



ARTS1422 Data Visualization

Lecture 4

Basics of Data Visualization (I)

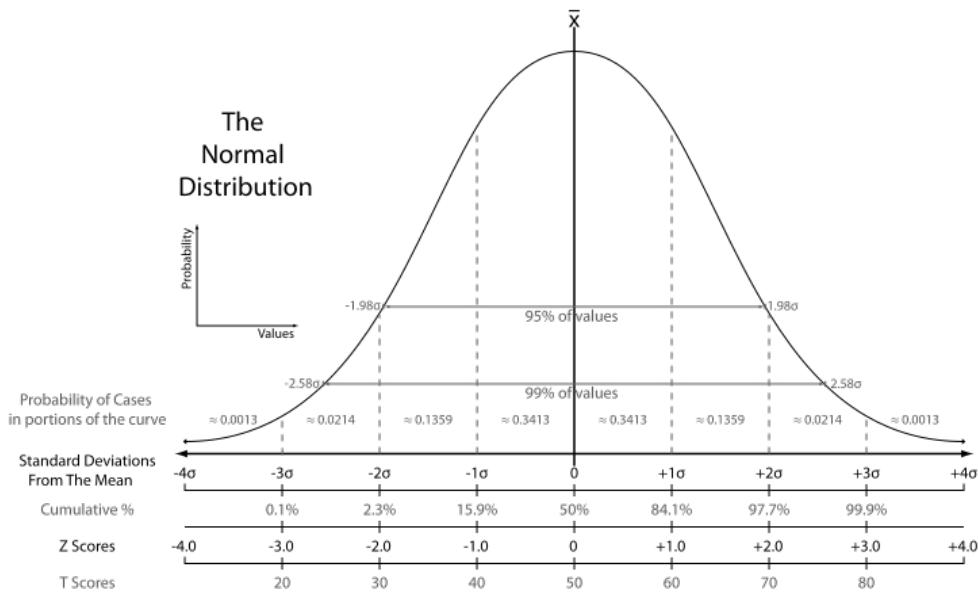
Quan Li
Spring 2024
2024. 03.07

Data Analysis

Exploratory Data Analysis

Data Mining

Something Basic: Statistics



- (Probably) Foundation of modern data analysis
- (Also) Foundation of machine learning, data mining, etc.



Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

- Based on statistics
- Data visualization-driven method
- Summary of main characteristics in easy-to-understand form

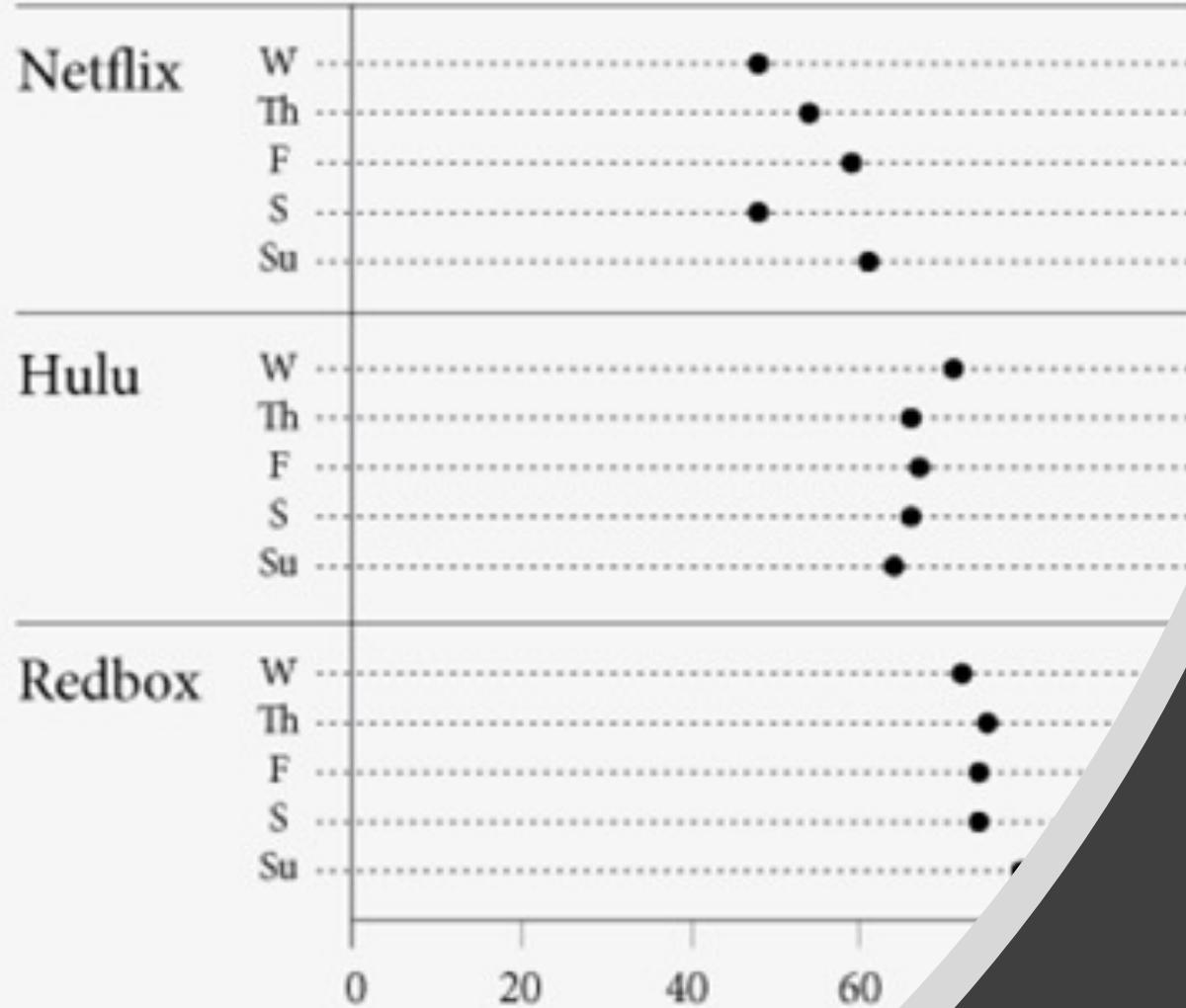
Visualization in EDA

- We will emphasize on visualization approaches in exploratory data analysis, but not statistical computing methods.
- Types of data visualization methods in EDA:
 - Plotting of raw data
 - Plotting of statistical values
 - Multiple coordinated views (Dashboard)



MOVIE RENTAL SCORES

JULY 13 – JULY 17, 2011

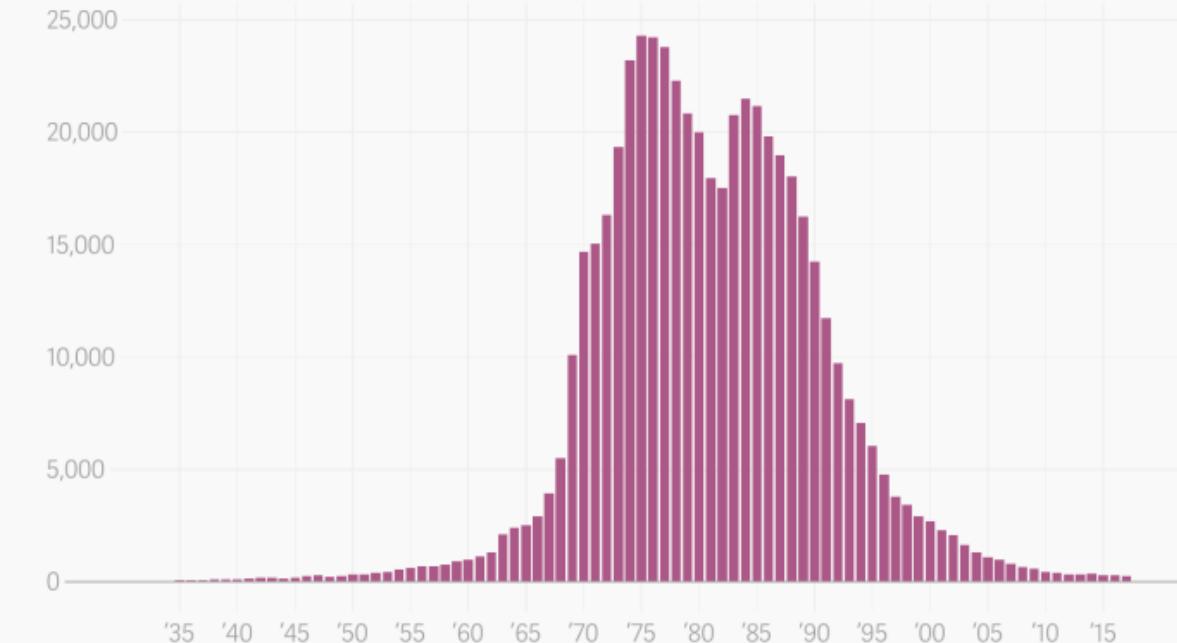


Original Data Graph: Data Trajectory

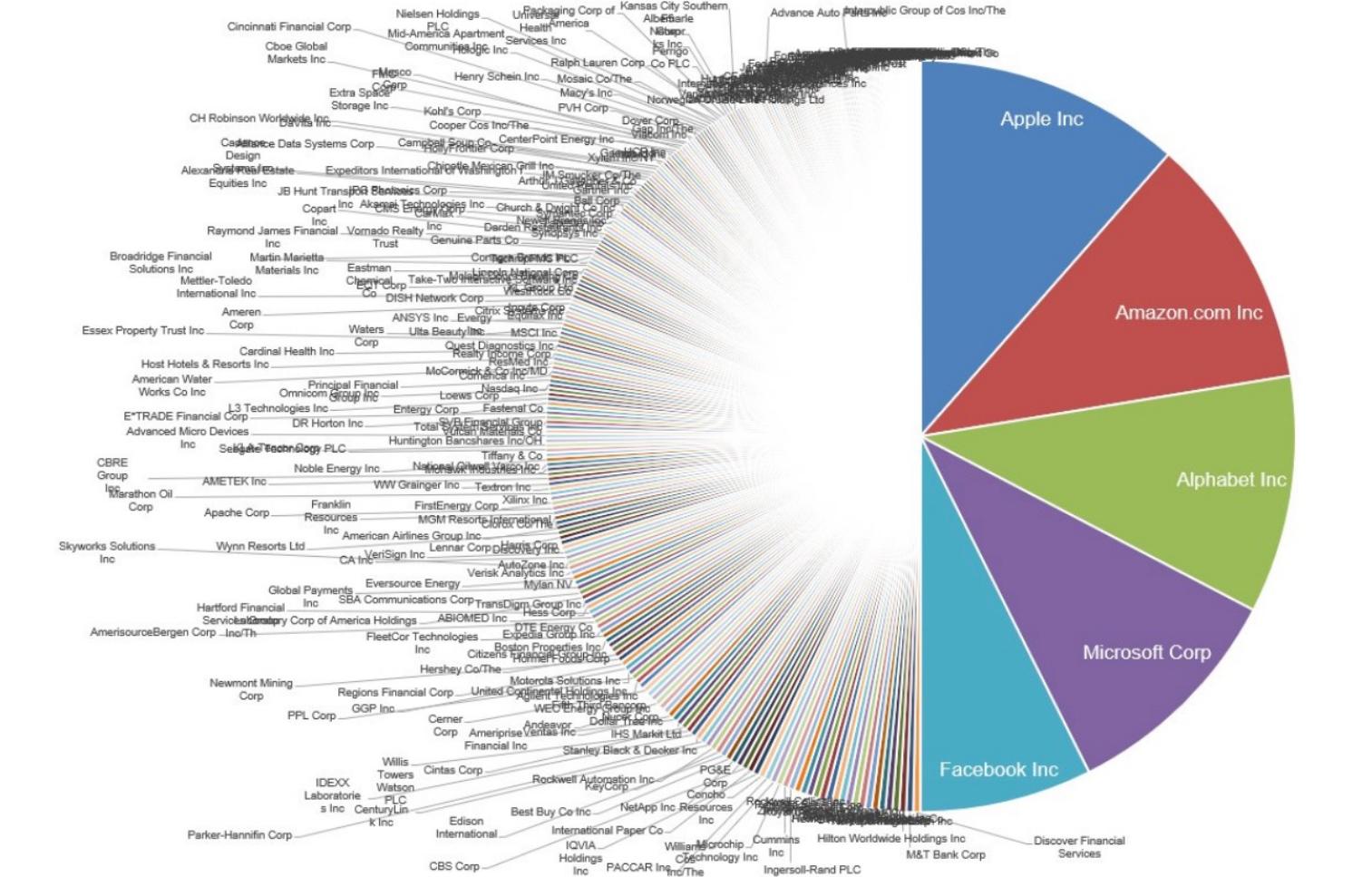
Plotting of raw data: Bar Chart

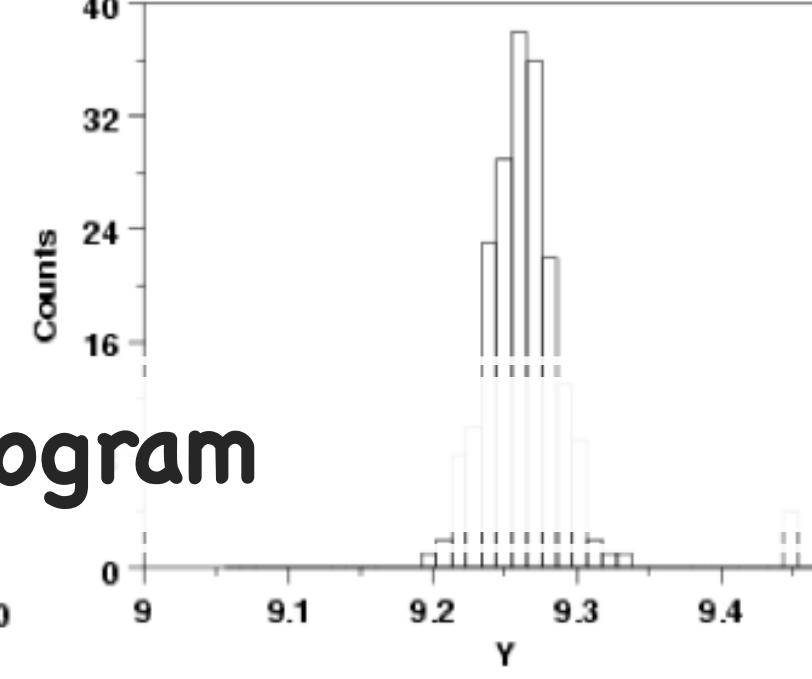
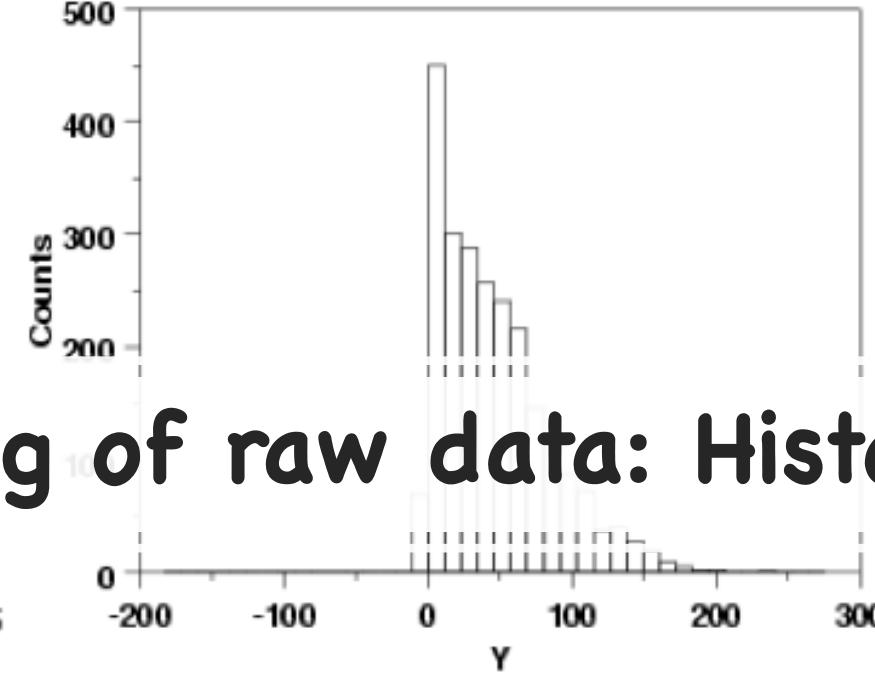
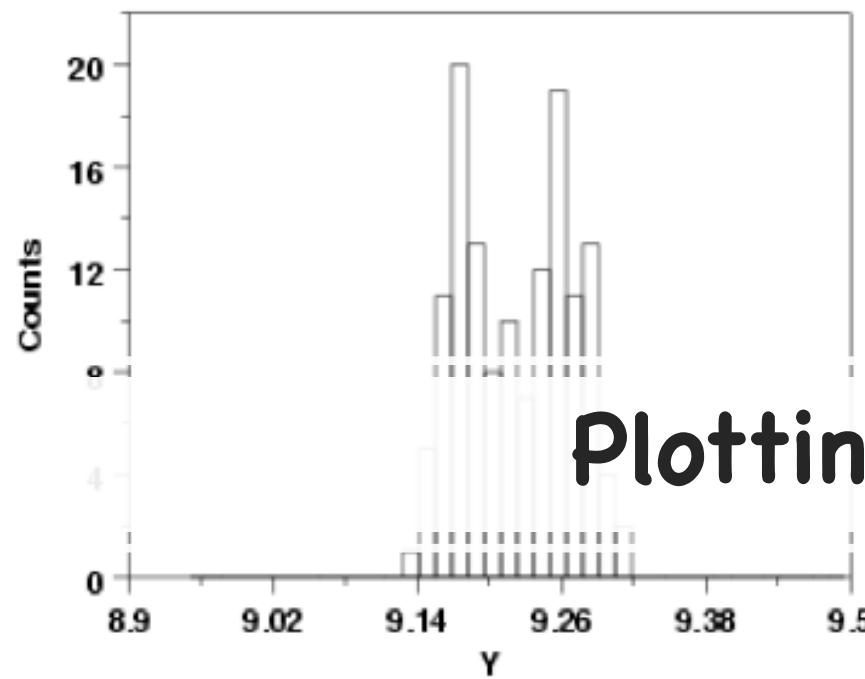
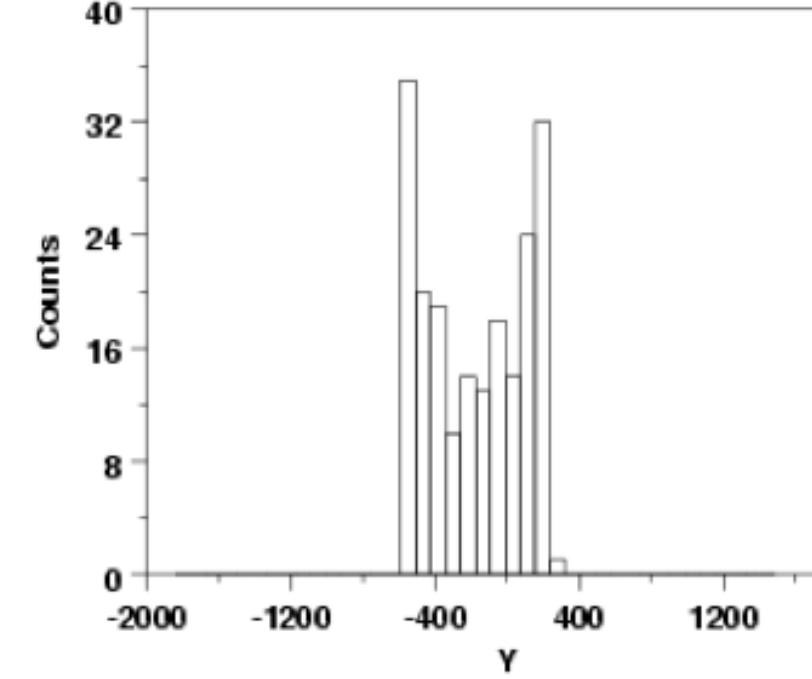
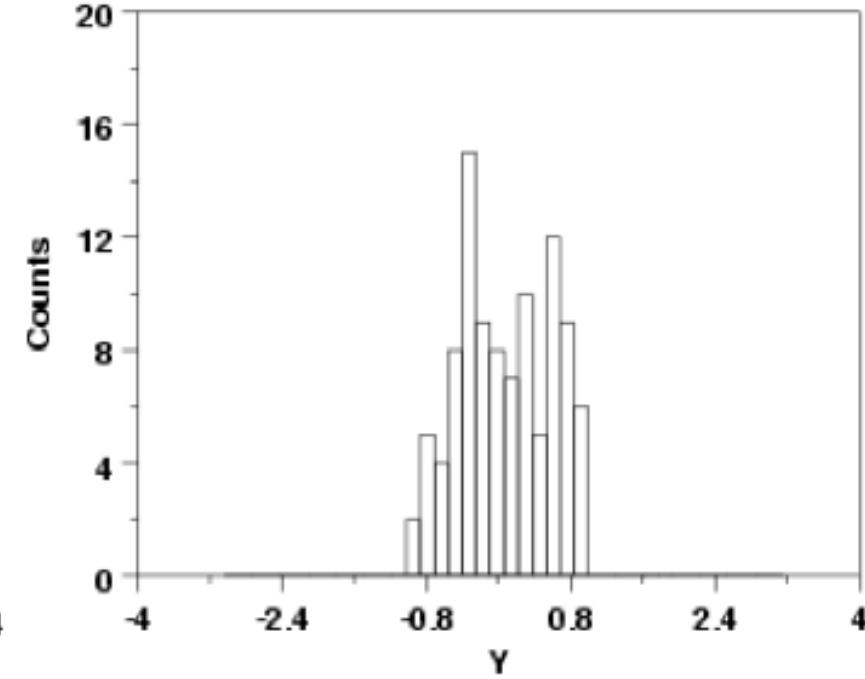
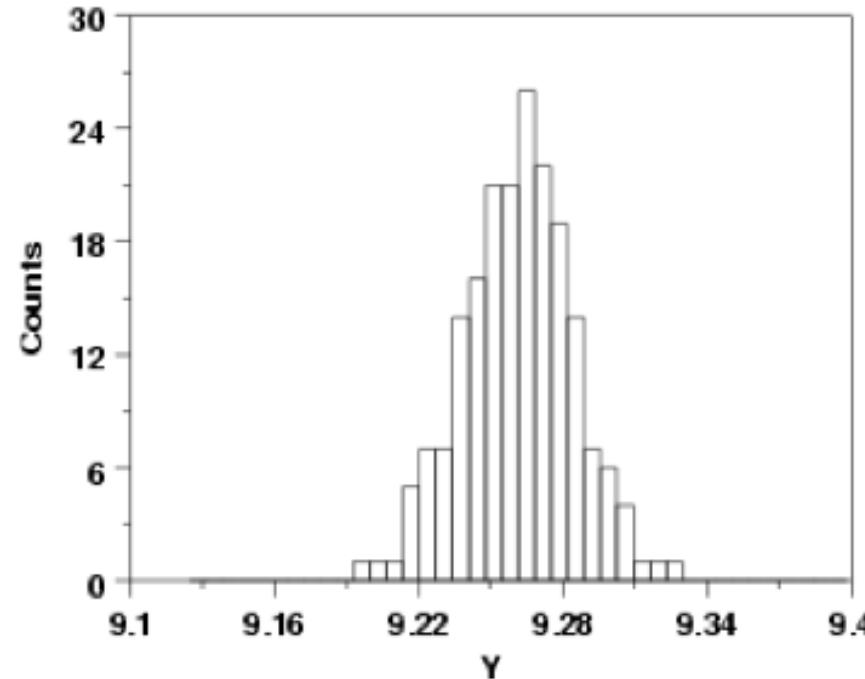
- <https://flowingdata.com/2018/09/21/the-rise-and-sharp-plummet-of-the-name-heather/>

Baby girls given the name "Heather" in the US

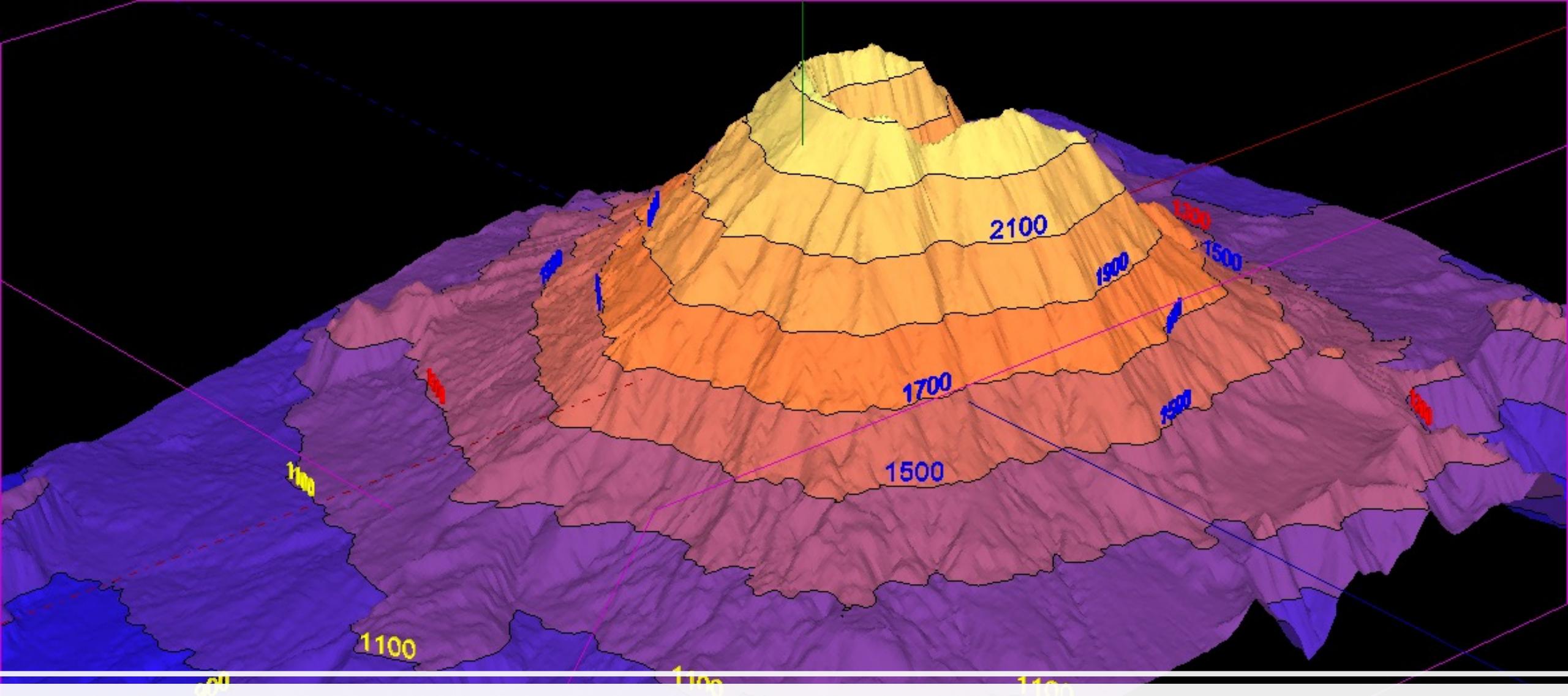


Plotting of raw data: Pie Chart





Plotting of raw data: Histogram



Plotting of raw data: Contour Map

15500.00



Plotting of raw data: Sparkline

side of the flow of the text, i.e.:



temperature **22.4° C**,

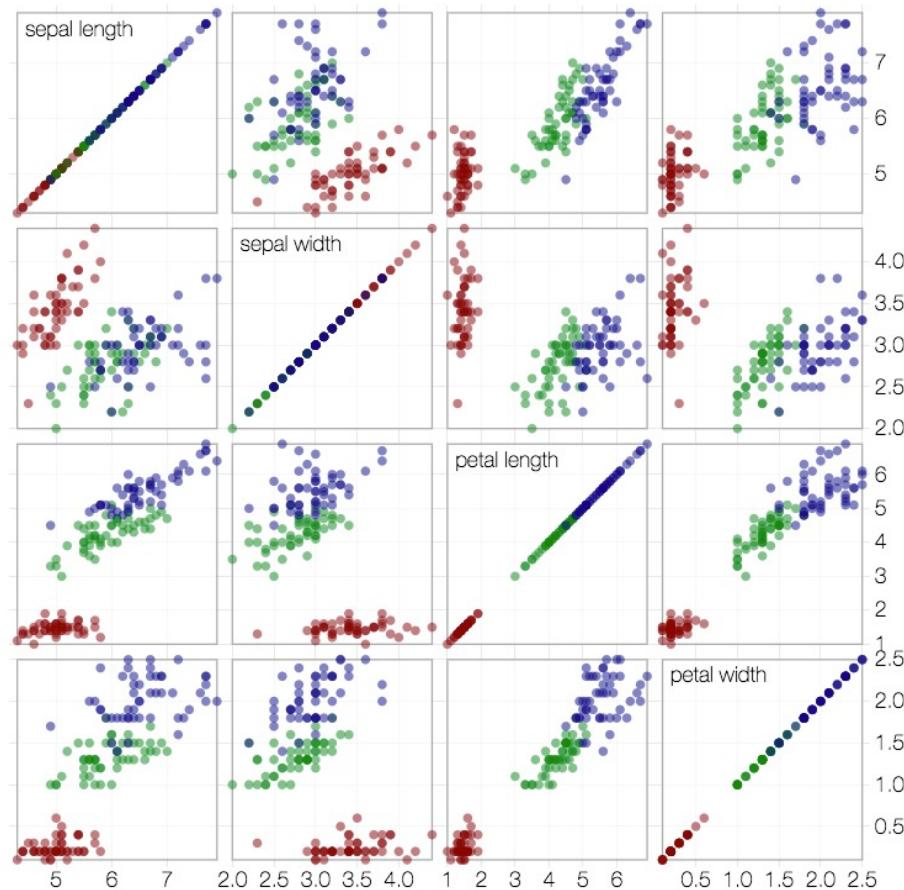


or be set inside it, , to visualise evidence on the spot. In a stacked or a table form such



Plotting of raw data: Scatter Plot/Scatter Plot Matrix

- *Iris setosa*
- *Iris versicolor*
- *Iris virginica*

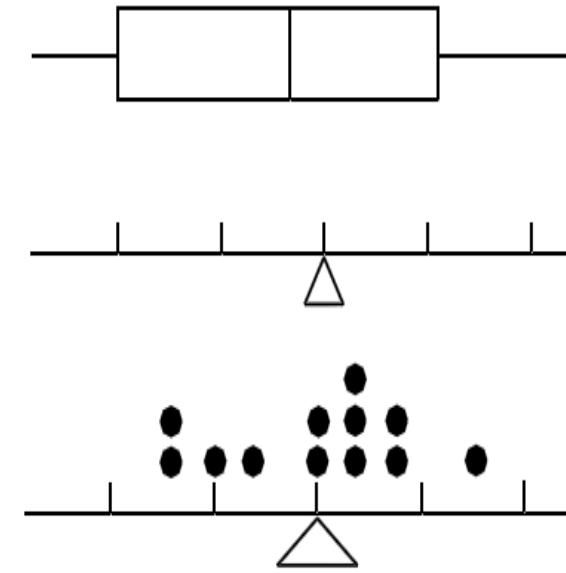
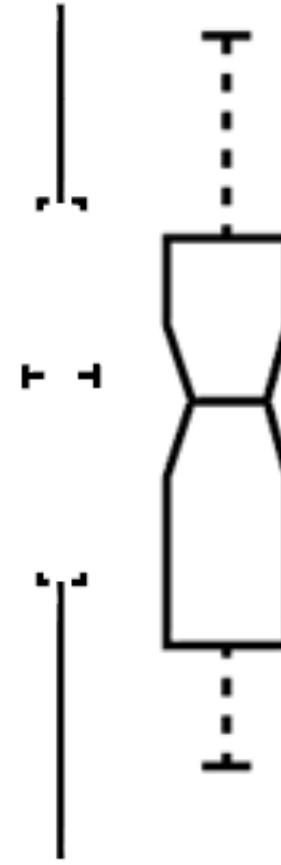
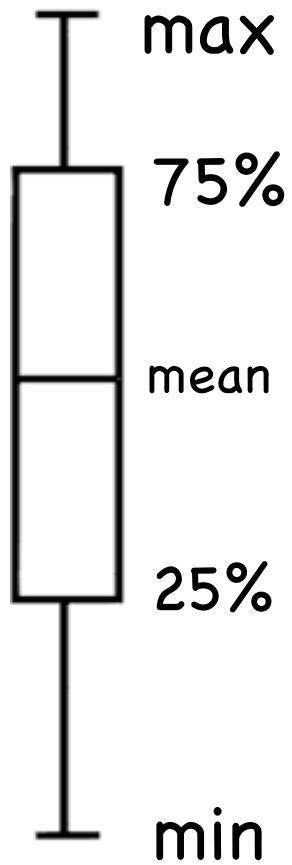


Edgar Anderson's *Iris* data set
scatterplot matrix

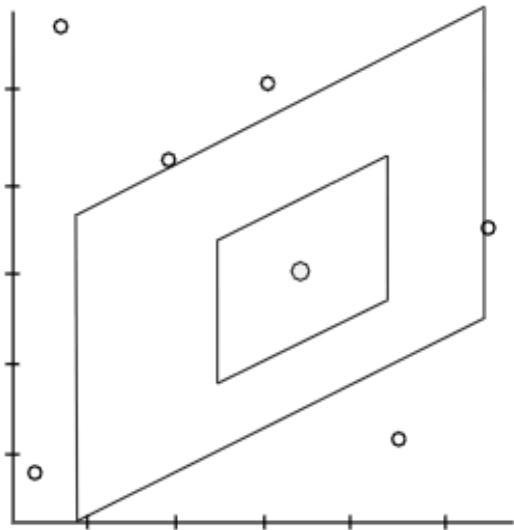
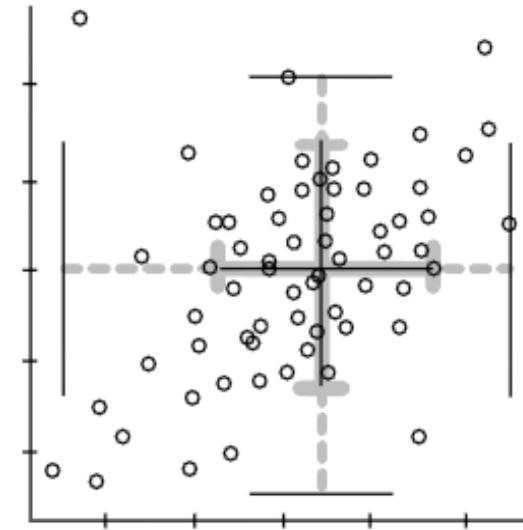
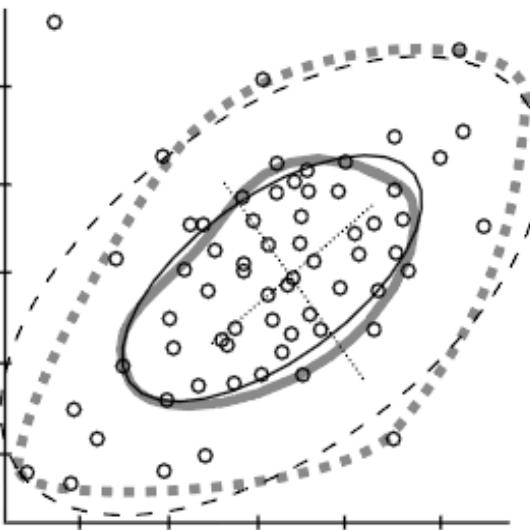
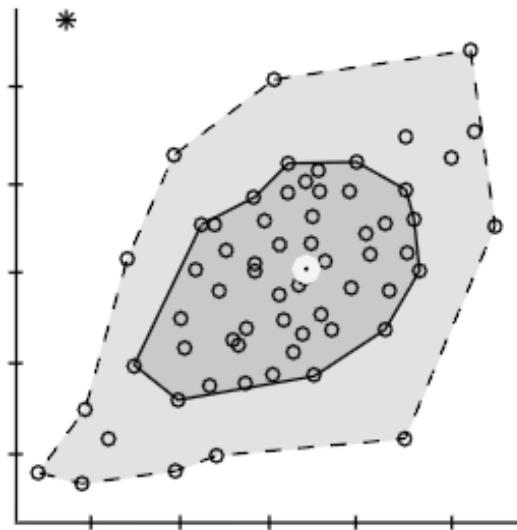


Plotting of raw data: Heatmap

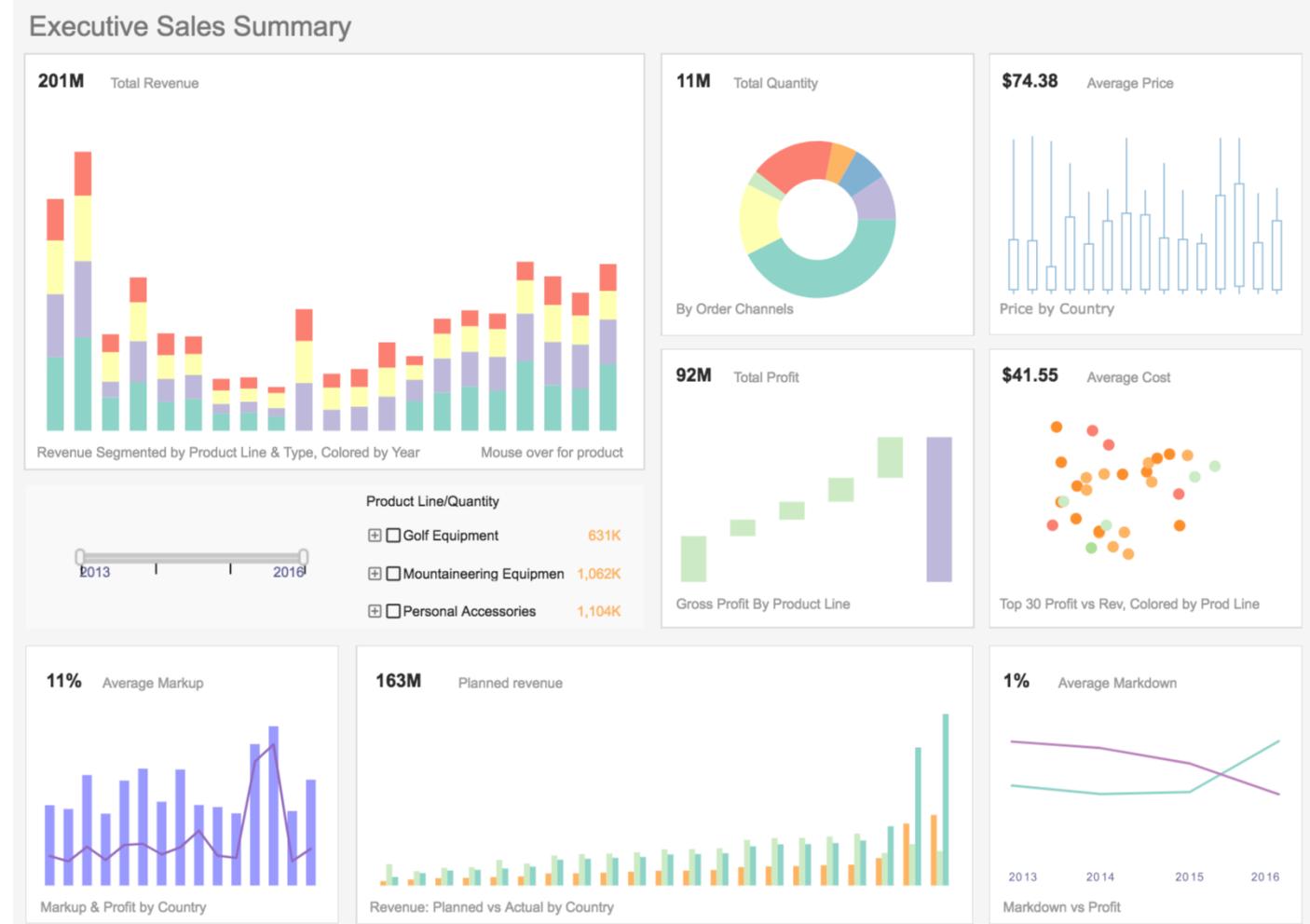
Plotting of statistical values: Box Plot (1-D)



Plotting of statistical values: Box Plot (2-D)



Multiple Coordinate d Views (Dashboard)

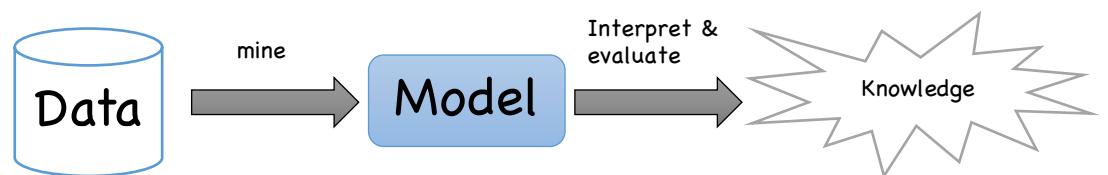




Data Mining (DM)

“Data Mining, also popularly referred to as knowledge discovery from data (KDD), is the automated or convenient extraction of patterns representing knowledge implicitly stored or captured in large databases, data warehouses, the Web, other massive repositories, or data streams.”

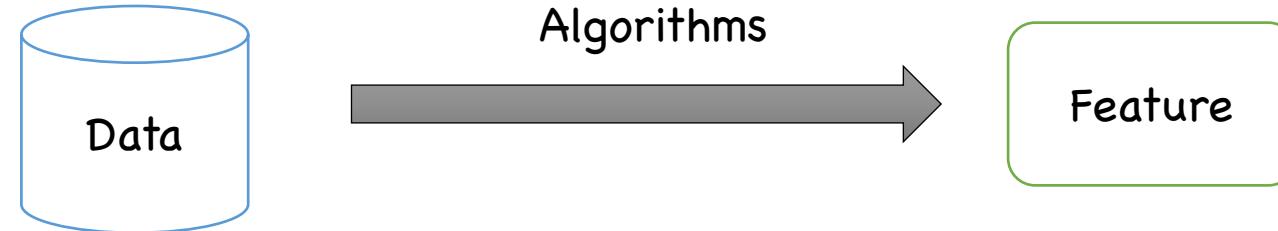
-- H. Jiawei and M. Kamber, “Data Mining: Concepts and Techniques”, 3rd ed., 2011.



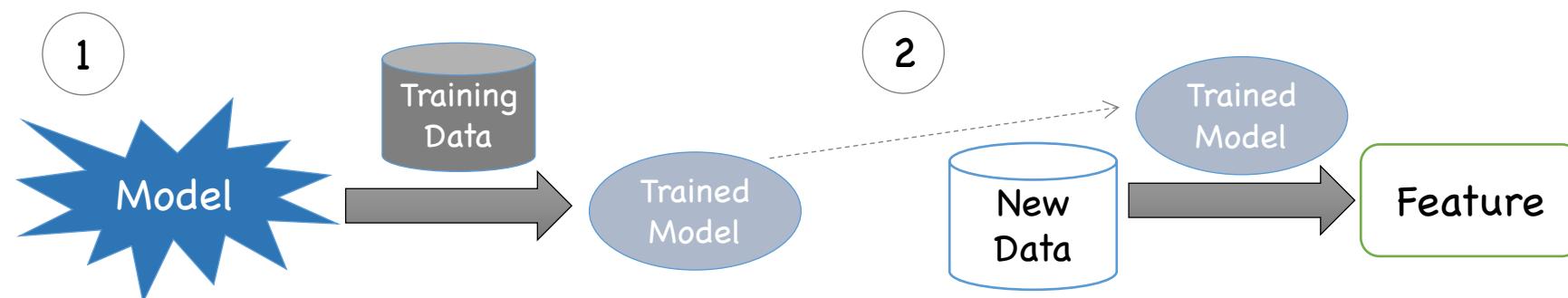
Tasks in DM



Descriptive Tasks



Predictive Tasks





Descriptive Tasks

Concept Description

Describe features of data directly

Association Analysis

Analyze “feature-value” pairs that occur frequently in data

Clustering

Group data on the principle of maximizing the intra-class similarity and minimizing the inter-class similarity

Outlier Mining

Analyze objects that do not comply with the general behavior or model of the data



Predictive Tasks



Classification

Find a model/function that describes and distinguish data classes or concepts based on analysis of a set of training data

Evolution Analysis

Analyze temporal and spatial patterns in dataset, model these patterns and predict data in unknown spatio-temporal positions





Approaches in DM



Statistics
(regression; parameter estimation)



Machine Learning
(decision tree; neural network;
pattern recognition)

Statistical Learning
(statistical model;
Bayesian network)



Algorithmic Methods
(K-means; k nearest neighbors)



What's More: Visual Data Mining

- User is involved in the process of data mining
- Some tasks are hard to accomplish via automated methods, e.g.:
 - Clustering result verification
 - Outliers inside dataset



Examples in Visual Data Mining

VAST PAPER

ForVizor: Visualizing Spatio-Temporal Team Formations in Soccer

Yingcai Wu, Xiao Xie, Jiachen Wang, Dazhen Deng, Hongye Liang,
Hui Zhang, Shoubin Cheng, Wei Chen



21-26 October 2018
Berlin, Germany

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Examples in Visual Data Mining



上海科技大学
ShanghaiTech University

TVCG PAPER

A Semantic-based Method for Visualizing Large Image Collections

Xiao Xie, Xiwen Cai, Junpei Zhou, Nan Cao, Yingcai Wu



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Examples in Visual Data Mining

VAST PAPER

EnsembleLens: Ensemble-based Visual
Exploration of Anomaly Detection Algorithms
with Multidimensional Data

Ke Xu, Meng Xia, Xing Mu, Yun Wang, Nan Cao



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Examples in Visual Data Mining



上海科技大学
ShanghaiTech University

INFOVIS PAPER

FiberClay: Sculpting Three Dimensional Trajectories to Reveal Structural Insights

Christophe Hurter, Nathalie Henry Riche, Steven Drucker, Maxime Cordeil,
Richard Alligier, Romain Vuillemot



21-26 October 2018
Berlin, Germany

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Examples in Visual Data Mining

VAST PAPER

Situ: Identifying and explaining suspicious behavior in networks

John Goodall, Eric Ragan, Chad Steed, Joel Reed, Gregory Richardson,
Kelly Huffer, Robert Bridges, Jason Laska

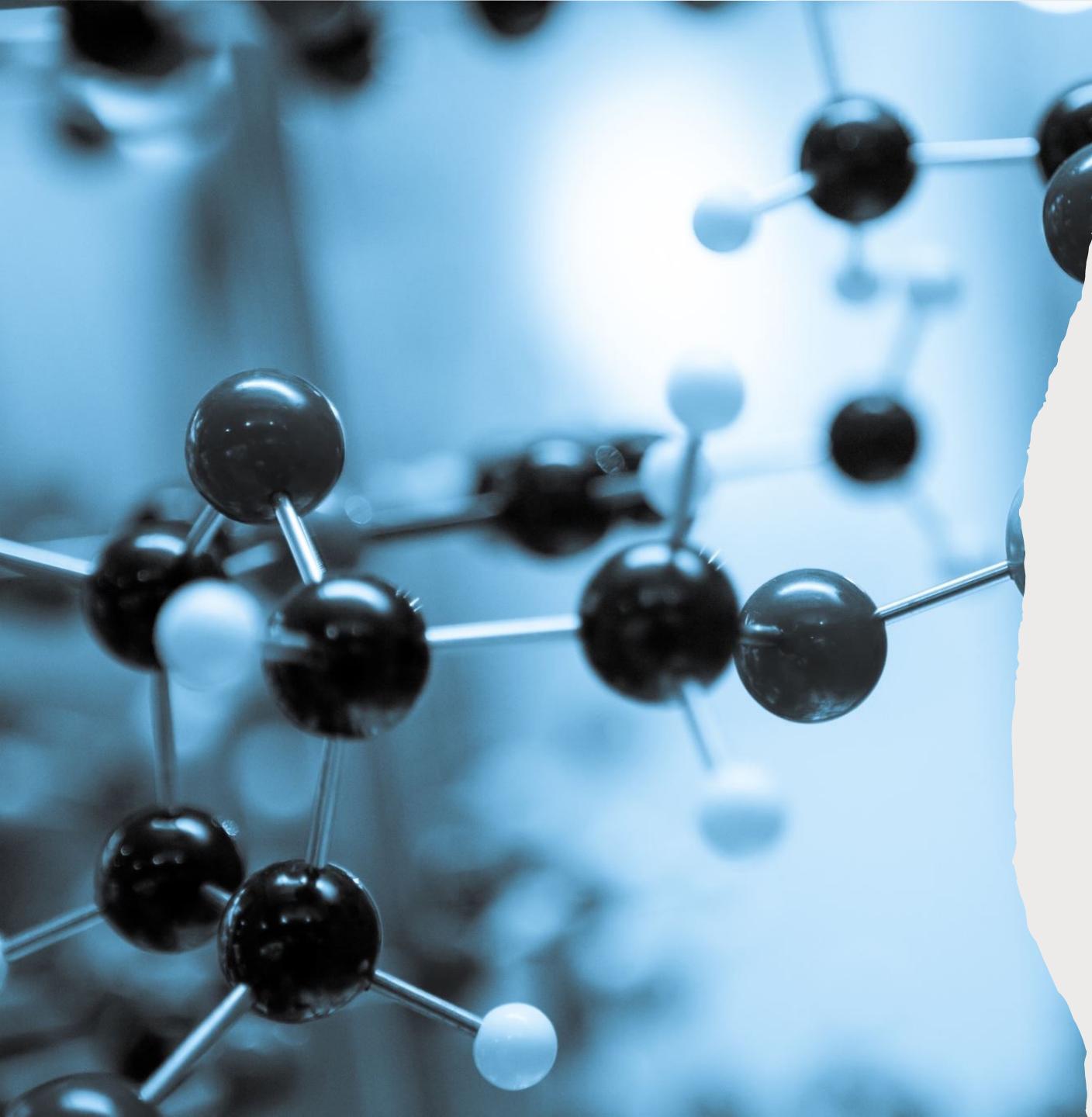


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A close-up photograph of a molecular model, likely made of carbon atoms and bonds, rendered in a blue-tinted color palette. The model consists of several dark grey or black spheres connected by thin white rods. The background is blurred, creating a bokeh effect.

Conclusion: Why Data?

- No data, no visualization
- Visualization can boost every steps in data science

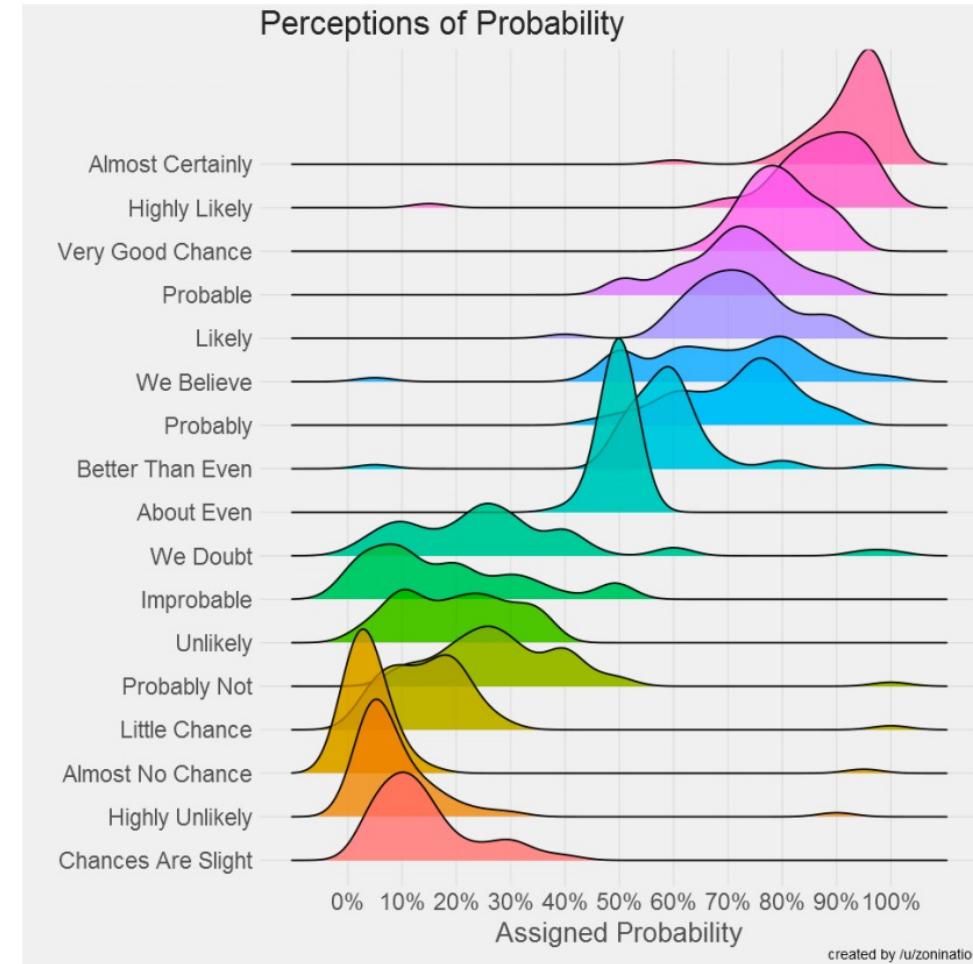
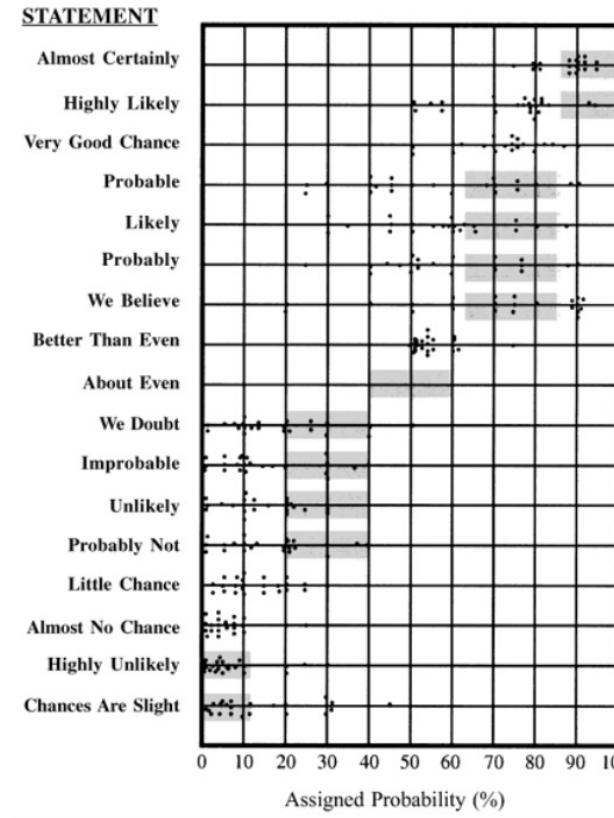
Graphical Excellence

- Why are you showing these figures?
 - Well-designed presentation of interesting data, a combination of substance, statistics and design
- Why do they matter?
 - Greatest number of ideas in the shortest time with the least ink in the smallest place
- Am I conveying the information in the right way?
 - Tell the truth about the data
 - Design the right visualization
 - Design the visualization right



- This graph reports the results of a survey by Sherman Kent for the CIA with the question: what [probability/number] would you assign to the phrase “[phrase]”
- The goal was to understand how intelligence analysts use these terms.

Figure 18: Measuring Perceptions of Uncertainty



<https://github.com/zonination/perceptions>



Five Key Principles of Data Visualization

- **Graphical Integrity:** Visual representations of data must tell the truth
- **Data-Ink Ratio:** Data Ink is the ink on a graph that represents data. Good graphical representations maximize data-ink and erase as much non-data-ink as possible
- **Avoid Chart Junk:** Chart Junk is the excessive and unnecessary use of graphical effects in graphs
- **Data Density:** Proportion of total size of the graph that is dedicated to displaying data. Maximize data density and data matrix within reason
- **Small Multiples:** Series of the same small graph repeated in one visual. Small multiples are a great tool to visualize large quantities of data and with a high number of dimensions

Principles of Graphical Integrity

- **Minimize the Lie Factor**
 - Tell the truth about the data – above all else show the data
- **Use Consistent Scale**
 - Show data variation, not design variation
 - Make large data sets coherent
- **Present Data in Context**
 - Reveal the data at several levels of detail from broad overview to the fine structure

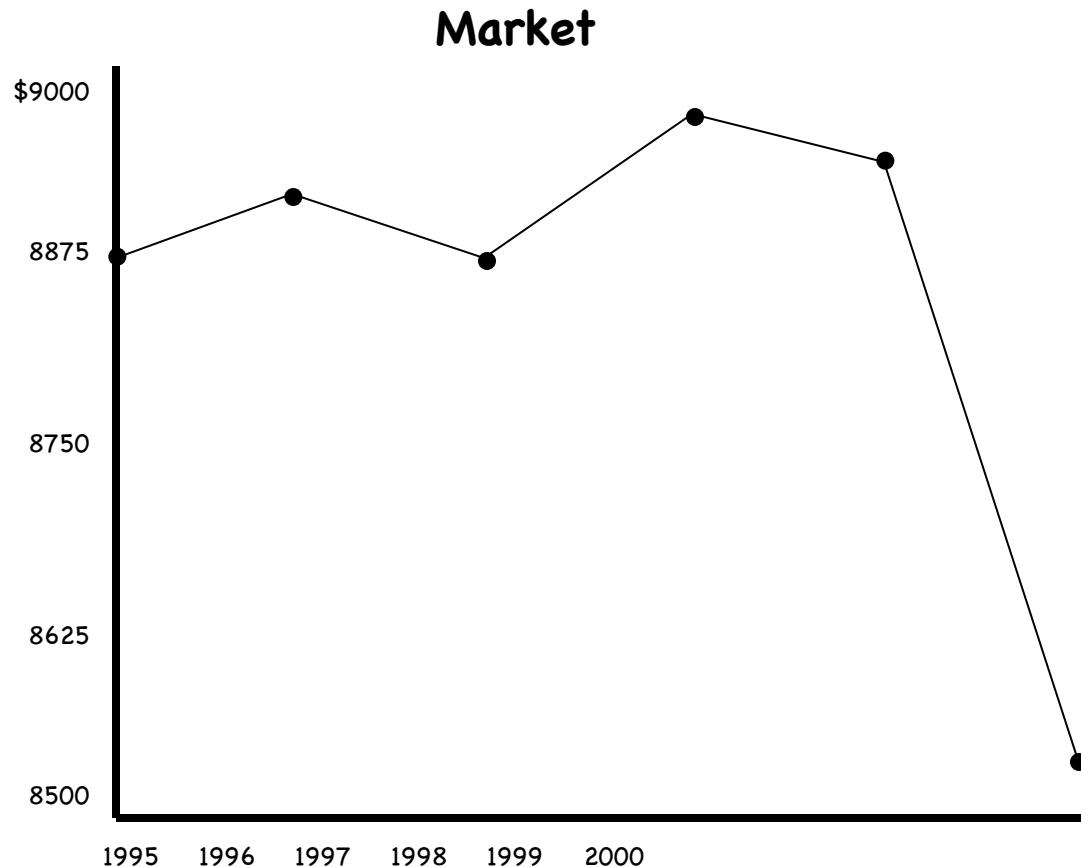
How (not) to lie with visualization

- Show and tell

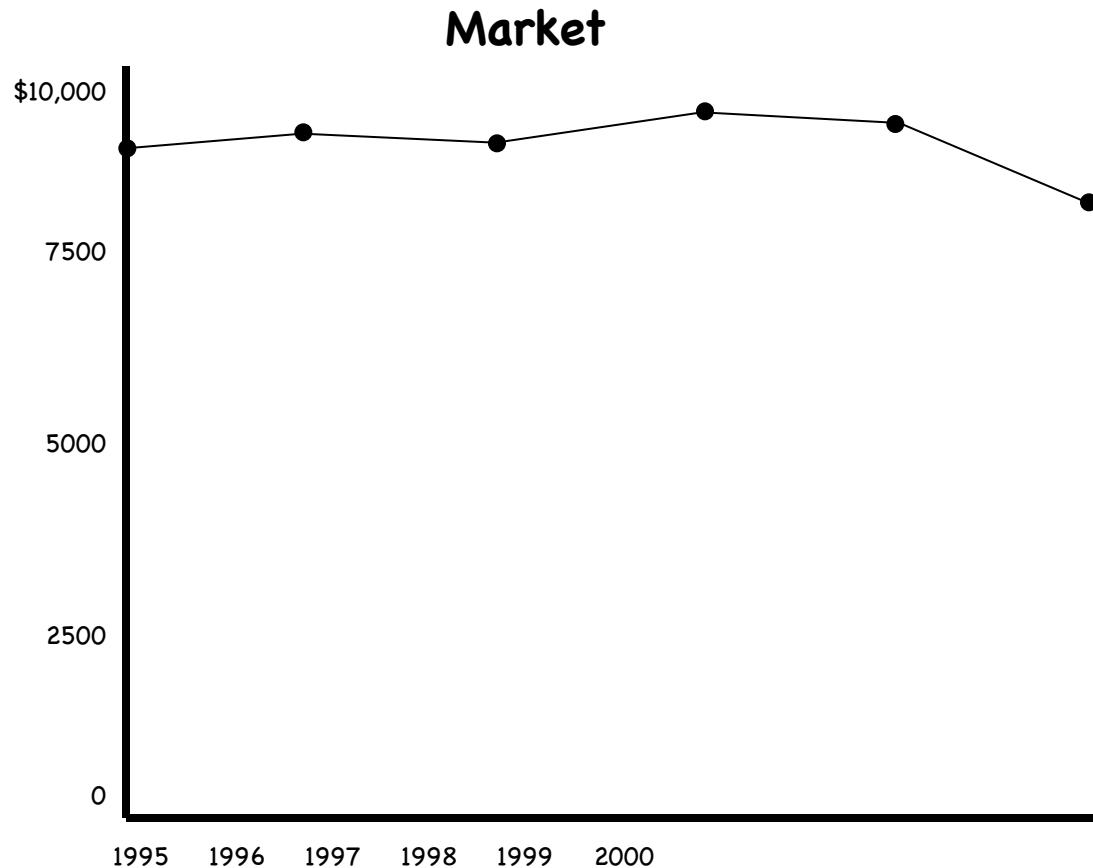


- “USA Today” graphs...

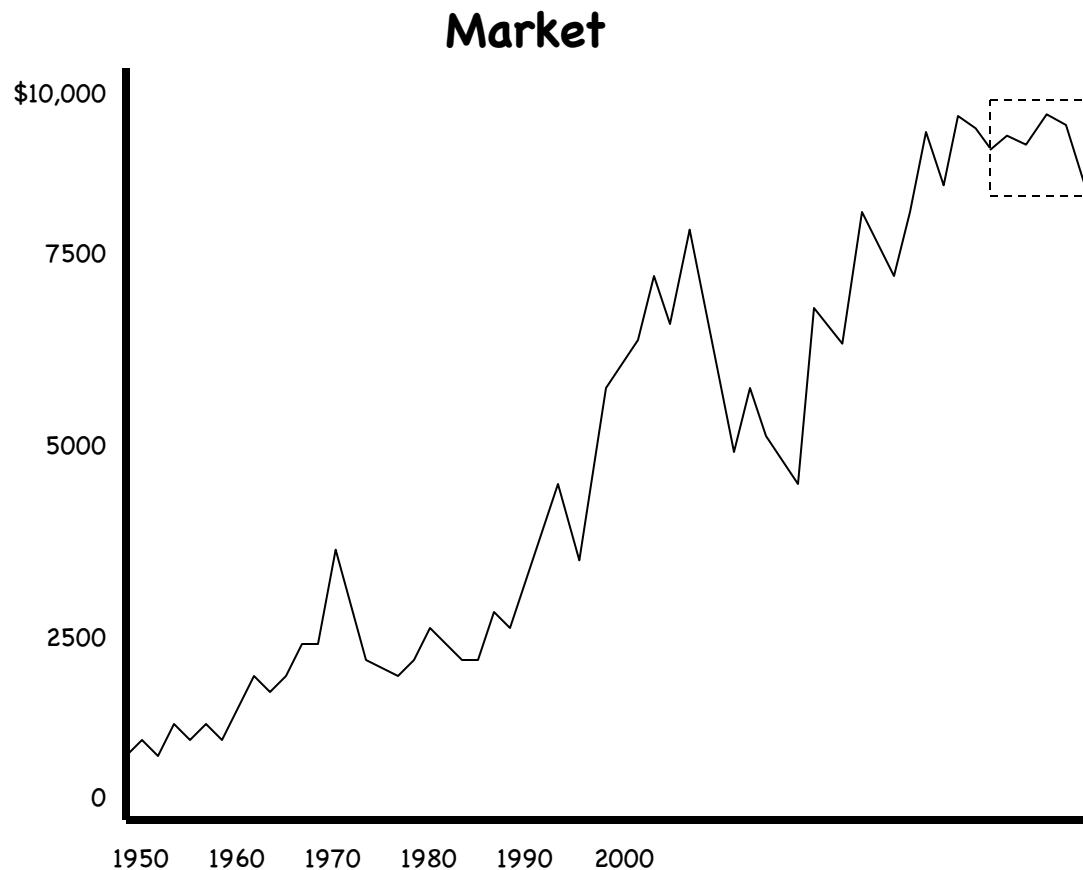
Stock Market Crash?!



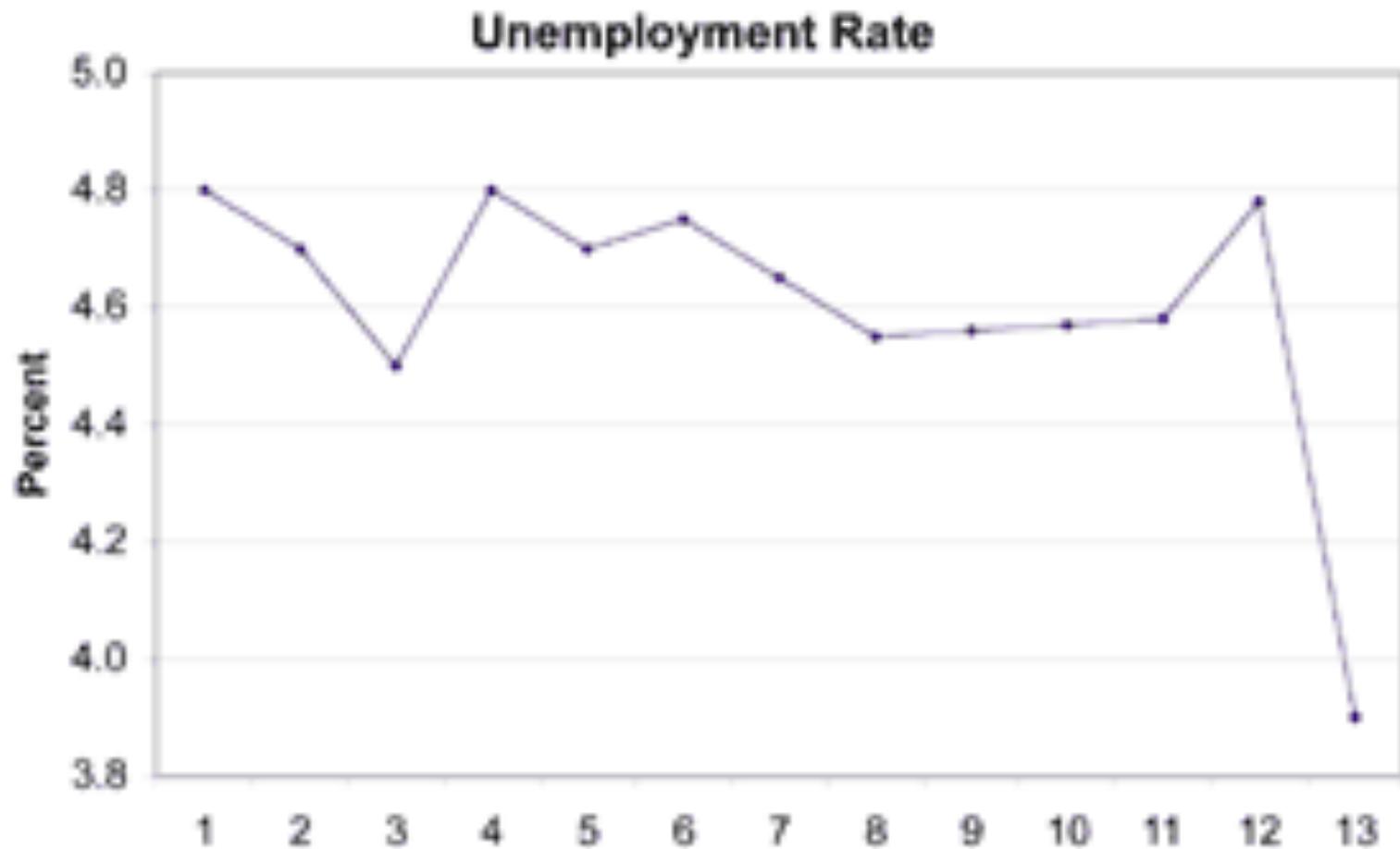
Showing entire scale



Shown in context

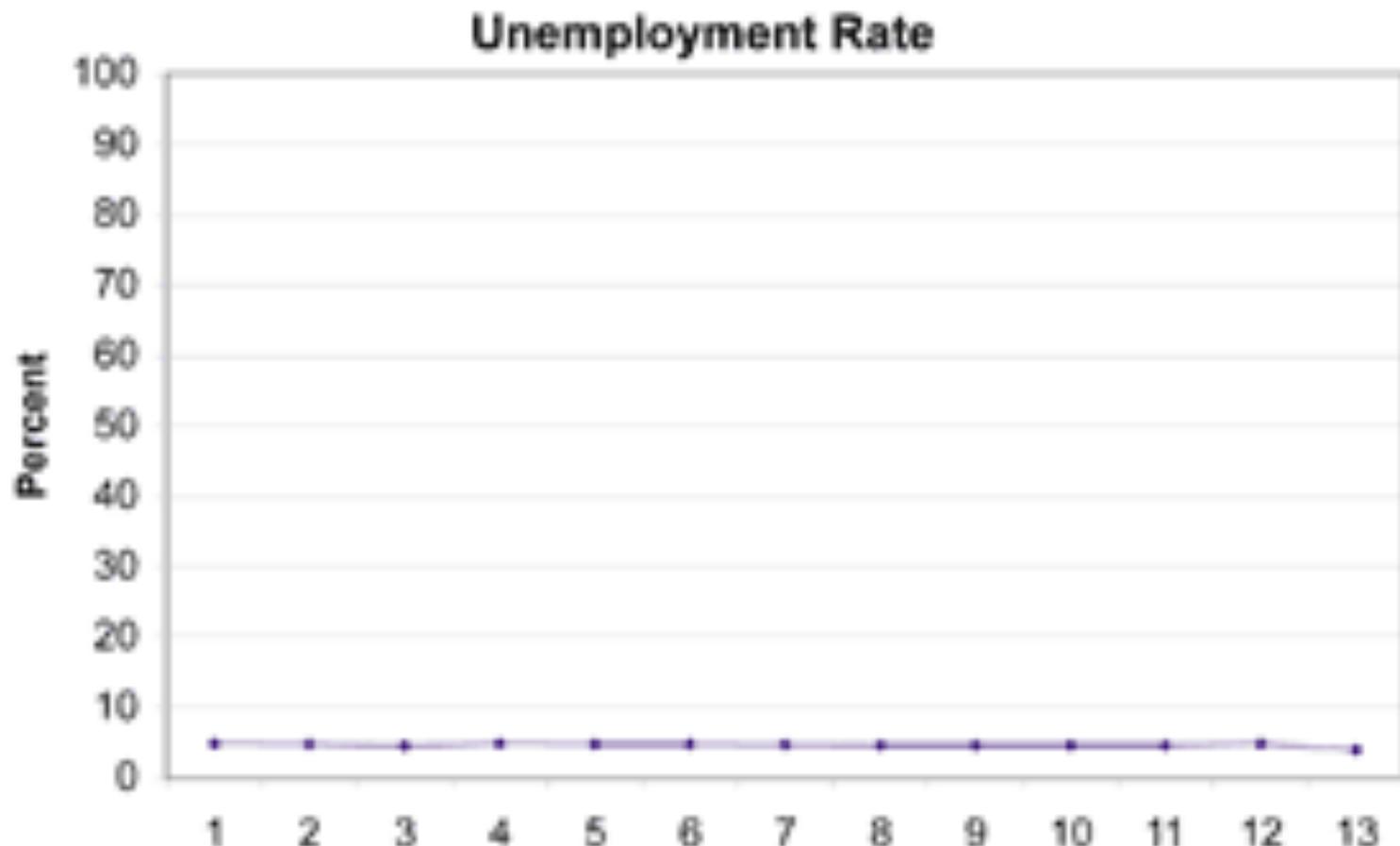


Another example



Percentages: 0% - 100%

Employment rate = 100 - unemployment rate





Tufte's Rule: Lie Factor

- Visual attribute value should be directly proportional to data attribute value

$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{\text{size of effect shown in graphic}}{\text{size of effect in data}}$$

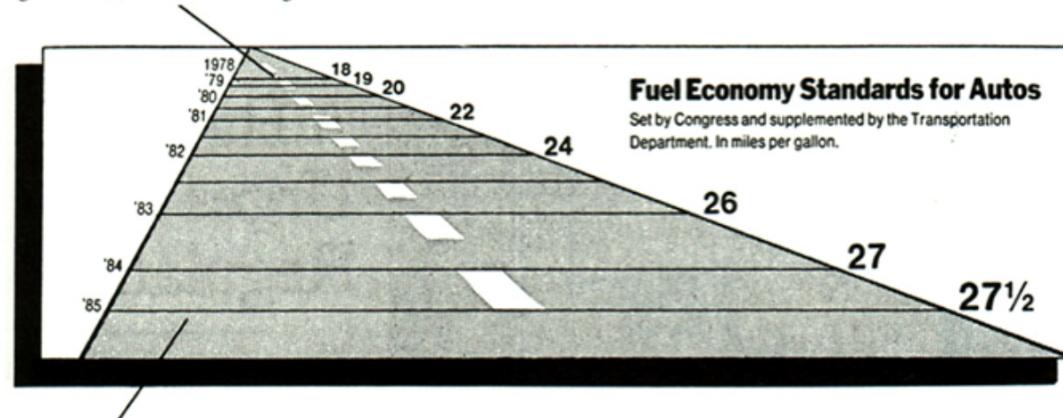
$$\text{size of effect} = \frac{|\text{second value} - \text{first value}|}{\text{first value}}$$

- Truth: lie factor = 1.0
- Graph overstating: lie factor > 1.0
- Integrity threshold: lie factor between 0.95 and 1.05

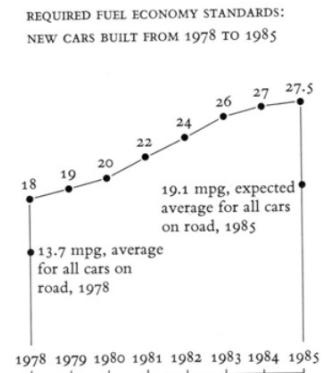


Lie Factor

This line, representing 18 miles per gallon in 1978, is 0.6 inches long.



This line, representing 27.5 miles per gallon in 1985, is 5.3 inches long.



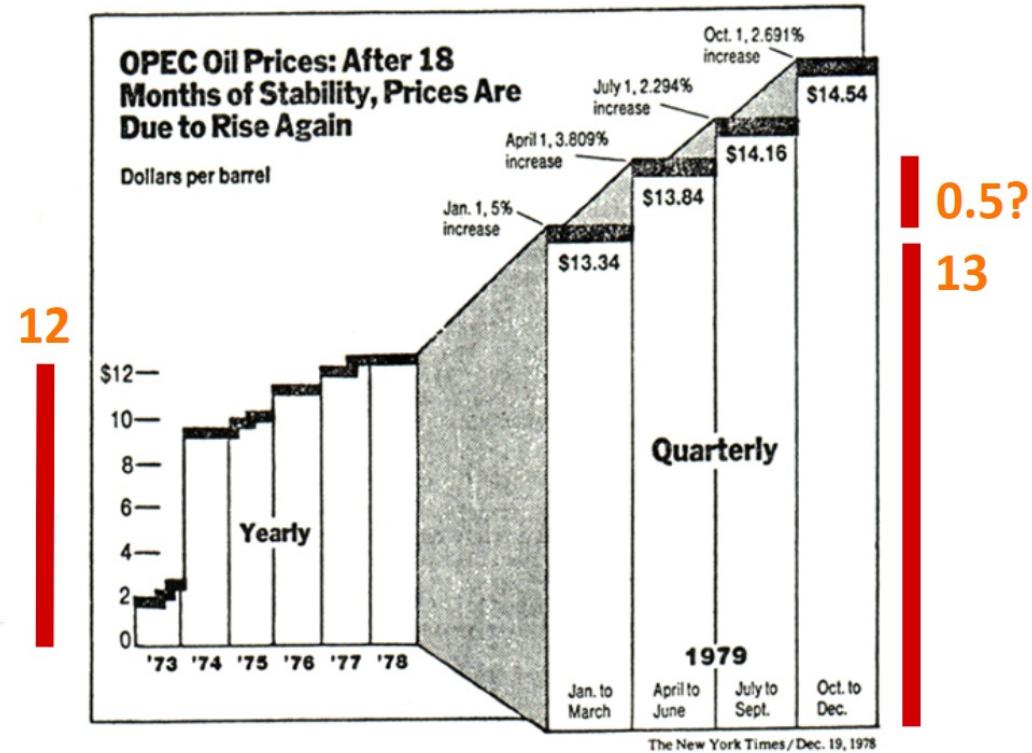
New York Times, August 9, 1978, p. D-2.

1985: the line representing 27.5 m/g is 5.3 inches long

1978: the line representing 18.0 m/g is 0.6 inches long

$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{\frac{5.3 - 0.6}{0.6}}{\frac{27.5 - 18}{18}} = 14.8$$

Changing Scale



Five different vertical scales show the price:

During this time	one vertical inch equals
1973–1978	\$8.00
January–March 1979	\$4.73
April–June 1979	\$4.37
July–September 1979	\$4.16
October–December 1979	\$3.92

And two different horizontal scales show the passage of time:

During this time	one horizontal inch equals
1973–1978	3.8 years
1979	0.57 years

Size Encoding

- The percentage in 1964 is how many times of that in 1990?
- What is your basis?

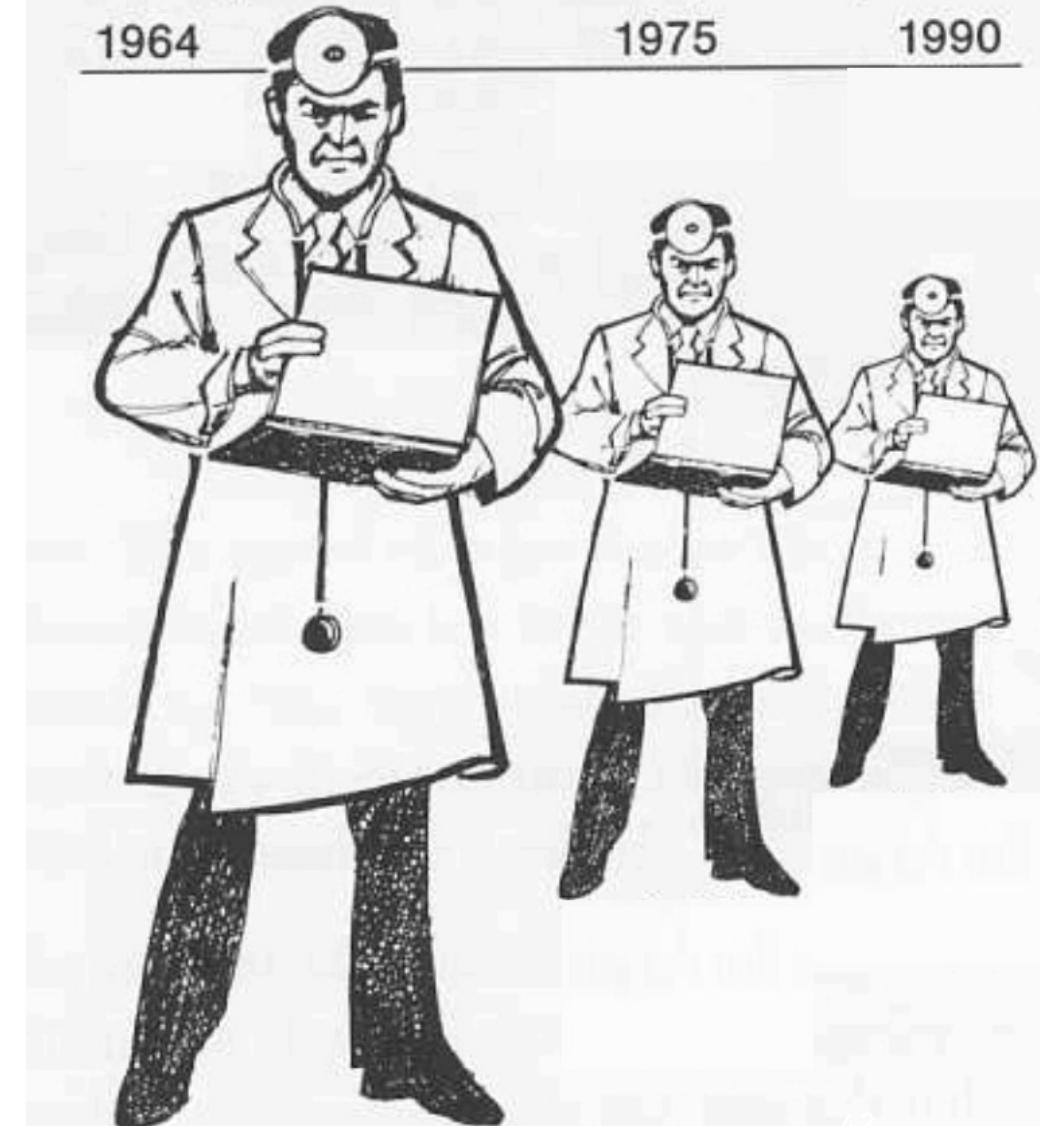
THE SHRINKING FAMILY DOCTOR In California

Percentage of Doctors Devoted Solely to Family Practice

1964

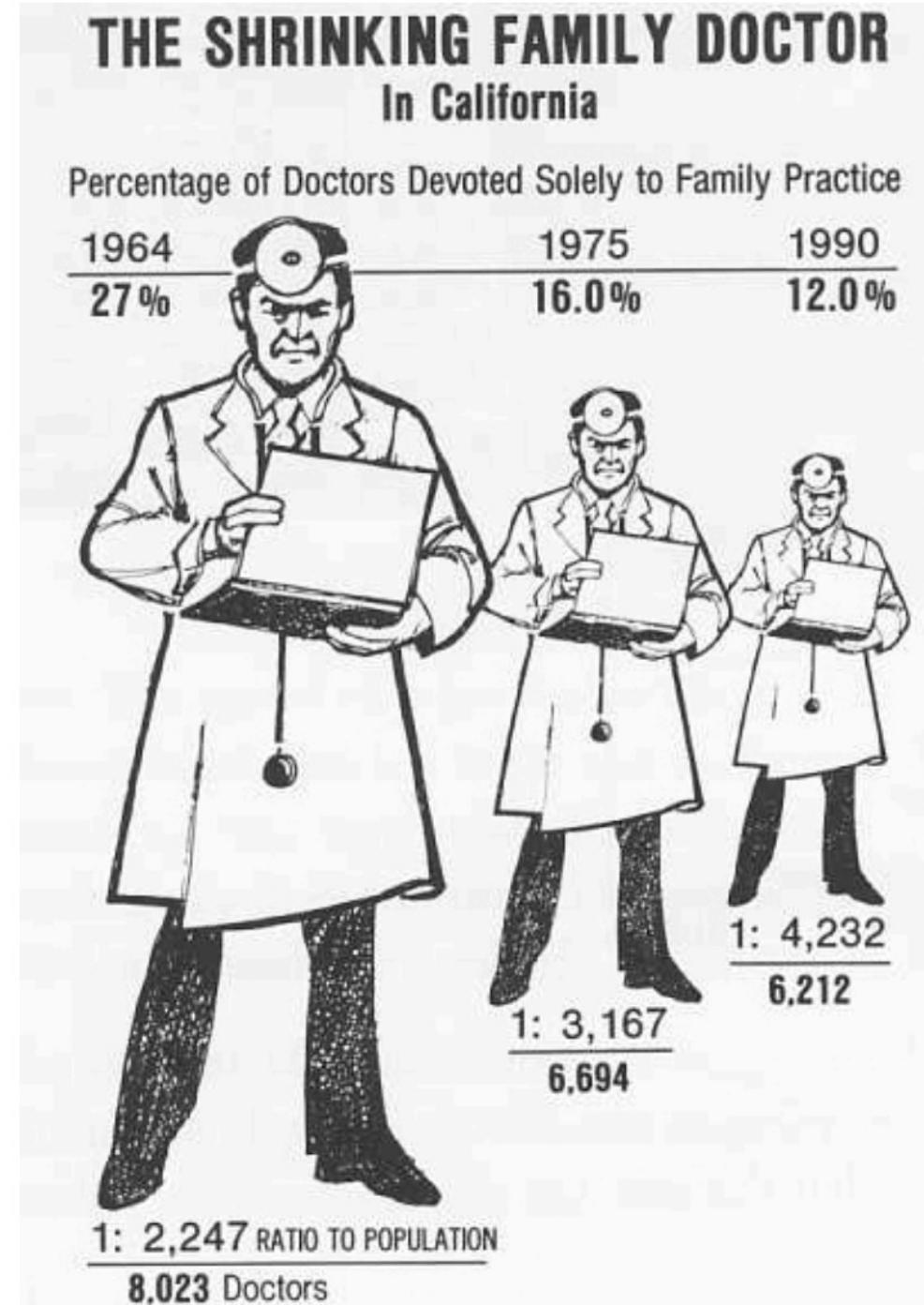
1975

1990



Size Encoding

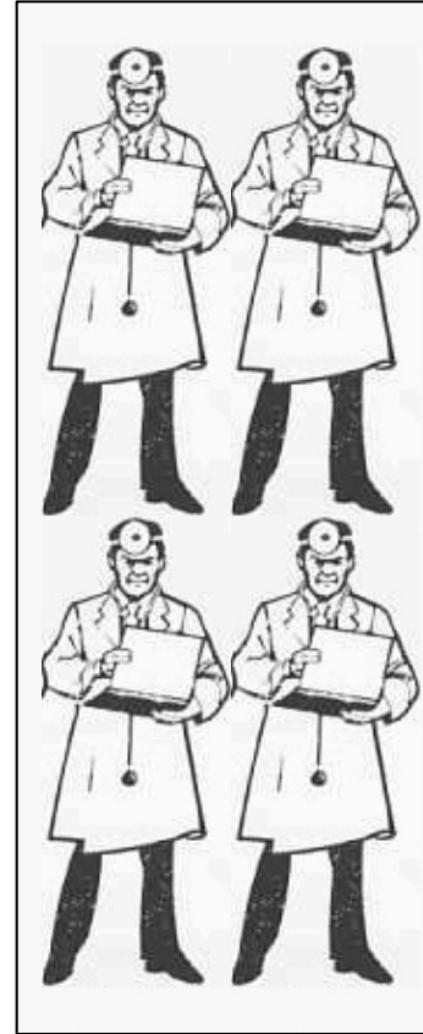
- What is the lie factor in this case?



Size Encoding: height or area?



=



?

Size Encoding: height or area?

- Height = value
Width = value
Area = value²

or
- Area = value
height × width = value
height = width = value^{0.5}

Problem:
Using 2D image to
represent 1D value

IN THE BARREL...

Price per bbl. of
light crude, leaving
Saudi Arabia
on Jan. 1

April 1
\$14.55

\$13.24

\$12.70

\$12.09

\$11.51

\$10.95

\$10.46

\$2.41

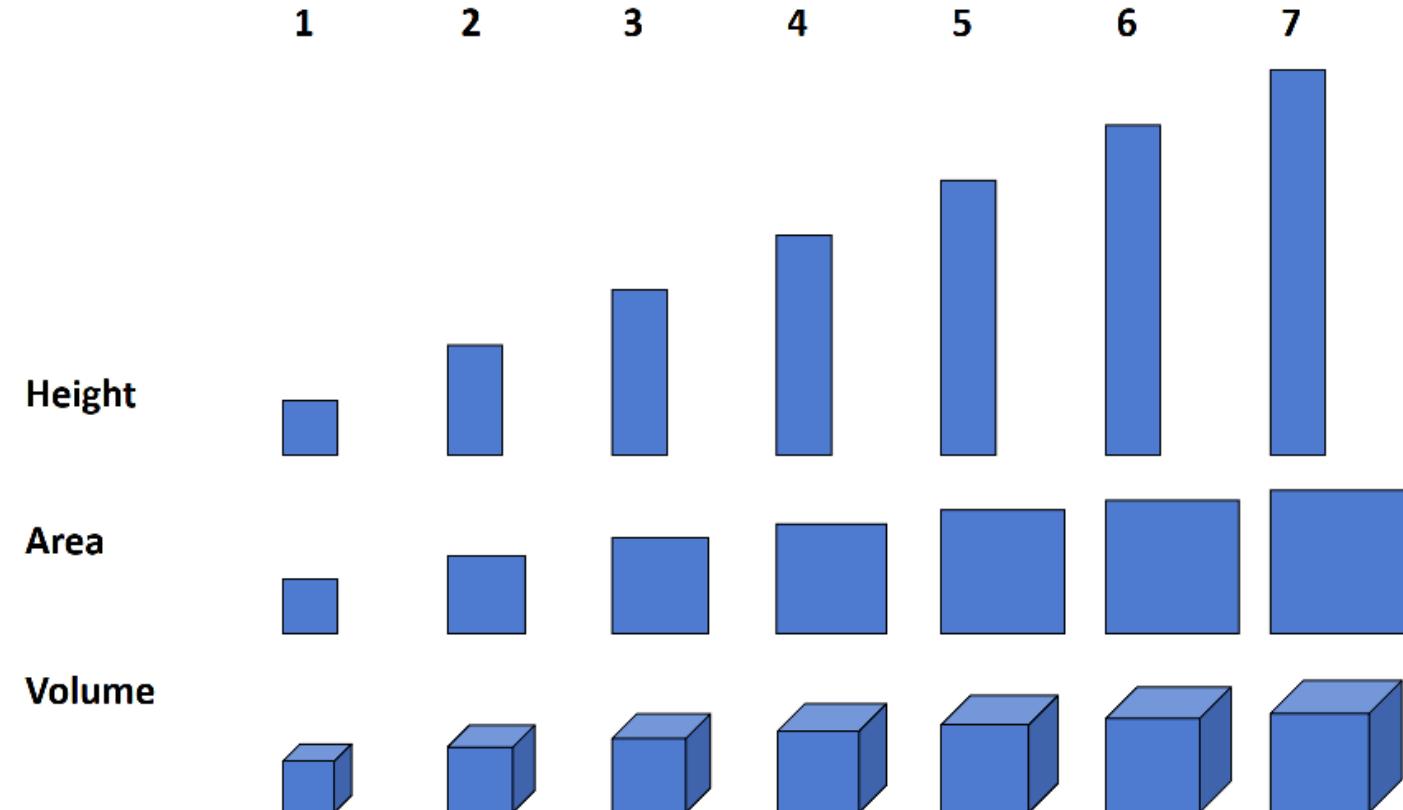
Size Encoding: Volume? (Lie Factor = ?)

73 – 79 data difference = 5.5x

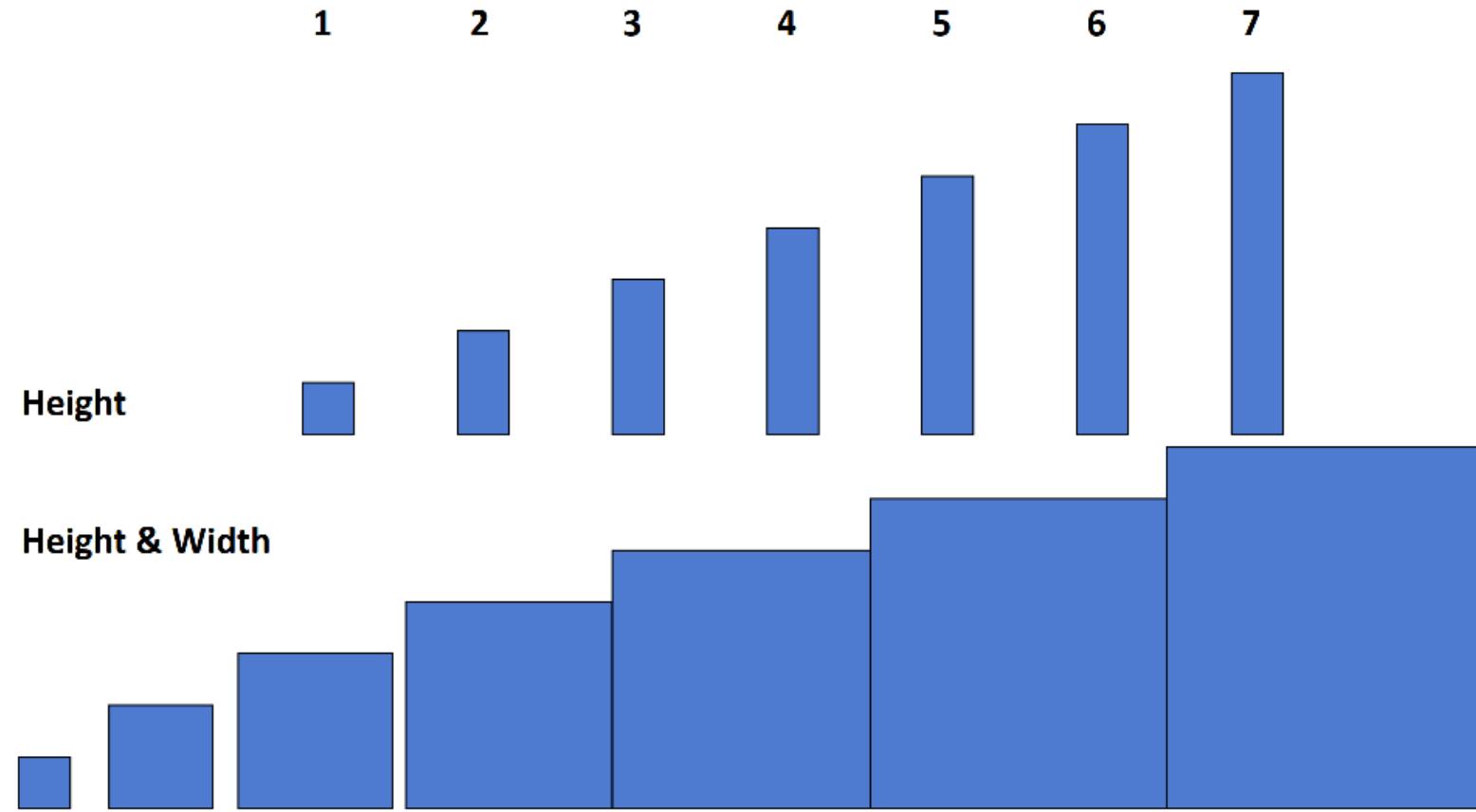
73 – 79 volume difference = 270x

Lie factor = 9.4 (2D) and 59.4 (3D)

Problem with Size Encoding



Height & Width Encoding



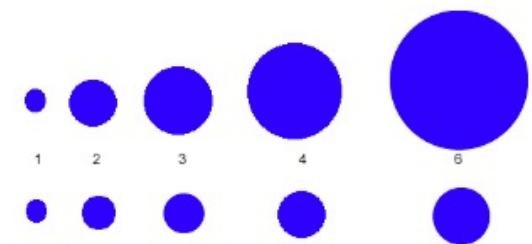
Perception of Area

Perception of area versus magnitude varies per person. The perceived area of a circle grows more slowly than the actual:

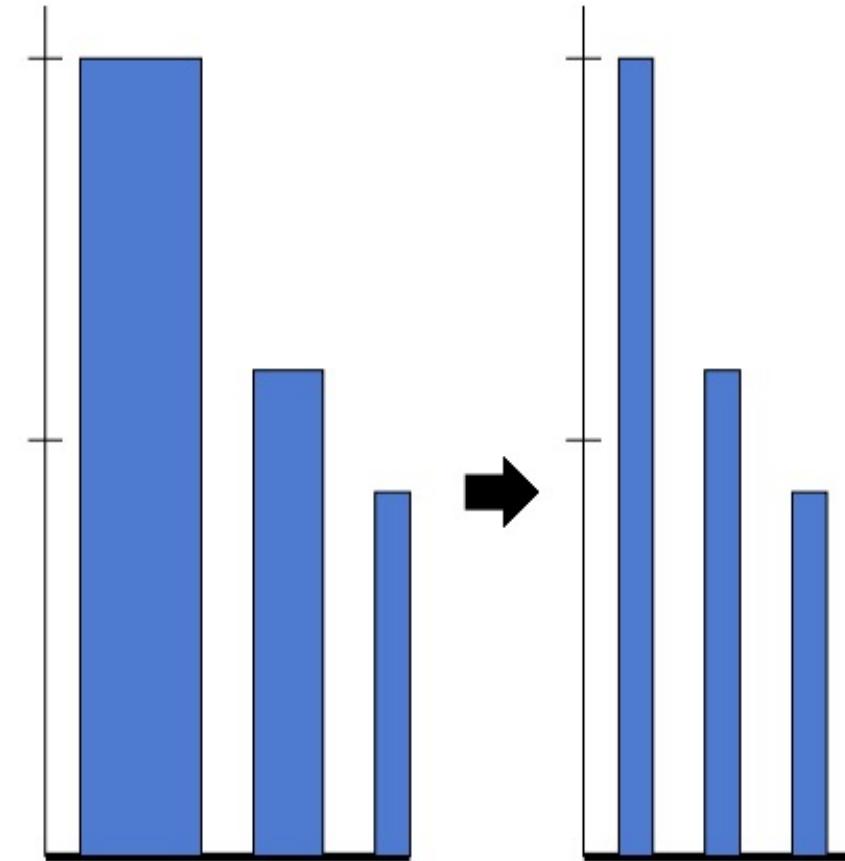
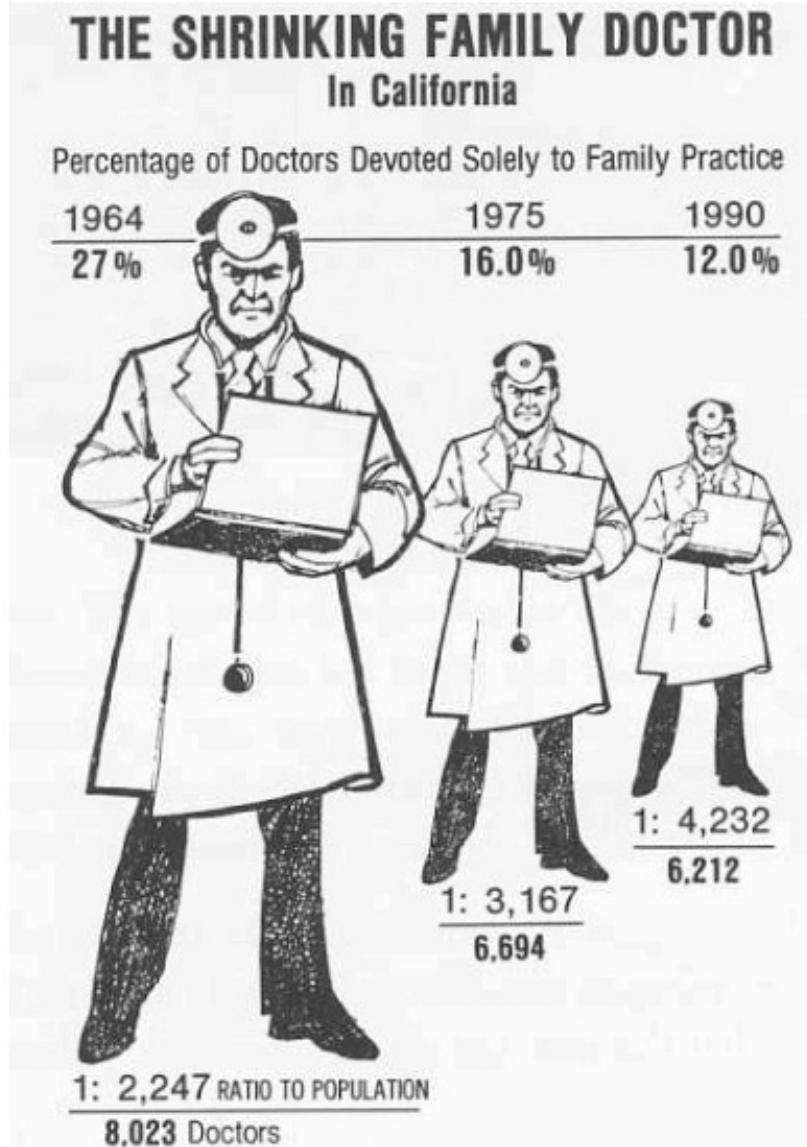
perceived area = (actual area)^(.8±.3) So if the area is 4, the range of perceived area ranges from $2 = 4^{(.5)}$ to $6 = 4^{(1.1)}$ and if the circle's area grows to 8 then the perceived area could be from $3 = 8^{(.5)}$ to $15 = 8^{(1.1)}$.

That is, if the area doubled, some might only see a 50% increase where others might see a 150% increase in the same visual.

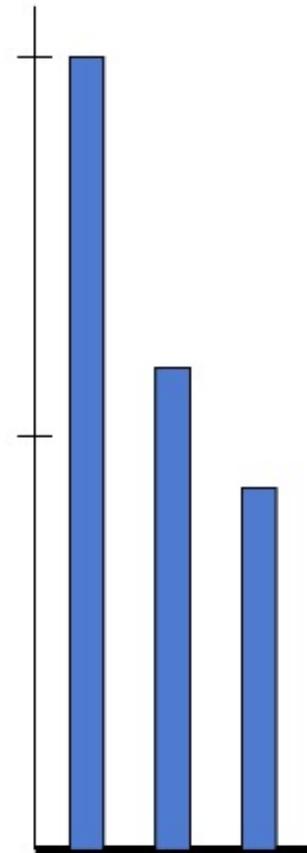
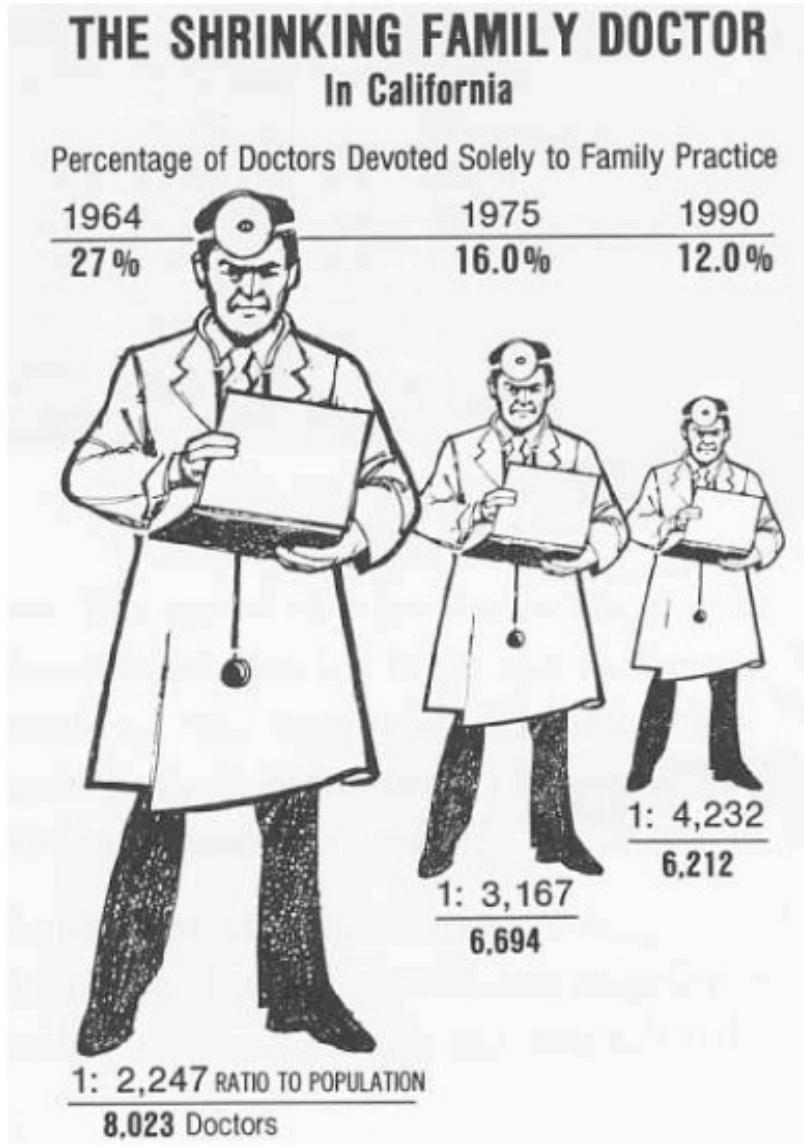
Using two dimensional objects to represent scalars is naturally misleading-- especially if you use the diameter as proportional to the scalars to view. Growth of a scalar value becomes perceived to be squared. Be sure the areas are what you really represent if you use such objects.

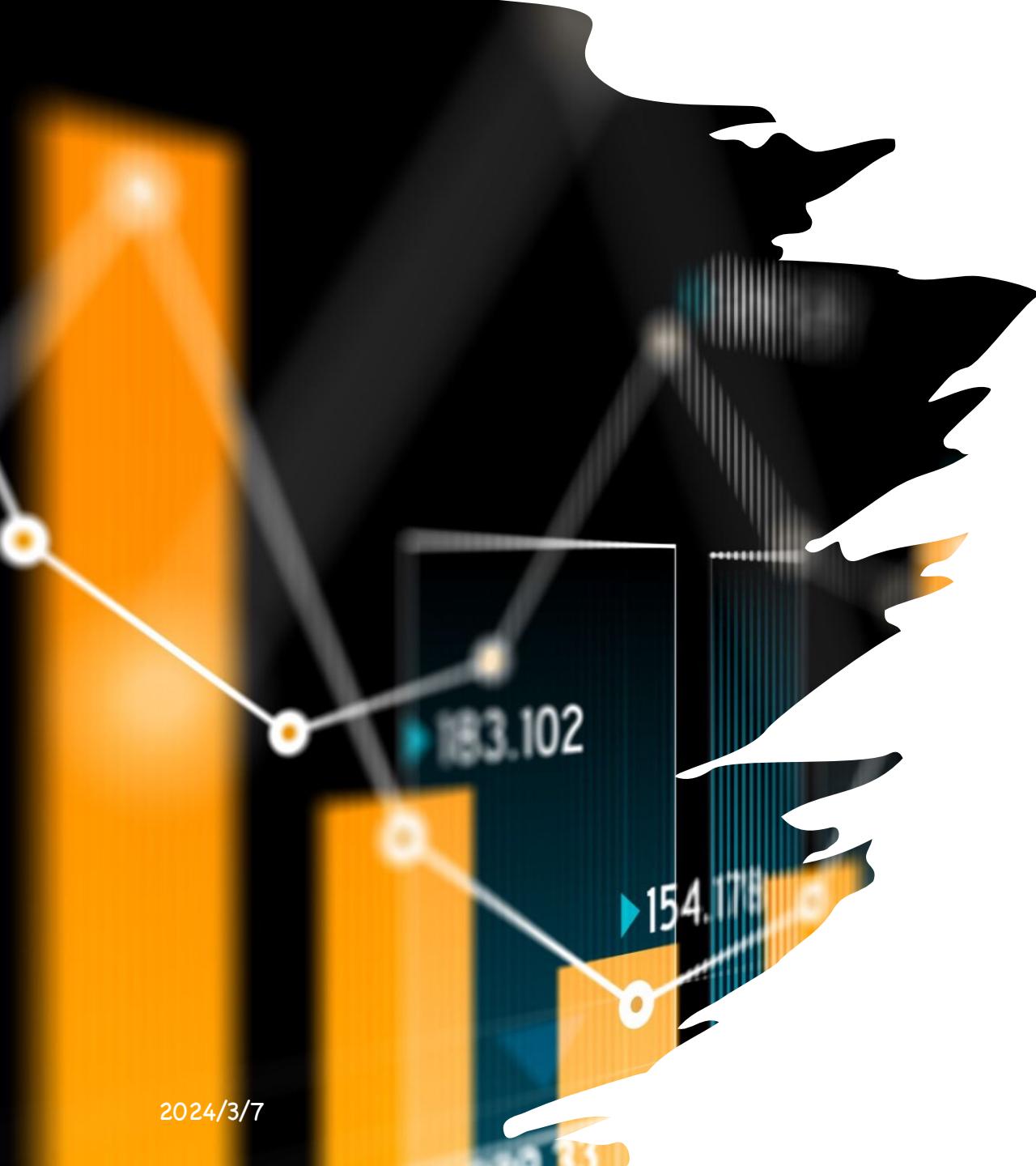


Solution: Just Use Height



Solution: Just Use Height





How NOT to Lie

- Show entire scale
- Show data in context
- Consistent, linear scale
 - Log scale for log data
- Up vs. down: indicate direction of improvement
- Avoid size encoding
 - Use height OR width
 - Do not use both for same data attribute
 - Avoid area, volume encoding



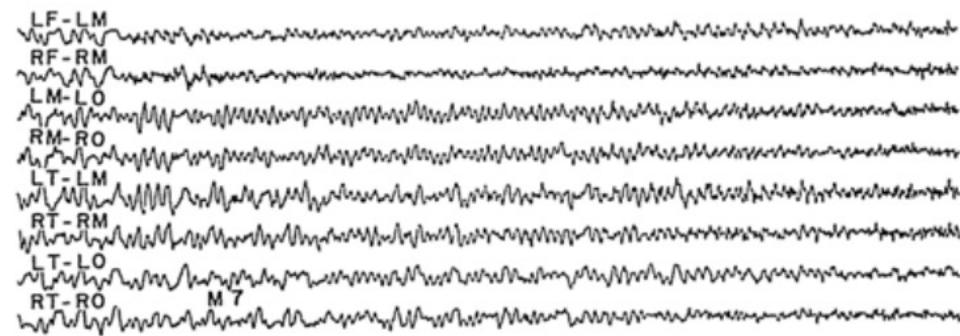
Data-Ink Ratio



- Ink = non-white data-pixels. (White or background pixels are not counted.) We want a high ratio of data presentation to the pixel/ink used.

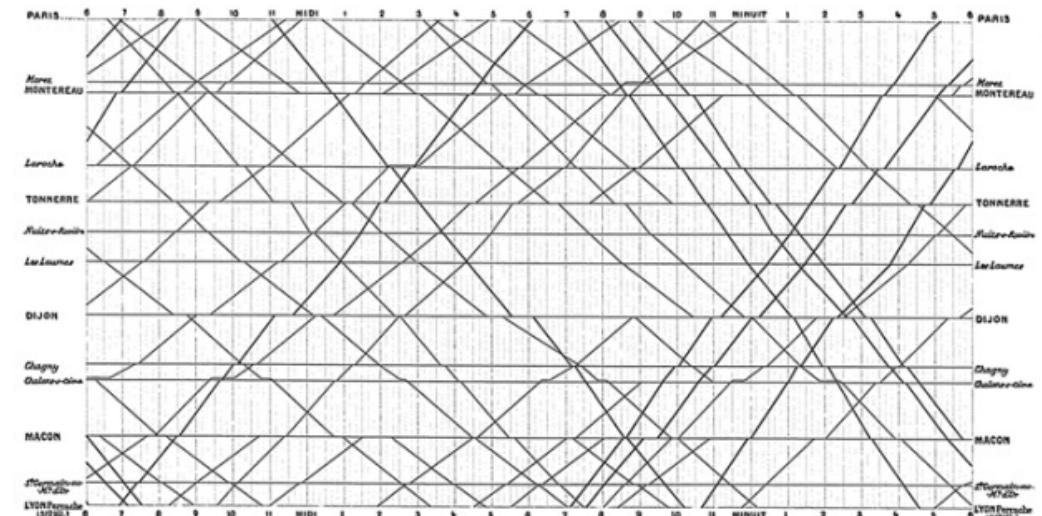
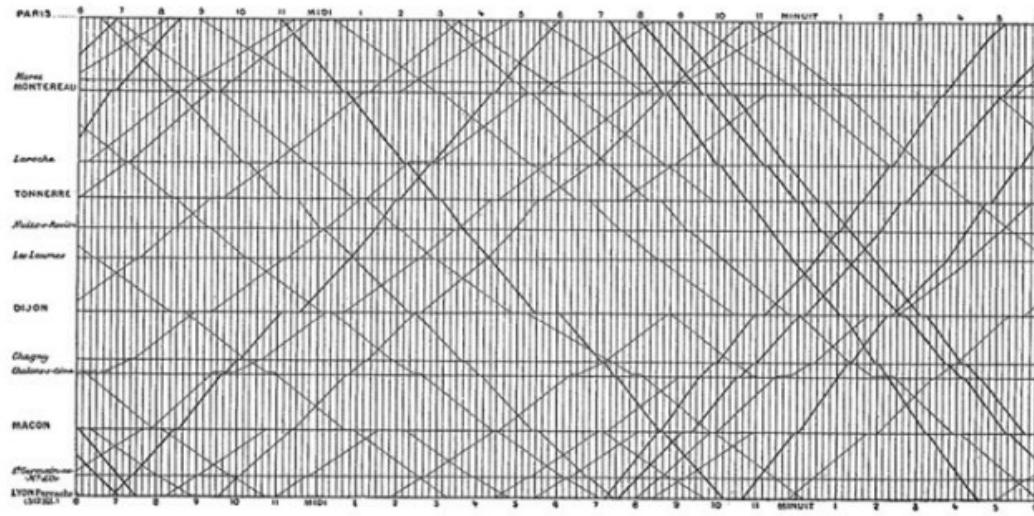
Data-ink data-ink (pixels used directly for data)

ratio = total ink used in graphic (total non-background pixels)
= proportion of ink devoted to the non-redundant
display of information
= 1 - proportion of graphic that can be erased without
loss of information



Electroencephalogram:
Every pixel represents
data, except labels



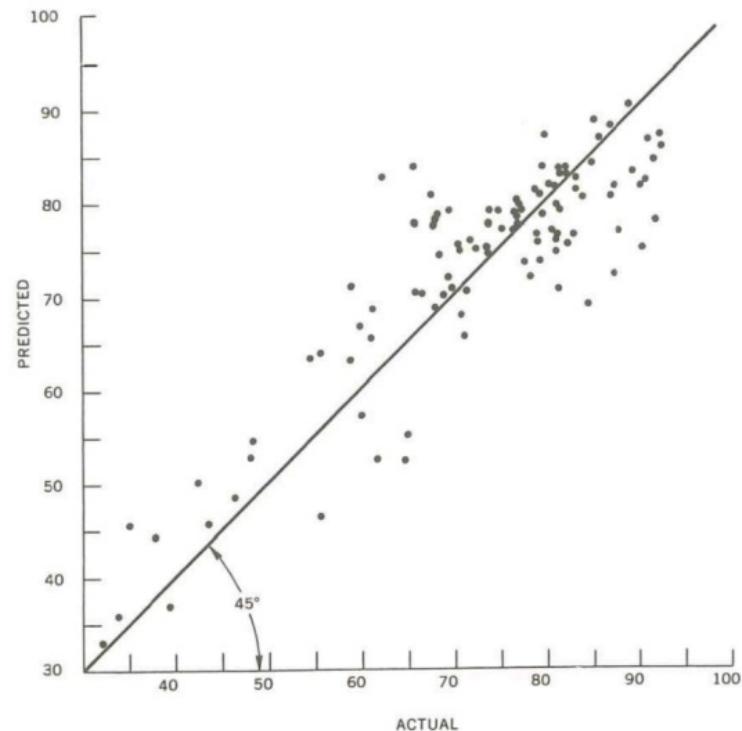
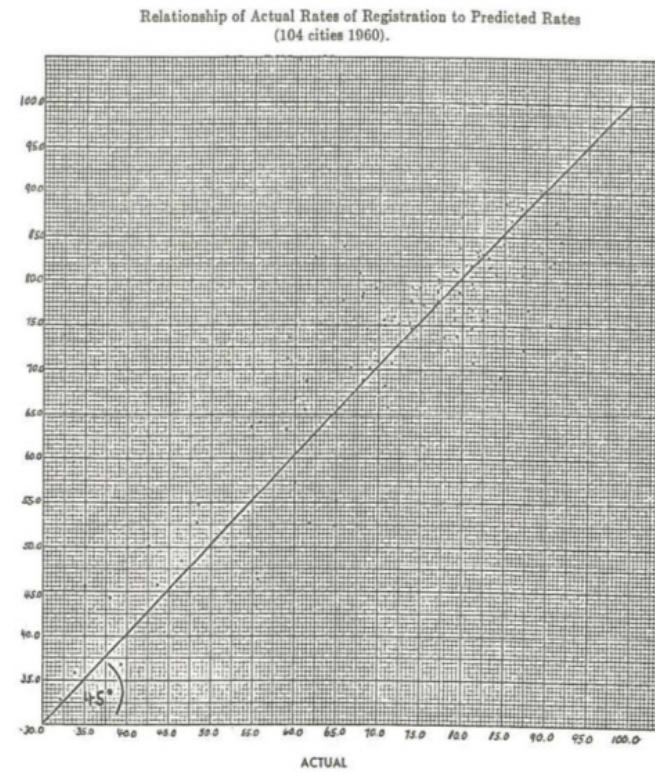


Train schedule in France (one of Tufte's book cover).

“Least Ink” Principles

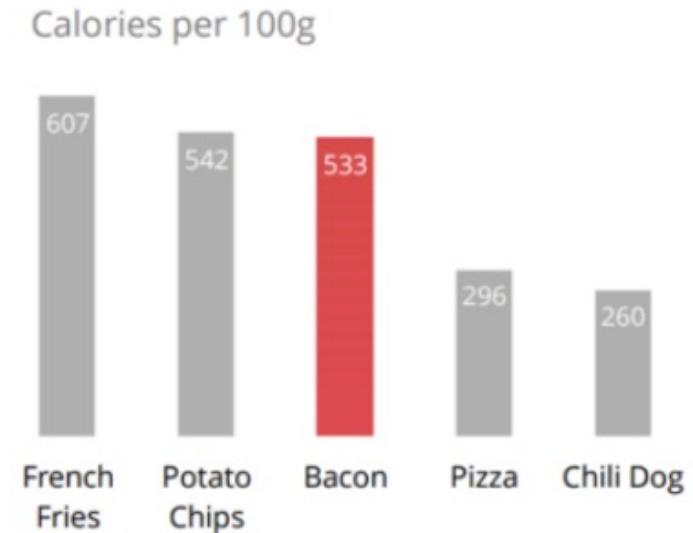
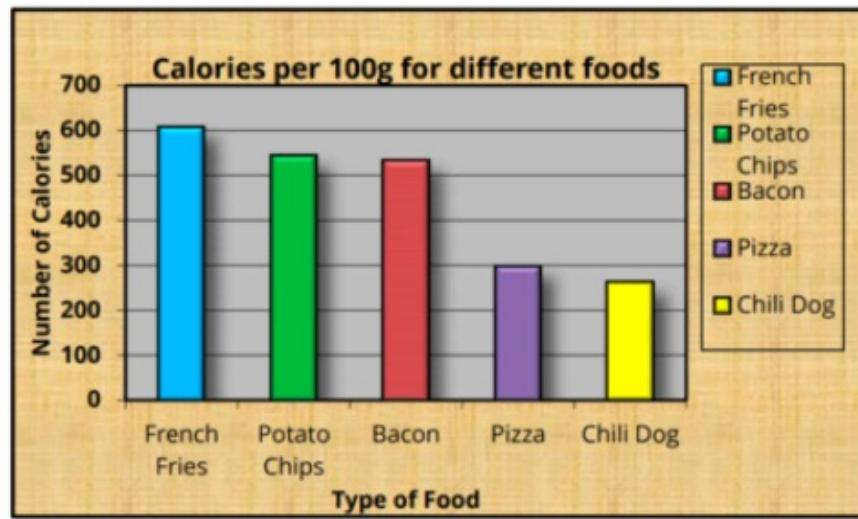
- Above all else show data
- Maximize the data-ink ratio
- Erase non-data-ink
- Erase redundant data-ink
- Revise and edit

“Least Ink” (High Data-Ink Ratio)



Avoid Chart Junk

- Definition: the excessive and unnecessary use of graphical effects in visualization for demonstrating the graphic ability of the design rather than displaying the data



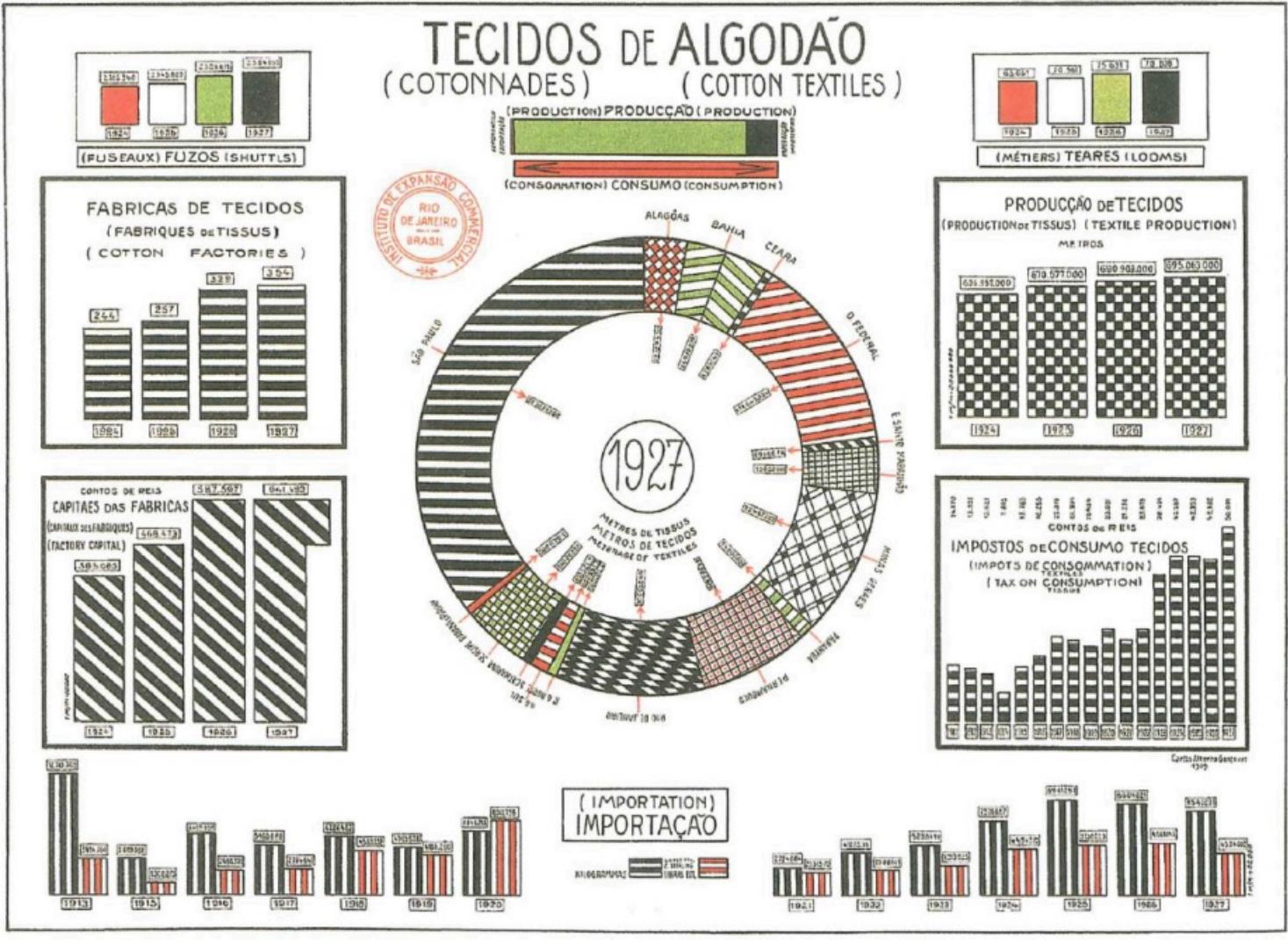
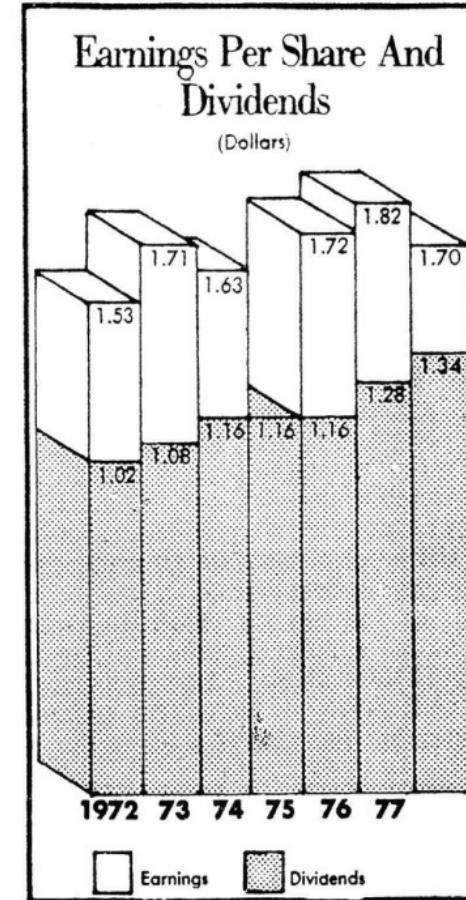
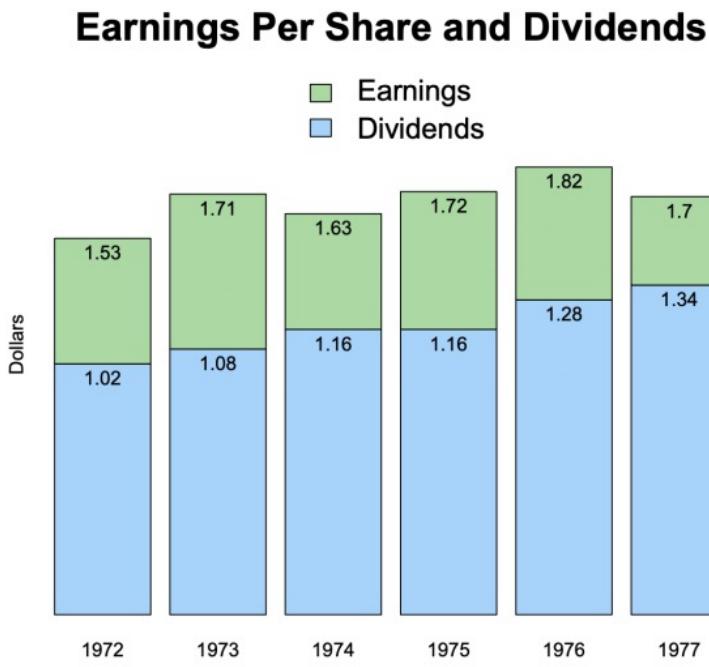


Chart Junk (1): Vibration

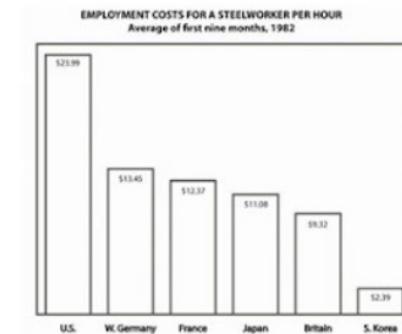
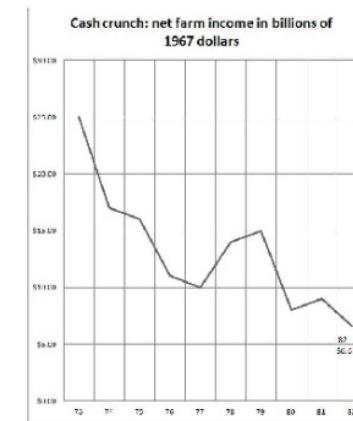
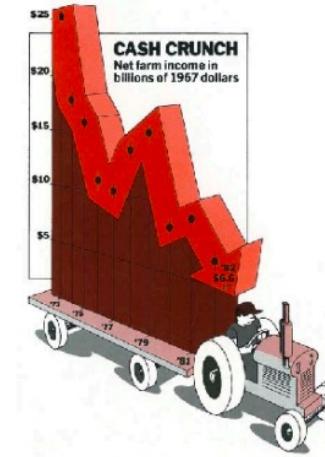
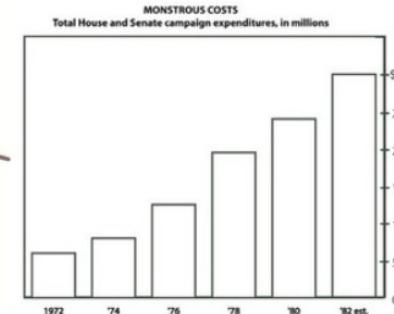
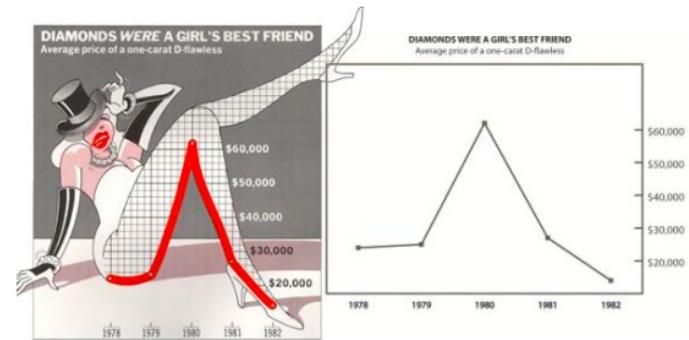
Too much texture and vibration in this graphic
- a moire vibration

Chart Junk (2): Illusion



The extra dimension used in this graph has confused even the person who created it

Chart Junk (3): Visual Distortion



Rethink Axes and Markers: Ratio

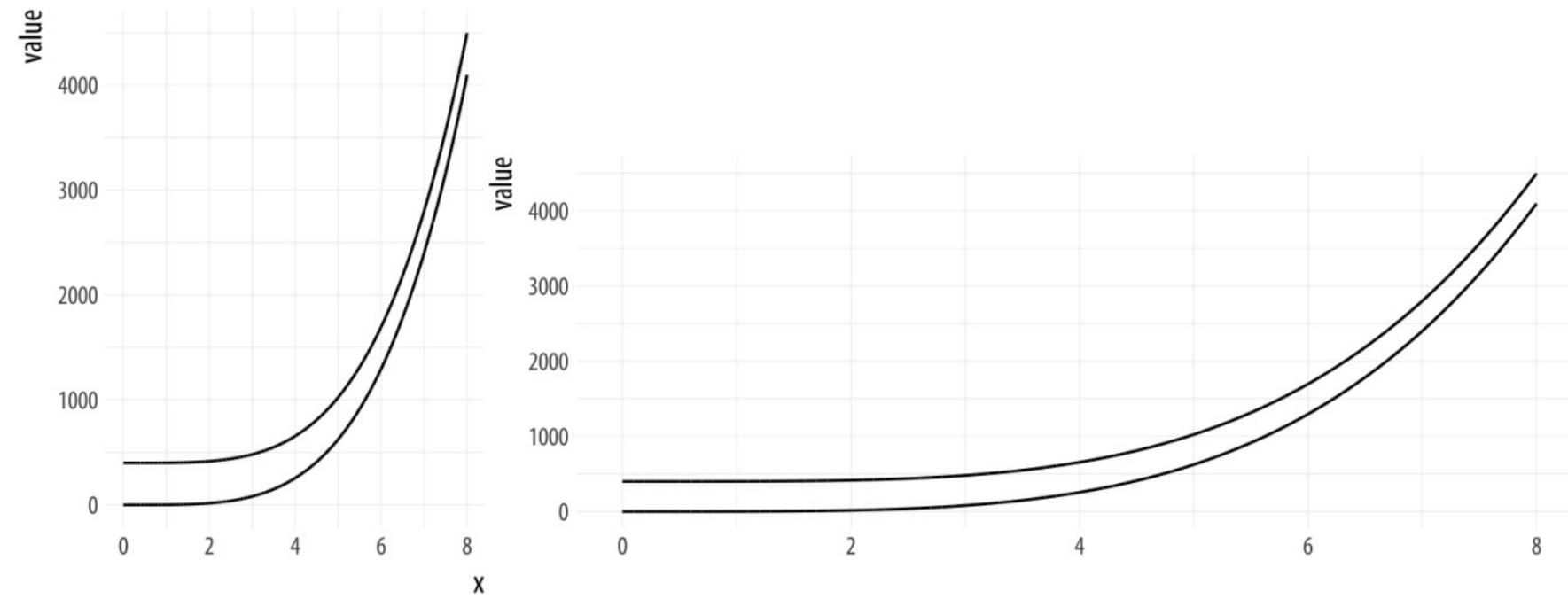
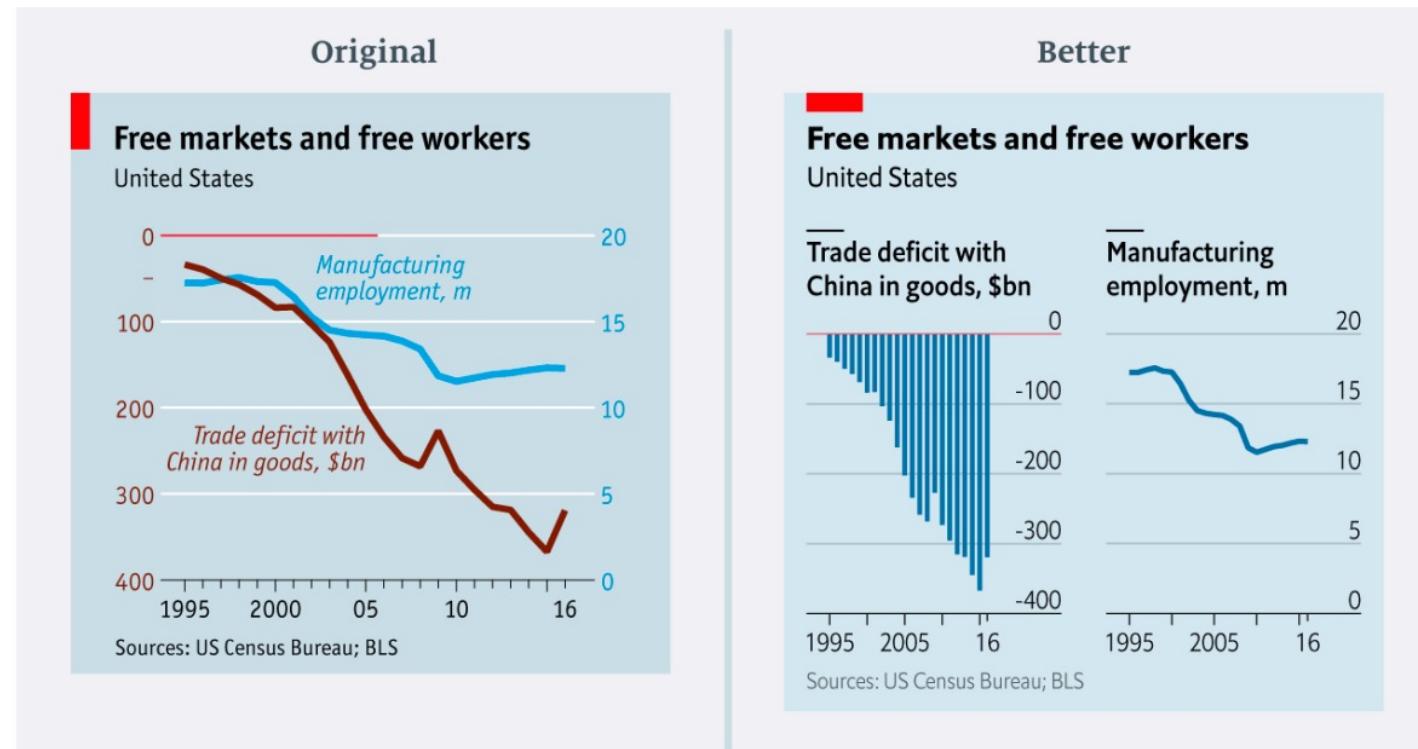


Figure: Aspect ratios affect our perception of rates of change. (After an example by William S. Cleveland.)

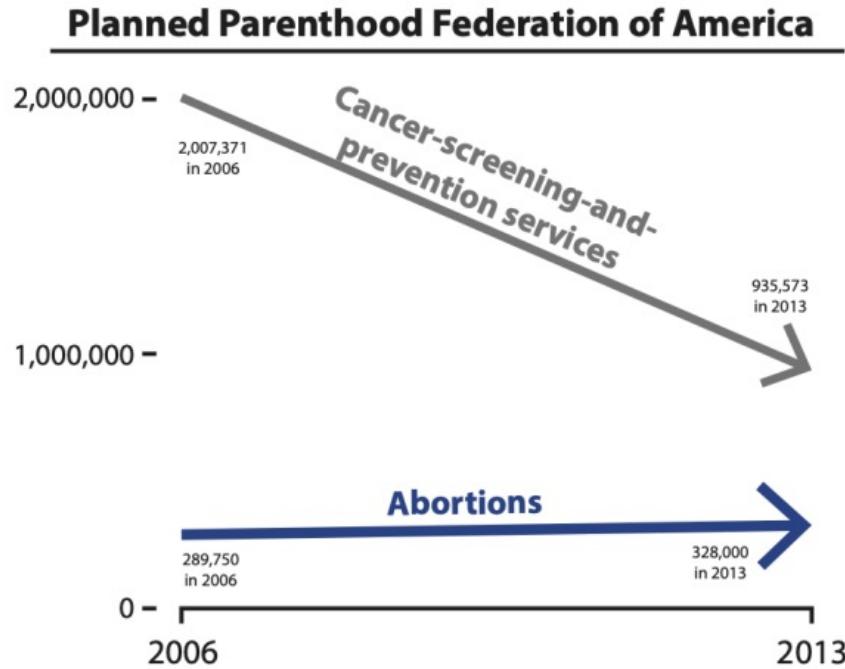
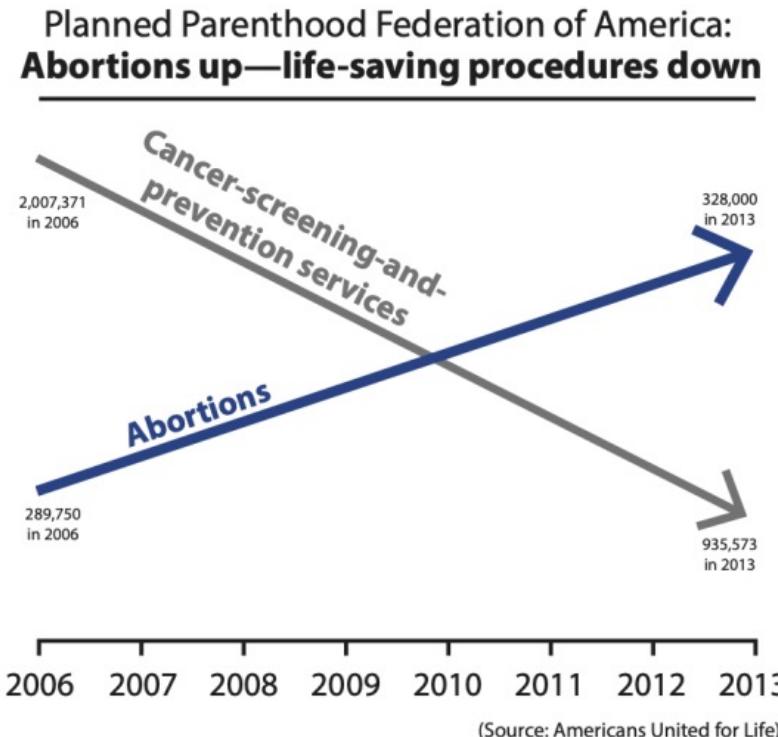
Rethink Axes and Markers: Avoid Dual Axis

- Apples vs. oranges, which one is which?



Rethink Axes and Markers: Normalization

- When comparing, using a common metric
- Percent is common, always stating percent to what

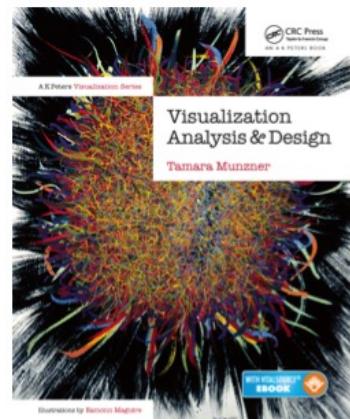
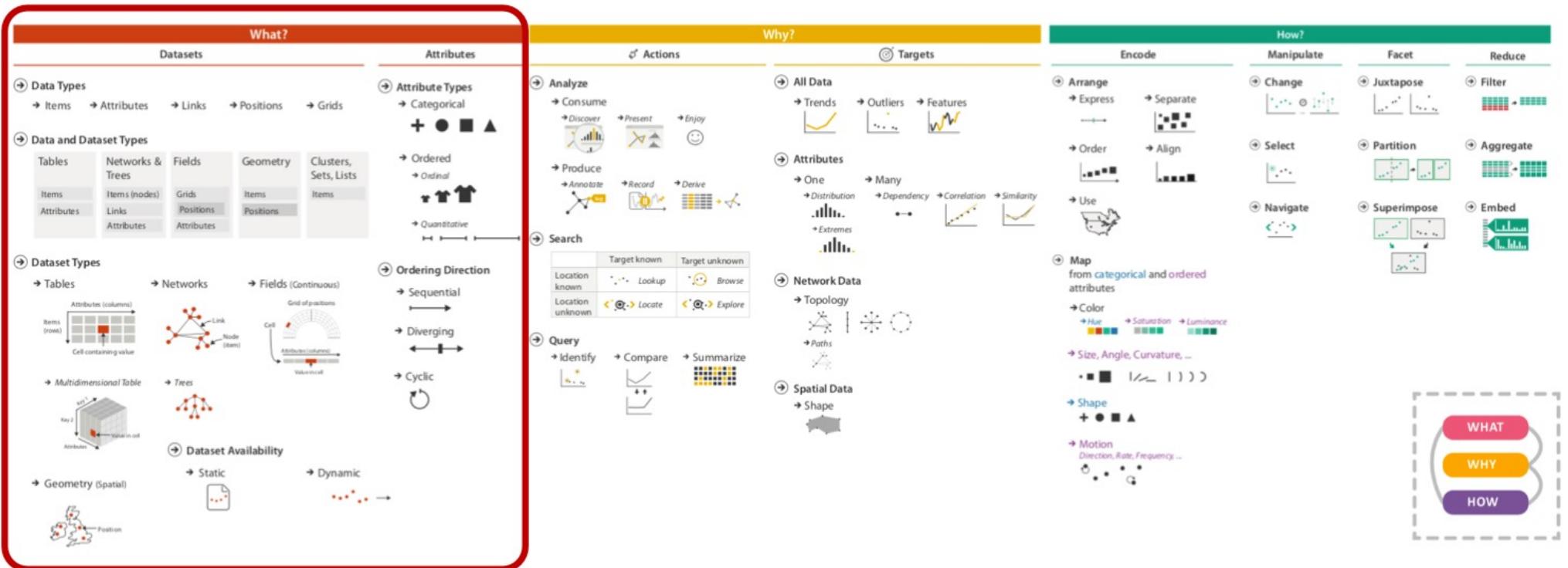




Aesthetics and Techniques

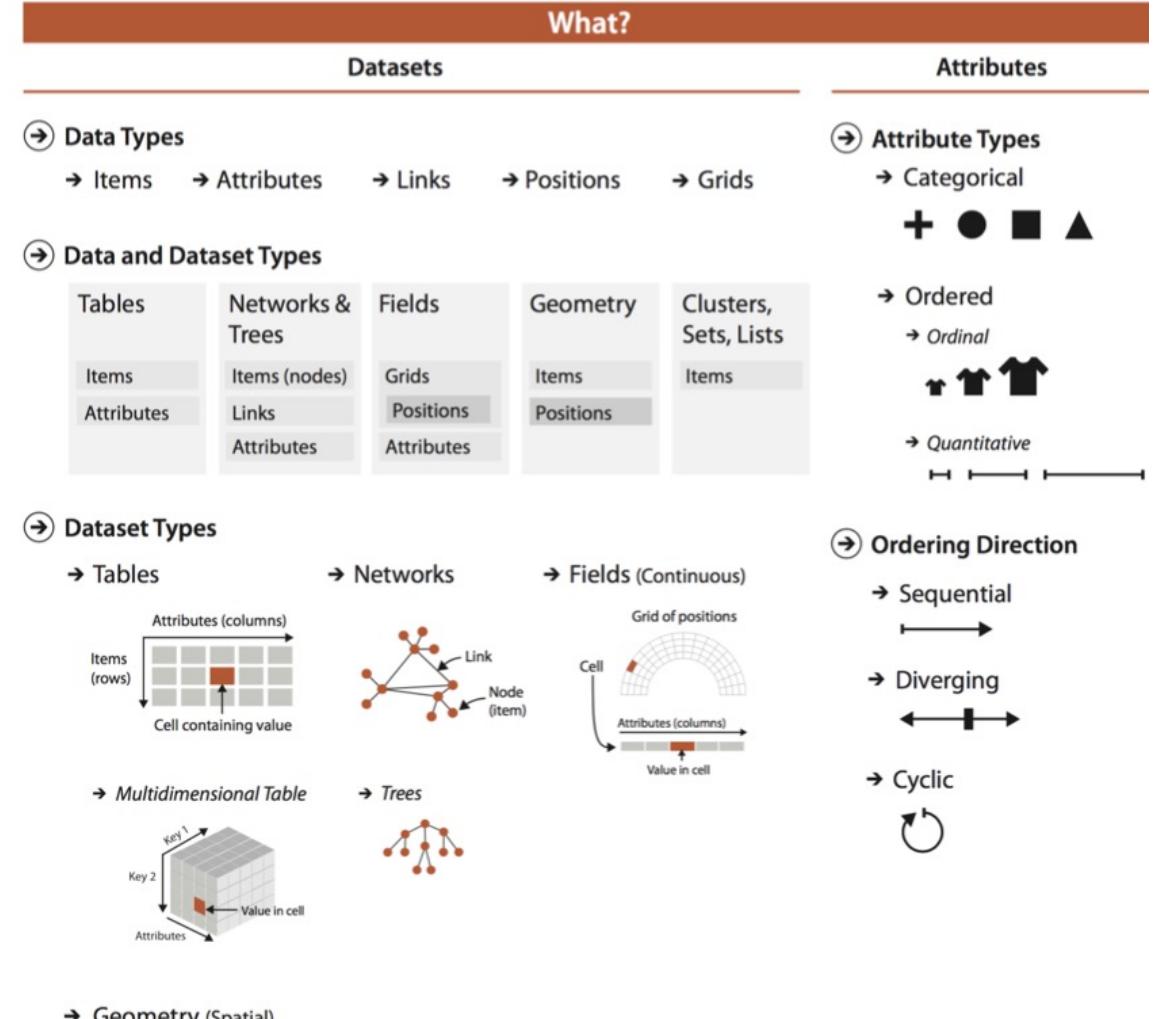
- **Have a properly chosen format and design**, e.g., a bivariate chart for bivariate data. Particular design will take work and multiple iterations/attempts to see what appeals.
- **Use words, numbers and drawing together**. Don't repeat the numbers in the words; words help understand the plan of the drawing if not obvious, labels.
- **Reflect a balance, a proportion, a sense of relevant scale**. All those examples of imbalance of area and quantity.
- **Display an accessible complexity of detail**. Add details as you can, but not to the point of obliterating information.
- **Often have a narrative quality**. There is a story to tell about the data, try to let it tell the story. Your narrative may not capture it all.
- **Are drawn in a professional manner**, with the technical details of production done with care (use available tools)
- **Avoid content-empty decoration, including chart junk**





Data Abstraction

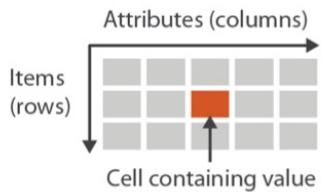
- Abstracting the data
- Types of datasets
 - Idiom design
- Types of attributes
 - Representations
- Ordering Direction
- Data aggregation
- Deriving new data



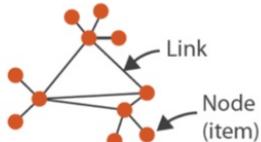
Data Types

Dataset Types

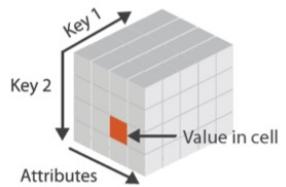
→ Tables



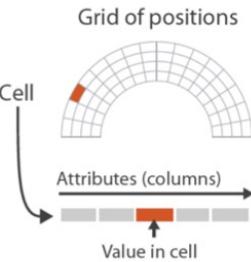
→ Networks



→ Multidimensional Table



→ Fields (Continuous)



→ Geometry (Spatial)



Spatial

Data File Format

2024/3/7



price	brand	model	title_status	mileage	color	lot
21500	ford	f-150	clean vehicle	76876	gray	167783132
7500	nissan	door	clean vehicle	58126	black	167598085
10700	chevrolet	trax	clean vehicle	44280	red	167792666
23100	dodge	charger	clean vehicle	12265	silver	167735423
33800	dodge	durango	clean vehicle	15003	black	167734879
4140	ford	door	clean vehicle	40747	white	167656519
13900	nissan	rogue	clean vehicle	38760	white	167762102
15700	ford	cutaway	clean vehicle	75862	white	167780452
1150	ford	door	salvage insurance	123349	red	167652717
26100	ford	f-150	clean vehicle	32149	white	167741409
14000	ford	fusion	clean vehicle	50513	white	167749355
22500	ford	door	clean vehicle	43646	black	167780692

Sample data from Kaggle's US Cars dataset

Table

CSV

```
price,brand,model,title_status,mileage,color,lot
21500,ford,f-150,clean vehicle,76876,gray,167783132
7500,nissan,door,clean vehicle,58126,black,167598085
10700,chevrolet,trax,clean vehicle,44280,red,167792666
23100,dodge,charger,clean vehicle,12265,silver,167735423
33800,dodge,durango,clean vehicle,15003,black,167734879
4140,ford,door,clean vehicle,40747,white,167656519
13900,nissan,rogue,clean vehicle,38760,white,167762102
15700,ford,cutaway,clean vehicle,75862,white,167780452
1150,ford,door,salvage insurance,123349,red,167652717
26100,ford,f-150,clean vehicle,32149,white,167741409
14000,ford,fusion,clean vehicle,50513,white,167749355
22500,ford,door,clean vehicle,43646,black,167780692
```

JSON

```
[
  {
    "price": 21500,
    "brand": "ford",
    "model": "f-150",
    "title_status": "clean vehicle",
    "mileage": 76876,
    "color": "gray",
    "lot": 167783132
  },
  {
    "price": 7500,
    "brand": "nissan",
    "model": "door",
    "title_status": "clean vehicle",
    "mileage": 58126,
    "color": "black",
    "lot": 167598085
  },
  {
    "price": 10700,
    "brand": "chevrolet",
    "model": "trax",
    "title_status": "clean vehicle",
    "mileage": 44280,
    "color": "red",
    "lot": 167792666
  },
  {
    "price": 23100,
```

Attribute Types

➔ Attribute Types

➔ Categorical



➔ Ordered

➔ Ordinal



➔ Quantitative



➔ Ordering Direction

➔ Sequential



➔ Diverging



➔ Cyclic



→ Data and Dataset Types

Tables	Networks & Trees	Fields	Geometry	Clusters, Sets, Lists
Items	Items (nodes)	Grids	Items	Items
Attributes	Links	Positions	Positions	

→ Data Types

→ Items → Attributes → Links → Positions → Grids

→ Dataset Availability

→ Static



→ Dynamic



Data Types

Marks

Points



Lines



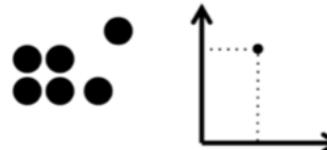
Areas



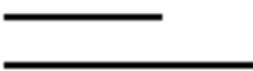
Geometric Primitives

Visual Channels

Position



Size- Length



Size- Area



Size- Volume



Format



Texture



Orientation/Direction



Angle



Color



Color - Hue



Color - Saturation



Color - Luminance

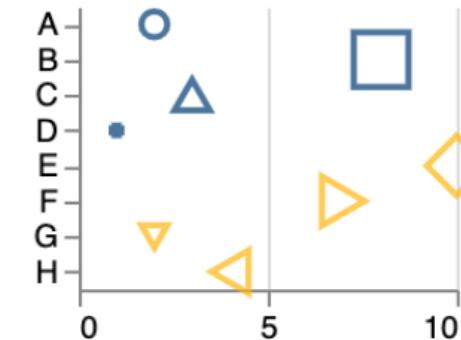
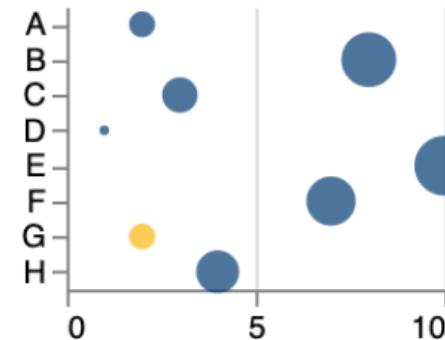
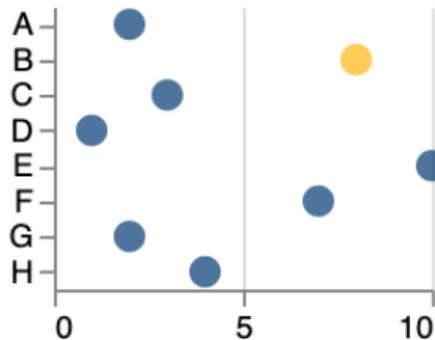
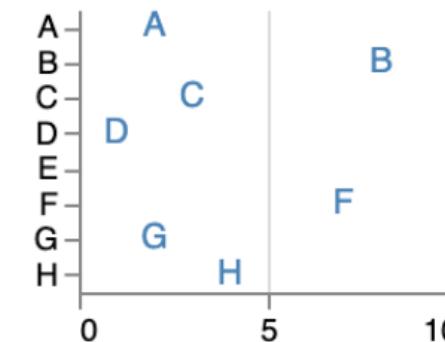
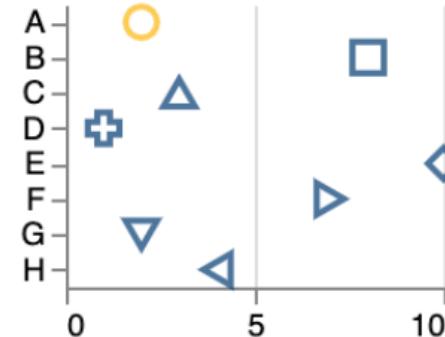


Control Appearance of Marks

- Type and amount of info → human perception
- Qualitative (identity) vs. quantitative (magnitude)
- Discriminable and accuracy of perception

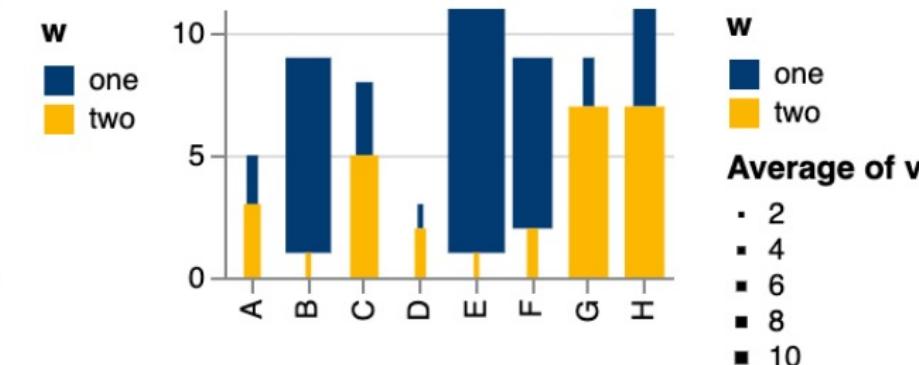
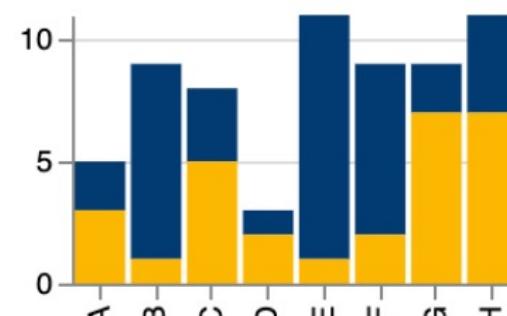
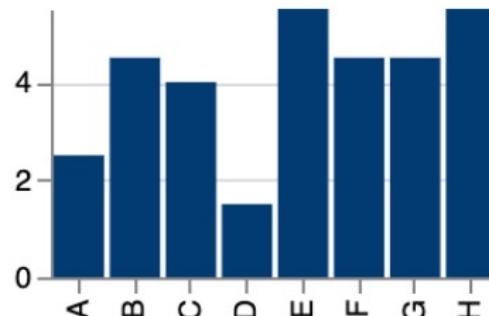
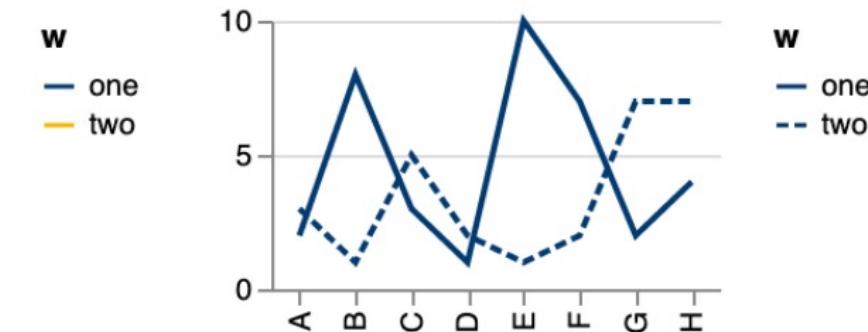
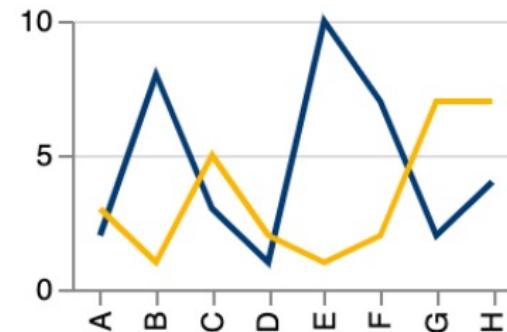
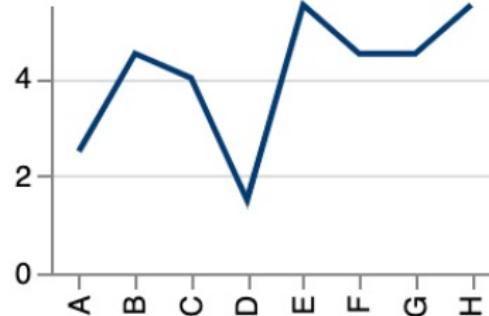
Mark: Points

- Zero-dimensional
- Convey position only
- Can be size, shape-, color-coded



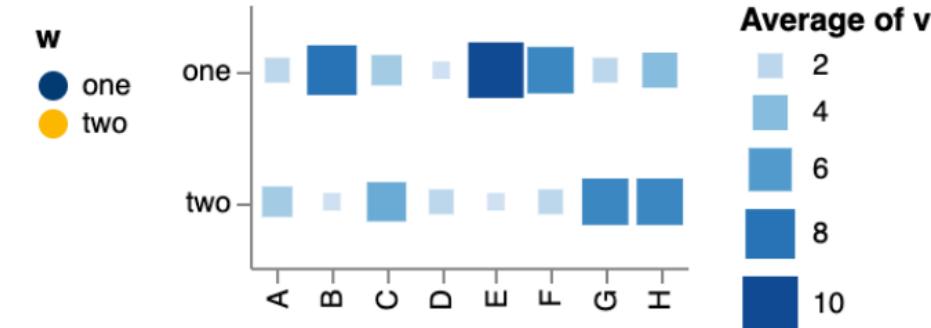
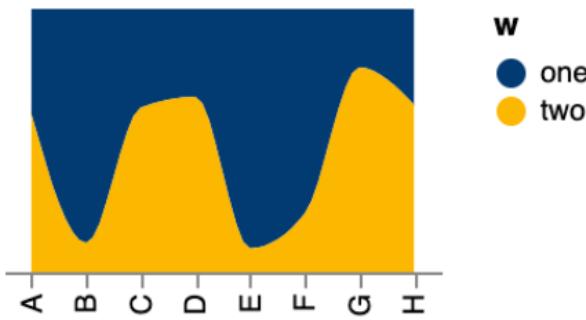
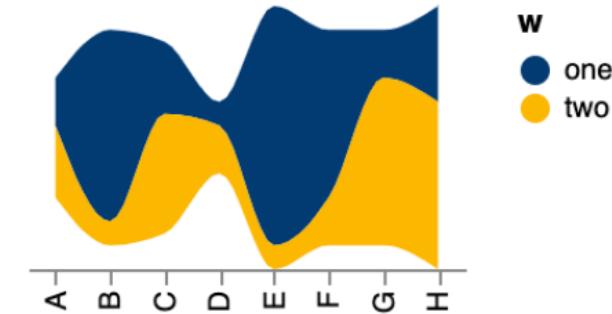
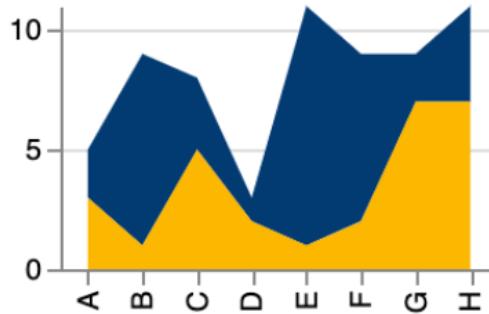
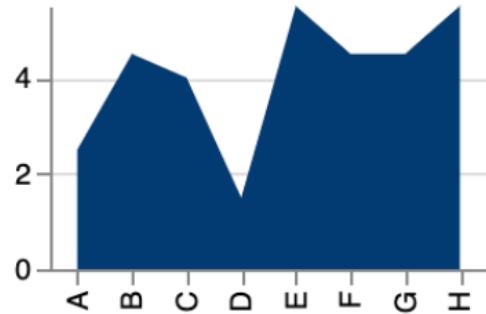
Mark: Lines

- One-dimensional
- Convey position and length
- Can be width-, color-, shape-coded



Mark: Areas

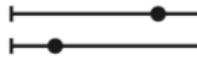
- Two-dimensional
- Are fully constrained
- Can be size- and color-coded



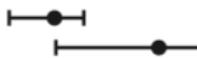
Channels: expressiveness types and effectiveness rankings

④ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes

Position on common scale



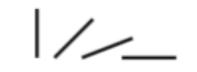
Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



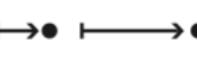
Tilt/angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



⑤ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Shape



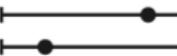
▲ Most Effective ↓ Least Effective Same



Channels: Matching Types

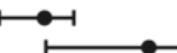
④ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes

Position on common scale



▲
Most

Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



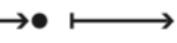
Tilt/angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



Effectiveness
Same
Least

Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



④ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Shape



Expressiveness principle

- match channel and data characteristics

Channels: Rankings

④ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes

Position on common scale	
Position on unaligned scale	
Length (1D size)	
Tilt/angle	
Area (2D size)	
Depth (3D position)	
Color luminance	
Color saturation	
Curvature	
Volume (3D size)	

⑤ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region	
Color hue	
Motion	
Shape	

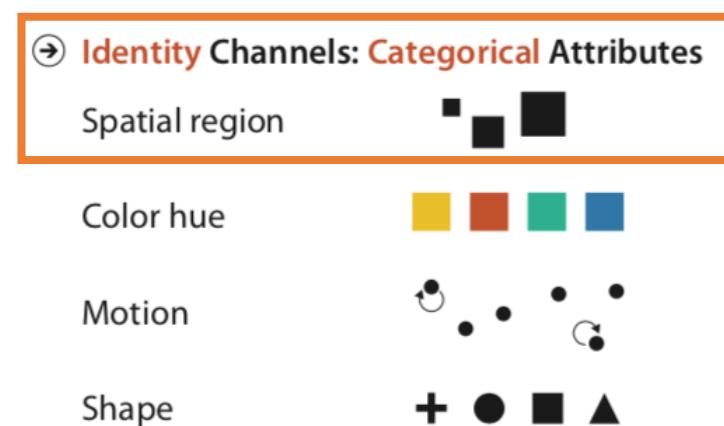
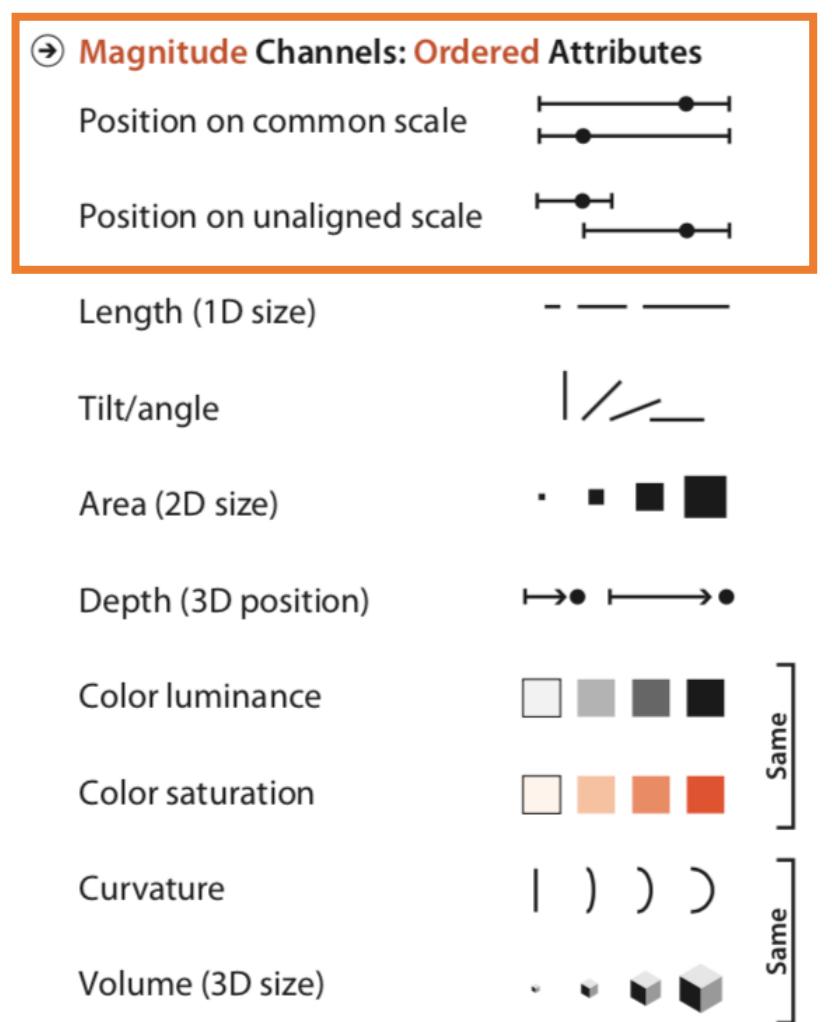
Expressiveness principle

- match channel and data characteristics

Effectiveness principle

- encode most important attributes with highest ranked channels

Channels: Expressiveness types and effectiveness rankings



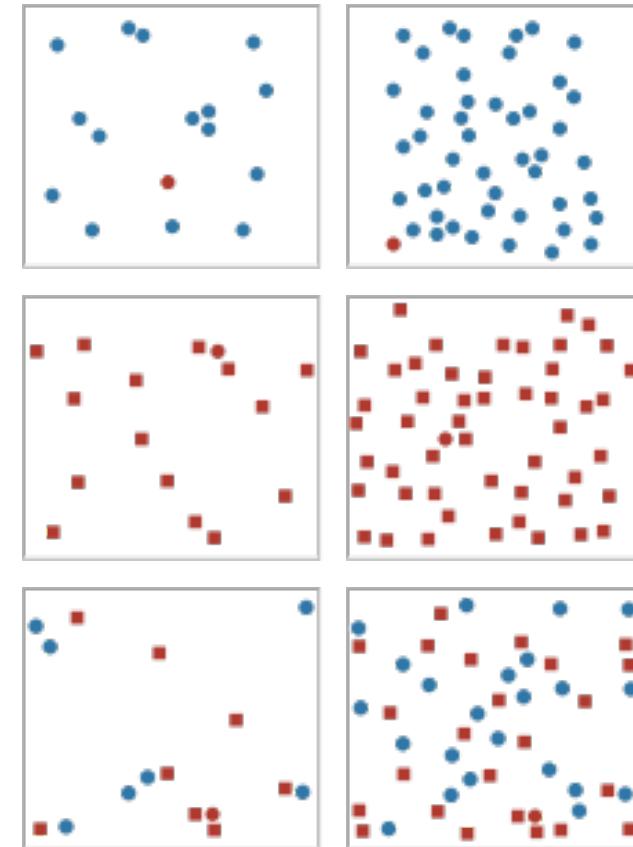
Expressiveness principle

- match channel and data characteristics

Effectiveness principle

- encode most important attributes with highest ranked channels
- spatial position ranks high for both

- Find the red dot
 - How long does it take?
- Parallel processing on many individual channels
 - Speed independent of distractor count
 - Speed depends on channel and amount of difference from distractors
- Serial search for (almost all) combinations
 - Speed depends on number of distractors



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Grouping

- Containment
- Connection
- Proximity
 - Same spatial region
- Similarity
 - Same values as other categorical channels

Marks as Links

④ Containment



④ Connection



④ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Shape



Highlighting



	X	Y	Z	X	Y	Z	X	Y	Z	X	Y	Z
red	25.37	13.70	0.05	26.27	14.13	0.04	18.41	10.16	0.05	17.43	9.30	0.00
green	22.14	51.24	0.35	20.68	49.17	0.44	21.11	46.00	0.20	16.36	37.95	0.12
blue	13.17	3.71	74.89	15.38	5.20	86.83	11.55	3.37	65.53	9.96	3.44	56.14
gray	63.46	73.30	78.05	64.66	71.99	90.08	52.96	62.49	67.99	45.54	53.65	58.14
black	0.66	0.70	0.77	0.63	0.66	1.09	0.47	0.58	0.70	0.44	0.54	0.71

	X	Y	Z	X	Y	Z	X	Y	Z	X	Y	Z
red	25.37	13.70	0.05	26.27	14.13	0.04	18.41	10.16	0.05	17.43	9.30	0.00
green	22.14	51.24	0.35	20.68	49.17	0.44	21.11	46.00	0.20	16.36	37.95	0.12
blue	13.17	3.71	74.89	15.38	5.20	86.83	11.55	3.37	65.53	9.96	3.44	56.14
gray	63.46	73.30	78.05	64.66	71.99	90.08	52.96	62.49	67.99	45.54	53.65	58.14
black	0.66	0.70	0.77	0.63	0.66	1.09	0.47	0.58	0.70	0.44	0.54	0.71

Based on slide from Stone



Color in small regions is difficult to perceive, and bright colors in large areas appear bigger

Use bright, saturated colors for small regions, and use low saturation pastel colors for large regions and backgrounds.





Colors for Categories



Only a small number of colors can be used effectively as nominal labels.

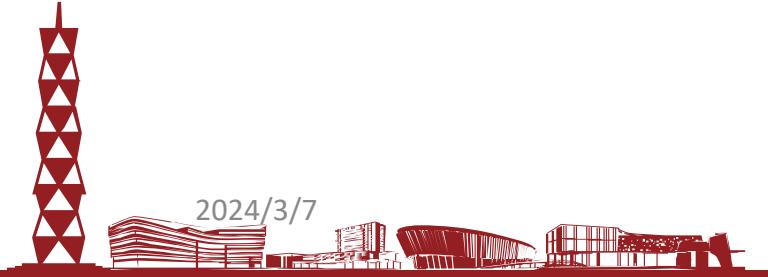
Keep the number of colors for nominal data to less than eight.

Use quiet medium grey backgrounds.





Color: Ordinal



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Order These Colors



Based on slide from Stasko



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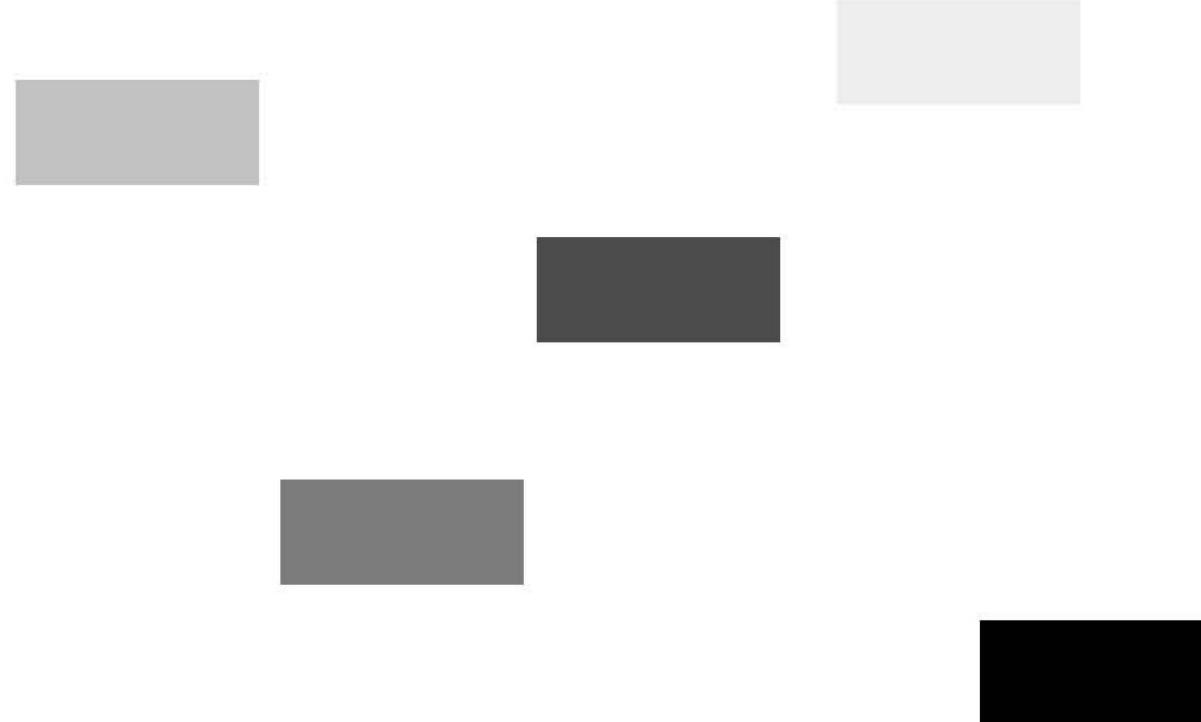
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Order These Colors



上海科技大学
ShanghaiTech University



Based on slide from Stasko

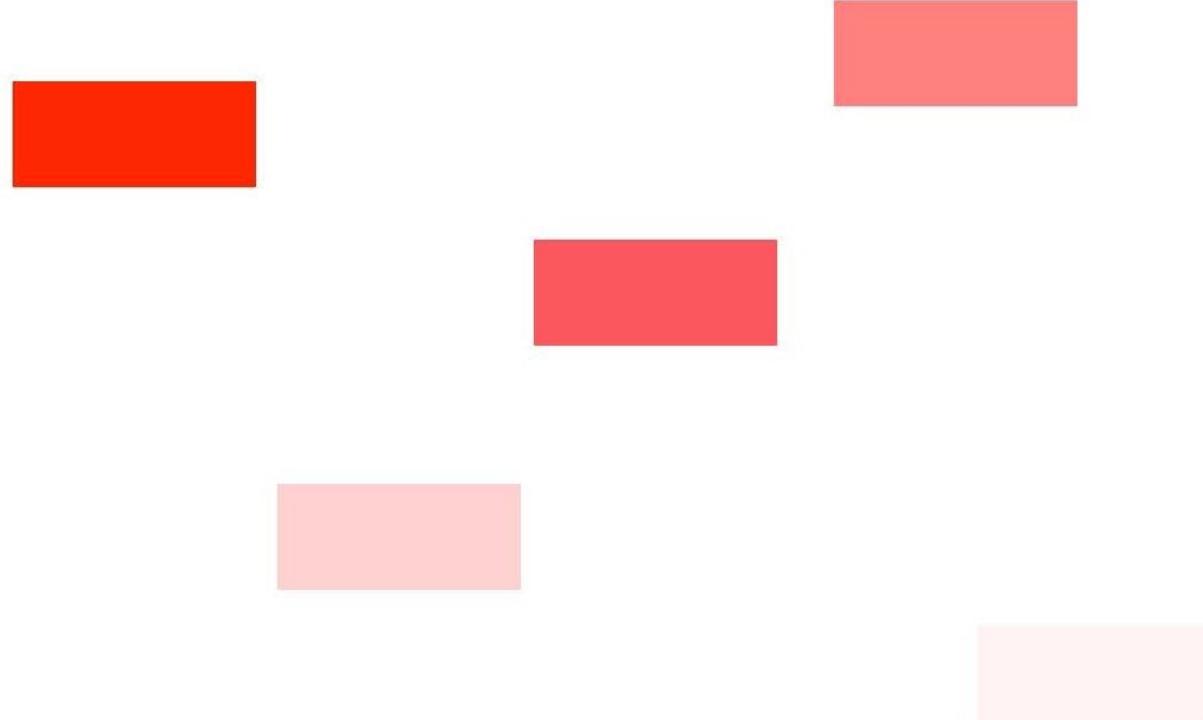


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Order These Colors



Based on slide from Stasko



2024/3/7

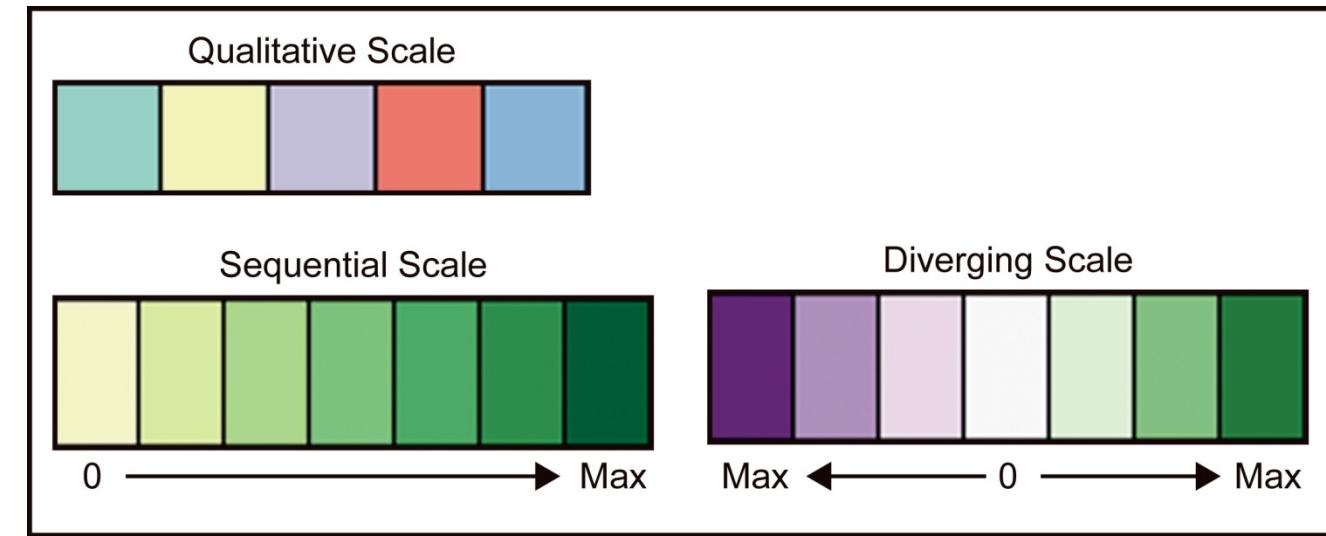
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Brewer Scales



Nominal
Ordinal



Cynthia Brewer, Color Use Guidelines for Data Representation



Lightness and saturation are effective for ordinal data because they have an implicit perceptual ordering

Show ordinal data with a discrete set of color values that change in lightness or saturation

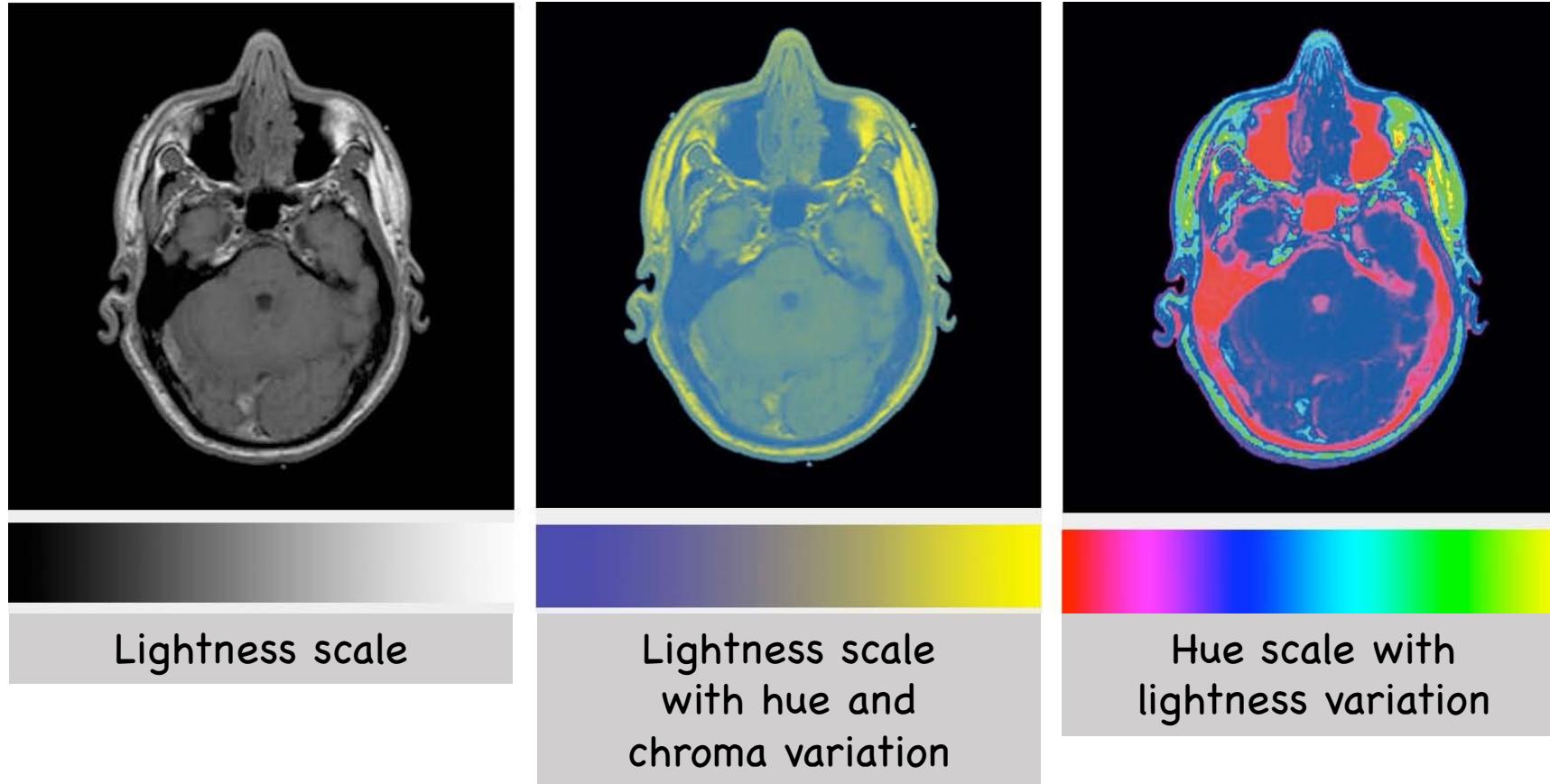




Color: Quantitative



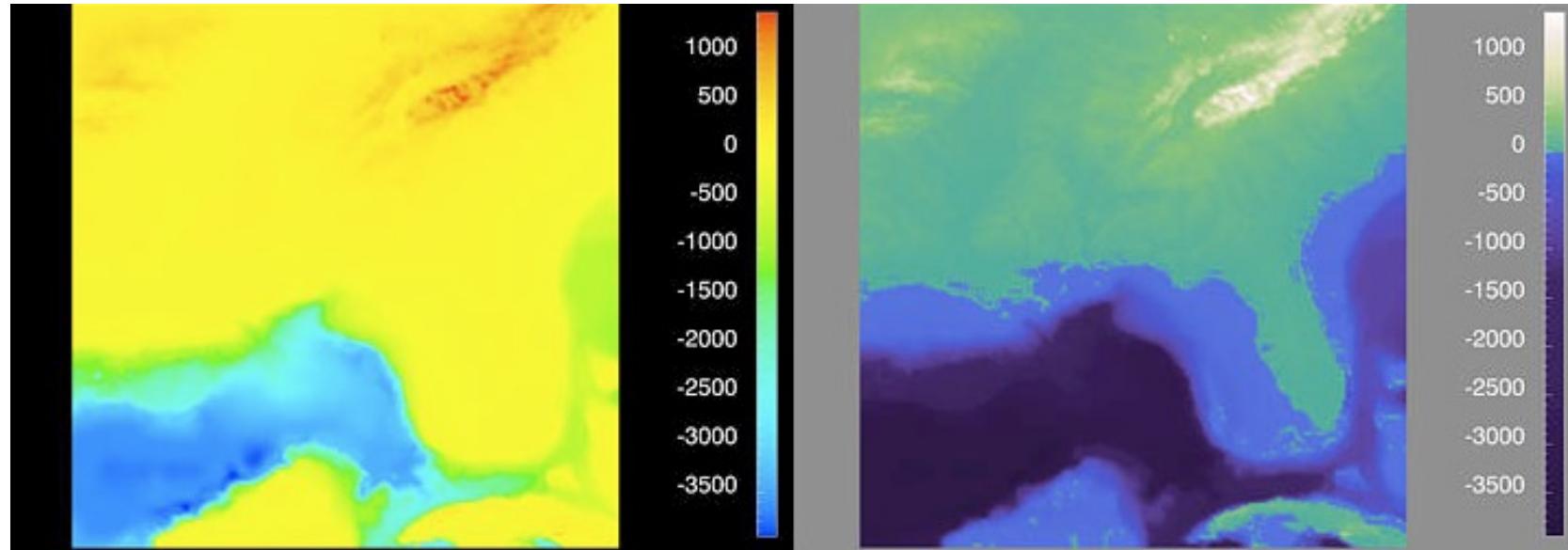
Colormaps



After slide from M. stone



Rainbow Colormap

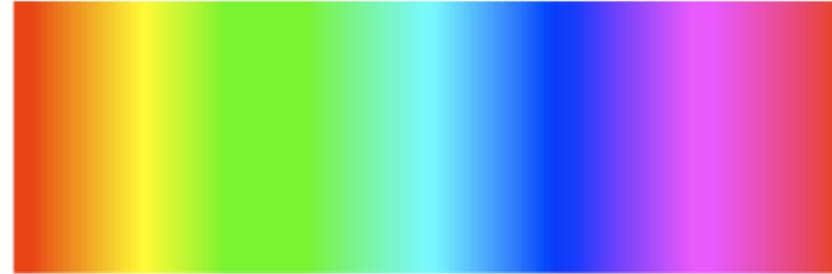


Rogowitz and Treinish, Why should engineers and scientists be worried about color?



Rainbow Colormap

- Hue is used to show ordinal data
- Not perceptually linear:
 - Equal steps in the continuous range are not perceived as equal steps
- Not good for colorblind people



Quantitative data can be shown with a discrete or continuous colormap

Use colormaps with a limited hue palette and redundantly vary lightness and saturation.

Use discrete colormaps for accuracy.



Channels: Expressiveness Types and Effectiveness Ranks

④ **Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes**

Position on common scale



Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



Tilt/angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



④ **Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes**

Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Principles and Process: Rules of Thumb

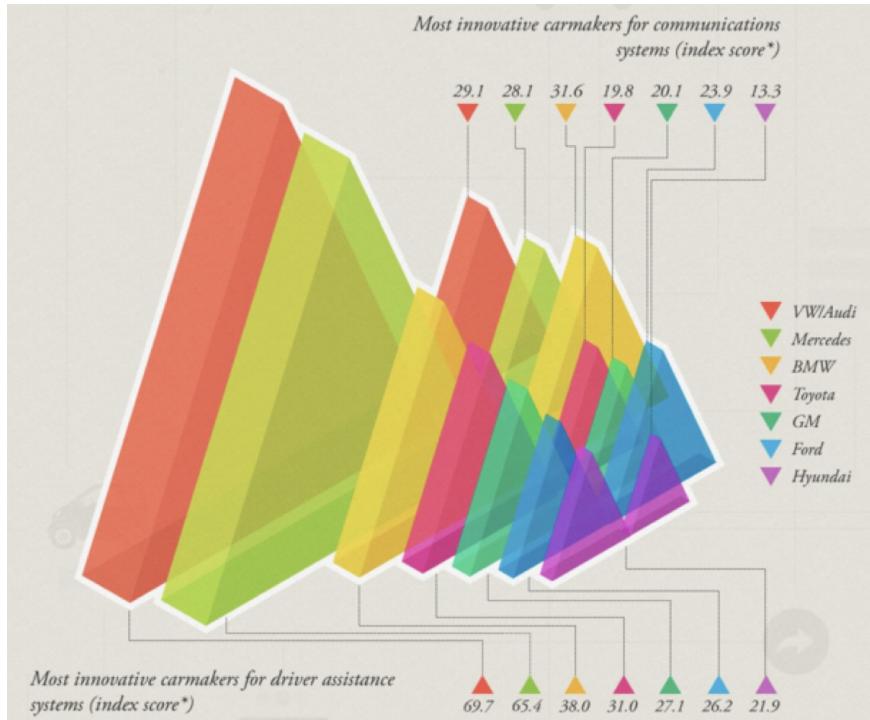
Outline

- No unjustified 3D
 - Power of the plane, dangers of depth
 - Occlusion hides information
 - Perspective distortion loses information
 - Tilted text isn't legible
- No unjustified 2D
- Eyes beat memory
- Resolution over immersion
- Visualization mantra
 - Overview first, zoom and filter, details on demand
- Function first, form next
- Responsiveness is required
- (Get it right in black and white)



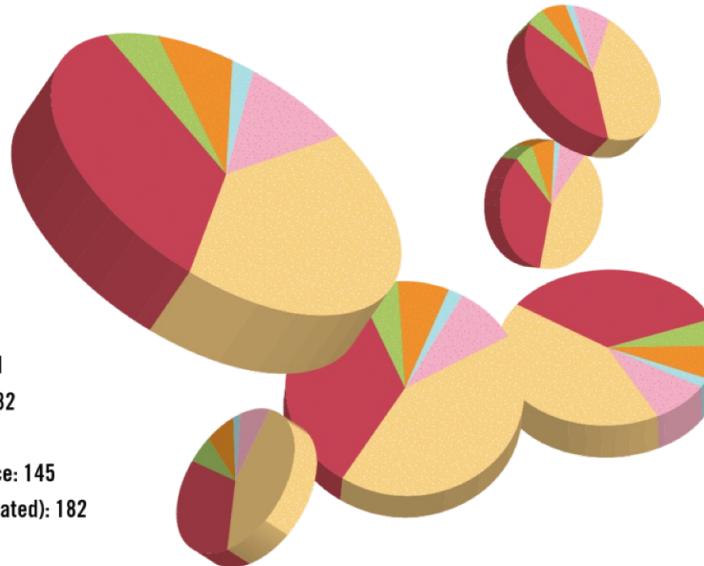
Courtesy of Tamara Munzner
Department of Computer
Science University of British
Columbia

(1) No Unjustified 3D



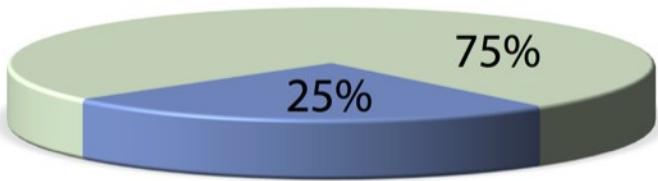
<http://viz.wtf/post/137826497077/eye-popping-3d-triangles>

Convictions in London for class A drug supply.

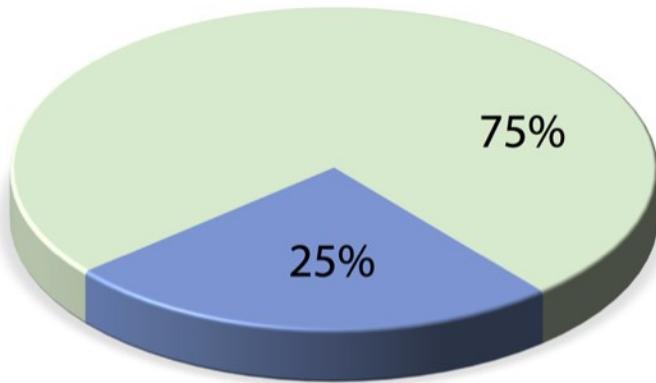


<http://viz.wtf/post/139002022202/designer-drugs-hducqn>

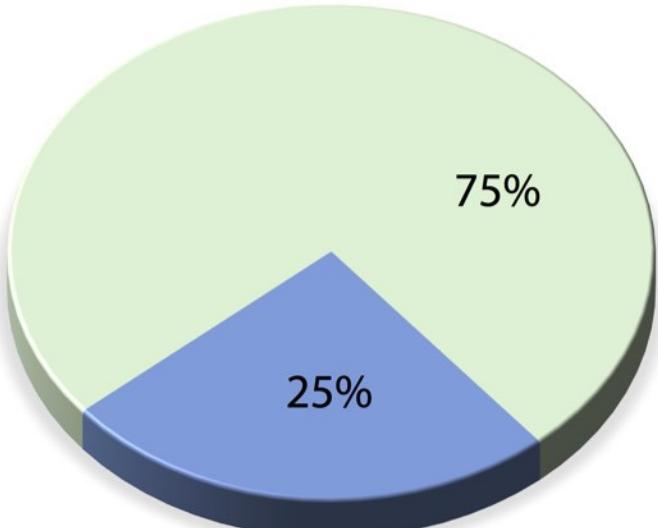
a



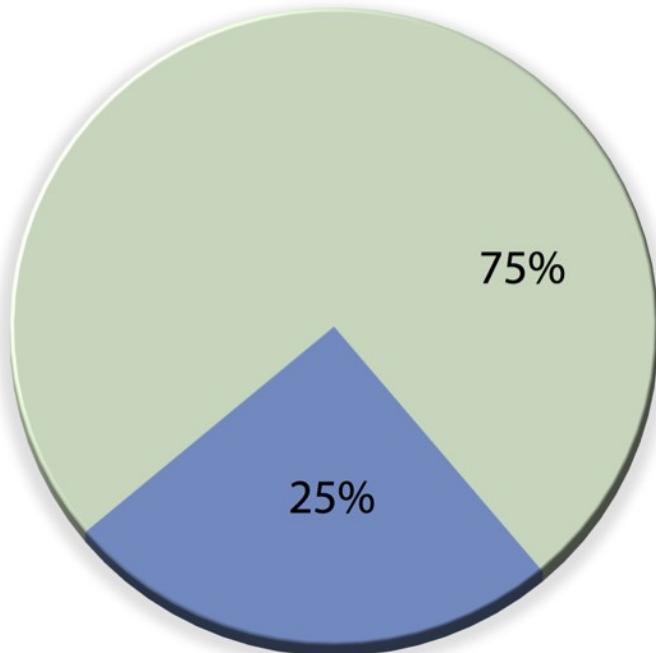
b



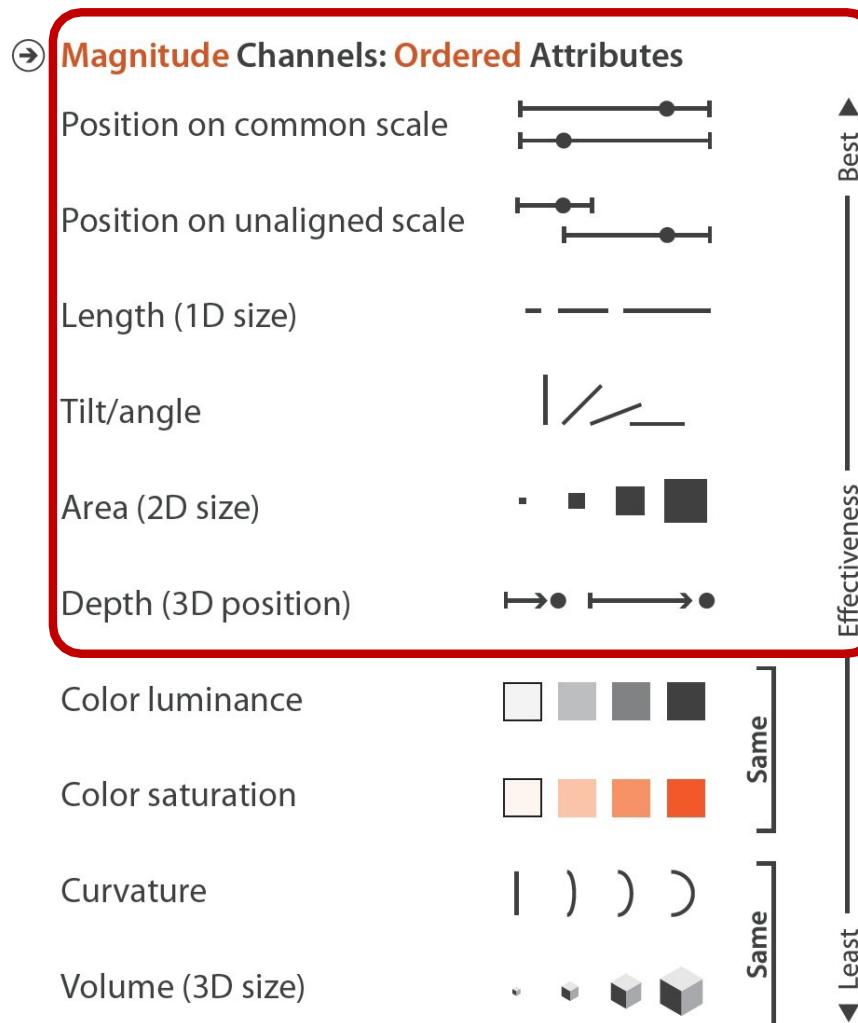
c



d

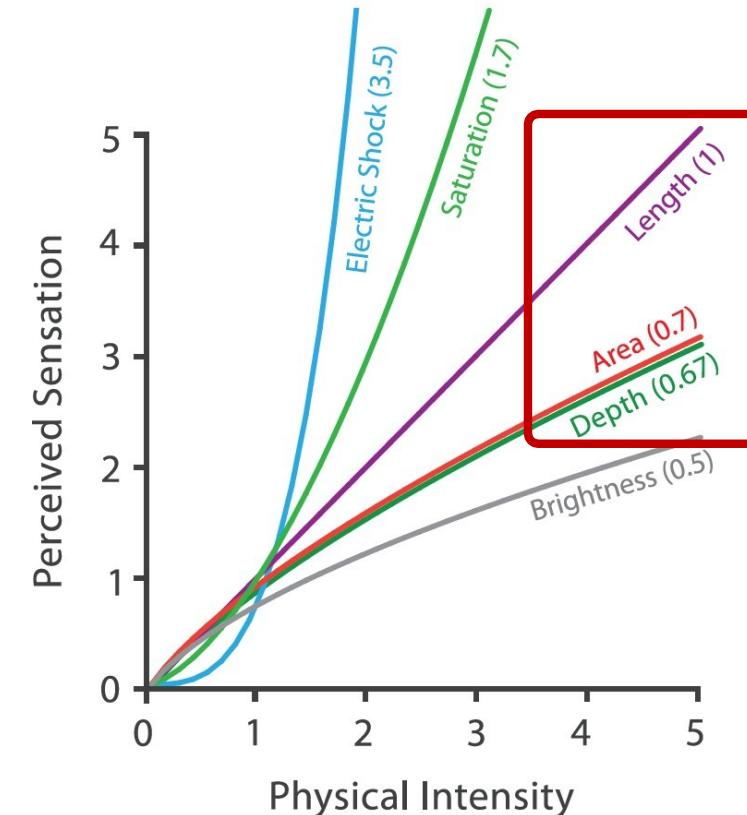


No Unjustified 3D: Power of the Plane



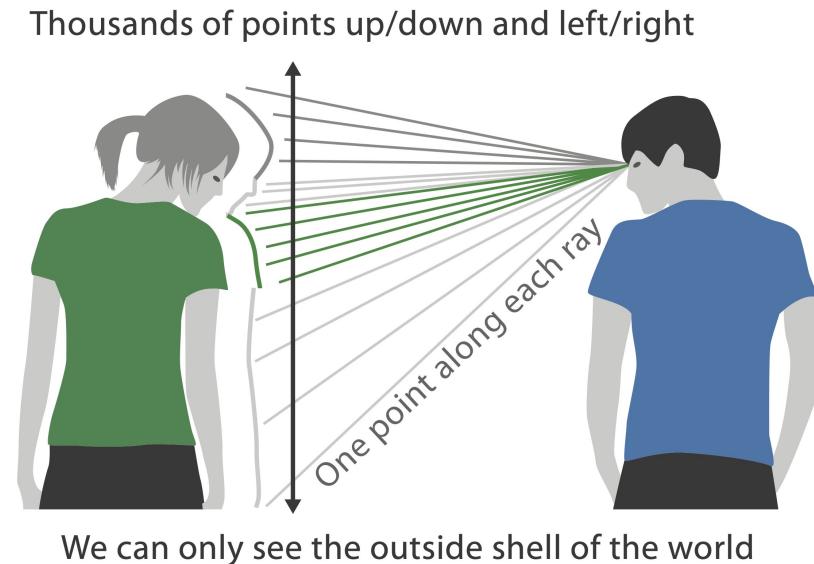
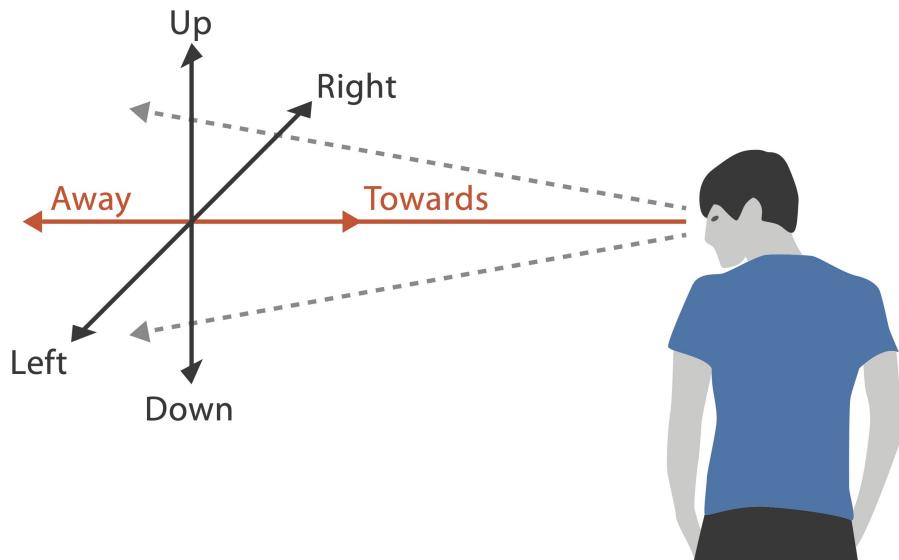
Planar Spatial Position >> Depth

Steven's Psychophysical Power Law: $S = I^N$



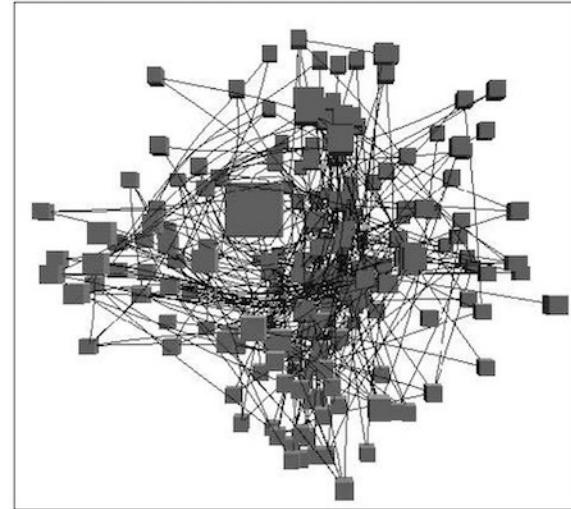
No Unjustified 3D: Danger of Depth

- We don't really live in 3D, We **see** in 2.05D
 - Acquire more info on image plane quickly from eye movements
 - Acquire more info for depth slower, from head/ body motion

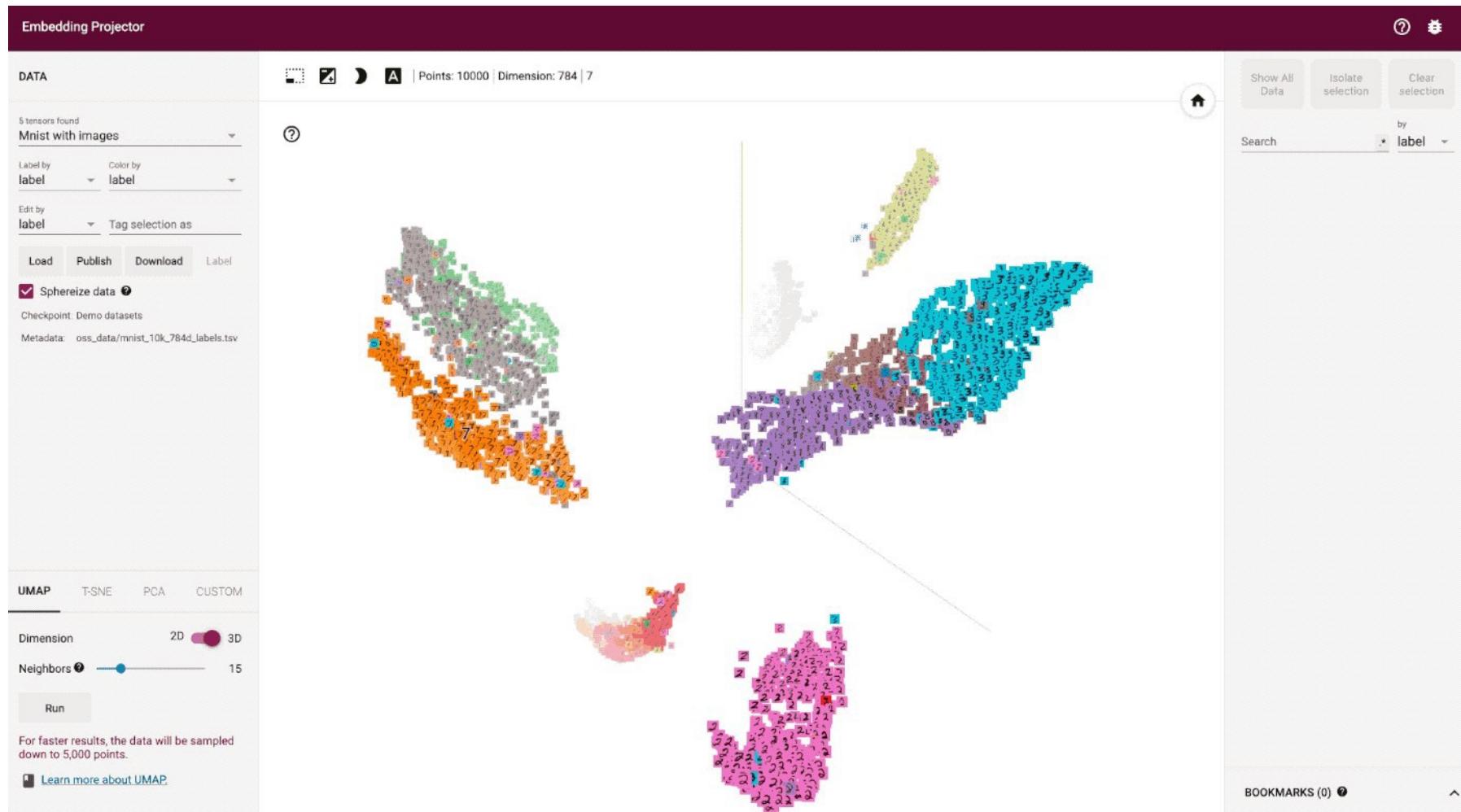


Occlusion Hides Information

- Interaction can resolve occlusion..... but at cost of time and cognitive load



Distortion Viewing Techniques for 3D Data. Carpendale et al. InfoVis1996.



Perspective Distortion Loses Information

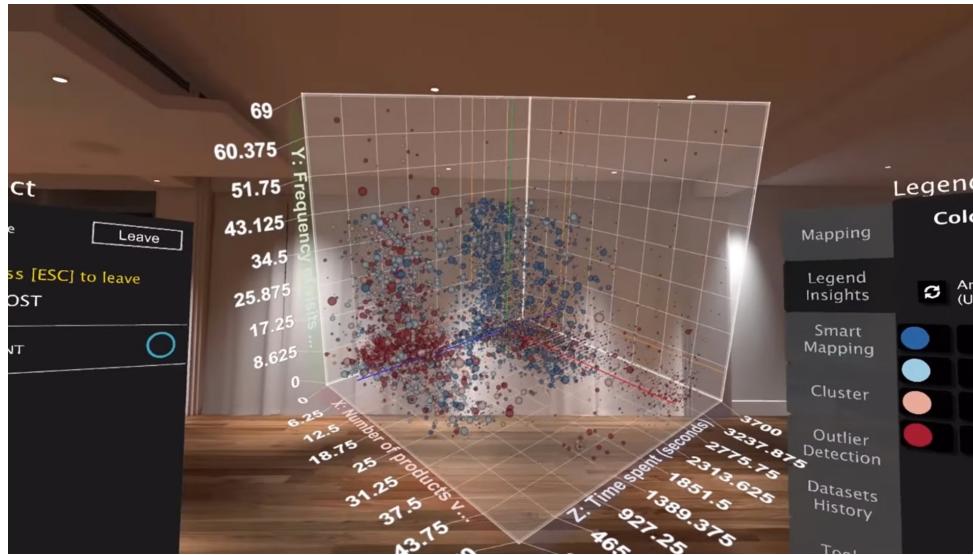
- Perspective Distortion
 - Interferes with all size channel encodings
 - Power of the plane is lost!



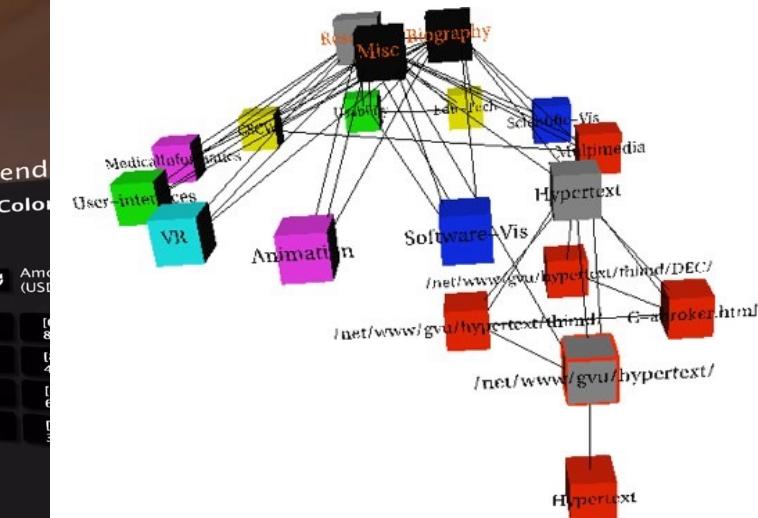
[Visualizing the Results of Multimedia Web Search Engines. Mukherjea, Hirata, and Hara. InfoVis 96]

Tilted Text is not Legible

- **Text Legibility** [Exploring and Reducing the Effects of Orientation on Text Readability in Volumetric Displays. Grossman et al. CHI 2007]
 - Far worse when tilted from image plane



<https://www.roadtovr.com/virtualitics-closes-7m-series-b-round-develop-vr-ar-data-visualization-platform/>



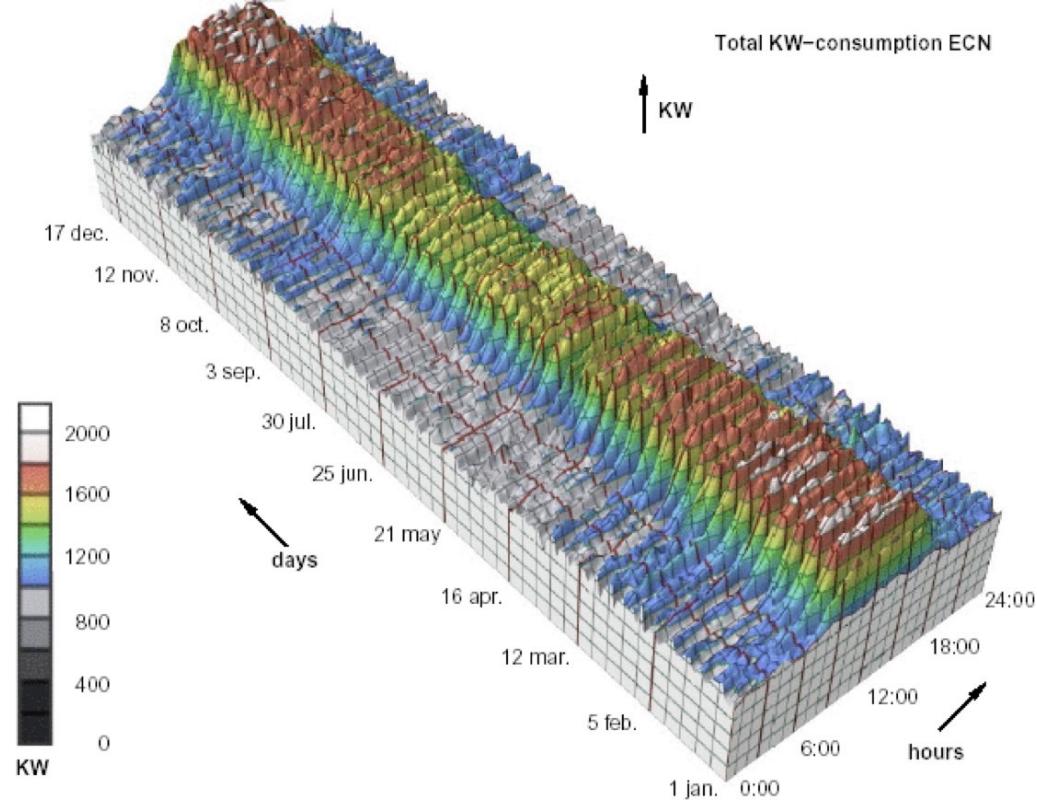
[Visualizing the World-Wide Web with the Navigational View Builder. Mukherjea and Foley. Computer Networks and ISDN Systems, 1995.]

No Unjustified 3D Example: Time-series Data

- Extruded curves: detailed comparisons impossible

POWER DEMAND OF
A RESEARCH FACILITY

Task: identify/com
pare similar
periods of time



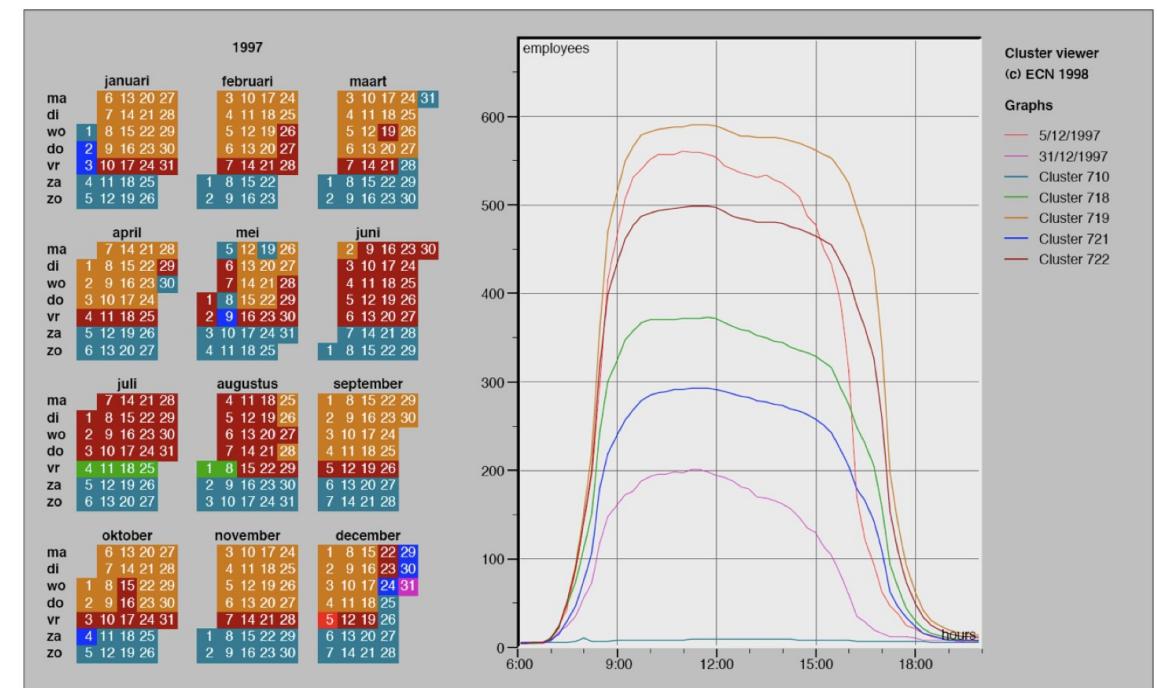
[Cluster and Calendar based Visualization of Time Series Data. van Wijk and van Selow, Proc. InfoVis 99.]

No Unjustified 3D Example: Time-series Data

- Transform for new data abstraction: cluster hierarchy
 - Juxtapose multiple views (calendar)
 - Superimposed 2D curves (clusters)

POWER DEMAND OF A RESEARCH FACILITY

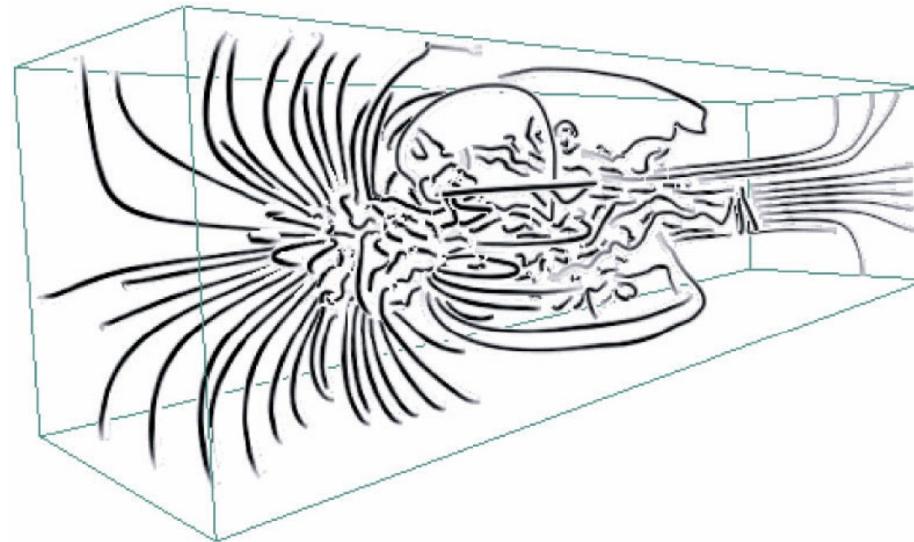
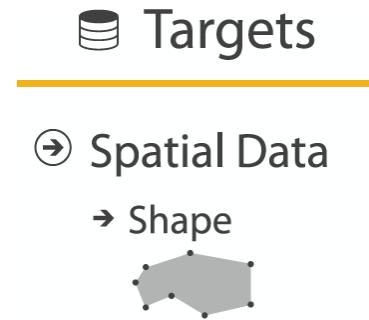
Task: identify/compare similar periods of time



[Cluster and Calendar based Visualization of Time Series Data. van Wijk and van Selow, Proc. InfoVis 99.]

When to Use 3D: Shape Perception

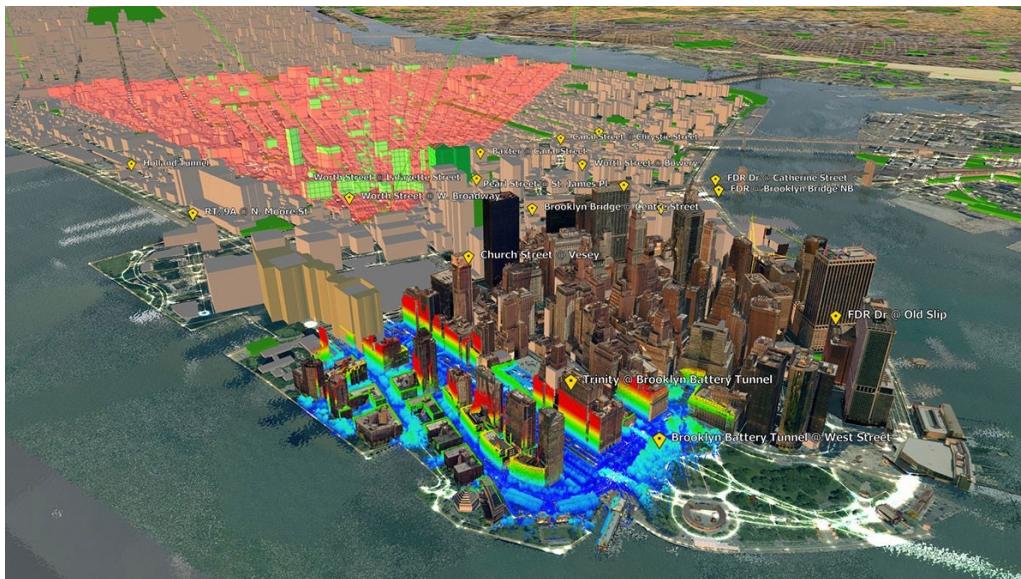
- Benefits outweigh costs when **target** is shape perception for 3D spatial data
 - Interactive navigation supports synthesis across many viewpoints



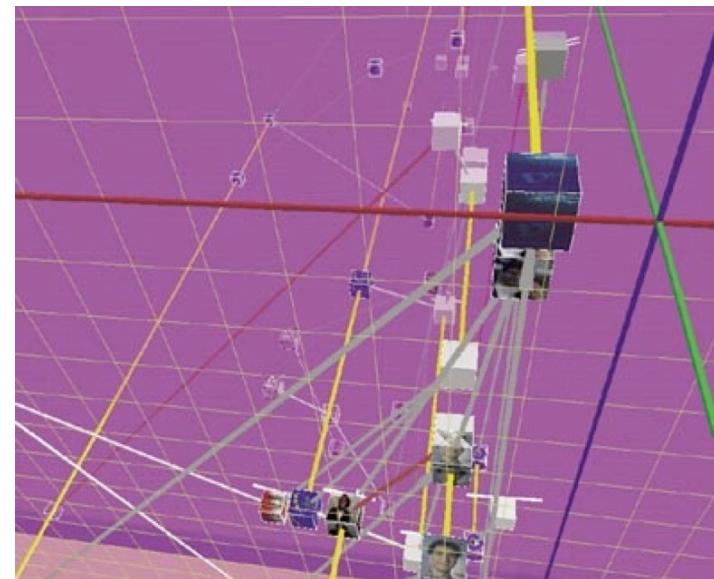
[Image-Based Streamline Generation and Rendering. Li and Shen. *IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG)* 13:3 (2007), 630–640.]

When to Use 3D

- 3D legitimate for true 3D spatial data
- 3D needs very careful justification for abstract data
 - Enthusiasm in 1990s, but now skepticism
 - Be especially careful with 3D for point clouds or networks



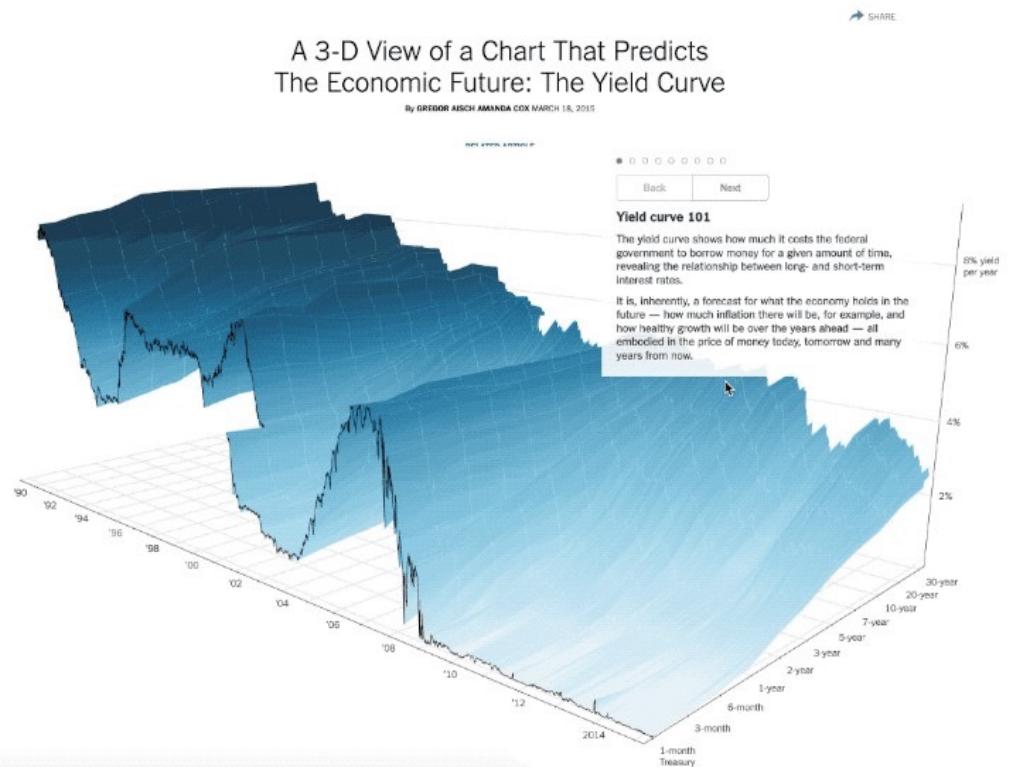
<https://cityvis.io/project.php?id=83>



[WEBPATH-a three dimensional Web history. Frecon and Smith. Proc. InfoVis 1999]

Good Use of 3D

- Constrained navigation steps through carefully designed viewpoints



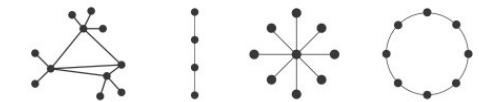
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/03/19/upshot/3d-yield-curve-economic-growth.html>

(2) No Unjustified 2D

- Consider whether network data requires 2D spatial layout
 - Especially if reading text is central to task!
 - Arranging as network means lower information density and harder label lookup compared to text lists
- Benefits outweigh costs when topological structure/context important for task
 - Be especially careful for search results, document collections, ontologies

→ Network Data

→ Topology



→ Paths



When to Use 2D: Map

- Don't use a map just because you have geo data
 - Use them for geographical tasks
 - Bad for comparison tasks



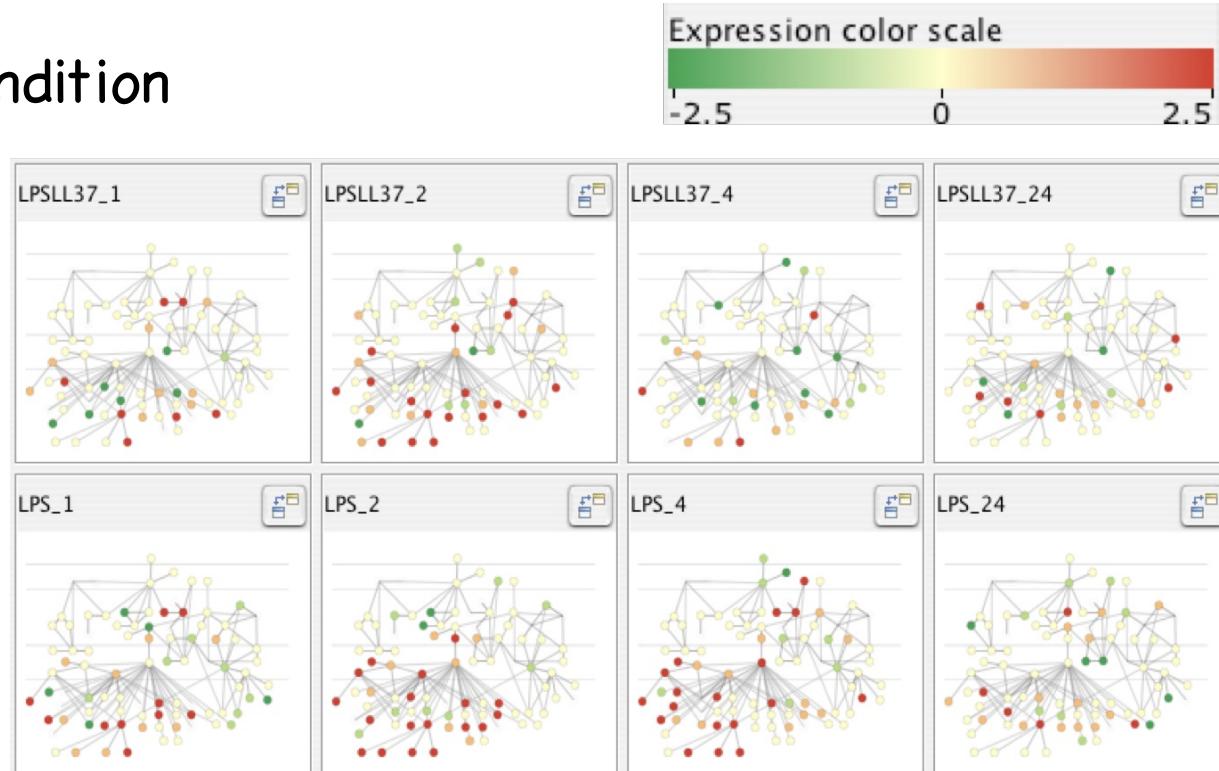
(3) Eyes Beat Memory

- Principle: external cognition vs. internal memory
 - Easy to compare by moving eyes between side-by-side views
 - Harder to compare visible item to memory of what you saw
 - Implications for animation
 - Great for choreographed storytelling
 - Great for transitions between two states
 - Poor for many states with changes everywhere
 - Consider small multiples instead



Eyes Beat Memory Example

- Small multiples: one graph instance per condition
 - Same spatial layout
 - Color differently, by condition



[Cerebral: Visualizing Multiple Experimental Conditions on a Graph with Biological Context. Barsky, Munzner, Gardy, and Kincaid. *IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis 2008)* 14:6 (2008), 1253–1260.]

Why not Animation?

- Disparate frames and regions: comparison difficult

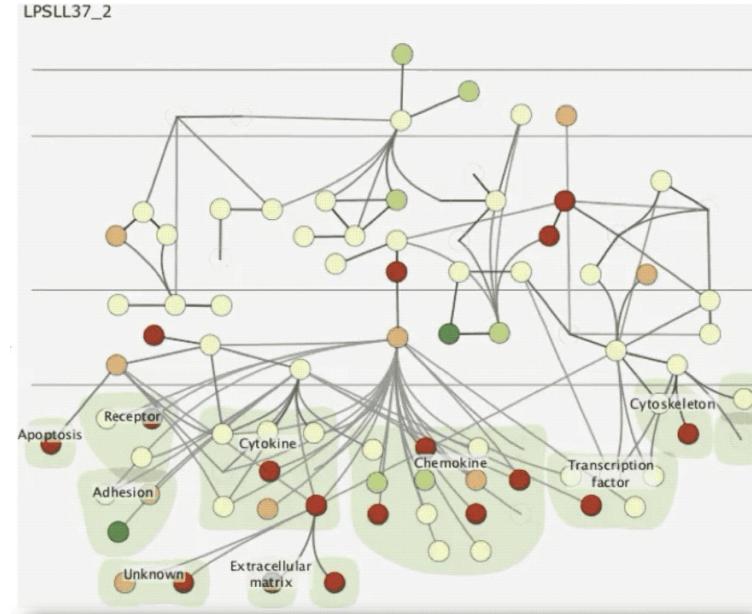
- Vs. contiguous frames
 - Vs. small region
 - Vs. coherent motion of group

- Safe special case

- Animated transitions

- Change blindness

- Even major changes difficult to notice if mental buffer wiped



[*Cerebral: Visualizing Multiple Experimental Conditions on a Graph with Biological Context.* Barsky, Munzner, Gardy, and Kincaid. *IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis 2008)* 14:6 (2008), 1253–1260.]

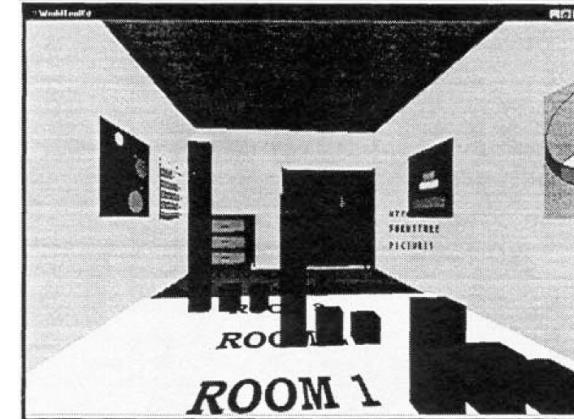
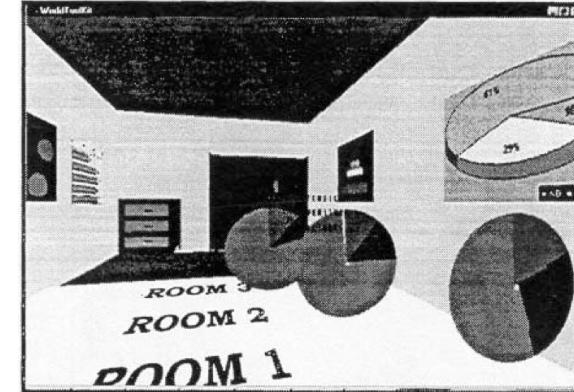
Change Blindness

If attention is directed elsewhere, even drastic changes not noticeable



(4) Resolution Beats Immersion

- Immersion typically not helpful for abstract data
 - Do not need sense of presence or stereoscopic 3D
 - Desktop also better for workflow integration
- Resolution much more important
 - Pixels are the scarcest resource
- Virtual reality for abstract data difficult to justify thus far
 - But stay tuned with second wave



[Development of an information visualization tool using virtual reality. Kirner and Martins. Proc. Symp. Applied Computing 2000]

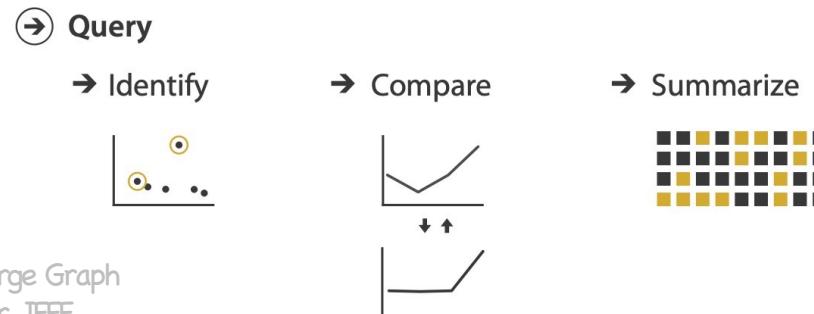
(5) Visualization Mantra (Shneiderman)

- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand
- Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand

[The Eyes Have It: A Task by Data Type Taxonomy for Information Visualizations. Shneiderman. Proc. IEEE Visual Languages, pp. 336–343, 1996.]

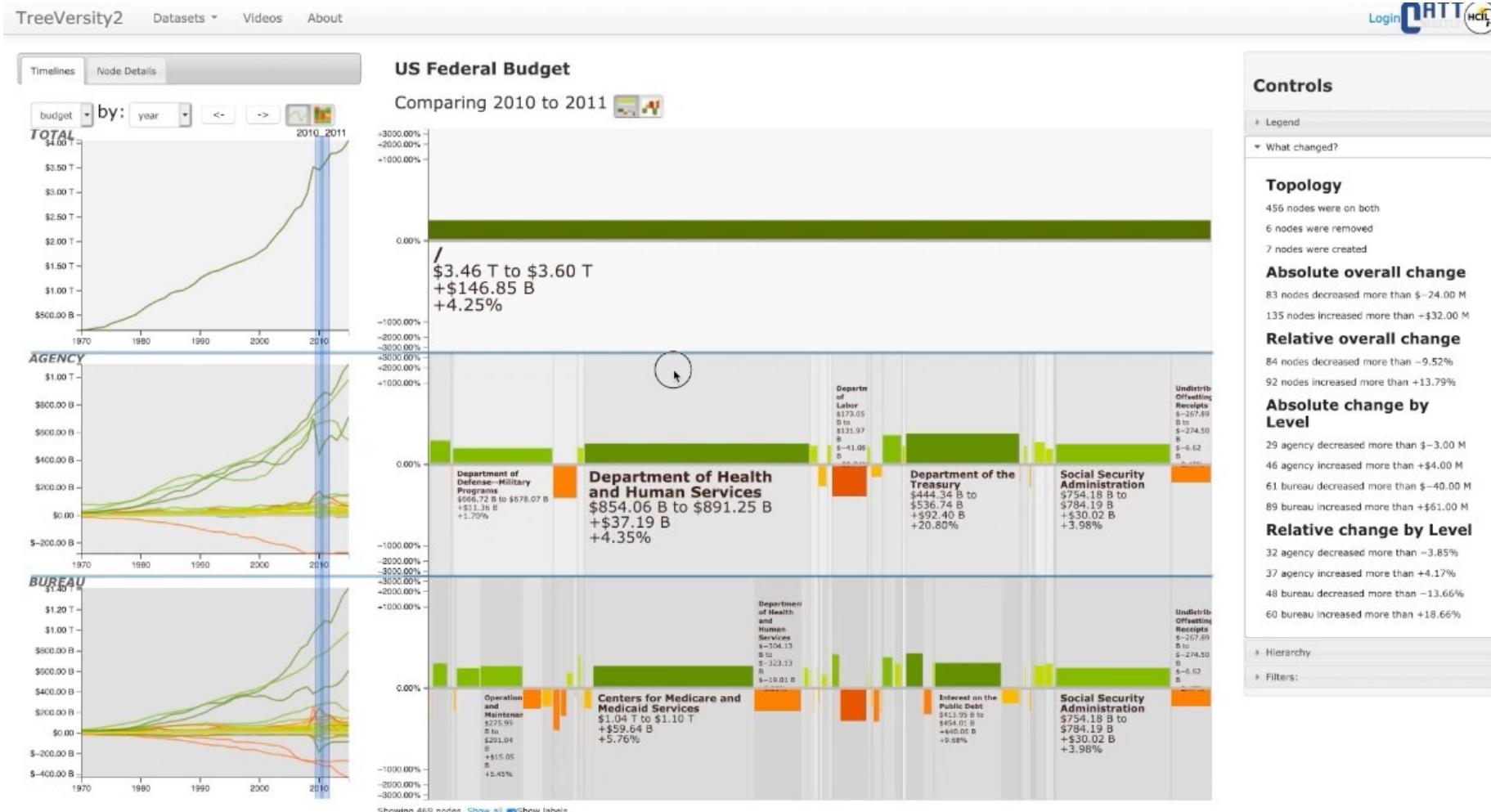
Overview First

- Overview = Summary
 - Microcosm of full visualization design problems
- Useful for exploration
- nuances
 - Beyond just two levels: multi-scale structure
 - Difficult when scale huge: give up on overview and browse local neighborhoods?



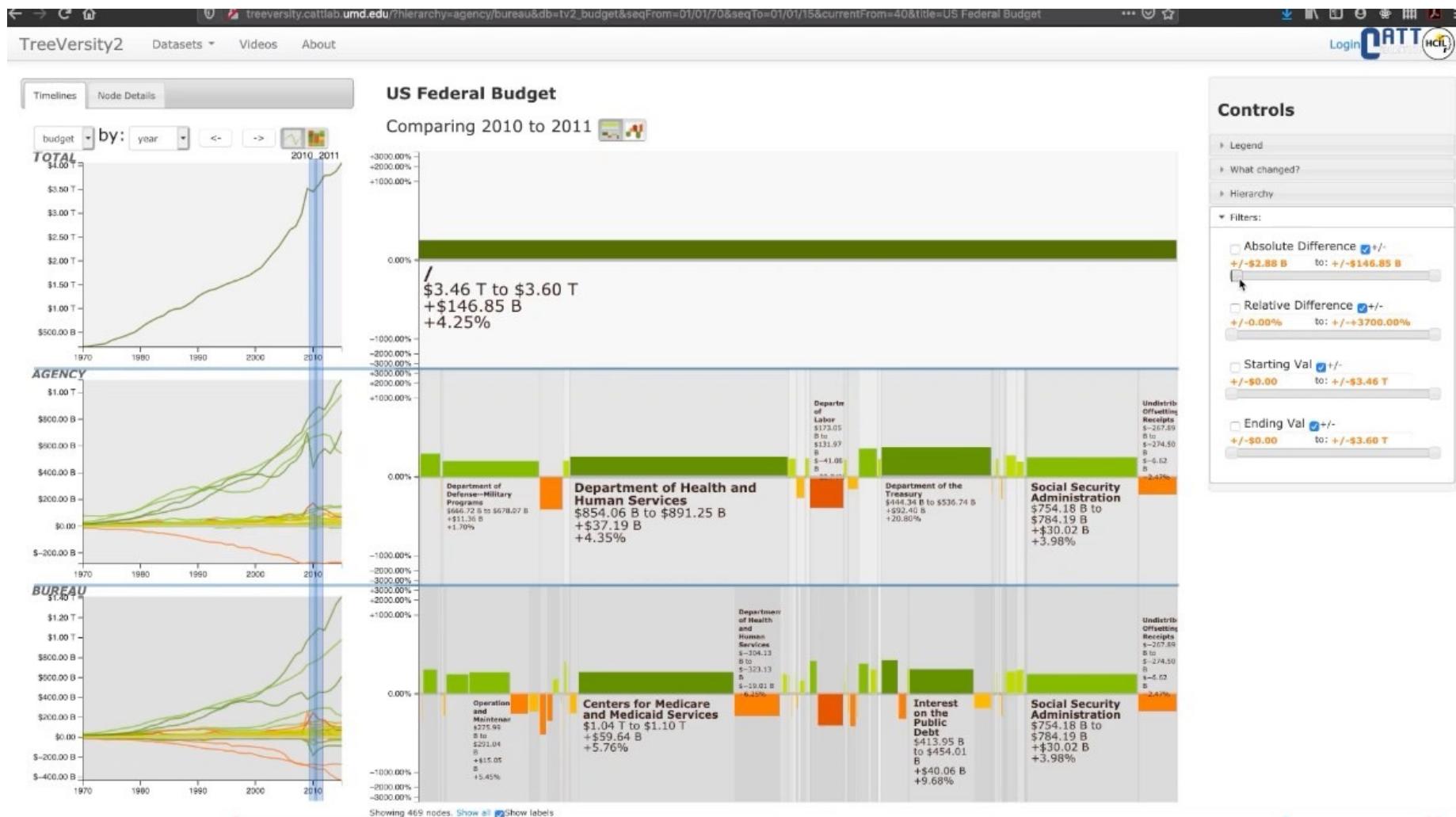
[Search, Show Context, Expand on Demand: Supporting Large Graph Exploration with Degree-of-Interest. van Ham and Perer. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis 2009) 15:6 (2009),

Overview → Zoom



http://treeversity.cattlab.umd.edu/?hierarchy=agency/bureau&db=tv2_budget&seqFrom=01/01/70&seqTo=01/01/15¤tFrom=40&title=US%20Federal%20Budget

Overview → Filter



When to Use Bottom-up?

- Sometimes makes sense to start small
- Useful for presentation
- Common in storytelling
- Helps explaining complex concepts



(6) Function First, Form Next

- Start with focus on functionality
 - Possible to improve aesthetics later on, as refinement
 - If no expertise, seek for help from graphic designers
- Dangerous to start with aesthetics
 - Usually impossible to add function retroactively

Aesthetics DO Matter

- Another level of function
 - Visual hierarchy, alignment, flow
 - Gestalt principles in action
- Very important for the enjoy task

[The Non-Designer's Design Book. Robin Williams. 3rd edition. Peachpit Press, 2008.]

(7) Responsiveness is Required

Visual feedback: three rough categories

- 0.1 seconds: perceptual processing
 - Subsecond response for mouseover highlighting
ballistic motion
- 1 second: immediate response
 - Fast response after mouse click, button press: Fitts's Law limits on motor control
- 10 seconds: brief tasks
 - Bounded response after dialog box: mental model of heavyweight operation (file load)

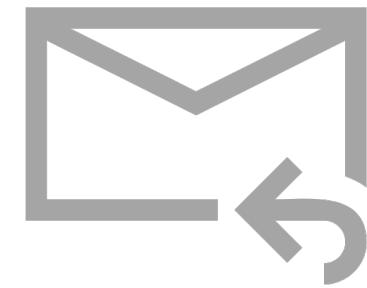
Scalability Considerations

- Highlight selection without complete redraw of view (graphics front buffer)
- Show for multi-second operations (check for cancel/undo)
- Show progress bar for long operations (process in background thread)
- Rendering speed when item count is large (guaranteed frame rate)



Quan Li

Questions?
Thank you 😊



liquan@shanghaitech.edu.cn