Visualization
Prof. Bernhard Schmitzer, Uni Göttingen, summer term 2025

Problem sheet 9

- *Submission by **2025-07-16** 18:00 via StudIP **as a single PDF/ZIP**. Please combine all results into one PDF or archive. If you work in another format (markdown, jupyter notebooks), add a PDF converted version to your submission.*

- *Use Python 3 for the programming tasks as shown in the lecture. If you cannot install Python on your system, the GWDG jupyter server at https://jupyter-cloud.gwdg.de/ might help. Your submission should contain the final images as well as the code that was used to generate them.*

- *Work in groups of up to three. Clearly indicate names and enrollment numbers of all group members at the beginning of the submission.*

Exercise 9.1: Tufte's design principles.
The files

- `energy.png` (https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/themen/klima-energie/erneuerbare-energien/erneuerbare-energien-in-zahlen#uberblick)

- `baseball.png` (https://benfry.com/salaryper/)

- `machine-learning.png` (Bertolini et al.: Machine Learning for industrial applications: A comprehensive literature review, Expert Systems with Applications 175, 2021, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2021.114820)

contain three examples of statistical charts found 'in the wild'. Apply Tufte's design principles on minimalism, data ink, and chart junk to *two out of three* of them. This means: list/describe/mark which parts of the charts are not data ink, and describe/sketch how an improved version of the chart could look like.
Remark: It is not necessary to re-create the charts with plotting software. A simple 'dissection' and a sketch, as shown in the lecture, using e.g. Paint or Gimp is fully sufficient.

Exercise 9.2: smoking and life expectancy.

1. The file `smokers.npz` contains an array `data` of dimensions $N_{\mathrm{pers}} \times 3$ of type `int` which contains information about $N_{\mathrm{pers}} = 20,000$ persons from $N_{\mathrm{countries}} = 20$ countries. Each row represents one person. The first column encodes the country that they live in, by an integer from 0 to 19. The second column encodes whether that person was a regular smoker (=1) or not (=0). The third column gives the age in full years that this person reached at the time of their death. Import this array into python.

2. Plot histograms over ages for the total population, for smokers and non-smokers (with absolute counts in each bin). In addition, plot the normalized histograms (where entries in all bins sum to one), which represent an approximate probability density function.

3. For each country, determine the average life expectancy of people and the fraction of smokers. Visualize this information. What seemingly paradoxical relation is implied by this plot?

4. For each country, determine the life expectancy of smokers and non-smokers. Visualize this information.

5. Generate a 2d histogram of people over their country and their age, for smokers and non-smokers. Find a way to visualize this in a single plot as a multi-color image.
   Hints: Think about a good way of normalizing the color channels. Think about a reasonable ordering of the countries.

6. Use summary techniques for distributions (box plot, violin plot, etc.) to show the age distributions of non-smokers in each country, and similarly for smokers in a single chart. The plot should convey the information how long smokers and non-smokers tend to live in various countries and how large the variation of ages is.

Exercise 9.3: salary trends.

1. The file `salaries.npz` contains an array `salaries` of dimensions $N_{\text{pers}} \times N_{\text{years}}$ which contains the yearly salaries in Euros of $N_{\text{pers}} = 200$ persons over $N_{\text{years}} = 20$ years, from 2001 to 2020. In addition, it contains an array `inflation_factors` of dimensions $N_{\text{years}} - 1$ with the inflation rate for Euros *in percent* for the years 2001 to 2019 (careful: it is formatted as array of shape $1 \times (N_{\text{years}} - 1)$). Import both arrays into python.

2. Compute the effective deflated value of one Euro in each year from 2001 to 2020 in terms of 2001 Euros.

3. You are a consultant for the governing party in the fictional country. From the data create a chart that demonstrates that the average salary has increased substantially over the last 20 years.

4. Now you work for the opposition party. Create a chart that shows that while salaries have increased substantially for high-income groups, for a large fraction of employees the effective salaries have stagnated. Explain what data you show in your chart (1-2 sentences).