

# scientific visualizations

dr. federica bianco [fb55@nyu.edu](mailto:fb55@nyu.edu)  
CUSP/CCPP



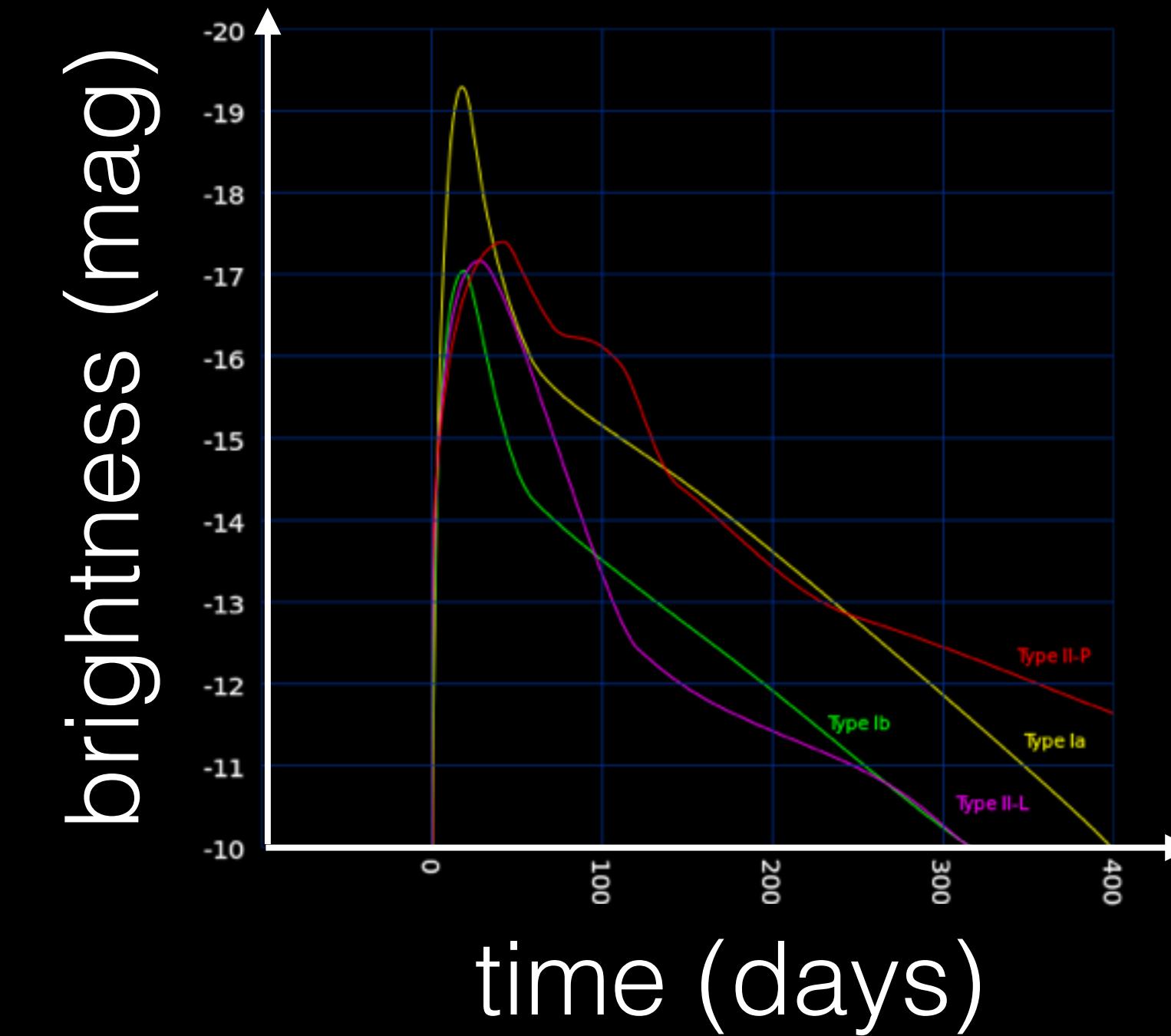
# CCPP: Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics



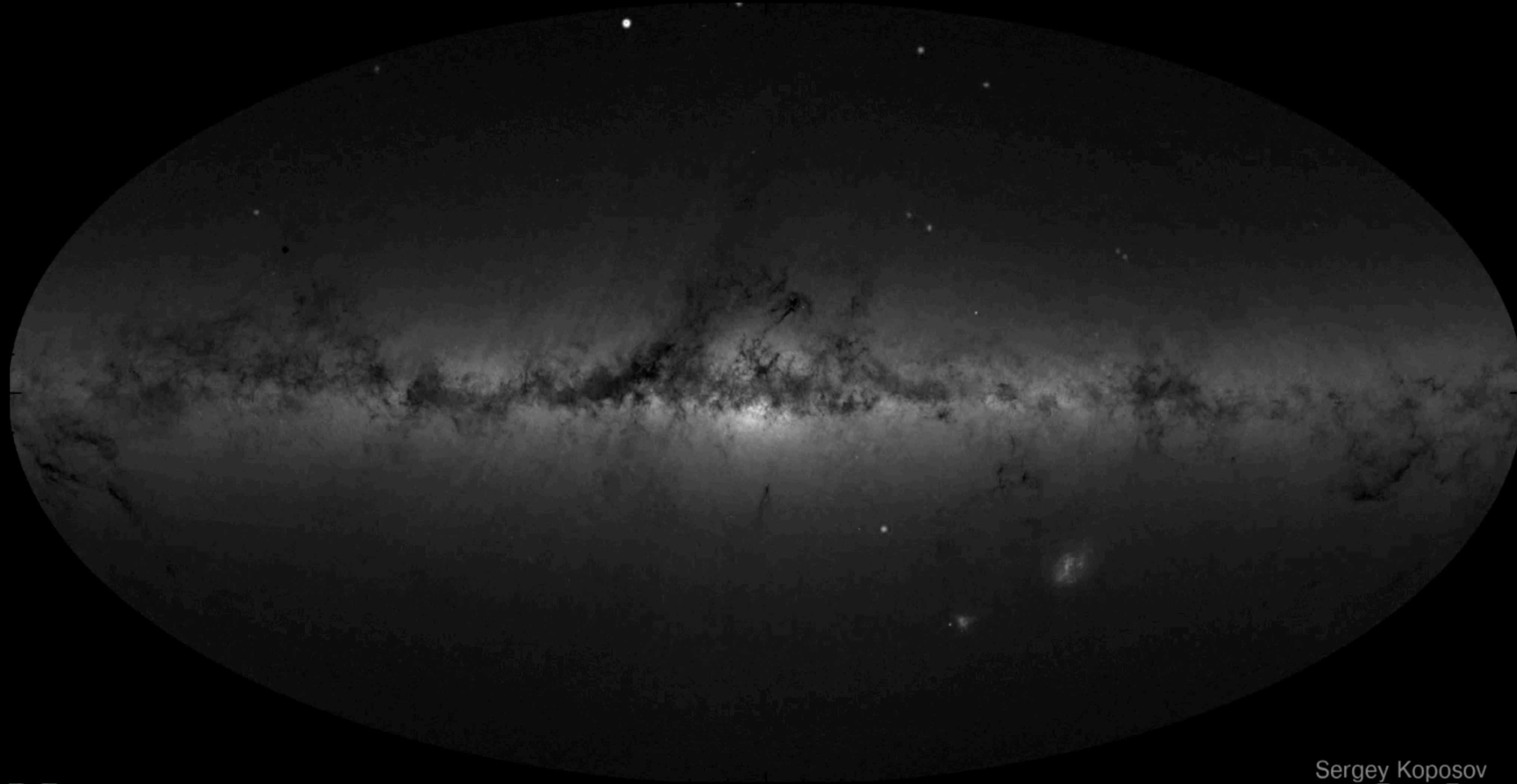
I am trained as an astrophysicist, and as an astrophysicist I study time-domain phenomena:

things that change in time, particularly stellar explosions, called Supernovae. From the time behavior we try to infer physics.

I study large datasets



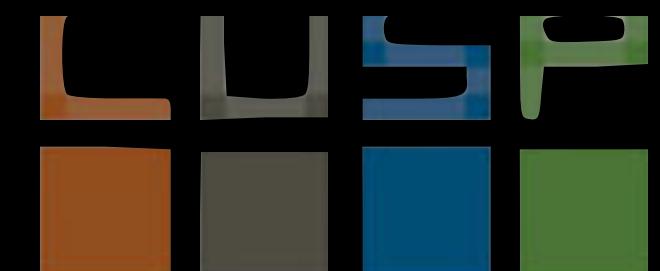
Year 1985.567



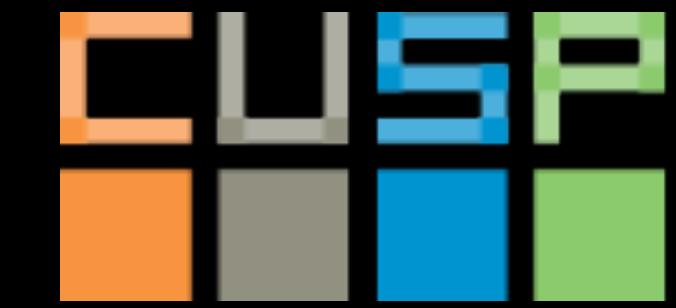
Sergey Koposov



CENTER FOR COSMOLOGY  
AND PARTICLE PHYSICS



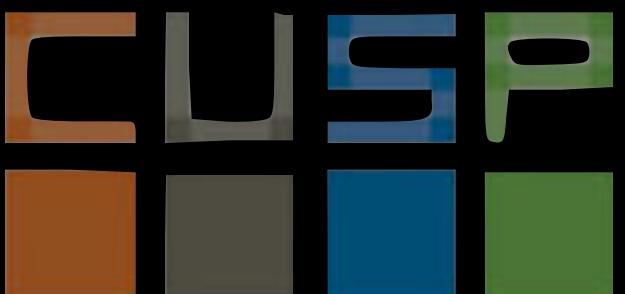
# CUSP: New York City as a laboratory



CENTER FOR URBAN  
SCIENCE+PROGRESS

CUSP is a unique public-private research center that uses NYC as its laboratory and classroom to help cities around the world become more productive, livable, equitable, and resilient.

CUSP observes, analyzes, and models NYC to optimize outcomes, prototype new solutions, formalize new tools and processes, and develop new expertise.



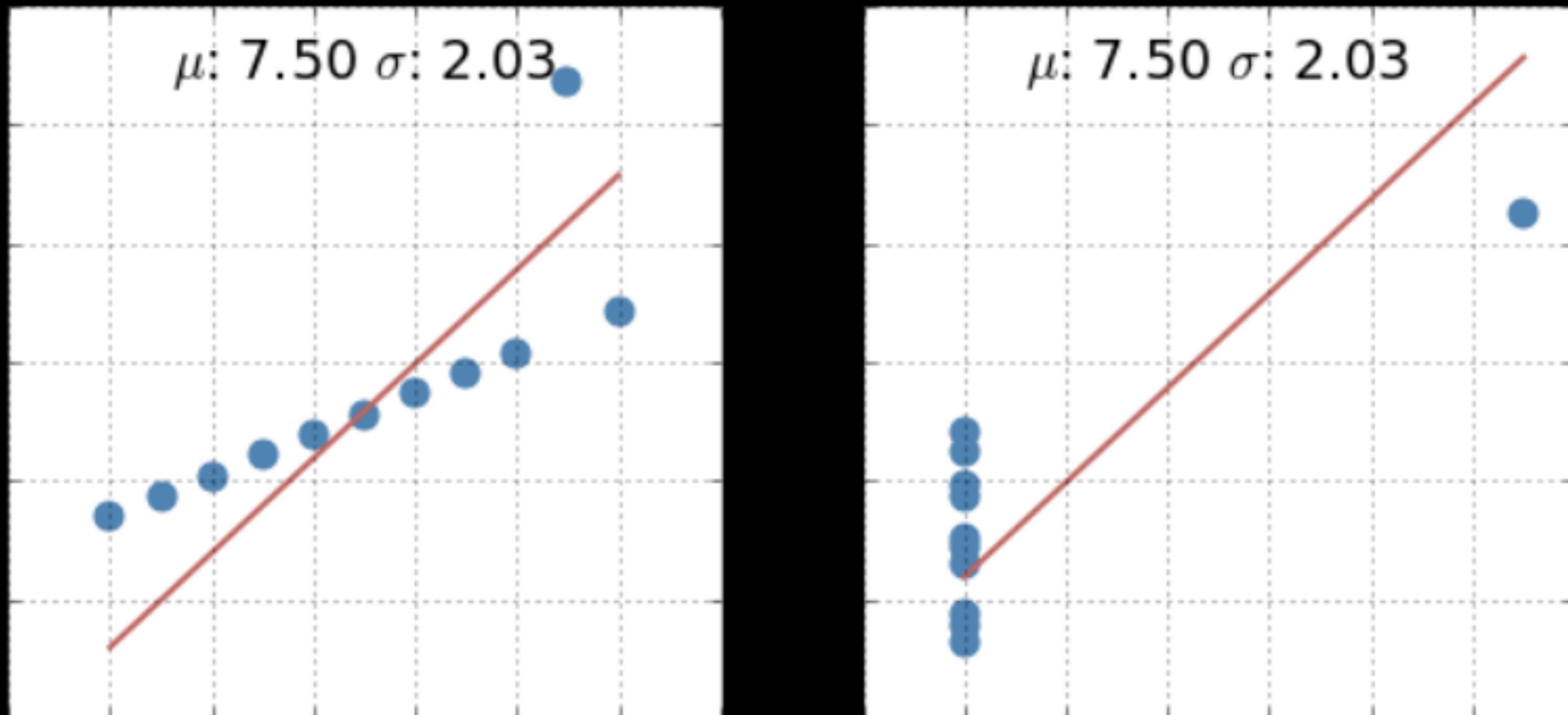
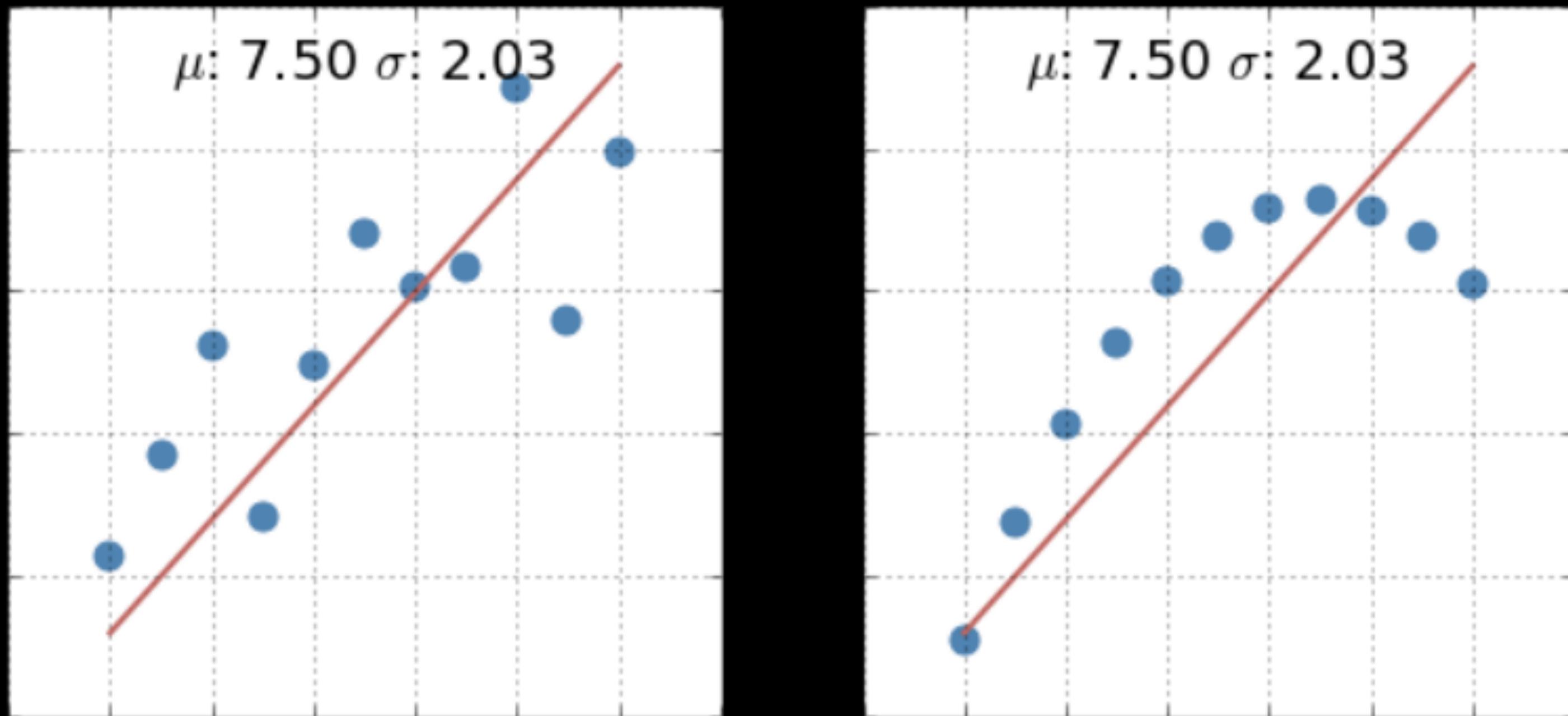
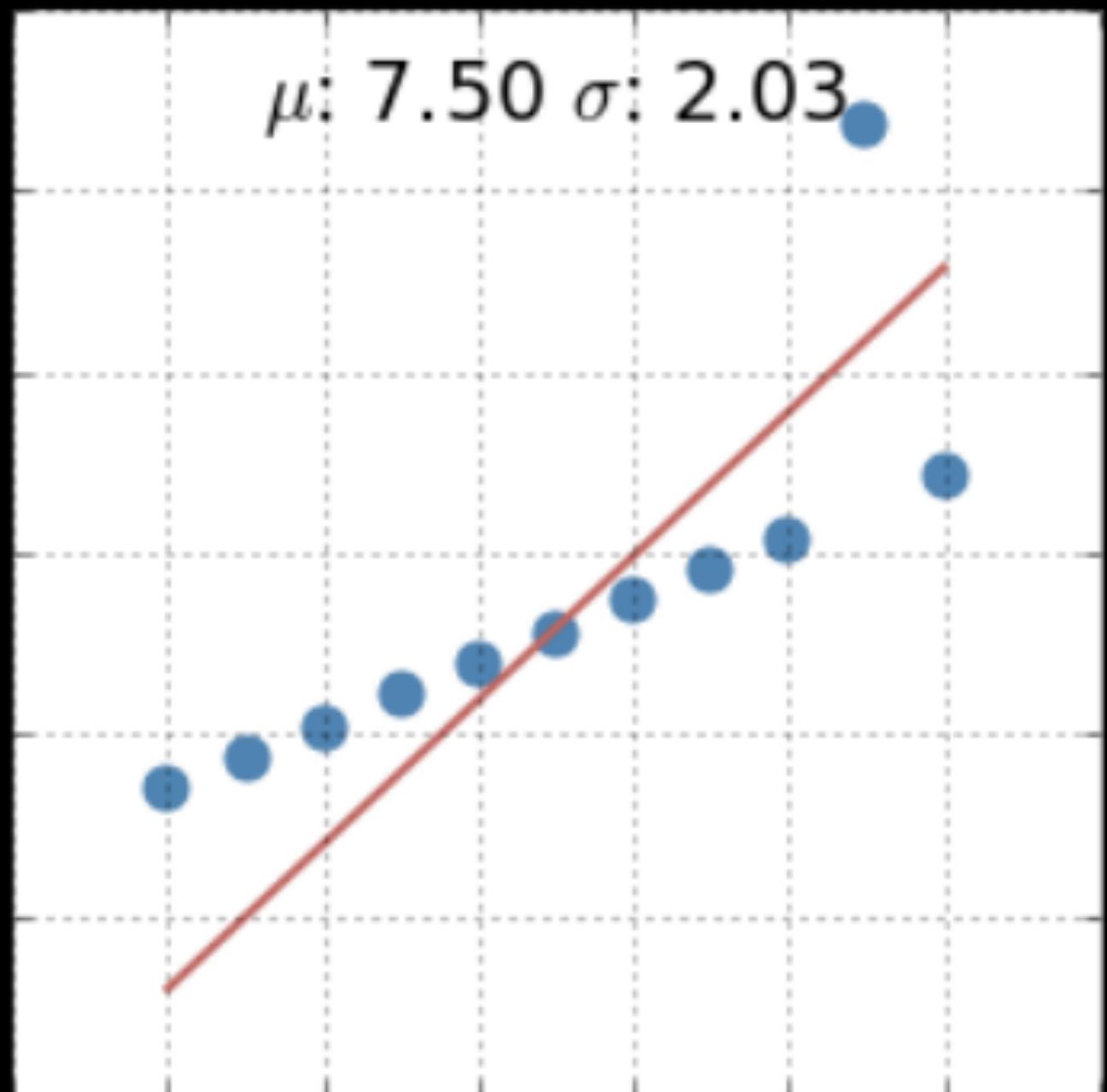
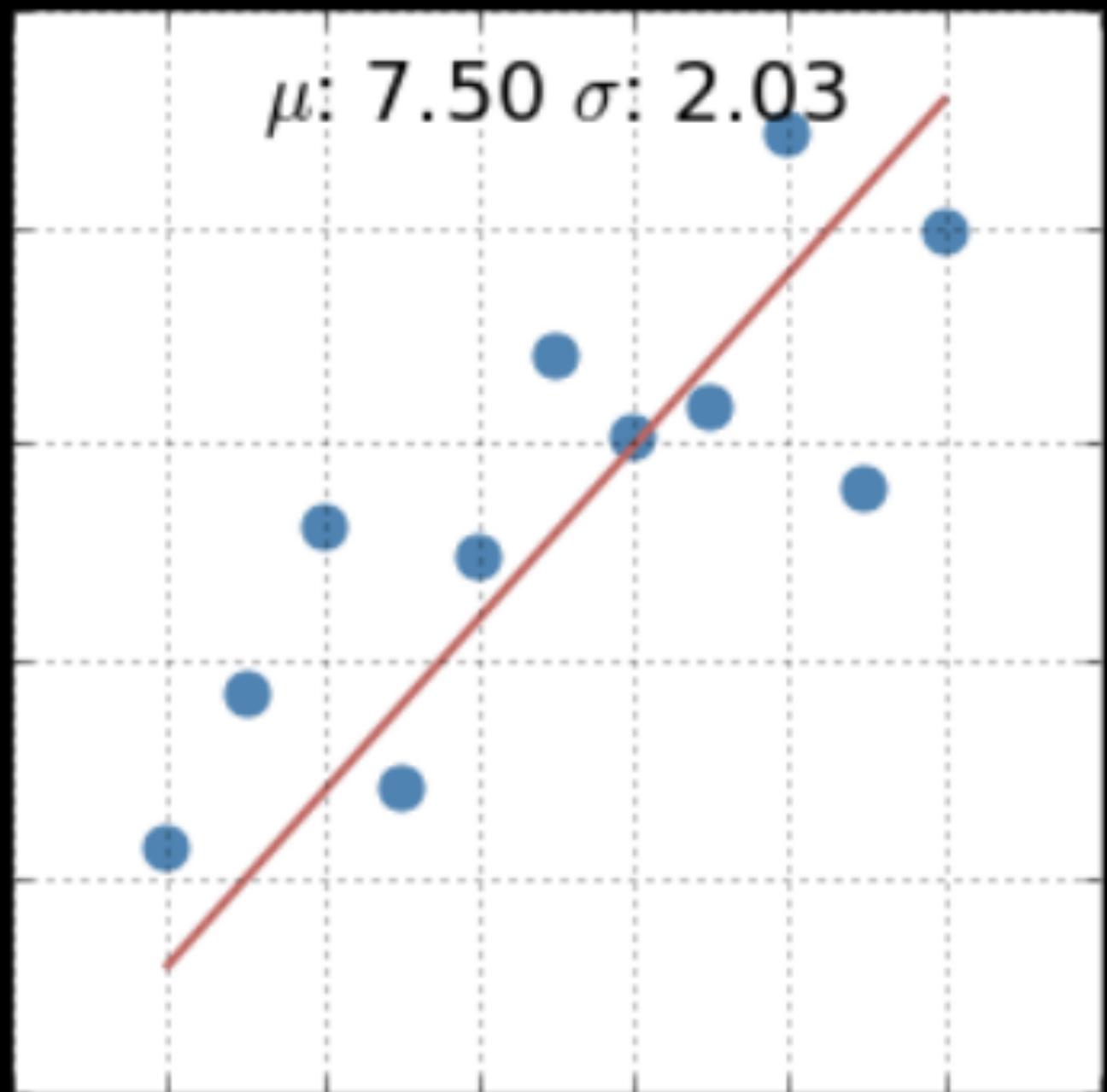


- Descriptive data viz
  - Lie with statistics
  - Tufte's rules
- Exploratory data viz
  - Jer Thorp
- Psychophysics
- Esthetics vs(??) functionality
  - color blindness
  - the third dimension
- Interactivity

why?

	I		II		III		IV	
	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
	10	8.04	10	9.14	10	7.46	8	6.58
	8	6.95	8	8.14	8	6.77	8	5.76
	13	7.58	13	8.74	13	12.74	8	7.71
	9	8.81	9	8.77	9	7.11	8	8.84
	11	8.33	11	9.26	11	7.81	8	8.47
	14	9.96	14	8.1	14	8.84	8	7.04
	6	7.24	6	6.13	6	6.08	8	5.25
	4	4.26	4	3.1	4	5.39	19	12.5
	12	10.84	12	9.13	12	8.15	8	5.56
	7	4.82	7	7.26	7	6.42	8	7.91
	5	5.68	5	4.74	5	5.73	8	6.89

What's this??



### *Anscombe's quartet*

(Francis Anscombe, 1973) comprises four datasets that have nearly identical simple descriptive statistics, yet appear very different when graphed. Each dataset consists of eleven (x,y) points.

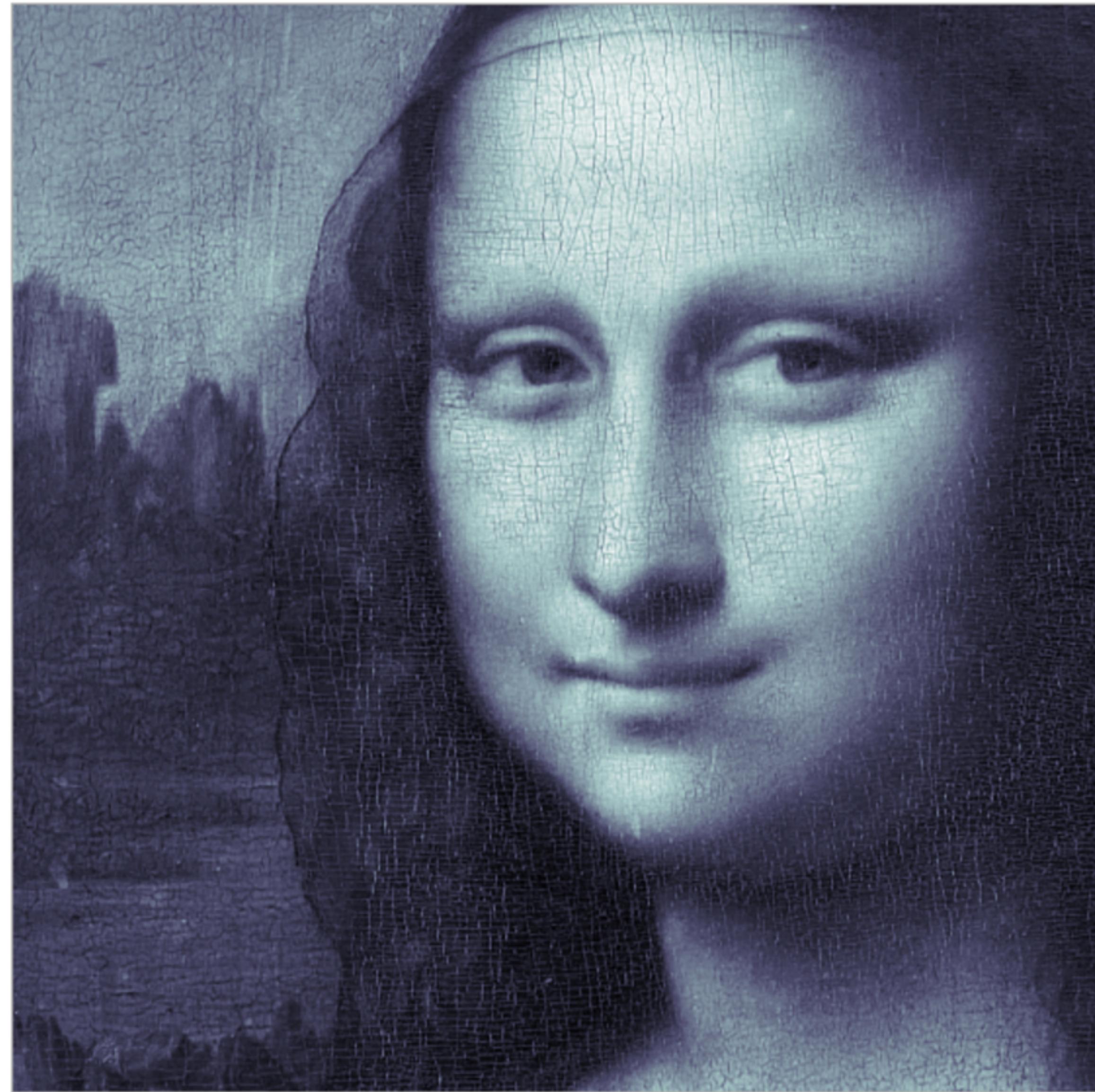
```
from PIL import Image
im = Image.open('sectret.png')
pixels = list(im.getdata())
import numpy as np
data = np.asarray(im)

data[:, :, 0]

array([[38, 35, 39, ..., 25, 33, 39],
       [44, 41, 42, ..., 25, 31, 37],
       [47, 45, 42, ..., 31, 35, 39],
       ...,
       [47, 55, 69, ..., 63, 66, 69],
       [33, 38, 51, ..., 56, 63, 69],
       [26, 20, 28, ..., 39, 44, 48]], dtype=uint8)
```

computers understand data as  
numbers, we do not.

```
pl.figure(figsize=(10,10))
pl.imshow(data[500:1500,500:1500,0], cmap=plt.get_cmap('bone'))
pl.xticks([])
pl.yticks([])
```



we visualize to  
communicate (Tufte)  
and  
explore (Thorp)

how?

a few historical plots

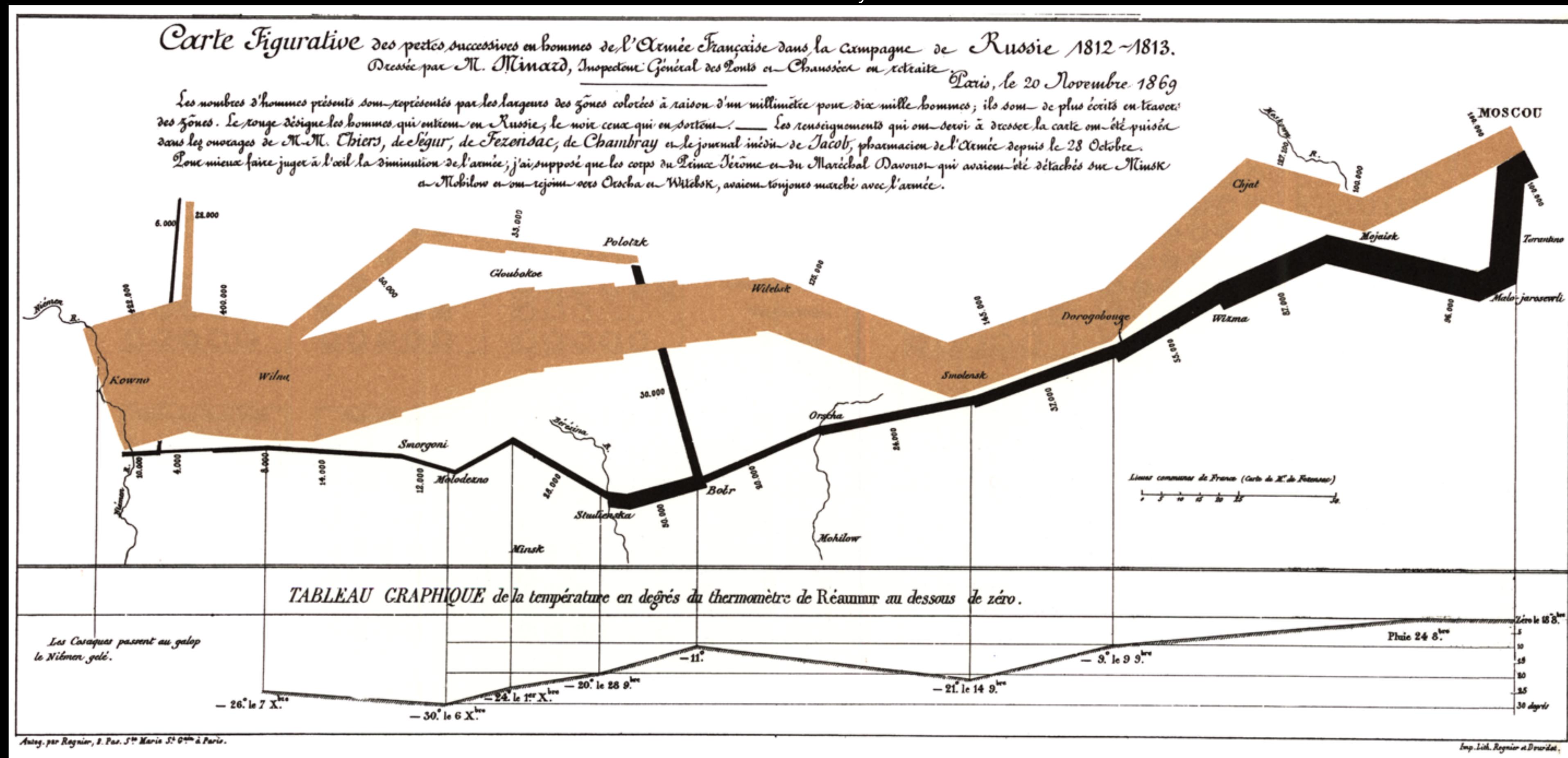
# a few historical plots

## Figurative Map of the successive losses in men of the French Army in the Russian campaign 1812-1813.

Drawn by Mr. Minard, Inspector General of Bridges and Roads in retirement. Paris, 20 November 1869.

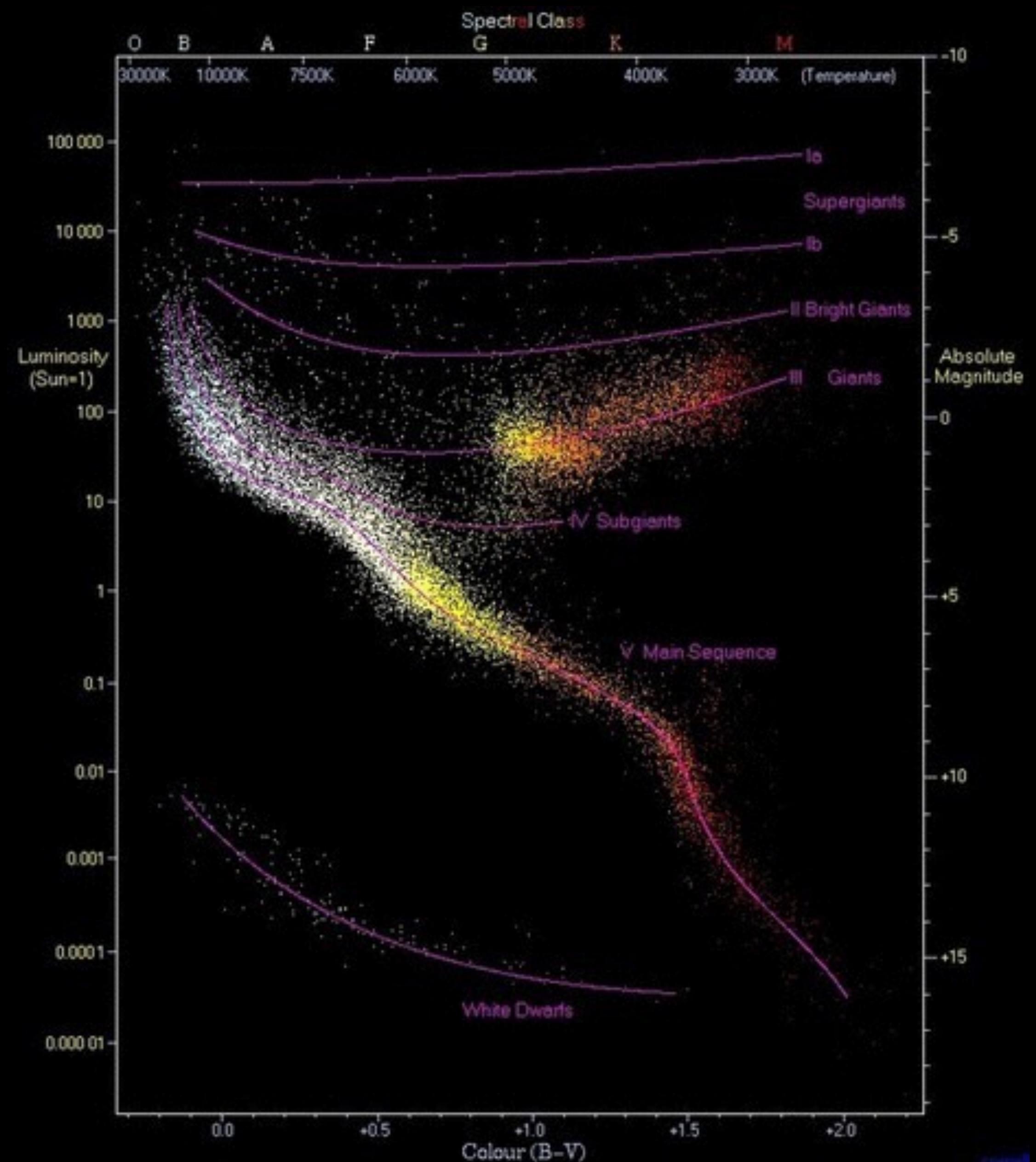
The numbers of men present are represented by the widths of the colored zones in a rate of one millimeter for ten thousand men; these are also written beside the zones. Red designates men moving into Russia, black those on retreat. — The informations used for drawing the map were taken from the works of Messrs. Chiers, de Ségur, de Fezensac, de Chambray and the unpublished diary of Jacob, pharmacist of the Army since 28 October.

In order to facilitate the judgement of the eye regarding the diminution of the army, I supposed that the troops under Prince Jérôme and under Marshal Davoust, who were sent to Minsk and Mobilow and who rejoined near Orscha and Witebsk, had always marched with the army.



a few historical plots

## Life of a Star



a few historical plots

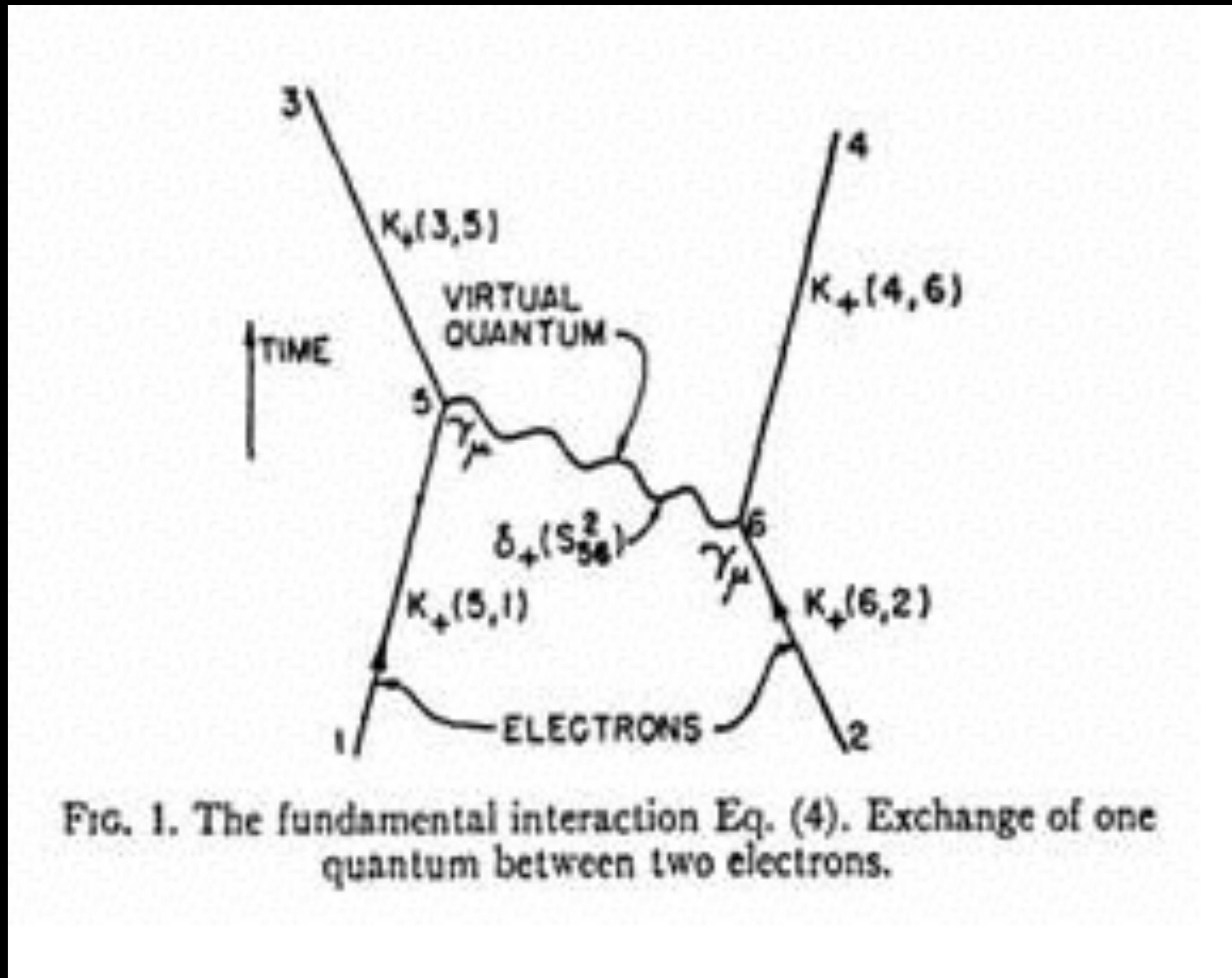
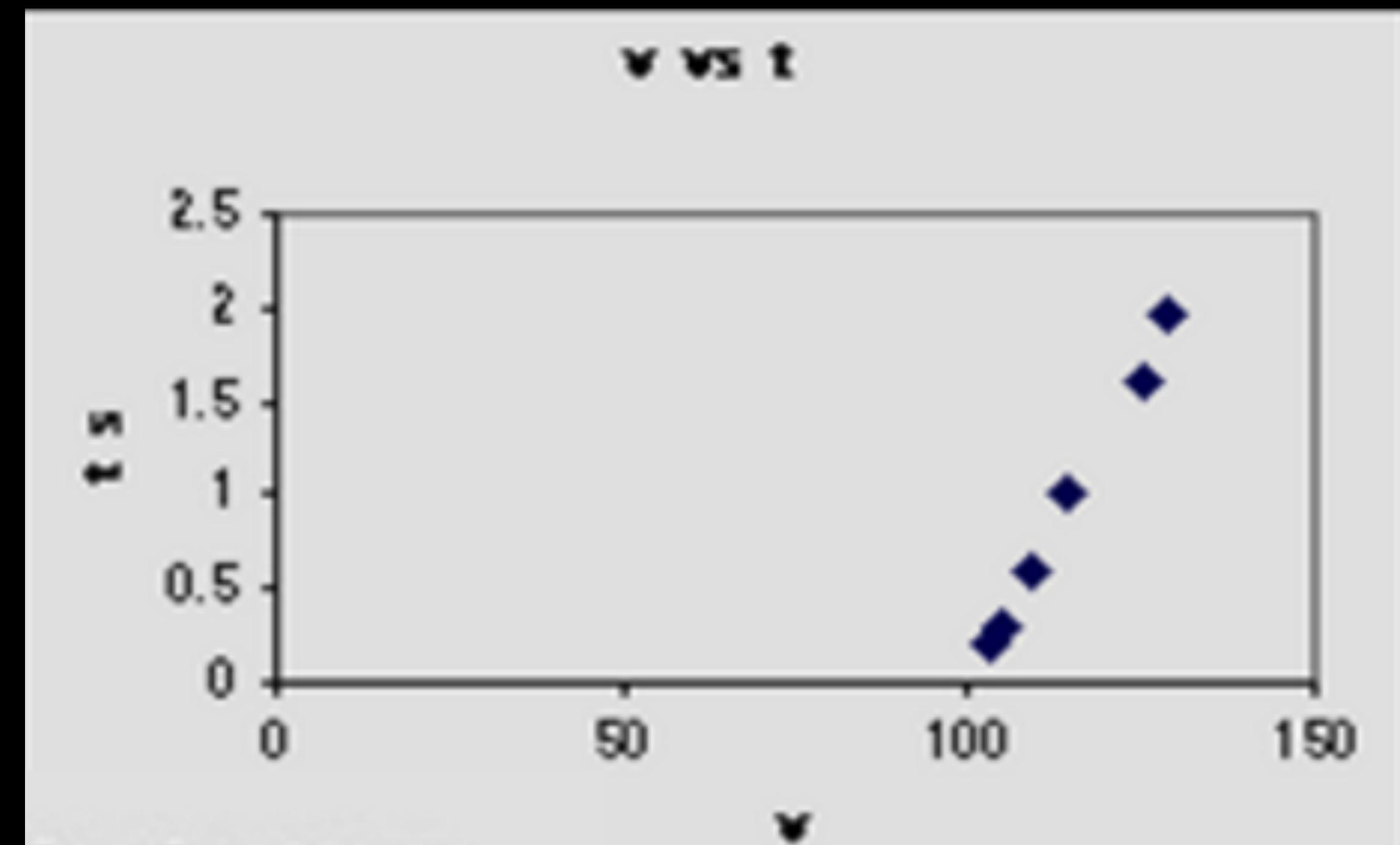


FIG. 1. The fundamental interaction Eq. (4). Exchange of one quantum between two electrons.

Feynman diagrams

what makes a *bad*  
visualization?

Ambiguity, distortion (misleading), distraction.



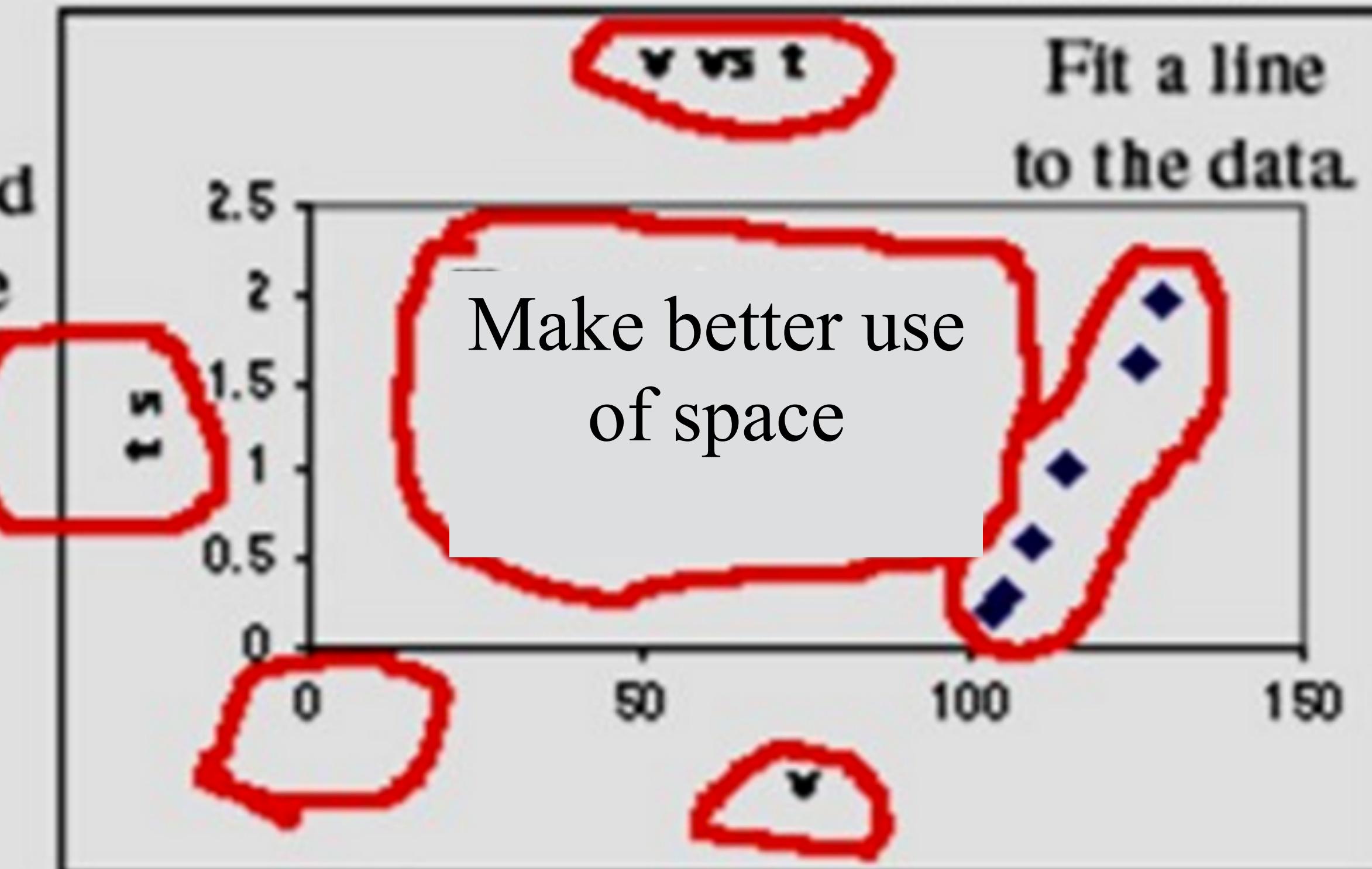
6 wrong things with this plot...

The entire graph is too small.

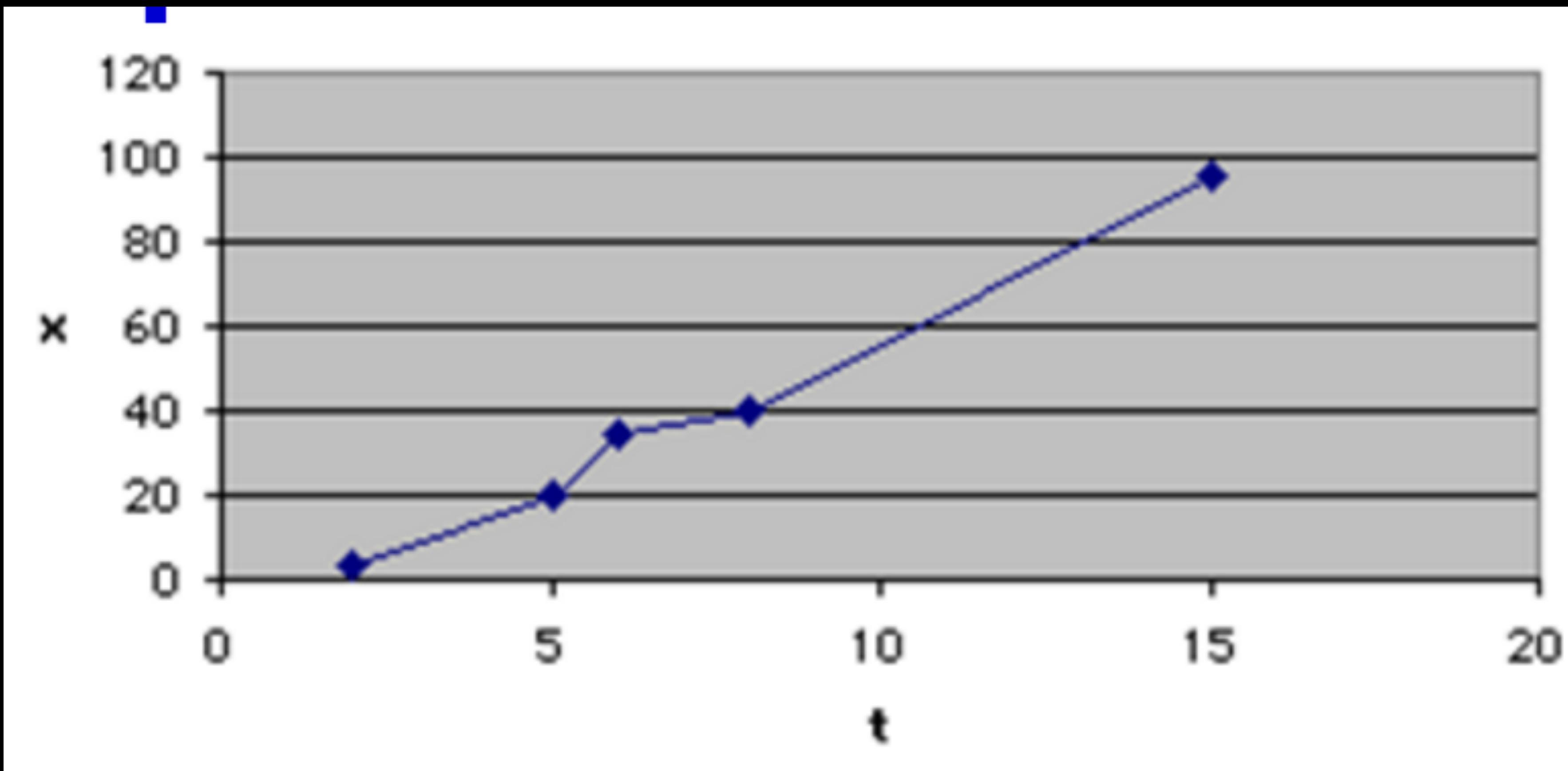
The axis label should have words, and the units should be in parentheses.

The first data occurs at  $v = 100$ , so the scale can begin at 100.

The title should be better. This graph is  $t$  versus  $v$ , not  $v$  versus  $t$ .

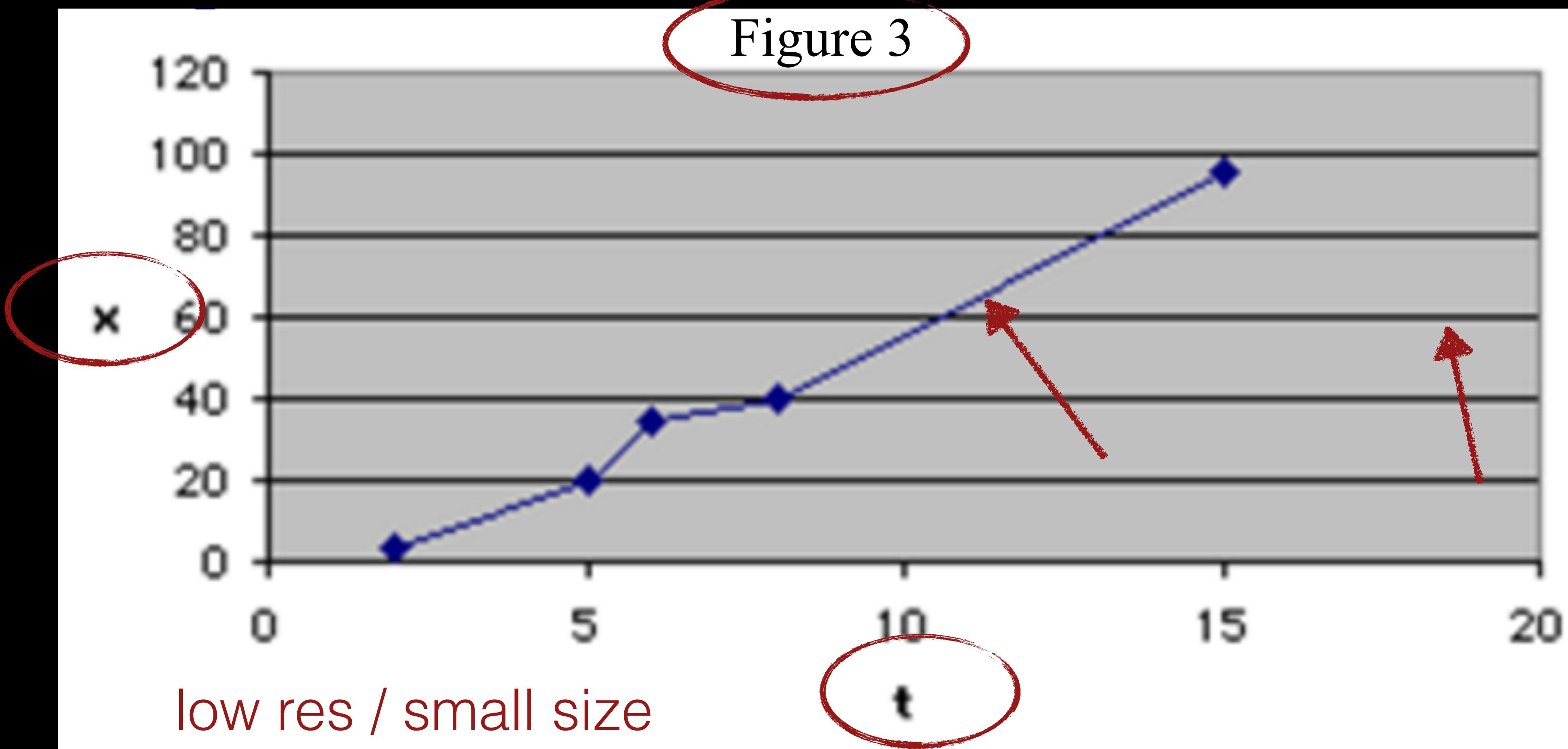


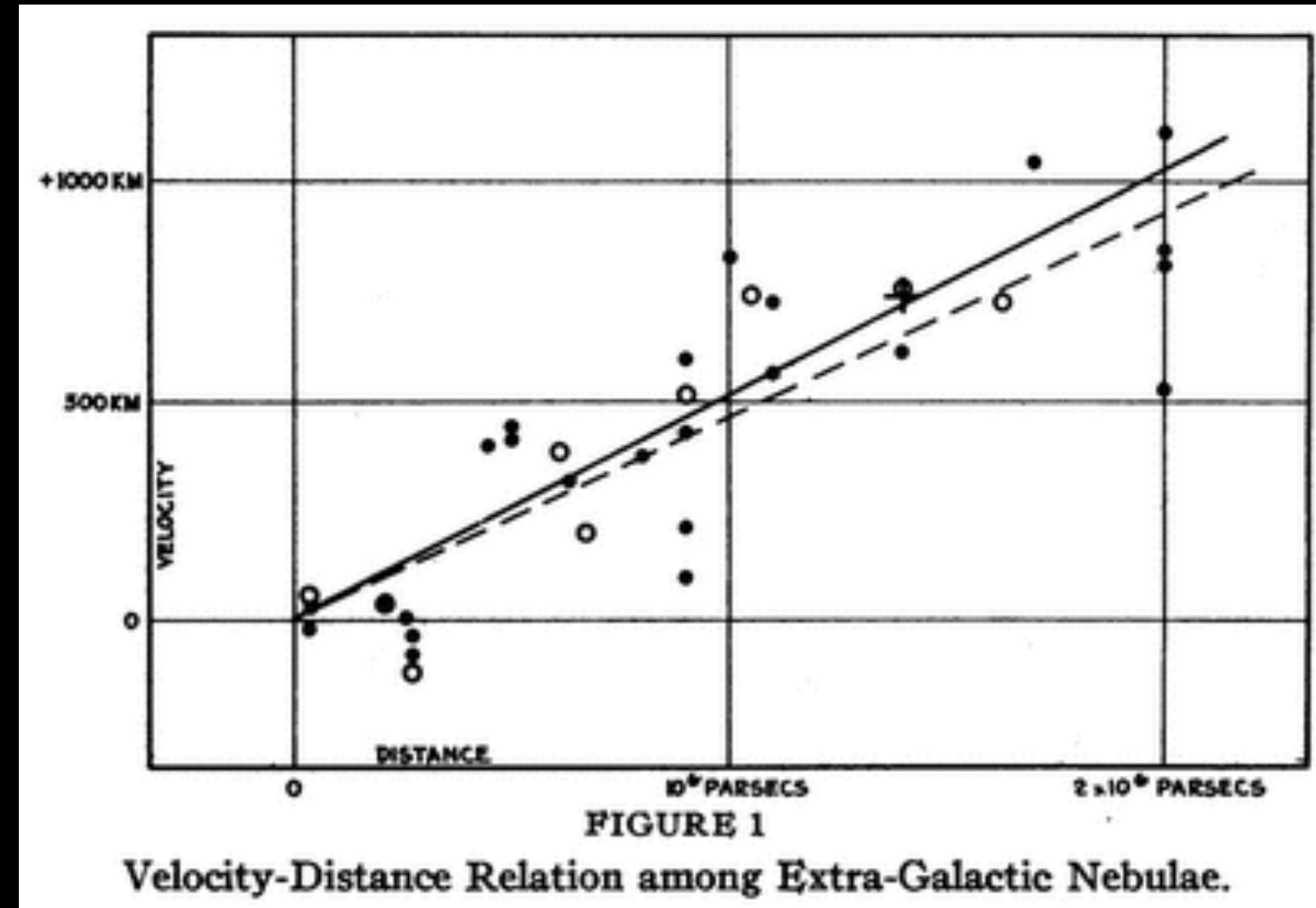
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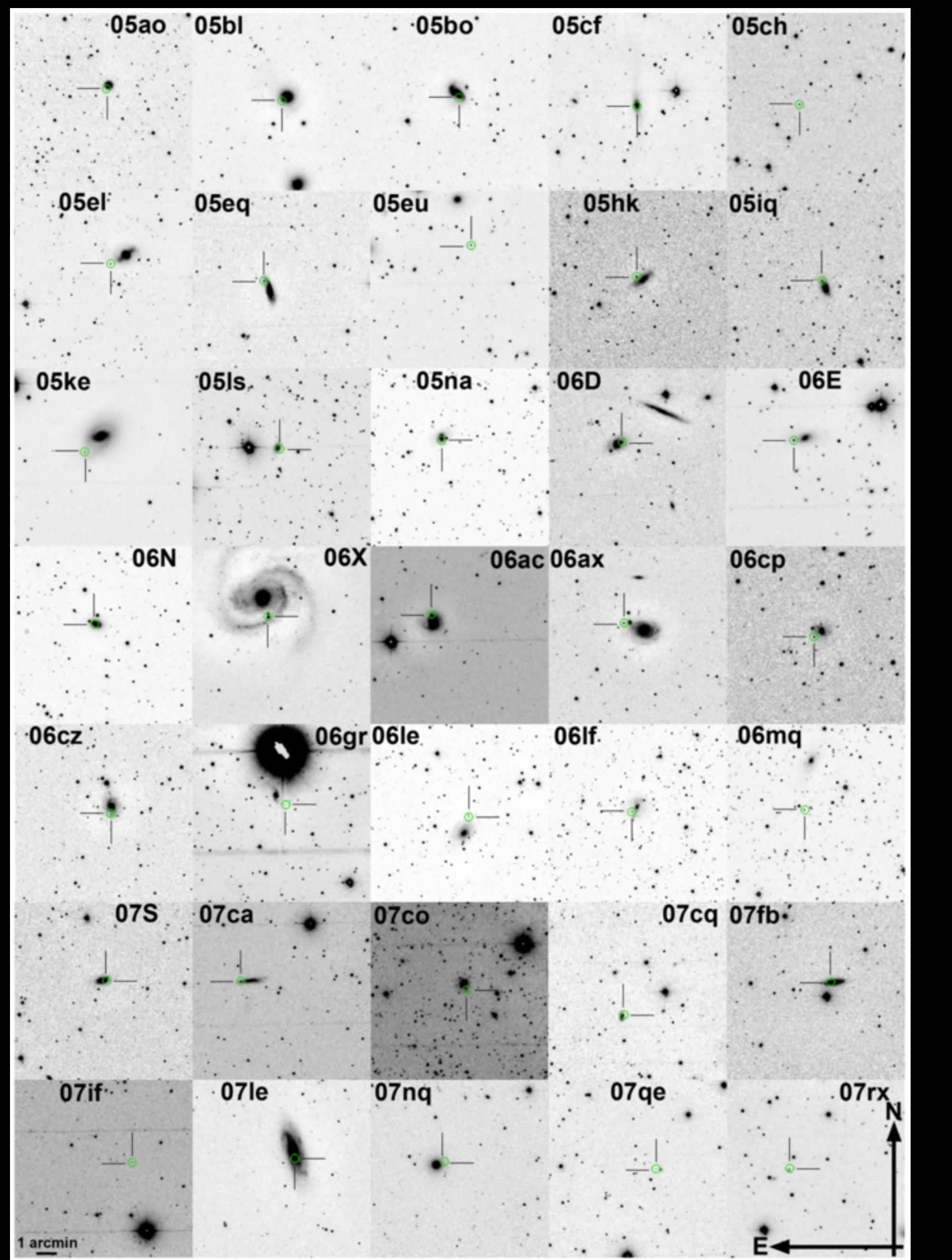
Figure 3

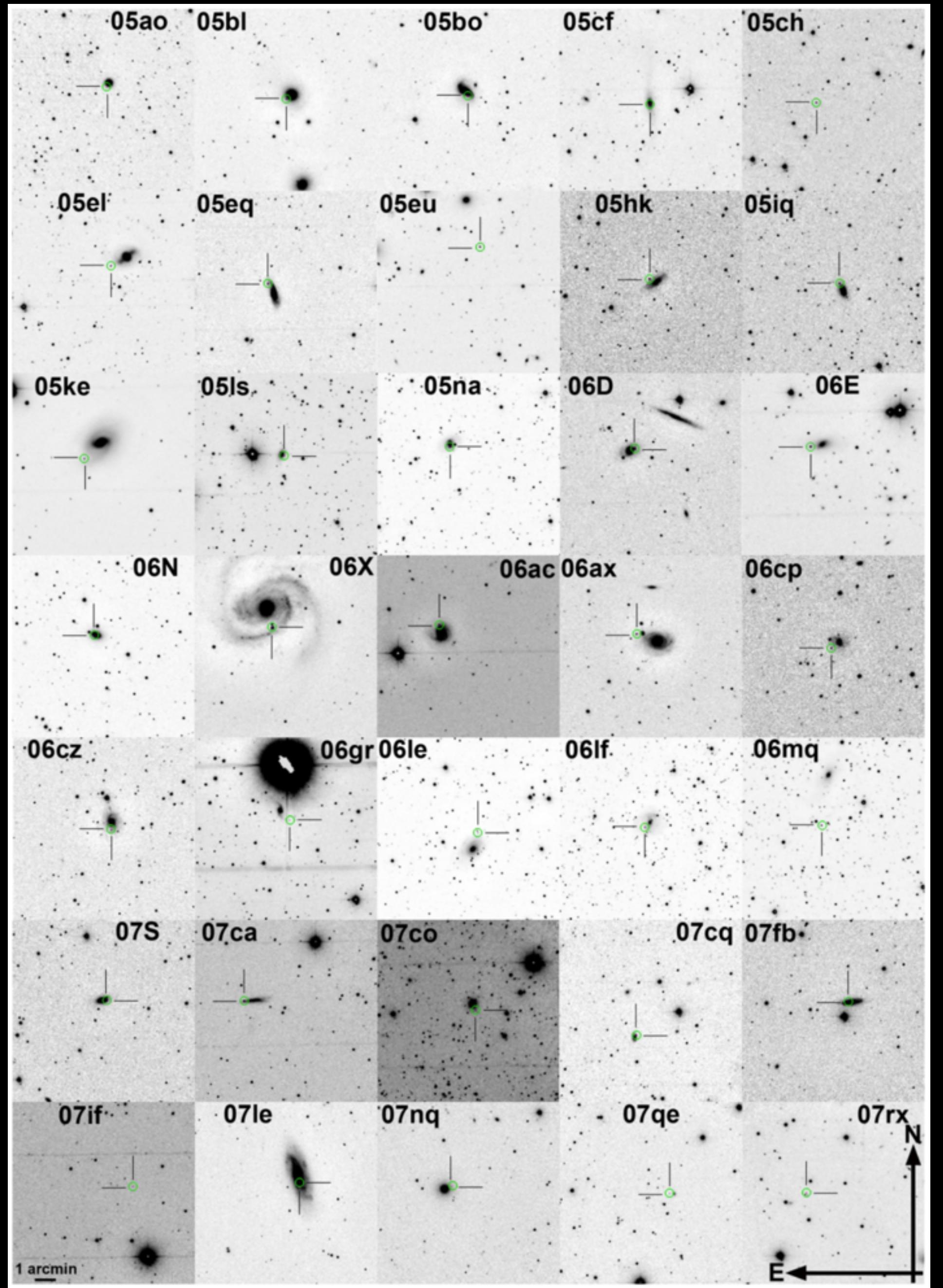




Edwin Hubble  
January 17, 1929

Velocity-Distance Relation among Extra-Galactic Nebulae. Radial velocities, corrected for solar motion, are plotted against distances estimated from involved stars and mean luminosities of nebulae in a cluster. The black discs and full line represent the solution for solar motion using the nebulae individually; the circles and broken line represent the solution combining the nebulae into groups; the cross represents the mean velocity corresponding to the mean distance of 22 nebulae whose distances could not be estimated individually.

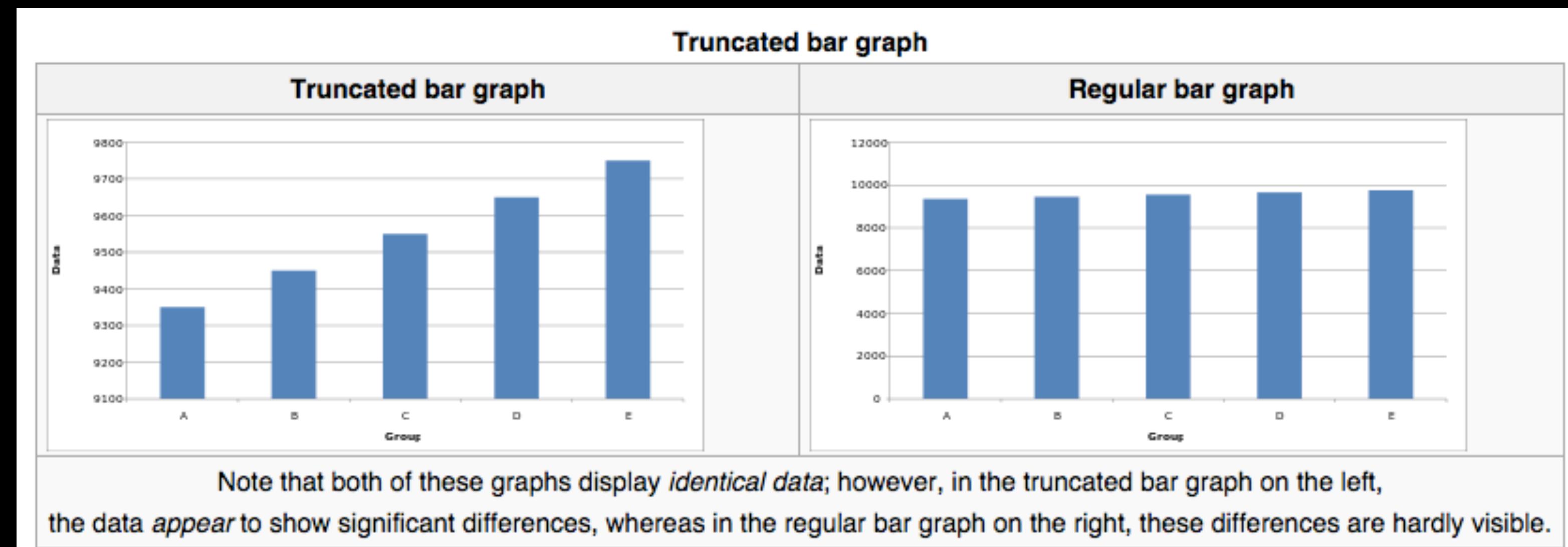


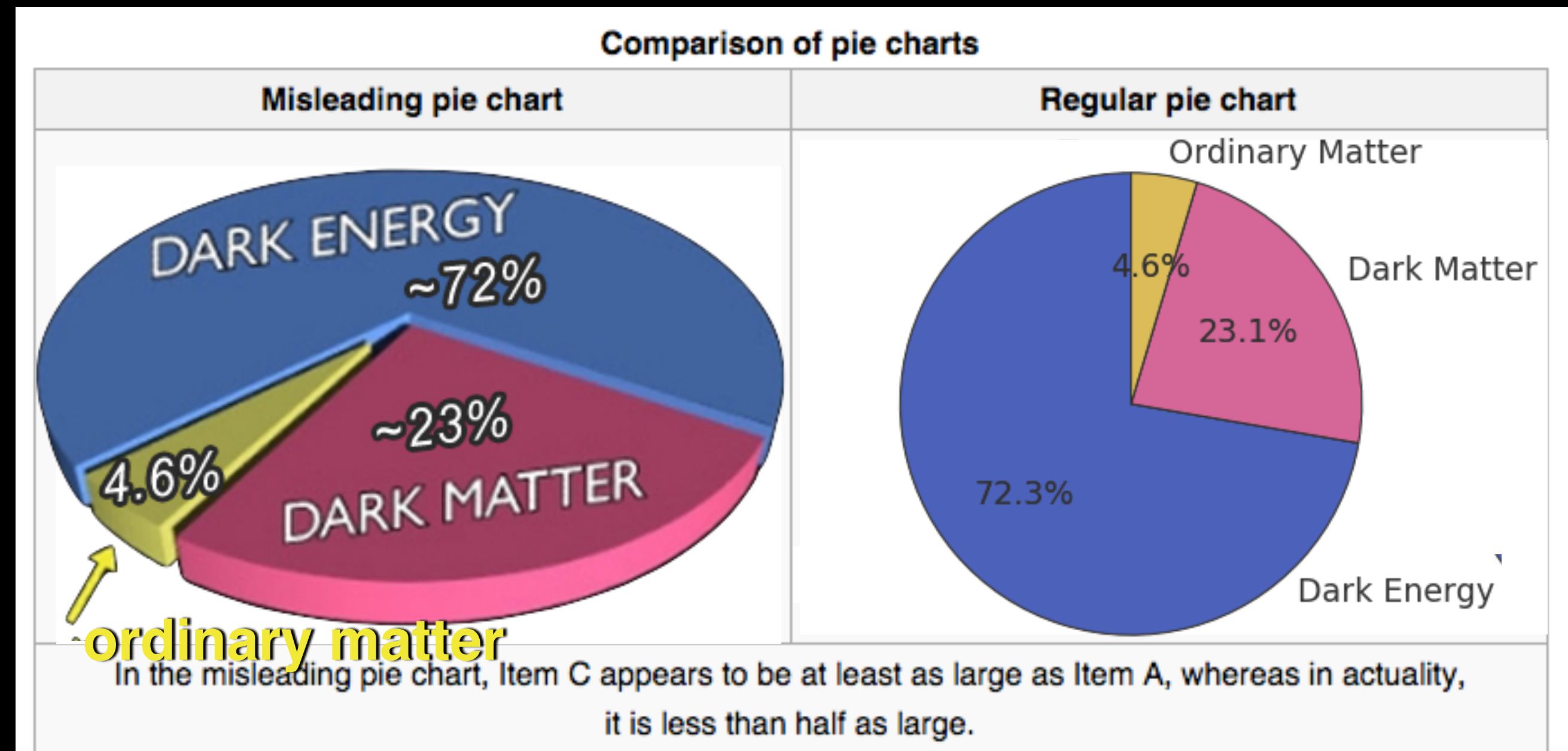


Ambiguity different stretch

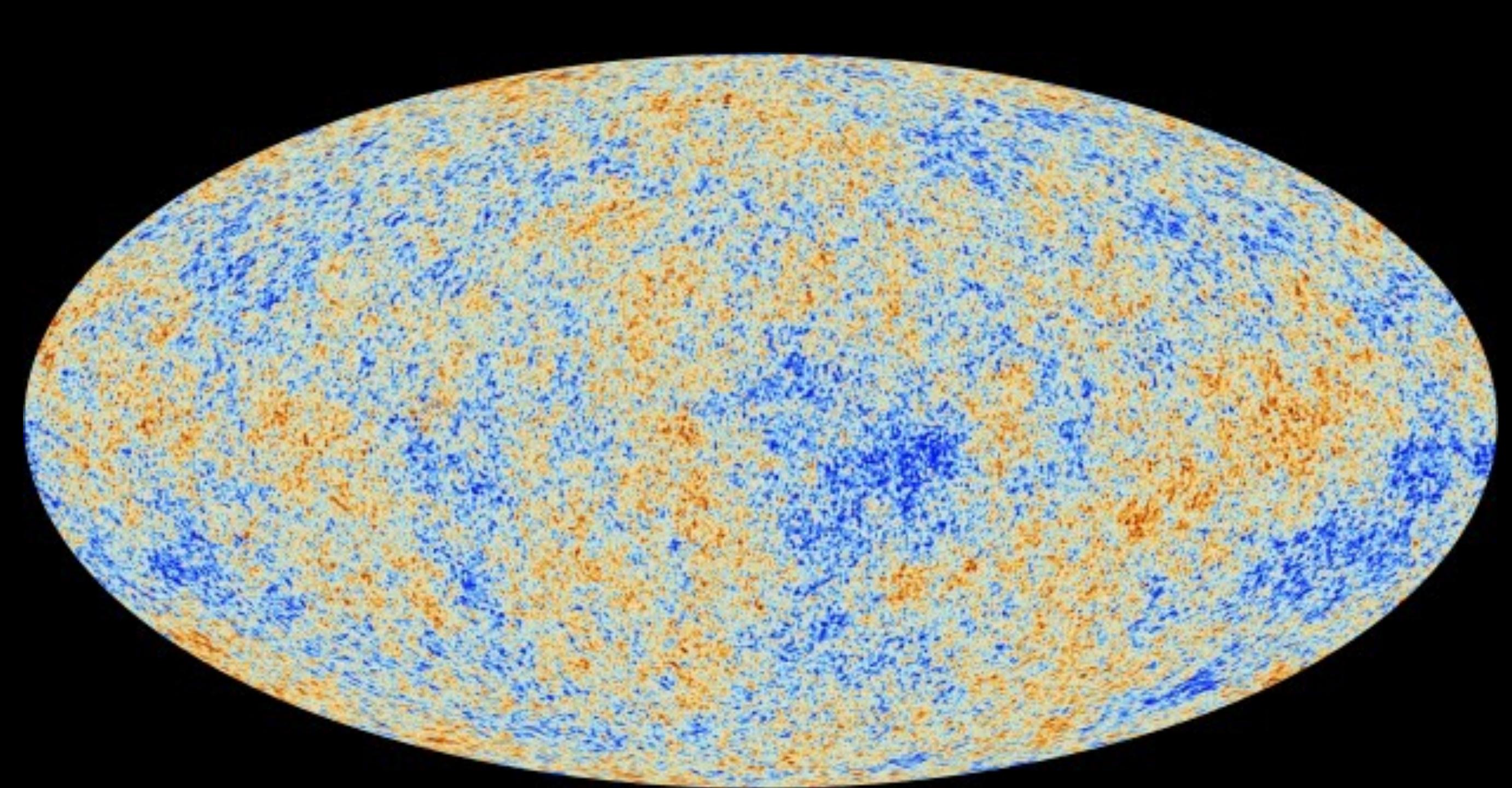
Ambiguity, distortion (misleading), distraction.

<http://gizmodo.com/how-to-lie-with-data-visualization-1563576606>



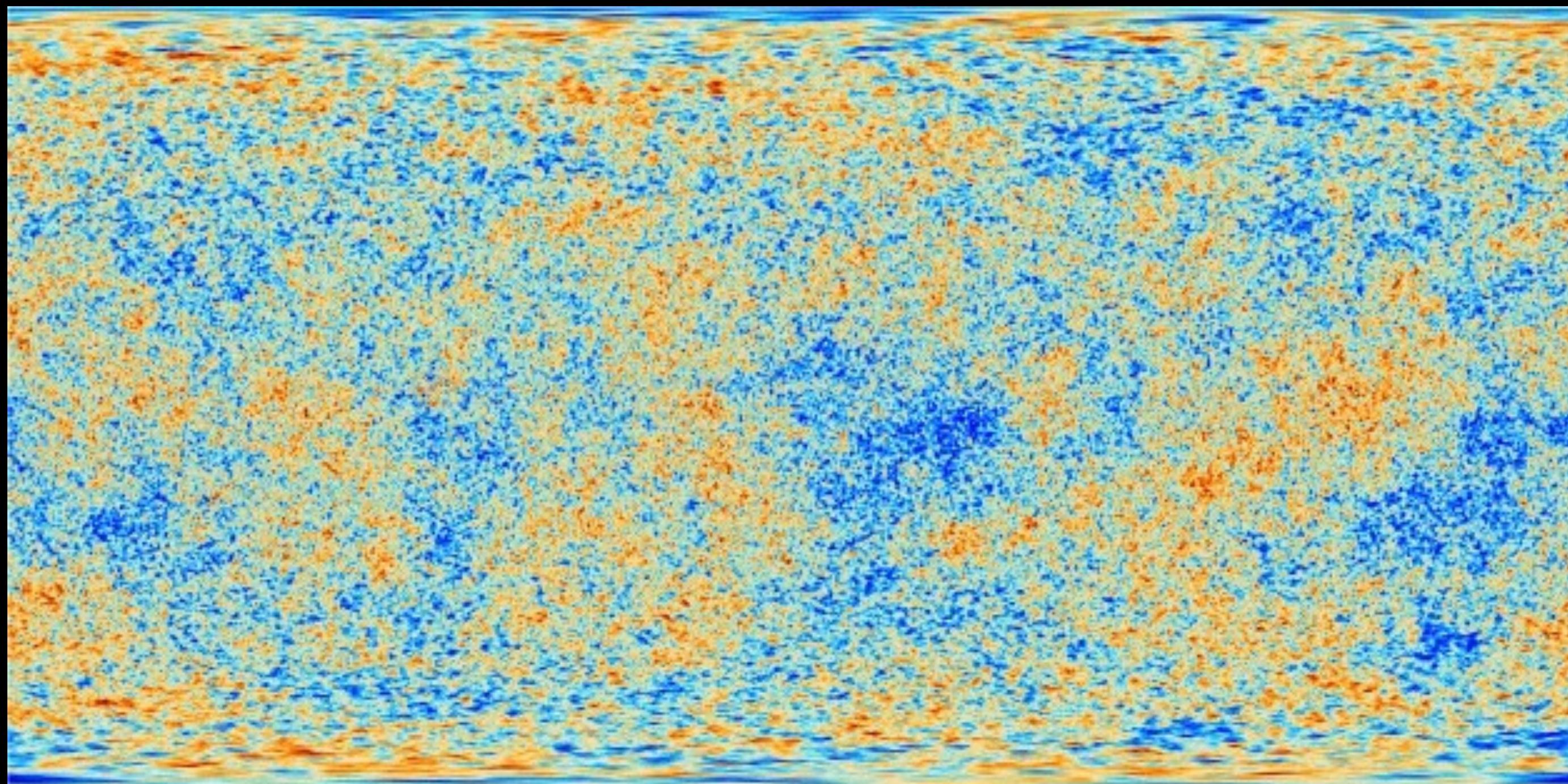


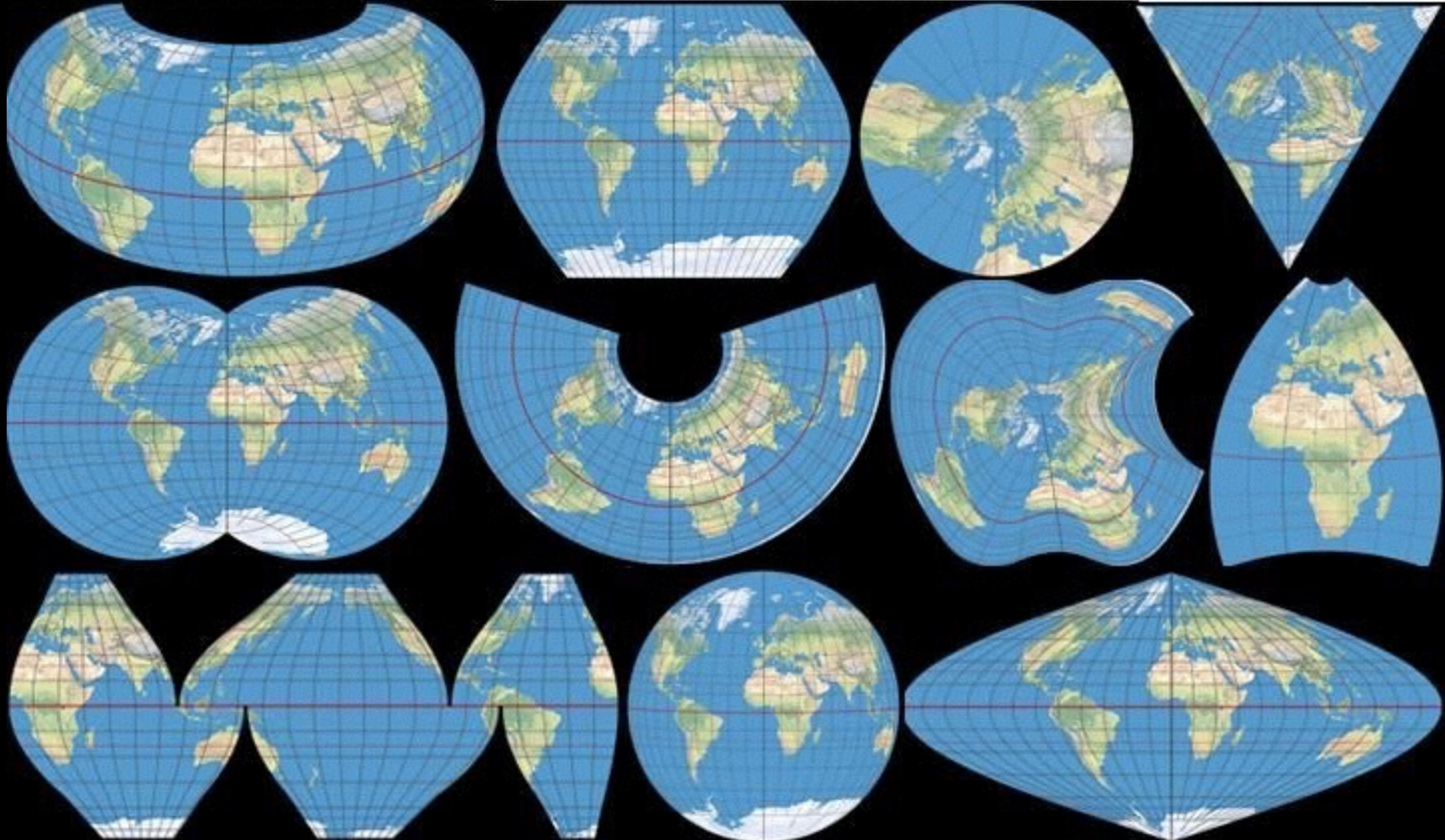
<http://planck.caltech.edu/epo/epo-planckScience5.html>



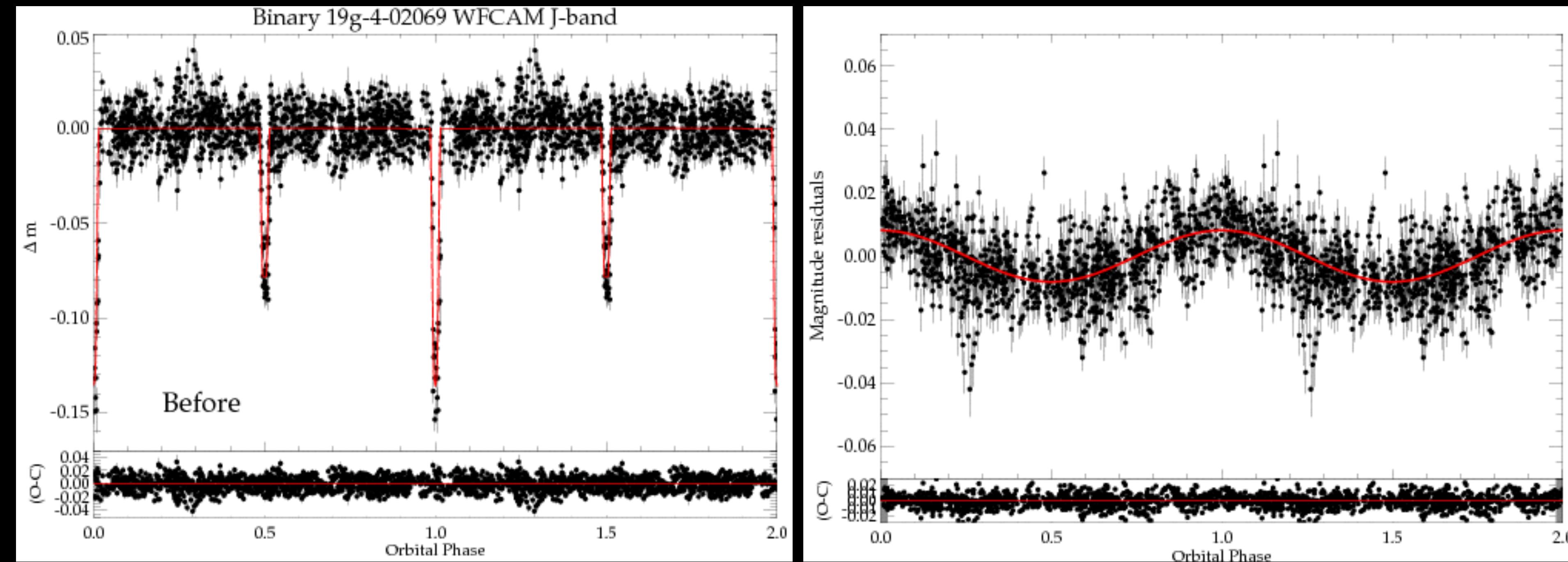
Mollweide projection

equirectangular projection





A highly unequal-mass eclipsing M-dwarf binary in the WFCAM Transit Survey  
Nefs, S.V. et al. MNRAS. 431 (2013) 3240 arXiv:1303.0945 [astro-ph.SR]



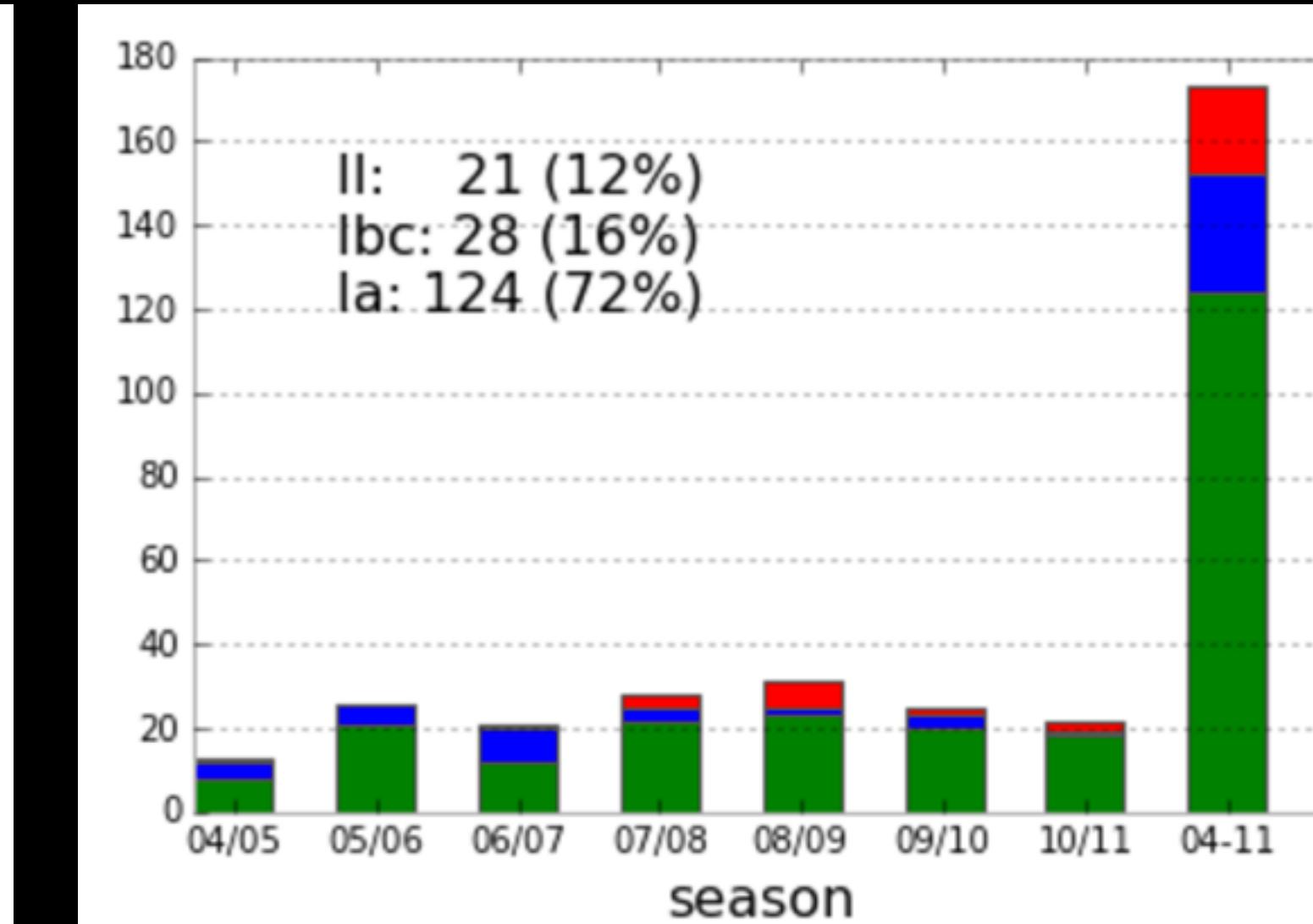
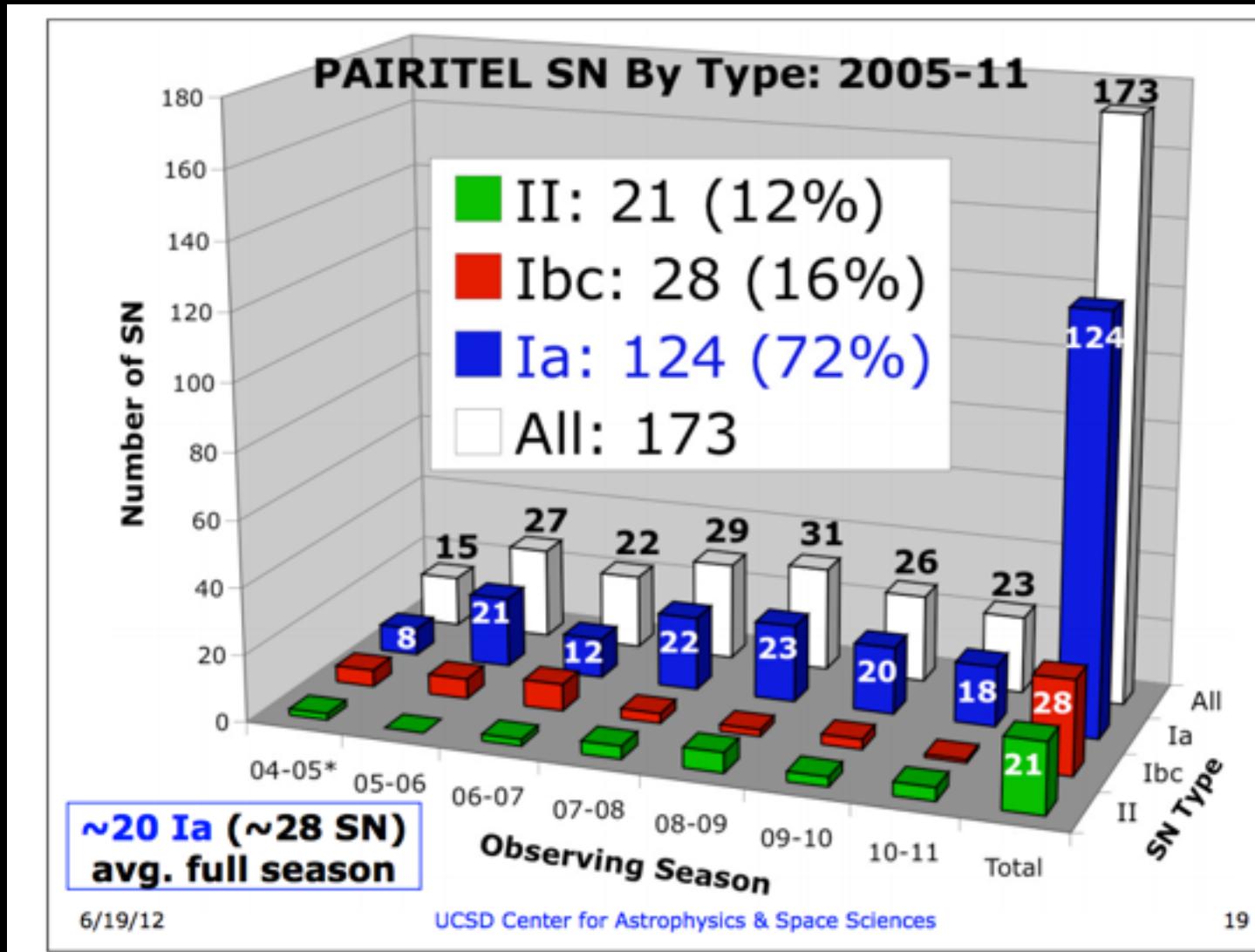
Ambiguity, distortion (misleading), distraction.

<http://i.imgur.com/RzYaLZg.gif>

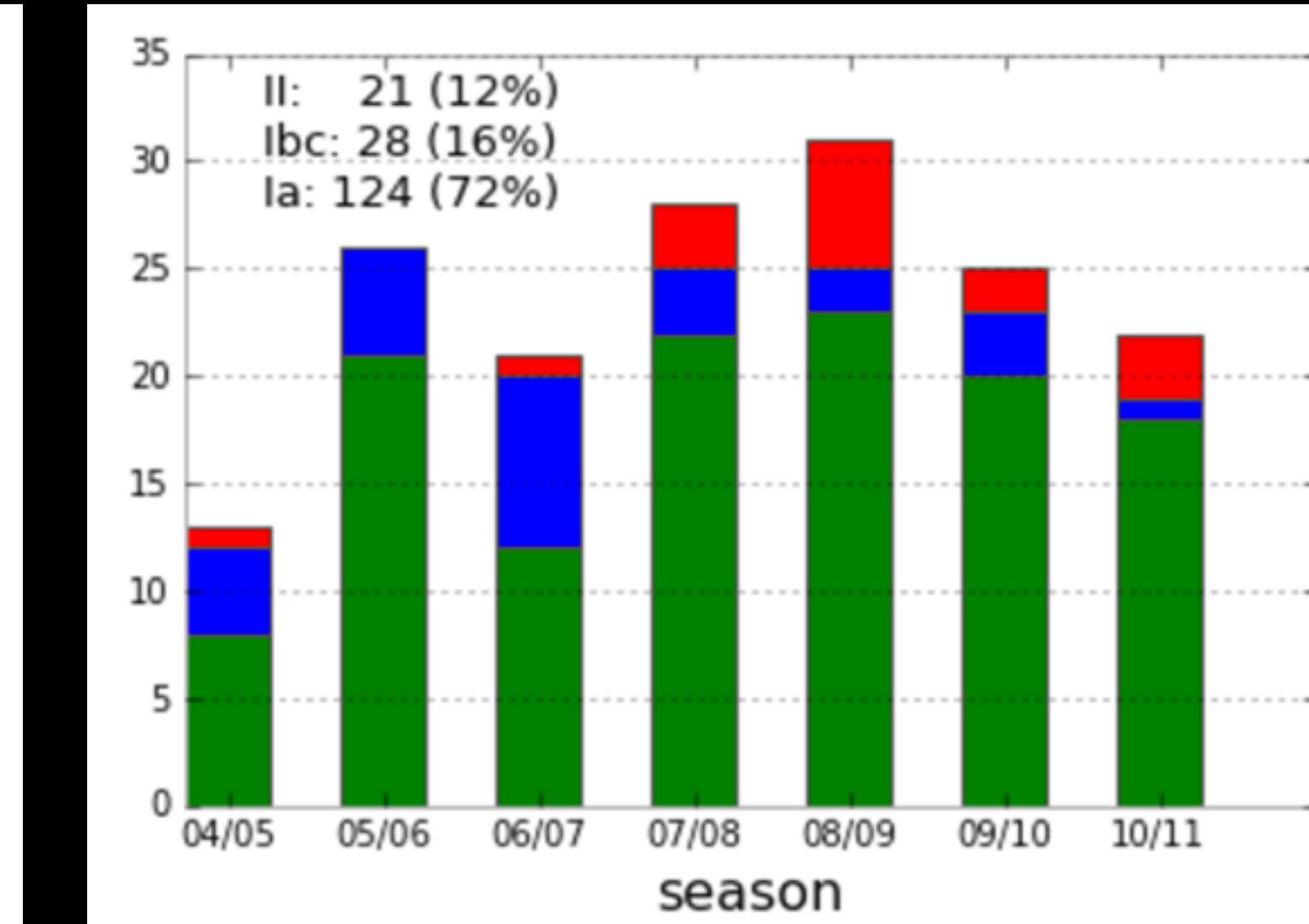
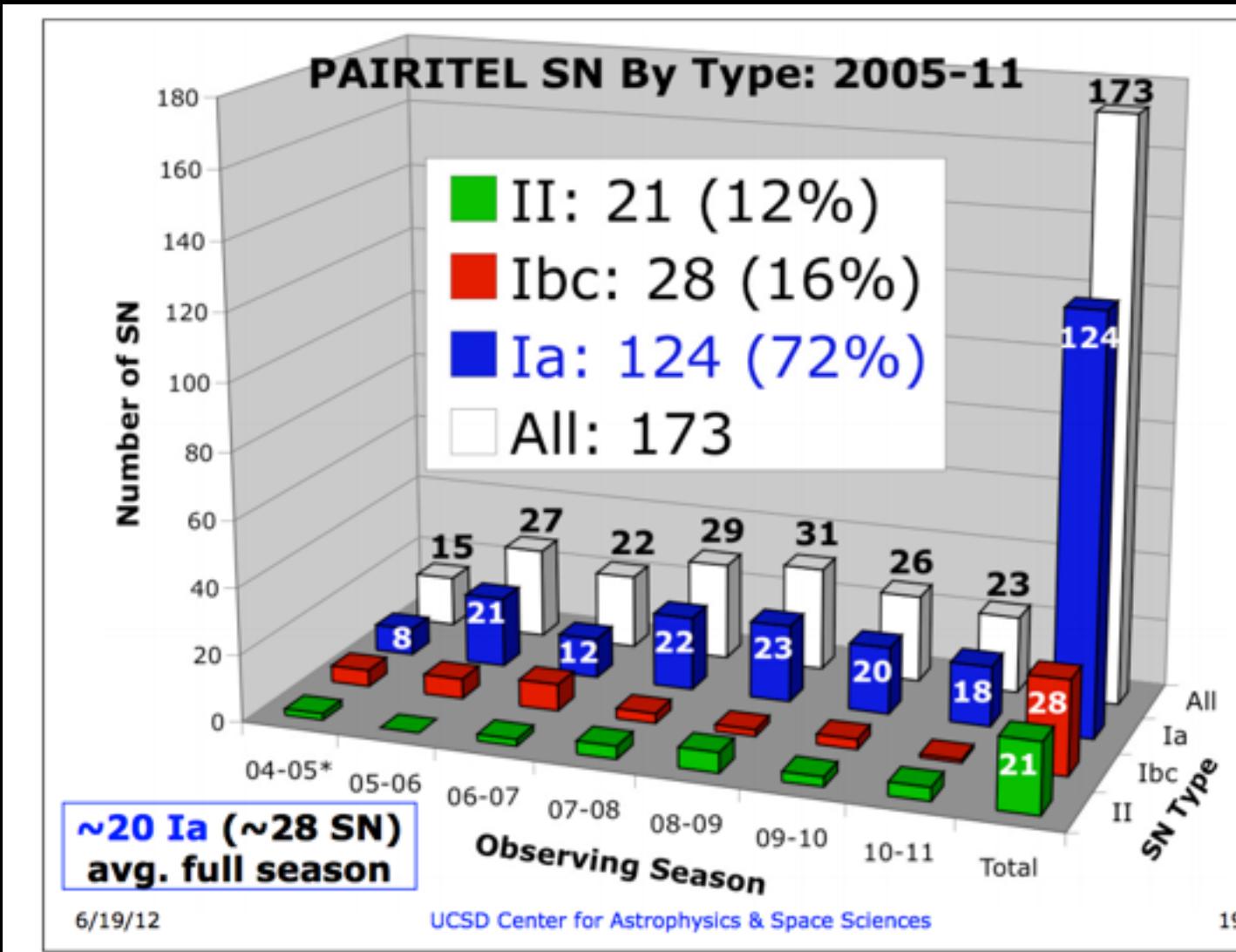
<http://www.nodexlgraphgallery.org/Pages/Graph.aspx?graphID=56967>



## Ambiguity, distortion (misleading), distraction.



## Ambiguity, distortion (misleading), distraction.



what makes a good vis

	1999.1.1	65 months	2004.4.28	low	high		2003.4.28	12 months	2004.4.28	low	high
Euro foreign exchange \$	1.1608		1.1907	.8252	1.2858	\$	1.1025		1.1907	1.0783	1.2858
Euro foreign exchange ¥	121.32		130.17	89.30	140.31	¥	132.54		130.17	124.80	140.31
Euro foreign exchange £	0.7111		0.6665	.5711	0.7235	£	0.6914		0.6665	0.6556	0.7235



Edward Tufte

# Tufte's rules:

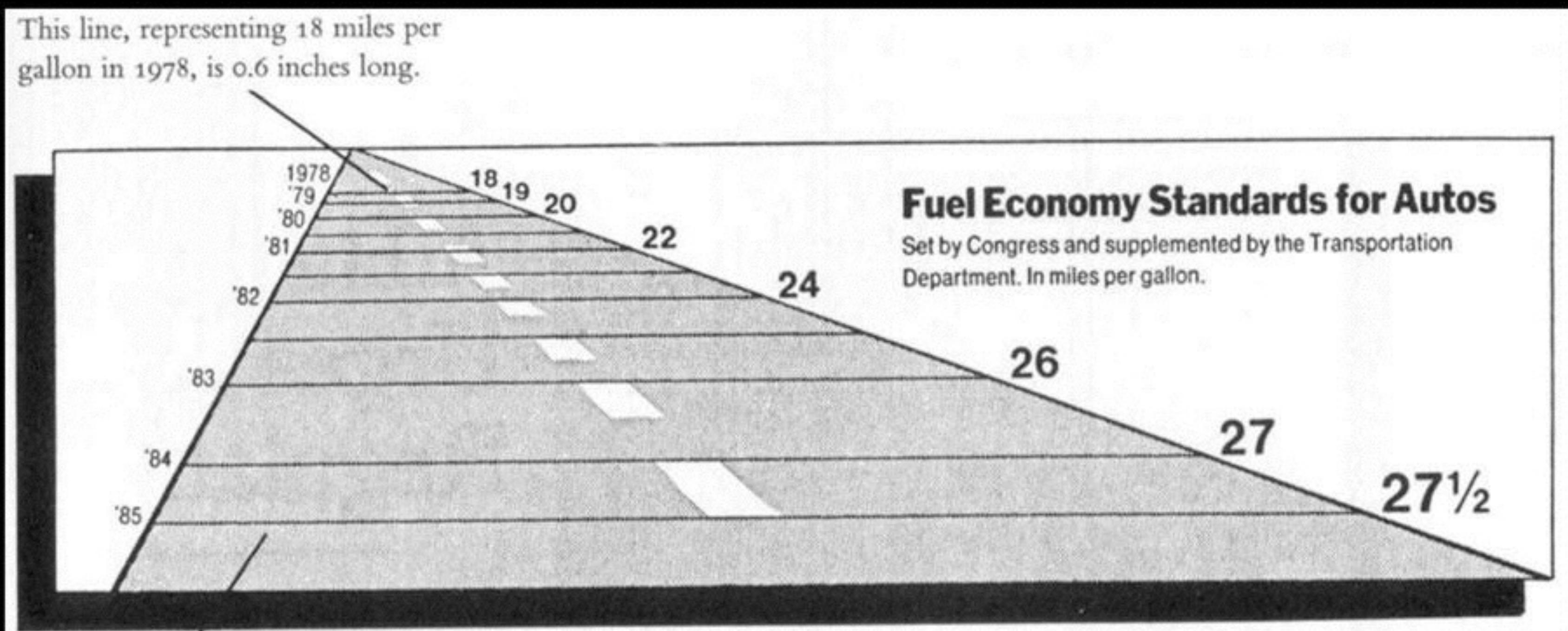
Lie factor

size of the effect in the graphic  
size of the effect in the data

# Tufte's rules:

Lie factor

size of the effect in the graphic  
size of the effect in the data



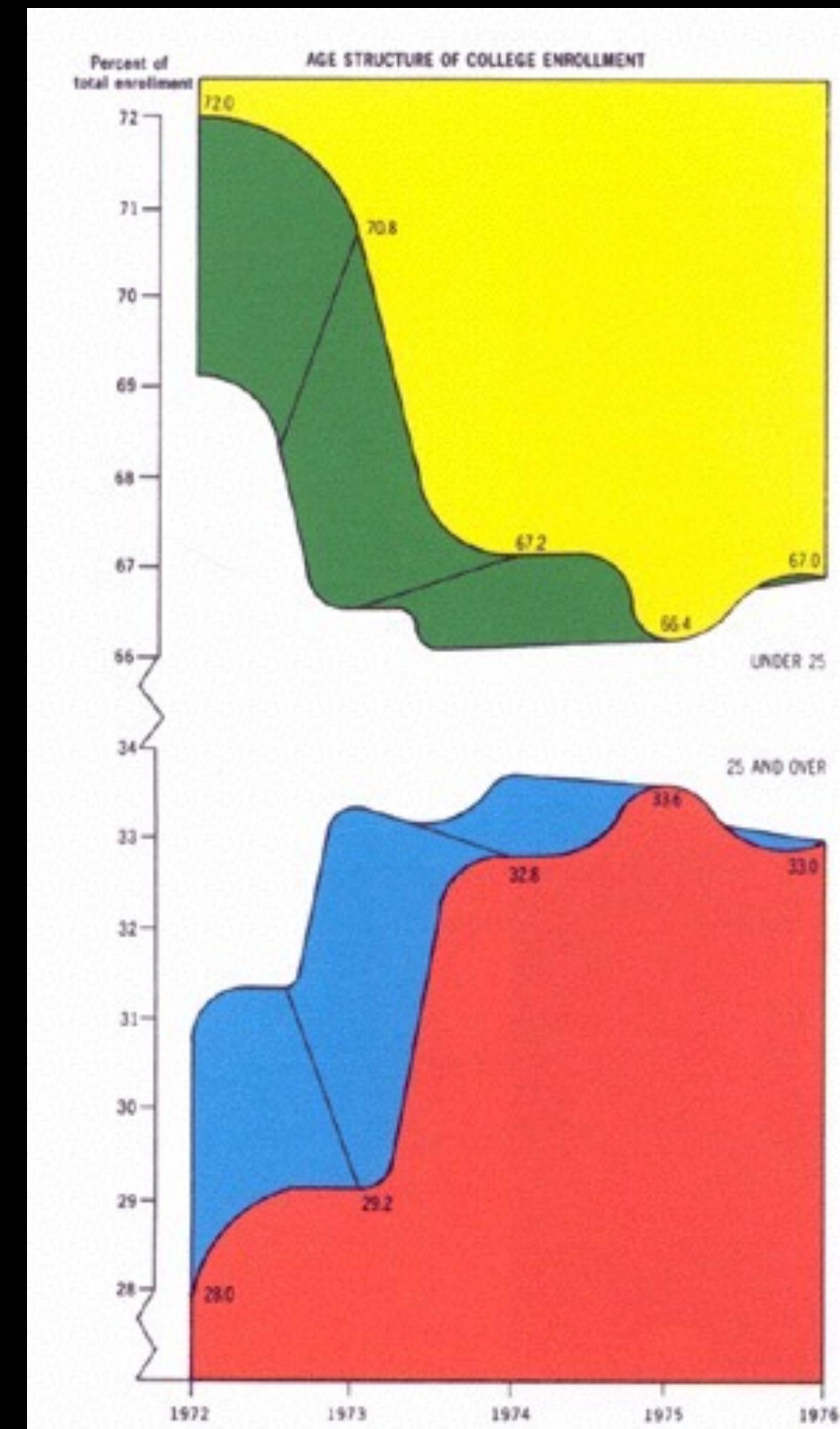


**57%**  
of Europeans are  
worried their  
personal  
information  
is not safe.



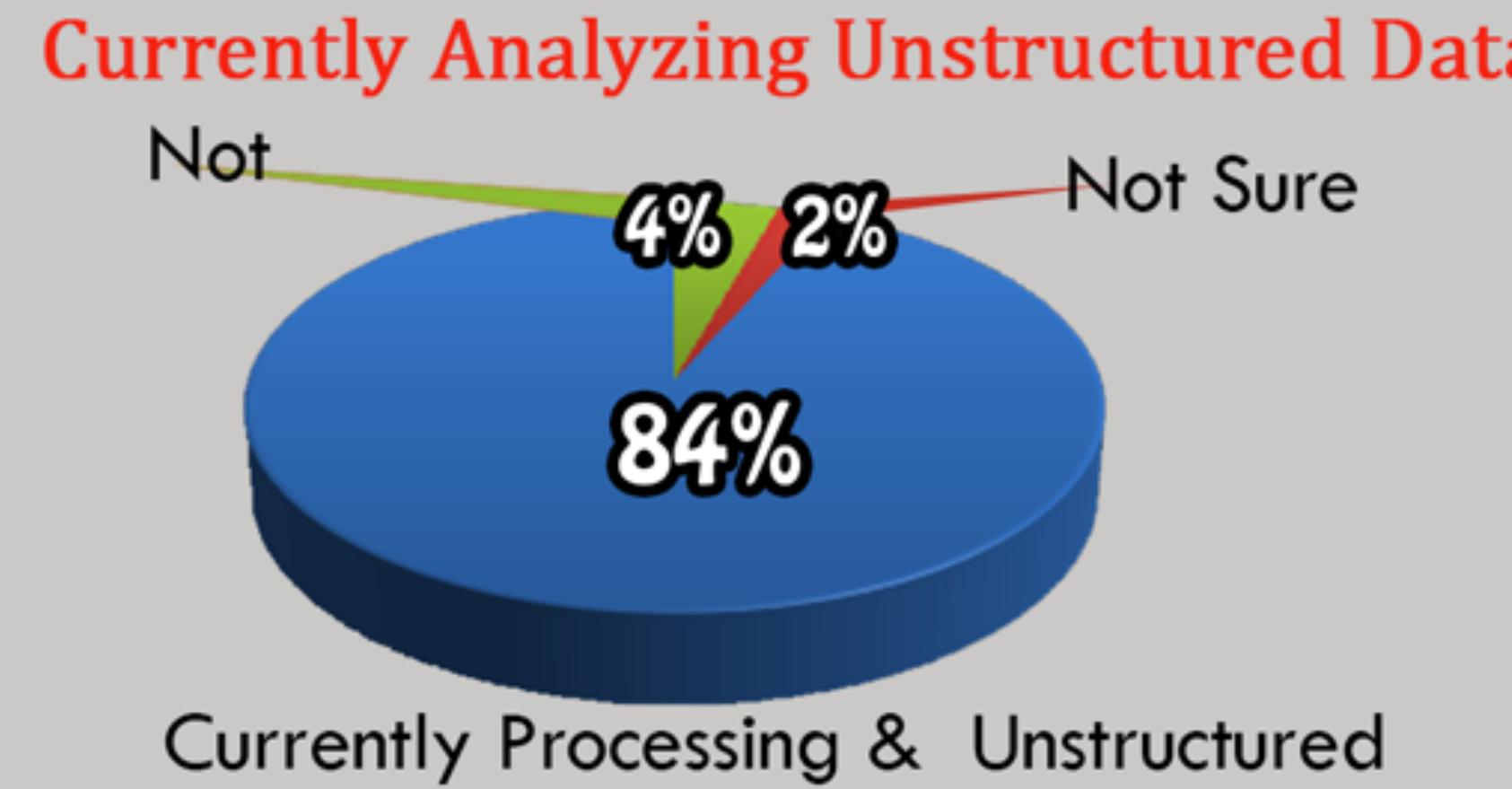
# Tufte's rules:

Chart Junk  
the excessive and unnecessary  
use of graphical effects



# 4

## The Rise of Unstructured and Semistructured Data Analytics

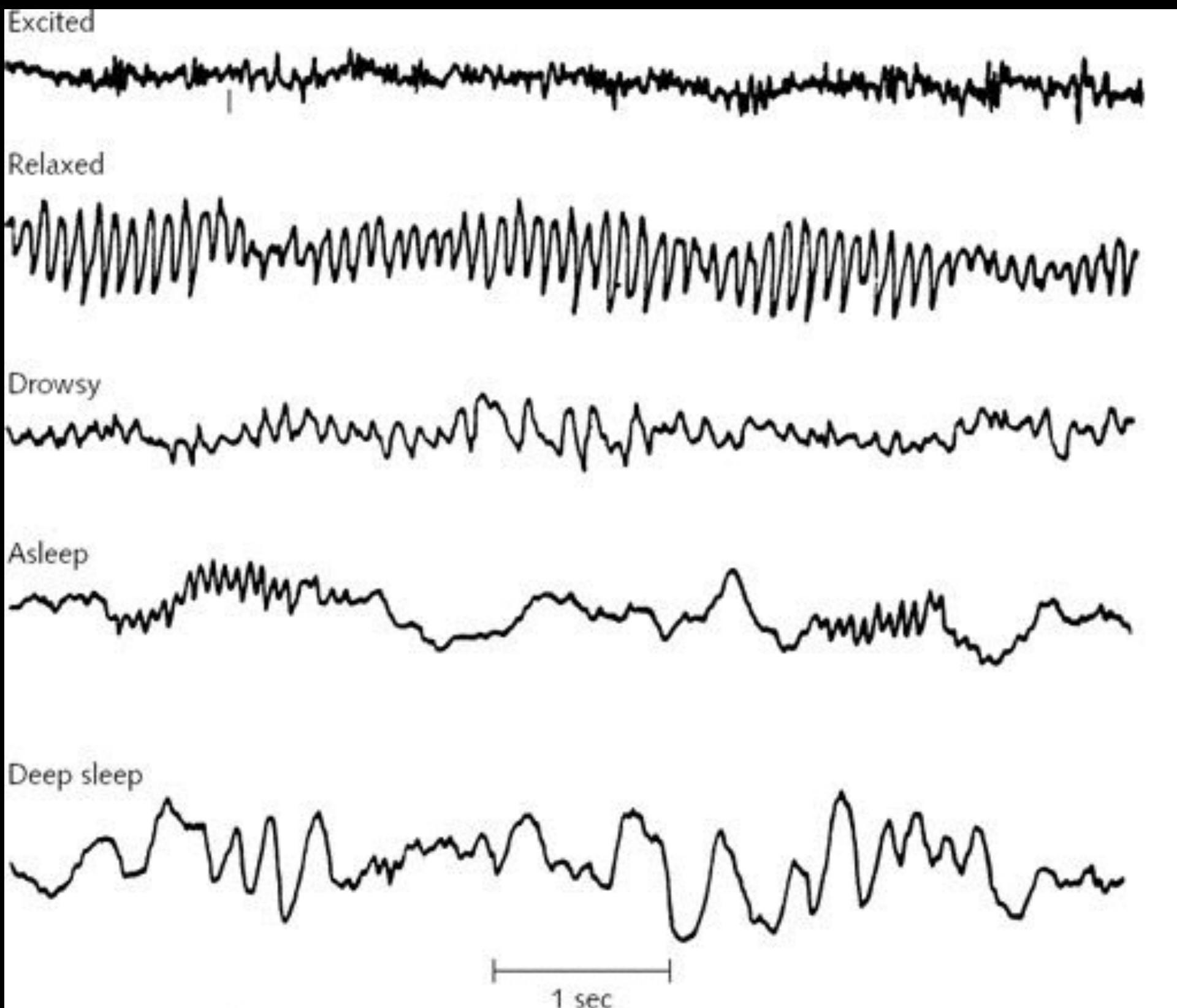


The ‘Peer Research – Big Data Analytics’ survey clearly reports that there is a huge growth when it comes to unstructured & semistructured data analytics.

# Tufte's rules:

Data-ink ratio

amount of data  
amount of ink



# STATE OF CREATIVITY IN EDUCATION: AN ADOBE SURVEY



Sample Size: 1014 educators representing 13 countries across Asia Pacific

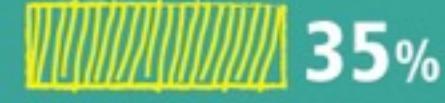


## Attitudes & Aspirations

Current and Desired State of Creativity



Educators strongly felt that they should be creative regardless of the subjects they teach



Strongly felt fostering creativity is educators' primary responsibility



Strongly felt that parents are primarily responsible for creativity



45%

Educators spent their time fostering creative skills in their classroom in the last one year

58% Ideally wanted to spend time fostering creativity in the classroom



## Barriers & Enablers

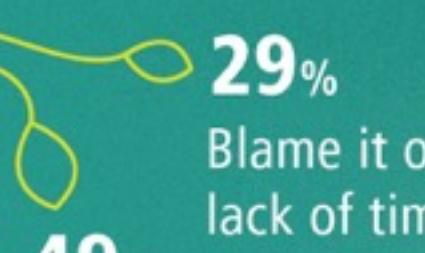
What Hinders and Helps Creativity



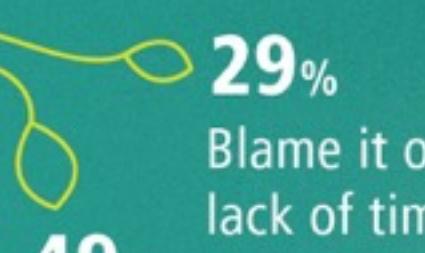
57% Are hamstrung by an education system that is not geared towards creativity



43% Felt the current education system was either outdated or restrictive or both



49% Blame it on lack of resources



29% Blame it on lack of time



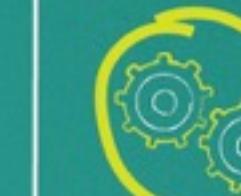
Believe the biggest barrier to creativity is a system that is heavily reliant on testing and assessment



Respondents felt that technology and digital tools play an important role



Indicated that they were very prepared to adapt their teaching methodology to leverage digital tools



## Innovation & Growth

Impact on Country's Success



Rating on a scale of 1 to 10; on how important it was to infuse creativity in education to ensure their country's long-term success



5.0

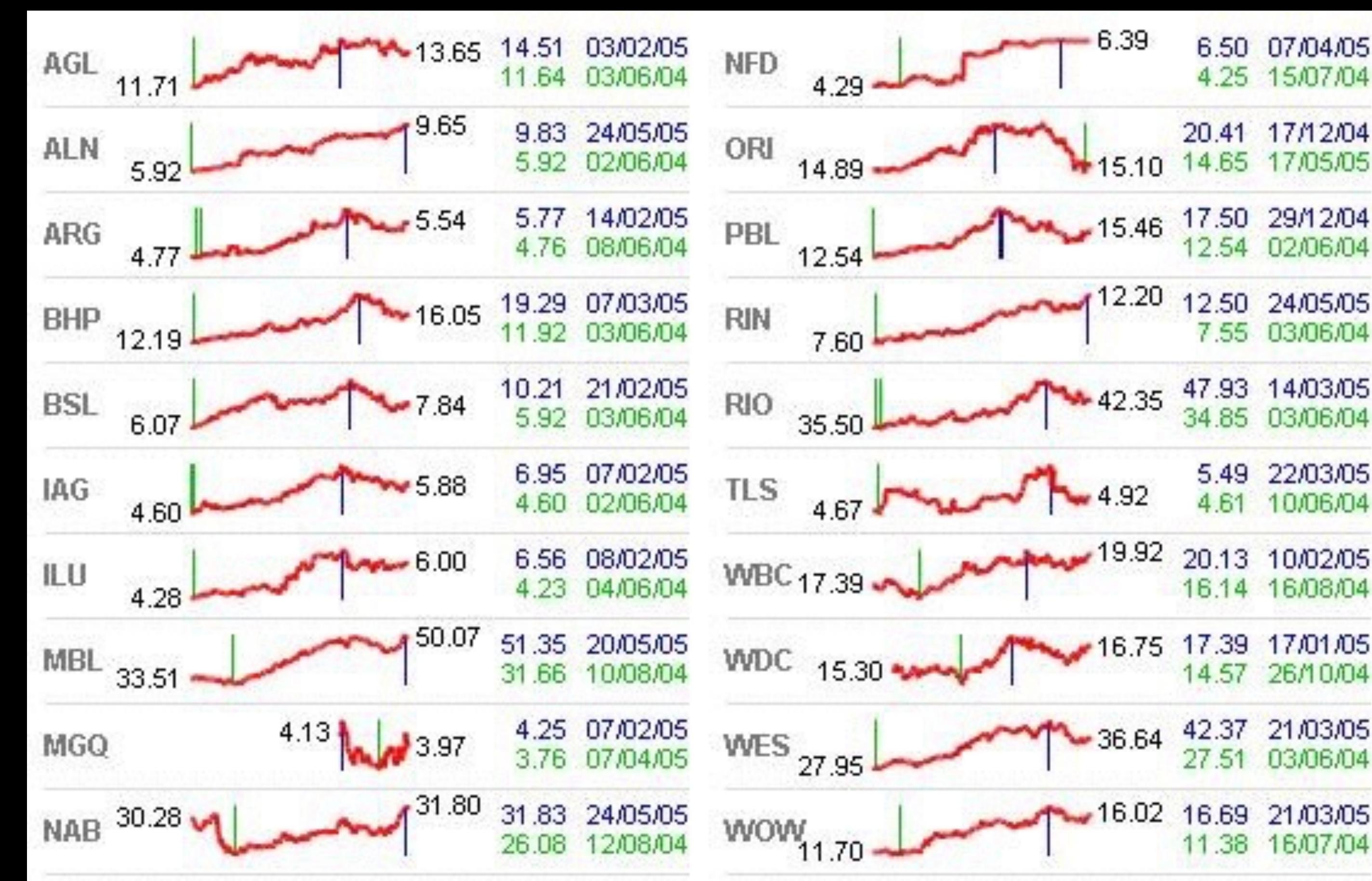
Rating on a scale of 1 to 10; on the efficiency of the current education system in developing a new generation of innovators

# Tufte's rules:

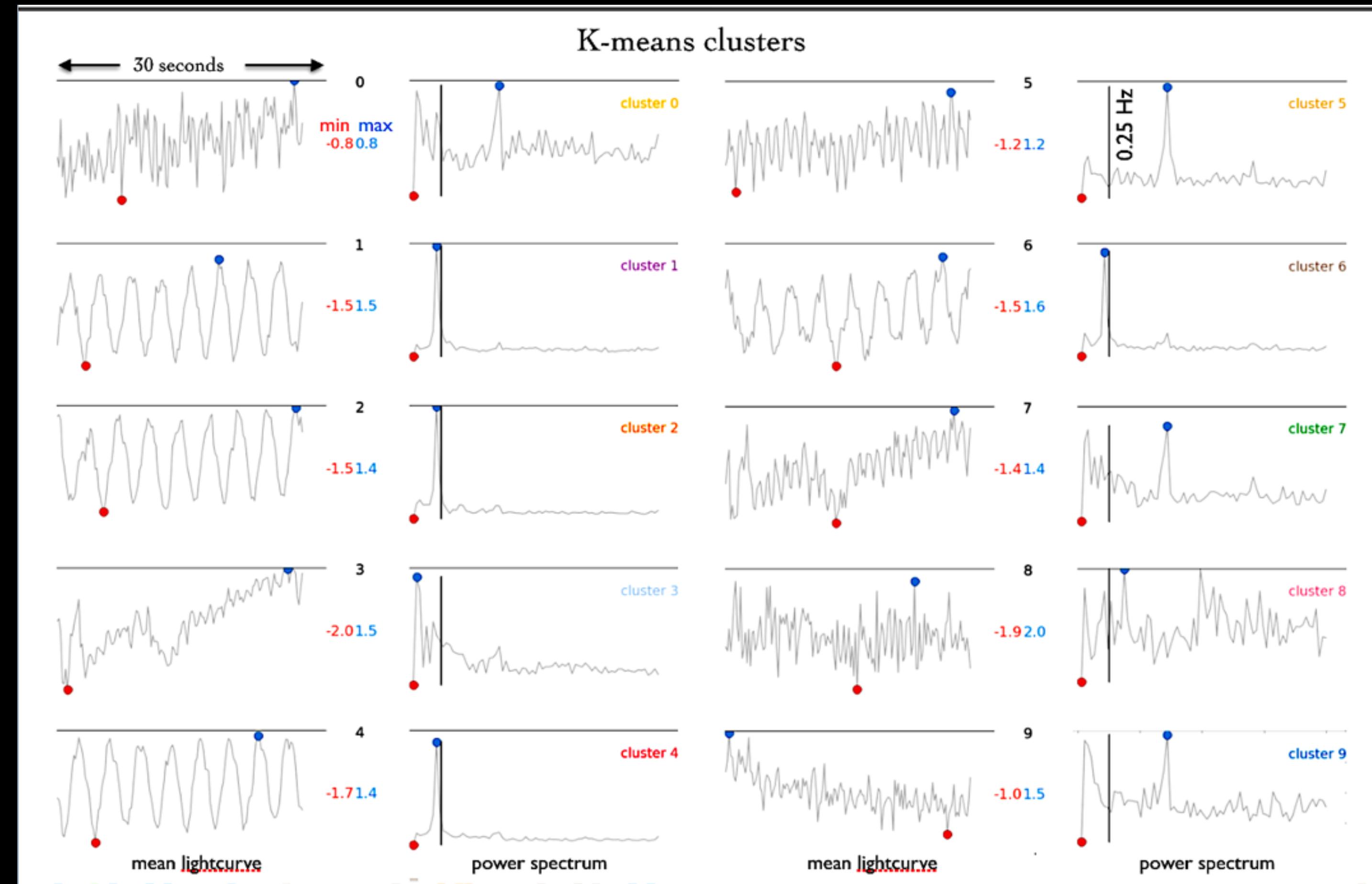
Small Multiples

encourage comparison

sparkline graph



# Tufte's rules:



sparkline graph

# Small Multiples

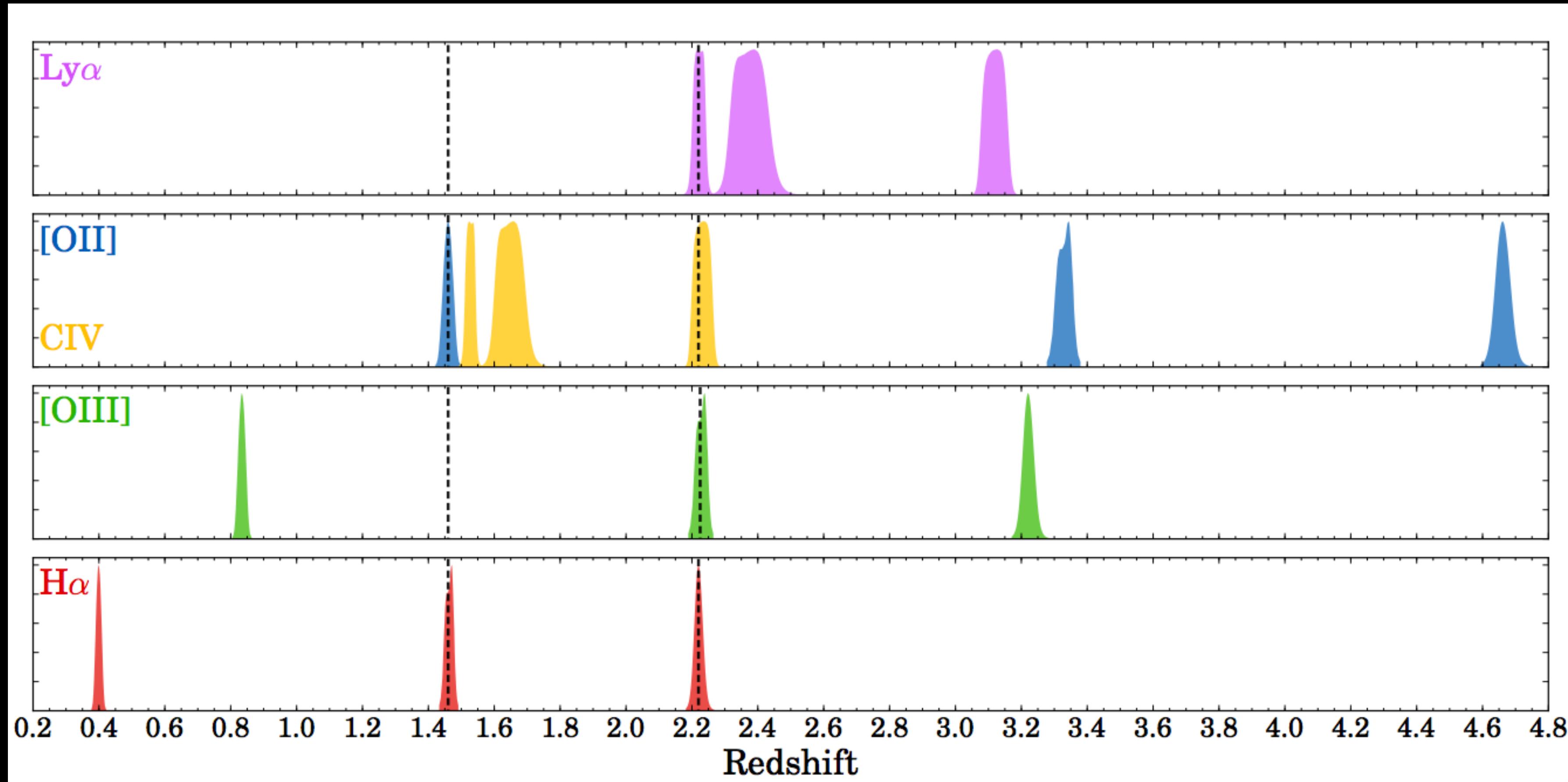
Observations Jan-June 1870			
2. P. greg.			
March H. 12	O **		
30. more	** O	*	
2. <del>Feb.</del>	O ***	*	
3. more	O * *		
3. Ho. s.	* O	*	
4. more	* O	**	
6. more	** O	*	
8. March H. 13.	*** O		
10. more	* * * O *		
11.	* * O *		
12. H. 4 week	* O *		
13. more	* ** O *		
14. same	* + * O *		
14. more	* + * O *		

# Small Multiples

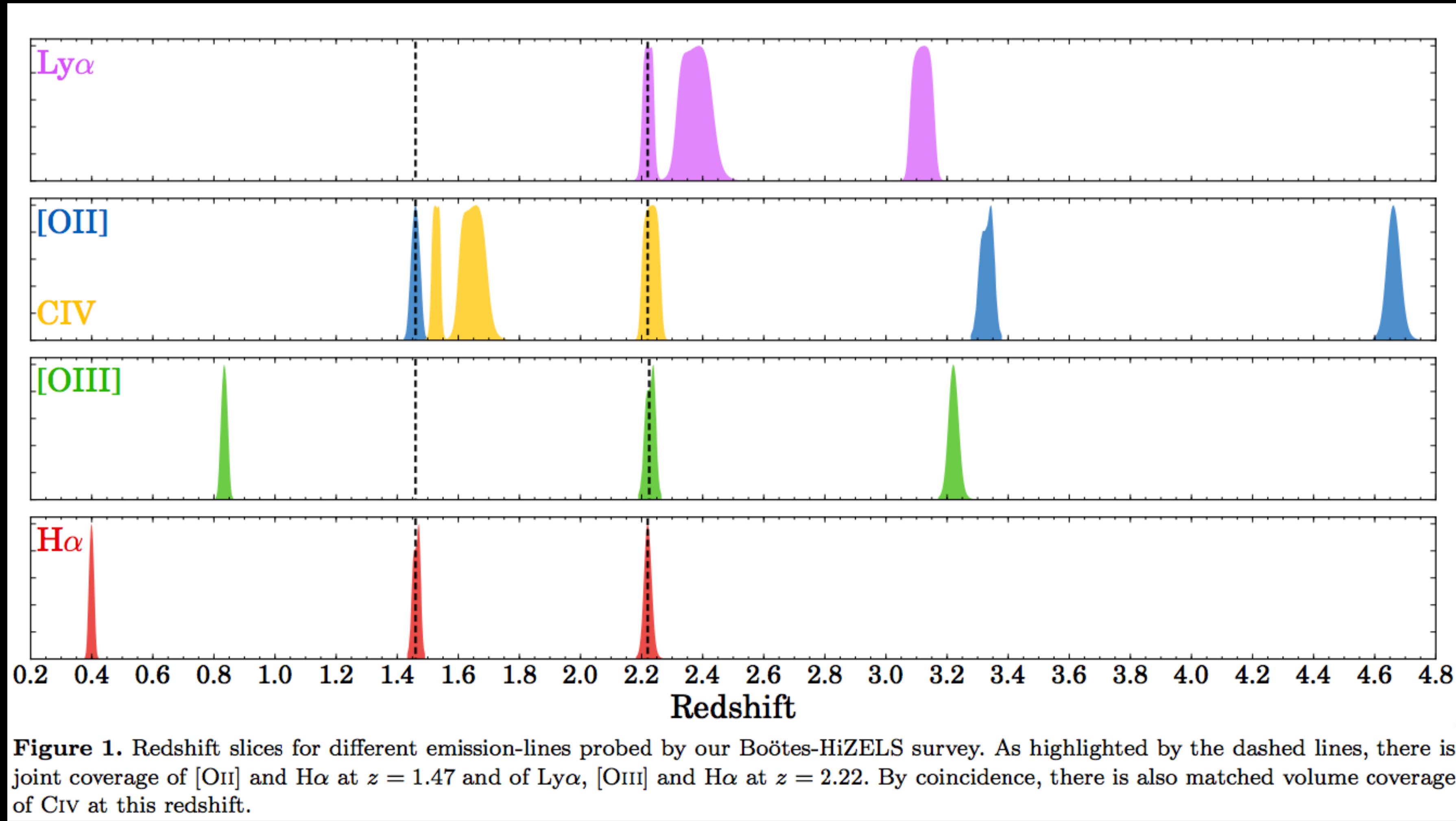
Observations Janv. 1610			
2. J. 9pm.			
marcl H. 12	O **		
30. mon'	** O	*	
2. Fevr.	O ***	*	
3. mon'	O * *		
3. Fevr. 5.	* O	*	
4. mon'	* O	**	
6. mon'	** O	*	
8. marcl H. 13.	*** O		
10. mon'	* * * O *		
11.	* * O *		
12. H. 4 u.y.e:	*	O *	
13. mon'	* ** O *		
14. lune.	* + * O *		
14. mon. 5.	* + * O *		

Galileo Galilei, Jupiter moons, 1610

# Small Multiples

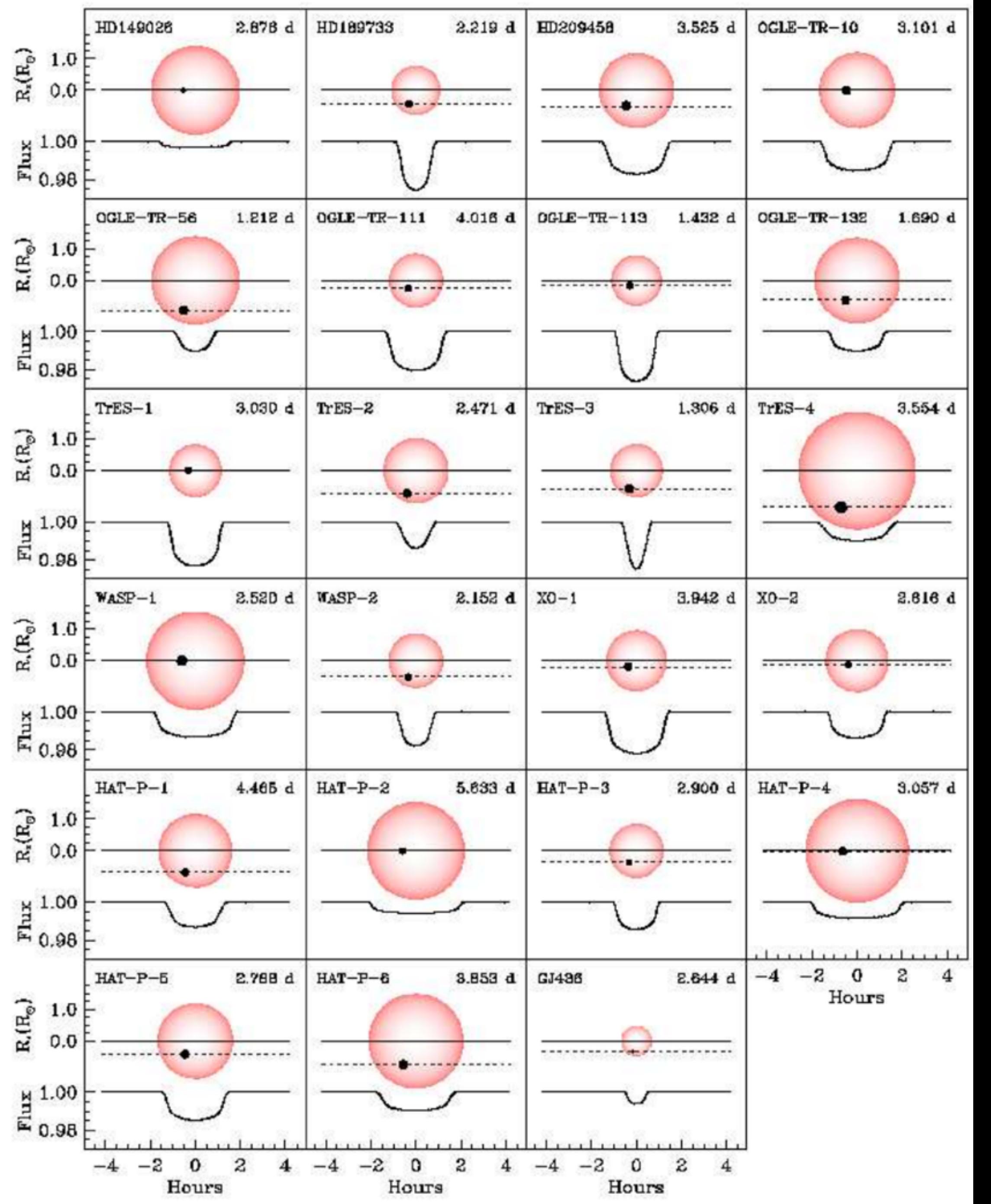


# Small Multiples

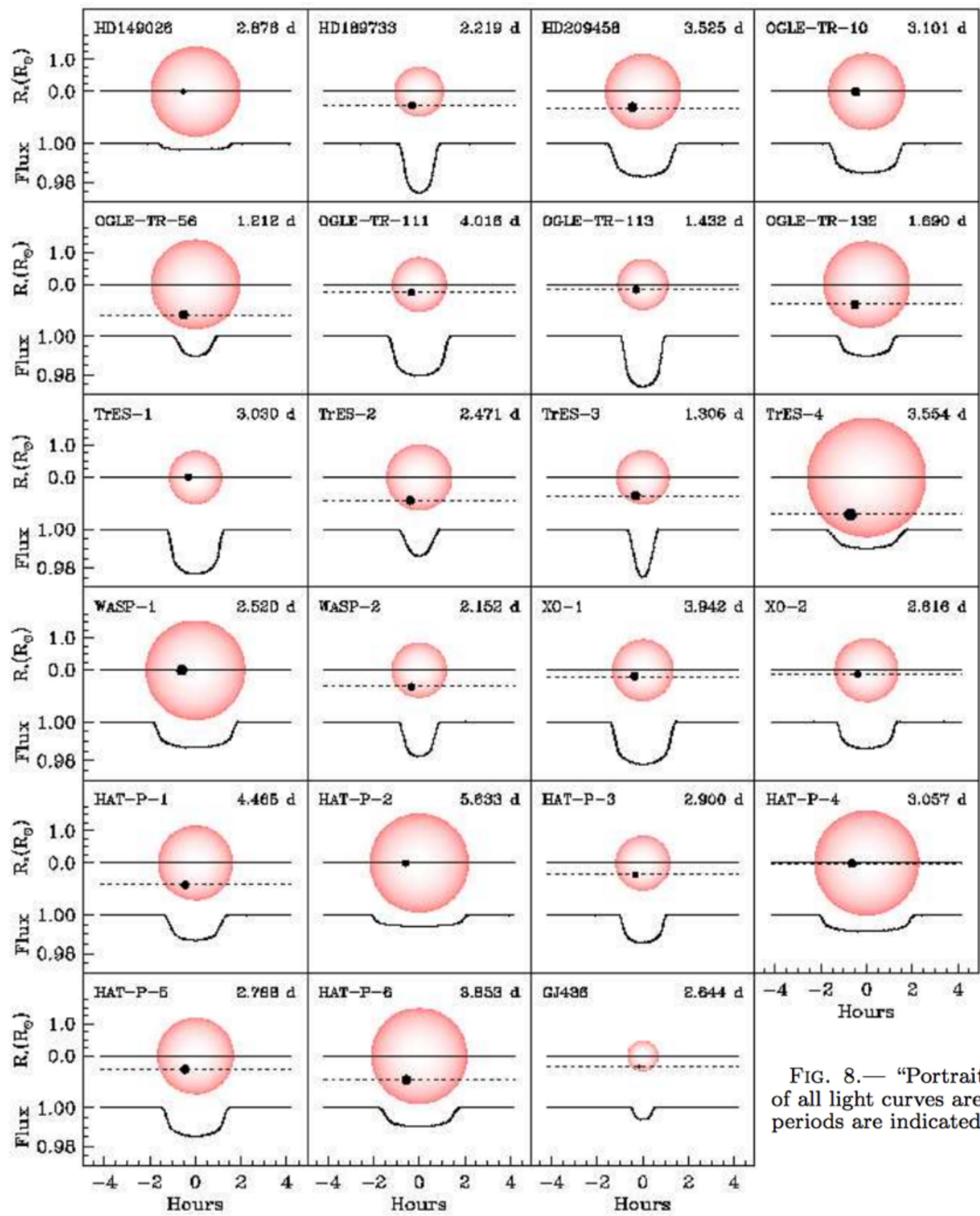


**Figure 1.** Redshift slices for different emission-lines probed by our Boötes-HiZELS survey. As highlighted by the dashed lines, there is joint coverage of [OII] and H $\alpha$  at  $z = 1.47$  and of Ly $\alpha$ , [OIII] and H $\alpha$  at  $z = 2.22$ . By coincidence, there is also matched volume coverage of CIV at this redshift.

# Small Multiples



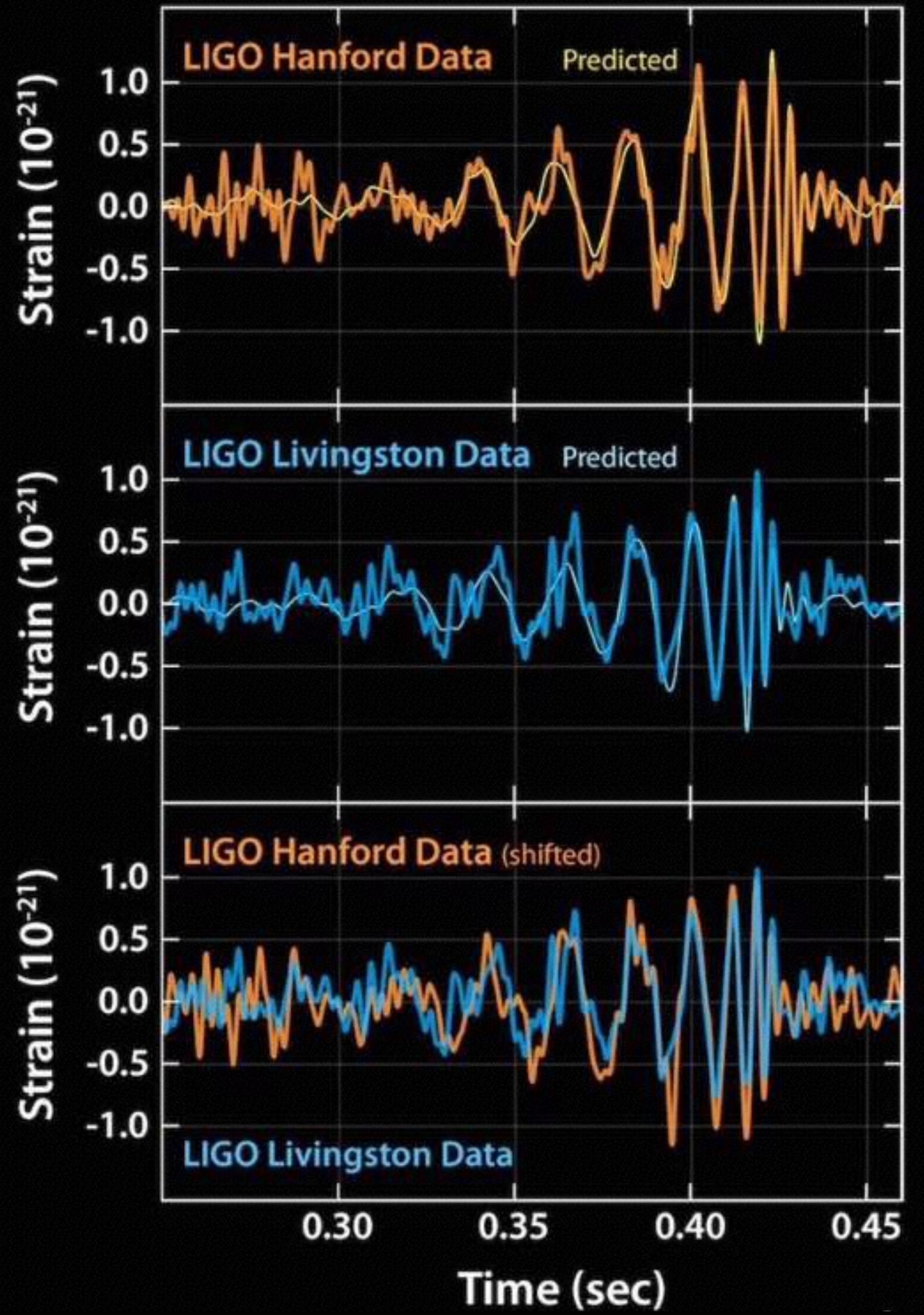
# Small Multiples



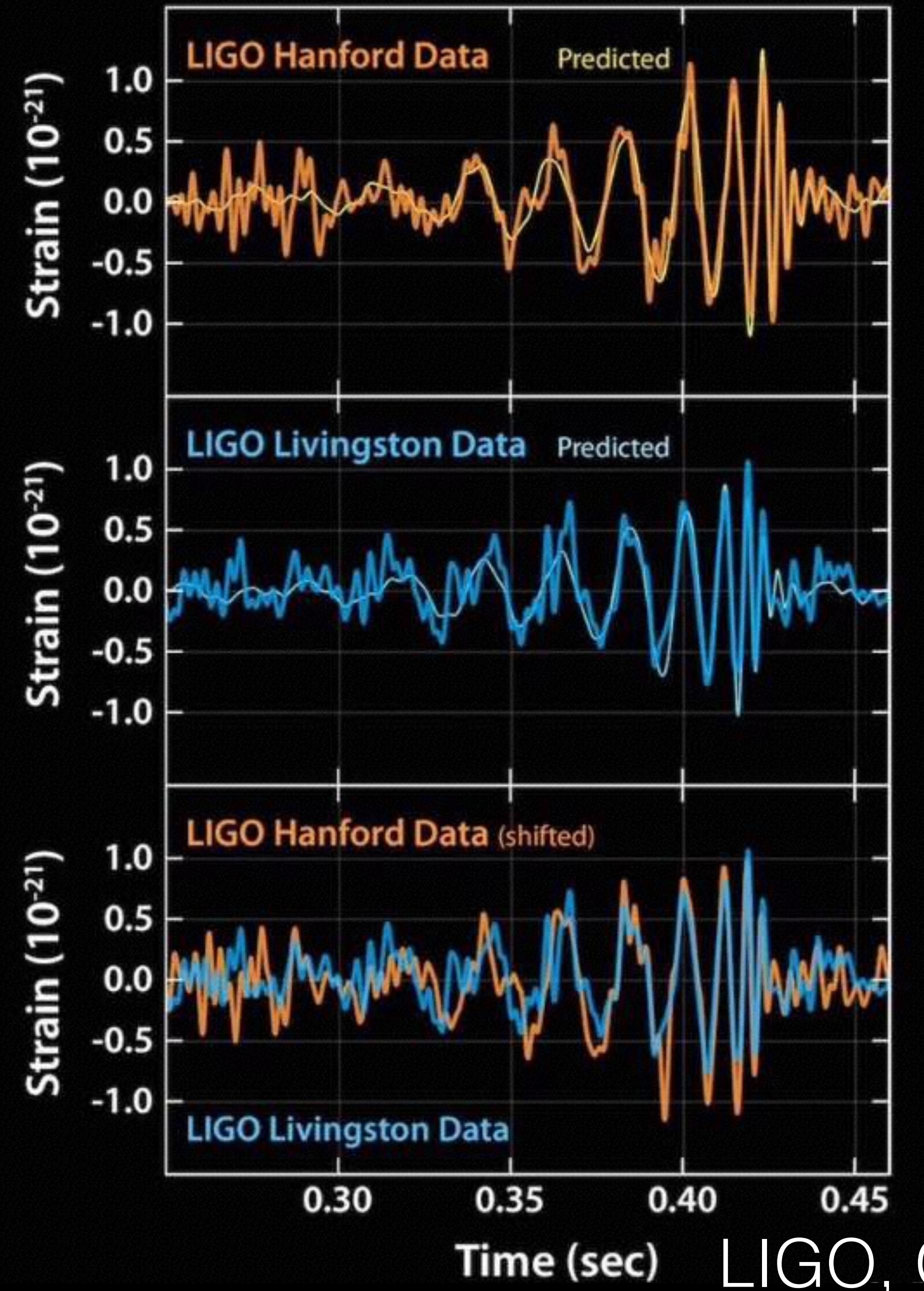
IMPROVED PARAMETERS FOR EXTRASOLAR TRANSITING PLANETS  
Guillermo Torres, Joshua N. Winn, and Matthew J. Holman  
2008

FIG. 8.— “Portrait gallery” of transiting extrasolar planets. Star and planet sizes are shown to scale. The vertical and horizontal axes of all light curves are also on the same scale. Planet trajectories are shown with their measured impact parameters (dotted lines). Orbital periods are indicated in each panel.

# Small Multiples



# Small Multiples



LIGO, Gravitational waves, 2016

# Tufte's rules:

1. The representation of numbers, as physically measured on the surface of the graph itself, should be directly proportional to the numerical quantities represented-**effect size**

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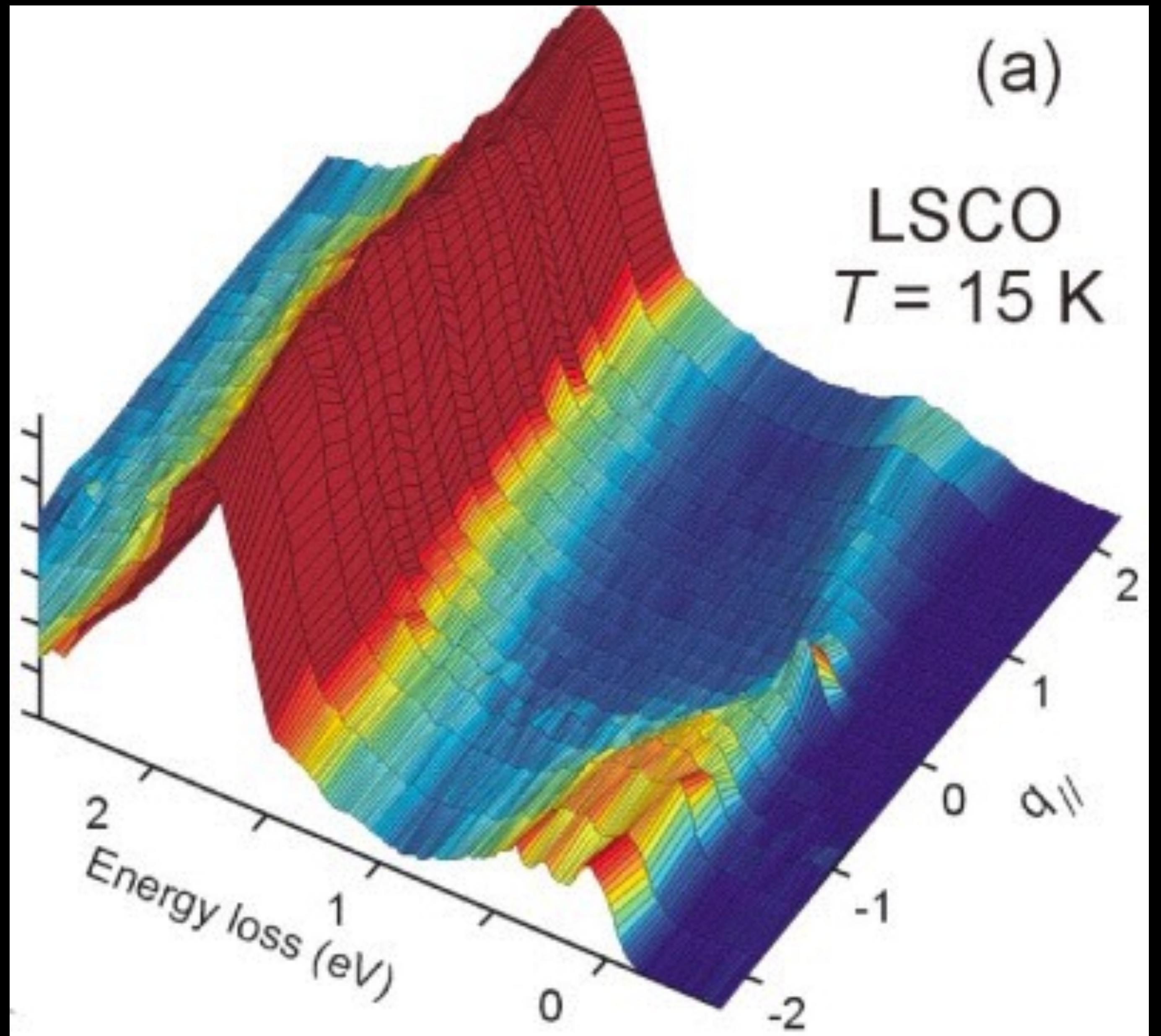
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3. Show data variation, not design variation-***chart junk***

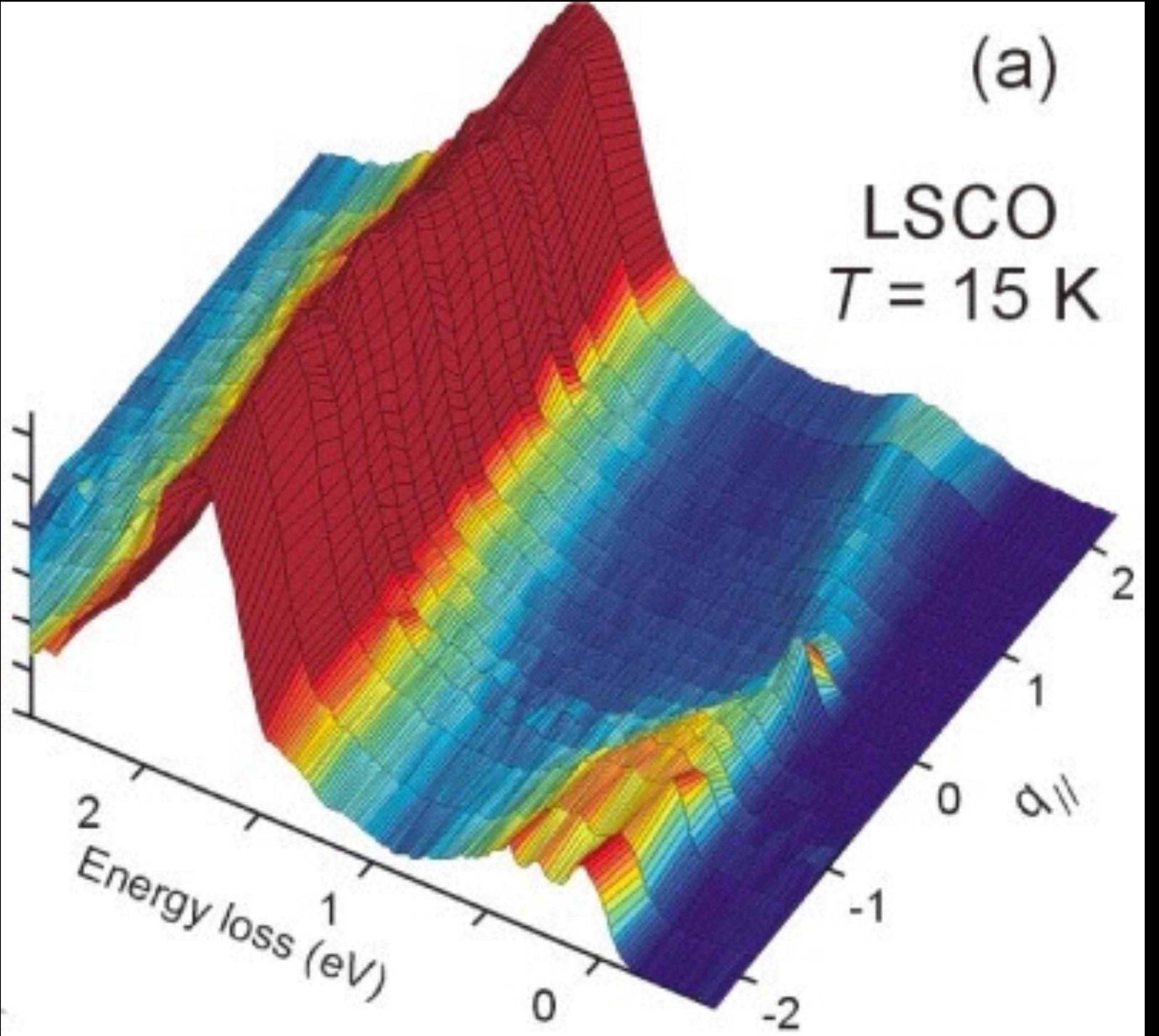
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4. In time-series displays of money, deflated and standardized units of monetary measurement are nearly always better than nominal units.

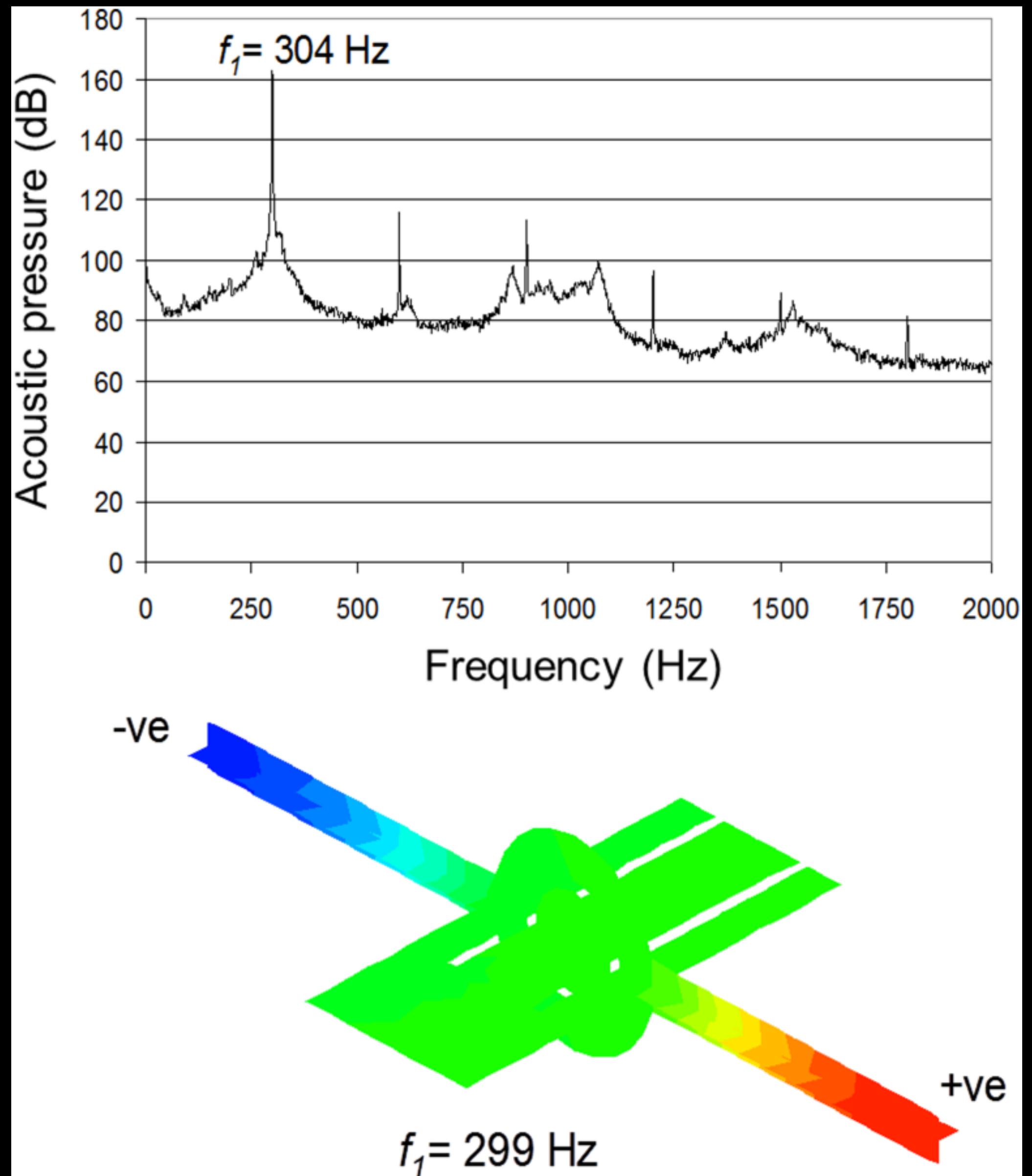
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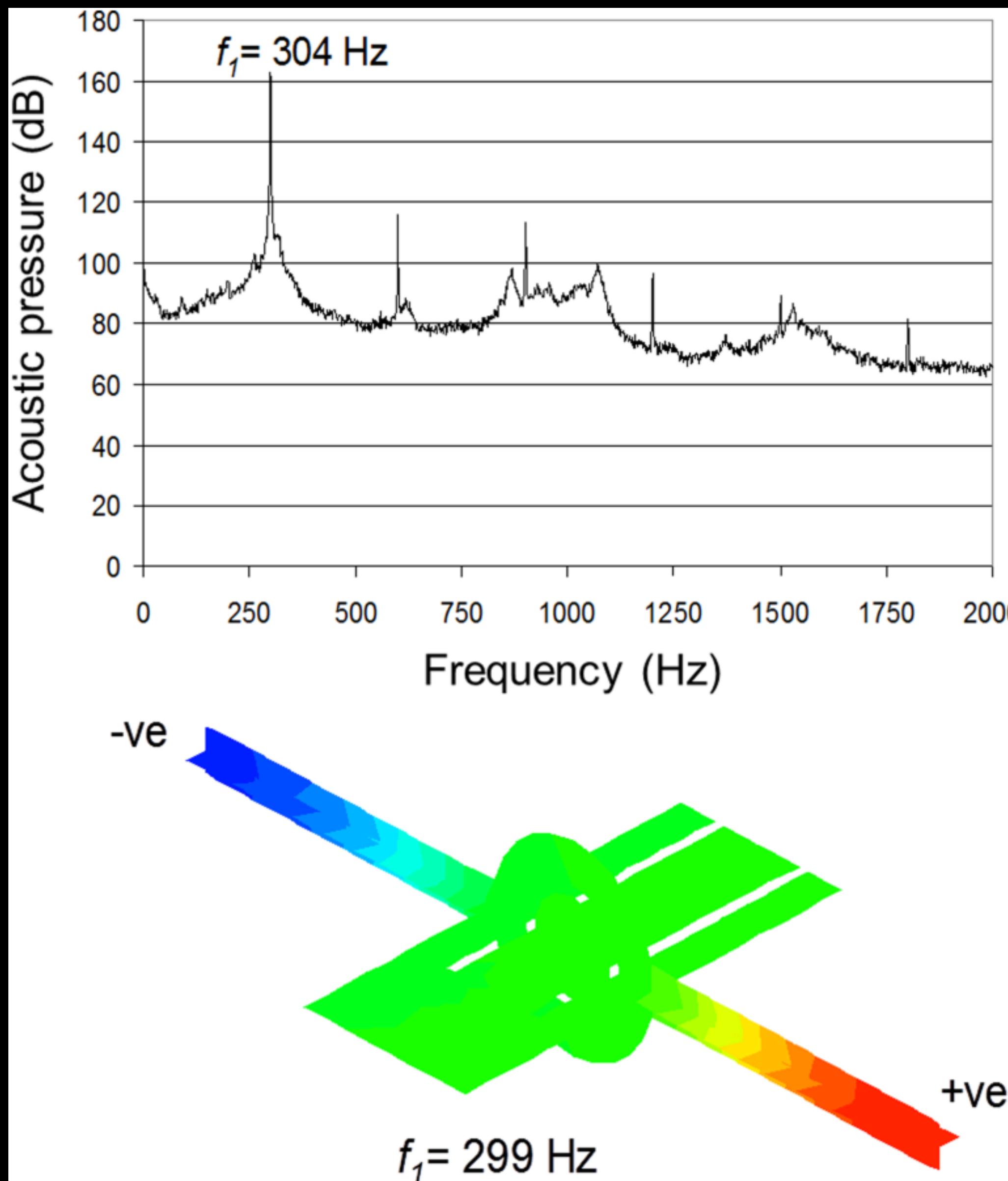
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4. In time-series displays of money, deflated and standardized units of monetary measurement are nearly always better than nominal units.
5. The number of information carrying (variable) dimensions depicted should not exceed the number of dimensions in the data. Graphics must not quote data out of context.



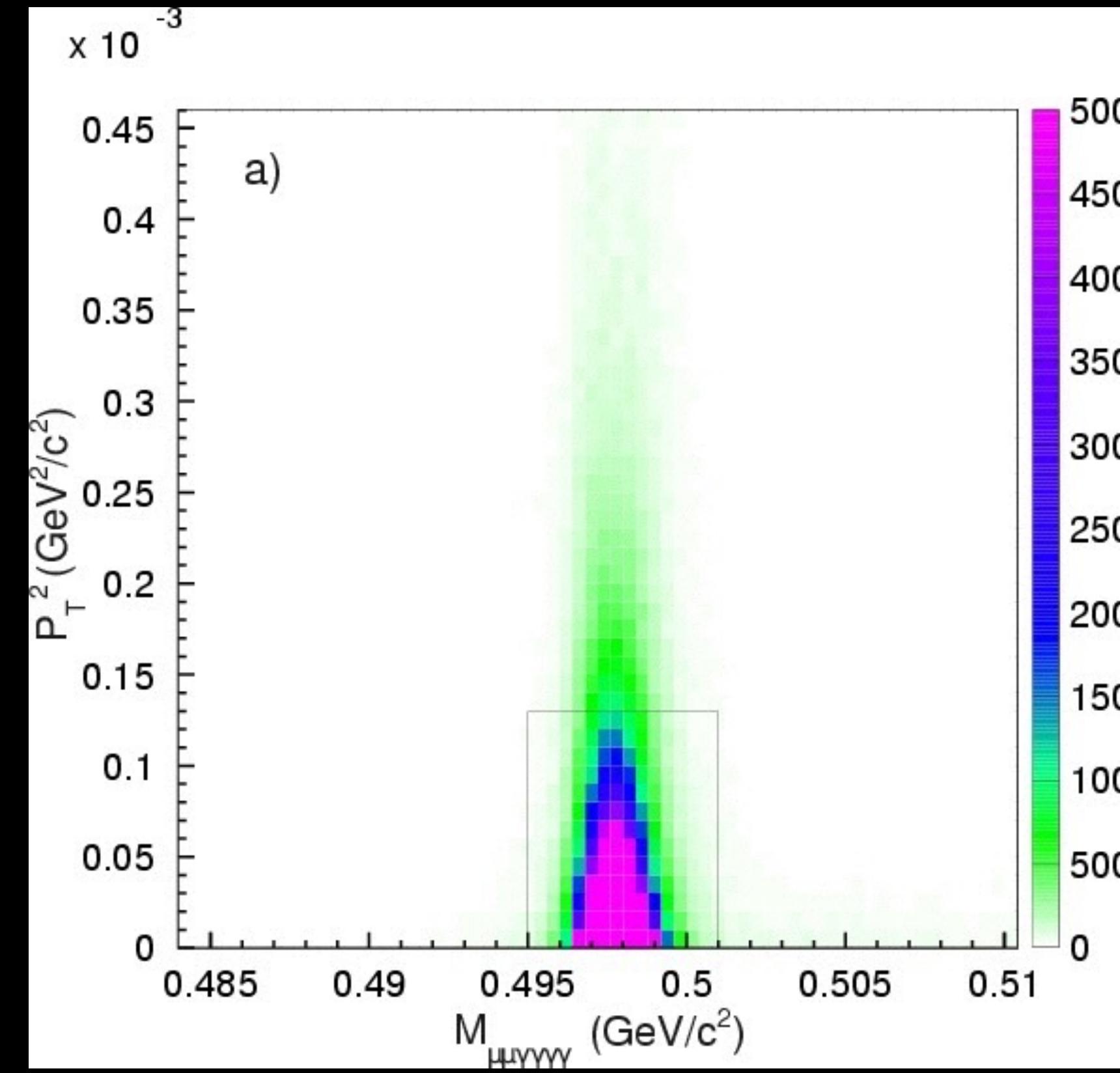
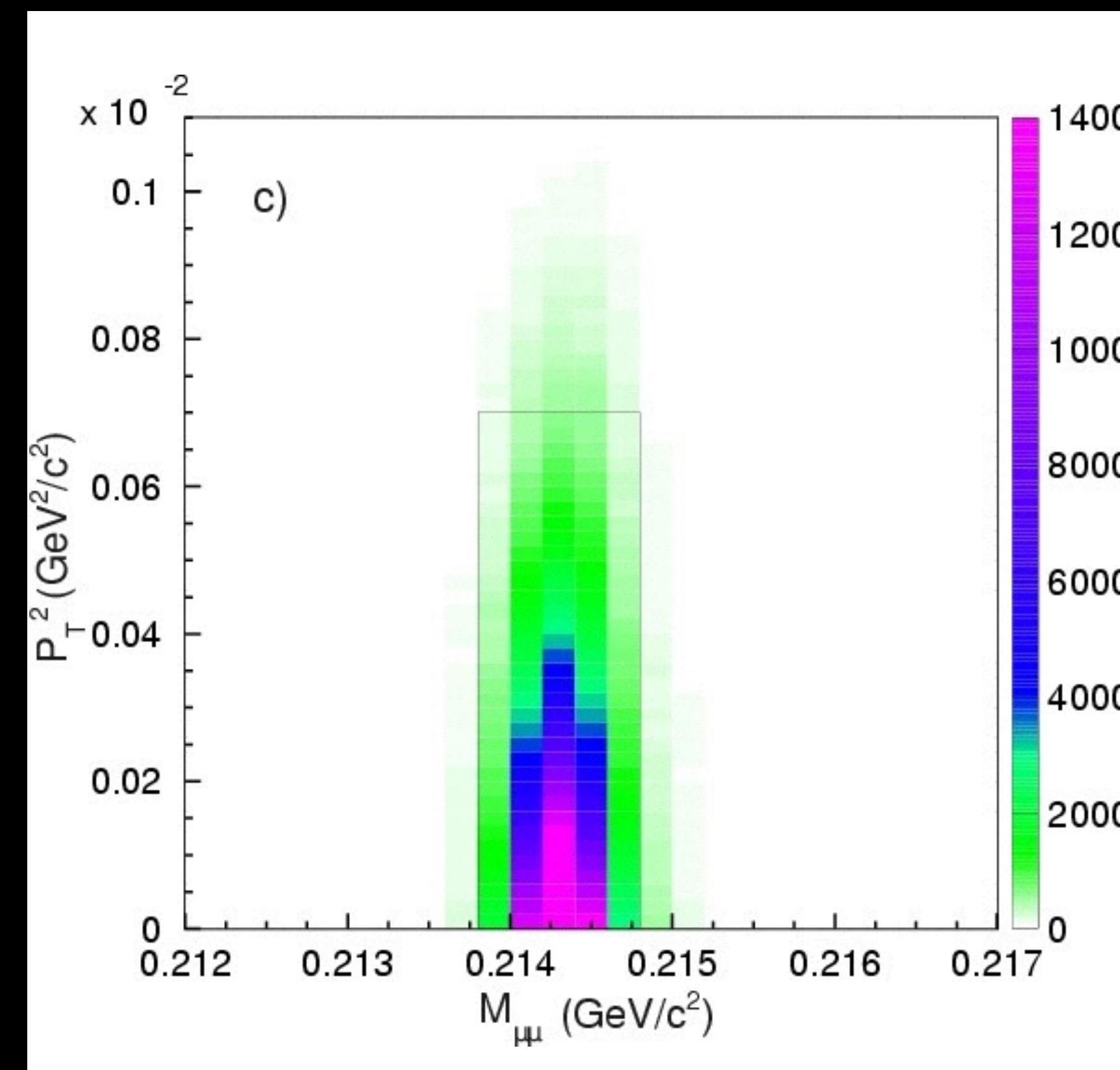


*3 variables, 4 graphical elements*



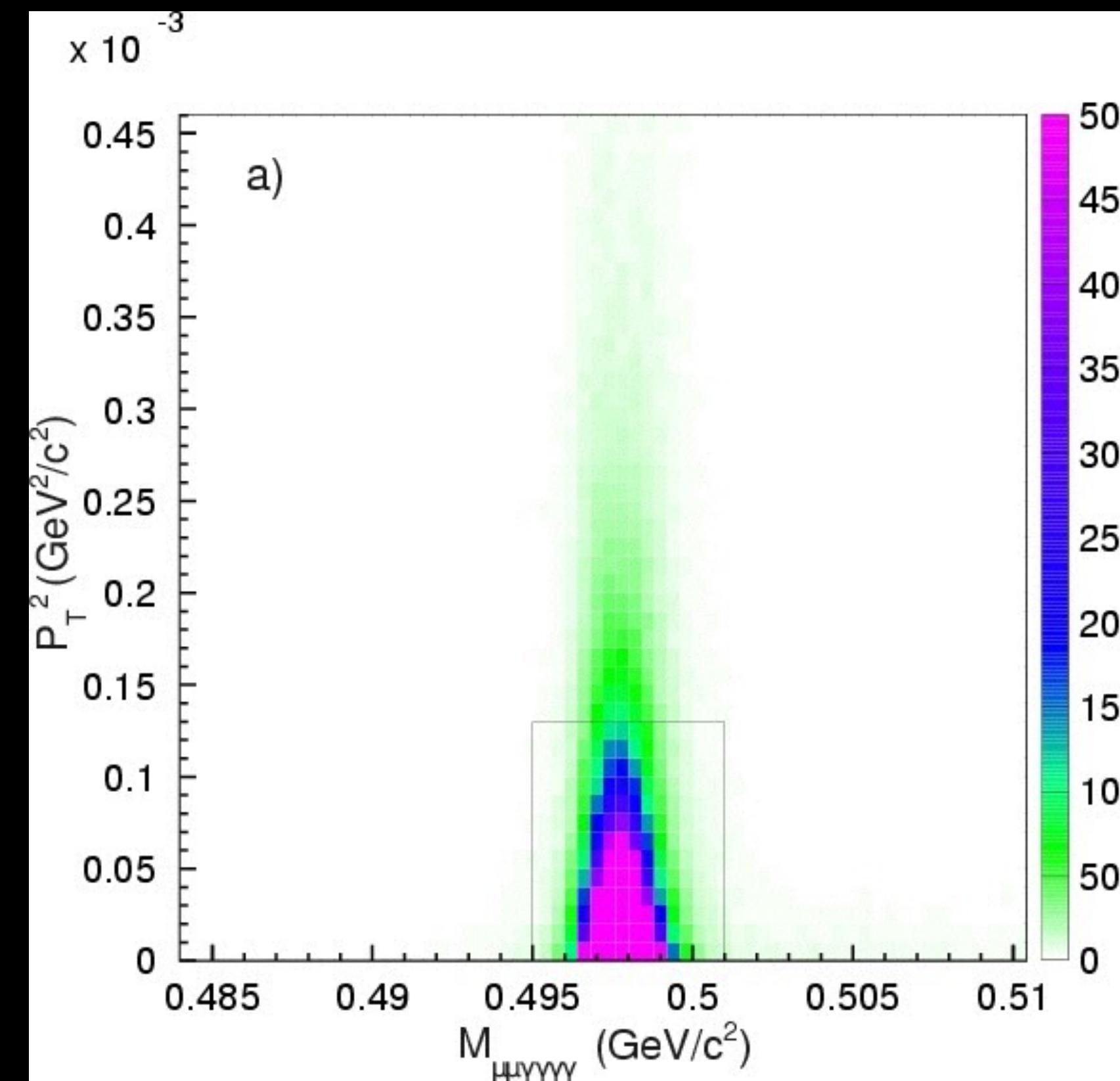
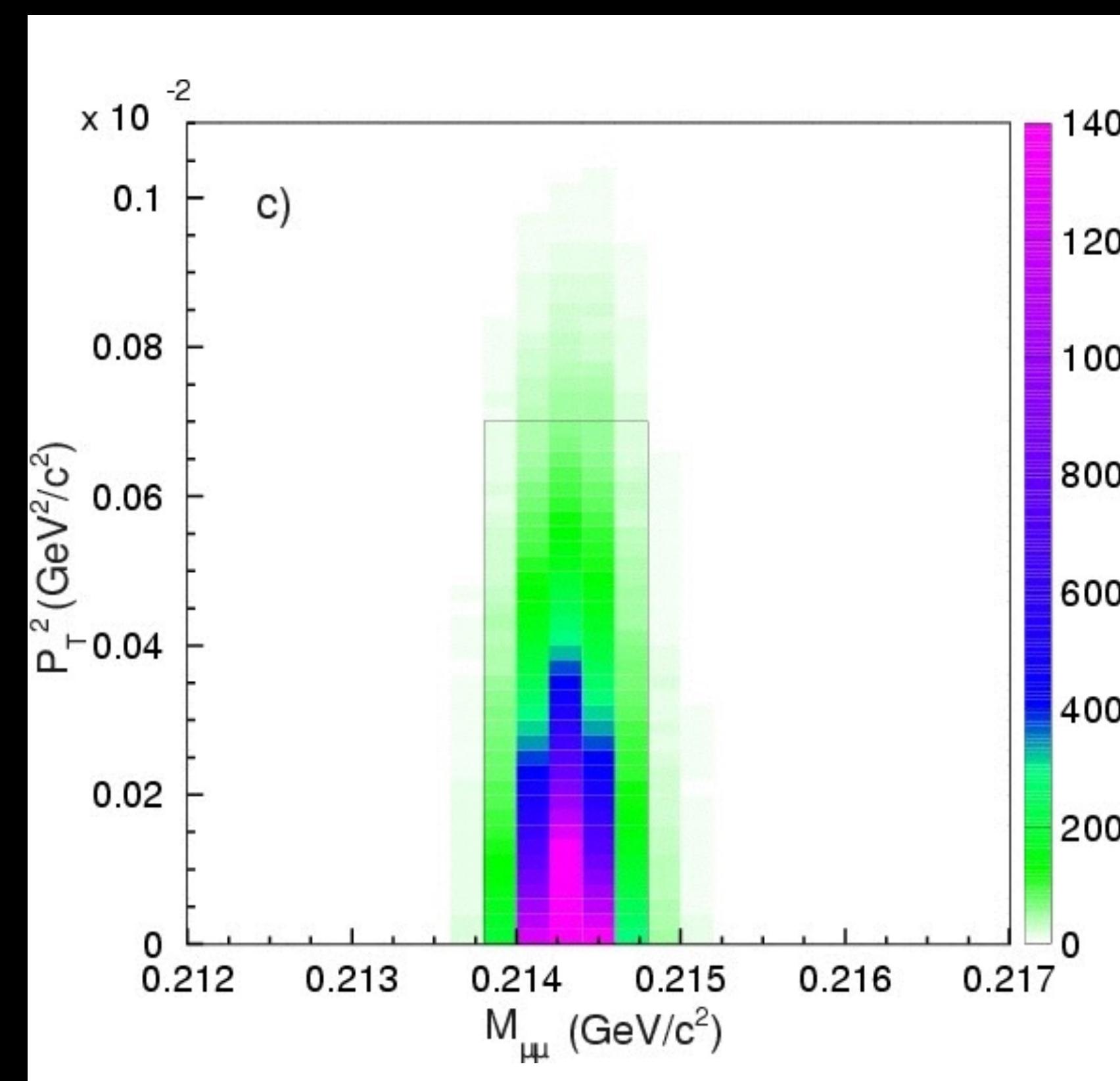


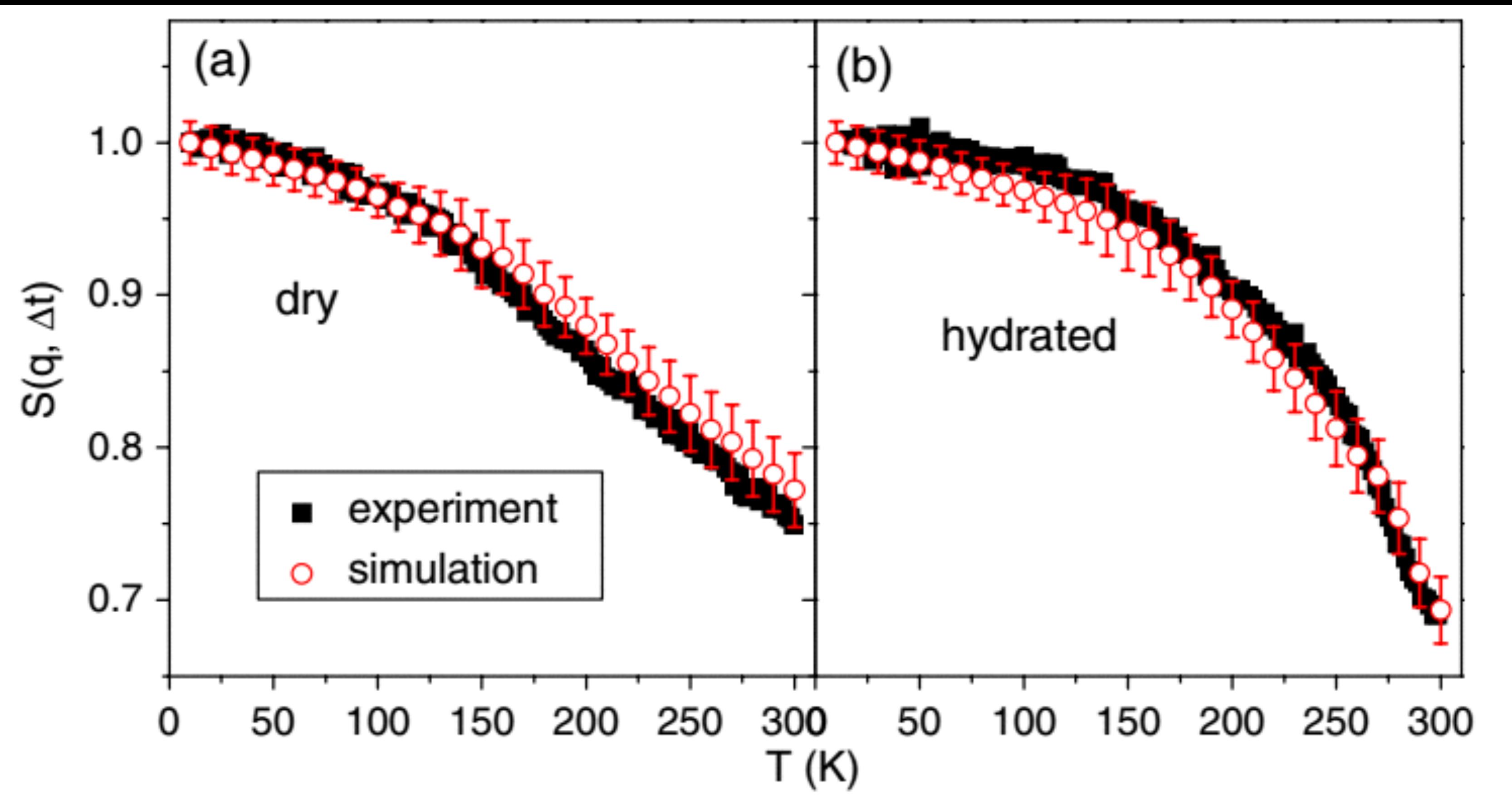
Show data variation, not design variation-**chart junk**



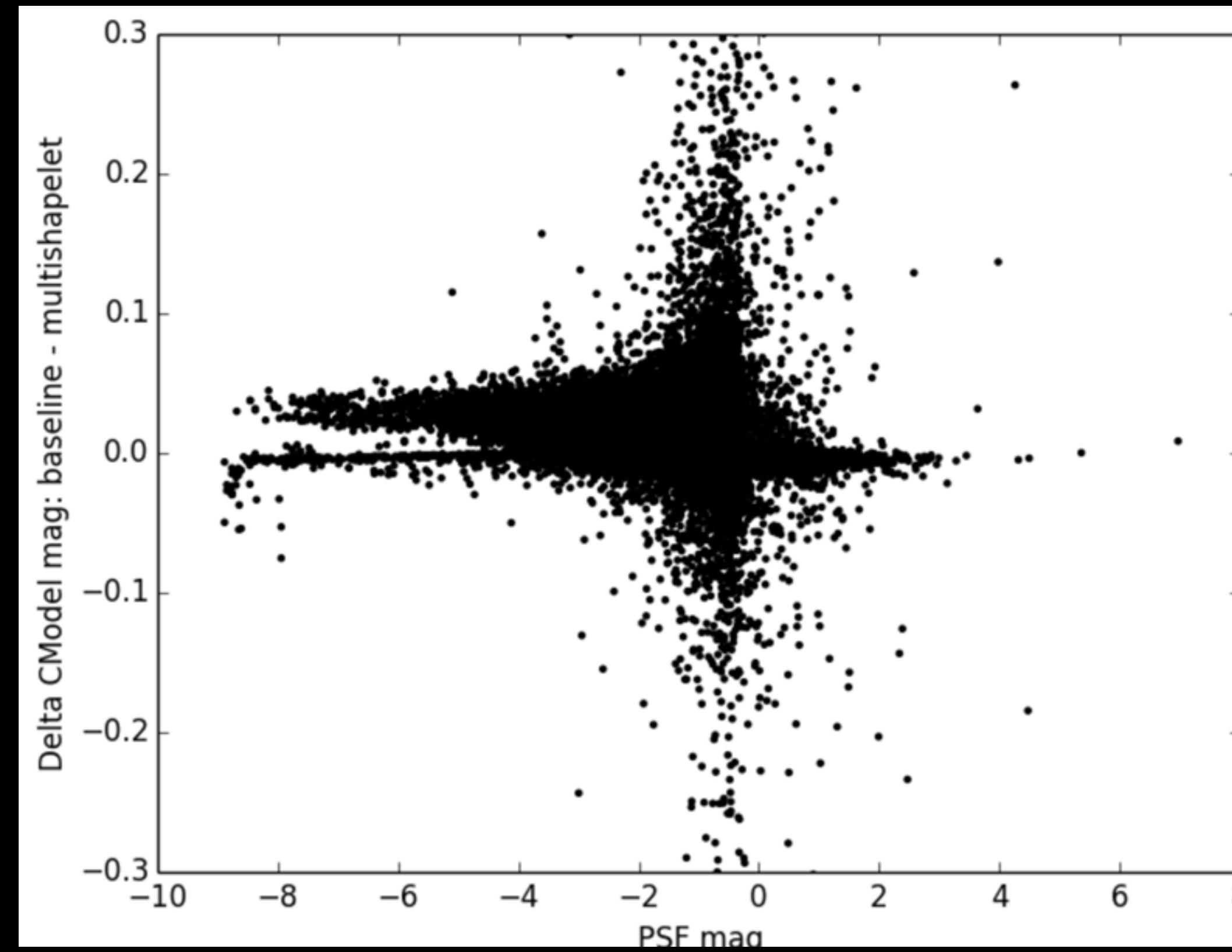
low data-ink ratio  
high effect size (rainbow)

[http://ktev.fnal.gov/public/pubs/ktev/pi0pi0mm/plots/  
pi0pi0mm\\_plots.html](http://ktev.fnal.gov/public/pubs/ktev/pi0pi0mm/plots/pi0pi0mm_plots.html)

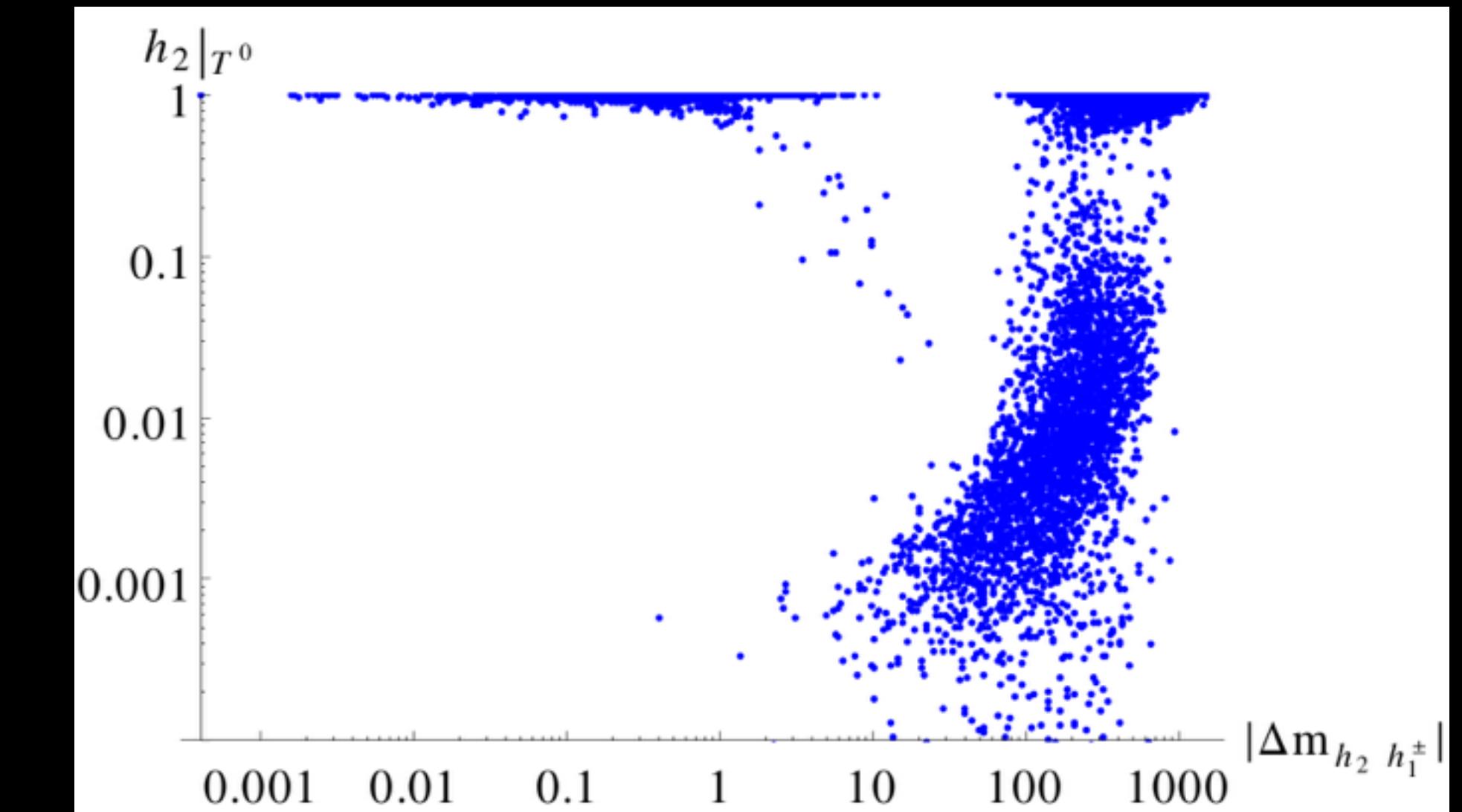




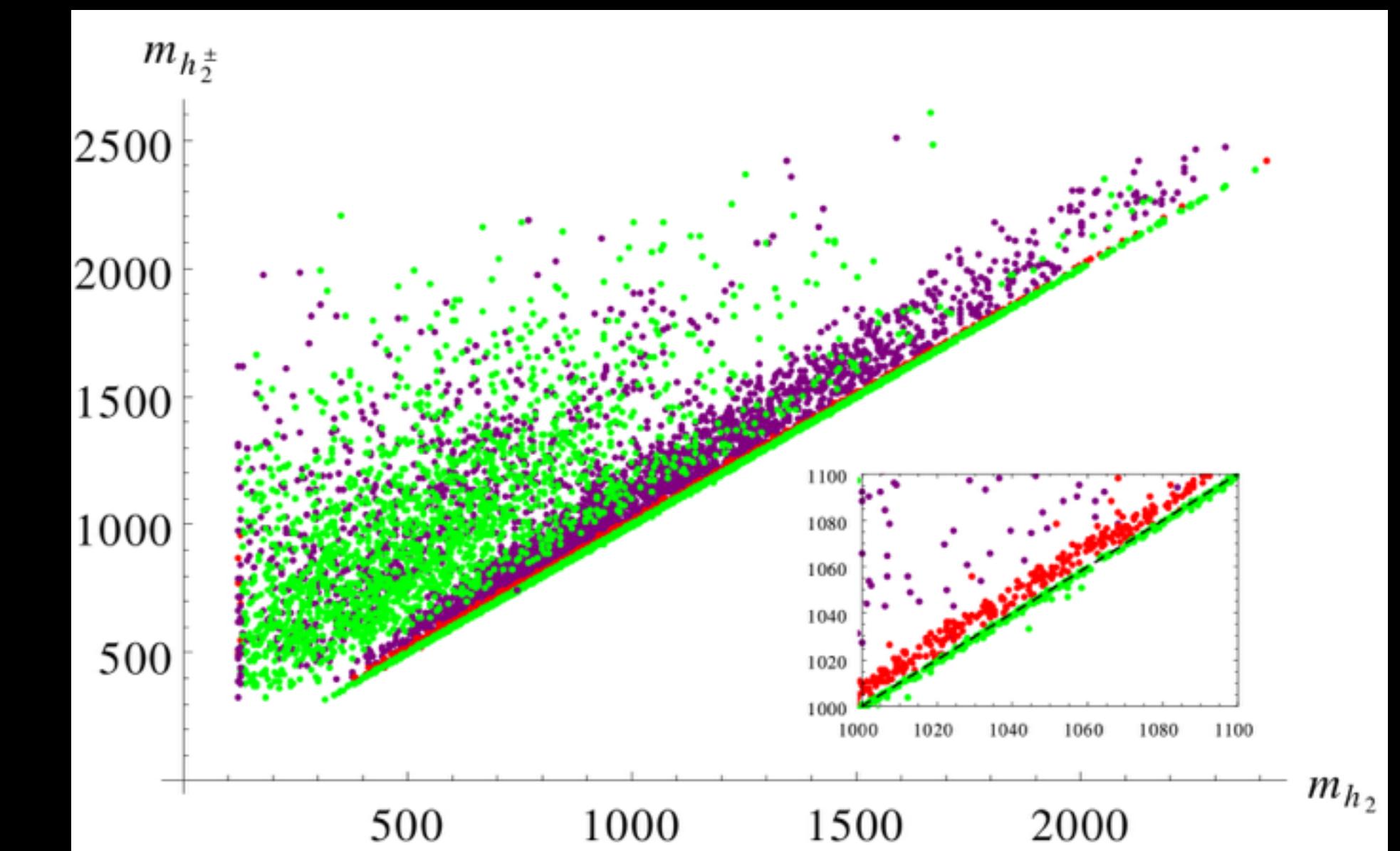
???



<http://inspirehep.net/record/1411674/plots>

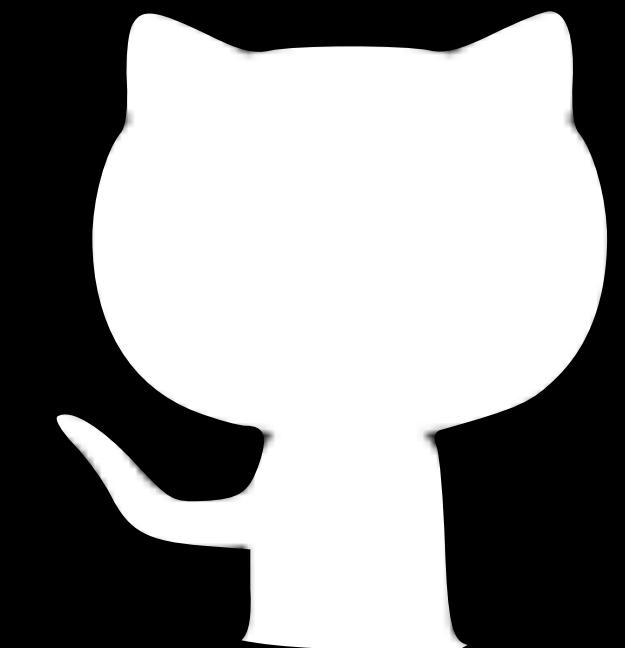


???



# in-class exercise

<https://github.com/fedhere/UInotebooks/blob/master/visz/badPlotgoodPlot.ipynb>



H-10048

Jer Thorp



Feynman diagrams:  
designed to solve equations

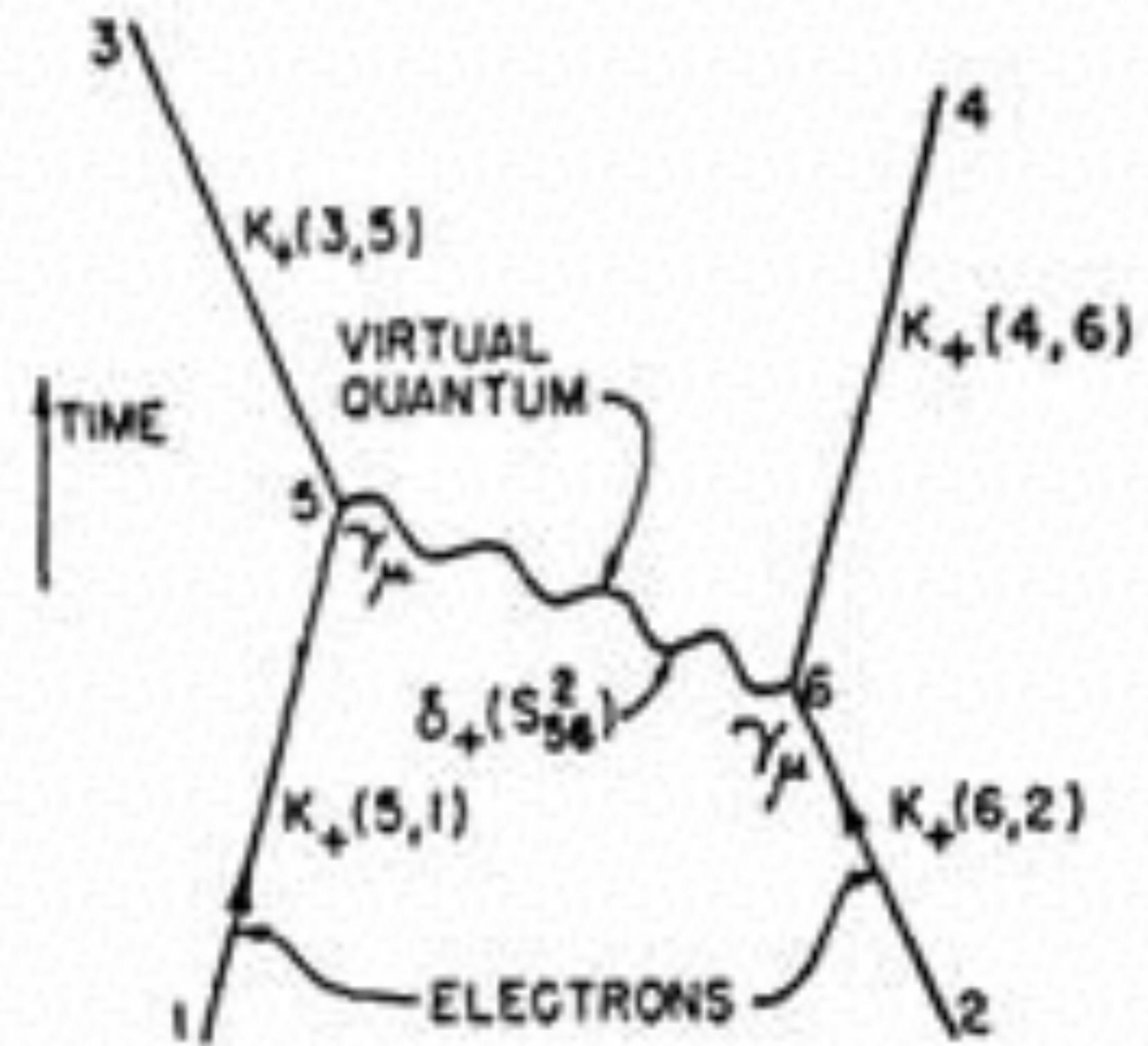
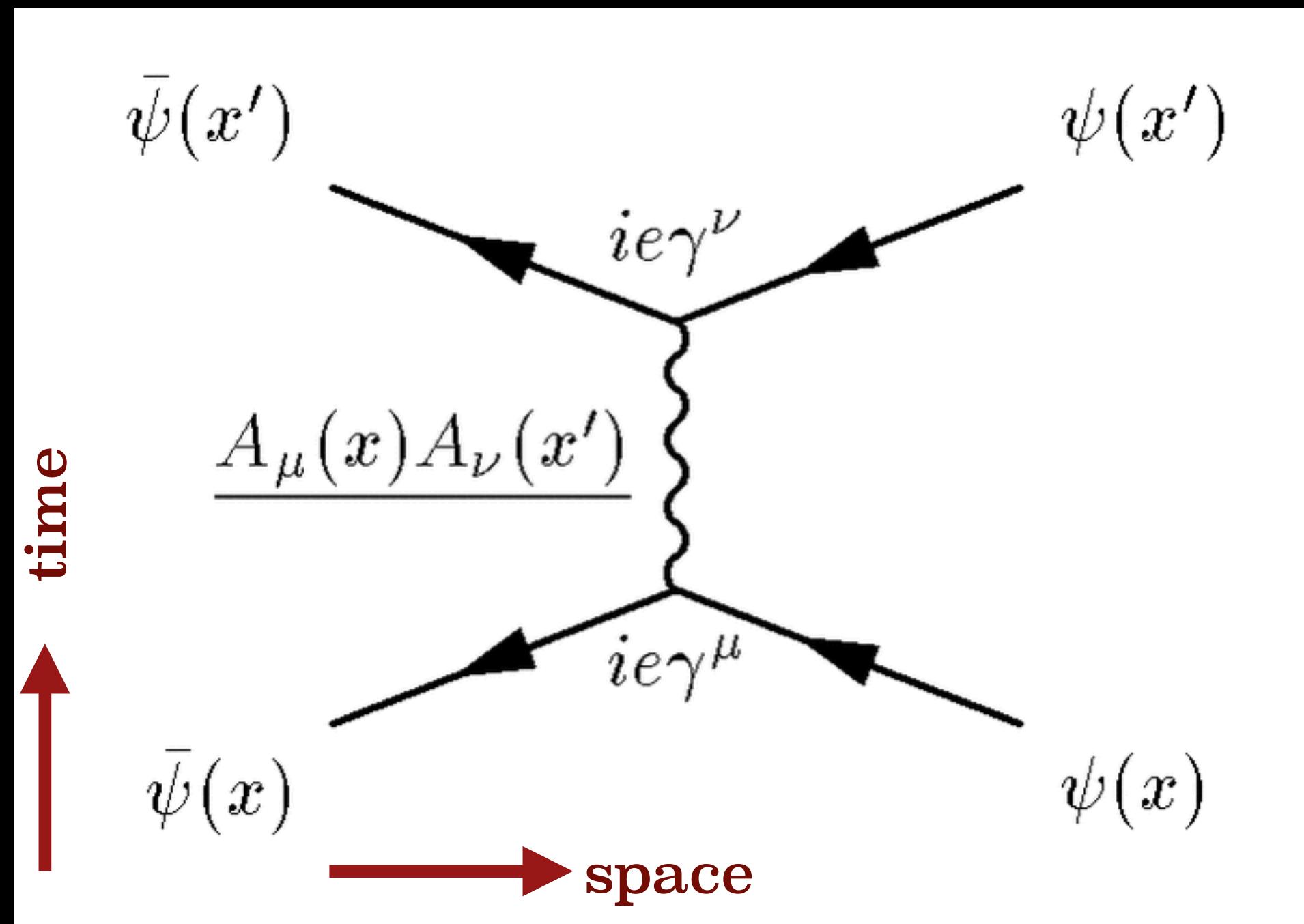


FIG. 1. The fundamental interaction Eq. (4). Exchange of one quantum between two electrons.

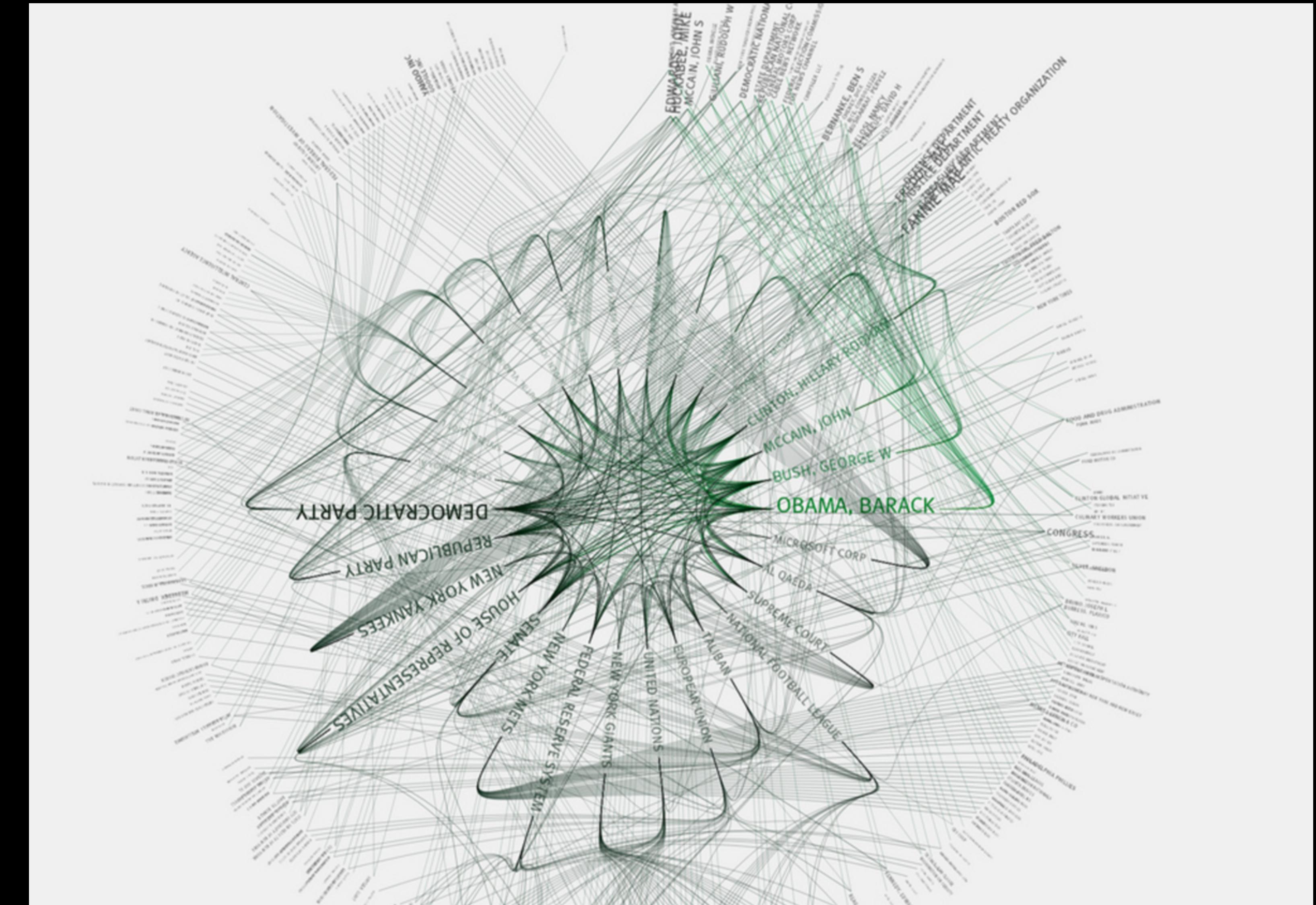
Feynman diagrams:  
designed to solve equations



# why the paradigm shift?

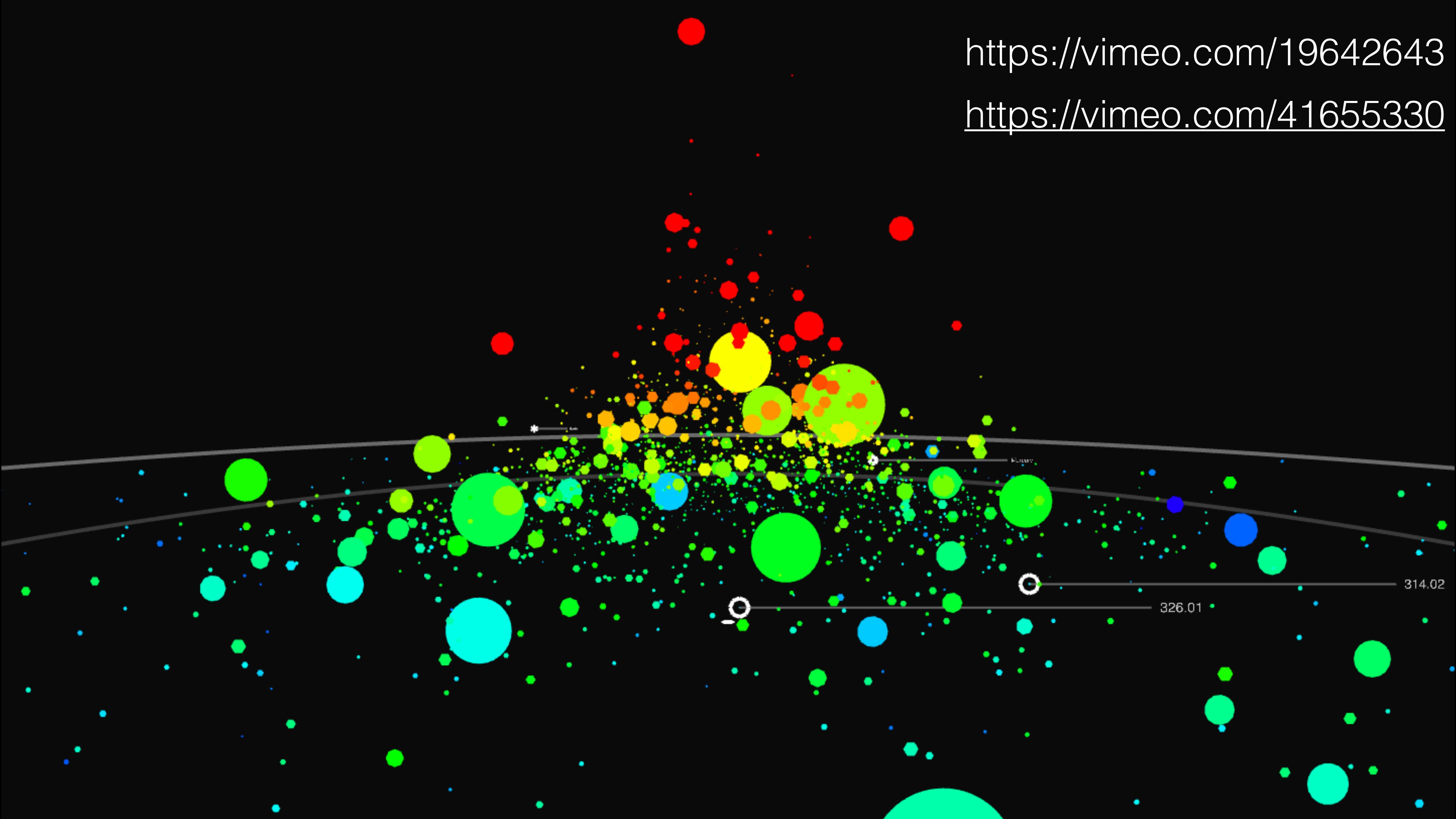
- growth of data : Big data require visualization for exploration
- growth of technology: better plotting tools, animation, VR

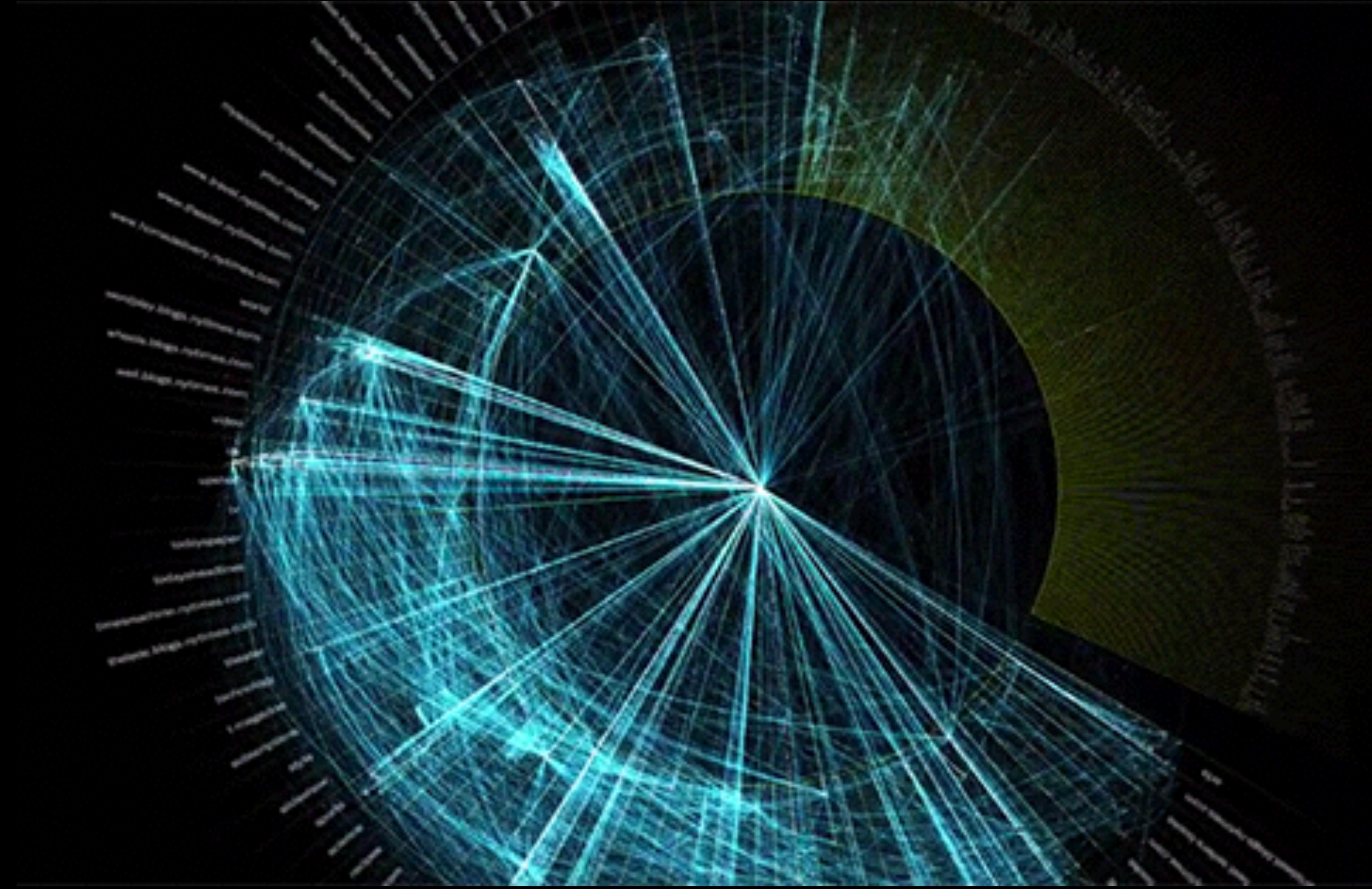
<https://github.com/>



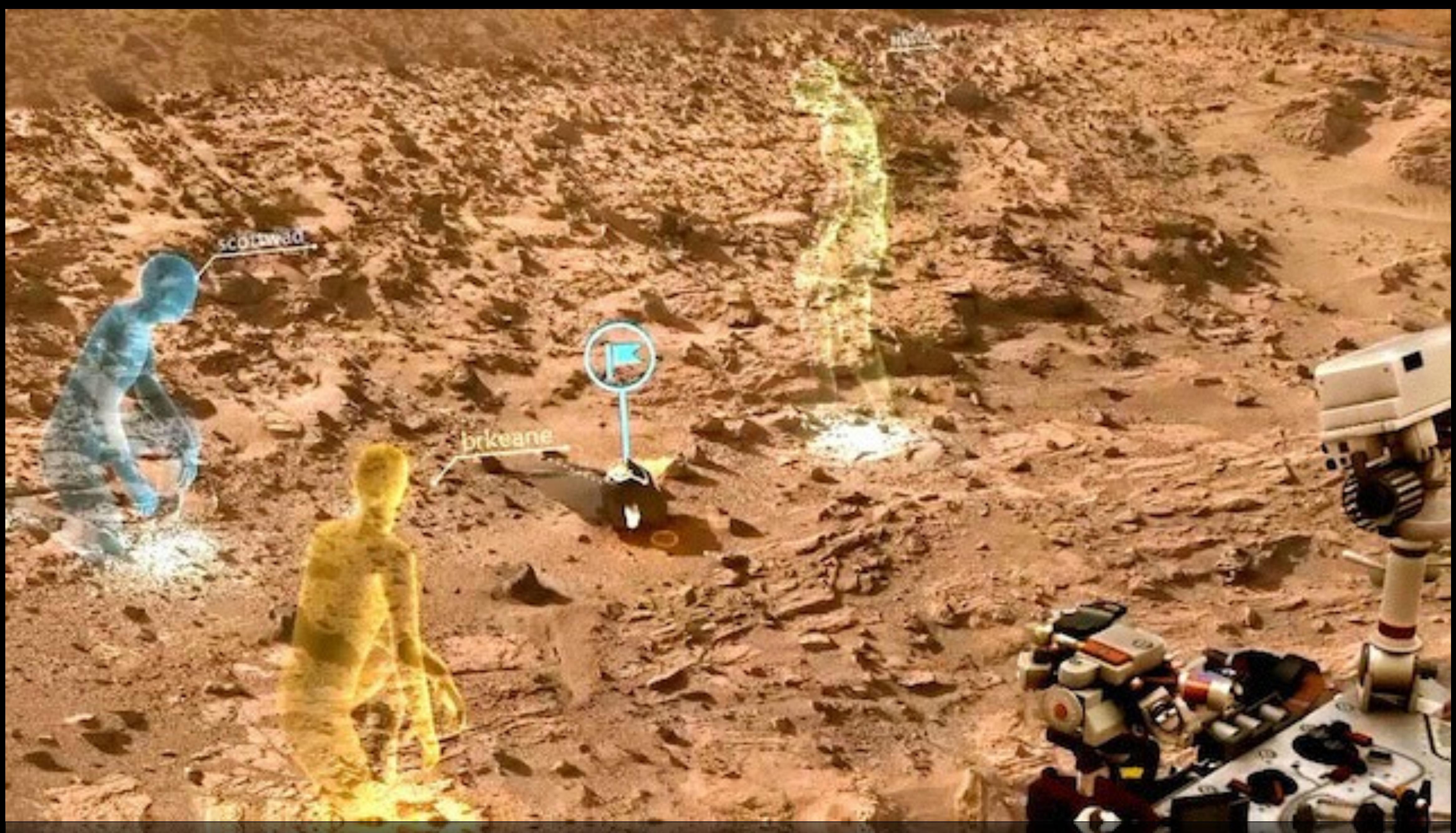
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/blprnt/3289727424/in/album-72157614008027965/>

<https://vimeo.com/19642643>  
<https://vimeo.com/41655330>





<http://nytlabs.com/projects/delta.html>



# Graphical Vocabulary

What graphical elements are available and what elements are appropriate to convey certain information?



The ideal of all research is:

1. precise investigation of each individual phenomenon — in isolation,
2. the reciprocal effect of phenomena upon each other — in combinations,
3. general conclusions which are to be drawn from the above two divisions.

My objective in this book extends only to the first two parts. The material in this book does not suffice to cover the third part which, in any case, cannot be rushed.

The investigation should proceed in a meticulously exact and pedantically precise manner. Step by step, this "tedious" road must be traversed — not the smallest alteration in the nature, in the characteristics, in the effects

Point, Line, and Plane, Wassily Kandinsky, 1926

position

size

intensity

texture

color

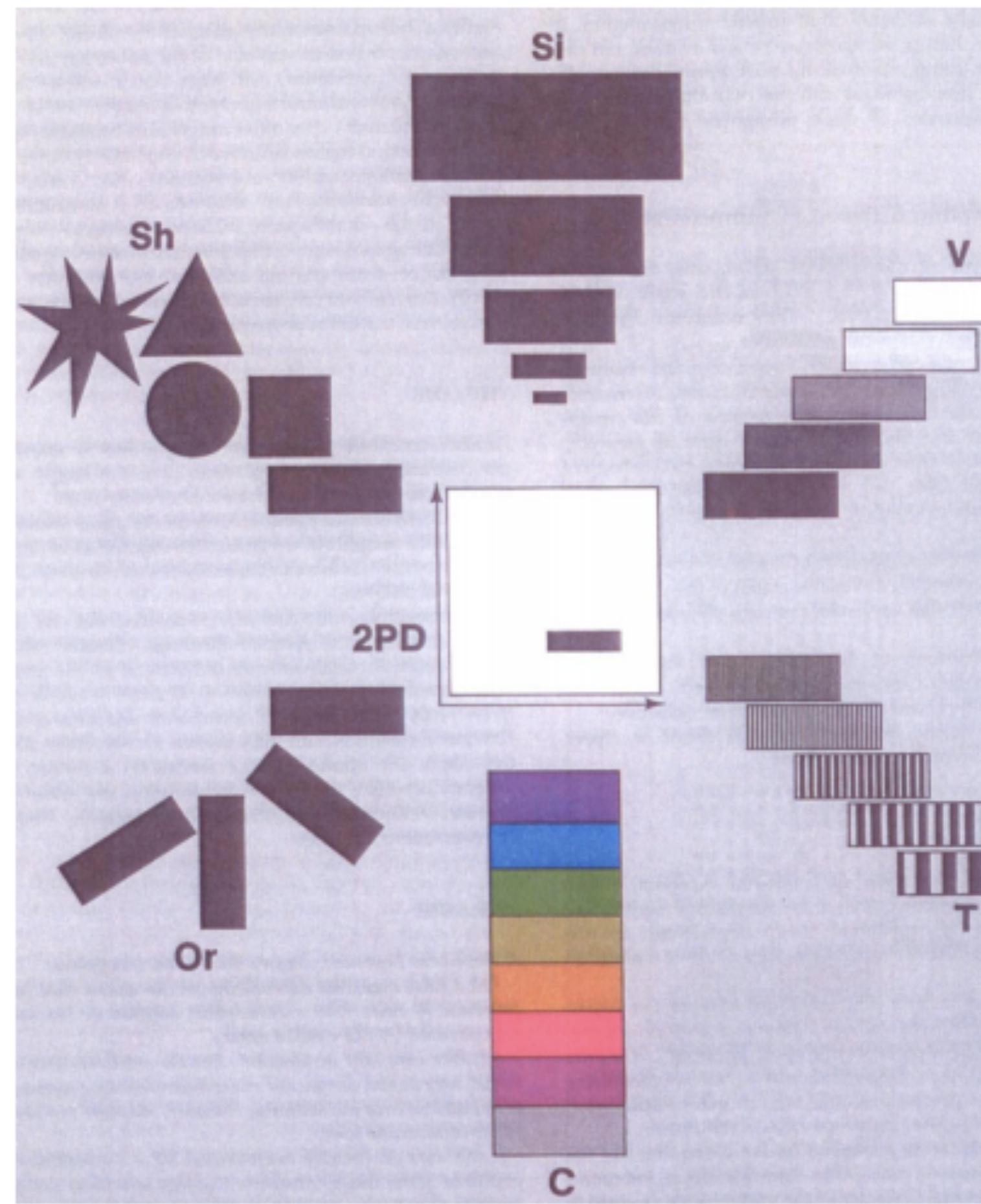
orientation

shape

point line area

		LES VARIABLES DE L'IMAGE				
		POINTS	LIGNES	ZONES		
XY 2 DIMENSIONS DU PLAN	Z	x x x	12 12 12	15 14 18 16 21 2 1 21 15 14 15 1 1 2 9		
	TAILLE	1 1 1	12 12 12	15 14 18 16 21 2 1 21 15 14 15 1 1 2 9		
	VALEUR	1 1 1	12 12 12	15 14 18 16 21 2 1 21 15 14 15 1 1 2 9		
LES VARIABLES DE SÉPARATION DES IMAGES						
GRAIN		1 1 1	12 12 12	15 14 18 16 21 2 1 21 15 14 15 1 1 2 9		
COULEUR		1 1 1	12 12 12	15 14 18 16 21 2 1 21 15 14 15 1 1 2 9		
ORIENTATION		1 1 1	12 12 12	15 14 18 16 21 2 1 21 15 14 15 1 1 2 9		
FORME		1 1 1	12 12 12	15 14 18 16 21 2 1 21 15 14 15 1 1 2 9		





- Size
- Value (Density)
- Texture
- Color
- Orientation
- Shape
- 3D
- Animation/Time

# Data types

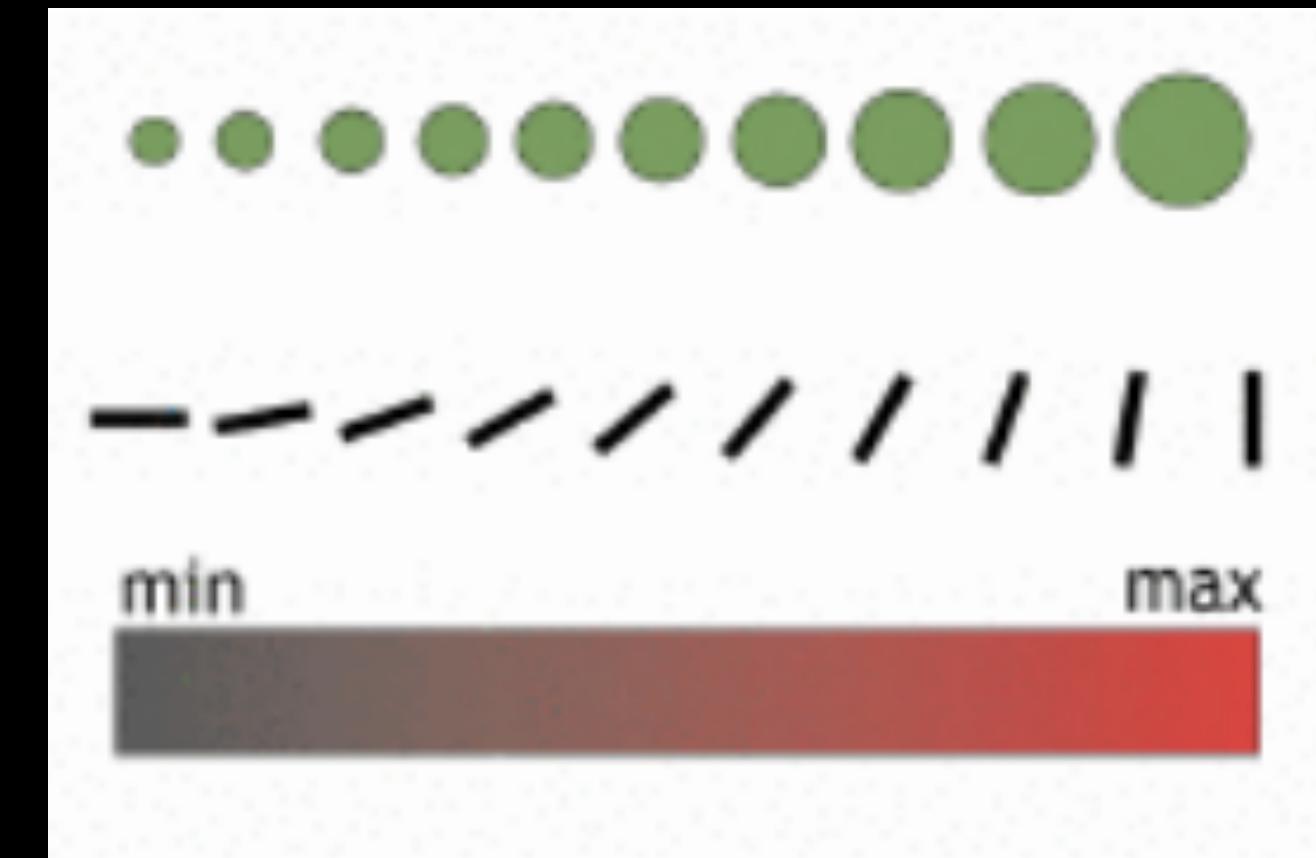
graphical elements work differently on different data types

- **Continuous:** distance to the closest star (can take any value)  
Continuous data may be:
  - **Continuous Ordinal:** Earthquakes (nonlinear scale)
  - **Interval:** F temperature - interval size preserved
  - **Ratio:** Car speed - 0 is naturally defined
- **Discrete:** any countable, e.g. number of brain synapses  
Discrete data may be:
  - **Counts:** number of bacteria at time  $t$  in section  $A$
  - **Ordinal:** survey response Good/Fair/Poor
- **Categorical:** fermion - bosons: any object by class  
Data may also be:
  - **Censored:** star mass  $> 30 M_{\text{sun}}$
  - **Missing:** “Prefer not to answer” (NA / NaN)

# Data types

graphical elements  
work differently on  
different data types

continuous



ordered

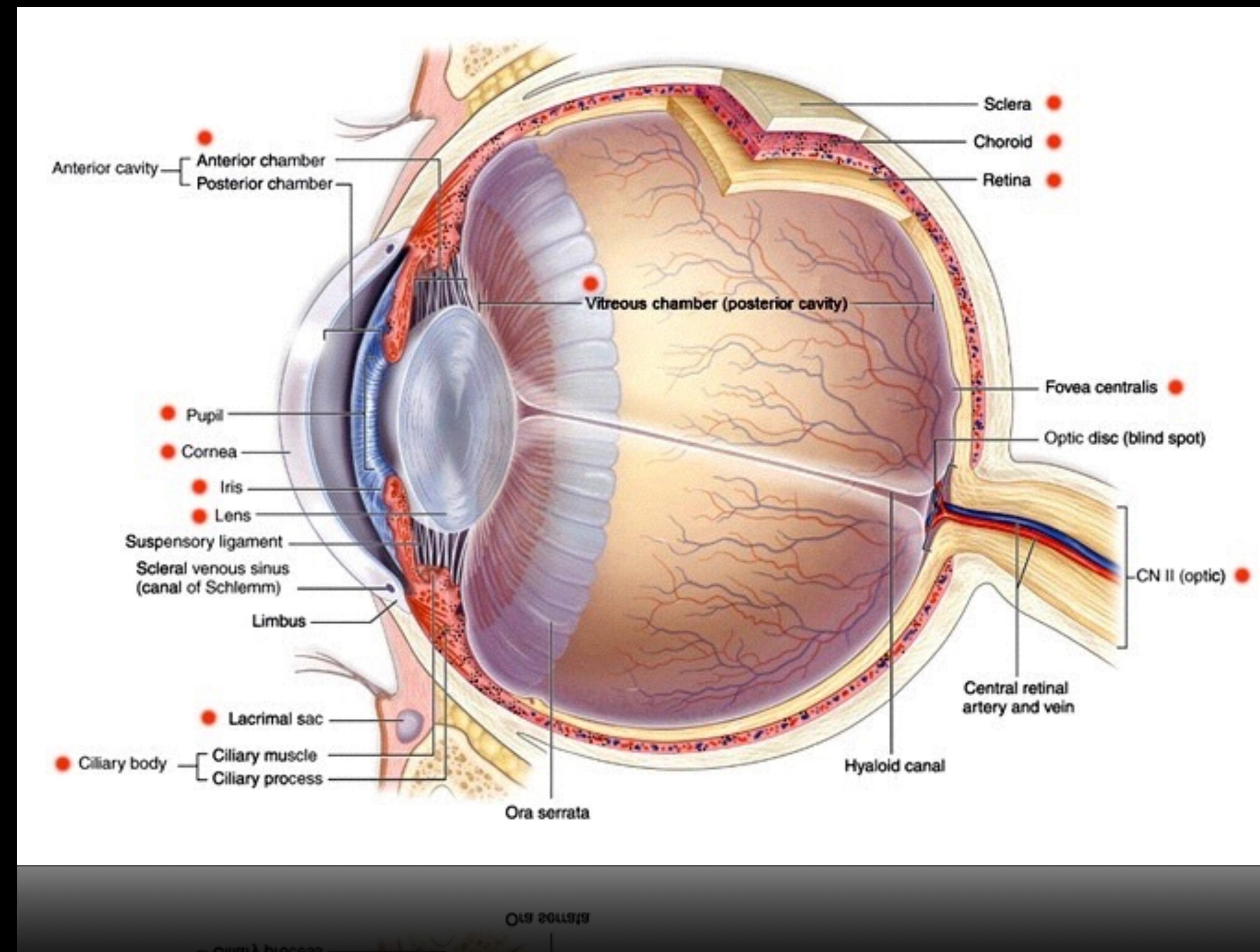


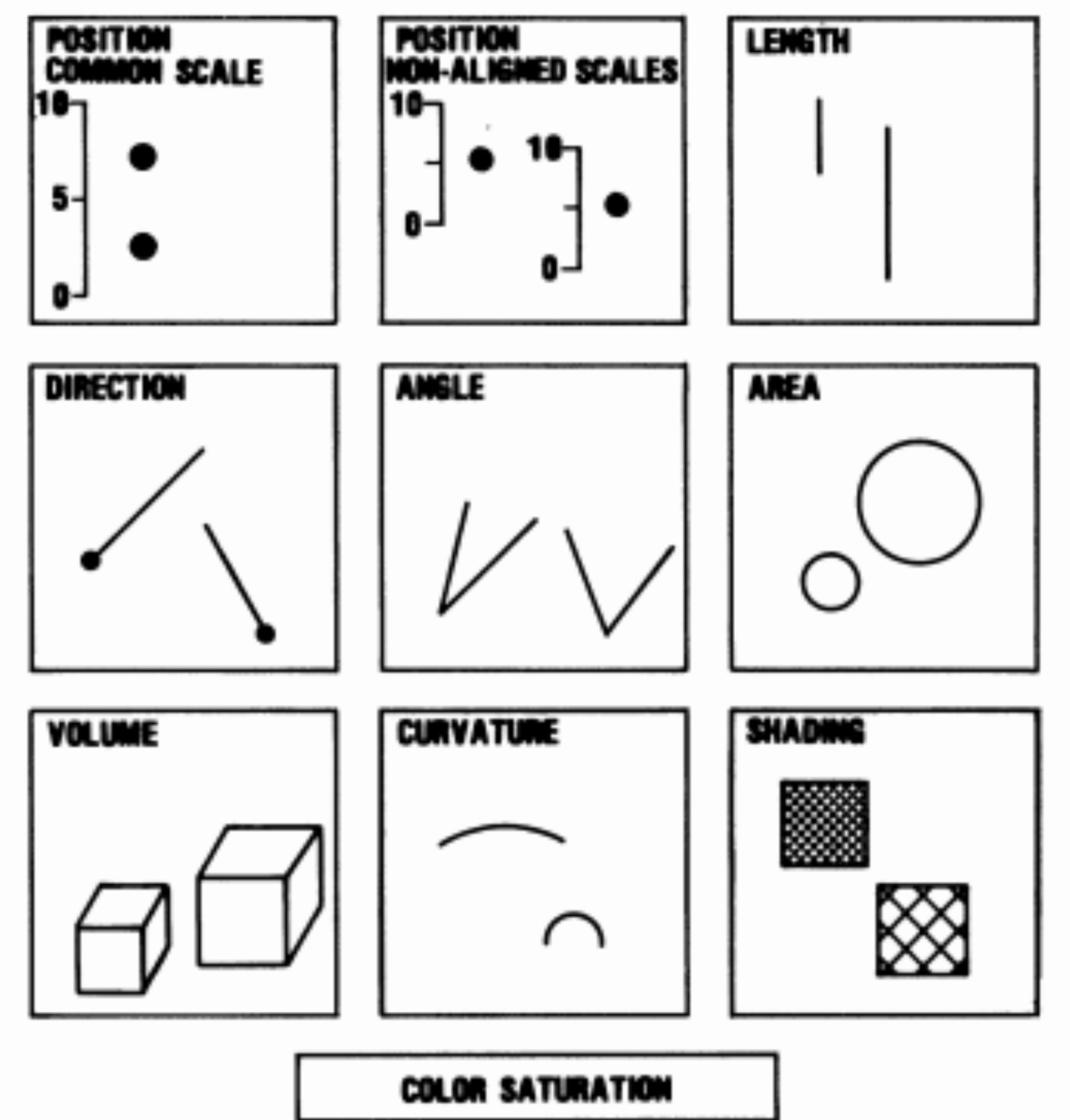
categorical



# Psychophysics

The study of human perception





*Figure 1. Elementary perceptual tasks.*

## Graphical Perception: Theory, Experimentation, and Application to the Development of Graphical Methods

WILLIAM S. CLEVELAND and ROBERT MCGILL\*

# Stevens 1975

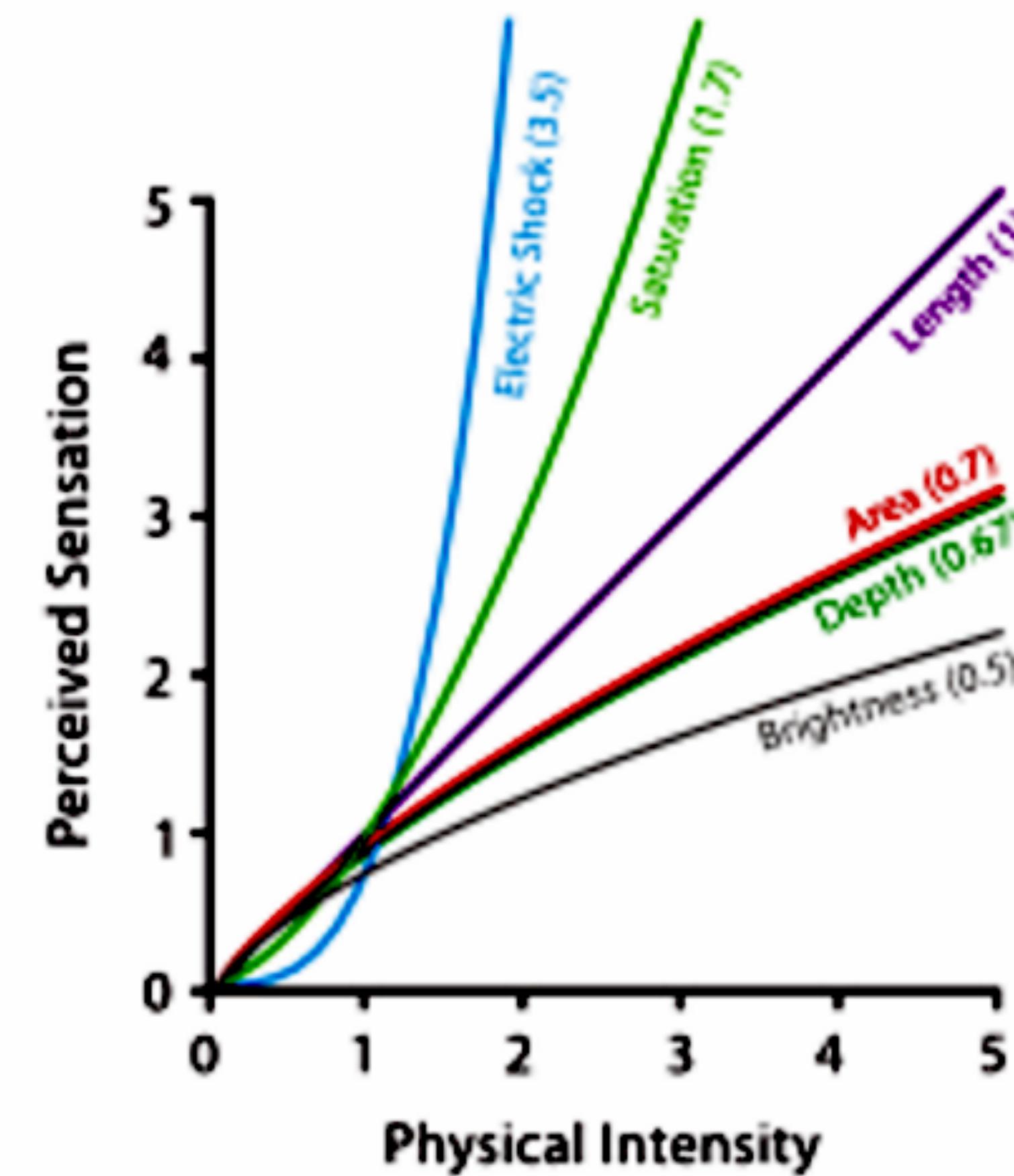
## Psychophysical power law

The apparent magnitude of all sensory channels follows a power law based on the stimulus intensity

$$S = I^n$$

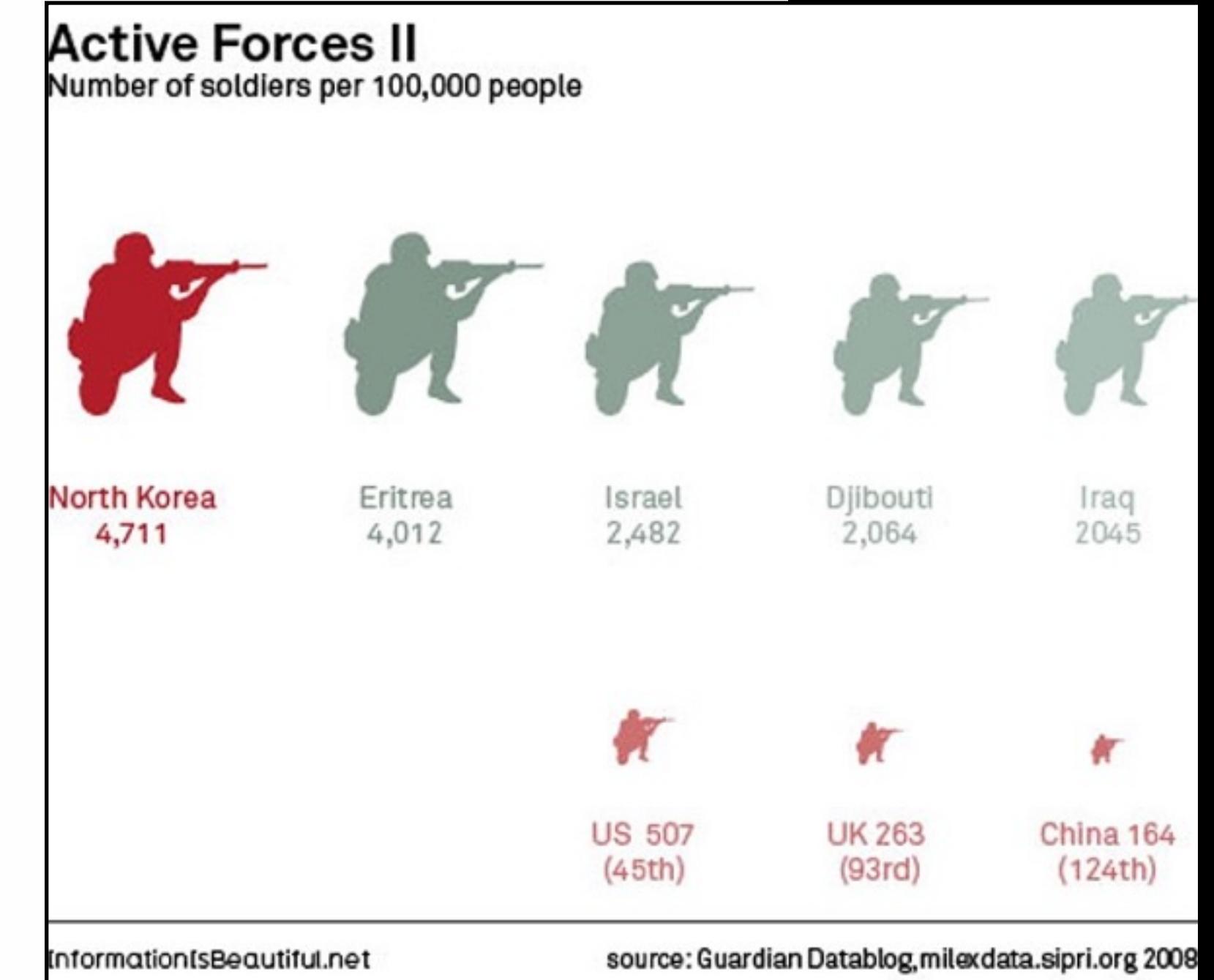
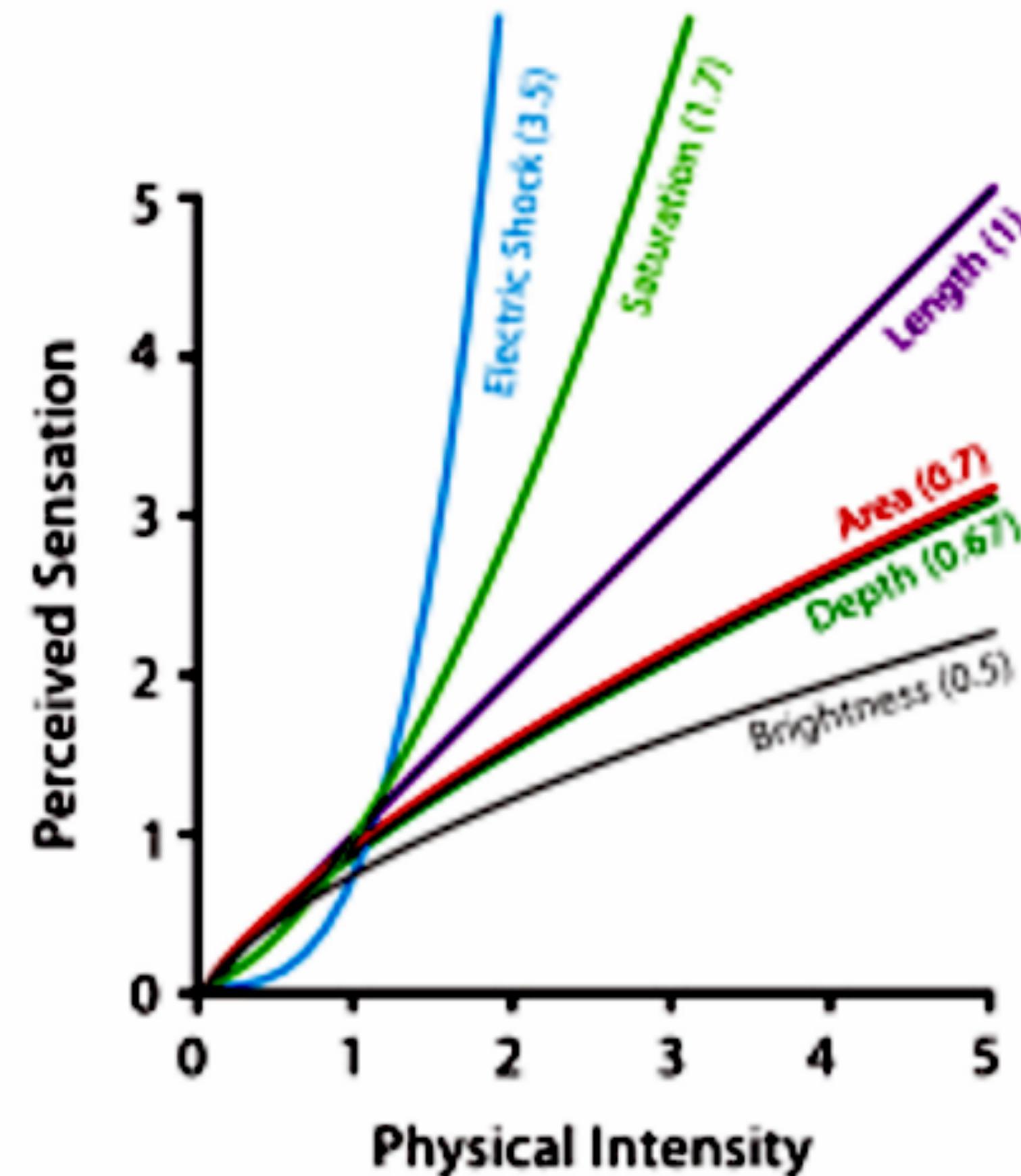
S sensation, I intensity

### Stevens's Psychophysical Power Law: $S = I^n$



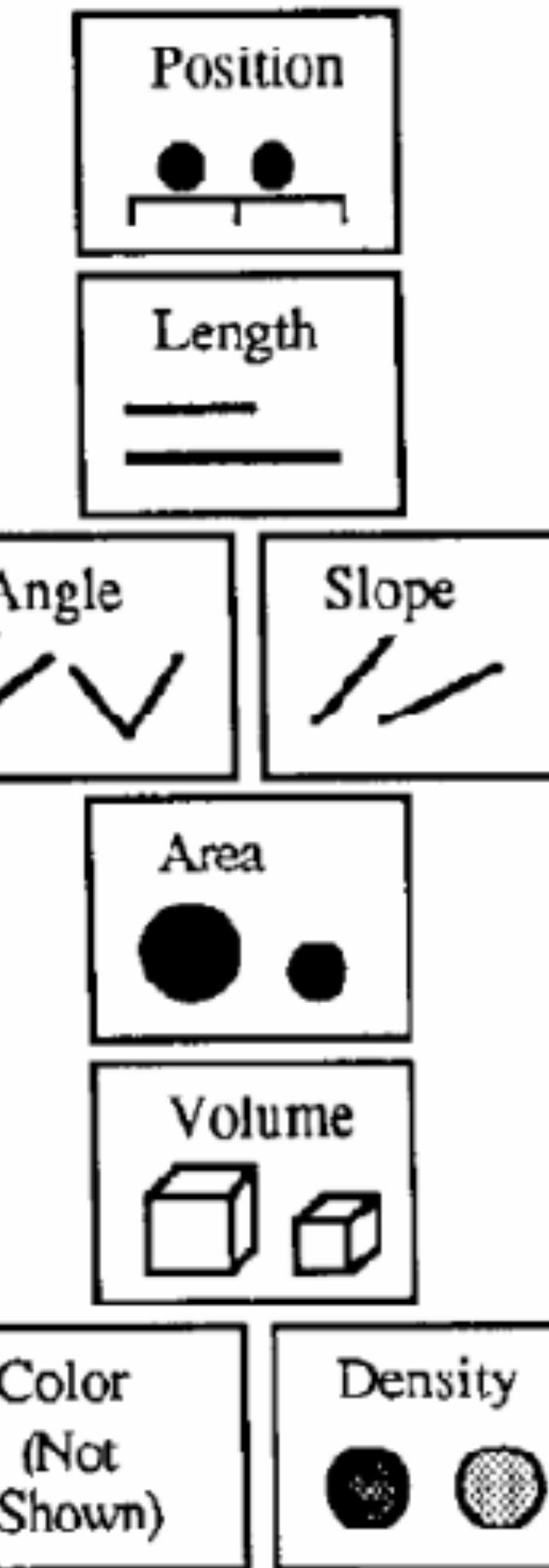
**Figure 5.7.** Stevens showed that the apparent magnitude of all sensory channels follows a power law  $S = I^n$ , where some sensations are perceptually magnified compared with their objective intensity (when  $n > 1$ ) and some compressed (when  $n < 1$ ). Length perception is completely accurate, whereas area is compressed and saturation is magnified. Data from Stevens [Stevens 75, p. 15].

## Stevens's Psychophysical Power Law: $S = I^n$



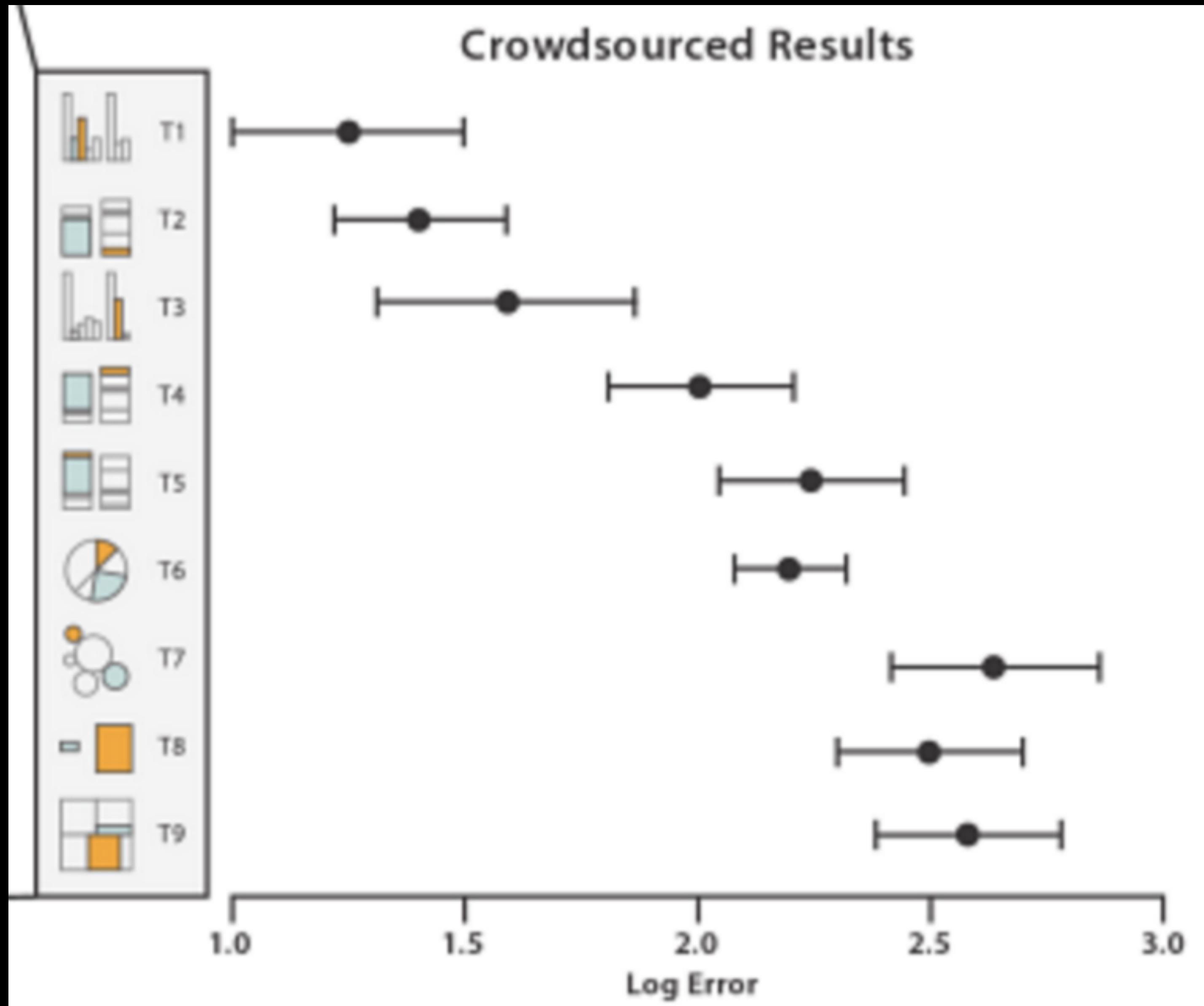
**Figure 5.7.** Stevens showed that the apparent magnitude of all sensory channels follows a power law  $S = I^n$ , where some sensations are perceptually magnified compared with their objective intensity (when  $n > 1$ ) and some compressed (when  $n < 1$ ). Length perception is completely accurate, whereas area is compressed and saturation is magnified. Data from Stevens [Stevens 75, p. 15].

More accurate

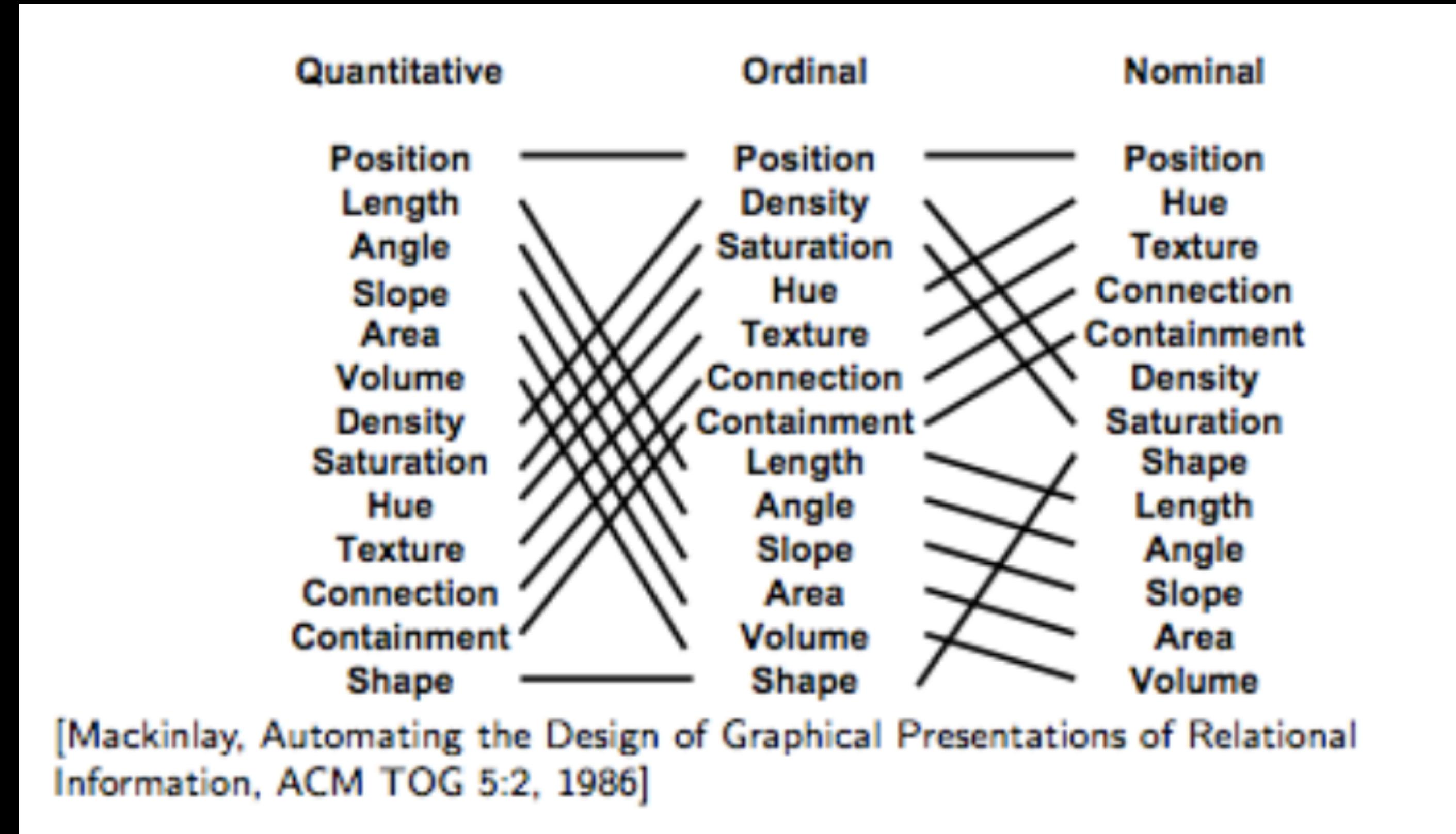


Less accurate

Automating the Design of Graphical Presentations of Relational Information ,Jock Mackinlay, ACM Transaction on Graphics, 1986  
Cleveland & McGill, Graphical Perception: Theory, Experimentation, and Application to the Development of Graphical Methods 1984



Heer and Bostock 2010



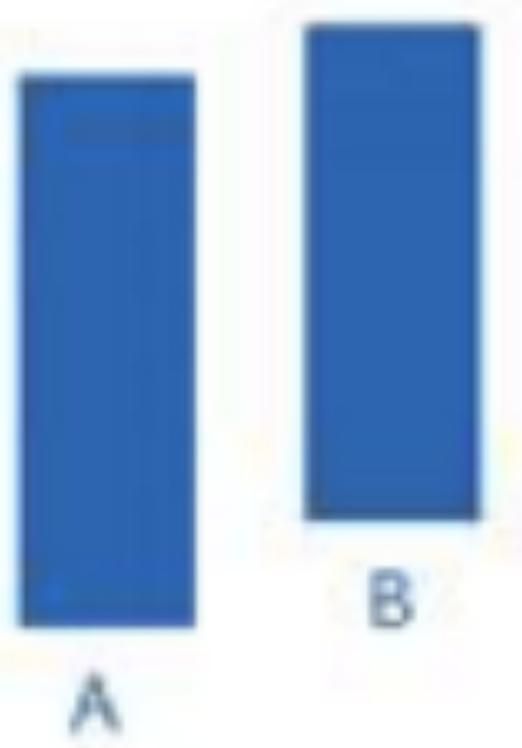
# Weber Law

We judge based on relative differences

The detectable difference in stimulus intensity is a fixed percentage of the object magnitude

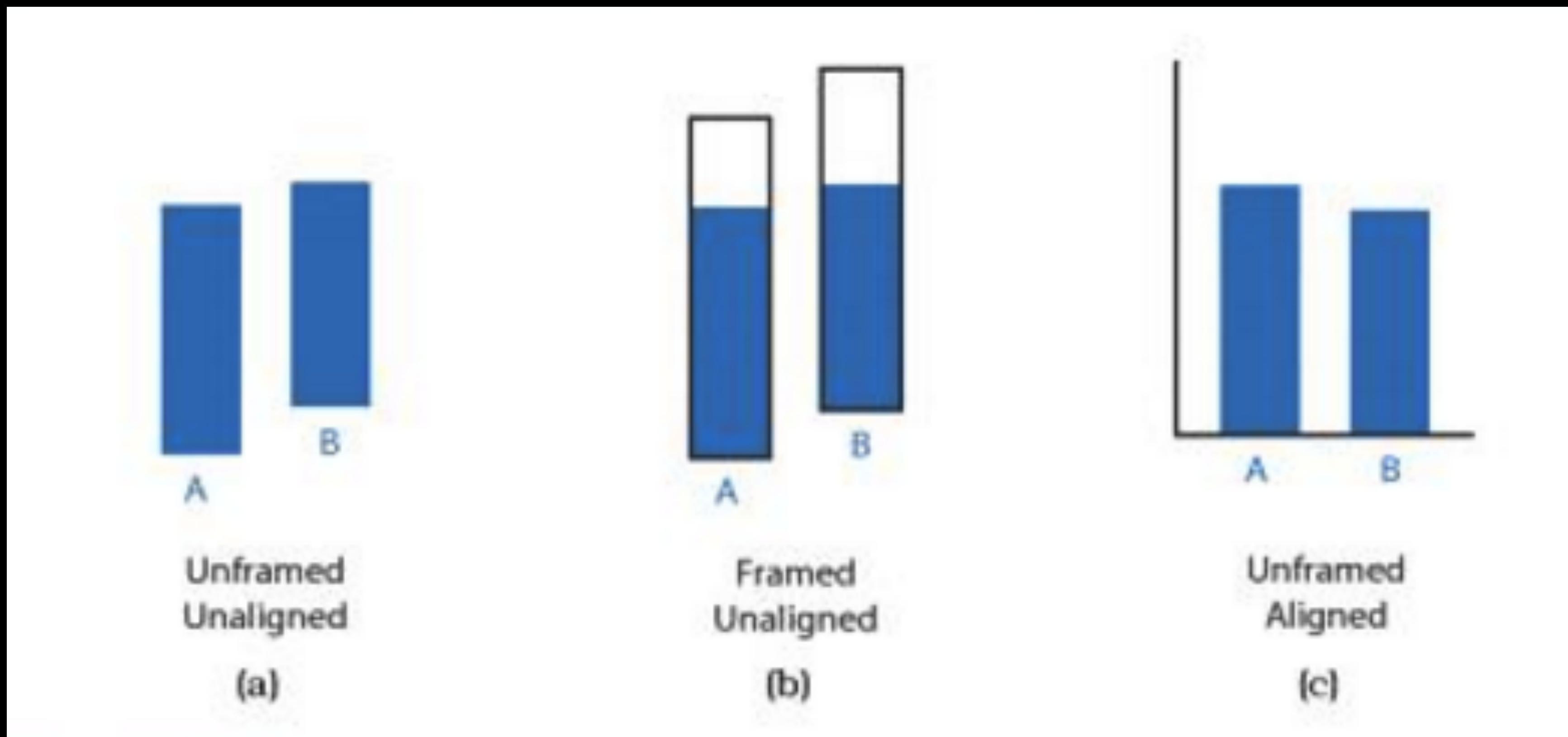
$$\delta I / I = K$$

I intensity, K constant

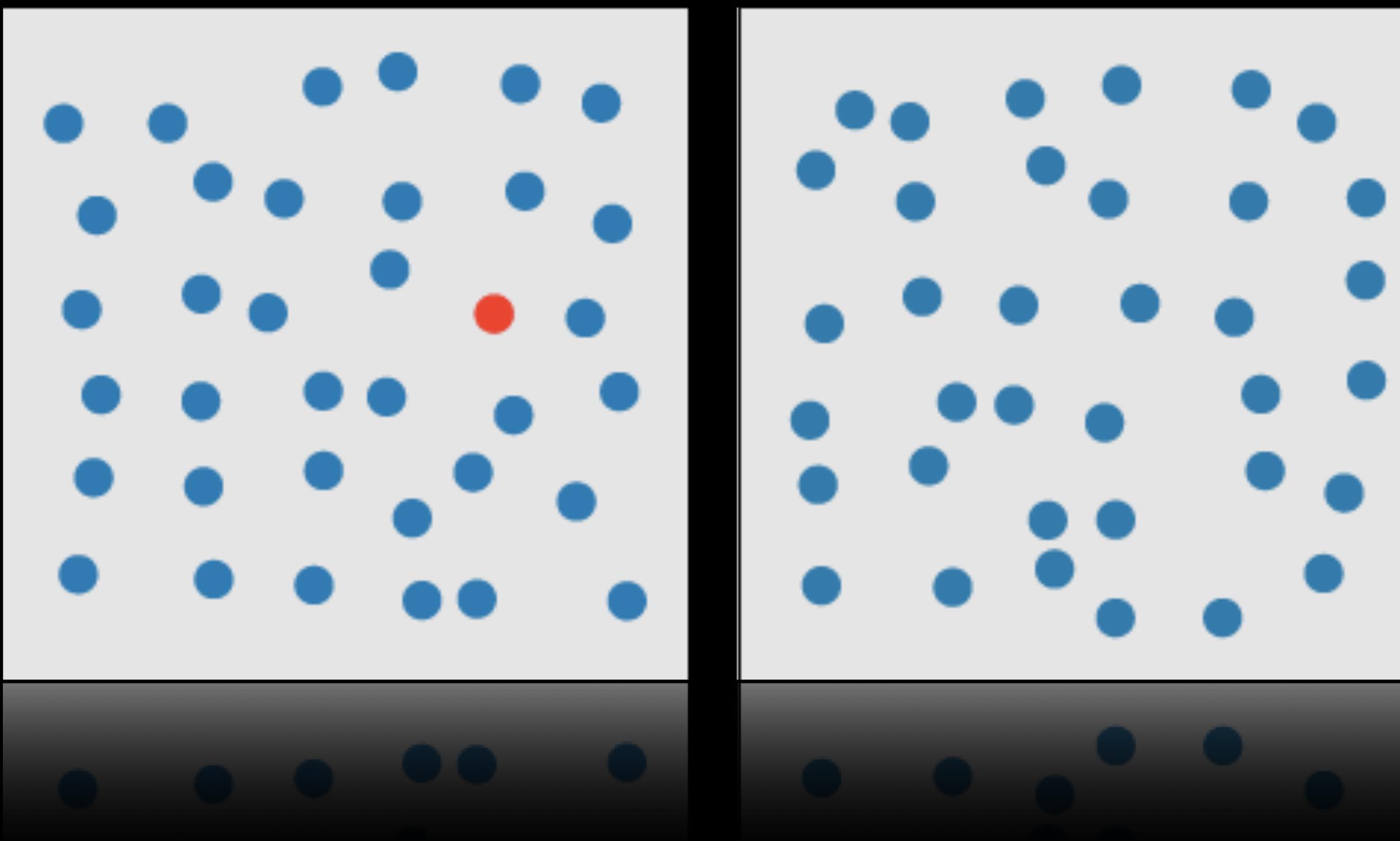


Unframed  
Unaligned

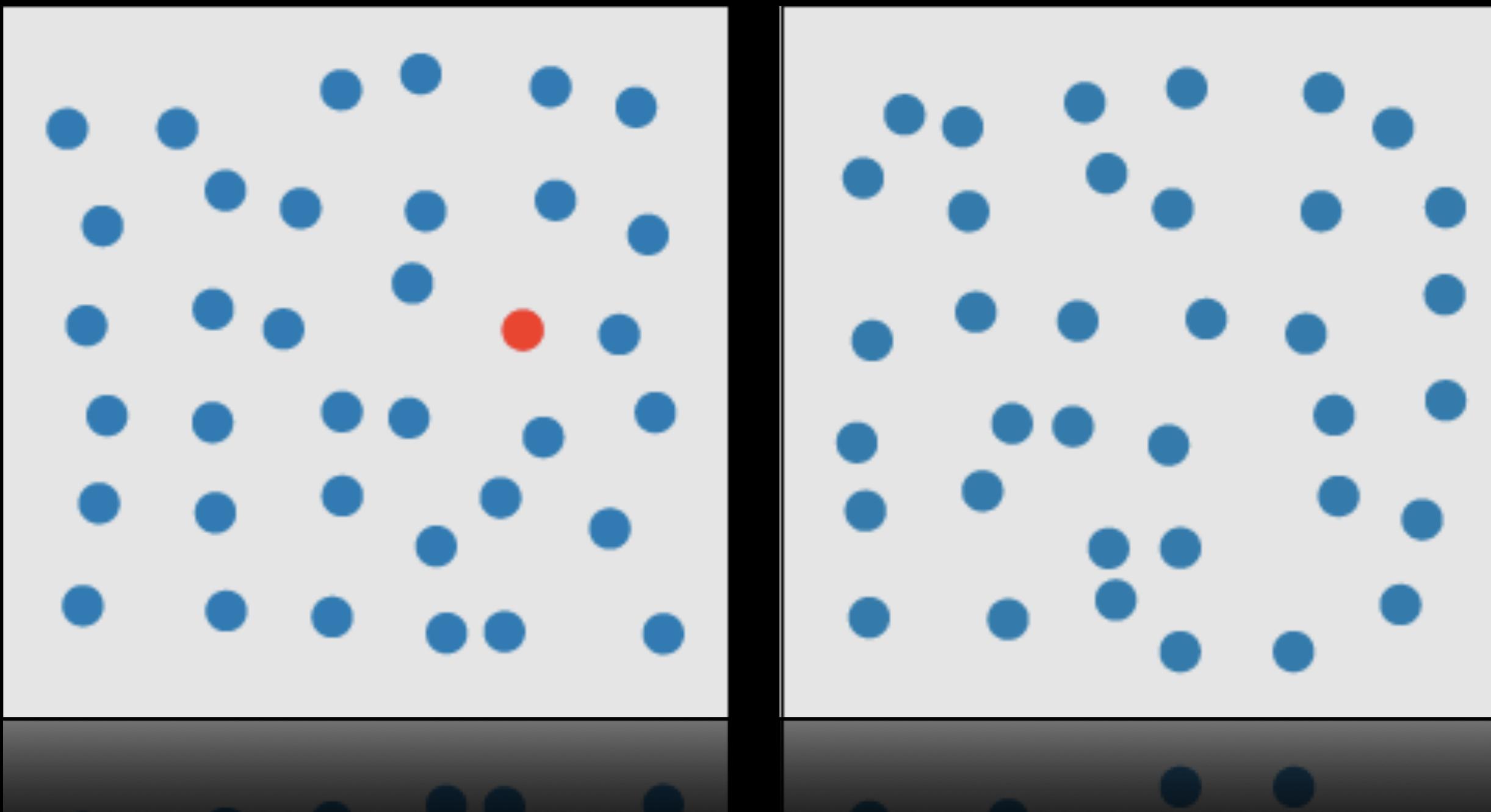
(a)



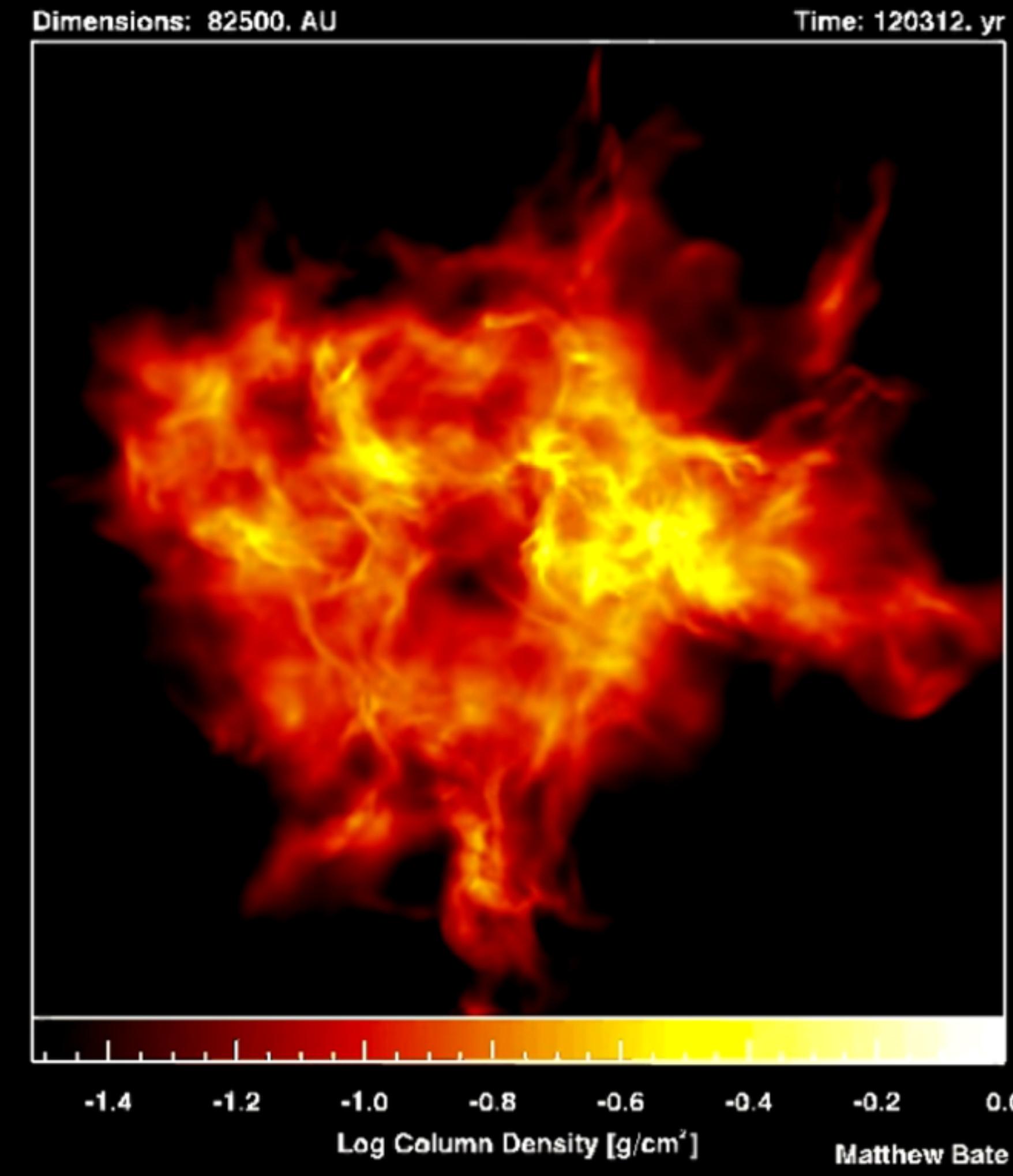
# Preattentive tasks



# Preattentive tasks



a limited set of visual properties that are detected very rapidly and accurately by the low-level visual system.(tasks that can be performed on large multi-element displays in ***less than 200 to 250 milliseconds***)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbdwTwB8jtc>

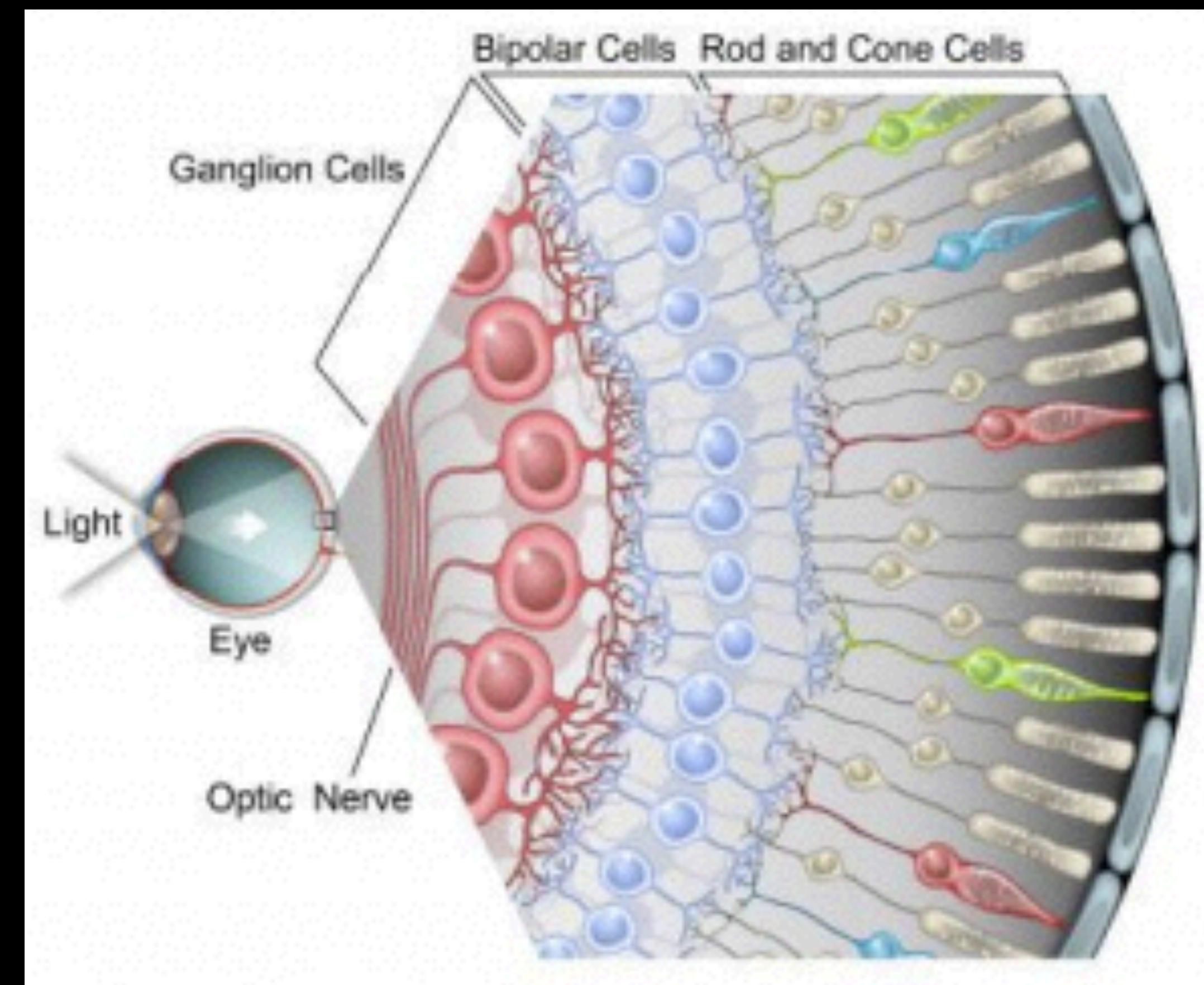
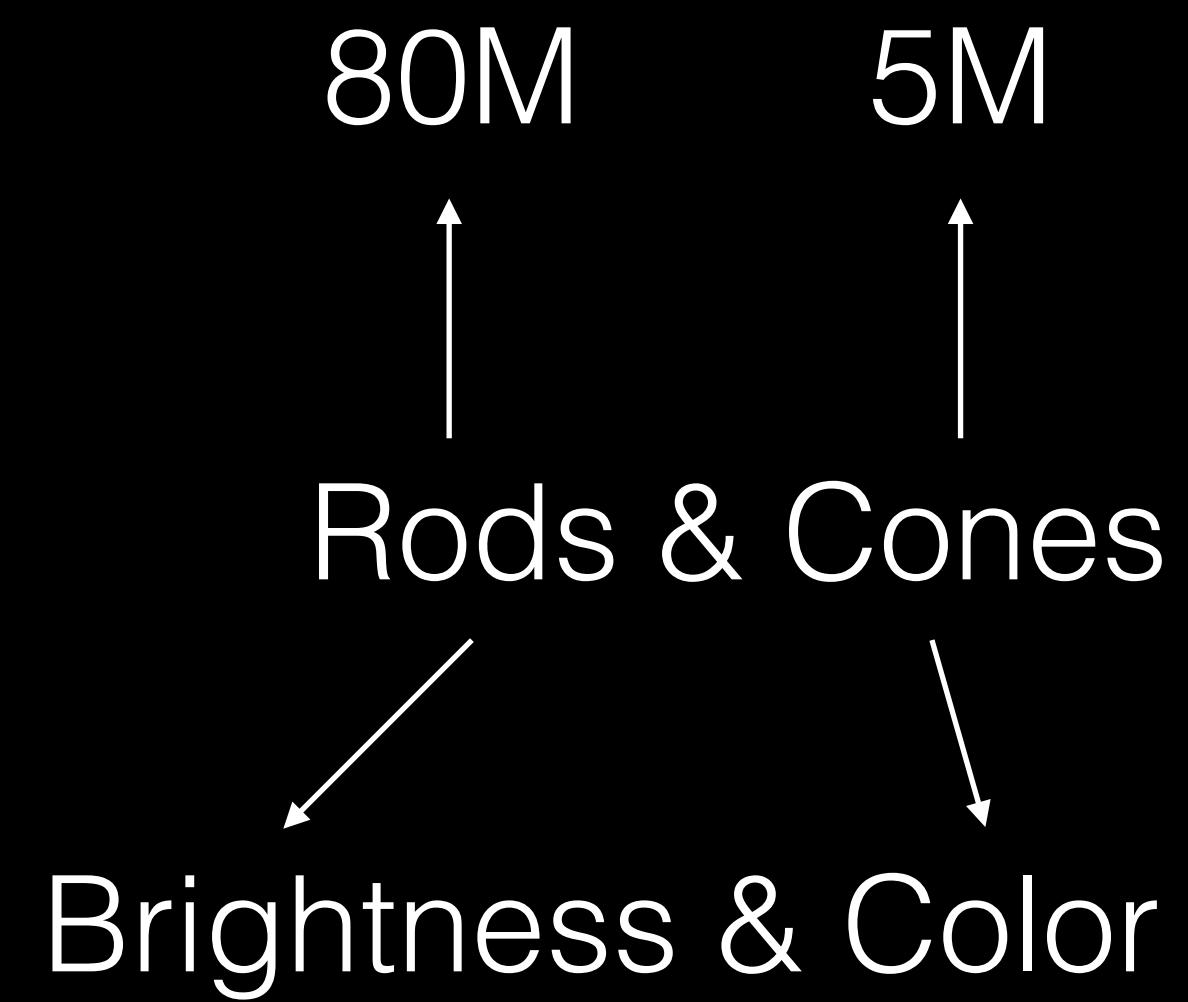
selective attention issues:

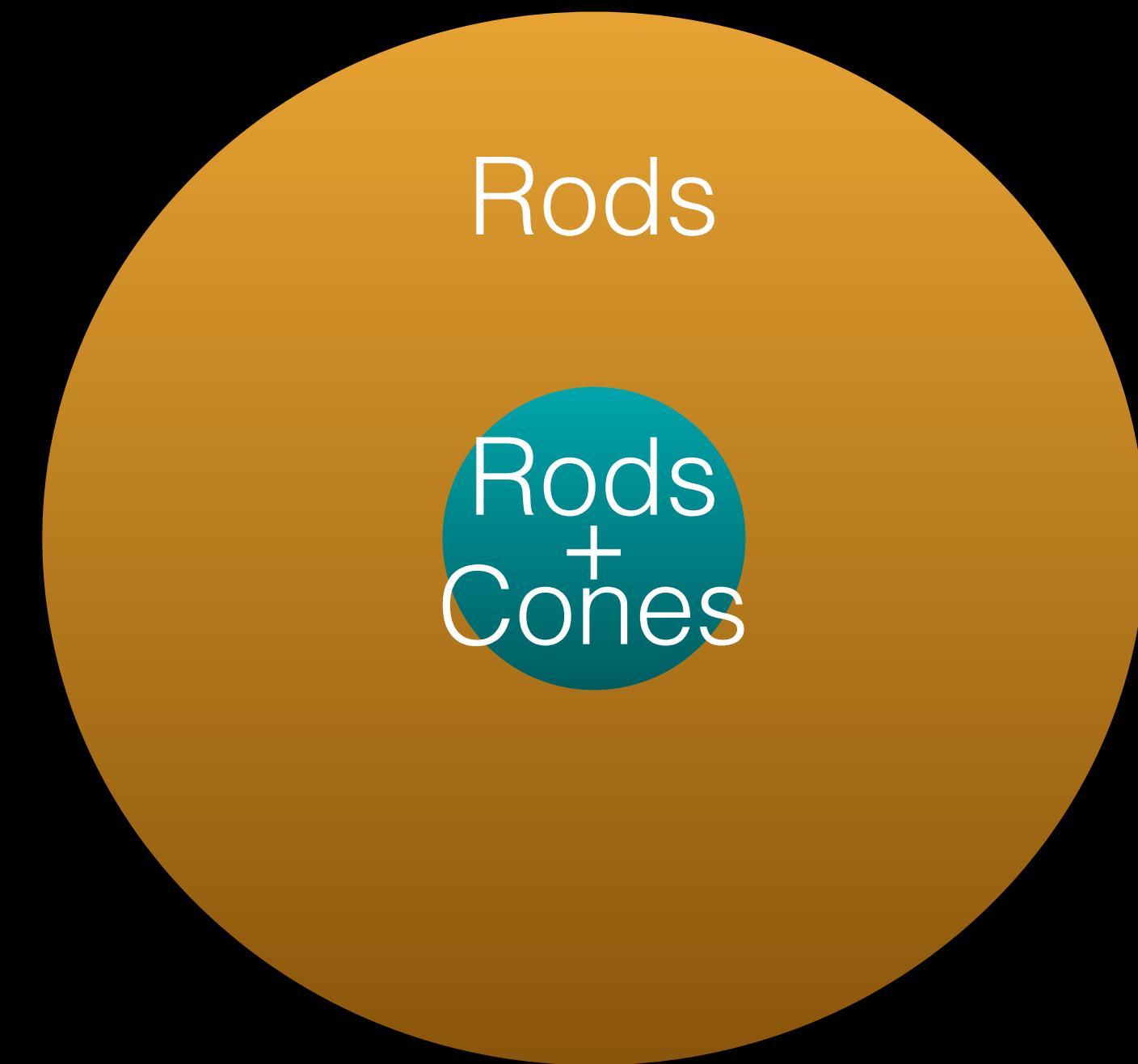
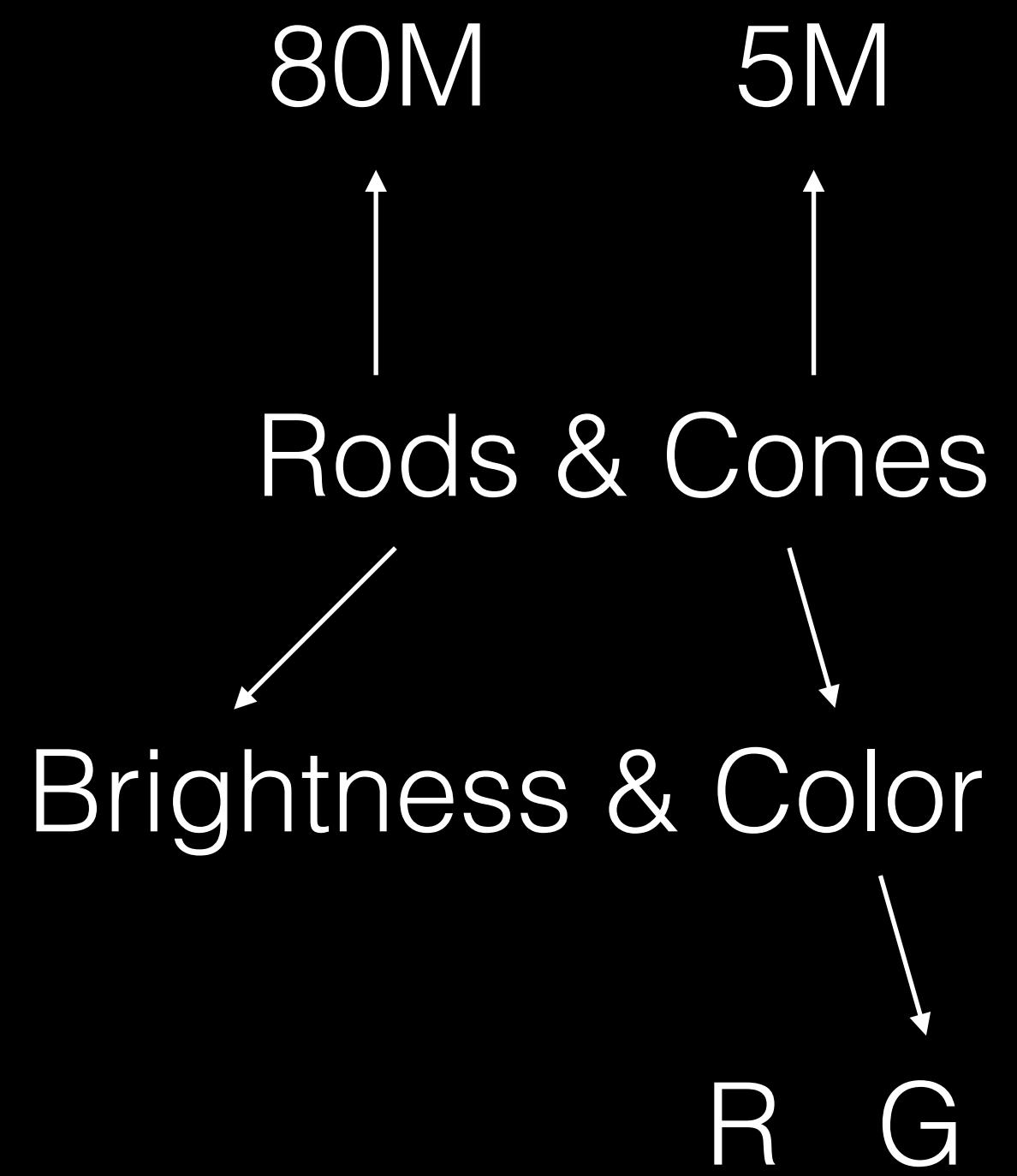
**you can only use one pre-attentive task at a time:**

the preattentive tasks compete with each other  
and you loose the ability to process them quickly if there are more than one.

<https://youtu.be/vJG698U2Mvo?t=3>

color theory  
(and good practice)

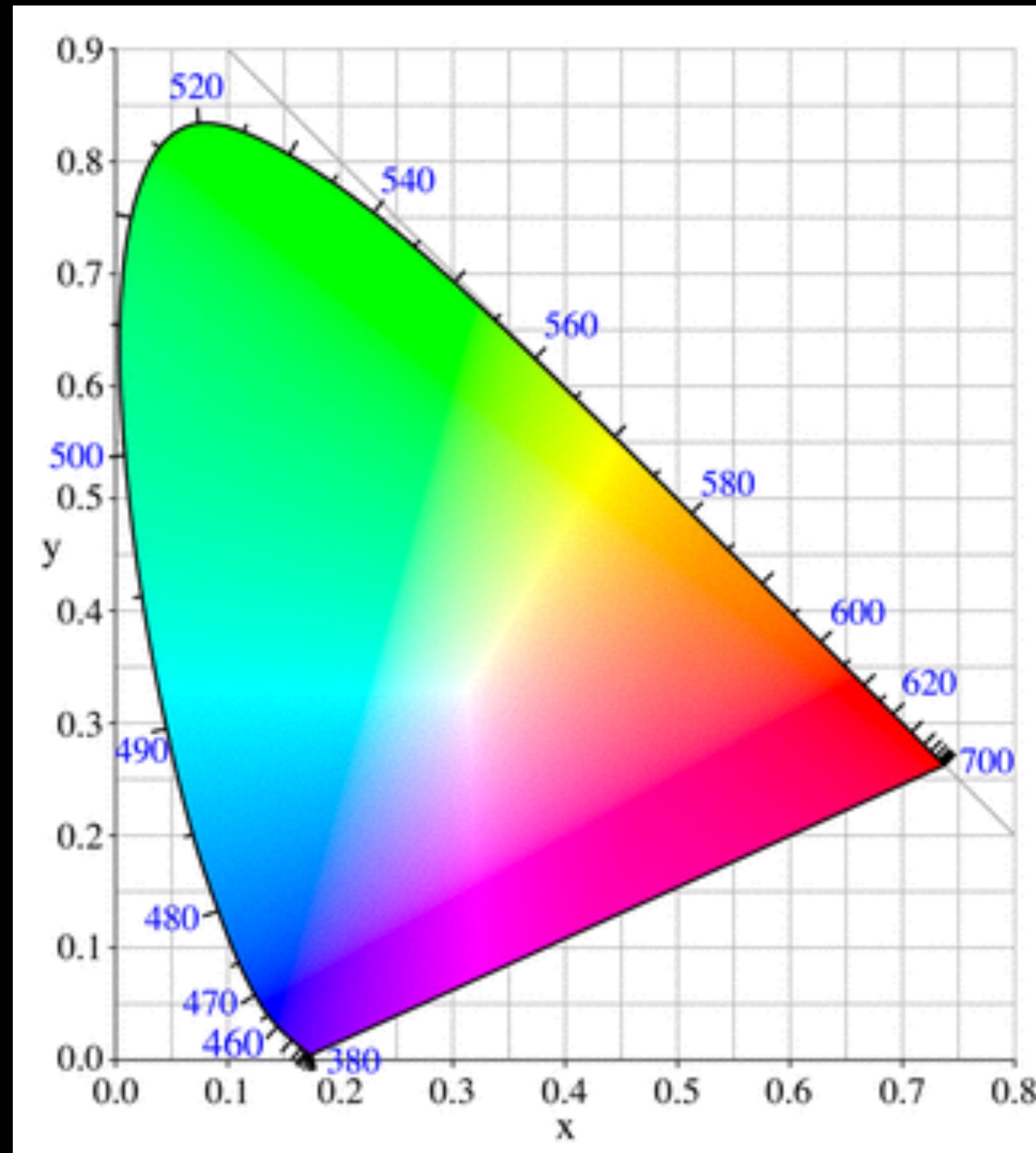




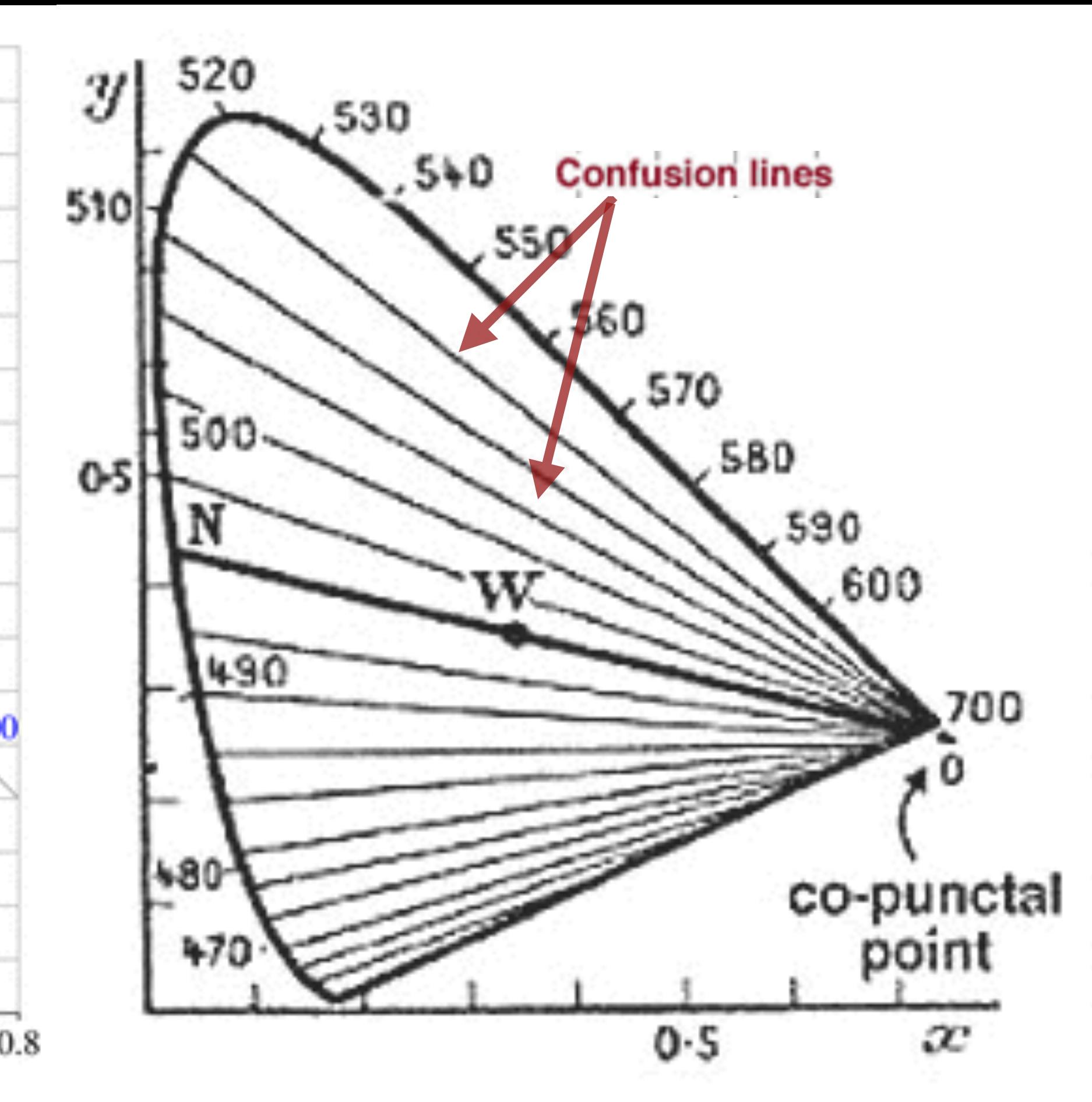
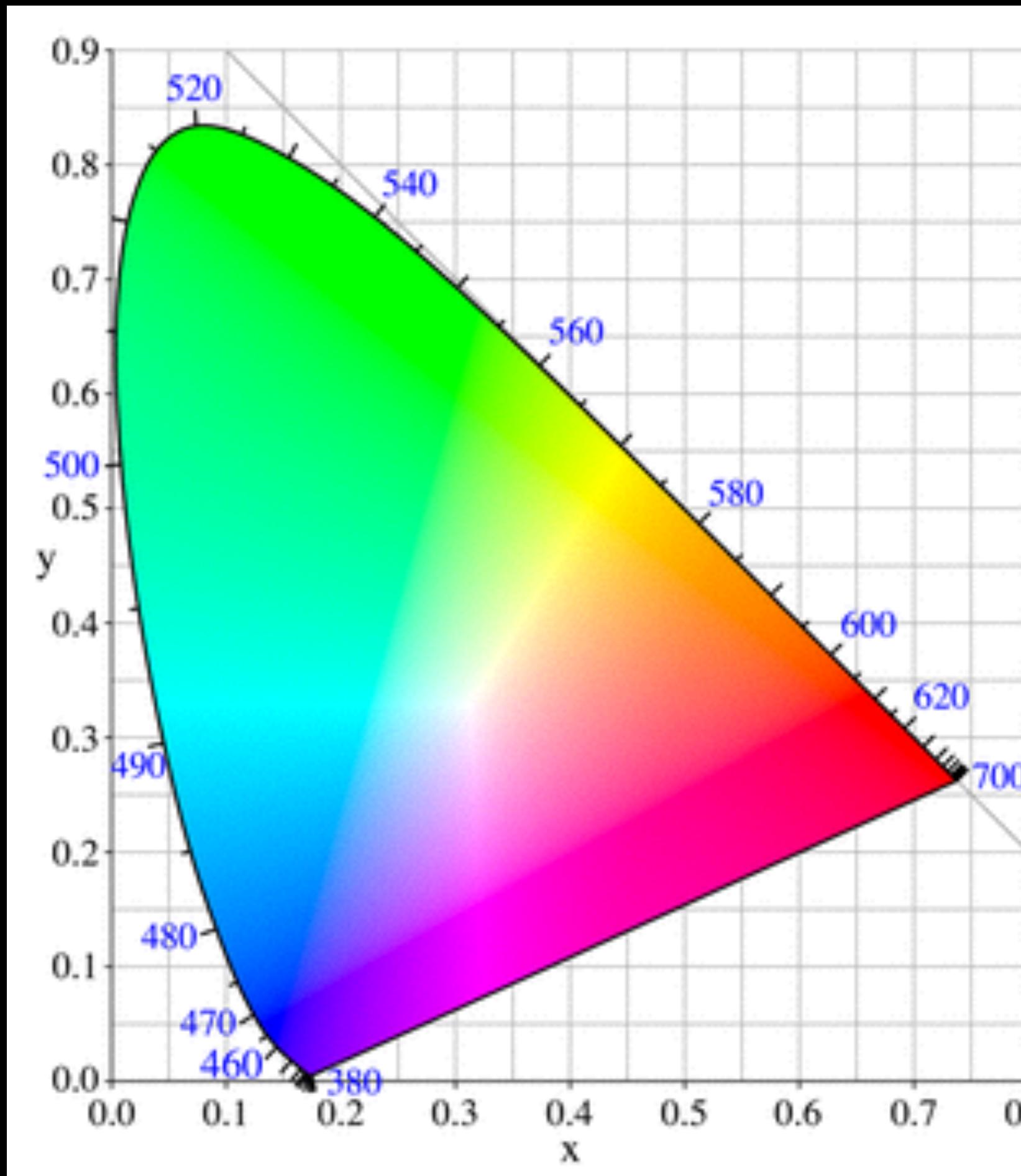
the message to the brain is:

black  $\longleftrightarrow$  white  
yellow  $\longleftrightarrow$  blue  
red  $\longleftrightarrow$  green

# COLOR BLINDNESS

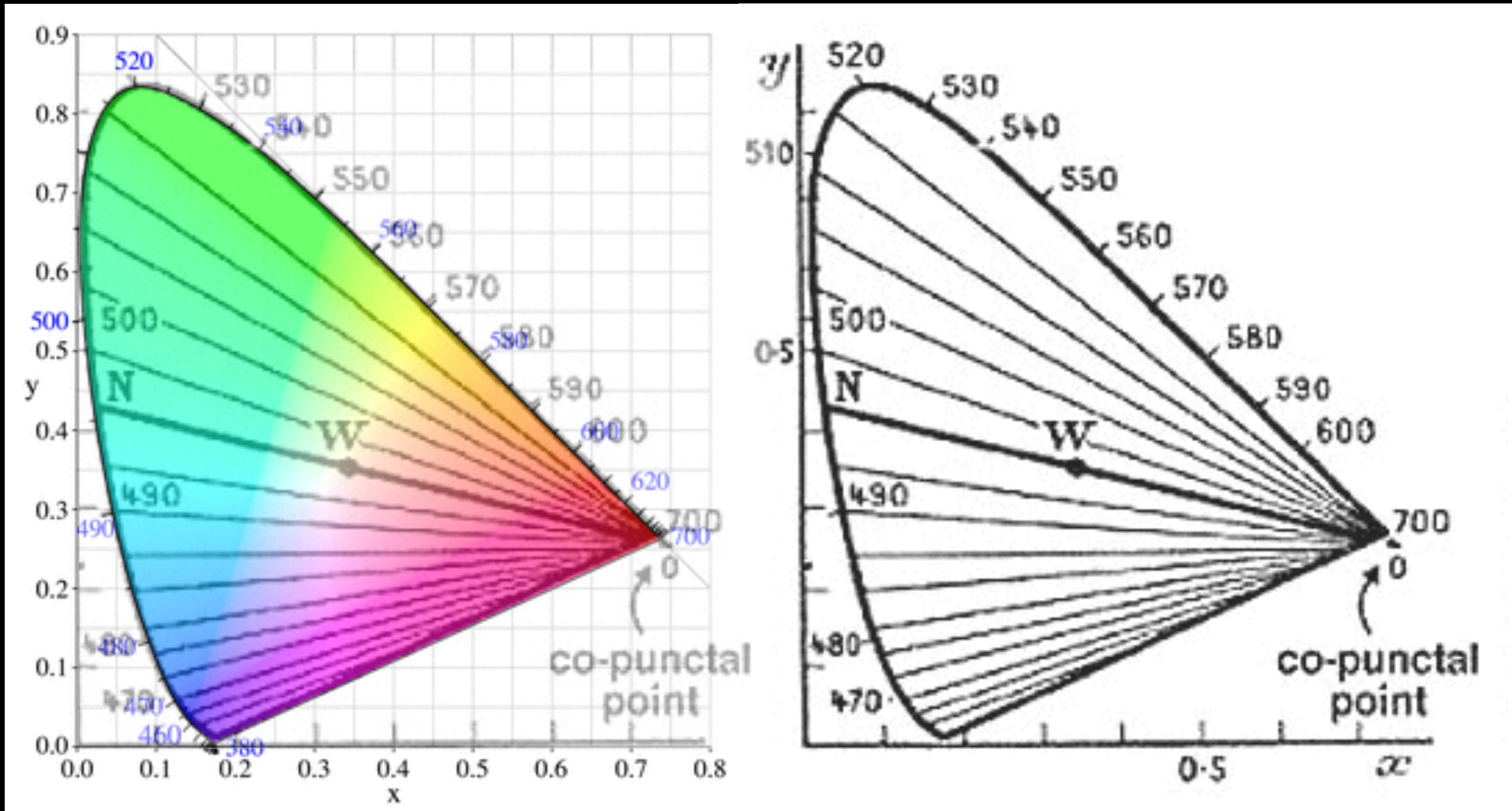


# COLOR BLINDNESS



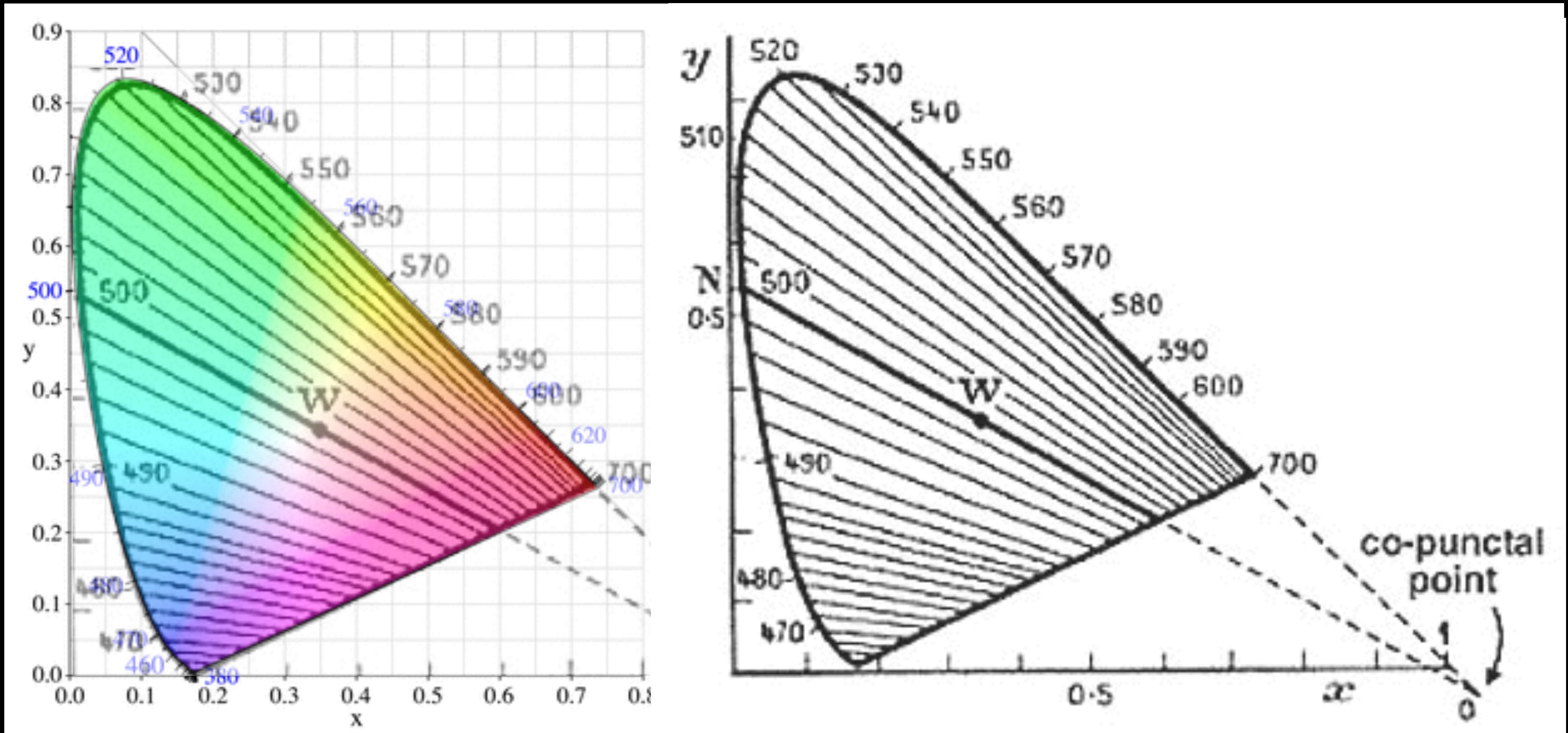
Protanopia

# COLOR BLINDNESS



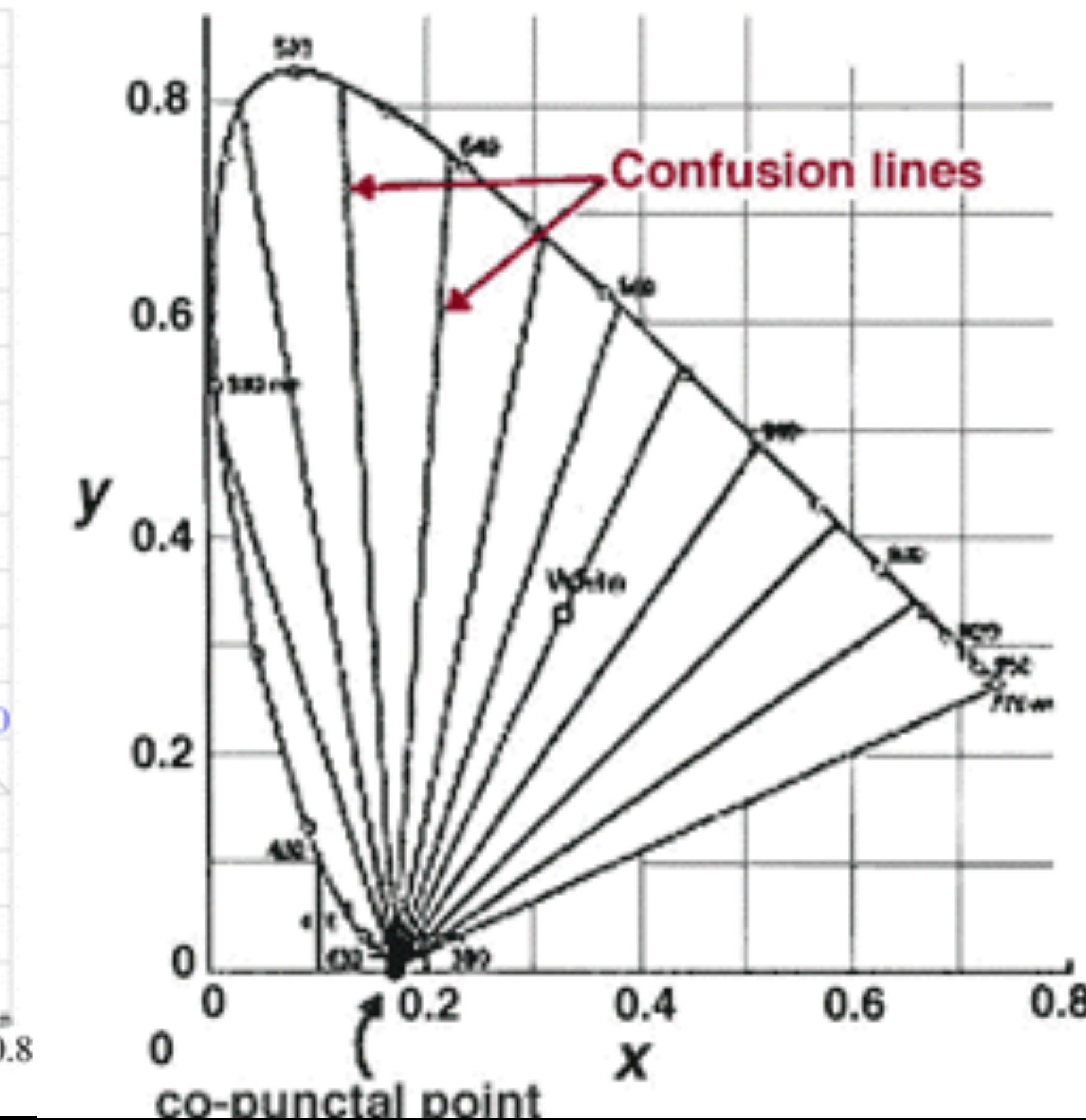
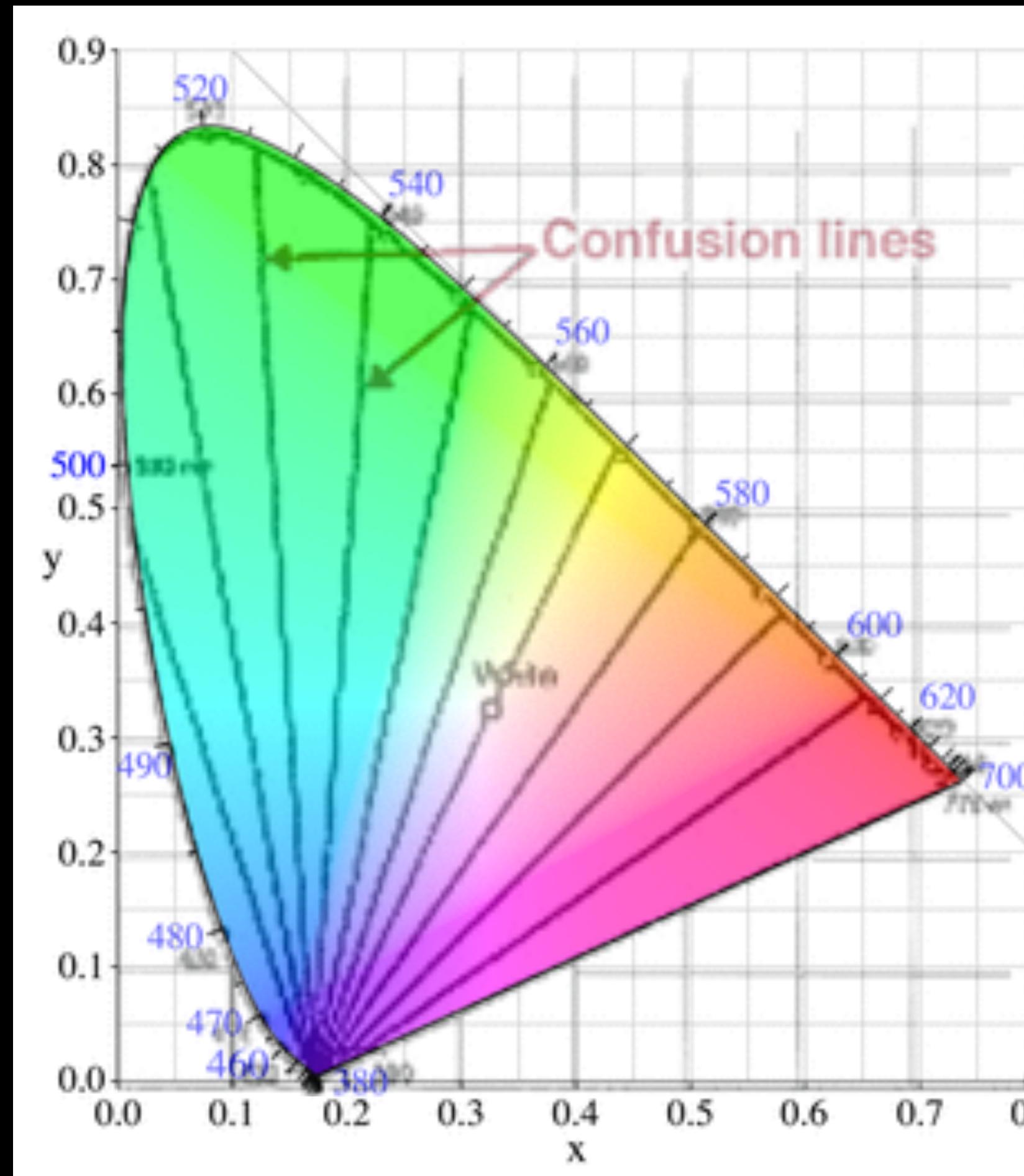
Protanopia  
(red-blind)

# COLOR BLINDNESS



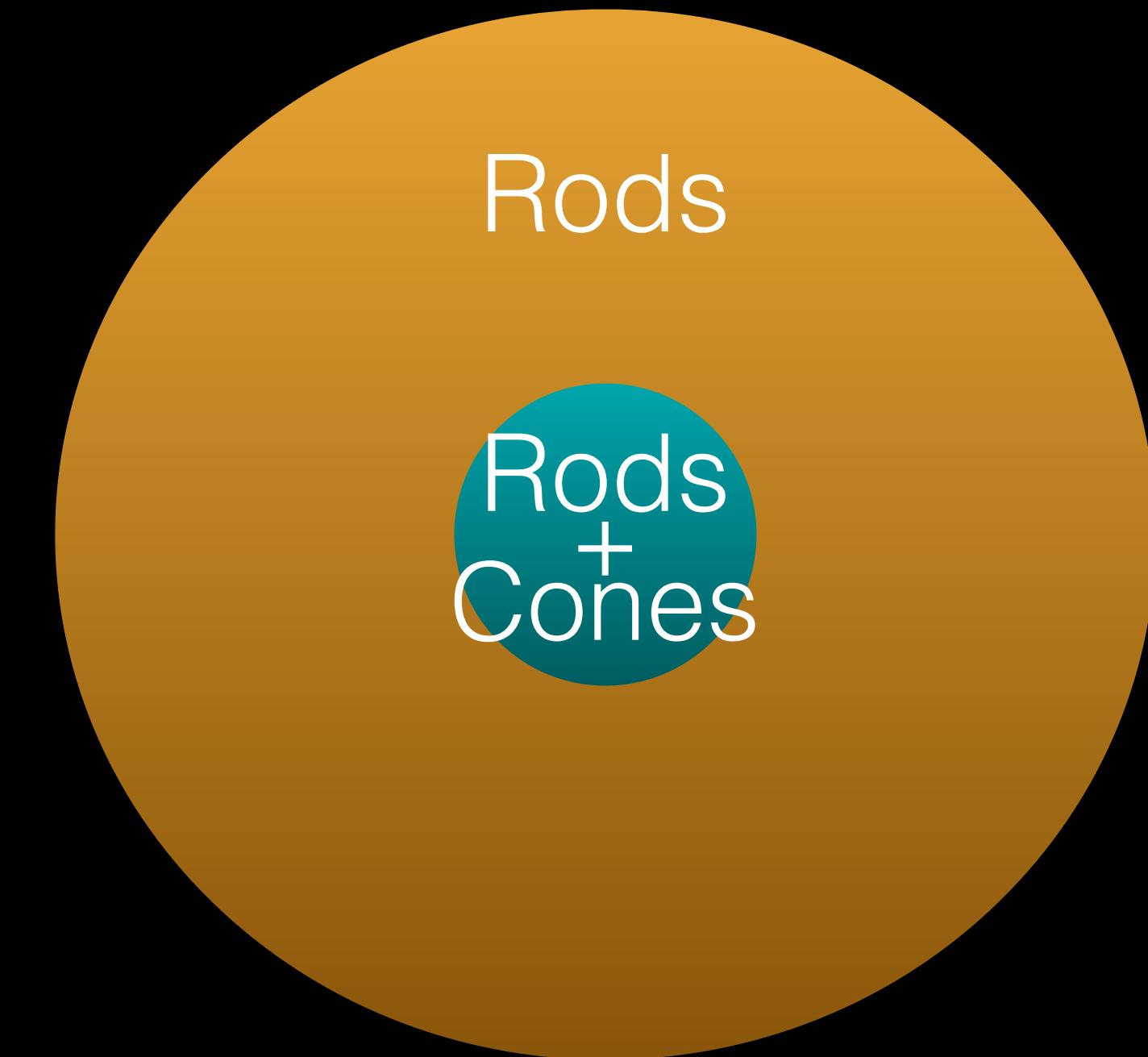
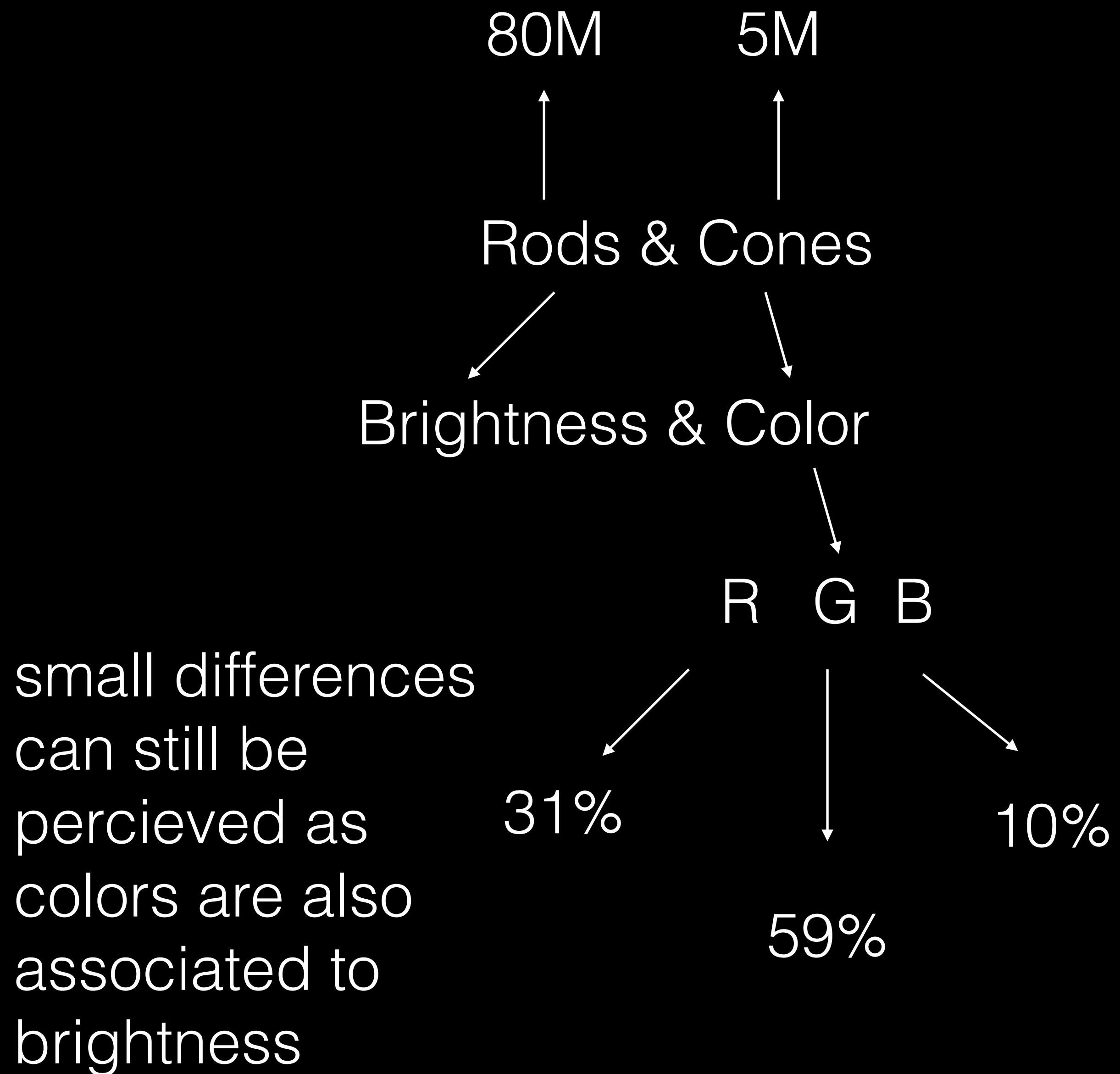
Deutanopia  
(green-blind)

# COLOR BLINDNESS

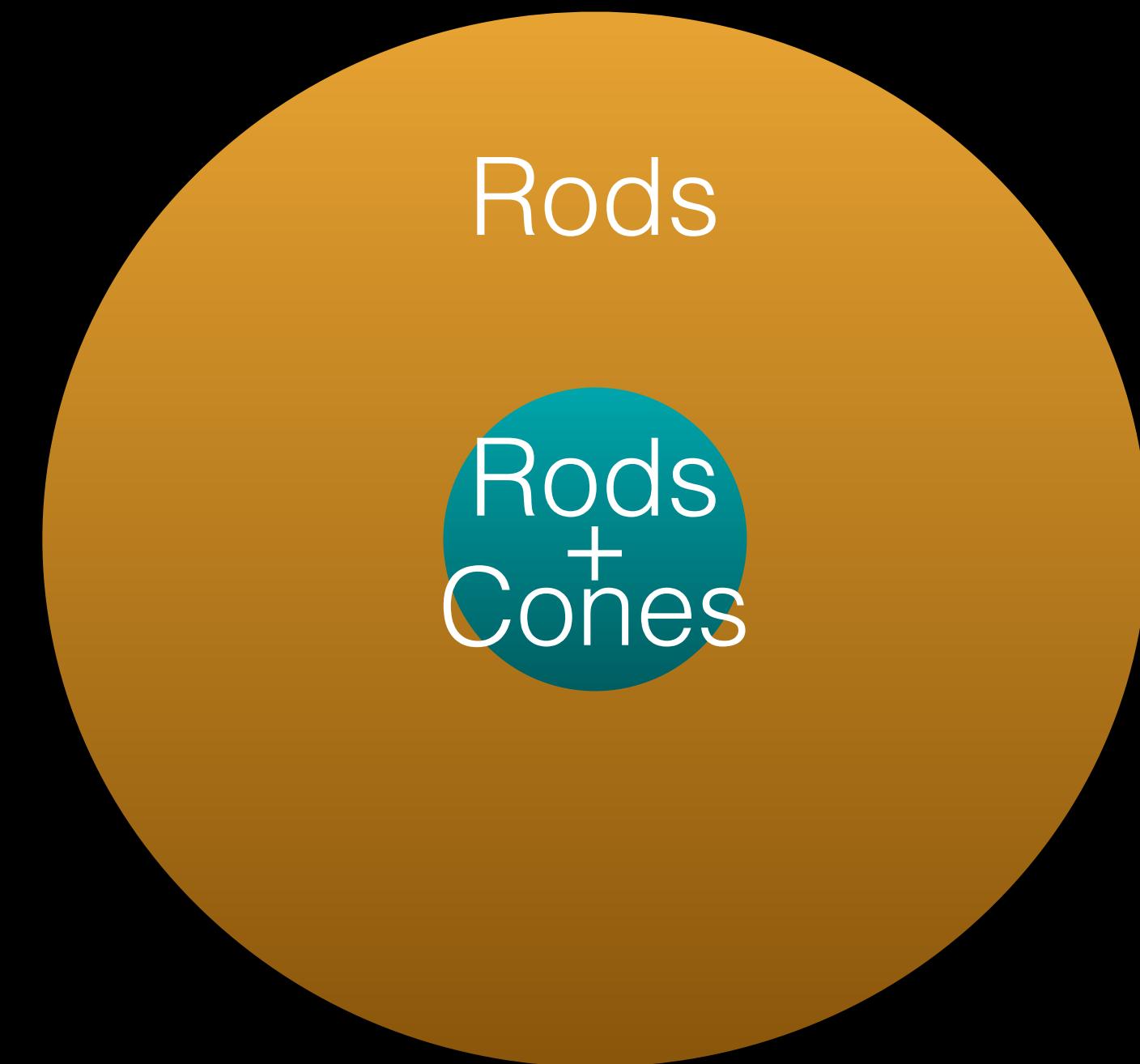
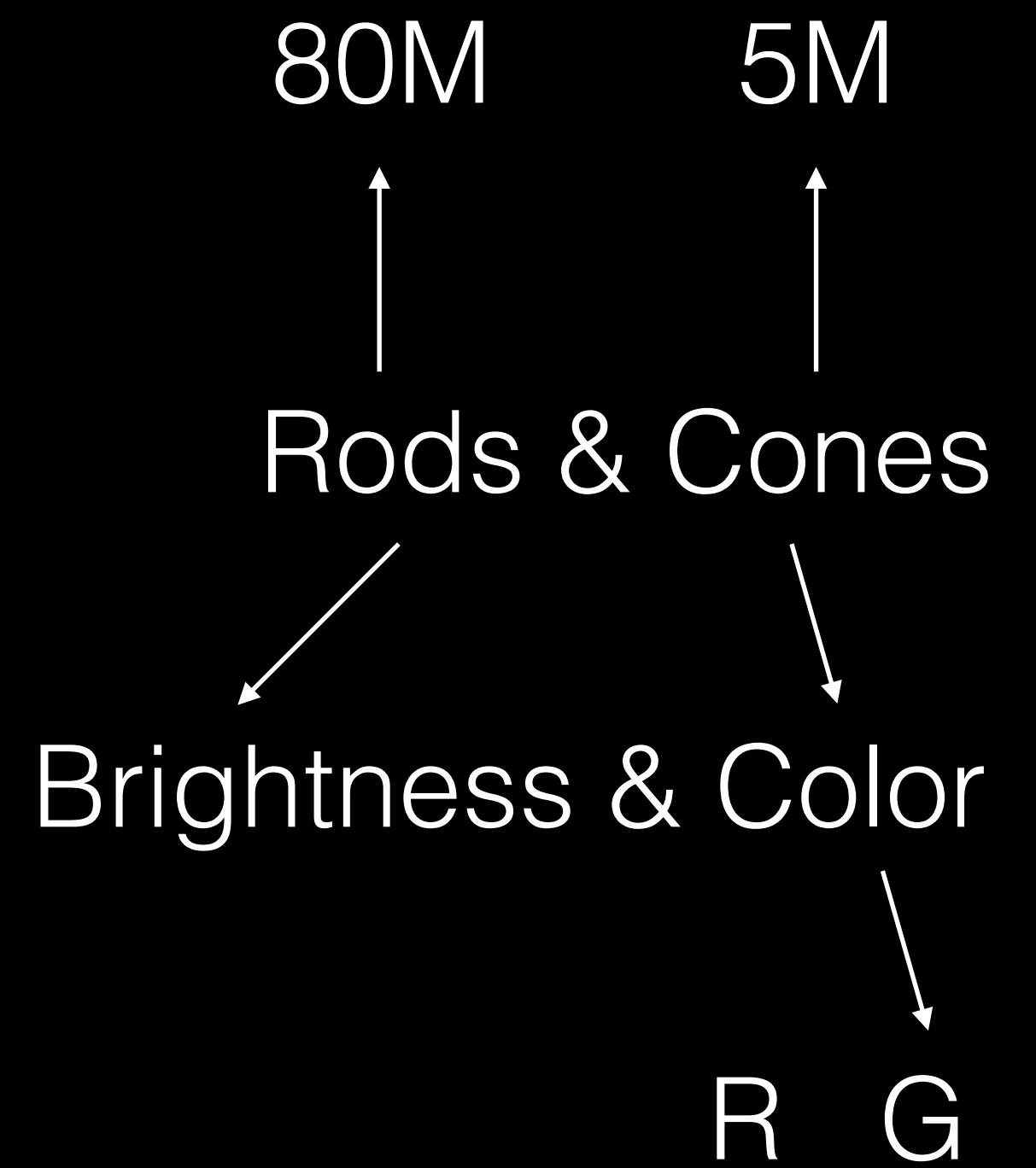


Tritanopia  
(blue-blind)

# COLOR BLINDNESS



# COLOR BLINDNESS



use the <http://colororacle.org/> app to test your plots for color-blindness

TABLE I—COLORS OF MAXIMUM CONTRAST

Color Serial or selection number	General color name	ISCC-NBS centroid number	ISCC-NBS color- name (abbreviation)	Munsell renotation of ISCC-NBS Centroid Color
1	white	263	white	2.5PB 9.5/0.2
2	black	267	black	N 0.8/
3	yellow	82	v.Y	3.3Y 8.0/14.3
4	purple	218	s.P	6.5P 4.3/9.2
5	orange	48	v.O	4.1YR 6.5/15.0
6	light blue	180	v.I.B	2.7PB 7.9/6.0
7	red	11	v.R	5.0R 3.9/15.4
8	buff	90	gy.Y	4.4Y 7.2/3.8
9	gray	265	med.Gy	3.3GY 5.4/0.1
<hr/>				
10	green	139	v.G	3.2G 4.9/11.1
11	purplish pink	247	s.pPk	5.6RP 6.8/9.0
12	blue	178	s.B	2.9PB 4.1/10.4
13	yellowish pink	26	s.yPk	8.4R 7.0/9.5
14	violet	207	s.V	0.2P 3.7/10.1
15	orange yellow	66	v.OY	8.6YR 7.3/15.2
16	purplish red	255	s.pR	7.3RP 4.4/11.4
17	greenish yellow	97	v.gY	9.1Y 8.2/12.0
18	reddish brown	40	s.rBr	0.3YR 3.1/9.9
19	yellow green	115	v.YG	5.4GY 6.8/11.2
20	yellowish brown	75	deep yBr	8.8YR 3.1/5.0
21	reddish orange	34	v.rO	9.8R 5.4/14.5
22	olive green	126	d.OIG	8.0GY 2.2/3.6

Kelly 1965 designed a list of 22 maximally contrasting colors for colorblind compliance (the “Kelly colors”):

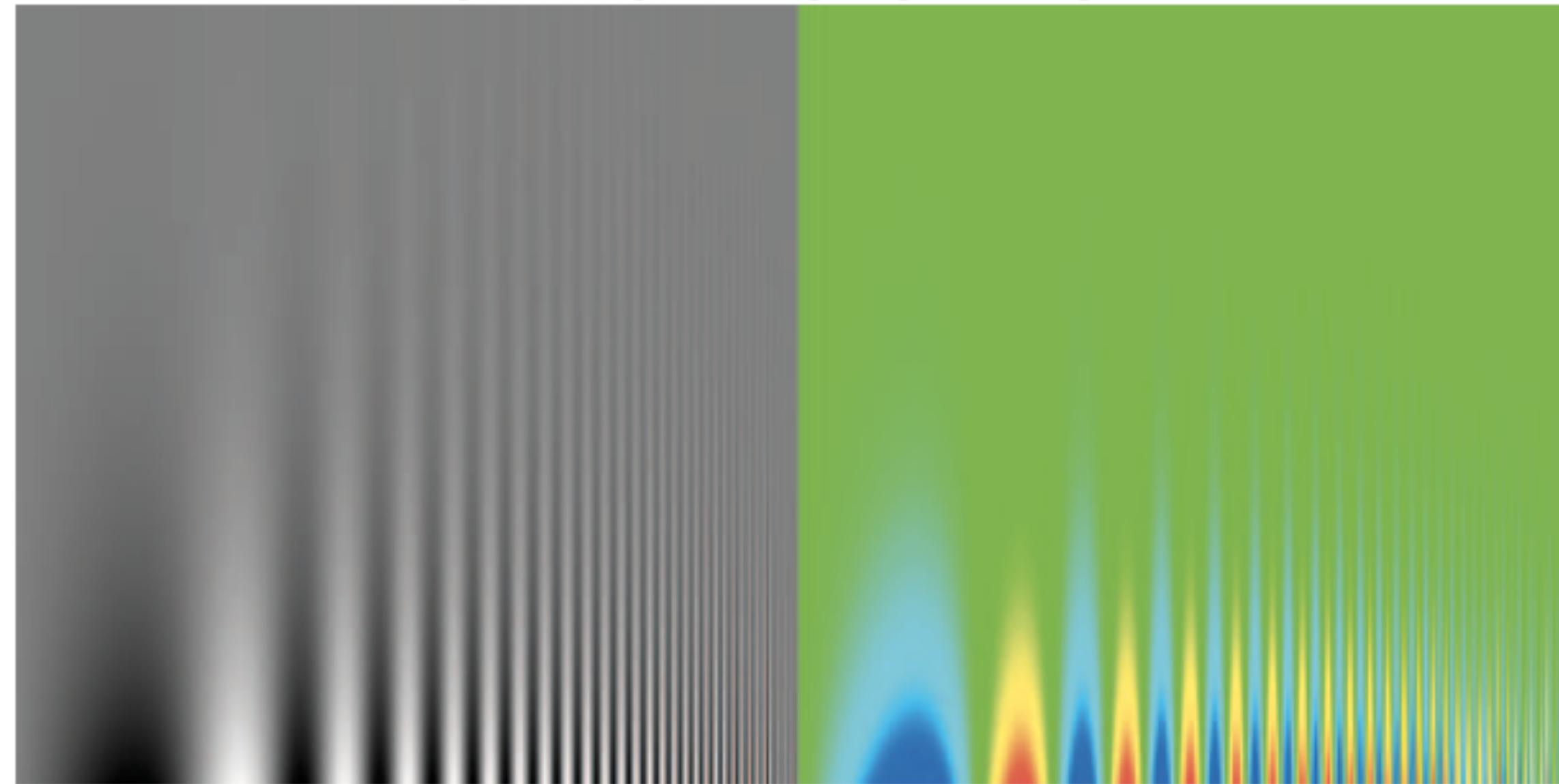
[http://www.iscc.org/pdf/PC54\\_1724\\_001.pdf](http://www.iscc.org/pdf/PC54_1724_001.pdf)

```
"#023fa5", "#7d87b9", "#bec1d4", "#d6bcc0", "#bb7784", "#8e063b", "#4a6fe3", "#8595e1",
"#b5bbe3", "#e6afb9", "#e07b91", "#d33f6a", "#11c638", "#8dd593", "#c6dec7", "#ead3c6",
"#f0b98d", "#ef9708", "#0fcfc0", "#9cded6", "#d5eaе7", "#f3e1eb", "#f6c4e1", "#f79cd4"
```

# GOOD AND BAD COLOR SCHEMES

## 5. Detail is actually harder to see in a rainbow.

The logic that it is easier to see detail in a range when you add colors seems to make sense, but in reality, more detail can be seen in a single hue image with a high brightness range.



(source)

<http://blog.visual.ly/rainbow-color-scales/>

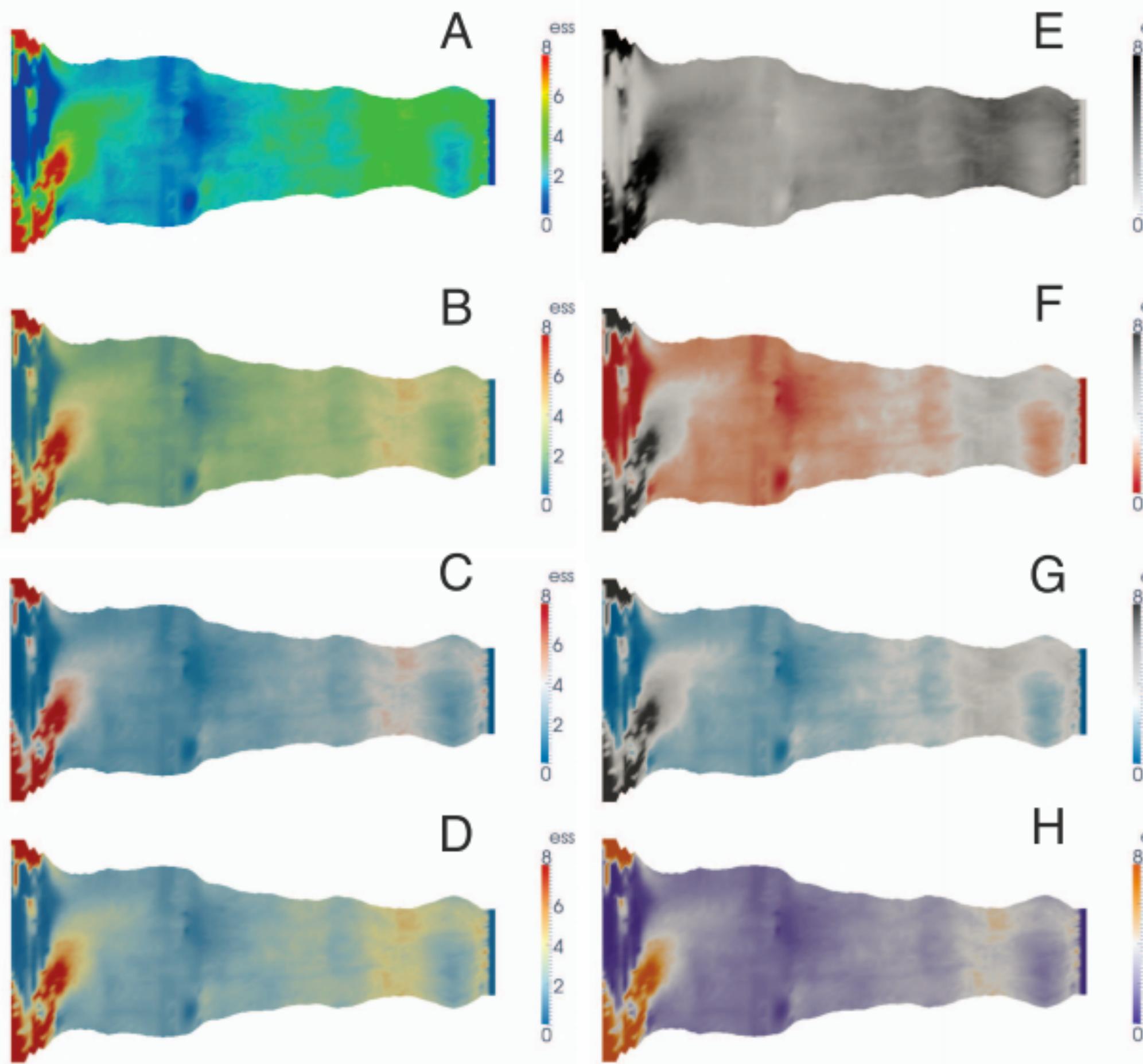


Fig. 4. Color schemes presented during the qualitative user study. The rainbow scheme (A) was preferred by most since it is what they are accustomed to viewing. The next most popular scheme was the red-black diverging scale (F). The grayscale image (E) was unanimously disliked since participants assume black-and-white images to be raw radiological data, while color indicates that the data has been processed or simulated.

very real  
consequences  
of the choice  
of color maps  
(Borkin et al. 2011)

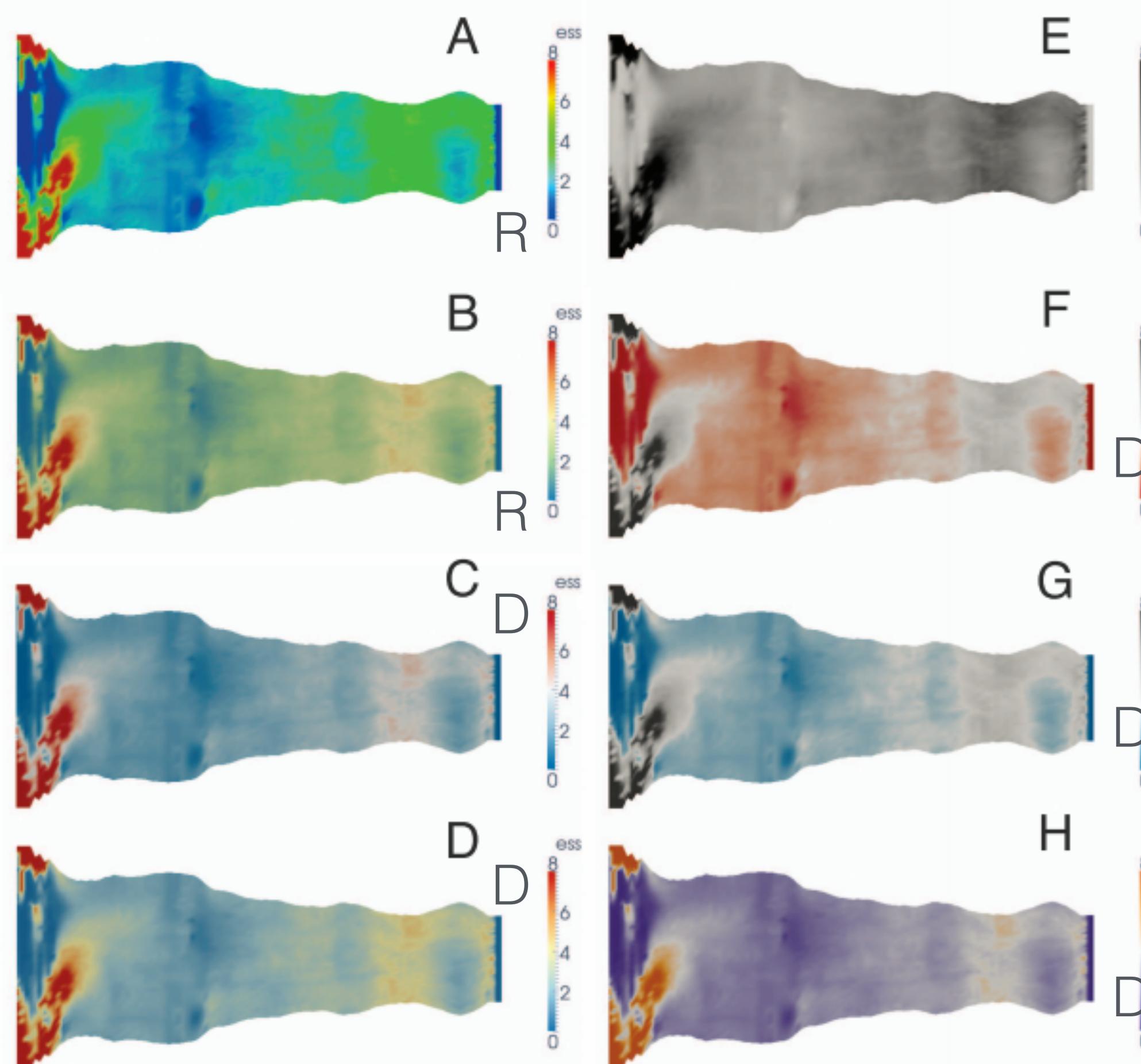


Fig. 4. Color schemes presented during the qualitative user study. The rainbow scheme (A) was preferred by most since it is what they are accustomed to viewing. The next most popular scheme was the red-black diverging scale (F). The grayscale image (E) was unanimously disliked since participants assume black-and-white images to be raw radiological data, while color indicates that the data has been processed or simulated.

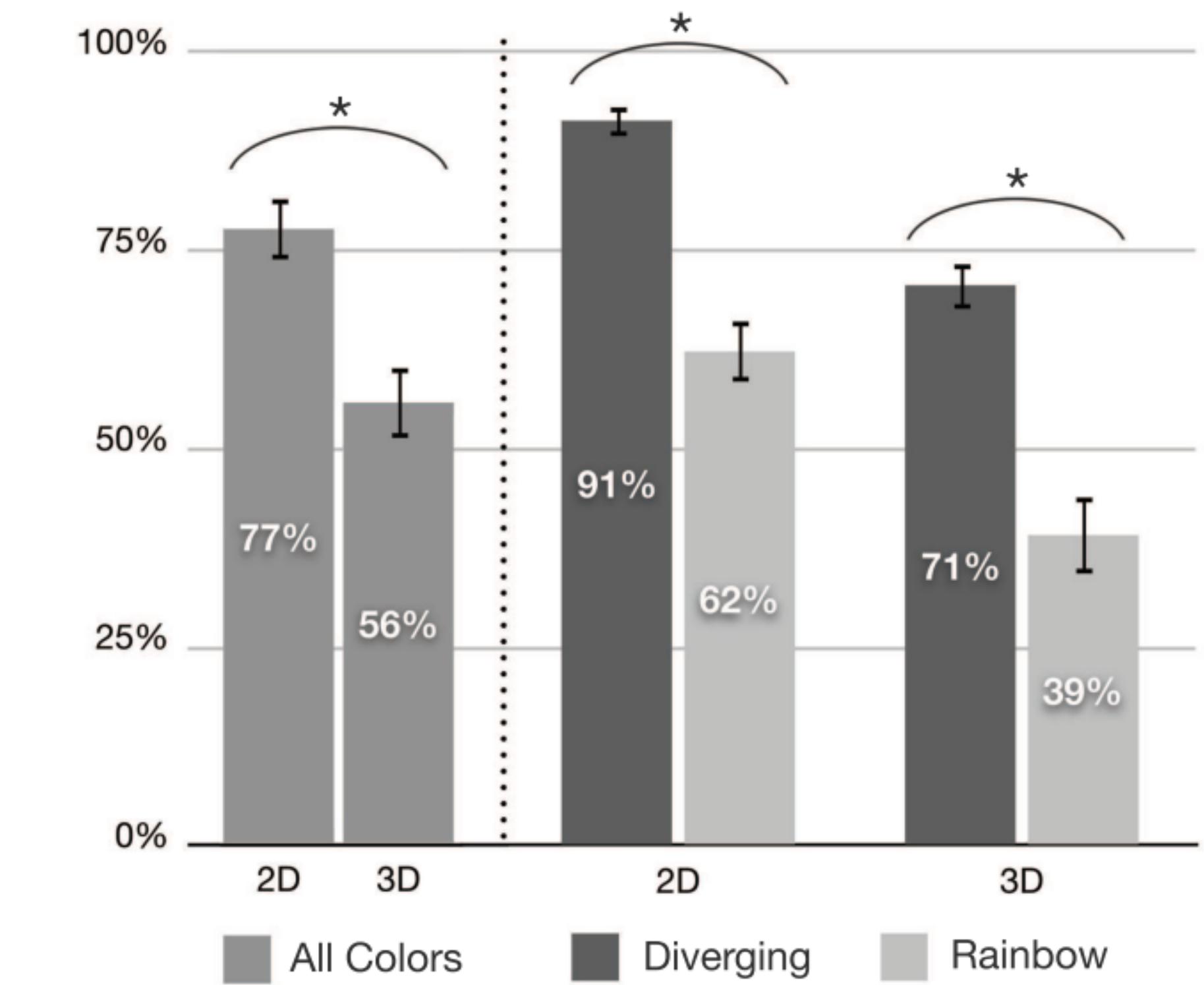
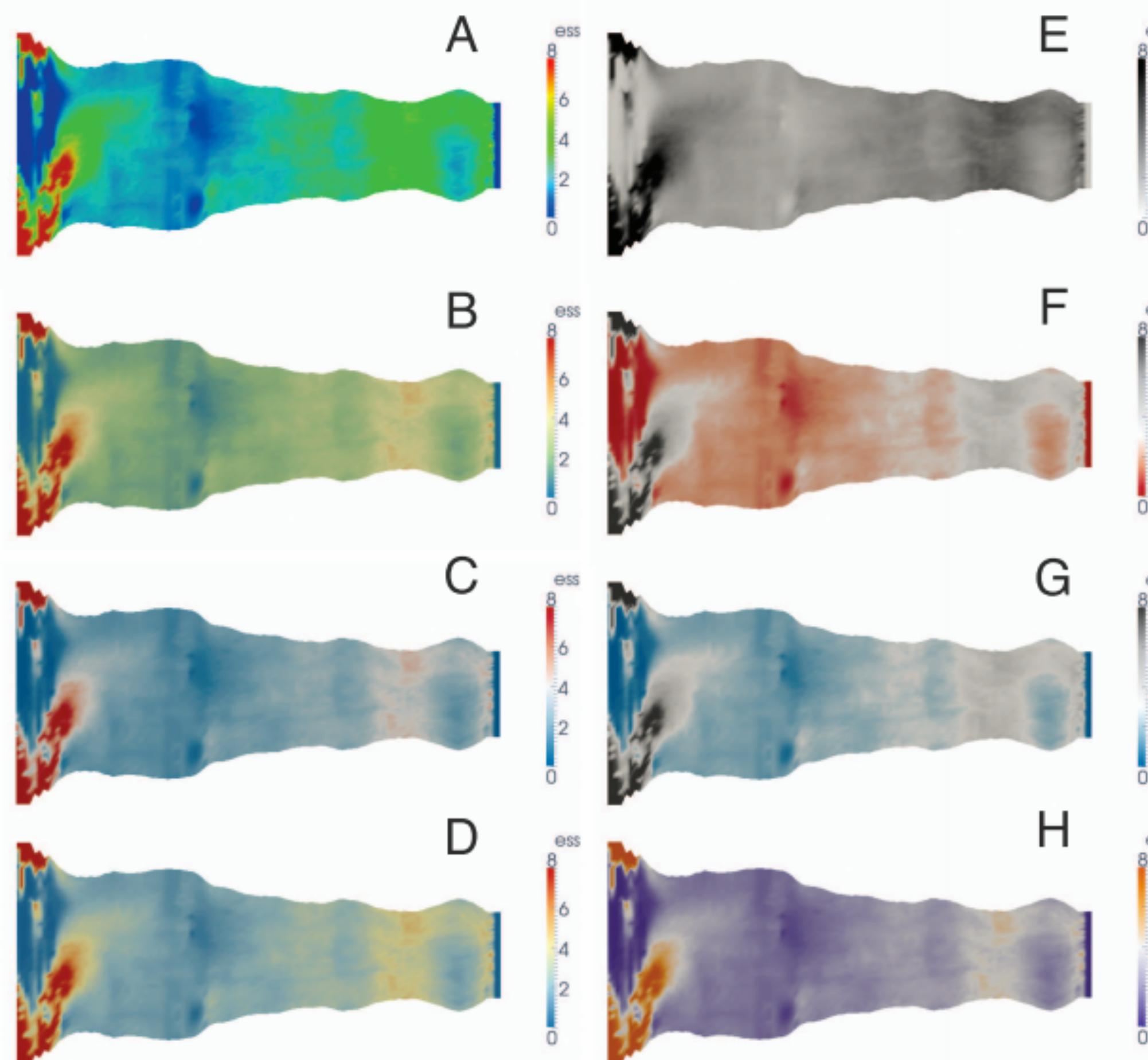
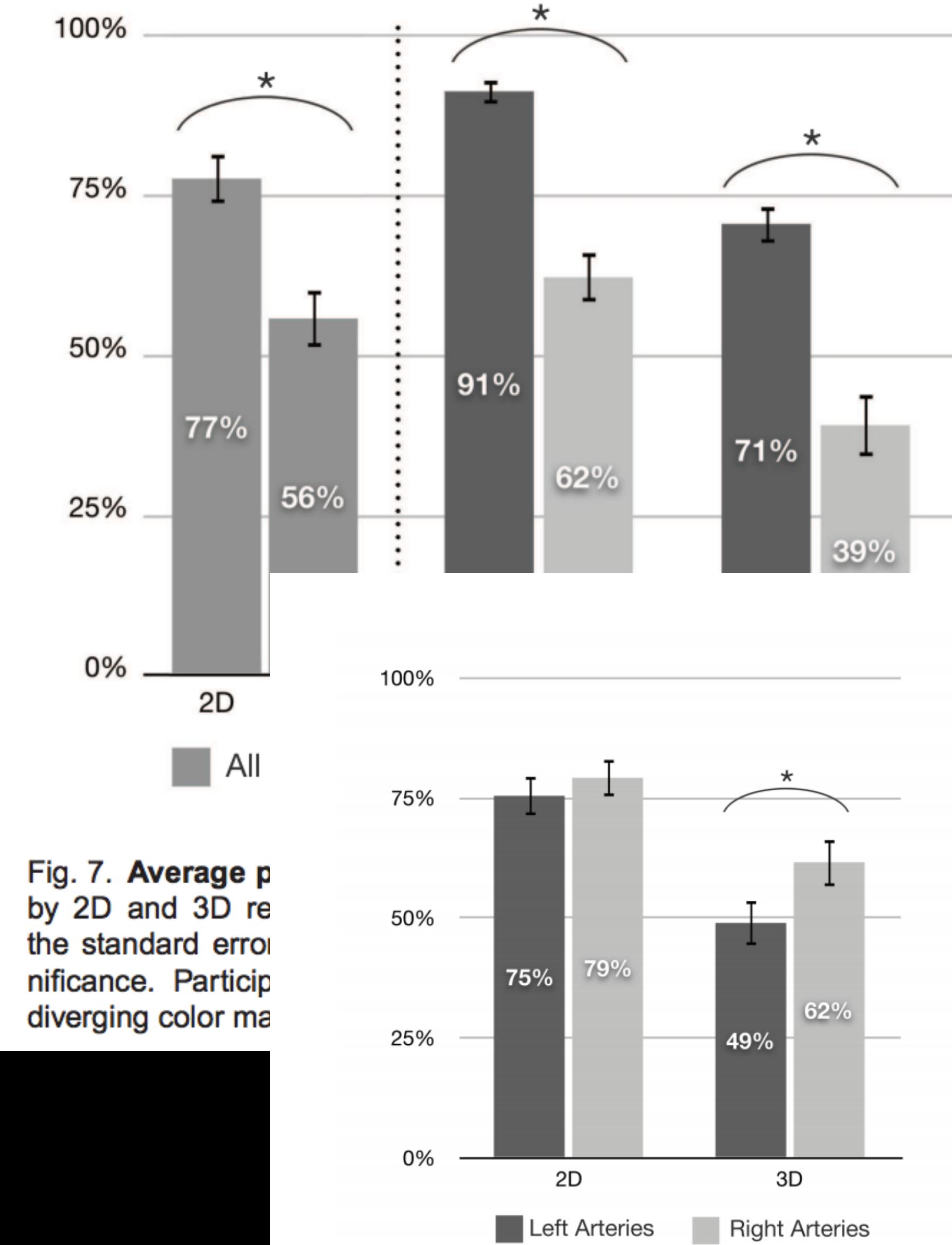


Fig. 7. Average percent of low ESS regions identified broken down by 2D and 3D representation, and color. Error bars correspond to the standard error and the asterisks indicate results of statistical significance. Participants were more accurate in 2D and when using the diverging color map.



**Fig. 4.** Color schemes presented during the qualitative user study. The rainbow scheme (A) was preferred by most since it is what they are accustomed to viewing. The next most popular scheme was the red-black diverging scale (F). The grayscale image (E) was unanimously disliked since participants assume black-and-white images to be raw radiological data, while color indicates that the data has been processed or simulated.



**Fig. 7. Average percent of low ESS regions identified** broken down by 2D and 3D representation, and the standard error and asterisks indicate statistical significance. Participants were asked to identify regions using diverging color maps.

**Fig. 8. Average percent of low ESS regions identified** broken down by 2D and 3D representation, and left and right artery systems. Error bars correspond to the standard error and the asterisks indicate results of statistical significance. In 3D, users were less accurate identifying regions in the most complex data sets (i.e., left artery systems). Whereas in 2D, performance was the same regardless of task complexity.

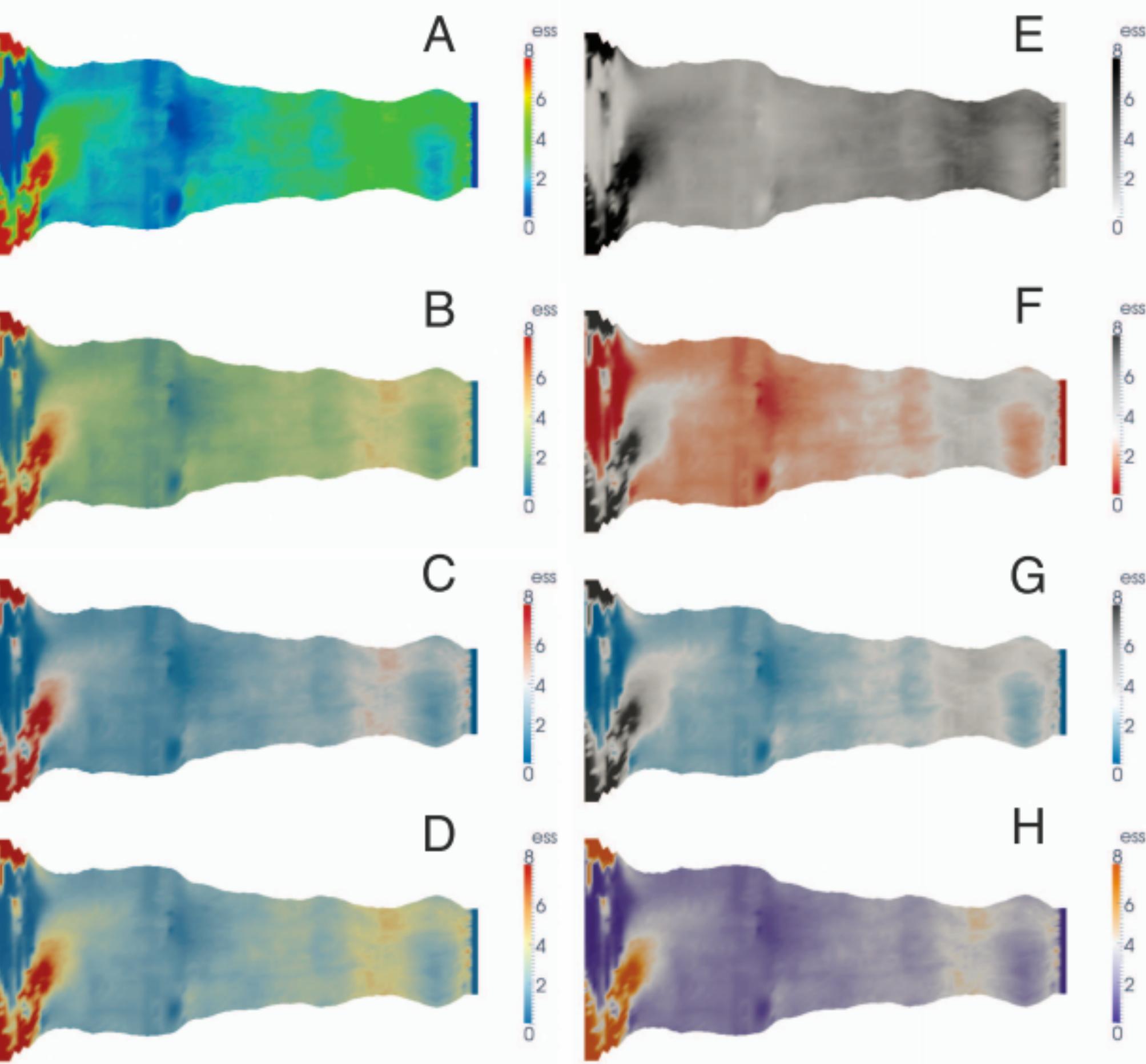
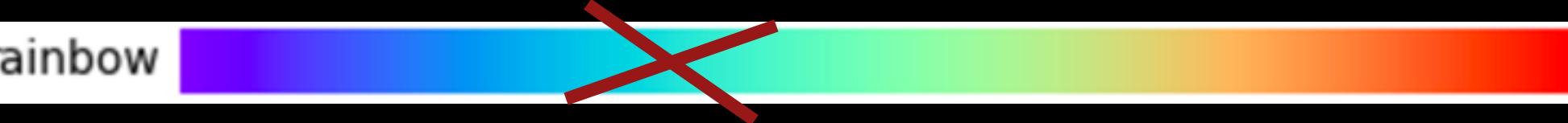
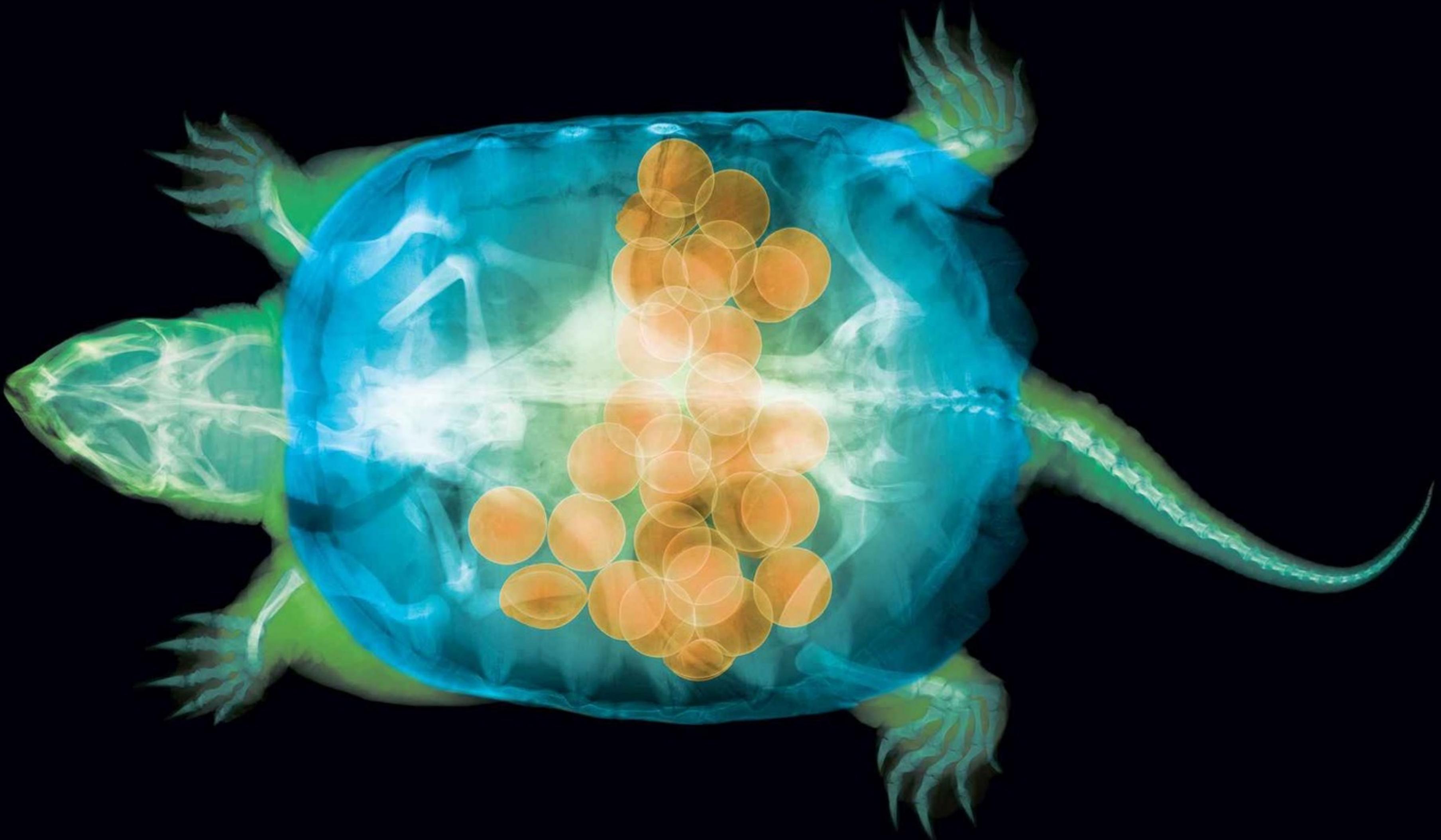


Fig. 4. Color schemes presented during the qualitative user study. The rainbow scheme (A) was preferred by most since it is what they are accustomed to viewing. The next most popular scheme was the red-black diverging scale (F). The grayscale image (E) was unanimously disliked since participants assume black-and-white images to be raw radiological data, while color indicates that the data has been processed or simulated.

- 1) Never use Rainbow  

- 2) Use *diverging* color maps for data where the center value is “special” (e.g. 0, with data ranging from positive to negative. In a diverging cm the center of the range is white or black  

- 3) Choose a *perceptually uniform* color map for continuous data that does not have a focal point (a special point inside the range)  

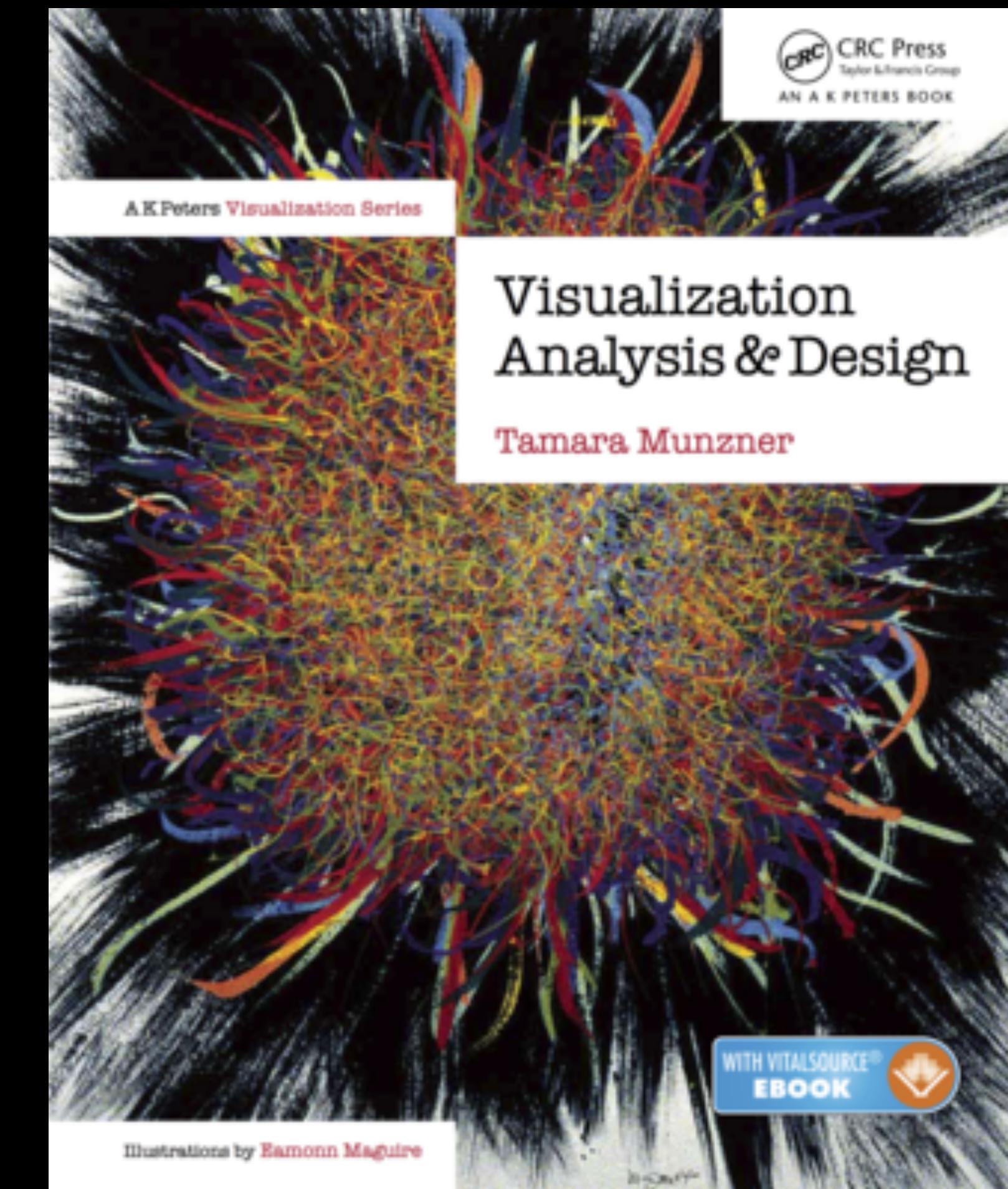
- 4) Choose a sequential cm if your data range represents a progression (reflects some intensity property of the data)  

<http://www.popsci.com/2015-vizzies-science-visualizations-video-images?image=0>

# Rules of thumb for a good visualization

(largely based on  
Tamara Munzner  
Chap 6)



# Function first, Form next

T. Munzner refers to this as “no unjustified beauty”

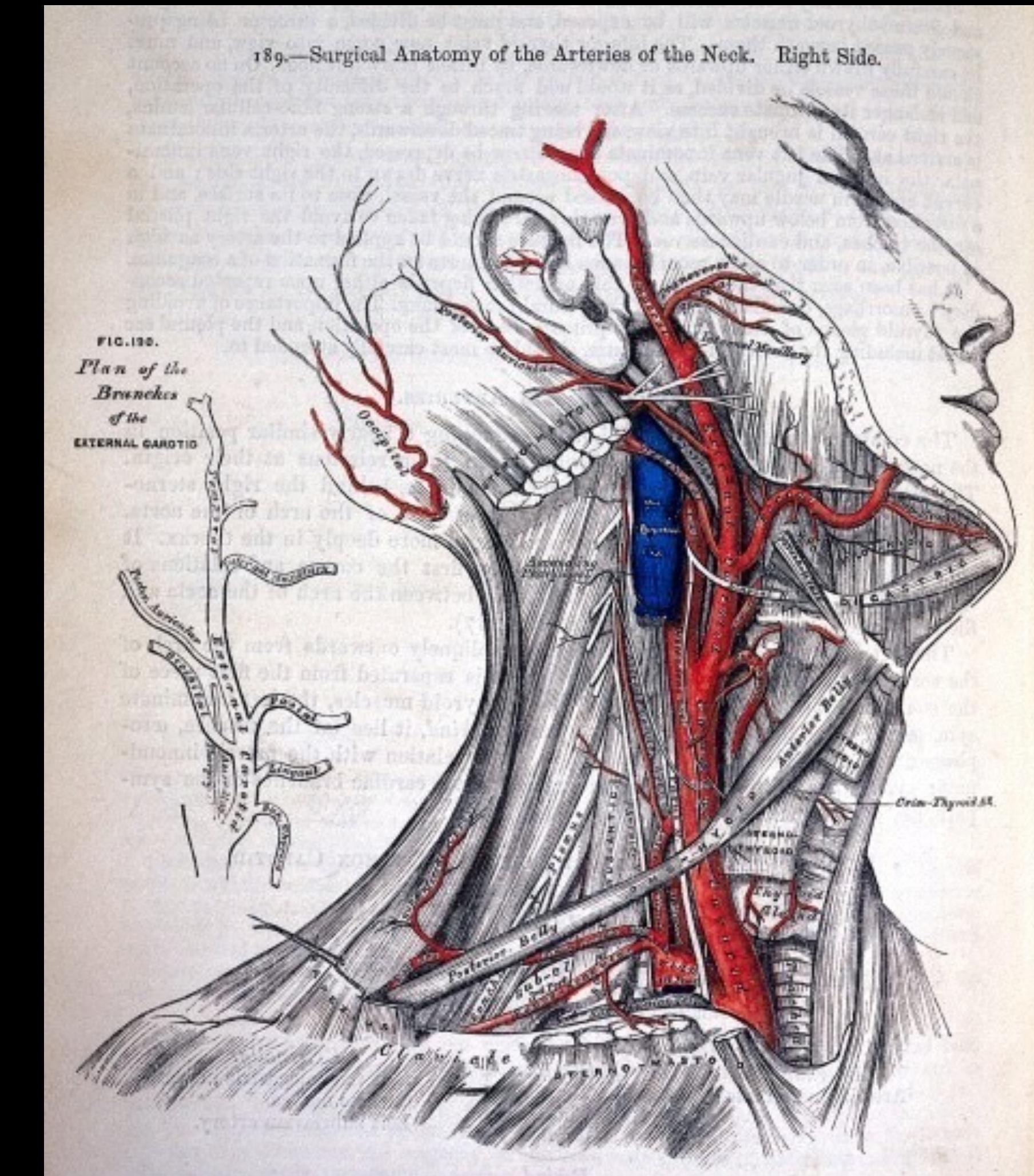
basically  
AVOID CLUTTER

Get it right in Black & White

no unjustified color

consider designing your plot in BW first

*functional* use of colors



Maureen Stone

# *functional* use of colors



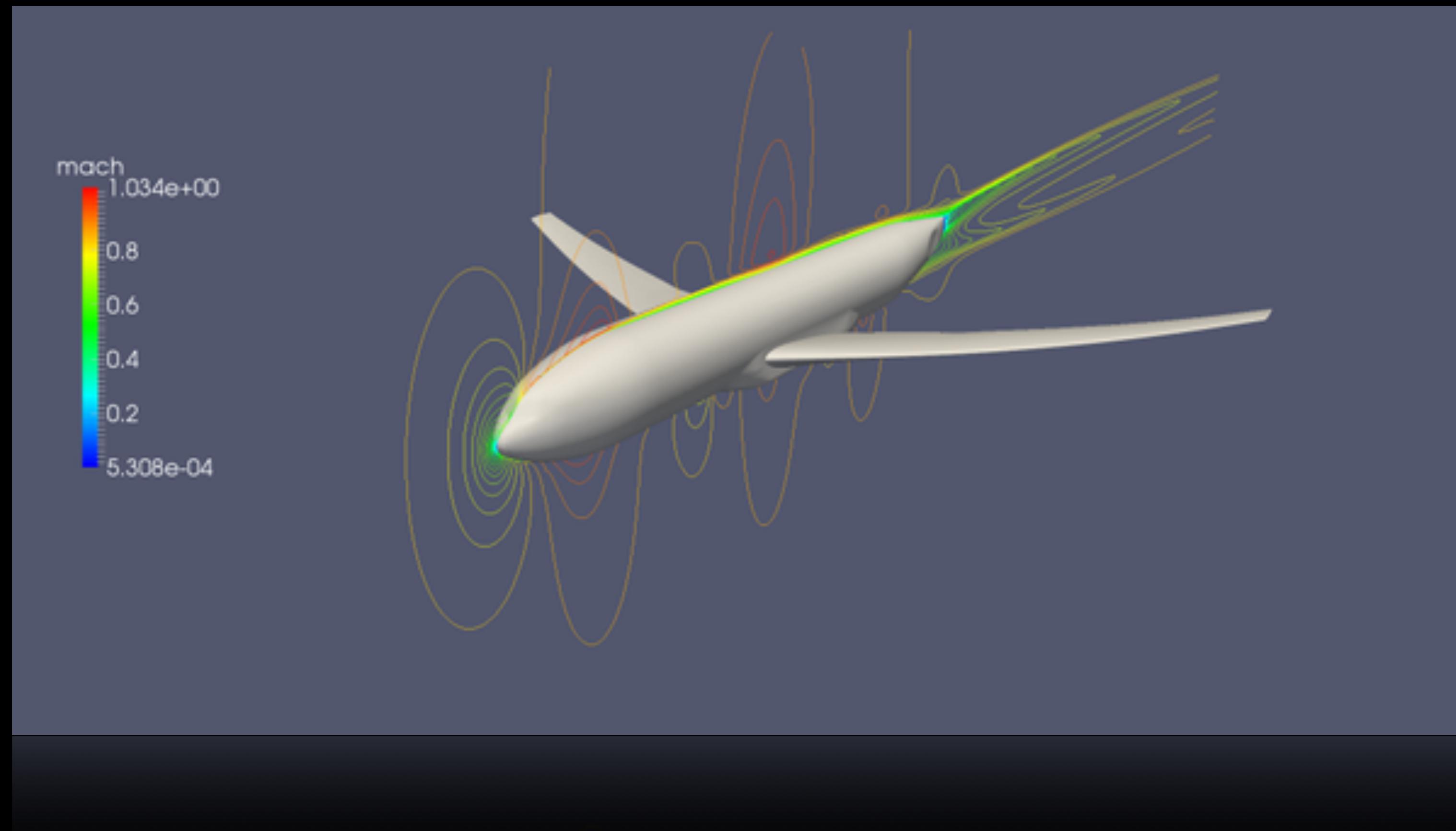
<http://www.columbia.edu/~brennan/subway/SubDia.pdf>

# No Unjustified 3D

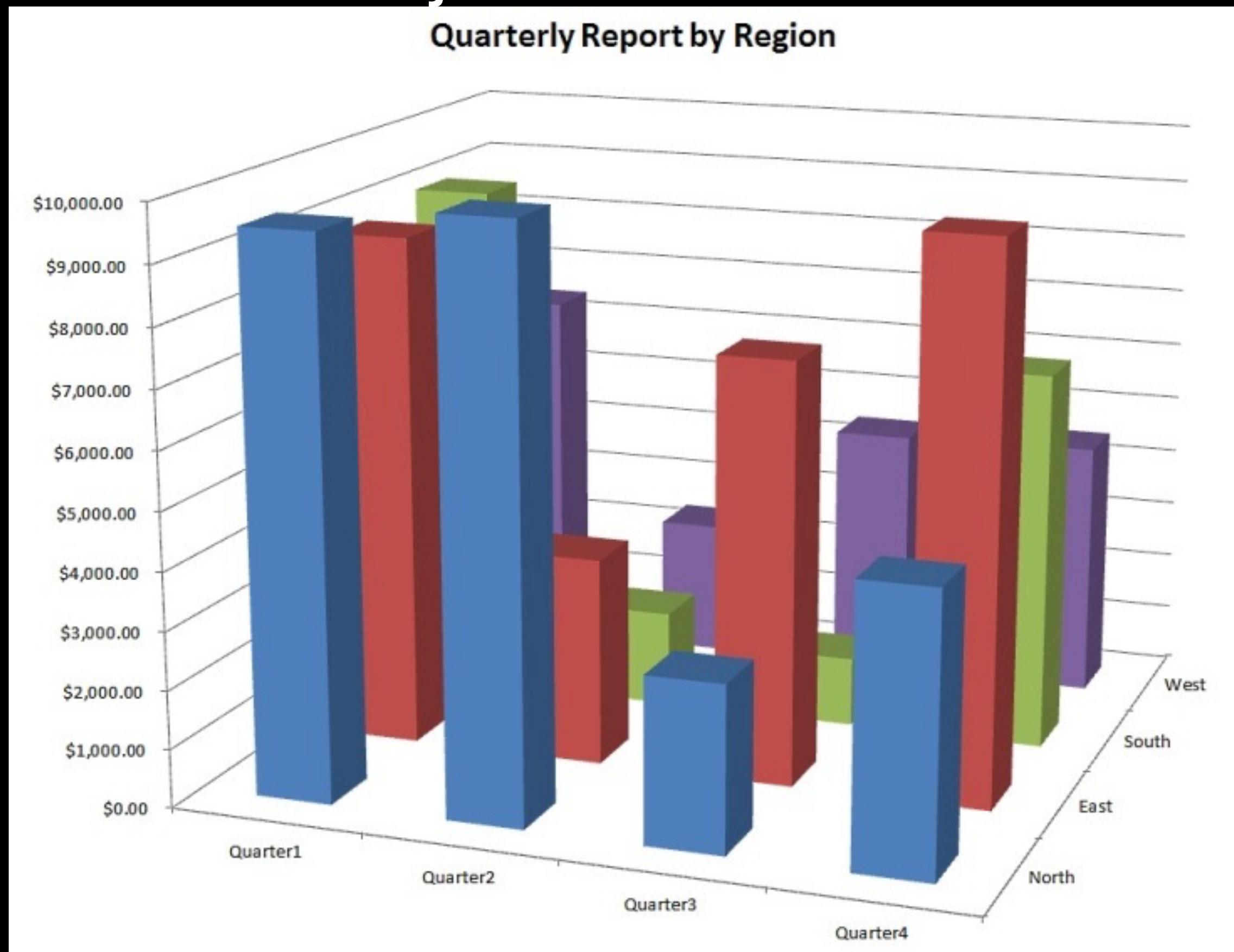
use 3D only if your 3rd dimension cannot be reduced.

Alternatives:

color,  
small multiples,  
animation

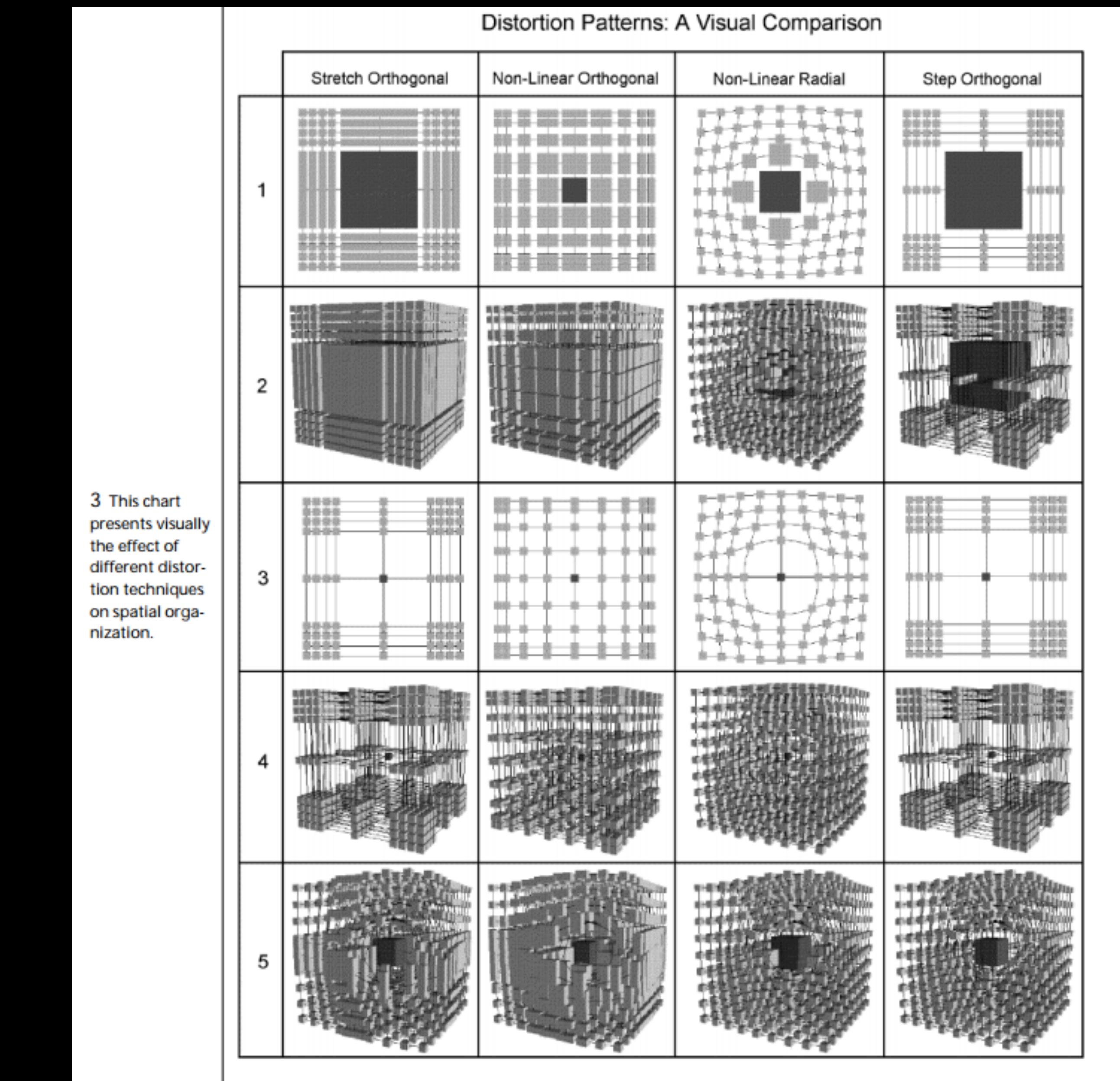


# unjustified 3D



NEVER THIS!  
issues:  
obstruction,  
clutter,  
deformation

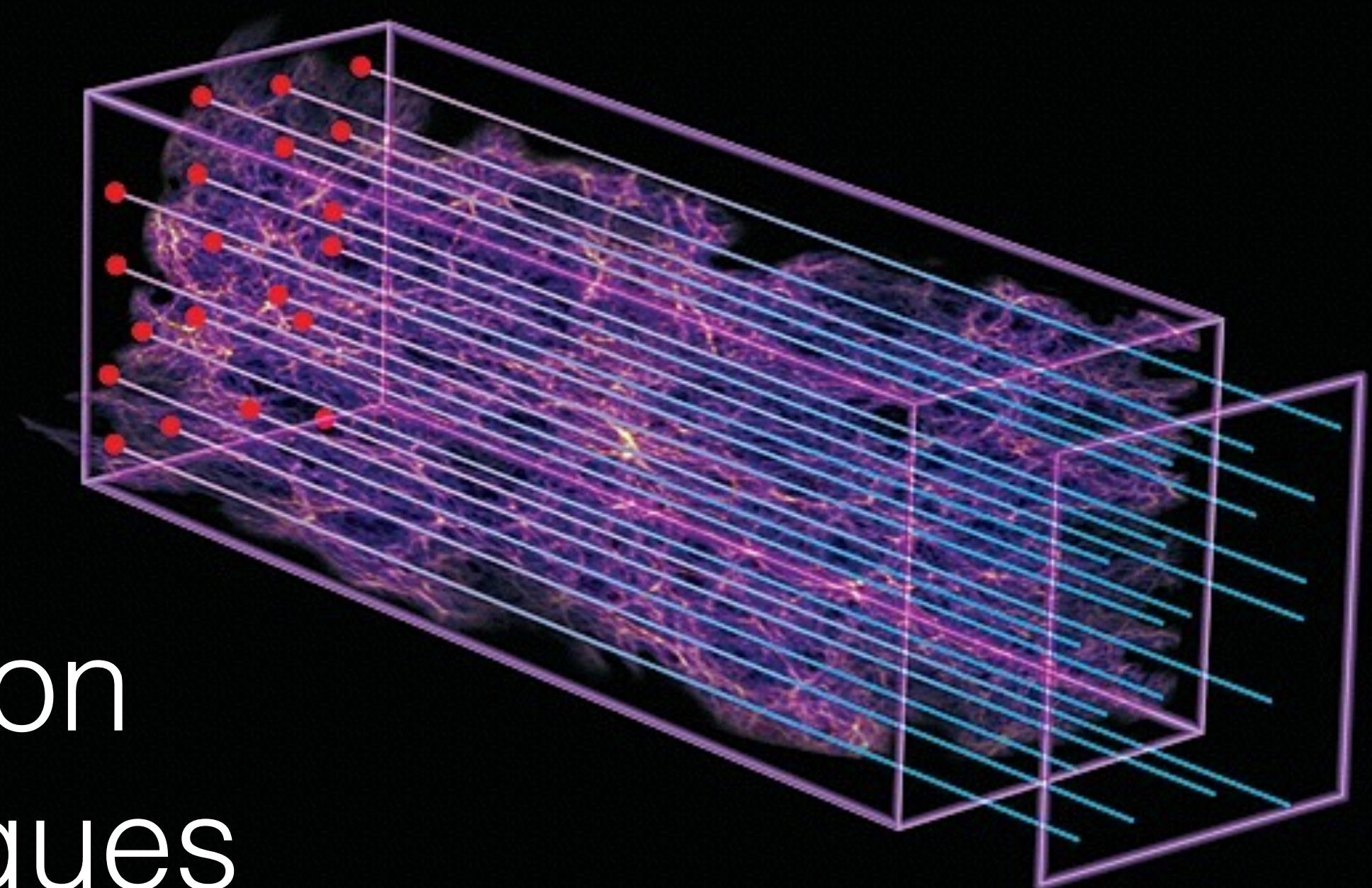
# distortion techniques

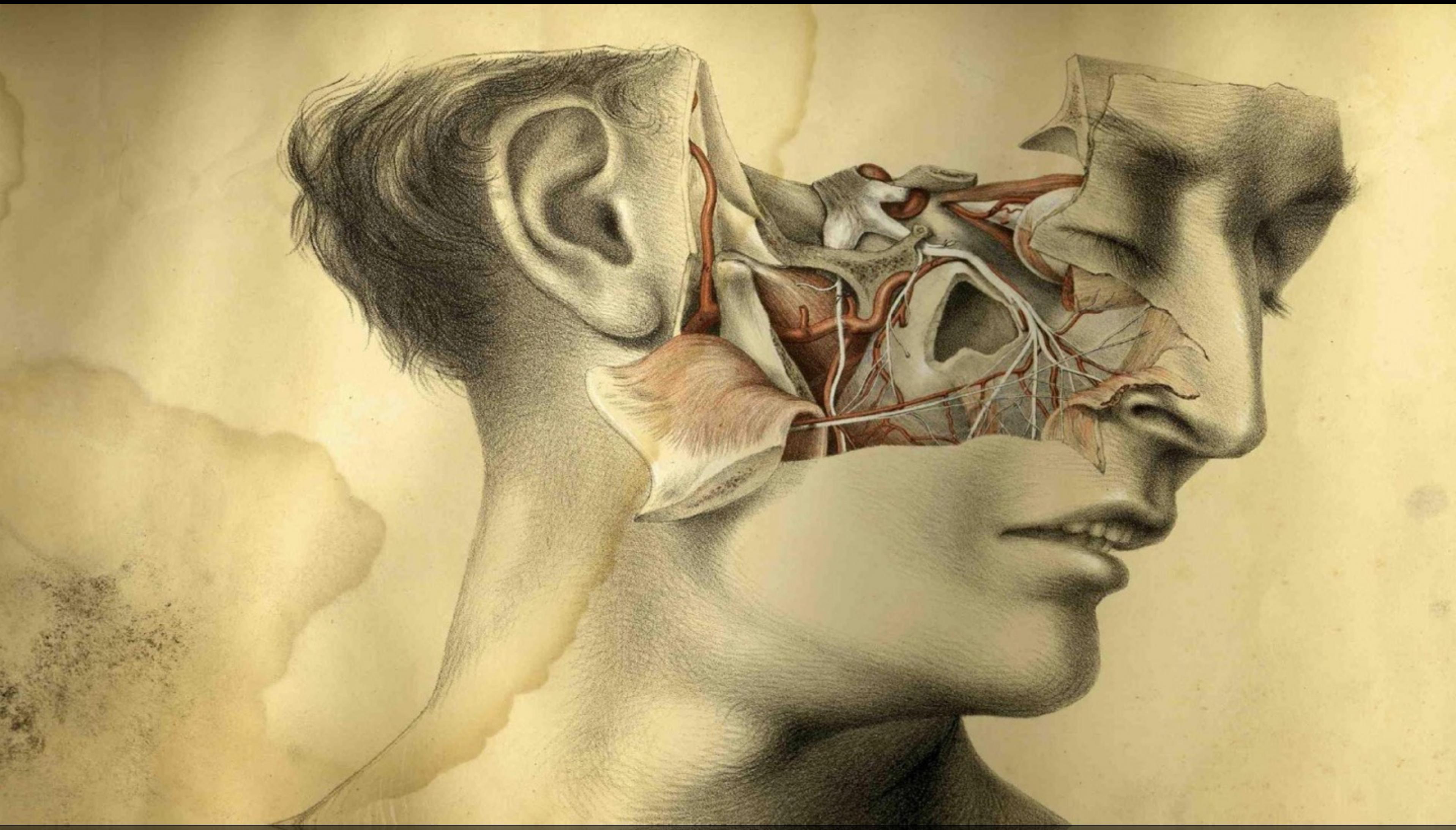


Extending Distortion Viewing Techniques from 2D to 3D Data.  
Carpendale et al. CG&A 17(4):42-51, July 1997

<https://www.sdss3.org/press/lyabao.php>

distortion  
techniques





distortion  
techniques

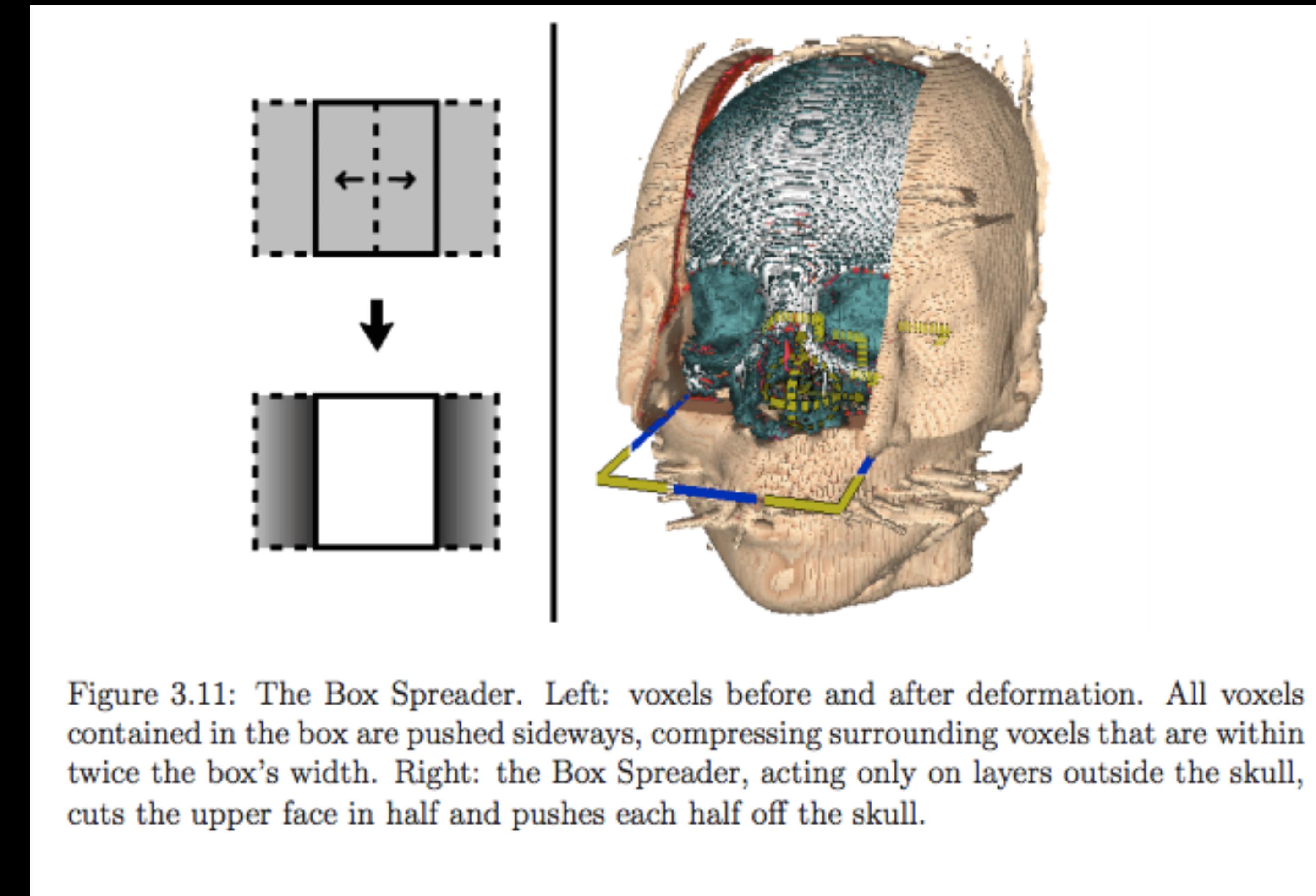
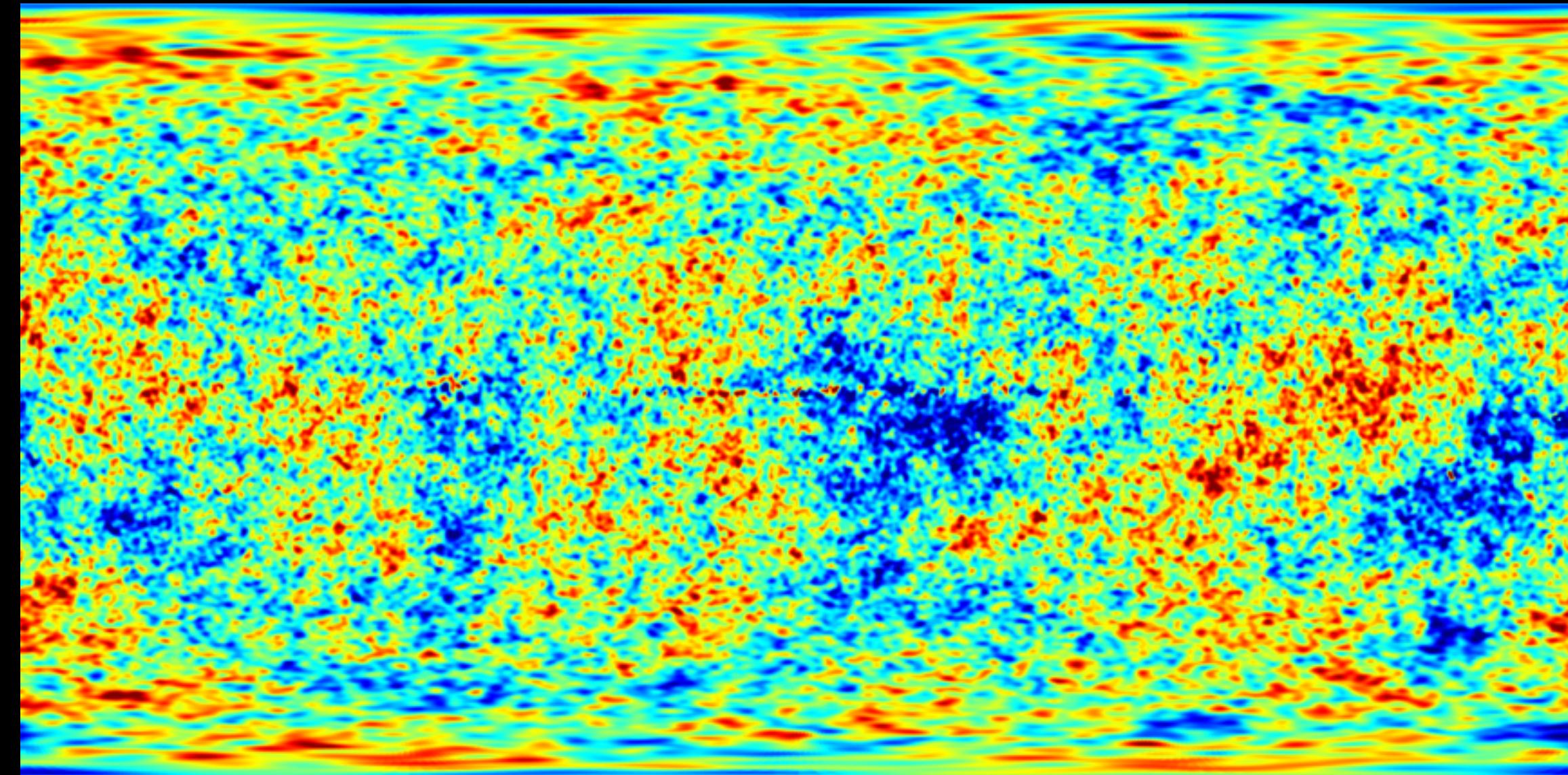
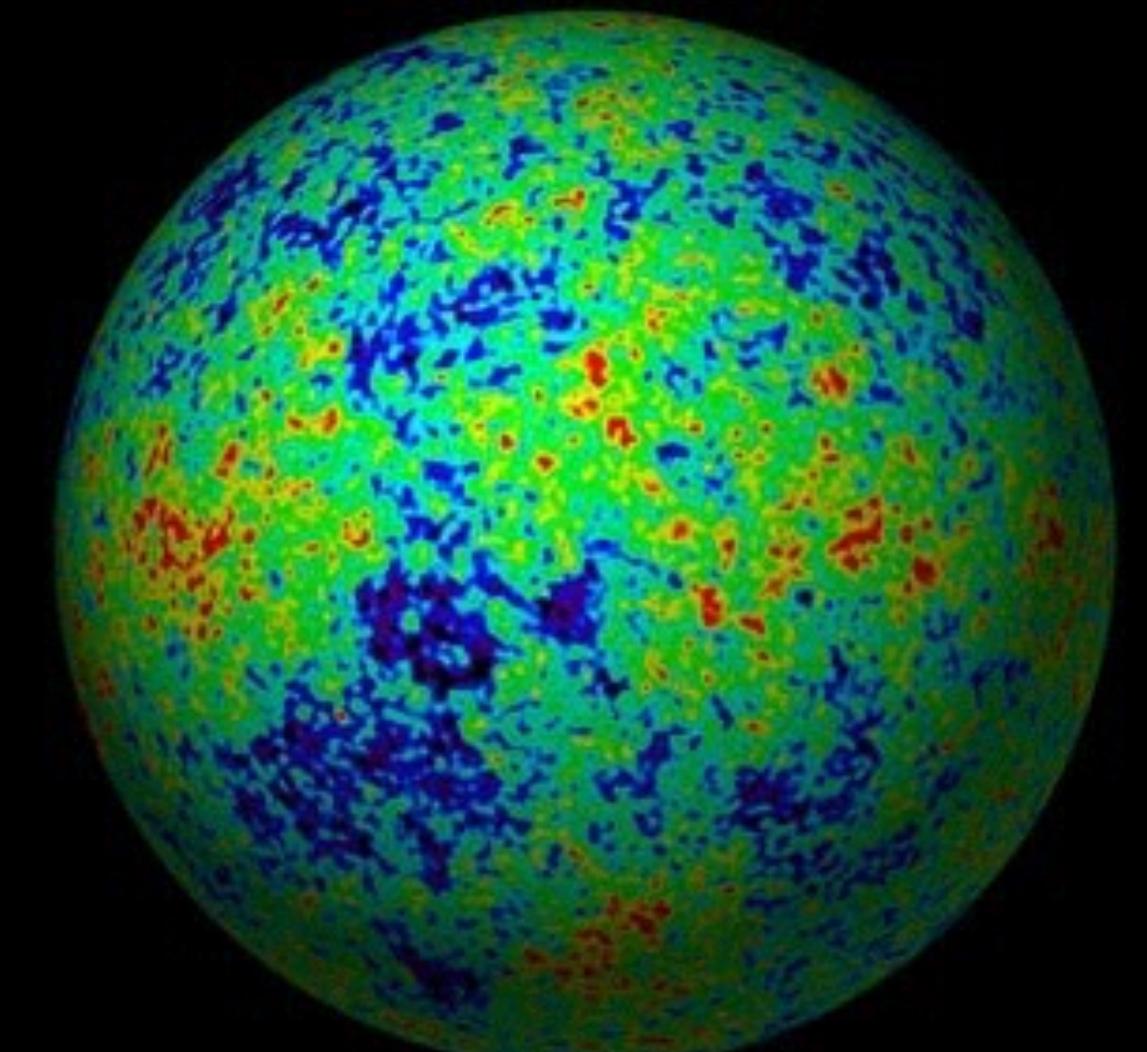


Figure 3.11: The Box Spreader. Left: voxels before and after deformation. All voxels contained in the box are pushed sideways, compressing surrounding voxels that are within twice the box's width. Right: the Box Spreader, acting only on layers outside the skull, cuts the upper face in half and pushes each half off the skull.

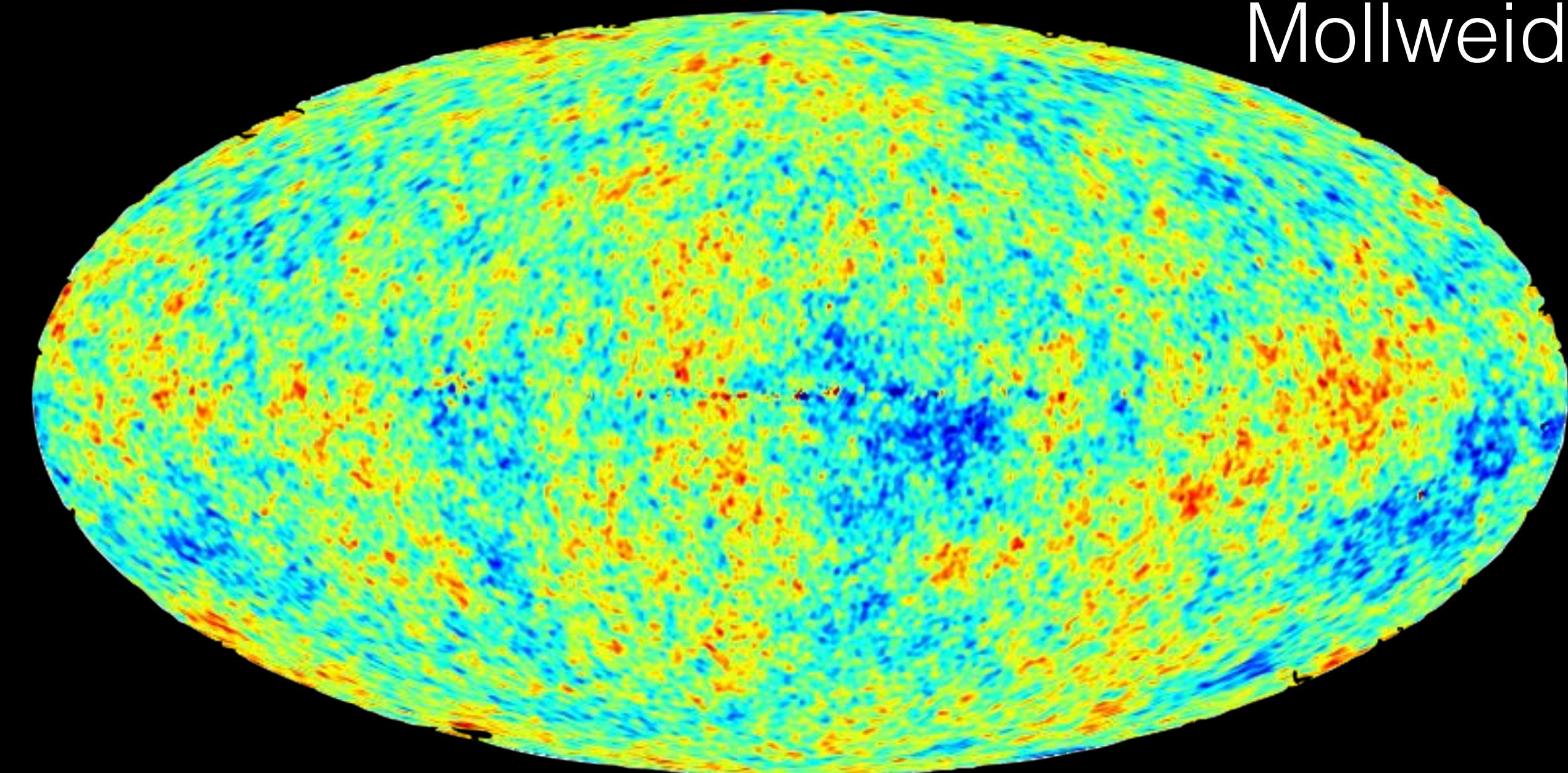
# distortion techniques

An Investigation of Issues and Techniques in  
Highly Interactive Computational Visualization  
Michael John McGuffin

# Mercator



distortion  
techniques



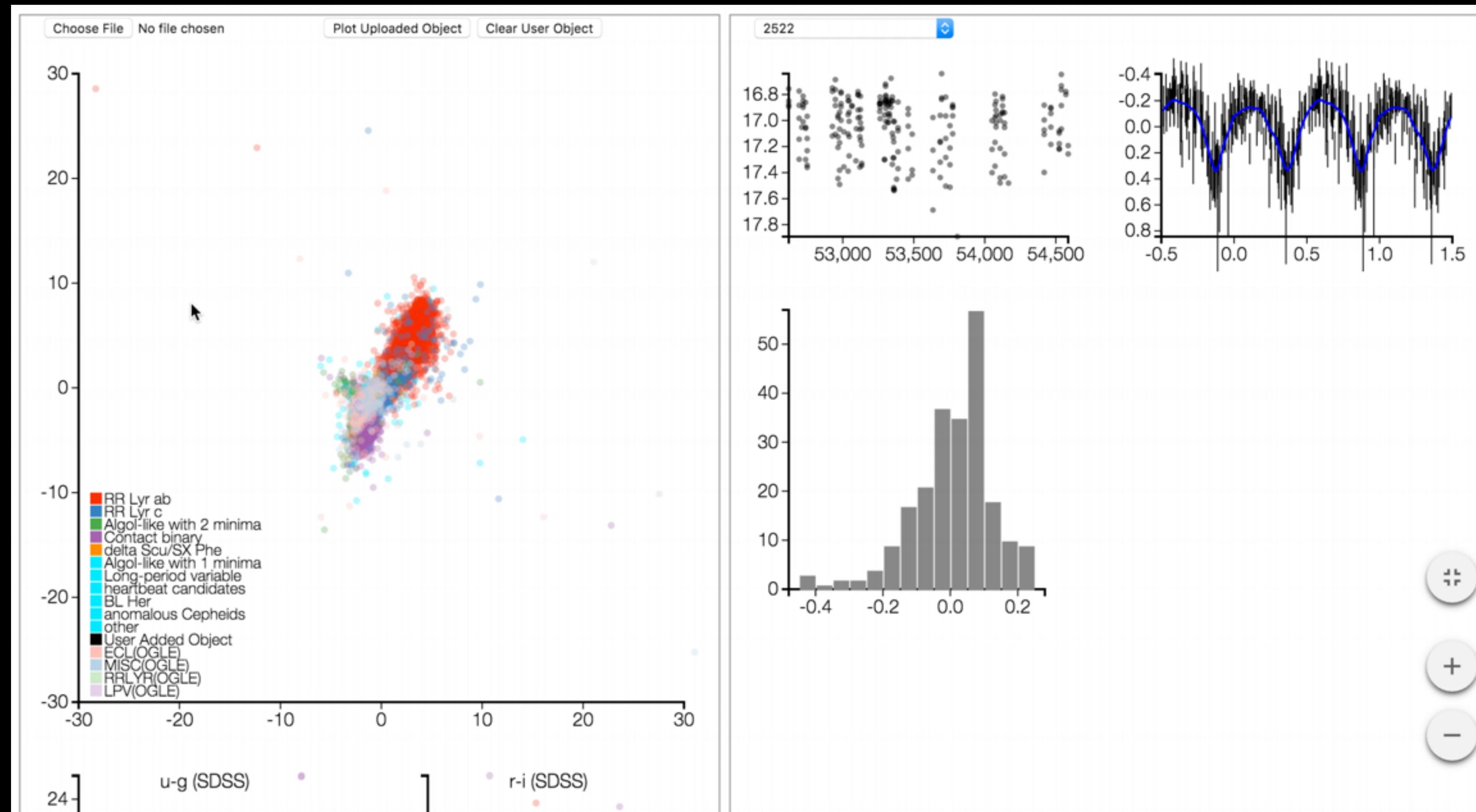
Hobo-Dyer

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_map\\_projections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_map_projections)

Mollweide

# Visualizing highly dimensional data: consider animation if you can!

animation



summary viz

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgO0JU\\_I5-s&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgO0JU_I5-s&feature=youtu.be)

Also:

No Unjustified 2D!

consider not plotting when you do not  
need a plot!

 **Chris Prince**  
@Superdupercrisp

**Follow**

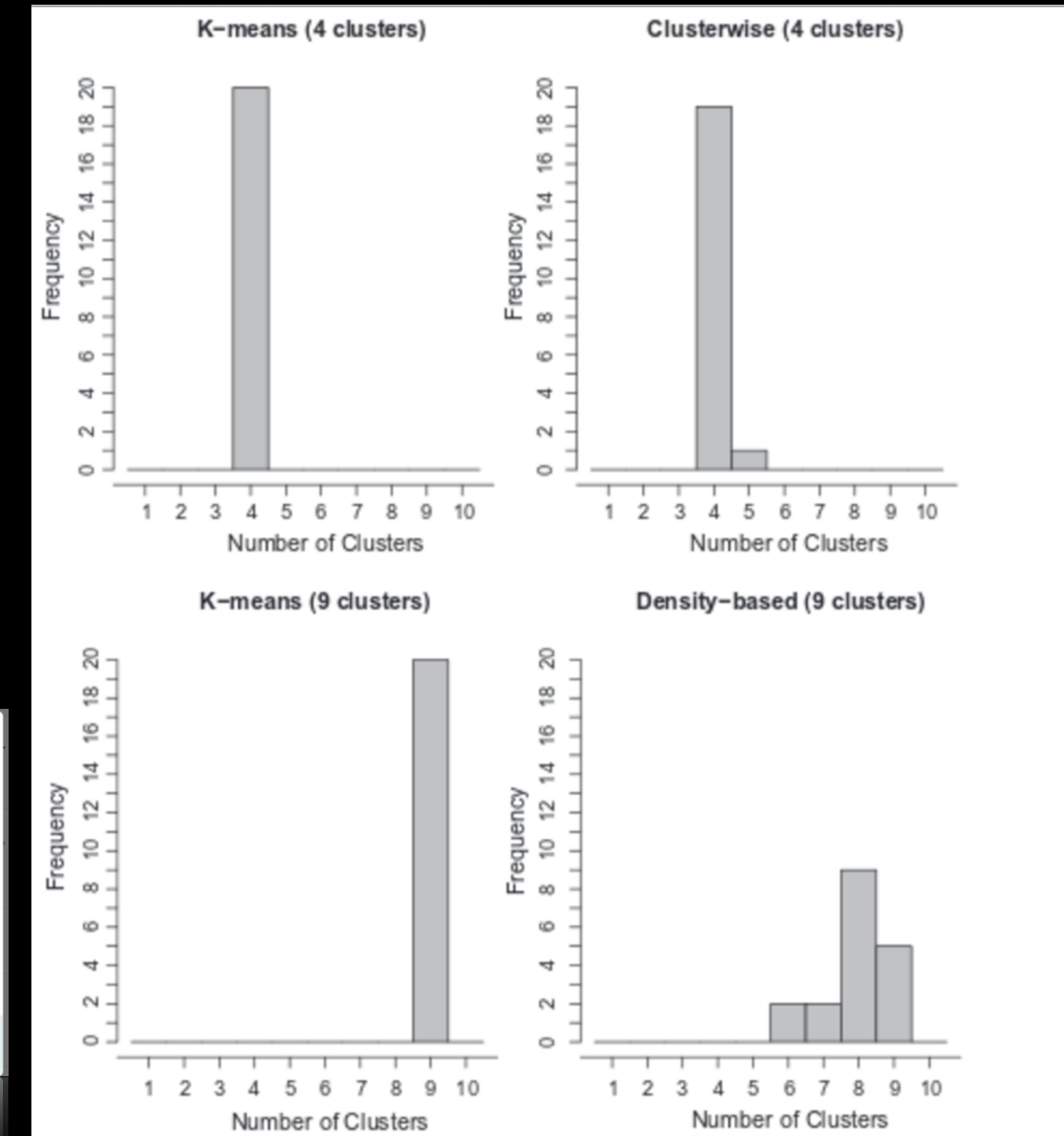
@fedhere "no unjustified 2-d"; this was in a journal article:  
[pbs.twimg.com/media/CSGohYuW...](http://pbs.twimg.com/media/CSGohYuW...)

RETWEET 1    LIKE 1

9:31 AM - 16 Nov 2015

Reply to @Superdupercrisp

36 replies 6 retweets 6 likes



# Eyes over Memory

no unjustified animation

# Eyes over Memory



in some cases differences are better seen side-by-side

# Eyes over Memory



in some cases differences are better seen side-by-side

# Interactivity

interactive visualization rules of thumb:  
Resolution over immersion  
Details on demand  
Avoid latency

# Interactivity

## Reduction

use animation/interactivity to allow switching between a comprehensive global view and a detailed reducted view

<http://cosmo.nyu.edu/~fb55/vizs/astrotrend/arxiv2.html>

*I am primarily an artist:  
I use empathy and sensibility  
to reach and interest people*



Jer Thorp



## ***Key Concepts:***

Be thoughtful and make sure your visualizations are (in this order):

honest

clear

convincing

beautiful

## **Resources:**

Edwaed tufte (anything)

Tamara Munzner

Visualization Analysis & Design, 2014

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks/minicourse14/vad15london.pdf>

color maps [http://](http://www.kennethmoreland.com/color-maps/)

[www.kennethmoreland.com/color-maps/](http://www.kennethmoreland.com/color-maps/)

Kelly colors [http://www.iscc.org/pdf/](http://www.iscc.org/pdf/PC54_1724_001.pdf)  
[PC54\\_1724\\_001.pdf](http://www.iscc.org/pdf/PC54_1724_001.pdf)

Point, Line, and Plane, Wassily Kandinsky, 1926

7 classical vis papers

<http://fellinlovewithdata.com/guides/7-classic-foundational-vis-papers>

7 Great Visualizations from History

<http://data-informed.com/7-great-visualizations-history/>

Six Lessons from the Bauhaus: Masters of the Persuasive Graphic

<http://blog.visual.ly/six-lessons-from-the-bauhaus-masters-of-the-persuasive-graphic/>