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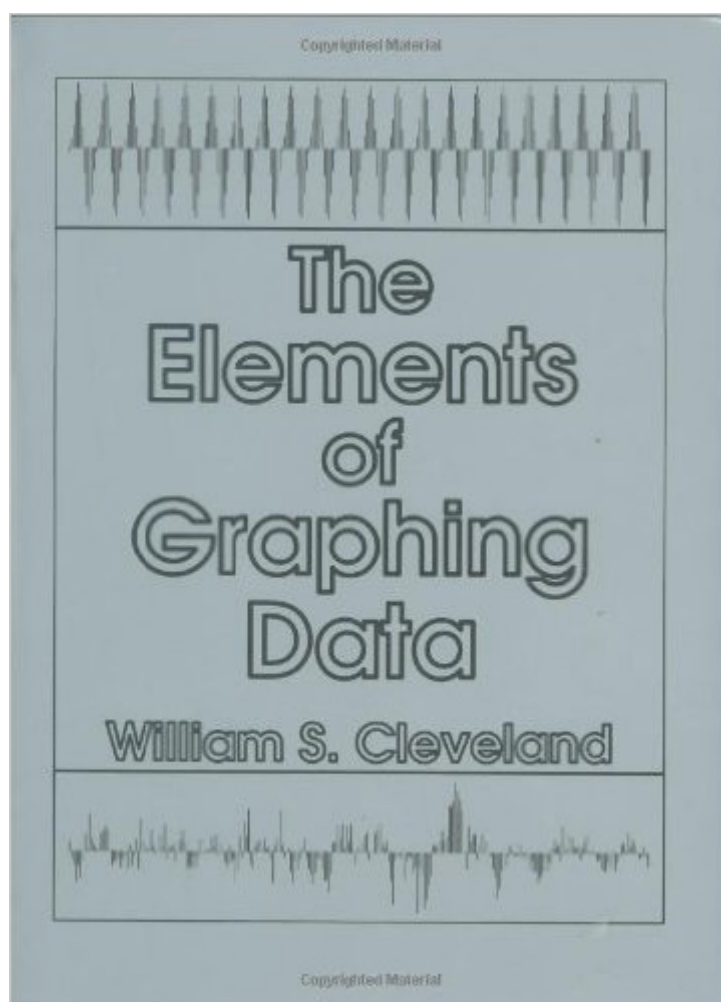
The Elements Of Graphing Data

Synopsis

Visualization methods in science andtechnology. Many new ideas and methods;many not widely known before. Excellentmethodological resource for researchworkers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tufte shows you why it's important to do graphs well. Cleveland shows you _how_.The last quarter of the book details experiments in human visual perception that rank how well we detect certain things: relative angles not on a common baseline (i.e. pie charts) justly come out at the bottom of the list.One of a only handful of books I've labelled "JXH ONLY". If I loan you my copy, know that you are special.

William Cleveland clearly describes how data can be presented to great effect. His description of visual perception spell out the "how to's" of graphing data. While many graphing programs are available in today's high technology environment, Cleveland's descriptions of how data can be presented into graphical format is enlightening. The book provides great examples of both superior and poor graphing presentation, focusing on how to encode graphs to allow for straightforward data analysis."The Elements of Graphiing Data" is a must for those who graph scientific data.

If you are interested in making scientific plots, or any kinds of statistical graphics for a wide audience, Edward Tufte's series and especially his The Visual Display of Quantitative Information,

are indispensable. Reading William S. Cleveland's The Elements of Graphing Data, you can see where Tufte drew much of his inspiration, and where he expanded, clarified, and improved upon Cleveland's ideas. Much of this is simply due to advances in computer graphics, personal computers, and printing and display capability - it's been 27 years since Cleveland's book was published, and the WWW didn't even exist then. Cleveland certainly isn't at fault for the technical limits of displays in his day, but for the modern reader and chart-maker, Tufte's work is more instructive and is a better starting point.

Like one of the other reviewers, I first borrowed this book from the library. I read it from cover to cover and realised how much valuable information it contained. I needed to get my own copy to be able to put it into practice. It is also a nice hard covered book, great for bashing my work colleagues (who love pie charts) over the head with.

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