

# Visual Encodings

DS 4200

FALL 2020

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*NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY*

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

# CHECK-IN

- Did anyone have a weird issue with GitHub Pages not being available?

# READING QUIZ

Quiz — Facet into Multiple Views

Password: ????

PREVIOUSLY, ON DS 4200...

# Visualization Building Blocks

## Marks:

### Marks as Items/Nodes

#### → Points



#### → Lines



#### → Areas



### Marks as Links

#### → Containment



#### → Connection



## Channels:

#### → Position

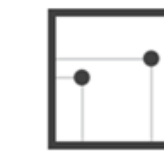
→ Horizontal



→ Vertical



→ Both



#### → Color



#### → Shape



#### → Tilt



#### → Size

→ Length



→ Area

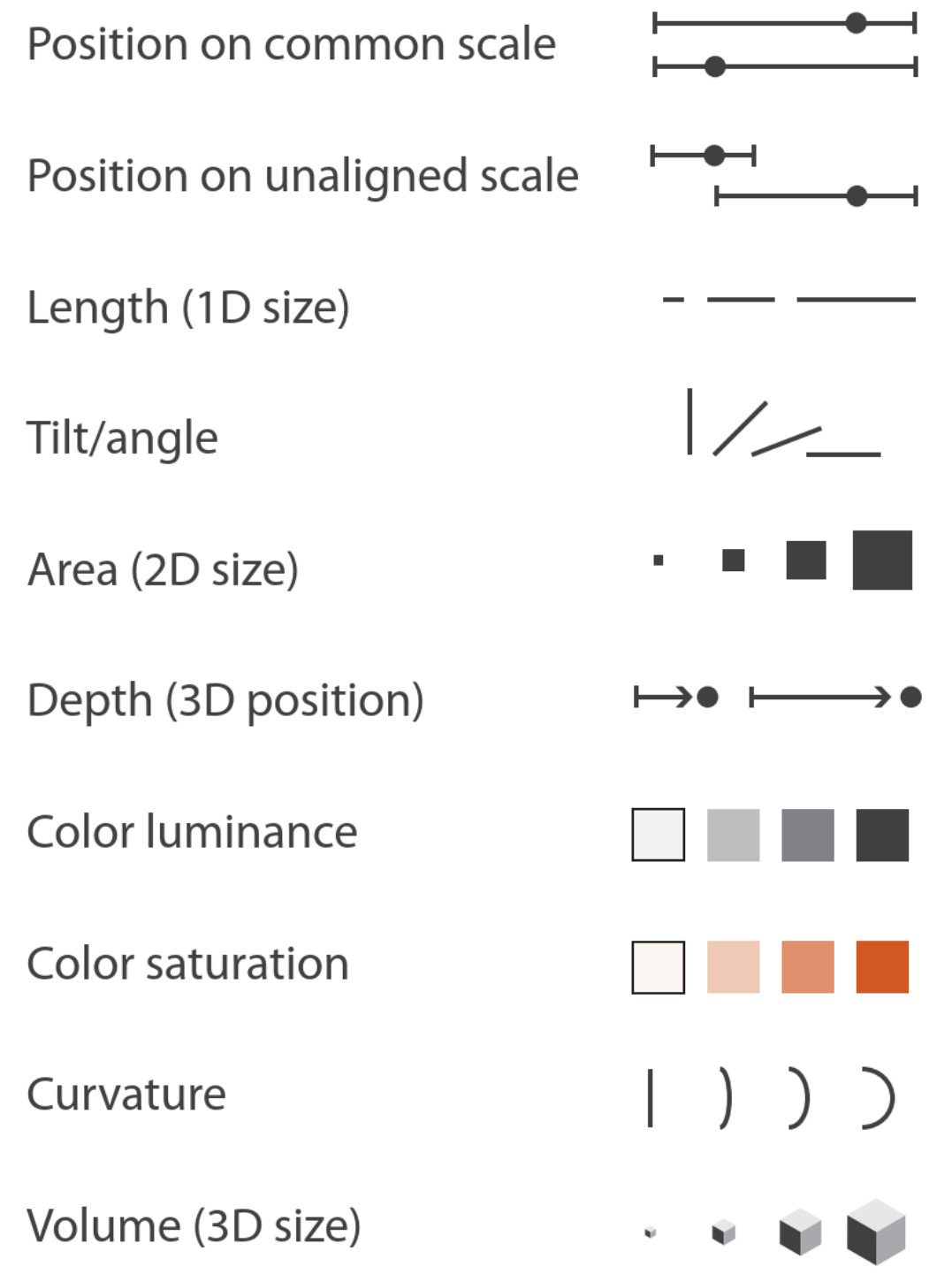


→ Volume



**Channels: Expressiveness Types and Effectiveness Ranks**

➔ **Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes**



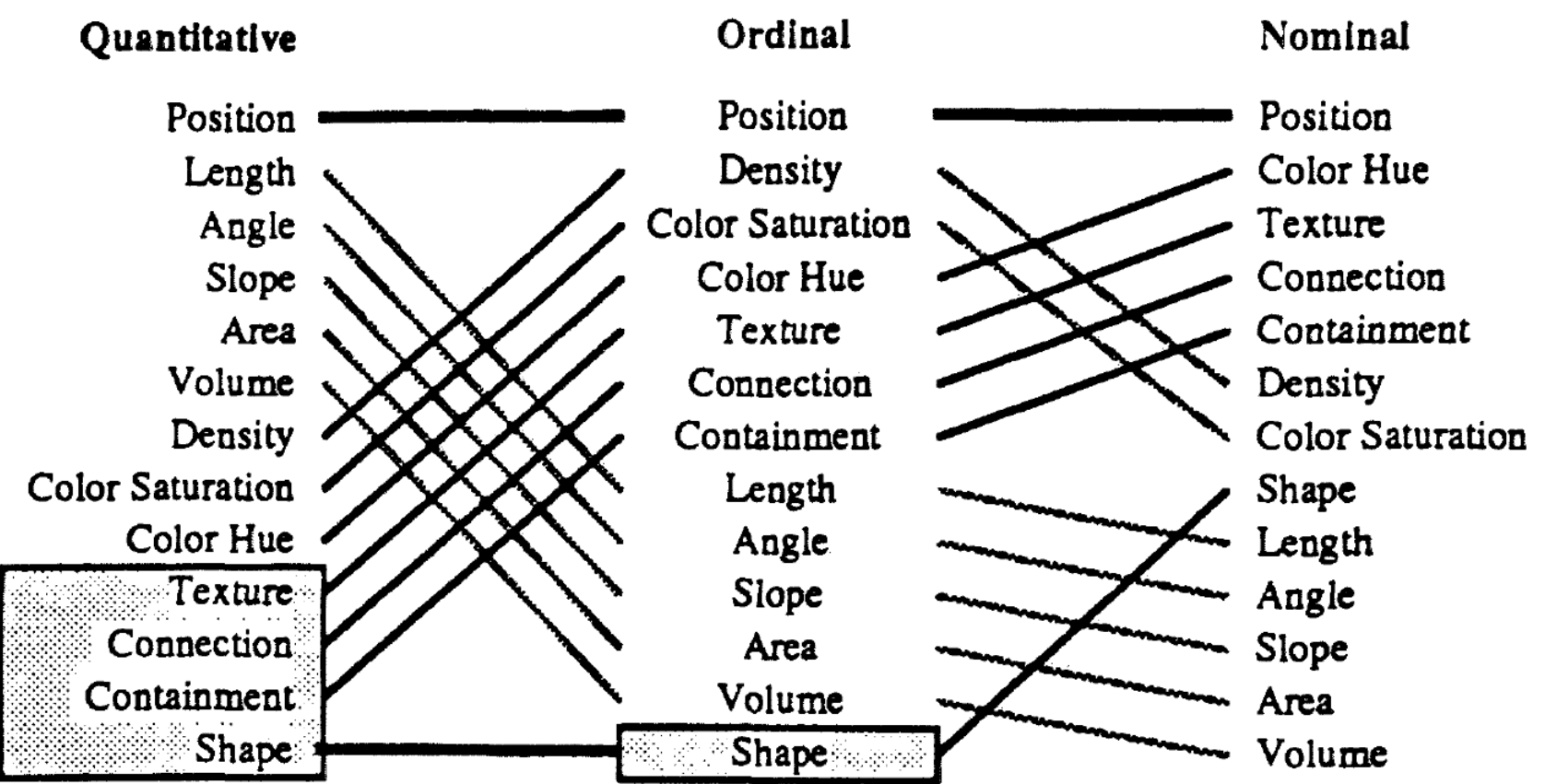
➔ **Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes**



Most Effectiveness  
Least

Same

VAD



**Figure 15: Ranking of Perceptual Tasks.** The tasks shown in the gray boxes are not relevant to that type of data.

[Mackinlay \(1986\)](#)

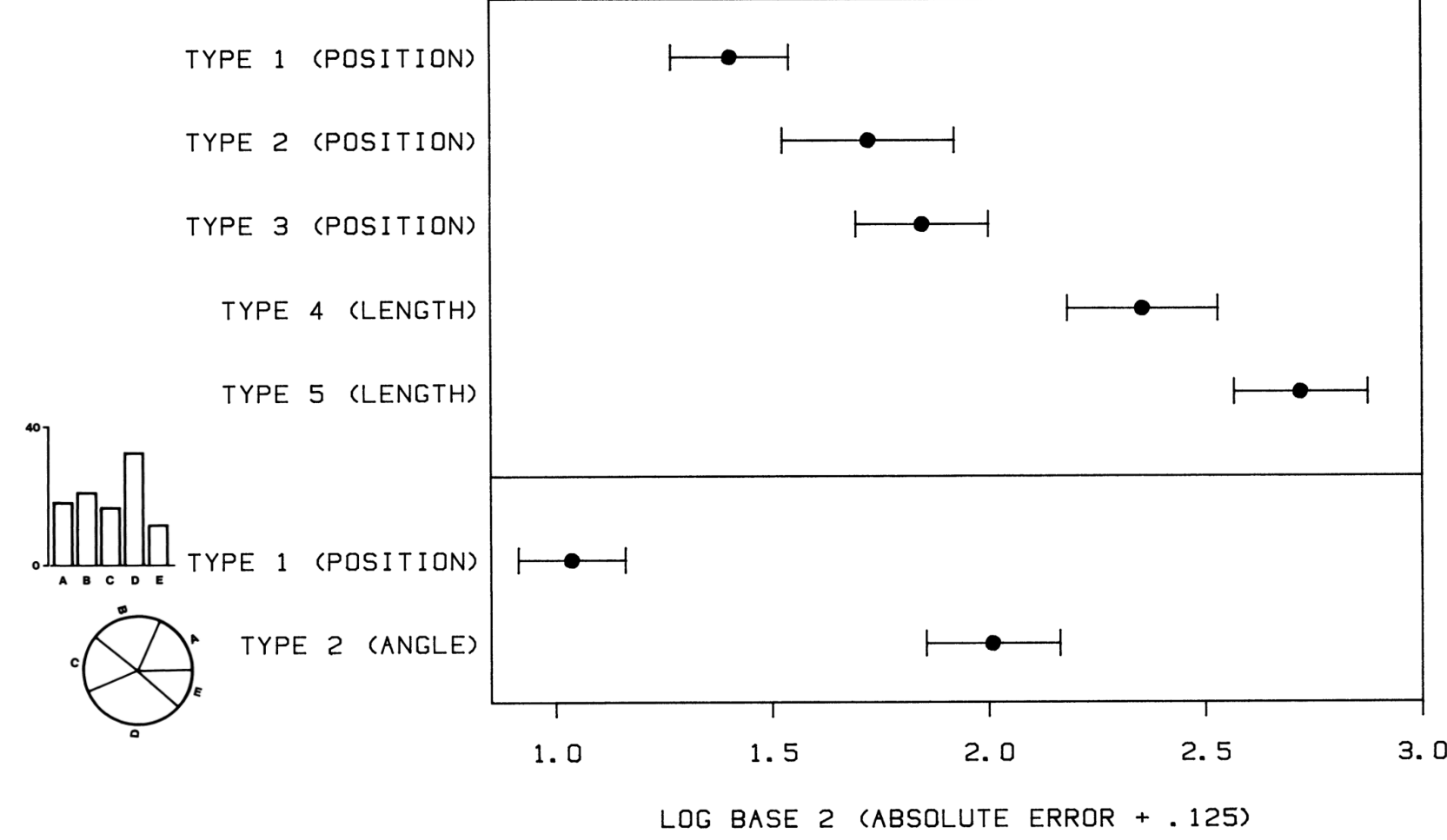
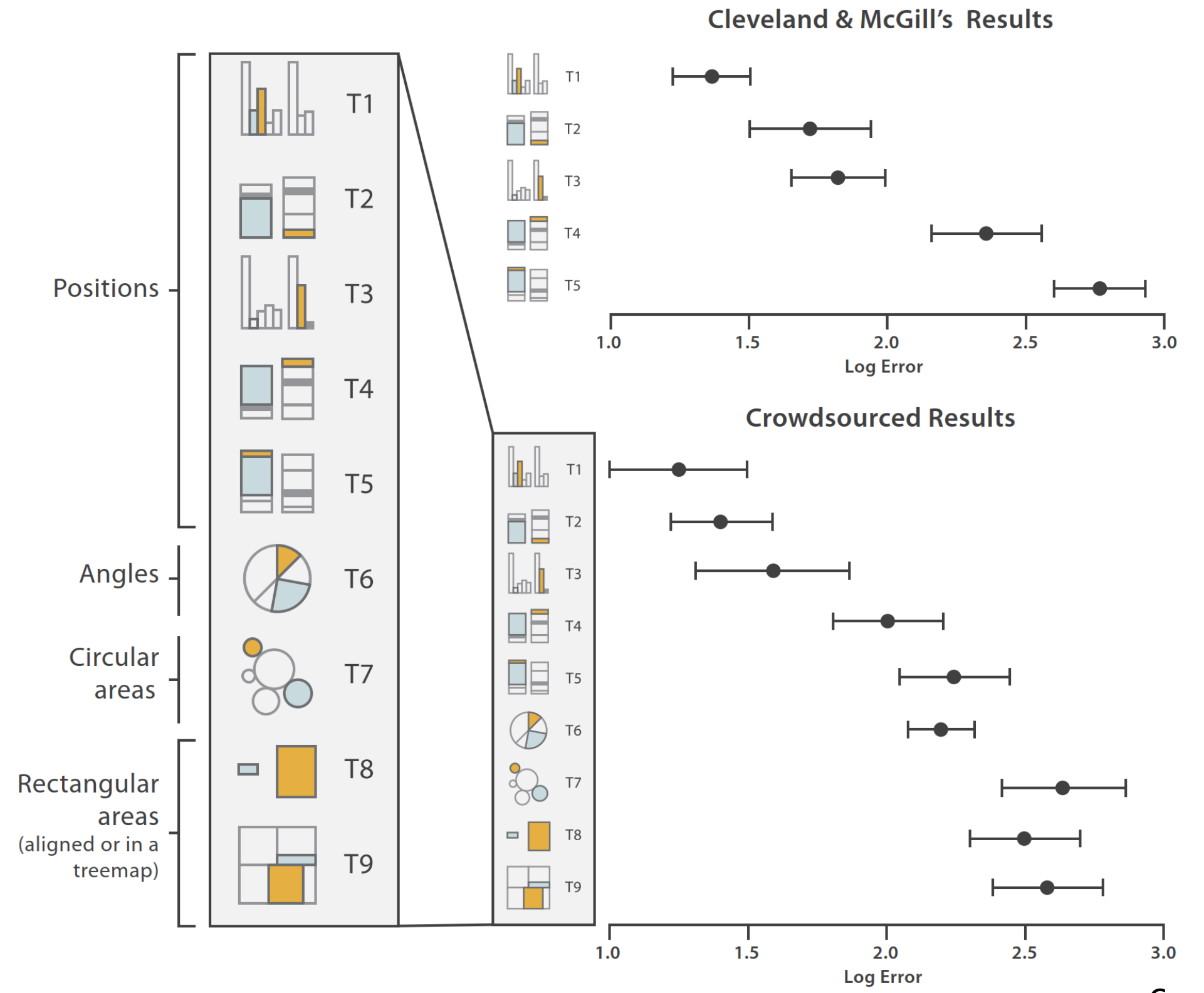


Figure 16. Log absolute error means and 95% confidence intervals for judgment types in position-length experiment (top) and position-angle experiment (bottom).

[Cleveland & McGill \(1984\)](#)



[Heer & Bostock \(2010\)](#)

# Expressiveness and Effectiveness

Effectiveness principle: the importance of the attribute should match the salience of the channel; that is, its noticeability.

*(i.e., encode most important attributes with highest ranked channels)*

Expressiveness principle: the visual encoding should express all of, and only, the information in the dataset attributes.

*(i.e., data characteristics should match the channel)*

Now, ON DS 4200...



# VISUAL ENCODING

# Analysis



What?

Why?

How?

DATA ABSTRACTION

TASK ABSTRACTION

VISUAL ENCODING

# Analysis



What?

What data is shown?

Why?

Why is the user analyzing / viewing it?

How?

How is the data presented?



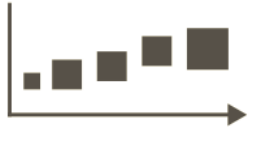








# GOALS FOR TODAY

- Learn about visual encodings, esp. arranging tables
- Learn how to pick appropriate visual representations based on attribute type and perceptual properties





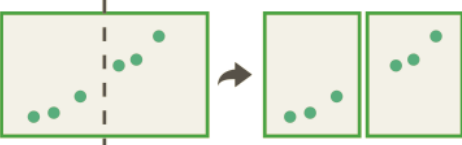




# VISUAL ENCODING

Now...

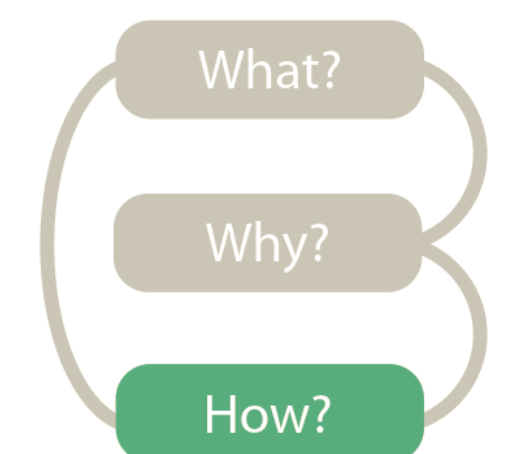
## Encode

- ➔ **Arrange**
  - ➔ Express 
  - ➔ Separate 
  - ➔ Order 
  - ➔ Align 
  - ➔ Use 
- ➔ **Map**  
from **categorical** and **ordered** attributes
  - ➔ **Color**
    - ➔ Hue 
    - ➔ Saturation 
    - ➔ Luminance 
  - ➔ **Size, Angle, Curvature, ...**

  - ➔ **Shape**

  - ➔ **Motion**  
*Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...*


## How?

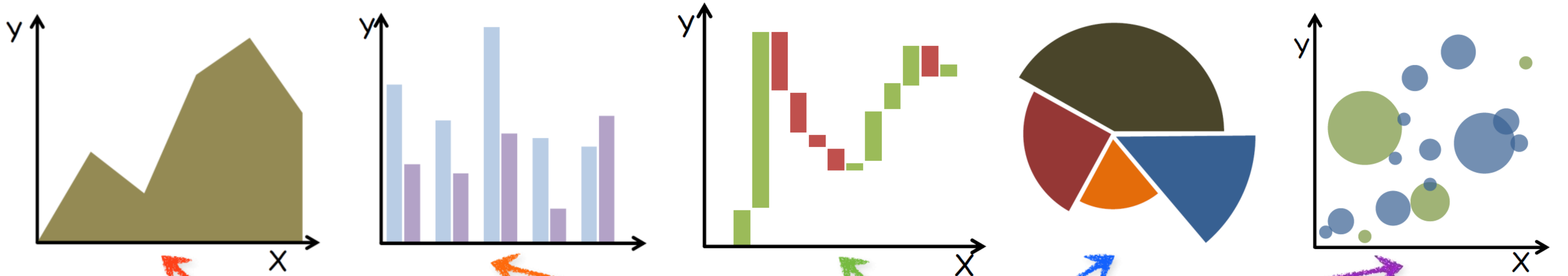
Manipulate	Facet	Reduce
➔ <b>Change</b> 	➔ <b>Juxtapose</b> 	➔ <b>Filter</b> 
➔ <b>Select</b> 	➔ <b>Partition</b> 	➔ <b>Aggregate</b> 
➔ <b>Navigate</b> 	➔ <b>Superimpose</b> 	➔ <b>Embed</b> 

Later this semester...



# IN-CLASS EXERCISE: ENCODINGS MATCHUP

# Encoding Match-up



Bubble Chart

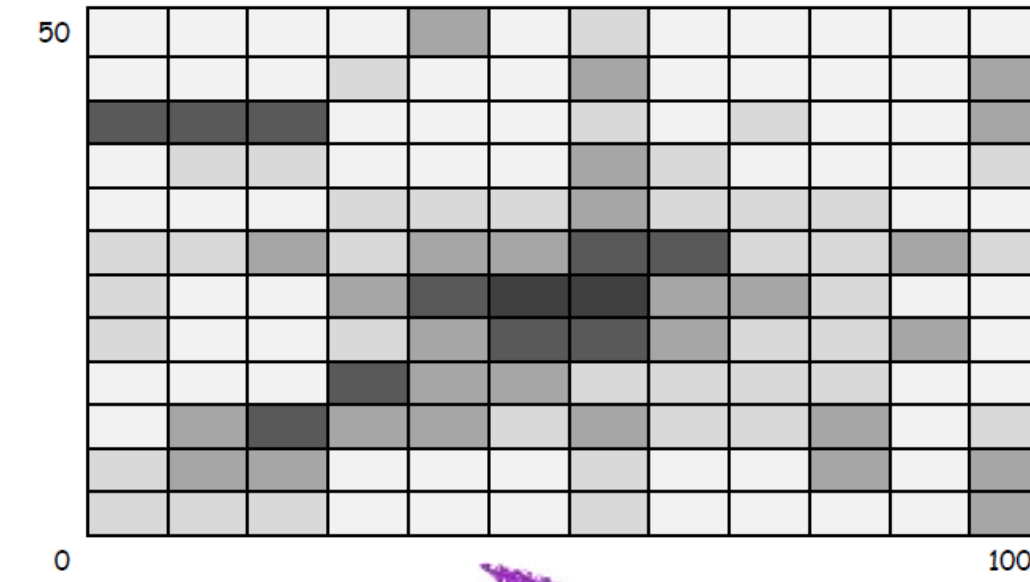
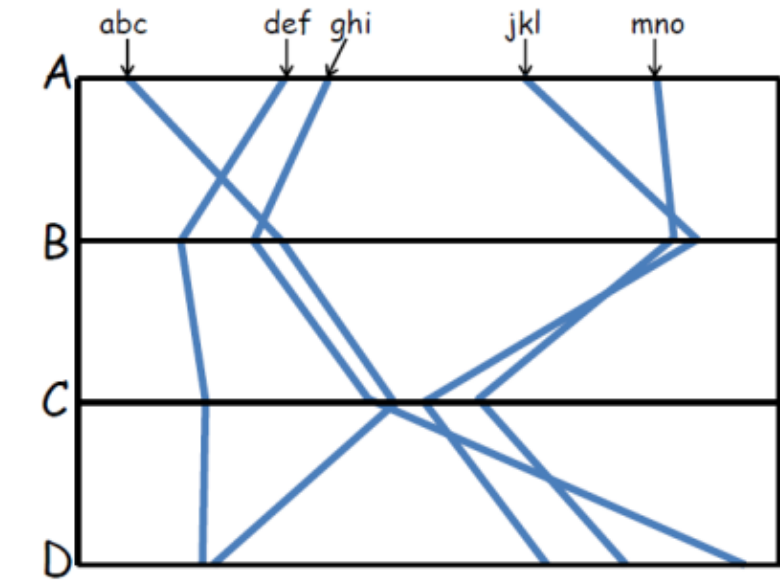
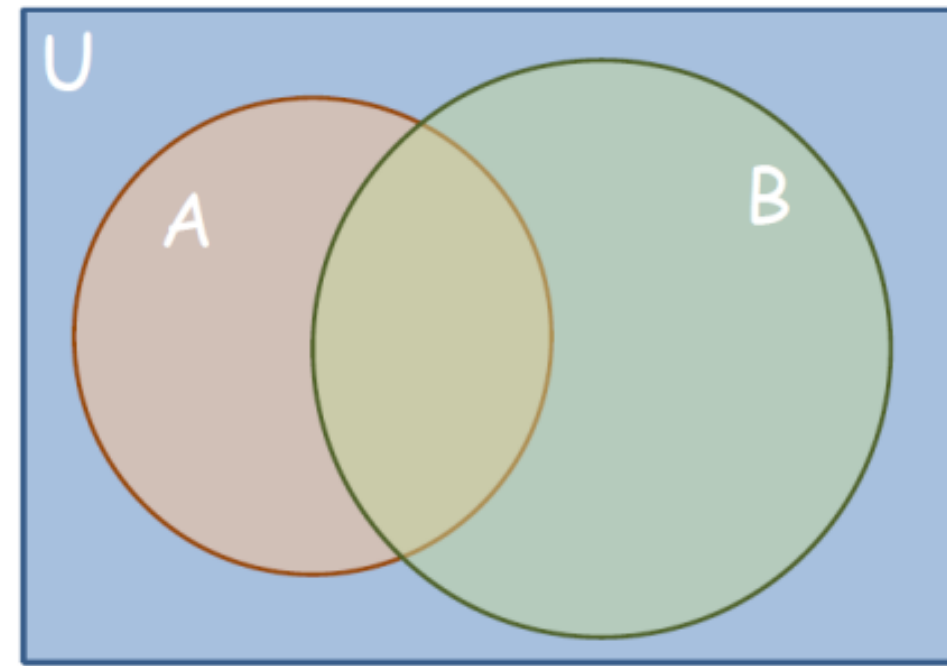
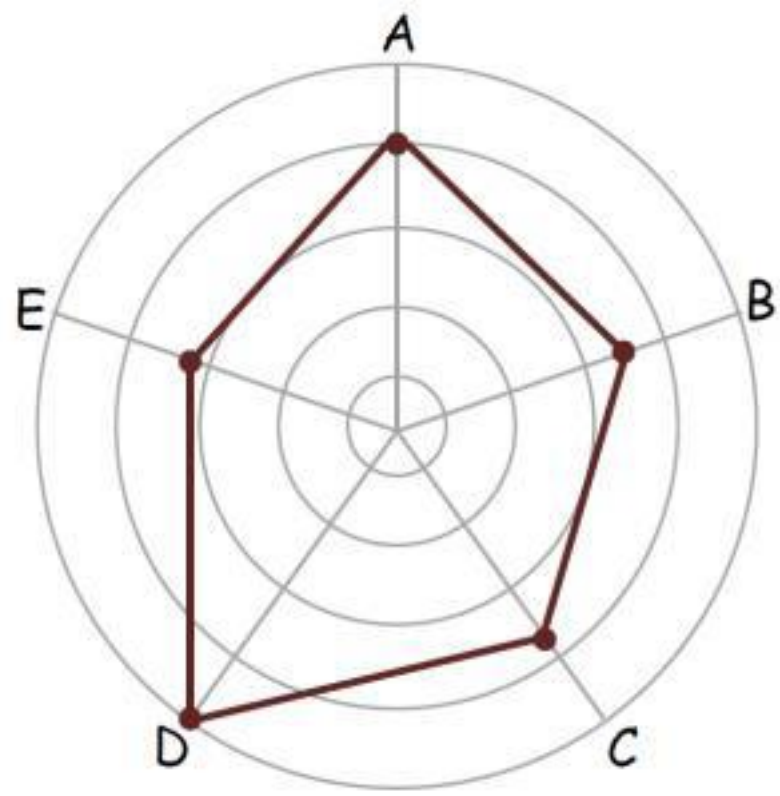
Area Chart

Sector Graph

Waterfall Chart

Grouped Bar Chart

# Encoding Match-up



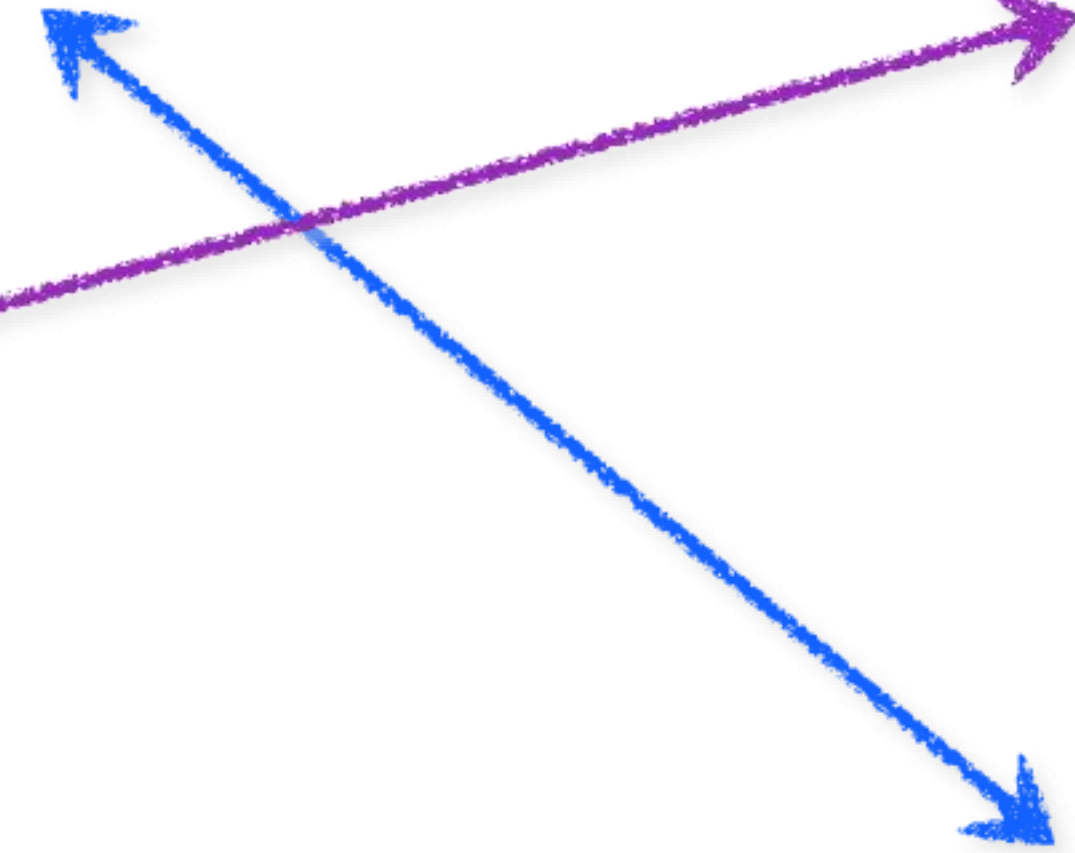
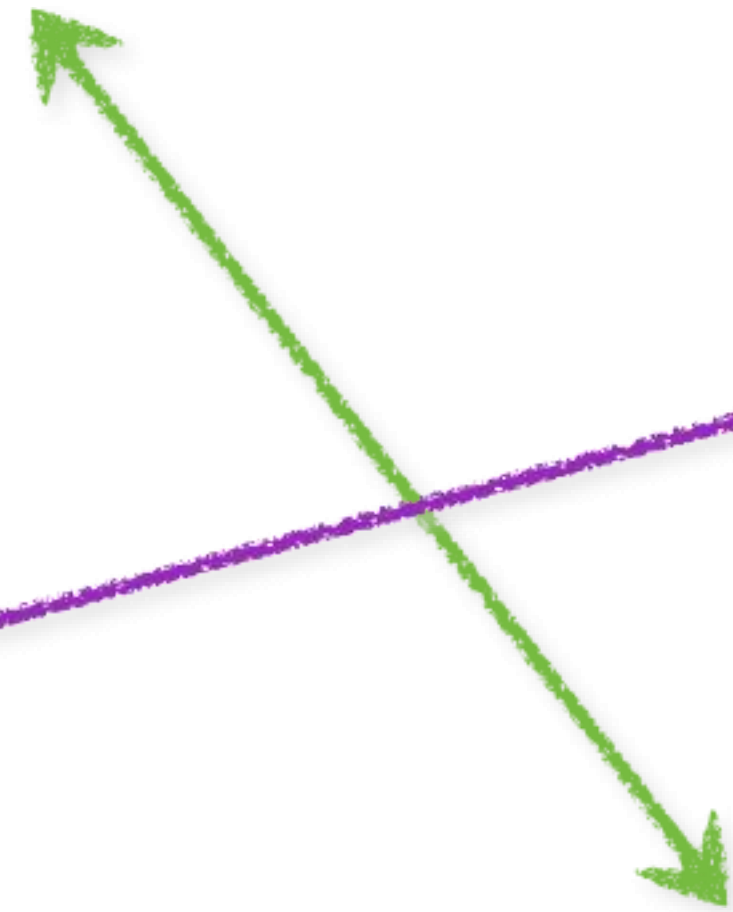
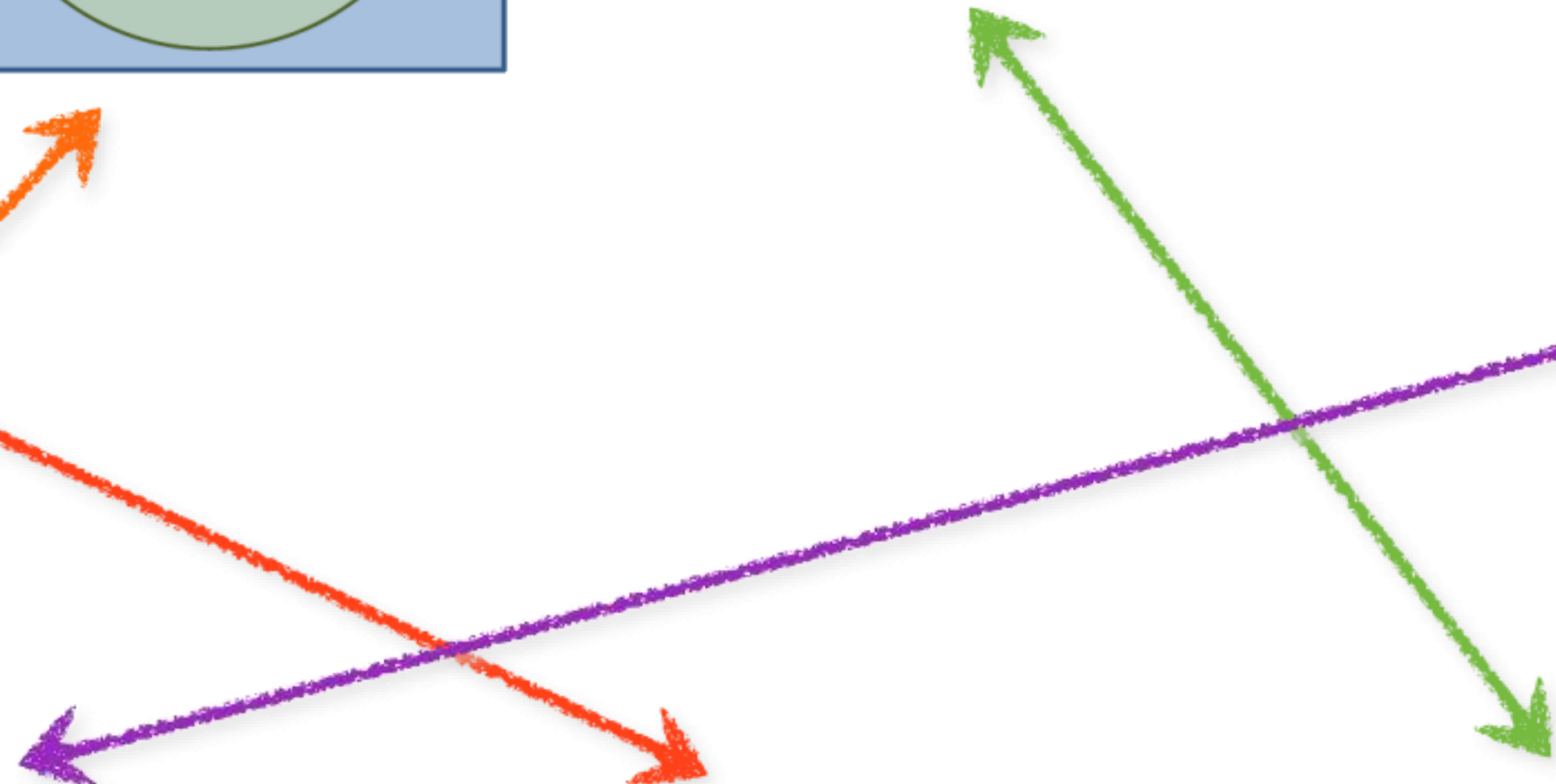
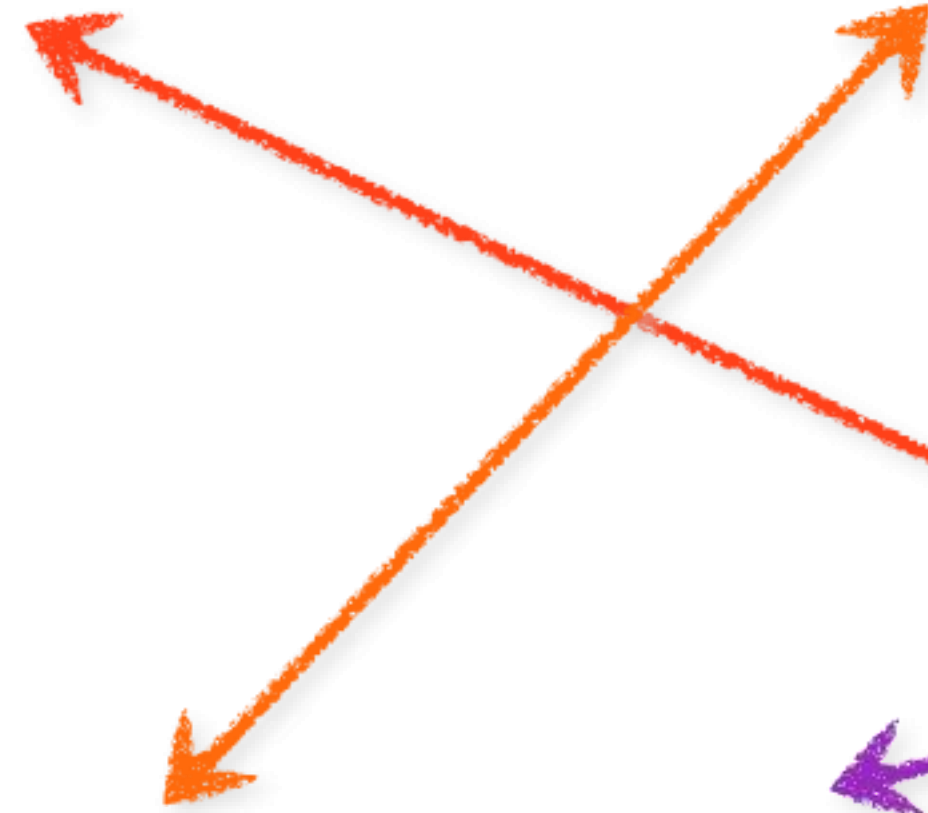
Venn Diagram

Heat Map

Star Plot

Box & Whisker Plot

Parallel Coordinates





# How?

## Encode

### → Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



### → Map

from **categorical** and **ordered** attributes

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...



→ Shape



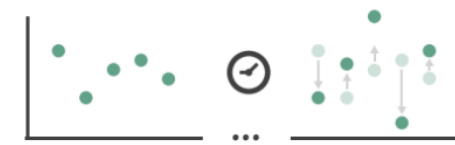
→ Motion

Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...



## Manipulate

### → Change



### → Select



### → Navigate

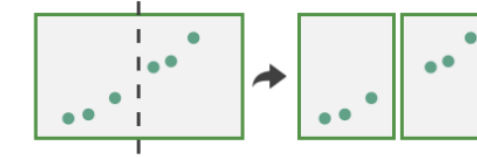


## Facet

### → Juxtapose



### → Partition



### → Superimpose



## Reduce

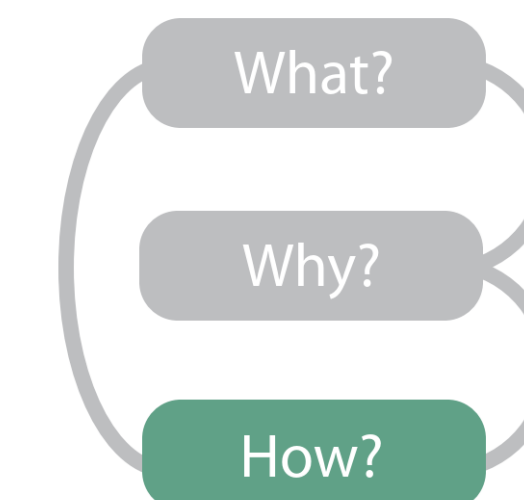
### → Filter



### → Aggregate



### → Embed



# Arrange Tables

## → Separate, Order, Align Regions

→ Separate



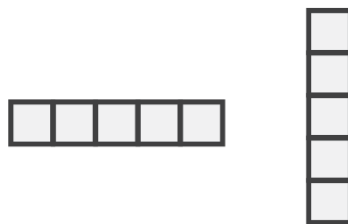
→ Order



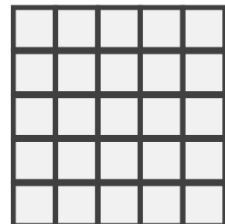
→ Align



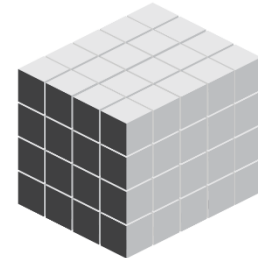
→ 1 Key  
*List*



→ 2 Keys  
*Matrix*



→ 3 Keys  
*Volume*



→ Many Keys  
*Recursive Subdivision*



Key: an independent attribute that can be used as a unique index (Tableau Dimension)

Value: a dependent attribute (i.e., cell in a table) (Tableau Measures)

*Categorical or Ordinal*

*Categorical Ordinal, or Quantitative*

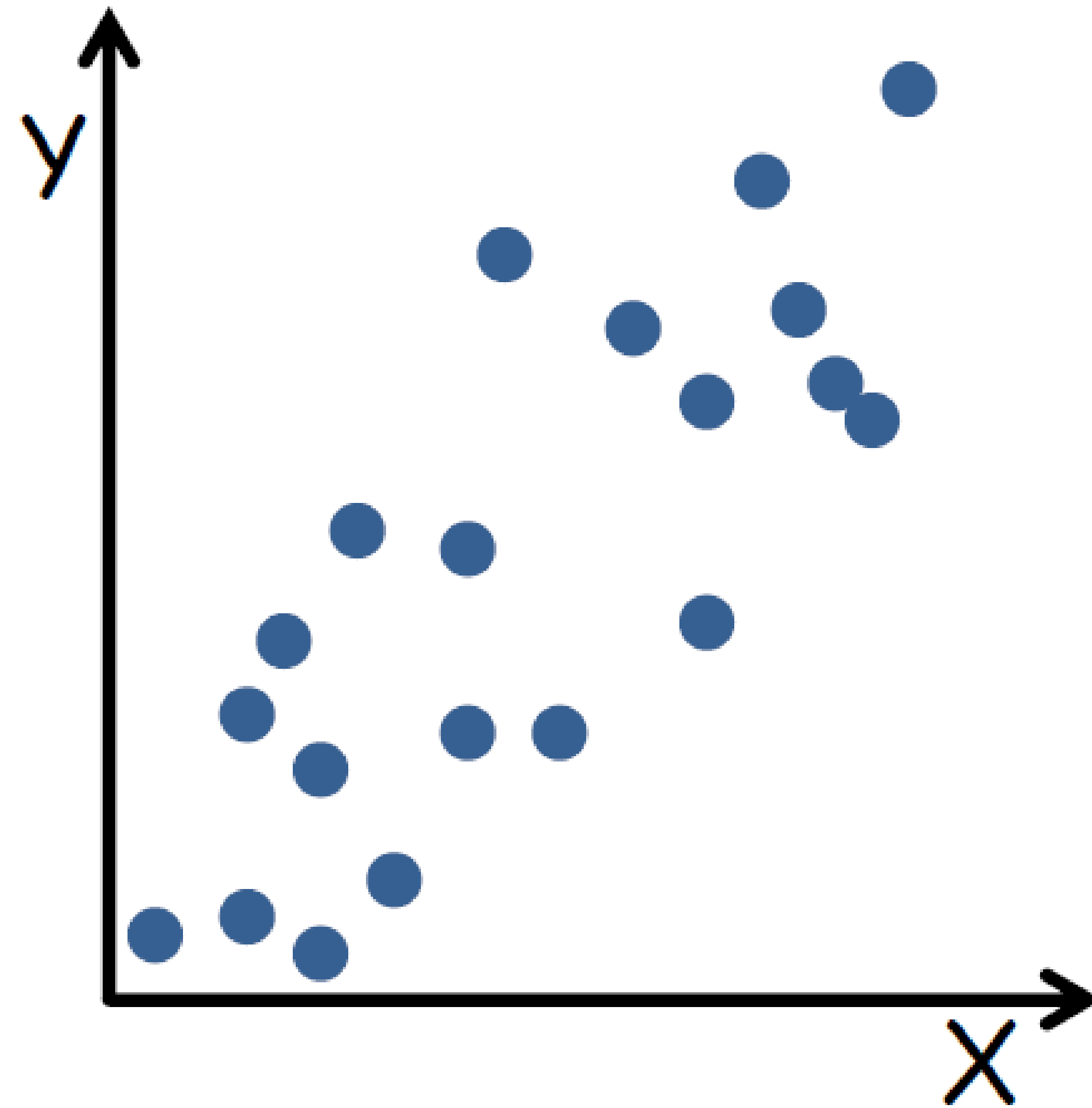
# Example Keys

*Key*

Date	Precipitation	High Temperature
May 1, 2016	0"	60
May 2, 2016	0.3"	62
May 3, 2016	1"	55
May 4, 2016	0"	67

Student	College	HW1 grade (out of 10)
John	COS	9
Jane	Khoury	10
June	Khoury	8
Joe	Khoury	8

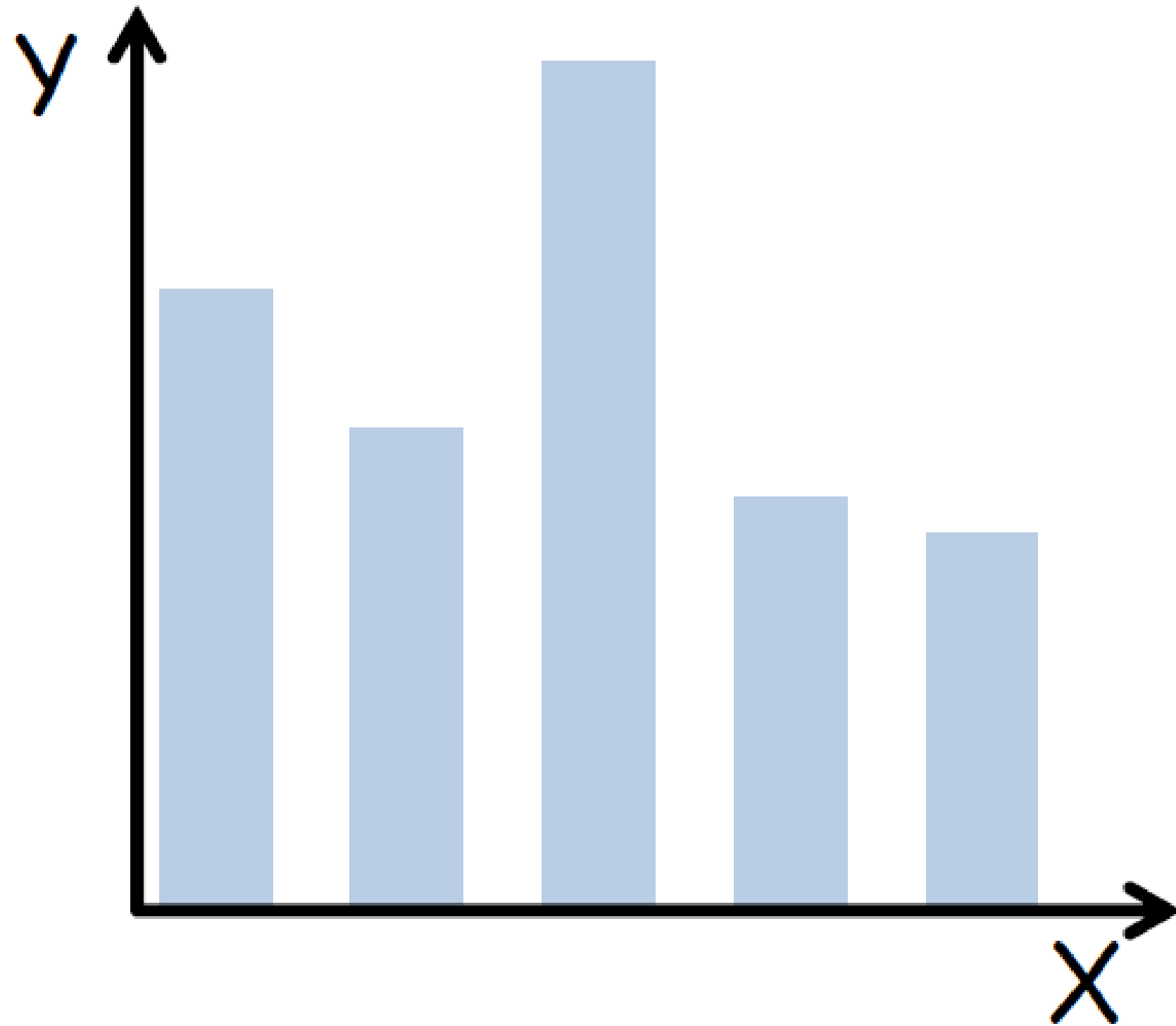
# Arrange Tables — No Key



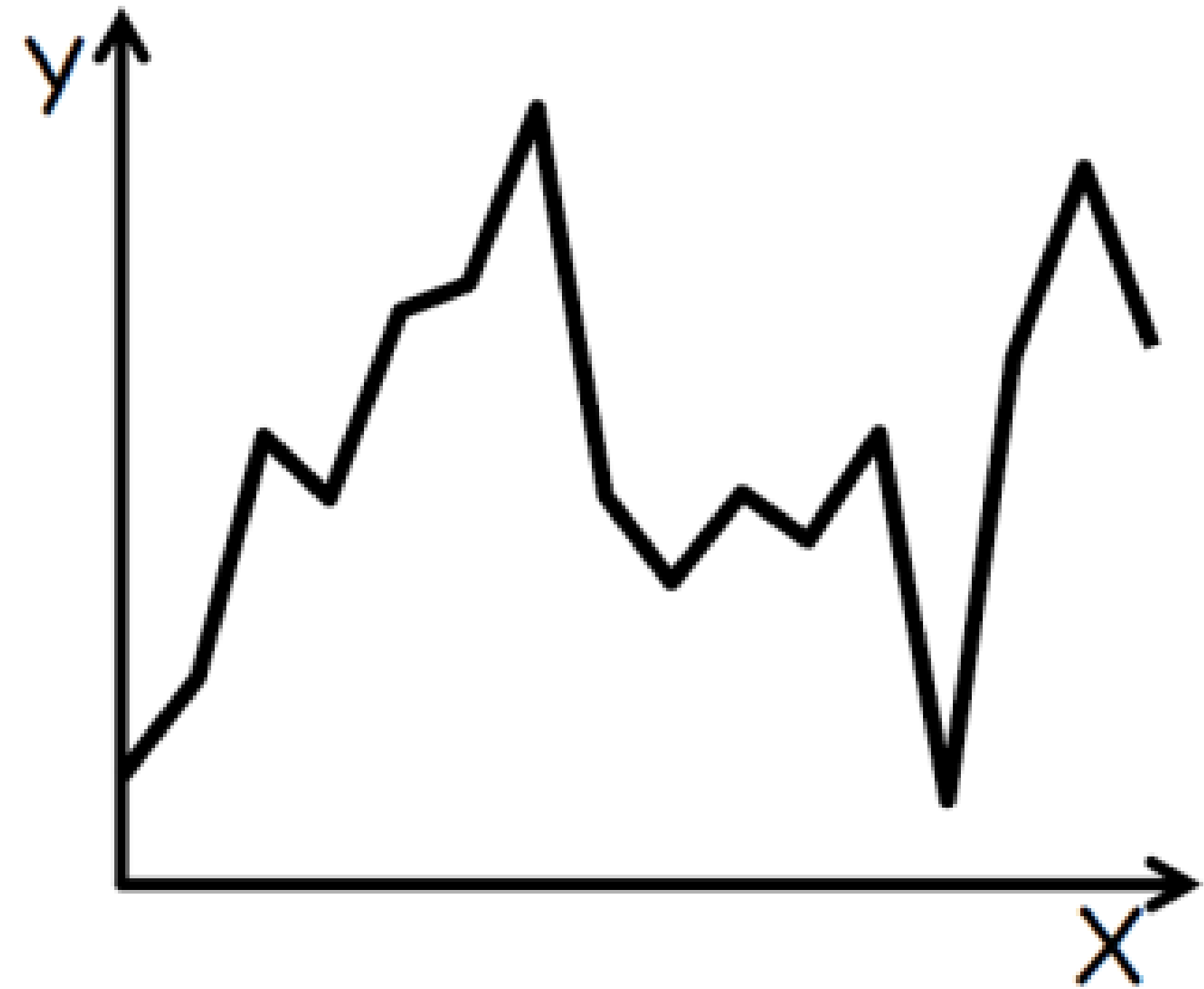
SCATTER PLOT

# Arrange Tables — One Key

→ 1 Key  
List



BAR CHART

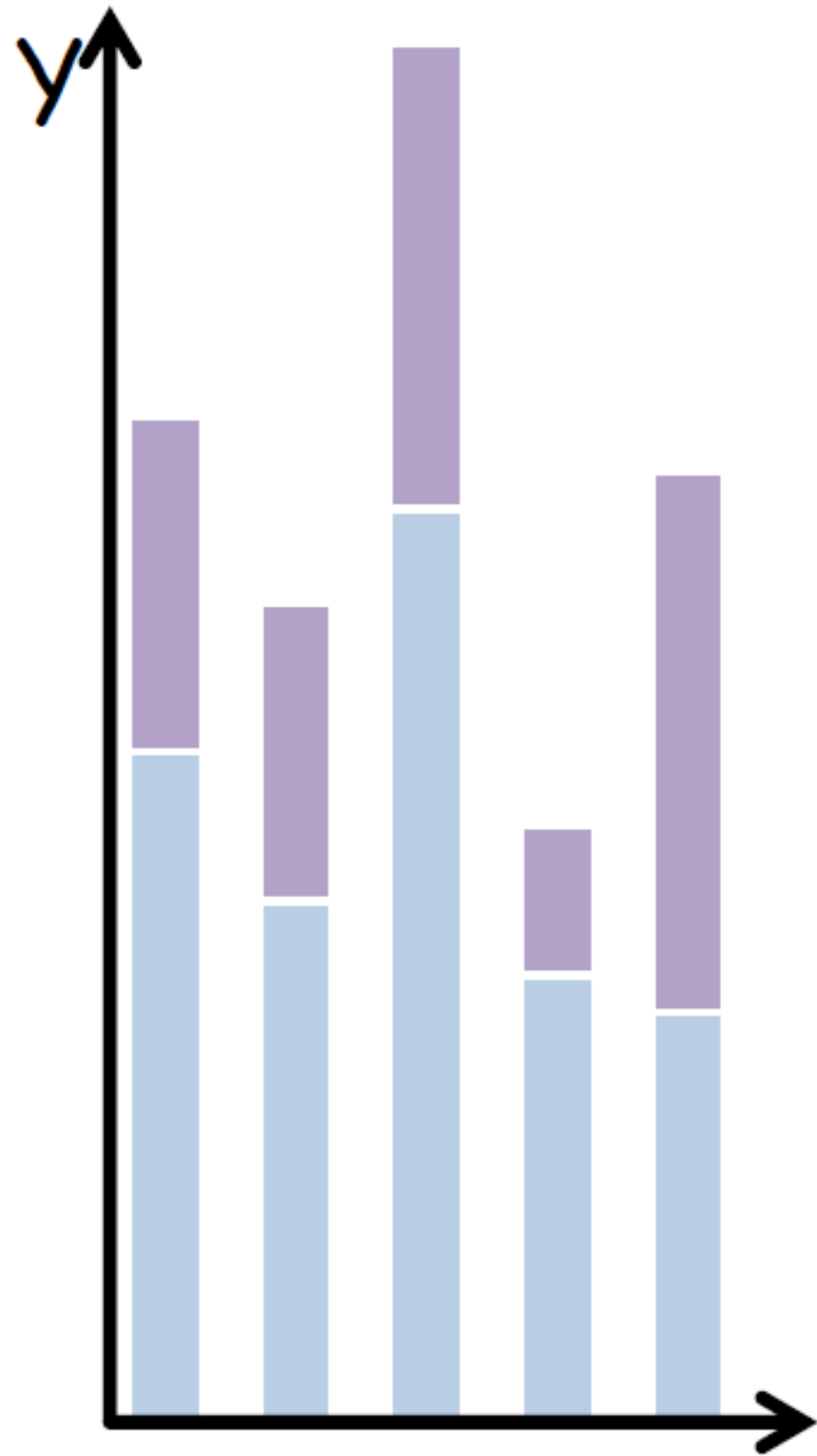
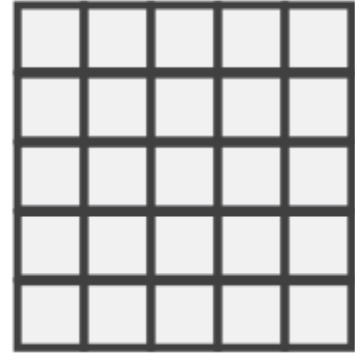


LINE GRAPH

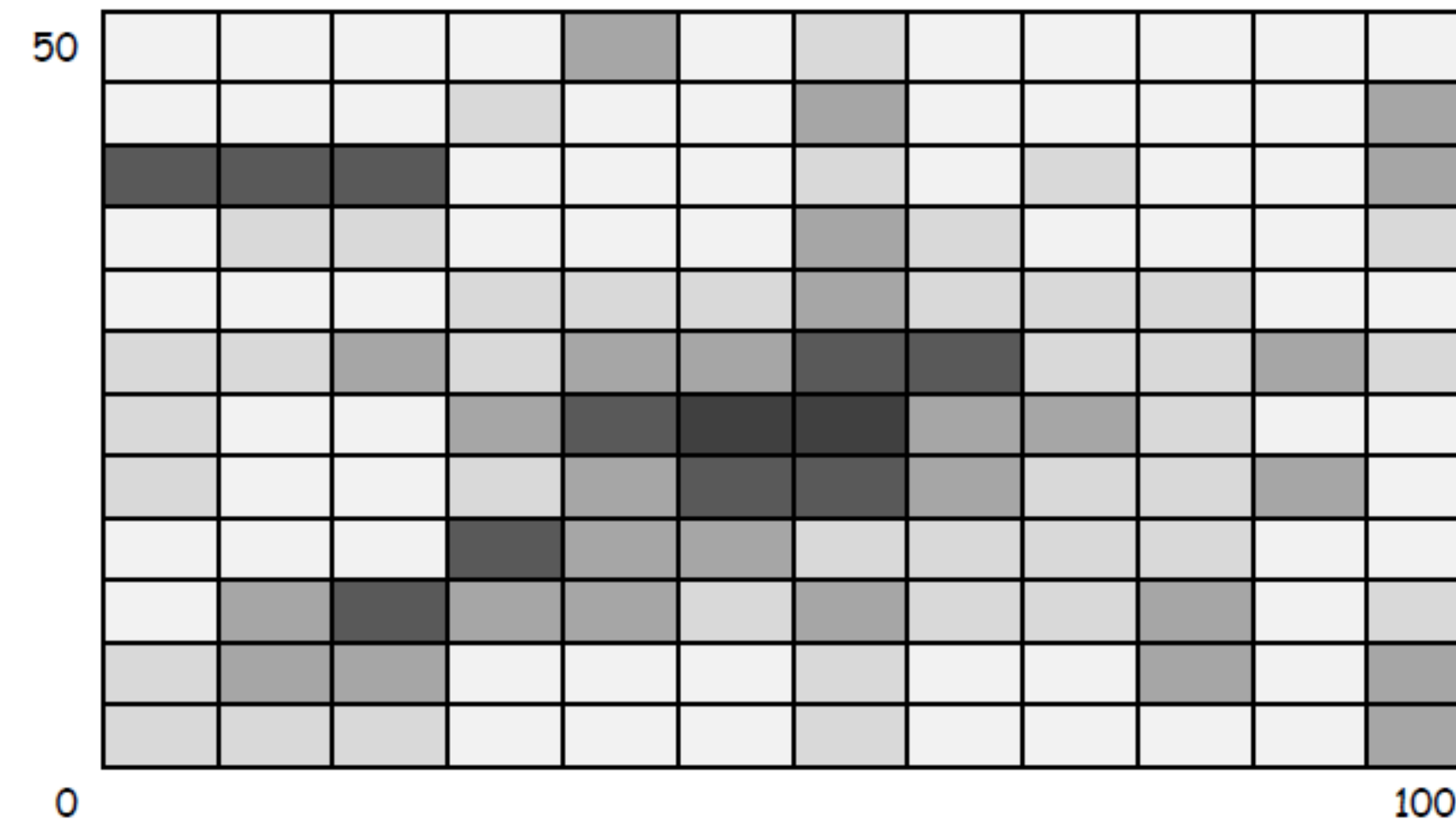
# Arrange Tables — Two Keys

→ 2 Keys

Matrix



STACKED BAR CHART

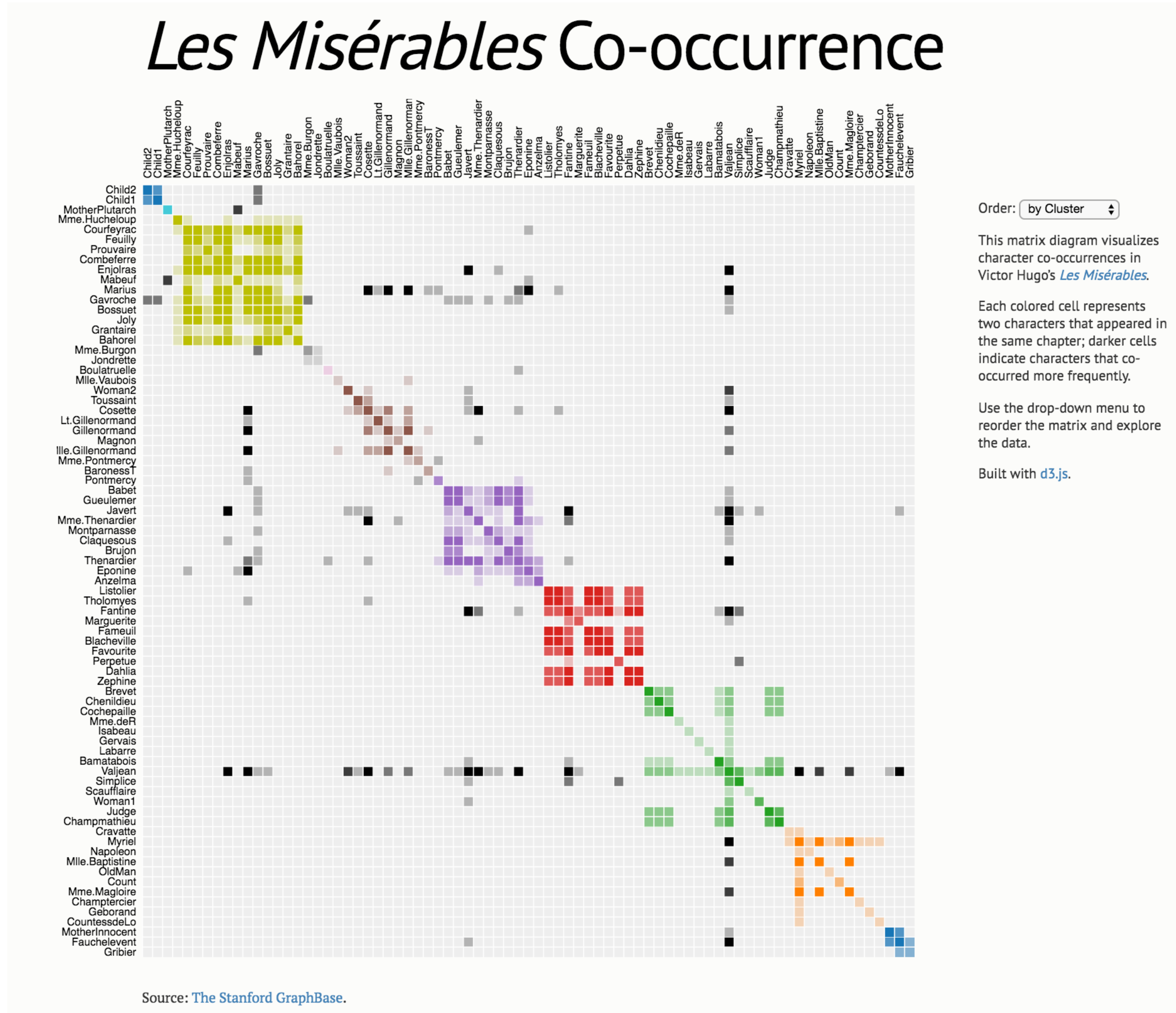
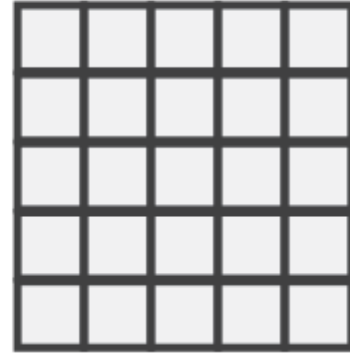


HEATMAP

# Arrange Tables — Two Keys (Network)

→ 2 Keys

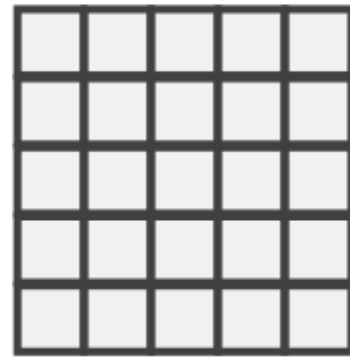
Matrix



# Arrange Tables — Two Keys (Network)

→ 2 Keys

Matrix



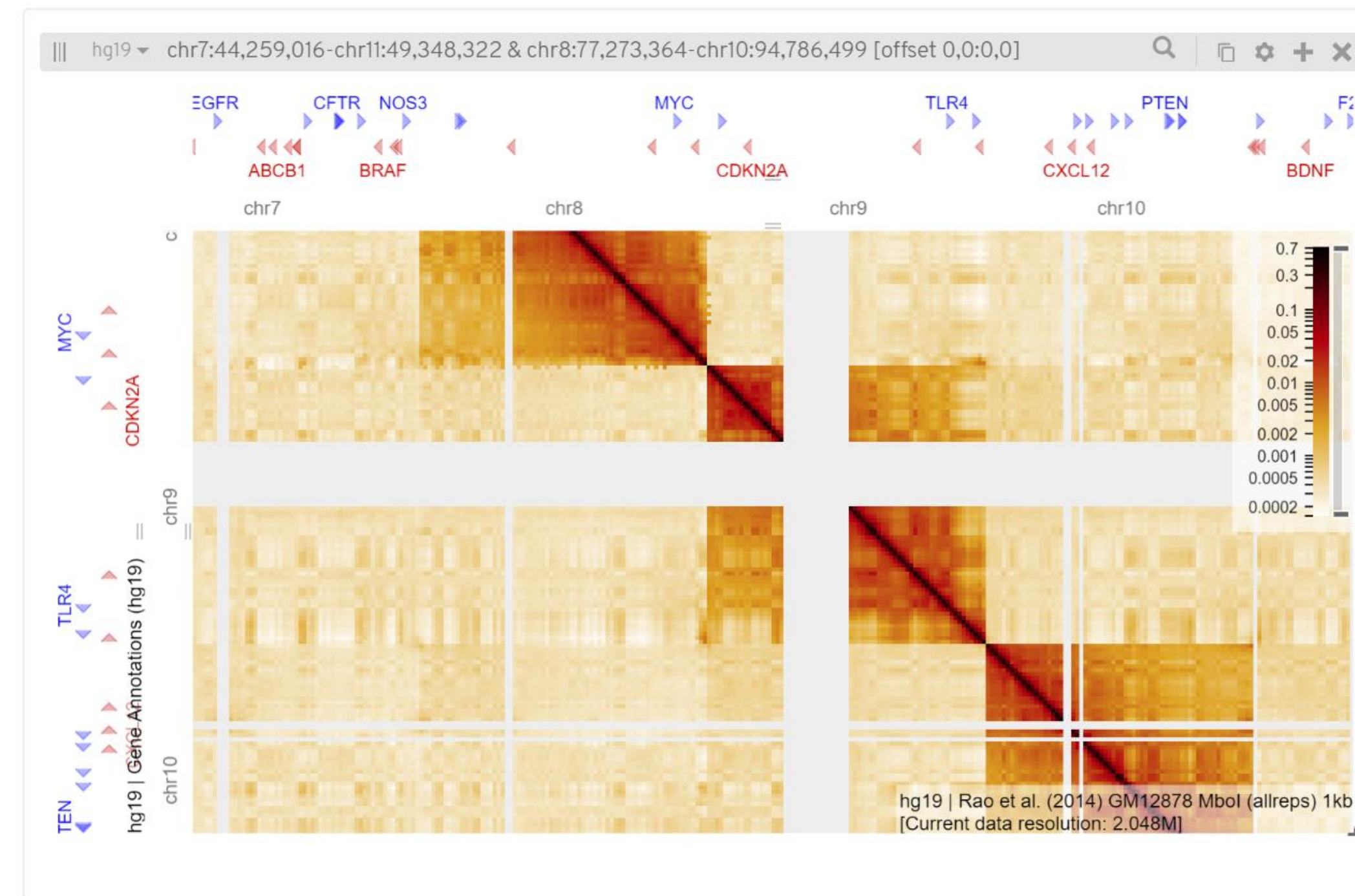
HiGlass

About Examples Docs

HiGlass is a tool for exploring genomic contact matrices and tracks. Please take a look at the [examples](#) and [documentation](#) for a description of the ways that it can be configured to explore and compare contact matrices. To load private data, HiGlass can be run locally within a Docker container. The HiC data in the examples below is from Rao et al. (2014) [2].

A preprint of the paper describing HiGlass is available on [bioRxiv](#) [1].

Single View

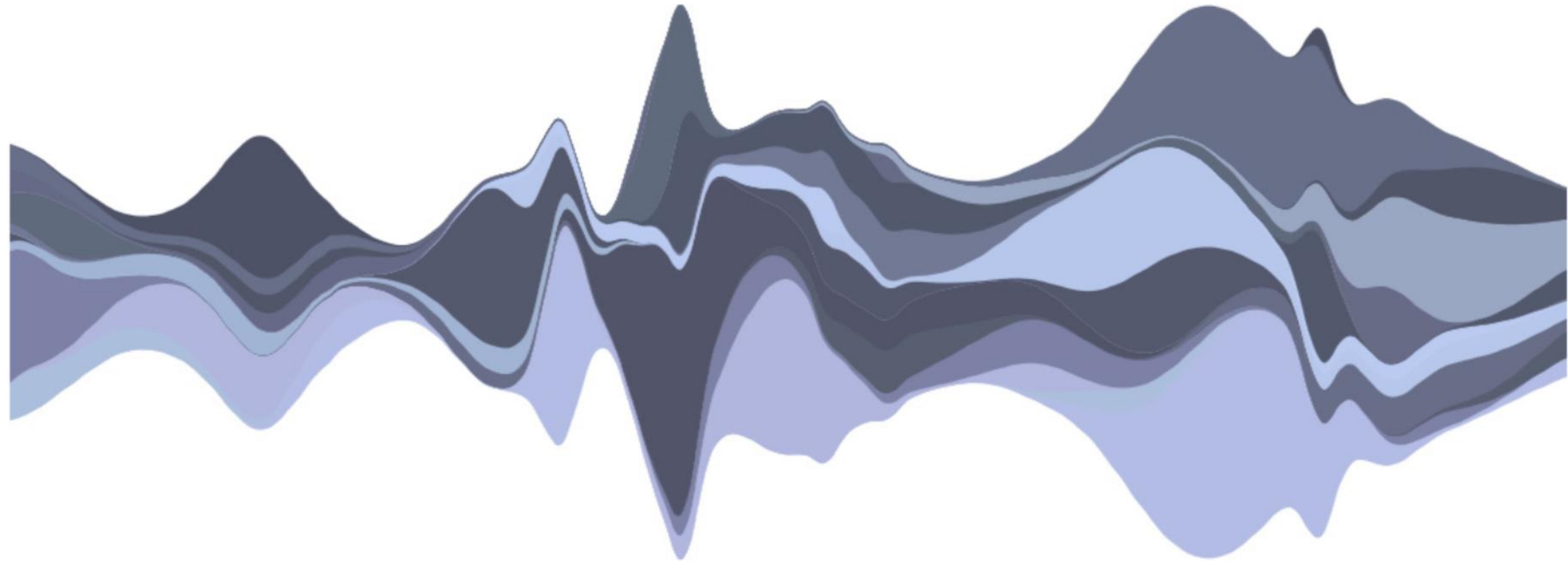
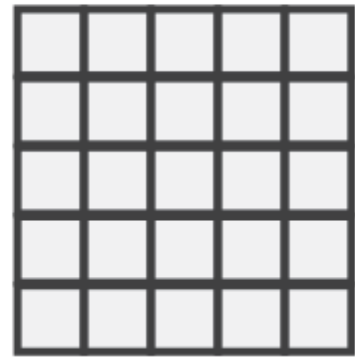




# Arrange Tables — Two Keys

→ 2 Keys

*Matrix*

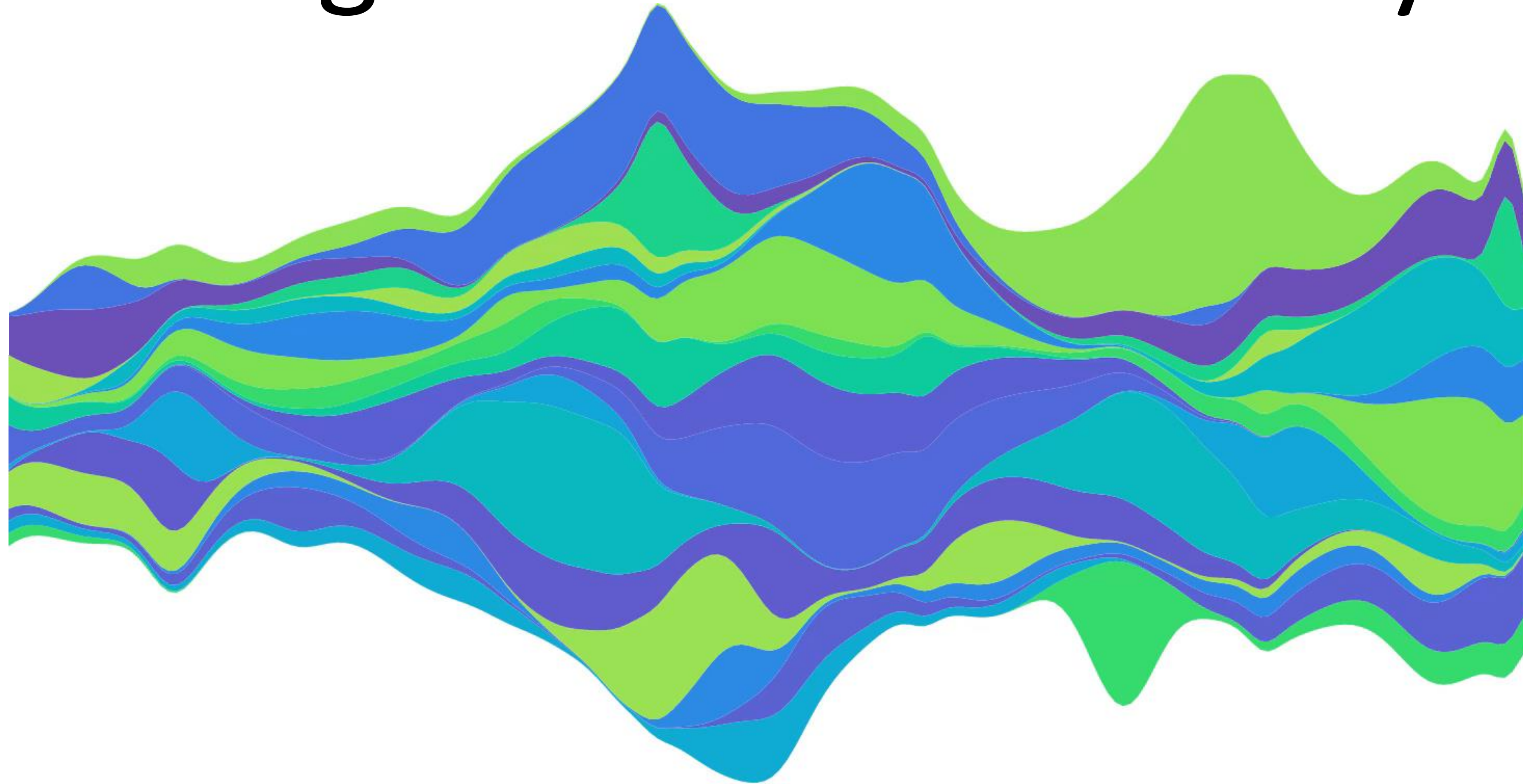
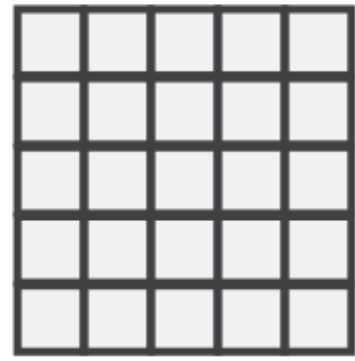


STREAMGRAPH

# Arrange Tables — Two Keys

→ 2 Keys

*Matrix*

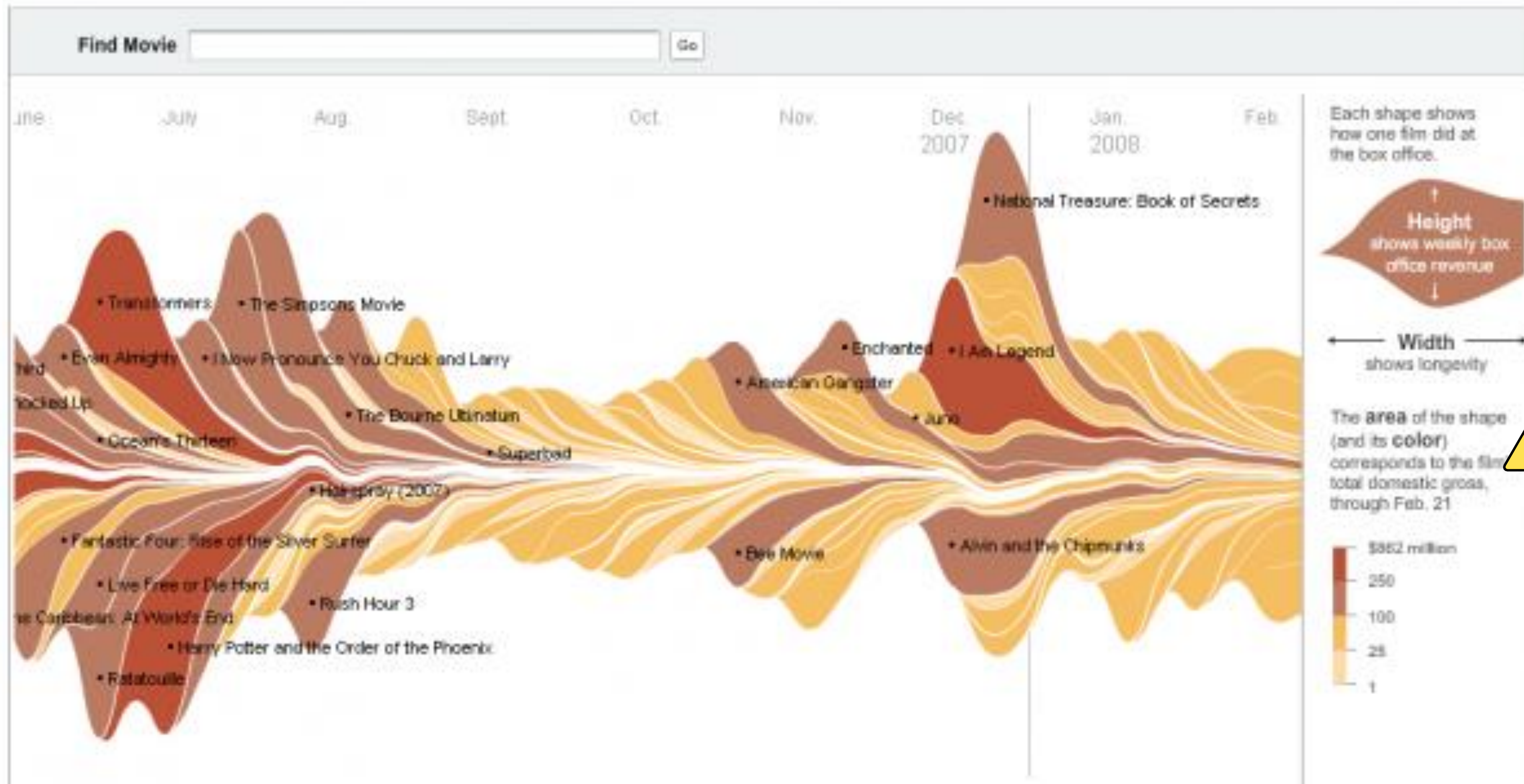
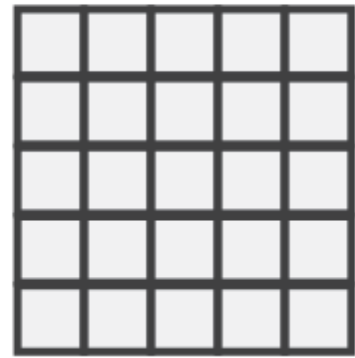


STREAMGRAPH

# Arrange Tables — Two Keys

→ 2 Keys

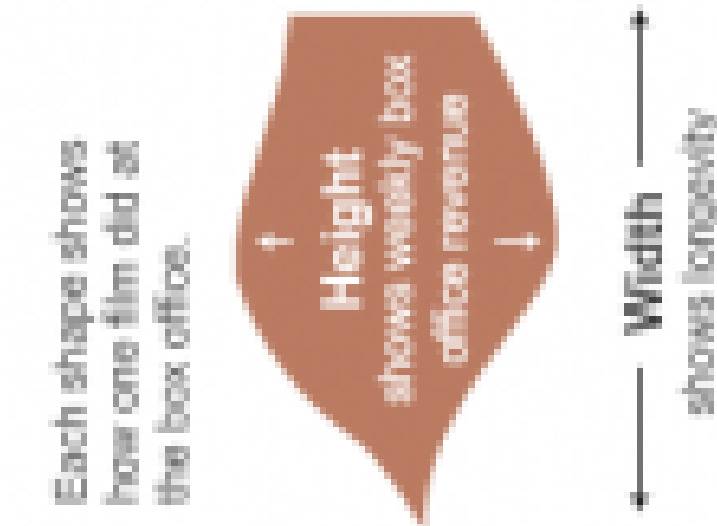
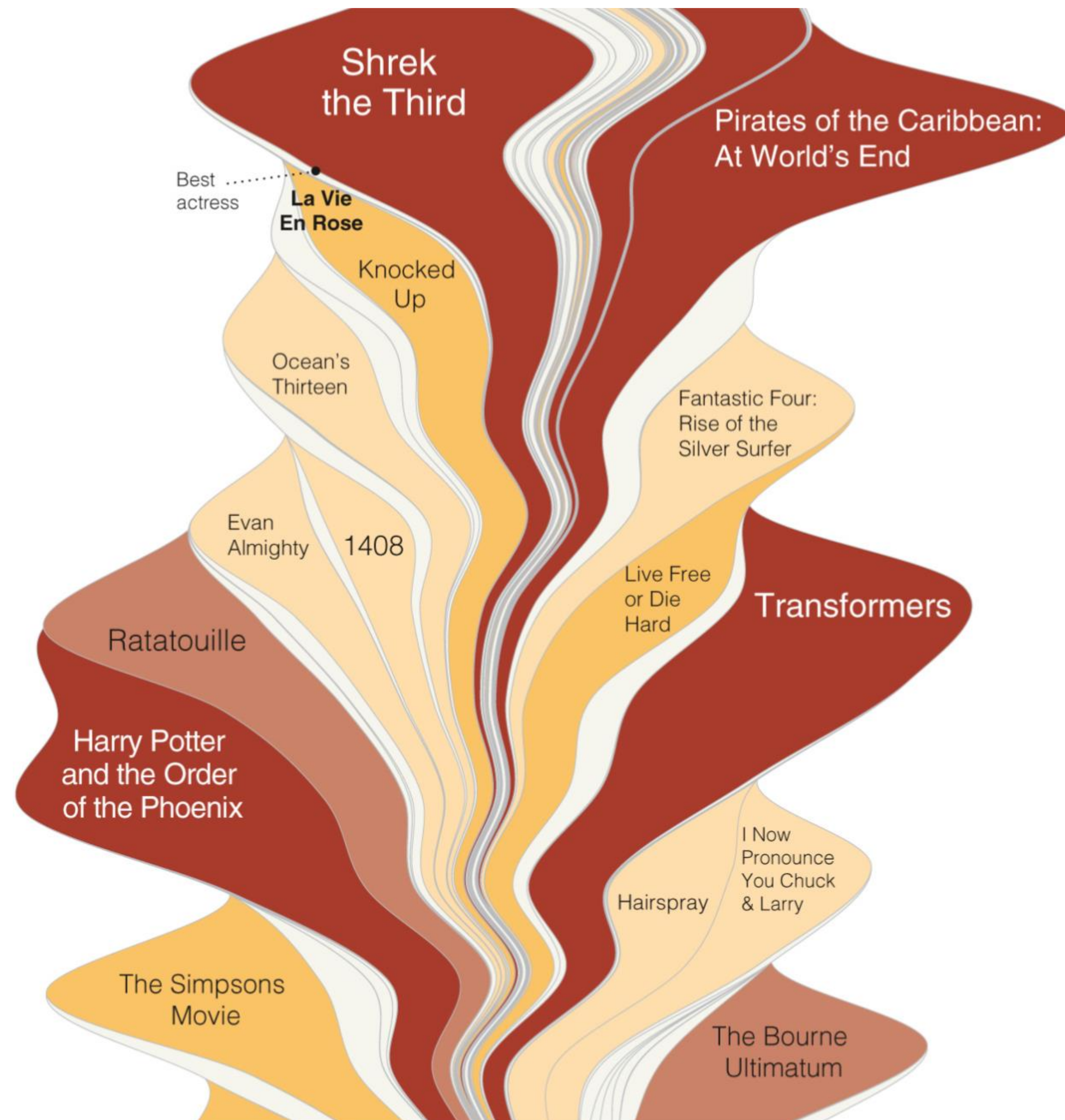
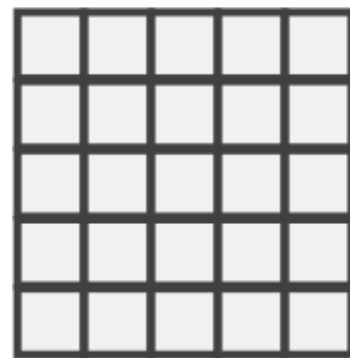
Matrix



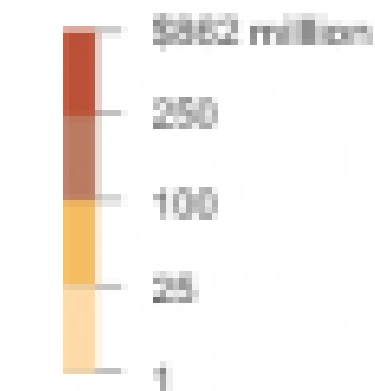
# Arrange Tables — Two Keys

→ 2 Keys

*Matrix*



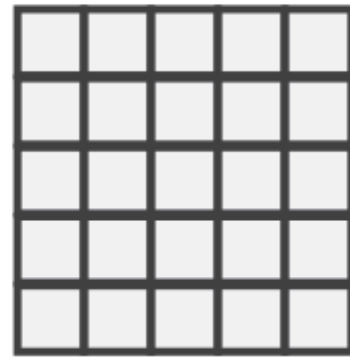
The area of the shape (and its color) corresponds to the film's total domestic gross, through Feb. 21



# Arrange Tables — Two Keys

→ 2 Keys

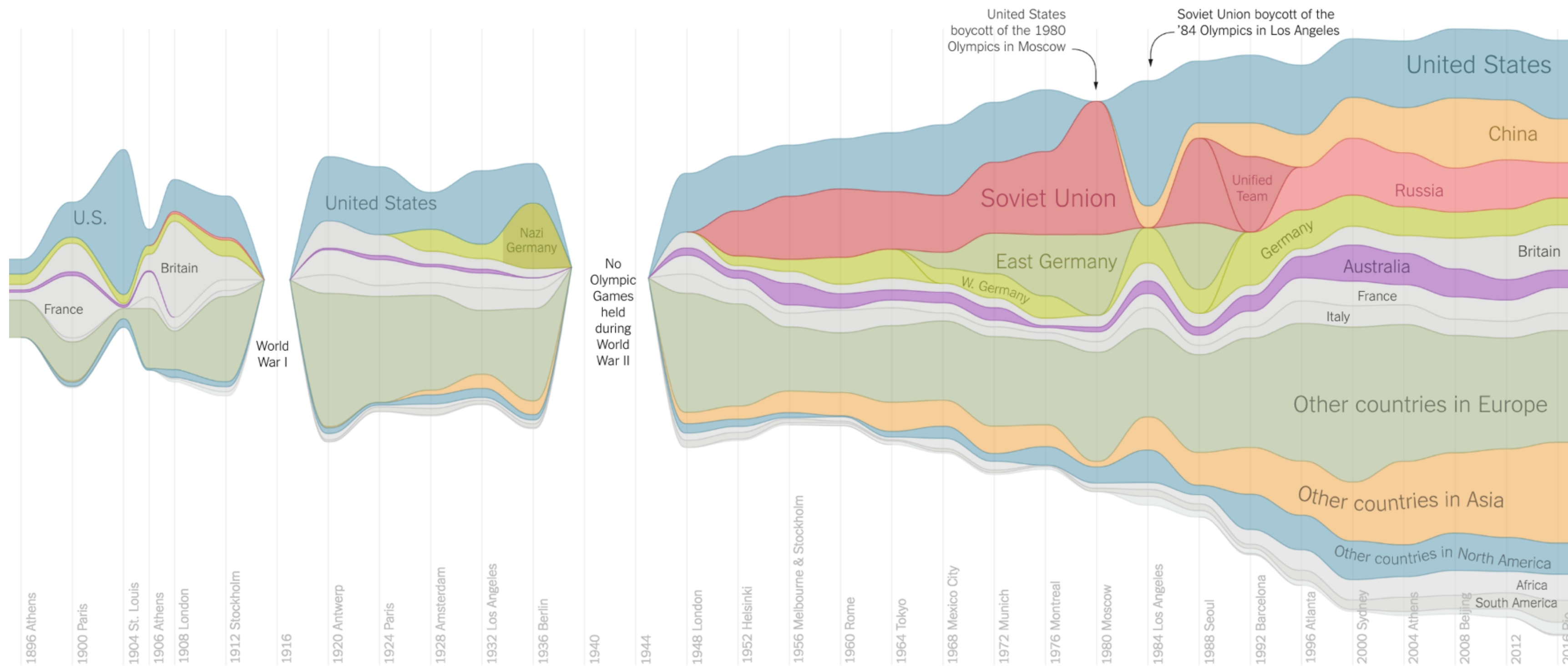
Matrix



Rio2016

## A Visual History of Which Countries Have Dominated the Summer Olympics

By GREGOR AISCH and LARRY BUCHANAN UPDATED August 22, 2016



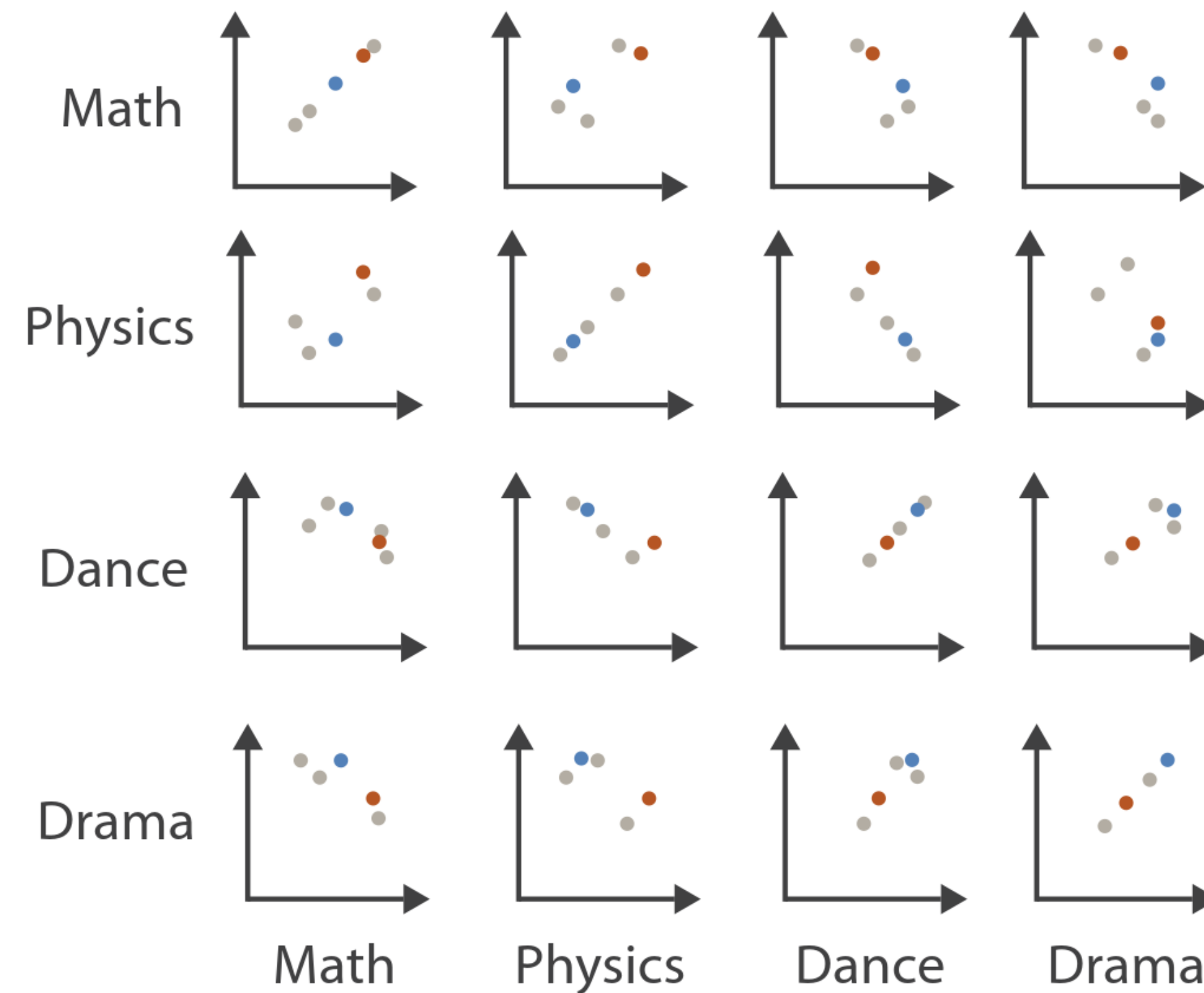
Just 10 countries — the United States, Australia and eight

# Arrange Tables — Axes

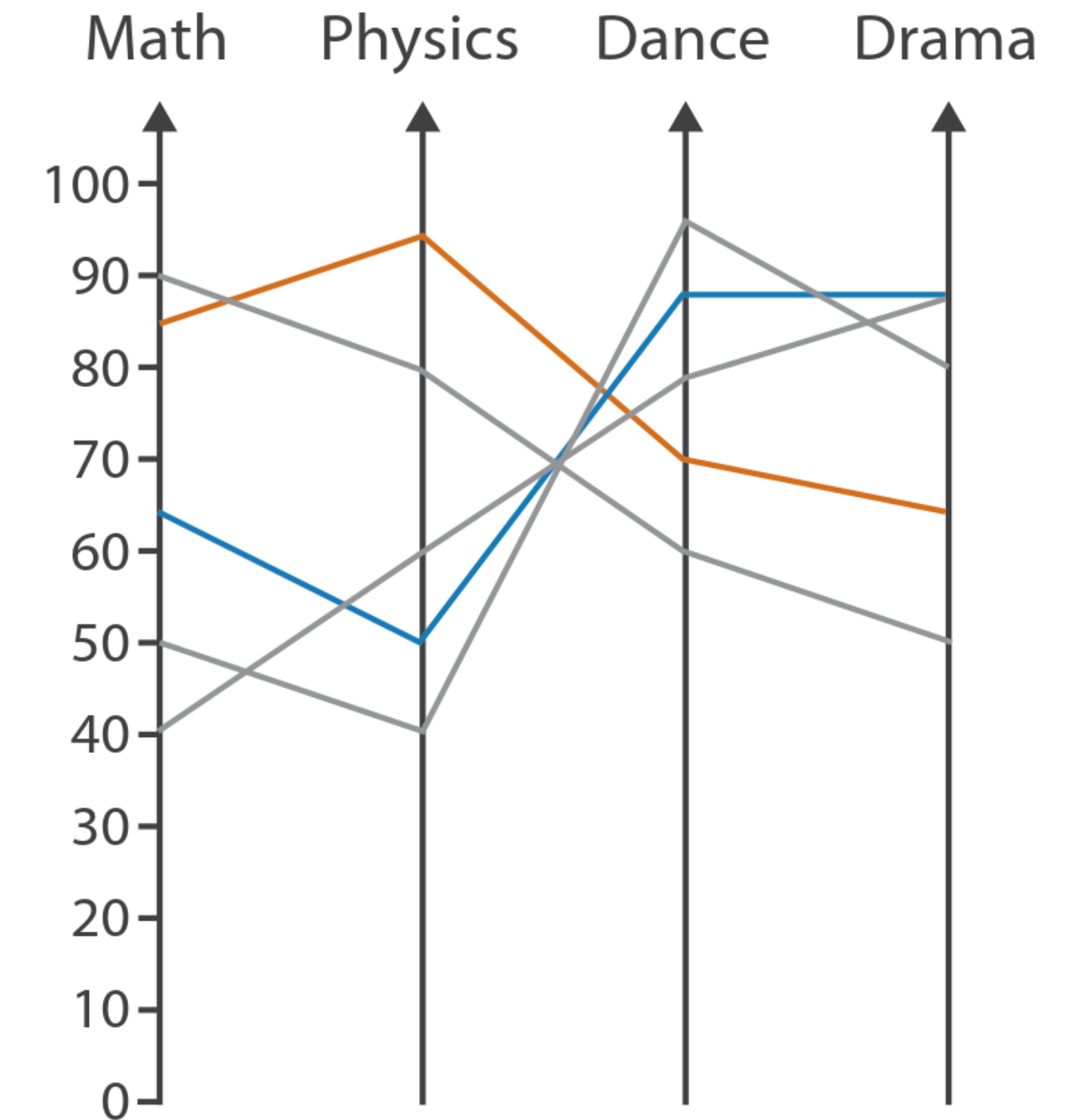
Table

Math	Physics	Dance	Drama
85	95	70	65
90	80	60	50
65	50	90	90
50	40	95	80
40	60	80	90

Scatterplot Matrix



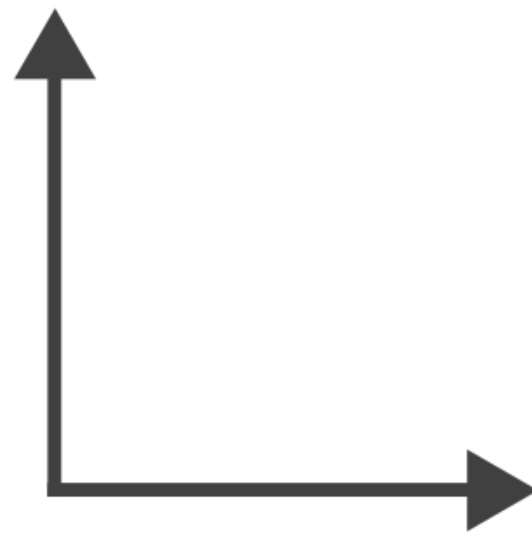
Parallel Coordinates



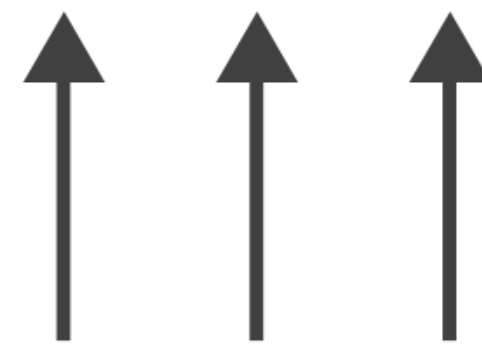
# Arrange Tables — Axes

## ➔ Axis Orientation

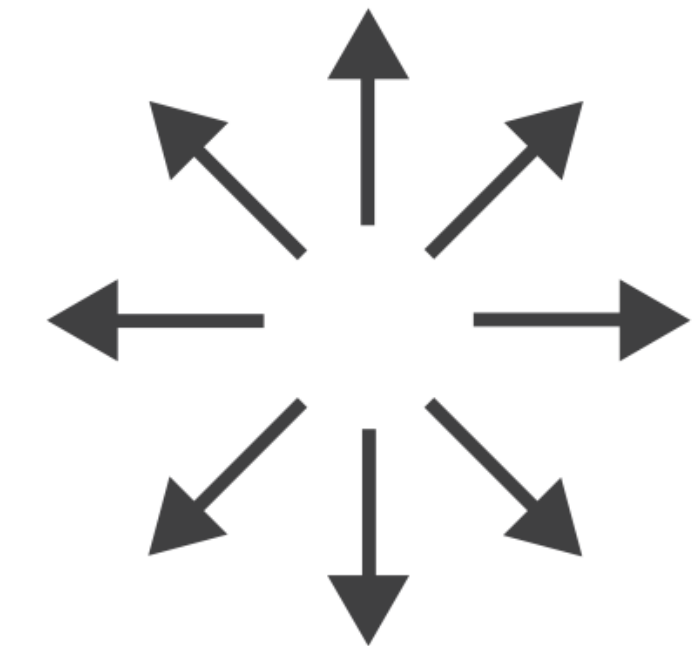
➔ Rectilinear



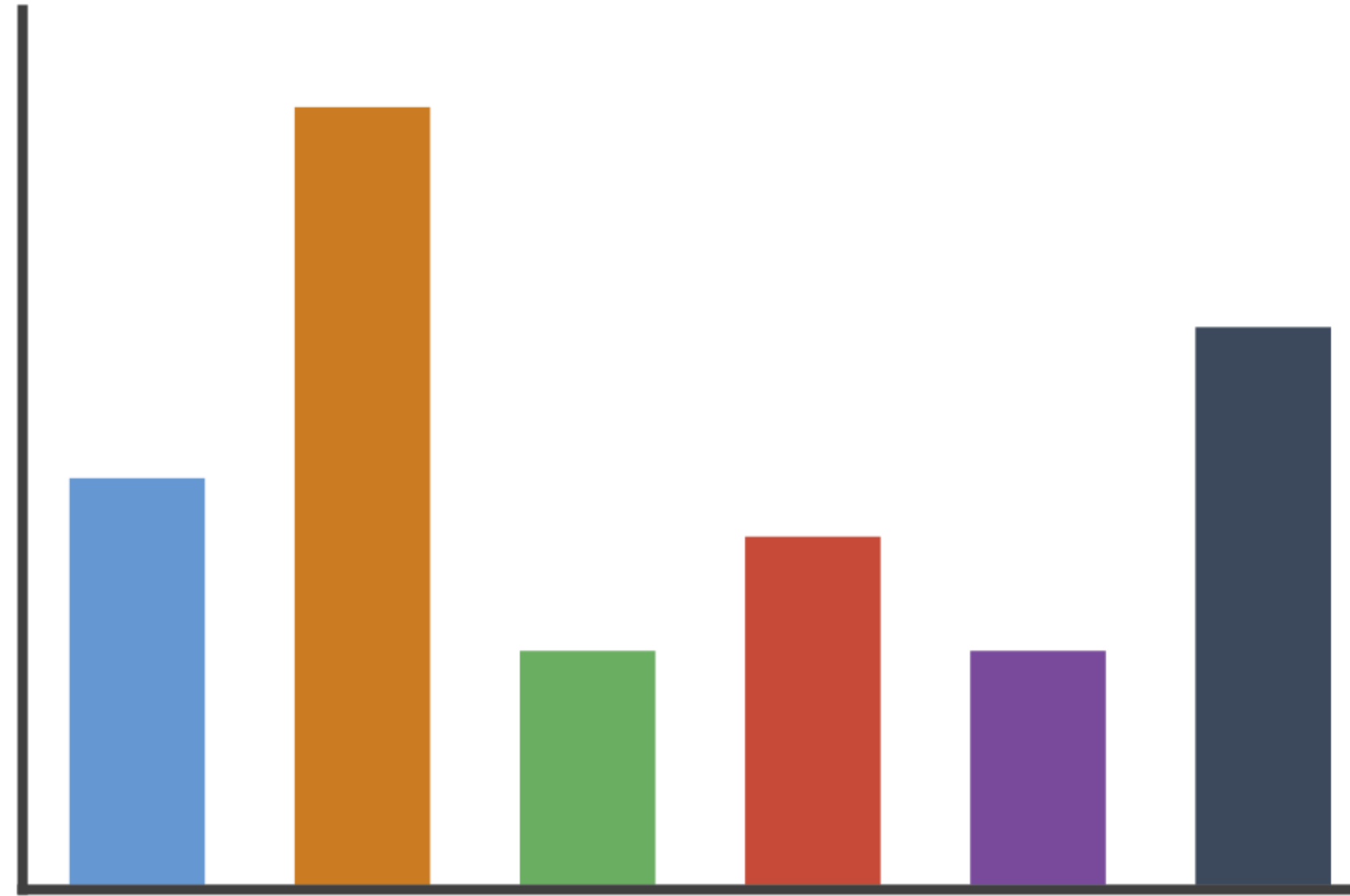
➔ Parallel



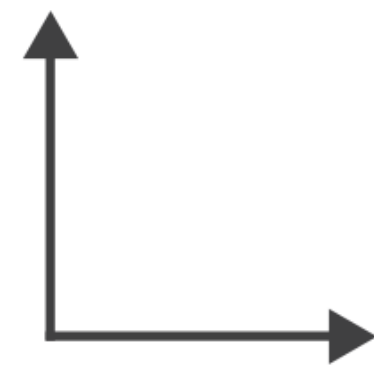
➔ Radial



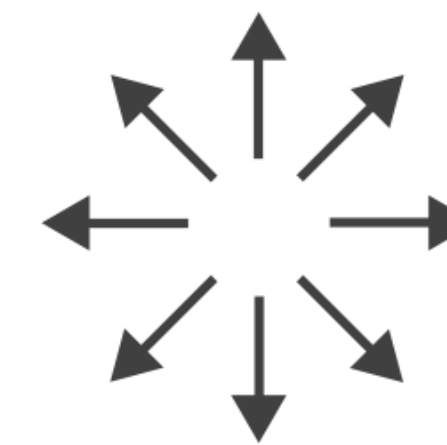
# Arrange Tables



→ Rectilinear



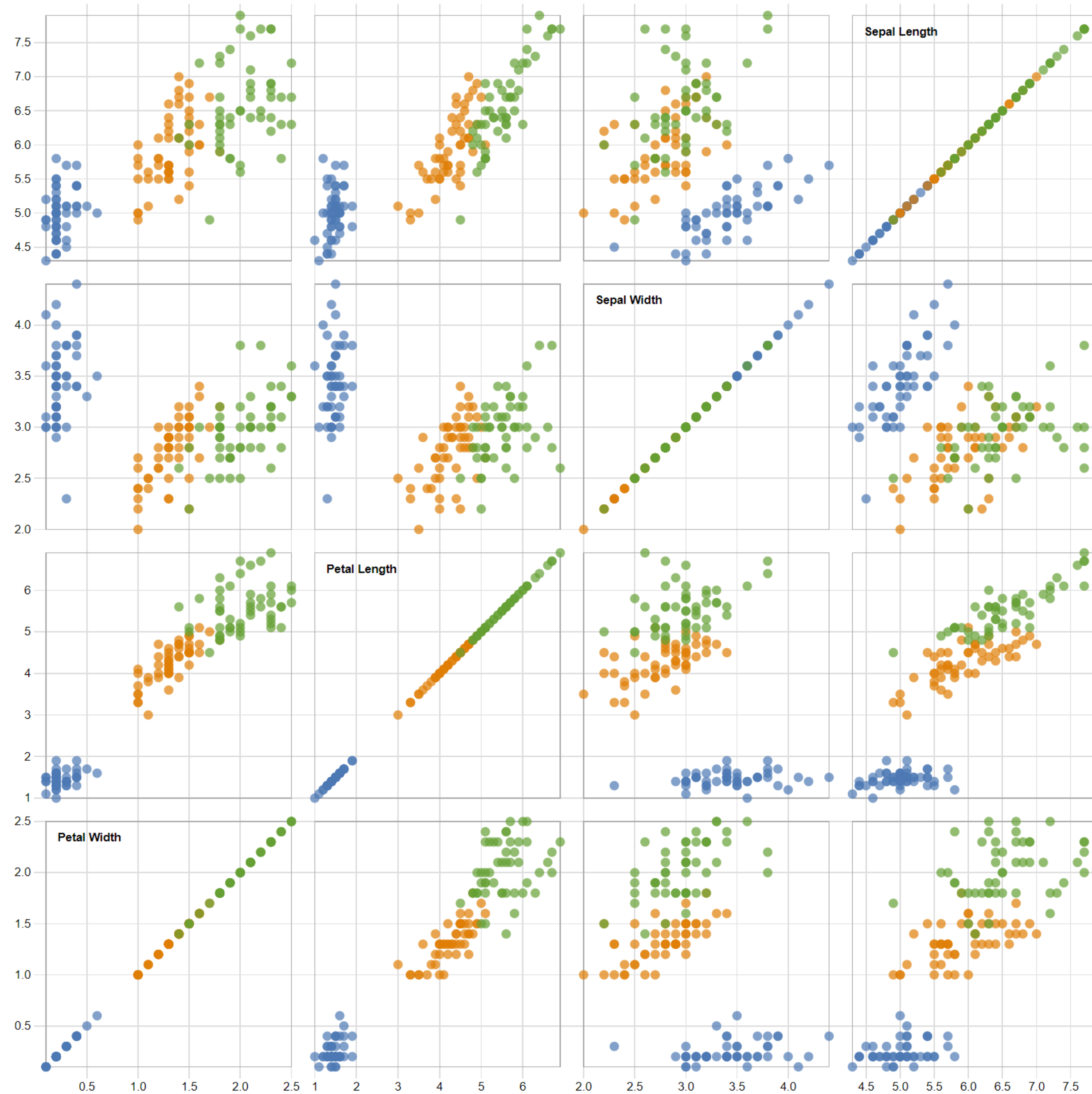
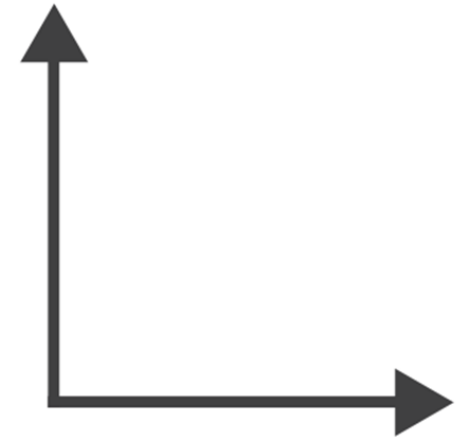
→ Radial



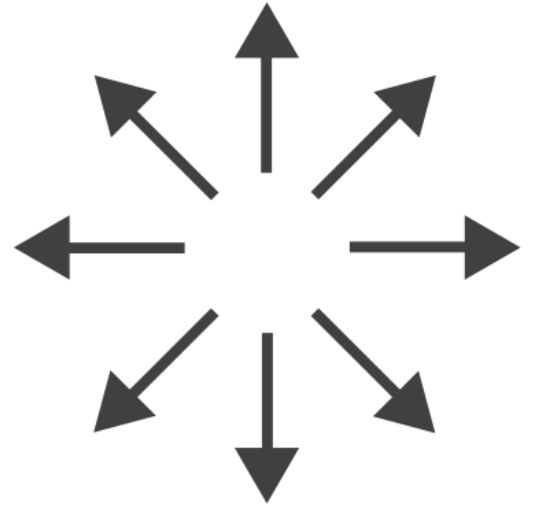


# Scatterplot Matrix Brushing

→ Rectilinear

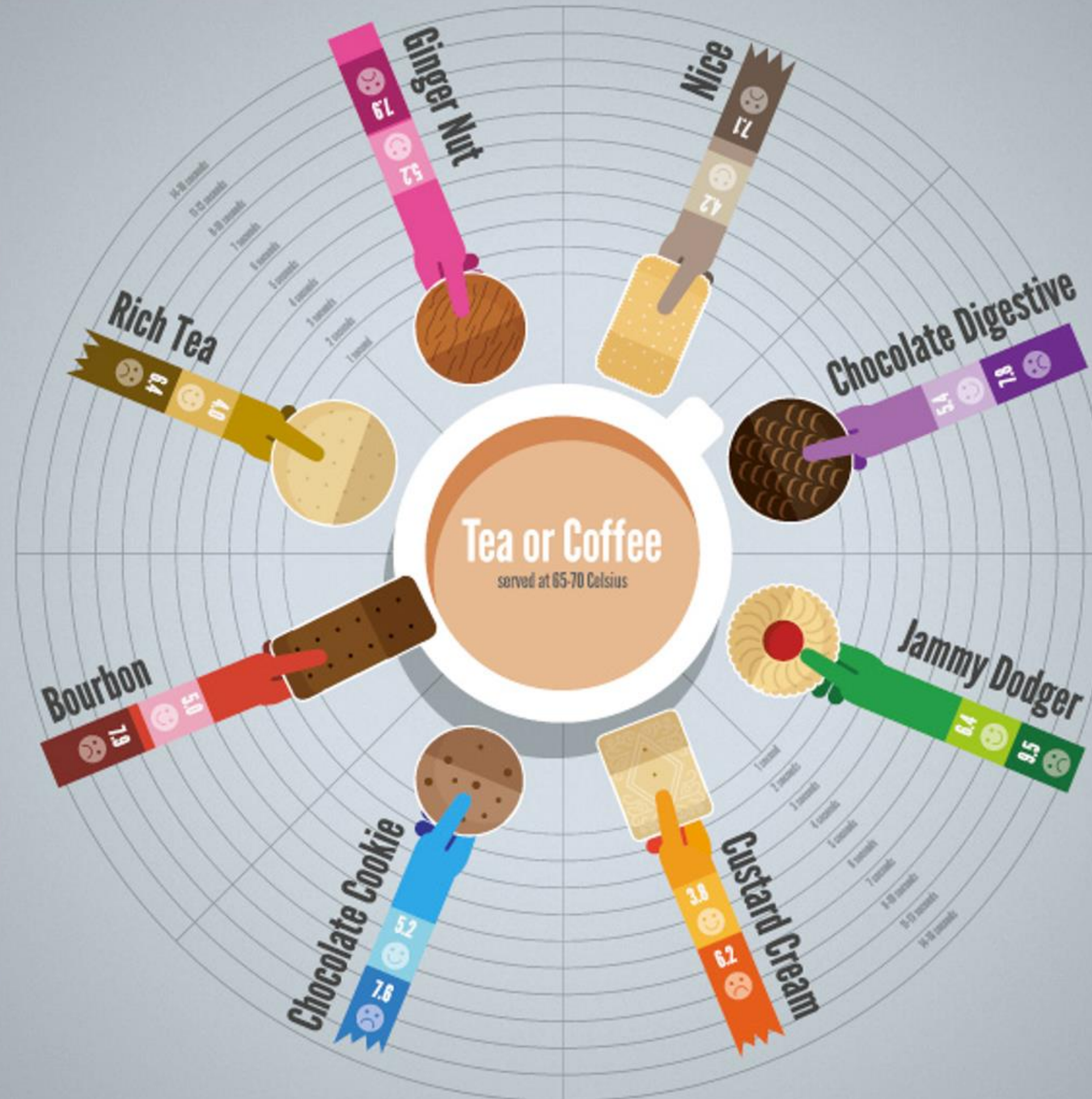


→ Radial



Key

- ☺ Perfection!
- ☹ Risk of extreme sogginess!
- 🚩 Floppage likely

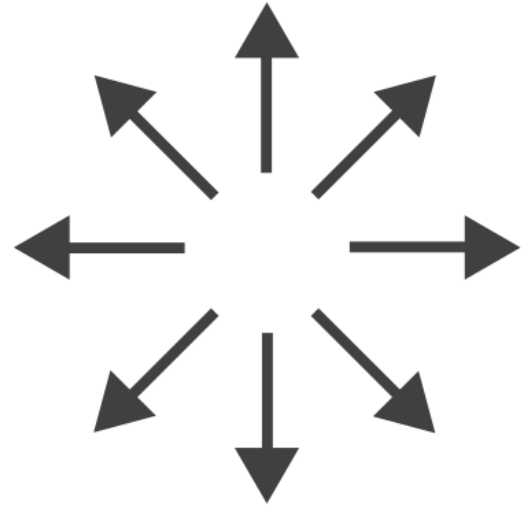


Through extensive research at the Green Hat office we have produced this helpful guide for those who like to dunk their biscuits, without fear of floppage!

[www.greenhatdesign.co.uk](http://www.greenhatdesign.co.uk)

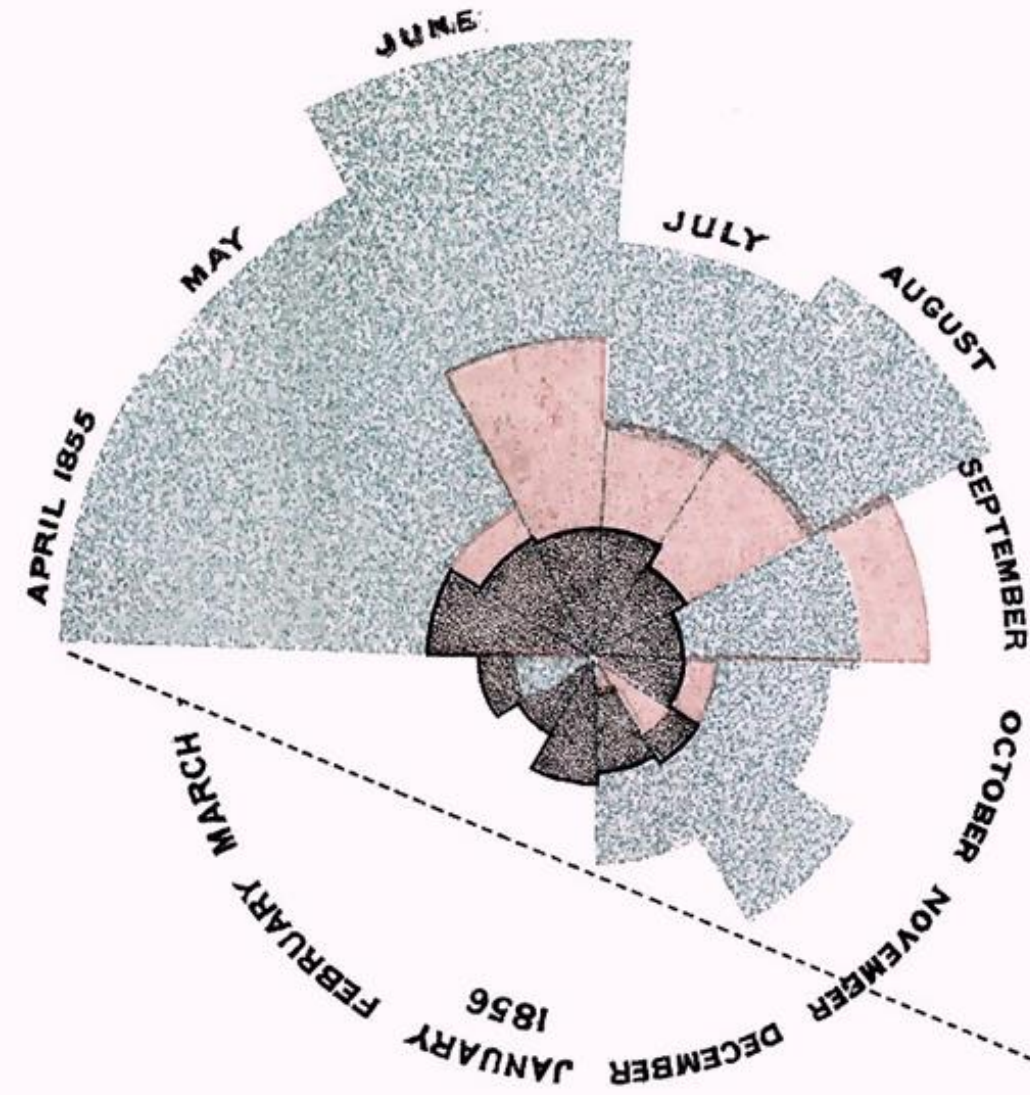
**Disclaimer:**  
This research was carried out by graphic designers with no formal training in any field of scientific research whatsoever, in a studio which was not a controlled environment. Therefore all results should be treated with biscuit firmly in cheek.

→ Radial

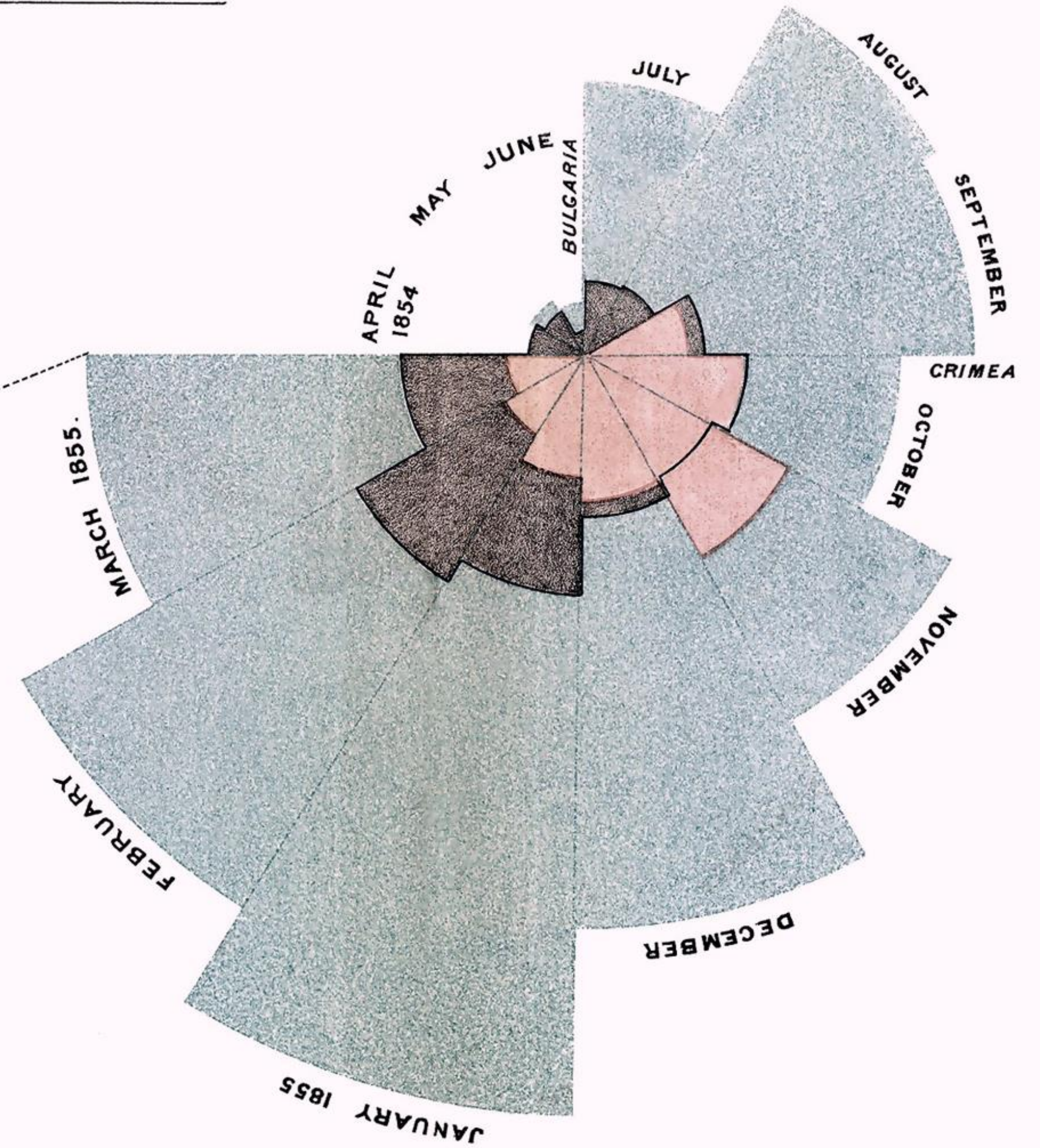


# DIAGRAM OF THE CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN THE ARMY IN THE EAST.

2.  
APRIL 1855 TO MARCH 1856.



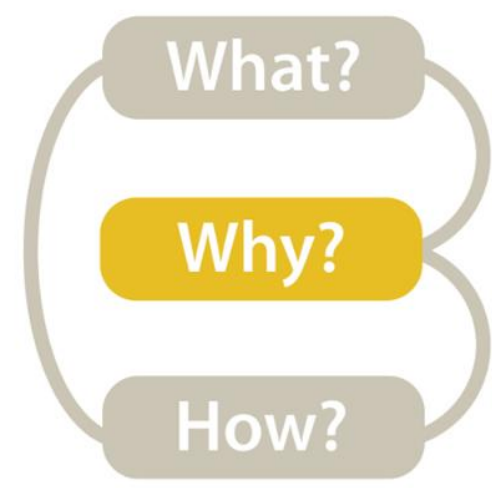
1.  
APRIL 1854 TO MARCH 1855.



*The Areas of the blue, red, & black wedges are each measured from the centre as the common vertex.*  
*The blue wedges measured from the centre of the circle represent area for area the deaths from Preventible or Mitigable Zymotic diseases, the red wedges measured from the centre the deaths from wounds, & the black wedges measured from the centre the deaths from all other causes.*  
*The black line across the red triangle in Nov. 1854 marks the boundary of the deaths from all other causes during the month.*  
*In October 1854, & April 1855, the black area coincides with the red; in January & February 1856, the blue coincides with the black.*  
*The entire areas may be compared by following the blue, the red & the black lines enclosing them.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (c. 1858)

IN-CLASS EXERCISE:  
DESIGN FROM TASK ANALYSIS



# Task Analysis

## Visualization for Public Transit Development

15m

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Break-out into groups of ~3 people in Teams.
- Pretend you are transportation engineers, e.g., for the MBTA, City of Boston.
- Discuss the user tasks and goals and abstract them using one of these taskonomies.
- Save your notes for a later exercise!!!

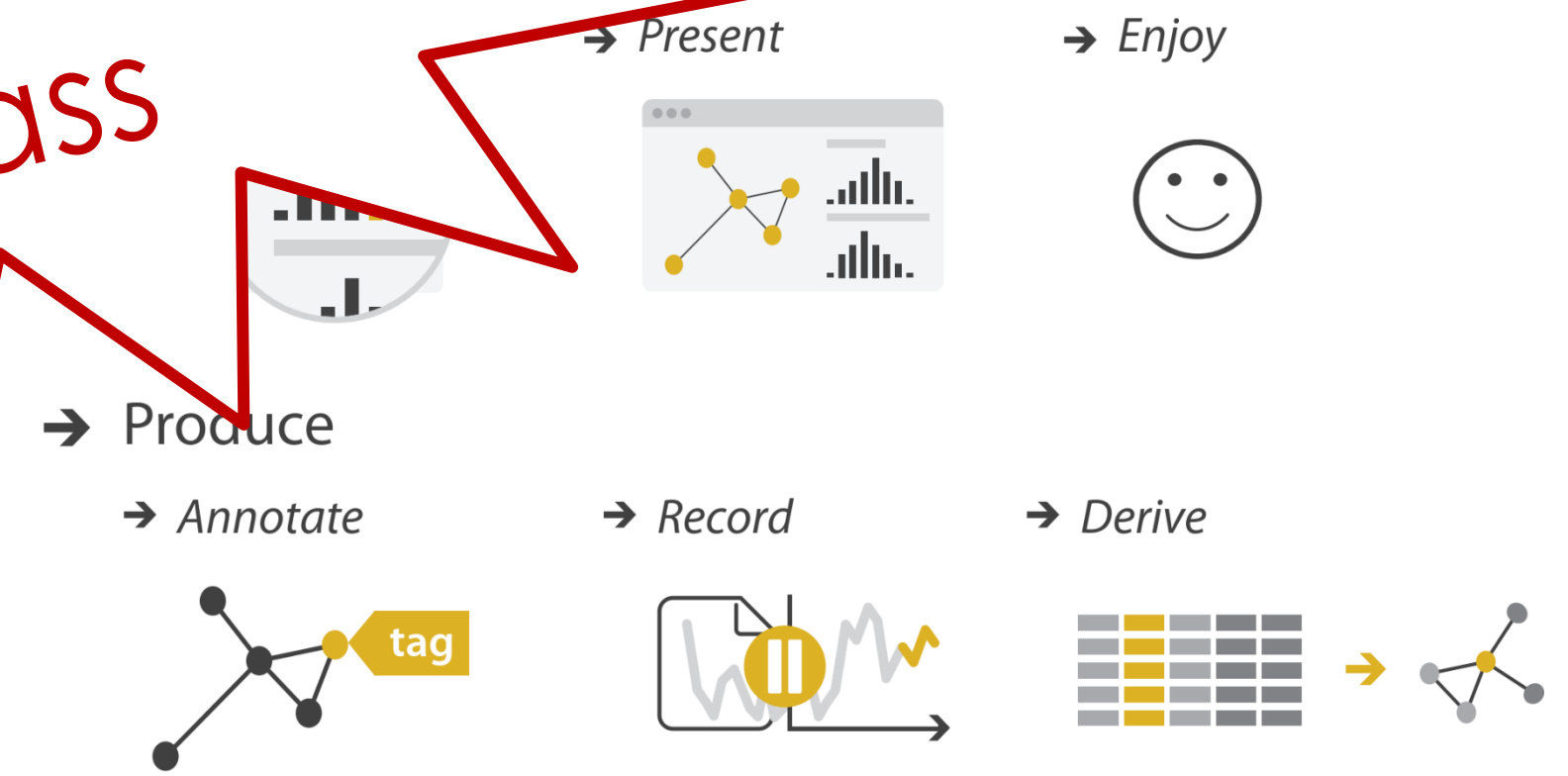
Low-level

Retrieve Value	<i>How long is the movie Gone with the Wind?</i>
Filter	<i>What comedies have won awards?</i>
Compute Derived Value	<i>How many awards have MGM studio won in total?</i>
Find Extremum	<i>What director/film has won the most awards?</i>
Sort	<i>Rank movies by most number of awards.</i>
Determine Range	<i>What is the range of film lengths?</i>
Characterize Distribution	<i>What is the age distribution of actors?</i>
Find Anomalies	<i>Are there exceptions to the relationship between number of awards won and total movies made by an actor?</i>
Cluster	<i>Is there a cluster of typical film lengths?</i>
Correlate	<i>Is there a trend of increasing film length over the years?</i>

Previous Class

Actions

High-level



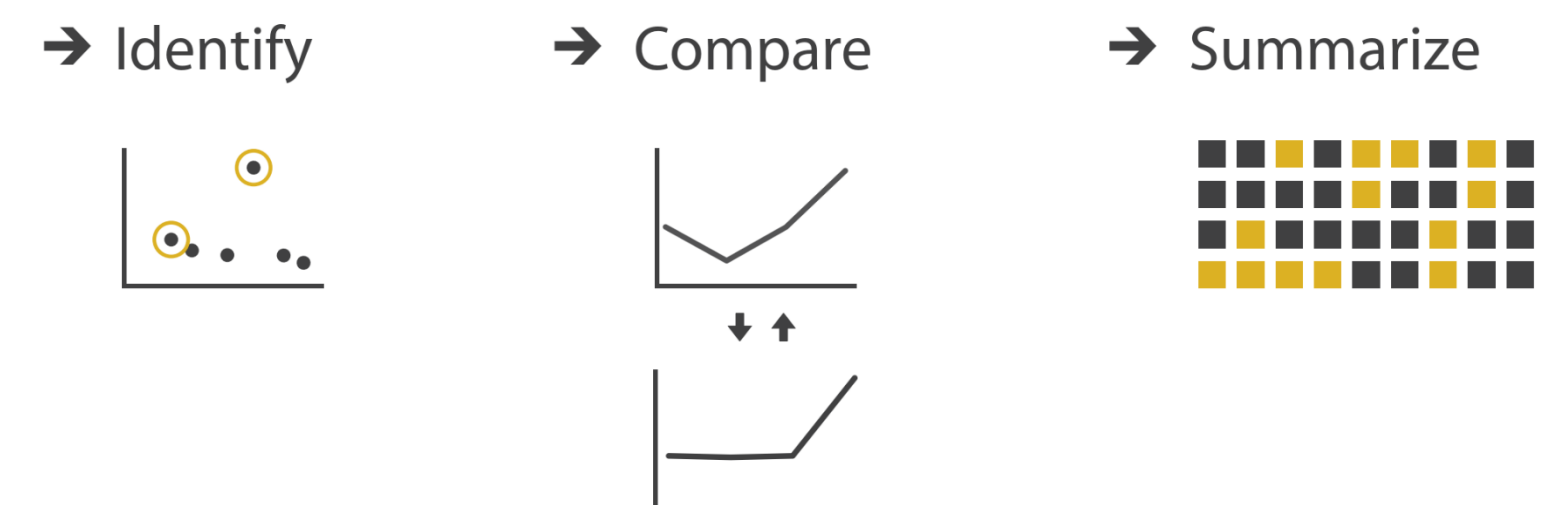
Mid-level

Search

	Target known	Target unknown
Location known	Lookup	Browse
Location unknown	Locate	Explore

Query

Low-level



What?

Why?

How?

# In-Class Design

## Task Analysis → Visualization for Public Transit Development

38 min

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- [In-Class Design — Task Analysis → Visualization for Public Transit Development](#) on Canvas

Channels: Expressiveness Types and Effectiveness Ranks

#### ➔ 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) 

Same

Effectiveness

Most

Least

#### ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region 

Color hue 

Motion 

Shape 