



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Visualisation

Week 2

Tuesday Session

# Mapping Variables to Aesthetics

Data

$x_1$	$y_1$
10	8.04
8	6.95
13	7.58
9	8.81
11	8.33
14	9.96
6	7.24
4	4.26
12	10.84
7	4.82
5	5.68

Variables

$x_1$

$y_1$

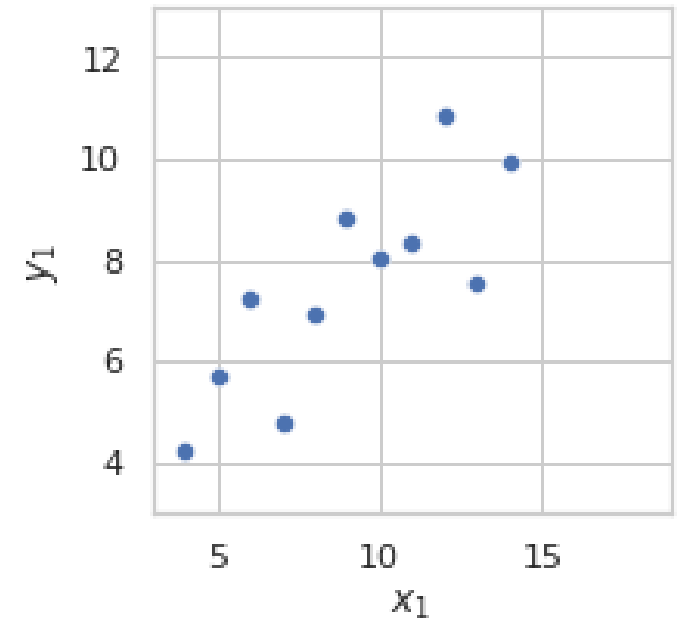
Scales

Aesthetics

x pixel-position

y pixel-position

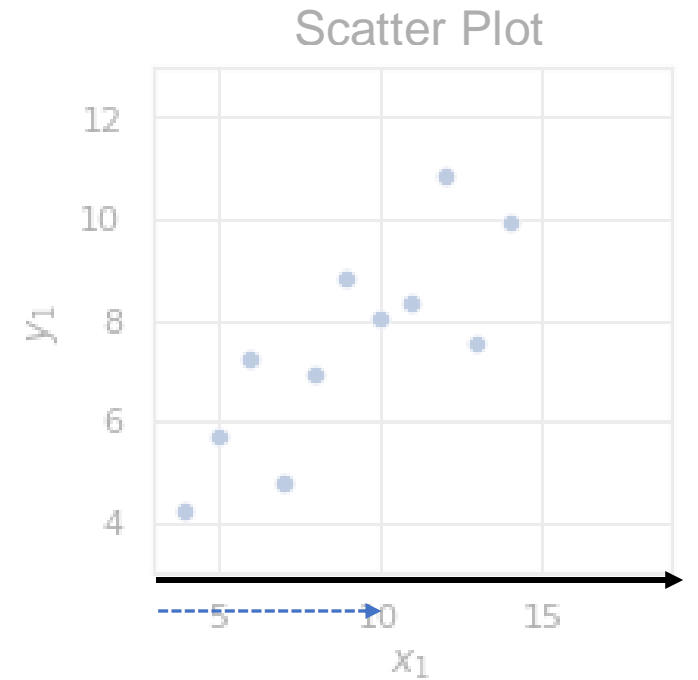
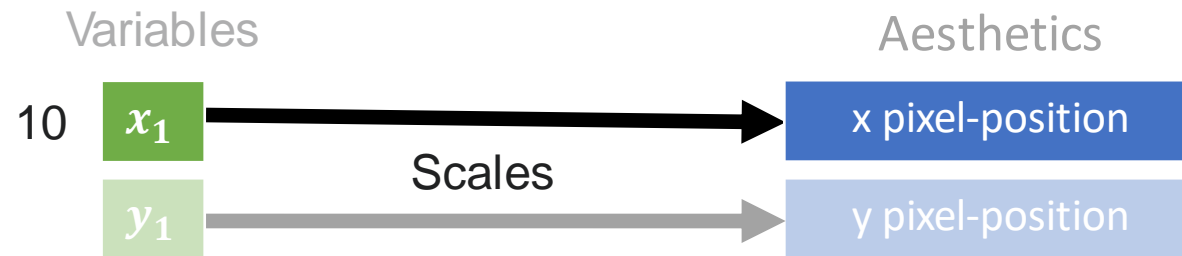
Scatter Plot



# Mapping Variables to Aesthetics

Data

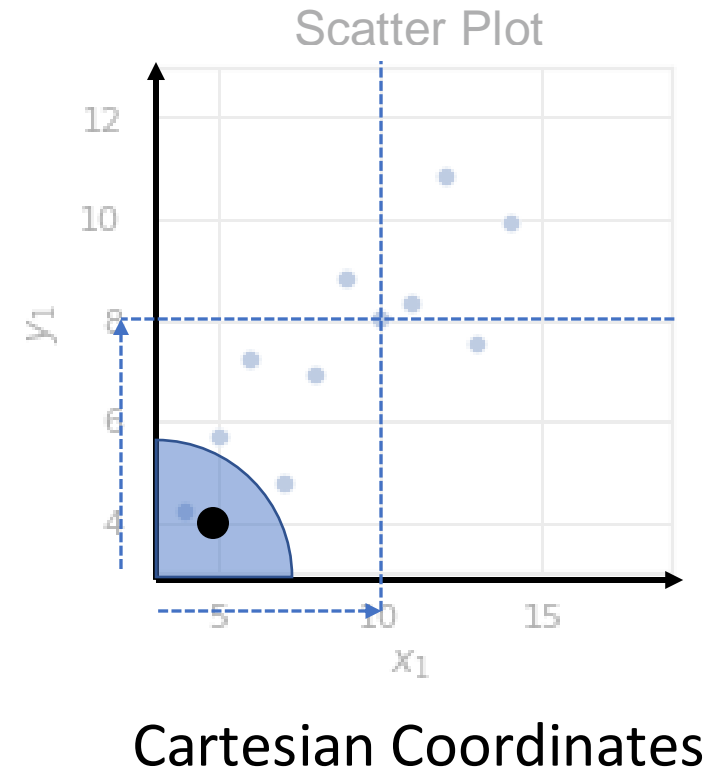
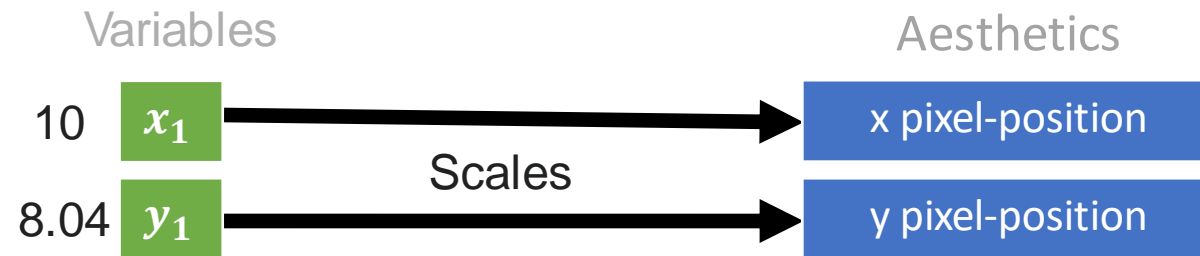
$x_1$	$y_1$
10	8.04
8	6.95
13	7.58
9	8.81
11	8.33
14	9.96
6	7.24
4	4.26
12	10.84
7	4.82
5	5.68



# Mapping Variables to Aesthetics

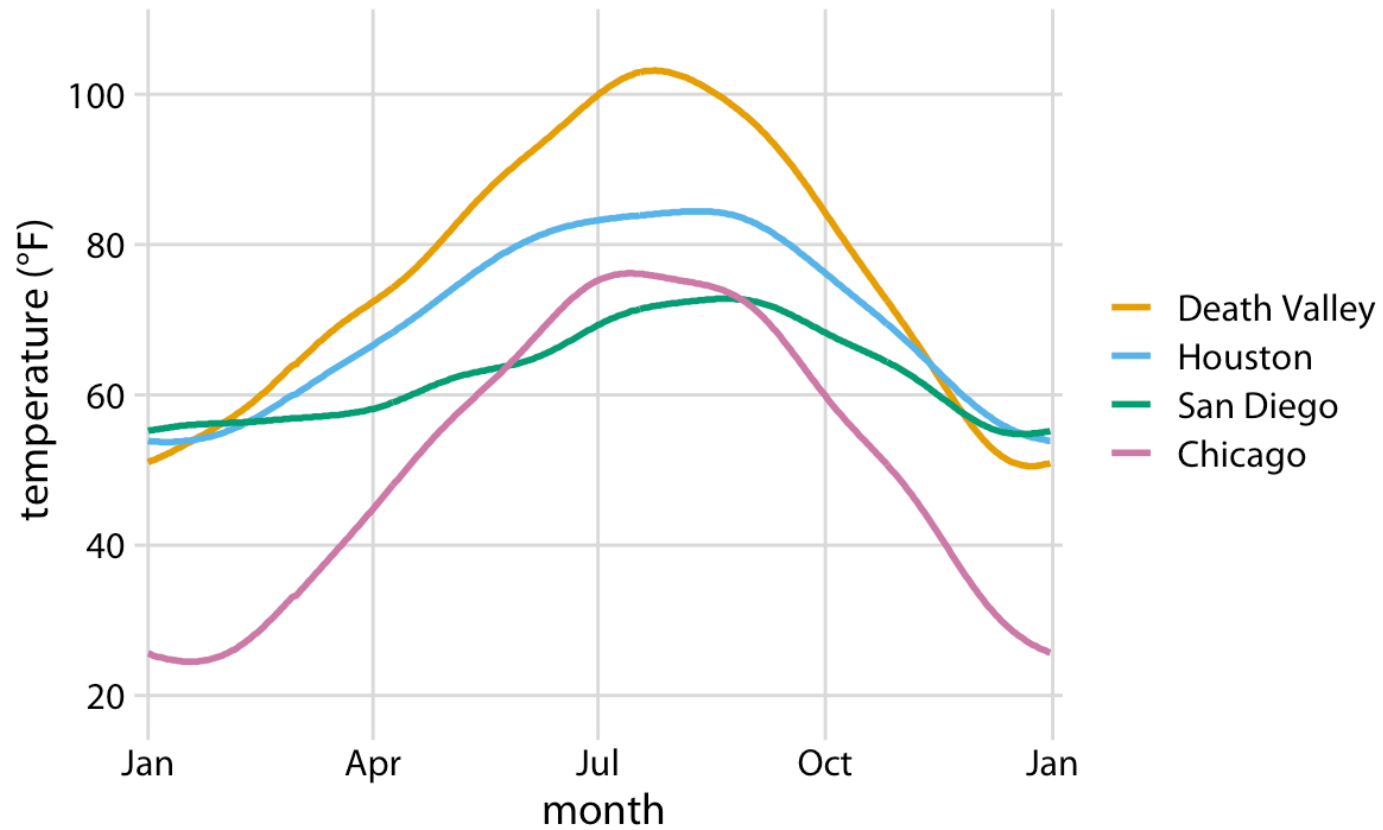
Data

$x_1$	$y_1$
10	8.04
8	6.95
13	7.58
9	8.81
11	8.33
14	9.96
6	7.24
4	4.26
12	10.84
7	4.82
5	5.68

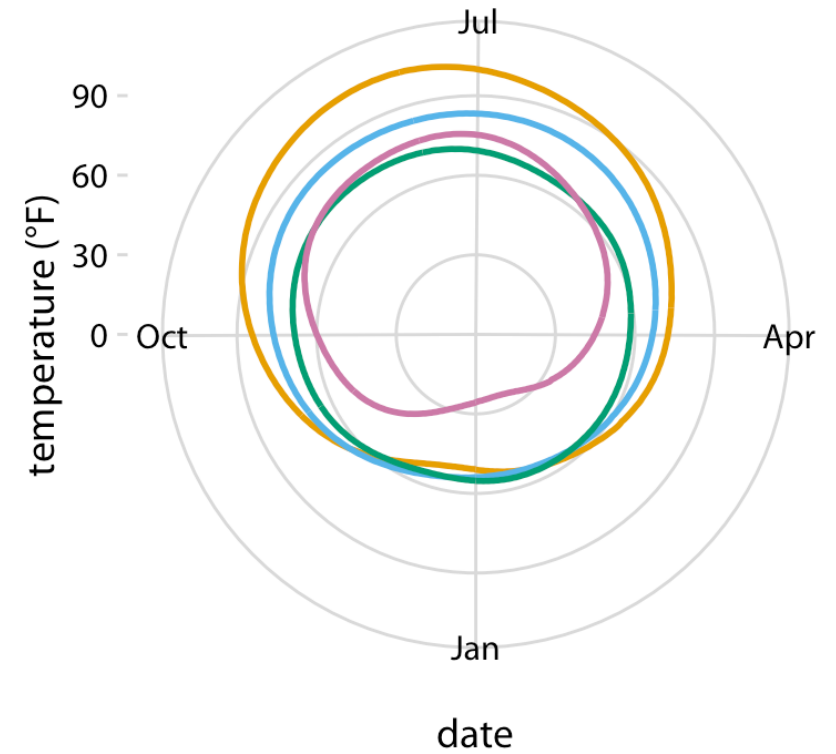


# Coordinate Systems

## Cartesian Coordinates



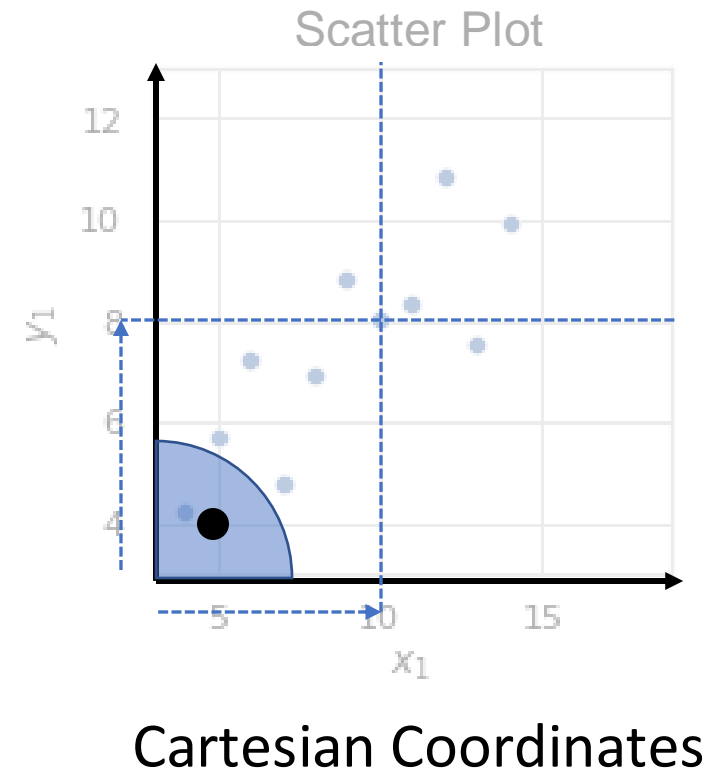
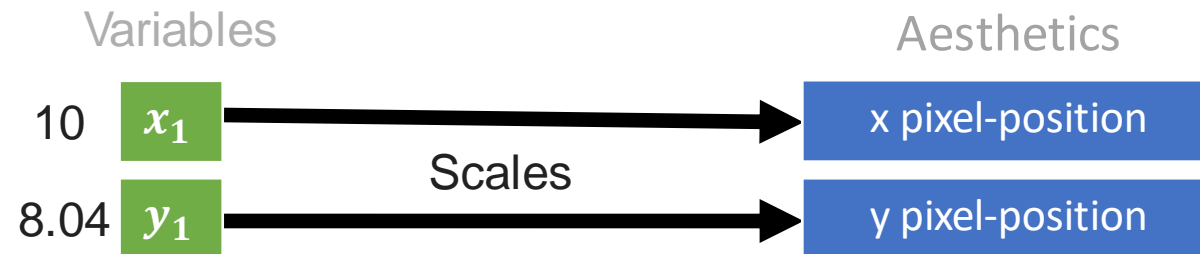
## Polar Coordinates



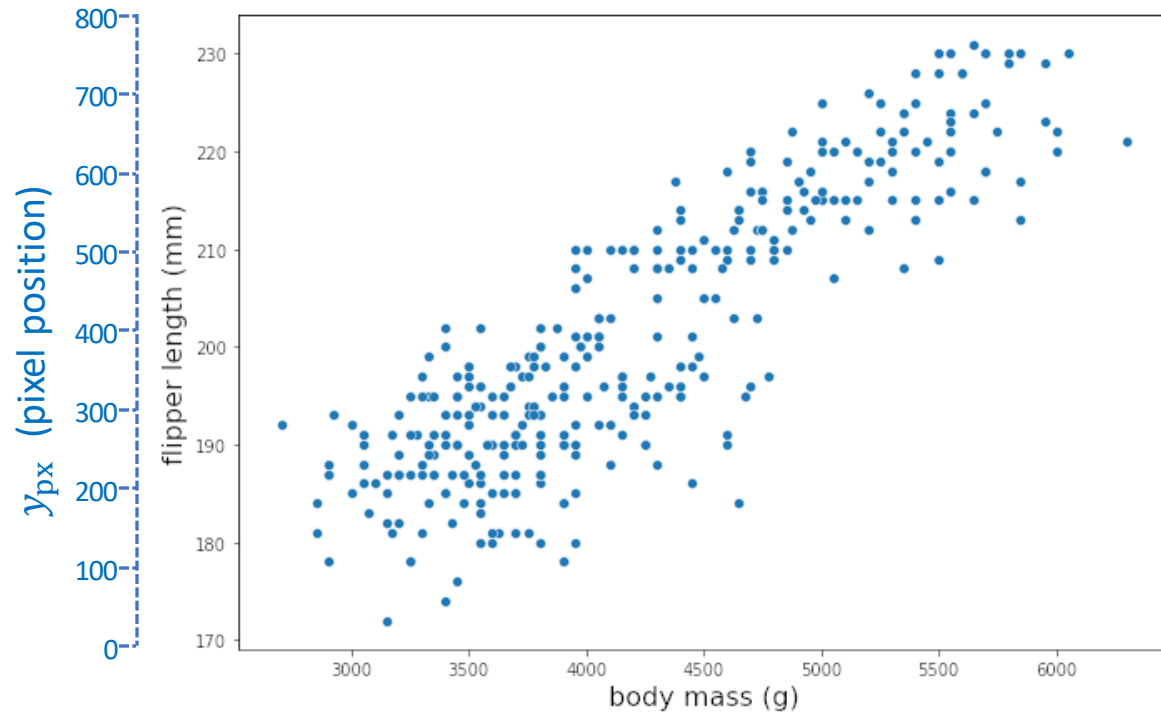
# Mapping Variables to Aesthetics

Data

$x_1$	$y_1$
10	8.04
8	6.95
13	7.58
9	8.81
11	8.33
14	9.96
6	7.24
4	4.26
12	10.84
7	4.82
5	5.68



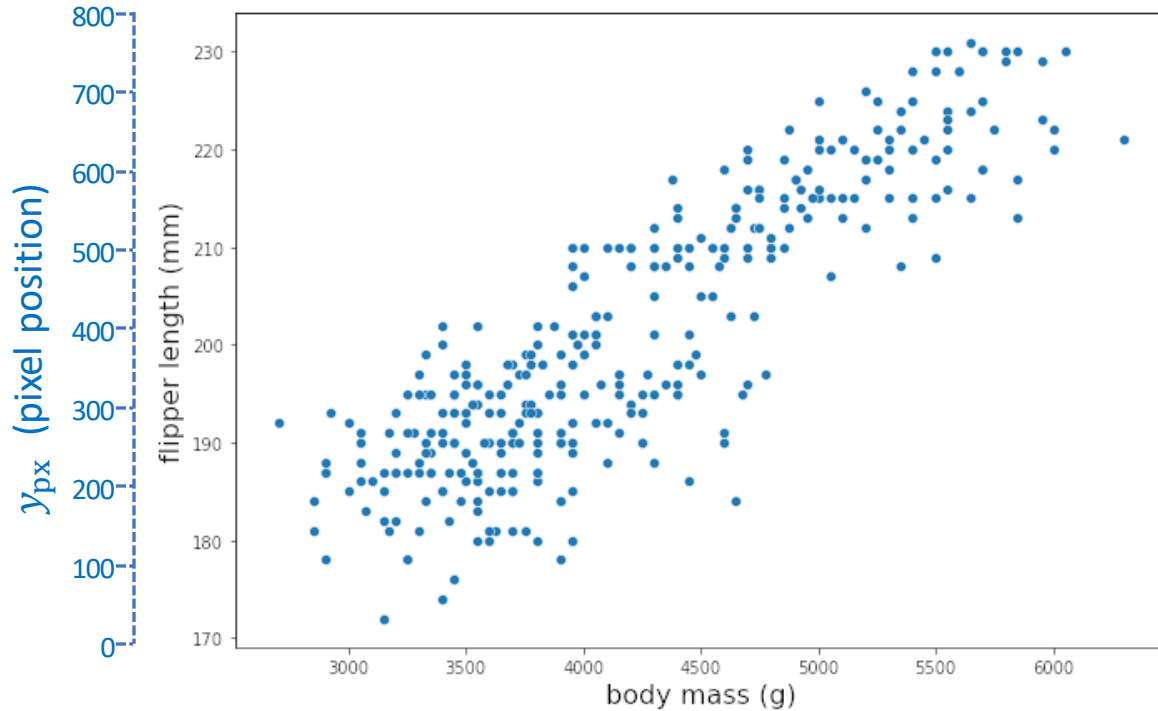
# Linear Scales



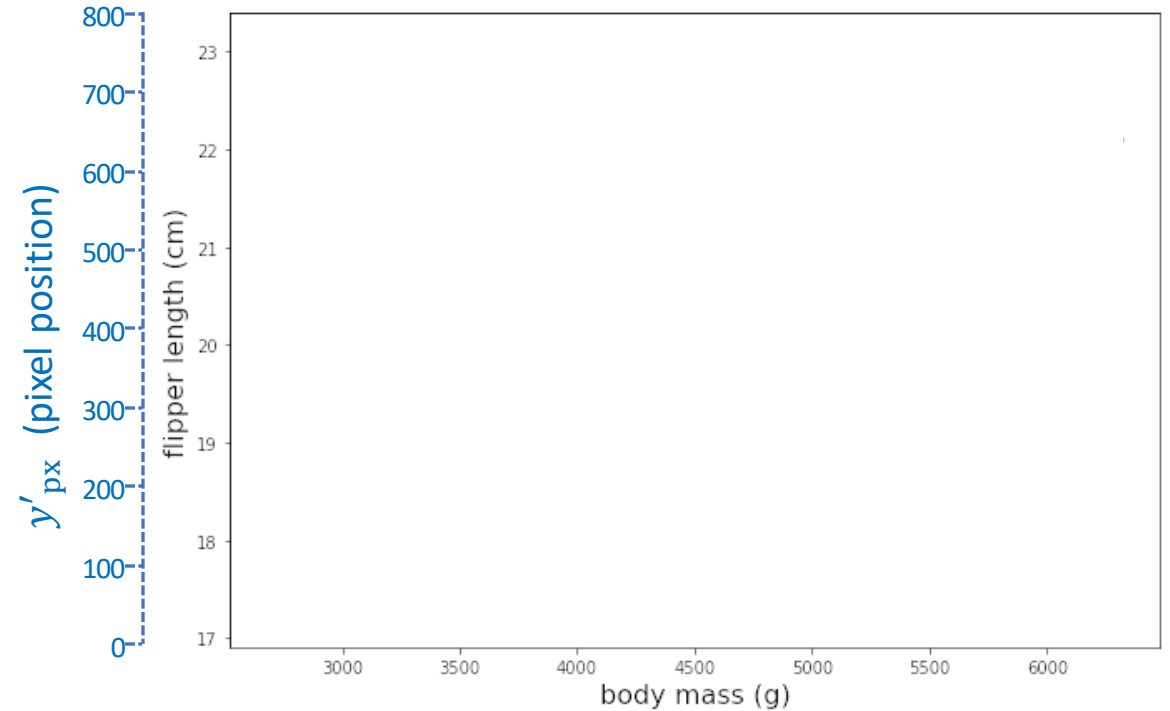
$$y_{px} = a_y y_{mm} + b_y$$



# Linear Scales



$$y_{px} = a_y y_{mm} + b_y$$

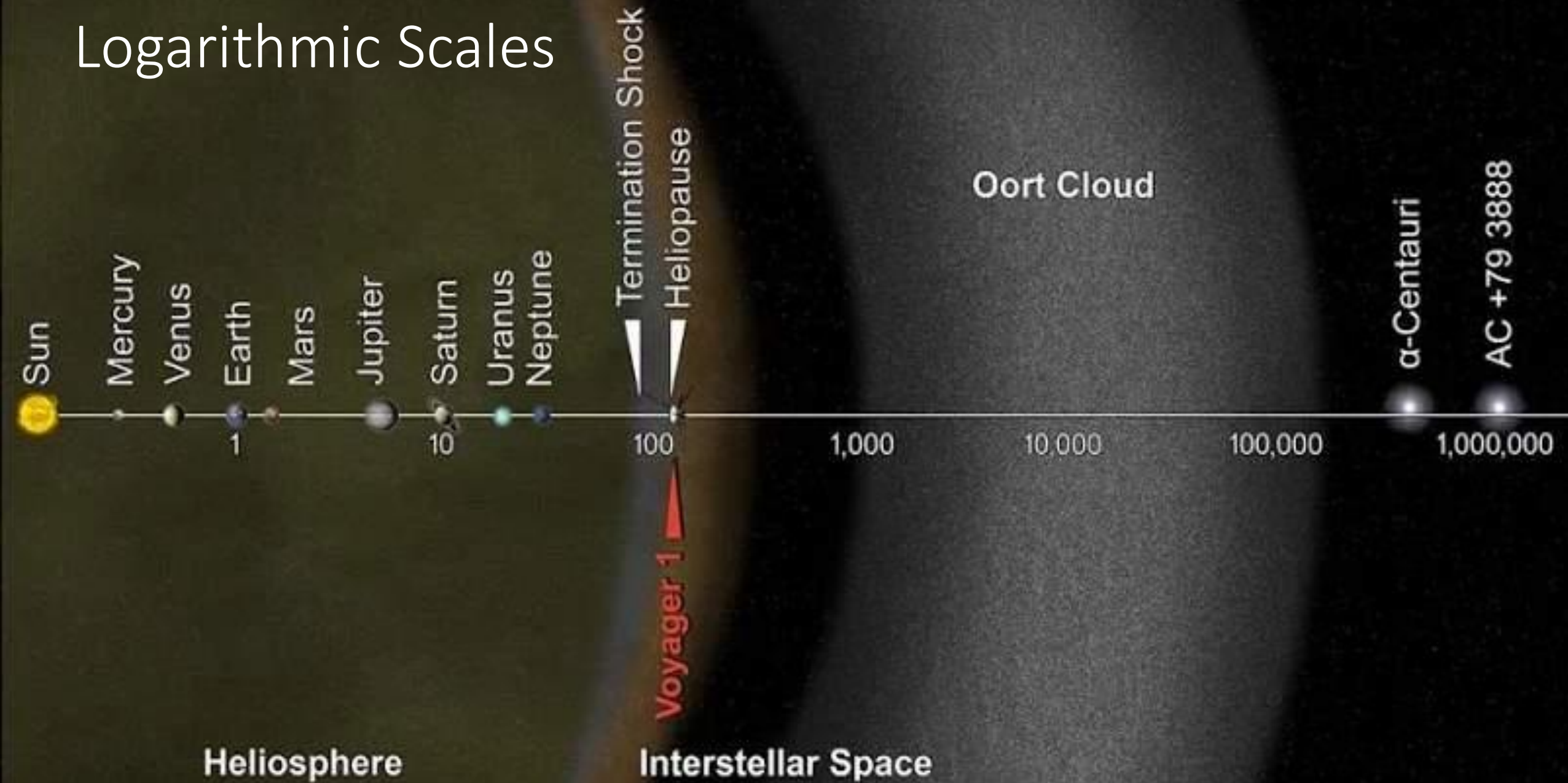


$$y'_{px} = a'_y y_{cm} + b_y \quad | \quad a'_y = 10a_y$$

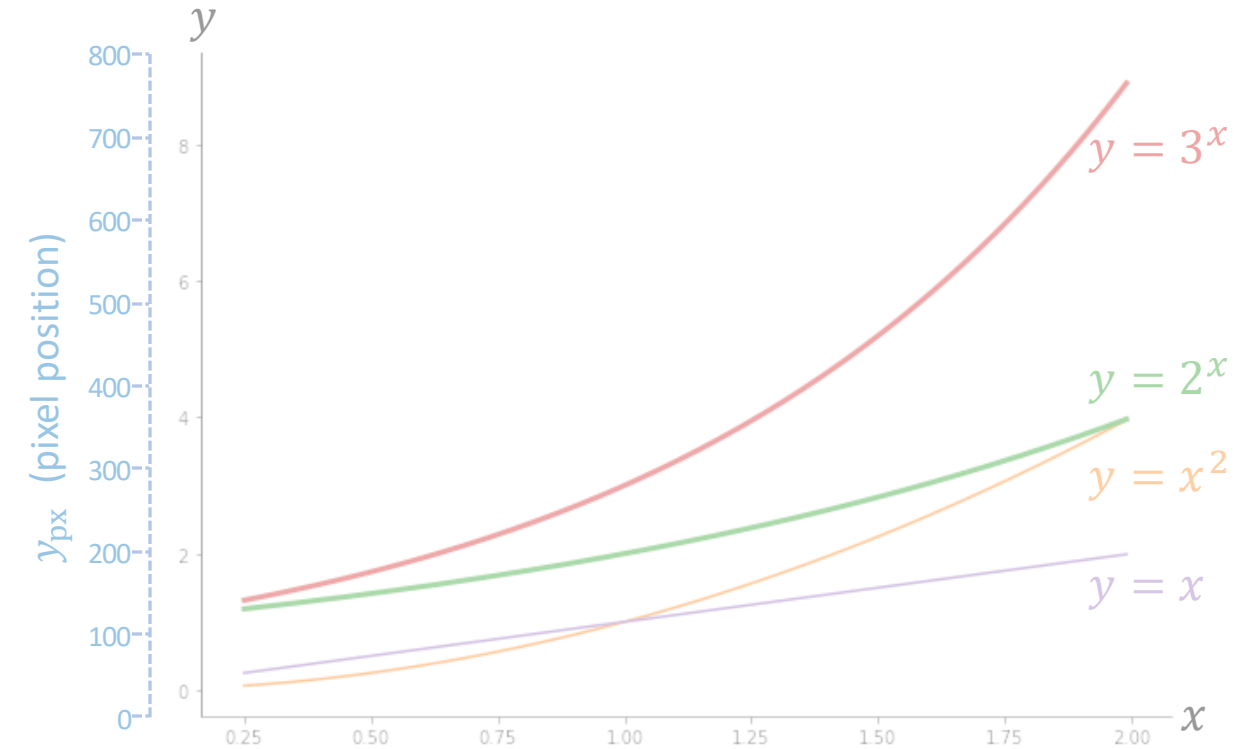
- “Invariant” to:
  - scaling and shifting
  - unit change



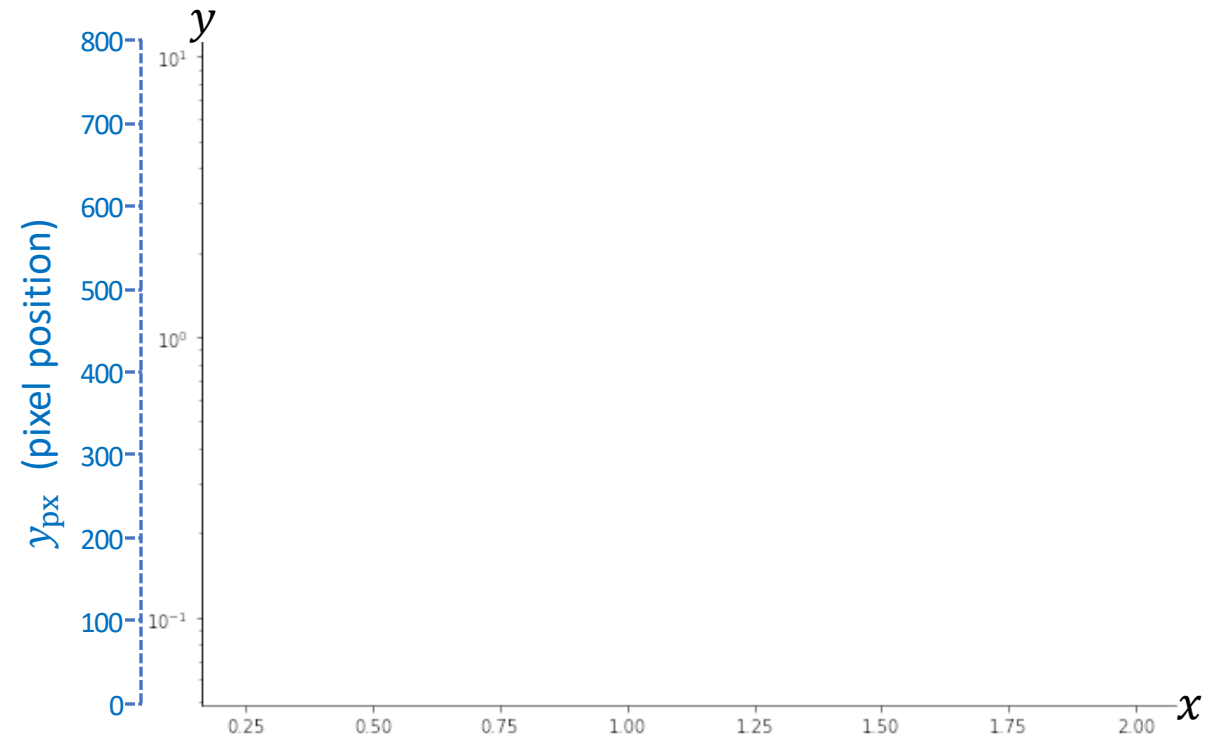
# Logarithmic Scales



# Logarithmic Scales – Log-Linear Plot

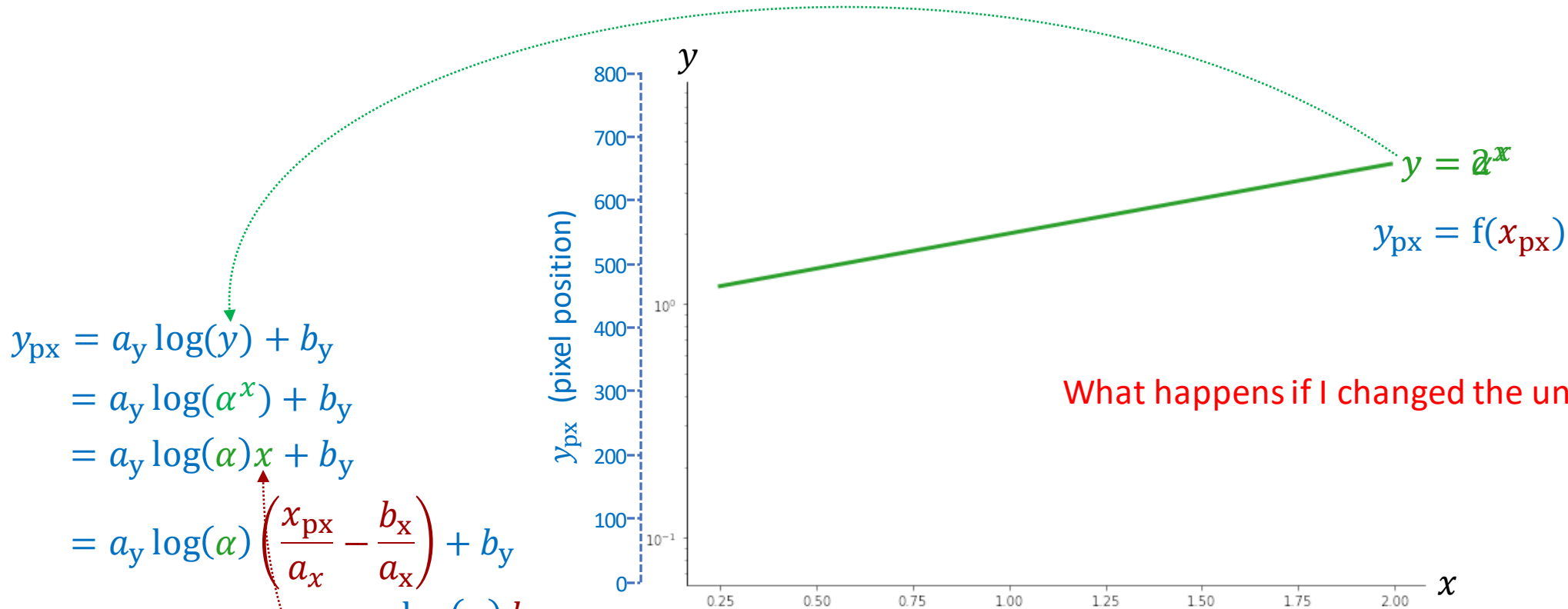


$$y_{px} = a_y y_y + b_y$$



$$y_{px} = a_y \log(y) + b_y$$

# Logarithmic Scales – Log-Linear Plot



What happens if I changed the unit from meters to cm?

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{px} &= a_y \log(y) + b_y \\
 &= a_y \log(a^x) + b_y \\
 &= a_y \log(a)x + b_y \\
 &= a_y \log(a) \left( \frac{x_{px}}{a_x} - \frac{b_x}{a_x} \right) + b_y \\
 &= \underbrace{\frac{a_y}{a_x} \log(a)}_a x_{px} - \underbrace{\frac{a_y \log(a) b_x}{a_x}}_b + b_y
 \end{aligned}$$

$x_{px}$  (pixel position)

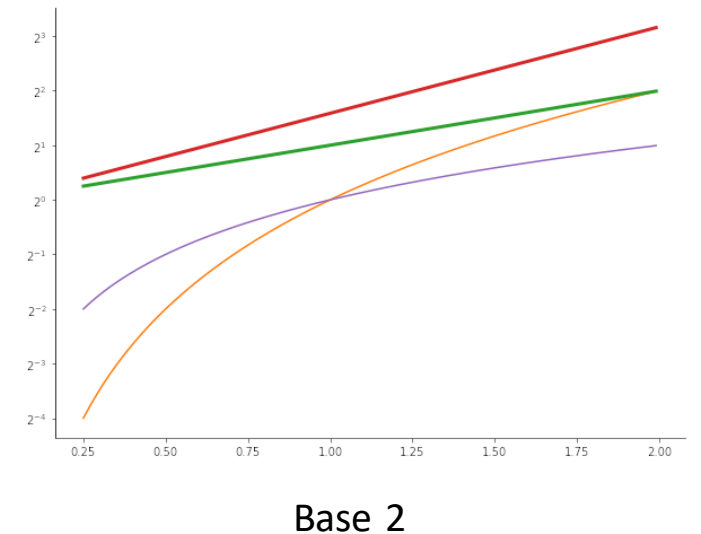
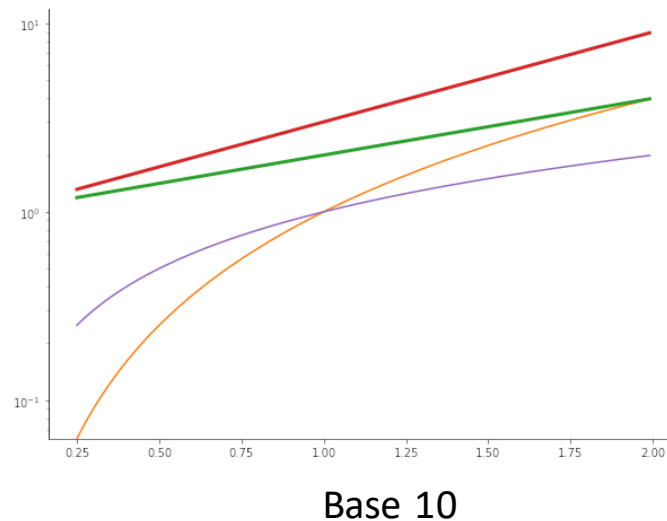
$$x_{px} = a_x x + b_x$$

$$x = \frac{x_{px}}{a_x} - \frac{b_x}{a_x}$$

# Logarithmic Scales – Log-Linear Plot

- All functions of the form:  $y = \lambda \alpha^x$ 
  - Result in straight line.
  - Slope is proportional to:  $\log(\alpha)$

- “Invariant” to:
  - scaling and shifting
  - unit change
  - changing base



# Invariance to Scaling but NOT Shifting

Scaling:

$$\begin{aligned}y_{\text{px}} &= a_y \log(yc) + b_y \\ &= a_y \log(y) + \log(c) + b_y\end{aligned}$$

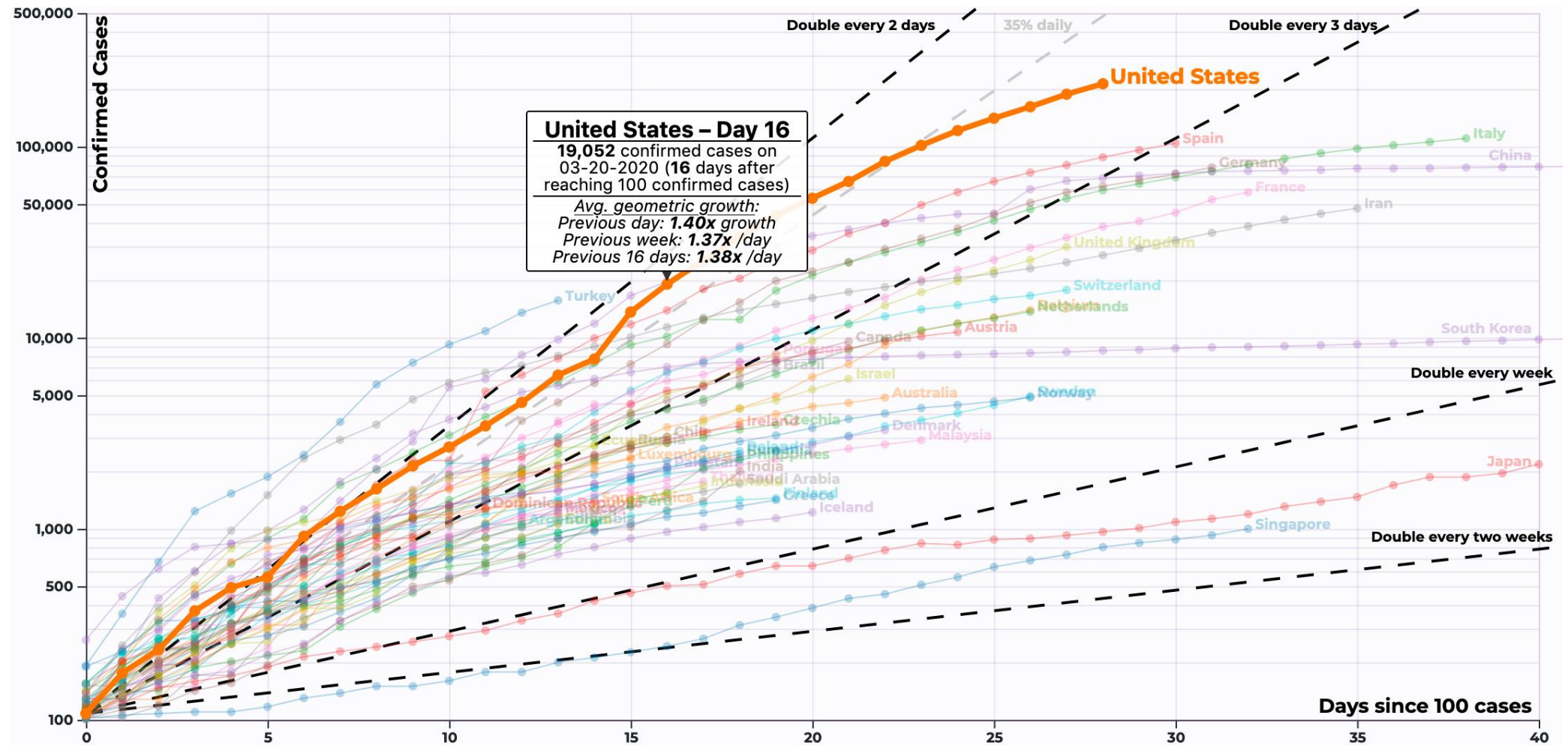
- We can adjust  $b_y$

Shifting:

$$y_{\text{px}} = a_y \log(y + c) + b_y$$

- Nothing we can do!

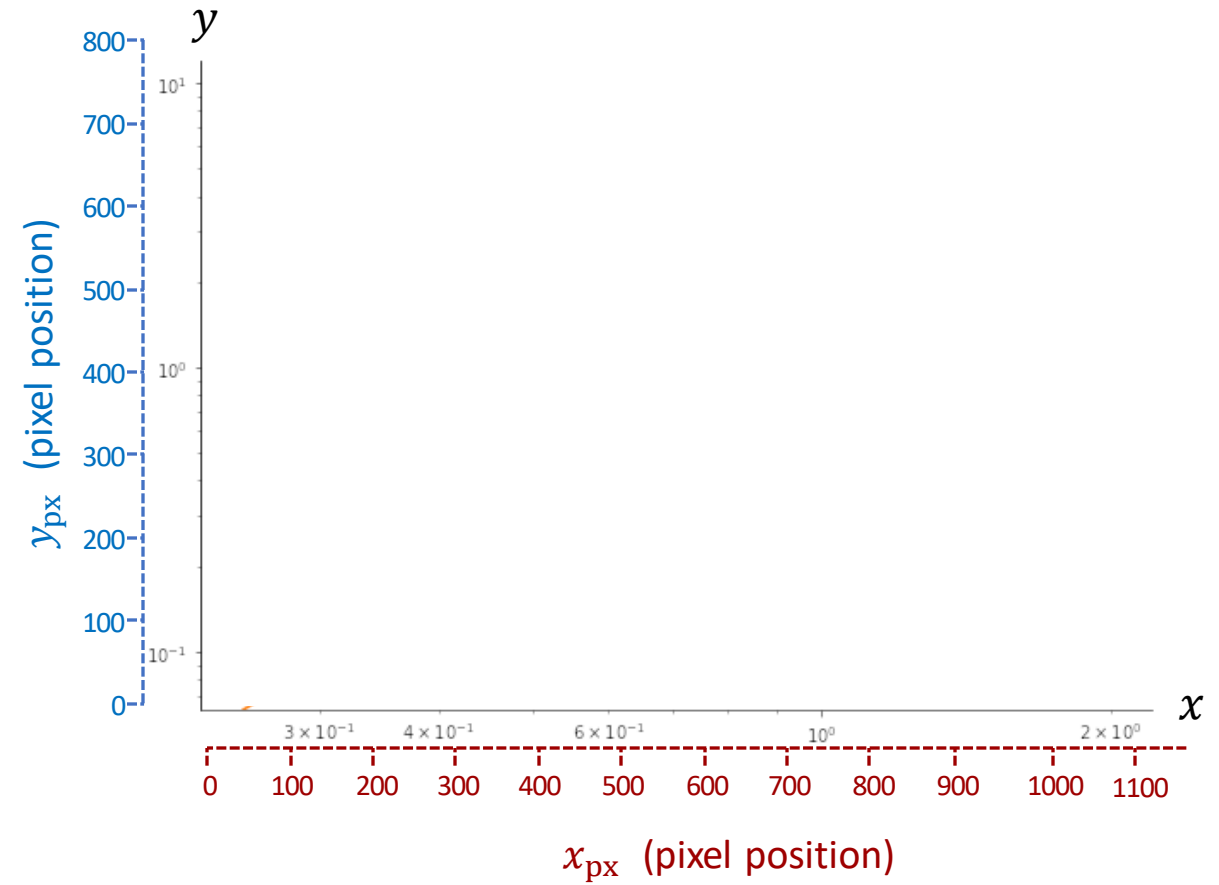
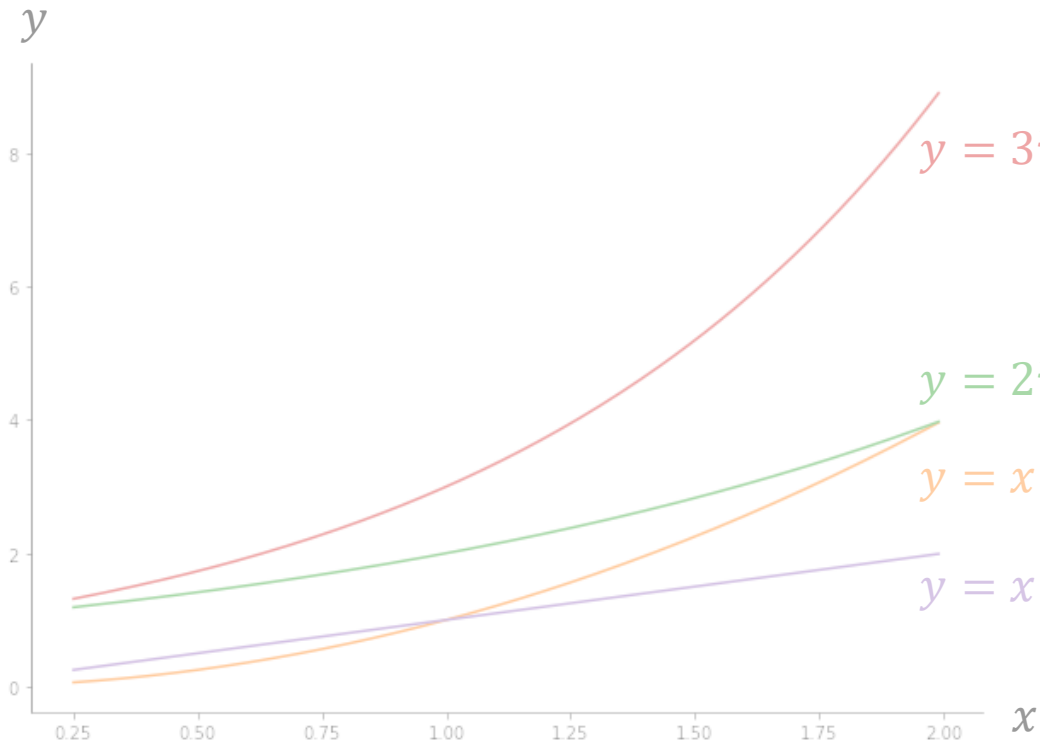
# Logarithmic Scales – Log-Linear Plot



The Verge, 91-divoc.com

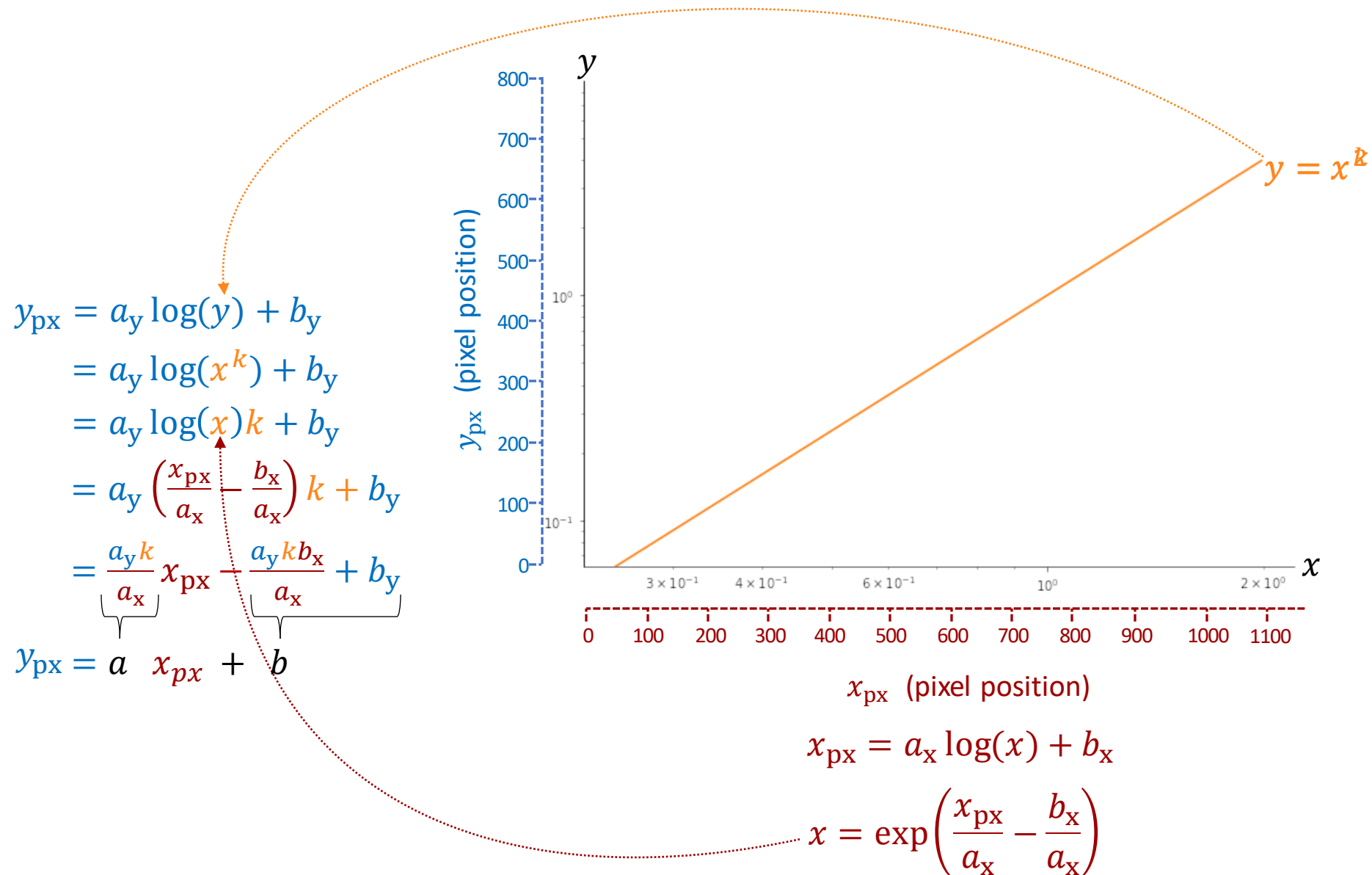
# Logarithmic Scales – Log-Log Plot

$$y_{\text{px}} = a_y \log(y) + b_y$$



$$x_{\text{px}} = a_x \log(x) + b_x$$

# Logarithmic Scales – Log-Log Plot

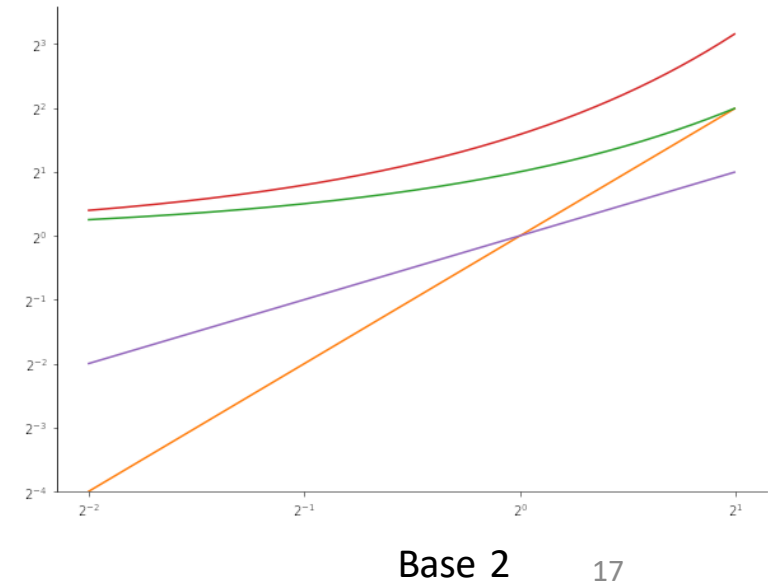
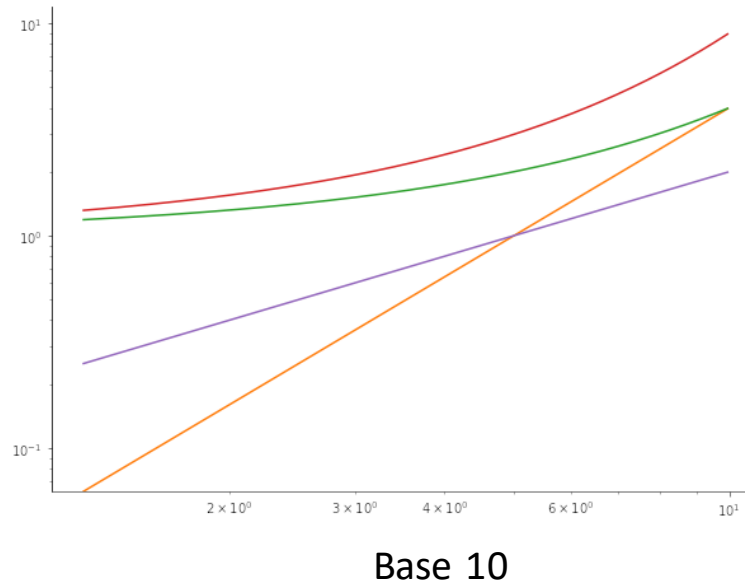




# Logarithmic Scales – Log-Log Plot

- All functions of the form:  $y = \alpha x^k$ 
  - Result in straight line.
  - Slope proportional to:  $k$

- “Invariant” to:
  - scaling and shifting
  - unit change
  - changing base



# Chart of Everything

Why are most objects on sloped line?  
Why is the slope approximately  $a=3$ ?

$$y = x^k$$

$$y_{px} = \frac{a_y k}{a_x} x_{px} - \frac{a_y k b_x}{a_x} + b_y$$

$$y_{px} = a x_{px} + b$$

