



# **Descriptive Analytics**

## **Exploring and Visualizing Data**

Veterans Analytics Course

September 16-17, 2020

Provided by: CANA Advisors

# Case Study

## National Parks

- ▶ National park visitors by year
- ▶ Data fields:
  - Year
  - National park name
  - Region
  - State
  - Visitors
  - Visit Type



# Data: structured vs. unstructured

## ► Structured

- Lists, data frames, spreadsheets, databases, 'big' data
- May contain -
  - Numeric values
  - Logicals (True/False)
  - Factors
  - Strings with set format

## ► Unstructured

- Multiple formats (no rigid structure)
- May contain -
  - Images
  - Free Text
  - Speech
  - Others

# Data Attributes

- ▶ **Accuracy** – How correct is the data?
- ▶ **Confidence** – what are the ‘error bars’ around the data provided?
- ▶ **Authority** – how authoritative is the source of the data?

*Question - Is it better to have Accurate or Authoritative data?*



# Tidy Data

Optimally organized data

# Tidy data

- ▶ Each variable must have its own column
- ▶ Each observation must have its own row
- ▶ Each value must have its own cell

***For Excel, this means the first row is the header / list of field names and each row underneath is a record / observation***

- ▶ No blank rows
- ▶ No merged cells



# This data is tidy

- ▶ Each variable has its own column
- ▶ Each observation has its own row
- ▶ Each value has its own cell

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the 'Home' tab selected. The ribbon includes 'Clipboard' (Paste, Cut, Copy, Format Painter) and 'Font' (Calibri, 11, Bold, Italic, Underline, Text Color, Fill Color). The active cell is A1, which contains the text 'ParkName'. Below the ribbon, a table is displayed with 4 columns: 'ParkName', 'Rank', 'Value', and 'PercentOfTotal'. The table contains 13 rows of data, with the first row being the header. The data is as follows:

	A	B	C	D
1	ParkName	Rank	Value	PercentOfTotal
2	Grand Canyon NP	1	320,032	16.42%
3	Lake Mead NRA	2	219,510	11.26%
4	Yosemite NP	3	155,578	7.98%
5	Olympic NP	4	96,864	4.97%
6	Great Smoky Mour	5	94,569	4.85%
7	Glen Canyon NRA	6	89,782	4.61%
8	Canyonlands NP	7	77,695	3.99%
9	Saint Croix NSR	8	68,164	3.50%
10	Mount Rainier NP	9	47,703	2.45%
11	Voyageurs NP	10	45,262	2.32%
12	Rocky Mountain N	11	41,213	2.11%
13	Yellowstone NP	12	38,236	1.96%

# Tidy or untidy?

religion	<\$10k	\$10–20k	\$20–30k	\$30–40k	\$40–50k	\$50–75k
Agnostic	27	34	60	81	76	137
Atheist	12	27	37	52	35	70
Buddhist	27	21	30	34	33	58
Catholic	418	617	732	670	638	1116
Don't know/refused	15	14	15	11	10	35
Evangelical Prot	575	869	1064	982	881	1486
Hindu	1	9	7	9	11	34
Historically Black Prot	228	244	236	238	197	223
Jehovah's Witness	20	27	24	24	21	30
Jewish	19	19	25	25	30	95

Table 4: The first ten rows of data on income and religion from the Pew Forum. Three columns, \$75–100k, \$100–150k and >150k, have been omitted.

Wickham, H. (2014). Tidy Data. Journal of Statistical Software, 59(10), 1 - 23. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.18637/jss.v059.i10>

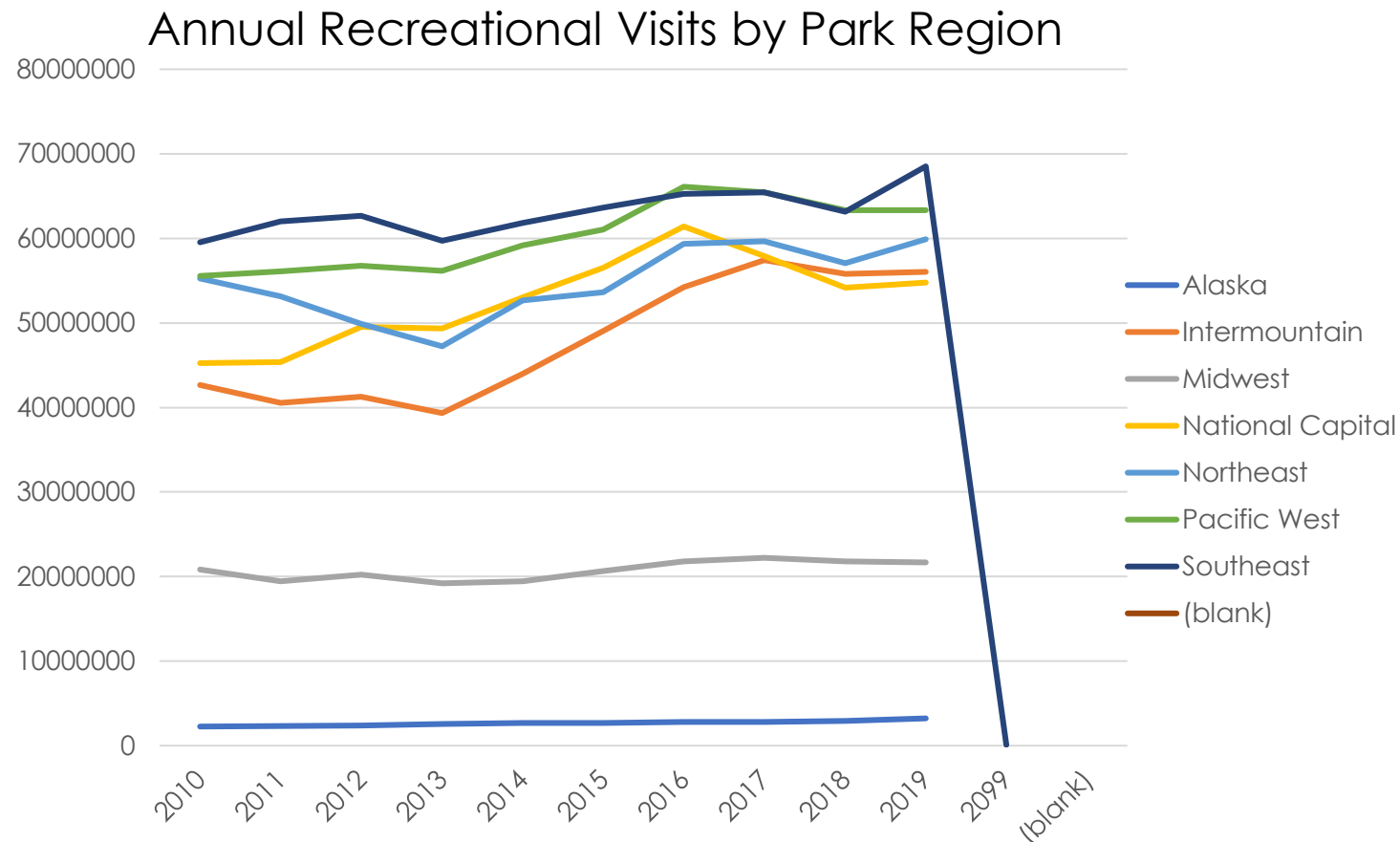


# Common data issues

- ▶ Improperly stored data
- ▶ Duplicate records
- ▶ Outliers
- ▶ Missing data
- ▶ Invalid entries

# Garbage data, garbage visual

- ▶ What underlying issues impact this graph?





# Summarizing Data

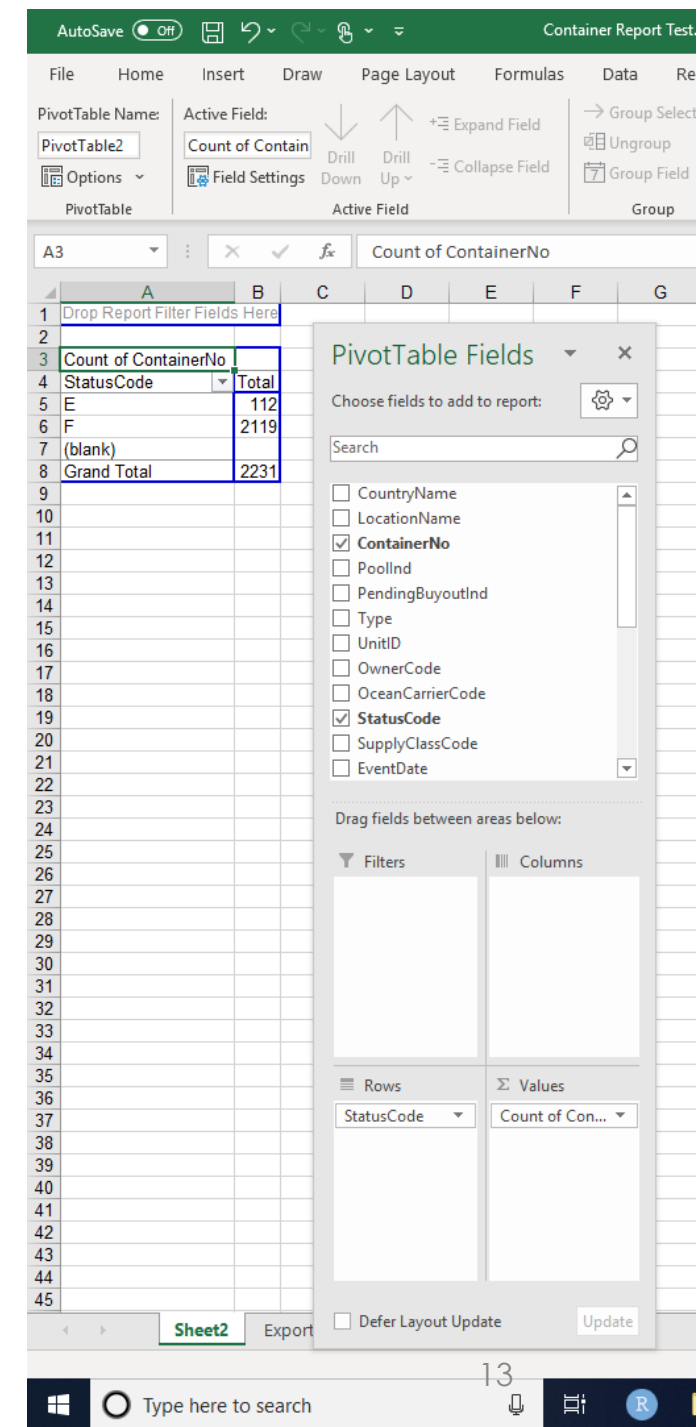
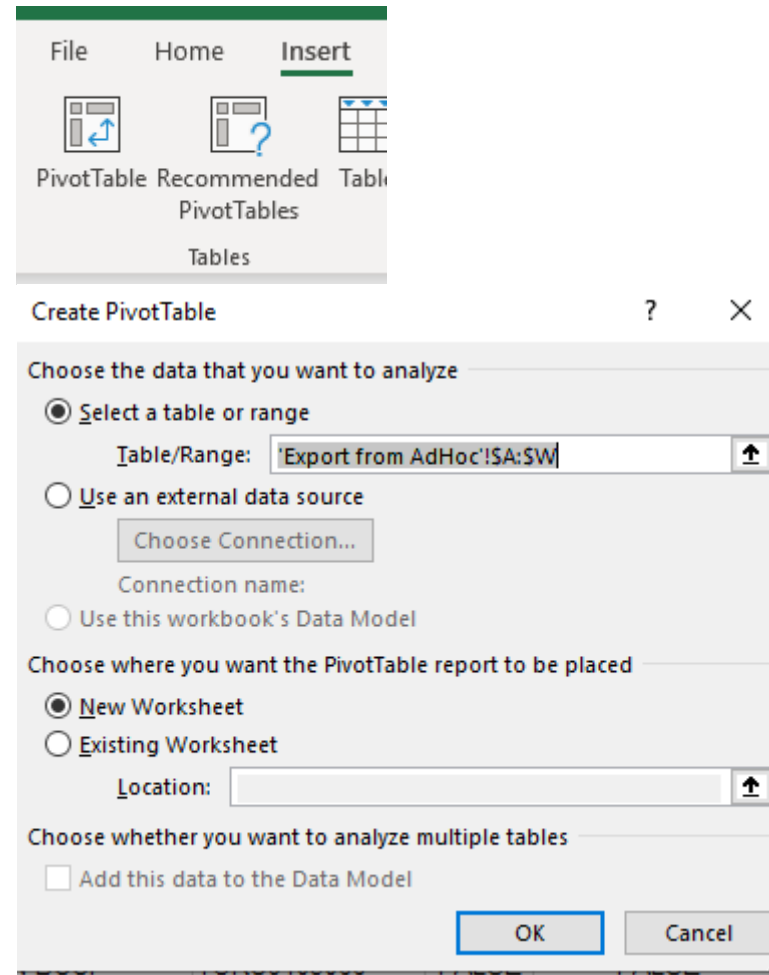
Slice and dice data with Pivot Tables

# Functions compute summary statistics

- ▶ SUM()
- ▶ MIN()
- ▶ MAX()
- ▶ MEDIAN()
- ▶ AVERAGE()
- ▶ COUNTA()

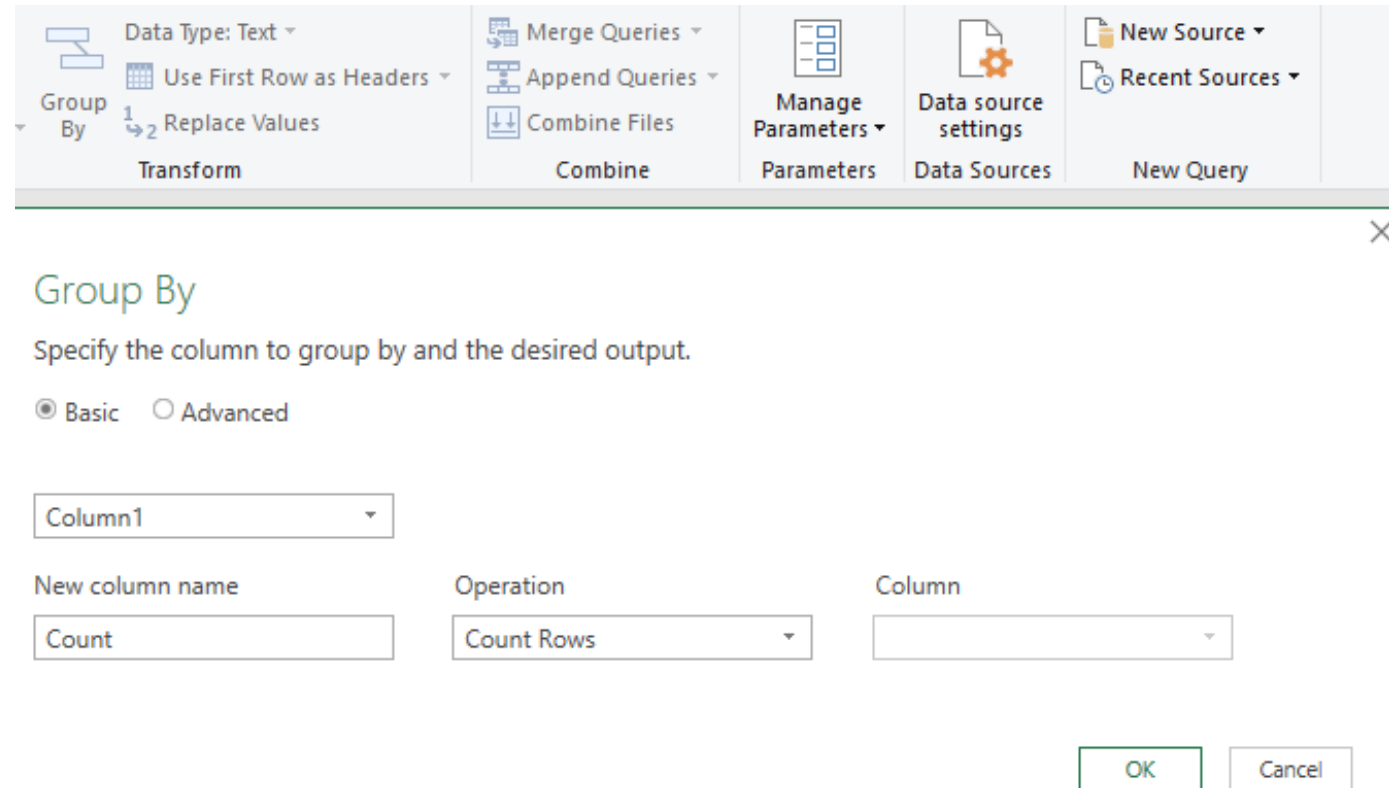
# PivotTables

- ▶ Allow you to quickly summarize data by groups
- ▶ Select Insert → PivotTable
- ▶ You typically want the default options:
  - Entire sheet as your range
  - PivotTable in a new window



# Power Query + PivotTables

- ▶ Power Query offers an intuitive way to construct PivotTables



The screenshot shows the 'Group By' dialog box in Power Query. The dialog is titled 'Group By' and has a subtitle 'Specify the column to group by and the desired output.' There are two tabs: 'Basic' (selected) and 'Advanced'. In the 'Basic' tab, there is a dropdown menu for 'Column1'. Below this, there are three columns of input fields: 'New column name' with a dropdown set to 'Count', 'Operation' with a dropdown set to 'Count Rows', and 'Column' with an empty dropdown. At the bottom right, there are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

New column name	Operation	Column
Count	Count Rows	





# Practical Examples

Let's see it in practice!



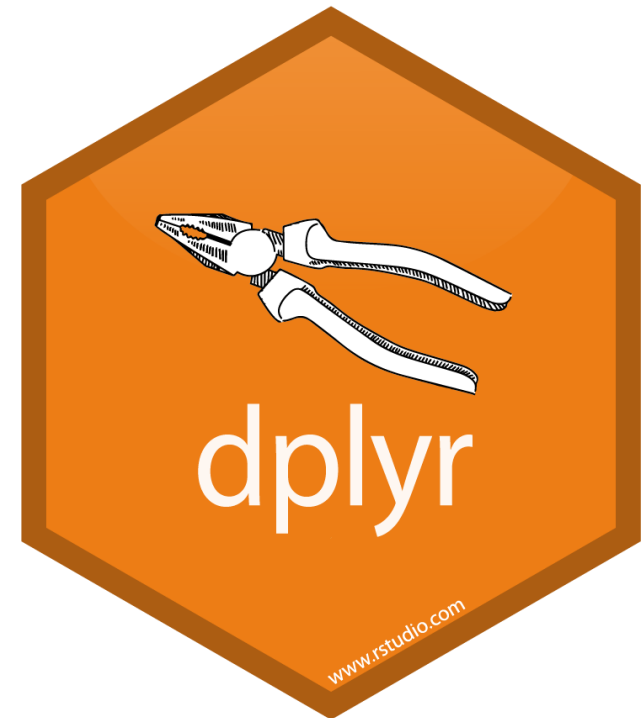
# Visualizing Data

Uncovering relationships in complex data

# Discovering relationships in data

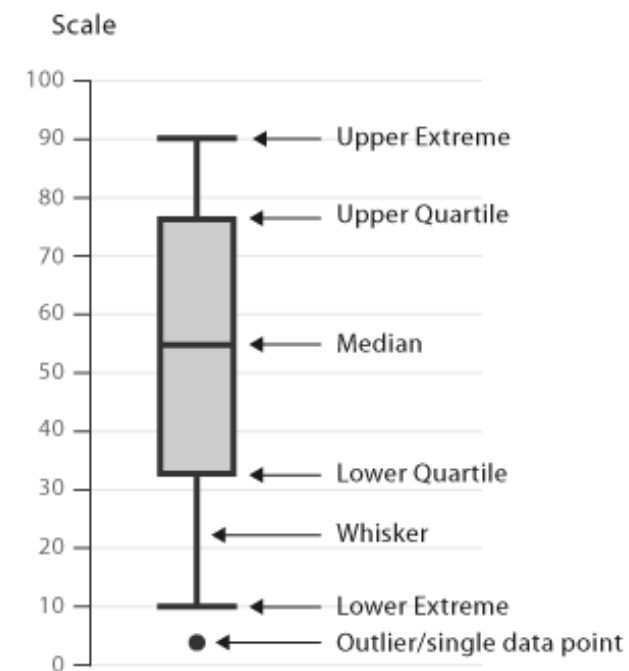
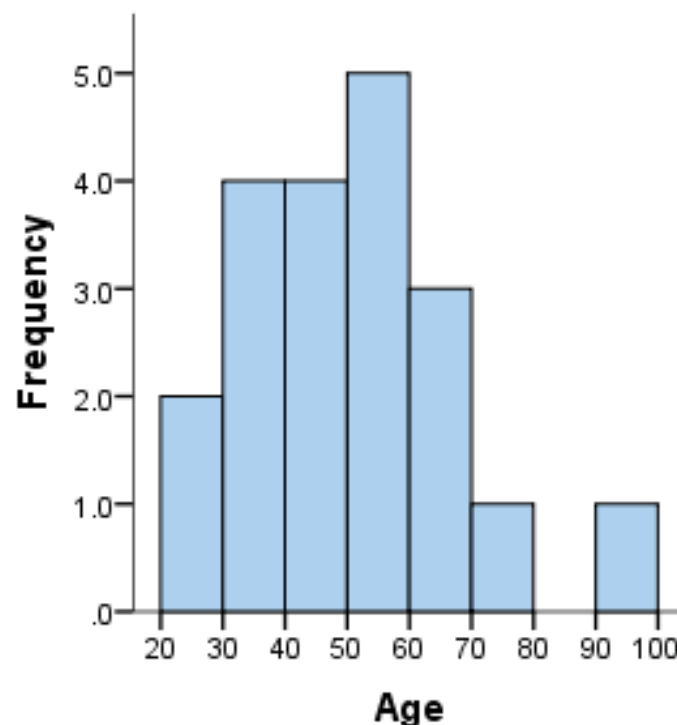
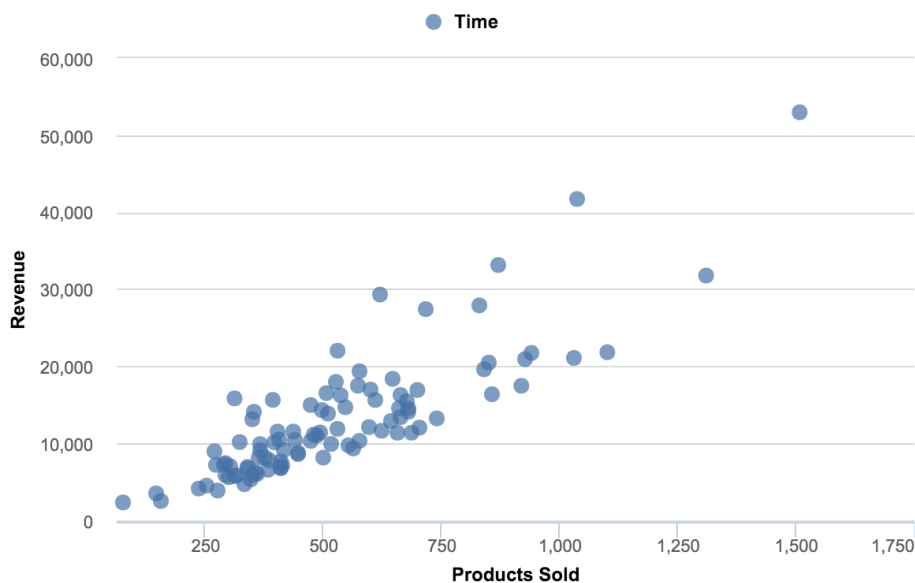
## ► Collecting and summarizing data

- Basic statistics are helpful in summarizing data
- Box plots, scatter plots, box and whisker plots provide compact representations of how data is distributed
- Useful for exploring data but may not always be the best choice for communicating the data to your audience.



# Discovering relationships in data

► **PLOT** the data in a meaningful way



# Discovering relationships in data

## A note on Machine Learning

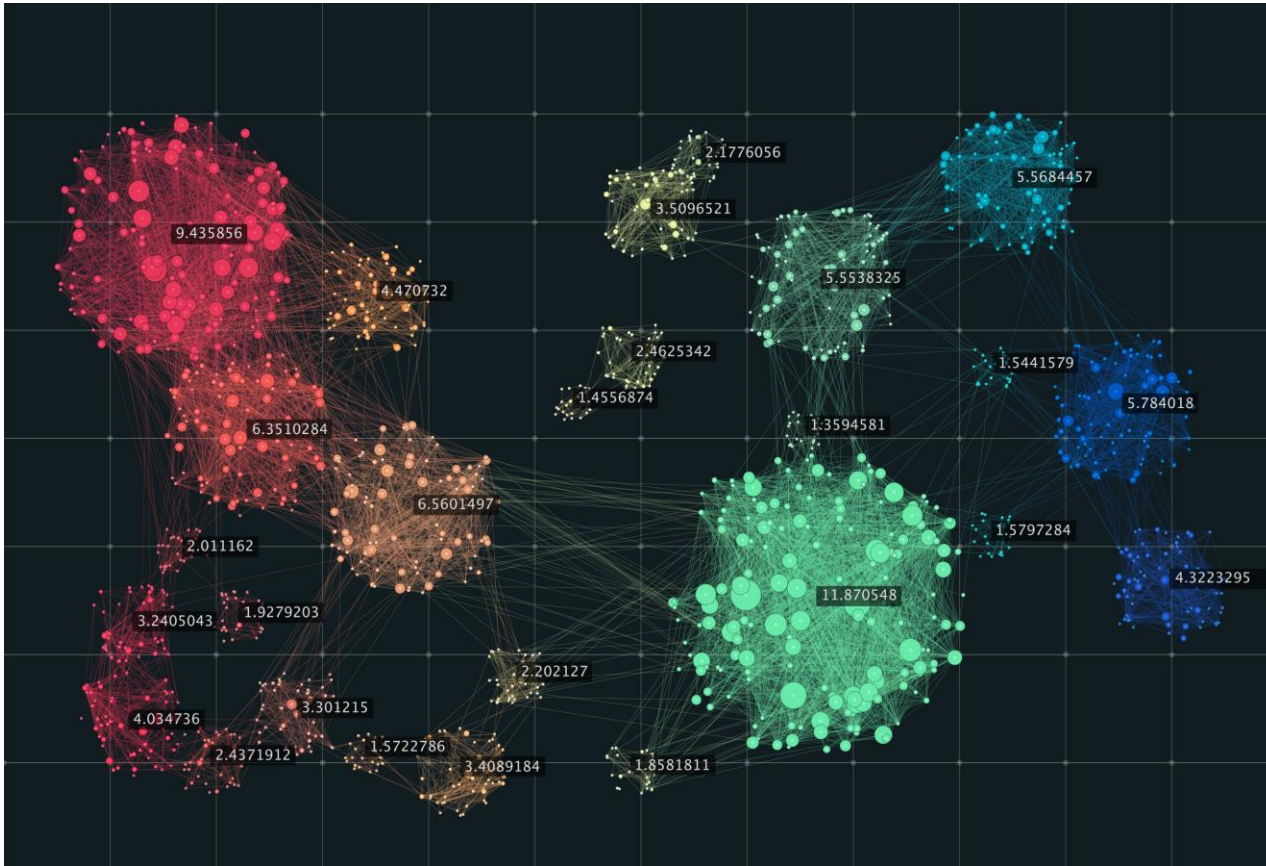
### Supervised Learning

- ▶ Learn a function that approximates the relationship between input and output observable in the data
- ▶ **Labeled data**
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ Classification
  - ▶ Regression

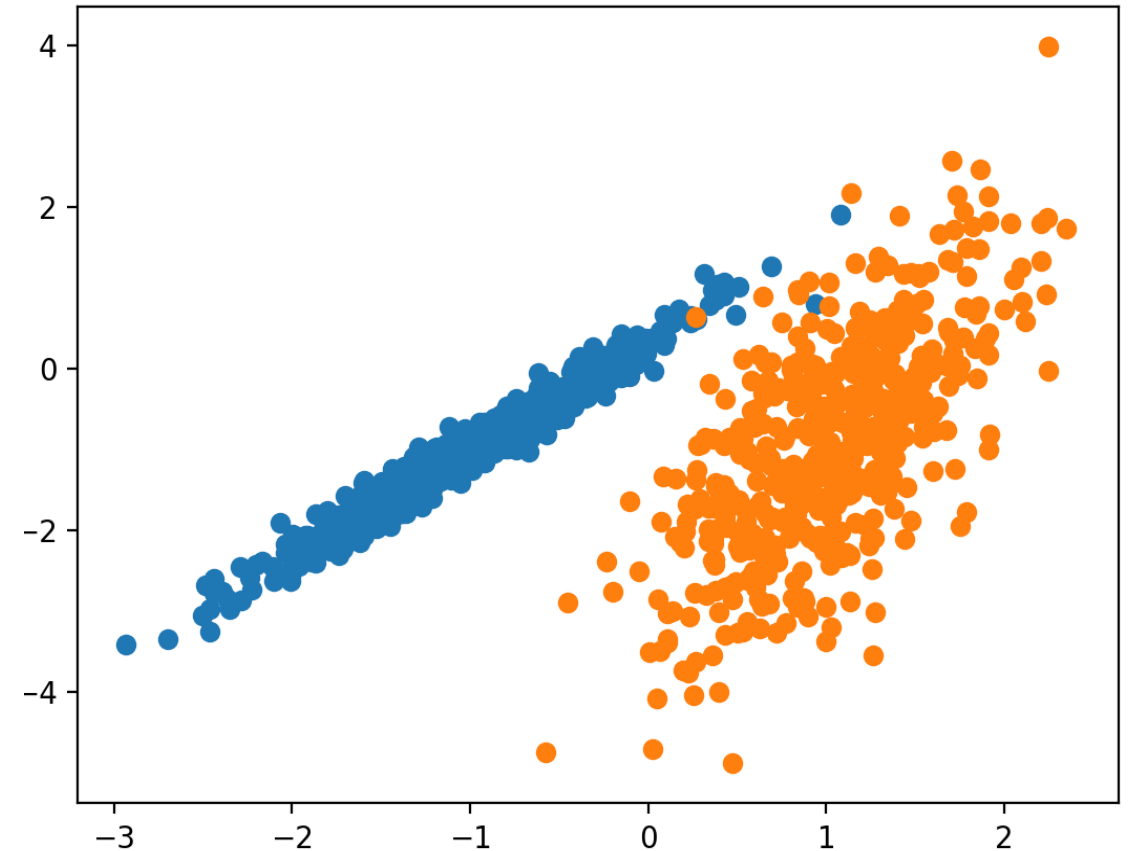
### Unsupervised Learning

- ▶ Uncover the natural structure present within a set of data points
- ▶ **Unlabeled data**
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ Clustering

# Clustering



<https://www.mygreatlearning.com/blog/clustering-algorithms-in-machine-learning/>



<https://machinelearningmastery.com/clustering-algorithms-with-python/>



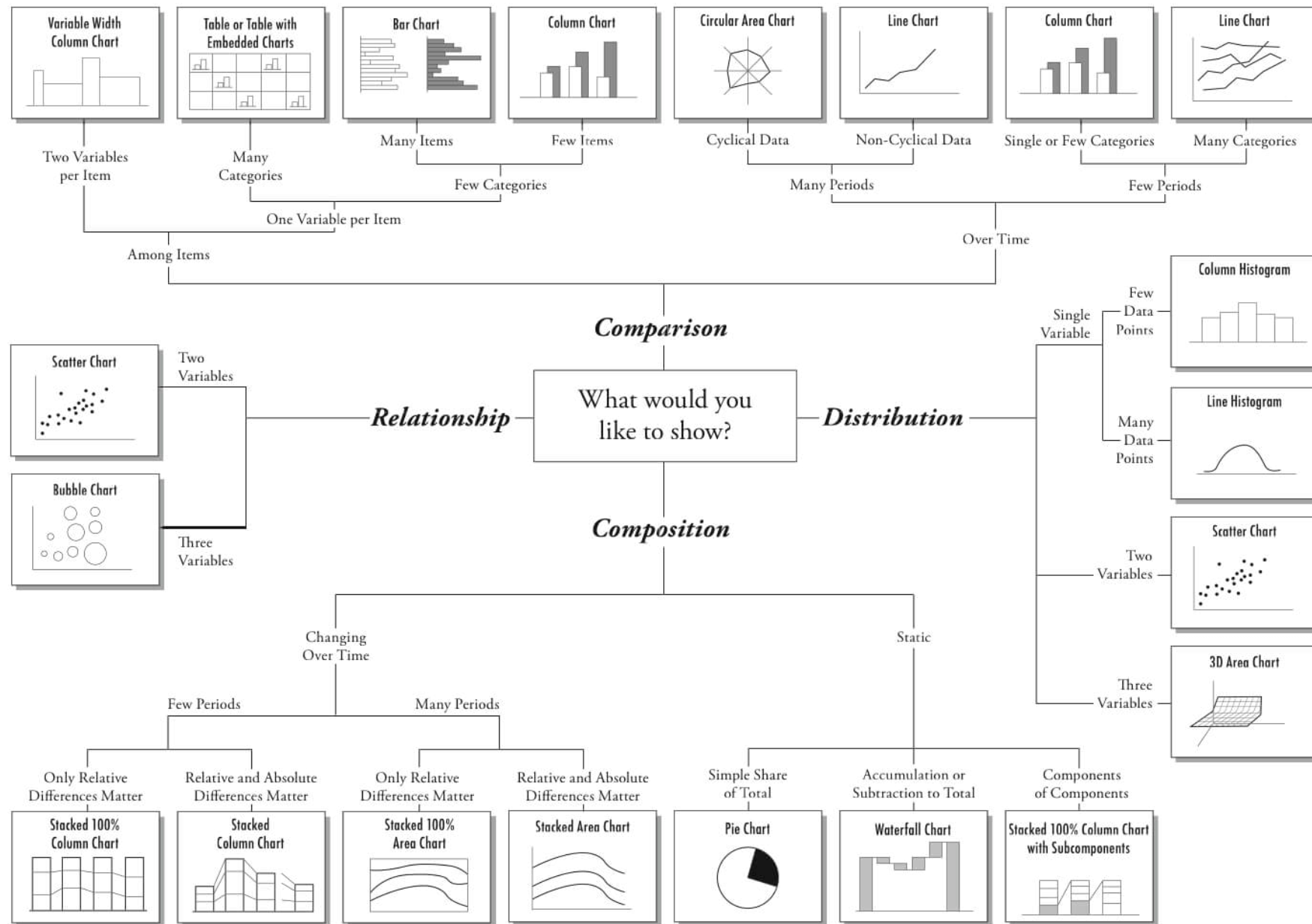


# Storytelling with Data

Communicating meaning from complex data

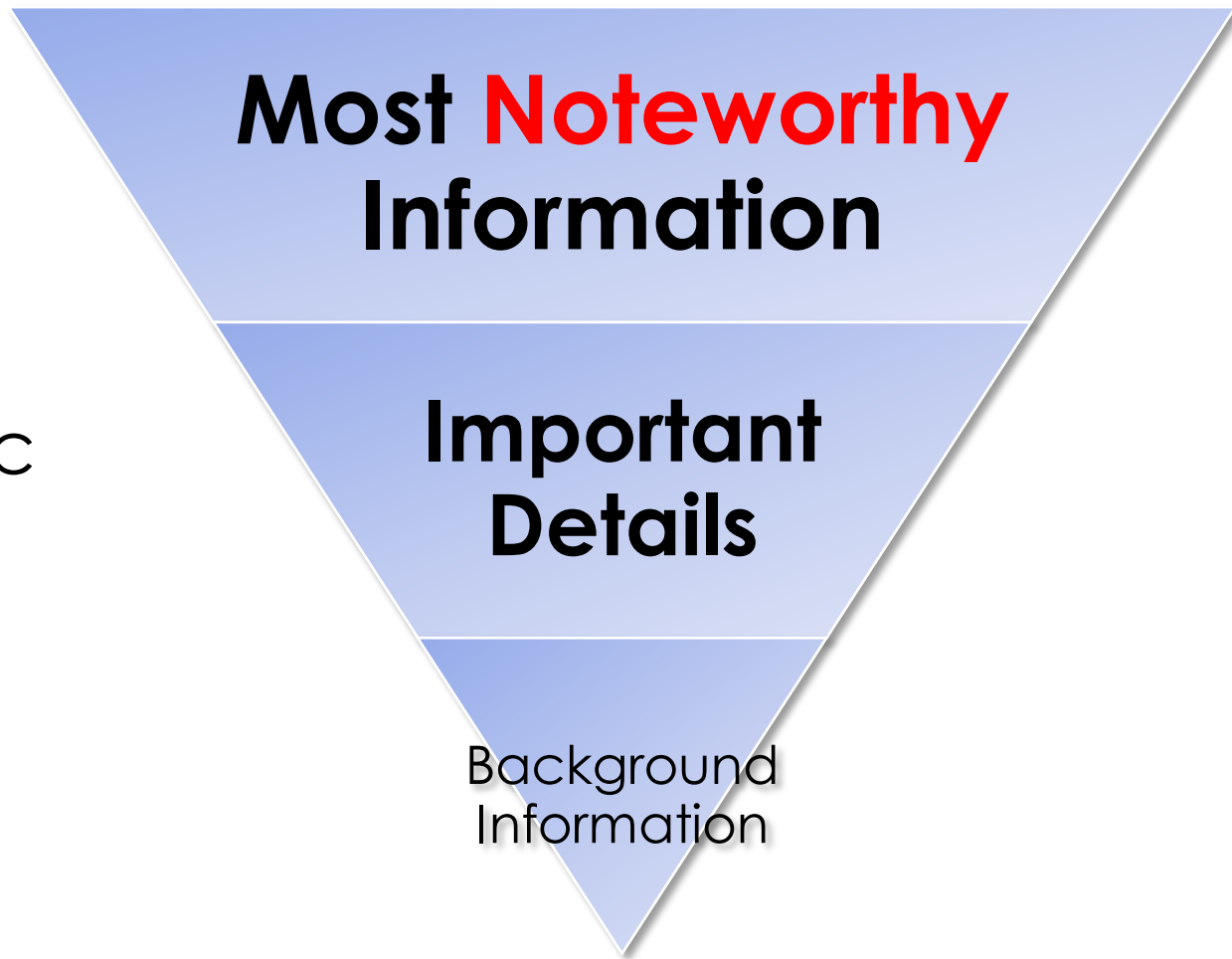
# Chart Suggestions—A Thought-Starter

www.ExtremePresentation.com  
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# Dashboard Design

- ▶ Composed of “**elements**” (aka “cards”)
- ▶ Often laid out on a grid.
- ▶ Each element has a specific purpose – tells its own story.
- ▶ Choose **size, color, and placement** of elements to draw attention to what is important.



# Types of Elements

- ▶ Big Numbers
- ▶ Charts / Graphs
- ▶ Maps
- ▶ Heat map
- ▶ Slicers
- ▶ Tables
- ▶ Sparklines



# Dashboard Best Practices

Consider  
visual  
hierarchy

Consider  
your goal

Provide  
Context

Keep it  
Simple

Provide  
user  
controls

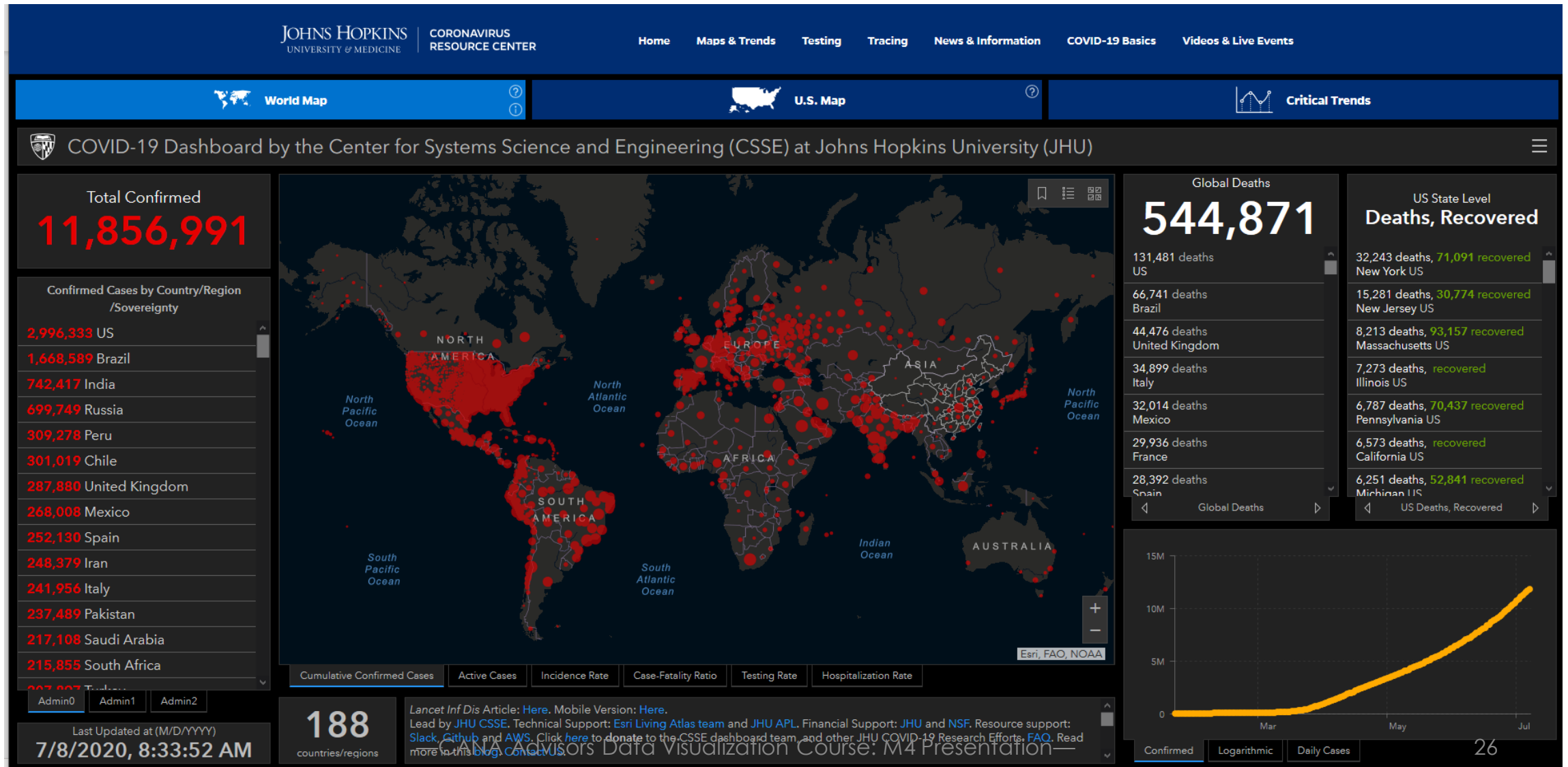
Select  
relevant  
KPIs



Use the  
right visuals

Iterate &  
Improve

# Dashboard Critique







# Practical Examples

Let's see it in practice!