

Data Visualisation

Narrative & Interactive Data-Viz in Python

18th & 19th Sept 2019
Mumbai, IN

Workshop Notes: Day #1

Amit & Vikrant

Workshop Introduction

- **Objectives:** Intent & learning outcomes
- **Context::** Purpose & role of data visualisation, narrative & interactive types, tools & python
- **Approach:** Conceptual & exercise based, group formations
- **Intros:** Participant & facilitator introductions
- **Expectations:** Alignment & discussion
- **Checkin:** Python setup and installation readiness

Objectives

- Understand the value of data visualisation and the role it plays in business analytics and decision making
- Learn the theory of data visualisation including grammar, types, color, annotation, flow, animation, interaction etc.
- Build an understanding of visual perception and cognition to gain an intuitive sense of how data visualisation work
- Get exposure to tools that can be used to create data-visualisation in python.

Context

Learn through practice the two contexts in which data visualisation is used with business stakeholders

- Narrative visualisation (say, telling a compelling data-story in a presentation)
- Interactive visualisation (say, allowing business user to visually explore a complex data-set or a model)

Approach

- The workshop is structured with a mix of conceptual learning (40%) and practice sessions (60%)
- This is a hands-on workshop and we will learn by using python and notebook
- There will be a case-study based approach - Telco Churn Example - to learn from.
- Each day will have four main sessions: see session plan next

Day 1 Sessions

- **Workshop Introduction** (0930 - 1000)
- **Session #1: Value of Data Visualisation** (1000 - 1120)
- Break (1120 - 1140)
- **Session #2: Tools & Abstractions for Data Visualisation** (1140 - 1300)
- Lunch (1300 - 1400)
- **Session #3: Theory of Data Visualisation** (1400 - 1520)
- Break (1520 - 1540)
- **Session #4: Guidelines for Better Data Visualisation** (1540 - 1700)
- **Day One Summary** (1700 - 1730)
- **Data-Story Group Exercise** (1730 - 1900)

Day 2 Sessions

- **Recap & Questions** (0930 - 0950)
- **Data-Story Presentations** (0950 - 1020)
- **Session #5: Crafting Visual Stories with Data** (1020 - 1120)
- Break (1120 - 1140)
- **Data-Story Rework** (1140 - 1210)
- **Session #6: Interactivity** (1210 - 1320)
- Lunch (1320 - 1420)
- **Session #7: Explorable Vis for Business Users** (1420 - 1540)
- Tea Break (1540 - 1600)
- **Session #8: Putting together an Interactive Application** (1600 - 1720)
- **Overall Summary & Way Forward** (1720 - 1800)

Introduction & Expectations

- Tell us about yourself
 - Name & Role
 - Experience with Python
 - Experience with Analytics
 - One thing you want to learn from the workshop

Group Formation

- Groups of 4 or 5
- Mixed experience of Python & Analytics
- For the data-story work & presentation

Installation Check In

Workshop Repo

<https://github.com/amitkaps/data-vis-workshop>

- Did you follow the instruction in the README.md?
- Any issues you faced?

Narrative Visualisation

#1: Value of Data Visualisation

War Stories & Killer Charts



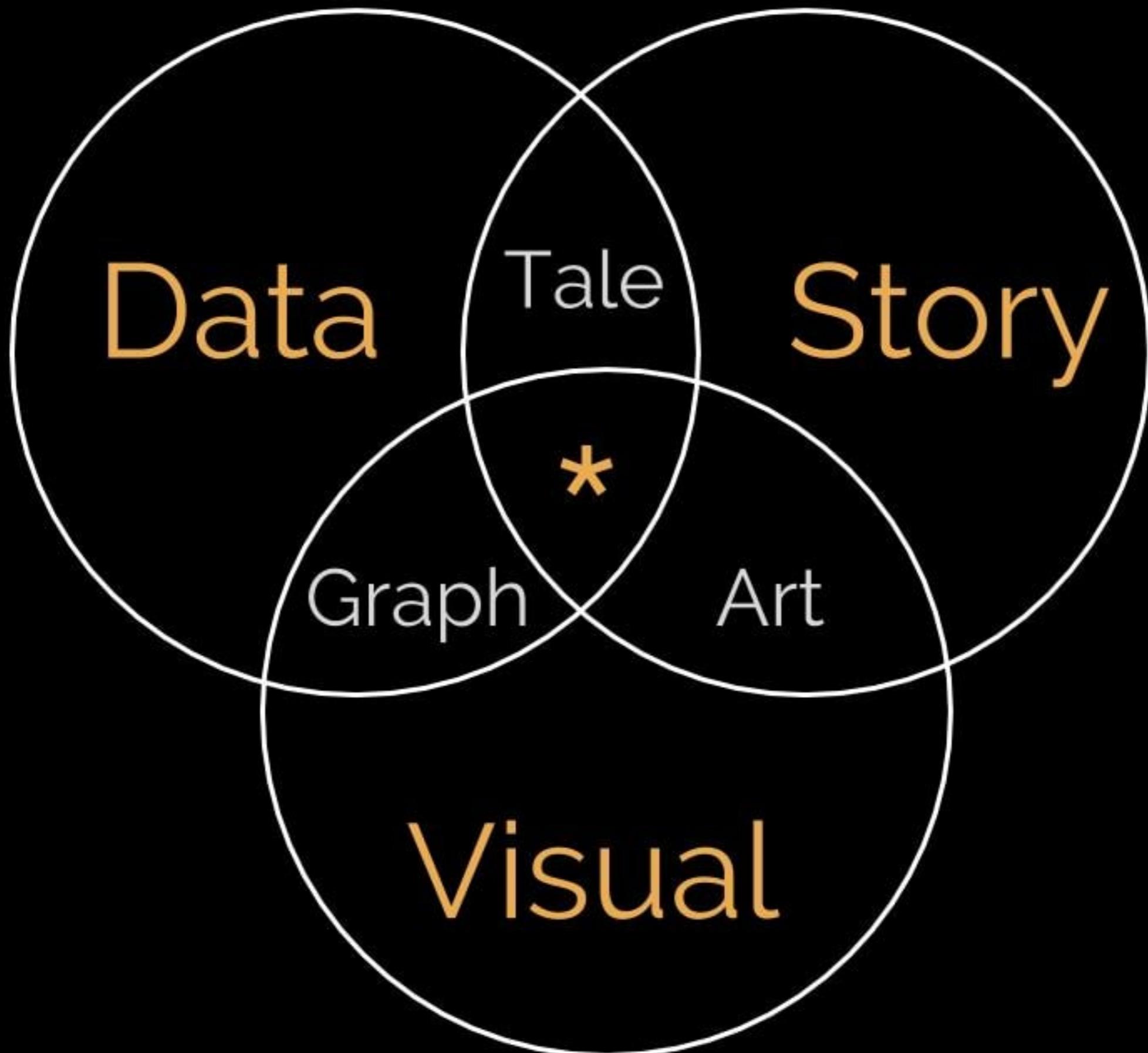
**analysis
numbers
argument**

Humans are
pattern-seeking
story-telling
animals.

analysis Synthesis

numbers Visuals

argument Story



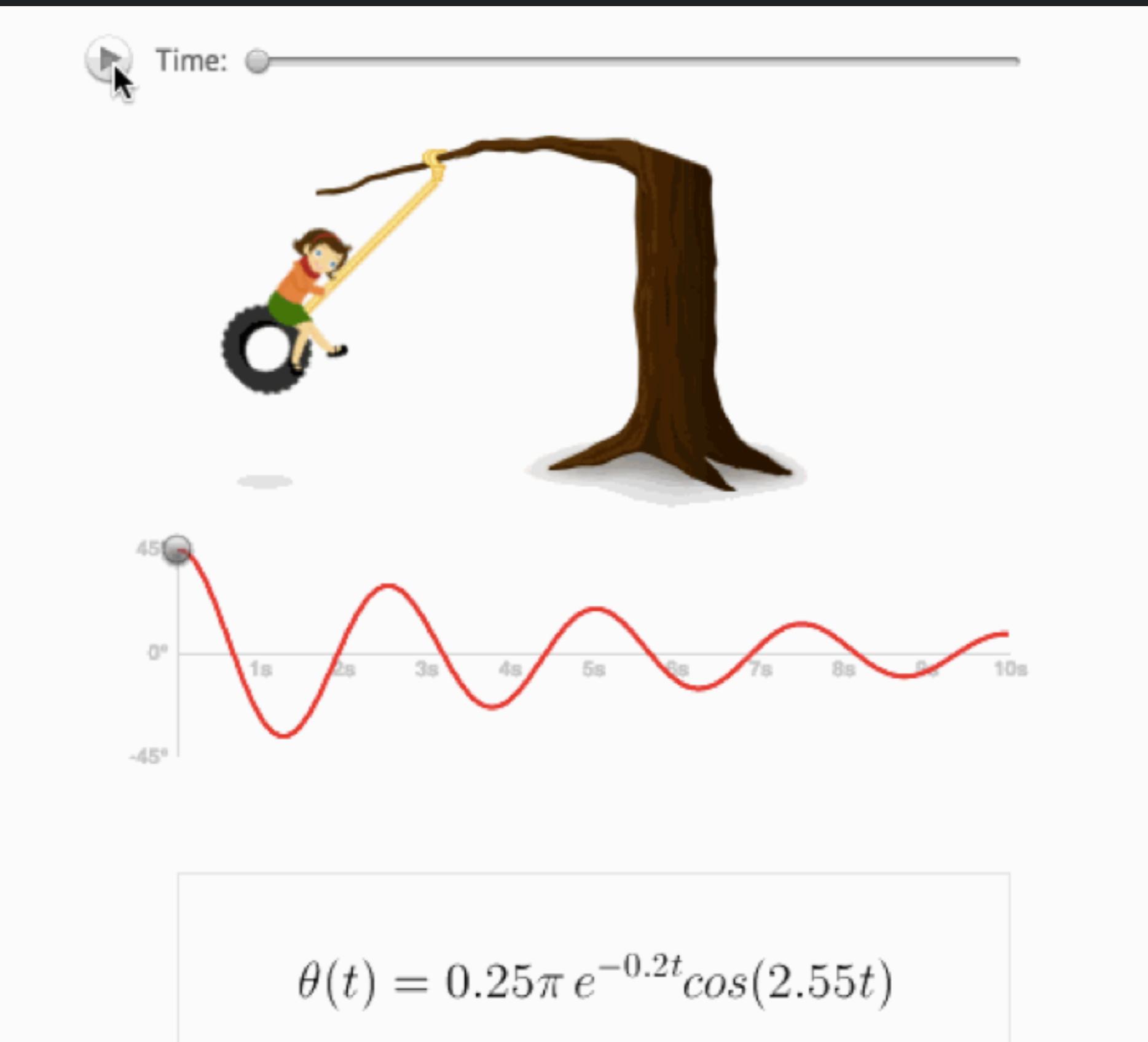
What is visualisation?

Exercise: Visualise this data in at least 10 different ways - using paper & pen

Area	Sales	Profit
North	5	2
East	25	8
West	15	6
South	20	5
Central	10	3

Visualisation is the
transformation of the
symbolic into **geometric**.

— McCormick et al.



Start with Data

Data

Area	Sales
North	5
East	25
West	15
South	20
Central	10

Identify the Variables

Data		Variables	
Area	Sales	x	y
North	5	1	5
East	25	2	25
West	15	3	15
South	20	4	20
Central	10	5	10

x (Nominal) = Area
y (Quantitative) = Sales

Pick Marks and Scales

Data		Variables		Mark & Scale	
Area	Sales	x	y	x	y
North	5	1	5	20	
East	25	2	25	60	
West	15	3	15	100	
South	20	4	20	140	
Central	10	5	10	180	

x (N) = Area
y (Q) = Sales

x - position
y - bar
scale - 200 x 200

Map to Coordinate



x (N) = Area
y (Q) = Sales

x - position
y - bar
scale - 200 x 200

cartesian

Example #1

Points



Line



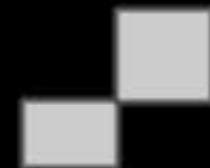
Bar



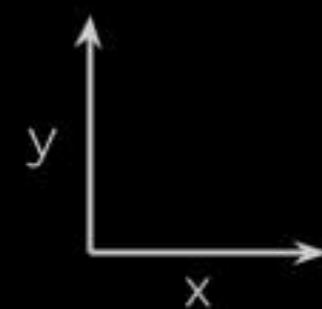
Bar - Stacked



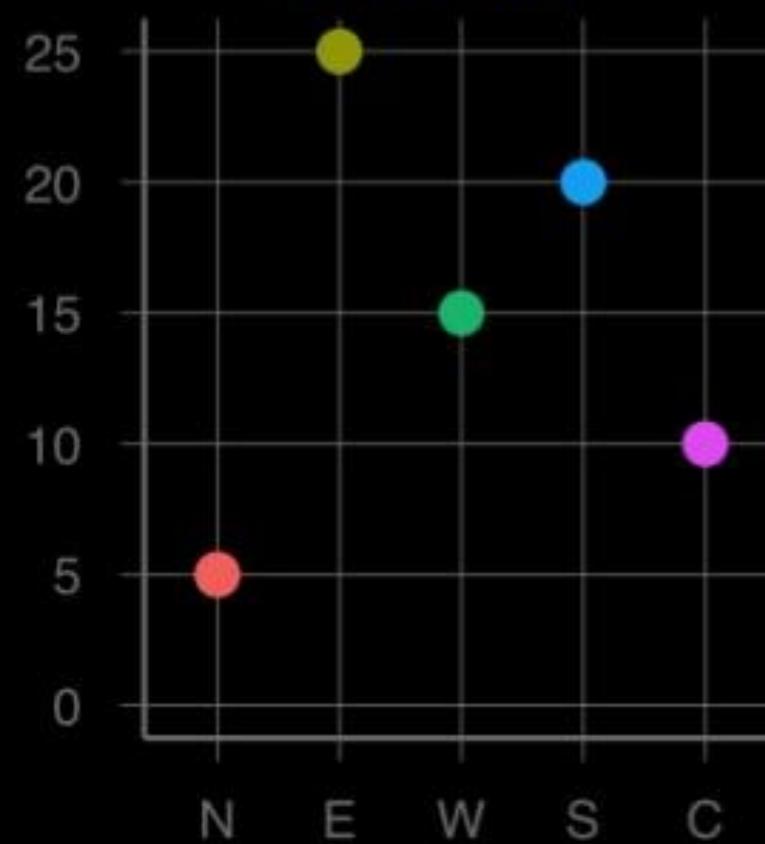
Bar - Stagger



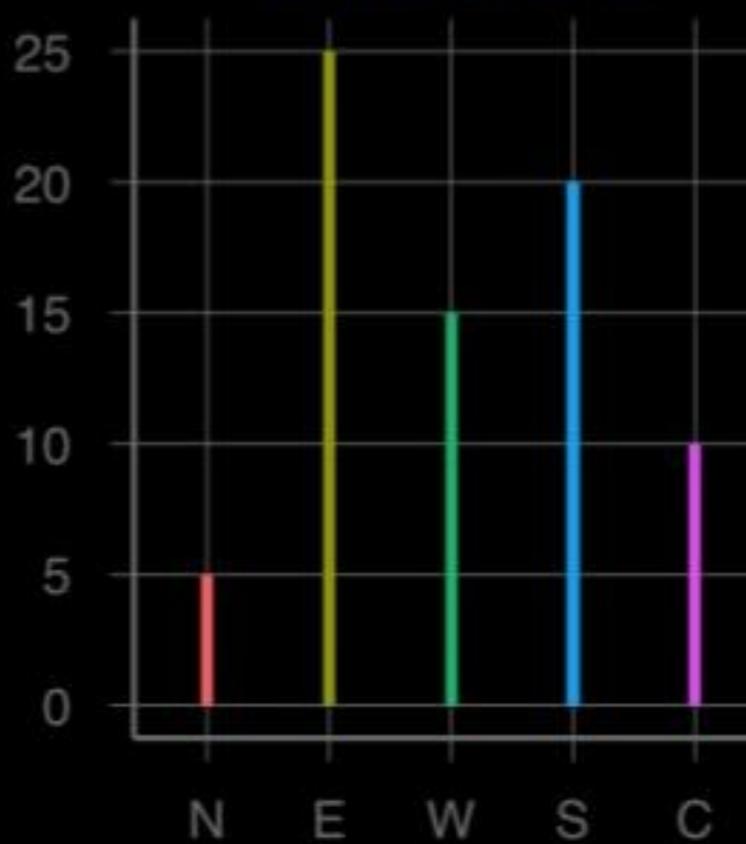
Coordinates
Cartesian



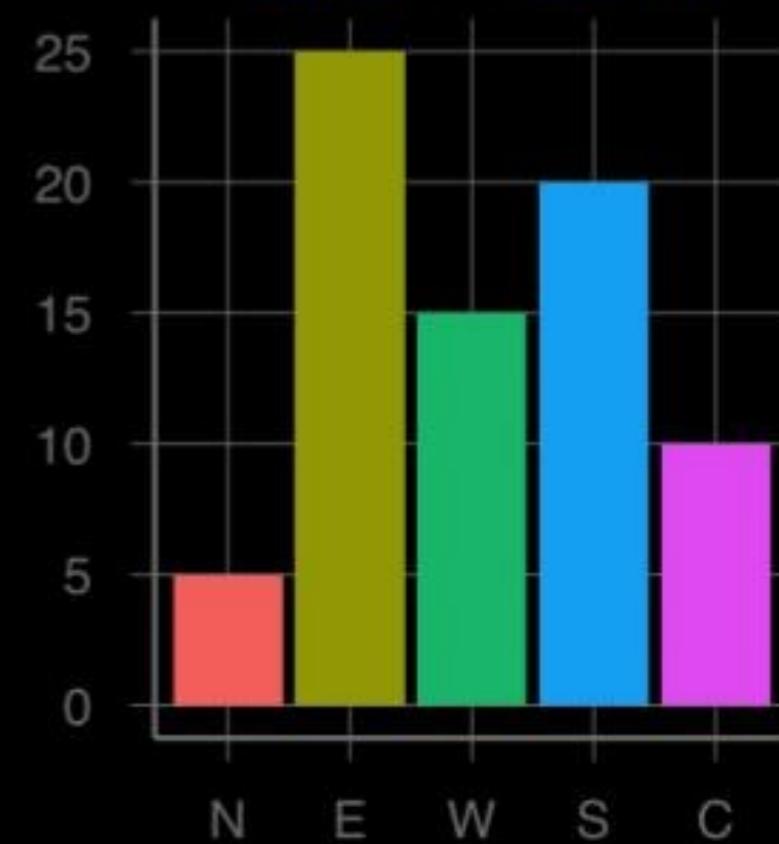
Dot Plot



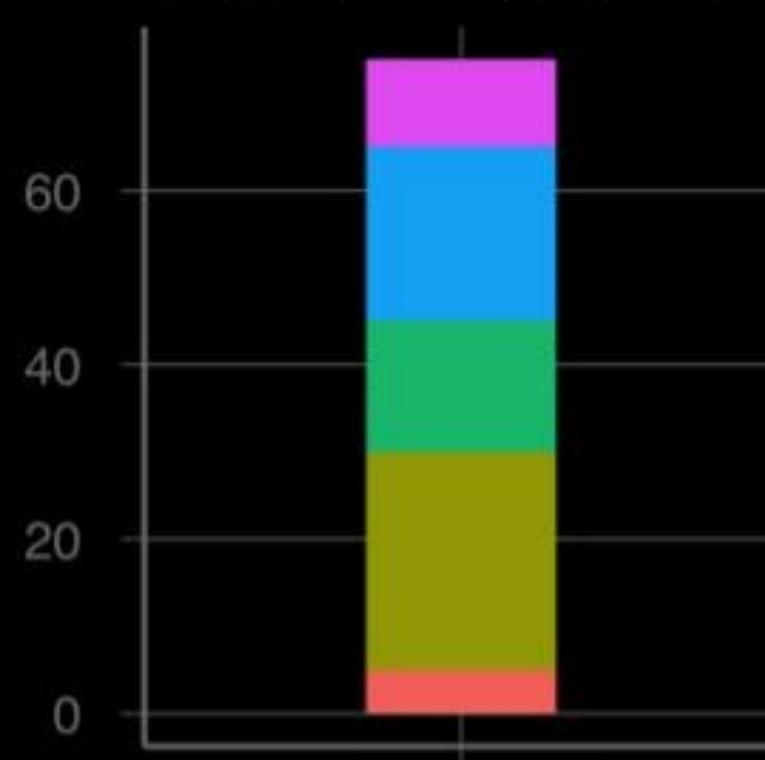
Line Chart



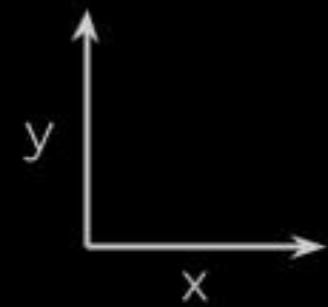
Column Chart



Stacked Column



Waterfall



Vis Examples: 1-5

Points



Line



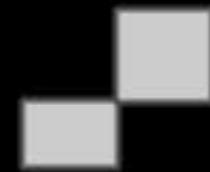
Bar



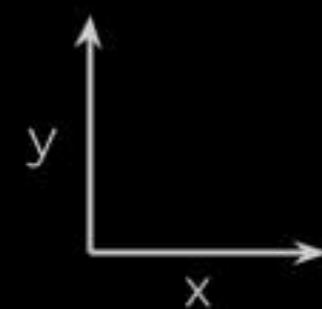
Bar - Stacked



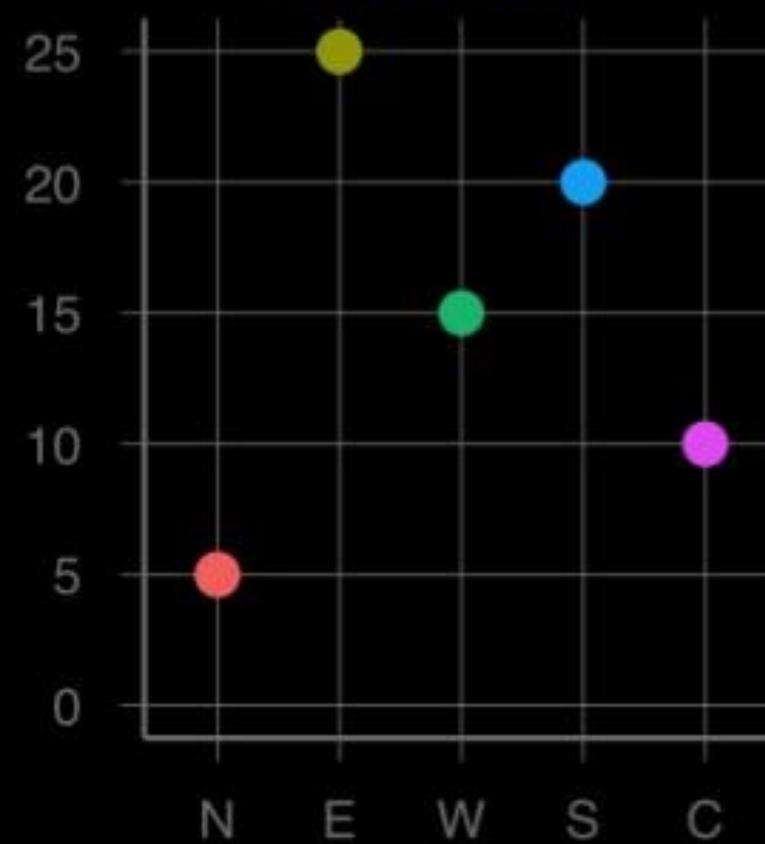
Bar - Stagger



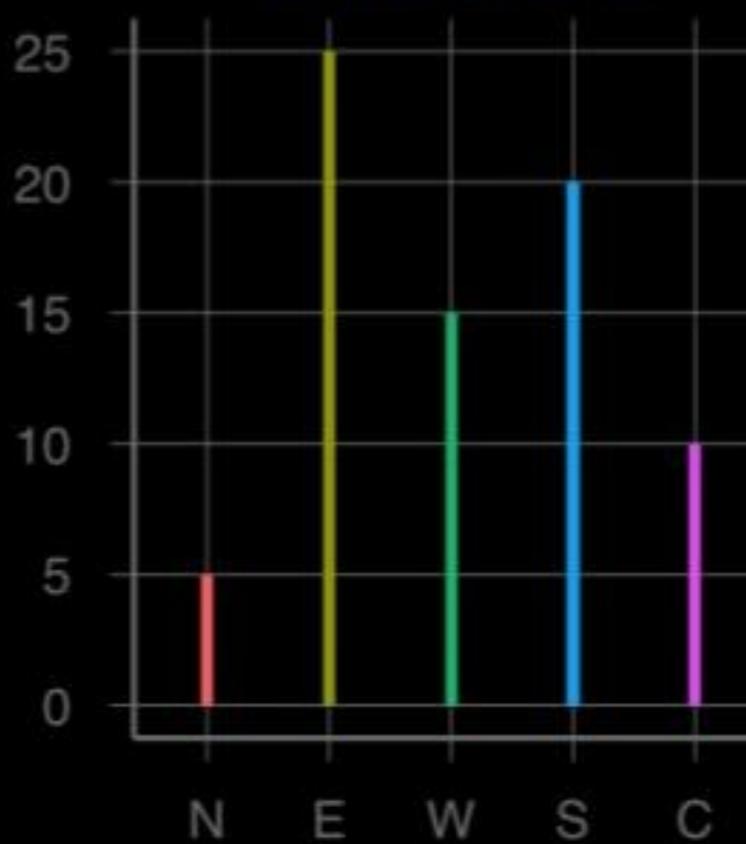
Coordinates
Cartesian



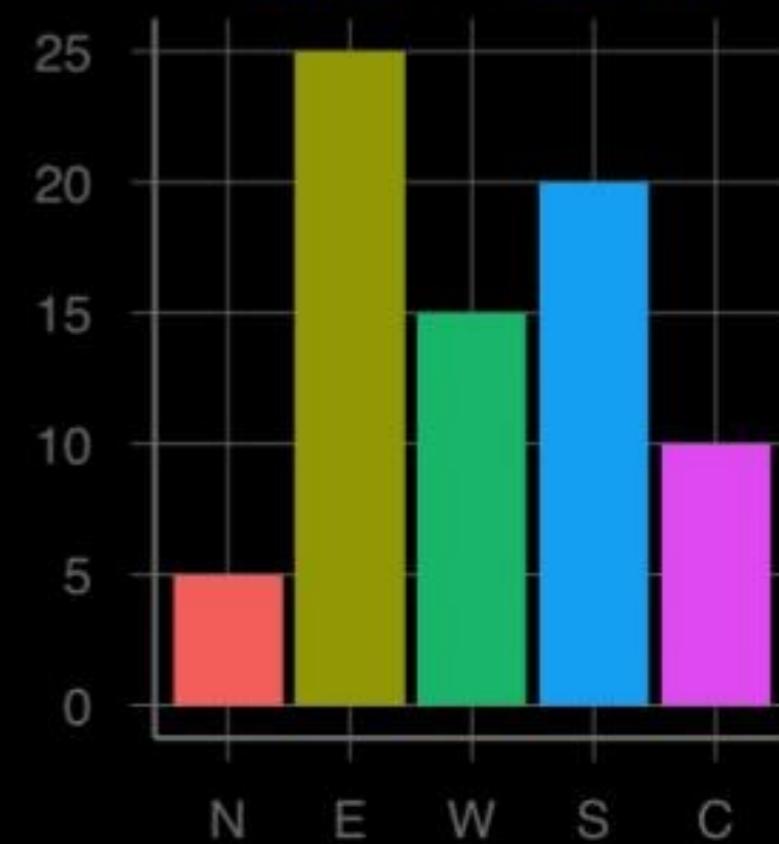
Dot Plot



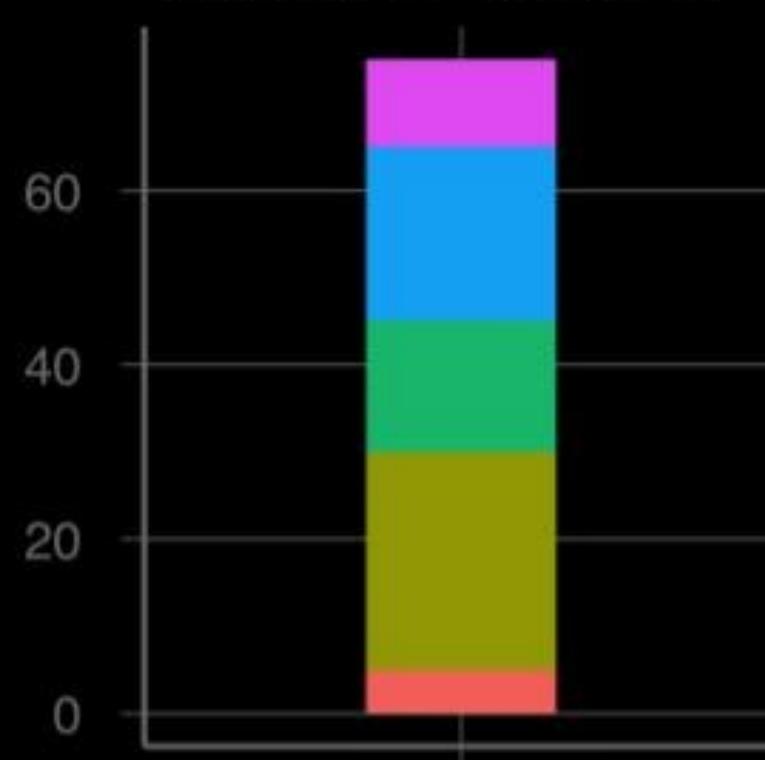
Line Chart



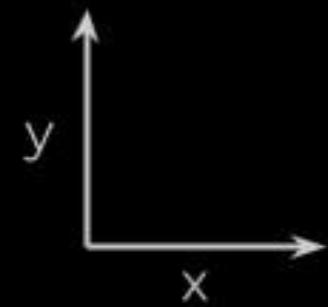
Column Chart



Stacked Column



Waterfall



Vis Examples: 6-10

Points



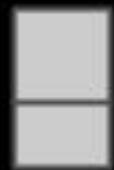
Line



Bar



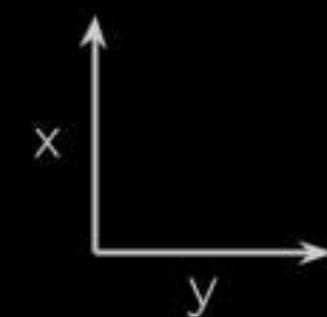
Bar - Stacked



Bar - Stagger



Coordinates
Cartesian - Flip



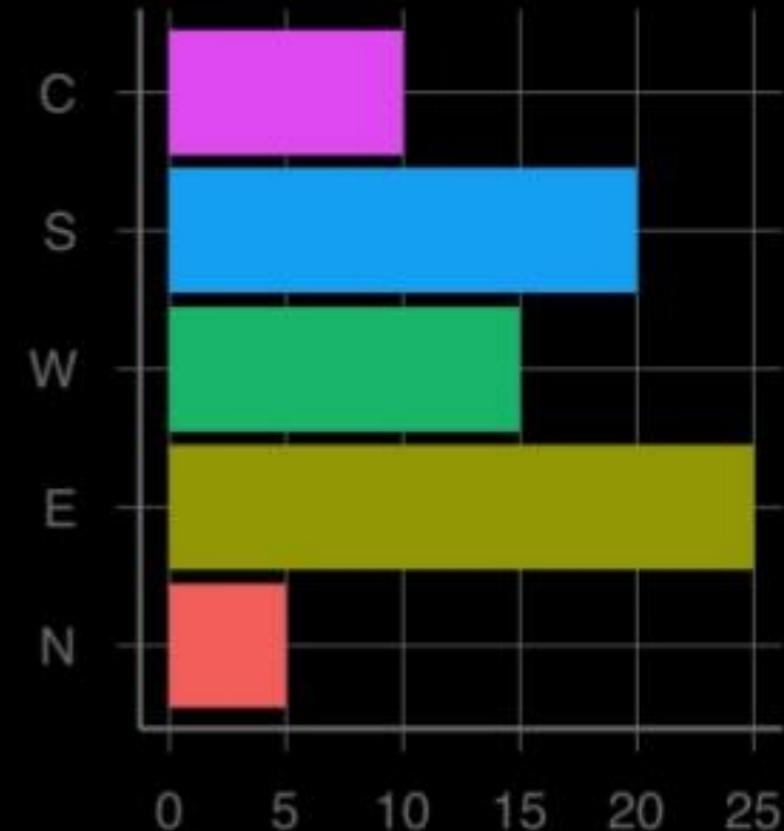
Dot Plot



Line Chart



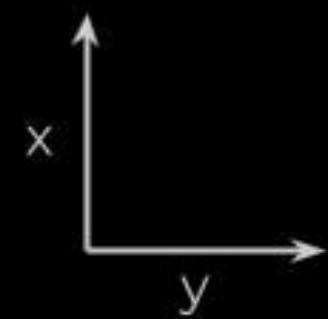
Bar Chart



Stacked Bar



Cascade



Vis Examples: 11-15

Points



Line



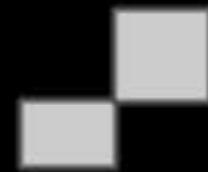
Bar



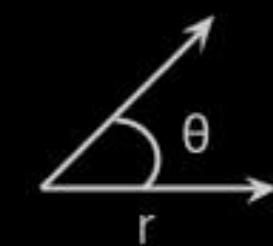
Bar - Stacked



Bar - Stagger

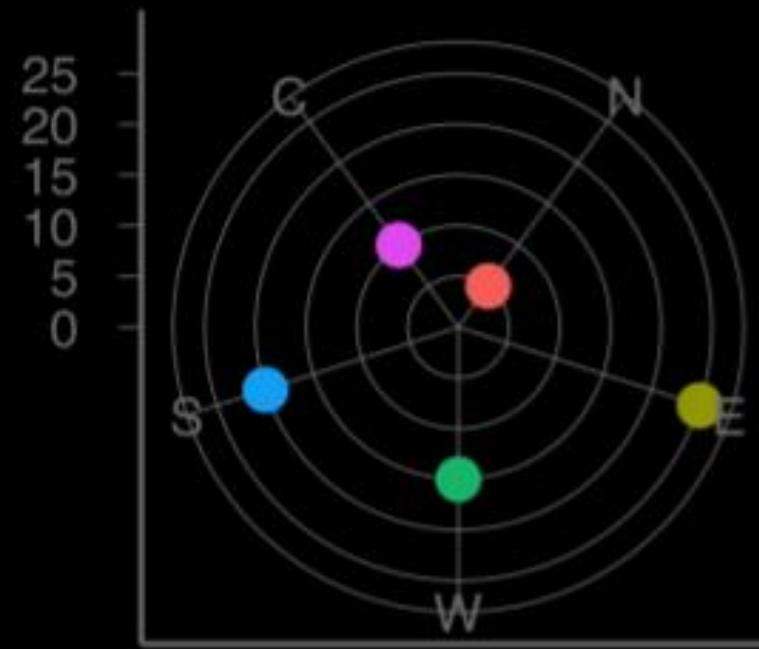


Coordinates
Polar - x

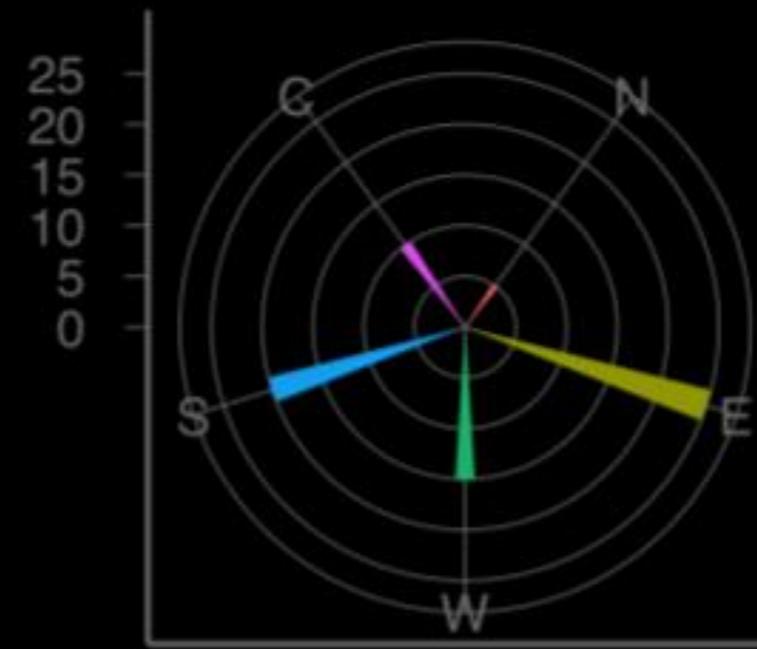


$$\begin{aligned}x &= \theta \\y &= r\end{aligned}$$

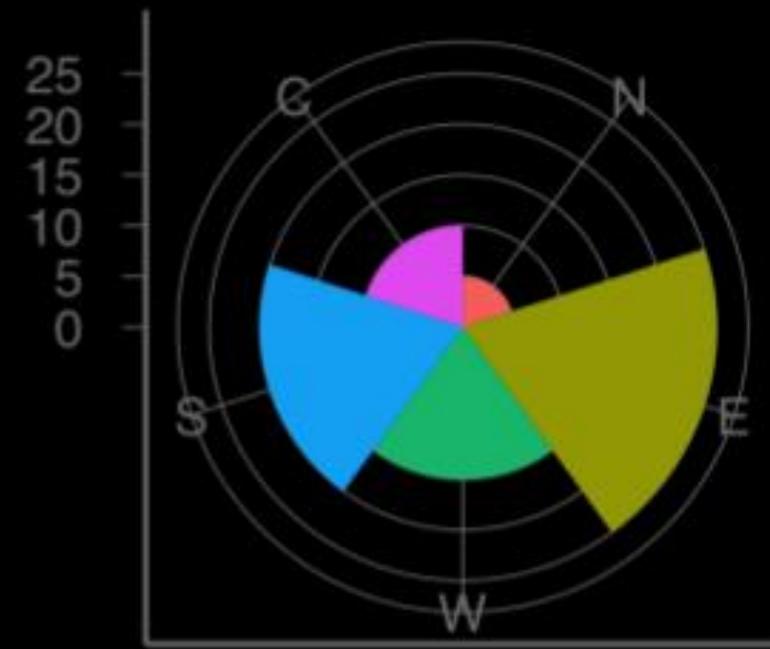
Marked Radar



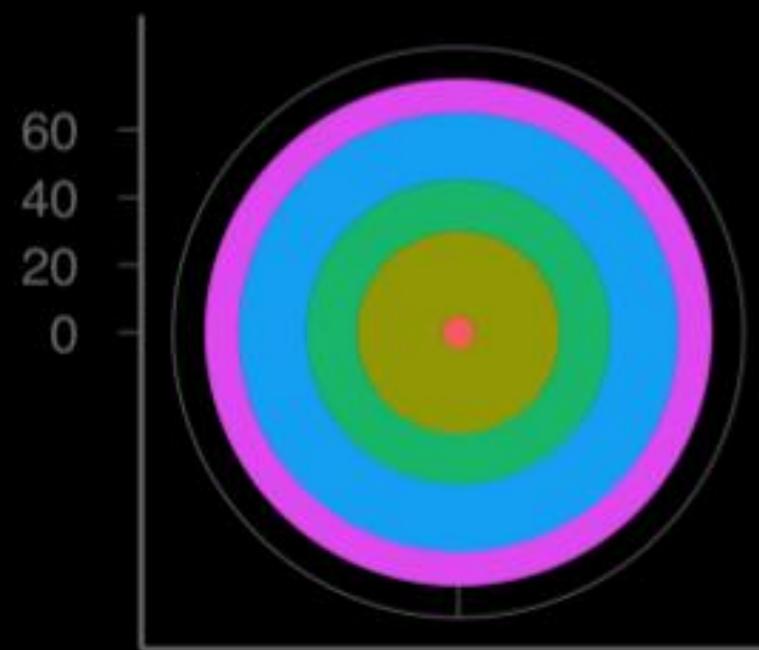
Line Radar?



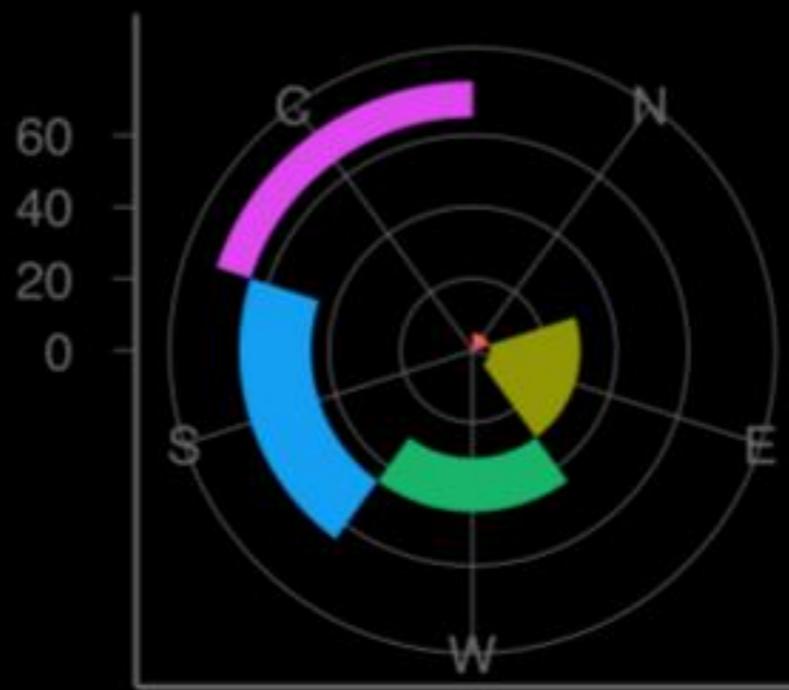
CoxComb



Bullseye



Polar Waterfall?



$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Diagram: A right-angled triangle with hypotenuse } r \text{ and angle } \theta \text{ between the hypotenuse and the horizontal axis.} \\ x = \theta \\ y = r \end{array}$$

Vis Examples: 16-20

Points



Line



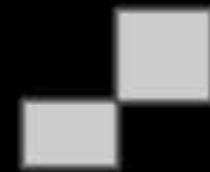
Bar



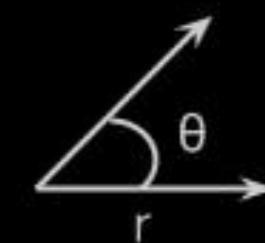
Bar - Stacked



Bar - Stagger

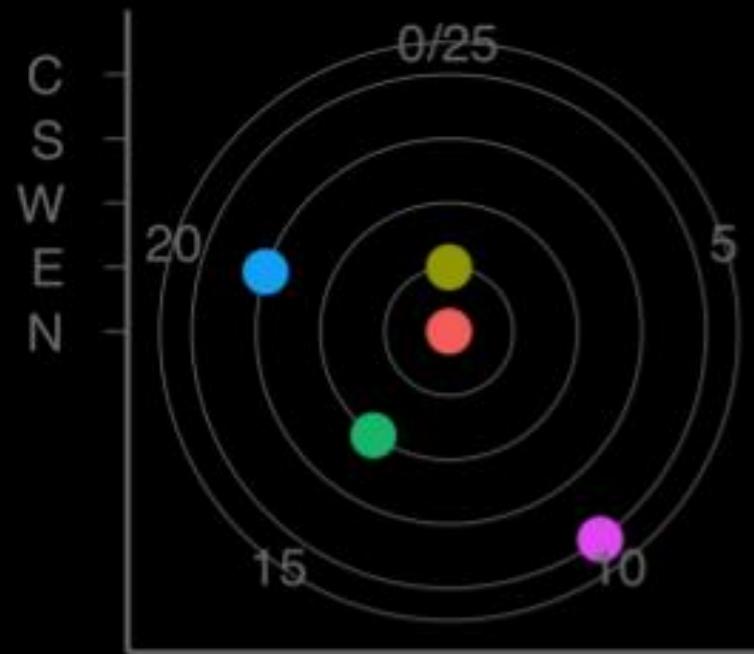


Coordinates
Polar - Y

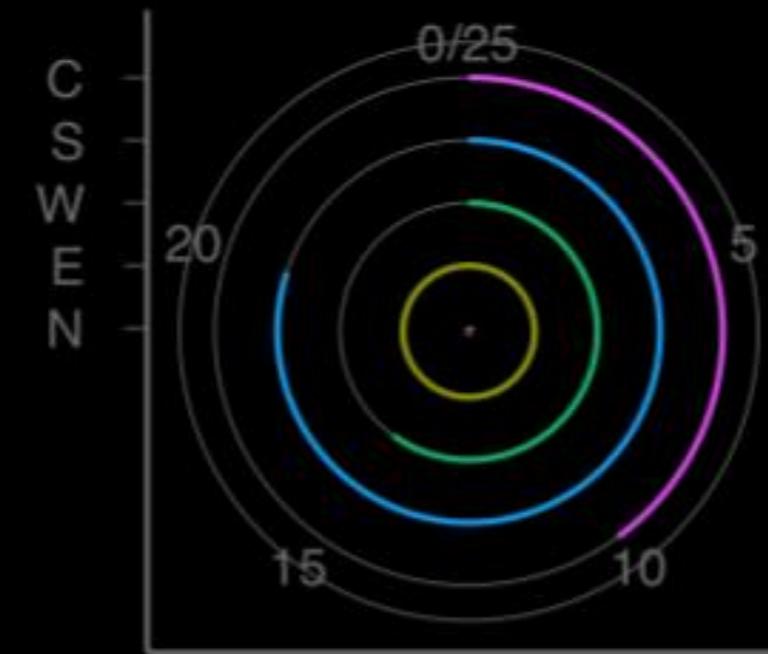


$$\begin{aligned}x &= r \\y &= \theta\end{aligned}$$

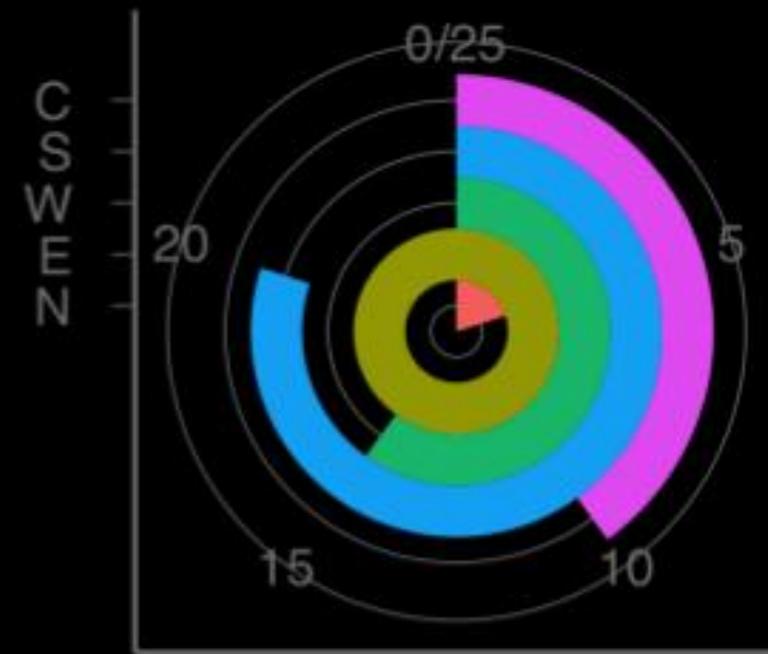
Target?



Wind Rose?



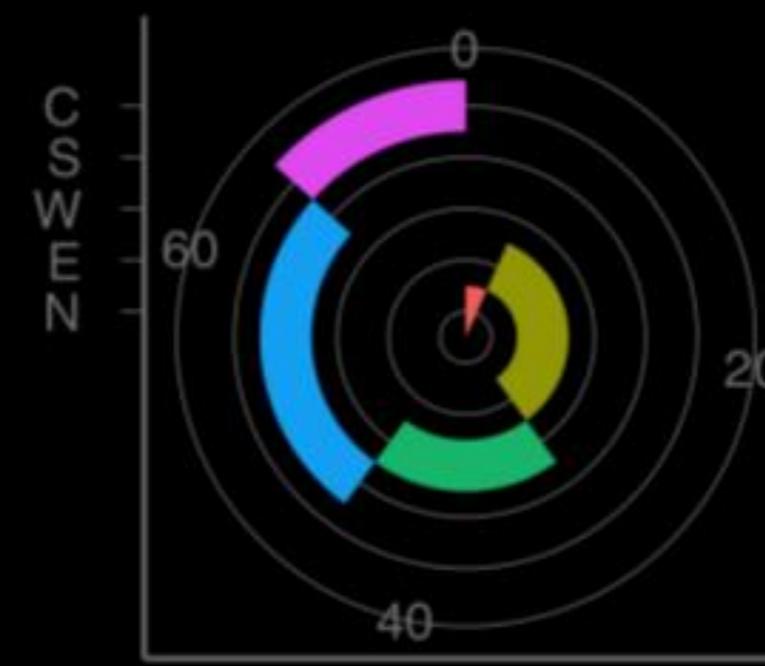
Wind Rose



Pie Chart



Polar Cascade?



$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Diagram: } \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \text{---} \end{array} \theta \\ \text{---} \\ r \end{array}$$
$$x = r$$
$$y = \theta$$

Learning to See



Visualisation is the use of computer-generated,
interactive, visual representations of **abstract data** to **amplify cognition.**

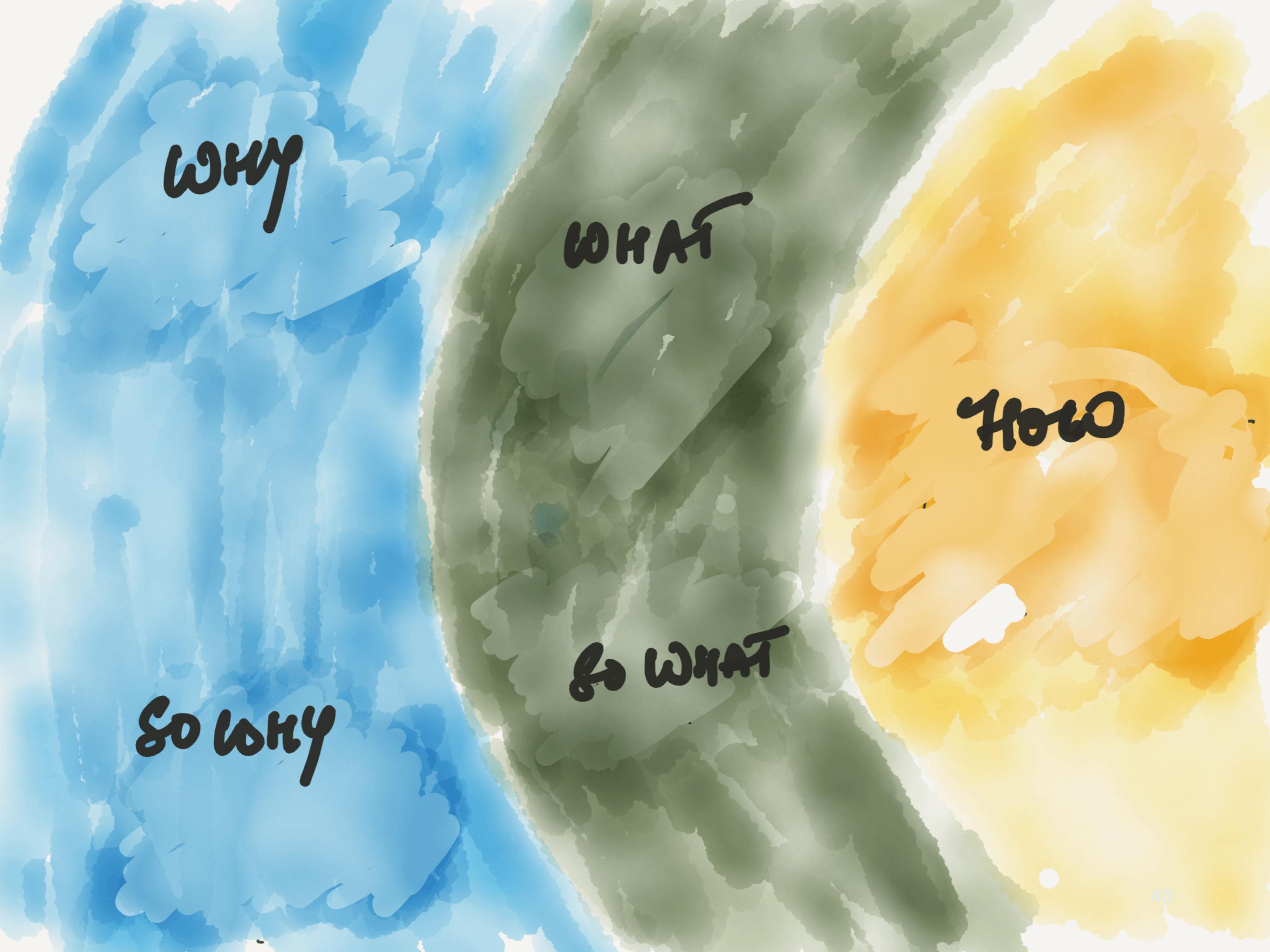
— Card, Mackinlay, & Shneiderman

Types of data visualisation with examples

- Explore & Explain
- Static & Interactive
- Analytical & Emotive

Analytics Process, Visualisation & Audience

- Linkage with analytical problem solving process: Why - What - How - So What - So Why
- Audience needs and understanding: type, data & visual literacy
- Engagement in different context: personal, presentation & participation



why

what

how

do what

so why

Analytics Process

1. **The Why** — Define the Problem
2. **The What** — Frame the Analytical Questions
3. **The How** — Conduct Analytics: Data-Model-Vis
4. **The So What** — Build the Insights
5. **The So Why** — Explain through Narrative

why

PROBLEM DOMAIN
SITUATION
IMPACT / VALUE

So Why

STORY VISUAL
CASE FOR CHANGE

what

QUESTIONS
HYPOTHESES

So What

FINDINGS
INSIGHT

How

DATA - ACQUIRE /
TRANSFORM / EXPLORE
MODEL - INQUISITIVE
PREDICTIVE, CAUSAL

Visualisation & Analytics

- Visual Exploration: Exploratory Data Analysis
- Insight Dashboard: Interactive Visualisation
- Visual Explanation: Narrative Visualisation

Why

PROBLEM DOMAIN
SITUATION, PROBLEM
IMPACT / VALUE

VISUAL
EXPLANATION

So Why

STORY
CASE FOR CHANGE

What

QUESTIONS
HYPOTHESES

INSIGHT
DASHBOARD

So What

FINDINGS
INSIGHT

DATA

ACQUIRE
REFINE
TRANSFORM

How

INFERENTIAL
PREDICTIVE
CAUSAL

VISUAL
EXPLORATION

MODEL

Audience Types

- **Analytics:** Rich data and modelling experience, high comfort with complex usage
- **Operational:** Mainly metrics driven with detailed drill-down requirements to build understanding
- **Business:** CxO or Business roles, looking for explanation and actions

Audiences & Participation Mode

Visual Exploration:
Personal mode with Analytics Audience

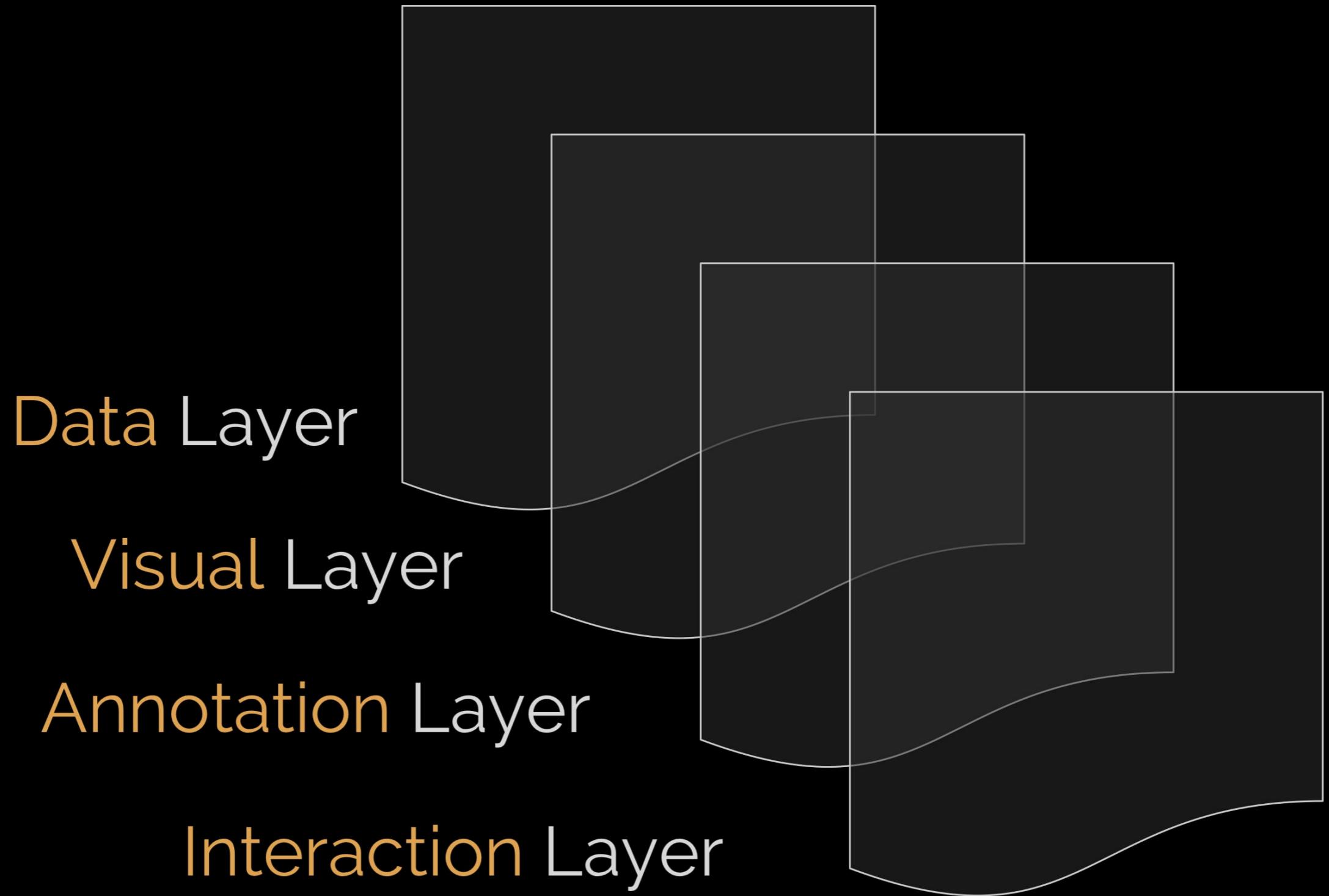
Insight Dashboard:
Participative mode with Operational Audience

Visual Explanation
Presentation mode with Business Audience

Four Layers of Visual Abstraction

- Data Layer
- Visual Layer
- Annotation Layer
- Interaction Layer

Layers of Abstraction



Data Layer

Types

- Categorical: Nominal, Ordinal
- Continuous: Temporal, Quantitative

Transforms

- Reshape (e.g. tall \leftrightarrow wide)
- Aggregation (e.g. bins)
- Basic Stats (e.g. min, max, sum, ...)
- Calculate e.g. New Variables, Window
- Filtering, Sampling

Visual Layer

- Marks: Points, Ticks, Lines, Bar, Area, Glyphs, Polygon, ...
- Channels: Position-X, Position-Y, Size, Color, Shape, Path, ...
- Scale: Linear, Log, ...
- Coordinate: Cartesian, Polar, Geo, Parallel
- Layout: Single, Facet, Multi-Chart

Annotation Layer

- Title and Labels
- Axis and Tick marks
- Legends
- Grids and Reference Marks
- Text Annotation
- Story Elements

Interaction Layer

- Select e.g. Highlight
- Explore & Navigate e.g. Pan, Zoom, Scale, Rotate
- Connect e.g Brushing & Linking
- Filter & Conditions e.g. Dynamic Queries
- Reconfigure e.g. Sorting
- Transition e.g. Scrolling, Layers
- Staging & Animation

Data Types

- What are the types of data on which we are learning?
- Can you give example of say measuring temperature?

Data Types e.g. Temperature

Categorical

- Nominal: Burned, Not Burned
- Ordinal: Hot, Warm, Cold

Continuous

- Interval: 30 °C, 40 °C, 80 °C
- Ratio: 30 K, 40 K, 50 K

Data Types

Categorical

- Nominal (N) e.g. OSX, Windows, Android
- Ordinal (O) e.g. Good, Better, Best

Continuous

- Interval (zero arbitrary) e.g.
 - > Temporal (T): dates & time
 - > Geographic: latitude & longitude
- Ratio (Q) (zero fixed) e.g. length, mass

Data Types: Operations

Categorical

- Nominal: = , !=
- Ordinal: =, !=, >, <

Continuous

- Interval: =, !=, >, <, -, % of diff
- Ratio: =, !=, >, <, -, +, %

Data Structures

- Tabular (2d arrays) e.g. spreadsheet
- n-Dimension arrays e.g. images, videos
- Hierarchical data e.g. folders of text
- Spatial data e.g. for maps
- ...

Common Data Types & Structure

Matrix	Example	Shape
2D	Tabular	(samples, features)
3D	Sequence (Time & Text)	(samples, steps, features)
4D	Images	(samples, height, width, channels)
5D	Videos	(samples, frames, height, width, channels)

#2: Tools & Abstractions for Data Visualisation

Tools Abstraction:

- Charting vs. Grammar vs. Canvas
- Static vs. Interactive
- SVG vs Canvas vs WebGL Rendering
- Data loading & transformation strategy

Charting

Collection of fixed charts that require data to be shaped in a particular way

Pixel

Paint directly on a canvas. Design & manage every pixel & interaction

Charting

Collection of fixed charts that require data to be shaped in a particular way

Pixel

Paint directly on a canvas. Design & manage every pixel & interaction

Grammar

Collection of graphical primitives for composing data driven graphics

Charting

Collection of fixed charts that require data to be shaped in a particular way

Pixel

Paint directly on a canvas. Design & manage every pixel & interaction

Grammar

Collection of graphical primitives for composing data driven graphics

Charting

Collection of fixed charts that require data to be shaped in a particular way

Code

(imperative)

Describe how each interaction needs to be computed

Pixel

Paint directly on a canvas. Design & manage every pixel & interaction

Visual

GUI tools allowing flexibility to make interactions

Grammar

Collection of graphical primitives for composing data driven graphics

Charting

Collection of fixed charts that require data to be shaped in a particular way

Code

(imperative)

Describe how each interaction needs to be computed

Python Data-Viz Libraries



Python Libraries

Static e.g.

matplotlib, seaborn, pandas

Interactive e.g.:

altair, bokeh, plotly, holoviews

Rendering Capabilities

Number of Data Points

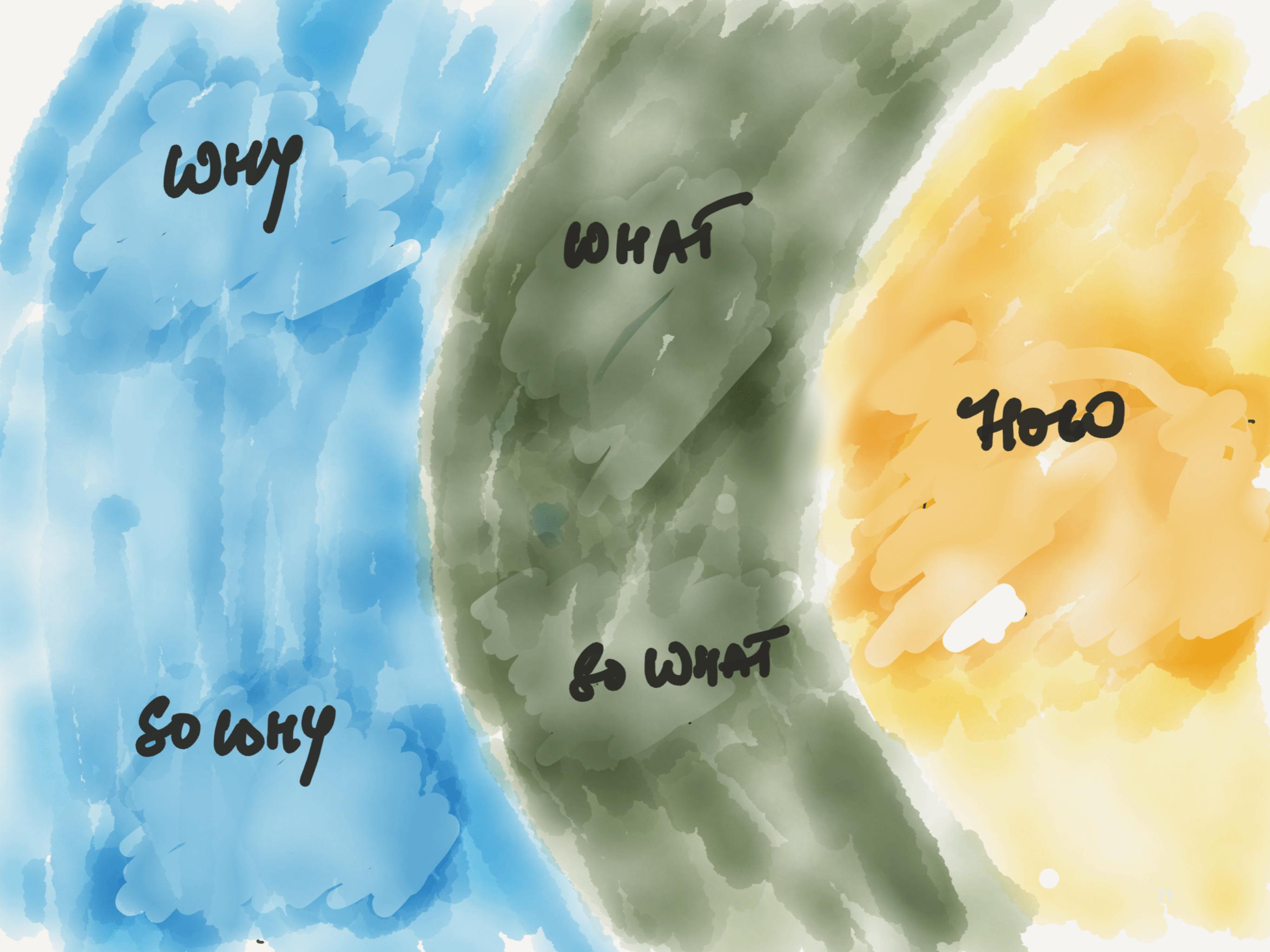
- SVG: $\sim 10^3$
- Canvas: $\sim 10^4$
- Web.gl: $\sim 10^6$

Exercise: Start with the small dataset

- Getting started with Altair
- Let us use the sample dataset
- Please make at least 2 visualisation from the hand-drawn examples

Case Introduction

- Context: Telco Churn Data
- Start with Why & What
- Dataset introduction



why

what

how

do what

so why

Exercise – Basic Visualisation

Create simple static visualisations

- 1D Continuous
- 1D Categorical
- 2D Continuous and Categorical
- 2D Continuous & Continuous
- 2D Categorical & Continuous

Visualisation Guides

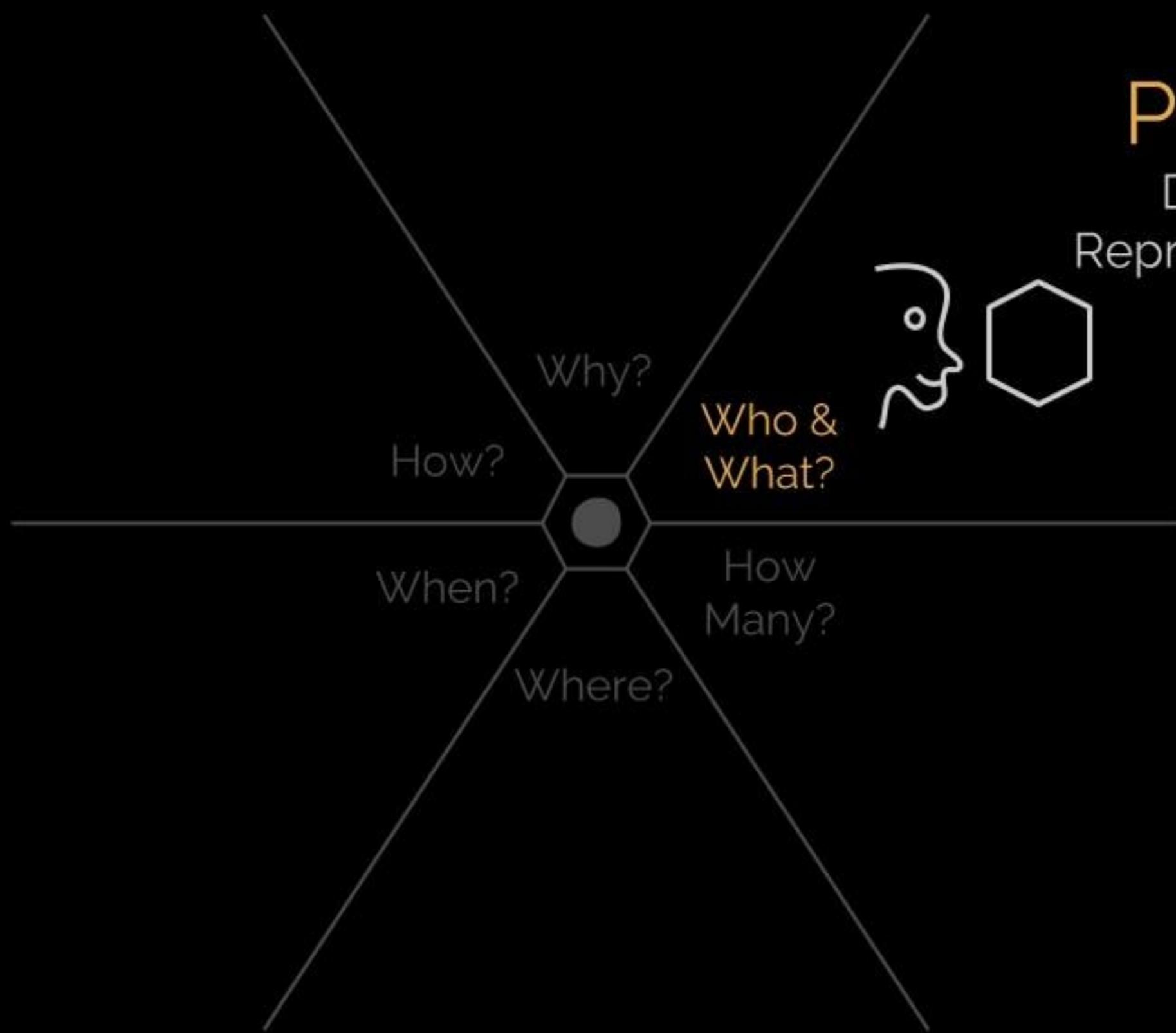
Visualization gives you **answers to questions
you didn't know you had.**

— Ben Schneiderman

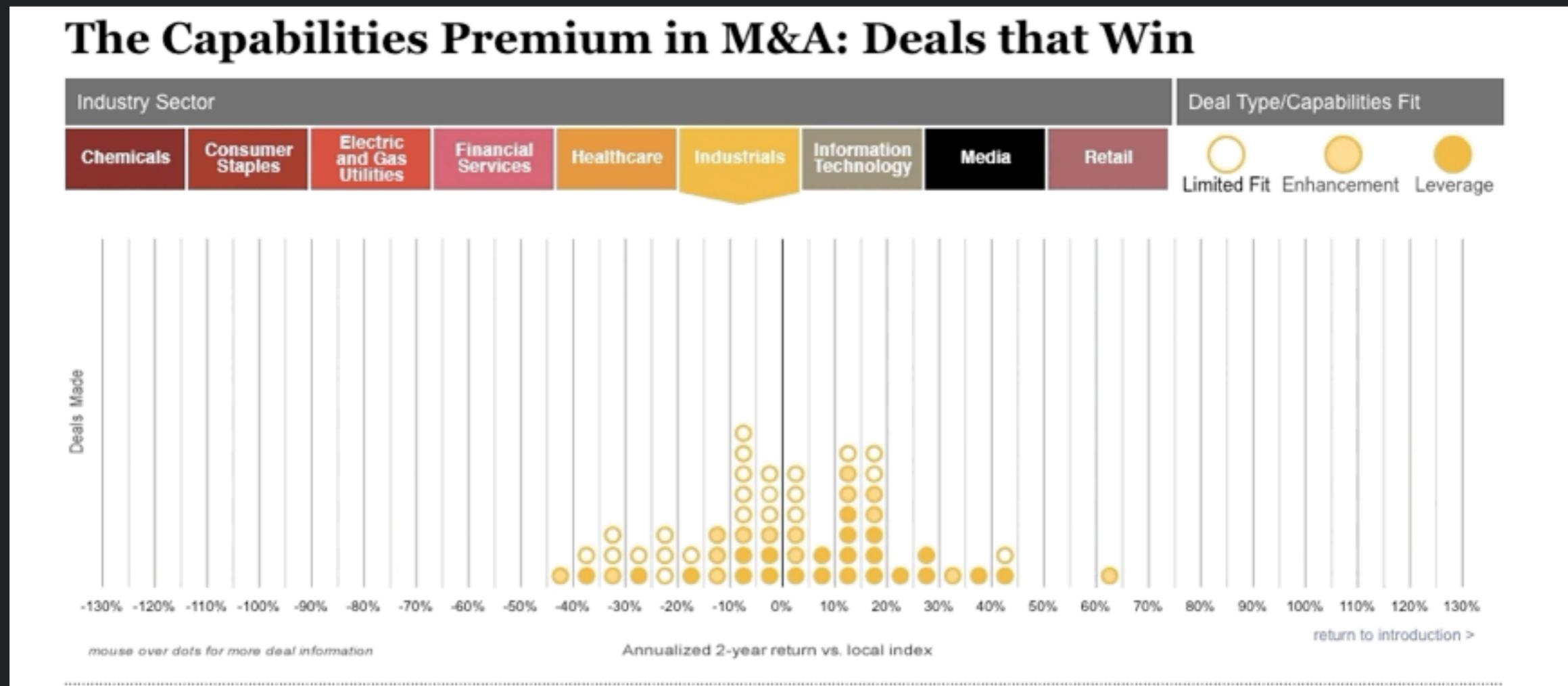


Portrait

Distribution
Representation

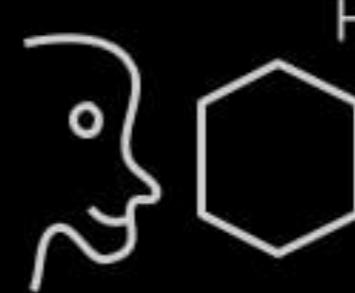


Who & What: Distribution¹

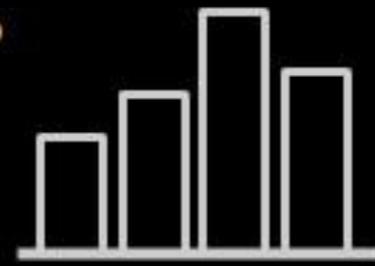


¹ Capabilities Premium

Portrait
Distribution
Representation

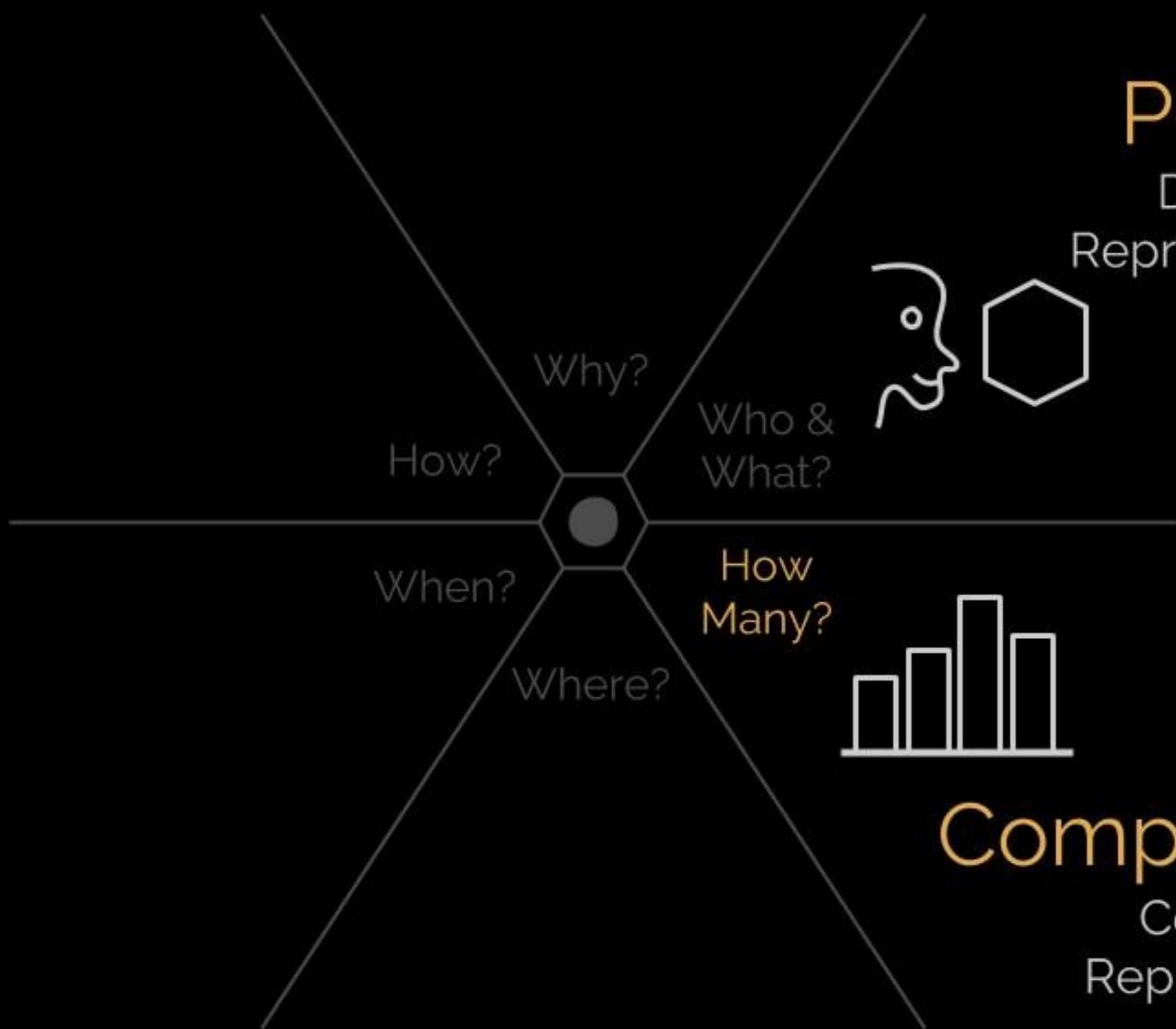


How
Many?

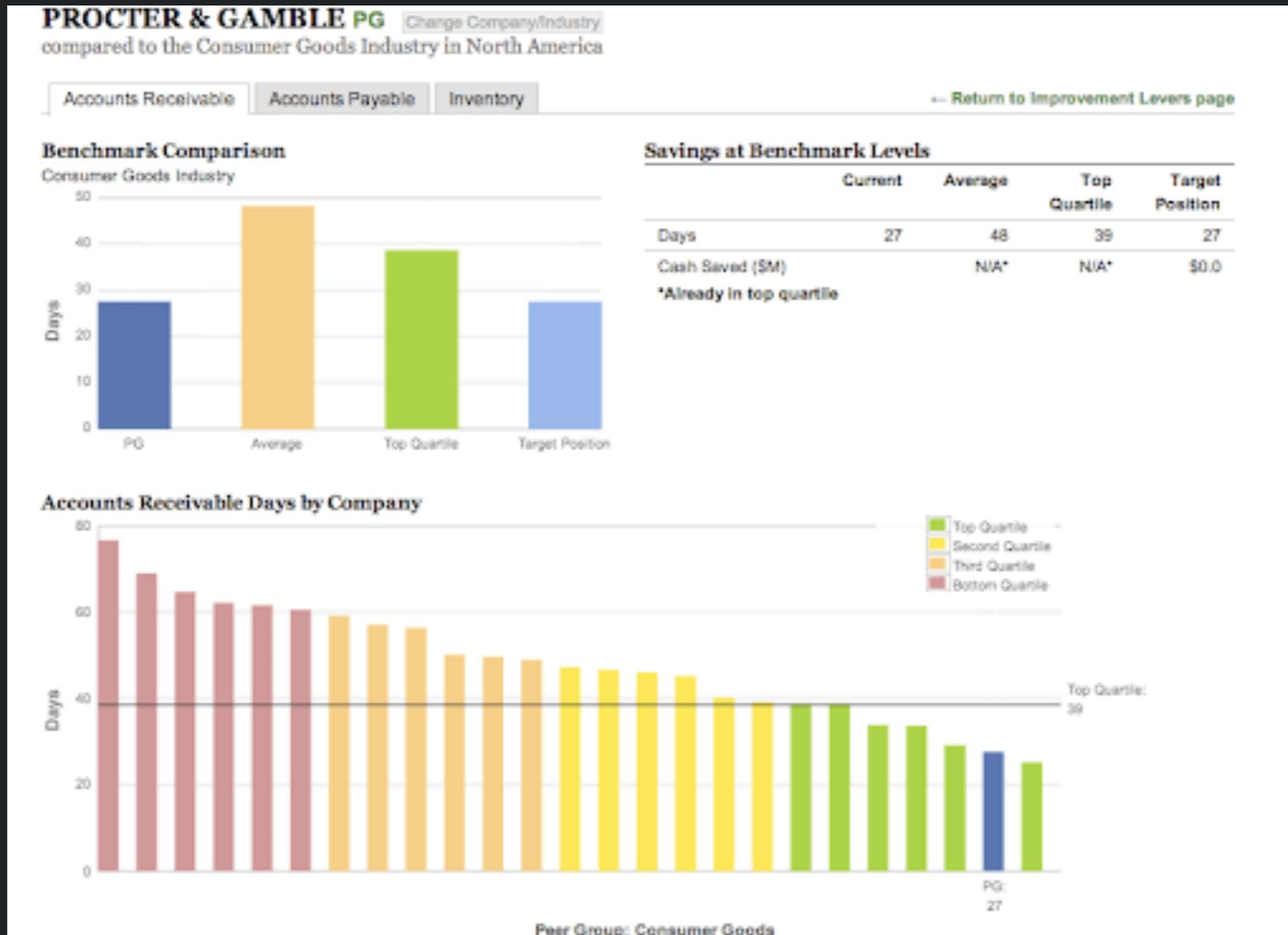


Comparison
Comparative
Representation

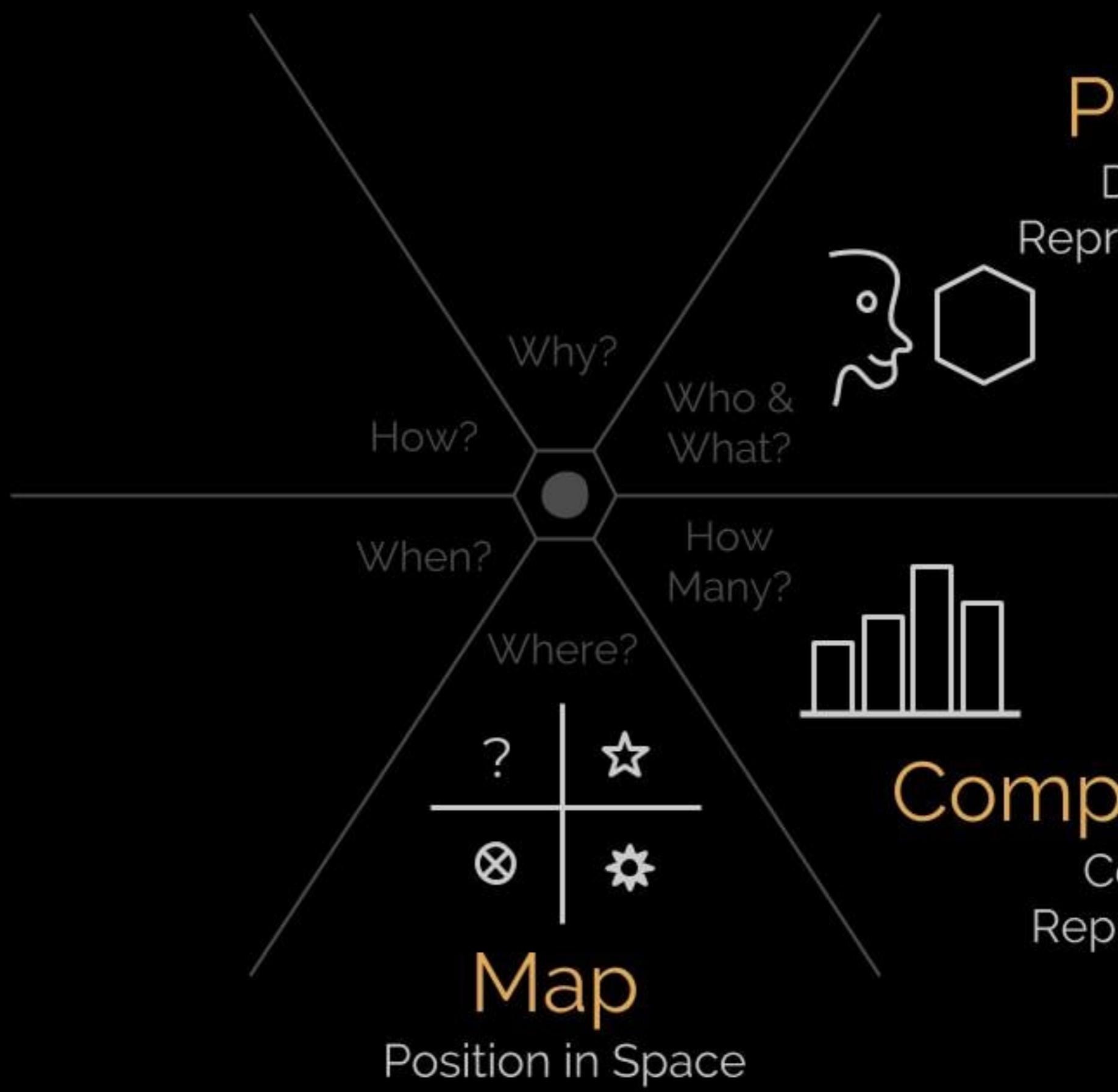
Why?
How?
When?
Where?



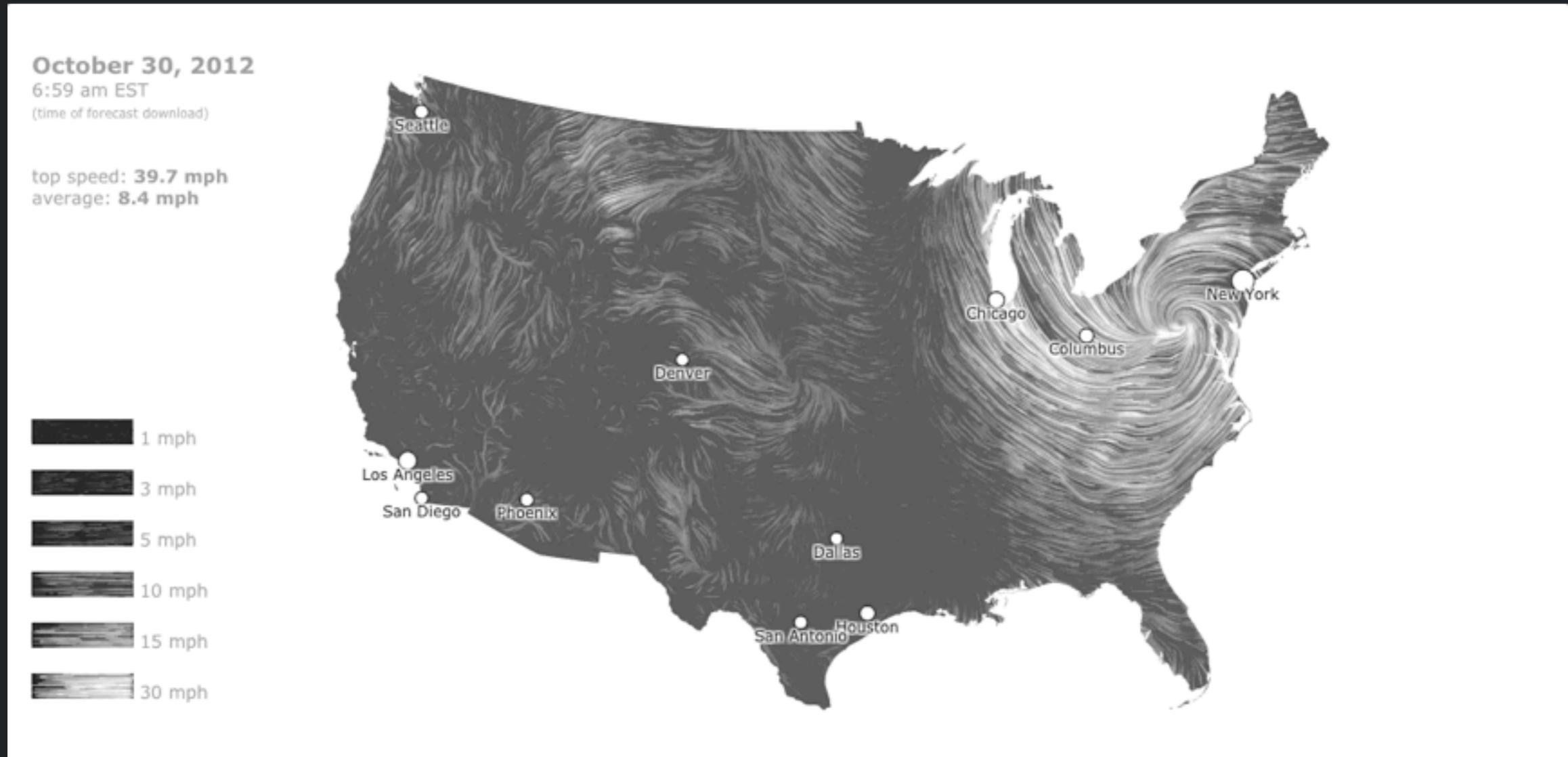
How Many: Comparison²



² Working Capital Profiler



Where: Maps³



³ Wind Map

Timeline

Position in Time



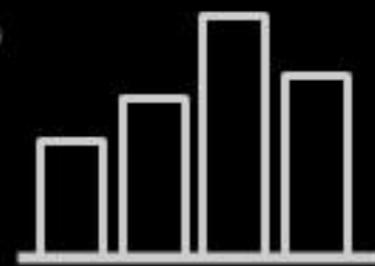
Map

Position in Space



Portrait

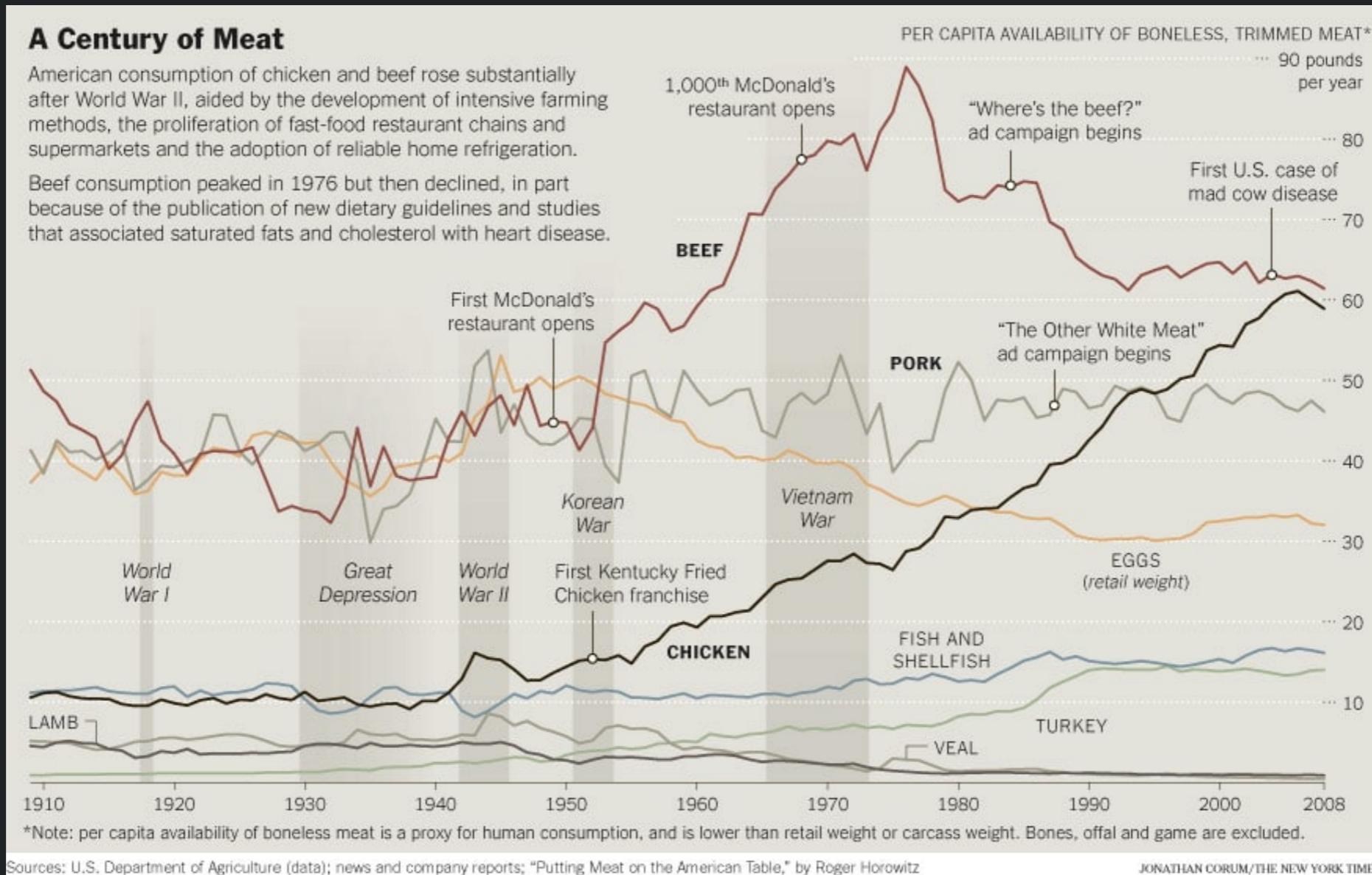
Distribution
Representation



Comparison

Comparative
Representation

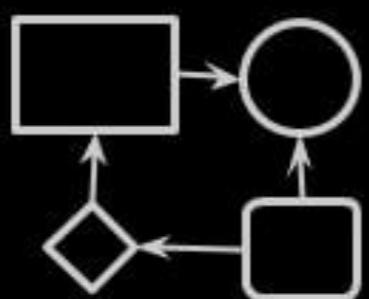
When: Timeline⁴



⁴ New York Times

Flowchart

Relationship,
Hierarchy



Timeline

Position in
Time



Why?
How?

When?

Where?

How
Many?



Map
Position in Space

Portrait

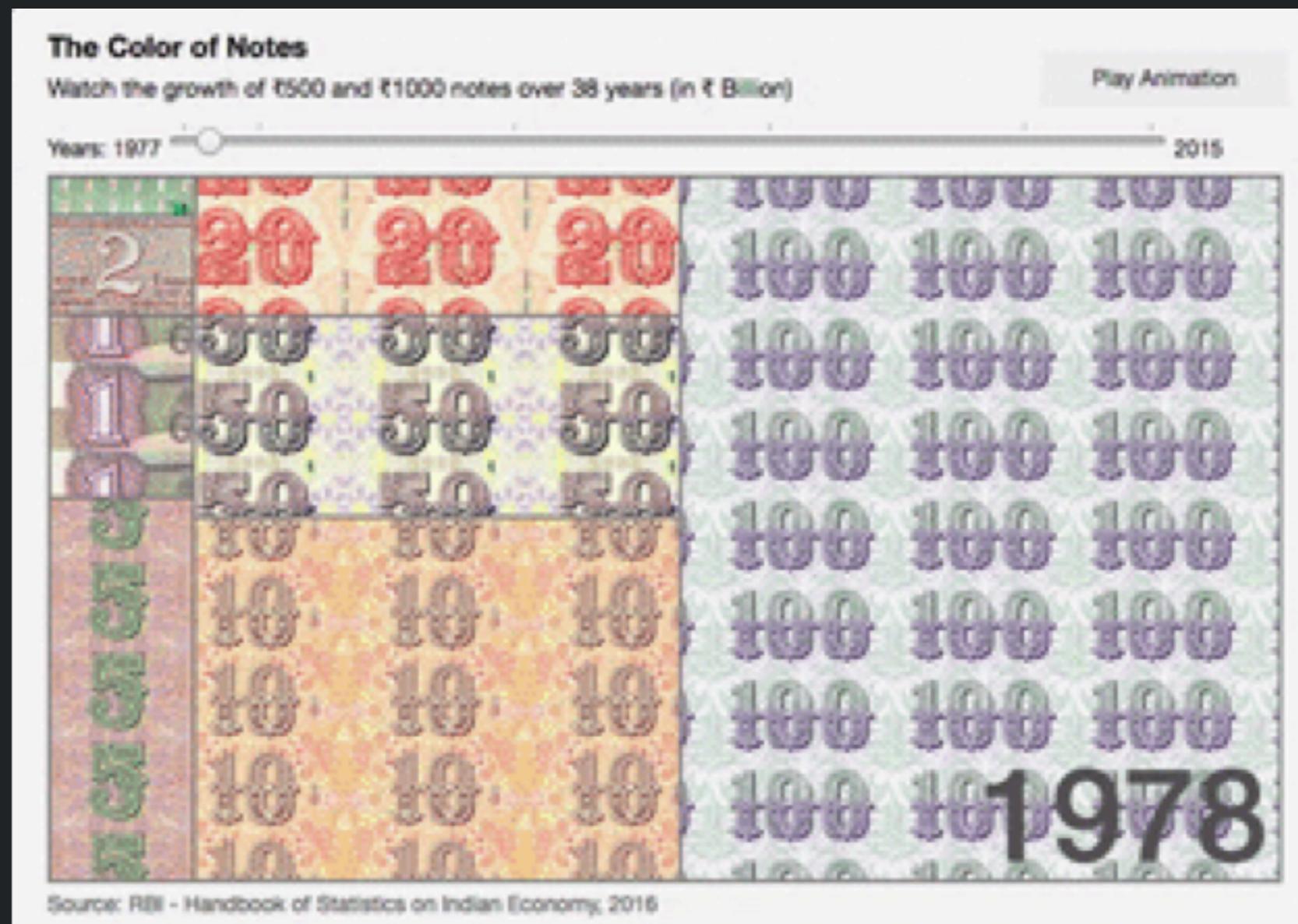
Distribution
Representation



Comparison

Comparative
Representation

How: Relationship⁵



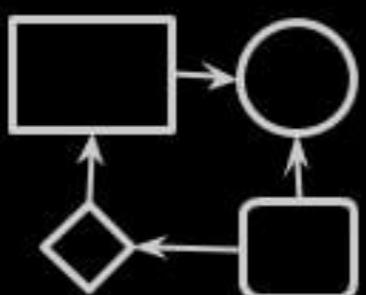
⁵ Amit Kapoor

Multi Variable

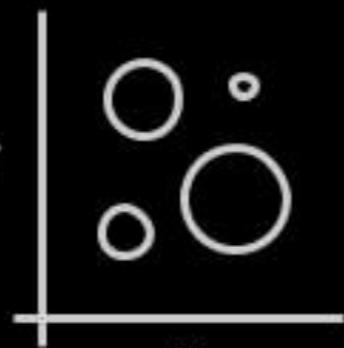
Deduction & Prediction

Flowchart

Relationship,
Hierarchy



How?



Why?

When?

How
Many?

Where?



Timeline

Position in
Time



Comparison

Comparative
Representation

Map

Position in Space

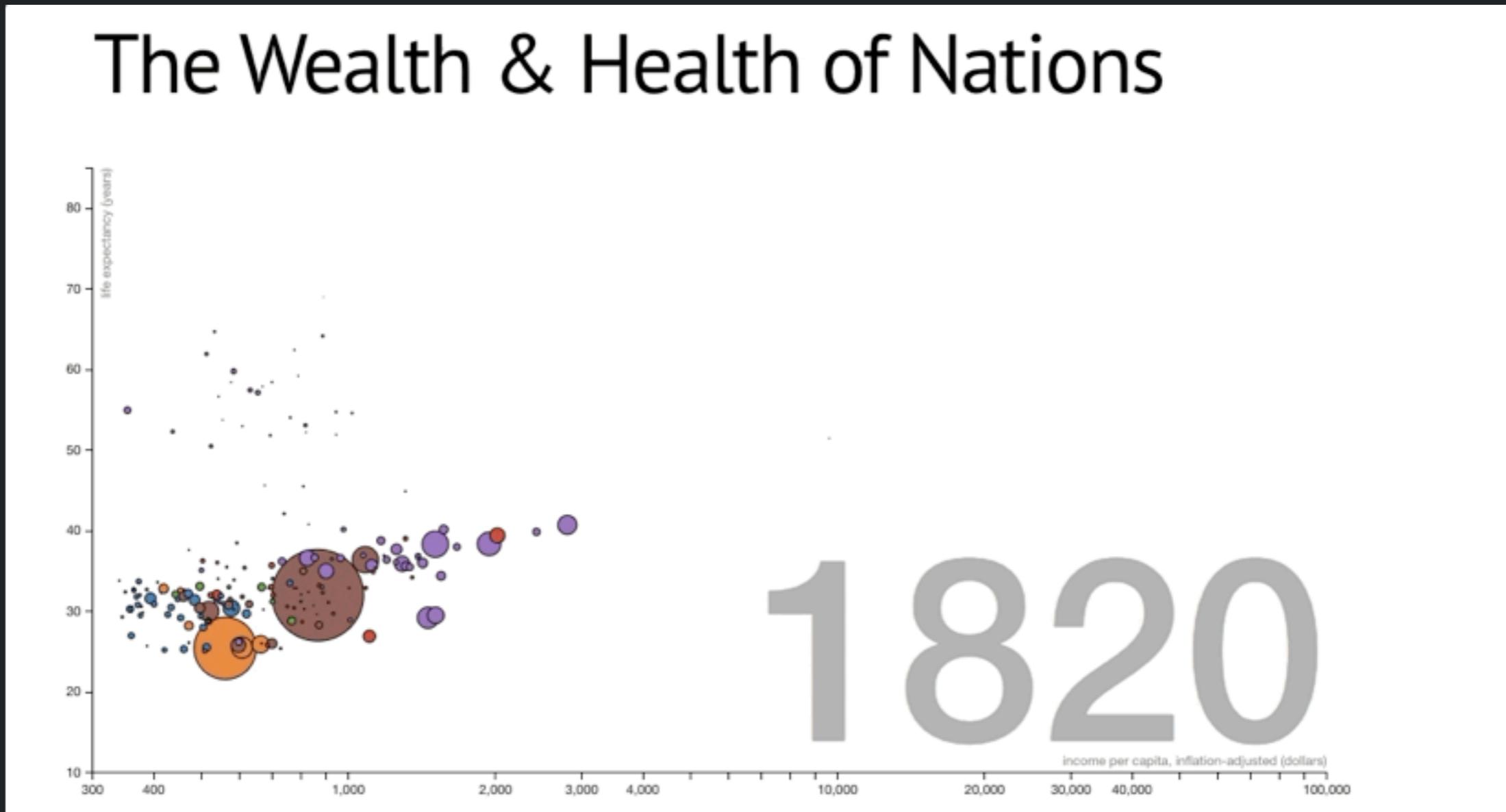


Portrait

Distribution
Representation



Why: Deduction & Prediction⁶



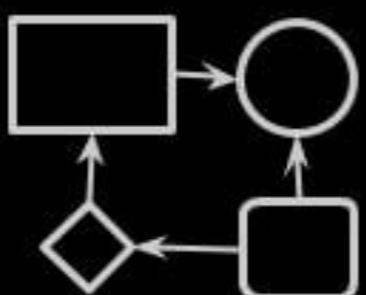
⁶ Mike Bostock

Multi Variable

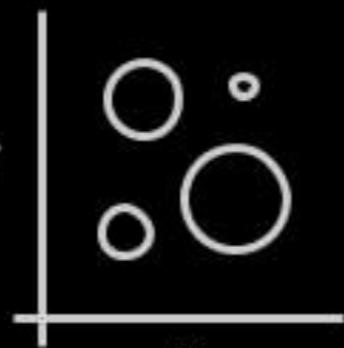
Deduction & Prediction

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How?



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Time



Where?

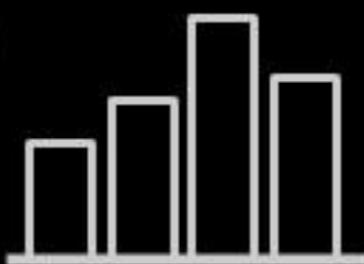


Map

Position in Space

Portrait

Distribution
Representation



Comparison

Comparative
Representation

Guide to choosing appropriate visualisation

FT Visual Vocabulary

ft.com/vocabulary

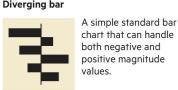
Vega-lite version

gramener.github.io/visual-vocabulary-vega/

Deviation

Emphasise variations (+/-) from a fixed reference point. Typically the reference point is zero but it can also be a target or a long-term average. Can also be used to show sentiment (positive/neutral/negative).

Example FT uses
Trade surplus/deficit, climate change



A simple standard bar chart that can handle both negative and positive magnitude values.



The standard way to show the relationship between two continuous variables, each of which has its own axis.



Perfect for presenting survey results which involve sentiment (e.g. disagree/neutral/agree).



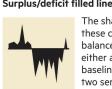
A good way of showing the relationship between an amount (columns) and a rate (line).



Splits a single value into two contrasting components (e.g. male/female).



Usually used to show how the relationship between 2 variables has changed over time.



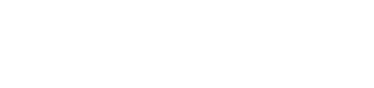
The shaded area of these charts allows a balance to be shown – either against a baseline or between two series.



Like a scatterplot, but adds additional detail by sizing the circles according to a third variable.



A good way of showing the patterns between 2 categories of data, less good at showing fine differences in amounts.



Perfect for showing how ranks have changed over time or vary between categories.

Lollipops draw more attention to the data value than standard bar/column and can also show rank and value effectively.



Dots placed in order on a strip are a space-efficient method of laying out ranks across multiple categories.



A standard way for showing the age and sex breakdown of a population distribution; effectively, back to back histograms.



Like dot strip plots, good for displaying all the data in a table, they work best when highlighting individual values.



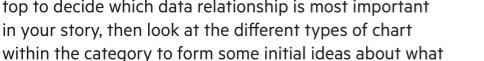
A good way of showing how unequal a distribution is: y axis is always cumulative frequency, x axis is always a measure.



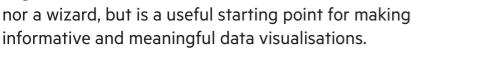
Use to show the uncertainty in future projections – usually this grows the further forward to projection.



A good way of showing changing data for two variables whenever there is a relatively clear pattern of progression.



A great way of showing temporal patterns (daily, weekly, monthly) – at the expense of showing precision in quantity.



Great when date and duration are key elements of the story in the data.



Good for showing discrete values of varying size across multiple categories (e.g. earthquakes by continent).



Presents time on the Y axis. Good for displaying detailed time series that work especially well when scrolling on mobile.



Another alternative to the circle timeline for showing series where there are big variations in the data.

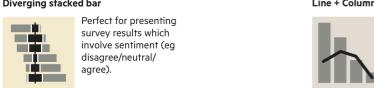
Correlation

Show the relationship between two or more variables. Be mindful that, unless you tell them otherwise, many readers will assume the relationships you show them to be causal (i.e. one causes the other).

Example FT uses
Inflation & unemployment, income & life expectancy



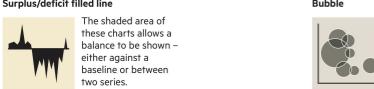
Standard bar charts display the ranks of values much more easily when sorted into order.



The standard way to show a statistical distribution – keep the gaps between columns small to highlight the ‘shape’ of the data.



Summarises multiple distributions by showing the median (centre) and range of the data.



Similar to a box plot but more effective with complex distributions (data that cannot be summarised with simple averages).



A good way of showing the relationship over time between an amount (columns) and a rate (line).



Usually focused on day-to-day activity, these charts show opening/closing and high/low points of each day.



As per standard column but allows for multiple series. Can become tricky to read with more than 2 series.



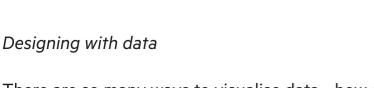
See above.



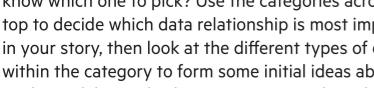
As per standard column but allows for multiple series. Can become tricky to read with more than 2 series.



A common way of showing part-to-whole data – but be aware that it's difficult to accurately compare the size of the segments.



Similar to a pie chart – but the centre can be a good way of making space to include more information about the data (eg total).



A good way of showing the size and proportion of data at the same time – as long as the data are not too complicated.



Use when there are big variations between values and/or seeing fine differences between data is not so important.



Excellent solution in some instances – use only with whole numbers (do not slice off an arm to represent a decimal).



Use with care – these are good at showing changes to total, but seeing change in components can be very difficult.

Like dot strip plots, good for displaying all the data in a table, they work best when highlighting individual values.

Use to show the uncertainty in future projections – usually this grows the further forward to projection.

A good way of showing changing data for two variables whenever there is a relatively clear pattern of progression.

A great way of showing temporal patterns (daily, weekly, monthly) – at the expense of showing precision in quantity.

Great when date and duration are key elements of the story in the data.

Good for showing discrete values of varying size across multiple categories (e.g. earthquakes by continent).



Presents time on the Y axis. Good for displaying detailed time series that work especially well when scrolling on mobile.



Another alternative to the circle timeline for showing series where there are big variations in the data.



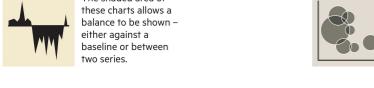
A simple way of showing part-to-whole relationships but can be difficult to read with more than a few components.



A good way of showing the size and proportion of data at the same time – as long as the data are not too complicated.



Use for totals rather than rates – be wary that small differences in data will be hard to see.



Designed to show the sequencing of data through a flow process, typically budgets. Can include +/- components.



A complex but powerful diagram which can illustrate 2-way flows (and net winner) in a matrix.



Used for showing the strength and inter-connectedness of relationships of varying types.



For showing areas of equal value on a map. Can use deviation colour schemes for showing +/- values



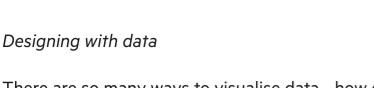
Converting each unit on a map to a regular and equally-sized shape – good for representing voting regions with equal value.



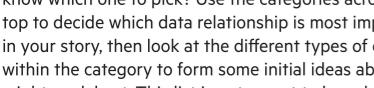
Stretching and shrinking a map so that each area is sized according to a particular value.



A way of turning points into areas – any point within each area is closer to the central point than any other centroid.



A hemicycle, often used for visualising political results in parliaments.



Good for showing % information, they work best when used on whole numbers and work well in multiple layout form.



Used to show the location of individual events/locations – make sure to annotate any patterns the reader should see.



Grid-based data values mapped with an intensity colour scale. As choropleth map – but not snapped to an admin/political unit.



Can be useful for showing part-to-whole relationships where some of the components are negative.

Generally only used for schematic representation.

An alternative to radar charts – again, the arrangement of the variables is important. Usually benefits from highlighting values.

Good for showing a measurement against the context of a target or performance range.

An alternative to bar/column charts when being able to count data or highlight individual elements is useful.

Another alternative to the circle timeline for showing series where there are big variations in the data.

A space-efficient way of showing value of multiple variables – but make sure they are organised in a way that makes sense to reader.



Good for showing discrete values of varying size across multiple categories (e.g. earthquakes by continent).



Good for displaying detailed time series that work especially well when scrolling on mobile.



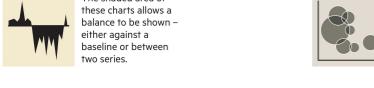
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Shows changes in flows from one condition to at least one other; good for tracing the eventual outcome of a complex process.



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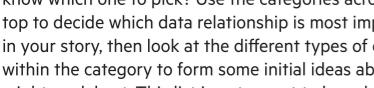
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Exercise - Purpose:

Creating visualisation with purpose & objective

- Distribution
- Ranking
- Magnitude
- Correlation

#3: Theory of Data Visualisation

"We do data visualisations
to **learn** something new,
not just to **confirm**"
— Edward Tufte

Encoding Grammar

Deep dive into the grammar of graphics

- Data: wide tabular, long tabular
- Transform: bin, sort, filter, calculate, age
- Mark: symbol-type, length-type, area-type
- Channels: X, Y, size, colour, shape, text
- Scales: continuous, discrete, discretising
- Guides: axis, legends, labels
- Coordinates: cartesian, geographic

Exercise – Encoding

Encode the telco churn data visualisation using different marks & channels

- Alternate mark representation
- Alternate channel choices

Decoding Principles

Understand how visual perception works

- Gestalt & visual perception
- Ranking of channel effectiveness & efficiency

Apply to select appropriate visualisations

- Error in decoding & empirical evidence

Exercise – Decoding

Visualisation decoding critique and improving an existing visualisation

- Alternate transformation & representations
- Alternate scale representations

#4: Guidelines for Better Data Visualisation

Concept – Enhancing Visualisation

Guidelines for enhancing static data visualisation

- Comparing & sorting
- Add encoding variables
- Optimal scales & reference lines
- Layering & facets
- Over-plotting reduction

Exercise – Enhance

Enhancing an existing static visualisation in python

- Adding facets & layers exercise
- Handling over-plotting reduction

Concept – Color & Guides

Effective use of color & guides in data visualisations

- Chart junk & data-ink ratio
- Guidelines on axes and legends
- Color for categorical & continuous encoding
- Aesthetics & theming to have consistent style

Exercise – Redesign

Redesign of an existing visualisation to improve guides, color & aesthetics

Narrative Group Exercise

Data-Story Exercise

Building narrative with purpose & audience context

- To prepare a three-slide data-visual-story to be presented tomorrow morning.
- Presentation timing is 2 mins
- Groups to get started on the assignment

Day One Summary

- Recap of day one concepts and lessons
- Set the context for day two sessions
- Questions & Answers on Day 1 scope

Day 2 Sessions

- **Recap & Questions** (0930 - 0950)
- **Data-Story Presentations** (0950 - 1020)
- **Session #5: Crafting Visual Stories with Data** (1020 - 1120)
- Break (1120 - 1140)
- **Data-Story Rework** (1140 - 1210)
- **Session #6: Interactivity** (1210 - 1320)
- Lunch (1320 - 1420)
- **Session #7: Explorable Vis for Business Users** (1420 - 1540)
- Tea Break (1540 - 1600)
- **Session #8: Putting together an Interactive Application** (1600 - 1720)
- **Overall Summary & Way Forward** (1720 - 1800)