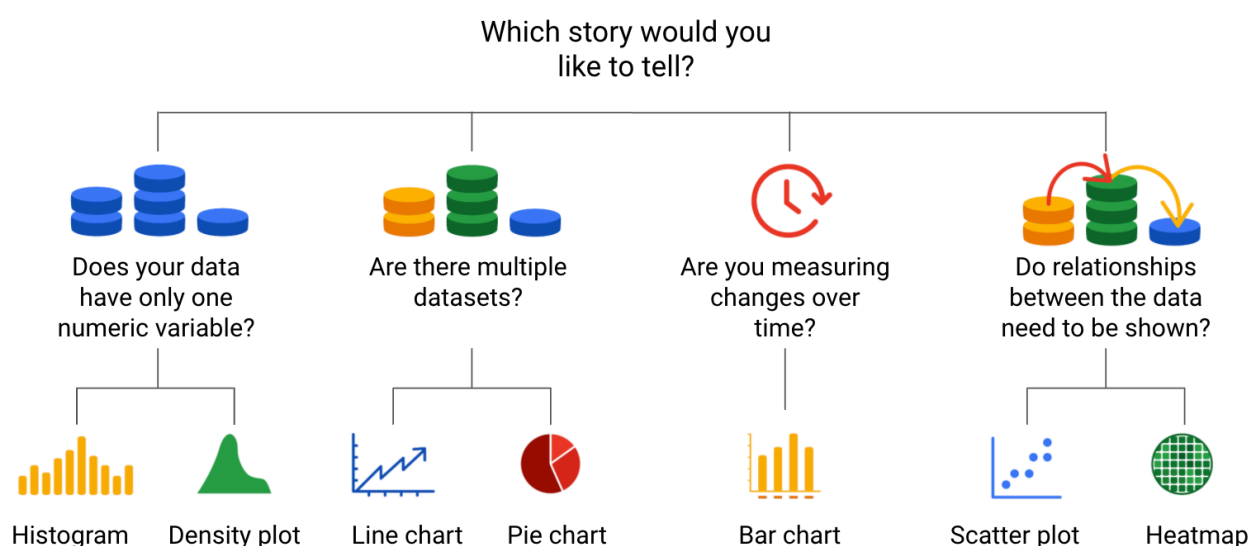# Data grows on decision trees

With so many visualization options out there for you to choose from, how do you decide what is the best way to represent your data?

A **decision tree** is a decision-making tool that allows you, the data analyst, to make decisions based on key questions that you can ask yourself. Each question in the visualization decision tree will help you make a decision about critical features for your visualization. Below is an example of a basic decision tree to guide you towards making a data-driven decision about which visualization is the best way to tell your story. Please note that there are many different types of decision trees that vary in complexity, and can provide more in-depth decisions.

Decision tree example

Which story would you like to tell?

Does your data have only one numeric variable? → Histogram, Density plot

Are there multiple datasets? → Line chart, Pie chart

Are you measuring changes over time? → Bar chart

Do relationships between the data need to be shown? → Scatter plot, Heatmap

Begin with your story

Start off by evaluating the type of data you have and go through a series of questions to determine the best visual source:

- **Does your data have only one numeric variable?** If you have data that has one, continuous, numerical variable, then a histogram or density plot are the best methods of plotting your