# Lecture 2: <br> When You Need Graphs and <br> How We See Graphs and <br> Merging 

January 25, 2021

## Overview

Course Administration

Good, Bad and Ugly

Few, Chapters 3 and 5

Merging

Merging

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1. Any trouble submitting tutorials? questions?
2. Questions/issues with readings?
3. Make sure you're signed up for Piazza - email me if you are not
4. Reading quiz

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- I moved a few of you around to even up finders and commenters
- If you didn't sign up, I signed you up
- If date is not ok, try to switch with a classmate


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5. Additions to syllabus

- Lecture 8, March 22: Former students doing good: McCall Pitcher and Kimberly Wilson
- Lecture 9, March 29: WashPo's Kate Rabinowitz on March 30

6. One-page proposal is due next week
7. Anything else?

## Next Week's Good Bad and Ugly

Finders, send link Wed. by noon.
Finder Commenter
1 Sarah H. Gabriel C.
2 Arjun B. Anthony C.

Email me ASAP if you're not on the google sheet.

Few:
Visual Perception and Graphical Communication

## When Should You Use Tables vs. Graphs?

- Tables are for when
- you care about the actual numbers
- you have very few numbers


## When Should You Use Tables vs. Graphs?

- Tables are for when
- you care about the actual numbers
- you have very few numbers
- Graphs are for when
- you care about trends or general tendencies
- you have more numbers than a table can support
- the exact values are not critical
- you wish to highlight a particular relationship


## Starting with the Table

Job Satisfaction By Income, Education, and Age

|  | College Degrees |  | No College Degrees |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Income | Under 50 | 50 \& over | Under 50 | 50 \& over |
| Up to $\$ 50,000$ | 643 | 793 | 590 | 724 |
| Over $\$ 50,000$ | 735 | 928 | 863 | 662 |

Few, Chapter 3, Figure 3.13

Few

## Version One of a Set of Numbers

Employee Job Satisfaction

- College degree, up to $\$ 50,000$
= College degree, over $\$ 50,000$
= No college degree, up to $\$ 50,000$
No college degree, over $\$ 50,000$


Few

## Version One of a Set of Numbers



What do you think the point of this picture is?
Few, Chapter 3, Figure 3.15

# Version Two of the Same Set of Numbers 



# Version Two of the Same Set of Numbers 



And the point of this picture?

## Few Chapter 5: Drawing Attention

1. working memory
2. preattentive processing

- form
- color
- spatial position

3. applying to design
4. gestalt principles of visual perception

## Working Memory

We don't have much of it

## Working Memory

We don't have much of it

- people can remember 3 to 4 visual encodings for a chart
- therefore, more than about 4 colors as identification are distracting
- good visuals can stick in long-term memory


## Preattentive Processing

Why is this so important？Find the 5 s ．
48921652097520589

## Preattentive Processing

Why is this so important? Find the 5 s.
48921652097520589
And now find the 5 s .

$$
489216 \mathbf{5} 2097 \mathbf{5} 20 \mathbf{5} 89
$$

# Preattentive Processing 

Form<br>Color<br>Spatial Position

Few

## Form



## But Beware of 2-D Size

Why?

## But Beware of 2-D Size

Why?

- People have a very hard time judging the relative size of 2-D objects
- Changing both length and width is a 2-D change
- Avoid unless you have a specific reason to do this - maybe you're drawing building sizes



## But Beware of 2-D Size

Why?

- People have a very hard time judging the relative size of 2-D objects
- Changing both length and width is a 2-D change
- Avoid unless you have a specific reason to do this - maybe you're drawing building sizes


How much bigger is the small circle than the larger one?

## But Beware of 2-D Size

Why?

- People have a very hard time judging the relative size of 2-D objects
- Changing both length and width is a 2-D change
- Avoid unless you have a specific reason to do this - maybe you're drawing building sizes


How much bigger is the small circle than the larger one? $16 x$

1. Hue

- What you think of as "color"
- Blue, Green, etc

2. Intensity

- make it less intense: add a little gray

1. Hue

- What you think of as "color"
- Blue, Green, etc

2. Intensity

- make it less intense: add a little gray

Contrasting hues stand out. Intense colors stand out.

## Do We Perceive Them Quantitatively?

| Type | Attribute |
| :--- | :--- |
| Form | Length |
|  | Width |
|  | Orientation |
|  | Size |
|  | Shape |
|  | Enclosure |
| Color | Hue |
|  | Intensity |
| Position | 2-D Position |

## Do We Perceive Them Quantitatively?

| Type | Attribute | Quantitatively Perceived? |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Form | Length | Yes |
|  | Width | Yes, but limited |
|  | Orientation | No |
|  | Size | Yes, but limited |
|  | Shape | No |
|  | Enclosure | No |
| Color | Hue | No |
|  | Intensity | Yes, but limited |
| Position | 2-D Position | Yes |

Context Matters


Context Matters


## Calling Attention



## Gestalt Principles of Visual Perception

- Proximity
- Similarity
- Enclosure
- Closure
- Continuity

These all generate meaning, whether you intend it or not!

## Applying These Principles

- first a set of slides that do a so-so job
- second a set of slides that do a better (but improvable) job

Few

## Baseline Increase of $\$ 7.3$ Million per Mile

Baseline

additional spending per mile, 1970 onward, $\$ 2016$ millions

# Measures of Government Quality Unrelated to Spending Increase 

## Baseline

Has State Env. Protection Act

## Land Use Cases per 10k People

Bond Score
Num of Local Governments

additional spending per mile, 1970 onward, $\$ 2016$ millions

# Measures of Labor Strength Unrelated to Spending Increase 

## Baseline

## Has State Env. Protection Act

## Land Use Cases per 10k People

## Bond Score

## Num of Local Governments

## Right to Work Law

## Share Unionized

## Share Voting Dem. Pres. Candidate

Few

## Using the Principles of Proximity and Similarity



Additional spending per mile，\＄2016 millions

## Using the Principles of Proximity and Similarity



## Using the Principles of Proximity and Similarity



## Using the Principles of Proximity and Similarity



Additional spending per mile, \$2016 millions

# Using the Principles of Proximity and Similarity 

|  | Baseline |
| :--- | :--- |
| Land Use | Land Use Cases per 10k People |
| Law | Has State Env. Protection Act |
| Fragmentation | Num of Local Governments |
| Gov't Quality | Bond Score |
| Labor | Share Unionized |
| Strength | Right to Work Law |
|  | Share Voting Dem. Pres. Candidate |

R: Merging

Make examples

- make tiny dataframes
- to illustrate
- 1 to 1 merge
- 1 to many merge


## In Your Breakout Group

Make examples

- make tiny dataframes
- to illustrate
- 1 to 1 merge
- 1 to many merge

Bonus! Why is a many to many merge problematic?

## What is a Merge?

You want to put together

Dataset A - One obs/ID

| ID | Income |
| :--- | :--- |
| A 50 |  |

B 100

Dataset B - One obs/ID

| ID Pool |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| A | TRUE |

B FALSE

## What is a Merge?

You want to put together

Dataset A - One obs/ID

| ID | Income |
| :--- | :--- |
| A 50 |  |

B 100

Dataset B - One obs/ID

| ID | Pool |
| :--- | :--- |
| A | TRUE |

B FALSE
Into

| ID | Income | Pool |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | 50 | TRUE |

B 100 FALSE
This is a 1 to 1 merge.

## What is a Many to 1 Merge？

You want to put together
Dataset A－One obs／ID

| ID | Income |
| :--- | :--- |
| A 50 |  |

B 100
Dataset B－many obs／ID

| ID | Pool | Year |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | TRUE | 2020 |

B FALSE 2020
A TRUE 2021
B TRUE 2021

## What is a Many to 1 Merge?

You want to put together
Dataset A - One obs/ID

| ID | Income |
| :--- | :--- |
| A 50 |  |

B 100

How many rows should it have?

Dataset B - many obs/ID

| ID | Pool | Year |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | TRUE | 2020 |
| B | FALSE | 2020 |
| A | TRUE | 2021 |
| B | TRUE | 2021 |

## What is a Many to 1 Merge?

You want to put together
Dataset B - many obs/ID

| Dataset A - One obs/ID |  |  | ID Pool |  | Year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ID Income |  |  | A | UE | 2020 |
| A 50 |  |  | B FAL | SE | 2020 |
| B 100 |  |  | A TR | UE | 2021 |
|  |  |  | B T | UE | 2021 |
|  | ID | Pool | Year |  |  |
|  | A | TRUE | 2020 | 50 |  |
| How many rows should it have? | B | FALSE | 2020 | 100 |  |
|  | A | TRUE | 2021 | 50 |  |
|  | B | TRUE | 2021 | 100 |  |

What is a Many to Many Merge?

A mess!

## What is a Many to Many Merge?

A mess!
Dataset A

| ID | Income |
| :--- | :--- |
| A 50 |  |

A 60
B 100

Dataset B

| ID | Pool | Year |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | TRUE | 2020 |

B FALSE 2020
A TRUE 2021
B TRUE 20212021

## What is a Many to Many Merge?

## A mess!

Dataset A

| ID | Income |
| :--- | :--- |
| A | 50 |
| A | 60 |
| B | 100 |

Dataset B

| ID | Pool | Year |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | TRUE | 2020 |

B FALSE 2020
A TRUE 2021
B TRUE 2021

There is no logical path to merge $A$ and $B$.

## What is a Many to Many Merge?

A mess!
Dataset A

| ID | Income |
| :--- | :--- |
| A 50 |  |

A 60
B 100

Dataset B

| ID | Pool | Year |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | TRUE | 2020 |

B FALSE 2020
A TRUE 2021
B TRUE 2021

There is no logical path to merge $A$ and $B$. Probably something is wrong with $A$.

## Online Lecture: Merging in R

Today
A. What is Merging?
B. How to Merge 1:1
C. How to Merge Many to 1
D. Cautions with merging
A. Merging

- if you have information in more than one dataframe
- you want to combine these pieces of information
- reliably and replicably
- this is an enormous advantage of statistical software


## Examples of When You Need to Merge

## Ex. 1:

- you have a dataset on crimes, with addresses
- you want to add the neighborhood median income
- $\rightarrow$ merge by neighborhood id!


## Examples of When You Need to Merge

## Ex. 1:

- you have a dataset on crimes, with addresses
- you want to add the neighborhood median income
$\rightarrow \rightarrow$ merge by neighborhood id!
Ex. 2:
- you have a dataset of student performance
- you want to add information on teacher
- $\rightarrow$ merge by teacher id!

Merging Command Overview

```
merge(x = data.frame.1,
    y = data.frame.2,
    by = "varname",
    all = TRUE)
```

Merging Command Overview

```
merge(x = data.frame.1,
    y = data.frame.2,
    by = "varname",
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```

Now a very simple example

Sample dataframe 1: Class subjects

```
df1 <- data.frame(class = c(1,2,3),
    subject = c("basics","basics","graphs"))
df1
## class subject
## 1 1 basics
## 2 2 basics
## 3 3 graphs
```

Sample dataframe 2: Class attendance

```
df2 <- data.frame(class = c(1,2,3),
    attendance = c(33,45,26))
df2
## class attendance
## 1 1 33
## 2 2 45
## 3 3 26
```

B. Merge 1:1

```
df3 <- merge(x = df1,
    y = df2,
    by = "class",
    all = TRUE)
```

How many rows should d3 have?

B．Merge 1：1

```
df3 <- merge(x = df1,
    y = df2,
    by = "class",
    all = TRUE)
```

How many rows should d3 have？
df3
\＃\＃class subject attendance
\＃\＃ 11 basics 33
\＃\＃ 22 basics 45
\＃\＃3 3 graphs 26

## C. Merge Many to 1

Many to 1 merge:

- this is a merge that has unique values in one dataset
- and repeat values in another


## C. Merge Many to 1

Many to 1 merge:

- this is a merge that has unique values in one dataset
- and repeat values in another

Unique and repeat values:

- unique values: class in df3
- repeat values: subject in df3
df3
\#\# class subject attendance
\#\# 11 basics 33
\#\# 22 basics 45
\#\# 3 3 graphs 26

Dataset to merge in

```
df4 <- data.frame(subject = c("basics","graphs"),
    difficulty = c("easy","hard"))
df4
## subject difficulty
## 1 basics easy
## 2 graphs hard
```

Merging in

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{df} 5<-\operatorname{merge}(\mathrm{x}=\mathrm{df} 3 \\
& \mathrm{y}=\mathrm{df} 4, \\
& \text { by }=\text { subject" } \\
&\text { all }=\text { TRUE })
\end{aligned}
$$

How many rows should this have?

Merging in

```
df5 <- merge(x = df3,
    y = df4,
    by = "subject",
    all = TRUE)
```

How many rows should this have?
df5
\#\# subject class attendance difficulty
\#\# 1 basics 1 easy
\#\# 2 basics 2 easy
\#\# 3 graphs 3 hard
D. Frequent Problems with Merging

- you want to merge 1:1 but one dataframe has repeat values
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- you want to merge 1:1 but one dataframe has repeat values
- you want to merge 1:1 but the merge doesn't work as expected (see tutorial)
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Why worry?

## D. Frequent Problems with Merging

- you want to merge 1:1 but one dataframe has repeat values
- you want to merge 1:1 but the merge doesn't work as expected (see tutorial)

Why worry?

- bad merges yield garbage
- garbage in $\rightarrow$ garbage out


## Try Today's Tutorial

- Make a .R script for whole tutorial
- Plus questions at end
- Go forth!
- I will be online till 5:20 - please stay and ask questions


## Next Lecture

- Turn in PS 2
- Read Few Chapter 9 and Chapter 10, pages 210-217 (on bars)
- Read Chang, Chapter 3
- Read two linked examples from WSJ
- Turn in policy brief proposal

