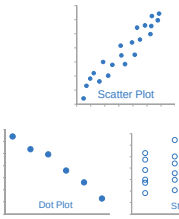
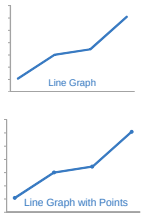
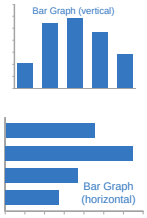
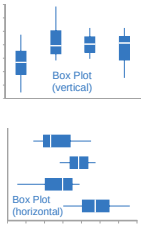
perceptual edge

Graph Selection Matrix

Featured Relationships	Value-Encoding Objects: Points	Lines	Bars	Boxes
				
Time Series Values display how something changed through time (yearly, monthly, etc.)	**Yes** (as a *dot plot*, when you don't have a value for every interval of time)	**Yes** (to feature overall trends and patterns and to support their comparisons)	**Yes** (vertical bars only, to feature individual values and to support their comparisons)	**Yes** (vertical boxes only, to display how a distribution changes through time)
Ranking Values are ordered by size (descending or ascending)	**Yes** (as a *dot plot*, especially when the quantitative scale does not begin at zero)	No	**Yes**	**Yes** (to display a ranked set of distributions)
Part-to-Whole Values represent parts (proportions) of a whole (for example, regional portions of total sales)	No	**Yes** (to display how parts of a whole have changed through time)	**Yes**	No
Deviation The difference between two sets of values (for example, the variance between actual and budgeted expenses)	**Yes** (as a *dot plot*, especially when the quantitative scale does not begin at zero)	**Yes** (when also featuring a time series)	**Yes**	No
Distribution Counts of values per interval from lowest to highest (for example, counts of people by age intervals of 10 years each)	**Yes** (as a *strip plot*, to feature individual values)	**Yes** (as a *frequency polygon*, to feature the overall shape of the distribution)	**Yes**	**Yes** (when comparing multiple distributions)
Correlation Comparison of two paired sets of values (for example, the heights and weights of several people) to determine if there is a relationship between them	**Yes** (as a *scatter plot*)	No	**Yes** (as a *table lens*, especially when your audience is not familiar with *scatter plots*)	No
Geospatial Values are displayed on a map to show their location	**Yes** (as bubbles of various sizes on a map)	**Yes** (to display routes on a map)	No	No
Nominal Comparison A simple comparison of values for a set of unordered items (for example, products, or regions)	**Yes** (as a *dot plot*, especially when the quantitative scale does not begin at zero)	No	**Yes**	No

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