Lecture 10:
Guest Speaker, Scatters and Workshop

November 9, 2026

Course Administration

Today

1. George!

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2. Quiz

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   - Linked instructions on lectures tab
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5. A few words on scatters
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Looking forward

- Lecture 11: no class, consultations
- Lecture 12: Storytelling & Interactivity
- Lecture 13, 14:
  Monday and **Wednesday**:
  presentations

Final policy brief

- due Monday December 14 by midnight
- **Do not be late.**

Anything else?

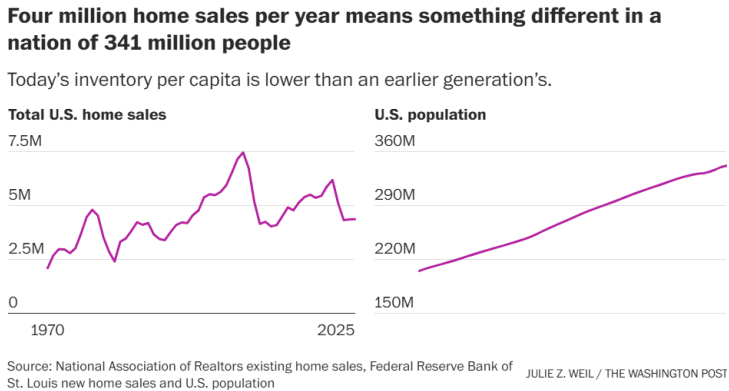
George!

Second-to-last Good/Bad/Ugly

Next next Week's Final Good Bad Ugly

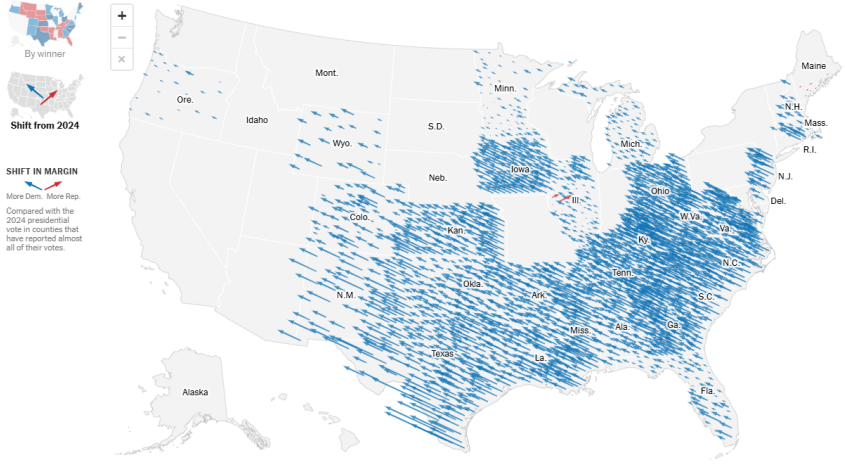
Leah promises graph to Tanya by Wed. for presentation Nov. 30.

Stephanie on Nick's Graph



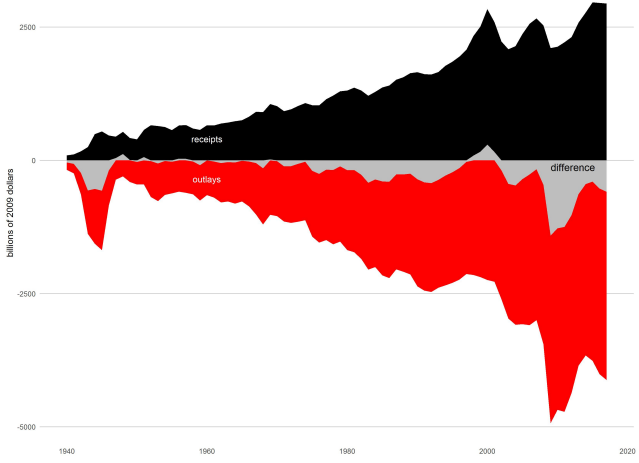
Weil, Julie Z.. "Why buying a house feels so painful now — and your parents may not understand" *Washington Post*, October 18, 2026. [link]

Nick on Alex's Graph



"U.S. Senate Election Results" *New York Times*, Last updated November 9, 2026. [link]

My Surplus Chart



Scatter Highlights

This Lecture

1. ~~Scatter plot definition and origins~~
2. How and when to use scatters
3. ~~Small multiples~~
4. ~~More on Color~~
5. ~~R stuff~~

What Makes a Scatter Plot Different From All Other Plots?

(That We have Studied) – from Friendly and Denis, 2005

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- or 1-D
  - histogram

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Map is the closest analogue to a scatter: points in (x, y) space

Pros and Cons of Scatters

Most common type of graph for academic presentation

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Pros

- Can clearly and compellingly show a bivariate relationship
- Shows relationship throughout the distribution

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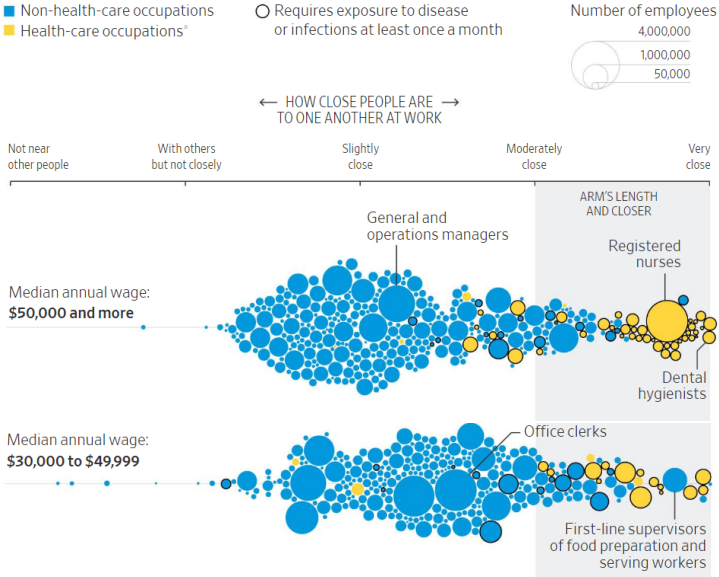
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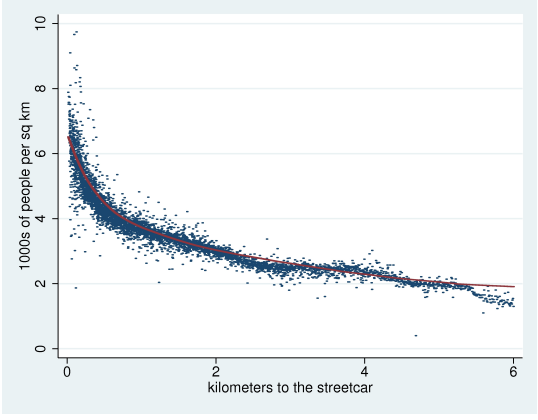
Cons

- Requires the audience to think about the relationship
- Sometimes too complicated for policy communication
- Can obscure relationships that do exist

This Should be a Scatter But Was Not



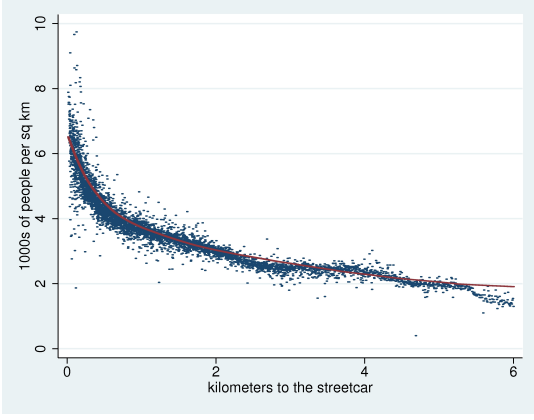
My Best Ever Scatter



What is it?

- Each point is
- average population density near about 400 land plots
- at a given distance from an old streetcar
- red line is a flexible regression line

My Best Ever Scatter

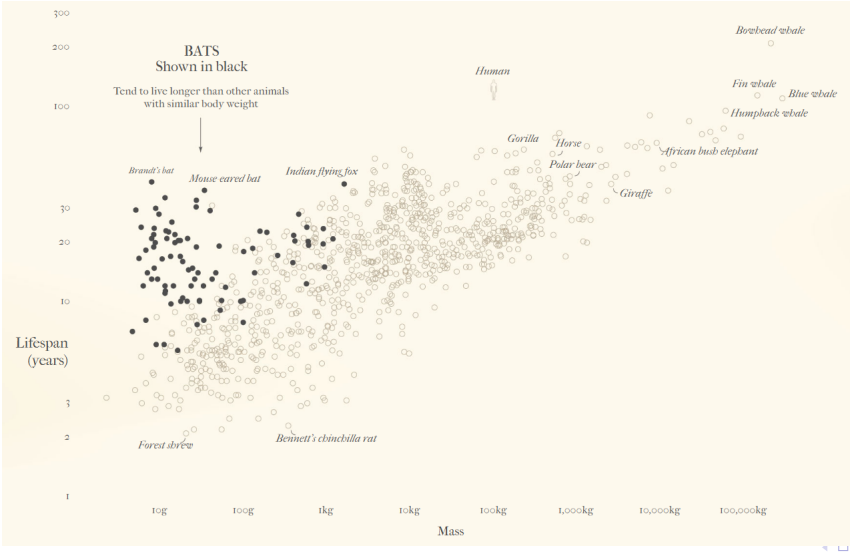


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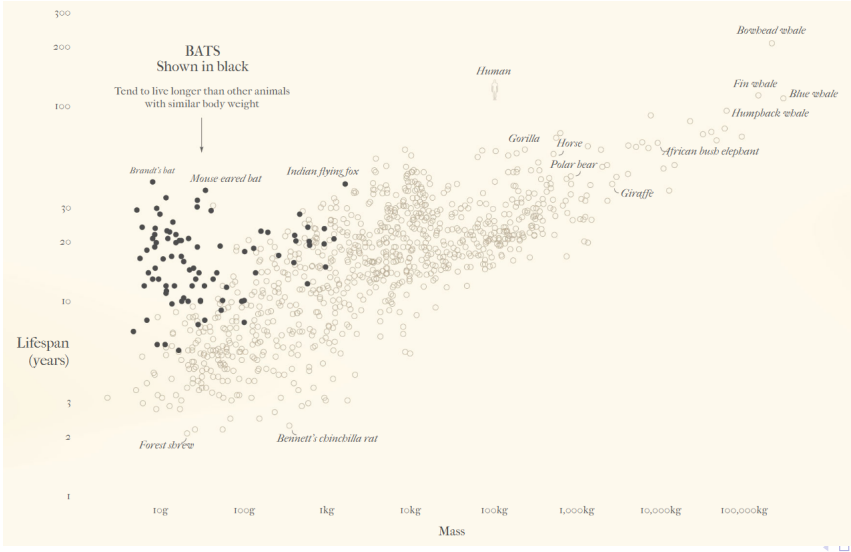
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Data show the point

How Can You Make a Scatter Explicable?



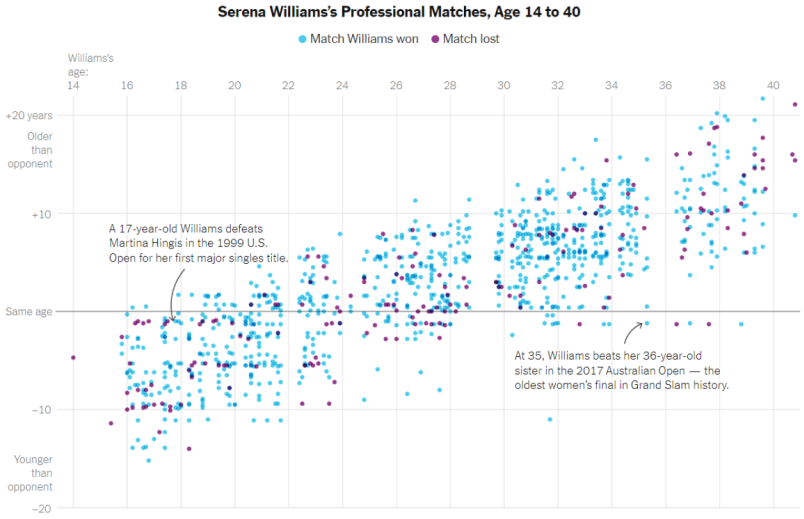
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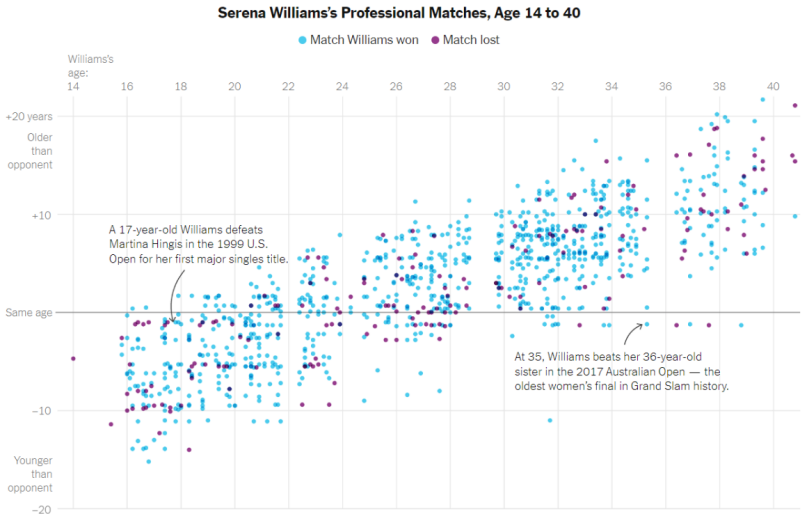
call out individual items

From Reuters

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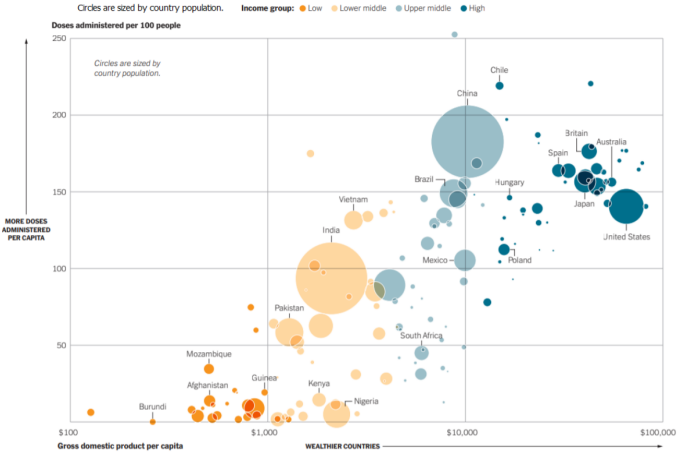


colors & call out individual items

From the *New York Times*

How Can You Make a Scatter Explicable?

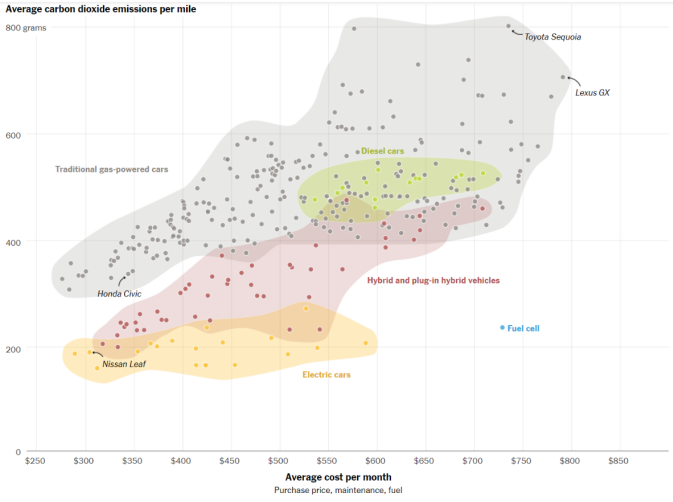
Covid vaccination rate by country



mark axes

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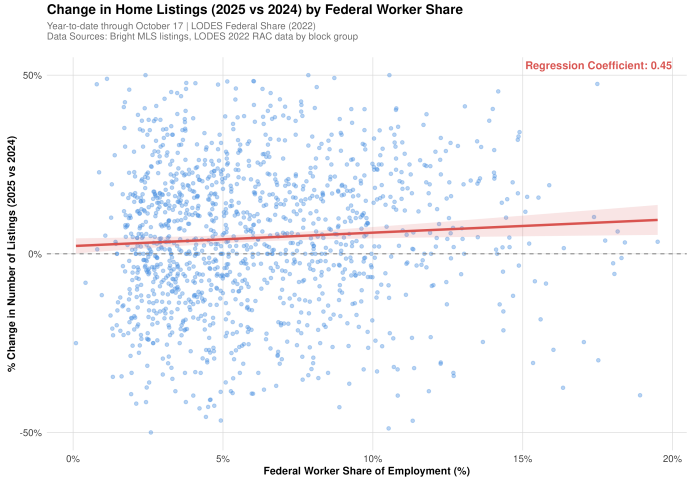
circle common points

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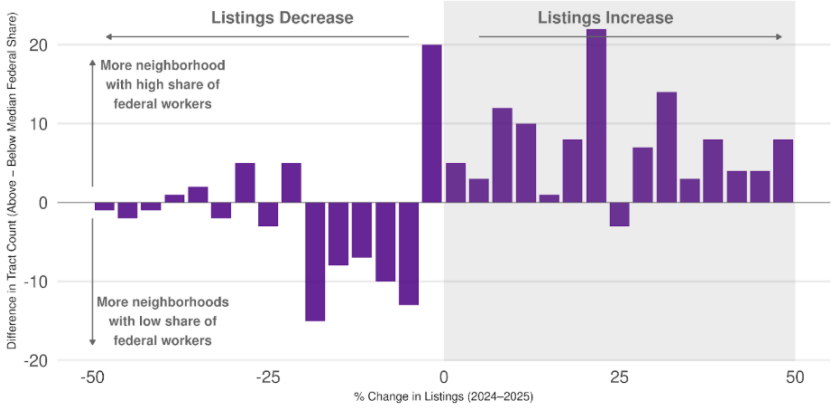
Going From Too Confusing Scatter to Bar Chart

- Goal: Do neighborhoods with more federal workers have greater declines in home prices after Trump arrival?
- First pass: Scatter neighborhood share of
- After many tries: Bar, but still not great

First Scatter Version



Millionth Bar Version



Next Lectures

- November 16: Consultations on zoom
- November 23: Thanksgiving break!
- November 30: Last lecture – interactivity
- Dec. 7 & 9: Presentations
- Final paper due Dec 14 by midnight

Go forth and workshop – I'll be here till 5:20.