

reach

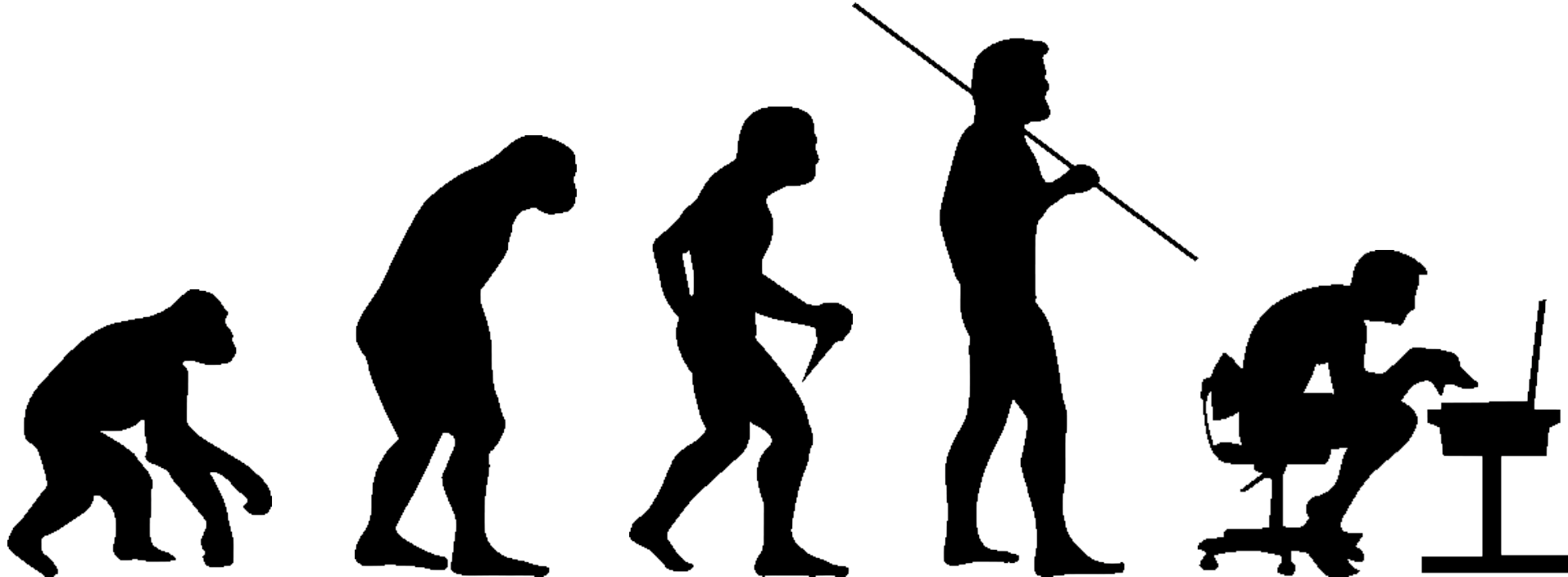
Stupid Statistics!?

Servan Grüninger, Research Fellow Applied Statistics Group UZH &
President reach

www.reach.ch | www.servangrueninger.ch | @SGruninger



My academic evolution



Political Science & Law

Biology & Neuroinformatics

Biostatistics & Computational Science

What is reatch?



An independent **idea hatchery**
for a **science-friendly culture**,
where science and society **work side by side.**

Our mission



We want to **make science relevant** and to enrich public discourse with **evidence-based solutions**.

**We believe in
grassroots**



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Stupid Statistics!

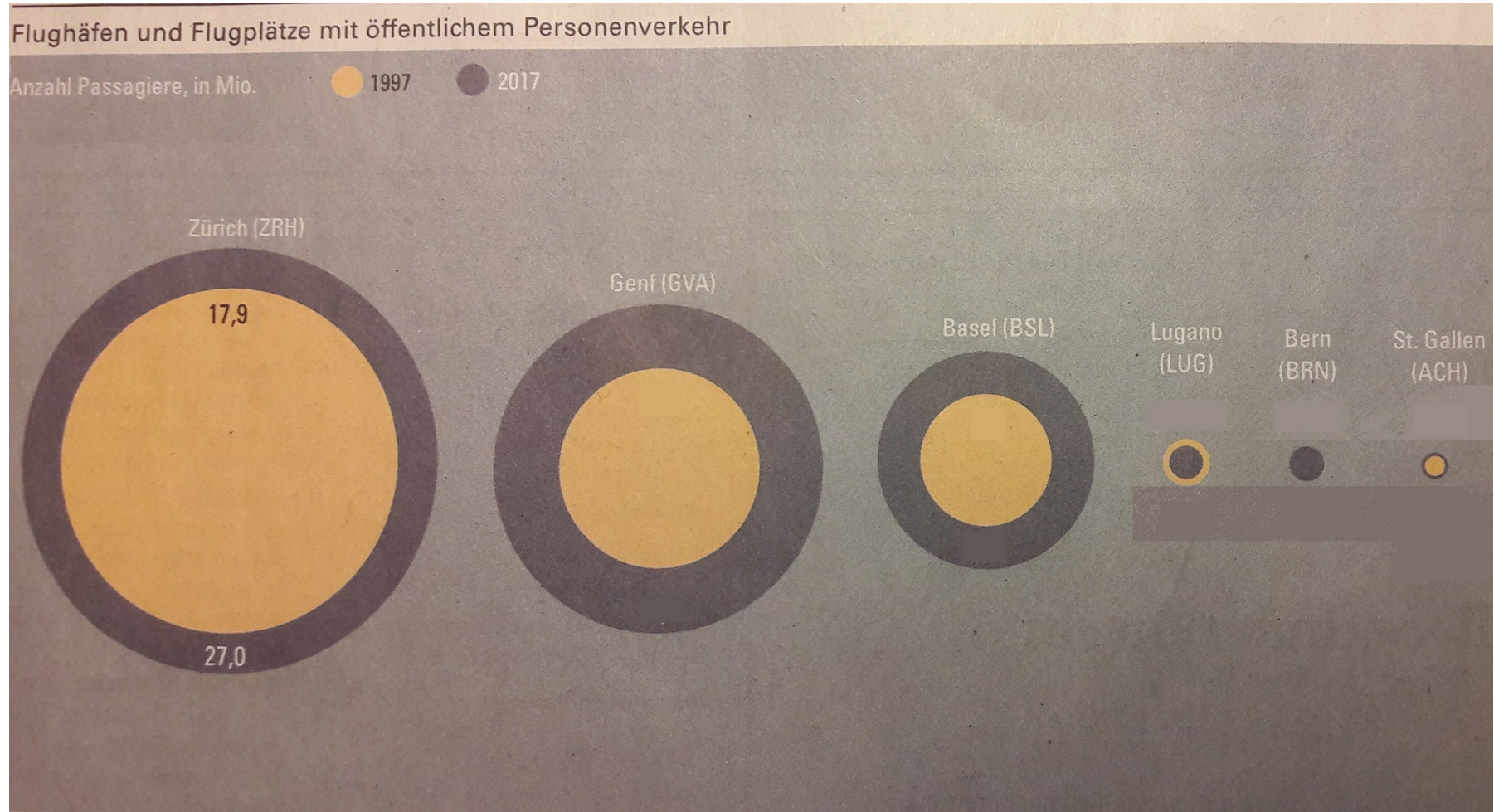




Stupid Statistics!

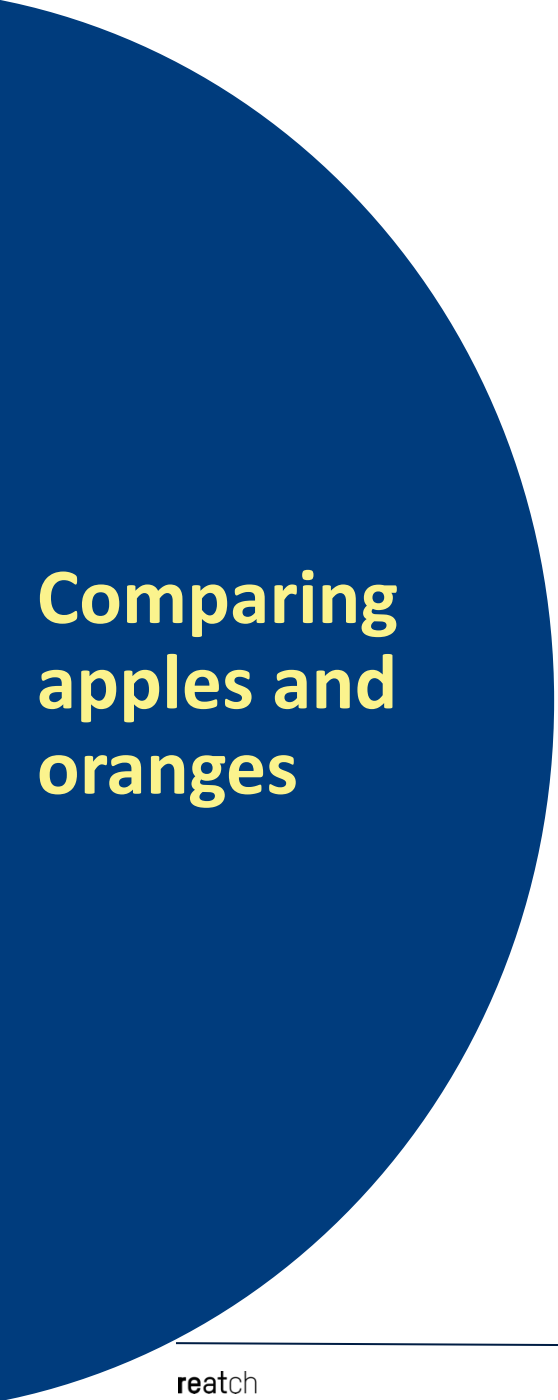


Distorting visuals

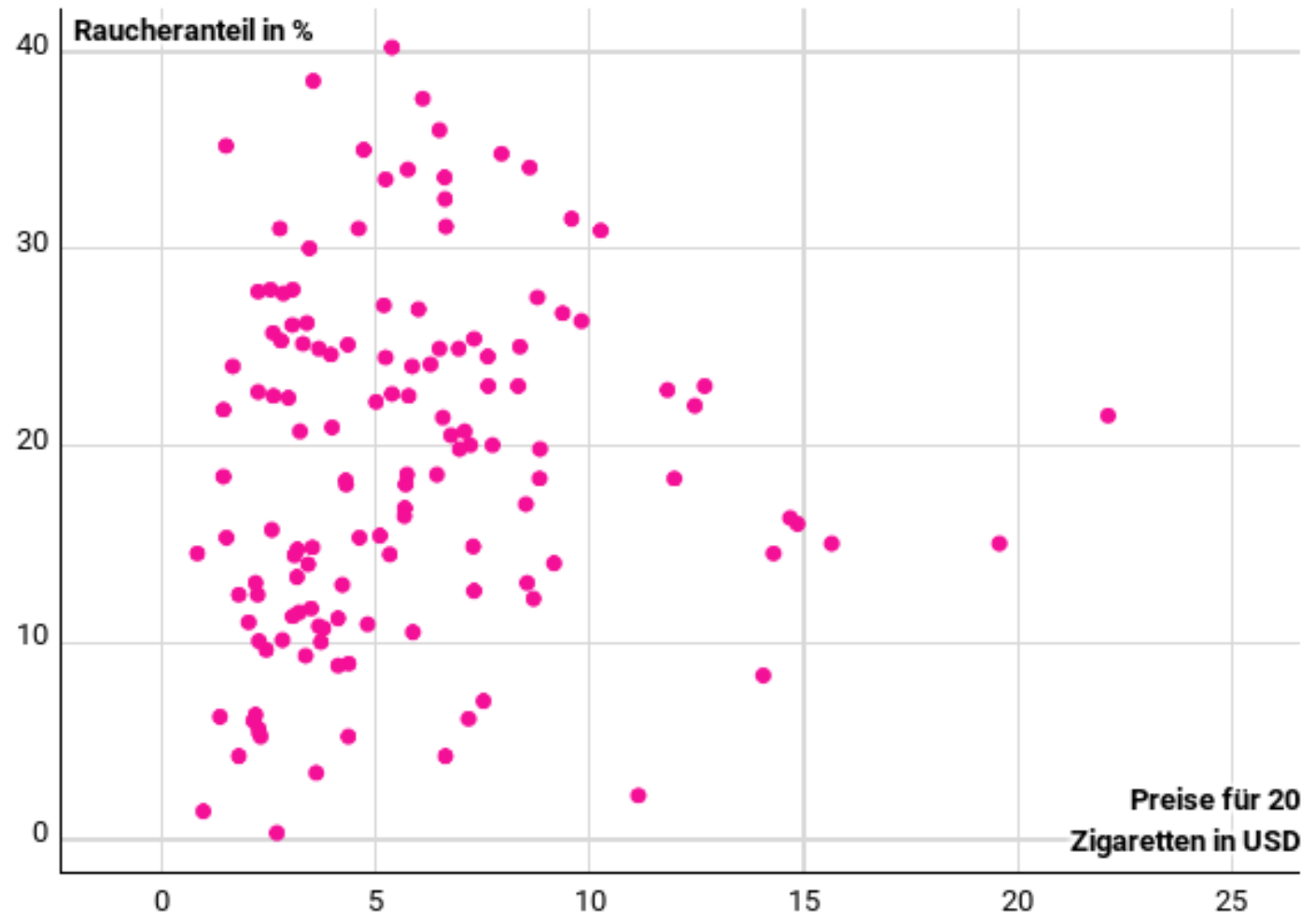


NZZ |

<https://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/schweizerische-regionalflugplaetze-die-grossen-flugplaetze-wachsen-die-kleinen-schrumpfen-1.146496>



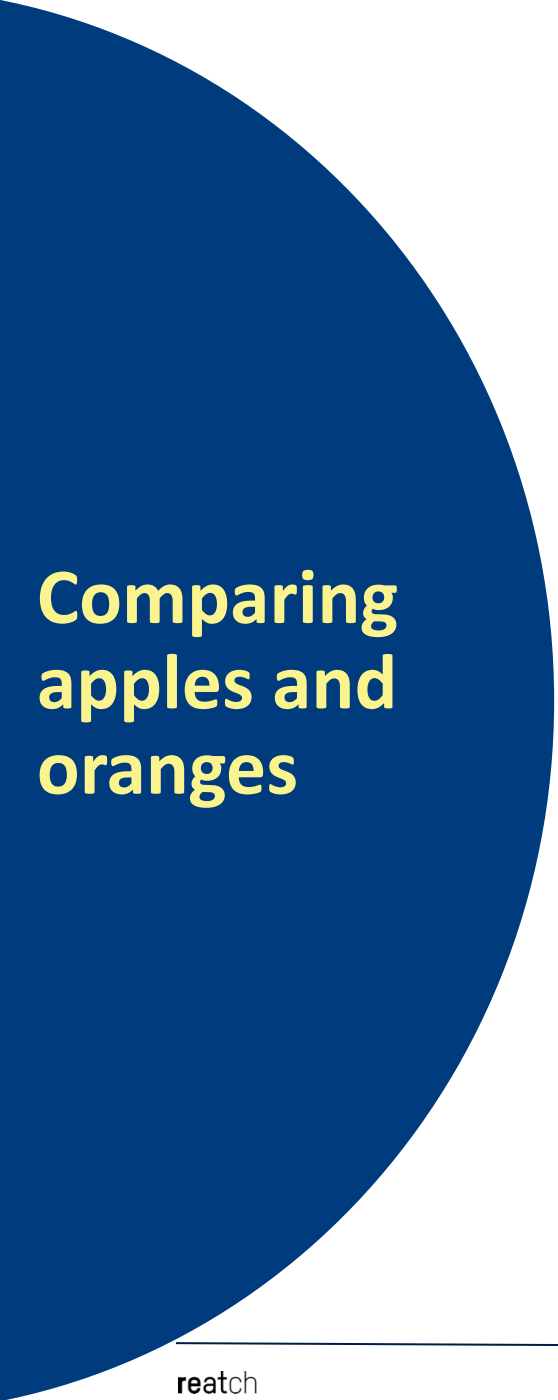
Comparing apples and oranges



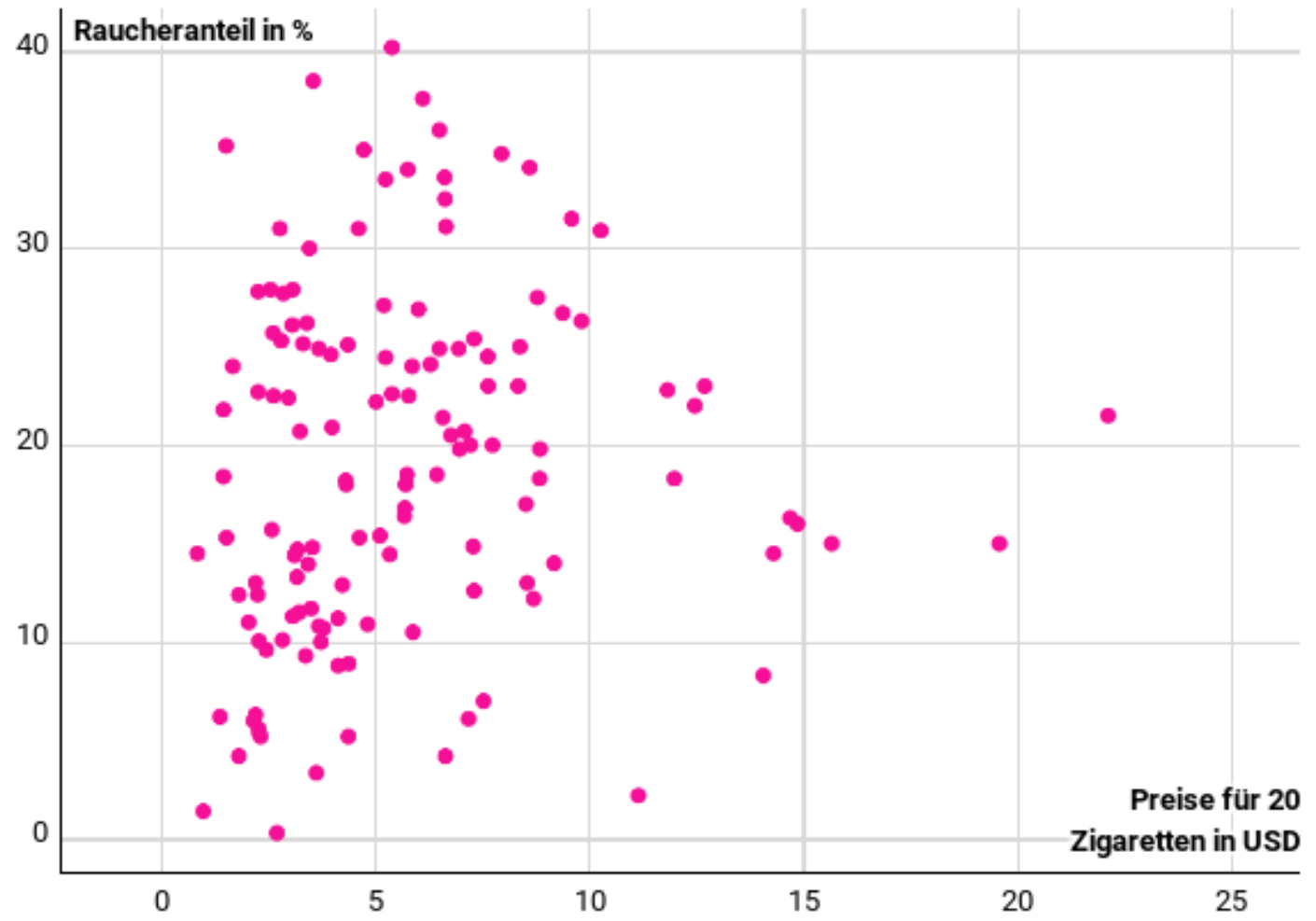
Grafik: watson • Quelle: WHO / tobaccoatlas • [Daten herunterladen](#) • Erstellt mit [Datawrapper](#)

Watson |

<https://www.watson.ch/wissen/die%20welt%20in%20karten/812614572-diese-weltkarte-zeigt-welche-nationen-am-meisten-rauchen>



Comparing apples and oranges

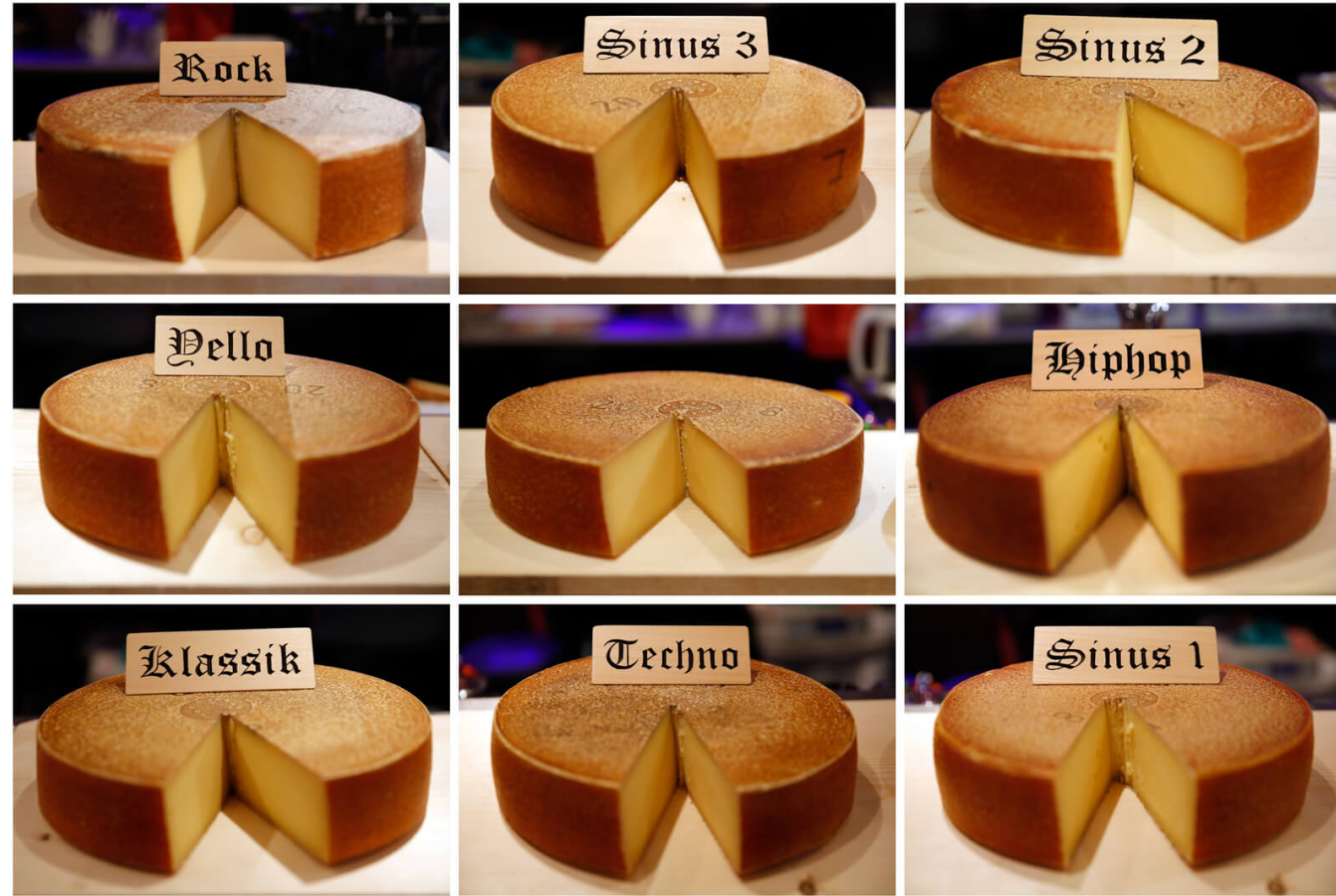


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Watson |

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Can hip-hop music make cheese tastier? Yes, says science!

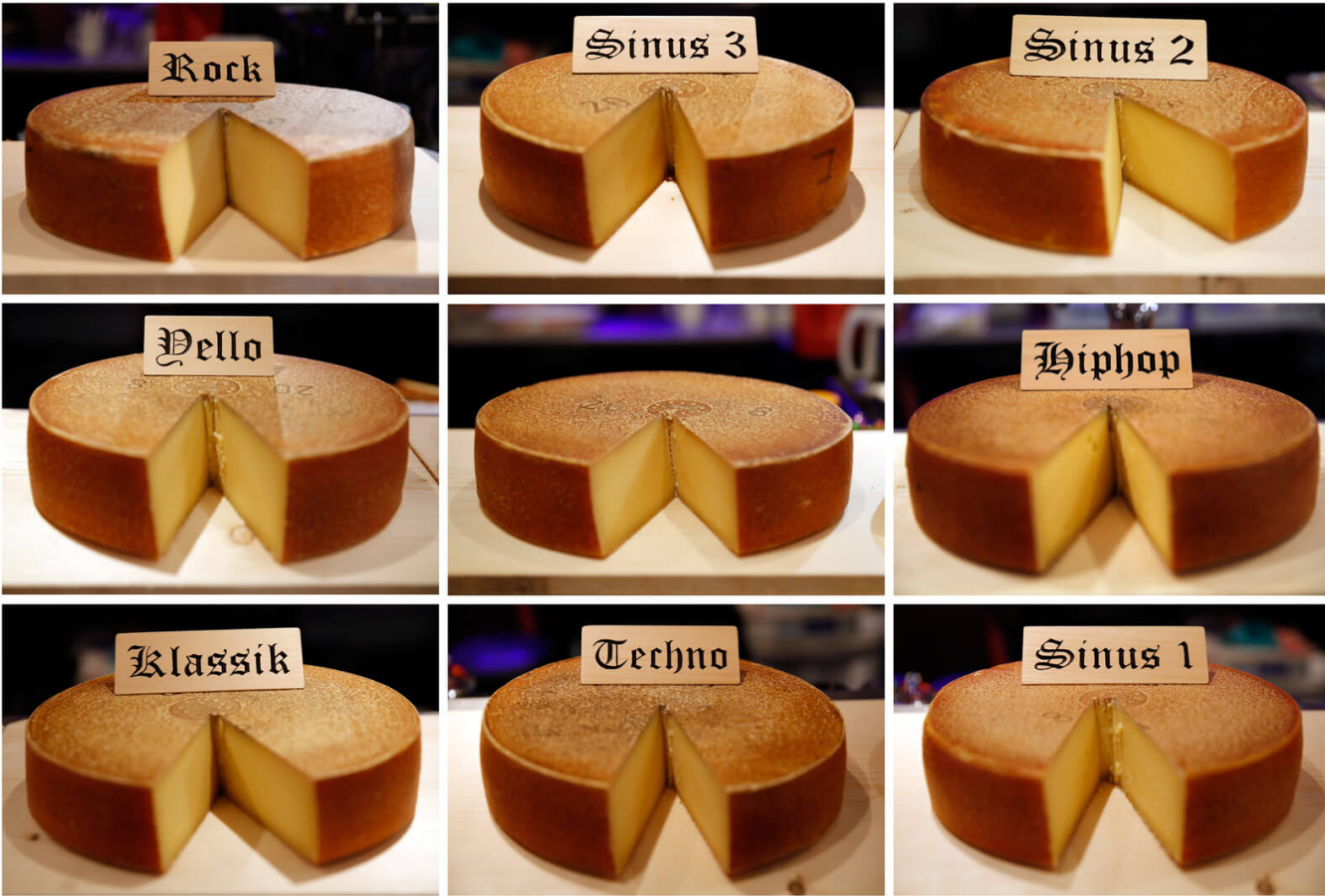


Newly Swissed|<https://www.newlyswissed.com/cheese-in-sound/>

Moronic
study designs

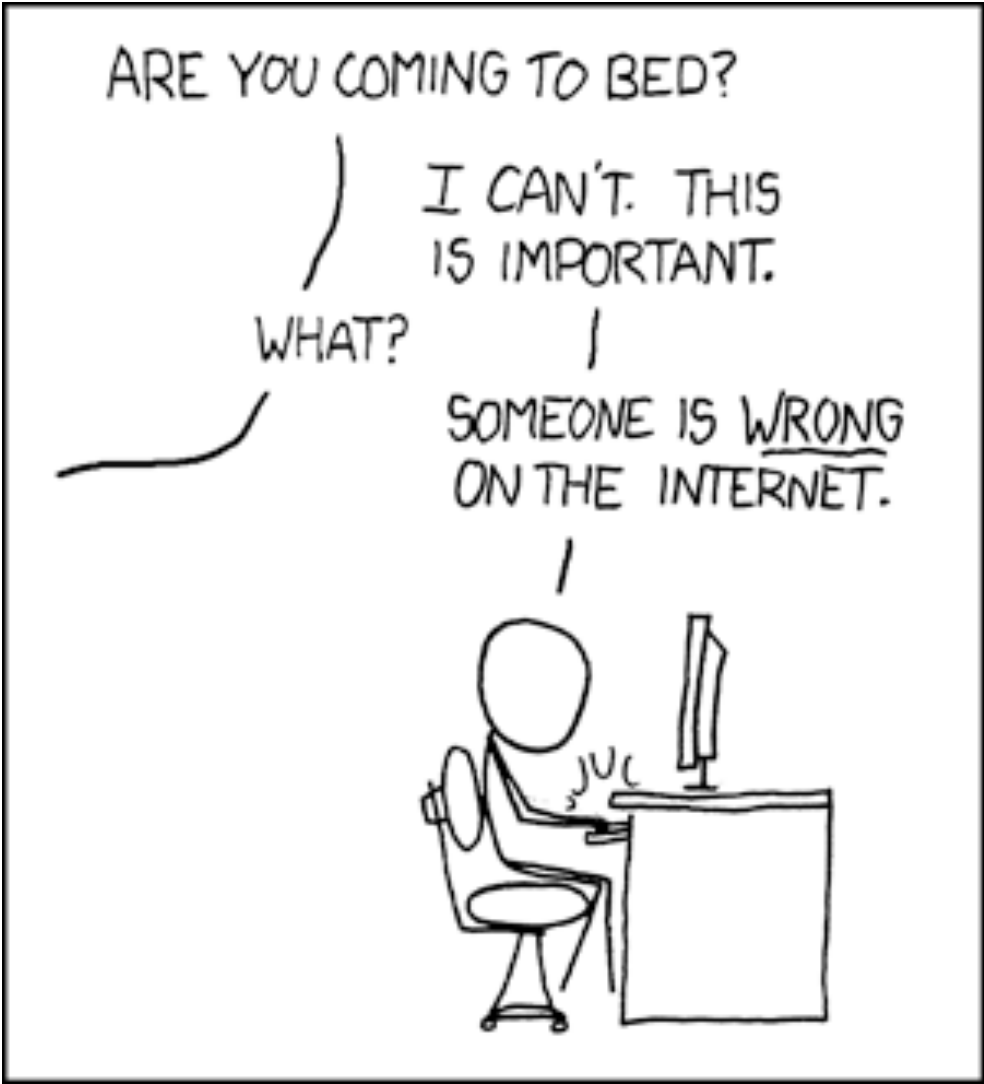
Moronic study designs

And to push the idea even further, the project applied eight different types of sounds, **one each per cheese wheel:**



Newly Swissed|<https://www.newlyswissed.com/cheese-in-sound/>

Debunking takes a lot of time



xkcd comics | <https://xkcd.com/386/>

**Gather,
correct,
disseminate**

- Step 1: Gather examples of stupid statistics whenever you encounter them
- Step 2: Explain why the use of statistics is stupid in this particular case
- Step 3: Show how the particular use of statistics can be improved
- Step 4: Use repository as a resource for teaching, online discussions or for debunking

How can you get involved?

- Visit www.stupid-statistics.com
- Contribute in gathering, correcting and improving stupid statistics
- If you use git: Send a pull request with quick explanation of why you believe it is stupid statistics.
- If you don't use git: Just send me an e-mail (servan.grueninger@reach.ch)

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Thank you for your attention!