Centered Stacked Bar-Charts for Even-Choice Ordinal Data

Milo Schield

Member: International Statistical Institute US Rep: International Statistical Literacy Project Director, W. M. Keck Statistical Literacy Project

Slides for Even # of Choices at: www.StatLit.org/pdf/ Excel2013-Bar-Chart-Ordinal-Centered-Even-Slides.pdf

The Goal. The Data

Goal: Use Excel 2013 to create 100% stacked bar charts for ordinal data where each bar has an even number of choices and each bar is centered on its median.

This chart is not yet standard. For a review, see www.jstatsoft.org/v57/i05

Others name these bar-charts as diverging or sliding. We name these as 'centered' since their diverging and sliding forms are consequences of the centering.

The data spreadsheet is at www.StatLit.org/xls/ Excel2013-Bar-Chart-Ordinal-Centered-Even-Data.xlsx

Steps to create 100% Bar chart: Ordinal Data, Centered & Even

Access Pre-formatted Data Worksheet:

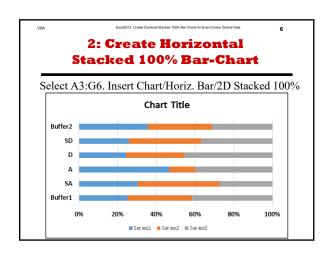
- 1. Calculate Buffer amounts
- 2. Create 1st horizontal stacked 100% bar chart
- 3. Reverse columns and rows
- 4. Color buffer categories white
- 5. Clean up the graph
- 6. Eliminate white space; add bar descriptions
- 7. Eliminate horizontal (X) axis.

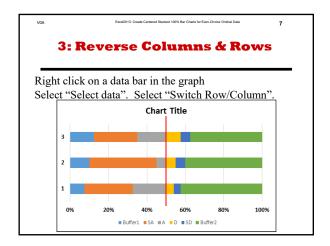
Upload completed worksheet.

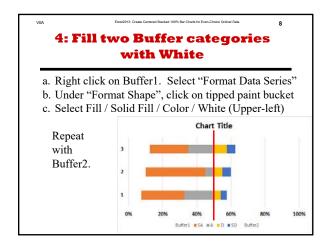
0: Open Data worksheet									
Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н		
2									
3	Buffer1	SA	Α	D	SD	Buffer2			
4		50%	35%	8%	7%		Question 1		
5		70%	10%	10%	10%		Question 2		
6		45%	30%	15%	10%		Question 3		
7									
8		A=Agree; D = Disagree. Even # of choices.							
9		SA = Strongly Agree; SD = Strongly Disagree.							
10		No "Neutral"							

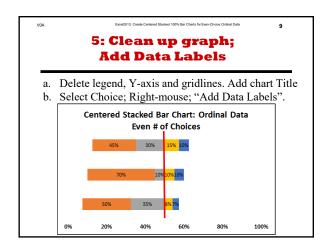
Excel2013-Bar-Chart-Ordinal-Centered-Even-Data.xlsx

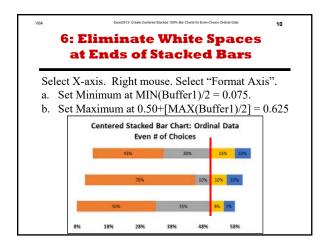
1: Calculate Buffer Amounts Enter formula in B4 and G4. Pull down to row 6. С D Ε G 2 SA = Strongly Agree; A=Agree; D=Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree. No Neutral Buffer1 SA D SD Buffer2 15% 50% 35% 8% 7% Question 1 70% 10% 10% Question 2 B4 =100%-SUM(C4:D4) G4 =100%-B4 8 = F4 + F4

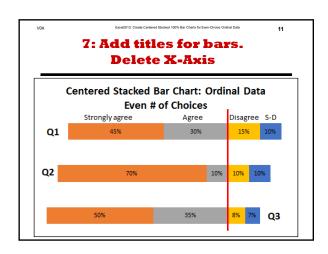














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Upload completed worksheet.

0: Open Data worksheet

Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	
2								
3	Buffer1	SA	Α	D	SD	Buffer2		
4		50%	35%	8%	7%		Question 1	
5		70%	10%	10%	10%		Question 2	
6		45%	30%	15%	10%		Question 3	
7								
8		A=Agree;						
9		SA = Strong	SA = Strongly Agree; SD = Strongly Disagree.					
10		No "Neutral"						

Data at www.StatLit.org/XLS/ Excel2013-Bar-Chart-Ordinal-Centered-Even-Data.xlsx

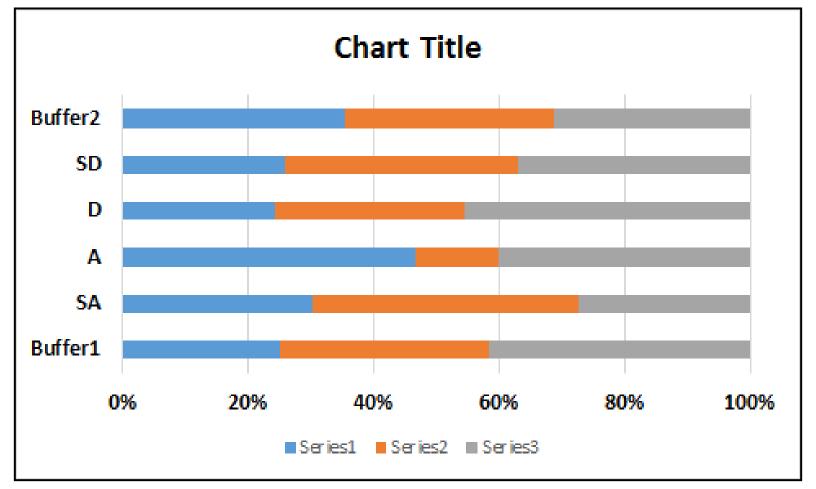
1: Calculate Buffer Amounts

Enter formula in B4 and G4. Pull down to row 6.

Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
2	SA = Strong	gly Agree; A	=Agree; D=	Disagree; SI	D = Strongly	Disagree.	No Neutral
3	Buffer1	SA	Α	D	SD	Buffer2	
4	15%	50%	35%	8%	7%	85%	Question 1
5		70%	10%	10%	10%		Question 2
6		45%	30%	15%	10%		Question 3
7							
8	B4 =100%-SUM(C4:D4)				G4	=100%-B4	
9		= E4 + F4					

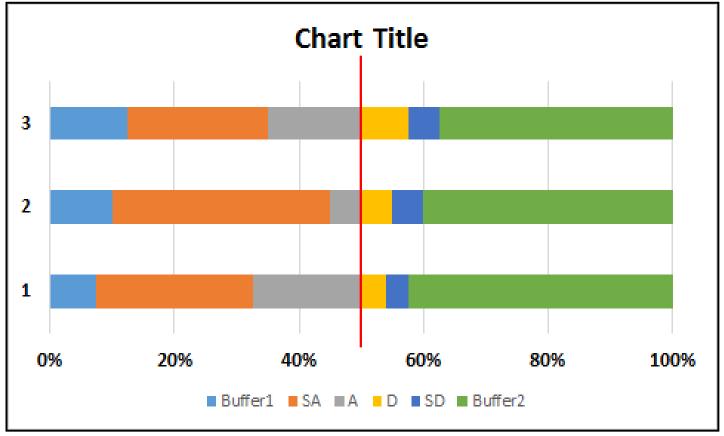
2: Create Horizontal Stacked 100% Bar-Chart

Select A3:G6. Insert Chart/Horiz. Bar/2D Stacked 100%



3: Reverse Columns & Rows

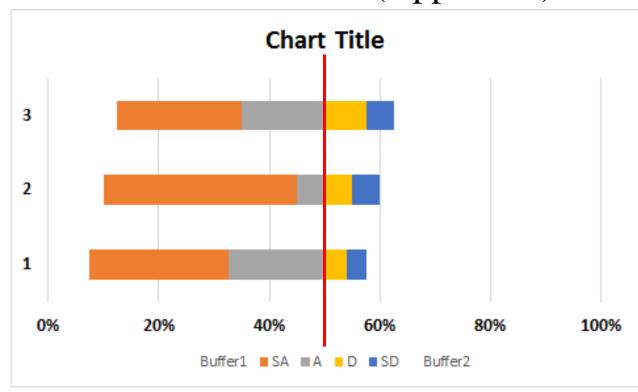
Right click on a data bar in the graph Select "Select data". Select "Switch Row/Column".



4: Fill two Buffer categories with White

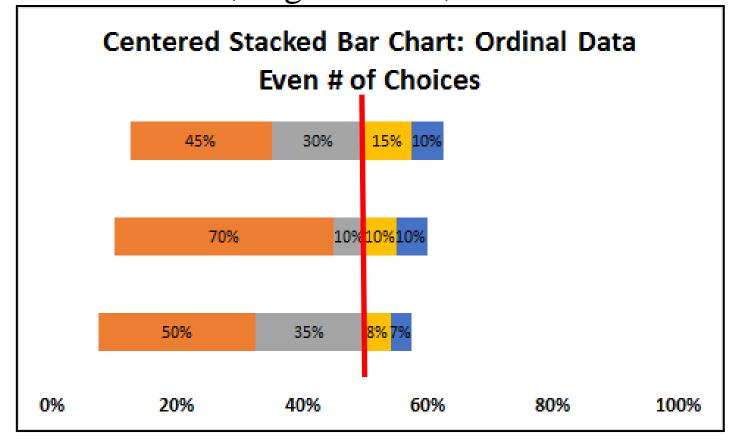
- a. Right click on Buffer1. Select "Format Data Series"
- b. Under "Format Shape", click on tipped paint bucket
- c. Select Fill / Solid Fill / Color / White (Upper-left)

Repeat with Buffer 2.



5: Clean up graph; Add Data Labels

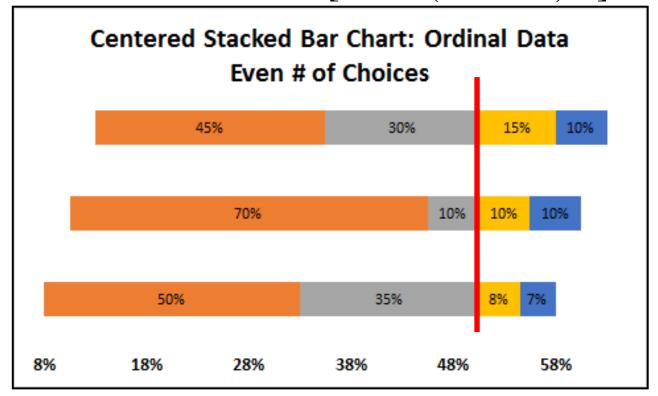
- a. Delete legend, Y-axis and gridlines. Add chart Title
- b. Select Choice; Right-mouse; "Add Data Labels".



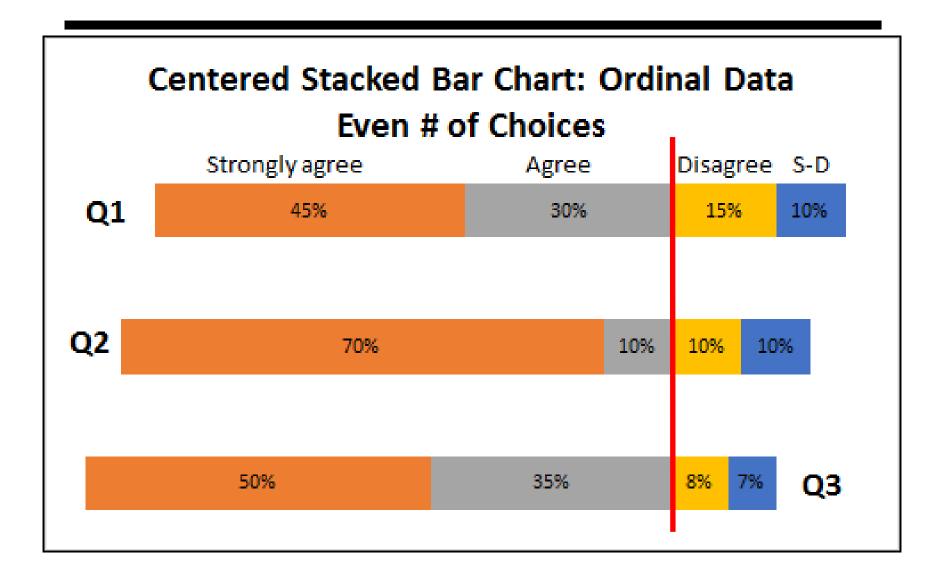
6: Eliminate White Spaces at Ends of Stacked Bars

Select X-axis. Right mouse. Select "Format Axis".

- a. Set Minimum at MIN(Buffer1)/2 = 0.075.
- b. Set Maximum at 0.50+[MAX(Buffer 1)/2] = 0.625



7: Add titles for bars. Delete X-Axis



Summary

These centered 100% stacked bar charts aren't common.

But using traditional (un-stacked) bar charts

- 1. with separated bars treats ordinal data as categorical.
- 2. with touching bars treats ordinal data as quantitative.

There is no indication that these bars must sum to 100%.

Stacked bar charts show that the total must be 100%.

Sources: www.jstatsoft.org/v57/i05

http://stephanieevergreen.com/diverging-stacked-bars/