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# 5 stylish chart types you should use

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As our community members show every day, there are endless inventive ways to visualize your data. And while bar graphs and pie charts have their place, sometimes an advanced chart can be the perfect fit to convey the most important insights, on sight.

Here we offer 5 advanced chart types to bring your data to life:

## 1. Treemap

Treemaps are a powerful and compact way to visualize hierarchical and part-to-whole relationships. Each branch of the tree is represented as a rectangle, with the size of a branch proportionate to a specified measure of the data. A lot of people like treemaps because they're visually attractive, so understanding [how to leverage color](#) is a plus. Color is often used to show dimensions in a treemap—heat maps work well if you want to show a spectrum.

What's more, you can go way beyond the standard treemap in Tableau. For example, here's an interactive chart of treemaps mashed up with a bar chart:

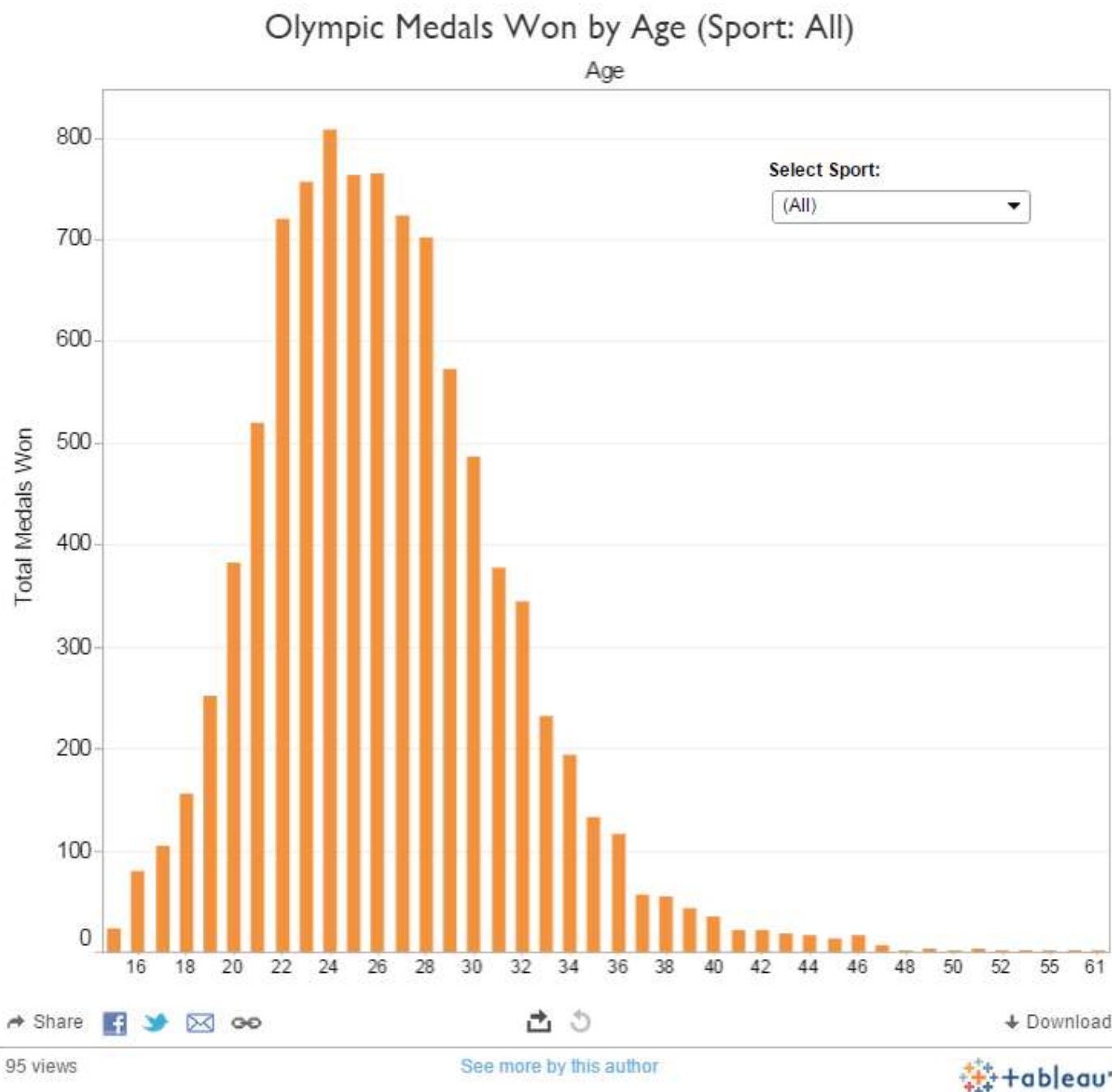
Learn how to build a treemap (or word cloud) in Tableau

## 2. Histogram

Histograms plot the number of occurrences of a given variable in a set of data. They're a great tool for getting an overview of the entire distribution of a variable, and they take the form of a bar chart. Imagine using histograms for retail analytics, to count the

number of sales of individual products by category. Or in customer analytics, to tally the range of spending in a certain demographic.

Here's a fun example, where you can explore how many medals were won by Olympic athletes of a certain age:



Learn how to build a histogram in Tableau

### 3. Box plot

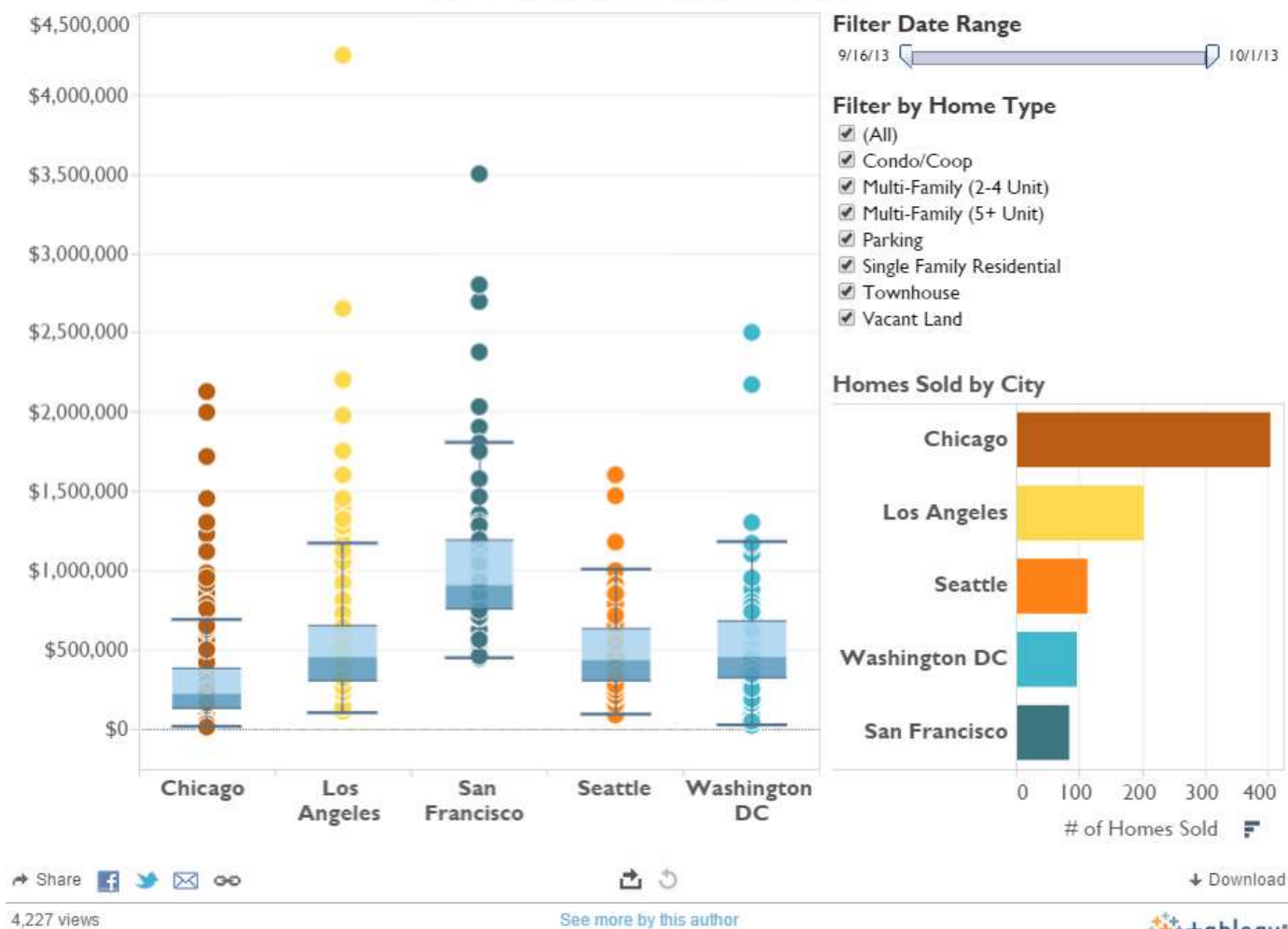
A box plot (or box-and-whisker plot) is a diagram of a distribution of data best known for highlighting these values:

- first quartile
- median
- third quartile
- whiskers (1.5 times the interquartile range away from the mean)
- outliers

Box plots are useful for comparing sets of data—especially the variations in the data. They're a favorite of statisticians, and used commonly in statistical analytics. Tableau can plot hundreds of thousands of rows per second, so it can convey much more information than the standard box plot.

Ideal for the housing market, the following example shows home sales in five cities. At a glance you can see that the median price in San Francisco is the highest, but Los Angeles has the most expensive house sold:

## Two Weeks of Home Sales



Learn how to build a box plot in Tableau

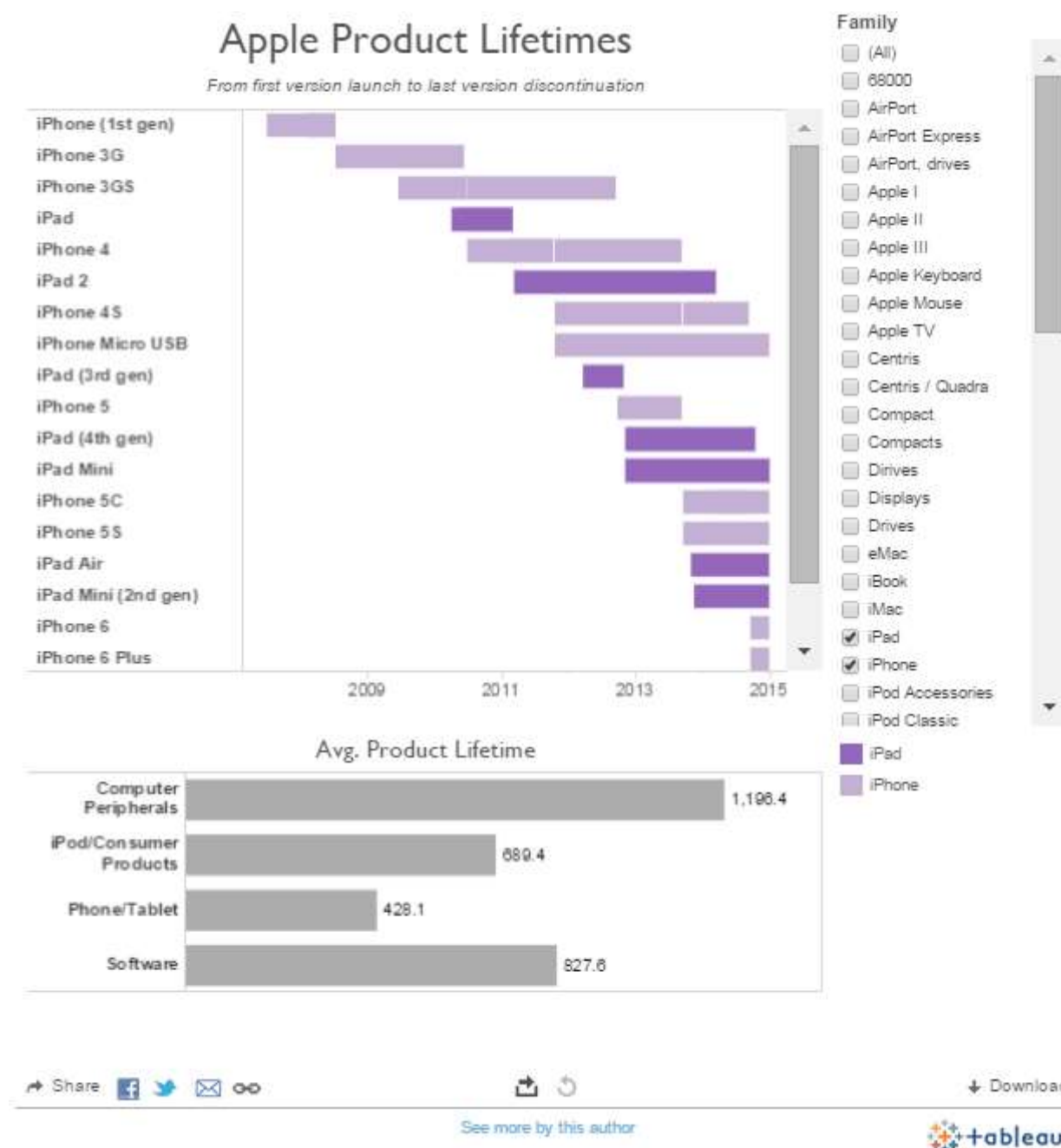
## 4. Gantt chart

Gantt charts are the enemy of procrastination, keeping those micro-deadlines between projects well in view. They're great for displaying a timeline such as project stages or a product release—to ensure you release the beta *before* the product.

The viewer can instantly see when parts of a project begin and end in relation to each other, without having to cross check between pages or sheets. Did you know? The first Gantt-type chart was developed in 1896, and was called a *harmonogram*. So all your departments can work in harmony.

And as Henry Gantt would tell you, it's not a Gantt chart.

Here's an example, showing the launch/discontinuation dates of all of Apple's products:



Learn how to build a Gantt chart in Tableau

## 5. Word cloud

Word clouds are like bubble charts in that words are sized according to some numerical measure and all packed into a designated space. They're useful for presenting data about

—you guessed it—words. While word clouds are not the best for accurate interpretation, sometimes they add impact to a dashboard and encourage more people to engage with the data.

Here's a word cloud of frequencies in the last presidential debates. (See any political jargon?)

# The Oct. 3 Debate - The Most Popular Words

Choose which candidates' words:

Both

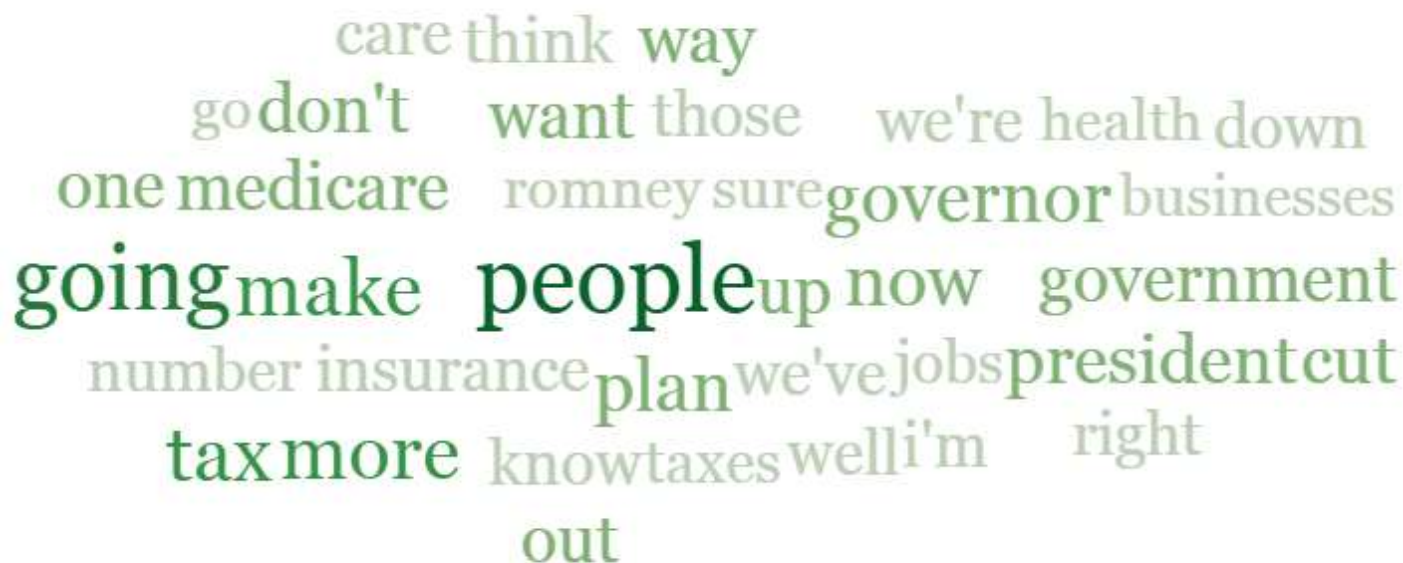
Filter by times word was used:

30

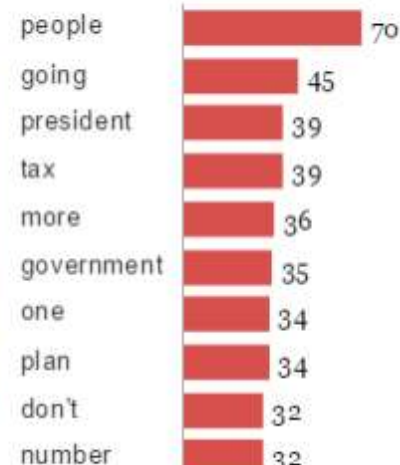
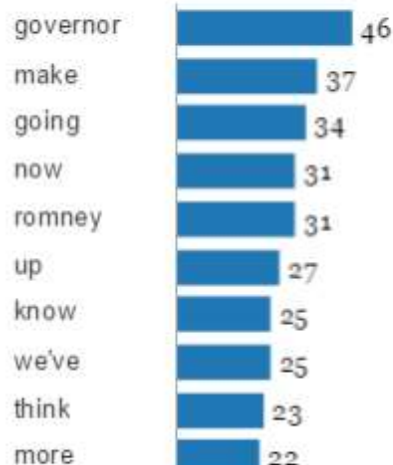
Word count:



Select a word to see how many times a candidate said it:



## The Top 10 Words by Candidate:


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Learn how to build a treemap (or word cloud) in Tableau

Hopefully you now feel confident using these advanced chart types to invigorate your dashboards. What's more, 4 out of 5 of these are in [Show Me](#)—go ahead and give them a



try!

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## Comments

Submitted by Marc (not verified) on January 6, 2015 - 9:40am

Very informative.

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Submitted by Nilesh (not verified) on November 4, 2015 - 1:55am

check for donut charts also.

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Submitted by S D on April 13, 2016 - 11:12pm

word cloud awesome

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Submitted by sumantra kumar (not verified) on September 19, 2017 - 10:01pm

All charts are very nicely represented but One thing Just want to add on more thing we view the chart according to what type of data is to be visualize for example we have map based data so we need to pic the map chart rather than anything else.

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