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Dr. Thomas C.M. Lee
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Davis, CA

September 2, 2015

Re: Submission to the Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics

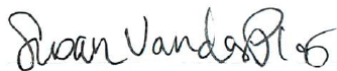
Dear Professor Lee,

Please find attached a manuscript, "Clusters beat Trend!? Testing feature hierarchy in statistical graphics" intended for submission to JCGS.

The manuscript describes an experiment designed to explore the perceptual hierarchy of graphical features, using a modification of the lineup protocol for testing statistical graphics. The experiment evaluates the effect of plot aesthetics (color, shape, bounding ellipses, trend lines, and prediction bands) on identification of target plots in statistical lineups. We demonstrate that bounding ellipses and prediction bands are more successful than other aesthetics at communicating clustering and linear relationships, respectively.

I hope that you find the manuscript acceptable for consideration in JCGS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan VanderPlas" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susan VanderPlas

Iowa State University