

What is Google Sheets Color Scale Formatting?

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Google Sheets Color Scale Formatting is a feature in the Google Sheets program that allows users to apply a visual representation of data based on a set of rules. This formatting tool uses a color scale to highlight the highest and lowest values in a selected range of cells, allowing users to easily identify patterns and trends in their data. By applying this formatting, users can quickly analyze and interpret their data, making it a useful tool for data analysis and presentation. Additionally, Google Sheets Color Scale Formatting can be customized to suit the user's specific needs and preferences. Overall, it is an effective and efficient way to visually organize and display data in a clear and concise manner.

Google Sheets Color Scale Formatting

Color Scale Formatting

Color Scales are premade types of conditional formatting in Google Sheets used to highlight cells in a range to indicate how large or small the cell values are.

Here is the Color scale part of the conditional format rules menu:

Conditional format rules ✕


Single color **Color scale**

Apply to range

C2:C10 📏

Format rules

Preview



Minpoint

Min value ▾ 📏

Midpoint

None ▾ 📏

Maxpoint

Max value ▾ 📏

Cancel **Done**

You can access the menu by selecting the **Conditional formatting** option in the **Format** menu.

Color Scale Options

From the conditional format rules menu you can choose:

Which cells the color scale applies to
What colors the scale uses
The min, mid, and max points

Apply to range

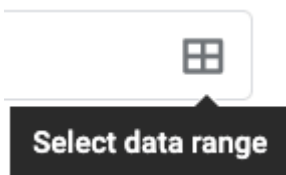
In the **Apply to range** field you can enter the cells and ranges that the color scale applies to.

You can enter cells and ranges separated by a comma , into the field.

Apply to range

You can also click the icon in the right of the field to select data ranges:



This will open a dialog box where you can add ranges by selection:

Select a data range ×

C2:C10

Add another range

Cancel

OK

Custom color scale

You can customize the color scale by selecting min/mid/max point color icons on the right-hand side:

Minpoint

Min value

Min point color

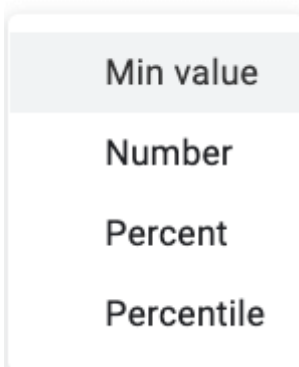
This will bring up a color picking menu. See the Format colors chapter for a detailed guide of how to customize colors.

Custom Min/Mid/Max Points

The color scale will apply relative to the chosen min/mid/max points.

The default option is **Min/Max value**:

Minpoint



With the Min/Max value option, google sheets will choose the min and max points based on the largest and smallest values in the selected range.

The other options are:

Number
Percent
Percentile

These options will let you specify precisely what the min, mid, and max points should be.

Color Scale Formatting Example (Min/Max Values)

Highlight the Speed values of each Pokemon with **Color scale** conditional formatting.

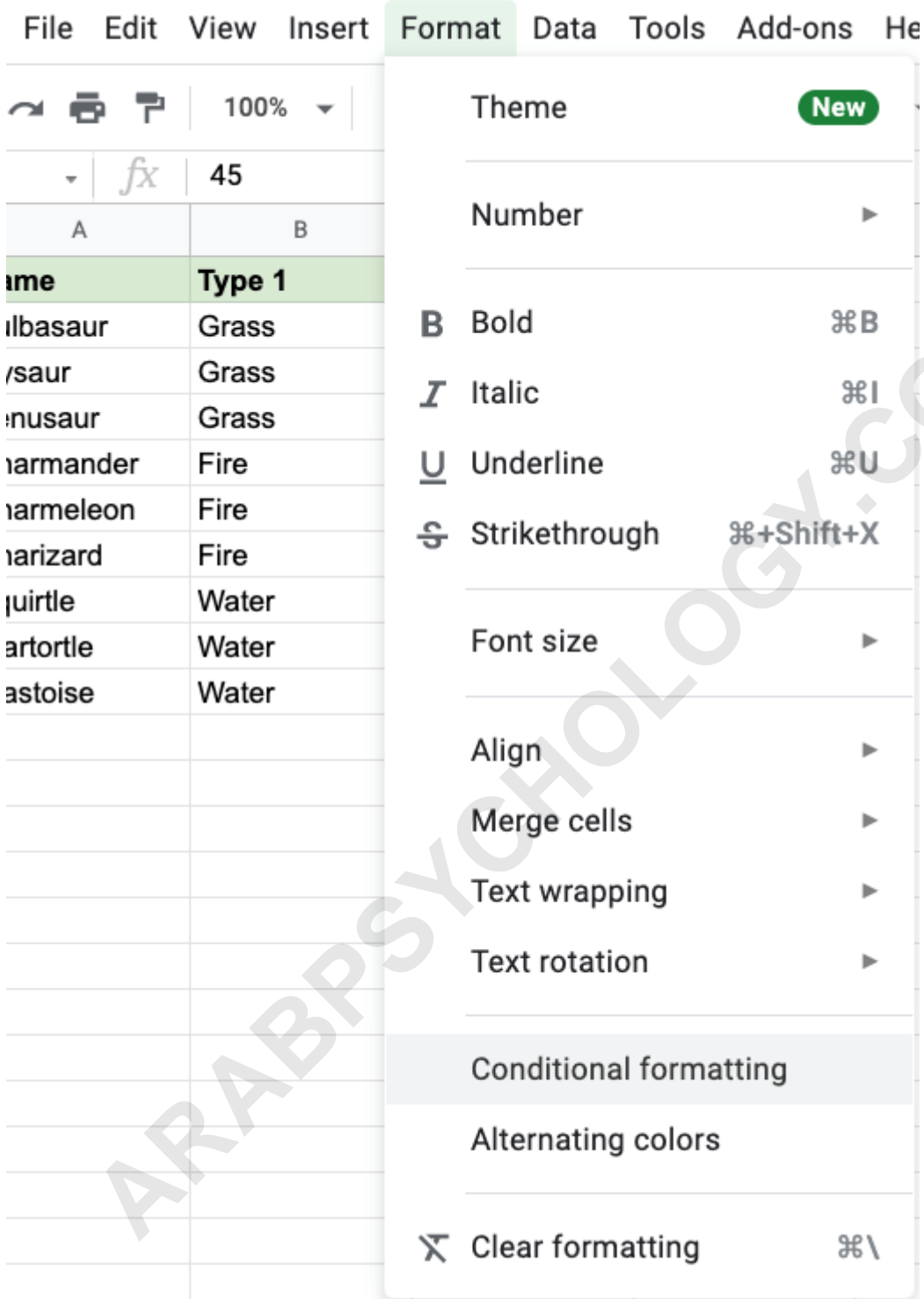
	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Bulbasaur	Grass	45	
3	Ivysaur	Grass	60	
4	Venusaur	Grass	80	
5	Charmander	Fire	65	
6	Charmeleon	Fire	80	
7	Charizard	Fire	100	
8	Squirtle	Water	43	
9	Wartortle	Water	58	
10	Blastoise	Water	78	
11				

Conditional formatting, step by step:

Select the range of Speed values `C2:C10`

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Bulbasaur	Grass	45	
3	Ivysaur	Grass	60	
4	Venusaur	Grass	80	
5	Charmander	Fire	65	
6	Charmeleon	Fire	80	
7	Charizard	Fire	100	
8	Squirtle	Water	43	
9	Wartortle	Water	58	
10	Blastoise	Water	78	
11				

Click on the **Conditional Formatting** option in the **Format** menu



The Conditional Formatting menu will appear in the right-hand side of the spreadsheet:

Conditional format rules ×

Single color

Color scale

Apply to range

C2:C10



Format rules

Format cells if...

Is empty



Formatting style

Default

B *I* U ~~S~~ A ▾

Cancel

Done

Select the **Color Scales** option

Conditional format rules ×

Single color

Color scale

Apply to range

C2:C10



Format rules

Preview



Minpoint

Min value



Midpoint

None



Maxpoint

Max value



Cancel

Done

There are 9 default color scale options to choose from.



The color at the right-hand side of the icons will apply to the highest values by default.

will apply to the highest values by default.

Click on the Preview scale "Choose Default Format"

Preview



Minpoint

Choose Default Format

Select the "White to green" Color scale

Format rules

Preview



White to green



Custom color scale

Now, the Speed value cells will have a colored background highlighting:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Bulbasaur	Grass	45	
3	Ivysaur	Grass	60	
4	Venusaur	Grass	80	
5	Charmander	Fire	65	
6	Charmeleon	Fire	80	
7	Charizard	Fire	100	
8	Squirtle	Water	43	
9	Wartortle	Water	58	
10	Blastoise	Water	78	
11				

Dark green is used for the highest values, and white for the lowest values.

Charizard has the highest Speed value (100) and Squirtle has the lowest Speed value (43).

All the cells in the range gradually change color from dark green, to lighter greens and then to white.

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