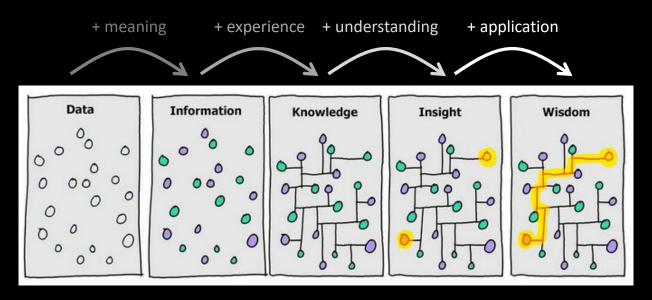
# Visualizing Science: A Crash Course in Digital Graphics

Coffee Hour | ARO Education Committee
21st June 2023
Kirupa Suthakar, PhD



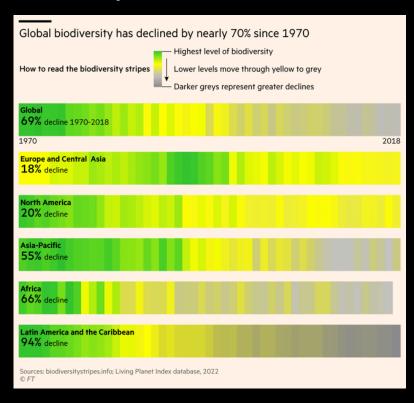


'Here is the data I collected'

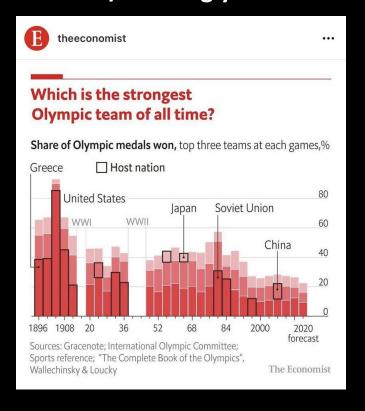
'Here is my addition to our field'

## What makes a good figure? (\*according to reddit)

#### r/dataisbeautiful



#### r/dataisugly

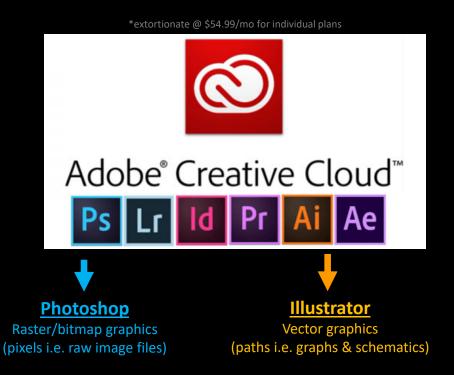


#### Ten Simple Rules for Better Figures

- Rougier, Droettboom & Bourne, 2014 (PLOS Computational Biology)
  - 1. Know your audience
  - 2. Identify your message
  - 3. Adapt the figure to support medium
  - 4. Captions are not optional
  - 5. Do not trust the defaults
  - 6. Use color effectively
  - 7. Do not mislead the reader
  - 8. Avoid 'chartjunk'
  - 9. Message trumps beauty
  - 10. Get the right tool

https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003833

#### Paid\* vs Free Software



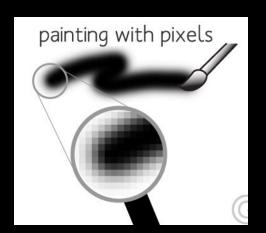






#### Raster vs Vector Graphics

Used for images e.g. photographs, micrographs

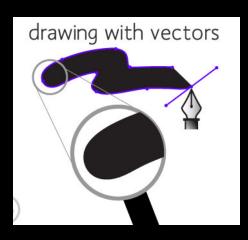




Raster (aka bitmap) graphics are NOT scalable (i.e. quality dependent on resolution)

Used for line art e.g. plots, graphs, flow charts, schematics





Vector graphics are scalable (i.e. not dependent on resolution)

#### Raster vs Vector

## Common file types:

- .jpg
- .gif
- .png
- .tiff
- .raw
- .psd

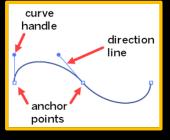




#### Common file types:

- .pdf
- .eps
- ai .ai
- .svg
- .emf

## Bezier curves to create paths



https://pavilion.dinfos.edu/Article/Article/2223089/vector-vs-raster-images-choosing-the-right-format/

#### File type considerations

- Compression am I willing to trade quality of resolution for file size?
  - Lostless compression (larger files): .tiff, .png, .psd, .ai, .pdf, .svg, .emf, .epsp
  - Lossy compression (smaller files, lower resolution): .jpeg, .gif
- Readability what programs can access the file?
  - Typically proprietary: .psd, .ai, .mat, .nd2
  - Many programs: .png, .jpeg, .tiff, .bmp, .pdf, .svg, .emf, .epsp
- Editability do I need to retain editable features?
  - Compressed or uncompressed with layers intact (large files): .psd, .ai, .pdf, .tiff
  - Compressed and 'flattened' (small files): .jpeg, .tiff, .png

# Working with layers



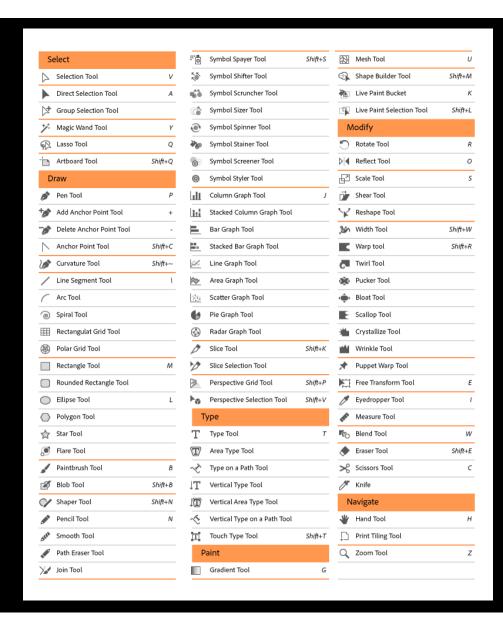


#### **Elemental Masks**

Collaboration b/w
Paul Douard, France
Victor Vergara, Colombia

#### Concepts to cover:

- Program Workspace
- Window Panes & Toolbars
- Ruler/dimensions
- Layers
- Tools
  - Selection vs Direct Selection
  - Text Boxes vs Area Text Boxes
  - Pencil vs Pen vs Brushes
  - Stroke vs Fill
  - Select > Same
  - Arrows and Arrowheads
- File types
- Importing and exporting (print vs web)

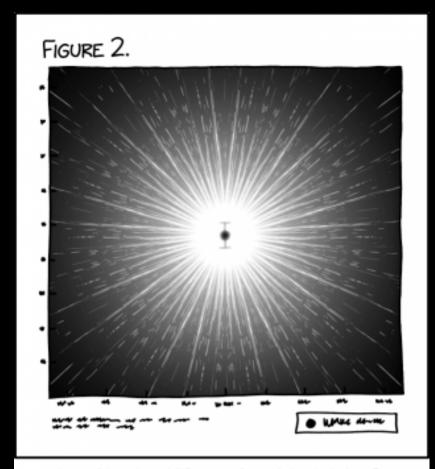


## Demonstrations

#### Useful references and resources

- GOOGLE!!!
- 'Ten Simple Rules for Better Figures' Rougier, Droettboom & Bourne, 2014 (PLOS Computational Biology) https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003833
- 'Raj Lab basic Adobe Illustrator (CC) guide' Jiang, 2019 (RajLaboratory blog) https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TXmbltzBPcApCcuJ9HLOIQgWPqKylrFRW RudrN-5vBE/edit#
- 'Image integrity and standards' Nature Portfolio <a href="https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/editorial-policies/image-integrity">https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/editorial-policies/image-integrity</a>
- Coblis Color Blindness Simulator <a href="https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/">https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/</a>

# Thanks for joining!



SCIENCE POWER MOVE: WHEN ONE OF YOUR DATA POINTS IS REALLY COOL, DEVOTE A WHOLE FIGURE TO IT.

https://xkcd.com/2713/