

# VISUALIZING MULTI- ATTRIBUTE DATA

## DATA TABLES

Petra Isenberg

# RECAP

you have learned about

- visual variables and marks
- that their perceptual properties matter

# RECAP

## ➔ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes

Position on common scale 

Position on unaligned scale 


Length (1D size) 

Tilt/angle 

Area (2D size) 

Depth (3D position) 

Color luminance 

Color saturation 

Curvature 

Volume (3D size) 

## ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region 

Color hue 

Motion 

Shape 

Most

Effectiveness

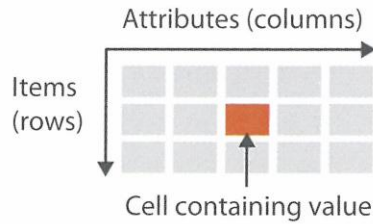
Least

Same

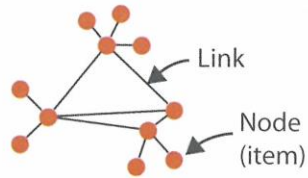
Same

# RECAP

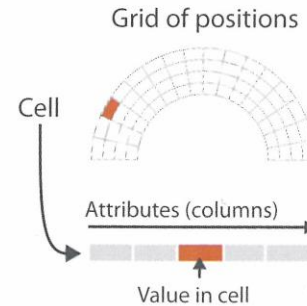
## → Tables



## → Networks



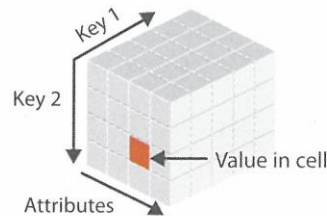
## → Fields (Continuous)



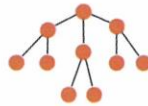
## → Geometry (Spatial)



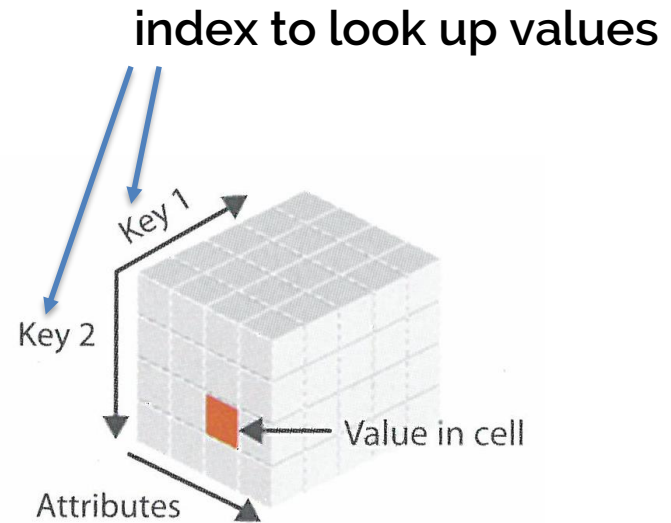
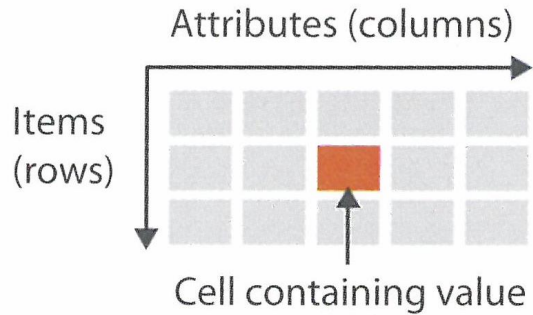
## → Multidimensional Table



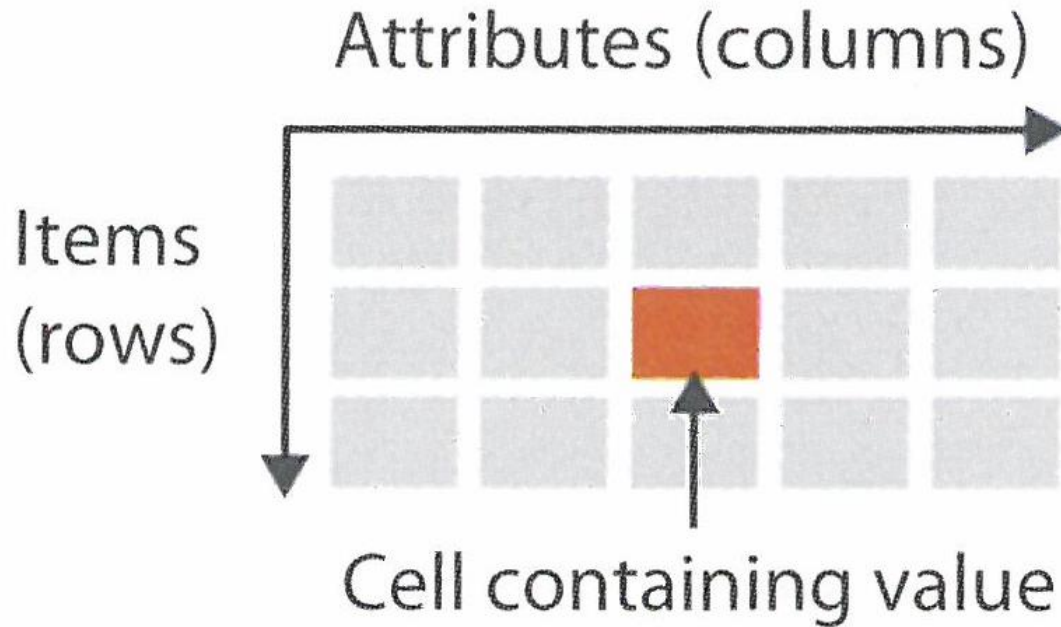
## → Trees



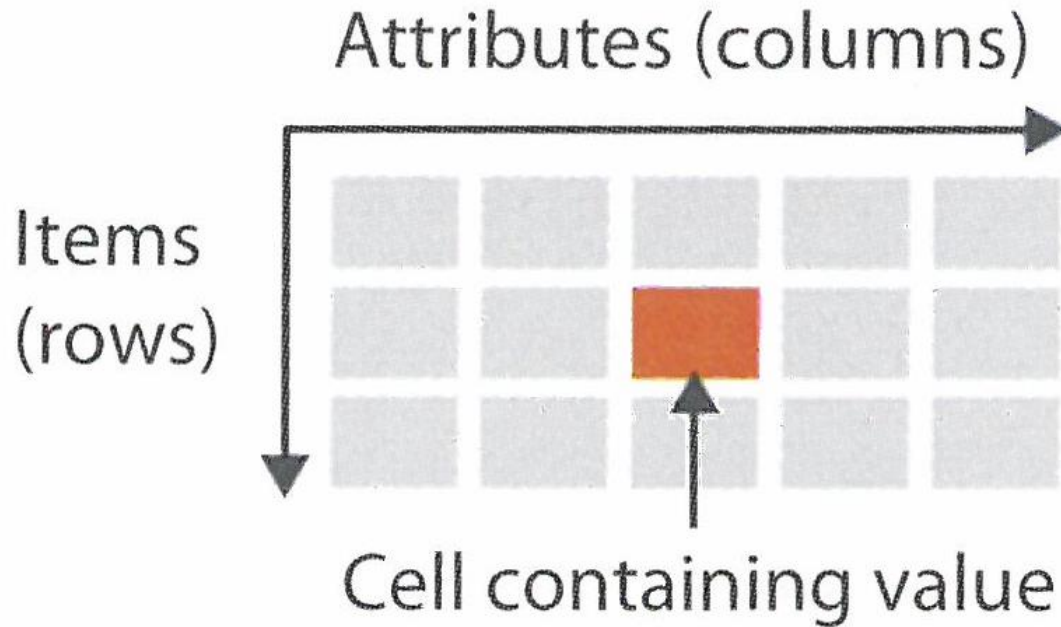
# DATA TABLES - TERMINOLOGY



# WHAT COULD BE THE KEY HERE?



# WHAT DATA TYPE IS SUITABLE FOR A KEY?



# KEYS VS. VALUES

key attributes are also sometimes called:

- independent attribute
- dimension

value attributes are also sometimes called:

- dependent attribute
- measure



# LEVELS

= unique values for a categorical or ordered attribute

# World DataBank

## World Development Indicators

[TABLE](#)
[CHART](#)
[MAP](#)
[DOWNLOAD](#)

After selecting variables, please click one of the above options

### DIMENSION FILTERS

- Hierarchy**  
[Collapse all](#) | [Expand all](#) | [Unselect all](#)
- ▶ Income
  - ▶ Lending
  - ▶ Region
- ▶ *Aggregates*

- ▶ COUNTRY (Available: 214 | Selected: 1)
- ▶ SERIES (Available: 1300 | Selected: 0)
- ▶ TIME (Available: 1 | Selected: 0)

### YOUR CURRENT SELECTION

▼ **DATABASE**  
 World Development Indicators  
[Change database](#)

▼ **COUNTRY (1)**  
[Remove all](#) | [Sort](#)  
*Drag to rearrange the order*  
 ✖ France

▶ SERIES (0)

▶ TIME (0)

214 countries



Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Andorra	Angola	Argentina	Armenia	Aruba	Australia	...
-------------	---------	---------	---------	--------	-----------	---------	-------	-----------	-----



## World DataBank | World Development Indicators

[TABLE](#) [CHART](#) [MAP](#) [DOWNLOAD](#)

After selecting variables, please click one of the above options

## DIMENSION FILTERS

## Hierarchy

[Collapse all](#) | [Expand all](#)

## Topic

- Education
- Environment
- Economic Policy & Debt
- Financial Sector
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Labor & Social Protection
- Poverty
- Private Sector & Trade
- Public Sector

## COUNTRY

(Available: 214 | Selected: 1)

## SERIES

(Available: 1300 | Selected: 0)

Type keywords to filter

( | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W |)

[Select all](#) | [Unselect all](#) | [Invert selection](#)

- ☐ (%) Benefits held by 1st 20% population - All Social Insurance
- ☐ (%) Benefits held by 1st 20% population - All Social Protection
- ☐ (%) Benefits held by 1st 20% population - All Social Safety Nets
- ☐ (%) Benefits held by 1st 20% population - Unemp benefits and ALMP
- ☐ (%) Generosity of All Social Insurance
- ☐ (%) Generosity of All Social Protection
- ☐ (%) Generosity of All Social Safety Nets
- ☐ (%) Generosity of Unemp benefits and ALMP
- ☐ (%) Program participation - All Social Insurance
- ☐ (%) Program participation - All Social Protection
- ☐ (%) Program participation - All Social Safety Nets
- ☐ (%) Program participation - Unemp benefits and ALMP

## A

- ☐ ARI treatment (% of children under 5 taken to a health provider)
- ☐ Access to electricity (% of population)
- ☐ Adjusted net enrollment rate, primary (% of primary school age children)
- ☐ Adjusted net enrollment rate, primary, female (% of primary school age children)
- ☐ Adjusted net enrollment rate, primary, male (% of primary school age children)
- ☐ Adjusted net national income (annual % growth)
- ☐ Adjusted net national income (constant 2005 US\$)
- ☐ Adjusted net national income (current US\$)
- ☐ Adjusted net savings, excluding particulate emission damage (% of GNI)
- ☐ Adjusted net savings, excluding particulate emission damage (current US\$)
- ☐ Adjusted net savings, including particulate emission damage (% of GNI)

## TIME

(Available: | Selected: 0)

## YOUR CURRENT SELECTION

## DATABASE

[World Development Indicators](#)  
[Change database](#)

## COUNTRY (1)

## SERIES (0)

[Remove all](#) | [Sort](#)[Drag to rearrange the order](#)

## TIME (0)

[illegible]

## DIMENSION FILTERS

## Hierarchy

[Collapse all](#) | [Expand all](#)[Year](#)

## COUNTRY

(Available: 214| Selected: 1)

## SERIES

(Available: 1300| Selected: 0)

## TIME

(Available: 54| Selected: 0)

SELECT YEARS

FUNCTIONS

Availability Range: Year 1960 - 2013

Please drag the slider handle below to select the range

[Select all](#) | [Unselect all](#) | [Invert selection](#)

- ☐ 2013
- ☐ 2012
- ☐ 2011
- ☐ 2010
- ☐ 2009
- ☐ 2008
- ☐ 2007
- ☐ 2006
- ☐ 2005
- ☐ 2004
- ☐ 2003
- ☐ 2002
- ☐ 2001
- ☐ 2000
- ☐ 1999
- ☐ 1998
- ☐ 1997
- ☐ 1996
- ☐ 1995
- ☐ 1994
- ☐ 1993
- ☐ 1992
- ☐ 1991

## YOUR CURRENT SELECTION

## DATABASE

[World Development Indicators](#)  
[Change database](#)

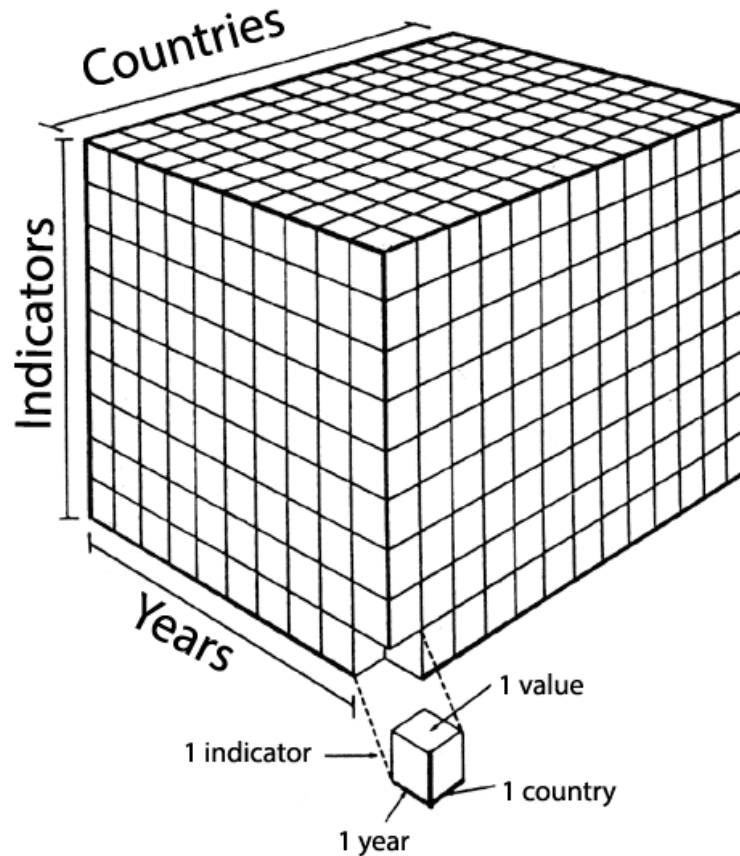
## COUNTRY (1)

## SERIES (0)

## TIME (0)

[Remove all](#) | [Sort](#) | ☒ Ascending

# THE DATA CUBE



# MULTI-ATTRIBUTE DATA – OUR VIEW TODAY

	Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Andorra	Angola	Argentina	Armenia	Aruba	Australia	...
Benefits										
Generosity										
Participation										
Savings										
Interest										
Bird species										
Birth Rate										
C02 Emissions										
...										

The diagram illustrates a multi-attribute data matrix. A blue arrow points horizontally from the first column to the last, labeled "n attributes". Another blue arrow points vertically from the first row to the last, labeled "d items (data points)". A grey box labeled "n x d matrix" is positioned in the center of the grid.



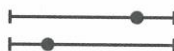
# ARRANGING TABULAR DATA

In Space

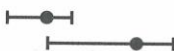
# WHY ARRANGING DATA

## ➔ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes

Position on common scale



Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



Tilt/angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



## ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Shape



Most  
Effectiveness  
Least

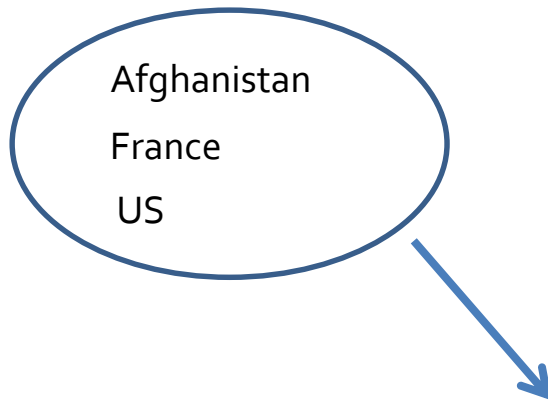
# QUANTITATIVE VALUES

# APPROACH

- Let's start with two attributes:  
country & income per person

Country	Income per person
Afghanistan	850
France	29500
US	41000

# 1. FIND A LAYOUT

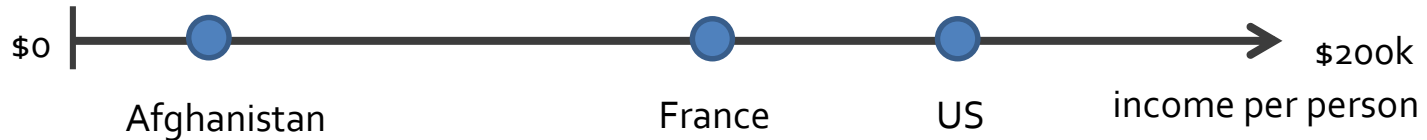


Country	Income per person
Afghanistan	850
France	29500
US	41000



## 2. CHOOSE A VISUAL ENCODING & MARK

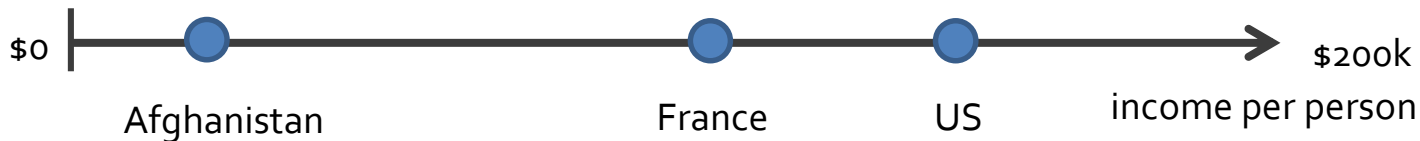
E.g. position + circle



# 1. FIND A LAYOUT

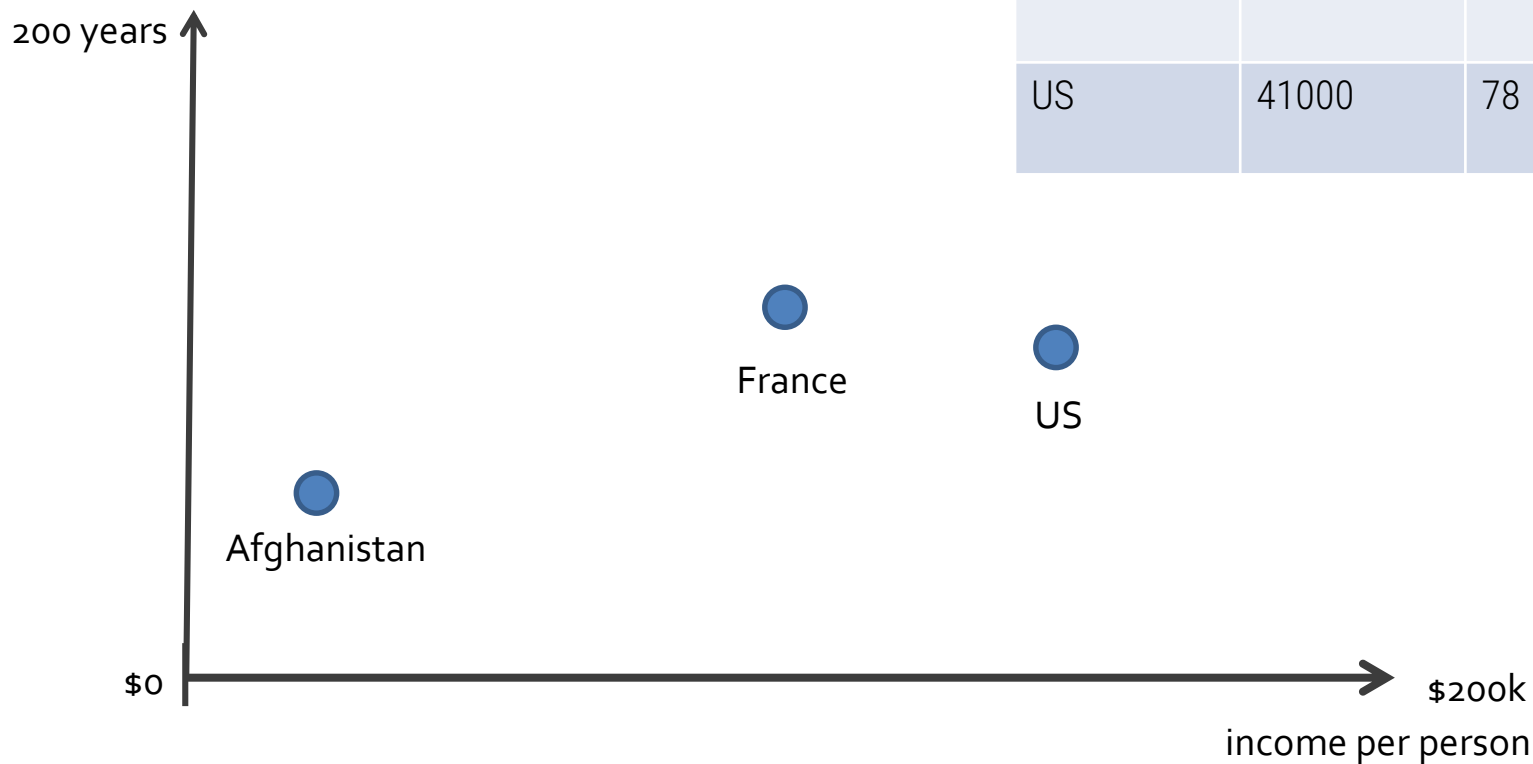
Country	Income per person	Life expectancy
Afghanistan	850	57
France	29500	81
US	41000	78

How do we extend this to 3 data attributes?



# 1. FIND A LAYOUT

Country	Income per person	Life expectancy
Afghanistan	850	57
France	29500	81
US	41000	78

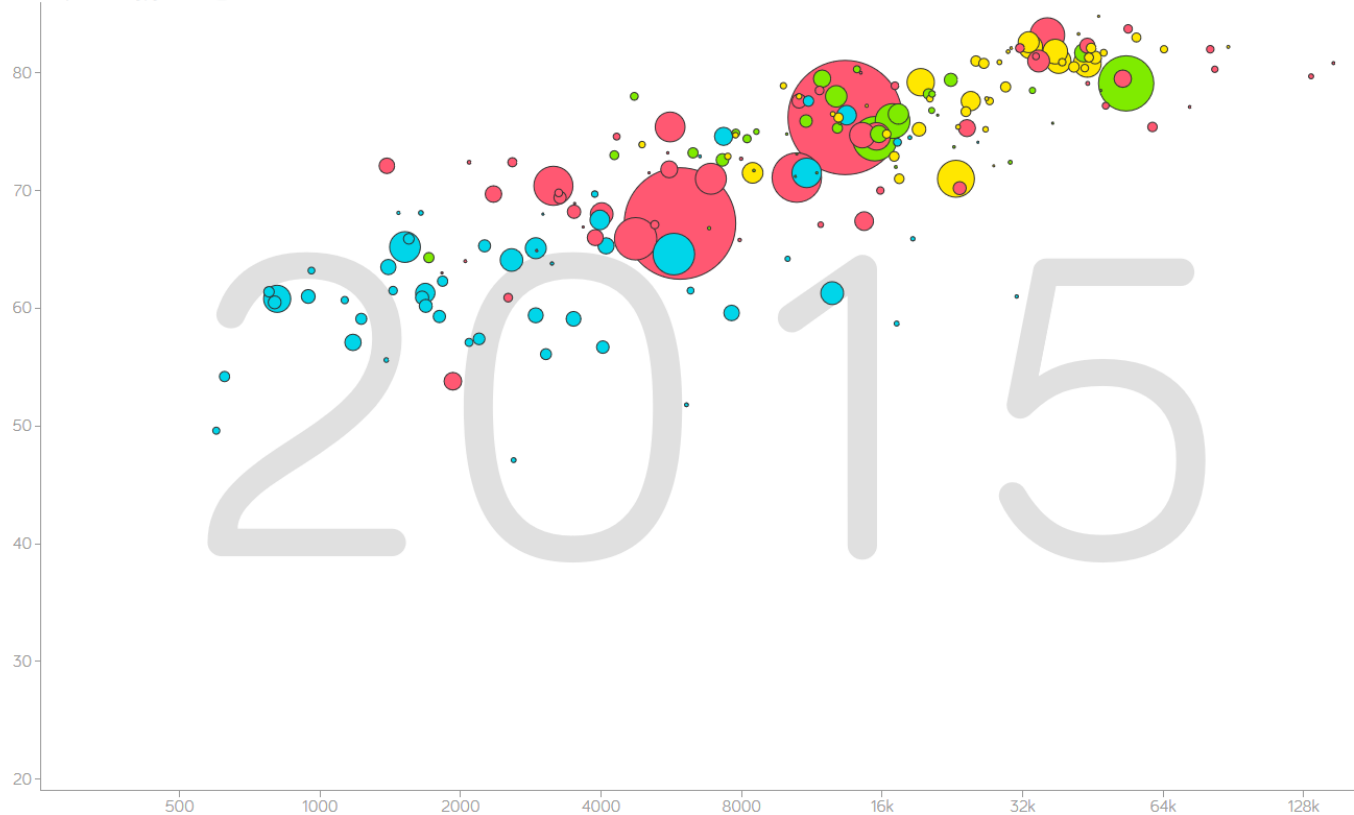




# SCATTERPLOTS

- two quantitative values
- horizontal and vertical spatial dimensions
- mark type = point

Life expectancy, years ?



Income per person, GDP/capita in \$/year adjusted for inflation &amp; prices ?

DATA DOUBTS

Color World Regions ?



Select Search...

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ Andorra
- ☐ Angola
- ☐ Antigua and Barbuda
- ☐ Argentina
- ☐ Armenia
- ☐ Aruba
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Azerbaijan
- ☐ Bahamas
- ☐ Bahrain
- ☐ Bangladesh
- ☐ Barbados
- ☐ Belarus
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Belize
- ☐ Benin

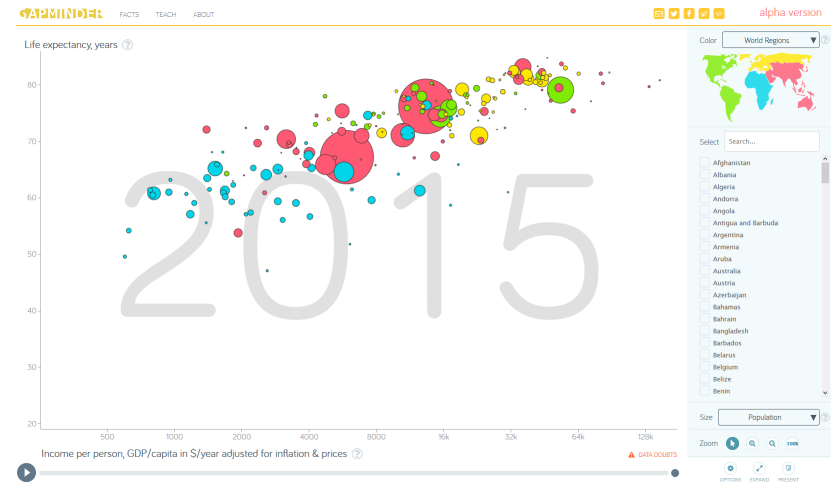
Size Population ?

Zoom    100% OPTIONS  EXPAND  PRESENT

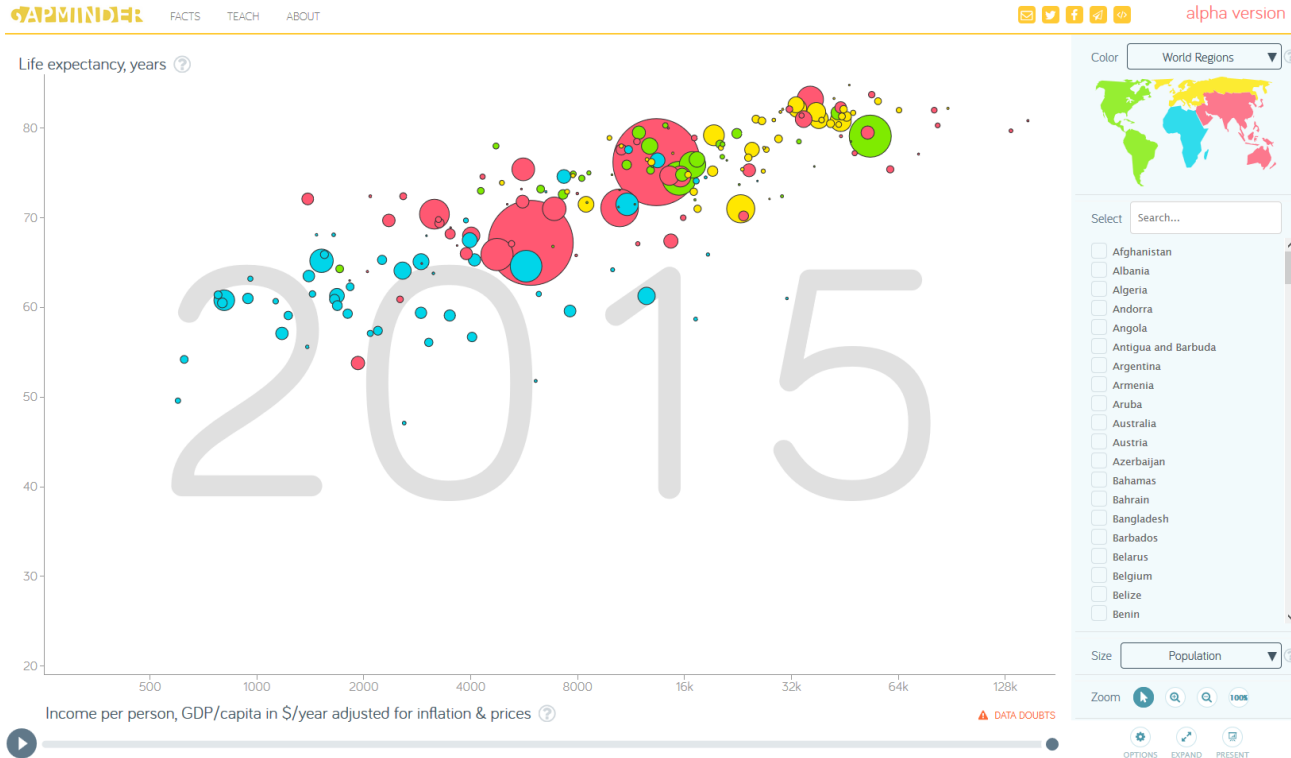
when marks are sized, the chart is often called a bubble chart or bubble plot

# TASKS

- find trends
- find outliers
- show distribution
- show correlation
- locate clusters



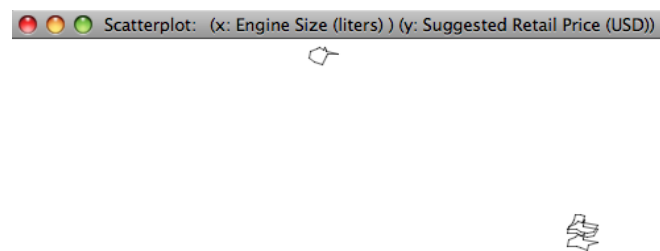
# how many items are reasonable to put on a scatterplot?



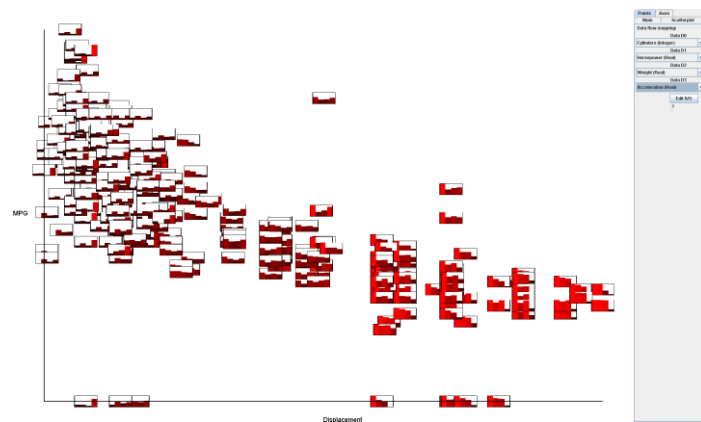
# GLYPHS

marks can be replaced with glyphs

- are themselves composed of multiple marks



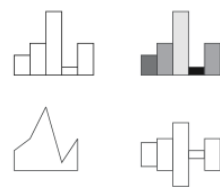
<http://rosuda.org/software/Gauguin/gauguin.html>



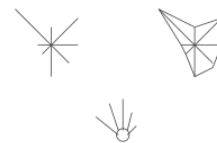
<https://engineering.purdue.edu/~elm/projects/gpuvis.html>

# GLYPHS

- Small composite visual representations of multi-dimensional data points
- Characterized generally by lack of reference structures (grid lines, axes labels, ...)



Variations on Profile glyphs



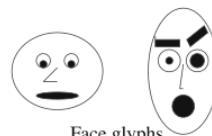
Stars and Anderson/metroglyphs



Sticks and Trees



Autoglyph and box glyph



Face glyphs



Arrows and Weathervanes

From Ward, 2002

A taxonomy of glyph placement strategies for multidimensional data visualization

# EXAMPLE: CHERNOFF FACES

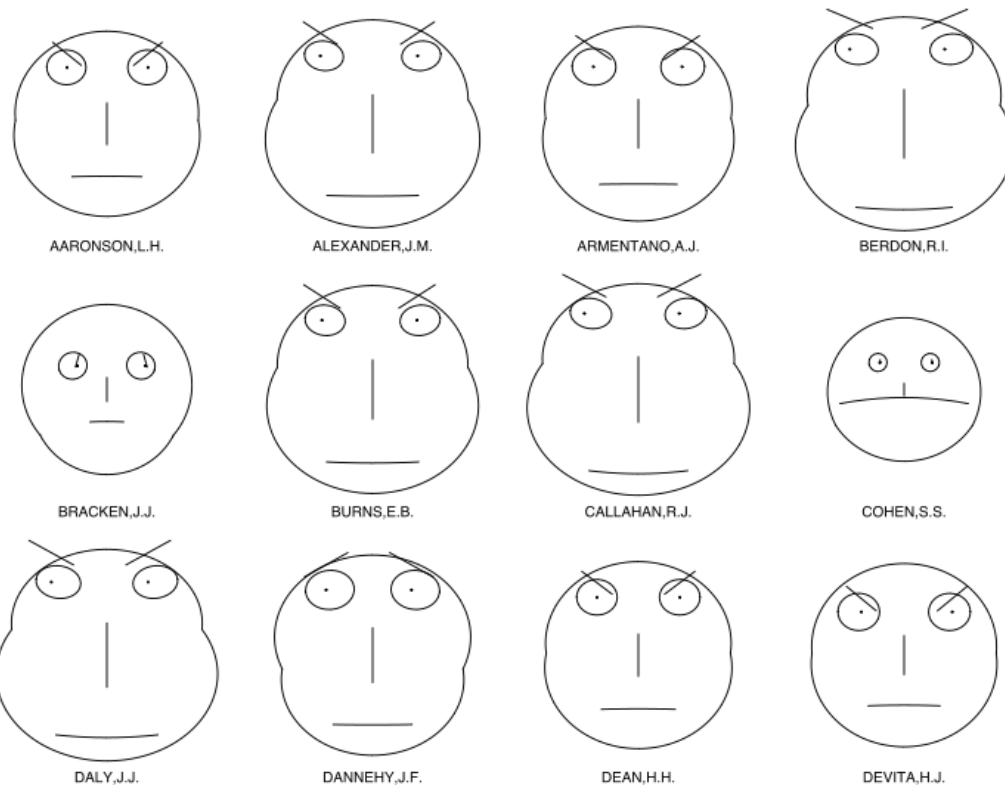
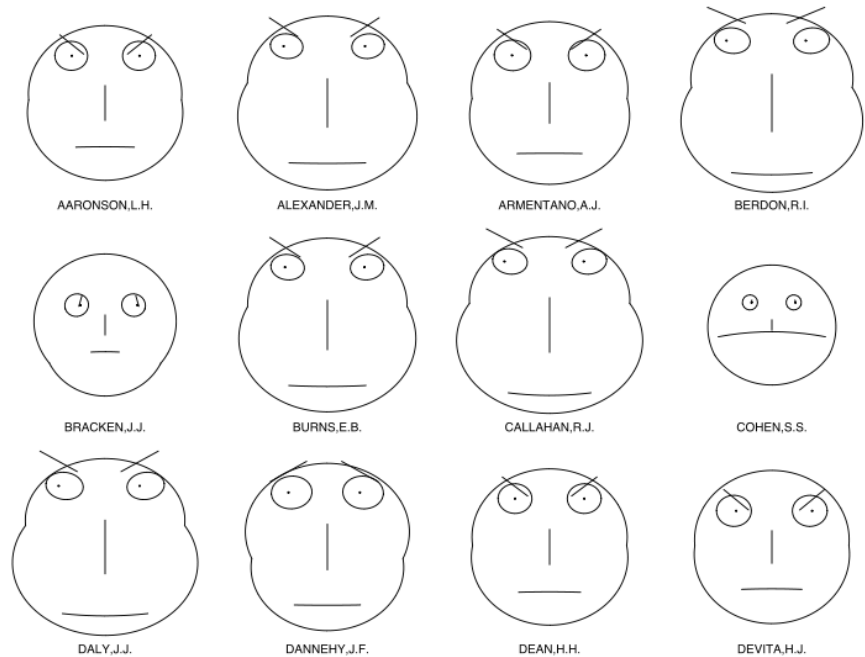


Image source: Wikipedia

Herman Chernoff, [The Use of Faces to Represent Points in K-Dimensional Space Graphically](#), 1973.

# CHERNOFF FACES

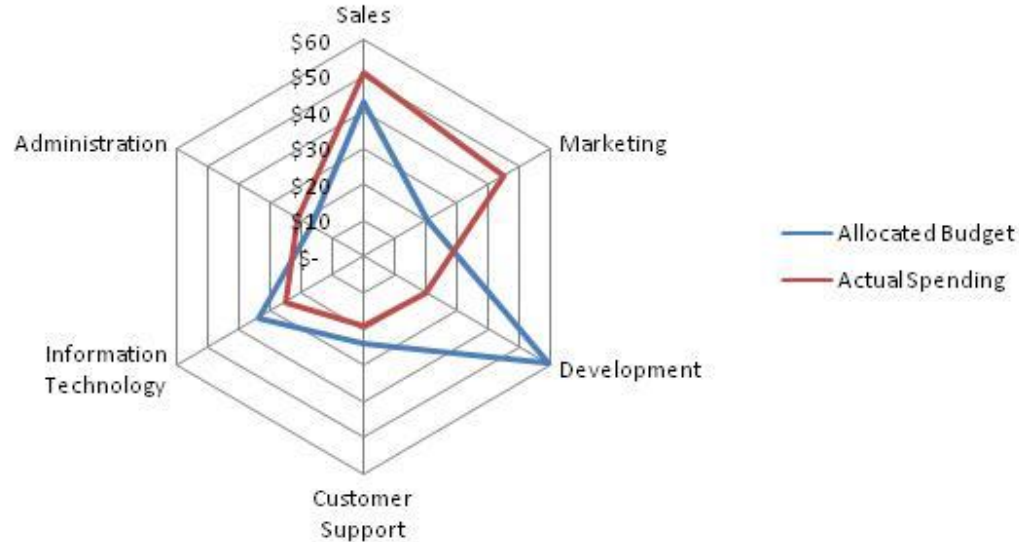
- features of a human face encode data values (e.g. slant of eye brows, size of eyes, ...)
- reasoning: humans are good at differentiating faces and reading face features
- problem: chernoff faces have generally been found not to be very effective



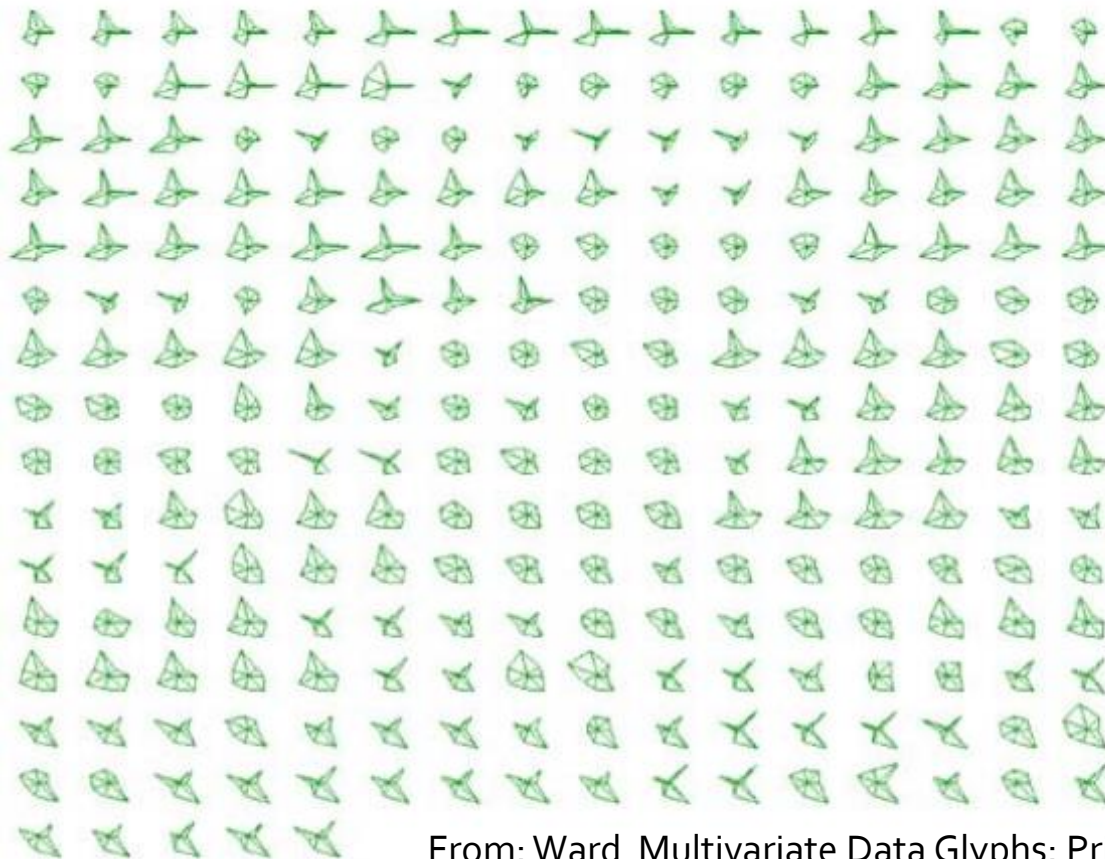


# EXAMPLE: STAR GLYPHS

- Lay out dimension in radial fashion
- Draw each point as a ring



# STAR GLYPHS



From: Ward Multivariate Data Glyphs: Principles and Practice. Handbook of Data Visualization (2008)

# SHOW CATEGORICAL REGIONS

Separate, Order, and Align

# CATEGORICAL

- spatial position is an ordered magnitude visual channel
- categorical attributes are unordered identities (no magnitude)
- cannot be encoded with spatial position
- BUT: can be expressed with a spatial region

# REGIONS

- contiguous bounded areas
- distinct from one another
- need to be separated, ordered, and aligned



# LIST ALIGNMENT

ONE KEY

# LIST ALIGNMENT

separate into regions by key

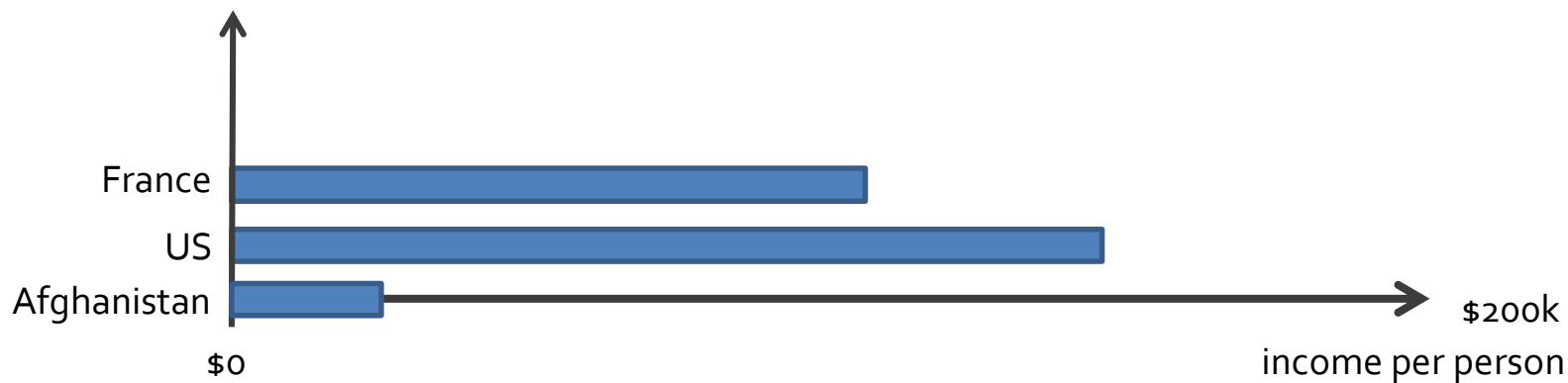
E.g. length + rectangle

*Ok, this is weird*



# ALIGN

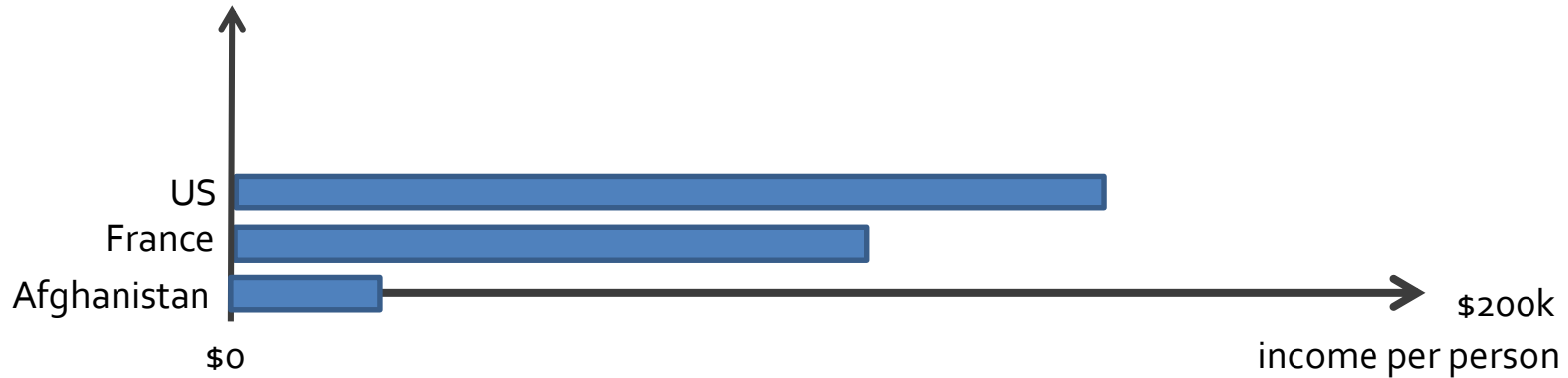
align regions of key categorical values along one axis in a common frame





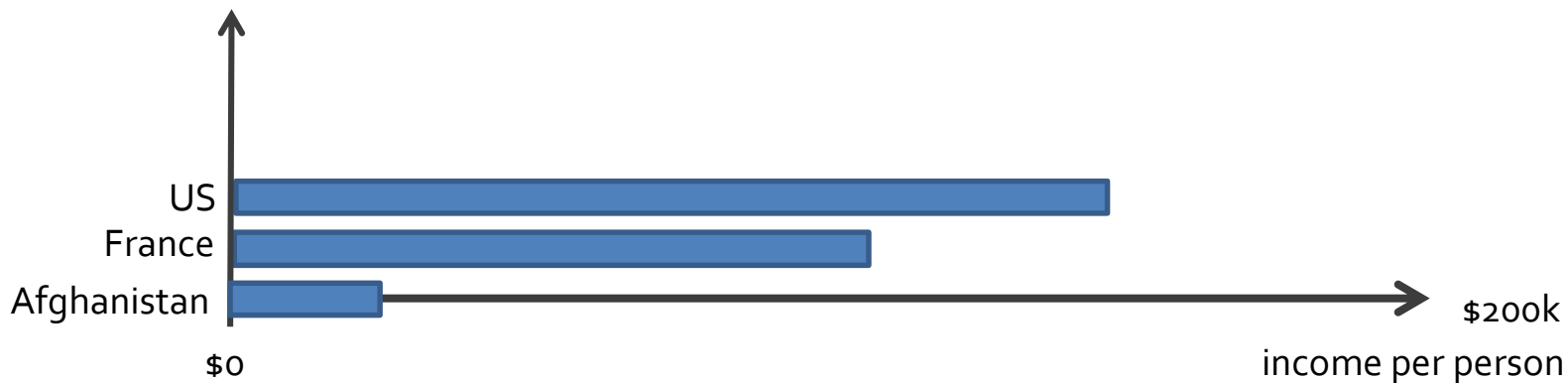
# ORDER

- using a derived attribute such as alphabet
- and/or using dependent data values

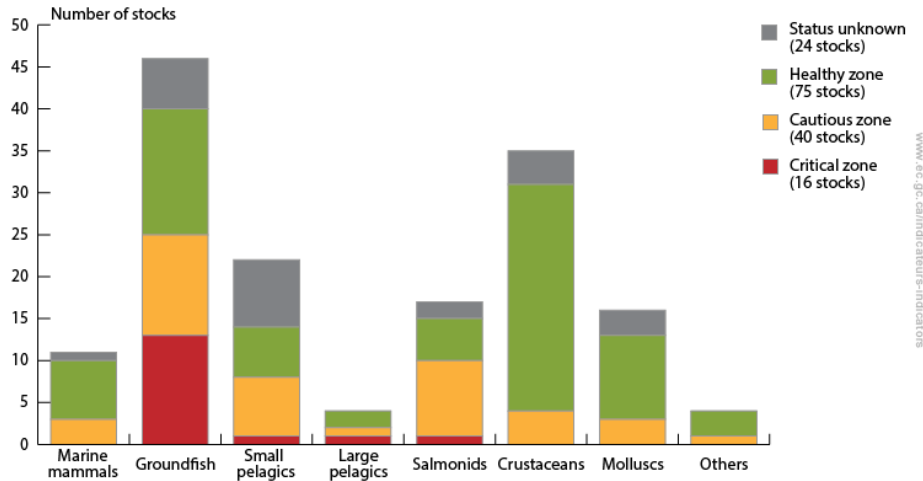


# BAR CHARTS

DATA	one quantitative value attribute, one categorical key attribute
ENCODE	line marks, express value attribute with aligned vertical position (length), separate key attribute with horizontal position
TASK	lookup and compare values
SCALE	key attribute: dozens to hundreds of levels



# ALTERNATIVE

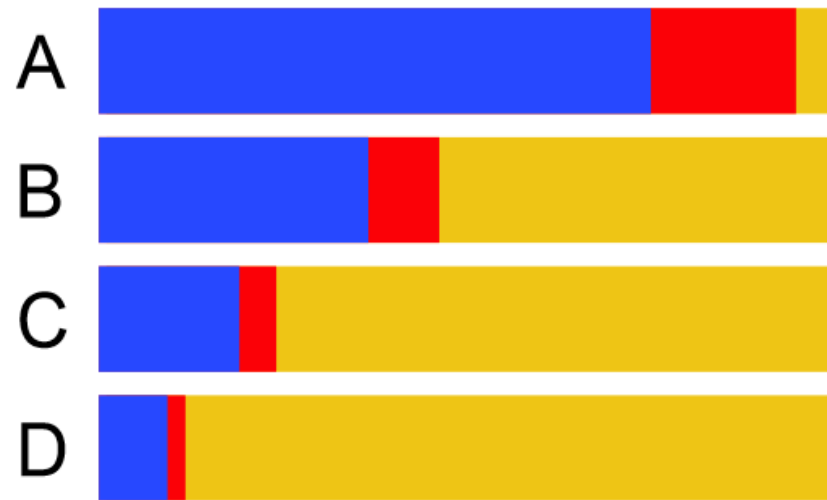
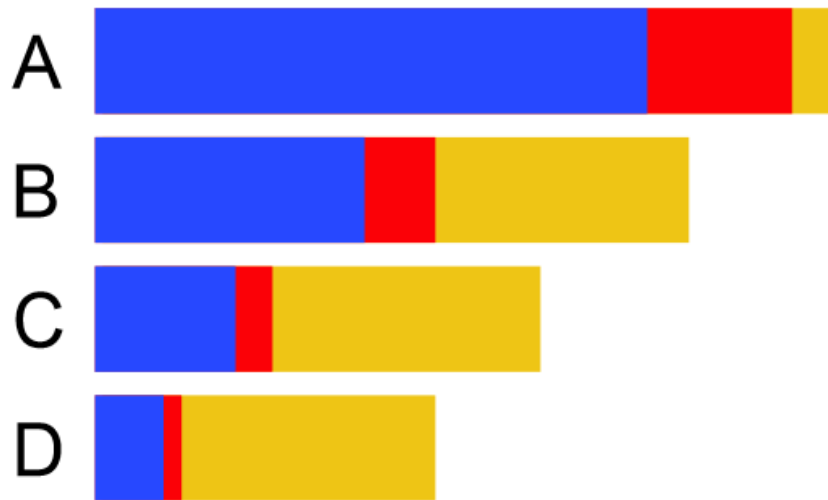


<https://www.ec.gc.ca/indicateurs-indicators/default.asp?lang=en&n=1BCD421B-1>

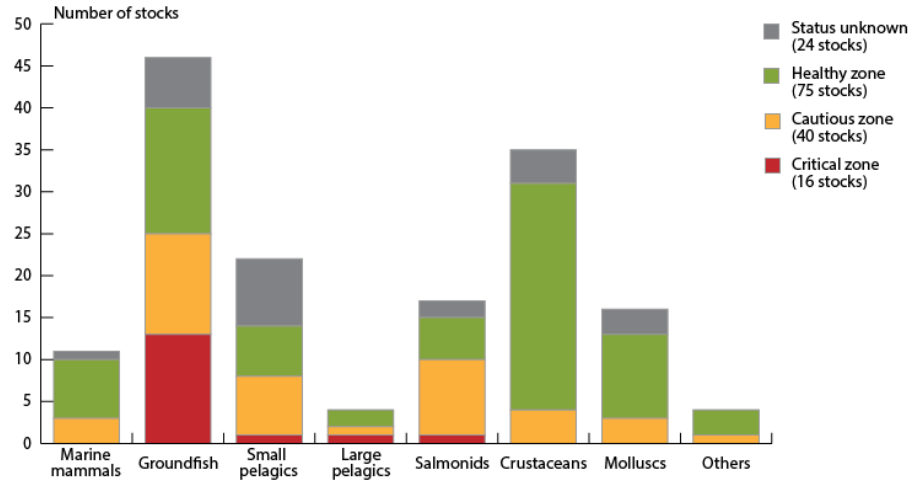
## Stacked bar chart

- each bar is a composite glyph
- each bar part encodes a value
- composite glyphs arranged as a list according to primary key
- color used to distinguish secondary key
- typically used for absolute values (use a normalized stacked bar for proportions)

# STACKED BARS VS. NORMALIZED STACKED BARS



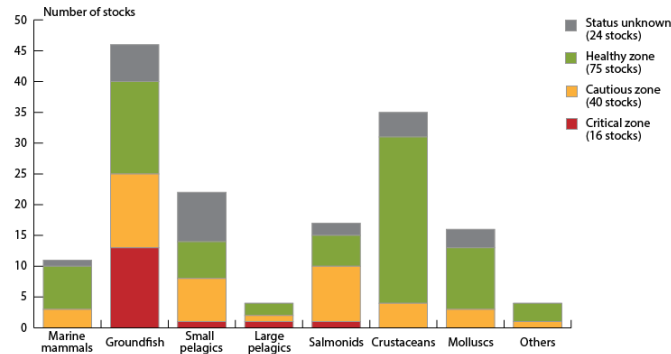
# STACKED BARS



- ADVANTAGE
  - can compare totals and lowest level well
- DISADVANTAGE
  - upper levels of secondary key require comparison against non-aligned scale

# STACKED BARS

DATA	MD table; one quantitative value attribute, two categorical key attributes
ENCODE	bar glyph: length-encoded subcomponents for each level of secondary key attribute separate bars by category of primary key
TASK	part-to-whole relationship, lookup values, find trends
SCALE	key attribute (main axis): dozens to hundreds of levels key attribute (stacked glyph axis): several to one dozen



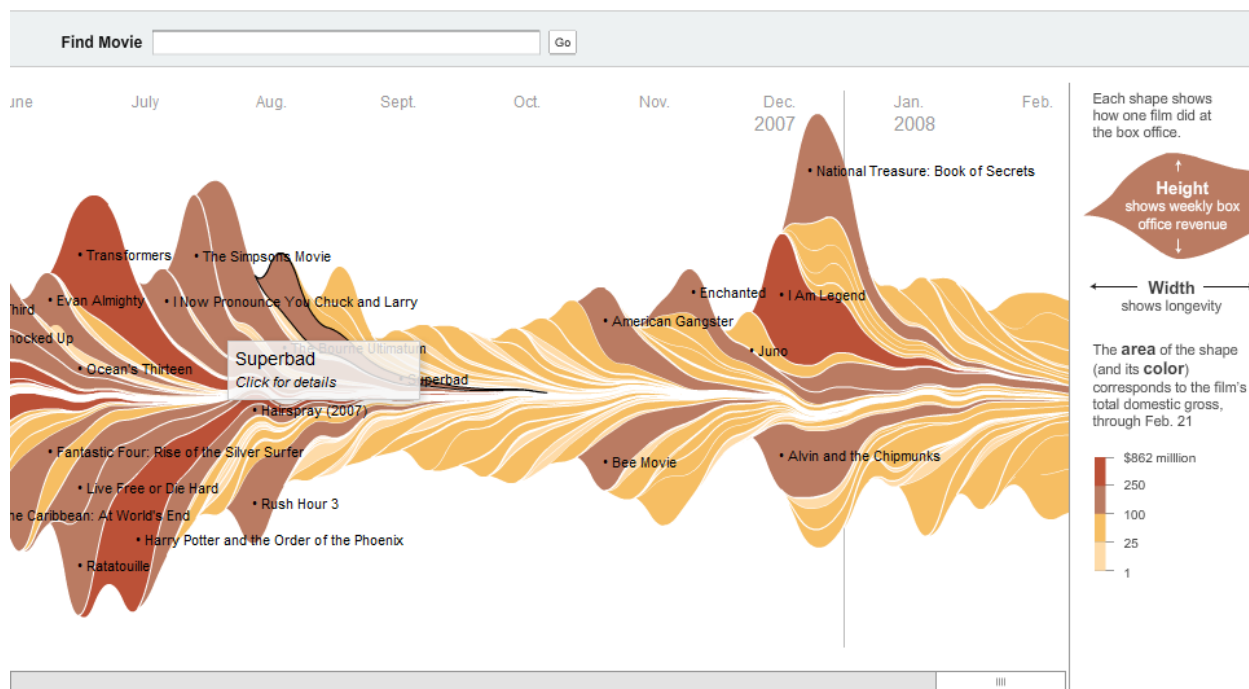
# STREAMGRAPH

February 23, 2008

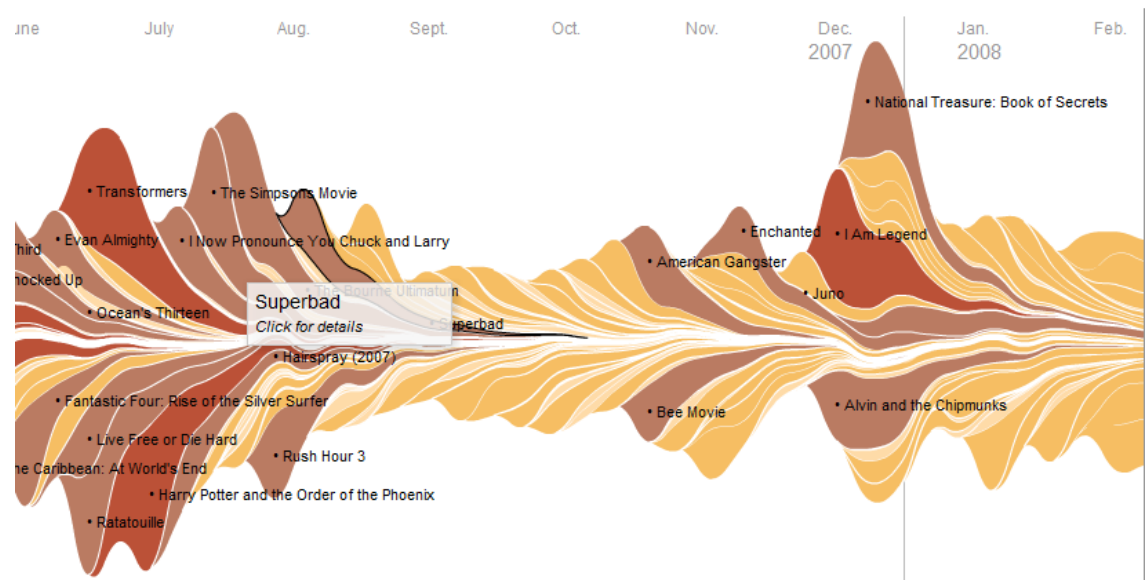
☒ SIGN IN TO E-MAIL OR SAVE THIS | [FEEDBACK](#)

## The Ebb and Flow of Movies: Box Office Receipts 1986 — 2008

Summer blockbusters and holiday hits make up the bulk of box office revenue each year, while contenders for the Oscars tend to attract smaller audiences that build over time. Here's a look at how movies have fared at the box office, after adjusting for inflation.

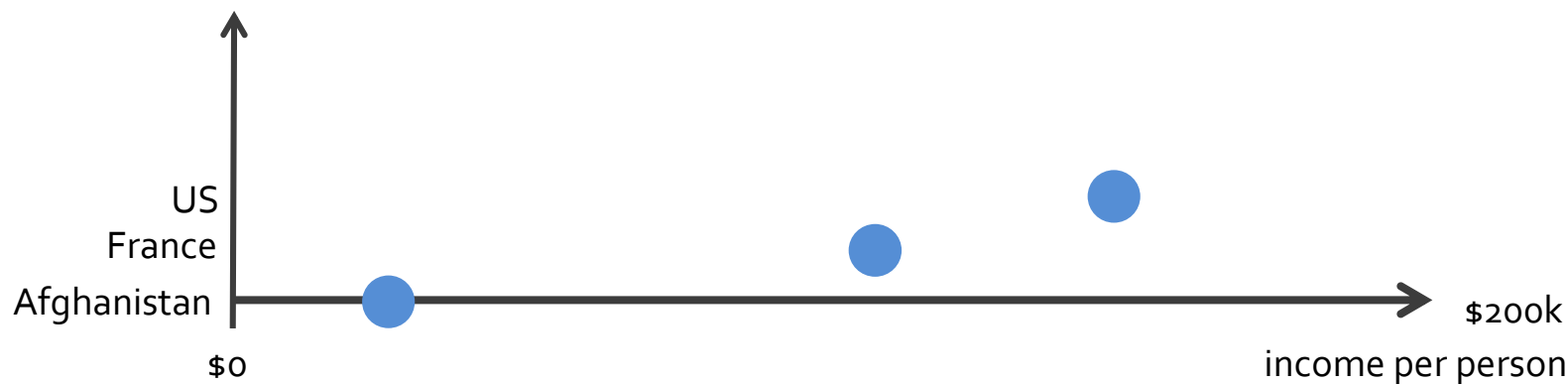
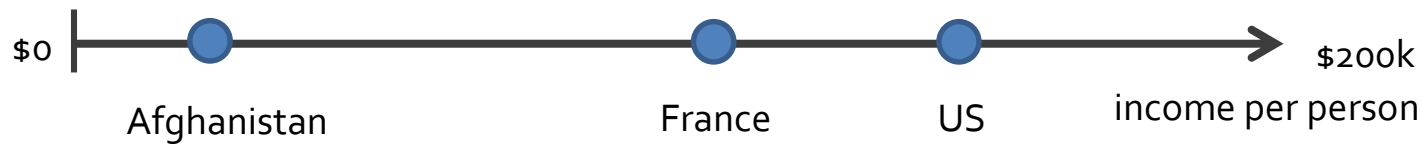


DATA	MD table; one quantitative value attribute (e.g. counts), one ordered key attribute (e.g. time), one categorical key attribute (e.g. film)
DERIVE	order of layers is derived from a quantitative attribute
ENCODE	use derived geometry to show layers across time, layer height encodes count
SCALE	key attributes (time, main axis): hundreds of time points key attributes (short axis): dozens to hundreds



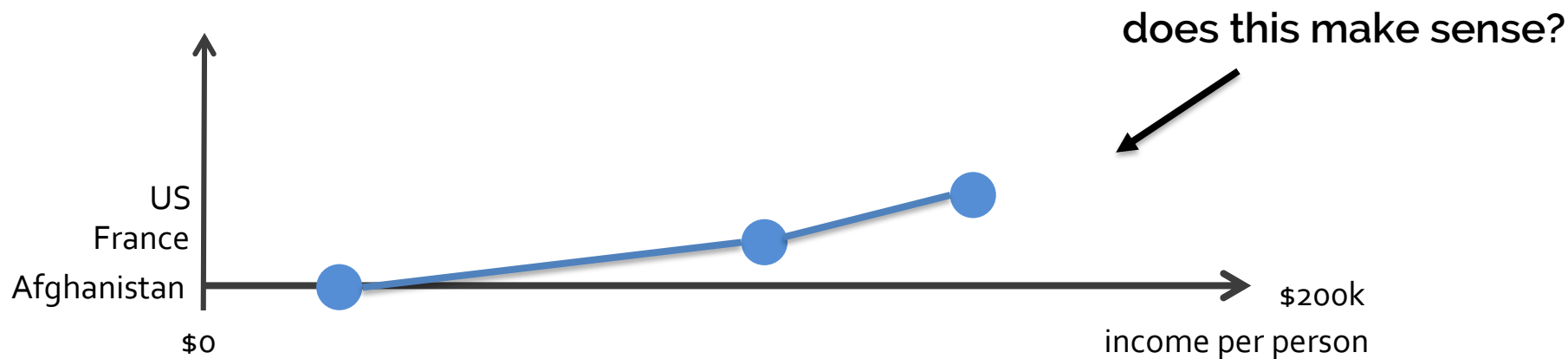


# DOT CHART/PLOT

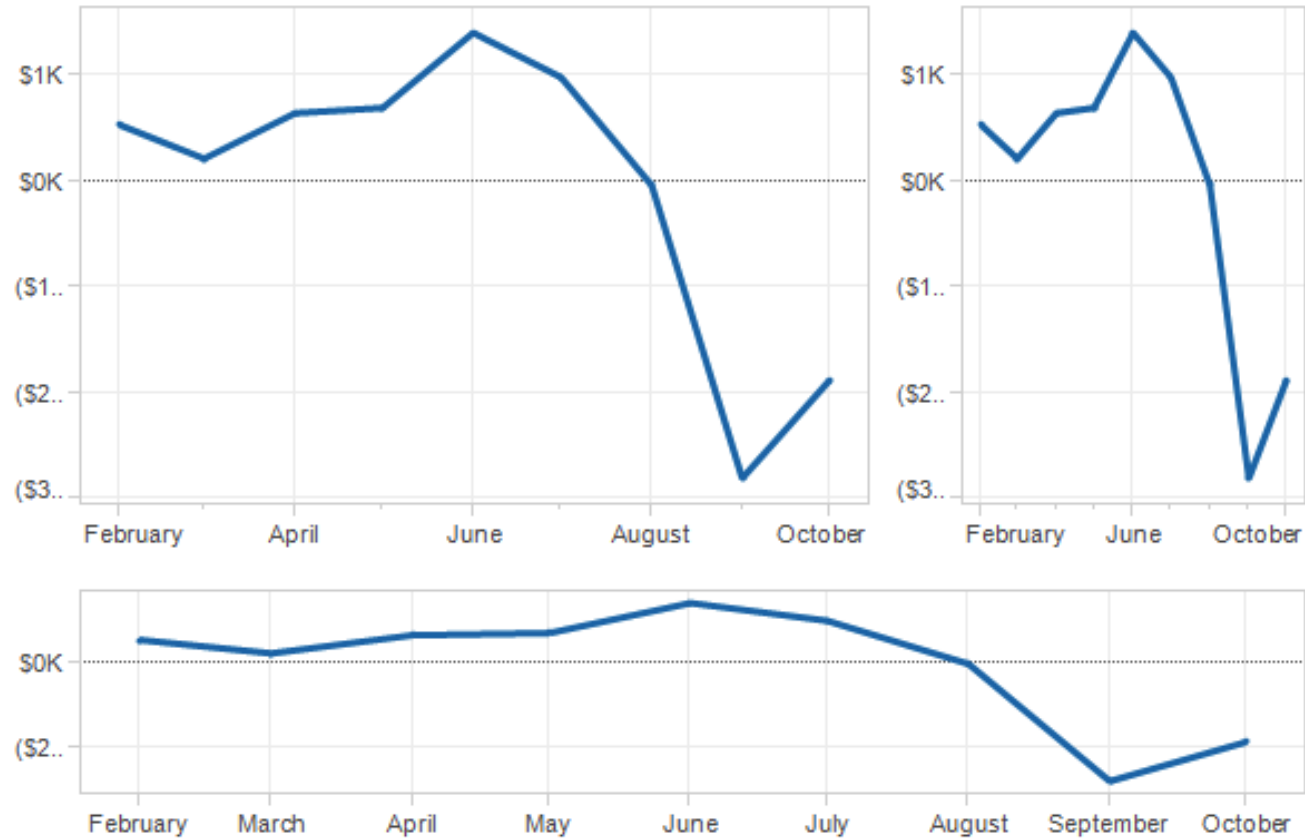


# LINE CHART

augment with line connection marks  
emphasize the ordering and show trends  
should not be used with categorical keys



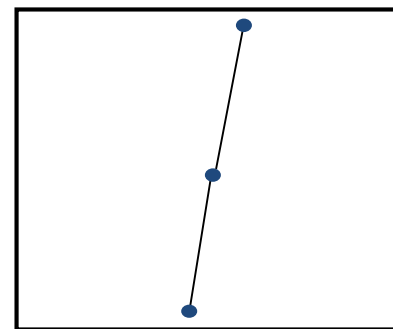
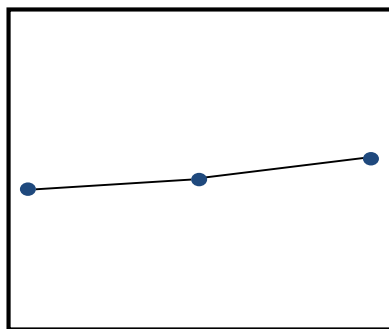
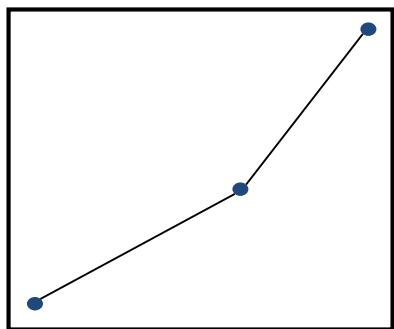
# ASPECT RATIO SELECTION



# BANKING TO 45°

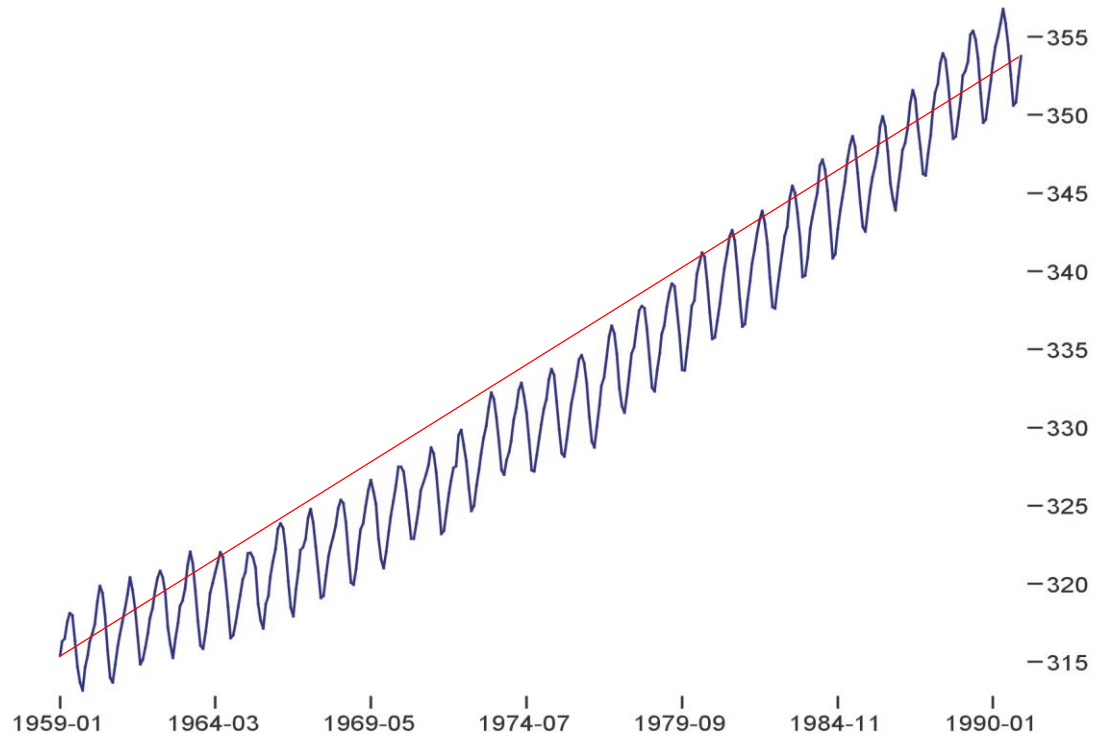
[Cleveland]

TO FACILITATE PERCEPTION OF TRENDS,  
MAXIMIZE THE DISCRIMINABILITY OF LINE  
SEGMENT ORIENTATIONS

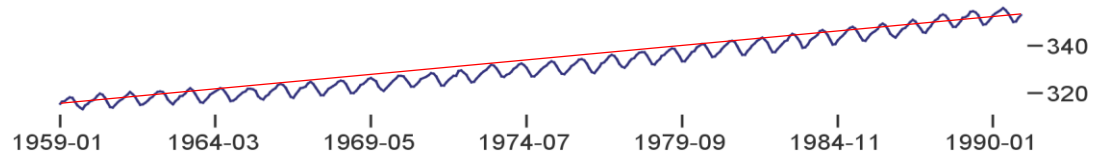


TWO SEGMENTS ARE MAXIMALLY DISCRIMINABLE WHEN THEIR  
AVG ABSOLUTE ANGLE IS 45°

OPTIMIZE THE *ASPECT RATIO* TO BANK TO 45°

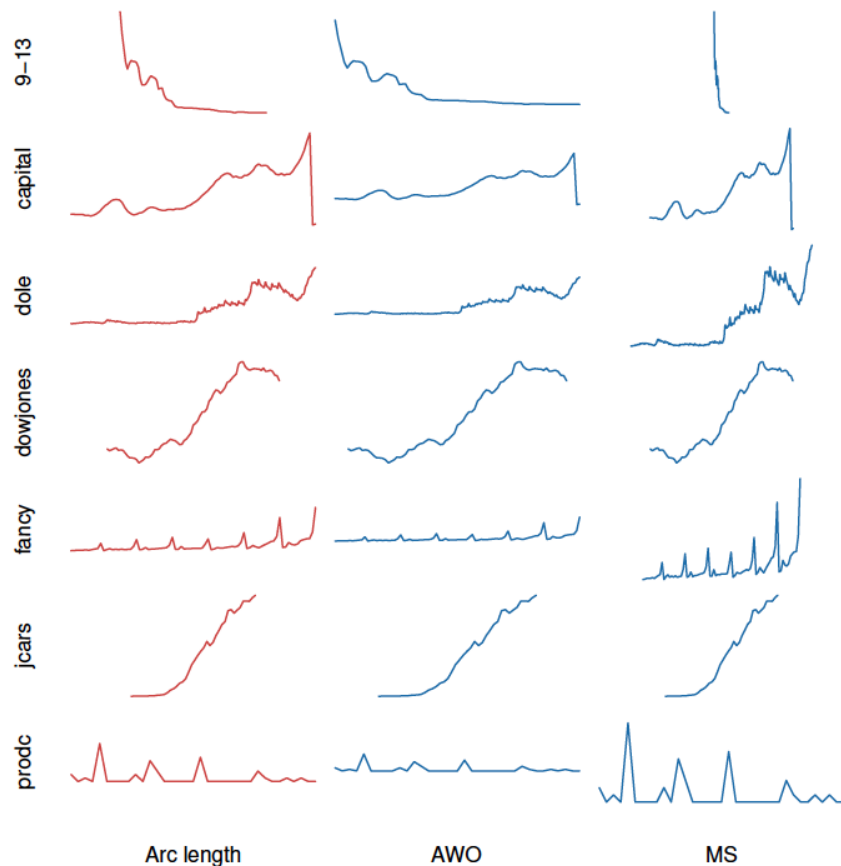


ASPECT RATIO = 1.17



ASPECT RATIO = 7.87

# ALTERNATIVE METHODS



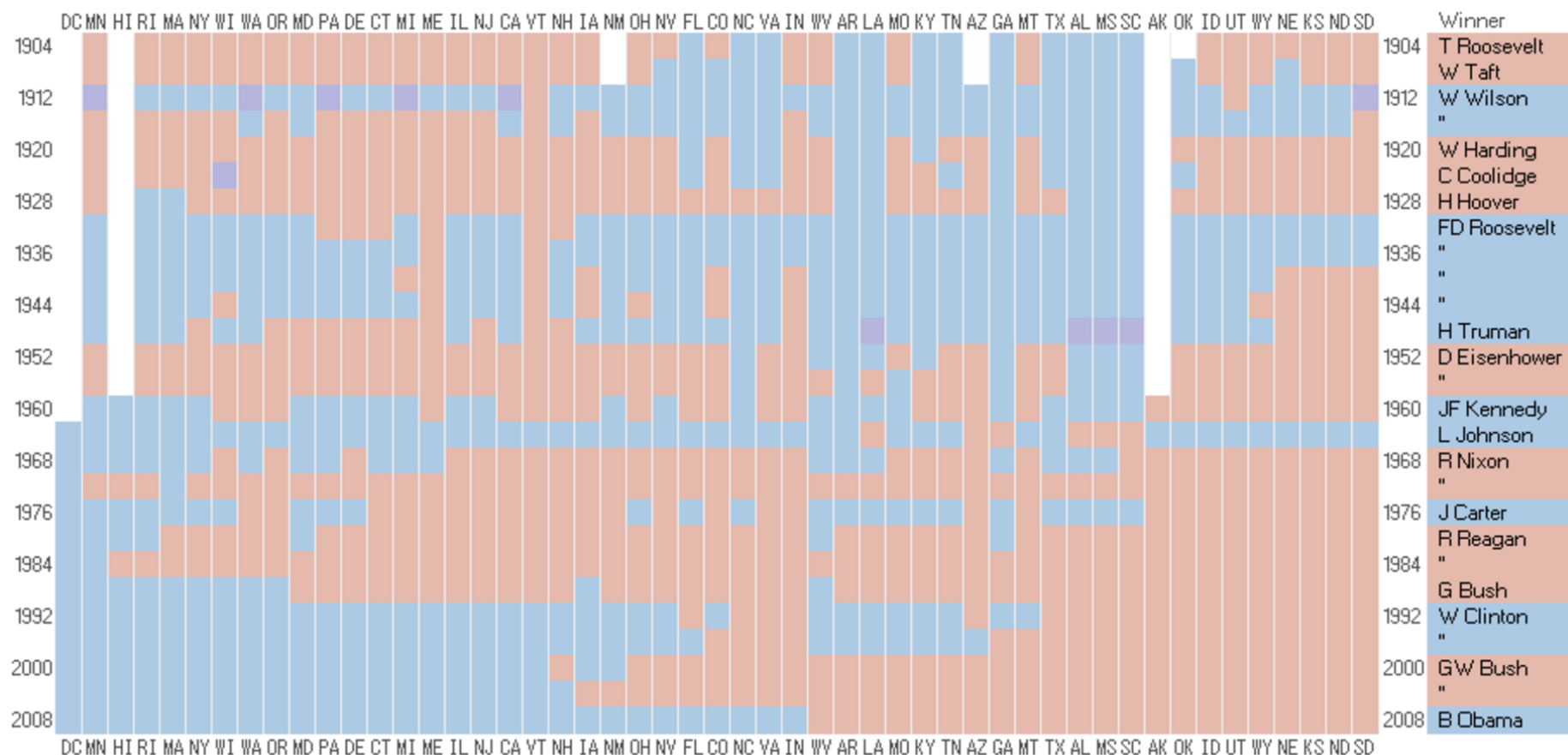
Practical advice:

CHOOSE AN **ASPECT RATIO** THAT  
EMPHASIZES THE  
IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR  
YOUR TASK

[TALBOT ET AL, 2011]

# MATRIX ALIGNMENT

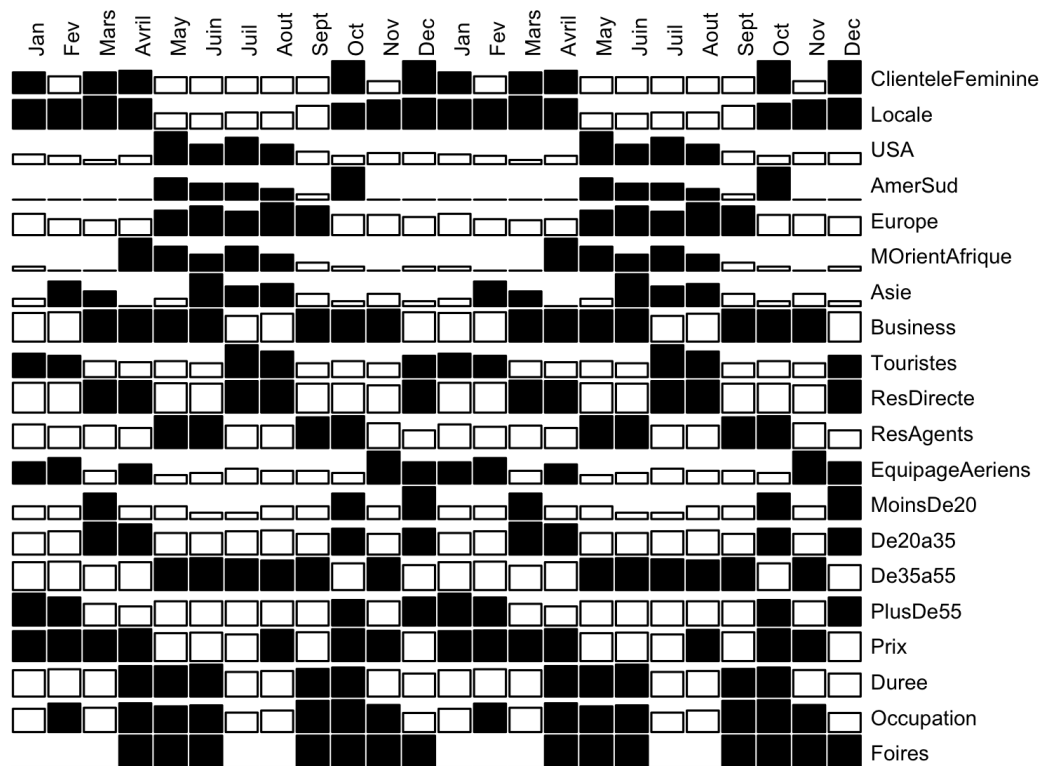
Two keys



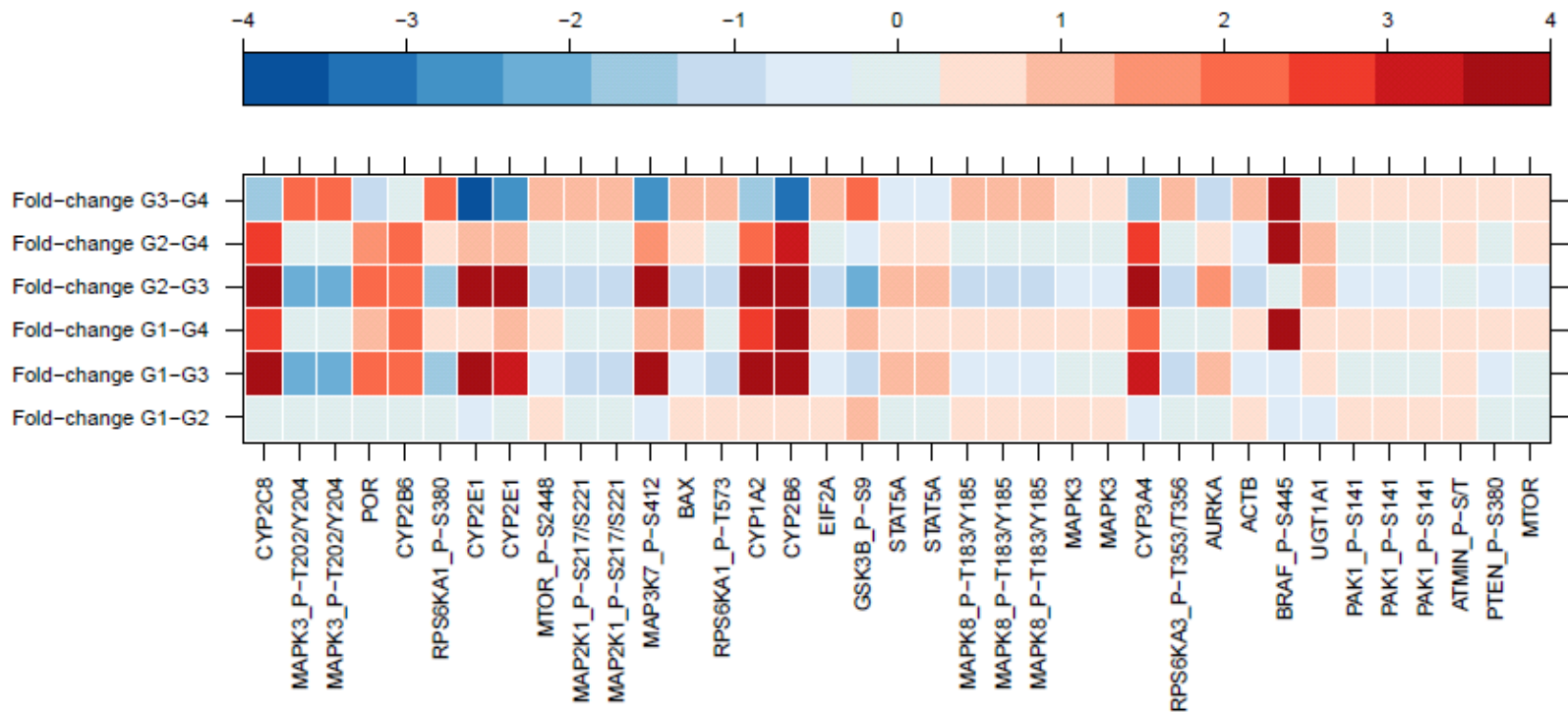


# HEATMAP

## Hotel 2

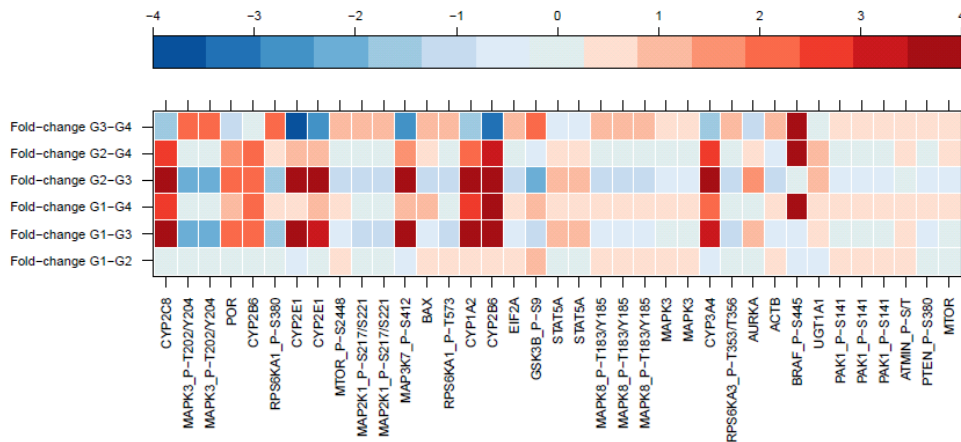


# HEATMAP

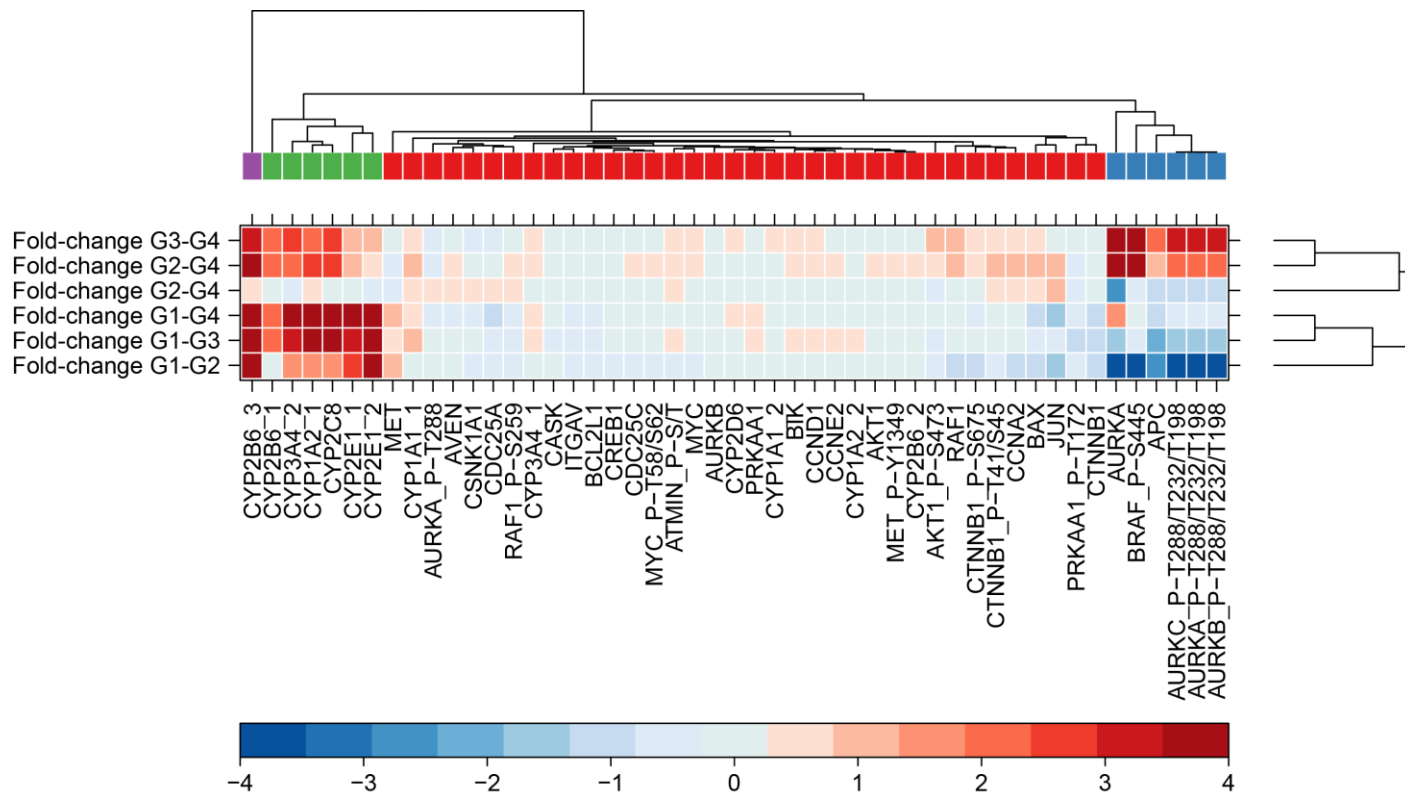


# HEATMAP

DATA	Table; two categorical key attributes, one quantitative value attribute
ENCODE	2D matrix alignment of area marks, e.g. with diverging color map
TASK	find clusters, outliers; summarize
SCALE	items: ~1 million (on 1000x1000px), categorical attribute levels: hundreds, quantitative attribute levels: 3-11



# CLUSTERED HEATMAP



# BACK TO OUR ORIGINAL EXAMPLE

Country	Income per person	Life expectancy	Children per woman
Afghanistan	850	57	7.1
France	29500	81	1.9
US	41000	78	2.1

now with 4 attributes

200 years

*Suggestions?*

\$0



Afghanistan



France



US

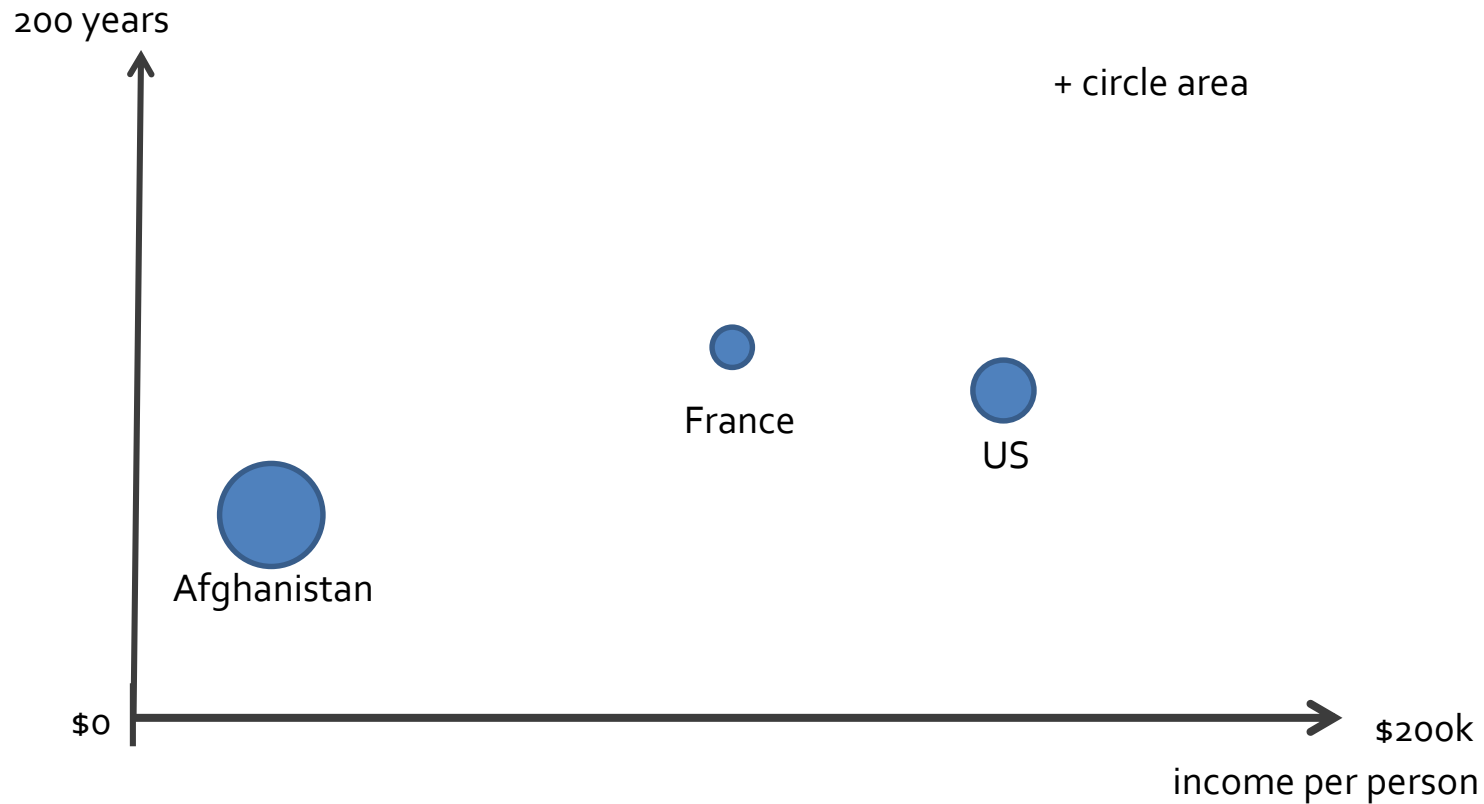


\$200k

income per person

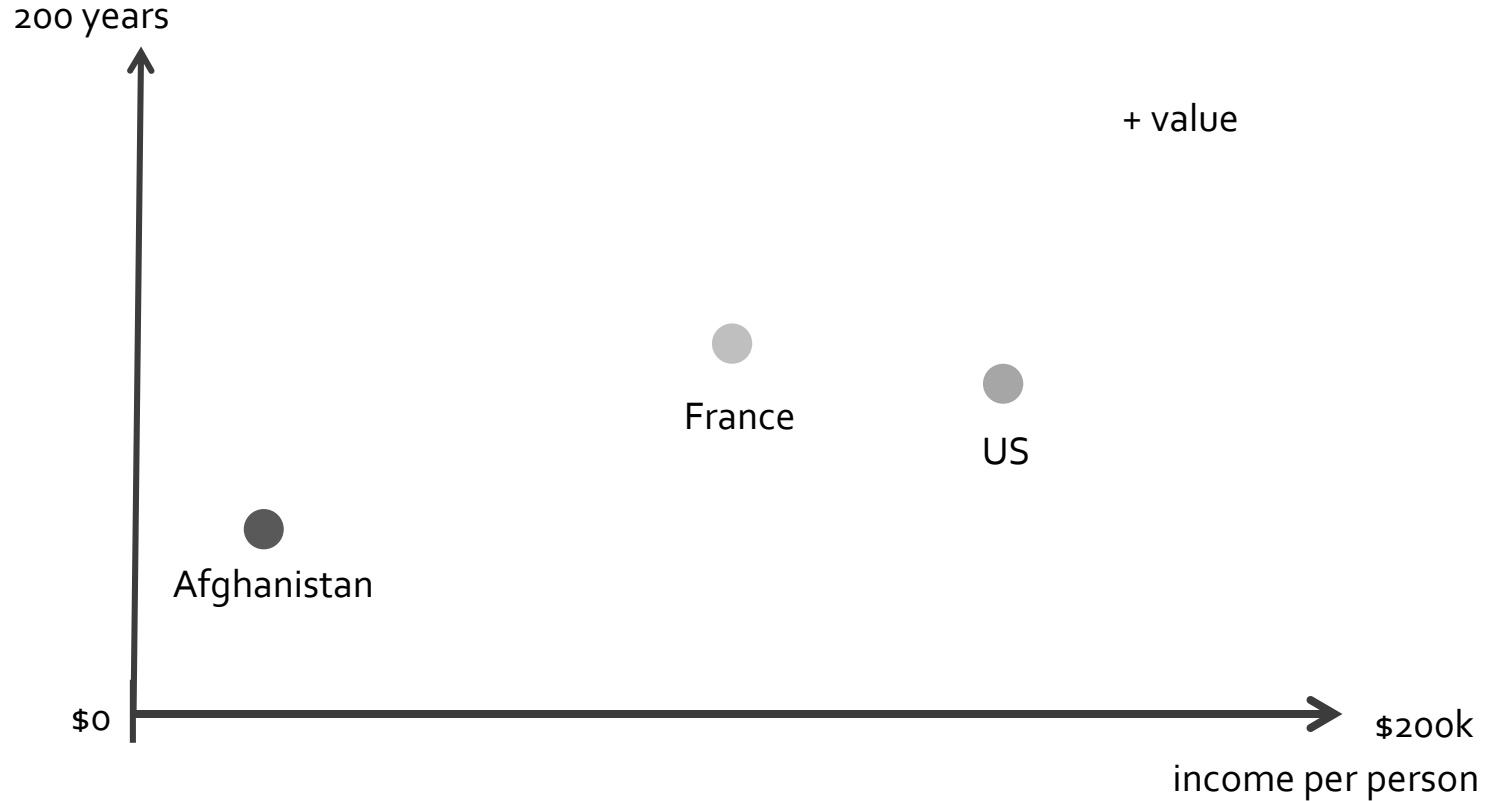
Country	Income per person	Life expectancy	Children per woman
Afghanistan	850	57	7.1
France	29500	81	1.9
US	41000	78	2.1

# ADD ANOTHER VISUAL ENCODING



Problem:  
Does not scale well to more attributes

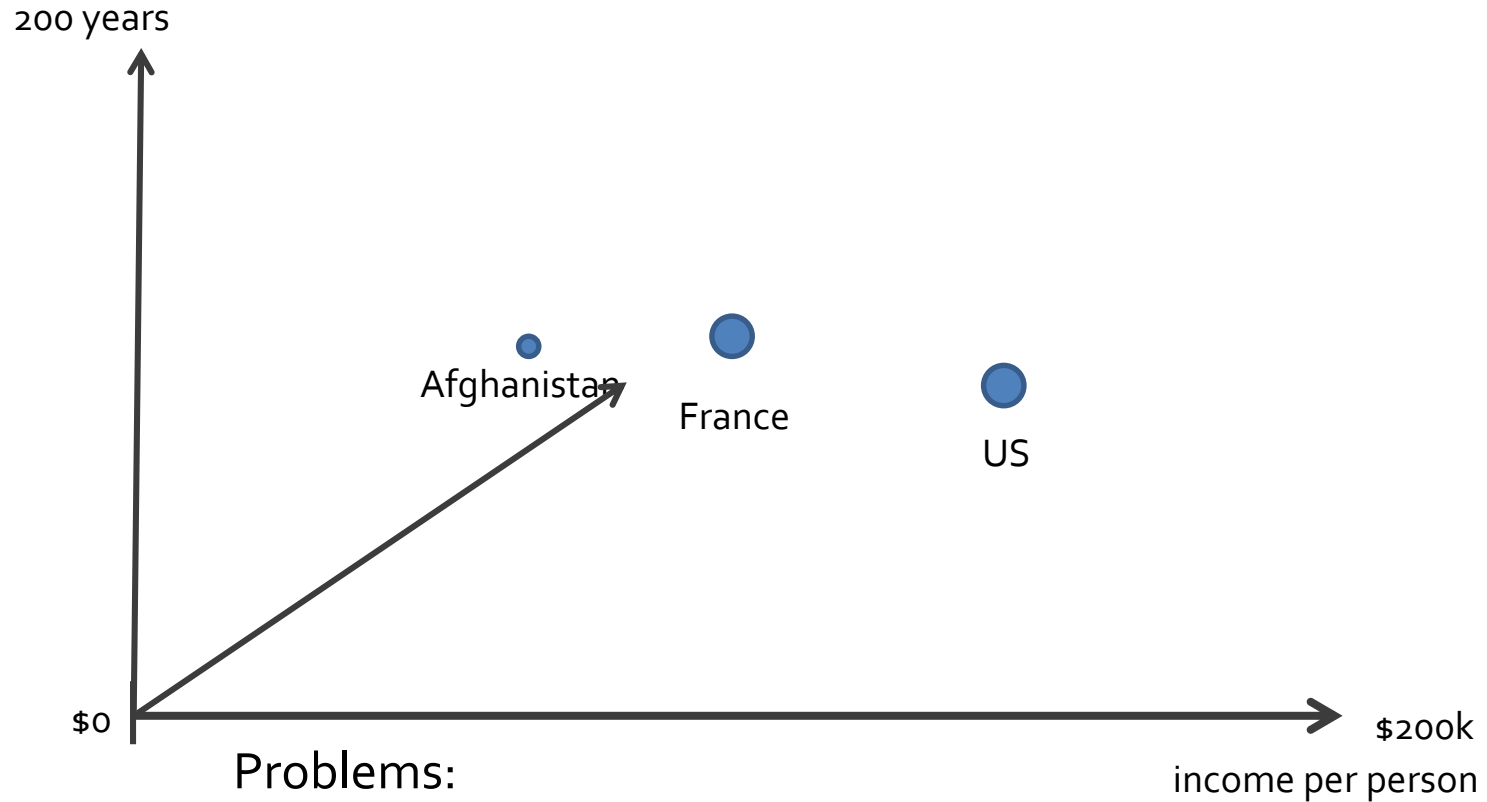
# ADD ANOTHER VISUAL ENCODING



Problem:  
Does not scale well to more attributes



# ADD AN AXIS

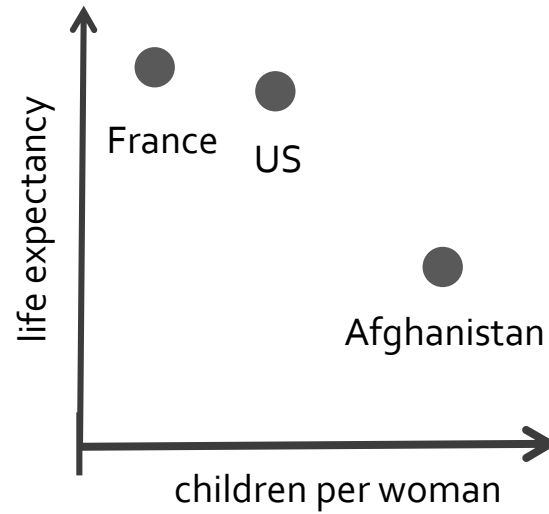
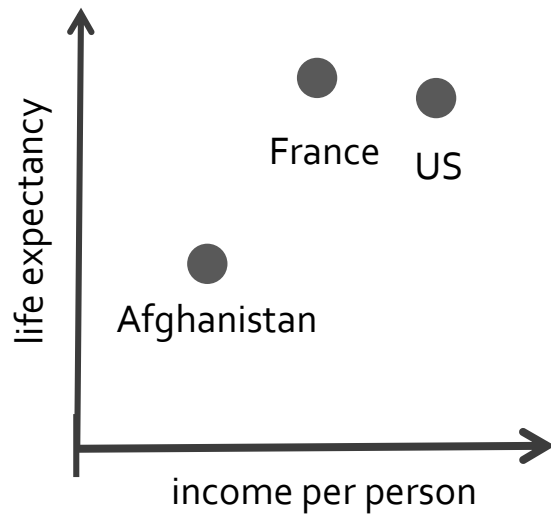


Problems:

Occlusion, perspective distortion, does not scale

→ Not usually recommended

# ADD AN AXIS



# SCATTERPLOT MATRIX

This idea scales relatively well

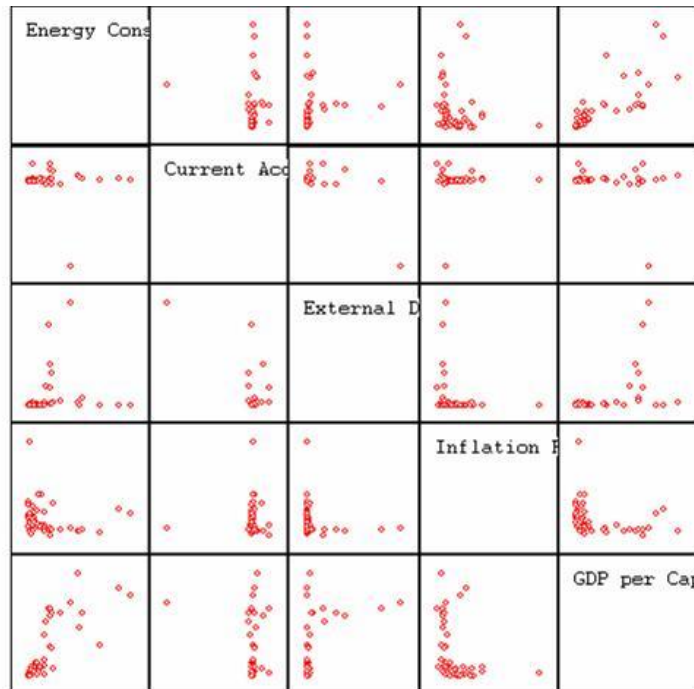


Image Source: Wikipedia

# SCATTERPLOT MATRIX

movie IMDB ID

tt1430132

Load

## The Wolverine

2013 - 2 h 6 min

### Actors

Hugh Jackman (20)

Will Yun Lee (6)

Tao Okamoto (0)

Rila Fukushima (0)

### Directors

James Mangold (6)

### Writers

Mark Bomback (6)

Scott Frank (8)

### Genres

Action (779)

Adventure (563)

Fantasy (366)

Sci-Fi (350)

### Budgets

120000000 (238)

### Producers

Hugh Jackman (2)

Tom Cohen (0)

Stan Lee (27)

Hutch Parker (1)

### Costume\_Designers

### Composers

Marco Beltrami (40)

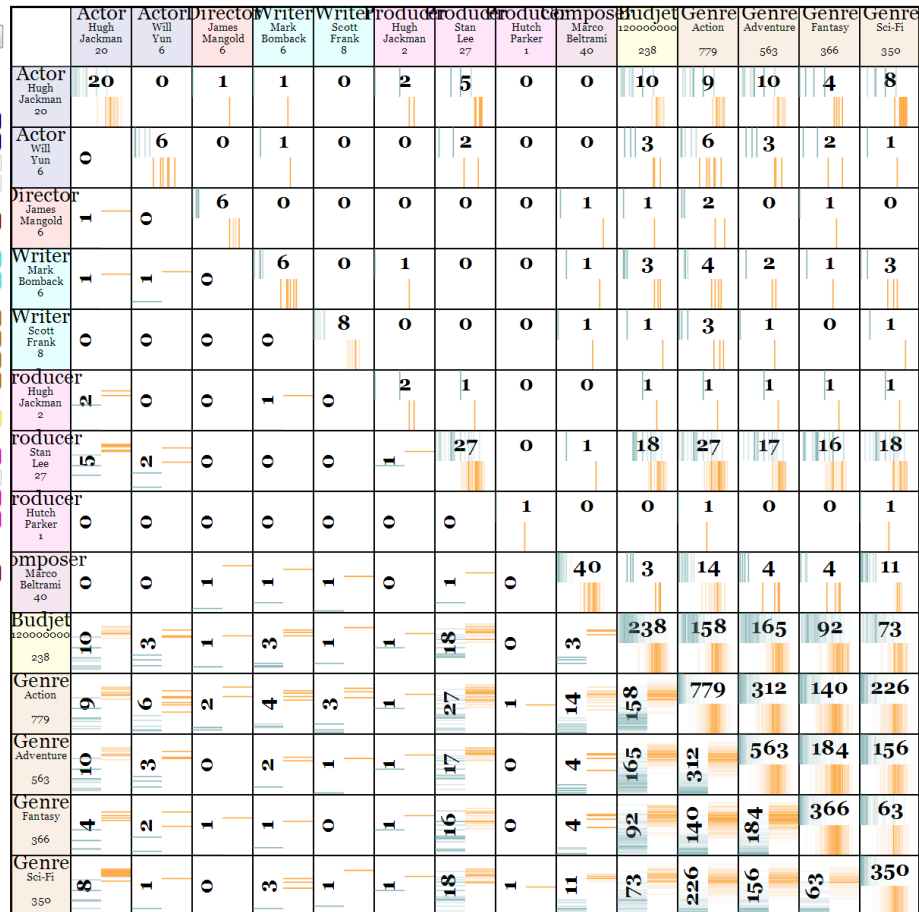
### Cinematographers

### Additional Informations

Composer

Marco Beltrami

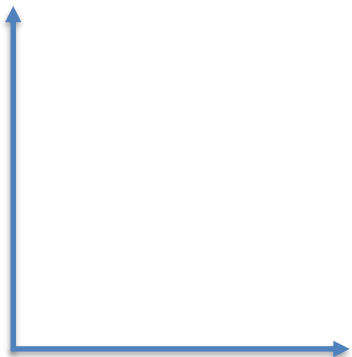
Add



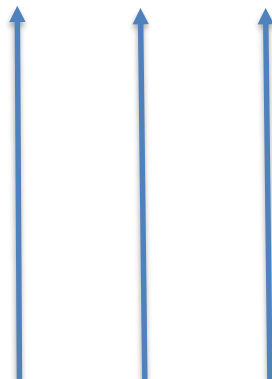
By Charles Perin

# SPATIAL AXIS ORIENTATION

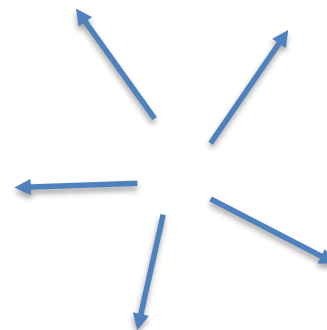
An additional design choice



rectilinear



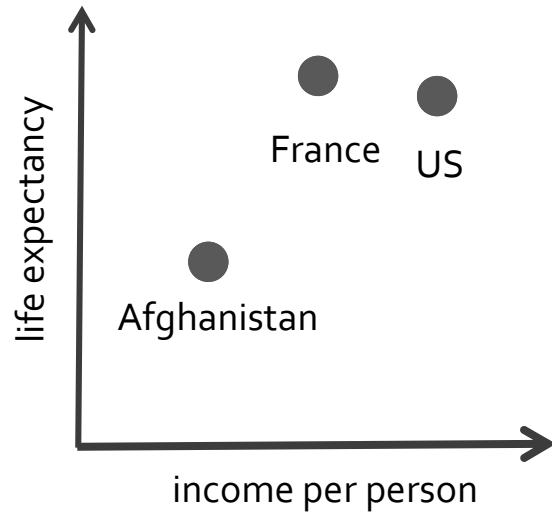
parallel



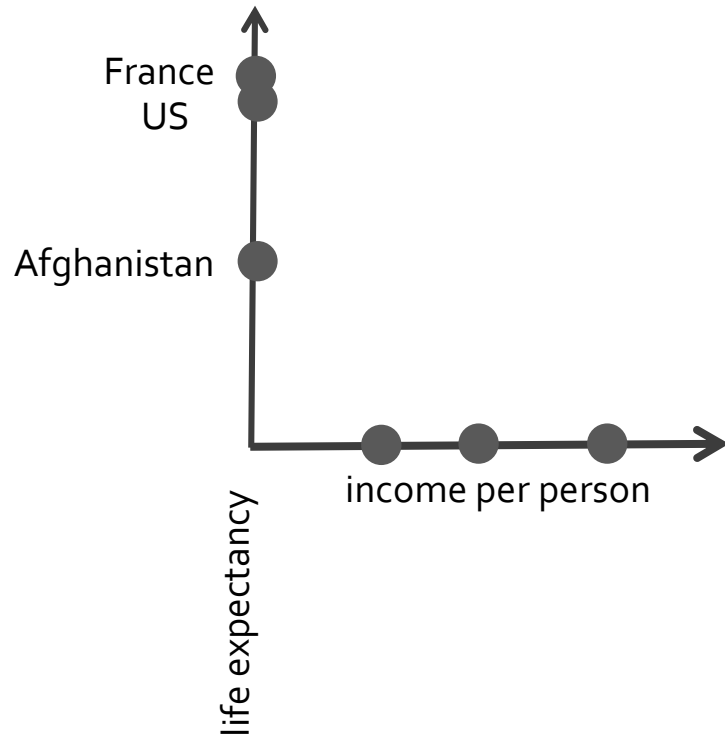
radial

# *parallel coordinates*

Back to our original example

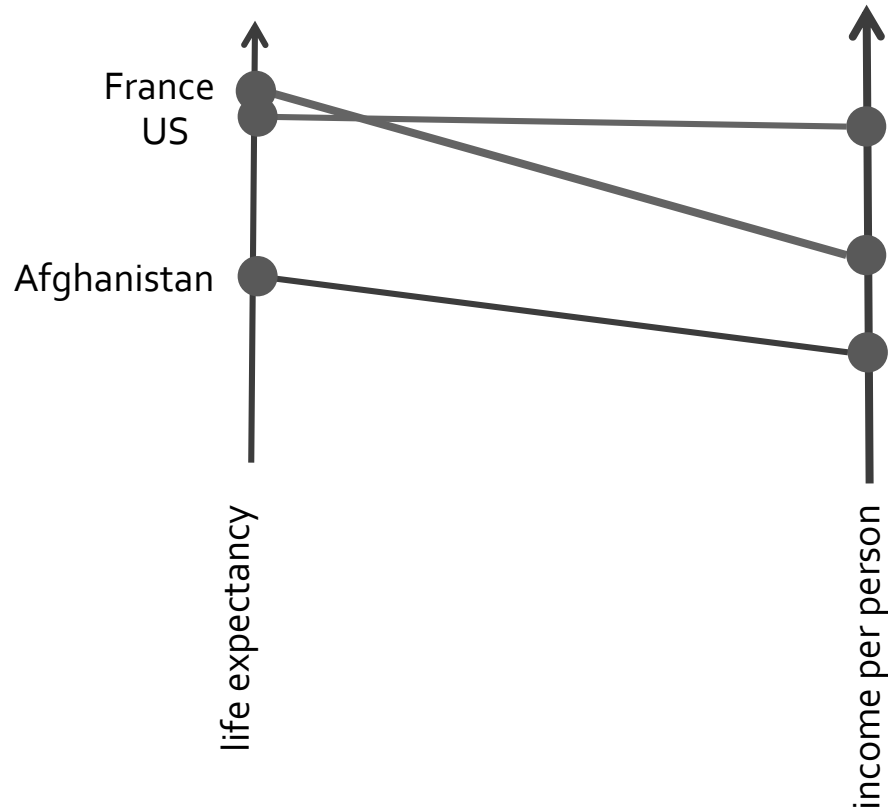


# *Parallel Coordinates*





# *parallel coordinates*



- show correlations between neighboring axes

# MULTIDIMENSIONAL DETECTIVE

Alfred Inselberg\*, Multidimensional Graphs Ltd†

&

Computer Science Department

Tel Aviv University, Israel

aiisreal@math.tau.ac.il

## Abstract

The display of multivariate datasets in parallel coordinates, transforms the search for *relations* among the variables into a 2-D pattern recognition problem. This is the basis for the application to *Visual Data Mining*. The Knowledge Discovery process together with some general guidelines are illustrated on a dataset from the production of a VLSI chip. The special strength of parallel coordinates is in modeling *relations*. As an example, a simplified Economic Model is constructed with data from various economic sectors of a real country. The visual model shows the interrelationship and dependencies between the sectors, circumstances where there is competition for the same resource, and feasible economic policies. Interactively, the model can be used to do trade-off analyses, discover sensitivities, do approximate optimization, monitor (as in a Process) and Decision Support.

## Introduction

In Geometry parallelism, which does not require a notion of angle, rather than orthogonality is the more fundamental concept. This, together with the fact that orthogonality "uses-up" the plane very

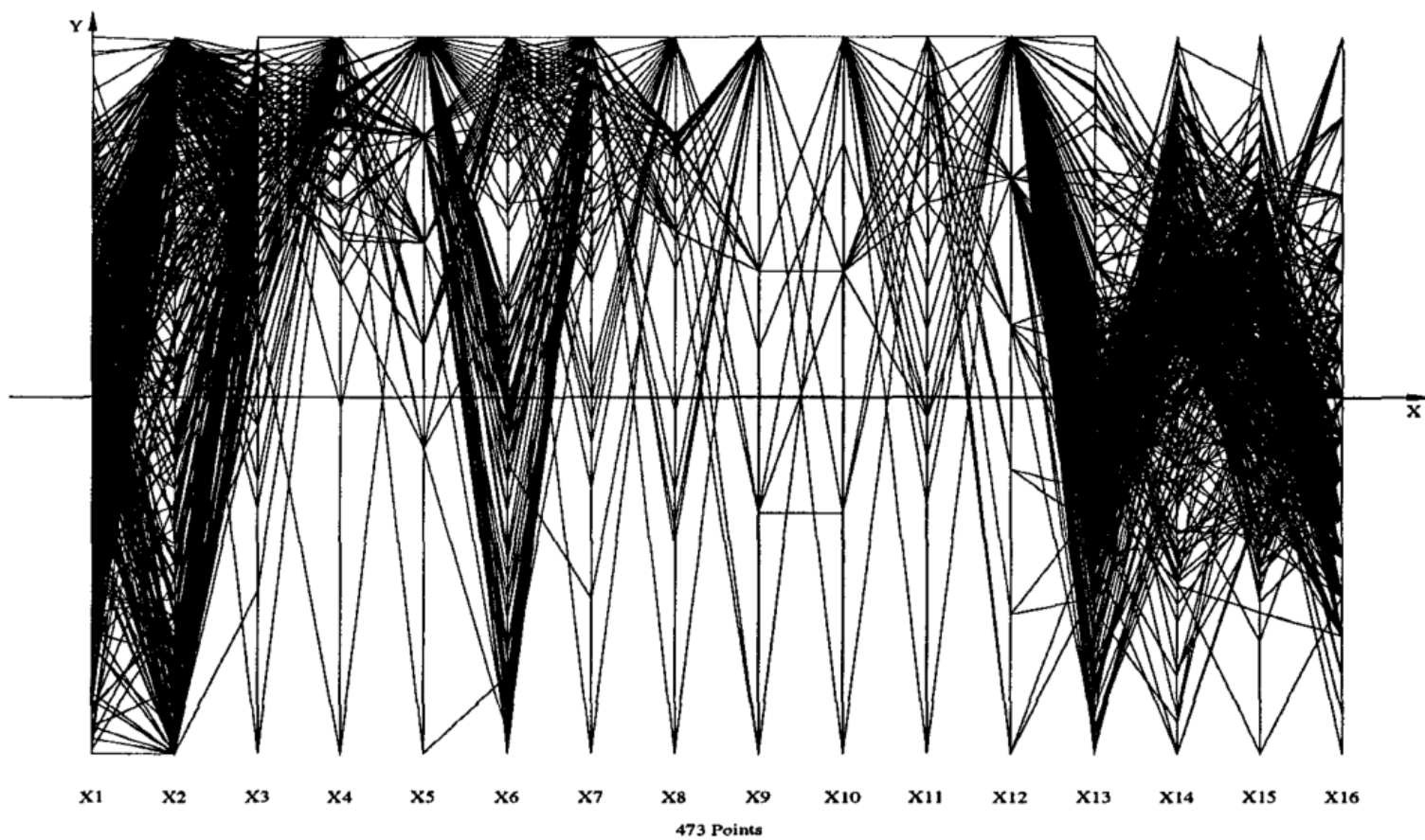
fast, was the inspiration in 1959 for "Parallel" Coordinates. The systematic development began in 1977 [4]. The goals of the program were and still are (see [6] and [5] for short reviews) the visualization of multivariate/multidimensional problems without loss of information and having the properties:

1. Low representational complexity. Since the number of axes,  $N$  equals the number of dimensions (variables) the complexity is  $O(N)$ ,
2. Works for any  $N$ ,
3. Every variable is treated uniformly (unlike "Chernoff Faces" and various types of "glyphs"),
4. The displayed object can be recognized under projective transformations (i.e. rotation, translation, scaling, perspective),
5. The display easily/intuitively conveys information on the properties of the  $N$ -dimensional object it represents,
6. The methodology is based on rigorous mathematical and algorithmic results.

Parallel coordinates (abbr.||-coords) transform multivariate relations into 2-D patterns, a property that is well suited for Visual Data Mining.

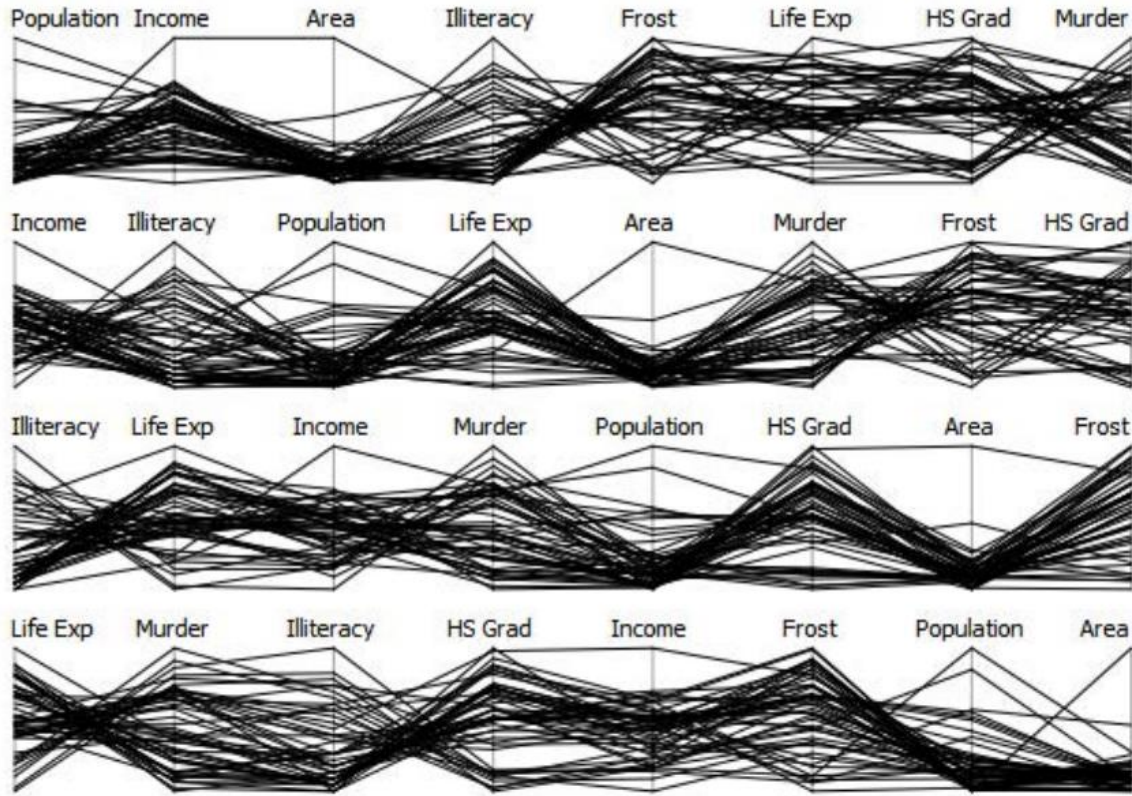
\* Senior Fellow San Diego SuperComputing Center

† 36A Yehuda Halevy Street, Raanana 43556, Israel



Original Example from Inselberg 1997

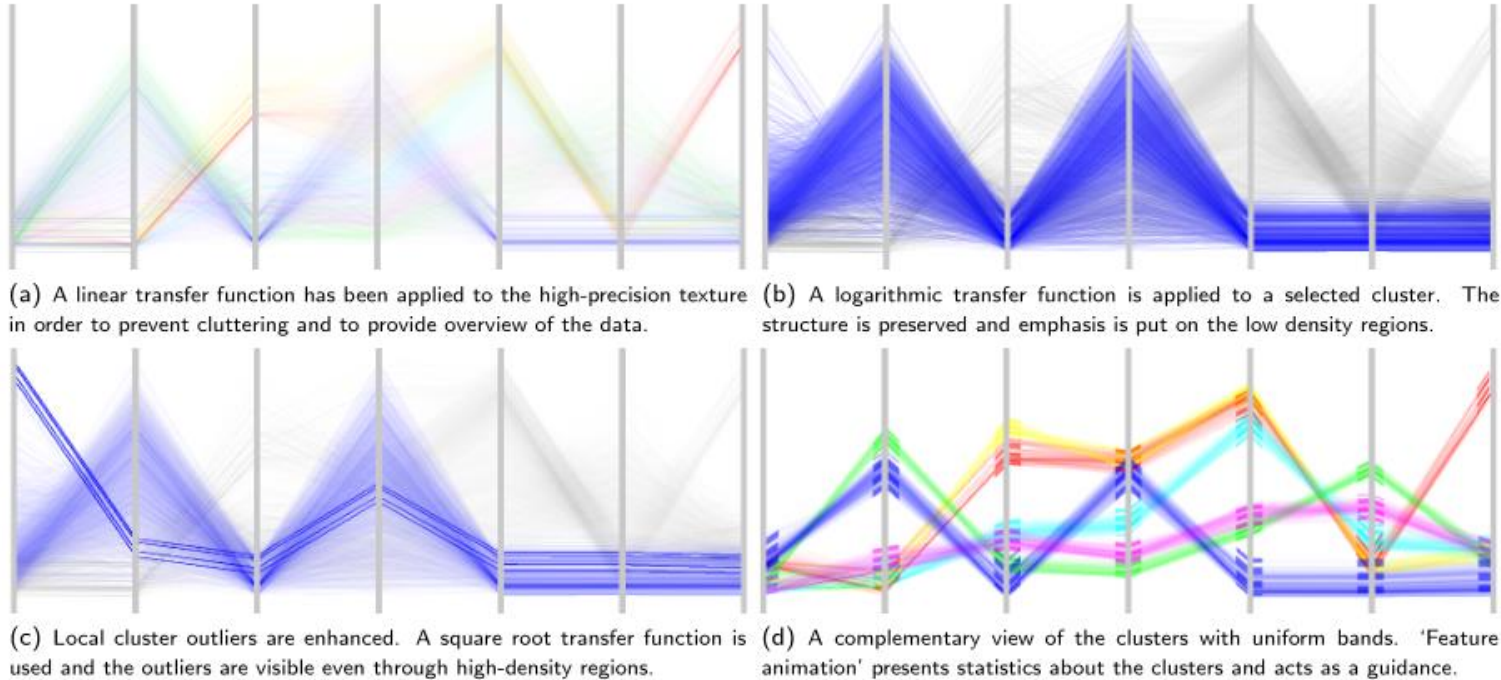
# THE ORDER OF AXES MATTERS



Eurographics 2013, STAR Report  
J. Heinrich, D. Weiskopf

# REDUCE CLUTTER - HIGHLIGHT CLUSTERS

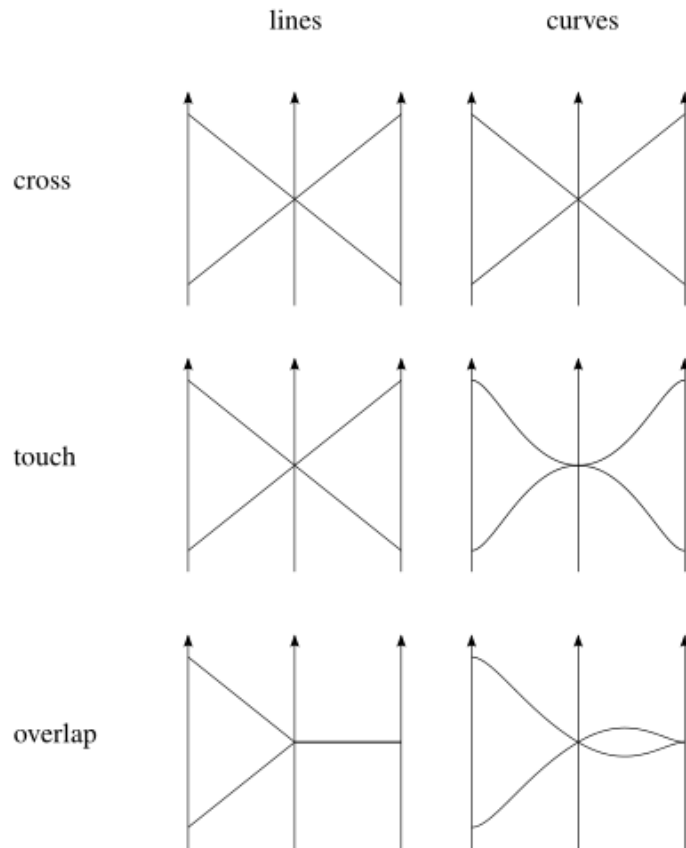
Lots of work on this. For example:



Revealing Structure within Clustered Parallel  
Coordinates Displays, InfoVis 2005

# HOW TO DRAW THE LINES

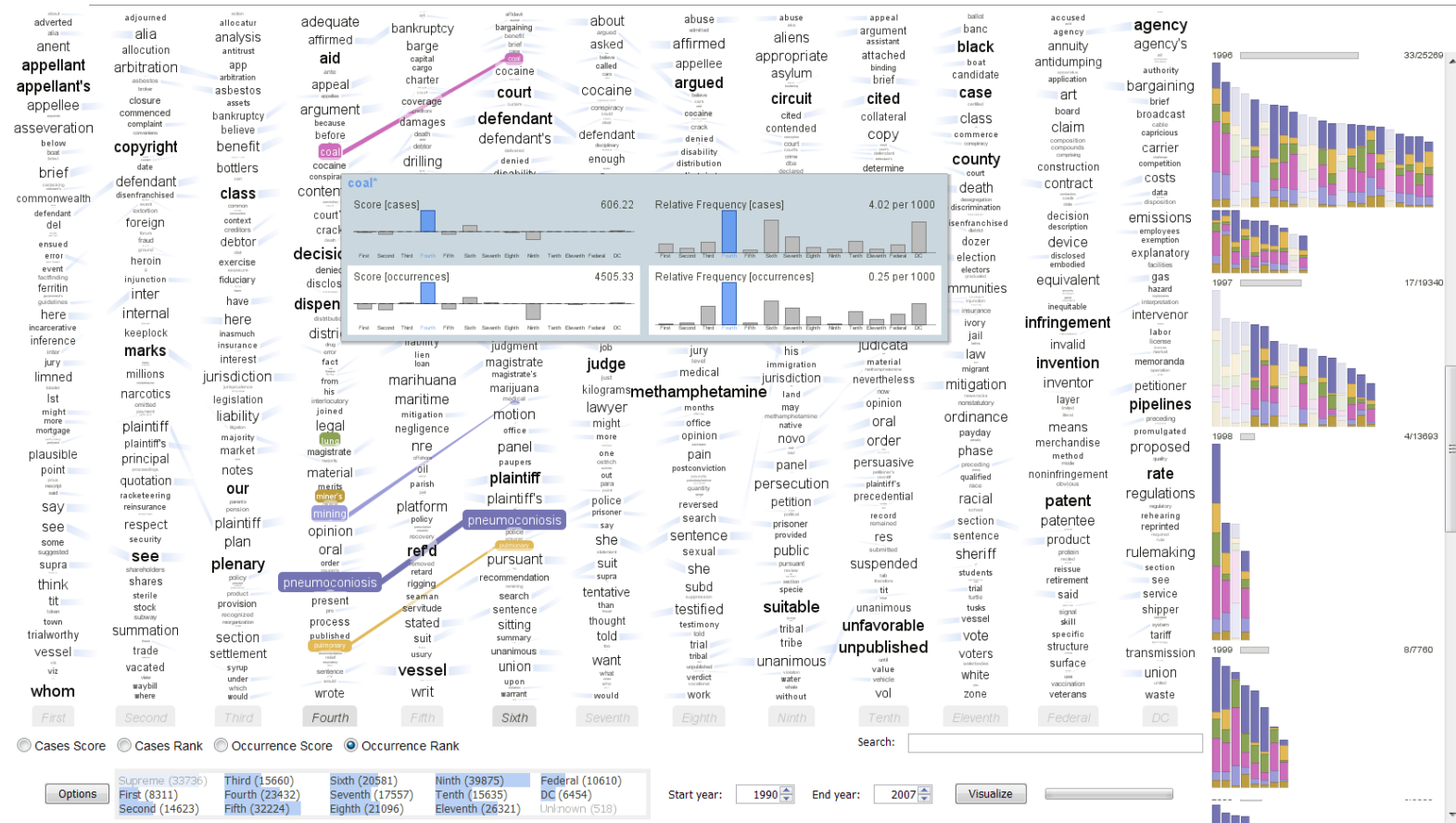
Goal: avoid ambiguity



Eurographics 2013, STAR Report  
J. Heinrich, D. Weiskopf

# COMBINE WITH OTHER VISUALIZATION TECHNIQUES

## Parallel Tag Clouds to Explore Faceted Text Corpora (Collins et al., VAST 2009)



# THERE IS MUCH MORE ON THIS...

- Start here if you want more information

EUROGRAPHICS 2013/ M. Sbert, L. Szirmay-Kalos

STAR – State of The Art Report

## State of the Art of Parallel Coordinates

J. Heinrich and D. Weiskopf

Visualization Research Center, University of Stuttgart

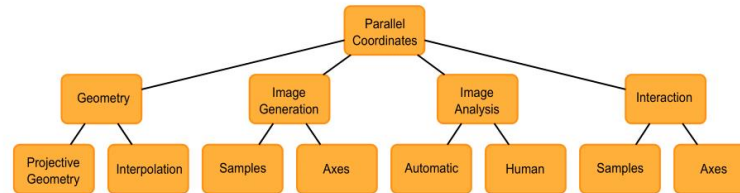


Figure 1: Taxonomy of topics for parallel coordinates in the scientific literature. The first-level nodes each represent a section in this paper, where the scope and definition of each topic will be explained.

### Abstract

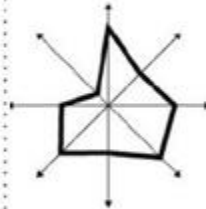
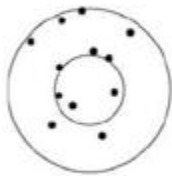
*This work presents a survey of the current state of the art of visualization techniques for parallel coordinates. It covers geometric models for constructing parallel coordinates and reviews methods for creating and understanding visual representations of parallel coordinates. The classification of these methods is based on a taxonomy that was established from the literature and is aimed at guiding researchers to find existing techniques and identifying white spots that require further research. The techniques covered in this survey are further related to an established taxonomy of knowledge-discovery tasks to support users of parallel coordinates in choosing a technique for their problem at hand. Finally, we discuss the challenges in constructing and understanding parallel-coordinates plots and provide some examples from different application domains.*

Categories and Subject Descriptors (according to ACM CCS): I.3.3 [Computer Graphics]: Picture/Image Generation—Line and curve generation



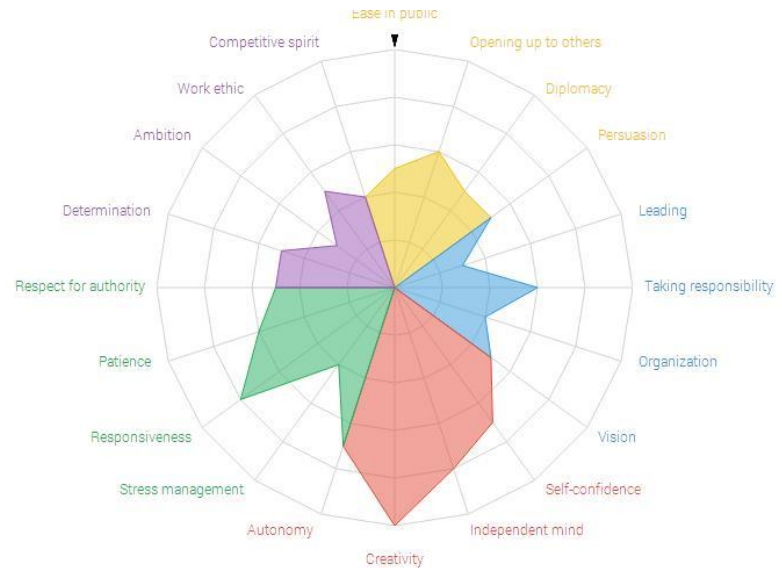
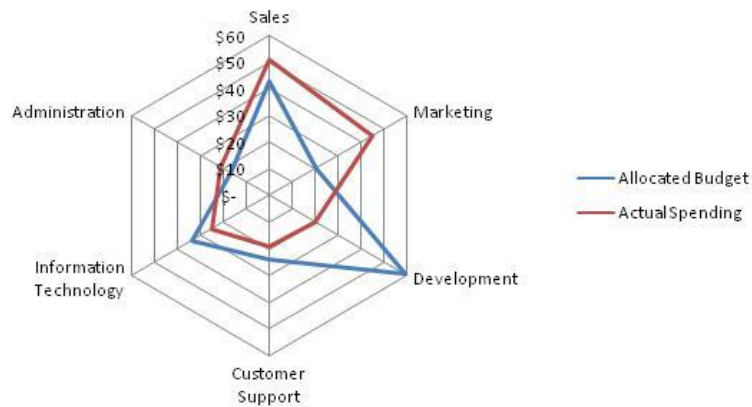
# RADIAL AXES

Polar

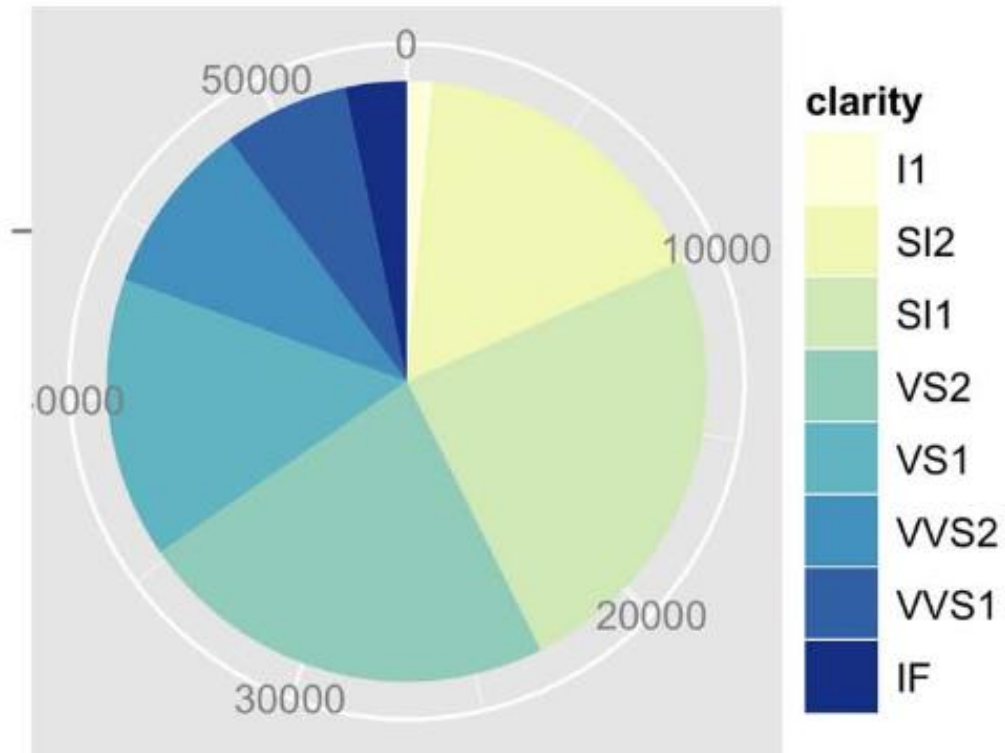


# EXAMPLE: STAR PLOT

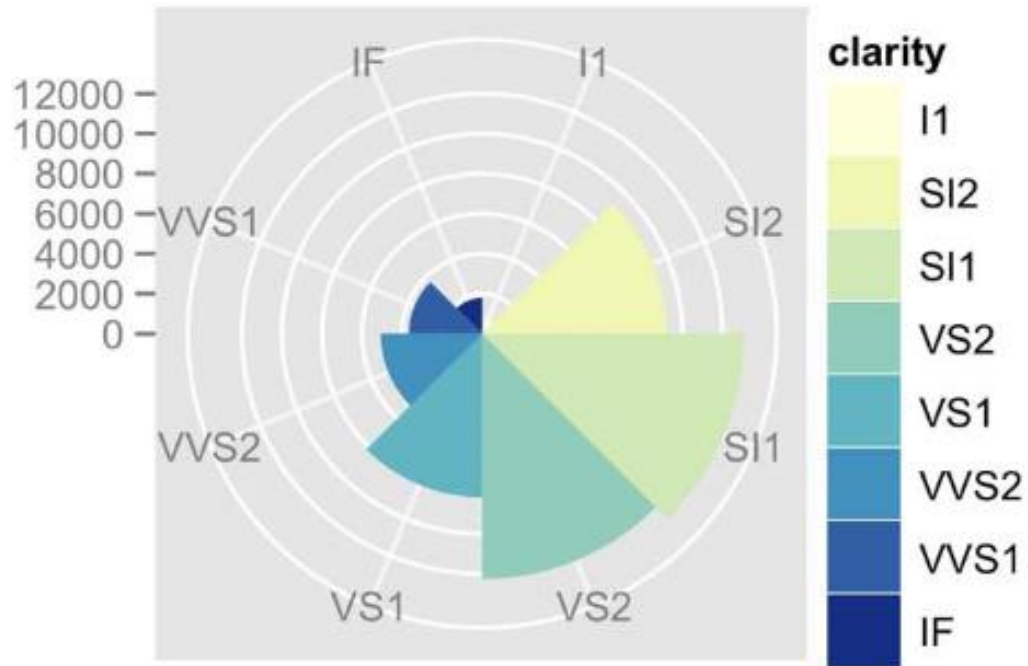
- = radial line chart



# PIE CHARTS



# POLAR AREA CHARTS



# SPATIAL LAYOUT DENSITY

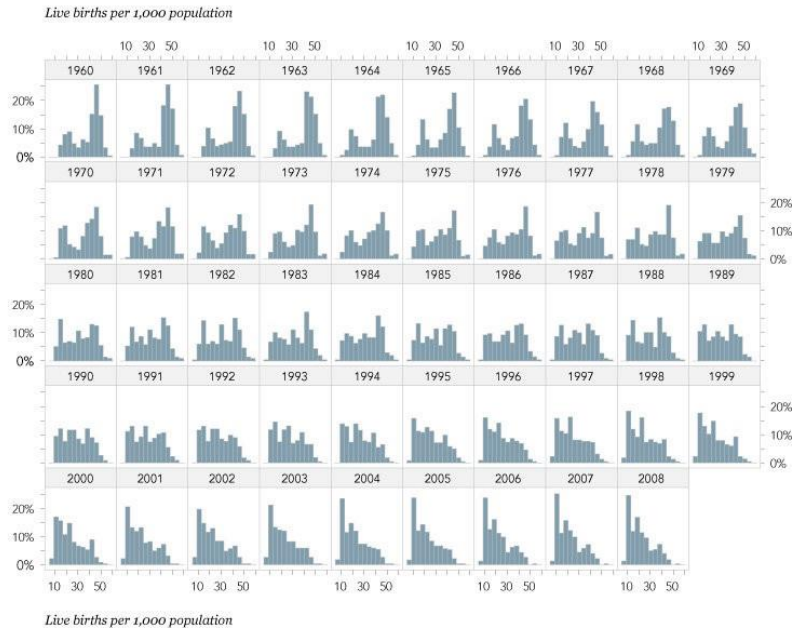
# DATA DENSITY

MAXIMIZE THE RATIO OF:

$$\frac{(\text{NUMBER OF ENTRIES IN DATA})}{(\text{AREA OF THE GRAPHIC})}$$

# DATA DENSITY – SHRINK THE GRAPHICS

## Annual Worldwide Distributions of Live Births



“SMALL MULTIPLES”

# DATA DENSITY – SHRINK THE

## GRAPHIC PROBLEMS POSED BY TIME SERIES

### Scale in years

With a scale in years, a two-year total (figure 1) should be divided by 2 (figure 2). A total for six months should be multiplied by 2.

### Pointed curves

For overly pointed curves (figure 3), the scale of the Q should be reduced; optimum angular perceptibility occurs at around 70 degrees (figure 4).

If the curve is not reducible (large and small variations), filled columns can be used (figure 5).

### Flat curves

For overly flat curves (figure 6), the scale of the Q should be increased (figure 7).

### Small variations

For small variations in relation to the total (figure 8), the total loses its importance, and the zero point can be eliminated, provided the reader is made aware of this elimination (figure 9). The graphic can be interpreted as an acceleration if a precise study of the variations is necessary; here, we use a logarithmic scale (figure 10). (See also page 240.)

### Large range

For a very large range between the extreme numbers (figure 11), we must either:

- (1) leave out the smallest variations;
- (2) be concerned only with relative differences (logarithmic scale), without knowing the absolute quantities;
- (3) select different parts (periods) within the ordered component and treat them on different scales above the common scale (figure 12).

### Obvious periodicity

If there is obvious periodicity (figure 13), and the study involves a comparison of the phases of each cycle, it is preferable to break up the cycles in order to superimpose them (figure 14). A polar construction can be used, preferably in a spiral shape (figure 15), but we should not begin with too small a circle. As striking as it seems, it is less efficient than an orthogonal construction.

### Annual curves

For annual curves of rainfall or temperature, if a cycle has two phases (figure 17), why depict only one (figure 16)?

### A contrast

Unlike what we see in figure 18, the pertinent or "new" information must be separated from the background or "reference" information. The background involves: (a) the invariant, highlighted by a heading (Port St. Michel); (b) the highly visible identification of each component (tonnage and dates). The new information (the curve) must stand out from the background (figure 19).

### Reference points

It is impossible to utilize a graphic such as figure 20, except in a general manner. There is confusion concerning the position of the points, and no potential comparison is possible, as it is in figure 21.

### Precision reading

A precision reading (utilization on the elementary level, as in figure 24) is difficult in figure 22, which results in a poor reading of the order of the points, and in figure 23, where there is ambiguity concerning the position of the points. On the other hand, figure 22 does favor overall vision (correlation).

### Null boxes

Curves accommodate null boxes poorly (figure 25). Columns (figure 26) are preferable.

### Unknown boxes

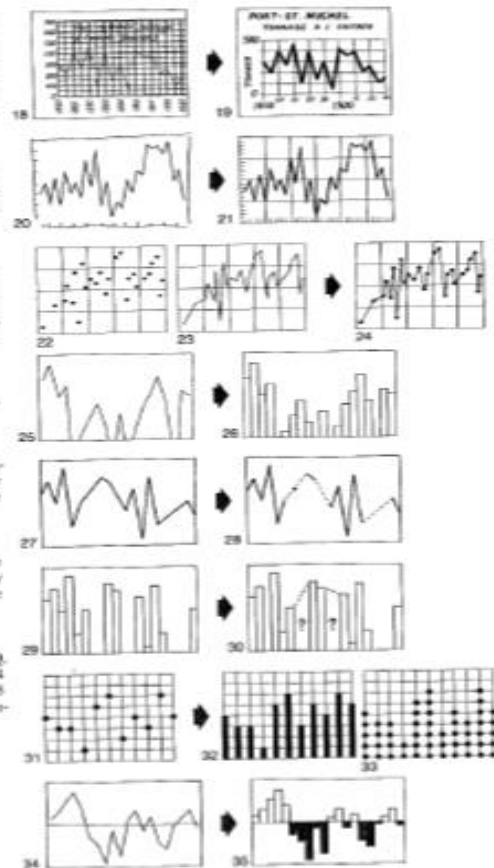
The drawing must indicate the unknowns of the information in an unambiguous way (figures 28 and 30). The reader might interpret figure 27 as a change in the structure of the curve and figure 29 as involving null values.

### Very small quantities

Except in seeking a correlation (quite improbable here) the number of ships entering into a port is represented better by figure 33 than by figures 31 or 32. The reader can perceive the numerical values at first glance.

### Positive-negative variation

This is in fact a problem involving three components O, Q,  $\neq$  (+, -), and it must be visually treated as such. Figure 34 can be improved by utilizing a retinal variable (in figure 35 a value difference: black-white) to differentiate the  $\neq$  component and thus highlight positive-negative variation.





# DATA DENSITY – SHRINK THE GRAPHICS

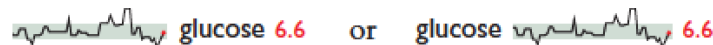
Placed in the relevant context, a single number gains meaning. Thus the most recent measurement of glucose should be compared with earlier measurements for the patient. This data-line shows the path of the last 80 readings of glucose:



Lacking a scale of measurement, this free-floating line is dequantified. At least we do know the value of the line's right-most data point, which corresponds to the most recent value of glucose, the number recorded at far right. Both representations of the most recent reading are tied together with a color accent:



Some useful context is provided by showing the *normal range* of glucose, here as a gray band. Compared to normal limits, readings above the band horizon are elevated, those below reduced:



## Science fiction

---

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For other uses, see [Science fiction \(disambiguation\)](#).*

33k visits in last 30 days

**Science fiction** is a genre of [fiction](#) dealing with imaginative content such as [futuristic](#) settings, futuristic [science](#) and [technology](#), [space travel](#), [time travel](#), [parallel universes](#), and [extraterrestrial life](#). It often explores the potential consequences

# SPARKLINES

## EASTERN EUROPE

### Soviet cult and pragmatism in Transnistria

Experts worry that the next

"Crimea"



could be the

breakaway region of Transnistria



Many locals there don't share that fear,

and if the last referendum holds, a large

majority would welcome a Russian



annexation.



# SPARKLINES

Gonzalo Higuaín slides  
a cross in from the right



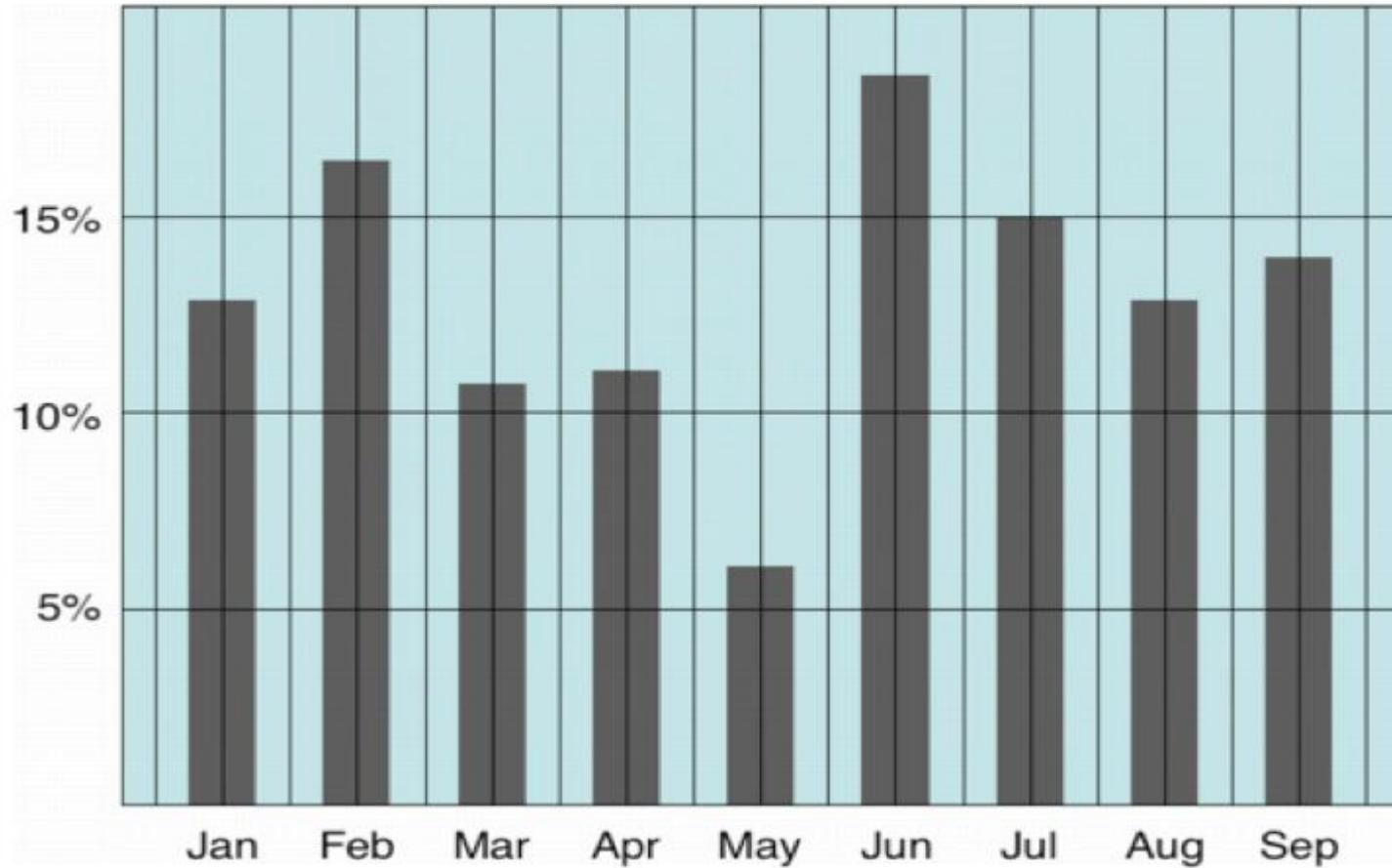
and Ronaldo,  
at the front post, shoots  
off target.

# DATA-INK RATIO

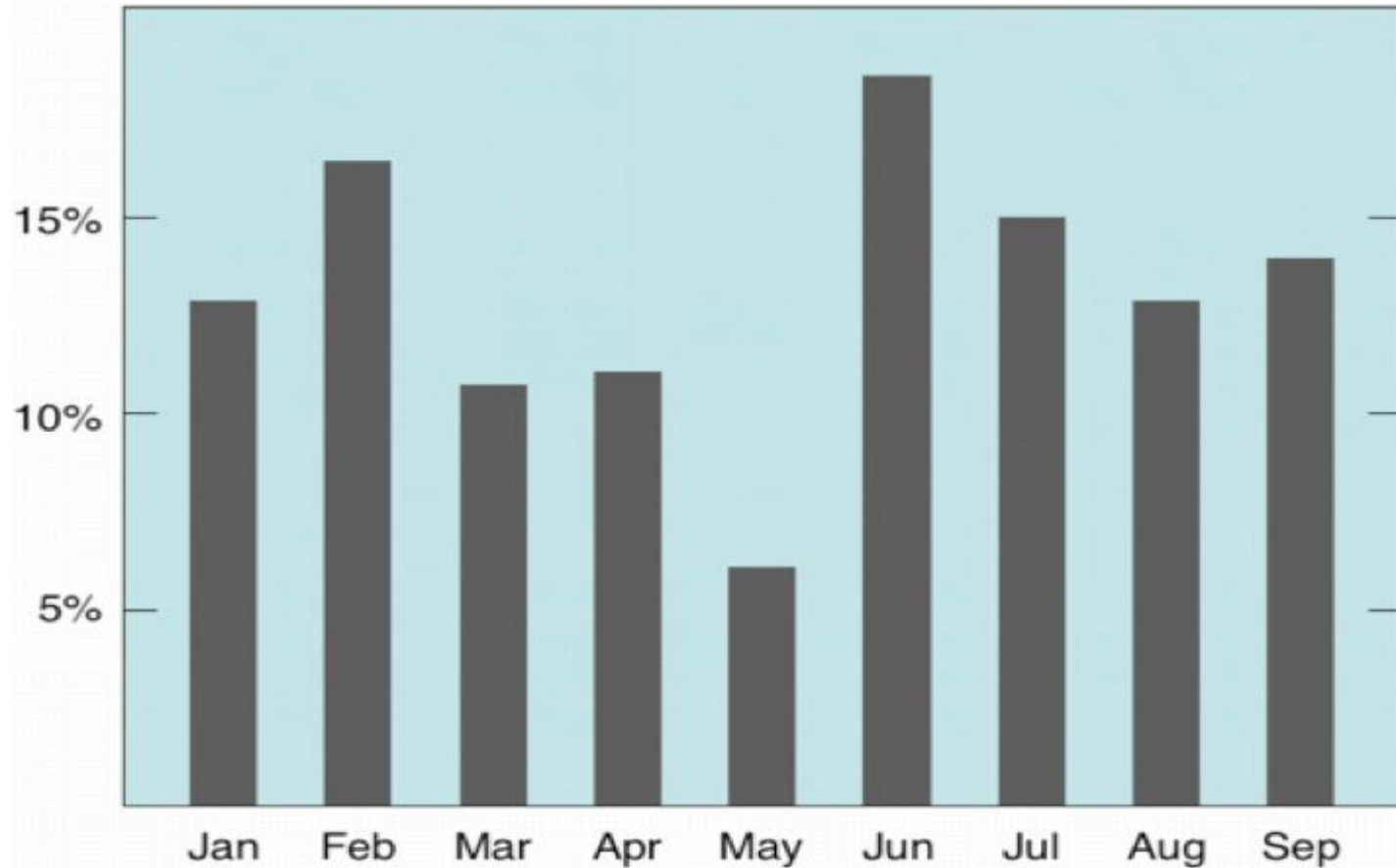
MAXIMIZE THE RATIO OF

$$\frac{(\text{INK USED TO SHOW DATA})}{(\text{TOTAL INK USED})}$$

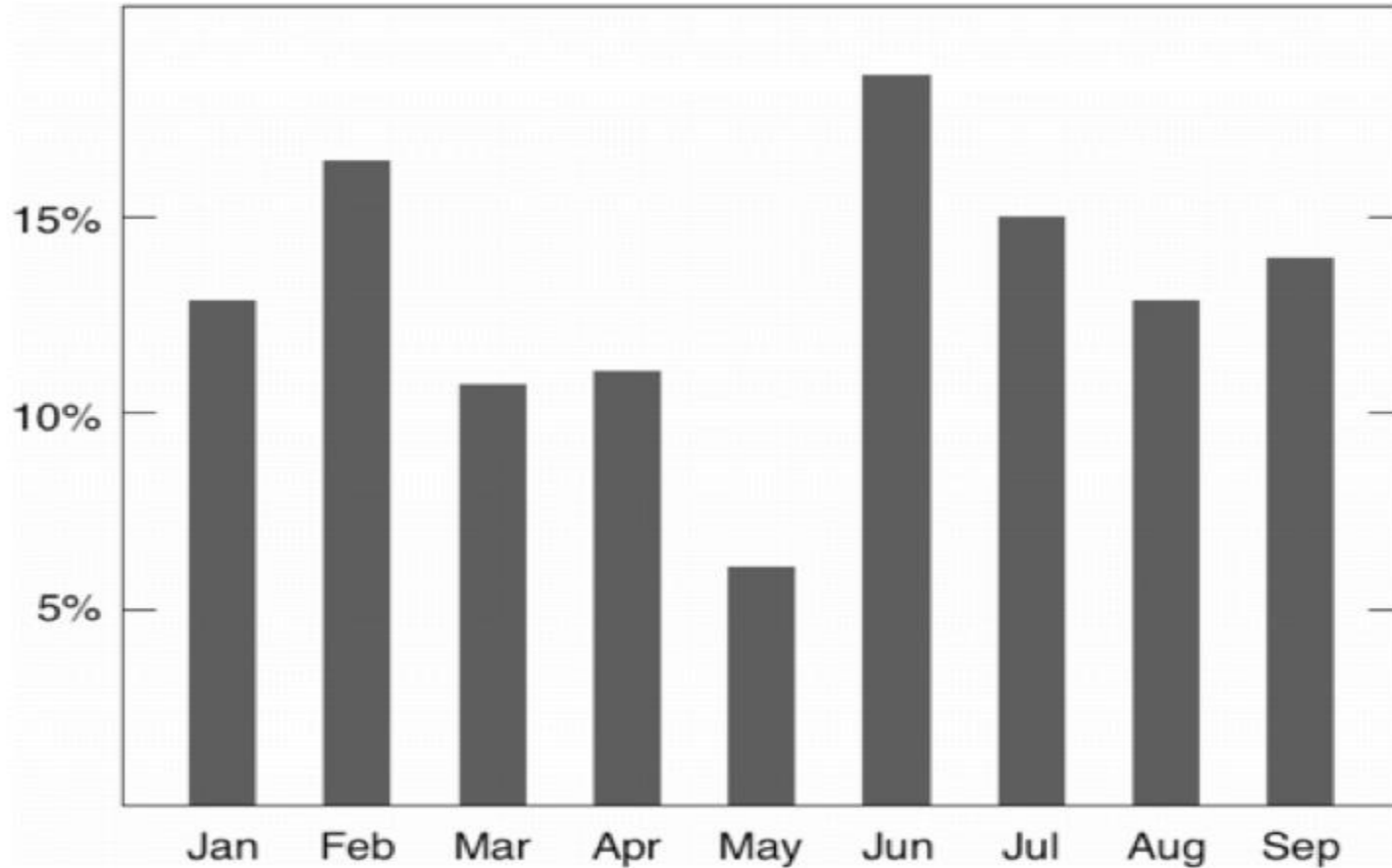
# DATA-INK RATIO



# DATA-INK RATIO

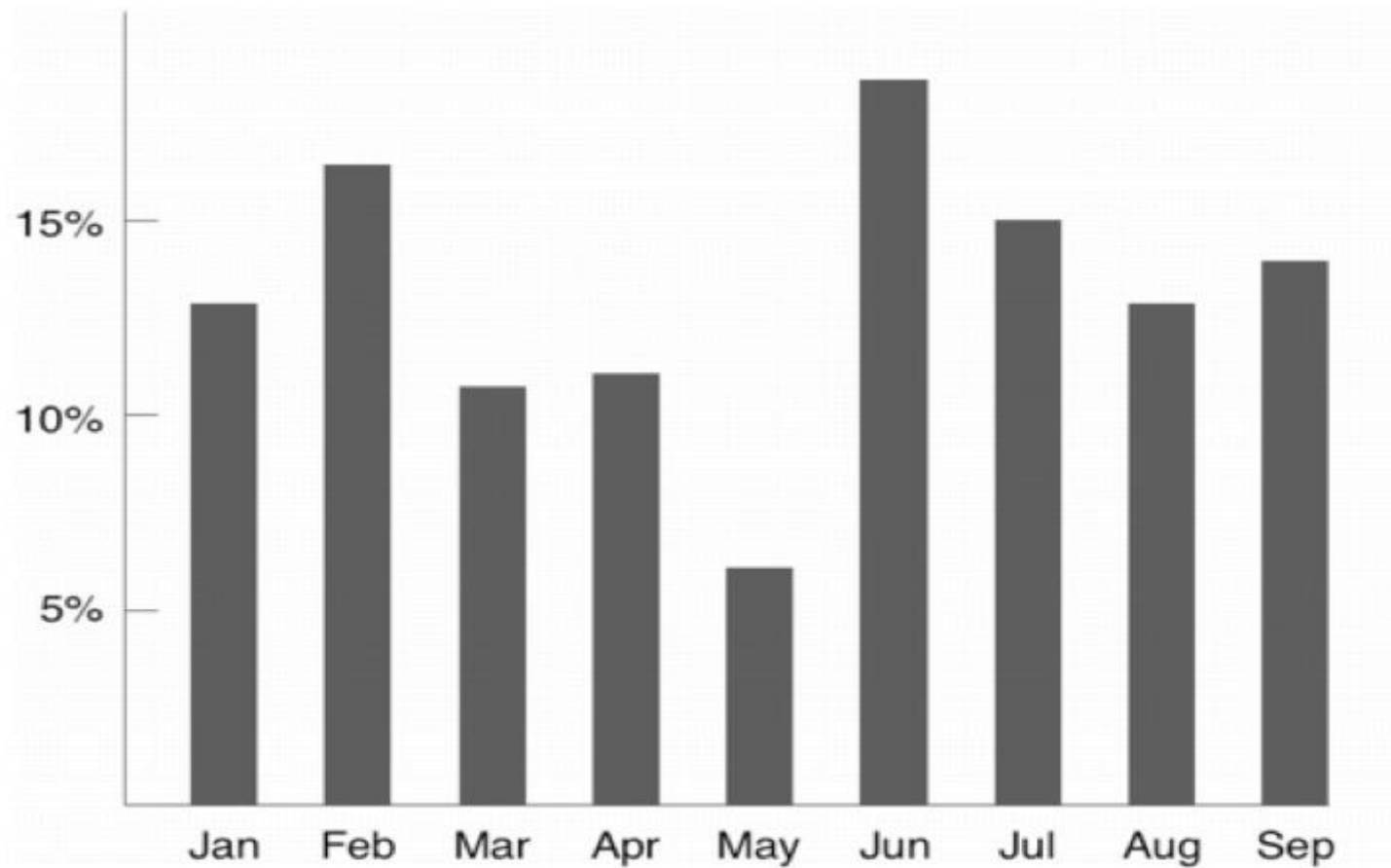


# DATA-INK RATIO

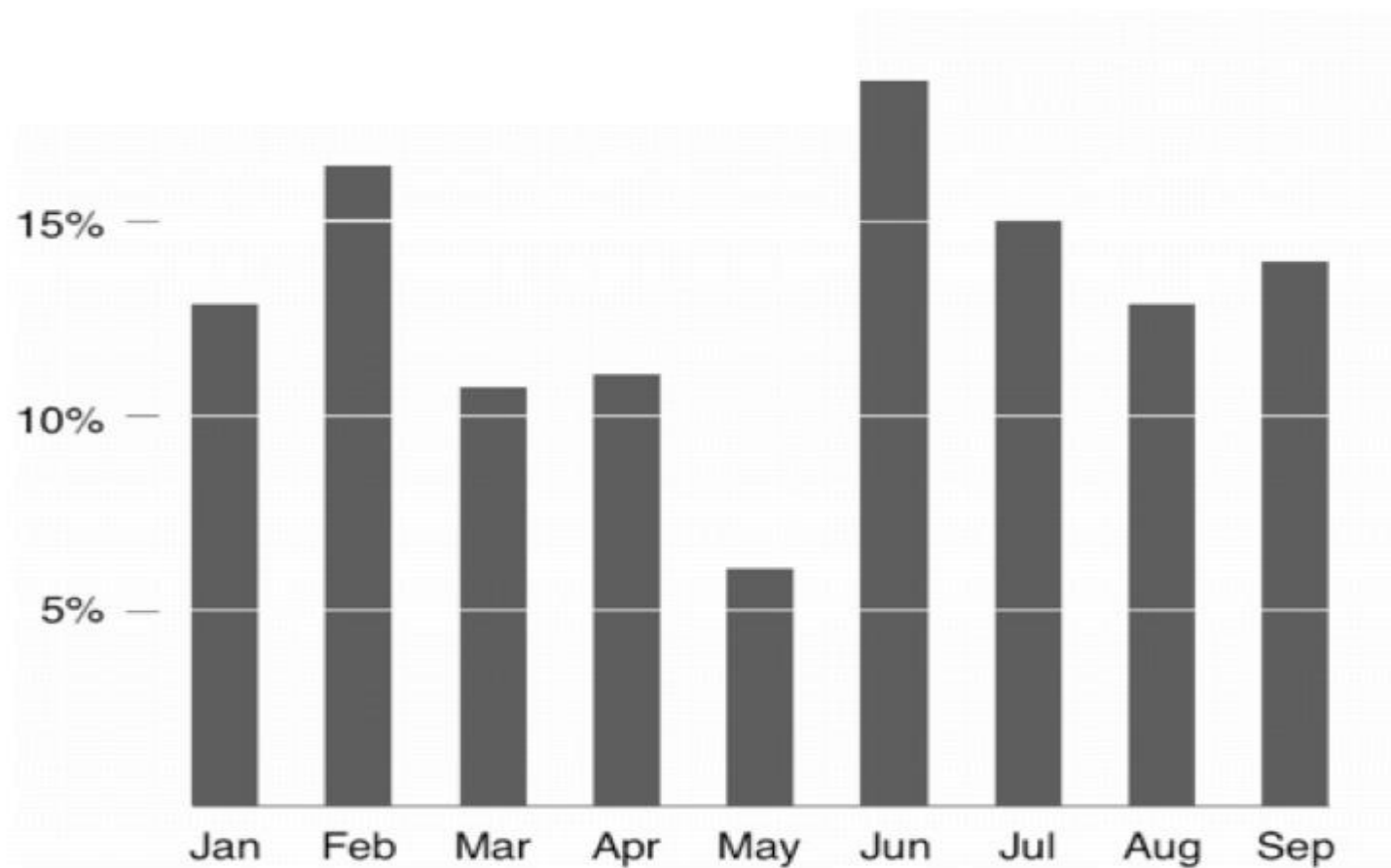




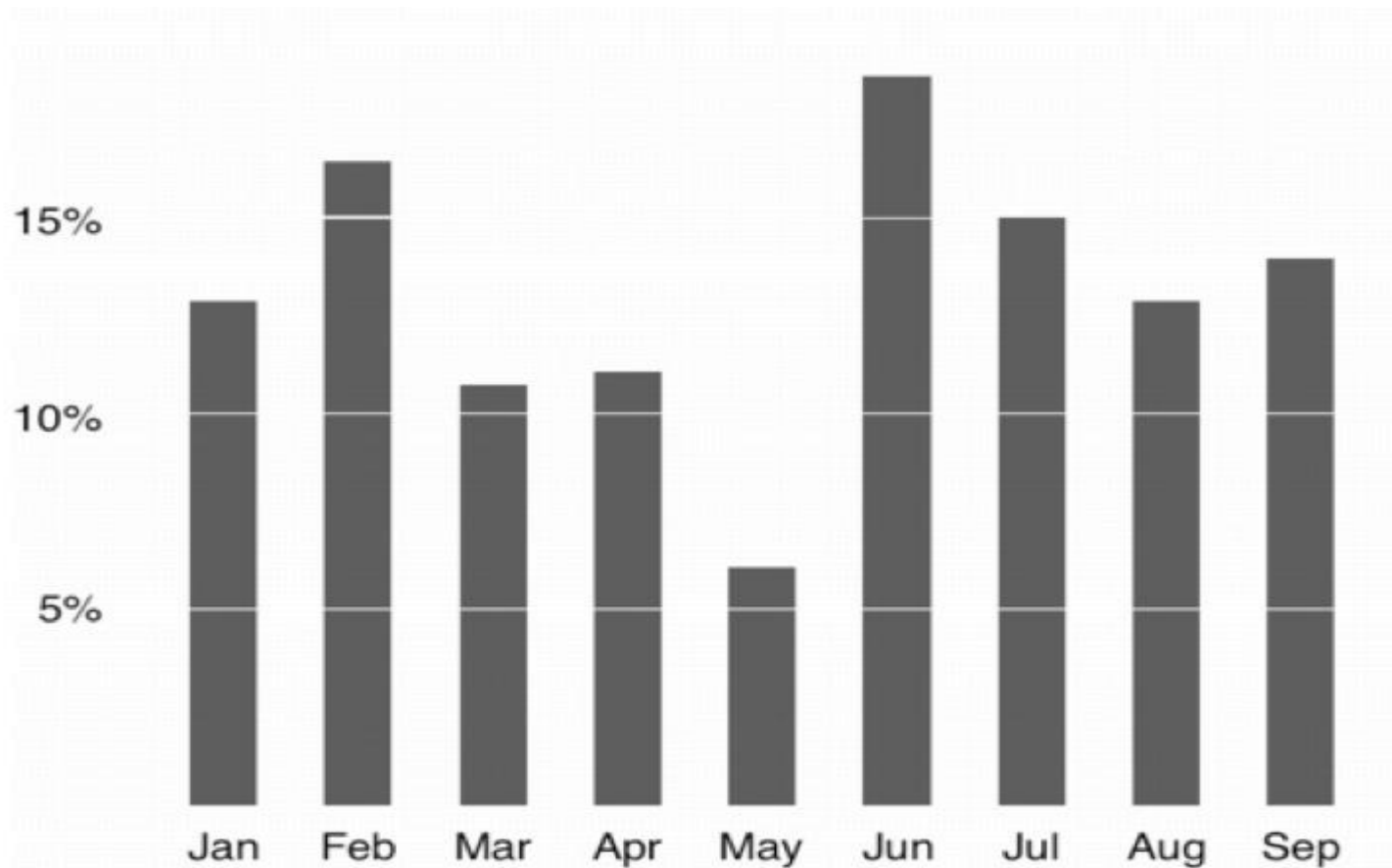
# DATA-INK RATIO



# DATA-INK RATIO



# DATA-INK RATIO



# MINIMIZE CHART JUNK

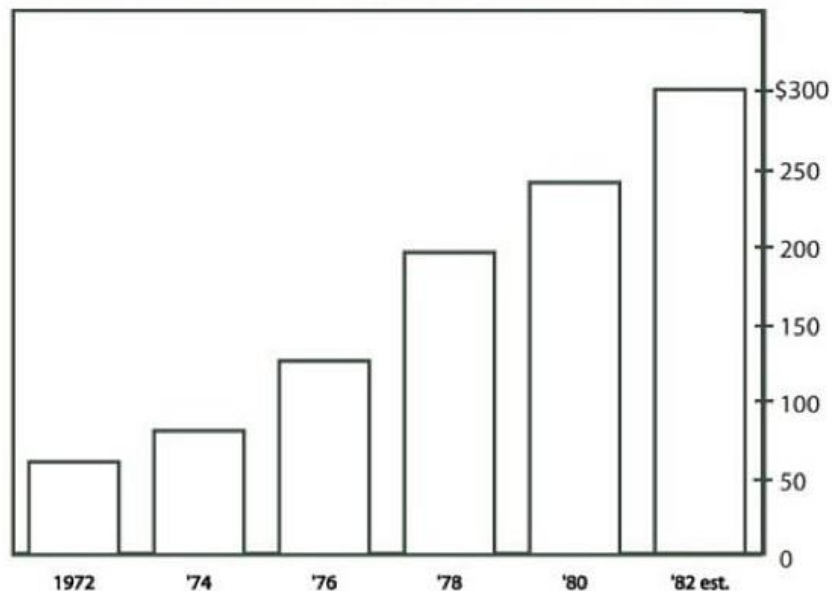
## MONSTROUS COSTS

Total House and Senate  
campaign expenditures,  
in millions



## MONSTROUS COSTS

Total House and Senate campaign expenditures, in millions



Wayne Lytle

---

The Dangers of  
*GLITZINESS*  
and other  
Visualization Faux Pas

---

or... "What's Wrong with this Visualization?"

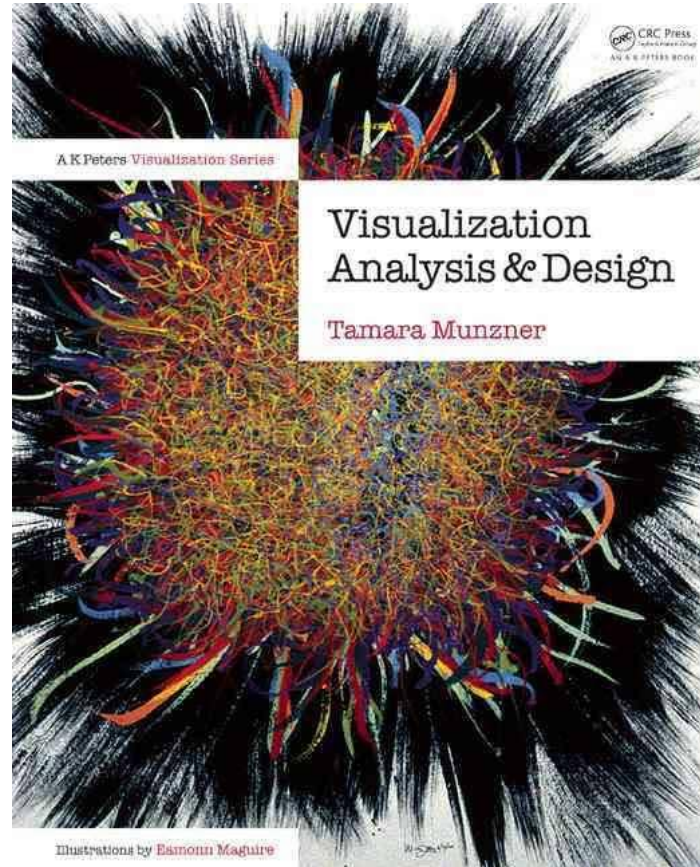
# TUFTE'S INTEGRITY PRINCIPLES

- MAXIMIZE THE DATA-INK RATIO
- AVOID CHART JUNK (*SOMETIMES*)
- LAYER INFORMATION
- MAXIMIZE THE DATA DENSITY
  - *SHRINK THE GRAPHICS*
  - *MAXIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF DATA SHOWN (SOMETIMES)*



EDWARD TUFTE

# READINGS



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Slides in were inspired and adapted from slides by

- Nicolai Marquardt (University College London)
- Uta Hinrichs (University of St. Andrews)
- Saul Greenberg (University of Calgary)