

ggplot2 ecosystem & designing visualizations

Lecture 10

Dr. Colin Rundel

The wider ggplot2 ecosystem

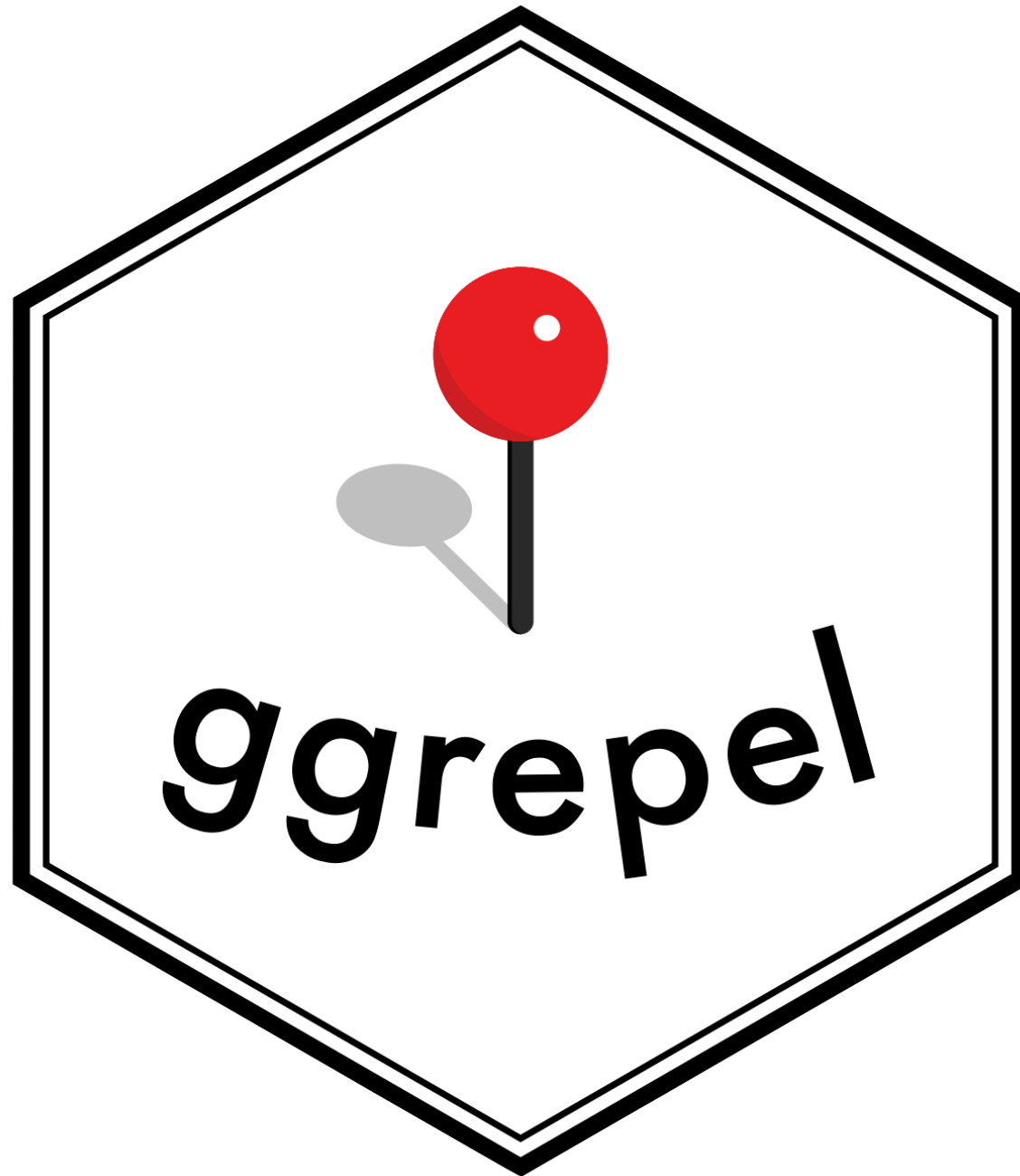
ggthemes

ggplot2 themes

```
1 g = ggplot( palmerpenguins::penguins, aes(x=species, y=body_mass_g, fill=species))  
2   geom_boxplot()
```


ggthemes

And for those who miss Excel




```
1 d = tibble(  
2   car = rownames(mtcars),  
3   weight = mtcars$wt,  
4   mpg = mtcars$mpg  
5 ) |>  
6 filter(weight > 2.75, weight < 3.45)
```



```
1 ggplot(d, aes(x=weight, y=mpg)) +  
2   geom_point(color="red") +  
3   ggrepel::geom_text_repel(  
4     aes(label = car),  
5     nudge_x = .1, box.padding = 1, point.padding = 0.6,  
6     arrow = arrow(length = unit(0.02, "npc")), segment.alpha = 0.25  
7   )
```



Sta 323 - Spring 2025

ggplot objects

```
1 library(patchwork)
2
3 p1 = ggplot(palmerpenguins::penguins) +
4     geom_boxplot(aes(x = island, y = body_mass_g))
5
6 p2 = ggplot(palmerpenguins::penguins) +
7     geom_boxplot(aes(x = species, y = body_mass_g))
8
9 p3 = ggplot(palmerpenguins::penguins) +
10     geom_point(aes(x = flipper_length_mm, y = body_mass_g, color = species))
11
12 p4 = ggplot(palmerpenguins::penguins) +
13     geom_point(aes(x = bill_length_mm, y = body_mass_g, color = species))
```

$$1 \quad p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4$$

```
1 p1 + p2 + p3 + p4 + plot_layout(nrow=1)
```

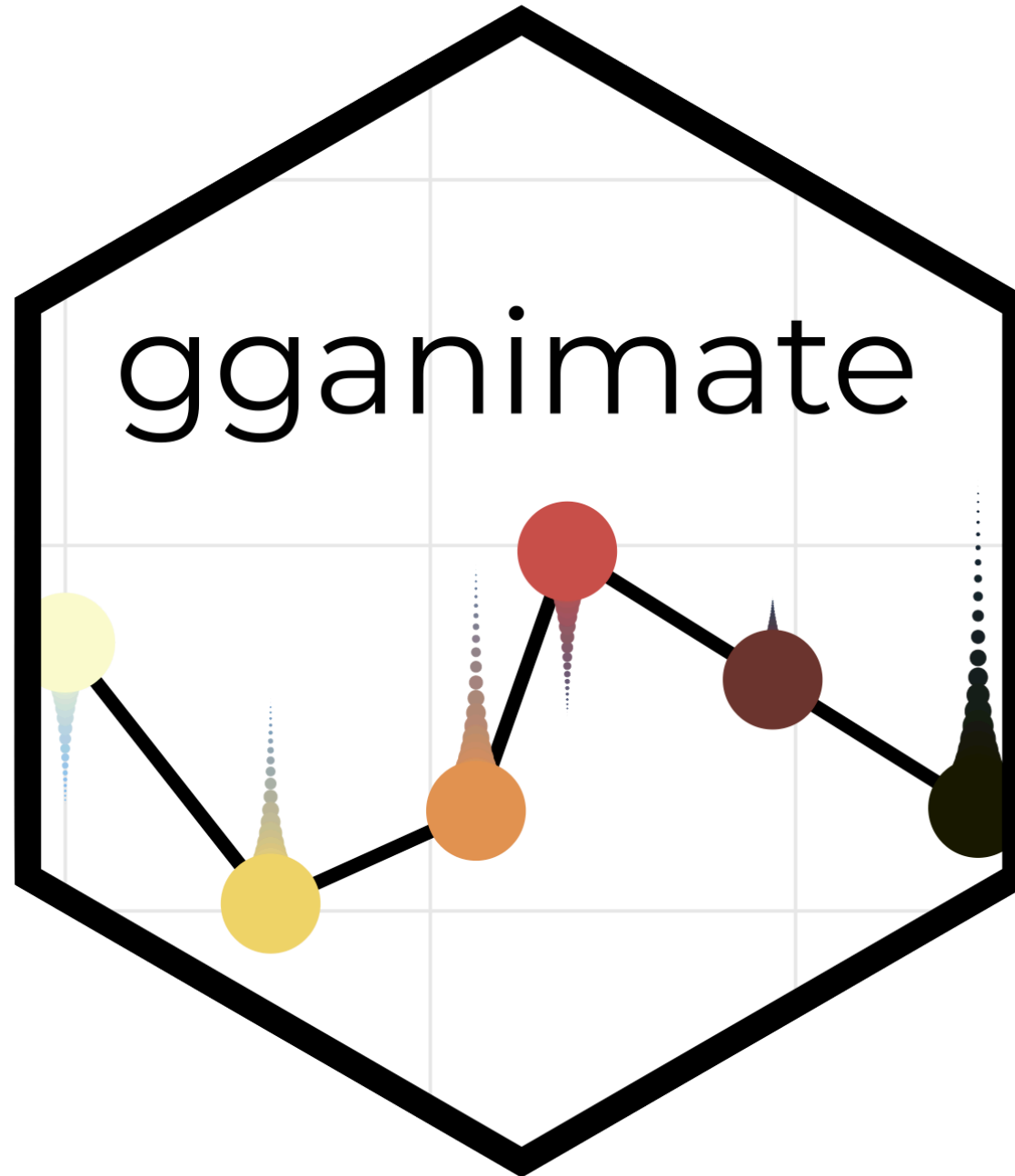
$$1 \quad p1 \ / \ (p2 \ + \ p3 \ + \ p4)$$


```
1 p1 + p2 + p3 + p4 +  
2   plot_annotation(title = "Palmer Penguins", tag_levels = c("A"))
```

```
1 p1 + {  
2   p2 + {  
3     p3 + p4 + plot_layout(ncol = 1) + plot_layout(tag_level = 'new')  
4   }  
5 } +  
6 plot_layout(ncol = 1) +  
7 plot_annotation(tag_levels = c("1","a"), tag_prefix = "Fig ")
```

GGally

```
1 GGally::ggpairs(palmerpenguins::penguins)
```



More extensions

exts.ggplot2.tidyverse.org/gallery/

ggplot2 extensions - gallery

Add Your Extension!

exts.ggplot2.tidyverse.org

101 registered extensions available to explore

Sort

Github stars

Text Filter

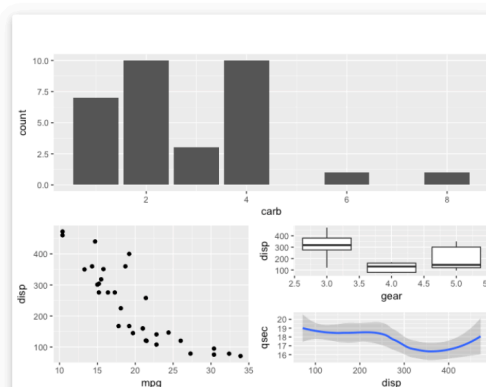
search name, author

Author Filter

Tag Filter

CRAN Only

Showing 86 of 101



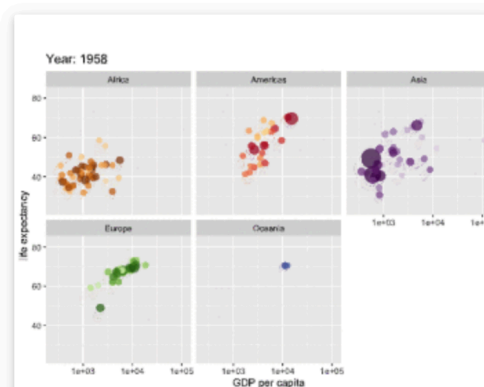
patchwork 1932

Easy composition of ggplot plots using arithmetic operators

■ **author:** [thomasp85](#)

■ **tags:** [visualization](#), [composition](#)

■ **js libraries:**



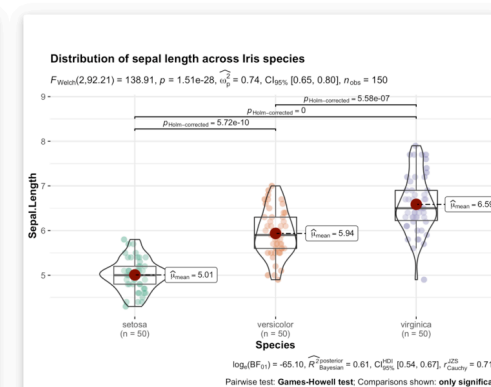
gganimate 1709

A Grammar of Animated Graphics.

■ **author:** [thomasp85](#)

■ **tags:** [visualization](#), [general](#)

■ **js libraries:**



ggstatsplot 1283

'ggstatsplot' provides a collection of functions to enhance 'ggplot2' plots with results from statistical tests.

■ **author:** [IndrajeetPatil](#)

■ **tags:** [visualization](#), [statistics](#)

■ **js libraries:**

Why do we visualize?

Asncombe's Quartet

```
1 datasets::anscombe |> as_tibble()
```

Tidy anscombe

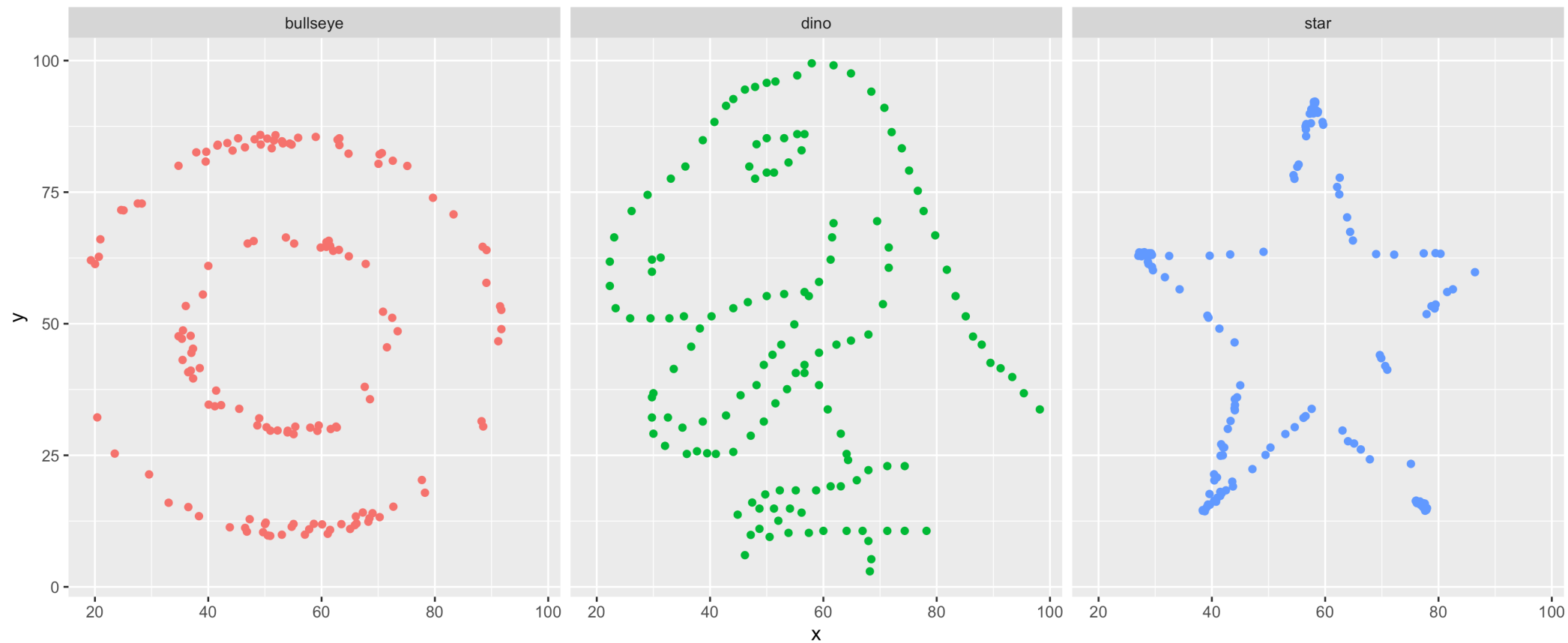
```
1 (tidy_anscombe = datasets::anscombe |>
2   pivot_longer(everything(), names_sep = 1, names_to = c("var", "gro
3   pivot_wider(id_cols = group, names_from = var,
4               values_from = value, values_fn = list(value = list))
5   unnest(cols = c(x,y)))
```

```
1 tidy_anscombe |>
2   group_by(group) |>
3   summarize(
4     mean_x = mean(x), mean_y = mean(y),
5     sd_x = sd(x), sd_y = sd(y),
6     cor = cor(x,y), .groups = "drop"
7   )
```

```
1 ggplot(tidy_anscombe, aes(x = x, y = y, color = as.factor(group))) +  
2   geom_point(size=2) +  
3   facet_wrap(~group) +  
4   geom_smooth(method="lm", se=FALSE, fullrange=TRUE, formula=y~x) +  
5   guides(color="none")
```

DatasauRus

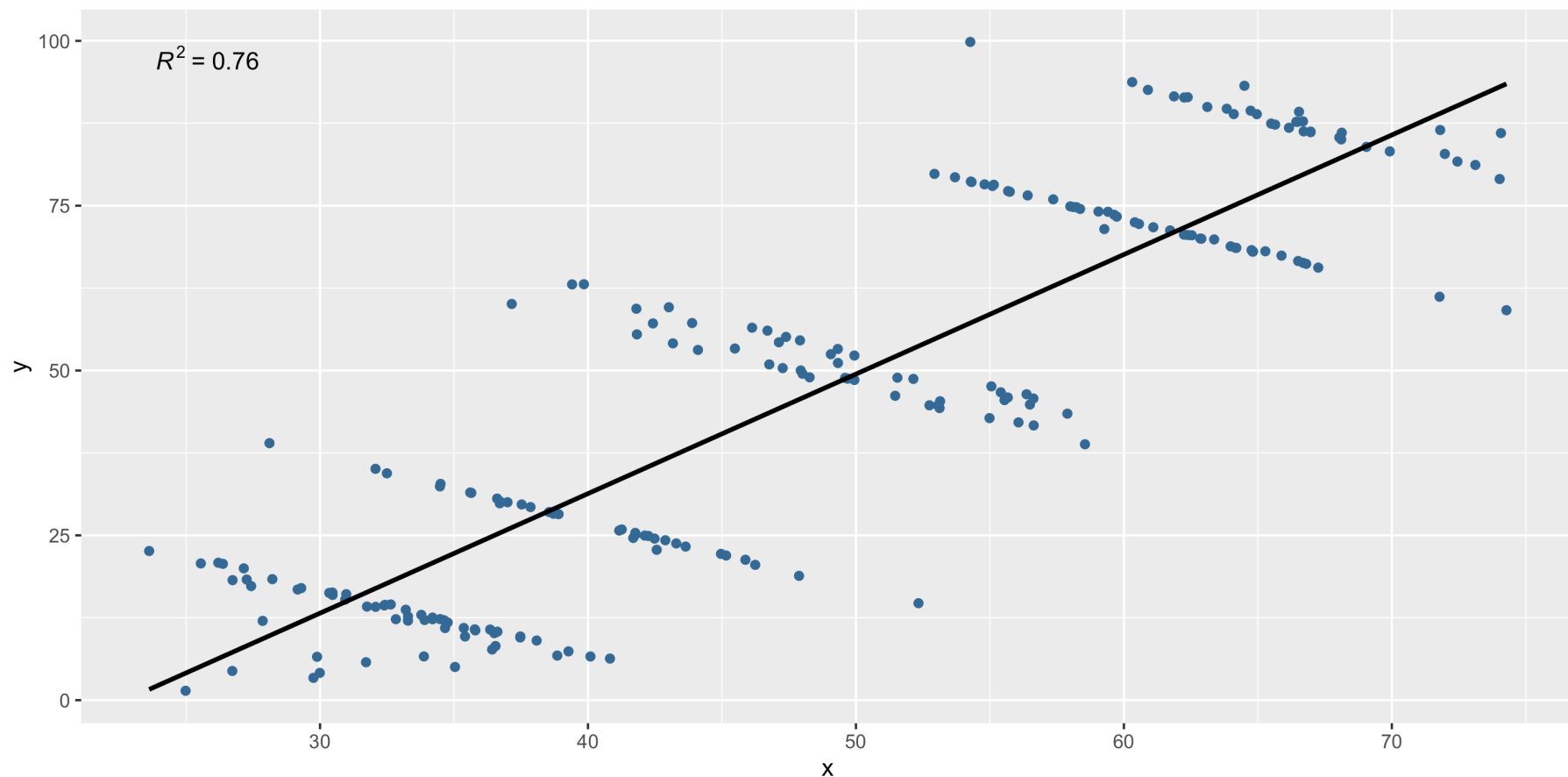
```
1 ggplot(datasauRus::datasaurus_dozen, aes(x = x, y = y))  
2 ) +  
3   geom_point() +  
4   facet_wrap(~dataset, ncol=5)
```



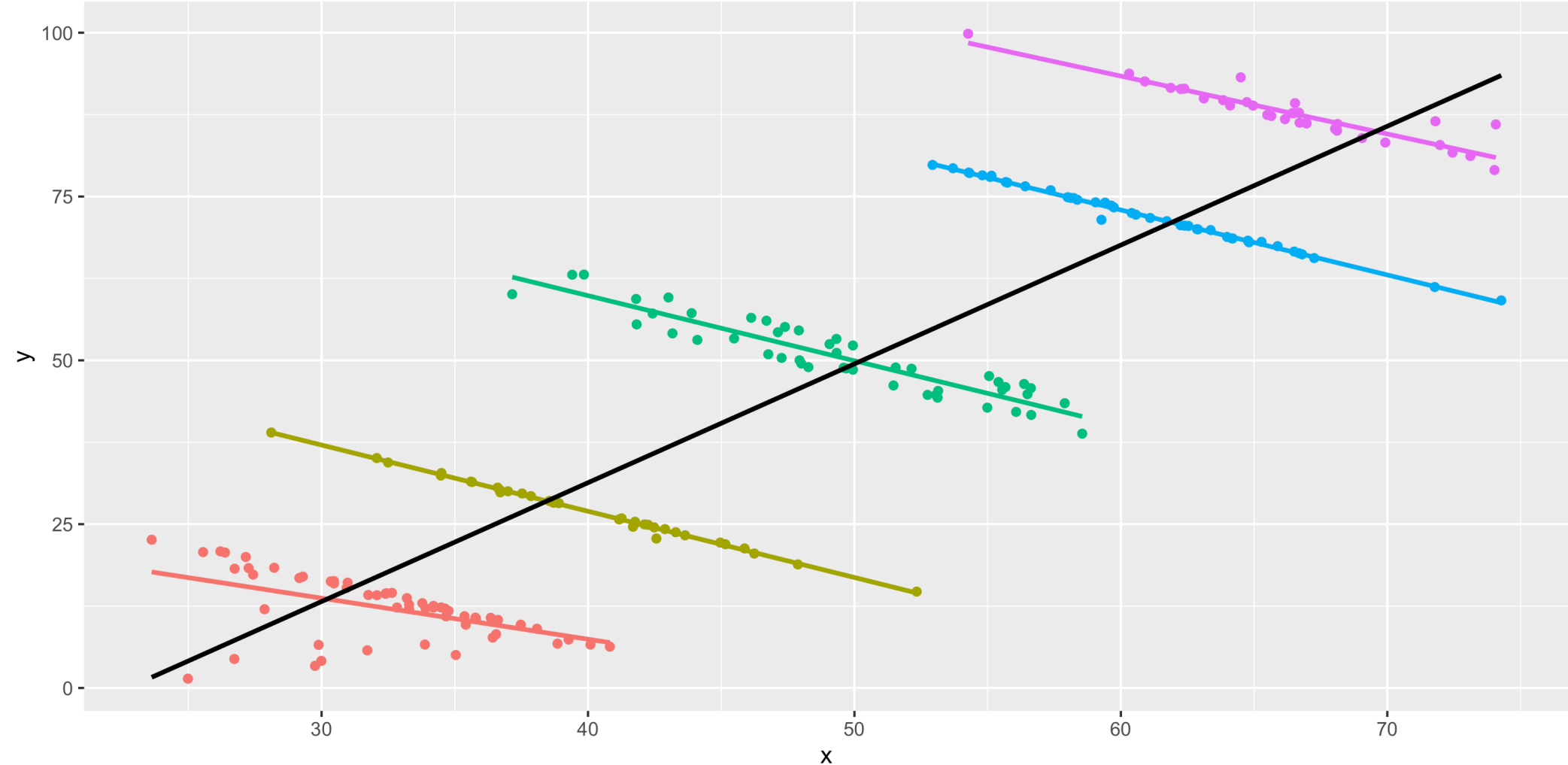
Simpson's Paradox

Registered S3 methods overwritten by 'ggpp':

method	from
heightDetails.titleGrob	ggplot2
widthDetails.titleGrob	ggplot2



Simpson's Paradox



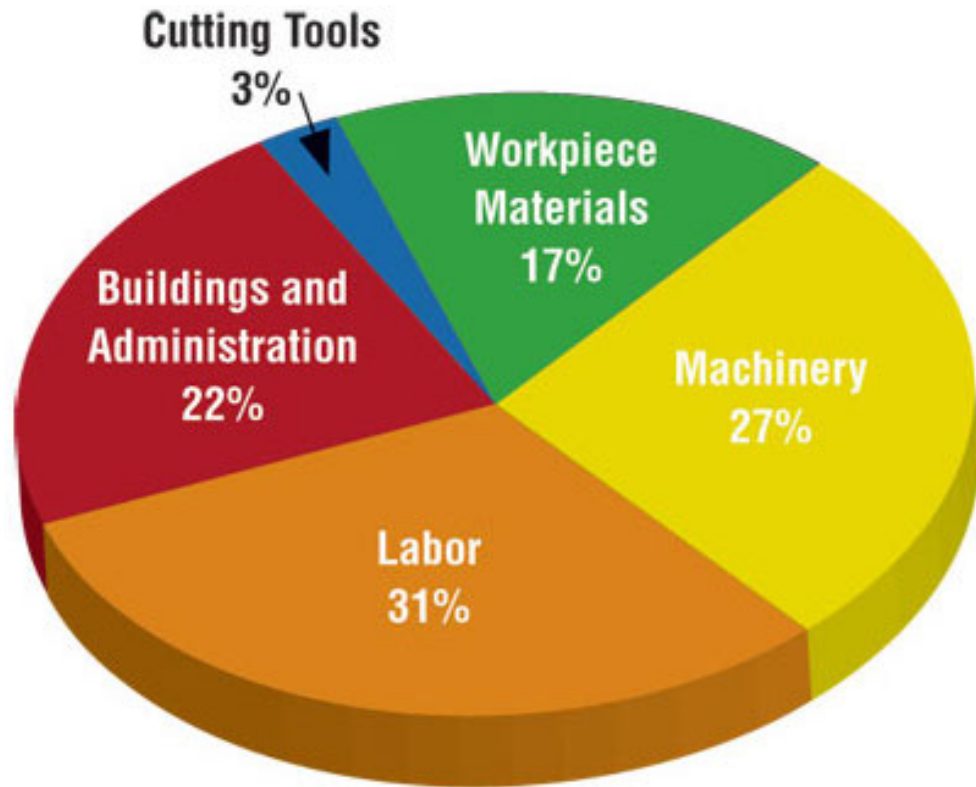
Designing effective visualizations

Gapminder

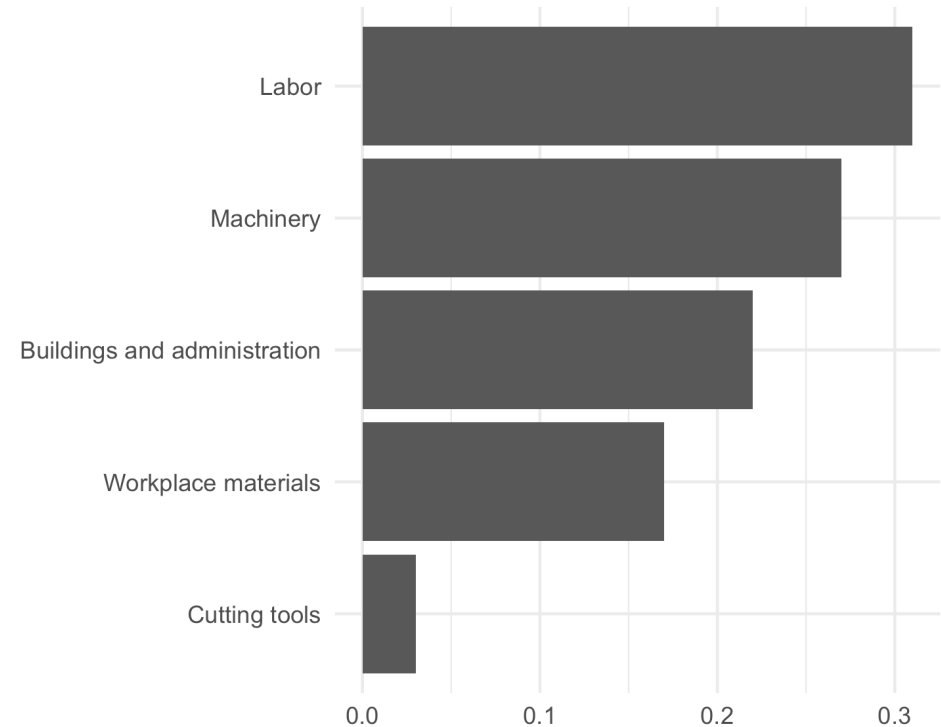
gapminder.org

gapminder.org/dollar-street

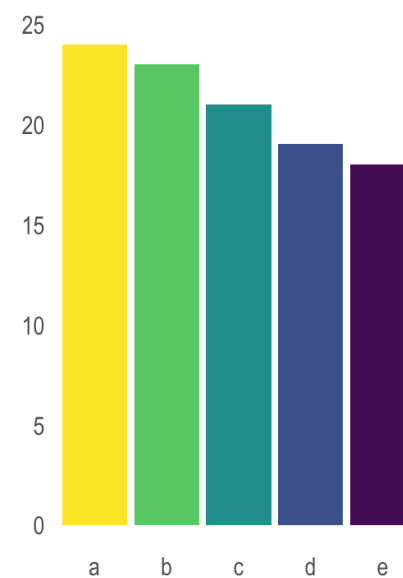
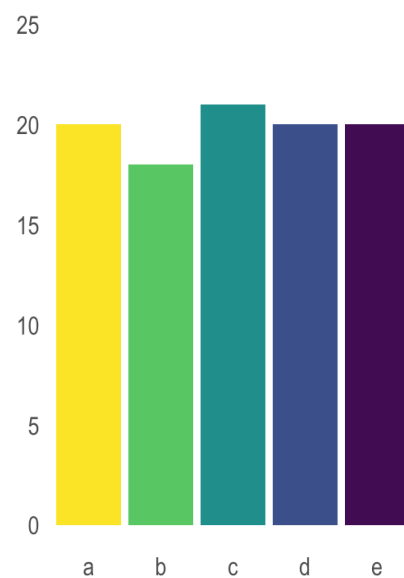
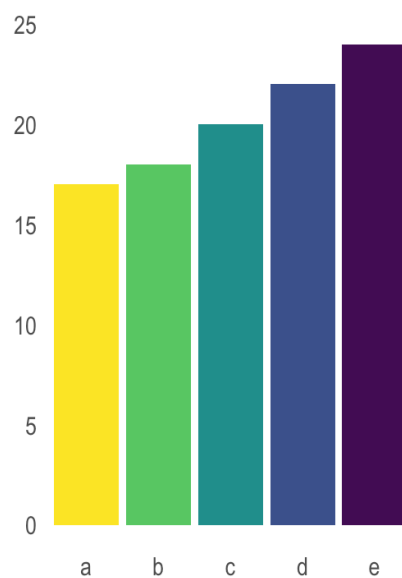
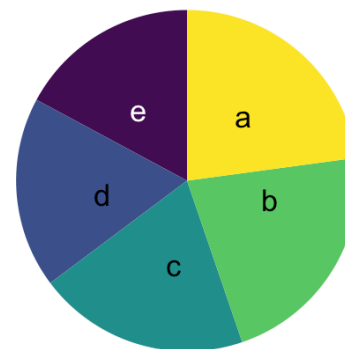
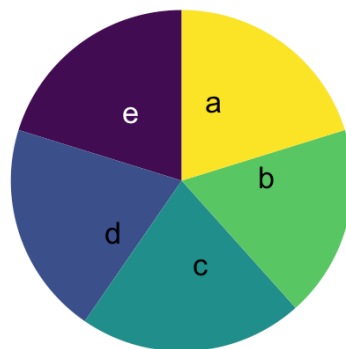
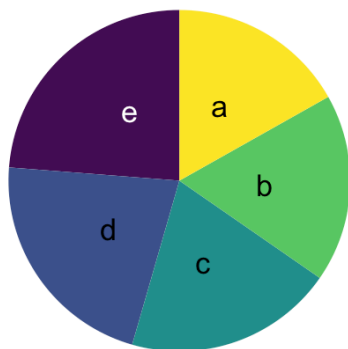
Keep it simple



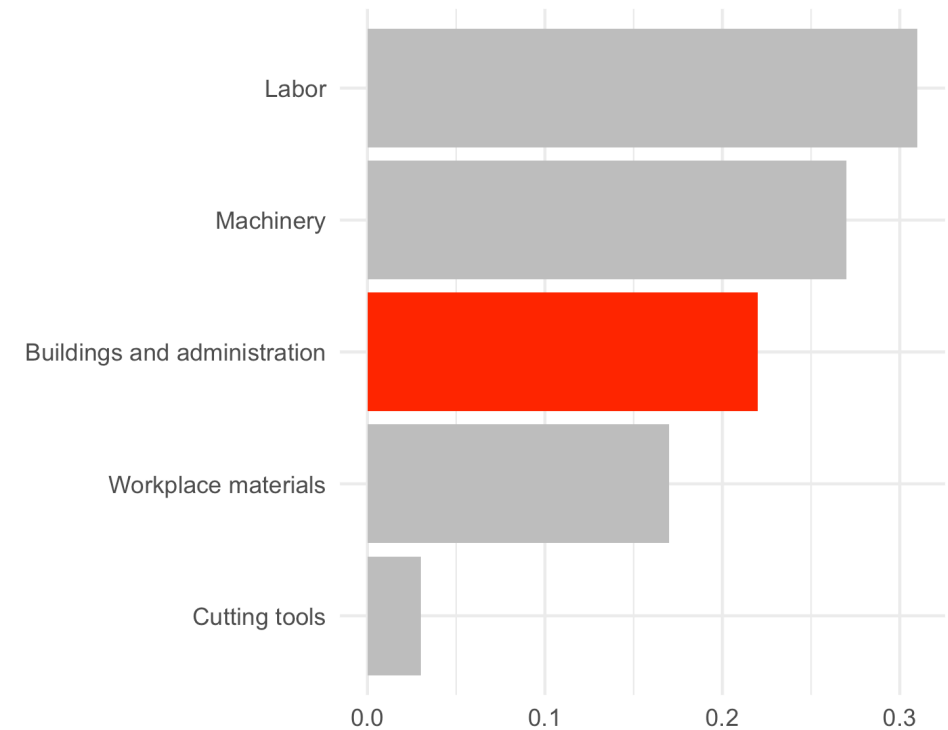
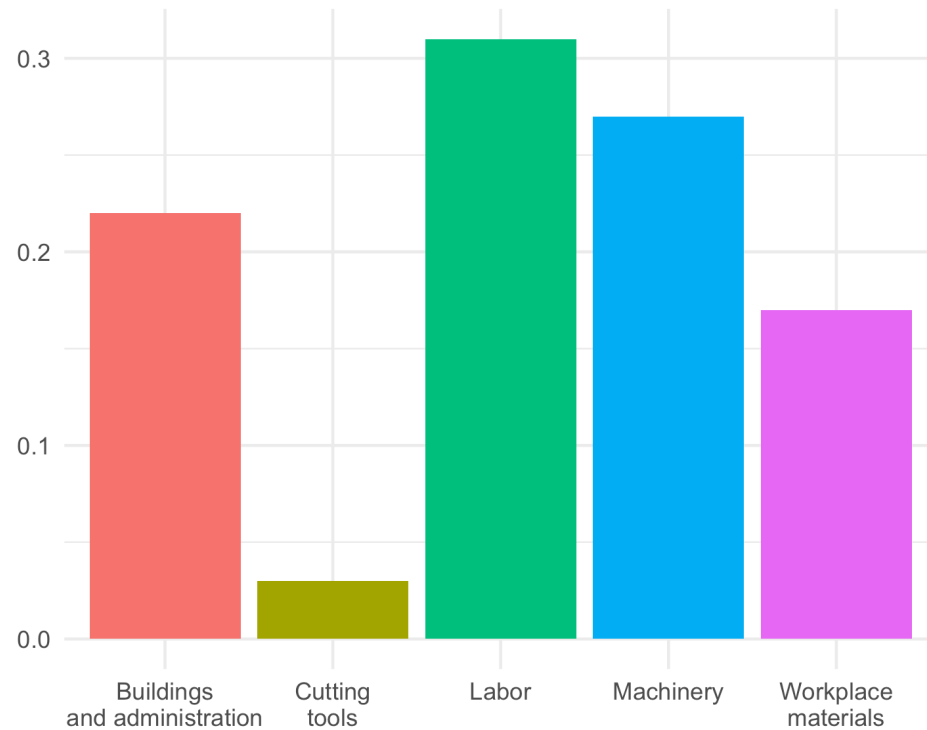
::: {.cell layout-align="center"} ::: {.cell-output-display}



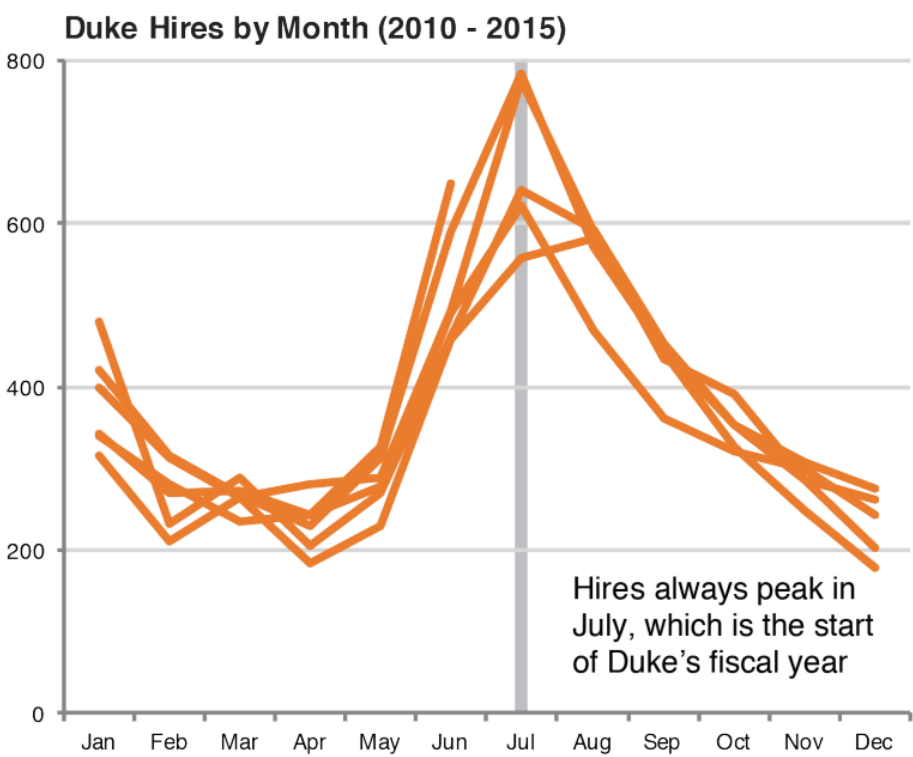
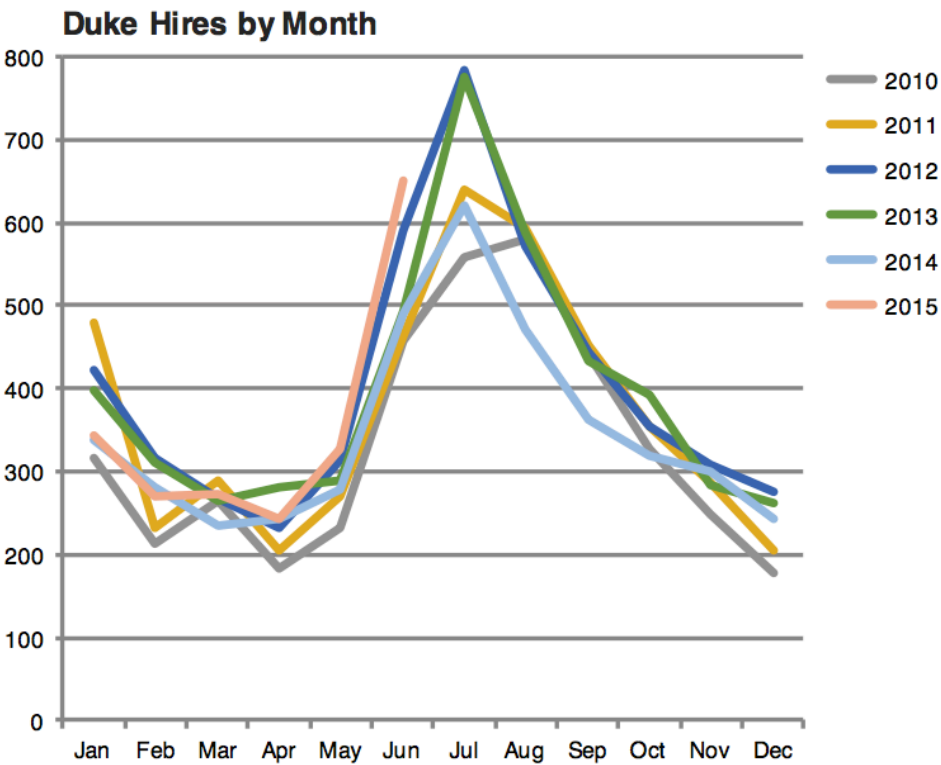
Judging relative area



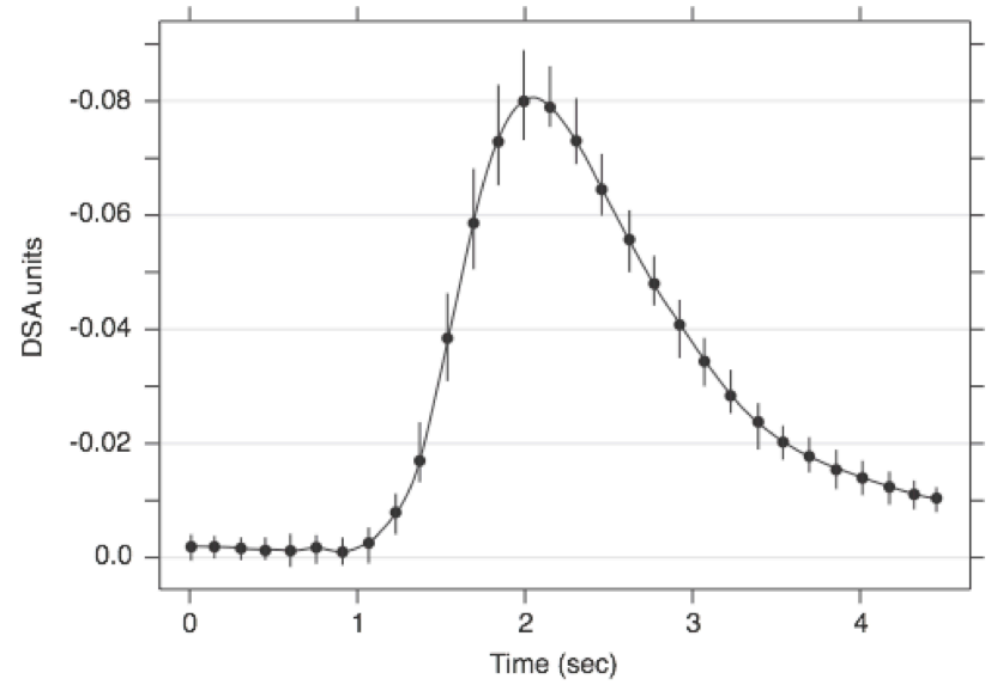
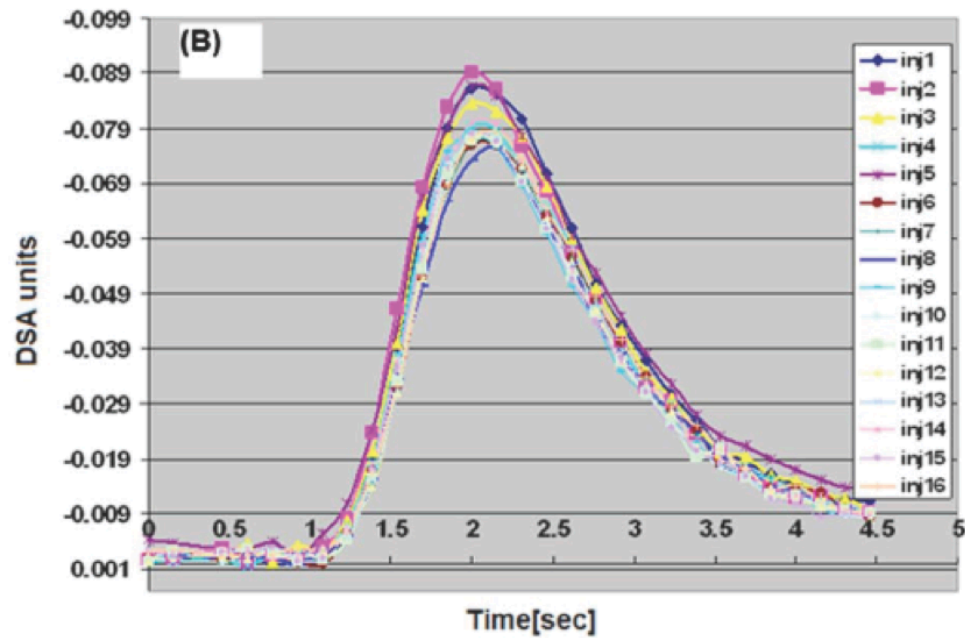
Use color to draw attention



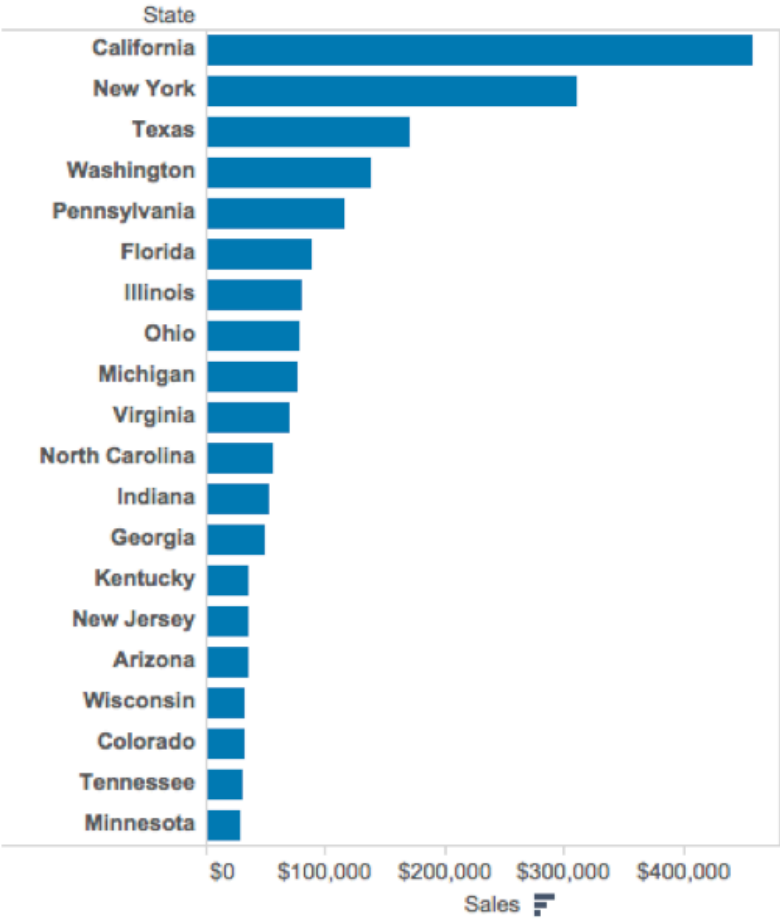
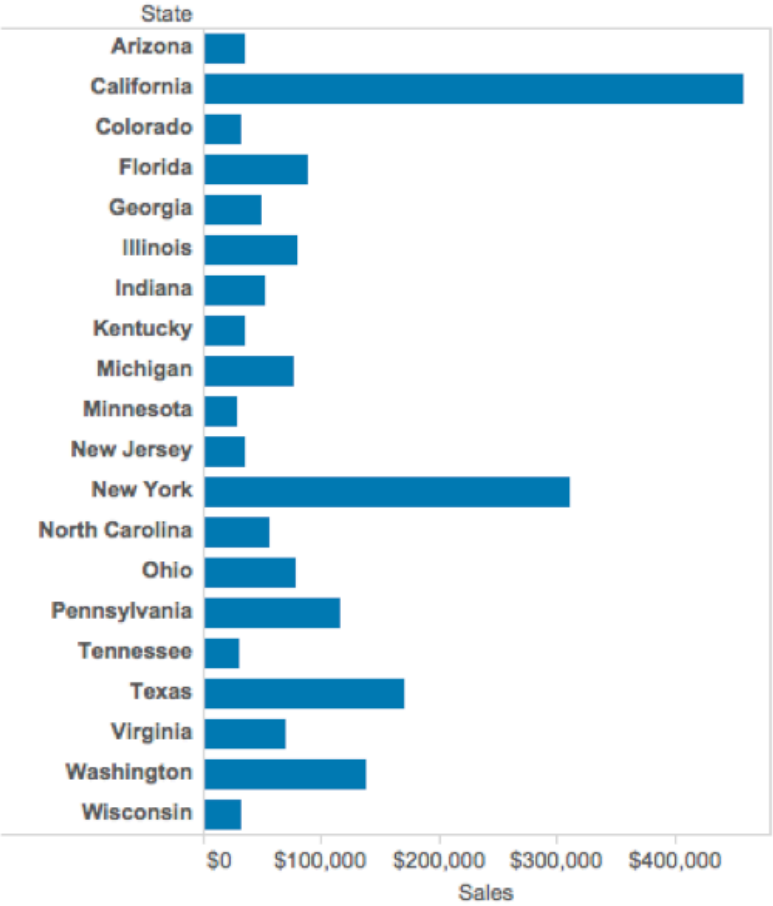
Tell a story



Leave out non-story details



Ordering matter



Clearly indicate missing data

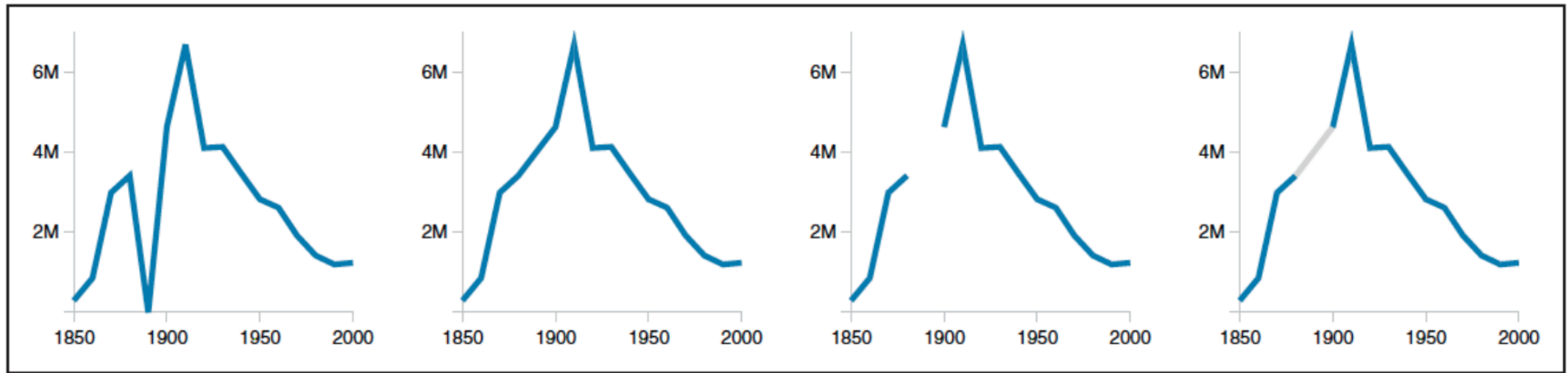
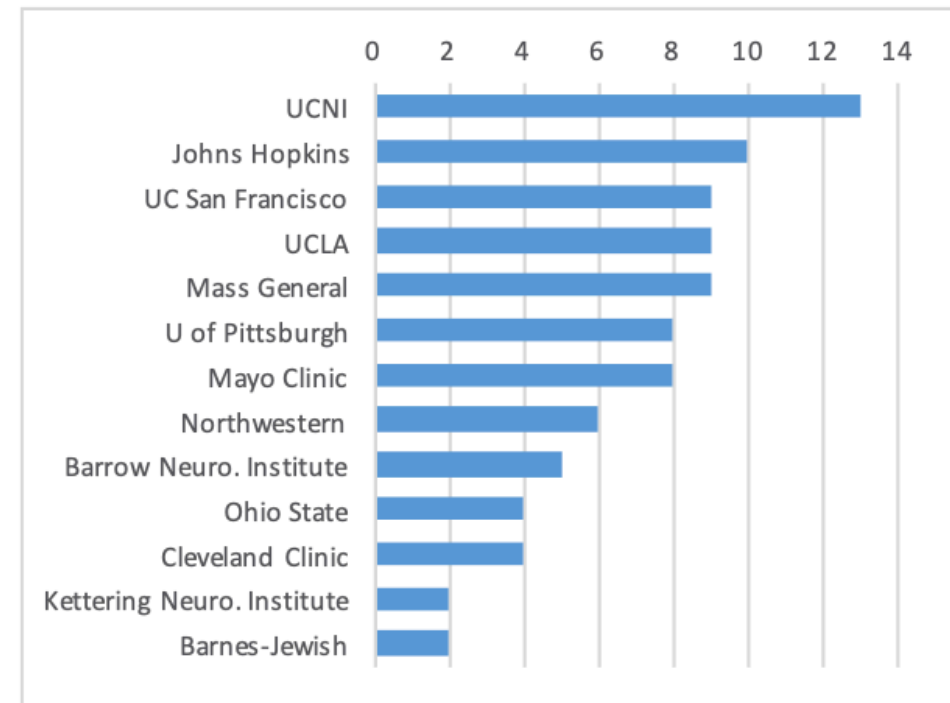
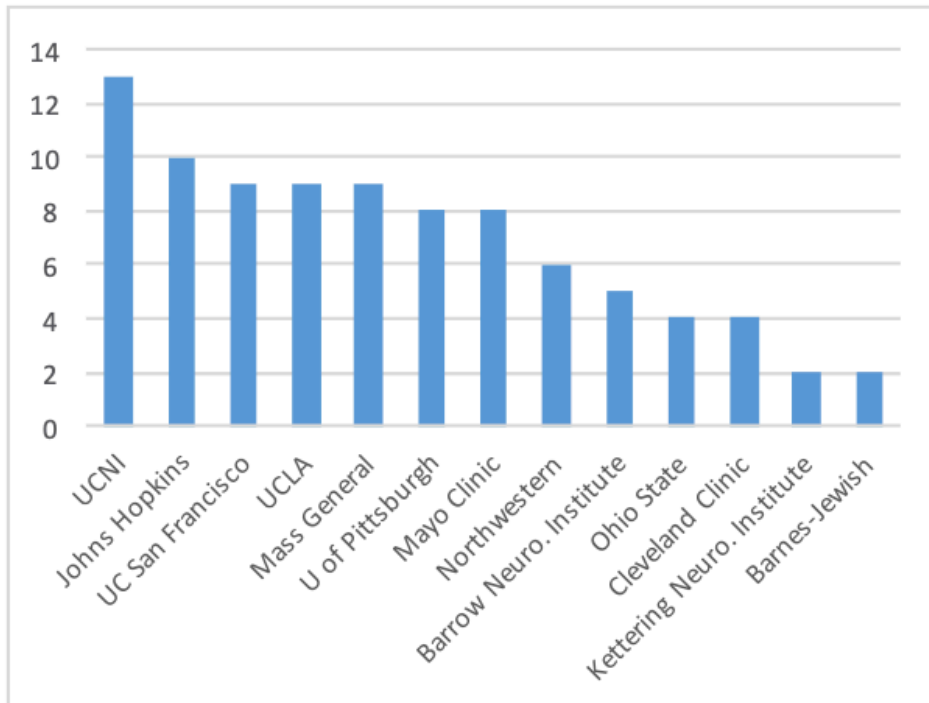


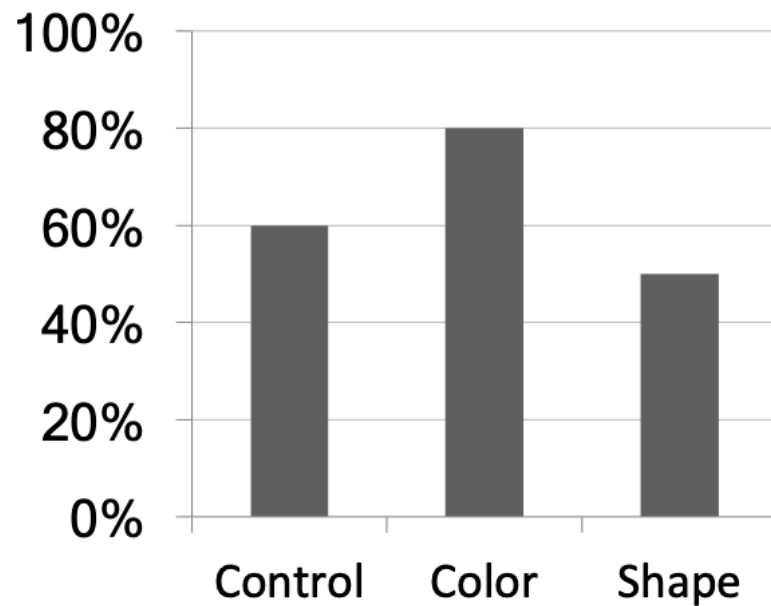
Figure 4. Alternative representations of missing data in a line chart. The data are U.S. census counts of people working as 'Farm Laborers'; values from 1890 are missing due to records being burned in a fire. (a) Missing data is treated as a zero value. (b) Missing data is ignored, resulting in a line segment that interpolates the missing value. (c) Missing data is omitted from the chart. (d) Missing data is explicitly interpolated and rendered in gray.

Reduce cognitive load

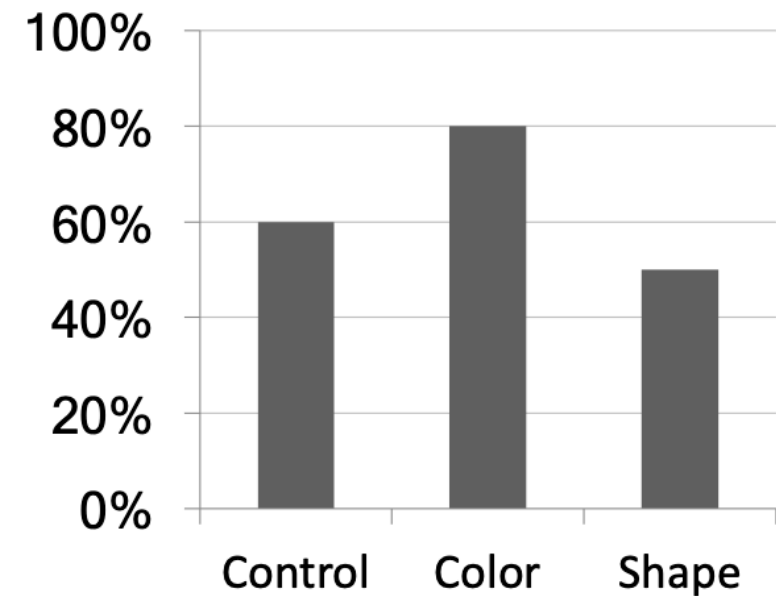


Use descriptive titles

**Accuracy versus
Color and Shape**



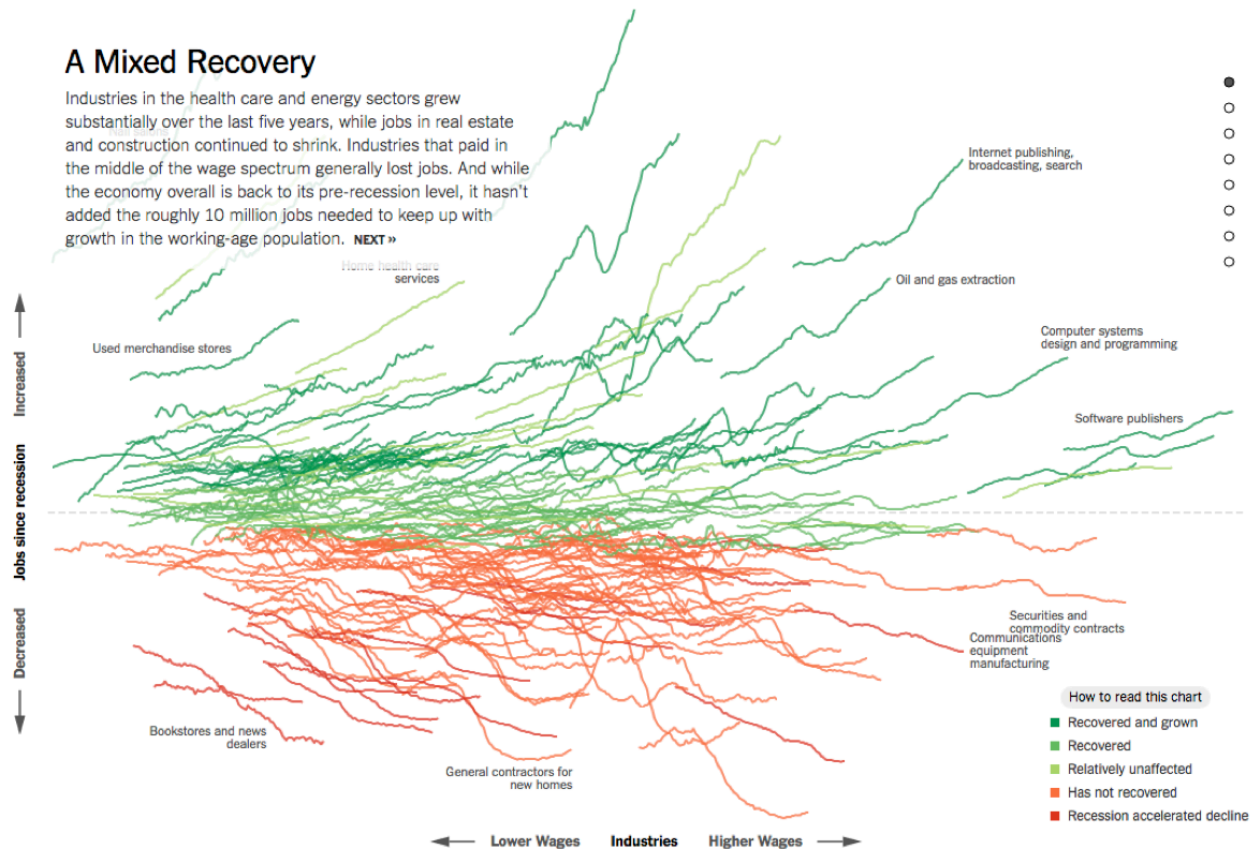
**Accuracy Improved by
Color, not Shape**



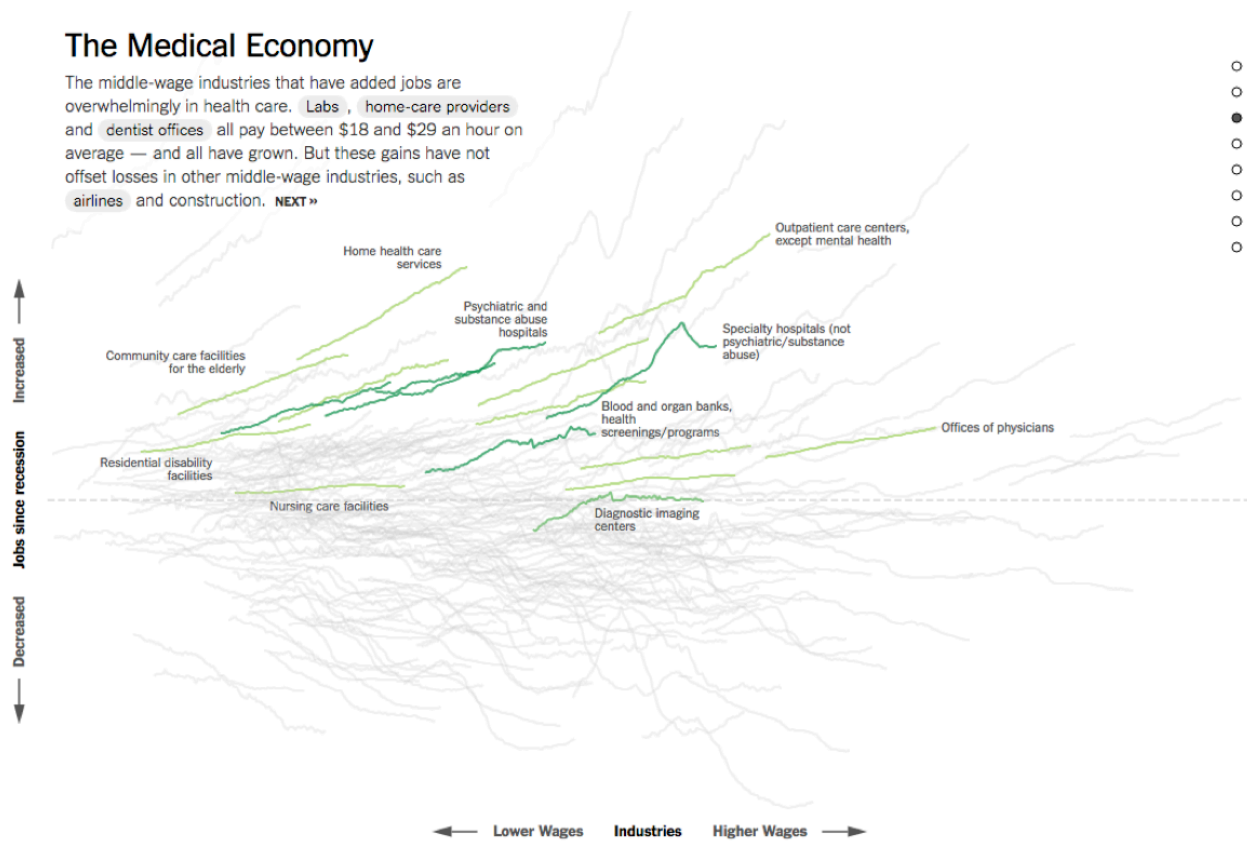
Annotate figures



All of the data doesn't tell a story



All of the data doesn't tell a story



All of the data doesn't tell a story

A Long Housing Bust

Home prices have rebounded from their crisis lows, but home building remains at historically low levels. Overall, industries connected with construction and real estate have lost 19 percent of their jobs since the recession began — hundreds of thousands more than health care has added. **NEXT »**

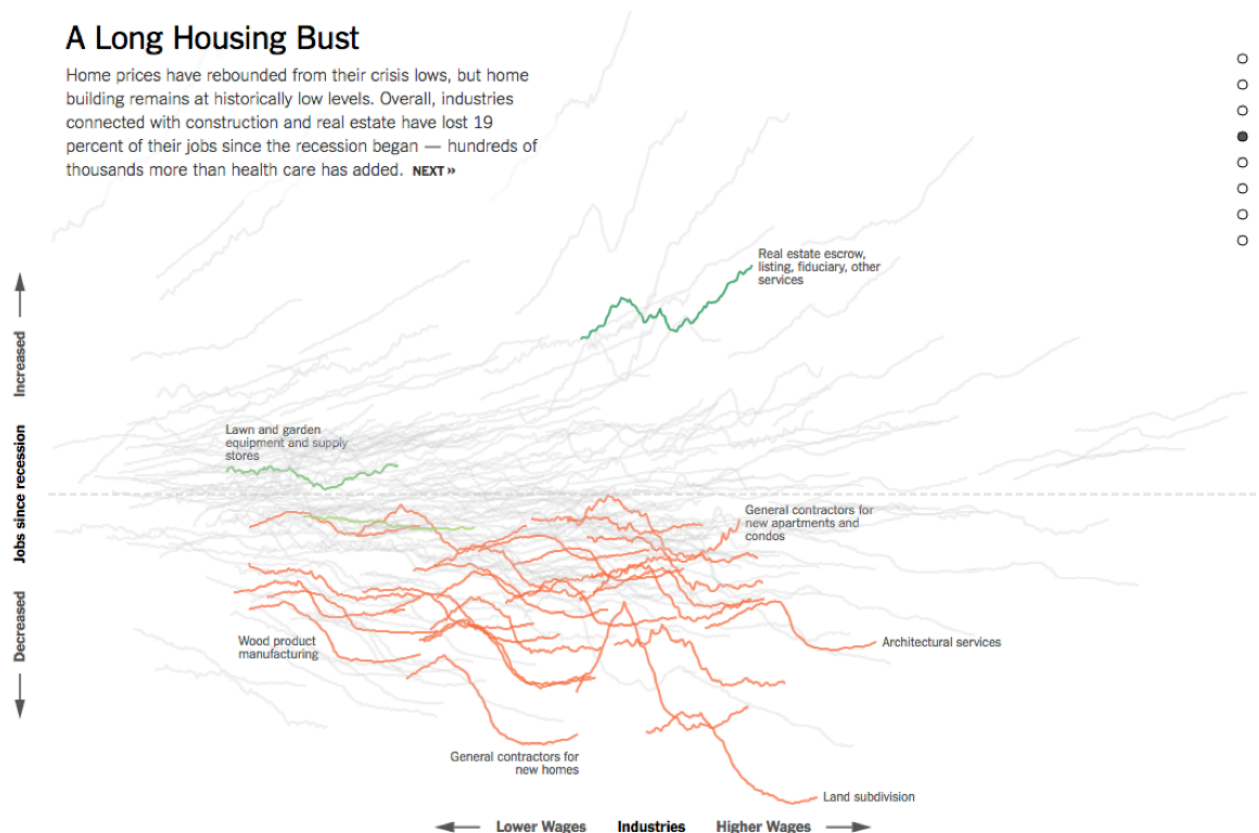
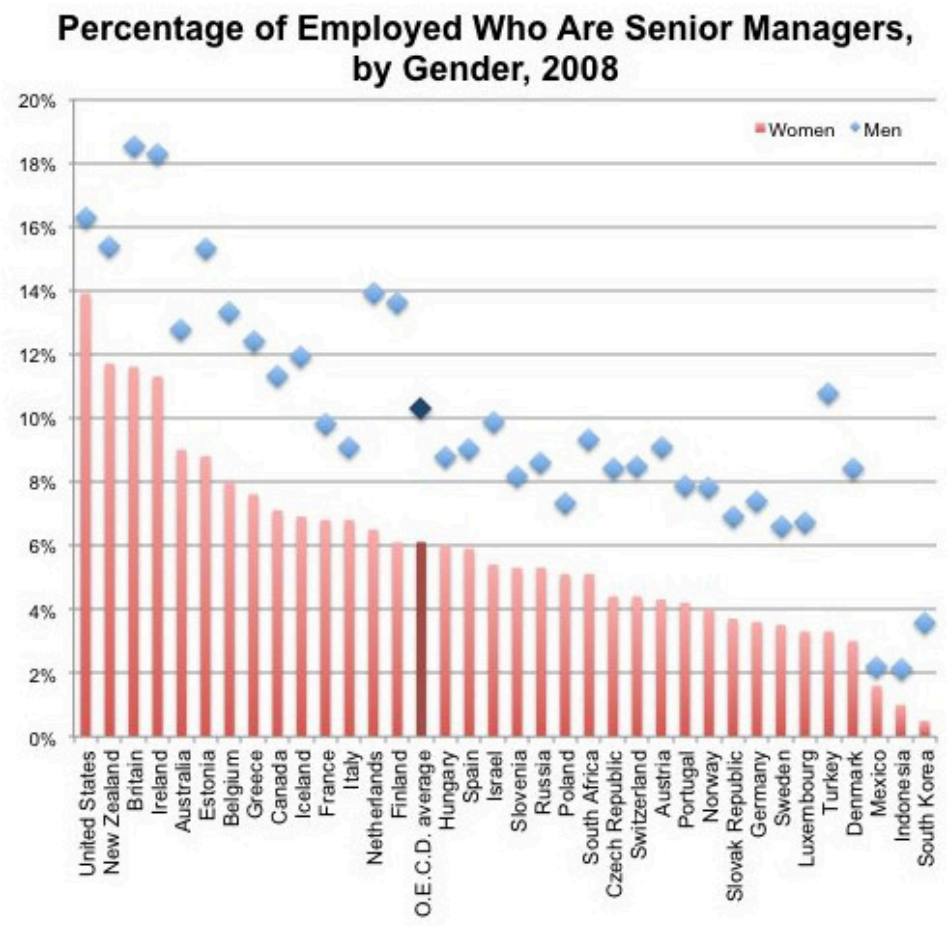


Chart Remakes / Makeovers

The Why Axis - Gender Gap



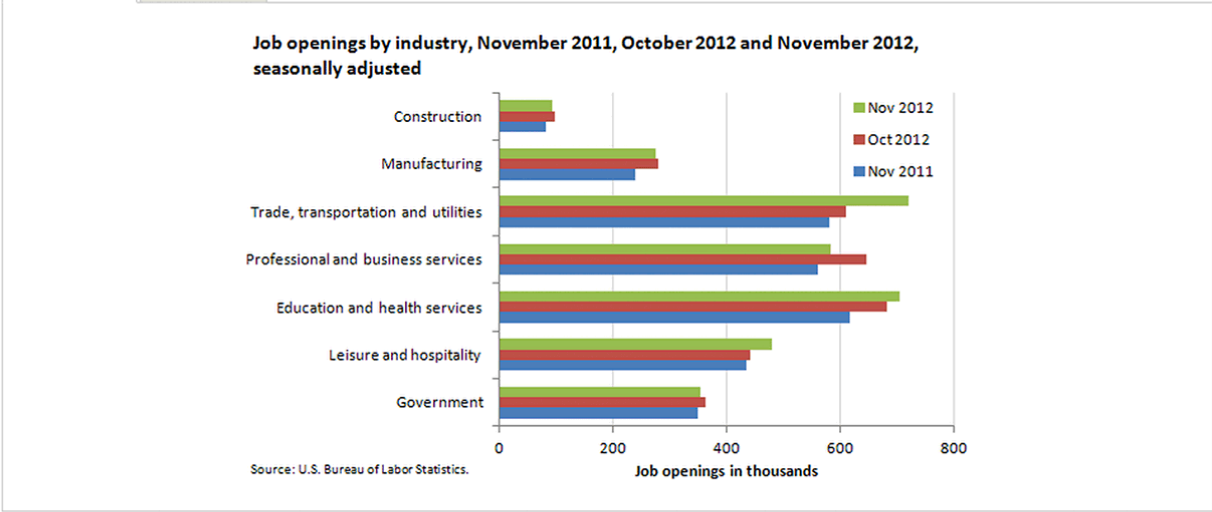
The Why Axis - BLS

Job openings in November 2012

JANUARY 11, 2013

There were 3.7 million job openings on the last business day of November 2012, unchanged from October 2012. In November 2011 there were 3.3 million job openings.

CHART IMAGE CHART DATA



From November 2011 to November 2012, job openings increased most in retail trade (144,000, within the trade, transportation and utilities industry) and health care and social assistance (91,000, within the education and health services industry).

Government job openings increased the least, by 6,000.

These data are from the [Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey](#). Data for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revision. For additional information, see [Job Openings and Labor Turnover — November 2012](#) (HTML) (PDF), news release USDL-13-0015. More charts featuring data on job openings, hires, and employment separations can be found in [Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey Highlights: November 2012](#) (PDF).

Other Resources

- Duke Library - Center for Data and Visualization Sciences - <https://library.duke.edu/data/>
- Tidy tuesday - <https://github.com/rfordatascience/tidytuesday>
- Twitter / Bluesky / Mastodon - #dataviz, #tidytuesday
- Books:
 - Wickham, Navarro, Pedersen. *ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis*. 3rd edition. Springer, 2021.
 - Wilke. *Fundamentals of Data Visualization*. O'Reilly Media, 2019.
 - Healy. *Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction*. Princeton University Press, 2018.
 - Tufte. *The visual display of quantitative information*. 2nd edition. Connecticut Graphics Press, 2015.

Acknowledgments

Above materials are derived in part from the following sources:

- sVisualization training materials originally developed by Angela Zoss and Eric Monson
- Duke Center for Data and Visualization Sciences