

## Varieties of information visualization



Michael Friendly  
Psych 6135

<https://friendly.github.io/6135>

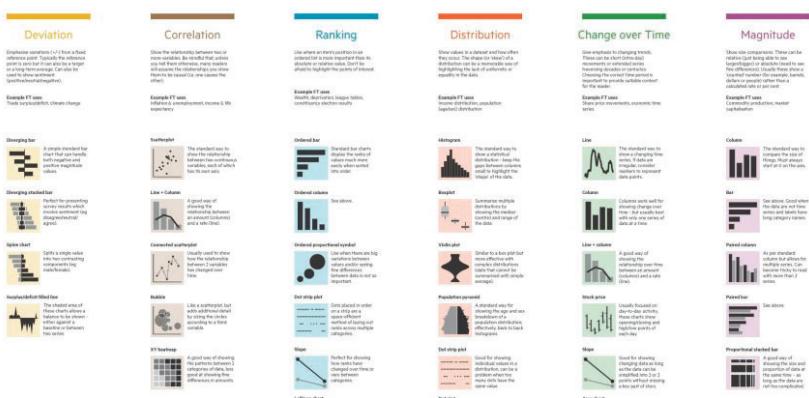


@datvisFriendly



## Classify by use, goal ???

For purposes of “What kind of graph should I use?” usually most useful to think:  
**“What do I want to show?”**



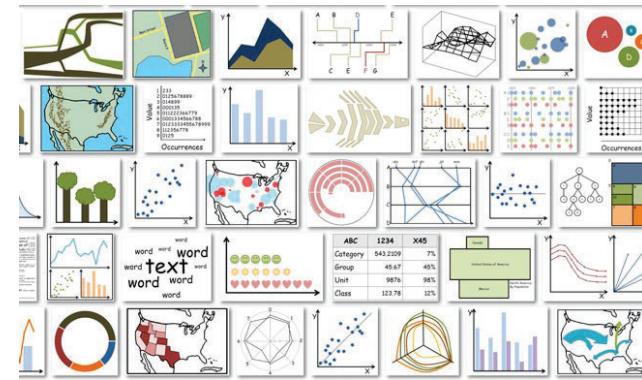
Financial Times, Chart Doctor, <https://github.com/ft-interactive/chart-doctor>

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## So many types

There are so many kinds of charts, diagrams, graphs, maps

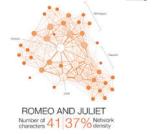
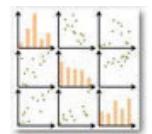
- What are their **features**?
- What tasks are they **good for**? – Accuracy or speed of judgment? Memorability?



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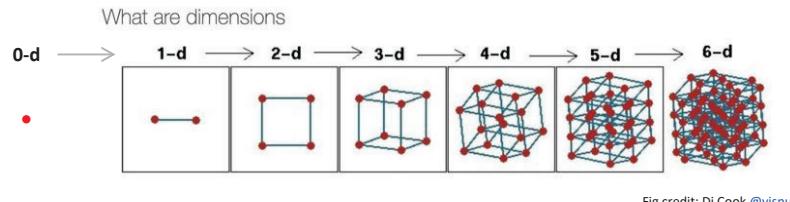
## Topics, by graph type: Content & form

- Statistical data graphs
  - 1D: dotplot, boxplot, violin plot
  - 1.5D: time-series plot, density plot, bar chart, pie chart
  - 2D: scatterplot, ridgeline plot
  - 3D: contour plot, 3D scatterplot, surface plot
- Thematic maps
  - Choropleth map
  - Anamorphic map
  - Flow maps
- Network & tree visualization
- Animation & interactive graphics



Number of 41,37% network characters

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1 D  
1.5 D  
2 D  
3 D  
 $n$  D ?

Data graphs can also be classified by the number of variables, dimensions shown in a given graph

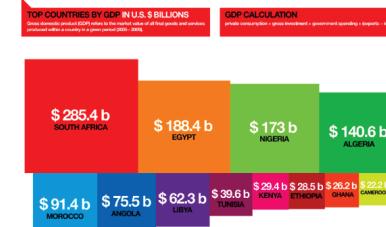
## Data graphs

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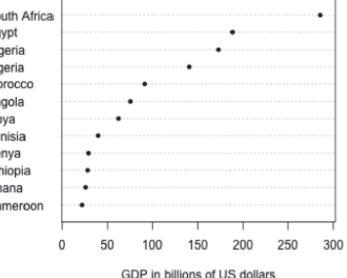
## 1D: Infographic vs. Data graphic

The same data can be shown in different forms, for different purposes

### African Countries by GDP



### African Countries by GDP



One might argue that this infographic has **greater impact** in showing the relative size of GDP

One might argue that this statistical graph **makes comparisons easier**

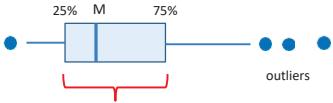
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## 1.5D: Dotplots & boxplots

### What number do you give to a probability phrase?

Boxplots summarize the important characteristics of a univariate data distribution:

- center (median)
- spread (IQR)
- shape (symmetric? skewed?)
- outliers?



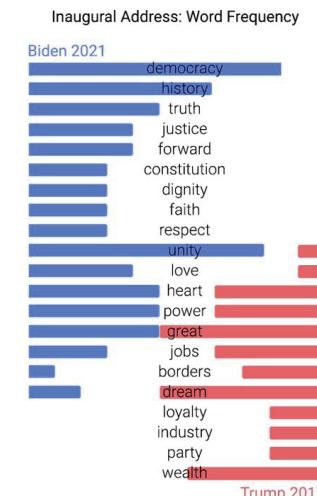
This example overlays the boxplot with a jittered dotplot, so we can also see the individual observations

This visualization made the longlist for the 2015 Kantar Information is beautiful award. Data & R code:  
<https://github.com/zonination/perceptions>

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## 1.5D: Text bar charts

- Text can be analyzed as data also, most often in frequency counts.
- This chart uses a novel design to compare the most frequent words by Biden (2021) & Trump 2017 in their inaugural addresses.
- The contrast is striking!
  - democracy, unity vs. great, dream



From:  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/dataisbeautiful/comments/l7k0f0/us\\_inauguration\\_address\\_word\\_frequency\\_biden\\_vs\\_trump/](https://www.reddit.com/r/dataisbeautiful/comments/l7k0f0/us_inauguration_address_word_frequency_biden_vs_trump/)

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## 1.5D: Time series line graphs

William Playfair (1786), *The Commercial and Political Atlas*, invented the time series line graph as a way to show data on England's trade with other countries

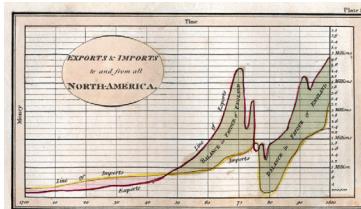
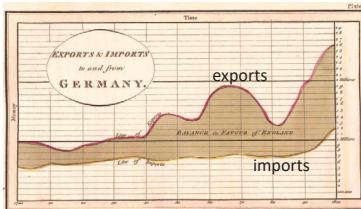
One curve for imports, one for exports

The **balance of trade** could be seen as the difference between the curves

Trade with Germany was consistently in favor of England

With North America, the balance changed back and forth over time

Economic 'history' could now be visualized and explained

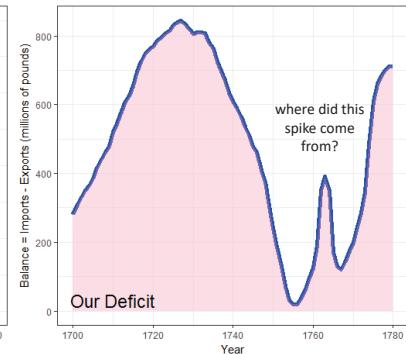
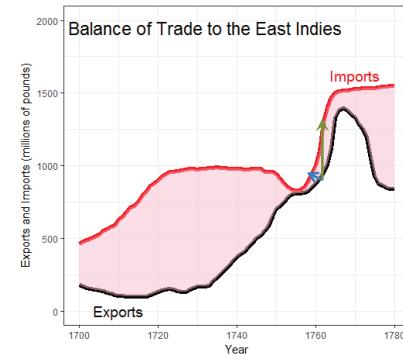


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## Psychology: Distances between curves

What Playfair didn't know is that judgments of **distance** between curves are **biased**. We tend to see the **perpendicular** distance rather than the **vertical** distance

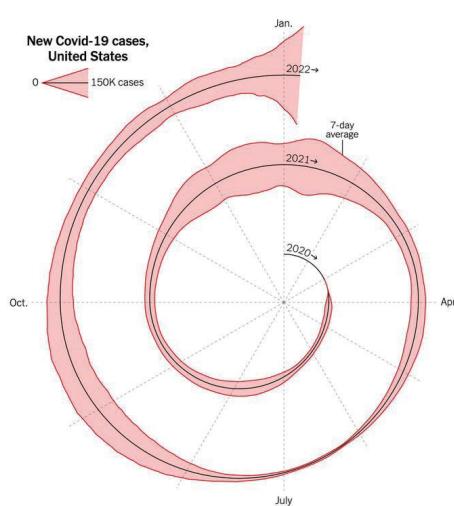
Plotting balance of trade directly



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The New York Times

Jan. 6, 2022



## 1.5D COVID spiral graph

This graph shows a 1.5D time series of COVID-19 cases over the entire span of the pandemic

It is wrapped into a spiral to compare **months** over years.

Does this work for you, or is it too weird?  
Is it the "tapeworm of doom"?

See commentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWOWF9Vi4Mw>

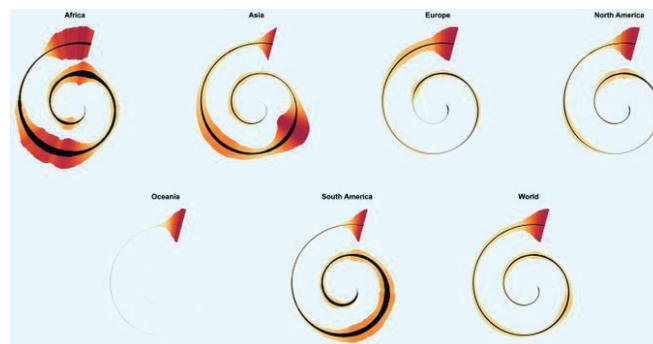
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## Multi-spirals

Multiple spirals: Allow comparison of the patterns for different geographic units

- Overlaid time-series probably would not work here
- How could this be improved?

Color: smoothed new Covid-19 cases  
Black: Deaths (10x scale)



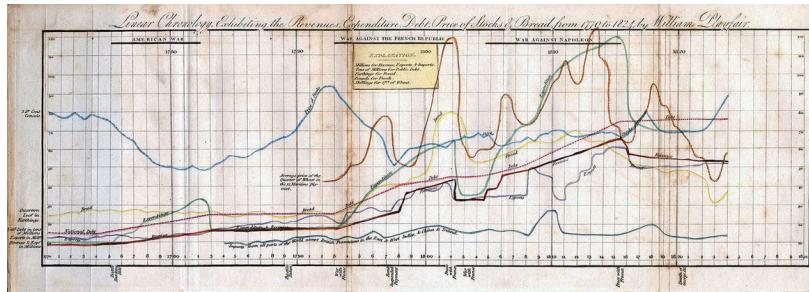
[https://twitter.com/h\\_i\\_g\\_s\\_c\\_h/status/1483195230404947968](https://twitter.com/h_i_g_s_c_h/status/1483195230404947968)

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## Multiple time series graphs

Things get messy when there are many series to be compared

- To be fair, this was designed as **timeline of history**— a visual story of economics (prices, wages, imports, exports, debt)
  - History shown as a **strip-chart recording** (e.g., EKG)
  - It was Playfair's last graph.



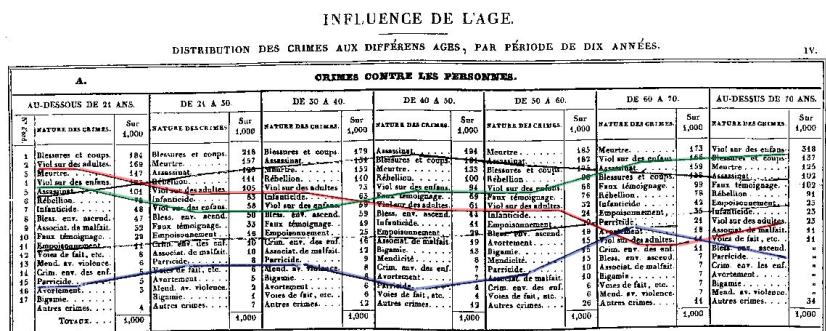
Playfair, W. (1824) *Chronology of Public Events and Remarkable Occurrences*.

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## Propensity of crimes across age

André-Michel Guerry (1833), rank order of crimes at different ages

- sexual assault *against adults* decreases with age
  - sexual assault *against children* increases with age
  - *parricide* relatively low until 60-70

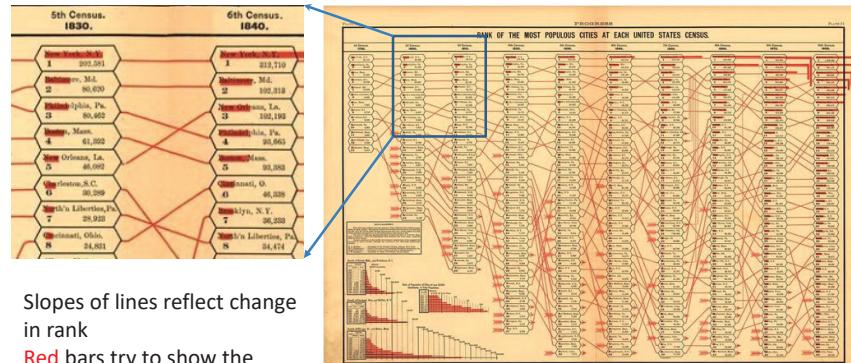


Friendly, (2007). "A.-M. Guerry's Moral Statistics of France: Challenges for Multivariable Spatial Analysis," *Statistical Science*, vol. 22, no. 3. <https://www.datavis.ca/papers/guerry-STS241.pdf>

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## Parallel ranked list charts

Another solution for multiple time series is to chart the **ranks** of observations and connect them with lines to show changes in relative position.



Slopes of lines reflect change in rank

**Red** bars try to show the numbers

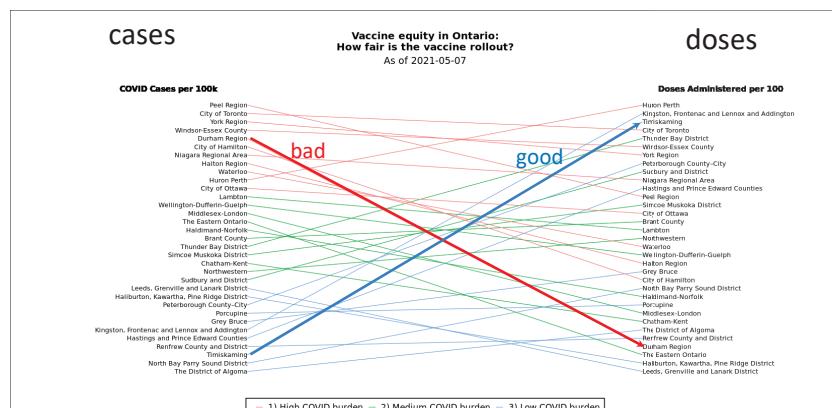
Ranks of populations of US cities across census years  
From: *Statistical Atlas of the United States* (1880)

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# Slope graph of COVID: Cases vs. Doses

Vaccine equity → all lines should be ≈ flat

Which health regions stand out?  
How could this graph be better?

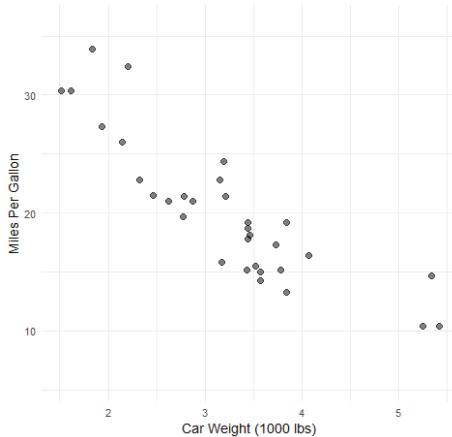


Graphic by Matthew Dubins, @MDubins

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## 2D: Scatterplots

1974 Motor Trend Cars: Gas Mileage vs. Weight [Frame 1]



Goals: Want to see--

- Overall pattern:
  - direction
  - form
  - strength
- Deviations from pattern:
  - residuals
  - outliers

Annotations can help:

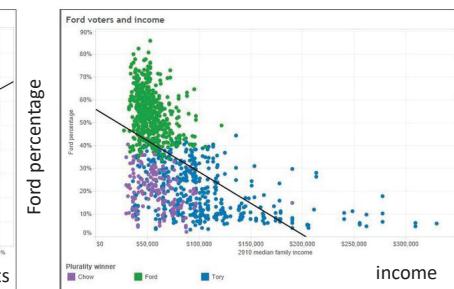
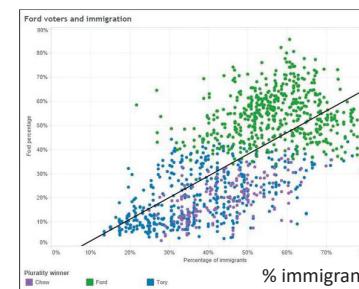
- regression line
- confidence band
- smoothed curve (nonlinear?)
- residuals

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## 2D: Scatterplots: Ford Nation



Who voted for Rob Ford in the 2014 Toronto mayoral election?



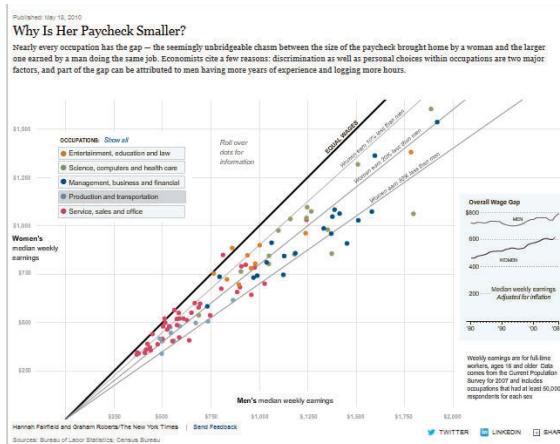
These simple scatterplots by data journalist Patrick Cain use simple enhancements:

- Color, for candidate (Chow, Ford, Tory)
- Overall regression line

Source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/1652571/ford-nation-2014-15-things-demographics-tell-us-about-toronto-voters/>

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## Scatterplots: Wage gap



How to compare salaries of men & women in different occupations?

The NYT chose to plot median salaries for women against those for men, in different occupational groups

The 45° line represents wage parity  
Other lines show 10, 20, 30% less for women

How else to show this?

Alberto Cairo, *The Truthful Art*, Fig 9.19, from:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/03/01/business/20090301\\_WageGap.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/03/01/business/20090301_WageGap.html)

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## Scatterplots: InfoVis

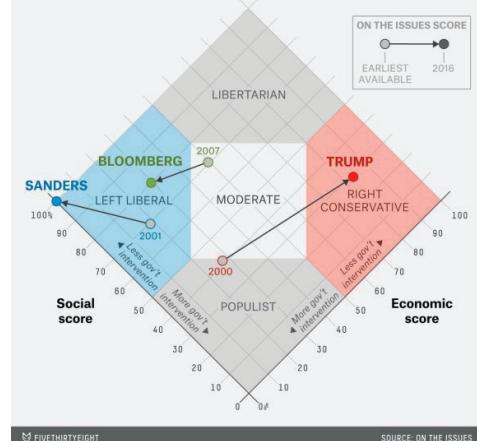
This graph, from [fivethirtyeight.com](http://fivethirtyeight.com), was designed to show how some presidential candidates had shifted positions before the 2016 election.

The axes are a score on **social** and **economic** policy, but they rotate the axes by 45° to create zones related to political thought.

This info graphic is **eye-catching** and **self-explanatory**:

- colored/labeled zones
- interpretive labels on axes
- arrows showing movement to extremes

**Candidates abandoning the middle ground**  
Earliest available and current OnTheIssues score for Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump and Michael Bloomberg



SOURCE: ON THE ISSUES

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## Scatterplots: Annotations enhance perception

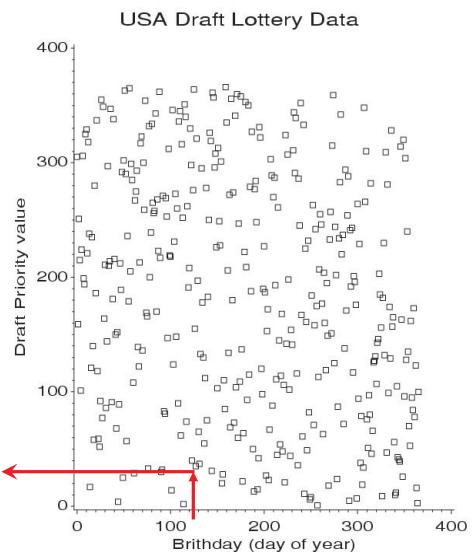
Data from the US draft lottery, 1970

- Birth dates were drawn at random to assign a “draft priority value” (1=bad)
- Can you see any pattern or trend?

This is an example of data with a weak signal and a lot of noise



Me (May 7):  
127 → priority = 35

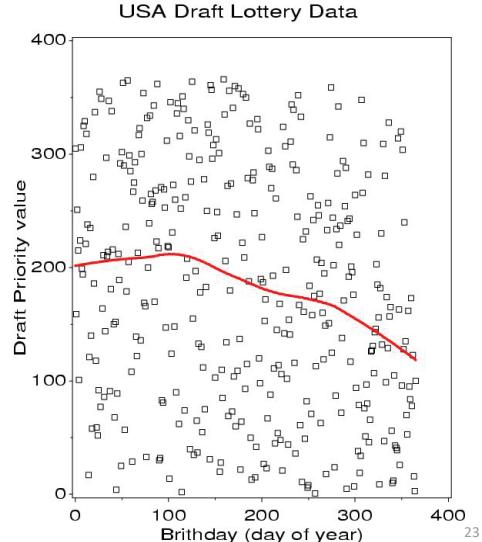


## Scatterplots: Smoothing enhances perception

Drawing a smooth curve shows a systematic decrease toward the end of the year.

- The smooth curve is fit by **loess**, a form of non-parametric regression.

Visual explanation:

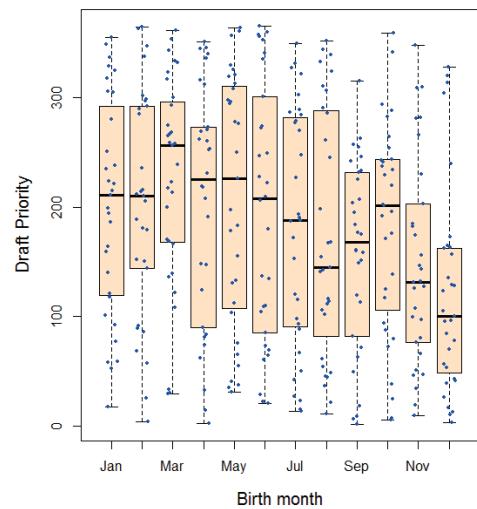


## Smoothing by grouping and summarization

Another form of smoothing is to make one variable discrete & show a graphical summary – here a boxplot

The decrease in later months becomes apparent

Perception: the boxplots form the foreground; the jittered points show the data



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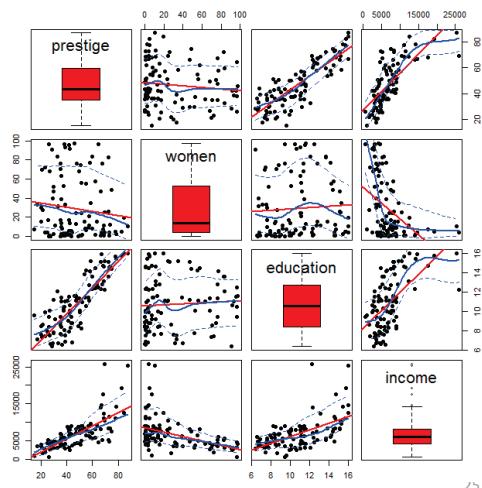
## Scatterplot matrices

A scatterplot matrix shows the bivariate relation between all **pairs** of variables. Seeing these all together is more useful than a collection of separate plots.

How does occupational prestige depend on %women, education and income?

The individual plots are enhanced with linear regression lines and non-parametric smoothes to show non-linearity

This figure uses `scatterplotMatrix()` in the [car](#) package. There are many options.



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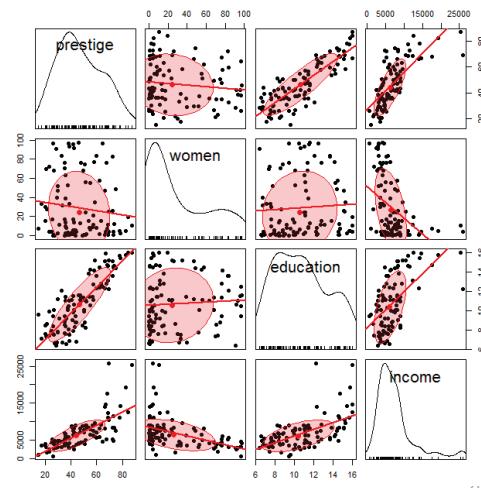
# Scatterplot matrices

**Density plots** are often more useful for showing the shapes of distributions

- women: bimodal
- income: highly skewed

A **data ellipse** gives a visual summary of the direction and strength of the relationships

Again, graphical annotation provides aids for interpretation.



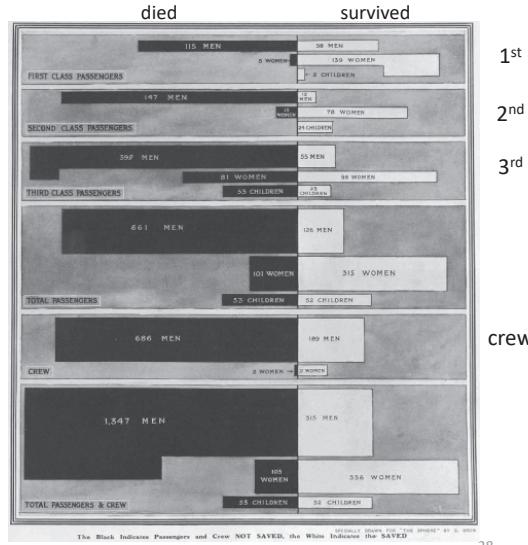
# Categorical data

This remarkable chart shows survival on the *Titanic*, by Class for passengers and Gender and Age.

It was drawn by G. Bron, a graphic artist, and published in *The Sphere*, one month after the *Titanic* sank.

It uses back-to-back bar charts, with area ~ frequency

See our web page:  
<http://datavis.ca/papers/titanic/>



# Larger data sets

Scatterplot matrices hold up reasonably well with a larger number of variables

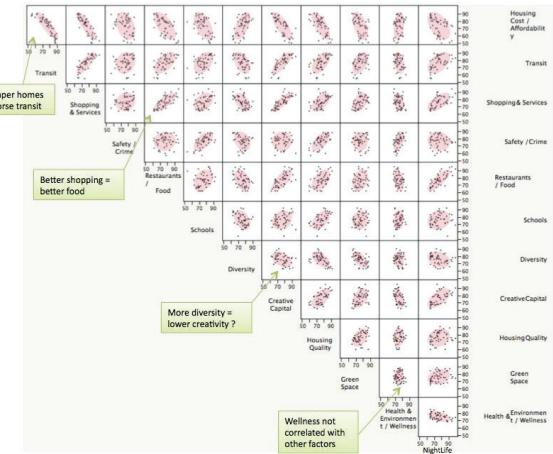
Where to live in NYC?

This SPM shows 12 variables on ~ 60 neighborhoods

The data ellipses provide a visual summary

I call this **visual thinning**  
– reducing details in a larger picture

In an interactive display we can **zoom** in/out



From: [http://junkcharts.typepad.com/junk\\_charts/2010/06/the-scatterplot-matrix-a-great-tool.html](http://junkcharts.typepad.com/junk_charts/2010/06/the-scatterplot-matrix-a-great-tool.html)

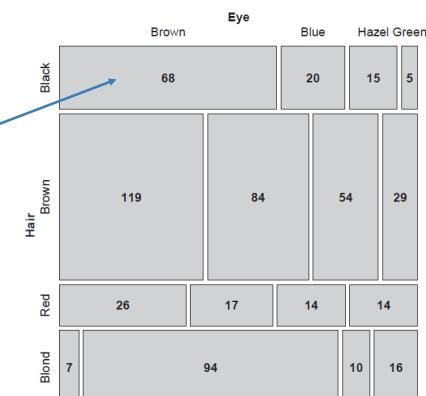
# Categorical data: Mosaic plots

Similar to a grouped bar chart  
Shows a frequency table with tiles, area ~ frequency

```
> data(HairEyeColor)
> HEC <- margin.table(HairEyeColor, 1:2)
> HEC
  Eye
  Hair Brown Blue Hazel Green
  Black 68    20   15    5
  Brown 119   84   54   29
  Red   26    17   14   14
  Blond  7    94   10   16
> chisq.test(HEC)

Pearson's Chi-squared test

data: HEC
X-squared = 140, df = 9, p-value <2e-16
```



How to understand the association between hair color and eye color?

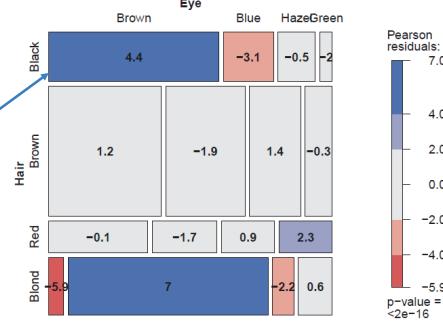
# Mosaic plots

Shade each tile in relation to the contribution to the Pearson  $\chi^2$  statistic

$$\chi^2 = \sum r_{ij}^2 = \sum \frac{(o_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

```
> round(residuals(chisq.test(HEC)),2)
```

	Eye	Brown	Blue	HazeGreen	
Hair	Black	4.4	-3.1	-0.5	-2
	Brown	1.2	-1.9	1.4	-0.3
Red		-0.1	-1.7	0.9	2.3
Blond	Black	-5.9	7	-2.2	0.6



Mosaic plots extend readily to 3-way + tables

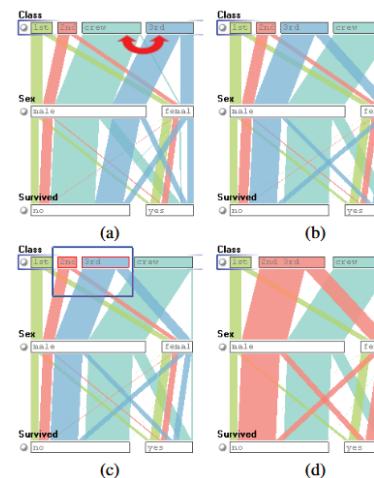
They are intimately connected with loglinear models

See: Friendly & Meyer (2016), Discrete Data Analysis with R, <http://ddar.datavis.ca/>

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# Parallel Sets

Titanic data: Who survived?



From: Kosara et al. (2006), [https://kosara.net/papers/2006/Kosara\\_TVCG\\_2006.pdf](https://kosara.net/papers/2006/Kosara_TVCG_2006.pdf)

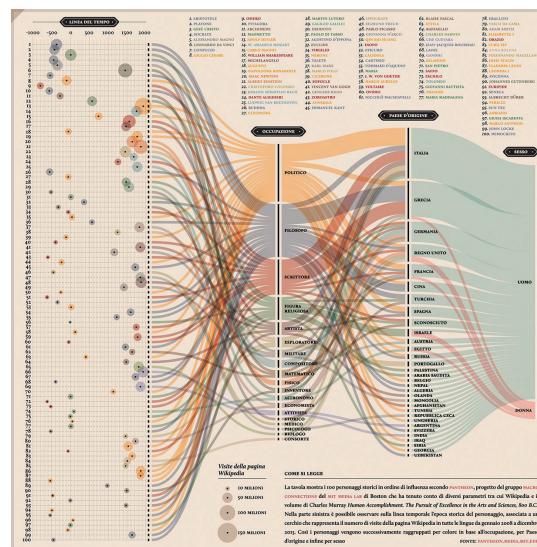
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# Sankey diagram

Pantheon, by Valerio Pellegrini  
Visualizing the 100 most influential figures in History  
(Wikipedia visits)

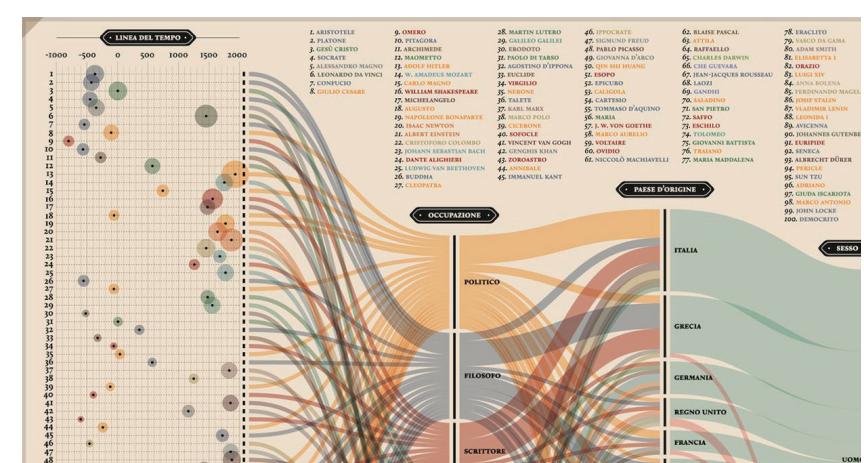
Columns show occupation, country of origin and gender

Flow lines link individuals to the column variables, width ~ influence



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# Sankey diagram



Multiple dimensions of the most influential people in history

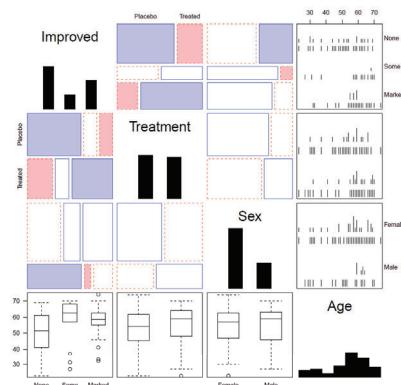
From: <http://visualoop.com/blog/83382/pantheon-by-valerio-pellegrini>

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## Generalized pairs plots

Generalized pairs plots from the [gpairs](#) package handle both categorical (**C**) and quantitative (**Q**) variables in sensible ways

x	y	plot
Q	Q	scatterplot
C	Q	boxplot
Q	C	barcode
C	C	mosaic

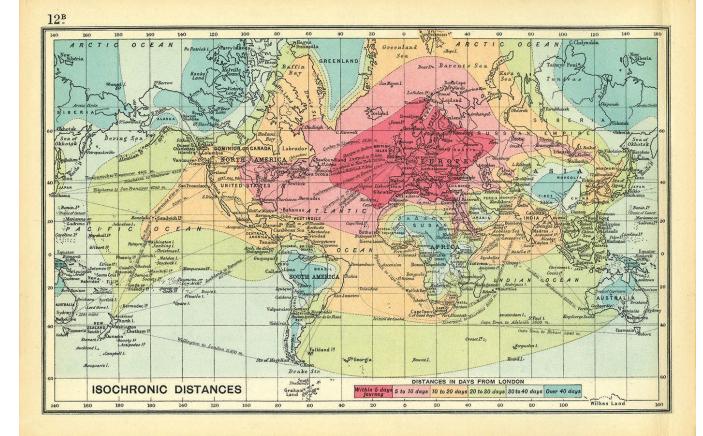


```
library(gpairs)
data(Arthritis)
gpairs(Arthritis[, c(5, 2:5)], ...)
```

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## 3D: Iso-contour maps

Early attempts to show 3D data used **contours of equal value** on a map  
The data was actually very thin; the contours the result of imaginative smoothing

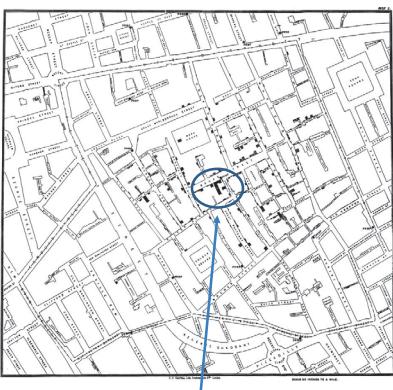


Francis Galton, *Isochronic chart of travel time*, 1881

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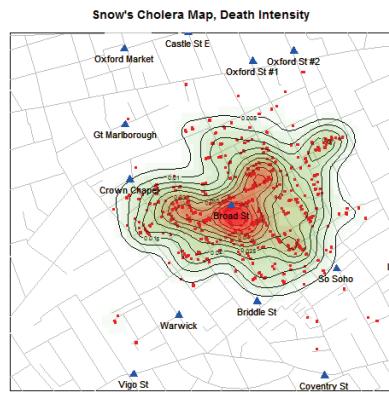
## 3D: Bivariate density estimation

John Snow's map of cholera deaths in London, 1854



Broad St. pump

Modern statistical techniques can compute contours of constant density



Data: HistData package for R



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## 3D: population pyramid

Italian demographer Luigi Perozzo (1880) developed the first true 3D diagram showing the population of Sweden over years and age groups as a 3D surface

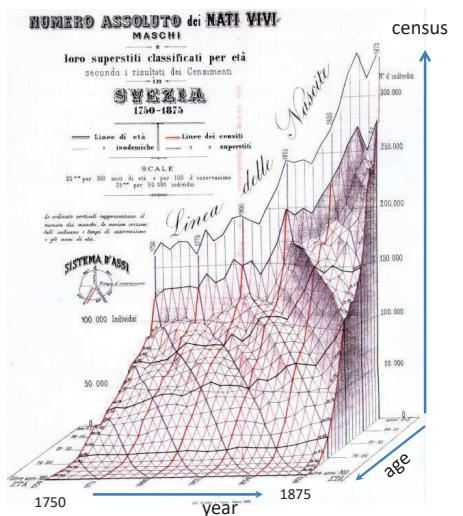
Census counts for a given **year** are shown by the red lines

Survival of a given **age** are shown by black lines

**Cohorts** are shown by lines down & to the right

These 3 variables are primary in demography.

A mystery here: what caused the decline at the upper right?



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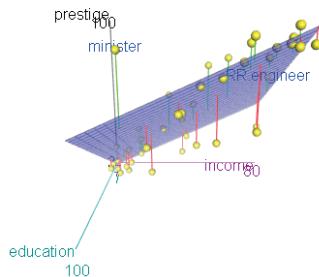
## 3D: scatterplot & regression surface

How does occupational prestige depend on income & education?

This plot shows the data and a fitted multiple regression surface, connecting the points to the regression plane

It is hard to see in a static view, but easier when the plot is rotated dynamically

This plot is produced in R, using the [car](#) and [rgl](#) packages



```
data("Duncan", package="car")
scatter3d(prestige ~ income + education, data=Duncan, id.n=2)
movie3d(spin3d(c(0,1,0), rpm=6), duration=6, movie="duncan-reg3d")
```

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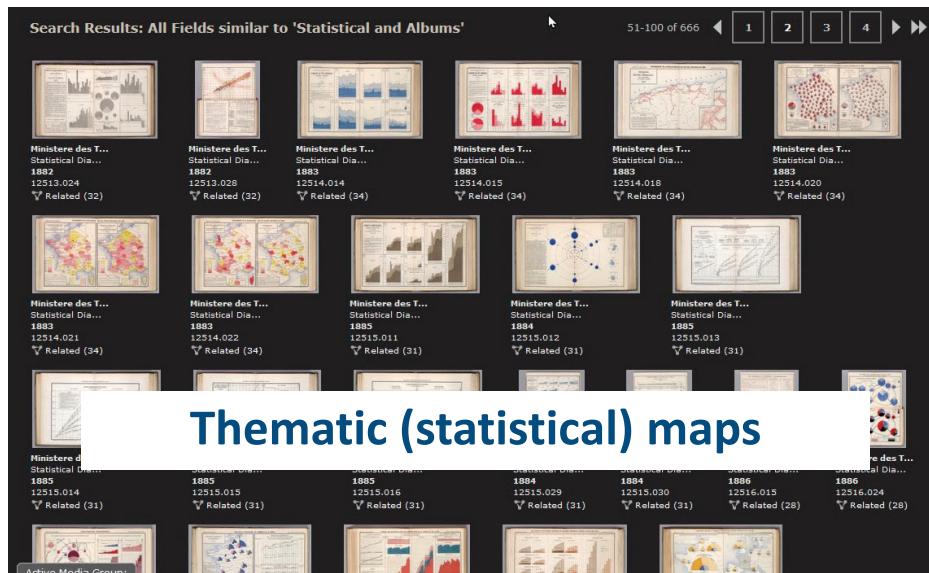


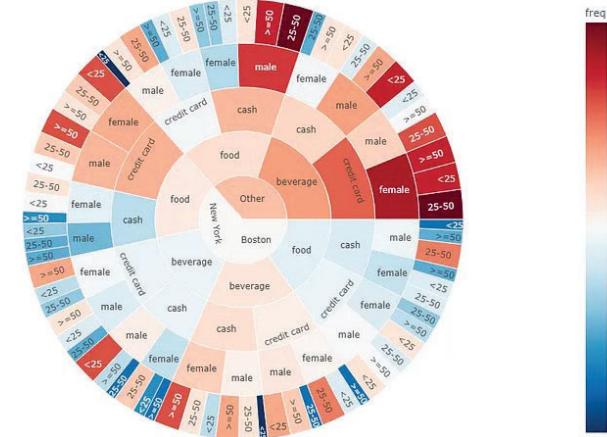
Image from: David Rumsey Map Collection, <https://www.davidrumsey.com/>

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## Exercise

What is this SUNBURST chart trying to show?

- How many dimensions of data?
- What do the colors mean?



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## Thematic maps & Spatial visualization

Thematic maps use a wide variety of techniques to display quantitative or qualitative variables on the geographic framework of a map

Once the domain of cartographers, these ideas are now being developed as an area of geospatial visualization and geospatial statistical methods

	Point	Linear	Areal	2½-D	True 3-D
Spacing	● ● ●	— — —	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●
Size	● ● ●	— — —	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●
Perspective Height	↑ ↑ ↑	— — —	— — —	— — —	None Possible
Orientation	◆ ◆ ◆	— — —	— — —	— — —	None Recommended
Shape	● ● ●	— — —	— — —	— — —	None Recommended
Arrangement	● ● ●	— — —	— — —	— — —	None Recommended
Lightness	○ ○ ○	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —

From: Slocum et al., *Thematic cartography and geographical visualization*, Fig 4.3

----- # dimensions -----

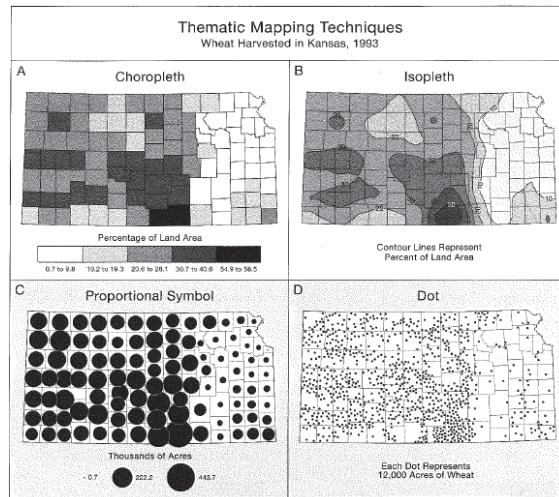
41

# Thematic maps: Types

## Basic types of thematic maps

Most are **direct** mappings of numbers to visual variables

**Isopleth** maps combine some analysis (contours) with display



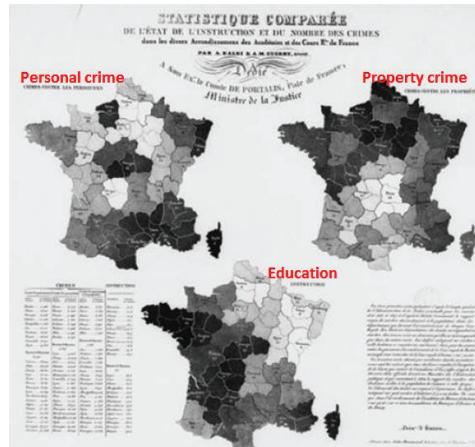
From: Slocum et al., *Thematic cartography and geographical visualization*, Fig 4.9

42

# Choropleth maps

## Balbi & Guerry (1829)

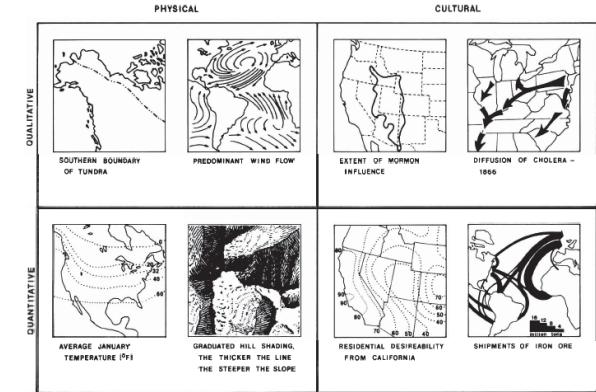
- First thematic maps of crime data
- First comparative maps ("small multiples")
- Crime against persons inversely related to crime against property
- Education: *France obscure* & *France éclairée*
- N. of France highest in education & also property crime



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# Thematic maps: Theory

Alan MacEachern (1979) classifies point, line and area symbols on thematic maps according to whether they depict **quantitative** or **qualitative** phenomena, in the **physical** or **cultural** domain.

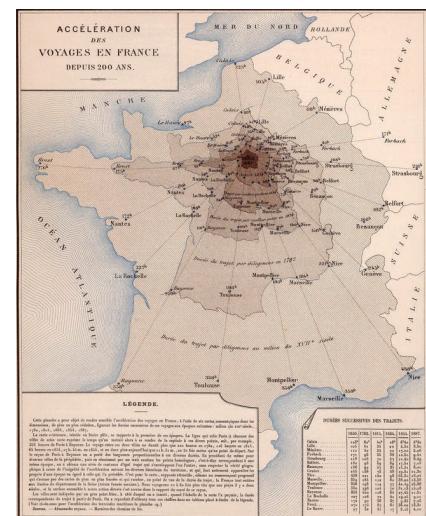


MacEachern, A. (1979). The Evolution Of Thematic Cartography / A Research Methodology and Historical Review, *The Canadian Cartographer* 16(1) June 1979, p. 17-33

43

# Anamorphic maps

- Anamorph**: Deforming a spatial size or shape to show a quantitative variable
- Émile Cheysson used this to show the decrease in travel time from Paris to anywhere in France over 200 years

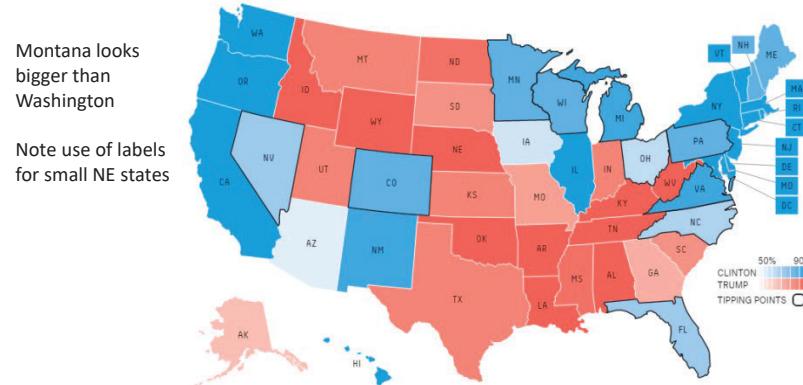


Album de Statistique Graphique, 1888, plate 8

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# What's wrong with choropleth maps?

Choropleth maps are misleading because size (area) of units dominates perception.  
This is particularly true for maps of the US & Canada. Not so for France (why?)



fivethirtyeight.com election predictions, Oct. 13, 2017

46

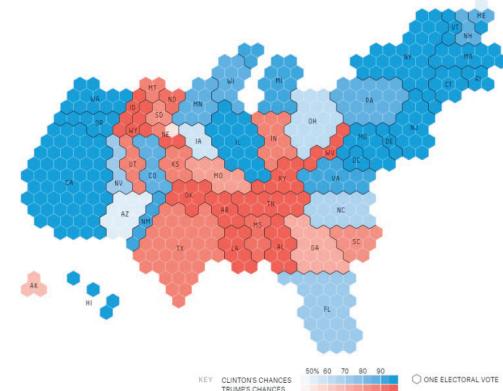
# Cartogram (tilegrams)

A tilegram uses hexagonal tiles to make area proportional to a given variable

Here, the size of each state is made ~ number of electoral college votes

Now, it is easy to see the impact of states

Take-away: Area doesn't vote; People do!



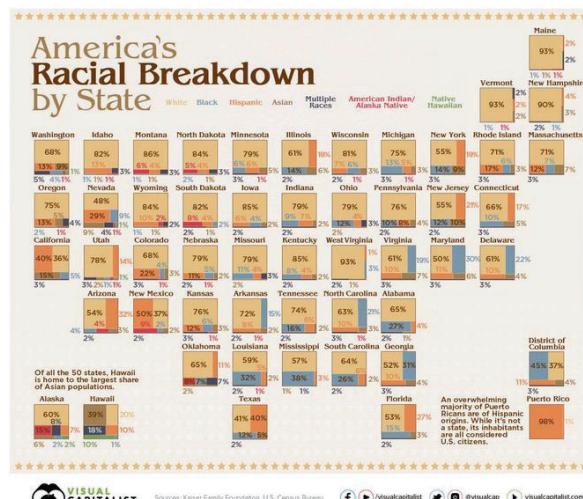
fivethirtyeight.com election predictions, Oct. 13, 2017

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# Mosaic cartograms

US map provides a spatial framework for showing the distribution of categorical data

Each tile is positioned as in a schematic US map



Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation, U.S. Census Bureau | DESIGN Zack Abbottson | ART DIRECTION Melisse Harvisto

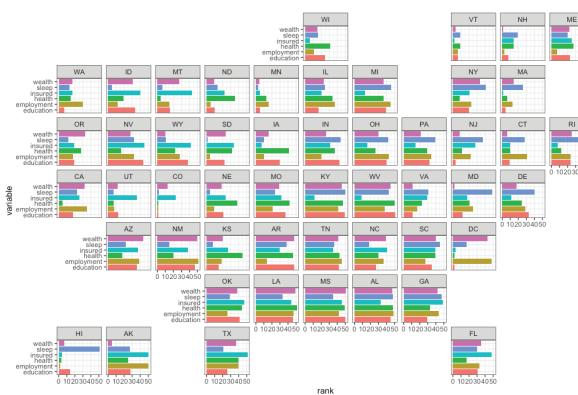
COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING Anupa Iman Ghosh, Real Ammons | DESIGN Zack Abbottson | ART DIRECTION Melisse Harvisto

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# Geo-faceting

More general idea:

- A grid of (x, y) locations defines geographic units
- Each grid cell can be composed of any kind of plot conceivable with ggplot2



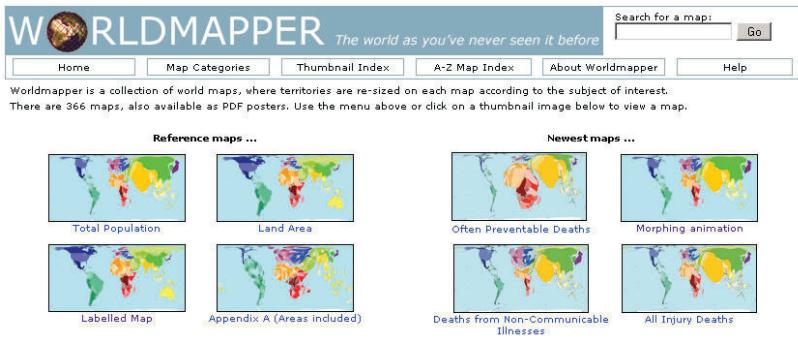
From: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/geofacet/vignettes/geofacet.html>

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## Worldmapper: The world in cartograms

How to visualize social, economic, disease, ... data for geographic units?

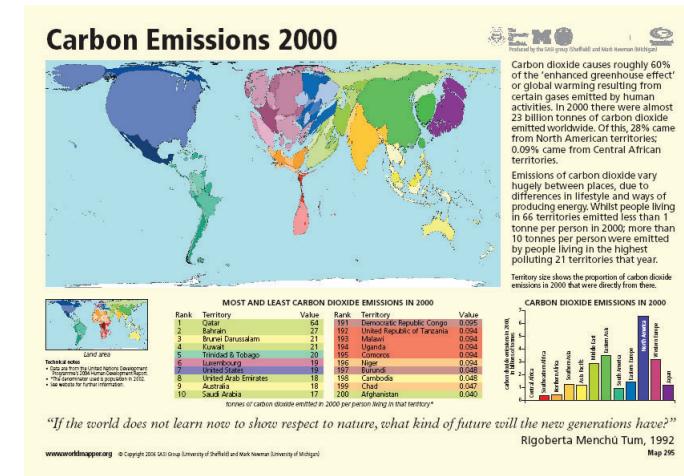
worldmapper.com : cartograms: area ~ variable of interest (700+ maps)



50

## Worldmapper: Carbon emissions

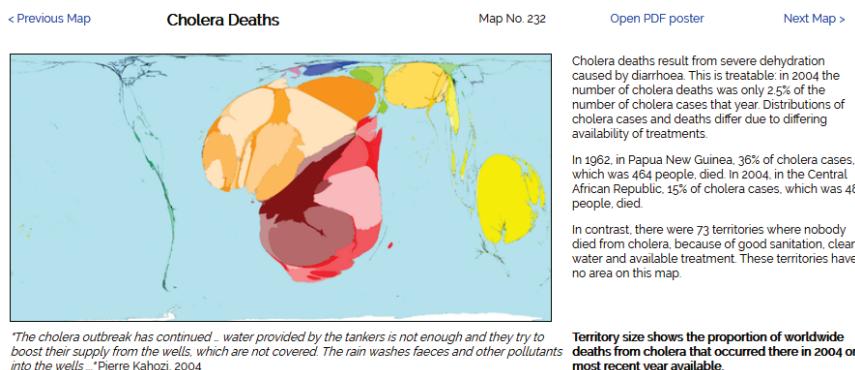
These pages are well-designed according to data vis. Ideas: high impact graph + interpretive details & explanation



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## Worldmapper: Cholera deaths

Deaths from cholera in 2004. Territory size ~ proportion of worldwide deaths



<http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=232>

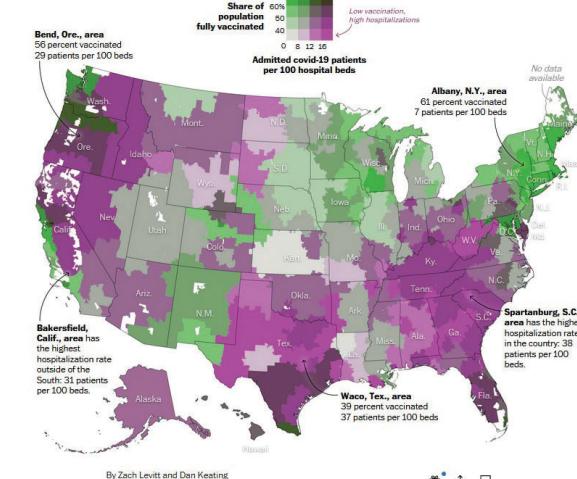
52

## Bivariate maps

How to show relation between two variables on a map?

Bivariate maps combine two colors with degrees of saturation

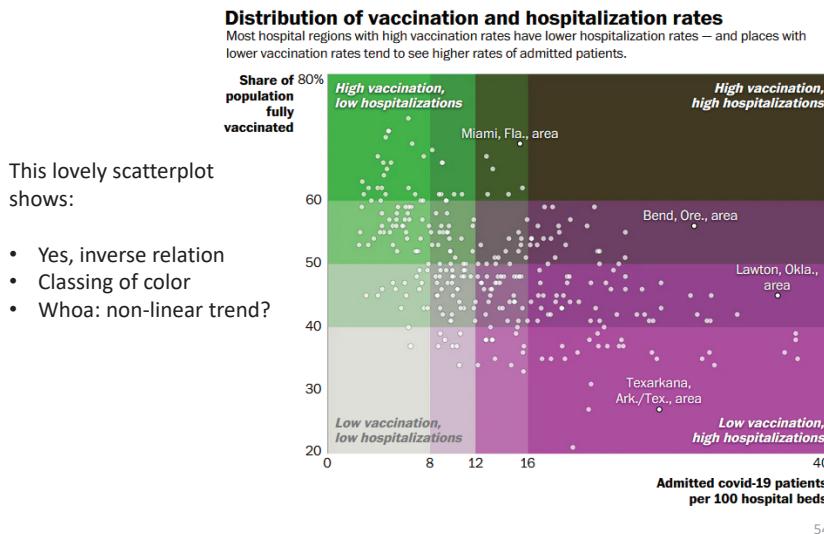
Claim:  
Regions with more vaccinations have fewer hospitalizations



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/09/23/covid-vaccination-hospitalization-map/>

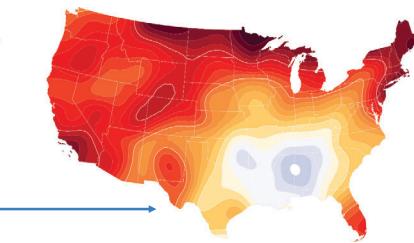
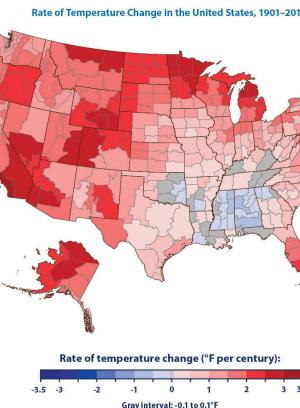
53

## Vs. a scatterplot



## Contour maps

Contour maps ignore region boundaries and estimate constant contours of a phenomenon over geographical space. This is a form of **geo-smoothing**.

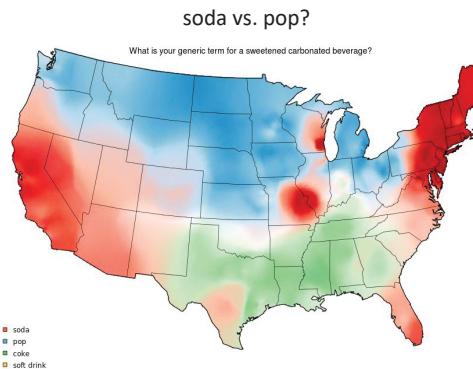


## Spatial visualization: Analysis + maps

Linguistics: Food dialect maps—visualizing how people speak

In the *Cambridge Online Survey of World Englishes*, Bert Vaux and Marius L. Jøhndal surveyed 11,500 people to study the ways people use English words.

NC State Univ. student Joshua Katz turned the US data into shaded **kernel density maps**.



Take the survey: [http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/cambridge\\_survey](http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/cambridge_survey)

Programming in R: <http://blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2013/06/r-and-language.html>

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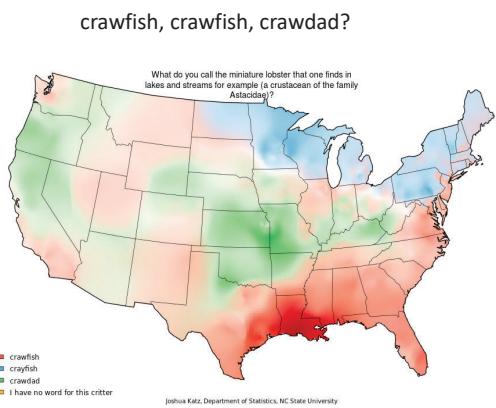
## Spatial visualization: Analysis + maps

Linguistics: Food dialect maps—visualizing how people speak

A *k*-nearest neighbor **kernel density estimate** over (x,y) locations gives a smoothed & interpretable display of the choice probabilities.

Regional differences are quite apparent.

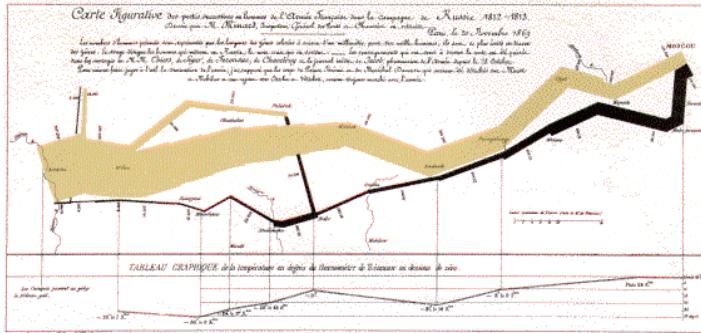
The use of **color** combines discrete categories with intensity to give a meaningful display



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## Flow maps

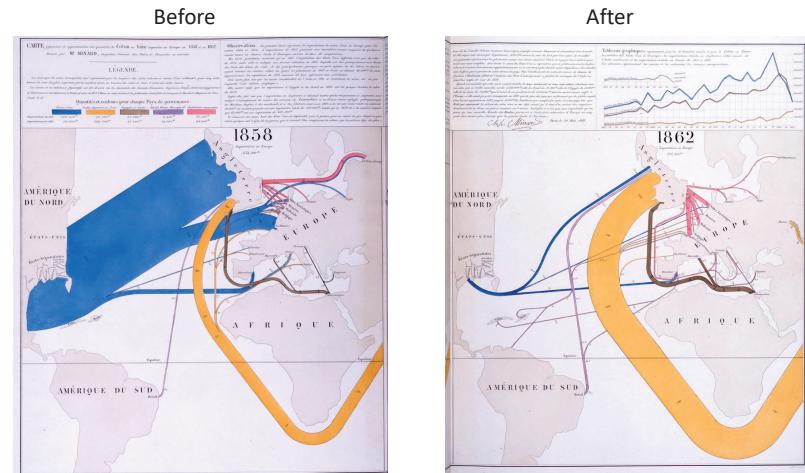
Flow maps show **movement** or **change** in a geographic framework  
The master work is this image by Charles-Joseph Minard (1869)



- Marey (1878): "defies the pen of the historian in its brutal eloquence"
- Tufte (1983): "the best statistical graphic ever produced"

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## Effect of US civil war on cotton trade



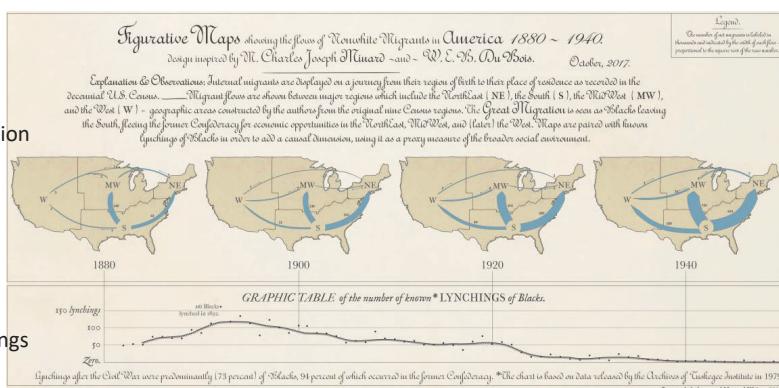
Note the deformation of the map to accommodate the data

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## The Great Migration

In a graphic tribute to C.-J. Minard and W. E. B. Du Bois, Raymond Andrews & Howard Wainer tell the story of the migration of blacks from the southern US after freedom from slavery.

Migration



Lynchings

Andrews, R. J. & Wainer, H. The Great Migration: A Graphics Novel Featuring the Contributions of W. E. B. Du Bois and C. J. Minard. *Significance*, 2017, 14, 14-19. See also: <http://infowetrust.com/picturing-the-great-migration/> for the story of this graphic

60

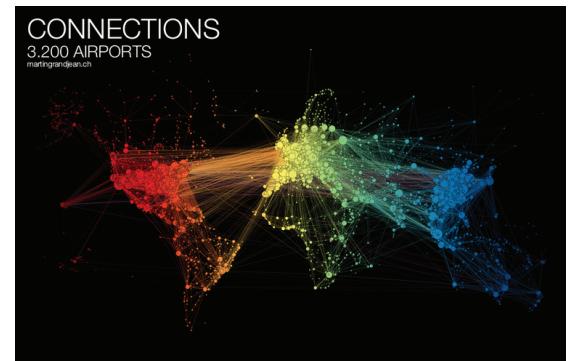
## Network visualization



Once the domain of mathematicians & computer scientists, graph theory and network visualization turn out to have surprising & interesting applications.

Animated demo by Martin Granjean showing transport of passengers from/to world airports.

It illustrates the difference between geography & **force-directed layout** to focus on volume & connections



From: <http://www.martingrandjean.ch/connected-world-air-traffic-network/>  
See more: <https://flowingdata.com/2016/05/31/air-transportation-network/>

61

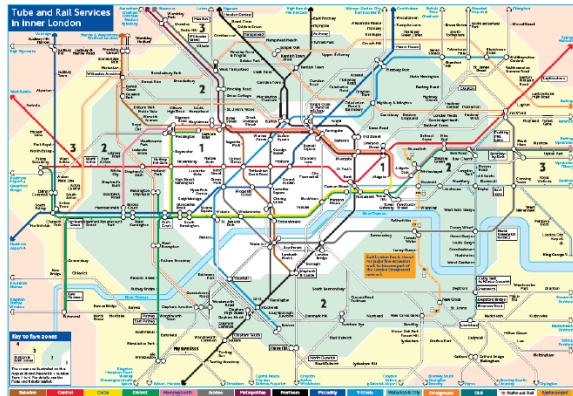
## Network visualization: Transport maps

How do I get from Chigwell to Charing Cross?  
How much will it cost?

This route map shows the connections and fare zones

The first one was designed by Henry Beck in 1931.

The modern version is zoomable and available on your phone.



See: <https://tfl.gov.uk/maps/travel>

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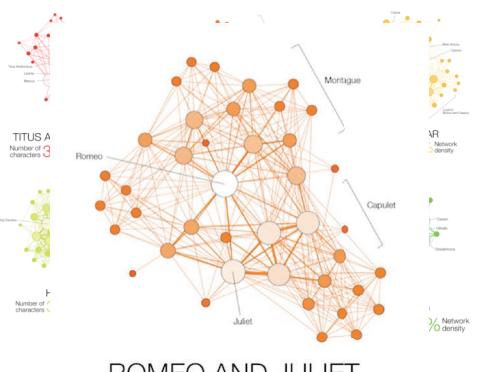
## Network visualization: Shakespeare tragedies

A new form of literary criticism?

Martin Grandjean looked at the structure of Shakespeare tragedies through character interactions.

Each circle (node) represents a character, and an edge represents two characters who appeared in the same scene.

The structural characteristics of the graphs have meaningful interpretations.



ROMEO AND JULIET  
Number of characters 41 | 37% Network density

From: <https://flowingdata.com/2015/12/30/shakespeare-tragedies-as-network-graphs/>

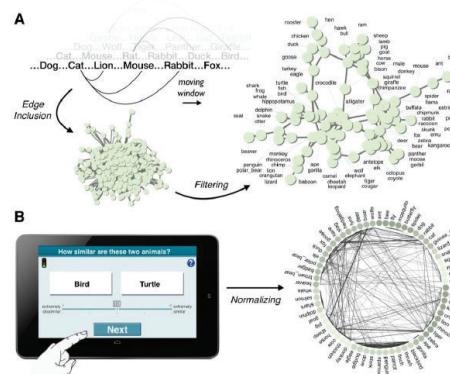
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## Semantic memory: Cognitive structure

Various tasks can be used to assess the relations among words/concepts in our semantic memory

The data can be used to calculate measures of **similarity**, and be shown in network or other diagrams

**Verbal fluency task:** Say/write all the names of [animals, countries, ...] you can in 1 minute.



**Similarity ratings:** For each pair, indicate how similar they are

From: Wulff et al. (2018), Structural differences in the semantic networks of younger and older adults

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## Semantic memory: Cognitive structure

Do younger and older adults differ on measures calculated from their network diagrams?

$\langle k \rangle$  : Average "degree" # of connections

C : average local clustering

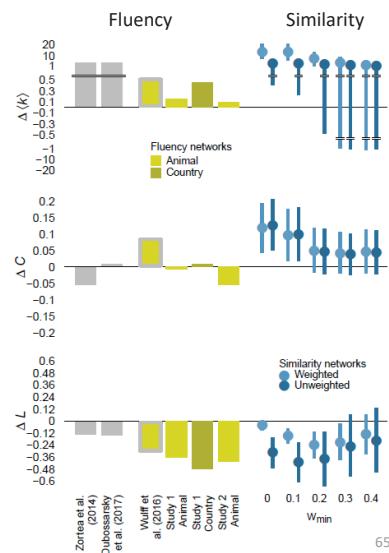
L : average path length in network

$\Delta(\ell)$  : young – old difference

IMHO, this graph tries to do too much.

The fluency data is most important to their argument.

$\Delta L$  &  $\Delta \langle k \rangle$  show consistent differences between young & old



65

## WikiLeaks Iraq war logs

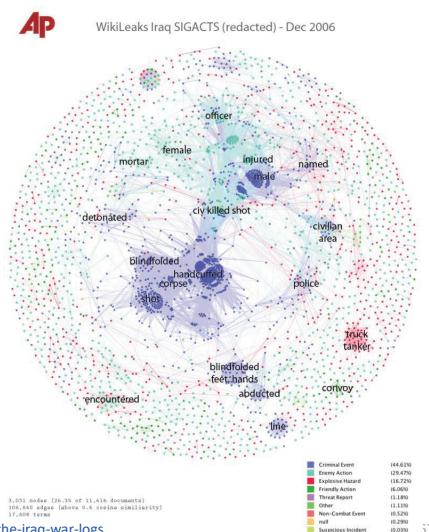
Johnathan Stray & Julian Burgess analyzed > 11,000 documents for SIGACT ("significant action") reports from the 2006 Iraqi civil war made available by WikiLeaks.

Each report is a dot. Each dot is labelled by the three most “characteristic” words in that report.

Documents that are “similar”  
have edges drawn between them,  
width  $\sim$  similarity

The graph-drawing algorithm placed similar nodes together

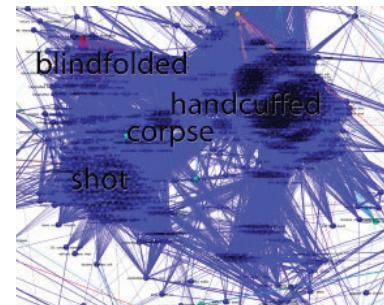
From: <http://jonathanstray.com/a-full-text-visualization-of-the-iraq-war-logs>



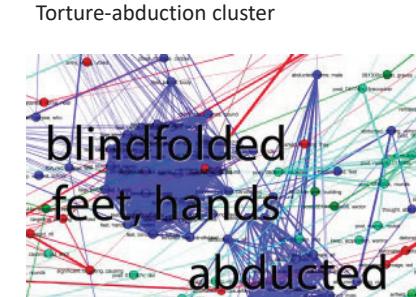
# WikiLeaks Iraq war logs

Certain themes became clear, and could be studied in rich detail  
The underlying methods use “term frequency–inverse document frequency”  
measures of **text-mining**.

Murder cluster. All contain the word  
“corpse”



<http://jonathanstray.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Murders.pdf>



<http://jonathanstray.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Torture-abduction.png>

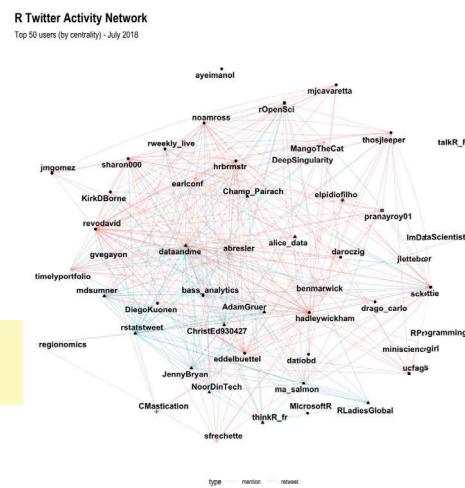
65

# Twitter network of R users

Perry Stephenson explores the connections among the top 50 R users on Twitter

The rtweet package provides access to Twitter info

```
library(rtweet)
followers <-
get_followers("datavisFriendly"))
```



From: <https://perrystephenson.me/2018/09/29/the-r-twitter-network/>

# Twitter circles

## Who do I most often interact with?

Three rings to show my  
twitter world

One ring to rule them all:  
@datavisFriendly

Other rings: #dataavis,  
#maps, #rstats, #psy6135



Generated by <http://chirpy.com>

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## Tree-based Visualization

Branching patterns  
History as a tree  
Treemaps

Ramon Llull, 1298, Tree of Philosophy of Love



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## History as a Tree: *Geschichtsbäume* Europa (2003)

- The entire history of Europe in one diagram
- space-filling design: resolution  $\sim \text{time}^2$
- natural metaphors for roots, branches

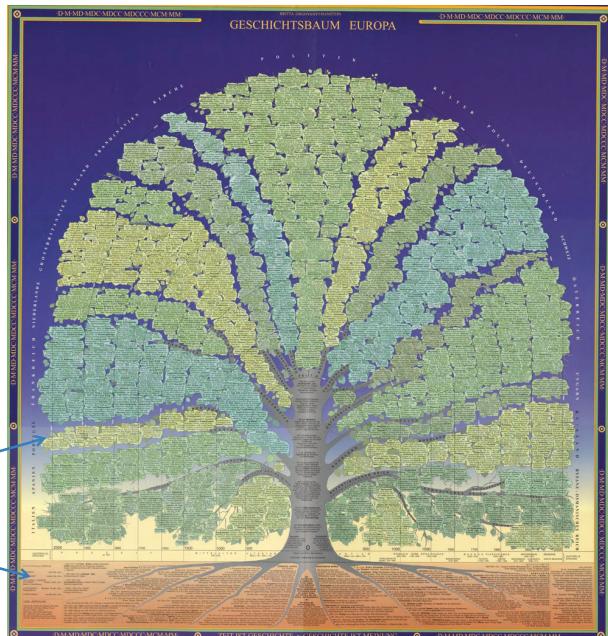
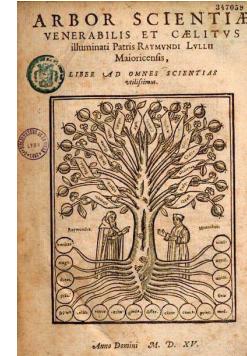


Image: David Rumsey map collection, <https://bit.ly/3GY22iw>

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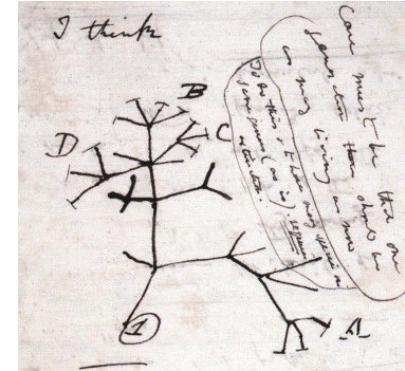
## Tree diagrams

Trees are natural, organic visual metaphors for branching processes and space-filling designs.



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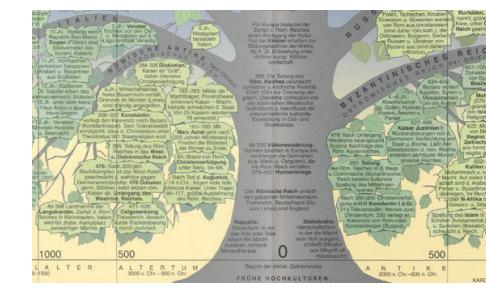
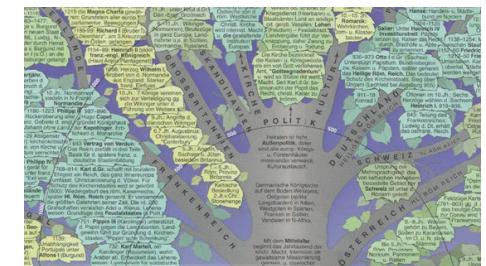
Ramon Llull's tree of science, showing roots and branches of knowledge



Charles Darwin's first visual sketch of the evolution of species

## History as a Tree

- Branches for countries & domains of thought
- Leaves for all the details

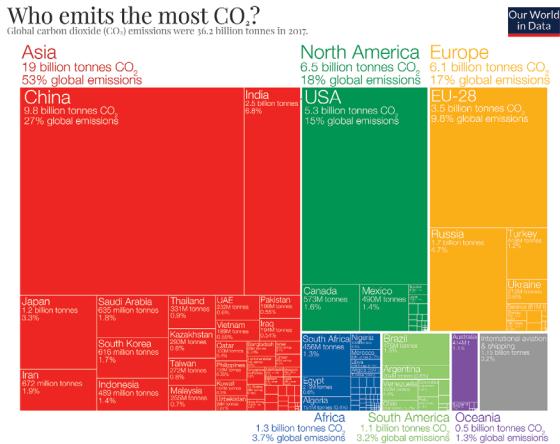


- linear horizontal scale → area  $\sim \text{time}^2$

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# Treemaps

Treemaps display **hierarchical data** as a set of **nested rectangles**. Each node (leaf) has an area  $\sim$  size (CO<sub>2</sub>)



The construction makes efficient use of space

Nesting shows relative size at multiple levels:  
continent -> country

No limit to the depth  
of the branches

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# Radial trees: *Visual Thesaurus*

The *Visual Thesaurus*, from Thinkmap was the first application to make word meanings **visual** and **interactive**.

They used a radial layout to show the various related senses of given focus word.

This application was incisive in promoting ideas of interaction with tree-based data: query, zoom, tool-tips,

• • •

This fig from Manuel Lima, *The Book of Trees*, p. 127

# Treemaps: Google Newsmap

They turn out to be useful in a wide range of applications

Google NewsMap shows top news stories with

- Size ~ popularity
  - Color: domain— **world news**, **sports**, **national**, ...
  - Shades: recency

**Interactivity:** Hover, click to  
show details



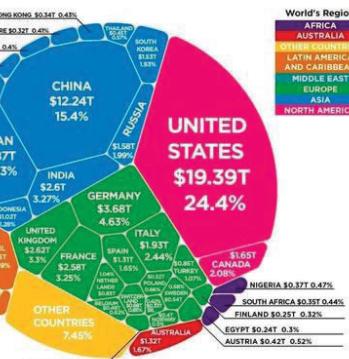
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# Voroni treemaps

## Le nouveau camembert?

80 Trillion Dollar \$ 😳

World Economy in a Single Chart



A voroni diagram subdivides space into polygons.

As a treemap, this is done recursively in hierarchical categories.

The **circular** form makes it an easy replacement for a lowly  $\pi$  chart,



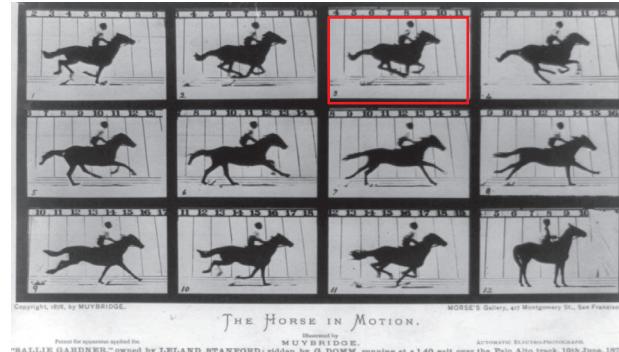
## 80 Animation & Interactive Graphics

Origins: Visualizing motion  
Animated graphics  
Dynamically updated graphics  
Linking views  
Interactive application development frameworks

## A wager about a horse in motion

In the late 1800s, a popular quasi-scientific question was: Does a horse, in a trot, cantor or gallop ever have all four feet off the ground?  
This came to be called the [Hypothesis of Unsupported Transit](#)

Eadweard Muybridge solved the problem by automating multiple photographs

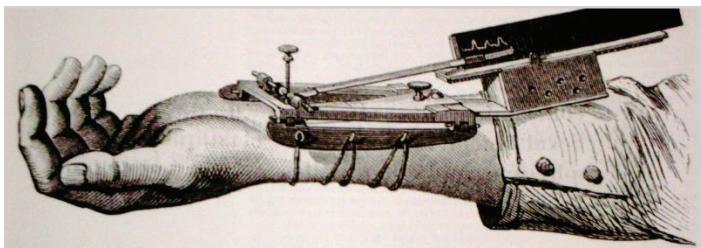


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## É.-J. Marey: A science of visualizing motion

- Physiology: How to make internal physiological processes subject to visual analysis?
  - Invented many graphic recording devices (heart rate, blood pressure, muscle contraction, etc.)
  - "Every kind of observation can be expressed by graphs"

Marey's sphygmograph, recording a visual trace of arterial blood pressure



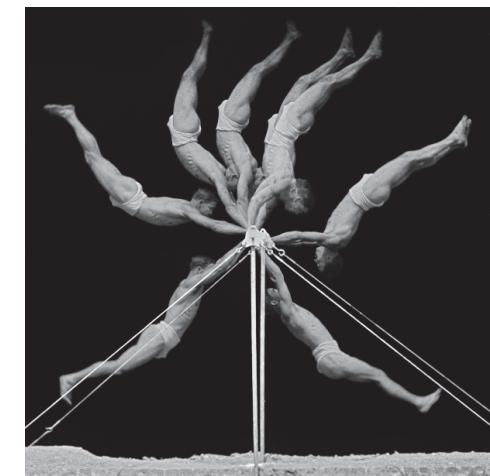
82

## Animation: Chronophotography

Marey pioneered the study of human and animal motion photographically



Fig. 1. Mote d'essai de fusil photographique.  
The photographic gun, allowing recording of 12 frames/sec. at intervals of 1/720 of a second



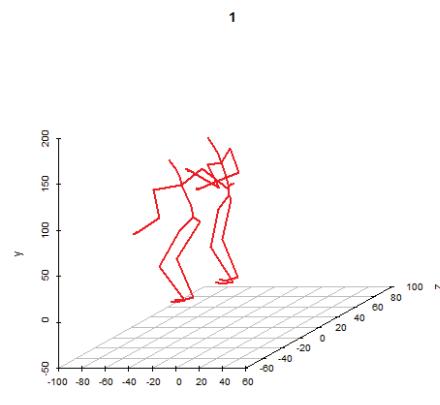
83

## Animated graphics

Animated graphics, like movies are just a series of frames strung together in a sequence

The data for this animation come from human figures in motion-capture suits dancing the Charleston.

The Carnegie-Mellon Graphics Lab maintains a Motion Capture Database, <http://mocap.cs.cmu.edu/>



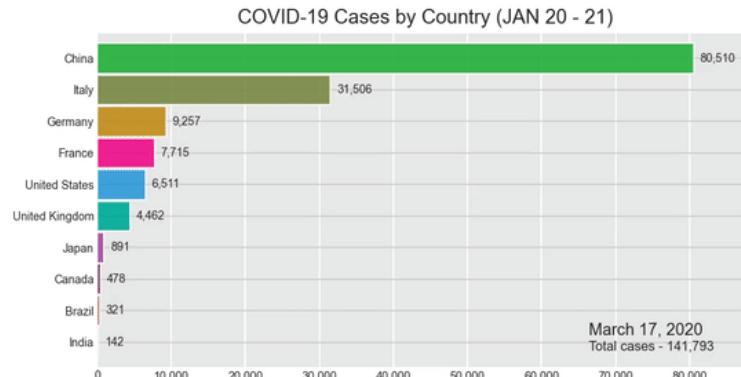
From: <http://blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2017/08/3-d-animations-with-r.html>

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## Bar chart races

Data that changes over time can often be shown in a simpler animated graphic

This example of a **bar chart race** shows the strengths & weaknesses of this approach.



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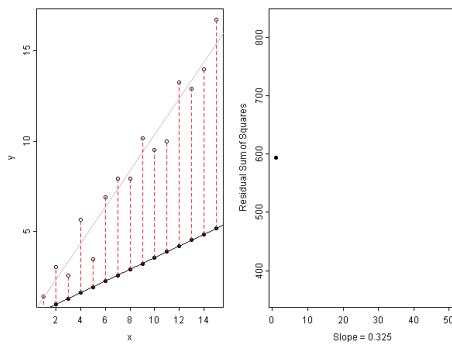
## Statistical animations

Statistical concepts can often be illustrated in a dynamic plot of some process.

This example illustrates the idea of least squares fitting of a regression line.

As the slope of the line is varied, the right panel shows the residual sum of squares.

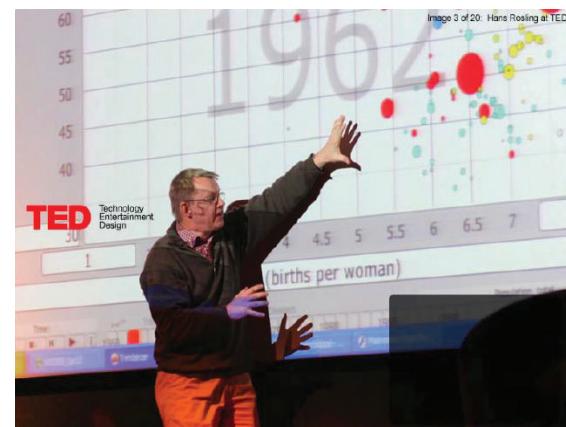
This plot was done using the **animate** package in R.



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## Animated graphics

Hans Rosling captivated audiences with dynamic graphics showing changes over time in world health data



Video: Hans Rosling, "The best stats you've ever seen,"  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/hans\\_rosling\\_shows\\_the\\_best\\_stats\\_you\\_ve\\_ever\\_seen](https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen)

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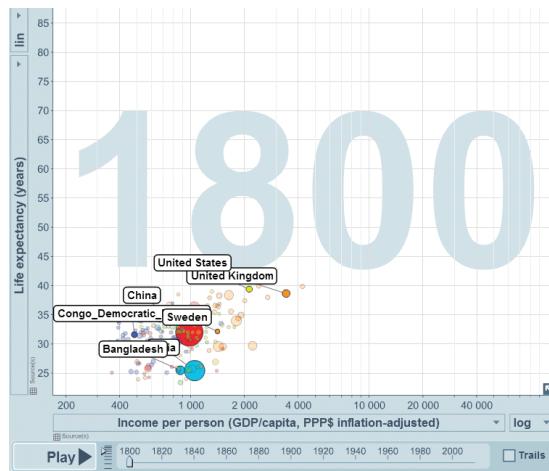
## Animation & Interactivity

The Gapminder “moving bubble chart” was the vehicle.

- Choose (x, y) variables
- Choose bubble size variable
- Animate this over time

Liberating the X axis from time opened new vistas for data exploration

Software made this available as a general tool



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## Linking animated views

This example links a dendrogram to a grand tour and map of the USArrests data to visualize a classification in 5 dimensions

The grand tour animates a series of 2D projections of the 5D data

The image is recorded as a GIF



From: Carson Sievert, <https://plotly-book.cpsievret.me/linking-animated-views.html>

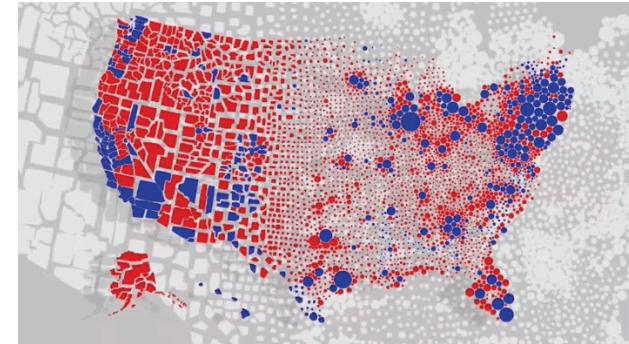
90

## Animation: Interpolated views

Animation can also be used to show the difference between two views, using interpolated transitions:  $\text{Current} = \alpha \text{ view}_1 + (1 - \alpha) \text{ view}_2$

This image showed Rep vs. Dem votes in the 2016 US election, contrasting shading by area vs. shading by population.

Land doesn't vote;  
people do

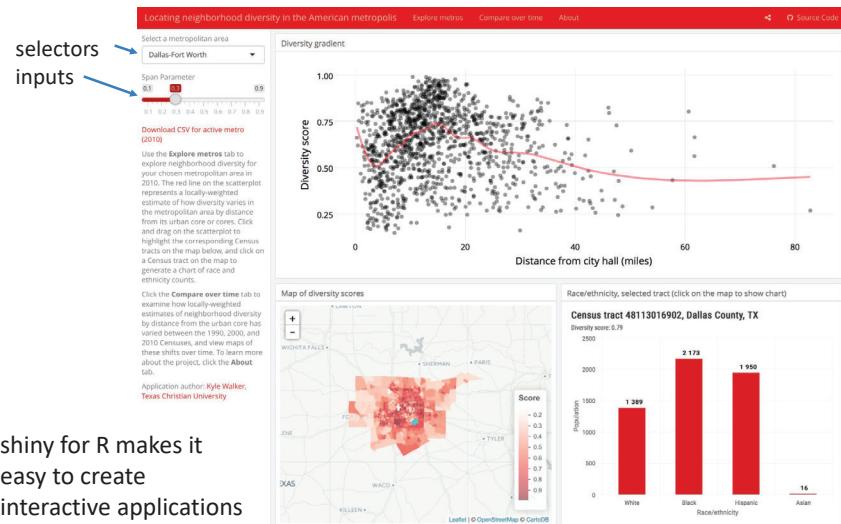


[Image: Karim Douieb/Jetpack.ai]

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90527489/u-s-election-maps-are-wildly-misleading-so-this-designer-fixed-them>

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## Interactive application frameworks



shiny for R makes it  
easy to create  
interactive applications

[https://walkerke.shinyapps.io/neighborhood\\_diversity/](https://walkerke.shinyapps.io/neighborhood_diversity/)

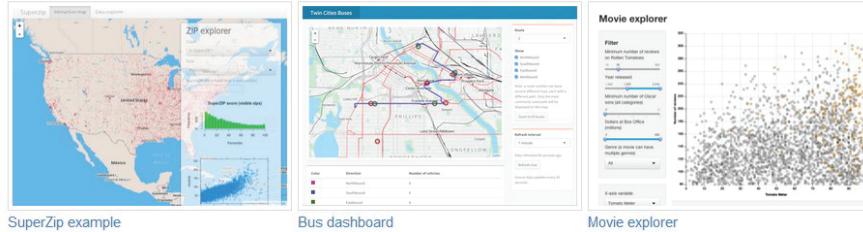
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# shiny gallery

There is now a large collection of shiny applications, <https://shiny.rstudio.com/gallery/>. These integrate other interactive web software: d3, Leaflet, Google Charts, ...

## Interactive visualizations

Shiny is designed for fully interactive visualization, using JavaScript libraries like d3, Leaflet, and Google Charts.



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# Summary

- The topics here were largely about data graphs, for analysis & presentation. Mainly not Info-graphics
  - Quantitative data: different forms for 1D, 1.5D, 2D, 3+D data
  - Categorical data: often best shown as areas ~ frequency (bar plots, mosaic plots)
- Thematic maps: visualizing spatially varying data
  - Raw data with different visual encodings
  - Spatial statistical models provide some smoothings
- Networks/trees: visualizing connections
- Animation: show changes over time or space
- Interaction: allow the viewer to explore the data

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