iChart
Interactive Exploration of Data Charts

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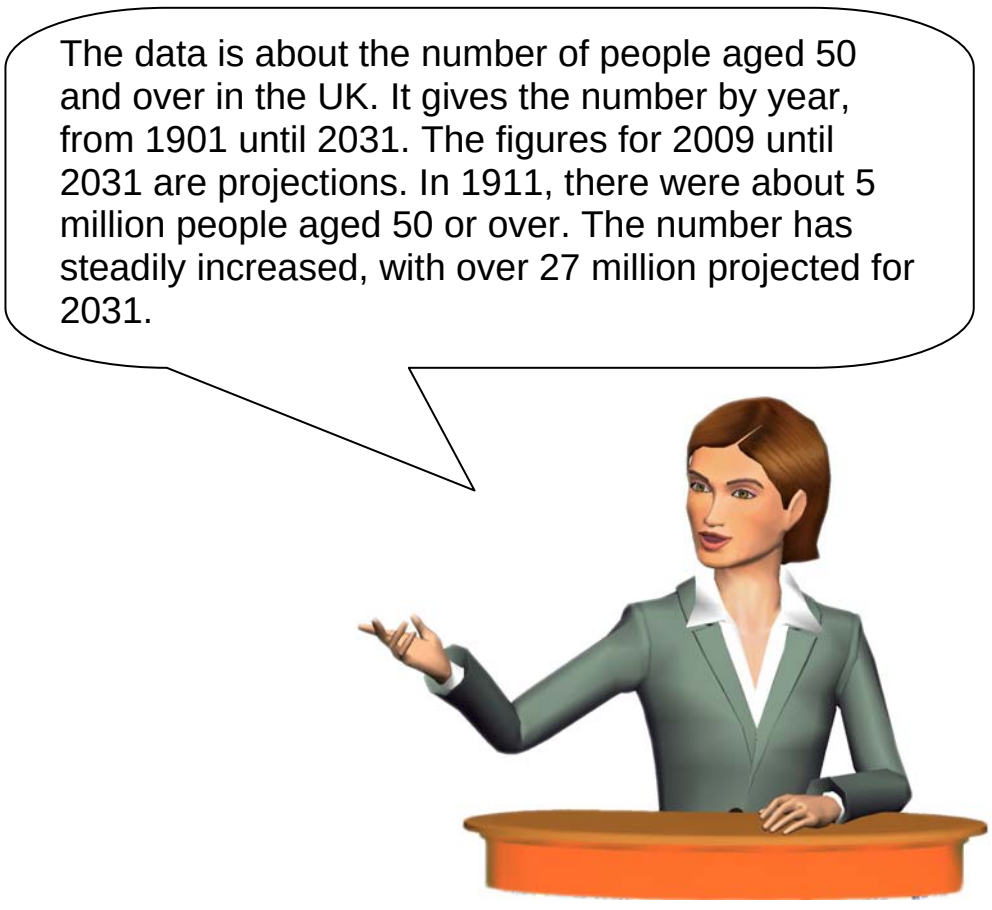

Context and aims

- Charts (e.g. line diagrams) widely used in popular media, OU modules, etc., but under control of producer
- **Pedagogic aims**:
  - improved understanding and engagement of students with numerical data
  - improved accessibility of charts used in course materials
- **Societal impact**: help citizens look critically at statistics thrown at them
- **eSTEeM L&T aims**: assessment; online experimentation; mobile technologies and use of multimedia; emerging VLE capabilities

Outcomes and Methodology

- a software tool to produce interactive and accessible charts
  - gather and prioritize requirements through open workshop with module teams, LTS, IET, etc.
  - build on standard technologies and libraries (SVG, Flash, Processing, etc.)
  - use multimodal presentation (graphics and audio)
  - aim to integrate with VLE and OpenLearn and to run on mobile platforms
- a software tool to produce textual summaries of charts
  - offer topic as MSc project
- examples of pedagogical activities with interactive charts
  - adapt existing activities, e.g. on Arrhenius graphs in TXR220 and on deceptive graphs in TU100
  - gather feedback from tutors and students on efficacy of interactive and accessible charts
- dissemination
  - put software, papers and pedagogical demonstrations on ORO, OpenLearn, iTunes
  - contact teams behind Google's Visualization Kit, IBM's ManyEyes, Guardian's Datastore, etc.

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