BASIC ISSUES IN CARTOGRAPHY

Part2

GEOG370 Arce-Nazario

Scale

- Most natural and social science questions depend on the scale of analysis.

- Our interpretation of processes is shaped by the scale of our study.

Types of scale

- Representative Fraction (RF)

  example: 1 : 2,000

- Verbal

  example: 1 inch = 50 miles

- Bar Scales
- Variable Scales

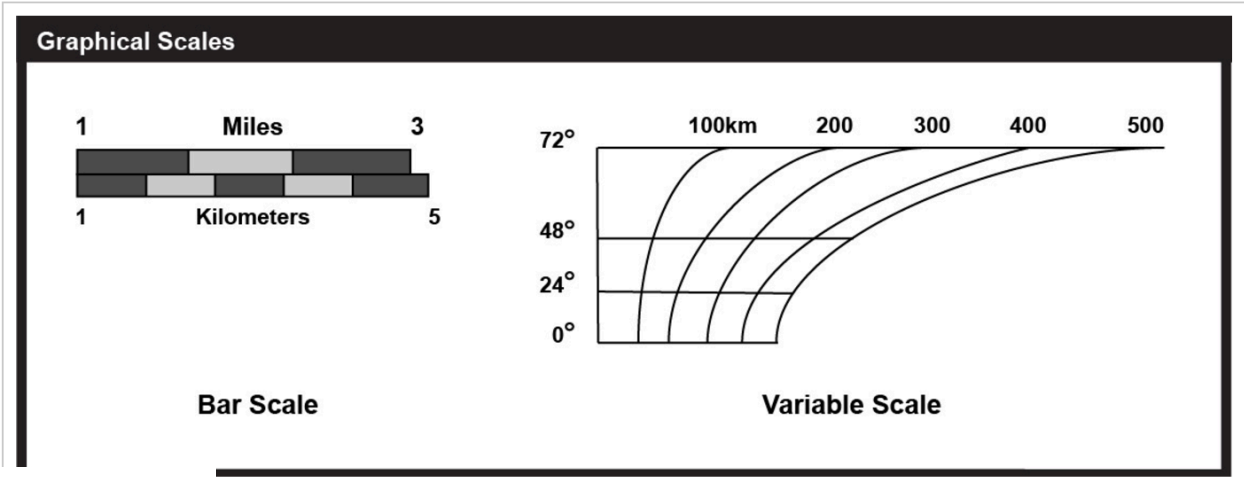
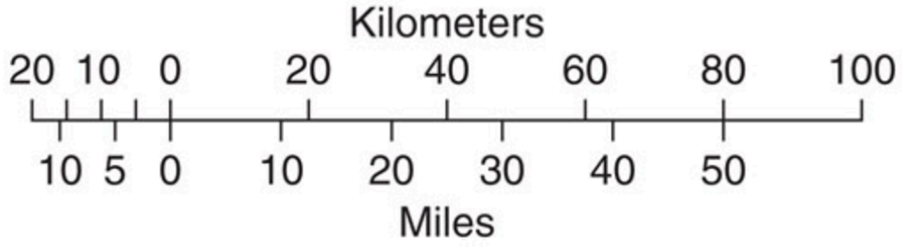


Figure 2.1. Bar Scale and Variable Scale.

Credit: Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University.



Representative Fraction

Expressed as:

“1 to 2,000 ” or “1:2,000”

= 1/2,000 (representative fraction - RF)

Hence a 1:2,000 scale is larger scale than 1:100,000

This is a major cause of confusion, for this reason landscape ecologists call:

- large scale = fine scale
- small scale = coarse scale

General Scale Classification

Large scale

- 1:400 to 1:50,000

Intermediate scale

- 1:50,000 to 1:250,000

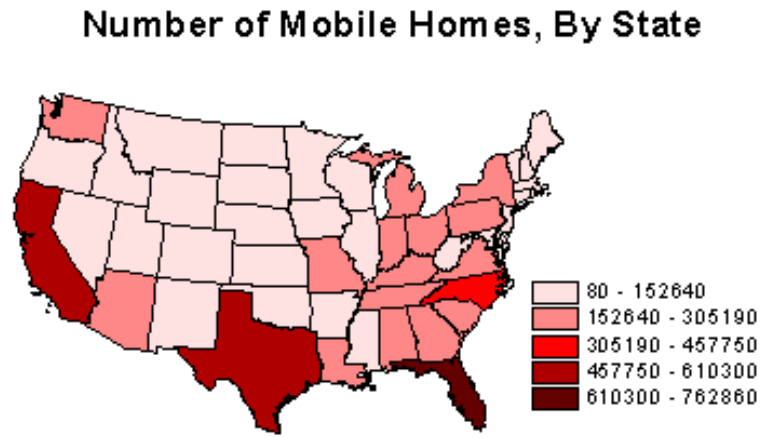
Small scale

- 1:250,000 and beyond

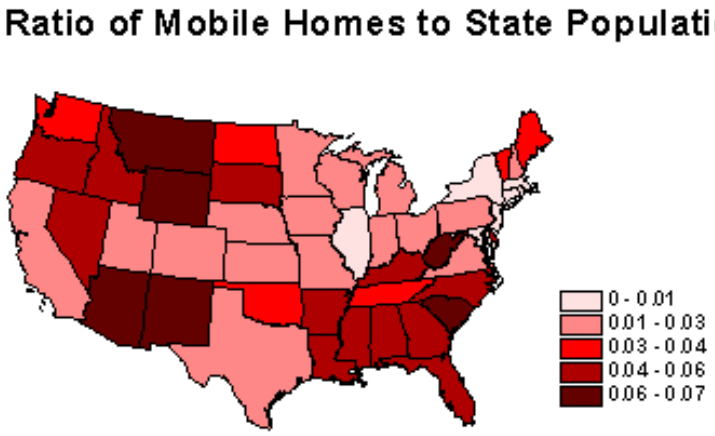
When is scale not needed?

When is scale definitely needed?

Counts *vs.* ratios issues



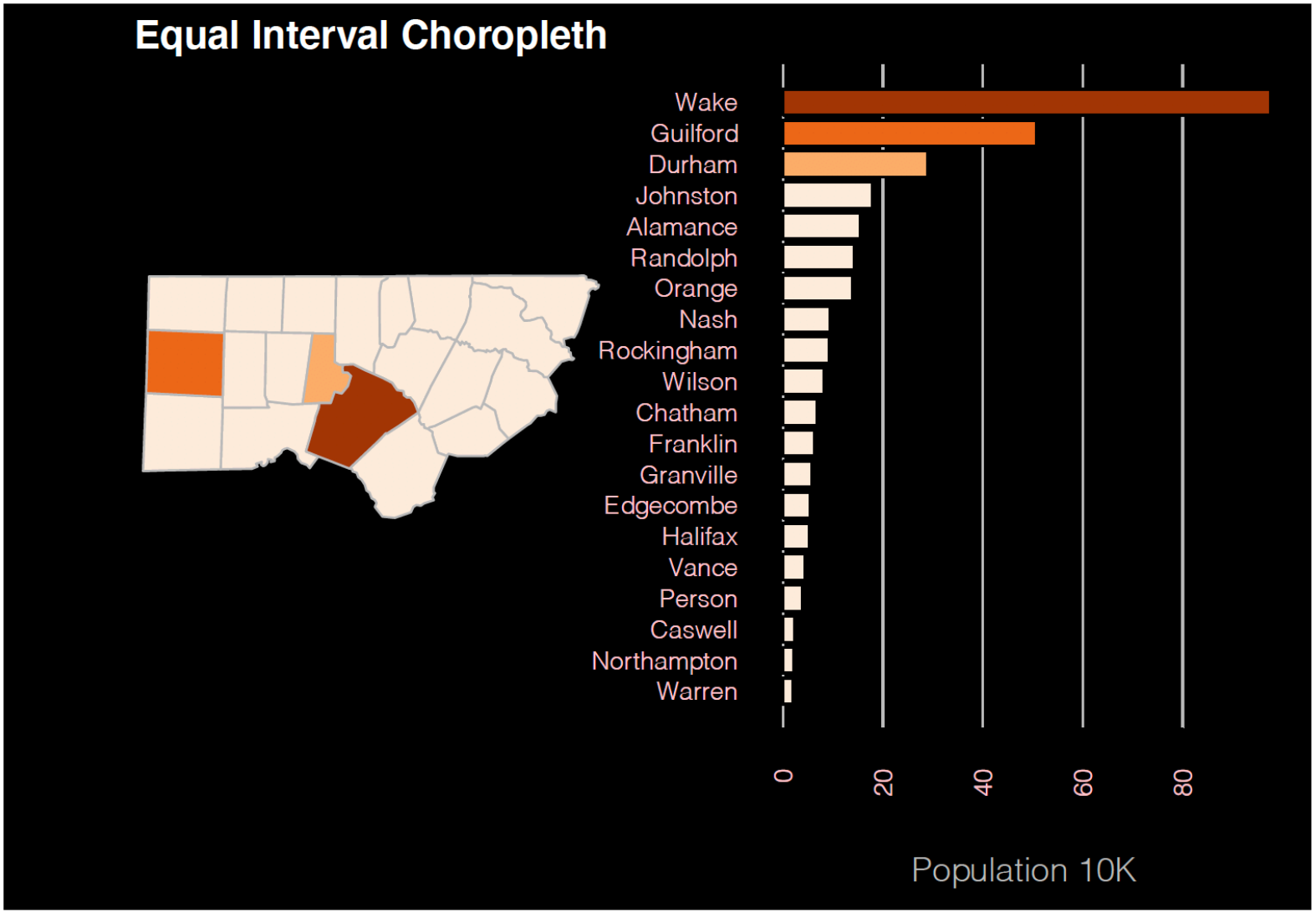
raw count (absolute) values may present a misleading picture



Solution:

- normalize the data
- use ratio values

How do we categorize our data?



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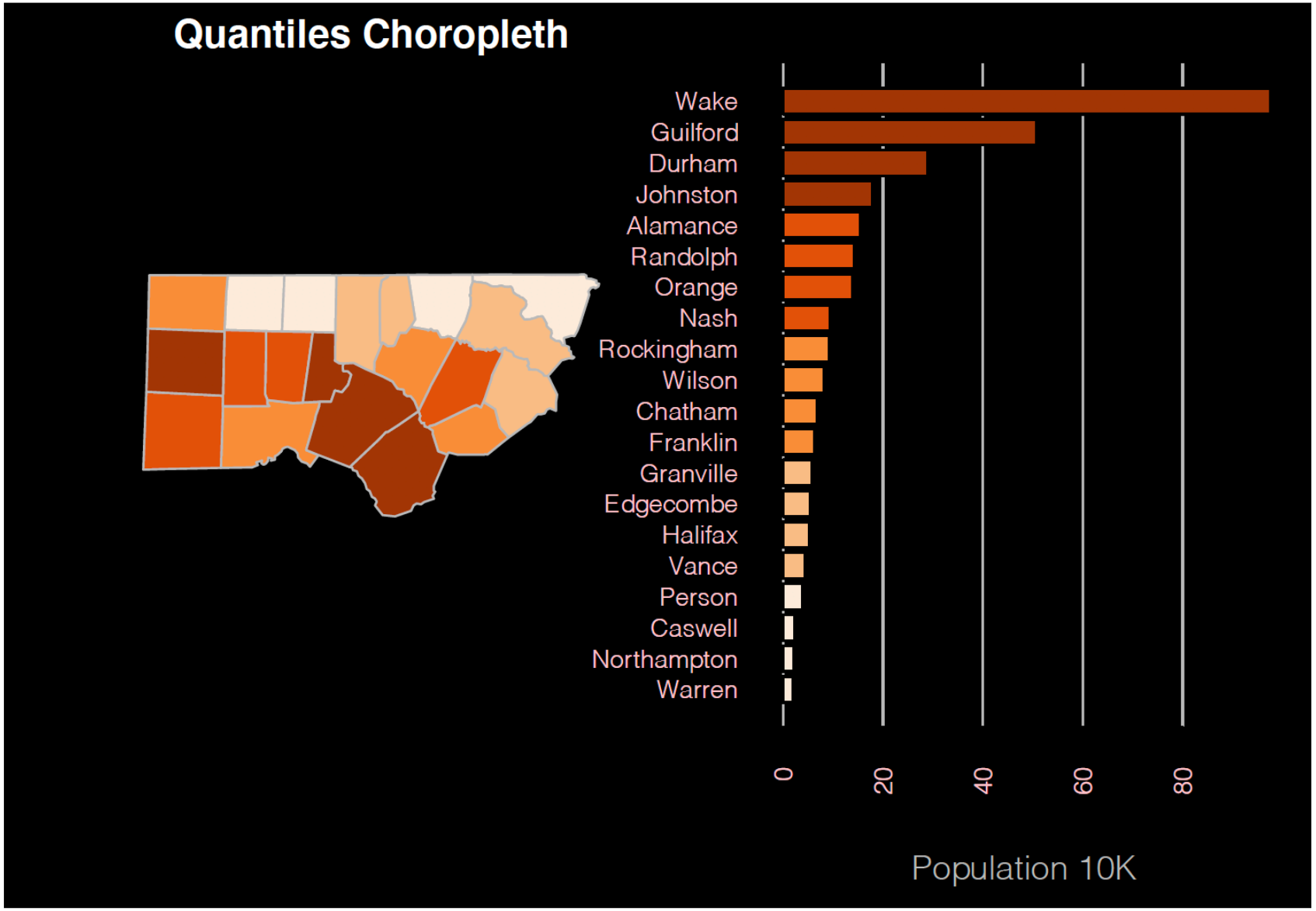

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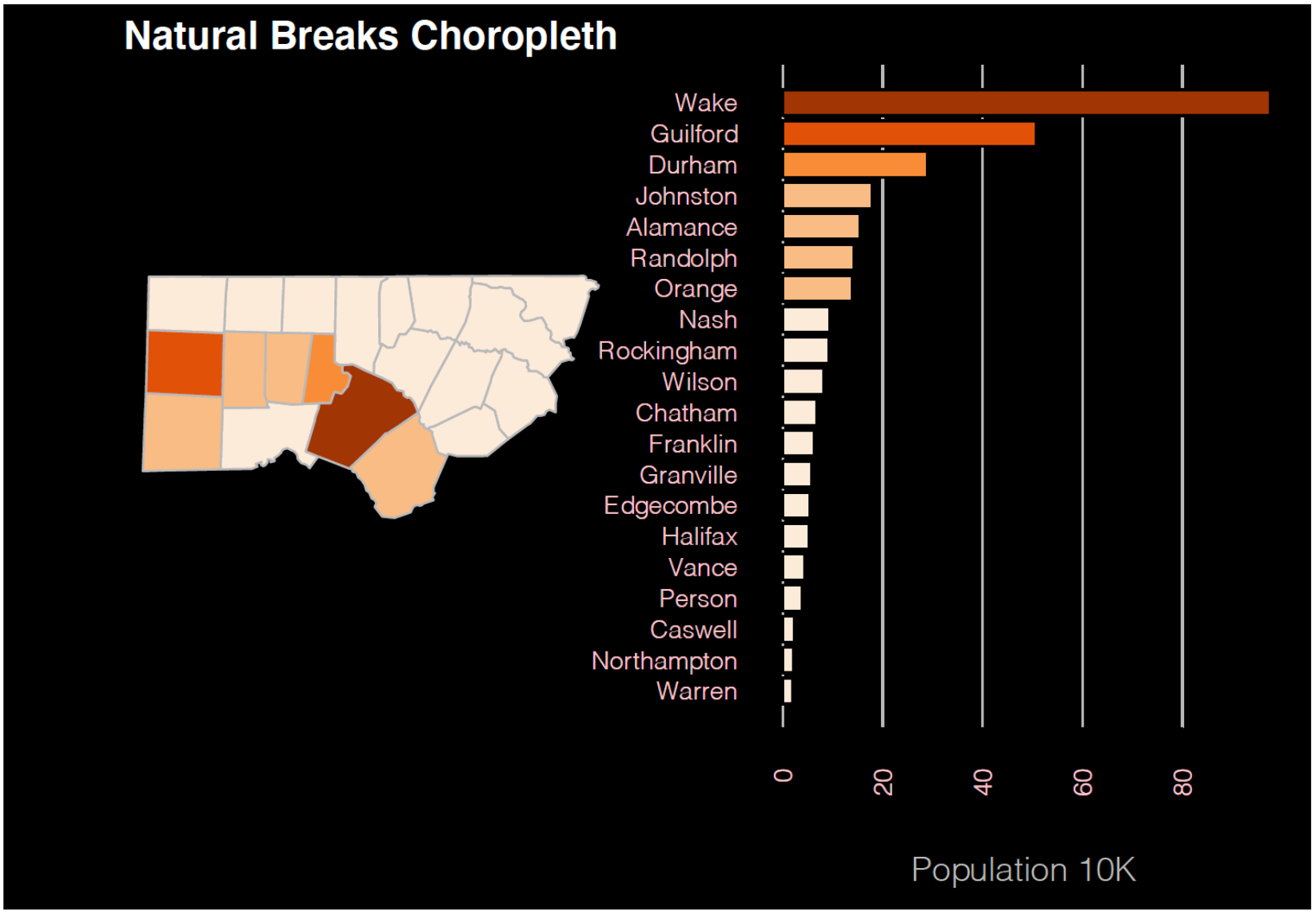

Colors

- ColorBrewer: https://colorbrewer2.org