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Seminarraum des Instituts für Statistik, Ludwigstrasse 33

CHOOSING COLOR PALETTES FOR STATISTICAL GRAPHICS

Statistical graphics are often augmented by the use of color coding information contained in some variable. When this involves the shading of areas (and not only points or lines)--e.g., as in bar plots, pie charts, mosaic displays or heatmaps--it is important that the colors are perceptually based and do not introduce optical illusions or systematic bias. Here, we discuss how the perceptually-based Hue-Chroma-Luminance (HCL) color space can be used for deriving suitable color palettes for coding categorical data (qualitative palettes) and numerical variables (sequential and diverging palettes). All palettes are provided in the R package `vcd` using the HCL implementation from the `colorspace` package.