

Graphical Excellence

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Outline

The Visual Display of Quantitative Information provides a rich story of graph types and excellence including:

- What is excellence?
- Data maps
- Time series
- Space-time narrative designs
- Relational graphics
- Some history

How is excellence achieved?

When complex ideas are expressed with:

- Clarity
- Precision
- Efficiency

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How do we get there?

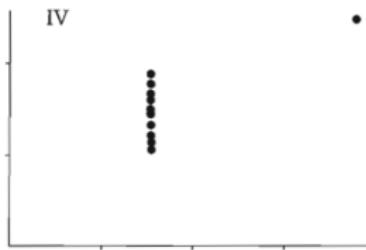
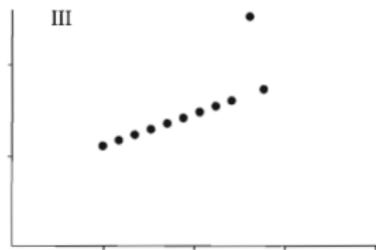
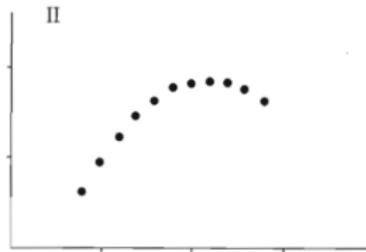
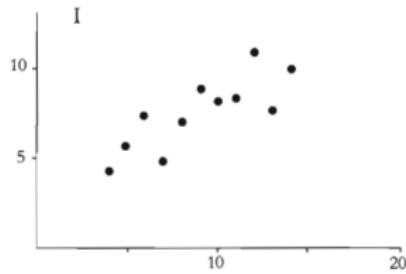
- **Do:** Show the data clearly, aim to have a quick understanding of the data trend, facilitate comparisons.
- **Don't:** Distort the data, compress data in small spaces, show data at different scales.

Why visualize? Anscombe's Quartet

I		II		III		IV	
X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
10.0	8.04	10.0	9.14	10.0	7.46	8.0	6.58
8.0	6.95	8.0	8.14	8.0	6.77	8.0	5.76
13.0	7.58	13.0	8.74	13.0	12.74	8.0	7.71
9.0	8.81	9.0	8.77	9.0	7.11	8.0	8.84
11.0	8.33	11.0	9.26	11.0	7.81	8.0	8.47
14.0	9.96	14.0	8.10	14.0	8.84	8.0	7.04
6.0	7.24	6.0	6.13	6.0	6.08	8.0	5.25
4.0	4.26	4.0	3.10	4.0	5.39	19.0	12.50
12.0	10.84	12.0	9.13	12.0	8.15	8.0	5.56
7.0	4.82	7.0	7.26	7.0	6.42	8.0	7.91
5.0	5.68	5.0	4.74	5.0	5.73	8.0	6.89

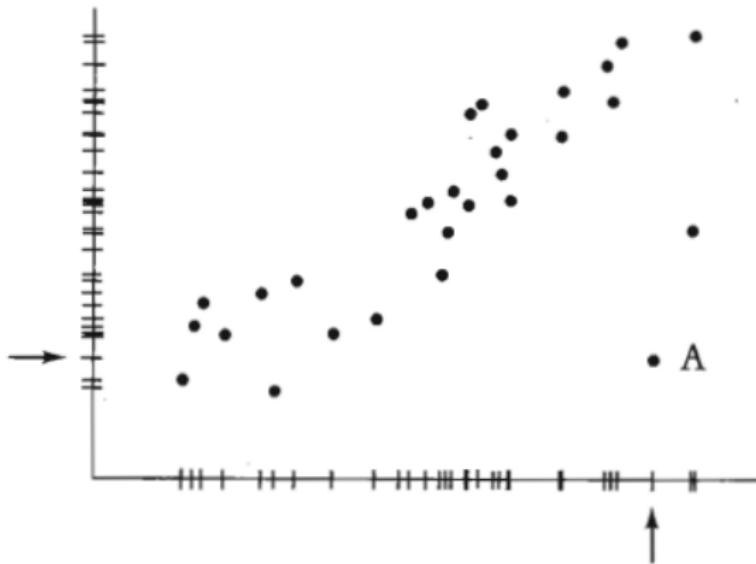
N = 11
mean of X's = 9.0
mean of Y's = 7.5
equation of regression line: $Y = 3 + 0.5X$
standard error of estimate of slope = 0.118
 $t = 4.24$
sum of squares $X - \bar{X} = 110.0$
regression sum of squares = 27.50
residual sum of squares of Y = 13.75
correlation coefficient = .82
 $r^2 = .67$

Why visualize? Anscombe's Quartet



Simple statistics fail to exhibit the data trend! Remember to always visualize!

Why visualize? Anomaly detection



Showing the data clearly reveals anomalies.

Data maps

In highest decile,
statistically significant



Significantly high, but
not in highest decile



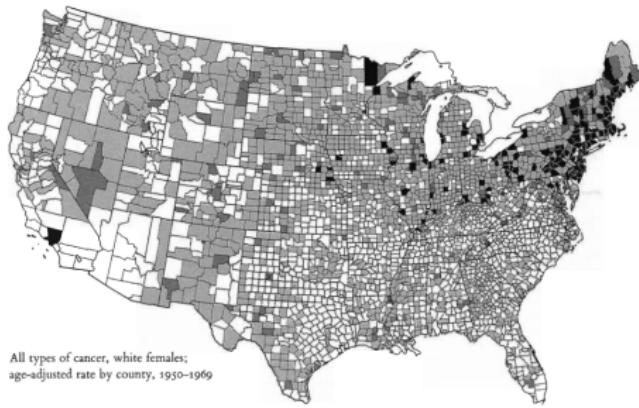
In highest decile, but not
statistically significant



Not significantly different
from U.S. as a whole



Significantly lower than
U.S. as a whole



Each map conveys a large amount of information in a small space.

They invite us to search for patterns and to explain their nature.

Data maps

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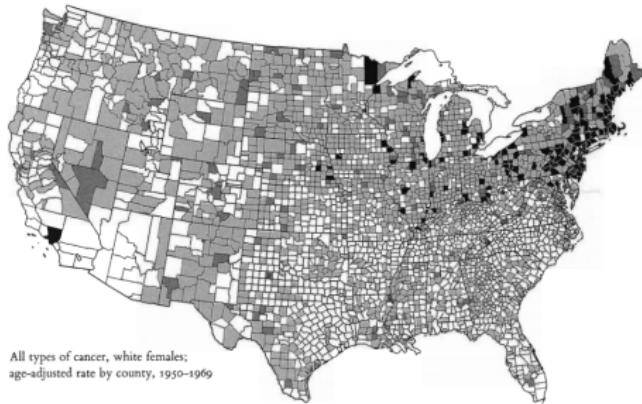
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High death rates in the Northeast region and Great Lakes.

Low death rates across central and south bands.

Data maps

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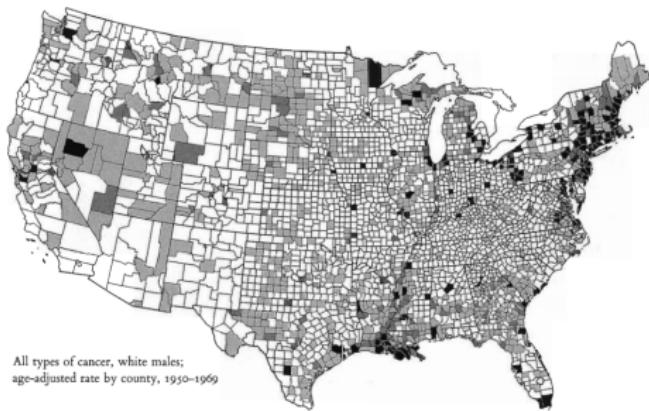
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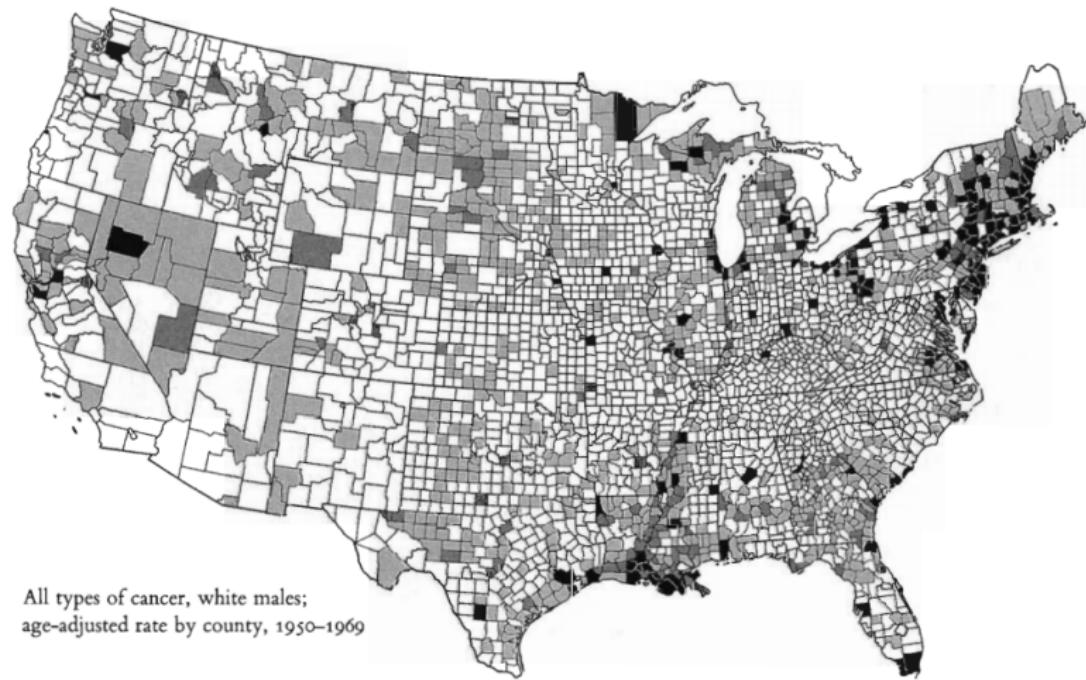


We are now looking at **white males** ...

Observations?

Explanations?

Data maps



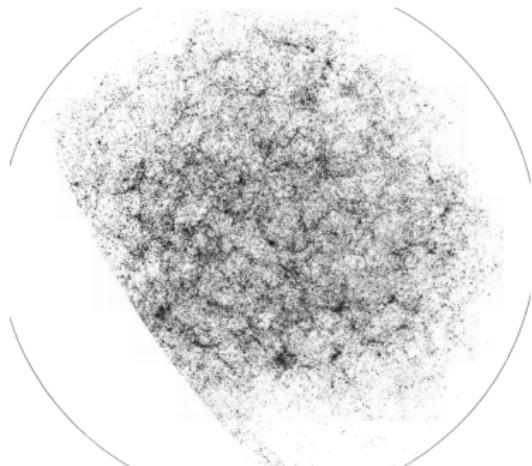
High death rates in the Louisiana area. **Asbestos exposure**

Data maps

Shortcomings:

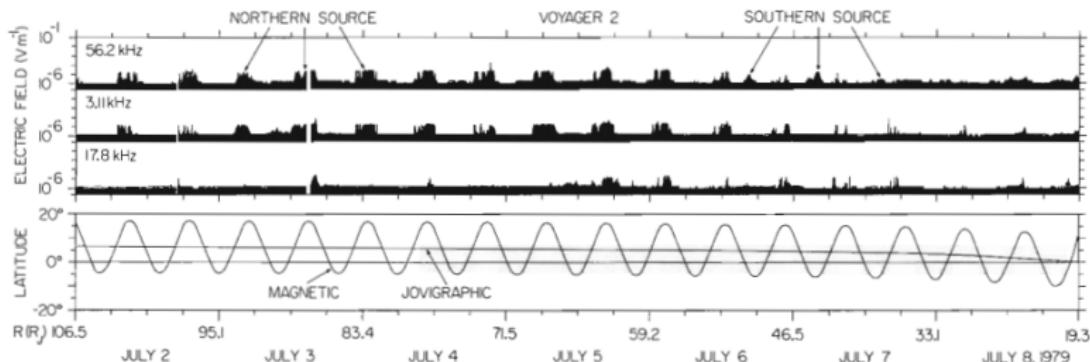
- Visual importance of each county is tied to its geographic area (rather than, say, the number of people living in the county).
- Changes across counties are abrupt (not smooth).
- How reliable are the data? (E.g., the diagnoses may be biased).

Modern data maps



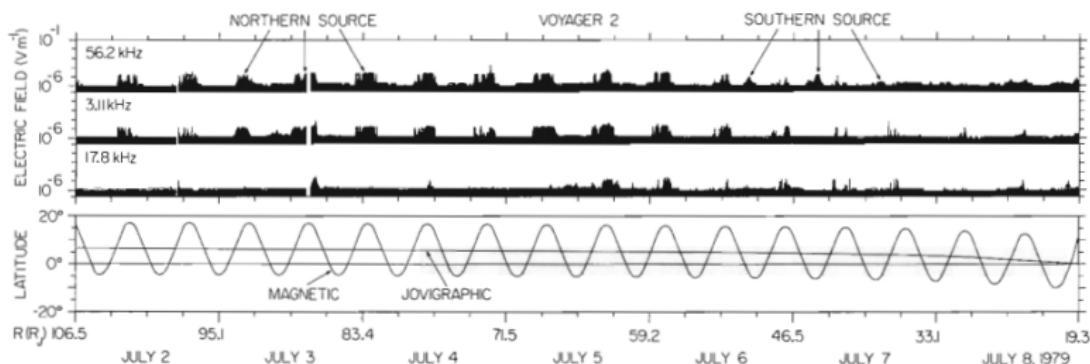
- Computerized cartography of the universe
- Distribution of 1.3 million galaxies in the Northern Galactic hemisphere.
- The darker the gray tone, the more galaxies in that region.

Time series



- This is the most frequent type of graph design.
- The x-axis contains time in one of many possible units (seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years, etc.).

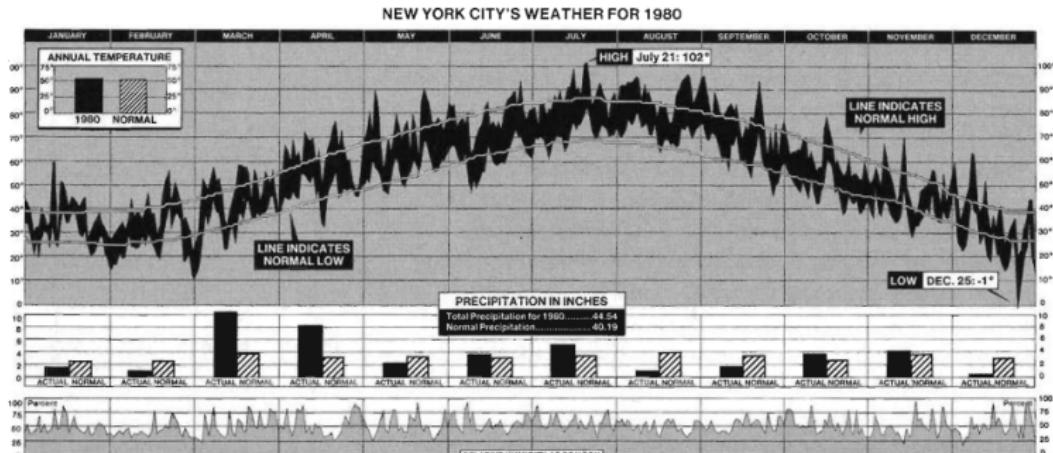
Time series



- Radio emissions from Jupiter captured by Voyager 2 (1979)
- x-axis is both time and distance from Jupiter
- Top three panels are different radio bands
- Bottom panel is orientation of spacecraft

Time series

New York City weather summary (1980)



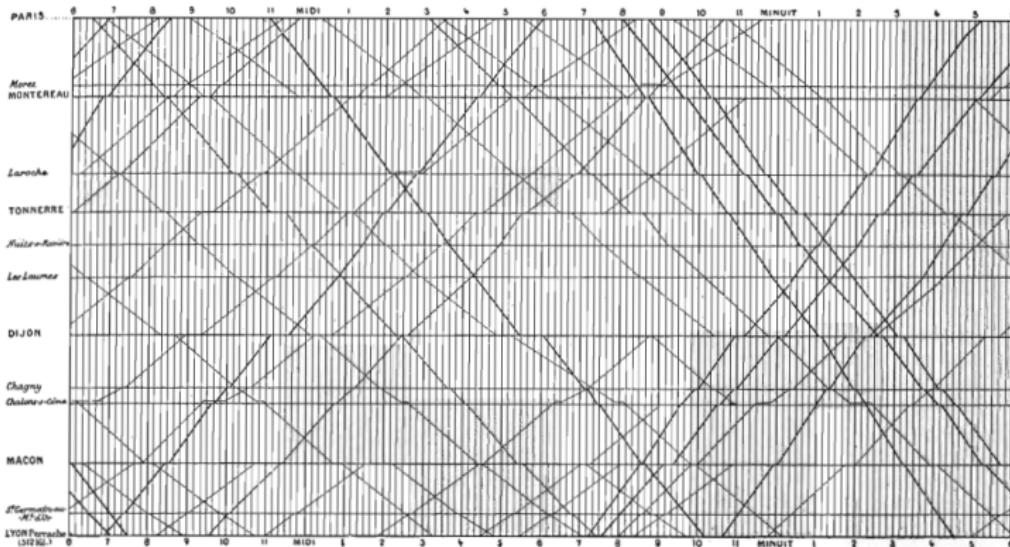
New York Times, January 11, 1981, p. 32.

How much can you learn from the graph?

The graph tells a story!

Time series

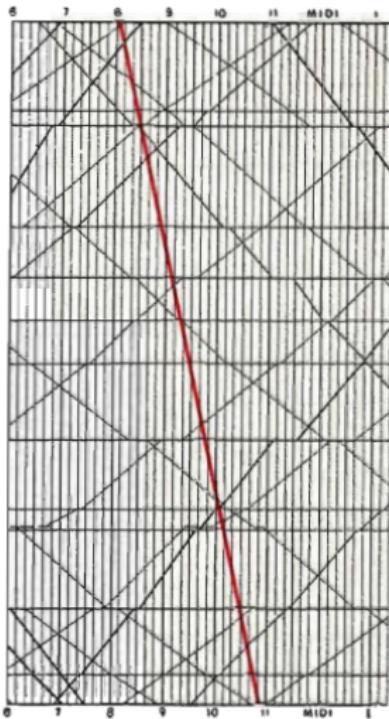
Graphical train schedule for Paris to Lyon (1880s).



y-axis: Arrivals/departures, top: Paris, bottom: Lyon.

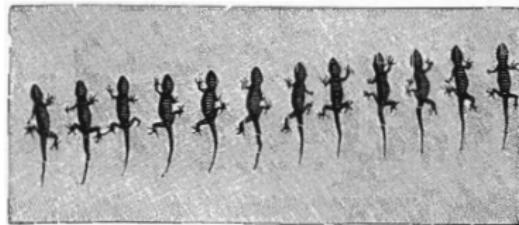
x-axis: time! Slope of line corresponds to the speed of the train.

Time series

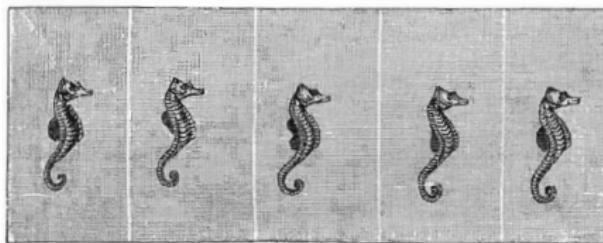


Extremely fast train came in 1981.

Time series



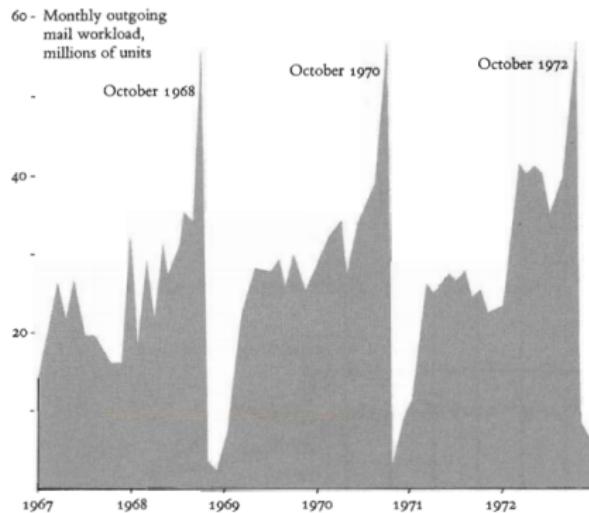
as well as the advance of the gecko.



the undulations of the dorsal fin of a descending sea-horse,

Time series can focus on the movement of body parts.

Time series

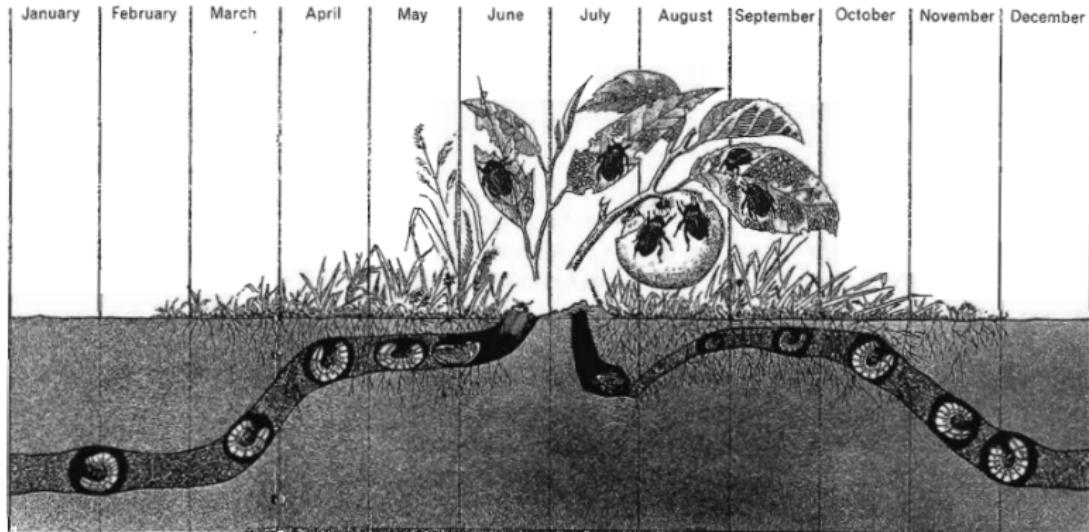


Causal information is encoded here . . . how?

Outgoing mail (millions) by incumbent representatives.

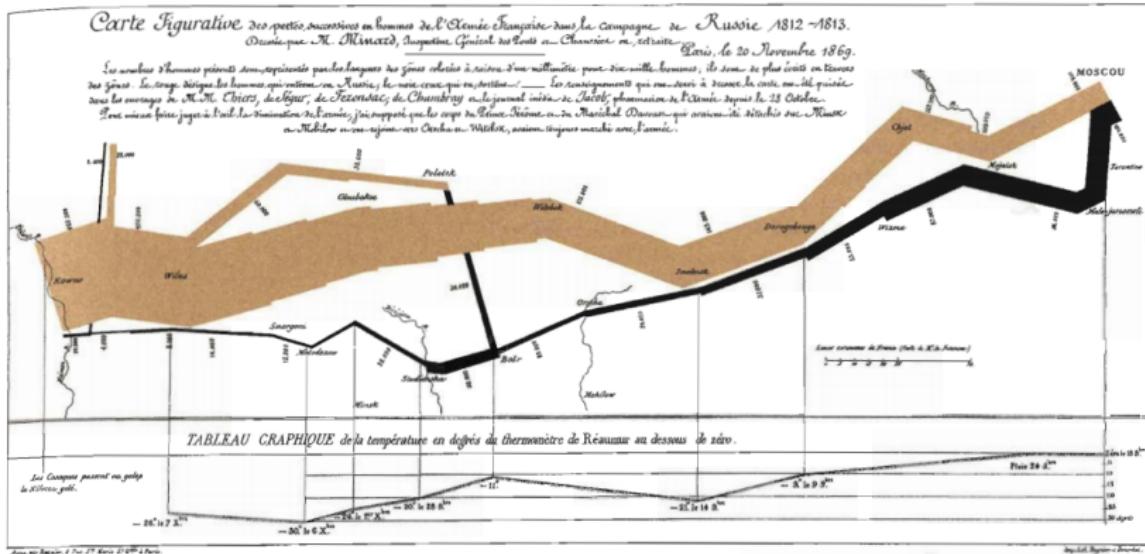
Representatives use the privilege of free mail to send many letters during re-election campaigns.

Space-time narrative designs



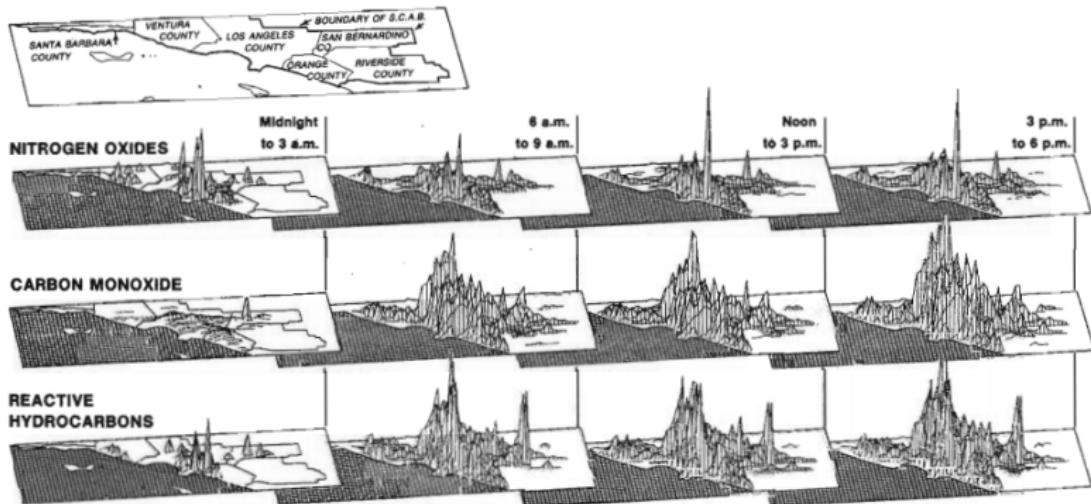
- Time-series graphs can be enhanced by adding spatial dimensions.
- This adds multivariate complexity that should be easy to visualize and interpret.
- Example: Life-cycle of the Japanese beetle.

Space-time narrative designs



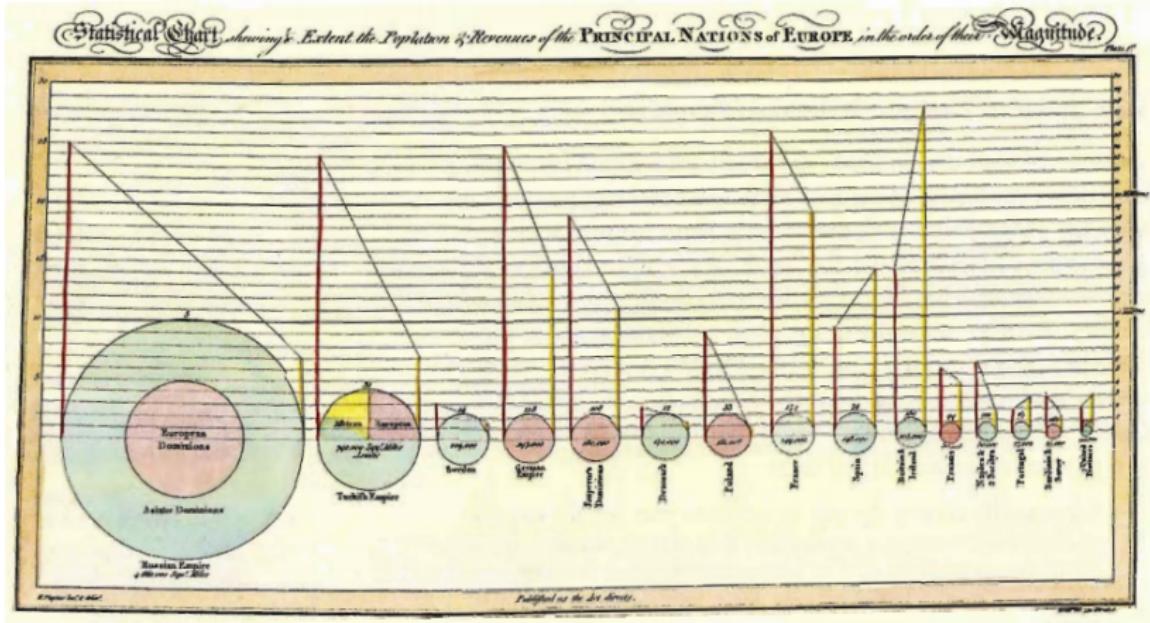
- An all-time favorite graph shows the fate of Napoleon's army in Russia (1812-1813).
- See the reference book for an explanation.

Space-time narrative designs



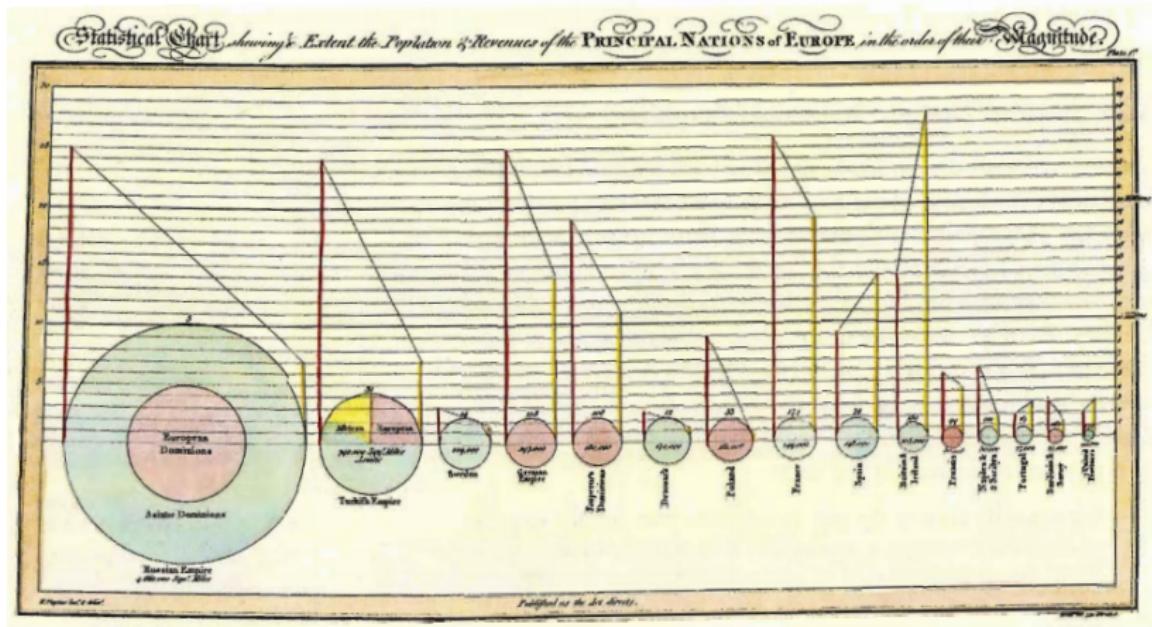
One more example is the levels of air pollutants in southern California during the day.

Relational graphics



- Similar to previous graphs, but the dimensions can differ from spatial coordinates.
 - "Relational" refers to the dependence of two variables (any variables).

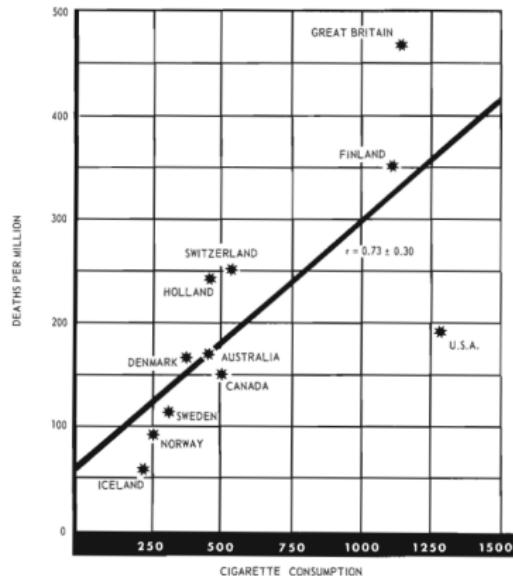
Relational Graphics



- Each circle refers to a country, and the size of the circle correlates with the area of the country.
- The line on the left is the population in millions, and the line on the right is the taxes collected in millions of pounds.

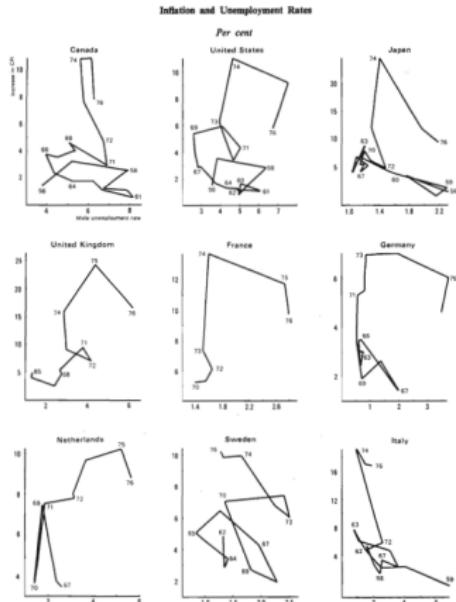
Relational graphics

CRUDE MALE DEATH RATE FOR LUNG CANCER
IN 1950 AND PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF
CIGARETTES IN 1930 IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.



- Relational graphs are the greatest of graphical designs.
- They help look for causal information.
- Example: The relationship of lung cancer and smoking.

Relational graphics



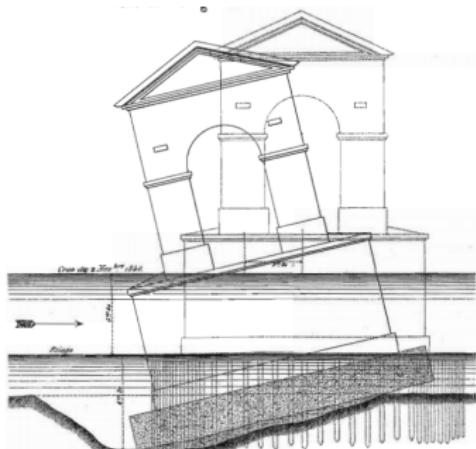
- Relational graphs are the greatest of graphical designs.
- They help look for causal information.
- Is there a connection between inflation and unemployment?
- Apparently NOT!

Relational graphics



- Relational Graphics
- Graphs can be very informative.
- Data points can convey a lot of information.
- Rage (x-axis) vs Fear (y-axis).

Summary



- Good graphs succinctly convey substantial information.
- Coming up with a good design is challenging.
- Ideas must be conveyed with clarity, precision, and efficiency.
- Give the viewer the greatest number of ideas in the shortest amount of time with the least ink in the smallest space.