



# BGGN 213

## Data visualization with R

### Lecture 5

Barry Grant  
UC San Diego

<http://thegrantlab.org/bggn213>

## Recap From Last Time:

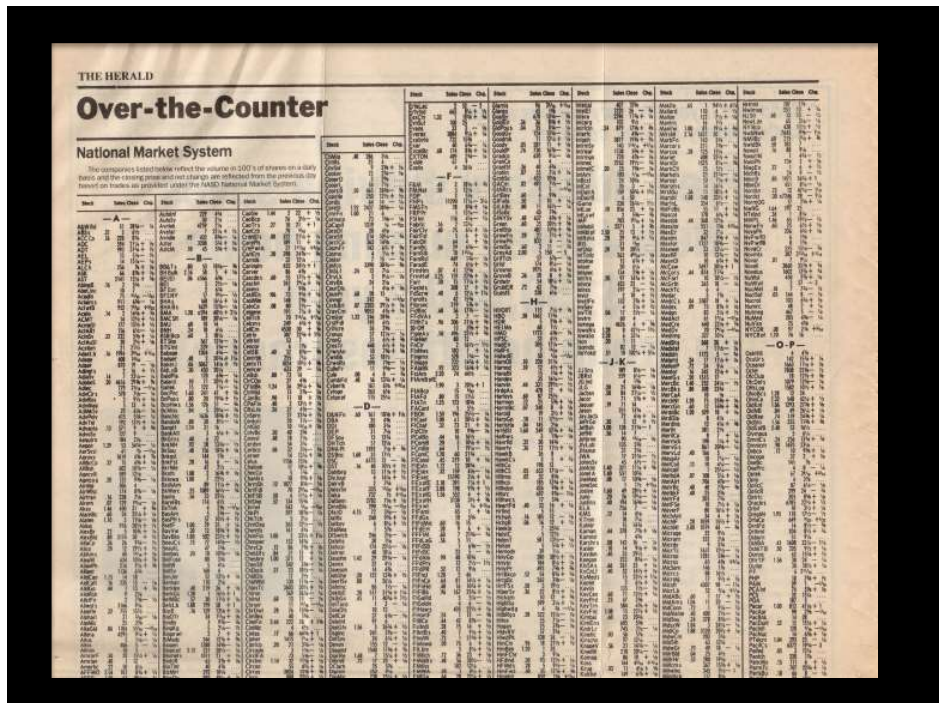
- What is R and why should we use it?
- Familiarity with R's basic syntax.
- Familiarity with major R data structures namely **vectors** and **data.frames**.
- Understand the basics of using **functions** (arguments, vectorization and re-cycling).
- Appreciate how you can use R scripts to aid with reproducibility.

**DataCamp Homework Reminder!!**

## Today's Learning Goals

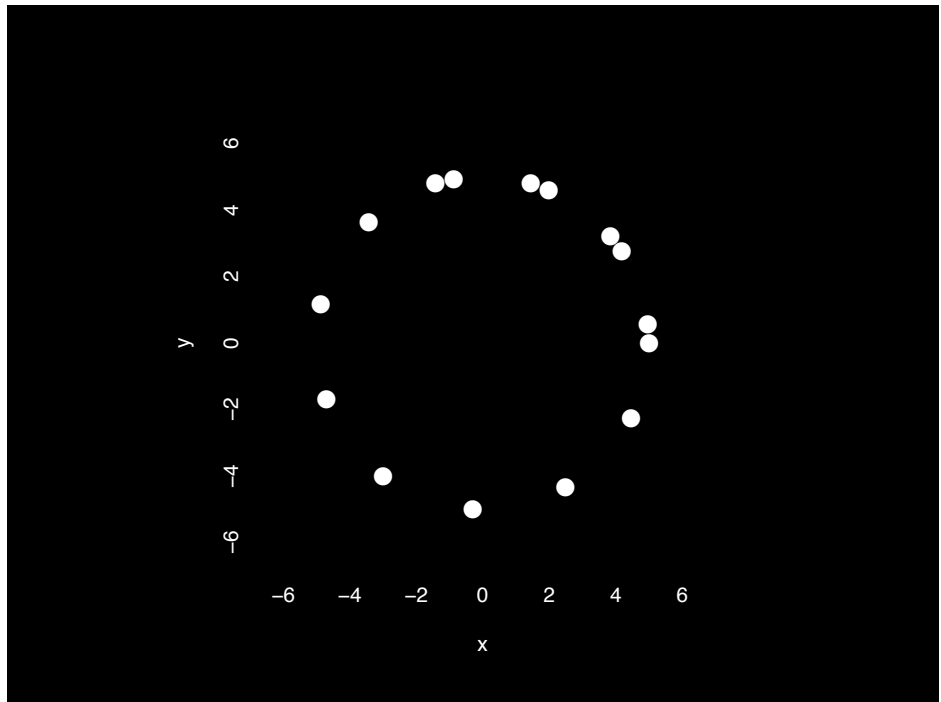
- Appreciate the major elements of **exploratory data analysis** and why it is important to visualize data.
- Be conversant with **data visualization best practices** and understand how good visualizations optimize for the human visual system.
- Be able to generate informative graphical displays including **scatterplots, histograms, bar graphs, boxplots, dendrograms** and **heatmaps** and thereby gain exposure to the extensive graphical capabilities of R.
- Appreciate that you can build even more complex charts with **ggplot** and additional R packages such as **rgl**.

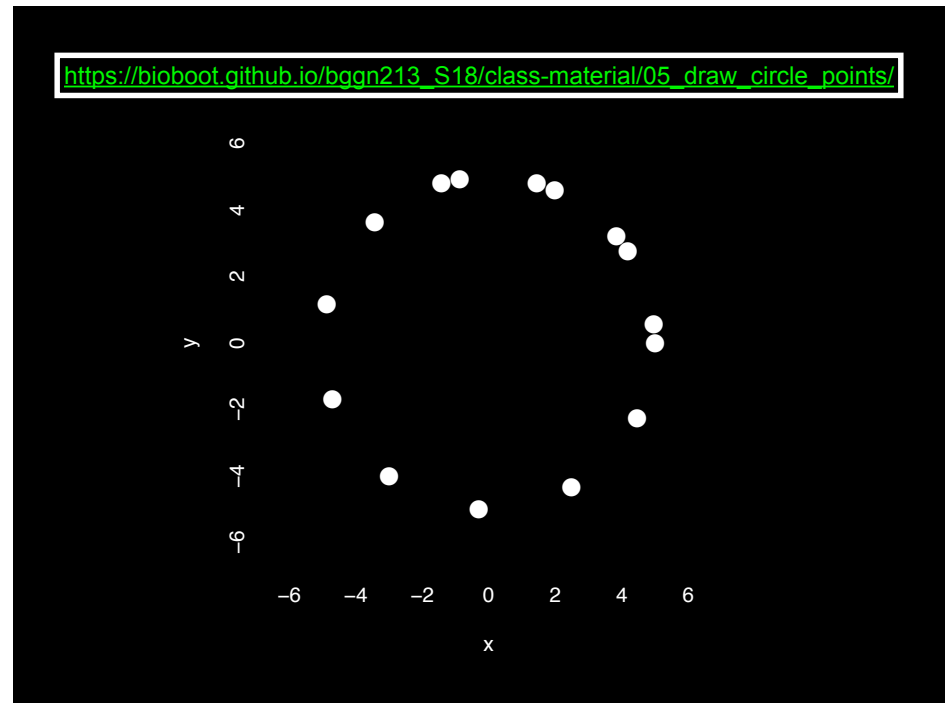
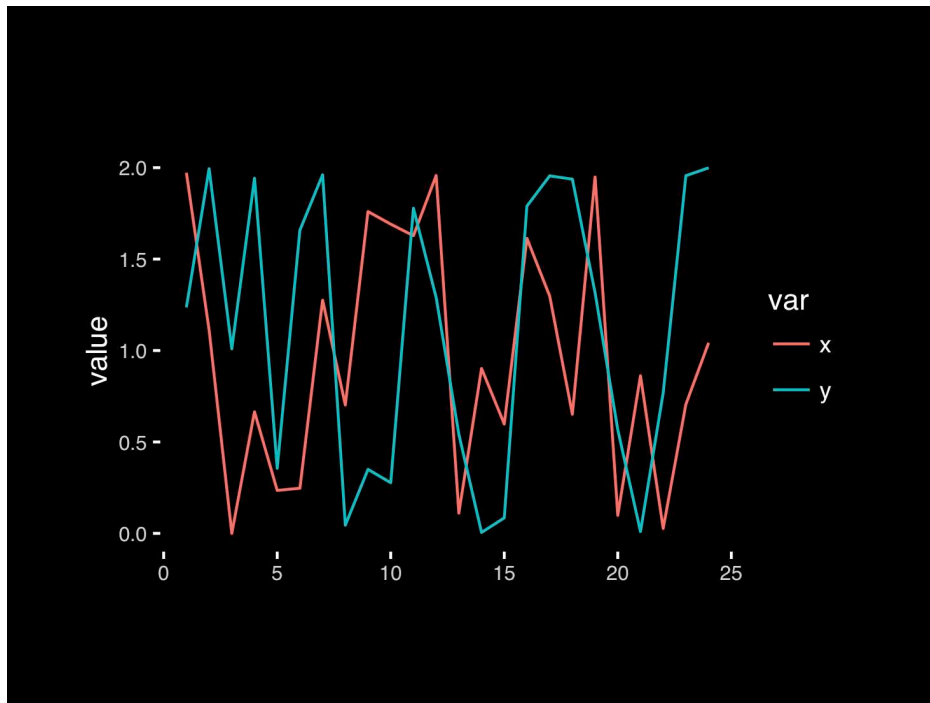
## Why visualize at all?



	x	y
1	5.00	0.00
2	4.18	2.75
3	1.98	4.59
4	-0.86	4.92
5	-3.43	3.64
6	-4.86	1.16
7	-4.70	-1.70
8	-2.99	-4.01
9	-0.30	-4.99
10	2.49	-4.34
11	4.46	-2.25
12	4.97	0.57
13	3.84	3.20
14	1.45	4.79
15	-1.42	4.79

	x	y
Min.	-4.86	-4.99
1st Qu.	-2.21	-1.98
Median	1.45	1.16
Mean	0.65	0.87
3rd Qu.	4.01	4.12
Max.	5.00	4.92



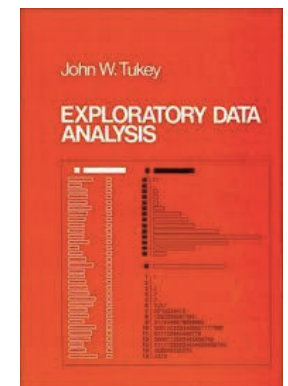
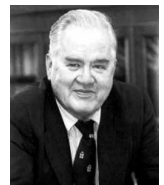


# Exploratory Data Analysis

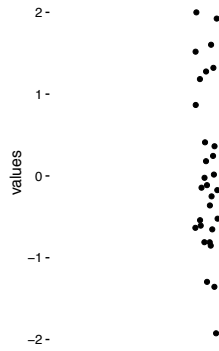
- ALWAYS look at your data!
- If you can't see it, then don't believe it!
- Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) allows us to:
  1. Visualize distributions and relationships
  2. Detect errors
  3. Assess assumptions for confirmatory analysis
- EDA is the first step of data analysis!

## Exploratory Data Analysis 1977

- Based on insights developed at Bell Labs in the 60's
- Techniques for visualizing and summarizing data
- What can the data tell us? (in contrast to "confirmatory" data analysis)
- Introduced many basic techniques:
  - 5-number summary, box plots, stem and leaf diagrams,...
- 5 Number summary:
  - extremes (min and max)
  - median & quartiles
  - More robust to skewed & longtailed distributions



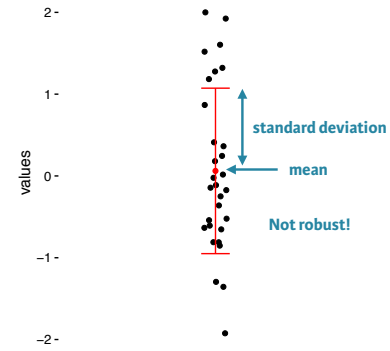
## Side-note: How to summarize data?



```
x <- rnorm(1000)
```

## Side-note: Mean & standard deviation

Fine for normally distributed data

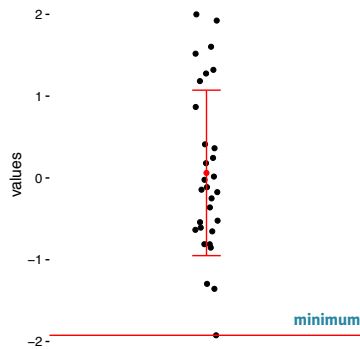


```
x <- rnorm(1000)
```

```
mean(x)  
sd(x)
```

## Side-note: 5 number summary

Minimum, Q1, Q2, Q3, and maximum

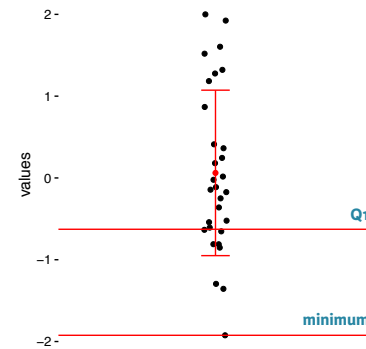


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sd(x)  
summary(x)
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## Side-note: 5 number summary

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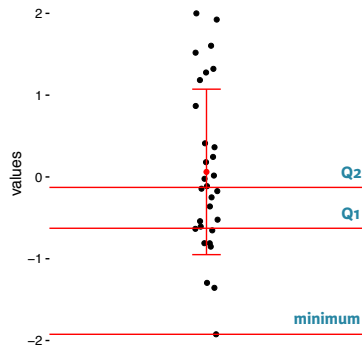
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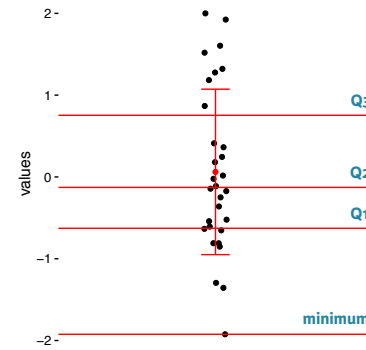
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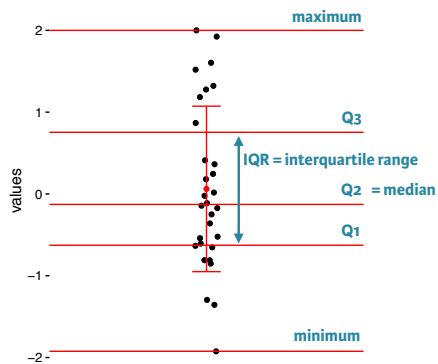
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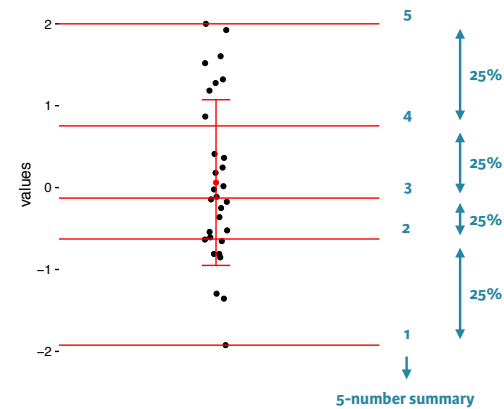
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sd(x)
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## Side-note: boxplot

Graphical form of the 5 number summary!



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```

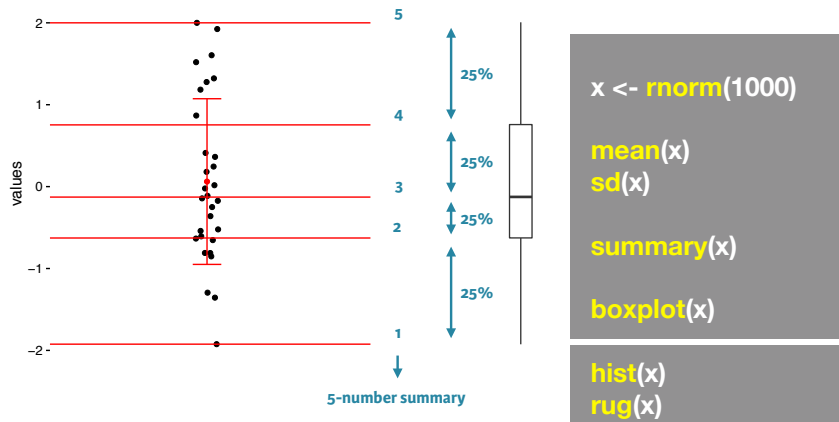
```
summary(x)
```

```
boxplot(x)
```

Also called **box-and-whisker plots**;  
See also violin plots etc.

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## The Trouble with Summary Stats

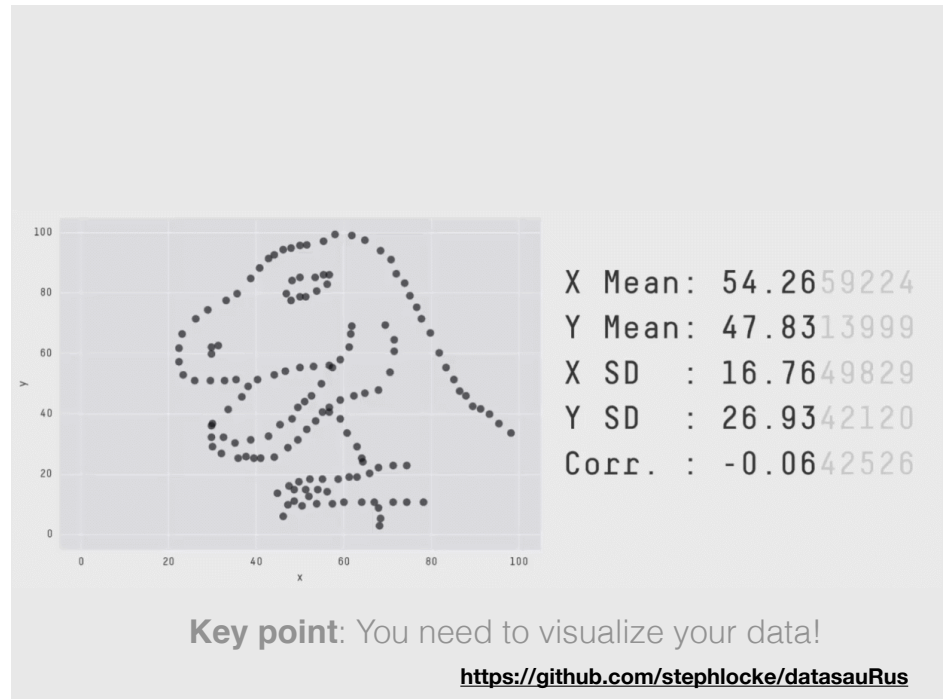
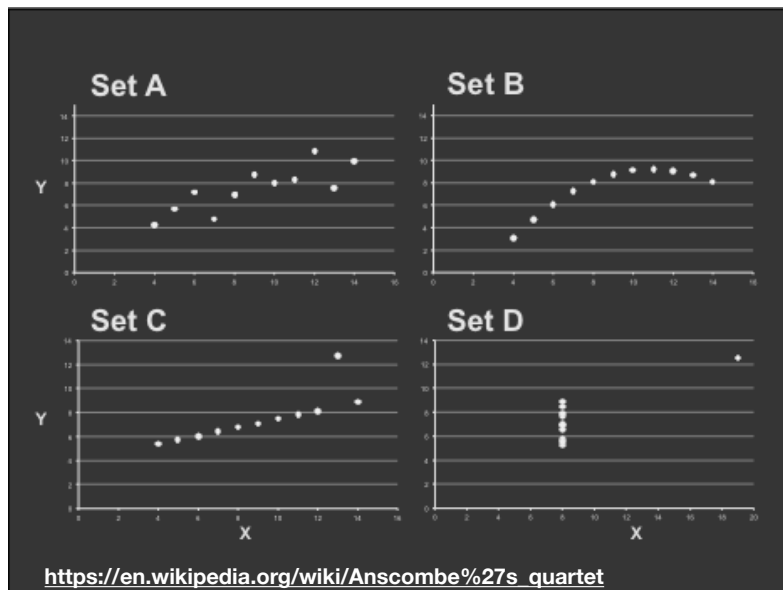
Set A		Set B		Set C		Set D	
X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
10	8.04	10	9.14	10	7.46	8	6.58
8	6.95	8	8.14	8	6.77	8	5.76
13	7.58	13	8.74	13	12.74	8	7.71
9	8.81	9	8.77	9	7.11	8	8.84
11	8.33	11	9.26	11	7.81	8	8.47
14	9.96	14	8.1	14	8.84	8	7.04
6	7.24	6	6.13	6	6.08	8	5.25
4	4.26	4	3.1	4	5.39	19	12.5
12	10.84	12	9.11	12	8.15	8	5.56
7	4.82	7	7.26	7	6.42	8	7.91
5	5.68	5	4.74	5	5.73	8	6.89

**Summary Statistics Linear Regression**

$u_x = 9.0$     $\sigma_x = 3.317$     $Y = 3 + 0.5 X$   
 $u_y = 7.5$     $\sigma_y = 2.03$     $R^2 = 0.67$

[Anscombe 73]

## Looking at Data



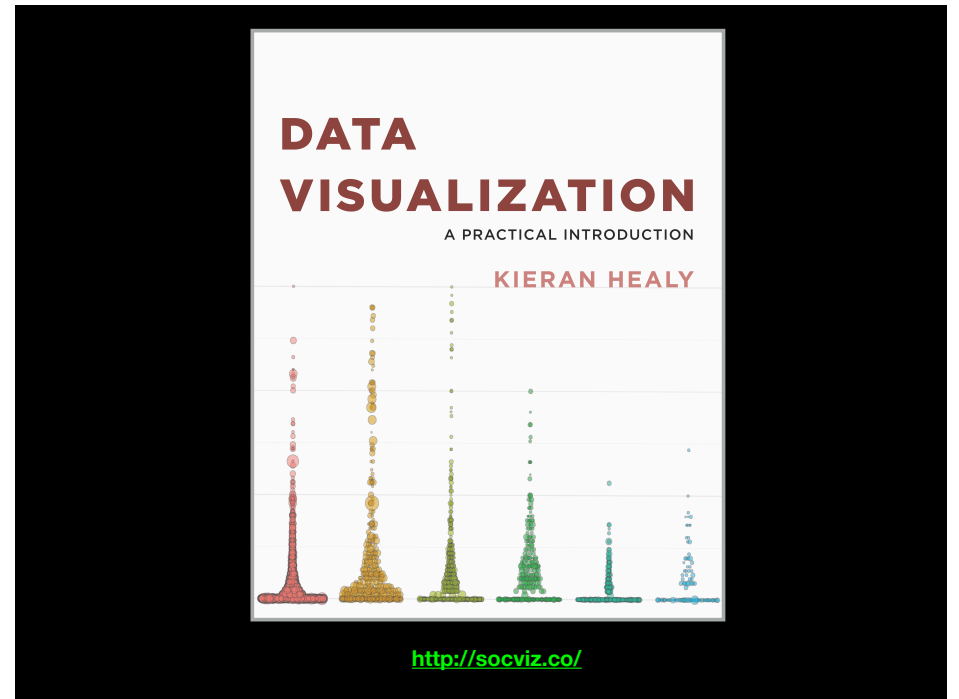
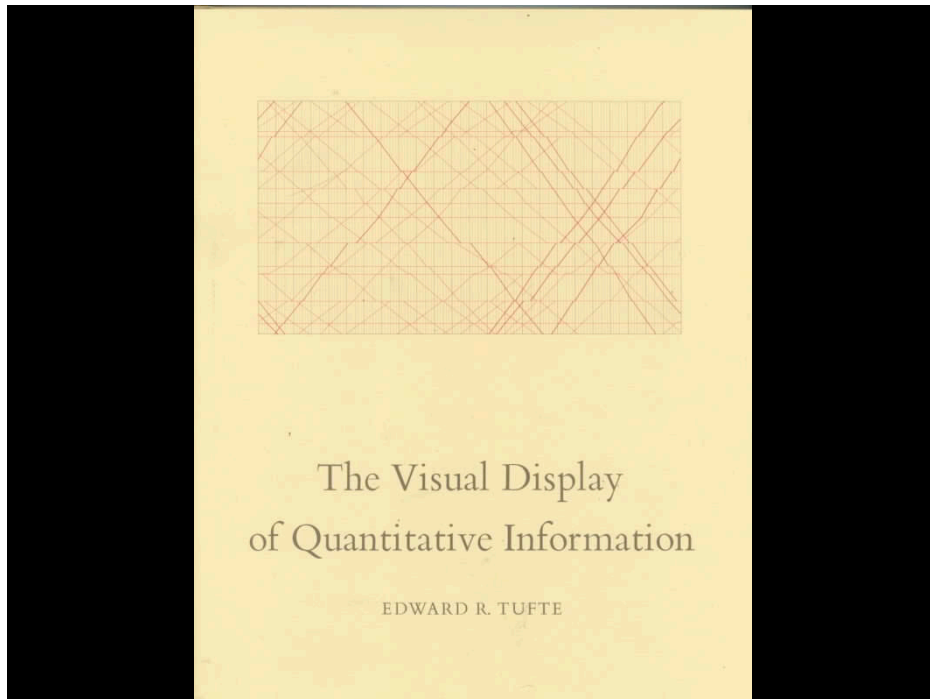
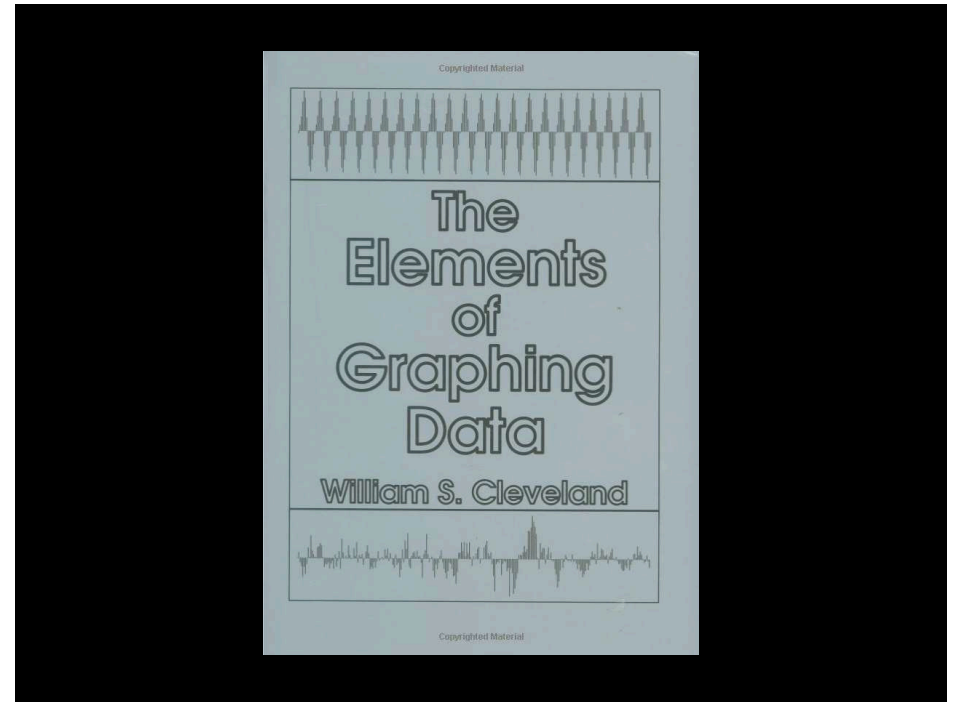
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- Appreciate that you can build even more complex charts with **ggplot** and additional R packages such as **rgl**.



## Key Point:

Good visualizations optimize for the human visual system.

**Key Point:** The most important measurement should exploit the highest ranked encoding possible

- Position along a common scale
- Position on identical but nonaligned scales
- Length
- Angle or Slope
- Area
- Volume or Density or Color saturation/hue

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luminance



saturation

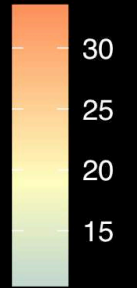


hue



Volvo 142E  
Valiant  
Toyota Corona  
Toyota Corolla  
Porsche 914-2  
Pontiac Firebird  
Merc 450SLC  
Merc 450SL  
Merc 450SE  
Merc 280C  
Merc 280  
Merc 240D  
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Maserati Bora  
Lotus Europa  
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Camaro Z28  
Cadillac Fleetwood  
AMC Javelin

mpg



30

25

20

15

Volvo 142E  
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mpg



30

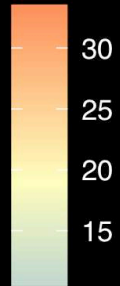
25

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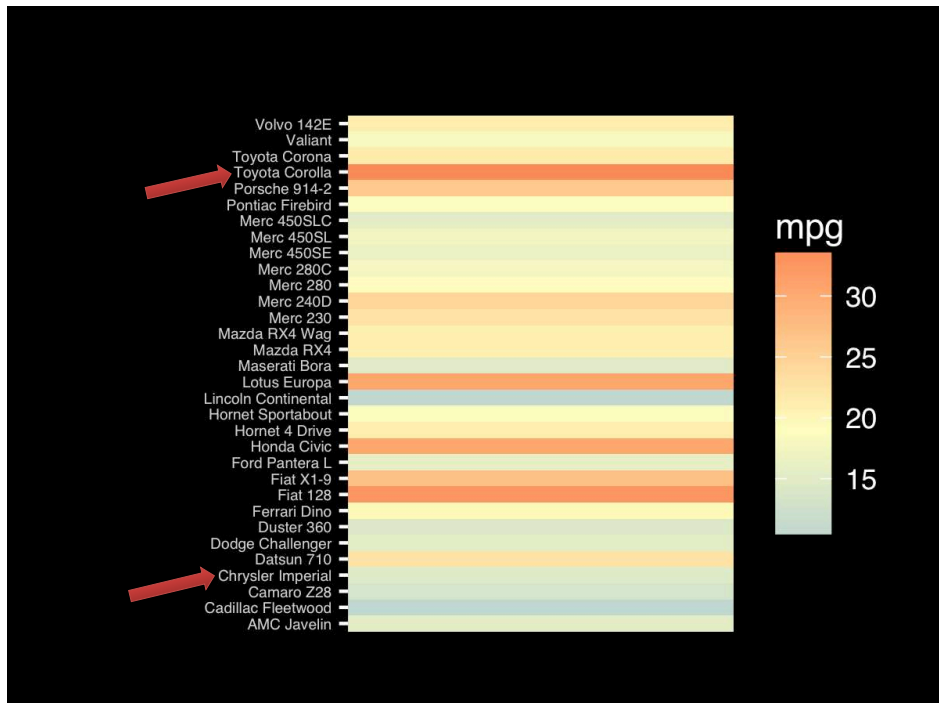


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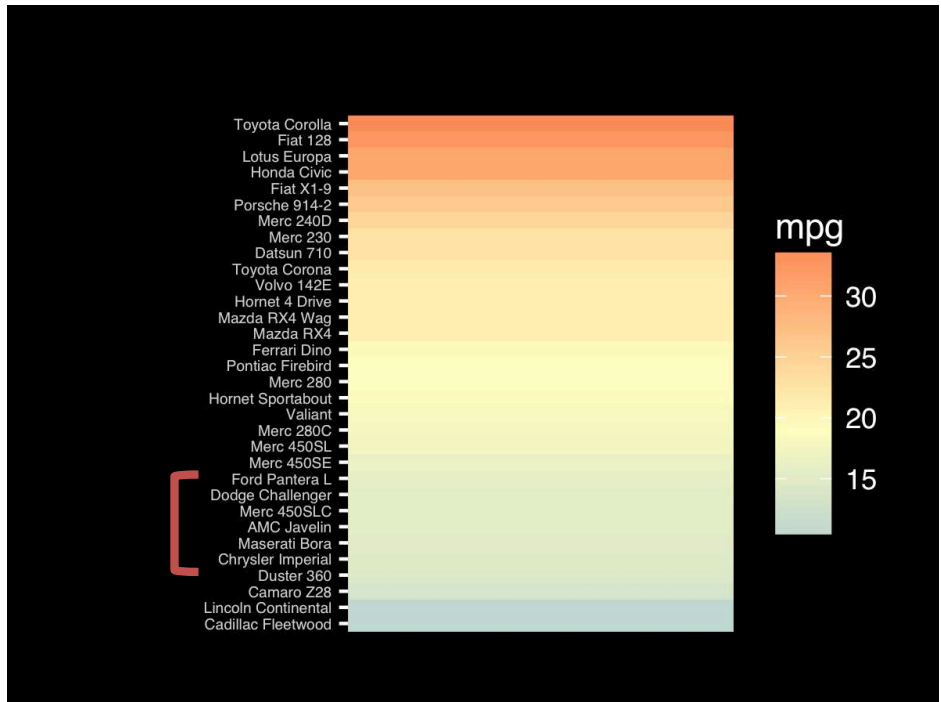
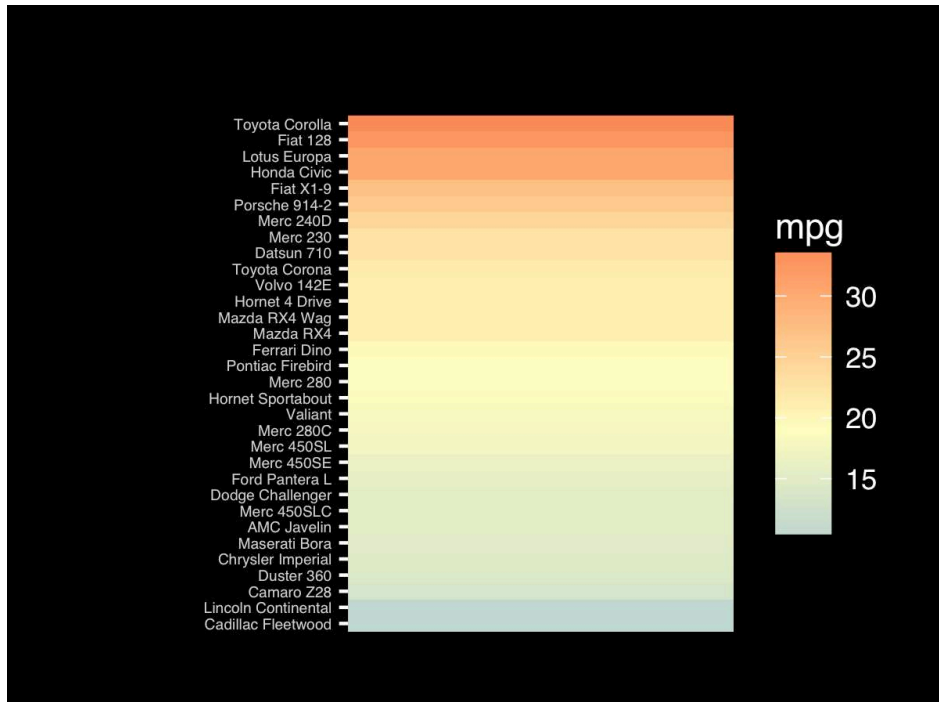
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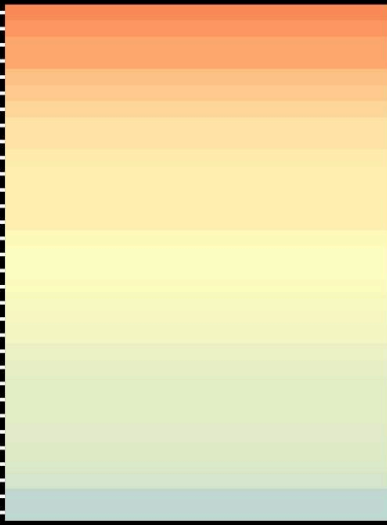


**Observation:** Alphabetical is almost never the correct ordering of a categorical variable.



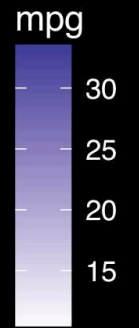
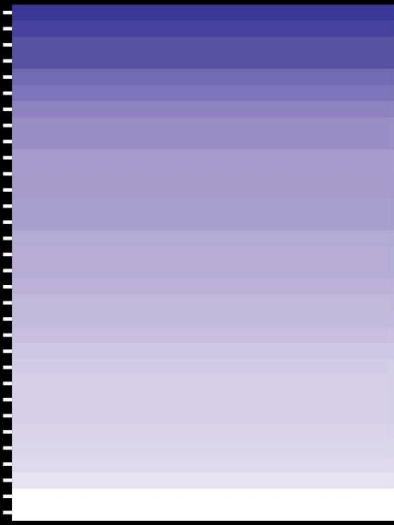


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 Chrysler Imperial  
 Duster 360  
 Camaro Z28  
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If we did not have the legend would you know which was low or high mpg?

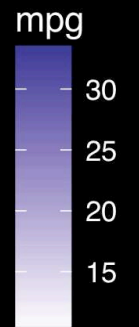
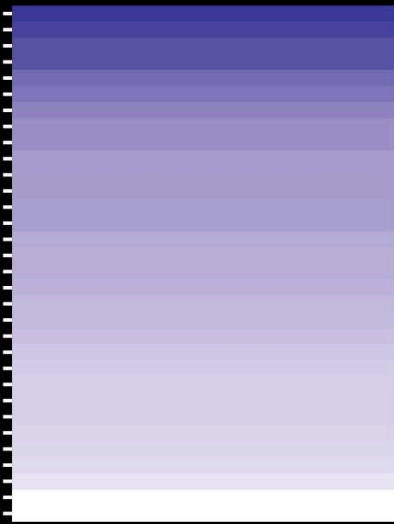
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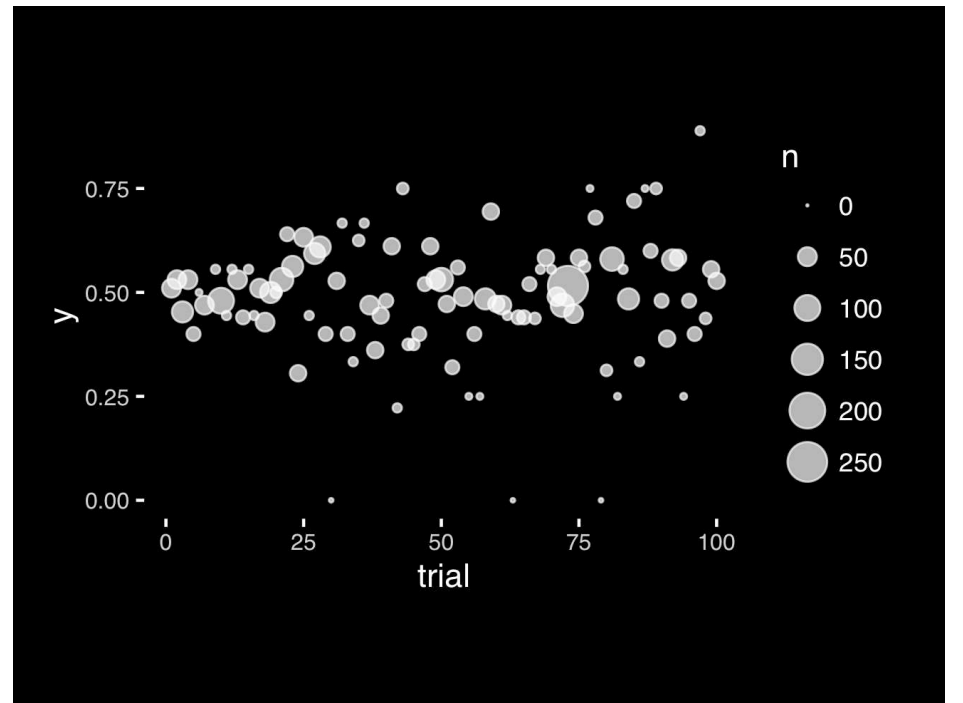


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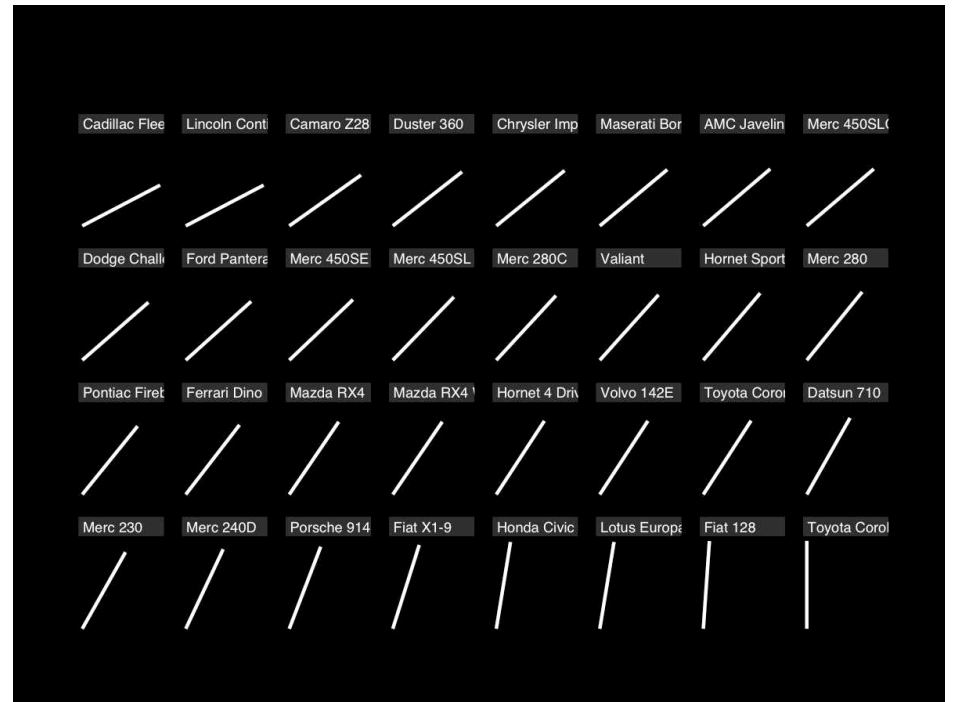
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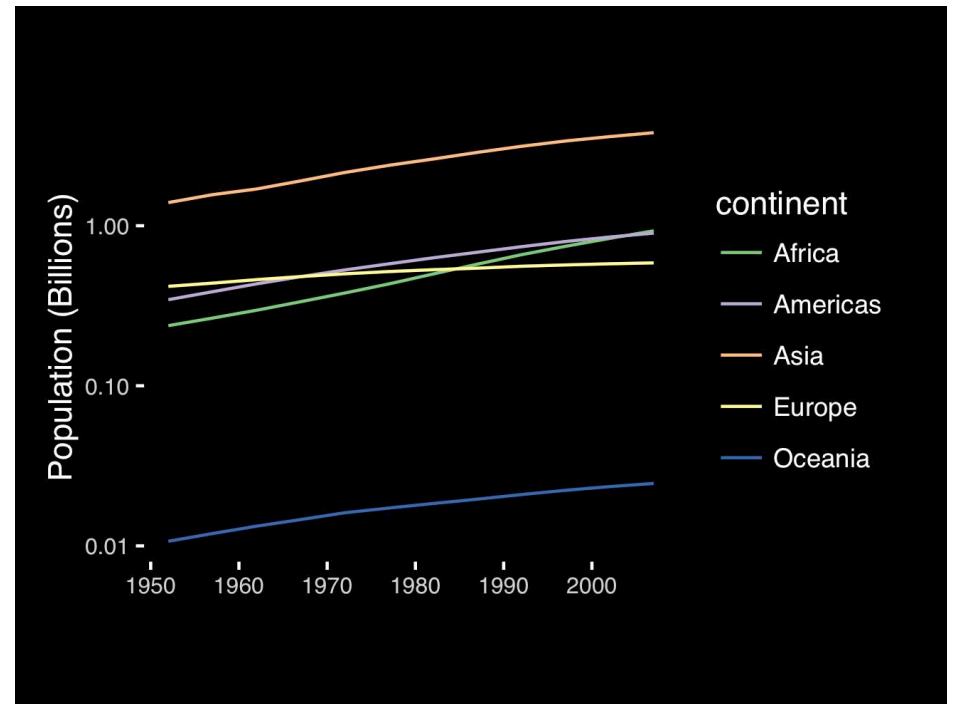
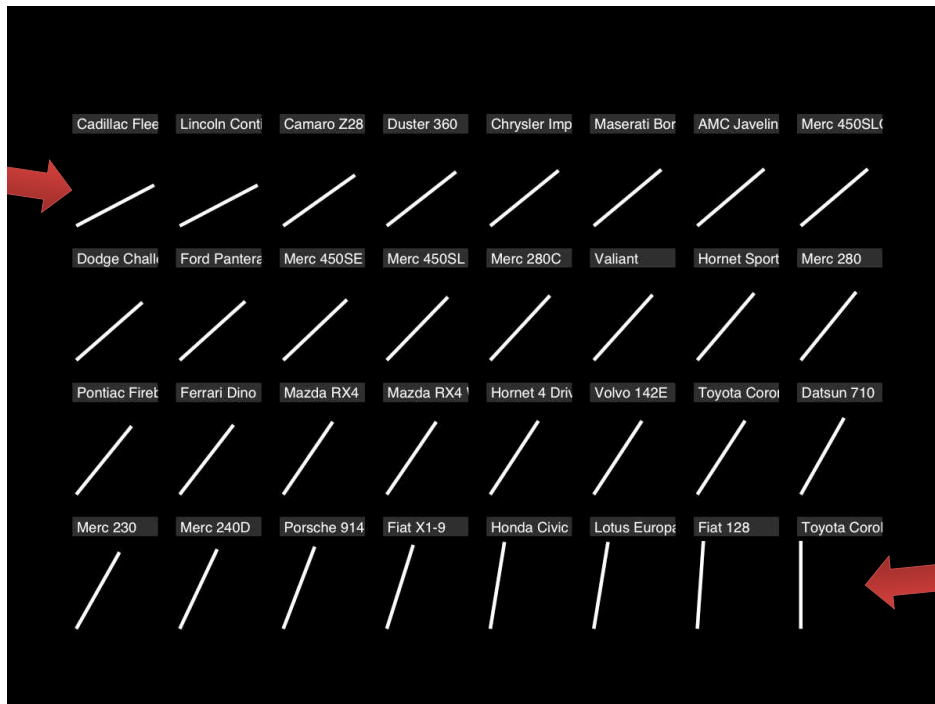




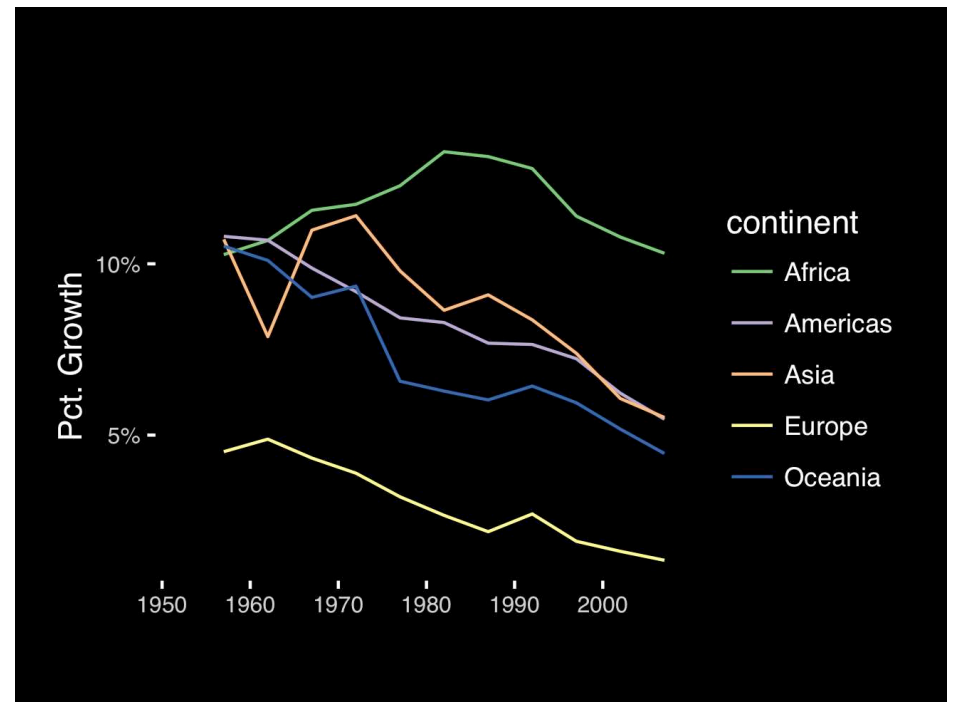
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If growth (slope) is important, plot it directly.



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**Observation:** Pie charts are ALWAYS a mistake.

Apart from MPAs :-)

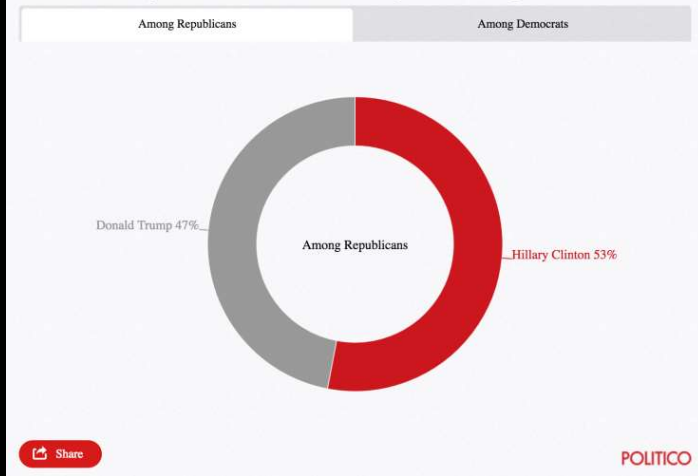
**Piecharts are the information visualization equivalent of a roofing hammer to the frontal lobe.** They have no place in the world of grownups, and occupy the same semiotic space as short pants, a runny nose, and chocolate smeared on one's face. They are as professional as a pair of assless chaps.

<http://blog.codahale.com/2006/04/29/google-analytics-the-goggles-they-do-nothing/>

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### Who do you think did a better job in tonight's debate?



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Tables are preferable to graphics for many small data sets. A table is nearly always better than a dumb pie chart; the only thing worse than a pie chart is several of them, for then the viewer is asked to compare quantities located in spatial disarray both within and between pies... Given their low data-density and failure to order numbers along a visual dimension, **pie charts should never be used.**

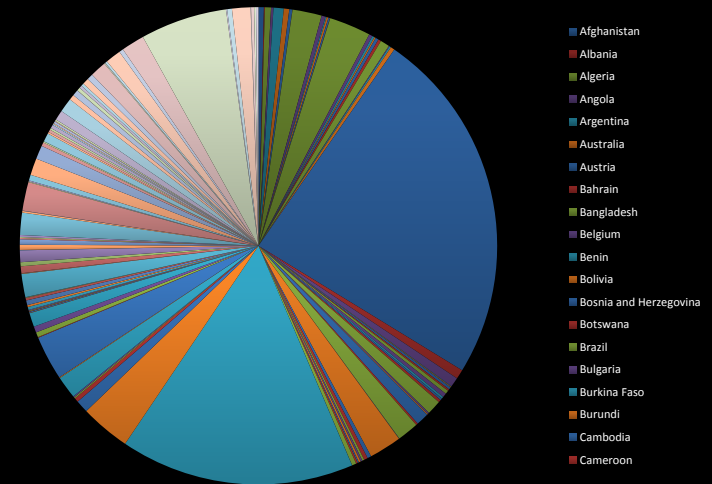
-Edward Tufte, The Visual Display of Quantitative Information

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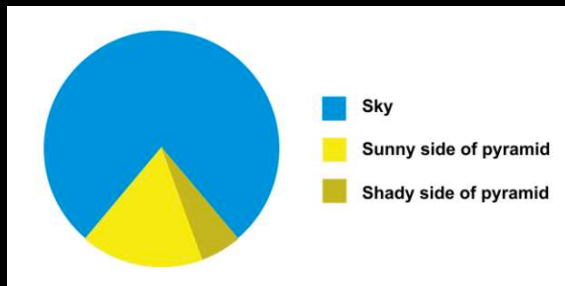
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Who do you think did a better job in tonight's debate?

	Clinton	Trump
Among Democrats	99%	1%
Among Republicans	53%	47%



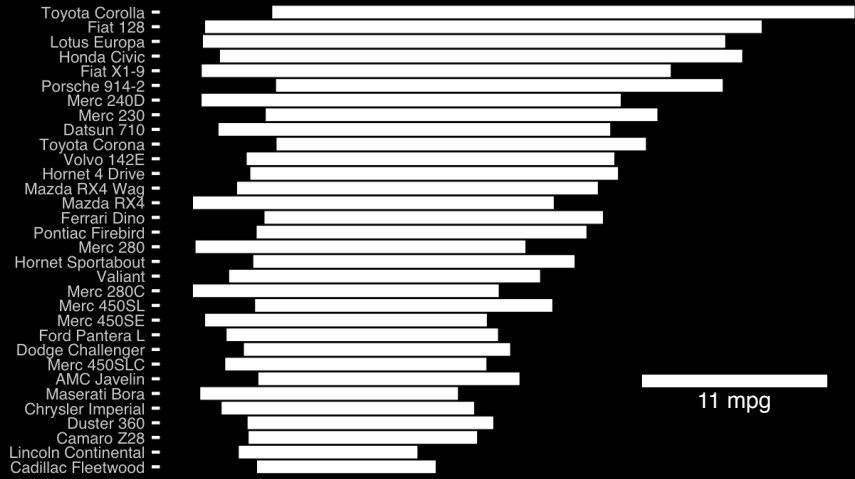
All good pie charts are jokes...



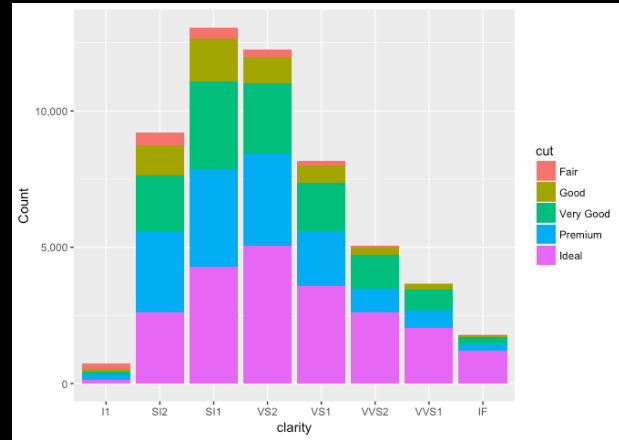
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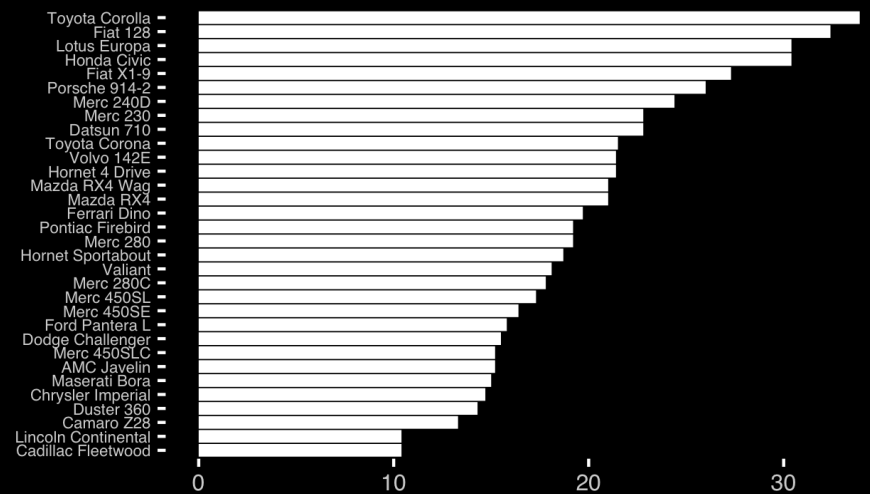
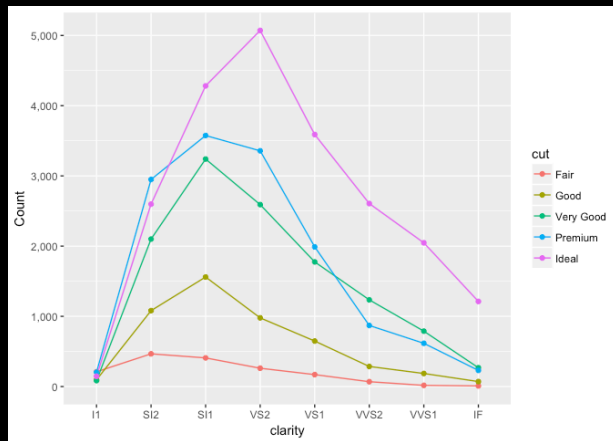


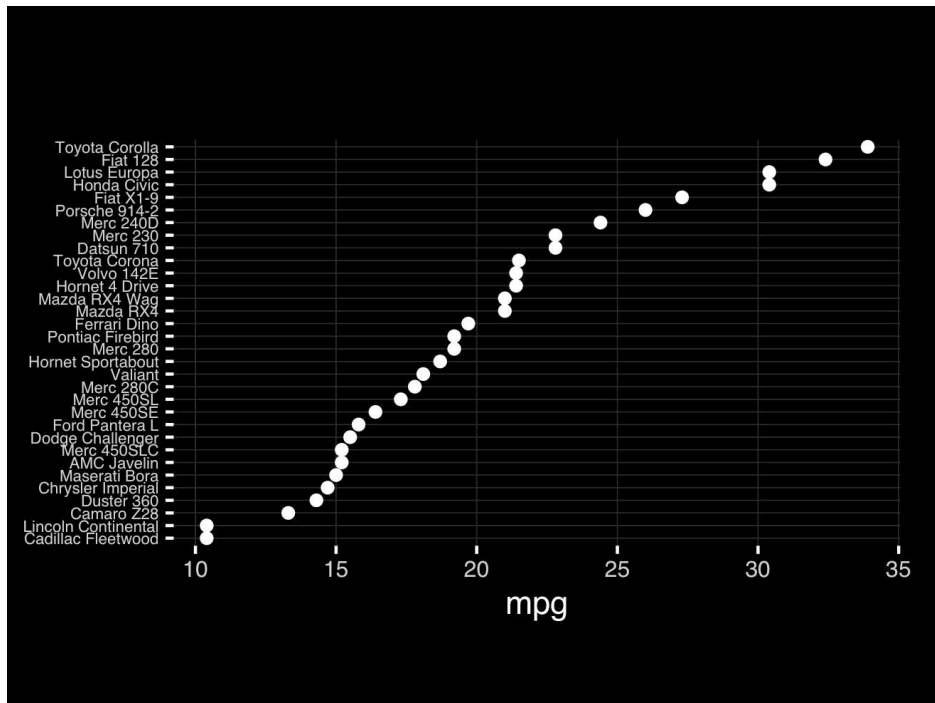


Stacked anything is nearly always a mistake



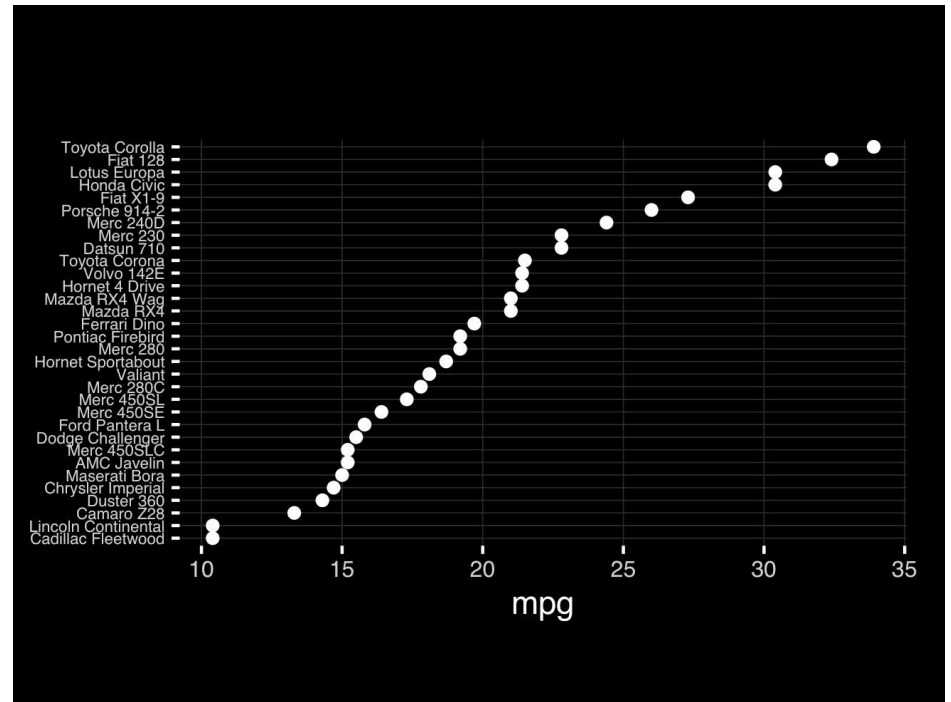
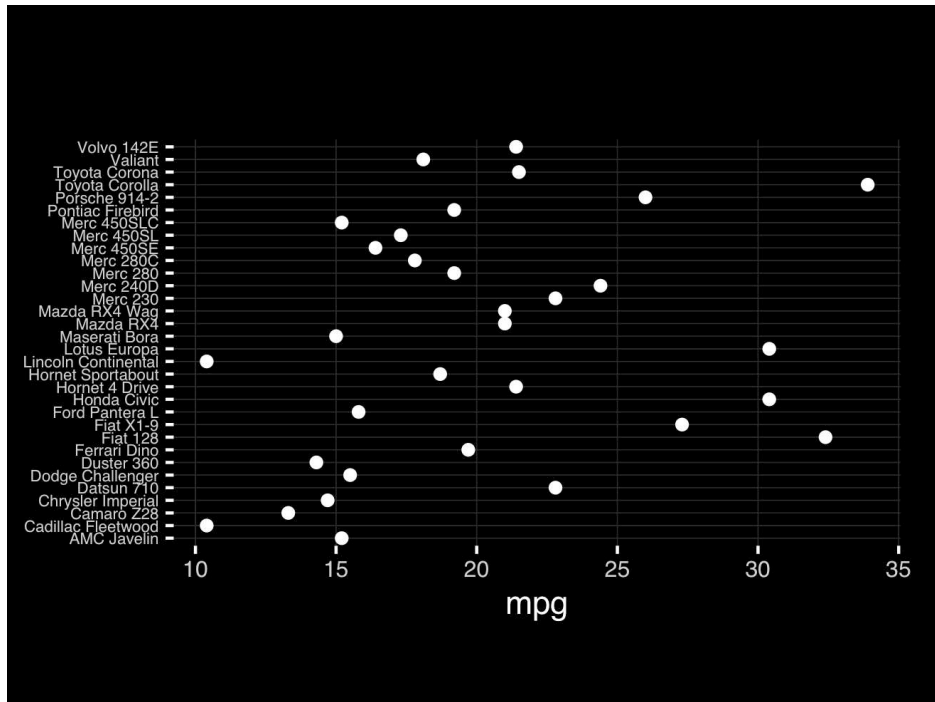
This is much better...

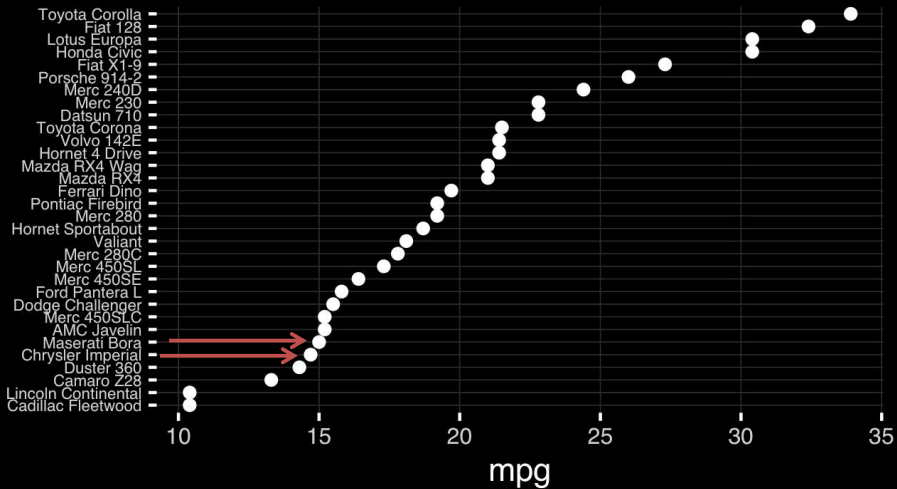




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- Angle or Slope
- Area
- Volume or Density or Color saturation/hue





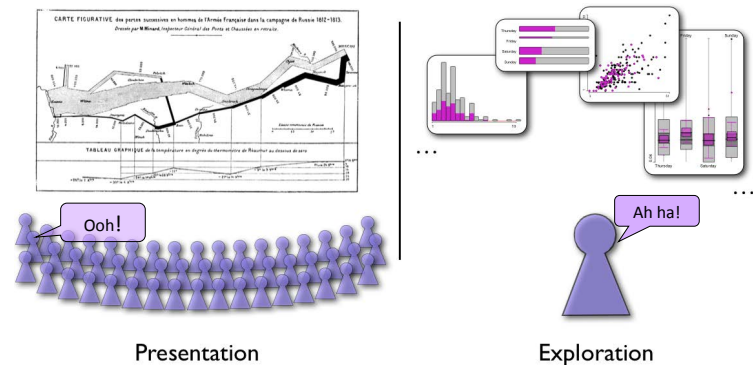
**Observation:** Comparison is trivial on a common scale.

## Today's Learning Goals

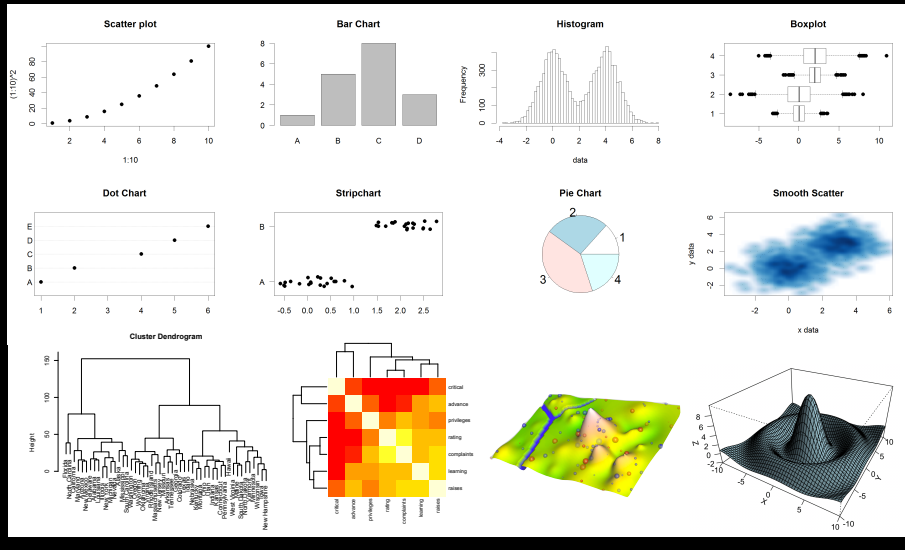
- Appreciate the major elements of **exploratory data analysis** and why it is important to visualize data.
- Be conversant with **data visualization best practices** and understand how good visualizations optimize for the human visual system.
- Be able to generate informative graphical displays including **scatterplots, histograms, bar graphs, boxplots, dendrograms** and **heatmaps** and thereby gain exposure to the extensive graphical capabilities of R.
- Appreciate that you can build even more complex charts with **ggplot** and additional R packages such as **rgl**.

## Different graphs for different purposes

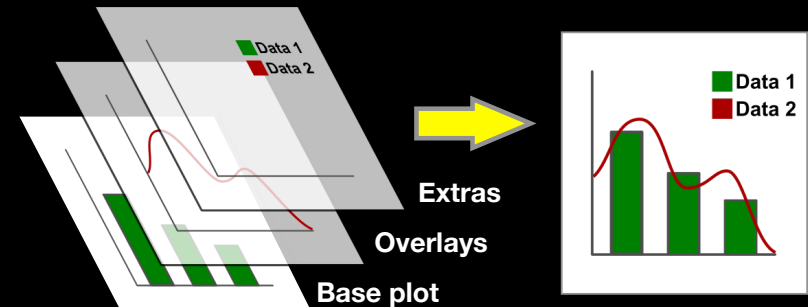
- Exploratory graphs:** many images for a narrow audience (you!)
- Presentation graphs:** single image for a large audience



# Core R Graph Types



# The R Painters Model



Side-Note: "Red and green should never be seen"

## Hands-on

### Section 1 only please

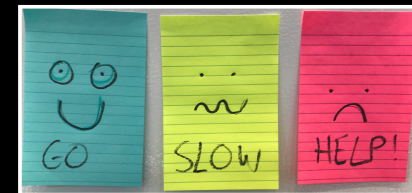
- ➔ Create a new **RStudio Project** for this class,
- ➔ **Download** the example data files and move them to your project directory,
- ➔ Focus on **Sections 1A & 1B** in the **handout**.

Do it Yourself!

## Hands-on

### Section 1 only please

- ➔ Create a new **RStudio Project** for this class,
- ➔ **Download** the example data files and move them to your project directory,
- ➔ Focus on **Sections 1A & 1B** in the **handout**.



Do it Yourself!



Do it Yourself!

# Hands-on Section 2 Notes

- ➔ Focus on Sections 2A & 2B in the lab **handout**.
- ➔ Try Section 2C if you have time.
- ➔ See notes on the following slides...

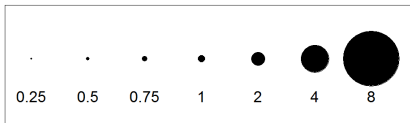
## Common Options

- Axis scales
  - `xlim c(min,max)`
  - `ylim c(min,max)`
- Axis labels
  - `xlab(text)`
  - `ylab(text)`
- Plot titles
  - `main(text)`
  - `sub(text)`
- Plot characters
  - `pch(number)`
  - `cex(number)`

- Local options to change a specific plot
- Global options to affect all graphs

## Plot Characters

cex sizes



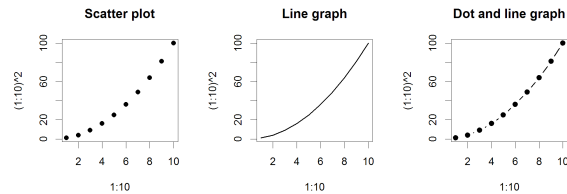
Plot Characters

×	◇	◻	●	△
4	9	14	19	24
+	*	⊗	◆	◇
3	8	13	18	23
△	⊠	⊞	▲	□
2	7	12	17	22
○	▽	⊛	●	○
1	6	11	16	21
□	◇	⊕	■	●
0	5	10	15	20

`plot(1:5, pch=1:5, cex=1:5)`

## Plot Type Specific Options

## Plot (scatterplots and line graphs)

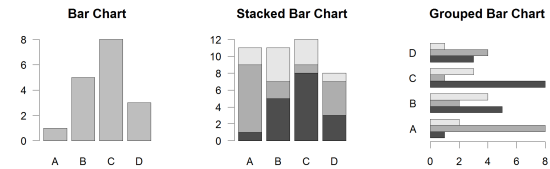


- Input: Almost anything. 2 x Vectors
- Output: Nothing
- Options:
  - ▶ `type` `l=`line, `p=`point, `b=`line+point
  - ▶ `lwd` line width (thickness)
  - ▶ `lty` line type (1=solid,2=dashed,3=dotted etc.)

```
plot(c(1:10)^2, typ="b", lwd=4, lty=3)
```

## Controlling plot area options with `par`

## Section 2B: Barplot (a.k.a. bar graphs)



- Input: Vector (single) or Matrix (stack or group)
- Output: Bar centre positions
- Options:
  - ▶ `names.arg` Bar labels (if not from data)
  - ▶ `horiz=TRUE` Plot horizontally
  - ▶ `beside=TRUE` Plot multiple series as a group not stacked

```
barplot(VADeaths, beside = TRUE)
```

## Par

- The `par()` function controls global parameters affecting all plots in the current plot area
- Changes affect all subsequent plots
- Many `par` options can also be passed to individual plots

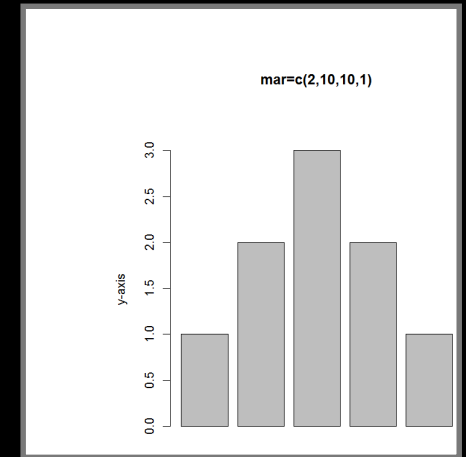
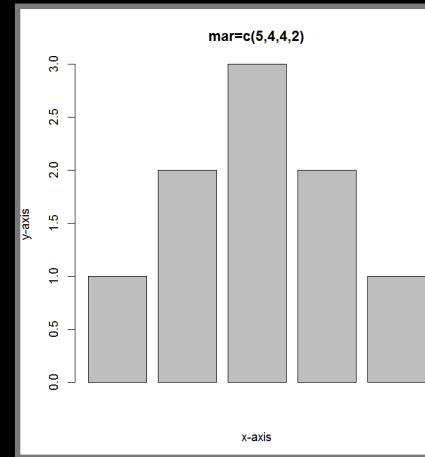
```
?par
```



## Par examples

- Reading current value
  - ▶ `old.par <- par()$mar`
- Setting a new value
  - ▶ `par(mar=c(4,11,2,1)) # Do plot`
- Restoring old value after you are done
  - ▶ `par(mar=old.par)`

Margin values are set with a 4 element vector (bottom, left, top, right)

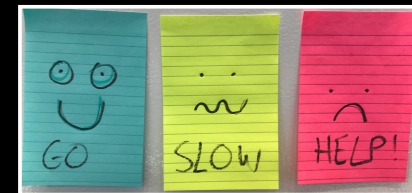


```
par(mar=c(2, 10, 10, 1))  
barplot(x)
```

## Par options

- Margins
  - `mai` (set margins in inches)
  - `mar` (set margins in number of lines)
  - `mex` (set lines per inch)
  - 4 element vector (bottom, left, top, right)
- Warning
  - Error in `plot.new()` : figure margins too large

```
par(mar=c(2, 10, 1, 1))
```



Do it Yourself!

## Hands-on Section 3 only please

- ➔ Focus on Sections 3A & 3B in the lab handout.
- ➔ Try Section 3C if you have time.
- ➔ See notes on the following slides...

## Specifying colors

- **Controlled names**
  - ▶ `col=c("red", "green")` etc.
  - ▶ see `colors()`
- **Color by number**
  - ▶ `col=c(1, 2, 3)`
  - ▶ Will give black, red, green etc.
- **Hexadecimal strings string**
  - ▶ Of the form "#RRGGBB" where each of the pairs RR, GG, BB consists of two hexadecimal digits giving a value in the range 00 to FF:
    - ▶ #FF0000 (red)
    - ▶ #0000FF (blue)

## Built in color schemes

- Functions to generate colors
- Pass in the number of colors you want, e.g. to get 7 different colors:
  - ▶ `rainbow(7)`
  - ▶ `heat.colors(7)`
  - ▶ `cm.colors(7)`
  - ▶ `terrain.colors(7)`
  - ▶ `topo.colors(7)`
  - ▶ Etc.

```
rainbow(7)
```



```
rainbow(7)
```

## Color Packages

- **Color Brewer**
  - Set of pre-defined, optimized palettes
  - `library(RColorBrewer)`
  - `brewer.pal(n_colours, palette)`
- **ColorRamps**
  - Create smooth palettes for ramped color
  - Generates a function to make actual color vectors
  - `colorRampPalette(c("red", "white", "blue"))`
  - `colorRampPalette(c("red", "white", "blue"))(5)`

## Applying Color to Plots

- Vector of numbers or specified colors passed to the `col` parameter of a plot function
- Vector of **factors** used to divide the data
  - Colors will be taken from the set color palette
  - Can read or set using `palette()` function
    - `palette()`
    - `palette(brewer.pal(9, "Set1"))`

```
plot( 1:5, col=1:5, pch=15, cex=2)
```

## Dynamic use of color

- Coloring by density
  - Pass data and palette to `densCols()`
  - Vector of colors returned
- See **Lab Supplement** (online):
  - [Plotting with color in R](#)

<https://www.rdocumentation.org/packages/grDevices/versions/3.4.3/topics/densCols>

## Make a lab report!

- Open your previous **class05** RStudio **project** (and your saved **R script**)
- Can you **source** your **class05.R** file to re-generate all your plots without error?



- If so you can now generate a nice **HTML report** of your work to date...

[Take 2-3 minutes]

## Homework!

New **DataCamp** Assignment

- **Intermediate R** (due next week)
  - Conditionals and Control Flow
  - Functions
  - Loops
- **Intermediate R: Practice** (Optional)

**Muddy Point Assessment Form Link**

Useful new website: <https://www.data-to-viz.com/>