

Scatter plots

DATA VISUALIZATION FOR EVERYONE



Richie Cotton

Learning Solutions Architect at
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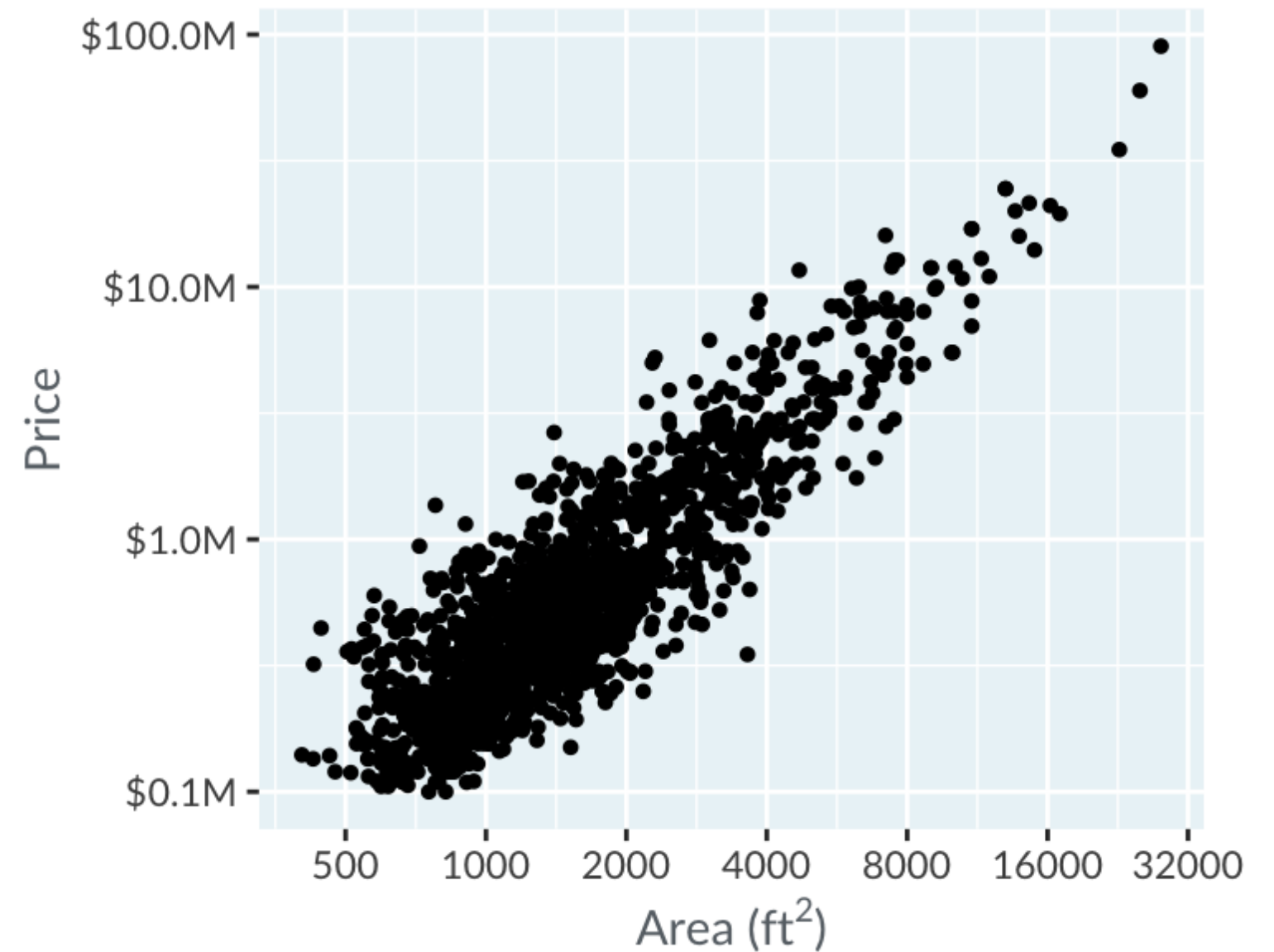
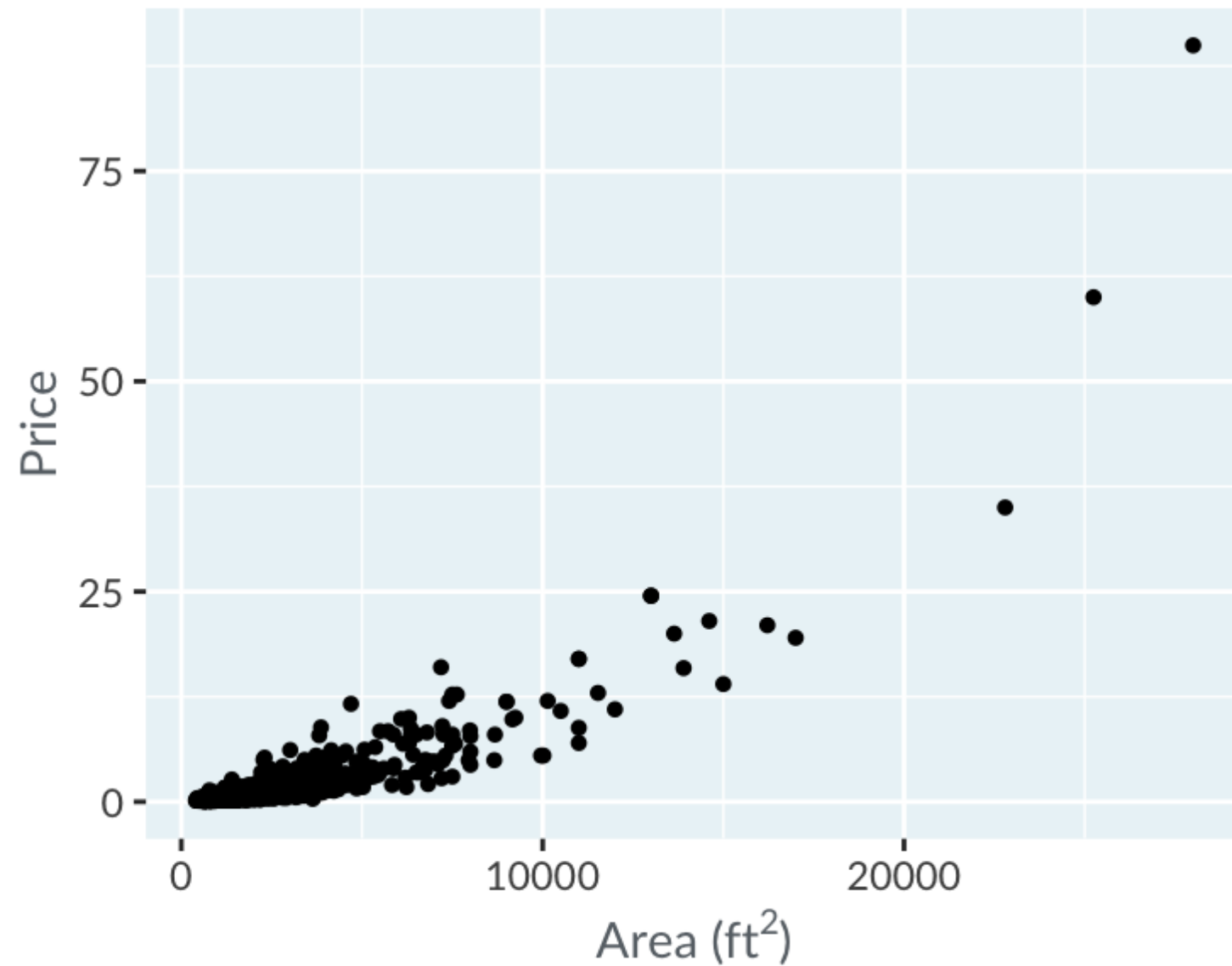
When should you use a scatter plot?

1. You have two continuous variables.
2. You want to answer questions about the relationship between the two variables.

Los Angeles County home prices

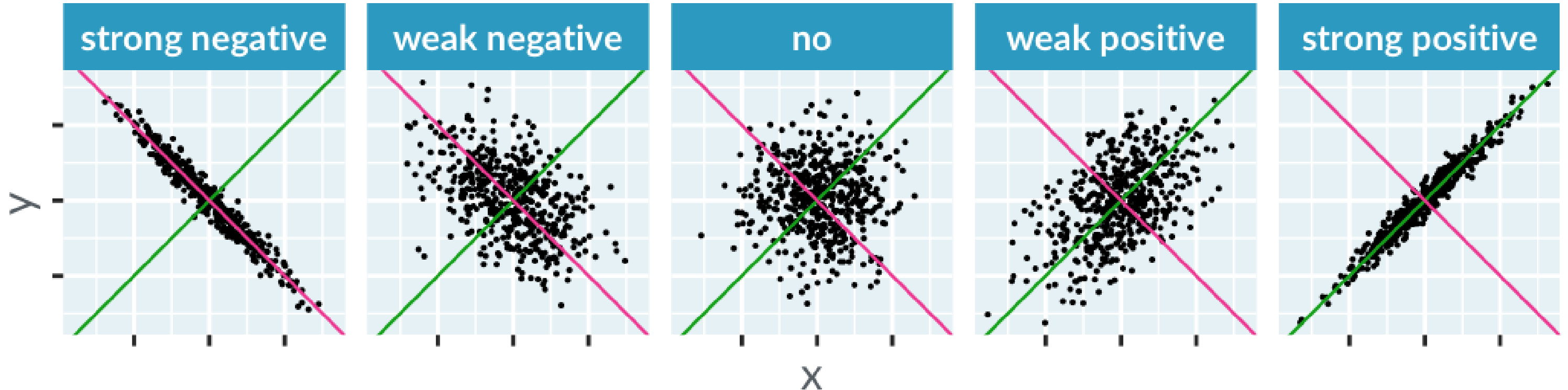
city	n_beds	price_musd	area_sqft
Long Beach	1	0.3250	846
Beverly Hills	3	2.1950	2930
Santa Monica	2	0.5740	1037
Santa Monica	1	0.5990	576
Beverly Hills	5	3.9500	5600
Long Beach	4	0.2999	1571
Westwood	3	0.6950	1913

Prices vs. area

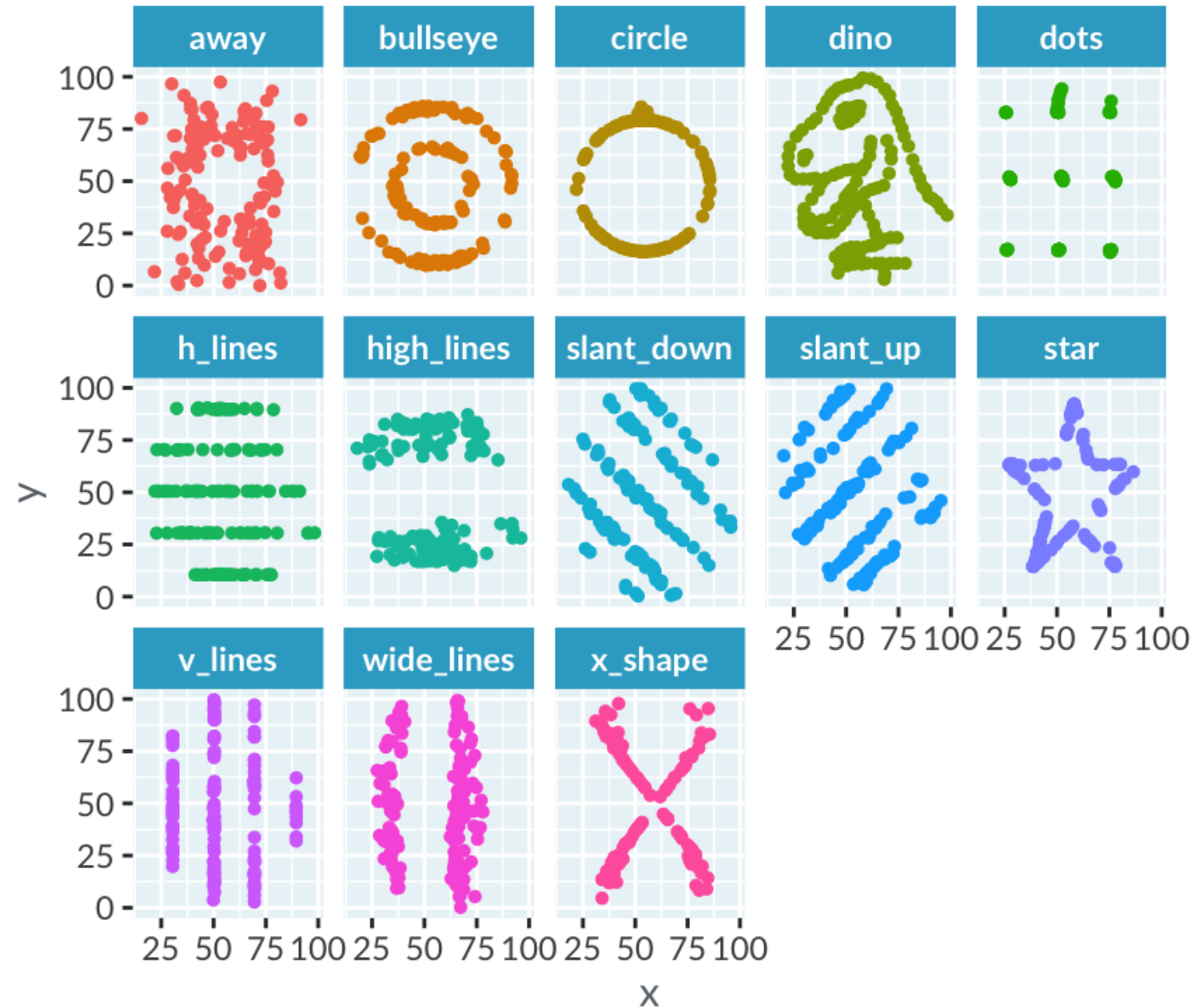


Correlation

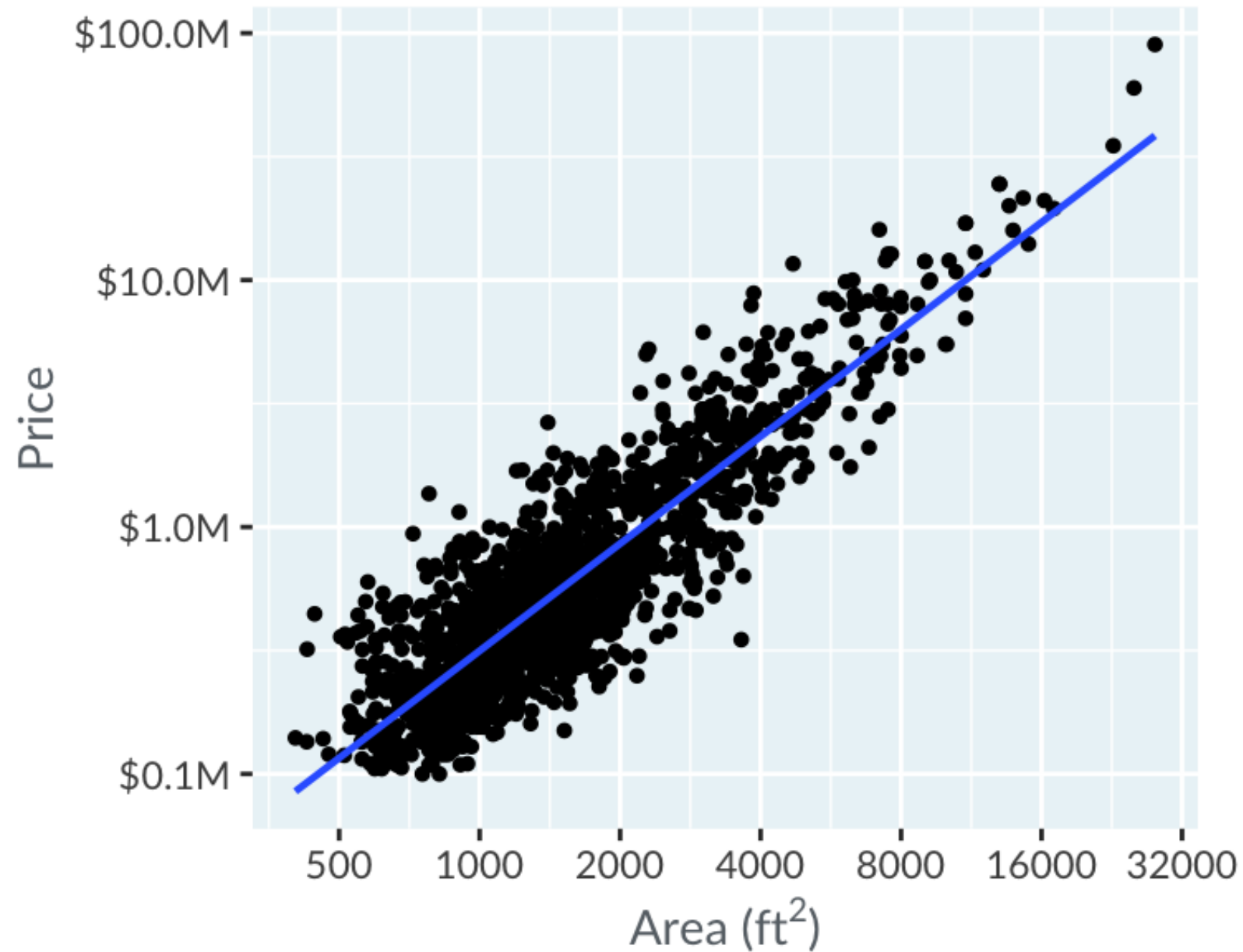
How close are you to being able to fit a straight line through the points?



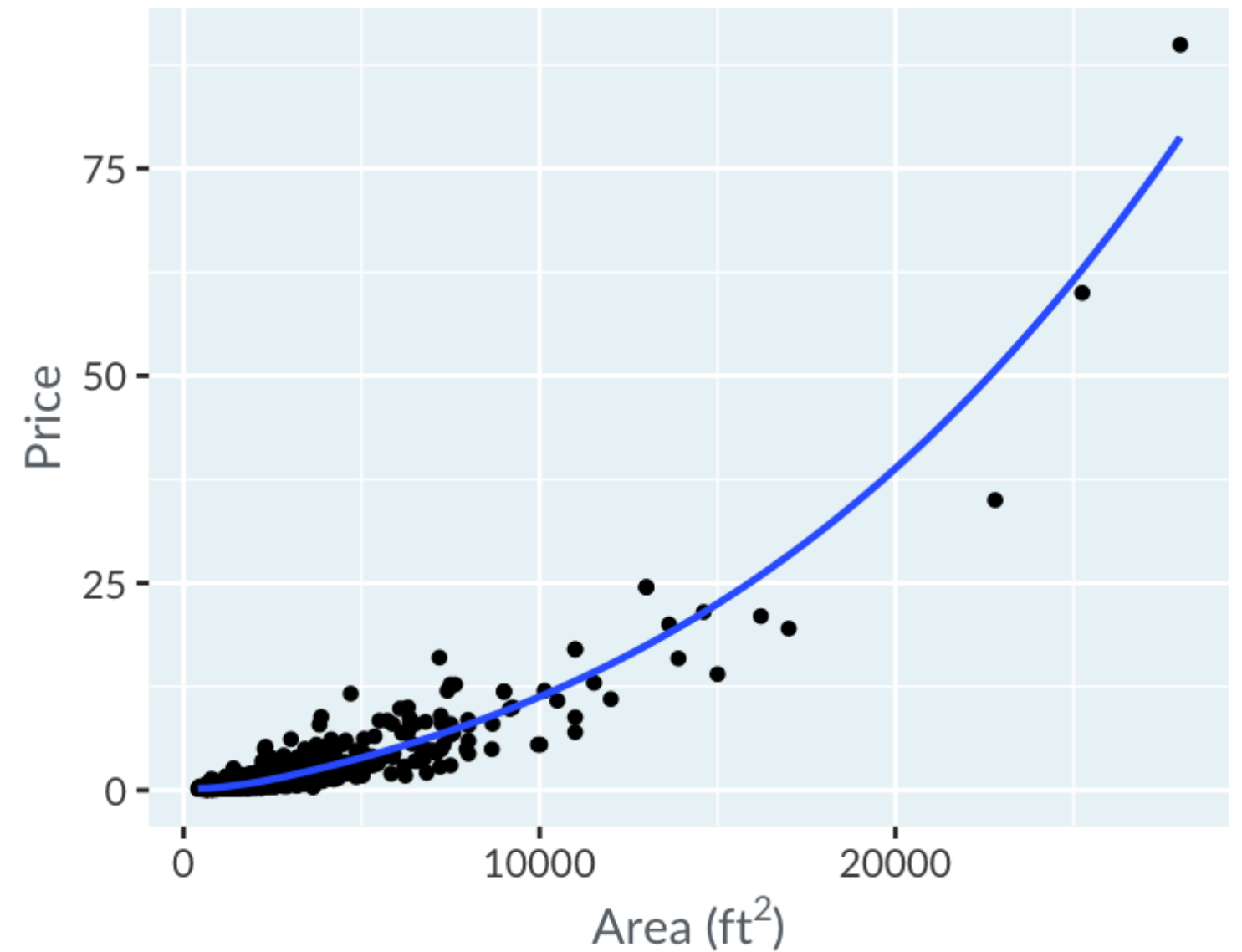
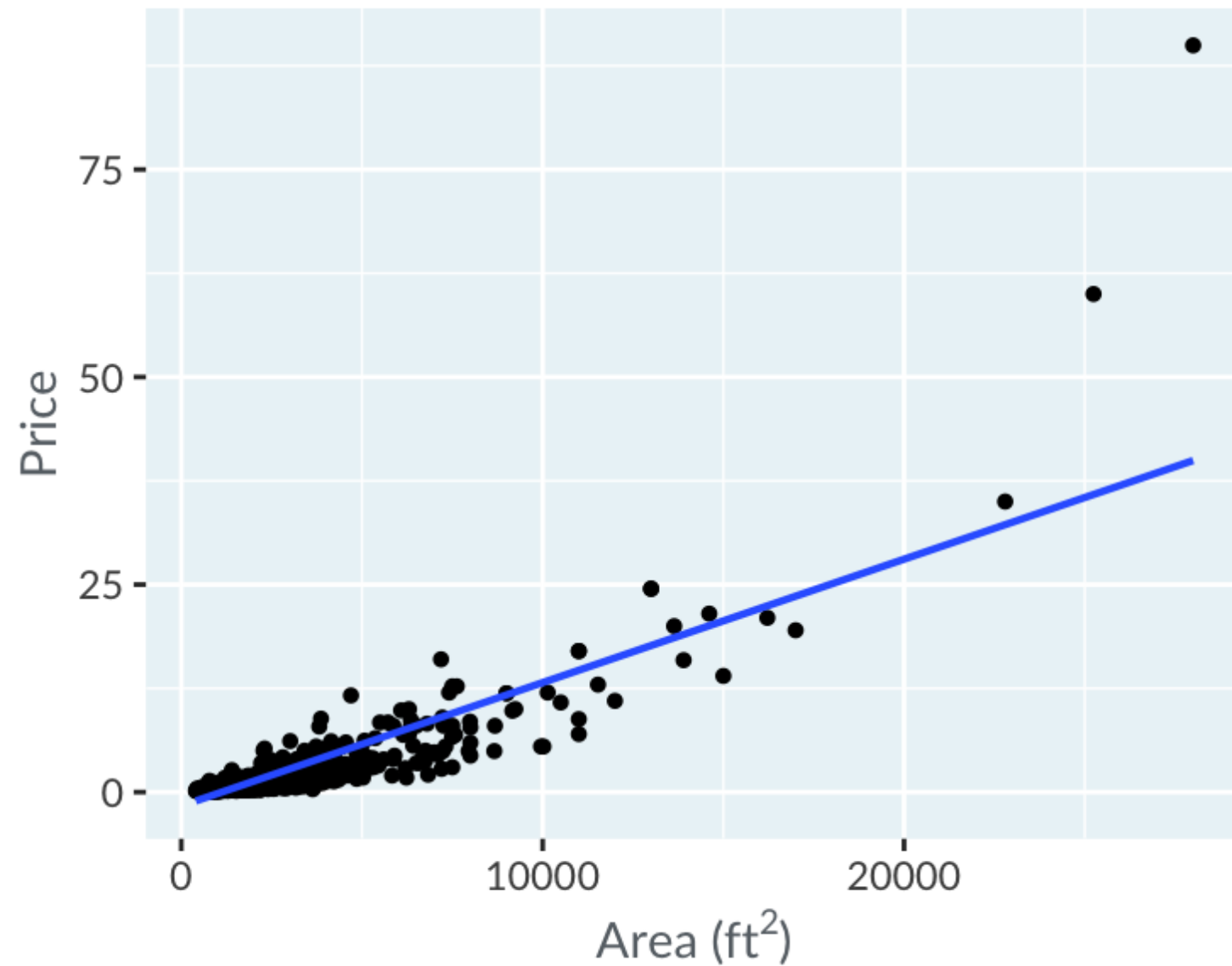
Sometimes correlation isn't helpful



Adding trend lines



Adding smooth trend lines



Let's practice!

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Line plots

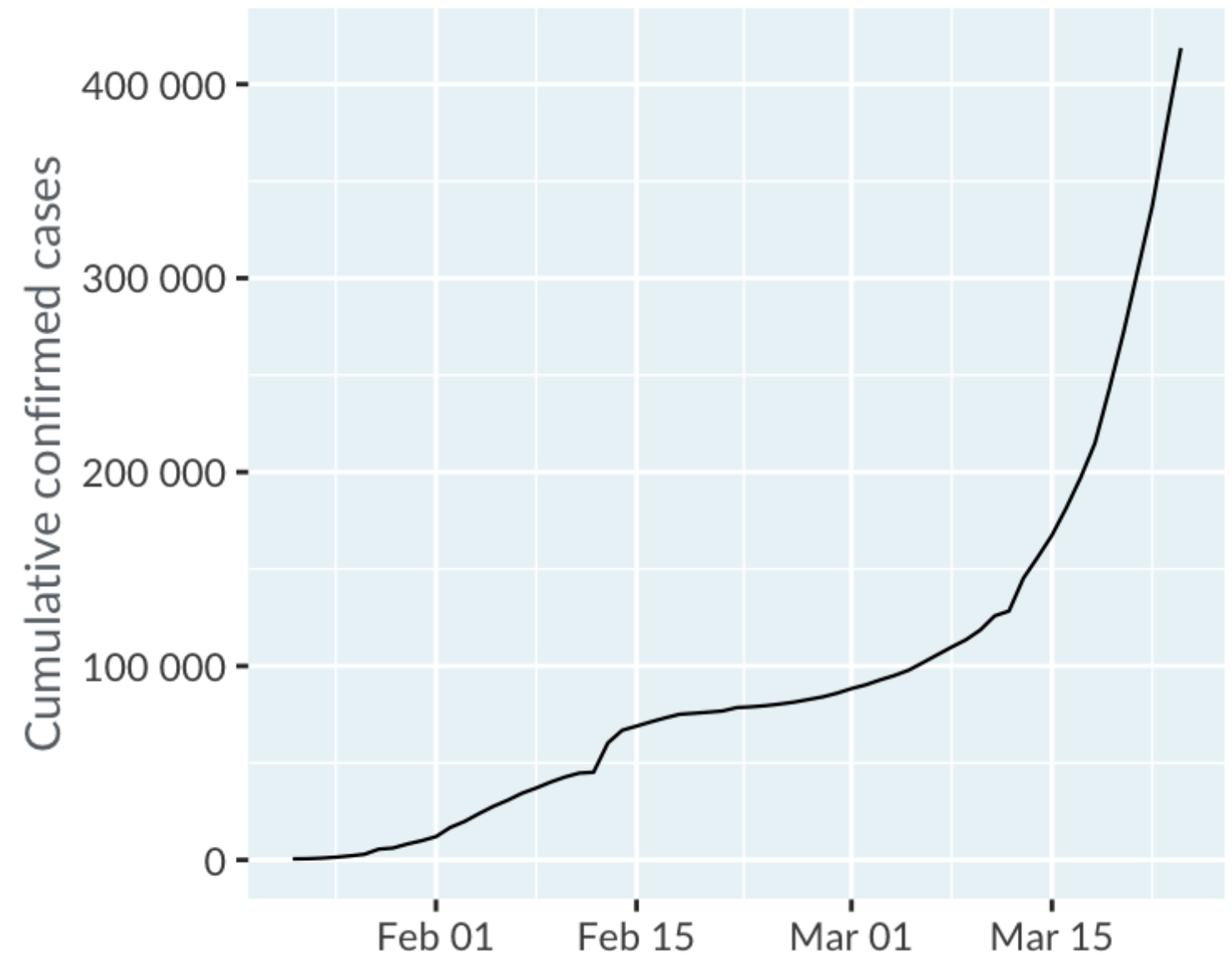
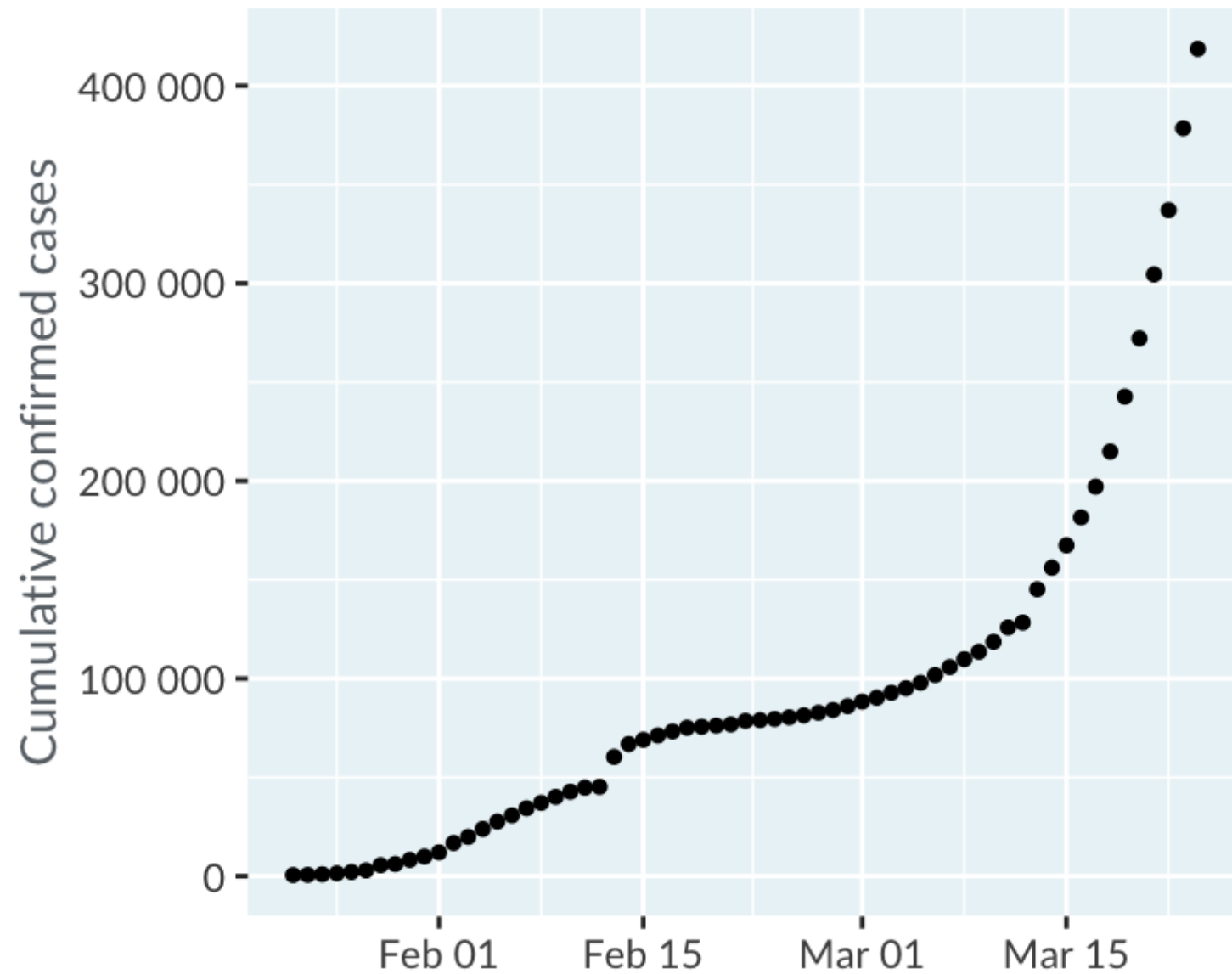
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Worldwide COVID-19 coronavirus cases



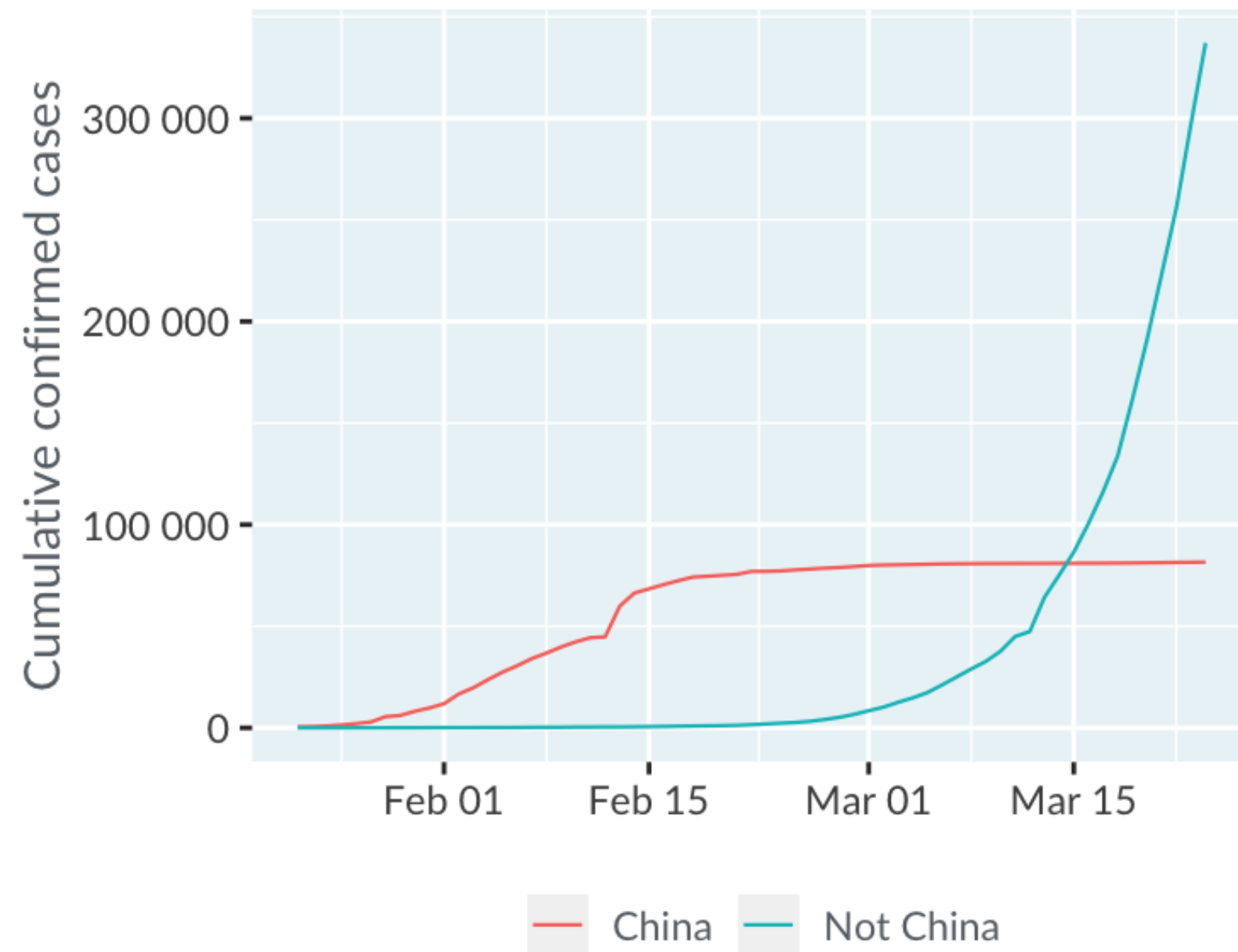
¹ <https://github.com/RamiKrispin/coronavirus>

When should you use a line plot?

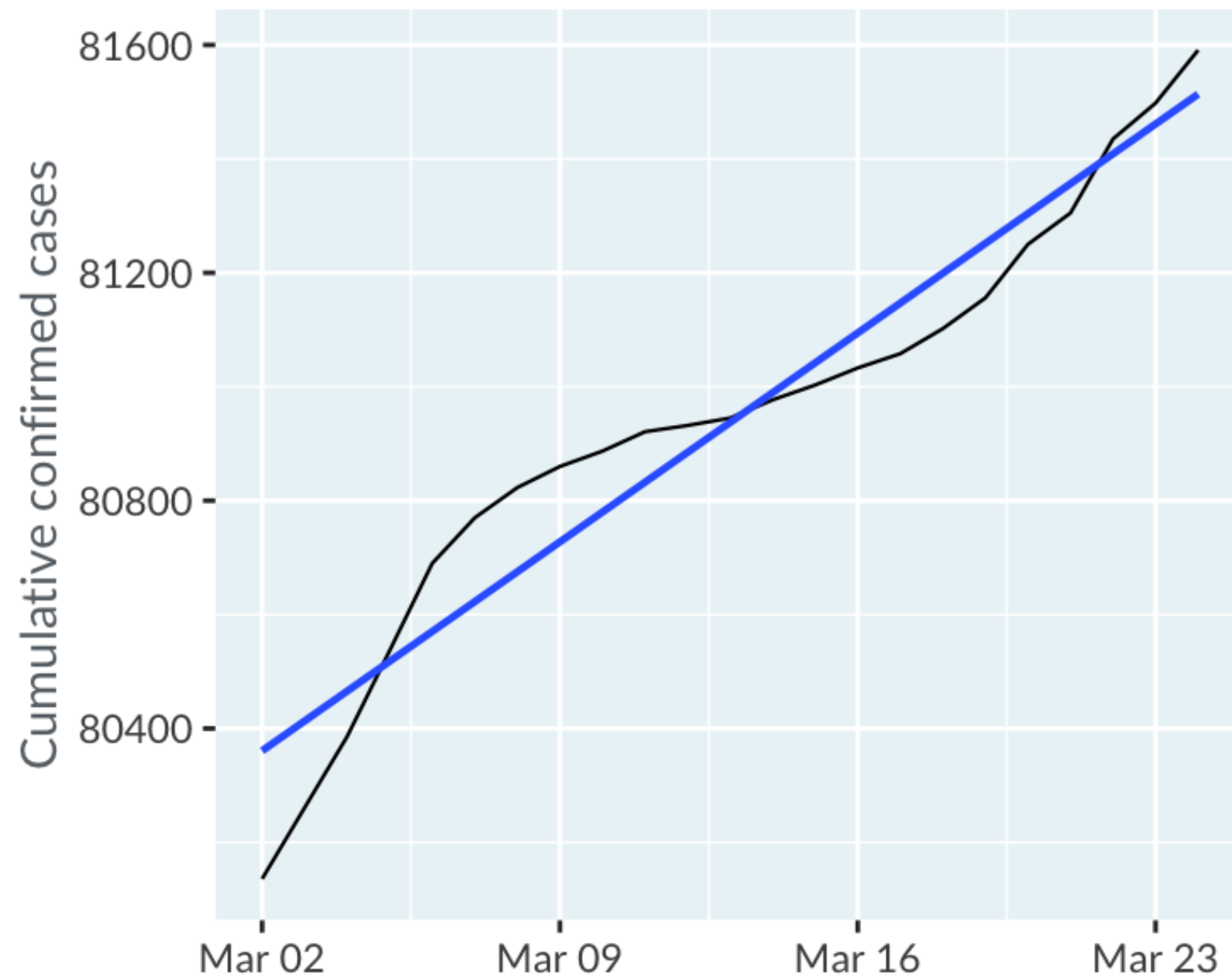
1. You have two continuous variables.
2. You want to answer questions about their relationship.
3. Consecutive observations are connected somehow.

Usually, but not always, the x-axis is dates or times.

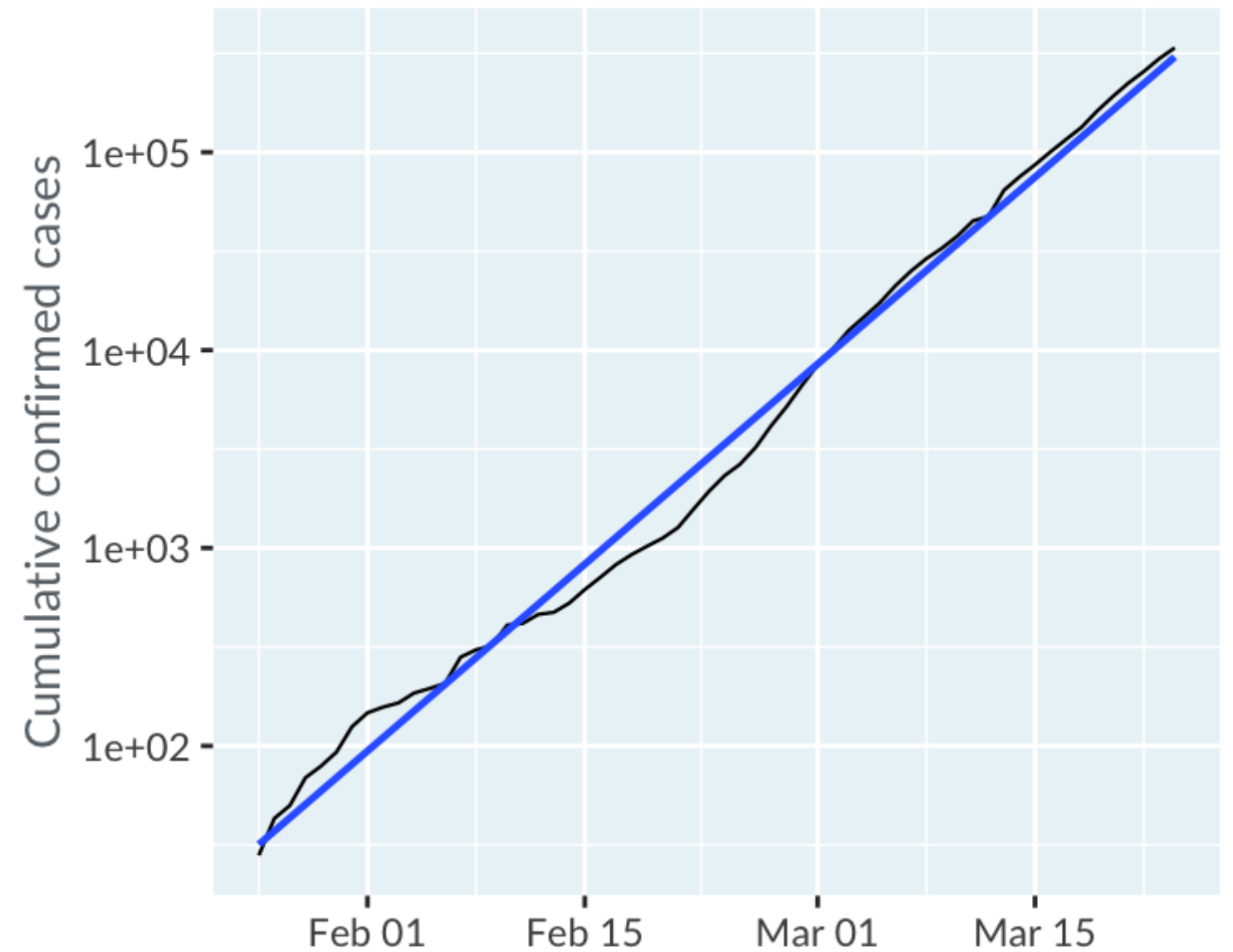
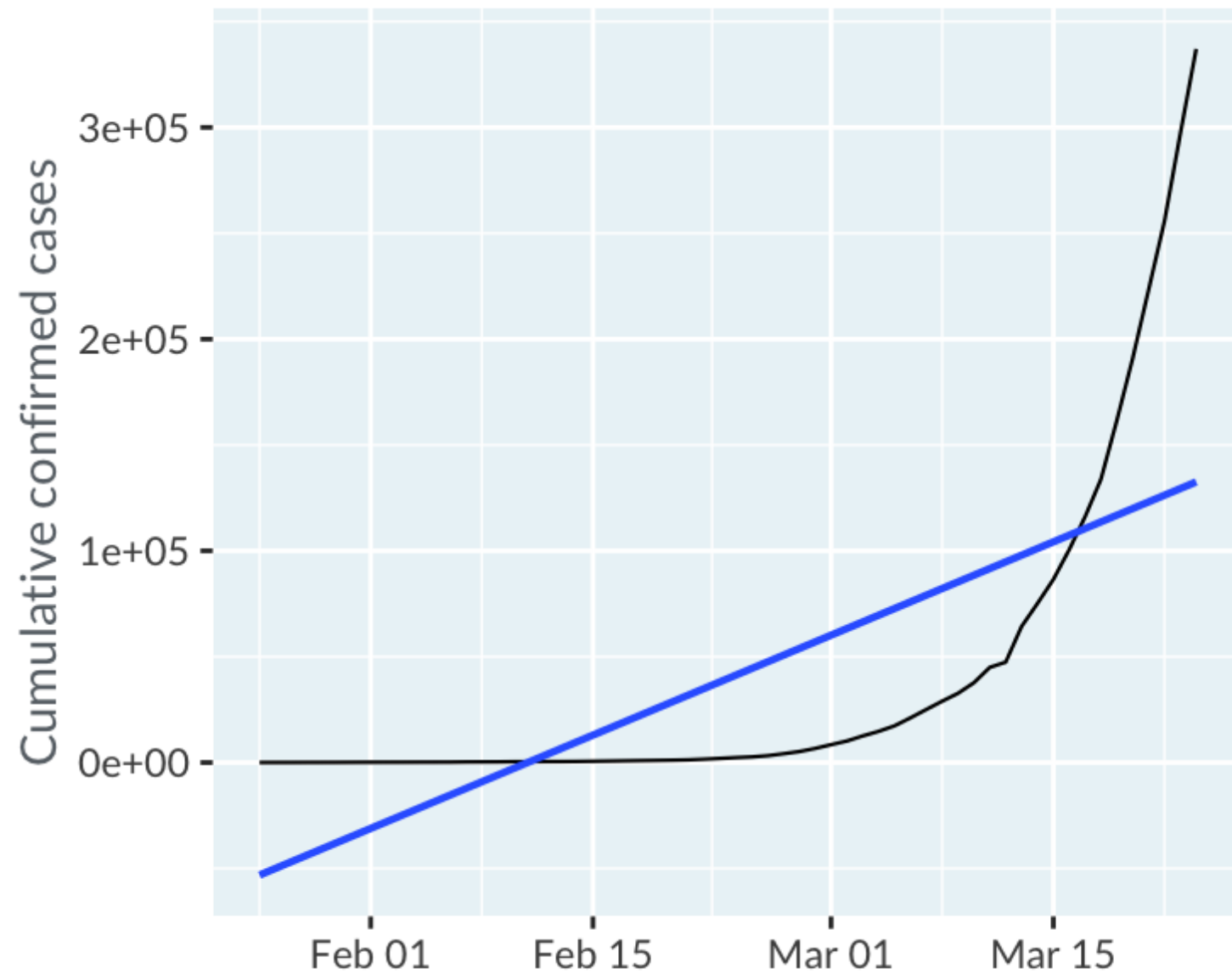
Comparing multiple lines



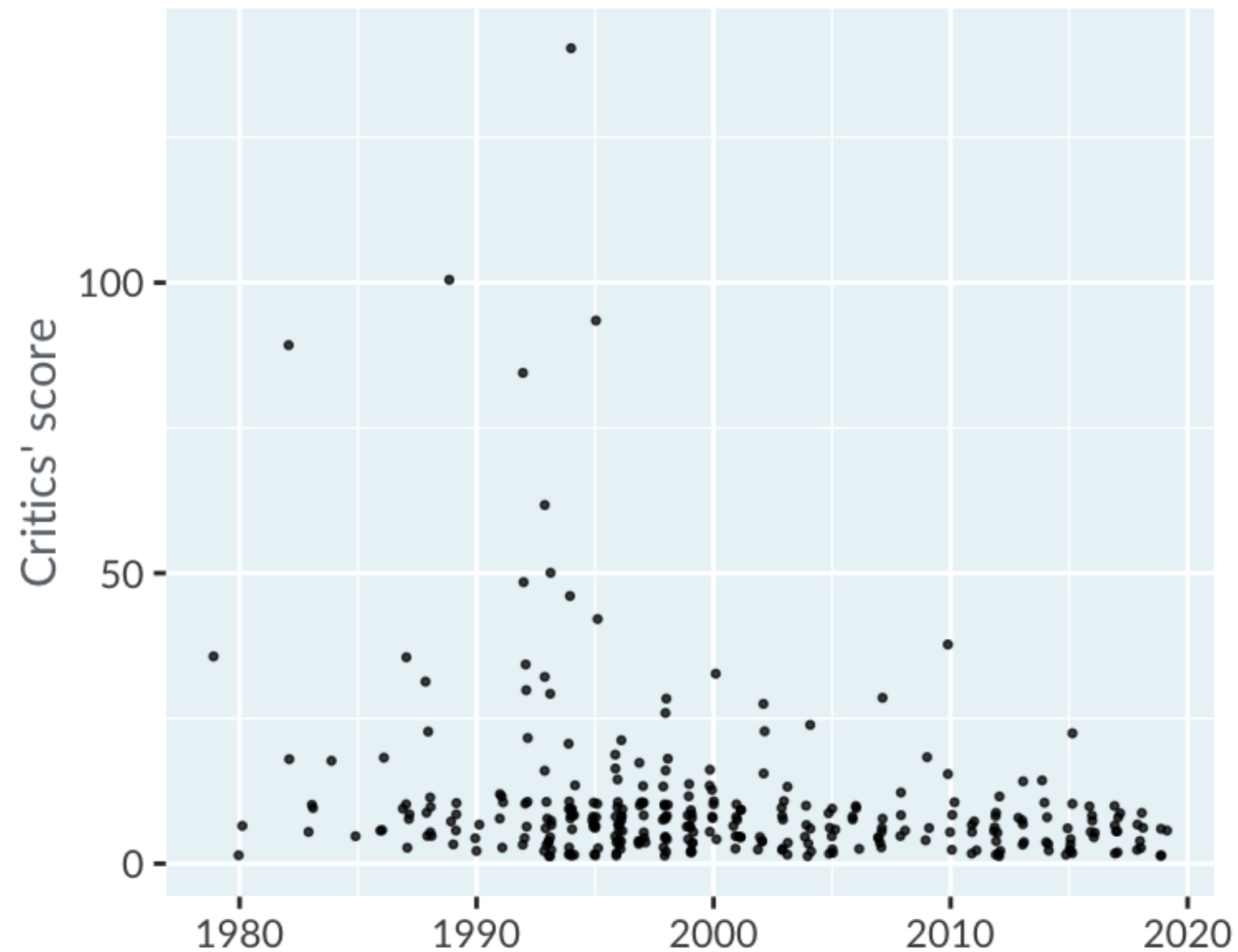
Trend lines



Trend lines + log scale

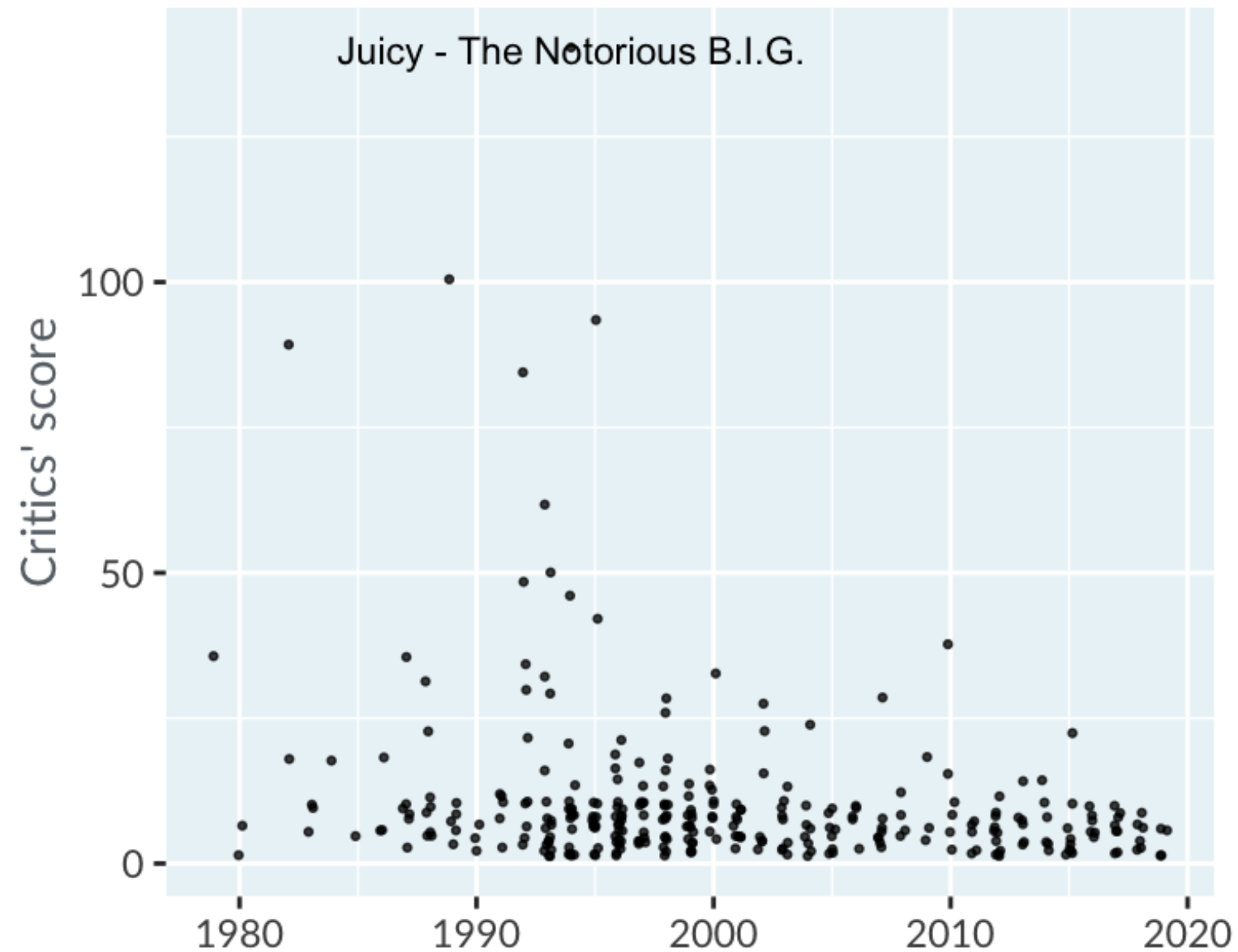


Time x-axis doesn't always imply line plot



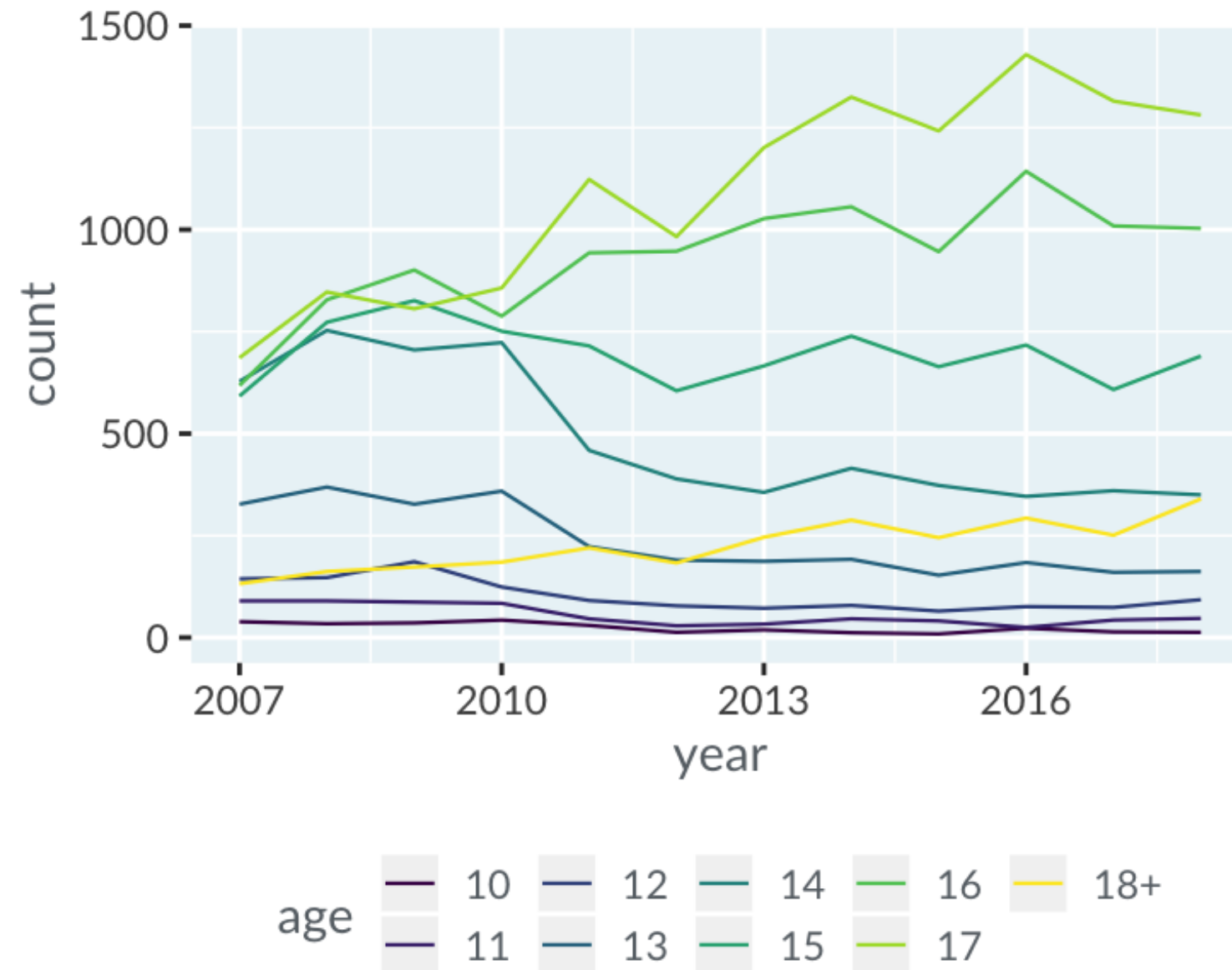
¹ <https://blog.datawrapperr.de/best-hip-hop-songs-of-all-time-visualized>

Time x-axis doesn't always imply line plot



¹ <https://blog.datawrapperr.de/best-hip-hop-songs-of-all-time-visualized>

Time x-axis doesn't always imply line plot



¹ <https://opendata.swiss/en/dataset/statistik-der-jugendstrafrechtspflege-des-kantons-zuerich/resource/41430d20-d449-4a9b-bf91-3f9a16c9f229>

Let's practice!

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Bar plots

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When should you use a bar plot?

Most common cases:

1. You have a categorical variable.
2. You want counts or percentages for each category.

Occasionally:

1. You want another numeric score for each category, and need to include zero in the plot.

When will I, will I be famous?
I can't answer, I can't answer that

Bros – "When will I be famous?"

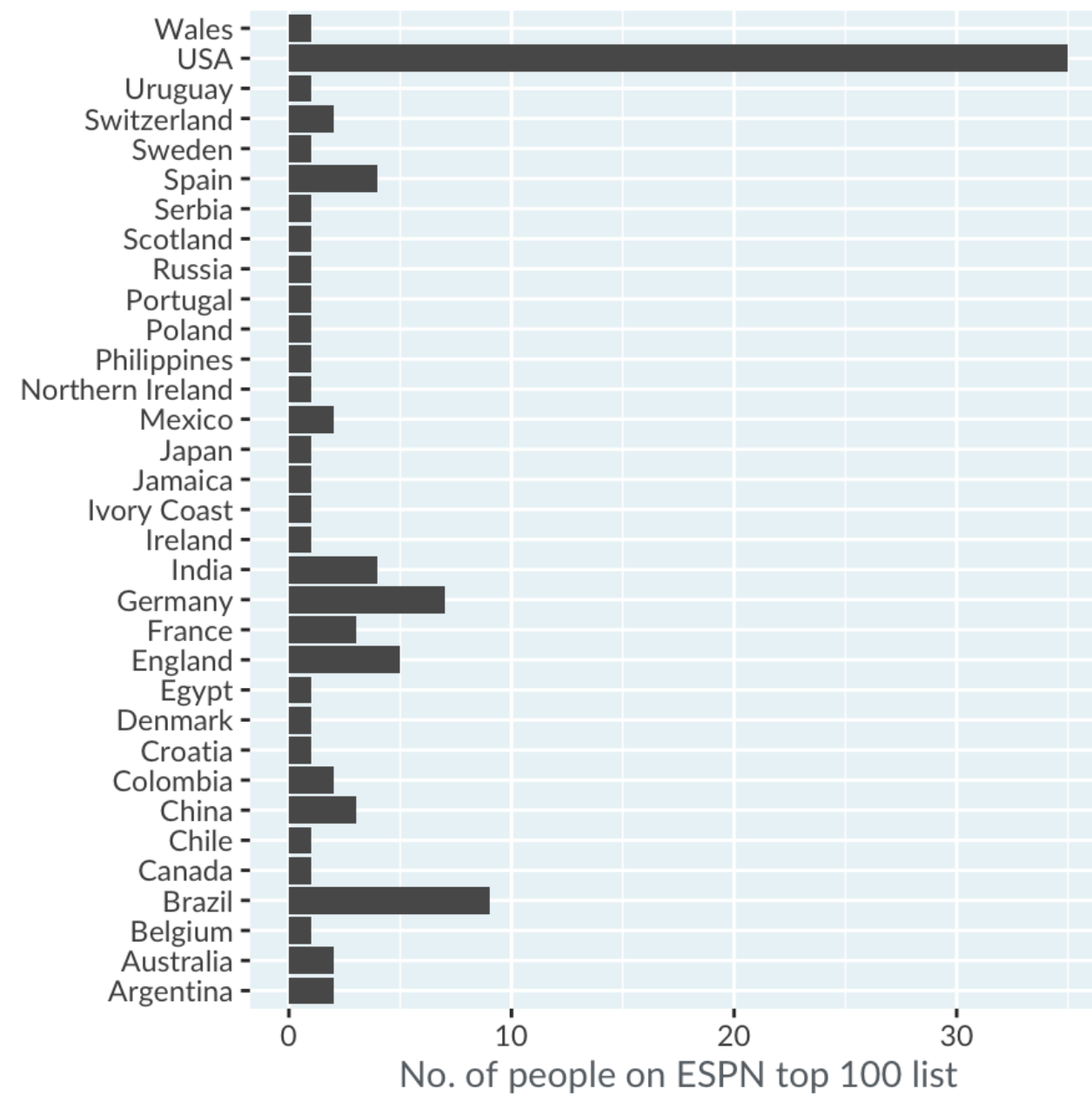


ESPN 100 most famous athletes from 2017

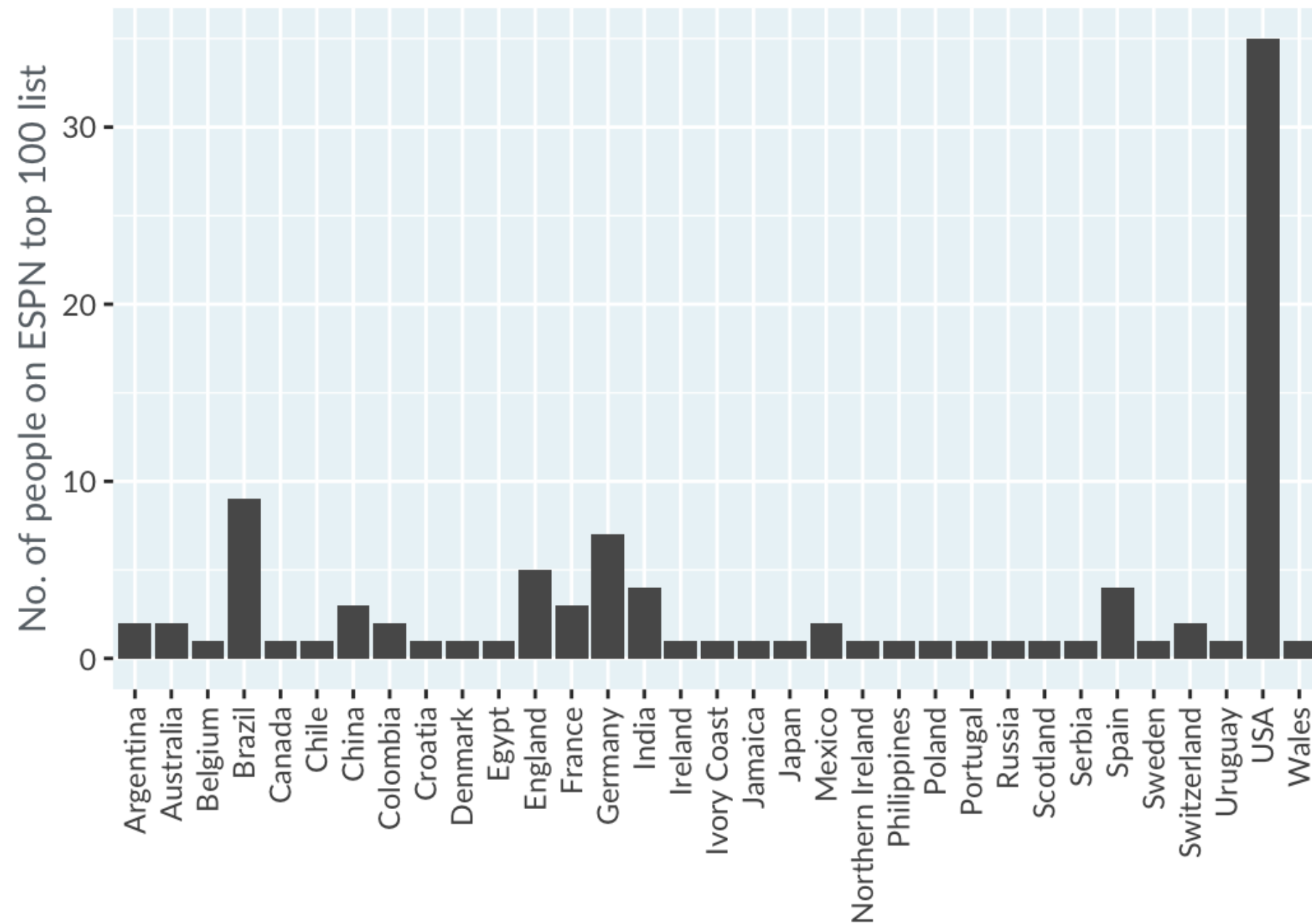
Rank	Last Name	First Name	Sport	Country
1	Ronaldo	Cristiano	Soccer	Portugal
2	James	LeBron	Basketball	USA
3	Messi	Lionel	Soccer	Argentina
4	Federer	Roger	Tennis	Switzerland
5	Mickelson	Phil	Golf	USA
...

¹ <https://data.world/wesmagee/2017-espn-world-fame-100>

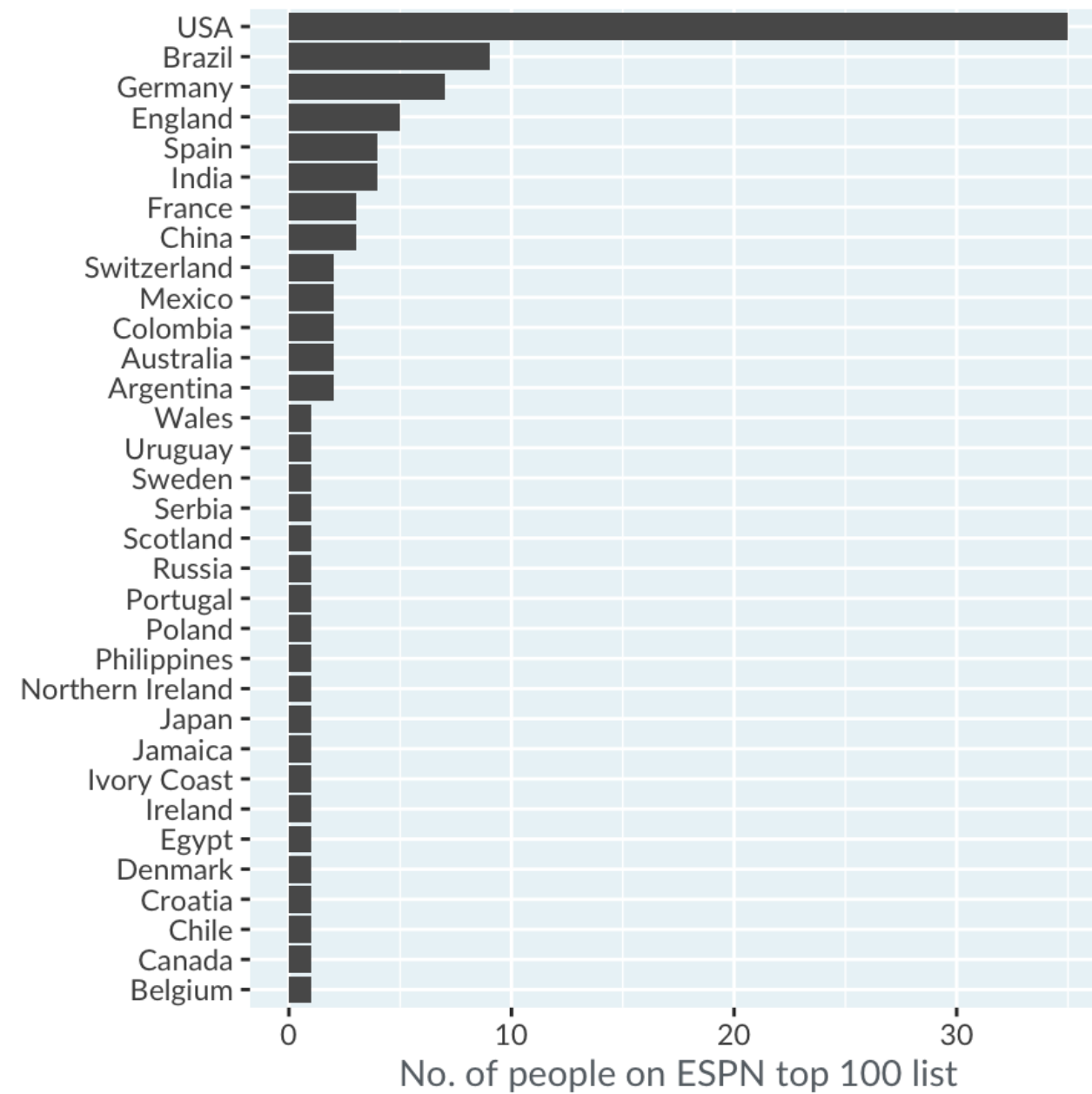
Bar plot of counts by country



Vertical bars



Sorting by count

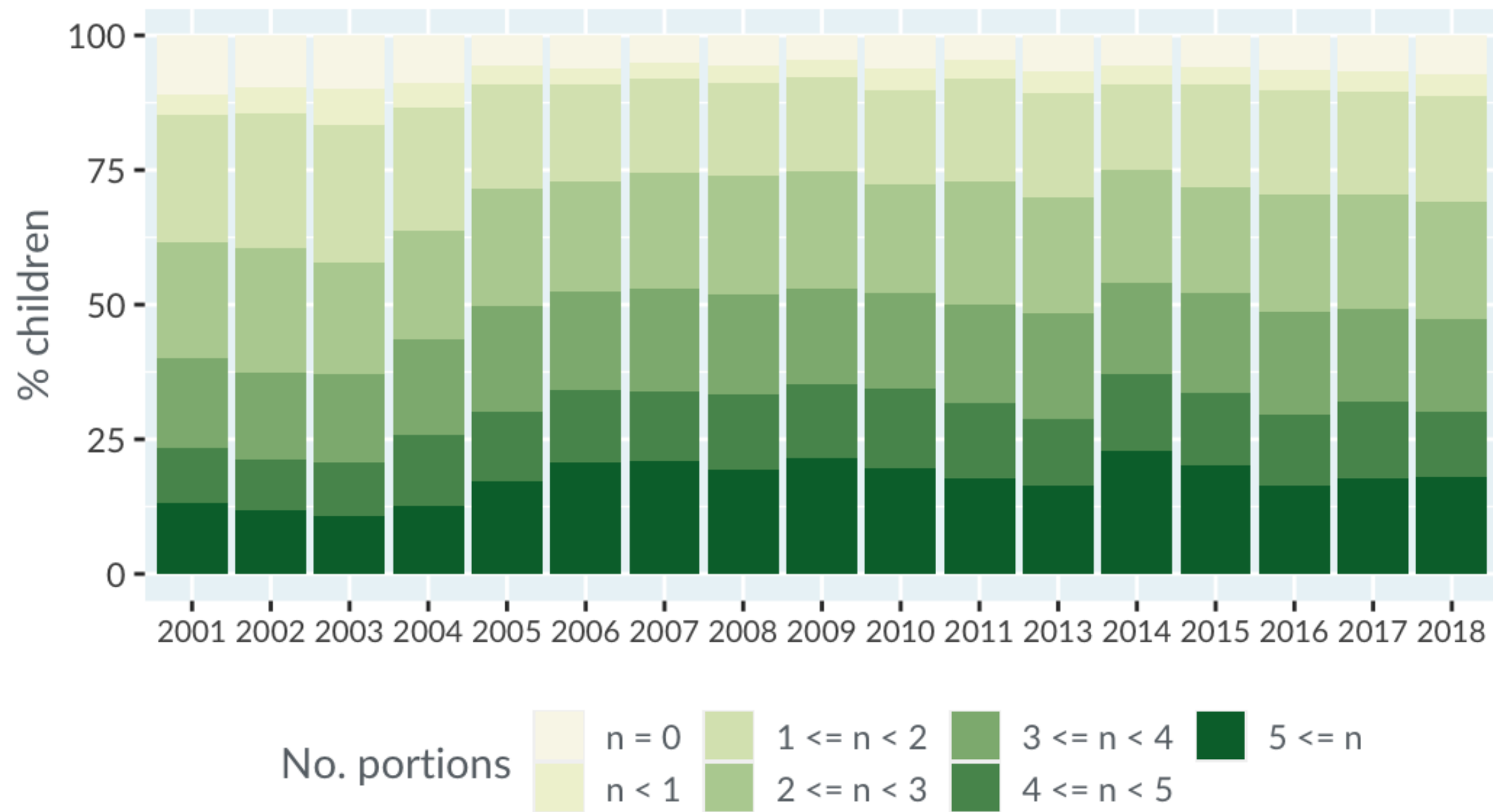


Children's fruit and veg consumption

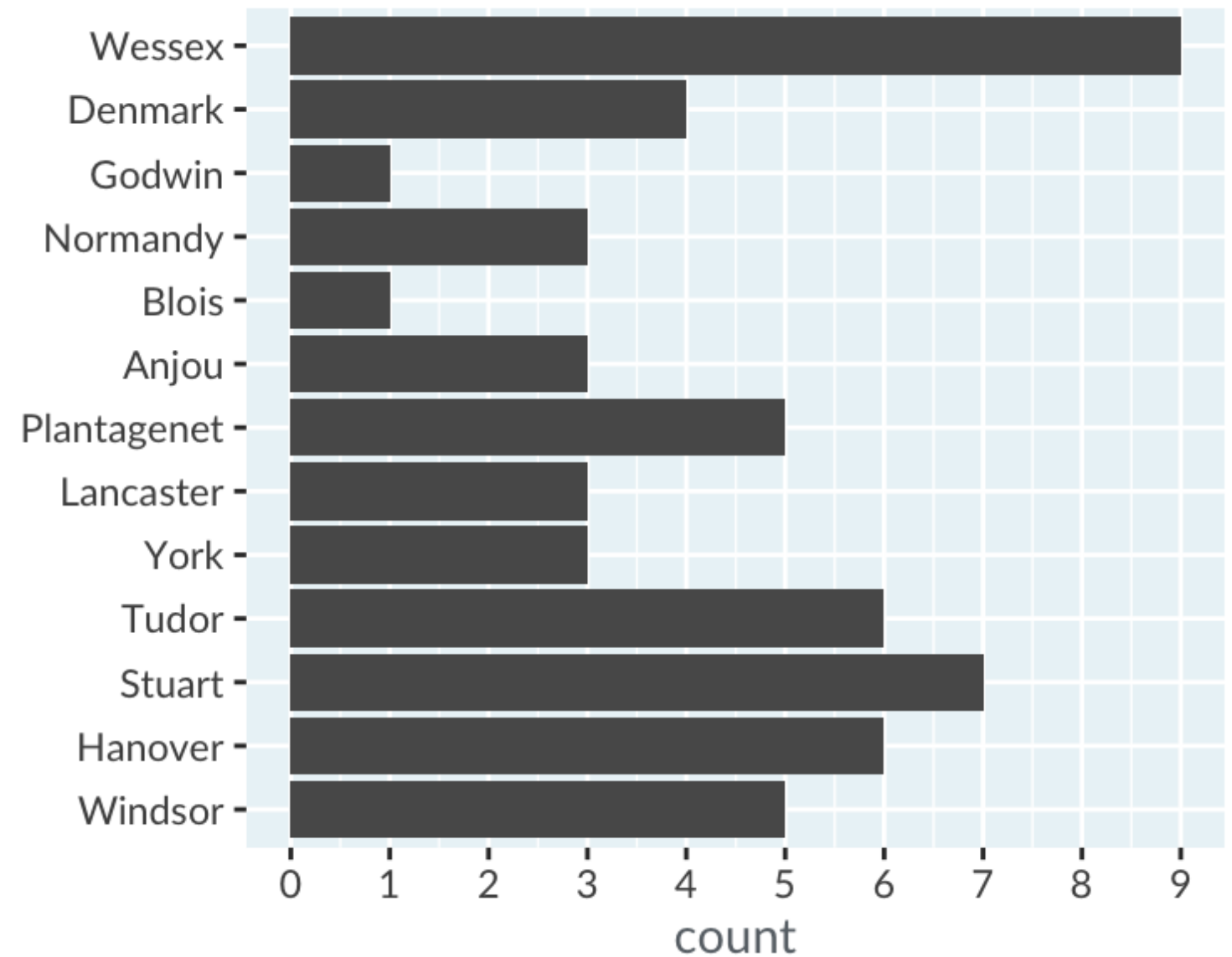
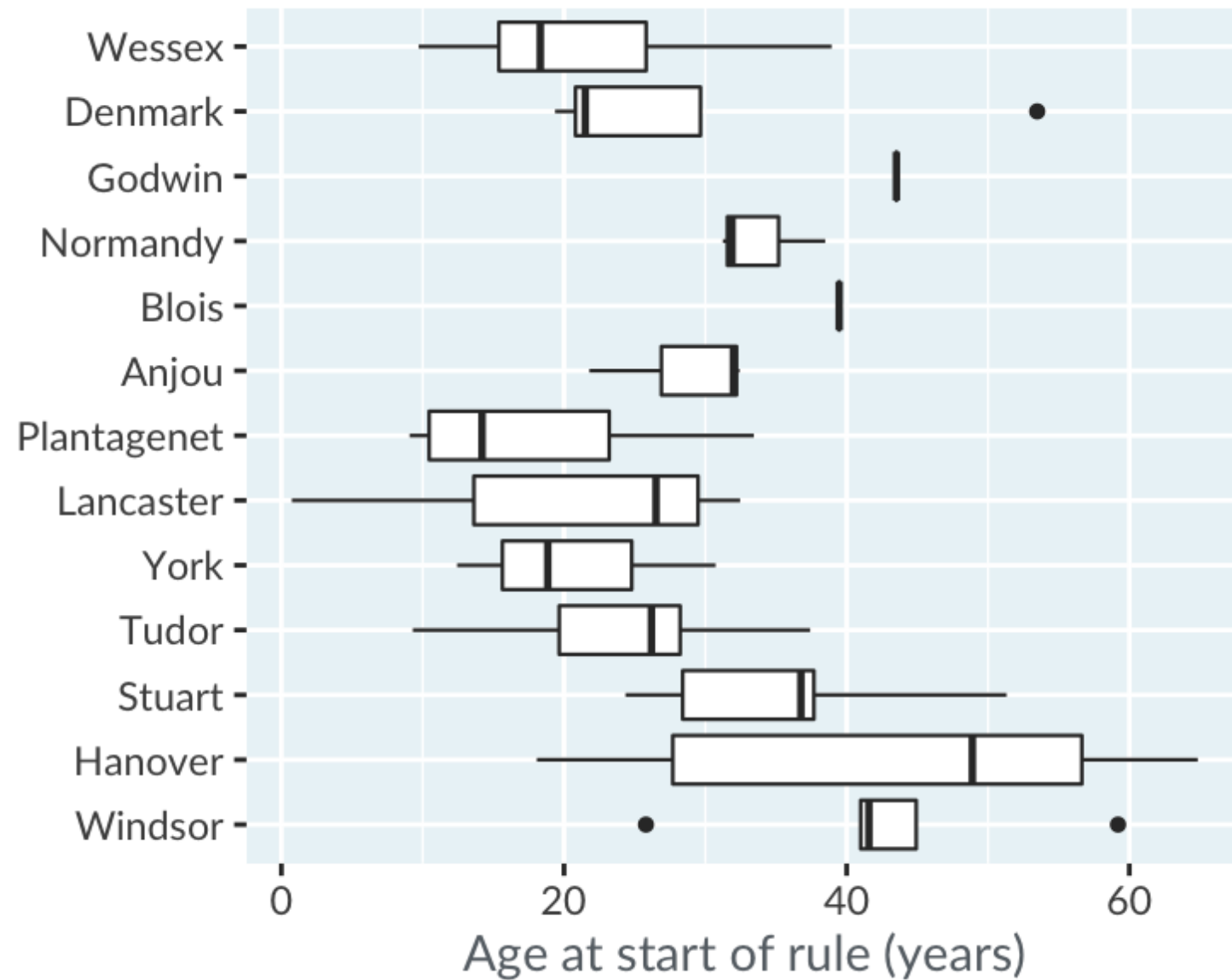
n_portions	year	pct_children
n = 0	2001	10.921779
n < 1	2001	3.843093
1 <= n < 2	2001	23.659102
...
4 <= n < 5	2018	12.28728
5 <= n	2018	17.87497

¹ <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/health-survey-for-england/2018/health-survey-for-england-2018-data-tables>

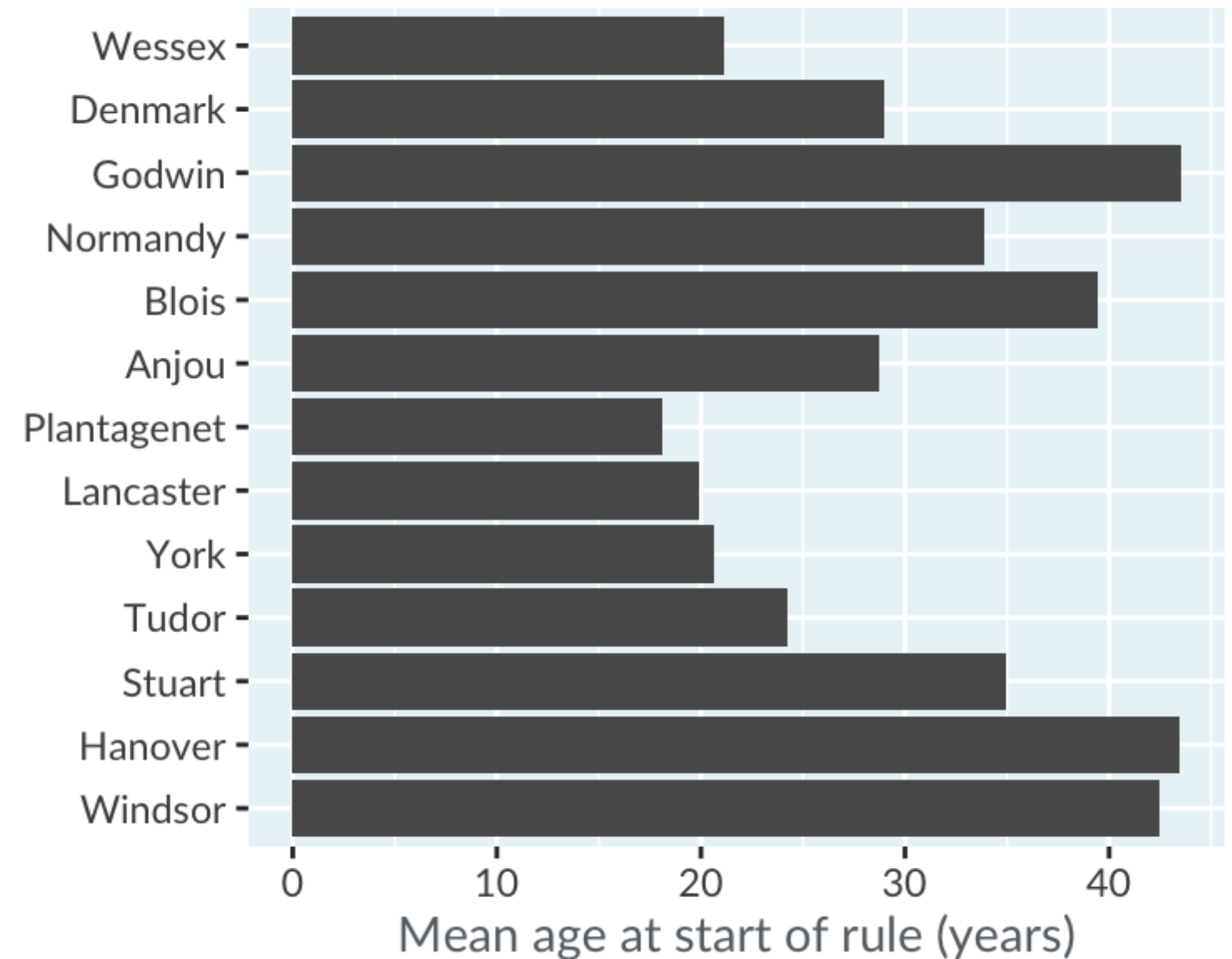
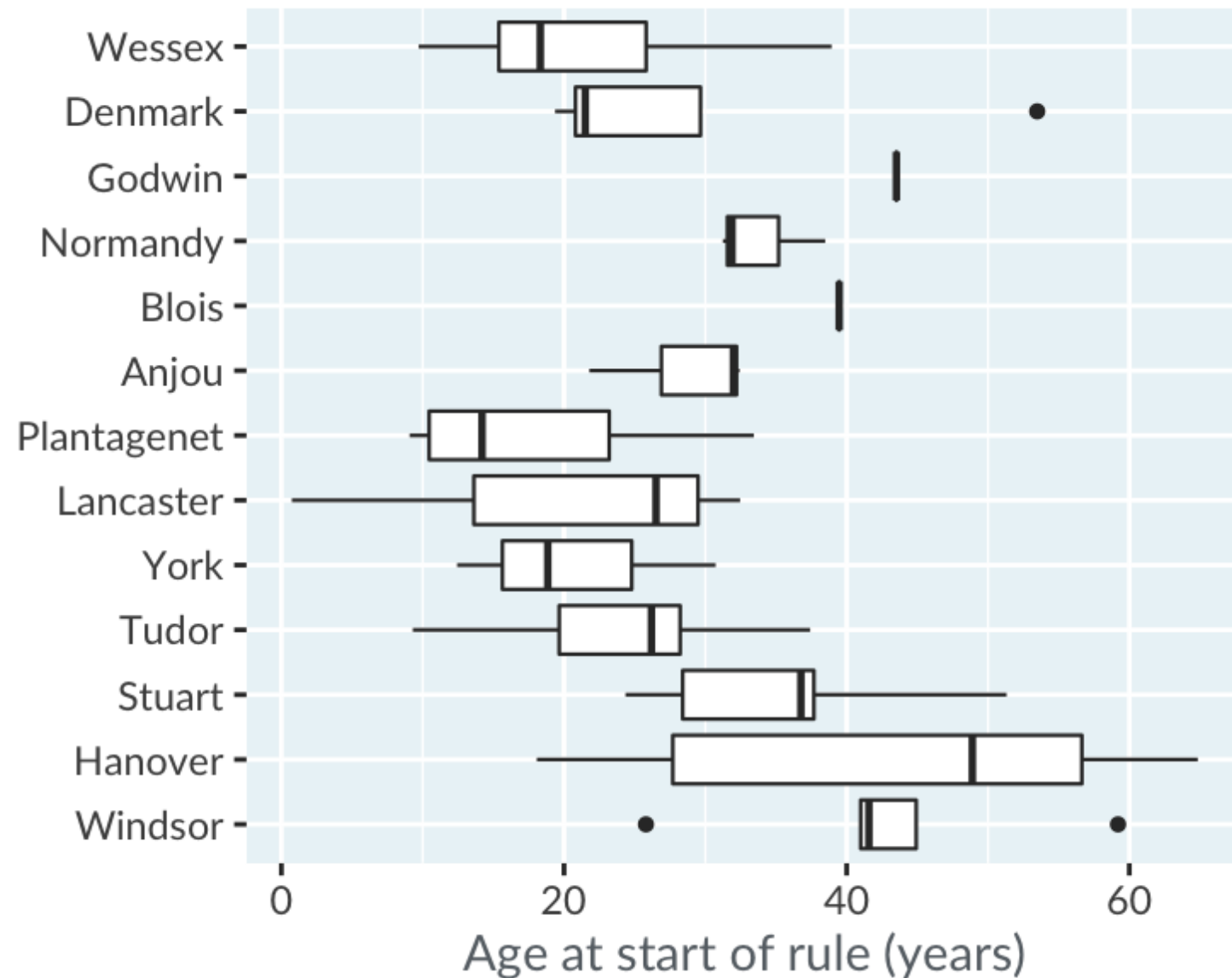
Stacking bars



Bar plots vs. box plots



Other metrics than counts



Let's practice!

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Dot plots

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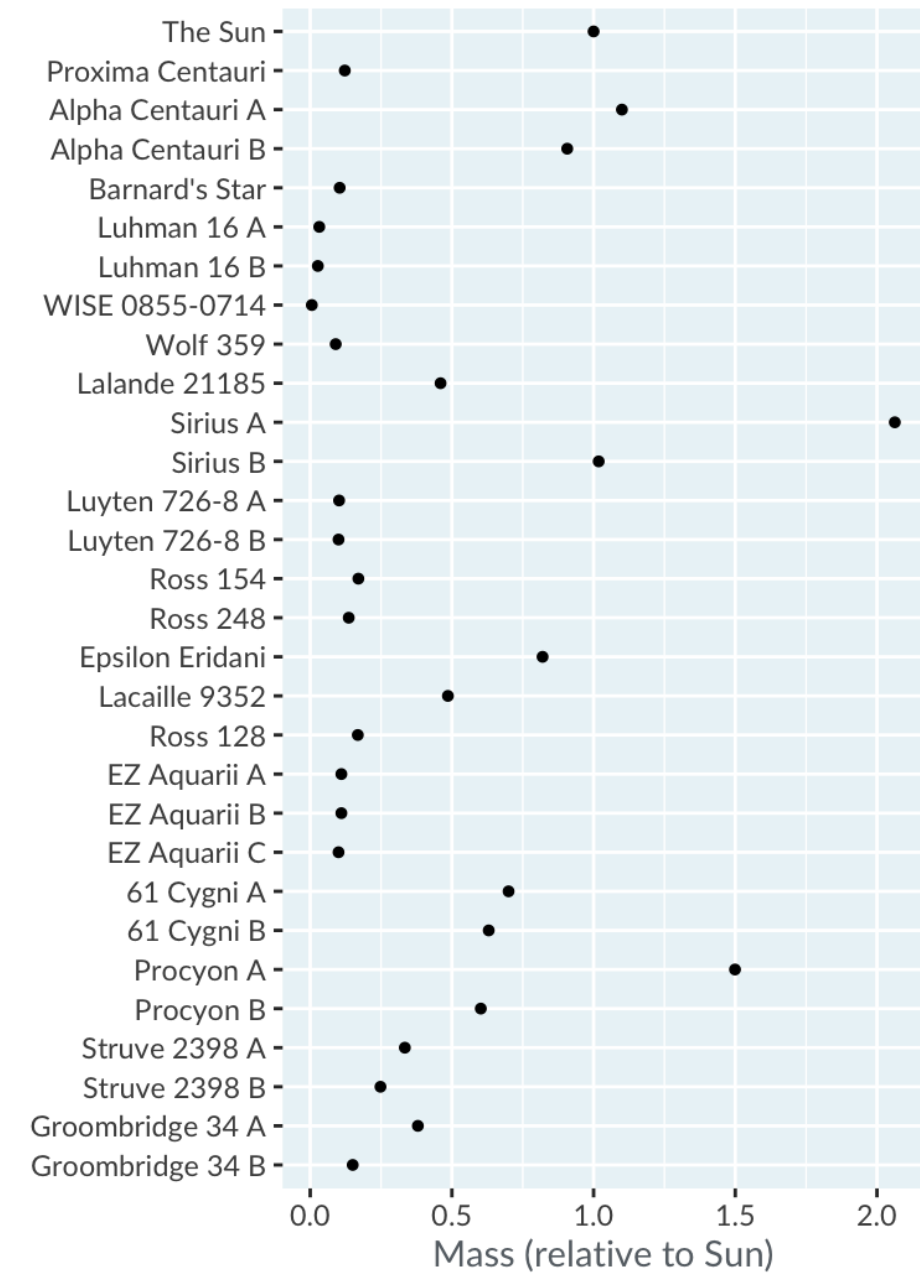
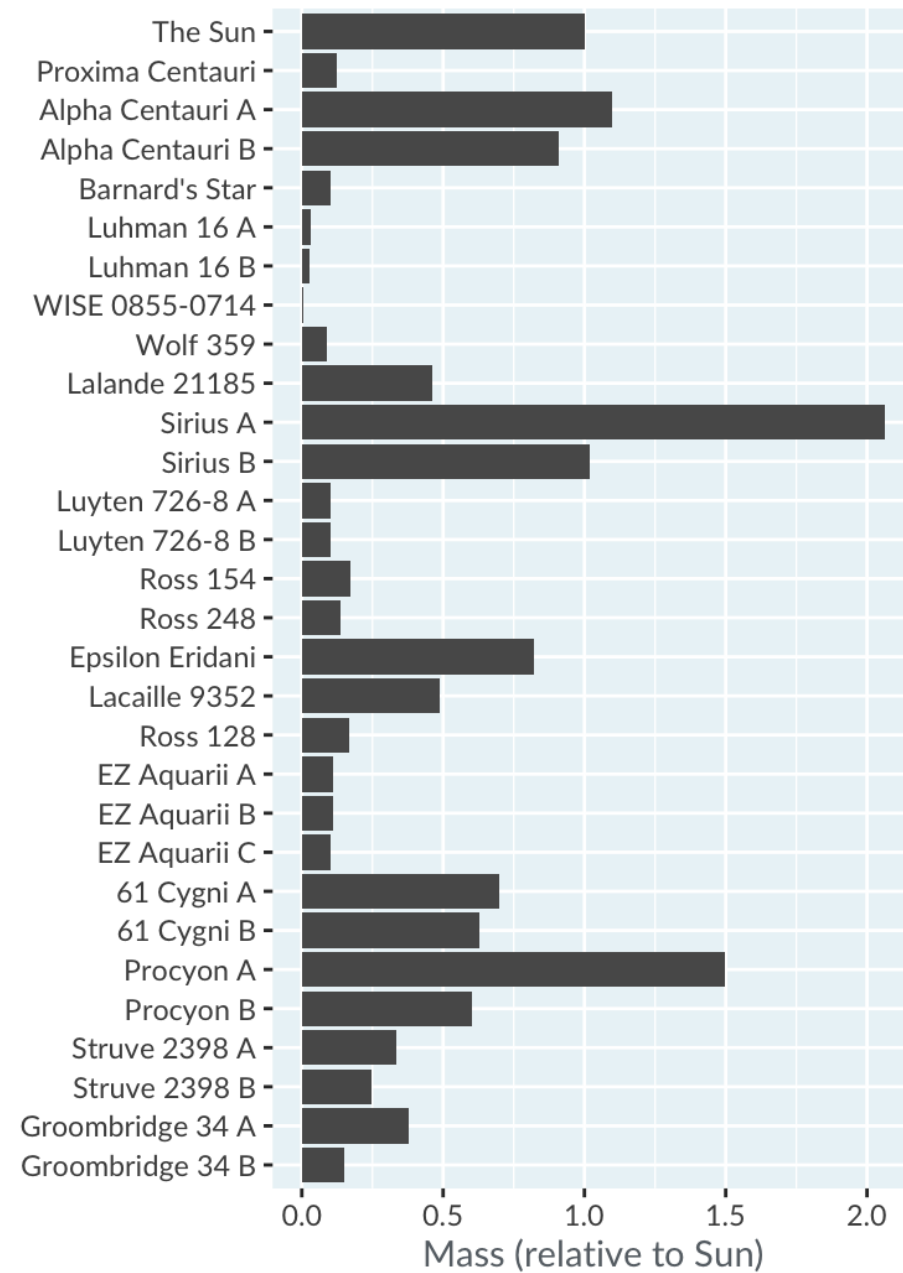
When should you use a dot plot?

1. You have a categorical variable.
2. You want to display numeric scores for each category on a log scale, or
3. You want to display multiple numeric scores for each category.

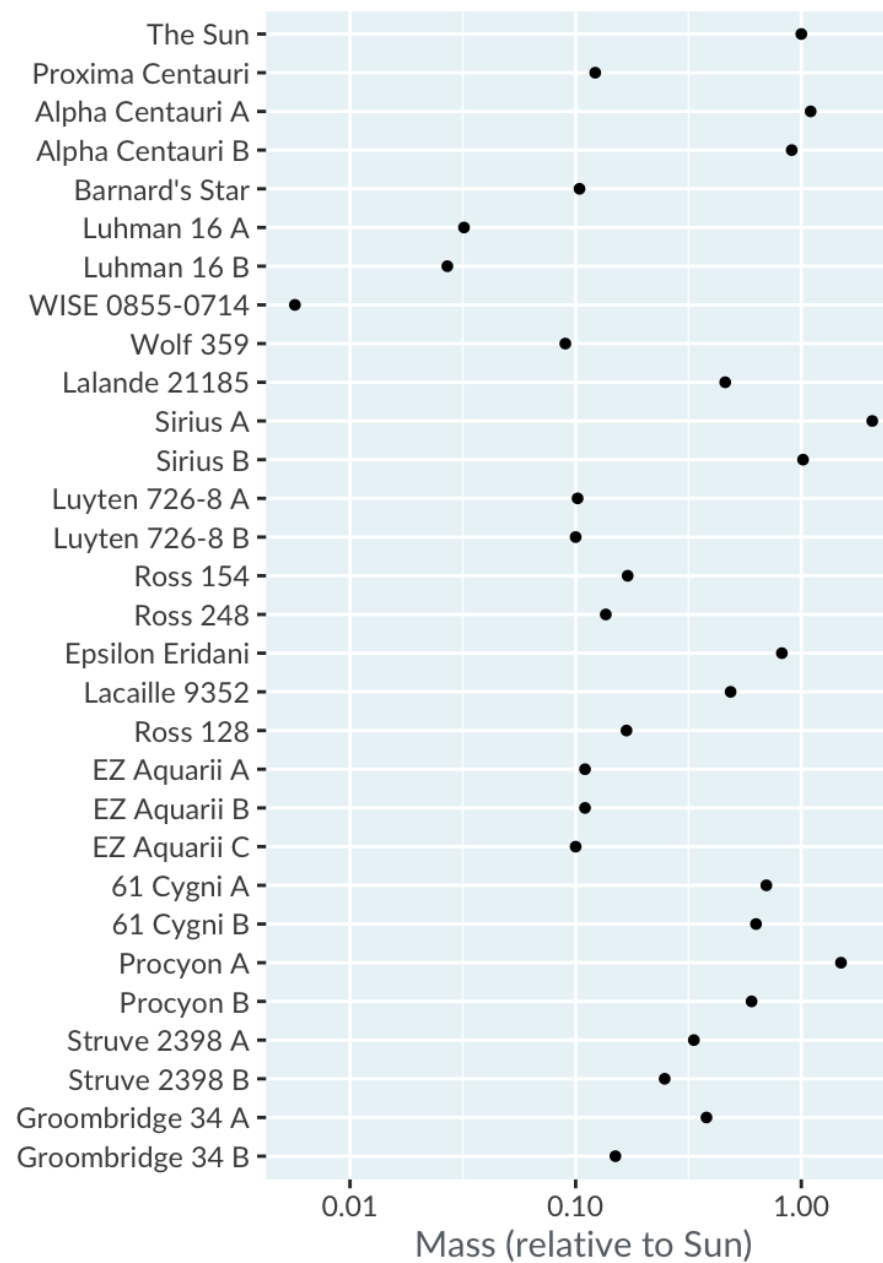
Nearby stars and brown dwarfs

star	distance_ly	mass_sm
The Sun	0.00000158	1.0000
Proxima Centauri	4.2441000	0.1221
Alpha Centauri A	4.3650000	1.1000
Alpha Centauri B	4.3650000	0.9070
Barnard's Star	5.9577000	0.1040
Luhman 16 A	6.5029000	0.0320
...

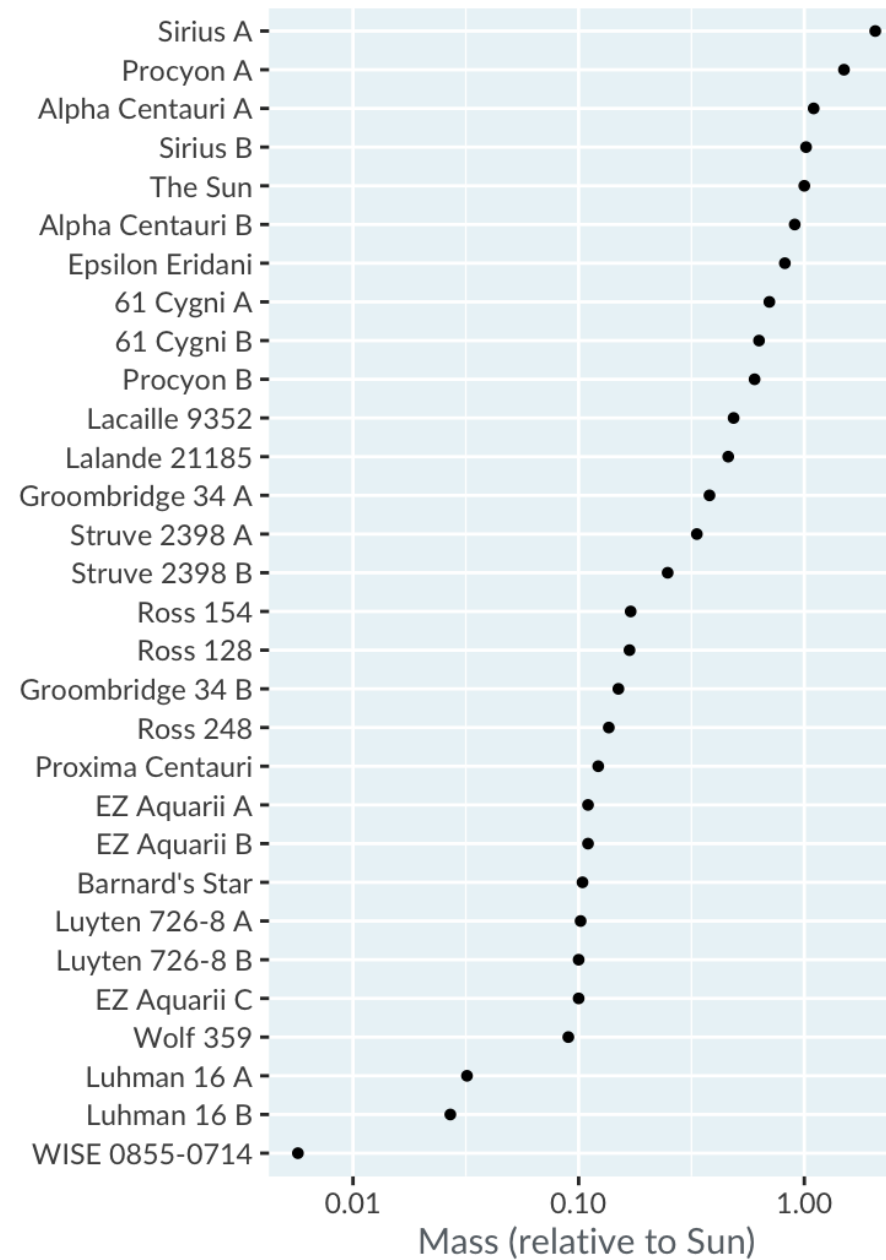
Bar plot vs. dot plot



Log scales



Sorting rows



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