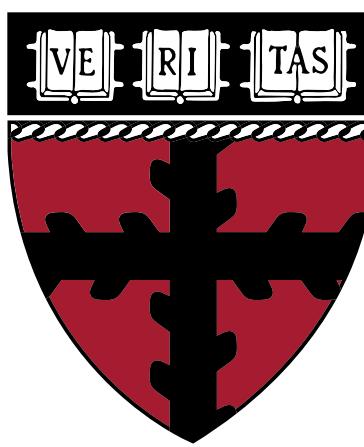


# CS171 Visualization

Alexander Lex  
[alex@seas.harvard.edu](mailto:alex@seas.harvard.edu)

## Tables



HARVARD  
School of Engineering  
and Applied Sciences

MY HOBBY: EXTRAPOLATING



[xkcd]

# This Week

Reading: VAD, Chapters 6 & 7

Lecture 9: Tables

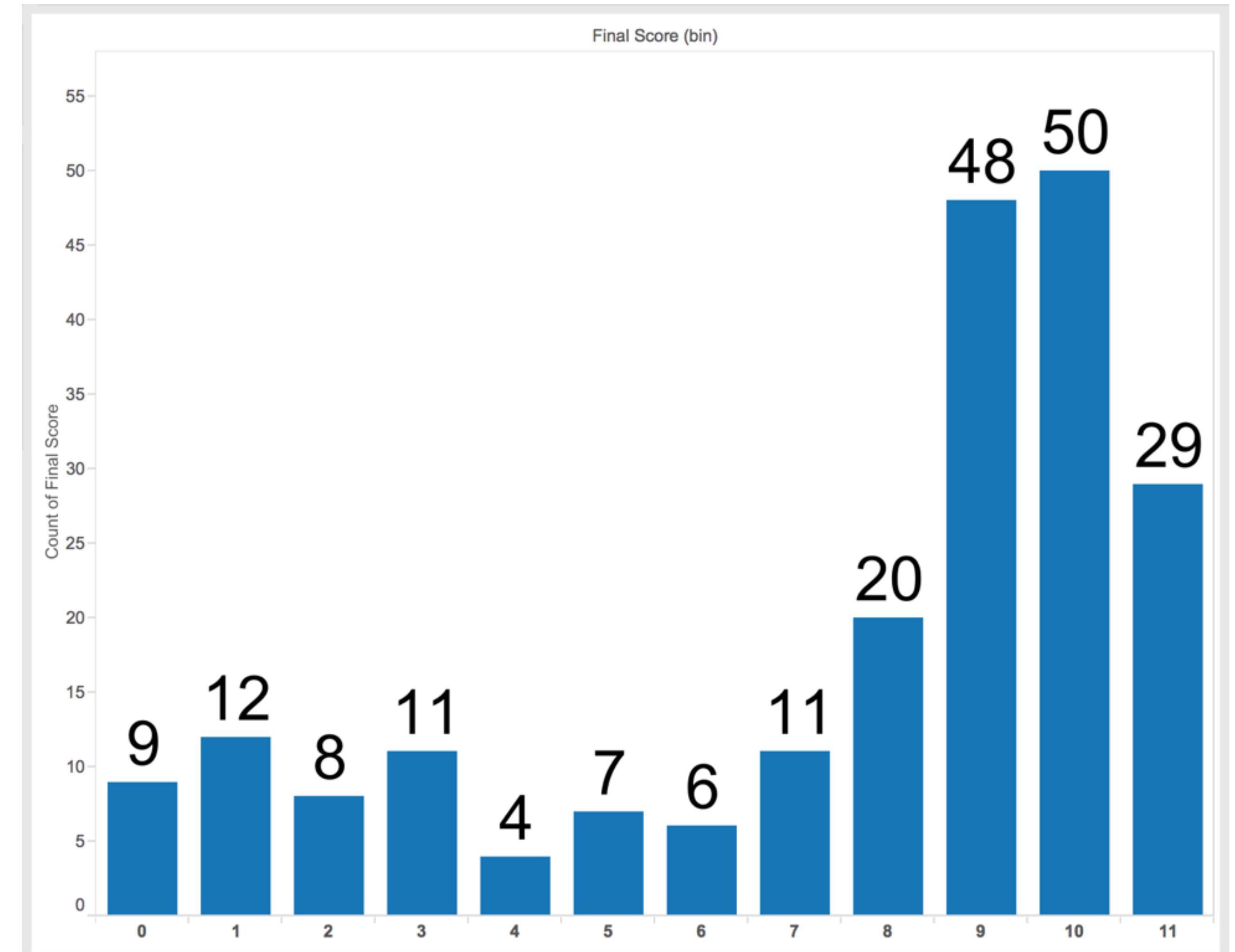
Lecture 10: Graphs

Sections: Designing your Visualization

# Homework 1 Review

# Score Distribution

Average: 7.8



# How Difficult?

**How difficult did you find the homework overall?**

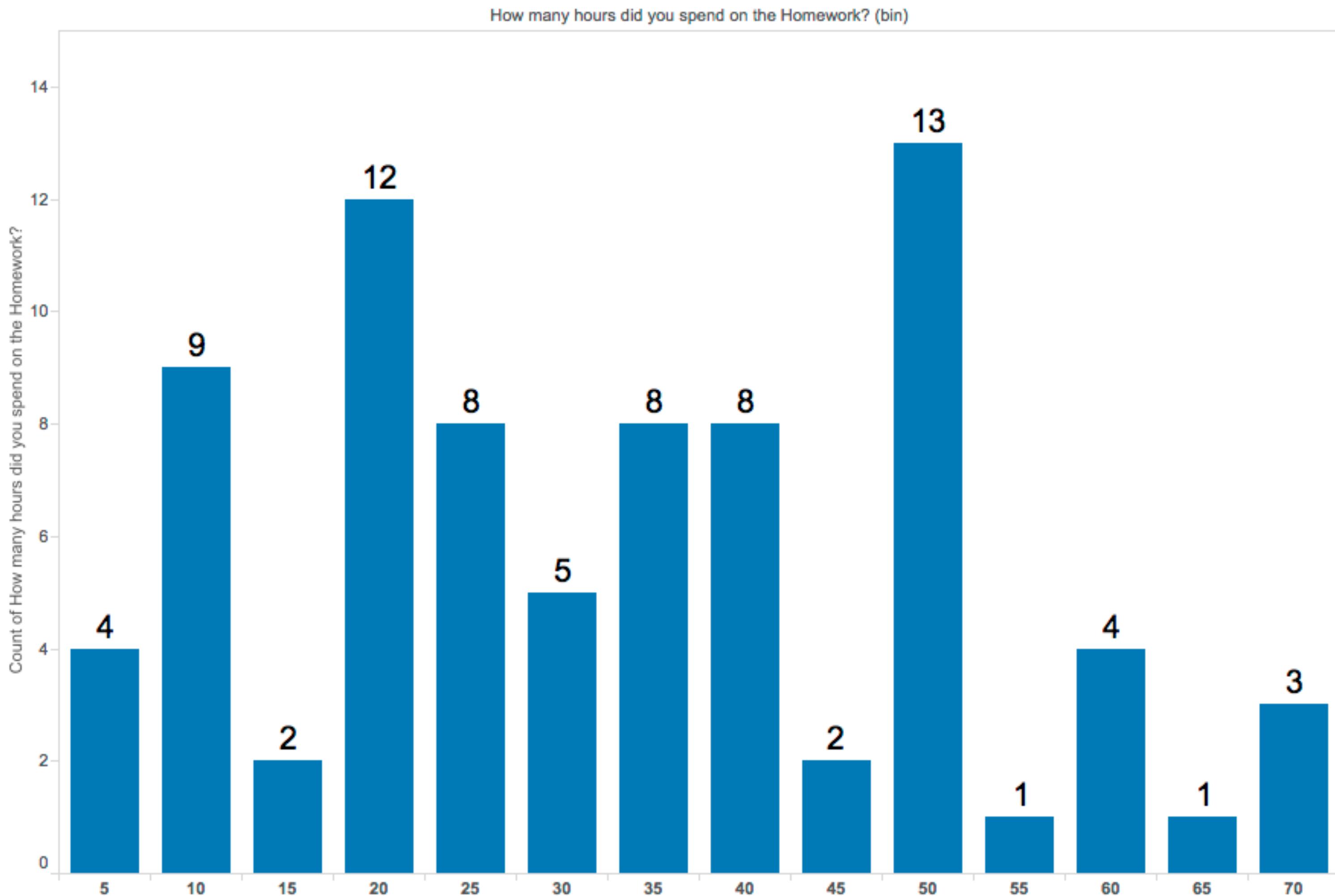


# How Long?

N=81

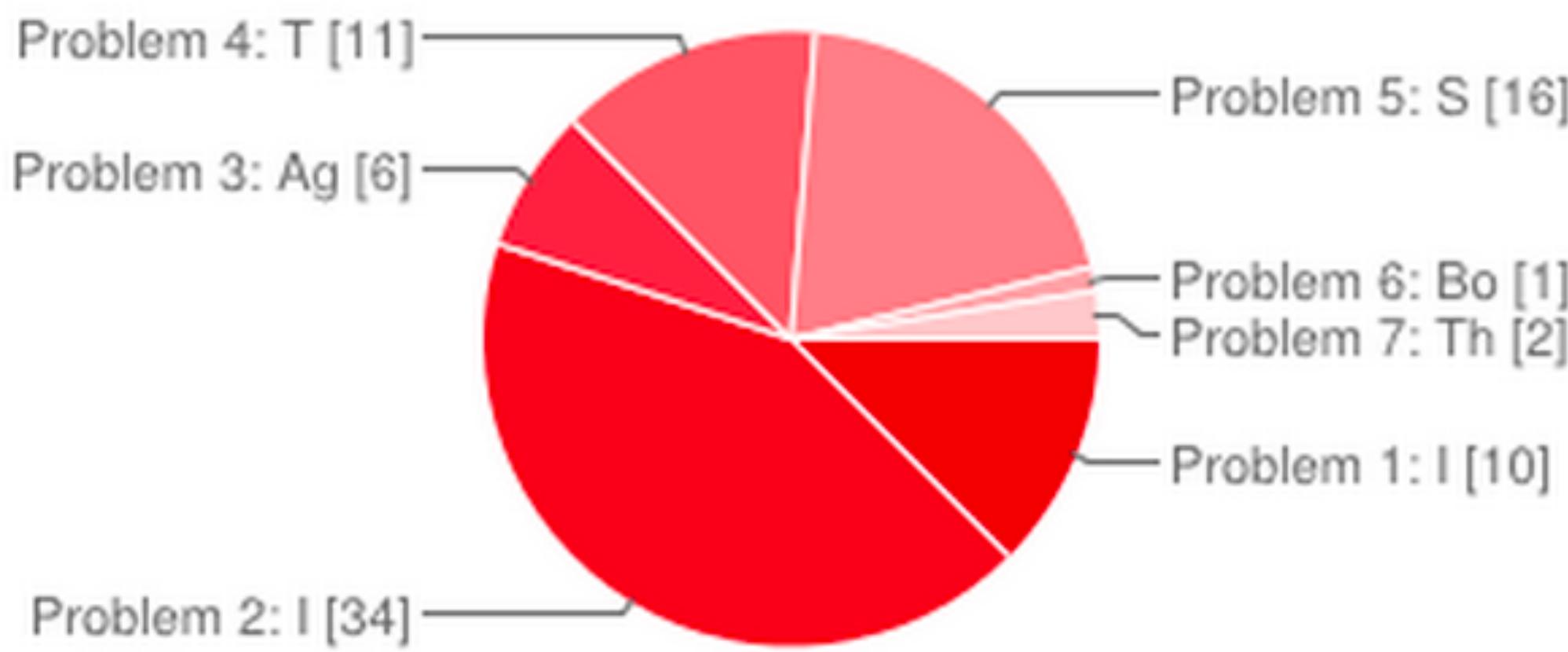
Average: 33.85

Goal: 20



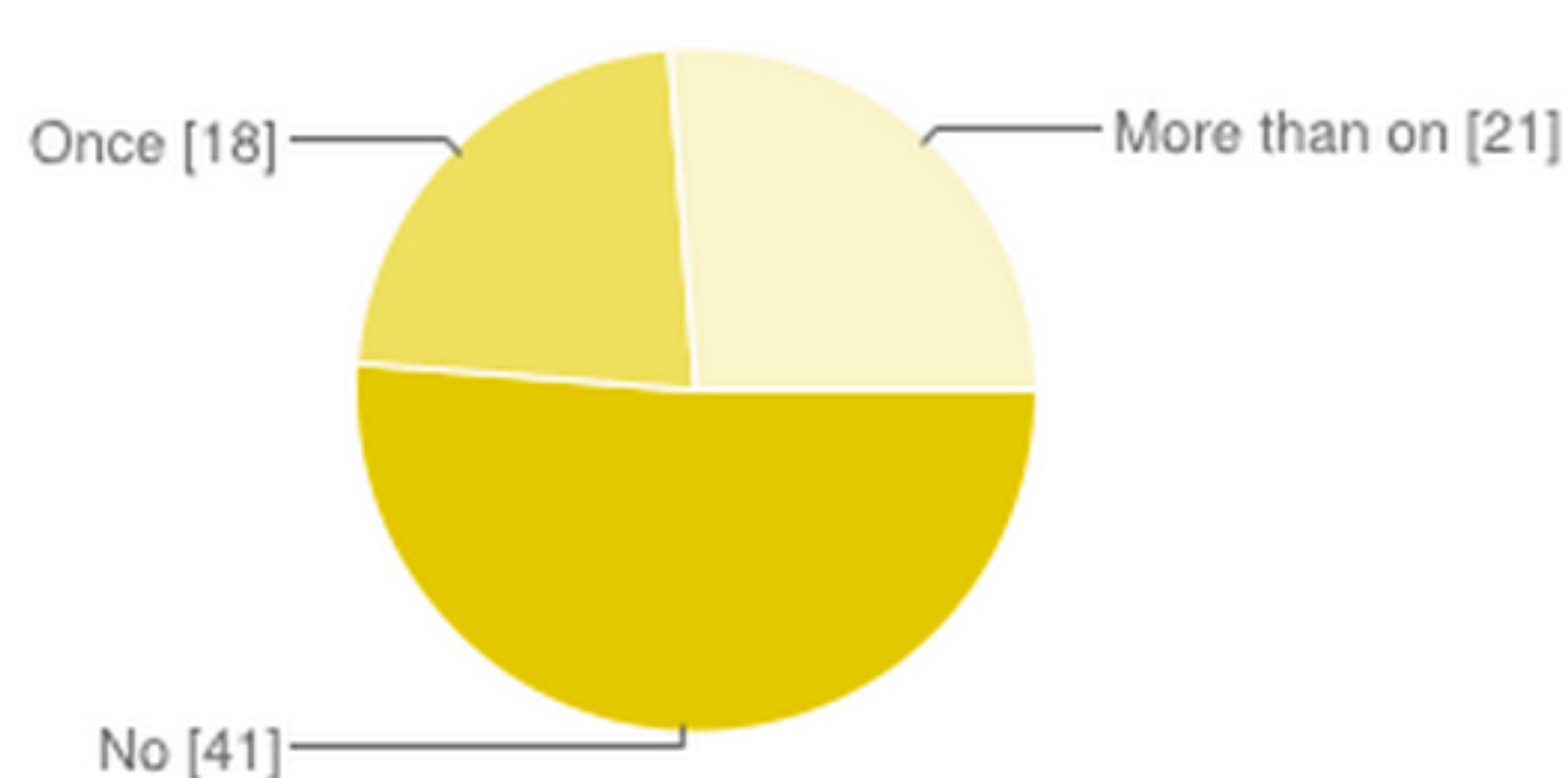
# Which part took longest?

**What part of HW1 did you spend the most time on?**



Problem 1: Improving the visual table design	<b>10</b>	13%
Problem 2: Interactive filtering	<b>34</b>	43%
Problem 3: Aggregating continents	<b>6</b>	8%
Problem 4: Time-dependent visualization	<b>11</b>	14%
Problem 5: SVG bar chart	<b>16</b>	20%
Problem 6: Bonus	<b>1</b>	1%
Problem 7: Theory	<b>2</b>	3%

# Office Hours Attendance



No	<b>41</b>	51%
Once	<b>18</b>	23%
More than once	<b>21</b>	26%

# Are Sections Helpful?

**How helpful do you find the sections for the homework?**



# Section Comments

*“Pertinent and just enough momentum to get you thinking in the right direction. Section presenter delivered an enthusiastic and polished lesson.”*

*“Topics covered were too easy! Homework problems were way harder.”*

# Design Studio

**How helpful did you find the design studio (already for HW2)?**



# Design Studio Comments

*“I felt it was a huge waste of time because I'm still struggling with d3 let alone attempting a creative design. Also, we didn't really do anything in class.”*

*“DESIGN STUDIOS ARE HARD. Wow, it was cool to see our group trying to think of all of the complex things we could draw and just how quickly it all got overly complex. Might be nice to see an example DS after HW2 is submitted.”*

*“A lot of fun!”*

*“nice chance to interact with more people while working”*

# General Difficulty

**In general, how difficult are you finding the course?**



# General Comments

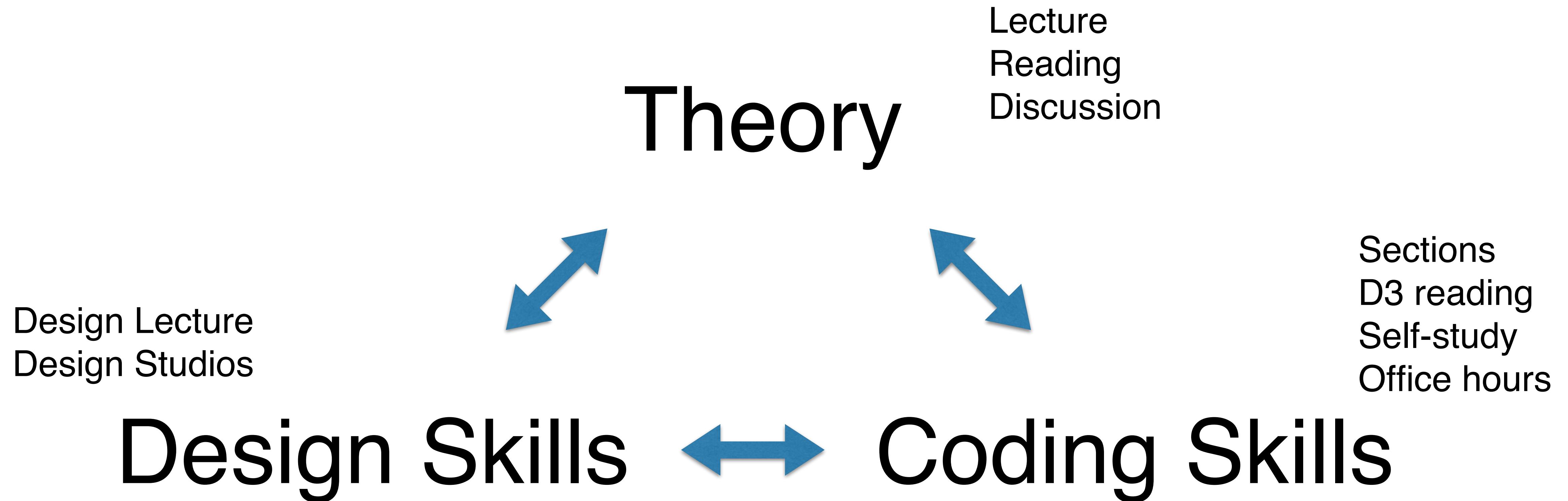
*“The learning curve is quite steep for someone who does not do programming regularly”*

*“I think there is a large discrepancy between the contents of lecture and the problem sets that we are given. Generally, I don't understand why most of the lectures focus on visualization theory and do not discuss actual coding itself.”*

*“Theory might need to be a little bit harder. Some of the code, I think is too hard. Really freaking good course though.”*

*“Please teach us some real code and design problems in lecture. It's a disaster for people who learn Javascript first time.”*

# What you need to know

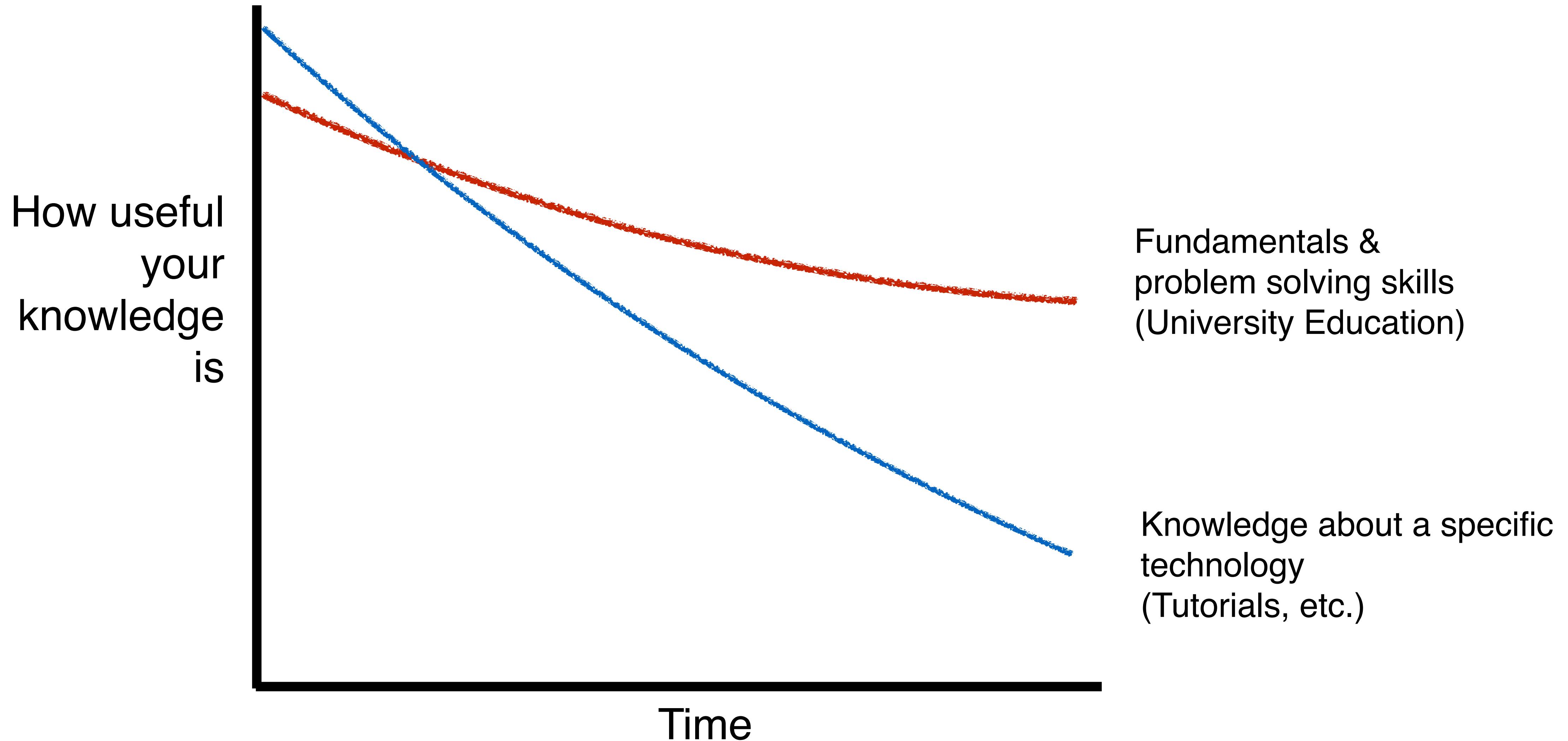


```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<meta charset="utf-8">
<style>

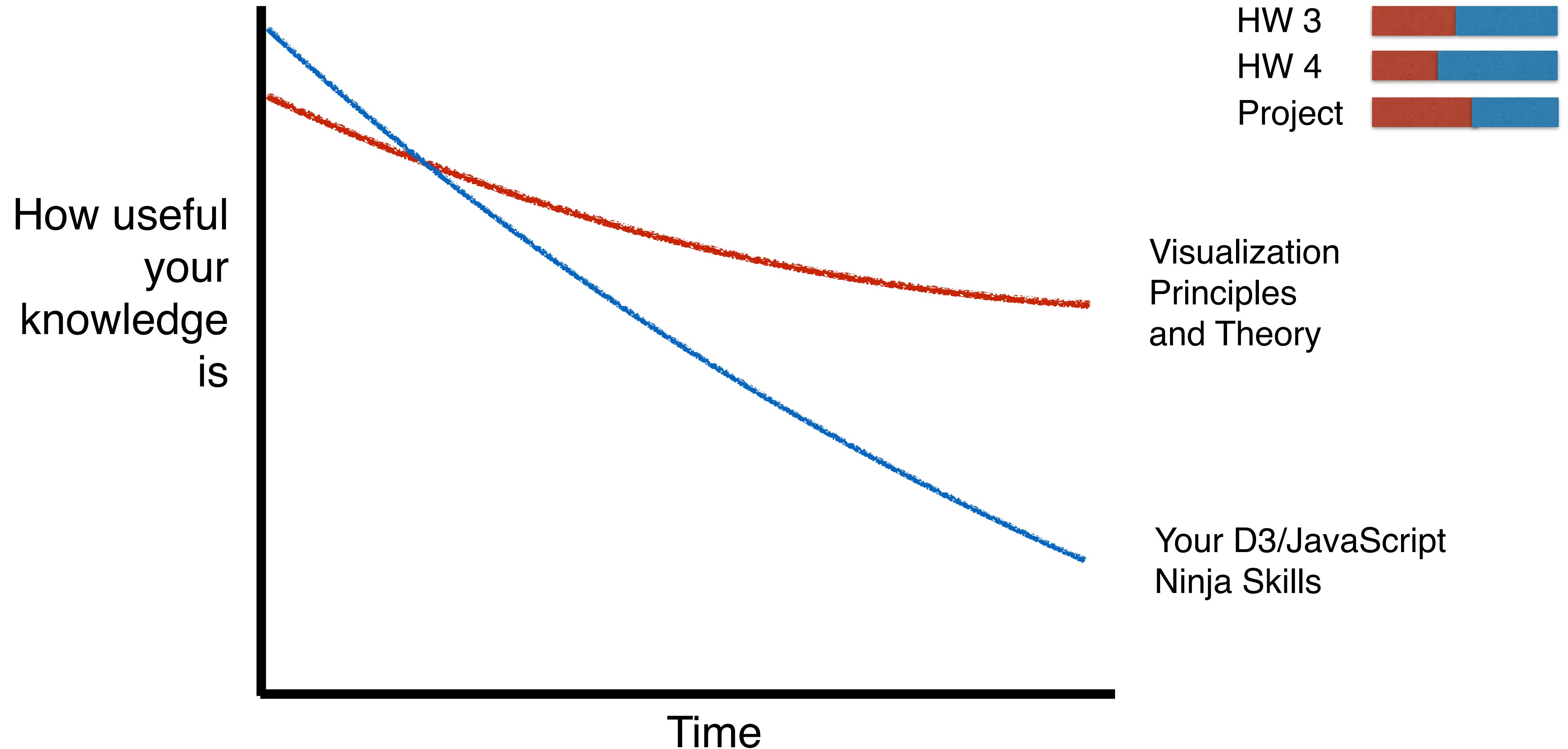
text {
  font: 10px sans-serif;
}

</style>
<body>
<script src="http://d3js.org/d3.v3.min.js"></script>
<script>
```

# Half-Life of Knowledge



# Half-Life of Knowledge



# Two Weeks Ago

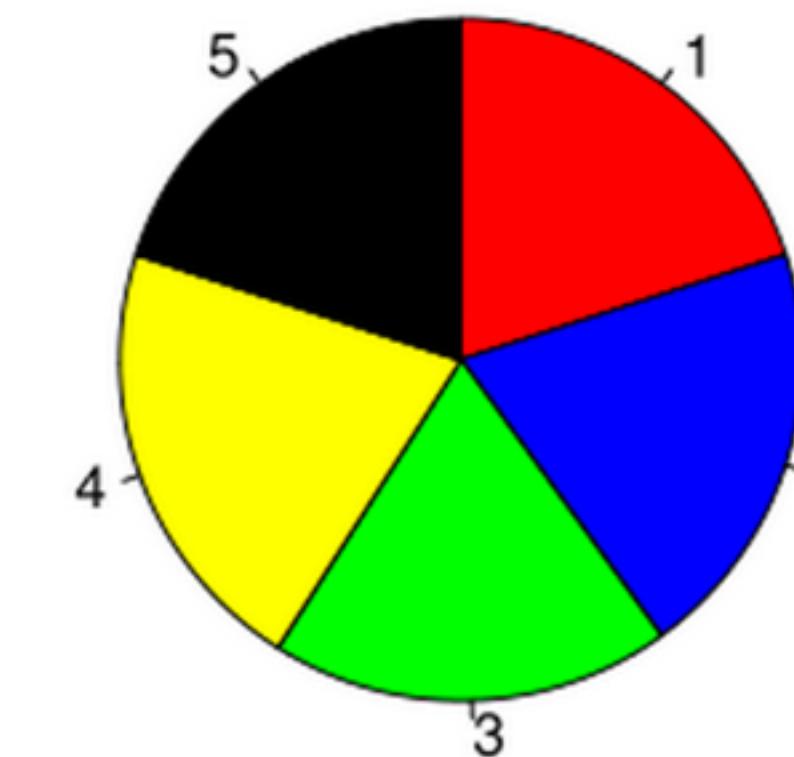
Vis Guidelines  
Tasks

# Can you spot the differences?

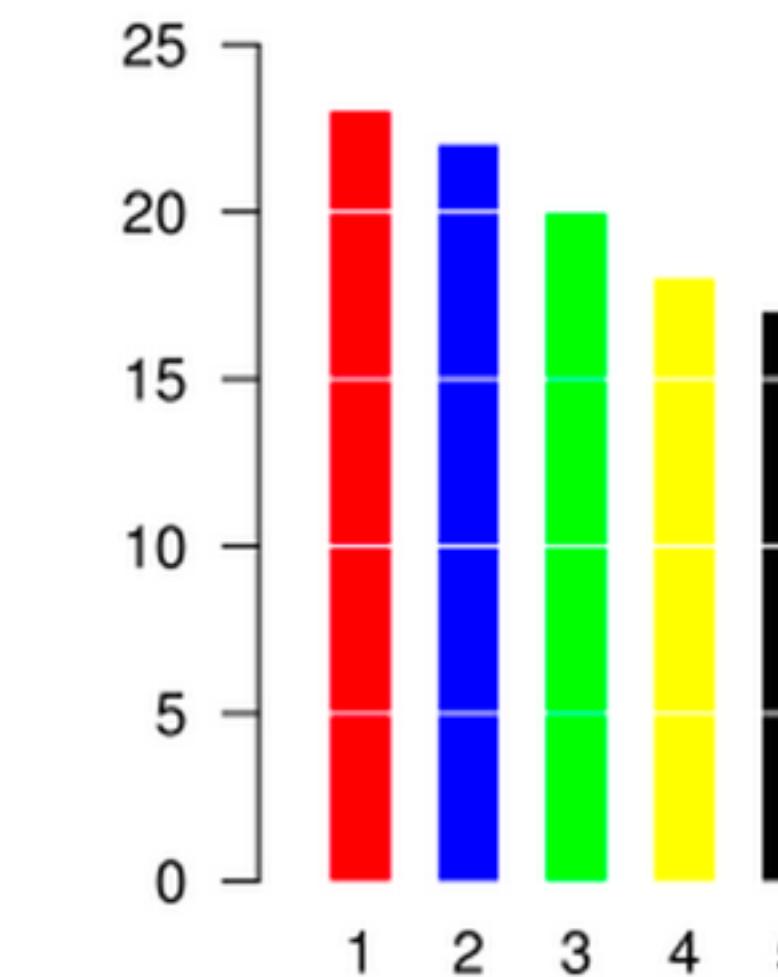
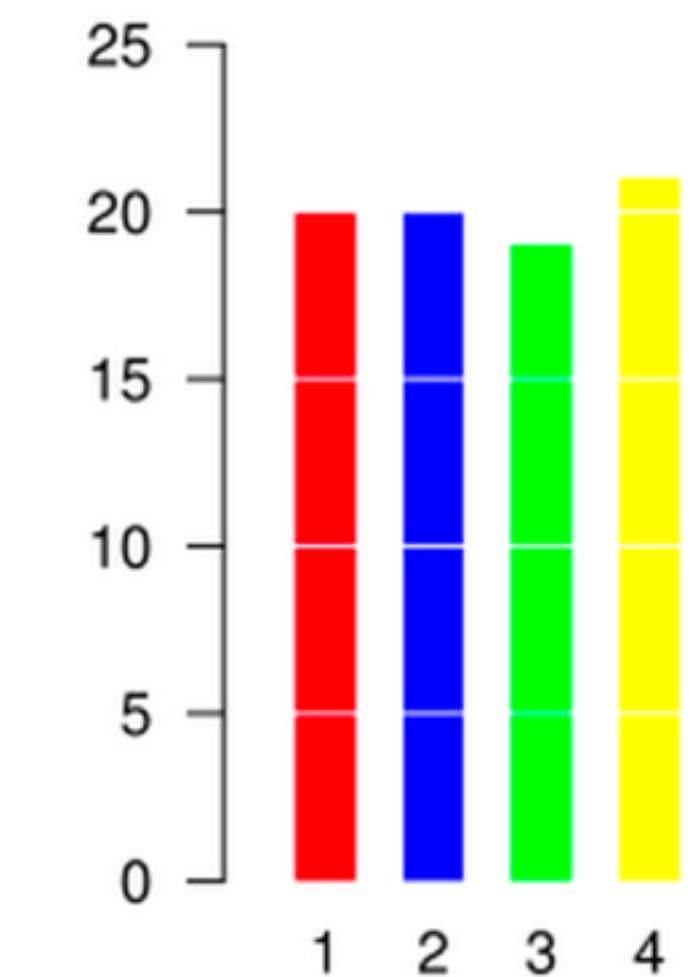
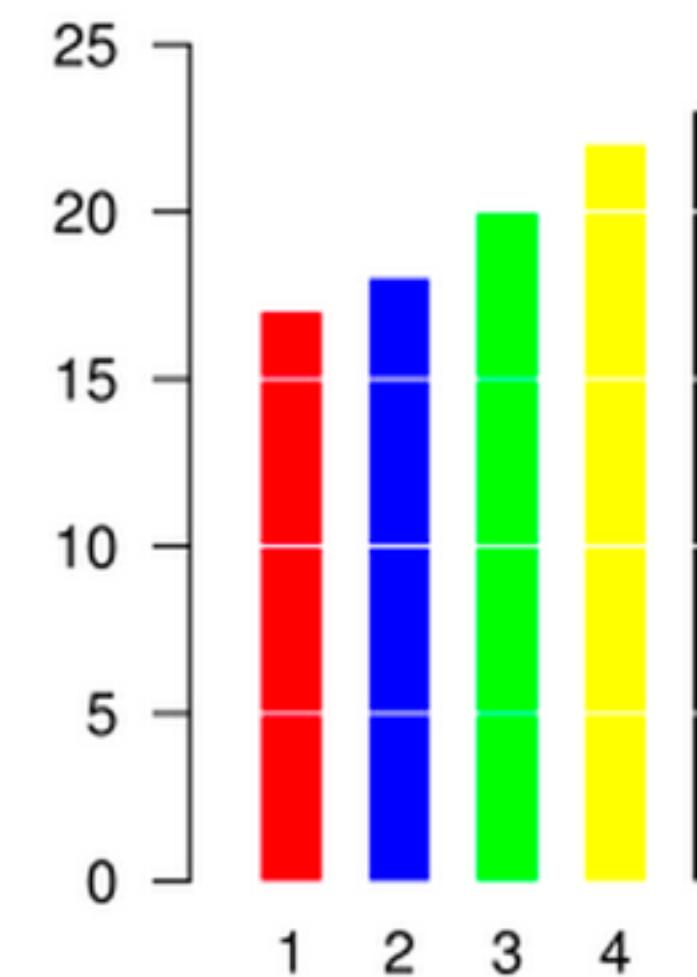
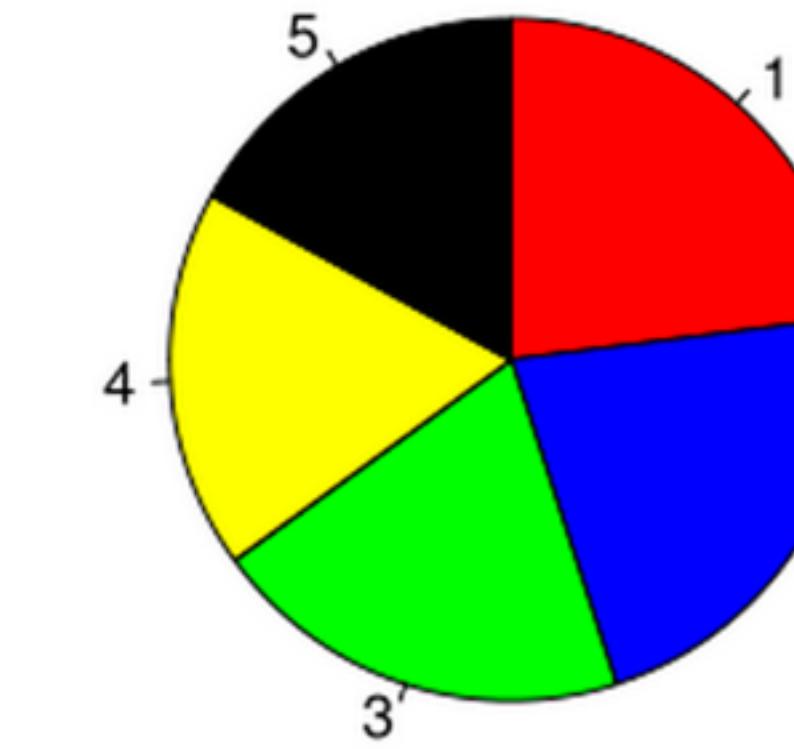
A



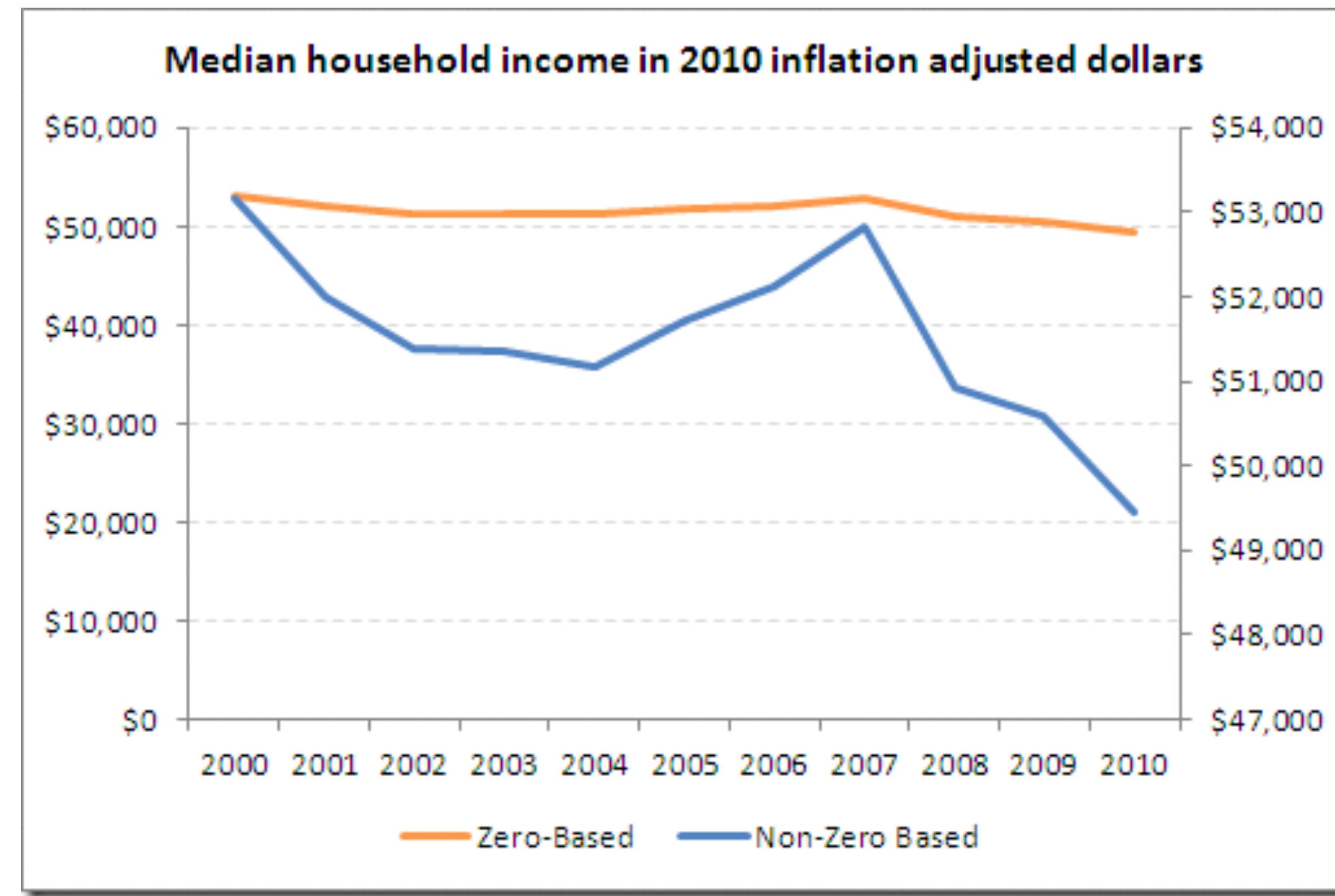
B



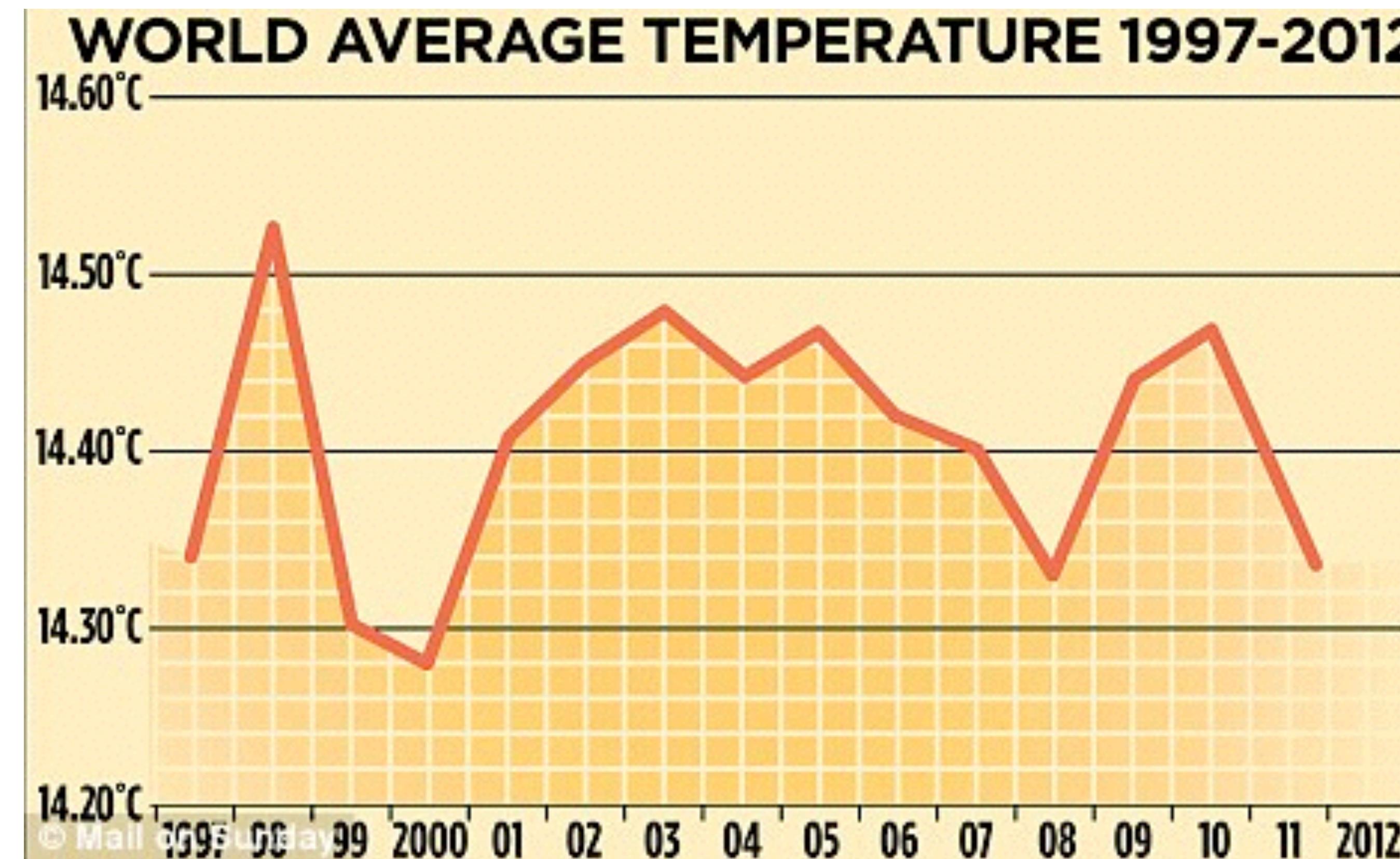
C



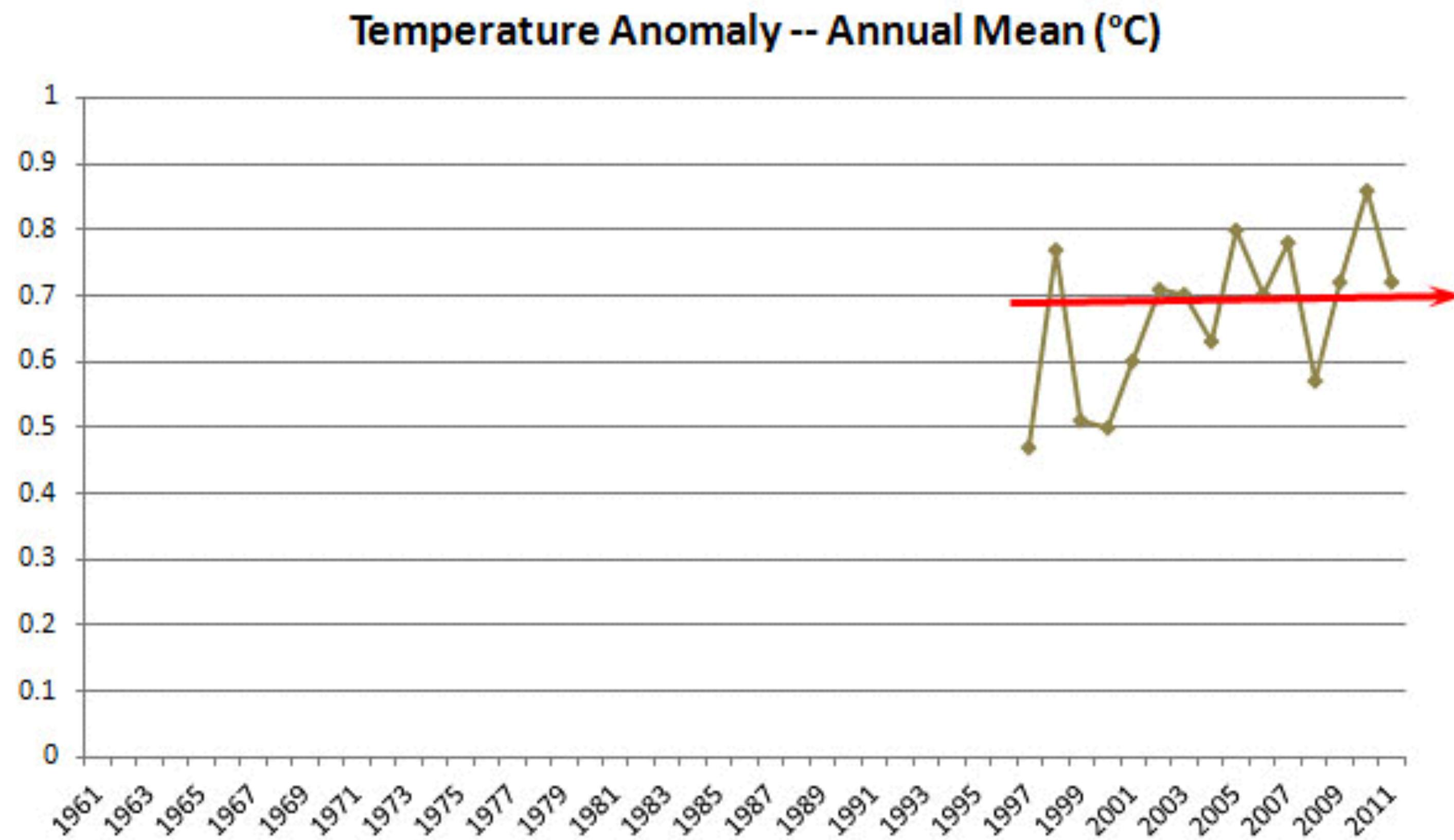
# Start Scales at 0?



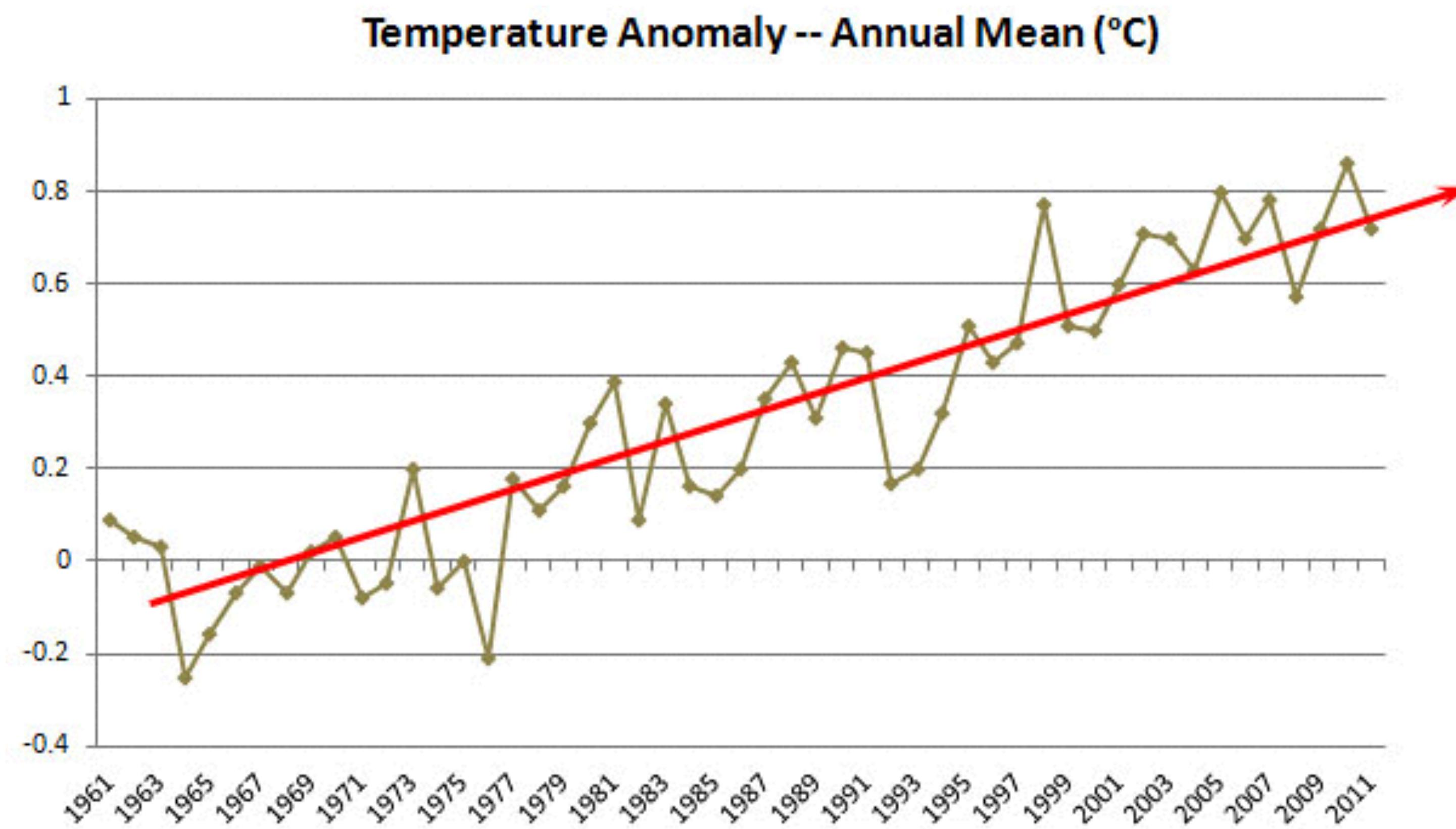
# Global Warming?



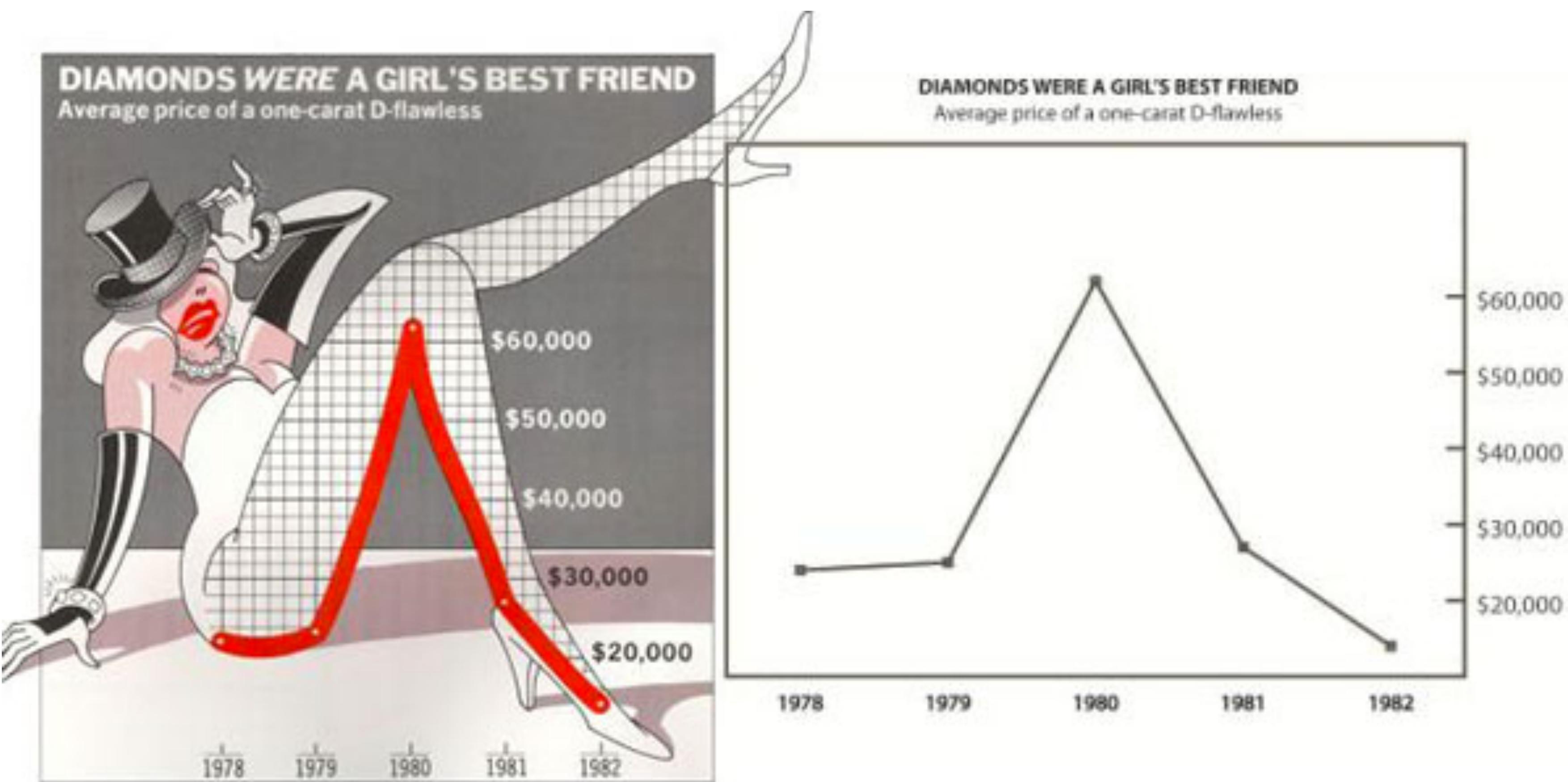
# Global Warming?



# Global Warming - Frame the Data



# Which is better?



[Bateman et al. 2010]

# Tasks

Why are we using Visualization?

# Domain and Abstract Tasks

Infinite numbers of domain tasks

Can be broken down into simpler abstract tasks

We know how to address the abstract tasks!

Identify task - data combination: solutions probably exist

# High-level actions: Analyze

# Consume

# discover vs present

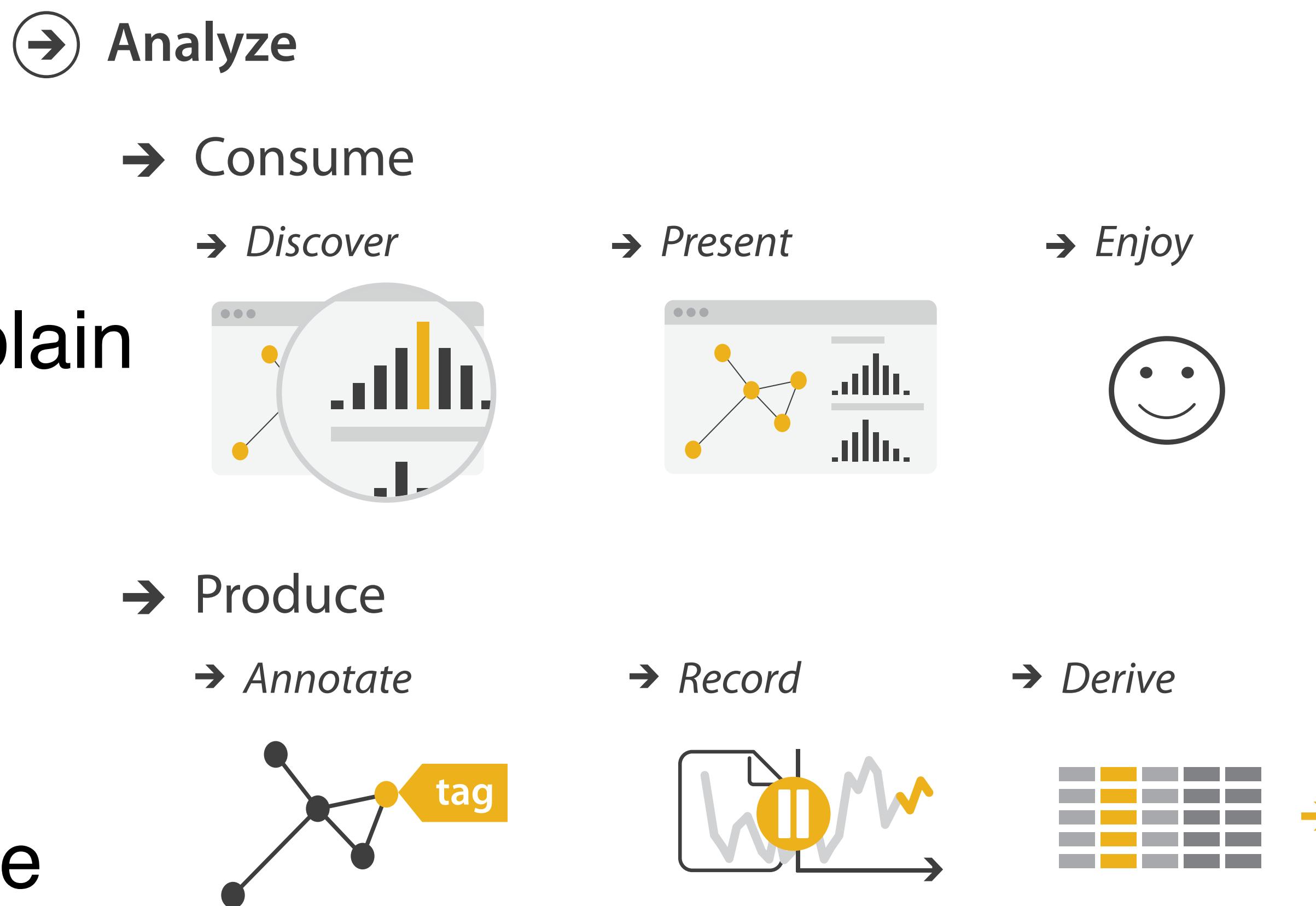
# classic split: explore vs explain

**enjoy:** casual, social

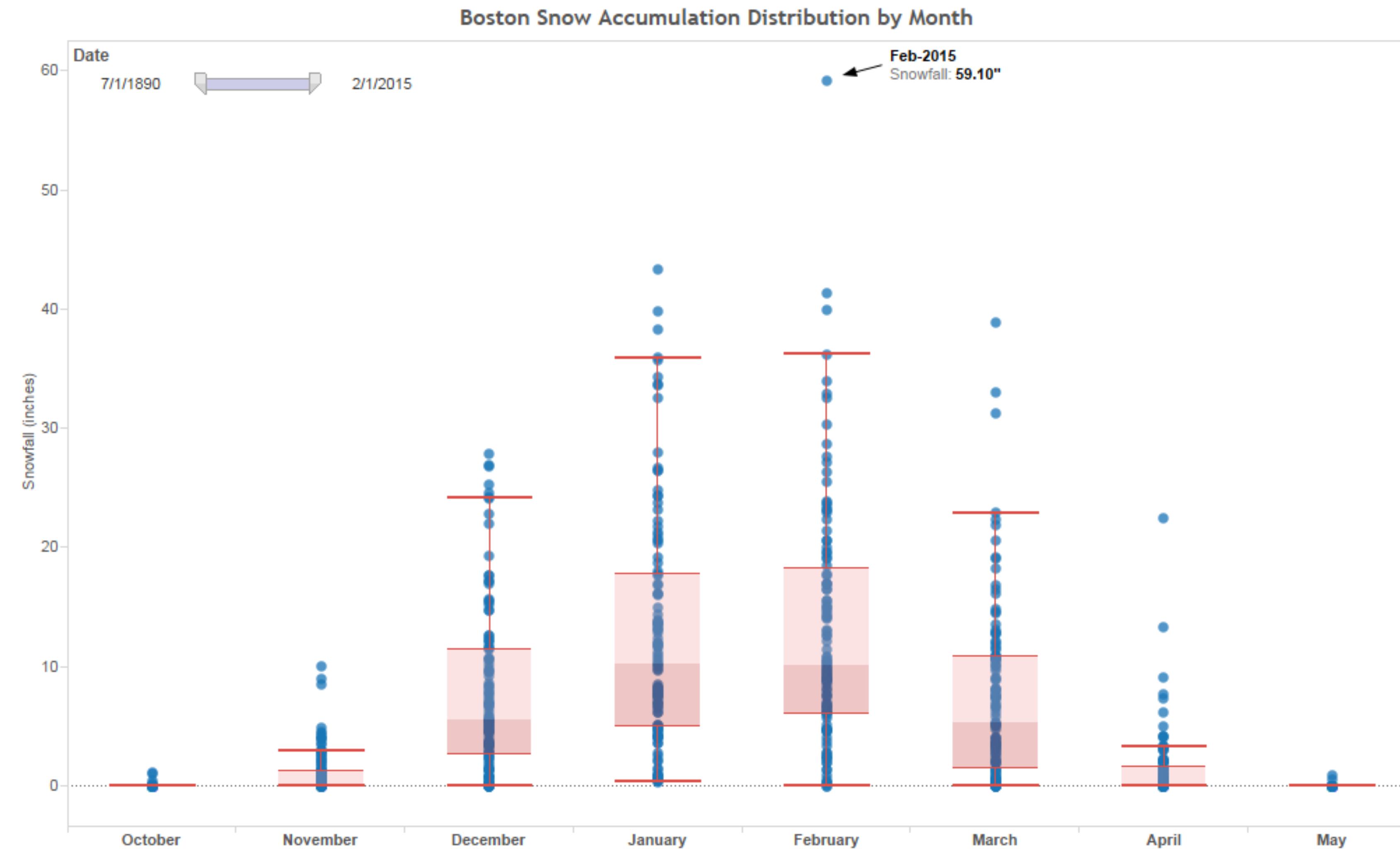
# Produce

# Annotate, record

# Derive: crucial design choice



# Example: Derive



# Actions: Mid-level search, low-level query

what does user know?

target, location

how much of the data matters?

one, some, all

➔ Search

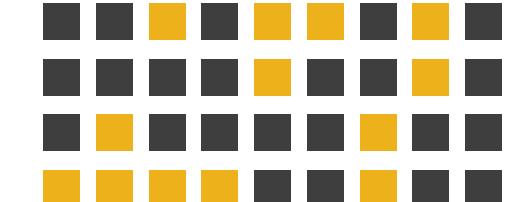
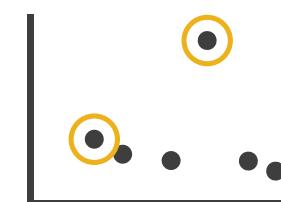
	Target known	Target unknown
Location known	 <i>Lookup</i>	 <i>Browse</i>
Location unknown	 <i>Locate</i>	 <i>Explore</i>

➔ Query

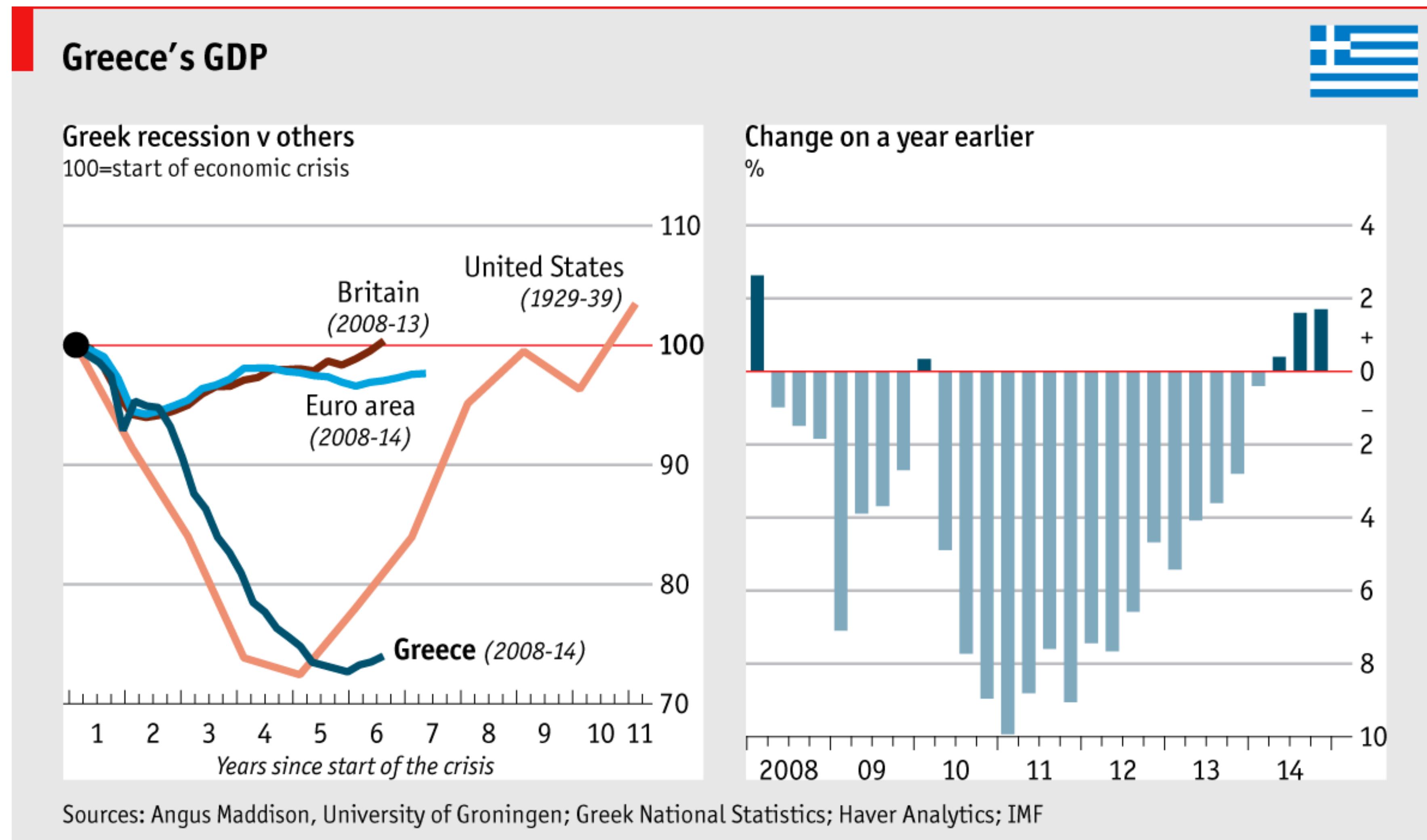
➔ Identify

➔ Compare

➔ Summarize



# Example Compare (& Derive)



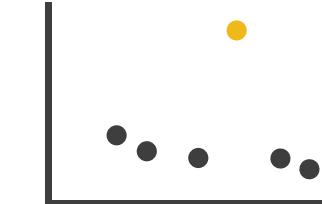
# Why: Targets

→ ALL DATA

→ Trends



→ Outliers



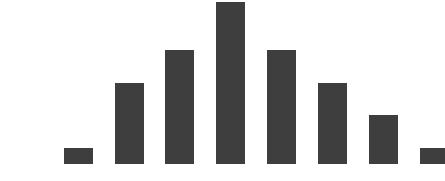
→ Features



→ ATTRIBUTES

→ One

→ Distribution

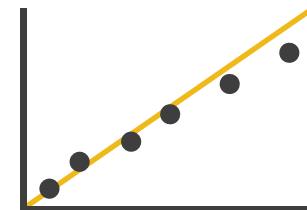


→ Many

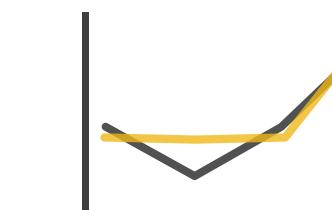
→ Dependency



→ Correlation

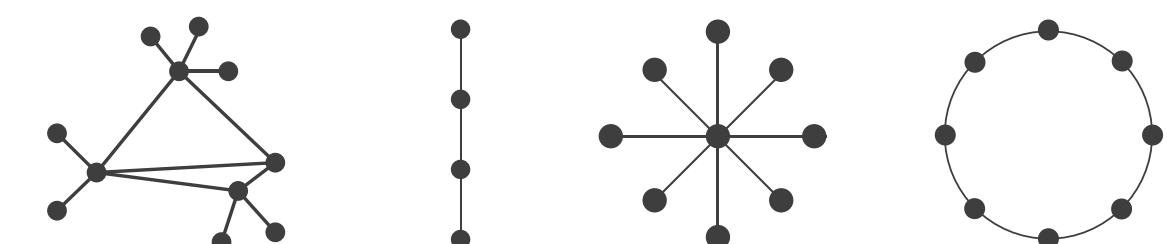


→ Similarity

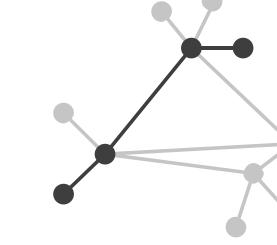


→ NETWORK DATA

→ Topology

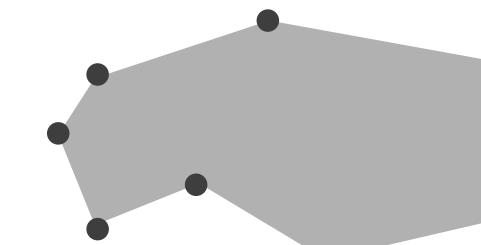


→ Paths

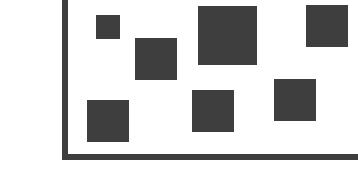
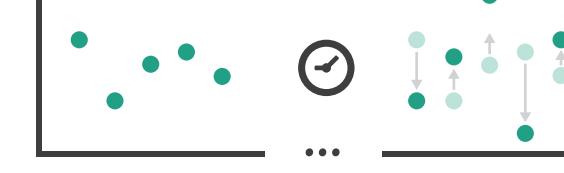
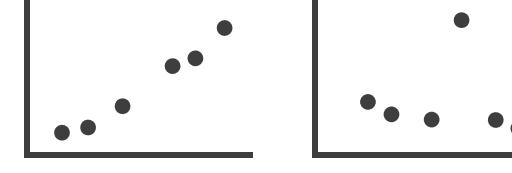
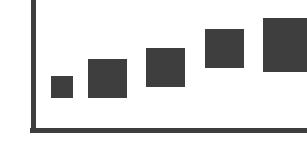
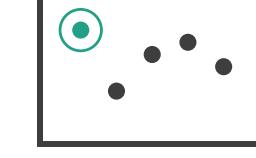
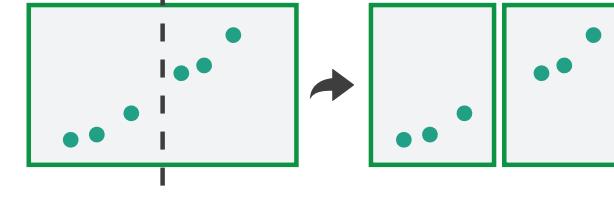


→ SPATIAL DATA

→ Shape

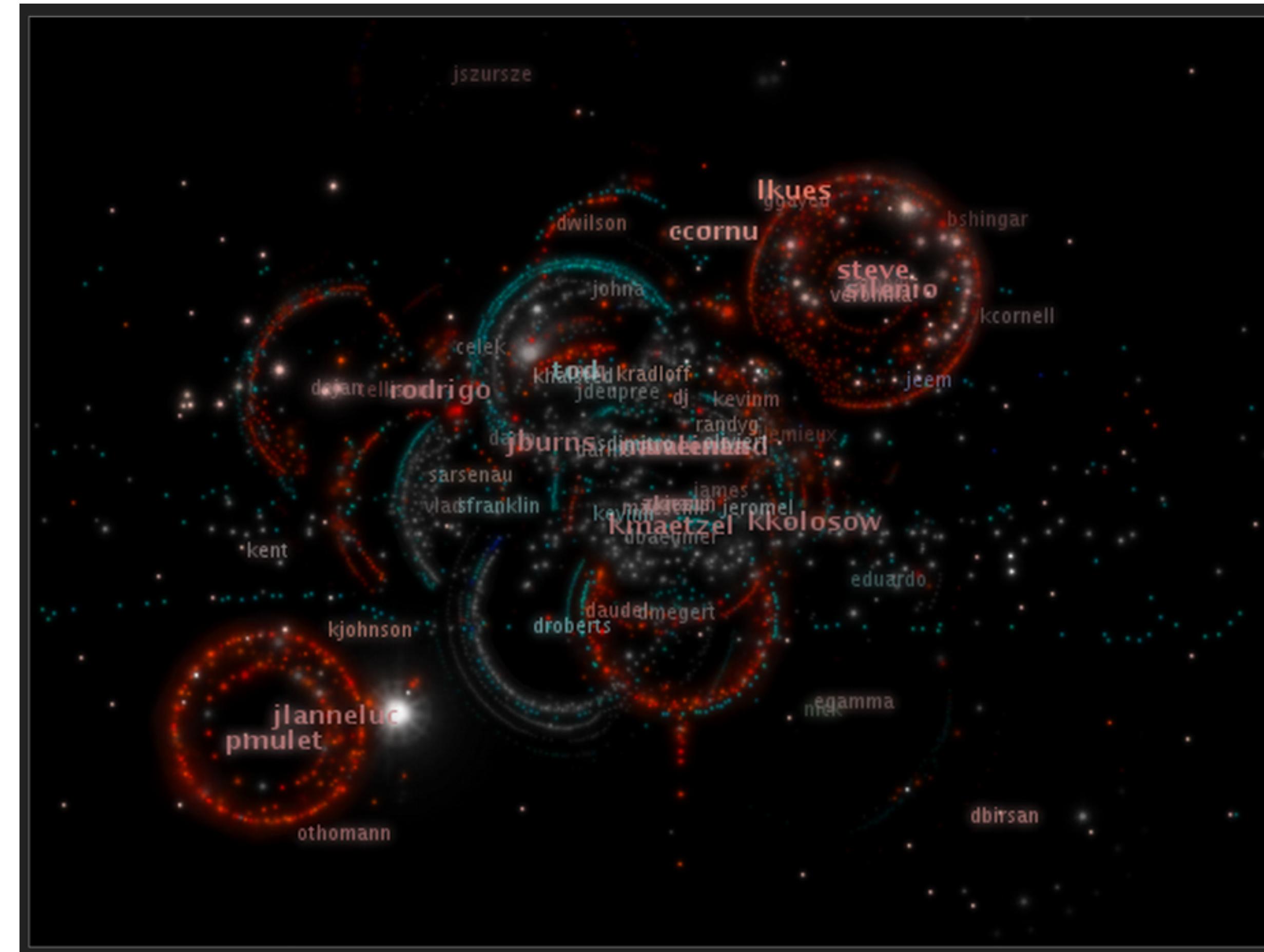


# How? A Preview

Encode	Manipulate	Facet	Reduce
<p>➔ Arrange → Express </p>	<p>➔ Separate </p>	<p>➔ Change </p>	<p>➔ Juxtapose </p>
<p>→ Order </p>	<p>→ Align </p>	<p>➔ Select </p>	<p>➔ Partition </p>
<p>→ Use </p>	<p>➔ Navigate </p>	<p>➔ Superimpose </p>	<p>➔ Filter </p> <p>➔ Aggregate </p> <p>➔ Embed </p>

# Design Critique

# CodeSwarm: <http://goo.gl/9exsZH>



<http://vis.cs.ucdavis.edu/~ogawa/codeswarm/>

# Tables & Multi-Dimensional Data

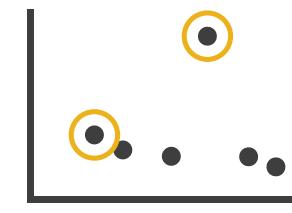
# Basic Plots for Basic Tasks

## → Search

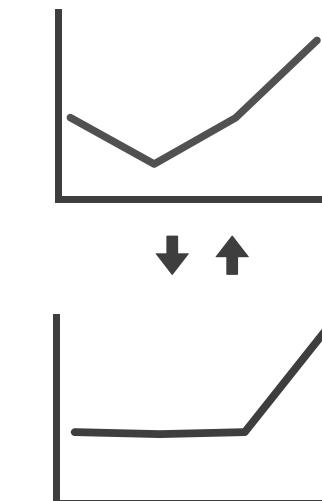
	Target known	Target unknown
Location known	 <i>Lookup</i>	 <i>Browse</i>
Location unknown	 <i>Locate</i>	 <i>Explore</i>

## → Query

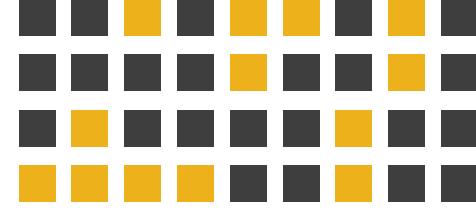
→ Identify



→ Compare



→ Summarize

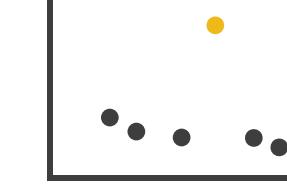


## → ALL DATA

→ Trends



→ Outliers



→ Features



## → ATTRIBUTES

→ One

→ Distribution



↓ Extremes

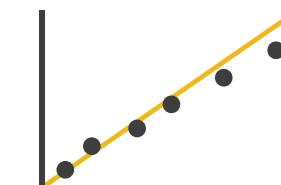


→ Many

→ Dependency



→ Correlation

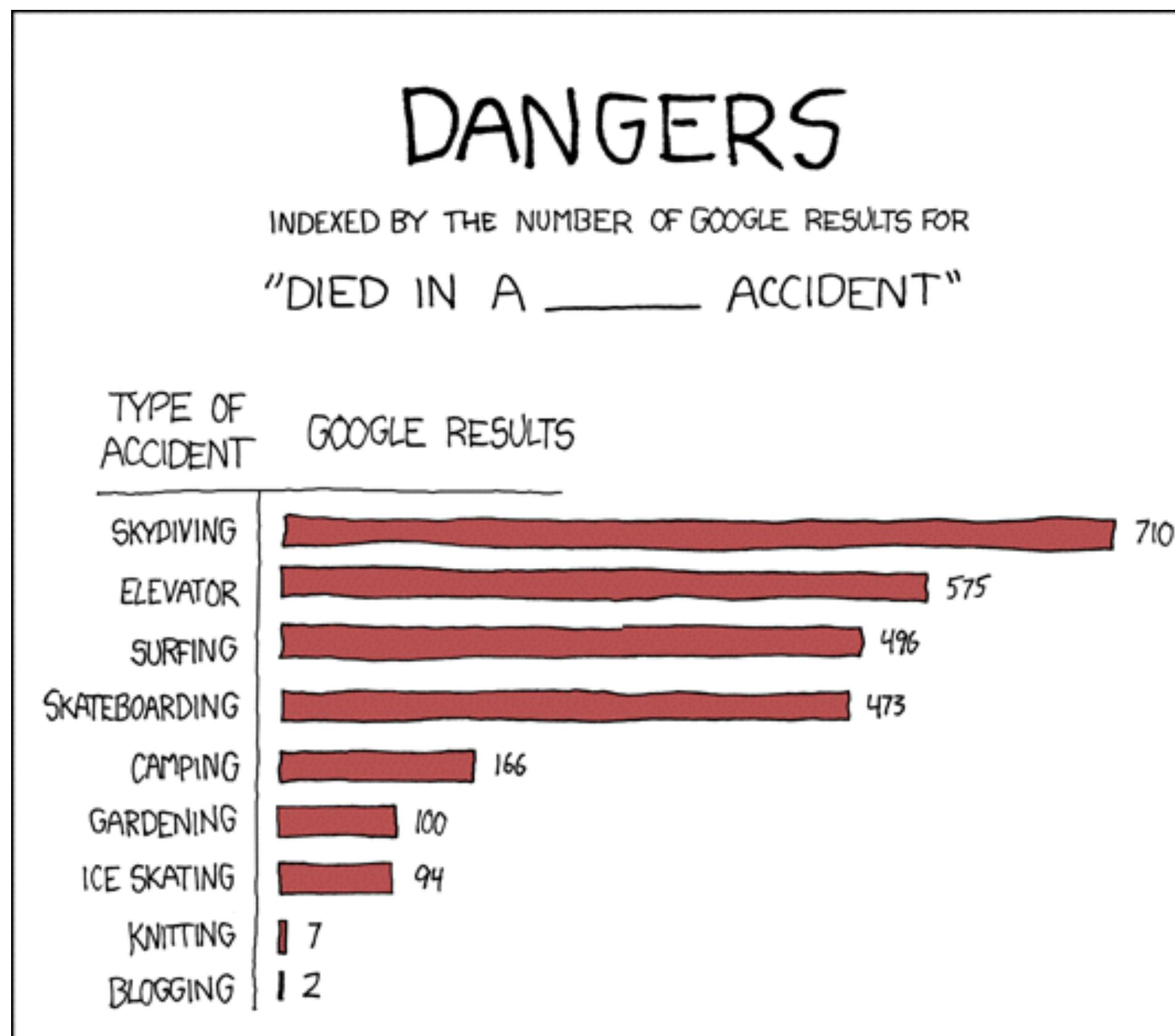


→ Similarity



# Comparisons

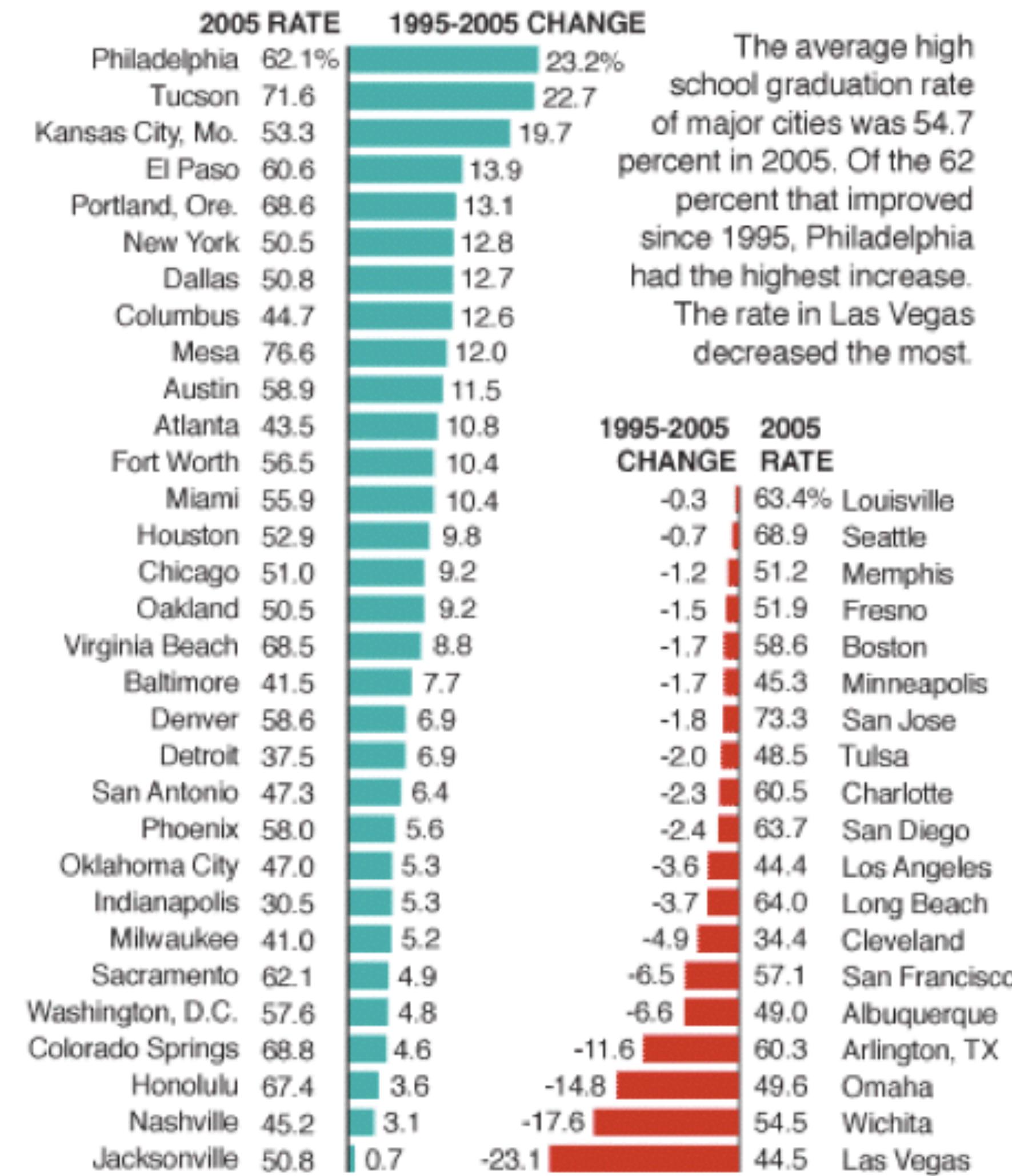
# Bar Chart



# Direction

## Graduation rates up in most cities

Graduation rate for principal school district of the largest cities

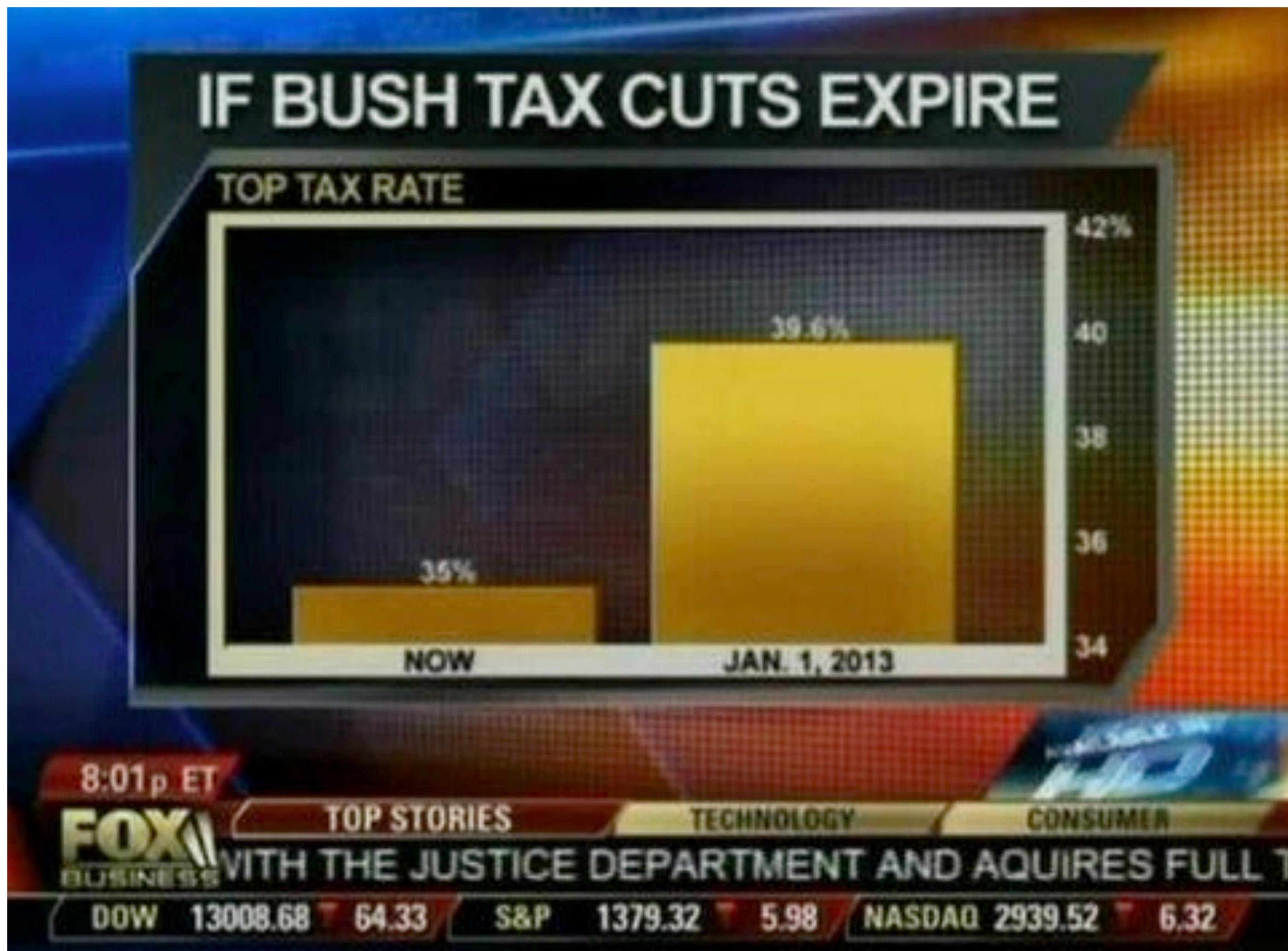


SOURCE: EPE Research Center

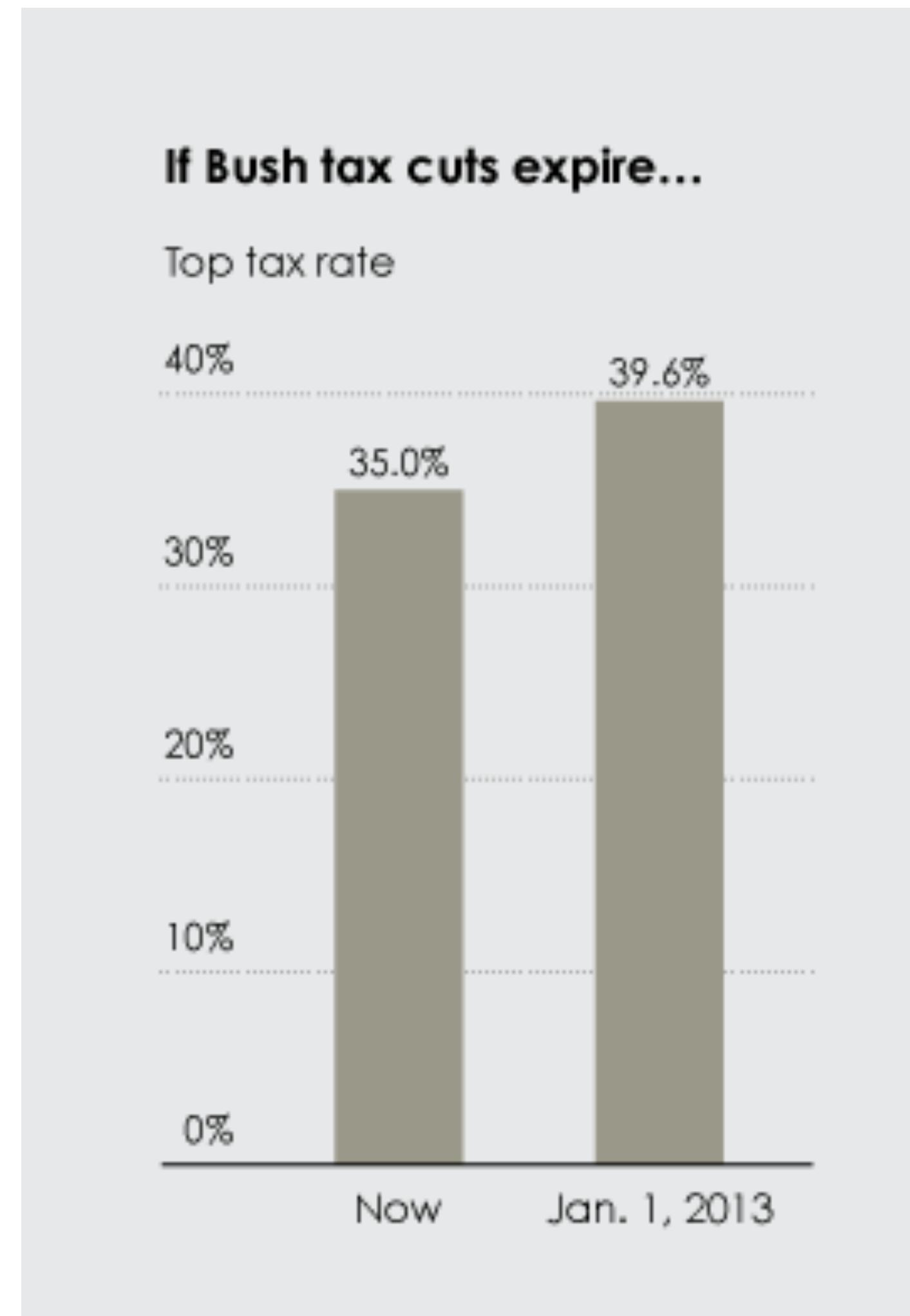
AP

Nicolas Rapp

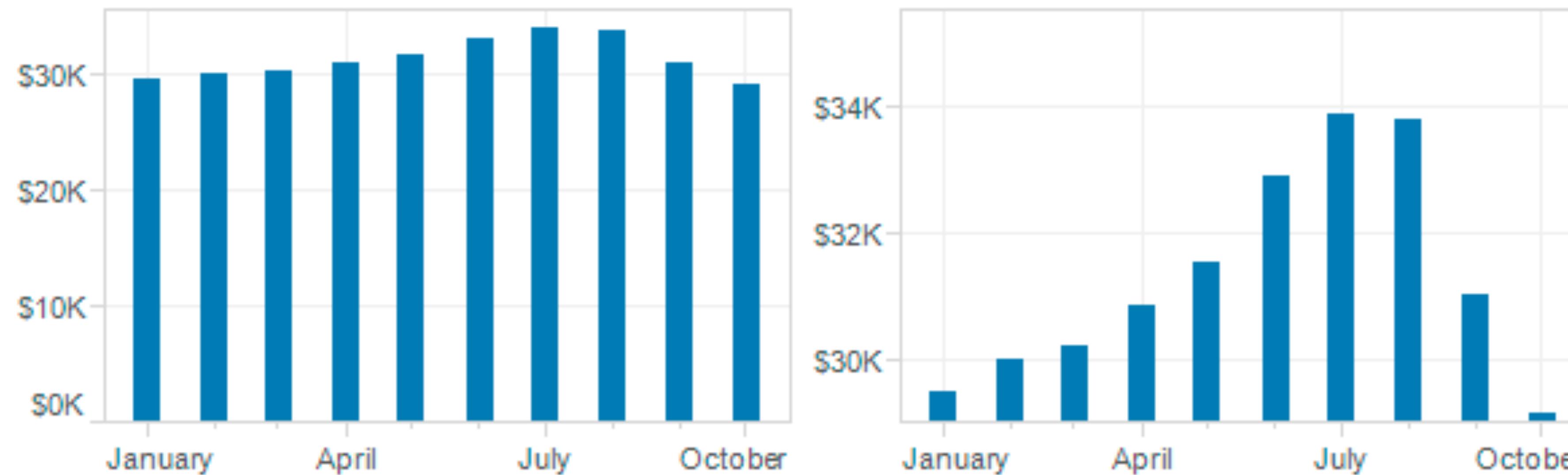
# Baseline Problem



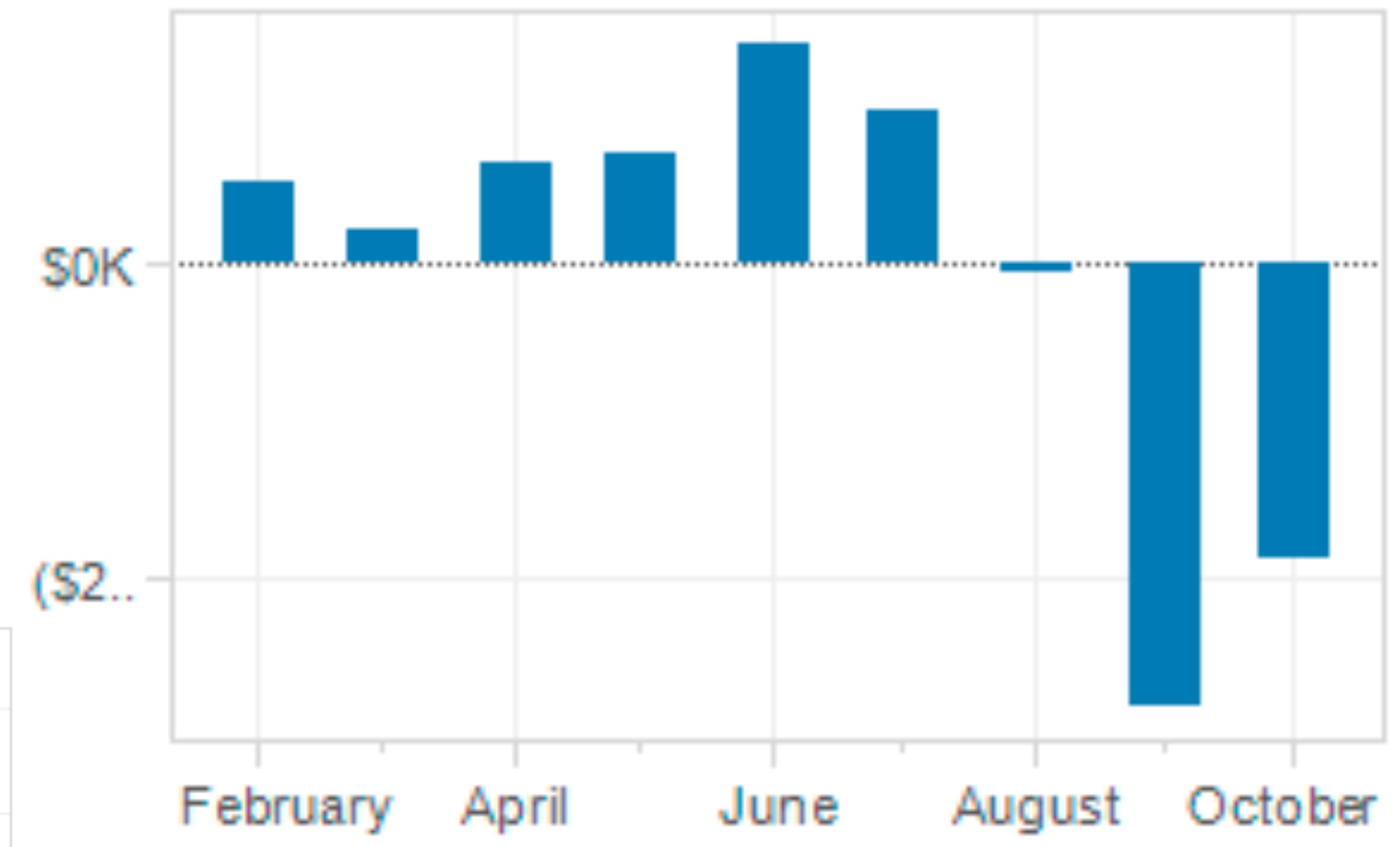
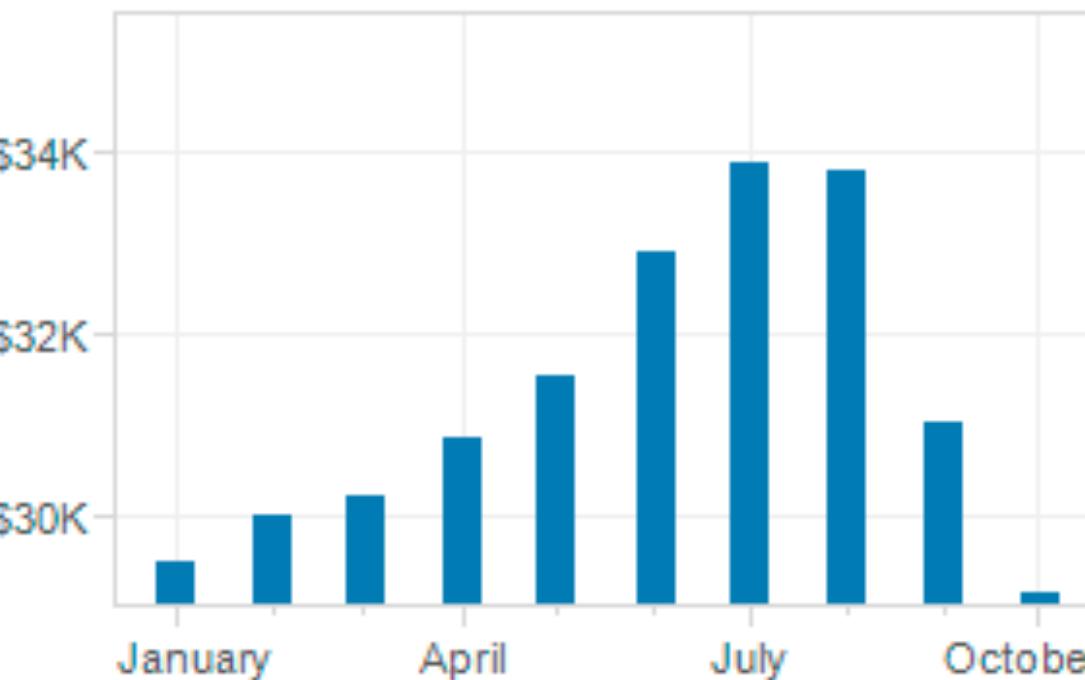
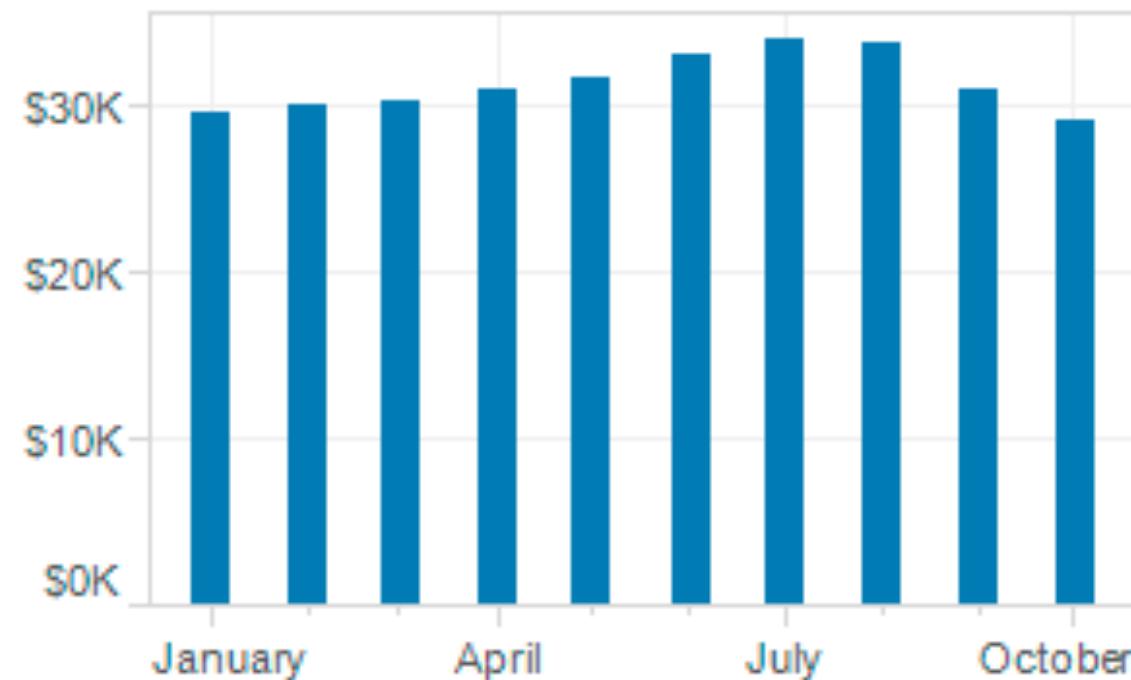
# Baseline Problem



# Different Baselines

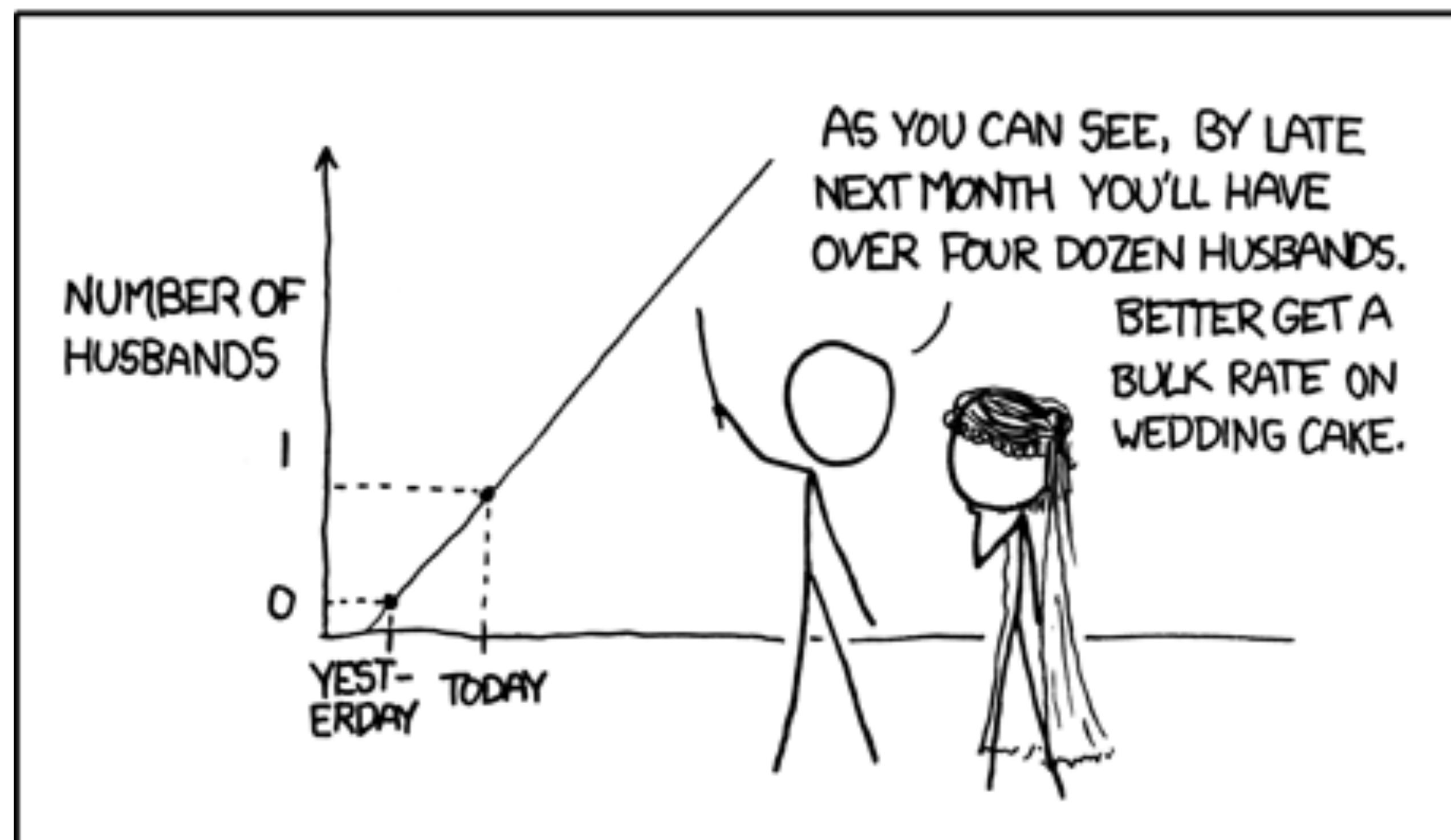


# Plot Change Instead



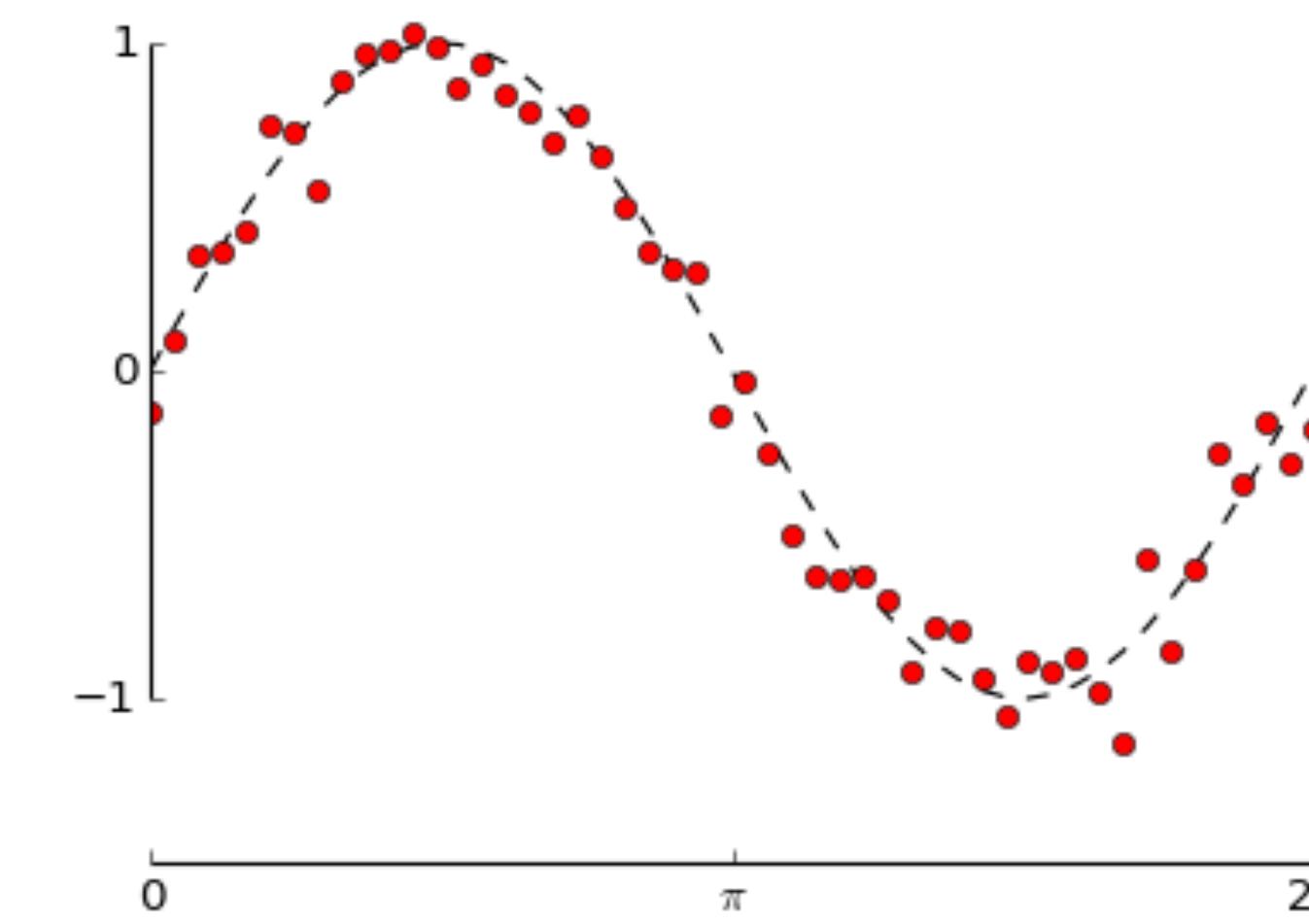
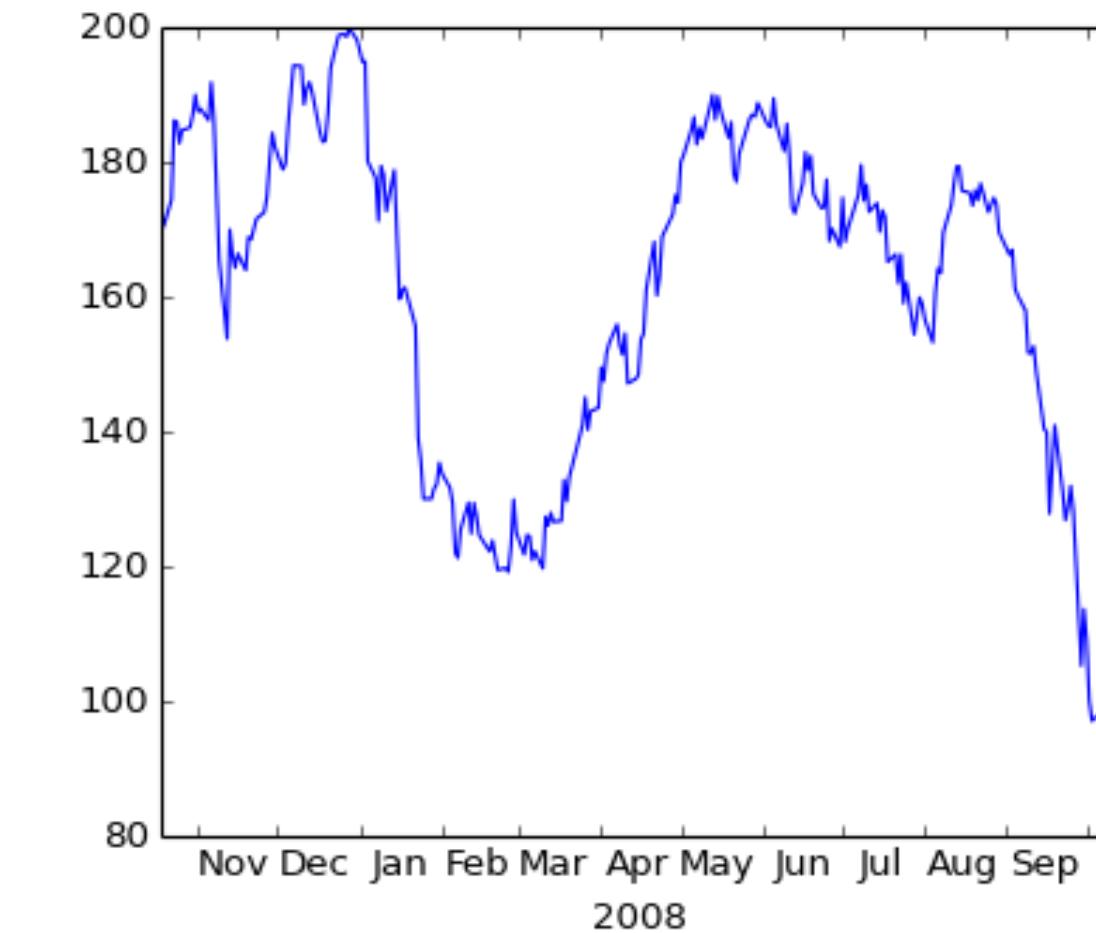
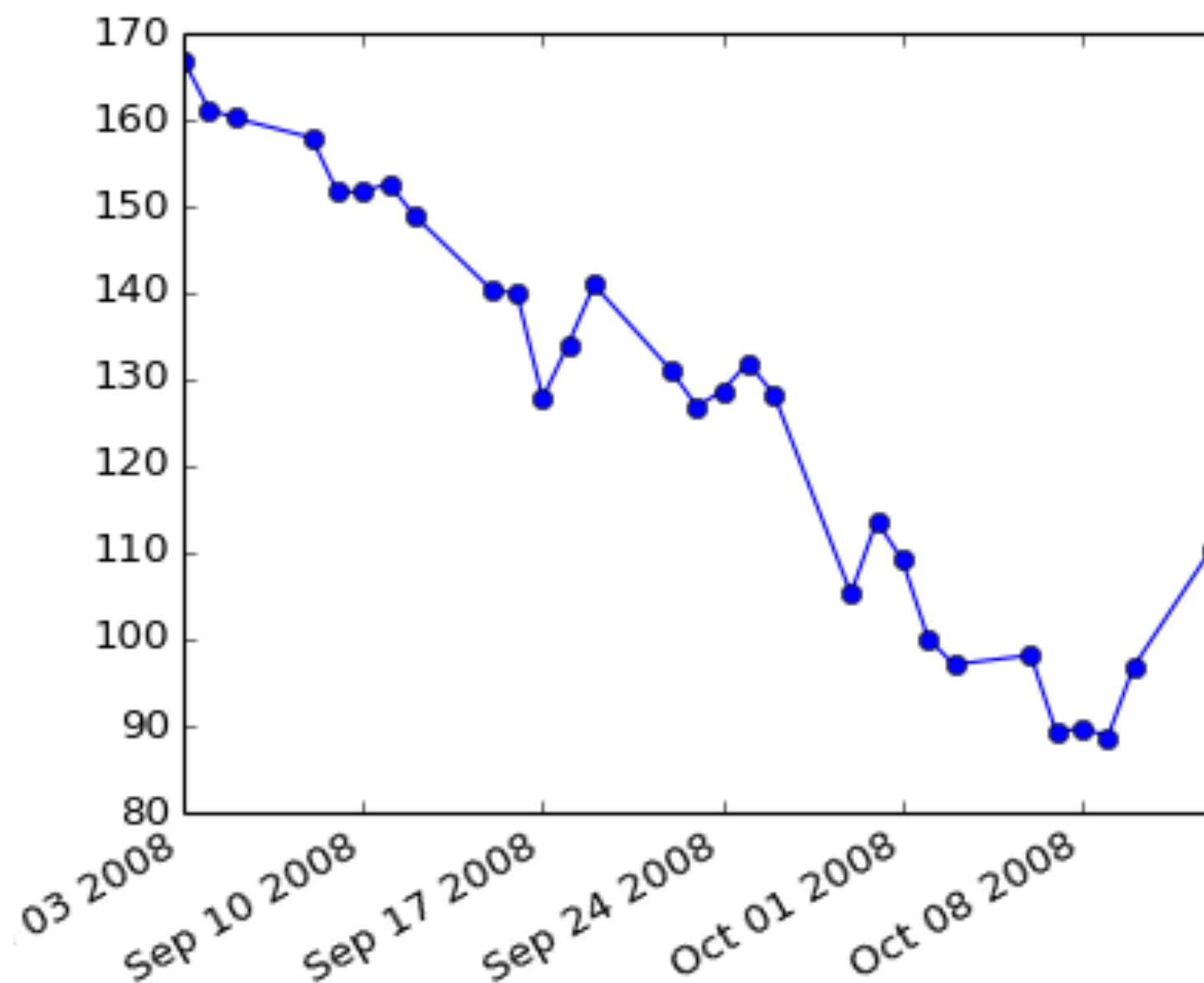
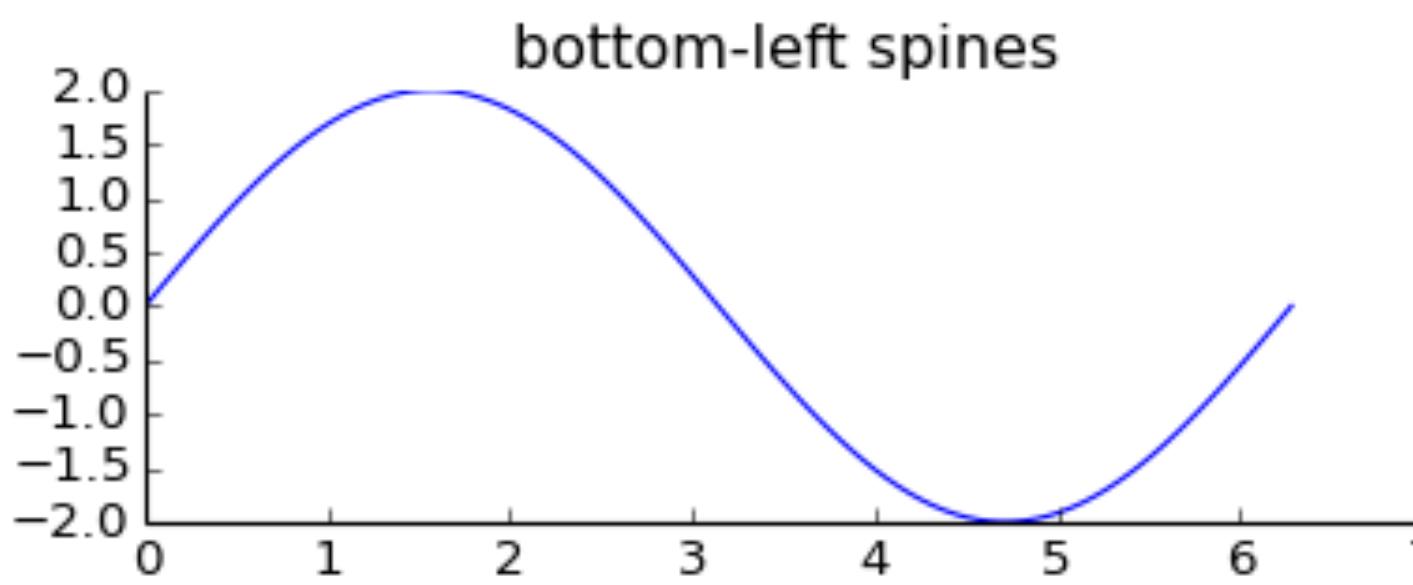
# Trends Over Time

MY HOBBY: EXTRAPOLATING



<http://xkcd.com/605/>

# Line Charts

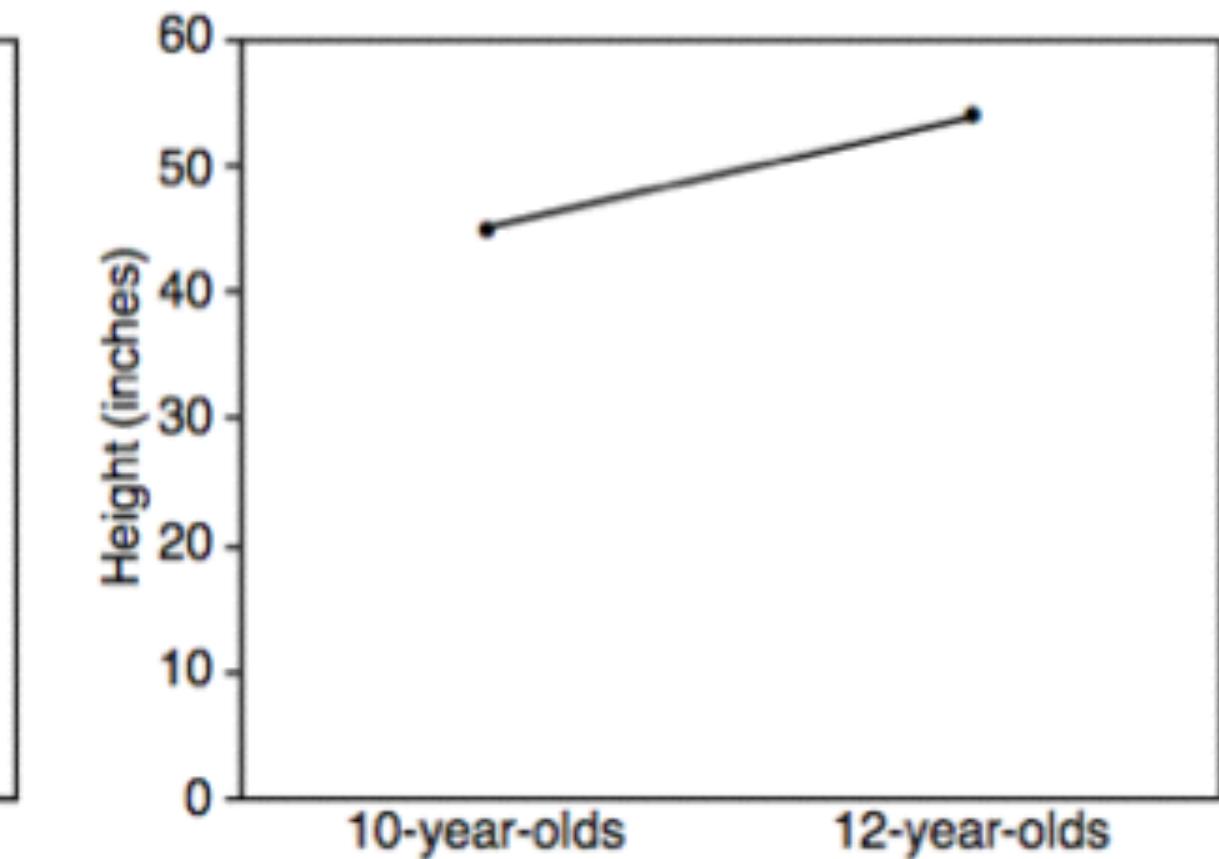
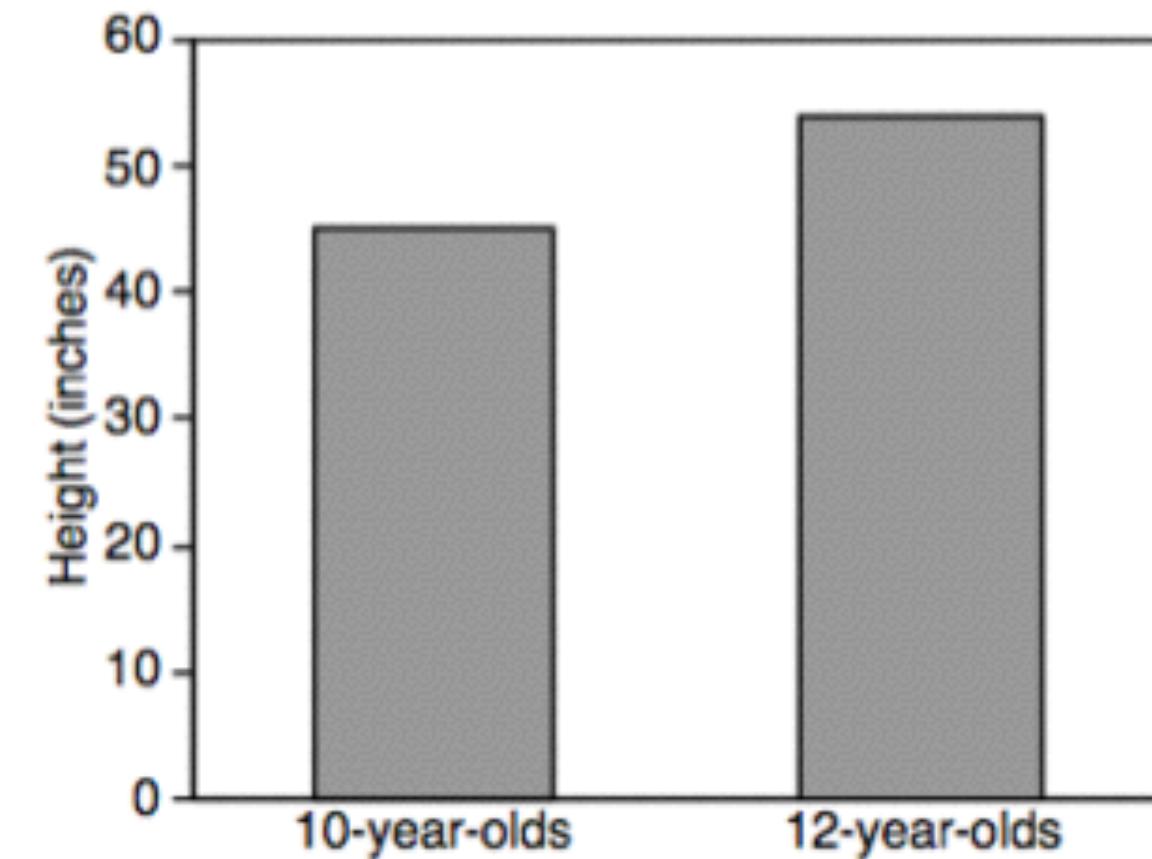
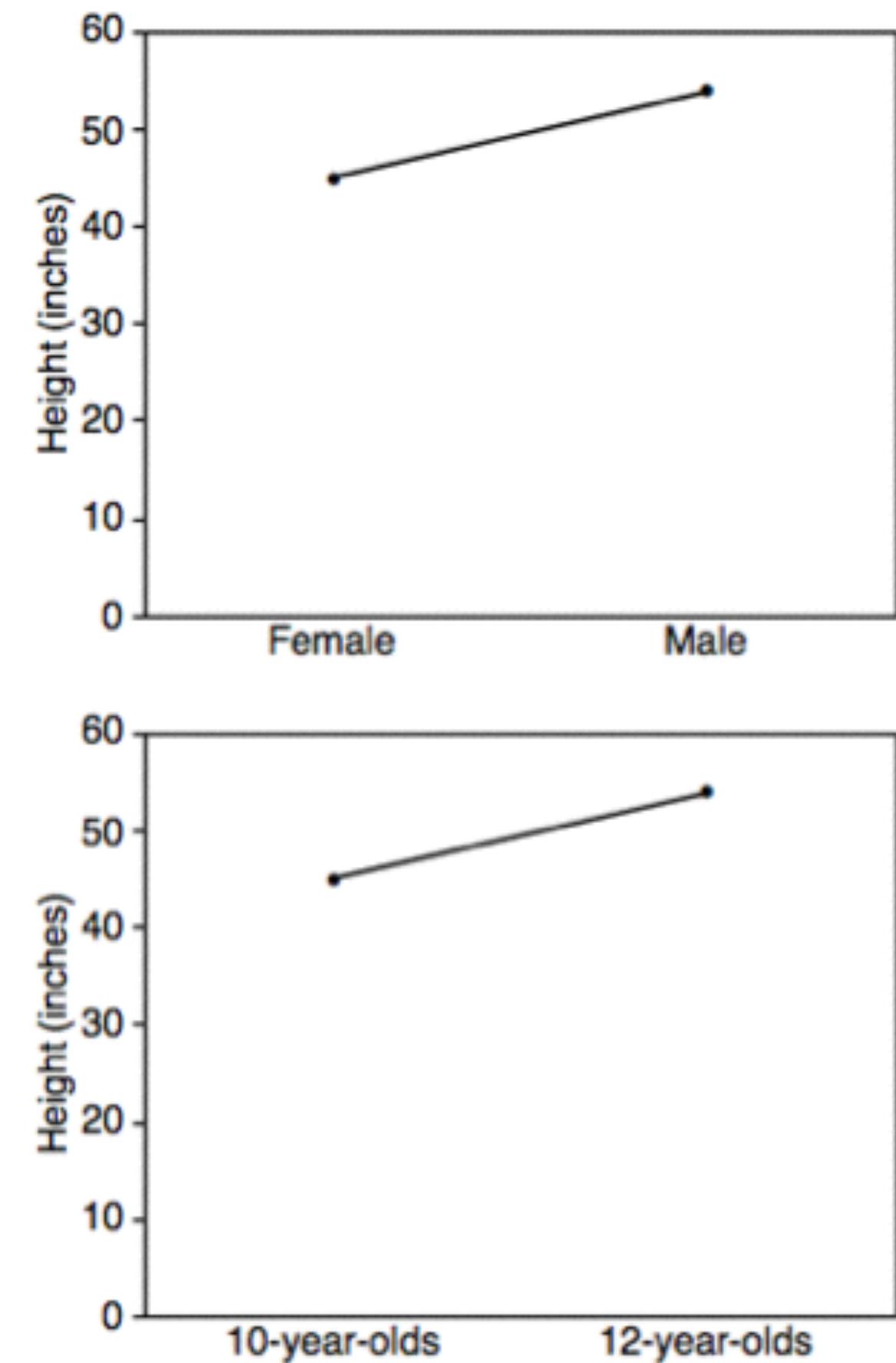
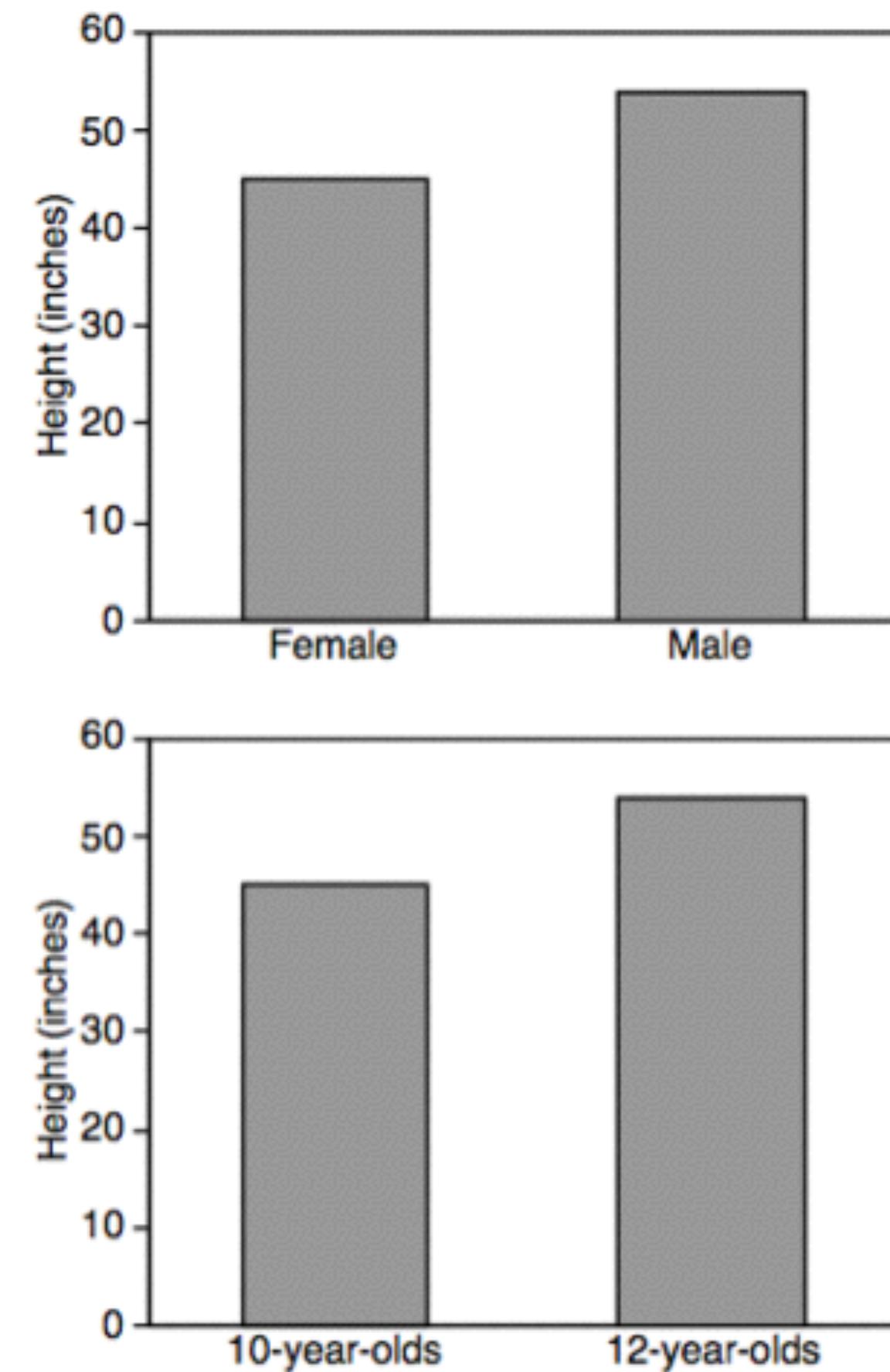


matplotlib gallery

# Bars vs. Lines

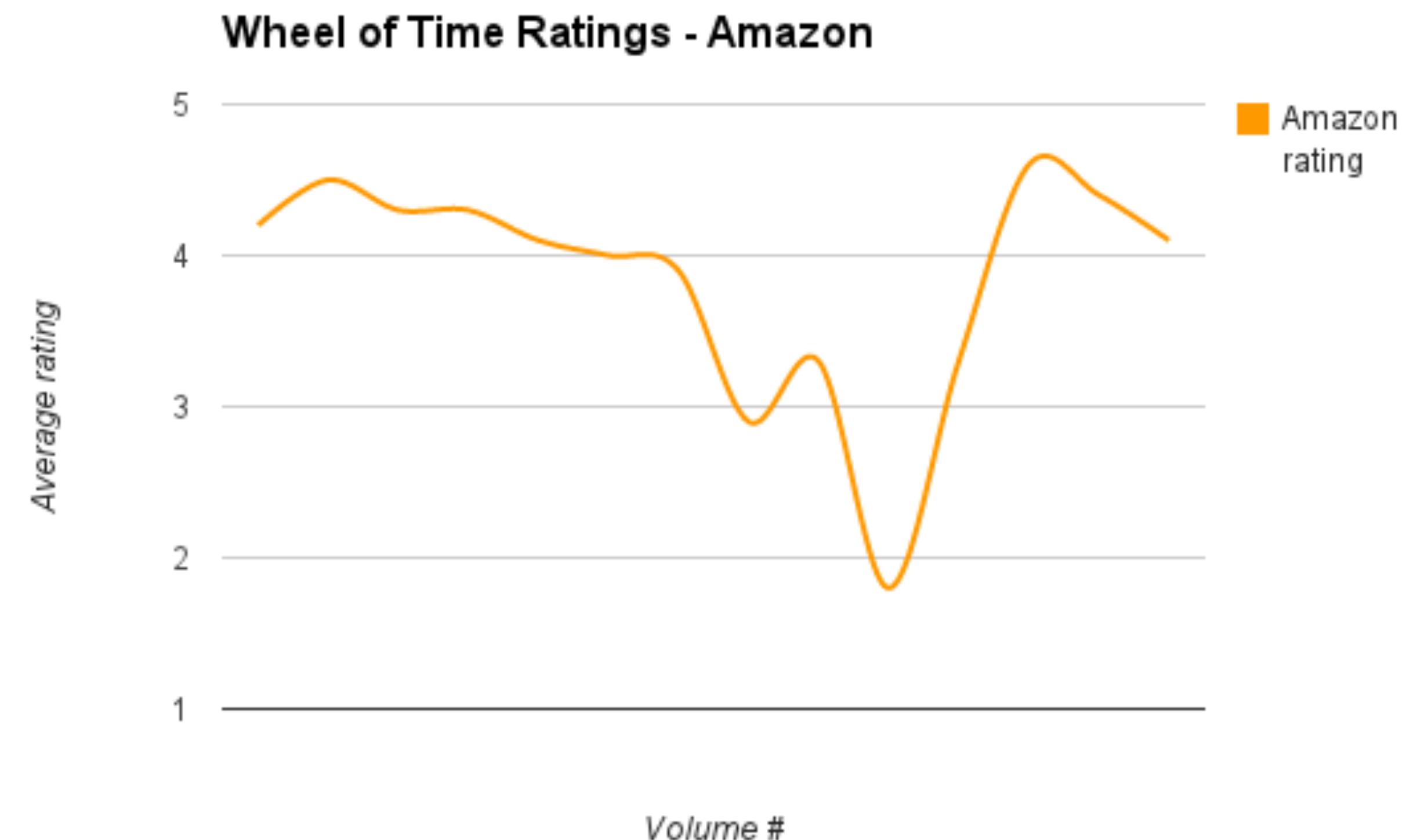
Lines imply connections & sampling from continuous data.

Do not use for categorical data.



# Don't

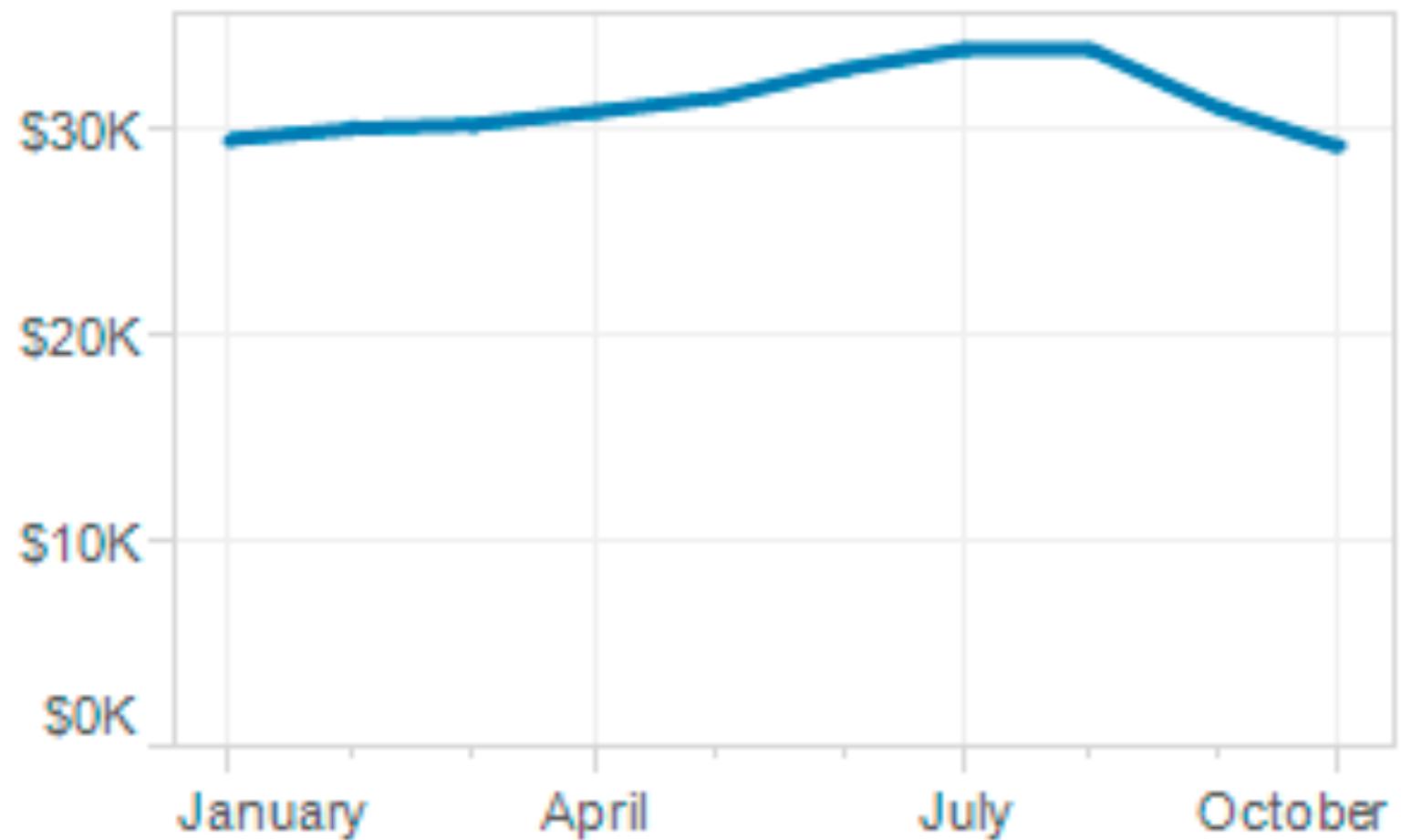
Use bar charts to  
compare ratings of books...



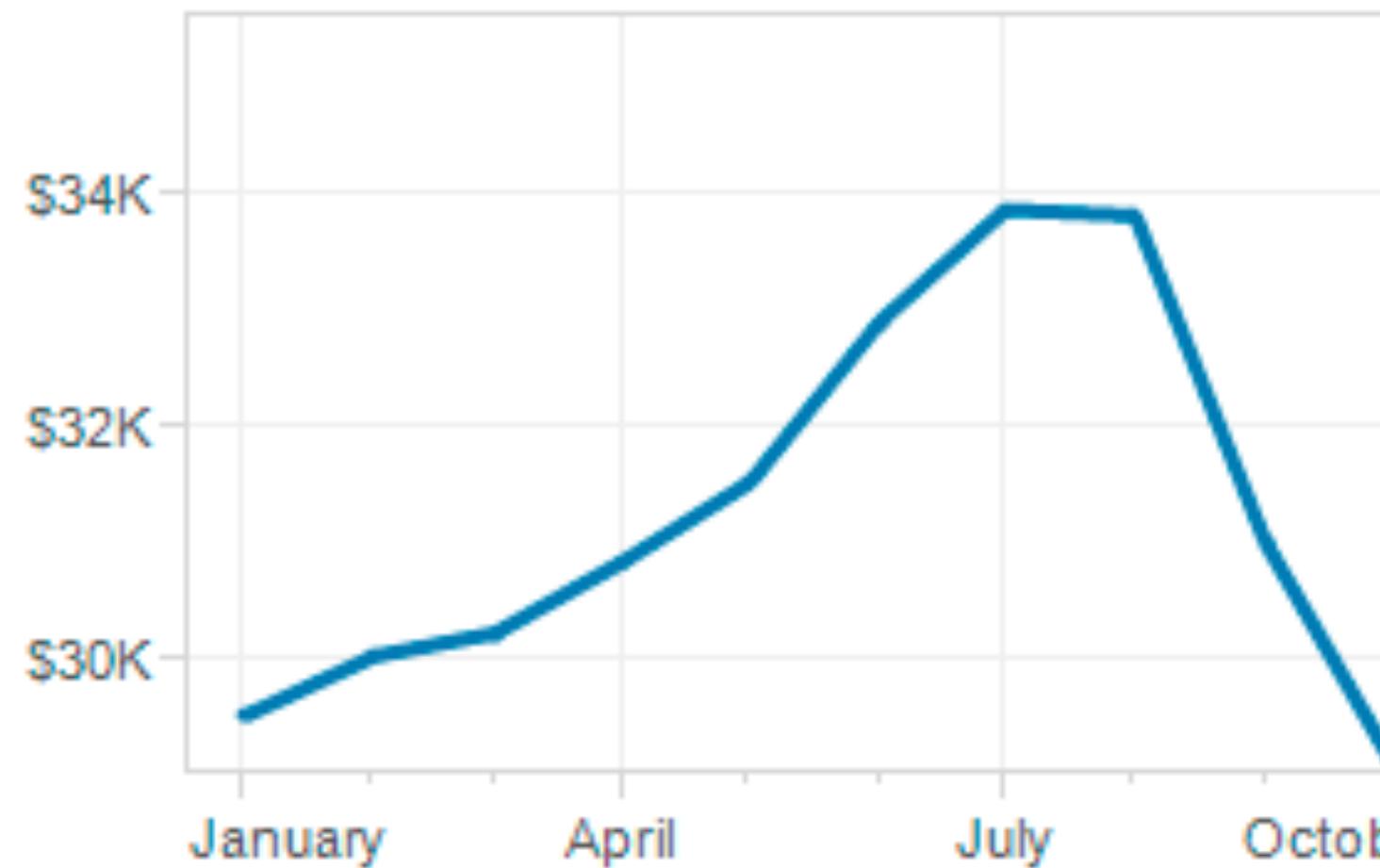
“Visualizing The Wheel of Time: Reader  
Sentiment for an Epic Fantasy Series”, J.  
Siddle, Sept 2013

# Baseline Problem (again)

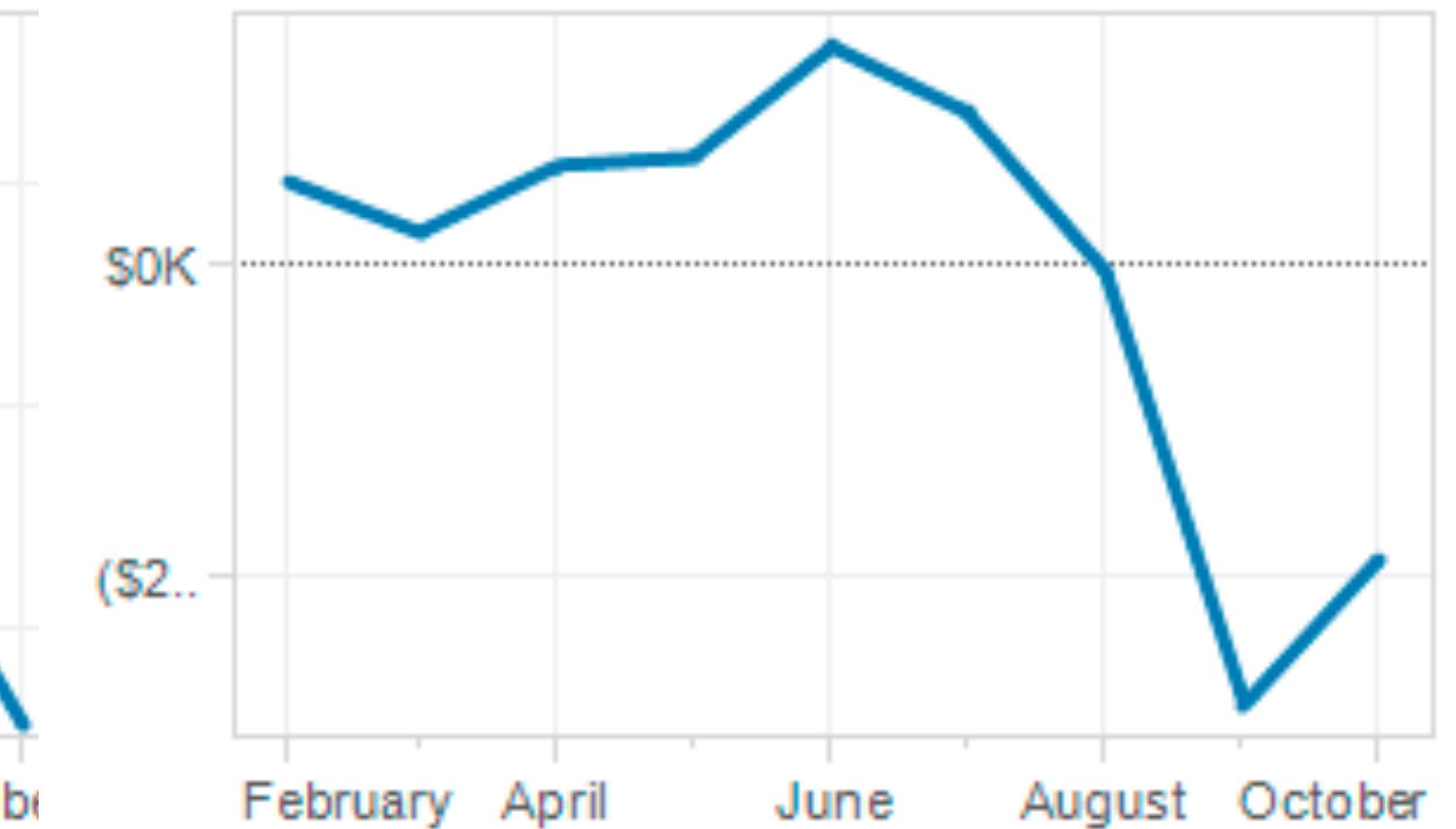
True Baseline



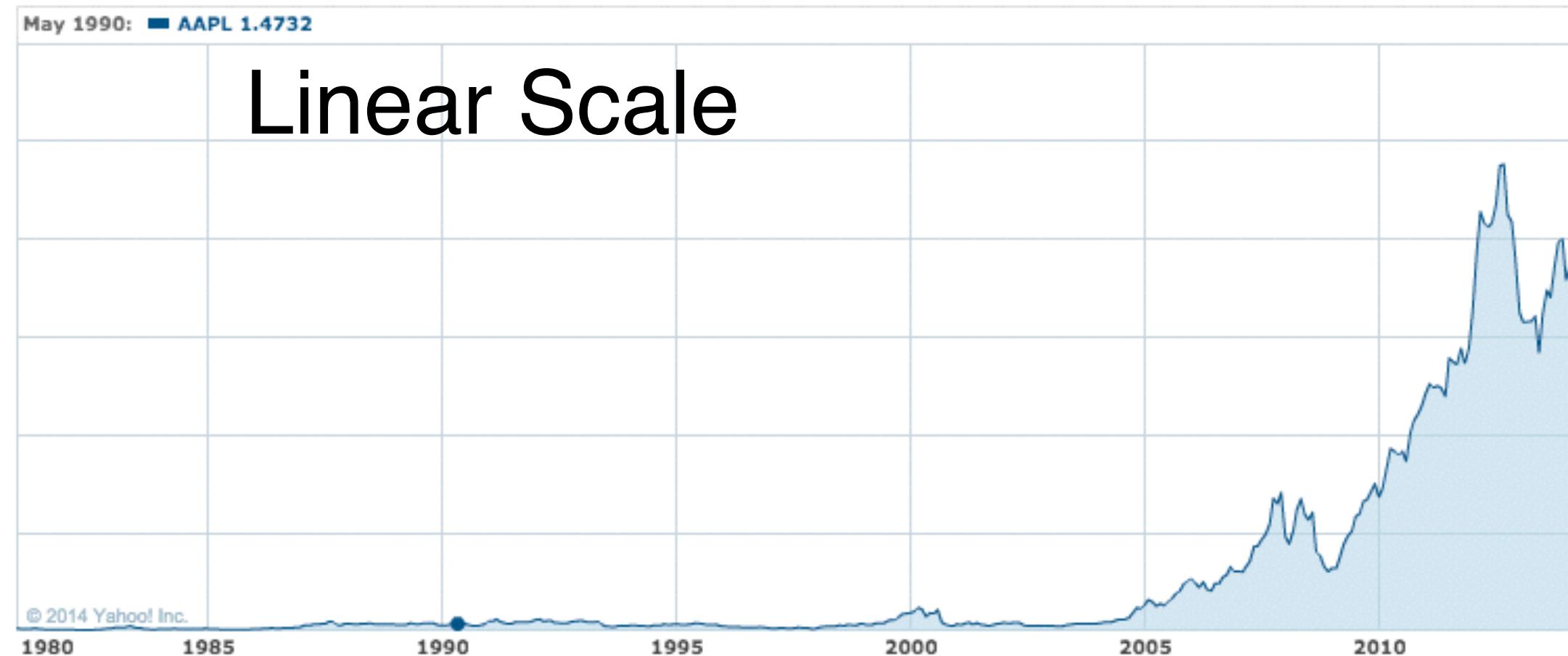
Clipped Baseline



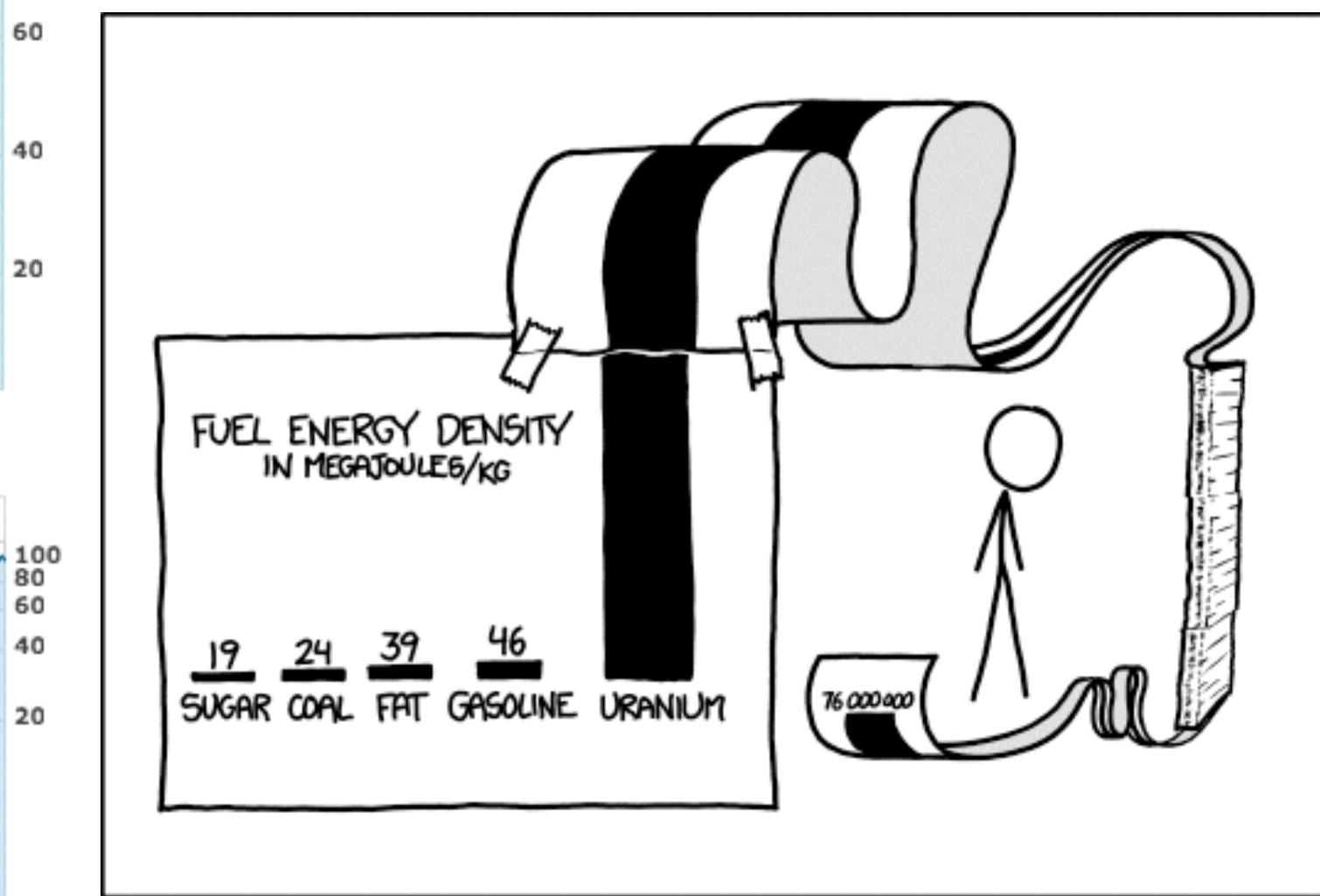
Plotting Change



# Linear vs. Logarithmic Scale



Apple Stock Price

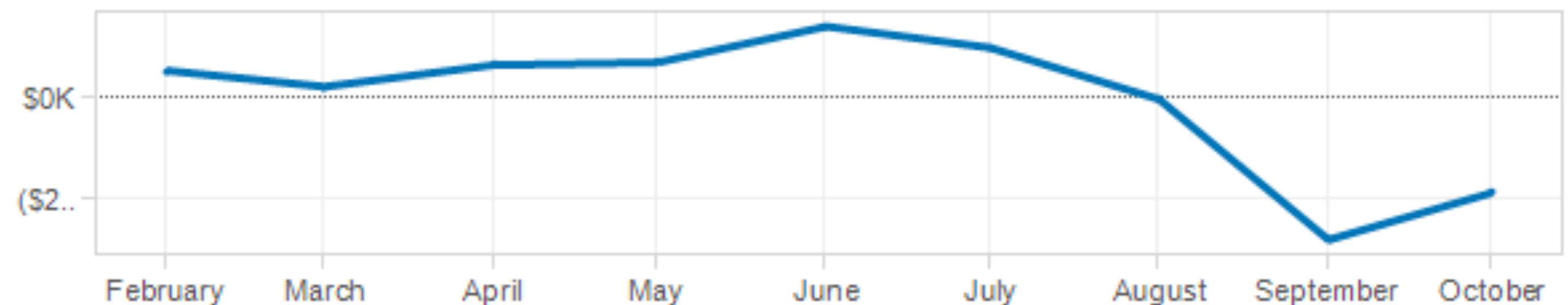
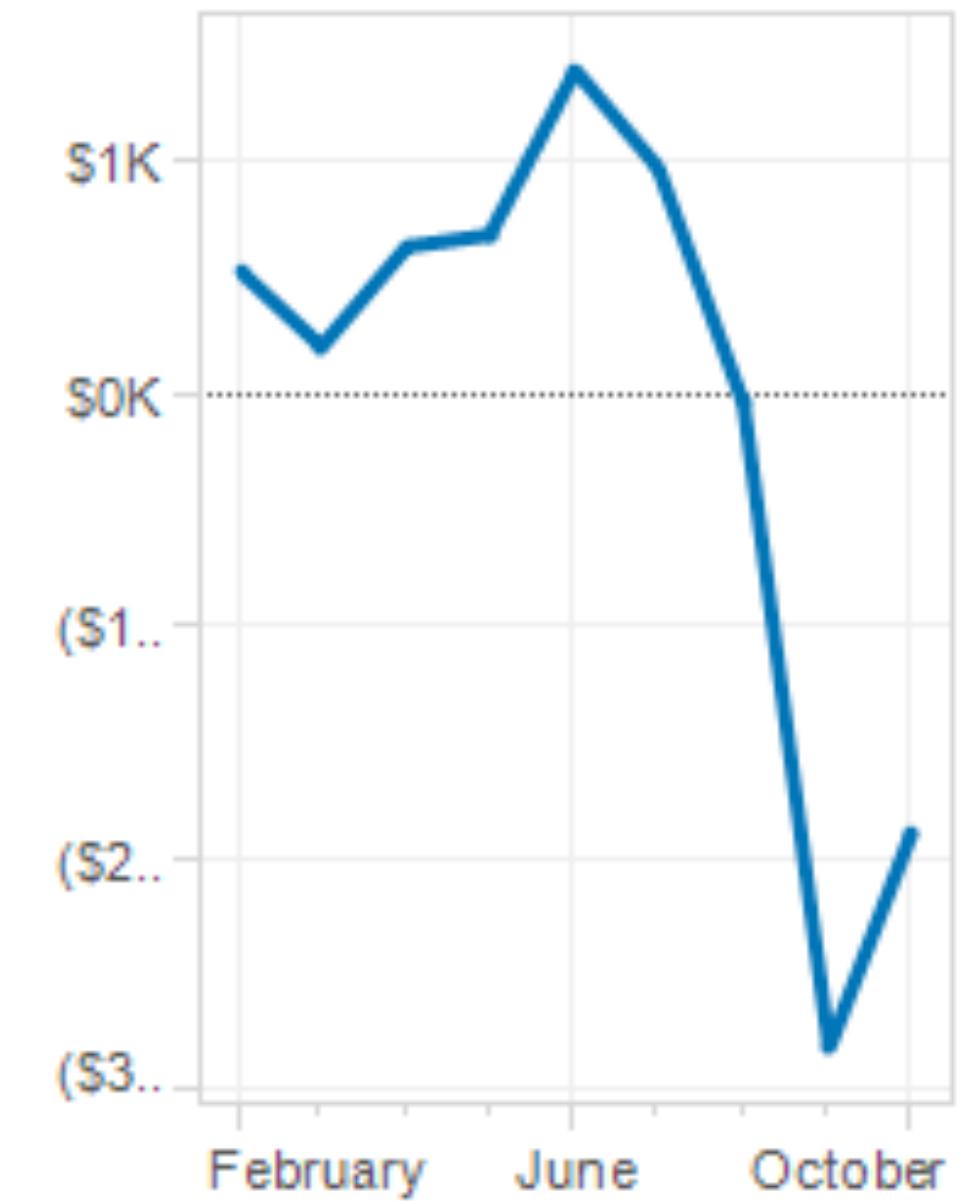
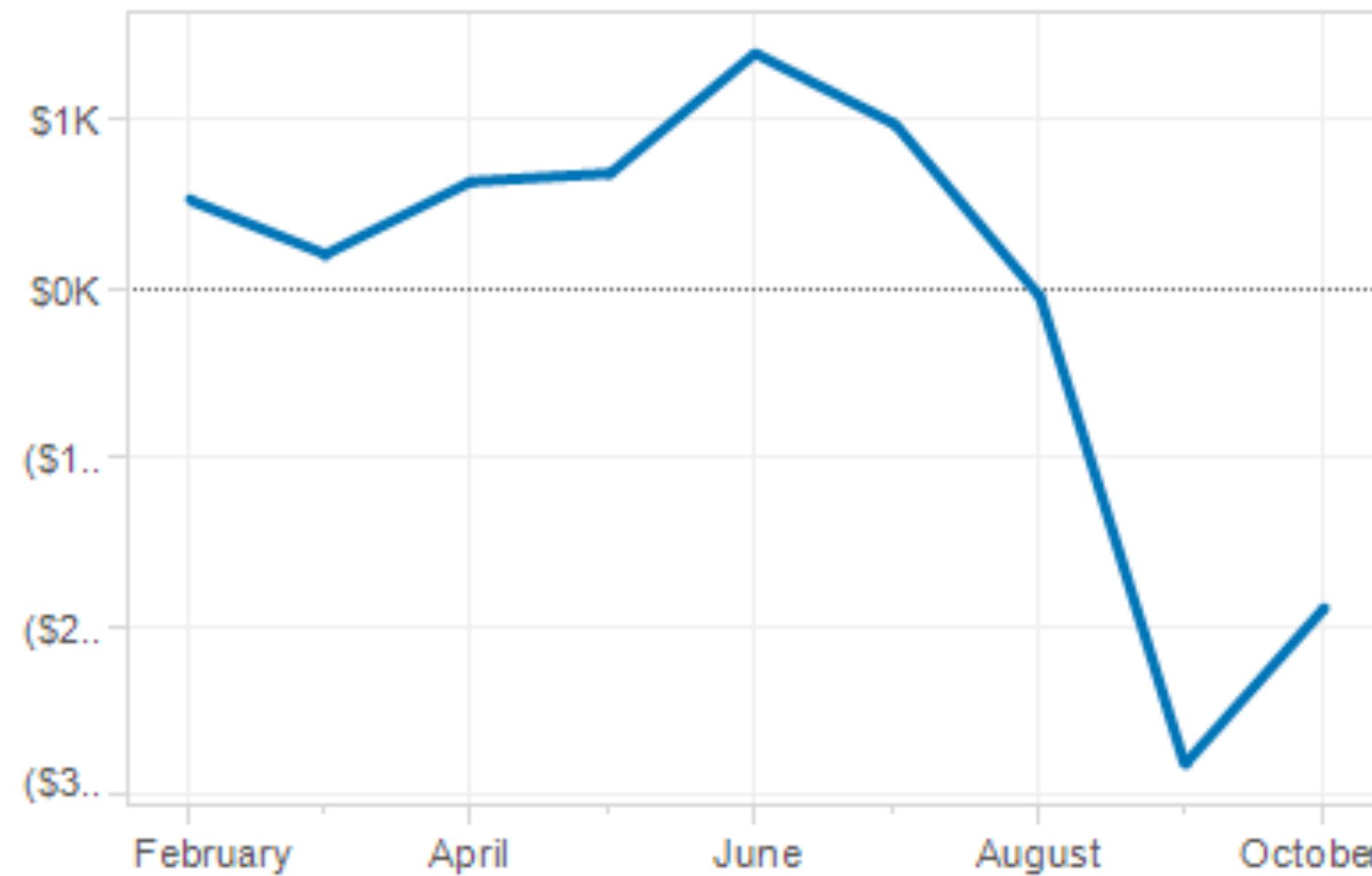


<http://xkcd.com/1162/>

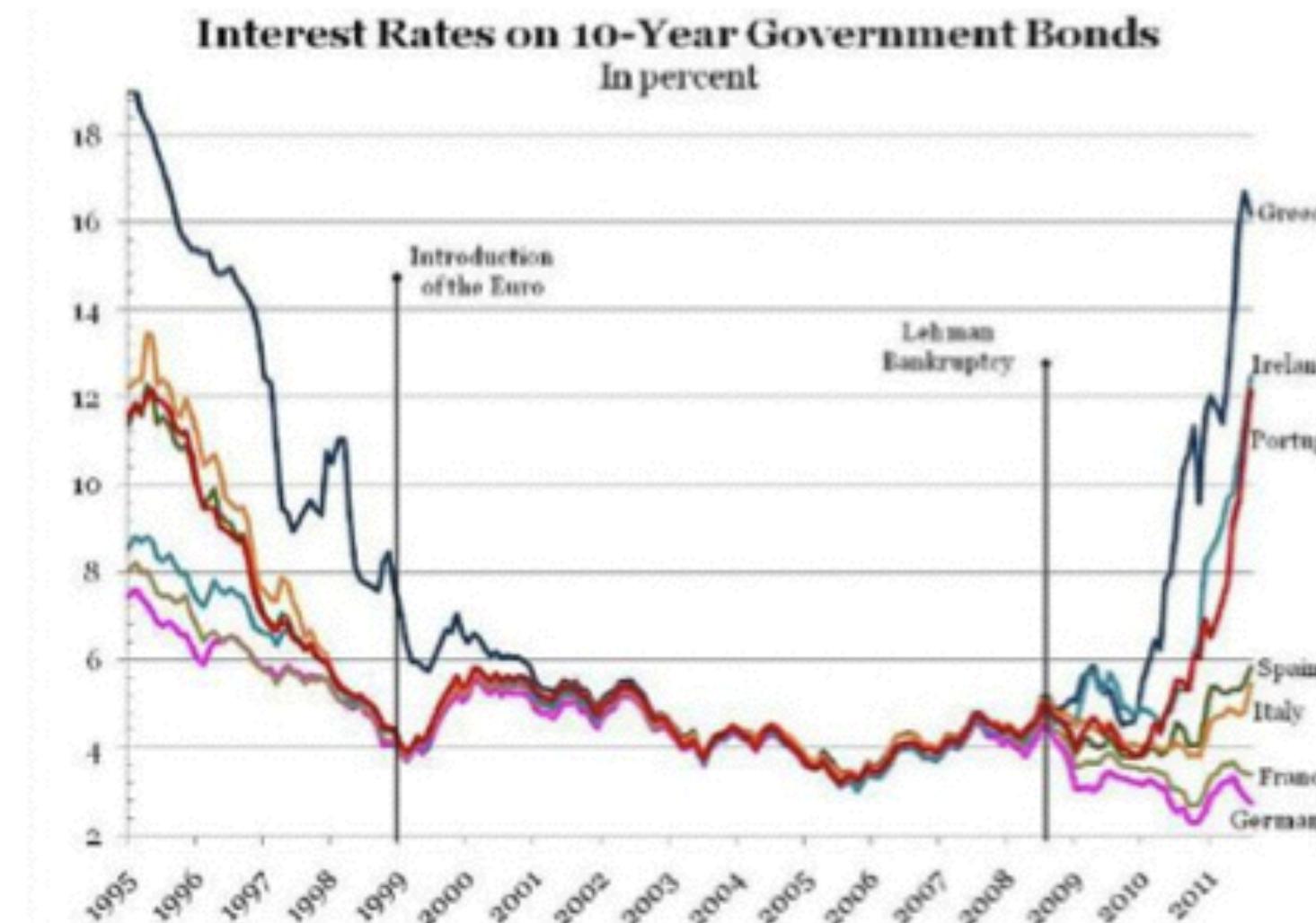
<http://finance.yahoo.com/echarts?s=AAPL>

# Aspect Ratios

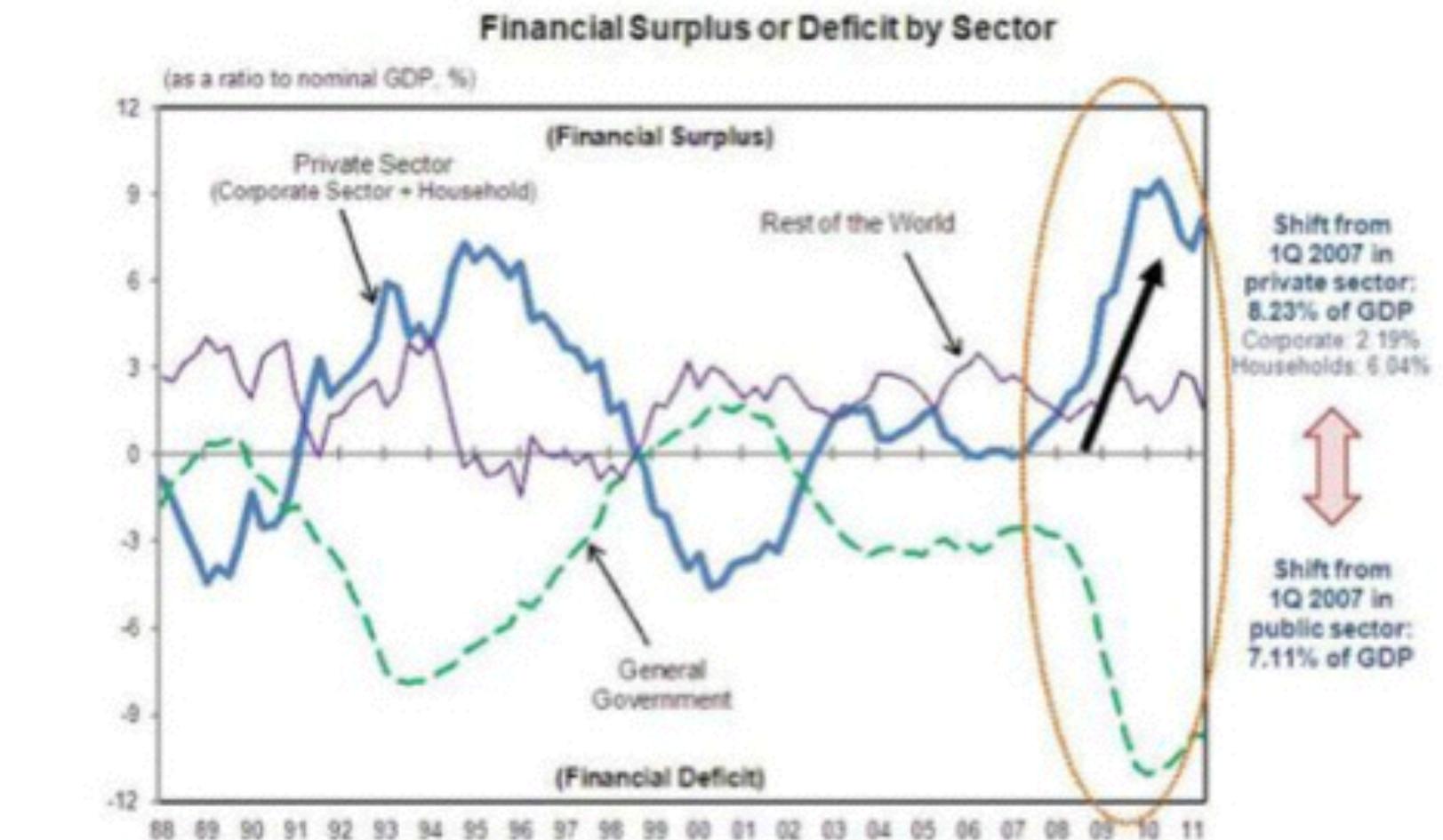
Rule of Thumb:  
Banking to  $45^\circ$   
(average line  
slope:  $45^\circ$ )



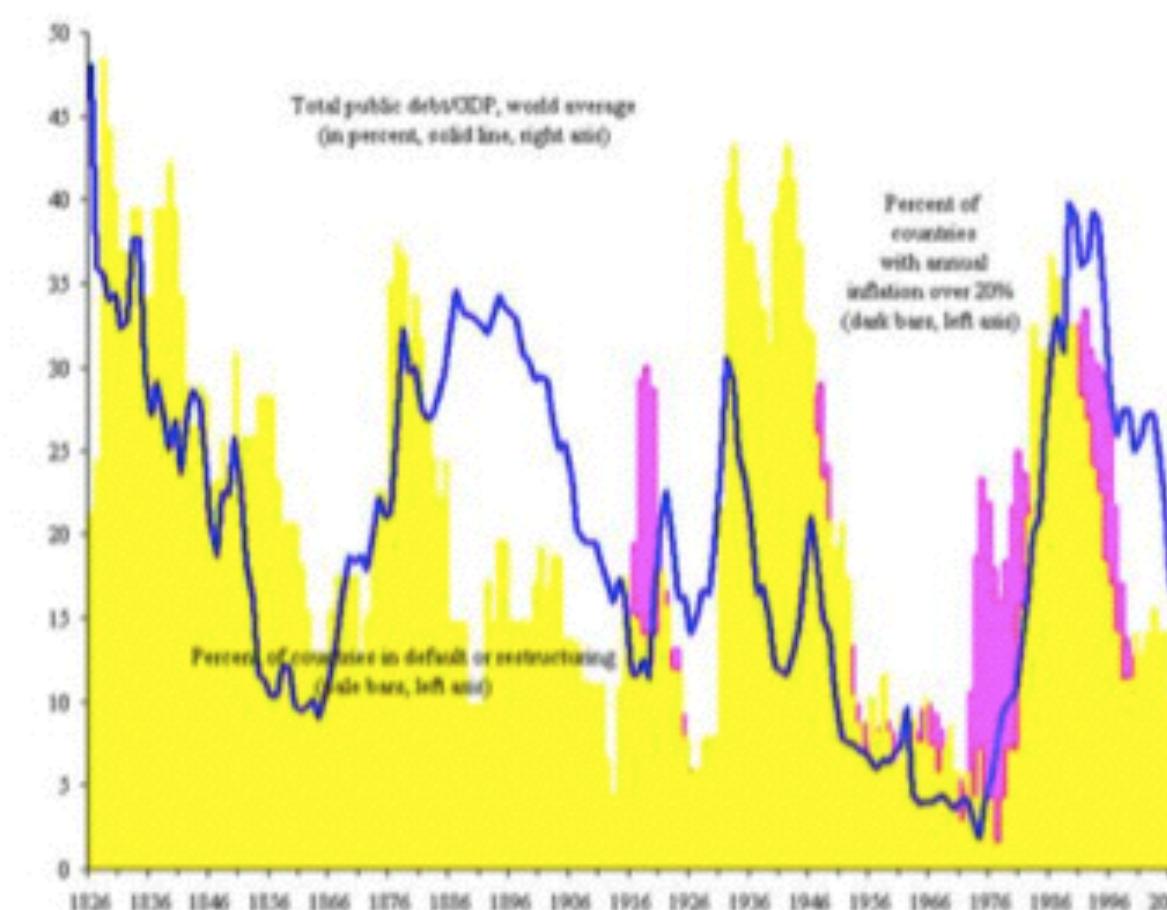
# Don't



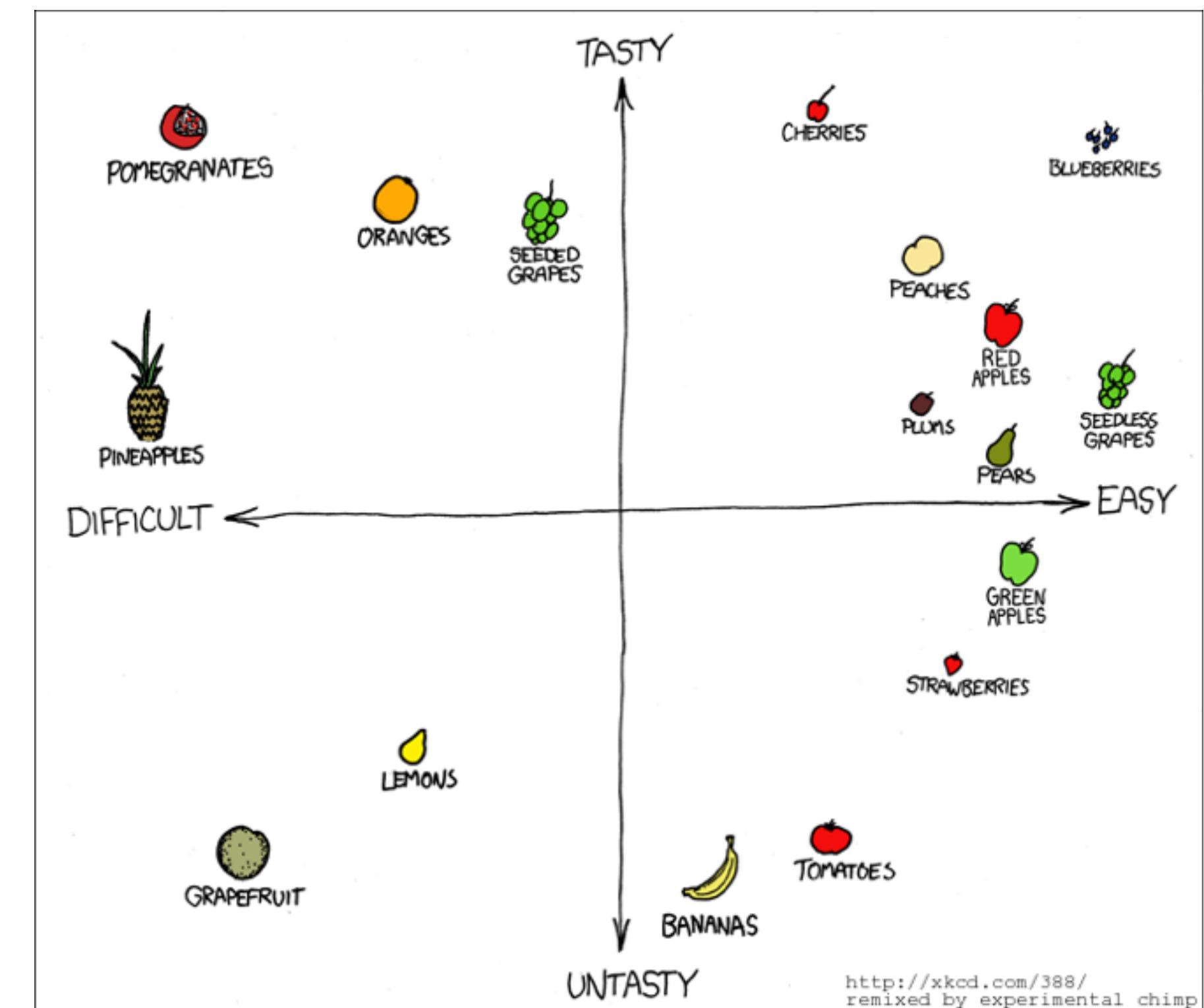
**UK in Balance Sheet Recession: UK Private Sector Increased Savings Massively after the Bubble**



Note: For the latest figures, 4 quarter averages ending with 2Q/11 are used.  
Source: Office for National Statistics, UK

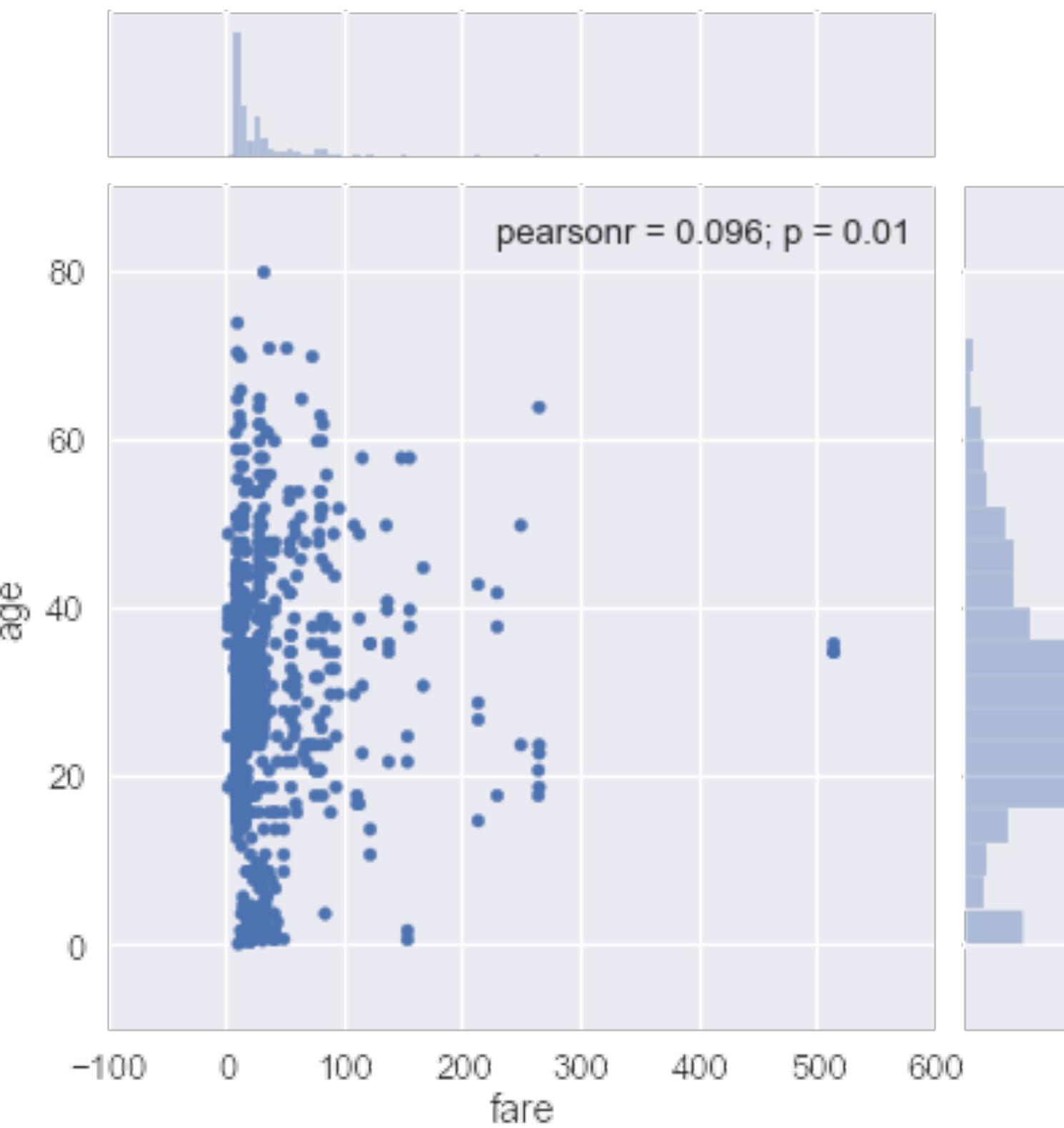


# Correlations



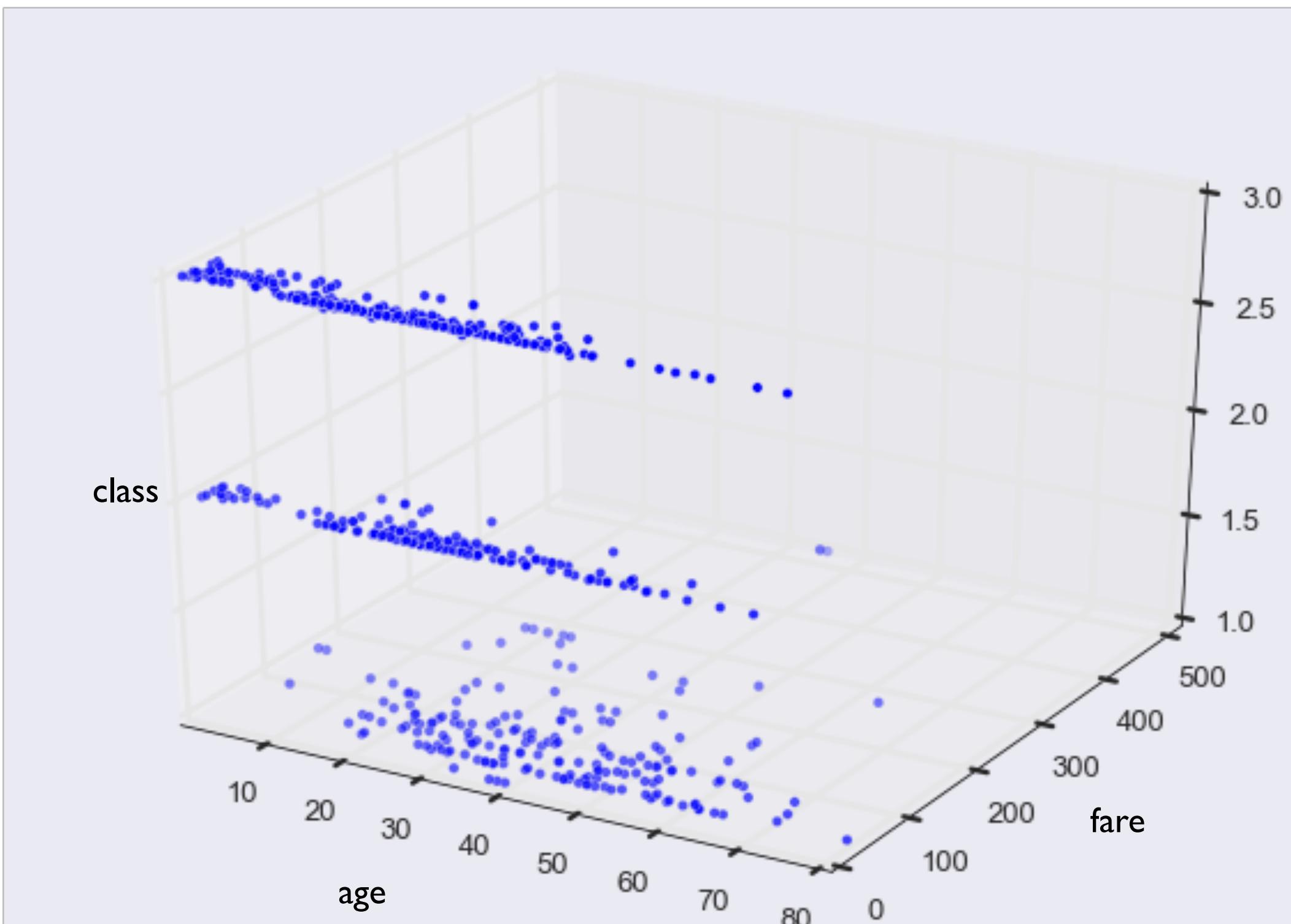
age	fare
22.0	7.25
38.0	71.2833
26.0	7.925
35.0	53.1
35.0	8.05
	8.4583
54.0	51.8625
2.0	21.075
27.0	11.1333
14.0	30.0708
4.0	16.7
58.0	26.55
20.0	8.05
39.0	31.275
14.0	7.8542
55.0	16.0
2.0	29.125
	13.0
31.0	18.0
	7.225
35.0	26.0
34.0	13.0
15.0	8.0292

# Scatterplots



age	fare	class
22.0	7.25	Third
38.0	71.2833	First
26.0	7.925	Third
35.0	53.1	First
35.0	8.05	Third
	8.4583	Third
54.0	51.8625	First
2.0	21.075	Third
27.0	11.1333	Third
14.0	30.0708	Second
4.0	16.7	Third
58.0	26.55	First
20.0	8.05	Third
39.0	31.275	Third
14.0	7.8542	Third
55.0	16.0	Second
2.0	29.125	Third
	13.0	Second
31.0	18.0	Third
	7.225	Third
35.0	26.0	Second
34.0	13.0	Second
15.0	8.0292	Third

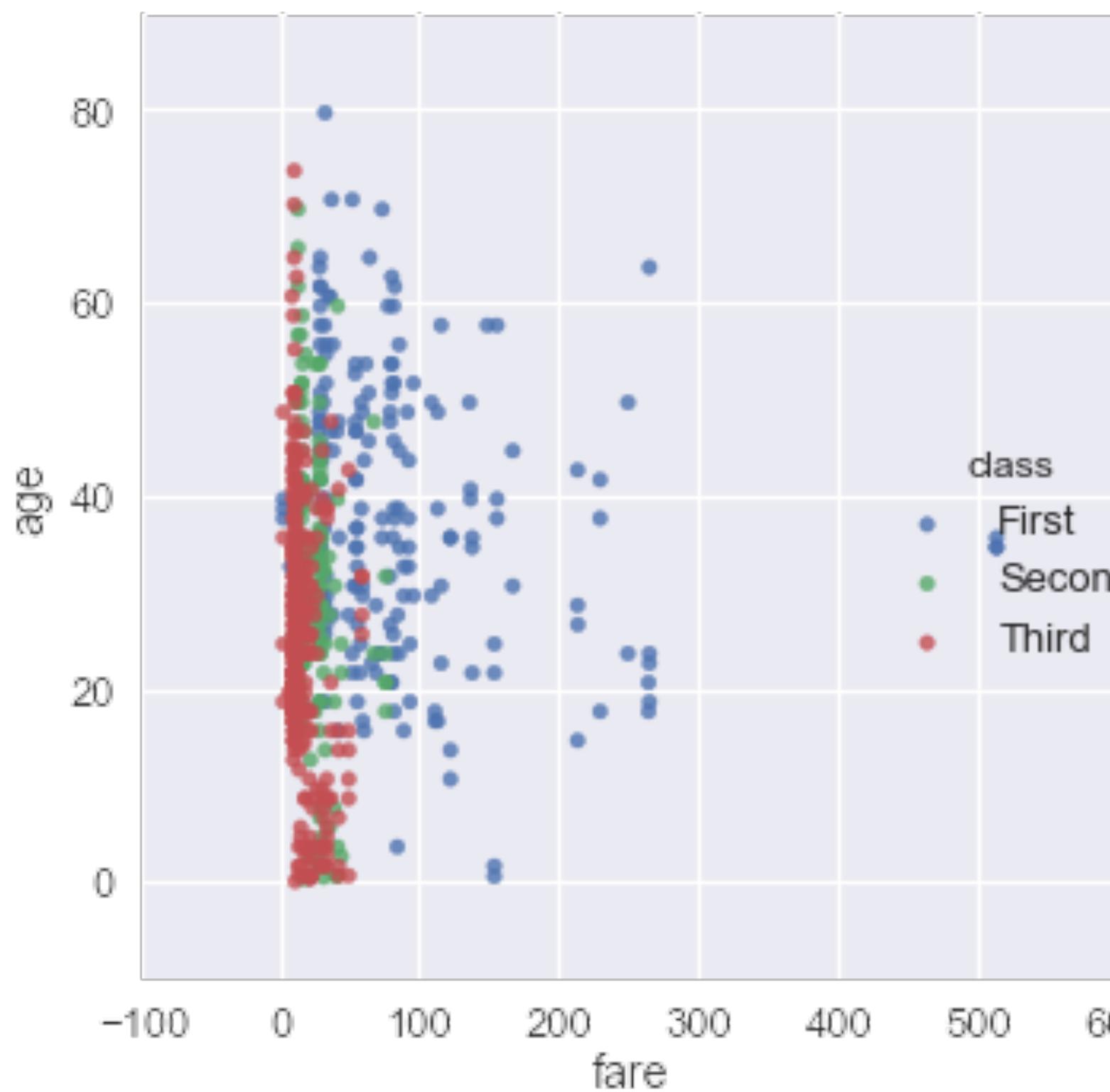
# Trivariate Data



Do NOT use 3D scatterplots!

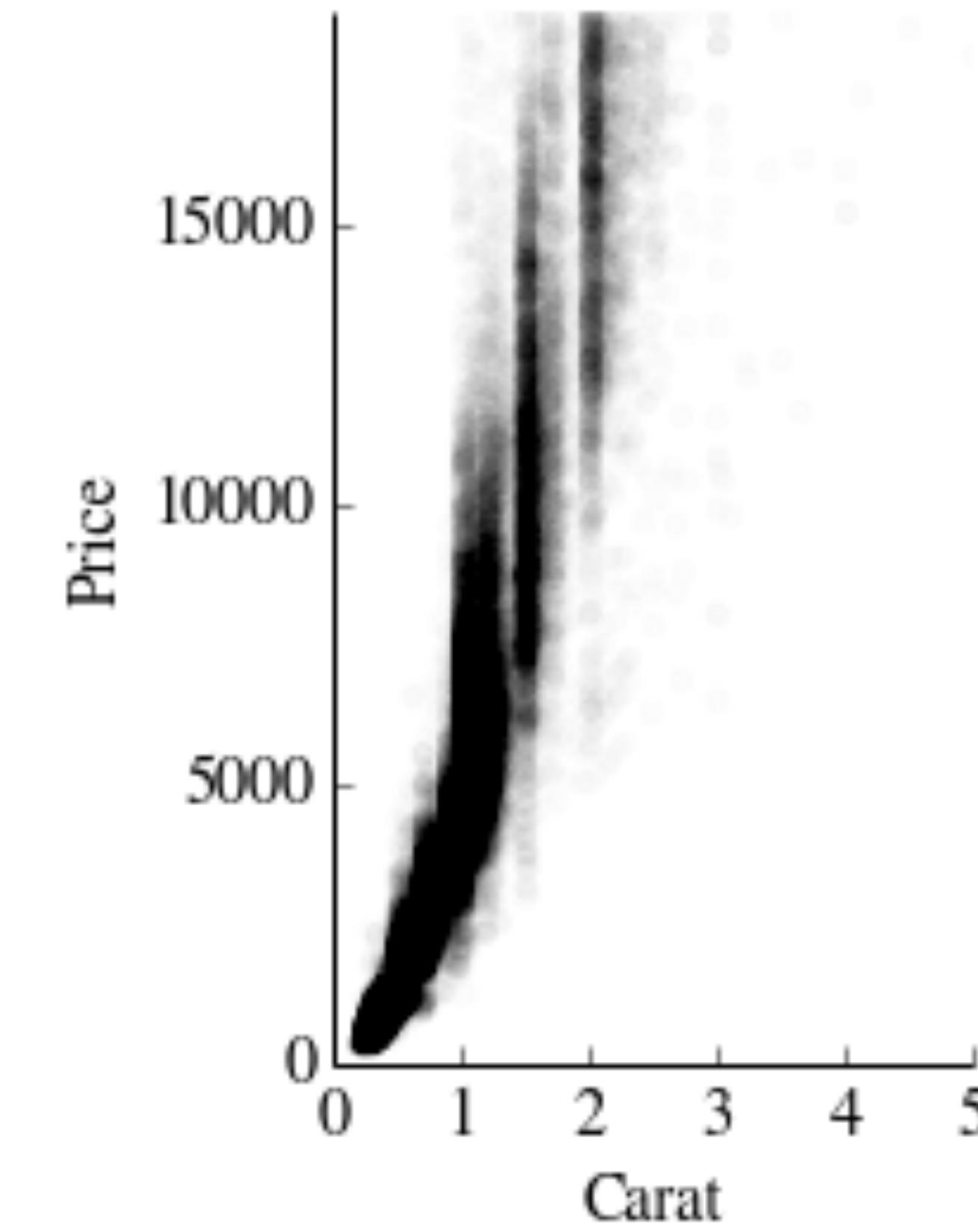
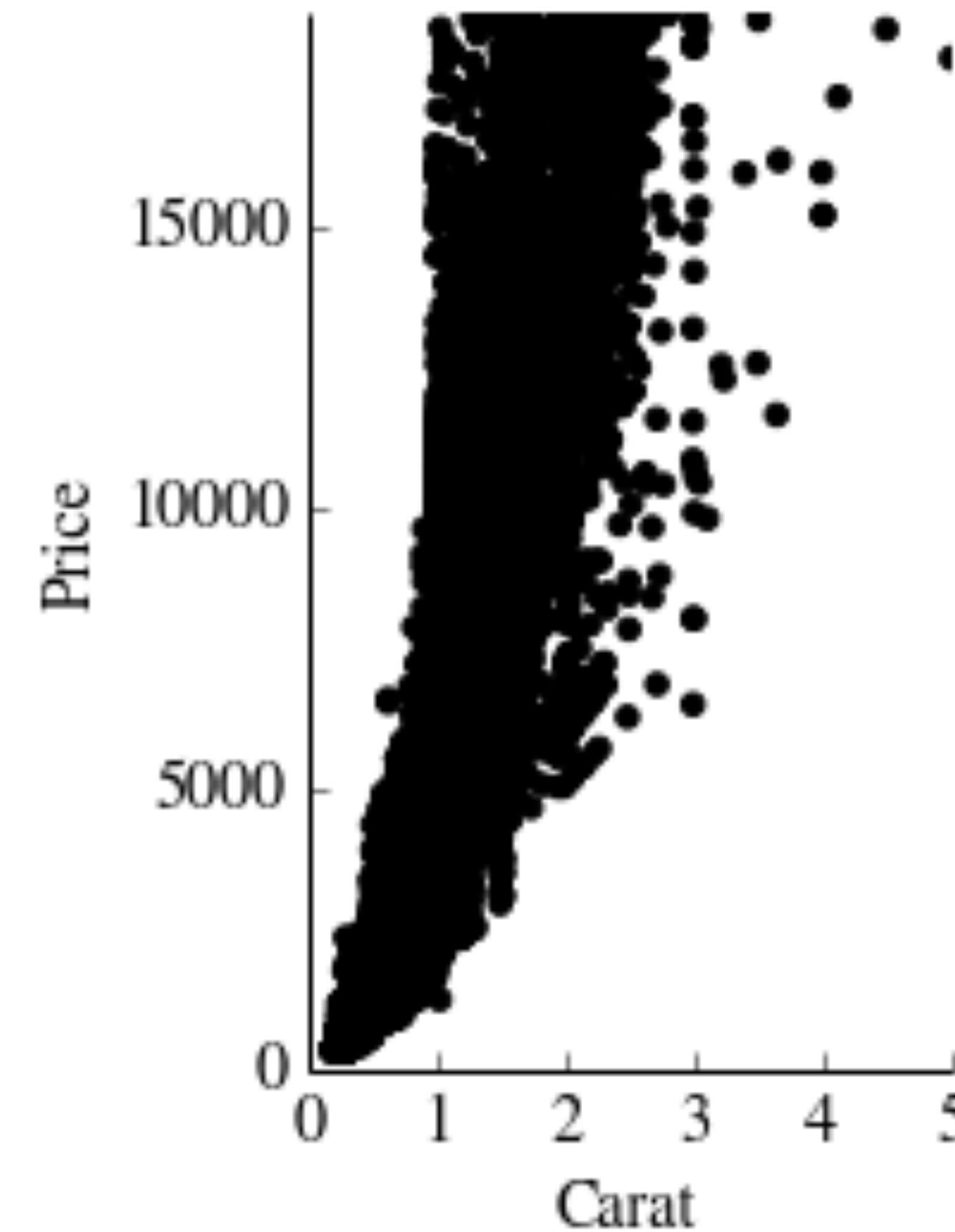
age	fare	class
22.0	7.25	Third
38.0	71.2833	First
26.0	7.925	Third
35.0	53.1	First
35.0	8.05	Third
	8.4583	Third
54.0	51.8625	First
2.0	21.075	Third
27.0	11.1333	Third
14.0	30.0708	Second
4.0	16.7	Third
58.0	26.55	First
20.0	8.05	Third
39.0	31.275	Third
14.0	7.8542	Third
55.0	16.0	Second
2.0	29.125	Third
	13.0	Second
31.0	18.0	Third
	7.225	Third
35.0	26.0	Second
34.0	13.0	Second
15.0	8.0292	Third

# Trivariate Data



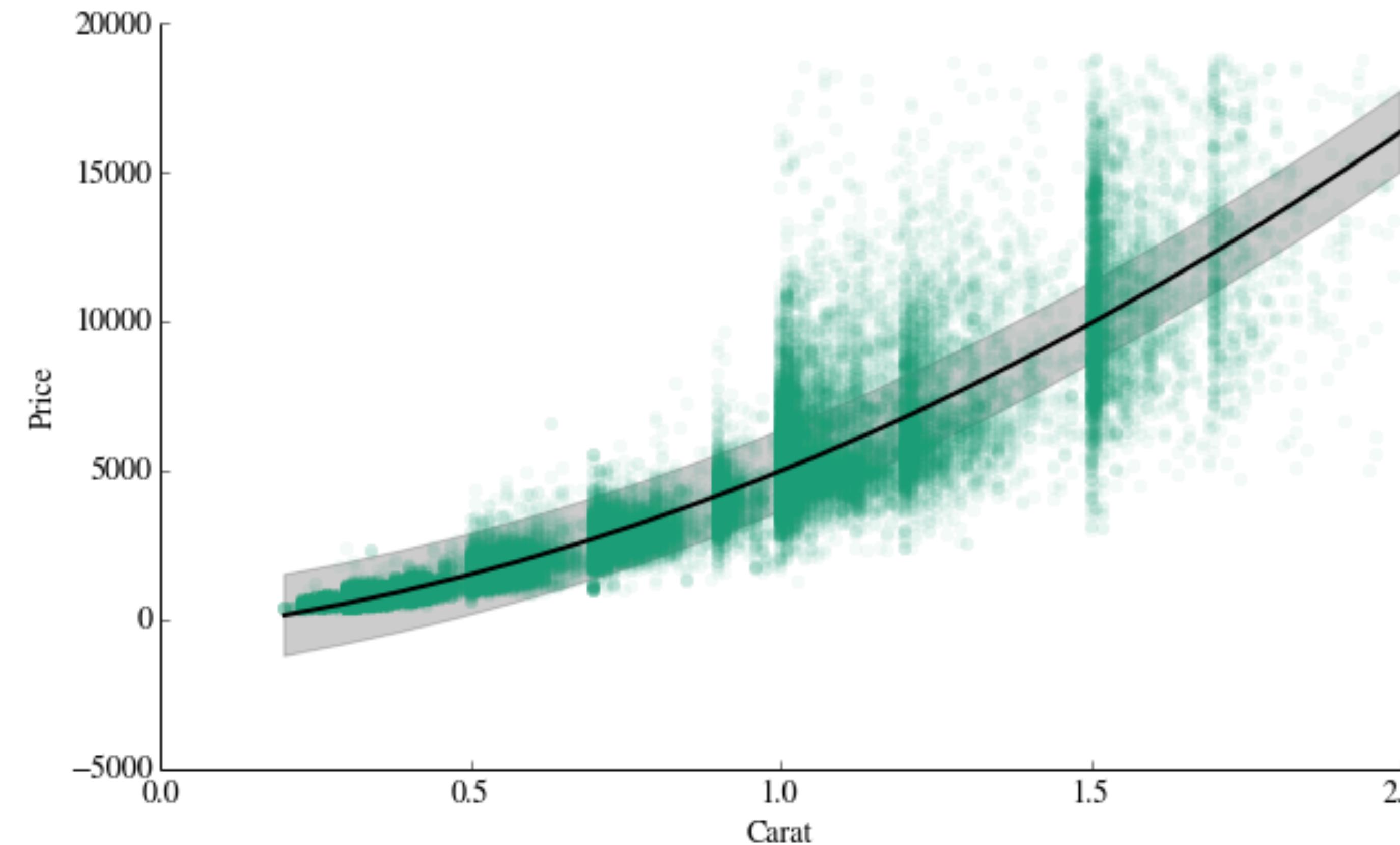
Map the third dimension to some other visual attribute

# Overplotting



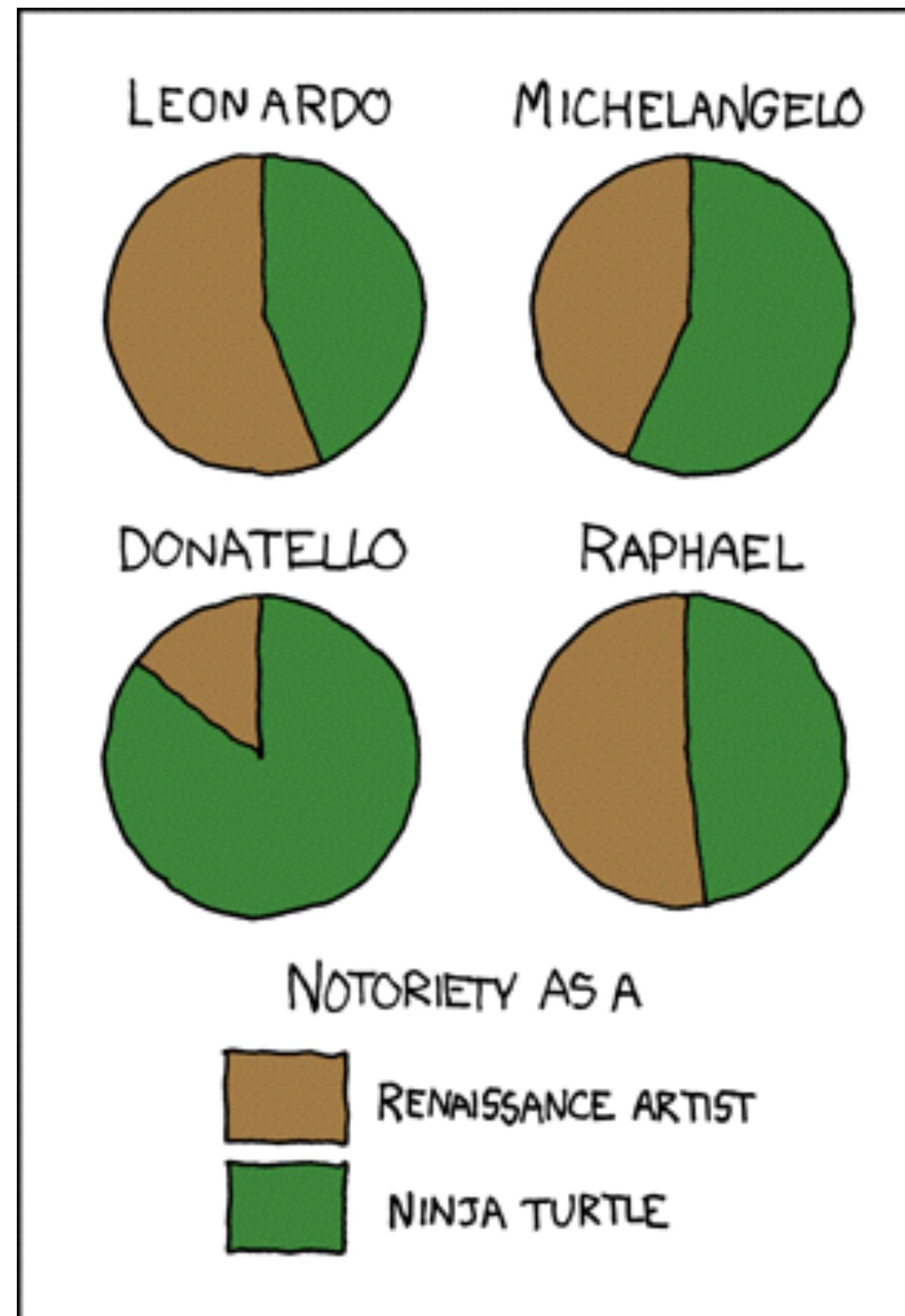
alpha = 1/100

# Trend Lines

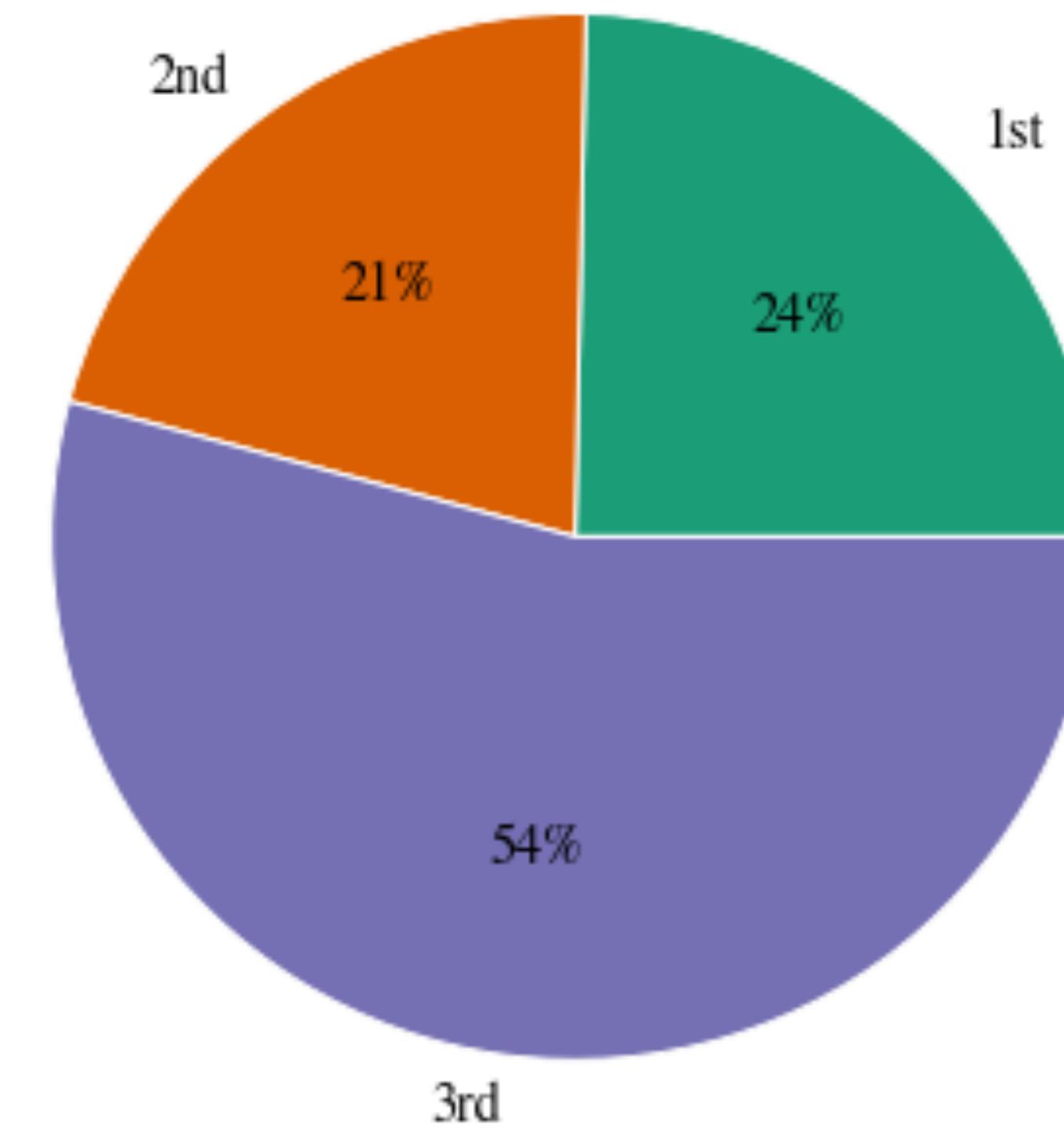


# Compositions

# Pie Charts

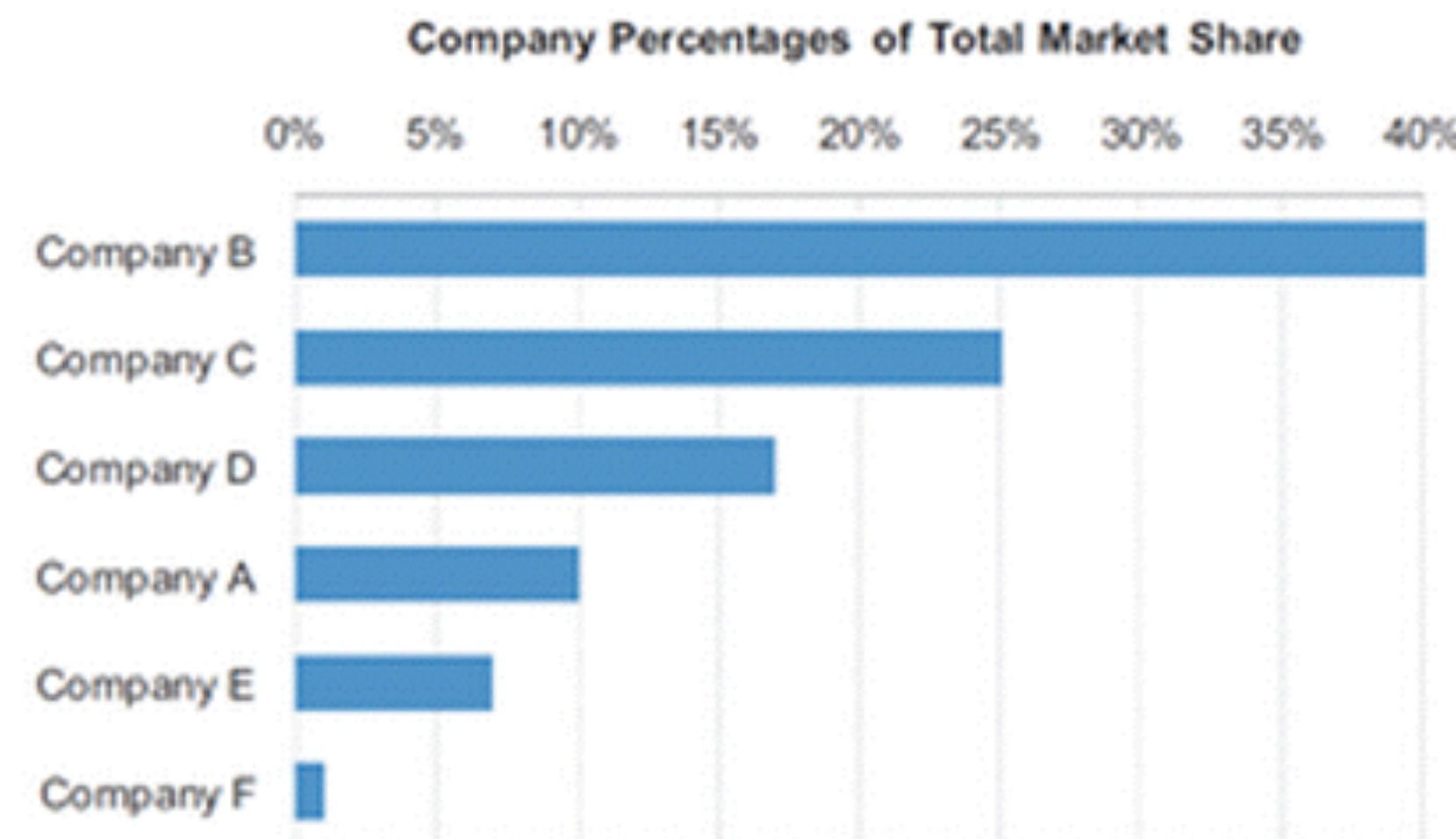
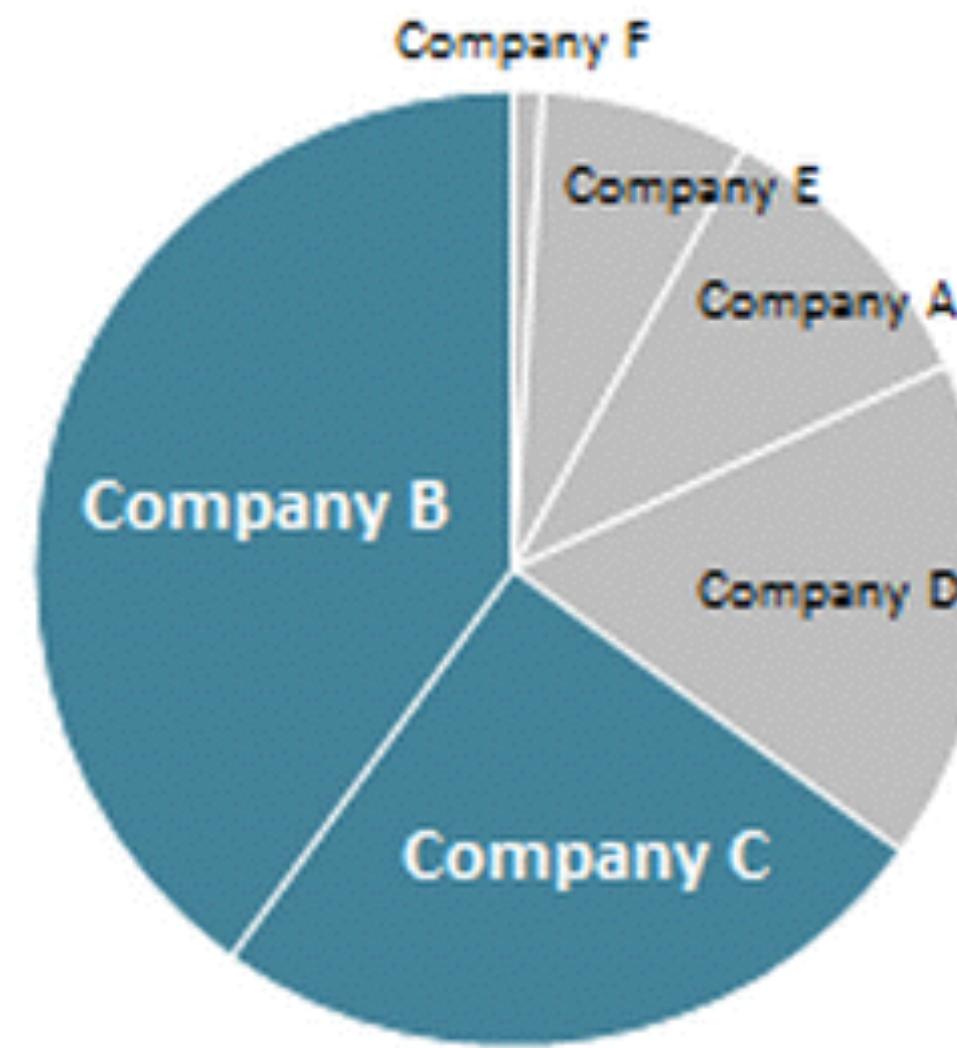


Passenger Class on the Titanic



# Pie vs. Bar Charts

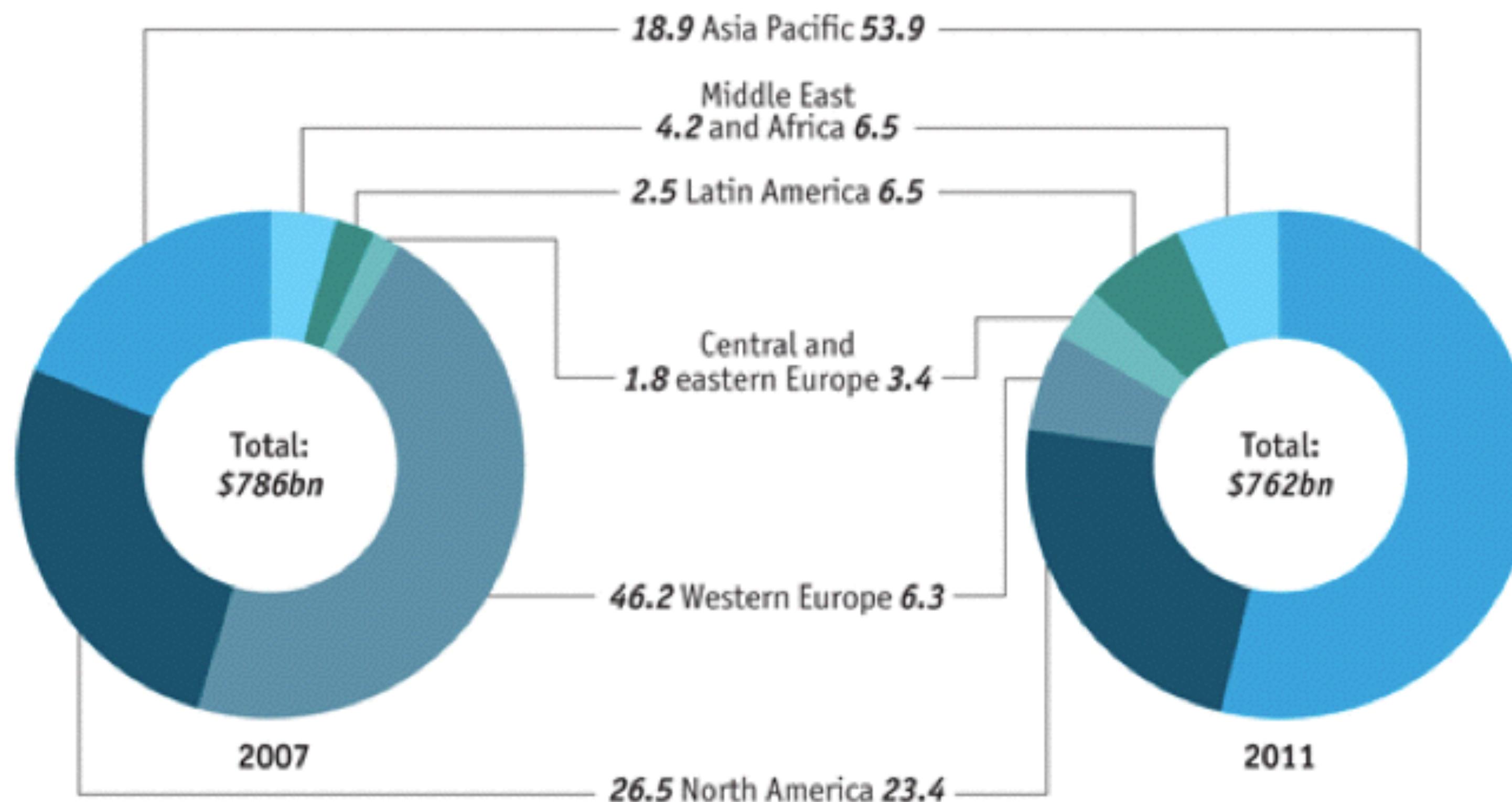
65% of the market is controlled by companies B and C



# Donut Chart

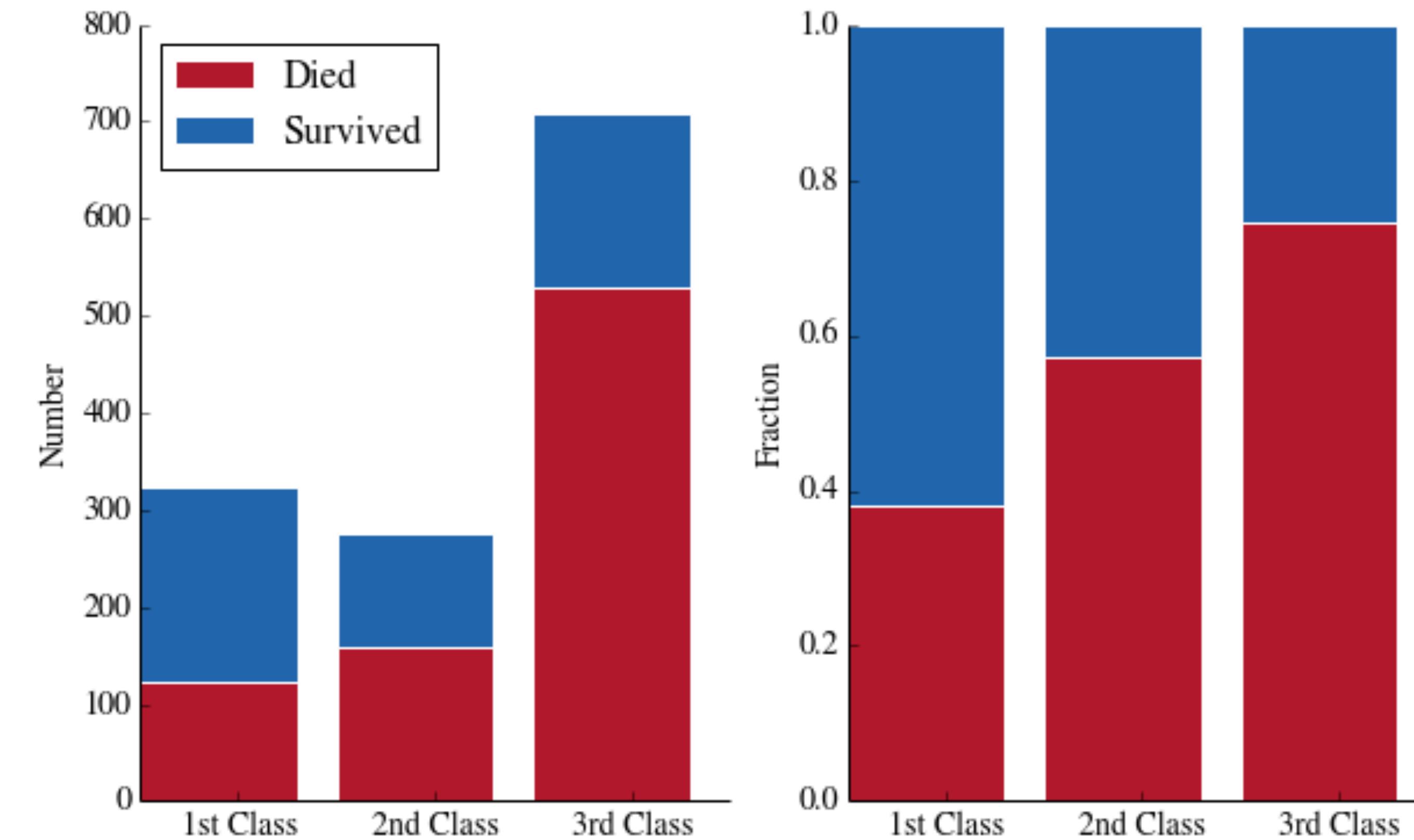
## Pre-tax profits of the 1,000 largest banks

By tier-one capital and domicile, % of total

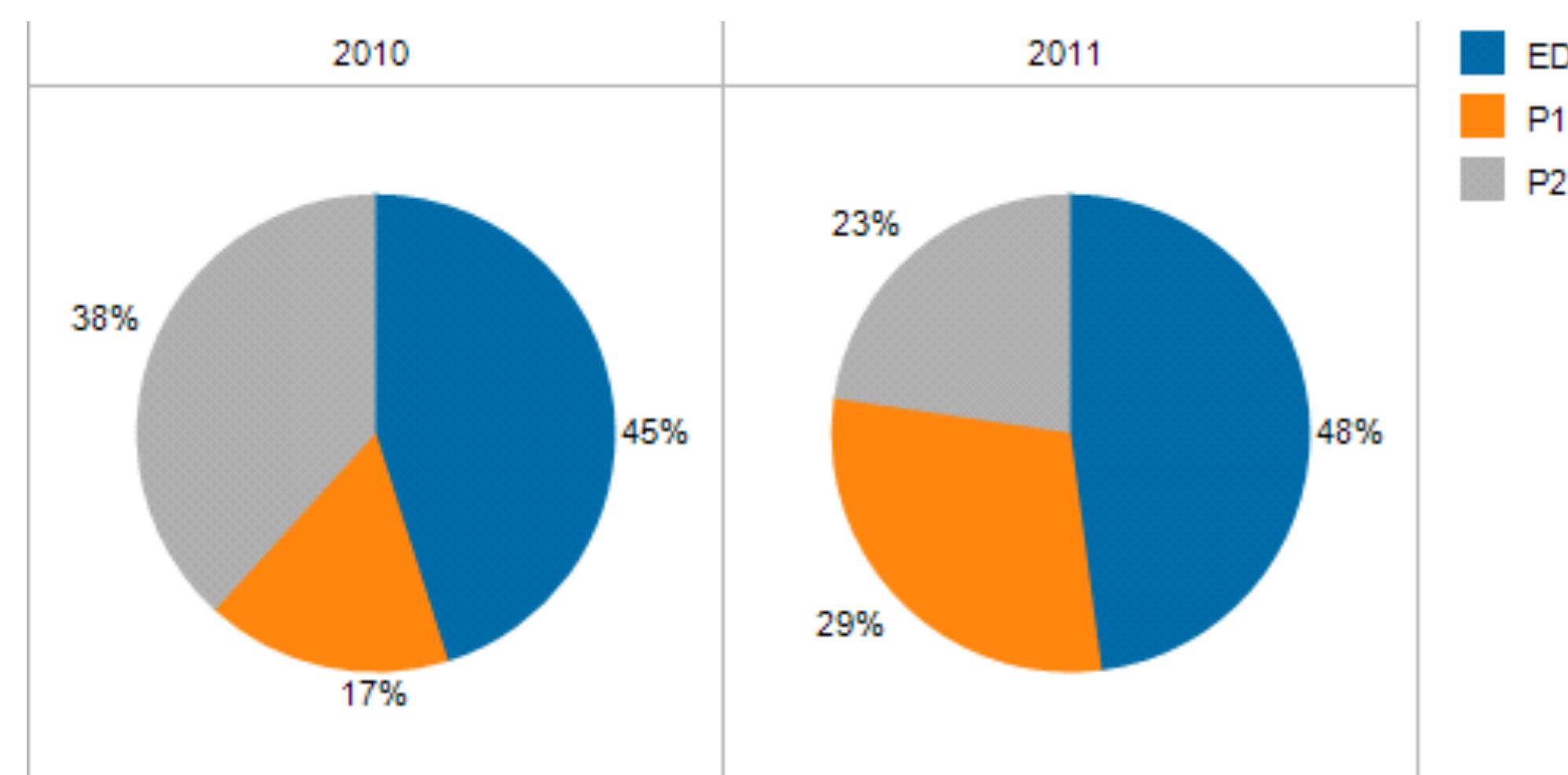


Source: *The Banker Top 1000*

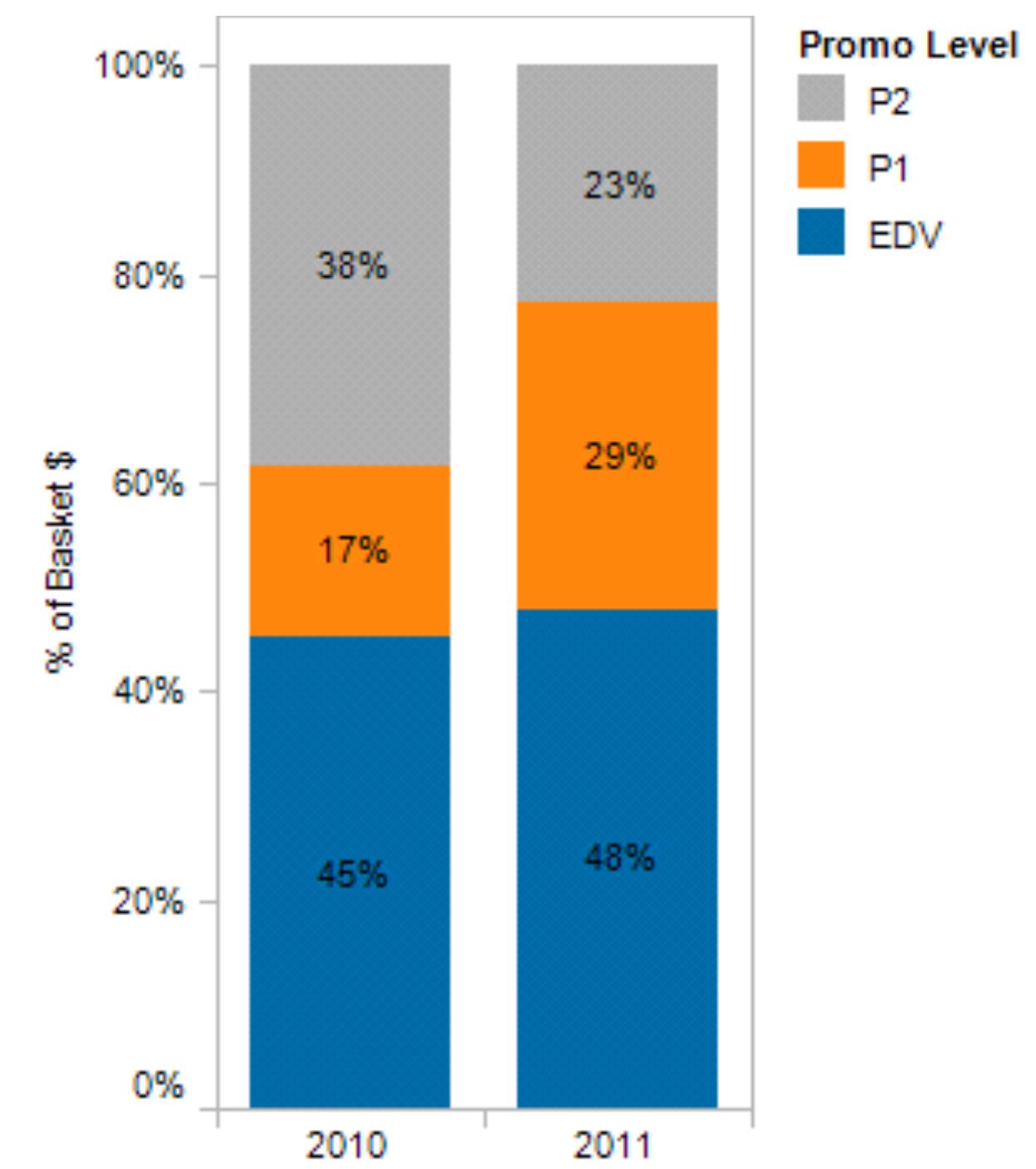
# Stacked Bar Chart



# Stacked Bar Chart

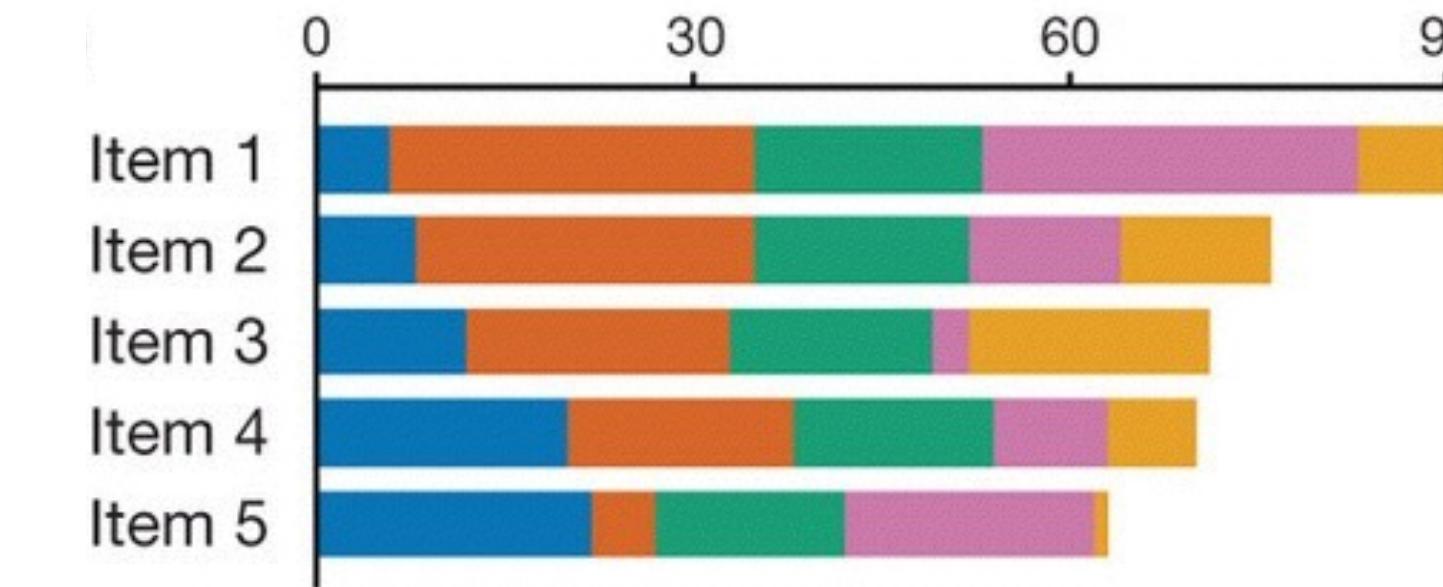
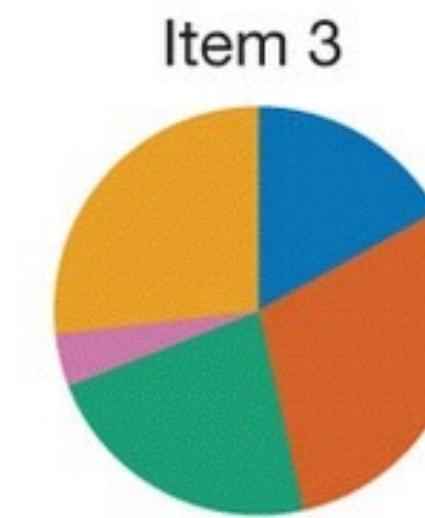


vs.



# Comparison of bar chart types

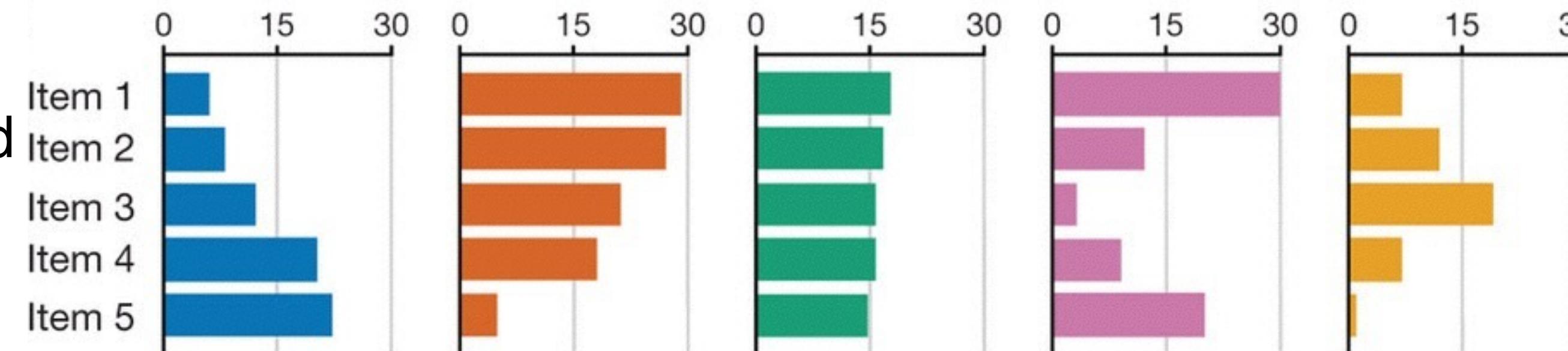
Category 1 ●  
Category 2 ●  
Category 3 ●  
Category 4 ●  
Category 5 ●



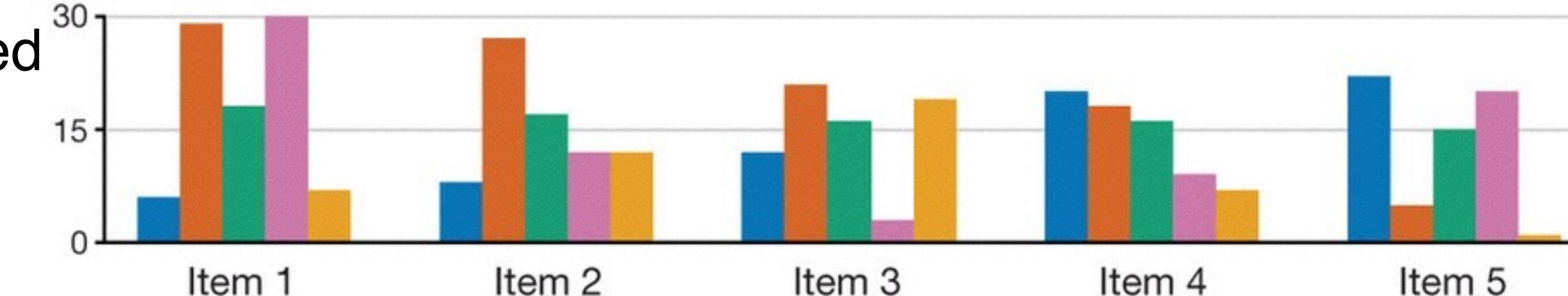
Pie Chart

Stacked bar chart

Layered  
Bar  
Chart

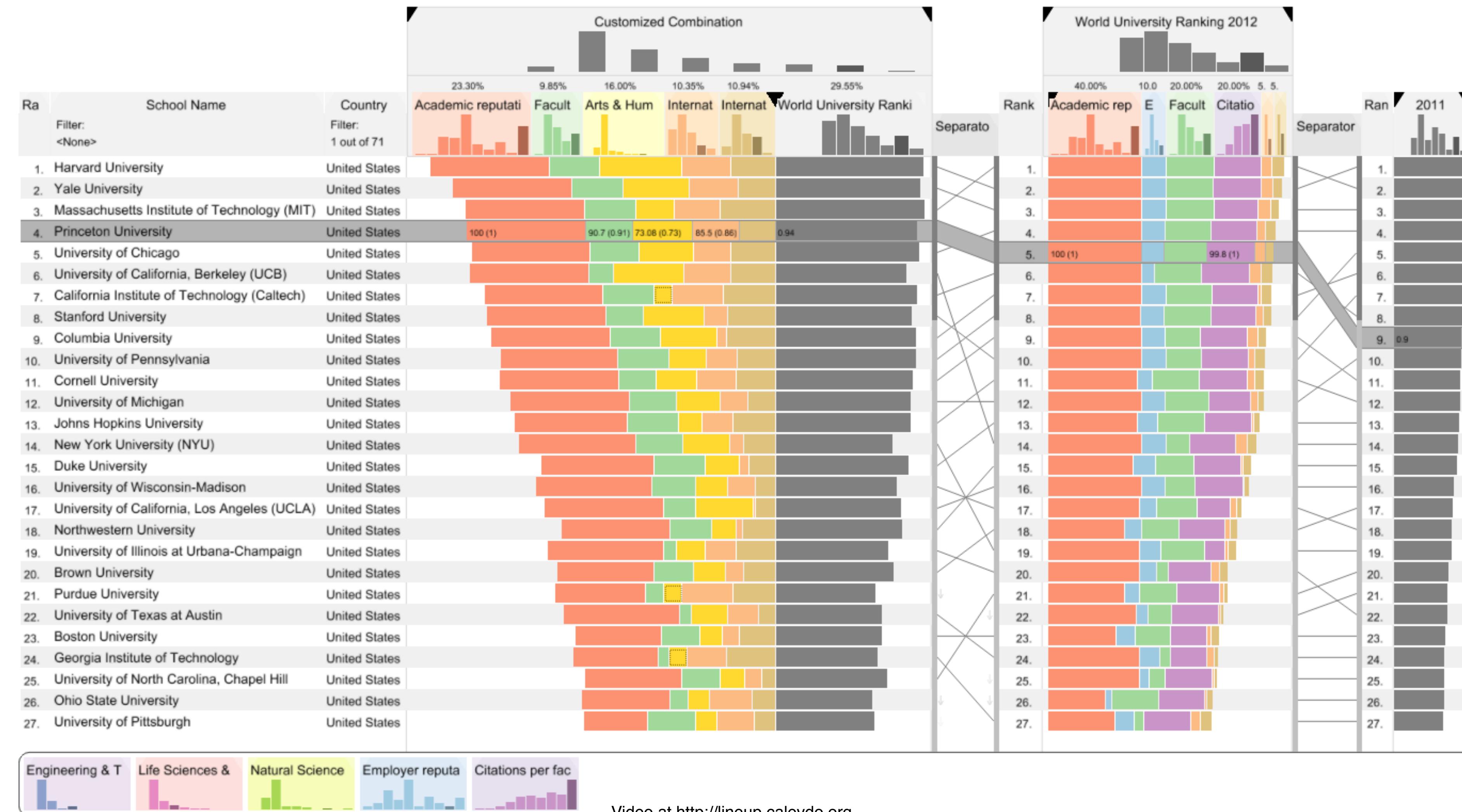


Grouped  
Bar  
Chart

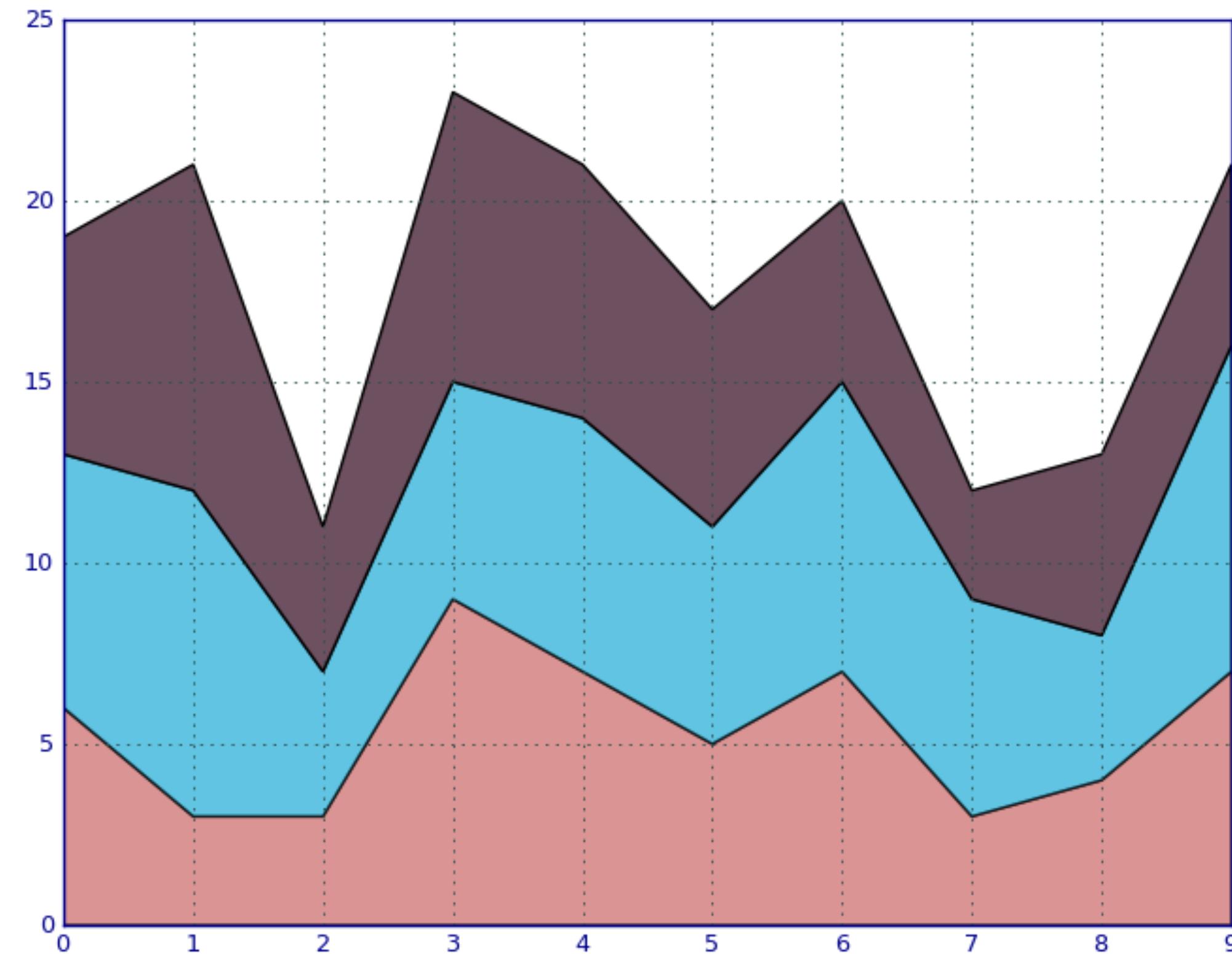


Small  
Multiples

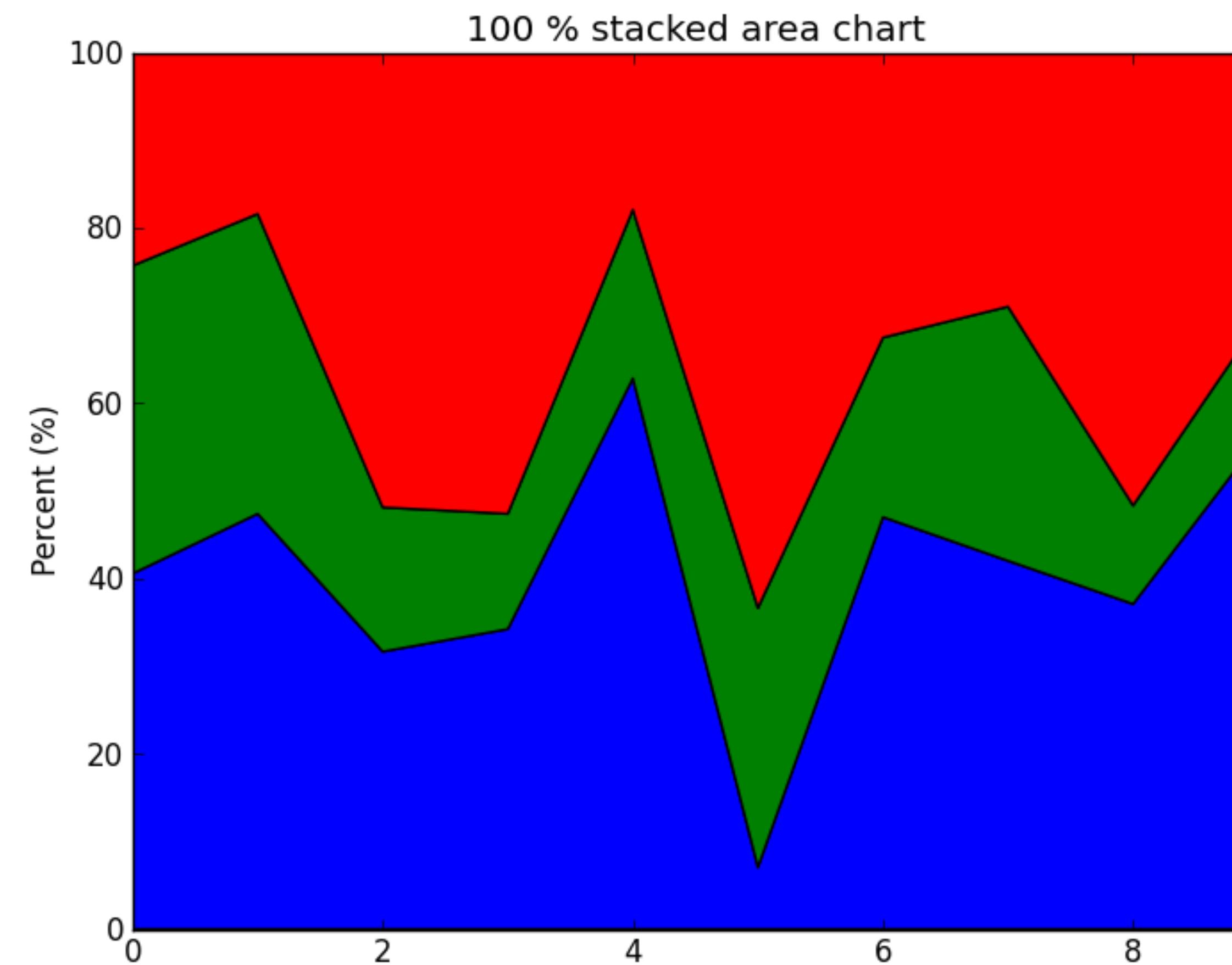
# LineUp



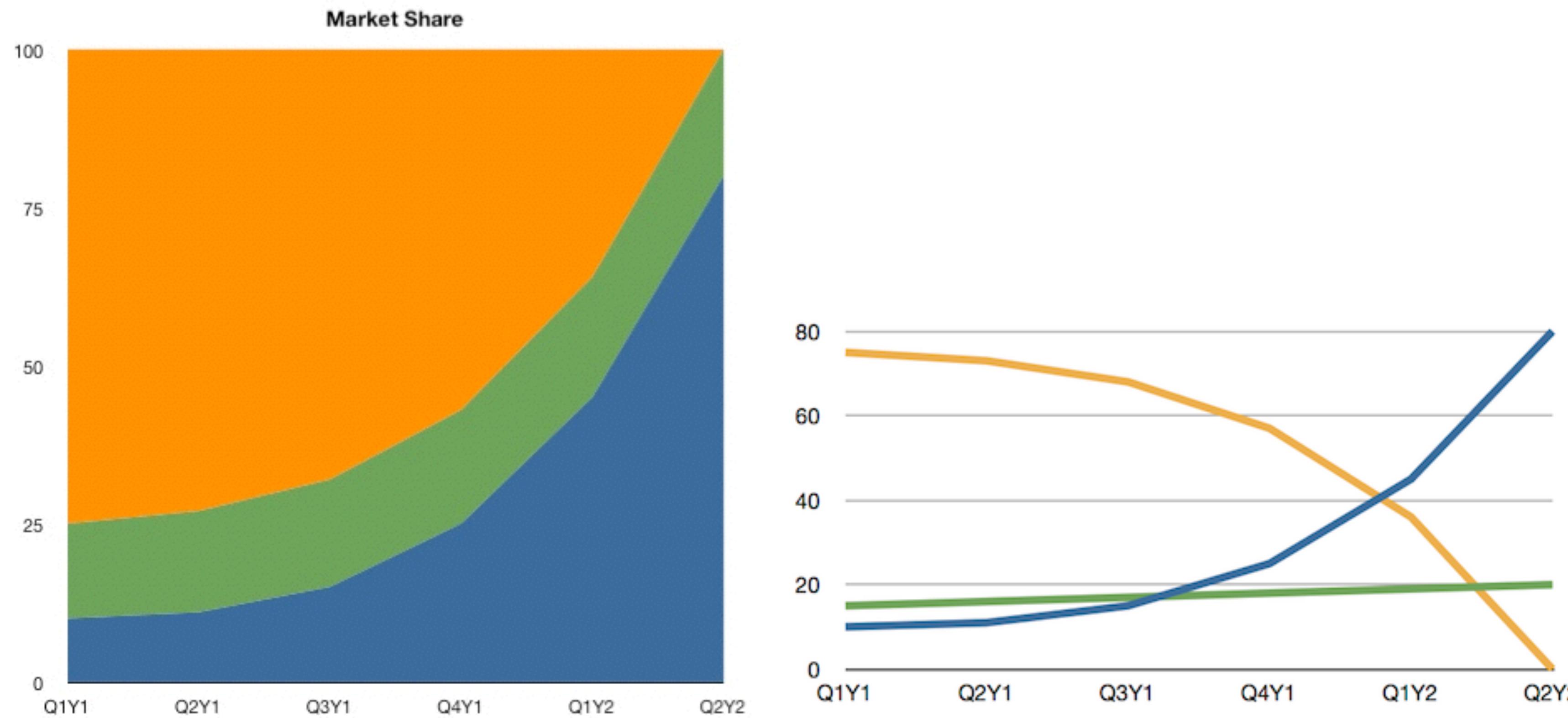
# Stacked Area Chart

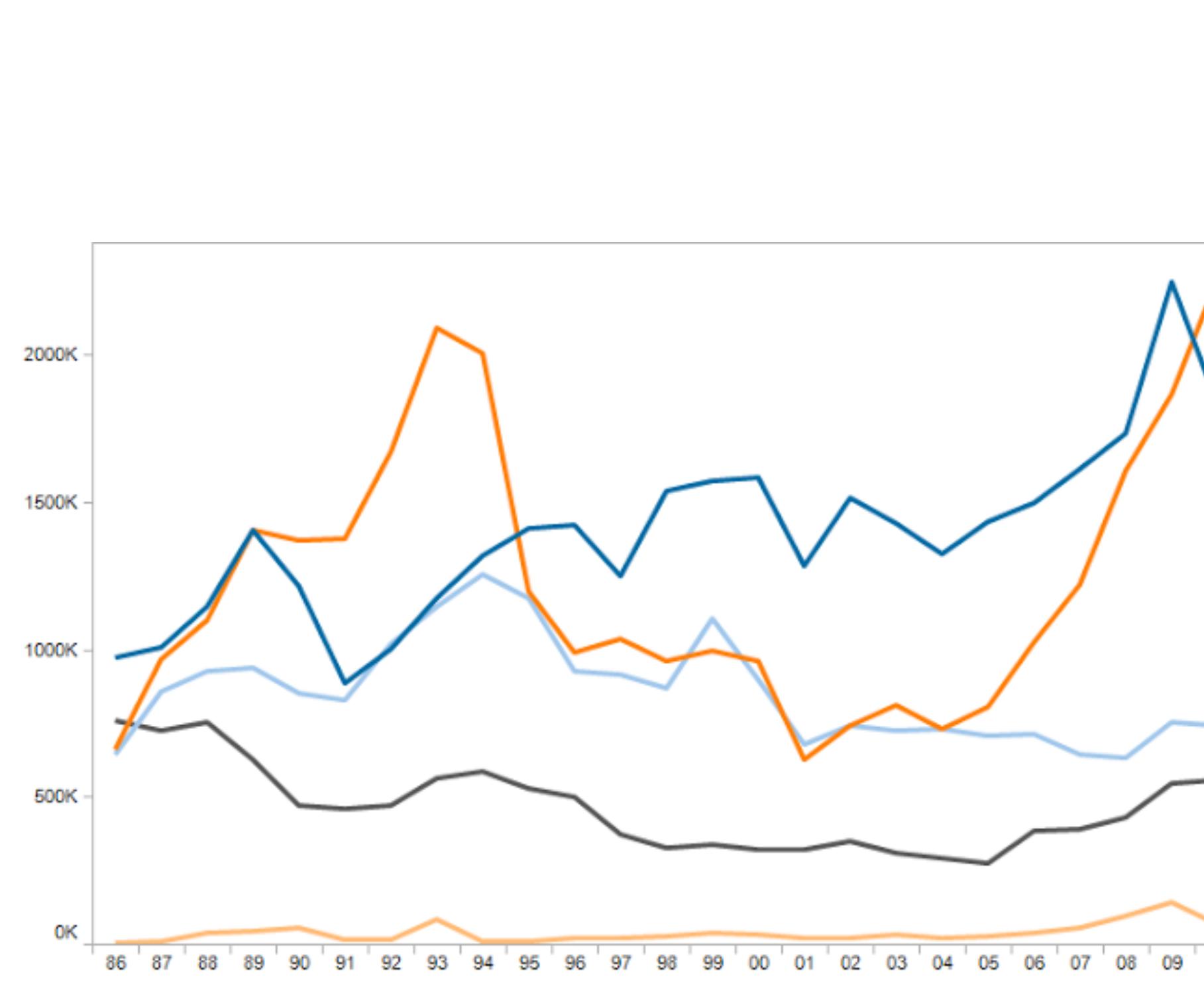
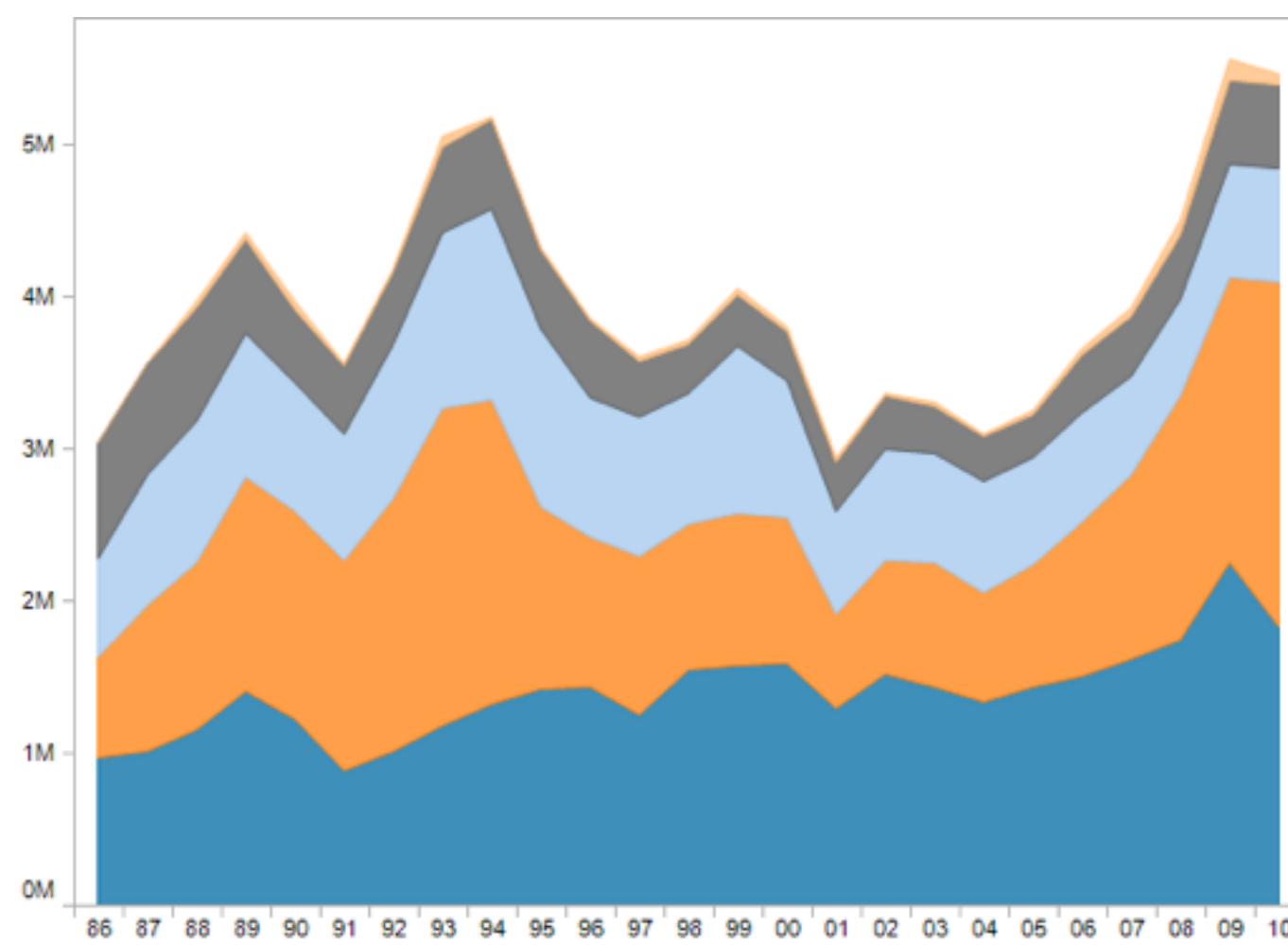
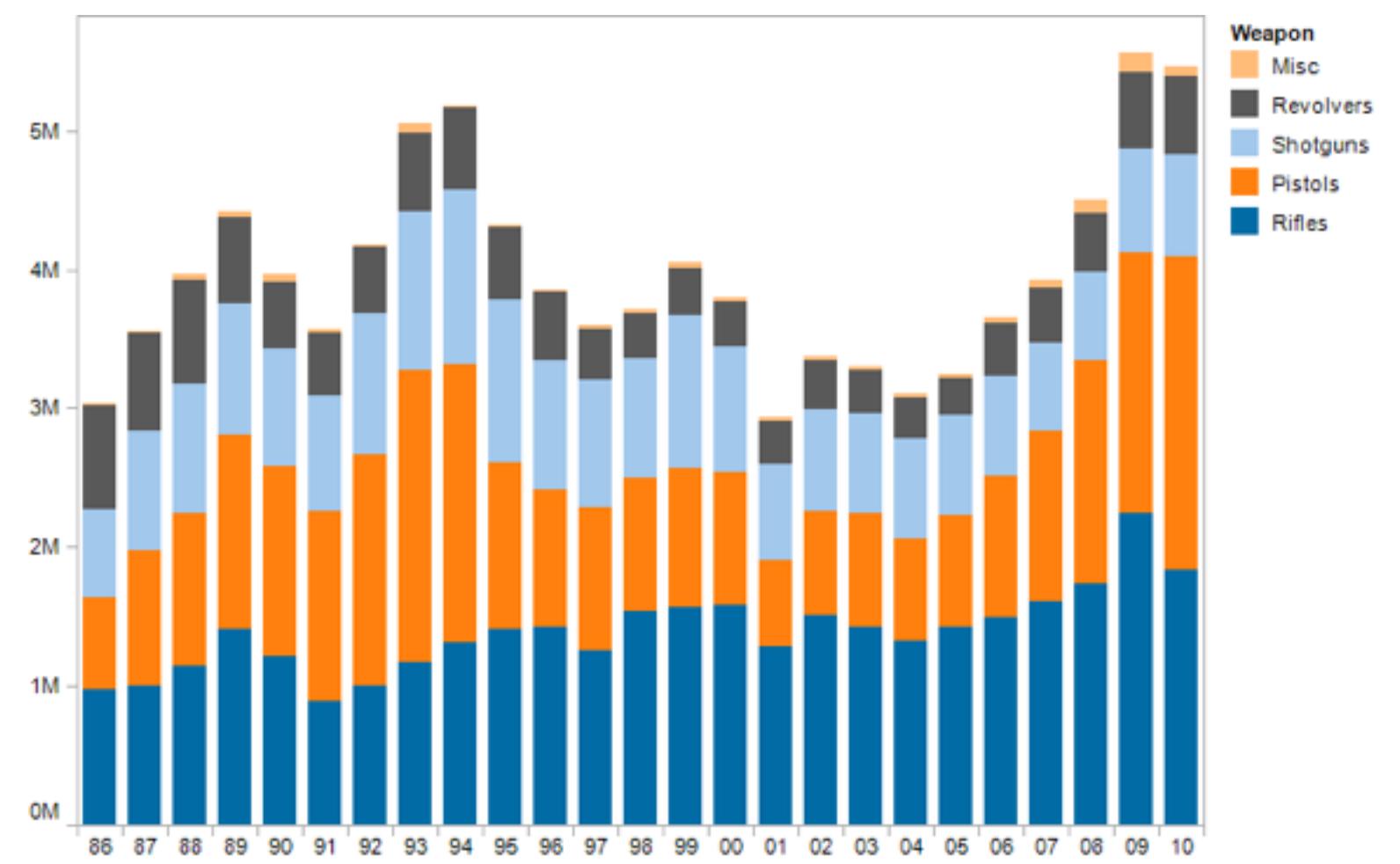


# 100% Stacked Area Chart



# Stacked Area vs. Line Graphs



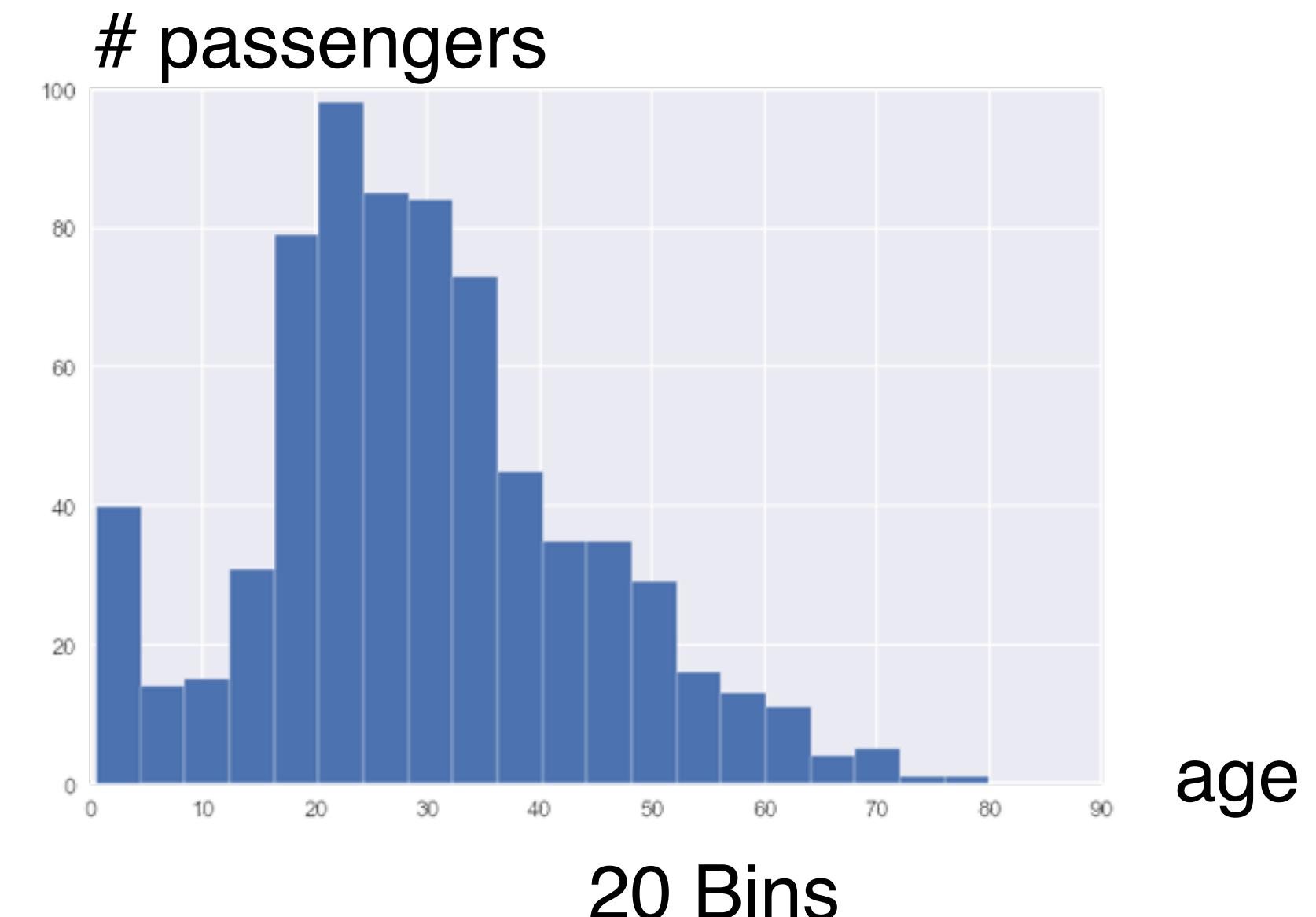
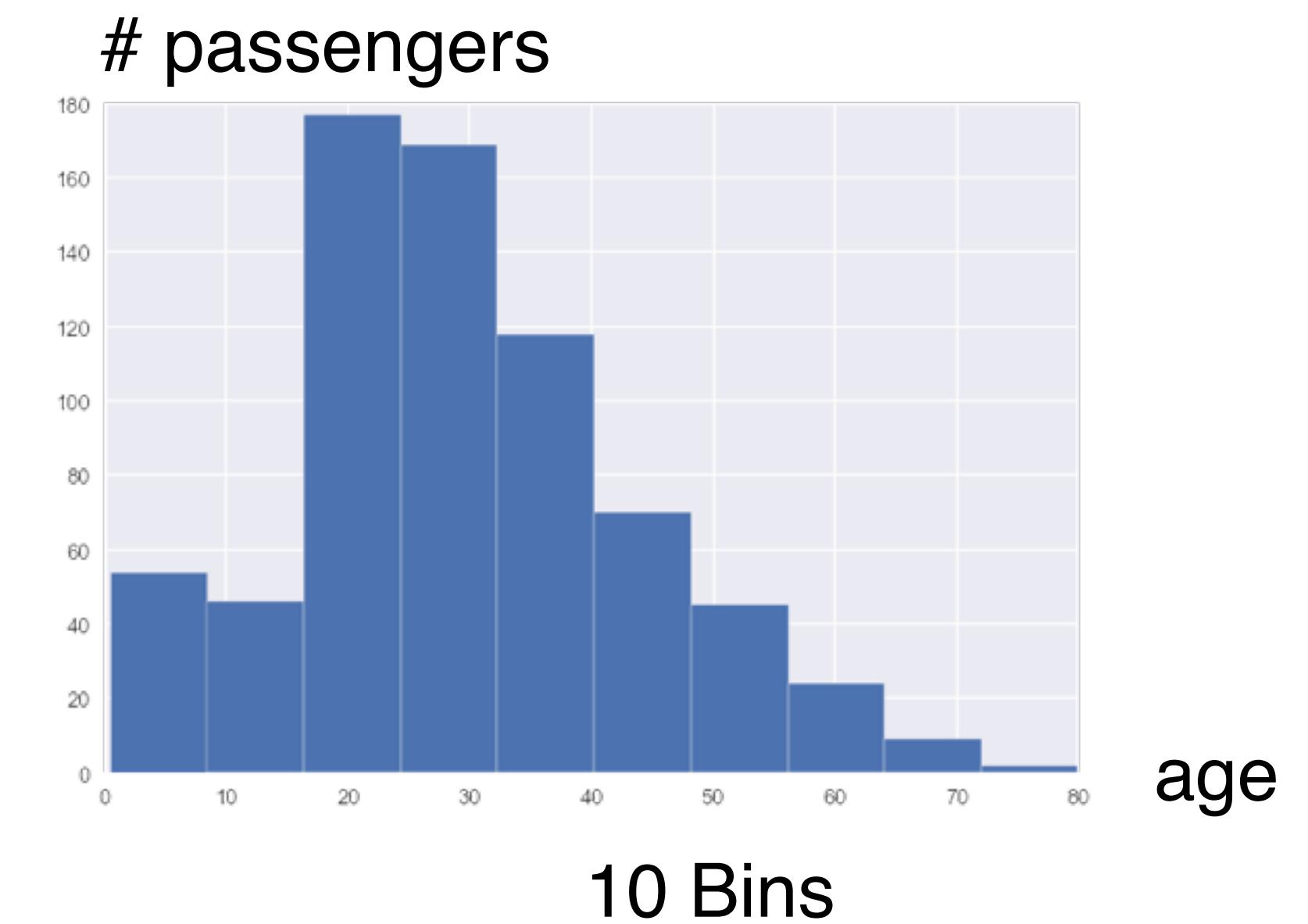


# Distributions

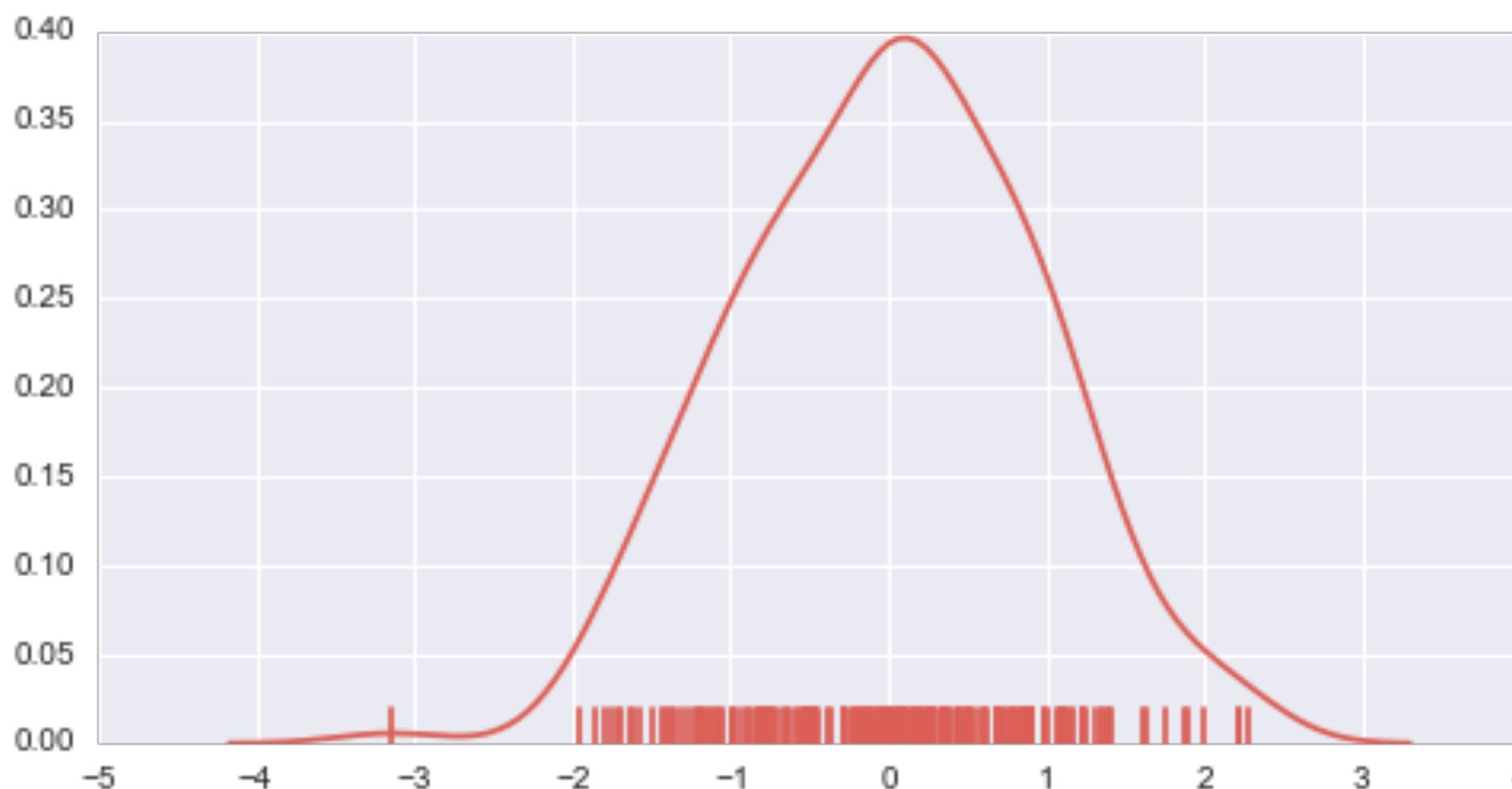
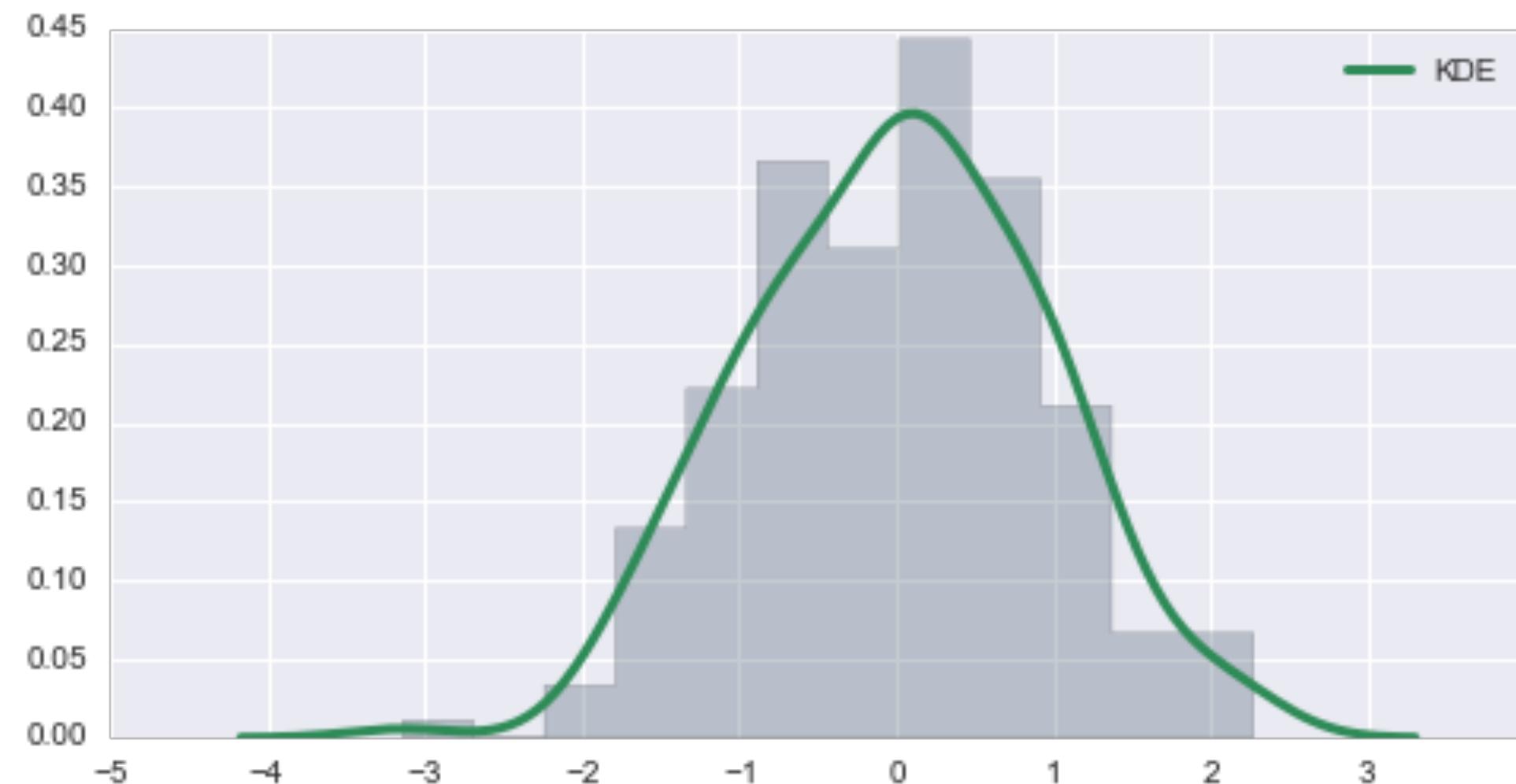
# Histogram

#bins hard to predict  
make interactive!

rule of thumb: #bins =  $\sqrt{n}$

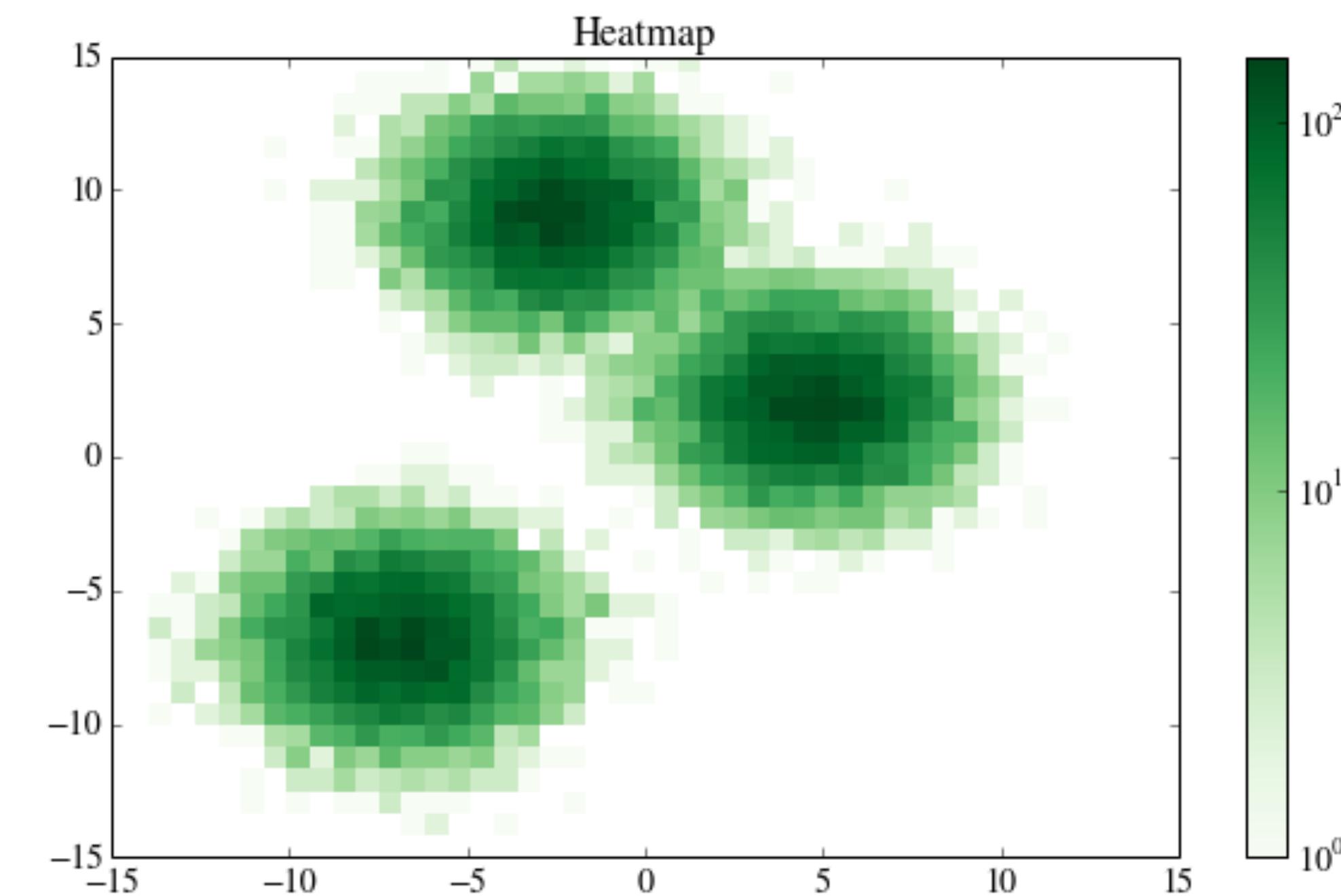
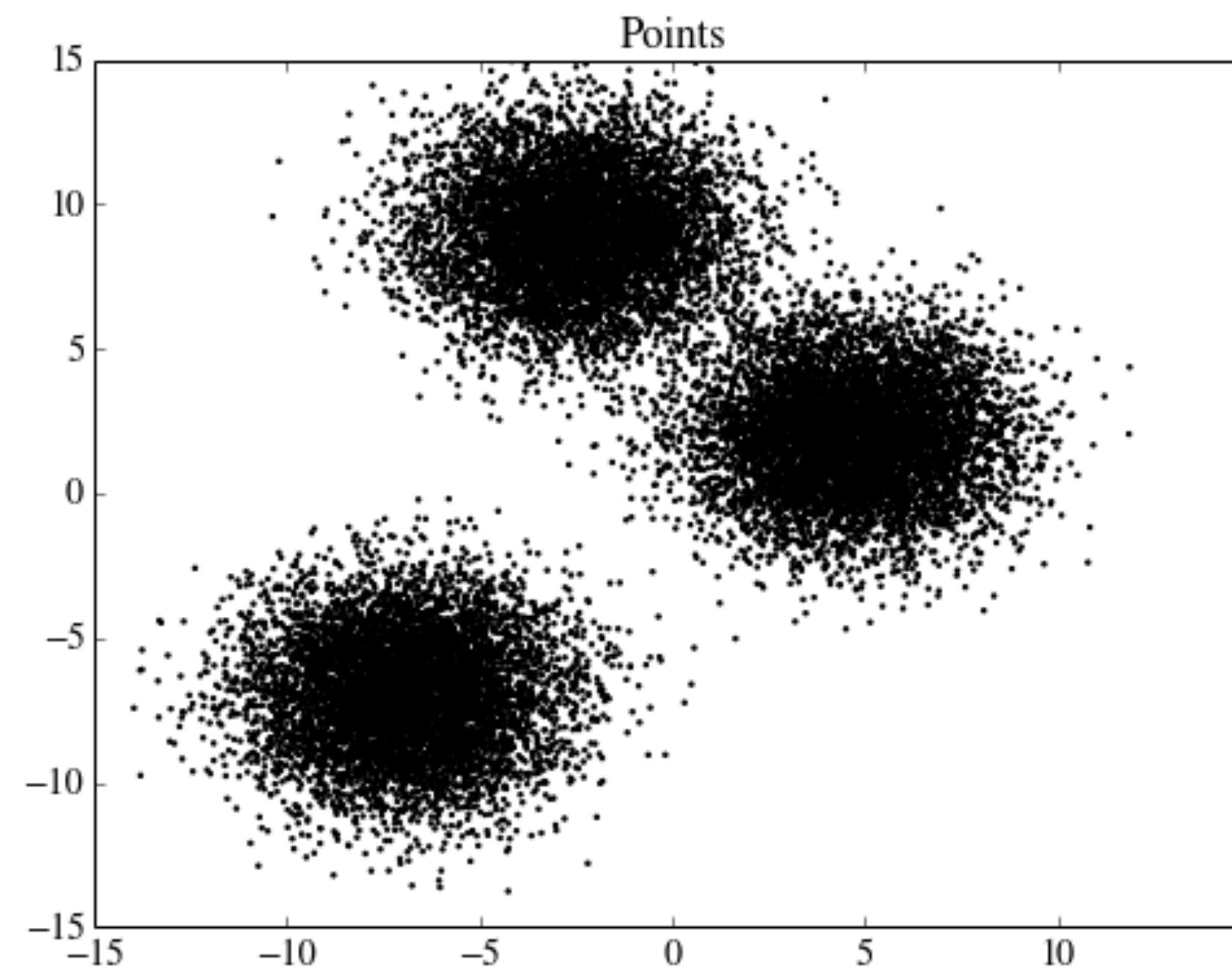


# Density Plots



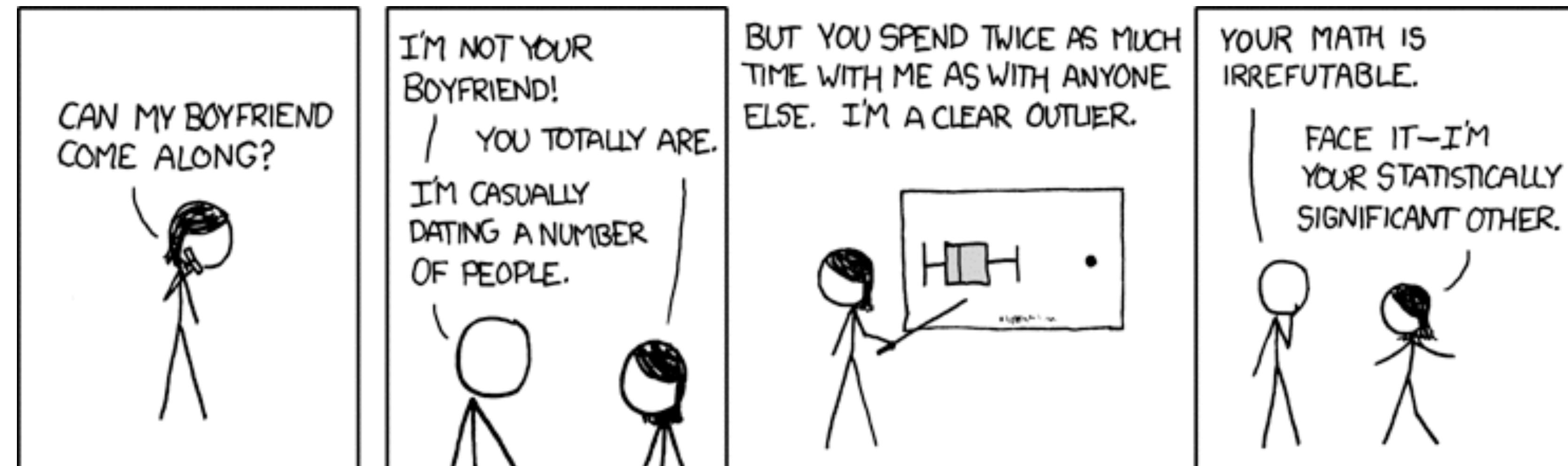
# Heat Maps

binning of scatterplots

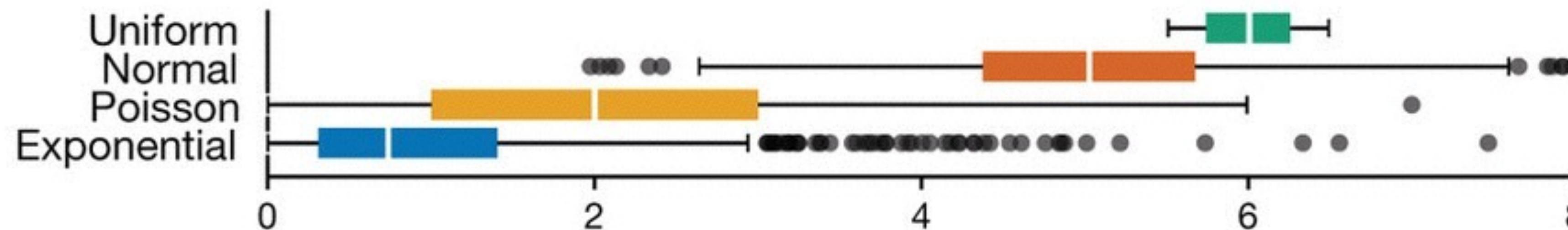


2D Density Plots

# Box(and Whisker) Plots

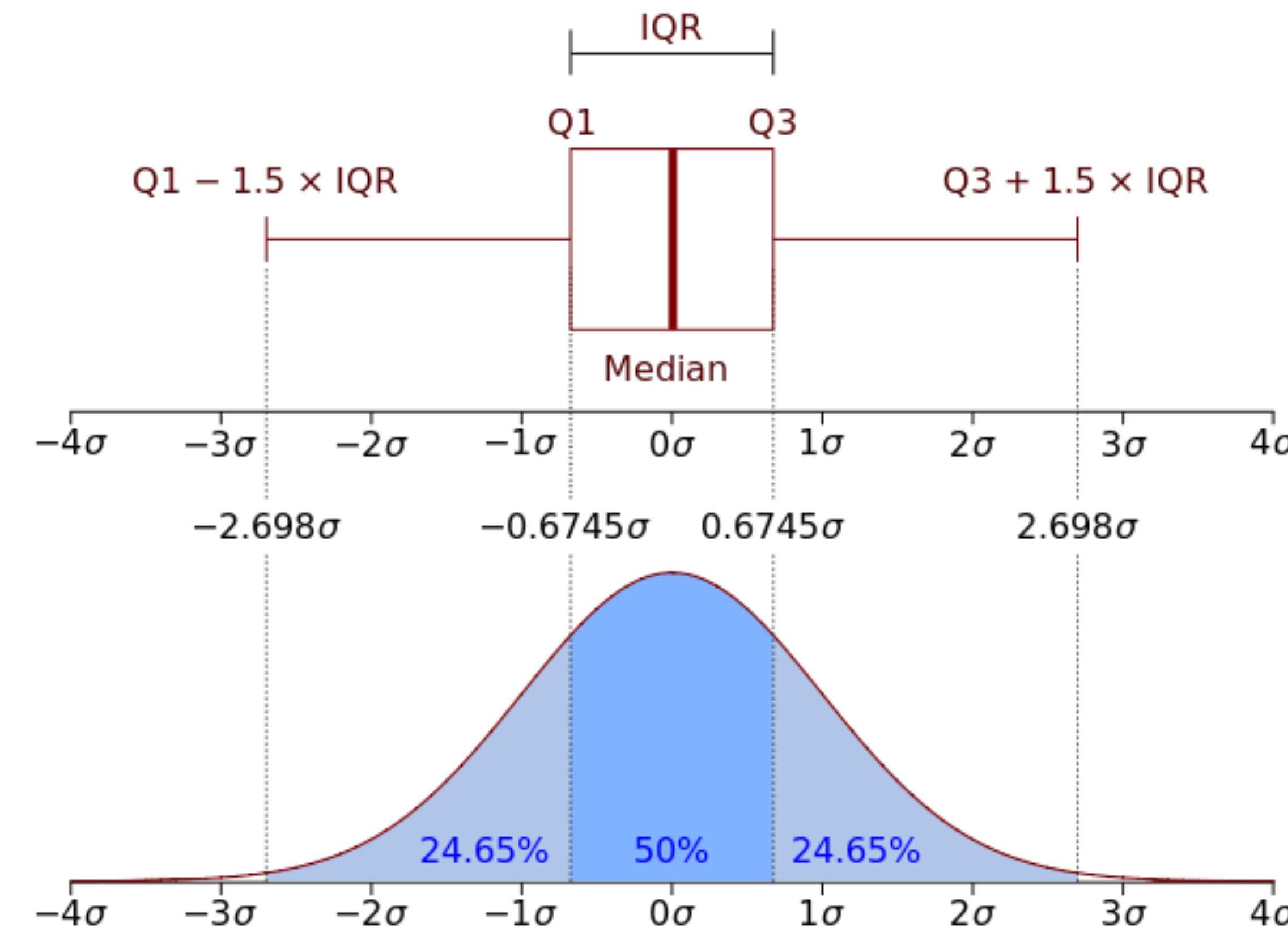


<http://xkcd.com/539/>



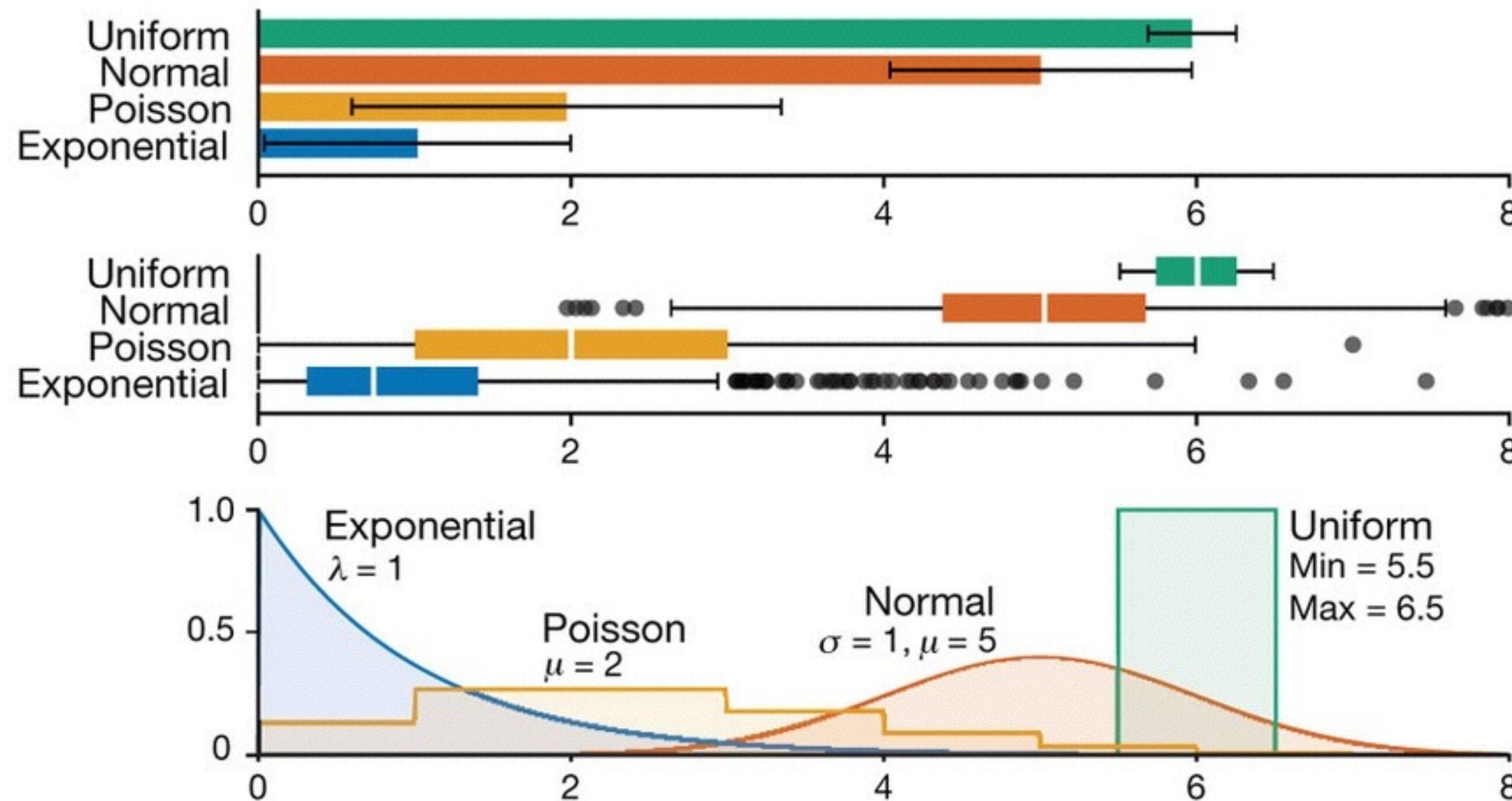
# Box Plots

aka Box-and-Whisker Plot



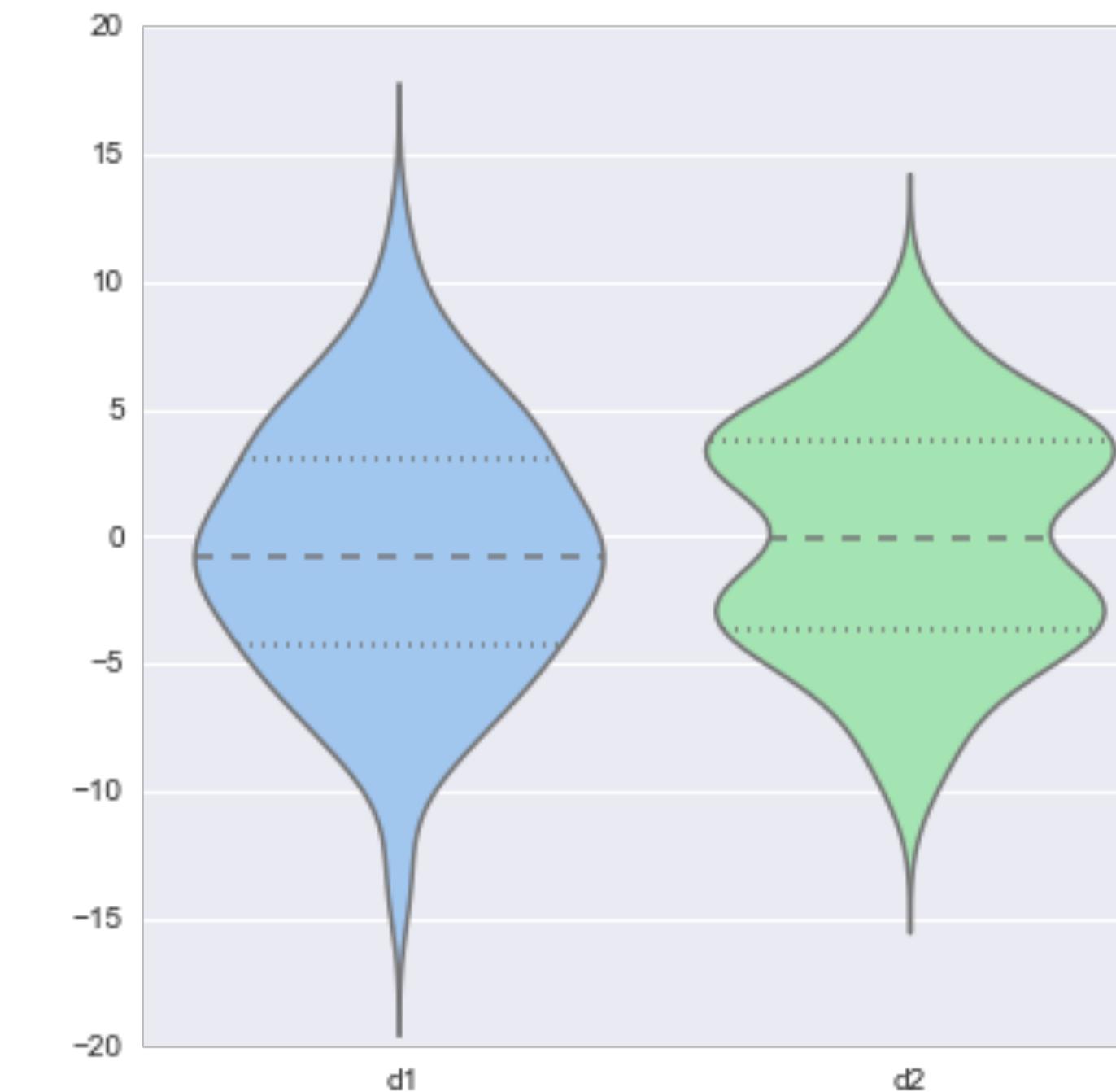
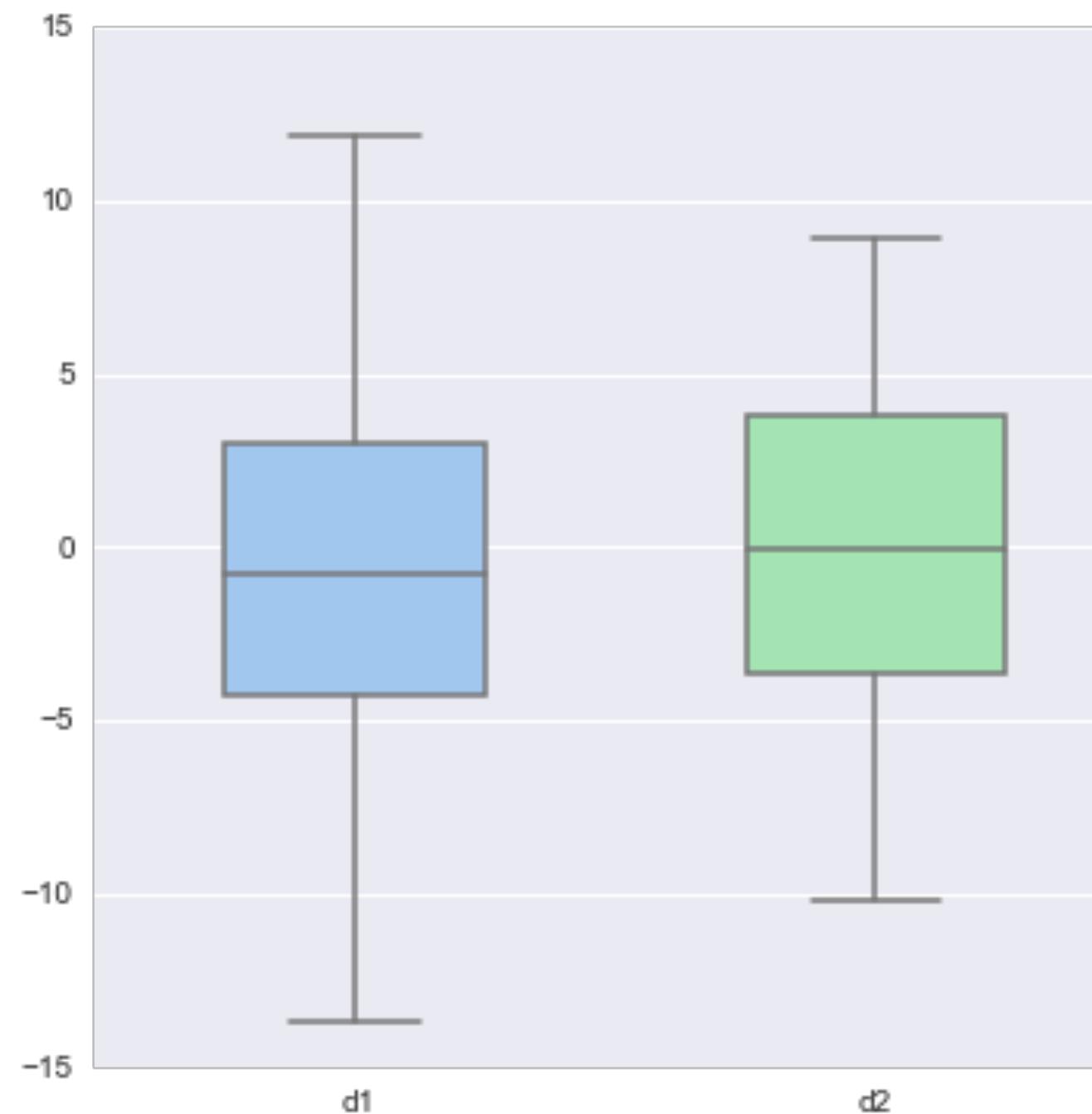
Wikipedia

# Comparison

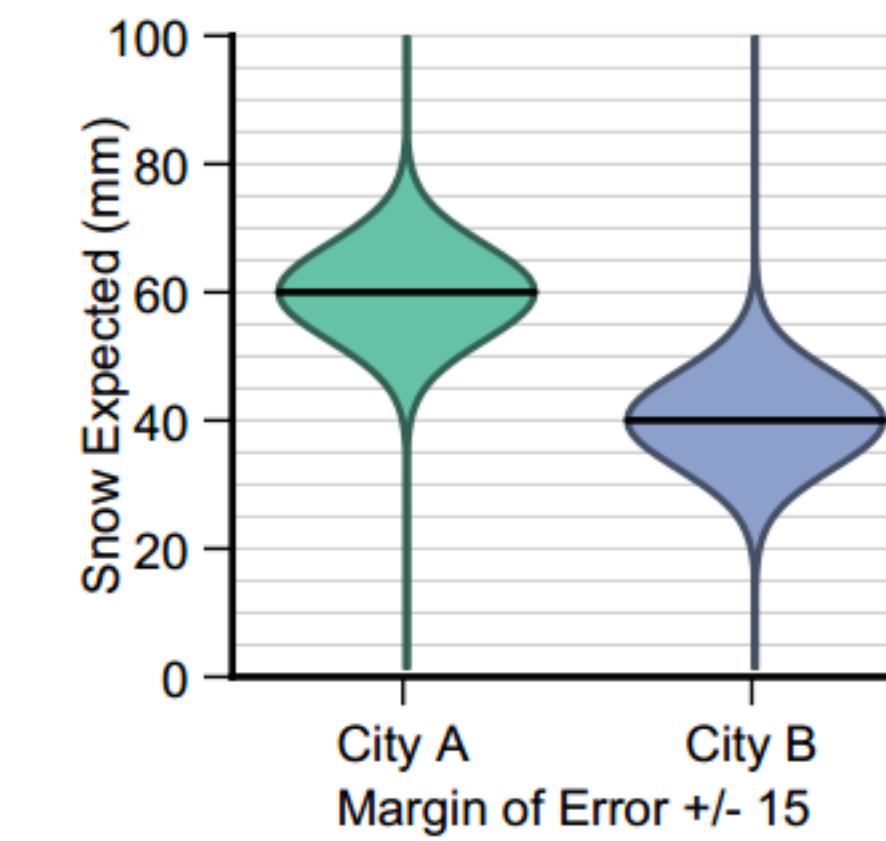
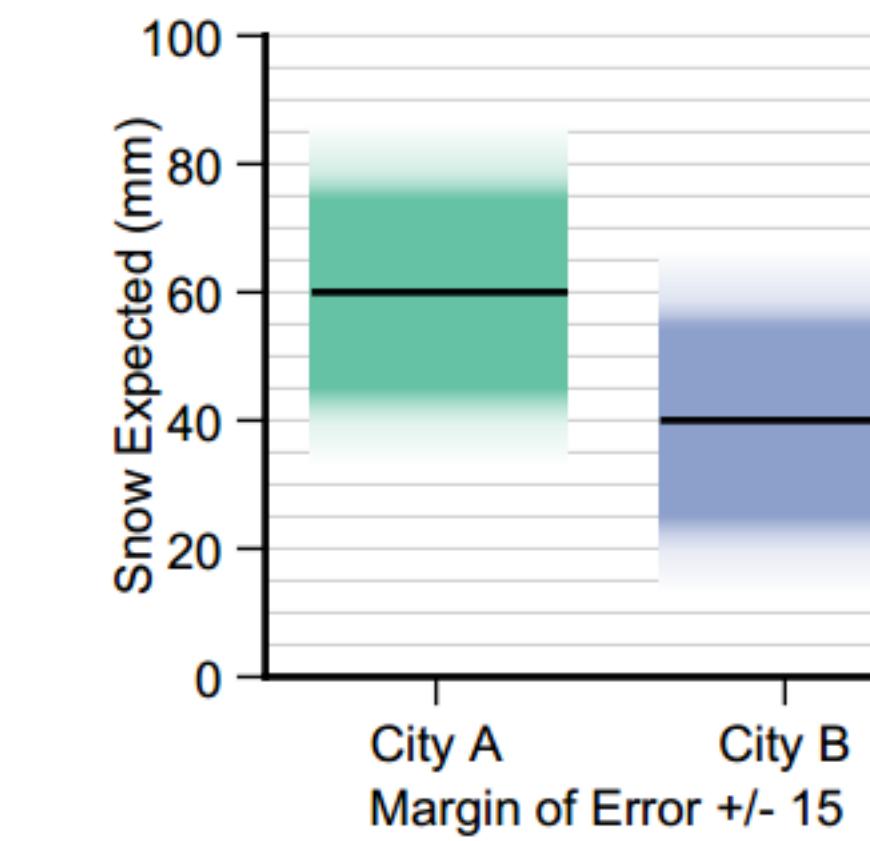
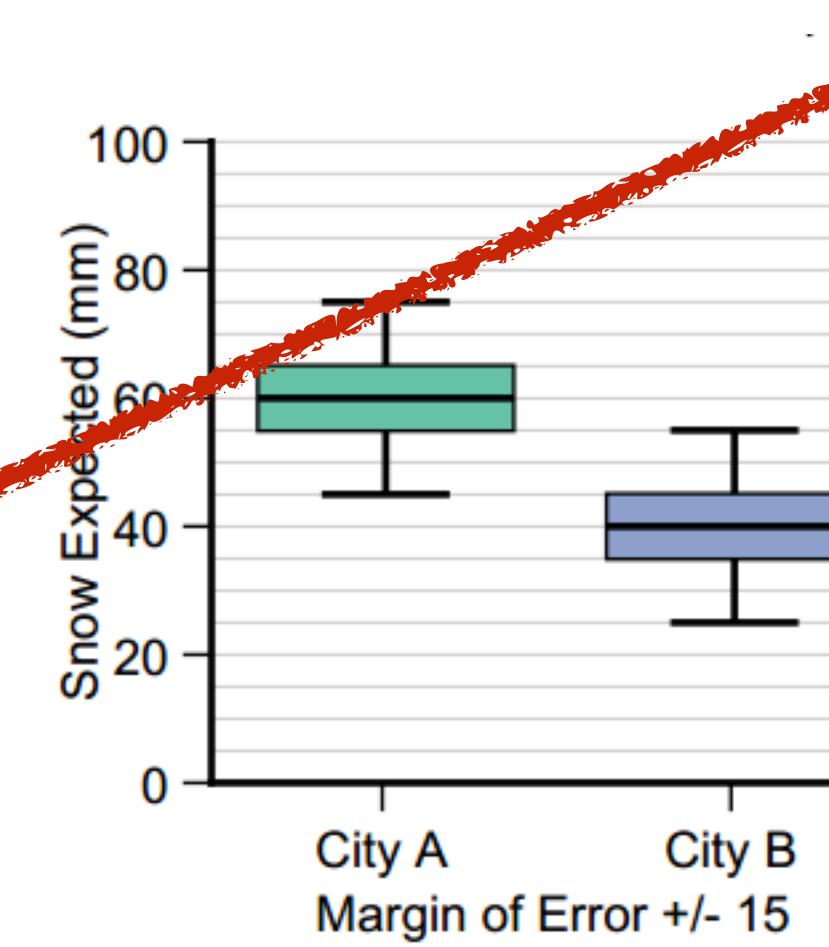
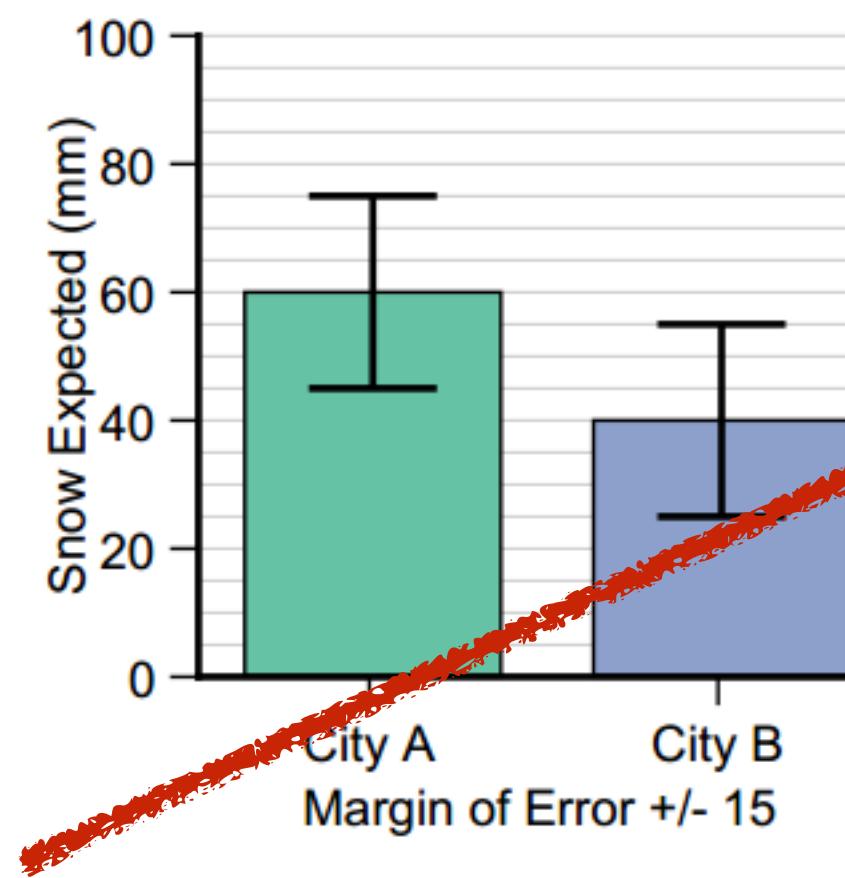


# Violin Plot

= Box Plot + Probability Density Function

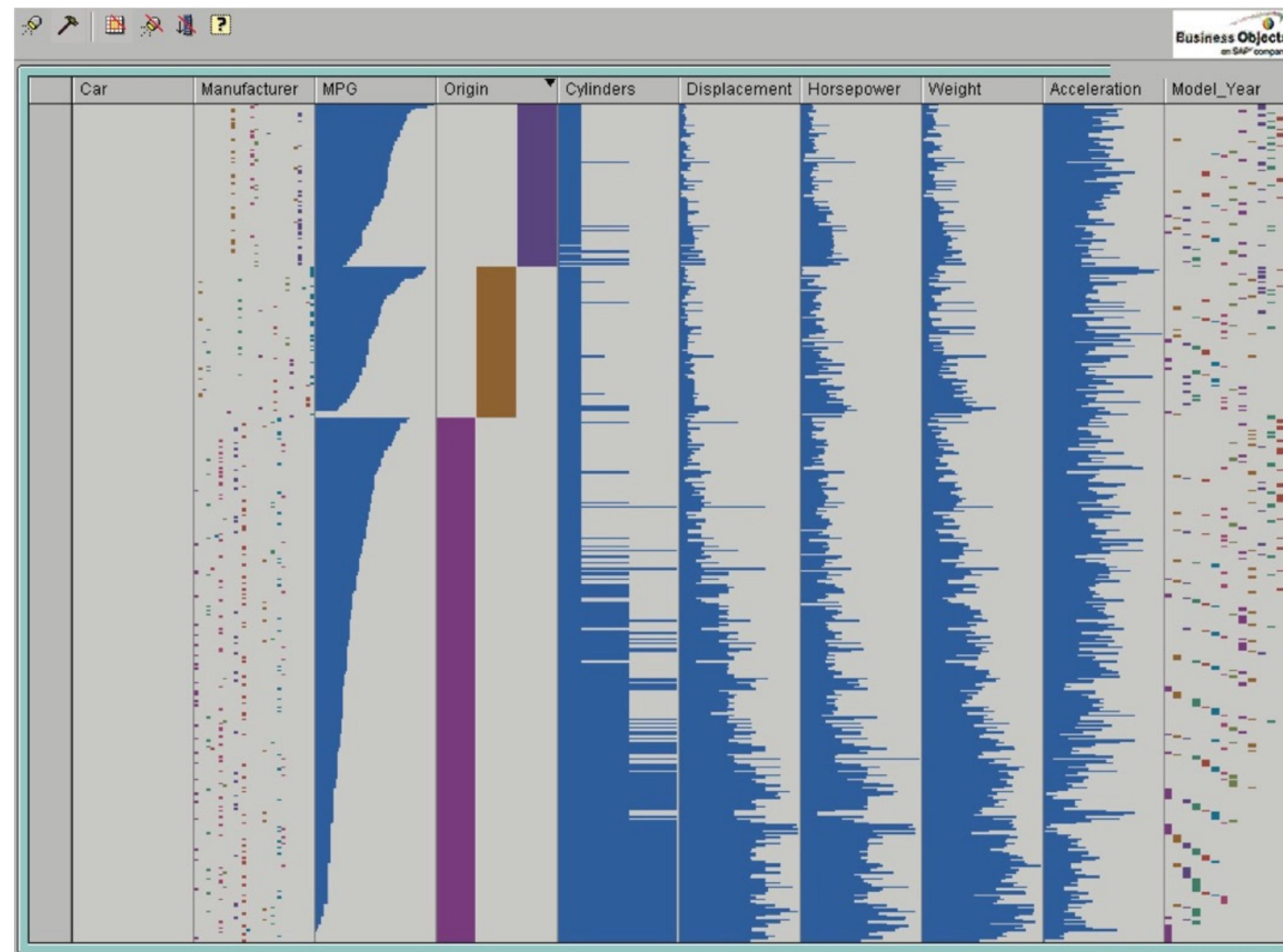


# Showing Expected Values & Uncertainty



Error Bars Considered Harmful:  
Exploring Alternate Encodings for Mean and Error  
Michael Correll, and Michael Gleicher

# Table Lens

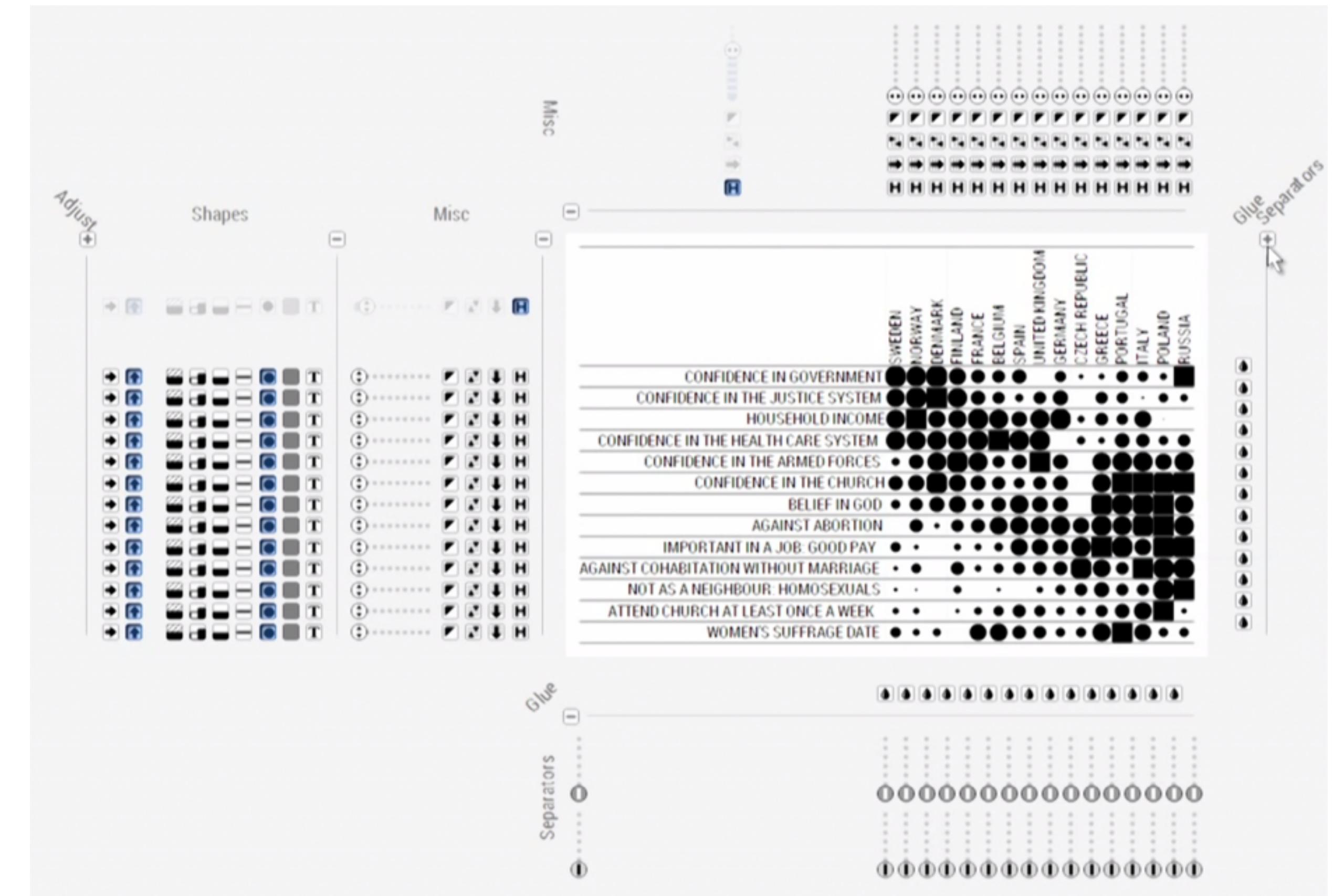


# Bertifier

## Matrix/Table representation Authoring Interface

<http://www.aviz.fr/bertifier>

Charles Perin, Pierre Dragicevic and Jean-Daniel Fekete



# Highdimensional Data

# What is High-dimensional Data?

Tabular data, containing

rows (items)

columns (attributes or items)

rows >> columns

	Age	Gender	Height
<i>Bob</i>	25	M	181
<i>Alice</i>	22	F	185
<i>Chris</i>	19	M	175

# High-Dimensional Data Visualization

How many dimensions?

~50 – tractable with “just” vis

~1000 – need analytical methods

How many records?

~ 1000 – “just” vis is fine

>> 10,000 – need analytical methods

Homogeneity

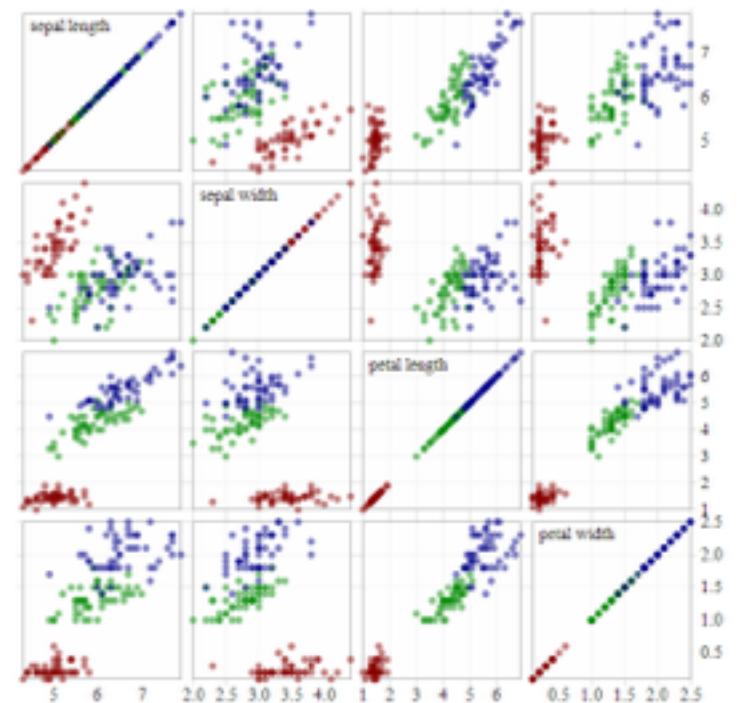
Same data type?

Same scales?

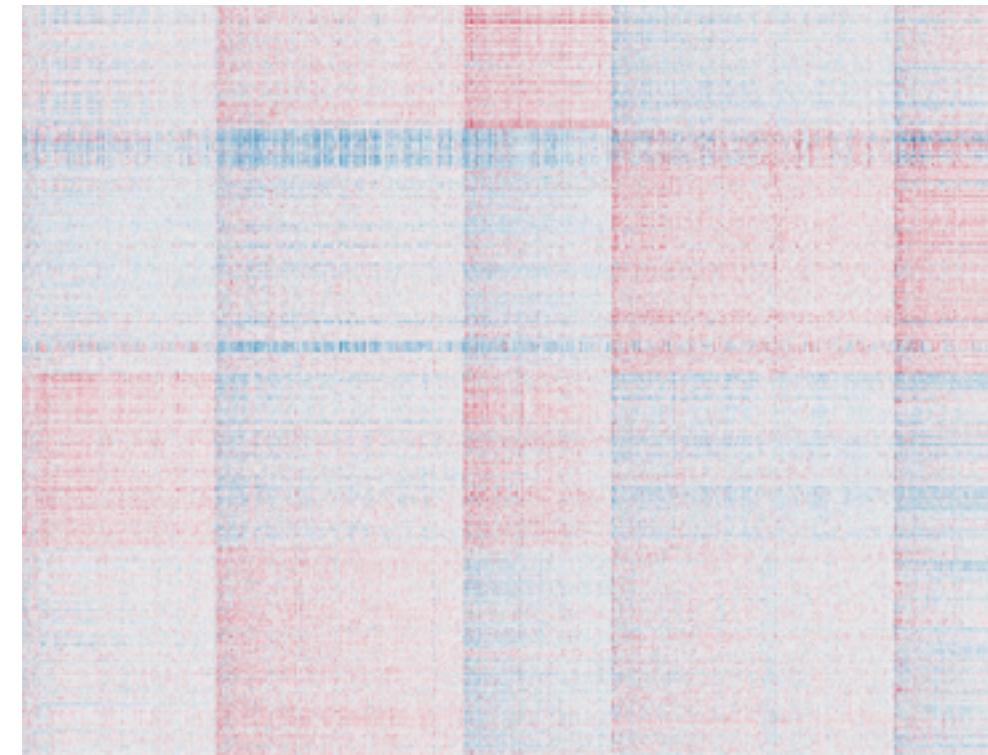
	Age	Gender	Height
<i>Bob</i>	25	M	181
<i>Alice</i>	22	F	185
<i>Chris</i>	19	M	175

	BPM 1	BPM 2	BPM 3
<i>Bob</i>	65	120	145
<i>Alice</i>	80	135	185
<i>Chris</i>	45	115	135

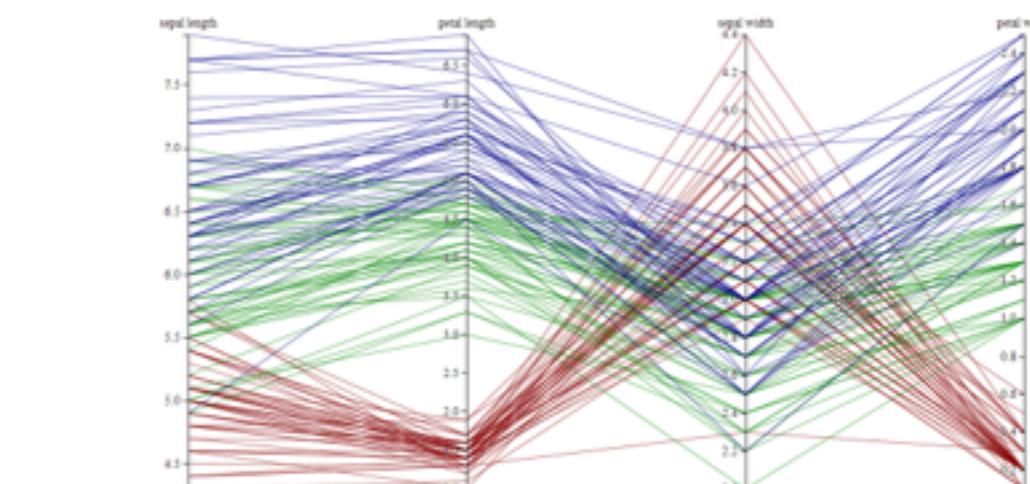
# Analytic Component



**Scatterplot Matrices**  
[Bostock]



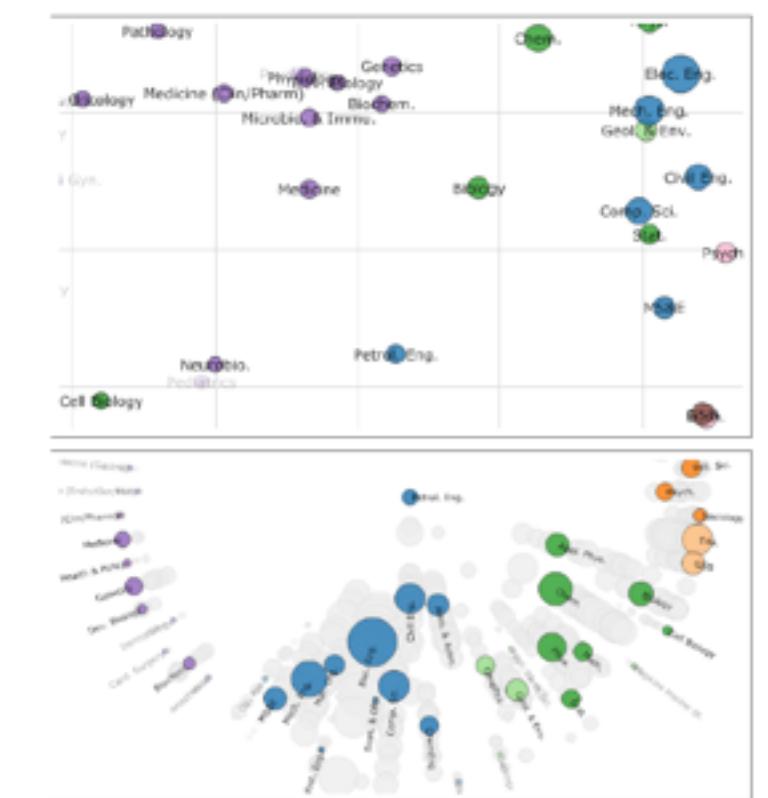
**Pixel-based visualizations /  
heat maps**



**Parallel Coordinates**  
[Bostock]



**Multidimensional Scaling**  
[Doerk 2011]



[Chuang 2012]

**no / little analytics**

**strong analytics  
component**

More next time..