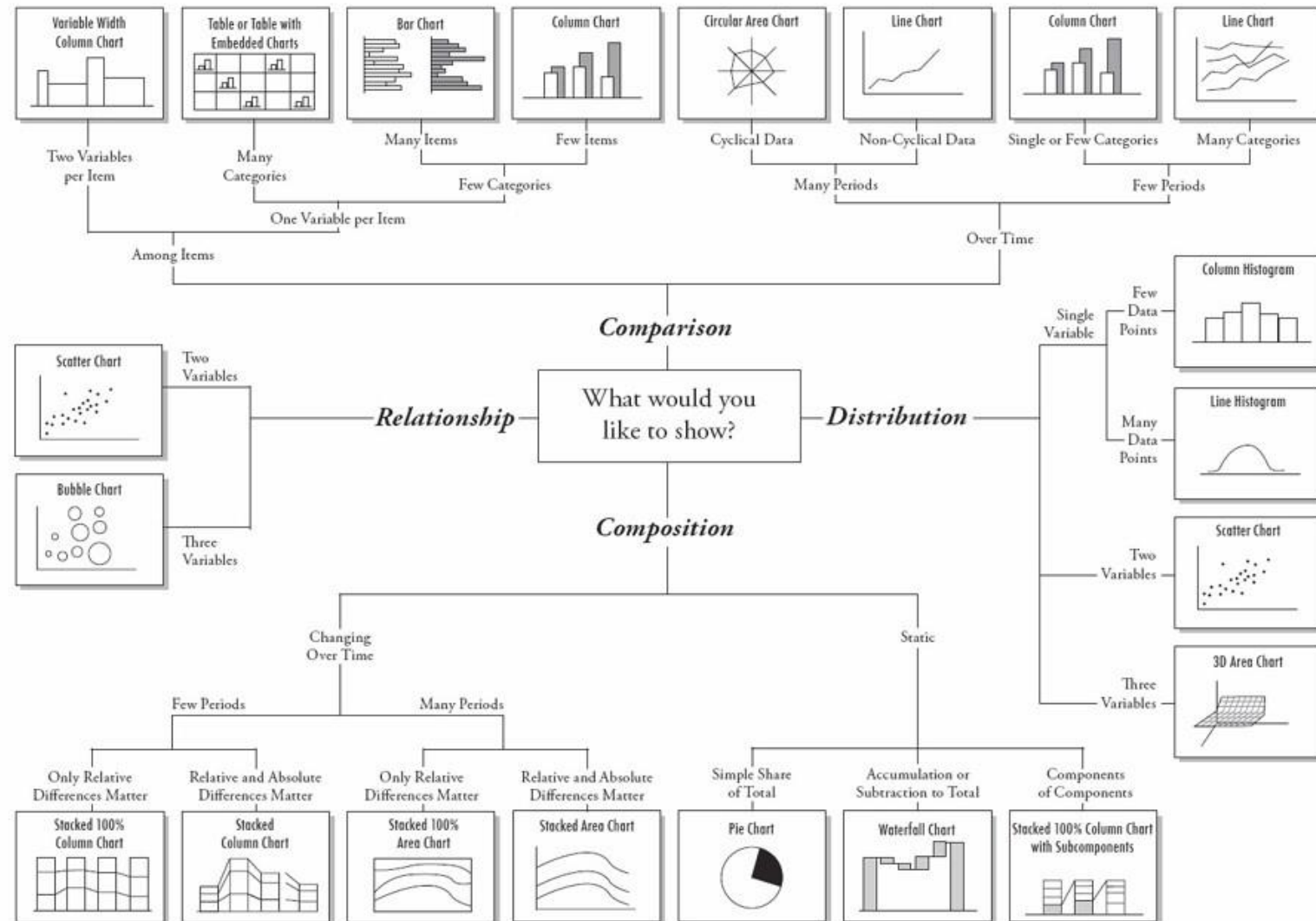# Charts Types

Chart Suggestions—A Thought-Starter

Variable Width Column Chart — Two Variables per Item

Table or Table with Embedded Charts — Many Categories

Bar Chart — Many Items

Column Chart — Few Items

Circular Area Chart — Cyclical Data

Line Chart — Non-Cyclical Data

Column Chart — Single or Few Categories

Line Chart — Many Categories

Few Categories

One Variable per Item

Among Items

Many Periods / Few Periods → Over Time

Comparison

What would you like to show?

Relationship

Scatter Chart — Two Variables

Bubble Chart — Three Variables

Distribution

Single Variable — Few Data Points — **Column Histogram**

Many Data Points — **Line Histogram**

Two Variables — **Scatter Chart**

Three Variables — **3D Area Chart**

Composition

Changing Over Time

Few Periods:
- Only Relative Differences Matter — **Stacked 100% Column Chart**
- Relative and Absolute Differences Matter — **Stacked Column Chart**

Many Periods:
- Only Relative Differences Matter — **Stacked 100% Area Chart**
- Relative and Absolute Differences Matter — **Stacked Area Chart**

Static
- Simple Share of Total — **Pie Chart**
- Accumulation or Subtraction to Total — **Waterfall Chart**
- Components of Components — **Stacked 100% Column Chart with Subcomponents**

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Chart Suggestions—A Thought-Starter

Two Variables per Item

Many Categories

One Variable per Item

Many Items

Few Items

Few Categories

Among Items

Cyclical Data

Non-Cyclical Data

Many Periods

Single or Few Categories

Many Categories

Few Periods

Over Time

Comparison

Two Variables

Three Variables

Relationship

What would you like to show?

Distribution

Single Variable

Few Data Points

Many Data Points

Two Variables

Three Variables

Composition

Changing Over Time

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Many Periods

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Only Relative Differences Matter

Relative and Absolute Differences Matter

Only Relative Differences Matter

Relative and Absolute Differences Matter

Simple Share of Total

Accumulation or Subtraction to Total

Components of Components