

PLOTTING 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
- Access the effect of Age, cohort and Education.



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.

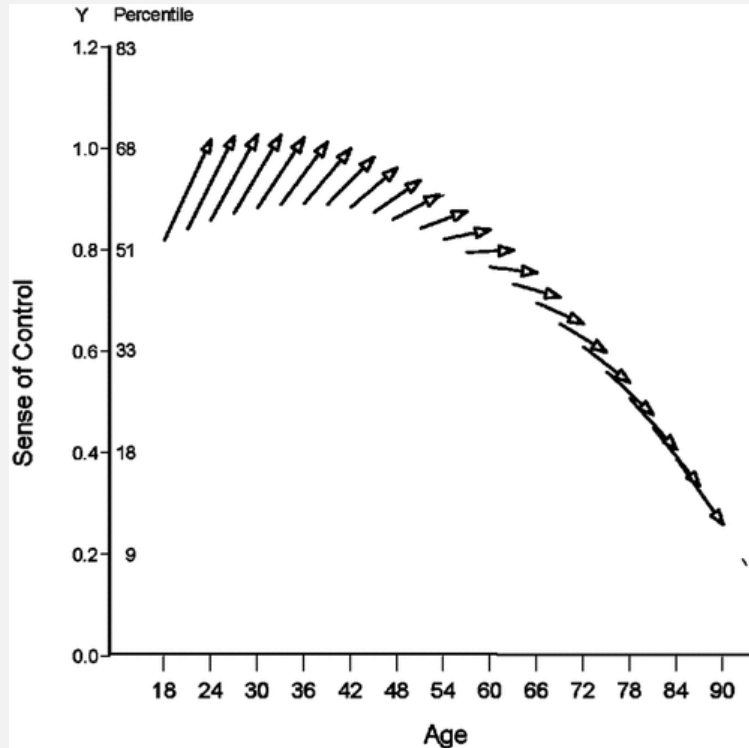
- *Invictus* by WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY

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.

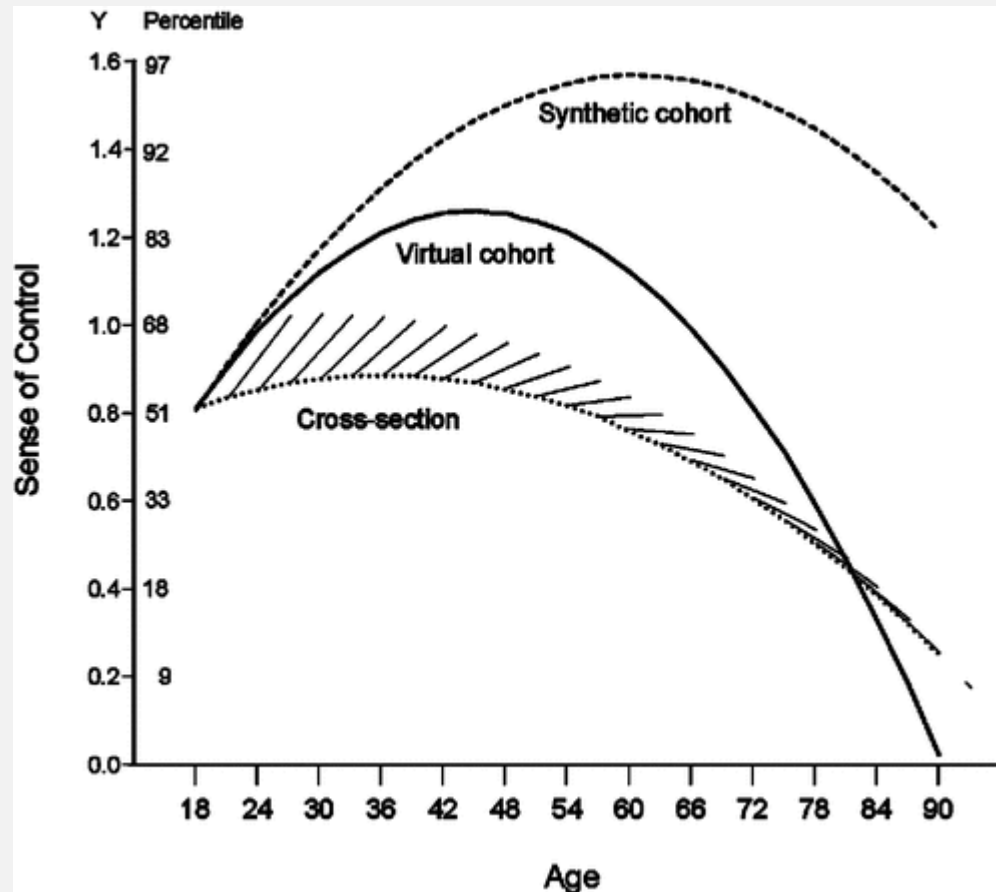


When we are grown up, we say “ _(ツ)_/ ”.
That's Life.

When we get old, we know our place.

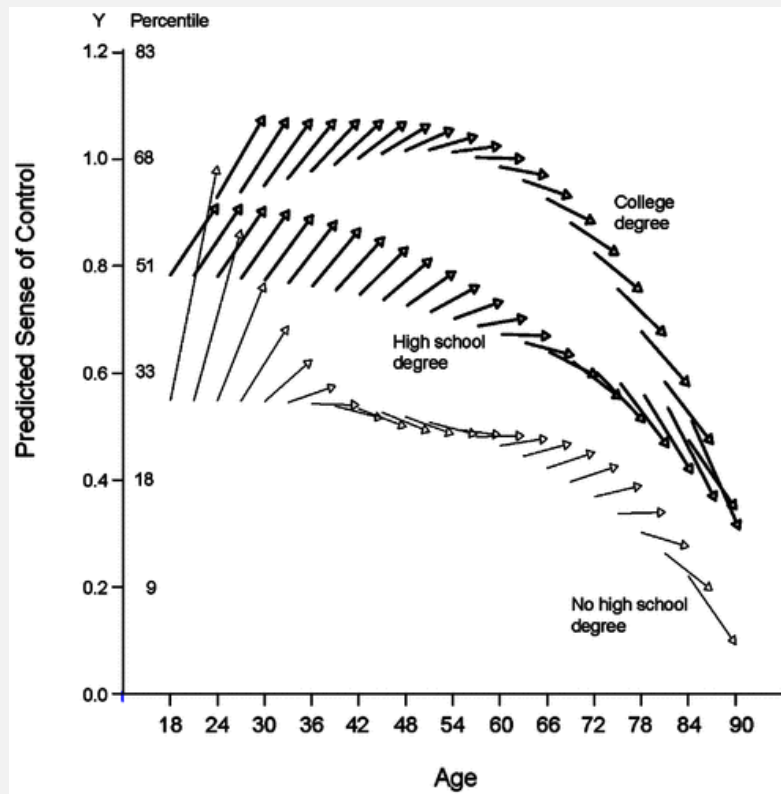


COHORT EFFECT

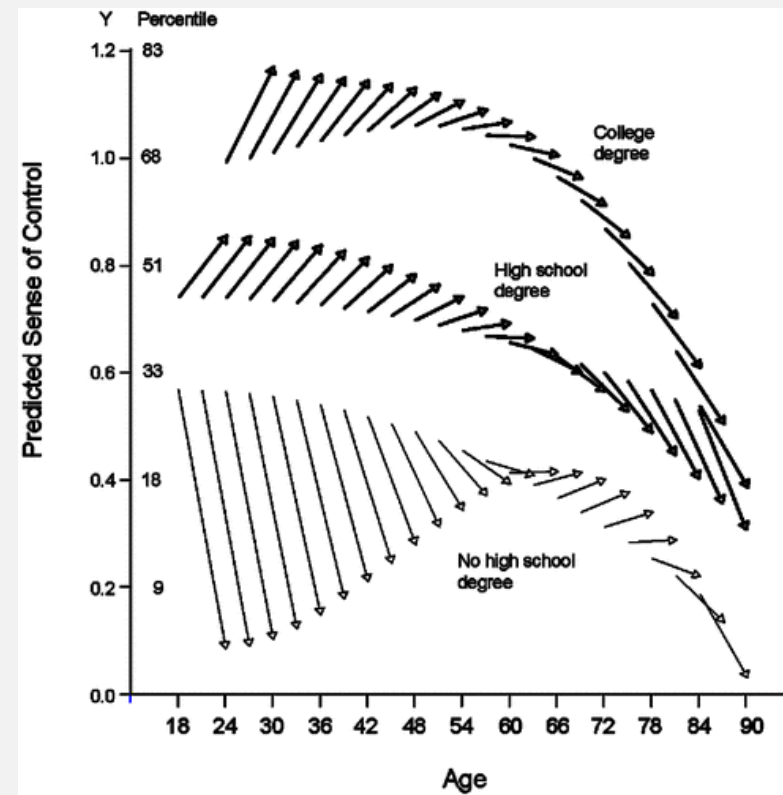


Projected life course in a 18-years-old mind, if age-specific *changes* (the vector slopes) remain the same in the future as observed recently

EFFECT OF EDUCATION



For students

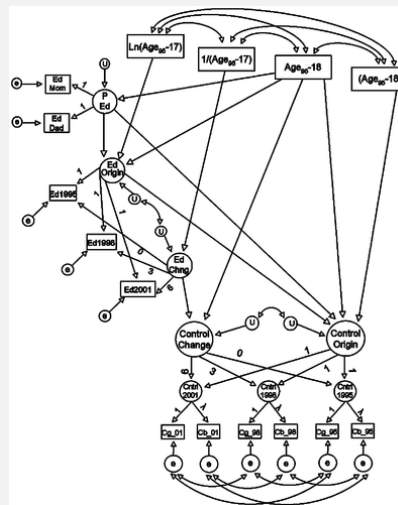


For non-students

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)

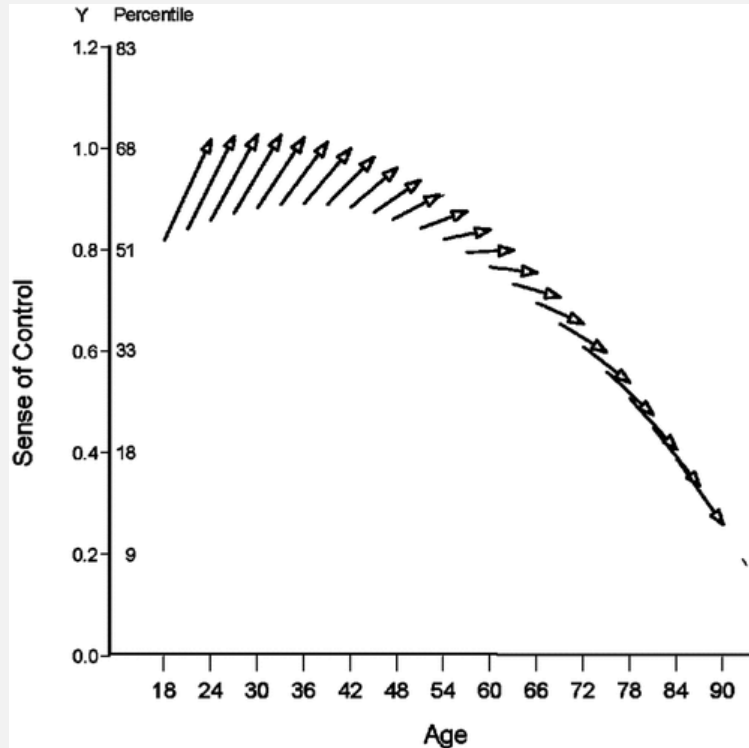
- Model:



IMPROVEMENT

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


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Q&A



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CALM**

THIS IS THE

**END OF MY
PRESENTATION**

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