The data visualization I choose is the NBA’s Three Point Revolution on r/dataisbeautiful. As we all known, NBA is going to a three point dominated period. This data visualization shows the trend of three point attempts made per game in NBA from 1979 to present to make it clear to the audience.

First of all, I think the data is truthful, since every game record can be found in the NBA database. In addition, we know that the three point attempts is indeed increasing, and the every record related to three point is refreshing. Take the most three point made per season record as an example, the top 5 records are all current players instead of old time players, which means the three point attempts per game is increasing. Furthermore, many historical moments are mentioned in the visualization graph, such as the game with more three point attempts than two point attempts, and the time when three point line moves closer. Thus, I think the visualization is truthful here.

In terms of functional, I think the visualization does a good job on it. The three point and two point ratio graph is straightforward and clearly shows the increasing trend of three point attempts per game (i.e. from almost 0 to higher than 0.5 on average). In addition, for the later part, the author asks the question that “Do more threes per game (3PA/G) lead to more points per game (PPG)”. The line plot on the right of 3PA and PPG shows us how these two variables are related visually. Then, the author separate the time line into four parts: First 15 years (1979-1994), closer line (1994-1997), back to normal (1997-2002), and the upswing (2012-present). The separations are made according to historical change on three point in the NBA history, which makes the visualization more functional to each period of the NBA history. As we can see in first 15 years and closer line period, they show no correlation between 3PA and PPG with R^2 of 0.03 and 0.01. However, after 1997, the correlation is more significant according to the visualization of the scatterplot with R^2 of 0.28 and 0.46. Thus, the data visualization clearly demonstrates the revolution of three point in NBA to the audience. It is functional.

The color of the data visualization is basically composed by yellow, orange, black, and white. It is simple and clean. The write text is easy to read in the black background. In addition, the size of points in the graphs is not too big or too small. However, the color of the points is sort of randomized from yellow to dark orange, which is not explained in the visualization, but I think it does not affect the easiness to read all these scatterplots. The axis is clearly labeled. To be strict, some of the text is a little bit small to read, but it functions as a complete explanation of the graph. Also, for the correlation graph between 3PA line and PPG line, as well as the correlation graph between 3PA line and 2PA line, the colors of the two lines are white and orange, which are perfect to differentiate from each other. Therefore, I think the data visualization is beautiful and clean, although some texts are a little bit small.

In terms of insightfulness, we can see that the analysis focused on three important timelines: the time when three point line is closer, the time when three point line back to normal, and when current players entering the league. I think it is insightful to point out these important timelines, because player’s behavior will definitely change after the distance of the three point line changes. In addition, as we all known, NBA league is dominated by Small Ball strategy currently. Many small players are leading their team, such as Stephen Curry and James Harden. Thus, the separation point year 2012 is also insightful to mention. Furthermore, after mentioned the graph of three point attempts per game trend, the author also investigates if this increase in three point will make the game end up with more points, which demonstrates the importance of three point increases and affect the result of the game.

Finally, in terms of enlightening, the first part of this data visualization (three point attempts per game trend) visually demonstrates the fact of an increasing three point per game in current league, which implies nothing more than that. The second part (do more threes per game lead to more points per game) investigates the correlation between 3PA and PPG, which implies that more three point attempts per game leads to more points per game. For non-professional audiences, this data visualization visually demonstrates a well-known fact to them. For professional audiences, they should already aware of this visualization before. Thus, this data visualization is not really enlightening to the audiences.