

# Package ‘ggstudent’

July 22, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Continuous Confidence Interval Plots using t-Distribution

**Version** 0.1.2

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**Description** Provides an extension to 'ggplot2' (Wickham, 2016, <[doi:10.1007/978-3-319-24277-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-24277-4)>) for creating two types of continuous confidence interval plots (Violin CI and Gradient CI plots), typically for the sample mean. These plots contain multiple user-defined confidence areas with varying colours, defined by the underlying t-distribution used to compute standard confidence intervals for the mean of the normal distribution when the variance is unknown. Two types of plots are available, a gradient plot with rectangular areas, and a violin plot where the shape (horizontal width) is defined by the probability density function of the t-distribution. These visualizations are studied in (Helske, Helske, Cooper, Ynnerman, and Besancon, 2021) <[doi:10.1109/TVCG.2021.3073466](https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2021.3073466)>.

**Encoding** UTF-8

**BugReports** <https://github.com/helske/ggstudent/issues>

**URL** <https://github.com/helske/ggstudent>

**Depends** R (>= 3.1.0)

**Imports** dplyr, ggplot2, stats

**Suggests** scales

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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geom_student	<i>Student CI plot</i>
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Description

A Student CI plot (or Violin CI plot) is a mirrored density plot similar to violin plot but instead of kernel density estimate it is based on the density of the t-distribution. It can be though of as a continuous "confidence interval density" (hence the name), which could reduce the dichotomous interpretations due to a fixed confidence level. geom\_student can also be used to draw Gradient CI plots (using argument type), which replaces the violin shaped density with a rectangle.

Usage

```
geom_student(  
  mapping = NULL,  
  data = NULL,  
  position = "identity",  
  width = 0.25,  
  type = "density",  
  scale = TRUE,  
  draw_lines = NULL,  
  draw_mean = TRUE,  
  show.legend = NA,  
  inherit.aes = TRUE,  
  ...  
)
```

Arguments

mapping	Set of aesthetic mappings. See [ggplot2::layer()] for details.
data	The data to be displayed in this layer. See [ggplot2::layer()] for details.
position	A position adjustment to use on the data for this layer. See [ggplot2::layer()] for details.
width	Scaling parameter for the width of the violin/rectangle.
type	Type of the plot. The default is "density" which draws violin style density plot, whereas "box" draws a rectangle shaped gradient plot.
scale	If "TRUE" (default), violins/rectangles are scaled according to the maximum width of the groups (max(dt(0, df) / se)).
draw_lines	If not NULL (default), draw horizontal lines at the given quantiles of the density estimate.

draw_mean	If TRUE (default), draw horizontal line at mean.
show.legend	logical. Should this layer be included in the legends? See [ggplot2::layer()] for details.
inherit.aes	If 'FALSE', overrides the default aesthetics. See [ggplot2::layer()] for details.
...	Other arguments passed to [ggplot2::layer()], such as fixed aesthetics.

## Value

A ggplot object.

## References

Helske, J., Helske, S., Cooper, M., Ynnerman, A., & Besancon, L. (2021). Can visualization alleviate dichotomous thinking? Effects of visual representations on the cliff effect. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 27(8), 3397-3409 doi: 10.1109/TVCG.2021.3073466

## Examples

```
library("dplyr")
library("ggplot2")
library("scales")

ci_levels <- c(0.999, 0.95, 0.9, 0.8, 0.5)
n <- length(ci_levels)
ci_levels <- factor(ci_levels, levels = ci_levels)
PlantGrowth %>% dplyr::group_by(group) %>%
  dplyr::summarise(
    mean = mean(weight),
    df = dplyr::n() - 1,
    se = sd(weight)/sqrt(df + 1)) %>%
  dplyr::full_join(
    data.frame(group =
      rep(levels(PlantGrowth$group), each = n),
      level = ci_levels), by = "group") -> d

p <- ggplot(data = d, aes(group)) +
  geom_student(aes(mean = mean, se = se, df = df,
    level = level, fill = level), draw_lines = c(0.95, 0.5))
p
g <- scales::seq_gradient_pal("#e5f5f9", "#2ca25f")
p + scale_fill_manual(values=g(seq(0,1,length = n))) + theme_bw()

p2 <- ggplot(data = d, aes(group)) +
  geom_student(aes(mean = mean, se = se, df = df,
    level = level, fill = level), type = "box", draw_lines = c(0.95, 0.5))
p2
```

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