

Lecture 4: Tableau, Design Rules of Thumb

CS 7250

SPRING 2021

Prof. Cody Dunne

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Slides and inspiration from Michelle Borkin, Krzysztof Gajos, Hanspeter Pfister, Miriah Meyer, Jonathan Schwabish, and David Sprague

CHECKING IN





PREVIOUSLY, ON CS 7250...











JAVASCRIPT DEVELOPMENT



PROJECTS


In-class project pitches: F 2021-02-12

Threats to Validity *✓ Final Project validation*

-  **Domain situation**
-  **Data/task abstraction**
-  **Visual encoding/interaction idiom**
-  **Algorithm**

-  **Threat** Wrong problem ✓
 -  **Validate** Observe and interview target users
-  **Threat** Wrong task/data abstraction
 -  **Threat** Ineffective encoding/interaction idiom ✓
 -  **Validate** Justify encoding/interaction design
 -  **Threat** Slow algorithm
 -  **Validate** Analyze computational complexity
-  **Validate** Measure system time/memory
-  **Validate** Qualitative/quantitative result image analysis ✓
 - Test on any users, informal usability study*
-  **Validate** Lab study, measure human time/errors for task

-  **Validate** Test on target users, collect anecdotal evidence of utility
-  **Validate** Field study, document human usage of deployed system

-  **Validate** Observe adoption rates

Final
project
follow-up

POTENTIAL VENUE:
IEEE VIS 2021 SHORT PAPERS

Deadline 2021-06-13

TABLEAU TUTORIAL

~15 min total

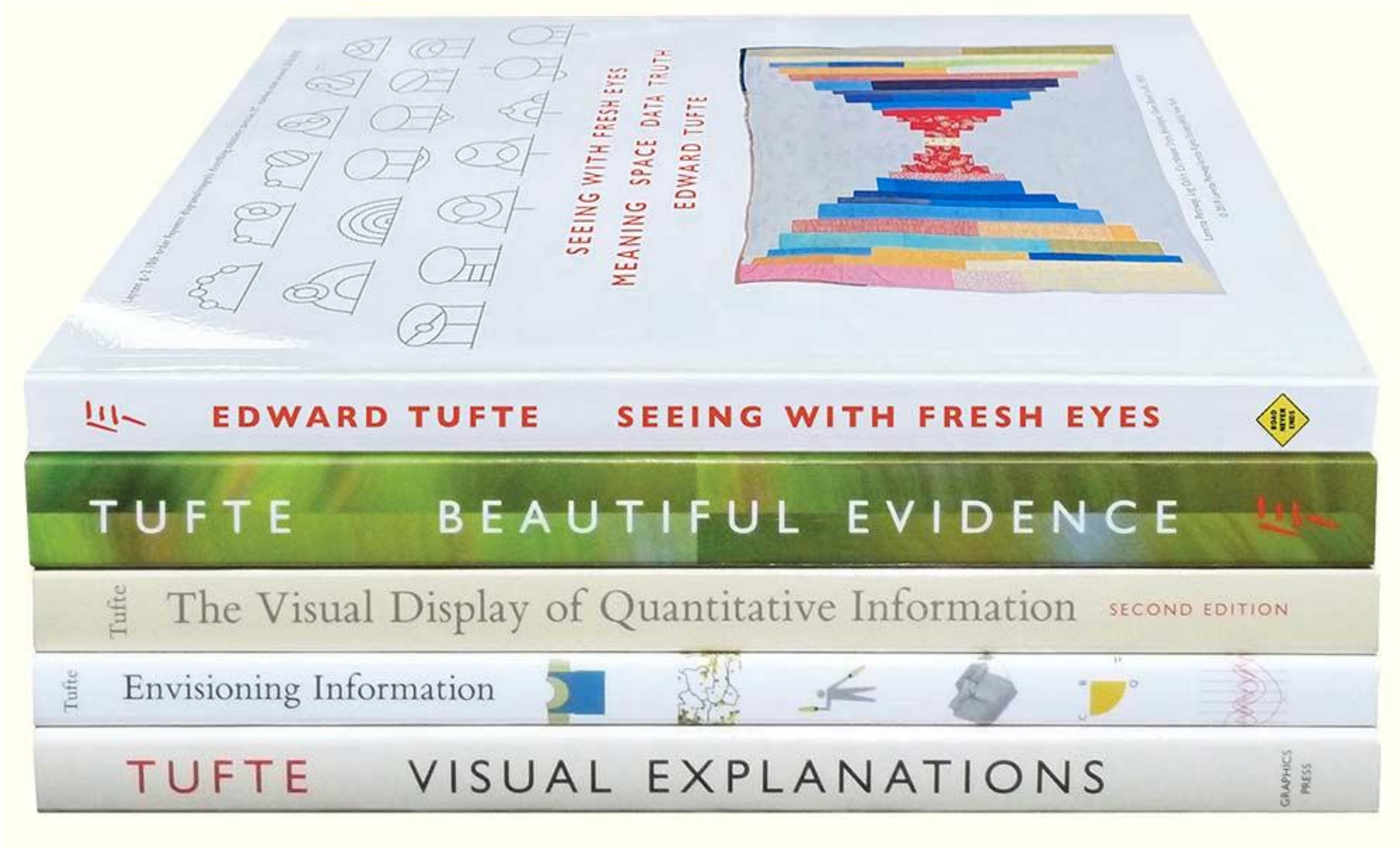
IN-CLASS TOOL

INTRODUCTION — TABLEAU

~25 min total

DESIGN RULES OF THUMB

Edward Tufte



“Graphical Integrity”

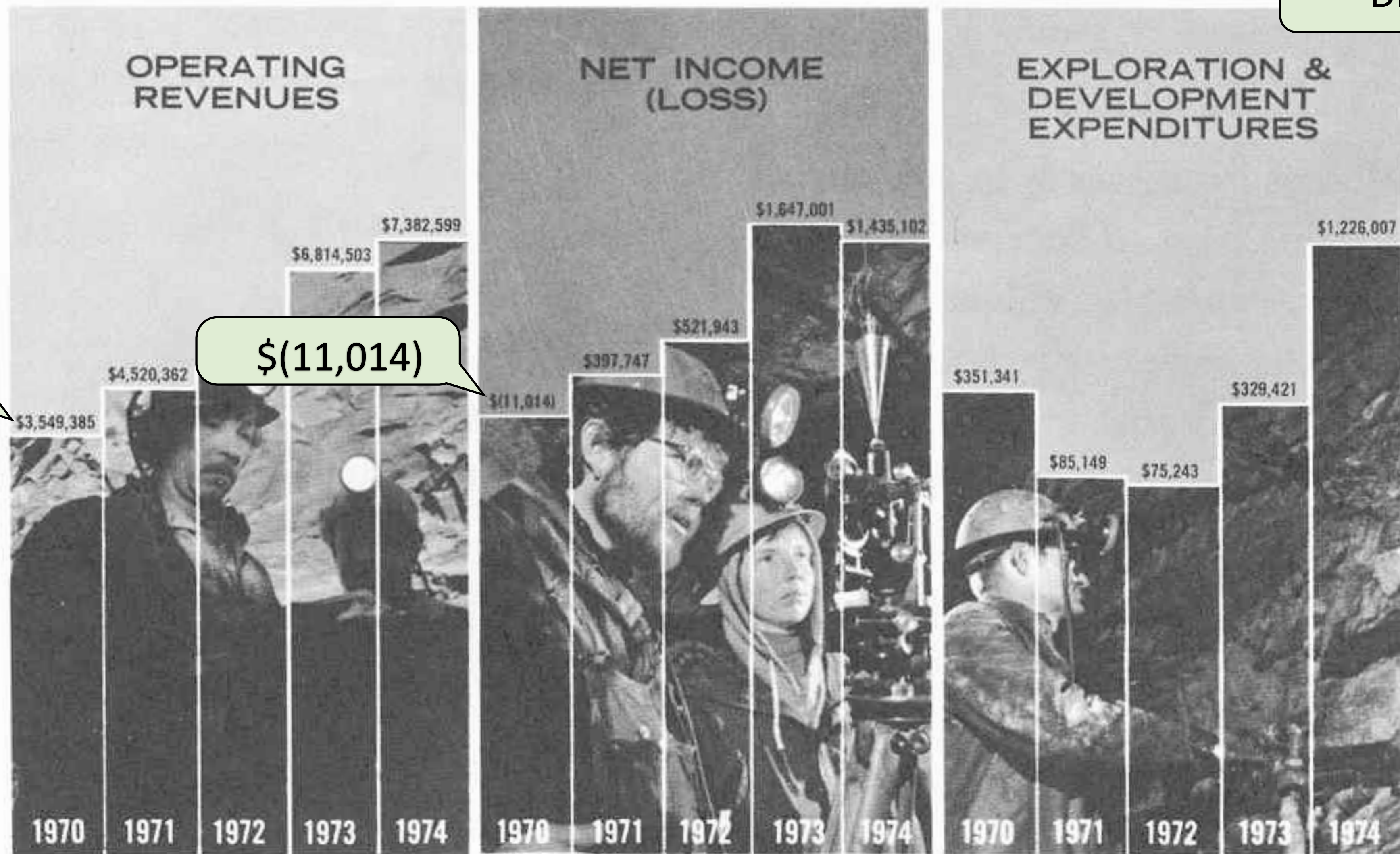
“Clear, detailed, and thorough labeling should be used to defeat graphical distortion and ambiguity. Write out explanations of the data on the graphic itself. Label important events in the data.”

(Axes and axis labels, titles, annotations, legends, etc.)

\$3,549,385

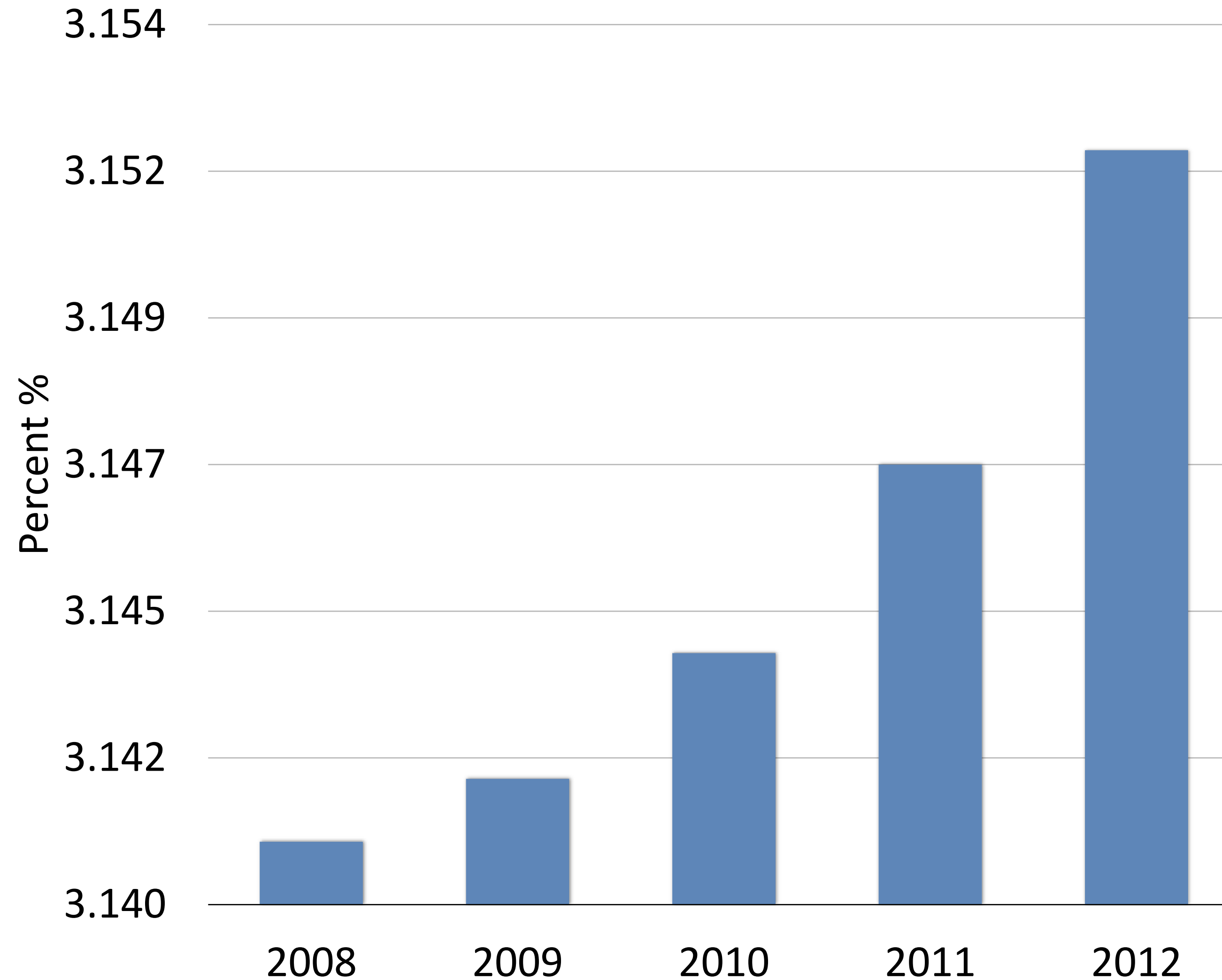
\$(11,014)

y-axis
baseline?!



“Clear, detailed, and thorough labeling should be used to defeat graphical distortion and ambiguity. Write out explanations of the data on the graphic itself. Label important events in the data.”

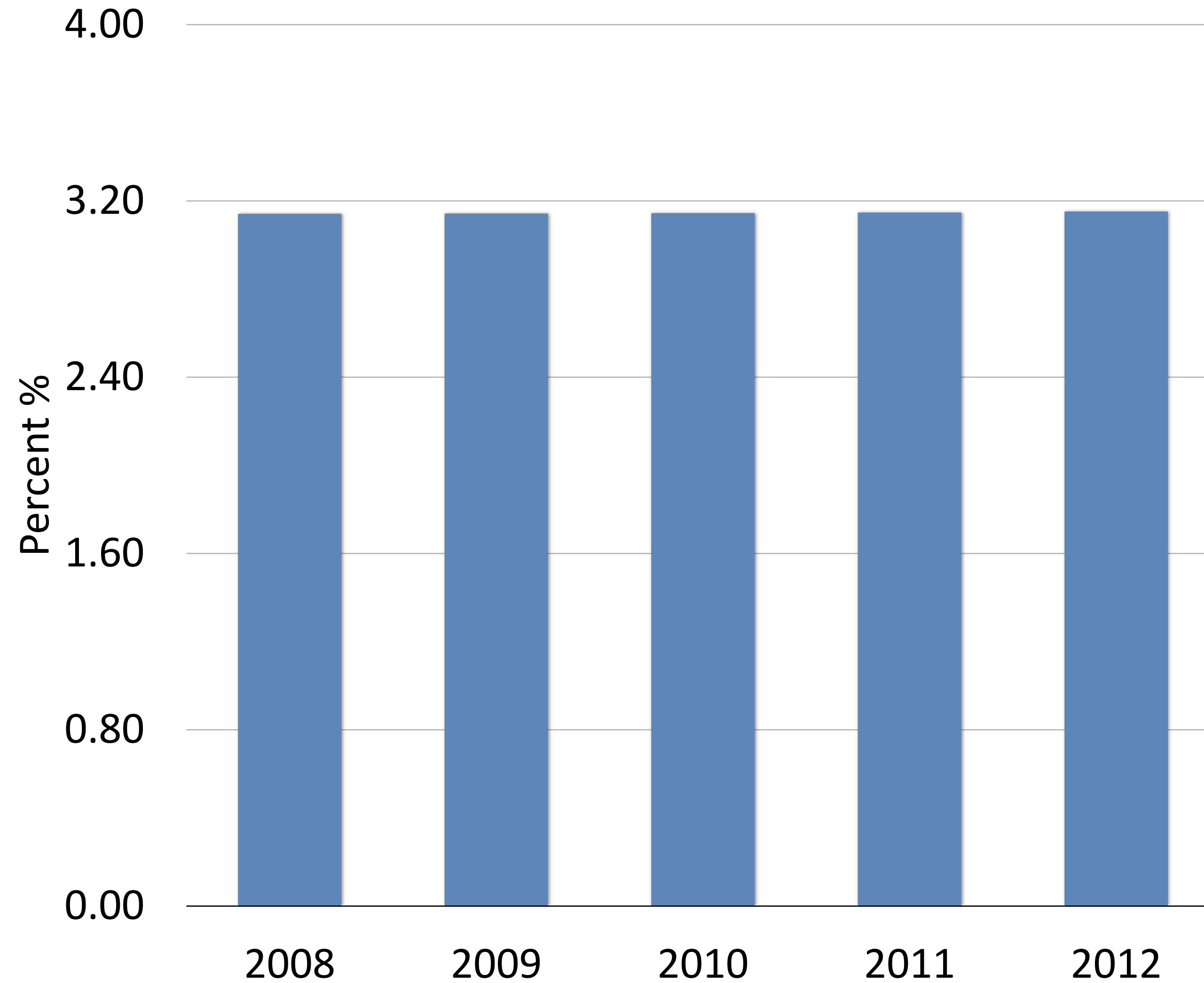
Interest Rates



“Clear, detailed, and thorough labeling should be used to defeat graphical distortion and ambiguity. Write out explanations of the data on the graphic itself. Label important events in the data.”

Based on <http://data.heapanalytics.com/how-to-lie-with-data-visualization>

Interest Rates

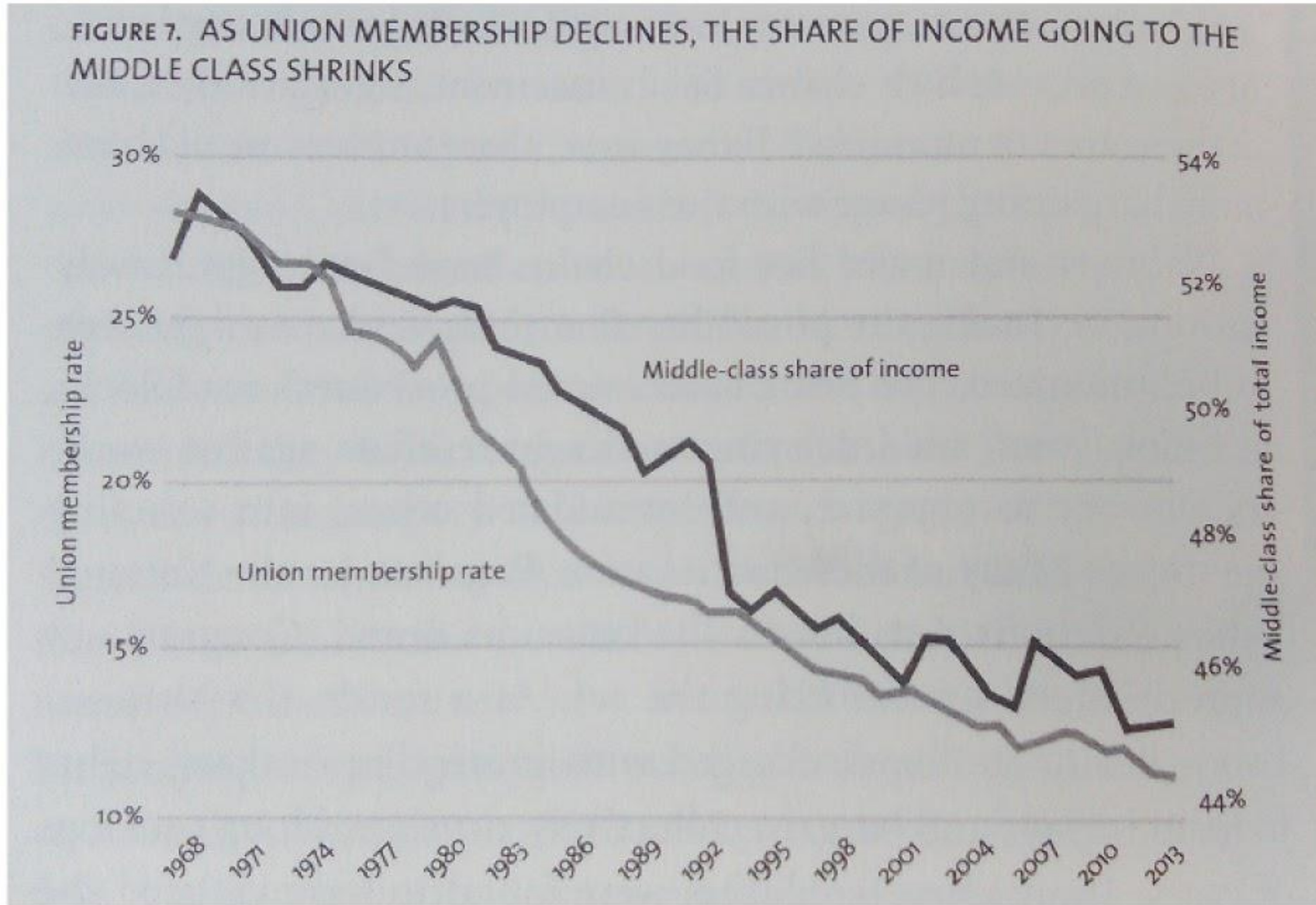


CONTEXT!

“Clear, detailed, and thorough labeling should be used to defeat graphical distortion and ambiguity. Write out explanations of the data on the graphic itself. Label important events in the data.”

Based on <http://data.heapanalytics.com/how-to-lie-with-data-visualization>

“Double the axes, double the mischief”



“Clear, detailed, and thorough labeling should be used to defeat graphical distortion and ambiguity. Write out explanations of the data on the graphic itself. Label important events in the data.”

<http://www.thefunctionalart.com/2015/10/double-axes-double-mischief.html>

“Graphical Integrity”

“The representation of numbers, as physically measured on the surface of the graphic itself, should be directly proportional to the numerical quantities measured.”

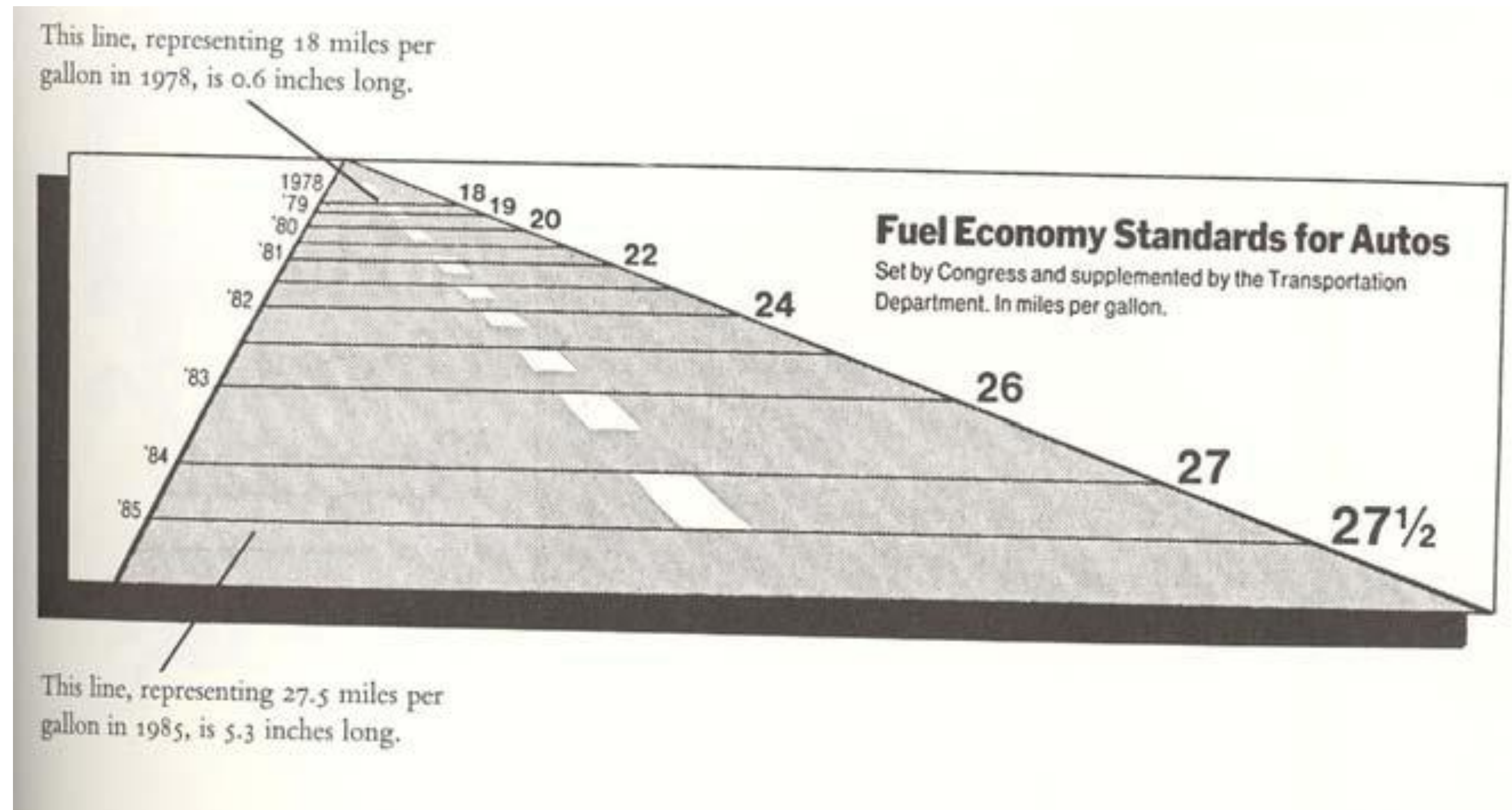
Lie Factor

$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{\text{Size of effect in graphic}}{\text{Size of effect in data}}$$

Lie Factor = >1, overstating

Lie Factor = 1, accurate :-)

Lie Factor = <1, understating



“The representation of numbers, as physically measured on the surface of the graphic itself, should be directly proportional to the numerical quantities measured.”

Lie Factor

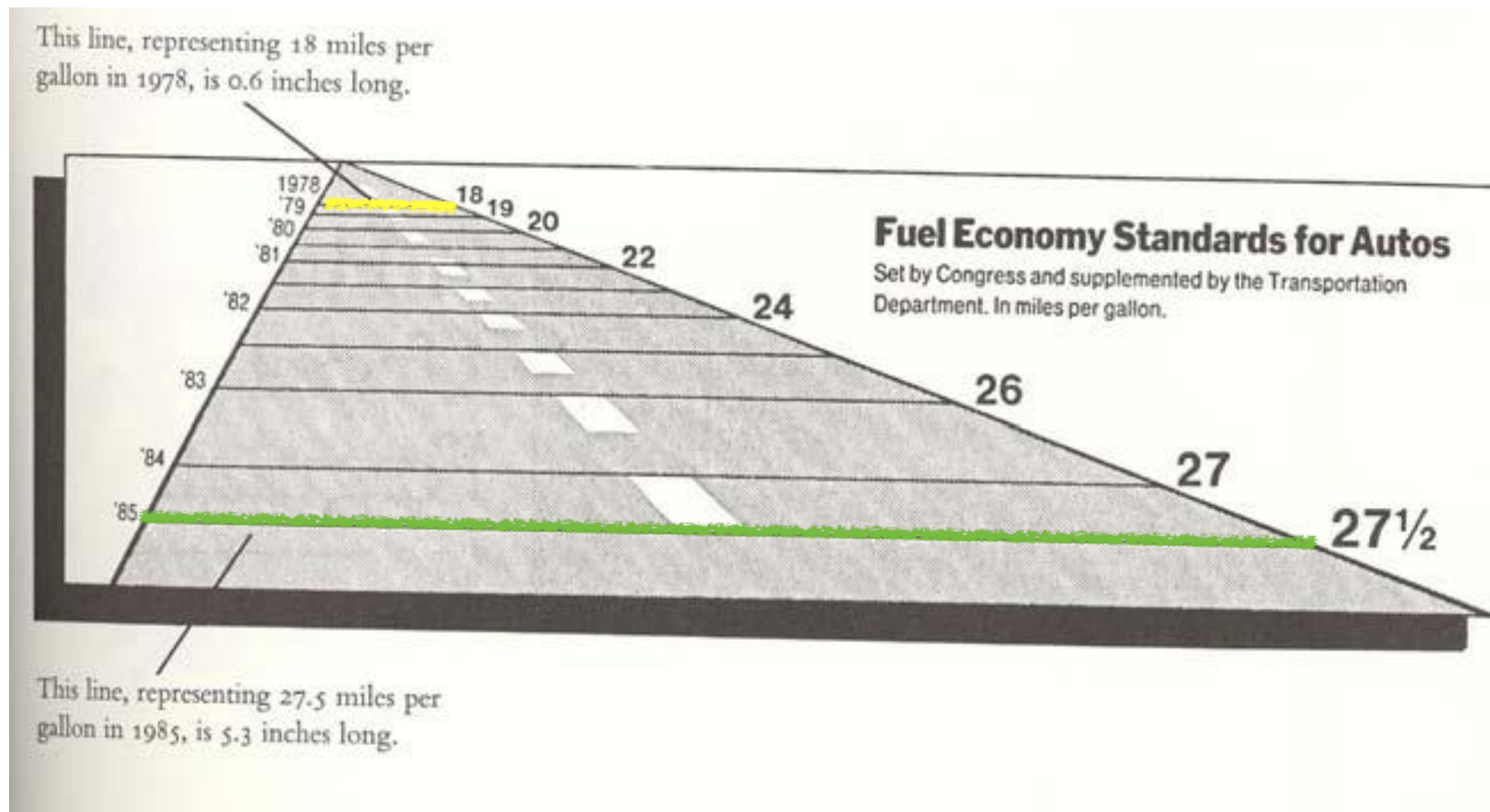
$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{\text{(Size of effect in graphic)}}{\text{(Size of effect in data)}}$$

$$\text{Image} = \frac{5.3'' - 0.6''}{0.6''} = 7.83 = 783\%$$

$$\text{Data} = \frac{27.5 - 18}{18} = 0.53 = 53\%$$

$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{783\%}{53\%} = 14.8$$

Lie Factor = >1, overstating



“The representation of numbers, as physically measured on the surface of the graphic itself, should be directly proportional to the numerical quantities measured.”

Lie Factor

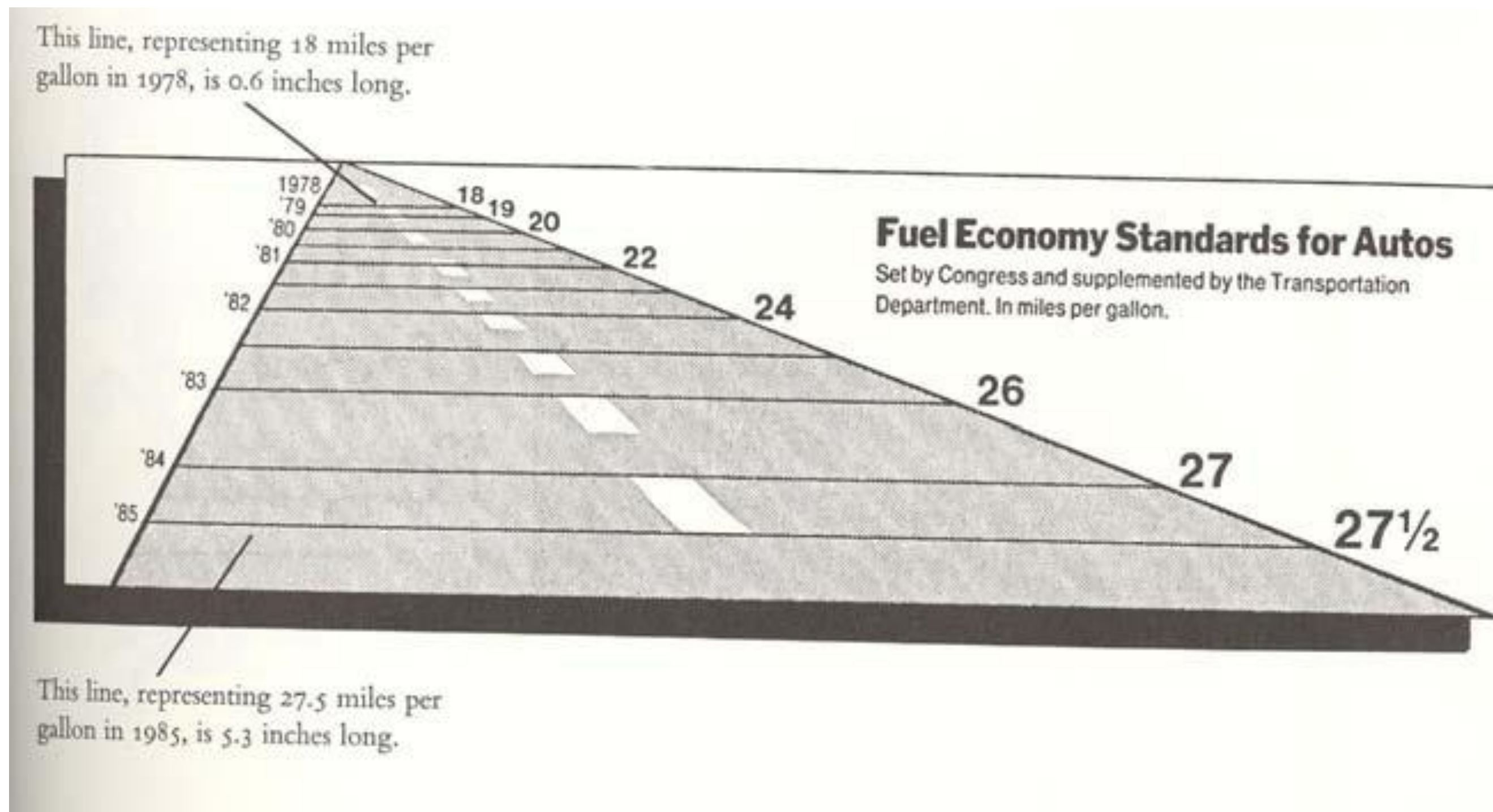
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Lie Factor = >1, overstating



18
27.5

“The representation of numbers, as physically measured on the surface of the graphic itself, should be directly proportional to the numerical quantities measured.”

IN-CLASS ACTIVITY:
Calculate for yourself!

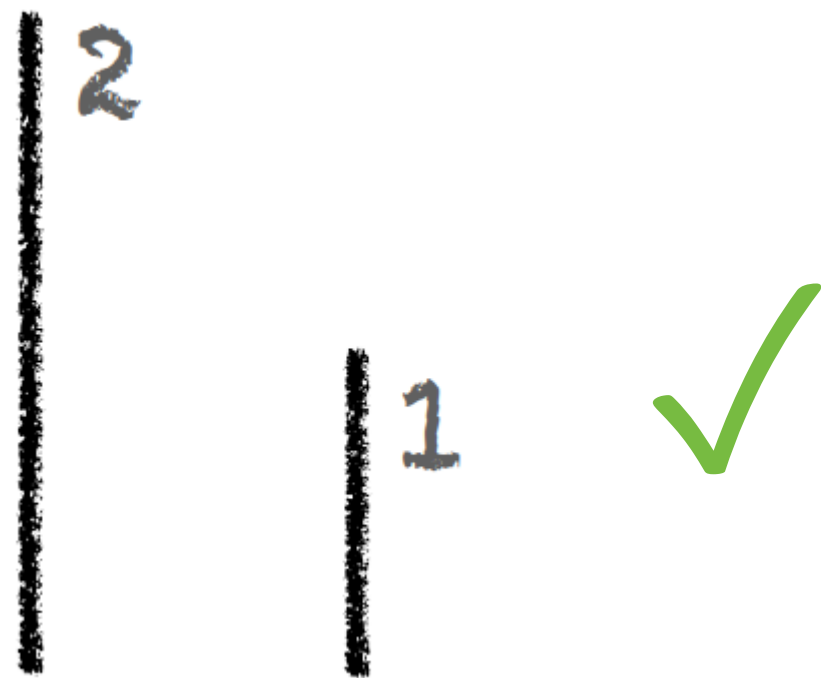
Lie Factor

$$\text{Data} = \frac{2 - 1}{1} = 1 = 100\%$$

$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{\text{Size of effect in graphic}}{\text{Size of effect in data}}$$

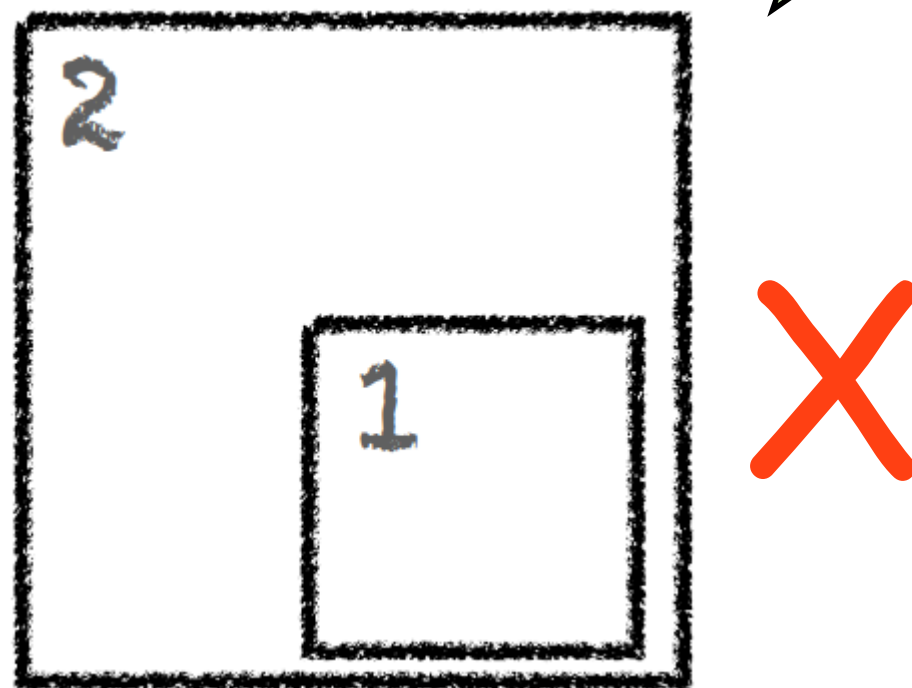
Make sure *area* is proportional to data!

Don't use 3D bar charts!



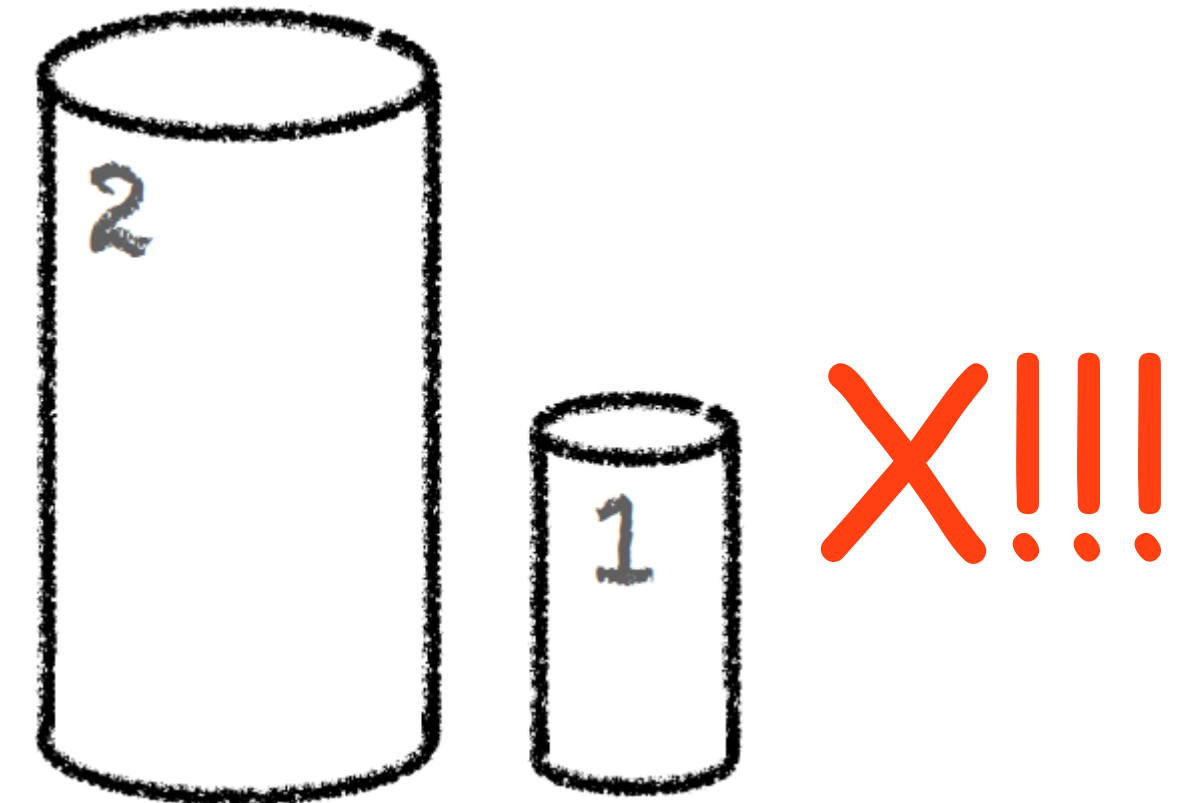
$$\text{Image} = \frac{2 - 1}{1} = 1 = 100\%$$

$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{100\%}{100\%} = 1$$



$$\text{Image} = \frac{2^2 - 1^2}{1^2} = 3 = 300\%$$

$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{300\%}{100\%} = 3$$



$$\text{Image} = \frac{2 * \pi 1^2 - 1 * \pi 0.5^2}{1 * \pi 0.5^2} = 7 = 700\%$$

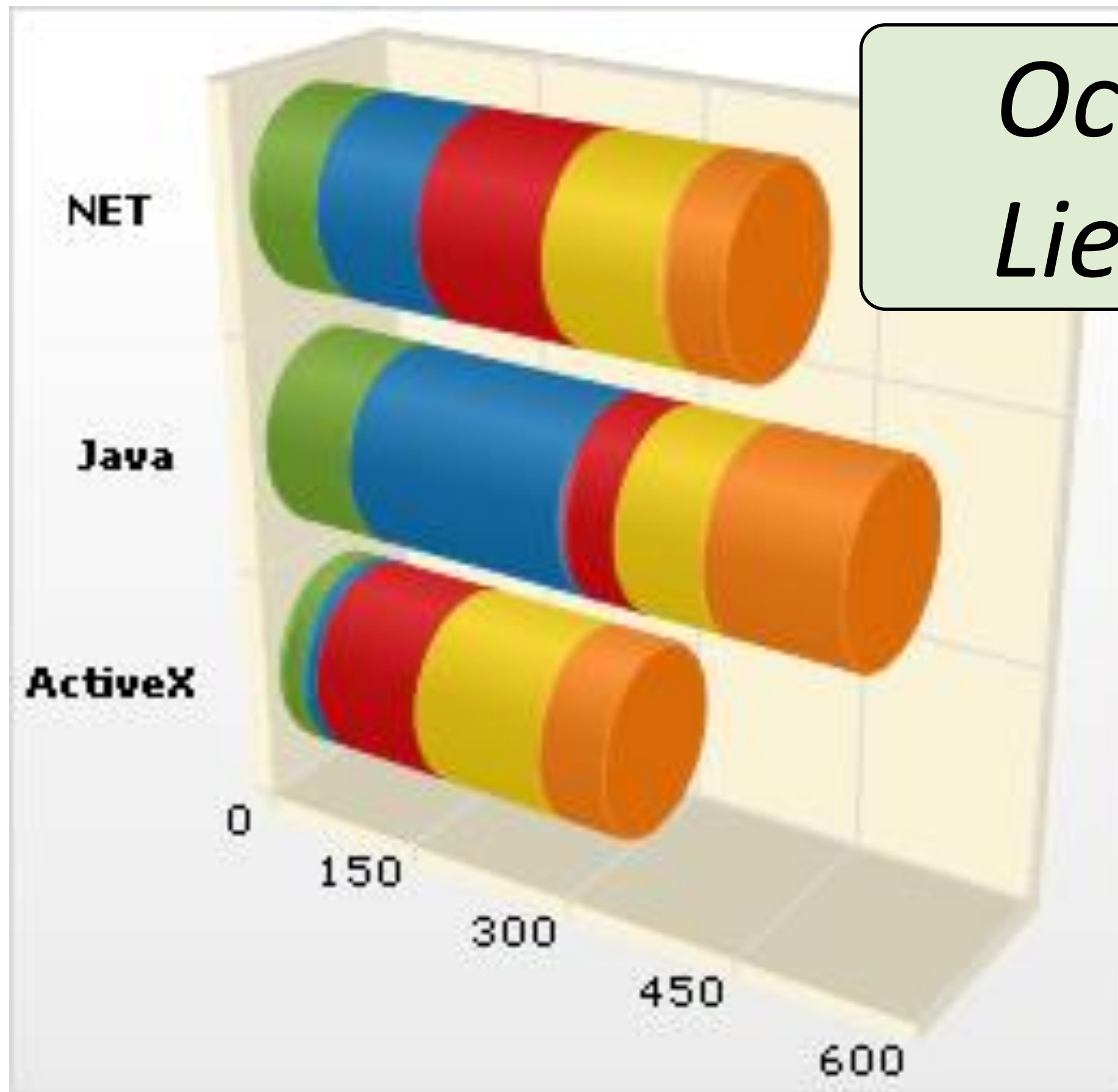
$$\text{Lie Factor} = \frac{700\%}{100\%} = 7$$

“The representation of numbers, as physically measured on the surface of the graphic itself, should be directly proportional to the numerical quantities measured.”

“Graphical Integrity”

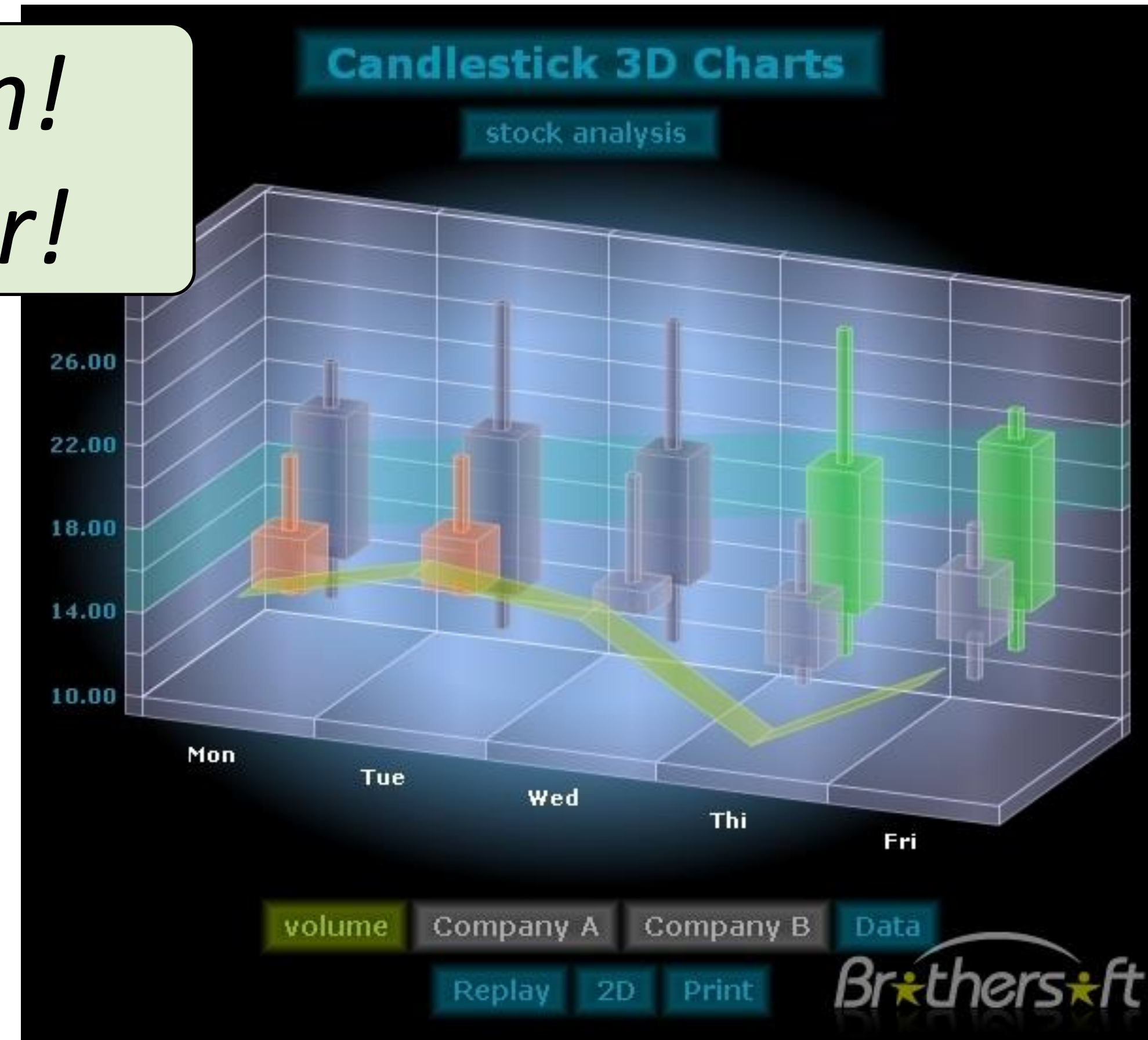
“The number of information-carrying (variable) dimensions depicted should not exceed the number of dimensions in the data.”

“No Unjustified 3D”



*Occlusion!
Lie Factor!*

http://help.infragistics.com/Help/Doc/WinForms/2014.2/CLR4.0/html/Images/Chart_Bar_Chart_03.png



http://img.brothersoft.com/screenshots/softimage/0/3d_charts-171418-1269568478.jpeg

“The number of information-carrying (variable) dimensions depicted should not exceed the number of dimensions in the data.”

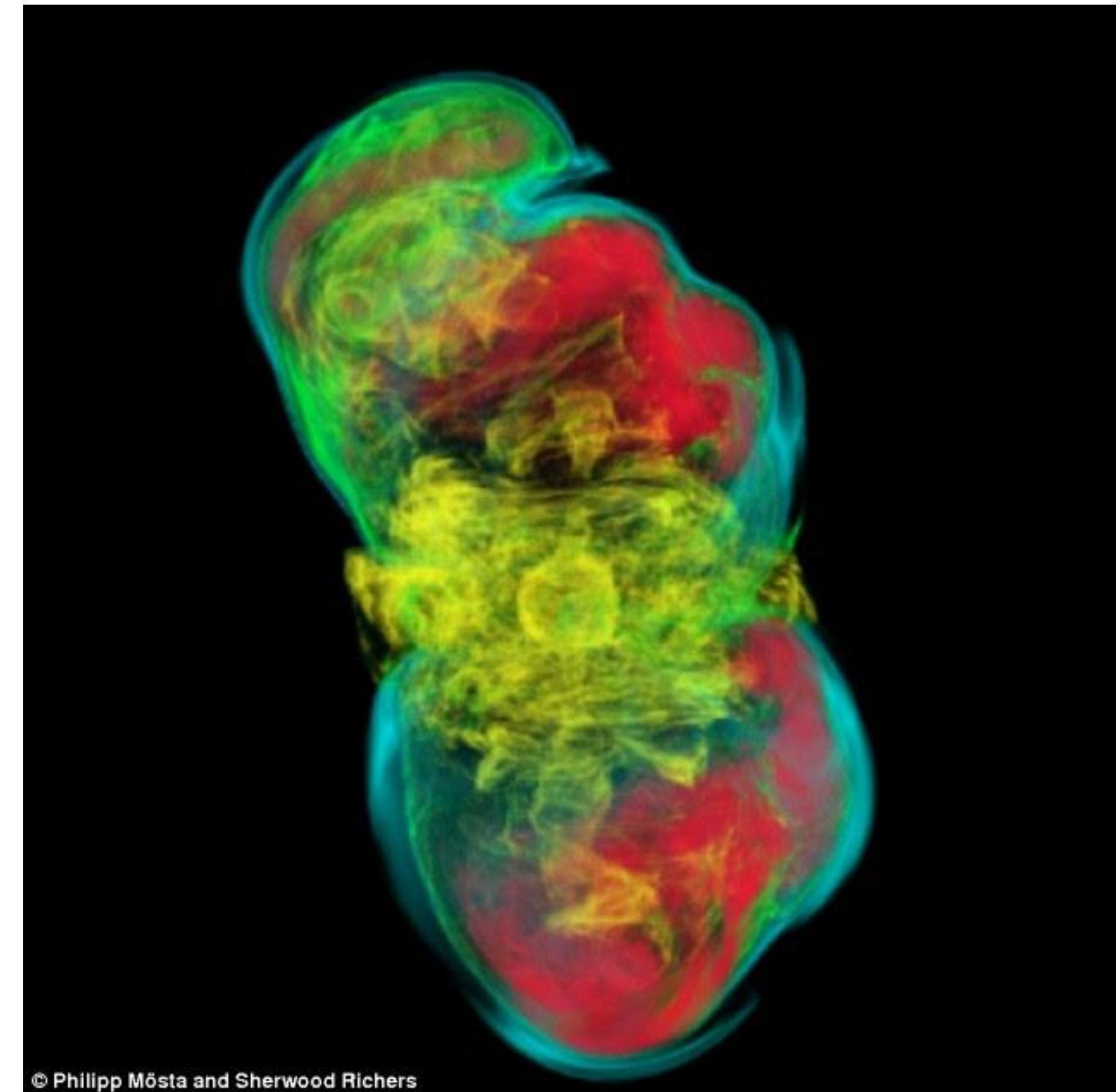
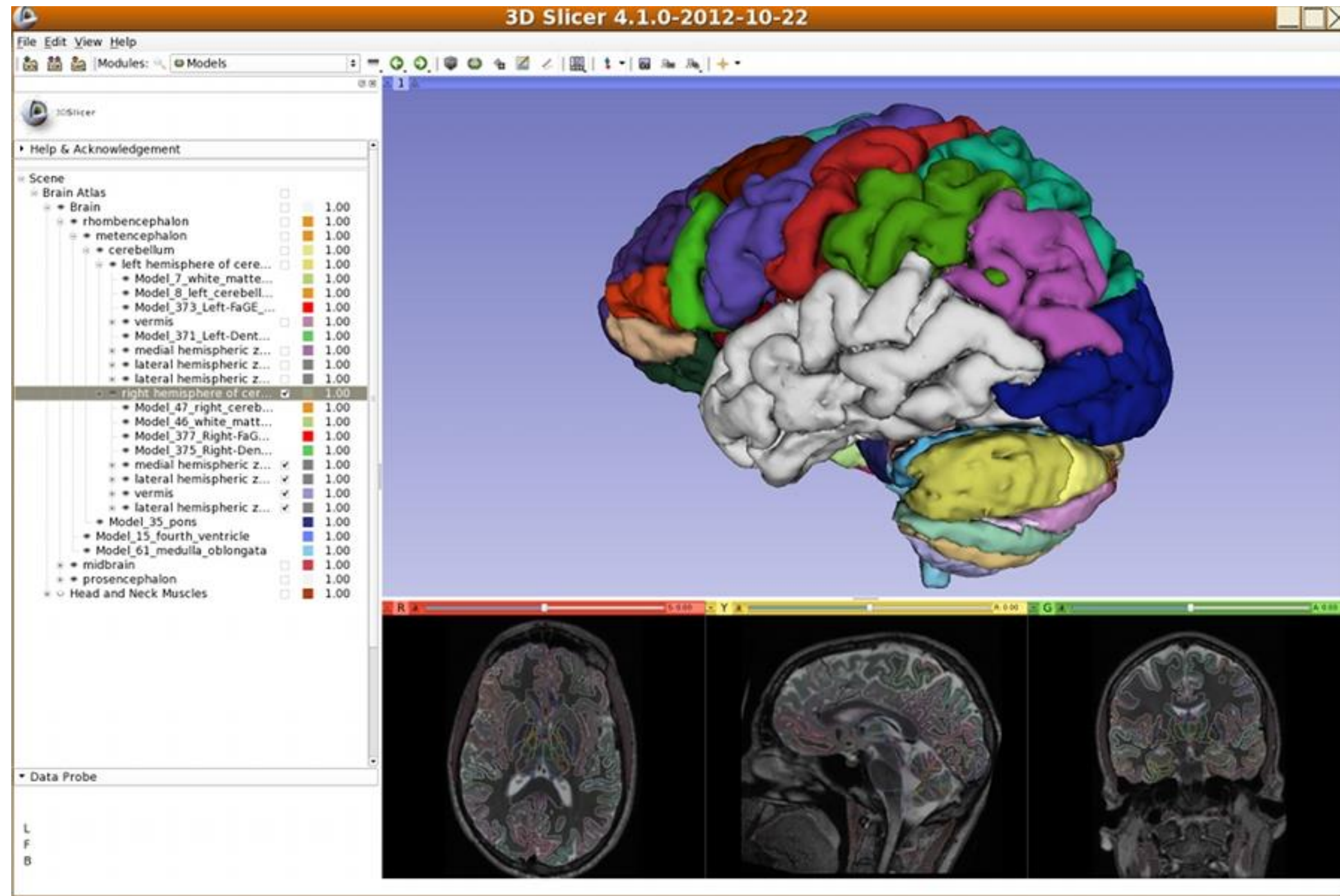
“No Unjustified 3D”



Unjustified 3D!

Lie factor!

“No Unjustified 3D”



“The number of information-carrying (variable) dimensions depicted should not exceed the number of dimensions in the data.”

“No Unjustified 3D”

This is not just a design principle, it has lots of experimental and quantitative data to back it up!

“The number of information-carrying (variable) dimensions depicted should not exceed the number of dimensions in the data.”

Upcoming Assignments & Communication

<https://northeastern.instructure.com/courses/63405/assignments/syllabus>

Look at the upcoming assignments and deadlines regularly!

- Textbook, Readings, & Reading Quizzes — Variable days
- In-Class Activities — 11:59pm same day as class
 - Next F: Lecture & in-class activity on D3 (1/2)
 - Next-Next T: Lecture & in-class activity on D3 (2/2)
- Assignments & Projects— Generally due **R 11:59pm**
 - This R (6 days):** Assignments 3a, 3b due
 - Next R (13 days):** Project 1 (pitches) due
 - Next-next R (20 days):** Project 2 (proposals) due
- [Project Overview](#)

Everyday Required Supplies:

- 5+ colors of pen/pencil
- White paper
- Laptop and charger

Use Canvas Discussions for general questions, email the TAs/S-LTA/instructor for questions specific to you: codydunne-and-tas@ccs.neu.edu. Include links!