

Problems with Data Collection

- Solutions for Problems with Available Data
 - Change endpoints of period for data collection
 - Work with the more limited data
 - Groups working with census data may find better results searching in the Current Population Survey (CPS)
- Problems with Comparable Data
 - Questions used on surveys or other data collection methods have changed over time.
 - The instruments used to collect data have changed over time
 - The sources which collect data have changed over time
- Solutions for Problems with Comparable Data
 - Focus on the data most relevant to the topic
 - More recent data can be used in addition to the older weaker data so the comparison can still be done, but the picture of the recent past will be more clear than the picture of the far past

Different Ways of Presenting Change over Time

- Medieval graph of five planets to represent the planet's changing position over time
- Record observations and give more information. To identify cyclical trends, there needs to be an adequate number of observations
- Motions and movement can be represented graphically over time by using snapshots as data points to illustrate the change
- Before/After time series can illustrate the effects of an event. Also, Before/After pictures can be superimposed over one another to illustrate the change.
- The variables influencing change over time can be decomposed so each variable can be examined separately.

Time Line

- Next two weeks will be spent on data collection
- In about two weeks, a formal data collection report will be done
- In about four weeks, a formal progress report will be done