Selection vs. Brushing vs. Painting

- It is important to clarify some of the terms that are often used as synonyms, although their meaning differs:
 - Selections
 - Are transient and define one static subgroup
 - Brushing

Is a selection performed dynamically we speak of brushing

- Painting

If the brushing action results in a persistent change of state (usually color), we speak of painting.



Highlighting

- Once a selection is defined, it needs to be propagated to all other plots
- All plots need to know how to highlight a subgroup
- Highlighting may be
 - transient (only changes when a new selection is performed)
 - **persistent** (a new state explicitly must be assigned to the involved cases)
- A clear rule how highlighting is performed is desirable, but exceptions have proven to be very powerful



oleic

Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Highlighting: Generalizations and Limits

Day of Week

- Two major questions need to be clarified
 - Is the highlighting of the same kind as the plot itself?
 - To what should the selected subset be compared?
 - (a) the complete sample or
 - (b) the complement of the selection For many plots it does not matter, e.g. scatter plots, pcp ...
 - Some plots are different, e.g. box-plot



Highlighting vs. Color Brushing

- Selection and Highlighting essentially divide the data into two groups, i.e. a virtual binary variable is introduced
- In settings where we want to compare more than two groups simultaneously color brushing can be used
- Combining the two ways to mark groups has its problems ...



Color Brushing and Overplotting

- When we work with more than just tiny datasets, we face overplotting problems
- Highlighting has the advantage that the highlighting group can always be plotted on top of the rest
- With more than one color the order in which the different groups are plotted is important and may result in very different views



Hot-Selection and Shadowing

- Hot-selection mode is a property of a single plot and simply means that only currently selected cases are shown in a plot
- Hot-selection comes in two flavors:
 - fixed (respectively frozen) scale,
 - automatic scale, i.e., the scale is updated whenever the selection changes
- Shadowing (sometimes also referred to as ghosting) hides points in order to focus on the rest of the sample



Linking beyond Graphics

- Linking is not limited to graphics, but can also be applied to statistical summaries, tests or even models
- Highlighting in data tables
- Fit models to the selected subset
- Link to model diagnostics
- Link variable properties
 - permutation of categories
 - scales



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Interacting with Graphics: Direct Manipulation

- To explore "what-if scenarios", we need to be able to change selection states and plot parameters instantaneously
- We can roughly divide the possible interactions into general interactions
 - Creating, and manipulating selections
 - Changing the order of objects
 - Changing scales (zooming)

plot specific interactions

- Setting the anchor point and bin width of a histogram (bandwidth of a density estimate)
- Changing the point size in a scatterplot
- Flipping the axes in a scatterplot
- Setting the smoothness of a scatterplot smoother
- Switching the representation (relative or absolute) of a barchart/spineplot or histogram/spinogram
- Changing the amount of α -blending applied to a glyph based plot

Interacting with Graphics: GUI

- The user interface must support an exploratory working style
- Modern GUIs offer many components that can be used to manipulate graphics

