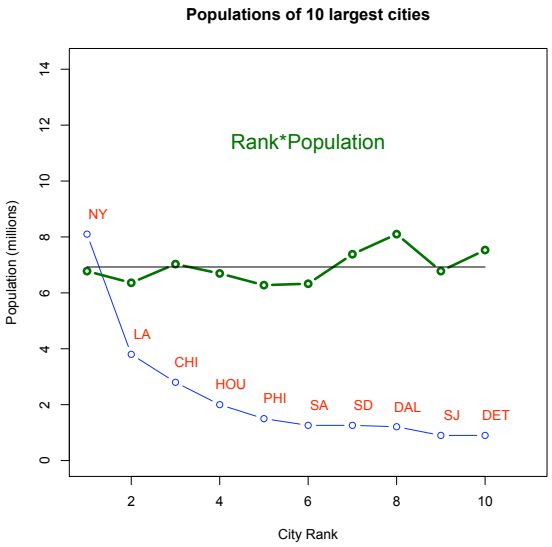
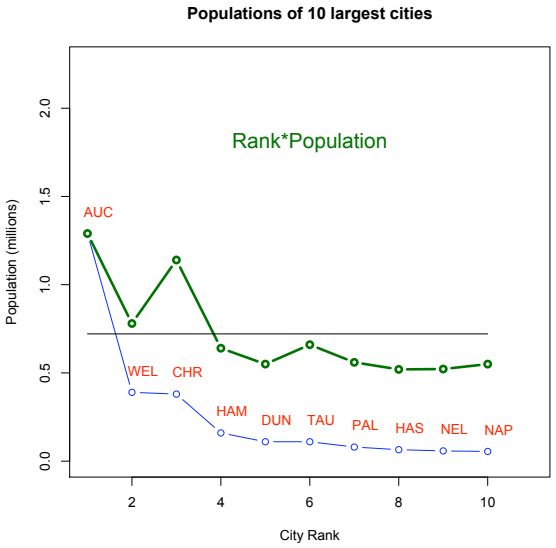
Here are the data that I displayed graphically in class:

	CANp	CANn	USp	USn	NZp	NZn	OZp	OZn
1	4.5	Tor	8.1	NY	1.29	AUC	4.3	Syd
2	3.3	Mtl	3.8	LA	0.39	WEL	3.8	Mel
3	1.8	Van	2.8	CHI	0.38	CHR	1.9	Bri
4	1.1	Ott	2	HOU	0.16	HAM	1.6	Per
5	1	Cal	1.5	PHI	0.11	DUN	1.2	Ade
6	0.9	Edm	1.26	SA	0.11	TAU	0.58	Gld
7	0.7	Que	1.26	SD	0.08	PAL	0.52	New
8	0.6	Win	1.21	DAL	0.065	HAS	0.38	Can
9	0.6	Ham	0.9	SJ	0.058	NEL	0.28	Wol
10	0.5	Lon	0.9	DET	0.055	NAP	0.23	Sun

The graphs:





The point to keep in mind about Zipf's Law is that a model does not have to be right to be useful. The fact that the model (based on the constancy of rank x size) works for North America but not for NZ and OZ suggests that there is something a geographer would like to understand about differences in urbanization in the two regions – and also, the model provides a numerical description of what the difference is.

Another point is that rank is sometimes a useful variable to compare with a quantitative variable.