

Plotting a pyramid of numbers

Quantitative data for each trophic level are drawn to scale as horizontal bars, arranged symmetrically around a central axis.

Worked example

Construct a pyramid of numbers from the following data.

Species	Number of individuals
Lettuce	16
Slug	10
Hedgehog	6
Badger	4

- Draw two axes on graph paper – the vertical axis should be located centrally on the paper (Figure 2.5 – axes are shown as dotted lines).
- Data are plotted symmetrically around the vertical axis, for example there are 16 lettuces, and so the vertical bar drawn with 8 units to the left and 8 to the right of the axis.
- The height of the bars is arbitrary, but each bar should be the same height.
- Label each trophic level.

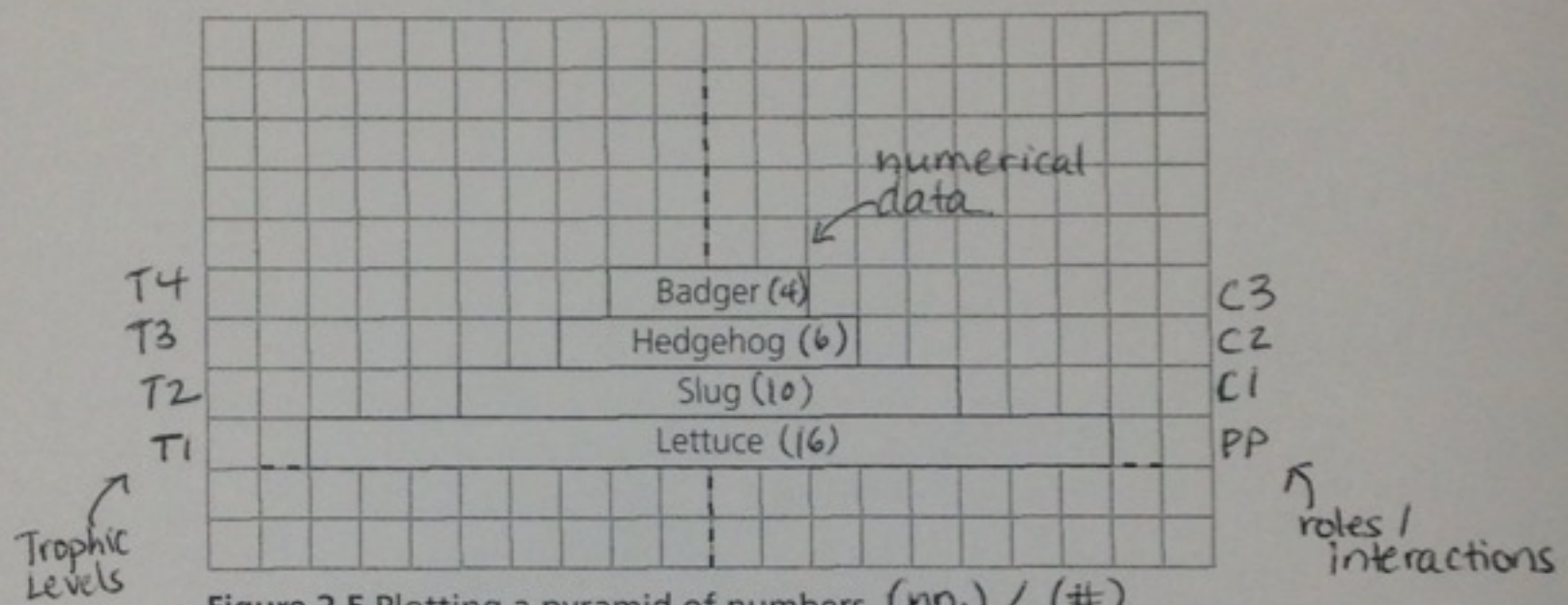


Figure 2.5 Plotting a pyramid of numbers (no.) / (#)

↑
title

↑ include units

