



# an introduction to information graphics and data visualisation

max van kleek  
INFO6005 - 12.02.2013

6179 planes

0:28 EST

tuesday outline

biological basis of information design

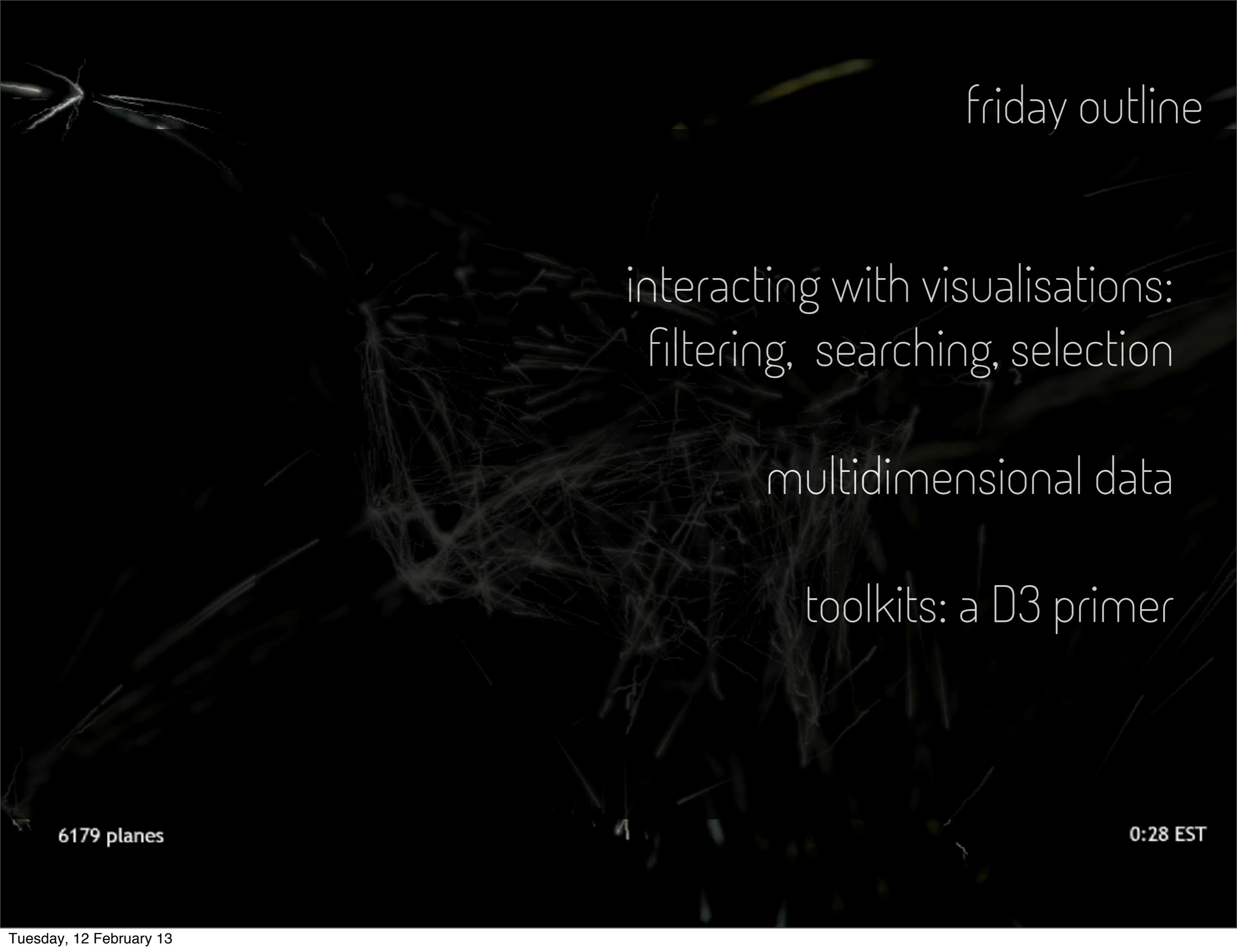
visual dimensions and data dimensions

tasks

deception and bad infographics

6179 planes

0:28 EST



friday outline

interacting with visualisations:  
filtering, searching, selection

multidimensional data

toolkits: a D3 primer

6179 planes

0:28 EST

key objectives

what are the **goals** of visualisation?

how do you **choose** a visual representation for data?

how do you **evaluate** a visualisation?

key objectives

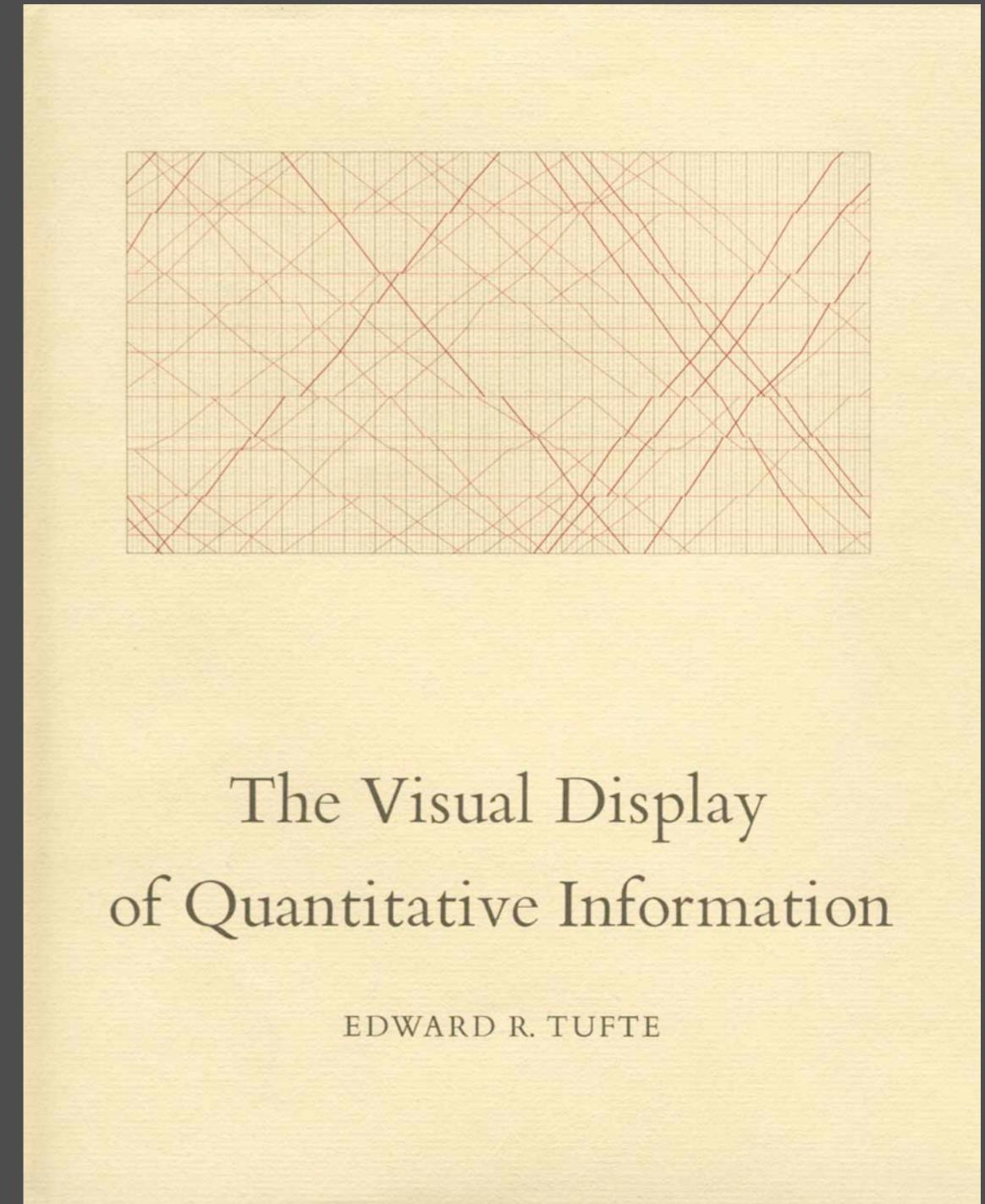
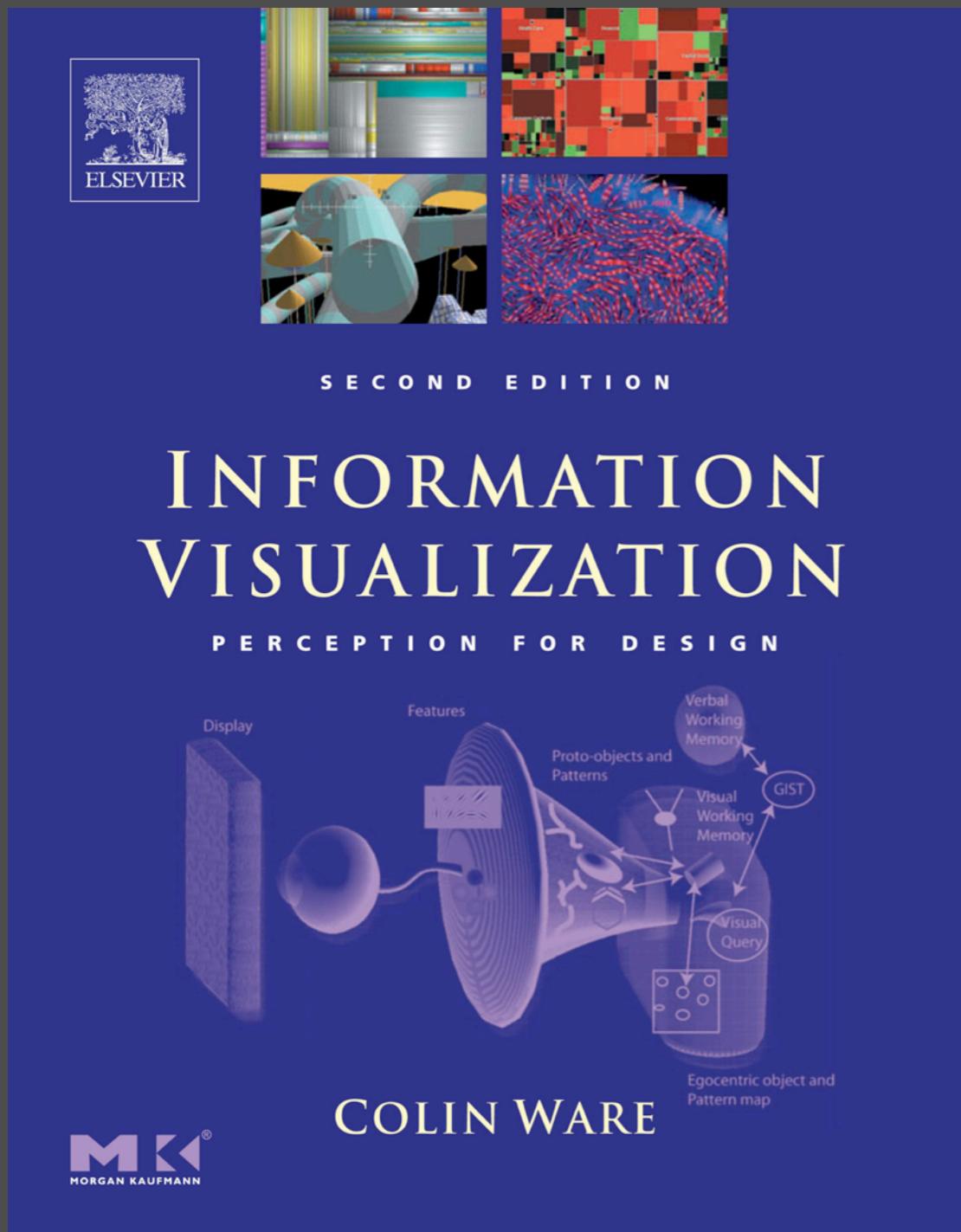
aesthetics + engagement - is ‘pretty’ better?

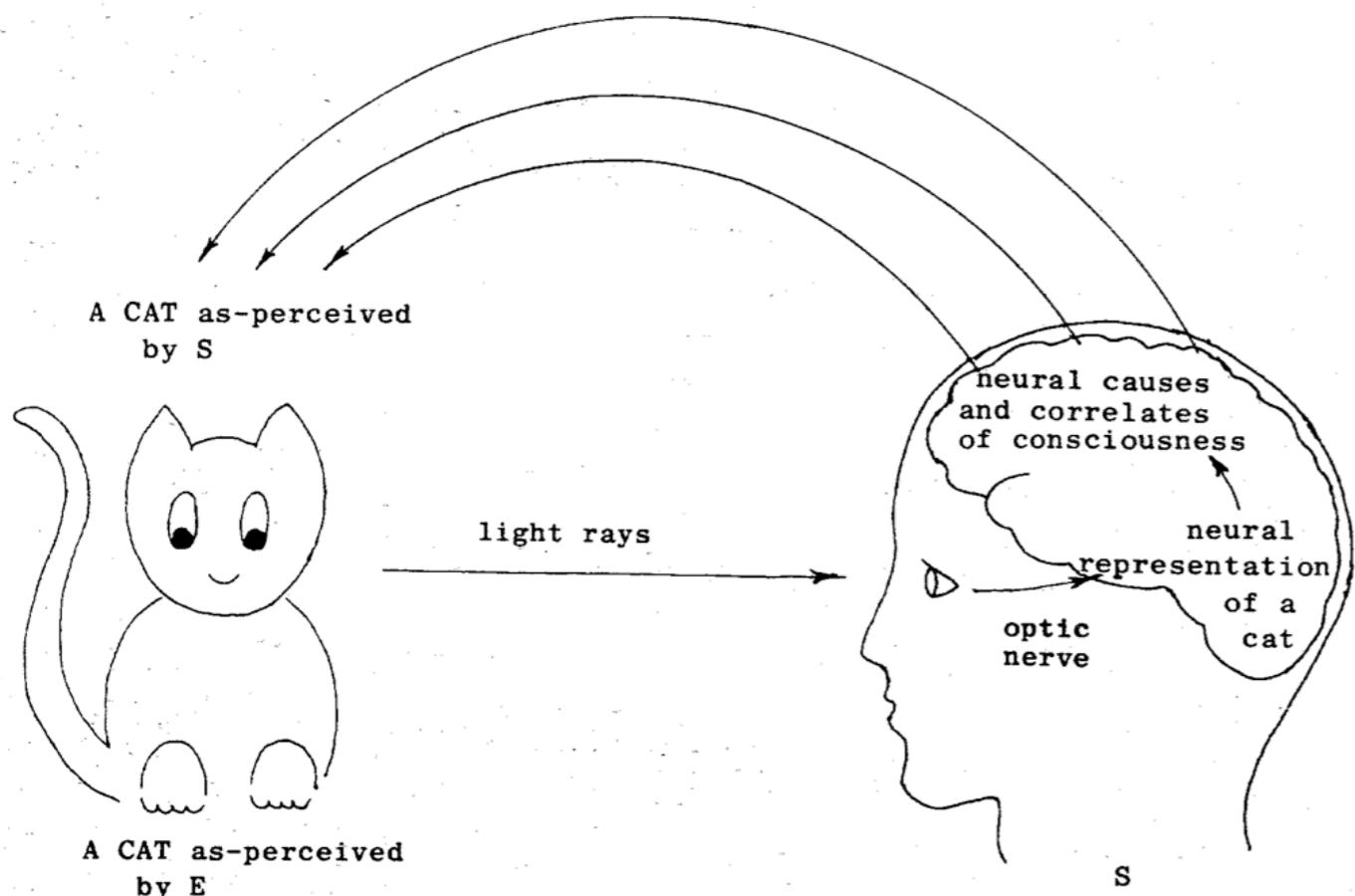
identifying distortion + deception

wielding power tools (excel / matlab / etc )  
vs hacking bespoke approaches

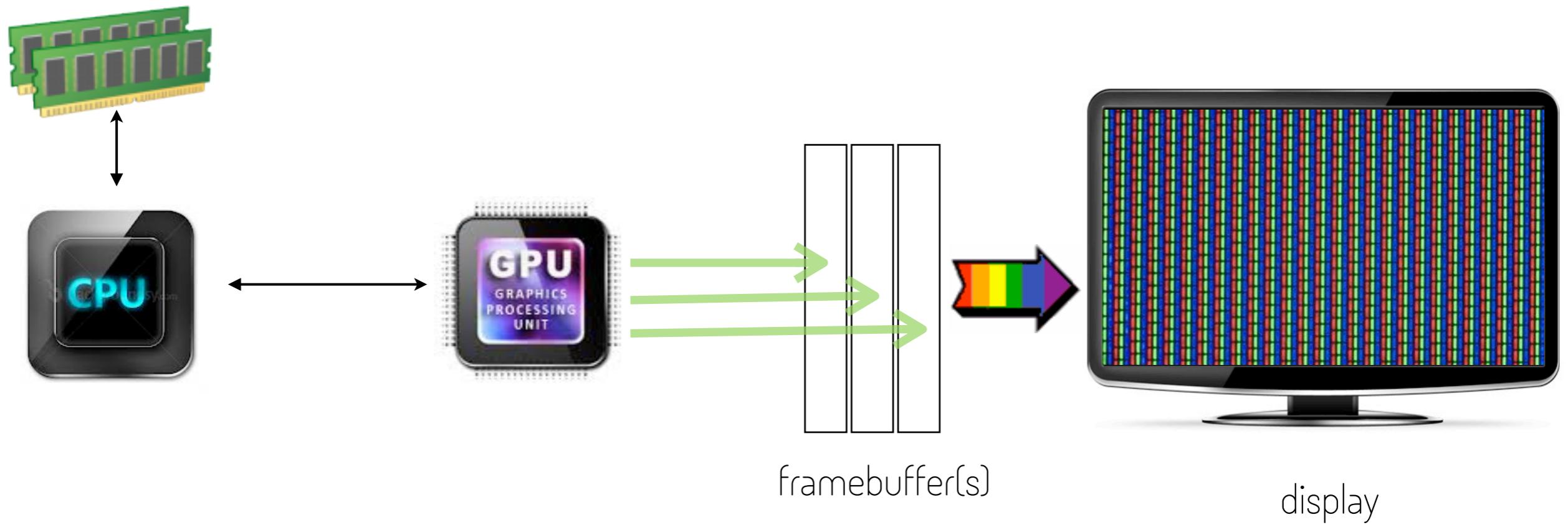
minor objectives

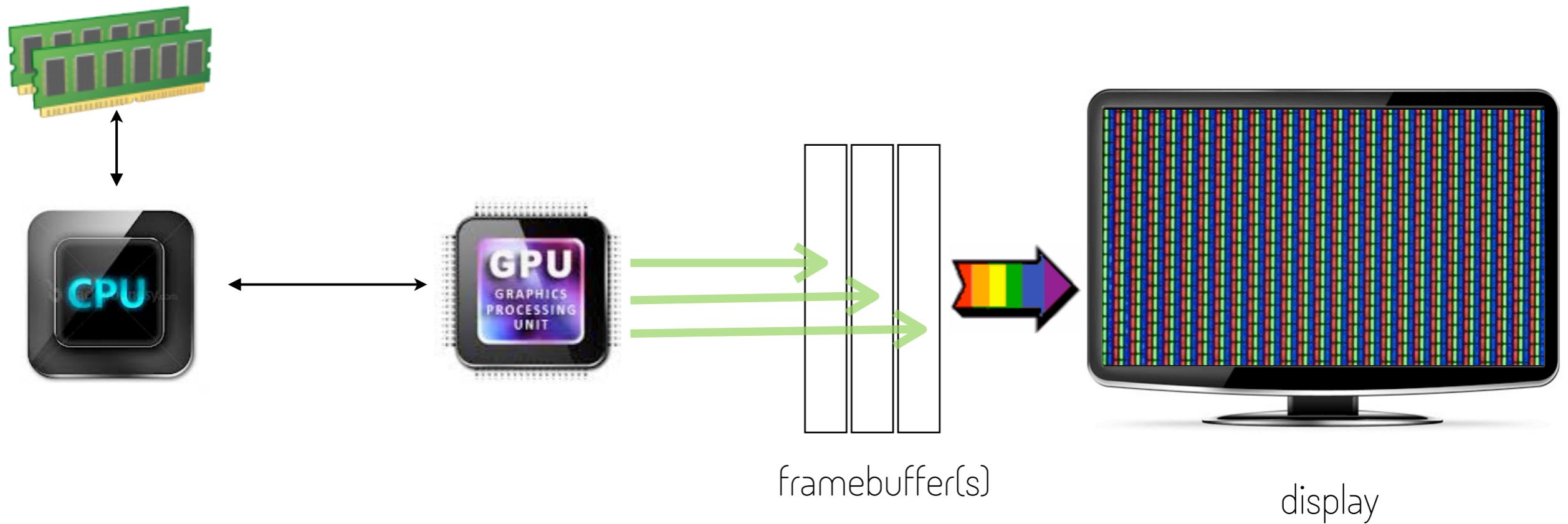
# recommended texts



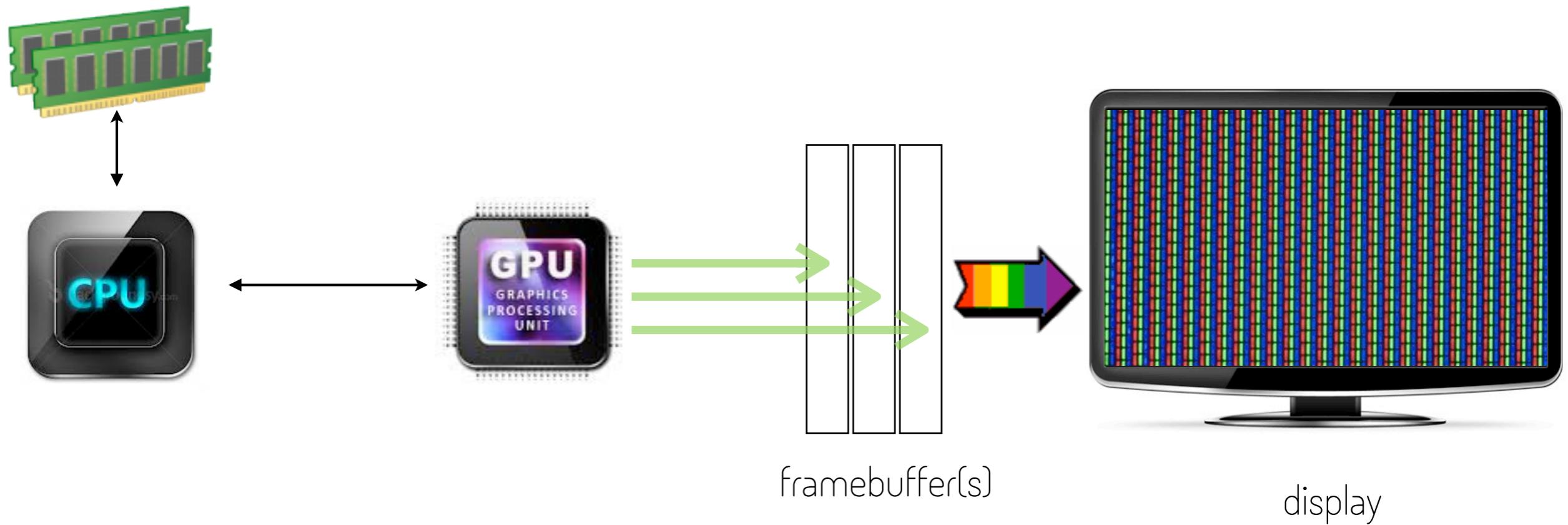


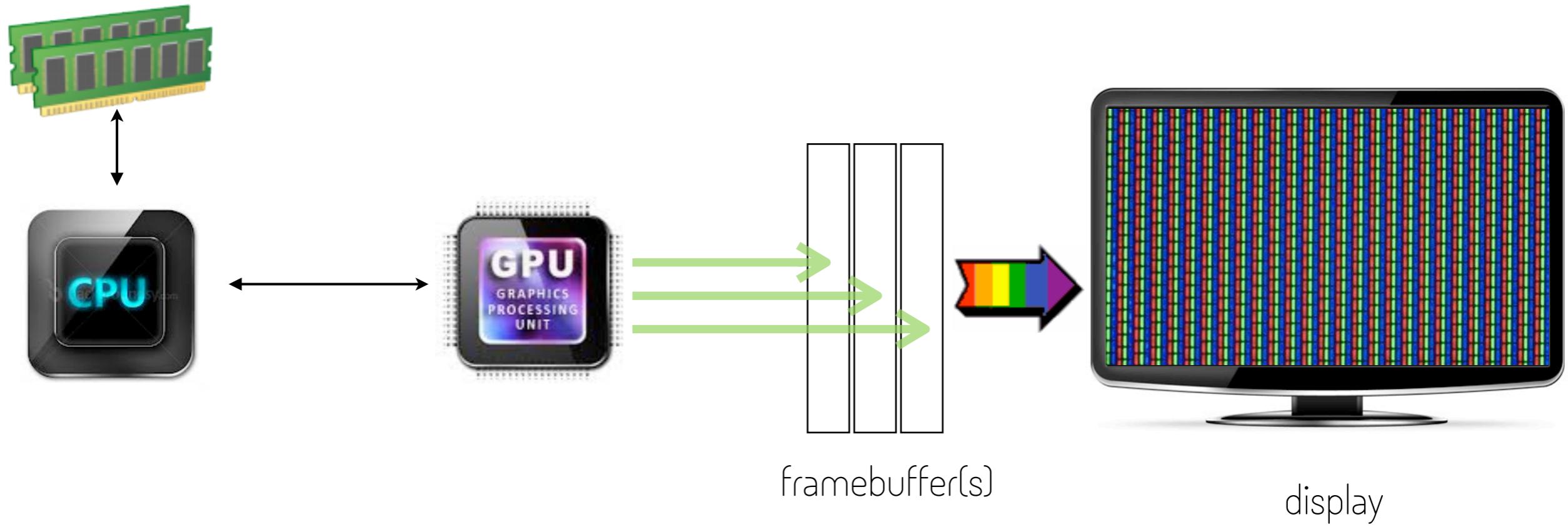
# biological basis of information design





typical computer architecture

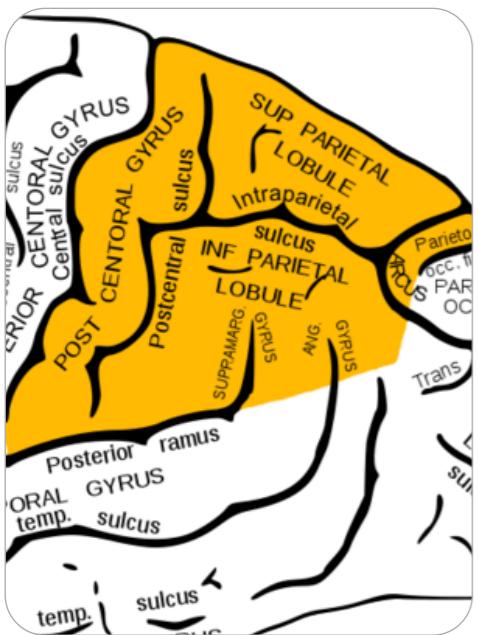




framebuffer(s)

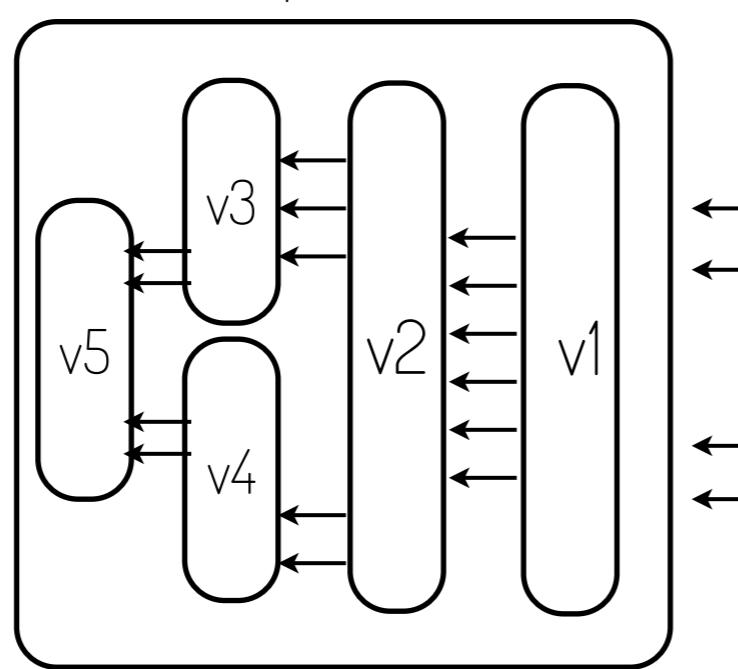
display

parietal lobe + frontal cortex

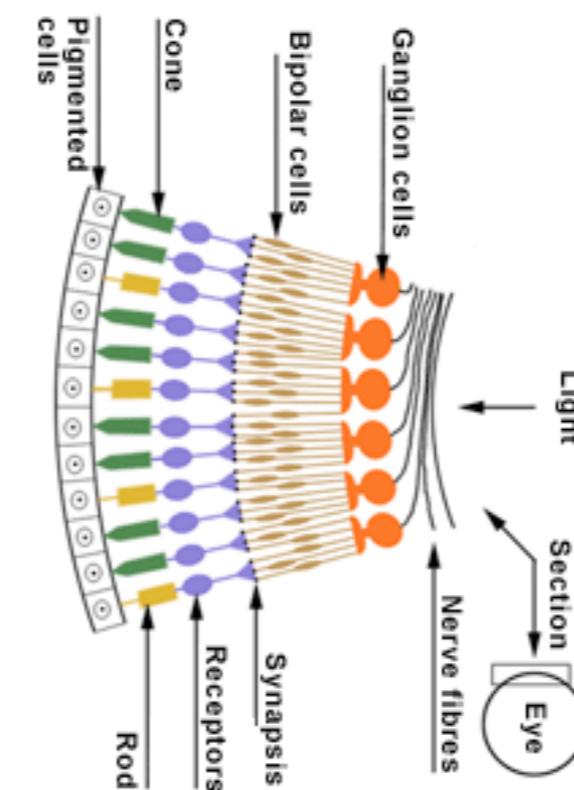


spatial orientation  
focus of attention  
eye control,  
perceptual fusion

occipital lobe



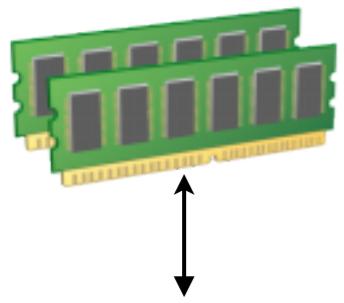
visual cortex  
(pattern detection)



retina  
(sensing)

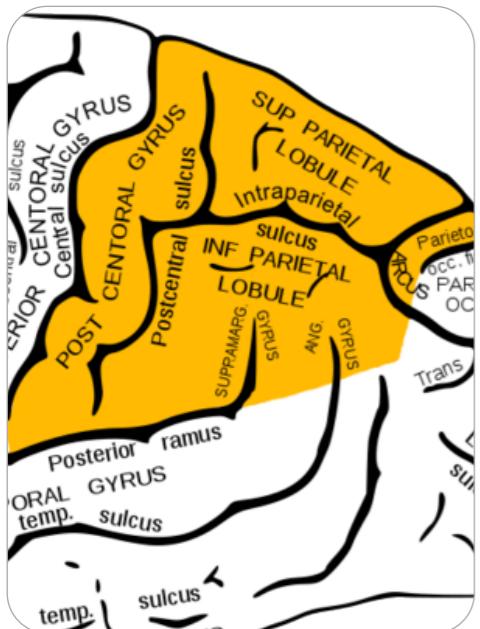


eye / iris / fovea



serial /  
deliberative  
processing  
“attention-focused”

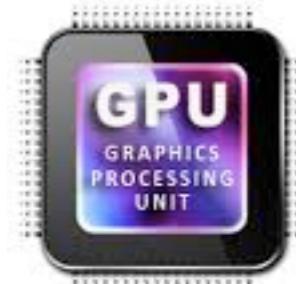
parietal lobe + frontal cortex



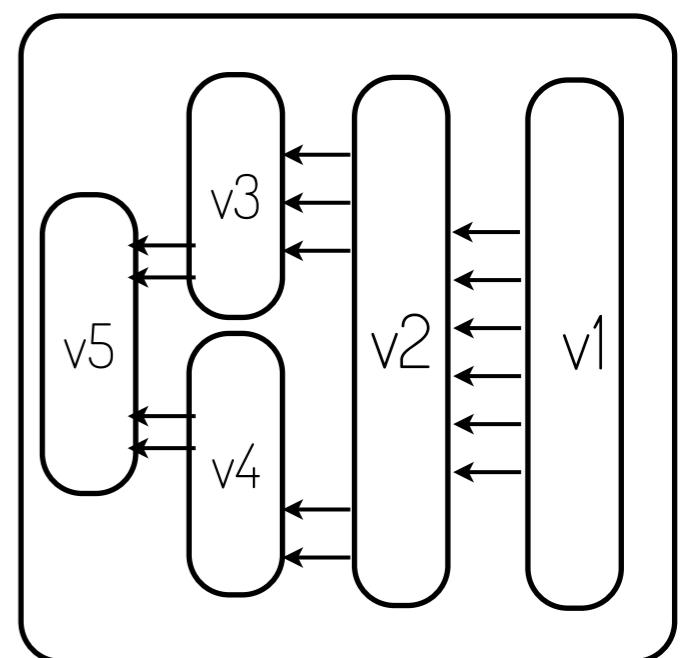
access to  
long term memory

highly parallel

visual processing  
routines  
optimised for  
purpose



occipital lobe

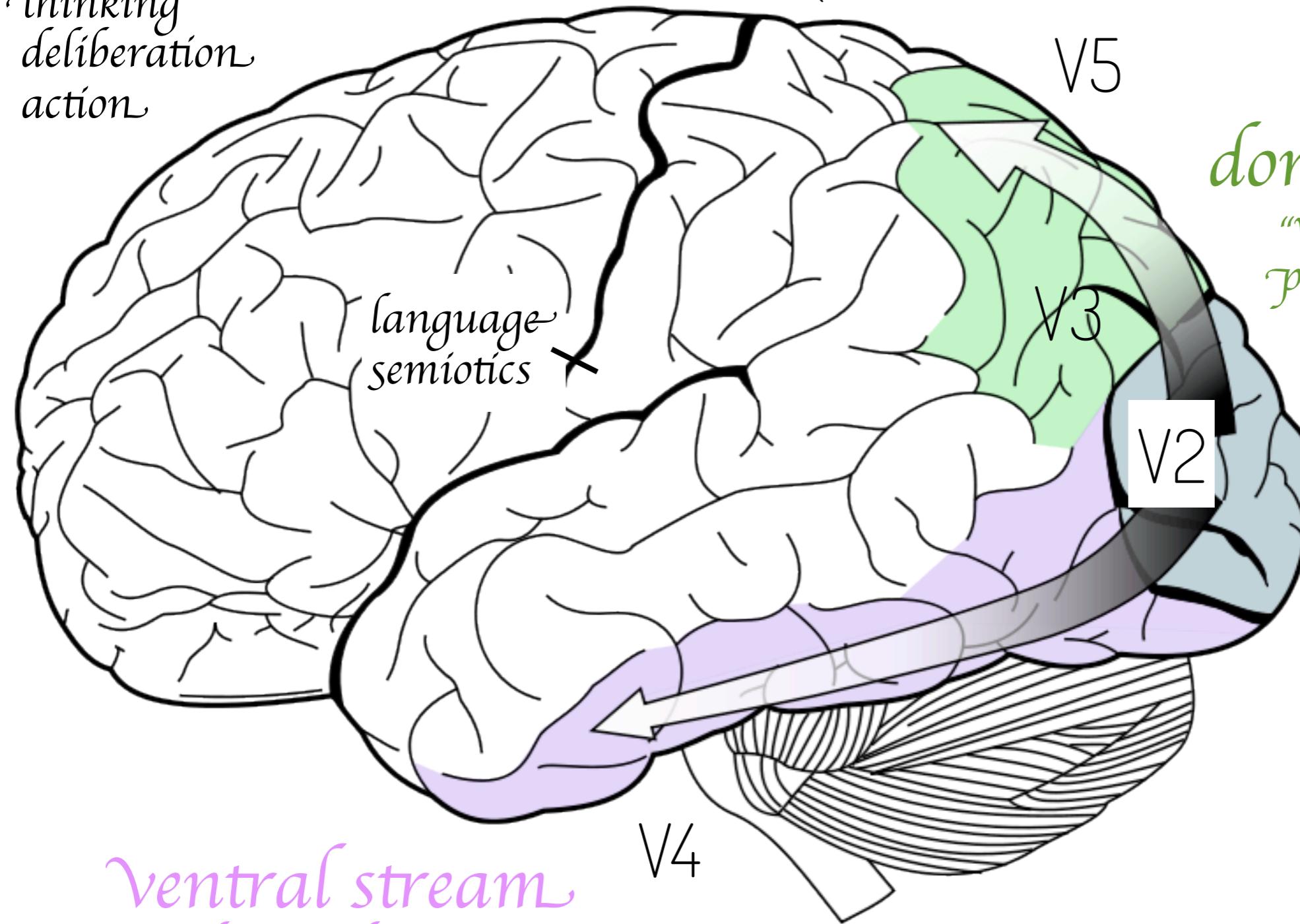


visual cortex  
(pattern detection)

spatial orientation  
focus of attention  
eye control,  
perceptual fusion

frontal lobe

*planning  
thinking  
deliberation  
action*



*ventral stream  
"what" pathway*

parietal lobe  
*spatial reasoning  
perceptual fusion*

*dorsal stream  
"where/how"  
pathways*

V1  
occipital lobe

V5

V3

V2

V4

50 0 50 100 150 200

X Pump • Deaths from cholera



John Snow, 1854  
London Cholera Outbreak

The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic – and How it Changed Science, Cities and the Modern World.

Tuesday, 12 February 13

50 0 50 100 150 200

X Pump • Deaths from cholera

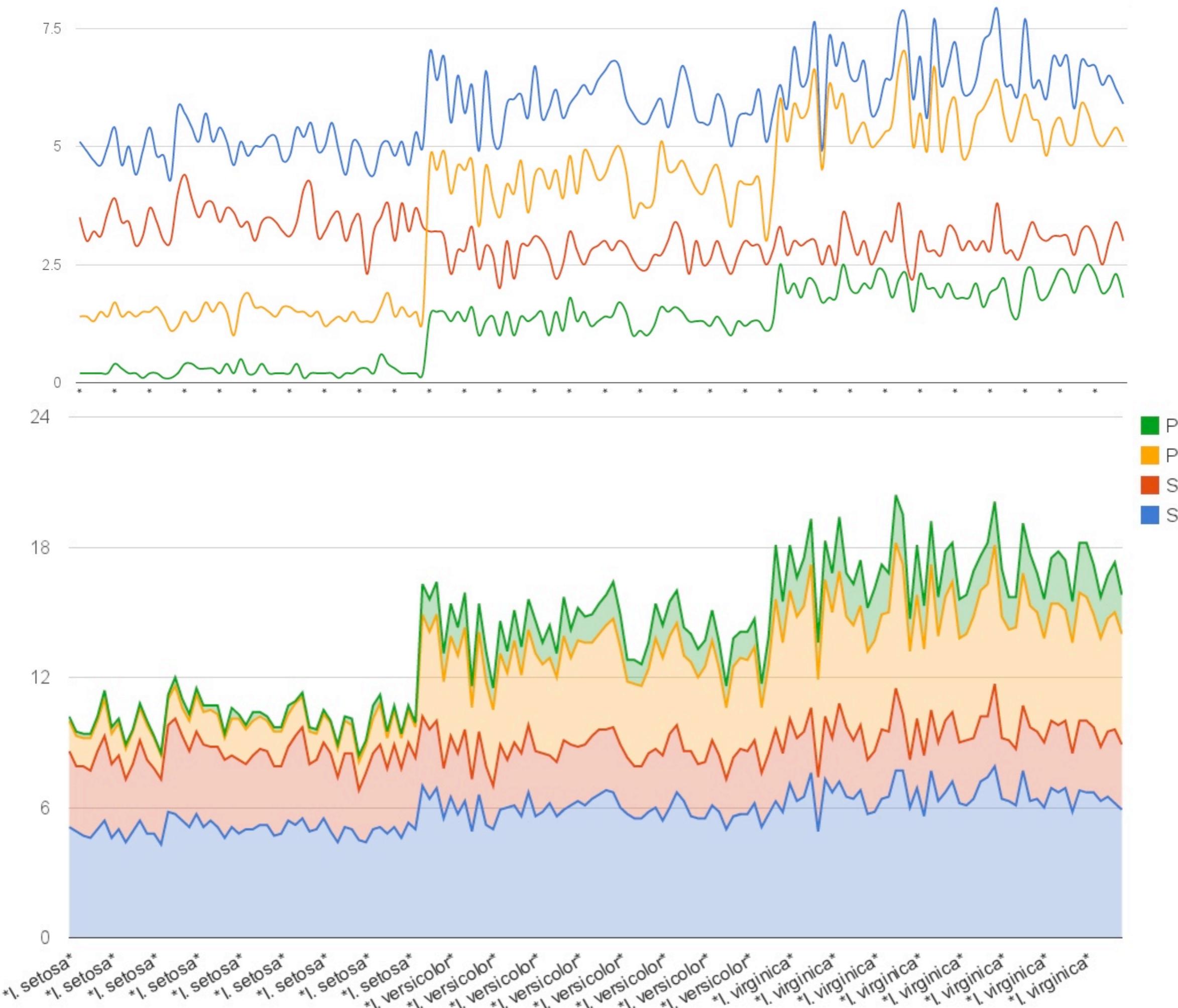


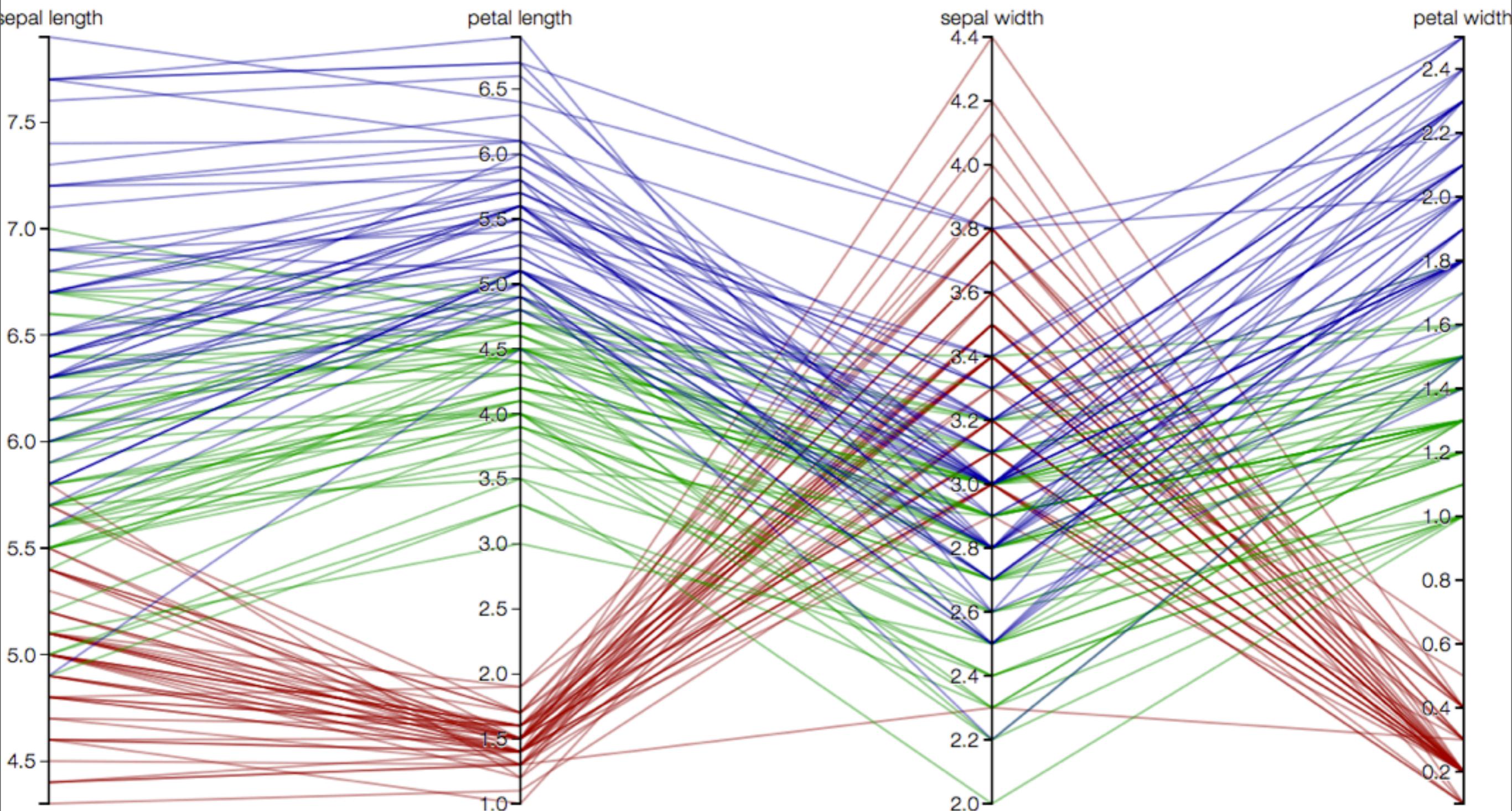
John Snow, 1854  
London Cholera Outbreak

"There was one significant anomaly - none of the monks in the adjacent monastery contracted cholera. Investigation showed that this was not an anomaly, but further evidence, for they drank only beer, which they brewed themselves."

| Sepal length | Sepal width | Petal length | Petal width | Species     | Sepal length | Sepal width | Petal length | Petal width | Species         | Sepal length | Sepal width | Petal length | Petal width | Species         |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 5.1          | 3.5         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.4          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     | 5.4          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.9          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.2          | 4.1         | 1.5          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     | 5.2          | 4.1         | 1.5          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.7          | 3.2         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.5          | 4.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.5          | 4.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.6          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.9          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.9          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5            | 3.6         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.2         | 1.2          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.2         | 1.2          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.4          | 3.9         | 1.7          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 5.5          | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.5          | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.6          | 3.4         | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 4.9          | 3.6         | 1.4          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     | 4.9          | 3.6         | 1.4          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5            | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.4          | 3           | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.4          | 3           | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.4          | 2.9         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.1          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.1          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.9          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.1         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.4          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.5          | 2.3         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     | 4.5          | 2.3         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.8          | 3.4         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.4          | 3.2         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.4          | 3.2         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.8          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.1         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.5         | 1.6          | 0.6         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.5         | 1.6          | 0.6         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.3          | 3           | 1.1          | 0.1         | *I. setosa* | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.9          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.9          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.8          | 4           | 1.2          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.8          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     | 4.8          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.7          | 4.4         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.4          | 3.9         | 1.3          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 4.6          | 3.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.6          | 3.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.1          | 3.5         | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 5.3          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.3          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.7          | 3.8         | 1.7          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.3         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.3         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.5          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 7            | 3.2         | 4.7          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* | 7            | 3.2         | 4.7          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.4          | 3.4         | 1.7          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 6.4          | 3.2         | 4.5          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 6.4          | 3.2         | 4.5          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.1          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 6.9          | 3.1         | 4.9          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 6.9          | 3.1         | 4.9          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.6          | 3.6         | 1            | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.5          | 2.3         | 4            | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* | 5.5          | 2.3         | 4            | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.1          | 3.3         | 1.7          | 0.5         | *I. setosa* | 6.5          | 2.8         | 4.6          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 6.5          | 2.8         | 4.6          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.8          | 3.4         | 1.9          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.7          | 2.8         | 4.5          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* | 5.7          | 2.8         | 4.5          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5            | 3           | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 6.3          | 3.3         | 4.7          | 1.6         | *I. versicolor* | 6.3          | 3.3         | 4.7          | 1.6         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5            | 3.4         | 1.6          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 4.9          | 2.4         | 3.3          | 1           | *I. versicolor* | 4.9          | 2.4         | 3.3          | 1           | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.2          | 3.5         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 6.6          | 2.9         | 4.6          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* | 6.6          | 2.9         | 4.6          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.2          | 3.4         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.2          | 2.7         | 3.9          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* | 5.2          | 2.7         | 3.9          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.7          | 3.2         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 2           | 3.5          | 1           | *I. versicolor* | 5            | 2           | 3.5          | 1           | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.8          | 3.1         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.9          | 3           | 4.2          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 5.9          | 3           | 4.2          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |

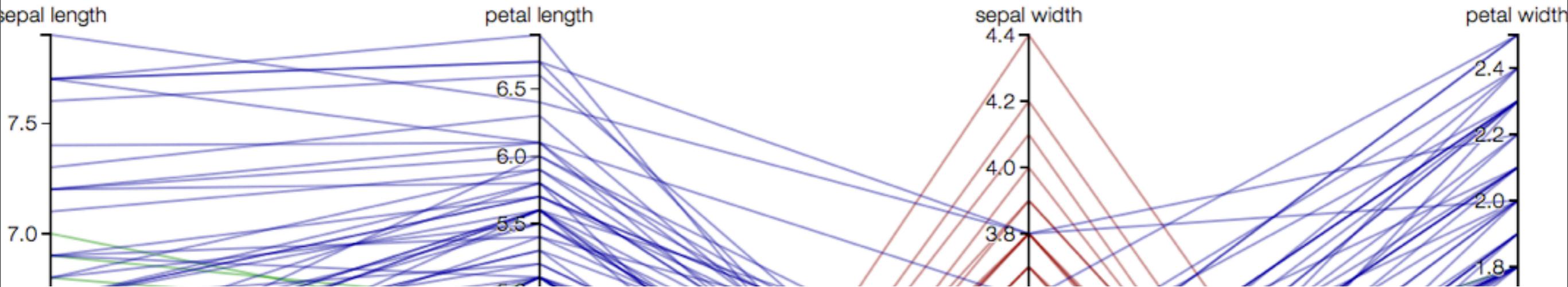
| Sepal length | Sepal width | Petal length | Petal width | Species     | Sepal length | Sepal width | Petal length | Petal width | Species         | Sepal length | Sepal width | Petal length | Petal width | Species         |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 5.1          | 3.5         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.4          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     | 5.4          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.9          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.2          | 4.1         | 1.5          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     | 5.2          | 4.1         | 1.5          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.7          | 3.2         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.5          | 4.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.5          | 4.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.6          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.9          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.9          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5            | 3.6         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.2         | 1.2          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.2         | 1.2          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.4          | 3.9         | 1.7          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 5.5          | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.5          | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.6          | 3.4         | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 4.9          | 3.6         | 1.4          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     | 4.9          | 3.6         | 1.4          | 0.1         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5            | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.4          | 3           | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.4          | 3           | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.4          | 2.9         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.1          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.1          | 3.4         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.9          | 3.1         | 1.5          | 0.1         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.5         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.4          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.5          | 2.3         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     | 4.5          | 2.3         | 1.3          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.8          | 3.4         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.4          | 3.2         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.4          | 3.2         | 1.3          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.8          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.1         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.5         | 1.6          | 0.6         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.5         | 1.6          | 0.6         | *I. setosa*     |
| 4.3          | 3           | 1.1          | 0.1         | *I. setosa* | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.9          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.9          | 0.4         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.8          | 4           | 1.2          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 4.8          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     | 4.8          | 3           | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.7          | 4.4         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.4          | 3.9         | 1.3          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 4.6          | 3.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 4.6          | 3.2         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.1          | 3.5         | 1.4          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 5.3          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5.3          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.7          | 3.8         | 1.7          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 3.3         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     | 5            | 3.3         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa*     |
| 5.1          | 3.8         | 1.5          | 0.3         | *I. setosa* | 7            | 3.2         | 4.7          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* | 7            | 3.2         | 4.7          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.4          | 3.4         | 1.7          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 6.4          | 3.2         | 4.5          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 6.4          | 3.2         | 4.5          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.1          | 3.7         | 1.5          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 6.9          | 3.1         | 4.9          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 6.9          | 3.1         | 4.9          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.6          | 3.6         | 1            | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.5          | 2.3         | 4            | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* | 5.5          | 2.3         | 4            | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.1          | 3.3         | 1.7          | 0.5         | *I. setosa* | 6.5          | 2.8         | 4.6          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 6.5          | 2.8         | 4.6          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.8          | 3.4         | 1.9          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.7          | 2.8         | 4.5          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* | 5.7          | 2.8         | 4.5          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5            | 3           | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 6.3          | 3.3         | 4.7          | 1.6         | *I. versicolor* | 6.3          | 3.3         | 4.7          | 1.6         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5            | 3.4         | 1.6          | 0.4         | *I. setosa* | 4.9          | 2.4         | 3.3          | 1           | *I. versicolor* | 4.9          | 2.4         | 3.3          | 1           | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.2          | 3.5         | 1.5          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 6.6          | 2.9         | 4.6          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* | 6.6          | 2.9         | 4.6          | 1.3         | *I. versicolor* |
| 5.2          | 3.4         | 1.4          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.2          | 2.7         | 3.9          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* | 5.2          | 2.7         | 3.9          | 1.4         | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.7          | 3.2         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5            | 2           | 3.5          | 1           | *I. versicolor* | 5            | 2           | 3.5          | 1           | *I. versicolor* |
| 4.8          | 3.1         | 1.6          | 0.2         | *I. setosa* | 5.9          | 3           | 4.2          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* | 5.9          | 3           | 4.2          | 1.5         | *I. versicolor* |



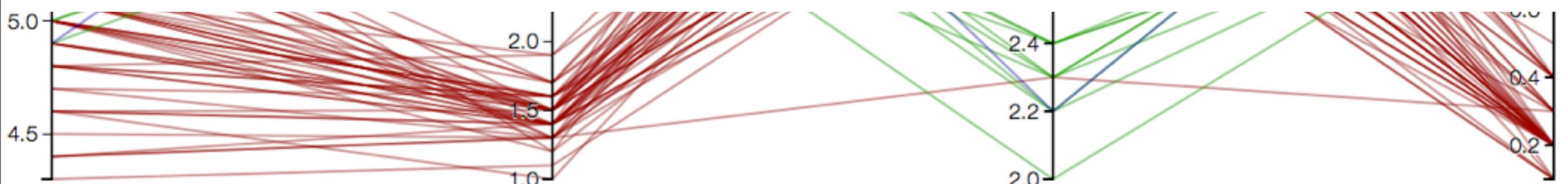


- *Iris setosa*  
- *Iris versicolor*  
- *Iris virginica*

Edgar Anderson's *Iris* data set  
parallel coordinates

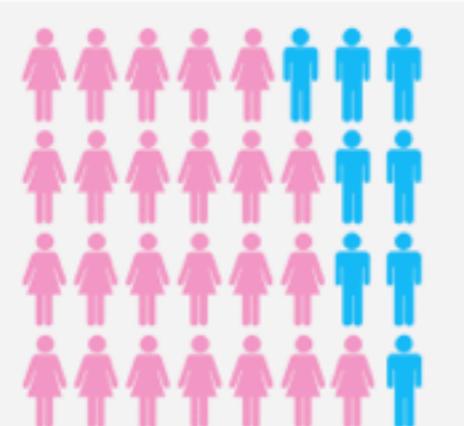
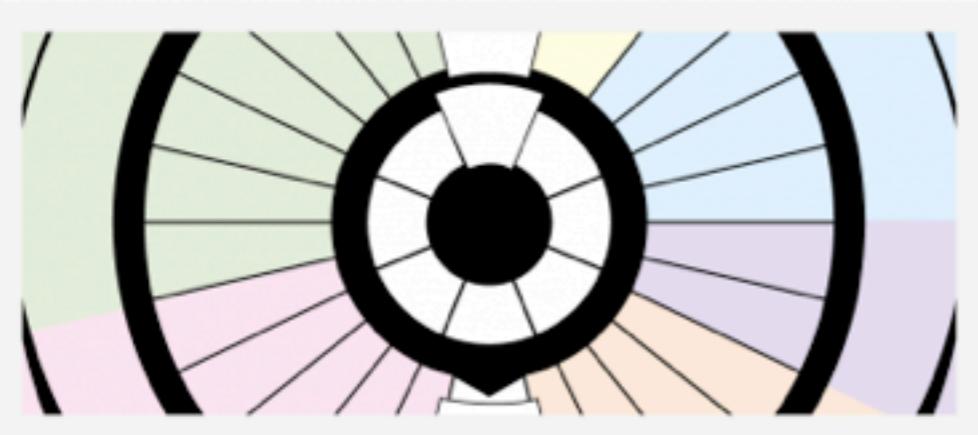
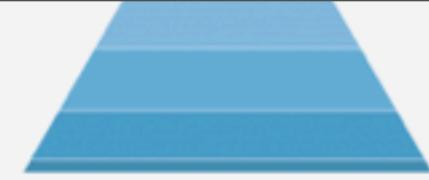


so how do we come up with these  
visual representations and  
which do we choose for a dataset?



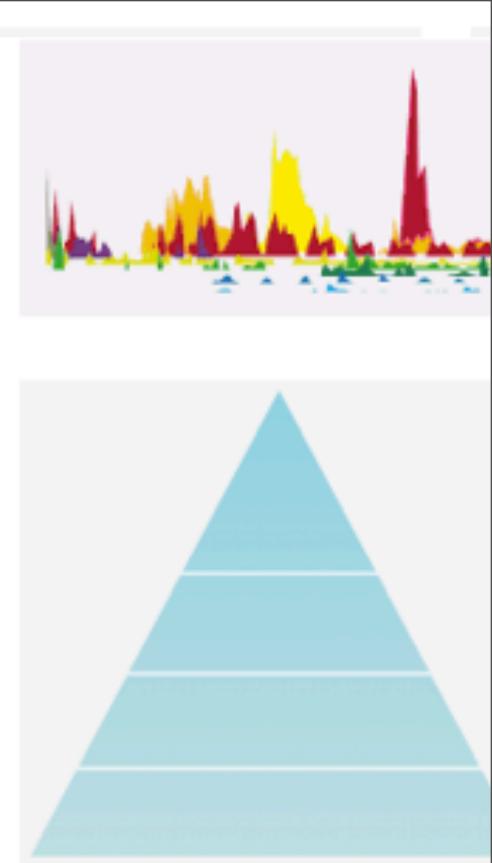
- *Iris setosa*
- *Iris versicolor*
- *Iris virginica*

Edgar Anderson's *Iris* data set  
parallel coordinates



The Stranger Remembrance of Things Pa  
 Love in the Time of Cholera  
 Lord of the Flies Or  
 The Handmaid's Tale His Dark Materials  
 One Hundred and One  
 note the Pock The Sound and the Fury The Name of the Rose One Flew Over  
 e Adventures of Huckleberry Finn the Rings To Kill a Mock

# Visual and Data Dimensions



so you have a dataset...

$$\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots\}$$

$x_1$

so you have a dataset...

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots\}$   | $x_1$                     |
| $\{1, 200, 5, 6, \dots\}$   | integral                  |
| $\{1.0, 2.0, 1.2, 4, \dots\}$   | fixed point               |
| $\{'a', 'b', '12c', 'd', \dots\}$   | alpha(-numeric)           |
| $\{20\%, 30\%, 1\%, 5\%, \dots\}$   | fractions of a population |
| $\{\text{pear emoji}, \text{apple emoji}, \text{kiwi emoji}, \text{pineapple emoji}, \dots\}$   | categorical               |
| $\{f(\text{pear emoji}, \text{apple emoji}), g(\text{apple emoji}, \text{kiwi emoji}), q(\text{kiwi emoji}, \text{pineapple emoji}), \dots\}$ | relational                |

so you have a dataset...

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots\}$   | $x_1$                     |
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| $\{1.0, 2.0, 1.2, 4, \dots\}$   | fixed point               |
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objective - help the user to understand :  
relationships **among the elements of the set**

so you have a dataset...

it's probably multivariate

$$x = \{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_3, \vec{x}_4, \dots\}$$

$x =$

| $x_1$   | $x_2$   | $x_3$  |
|---|---|--|
| $y_1$ ,<br> | $y_2$ ,<br> | $y_3$ ,<br> |
| $t_1$   | $t_2$   | $t_3$  |

if these are observations of the  
(same) object(s) over time  
“time series”

if these are observations of different  
things at a single point in time  
“population”

if these are observations of different  
things at different points in time  
“observations”

so you have a dataset...

$$x = \{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_3, \vec{x}_4, \dots\}$$

$x =$

| $x_1$   | $x_2$   | $x_3$  |
|---|---|--|
| $y_1$ ,<br> | $y_2$ ,<br> | $y_3$ ,<br> |
| $t_1$   | $t_2$   | $t_3$  |

it's probably multivariate

if these are observations of the  
(same) of object(s) over time  
“time series”

if these are observations of different  
things at a single point in time  
“population”

if these are observations of different  
things at a different points in time  
“observations”

objective - help the user to understand :

1. elements - specifically relationships among dimensions  
(through a large number of examples)
2. relationships - among different elements

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

categorical

relational

...

# *visual dimension type*

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

categorical

relational

...

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

categorical

relational

...

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality

shape

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

categorical

relational

...

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality

shape

colour

saturation  
opacity

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

categorical

relational

...

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality

shape

colour

saturation  
opacity

size

width  
height

# *data dimension types*

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...

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality

shape

colour

saturation  
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size

width  
height

orientation

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

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relational

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality

shape

colour

saturation  
opacity

size

width  
height

orientation

stroke

colour  
pattern,  
thickness

...

# *data dimension types*

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# *visual dimension type*

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relative location  
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colour  
pattern,  
thickness

opacity

...

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relative location  
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colour

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size

width  
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orientation

stroke

colour  
pattern,  
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opacity

texture

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integral

fixed point

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fractions of a population

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# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality

shape

colour

saturation  
opacity

size

width  
height

orientation

stroke

colour  
pattern,  
thickness

opacity

texture

movement

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

categorical

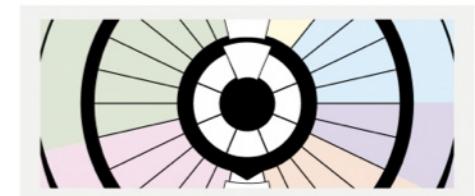
relational

...

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality



shape



colour

saturation  
opacity

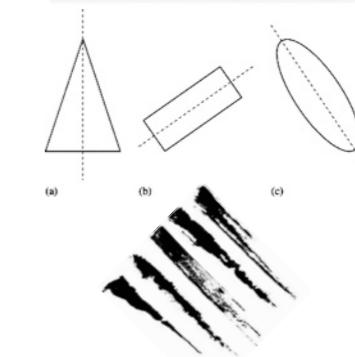


size

width  
height



orientation

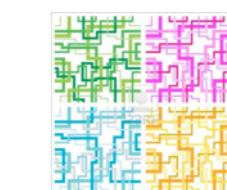


stroke

colour  
pattern,  
thickness

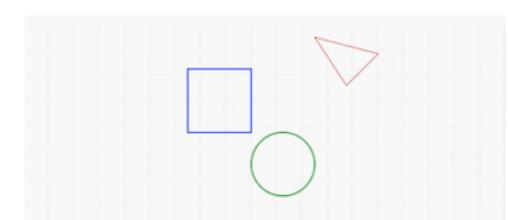


opacity



texture

movement



juxtaposition

# *data dimension types*

integral

fixed point

alpha(-numeric)

fractions of a population

categorical

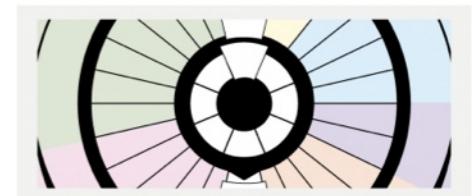
relational

...

# *visual dimension type*

position

relative location  
centrality



shape



colour

saturation  
opacity

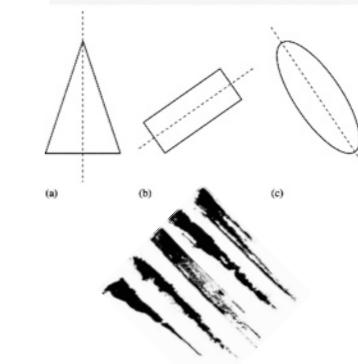


size

width  
height



orientation

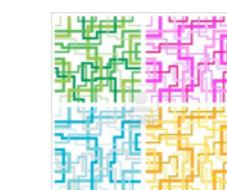


stroke

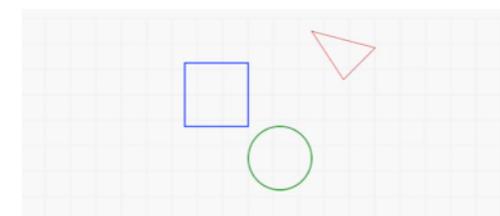
colour  
pattern,  
thickness



opacity



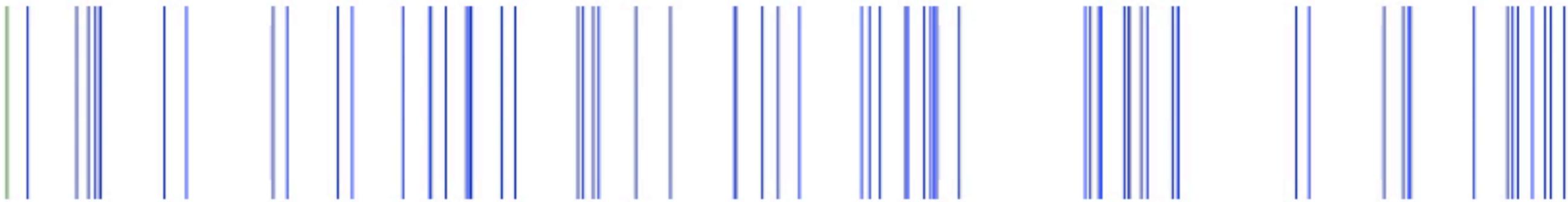
texture



movement

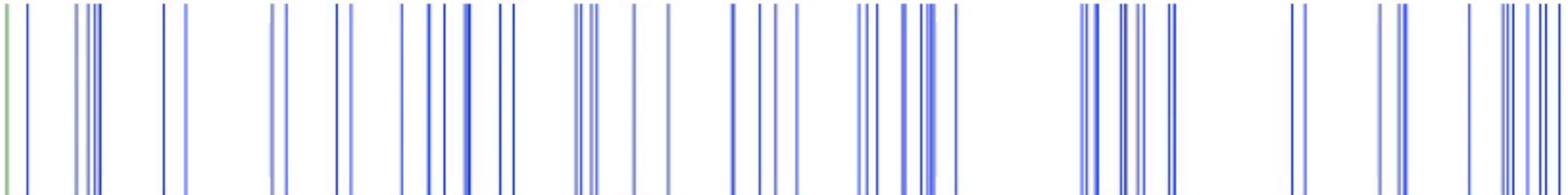
juxtaposition

# position

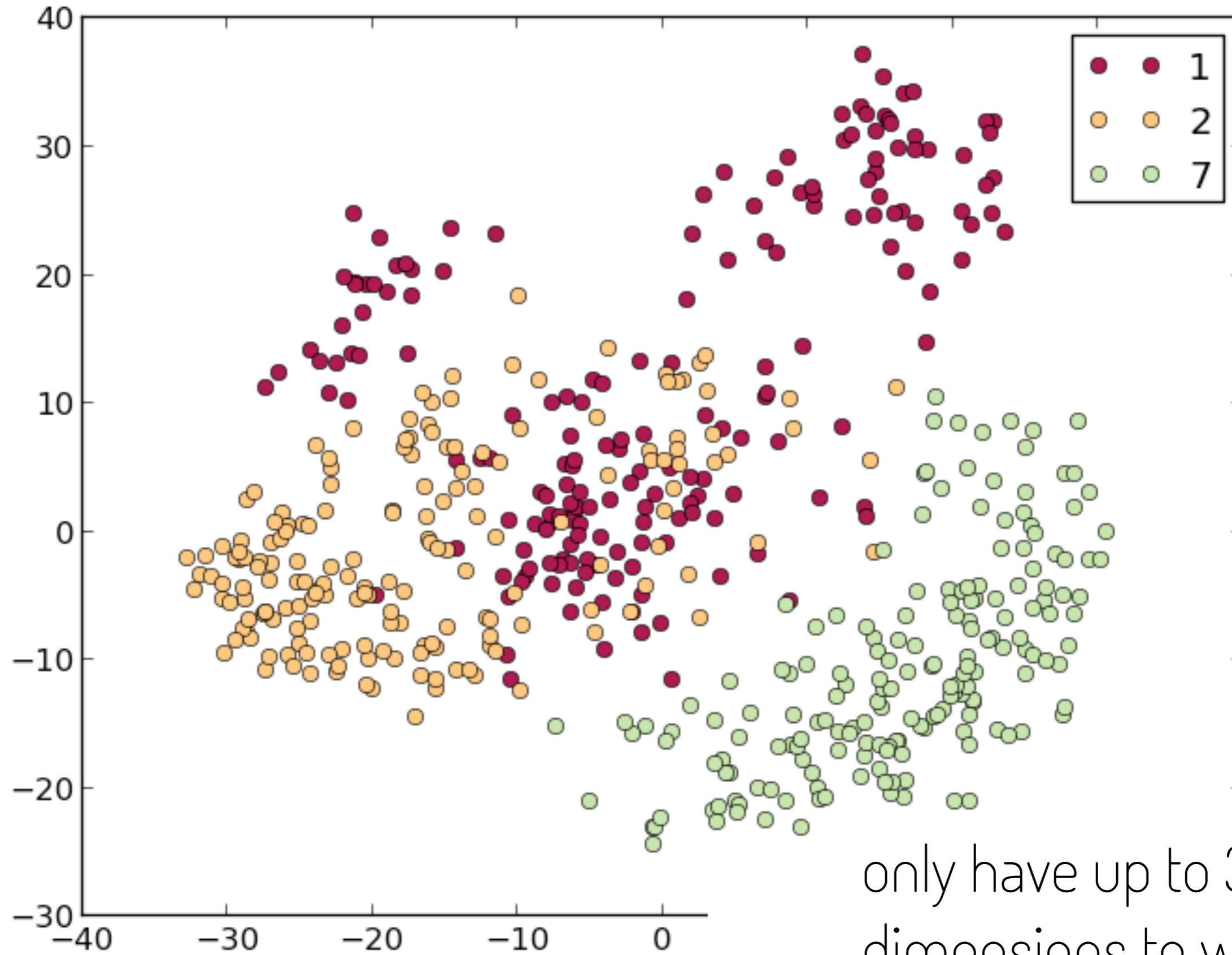


# position

linear mapping of values  
logarithmic..  
bin and count..



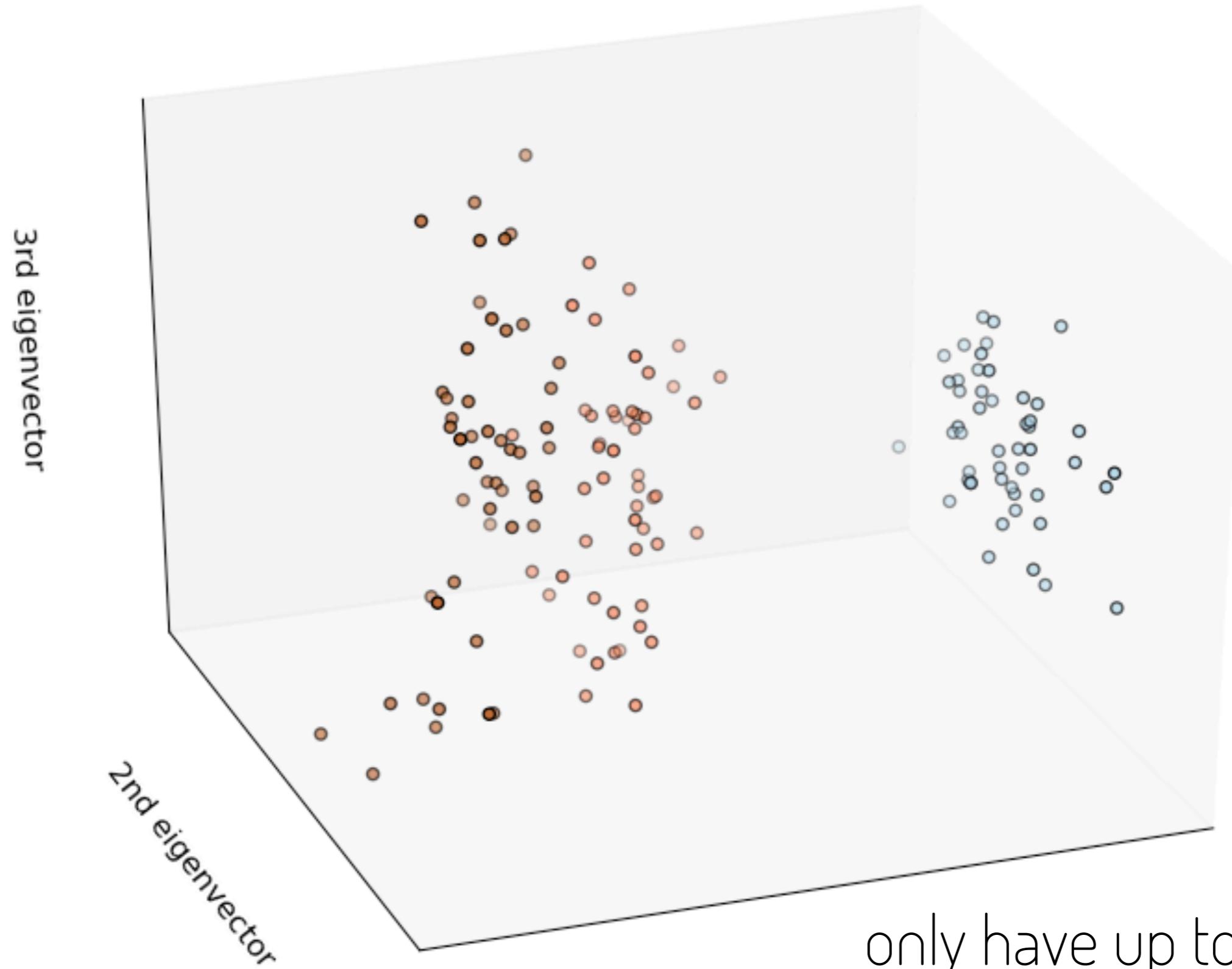
# position



only have up to 3 spatial  
dimensions to work with

# position

First three PCA directions



only have up to 3 spatial dimensions to work with

# orientation

orientation

range-limited

# orientation

range-limited



# orientation

range-limited

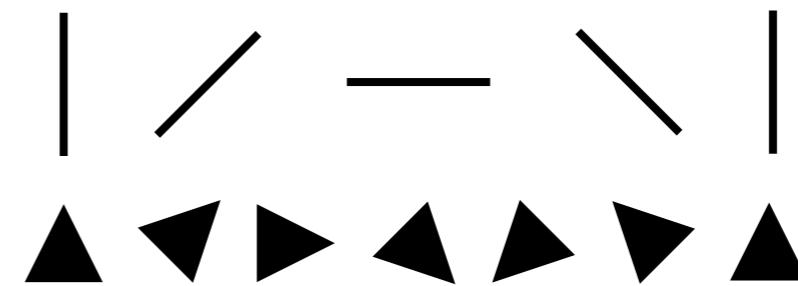
symmetry properties of the  
geometry



# orientation

range-limited

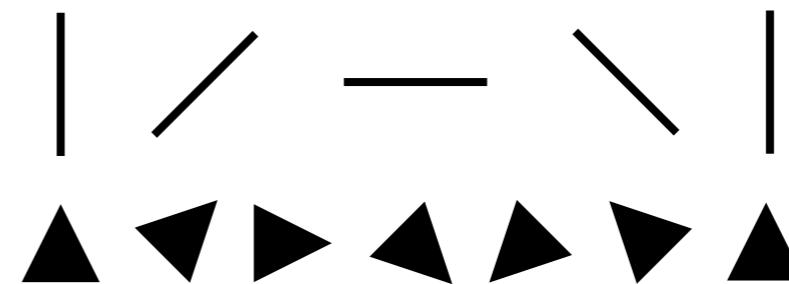
symmetry properties of the  
geometry



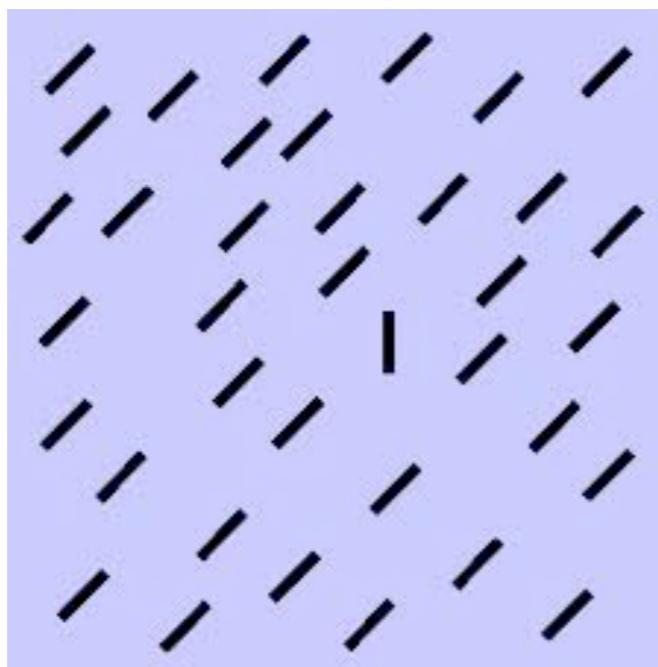
# orientation

range-limited

symmetry properties of the  
geometry



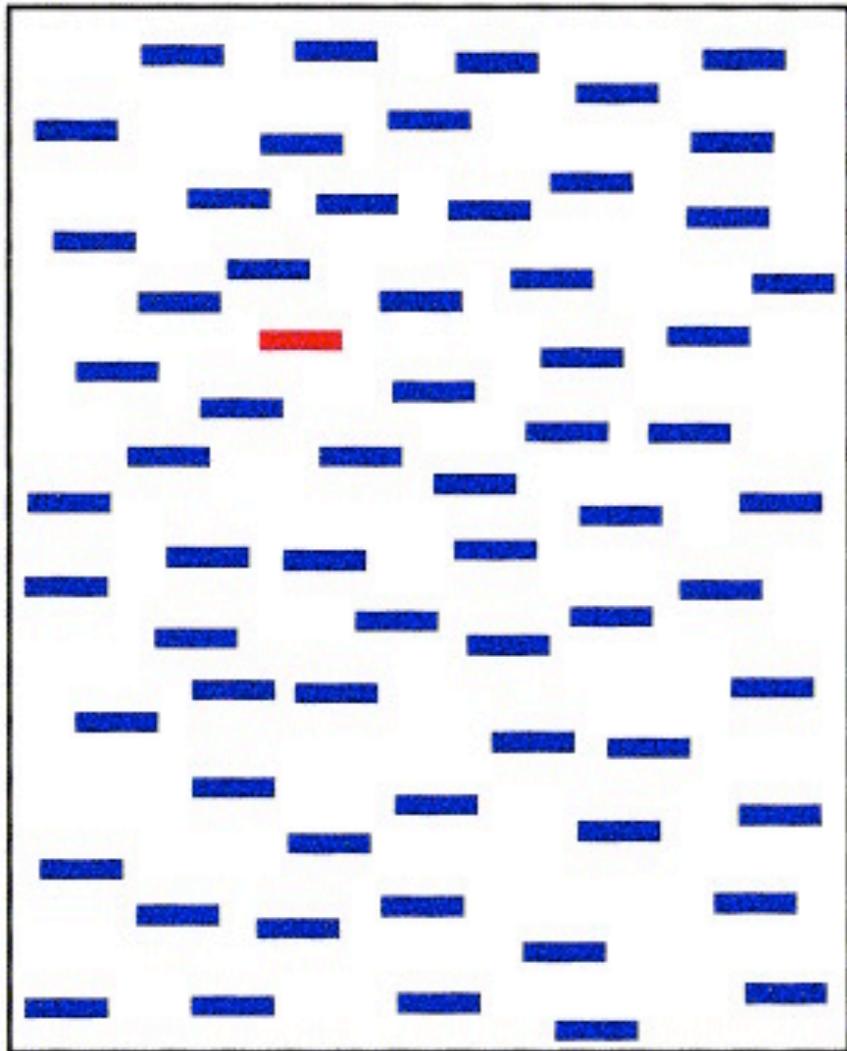
pop-out



|                   |                   |              |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| TTTT              | FFFF              | UUUU         |
| TTTT              | F <del>E</del> FF | U <u>U</u> U |
| TTTT              | FFFF              | UUUU         |
| TTTT              | FFFF              | UUUU         |
| TTTT              | FFFF              | UUUU         |
| T <del>T</del> TT | F <del>A</del> FF | U <u>U</u> U |
| TTTT              | FFFF              | UUUU         |
| TTTT              | FFFF              | UUUU         |

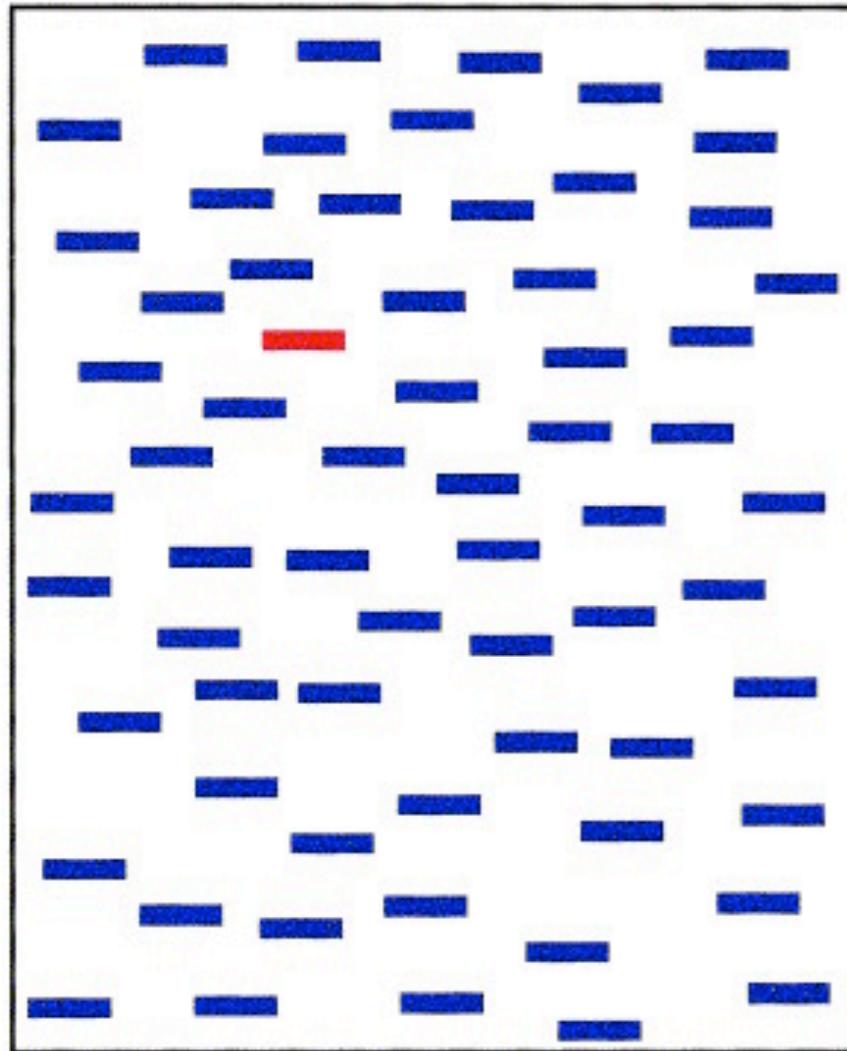
orientation  
popouts using multiple dimensions

orientation  
popouts using multiple dimensions

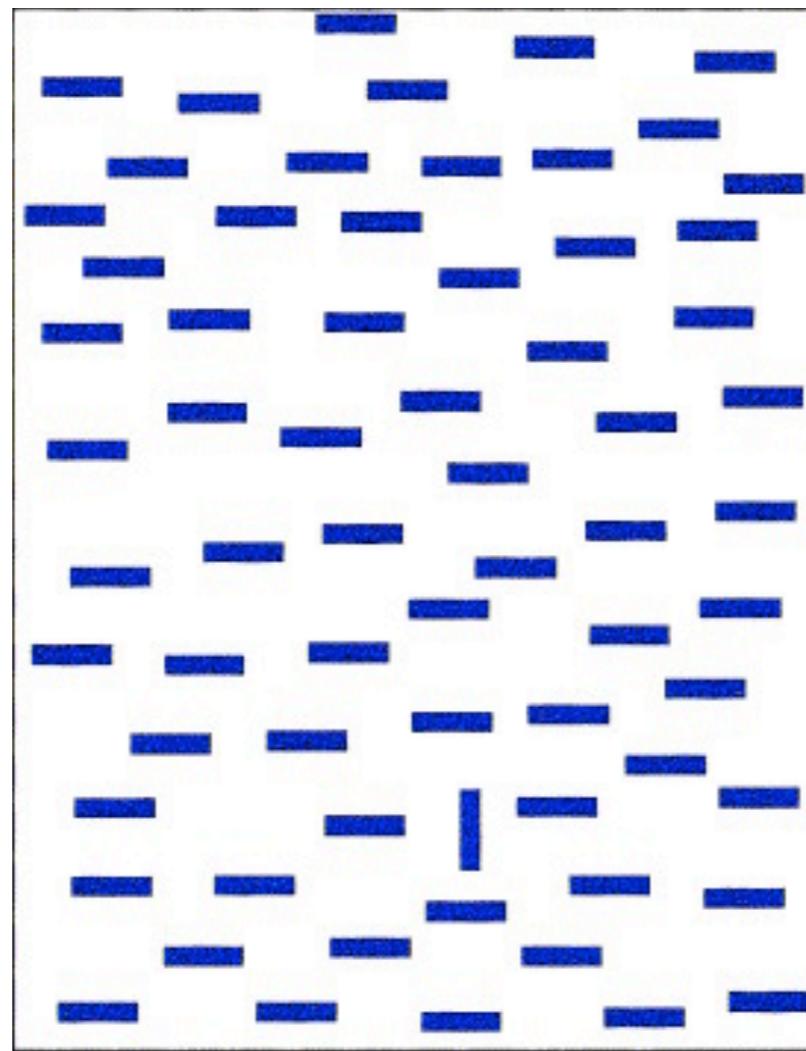


1D colour

orientation  
popouts using multiple dimensions

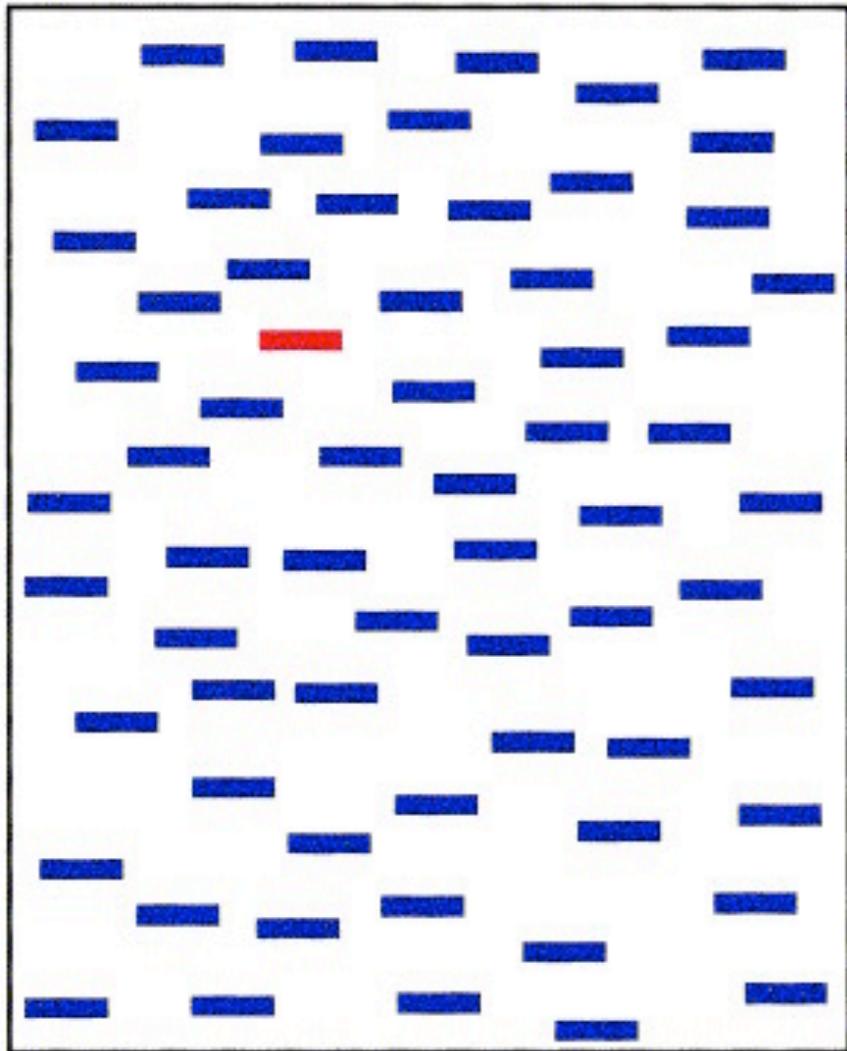


1D colour

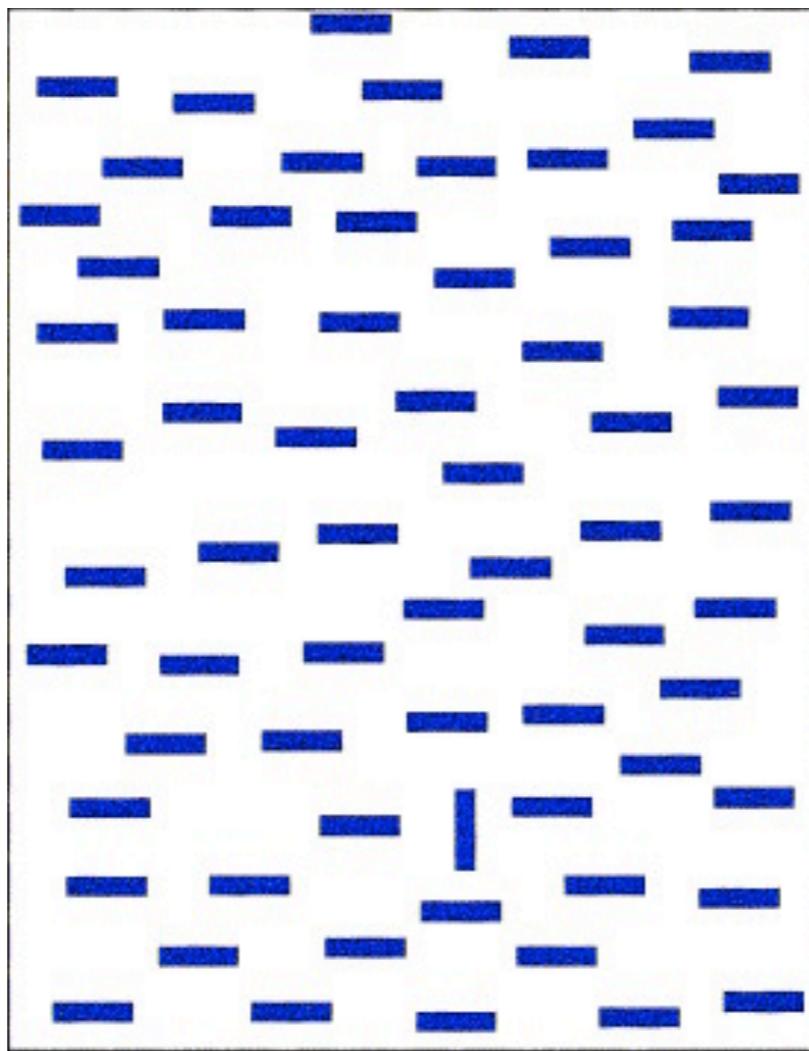


1D orientation

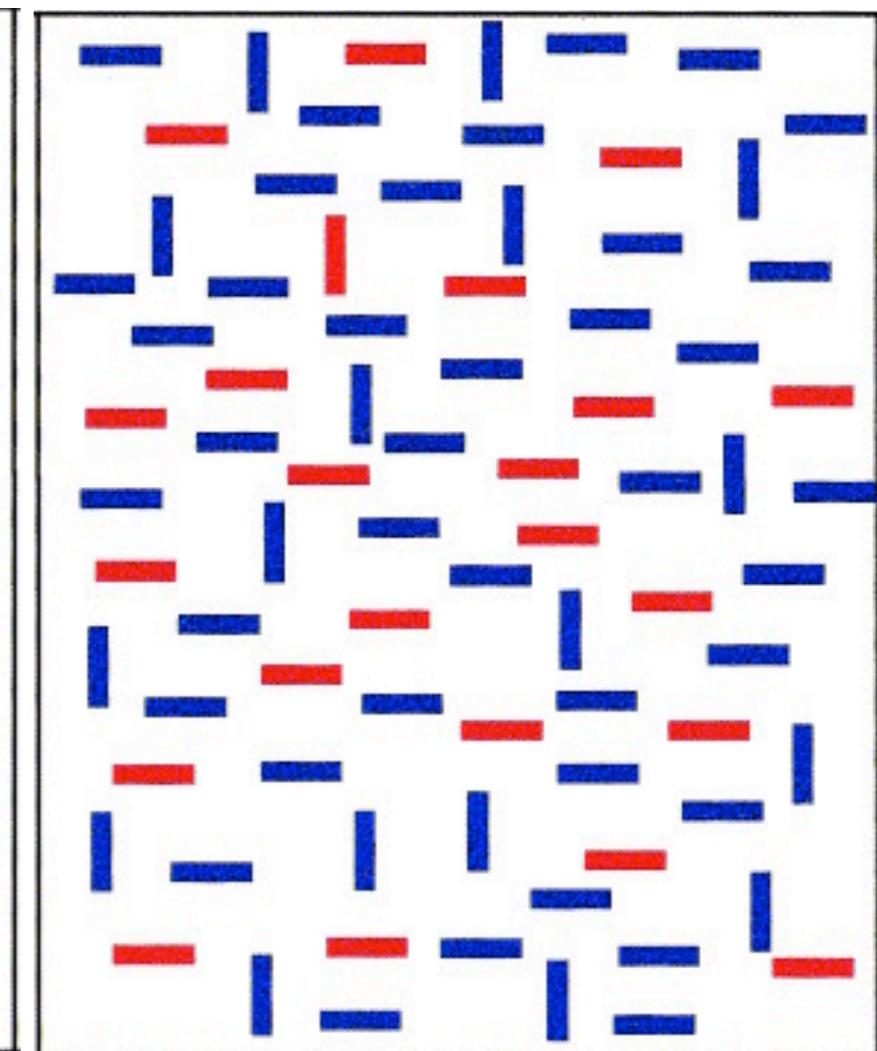
orientation  
popouts using multiple dimensions



1D colour

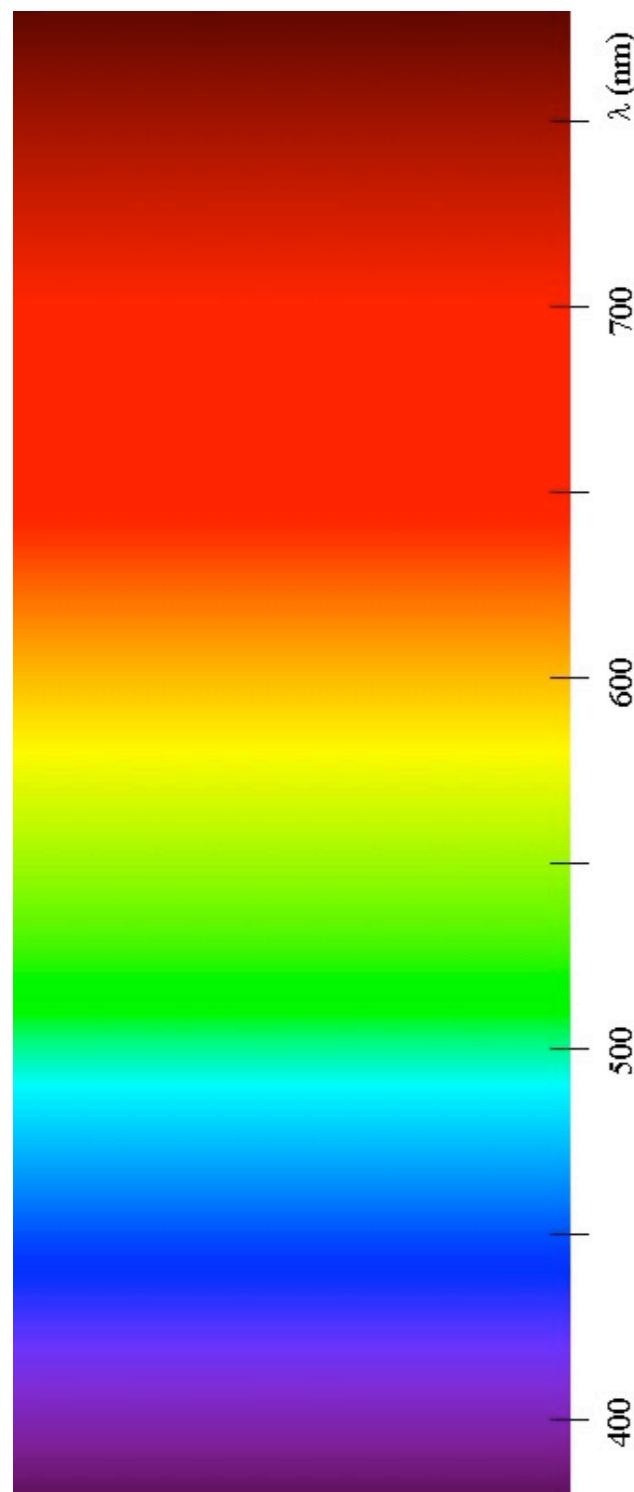


1D orientation

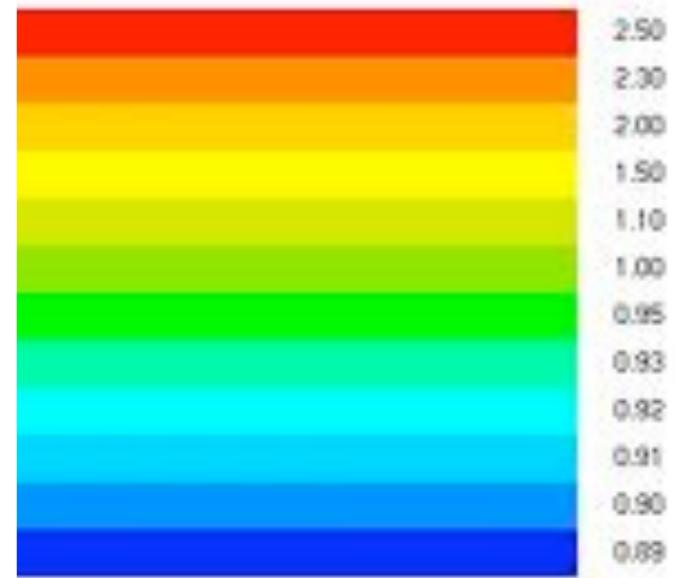
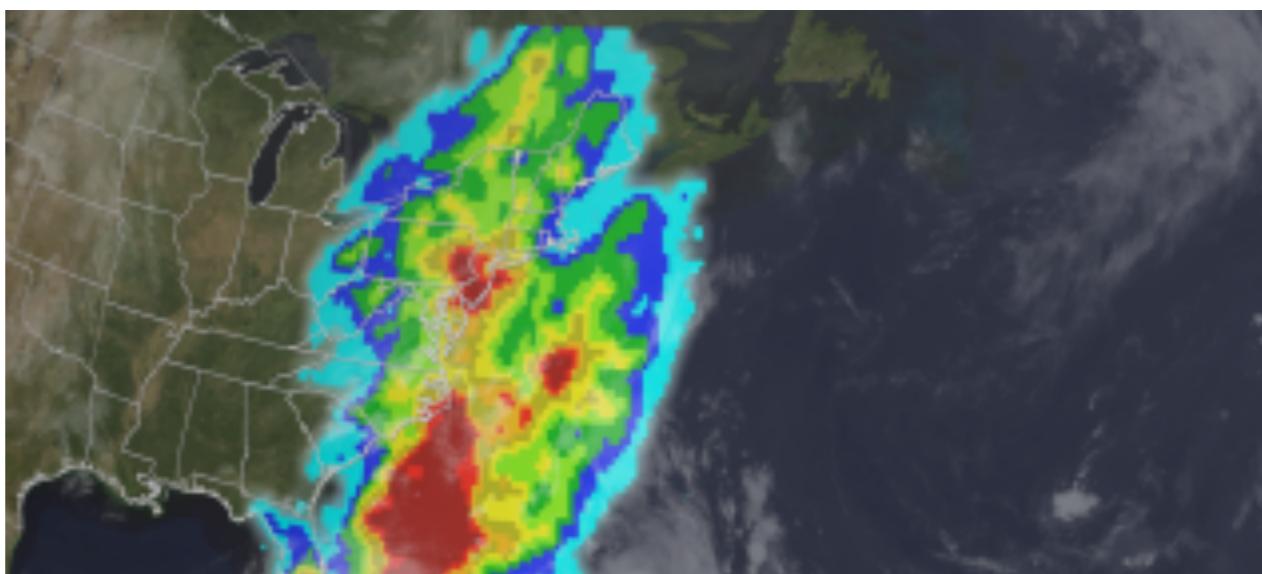
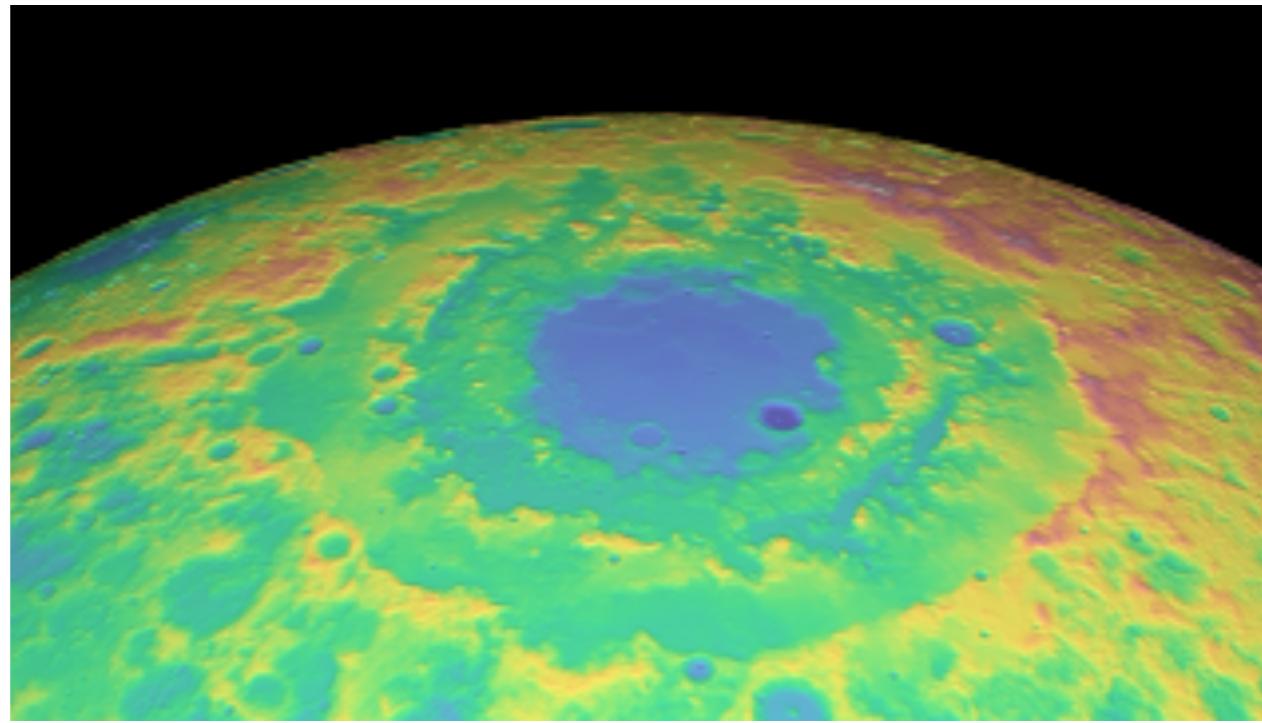
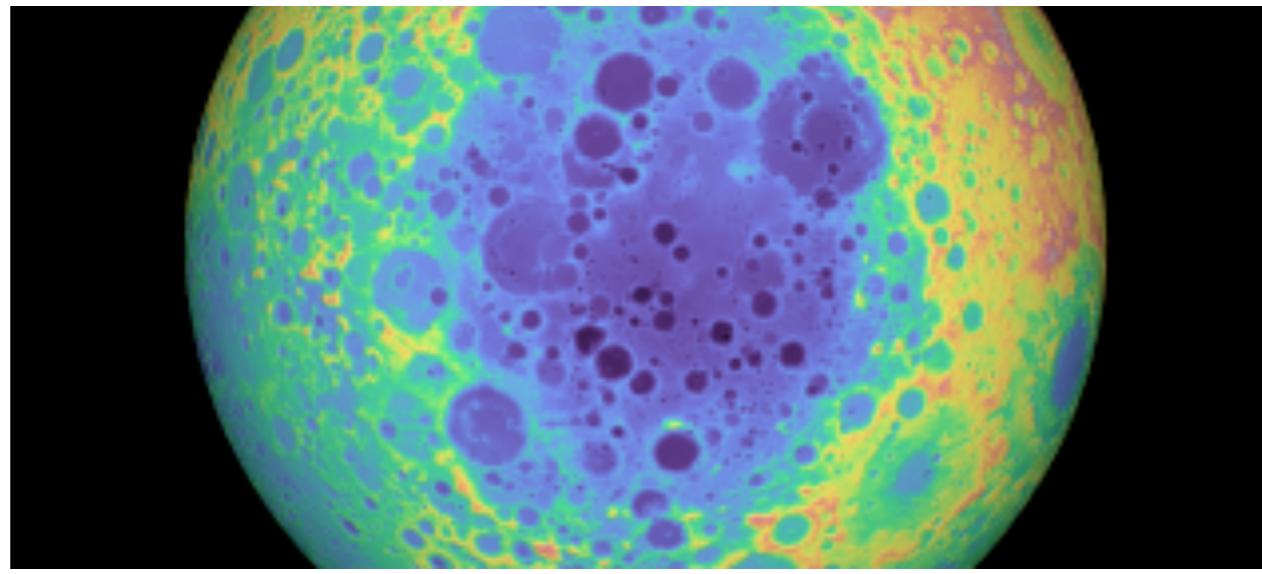
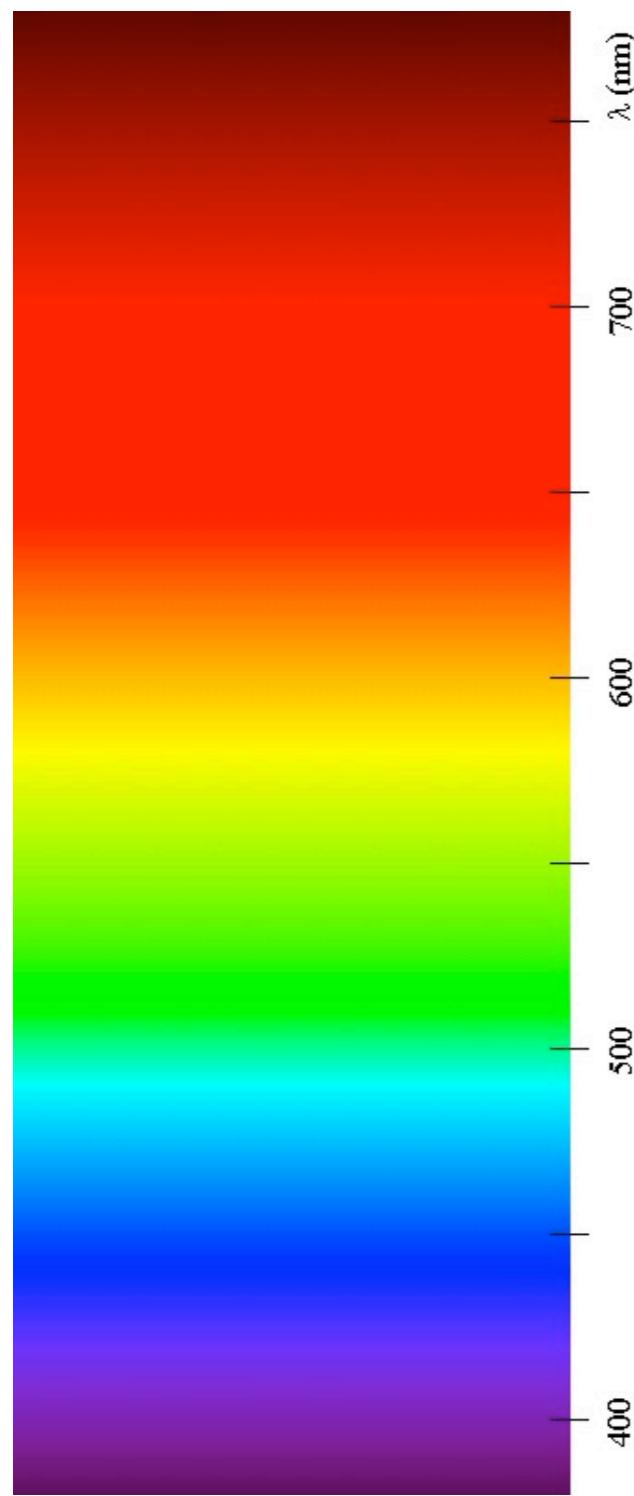


2D color/  
orientation

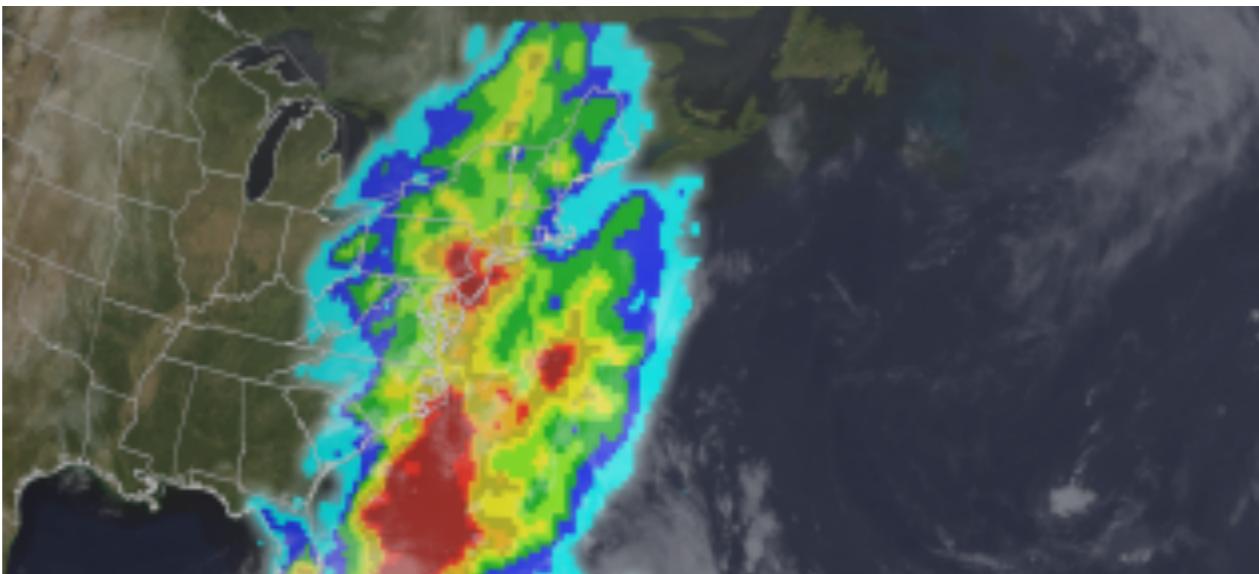
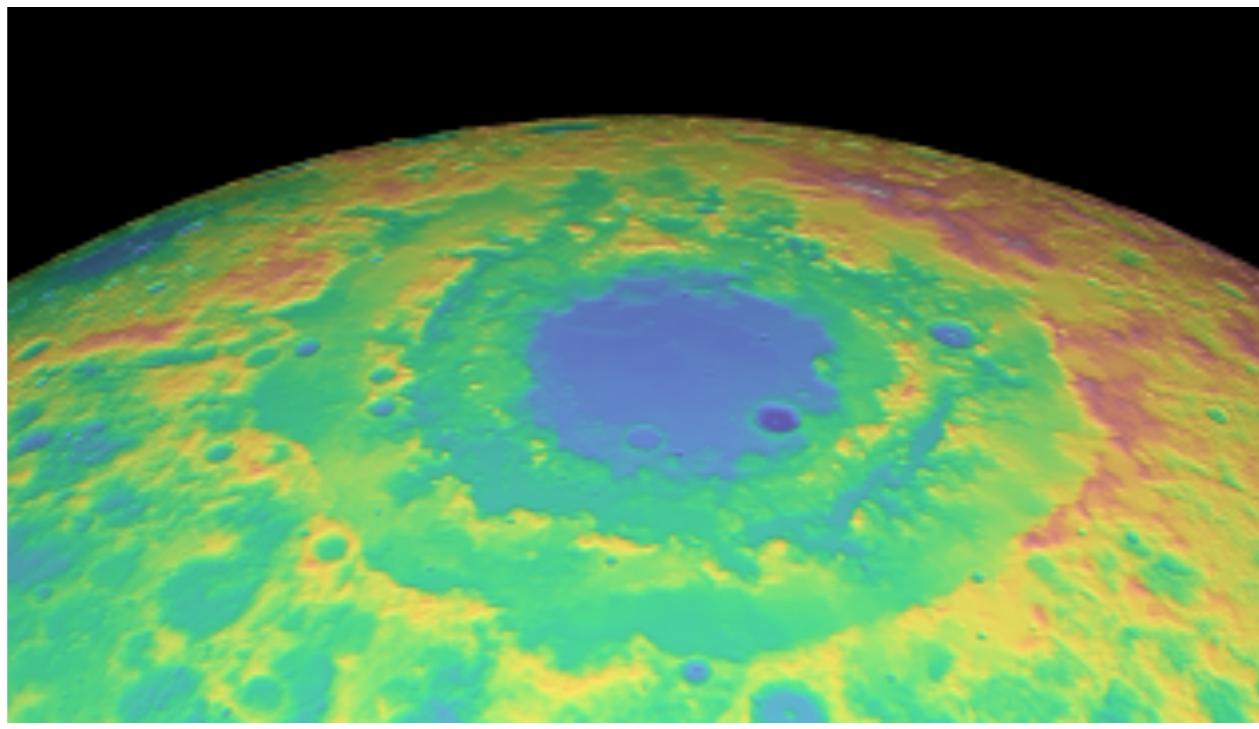
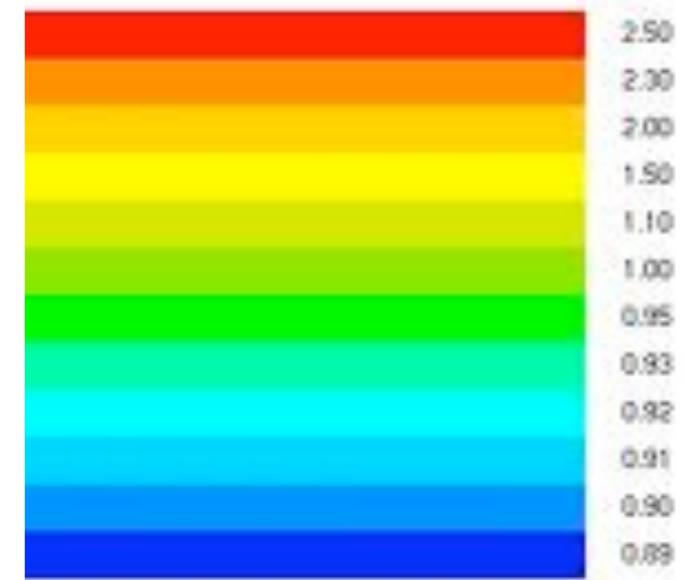
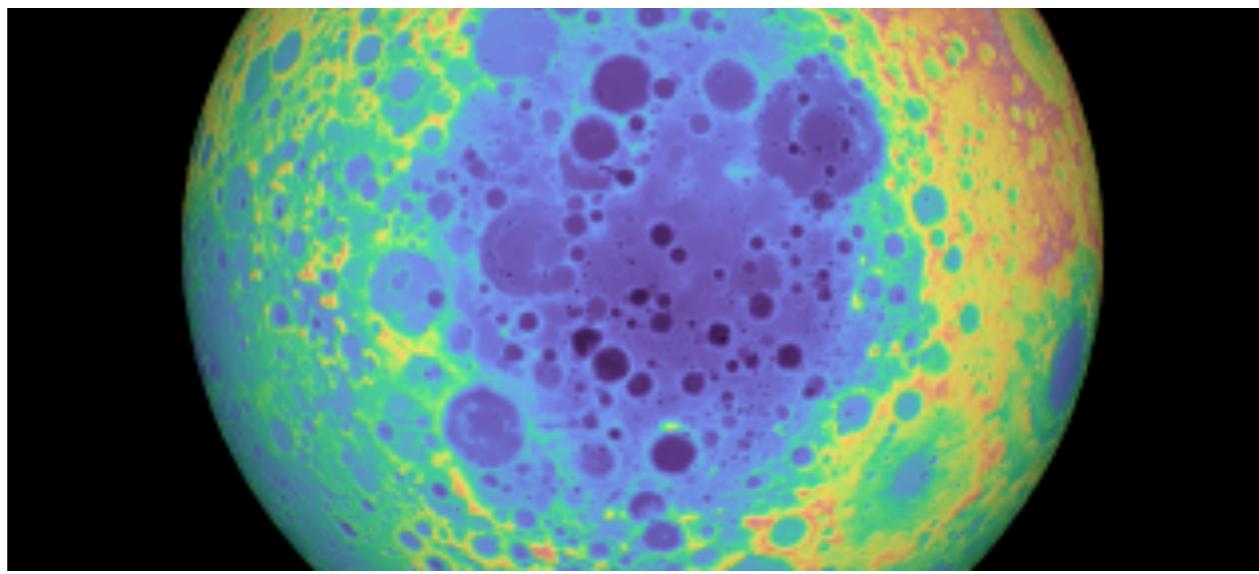
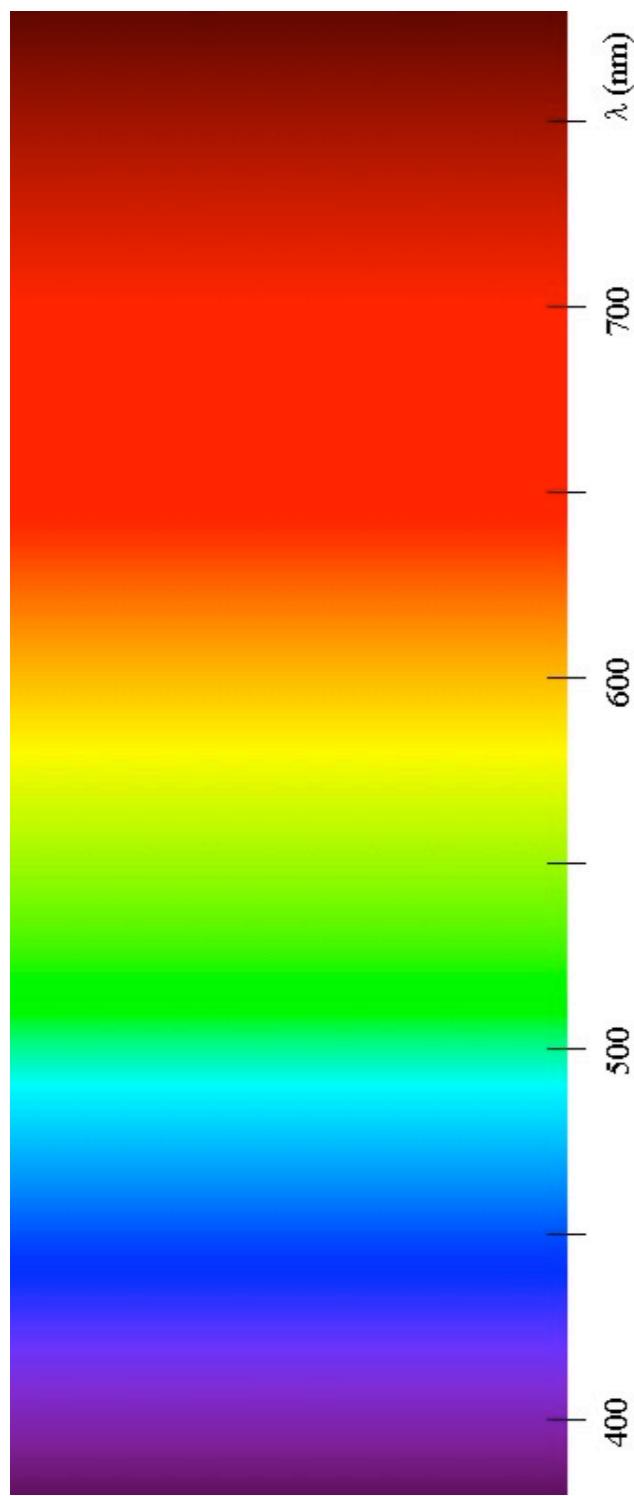
# Using colour for continuous values



# Using colour for continuous values



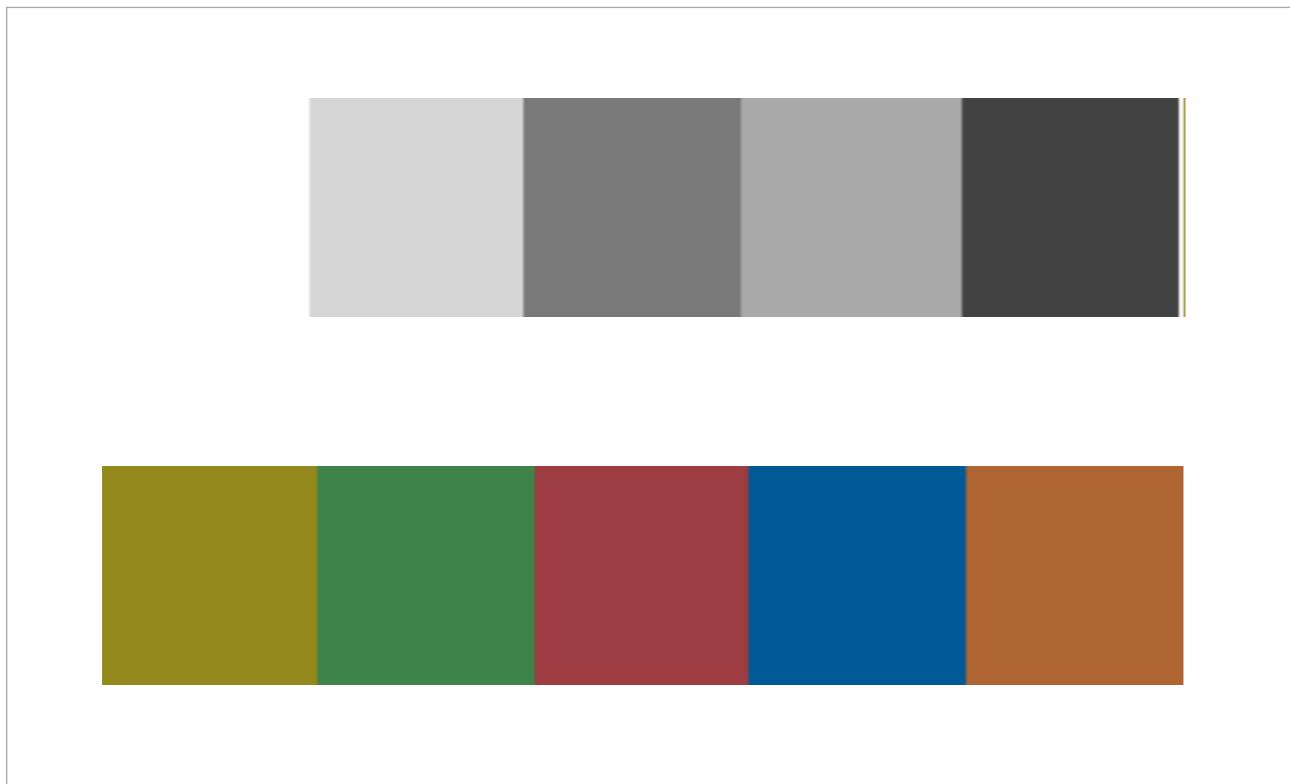
# Using colour for continuous values



# Using colour for continuous values

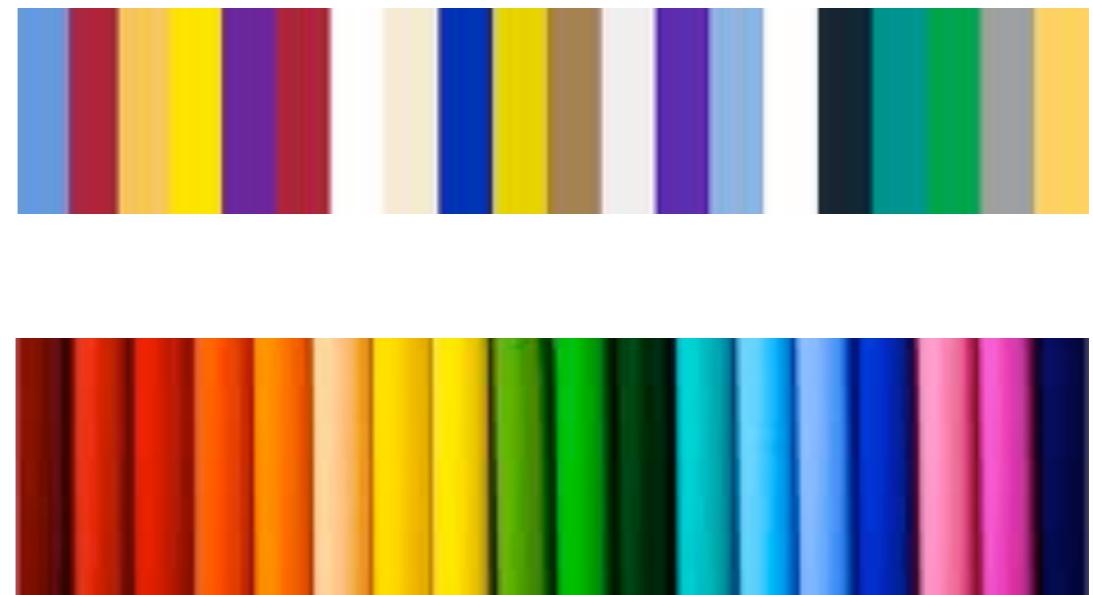
problem 1: No natural ordering

# Using colour for continuous values



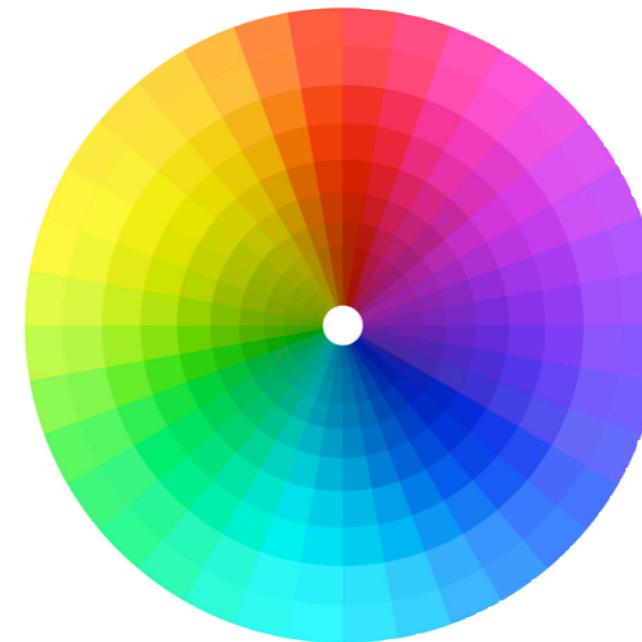
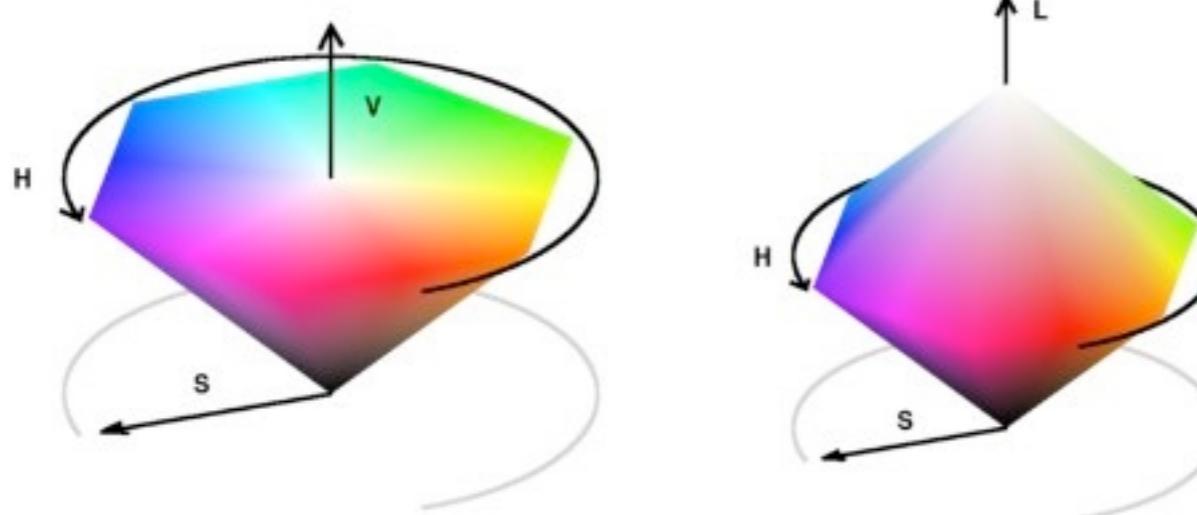
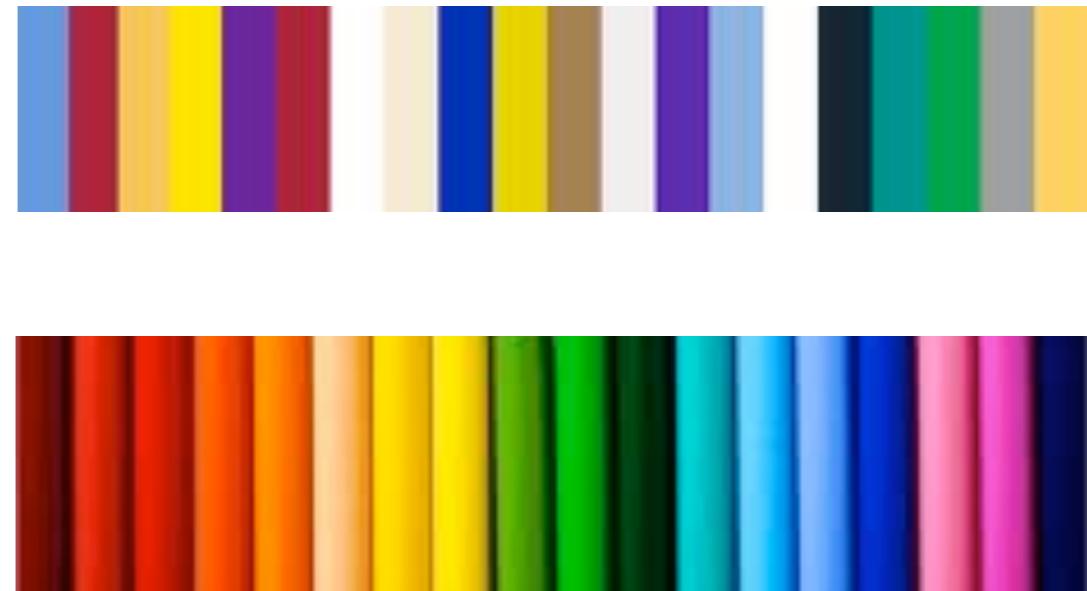
problem 1: No natural ordering

# Using colour for continuous values



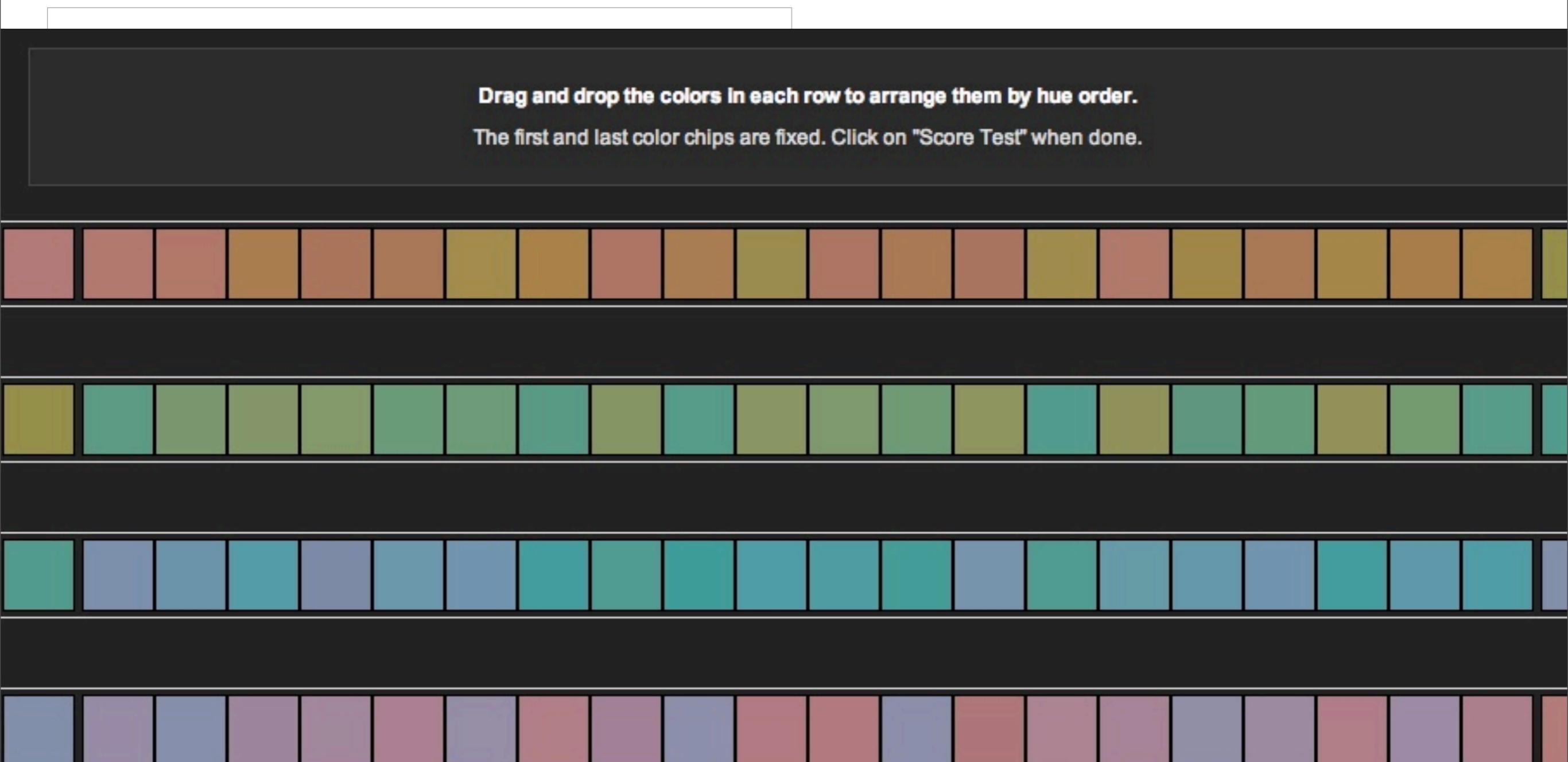
problem 1: No natural ordering

# Using colour for continuous values



problem 1: No natural ordering

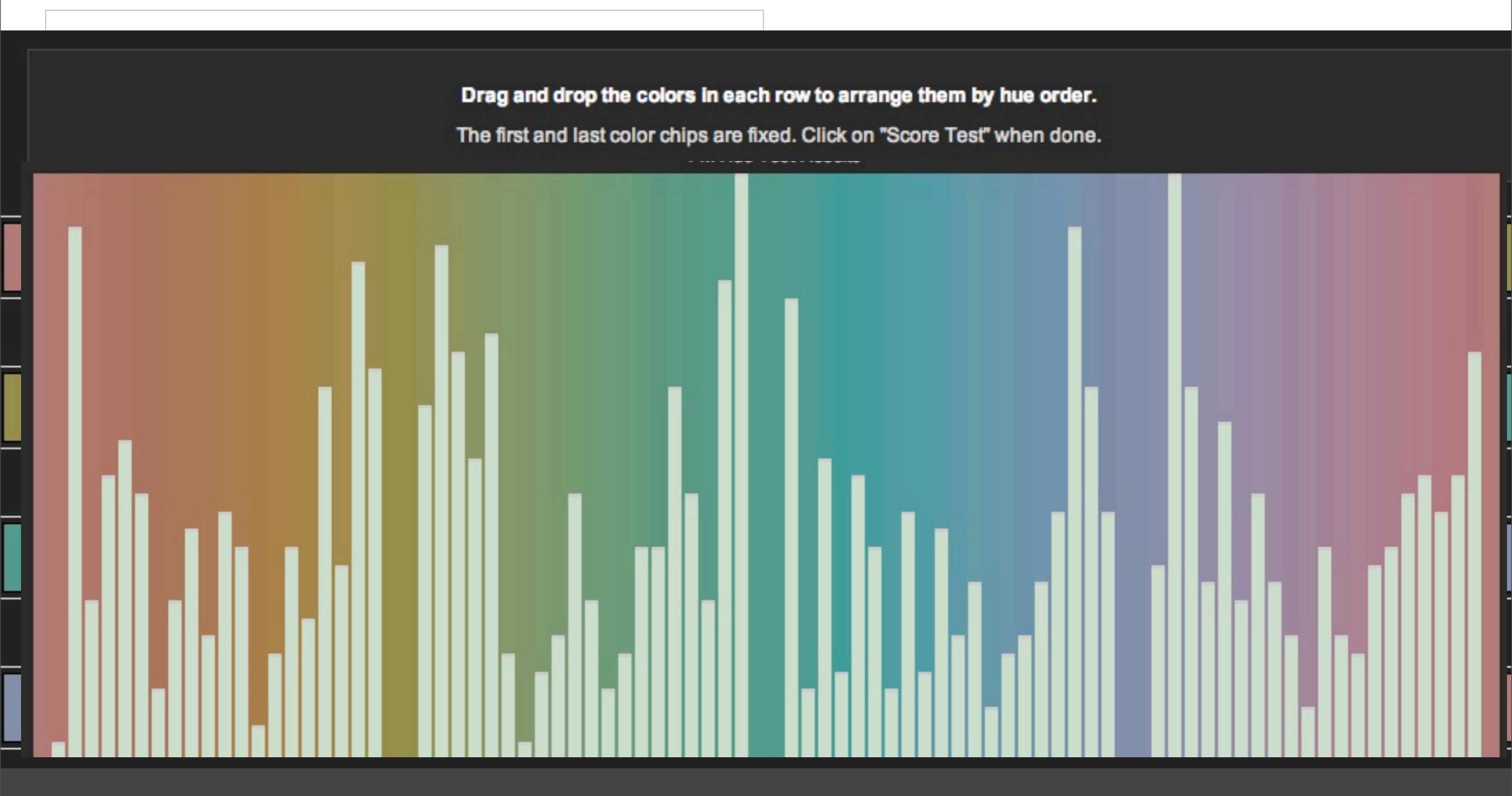
# Using colour for continuous values



[http://www.colormunki.com/game/huetest\\_kiosk](http://www.colormunki.com/game/huetest_kiosk)

problem 1: No natural ordering

# Using colour for continuous values

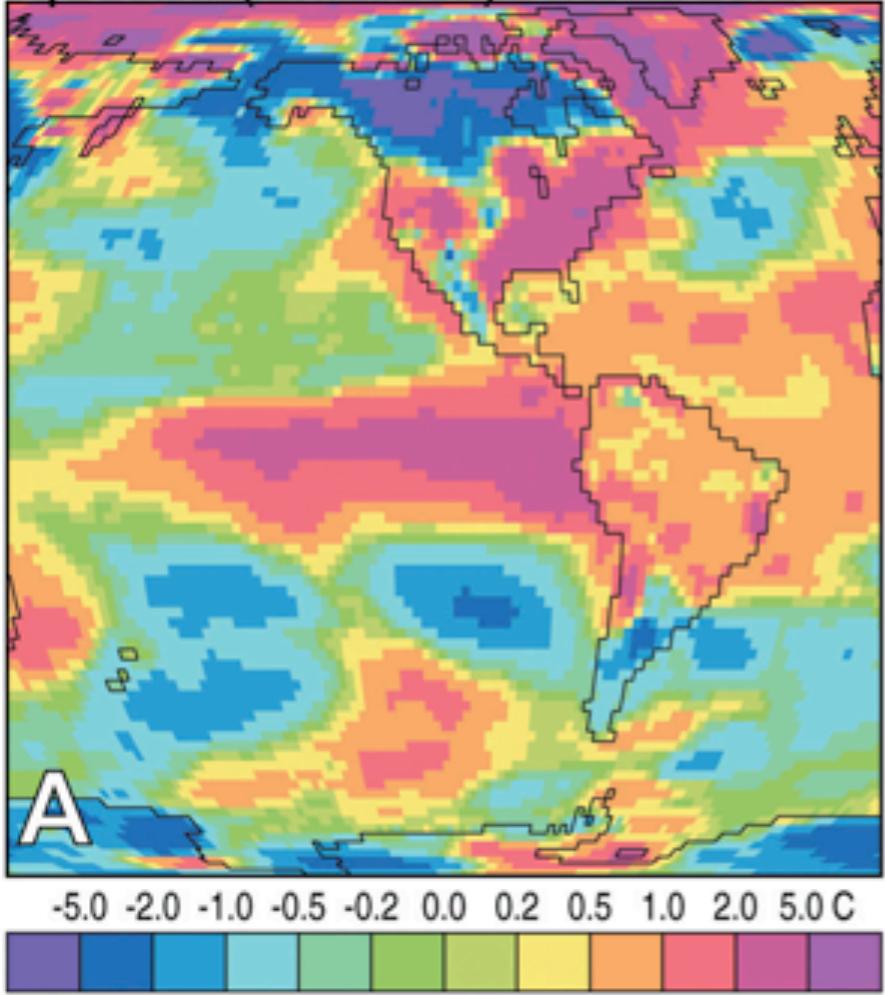


[http://www.colormunki.com/game/huetest\\_kiosk](http://www.colormunki.com/game/huetest_kiosk)

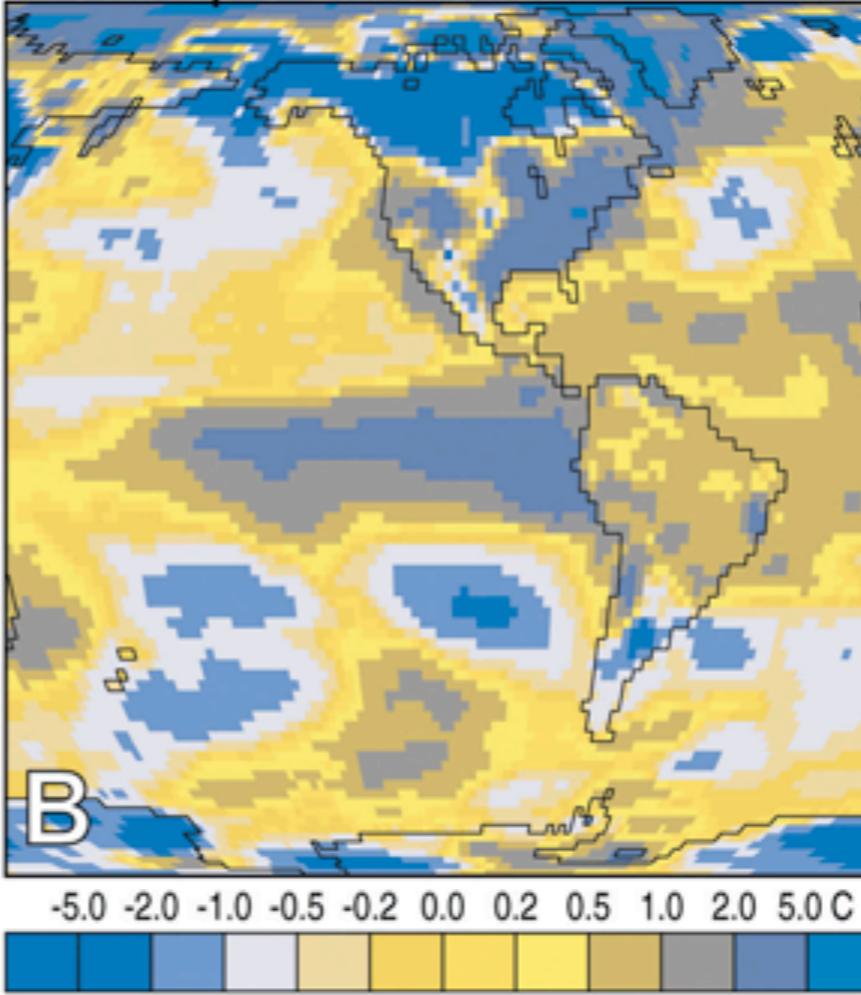
problem 1: No natural ordering

# Using colour for continuous values

Spectral (Rainbow) Color Scale



Protanopic Simulation



protanopia



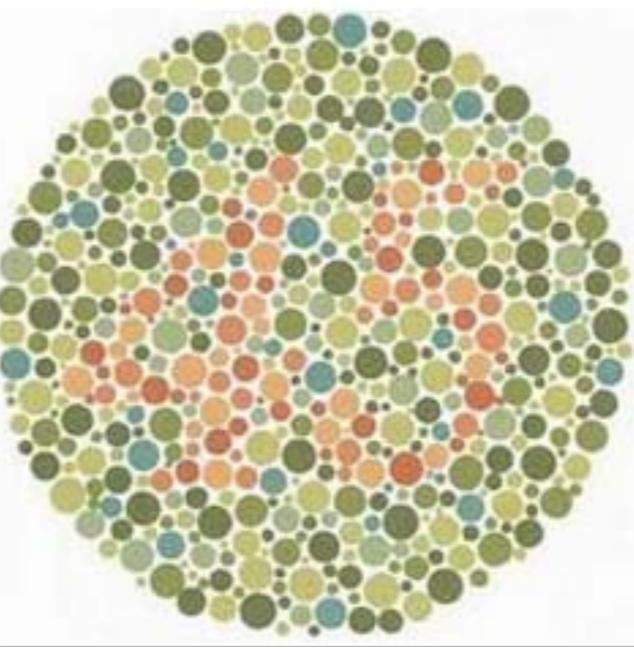
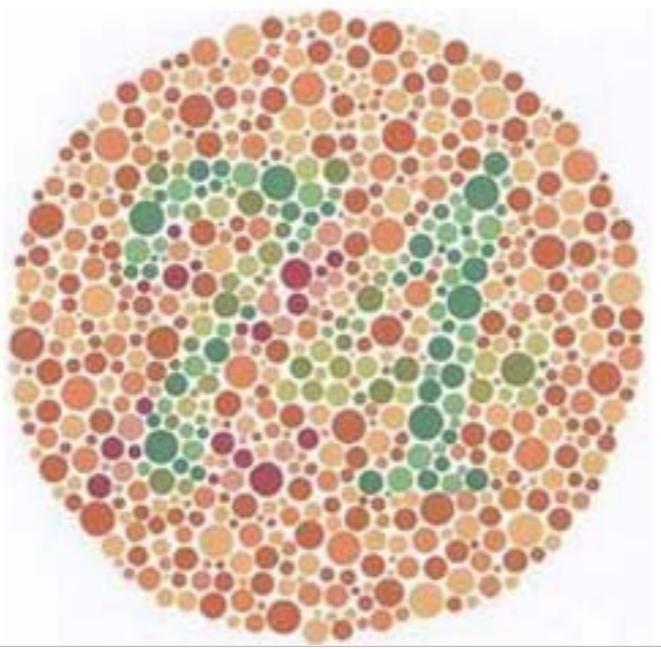
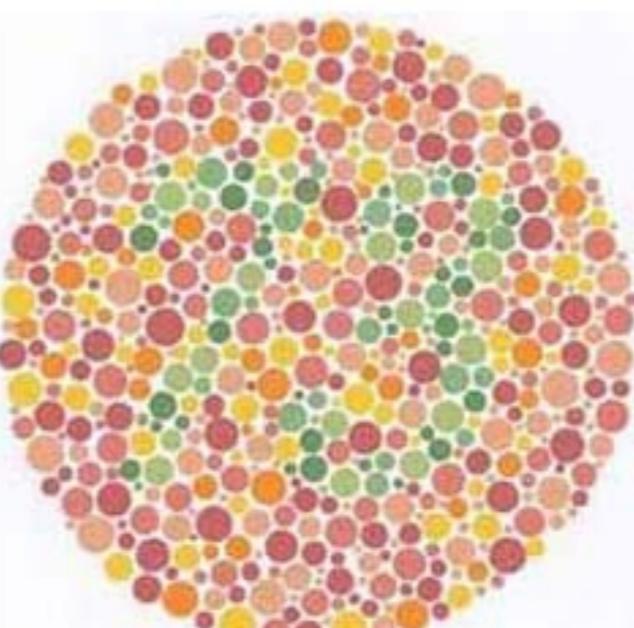
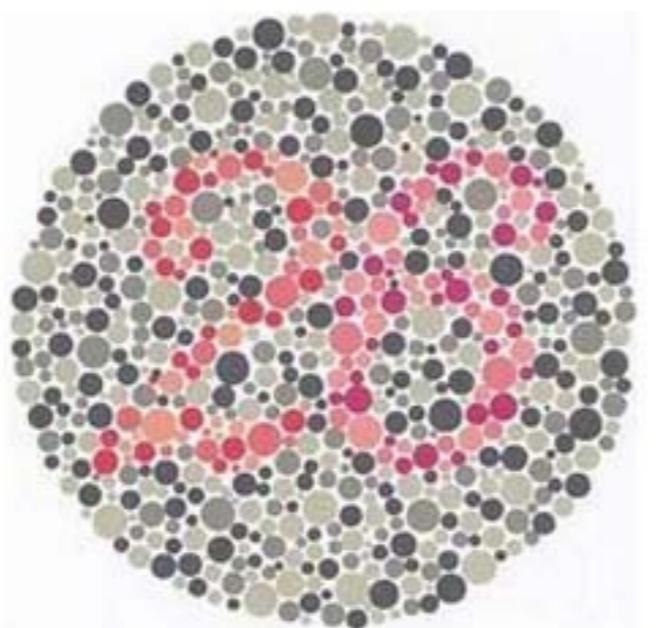
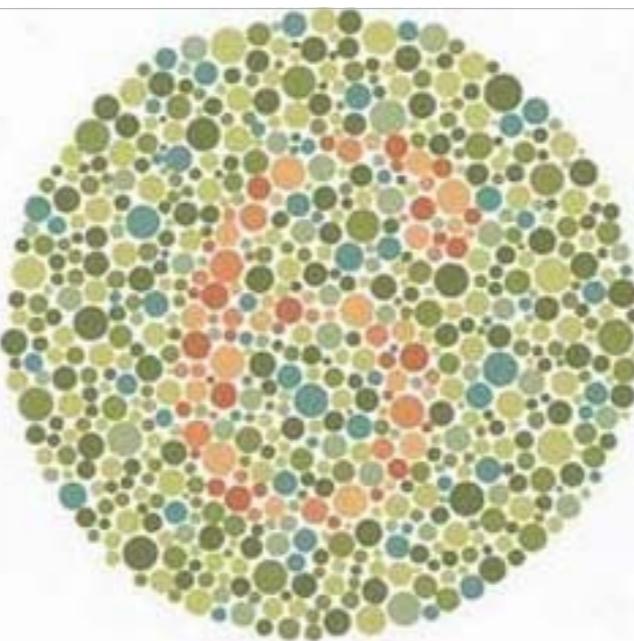
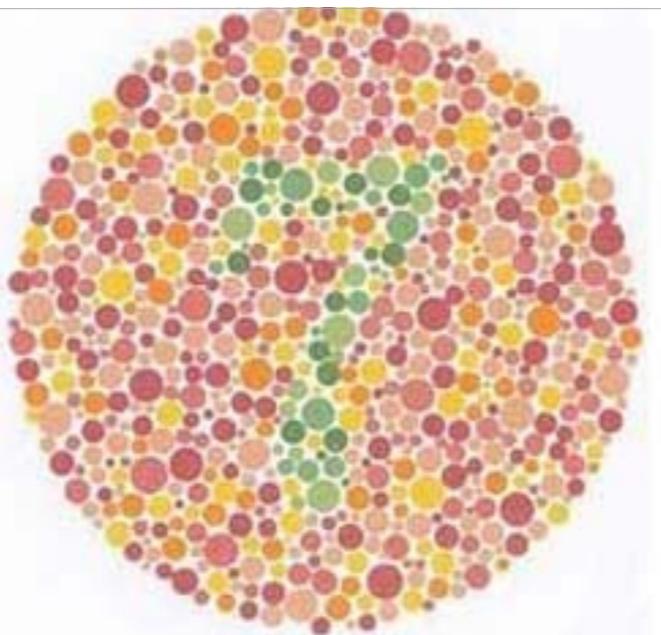
deuteranopia



tritanopia

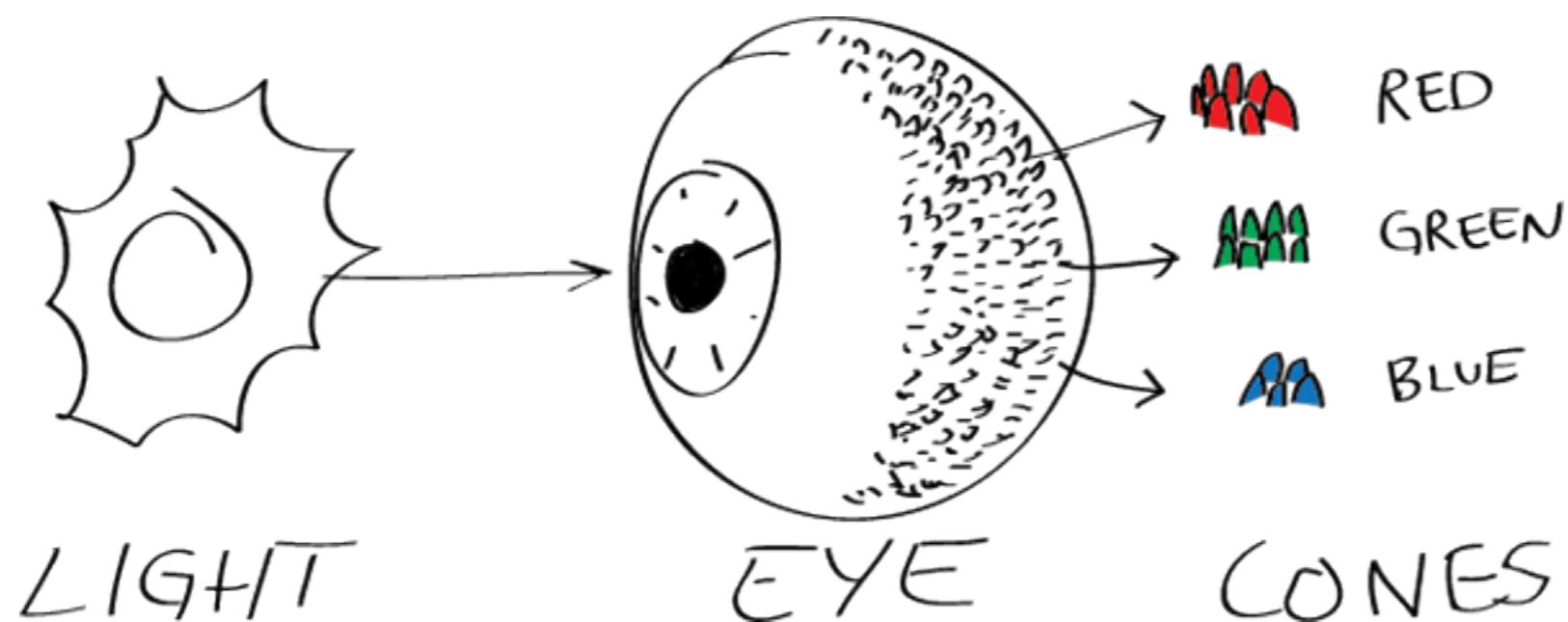
Protanopia affects 8% of males, 0.5% females  
of Northern European ancestry

problem 2: colour sensitivity



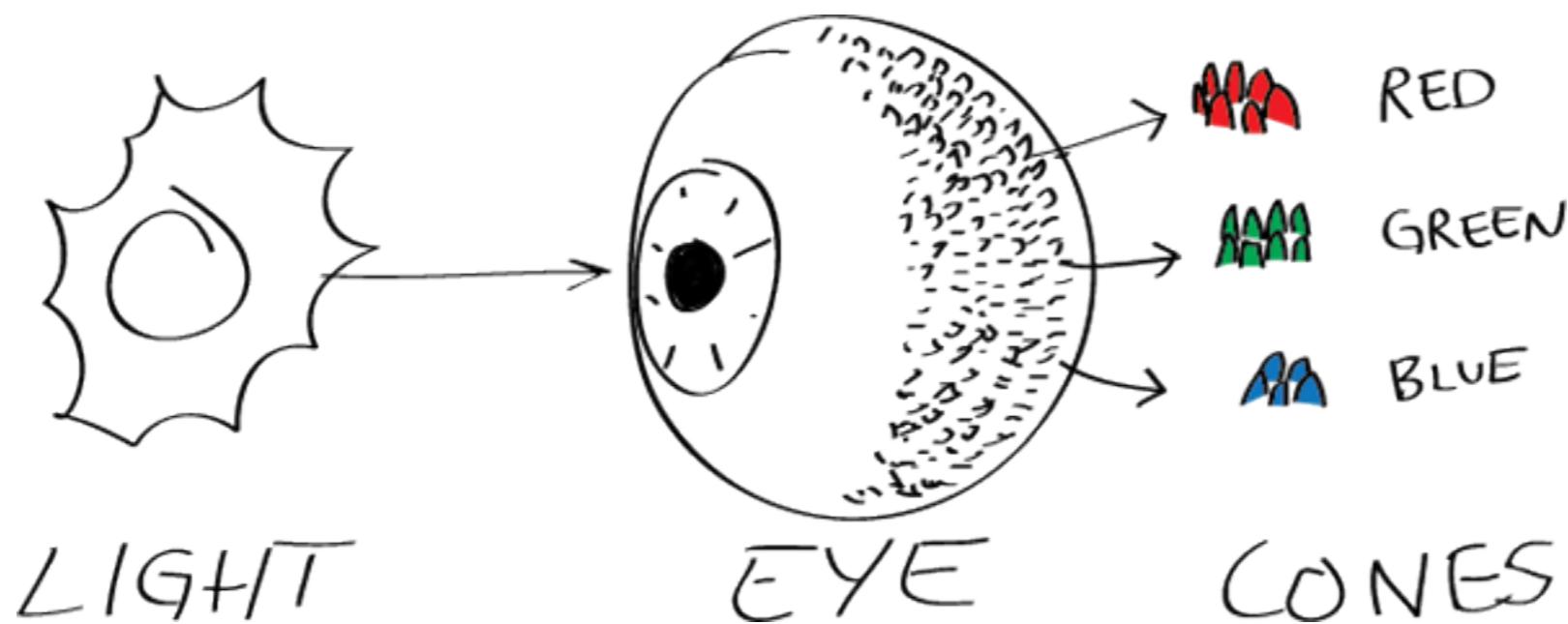
Using colour for continuous values

problem 3: yellow is special

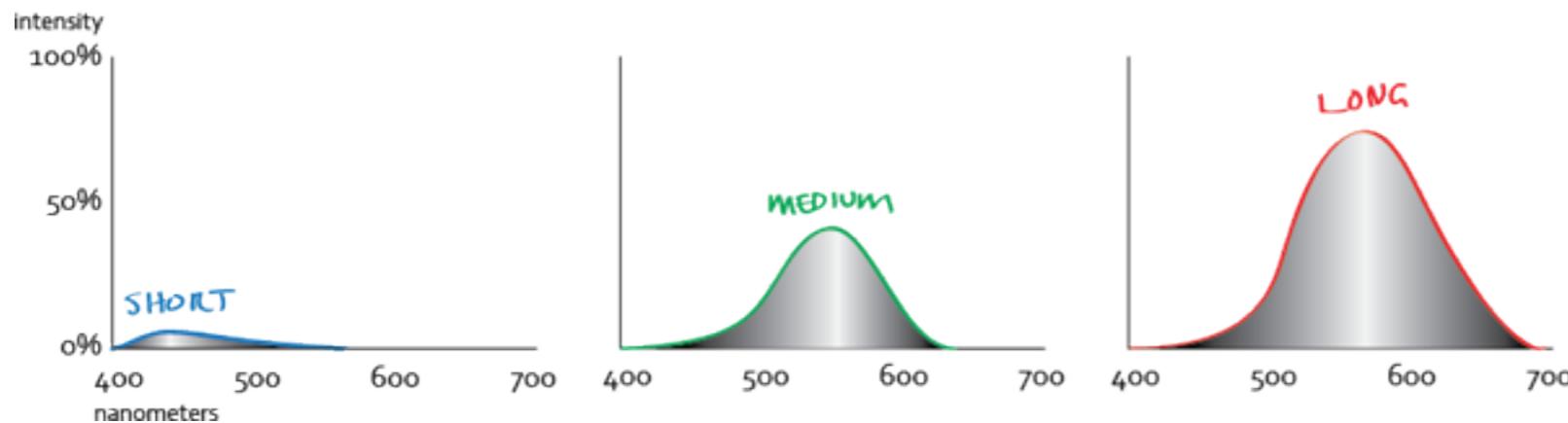


# Using colour for continuous values

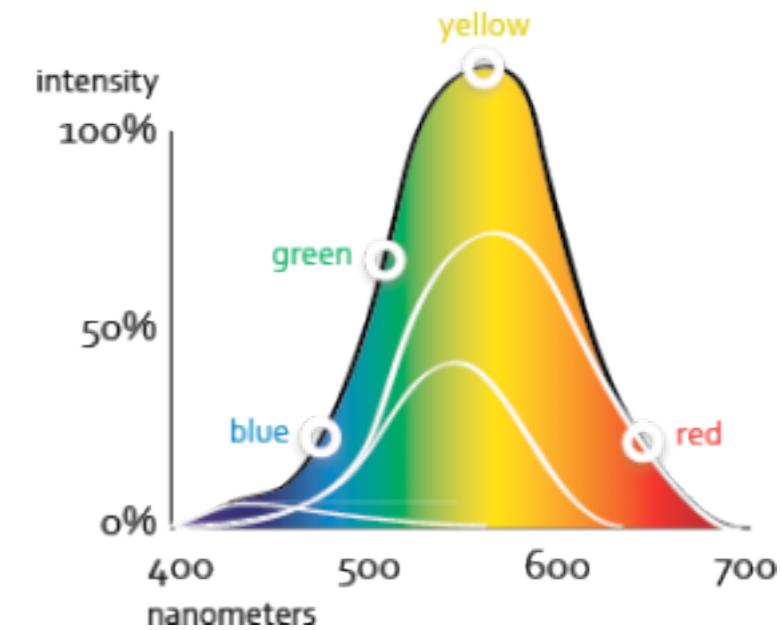
## problem 3: yellow is special



RELATIVE SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT WAVELENGTHS

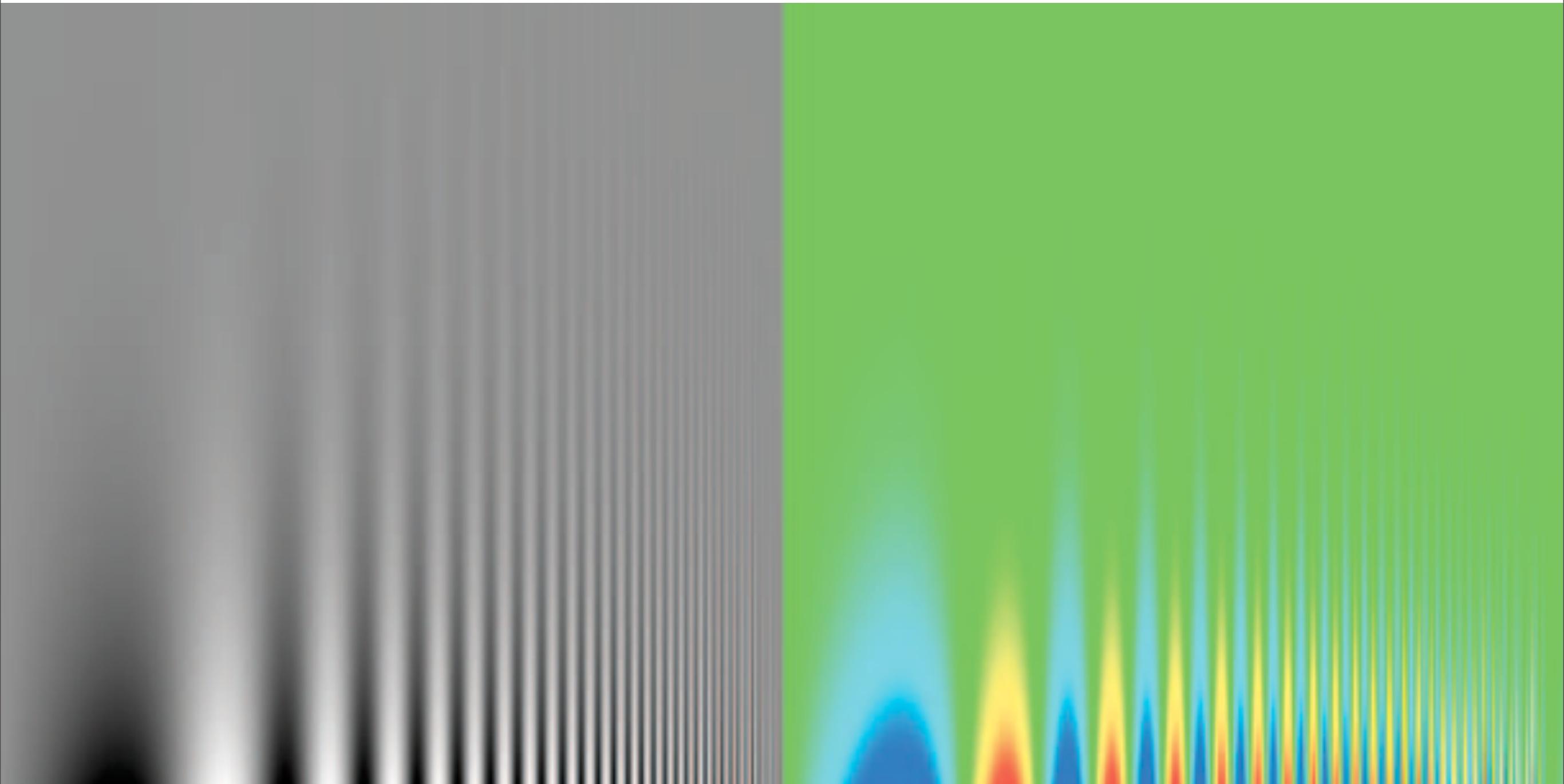


PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER



Using colour for continuous values

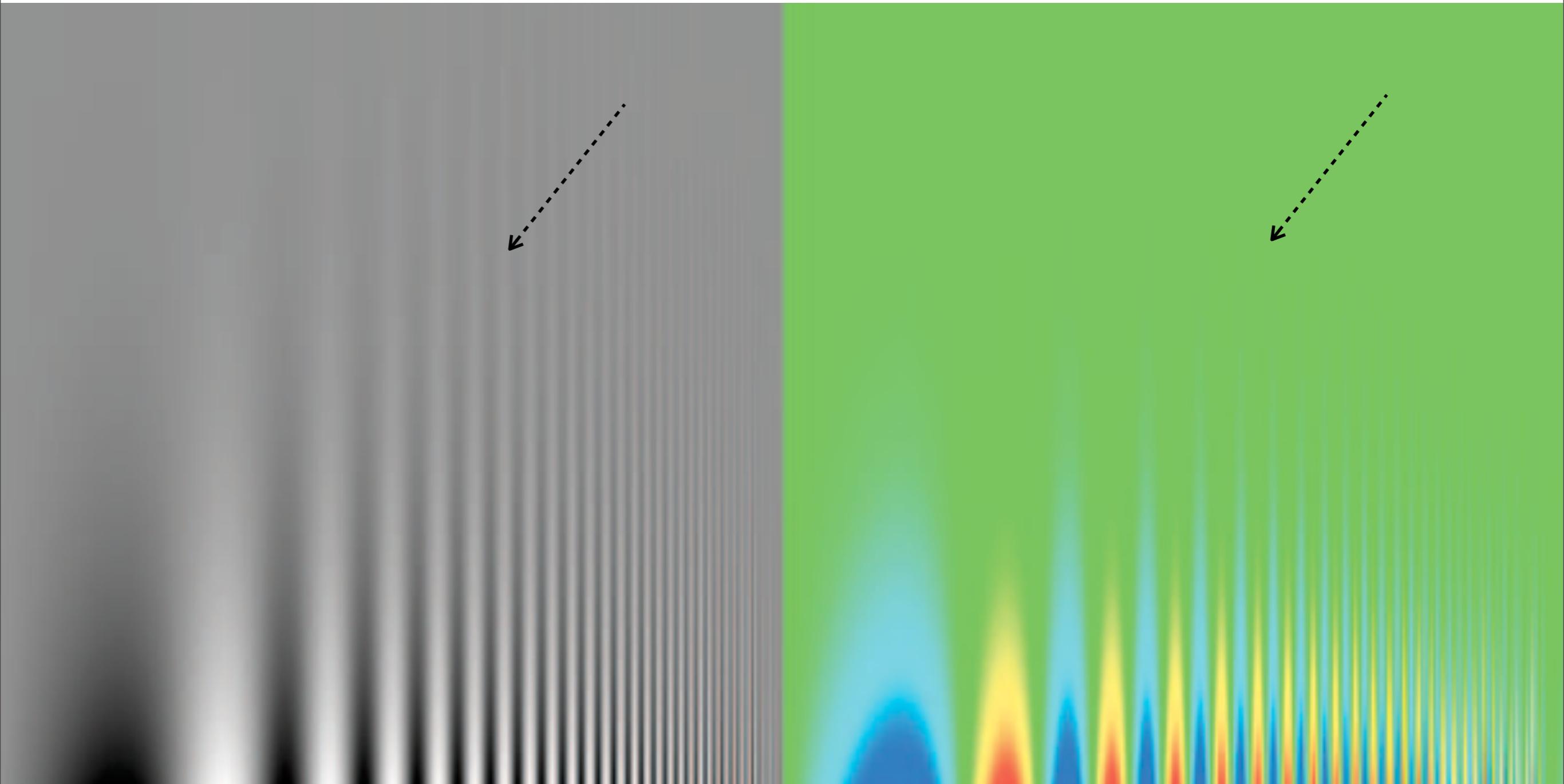
problem 4: Details: overemphasised or obscured



hue ‘borders’ overemphasise small changes, hue ‘middles’ blend potentially important details

Using colour for continuous values

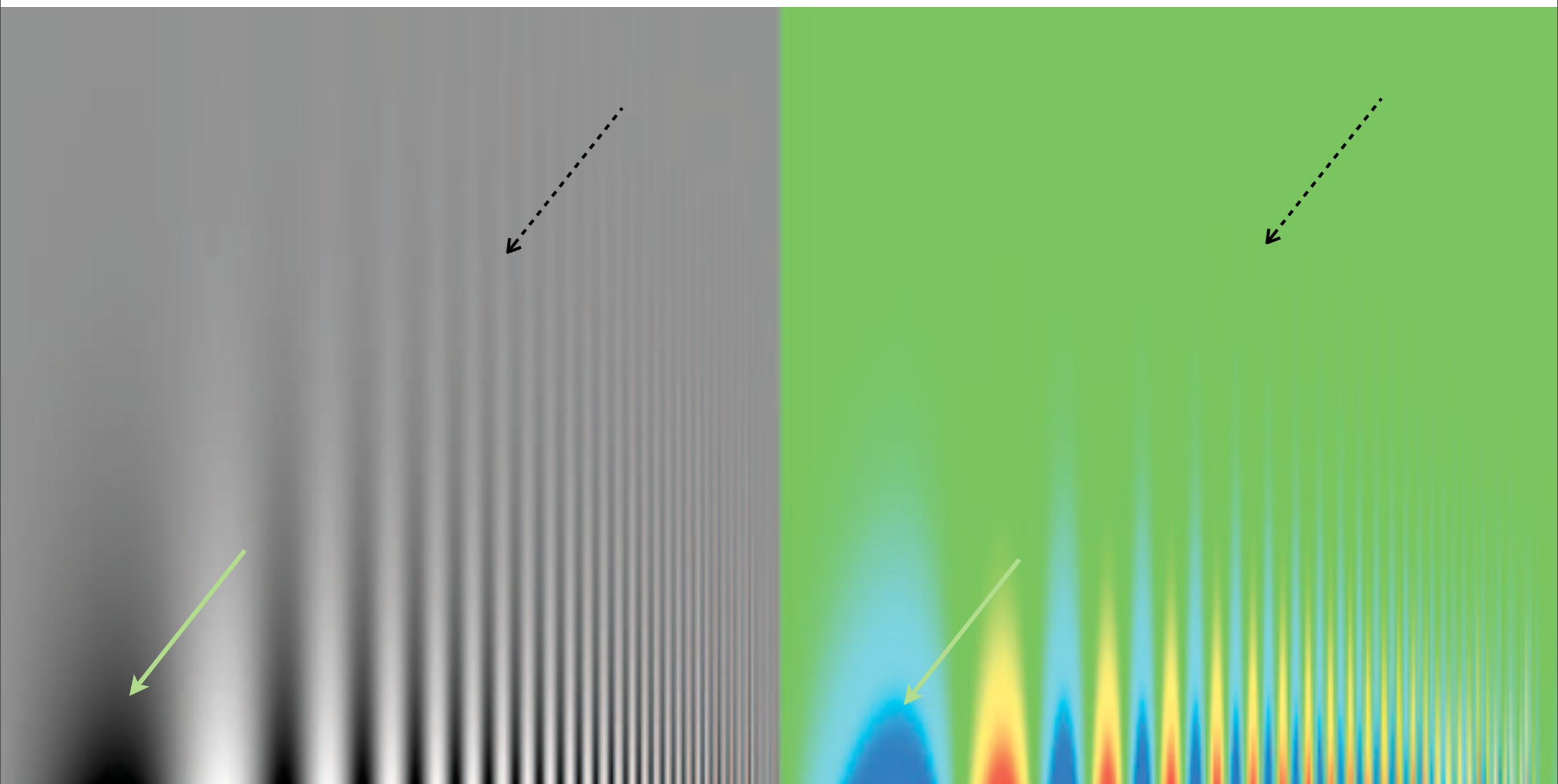
problem 4: Details: overemphasised or obscured



hue ‘borders’ overemphasise small changes, hue ‘middles’ blend potentially important details

Using colour for continuous values

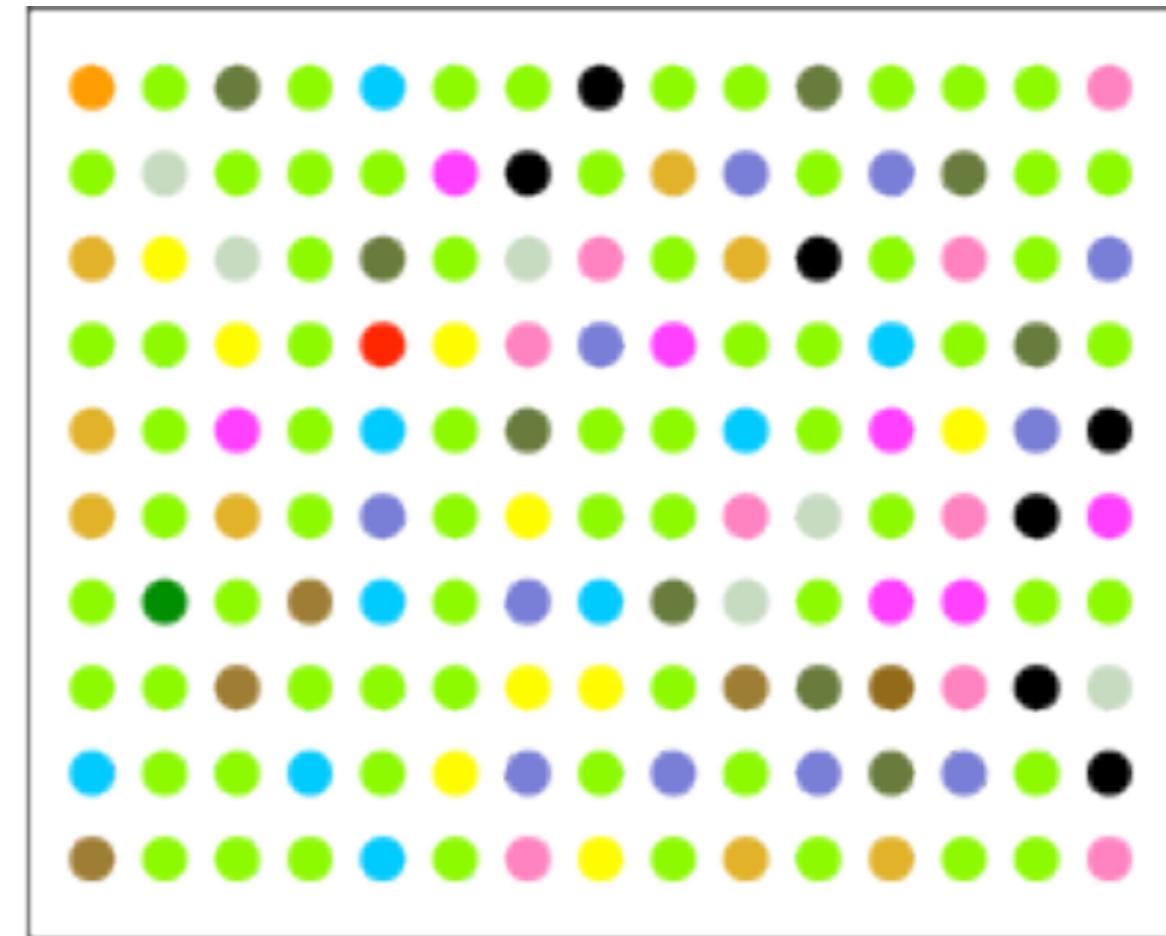
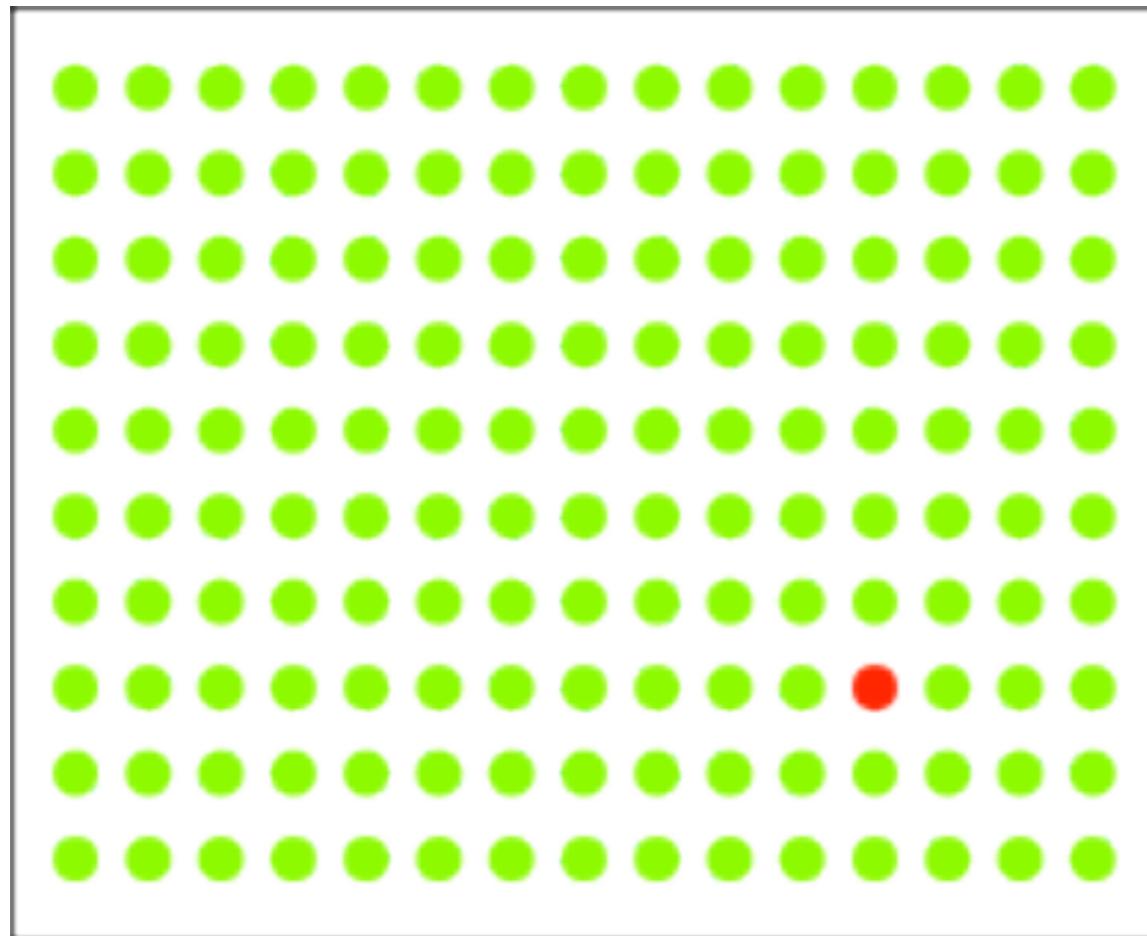
problem 4: Details: overemphasised or obscured

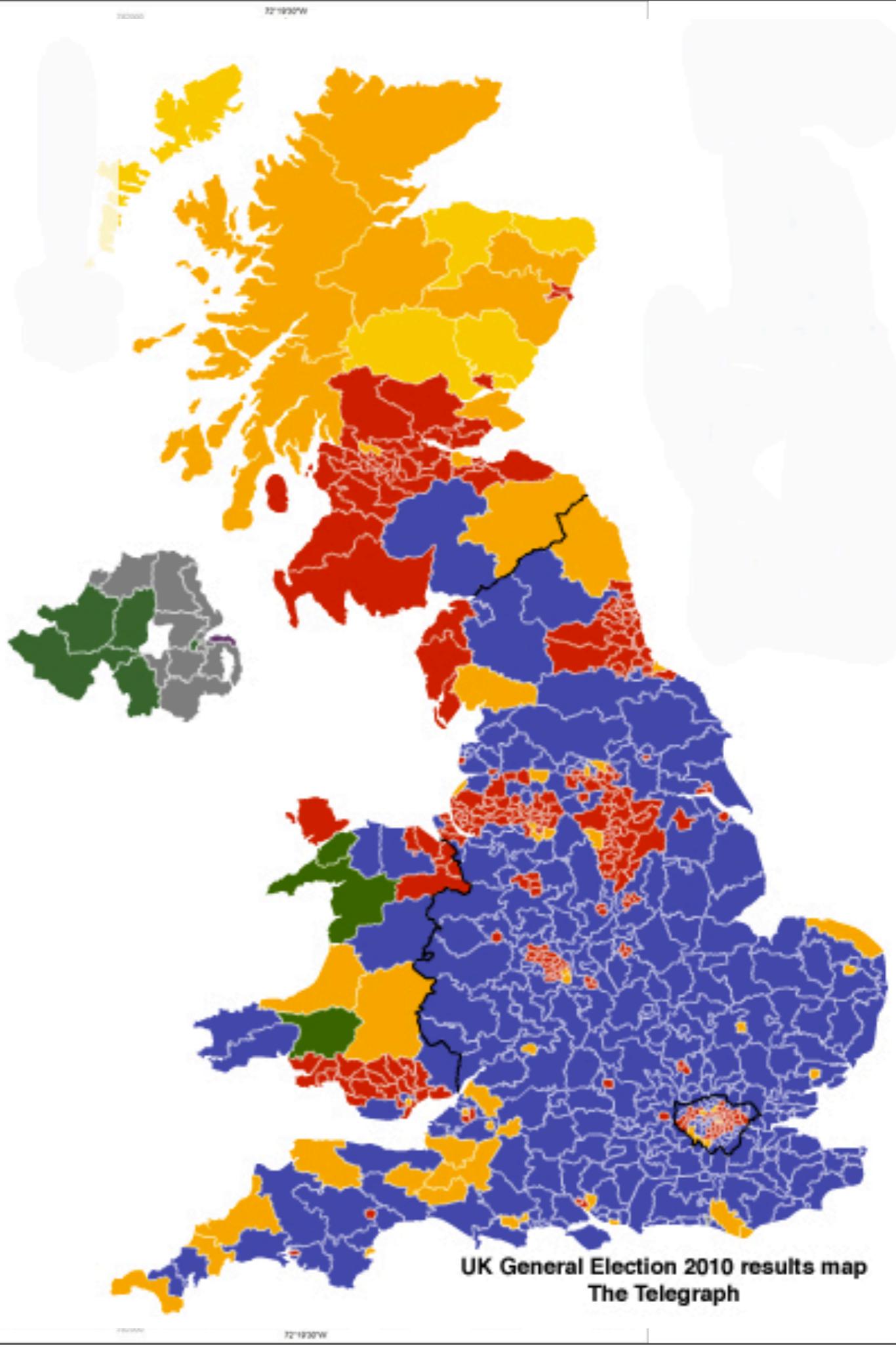
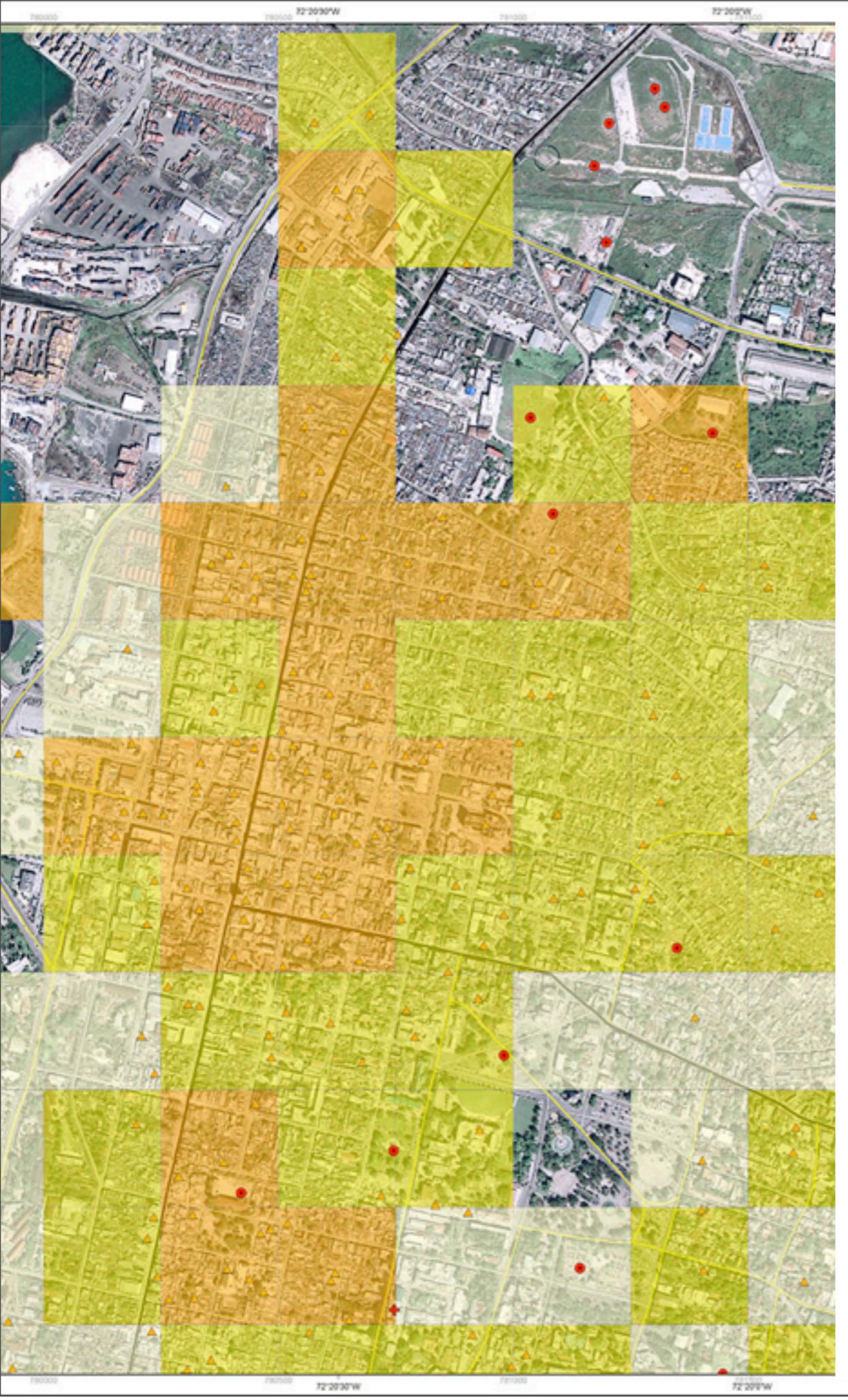


hue 'borders' overemphasise small changes, hue 'middles' blend potentially important details

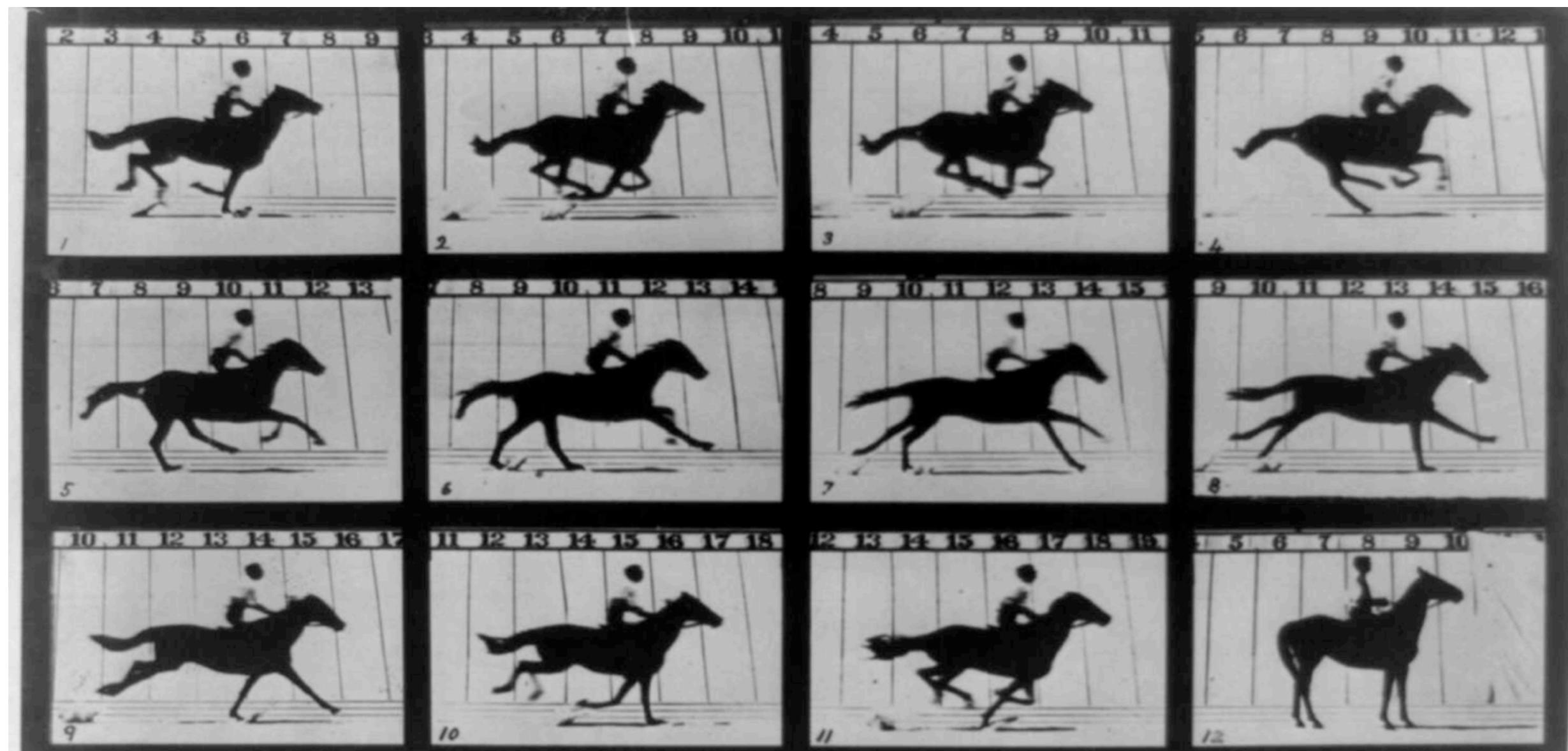
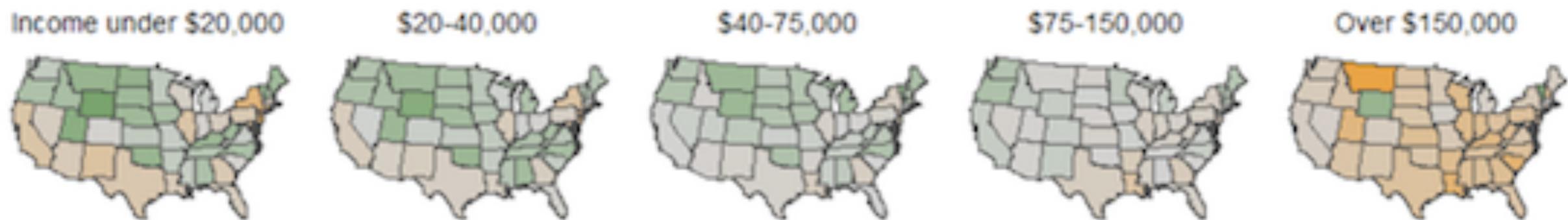
Using colour for continuous values

problem 5: **pop out** can drown out





# juxtaposition: small multiples



Copyright, 1878, by MUYBRIDGE.

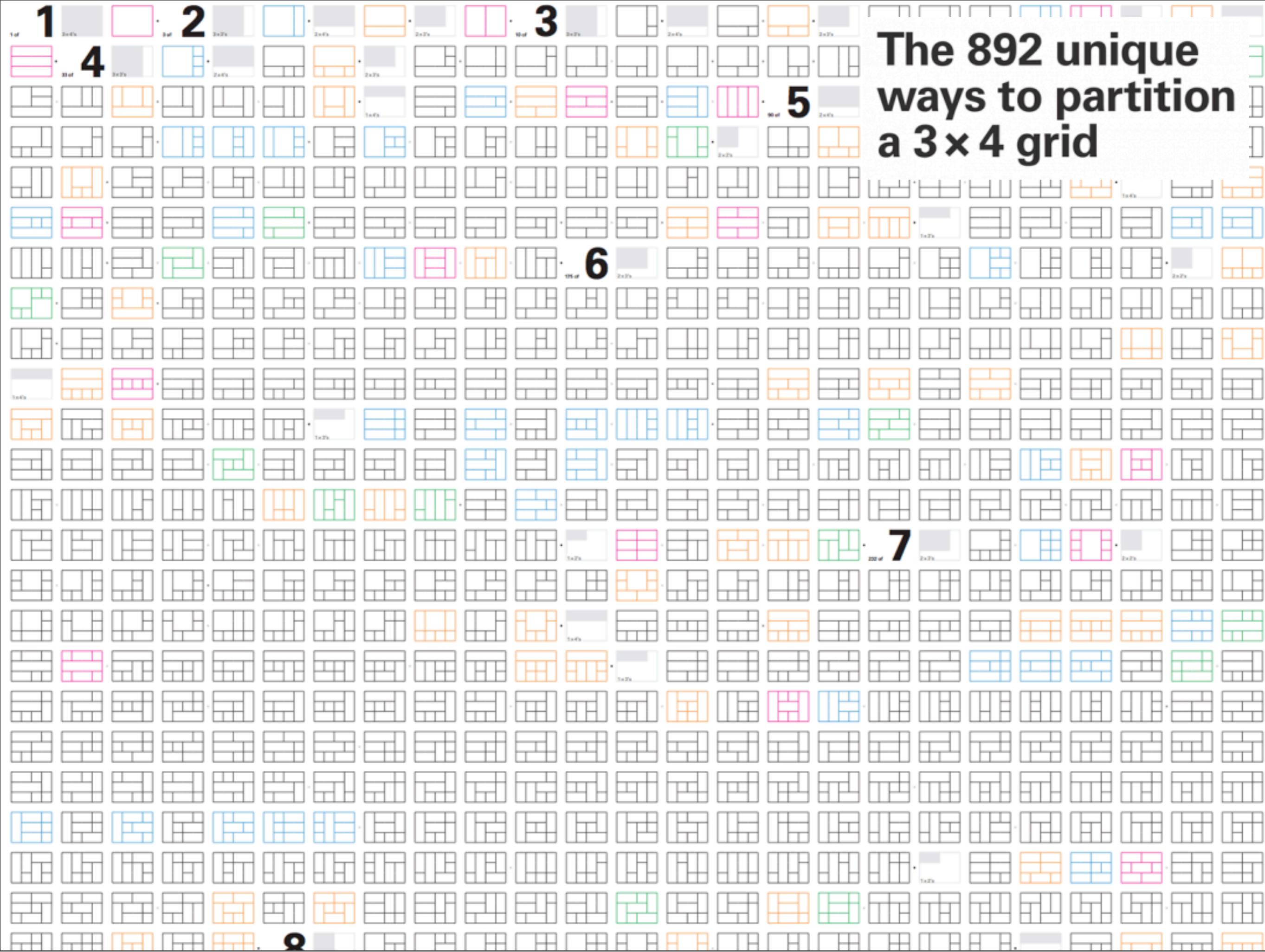
MORSE'S Gallery, 417 Montgomery St., San Francisco

THE HORSE IN MOTION.

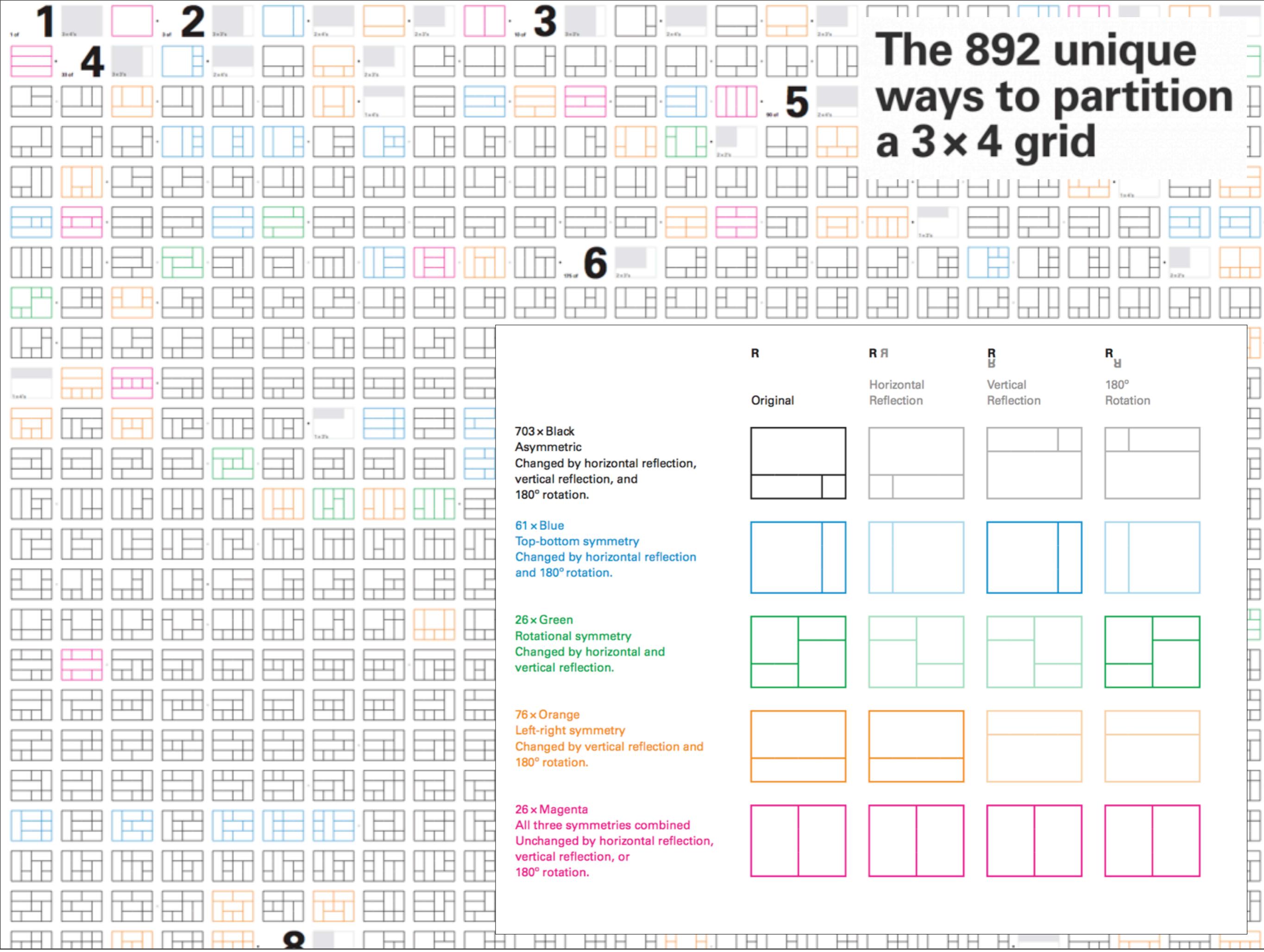
Illustrated by  
MUYBRIDGE

Patent for apparatus applied for

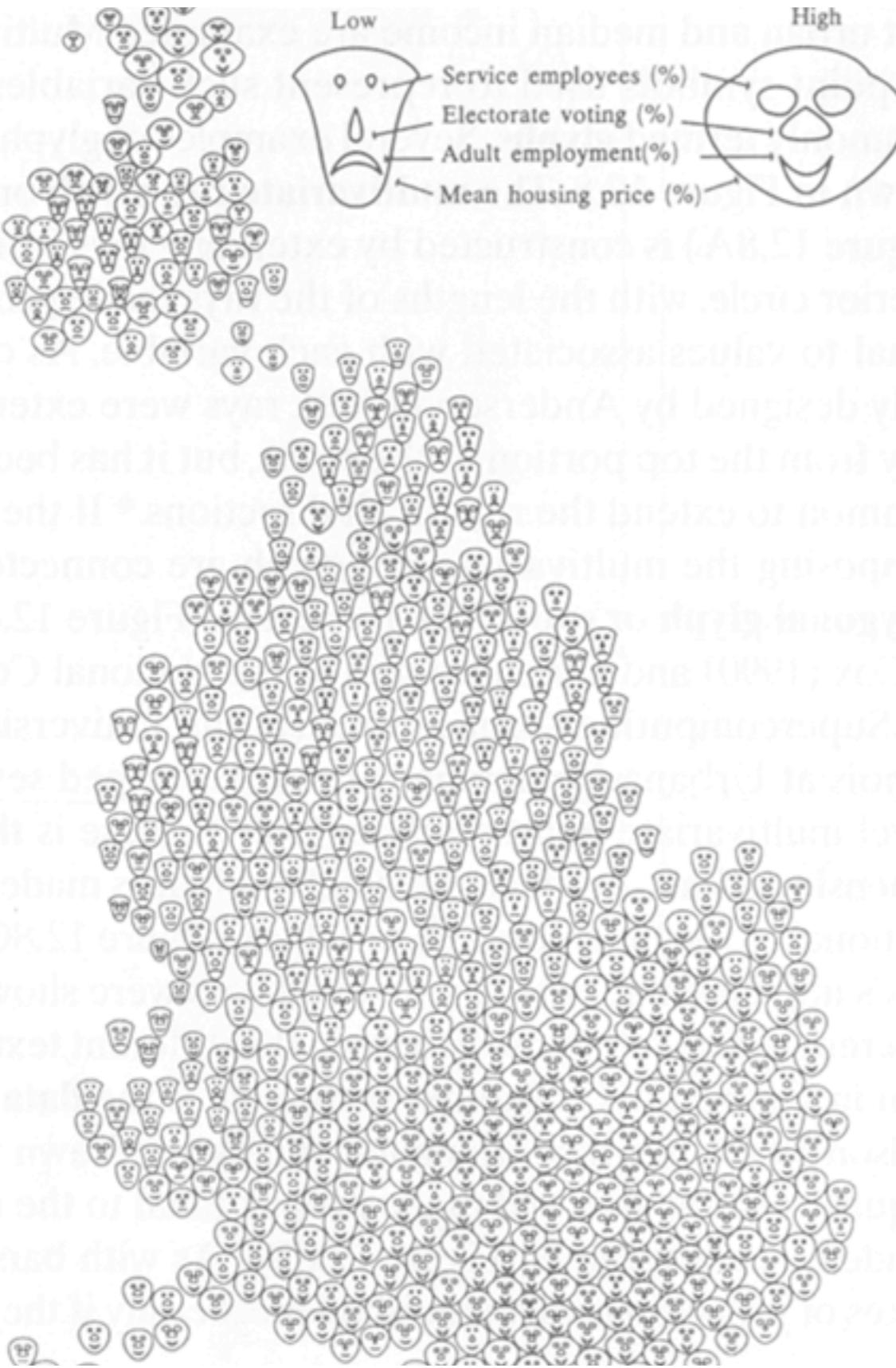
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, PHILADELPHIA, 1876



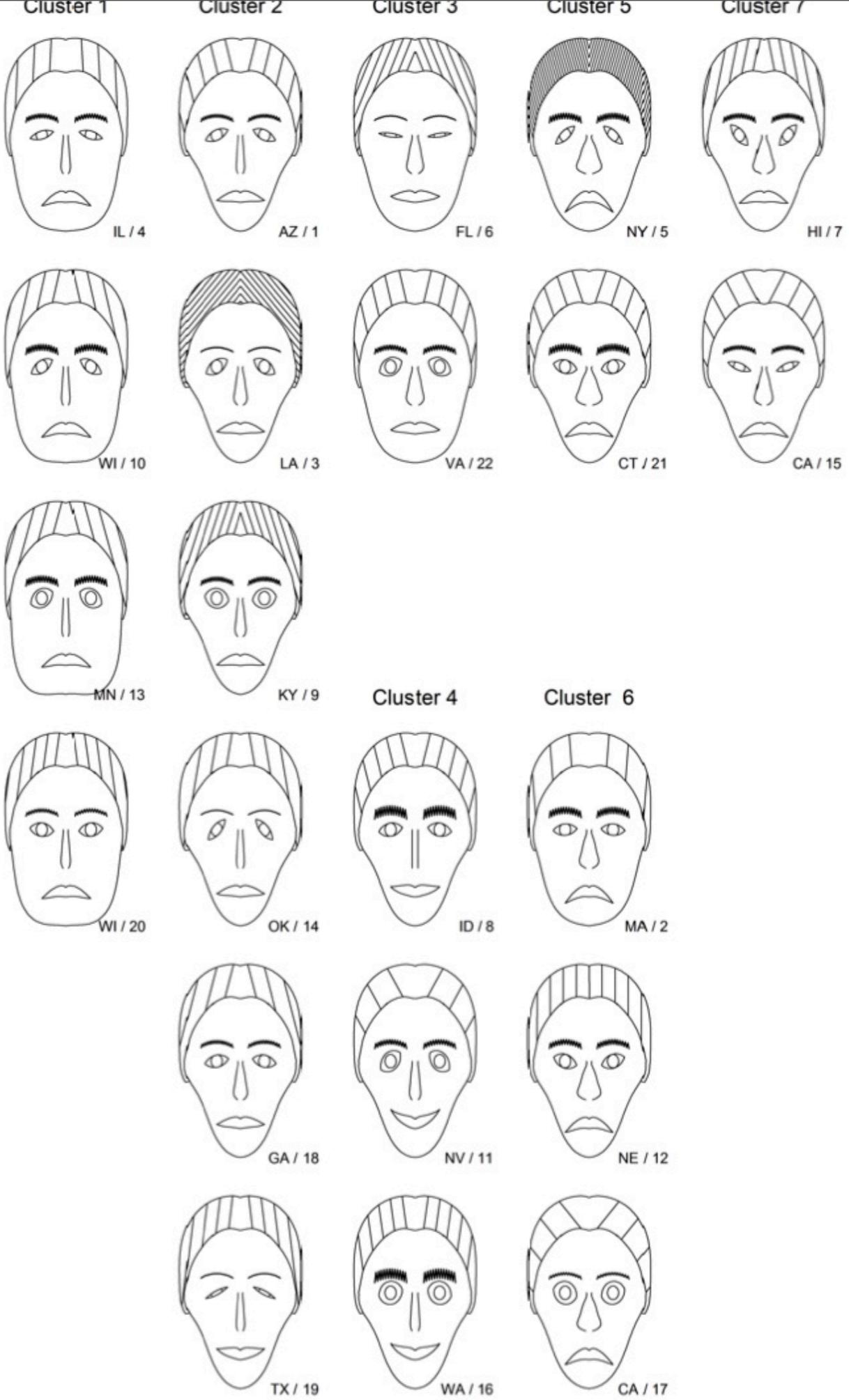
The 892 unique  
ways to partition  
a  $3 \times 4$  grid



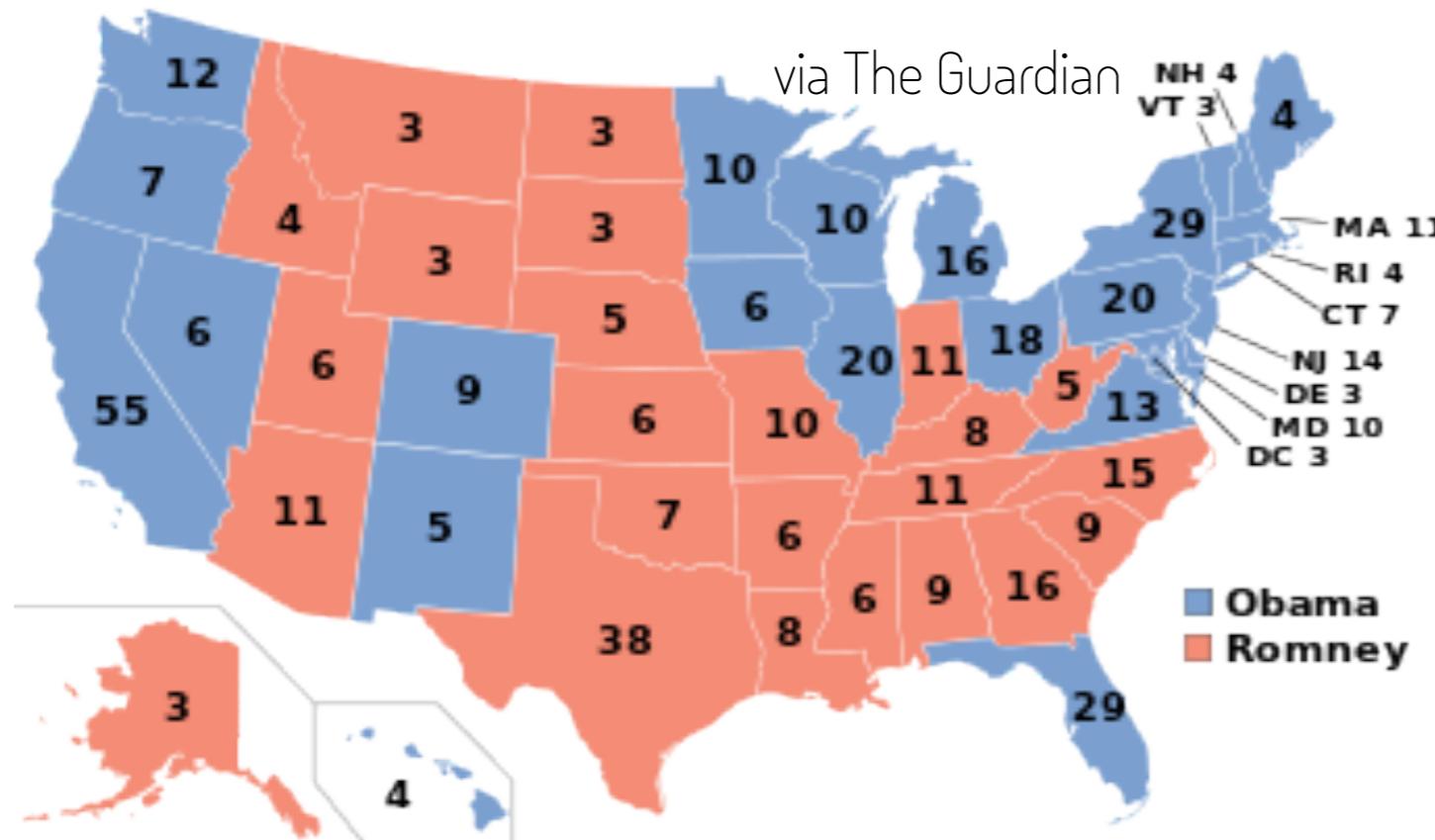
# multidimensional data



Chernoff Faces

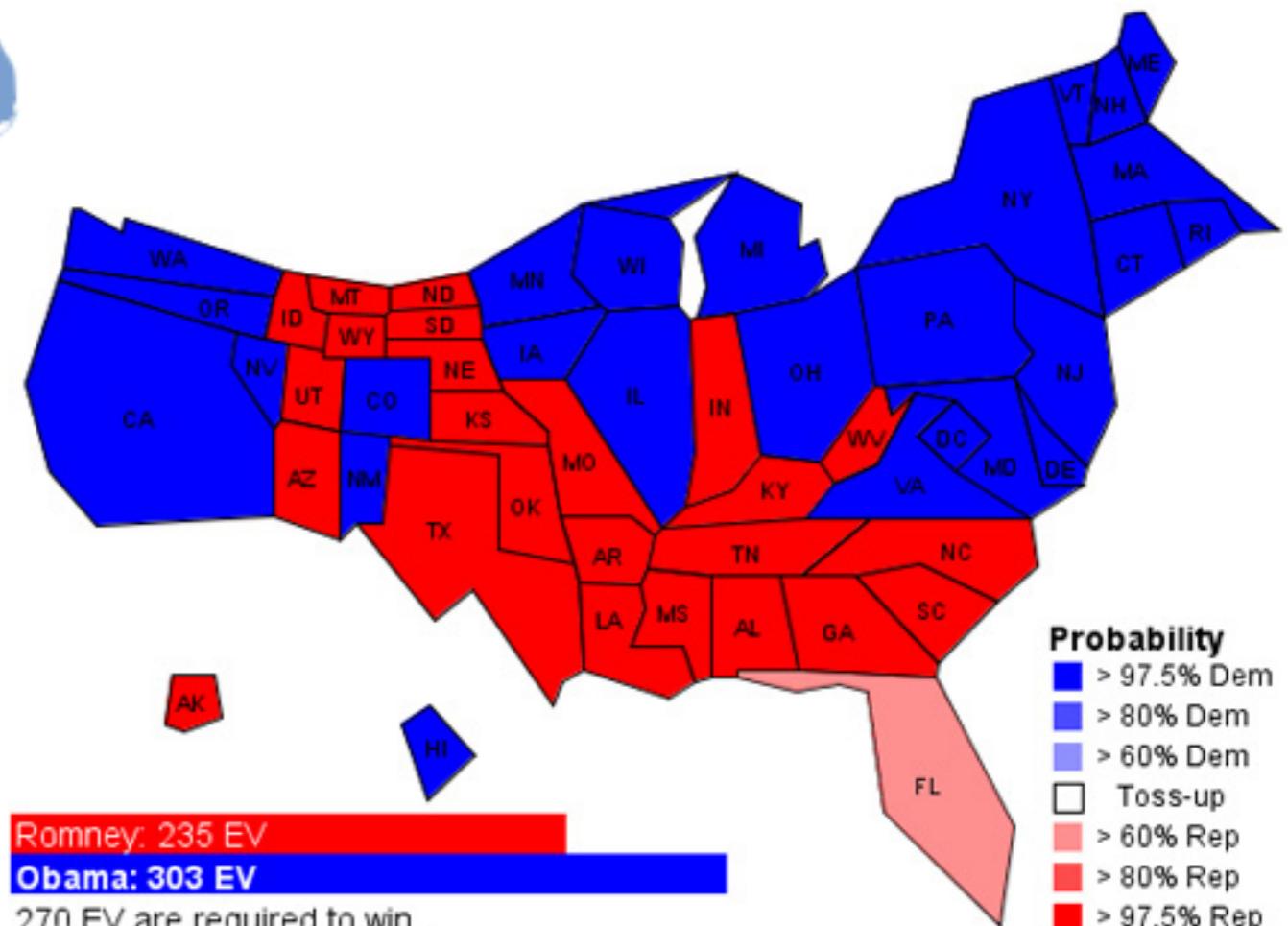


# multidimensional data



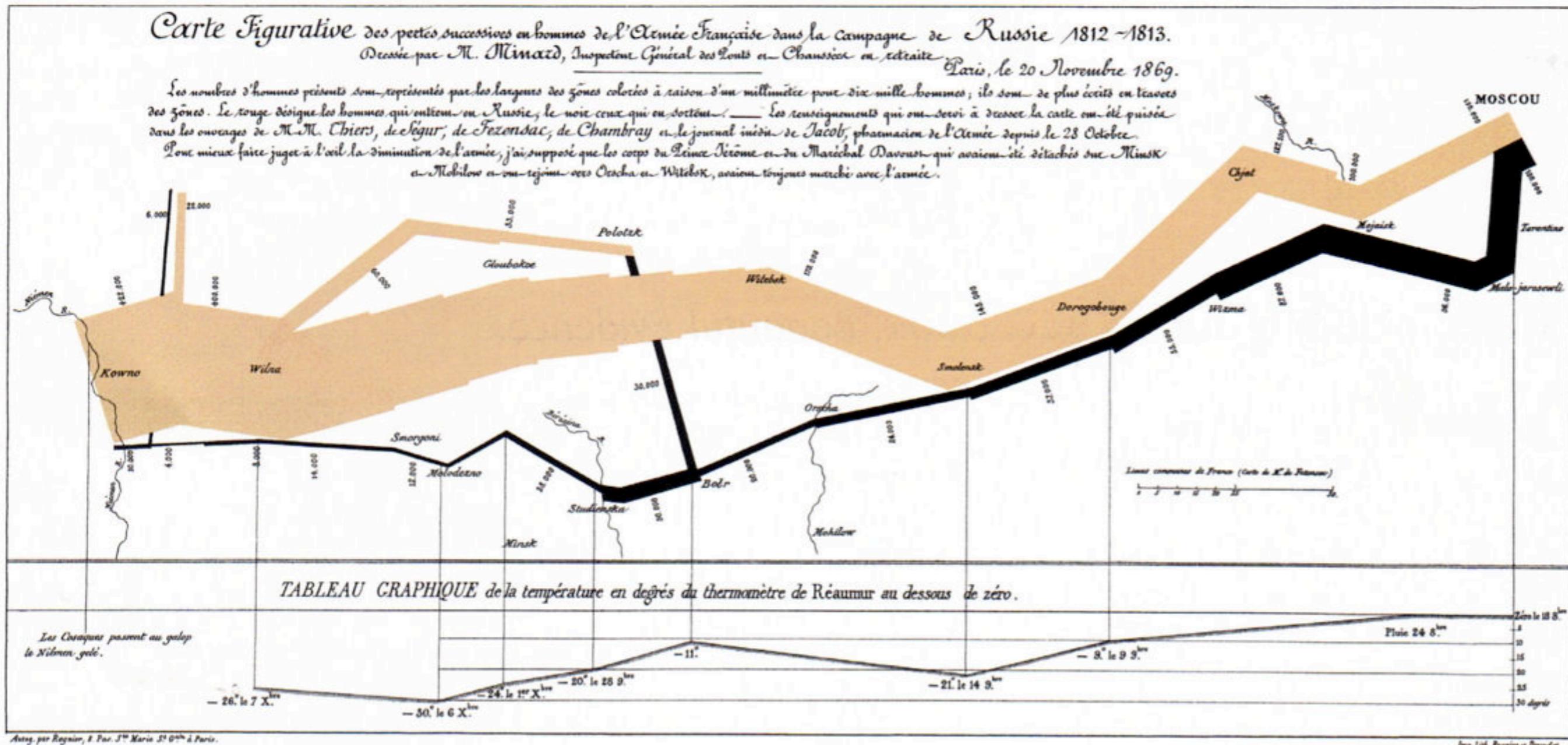
Obama-Romney 2012  
victories by state

distorted to make area  
proportional to votes



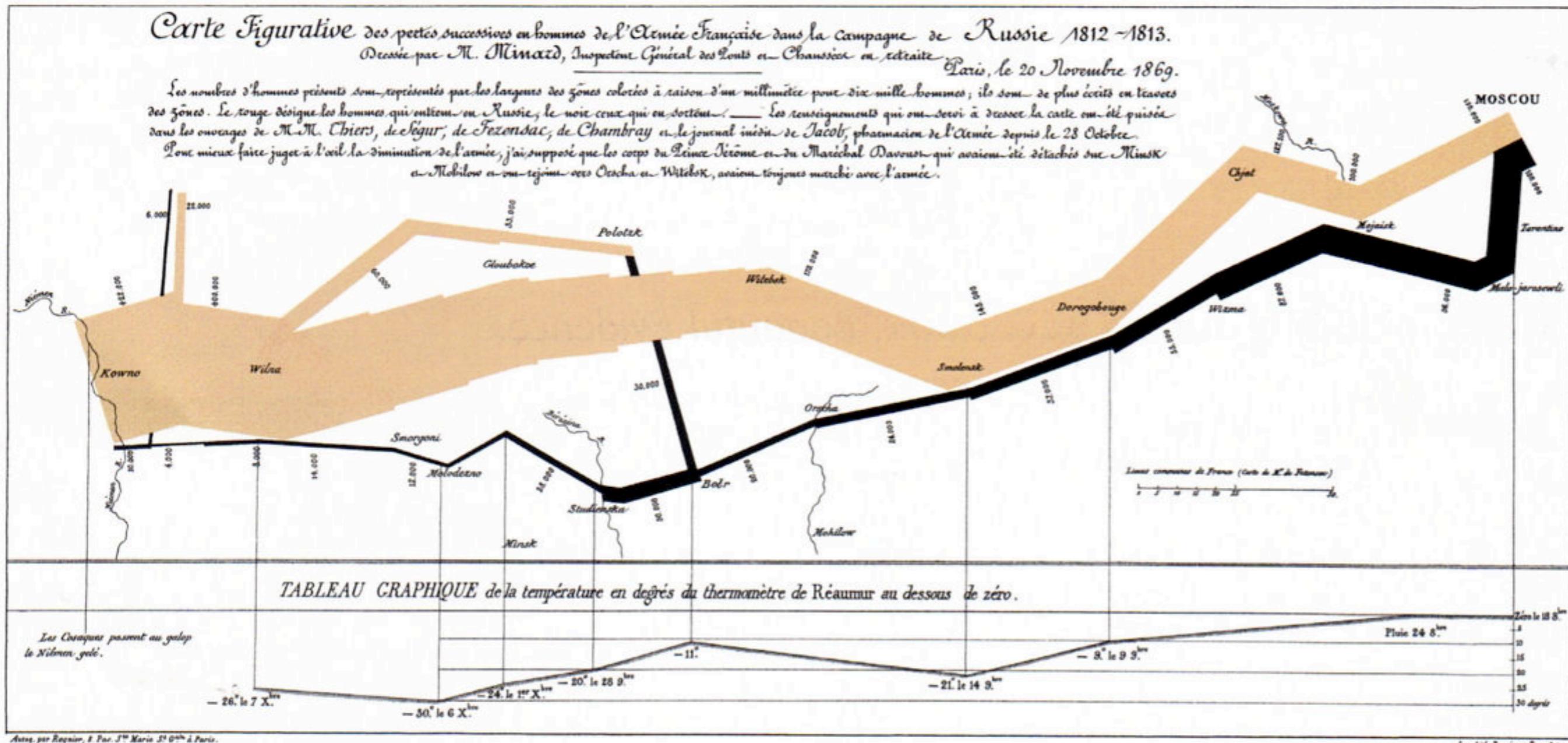
(via <http://zompist.wordpress.com/>)

# multidimensional data



napoleon's march to moscow  
charles joseph minard

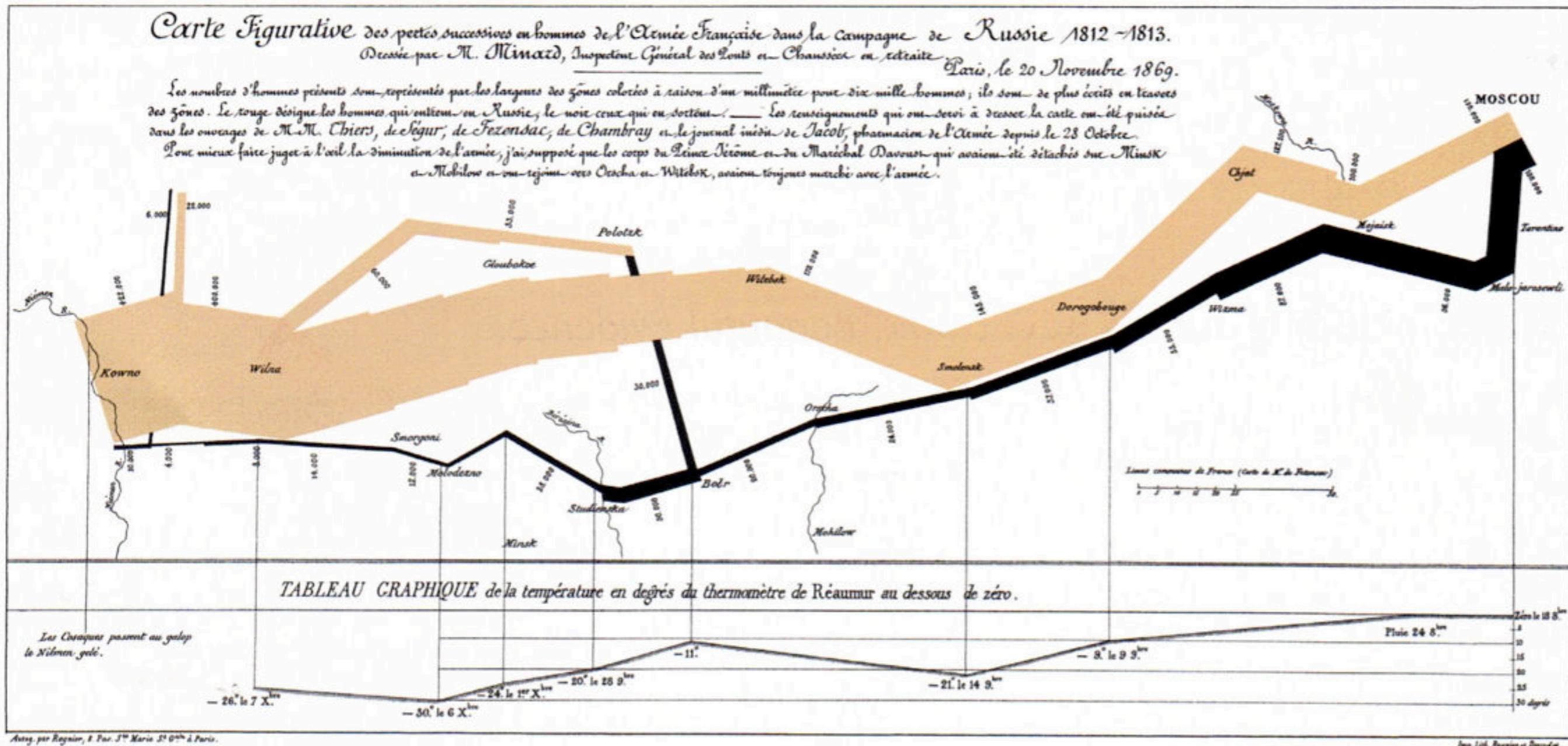
# multidimensional data



how many dimensions can you find?

napoleon's march to moscow  
charles joseph minard

# multidimensional data

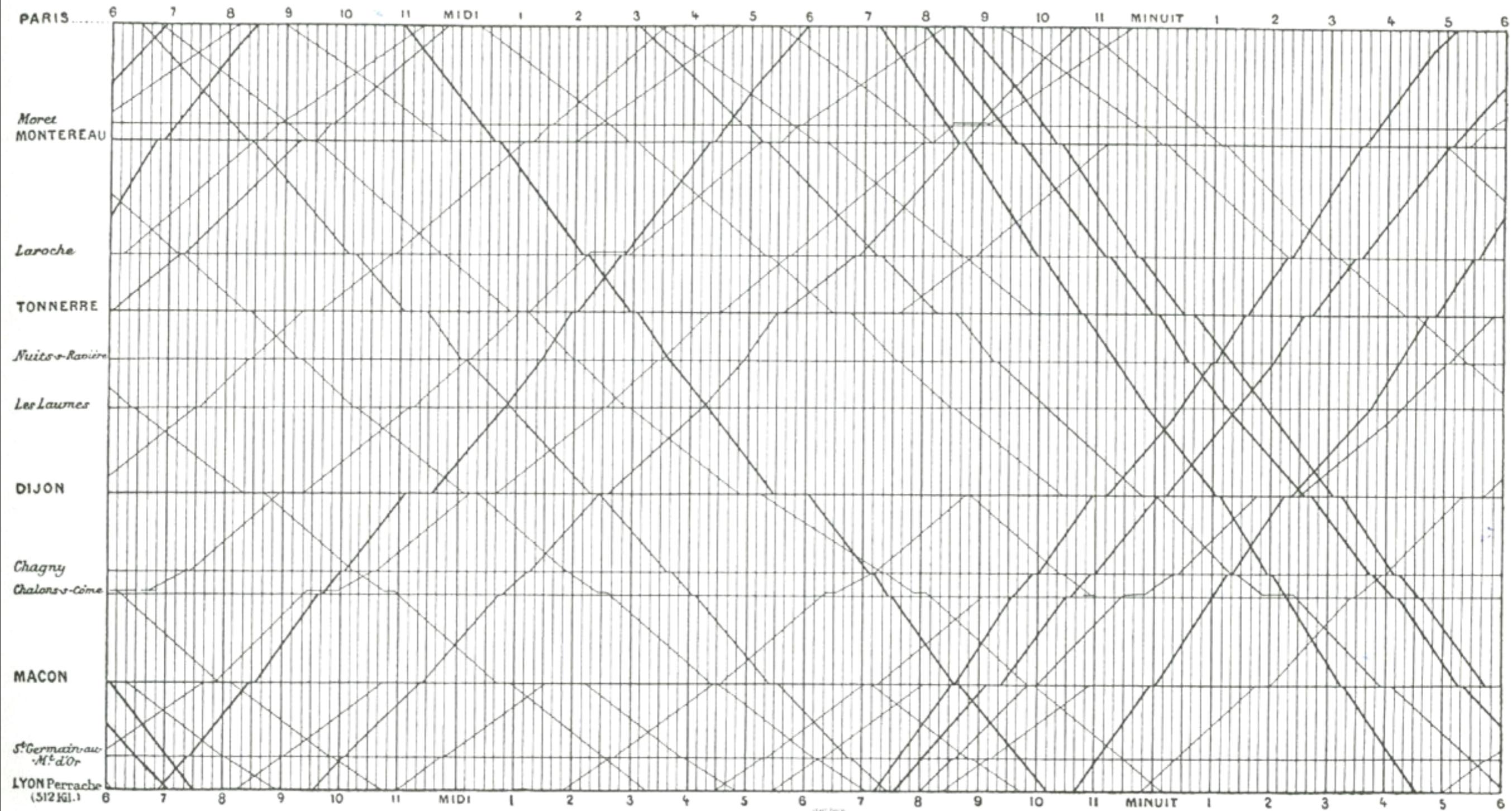


how many dimensions can you find?

- ans: 1) size of the army 2-3) path (lat/lng) taken on a map
- 4) direction army was traveling 5) temperature 6) dates army reached particular locations

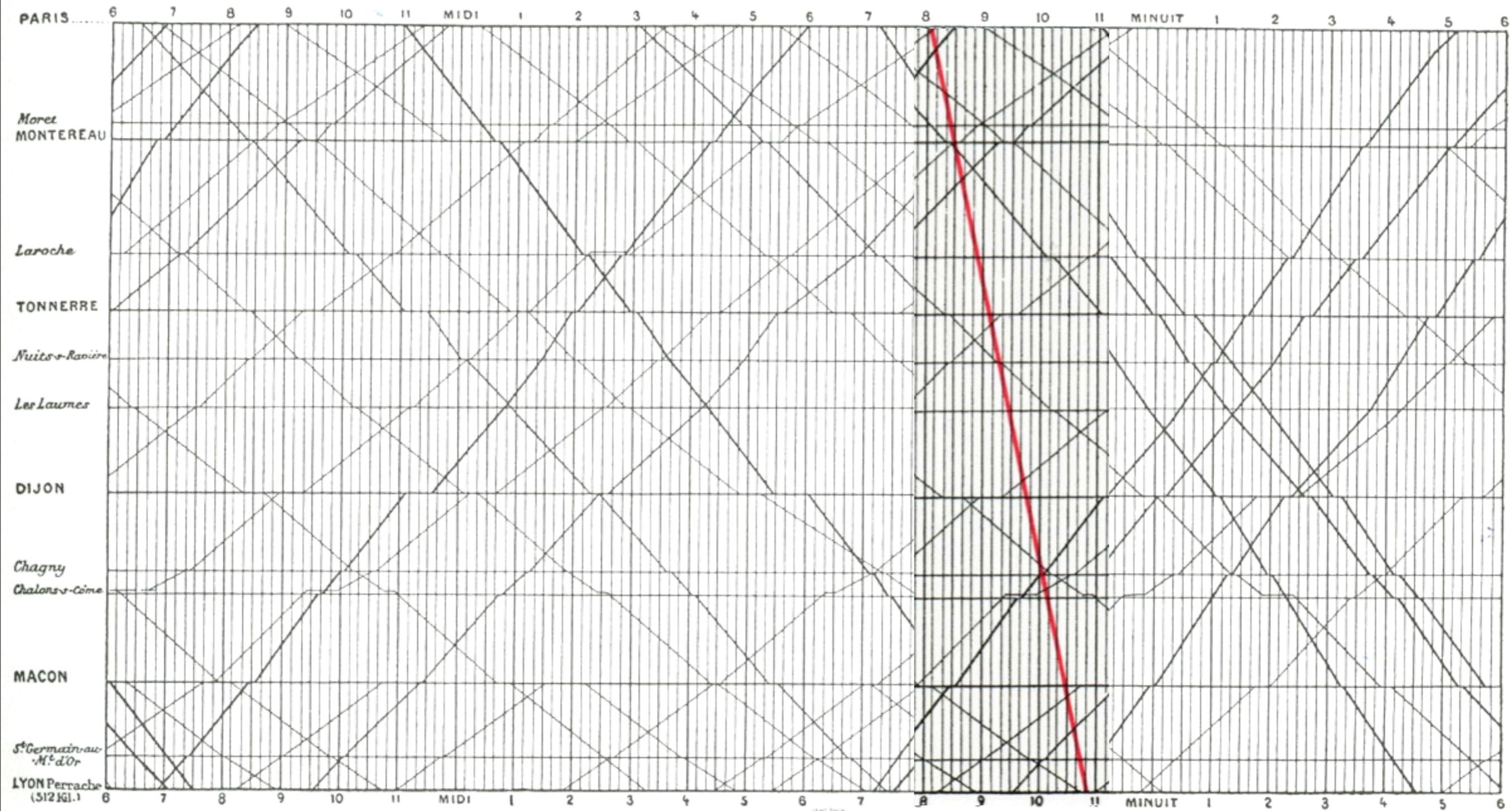
napoleon's march to moscow  
charles joseph minard

# multidimensional data



E.J. Marey  
La méthode graphique  
(1885)

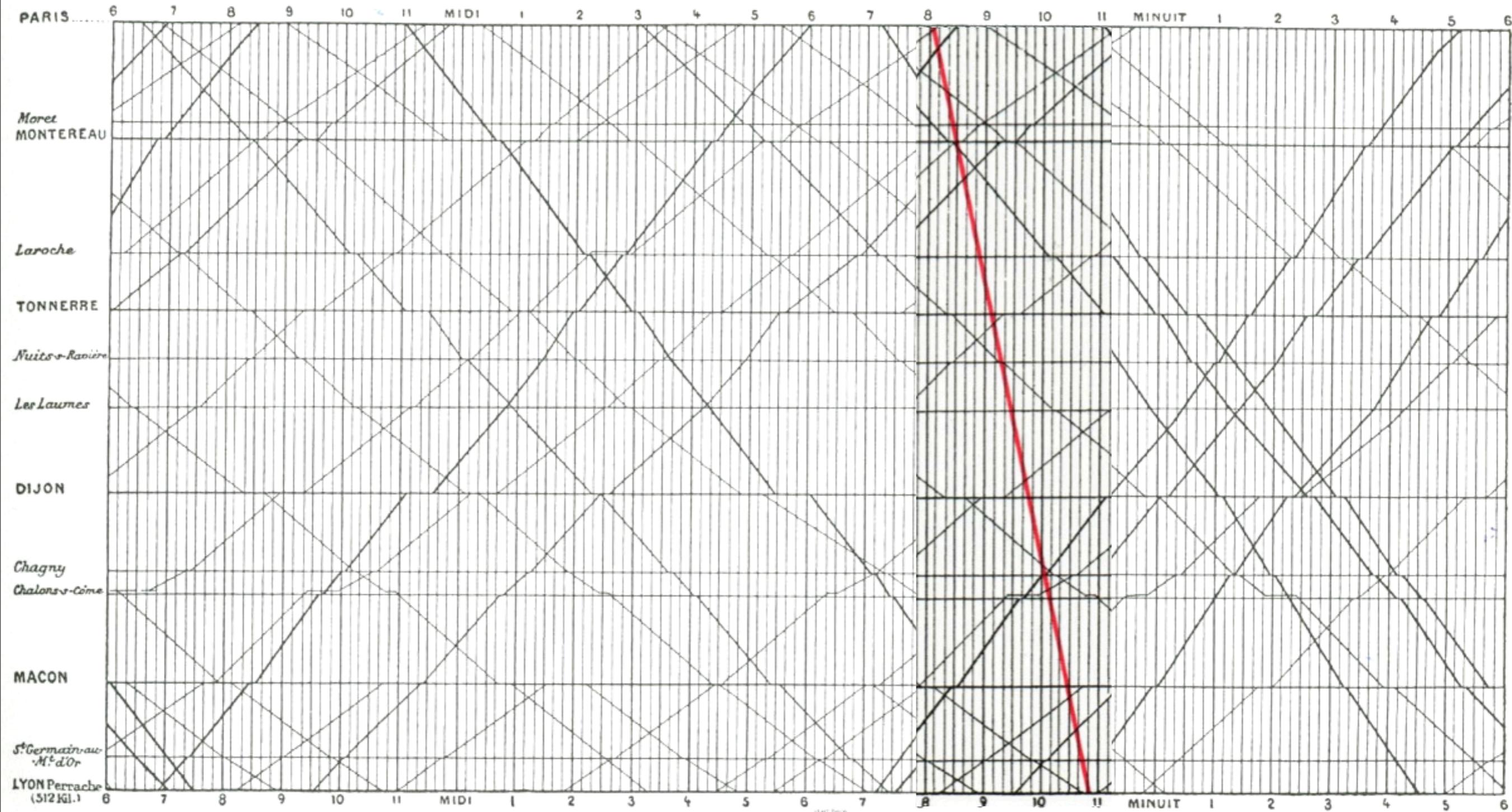
# multidimensional data



E.J. Marey  
La méthode graphique  
(1885)

# multidimensional data

TGV  
Paris-Lyon



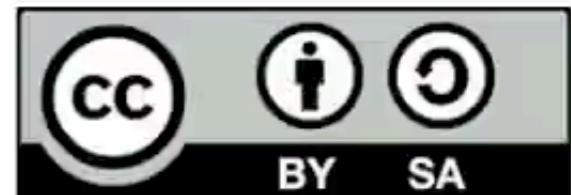
E.J. Marey  
La méthode graphique  
(1885)

motion

# **200 years that changed the world**

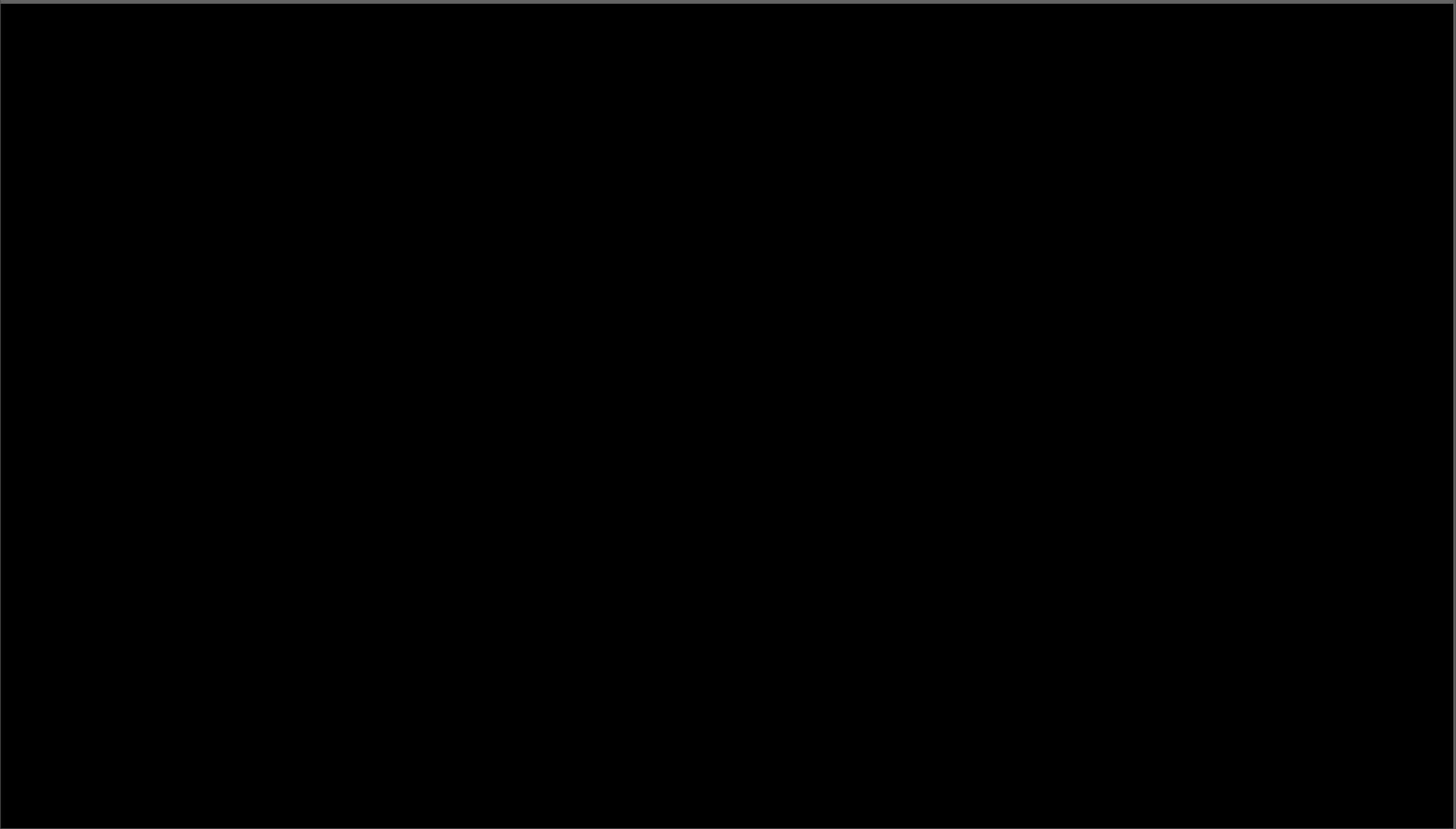
with Hans Rosling

Free to redistribute

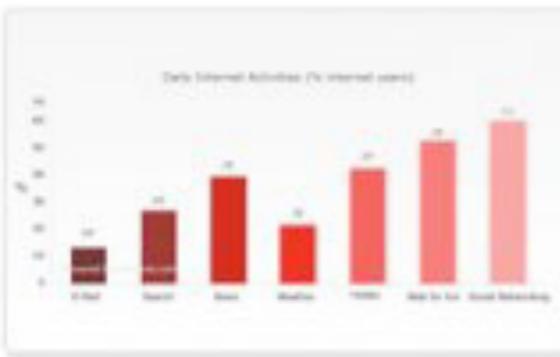
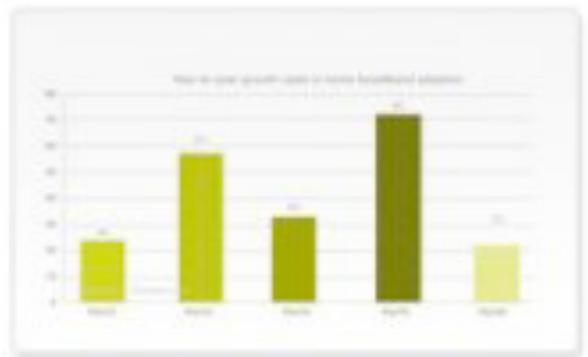
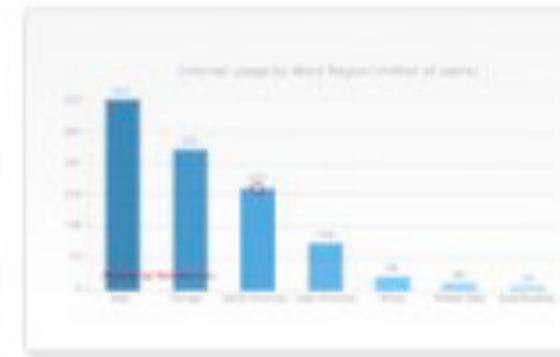
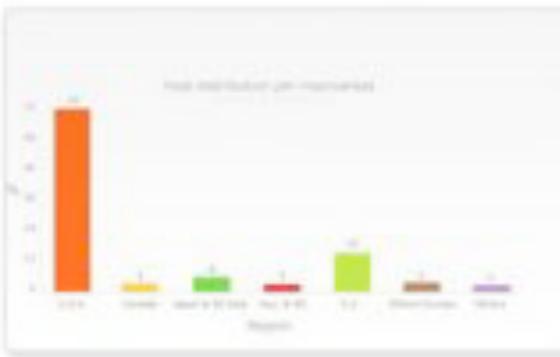
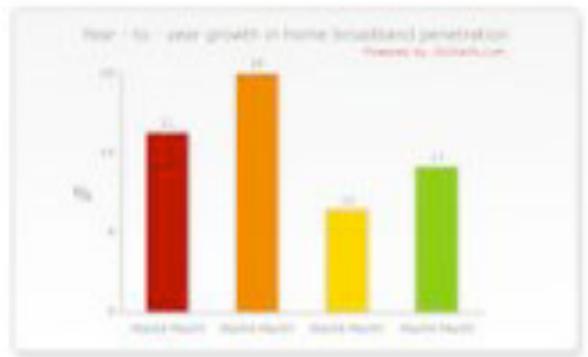
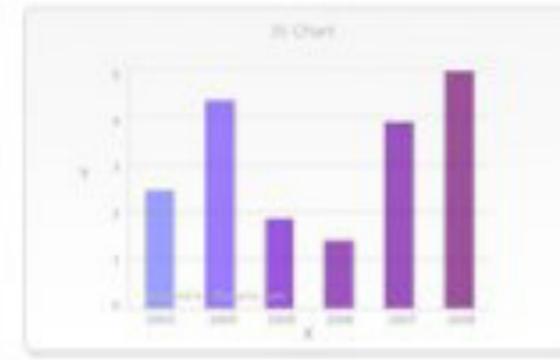
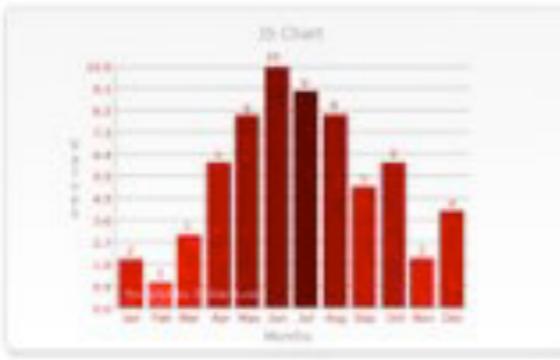
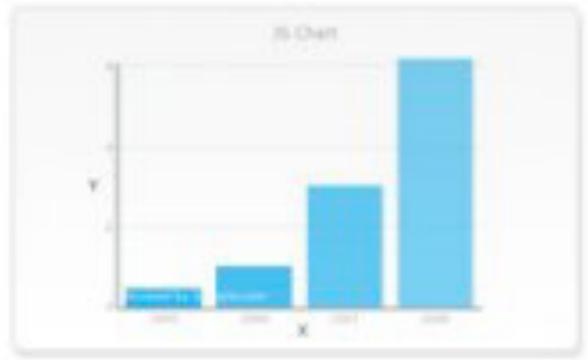


[www.gapminder.org](http://www.gapminder.org)

aaron koblin - flight patterns



Android Global Activations Oct'08-Jan '11



# Standard Visualisation Techniques

4

4

9

7

4

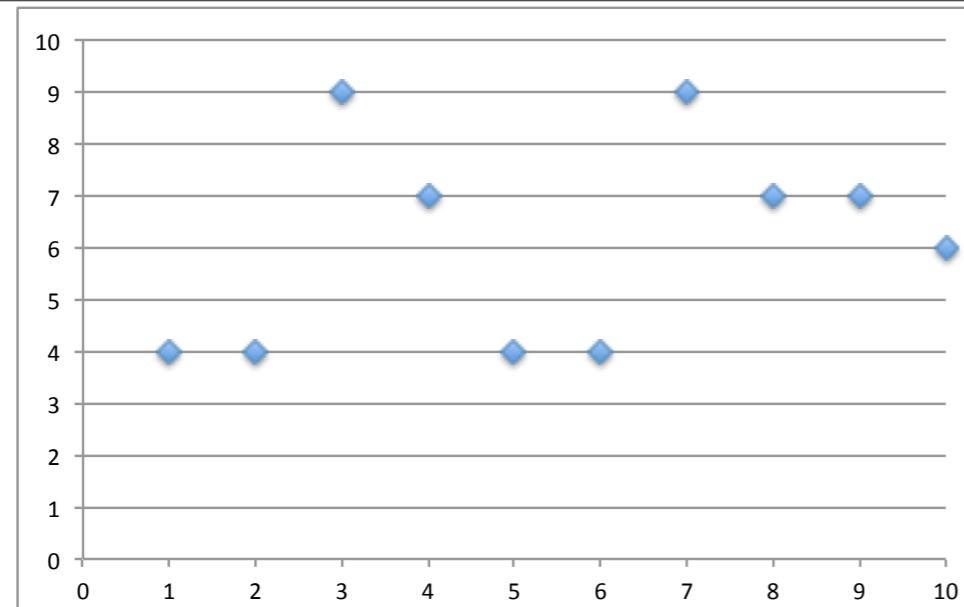
4

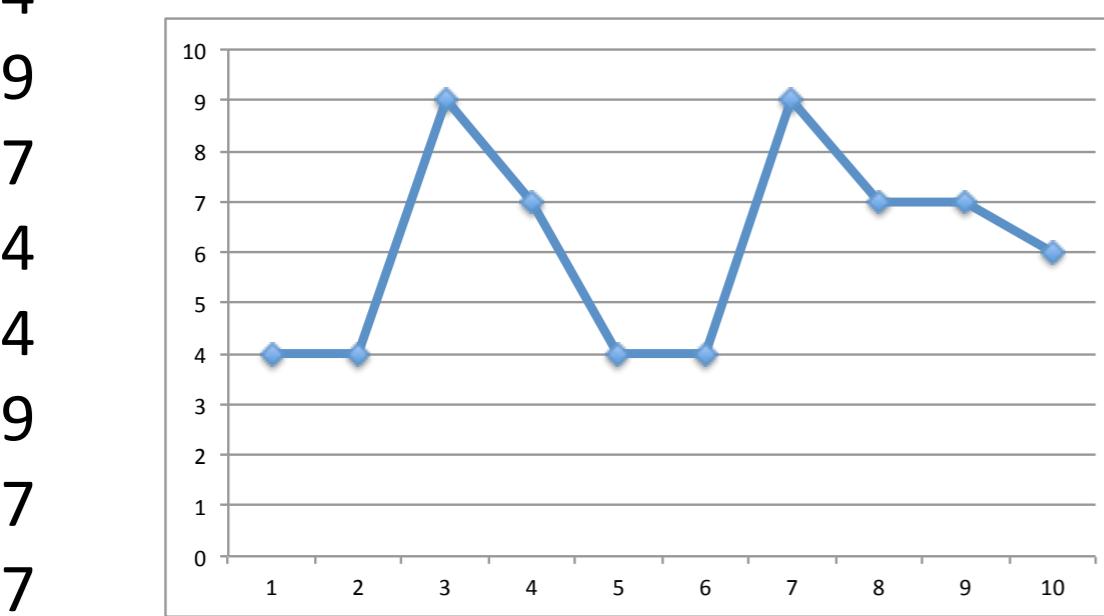
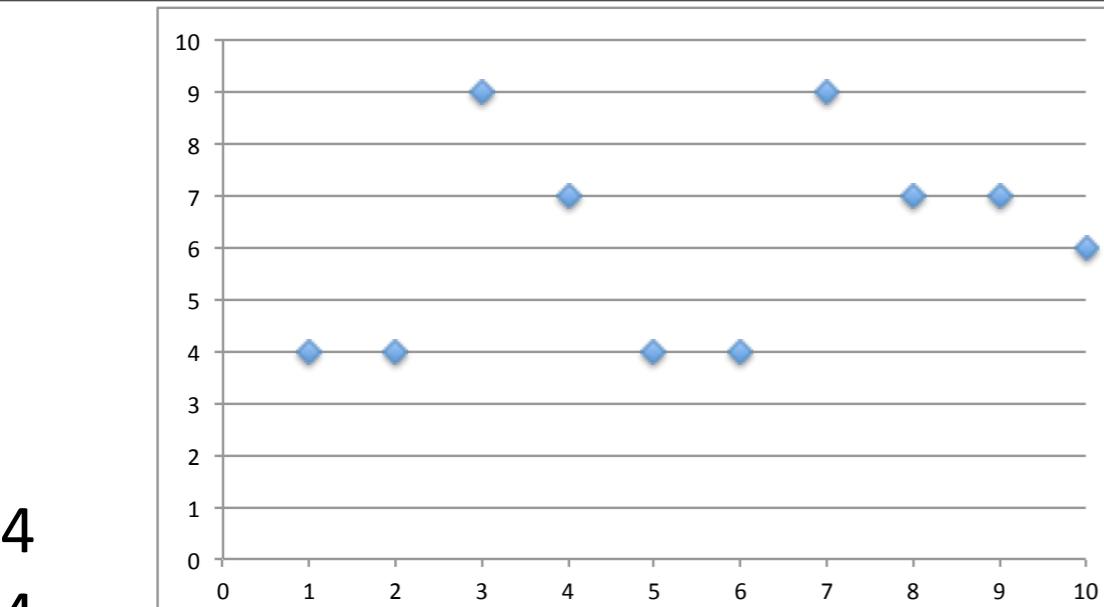
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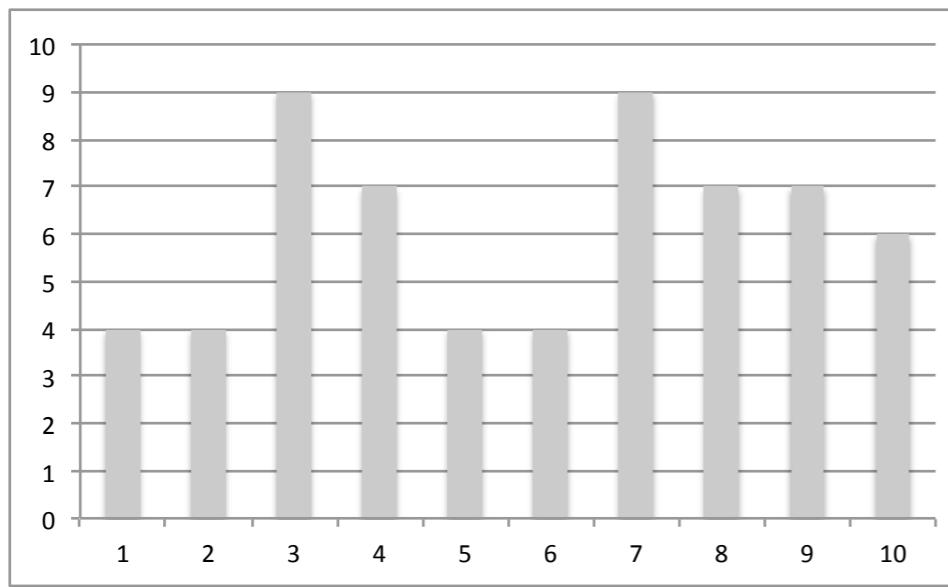
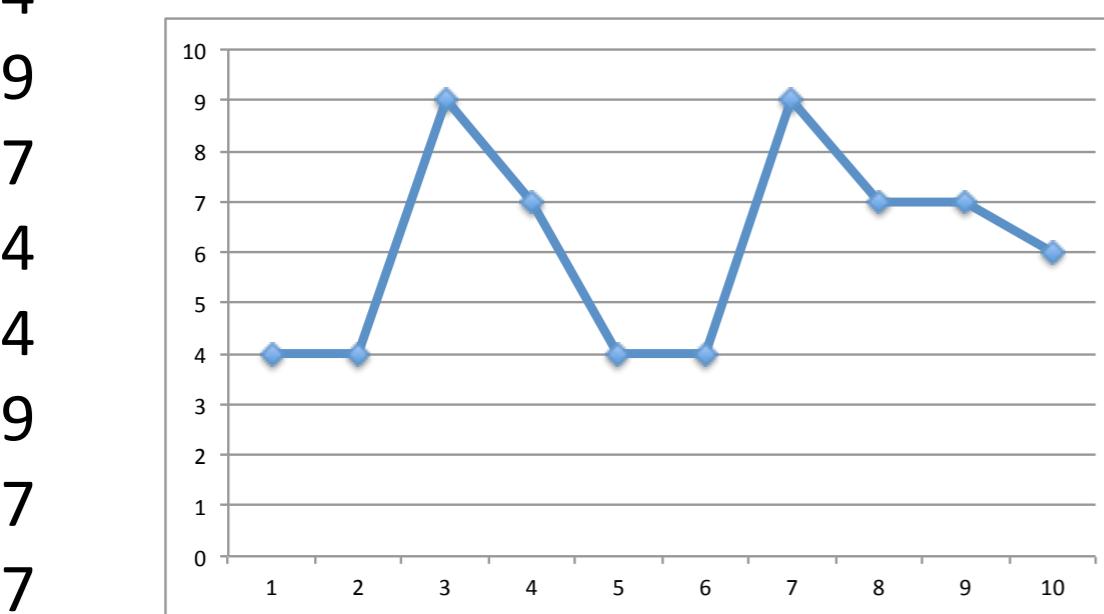
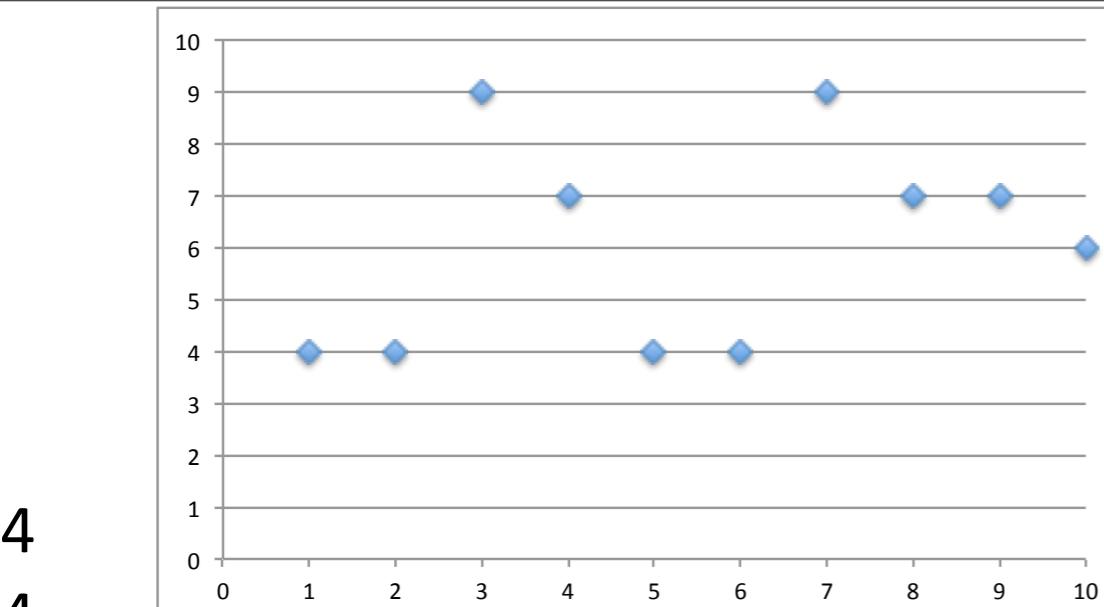
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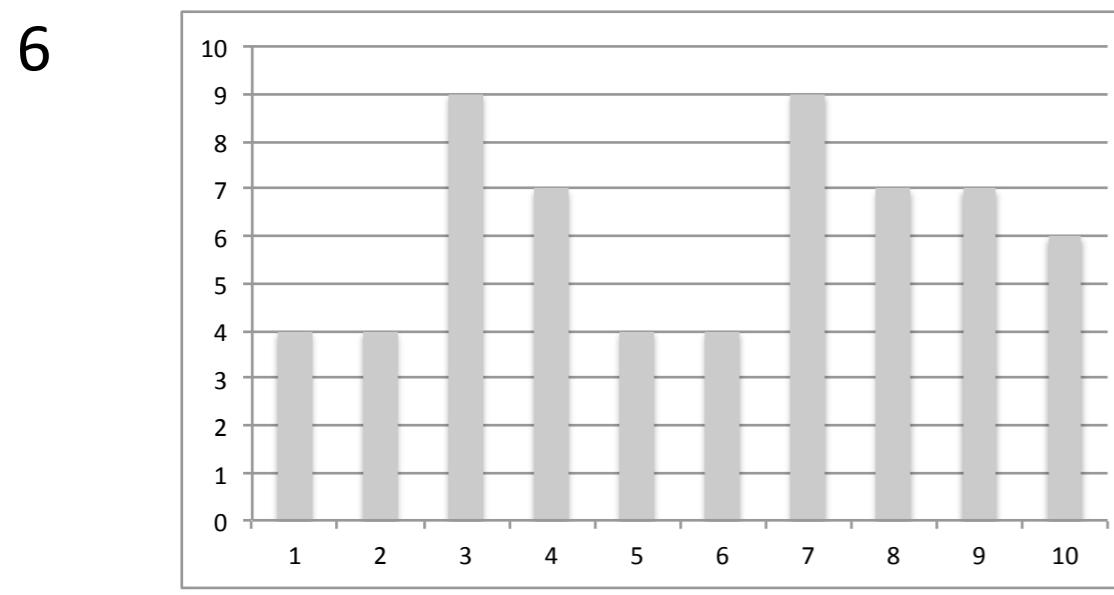
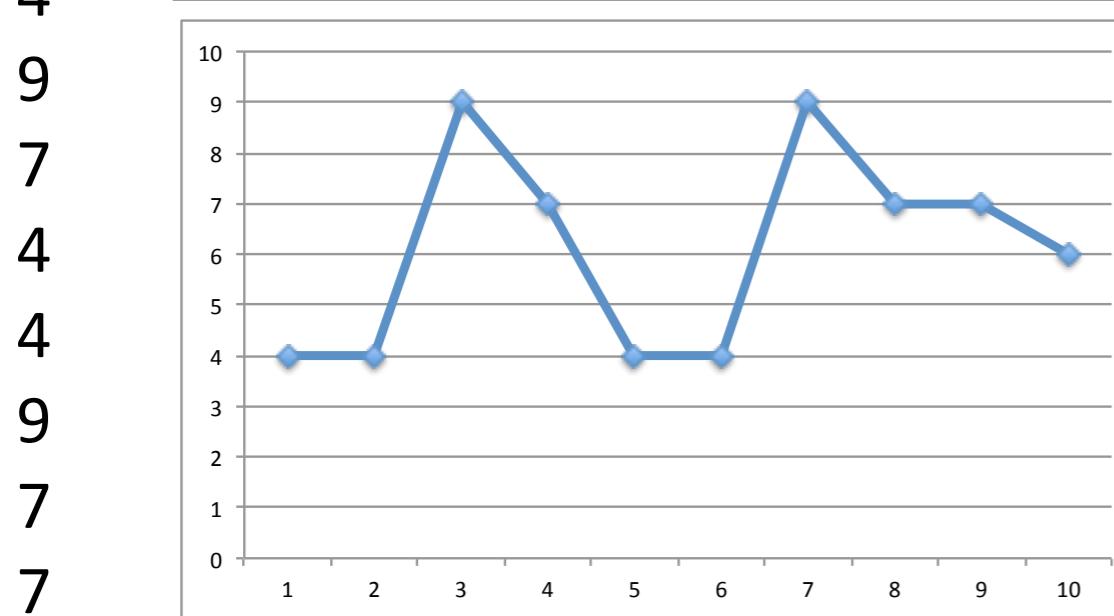
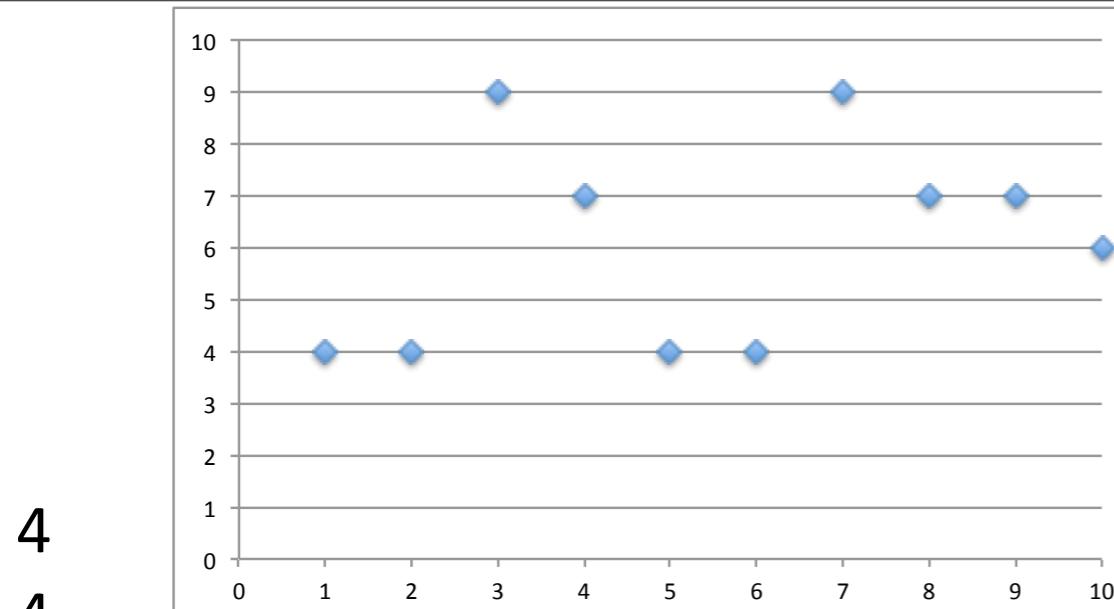
7

6







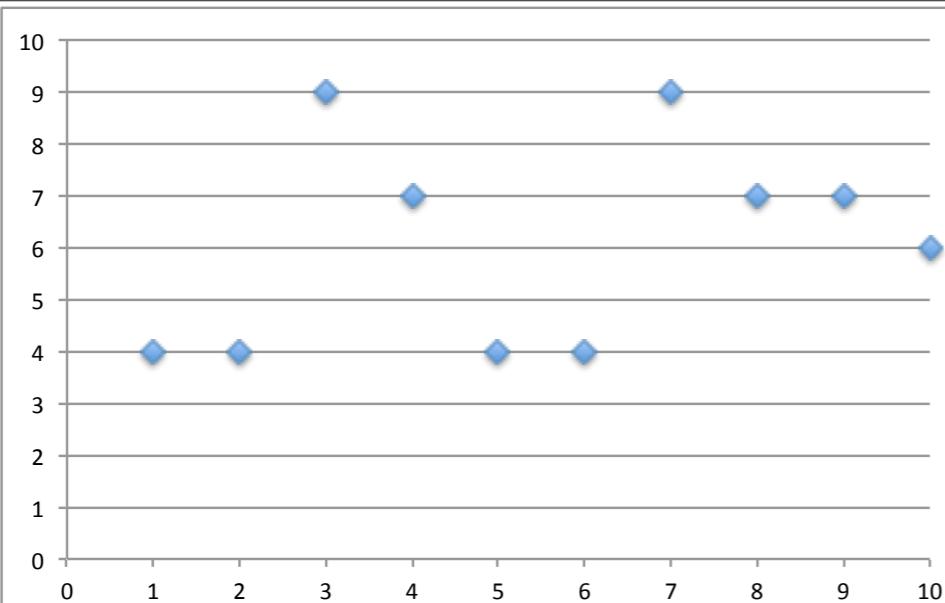


ordering significant

order insignificant

4

4



9

7

4

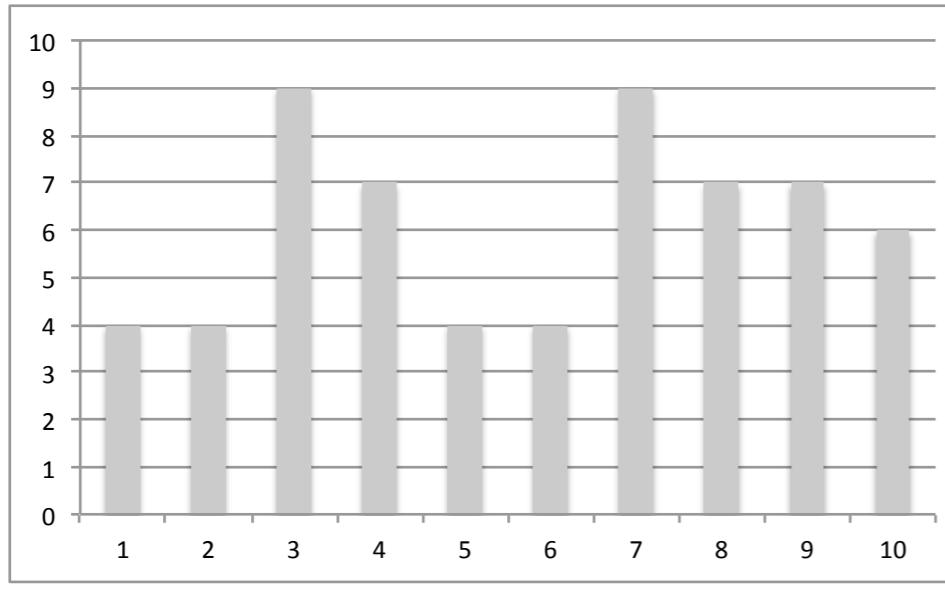
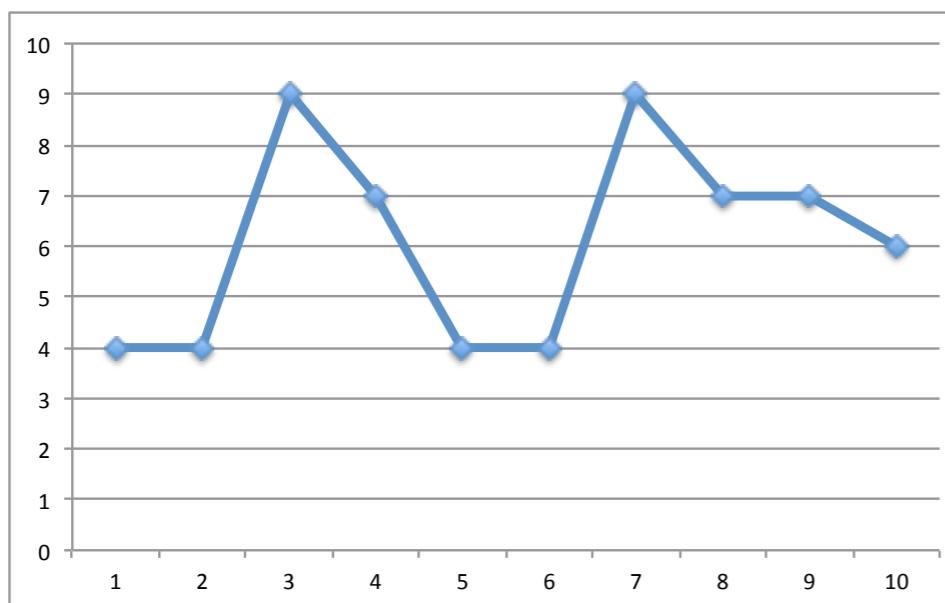
4

9

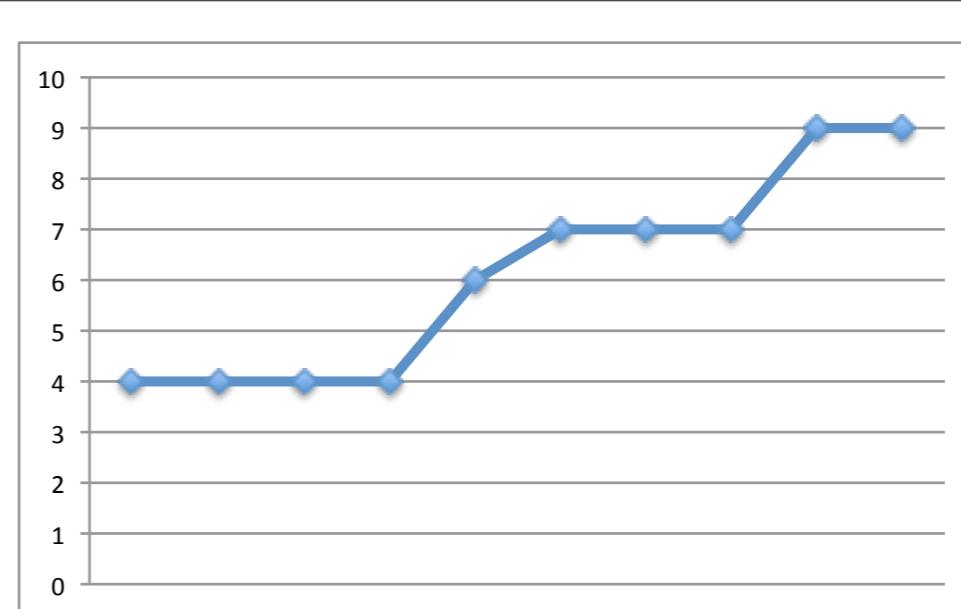
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7

6

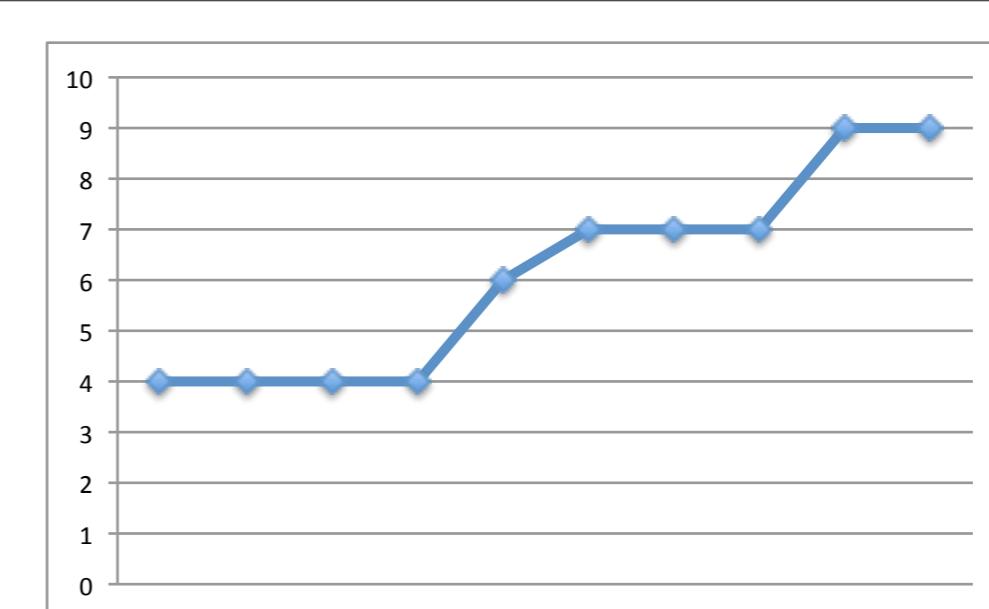
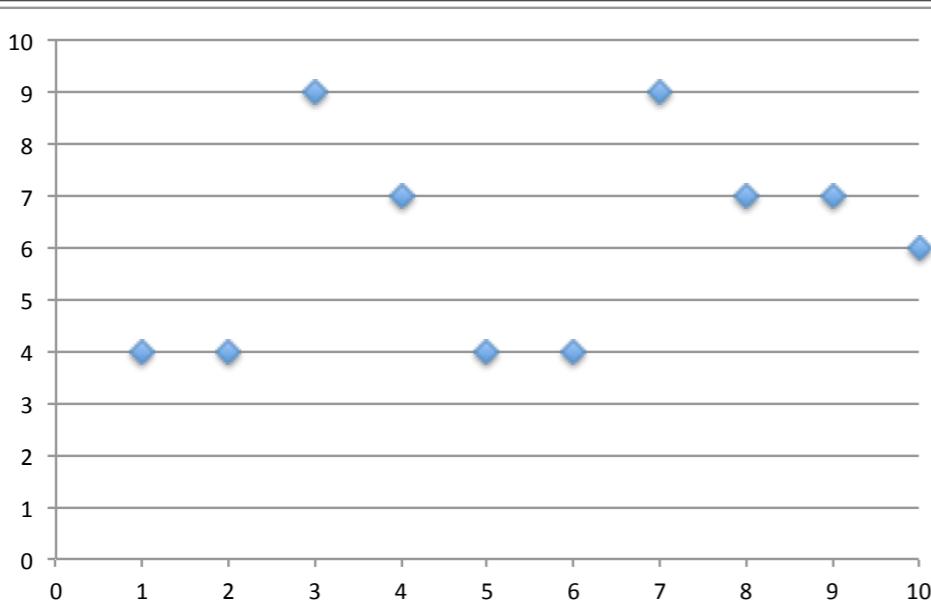


ordering significant



order insignificant

# histogram



4

4

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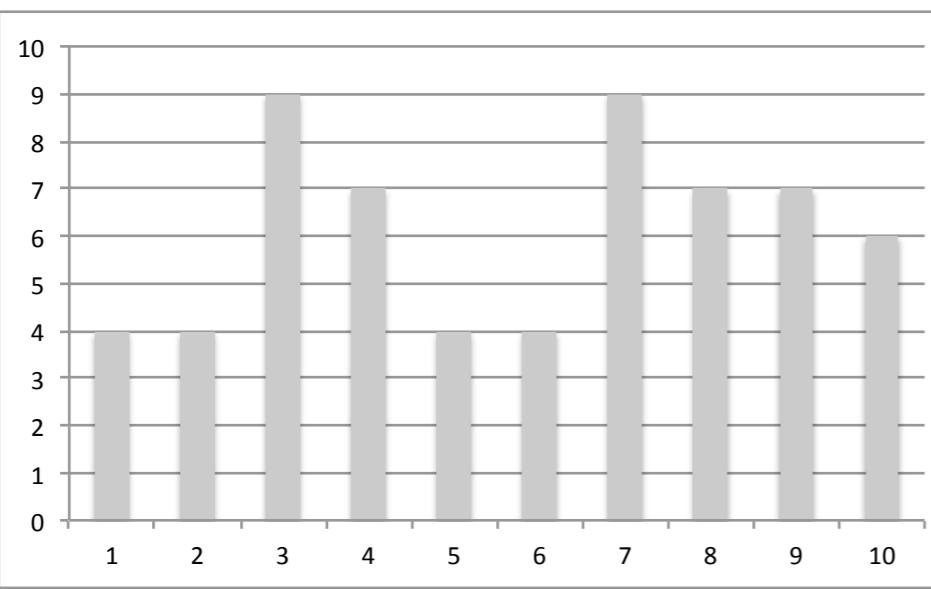
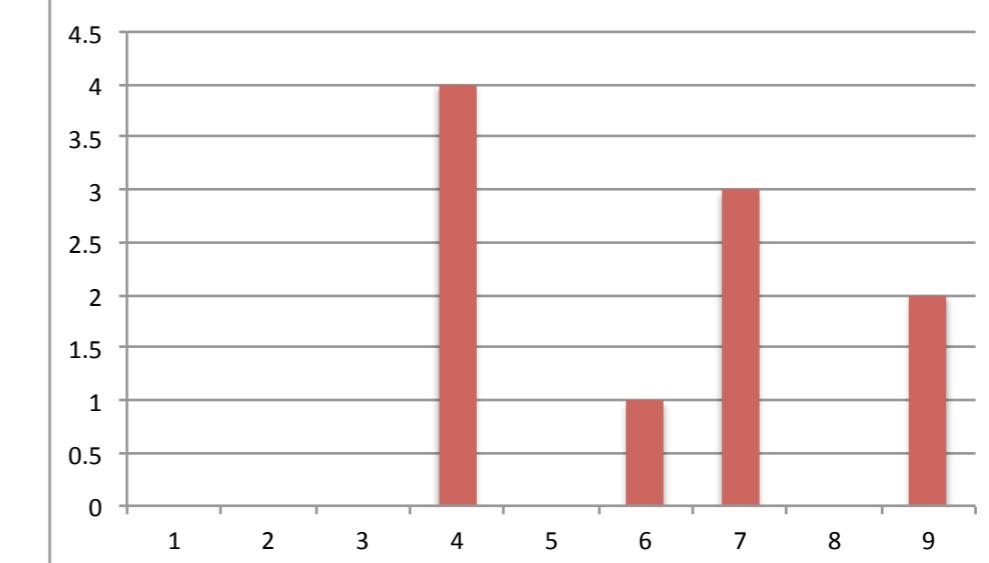
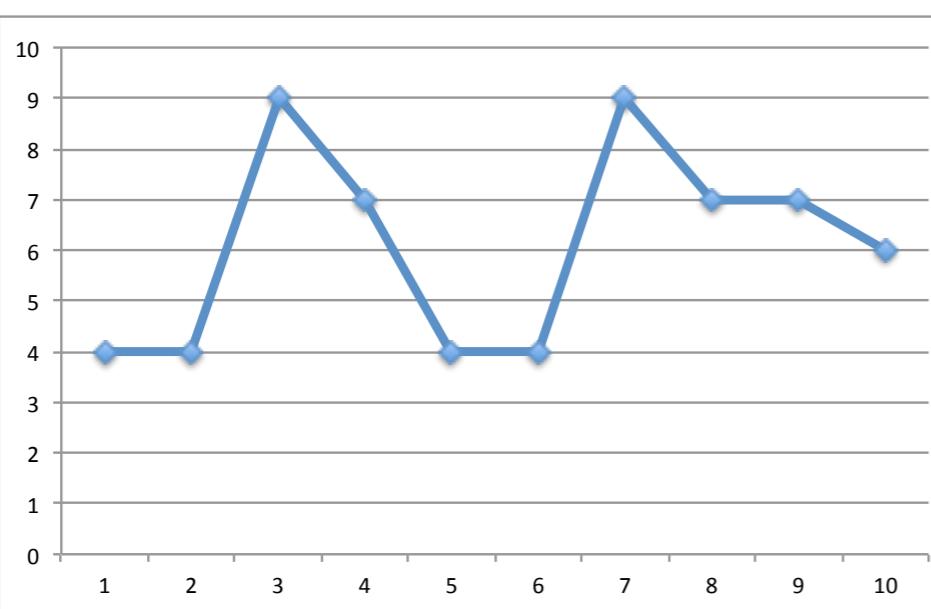
4

9

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7

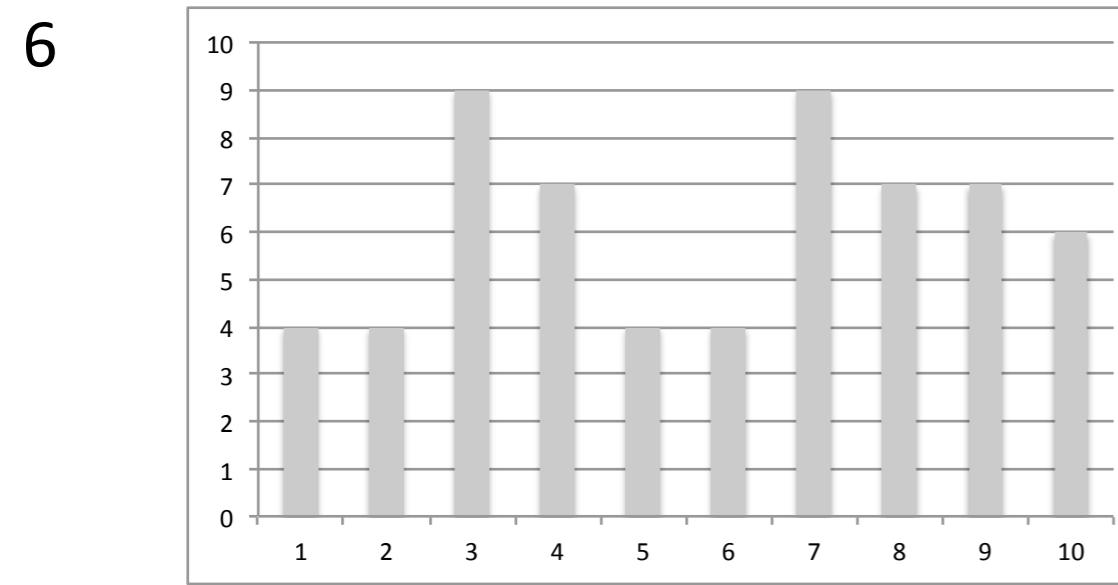
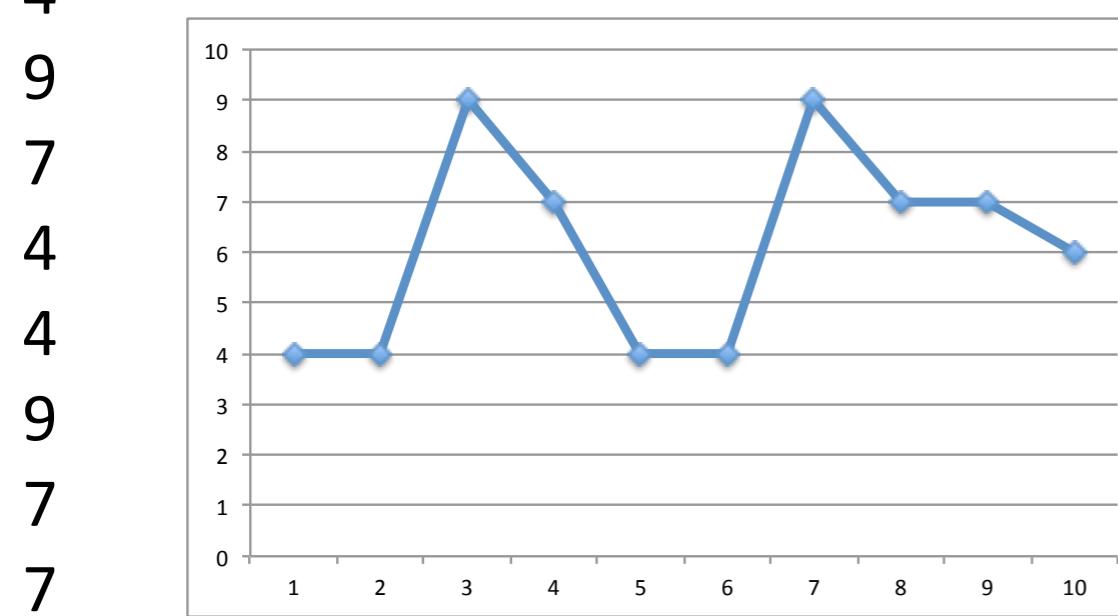
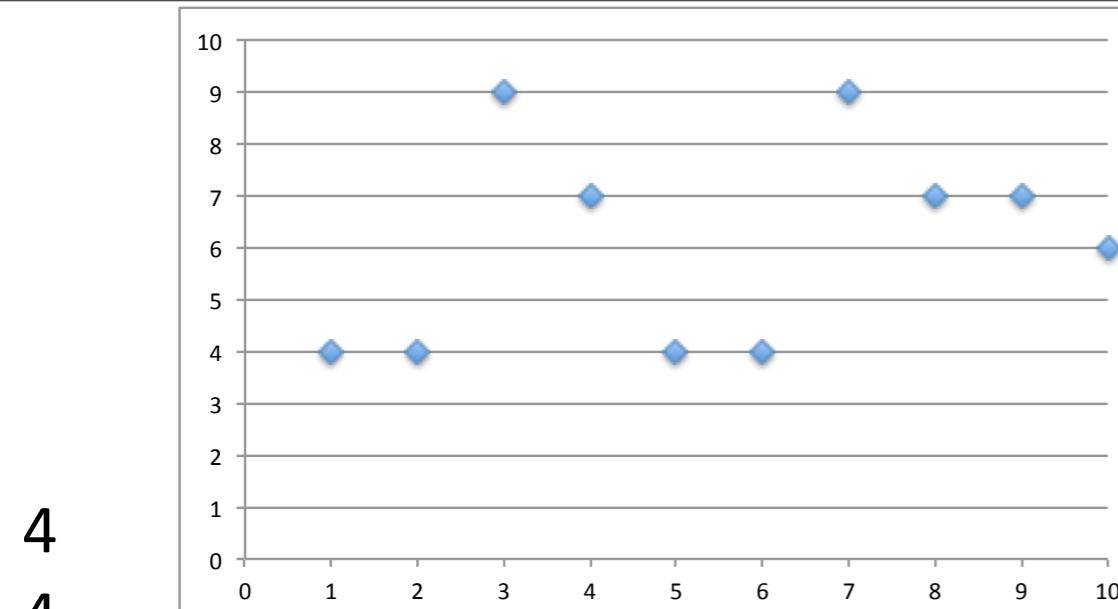
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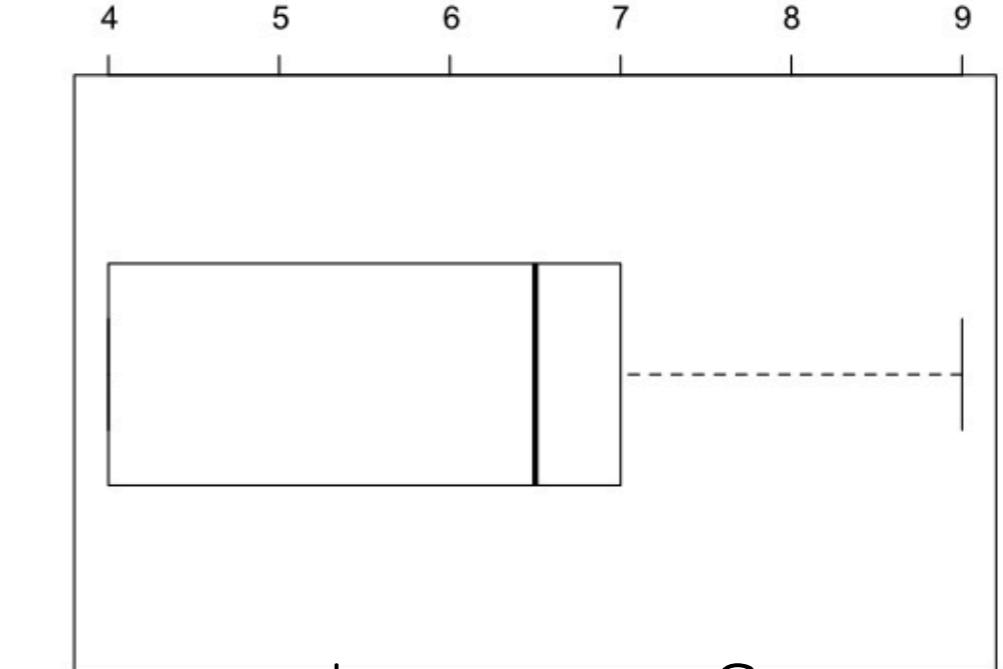
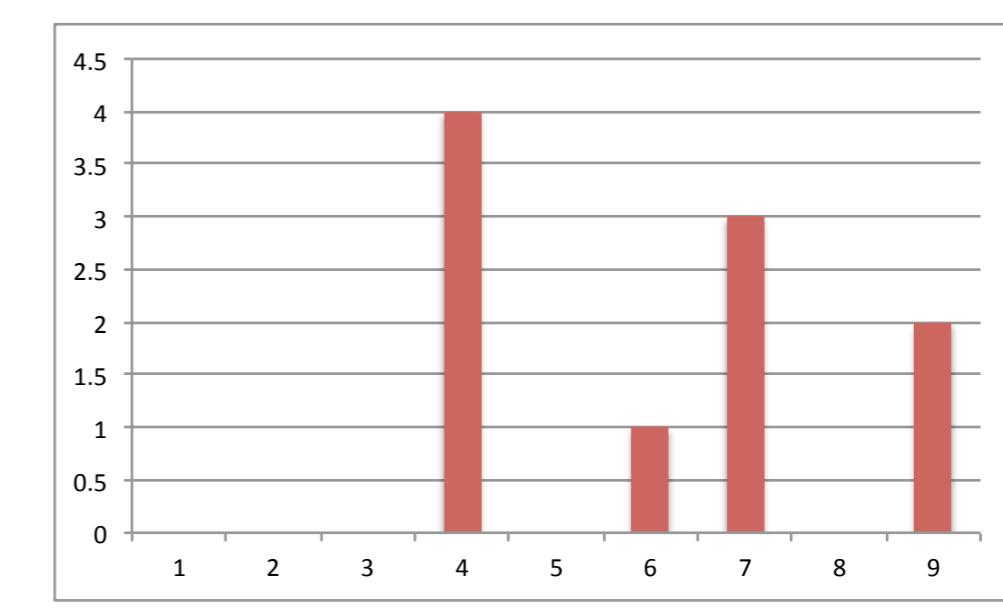
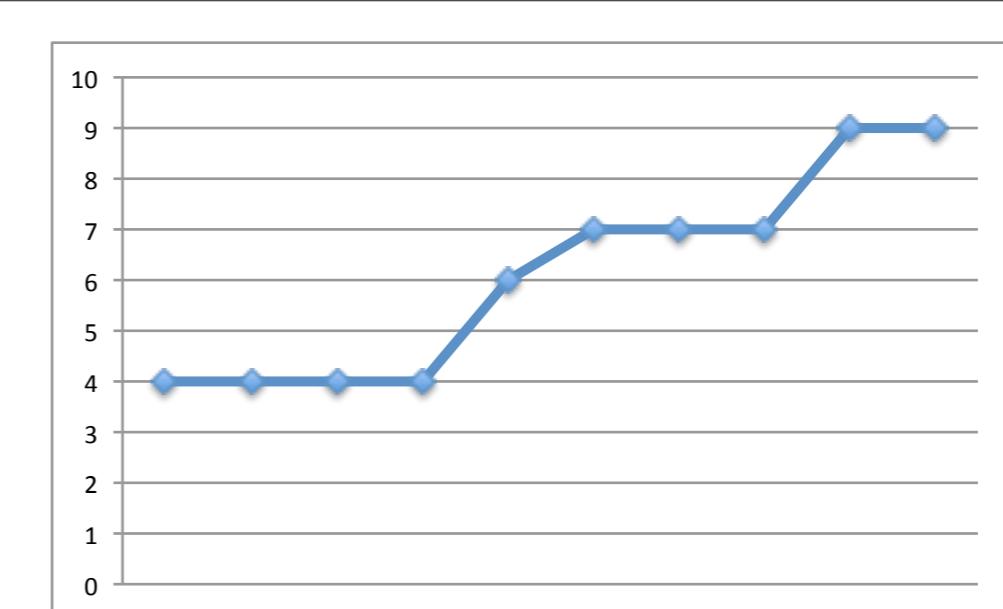
ordering significant

order insignificant

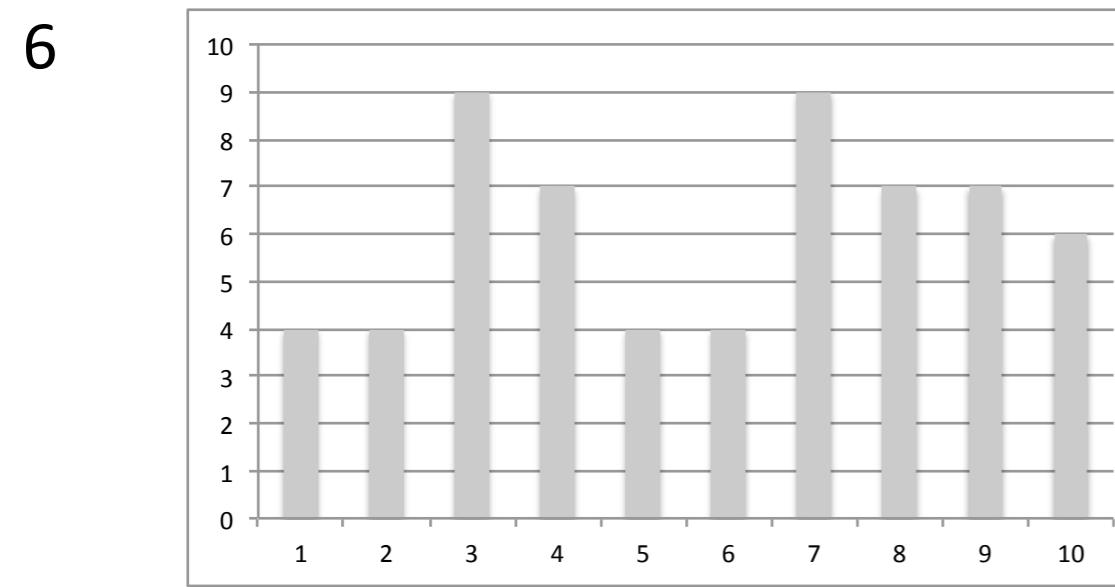
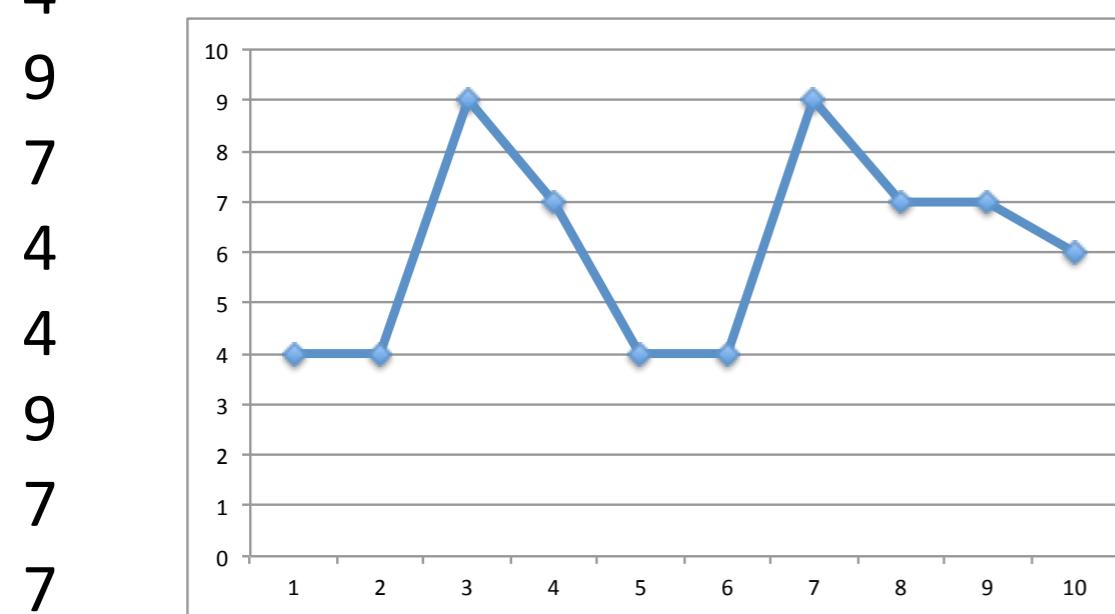
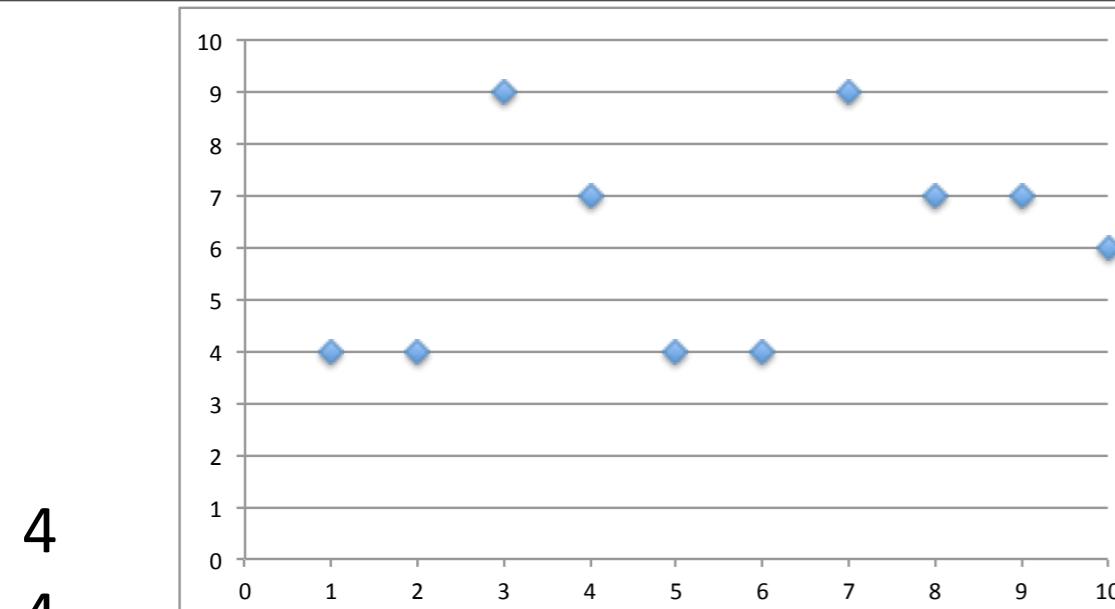
# histogram



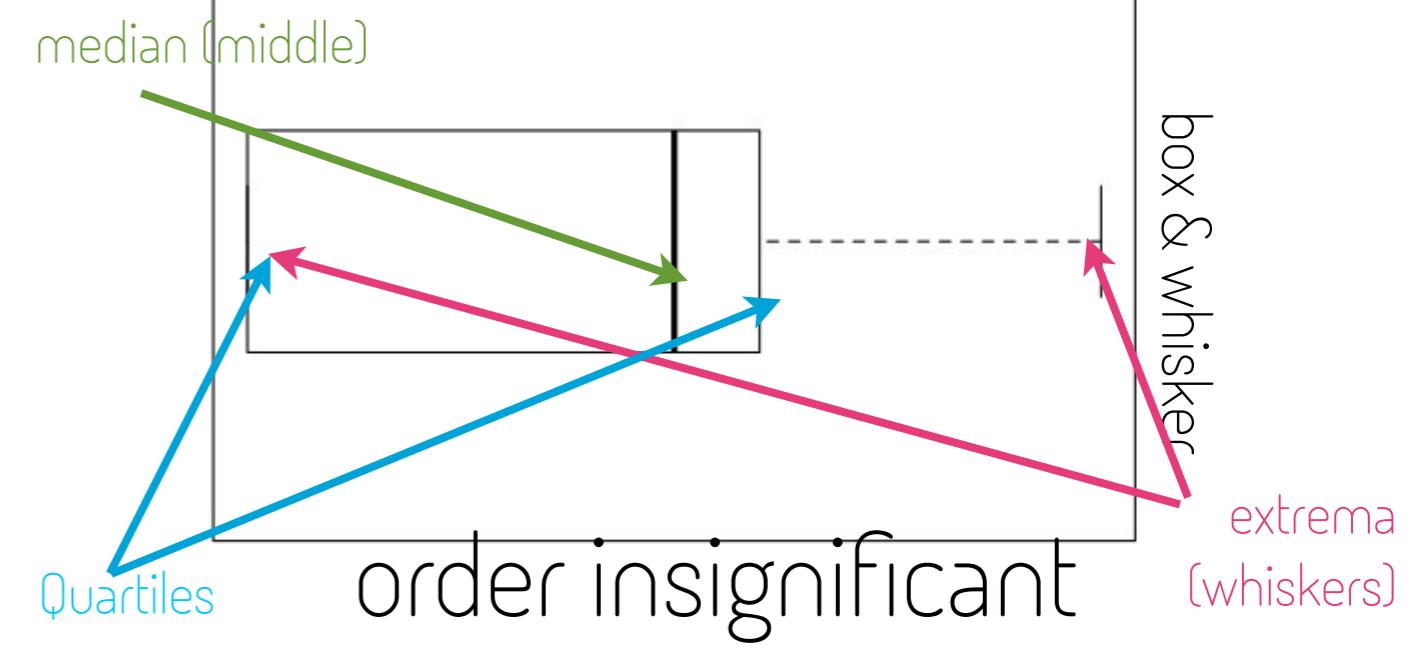
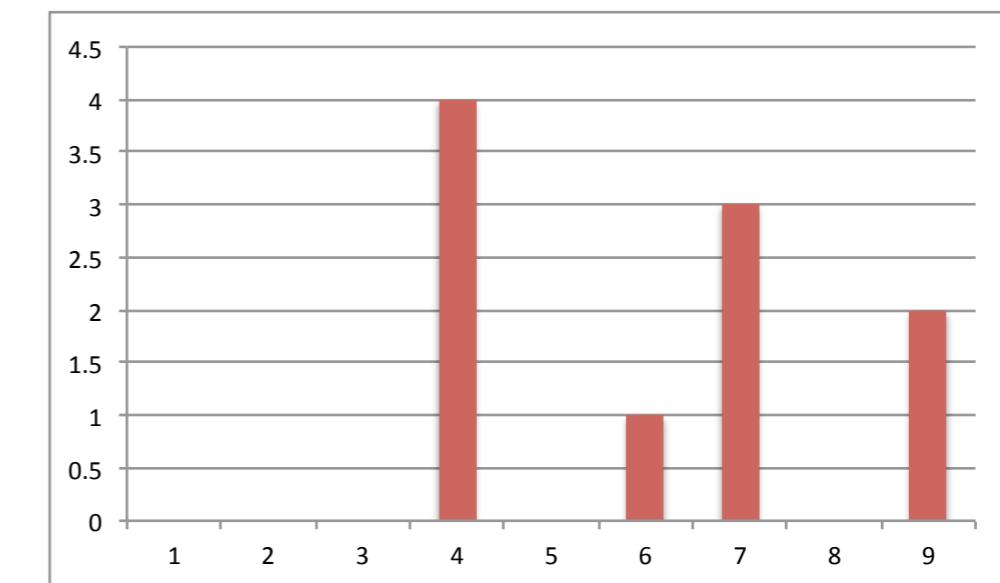
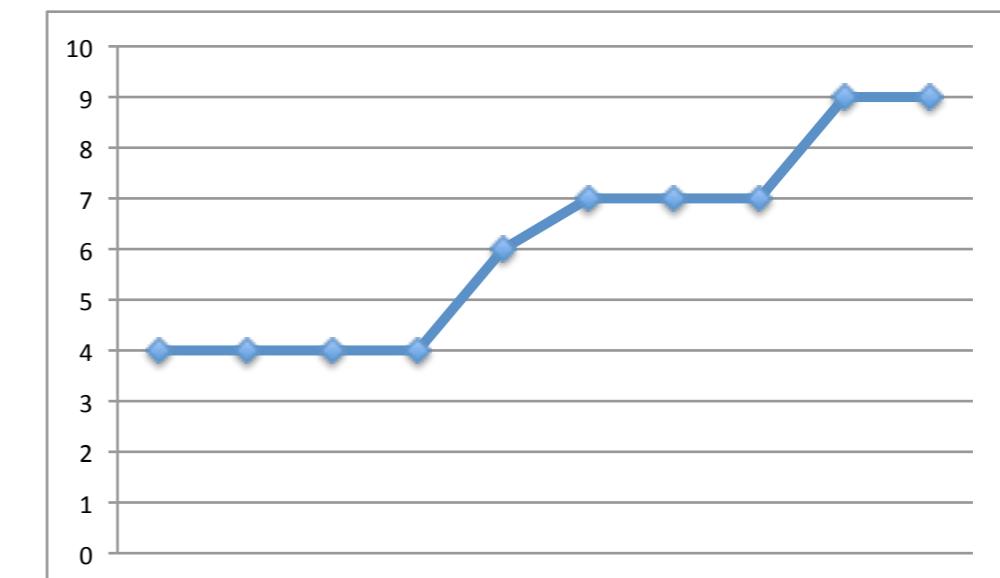
ordering significant



order insignificant



ordering significant



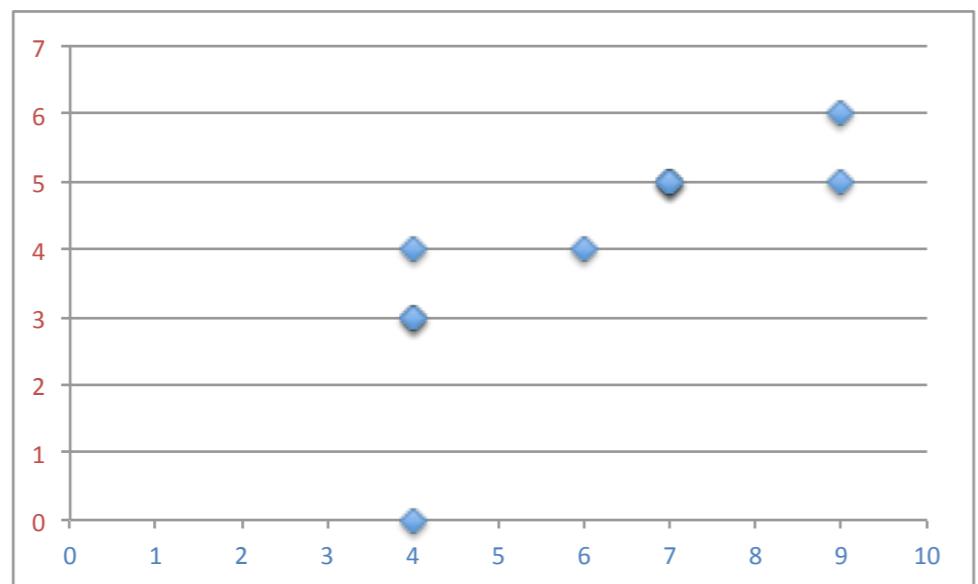
sorted

histogram

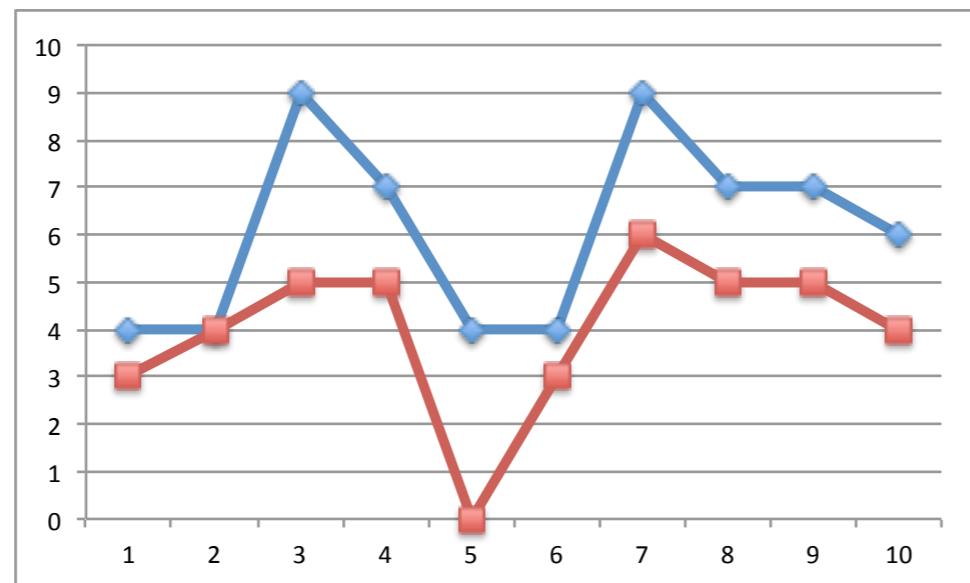
box & whisker

extrema  
(whiskers)

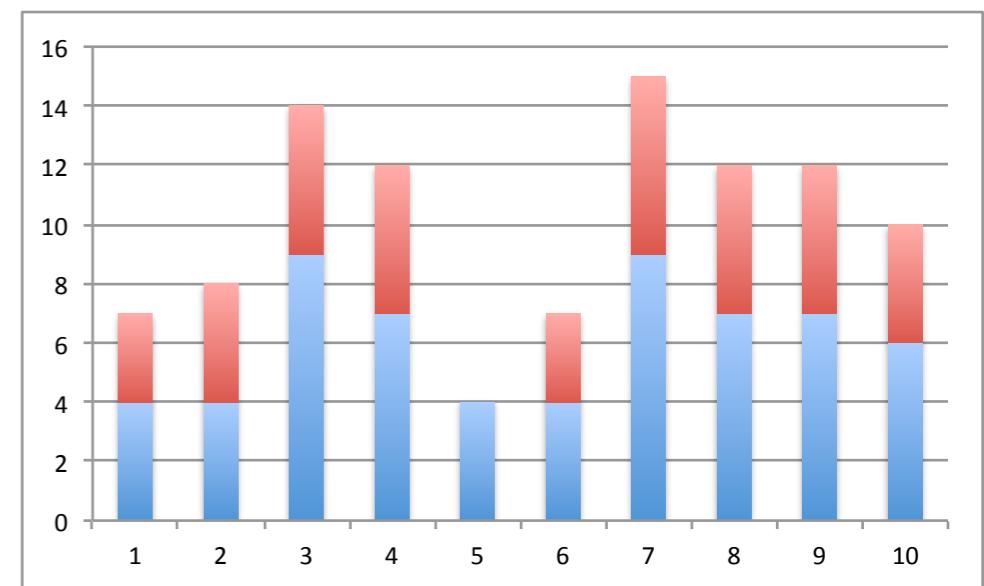
|   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 |
| 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 4 | 0 |
| 4 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 |



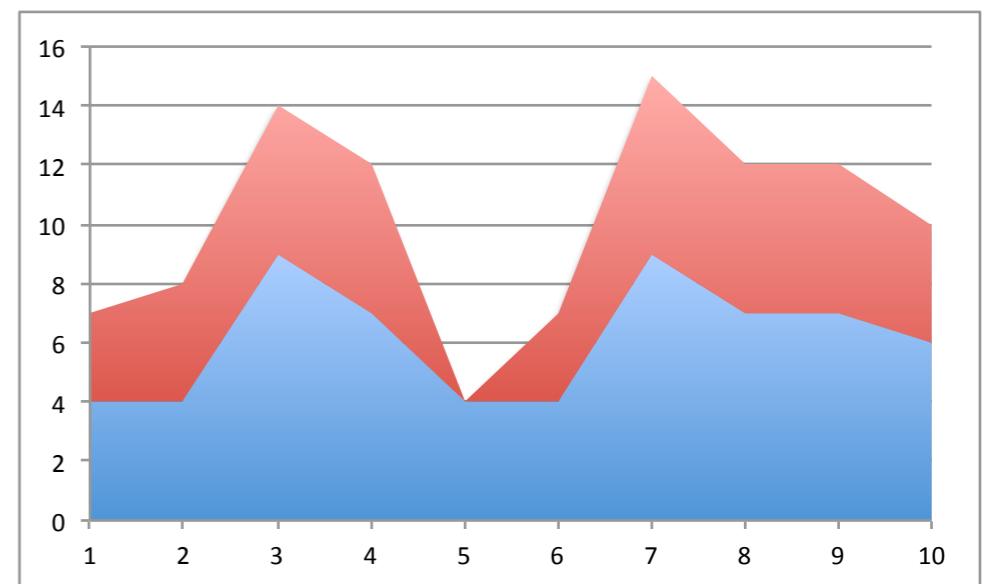
scatter



(independent)  
line chart



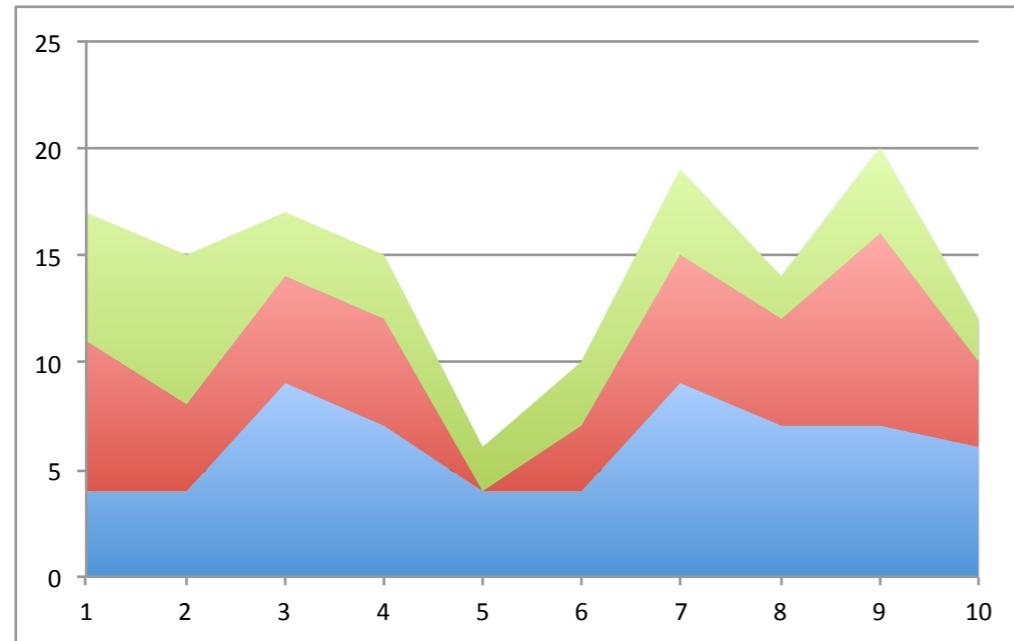
stacked bar



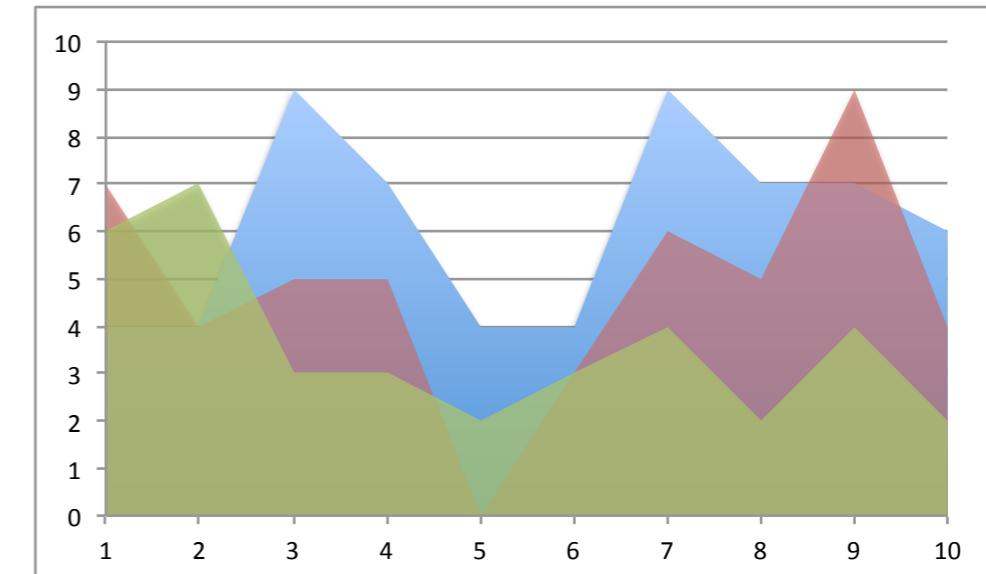
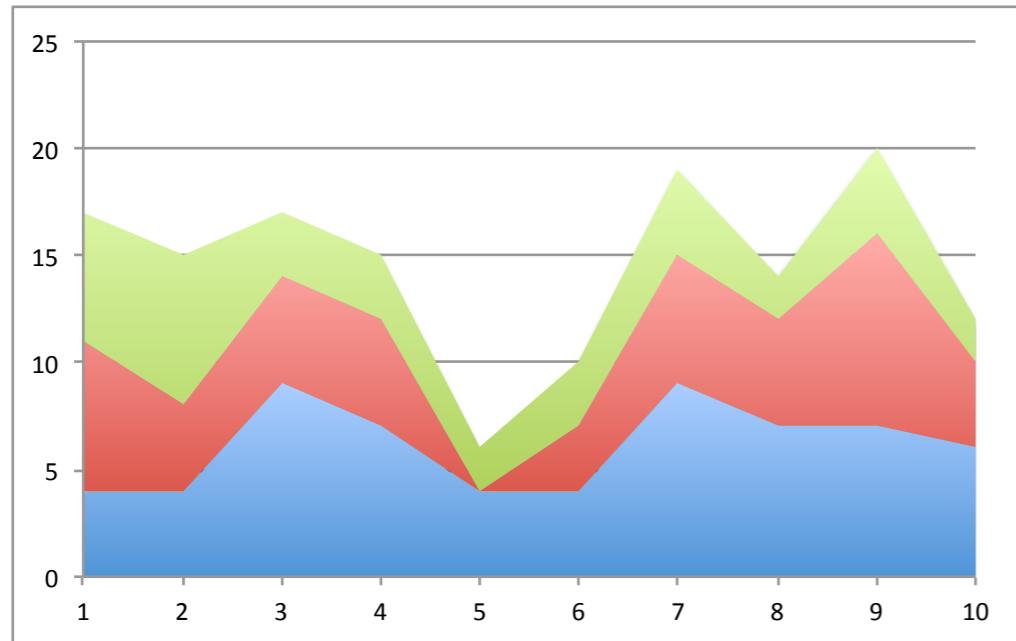
stacked area

(an aside: bad stacked areas and “streamgraphs”)

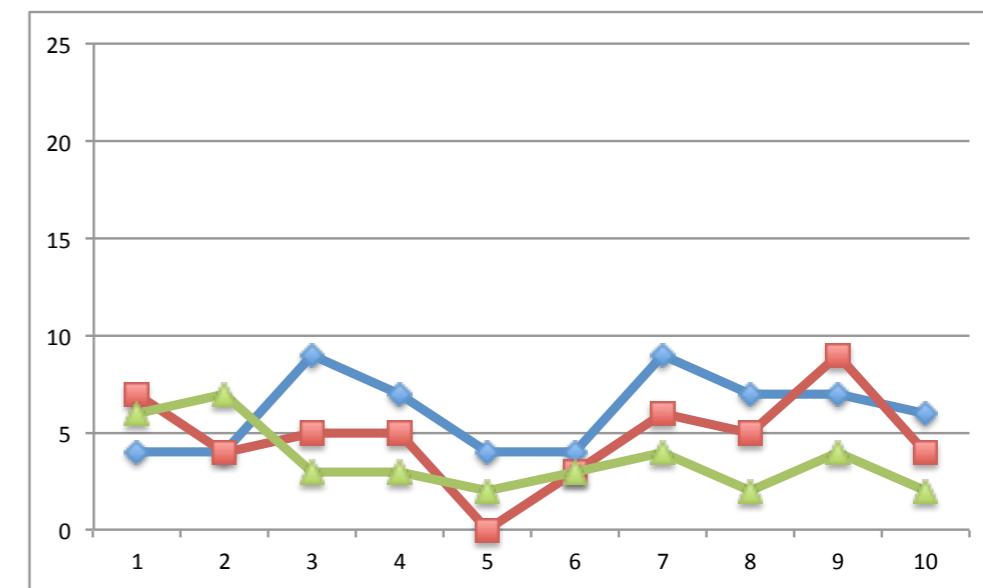
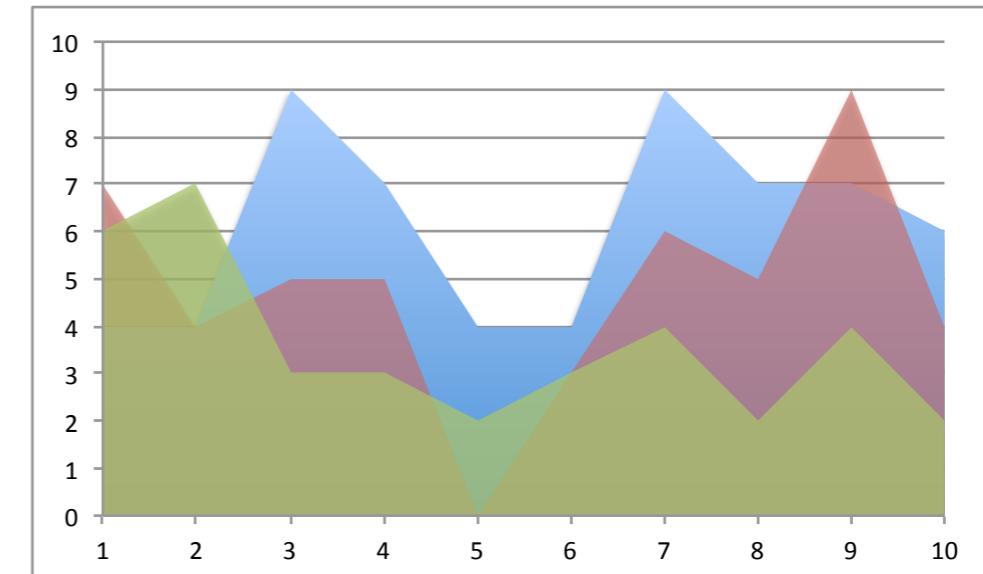
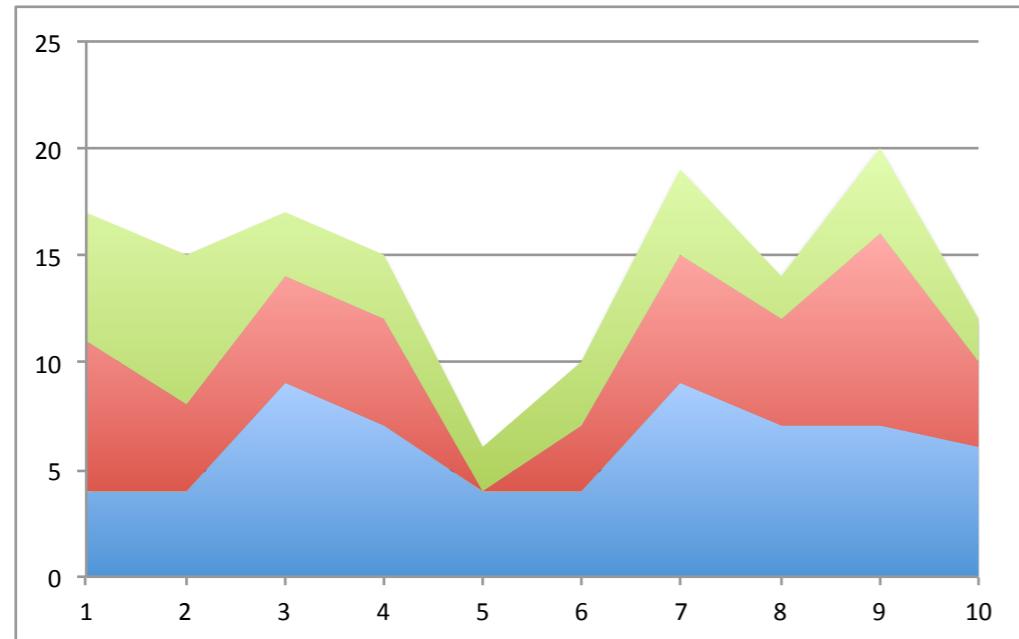
(an aside: bad stacked areas and “streamgraphs”)



(an aside: bad stacked areas and “streamgraphs”)

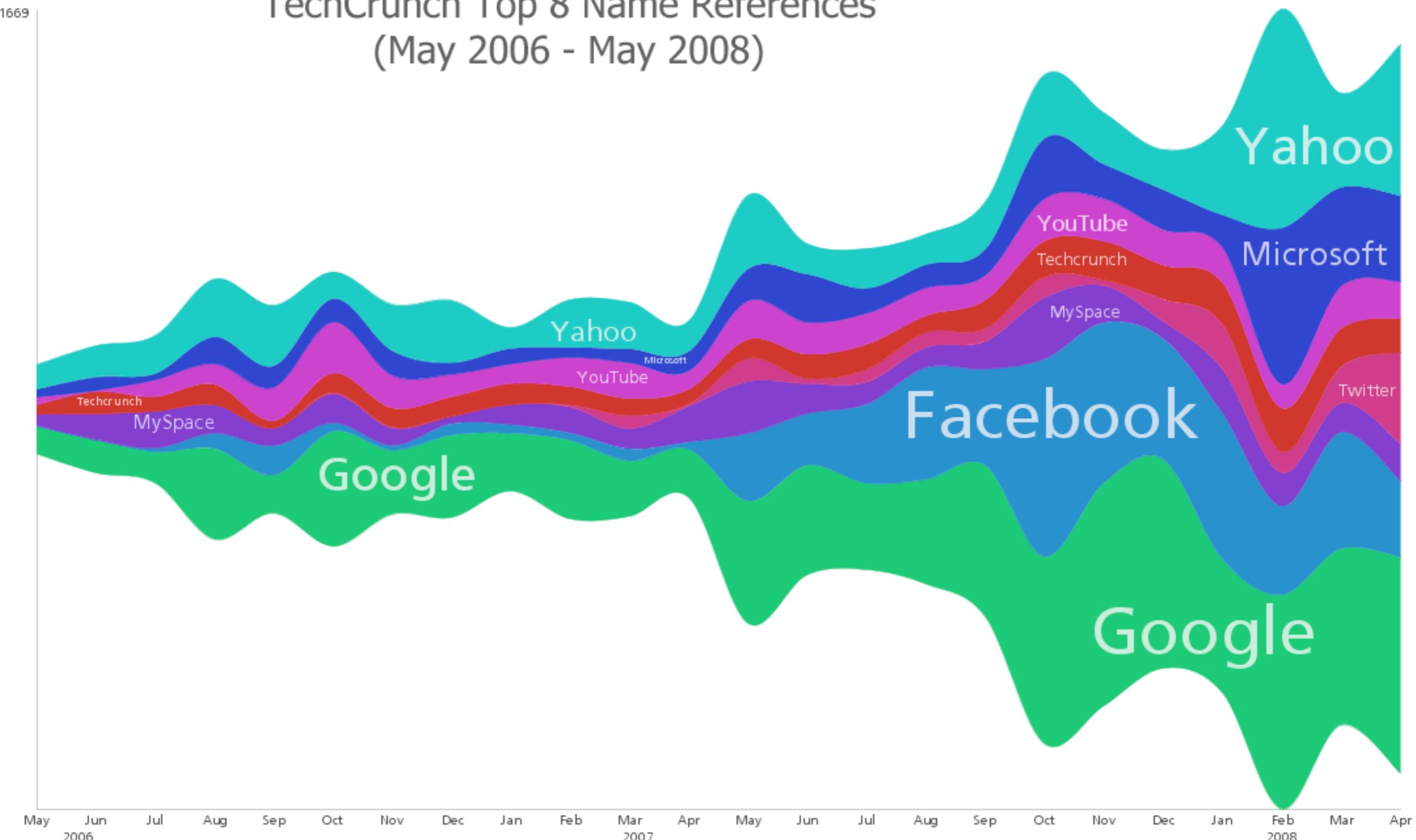


(an aside: bad stacked areas and “streamgraphs”)



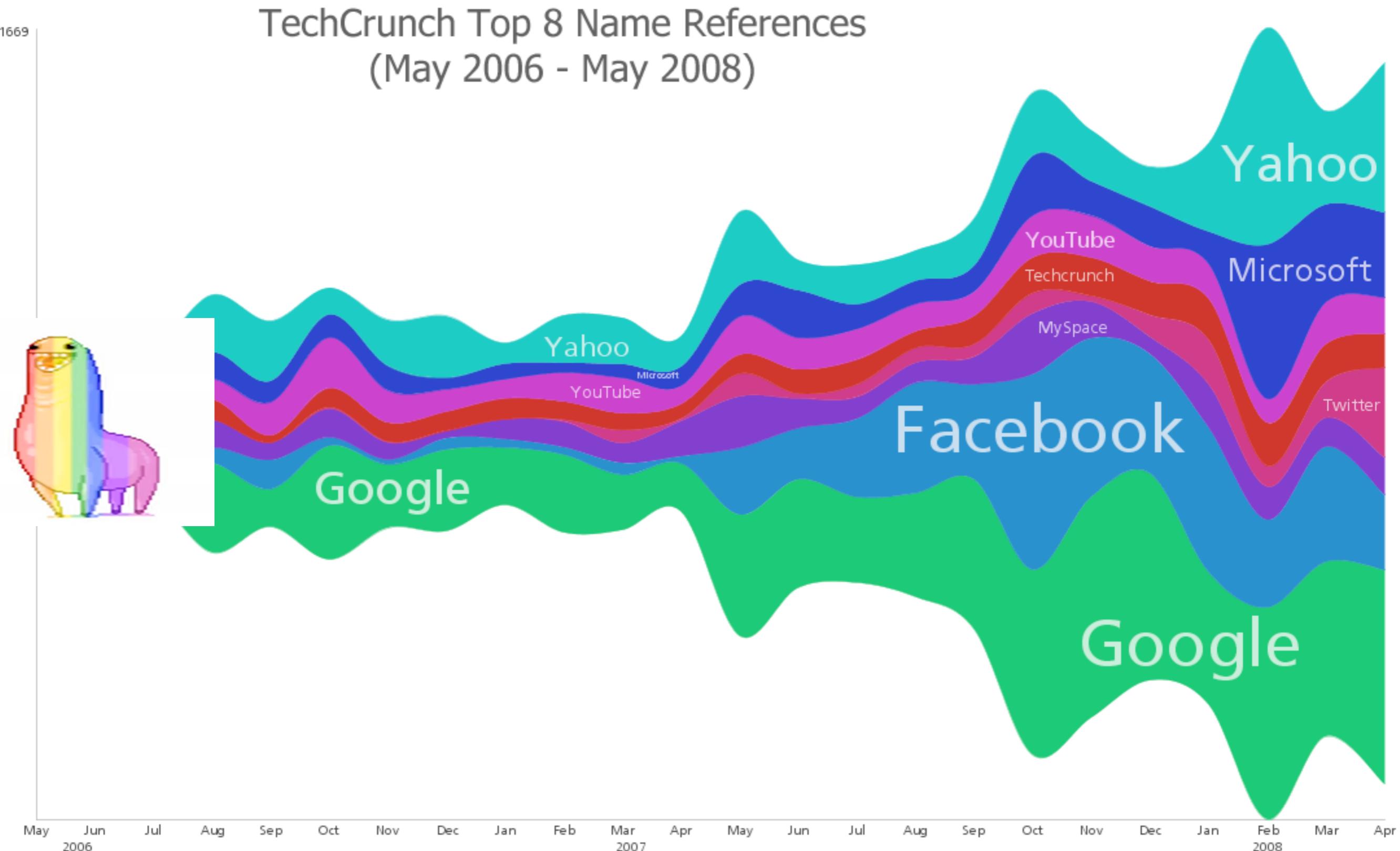
(an aside: bad stacked areas and “streamgraphs”)

TechCrunch Top 8 Name References  
(May 2006 - May 2008)



“abandon all hope ye who vieweth”

(an aside: bad stacked areas and “streamgraphs”)

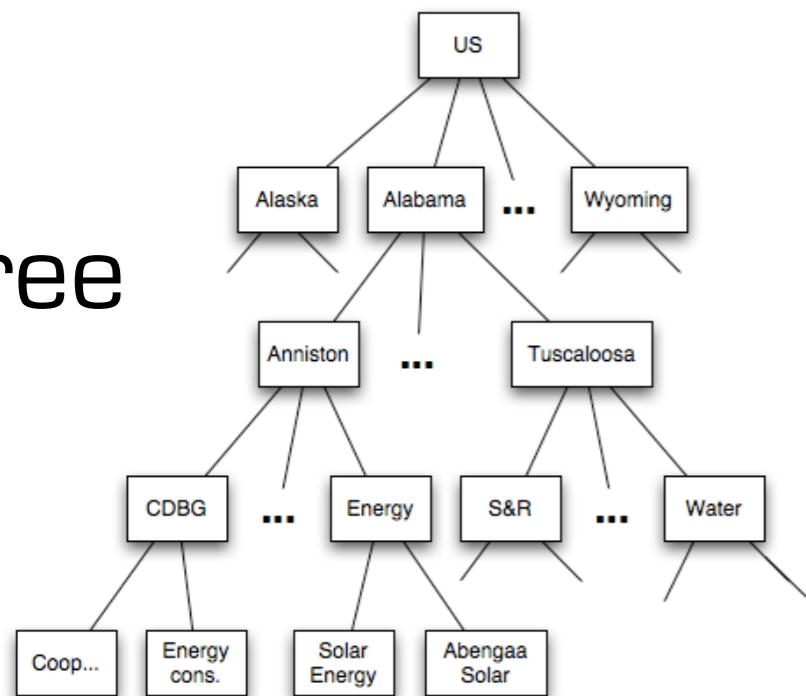


“abandon all hope ye who vieweth”

# multivariate relational data: hierarchical

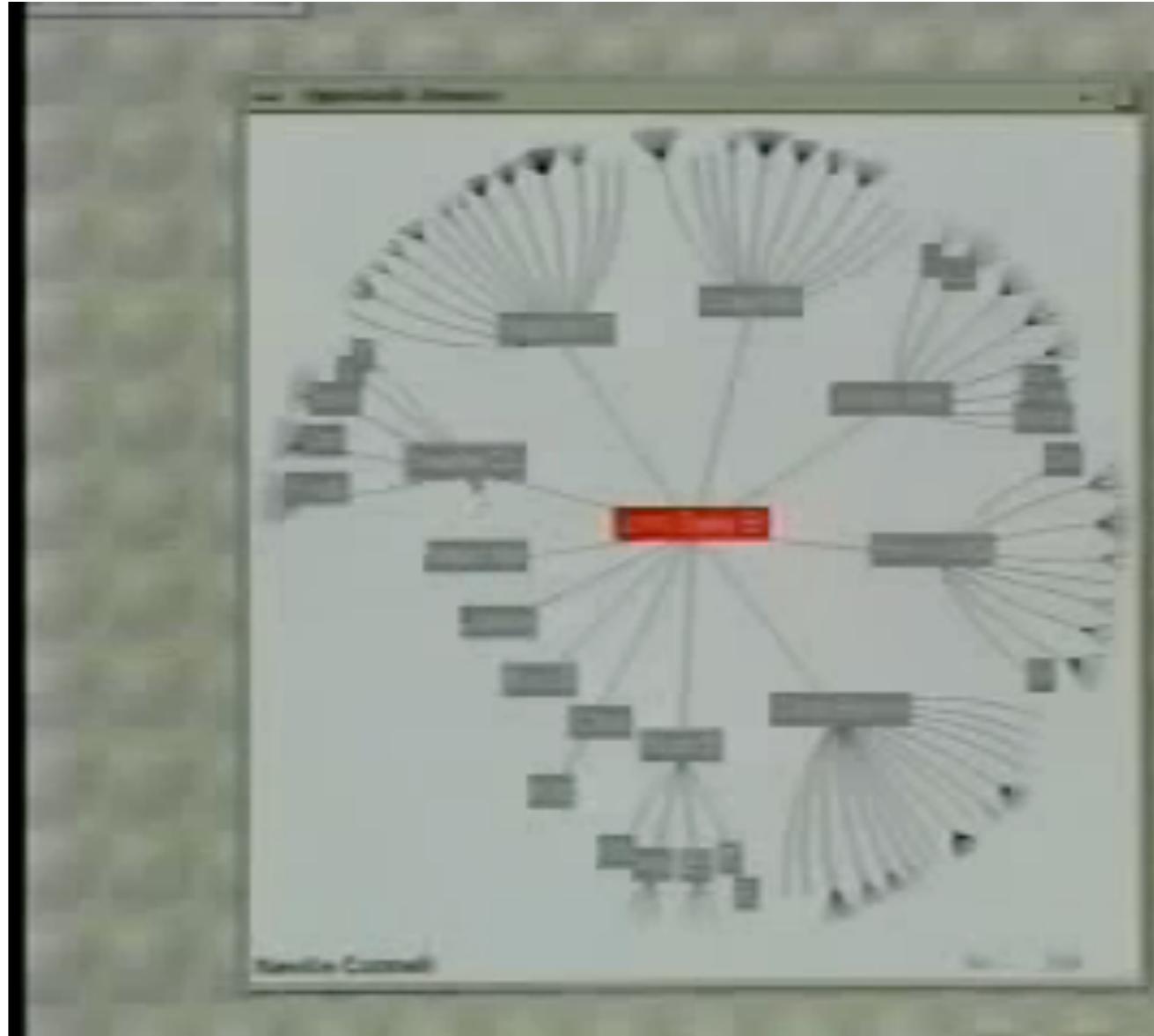
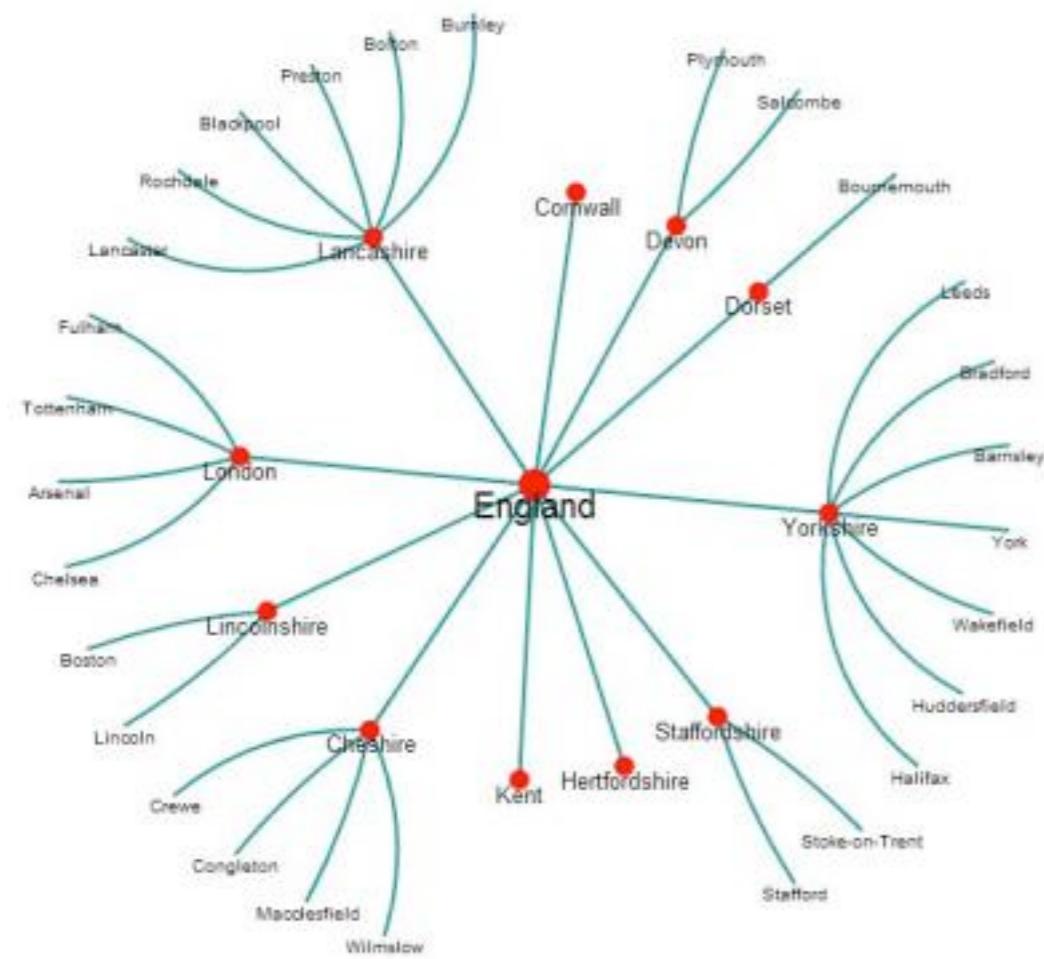
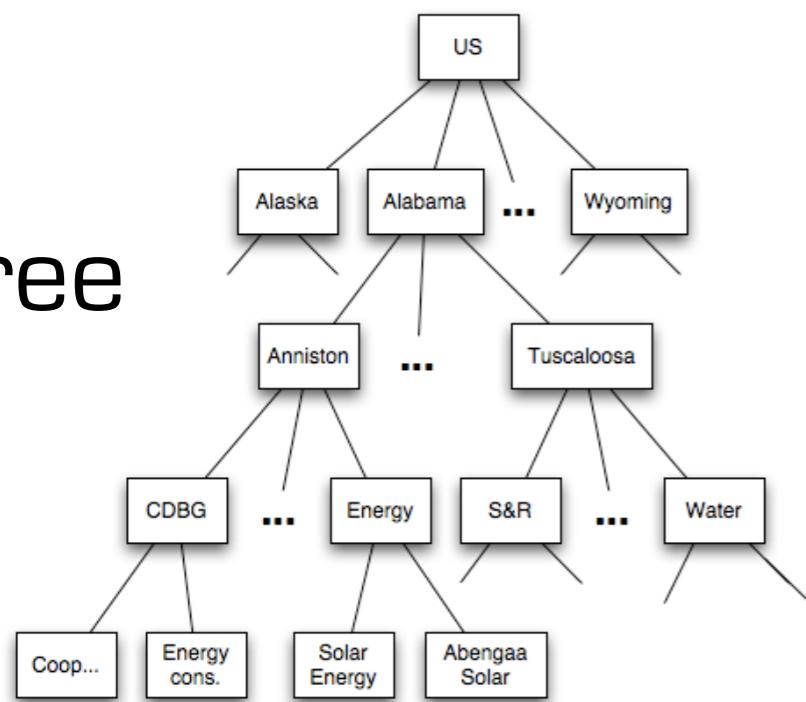
# multivariate relational data: hierarchical

tree



# multivariate relational data: hierarchical

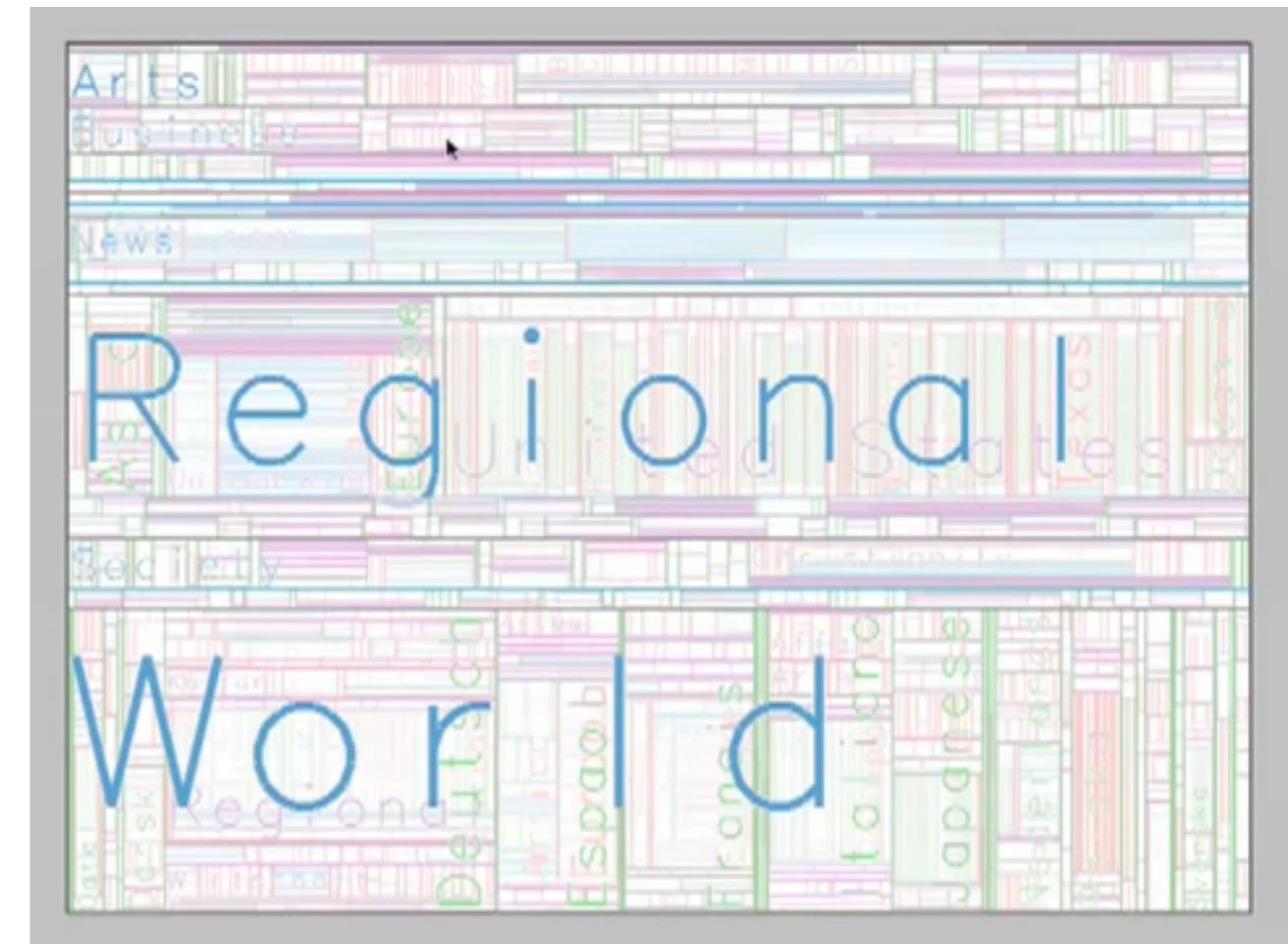
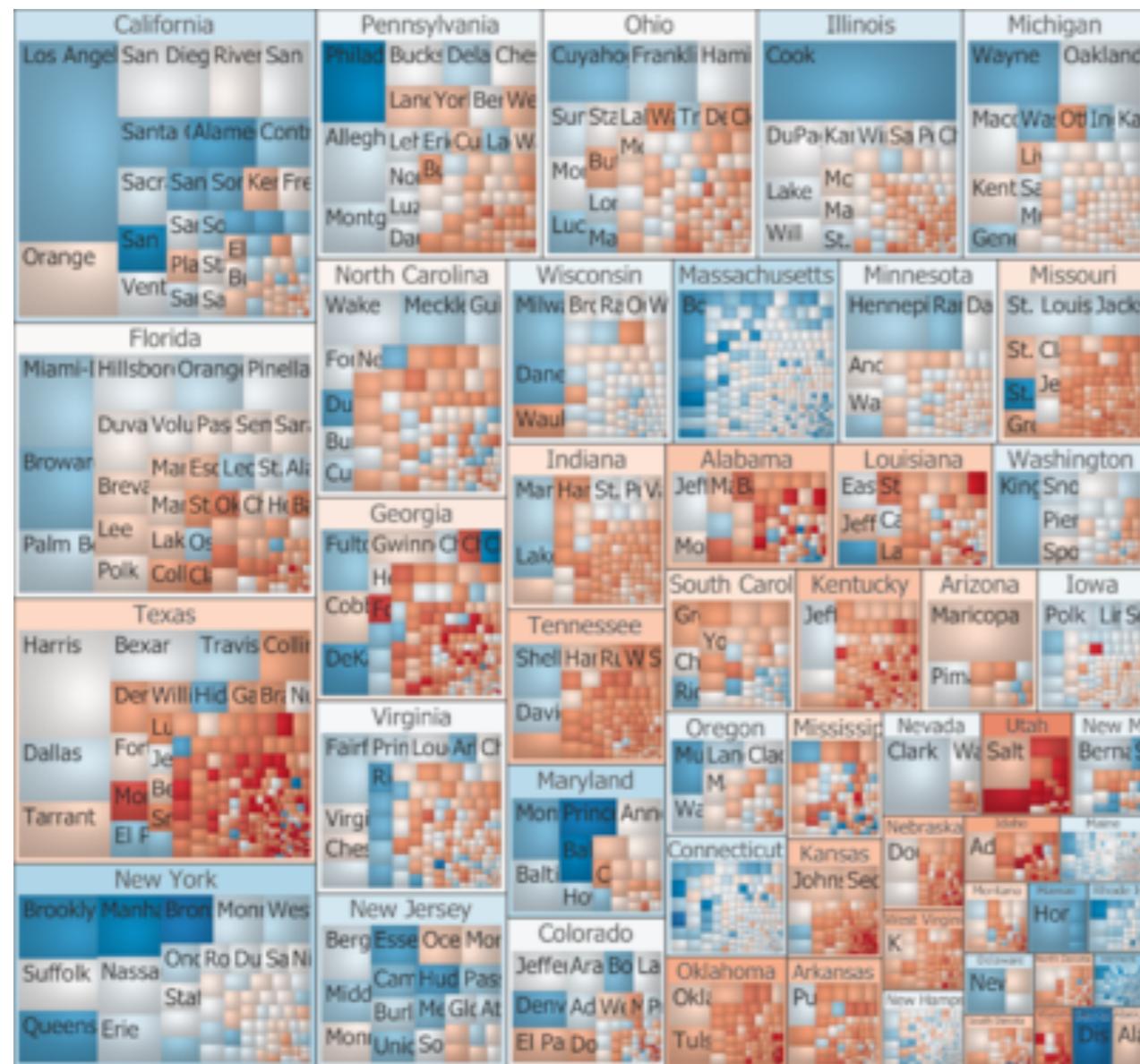
# tree



# hyperbolic tree

# multivariate relational data: hierarchical

treemap



# multivariate relational data: hierarchical



sunburst

# multivariate relational data: hierarchical

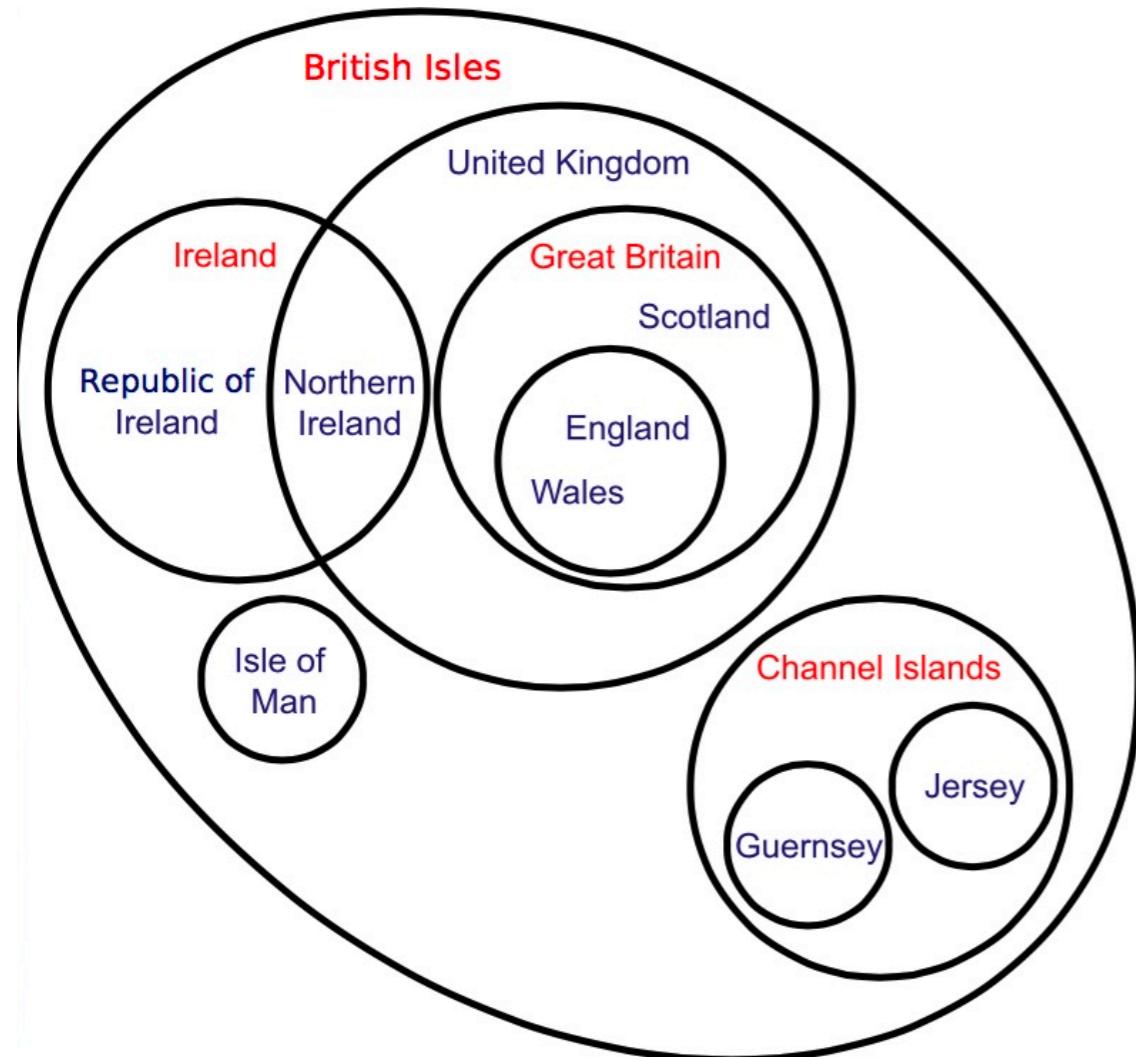


Size Count



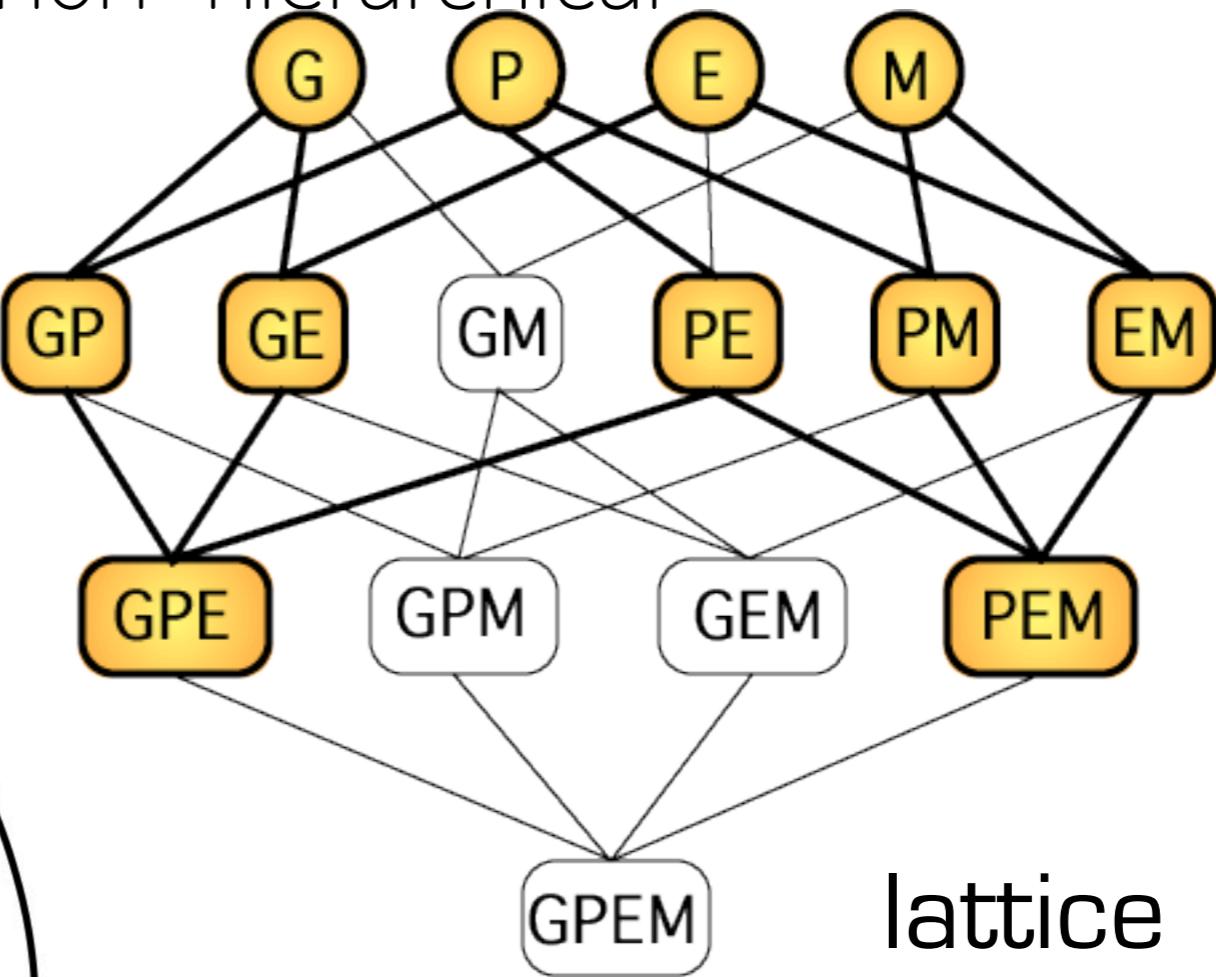
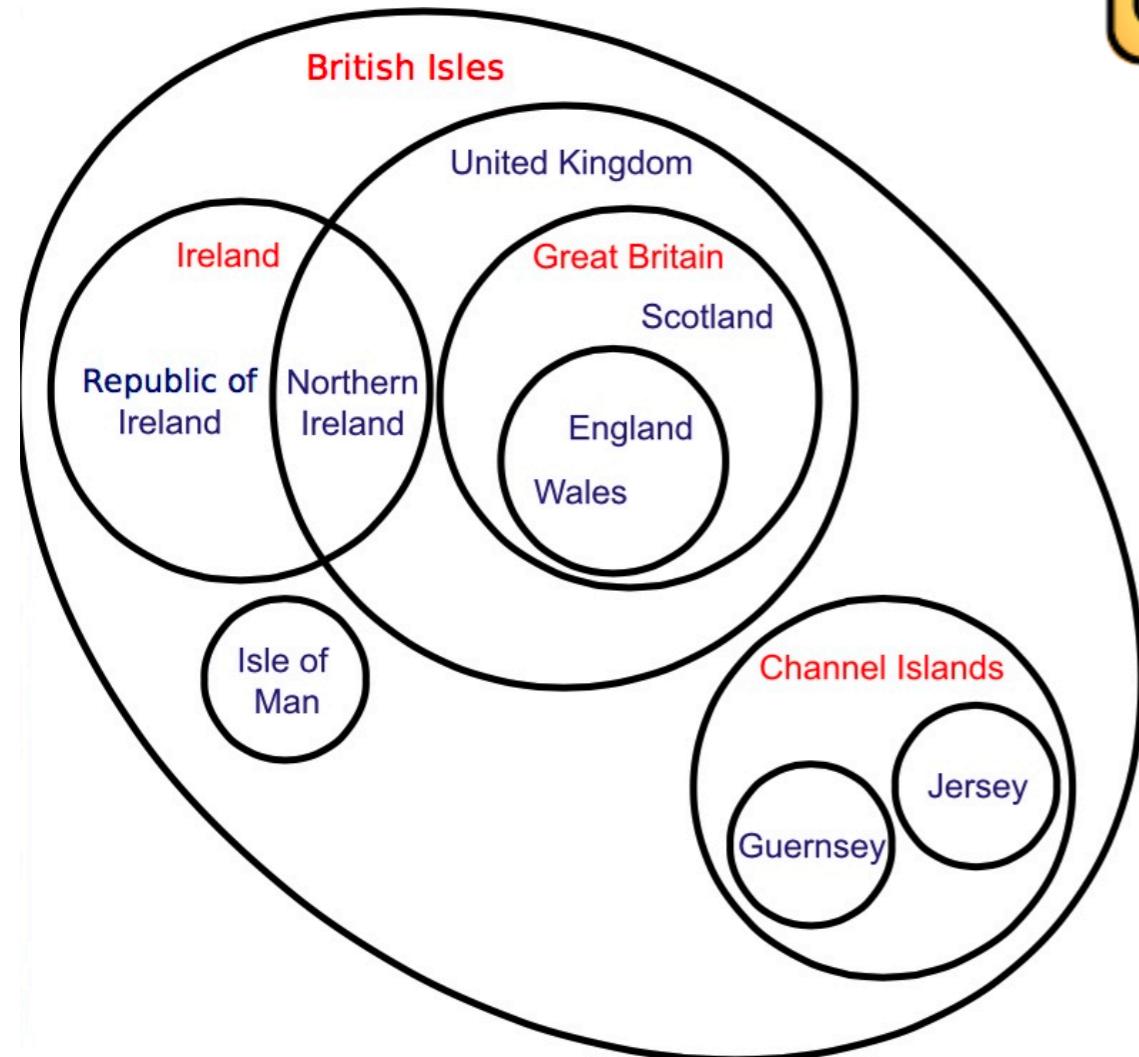
sunburst

# multivariate relational data: non-hierarchical



venn diagram

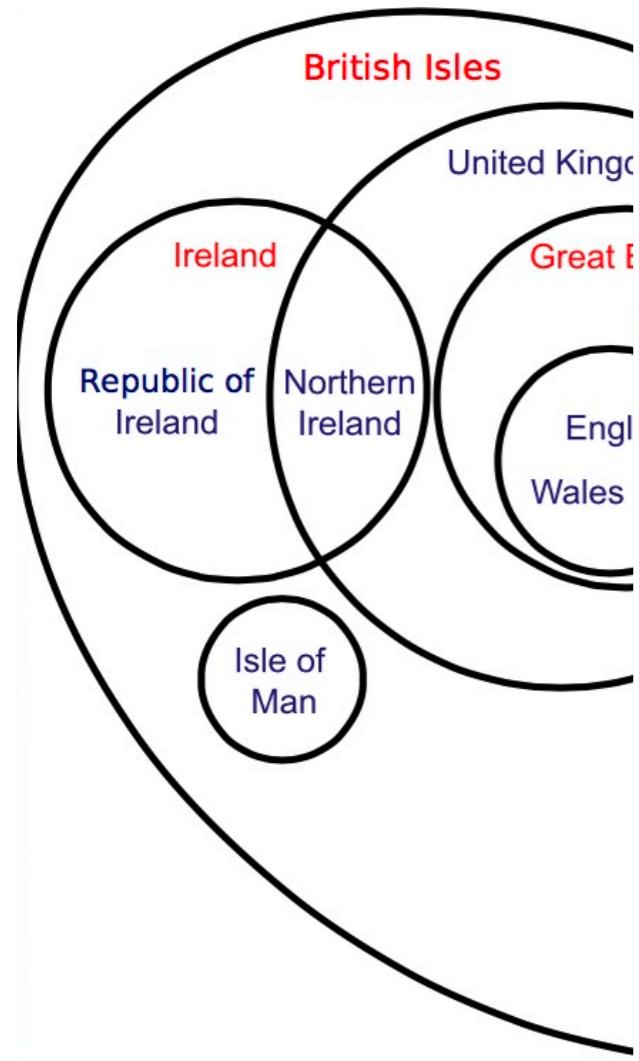
multivariate relational data: non-hierarchical



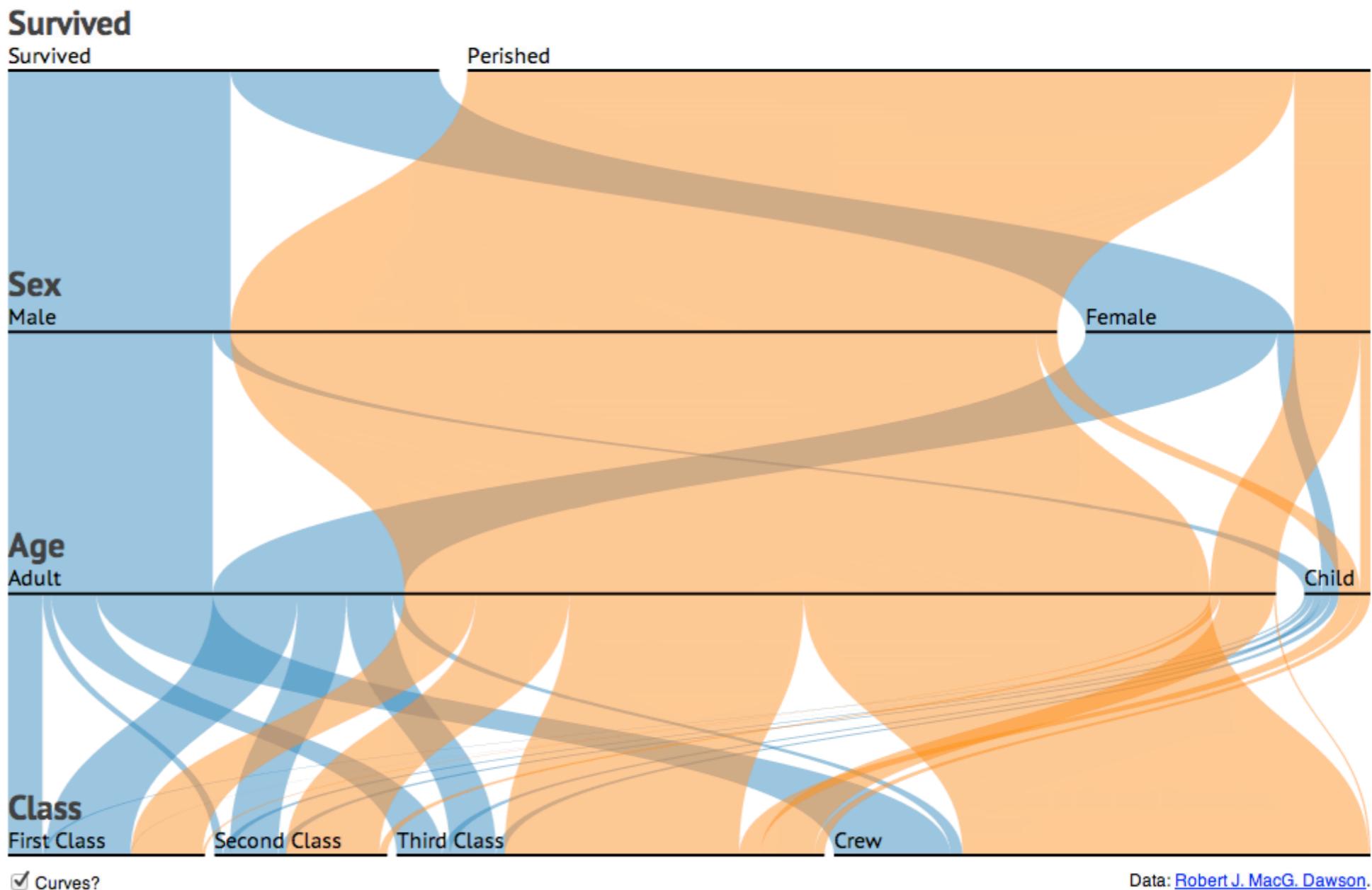
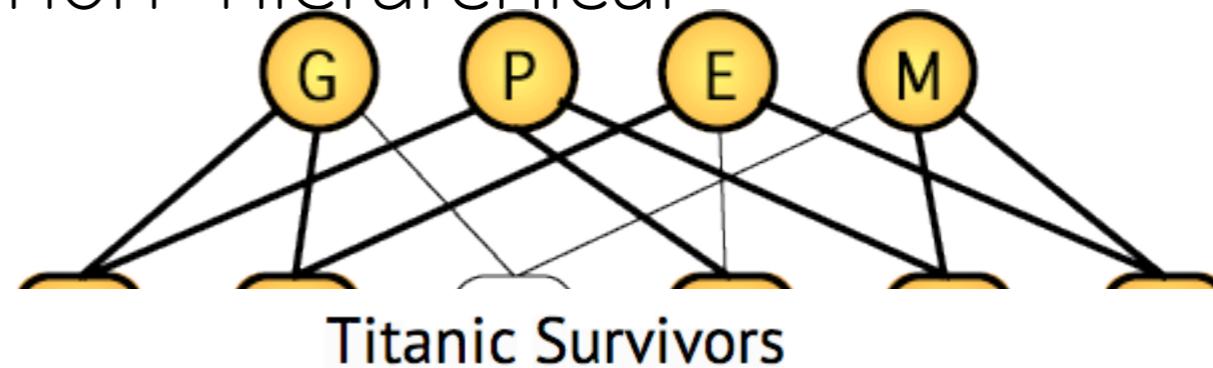
lattice

venn diagram

# multivariate relational data: non-hierarchical

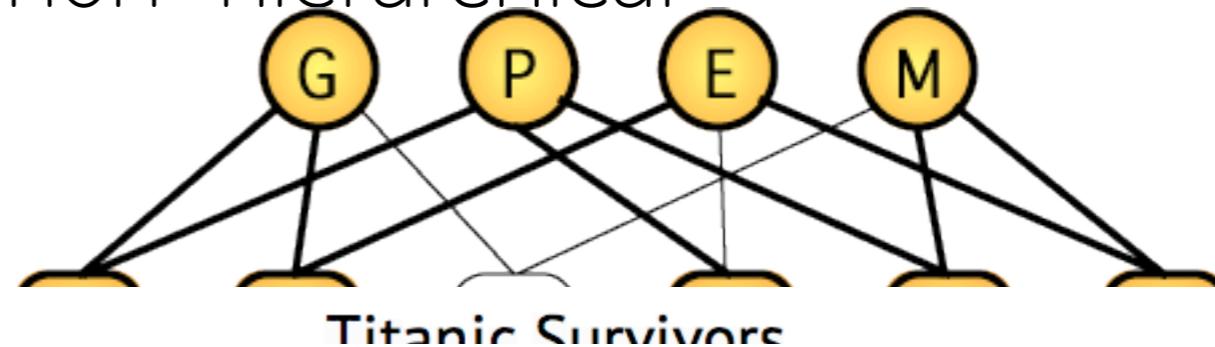


venn diagram



parallel sets

multivariate relational data: non-hierarchical



Plenty of other interesting visualisations....

Some favourites I didn't mention?

send them to: [max@hip.cat](mailto:max@hip.cat)

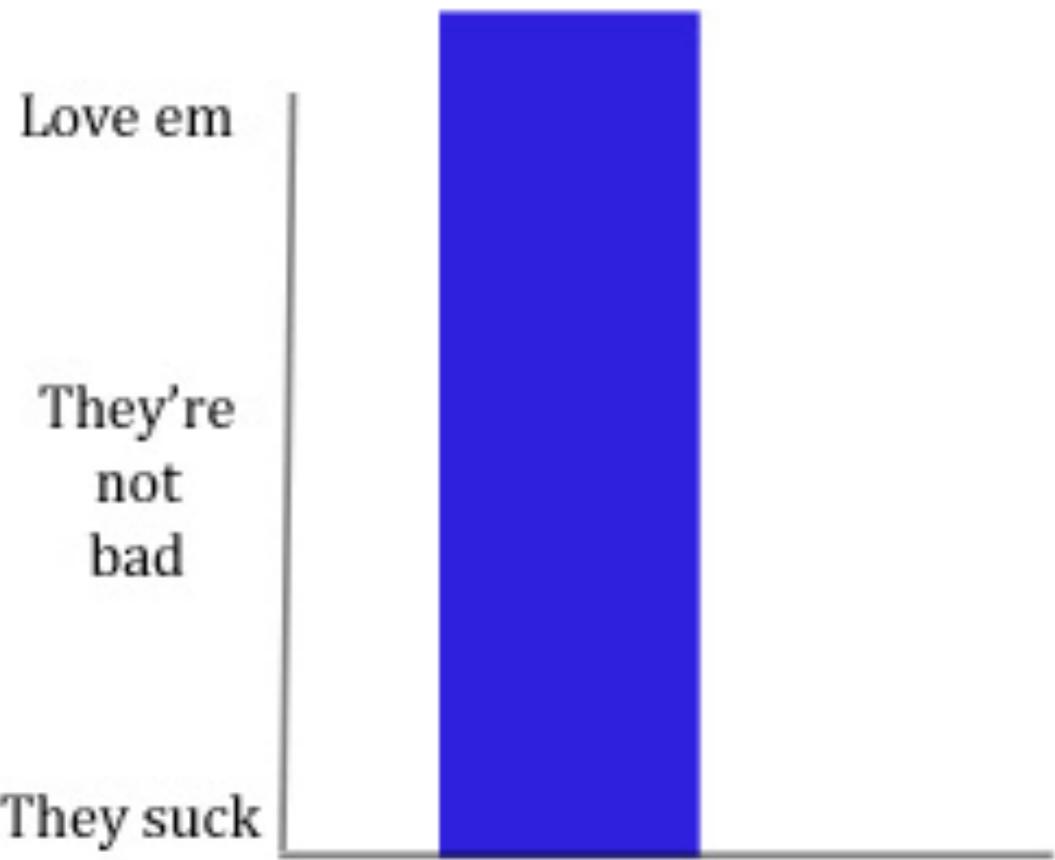
and I'll compile a list for the class

venn diagram



parallel sets

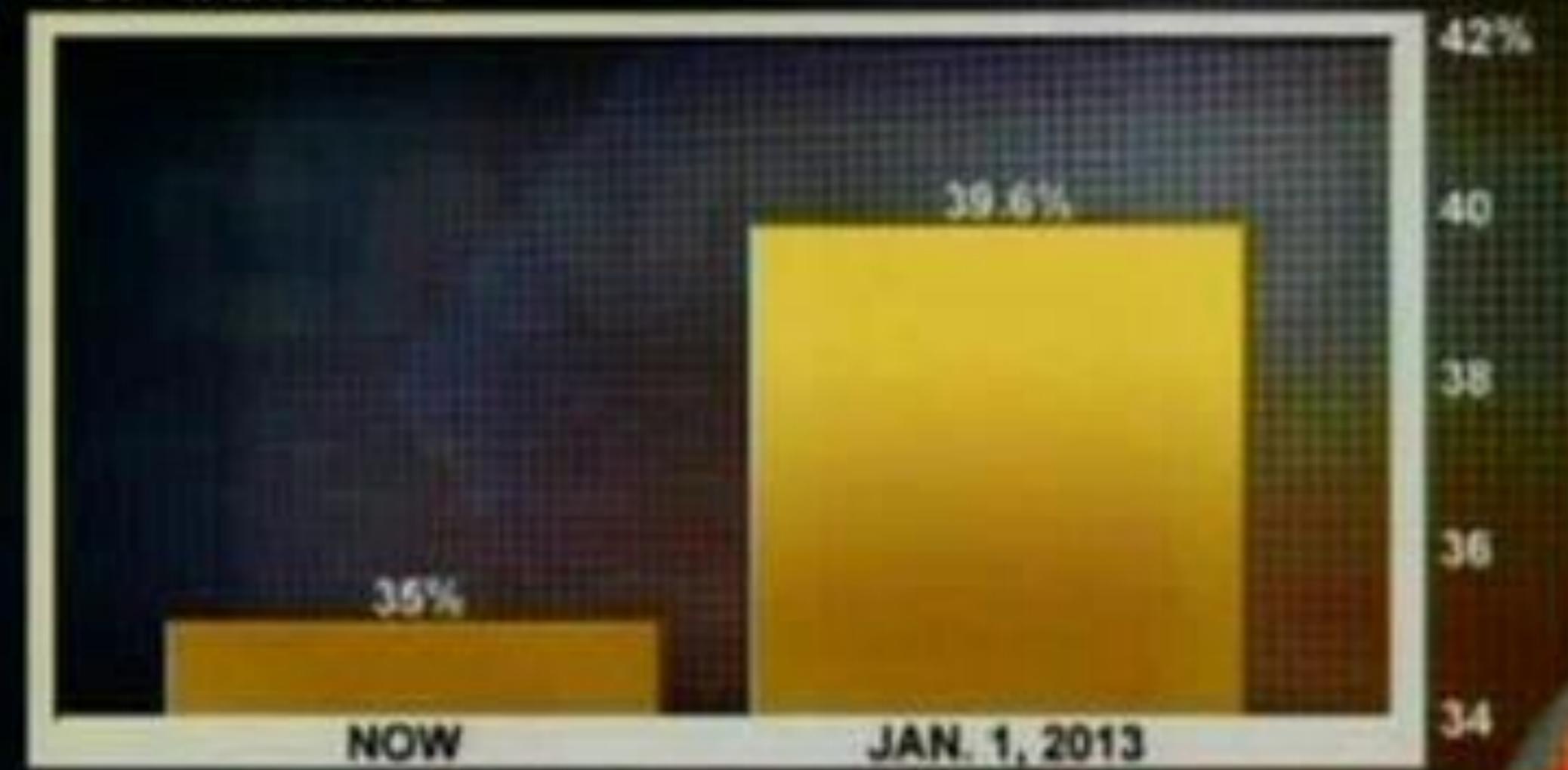
## How You Feel About Bar Charts



infographic fails:  
visual + statistical sleight  
of hand to mislead the  
audience

# IF BUSH TAX CUTS EXPIRE

TOP TAX RATE



8:01 p ET

**FOX**  
BUSINESS

TOP STORIES

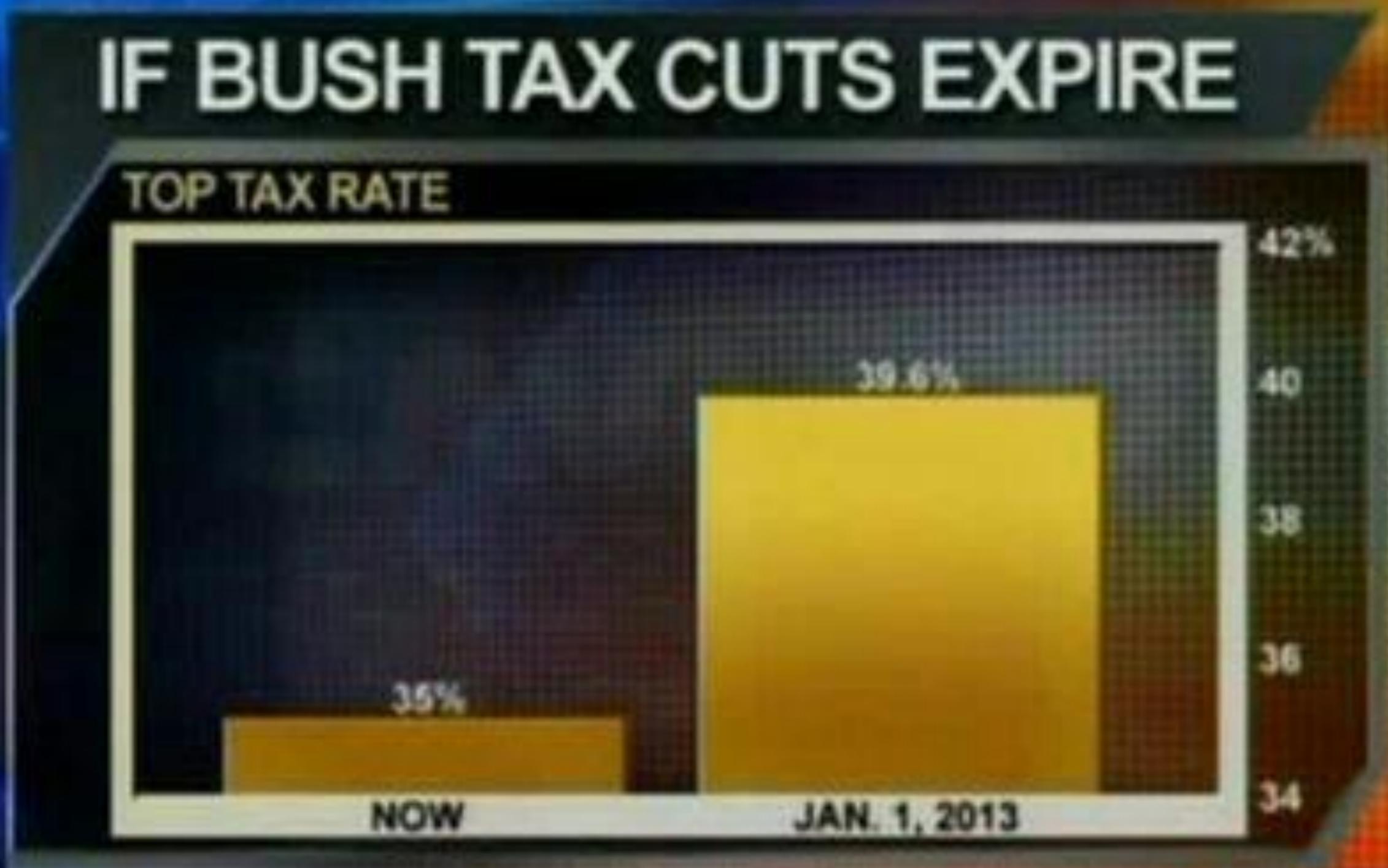
TECHNOLOGY

CONSUMER

WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND ACQUIRES FULL T

DOW 13008.68 ▲ 64.33 S&P 1379.32 ▲ 5.98 NASDAQ 2939.52 ▲ 6.32

# 1. Barchart baseline fail



8:01 p ET

**FOX**  
BUSINESS

TOP STORIES

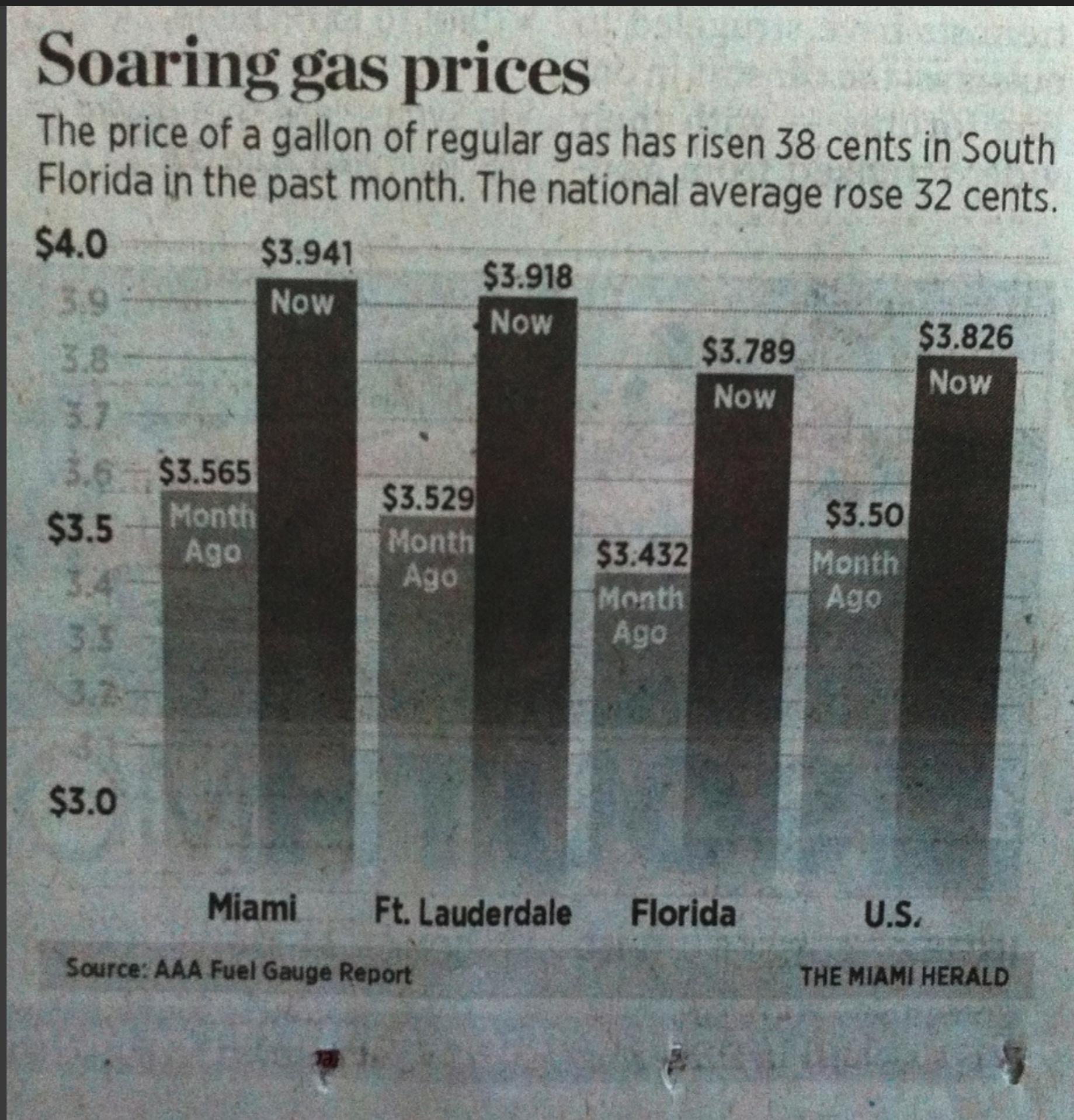
TECHNOLOGY

CONSUMER

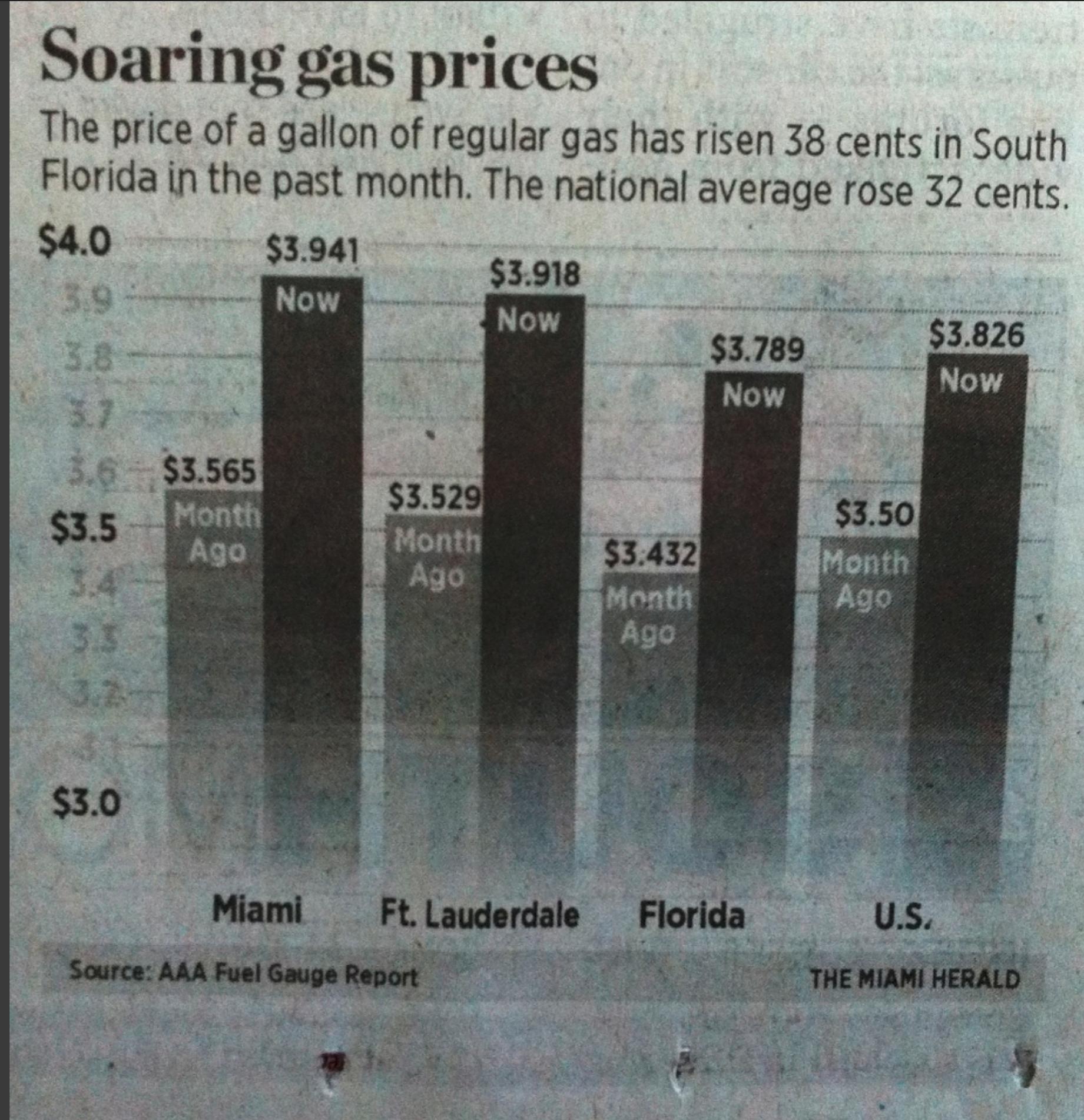
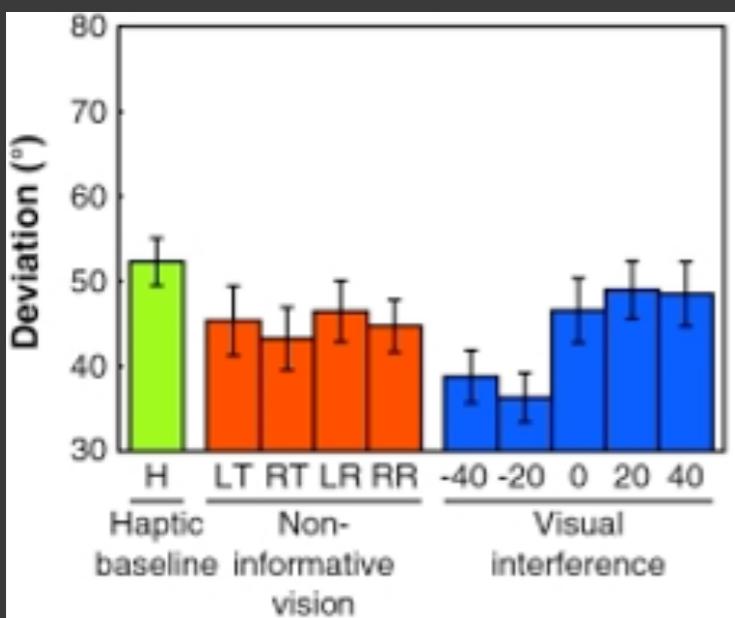
WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND ACQUIRES FULL T

DOW 13008.68 ▲ 64.33 S&P 1379.32 ▲ 5.98 NASDAQ 2939.52 ▲ 6.32

# 1. Barchart baseline fail



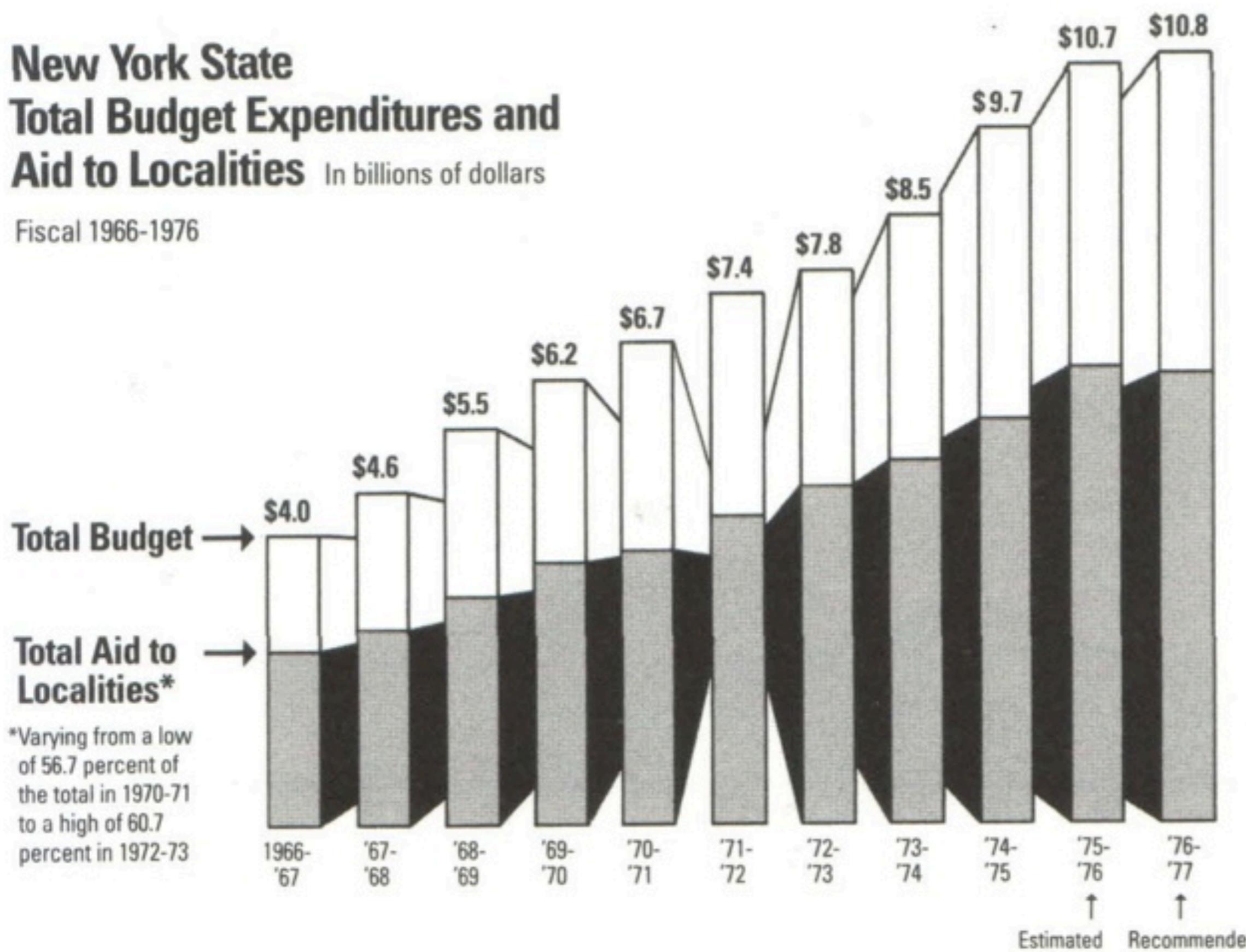
# 1. Barchart baseline fail



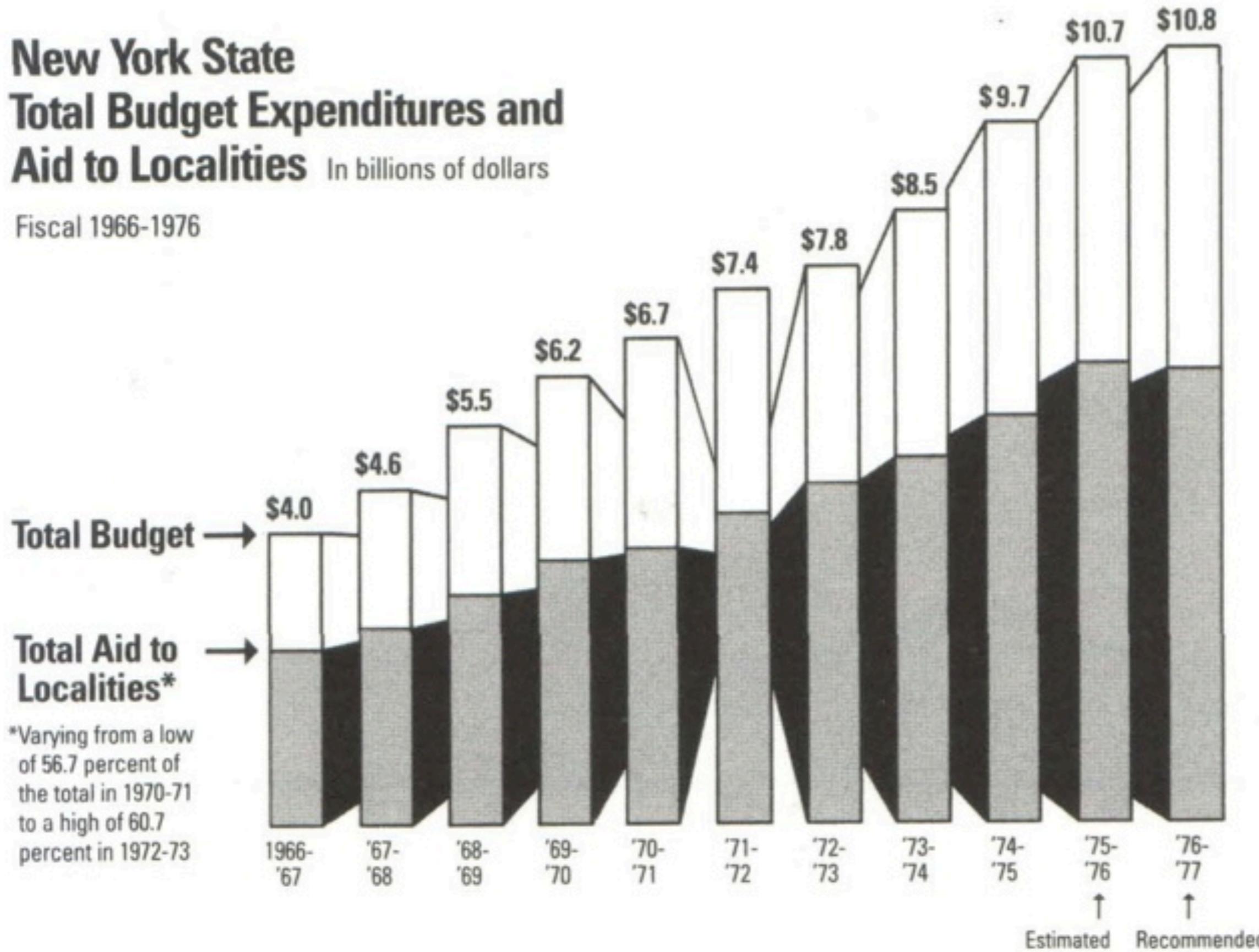
# New York State Total Budget Expenditures and Aid to Localities

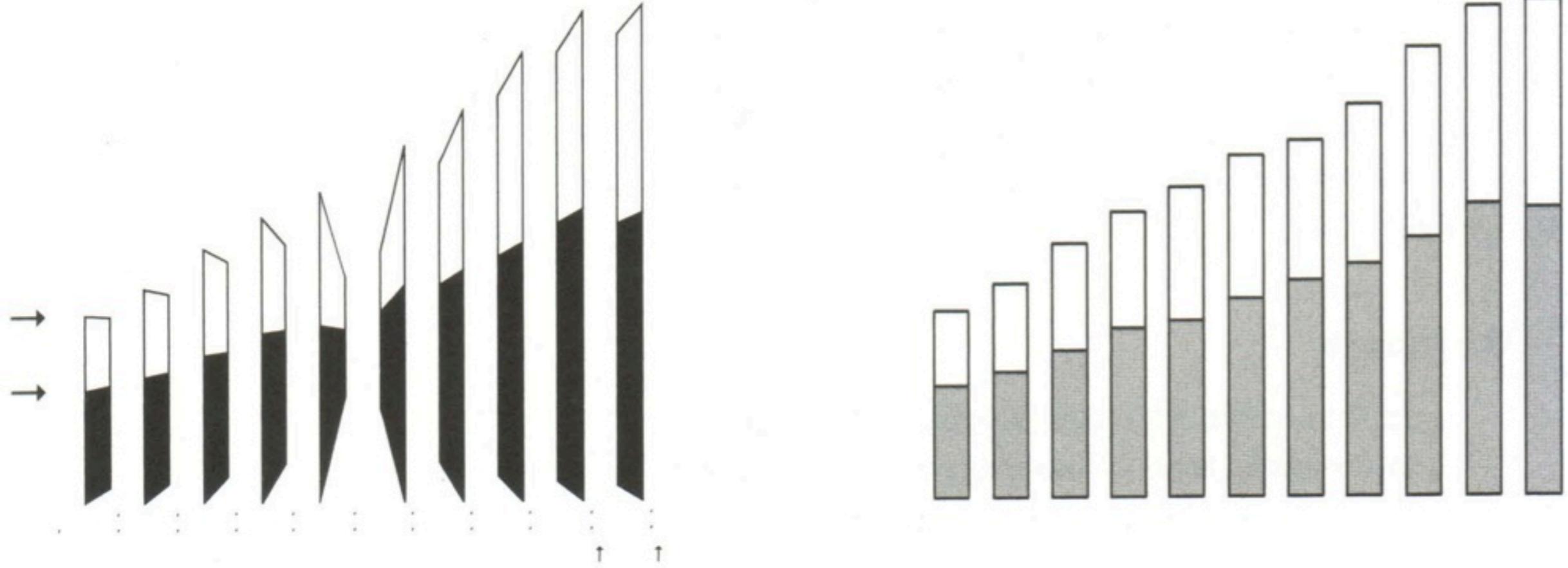
In billions of dollars

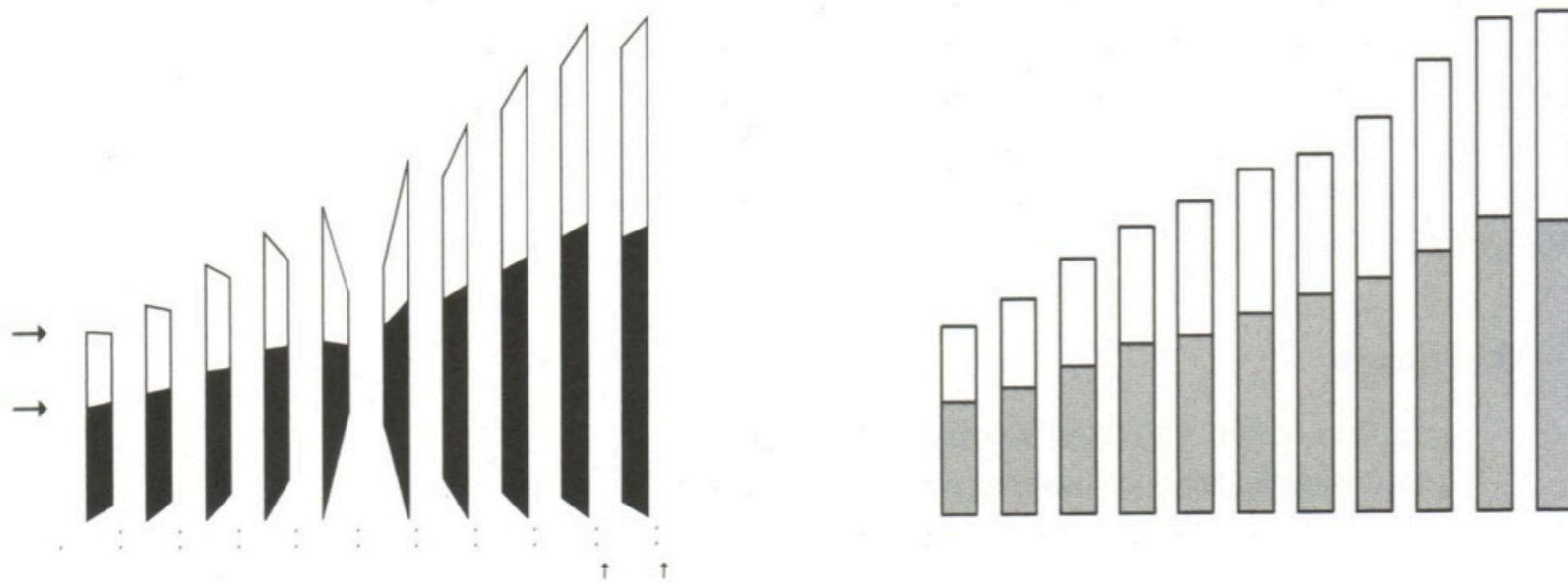
Fiscal 1966-1976



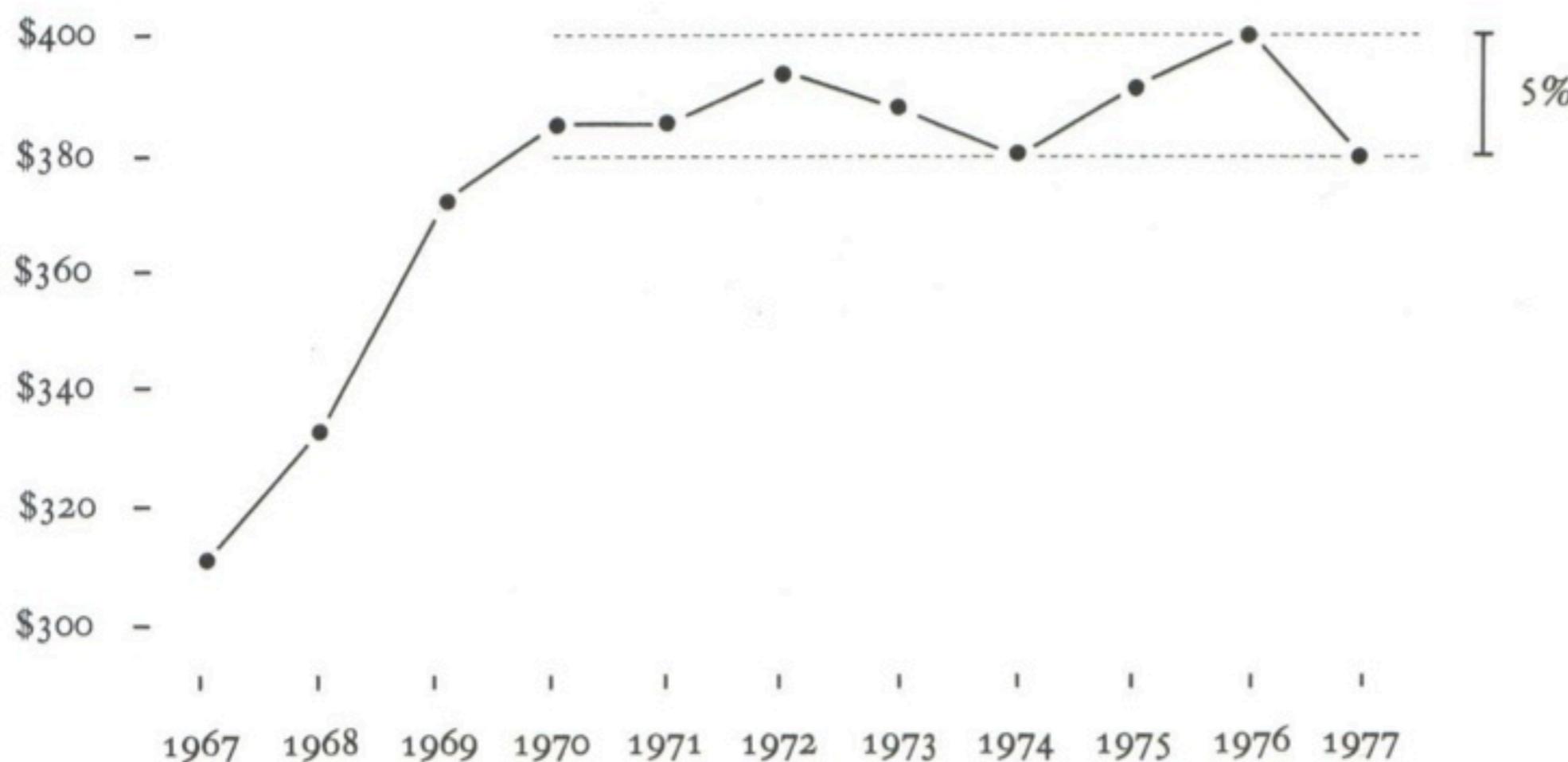
## 2. Perspective and measurement fail







Per capita  
budget expenditures,  
in constant dollars

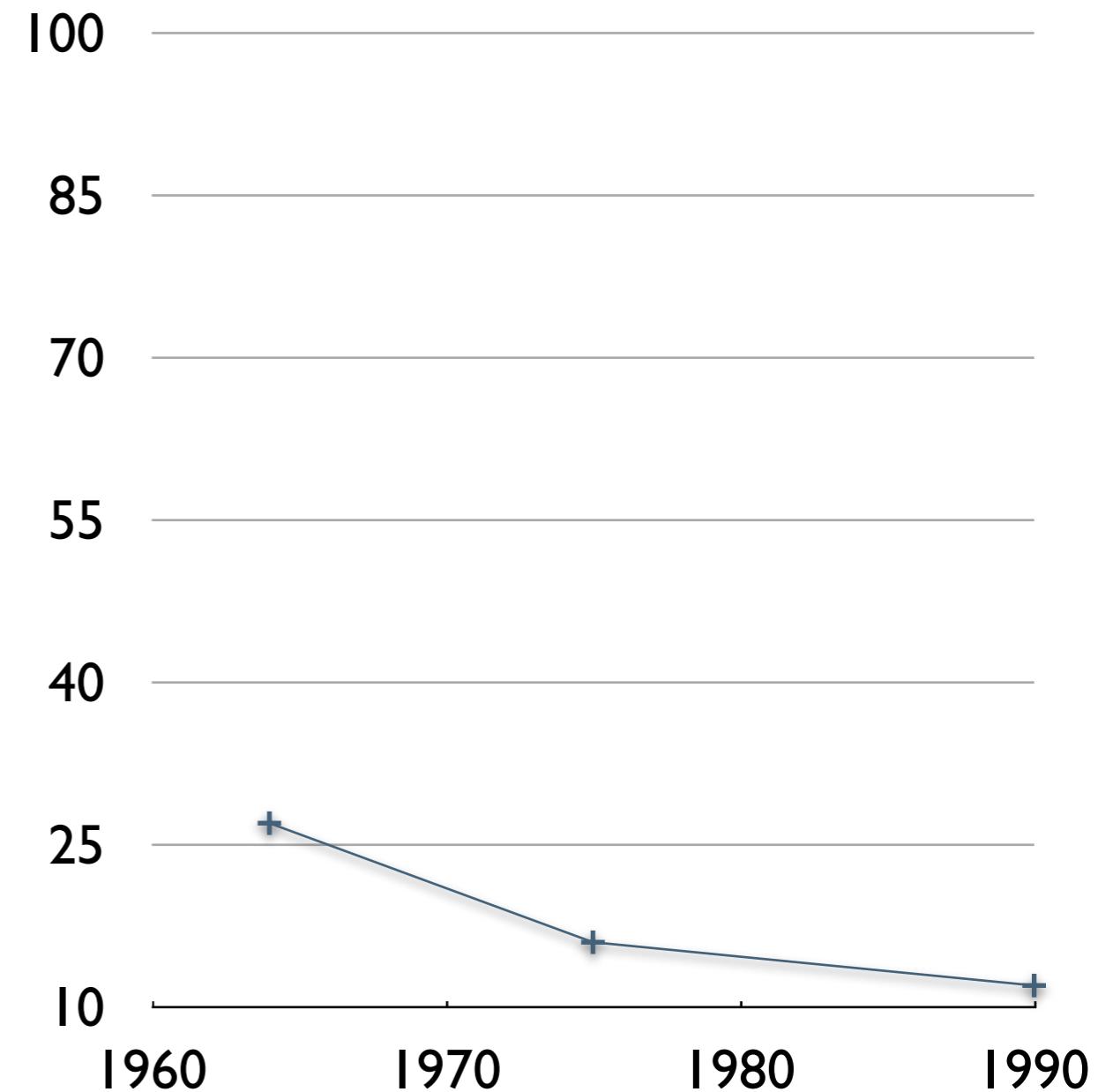
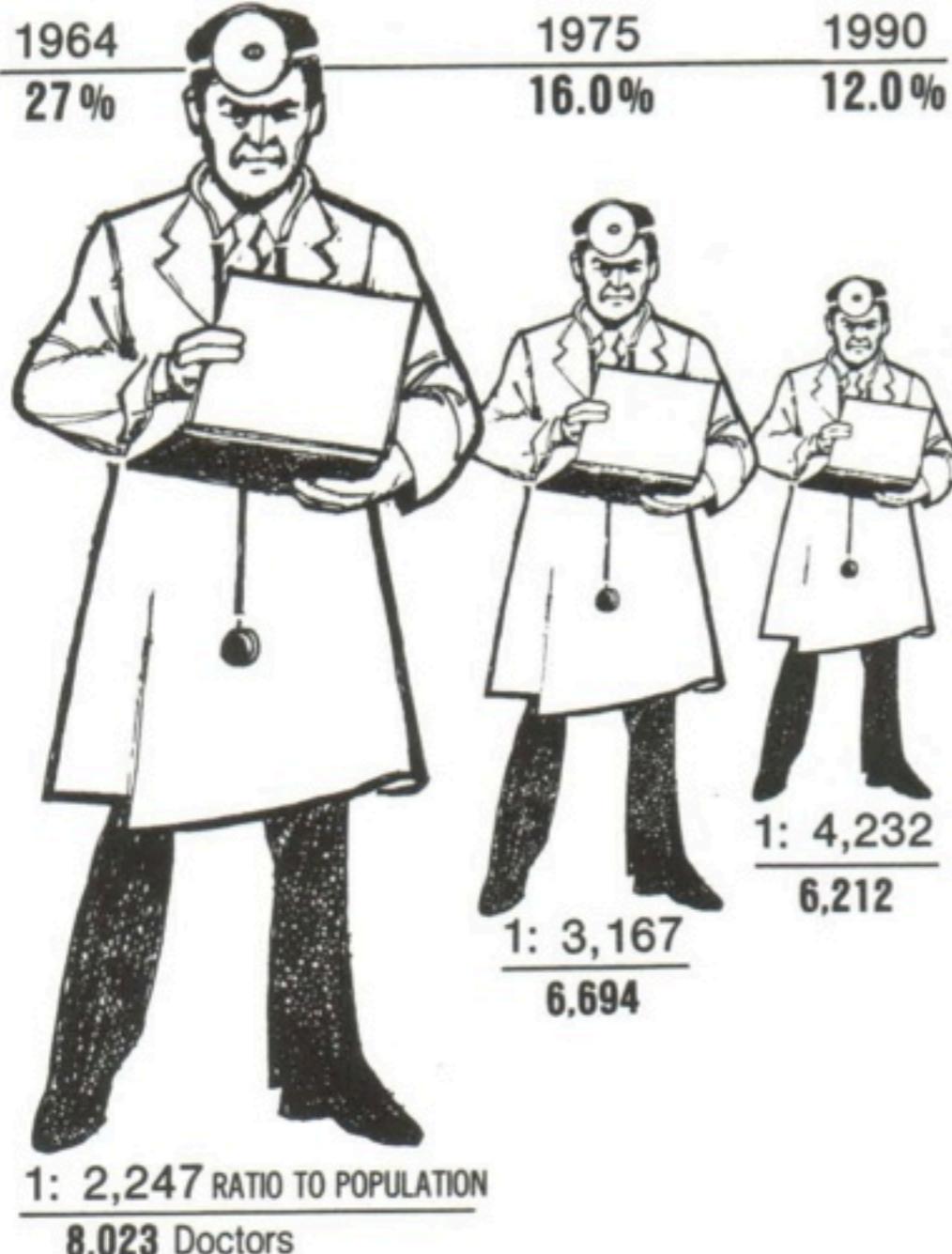


## 2. “Huge differences” fail

### THE SHRINKING FAMILY DOCTOR In California

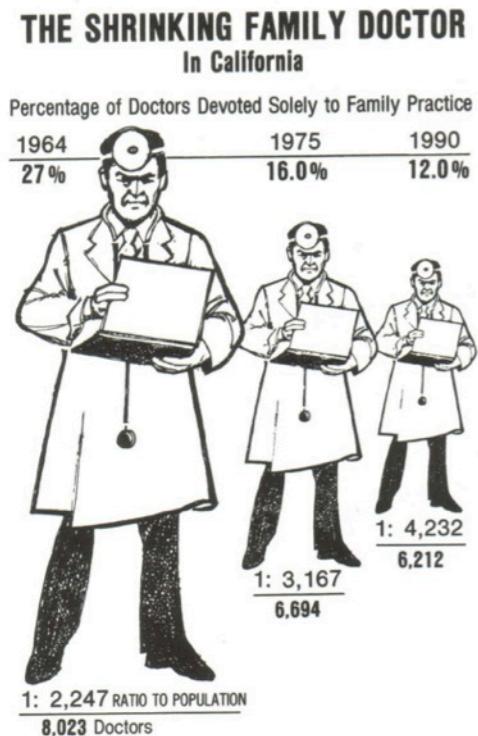
Percentage of Doctors Devoted Solely to Family Practice

| 1964 | 1975   | 1990   |
|------|--------|--------|
| 27 % | 16.0 % | 12.0 % |



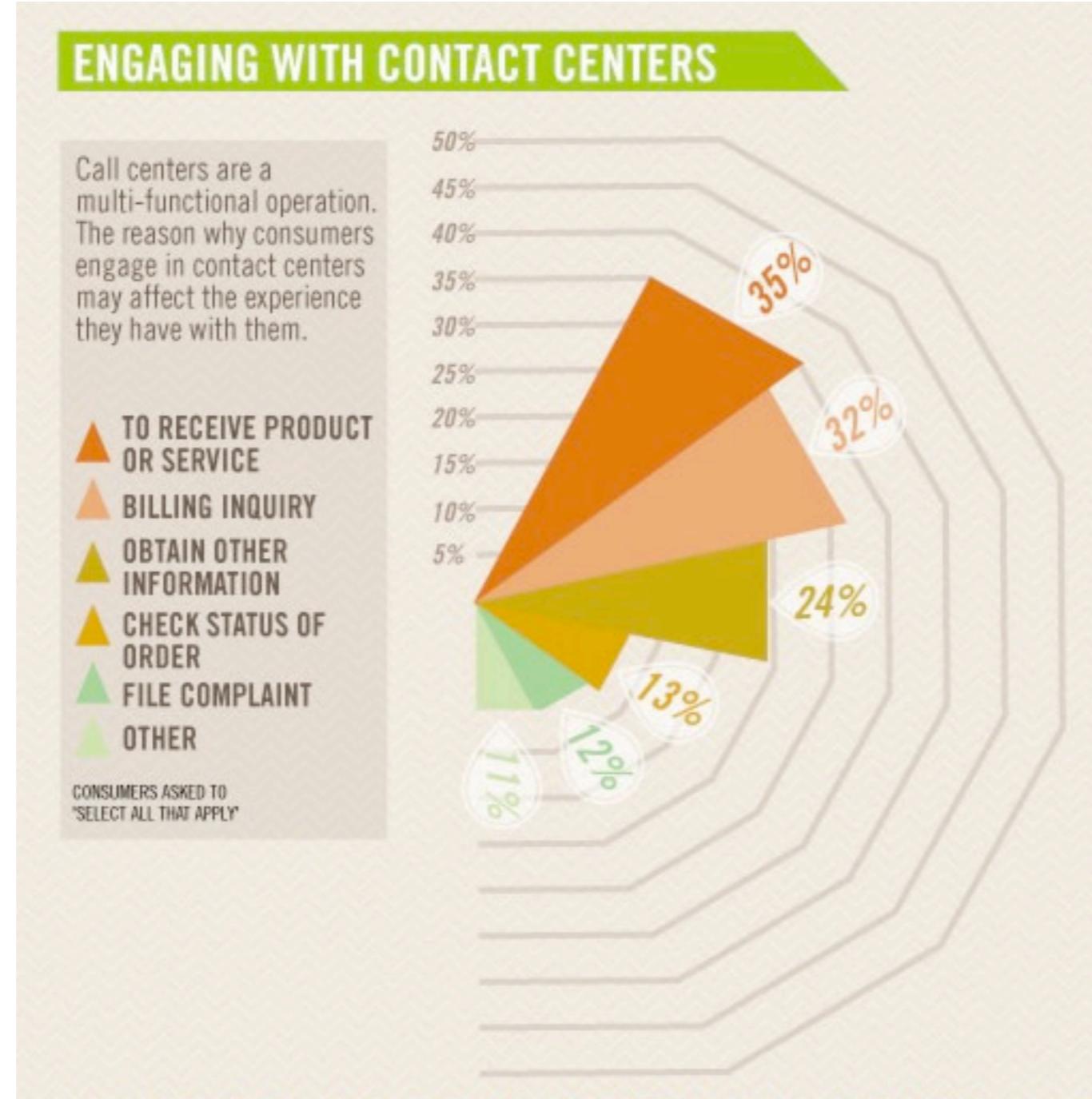
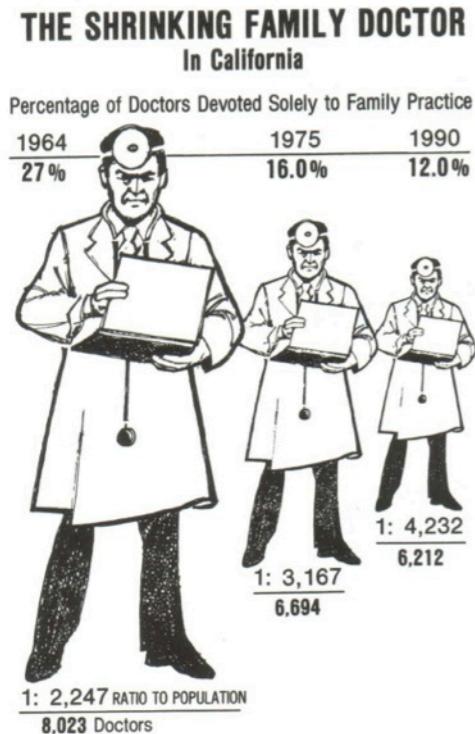
using area (2 dimensions) to represent one dimension

## 2. “Huge differences” fail



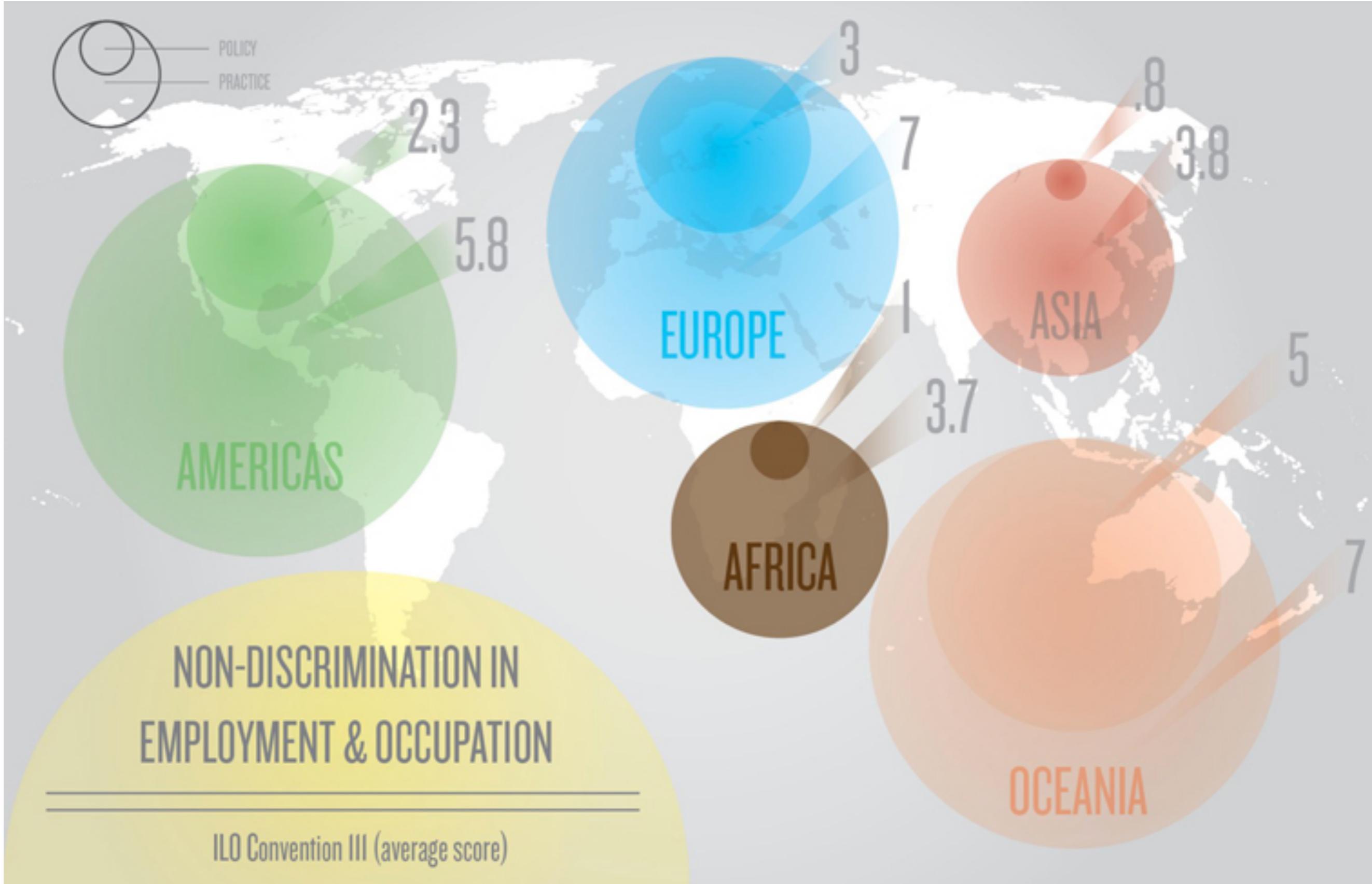
using area to represent one dimension

## 2. “Huge differences” fail



using area to represent one dimension

## 2. “Huge differences” fail



using area to represent one dimension

# Quiz: How does this fail?

## THE ISSUE OF TRUST

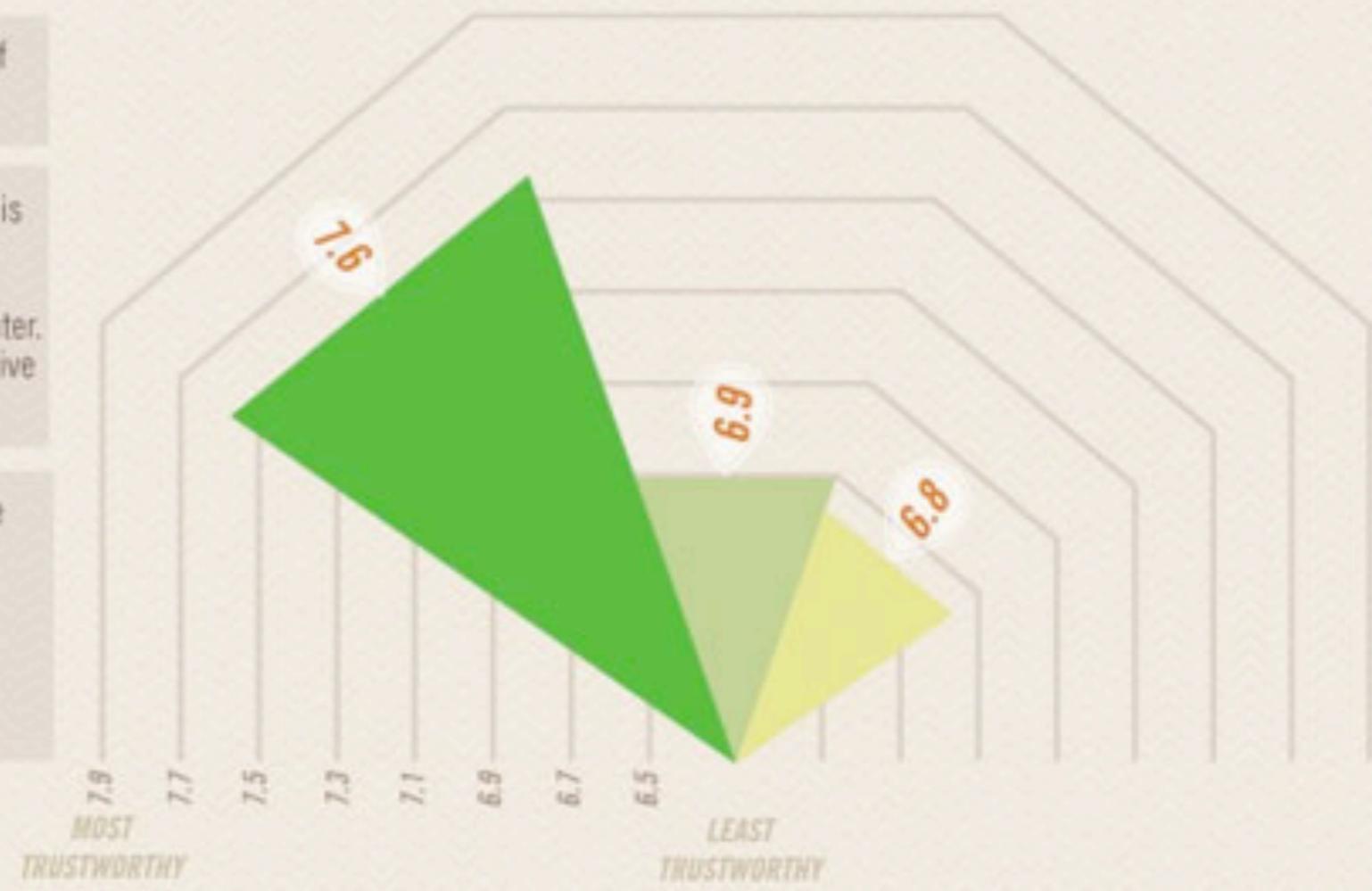
### ACCENTS AND DISTRUST

Another reason why accents affects customer service is the question of credibility. If I can not understand you, then I can not trust you.

An experiment conducted by the University of Chicago demonstrated this aspect. The question posed, do trivia statements sound less true when spoken by a non-native speaker? Furthermore, listeners were told in advance that all of the trivia questions were provided by the experimenter. This way, even listeners who were knowingly prejudice against non-native accents should not have been affected.

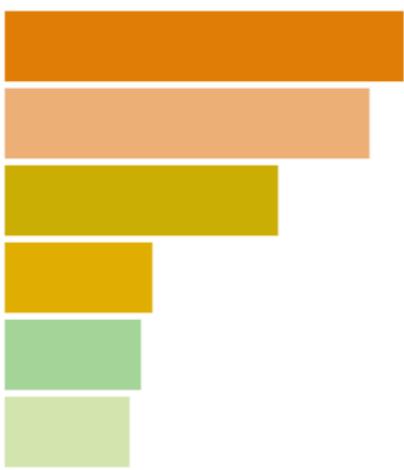
The results showed that the heavier the accent the less trust worthy the person became.

- ▲ NATIVE ACCENT
- ▲ MILD ACCENT
- ▲ HEAVY ACCENT





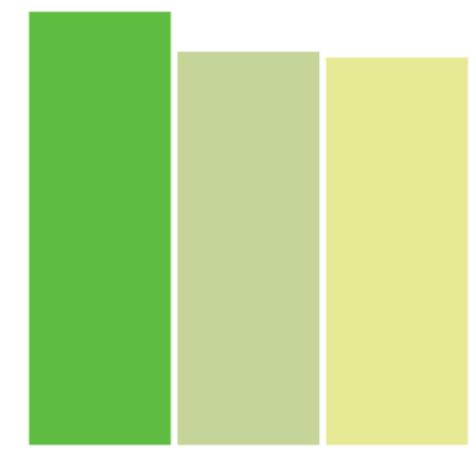
Distortion factor: 2.5



True data



Distortion factor: 5.0



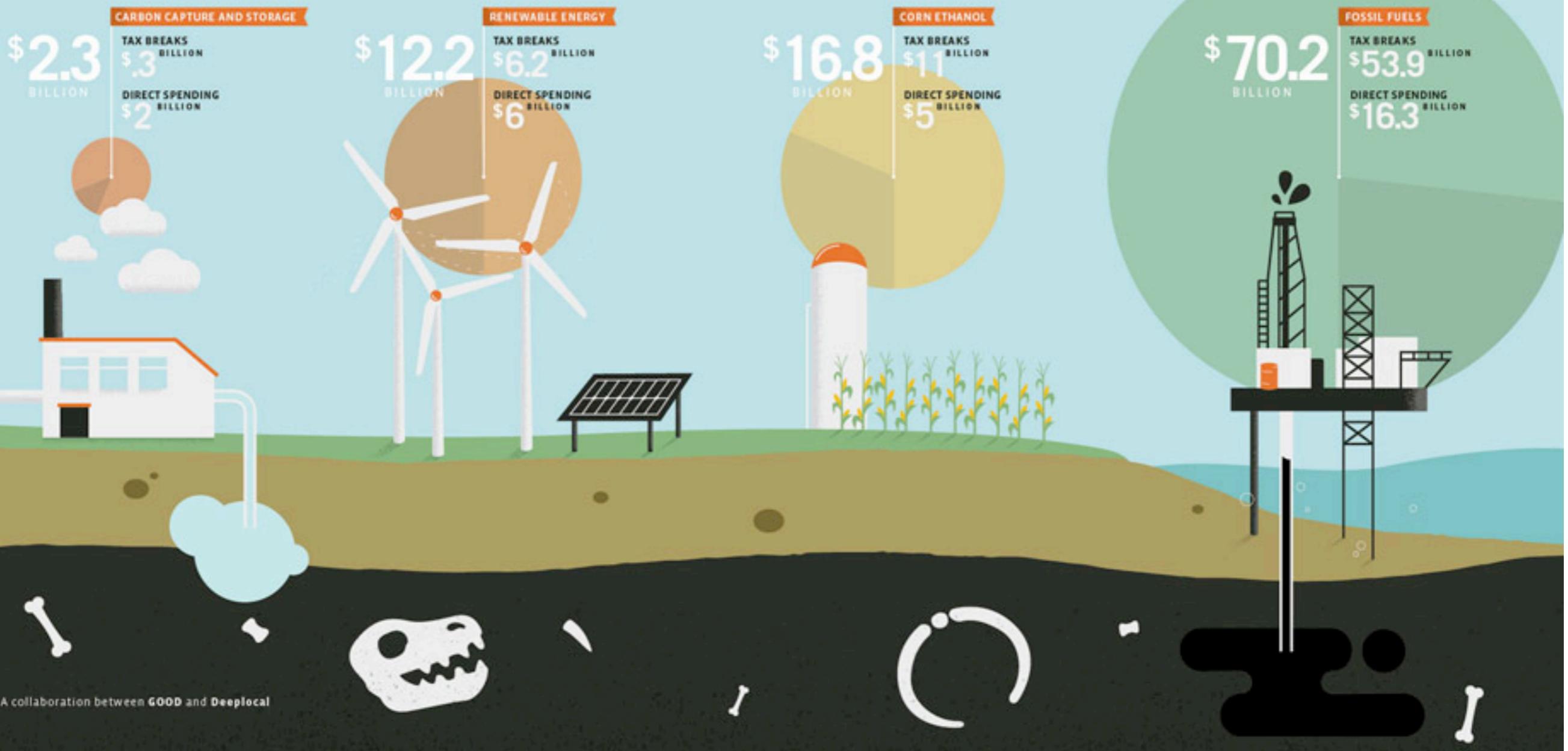
True data

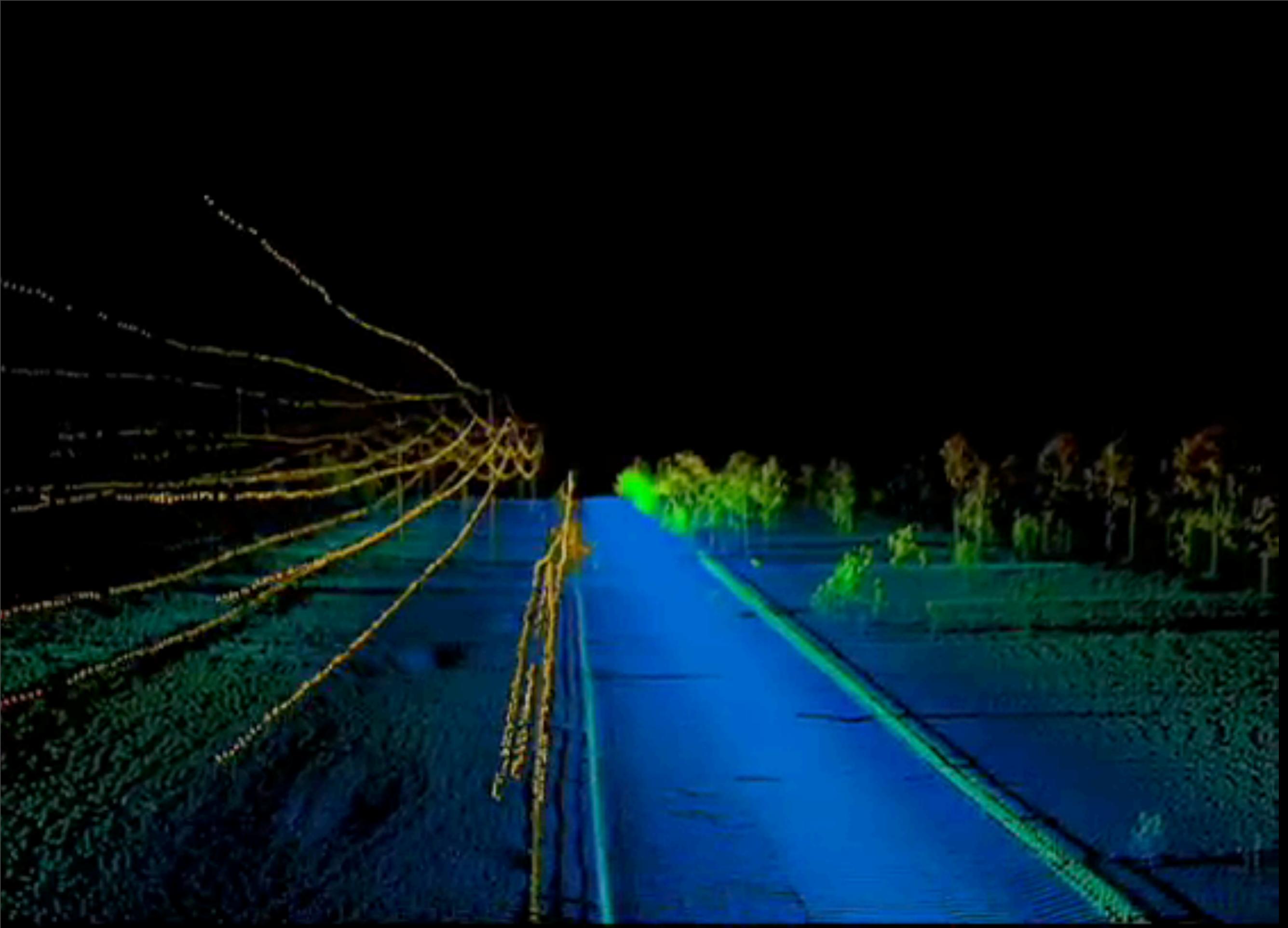
# SUBSIDIZE THIS

THE PRICE THAT YOU PAY FOR ENERGY—WHETHER ELECTRICITY AT YOUR HOUSE OR GAS AT THE PUMP—isn't actually the price that the market would set for that energy.

The government spends billions of dollars to support the energy industry, which allows it to make energy cheaper than it should cost on the open market. These subsidies—either in the form of tax breaks or direct funding—favor some types of energy over others, giving our country a skewed sense of what each gallon of gas or wind-powered electron costs. This is a look at where the government directed its subsidy dollars from 2002 to 2008.

SOURCE "Estimating U.S. Government Subsidies to Energy Sources" by the Environmental Law Institute





# In conclusion

Designing effective infographics

is about effectively conveying or facilitating an understanding of relationships in data

offloading “heavy lifting” to our trained neural circuitry.

While still an art, many design principles grounded in usability can provide guidance: natural mappings, simplicity, & avoiding distortion

