

# CS 526

# Computer Graphics II

## Marks & Channels

Khairi Reda | [redak@uic.edu](mailto:redak@uic.edu)

UIC CS

## **D3 exercises**

[go.uic.edu/d3](http://go.uic.edu/d3)

## **Web server instructions**

[go.uic.edu/webserver](http://go.uic.edu/webserver)

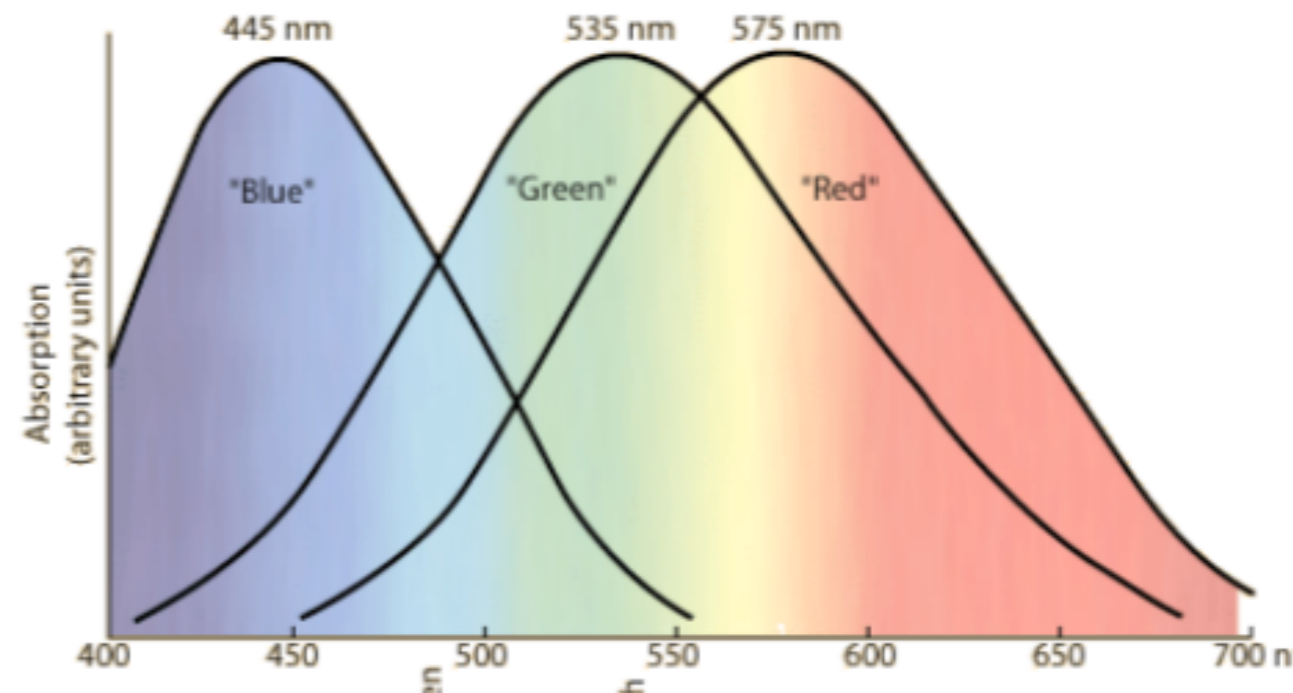
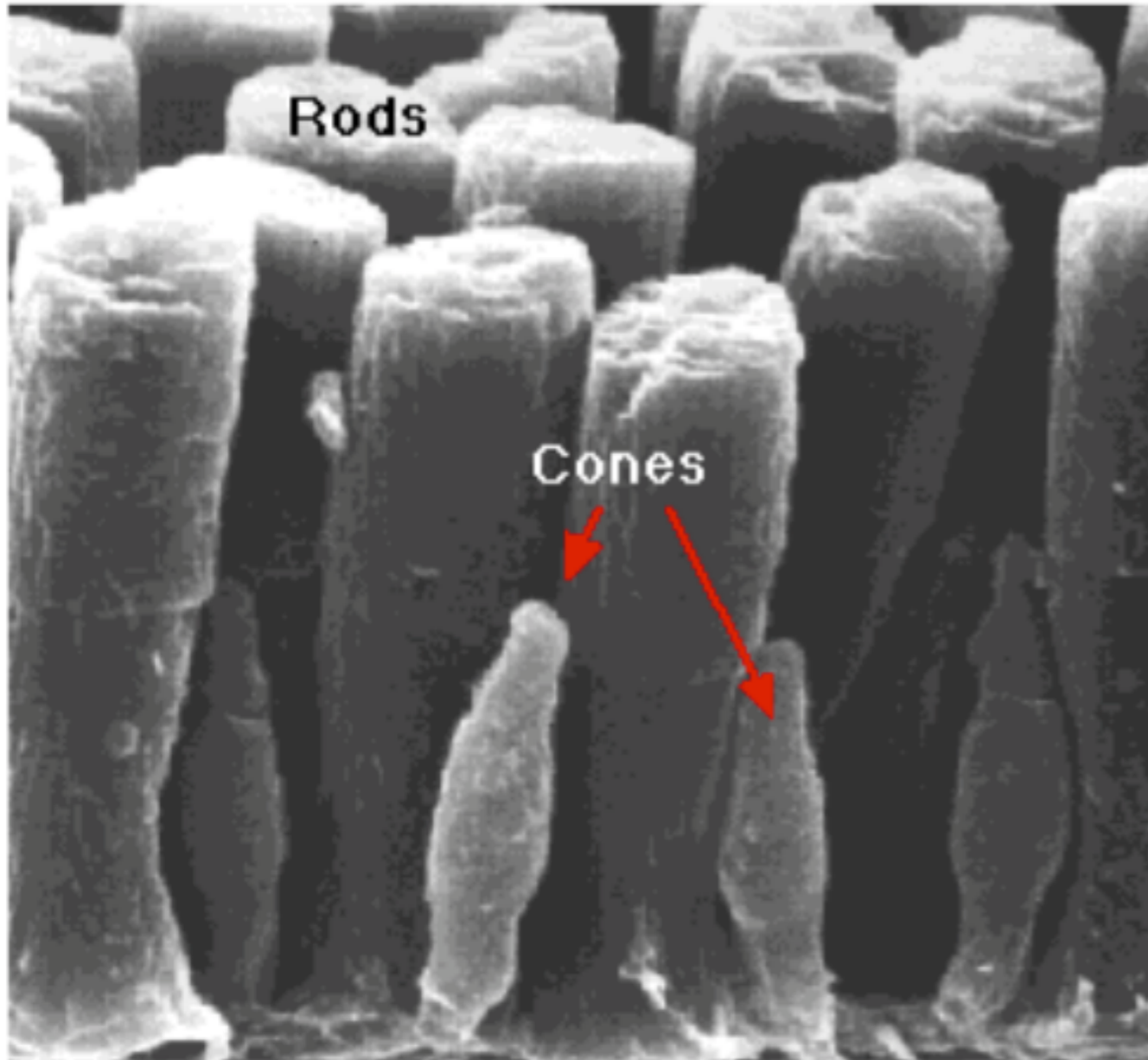
## **Running Python web server**

```
[ redak khairis-mbp Desktop ] cd webserver  
[ redak khairis-mbp webserver ] ls  
cat.jpg  
[ redak khairis-mbp webserver ] python3 -m http.server
```



**Last weeks...**

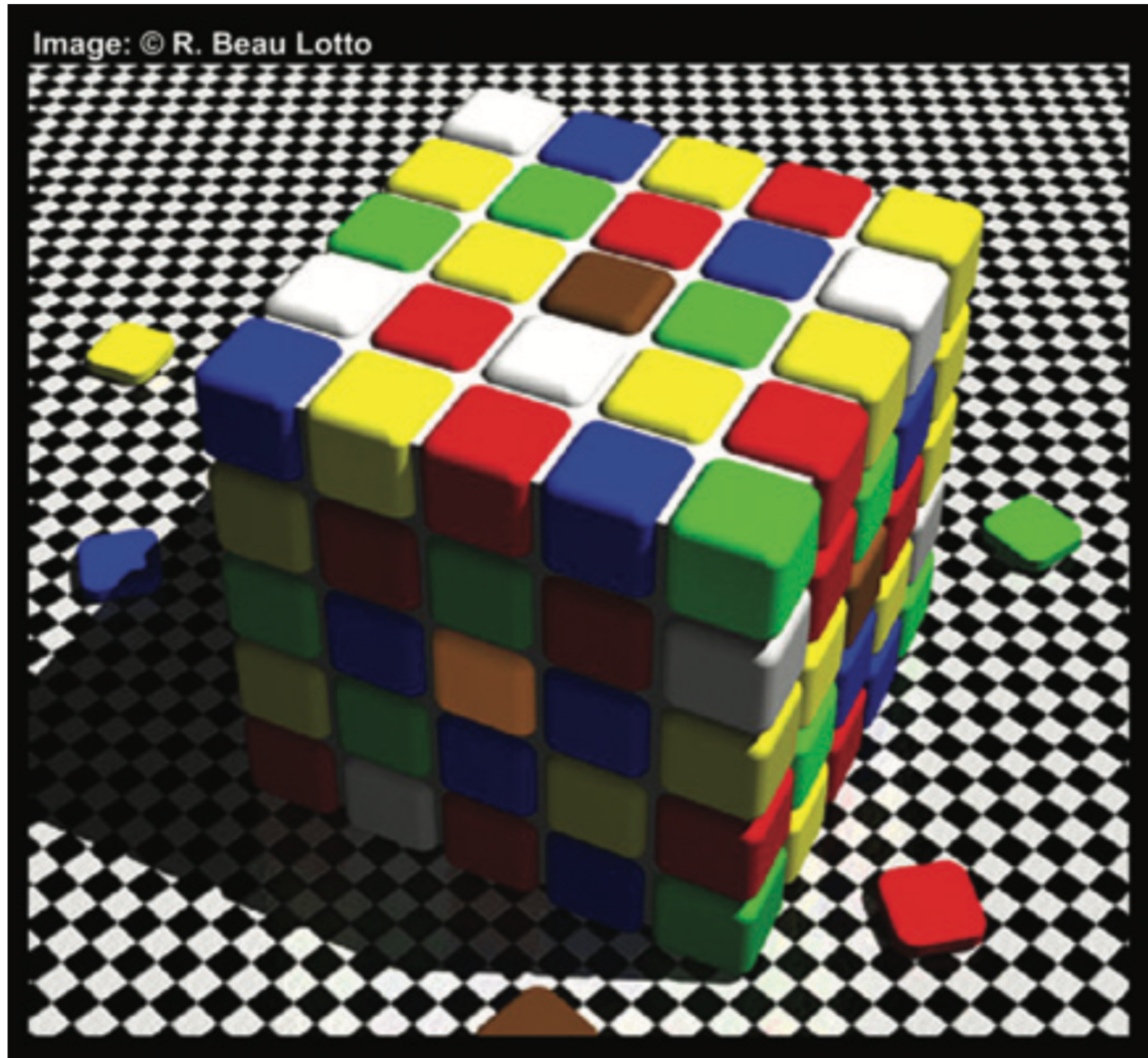
# Cones, Rods, Color vision



HyperPhysics, Georgia State University

Wandell, "Foundations of Vision"

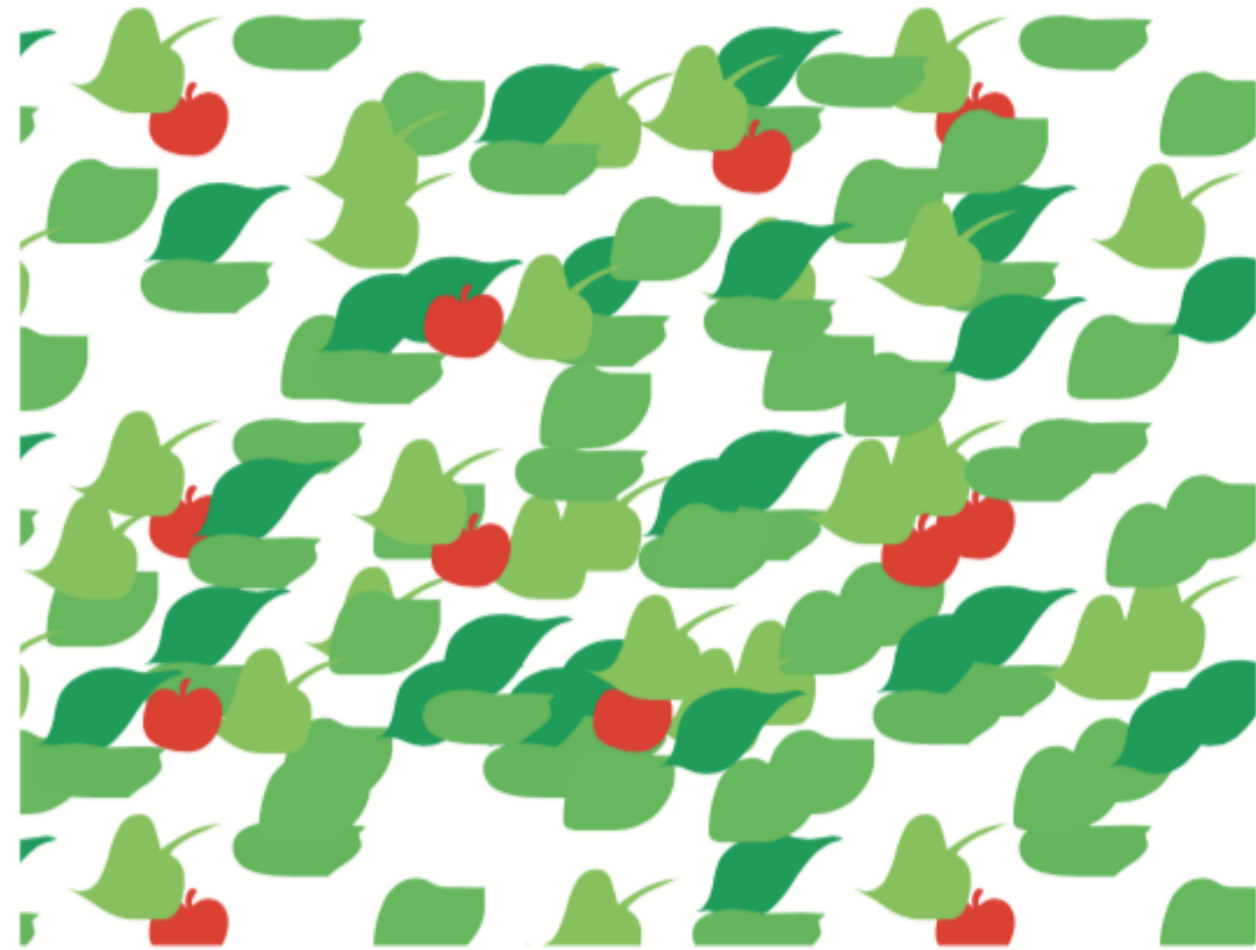
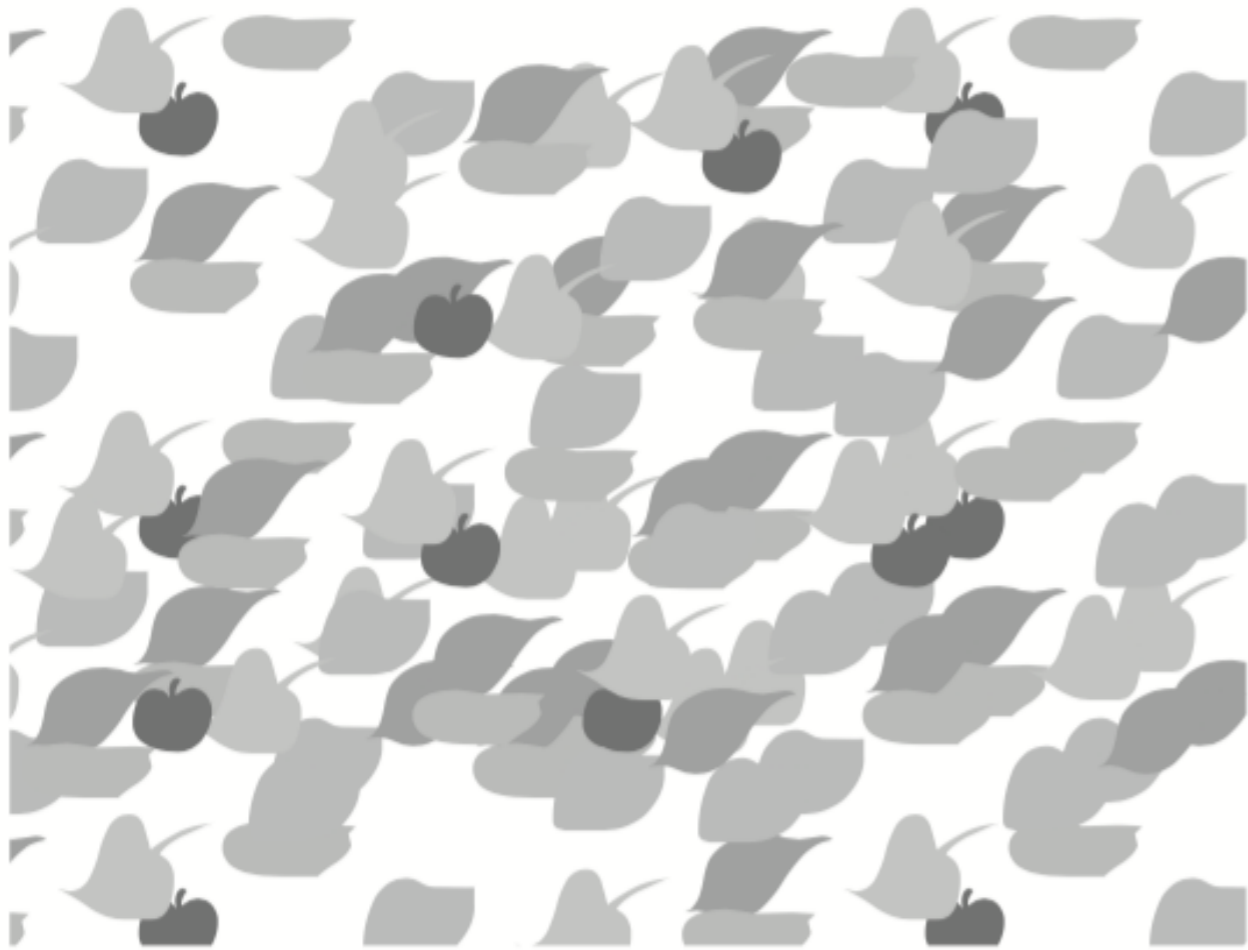
# Simultaneous contrast



# Simultaneous contrast



# POPOUT



# Last week...

Our visual system sees differences, not absolute values

We can easily see objects that are different in color and shape, or that are in motion (popouts)

Use color and shape sparingly to make the important information pop out

# **This week**

- **Visual encoding**
  - Marks and channels
  - Perceptual accuracy of channels

# Terminology

- **Items:** are individual units of data. For example: rows in a table, points on a timeline, nodes, ...
- **Attribute (or variable):** a property relating to items

# Tables

A	B	C	S	T	U
Order ID	Order Date	Order Priority	Product Container	Product Base Margin	Ship Date
3	10/14/06	5-Low	Large Box	0.8	10/21/06
6	2/21/08	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.55	2/22/08
32	7/16/07	2-High	Small Pack	0.79	7/17/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Jumbo Box		7/17/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Medium Box		7/18/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Medium Box	0.65	7/18/07
35	10/23/07	4-Not Specified	Wrap Bag	0.52	10/24/07
35	10/23/07	4-Not Specified	Small Box	0.58	10/25/07
36	11/3/07	1-Urgent	Small Box	0.55	11/3/07
65	3/18/07	1-Urgent	Small Pack	0.49	3/19/07
66	1/20/05	5-Low	Wrap Bag	0.56	1/20/05
69	5	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.44	6/6/05
69	5	4-Not Specified	Wrap Bag	0.6	6/6/05
70	12/18/06	5-Low	Small Box	0.59	12/23/06
70	12/18/06	5-Low	Wrap Bag	0.82	12/23/06
96	4/17/05	2-High	Small Box	0.55	4/19/05
97	1/29/06	3-Medium	Small Box	0.38	1/30/06
129	11/19/08	5-Low	Small Box	0.37	11/28/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Small Box	0.37	5/9/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Medium Box	0.38	5/10/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Small Box	0.6	5/11/08
132	6/11/06	3-Medium	Medium Box	0.6	6/12/06
132	6/11/06	3-Medium	Jumbo Box	0.69	6/14/06
134	5/1/08	4-Not Specified	Large Box	0.82	5/3/08
135	10/21/07	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.64	10/23/07
166	9/12/07	2-High	Small Box	0.55	9/14/07
193	8/8/06	1-Urgent	Medium Box	0.57	8/10/06
194	4/5/08	3-Medium	Wrap Bag	0.42	4/7/08

# Attribute/Variable Types

## ◆ Categorical (Nominal, Qualitative)



A finite set of categories

No implicit ordering between categories

## ◆ Ordered

### • Ordinal

Implicit ordering between categories/levels, but no clear magnitude difference.

Can compare and determine greater/less than



### • Quantitative

Meaningful magnitude

Can do arithmetic



# Quantitative Data

## Interval vs. Ratio

### ◆ Interval

- Zero does not indicate an absence of detectable measurement
- We can determine distance between measurement, but not proportions
- Example: temperature (Celsius or Fahrenheit), date

### ◆ Ratio

- The position of zero indicates there is nothing of the measured entity
- Can determine ratio and proportions
- Example: weight, age

# Quick check

What attribute/variable type (Categorical, Ordinal, Quantitative) best fit the following measurements?

- Speed
- Facebook reactions (Like, Angry, Sad, etc...)
- Car configurations (Compact, Mid-Sedan, SUV)
- Product Name
- IQ scores
- College Majors
- 50-meter race time

A	B	C	S	T	U
Order ID	Order Date	Order Priority	Product Container	Product Base Margin	Ship Date
3	10/14/06	5-Low	Large Box	0.8	10/21/06
6	2/21/08	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.55	2/22/08
32	7/16/07	2-High	Small Pack	0.79	7/17/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Jumbo Box	0.72	7/17/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Medium Box	0.6	7/18/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Medium Box	0.65	7/18/07
35	10/23/07	4-Not Specified	Wrap Bag	0.52	10/24/07
35	10/23/07	4-Not Specified	Small Box	0.58	10/25/07
36	11/3/07	1-Urgent	Small Box	0.55	11/3/07
65	3/18/07	1-Urgent	Small Pack	0.49	3/19/07
66	1/20/05	5-Low	Wrap Bag	0.56	1/20/05
69	6/4/05	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.44	6/6/05
69	6/4/05	4-Not Specified		0.6	6/6/05
70	12/18/06	5-Low		0.59	12/23/06
70	12/18/06	5-Low		0.82	12/23/06
96	4/17/05	2-High		0.55	4/19/05
97	1/29/06	3-Medium		0.38	1/30/06
129	11/19/08	5-Low		0.37	11/28/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Small Box	0.37	5/9/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Medium Box	0.38	5/10/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Small Box	0.6	5/11/08
132	6/11/06	3-Medium	Medium Box	0.6	6/12/06
132	6/11/06	3-Medium	Jumbo Box	0.69	6/14/06
134	5/1/08	4-Not Specified	Large Box	0.82	5/3/08
135	10/21/07	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.64	10/23/07
166	9/12/07	2-High	Small Box	0.55	9/14/07
193	8/8/06	1-Urgent	Medium Box	0.57	8/10/06
194	4/5/08	3-Medium	Wrap Bag	0.42	4/7/08

quantitative  
ordinal  
categorical

A	B	C	S	T	U
Order ID	Order Date	Order Priority	Product Container	Product Base Margin	Ship Date
3	10/14/06	5-Low	Large Box	0.8	10/21/06
6	2/21/08	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.55	2/22/08
32	7/16/07	2-High	Small Pack	0.79	7/17/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Jumbo Box	0.72	7/17/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Medium Box	0.6	7/18/07
32	7/16/07	2-High	Medium Box	0.65	7/18/07
35	10/23/07	4-Not Specified	Wrap Bag	0.52	10/24/07
35	10/23/07	4-Not Specified	Small Box	0.58	10/25/07
36	11/3/07	1-Urgent	Small Box	0.55	11/3/07
65	3/18/07	1-Urgent	Small Pack	0.49	3/19/07
66	1/20/05	5-Low	Wrap Bag	0.56	1/20/05
69	6/4/05	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.44	6/6/05
69	6/4/05	4-Not Specified		0.6	6/6/05
70	12/18/06	5-Low		0.59	12/23/06
70	12/18/06	5-Low		0.82	12/23/06
96	4/17/05	2-High		0.55	4/19/05
97	1/29/06	3-Medium		0.38	1/30/06
129	11/19/08	5-Low		0.37	11/28/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Small Box	0.37	5/9/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Medium Box	0.38	5/10/08
130	5/8/08	2-High	Small Box	0.6	5/11/08
132	6/11/06	3-Medium	Medium Box	0.6	6/12/06
132	6/11/06	3-Medium	Jumbo Box	0.69	6/14/06
134	5/1/08	4-Not Specified	Large Box	0.82	5/3/08
135	10/21/07	4-Not Specified	Small Pack	0.64	10/23/07
166	9/12/07	2-High	Small Box	0.55	9/14/07
193	8/8/06	1-Urgent	Medium Box	0.57	8/10/06
194	4/5/08	3-Medium	Wrap Bag	0.42	4/7/08

quantitative  
ordinal  
categorical

# **Marks & Channels**

The visualization alphabet

How can we represent two numbers:  
5, 10?

# Marks

Graphical elements in an image

**points (0D)**



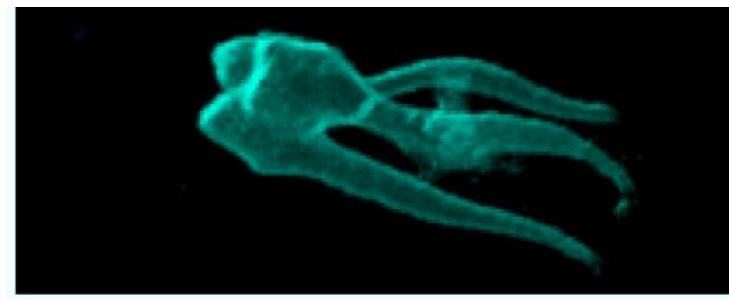
**lines (1D)**



**rectangles (2D)**



**volume clouds  
(3D)**



# Channels (aka Visual Variables)

Parameters that control the appearance of marks based on **attributes**

## → Position

→ Horizontal



→ Vertical



→ Both



## → Color



## → Shape

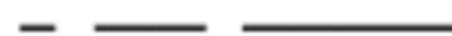


## → Tilt



## → Size

→ Length



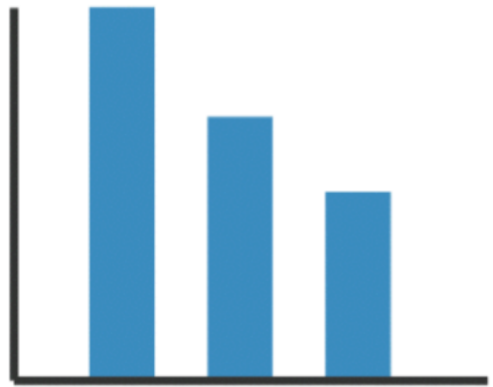
→ Area



→ Volume



# Name the mark & channel



**Mark:** Bar

**Channels:**

*Length* mapped to quantitative attribute

*Position* mapped to categorical attribute



**Mark:** Point

**Channels:**

*Position* (x,y) mapped to 2 quantitative attributes



**+Hue channel**

mapped to 1 categorical attribute



**+Size channel**

mapped to 1 quantitative attribute

# What's wrong here?

## Visual Integrity



The magnitude of a channel (length in this case) should be proportional to the attribute (snowfall)

# Name the channel

<https://tinyurl.com/ybjznp92>

The New York Times

**SundayReview** | The Opinion Pages

Search All NYTimes.com

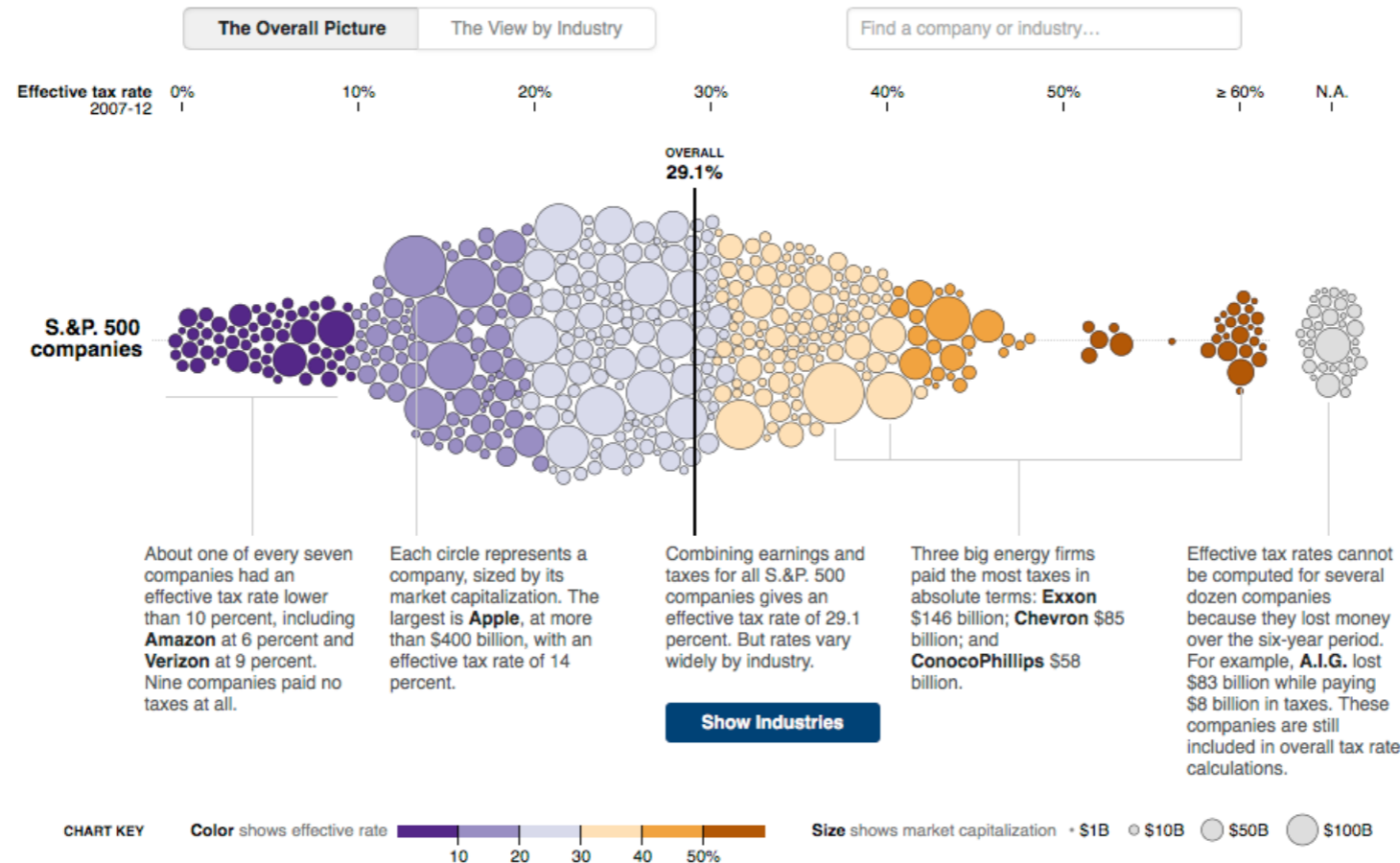
WORLD U.S. N.Y./REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL **JOBS** REAL ESTATE

Published: May 25, 2013

FACEBOOK TWITTER GOOGLE+ EMAIL

## Across U.S. Companies, Tax Rates Vary Greatly

Last week, in a Congressional hearing, Apple got grilled for its low-tax strategy. But not every business can copy that approach. Here is a look at what S.&P. 500 companies paid in corporate income taxes — federal, state, local and foreign — from 2007 to 2012, according to S&P Capital IQ. [Related Article »](#)



# Channel Types

identity (what or where)

magnitude (how much)

→ Position

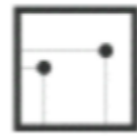
→ Horizontal



→ Vertical



→ Both



→ Color



→ Shape



→ Tilt

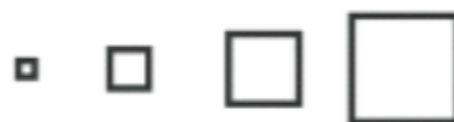


→ Size

→ Length



→ Area



→ Volume



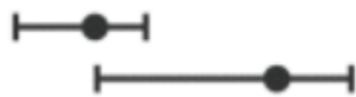
## magnitude channels

good for **ordered** attributes

Position on common scale



Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



Tilt/angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



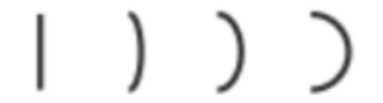
Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



## identity channels

good for **categorical** attributes

Spatial region



Color hue



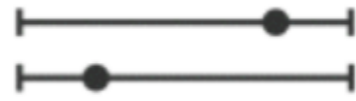
Motion



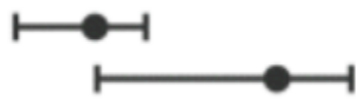
Shape



Position on common scale



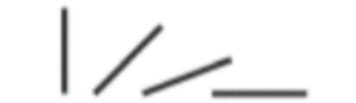
Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



Tilt/angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



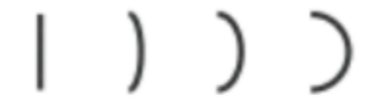
Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



Same

Effectiveness



Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



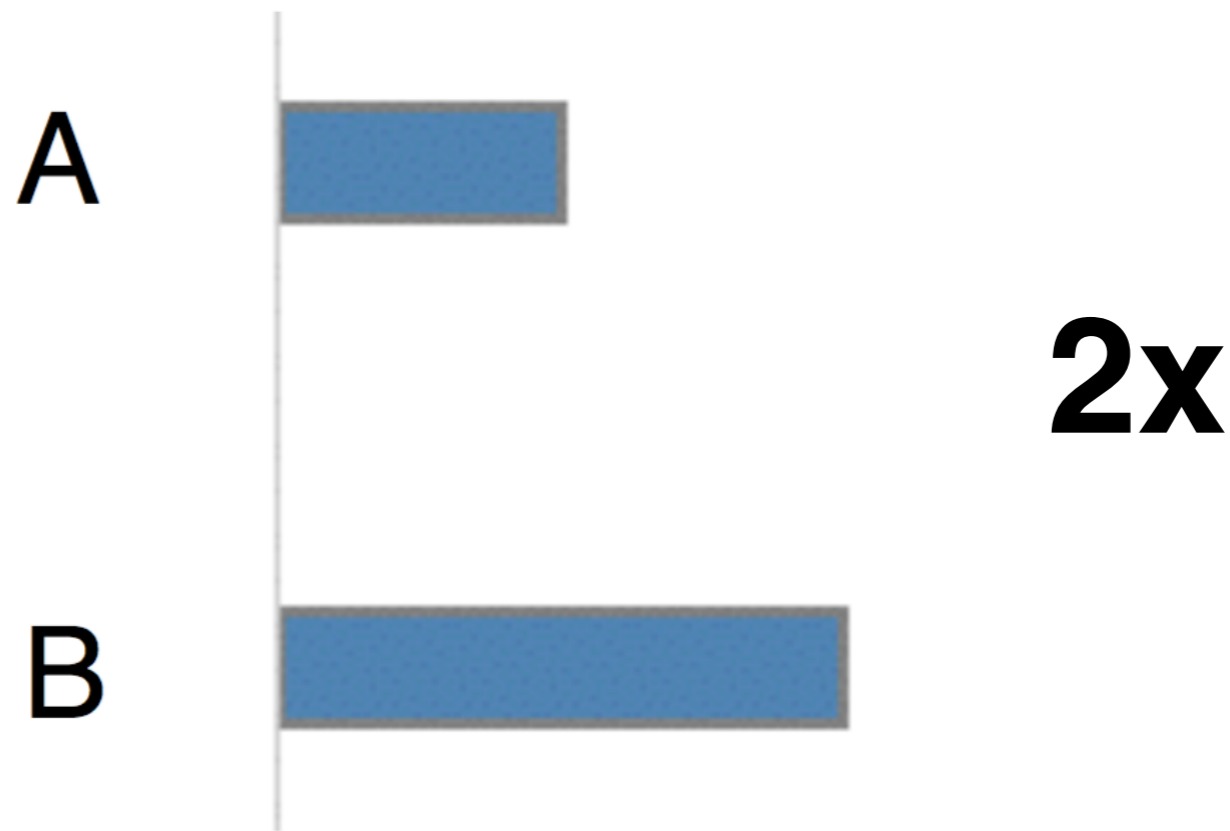
Shape



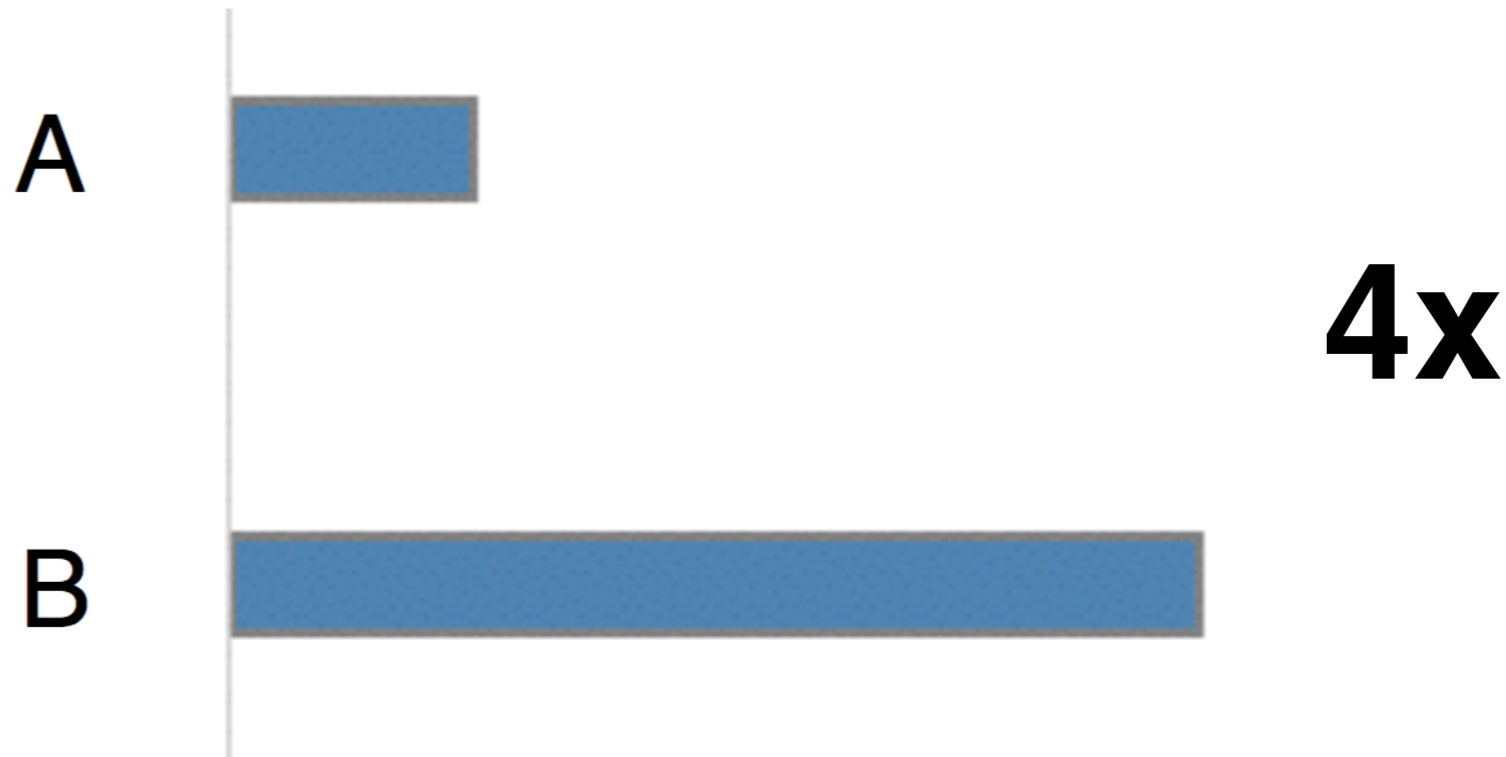
How do we know the relative accuracy of the visual channels?

Let's play a game...

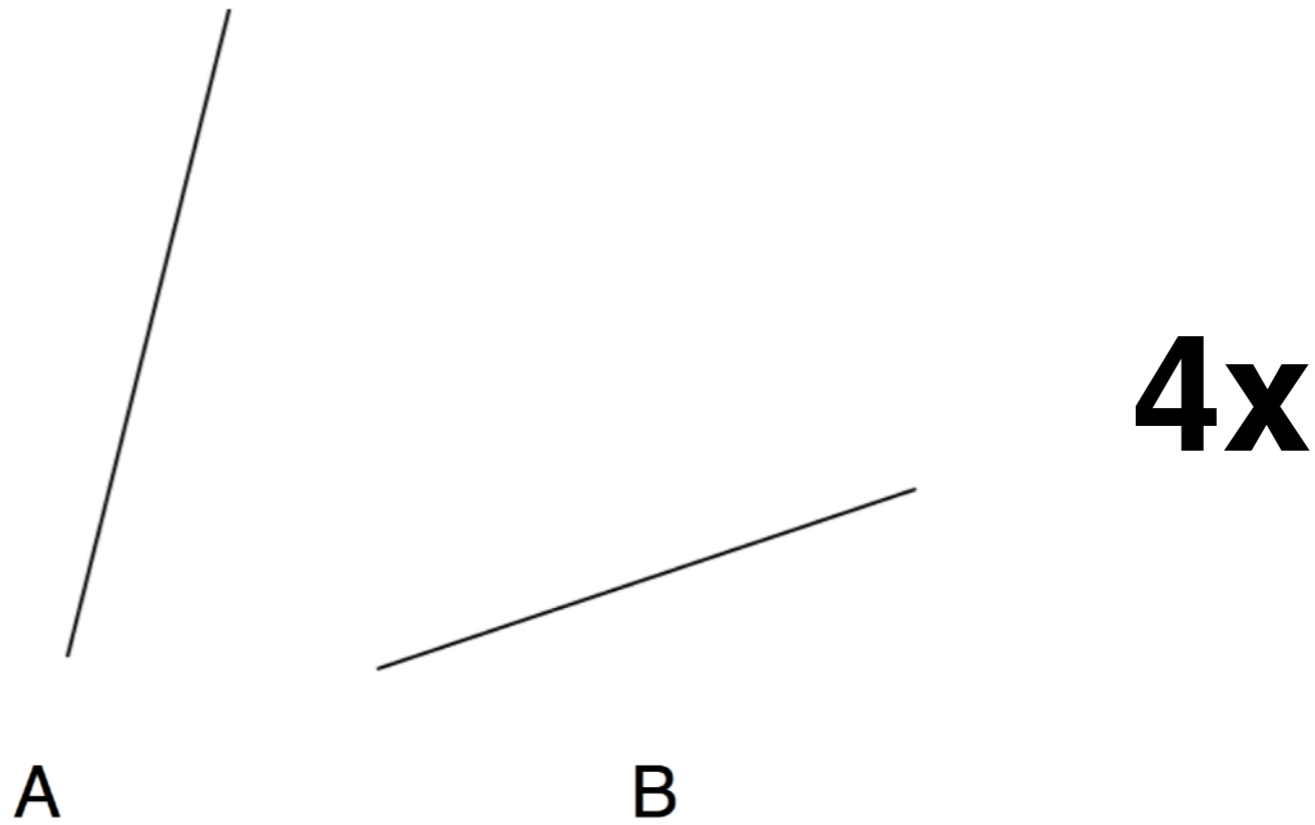
# How much longer?



# How much longer?



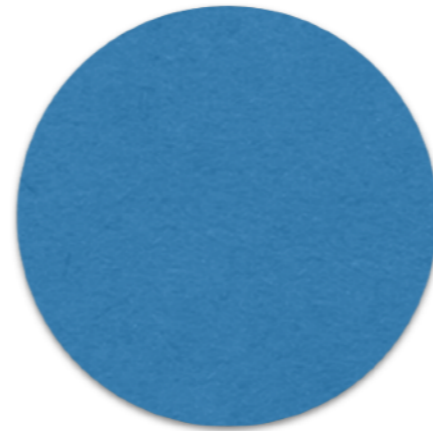
# How much tilt?



# How much larger (area)?



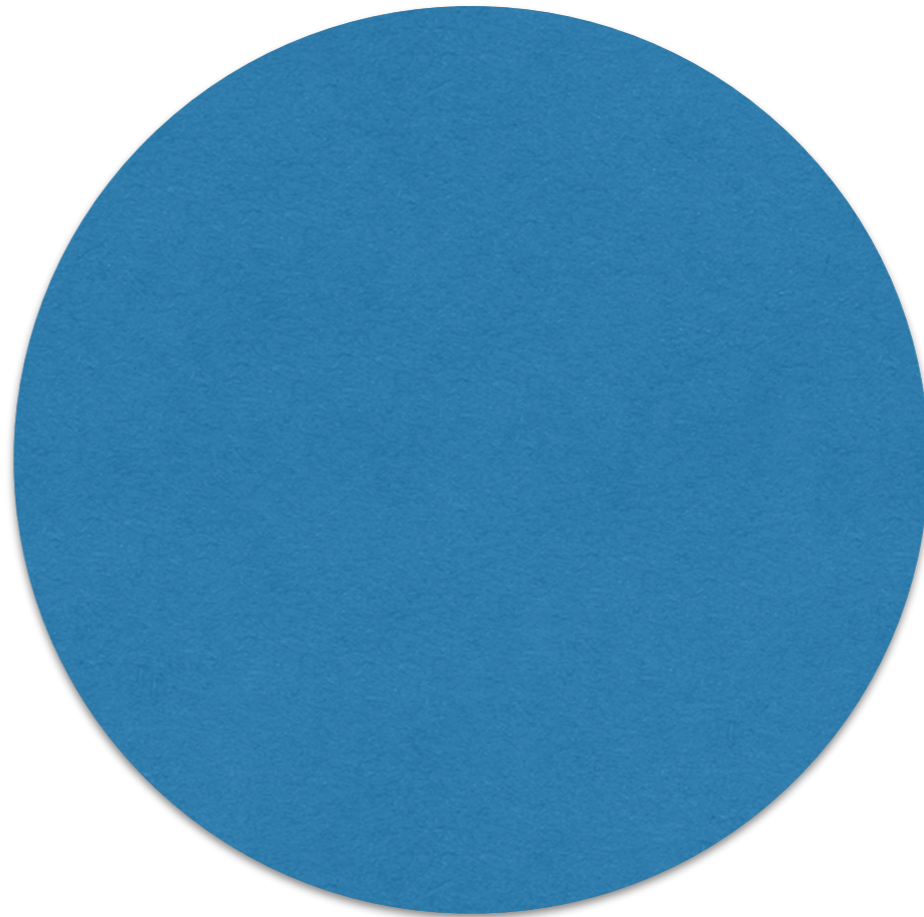
A



B

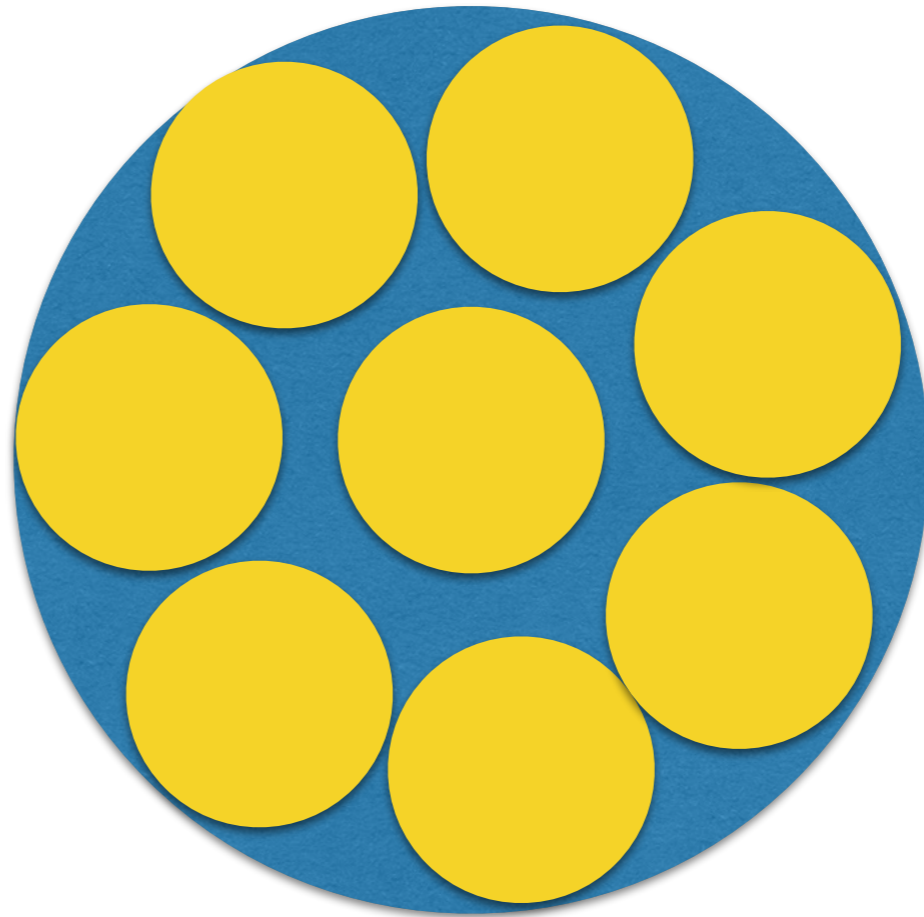
**5x**

**How much larger (area)?**



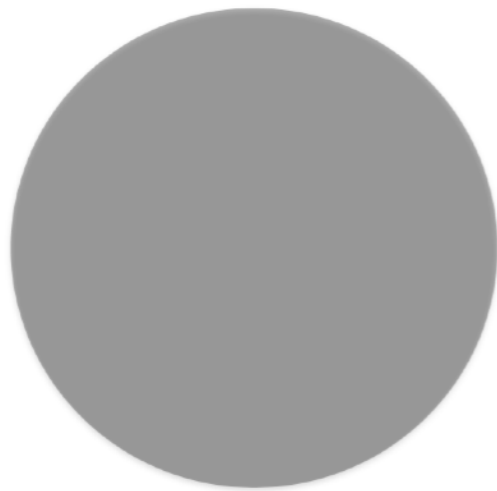
**11x**

# How much larger (area)?

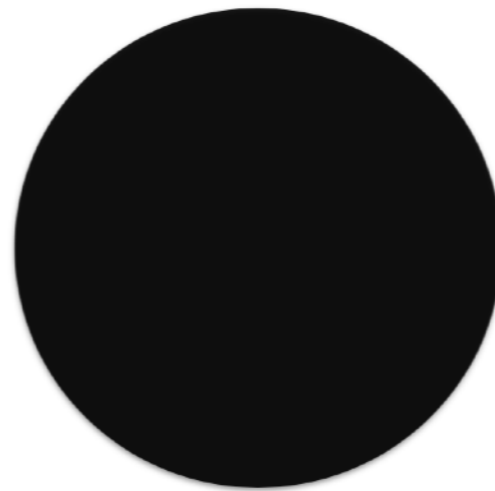


**11x**

# How much darker?



A

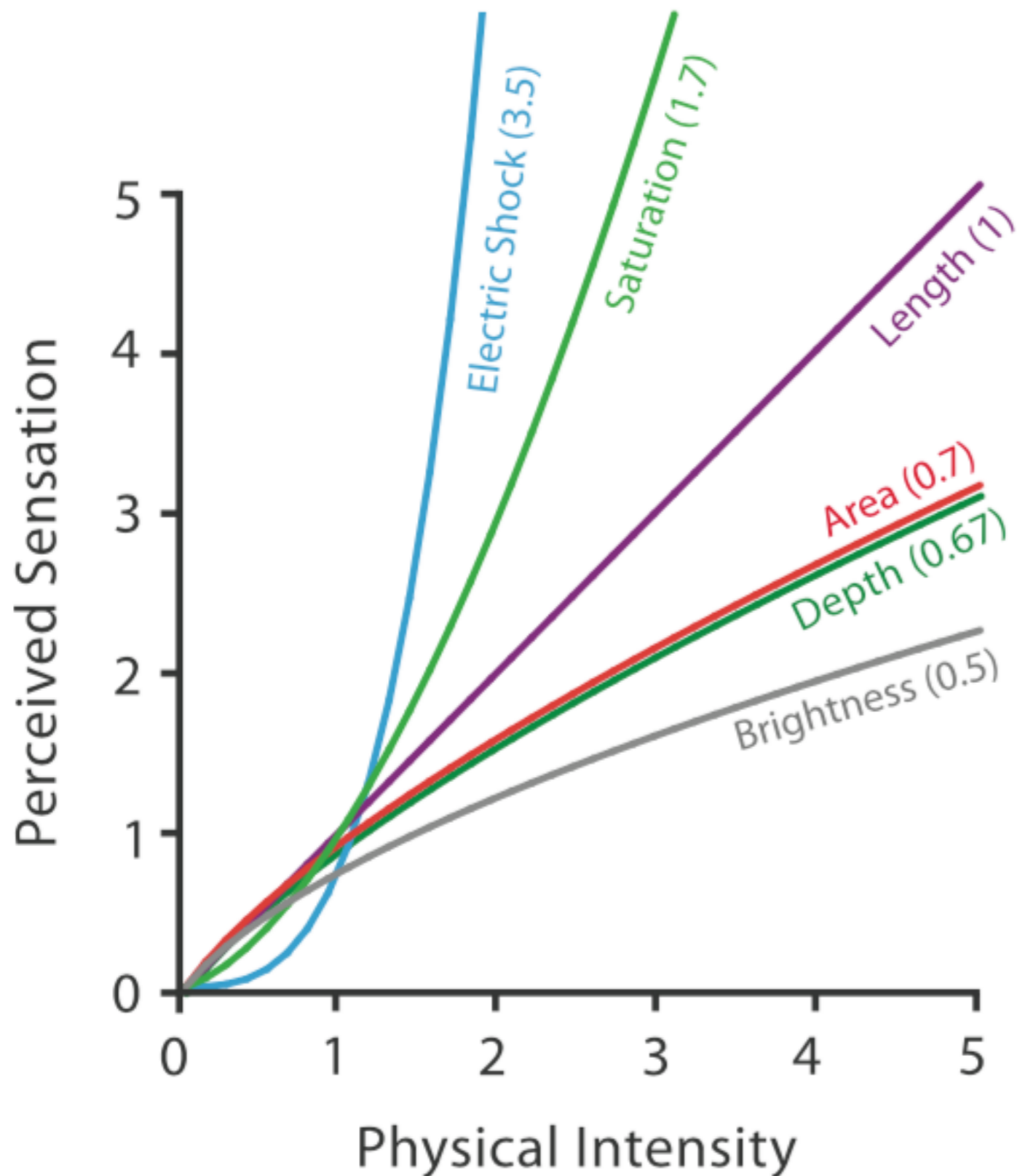


B

**3x**

# Psychophysics

Steven's Psychological power law



perceived  
**sensation**

$$S = I^n$$

physical  
**intensity**

# Cleveland & McGill, 1984

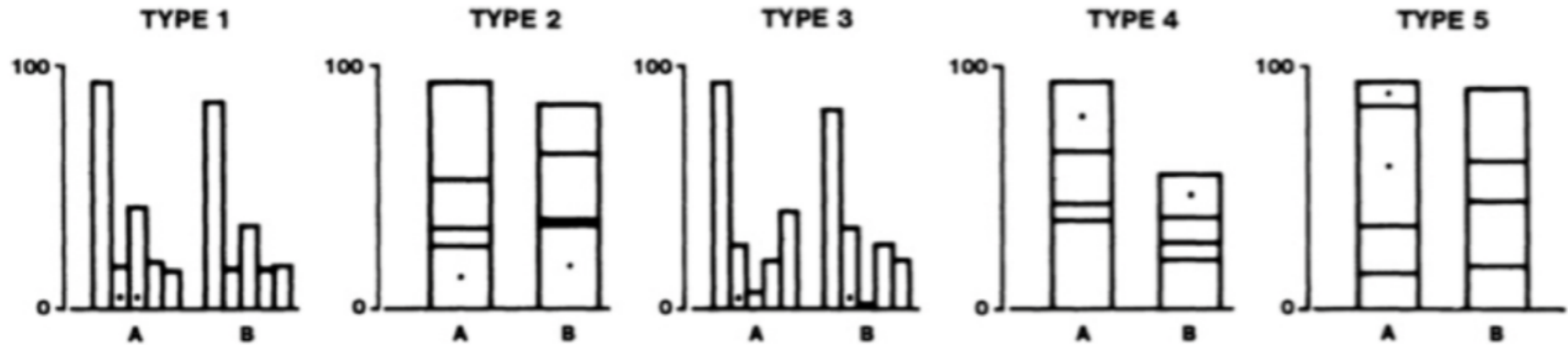


Figure 4. Graphs from position-length experiment.

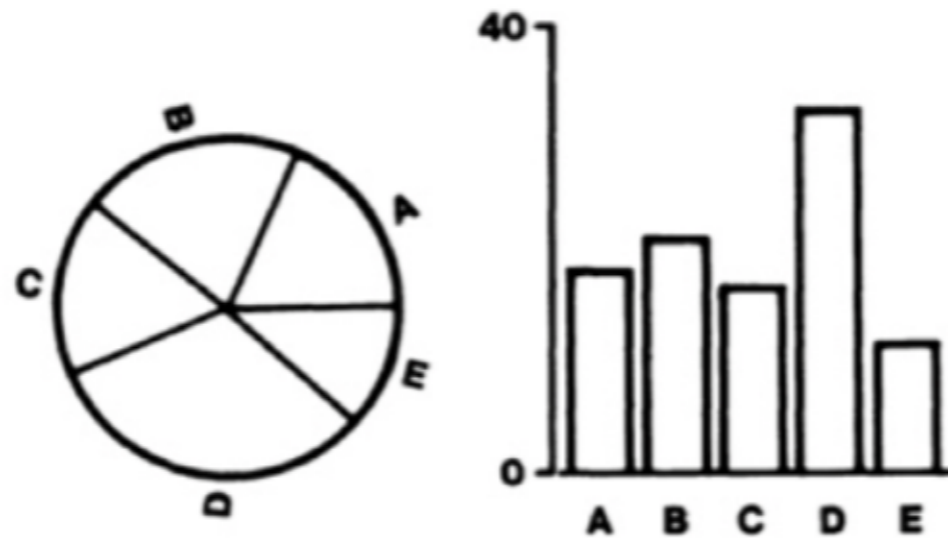
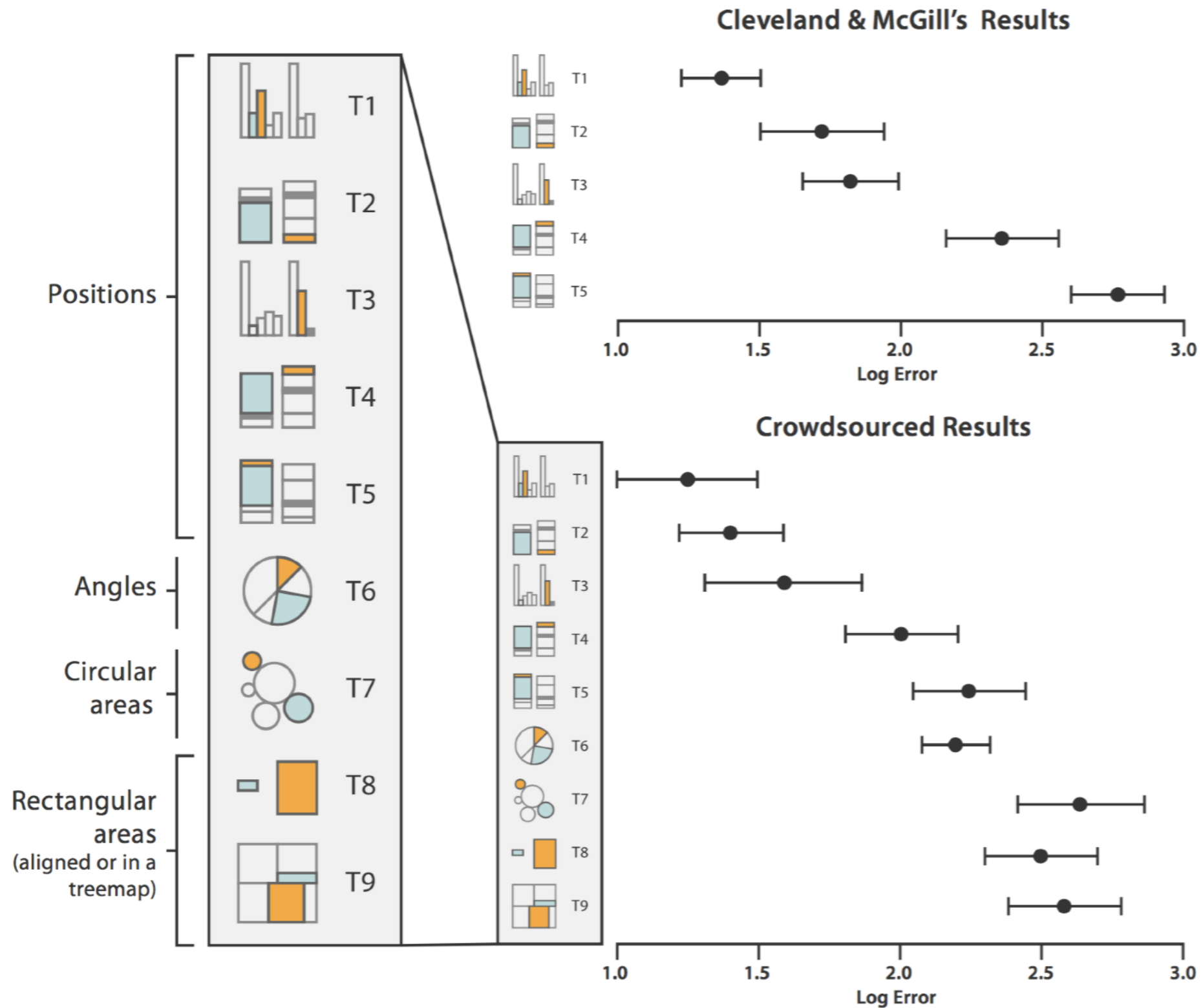


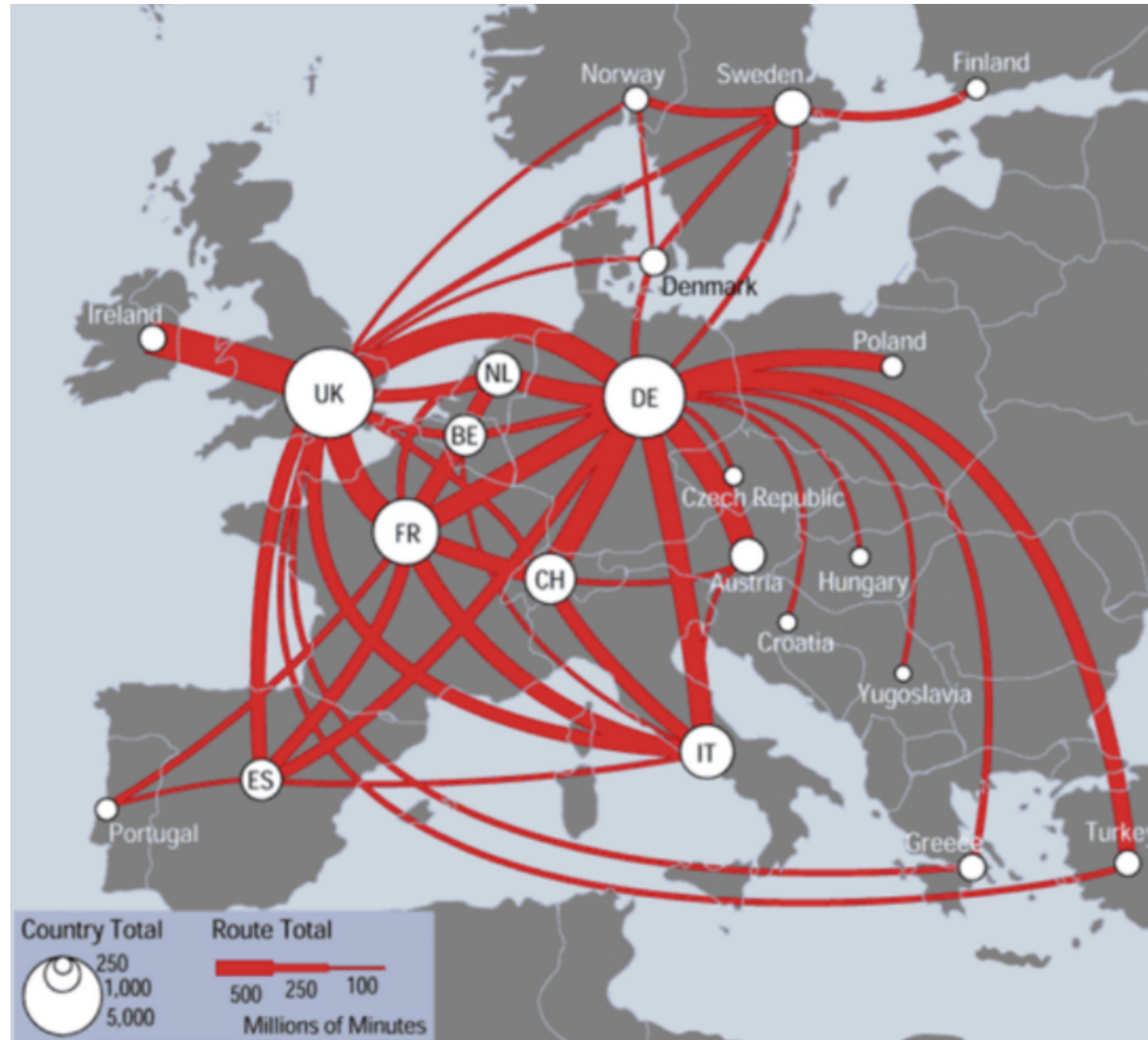
Figure 3. Graphs from position-angle experiment.

# Heer & Bostock, 2010



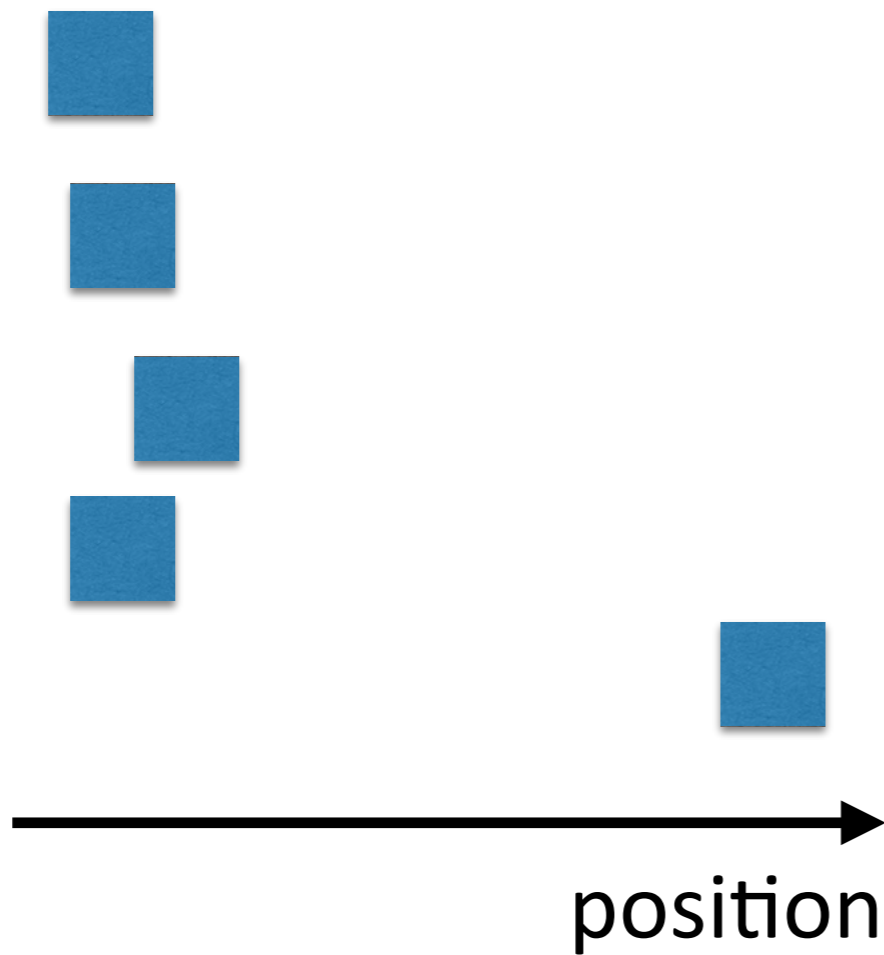
# Discriminability

can channel differences be discerned?



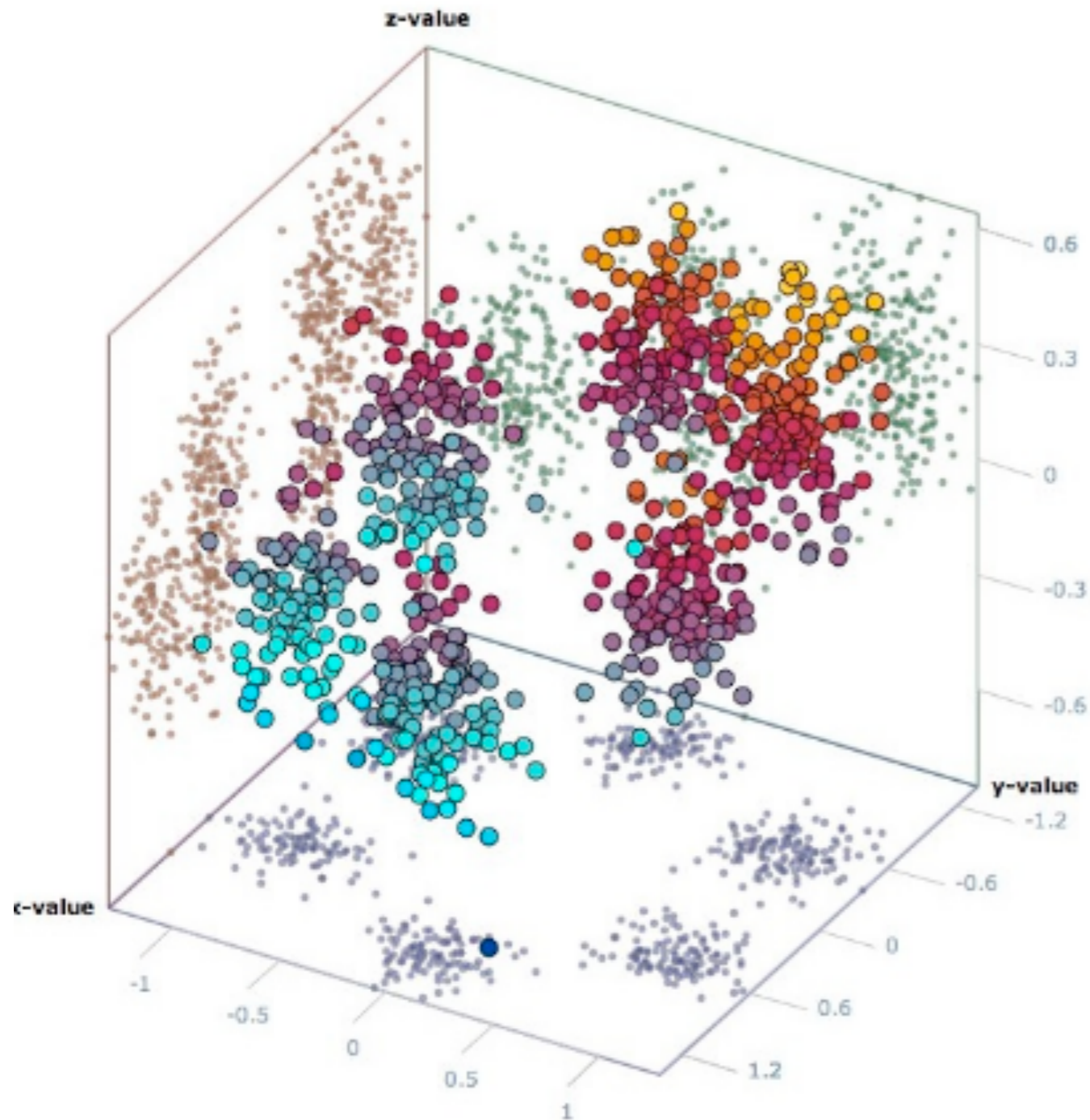
# Position

Offers very good discriminability



# Position

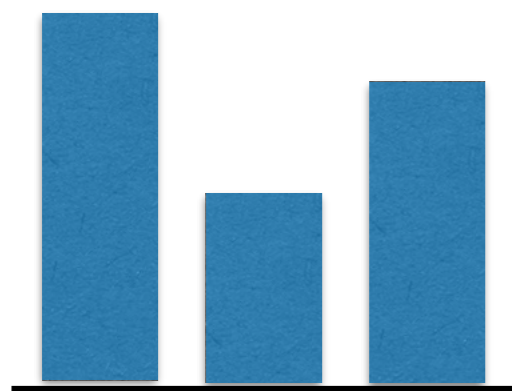
But this doesn't extend to 3D!



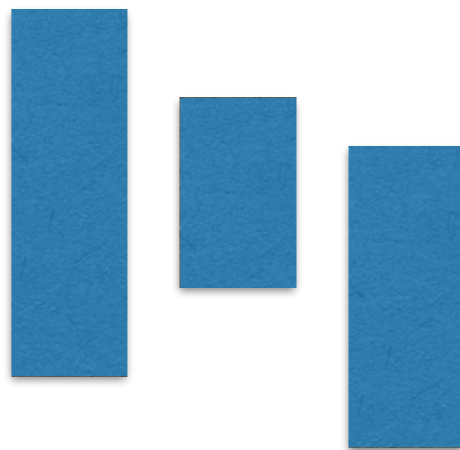
Perspective distortion

Occlusions

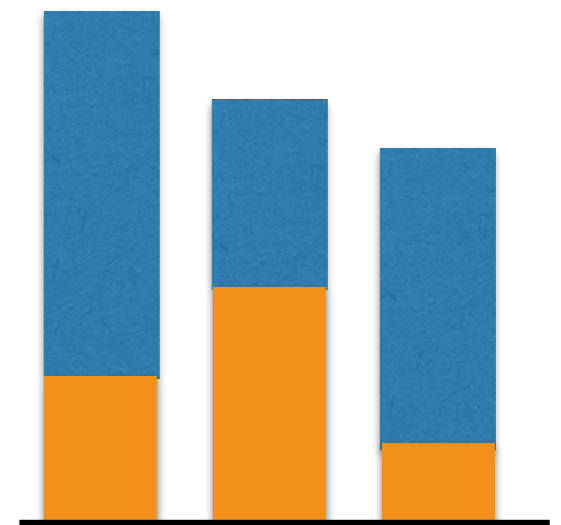
# Factors affecting accuracy of Length/Position judgement



**aligned**



**unaligned**



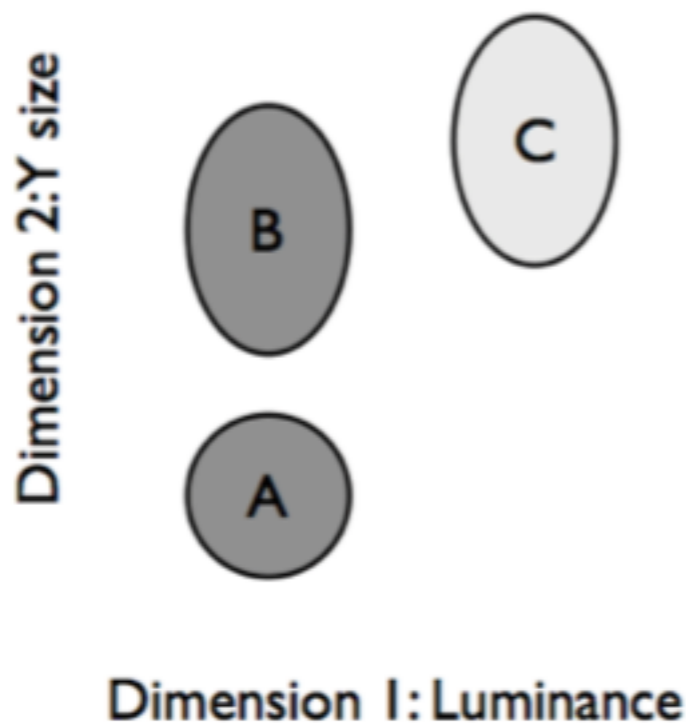
**stacked bar chart  
(unaligned)**

# Separable vs Integral channels

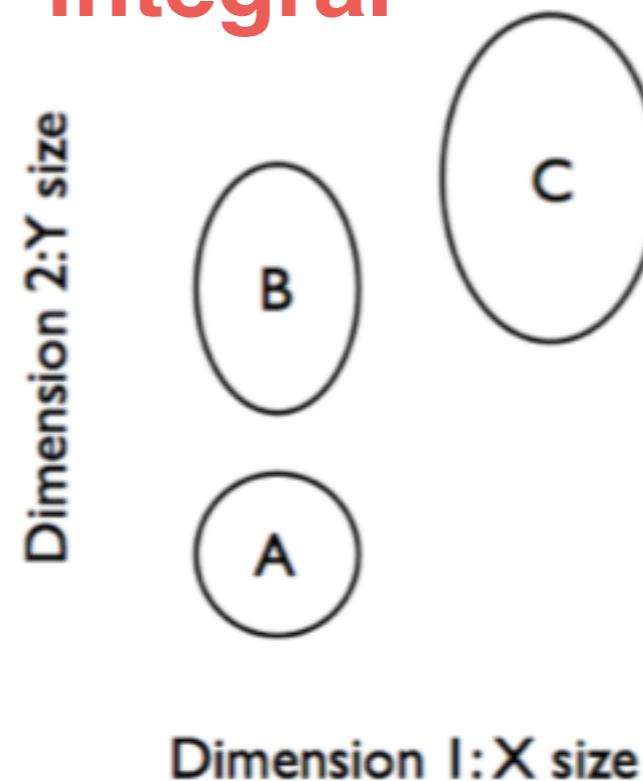
**separable channels:** can be judged individually

**integral channels:** are viewed holistically

**separable**



**integral**



# Separable vs Integral channels

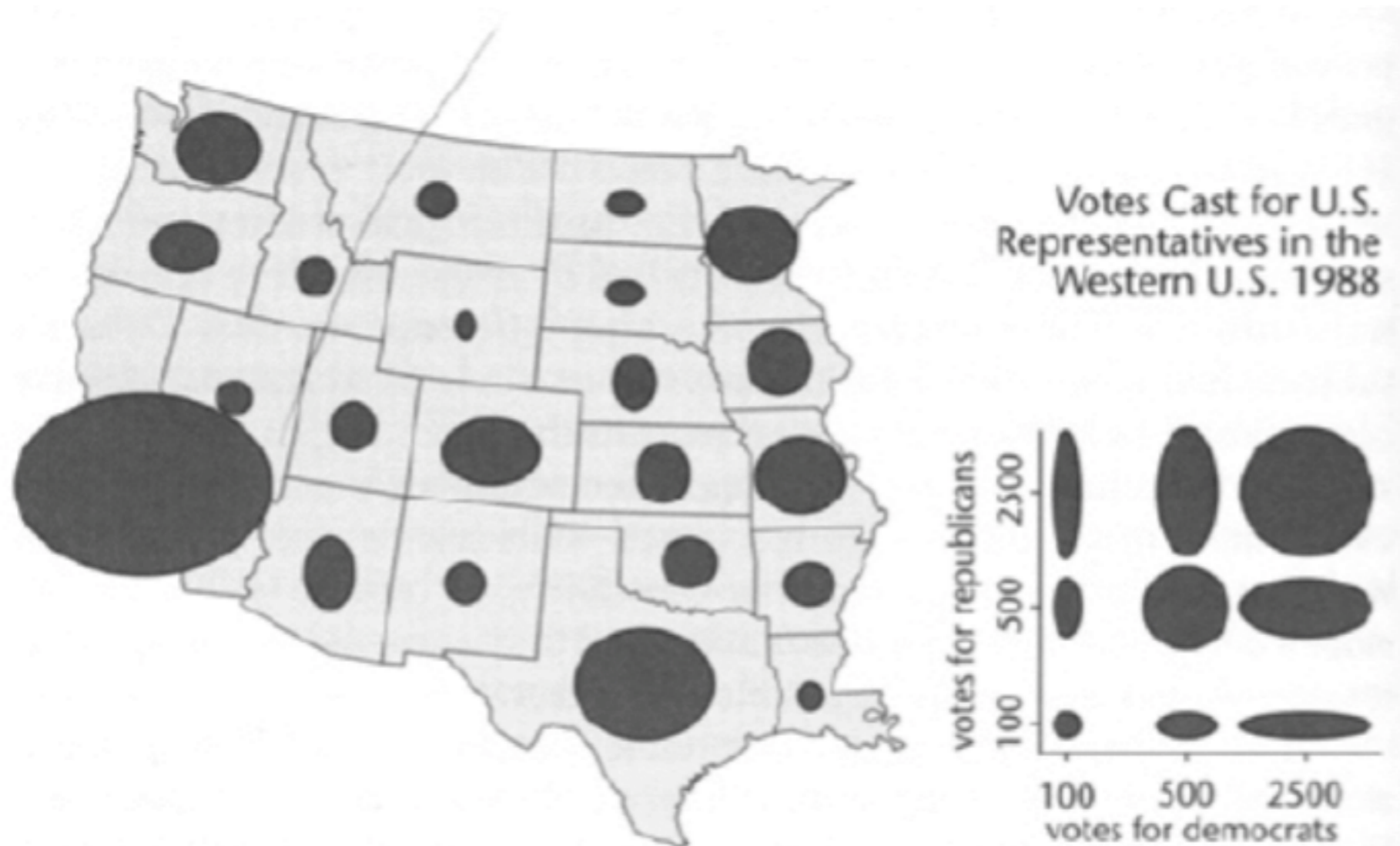


FIGURE 3.38. An example of the use of an ellipse as a map symbol in which the horizontal and vertical axes represent different (but presumably related) variables.

# Chernoff faces

