![Chart, scatter chart

Description automatically generated]()Best Practice Commentary #4 3D Figure – Frank Muzio

I was having a difficult time tracking down a paper that shows a 3D figure as many of the papers I read either do not need them or fortunately don’t utilize them. I found this figure while looking up tutorials on how to create 3D figures. Yes, this figure above comes with a tutorial on how to create it! To put it simply, this figure is horrible and over complicated. In one figure they are trying to show engine mpg vs 0-60 time, mpg vs power, power vs 0-60 time and power vs engine displacement. It is possible I could be missing one! This figure would have not only looked a lot better but would have been a lot easier to read if they just made individual plots and showed them side-by-side. The grey background doesn’t help matters, neither does the color choice for the points. The red and green on a grey background cant be easily distinguished or seen by those that are someway colorblind. I am not sure if I can track down the data to make this but I should be able to get similar data or use some data available in base R packages. I would simply make 4 individual scatter plots on a white background. This will also negate the need for distinct colors (although I’m not sure I see a point in different colors on this graph as is).