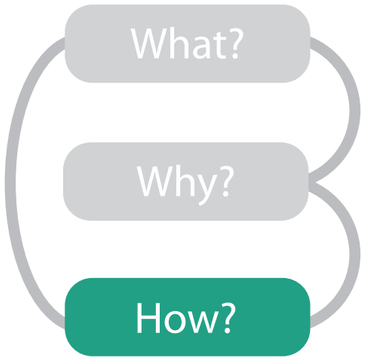
Ch 10: Color

Tamara Munzner
Department of Computer Science
University of British Columbia

CPSC 547, Information Visualization
Day 11: 7 Feb 2017

http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/courses/547-17

Idiom design choices: Encode

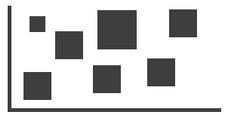


Encode

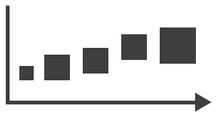
Arrange

- Express

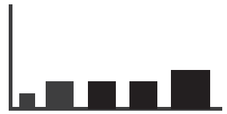
- Separate



- Order



- Align



- Use

Map

from categorical and ordered attributes

- Color
  - *Hue*
  - *Saturation*
  - *Luminance*

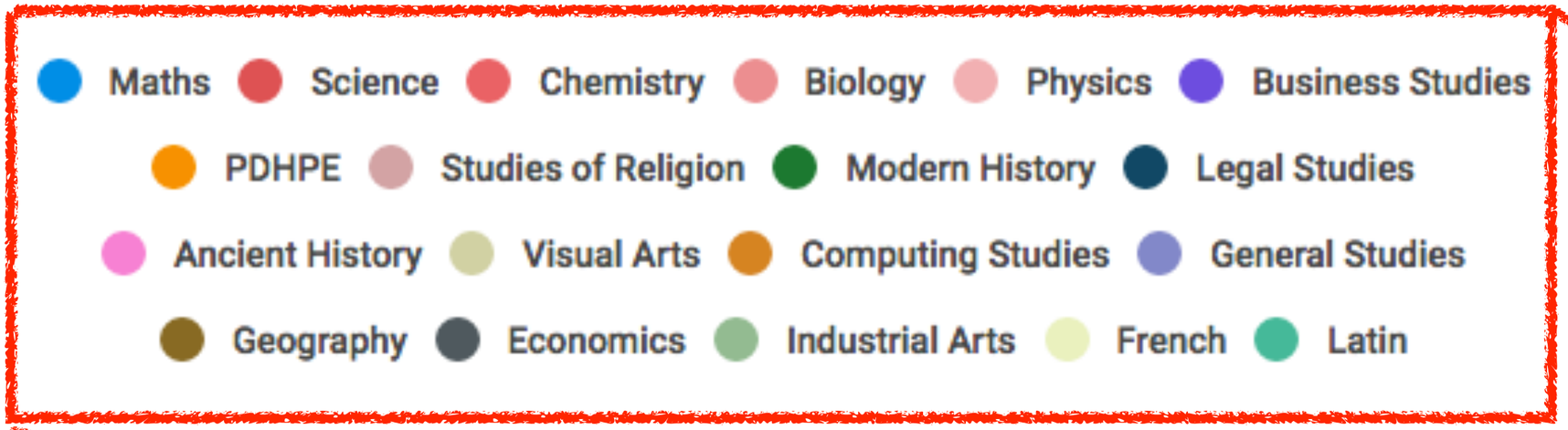
- Size, Angle, Curvature, ...

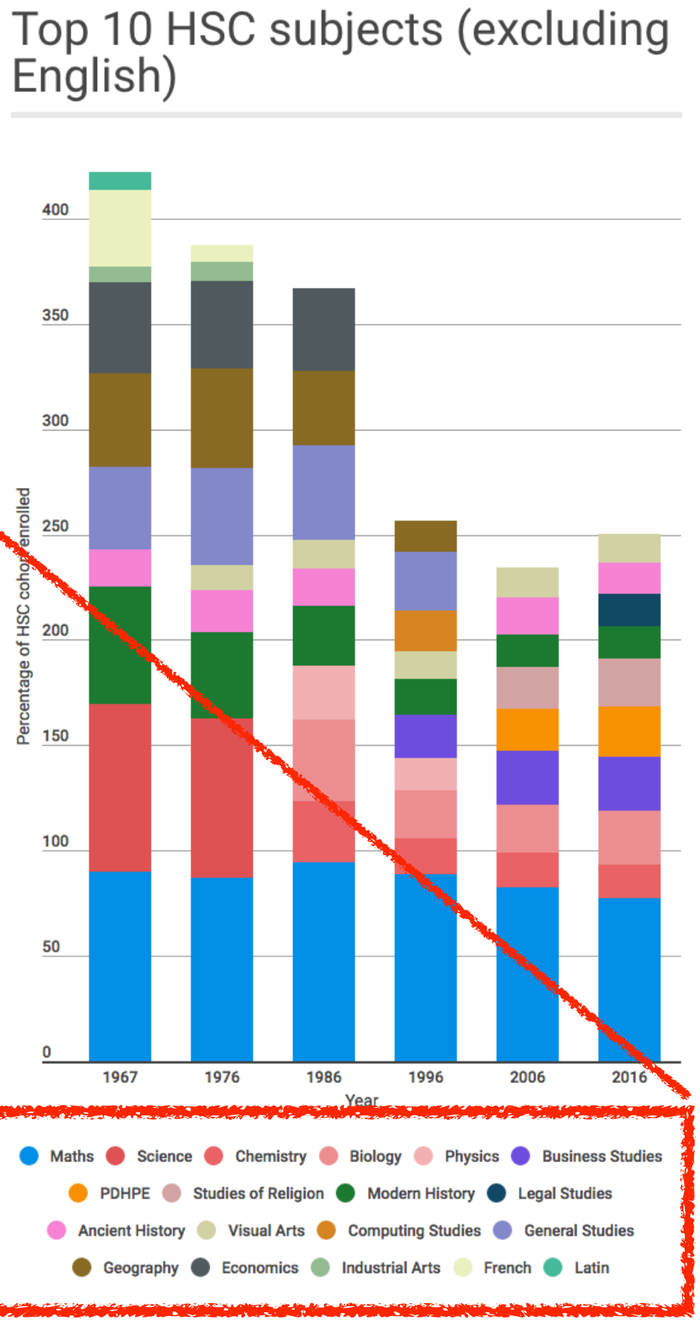
- Shape

- Motion
  Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...

Challenges of Color

- what is wrong with this picture?



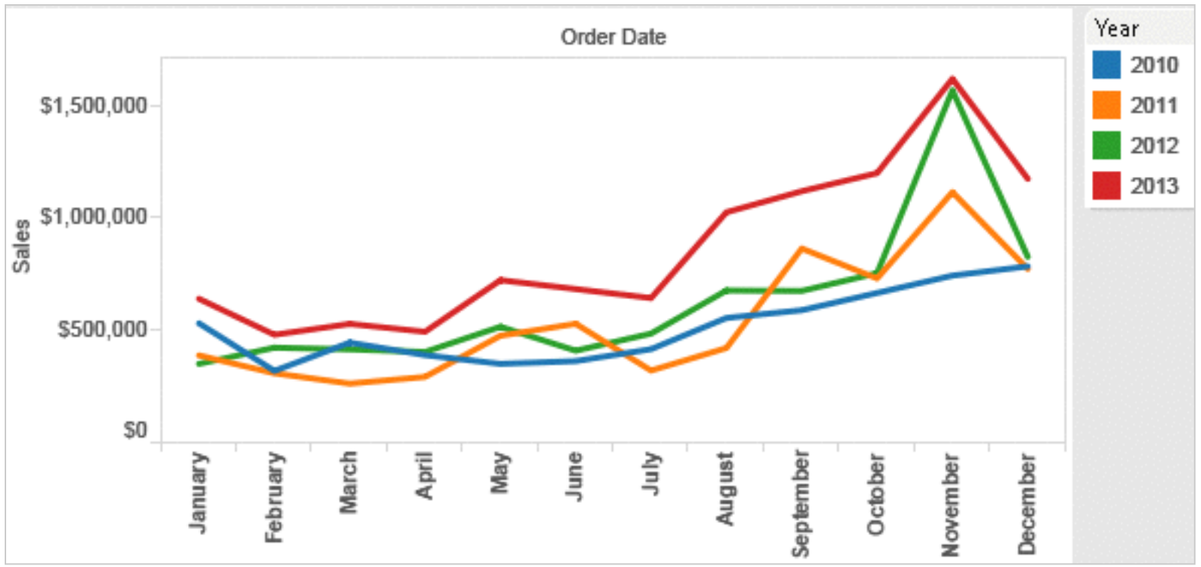


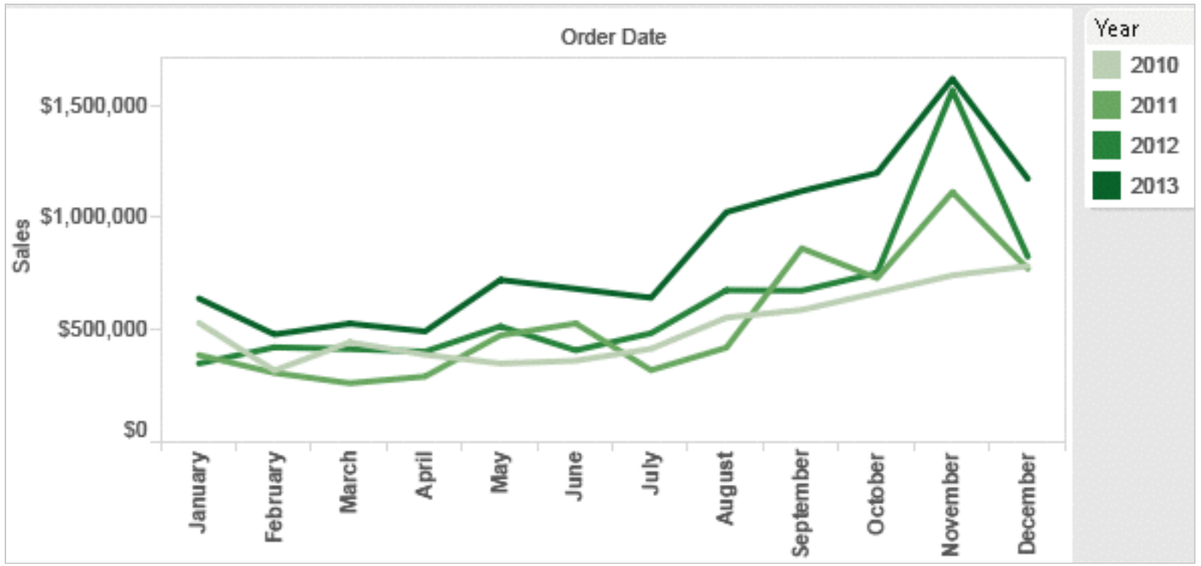
@WTFViz

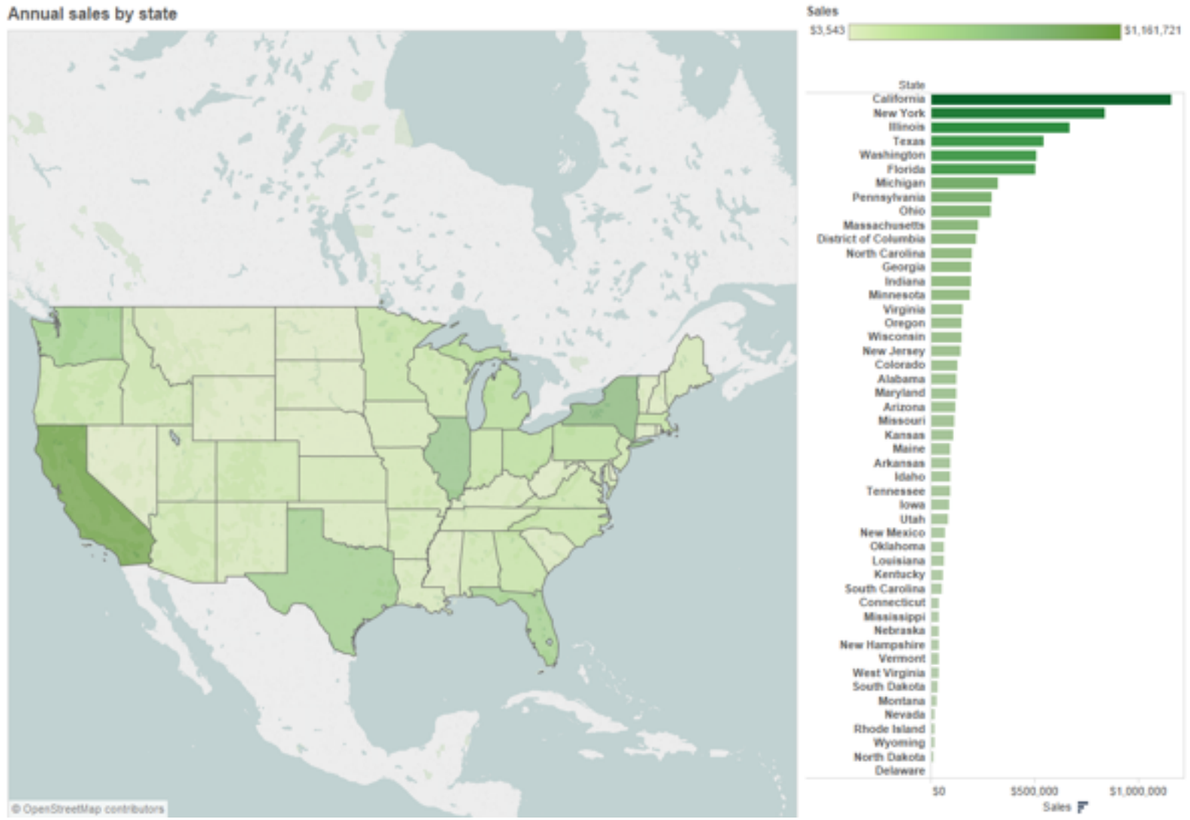
"visualizations that make no sense"

http://viz.wtf/post/1507809488819/maths-enrolments-drop-to-lowest-rate-in-50-years

Categorical vs ordered color





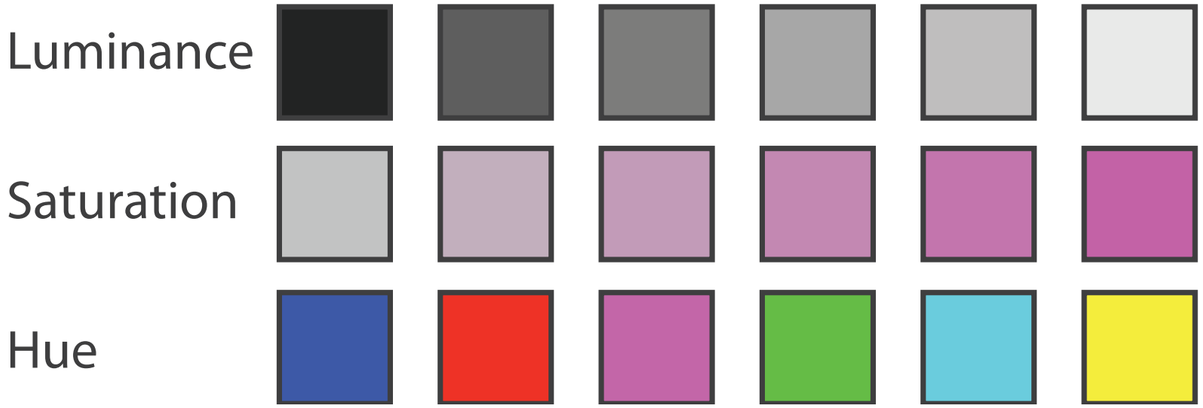


[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

Decomposing color

- first rule of color: do not talk about color!
  - color is confusing if treated as monolithic

- decompose into three channels
  - ordered can show magnitude
    - luminance
    - saturation
  - categorical can show identity
    - hue



- channels have different properties
  - what they convey directly to perceptual system
  - how much they can convey: how many discriminable bins can we use?

Color spaces

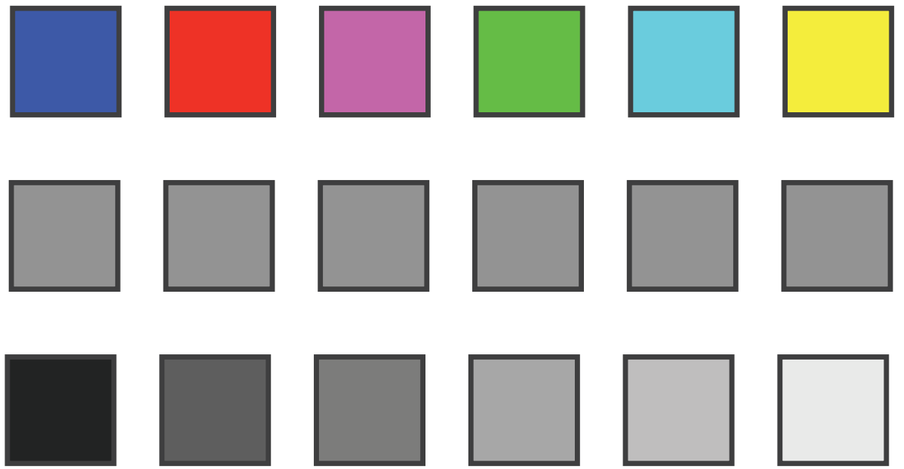
- RGB: poor for encoding

- HSL: better, but beware
  - lightness ≠ luminance

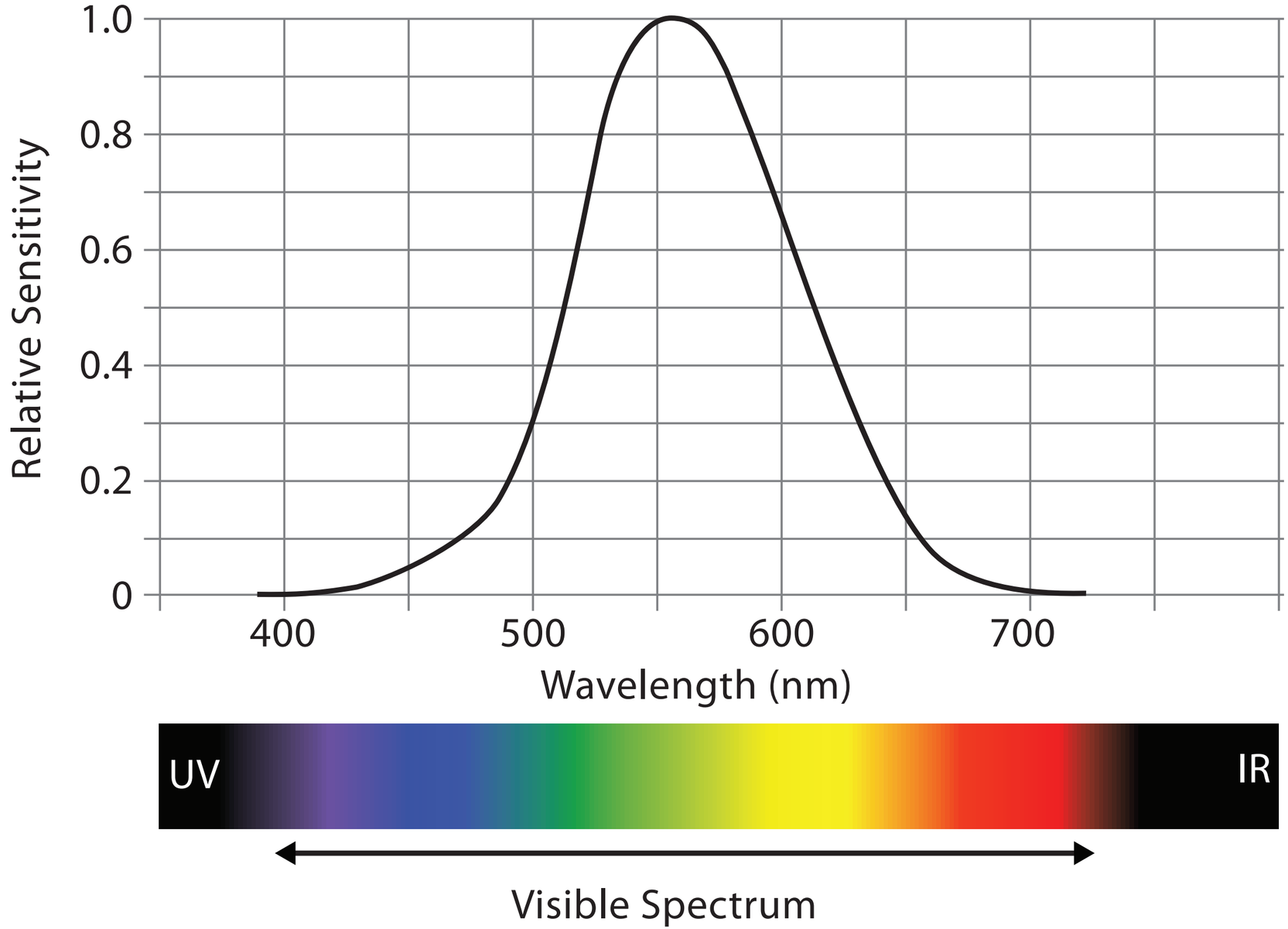
Corners of the RGB color cube

L from HLS
All the same

Luminance values

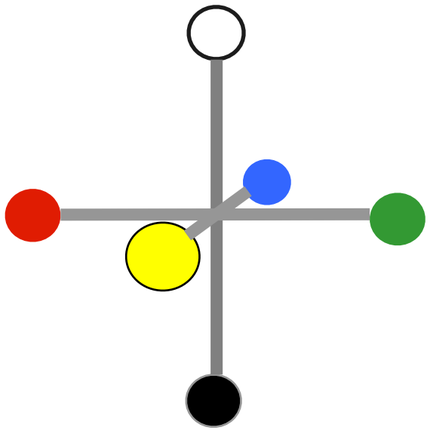


Spectral sensitivity



Opponent color and color deficiency

- perceptual processing before optic nerve
  - one achromatic luminance channel L
    - intrinsic perceptual ordering
    - need luminance contrast for edge detection
  - two chroma channels, R-G and Y-B axis
- "color blind" if one chroma axis has degraded acuity
  - 8% of men are red/green color deficient
  - blue/yellow is rare

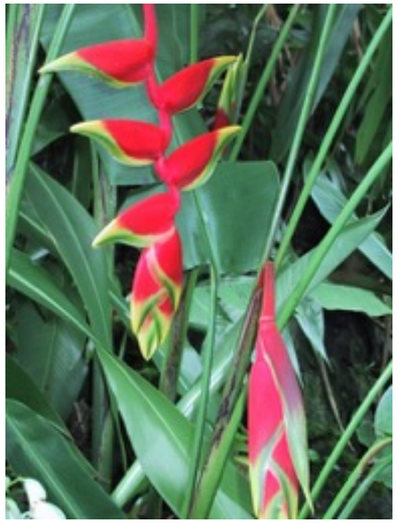


Lightness information

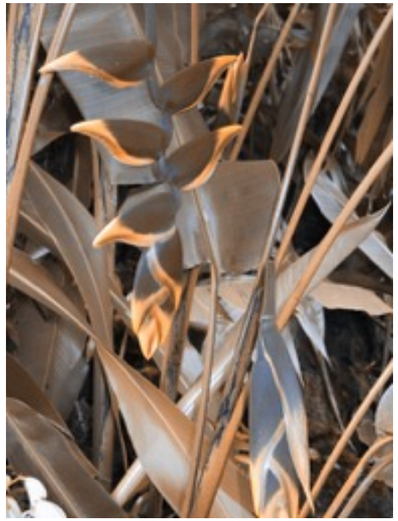
Color information

[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

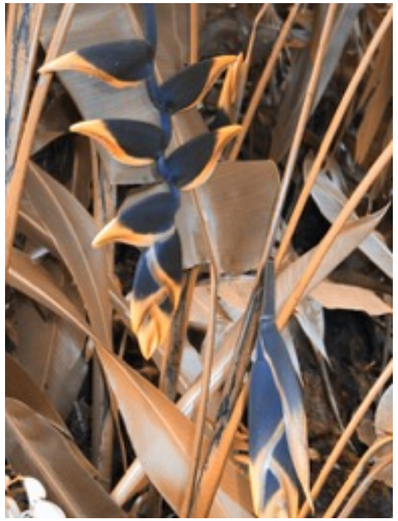
Designing for color deficiency: Check with simulator



Normal vision



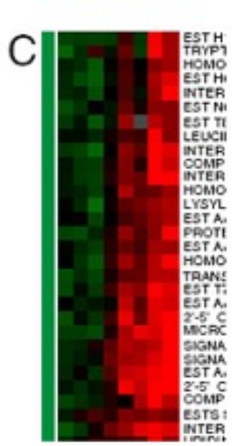
Deuteranope



Protanope

Tritanope

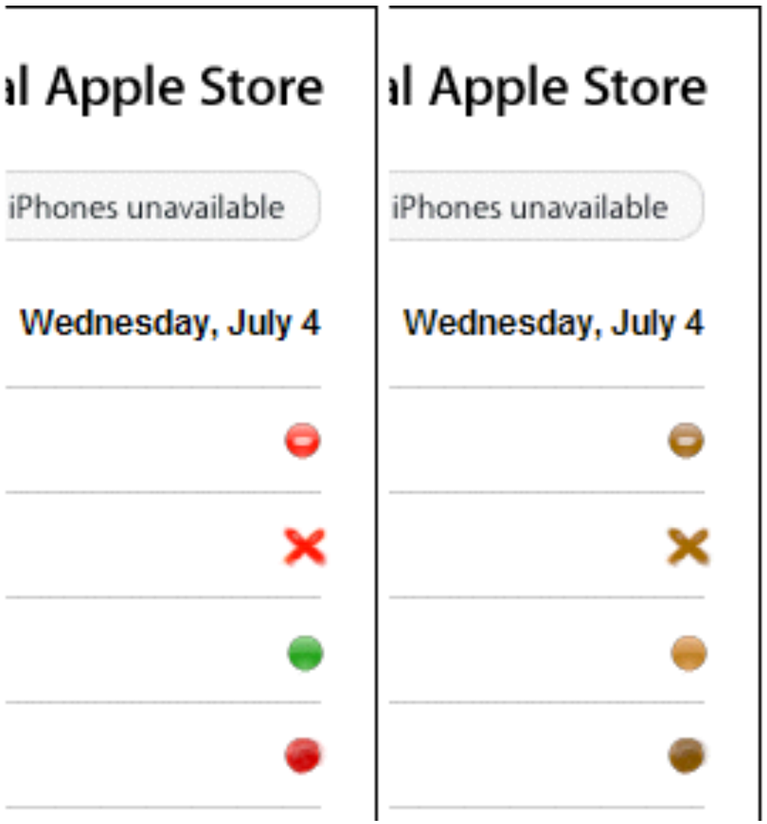
http://rehue.net

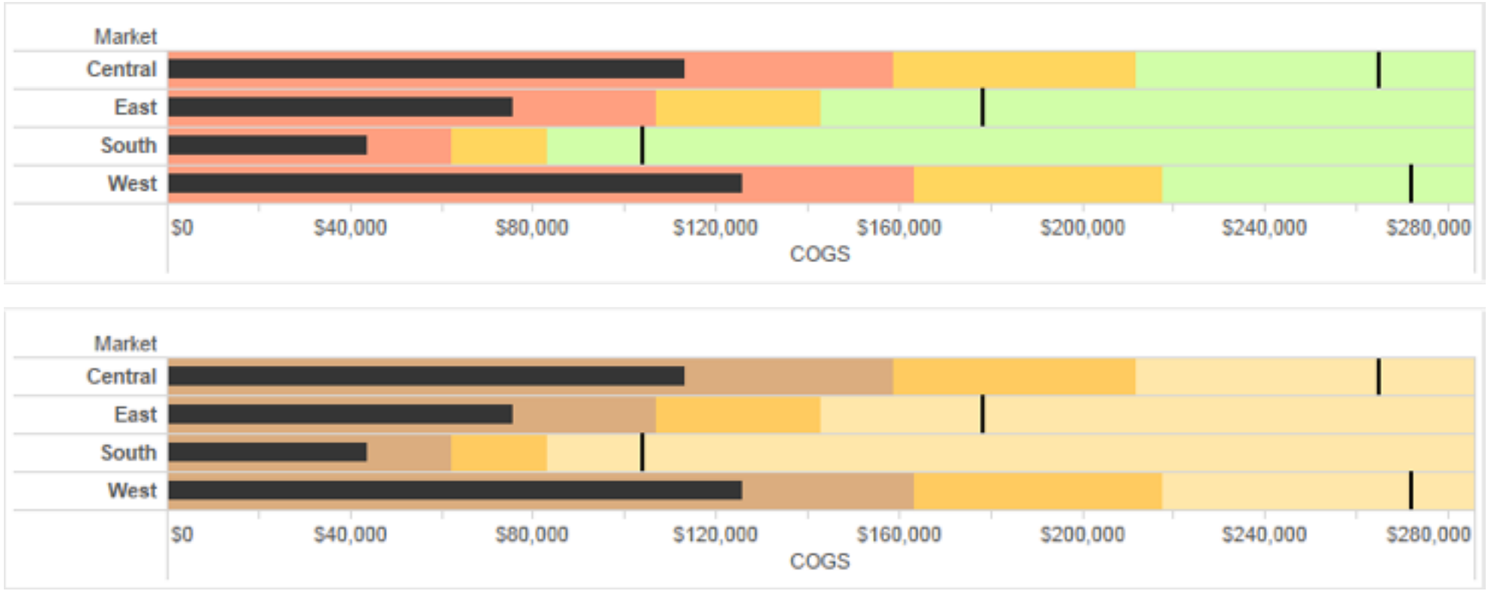


[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone. Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

Designing for color deficiency: Avoid encoding by hue alone

- redundantly encode
  - vary luminance
  - change shape





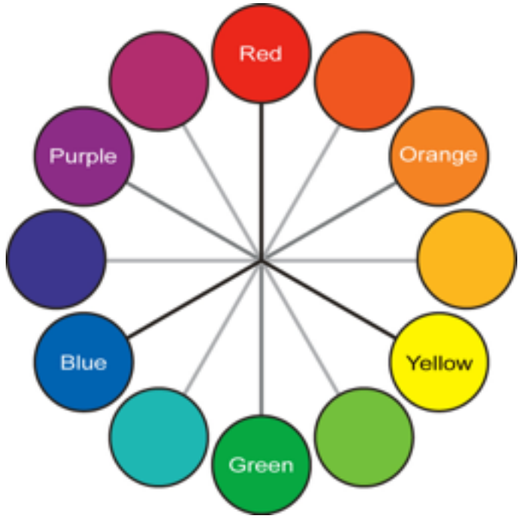
Deuteranope simulation

Change the shape

Vary luminance

[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone. Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

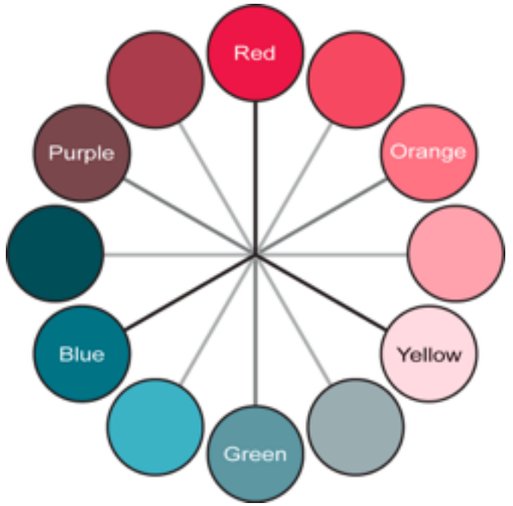
Color deficiency: Reduces color to 2 dimensions



Normal

Protanope

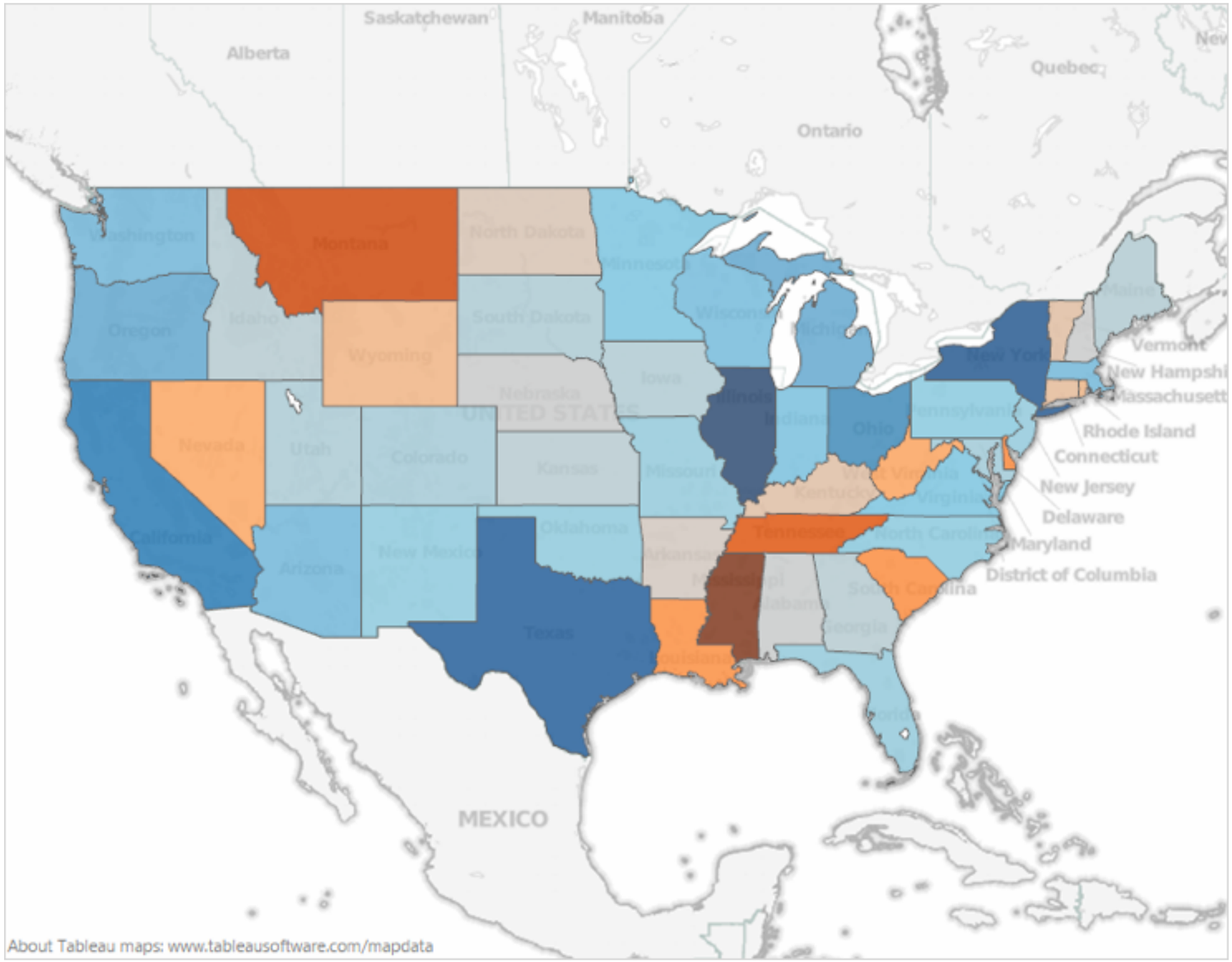
Deuteranope



Tritanope

[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

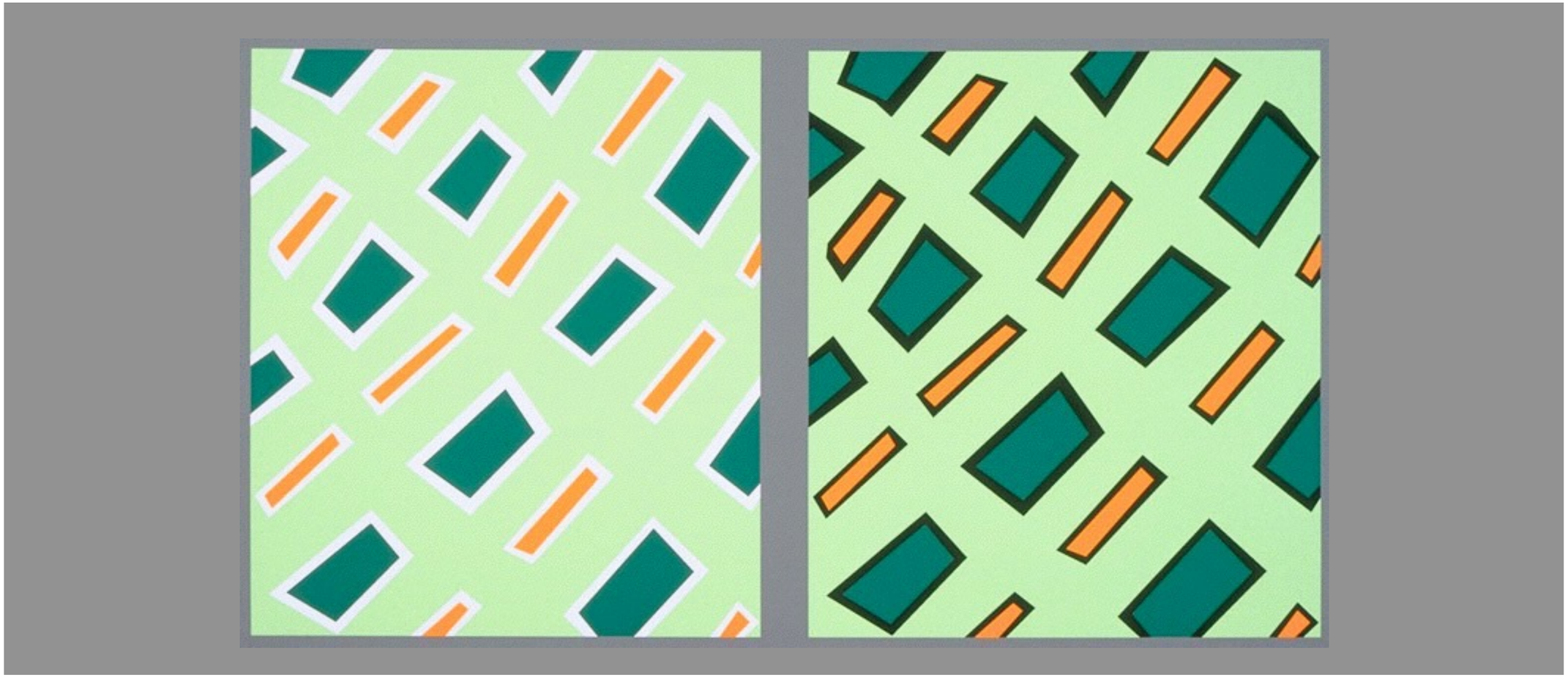
Designing for color deficiency: Blue-Orange is safe



[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

Bezold Effect: Outlines matter

- color constancy: simultaneous contrast effect



[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone. Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

Color/Lightness constancy: Illumination conditions

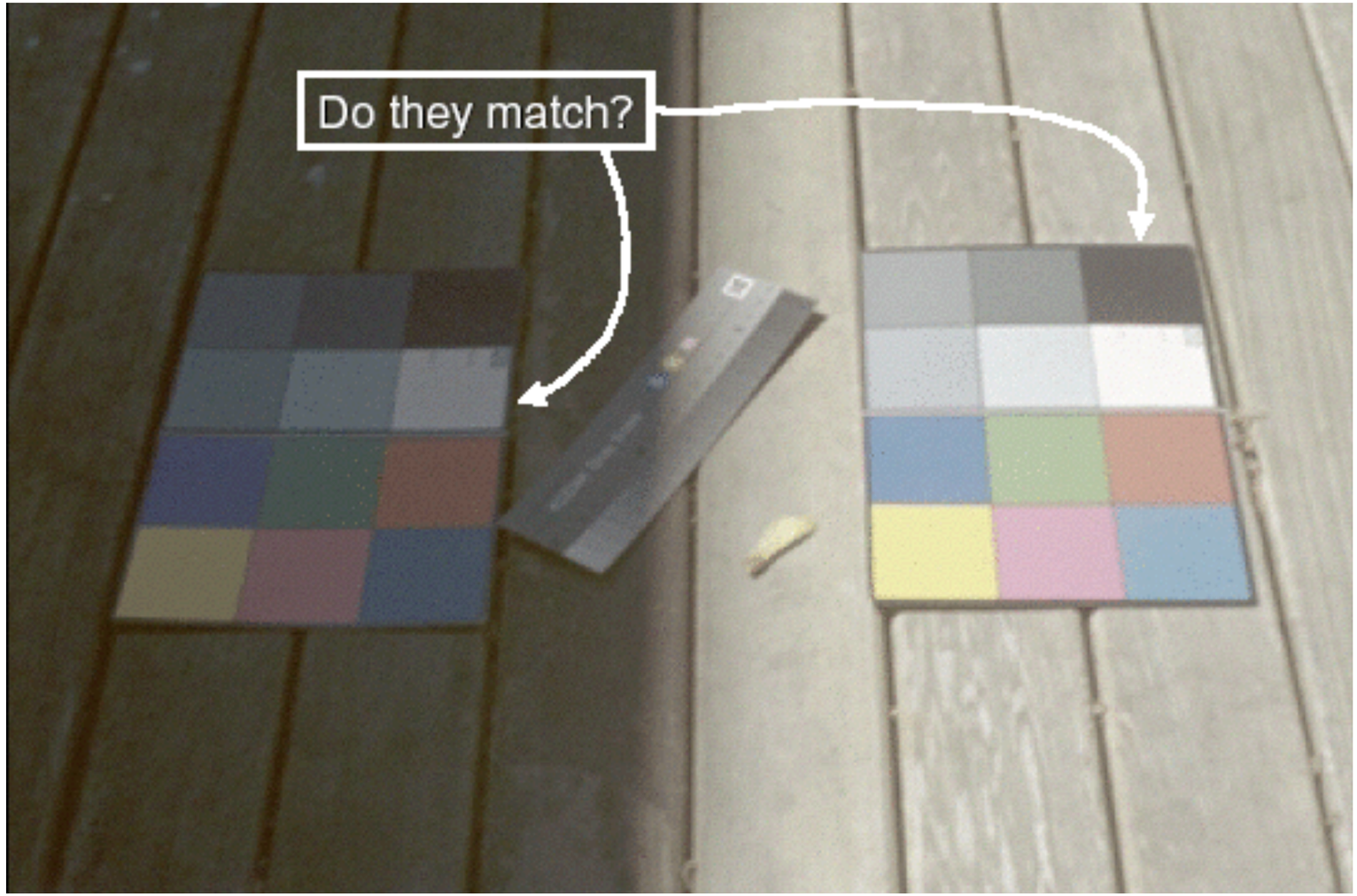


Image courtesy of John McCann

Color/Lightness constancy: Illumination conditions

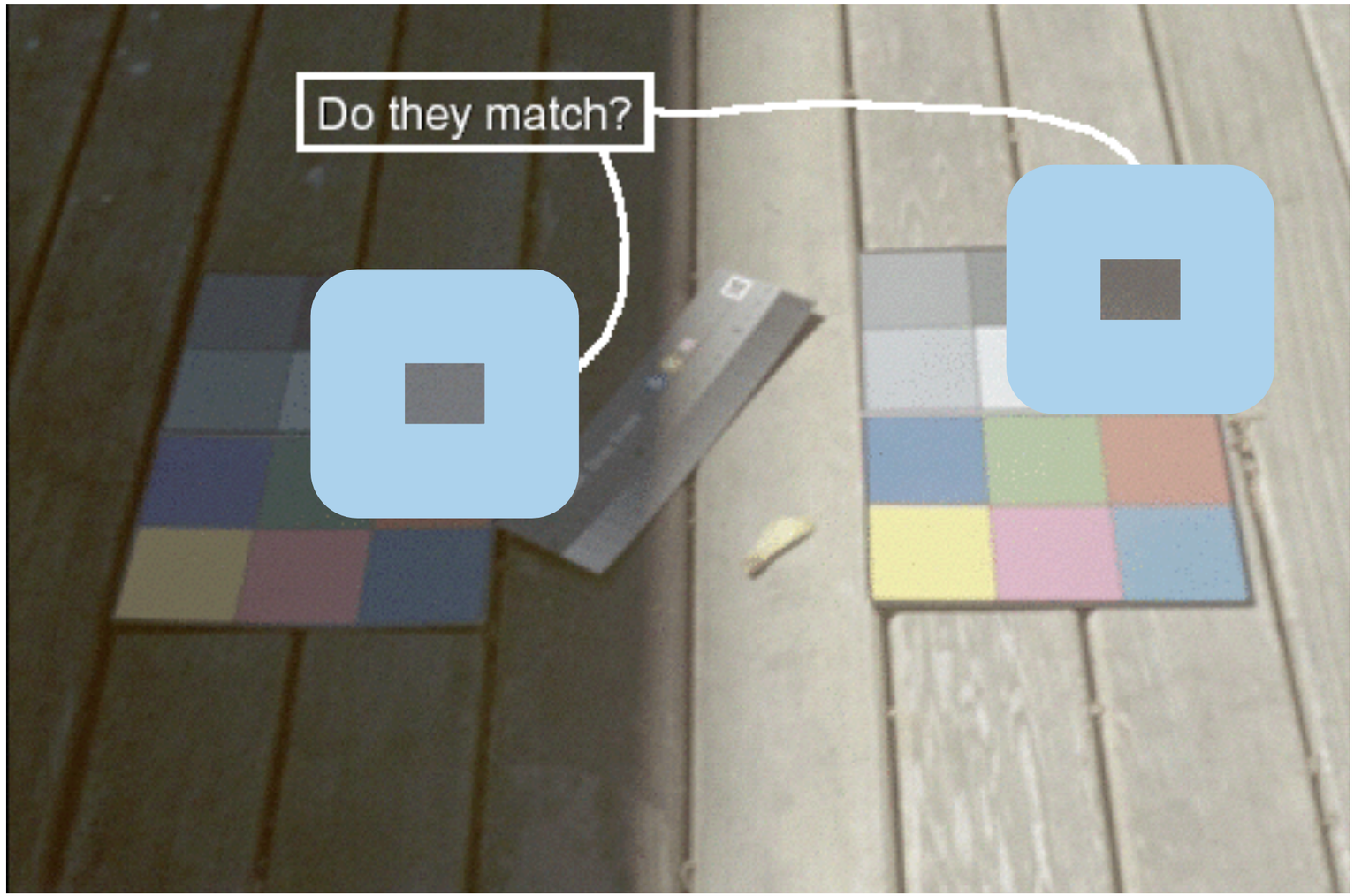


Image courtesy of John McCann

Colormaps

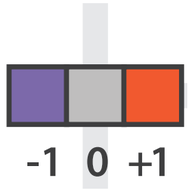
- Categorical

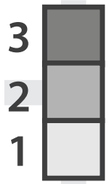
- Ordered
  - *Sequential*
  - *Diverging*

Binary

Categorical

Diverging





Sequential

after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994. http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/c/a/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html]

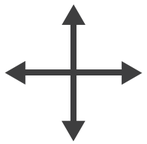
Colormaps

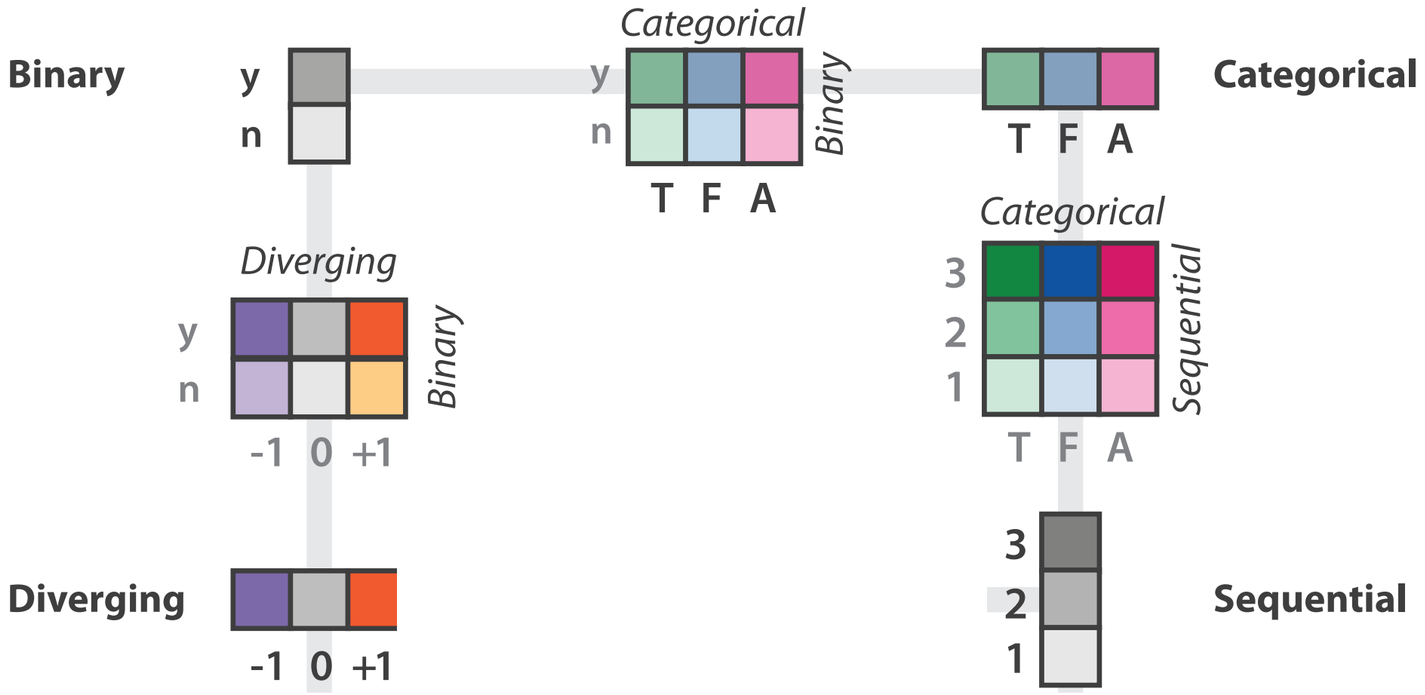
- Categorical

- Ordered
  - *Sequential*

  - *Diverging*

- Bivariate





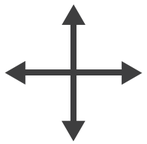
after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994. http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/c/a/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html]

Colormaps

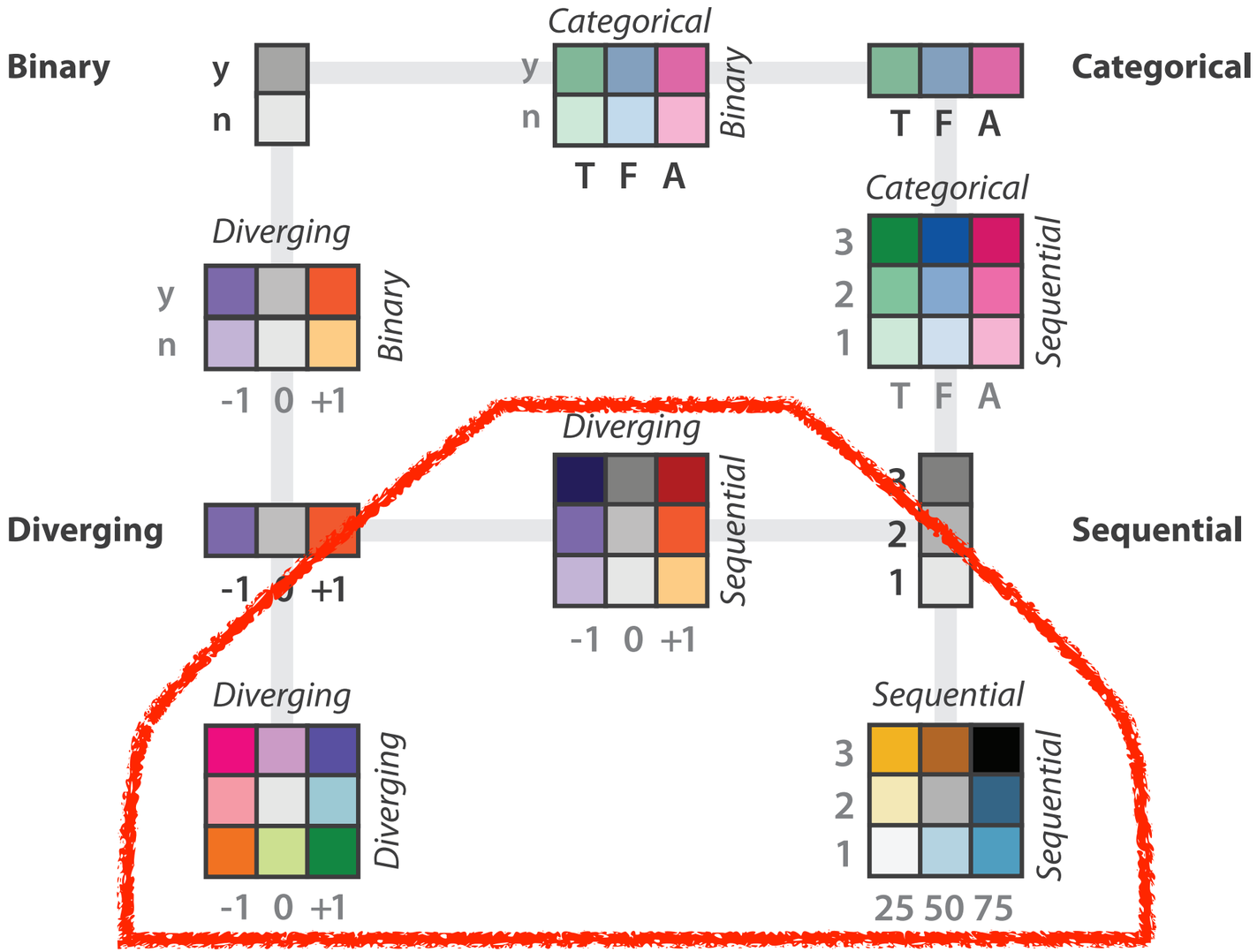
- Categorical

- Ordered
  - *Sequential*
  - *Diverging*

- Bivariate



use with care!



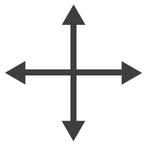
after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994. http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/c/a/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html]

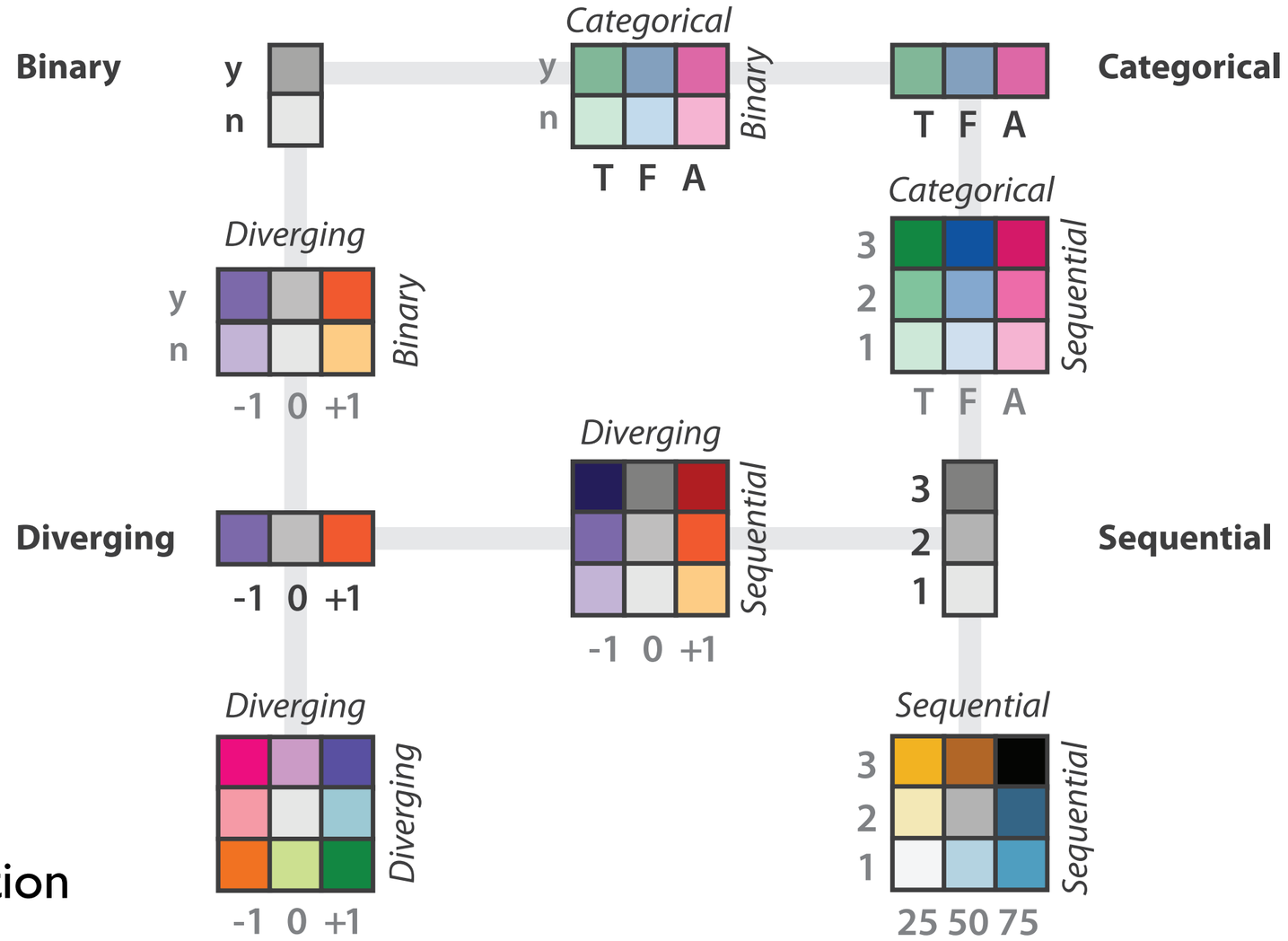
Colormaps

- Categorical

- Ordered
  - *Sequential*
  - *Diverging*

- Bivariate



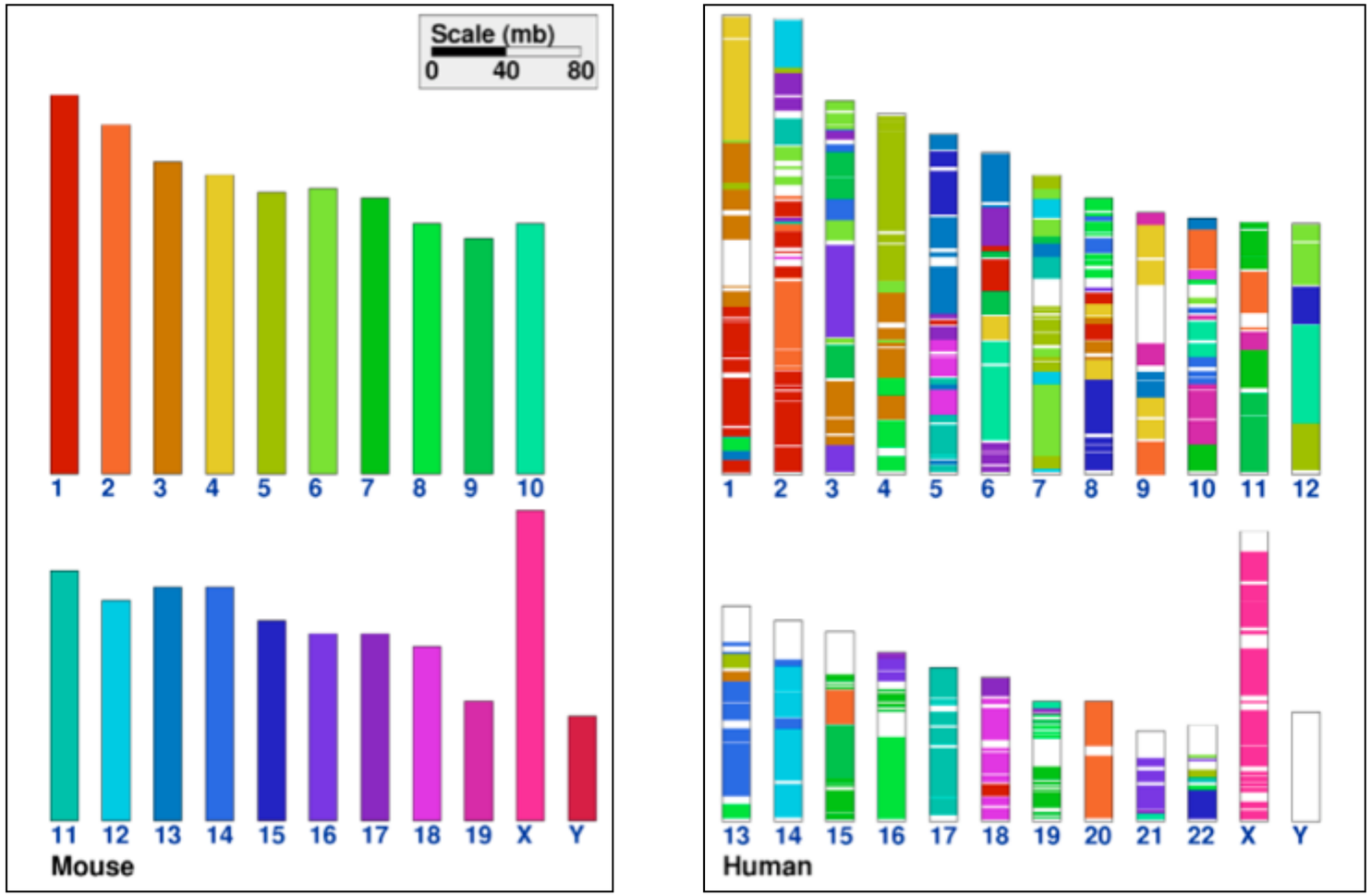


- color channel interactions
  - –size heavily affects salience
    - small regions need high saturation
    - large need low saturation
  - –saturation & luminance: 3-4 bins max
    - also not separable from transparency

after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994. http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/c/a/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html]

Categorical color: limited number of discriminable bins

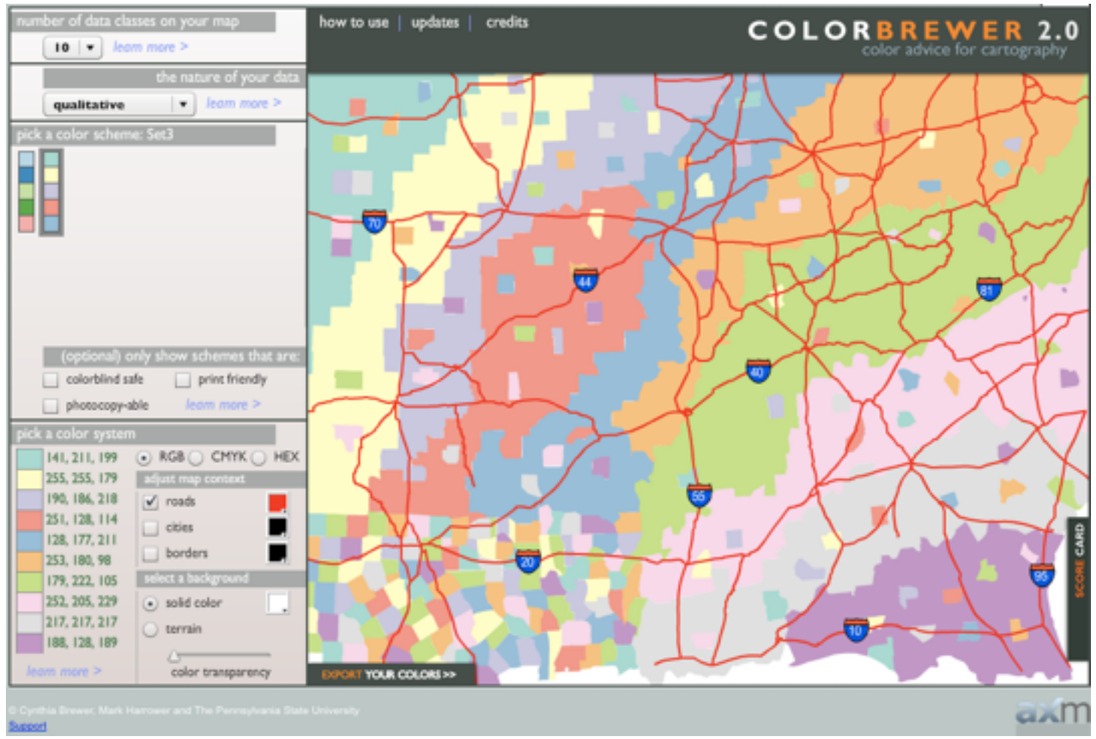
- human perception built on relative comparisons
  - great if color contiguous
  - surprisingly bad for absolute comparisons
- noncontiguous small regions of color
  - fewer bins than you want
  - rule of thumb: 6-12 bins, including background and highlights
  - *so what can we do instead?*

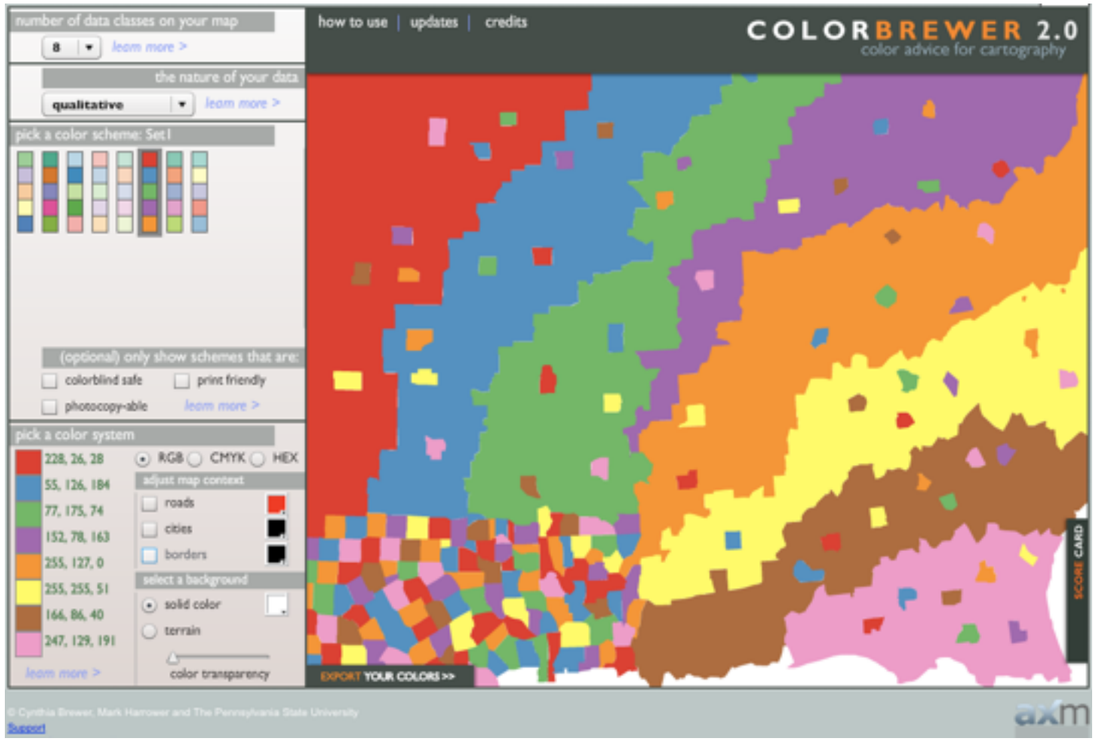


[Cinteny: flexible analysis and visualization of synteny and genome rearrangements in multiple organisms. Sinha and Meller. BMC Bioinformatics, 8:82, 2007.]

ColorBrewer

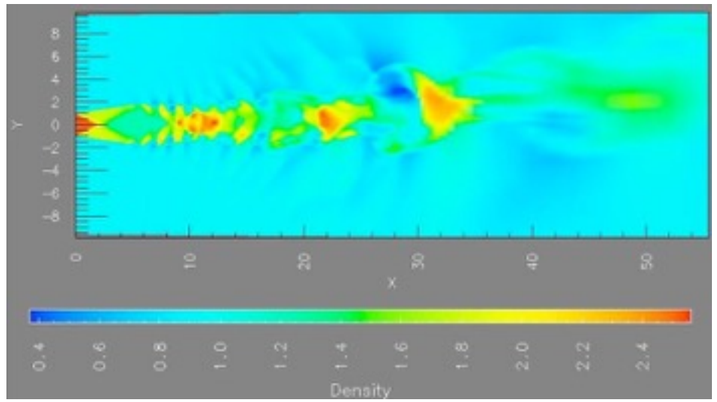
- http://www.colorbrewer2.org
- saturation and area example: size affects salience!



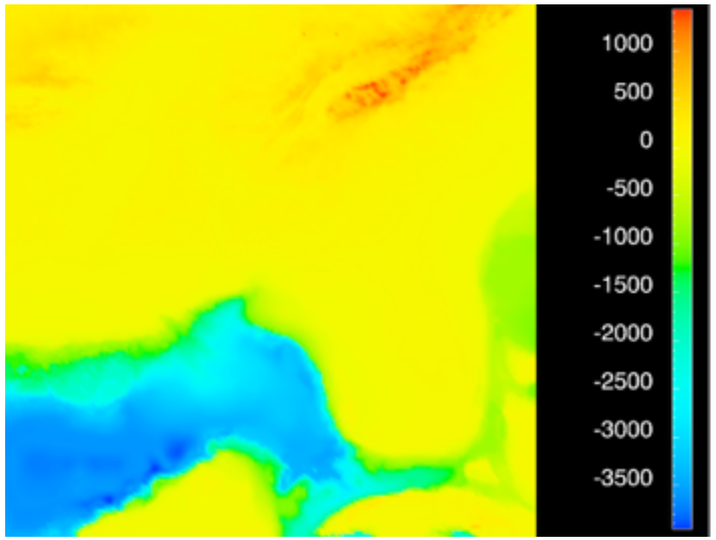


Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable



[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman,. Rogowitz, and. Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]

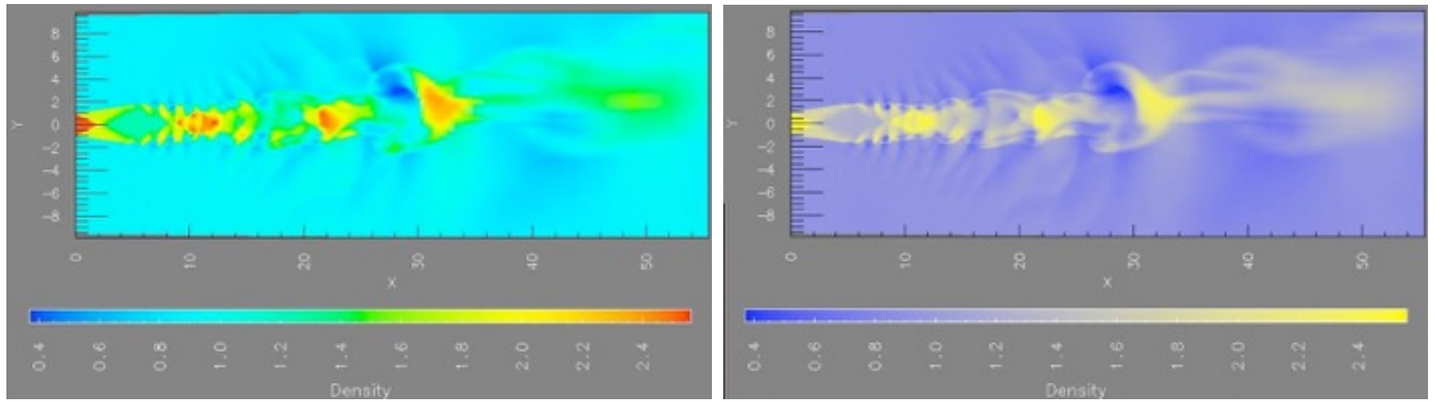


[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. http://www.research.ibm.com/people/l/lloydt/color/color.HTM]

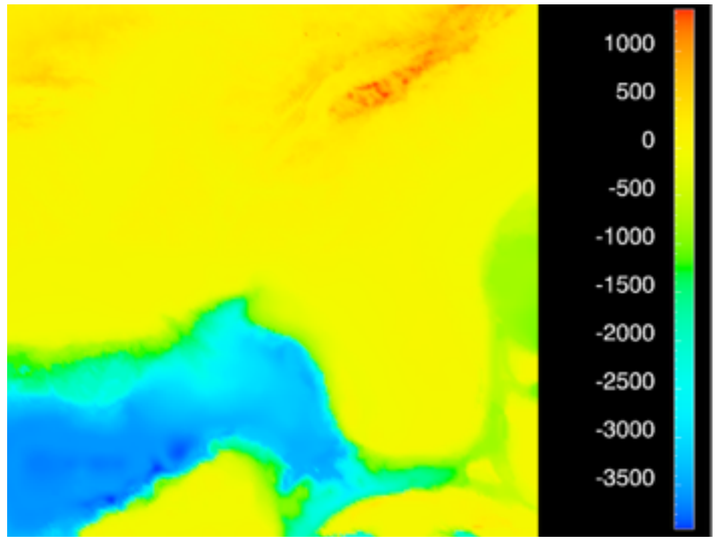
[Transfer Functions in Direct Volume Rendering: Design, Interface, Interaction. Kindlmann. SIGGRAPH 2002 Course Notes]

Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable
- alternatives
  - large-scale structure: fewer hues



[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman,. Rogowitz, and. Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]

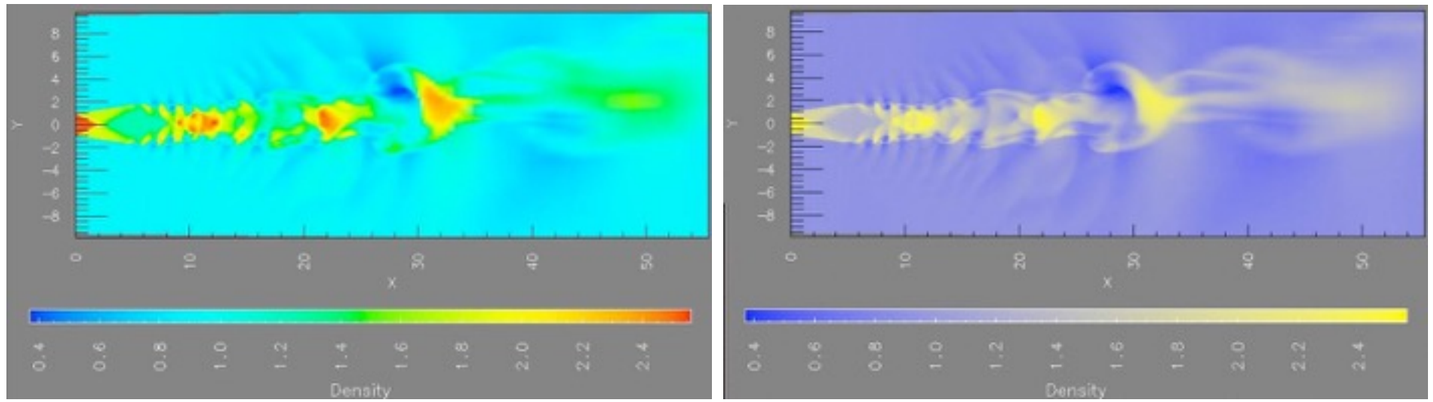


[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. http://www.research.ibm.com/people/l/lloydt/color/color.HTM]

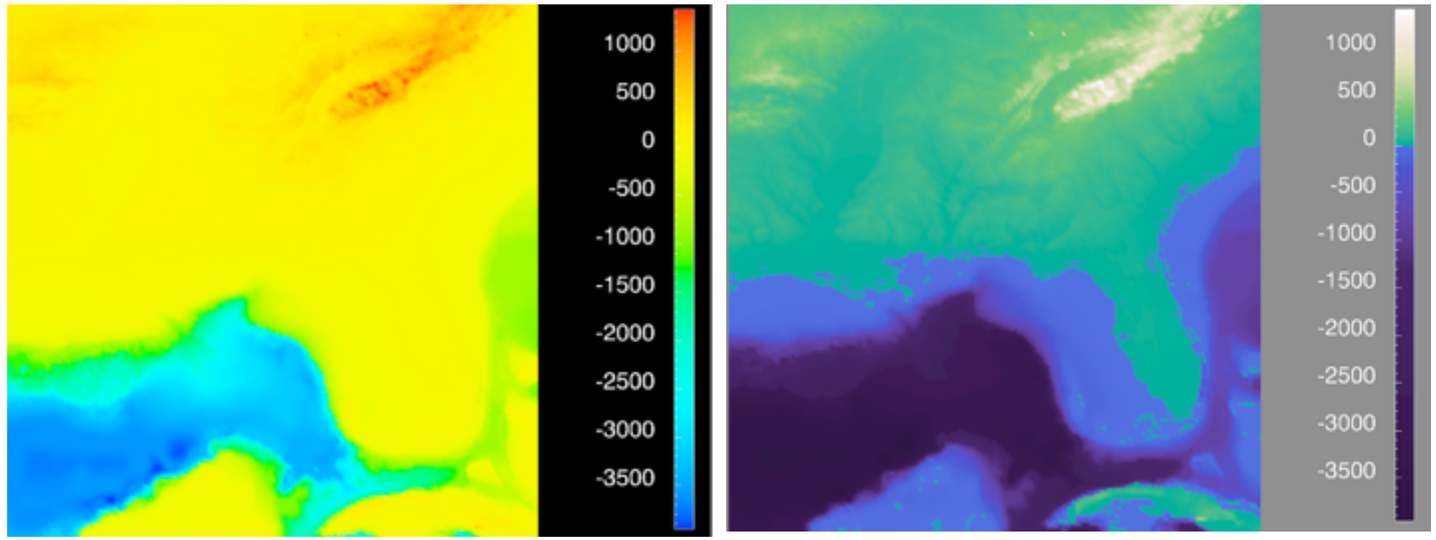
[Transfer Functions in Direct Volume Rendering: Design, Interface, Interaction. Kindlmann. SIGGRAPH 2002 Course Notes]

Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable
- alternatives
  - large-scale structure: fewer hues
  - fine structure: multiple hues with monotonically increasing luminance [eg viridis R/python]



[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman,. Rogowitz, and. Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]

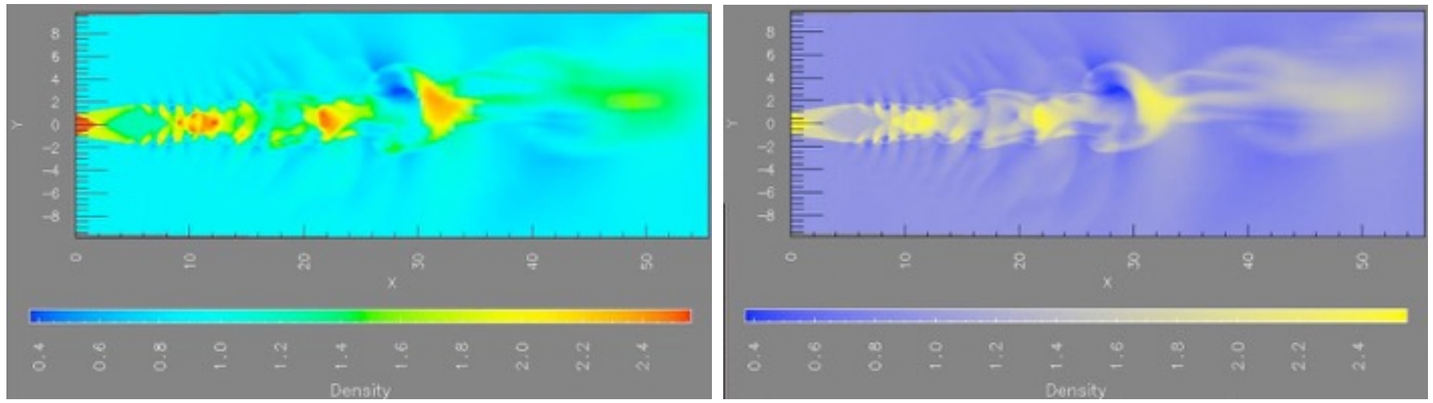


[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. http://www.research.ibm.com/people/l/lloydt/color/color.HTM]

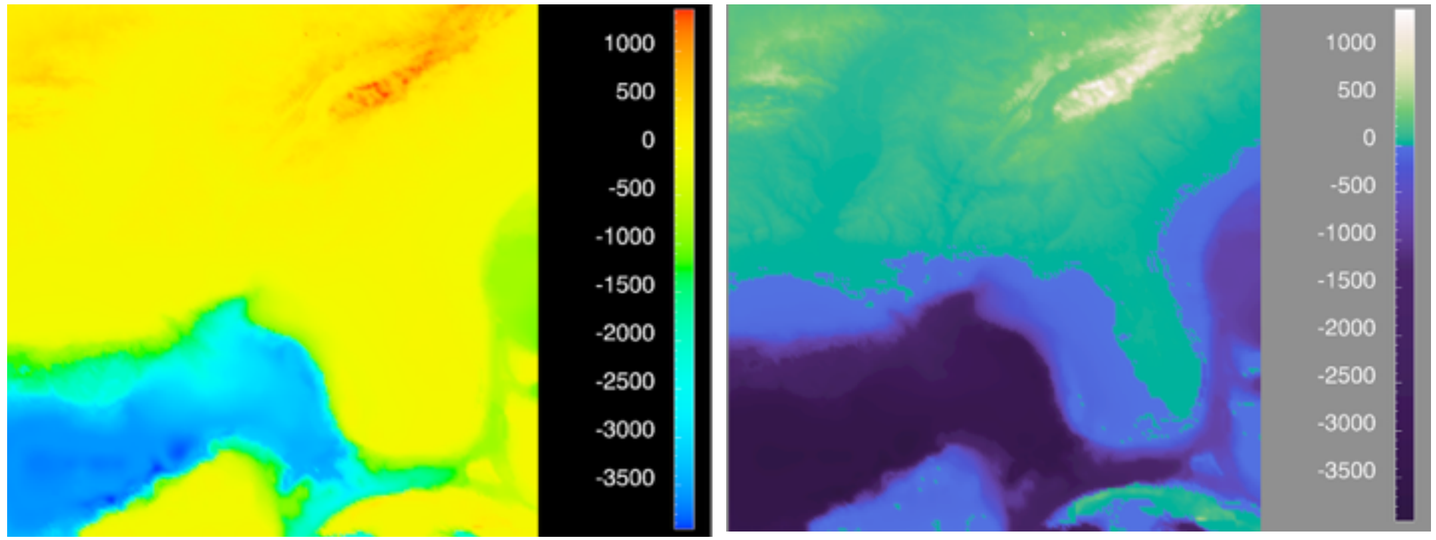
[Transfer Functions in Direct Volume Rendering: Design, Interface, Interaction. Kindlmann. SIGGRAPH 2002 Course Notes]

Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable
- alternatives
  - large-scale structure: fewer hues
  - fine structure: multiple hues with monotonically increasing luminance [eg viridis R/python]
  - segmented rainbows for binned
    - or categorical



[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman,. Rogowitz, and. Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]

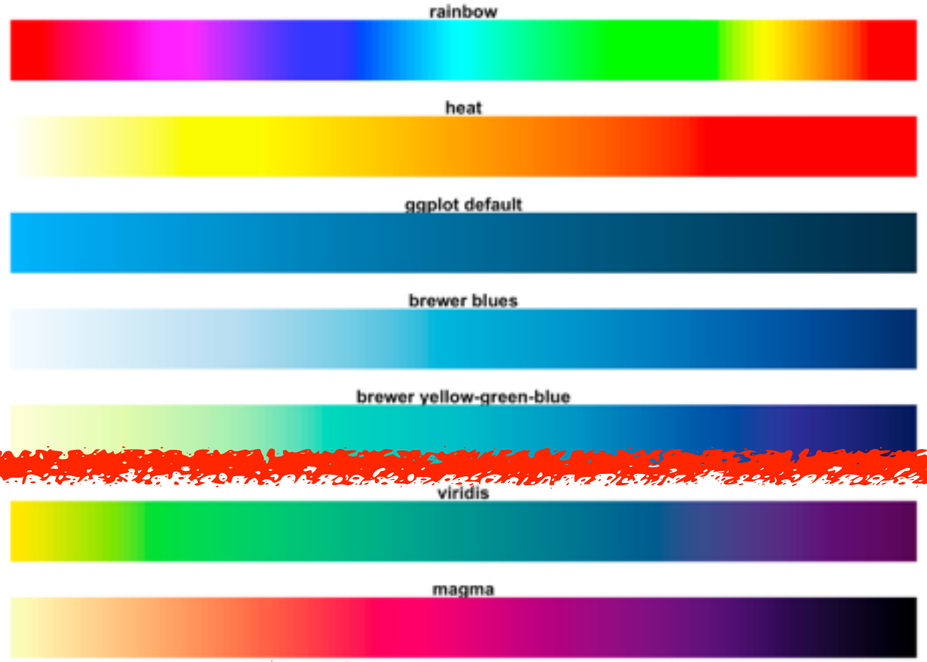


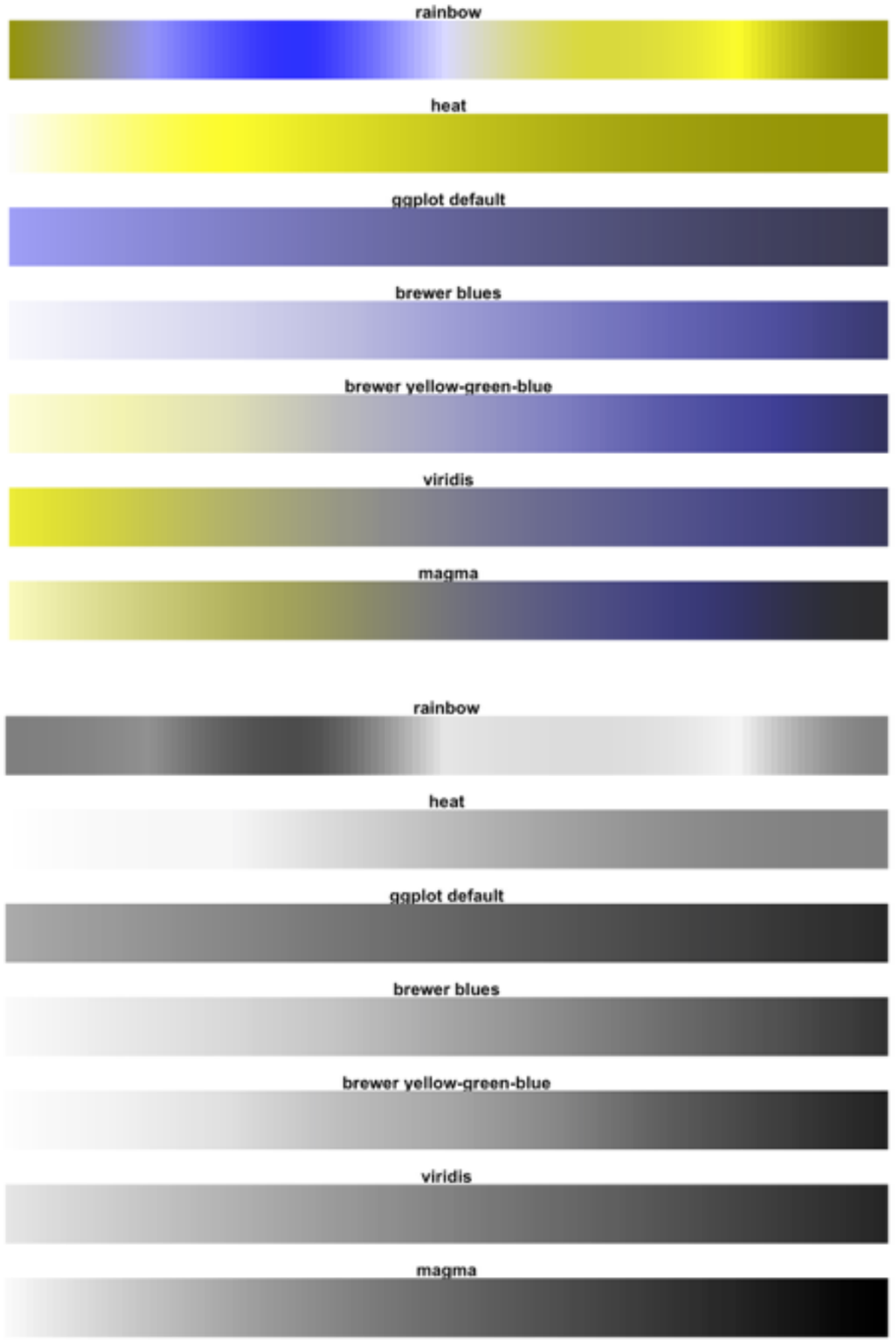
[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. http://www.research.ibm.com/people/l/lloydt/color/color.HTM]

[Transfer Functions in Direct Volume Rendering: Design, Interface, Interaction. Kindlmann. SIGGRAPH 2002 Course Notes]

Viridis

- colorful, perceptually uniform, colorblind-safe, monotonically increasing luminance





https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/viridis/vignettes/intro-to-viridis.html

Map other channels

- size
  - length accurate, 2D area ok, 3D volume poor
- angle
  - nonlinear accuracy
    - horizontal, vertical, exact diagonal
- shape
  - complex combination of lower-level primitives
  - many bins
- motion
  - highly separable against static
    - binary: great for highlighting
  - use with care to avoid irritation

➔ **Size, Angle, Curvature, ...**

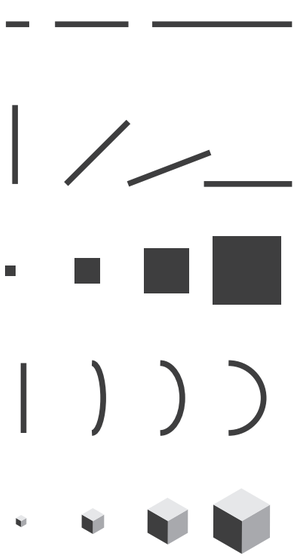
➔ Length

➔ Angle

➔ Area

➔ Curvature

➔ Volume



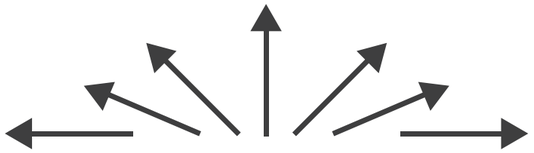
➔ **Shape**

➔ **Motion**

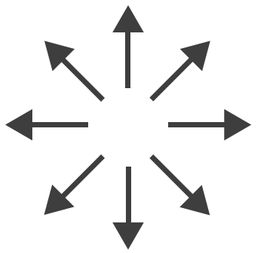
➔ Motion
Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...

Angle

Sequential ordered
line mark or arrow glyph



Diverging ordered
arrow glyph



Cyclic ordered
arrow glyph

Next Time

- to read
  - VAD Ch. 11: Manipulate View
  - Interactive Visualization of Genealogical Graphs. Michael J. McGuffin, Ravin Balakrishnan. Proc. InfoVis 2005, pp 17-24.