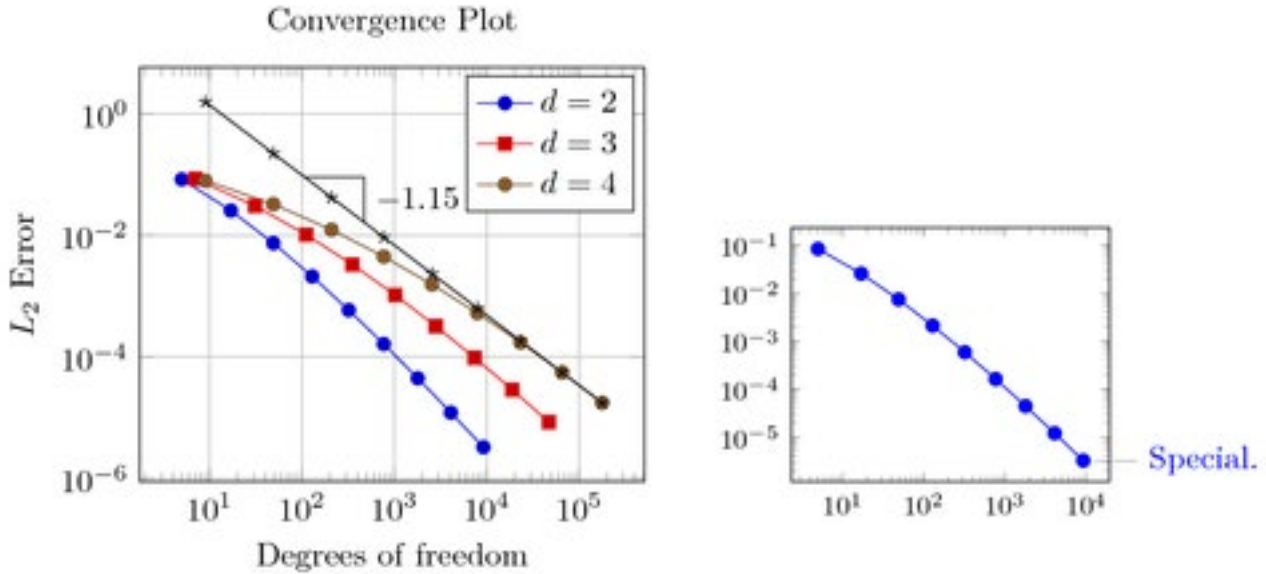# Basic Data Interpretation.

This handout provides basic guidance on how to interpret data.

Convergence Plot

The table set out essential things to look for in a table or graph.

Find.	Possible thoughts for later analysis.
What exactly is being shown: people, objects, events?	Does what is shown or measured allow wider conclusions to be drawn?
How are they measured: what units?	Are absolute numbers used, or are these proportions, for example, a percentage?
Where, geographically, does the data come from?	How might the data be different if it came from other places?
When was the data generated, and to when does it refer?	How up-to-date is the data. if it needs to be? How might the data be different at other time periods?
Who, possibly individuals but more likely an organization, compiled the data?	How authoritative is the compiler? Might they have any bias, or be trying to persuade?
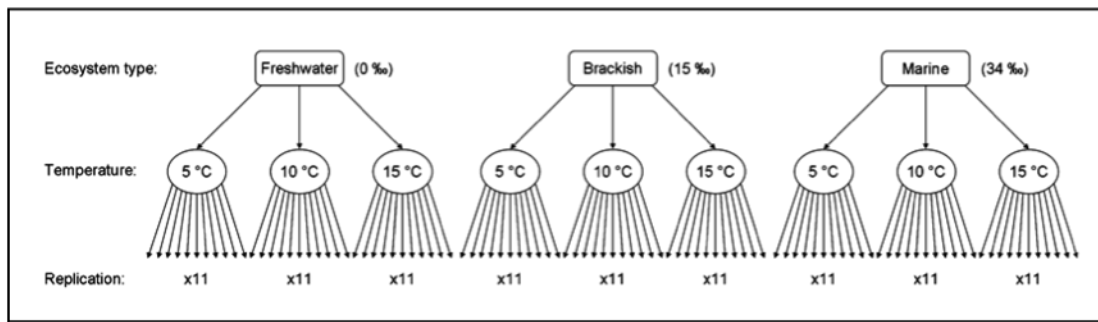
Possible prompts for describing and interpreting or analysing data.

- What is the range of data, for example, the highest and lowest values?

- Can you see any trends? If so, what kinds?

- Are there clusters of data, for example, groups of similar values? How do the clusters compare with each other?

- Are there anomalies that do not fit in with trends or clusters?

- How does your data compare with similar data from other places, or to similar data at a different scale?

- How does your data compare with similar data from other time periods?

And most importantly.

What possible explanations, if any, might be given for any patterns you find?

If you would like an ASK tutorial, please contact us:

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