Data Visualization (CSCI 627/490)

Tabular Data

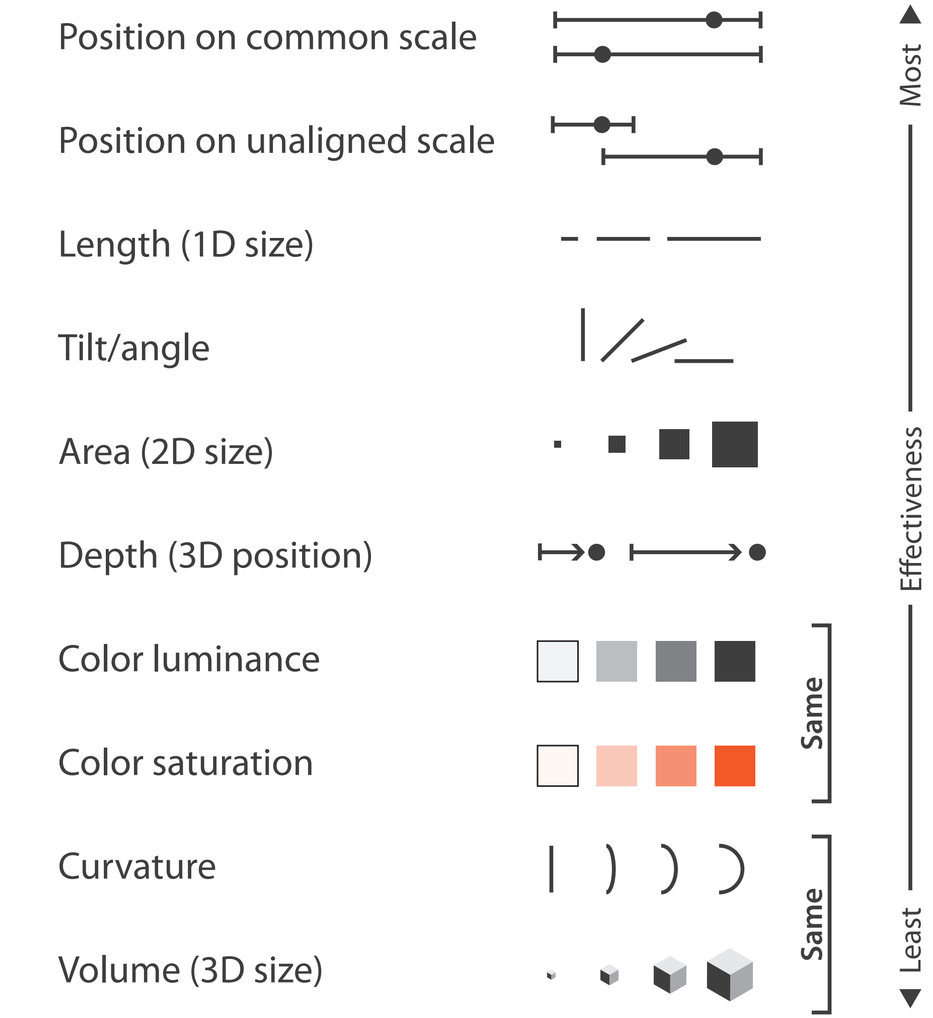
Dr. David Koop

Expressiveness and Effectiveness

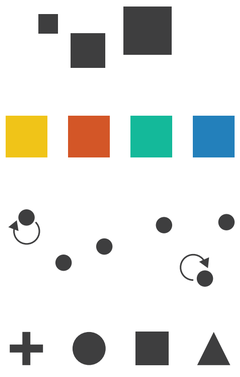
- Expressiveness Principle: all data from the dataset and nothing more should be shown
  - Do encode ordered data in an ordered fashion
  - Don’t encode categorical data in a way that implies an ordering
- Effectiveness Principle: the most important attributes should be the most **salient**
  - Saliency: how noticeable something is
  - How do the channels we have discussed measure up?

Ranking Channels by Effectiveness

Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes

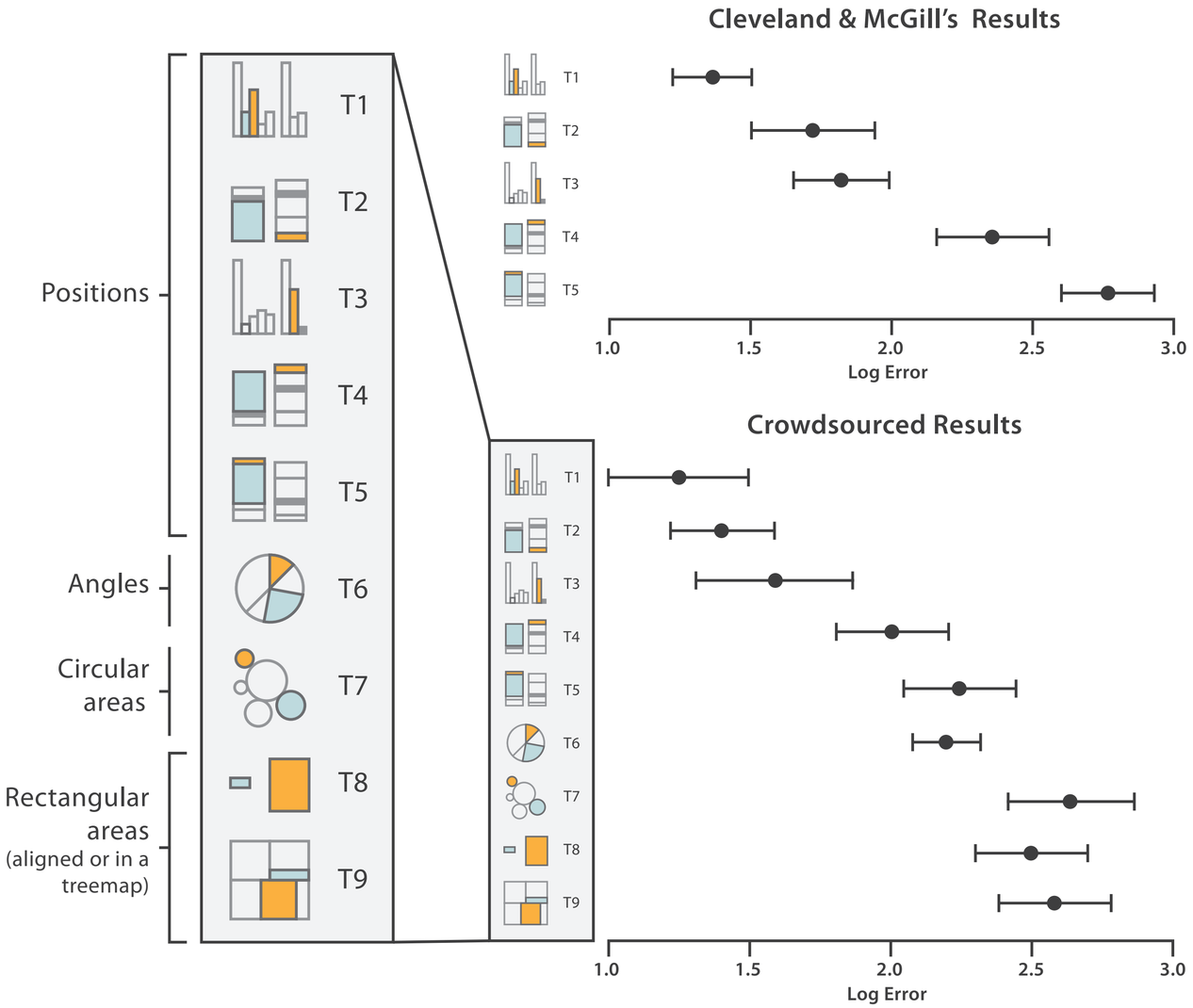


Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes



[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

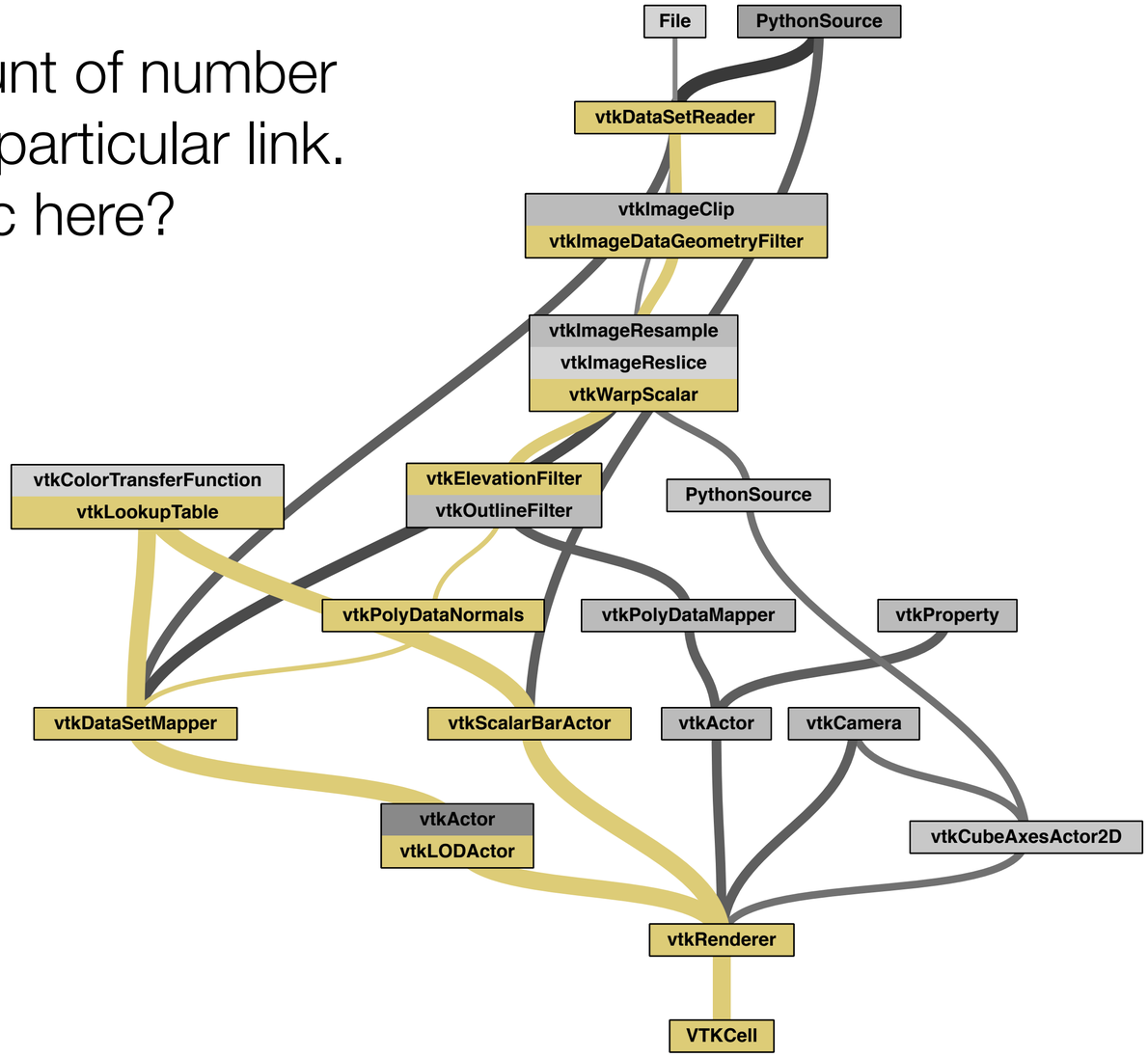
Perception Studies Summary



[Munzner (ill. Maguire) based on Heer & Bostock, 2014]

Discriminability

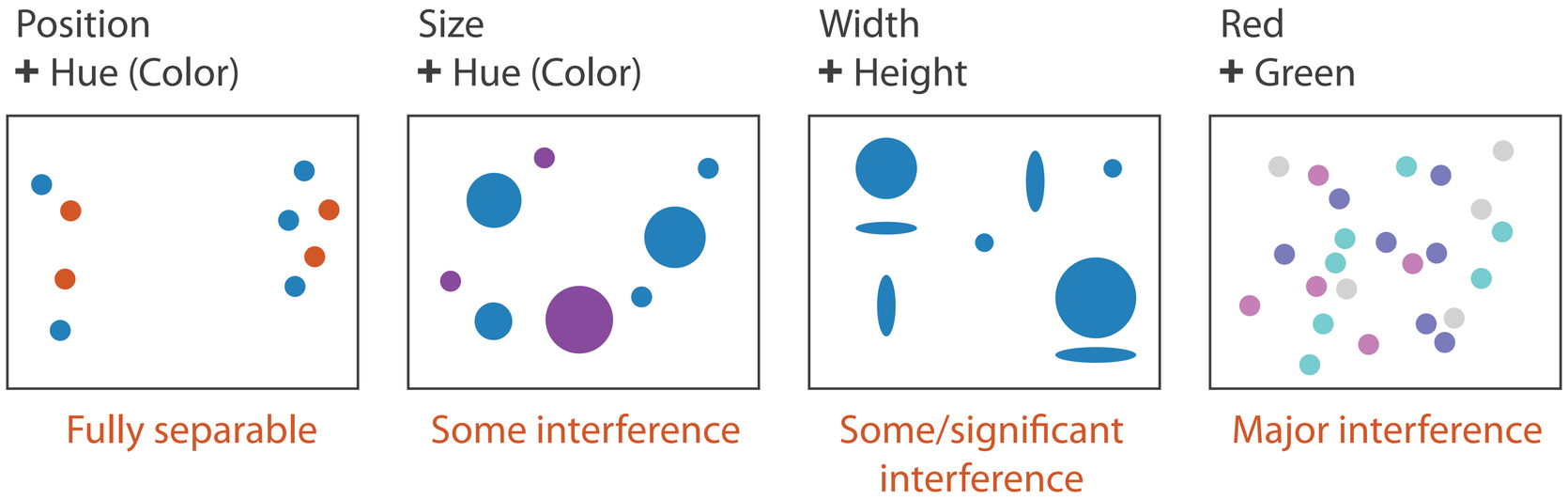
- Width encodes count of number of networks with a particular link.
- What is problematic here?



[Koop et al., 2013]

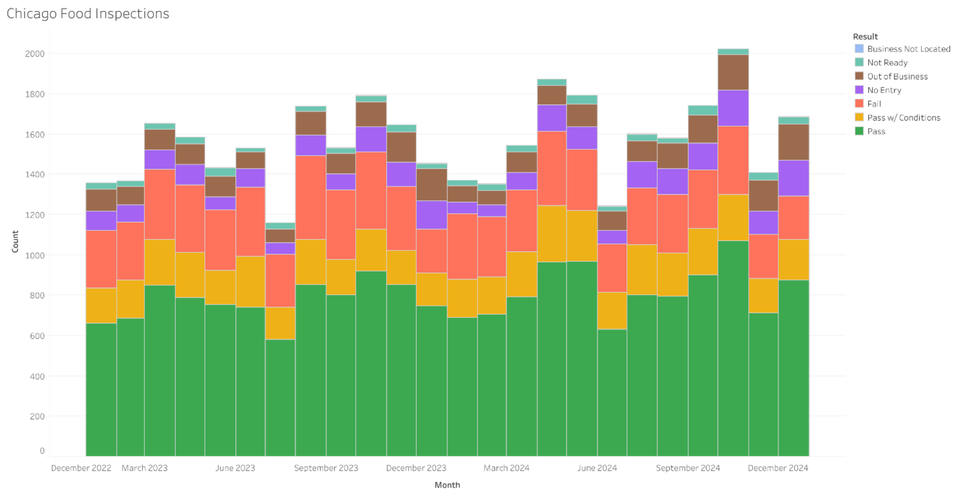
Separability

- Cannot treat all channels as independent!
- **Separable** means each individual channel can be distinguished
- **Integral** means the channels are perceived together



[Munzner (ill. Maguire) based on Ware, 2014]

Assignment 3



- Food Inspections Data
- Create the same stacked bar chart using
  - Tableau Public
  - Observable Plot
  - D3
- D3 Stacked Bar Chart:
  - Required for CSCI 627 students
  - CSCI 490 students need not stack

Midterm

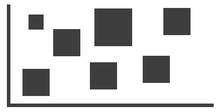
- In-class, Wednesday, March 5, 9:30-10:45am
- Only need writing utensil (+eraser)
- Format:
  - Multiple Choice
  - Free Response
- CSCI 627 students will have an extra double-sided page with more research-focused questions

Arrange Tables

Express Values

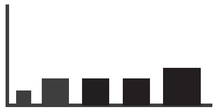
Separate, Order, Align Regions

- Separate



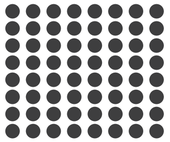
- Order

- Align



Layout Density

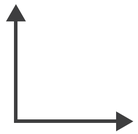
- Dense



- Space-Filling

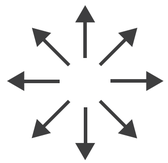
Axis Orientation

- Rectilinear



- Parallel

- Radial



- *1 Key*
  List

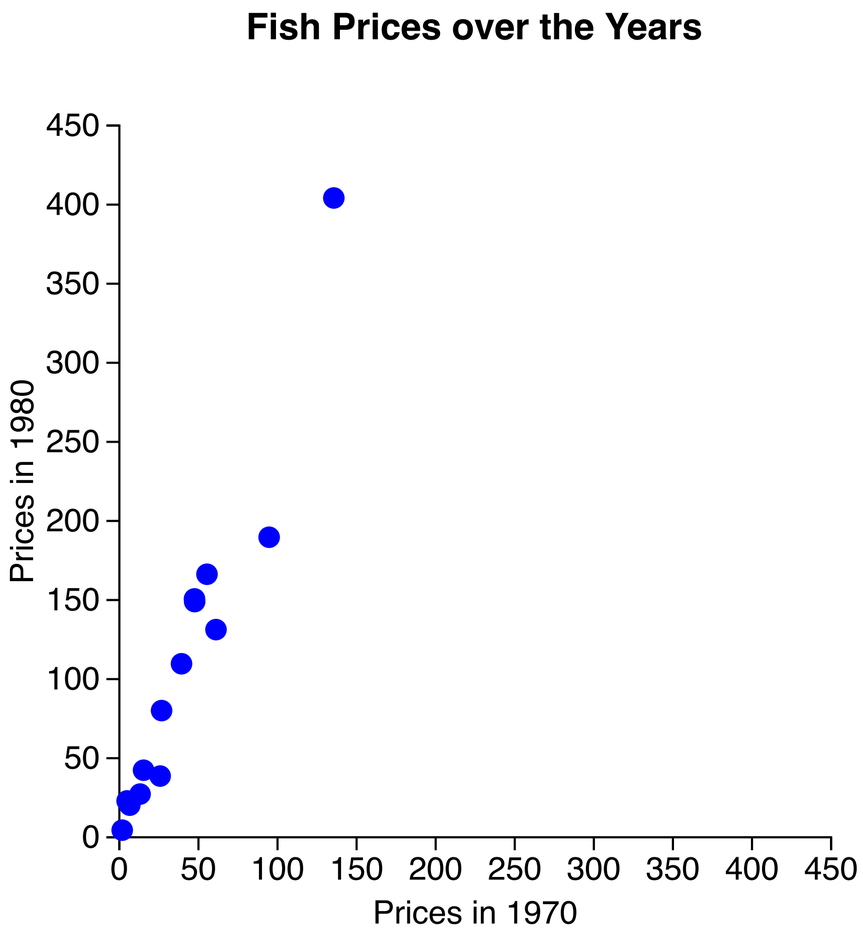
- *2 Keys*
  Matrix

- *3 Keys*
  Volume

- *Many Keys*
  Recursive Subdivision

[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

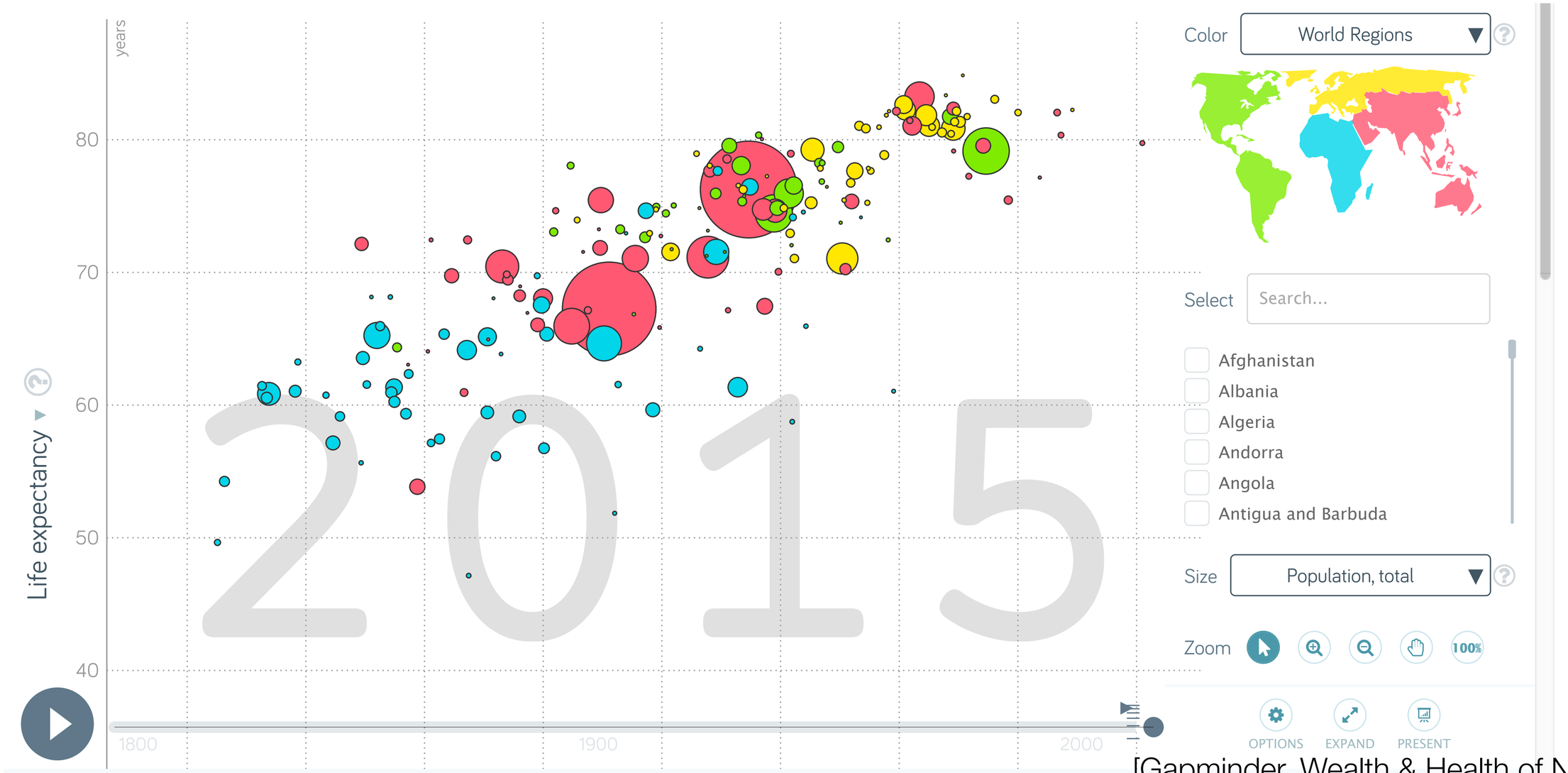
Express Values: Scatterplots



- Data: two quantitative values
- Task: find trends, clusters, outliers
- How: marks at spatial position in horizontal and vertical directions

- Correlation: dependence between two attributes
  - Positive and negative correlation
  - Indicated by lines
- Coordinate system (axes) and labels are important!

Bubble Plot



[Gapminder, Wealth & Health of Nations]

Scatterplot

- Data: two quantitative values
- Task: find trends, clusters, outliers
- How: marks at spatial position in horizontal and vertical directions
- **Scalability**: hundreds of items

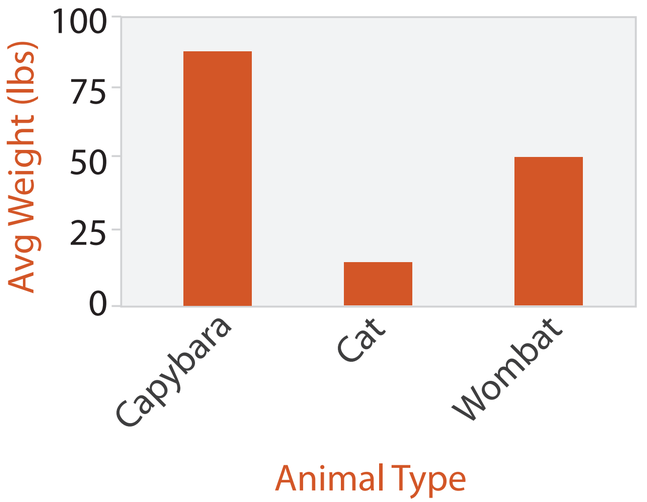
- "Ranking Visualizations of Correlation Using Weber's Law", 2014:
  - Correlation perception can be modeled via Weber's Law
  - Scatterplots are one of the best visualizations for both positive and negative correlation
  - Further analysis: M. Kay and J. Heer, "Beyond Weber's Law", 2015

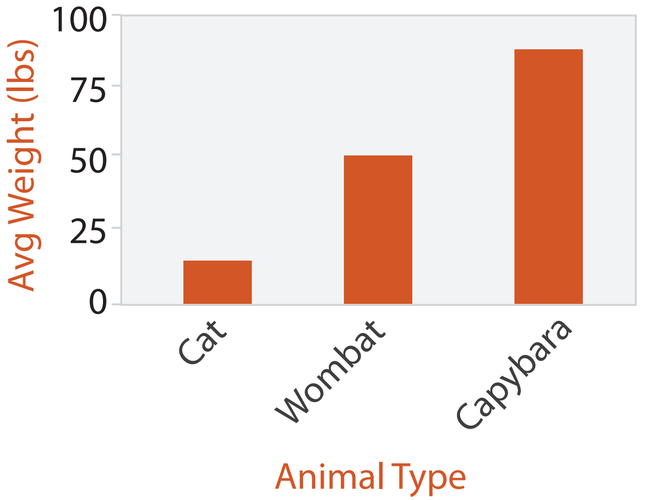
Separate, Order, and Align: Categorical Regions

- Categorical: =, !=
- Spatial position can be used for categorical attributes
- Use **regions**, distinct contiguous bounded areas, to encode categorical attributes
- Three operations on the regions:
  - Separate (use categorical attribute)
  - Align (use some other ordered attribute)
  - Order
- Alignment and order can use same or different attribute

List Alignment: Bar Charts

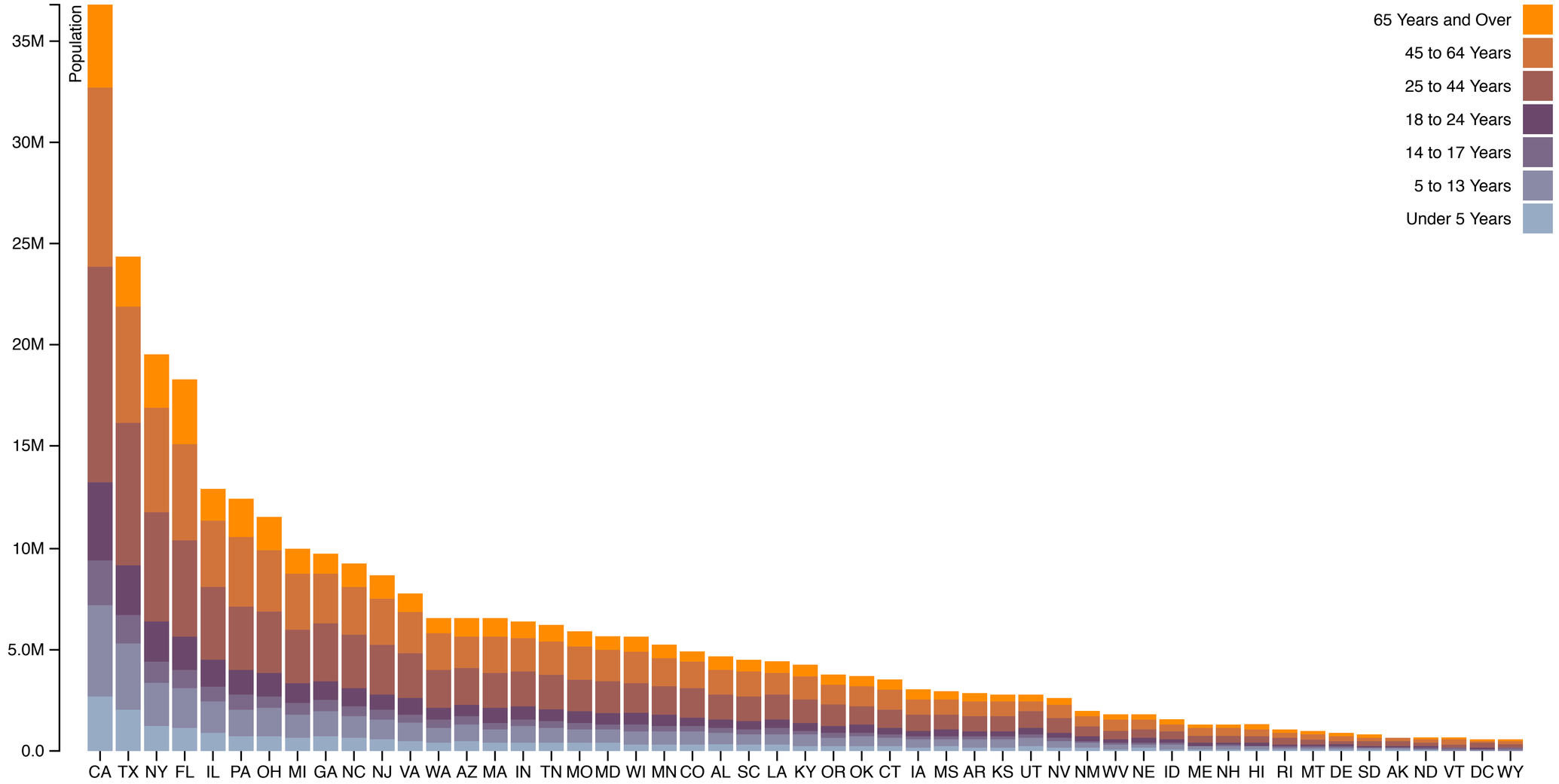
- Data: one quantitative attribute, one categorical attribute
- Task: lookup & compare values
- How: line marks, vertical position (quantitative), horizontal position (categorical)
- What about **length**?
- Ordering criteria: alphabetical or using quantitative attribute
- Scalability: distinguishability
  - bars at least one pixel wide
  - hundreds





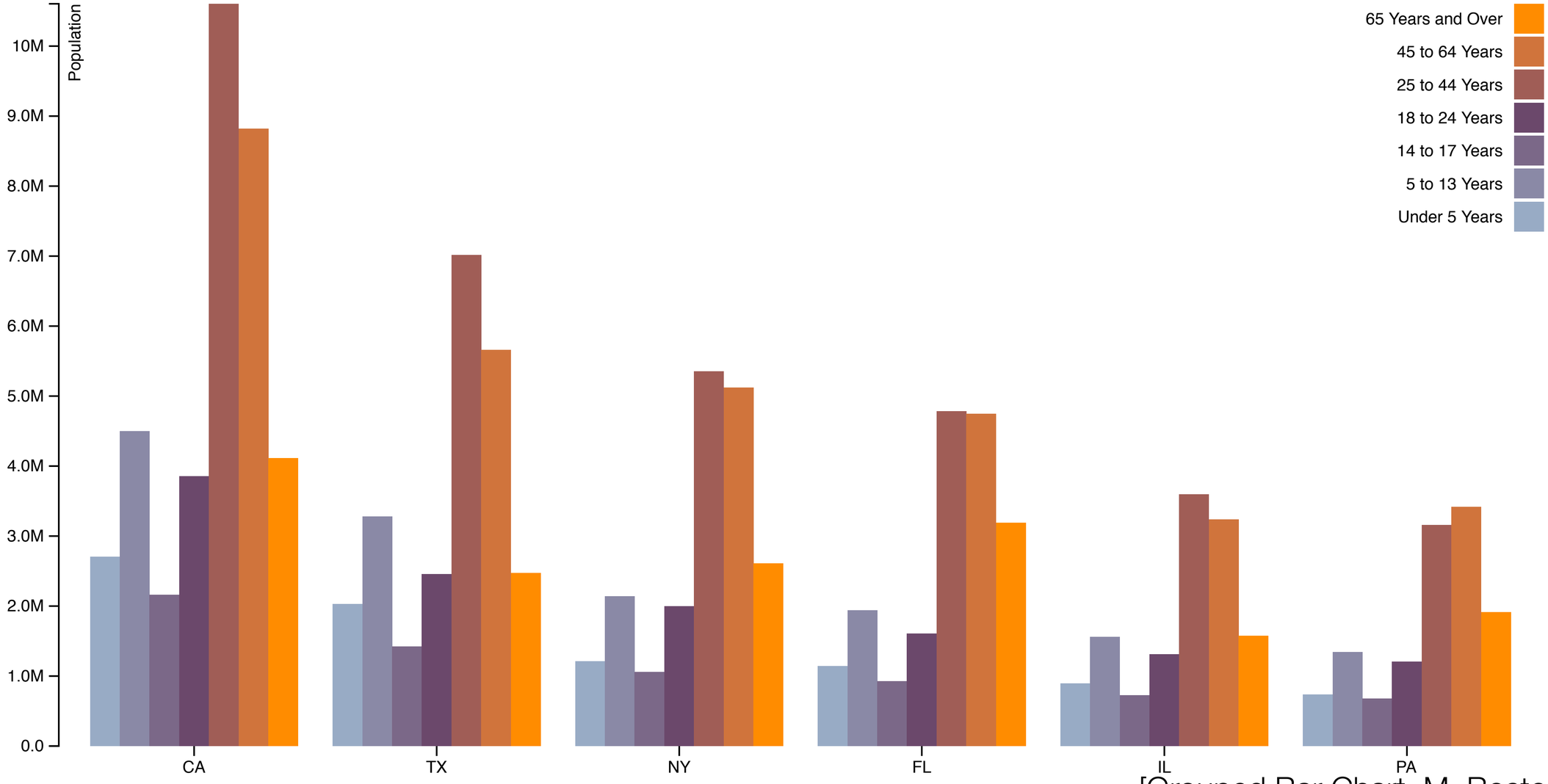
[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Stacked Bar Charts



[Stacked Bar Chart, M. Bostock, 2017]

Grouped Bar Chart



[Grouped Bar Chart, M. Bostock, 2017]

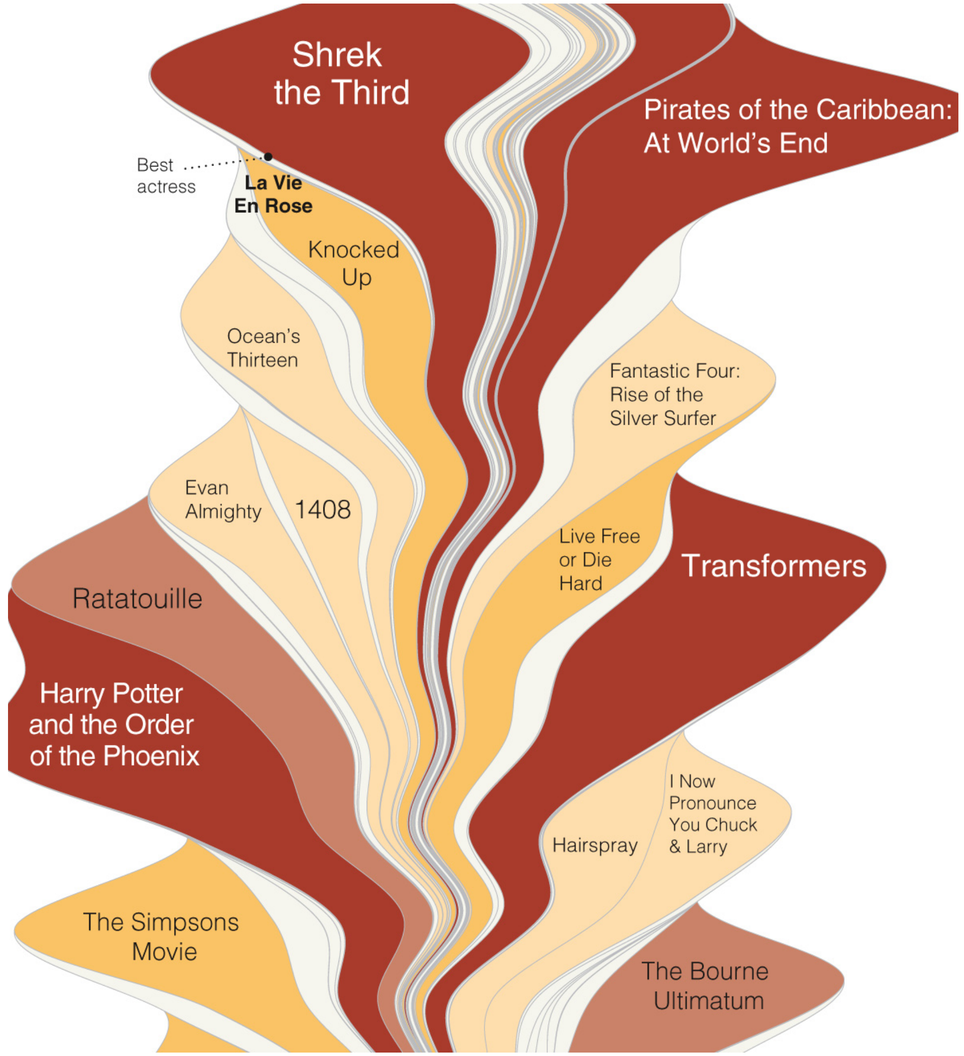
Stacked Bar Charts

- Data: multidimensional table: one quantitative, **two** categorical
- Task: lookup values, part-to-whole relationship, trends
- How: line marks: position (both horizontal & vertical), subcomponent line marks: length, color
- Scalability: main axis (hundreds like bar chart), bar classes (<12)

- Orientation: vertical or horizontal (swap how horizontal and vertical position are used.

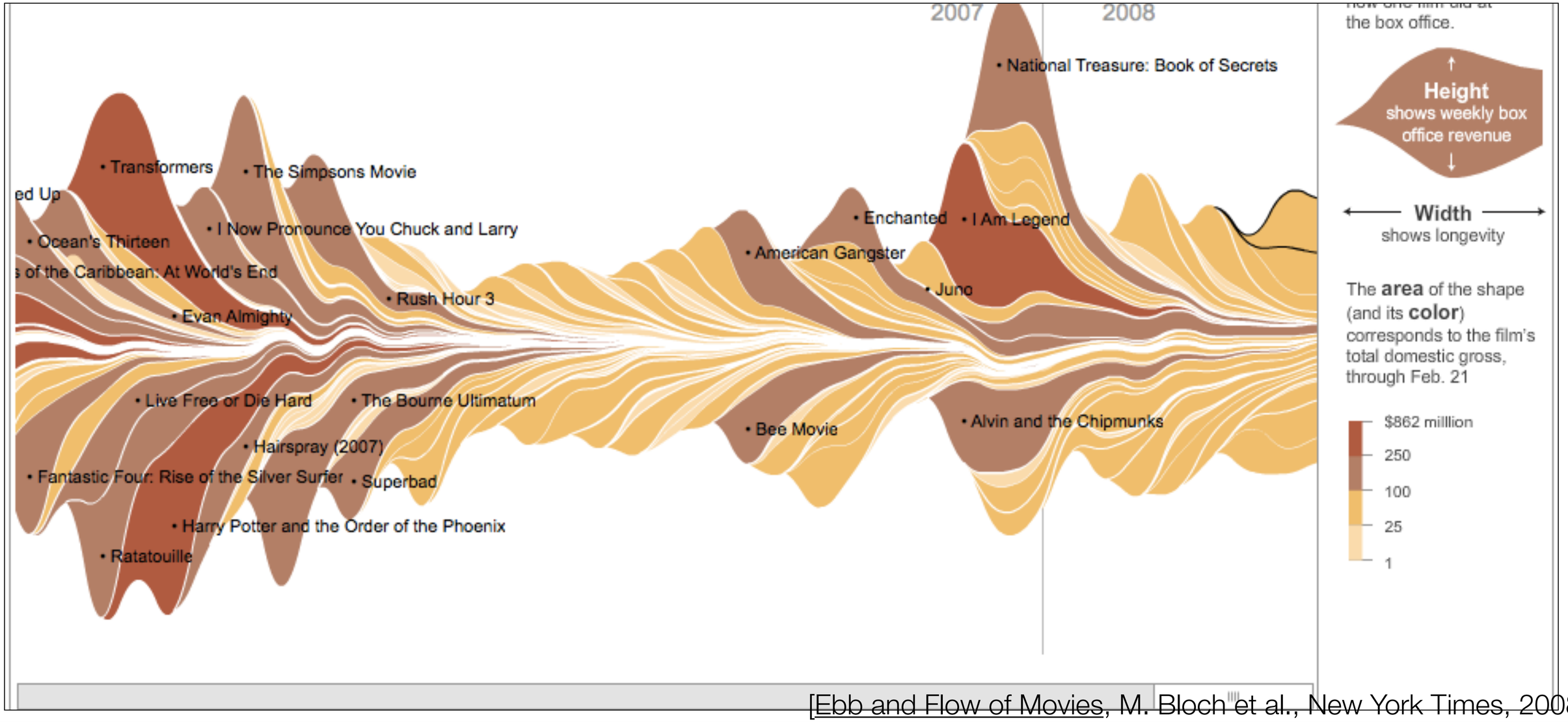
Streamgraphs

- Include a time attribute
- Data: multidimensional table, one quantitative attribute (count), one ordered key attribute (time), one categorical key attribute
- + derived attribute: layer ordering (quantitative)
- Task: analyze trends in time, find (maxmial) outliers
- How: derived position+geometry, length, color
- Scalability: more categories than stacked bar charts



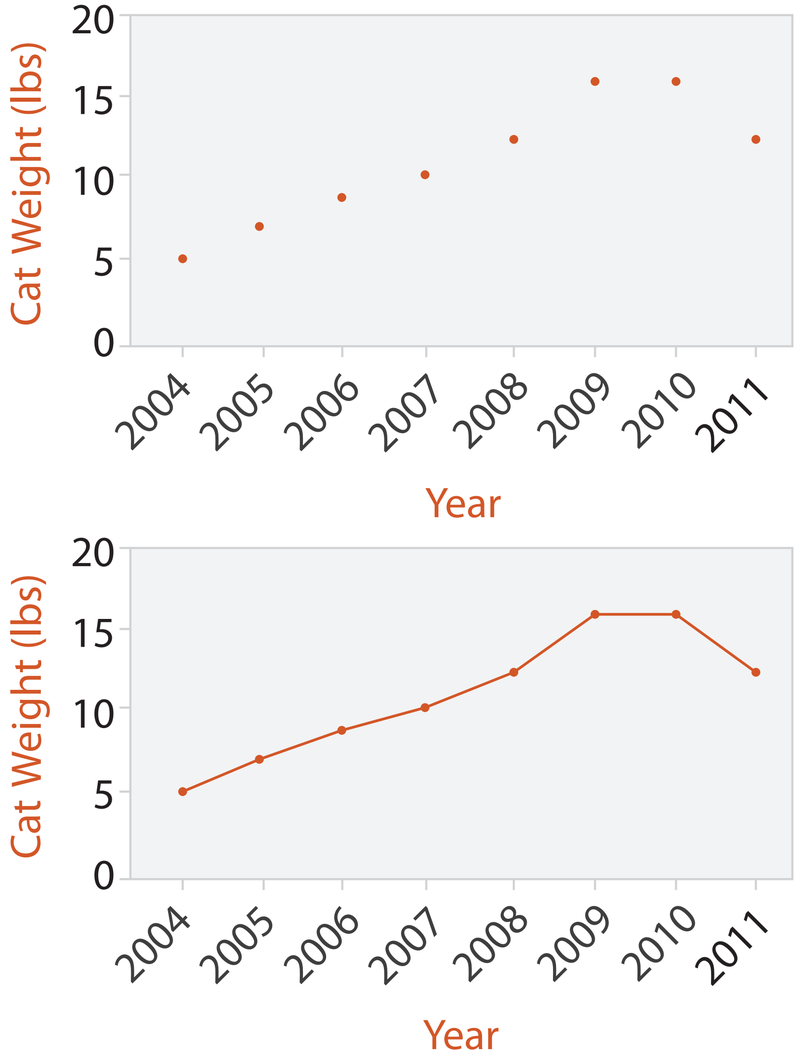
[Byron and Wattenberg, 2012]

Streamgraphs



[Ebb and Flow of Movies, M. Bloch et al., New York Times, 2008]

Dot and Line Charts



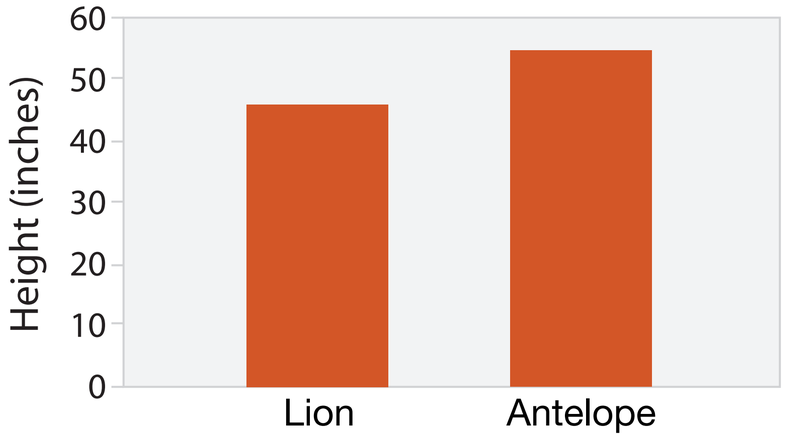
- Data: one quantitative attribute, one **ordered** attribute
- Task: lookup values, find outliers and trends
- How: point mark and positions

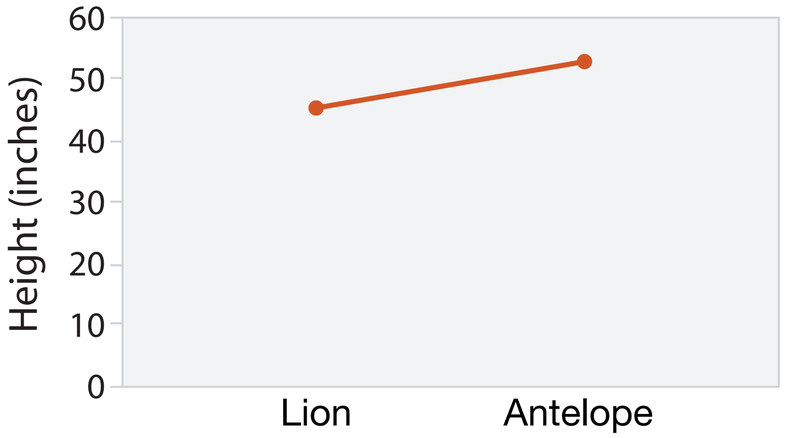
- Line Charts: add **connection mark** (line)

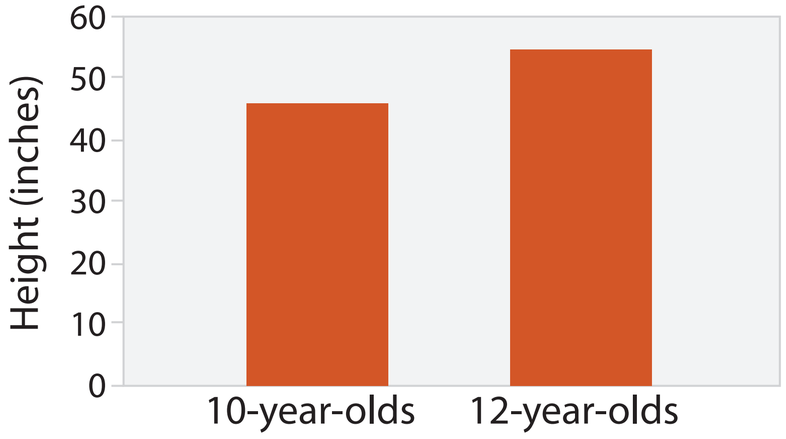
- Similar to scatterplots but allow ordered attribute

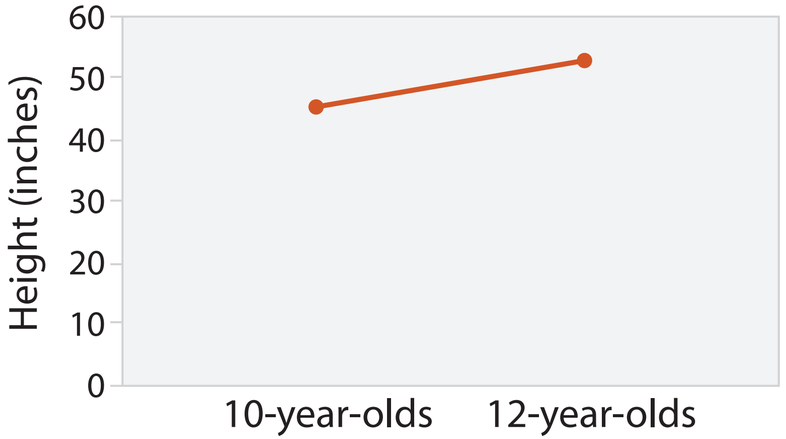
[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Proper Use of Line and Bar Charts



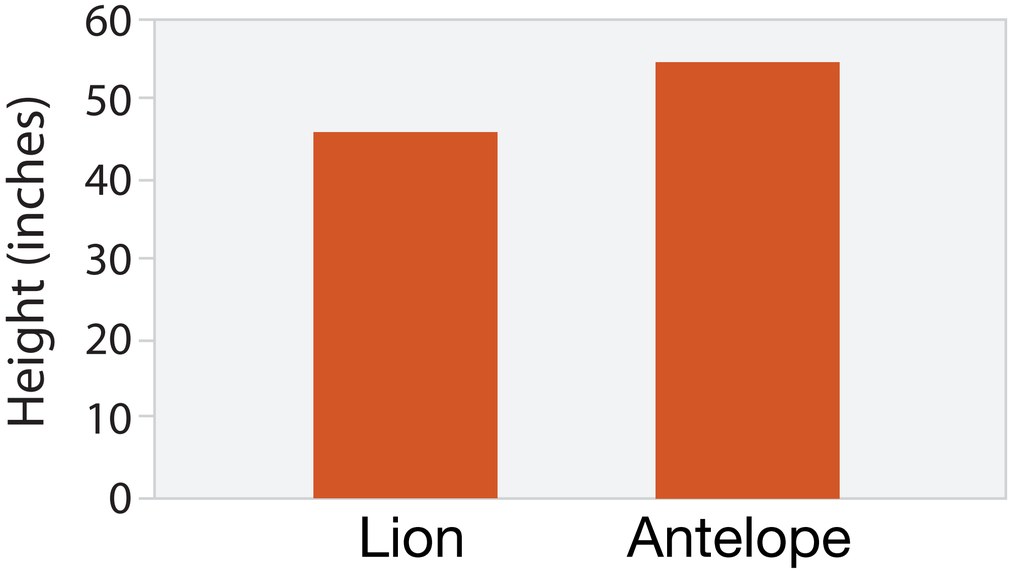


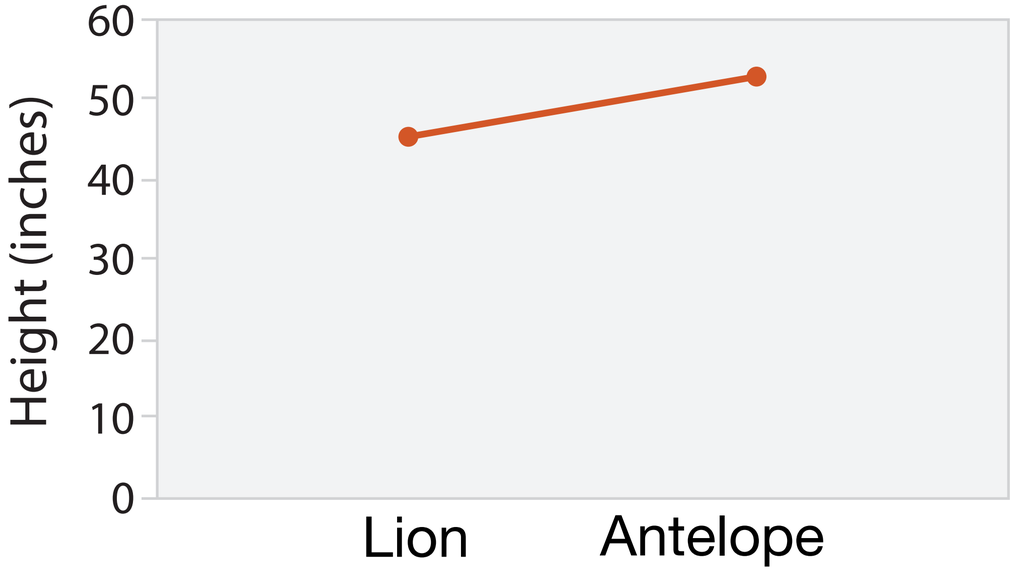




[Adapted from Zacks and Tversky, 1999, Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Proper Use of Line and Bar Charts





- What does the line indicate?
- Does this make sense?

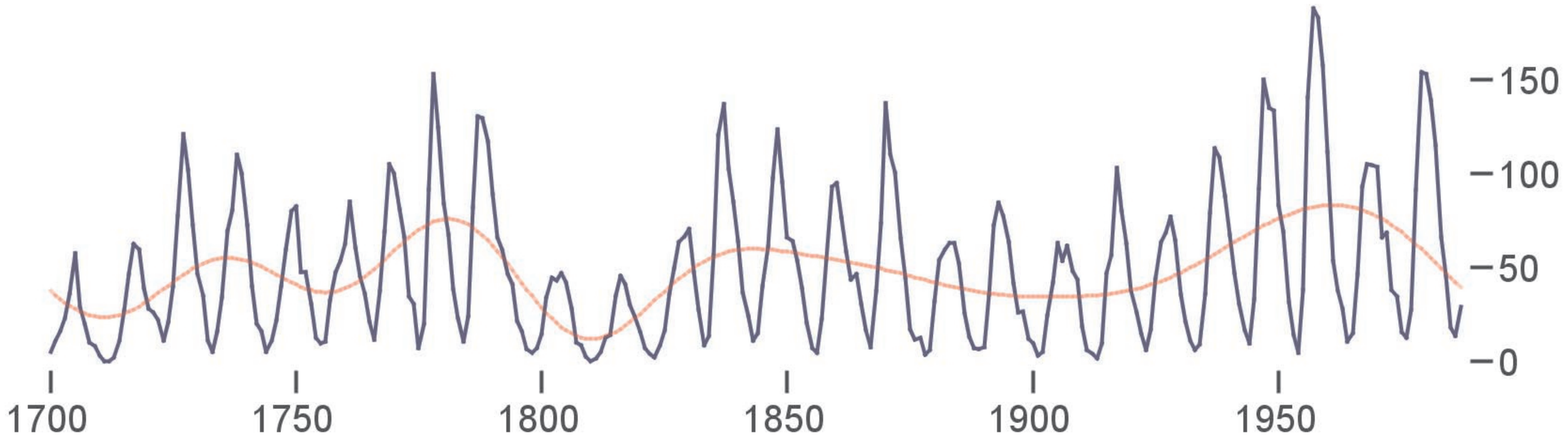
[Adapted from Zacks and Tversky, 1999, Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Aspect Ratio

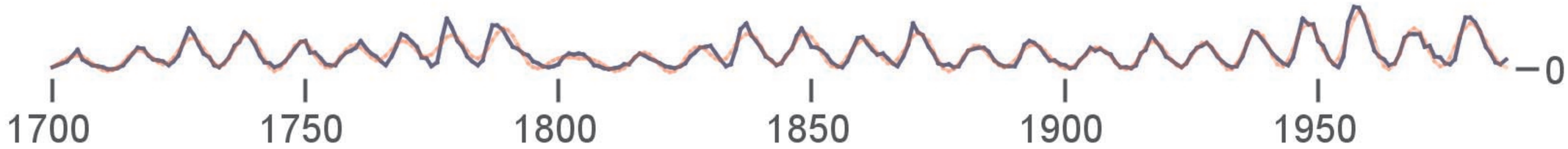
- Trends in line charts are more apparent because we are using angle as a channel
- Perception of angle (and the **relative difference** between angles) is important
- Initial experiments found people best judge differences in **slope** when angles are around 45 degrees (Cleveland et al., 1988, 1993)

Multiscale Banking

Aspect Ratio = 3.96



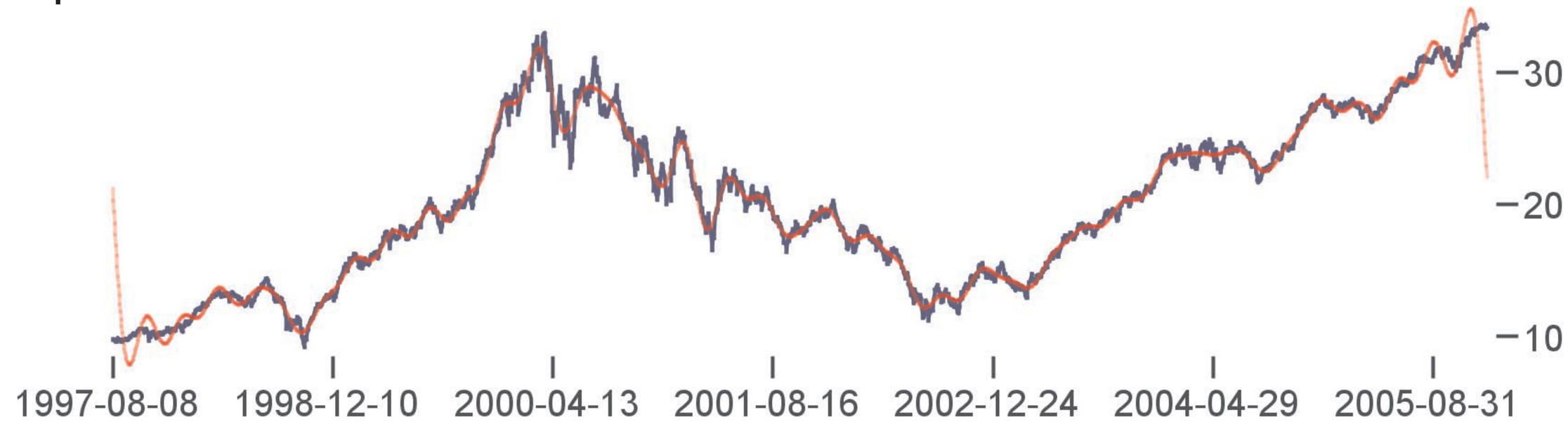
Aspect Ratio = 22.35



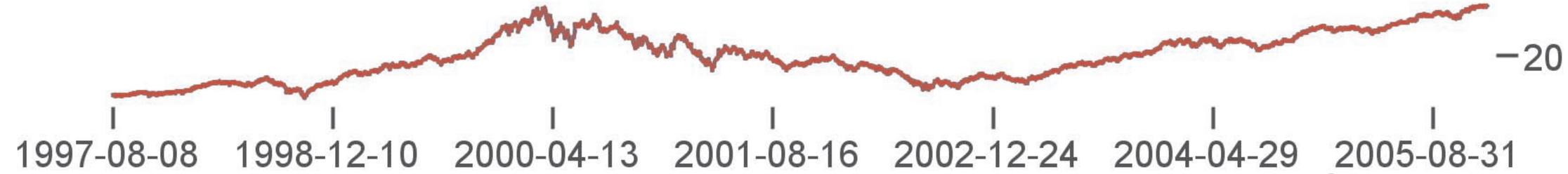
[Heer and Agrawala, 2006]

Multiscale Banking

Aspect Ratio = 4.23



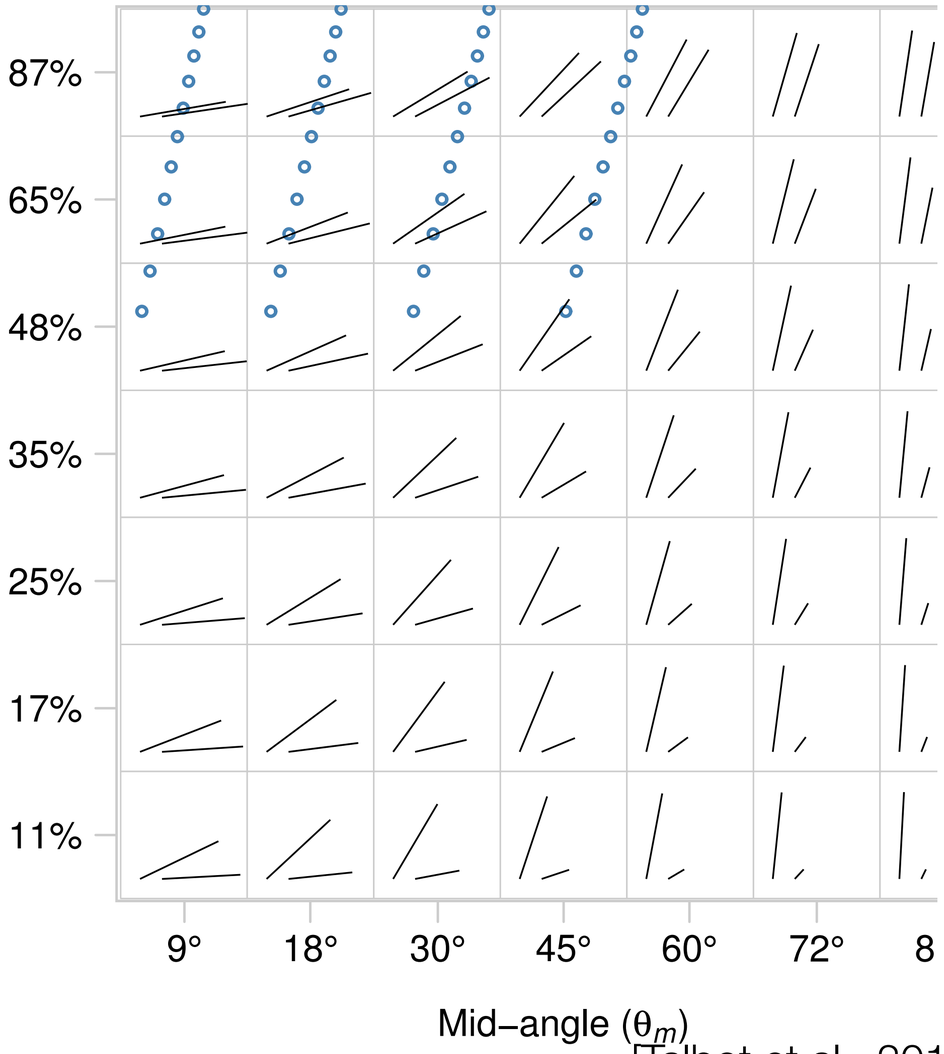
Aspect Ratio = 14.55



[Heer and Agrawala, 2006]

Expanding the Study

- Cleveland et al. did not study the entire space of slope comparisons and 45 degrees was at the low end of their study (blue marks on right)
- Talbot et al. compared more slopes and found that people do better with smaller slopes
- Baselines may aid with this

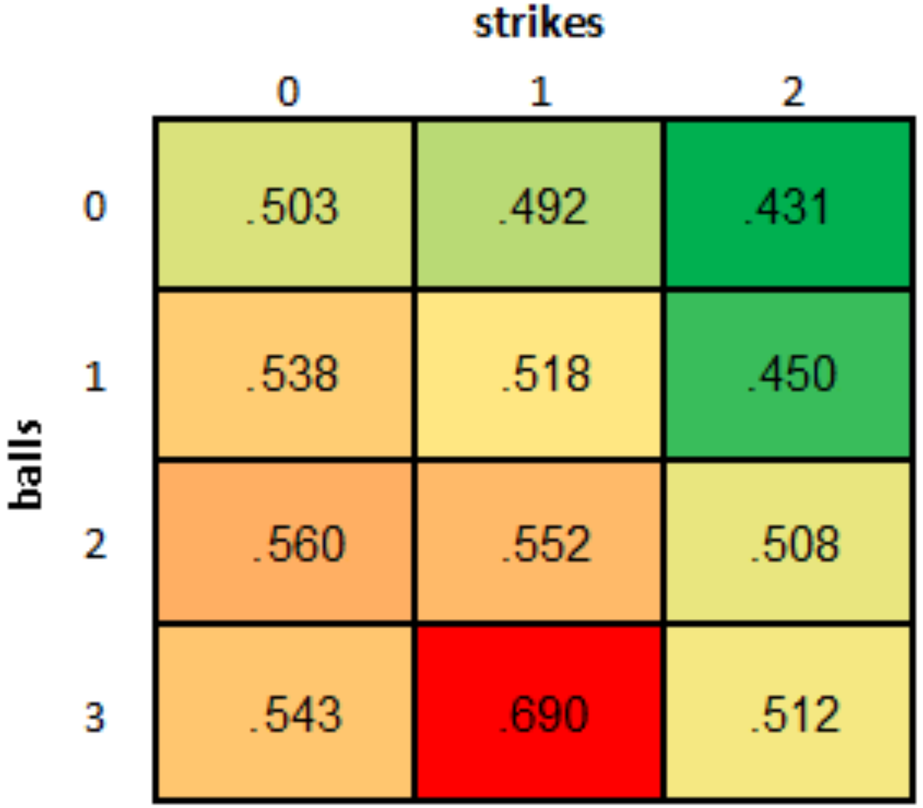


[Talbot et al., 2013]

Heatmaps

- Data: Two keys, one quantitative attribute
- Task: Find clusters, outliers, summarize
- How: area marks in grid, color encoding of quantitative attribute
- Scalability: number of pixels for area marks (millions)
- Red-green color scales often used
  - Be aware of colorblindness!

Fast-Pitch Softball
Slugging Percentage



[fastpitchanalytics.com]

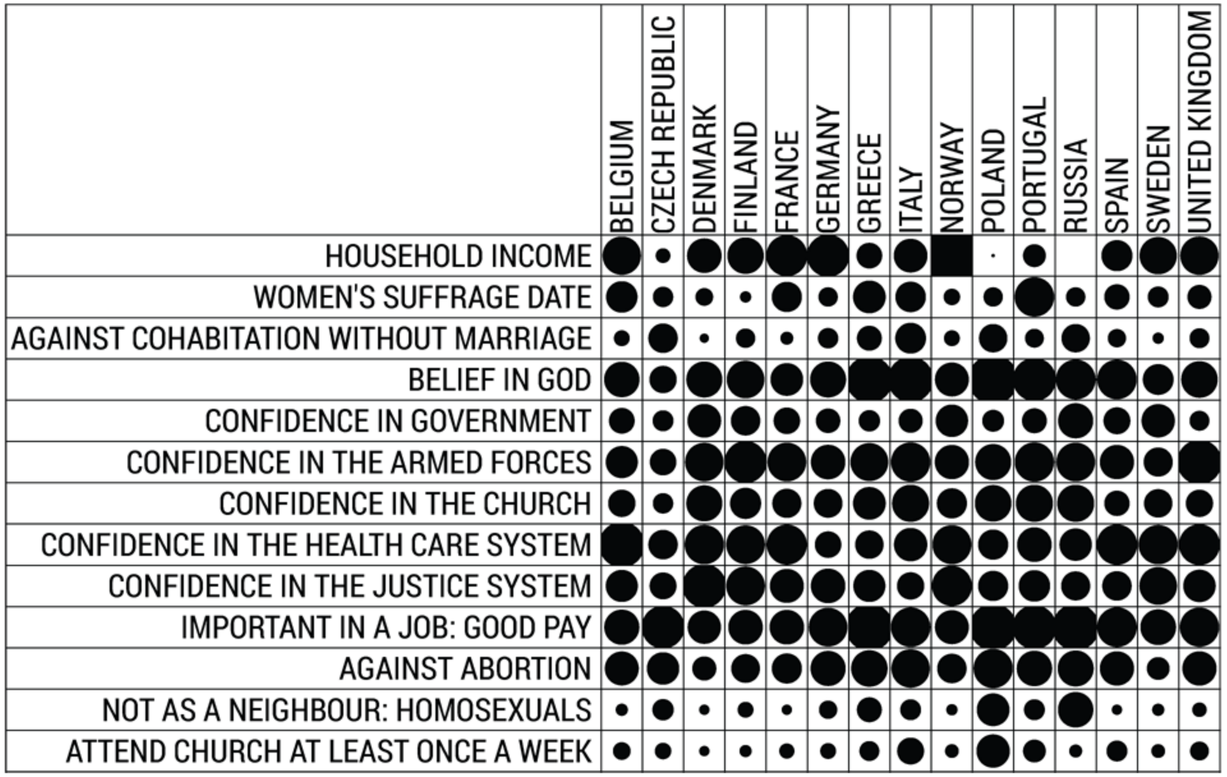
Bertin Matrices

- Must we only use color?
  - What other marks might be appropriate?

[C.Perrin et al., 2014]

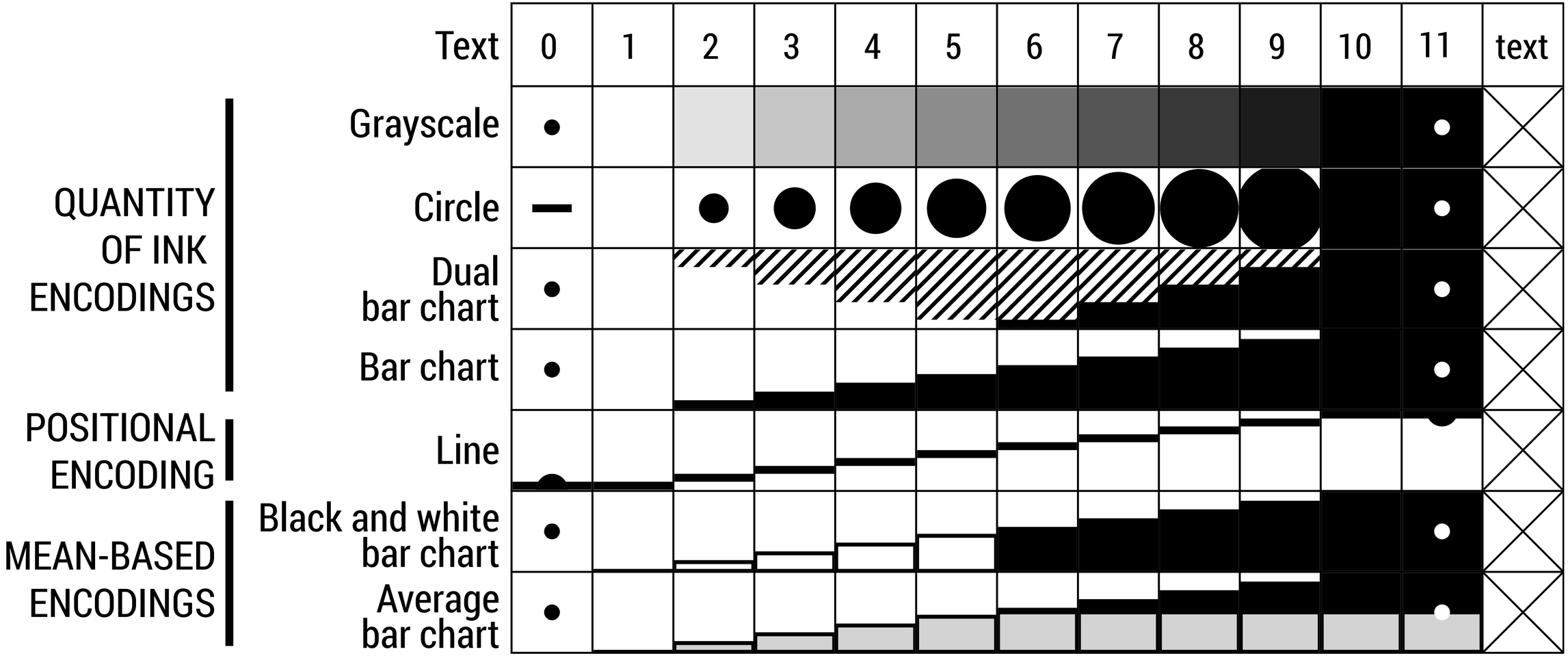
Bertin Matrices

- Must we only use color?
  - What other marks might be appropriate?



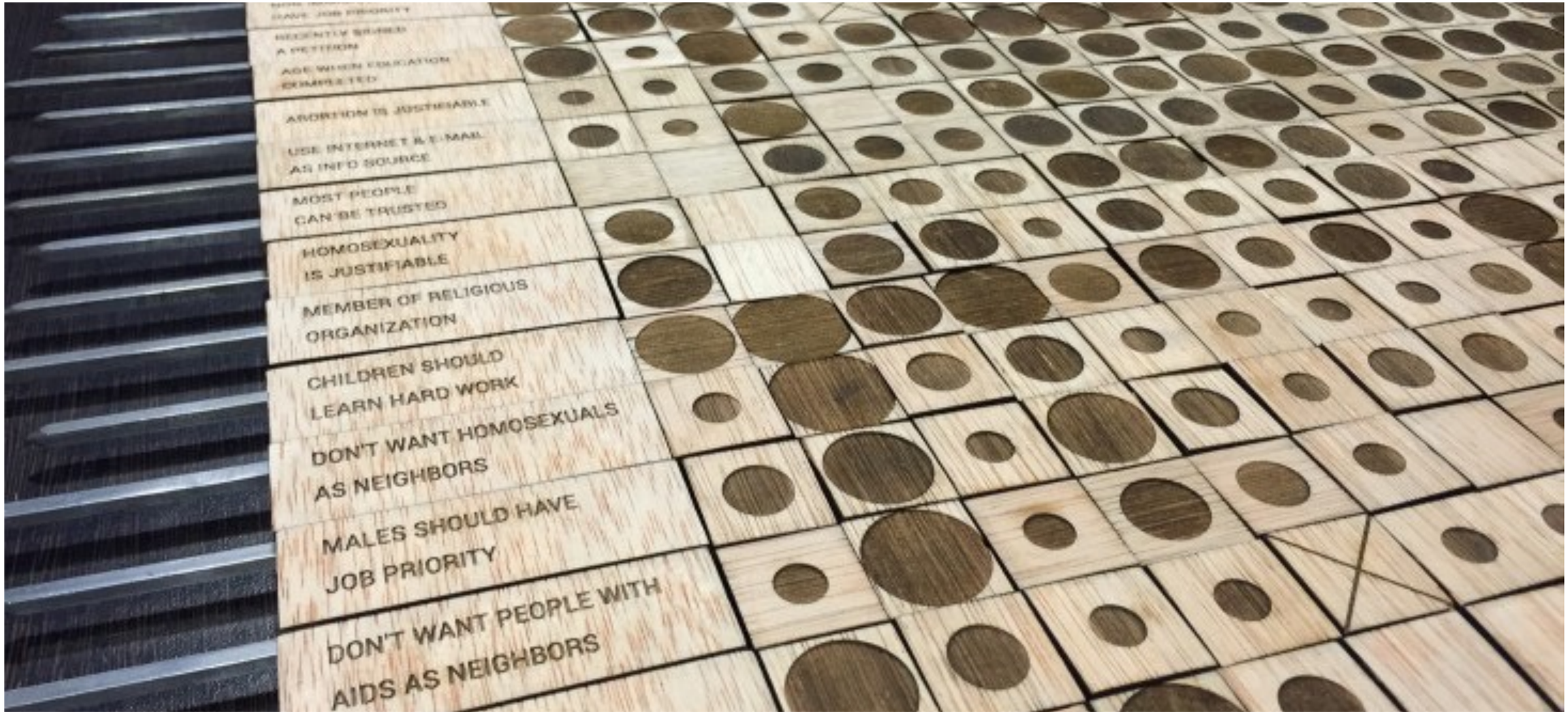
[C.Perrin et al., 2014]

Bertin's Encodings

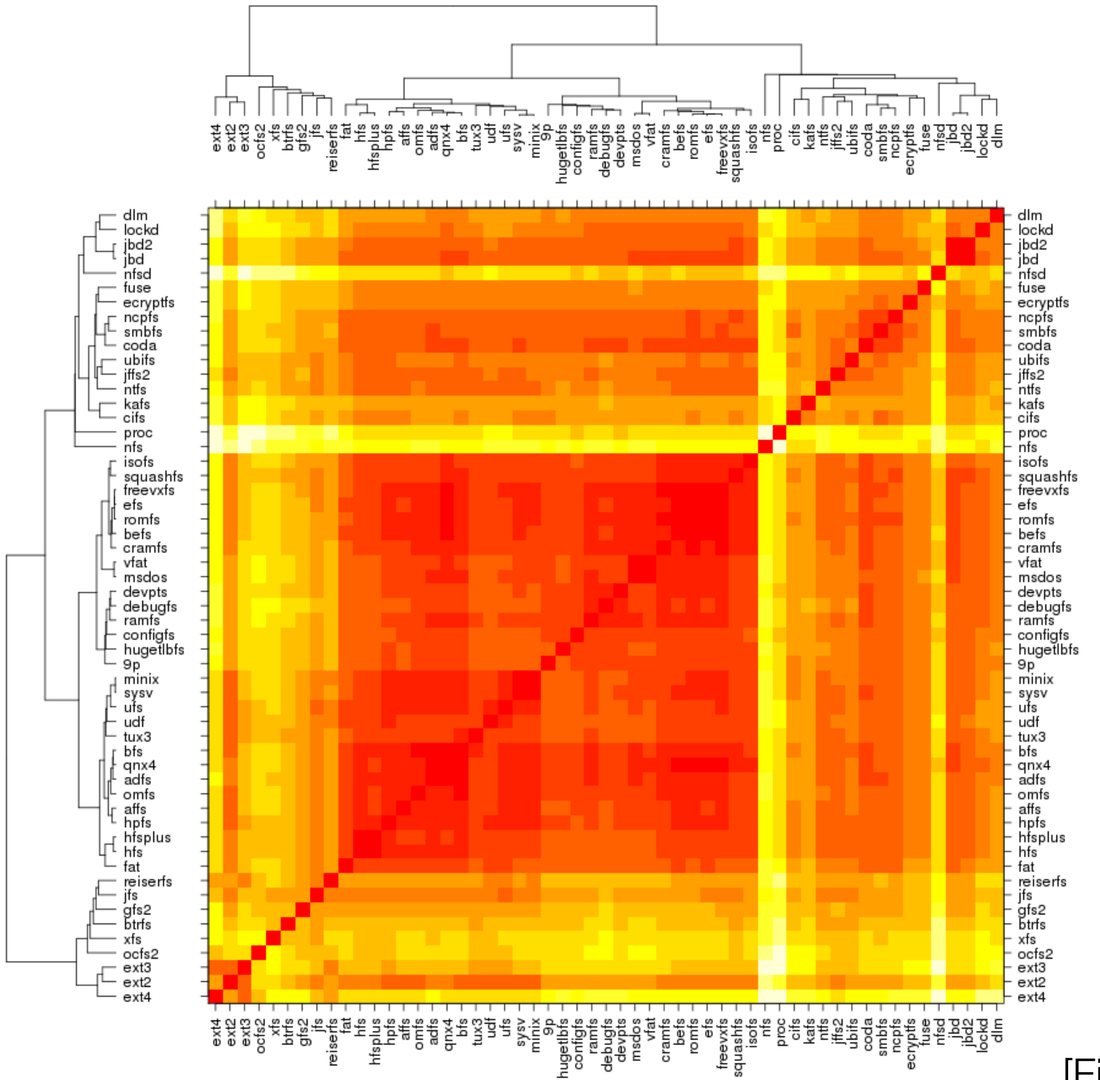


[C.Perrin et al., 2014]

Matrix Reordering



Cluster Heatmap



[File System Similarity, R. Musăloiu-E., 2009]

Cluster Heatmap

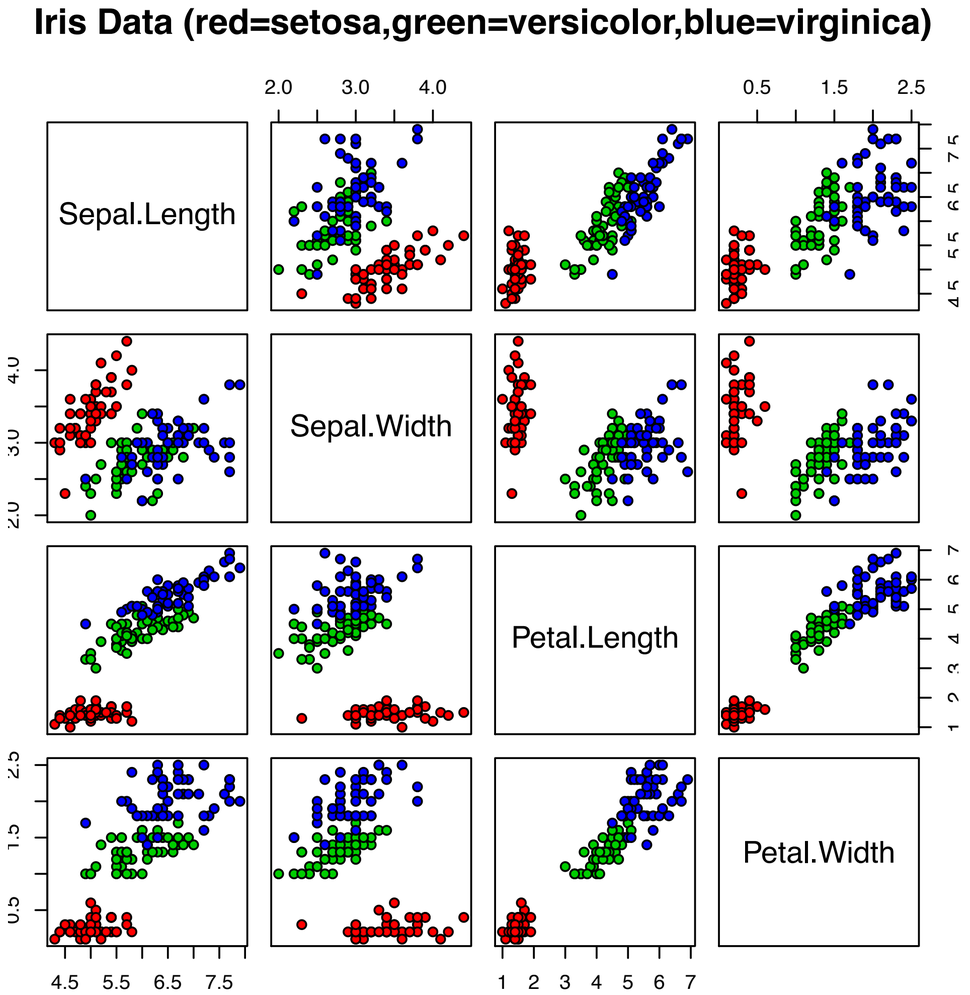
- Data & Task: Same as Heatmap
- How: Area marks but matrix is ordered by cluster hierarchies
- Scalability: limited by the cluster dendrogram

- Dendrogram: a visual encoding of tree data with leaves aligned

Scatterplot Matrix (SPLOM)

- Data: Many quantitative attributes
- Derived Data: names of attributes
- Task: Find correlations, trends, outliers
- How: Scatterplots in matrix alignment
- Scale: attributes: ~12, items: hundreds?

- Visualizations in a visualization: at high level, marks are themselves visualizations…



[Wikipedia]

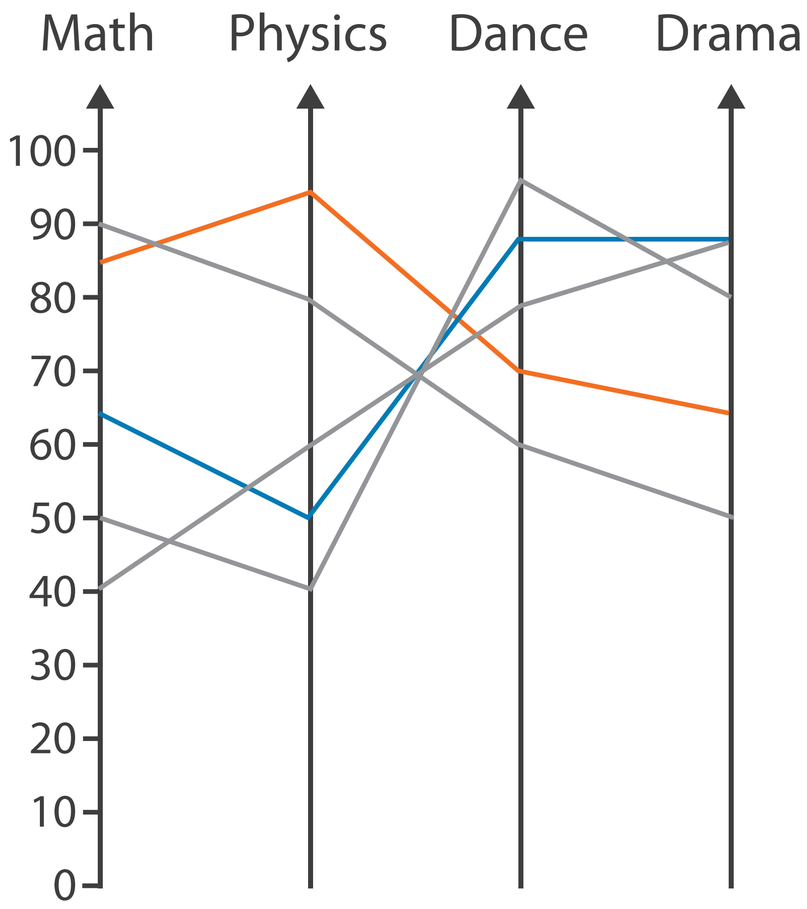
Spatial Axis Orientation

- So far, we have seen the vertical and horizontal axes (a **rectilinear** layout) used to encode almost everything
- What other possibilities are there for axes?

[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Spatial Axis Orientation

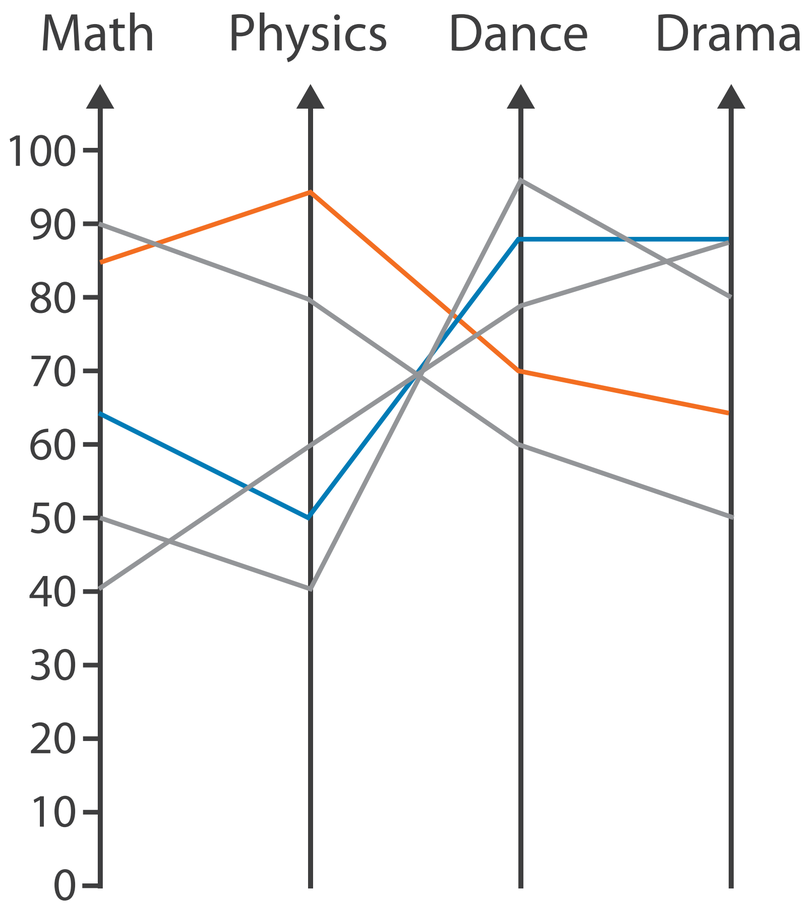
- So far, we have seen the vertical and horizontal axes (a **rectilinear** layout) used to encode almost everything
- What other possibilities are there for axes?
  - Parallel axes



[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

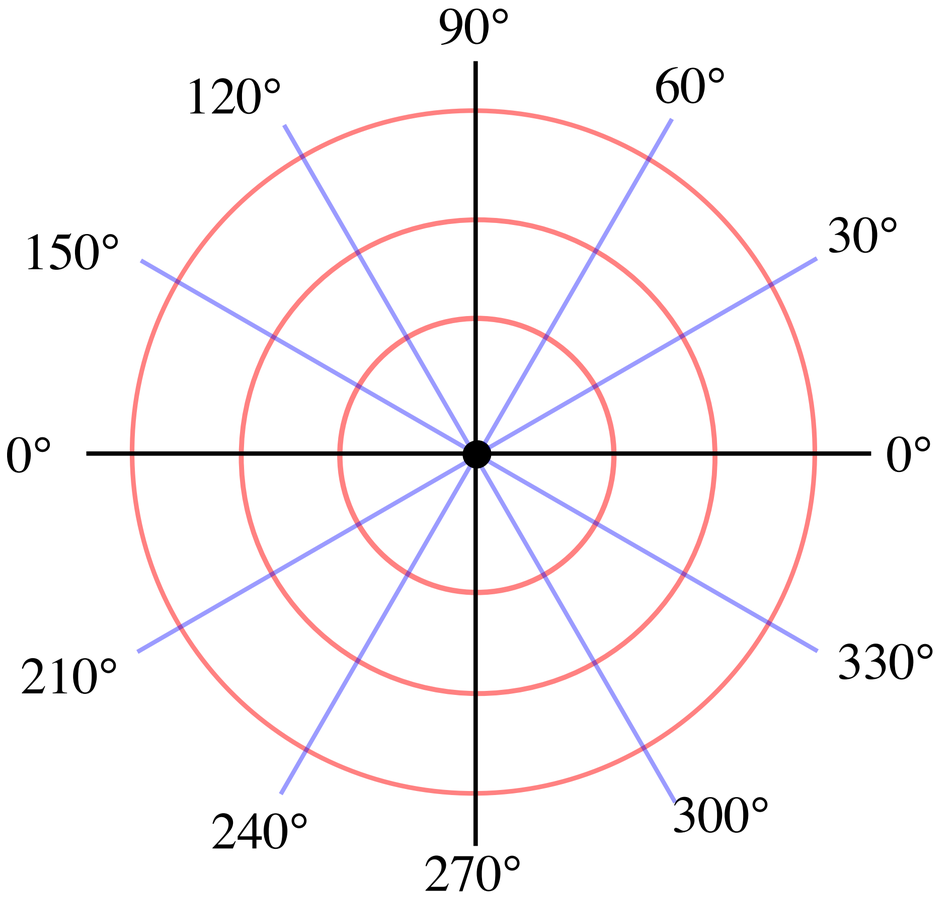
Spatial Axis Orientation

- So far, we have seen the vertical and horizontal axes (a **rectilinear** layout) used to encode almost everything
- What other possibilities are there for axes?
  - Parallel axes
  - Radial axes

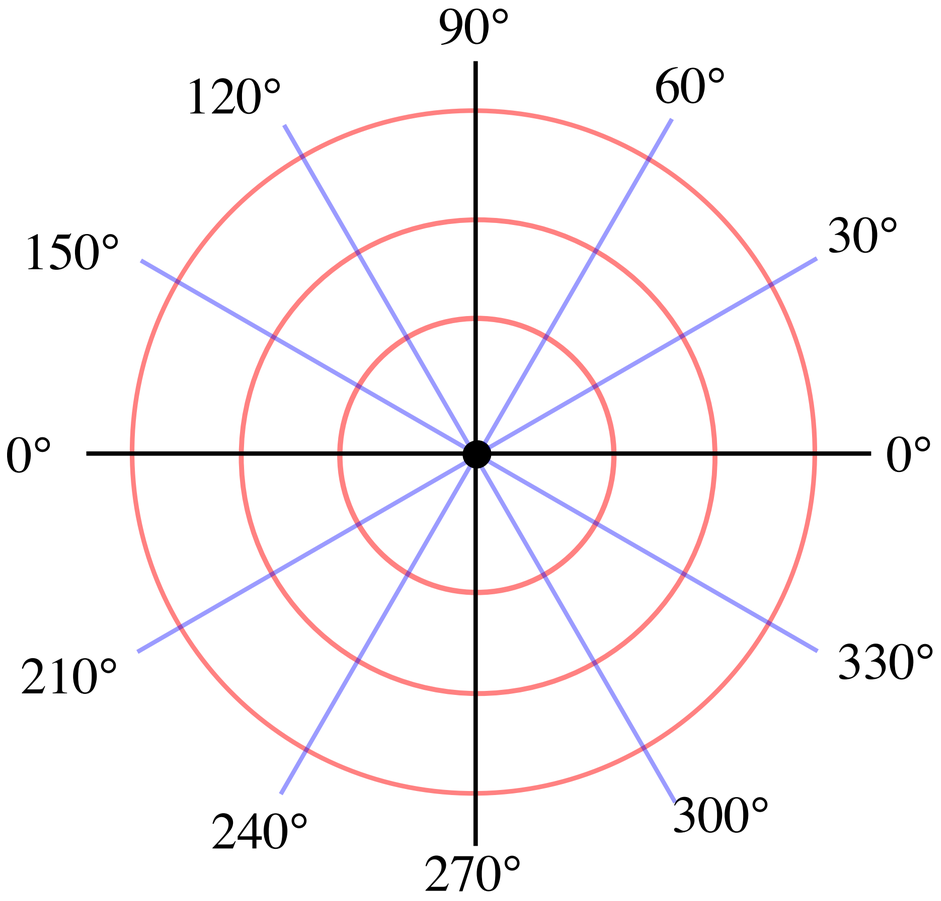


[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Radial Axes

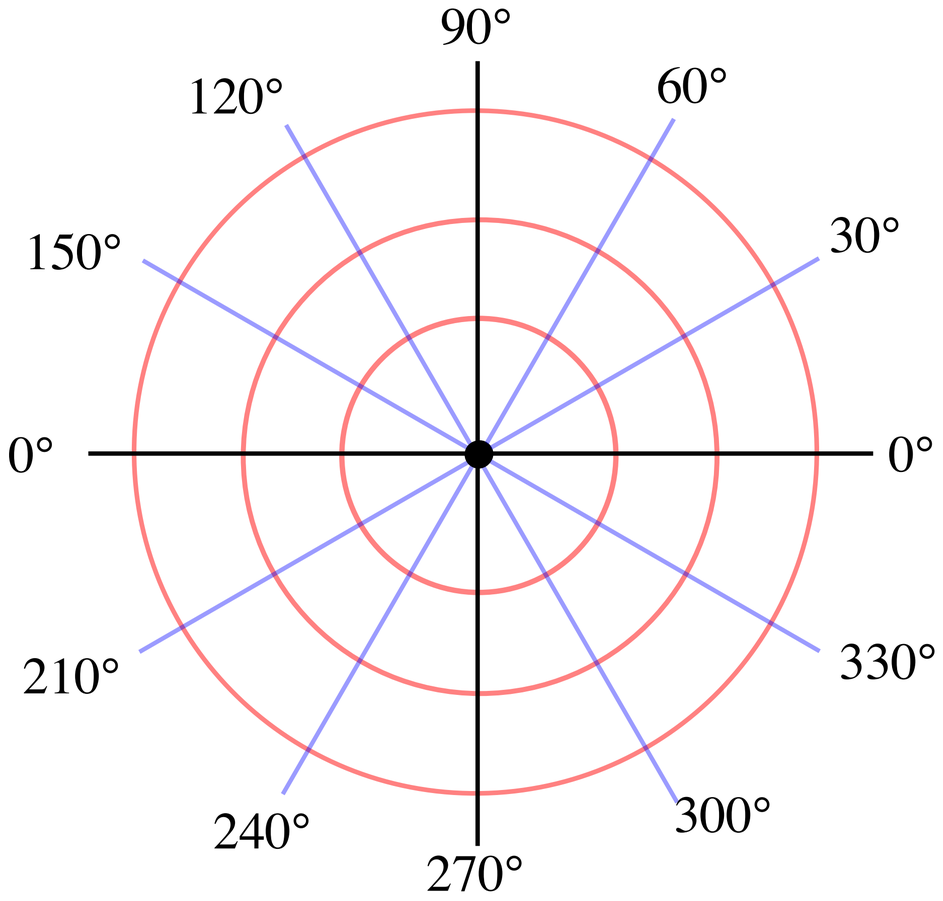


Radial Axes



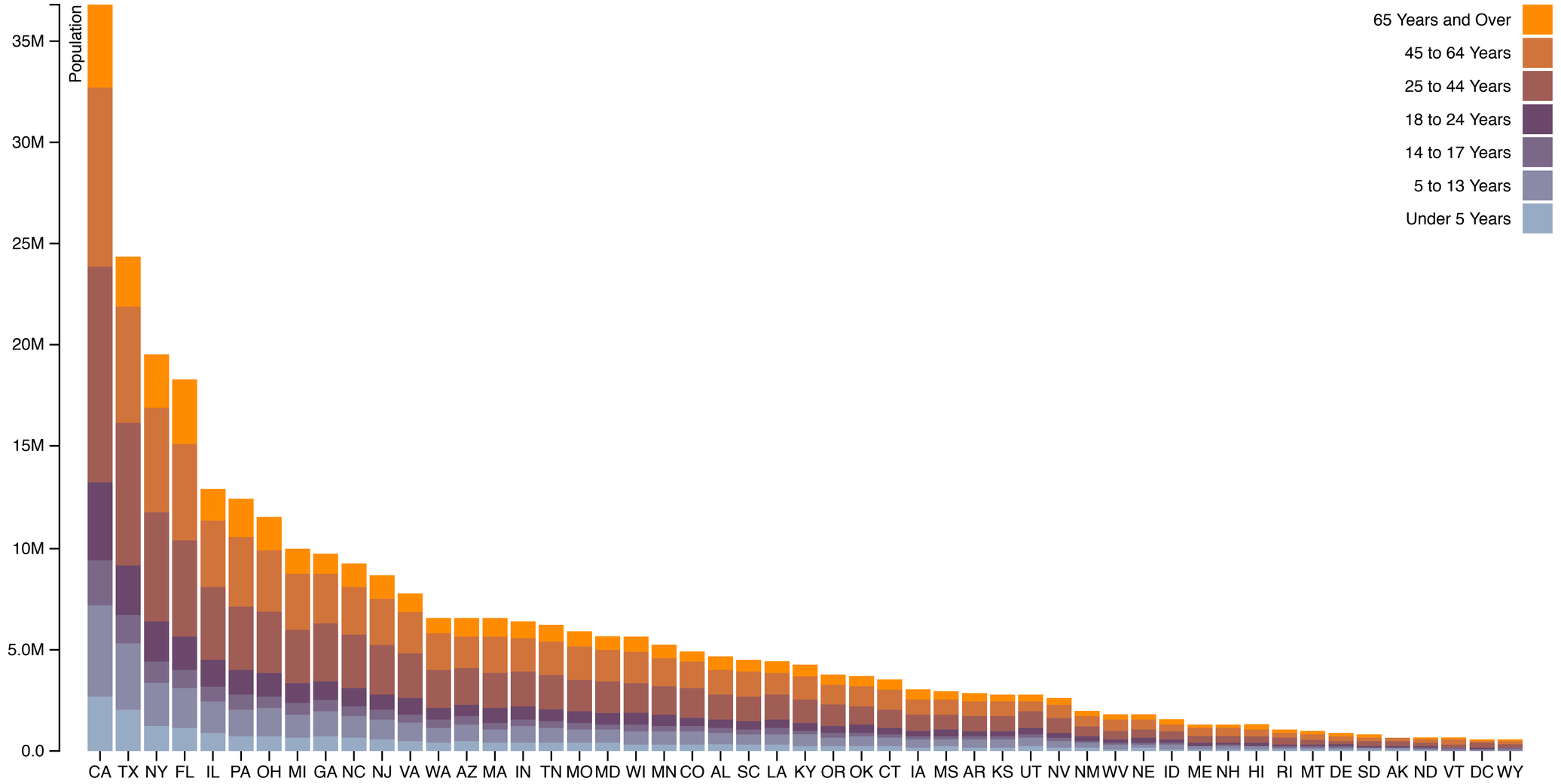
- Polar Coordinates (angle + position along the line at that angle)
- What types of encodings are possible for tabular data in polar coordinates?

Radial Axes



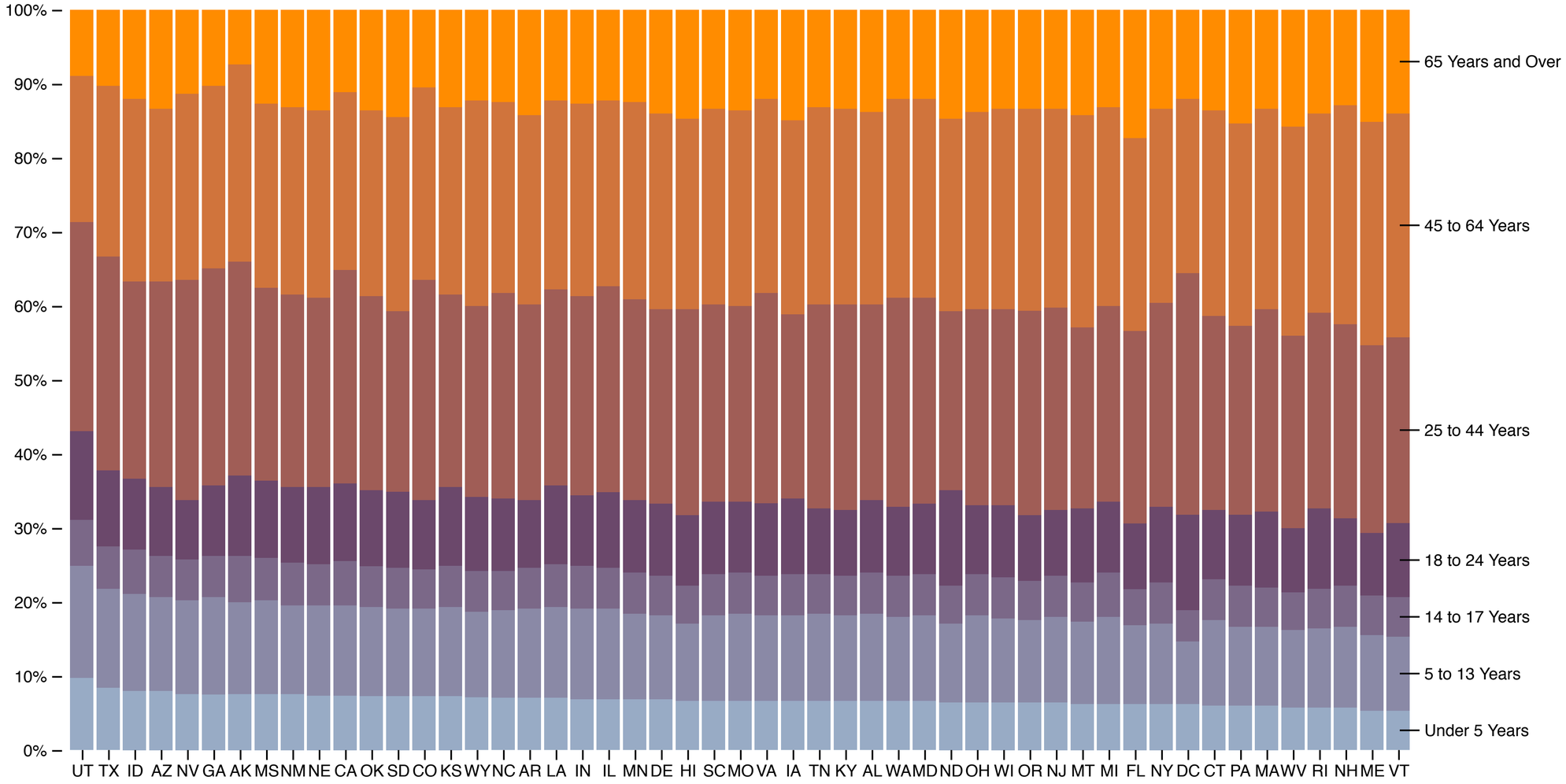
- Polar Coordinates (angle + position along the line at that angle)
- What types of encodings are possible for tabular data in polar coordinates?
  - Radial bar charts
  - Pie charts
  - Donut charts

Part-of-whole: Relative % comparison?



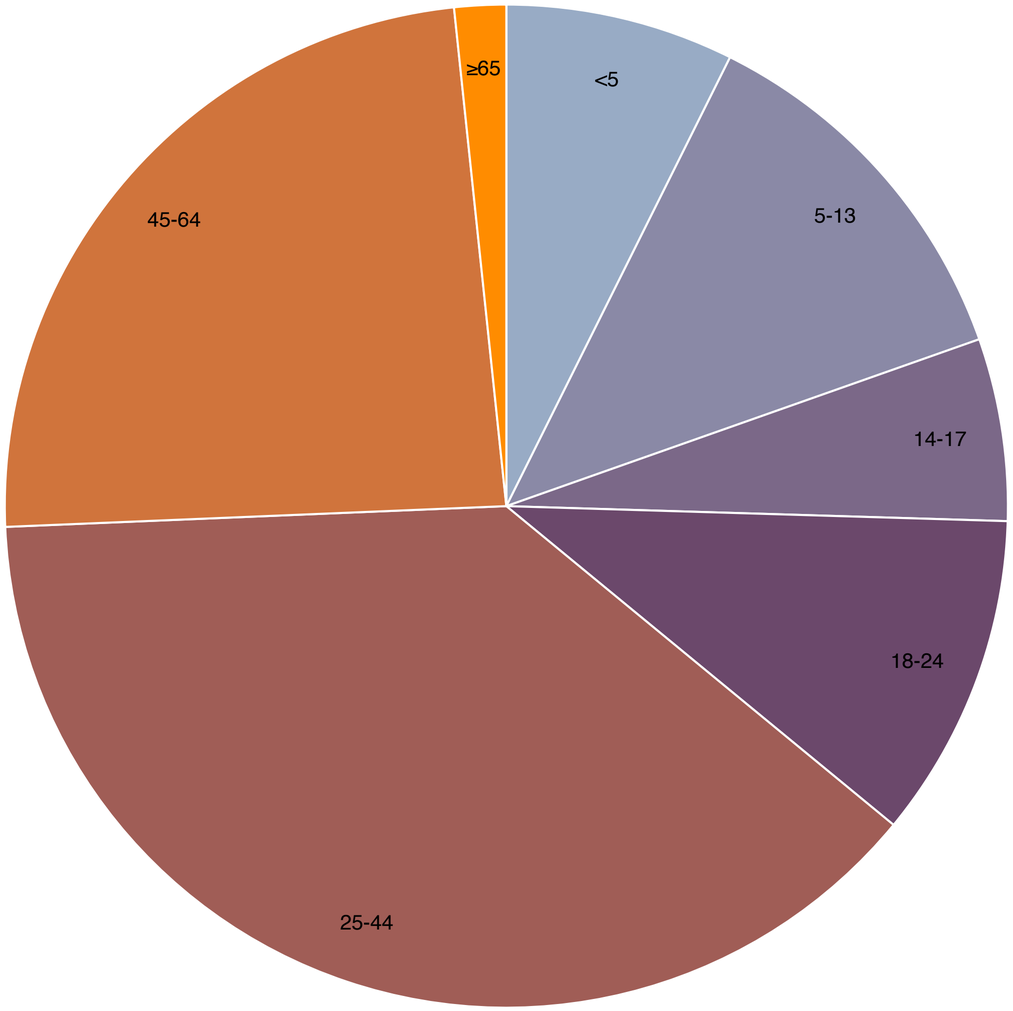
[Stacked Bar Chart, M. Bostock, 2017]

Normalized Stacked Bar Chart



[Normalized Stacked Bar Chart, Bostock, 2017]

Pie Chart

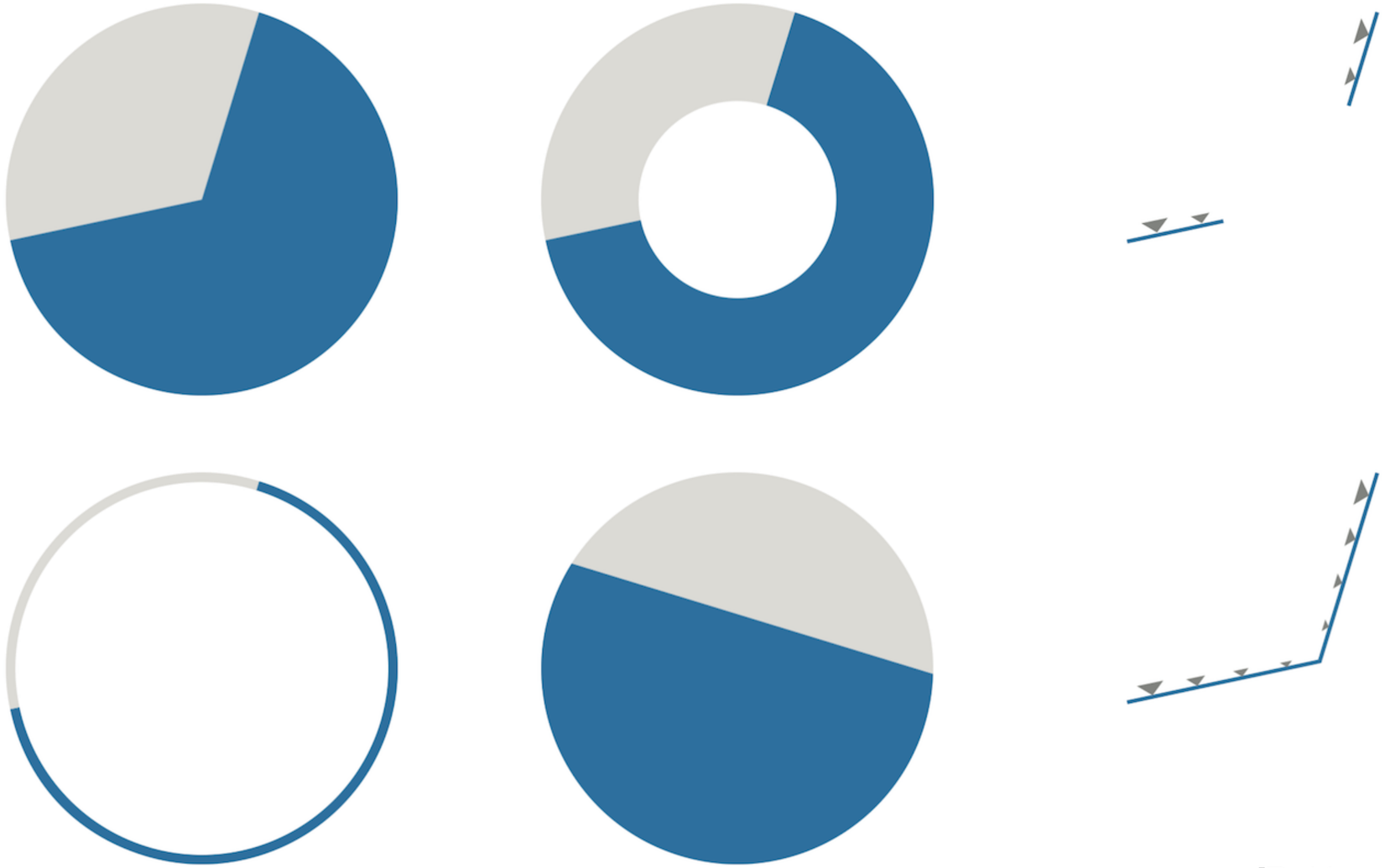


[Pie Chart, Bostock, 2017]

Pie Charts

- vs. bar charts [Munzner's Textbook, 2014]
  - Angle channel is lower precision then position in bar charts
- What about donut charts?
- Are we judging angle, or are we judging area, … or arc length?
  - "Arcs, Angles, or Areas: Individual Data Encodings in Pie and Donut Charts", D. Skau and R. Kosara, 2016
  - "Judgment Error in Pie Chart Variations", R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016
  - Summary: "An Illustrated Study of the Pie Chart Study Results"

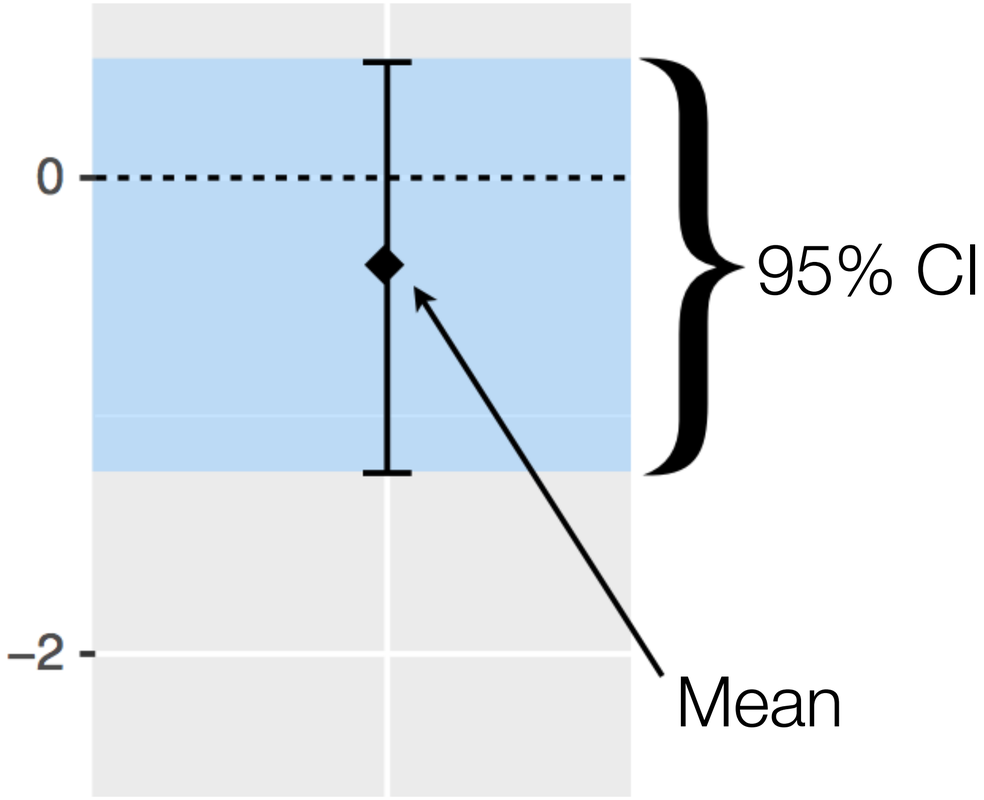
Arcs, Angles, or Areas?



[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

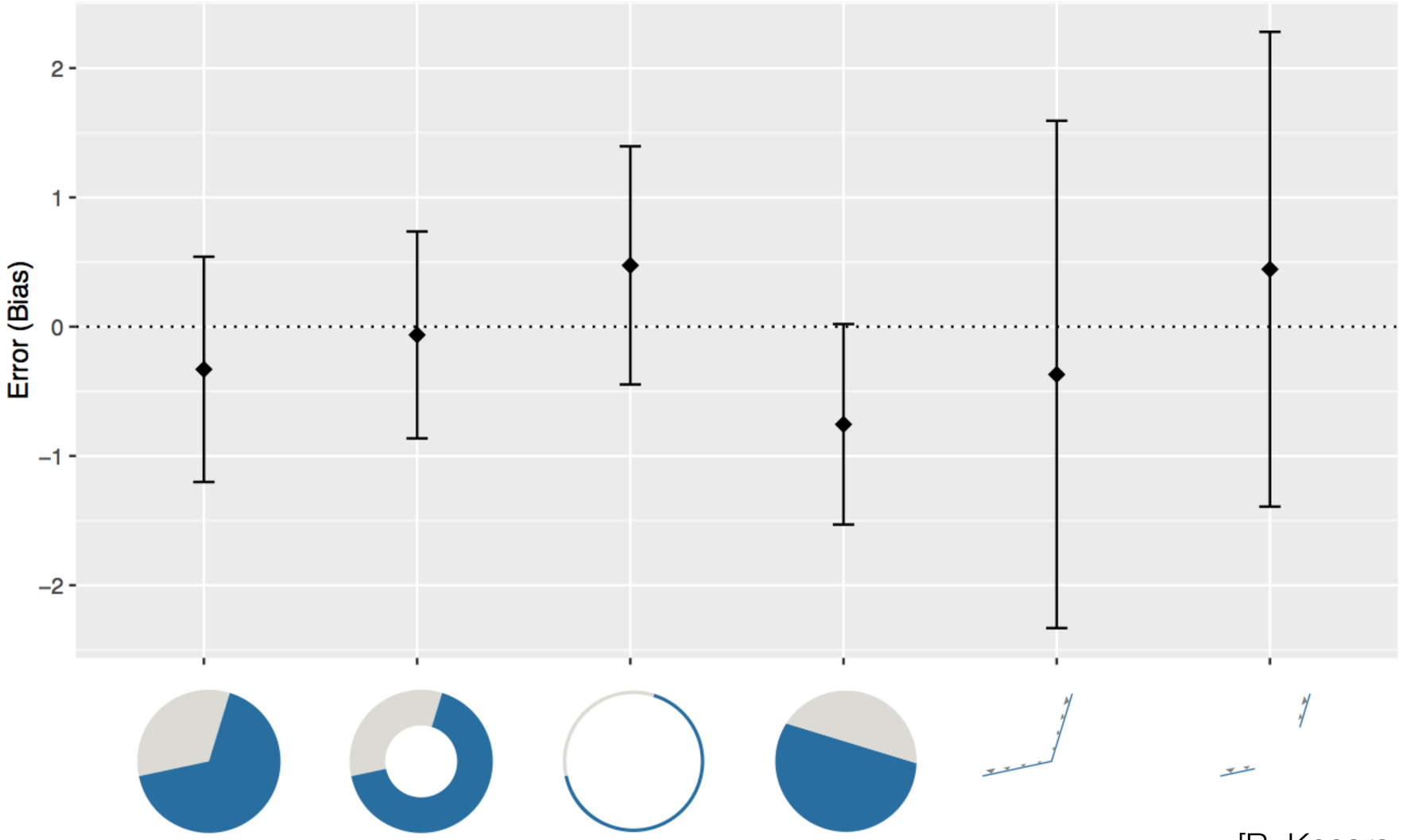
Study Setup

- Three studies
- 80-100 participants each
- Each answered ~60 questions
- Computed results using 95% Confidence Intervals



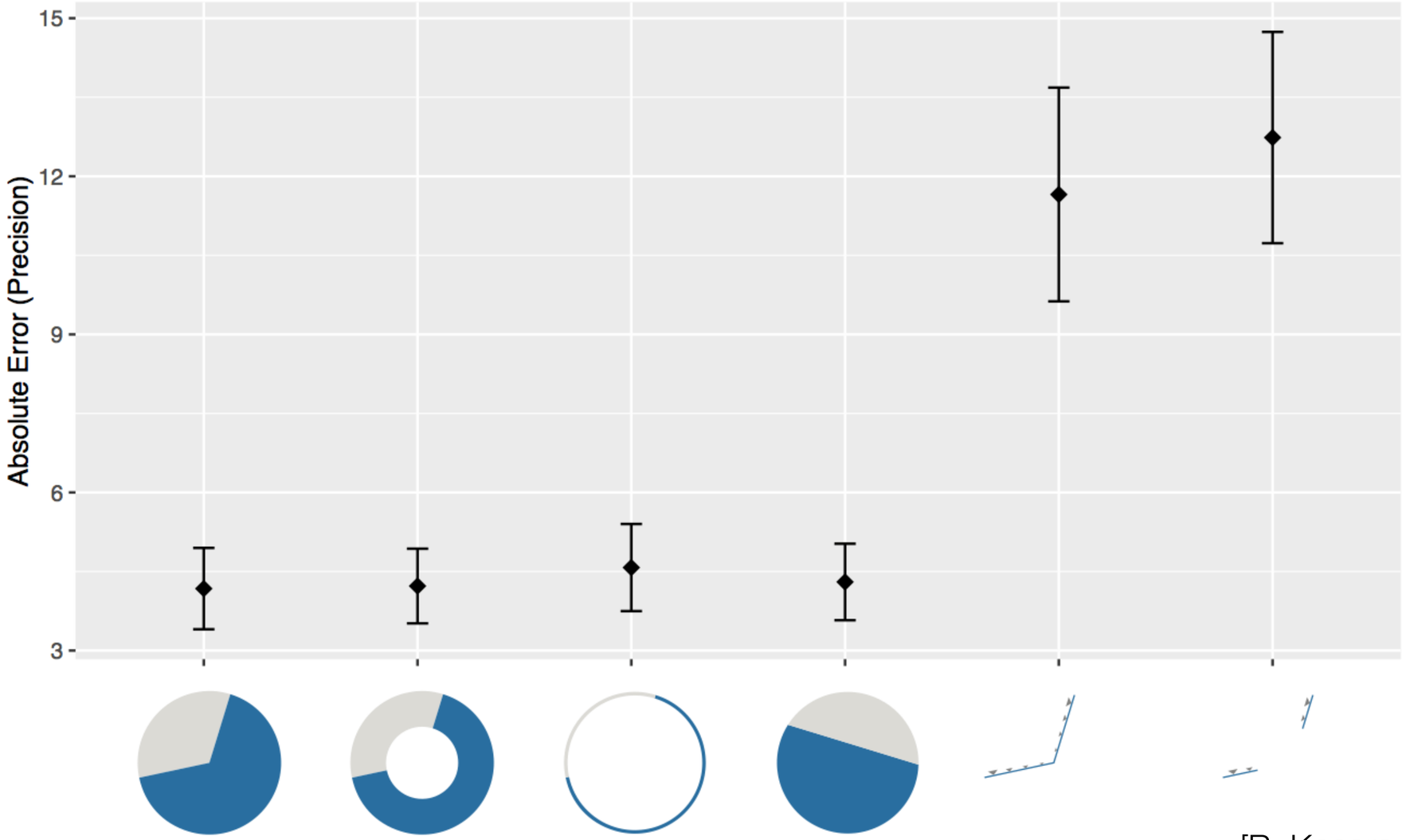
[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Signed Error



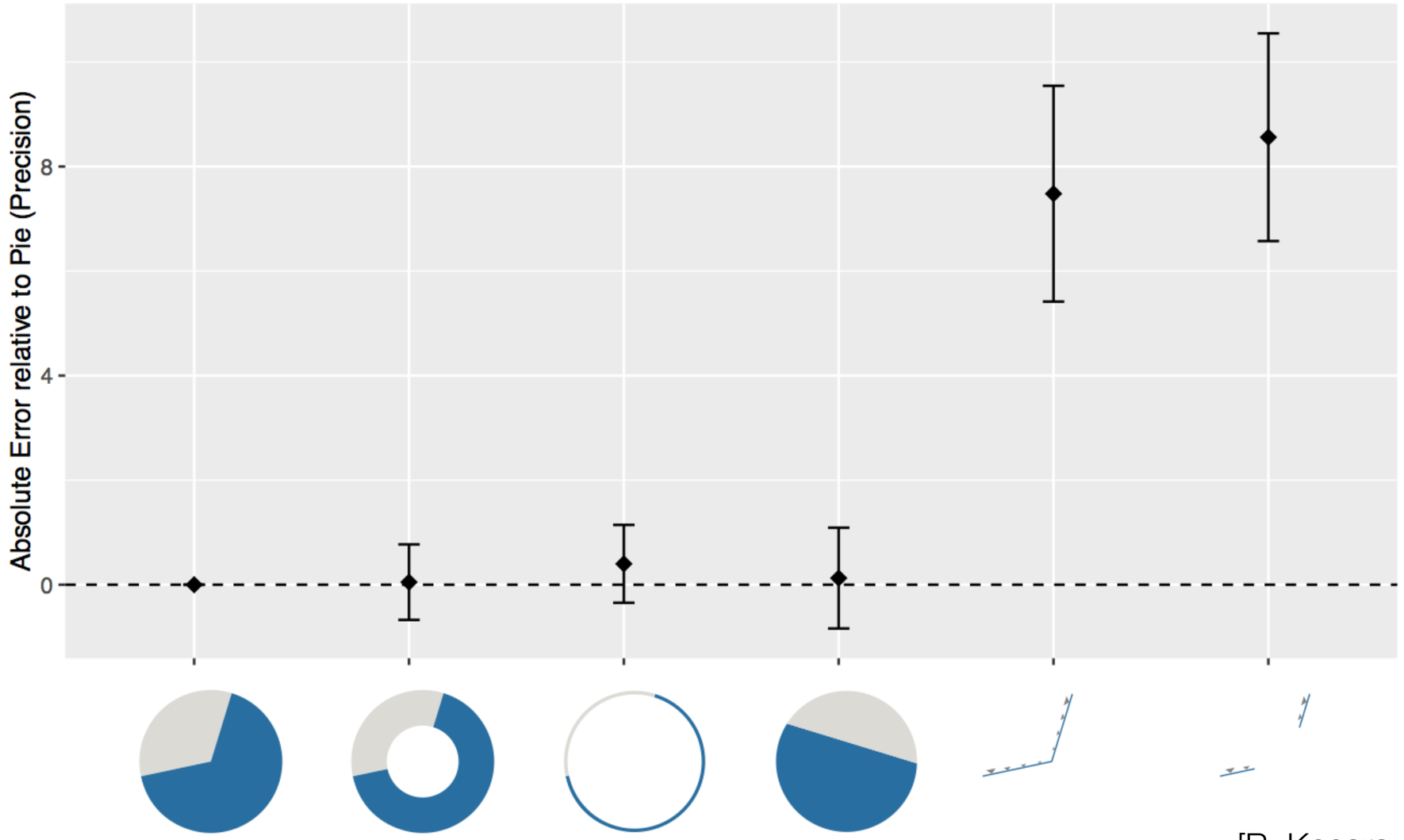
[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Absolute Error



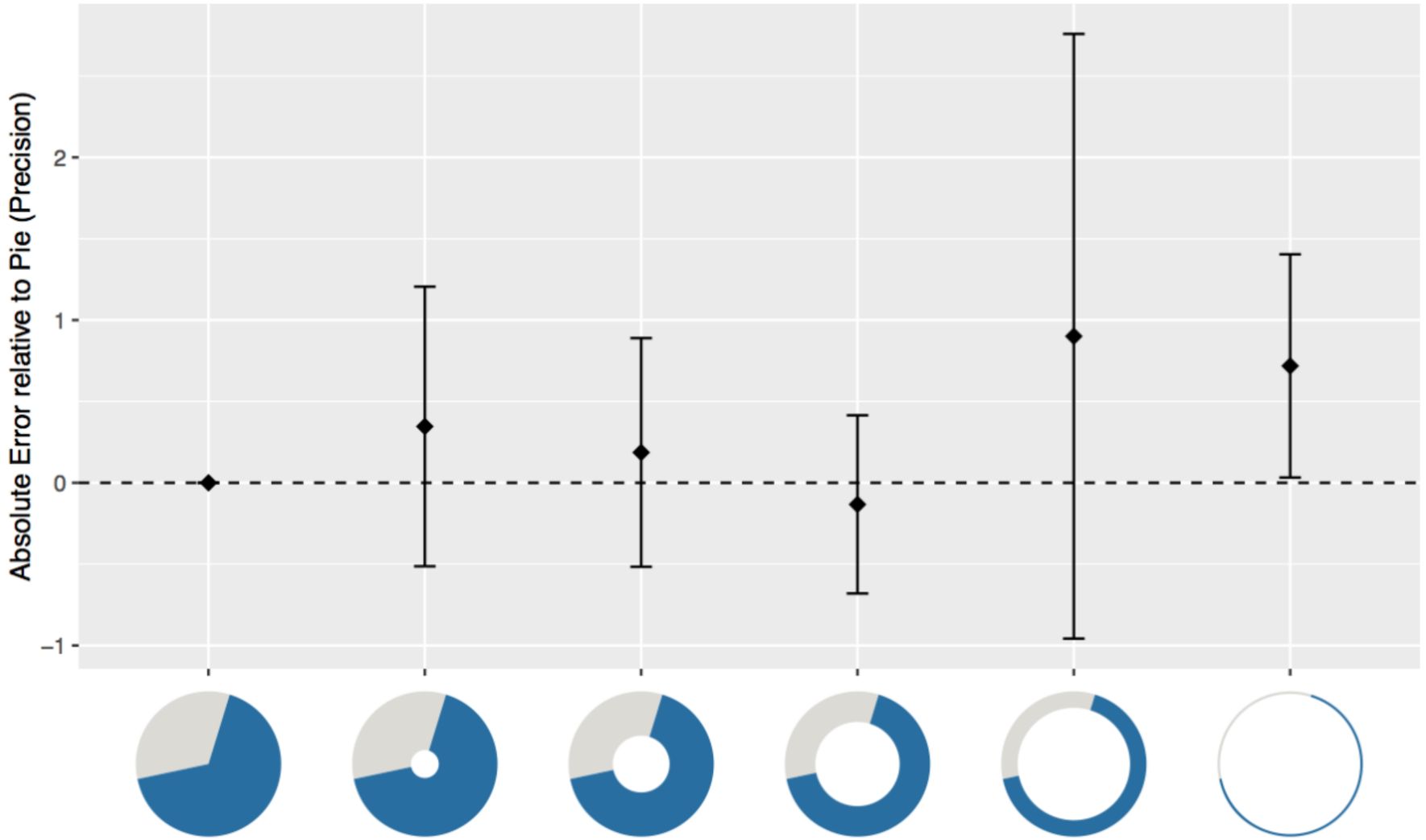
[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Absolute Error Relative to Pie Chart



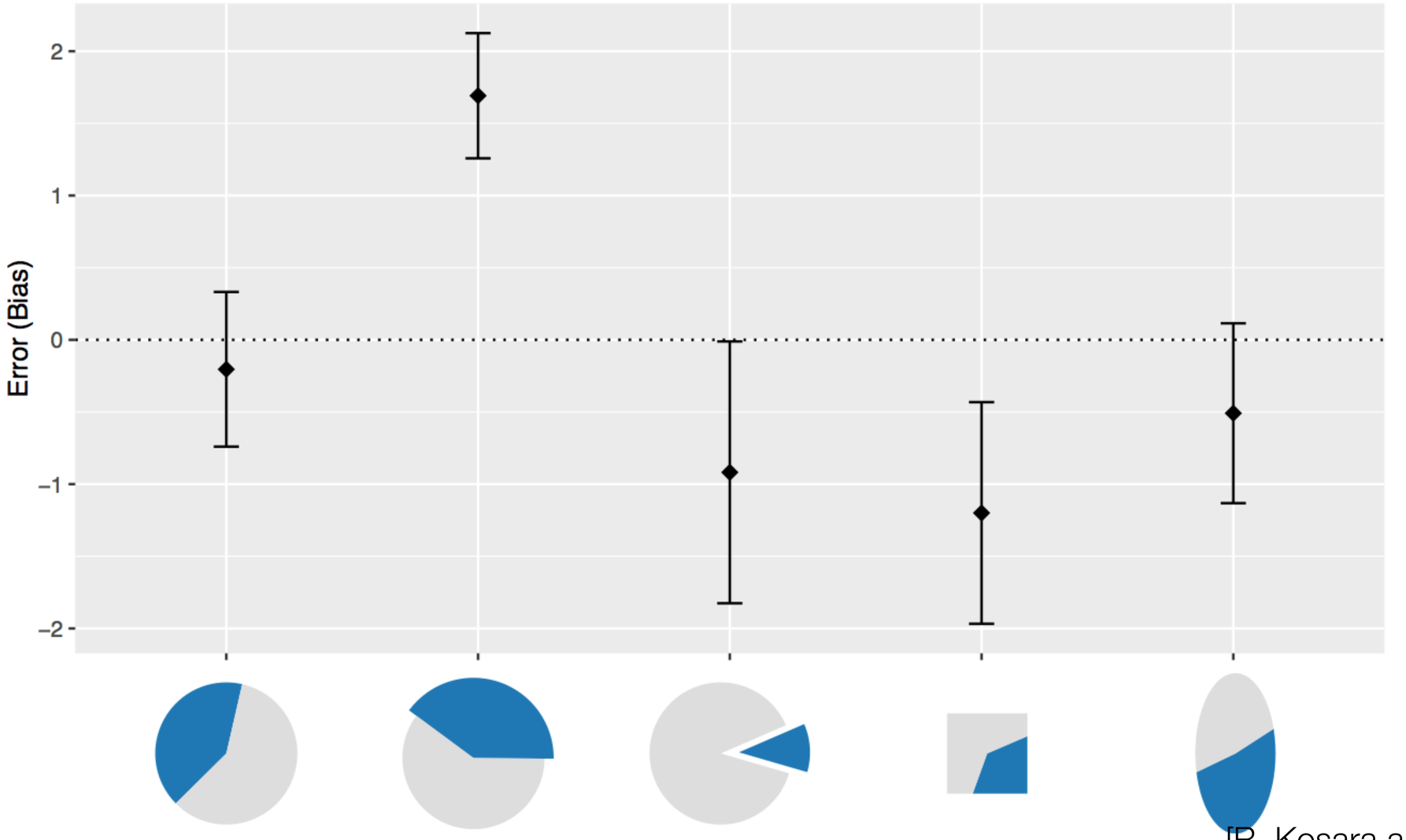
[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Donut Charts Width



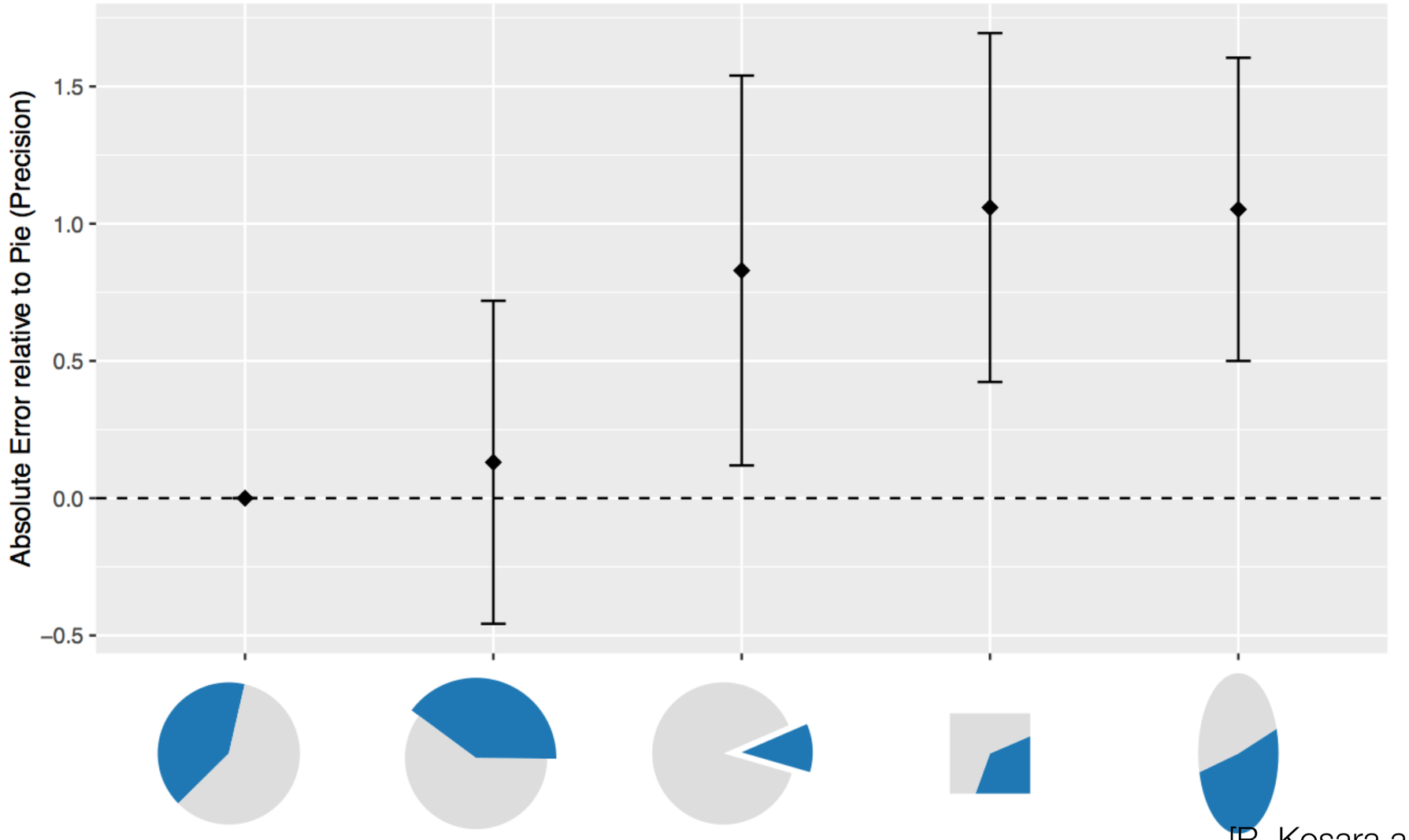
[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Pie Chart Variations



[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Pie Chart Variations



[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Conclusion: We do not read pie charts by angle

[R. Kosara and D. Skau, 2016]

Pies vs. Bars

- …but area is still harder to judge than position
- Screens are usually not round