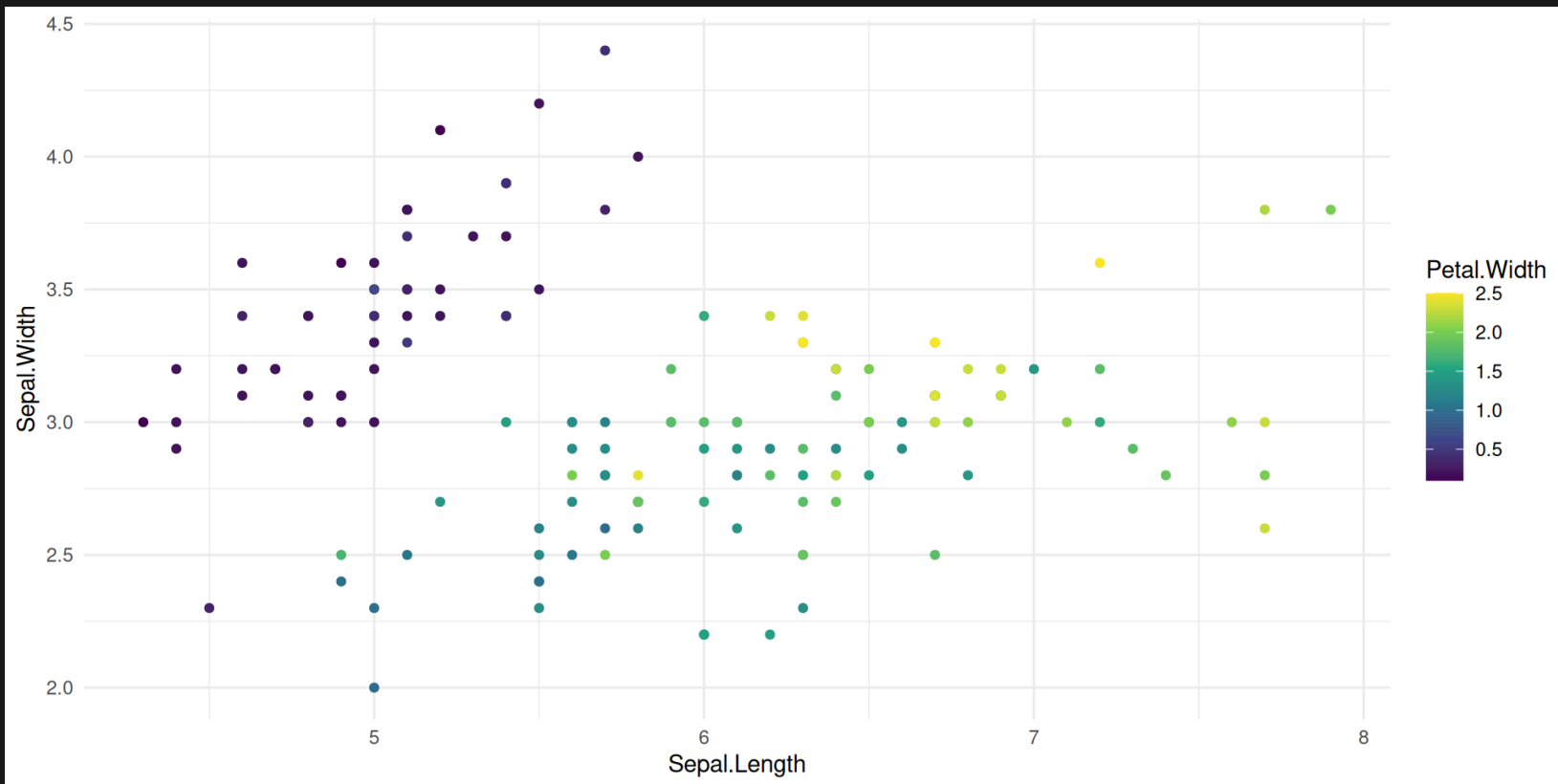
```
1 base2 + scale_color_gradient2(low = "red", mid = "grey", high = "green", mi
```



Continuous color: gradients

change the gradient to be colorblind proof

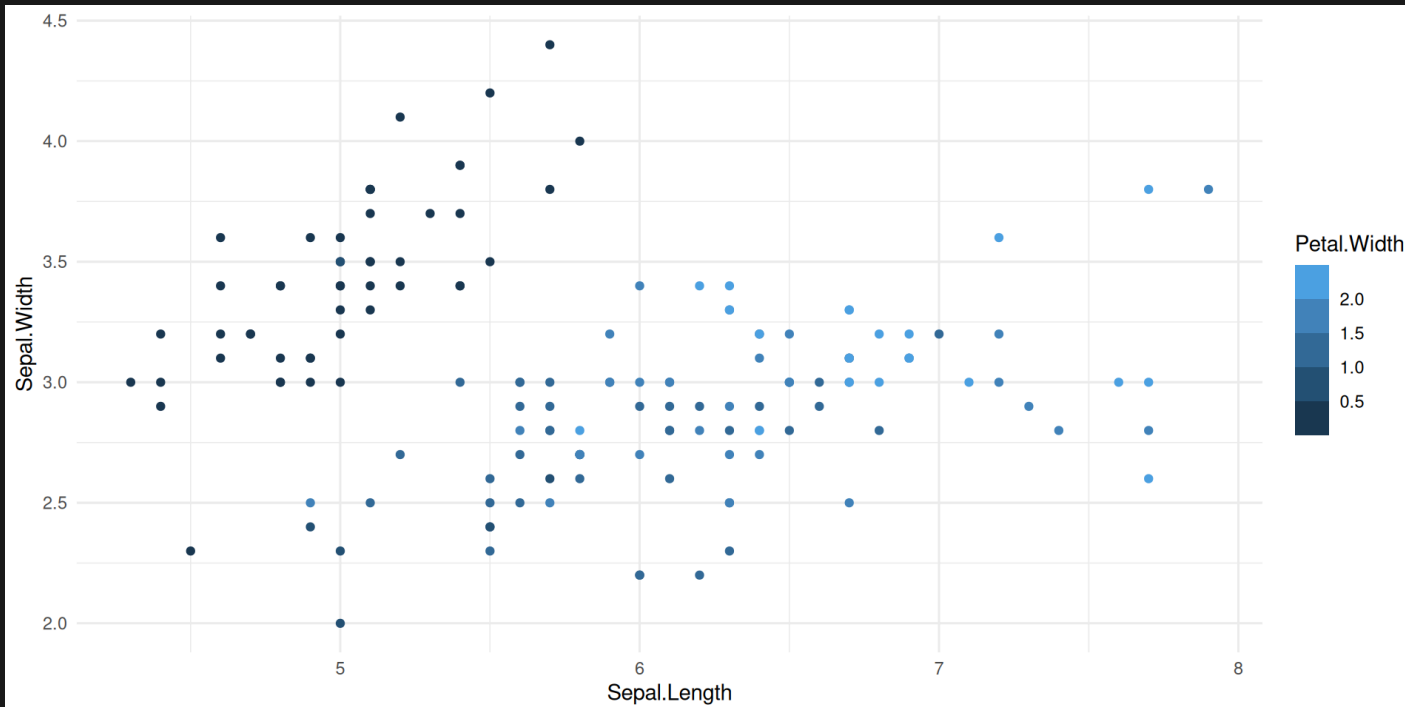
```
1 base2 + scale_color_viridis_c()
```



Continuous *and* discrete: binned

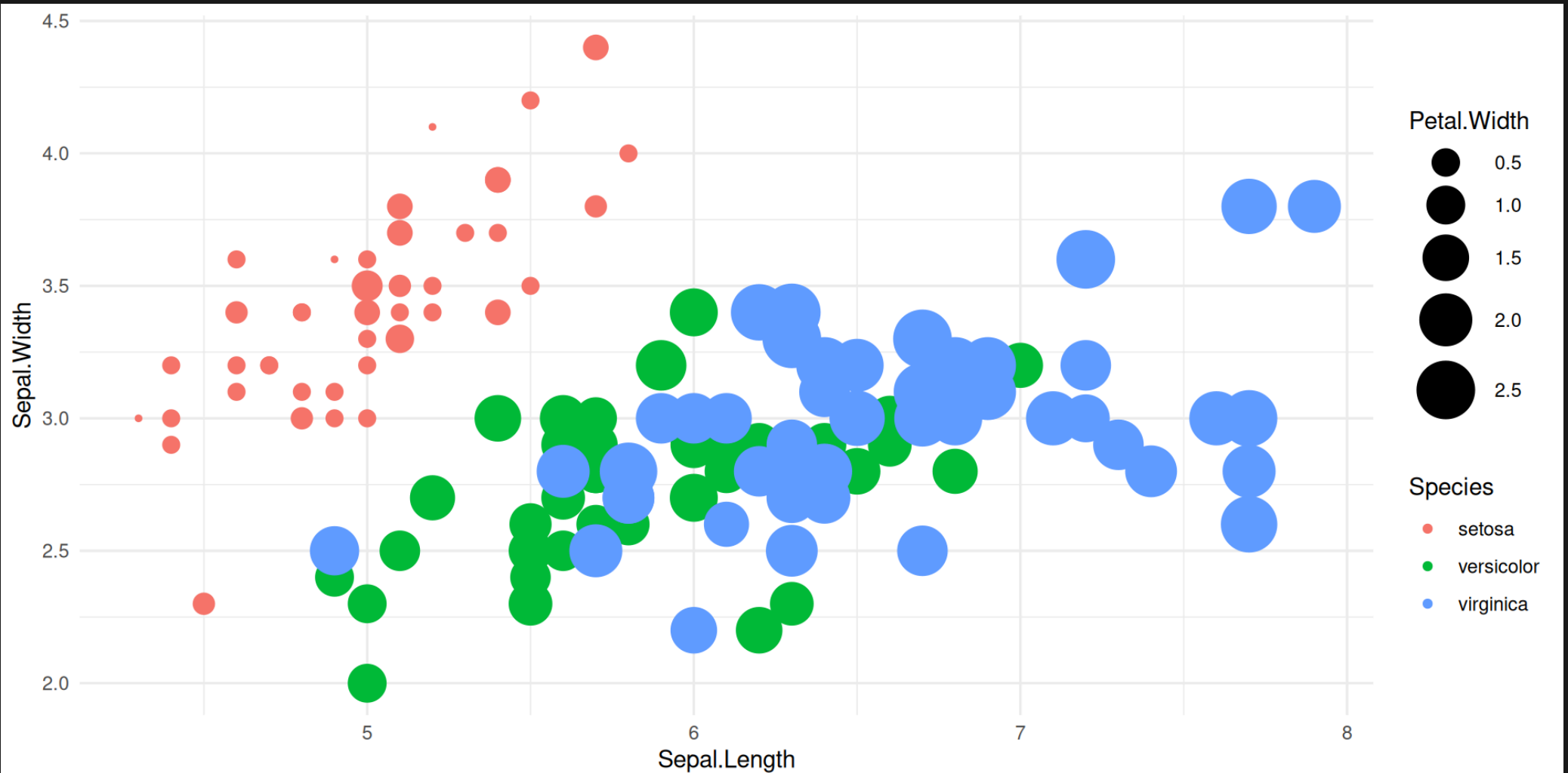
You have continuous data but you want to treat it as discrete: **binned** scales

```
1 base2 + scale_color_binned()
```



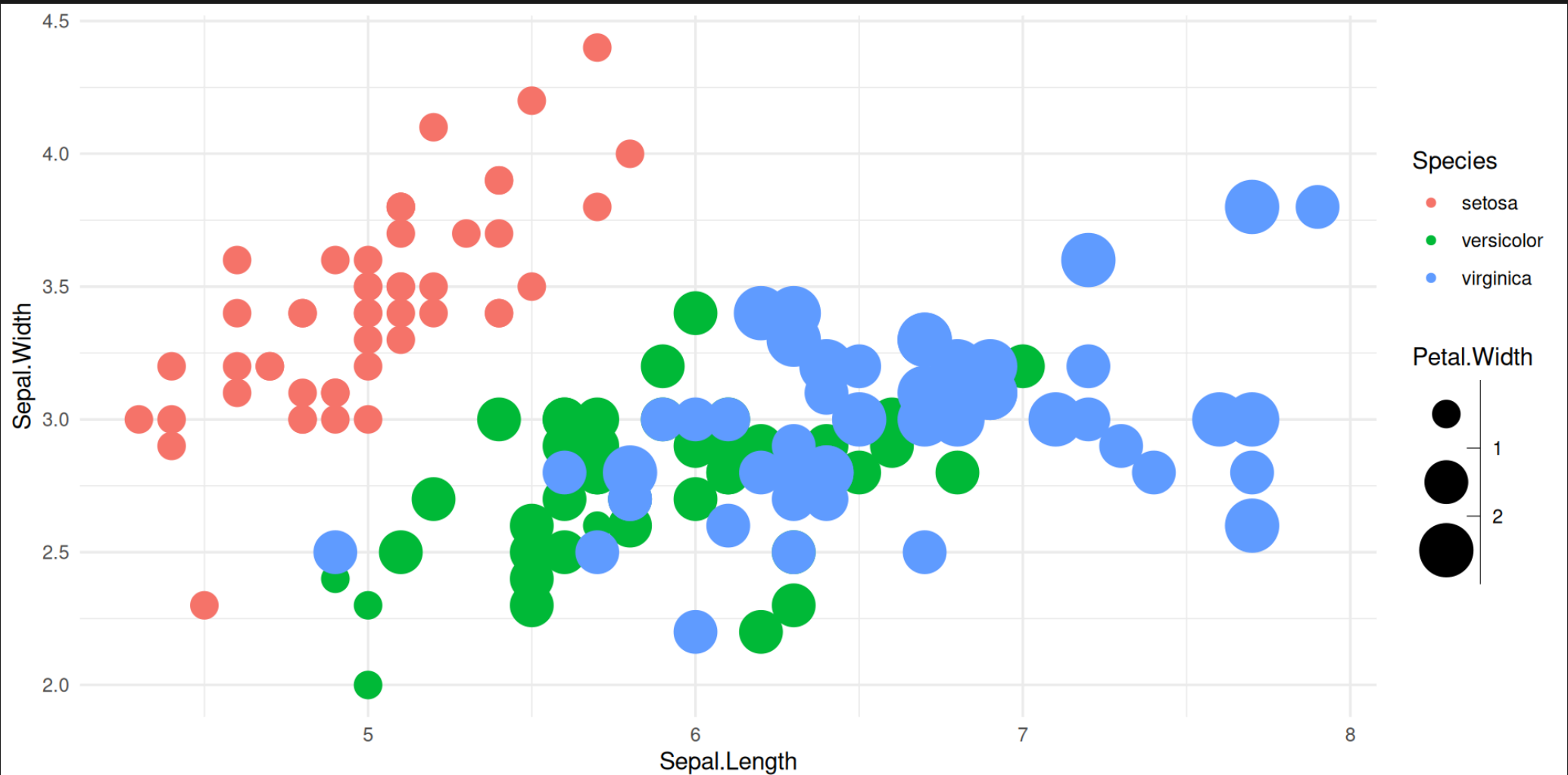
Continuous size

```
1 base + scale_size_continuous(range = c(1,12))
```



Binned size

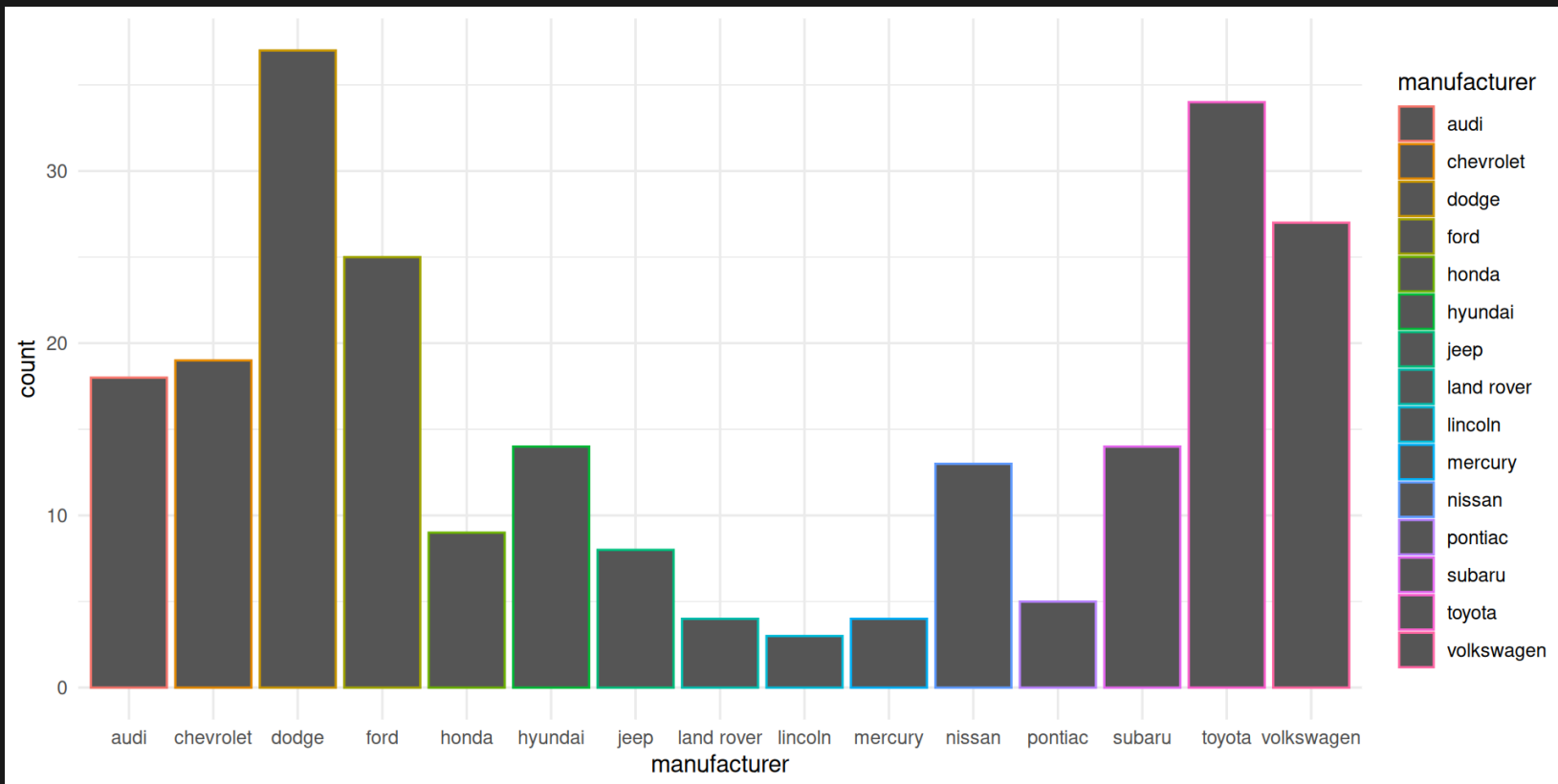
```
1 base + scale_size_binned(n.breaks = 3, range = c(1,12))
```



Controlling barplots: fill

in barplots, the relevant variable is the fill

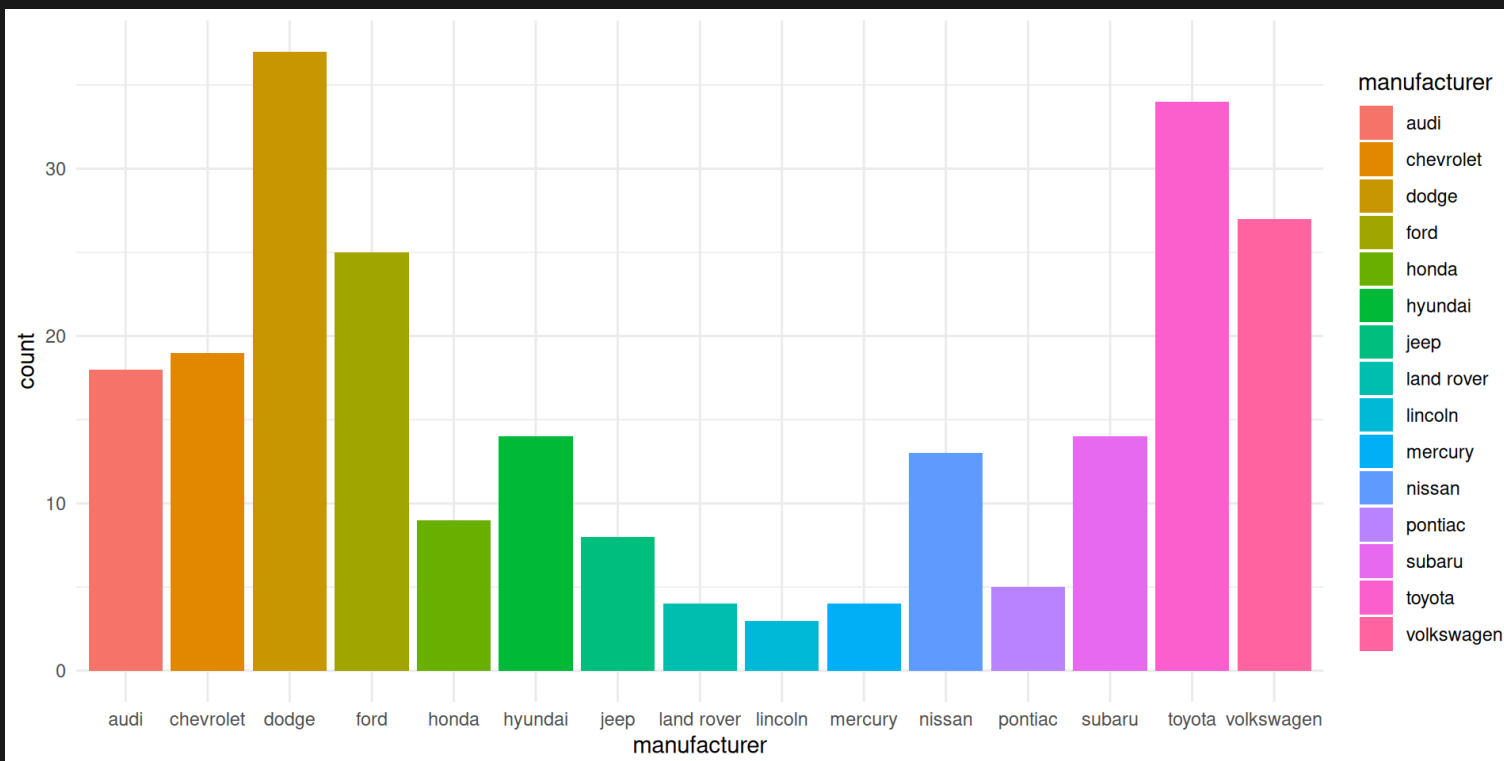
```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(x = manufacturer, color = manufacturer)) + geom_bar()
```



Controlling barplots: fill

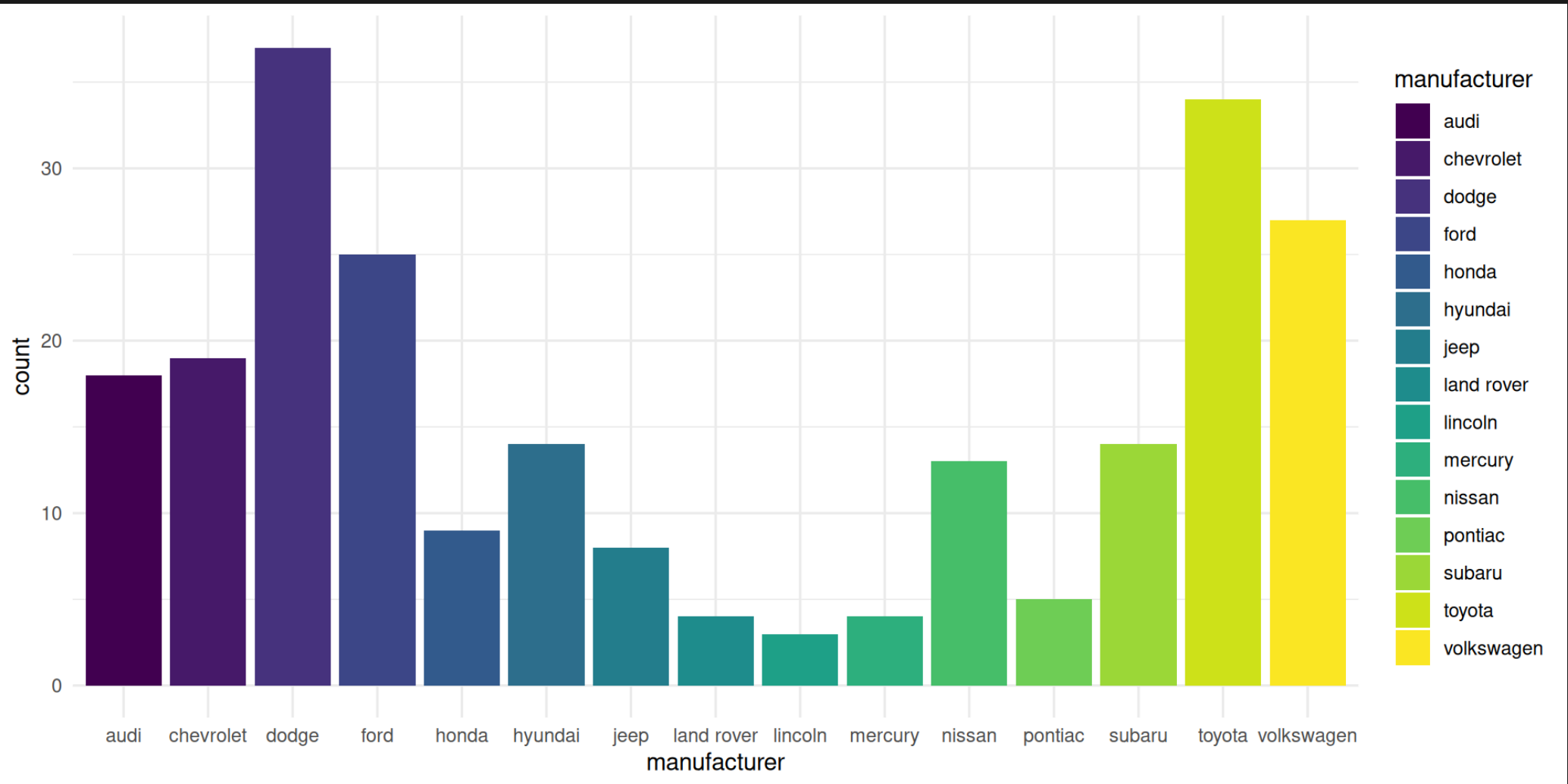
in barplots, the relevant variable is the fill

```
1 prod <- ggplot(mpg, aes(x = manufacturer, fill = manufacturer)) + geom_bar(  
2 prod
```



Controlling barplots: fill

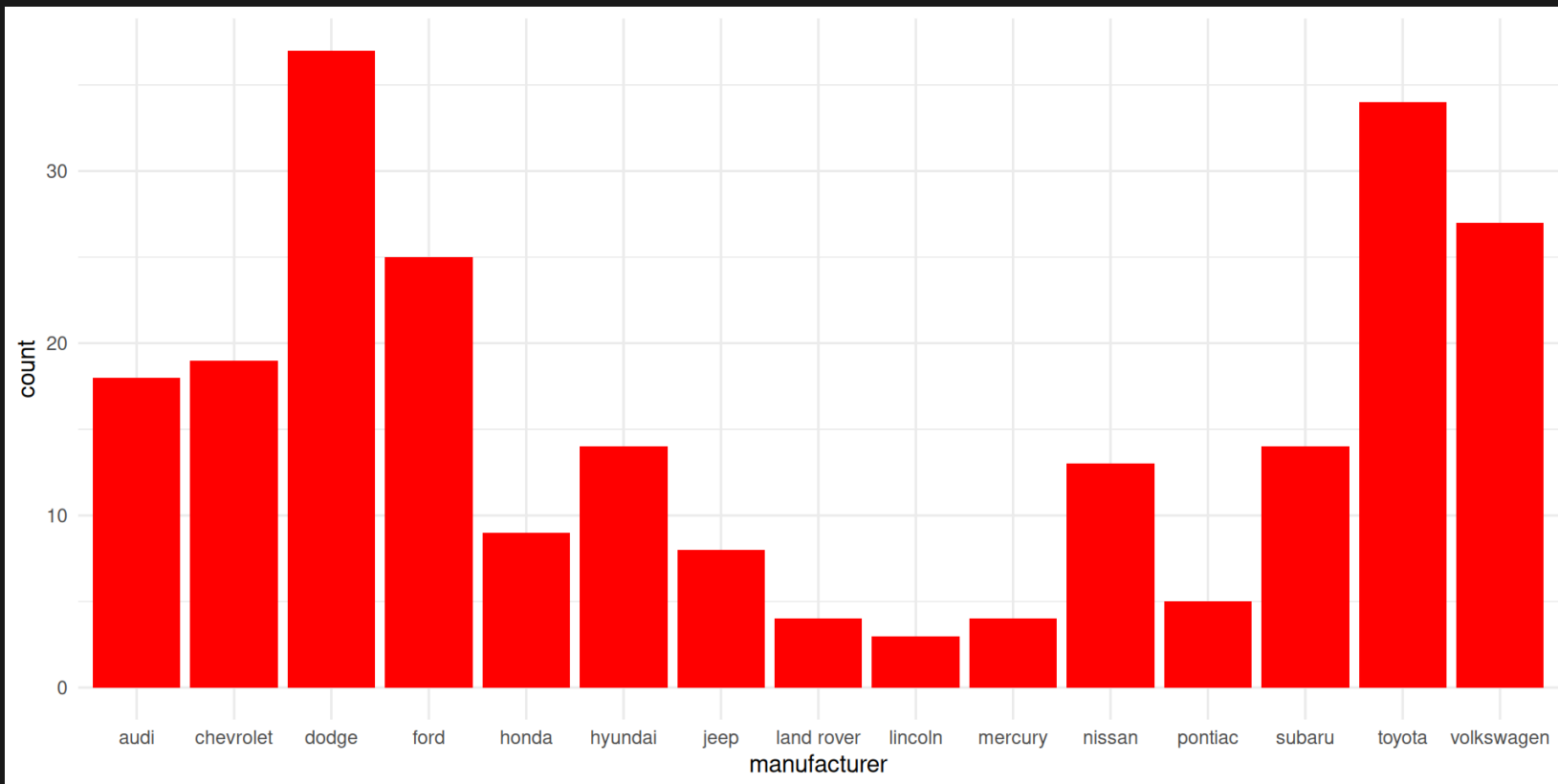
```
1 prod + scale_fill_viridis_d()
```



Not-mapped appearance

if appearance does not vary then pass it directly:

```
1 ggplot(mpg, aes(x = manufacturer)) + geom_bar(fill = "red")
```



3 · Theme

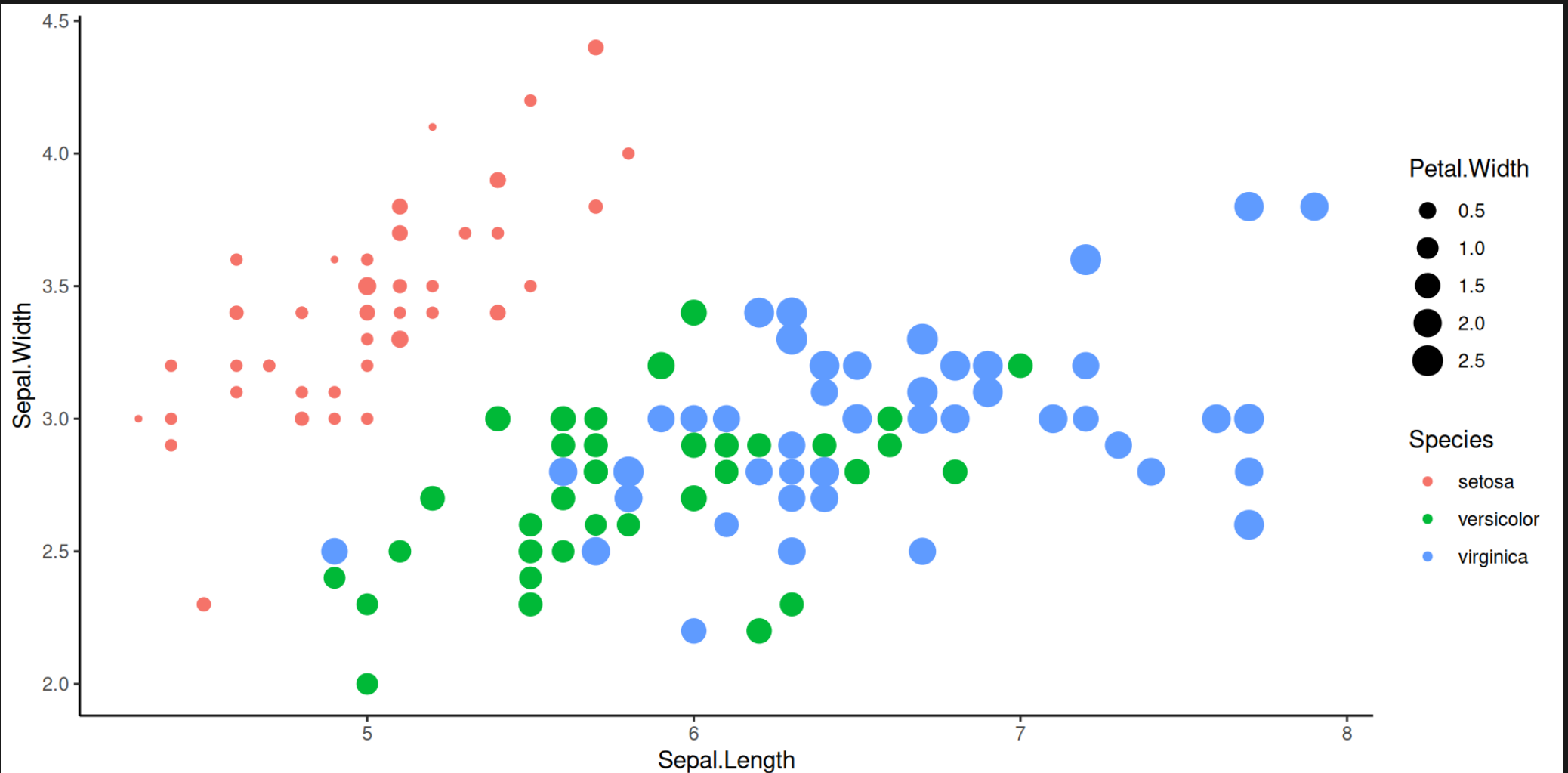
Theming the plot

`theme` functions refer to the appearance of **everything** but the mapping

- pre-installed themes (e.g. `theme_minimal()`)
- extra themes (e.g. `ggthemes`, `hrbrthemes`)
- fine_tuning the themes: `theme()`
- changing the labels: `labs()`

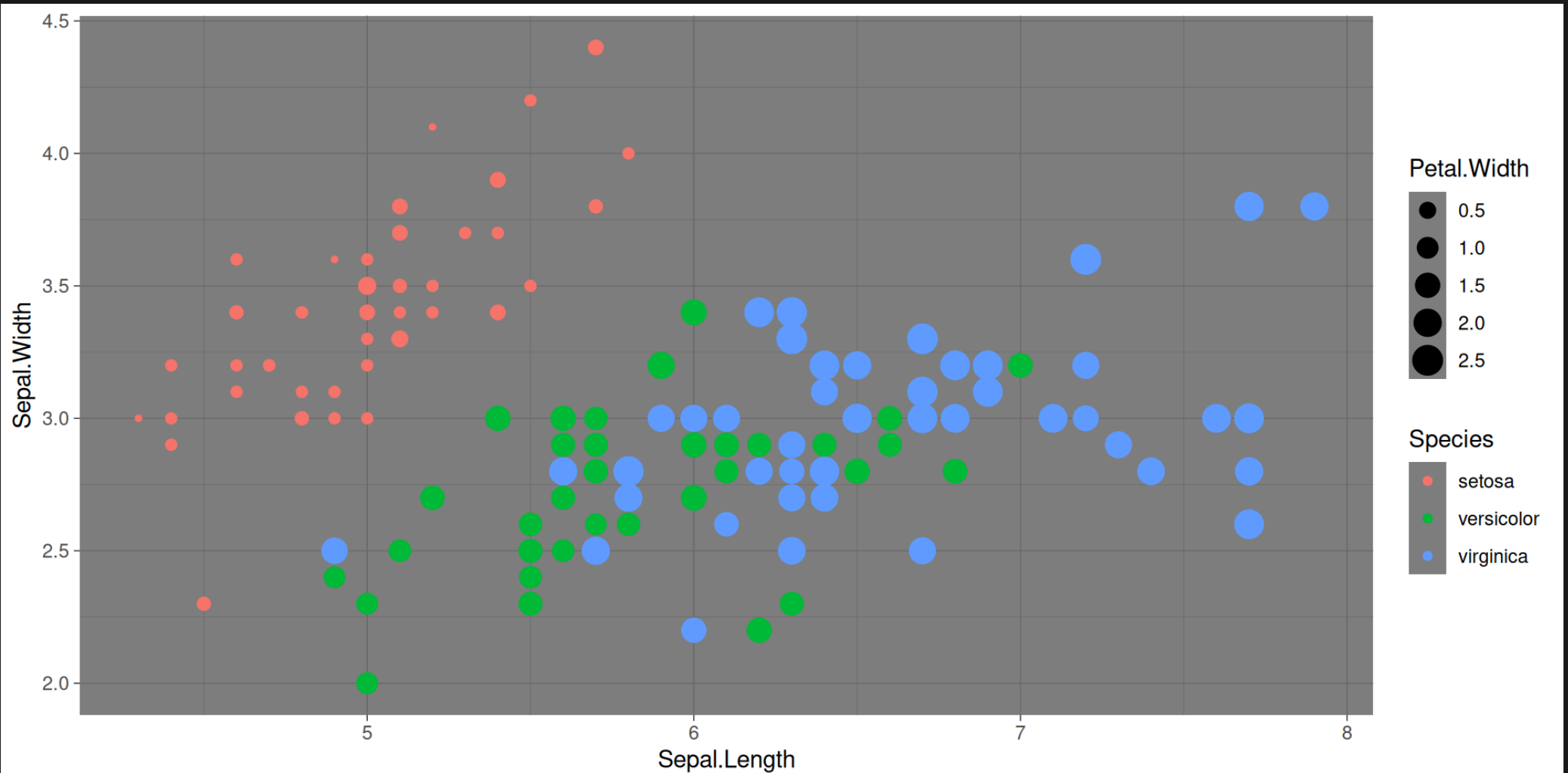
pre-installed themes gallery

```
1 base + theme_classic()
```



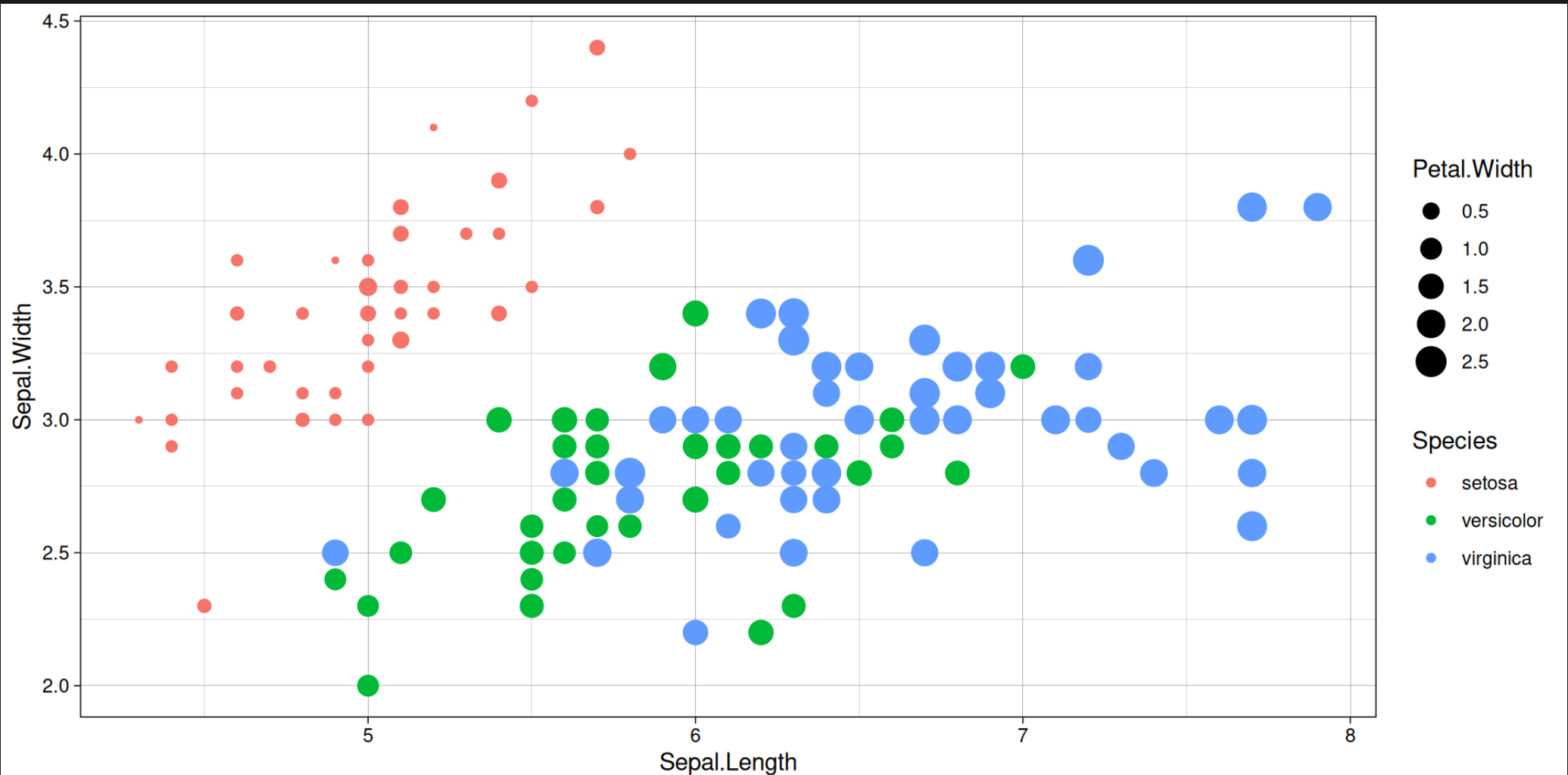
pre-installed themes gallery

```
1 base + theme_dark()
```



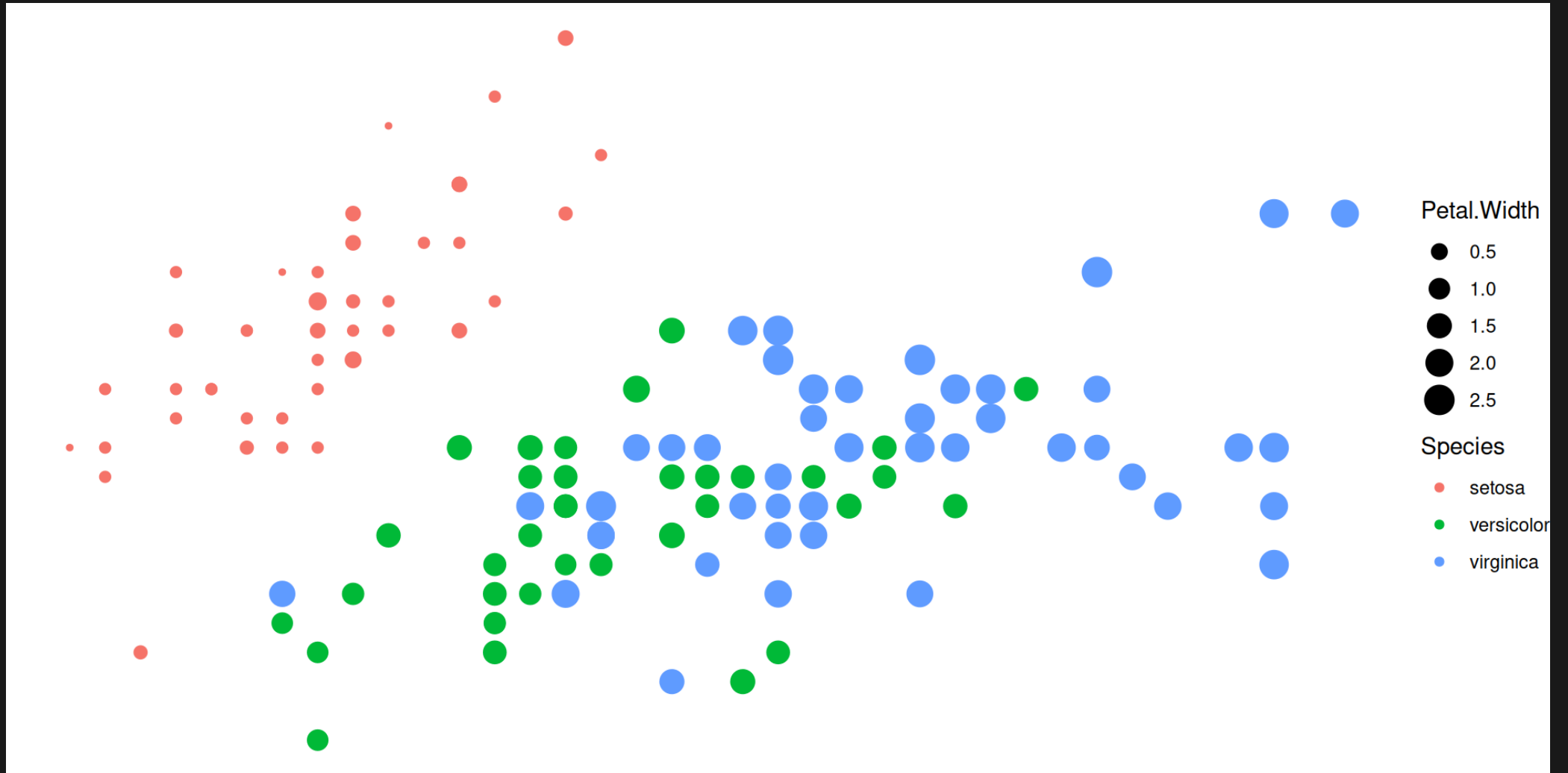
pre-installed themes gallery

```
1 base + theme_linedraw()
```



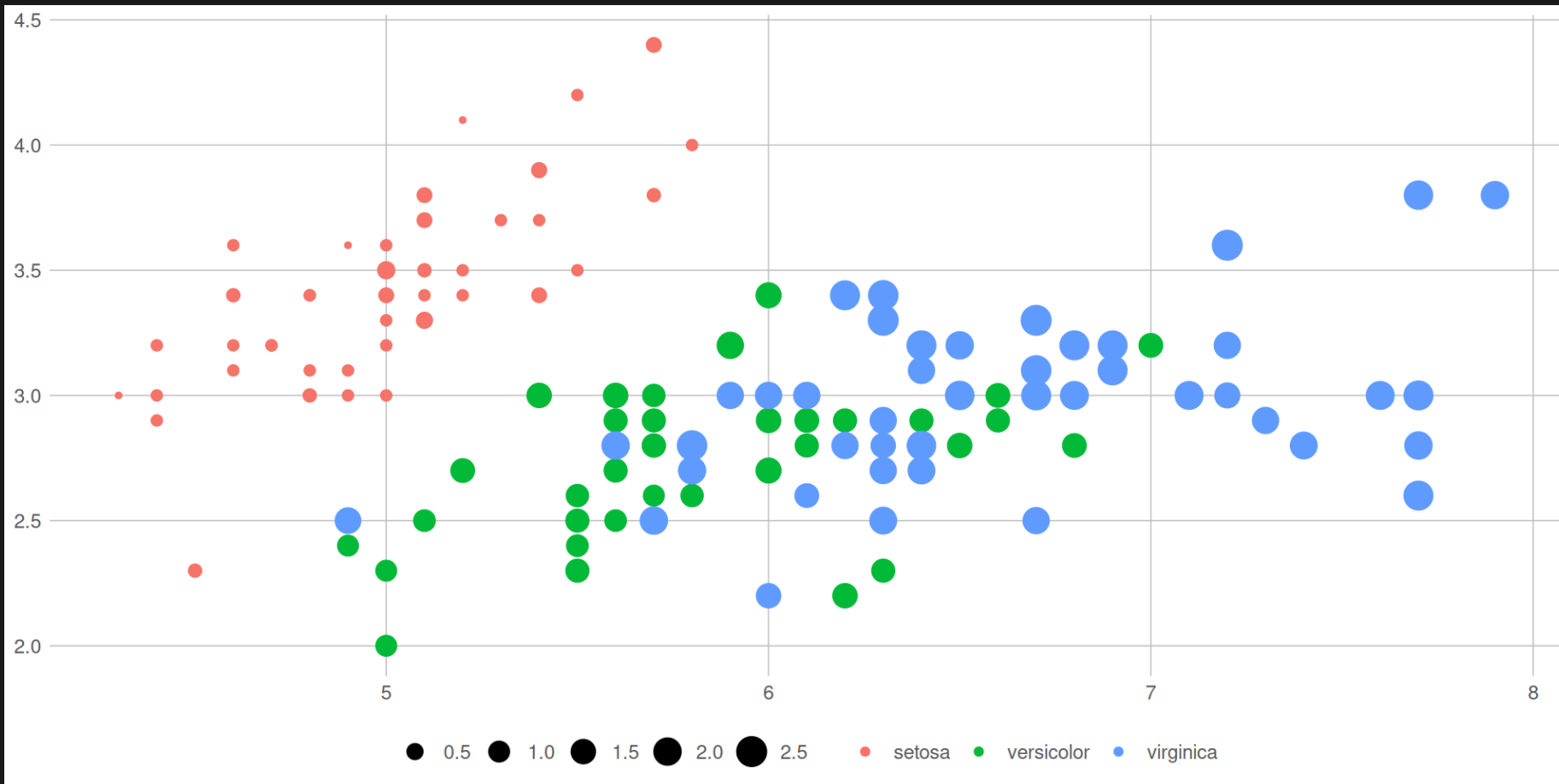
pre-installed themes gallery

```
1 base + theme_void()
```



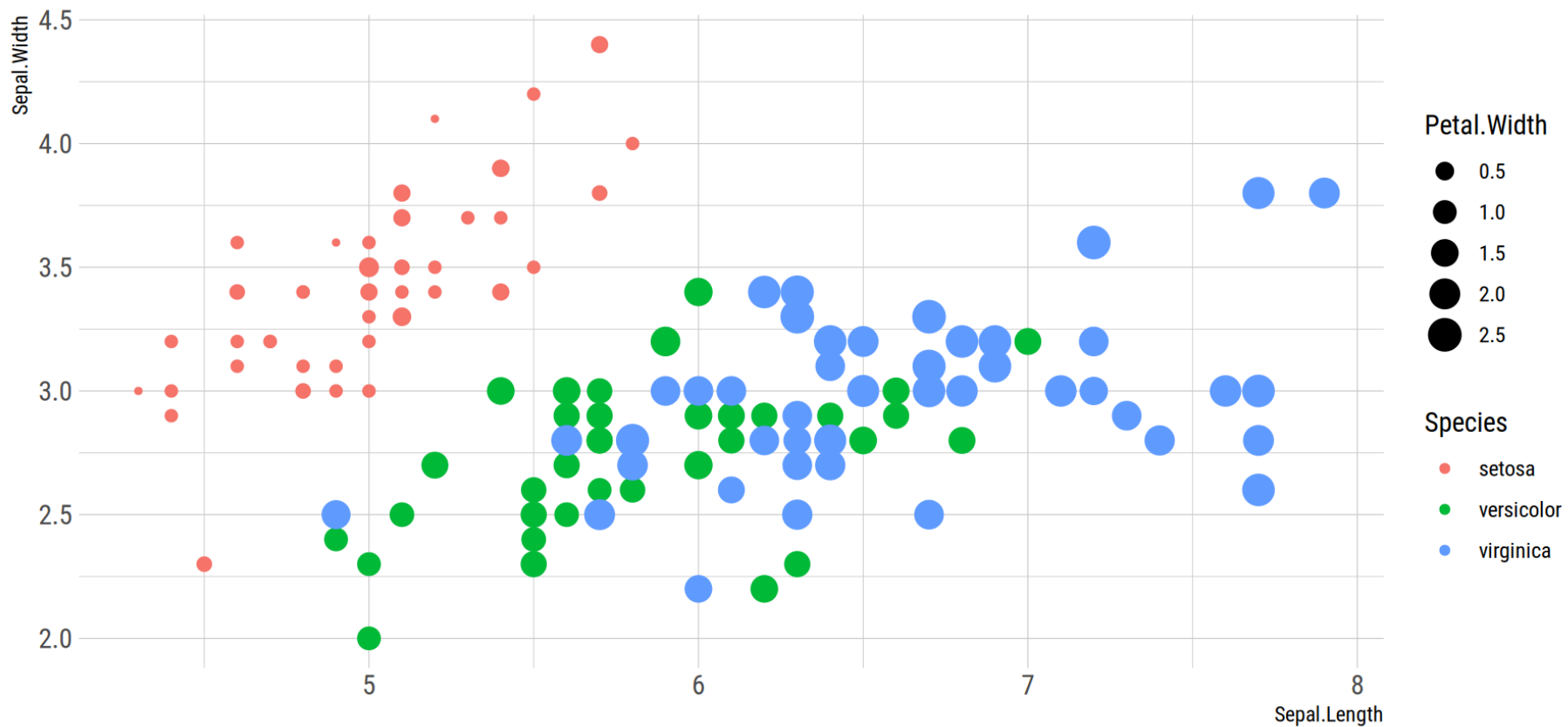
install new themes and use theme

```
1 install.packages("ggthemes")  
2 library(ggthemes)  
3 base + theme_excel_new()
```



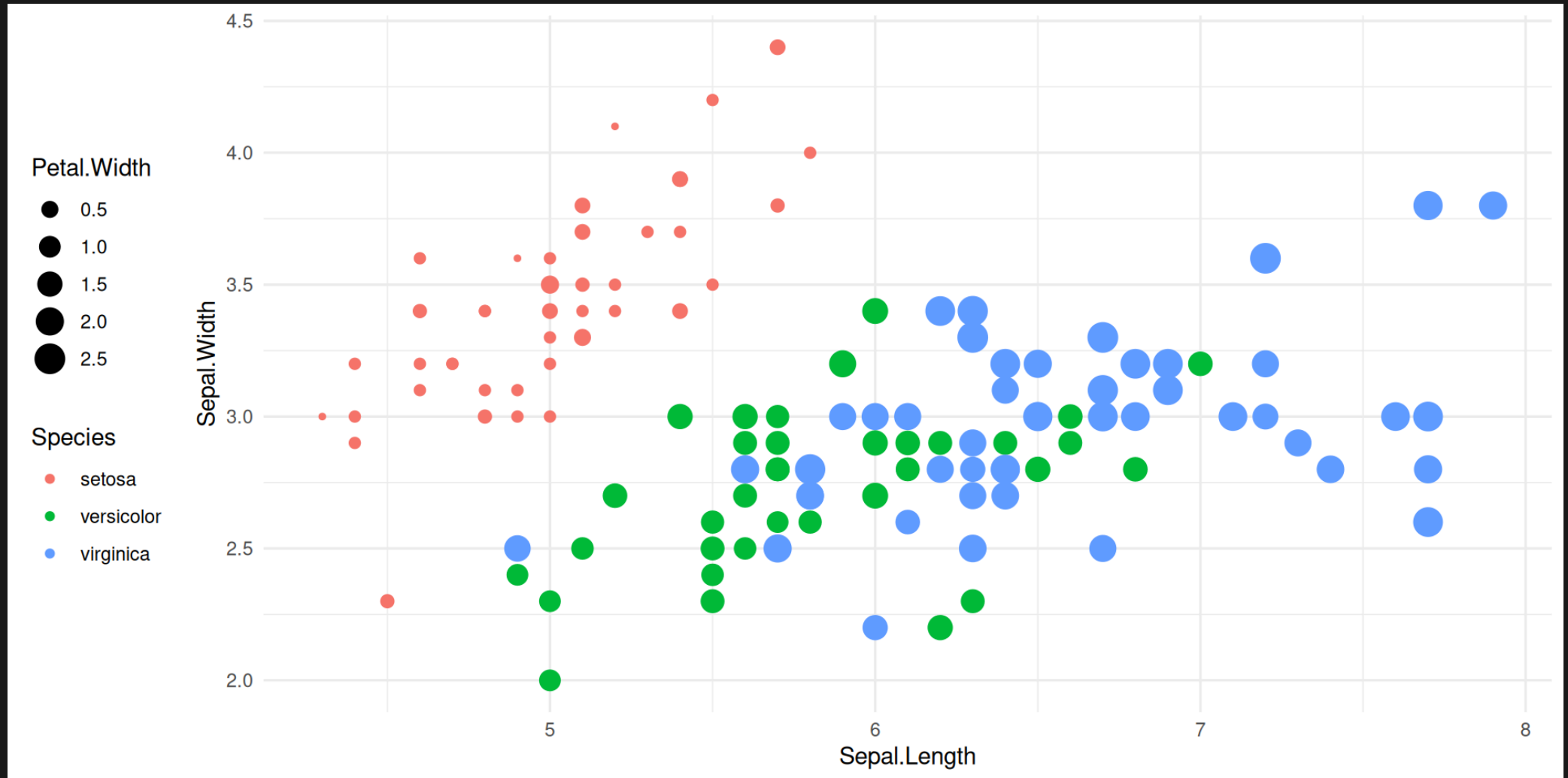
install new themes and use them

```
1 library(hrbrthemes)
2 base + theme_ipsum_rc()
```



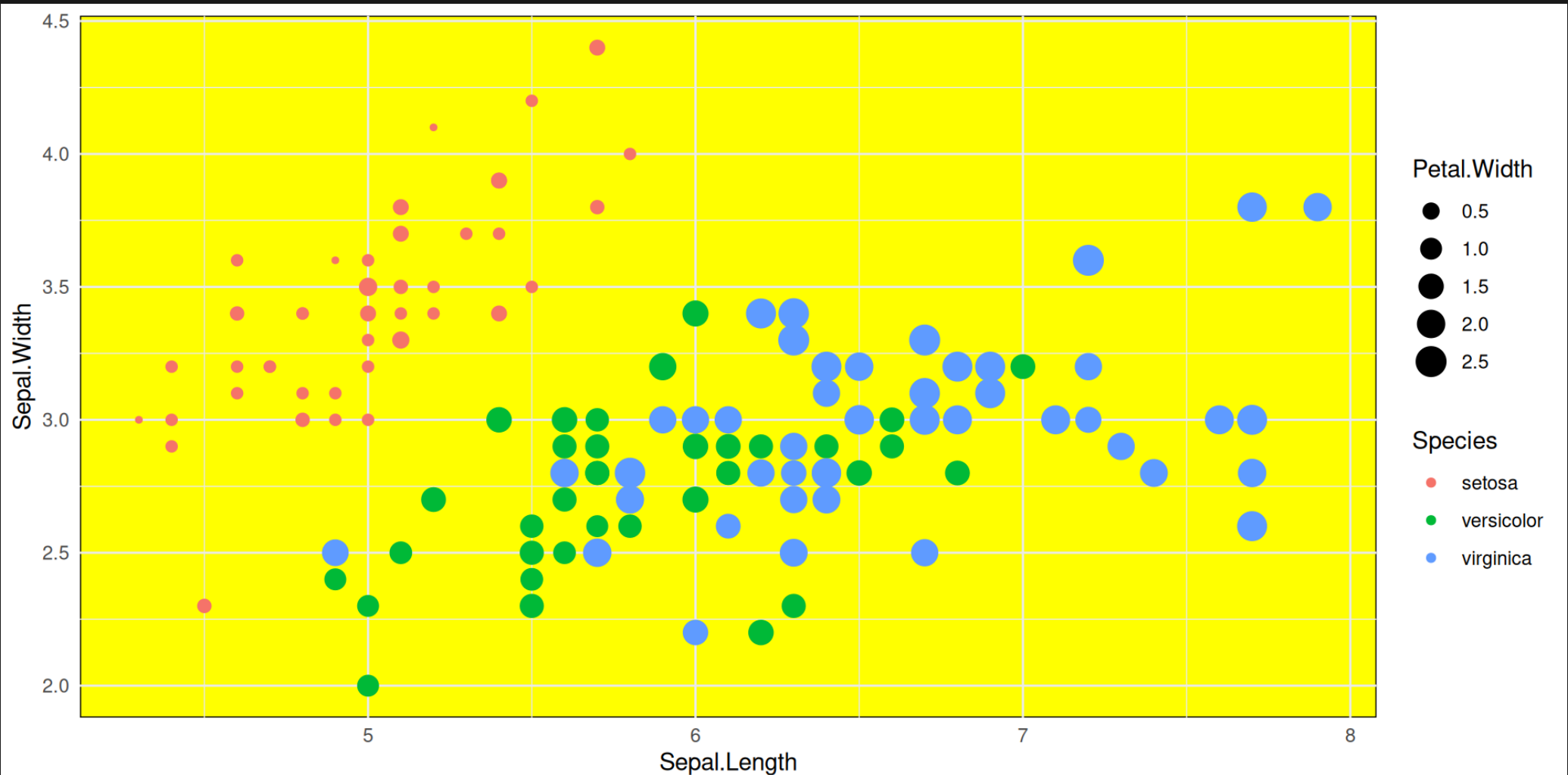
fine-tuning themes: `theme()`

```
1 base + theme(legend.position = "left")
```



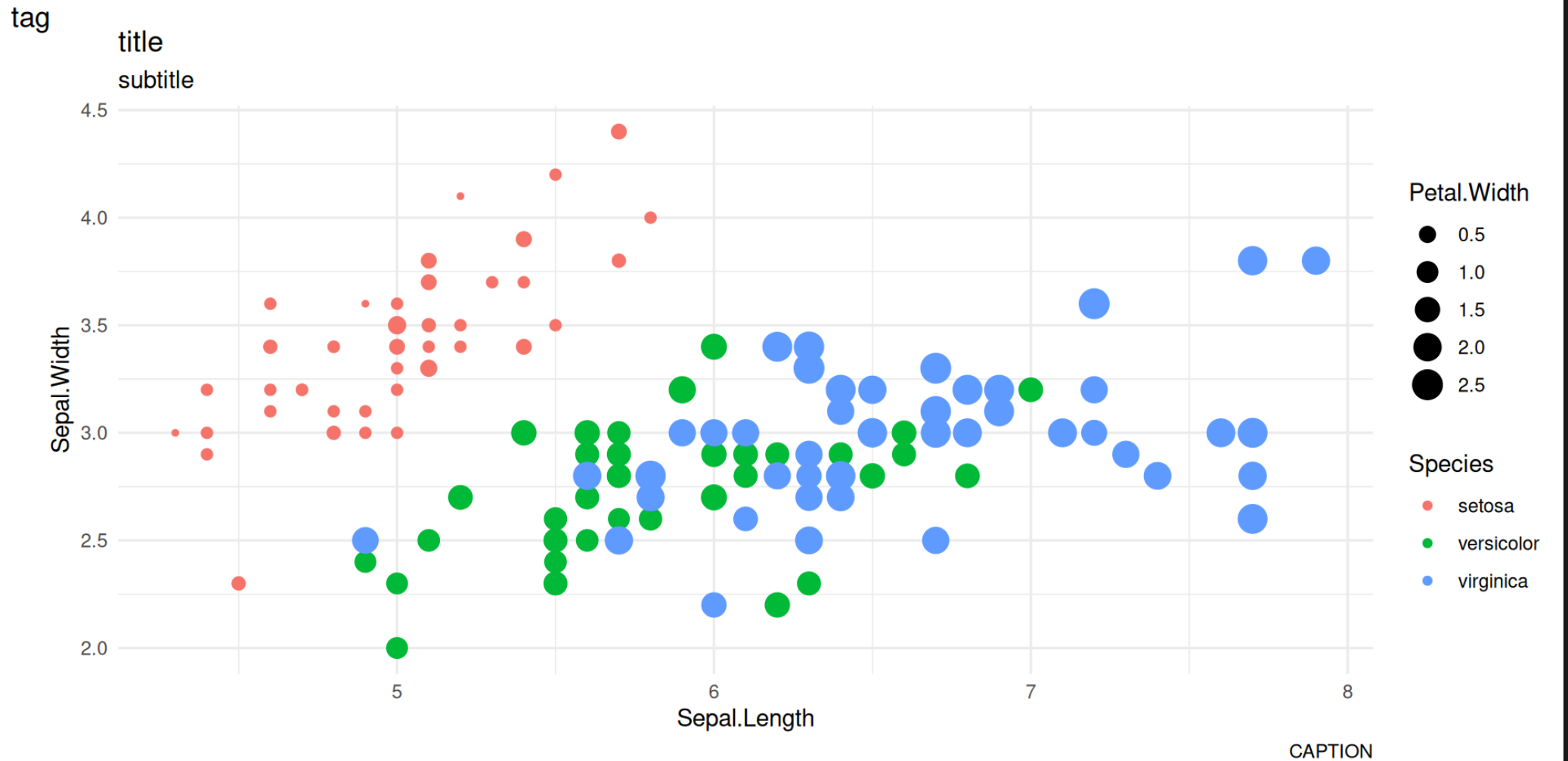
fine-tuning themes: `theme()`

```
1 base + theme(panel.background = element_rect(fill = "yellow"))
```



adding titles

```
1 base + labs(title = "title", subtitle = "subtitle", caption = "CAPTION", ta
```



saving a plot

to save a plot to file, use `ggsave()`. By default it saves the last plot made

```
ggsave(filename, width, height, dpi)
```

4 · Annotations & lines

adding non-data driven elements

add elements that are *not* in the data

- reference lines or areas
- text
- annotations

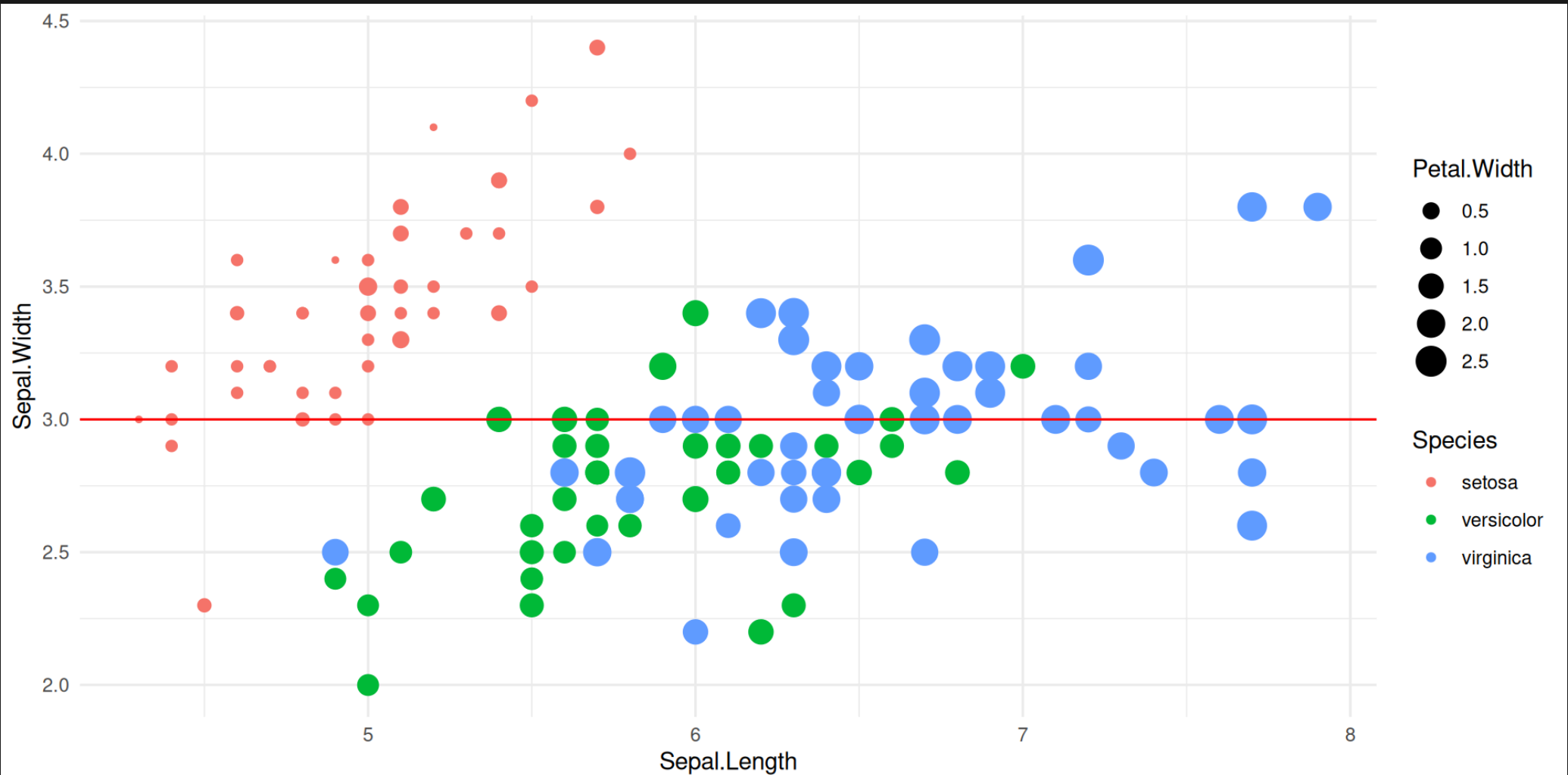
lines

there are three types of lines:

- horizontal: `geom_hline()`
- vertical: `geom_vline()`
- $y = ax + b$: `geom_abline()`

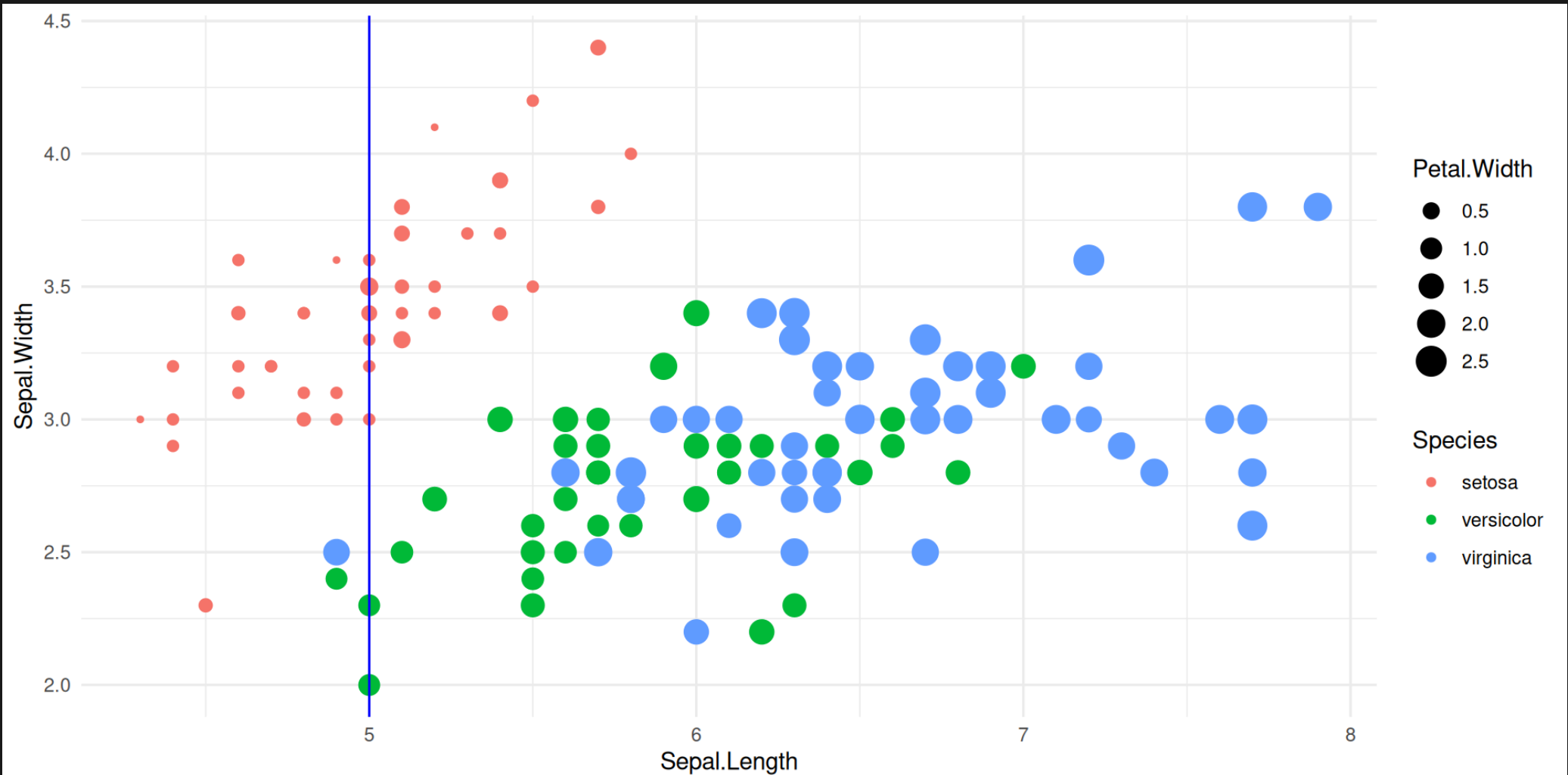
lines

```
1 base + geom_hline(yintercept = 3, color = "red")
```



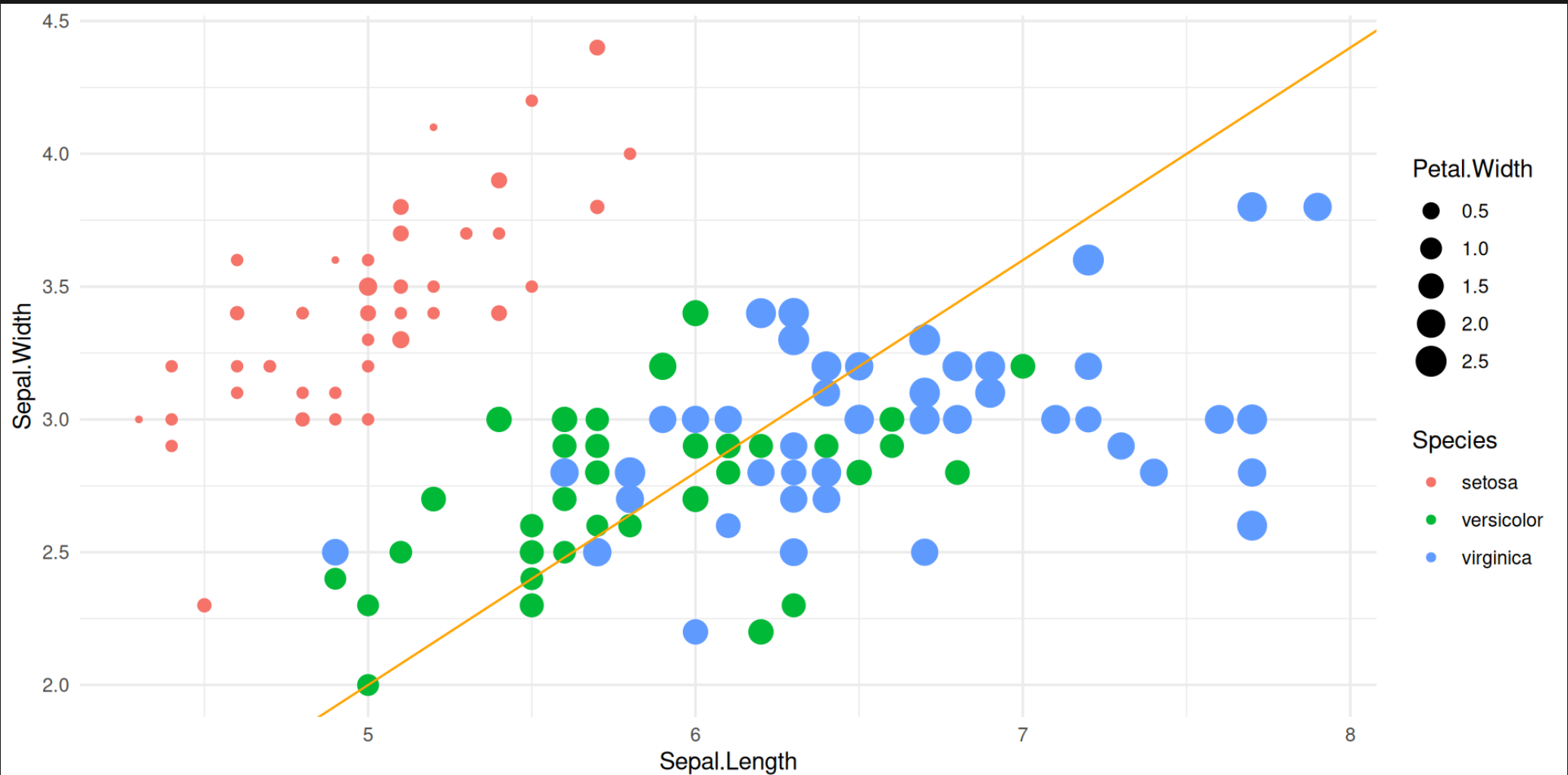
lines

```
1 base + geom_vline(xintercept = 5, color = "blue")
```



lines

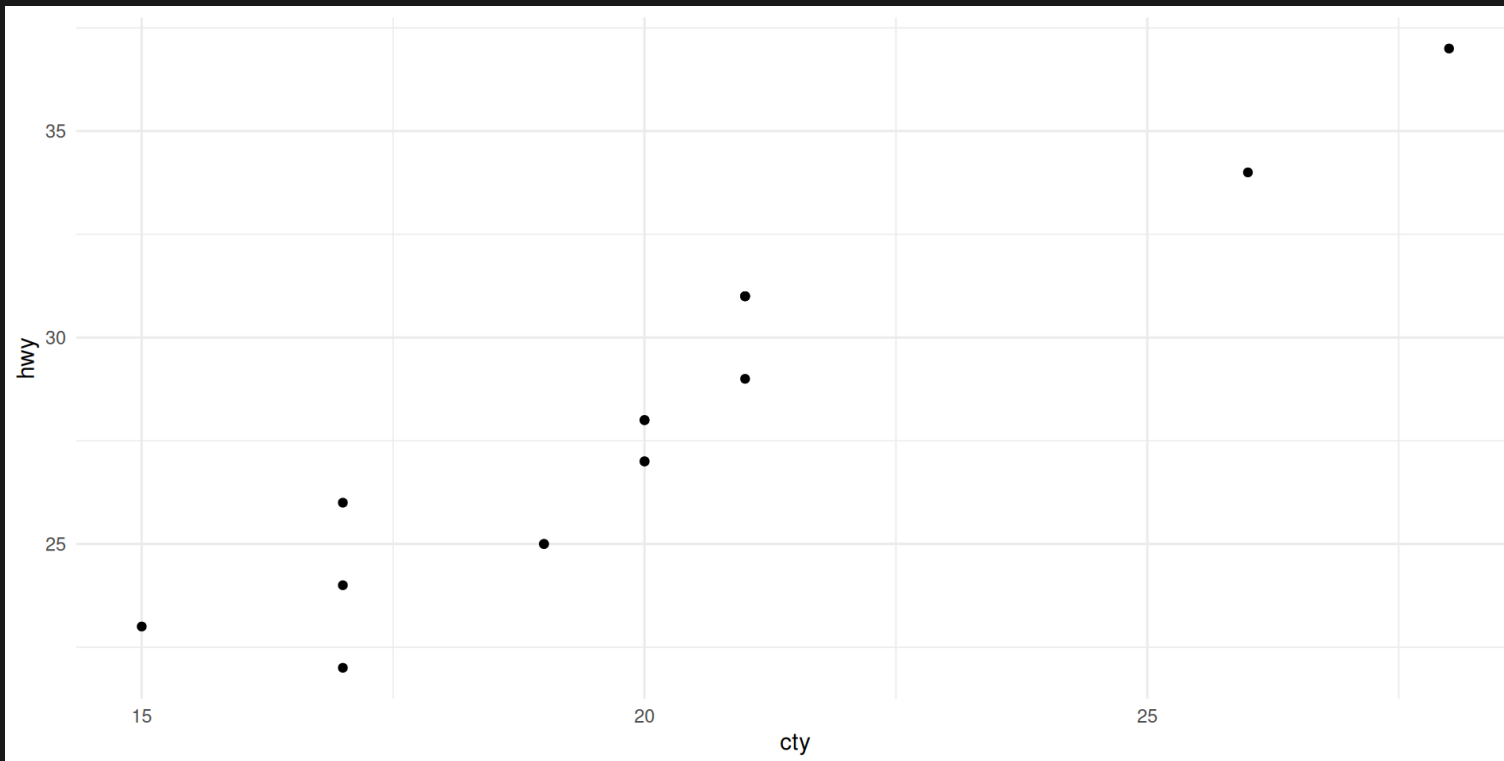
```
1 base + geom_abline(slope = 0.8, intercept = -2, color = "orange")
```



Text as a geom

there are two text geoms: `text` and `label`

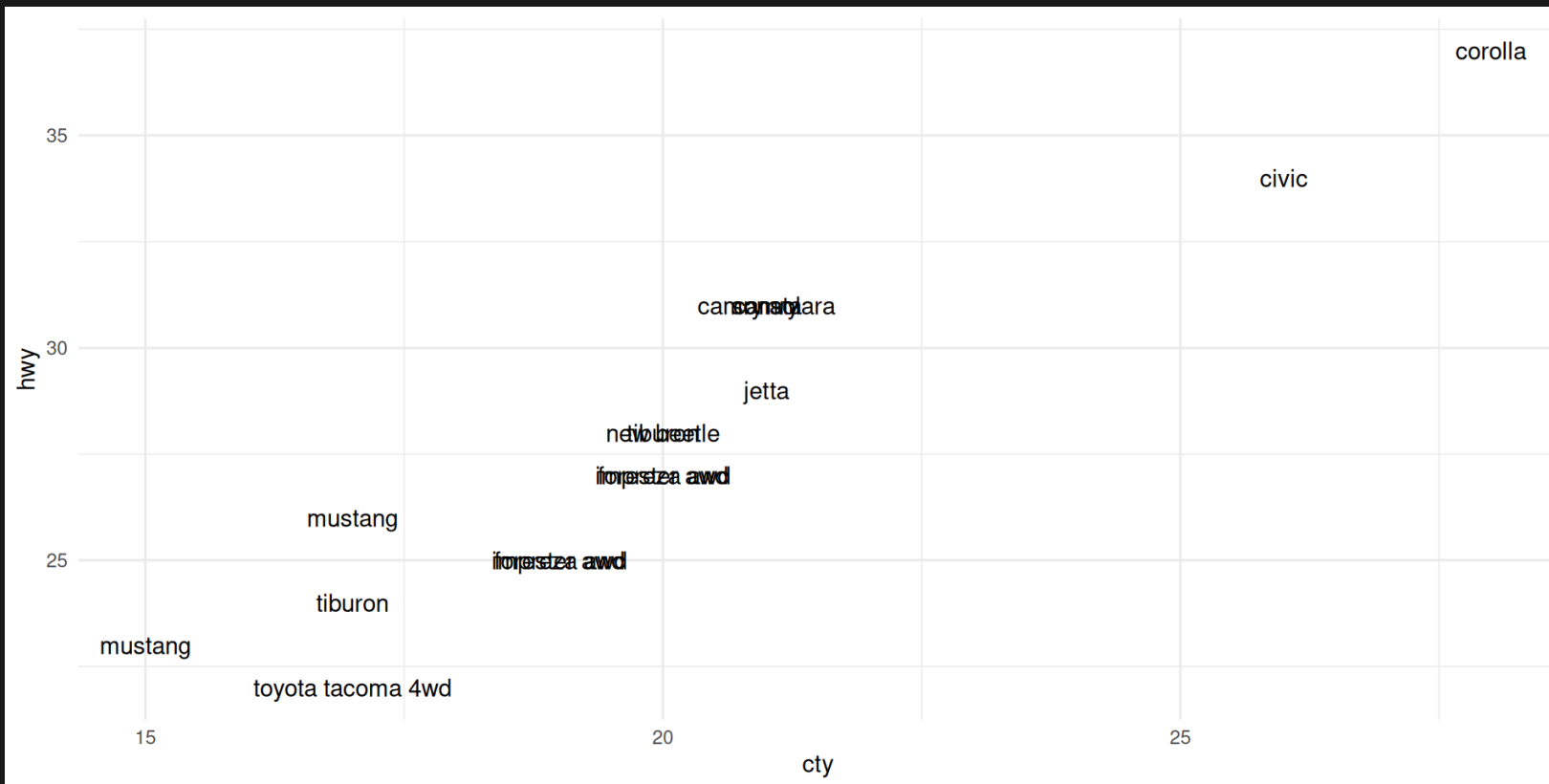
```
1 carspeed <- mpg %>% filter(year == 2008 & trans == "manual(m5)") %>% ggplot()  
2 carspeed + geom_point()
```



Text as a geom

labeling cars by their name: text

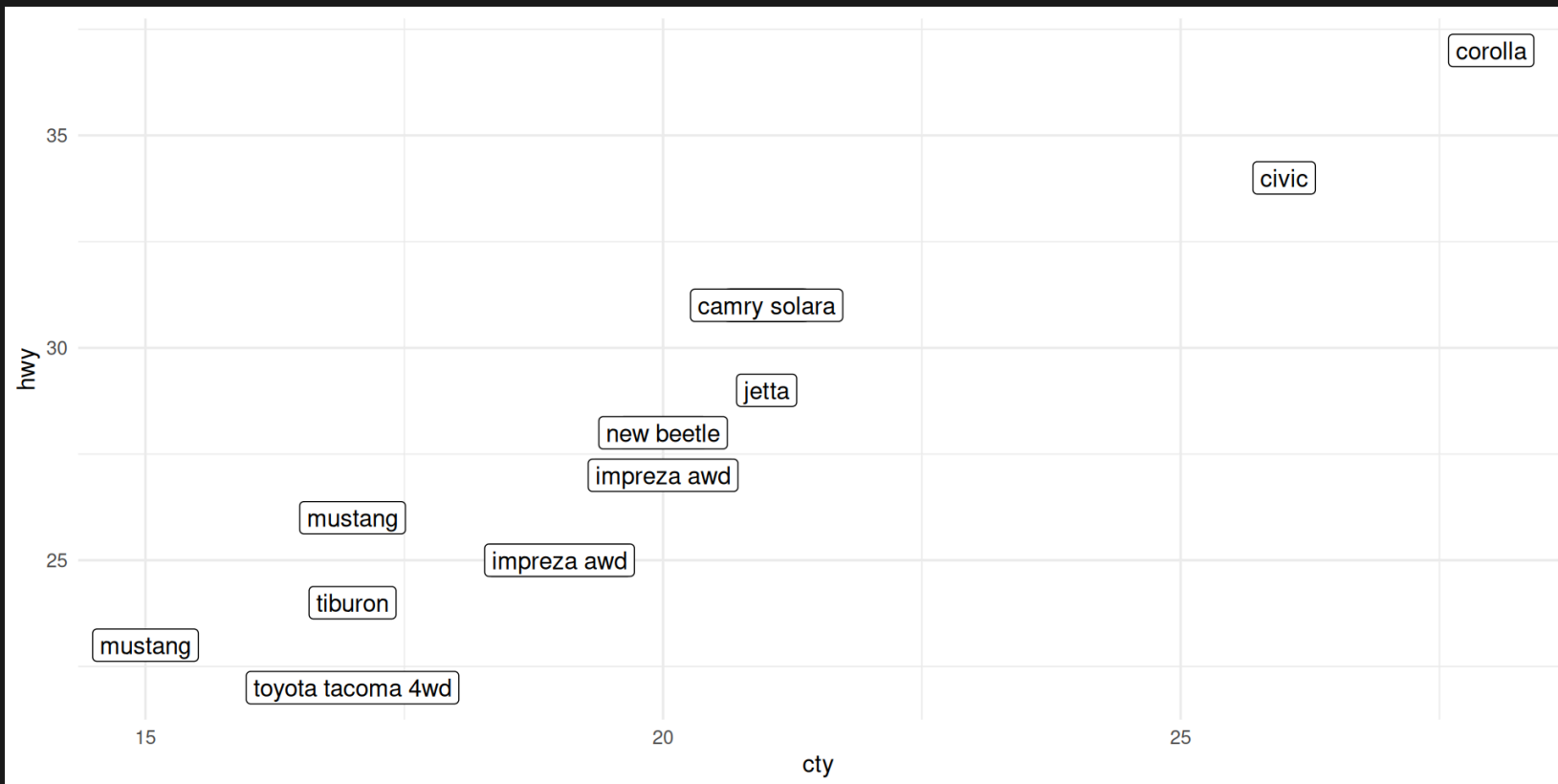
```
1 carspeed + geom_text(aes(label = model))
```



Text as a geom

labeling cars by their name: label

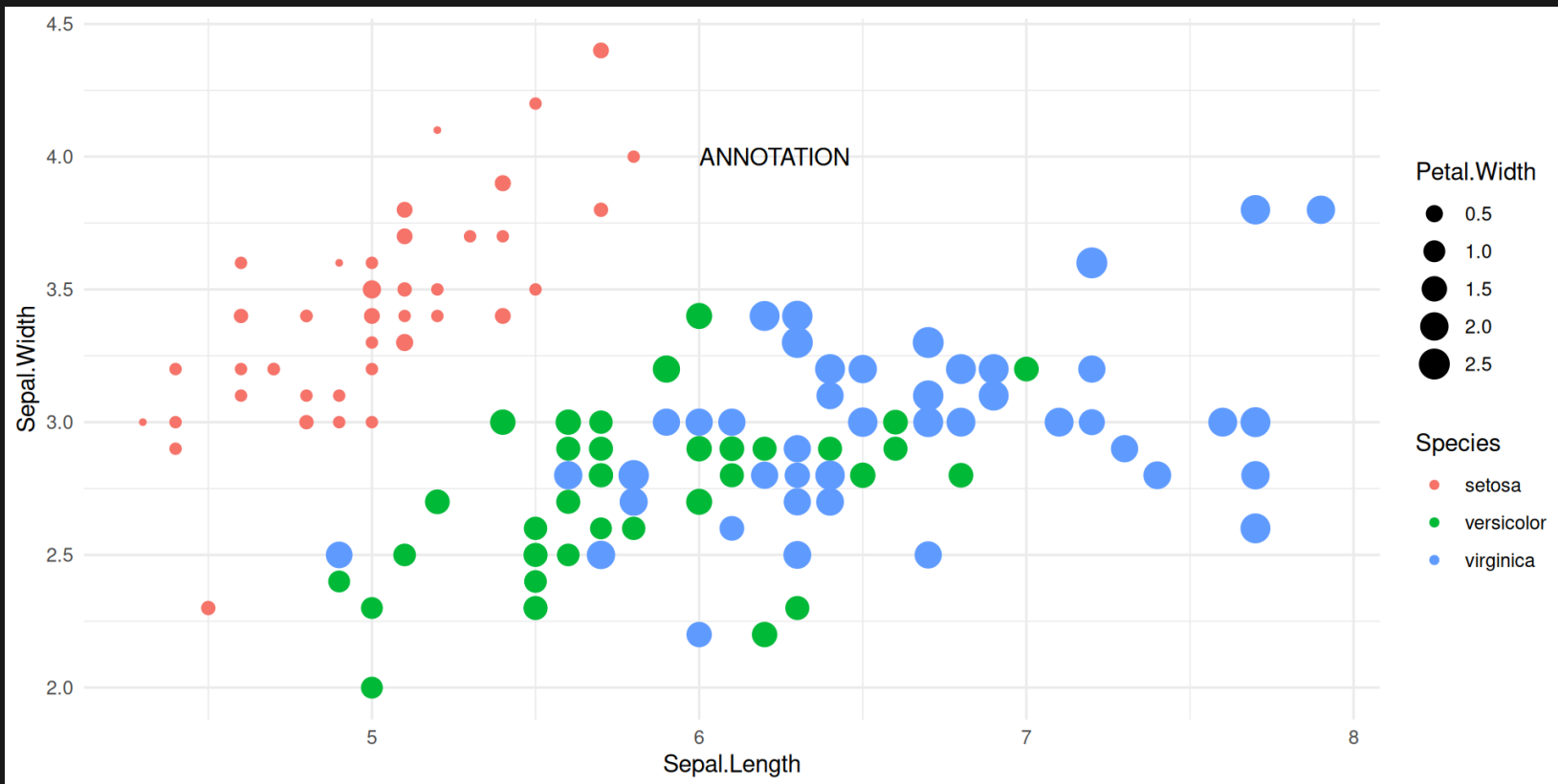
```
1 carspeed + geom_label(aes(label = model))
```



Text as an annotation

just put a custom text somewhere

```
1 base + annotate(geom = "text", label = "ANNOTATION", x = 6, y = 4, hjust =
```



To know more...

Additional resources

- the **ggplot cheatsheet** is your friend (Help -> cheatsheets)
- **stack overflow** helps out for trickier questions
- not feeling inspired? 50 cool visualisations here:
<http://r-statistics.co/Top50-Ggplot2-Visualizations-MasterList-R-Code.html>
- need a complete tour of possibilities? <https://www.r-graph-gallery.com/>