

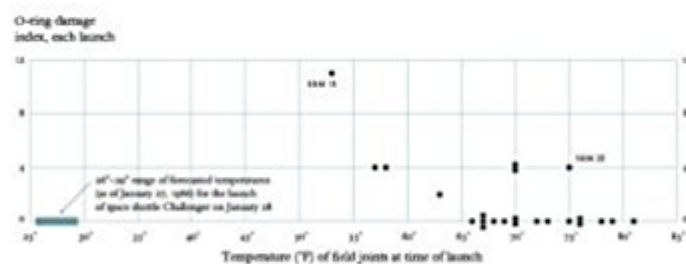


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Visual And Statistical Thinking: Displays Of Evidence For Making Decisions

EDWARD R. TUFTE

VISUAL AND STATISTICAL THINKING:
DISPLAYS OF EVIDENCE FOR MAKING DECISIONS



JOHN SNOW AND THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

THE DECISION TO LAUNCH THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER



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Synopsis

This booklet reprints chapter 2 of Visual Explanations by the same author, analyzing a cholera epidemic in London in 1854 and the evidence used to decide to launch the space shuttle Challenger in 1986. Topics include cause and effect, data errors and credibility, evidence selection, and statistical graphics. For teaching data analysis and evidence in excision making.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I learned quite a bit from this book. It really helps with logical and analytical thinking. I would recommend this for being able to see through Political BS like polls and discerning fake statistics and data. Also helps me recognize and implement good data representation.

This is a 31 page pamphlet reproducing chapter 2 of Tufte's 1997 "Visual Explanation: images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative". It contains two case studies: doing it right illustrated by John Snow's famous Cholera investigation and doing it wrong showing charts used to determine the ill-fated challenger accident (could almost be renamed as an example of lying with charts what what to suspect). Production values are unusually high (which we'd expect from Tufte) with heavy paper, well printed, excellent illustration and color pictures. The pages are large 8.5"x11". The only thing I'm concerned about is the durability of the cover pages (paper back). Two really good examples, one good/one bad, of the use of charts. Low price, 5 stars.

If you're anything like me, you'll want to have Tufte's finest book, *Visual Explanations*, sitting on your shelf. If that's the case, then you don't need this slim volume, which is Chapter 2 of that large and beautiful book. But one way or the other, it's important to read it. Tufte describes visual plots of statistical evidence in two cases: Its success in diagnosing the cause of a London cholera epidemic, and the failure of a small group of engineers to convince their superiors to halt the disastrous launch of the Challenger in 1986. Together, these examples provide a guide and an inspiration to anyone putting together charts and graphs with a purpose.

Buy the book instead of this pamphlet. This small guide is a waste of money

Tufte is a master of laying out the problem, revealing misguided analysis used in the two studies that he dissects and then shows how to better interpret the data. I found myself slowing down my usual reading speed to half and doubling my concentration to follow him, which is a compliment to the depth of his writing. Tufte is concise and a well-regarded authority on the methods to describe, define, reveal and present problems so that solutions are found honestly. I recommend reading all his work.

The author analyses two cases where reports was intended to change information into action. The cases are well known but the analysis he made are really worth reading. The text is not difficult to understand, and yet doesn't fall in the obvious. I think it must be read a lot of times.

This pamphlet is largely two excerpted case studies from Tufte's other books, so it doesn't really bring anything new to the table. Having said that and understanding its limited scope, it makes a great classroom tool both for information graphics and for areas of related study. It is inexpensive enough to supplement a text book and it a nice - as are all of Tufte's books - object.

There are a number of Tufte books out there. They are all equally good, but at times the content is overlapping.

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