



1. Design Justification (2.2)

The Tapered flow line design was chosen to represent four classes of banana trade by tons. The width increases in the same direction that bananas are being transported; this design choice reveals the direction and magnitude of banana transport. The TA design is more optimal for this particular data than the MA, DA, FA, and TD (Koylu et al., 2022), primarily because the lack of an arrowhead prevents overcrowding of flow lines. The lines have a solid color fill because the map's extent may make it difficult for viewers to follow. The nodes were kept as circles and segregated into four classes. The color black showcases the nodes of all the color options, as the flowlines and base map are represented with various colors. Splitting the nodes into four classes differentiated the range extent, such as the difference between Columbia and Ecuador's gross transport of bananas. A diverging color scheme differentiates which regions have a net loss or a net gain of bananas. This color choice makes it easy for the viewer to determine how regions contribute to the South American banana trade.

2. Interpreting Spatial Patterns (2.1)

The western regions of South America are the primary contributors to the banana trading network. Ecuador and Argentina have the largest gross trade and the largest amount of bananas transported. The three attributes are all supplemental in that each element helps describe how much and where bananas

are being transported. The cause for such high trade could be attributed to easy sea-way access, making for a more efficient trade route than by road. Additionally, population in these areas is relatively high which would certainly support the demand, either for farming community (producers) and banana consumers.

References

Koylu, C., Tian, G., & Windsor, M. (2022). FlowMapper.org: A web-based framework for designing origin-destination flow maps. *Journal of Maps*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17445647.2021.1996479>[Links to an external site.](#)