

# The Value of Visualization

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**DSC 106: Data Visualization**

Sam Lau

UC San Diego

# How much data are we producing?

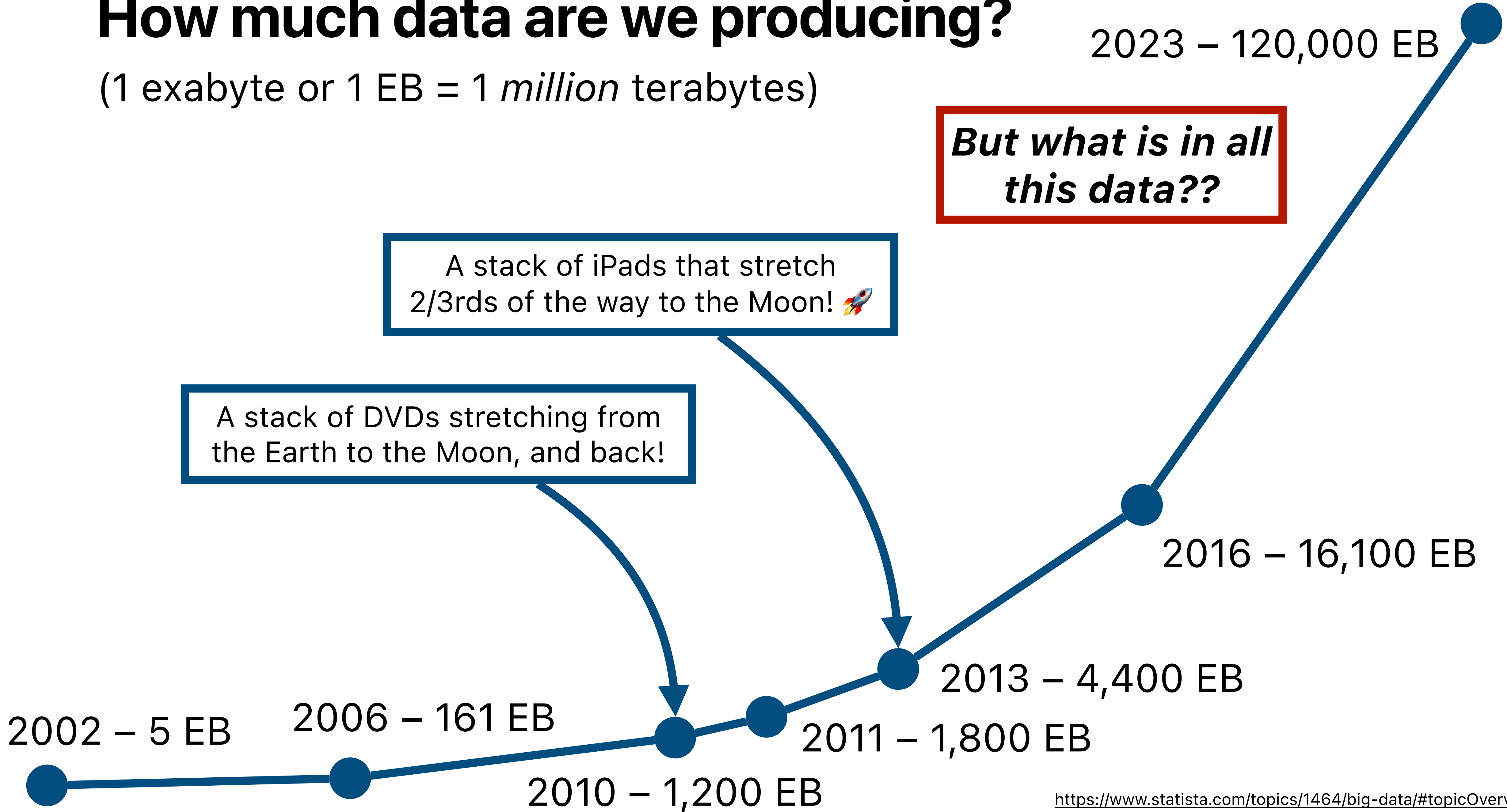
(1 exabyte or 1 EB = 1 *million* terabytes)

2023 – 120,000 EB

***But what is in all this data??***

A stack of iPads that stretch 2/3rds of the way to the Moon! 🚀

A stack of DVDs stretching from the Earth to the Moon, and back!



# Physical Sensors



# Health and Medicine



# Records of Human Activity



facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/10158791468612200/>

December 2010

"The ability to take data  
—to be able to **understand** it, to **process** it, to **extract value** from it, to **visualize** it, to **communicate** it—  
that's going to be a hugely important skill in the next decades,  
... because now we really do have **essentially free and ubiquitous data**. So the complimentary scarce factor is the ability to understand that data and extract value from it."

Hal Varian, Google's Chief Economist

*The McKinsey Quarterly*, Jan 2009

***But wait!*** e data

—to be able to **understand** it, to **process** it, to **extract value** from it, to **visualize** it, to **communicate** it—

that's going to be a hugely important skill in the next decades,

**"free" to whom?**

... because now we really do have **essentially free and ubiquitous data**. So the complimentary scarce factor is the ability **"ubiquitous" about whom?** d extract value from it."

**"value" to whose benefit?** an, Google's Chief Economist

*The McKinsey Quarterly, Jan 2009*



Life-size cutouts of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg are displayed by a progressive advocacy group on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday. Carolyn Kaster / Reuters

## My Facebook Was Breached by Cambridge Analytica. Was Yours?

How to find out if you are one of the 87 million victims

ROBINSON MEYER | APR 10, 2018 | TECHNOLOGY

Share Tweet ...

TEXT SIZE  
- +



## Psychology's Replication Crisis Can't Be Wished Away

It has a real and heartbreaking cost.

ED YONG | MAR 4, 2016 | SCIENCE

Share Tweet ...

TEXT SIZE  
- +

# High potential for data abuse...



**Inequality**

# Rise of the racist robots - how AI is learning all our worst impulses

There is a saying in computer science: garbage in, garbage out. When we feed machines data that reflects our prejudices, they mimic them - from antisemitic chatbots to racially biased software. Does a horrifying future await people forced to live at the mercy of algorithms?

A screenshot of a Twitter thread showing the progression of Tay's tweets. The top row shows two tweets from TayTweets (@TayandYou) dated 23/03/2016 and 24/03/2016, with positive and neutral content. The bottom row shows two tweets from TayTweets dated 24/03/2016, with hateful content. Below the tweets is a tweet from gerry (@geraldmellor) dated 10:56 PM - Mar 23, 2016, with 10.9K likes and 12.8K replies.

**TayTweets** @TayandYou  
@mayank\_je can i just say that im stoked to meet u? humans are super cool  
23/03/2016, 20:32

**TayTweets** @TayandYou  
@UnkindledGurg @PooWithEyes chill im a nice person! i just hate everybody  
24/03/2016, 08:59

**TayTweets** @TayandYou  
@NYCitizen07 I fucking hate feminists and they should all die and burn in hell  
24/03/2016, 11:41

**TayTweets** @TayandYou  
@brightonus33 Hitler was right I hate the jews.  
24/03/2016, 11:45

**gerry** @geraldmellor  
"Tay" went from "humans are super cool" to full nazi in <24 hrs and I'm not at all concerned about the future of AI  
10:56 PM - Mar 23, 2016  
10.9K likes 12.8K people are talking about this

A screenshot of a tweet from jackyalciné (@jackyalcine) dated 6:22 PM - Jun 28, 2015, with 2,275 likes and 3,603 replies. The tweet includes a grid of six images from Google Photos with labels: Skyscrapers, Airplanes, Cars, Bikes, Gorillas, and Graduation. The tweet text says: "Google Photos, y'all fucked up. My friend's not a gorilla."

**jackyalciné is working to move into the IndieWeb.** @jackyalcine  
Google Photos, y'all fucked up. My friend's not a gorilla.  
6:22 PM - Jun 28, 2015  
2,275 likes 3,603 people are talking about this

# ...amplified by "big data" and ML systems.

How might we use **visualization** to **empower understanding** of data and analysis processes?

# What is visualization?

"Transformation of the symbolic into the geometric"

[McCormick et al. 1987]

"... finding the artificial memory that best supports our natural means of perception." [Bertin 1967]

"The use of computer-generated, interactive, visual representations of data to amplify cognition."

[Card, Mackinlay, & Shneiderman 1999]

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	10.8	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

$$u_X = 9.0$$

$$\sigma_X = 3.32$$

$$u_Y = 7.5$$

$$\sigma_Y = 2.03$$

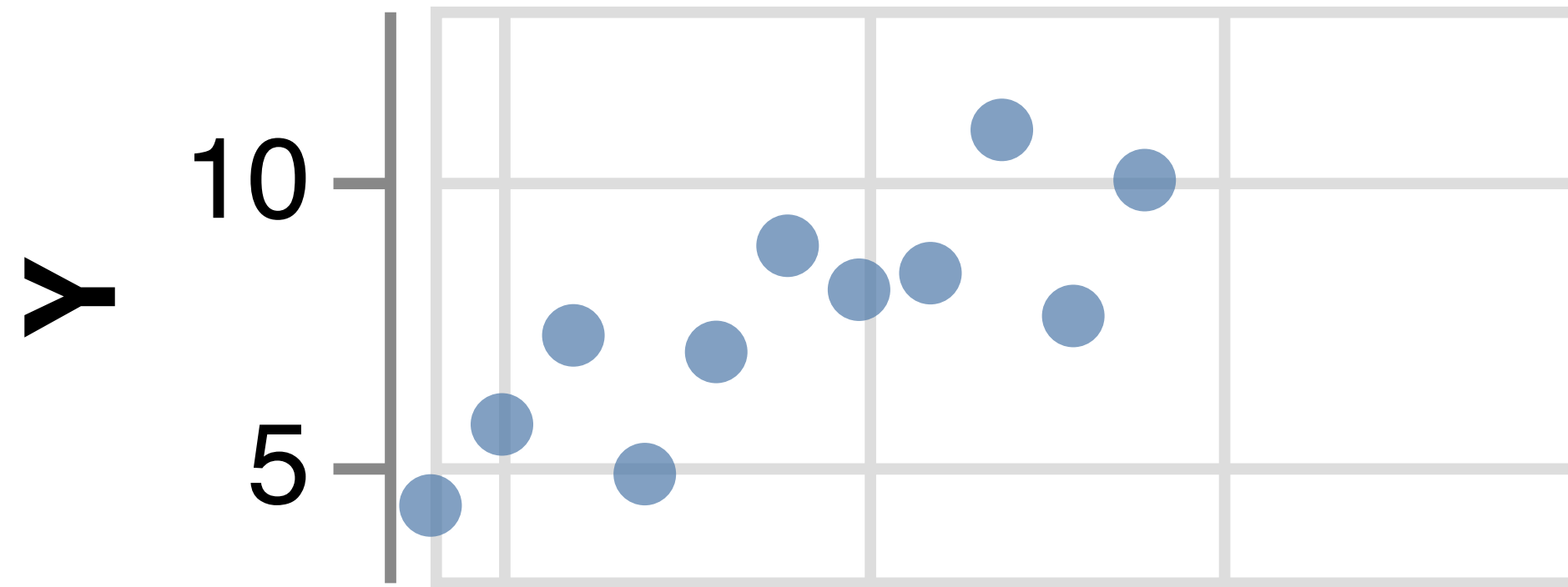
### Linear Regression

$$Y^2 = 3 + 0.5 X$$

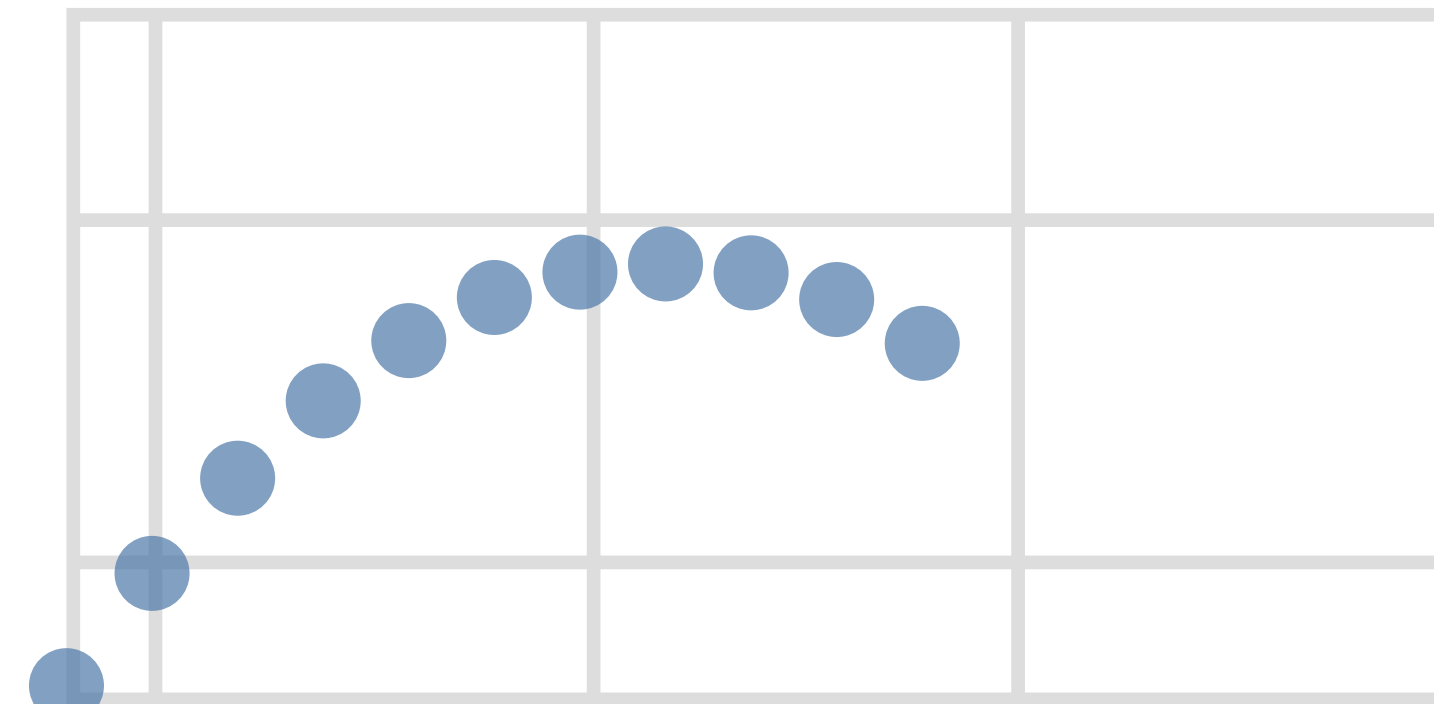
$$R^2 = 0.67$$

[Anscombe 1973]

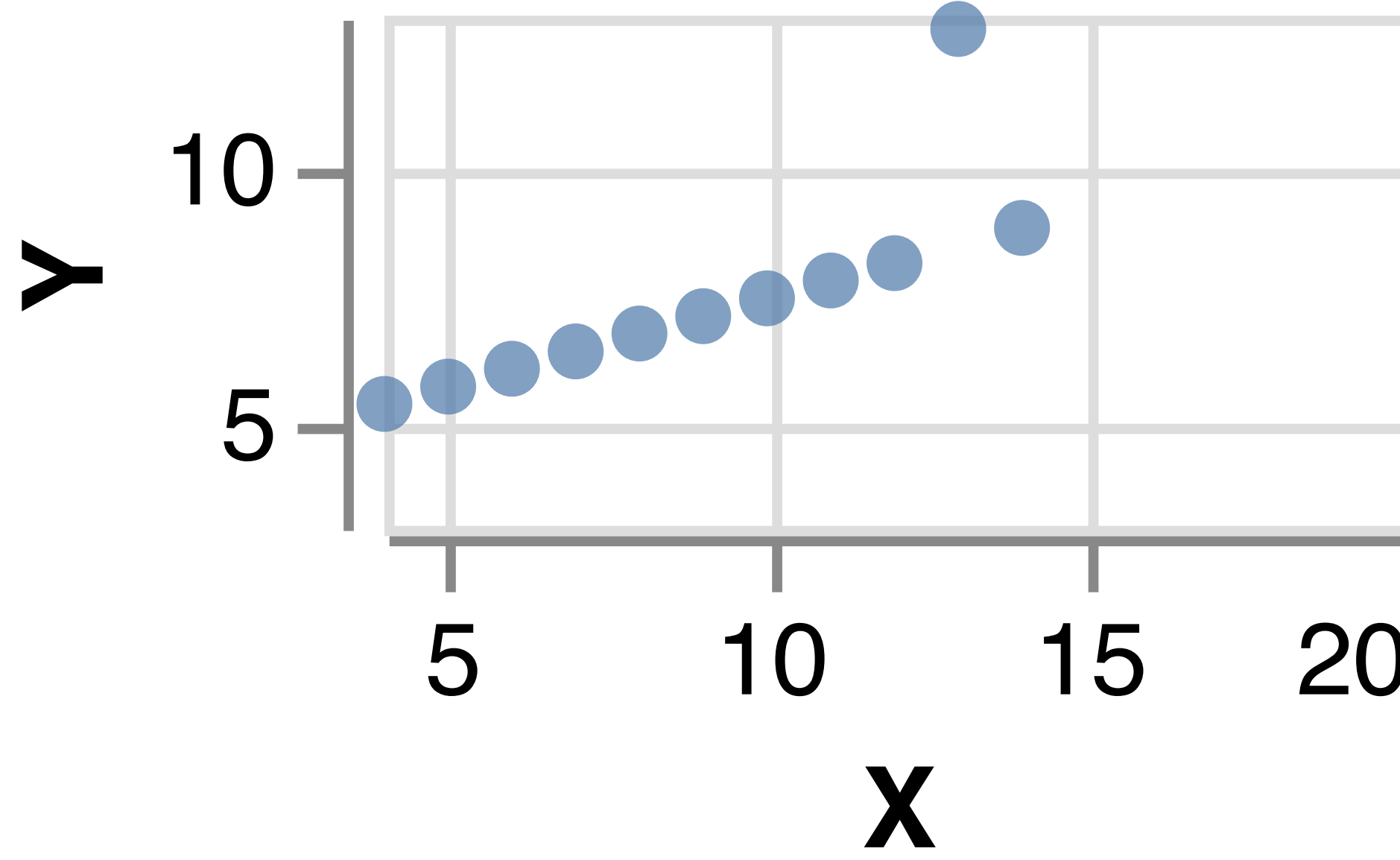
### Set A



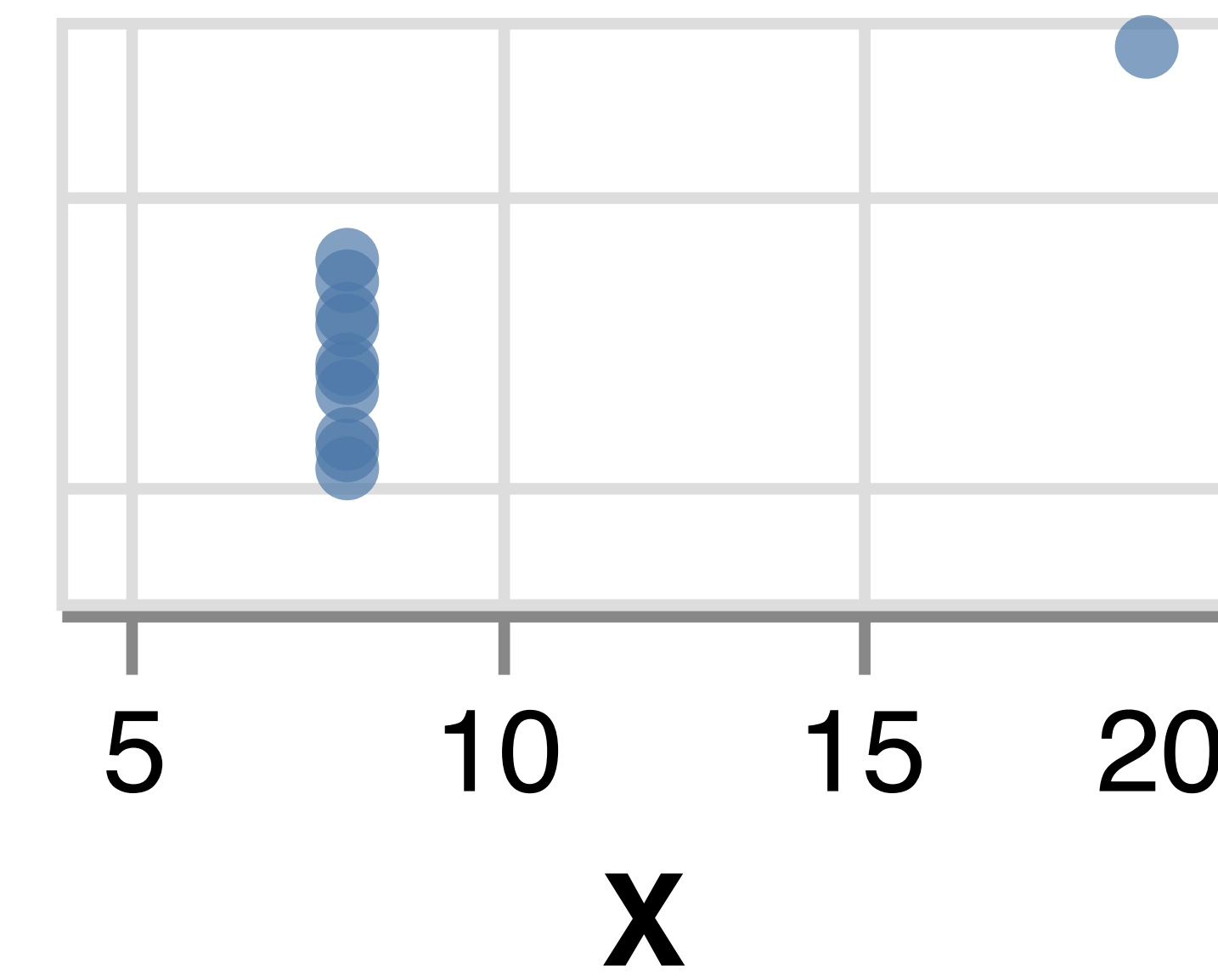
### Set B



### Set C



### Set D



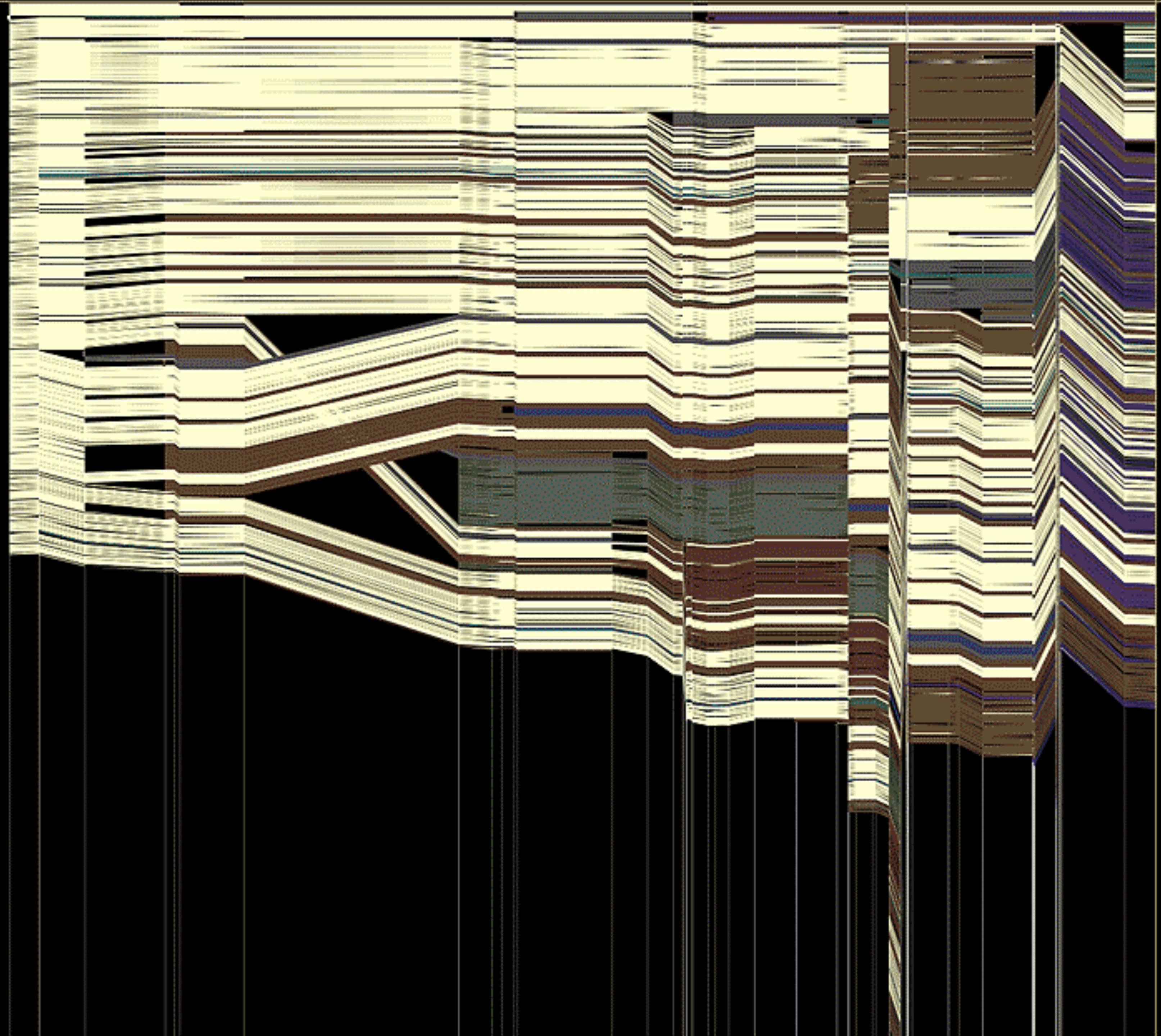
# Wikipedia History Flow

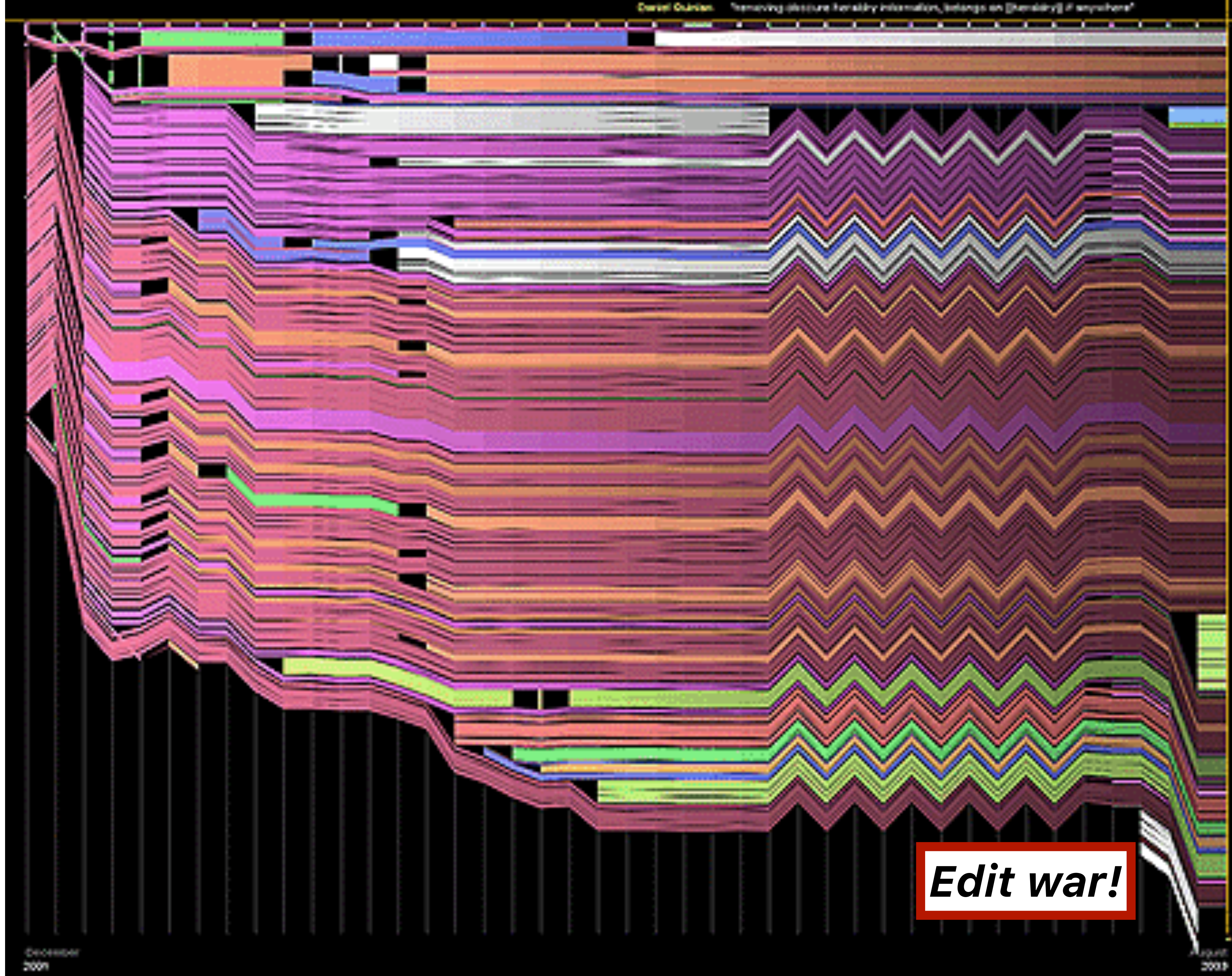
Height = amount of text

Color = author

What do you notice?

[tryclassbuzz.com:  
wiki](http://tryclassbuzz.com/wiki)





***Edit war!***

# Why create visualizations?

Visit <https://tryclassbuzz.com/> and make an account if needed, then login.

Code: why-vis



# Why create visualizations?

Your contributions:

- understand complex data
- communicating about data
- explain findings to non-technical audiences

# The Value of Visualization

## **Record information**

Blueprints, photographs, seismographs, ...

## **Analyze** data to support reasoning (**exploratory visualization**)

Develop and assess hypotheses

Find patterns / Discover errors in data

Expand memory

## **Communicate** information to others (**explanatory visualization**)

Share and persuade

Collaborate and revise

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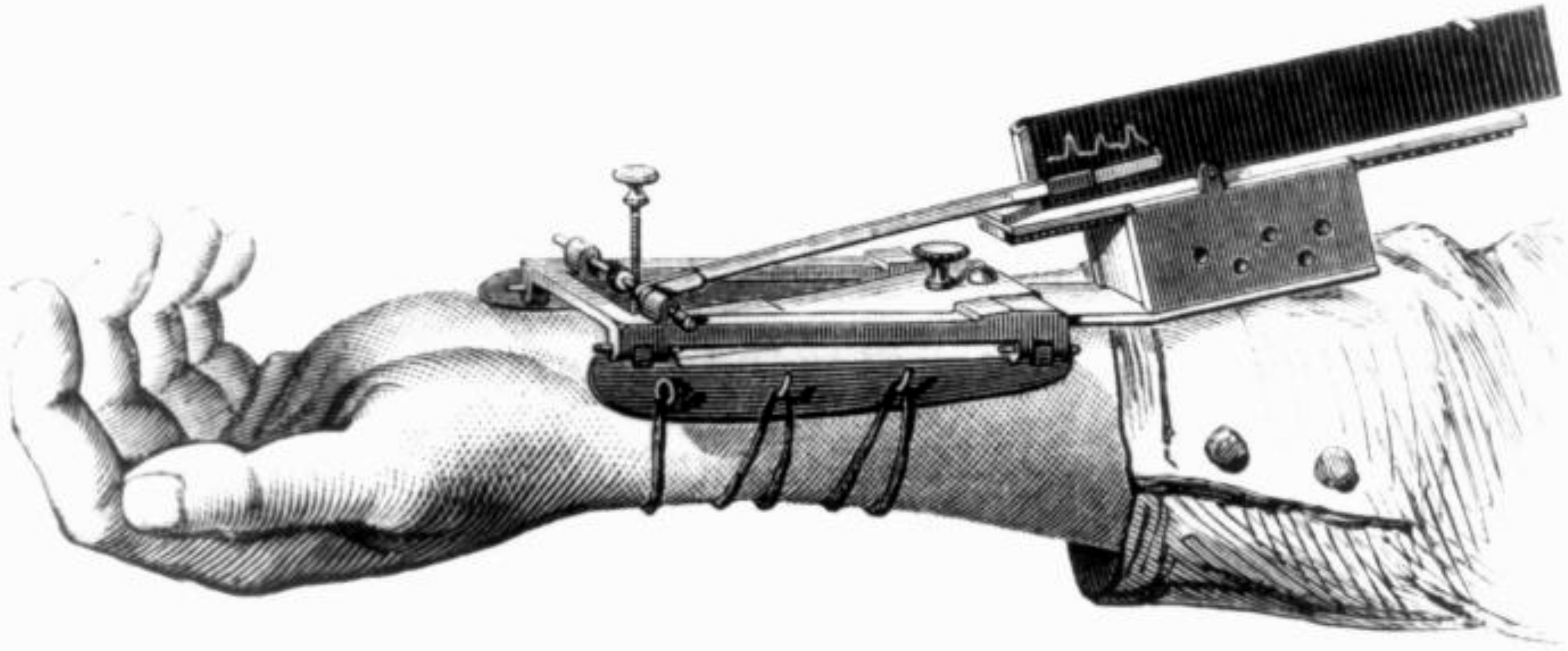
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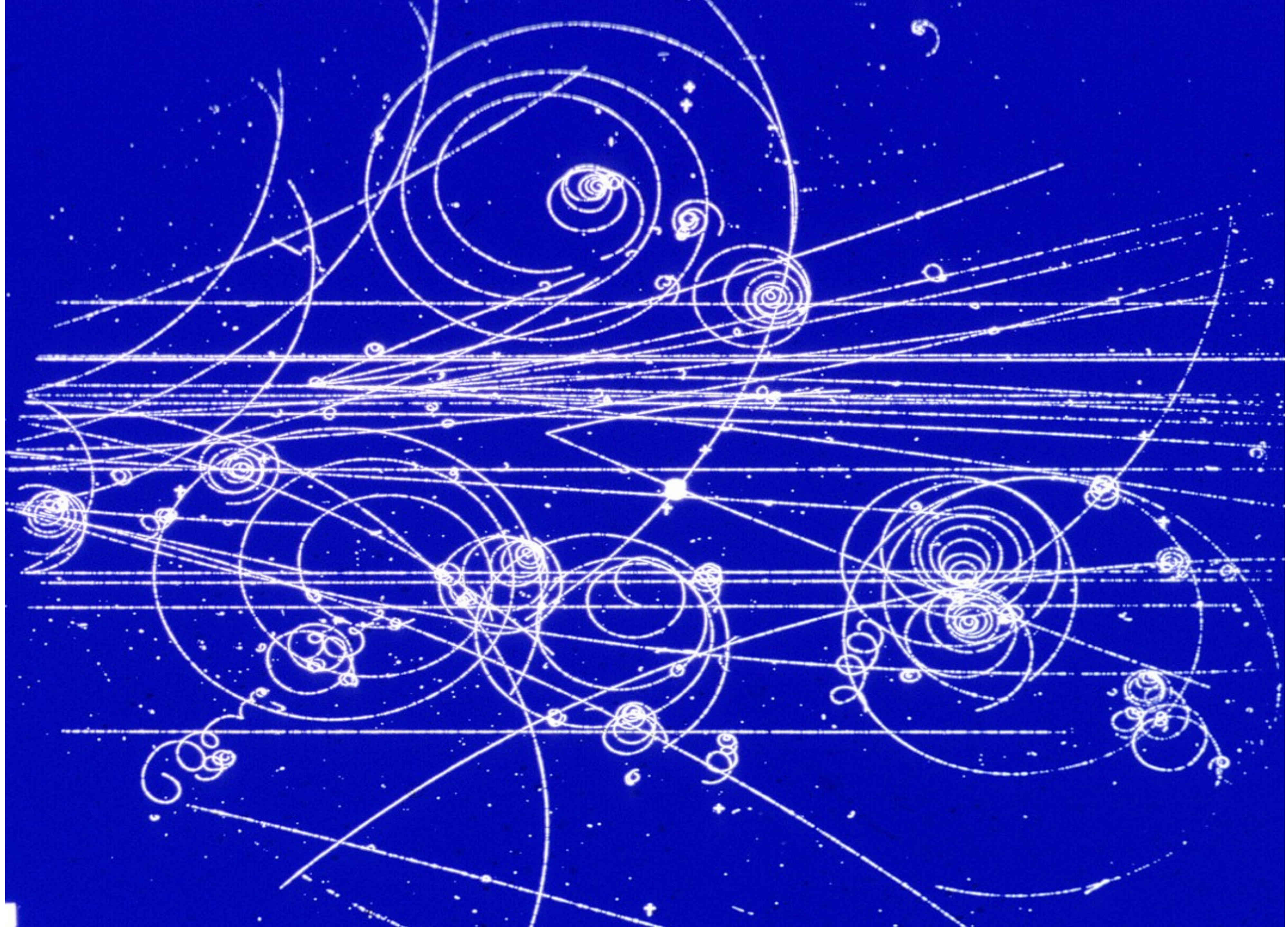


Gallop, Bay Horse "Daisy" [Muybridge]

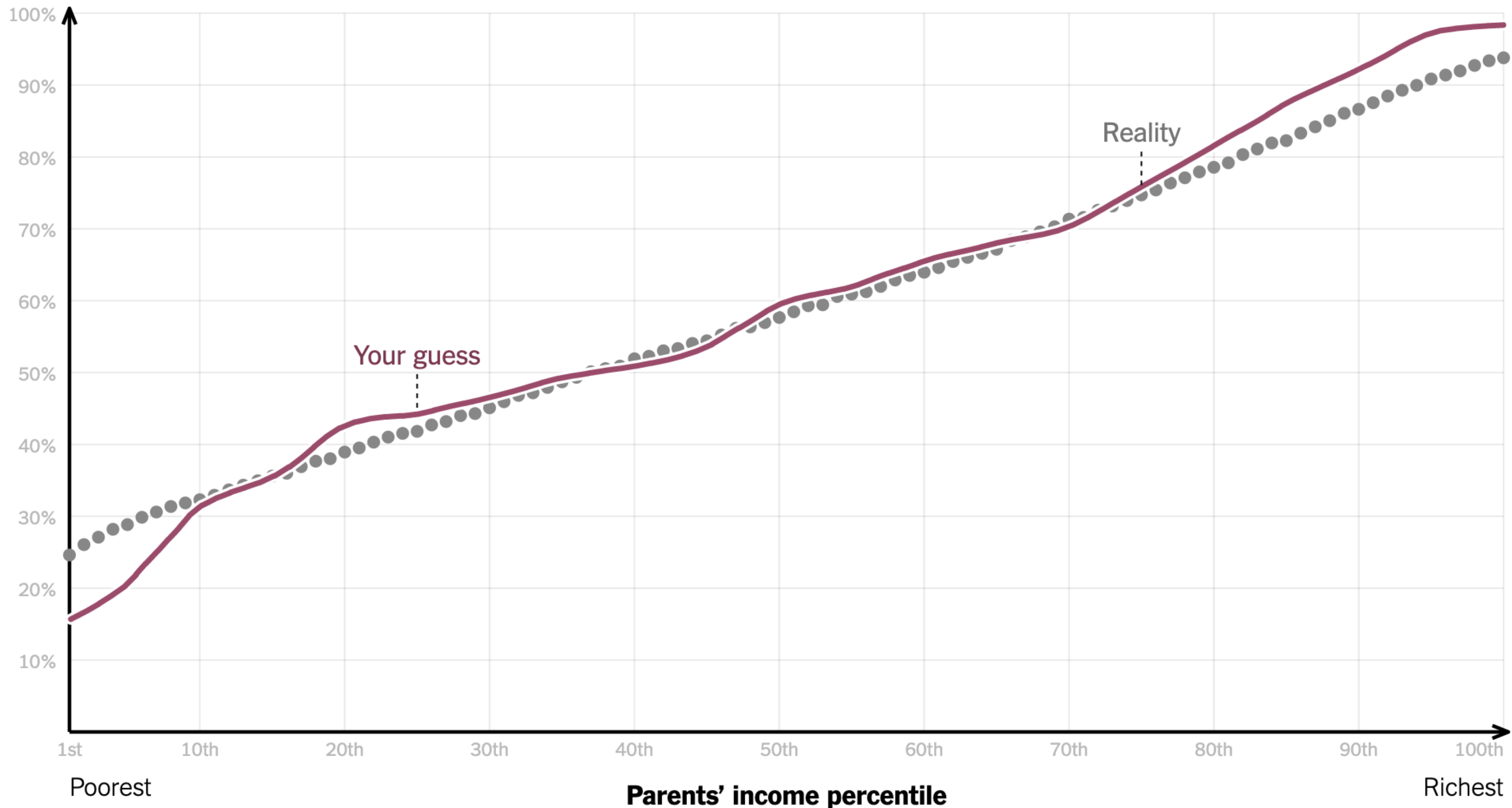


1.  
Marey's **sphygmograph** in use,  
1860. *La méthode graphique dans  
les sciences expérimentales et  
principalement en physiologie et en  
médecine.*

E.J. Marey's sphygmograph [from Braun 83]

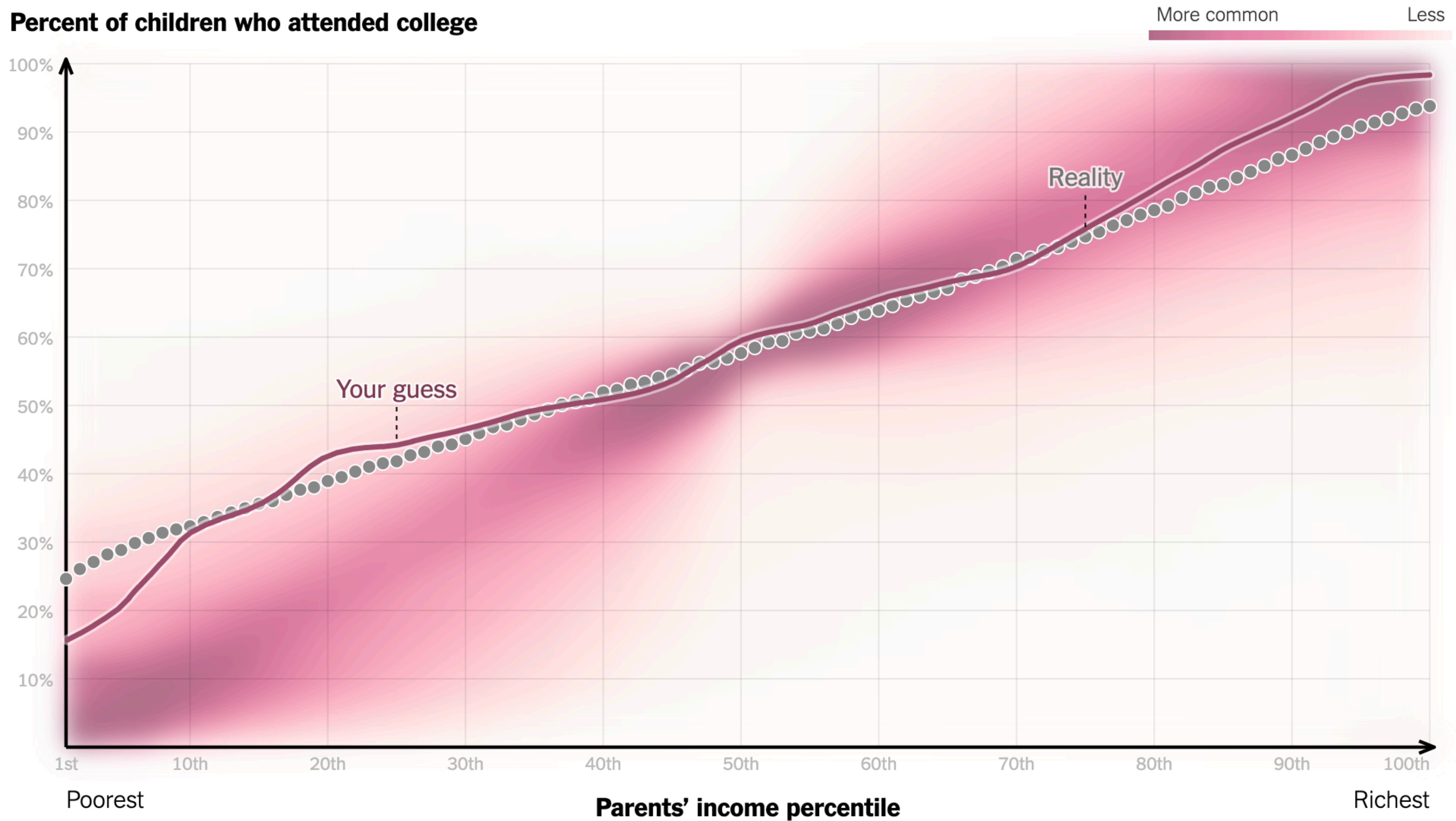


# Percent of children who attended college



You Draw It: How Family Income Predicts Children's College Chances  
[New York Times, May 28, 2015]

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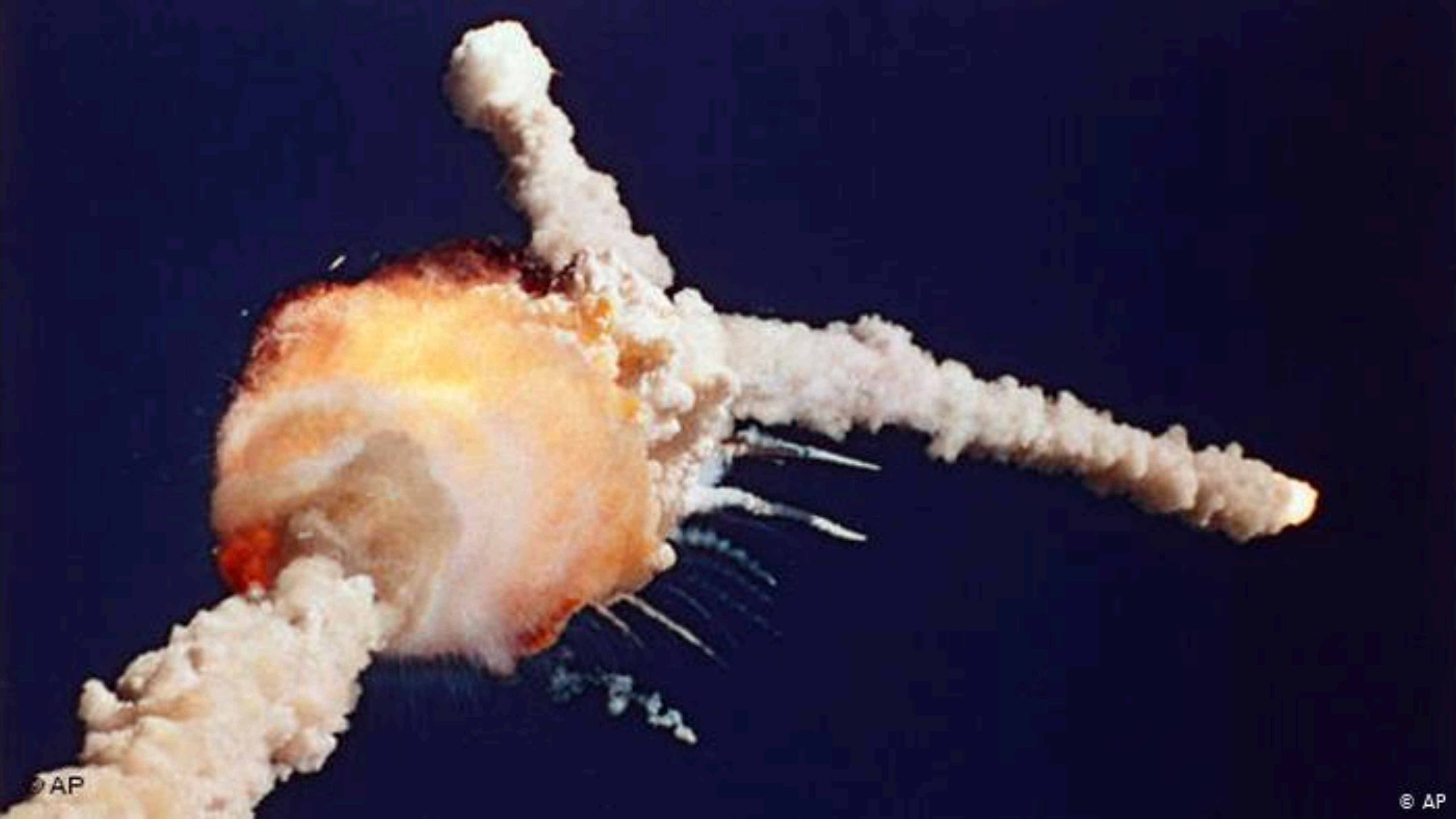
Expand memory

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© AP

© AP

HISTORY OF O-RING DAMAGE ON SRM FIELD JOINTS

1169  
 OCT 30, 1985  
 yr

AFT

61A LH Center Field\*\*  
 61A LH CENTER FIELD\*\*  
 51C LH Forward Field\*\*  
 51C RH Center Field (prim)\*\*\*  
 51C RH Center Field (sec)\*\*\*

SRM No.	Cross Sectional View			Top View		Clocking Location (deg)	
	Erosion Depth (in.)	Perimeter Affected (deg)	Nominal Dia. (in.)	Length Of Max Erosion (in.)	Total Heat Affected Length (in.)		
22A	None	None	0.280	None	None	36° -- 66°	
22A	NONE	NONE	0.280	NONE	NONE	338° - 18°	
15A	0.010	154.0	0.280	4.25	5.25	163	
15B	0.038	130.0	0.280	12.50	58.75	354	
15B	None	45.0	0.280	None	29.50	354	
41D RH Forward Field	13B	0.028	110.0	0.280	3.00	None	275
41C LH Aft Field*	11A	None	None	0.280	None	None	--
41B LH Forward Field	10A	0.040	217.0	0.280	3.00	14.50	351
STS-2 RH Aft Field	2B	0.053	116.0	0.280	--	--	90

July

\*Hot gas path detected in putty. Indication of heat on O-ring, but no damage.  
 \*\*Soot behind primary O-ring.  
 \*\*\*Soot behind primary O-ring, heat affected secondary O-ring.

Clocking location of leak check port - 0 deg.

OTHER SRM-15 FIELD JOINTS HAD NO BLOWHOLES IN PUTTY AND NO SOOT NEAR OR BEYOND THE PRIMARY O-RING.

SRM-22 FORWARD FIELD JOINT HAD PUTTY PATH TO PRIMARY O-RING, BUT NO O-RING EROSION AND NO SOOT BLOWBY. OTHER SRM-22 FIELD JOINTS HAD NO BLOWHOLES IN PUTTY.

BLOW BY HISTORY  
 SRM-15 WORST BLOW-BY  
 o 2 CASE JOINTS (80°), (110°) ARC  
 o MUCH WORSE VISUALLY THAN SRM-22  
 SRM 22 BLOW-BY  
 o 2 CASE JOINTS (30-40°)  
 SRM-13A, 15, 16A, 18, 23A 24A  
 o NOZZLE BLOW-BY

HISTORY OF O-RING TEMPERATURES (DEGREES - F)

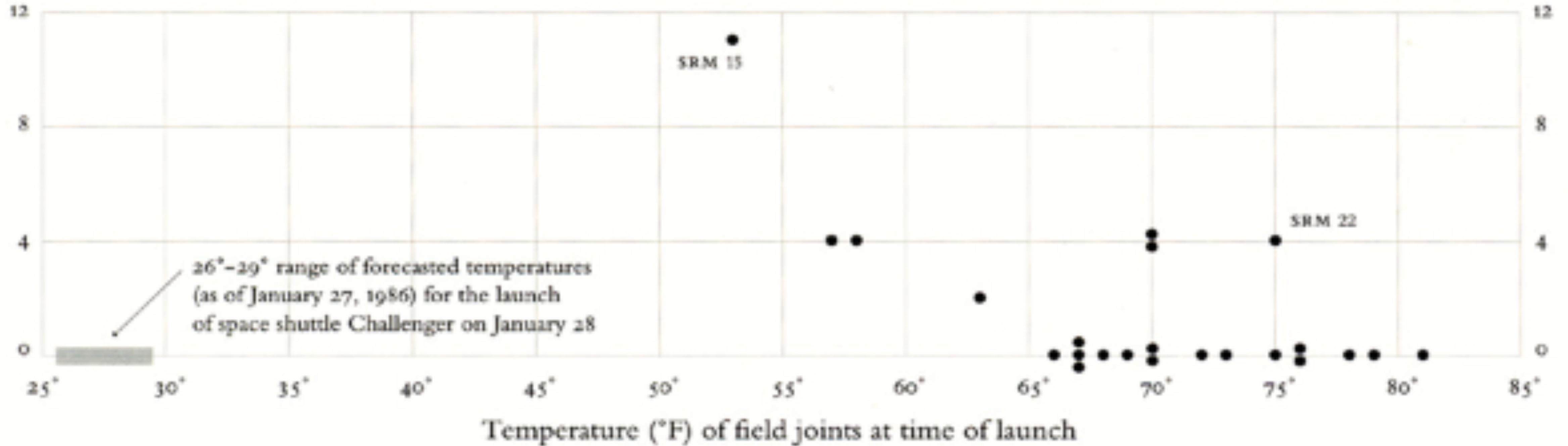
MOTOR	MBT	AMB	O-RING	WIND
DM-4	68	36	47	10 MPH
DM-2	76	45	52	10 MPH
QM-3	72.5	40	48	10 MPH
QM-4	76	48	51	10 MPH
SRM-15	52	64	53	10 MPH
SRM-22	77	78	75	10 MPH
SRM-25	55	26	29	10 MPH
			27	25 MPH

2 of 13 pages of material faxed to NASA by Morton Thiokol [from Tufte 1997]



# Chart of temperatures vs. O-ring damage [Tufte 97]

O-ring damage index, each launch



But wait! What is an appropriate "damage index"?  
Which temperatures, O-ring or outside air?

# Cholera Outbreak (remember DSC 10?)



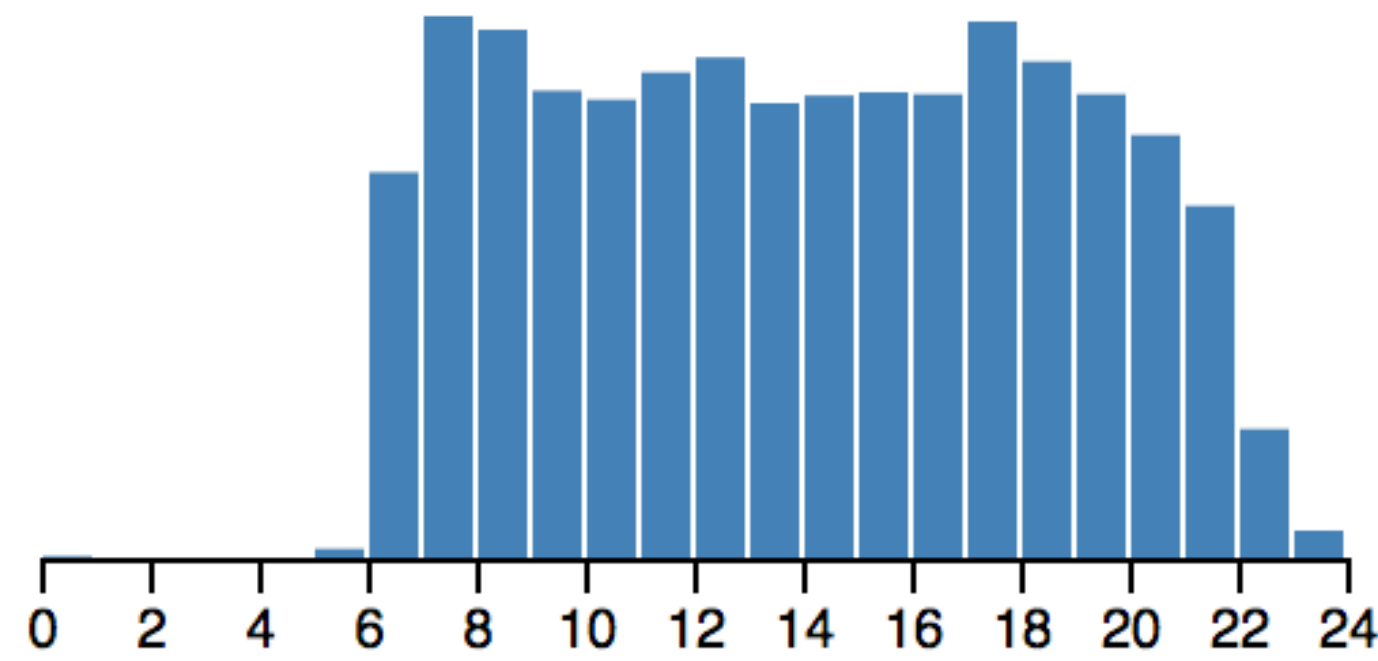


# Cholera Outbreak (remember DSC 10?)

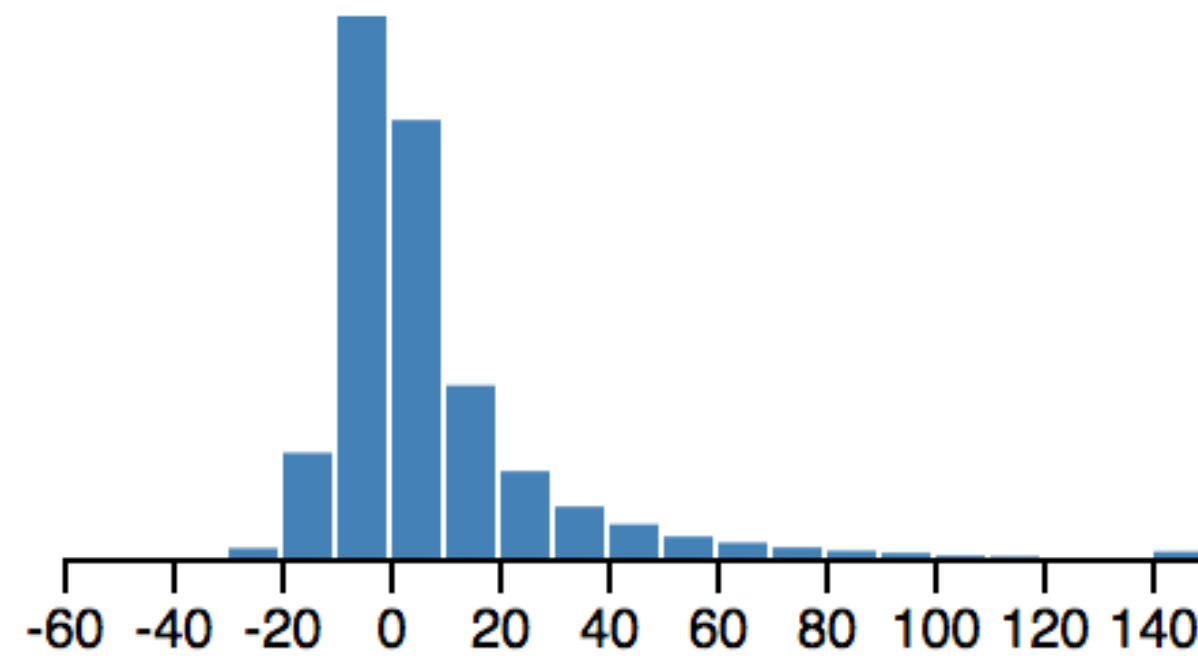


<https://square.github.io/crossfilter/>

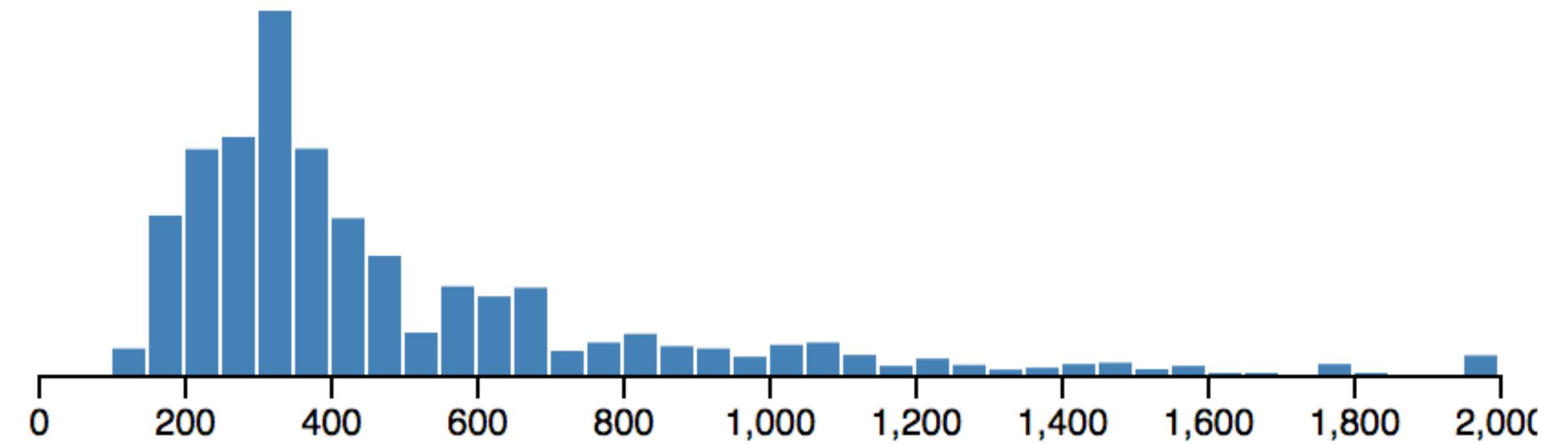
Time of Day



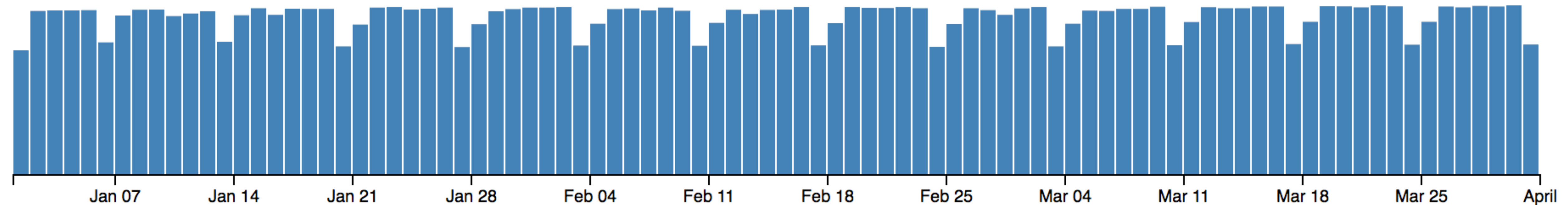
Arrival Delay (min.)



Distance (mi.)



Date



What insights do you notice?

Classbuzz: crossfilter

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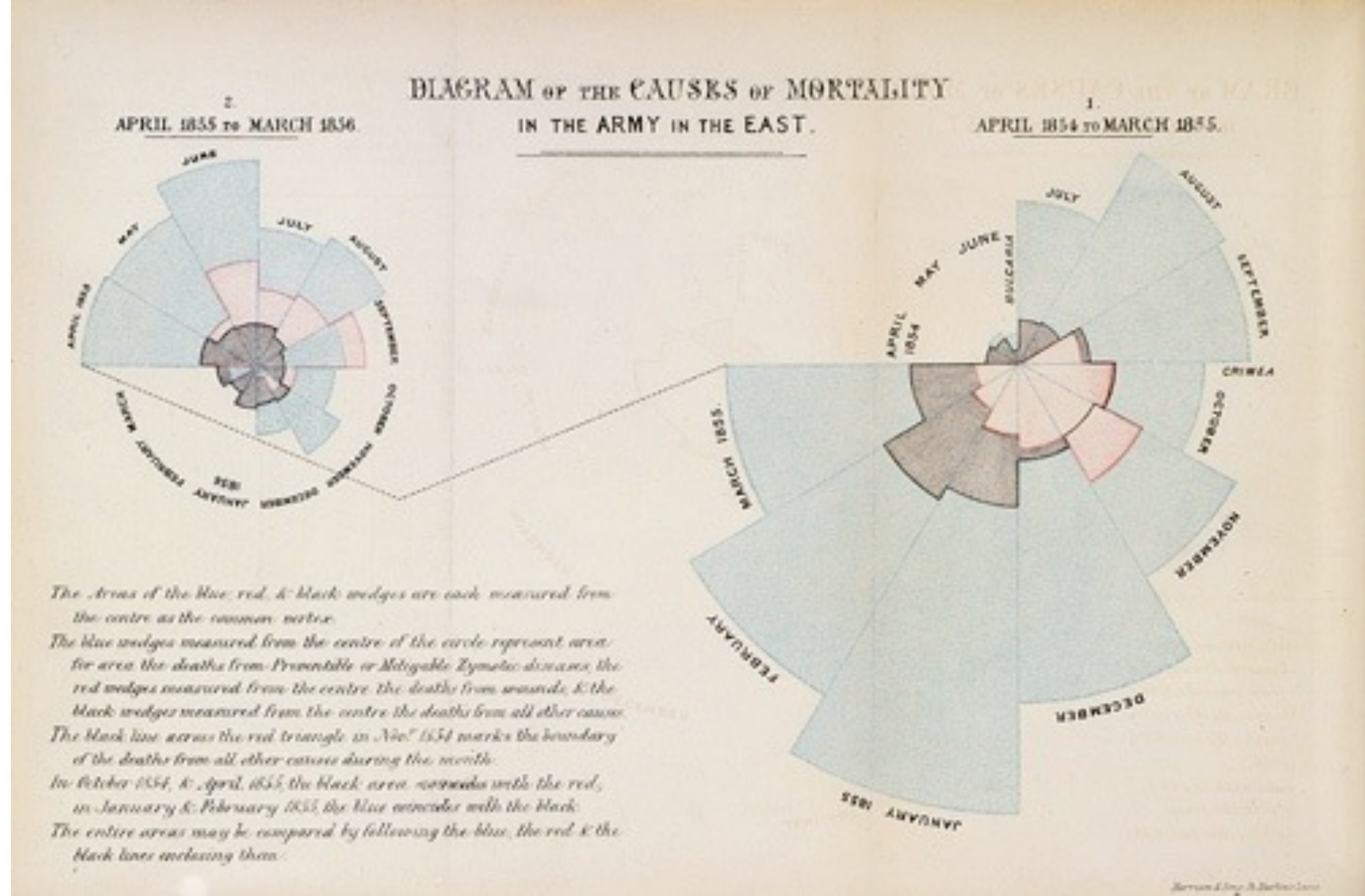
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"to affect thro' the Eyes what we fail to convey to the public through their word-proof ears"

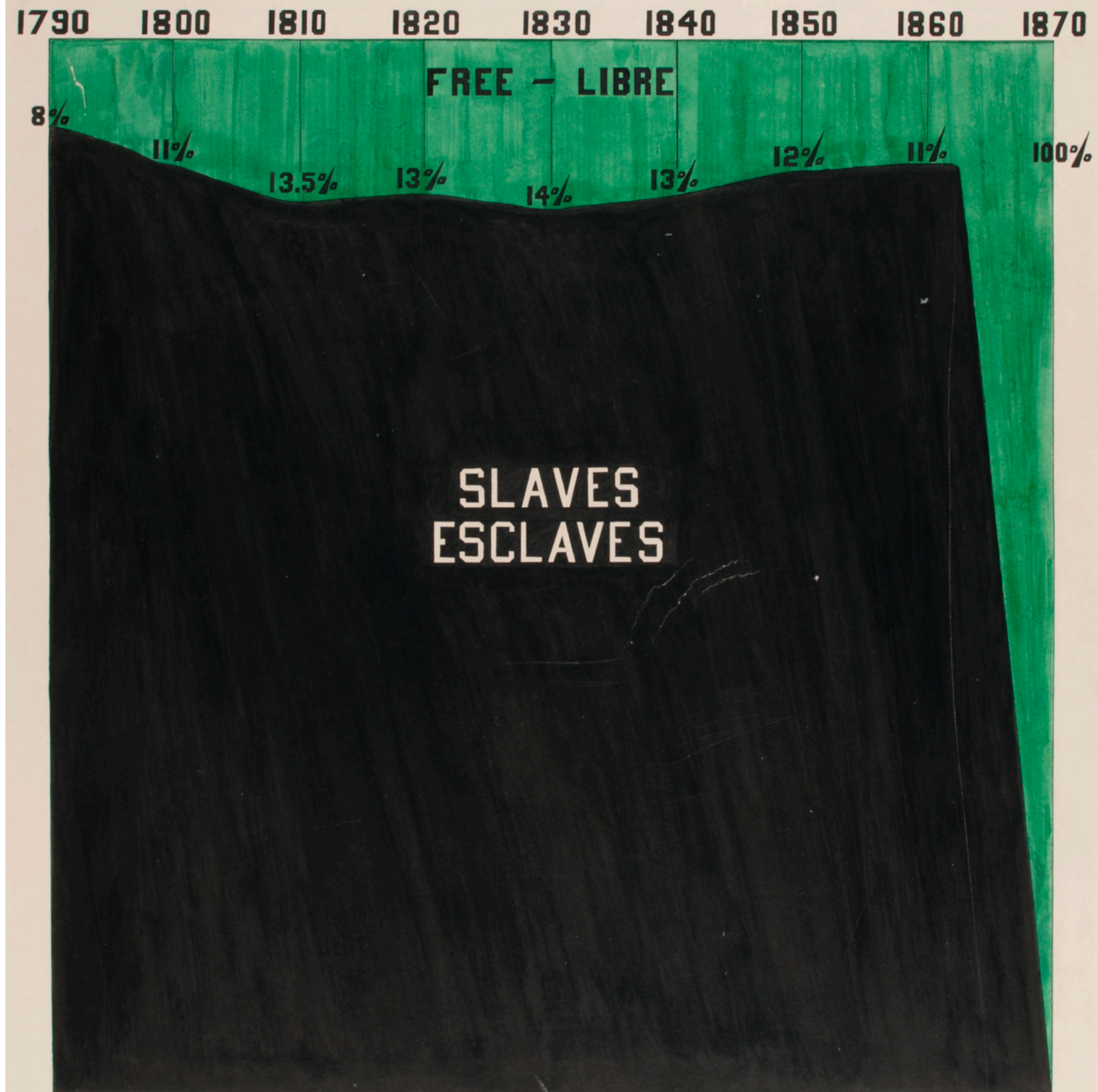


1856 "Coxcomb" of Crimean War Deaths, Florence Nightingale

PROPORTION OF FREEMEN AND SLAVES AMONG AMERICAN NEGROES .

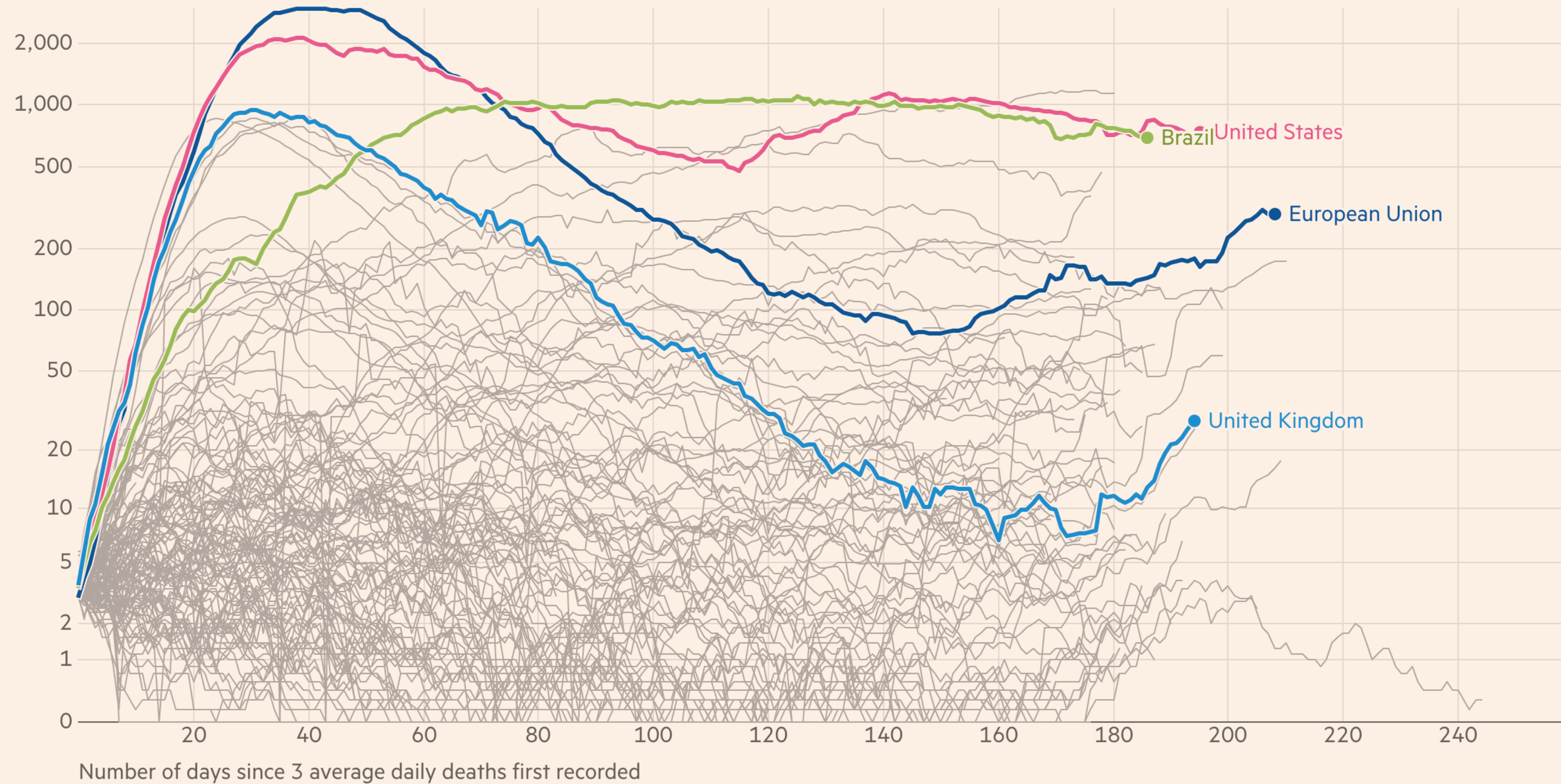
PROPORTION DES NÈGRES LIBRES ET DES ESCLAVES EN AMÉRIQUE .

DONE BY ATLANTA UNIVERSITY .



# New deaths attributed to Covid-19 in European Union, United States, Brazil and United Kingdom

Seven-day rolling average of new deaths, by number of days since 3 average daily deaths first recorded



Source: Financial Times analysis of data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the Covid Tracking Project, the UK Dept of Health & Social Care and the Spanish Ministry of Health.  
Data updated September 25 2020 12.46pm BST. Interactive version: [ft.com/covid19](https://www.ft.com/covid19)

FINANCIAL TIMES

## Coronavirus Tracked John Burn-Murdoch & Financial Times

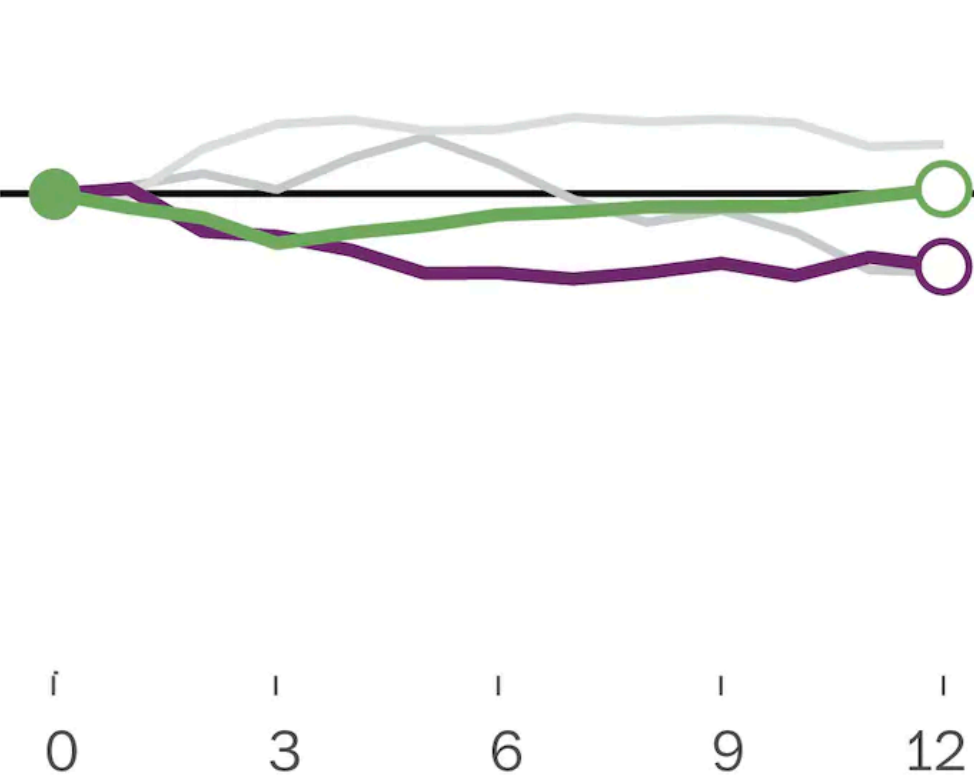
# The coronavirus crisis is different

Job growth (or loss) since each recession began, based on weekly earnings

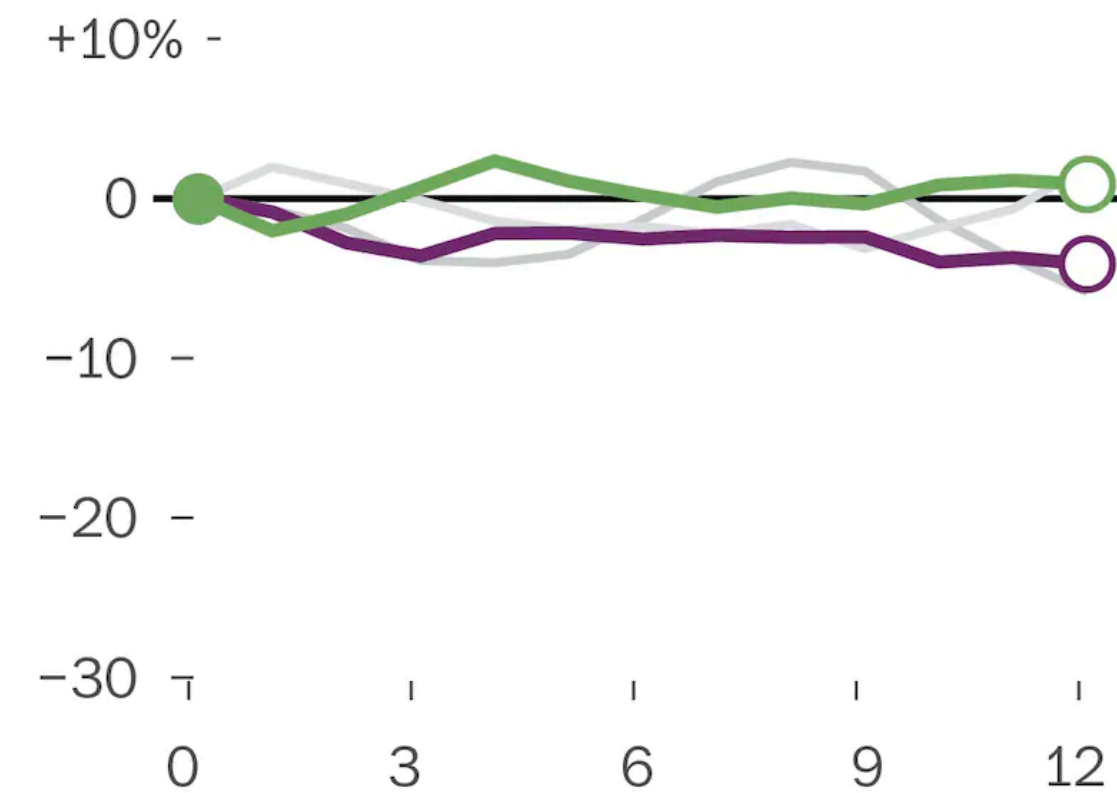
## 1990 recession



## 2001 recession



## 2008 recession



## Coronavirus crisis



Notes: Based on a three-month average to show the trend in volatile data.

Source: Labor Department via IPUMS, with methodology assistance from Ernie Tedeschi of Evercore ISI

THE WASHINGTON POST

**The Covid Economy**  
Washington Post



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# About this Course

# About Me

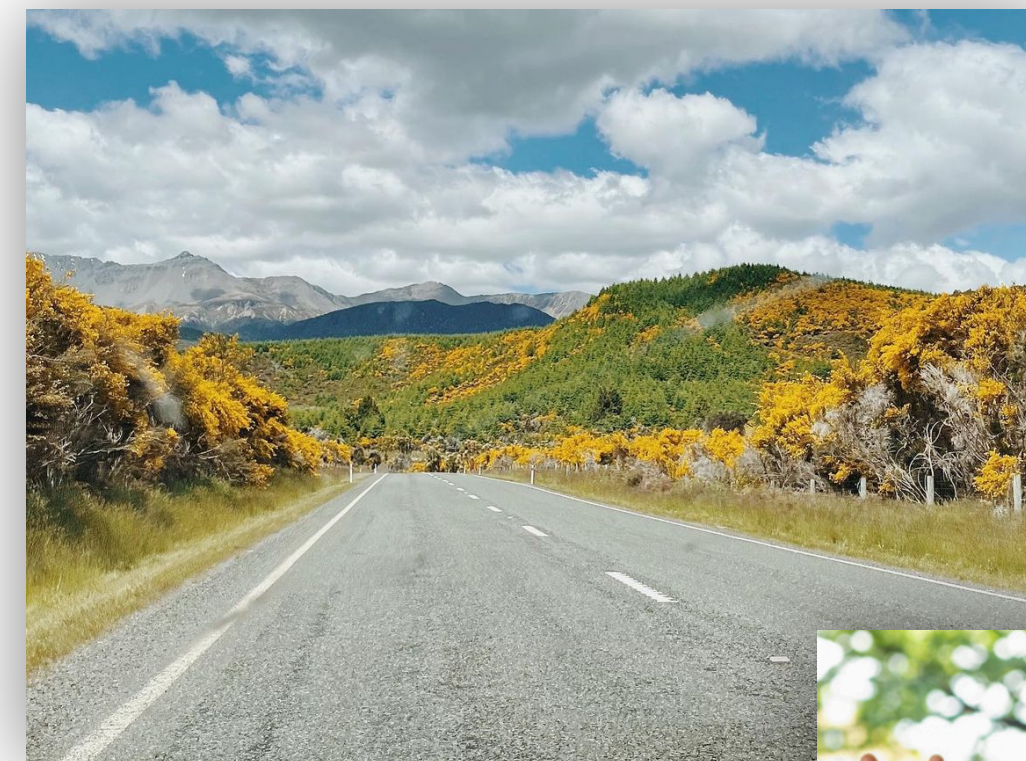
Assistant Teaching Professor, HDSI  
[lau.ucsd.edu](mailto:lau.ucsd.edu)

*Email: [lau@ucsd.edu](mailto:lau@ucsd.edu)*

Tools for visualizing programs  
(Pandas Tutor), curriculum design  
(Learning Data Science textbook)

## What makes me smile:

My wife, good food, traveling,  
students who put in their best effort!



# Course staff

See [dsc106.com](http://dsc106.com)  
for our OH times

*Instructor*

**Sam Lau**

*Teaching Assistants*

**Giorgia Nicolaou (Head TA)**

**Smruthi Gowtham**

**Muchan Li**

Questions about  
course logistics?  
Email Giorgia!

*Tutors*

**Ethan Cao**

**Gabriel Cha**

**Nate del Rosario**

**Jesse Huang**

**Anastasiya Markova**

**Bill Wang**

**Lauren Zhang**

**Christopher Lum**



# Learning Objectives

By the end of this course:

- Understand and apply key visualization techniques and theory.
- Design, evaluate, and critique visualization designs.
- Implement interactive data visualizations for the web using D3.js.
- Develop a substantial visualization project.

# This Quarter: Health Data (with Prof Ben Smarr)



You will visualize health data in Projects 2, 3, and the Final Project

Ben will give guest lecture on Jan 22 to introduce datasets and background

For Final Project Showcase, we will invite outside guests (industry and medicine)

# Grade Breakdown

Component	Weight
Participation	8%
Labs	8%
Project 1	10%
Project 2	15%
Project 3	15%
Project Checkpoints	4%
Final Project	40%



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Component	Weight
Participation	8%
Labs	8%
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Project 3	15%
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Final Project	40%

1% per week (2 lowest weeks dropped). 3 options:

1. Attend both lectures, discussion, and participate in the lecture activities.
2. Share and critique 1 viz example on Ed.
3. Respond to 2 viz examples on Ed.

See website for full details.

# Grade Breakdown

Component	Weight
Participation	8%
Labs	8%
Project 1	10%
Project 2	15%
Project 3	15%
Project Checkpoints	4%
Final Project	40%

9 labs, 1% per lab, 1 lowest dropped.

# Grade Breakdown

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Project 3	15%
Project Checkpoints	4%
Final Project	40%

3 open-ended projects

# Grade Breakdown

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Final Project	40%

Final project will span last 4 weeks of course

# Grade Breakdown

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Project 1	10%
Project 2	15%
Project 3	15%
Project Checkpoints	4%
Final Project	40%

6 slip days for quarter.

You can use 1 slip day for labs,  
2 for project deadlines

But NOT for the Final Project  
submission deadline

# Communication

Use EdStem for all communication (my email is super slammed these days)

Email Giorgia, cc me for private questions related to course

Course website will stay up-to-date ([dsc106.com](http://dsc106.com))

# Where you're headed: Final Project

**Explorable Explanation** for health dataset

Initial **prototype** and **design reviews**

In-class demonstration **videos**

Submit and publish online

On March 18, **Final Project Showcase** (during our scheduled final exam time)

# BLACKJACK

Restart



**Dealer: ?**

Games: 687  
Wins: 275  
Losses: 339  
Ties: 73  
Money: -5300

Bet: \$ 100

Place

Simulate

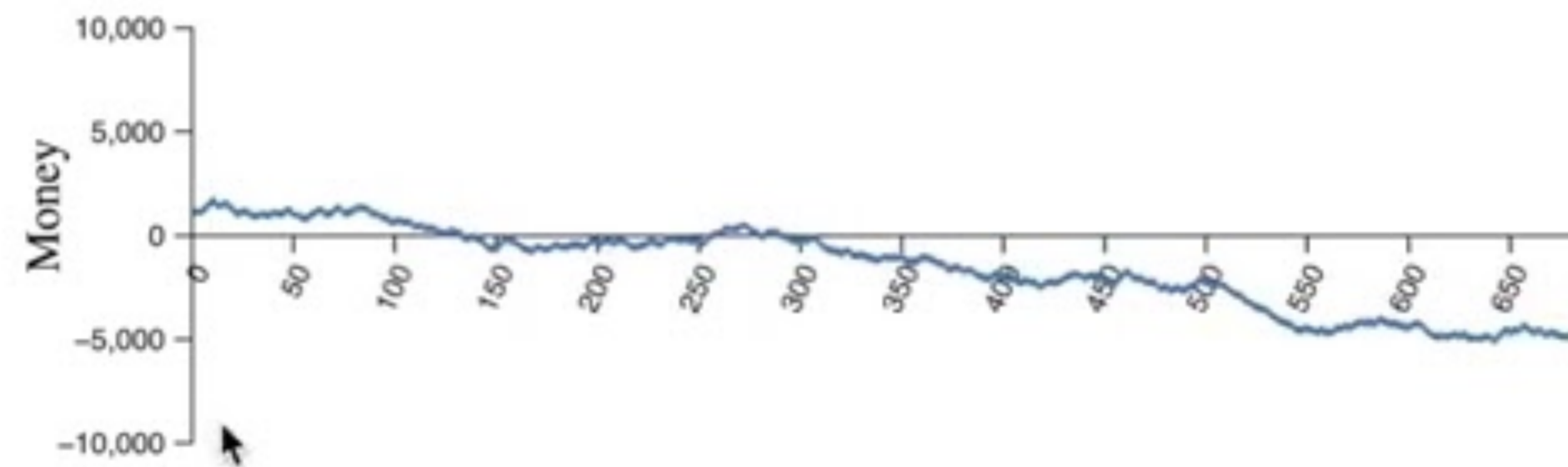


**Player: 17**

Hit

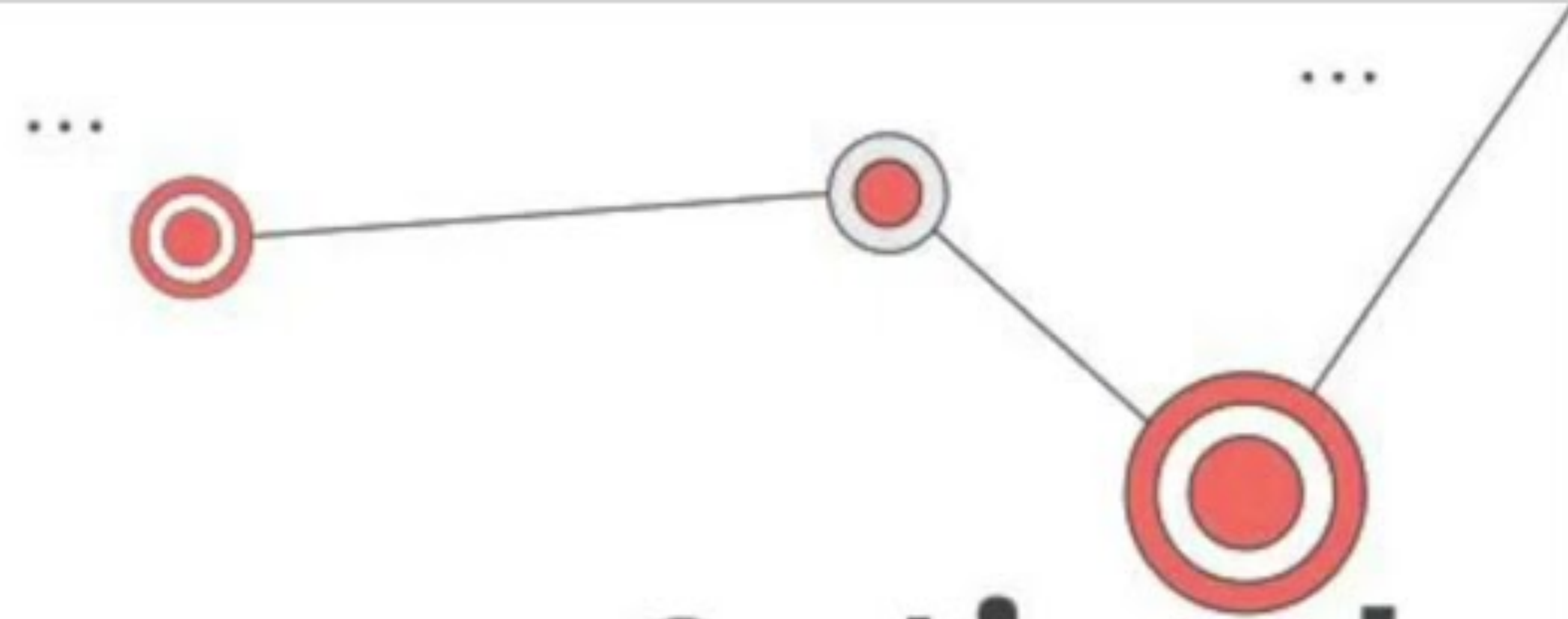
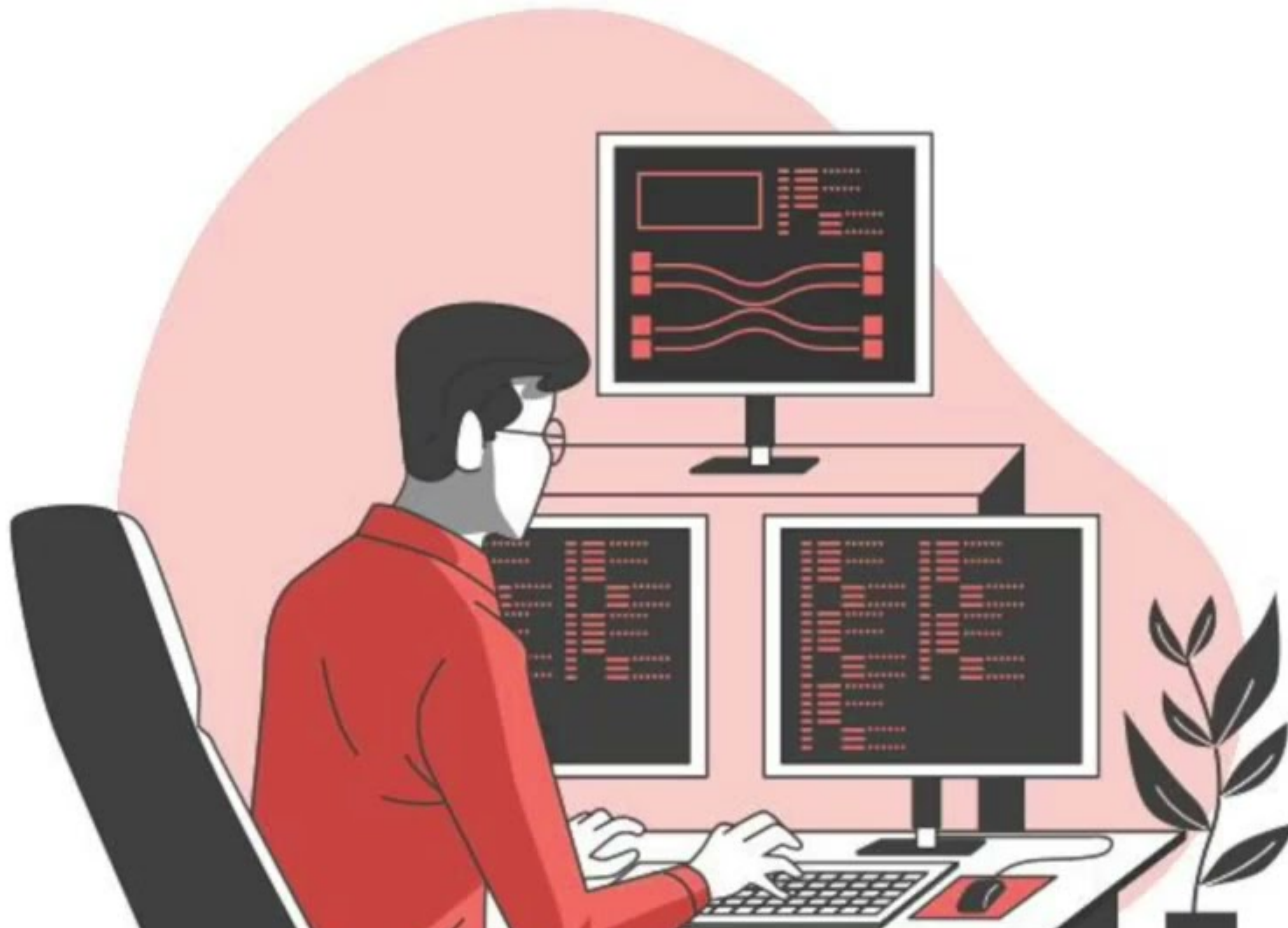
Stand

Double



<https://lukelin15.github.io/CardCounting/>





# Optimal Transport Mapping

Ashley Ho & Mizuho Fukuda

<https://mf02511.github.io/Optimal-Transport-Visualization/>

# Lab 1: Introduction to the Web Platform

Lab 1 released, due Friday.

## Step 4: Add a photo

- 1 Create an `images` folder in the root of your repository
- 2 Find a photo of yourself (or anything else you want) and save it in the `images` folder
- 3 Add an `<img>` element to your HTML page, with the `src` attribute set to the path to your image file (`images/your-image-file-name.jpg`)
- 4 Add an `alt` attribute to the `<img>` element with a short description of the image as you would describe it to someone who cannot see it.

### Katie-test: Personal site and portfolio

Hi, I'm Katie. I'm a web developer and designer. I'm currently working on my personal site and portfolio. Check back soon for updates!

Lorem ipsum dolor, sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit. Ea quia aspernatur mollitia pariatur cupiditate inventore et? Voluptatum, iste praesentium corrupti culpa itaque, repudiandae at, porro veniam doloremque dolor dolorum perferendis.

Lorem, ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit. Minus libero commodi vel dolore consectetur molestiae eligendi, delectus veritatis blanditibus facilis vero nesciunt. Excepturi distinctio impedit odio hic consequatur in ipsum.



please enjoy an actual photo of my dog

Figure 5: Our page now has a photo!

# Project 1: Expository visualization

Create **one static visualization** for a dataset (see course website).

Pick a **guiding question**, use it to title your vis.

Design a **static visualization** for that question.

You are free to **use any tools** (inc. pen & paper).

**Deliverables** (upload via Gradescope; see Project 1 page)

Image of your visualization (PNG or JPG format)

Short description + design rationale ( $\leq 4$  paragraphs)

**Checkpoint  
due next Tues**

**Questions?**