Data Visualisation



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Learning Outcomes

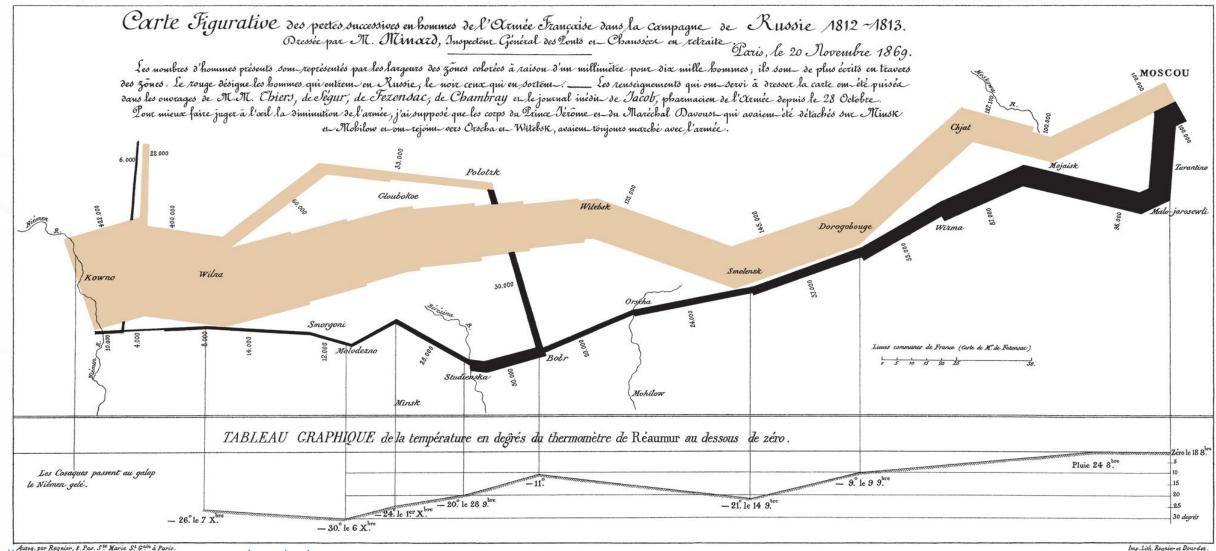
- Choose appropriate chart types
- · Avoid common mistakes in data visualisation
- Maximise data-ink ratio

Overview

- Data type determines chart type (Theory → Example → Practice)
- Avoiding common mistakes (Theory → Examples)
- Figure design best practices (Theory → Examples)
- Improving the visual design of the figure

Introduction

Napoleon's invasion of Russia mapped



https://datavizblog.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/map-full-size1.png

Introduction to data visualisation

Data visualisation is an interdisciplinary field that deals with the graphic representation of data and information.

- Science accurately convey the data
- Art aesthetically pleasing

Must not mislead or distort

Data visualisation

- + Makes the data easy to digest
- + Explore opportunities interactively (identify trends, patterns, outliers)
- + Image is easier to remember

- Biased or inaccurate information
- Correlations does not always mean causation
- Core messages can get lost in translation

Data type

Variable type: Amount

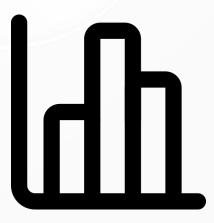
Total number of a particular item or subject

- · Quantitative/ numerical, discrete
- Examples:
 - Amount of money
 - · Website traffic received each hour of the day
 - Sales for each product category
- Common traits
 - · Values are non-negative
 - · Absolute values are important, not relative changes



Variable type: distribution

- Represents the possible values of a variable and how often they occur
 - · Quantitative/ numerical, continuous
- · Examples:
 - · Ages of students in a school
 - · Income
 - · Grades in a class



Practice

Which of the following is an amount?

- 1. Number of employees in UT
- 2. Temperature in degrees Celsius
- 3. Daily temperature changes in degrees Celsius
- 4. Duration of a movie in minutes
- 5. Scores in a standardized test

Which of the following is a distribution?

- 6. Pencil sales in September 2023
- 7. Popular shoe sizes in a shop
- 8. Traffic flow throughout the day
- 9. Distance traveled in kilometers
- 10. SARS-CoV-2 viral strains in Estonia over time



Correct answers

Which of the following is an amount?

- Number of employees in UT
- Temperature in degrees Celsius
- X Daily temperature changes in degrees Celsius
- Duration of a movie in minutes
- X Scores in a standardized test

Which of the following is a distribution?

- X Pencil sales in September 2023
- Popular shoe sizes in a shop
- Traffic flow throughout the day
- X Distance traveled in kilometers
- SARS-CoV-2 viral strains in Estonia over time



Variable type: proportion

- A part or share of the whole data set,
 often expressed as a percentage or fraction
- · Examples:
 - 1/3 of market share
 - · Gender ratio
 - Pass rate how many students passed/failed/never showed up

Variable type: associations

- The relationship or correlation between two or more variables in a dataset
- · Examples:
 - · Body mass and energy demands
 - · Education and income
 - Smoking and lung cancer

Variable type: time series

- Time series: set of data points collected or recorded in a chronological order over a certain period of time
- · Examples:
 - Stock prices
 - · Weather data
 - · Inflation rate

Practice

Which of the following is a proportion?

- 1. The probability of rain or snow given as a percentage
- 2. Days in a month when it was raining
- 3. UT workers who have been given flu shots in 2023
- 4. Ice creams sold during festival
- 5. Customers who are satisfied with a service

Which of the following is a time series?

- 6. Smartwatch measurements during exercise
- 7. Daily hospital admission numbers
- 8. Emails in a mailbox that are marked as spam
- 9. Hourly electricity consumption
- 10. Employment rate in a country



Correct answers

Which of the following is a proportion?

- X The probability of rain or snow given as a percentage
- Days in a month when it was raining
- UT workers who have been given flu shots in 2023
- Ice creams sold during festival
- Customers who are satisfied with a service

Which of the following is a time series?

- Smartwatch measurements during exercise
- Daily hospital admission numbers
- X Emails in a mailbox that are marked as spam
- Hourly electricity consumption
- X Employment rate in a country



Variable type: geospatial

- Data that is associated with a specific geographical location or physical space.
- · Examples:
 - Elevation
 - · Postal codes
 - · Agricultural land use

Poll

What type of data do you need to visualise recently/ the most?

- . Amount
- . Distribution
- . Proportion
- Association
- . Time series
- . Geospatial



Telling a story

A picture is worth a thousand words

A **story** is a set of observations, facts, or events, true or invented, that are presented in a specific order such that they create an emotional reaction in the audience.

- Important role in our reasoning and memory
- The audience will a get a story anyways, whether we influence it or not
- Multiple visualisations
- Audience MUST UNDERSTAND the figures you are showing

Less is more.

amples from:

doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0131606 https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26135579/ https://elixir-europe.org/sites/default/files/documents/annual-report-2022.pdf page 5 https://flowingdata.com/2023/10/24/data-on-net-worth-income-and-savings/

Know your target publication

Research article figures:

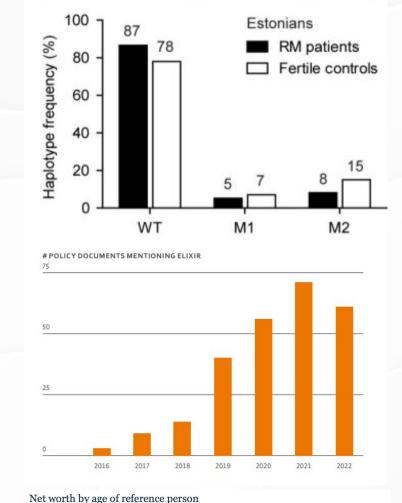
- Classical shapes and symbols
- Mostly black-and-white

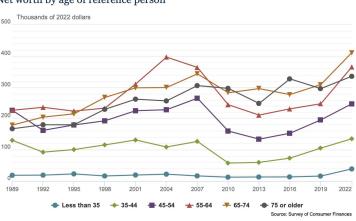
Report figures:

- Colorful
- · Can play with style
- Classical shapes and symbols
- Gridlines

Presentation figures:

- Colorful
- Objects different than classical symbols
- · White areas are good
- Highlight
- Can play more with visual aspect





Know your target publication

Press visualisations

- Most playful
- Attractive and creative
- Object differ from classical symbols
- Background pictures
- Highlighting parts
- Concentration of information

examples:

https://flowingdata.com/2023/10/30/taylor-swift-earnings-visualized-with-bracelet-beads/

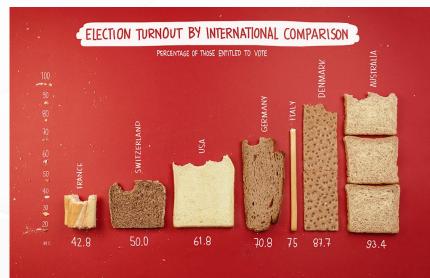
https://bindersfullofburgers.tumblr.com/post/74961505700/amp

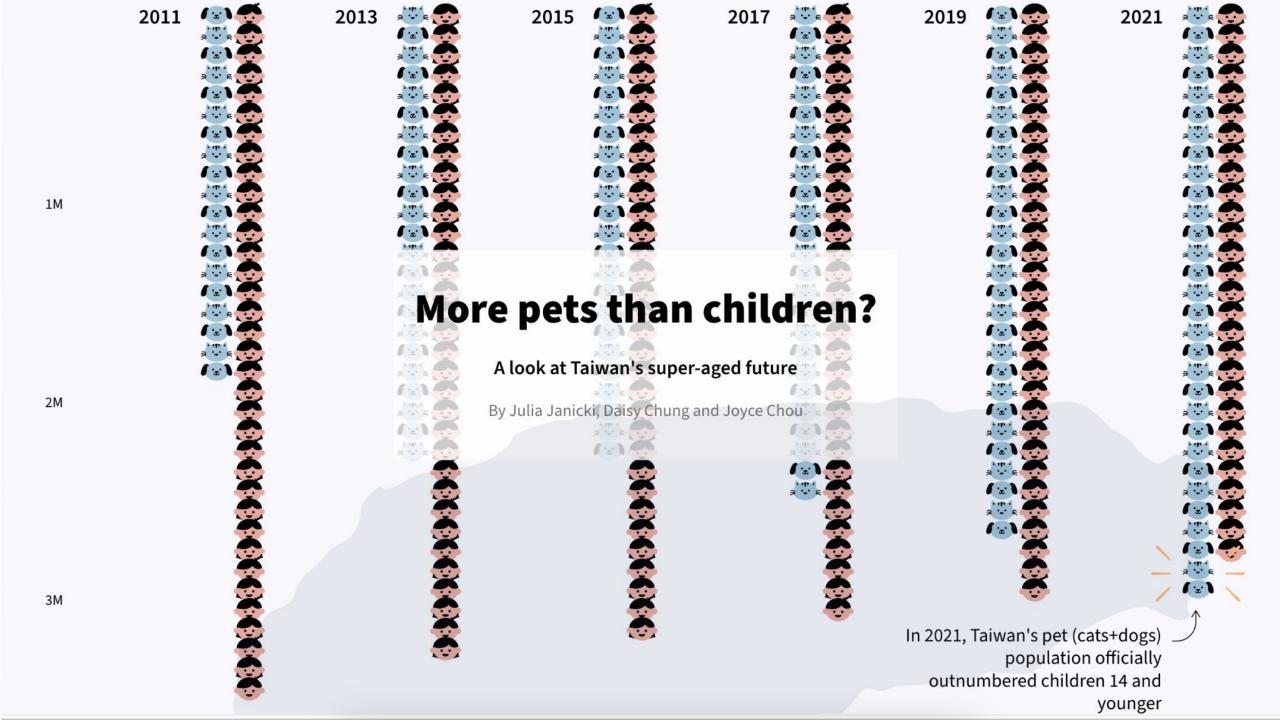
Taylor Swift earnings visualized with bracelet beads

HOW SWIFT'S MILLIONS STACK UP

Earnings from touring, music sales and streaming plus real estate and her song catalog make up the bulk of her fortune







Find out your target audience

- · Academics vs General Public
- Age
- Beginners or Advanced
- Cultural differences
- Language
- Political background
- Historical background

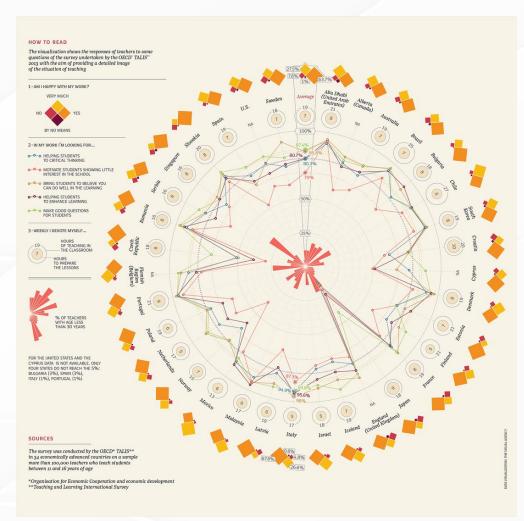


Figure out your focus

What is your main message?

Will help you choose the right graph.

Chart types

Chart types



Sunburst

Pie chart

Dendrogram

Circular packing

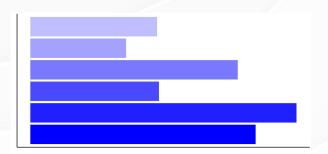
Doughnut

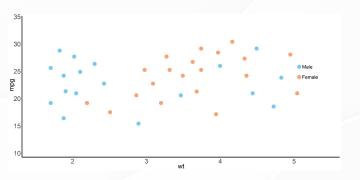
Venn diagram

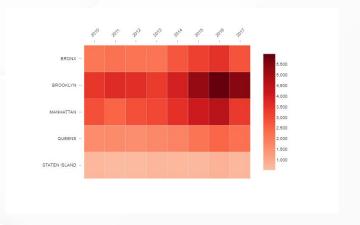
Data type: Amounts

Amounts - numerical values that correspond to specific categories

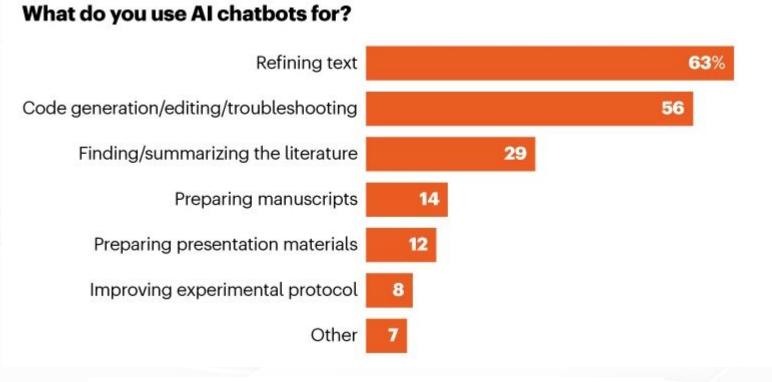
- . Bar charts
- Dot plots
- Heatmap

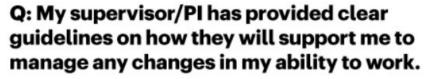


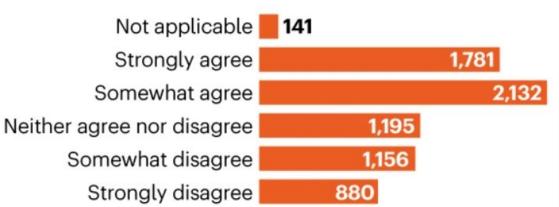




Example: Bar chart







https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03235-8 https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02548-2

Example: Stacked bar chart

Age group comparison of people involved in traffic accidents with electric scooter rider in 2022

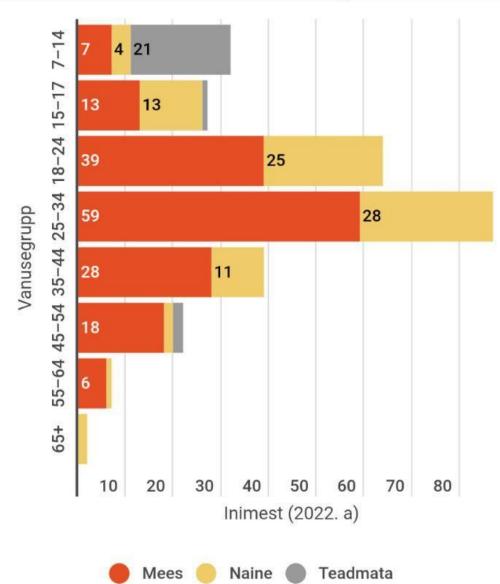
Men colored in red Females yellow

Grey - unknown

https://ekspress.delfi.ee/artikkel/120170908/metsik-laas-saab-lopu-riigid-tombavad-touksianarhiale-paitseid-pahe-ka-eesti-uljaspaid-ootavad-uued-karmimad-seadused

article (in estonian)

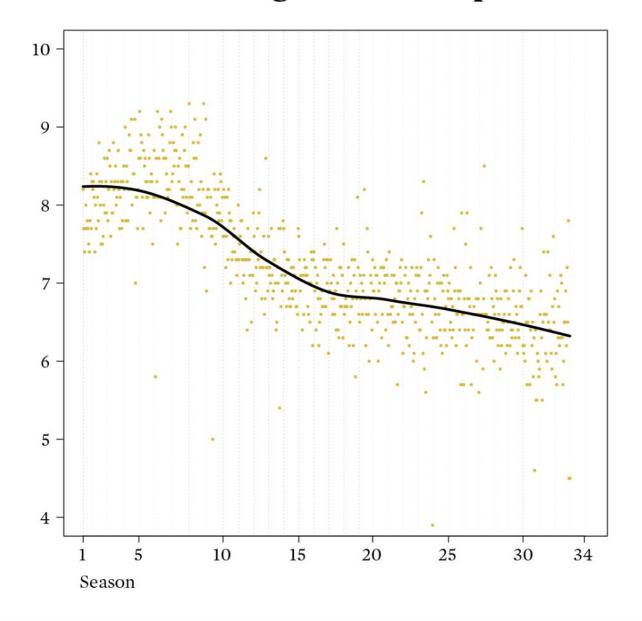
Data source https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/transpordiamet/viz/Kergliikuri_L/nnetusteldandmed



Example: Dot plot

https://flowingdata.com/2023/05/02/one-day-chart-challenge/

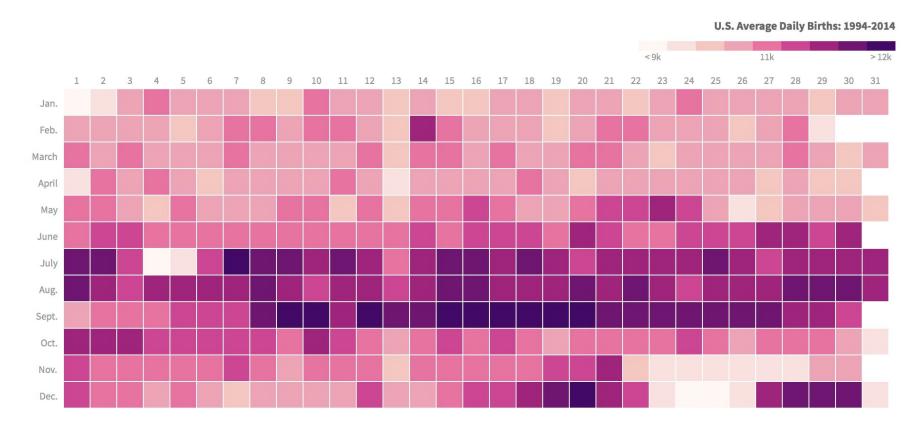
IMDb ratings for The Simpsons



Example: Heatmap

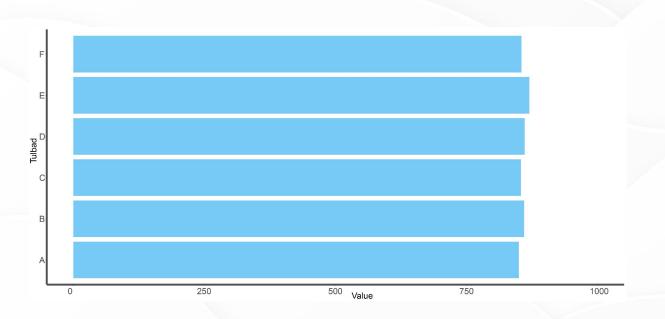
How Popular Is Your Birthday?

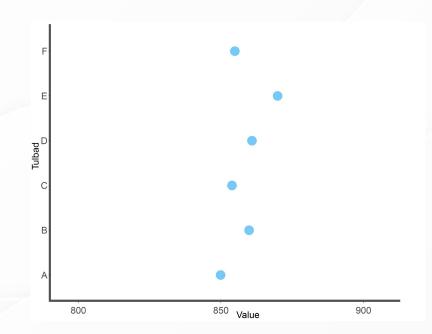
Two decades of American birthdays, averaged by month and day.



Limitations

Bar charts: need to start at 0; Dot plots don't need to





For large datasets, prefer heatmap!

Order data (if possible) for ease of understanding!

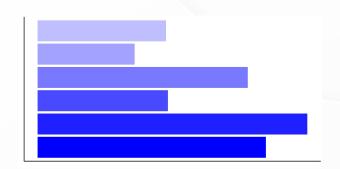
Chart types comparison for amounts

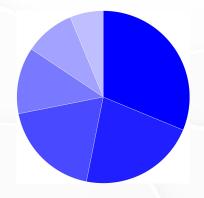
	Bar chart	Stacked bars	Grouped bars	Dot plots and heatmaps
Needs to start at 0		V	V	X
Quantitative amount varies with respect to one categorical variable		X	X	X
Quantitative amount varies with respect to 2+ categorical variables at the same time	×			
Sum of the amounts represented is in itself a meaningful amount	×		X	×
Individual bars represent counts		V	V	×
Need to pay attention to the ordering of the data values				

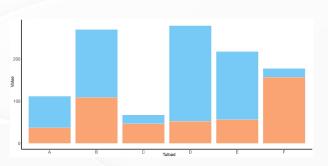
Proportions

To show how some group, entity, or amount breaks down into individual pieces that each represent a proportion of the whole

- . Pie chart
- . Stacked bar chart
- . Bar chart

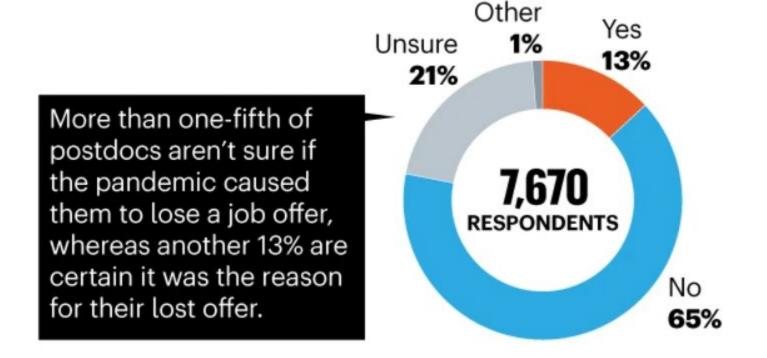




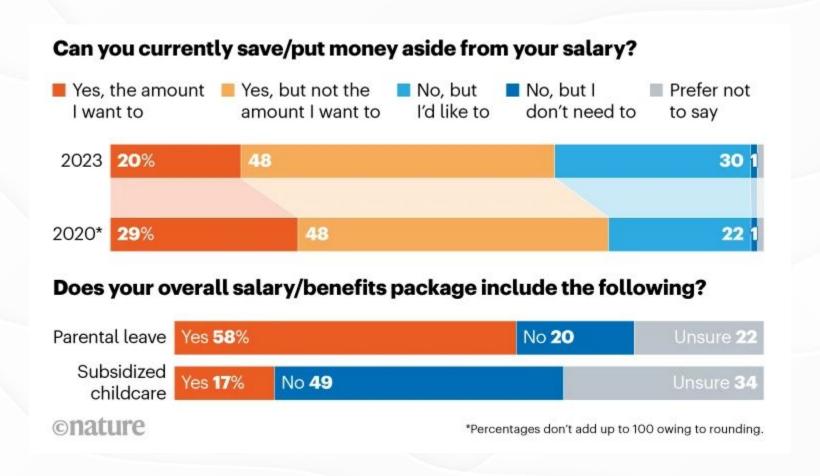


Example: Donut chart

Q: Do you believe you've lost a postdoc or post-postdoc job offer because of COVID-19?



Example: Stacked bars



Example: grouped bars

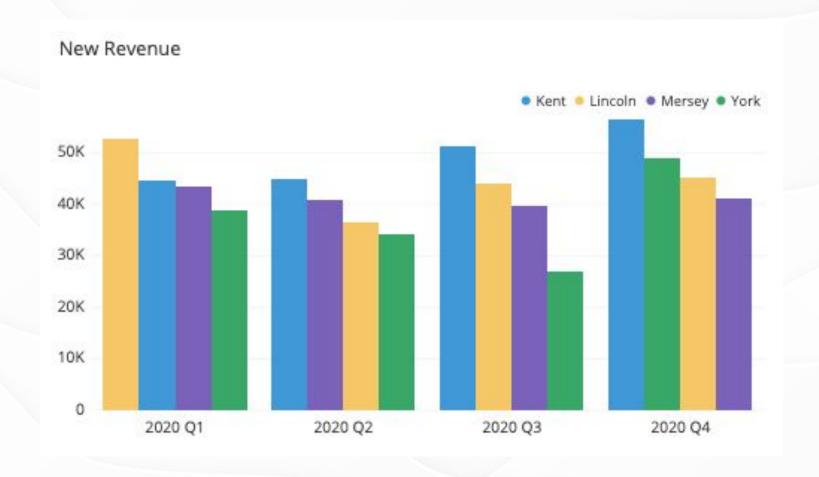


Chart types comparison for proportions

	Pie chart	Stacked bar chart	Side-by-side bar chart
Visualizes the data as proportions of a whole	V	V	X
Comparison of the relative proportions	X	×	V
Visually emphasizes simple fractions, such as 1/2, 1/4	V	×	X
Suitable for small datasets		×	
Comparing parts of a bigger set of data	X	X	V
Visualization of many sets of proportions or time series of proportions	X		×

Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Number of different categories of books on the bookshelf

- Bar chart
- Stacked bar chart
- · Pie chart
- Dot plot
- Heatmap







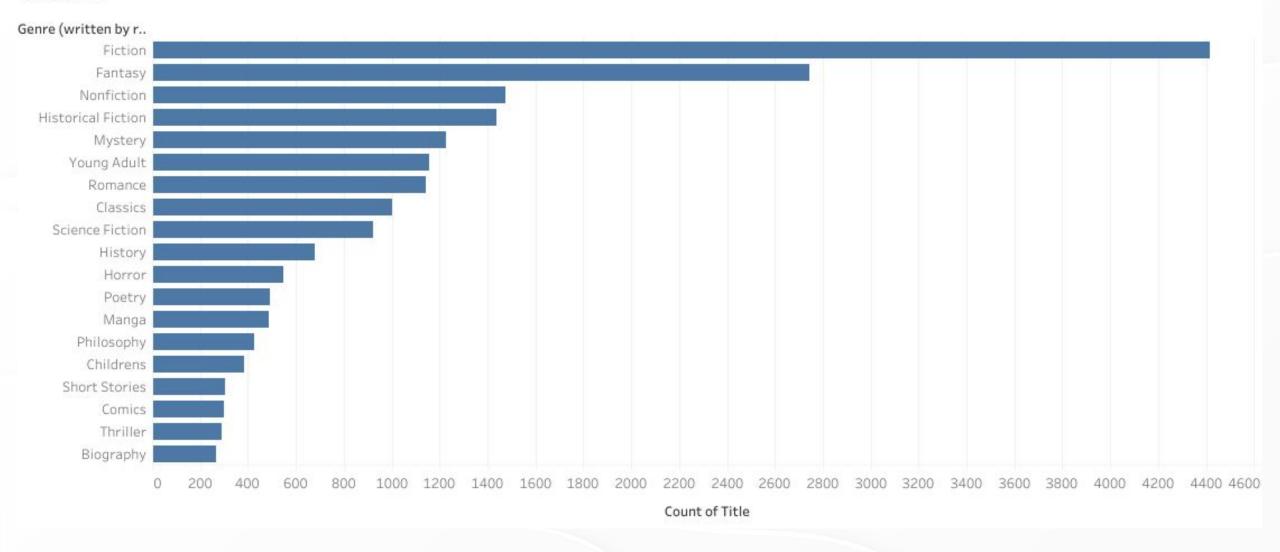
Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

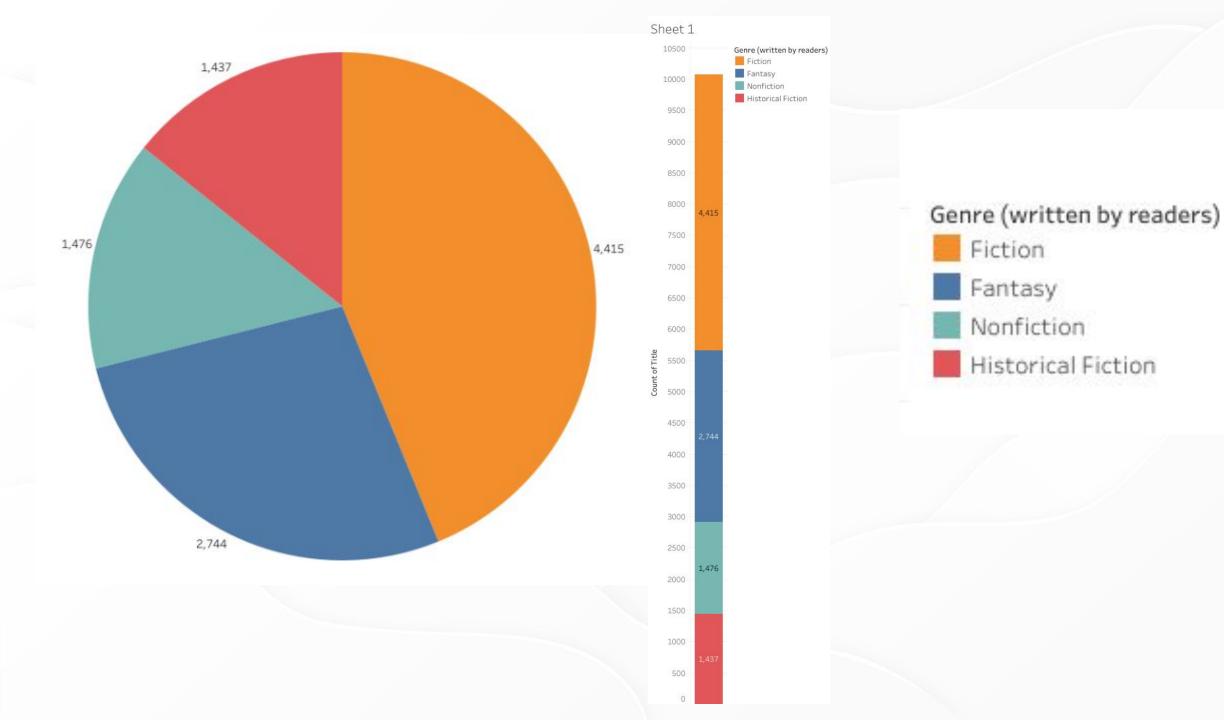
What chart would you choose to show:

Number of different categories of books on the bookshelf

- **V** bar chart
- pie chart if <=5 categories, stacked bar chart works too then

Sheet 1





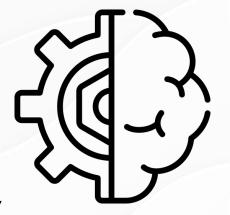
Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Read/unread % of each category of books on the bookshelf

- Bar chart
- Stacked bar chart
- · Pie chart
- Dot plot
- Heatmap
- Histogram







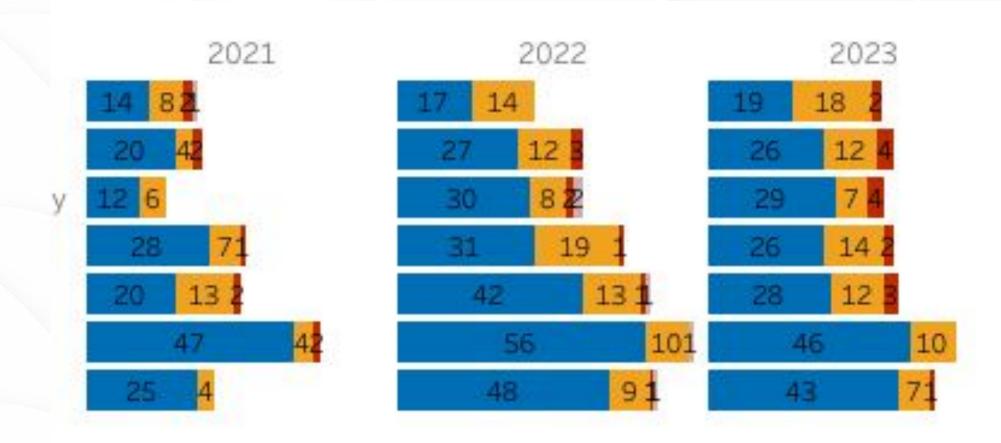
Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Read/unread % of each category of books on the bookshelf



stacked bar chart - we are comparing % in each genre.



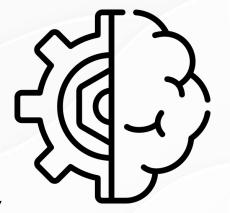
Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Compare books with prof Hardback and prof Bookmark

- Bar chart
- Stacked bar chart
- Pie chart
- Grouped bar chart
- Heatmap
- Histogram



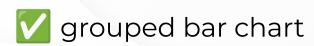




Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Compare books with prof Hardback and prof Bookmark



Why not stacked bar chart?



Source: Maarten Lambrechts, CC BY SA 4.0

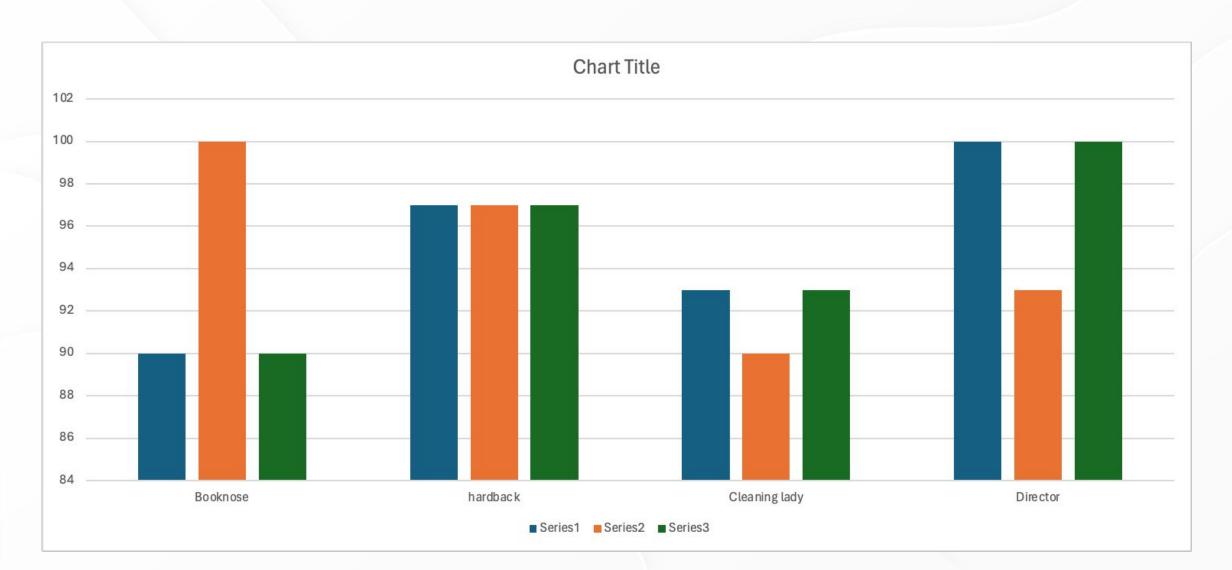
https://data.europa.eu/apps/data-visualisation-quide/stacked-charts

Why not stacked bar chart?

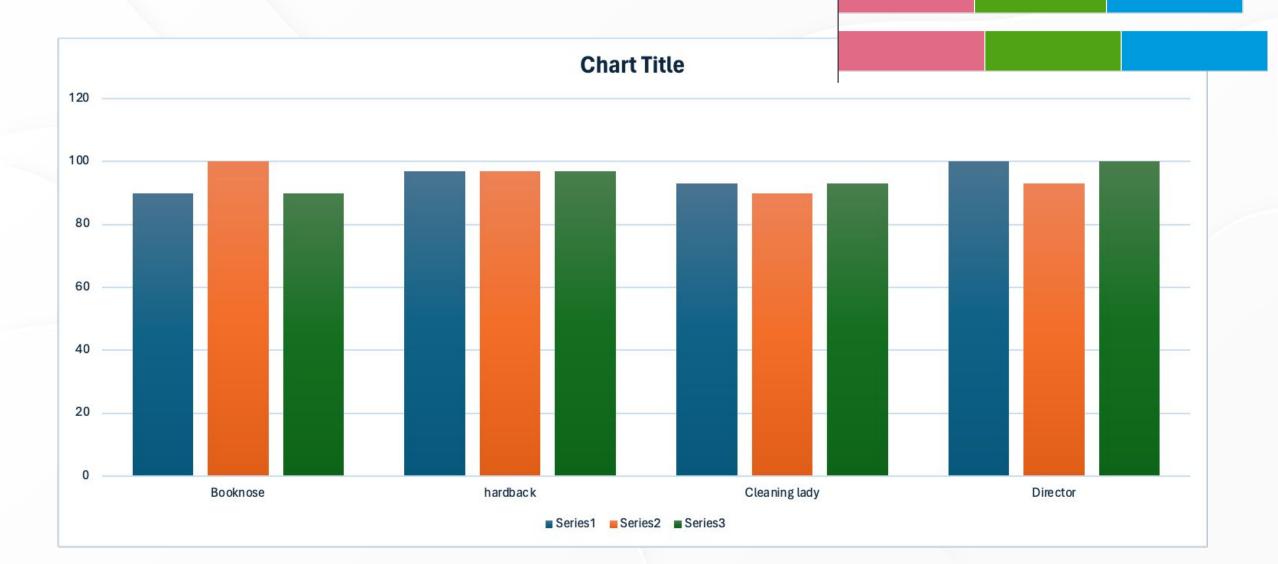


Source: Maarten Lambrechts, CC BY SA 4.0

If done in excel, immediate graph...



Starting from 0



Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book ratings (given by professors; 1-5) by genres

- Bar chart
- Stacked bar chart
- Box plot
- · Pie chart
- Dot plot
- Grouped bar chart







Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book ratings (given by professors; 1-5) by genres

- Dot plot, heatmap if many professors and genres
- Grouped bar chart if few professors

Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book formats (Hardcover, Paperback, eBook, Audiobook)

- Bar chart
- Stacked bar chart
- Box plot
- · Pie chart
- Dot plot
- Histogram







Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

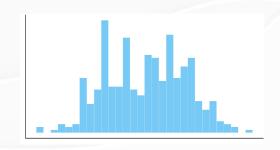
Book formats (Hardcover, Paperback, eBook, Audiobook)

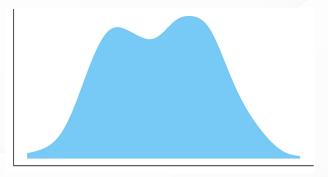
- Pie chart
- Stacked bar chart

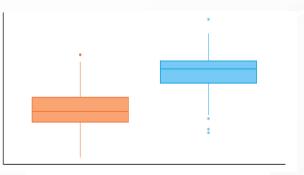
Data type: Distribution

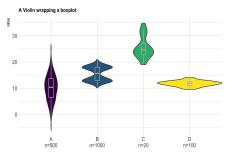
Distributions - probability of a particular value or value range of a variable

- . Histogram
- Density plot
- . Box plot
- · Violin plot









Let's do this once more.

Which of the following is a distribution?

- IQ scores
- Color of cars in a parking lot
- Age of population
- Heights of people
- Names of people in a city
- Student ID numbers
- Coin toss

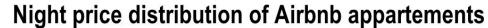


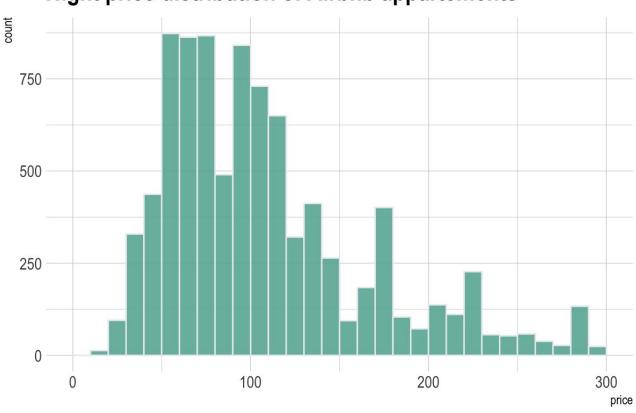
Let's do this once more.

Which of the following is a distribution?

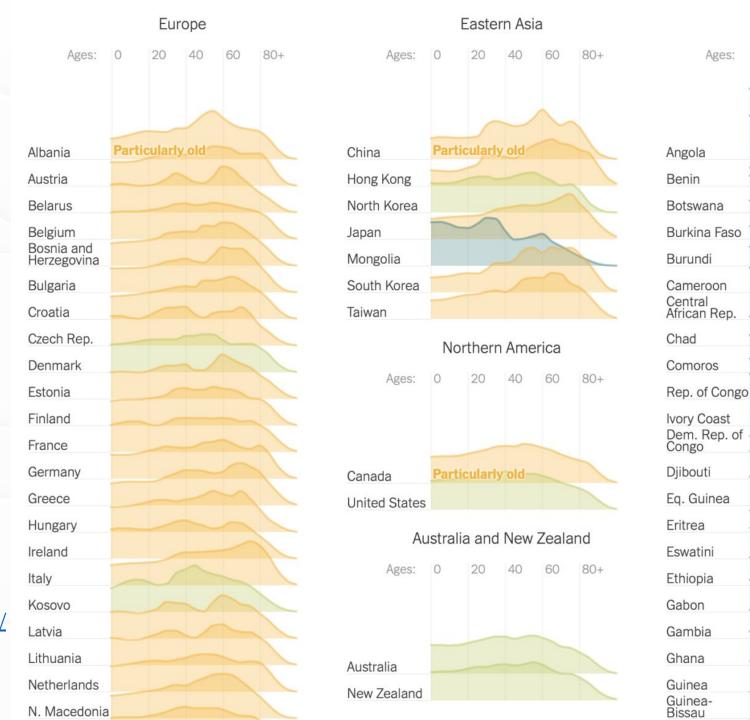
- IQ scores
- X Color of cars in a parking lot
- Age of population
- Heights of people
- X Names of people in a city
- X Student ID numbers
- Coin toss

Example: Histogram





Example: Density

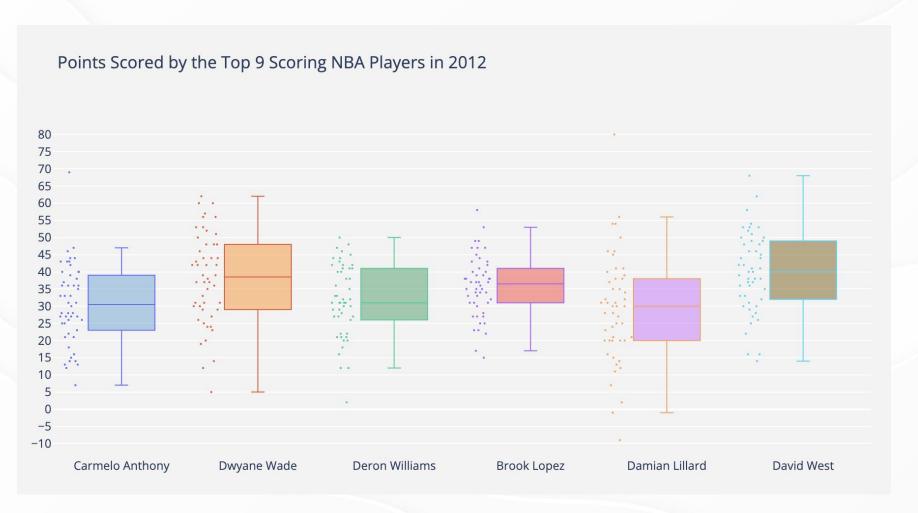


Sub-Saharan Africa

Particularly young

https://flowingdata.com/2023/ 07/17/age-shifts-aroundthe-world/

Example: box plot



Box plot vs violin plot

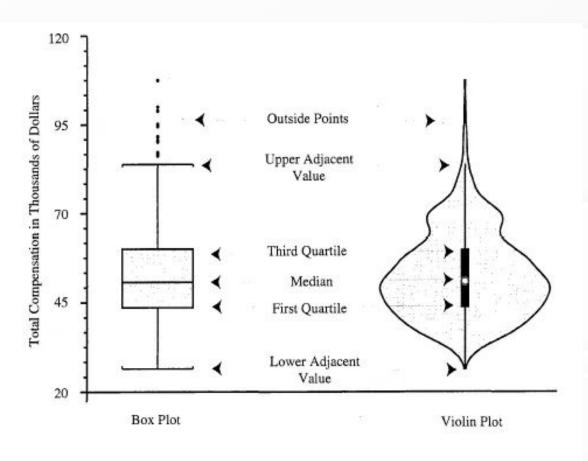
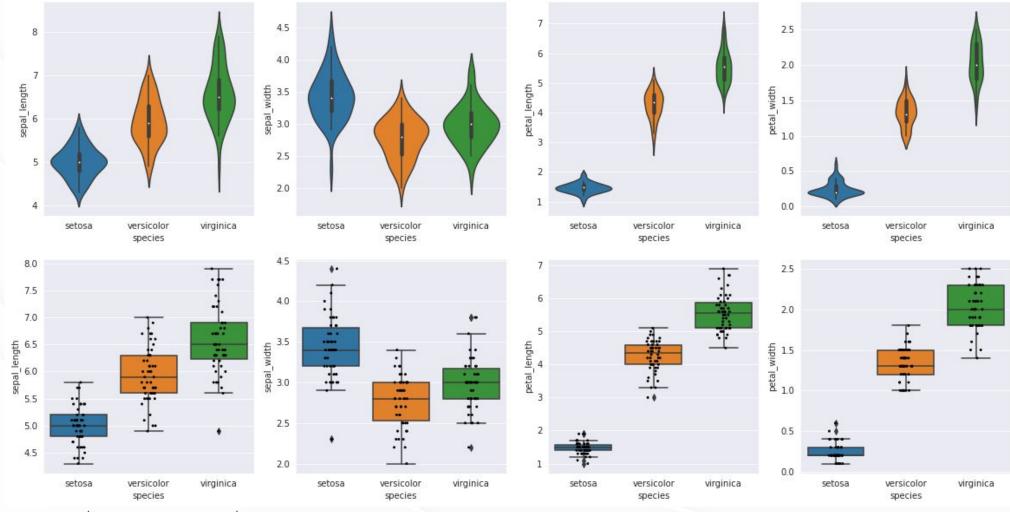


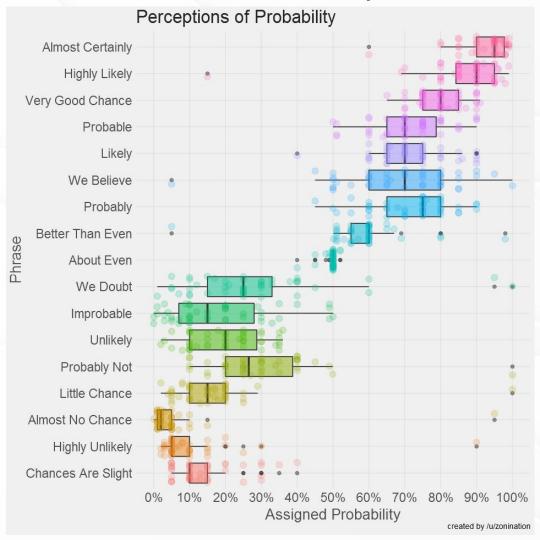
Figure 1. Common Components of Box Plot and Violin Plot. Total compensation for all academic ranks.

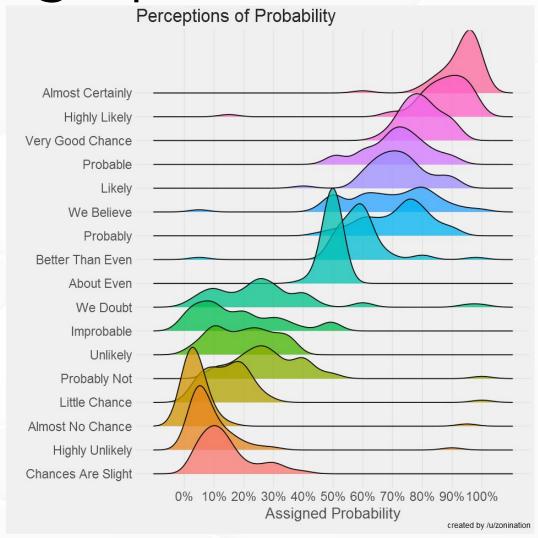
https://towardsdatascience.com/violin-plots-explained-fb1d115e023d

Same data, different graph

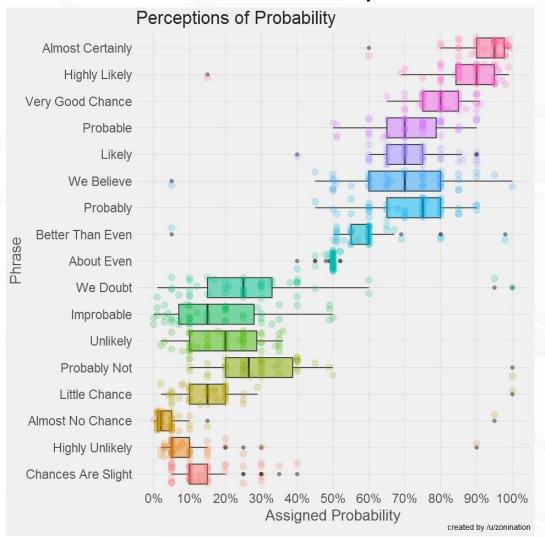


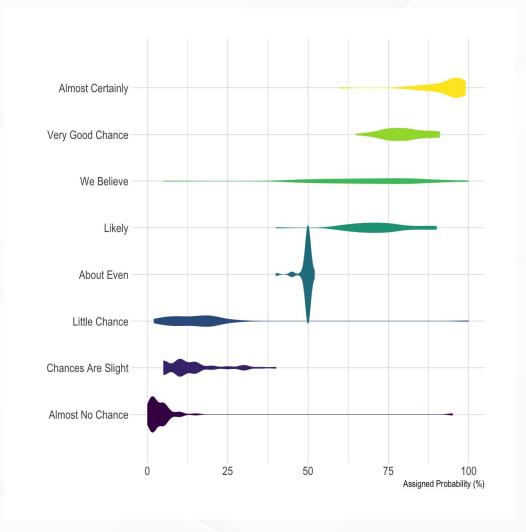
Same data, different graph





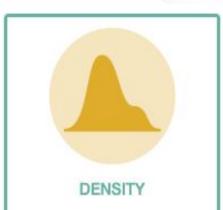
Same data, different graph





https://github.com/zonination/perceptions https://www.data-to-viz.com/graph/violin.html

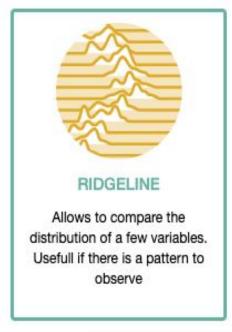
How to choose

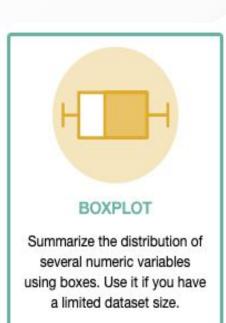


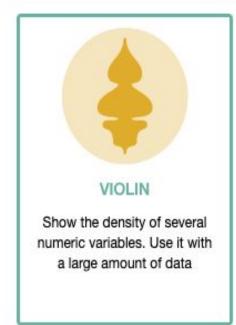
Very close from an histogram.

Show a density of distribution

instead of bars







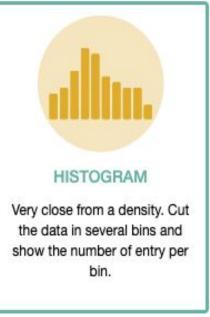


Chart types comparison for distributions

	Histogram	Density plot	Box plot	Violin plot
Visualizing a single distribution	V		V	V
Visualizing multiple distributions at the same time	×			
Visualize the underlying probability distribution of the data	X			
Bandwidth parameters change chart looks	V	V	X	V
Area under the curve equals one	X	V	X	
Tendency to produce the appearance of data where none exists, in particular in the tails	×		X	

Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study. What chart would you choose to show:

Distribution of book publication years

- Heatmap
- Density plot
- . Histogram
- Box plot
- . Bar plot
- · Violin plot







Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study. What chart would you choose to show:

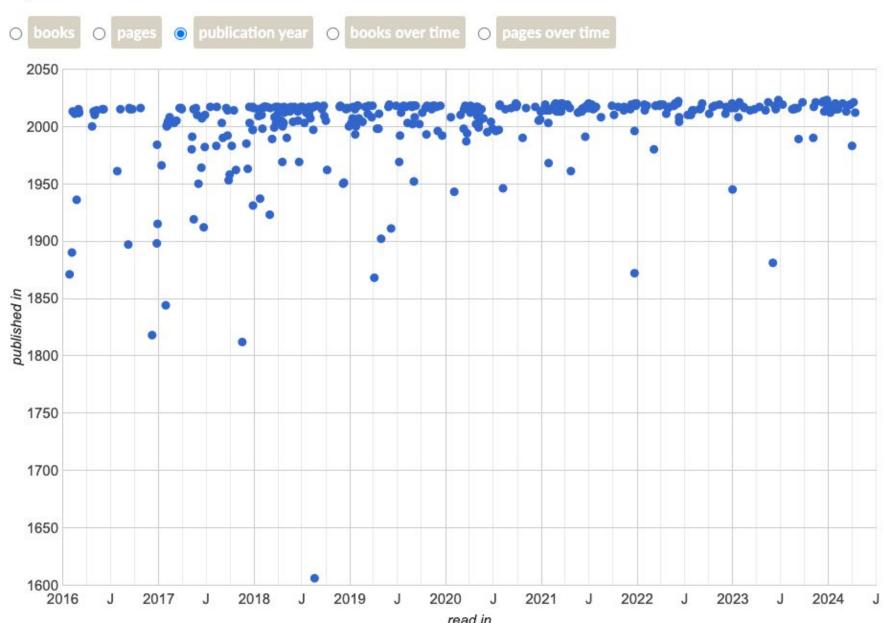
Distribution of book publication years

histogram

Why can't I use dot plot instead of histogram?

- · Histograms are better suited for large data sets
 - · dot plot can become crowded and difficult to read
- · Histograms are ideal for continuous data
- Histograms allow you to group data into intervals simplifying. Patterns and trends more apparent
- Histogram shows easily when data is skewed

My Books > Stats



Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study. What chart would you choose to show:

Distribution of book lengths per genre. Outliers?

- . Heatmap
- Density plot
- Histogram
- Box plot
- . Bar plot
- · Violin plot







Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study. What chart would you choose to show:

Distribution of book lengths per genre. Outliers?

- box plot
- ✓ violin plot -a lot of data

Practice

Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.
What chart would you choose to show:

Distribution of book prices for the professor's books.

- Heatmap
- . Histogram
- Box plot
- Bar plot
- Density plot
- · Violin plot



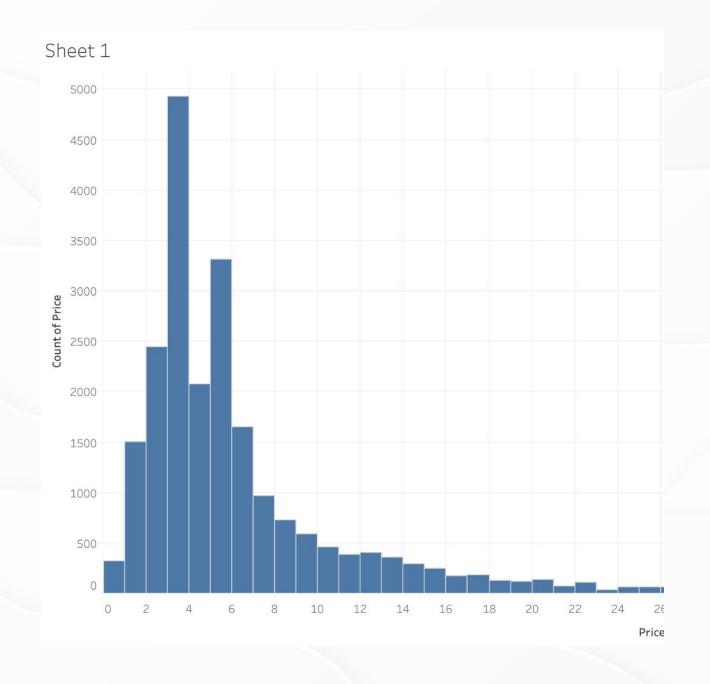




Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study. What chart would you choose to show:

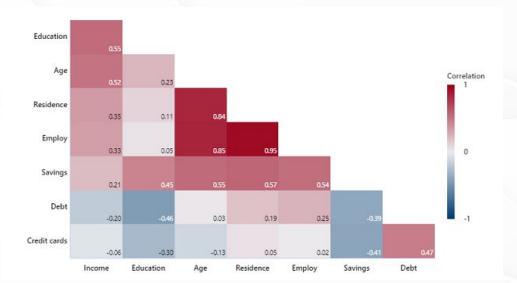
Distribution of book prices for the professor's books.

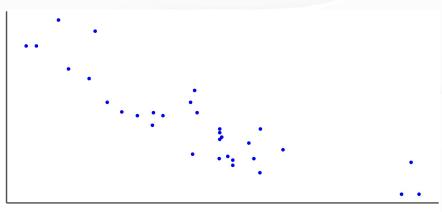
- histogram (price ranges)
- density plot



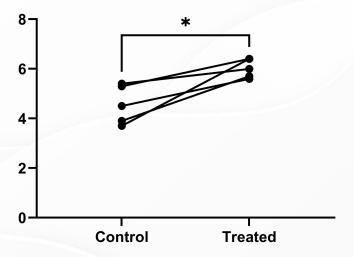
Relationship between two quantitative variables

- Scatterplot
- Correlogram
- · Paired data









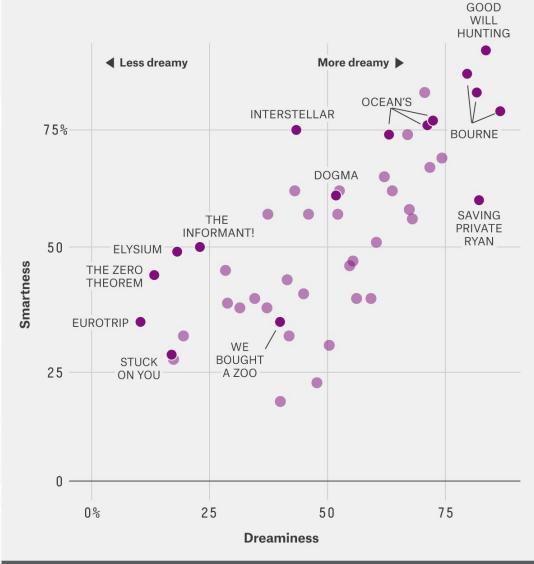
https://support.minitab.com/en-us/minitab/21/help-and-how-to/graphs/correlogram/before-you-start/example/

Example: Scatterplot

https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/matt-damon-the-martian-sexy-smart/

Matt Damon Is Dreamy Whenever He Is Smart

"Smartness" vs. "dreaminess" based on probabilities that a character played by Matt Damon will beat an average Matt Damon in the category, from surveys of 3,435 respondents about the smartness of characters and 17,582 about the dreaminess

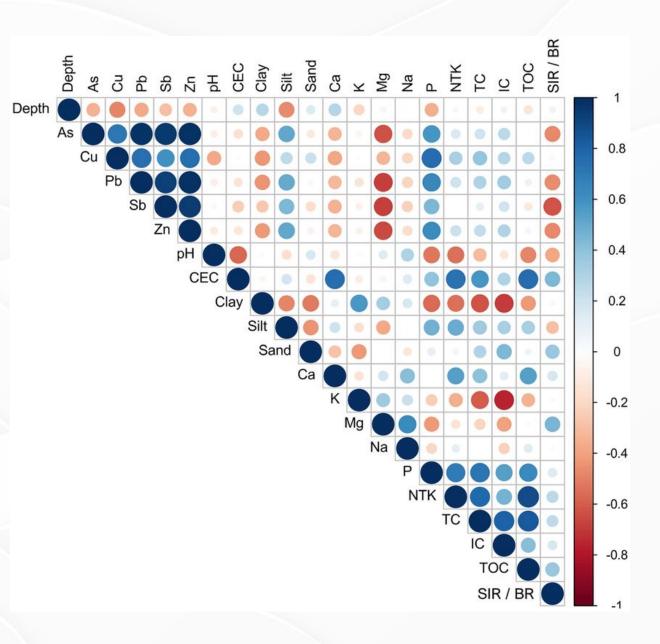


Example: Correlogram

Correlogram of Spearman correlation test performed between pedological properties and soil PTE (metal and metalloid pseudo-total concentrations in mg/kg) measured at both soil depths (0–10 cm and 10–20 cm). Blue dots correspond to the positive correlations and red dots to the negative correlations. The size and color intensity of the dots are proportional to the correlation coefficient value.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/361325582_Coronilla_juncea_a_native_candidate_for_phytostabilization_of_potentially_toxic_elements_and_restoration_of_Mediterranean_soils

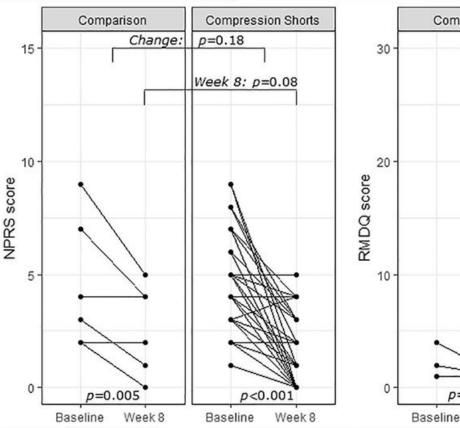
Heckenroth, Alma & Prudent, Pascale & Folzer, Hélène & Rabier, Jacques & Criquet, Stéven & Saatkamp, Arne & Salducci, Marie-Dominique & Vassalo, Laurent & Laffont-Schwob, Isabelle. (2022). Coronilla juncea, a native candidate for phytostabilization of potentially toxic elements and restoration of Mediterranean soils. Scientific Reports. 12. 10.1038/s41598-022-14139-4.



Example: paired data

Szkwara, Jaclyn & Milne, Nikki & Rathbone, Evelyne. (2020). A prospective quasi-experimental controlled study evaluating the use of dynamic elastomeric fabric orthoses to manage common postpartum ailments during postnatal care.

Women's Health. 16. 174550652092719. 10.1177/1745506520927196.



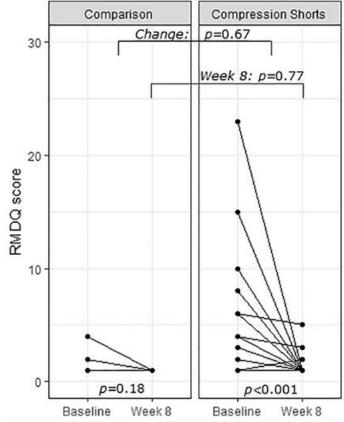


Chart types comparison for associations

	Scatter plot	Bubble chart	Correlogram	Dimension reduction (PCA)
Plot the relationship of just two variables	V	×	×	×
Plot the relationship of 2+ variables	×	V		×
Plot very high-dimensional datasets	×	×	×	V
Fairly abstract	X	X	V	X
Difficult to visually ascertain the strengths of associations between the various variables	×		×	×

Practice



Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book price and rating. Which books were worth buying?

- . Box plot
- Density plot
- . Heatmap
- Scatter plot
- . Bar plot
- . Histogram

What would I do...

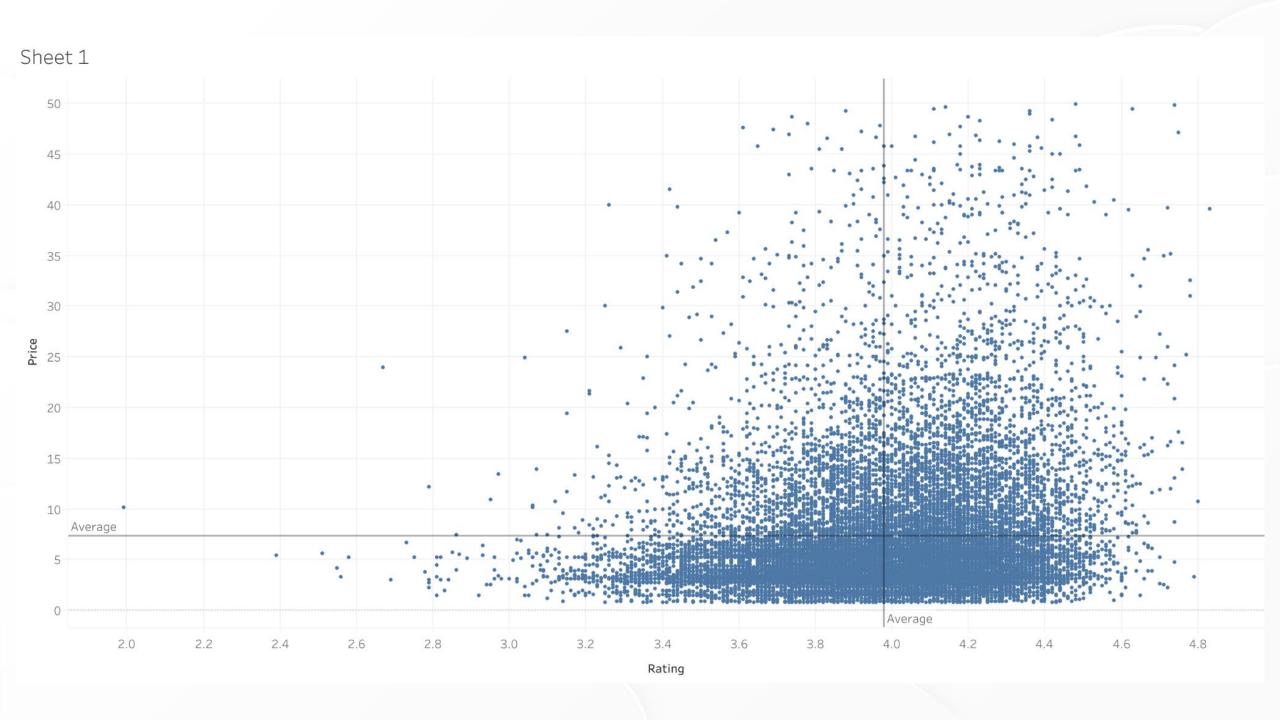


Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book price and rating. Which books were worth buying?





Practice



Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book prices in different genres. Are genres priced differently?

- Box plot
- Density plot
- Heatmap
- Scatter plot
- Bar plot
- Histogram

What would I do...

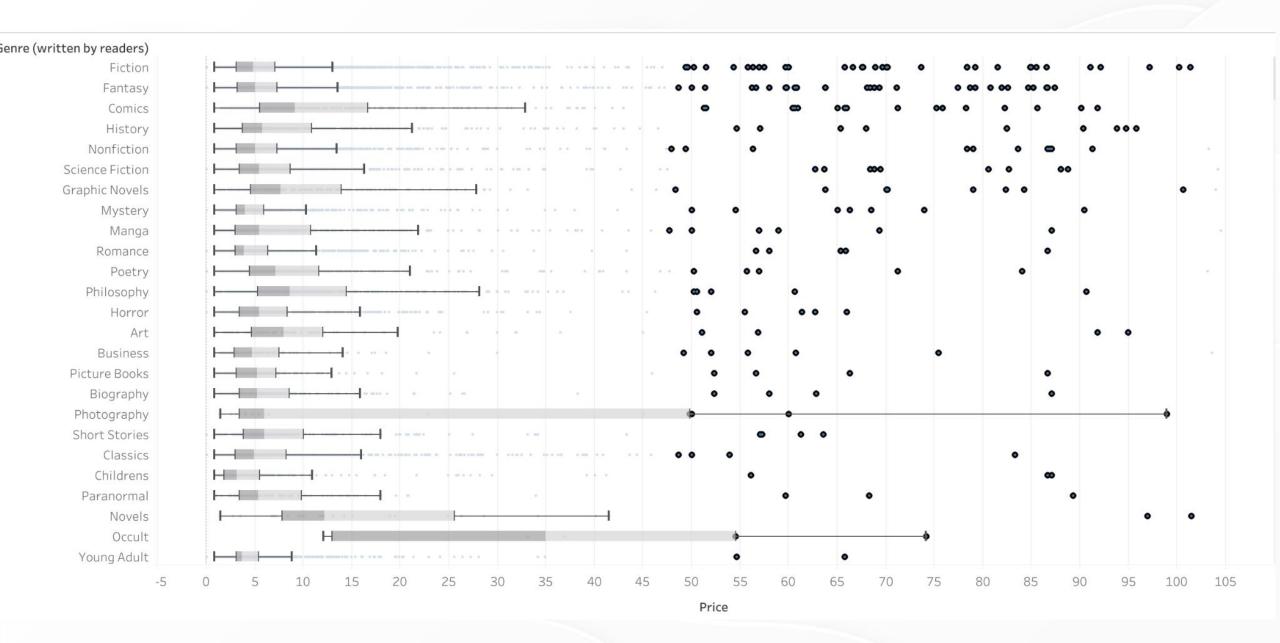


Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book prices in different genres. Are genres priced differently?





Practice



Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

Book Genre Vs. Reading Time

- Box plot
- Density plot
- Heatmap
- Scatter plot
- Bar plot
- Histogram

What would I do...



Prof Booknose has a massive bookshelf in his study.

What chart would you choose to show:

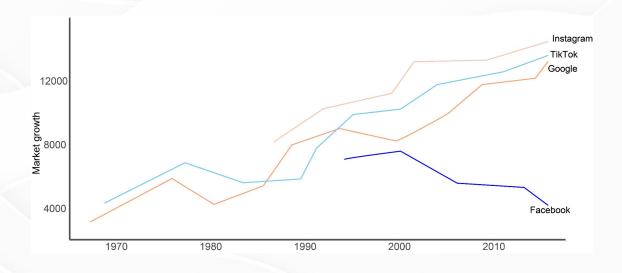
Book Genre Vs. Reading Time

- **V** box plot
- violin plot

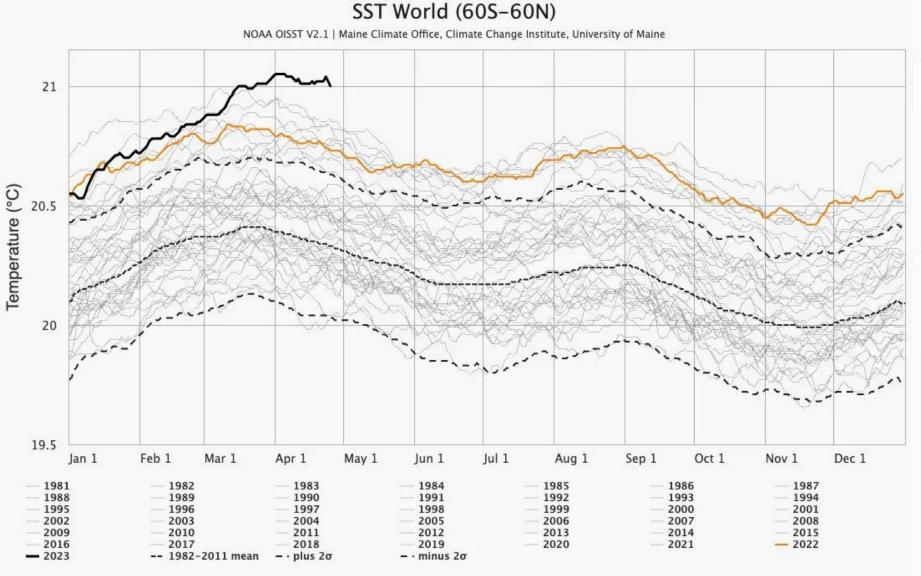
Data type: Time series

Time series: set of data points collected or recorded in a chronological order over a certain period of time

Line graphs

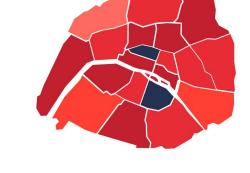


Example: time series



Geospatial

Data that is associated with a specific geographical location or physical space.



- Choropleth mapping
- . Cartograms



Example: Choropleth

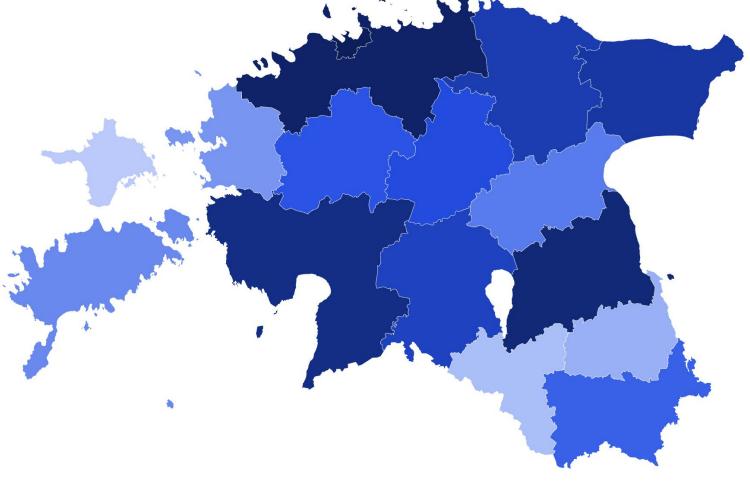
https://www.stat.ee/et/avasta-statistikat/kiirstatistika/ukrainlased-eesti-tooturul

Töötavate ajutise kaitse saanud* ja teiste Ukraina kodanike arv ning osatähtsus kõigist hõivatutest** (%)

töökoha maakonna kaupa, 17.09.2023 seisuga

Hõivatud ukrainlaste arv Osatähtsus piirkonna hõivatutest (%)





Allikas: statistikaamet

^{*}Ajutist kaitset saavad taotleda sõja eest Eestisse põgenenud Ukraina kodanikud ja nende pereliikmed (nende seas on ka teiste riikide kodanikke).

^{**}Kogu tööturg hõlmab kõiki vaatlusmomendil töötamise registris olevaid inimesi (igaühele on leitud peamine töösuhe).

Example: Cartogram

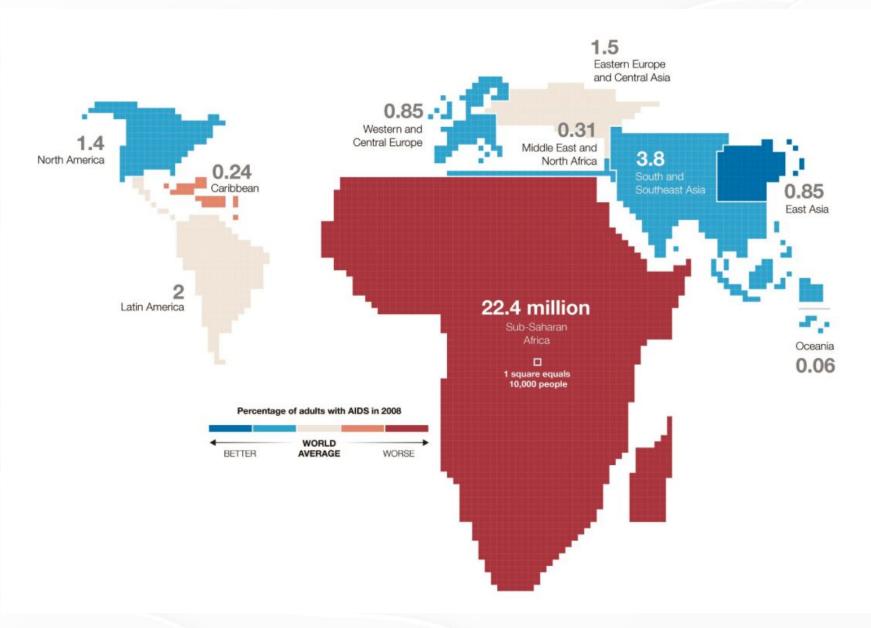
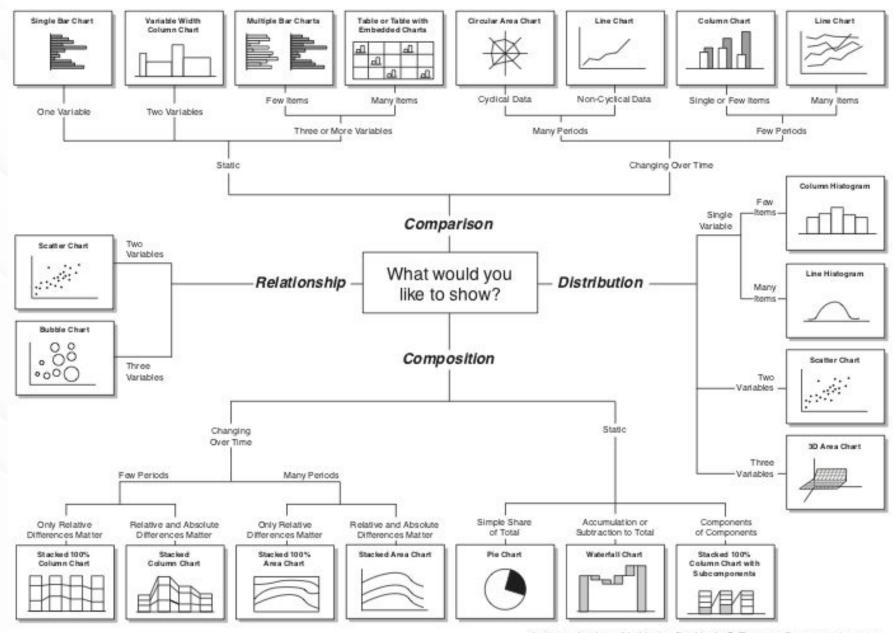


Chart Chooser



https://extremepresentation.typepad.com/blog/2006/09/choosing_a_good.html www.extremepresentation.com

Resource

What kind of data do you have? Pick the main type using the buttons below. Then let the decision tree guide you toward your graphic possibilities.

Numeric

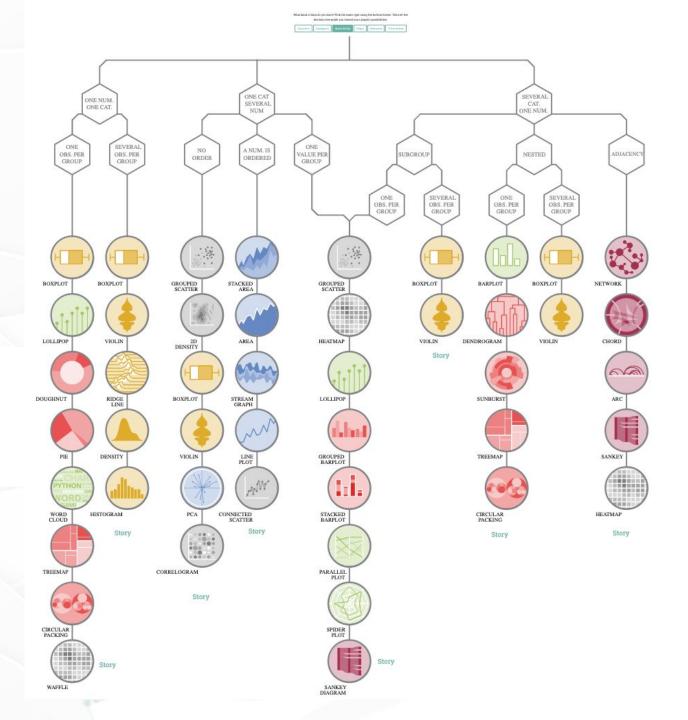
Categoric

Num & Cat

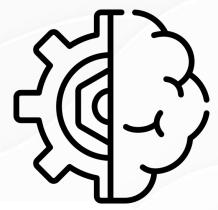
Maps

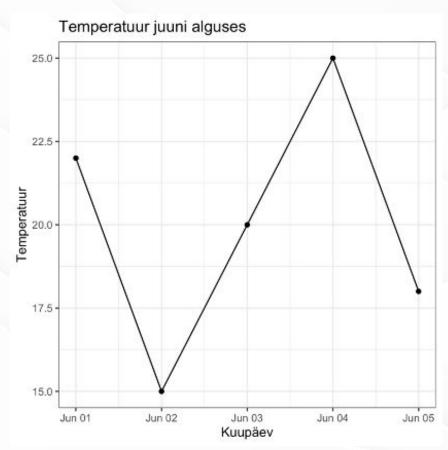
Network

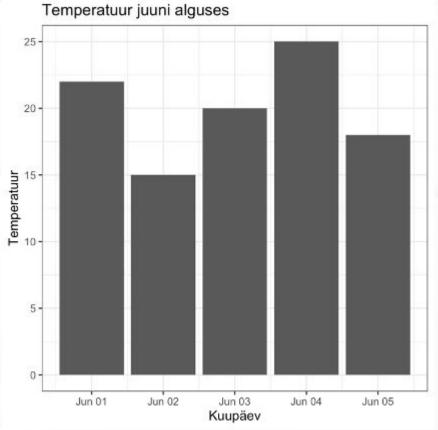
Time series



Which graph would you use for temperature change?

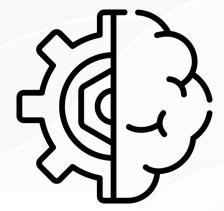


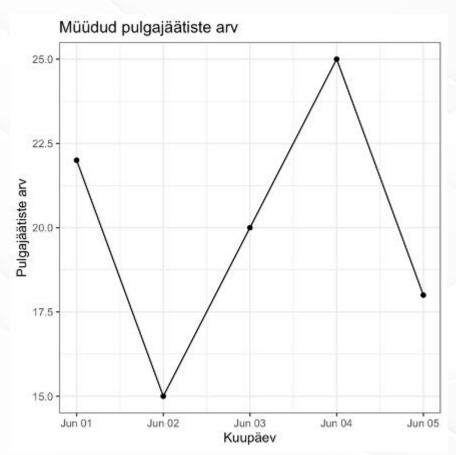


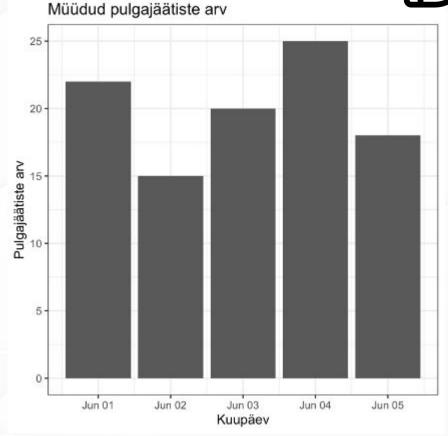


Data Visualization and Storytelling (LTAT.02.008), Slide by Raivo Kolde https://courses.cs.ut.ee/2023/dataviz/spring

Which graph would you use for sold ice cream count?







Data Visualization and Storytelling (LTAT.02.008), Slide by Raivo Kolde https://courses.cs.ut.ee/2023/dataviz/spring

Practice

https://100.datavizproject.com/

Same data, 100 data visualisations

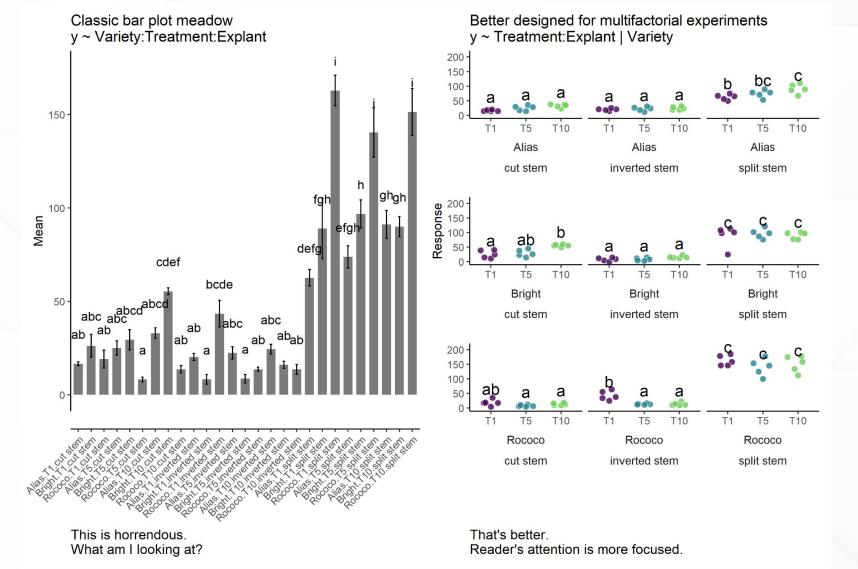
3 questions:

- Most informative graph
- 2. most confusing graph
- 3. visually striking and memorable graph



Common mistakes and best practices

Common mistake: Bar plot meadow



https://github.com/cxli233/FriendsDontLe tFriends

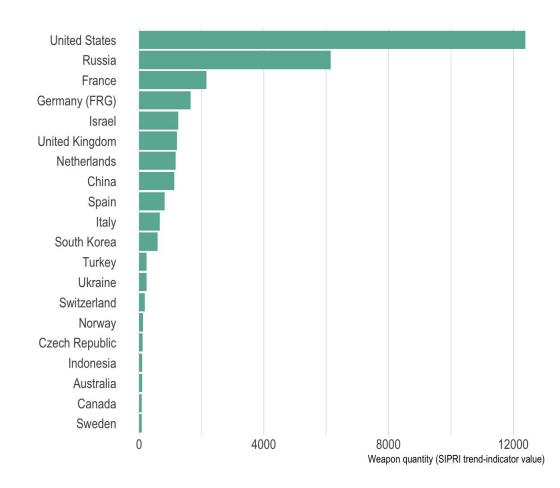
C. Li. (2023).

cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends: FriendsDontLetFriends (v3) (Version v3). Zenodo.

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7097522

Best practice: Bar chart

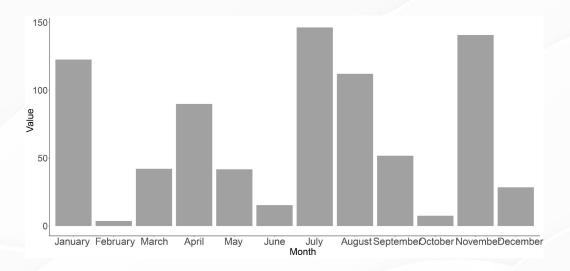
- Values starts from 0
- Horizontal VS vertical bar chart
 - 5-7 columns vertical bar chart
 - Over 7 columns horizontal bar chart
- Order the columns if possible

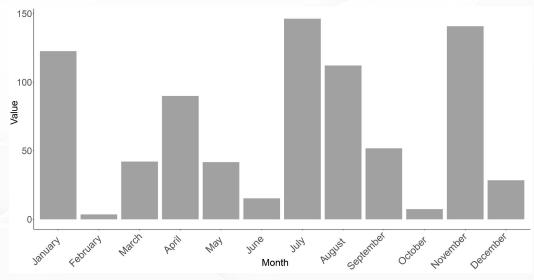


Common mistakes: Bar chart

Problem: Too many letters in labels. Each bar takes up a lot of horizontal space

Solution: Rotate the labels.



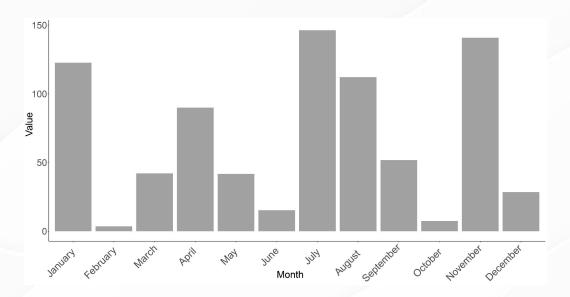


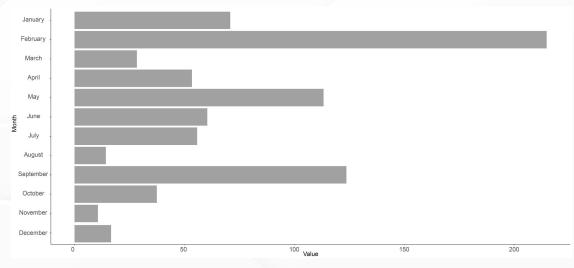
Common mistakes: Bar chart

Problem: Rotated labels are awkward and difficult to read

Solution: Swap for horizontal bars.

Maximum 5 variables in vertical bar charts





Common mistakes: Bar chart

Problem: scale doesn't start from 0. Results are misleading

Solution: either make it start from 0 or switch to a different graph.

Example:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFlx7uruoU/khBHFqkeehI9olmGygtN6Q/watch?utm_content=DAFlx7uruoU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

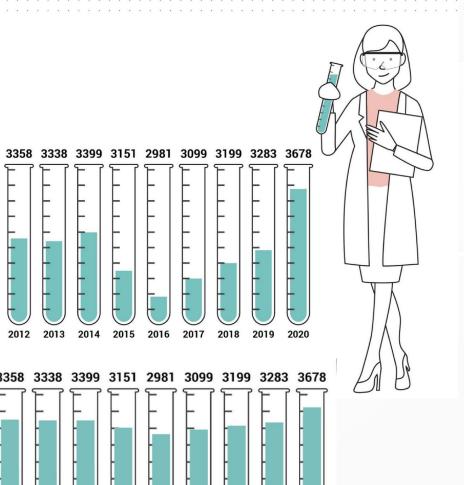
"Naised teaduses" päev

Naisteadlaste arv

3200

2400

1600

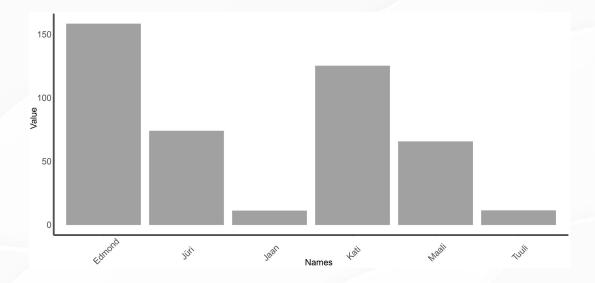


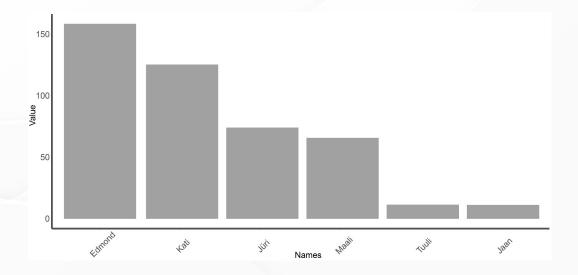
Common mistakes: Bar chart

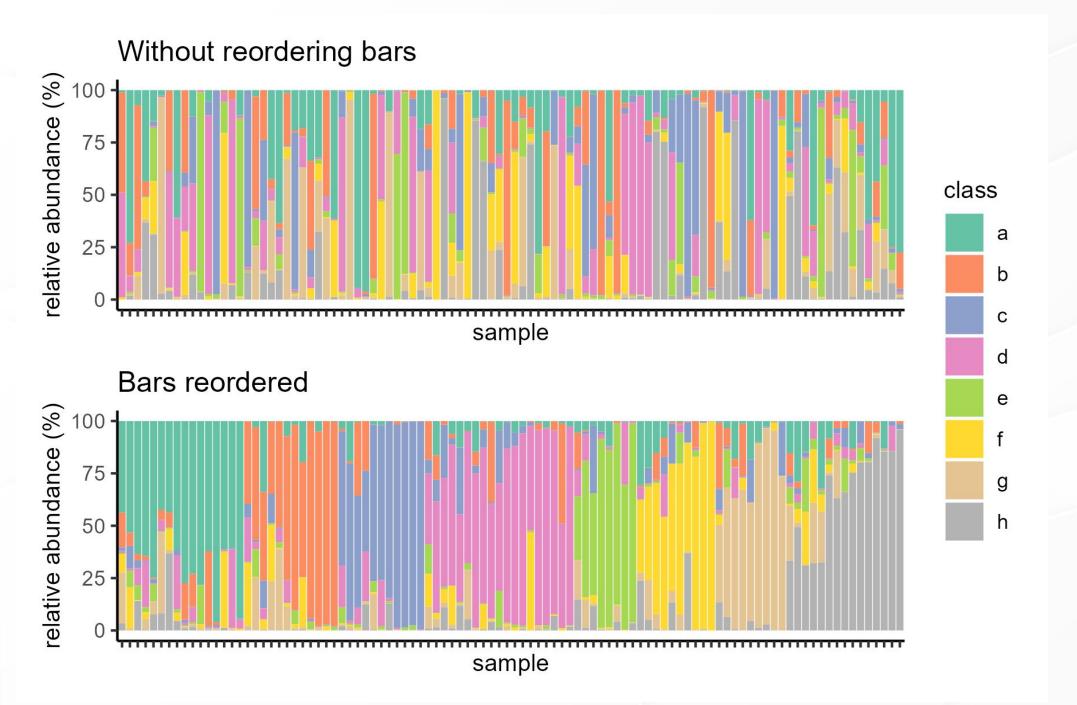
Problem: Order of the bars is messy (due to programs liking to order them by alphabet).

Solution: Arrange in order of size

NB! Be careful with data that has natural order! No size arranging! Example: Months in a year







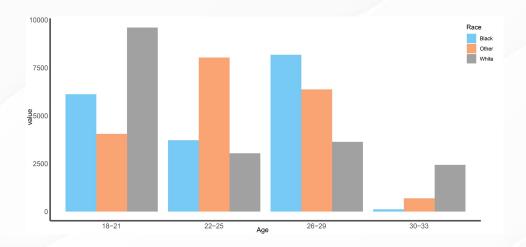
https://github.com/cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends
C. Li. (2023).
cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends:
FriendsDontLetFriends. Zenodo.
https://doi.org/10.5
281/zenodo.709752

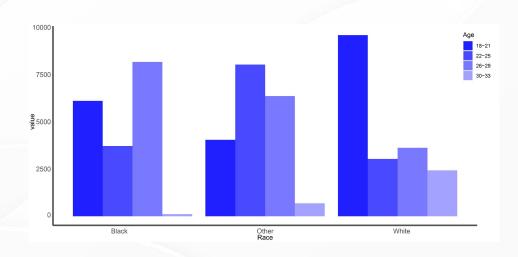
Common mistakes: Bar chart

Problem: Adding another variable might complicate the readability of the plot

Solution: switch which variable is shown with color.

Solution: just make separate graphs

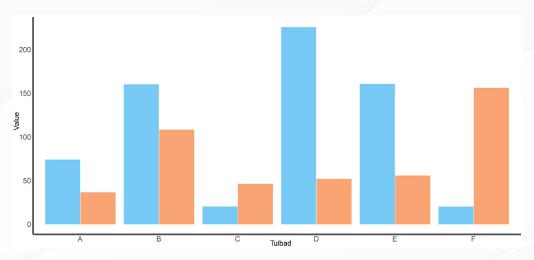


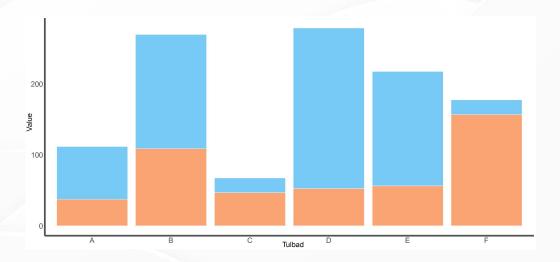


Common mistakes: Bar chart

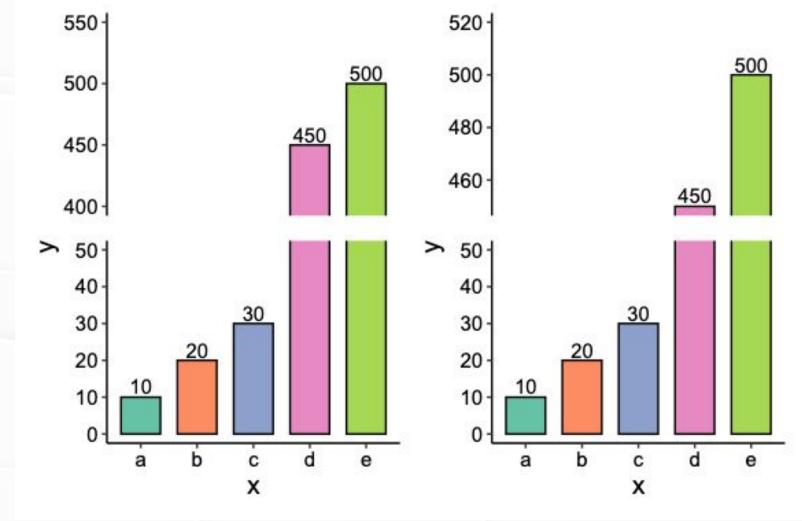
Problem: Adding another variable might complicate the readability of the plot

Solution: Use stacked bar chart (sum of the amounts represented by the individual stacked bars is in itself a meaningful amount, when the individual bars represent counts)





Common mistake: broken axis wrong place



https://qithub.com/cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends C. Li. (2023). cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends: FriendsDontLetFriends. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7097522

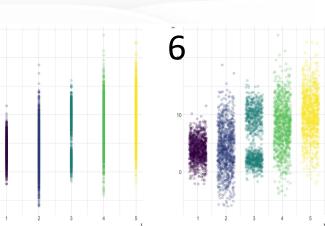
Common mistakes: Dot plot

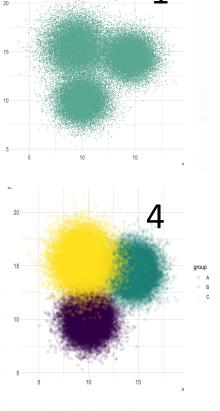
15

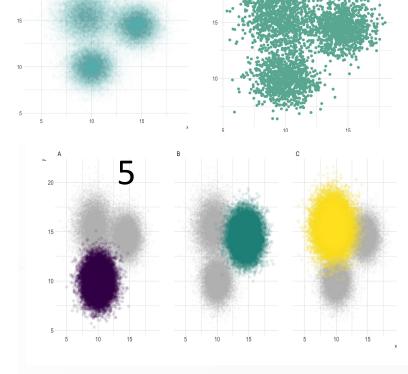
Problem: overplotting

Solutions:

- Decrease dot size
- 2. Transparency
- 3. Plot a fraction of your data
- 4. Grouping
- 5. Faceting
- 6. Jittering

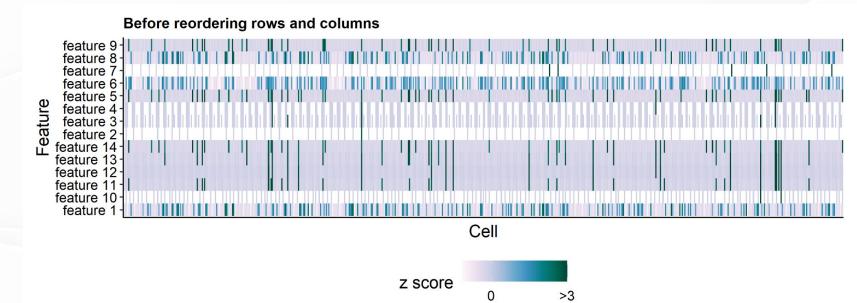






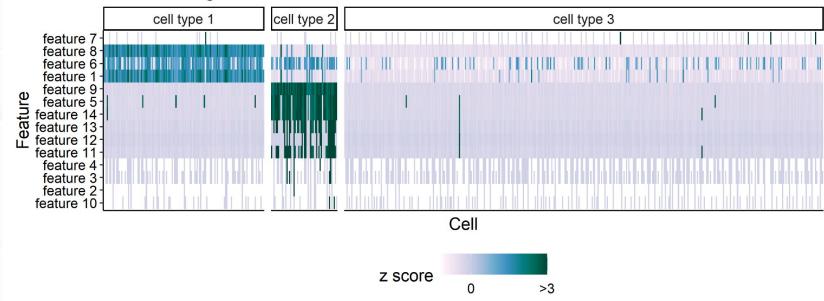
Common mistake: Heatmap without reordering

https://github.com/cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends C. Li. (2023). cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends: FriendsDontLetFriends. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7097522



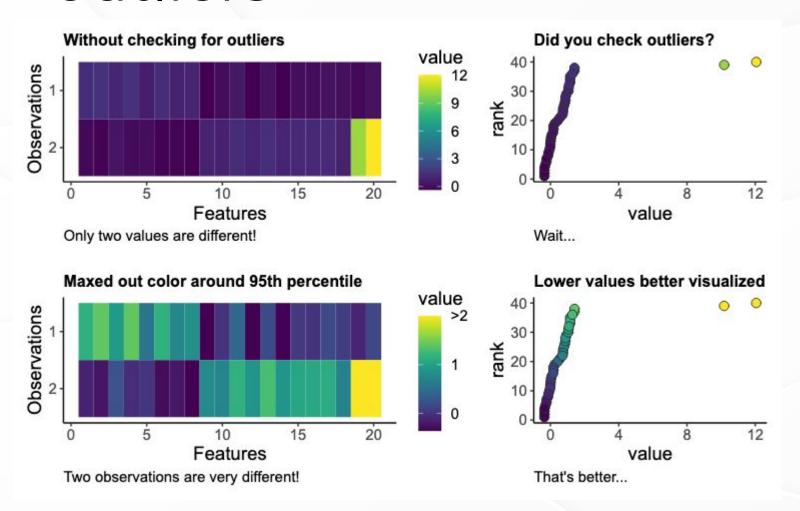
Am I looking at a glitching TV?

After reordering rows and columns



Much better.

Common mistake: Heatmap and outliers



https://github.com/cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends C. Li. (2023). cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends: FriendsDontLetFriends. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7097522

Best practices: heatmap

. Normalize your data

Use cluster analysis and thus permute the rows and the columns of the matrix to place similar values near each other according to the clustering

 Color palette is important choose one from here https://coolors.co/

Common mistake: confusing bar chart and histograms

A barchart shows the relationship between a numeric and a categoric variable.

Each entity of the categoric variable is represented as a bar.

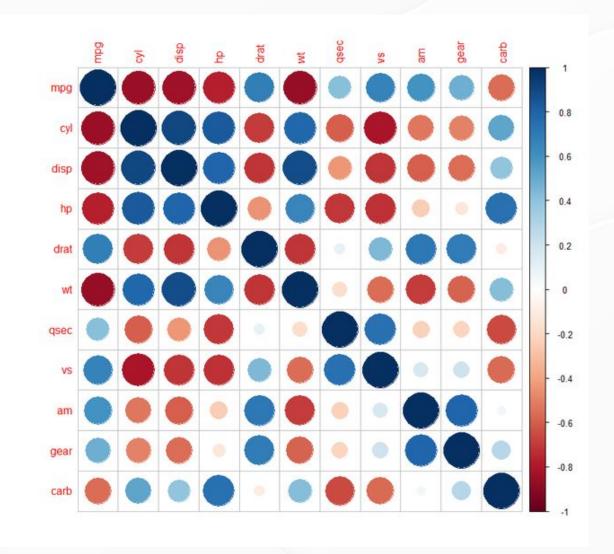
The size of the bar represents its numeric value.

A histogram has only a numeric variable as input and shows its distribution.

Best practice: correlogram

Try to have less than 10 variables

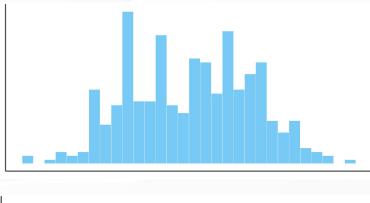
Displaying the relationship between more than ~10 variables makes the plot very hard to read

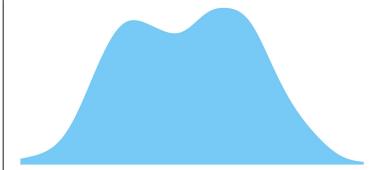


Best practices: Histograms and Density plots

- Values start from 0
- · Choose an appropriate number of bins
- equal number of data points in each bin and no outliers; if not use box plot
- · Choose the algorithm that fits your data
- DO NOT USE unequal bin widths
- Don't compare more than ~3 groups in the same histogram.

The graphic gets cluttered and difficult to understand. Instead use a violin plot, a boxplot, a ridgeline plot or use multiple small ones.

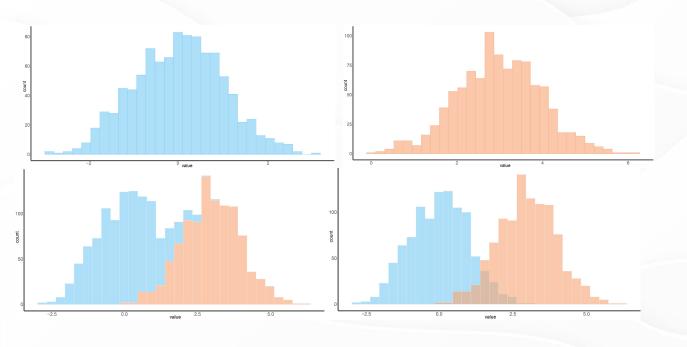




Common mistake: Stacked histogram

PROBLEM:

- Stacking hard to read
- · Partially transparent appears three groups of data



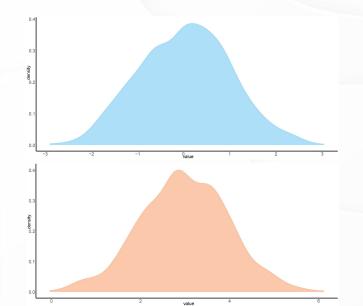


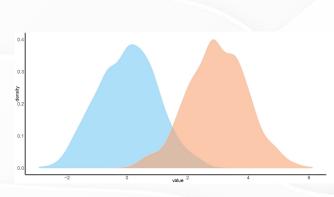
Common mistake: Stacked histogram

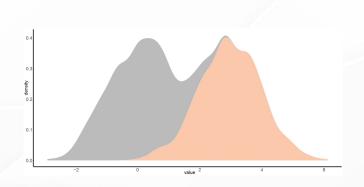
PROBLEM:

- Stacking hard to read
- · Partially transparent appears three groups of data

Solution: Overlapping density plots continuous density lines help the eye keep the distributions separate.







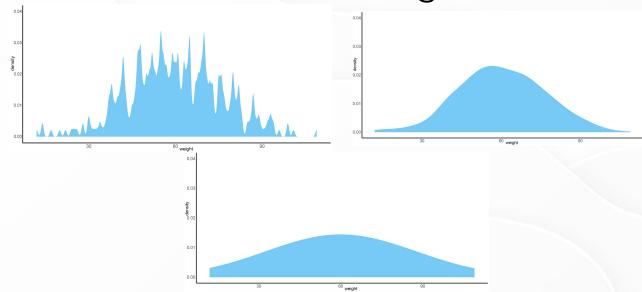
Common mistakes: Histograms and Density plots

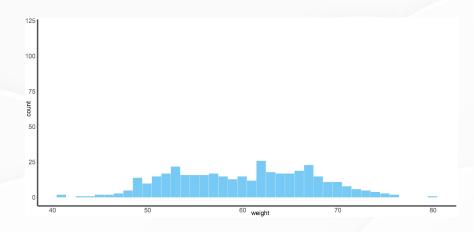
PROBLEM:

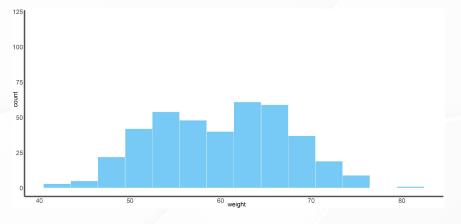
 The default bin "width" does not represent data appropriately

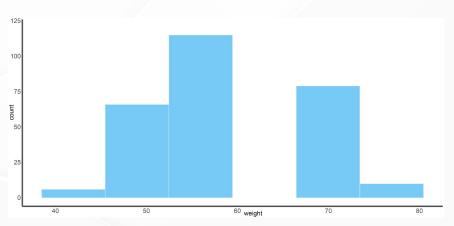
SOLUTION:

 Test many different bin widths for new insights



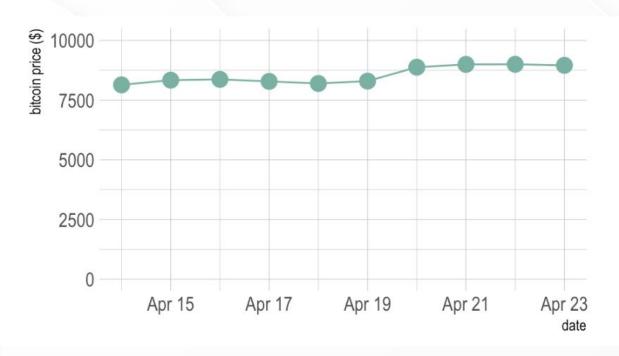






Best practice: Line graph

- . If necessary, cut the Y axis
- . Mind the spaghetti chart: too many lines make the chart unreadable.

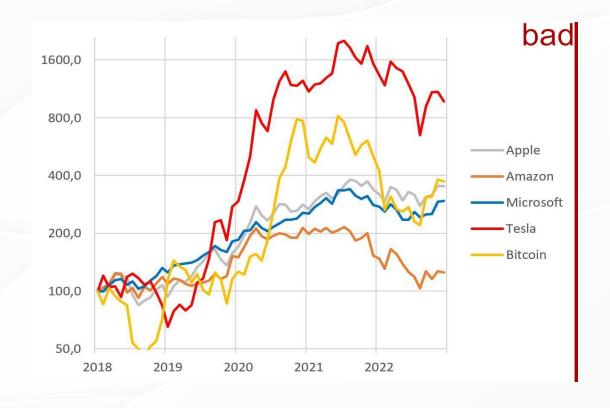




Common mistakes: line graph

Problem: y-axis is not labeled and there are no units.

Problem: Companies legend should be in the same order as trendlines (Tesla should be first).



Stock price over time for four major tech companies and Bitcoin. The price has been normalized to equal 100 in May 2018. Data source: Yahoo Finance

Common mistakes: line graph

Problem: overlabeling.

It's clear that we are dealing with years, no need to add "time(years AD)".

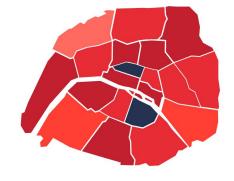
Same goes for companies. Companies legend should be in the same order as trendlines (Tesla should be first).



Stock price over time for four major tech companies and Bitcoin. The price has been normalized to equal 100 in May 2018. Data source: Yahoo Finance

Best practice: choropleth

- Normalize your variable: you cannot compare raw numbers between regions of distinct size or population.
- . Take care when choosing the continuous color palette.
- Don't forget the legend.
- If your regions have a broad range of sizes it introduces a bias. You could consider using hexbin maps instead.

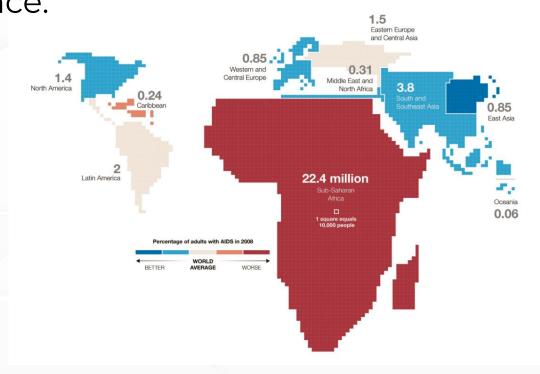


Don't call it chLoropleth map.

Common mistakes: cartogram

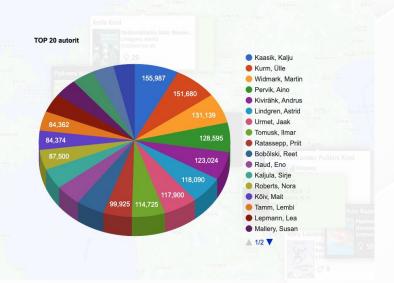
Distorts real boundaries and thus makes the map harder to identify.

Be careful not to confuse your audience: you need to introduce it with good explanations and showing the initial map is probably a good practice.

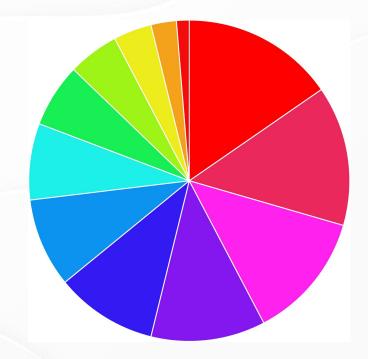


Best practice: Pie charts

- Don't use more than five sections
- Avoid comparing one pie to another
- Place the largest slice to the top right corner, and then go by size order
- · Don't use 3D pie



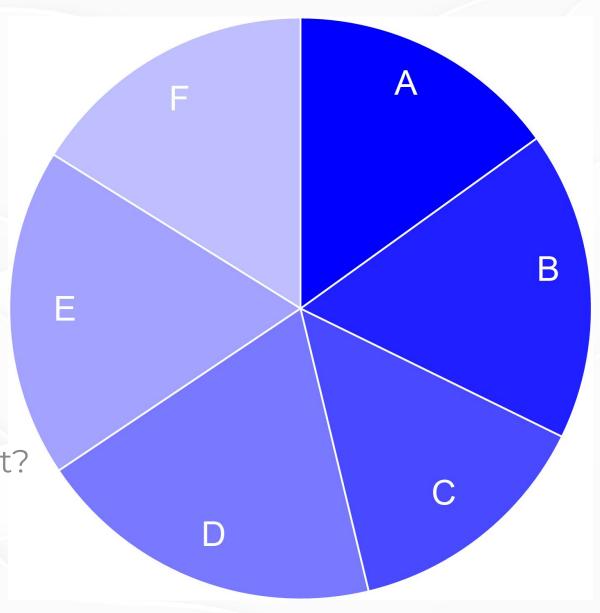
https://www.raamatukogud.ee/#





Poll

Which of the slices is the biggest?



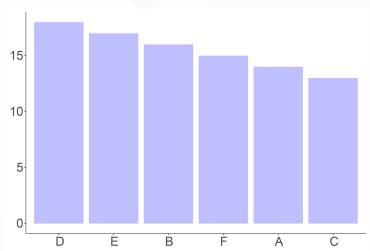
Common mistakes: Pie charts

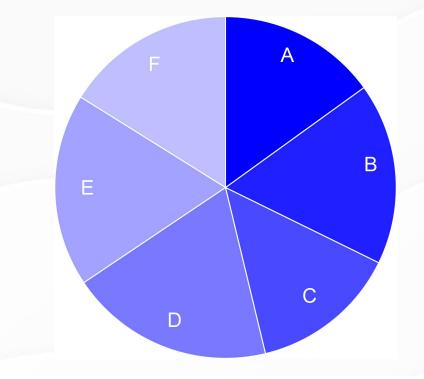
PROBLEM:

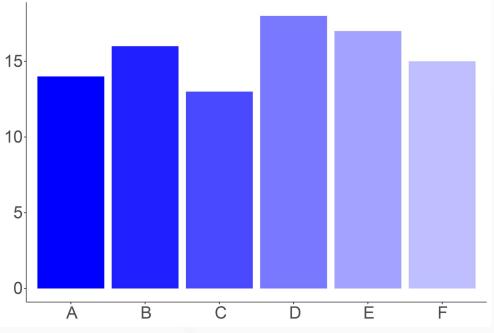
Humans are pretty bad at reading angles

Solution: Use bar chart

only use pie chart for simple fractions! 1/2; 1/3; 1/4

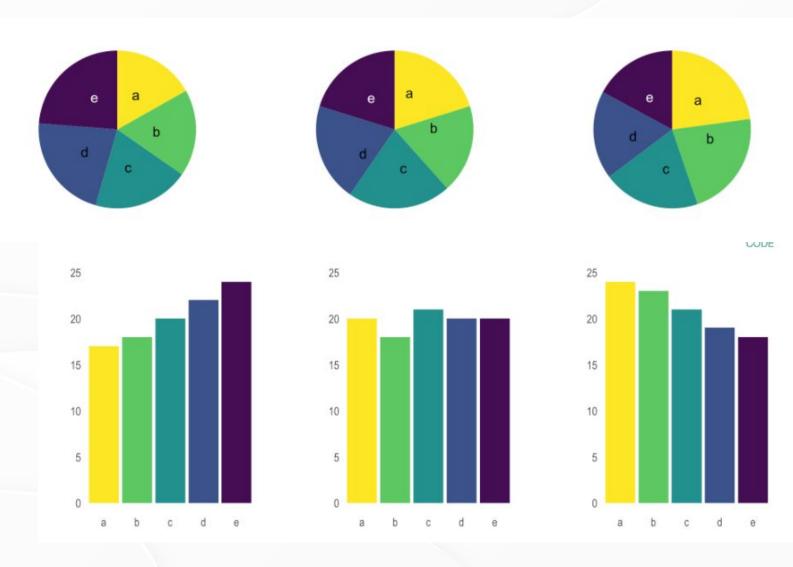




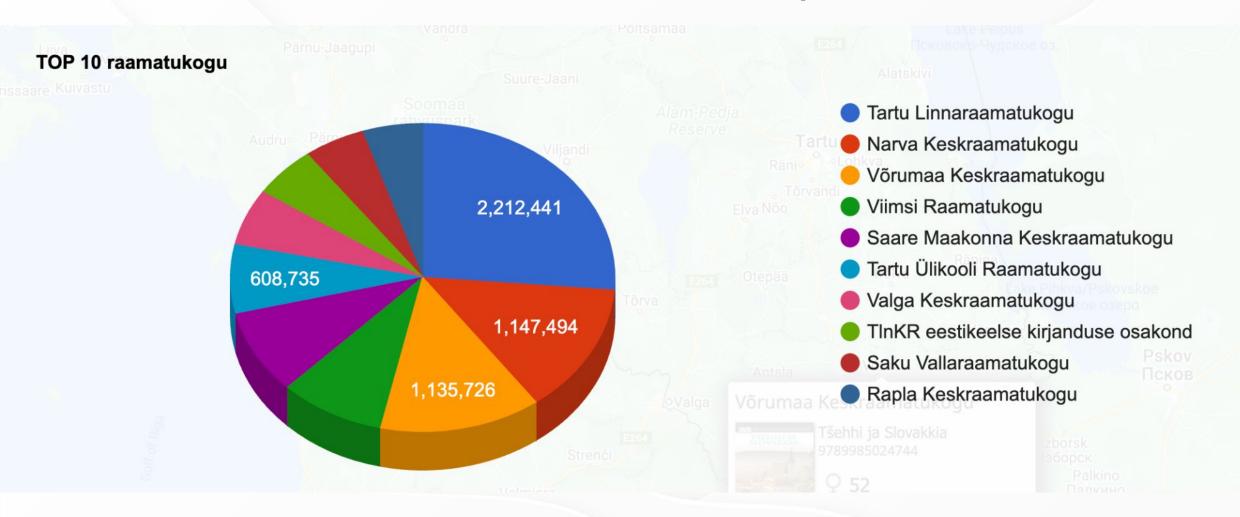


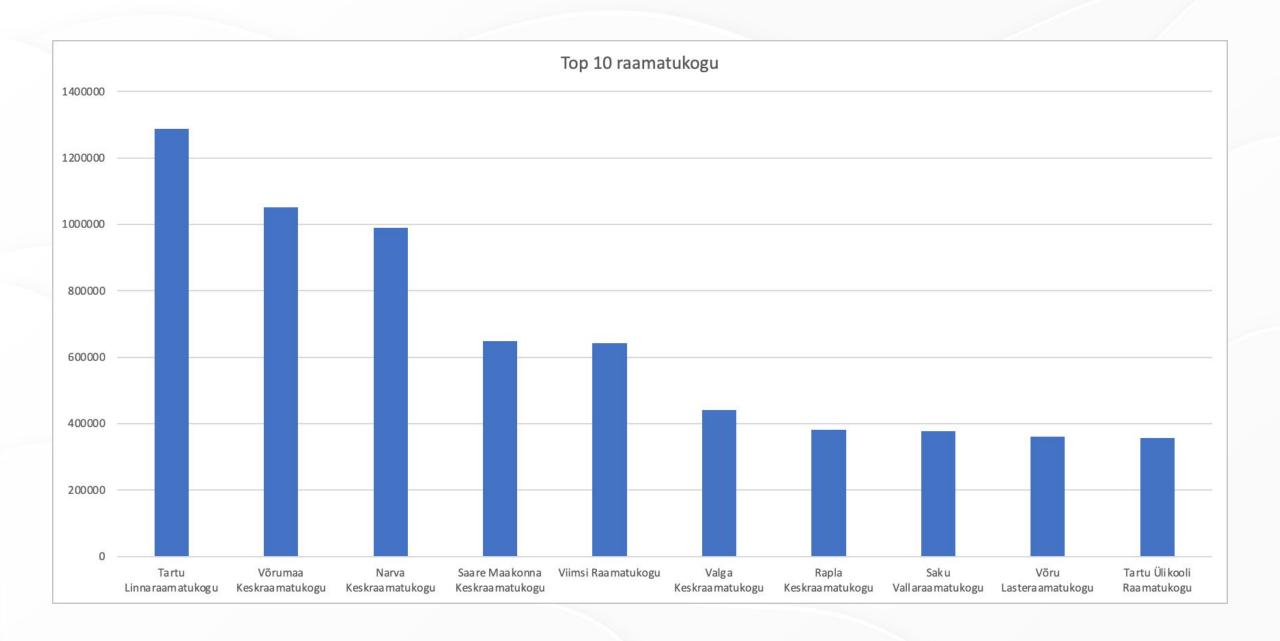
Common mistakes: pie chart

Significant difference
between the three pie
plots with a hidden
pattern that you definitely
don't want to miss when
you tell your story

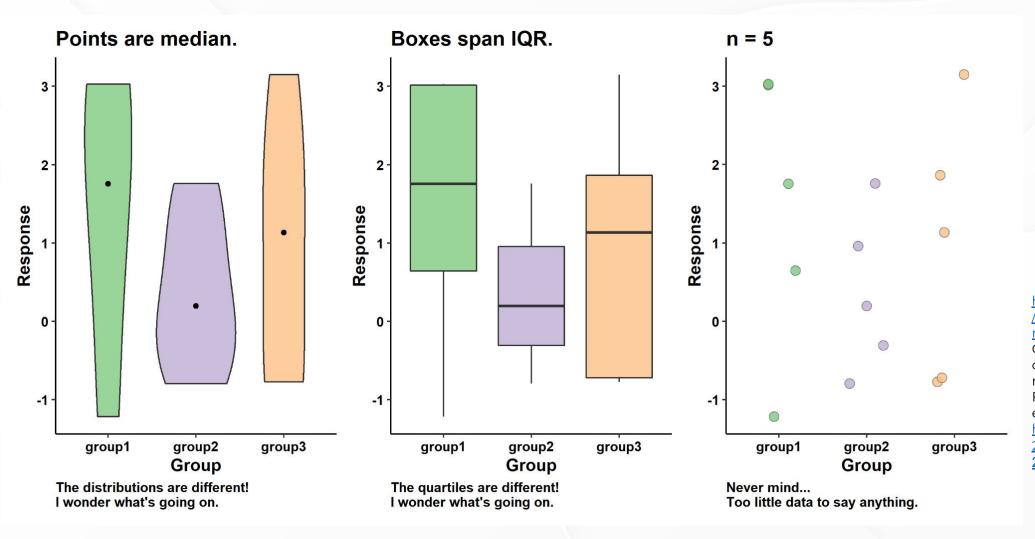


Pie chart: Real life example





Common mistake: Violin plot for small sample size

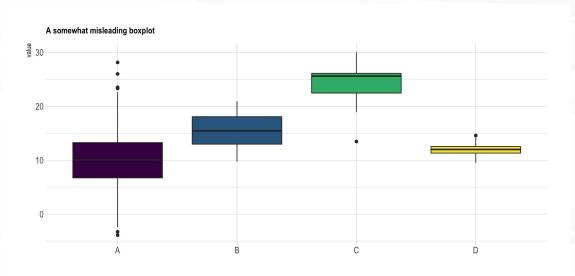


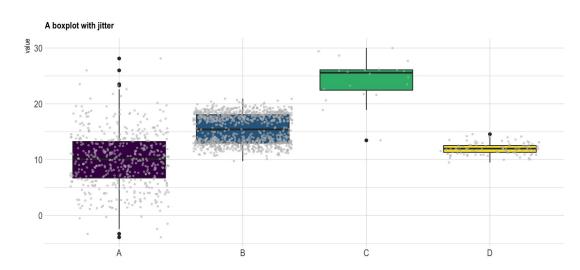
https://github.com/cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends
C. Li. (2023).
cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends:
FriendsDontLetFriends. Zenodo.
https://doi.org/10.5
281/zenodo.709752

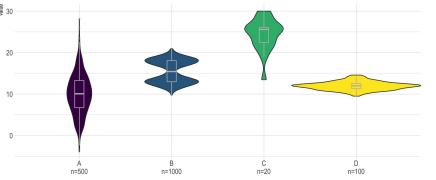
Best practices: Violin plot

- If you compare groups with very different sample size, show it.
- Ordering groups by median value makes the chart more insightful.
- If you have just a few groups, you are probably interested by ridgeline charts.

Common mistakes: uninformative graph







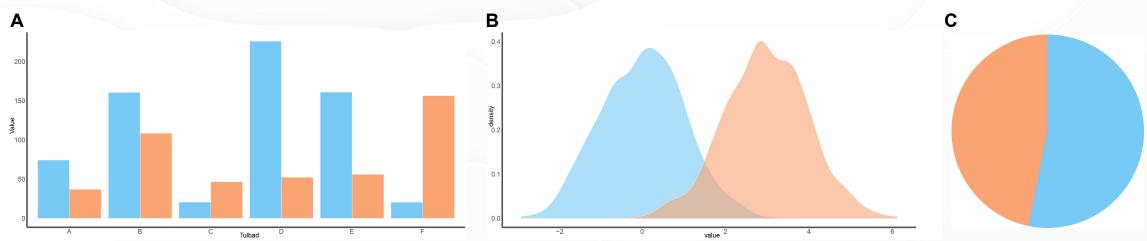
https://www.data-to-viz.com/caveat/boxplot.html

Figures belonging together

Be consistent but not repetitive.

Figures belonging together should look similar, but not exactly the same.

Mix up different chart types, but use similar layout, types, color choices.



Example

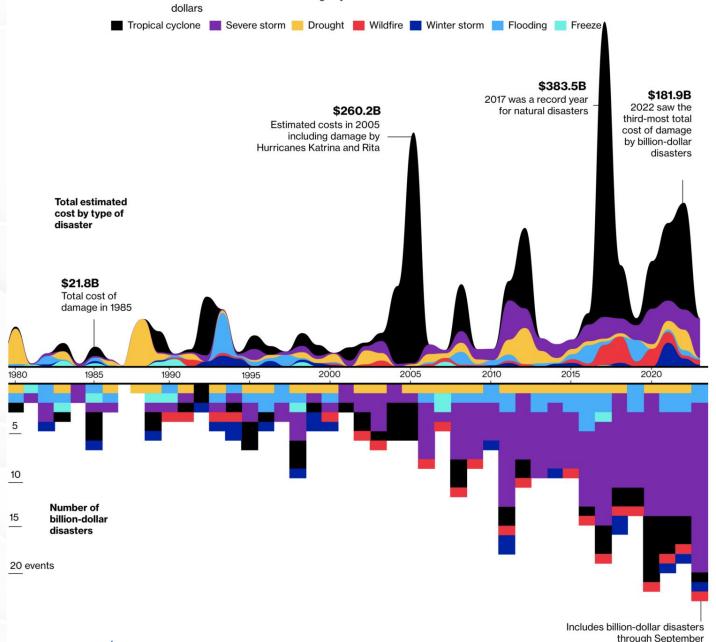
Kitsede statistika



https://www.pria.ee/info keskus/statistika/loomad #kitsede-statistika

What would you change?

Combo stacked area chart and stacked bar chart on the top and bottom to show increased cost of billion dollar disasters and the counts over time.

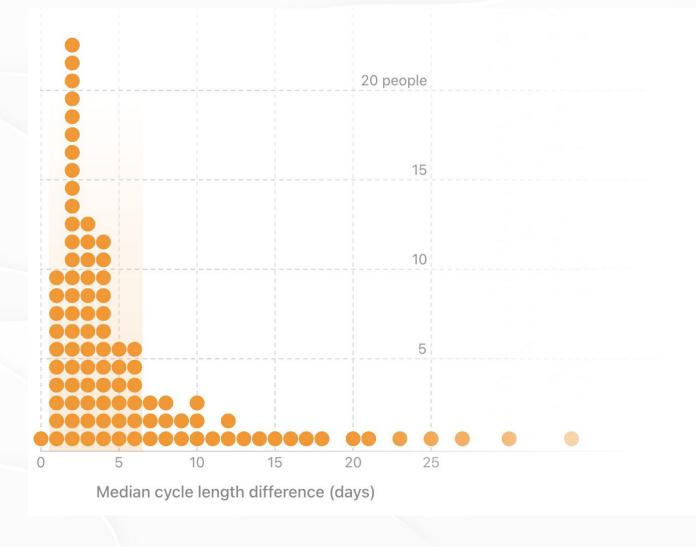


Billion-Dollar Disasters of All Kinds Are More Frequent

Overall estimated cost of damage by disasters with total costs above a billion

What would you change?

For the Apple Women's Health
Study, which uses cycle tracking
data from iPhones and Apple
Watches, the Harvard T.H. Chan
School of Public Health provides a
visual explanation of how
menstrual cycles vary.



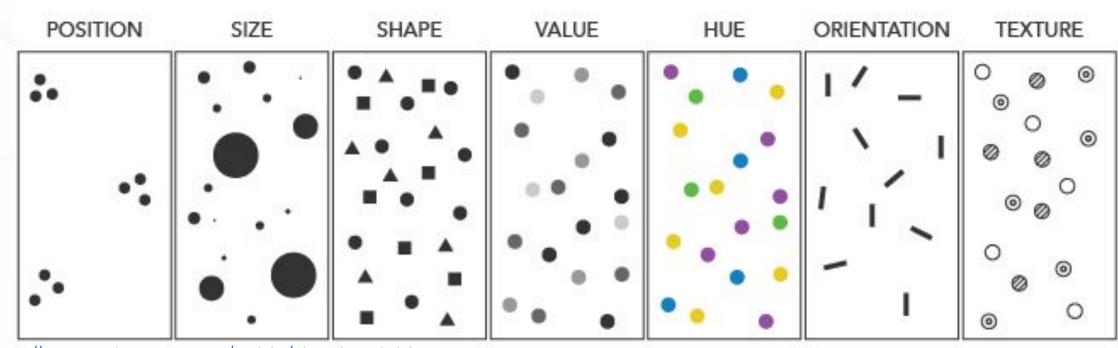
https://flowingdata.com/2023/10/02/visual-explanation-of-menstrual-cycle-length-and-variability/

Visual variables

Visual Variables

Fundamental ways in which graphic symbols can be

Bertin's Visual Variables

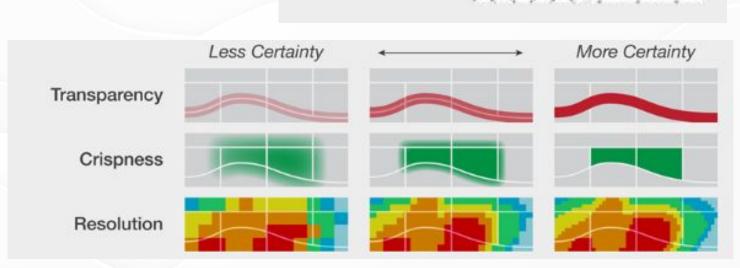


https://www.axismaps.com/guide/visual-variables

Visual Variables

The list has since been further expanded by other researchers
(Roth, Joel Morrison, Alan MacEachren):

- Color saturation
- Arrangement
- Crispness
- Resolution
- Transparency



Arrangement

Saturated colors

White, T. (2017). Symbolization and the Visual Variables. *The Geographic Information Science & Technology Body of Knowledge* (2nd Quarter 2017 Edition), John P. Wilson (ed.).DOI: 10.22224/gistbok/2017.2.3

Desaturated

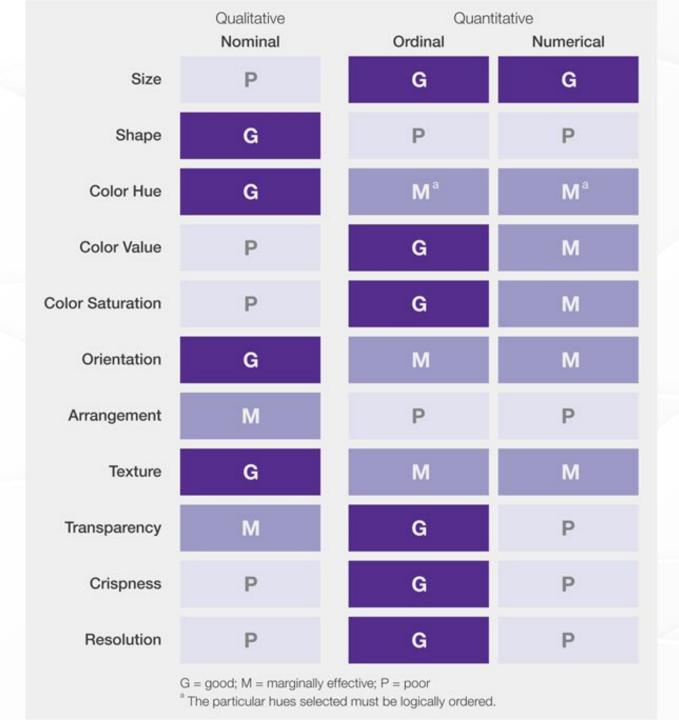
bright colors

Desaturated

dark colors

Variable	Definition
Size	Variations in the length, area, or volume of a symbol (e.g., graduated circles) denote different quantities of data.
Shape	The appearance or form of a symbol; different shapes (e.g., circles, squares, triangles) denote different categories of data.
Color Hue	The dominant wavelength of visible light in the electromagnetic spectrum (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet); different hues can denote categorical or numerical differences in the data.
Color Value	Light or dark variations of a single hue (e.g., light red-medium red-dark red) denote different quantities of data. Sometimes called <i>Lightness</i> or <i>Brightness</i> .
Color Saturation	The intensity of a single hue. Fully saturated hues appear vivid, and fully desaturated hues appear muted Denotes ordinal-level data or uncertainty in data. Sometimes called <i>Intensity</i> or <i>Chroma</i> .
Orientation	The direction or angle of rotation of an entire map symbol or the individual marks that make up the map symbol. Can denote categorical or numerical differences.
Arrangement	The distribution or layout of individual marks that make up a map symbol (e.g., regular or irregular). Primarily used in areal patterns to denote categorical differences in the data.
Texture	The relative fineness or coarseness of the areal fill within a map symbol. Can denote categorical or numerical differences in the data.
Transparency	The blend level between a symbol and a background layer; reliable data appear opaque, whereas transparency increases with uncertainty.
Crispness	The sharpness of boundaries; reliable data have crisp boundaries, but borders become fuzzy or imprecise as uncertainty increases. Also called <i>Fuzziness</i> .
Resolution	The level of detail or precision of a spatial data set. Analogous to the spatial resolution of raster grids. High resolution data are more detailed, and resolution decreases as uncertainty increases.

White, T. (2017).
Symbolization and the Visual Variables. The Geographic Information Science & Technology Body of Knowledge (2nd Quarter 2017 Edition), John P. Wilson (ed.).DOI: 10.22224/gistbok/2017.2.3



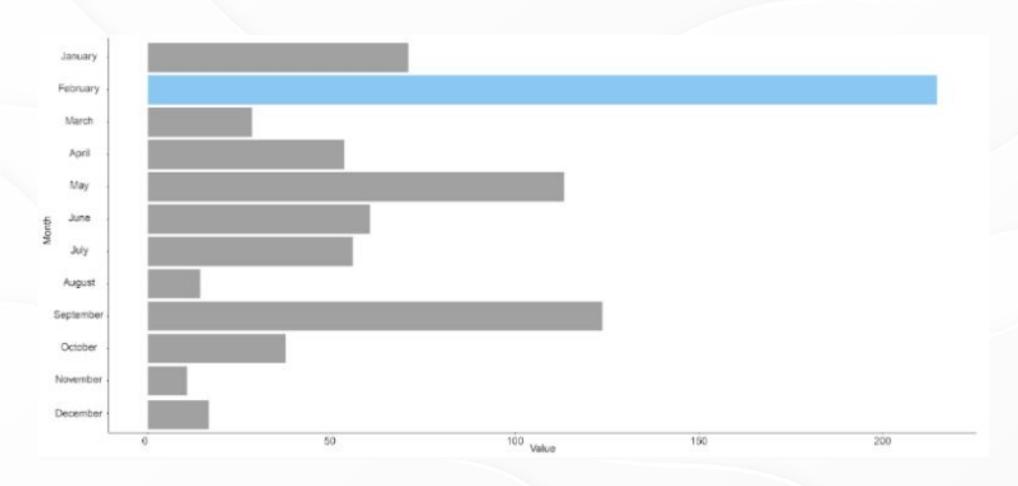
Nominal: categorical data,
 unordered and non-numerical

 Ordinal: ordered or ranked data with no assigned numerical values

> White, T. (2017). Symbolization and the Visual Variables. The Geographic Information Science & Technology Body of Knowledge (2nd Quarter 2017 Edition), John P. Wilson (ed.).DOI: 10.22224/gistbok/2017.2.3

Figure design

What is the first thing you notice when seeing this figure?



What is the first thing you notice when seeing this figure?

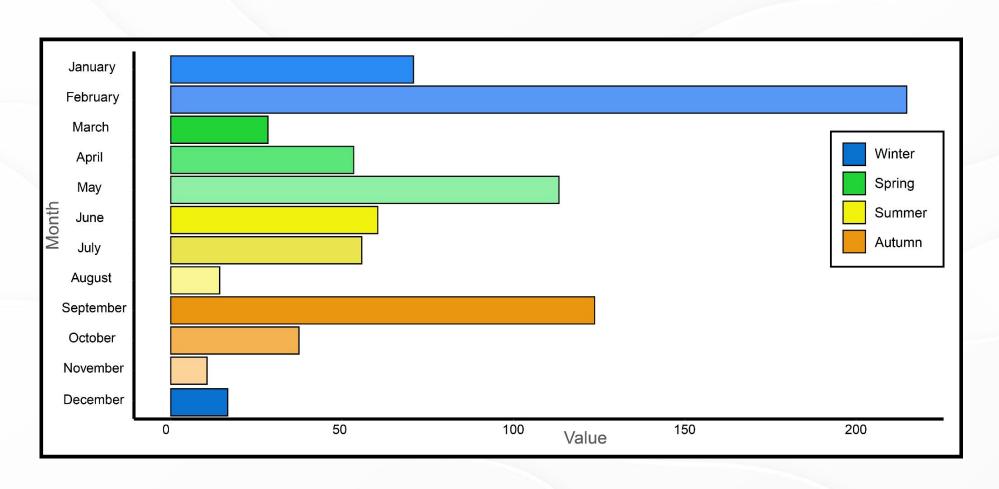


Figure design

Reading charts

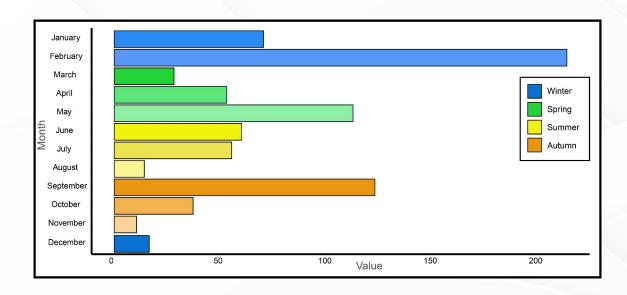
- Reading a picture ≠ reading a text
- · Depends a lot on colors picked, highlights, additional features

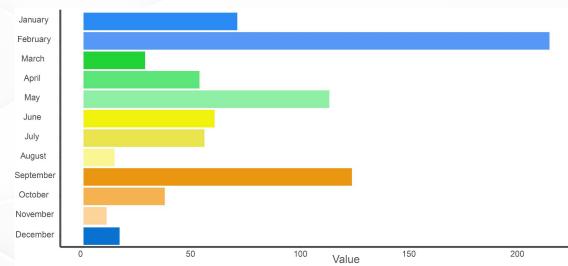
Data VS context:

- · Elements that represent the data
 - · Points in scatter plot
 - · Bars in histogram or bar chart
 - · Shaded areas in heat map
- · Elements that do not represent data non-data ink
 - · Axis and it's labels and titles
 - Legends
 - · Plot annotations

Data-ink ratio

Maximise the data-ink ratio - remove the clutter and strive for a clean and elegant design.





Font

Font choices

- 2-3 fonts maximum (title, comments, subheaders)
- Make certain fonts match well
- · Size: 8-20 points



Title

Accurately convey a reader what the figure is about

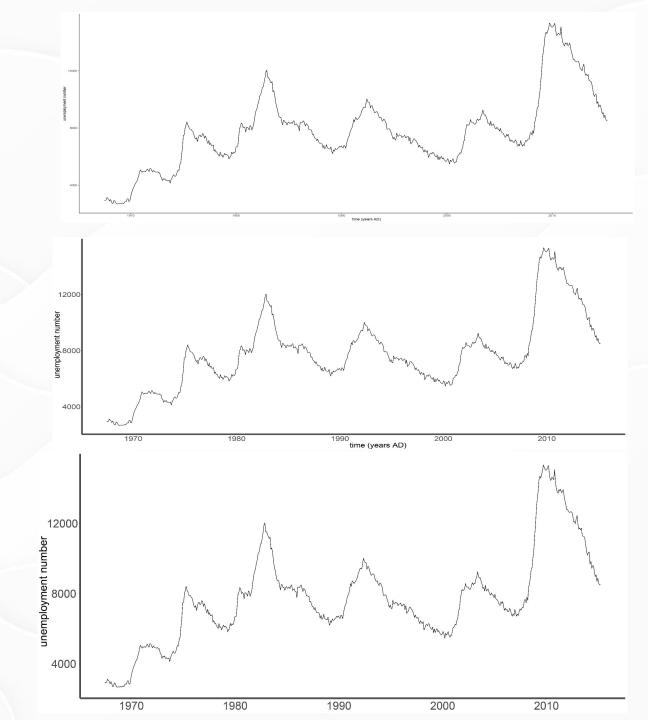
- · Title as a caption block underneath the figure
 - Books
 - Articles
- Title in the display (on top of the figure, without caption text)
 - Infographics
 - · Social media
 - Web page

Title should NEVER be omitted. The first part of the caption is ALWAYS the title, not a description of the contents of the figure.

Title size

Make it bigger

Computer monitor lies



Axis and legend

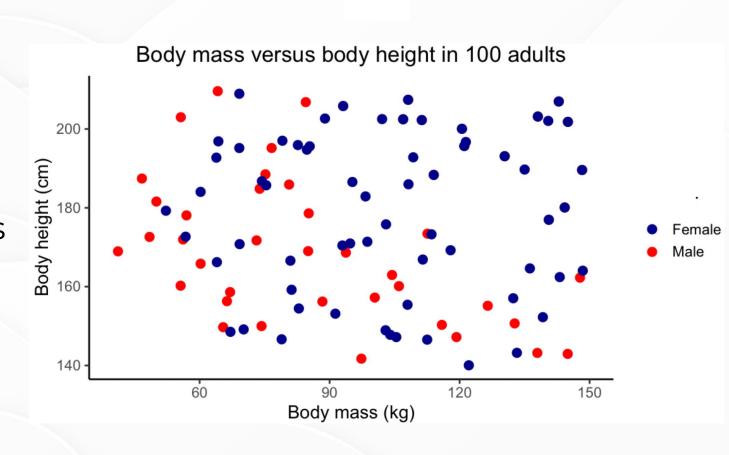
Explain what the displayed data values are and how they map to plot aesthetics

Numerical variables

- State variables shown
- Add units of measurements
 Categorical variables
 - No need to add units

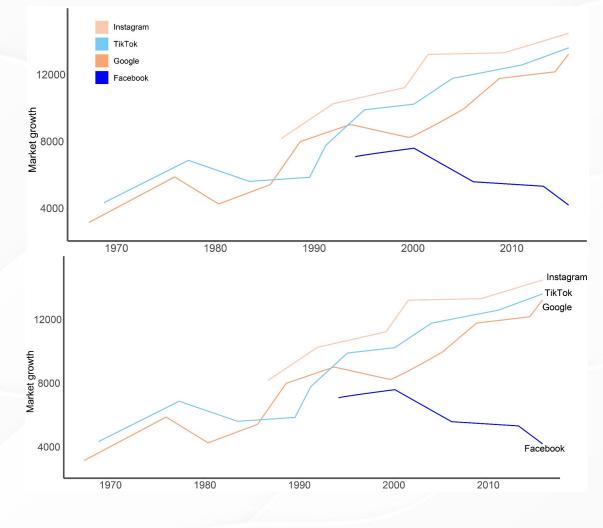
EXCEPTION:

Labels are fully explanatory



Legend

- If there is a clear visual order in your data, match the legend with it
- If possible, design your figure so that it does not need a legend
 - Direct labeling
- Multiple chart figure
 - Single legend that covers all the charts



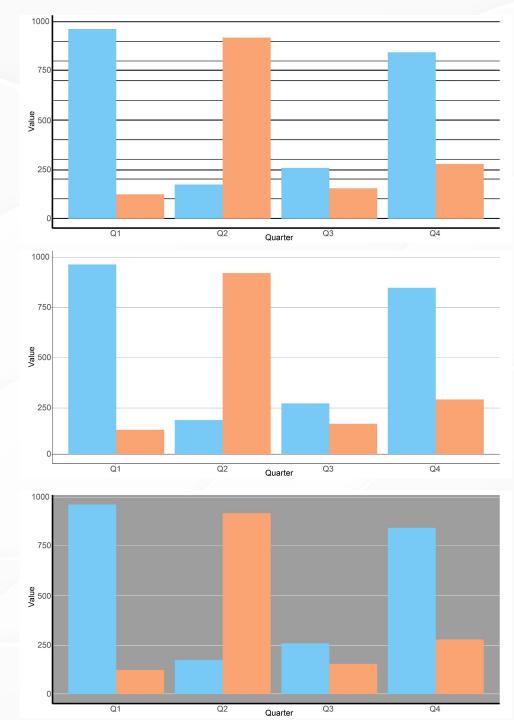
Grids

Positives

- Helps the plot to be perceived as a single visual entity
- Prevents the plot to appear as a white box in surrounding dark text

Negatives

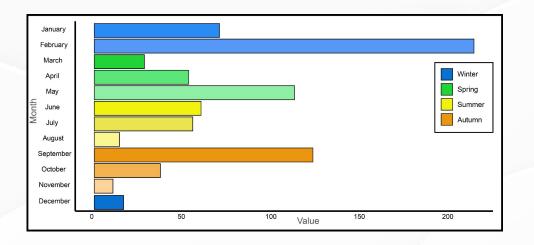
- White-on-gray background grid isn't attractive
- The gray background can detract from the actual data
- Grid with major and minor lines can be too dense
- Gray squares in the legend confusing

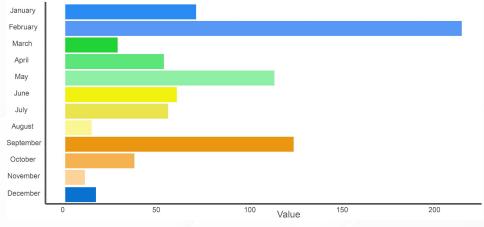


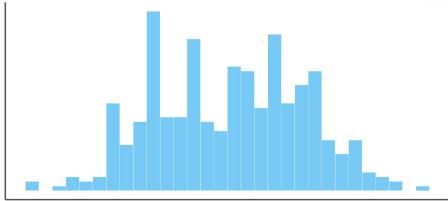
Lines in drawings

No lines to the shapes

- Perceived as one object
- · Clearer indication of the size
 - Histogram and bar plots







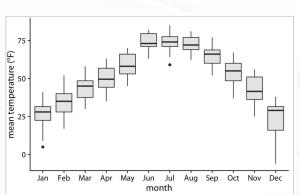
Lines in drawings

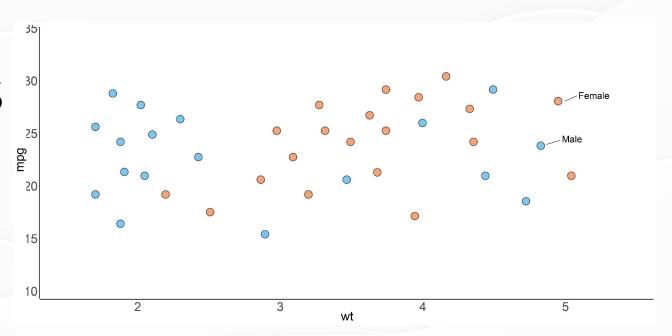
No lines to the shapes

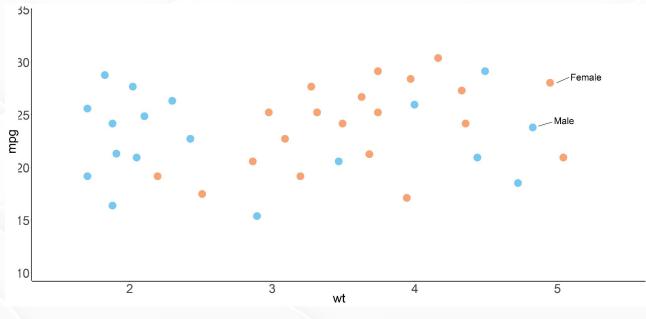
- Perceived as one object
- · Clearer indication of the size
 - Histogram and bar plots
 - Symbols in dot plots
- · Pleasant to look at

EXCEPTION:

Boxplots

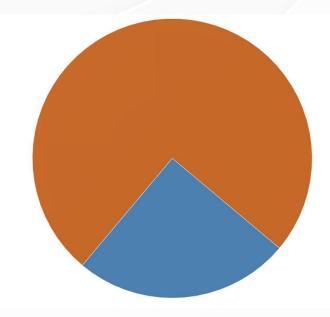


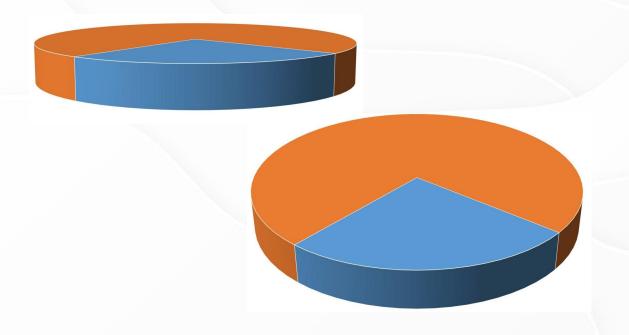


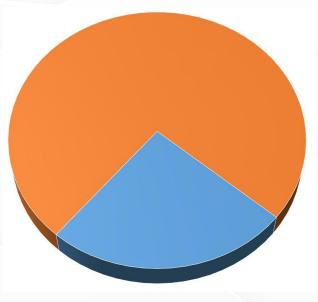


3D charts

just don't do it! The projection of a 3D objects into two dimensions always distorts the data.







Example:
Blue slice is
25% in every
graph

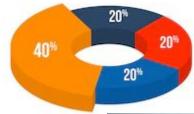
3D charts

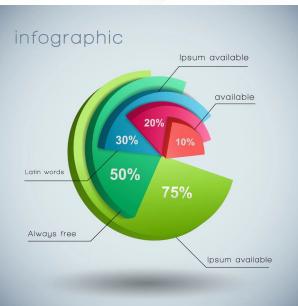
just don't do it!

Exceptions:

- Interactive visualisations
- VR or augmented reality environment
- · Non-interactive, but showing it rotating
- Data mapped onto 3D things
 - Maps
 - Protein structure







https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/charts-diagrams-graphs-modern-isometric-3d-flat-style-infographic-presentation-design-data-finance_10700767.htm
https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/3d-business-diagram-template-with-text-fields-marked-by-different-colors-chart_11408197.htm Image by macrovector on Freepik

How could this graph be better?

Animal Life Expectancy

MEDIAN YEARS

	Gecko, Satanic Leaf-tailed 2.5 years	Buttonquail, Madagascar 3.2	Tanager, Turquoise 4.0	Cardinal, Red-crested 4.1	Gecko, Lined Leaf-tailed 4.5	Barbet, Red and Yellow 4.6	Tanager, Silver-beaked	Gazelle, I Slender-Horne 5.1	Toad, Puerto d Rican Crested	Wallaby, d Bennett 5,3
	@									
,	Woodhoopoe, Green 5.4	Hyrax, Rock	Wallaby, Parm.	a Duiker, Black 5.9	Troupial	Dove, Grey- capped Emerald 6.2	Frog, Dusky Gopher 6.6	Moose 6.6	Sitatunga 6.7	Pheasant, Palawan Peacoc
В	Nove, eautiful Fruit 7.1	Chevrotain, Greater Malayan 7.1	7.3	Marmoset, Geoffroy's 7.3	Frog, Panamania Golden 7.5	n Lechwe, Red	Pudu, Chilean	Red-billed 7.8	Capybara 7.8	Aracari, Green
	Kea 8.0	Goose, Nene	Agouti, Brazilian 8.1	Rattlesnake, Mexic Lance-headed 8.4	can Cat, Pallas'	Penguin, Magellanic 8.5	Tern, Inca 8.6	Lemur, Gray Mouse 8.7	Klipspringer 8.7	Langur, Silvered Leaf 8.9
	Squirrel, Prevost's 9.4	Jay, Plush Crested 10.2	Koala, Queensland 10.2	Toucan, Chestnut- mandibled 10.2	Parrot, Thick-billed 10.7	Tamarin, Pied	Stork, Painted 10.9	Porcupine, Prehensile-tailed 10.9	Python, Reticulated 11.1	Hornbill, Red-billed 11.1
1	Antelope, Sable	Goose, Swan 11.4	Magpie, Red- billed Blue 11.5	Wolf, Maned	Crested 12.4	Ibis, Sacred	Tortoise, Egyptian 12.5	Roan Is	sland Brown 12.6	Pelican, Pink-backed 12.8
1	Eland, Common	Goral, Chinese	Stilt, Black-necked 13.0	Turtle, Wood 13.1	Tree Kangaroo, Matschie's 13.2	Oryx, Arabian	Takin, Sichuan 13.7	Zebra, Hartmann's Mountain 13.9	Crane, Hooded 14.0	Oryx, Scimitar-horned 14.2
Ba Fi	nt, Rodrigues ruit 14.4	Bird-of-paradise, Raggiana 14.5	Turtle, Coahuilan Box 14.6	Puffin, Atlantic 14.6	Macaque, Sulawesi 14.7	Tiger, Amur (Siberian) 15.3	Monkey, Bolivian Gray Tit 15.3	Tapir, i Malayan (Asian) 15.6	Flying Fox, Large 17.1	Boa, Jamaican 17.4
N R	ed-capped 17.8	Red-legged Black 17.9	ey, Southern Howler 17.9	Sumatran 18.4	Lemur, Black and White Ruffed 18.5	Seal, Grey	Anteater, Giant 19.7	Lemur, Red Ruffed 19.9	Mandrill 20.1	Bear, Sun
5	Seal, Harbor	Lizard, Rio Fuerte Beaded 24.2	Macaw, Hyacinth 24.3	Hippopotamus, Pygmy	Flamingo, Caribbean 25.7	Penguin, Macaroni 26.3	Siamang 27.2	Baboon, Hamadryas 27.3	Gibbon, White-cheeked	Bonobo

Colors

Color choices

To enhance the figure and make it easier to read.

- 3-5 categories of data qualitative color scales
- More categories use direct labeling, matching colors becomes laborious
- Help! Hard to choose colors?
 - https://coolors.co/
 - https://www.heavy.ai/blog/12-color-palettes-for-telling-betterstories-with-your-data

Common mistakes: Color choices

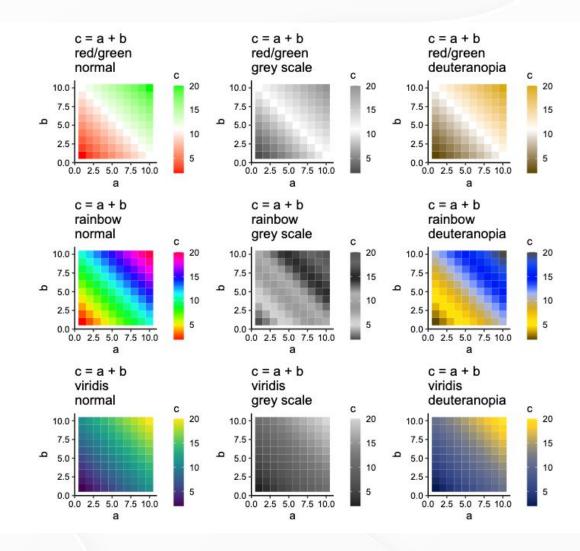
- Saturated and intense colors hard to look at
- Using default color choices usually doesn't work well
 - Rainbow red-to-red
 - Scale ends needs to have maximum differences
 - Regions where colors change slowly VS rapidly



Common mistake: color blind unfriendliness

Deuteranomaly is the most common type of red/green colorblindness, occurring in 1/16 male and 1/256 female.

https://qithub.com/cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends C. Li. (2023). cxli233/FriendsDontLetFriends: FriendsDontLetFriends. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7097522

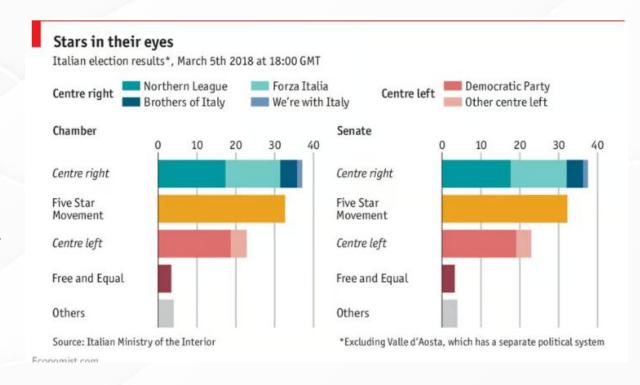


Color scales: Qualitative ["#fd7f6f", "#7eb0d5", "#b2e061", "#bd7ebe", "#ffb55a", "#ffee65", "#beb9db", "#fdcce5", "#8bd3c7"]

https://www.heavy.ai/blog/12-color-palettes-for-telli ng-better-stories-with-your-data

Distinguishing discrete items or groups that do not have intrinsic order (countries on a map)

- Finite number of colors that are similar but distinct from each other.
- No color should specifically stand out from others.
- Colors should not create an apparent order.



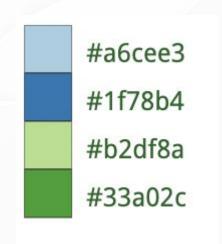
Qualitative color blind friendly

Tool:

https://davidmathlogic.com/colorblind/#%23D81B60 -%231E88E5-%23FFC107-%23004D40

play around to see how different color blindness affects what we see



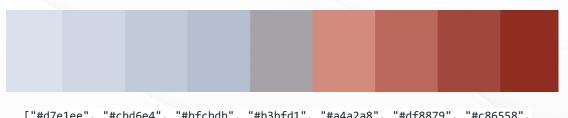


Color scales: Sequential

Representing data values

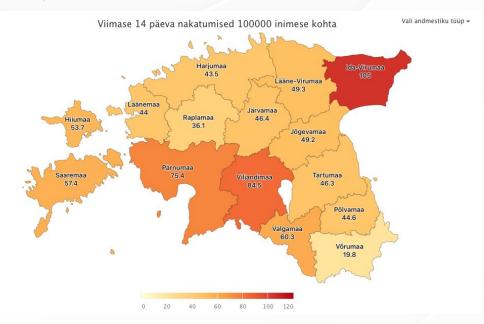
Scale of color clearly indicates order in the values of the data or how two specific values differ from each other.

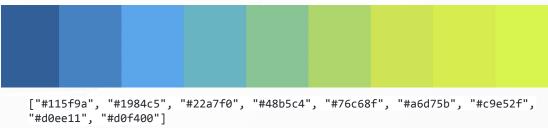
Use single hue (dark blue to light blue) or multi hue scales (gradient should be seen in natural world, dark red to light yellow).



["#d7e1ee", "#cbd6e4", "#bfcbdb", "#b3bfd1", "#a4a2a8", "#df8879", "#c86558", "#b04238", "#991f17"]

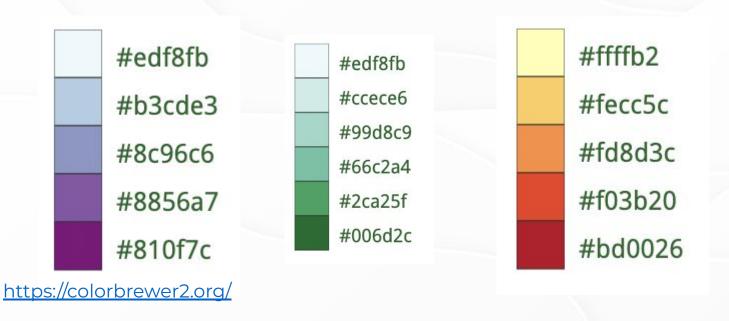
https://koroonakaart.ee/et





Color scales: Sequential color-blind friendly

sequential scale should present a continuous gradient from dark to light colors and should pose no problems.



Color scales: Diverging

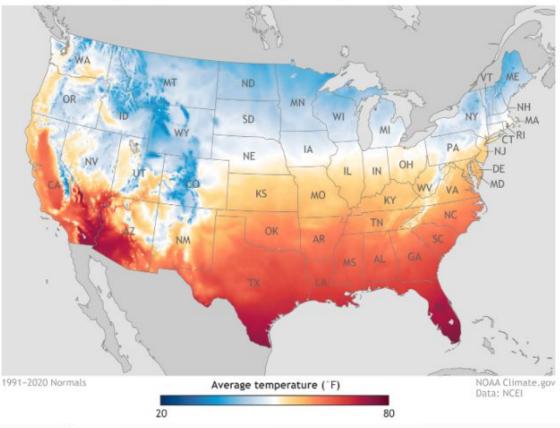
Two sequential scales stitched together at a common midpoint, which usually is represented by a light color.

Needs to be balanced.



"#d7658b", "#c80064"]
https://www.heavy.ai/blog/12-color-palettes-for-telling-be
tter-stories-with-your-data

U.S. annual average temperature and precipitation (1991–2020)



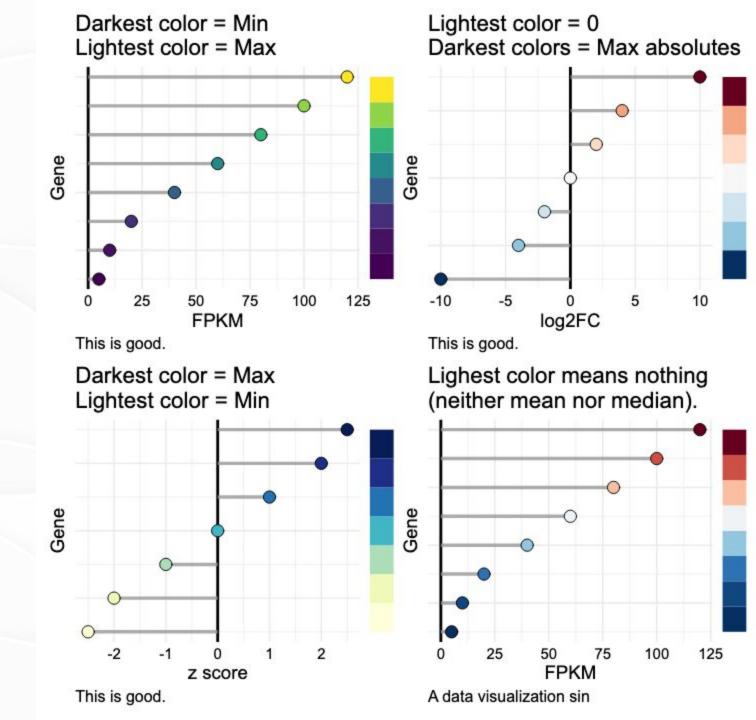
Average temperature (°F)

20 80

https://www.climate.gov/news-features/featured-images/new-maps-annual-average-temperature-and-precipitation-us-climate

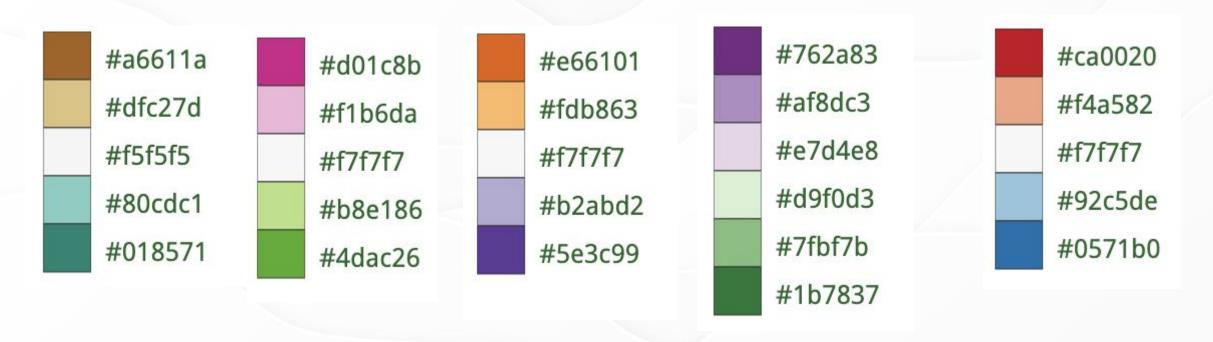
Common mistake: Diverging scale for unidirectional data





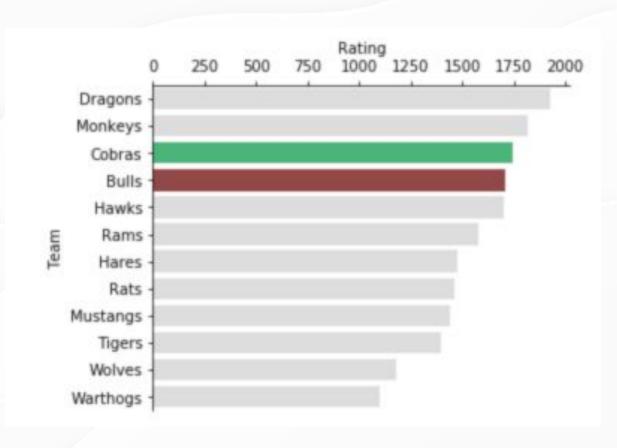
Color scales: Diverging color blind friendly

Slightly problematic, popular color contrasts can become indistinguishable (green and red).



Color scales: Accent

Highlighting a specific data point/element.



Improving the visual design of the figure

Color is easier to distinguish when applies to larger areas than to small ones or thin lines.

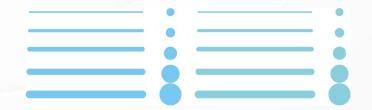


Tableau public visualisations

- https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/tervise.arengu.instituut/viz/Snnid/Sisukord
 kord Birth statistics in Estonia by National Institute for Health Development
- https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/tervise.arengu.instituut/viz/Imikuterin napiimagatoitmine/Imikuterinnapiimagatoitmine Breastfeeding by National Institute for Health Development
- https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/transpordiamet/viz/Kergliikuri_L/nnet usteldandmed traffic accidents with electric scooter rider by Estonian Transport Administration

Tools for visualisation

Logo	Name	Free plan	Premium plans user/ month	Notes	need to code?
Microsoft Power BI	Microsoft Power BI	+	10\$- 20\$	Slow with big data. Integrated with other Microsoft products. User friendly UI.	no
++++ + a b e a u°	Tableau	+	75\$	Public is free but data will be public too. Apply for Tableau plans for student, teacher or data kids to get it for free (time limited). Higher learning curve. Exceptional visualisation options	only for very specific details
X	Microsoft Excel	-	5,60\$-20,60\$	Trial version is available. Easy to learn.	no
Studio	RStudio	+	87\$	ggplot2 package is free and designed for data visualisation. Popular among scientists. Can handle large datasets. Reproducible. Exceptional visualisation options	always

Take away message

- Figure out your data type
- Keep in mind your publication venue and audience
- Think of your main message
- Choose the right graph (using slides, flowchart guide or https://www.data-to-viz.com/)
- Avoid common mistakes
- Use best practices
- · Focus on the important maximise data-ink ratio

Take away message

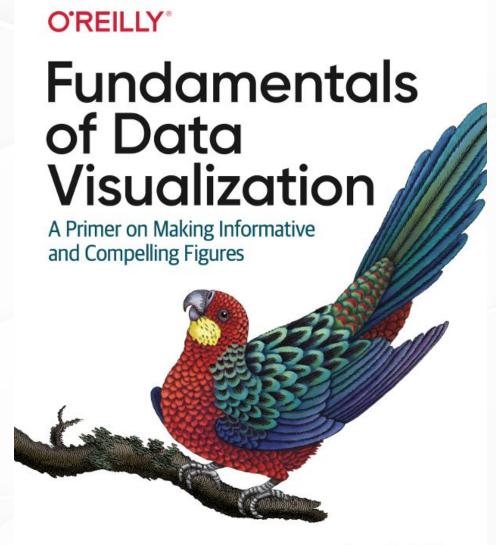
- Bar chart starts at 0
- Order the variables if possible
- · No more than 5 sections for vertical bar or pie charts
- Use consistent visual language
 - 1-2 fonts (similar type)
 - Make titles always bigger
 - · Colors easy on the eye and compliment each other
 - Pay attention to color blindness!
 - Play with line thickness
 - If there is clear visual order in your data, match the legend with it

Feedback

https://forms.gle/tTAqavvdfAaJNqVf6

Reference

Materials based on Claus O. Wilke. (2019). Fundamentals of Data Visualization. O'Reilly Media, 319 p. (NB! Draft is freely available at https://serialmentor.com/dataviz/)



Claus O. Wilke

Resource

· White, T. (2017). Symbolization and the Visual Variables. The Geographic Information Science & Technology Body of Knowledge (2nd Quarter 2017 Edition), John P. Wilson (ed.).

DOÍ: 10.22224/gistbok/2017.2.3 http://dx.doi.org/10.22224/gistbok/2017.2.3

- https://www.data-to-viz.com/ wonderful resource for choosing the right graph
- https://www.storytellingwithdata.com/chart-guide
 - · and the book https://github.com/Saurav6789/Books-/blob/master/storytelling-with-data-cole-nussbaumer-knaflic.pdf

References

General information about data visualisation

- Using Design Techniques for Clear and Appealing Data Visualisation by nullQueries https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05mgm2UTUSo
- How To Choose The Right Graph by UNDATABLE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7F-tbBl_hA
- How To Use COLOR in Your Data Visualisation by UNDATABLE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5brQ4WTlmQ
- Data Visualisation in 2022 by Visme <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loYuxWSsLNc</u>
- Which is the best Chart by 365 Data Science <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C07k0euBpr8</u>
- Five Data Storytelling Tips to Improve Your Charts and Graphs by VIsme https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pymfPHQ6SA

References

- https://datavizproject.com/
- https://100.datavizproject.com/
- https://data.europa.eu/apps/data-visualisation-guide/

Color

- Color Contrast Checker <u>https://coolors.co/contrast-checker/112a46-acc8e5</u>
- Color Palette Generator https://coolors.co/
- Color Scheme Designer <u>https://paletton.com/#uid=1000u0kllllaFw0g0qFqFg0w0aF</u>
- https://color.adobe.com/create/color-contrast-analyzer color blind safe tool here

Genomic Data Visualization

https://jef.works/genomic-data-visualization-2024/course

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Photo resources

- https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/digital-graph-with -businessman-hand-overlay_15474099.htm title slide
- https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/white-elegant-tex ture-background-design_6764485.htm
 slide background

Thank you for listening!

