

# PLOTTING A FEELING

Improving Visualization of projected Sense of Controlling life

By Haoran Weng (Nick)

# LIFE COURSE TRAJECTORIES OF PERCEIVED CONTROL

- *Mironwsky and Ross. 2007, Life Course Trajectories of Perceived Control and Their Relationship to Education, American Journal of Sociology*
- A study of the change of projected sense of control over life trajectory
- Assessed the effects of age, cohort and Education.
- Two Measurement with a gap of 6 years.



# SENSE OF CONTROL

- “Controlling one's own life means exercising authority and influence over it by directing and regulating it oneself.” (Mironwsky & Ross)



*It matters not how strait the gate,*

*How charged with punishments the scroll,*

*I am the master of my fate,*

*I am the captain of my soul.*

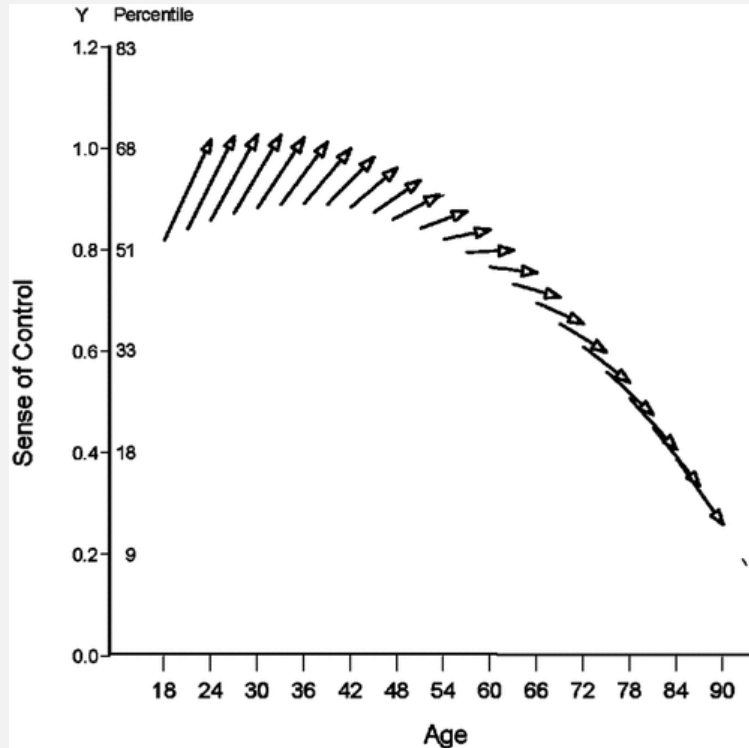
- *Invictus* by WILLIAM E. HENLEY

## SENSE OF CONTROL

- (1) “I am responsible for my own successes,”
- (2) “I can do just about anything I really set my mind to,”
- (3) “The really good things that happen to me are mostly luck,”
- (4) “There’s no sense planning a lot—if something good is going to happen it will.”  
The *control-bad* subscale averages the scores for the statements
- (5) “My misfortunes are the result of mistakes I have made,”
- (6) “I am responsible for my failures,”
- (7) “Most of my problems are due to bad breaks,”
- (8) “I have little control over the bad things that happen to me.”

(Mirowsky and Ross [1991](#))

# HYPOTHETICAL LIFE COURSE TRAJECTORY



(Mironwsky & Ross)

When we are young, we feel positive.

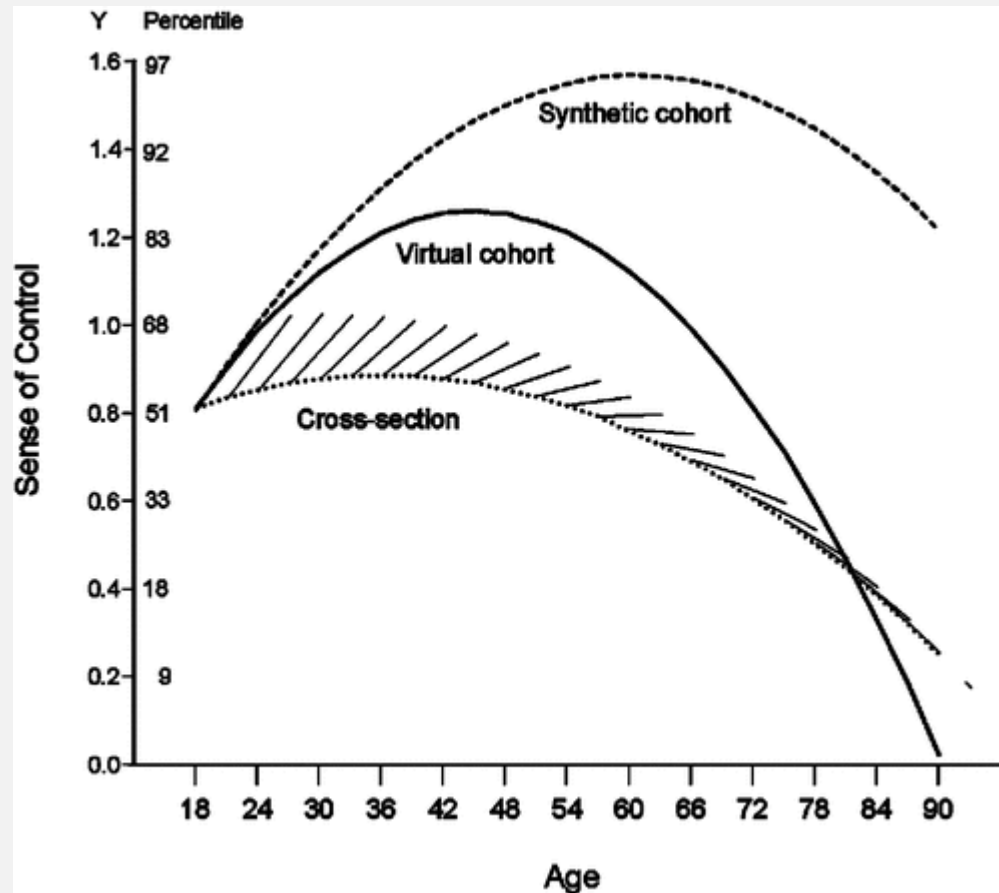


When we are grown up, we say “ \\_(ツ)\_/ ”.  
That's Life.

When we get old, we know our place.

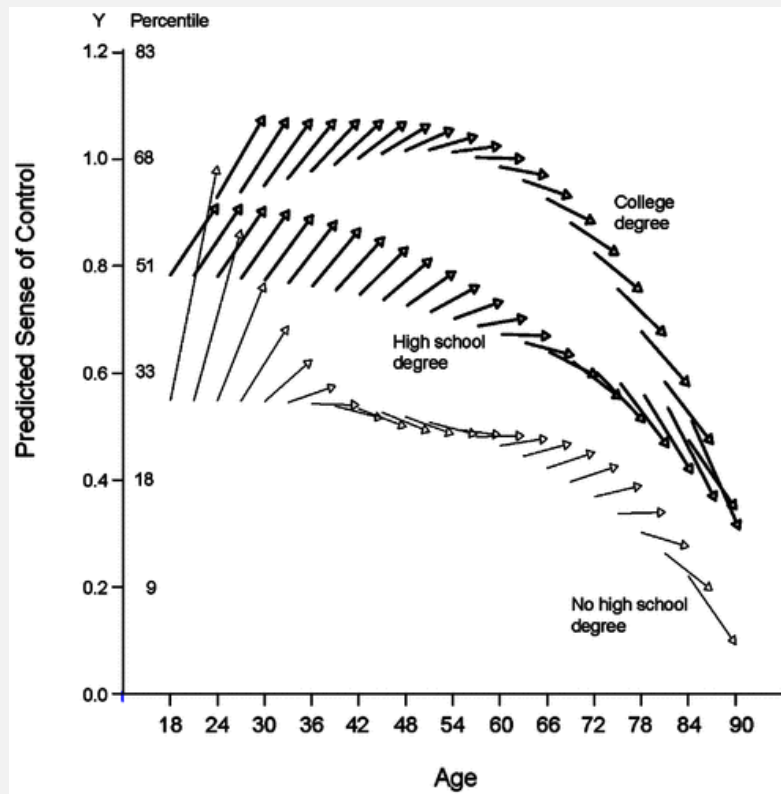


# COHORT EFFECT

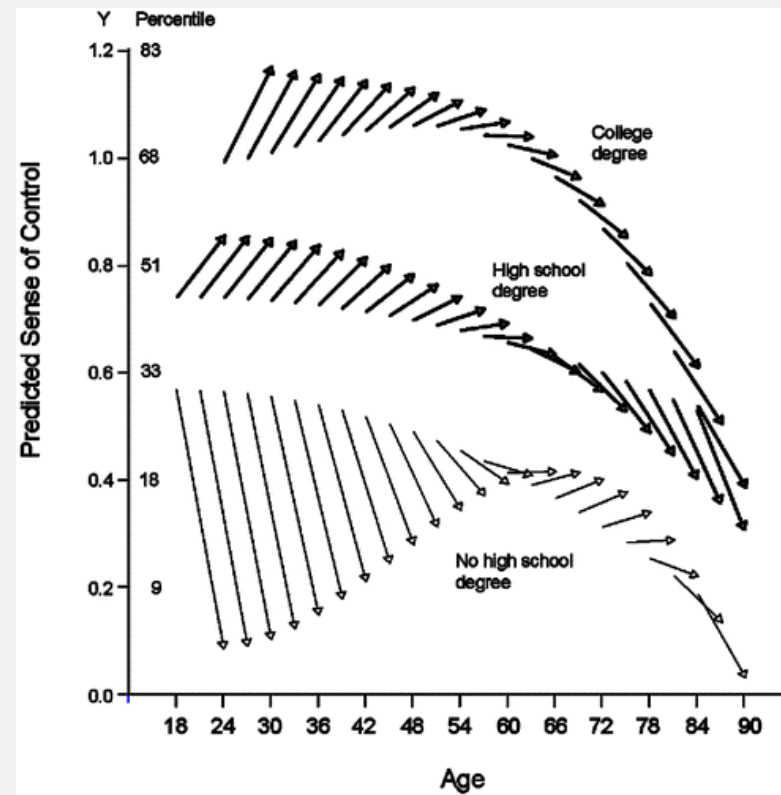


Projected life course in a 18-years-old mind, if age-specific *changes* (the vector slopes) remain the same in the future as observed recently.

# EFFECT OF EDUCATION



For students



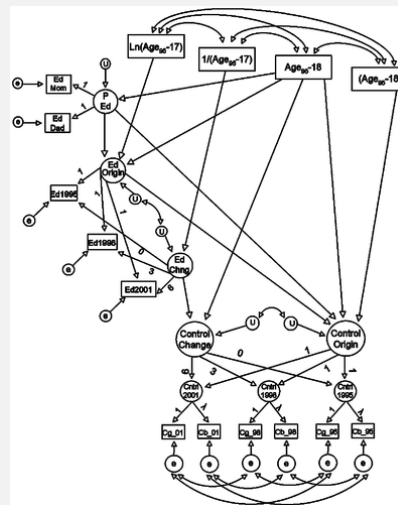
For non-students

Controlled by parental income

# DATA SET & METHOD

- Survey data from: Aging, Status, and the Sense of Control (ASOC)
- National telephone probability sample of 2,592 U.S. households.
- By Survey Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois (SRL-UI)

- Model:

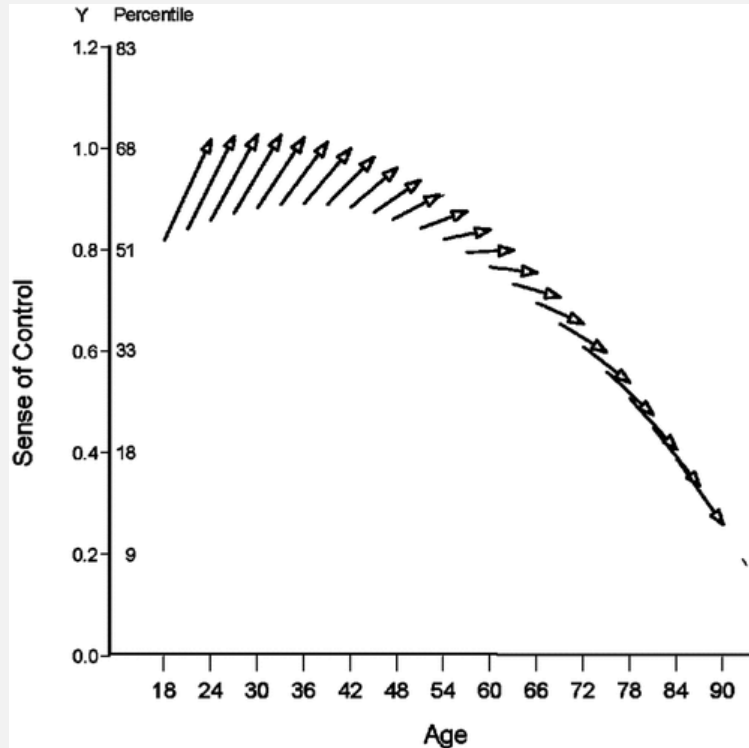




# IMPROVEMENT

- The original plots are beautiful, in Tufte's sense.
- Very High data density and clear presentation.
- Improvements:
  1. Extended analysis (measure changes of people's expectation in more recent history)
  2. Transformation into angular coordination
  3. Accessibility to common mind (like in a talk to secondary school students)
  4. More layers of information (possibility to add more variables; causes and explanations)
  5. Interactive presentation. (repeated analysis using more recent data)
  6. Sentimental elements and empathy ???

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Q&A  
&  
COMMENTS

