Math 124 Spring 2005
Assignment 2
Due: Apr 19, 2005

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This assignment is intended to give you more practice using Excel. You should submit your solutions to this assignment as a brief written report. a written **typed** report. **Do not** submit print outs of raw Excel spreadsheets (ie I do not want to see a print out of all the data). You should **copy and paste** your graphs and other analysis results into your report. **Do not** wait until the last moment to start this assignment, rushing on the last day will result in a poor report. **Do** ask questions about the assignment if you need help. **Do** feel free to work with your friend to learn Excel, but **do not** try to hand in the same report. Your final report should be your own work.

Unemployment data

The data file on the website (available in either tab delimited text or Excel 2000 formats) contains quarterly unemployment rates (as percentages) for the period 1993 to 1996 for 5 countries. The countries are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A satisfactory report (ie at the "B" level) will, at the least, include the following:

1. A plot showing how the unemployment rate changes over time for the 5 countries. You should write a 1 paragraph description about what your plot shows.

2. A plot of the same data, but this time something which is not statistically valid (eg inconsistent use of sizes, weird changes in scale, misuse of 3D effects). Note that this is not an open option to do something completely ridiculous, the figure you produce should just display the data in a misleading way. Write a 1 paragraph description explaining why the figure you have produced is misleading.

A stellar report (ie at the "A" level) will include all of the above plus one of the following

3. Another misleading plot (but misleading for another reason than the first one). A paragraph explaining why the figure produced is misleading should also be given.

4. Find a graph or plot in a magazine, newspaper or elsewhere which is misleading. You should explain why it is misleading. Note that you should be sure to give a complete and accurate reference to the source of this plot.