

Problem-Driven Visualization Through Design Studies

Tamara Munzner

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University of British Columbia

 [@tamaramunzner](https://twitter.com/tamaramunzner)

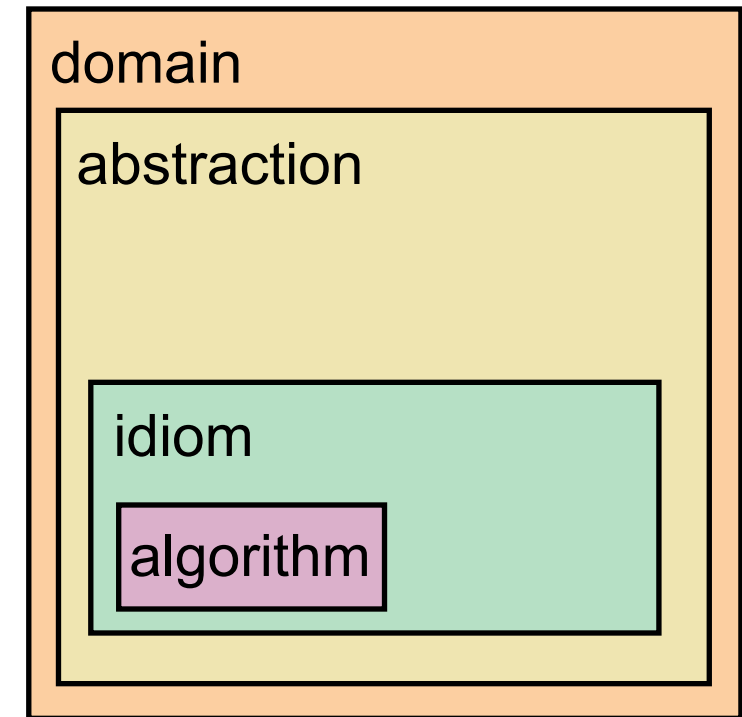
VINCI 2021 Keynote

Sep 7 2021, virtual / Potsdam

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#vinci21>



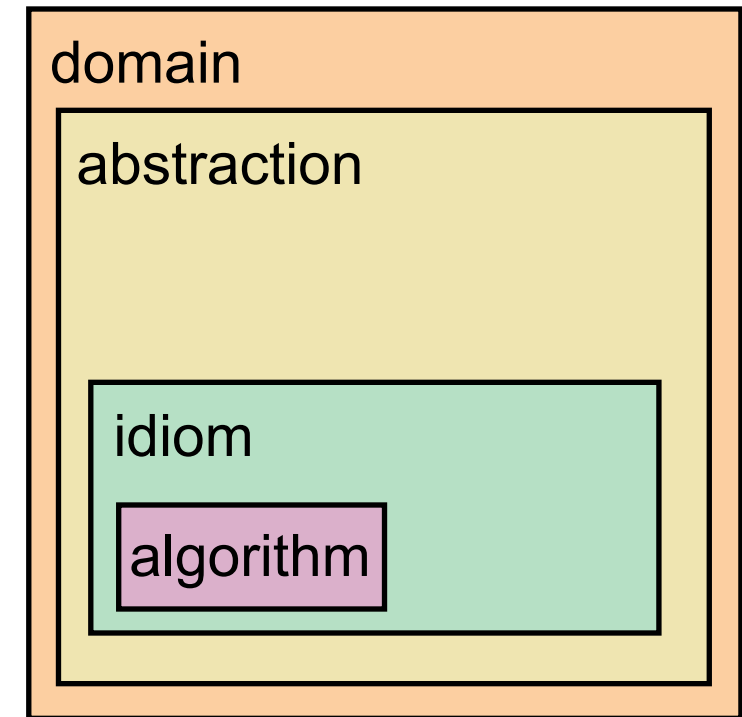
Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns



[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. *IEEE TVCG* 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns

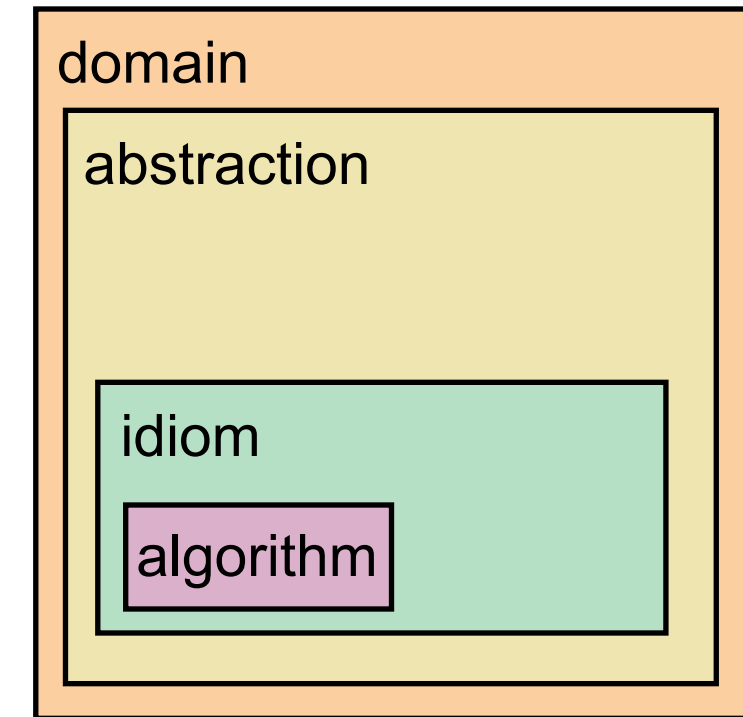
- *domain* situation
 - **who** are the target users?



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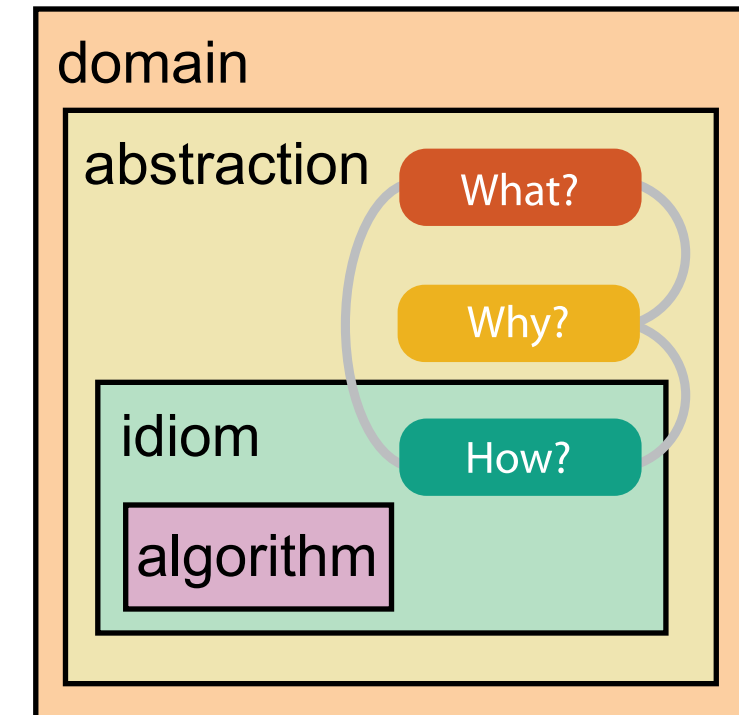
- *domain* situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- *abstraction*
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis



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 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**

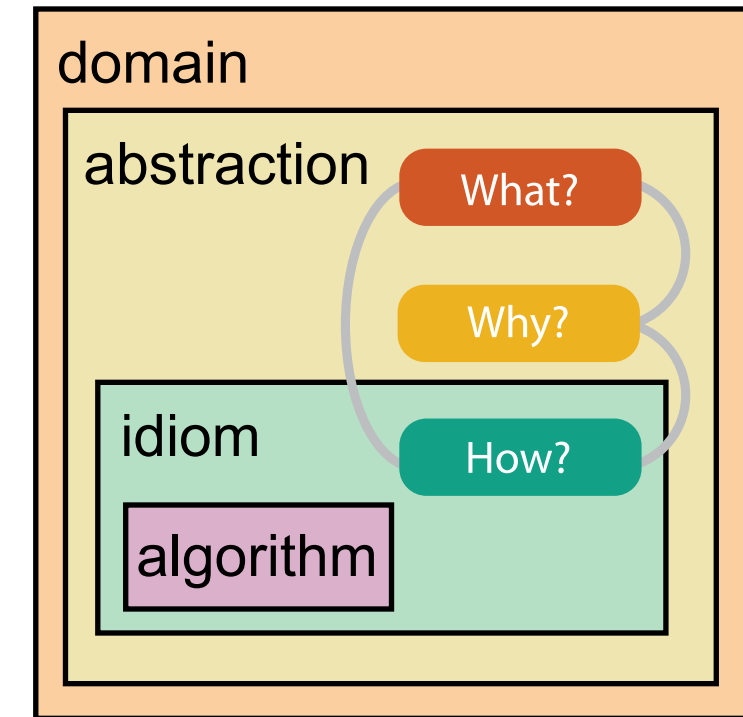


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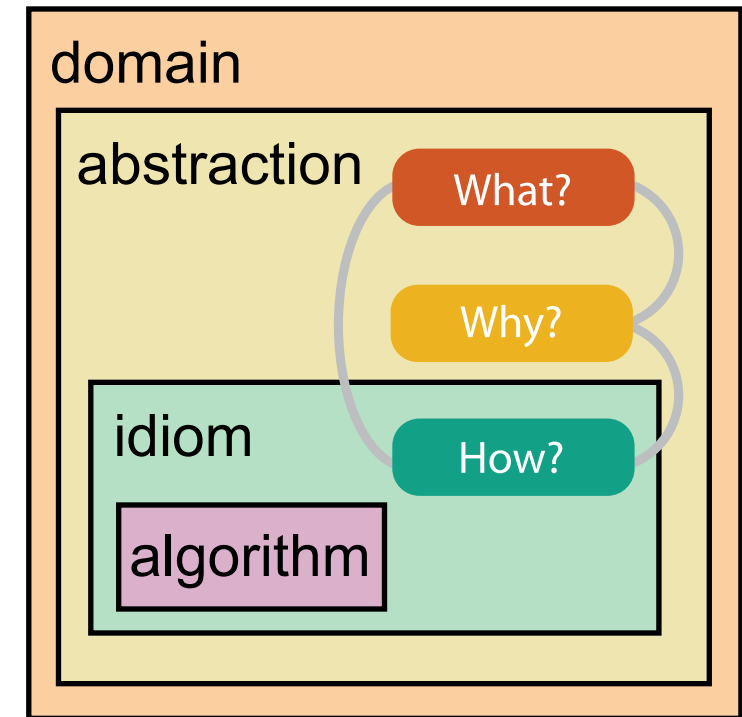


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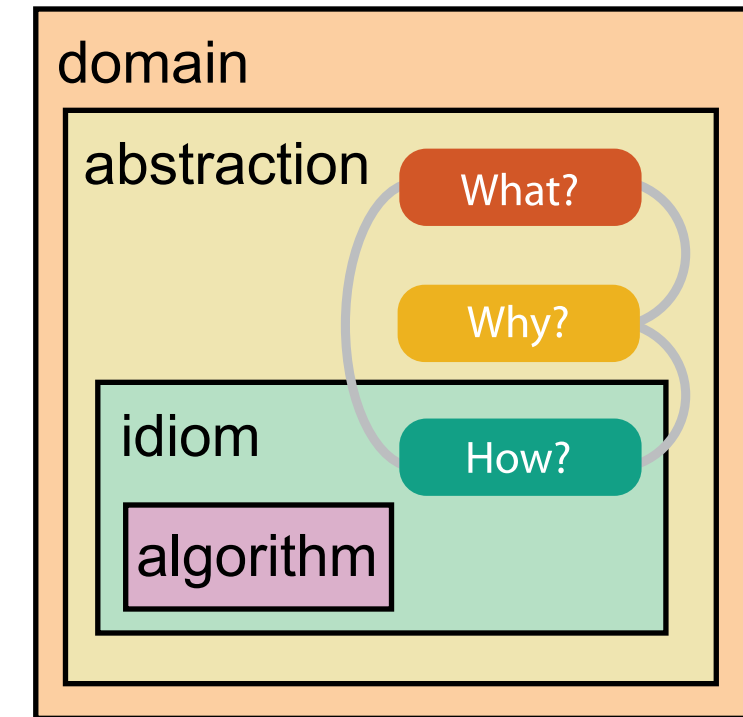


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- *idiom*
 - **how** is it shown?

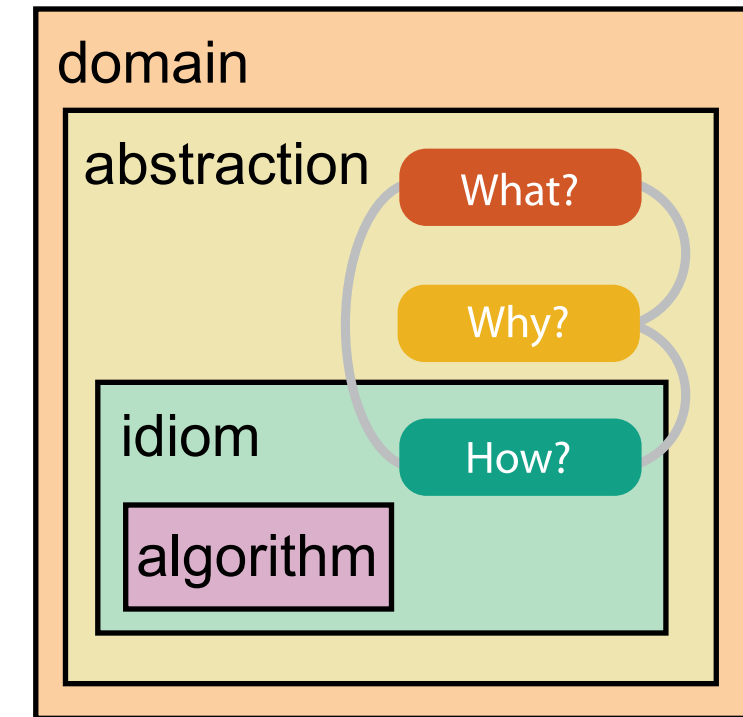


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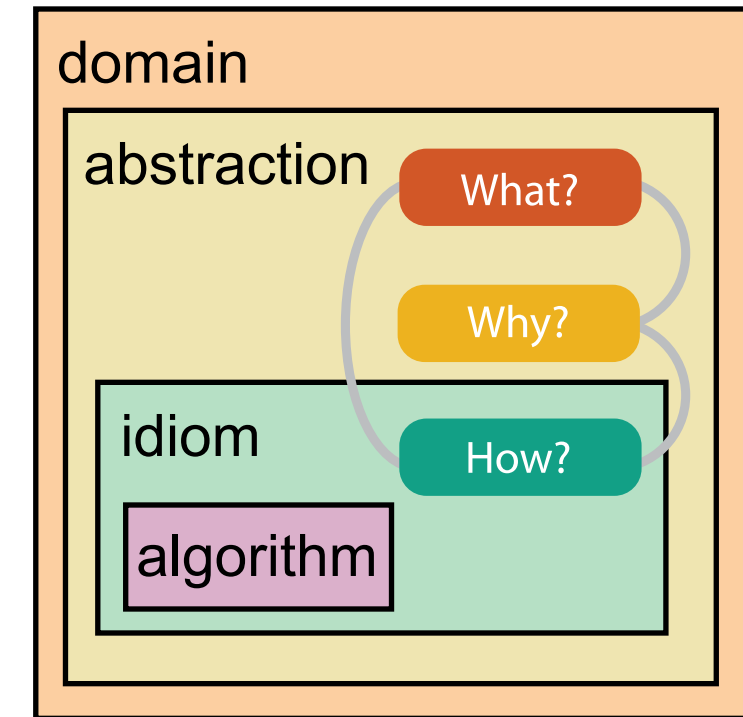


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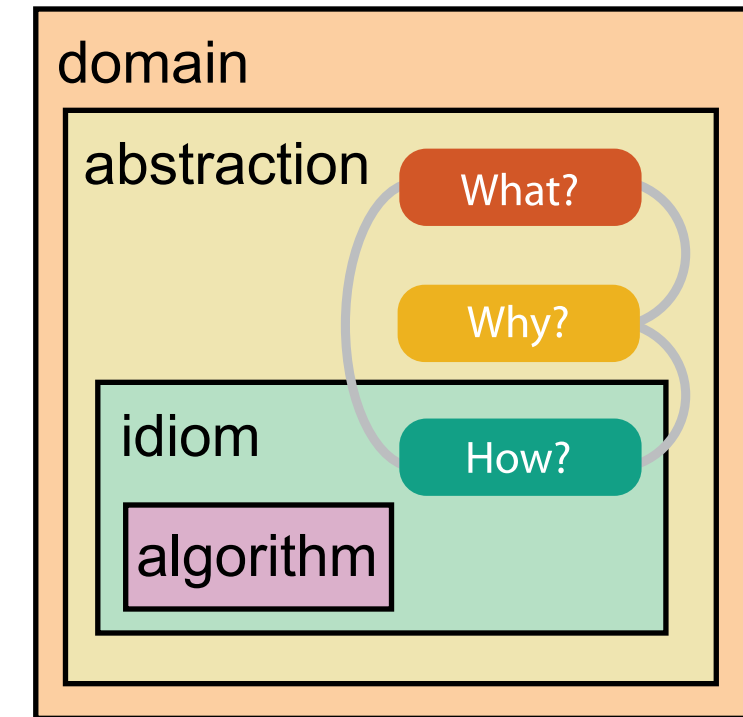


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 - **interaction idiom**: how to manipulate
- *algorithm*
 - efficient computation



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Why is validation difficult?

- different ways to get it wrong at each level

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Domain situation

You misunderstood their needs

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You're showing them the wrong thing

 **Visual encoding/interaction idiom**
The way you show it doesn't work


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 **Data/task abstraction**
You're showing them the wrong thing

 **Visual encoding/interaction idiom**
The way you show it doesn't work

 **Algorithm**
Your code is too slow

[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. IEEE TVCG 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

Validation solution: use methods from appropriate fields at each level

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computer
science



Algorithm

Measure system time/memory

Analyze computational complexity

Validation solution: use methods from appropriate fields at each level

computer
science




technique-driven
work

Validation solution: use methods from appropriate fields at each level

design

 **Visual encoding/interaction idiom**
Justify design with respect to alternatives

computer
science

 **Algorithm**
Measure system time/memory
Analyze computational complexity

cognitive
psychology

Analyze results qualitatively
Measure human time with lab experiment (*lab study*)



technique-driven
work

Validation solution: use methods from appropriate fields at each level

anthropology/
ethnography


 **Domain situation**
Observe target users using existing tools

 **Data/task abstraction**

design

 **Visual encoding/interaction idiom**
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 **Algorithm**
Measure system time/memory
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anthropology/
ethnography

Observe target users after deployment (*field study*)
Measure adoption

technique-driven
work

Validation solution: use methods from appropriate fields at each level

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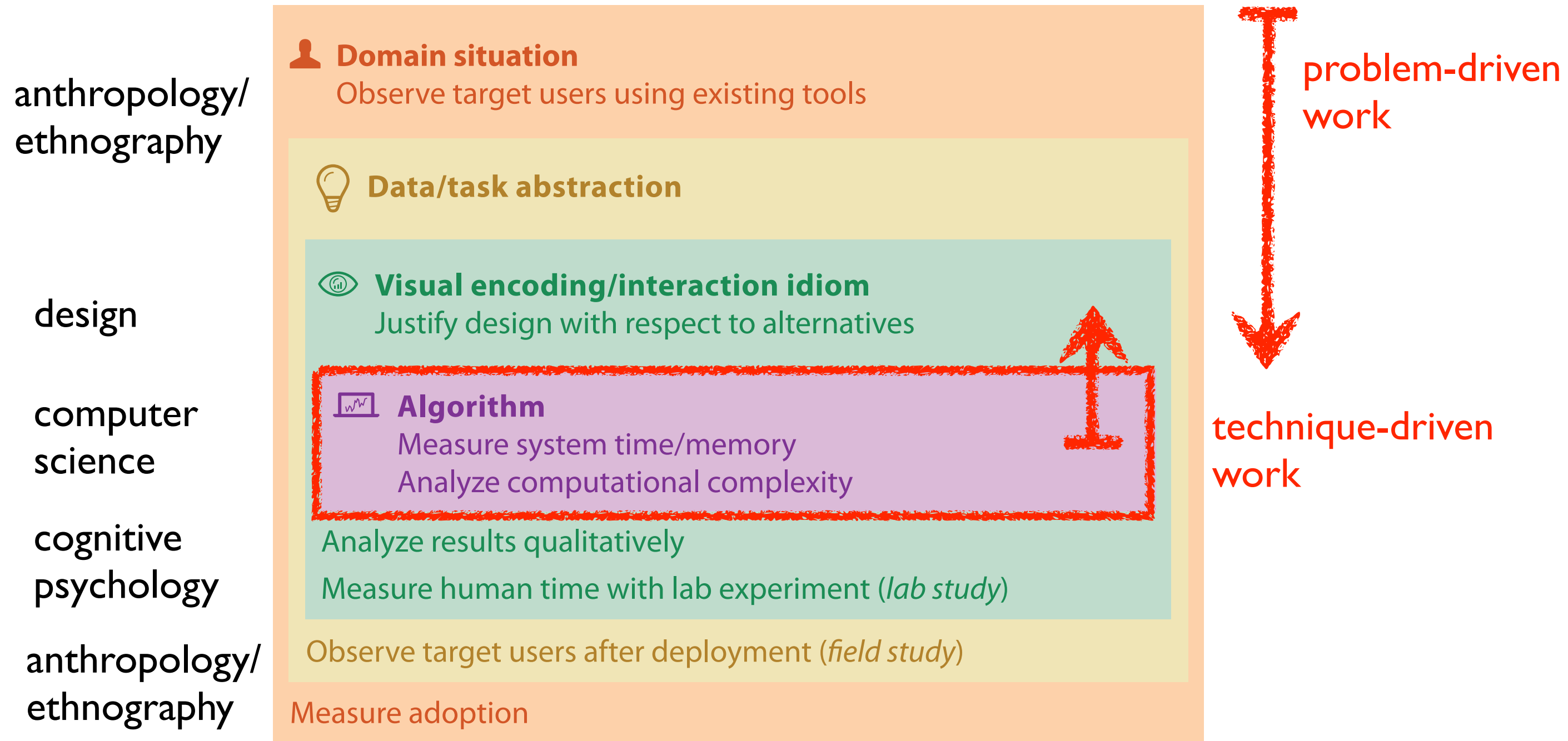
problem-driven
work



technique-driven
work

Validation solution: use methods from appropriate fields at each level

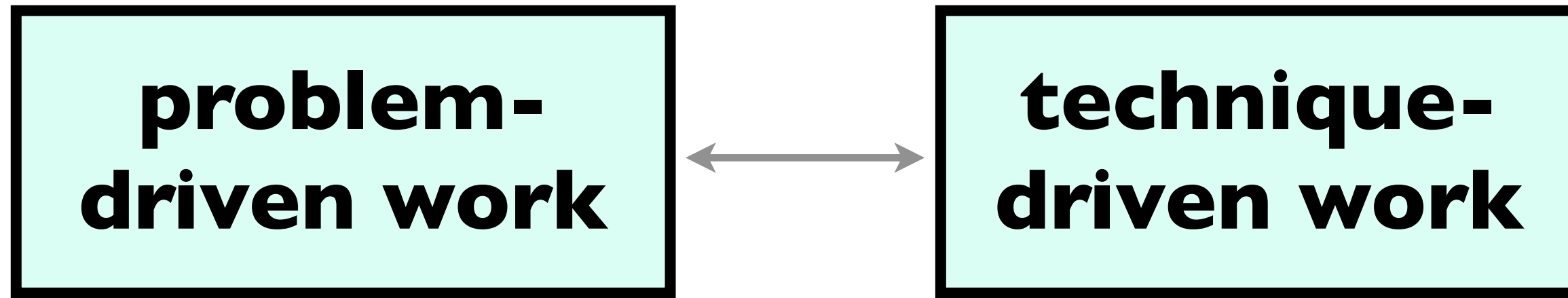
- avoid mismatches between level and validation



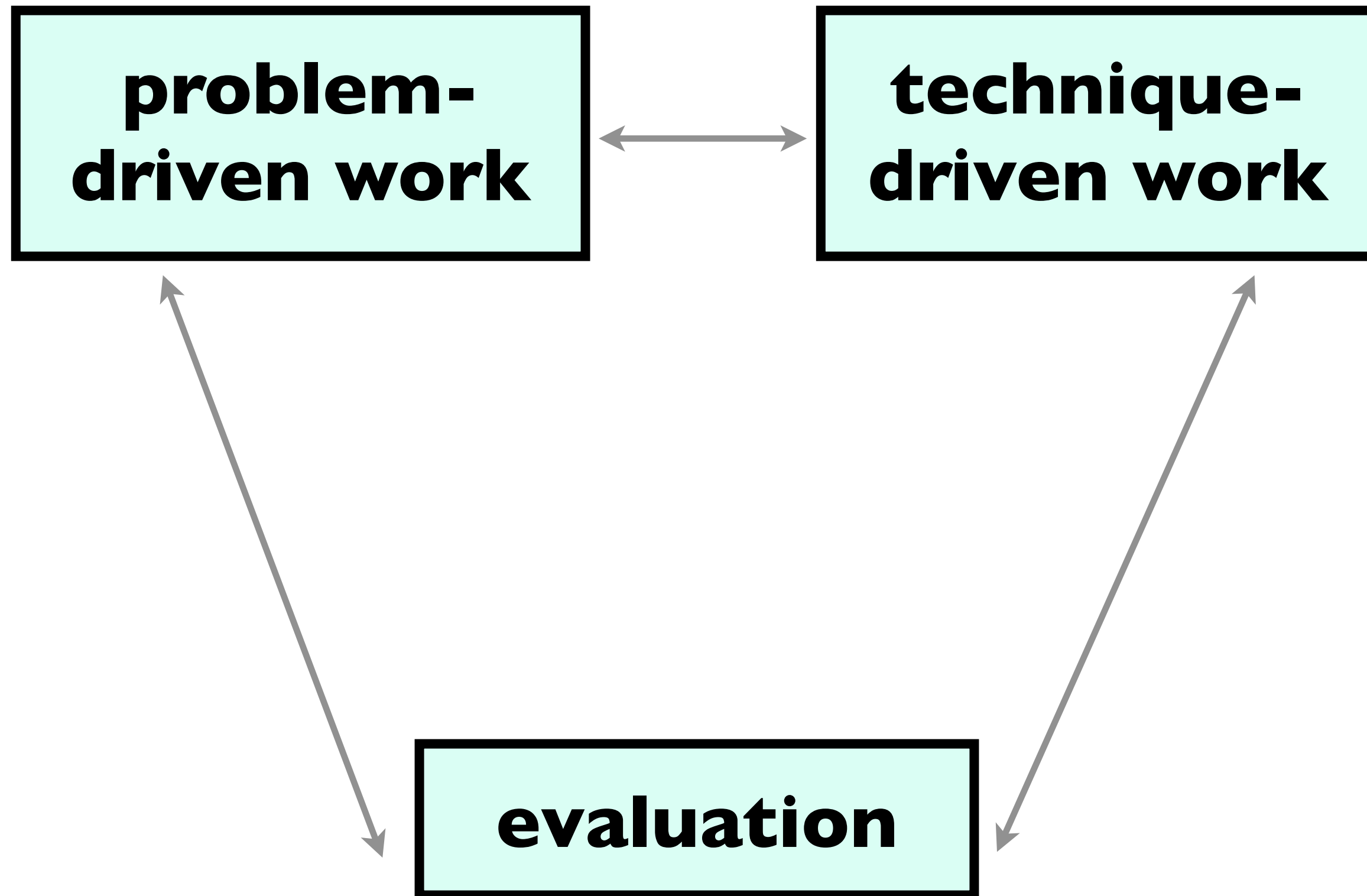
Visualization: Angles of attack

**problem-
driven work**

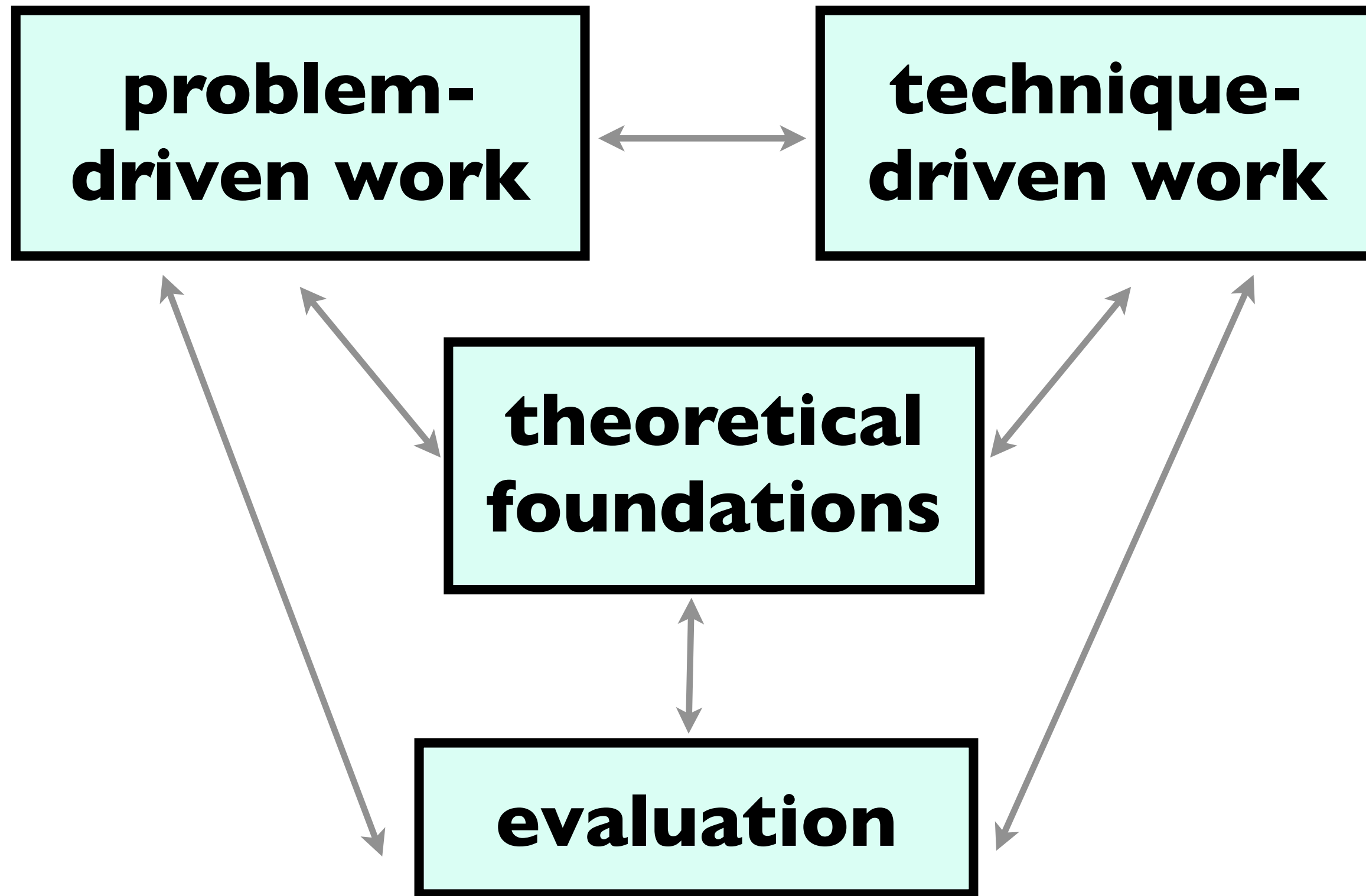
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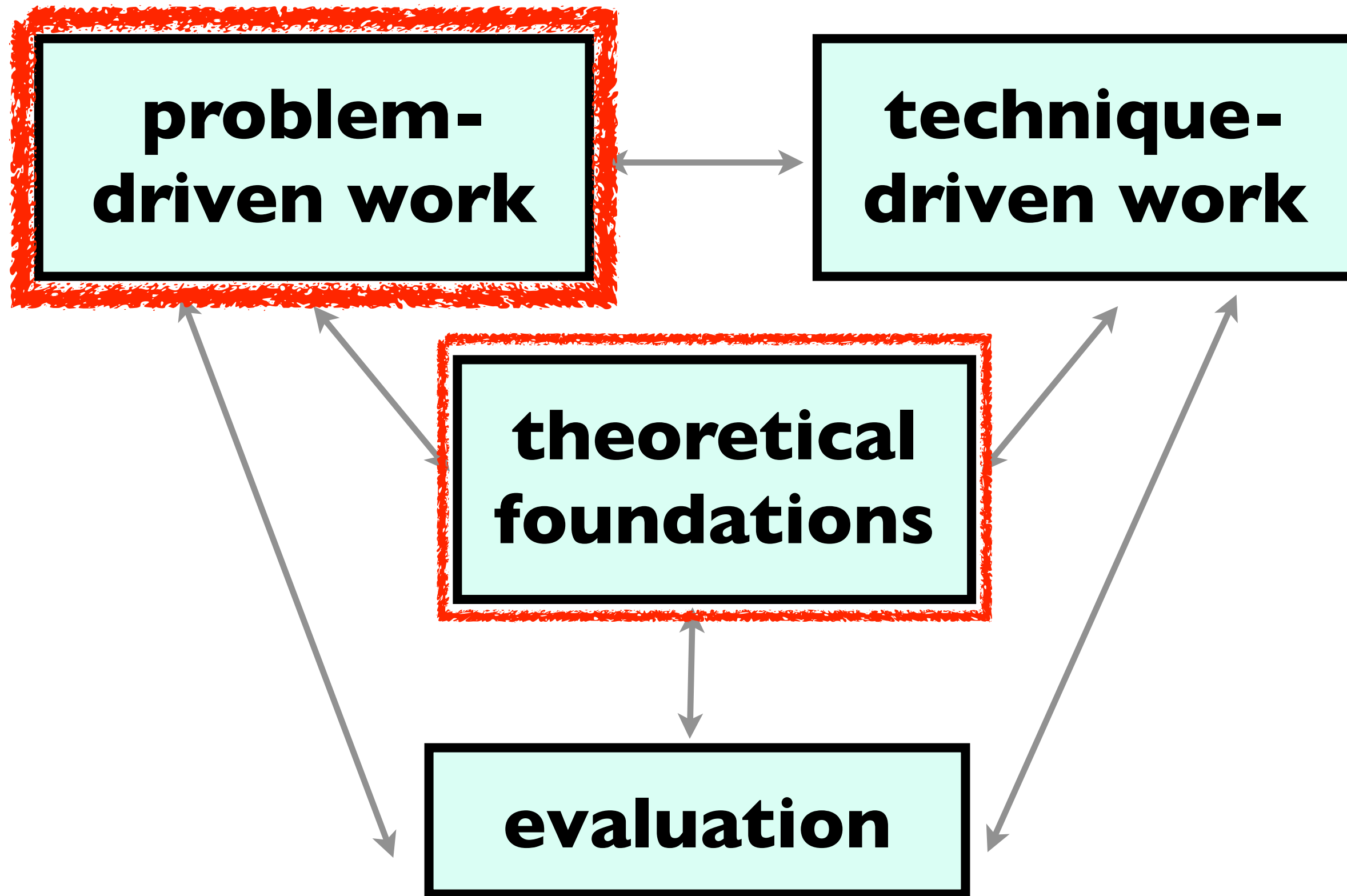
Visualization: Angles of attack



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Visualization: Angles of attack



Problem-driven visualization: Design studies

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“A design study is a project in which visualization researchers analyze a specific real-world problem faced by domain experts...”

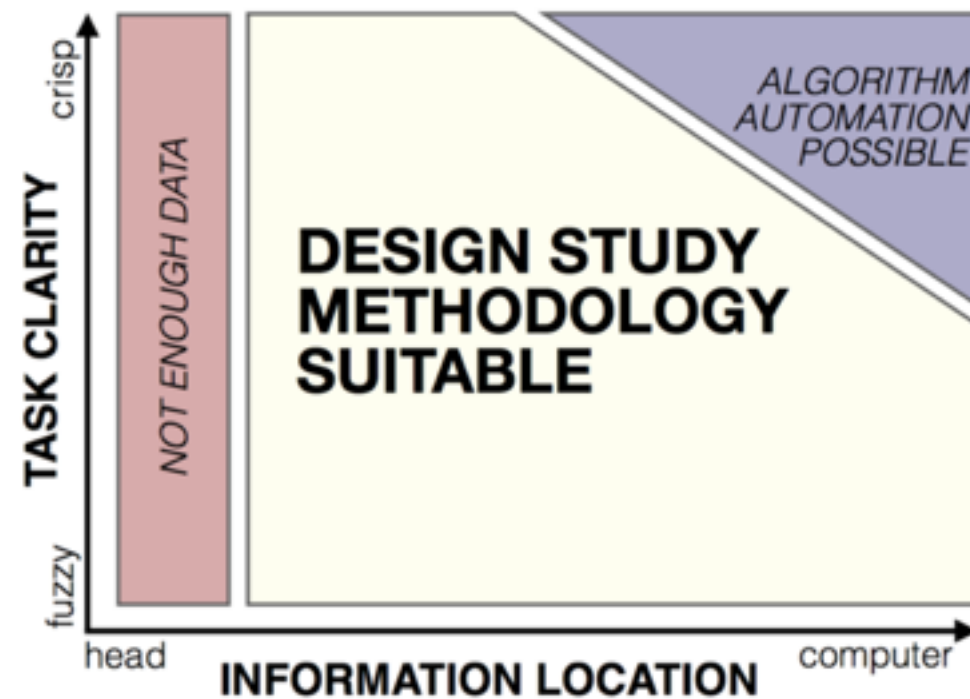
Problem driven visualization: Design studies

“A design study is a project in which visualization researchers analyze a specific real-world problem faced by domain experts, design a visualization system that supports solving this problem...”

Problem driven visualization: Design studies

“A design study is a project in which visualization researchers analyze a specific real-world problem faced by domain experts, design a visualization system that supports solving this problem, validate the design, and reflect about lessons learned in order to refine visualization design guidelines.”

*[Design Study Methodology: Reflections from the Trenches and the Stacks.
Sedlmair, Meyer & Munzner. IEEE TVCG 18(12): 2431-2440, 2012 (Proc. InfoVis 2012).]*



Michael Sedlmair



Miriah Meyer



Design Study Methodology

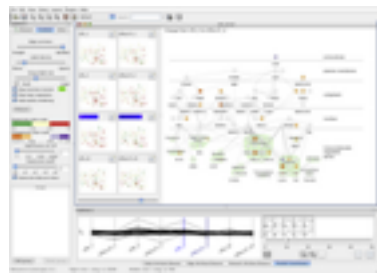
Reflections from the Trenches and from the Stacks

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/labs/imager/tr/2012/dsm/>

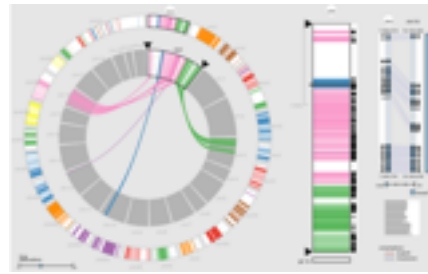
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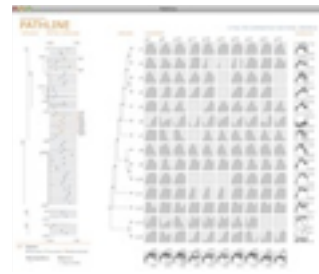
Lessons learned from the trenches: 20+ between us



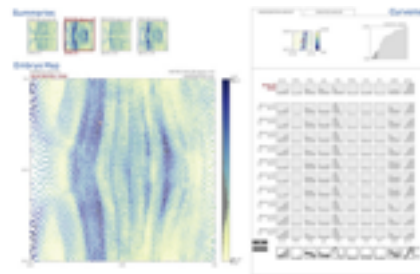
Cerebral
genomics



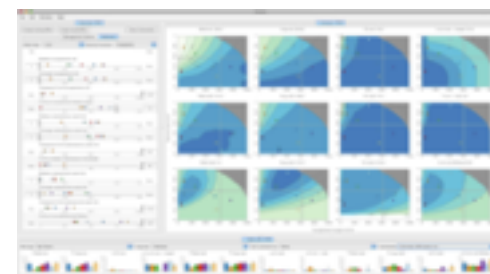
MizBee
genomics



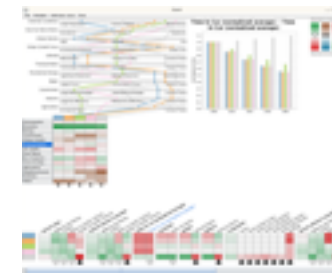
Pathline
genomics



MulteeSum
genomics



Vismon
fisheries management



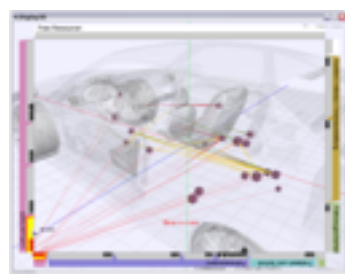
QuestVis
sustainability



WiKeVis
in-car networks



MostVis
in-car networks



Car-X-Ray
in-car networks



ProgSpy2010
in-car networks



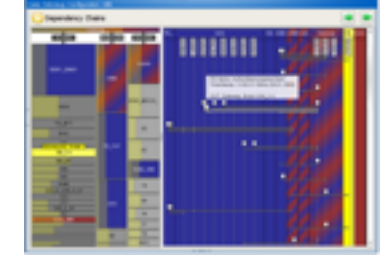
ReEx
in-car networks



Cardiogram
in-car networks



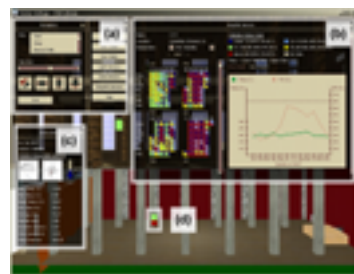
AutobahnVis
in-car networks



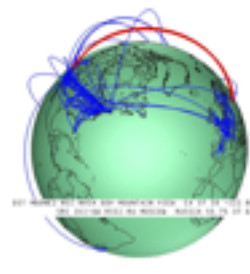
VisTra
in-car networks



Constellation
linguistics



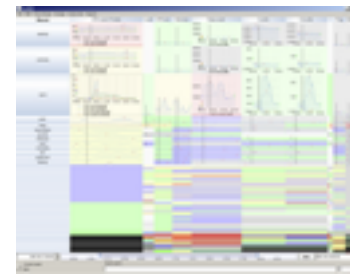
LibVis
cultural heritage



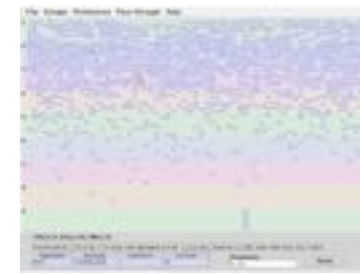
Caidants
multicast



SessionViewer
web log analysis



LiveRAC
server hosting

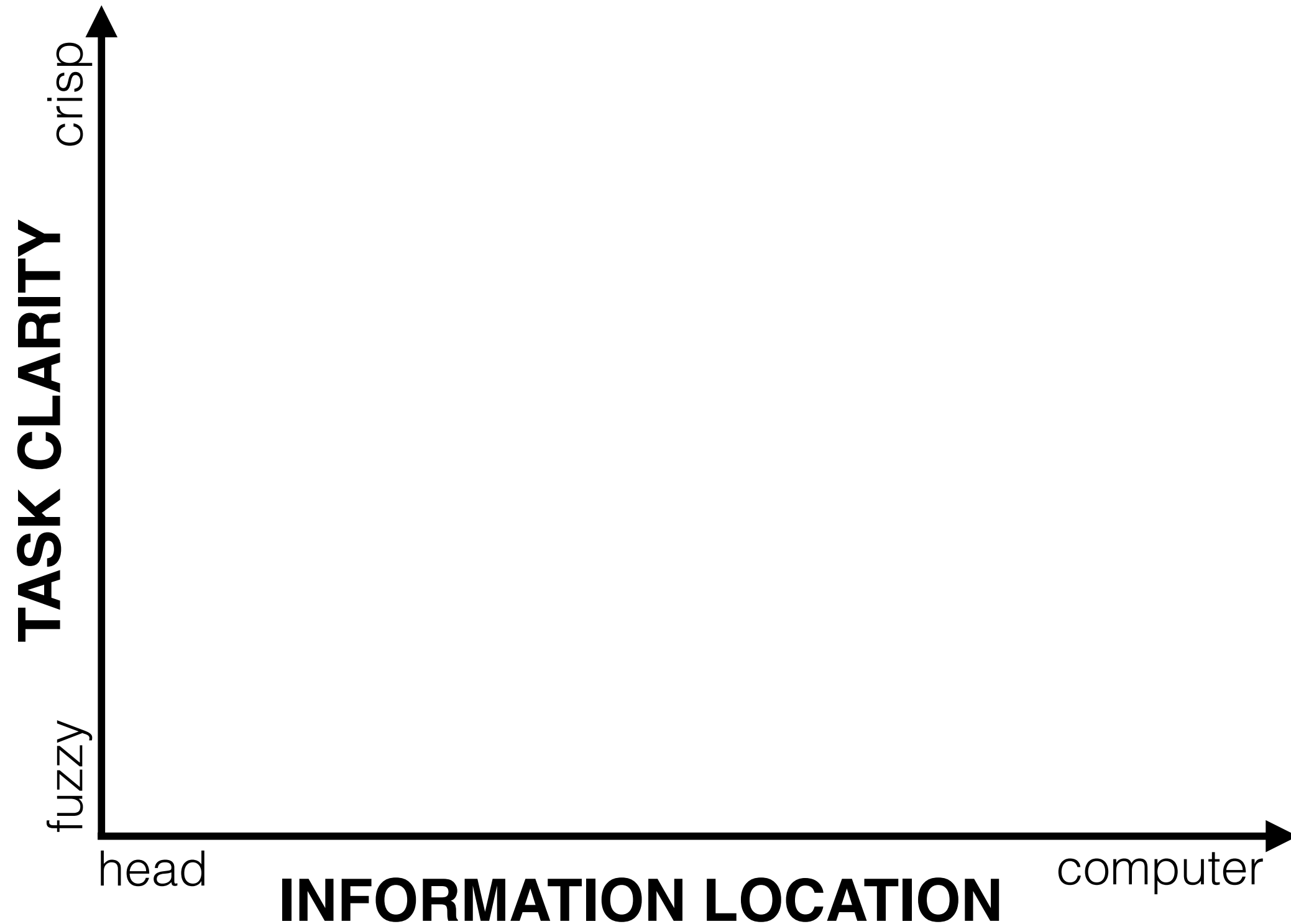


PowerSetViewer
data mining

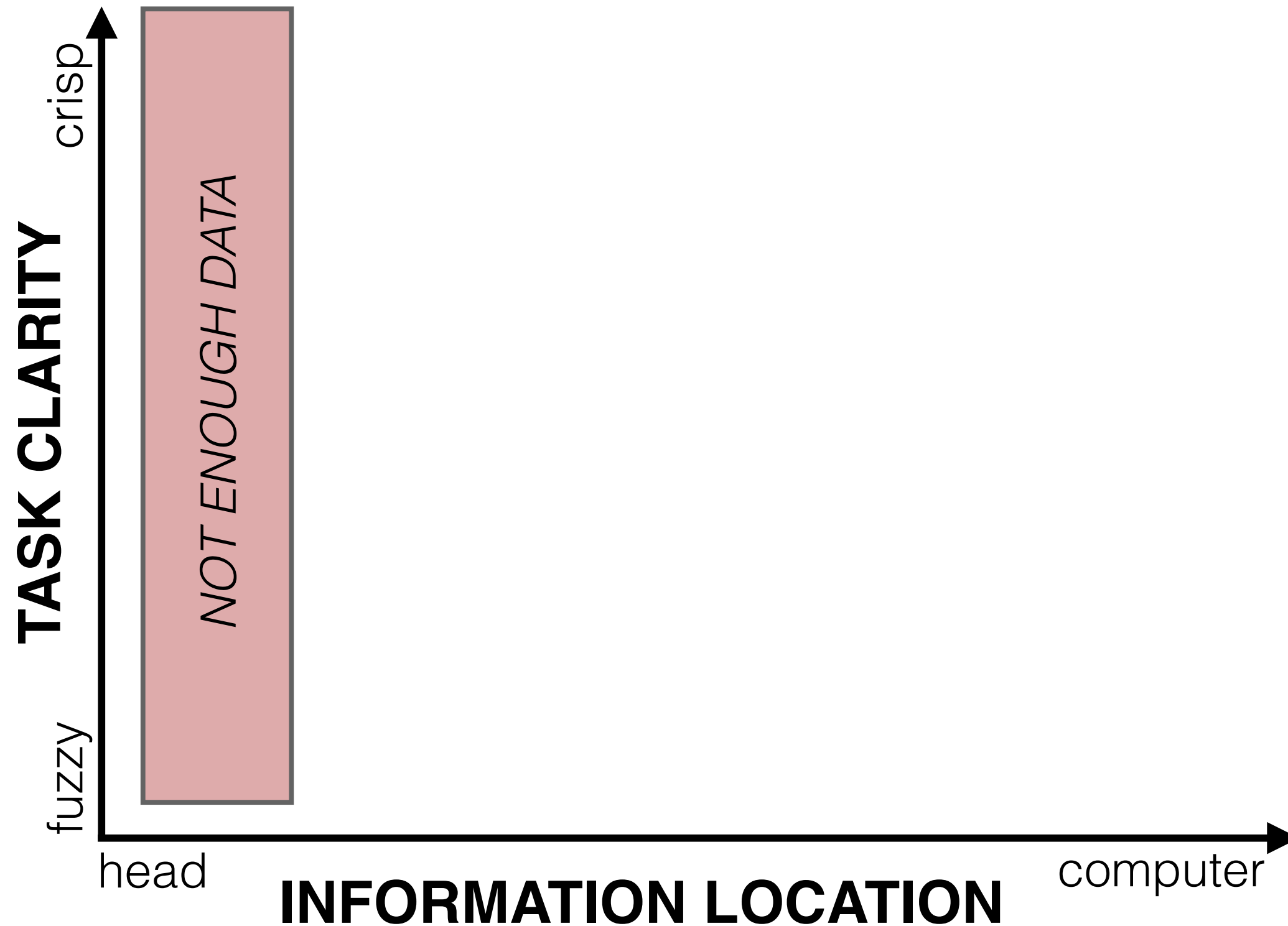
Design study methodology: definitions



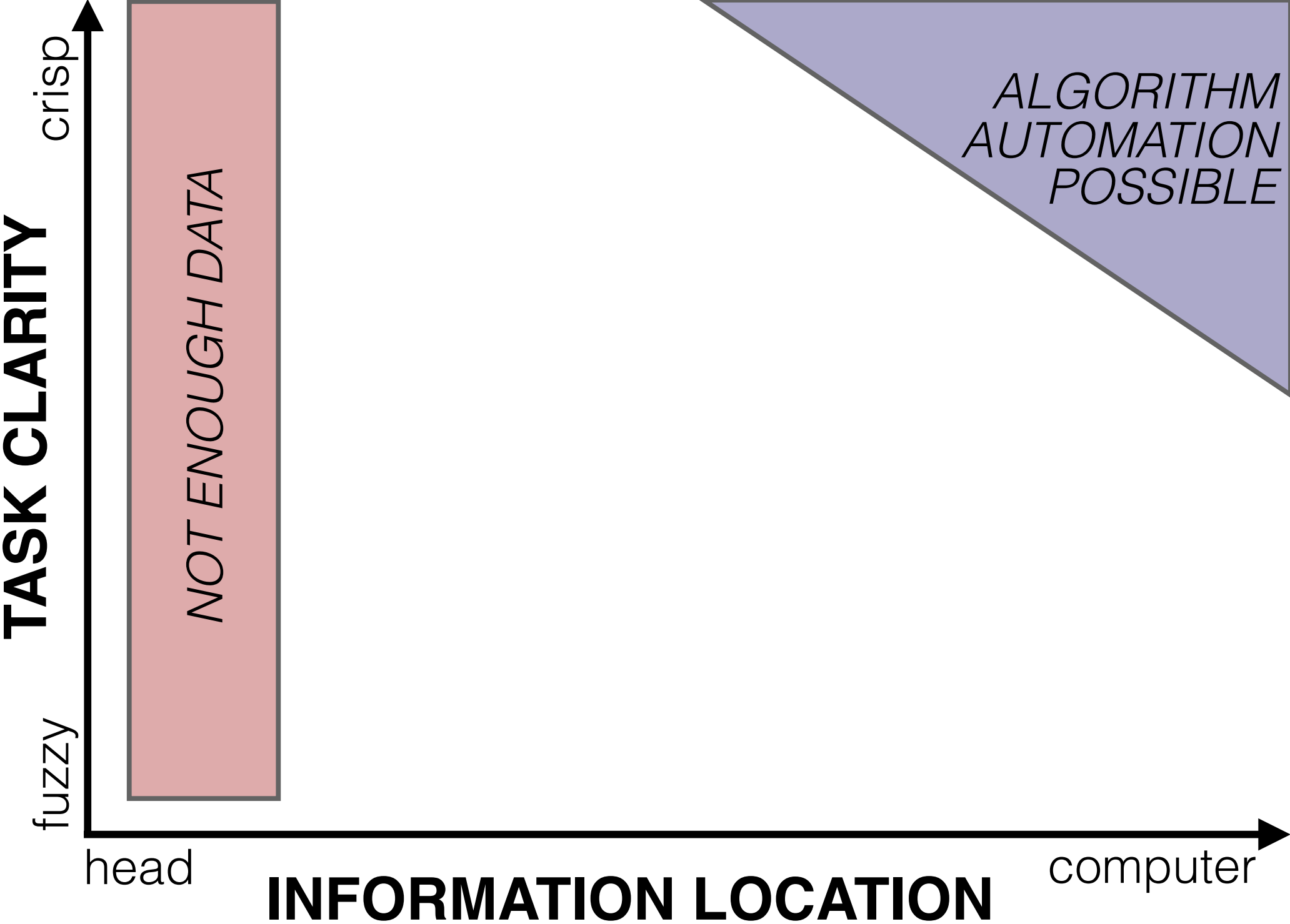
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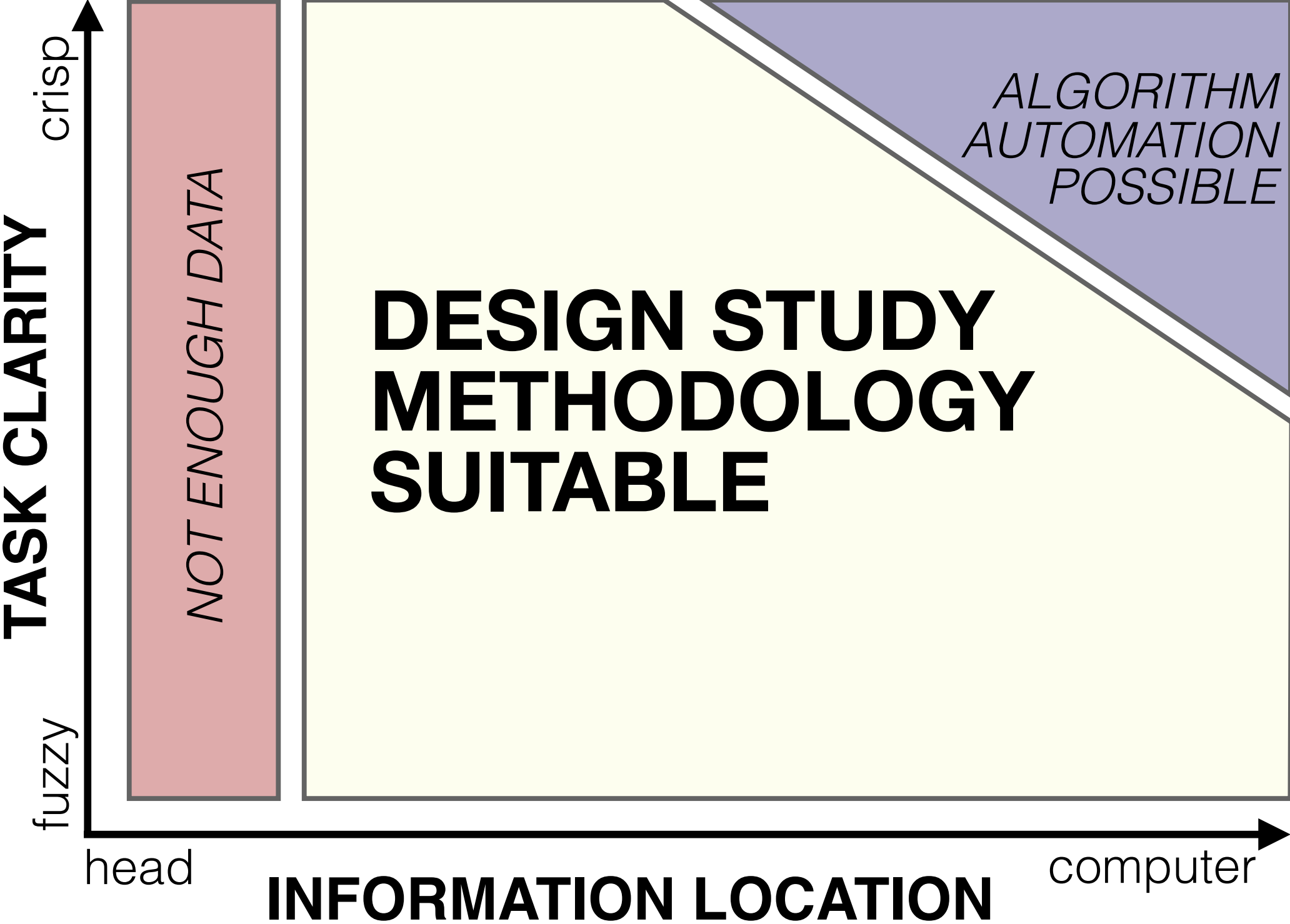


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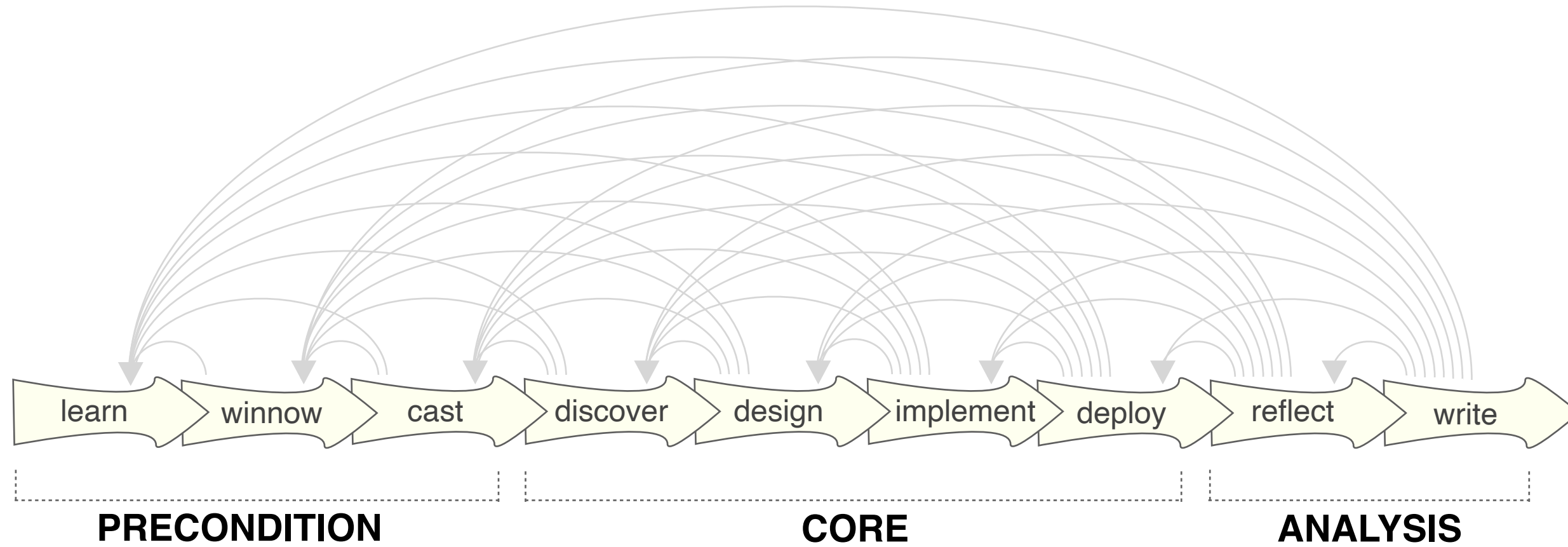
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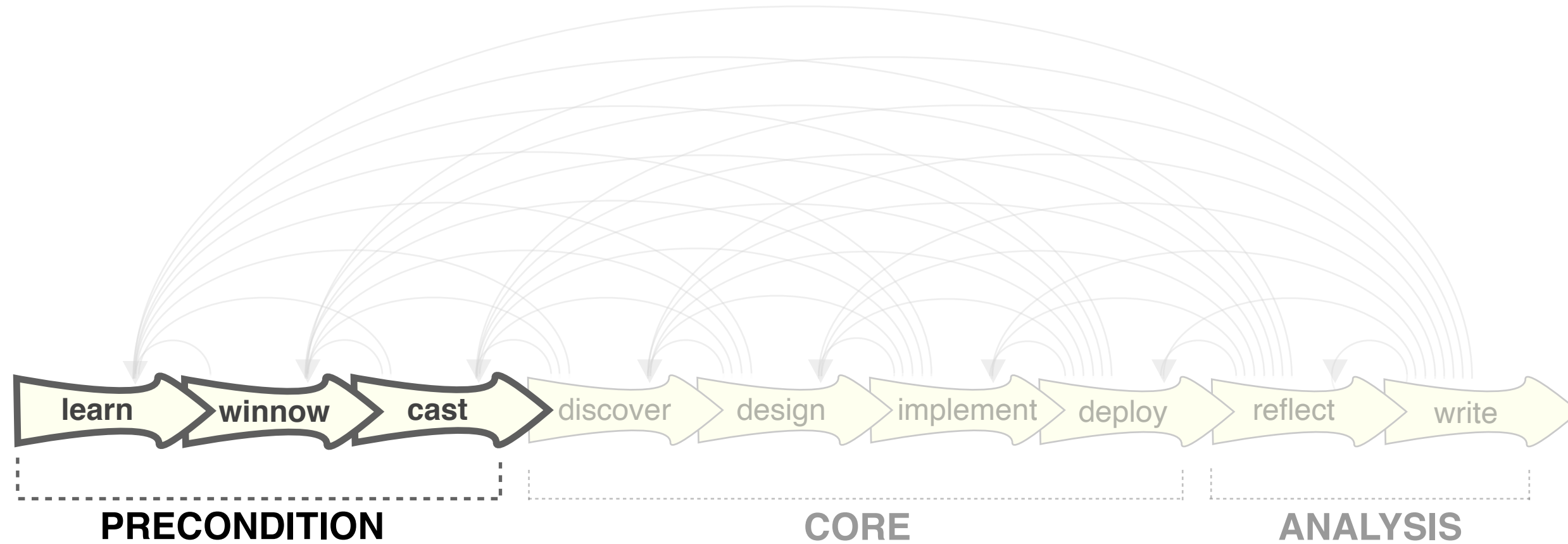
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9-stage framework



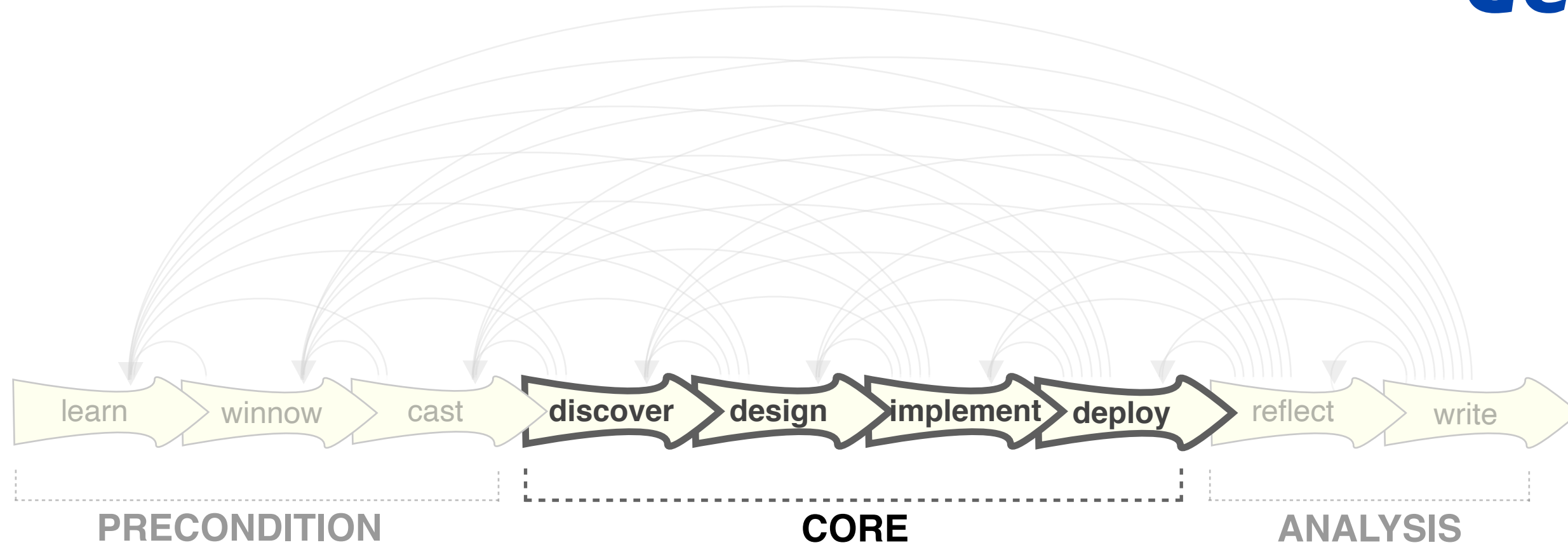
9-stage framework

learn
winnow
cast



9-stage framework

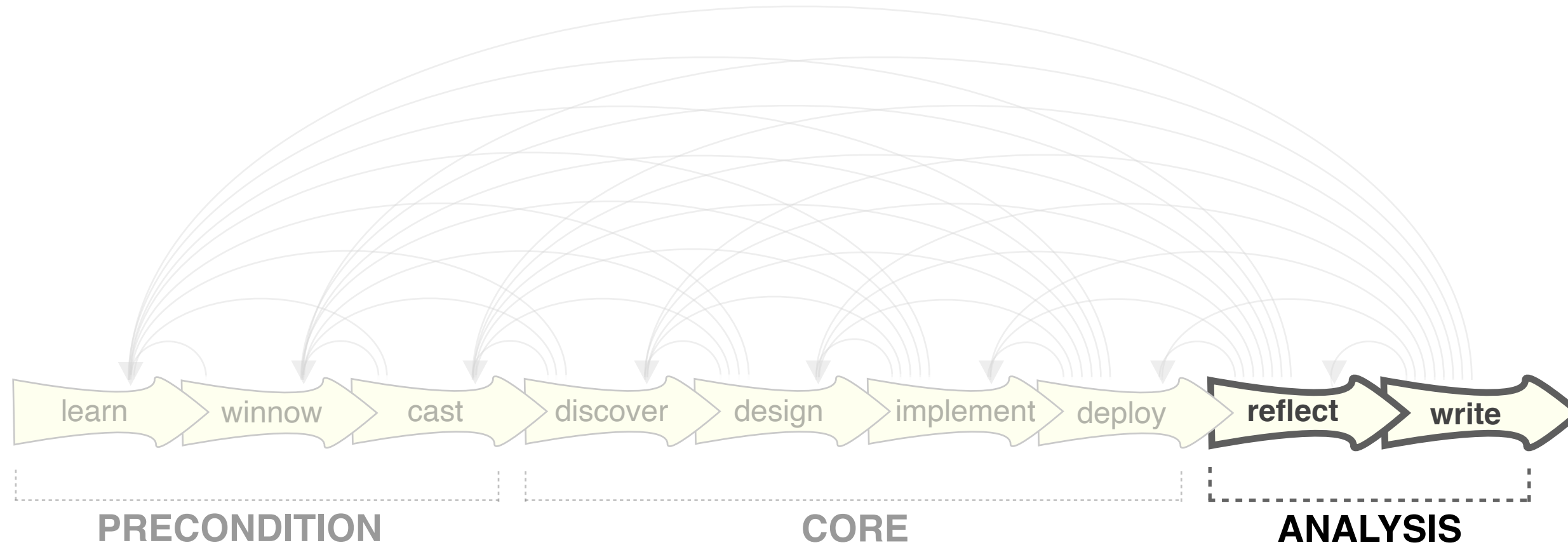
discover
design
implement
deploy



9-stage framework

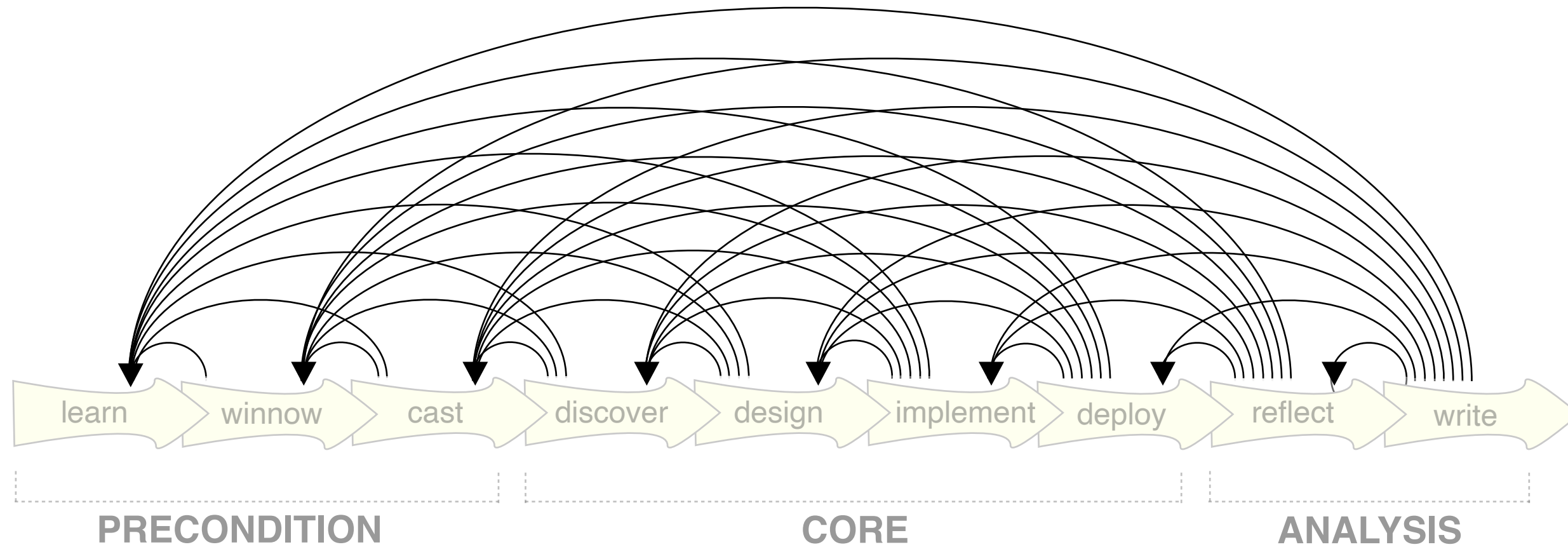
- guidelines: confirm, refine, reject, propose

reflect
write



9-stage framework

iterative



32 pitfalls & how to avoid them

32 pitfalls & how to avoid them



PF-1	premature advance: jumping forward over stages	general
PF-2	premature start: insufficient knowledge of vis literature	learn
PF-3	premature commitment: collaboration with wrong people	winnow
PF-4	no real data available (yet)	winnow
PF-5	insufficient time available from potential collaborators	winnow
PF-6	no need for visualization: problem can be automated	winnow
PF-7	researcher expertise does not match domain problem	winnow
PF-8	no need for research: engineering vs. research project	winnow
PF-9	no need for change: existing tools are good enough	winnow
PF-10	no real/important/recurring task	winnow
PF-11	no rapport with collaborators	winnow
PF-12	not identifying front line analyst and gatekeeper before start	cast
PF-13	assuming every project will have the same role distribution	cast
PF-14	mistaking fellow tool builders for real end users	cast

32 pitfalls & how to avoid them



PF-1	premature advance: jumping forward over stages	general	PF-21	mistaking technique-driven for problem-driven work	design
PF-2	premature start: insufficient knowledge of vis literature	learn	PF-22	nonrapid prototyping	implement
PF-3	premature commitment: collaboration with wrong people	winnow	PF-23	usability: too little / too much	implement
PF-4	no real data available (yet)	winnow	PF-24	premature end: insufficient deploy time built into schedule	deploy
PF-5	insufficient time available from potential collaborators	winnow	PF-25	usage study not case study: non-real task/data/user	deploy
PF-6	no need for visualization: problem can be automated	winnow	PF-26	<i>liking</i> necessary but not sufficient for validation	deploy
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PF-14	mistaking fellow tool builders for real end users	cast			
PF-15	ignoring practices that currently work well	discover			
PF-16	expecting <i>just talking or fly on wall</i> to work	discover			
PF-17	experts focusing on visualization design vs. domain problem	discover			
PF-18	learning their problems/language: too little / too much	discover			
PF-19	abstraction: too little	design			
PF-20	premature design commitment: consideration space too small	design			

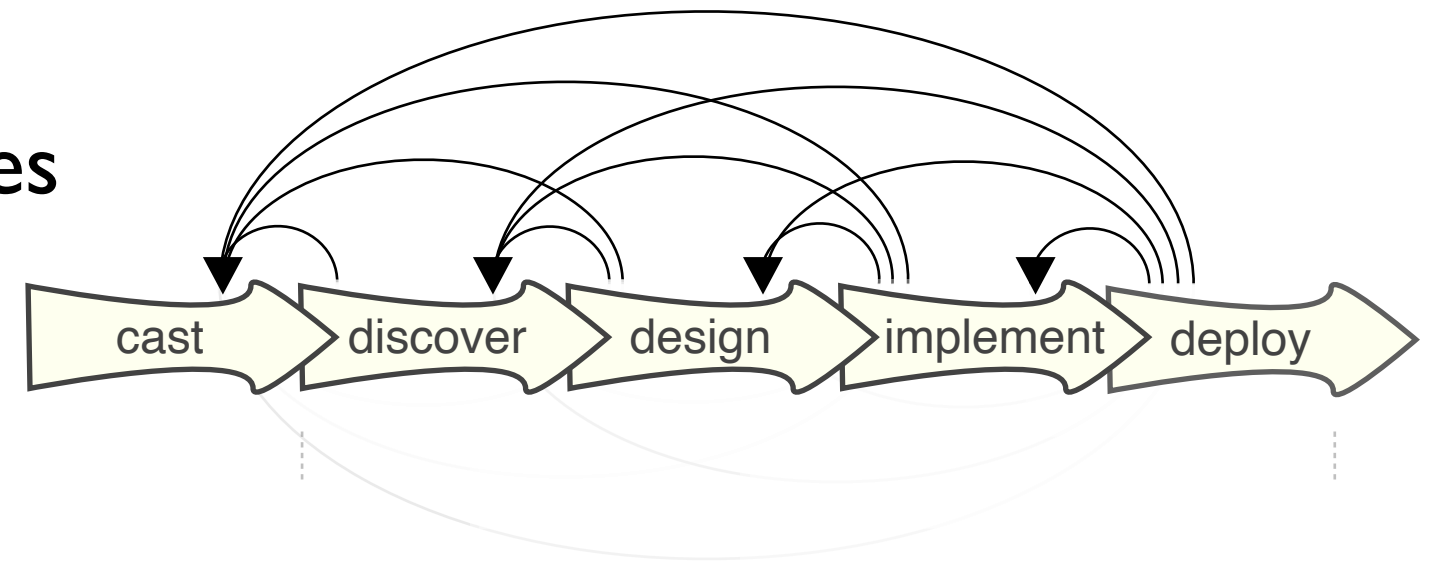
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PF-7	researcher expertise does not match domain problem	winnow	PF-27	failing to improve guidelines: confirm, refine, reject, propose	reflect
PF-8	no need for research: engineering vs. research project	winnow	PF-28	insufficient writing time built into schedule	write
PF-9	no need for change: existing tools are good enough	winnow	PF-29	no technique contribution \neq good design study	write
PF-10	no real/important/recurring task	winnow	PF-30	too much domain background in paper	write
PF-11	no rapport with collaborators	winnow	PF-31	story told chronologically vs. focus on final results	write
PF-12	not identifying front line analyst and gatekeeper before start	cast	PF-32	premature end: win race vs. practice music for debut	write
PF-13	assuming every project will have the same role distribution	cast			
PF-14	mistaking fellow tool builders for real end users	cast			
PF-15	ignoring practices that currently work well	discover			
PF-16	expecting <i>just talking or fly on wall</i> to work	discover			
PF-17	experts focusing on visualization design vs. domain problem	discover			
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Design studies & user-centered design

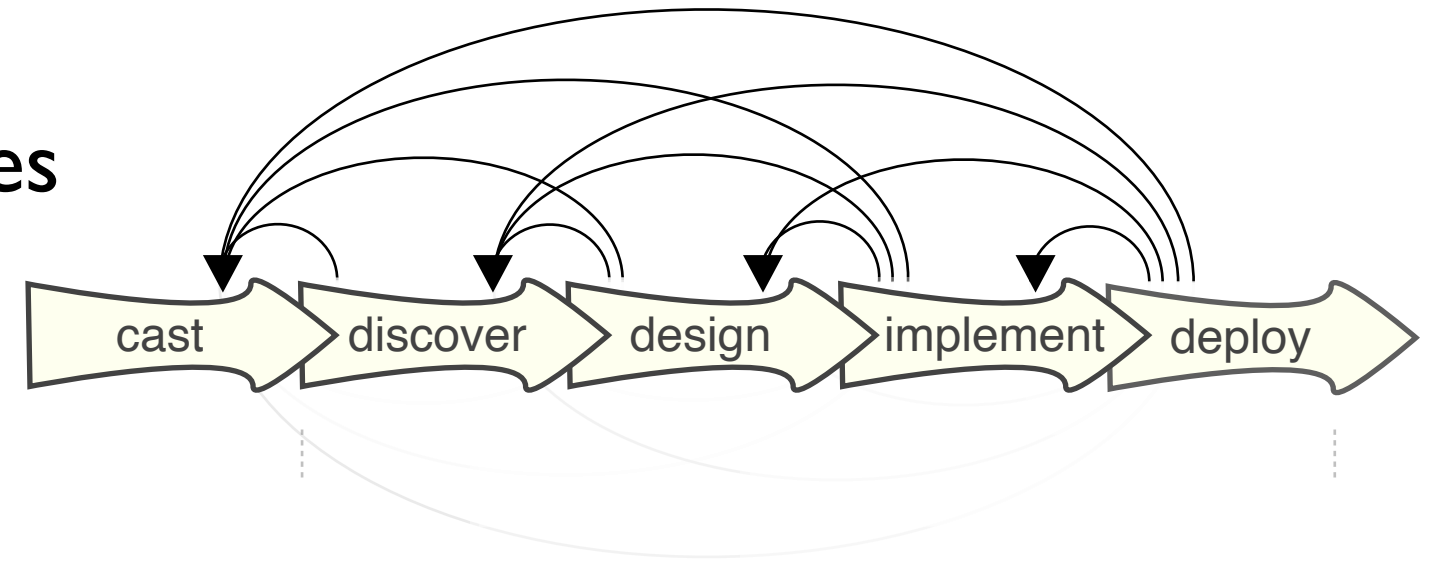
- user-centered design: well-known HCI methodology
 - iterative refinement & deployment
 - evaluation through case studies & field studies



Design studies & user-centered design

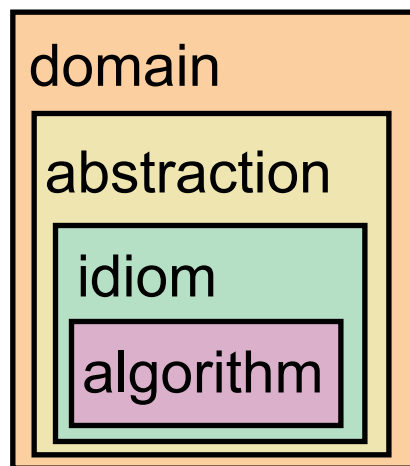
- user-centered design: well-known HCI methodology

- iterative refinement & deployment
- evaluation through case studies & field studies



- what's specific to visualization?

- discovering task and data **abstractions**
- designing visual encoding & interaction **idioms** that map to abstractions



Three case studies of problem-driven work

- e-commerce



- facilities management



- biology



Three case studies of problem-driven work

- e-commerce



- facilities management



- biology





Kim
Dextras-Romagnino



Segmentifier

Interactive Refinement of Clickstream Data

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/labs/imager/tr/2019/segmentifier>

Segmentifier: Interactive Refinement of Clickstream Data.

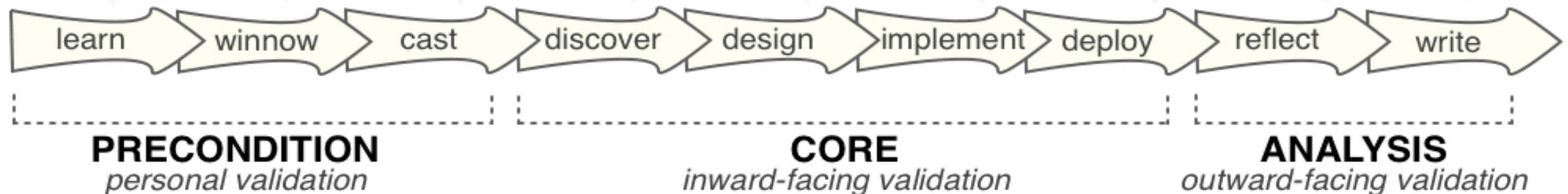
Dextras-Romagnino and Munzner. *Computer Graphics Forum (Proc. EuroVis 2019)* 38(3):623–634 2019

E-commerce: mobile apps for large companies



Process: Design Study Methodology

- **Precondition Phase** (5 months) : interviews with 12 employees
- **Core Phase** (11 months): Iterative design and implementation
- **Analysis Phase** (3 months): Reflect and write



What are the **Data and Task Abstractions** for *Clickstream Data Analysis*?

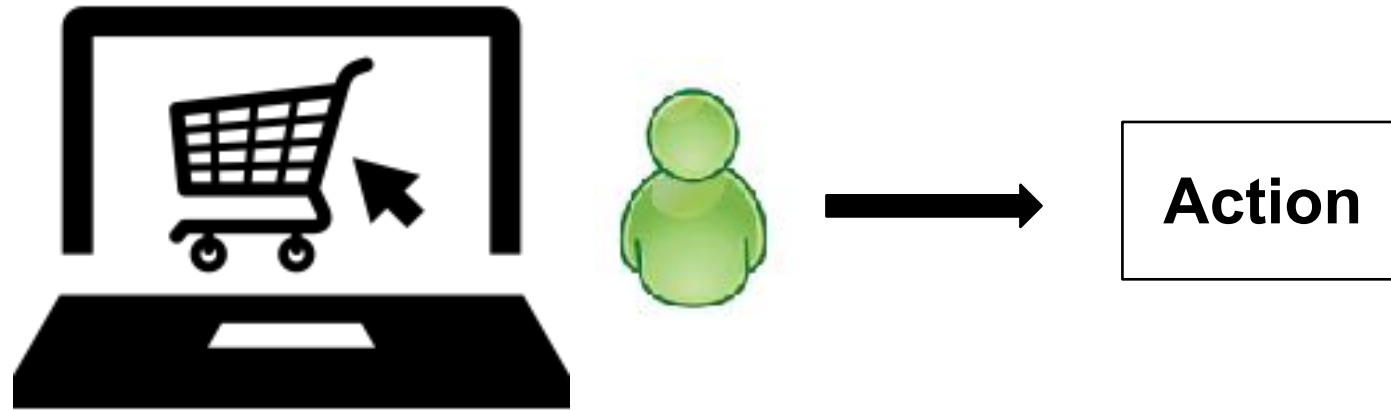
Clickstream Data

Clickstream Analysis Tasks

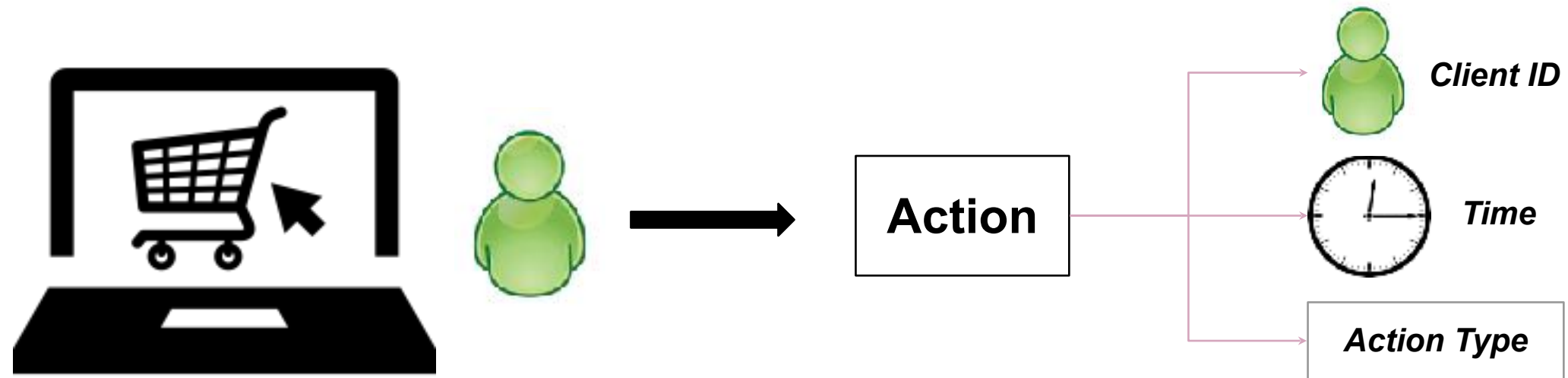
Segmentifier Analysis Model

What is ***Clickstream Data***?

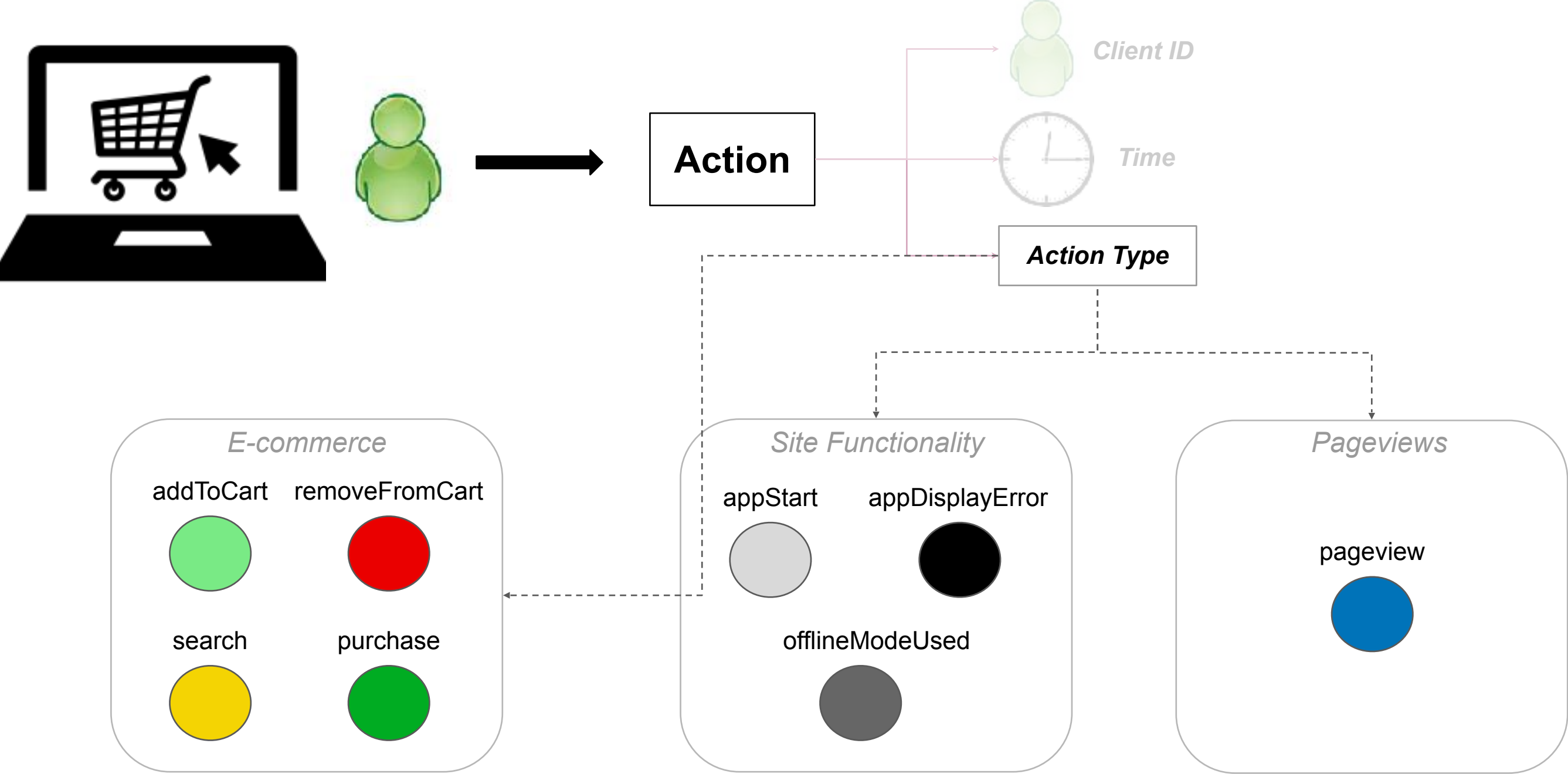
Data: *Actions*



Data: *Action Attributes*



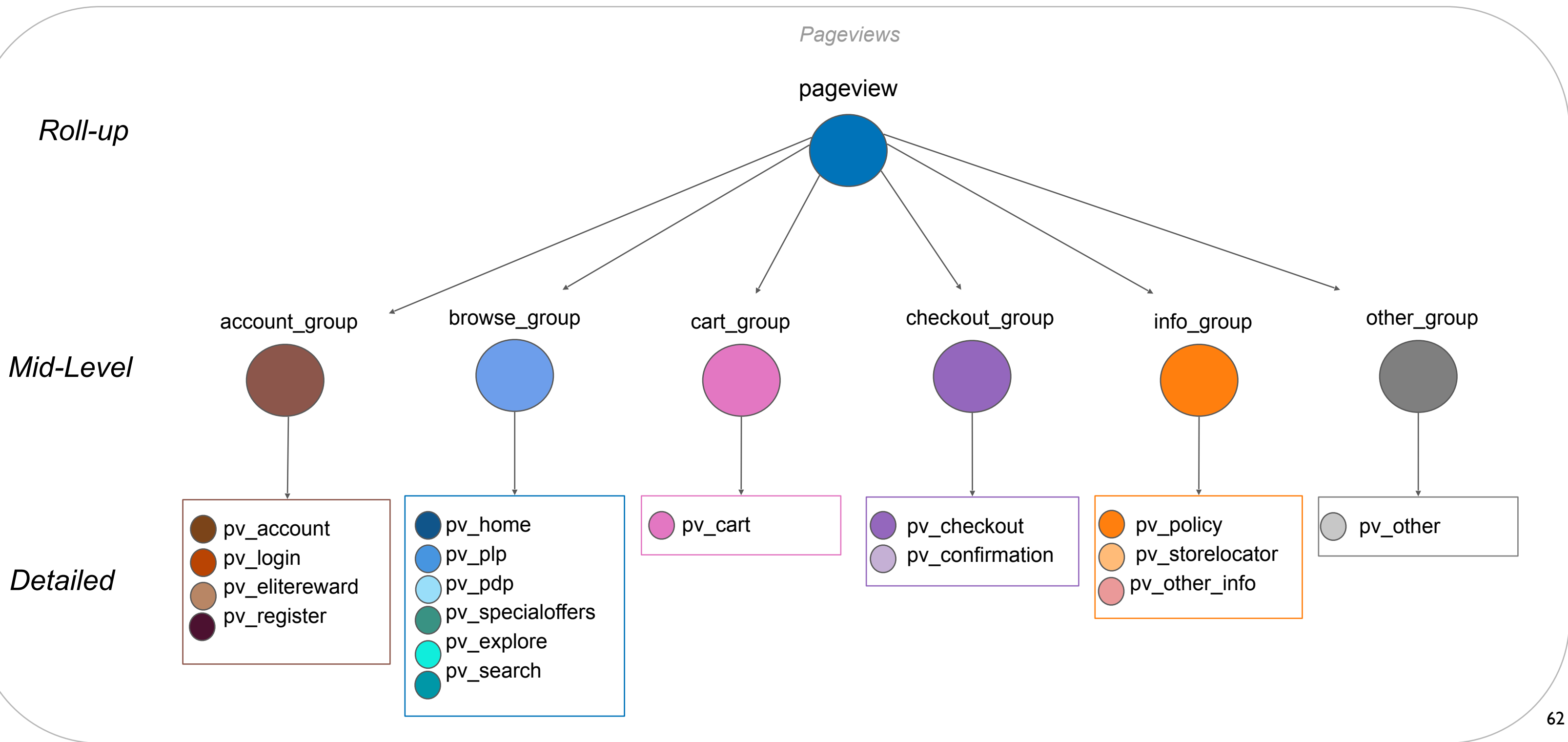
Data: *Action Types*



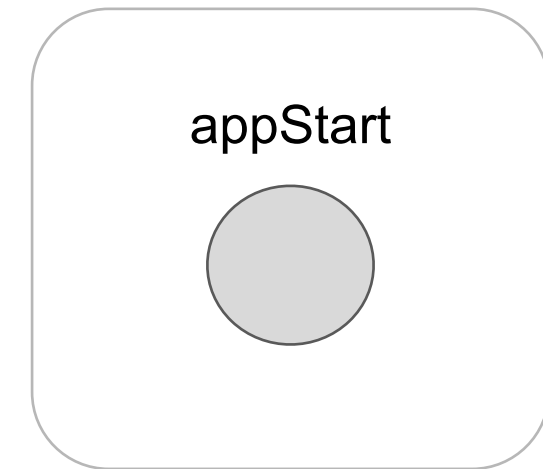
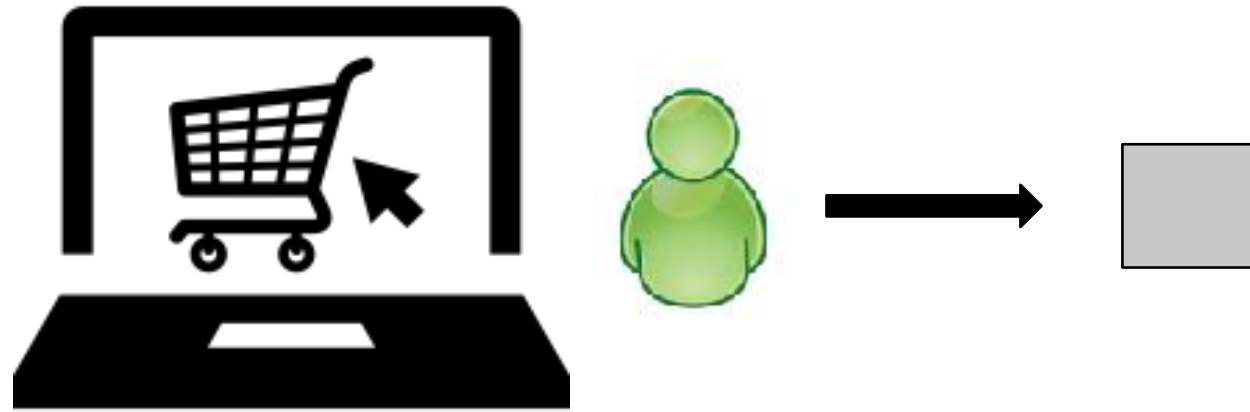
Action Hierarchy



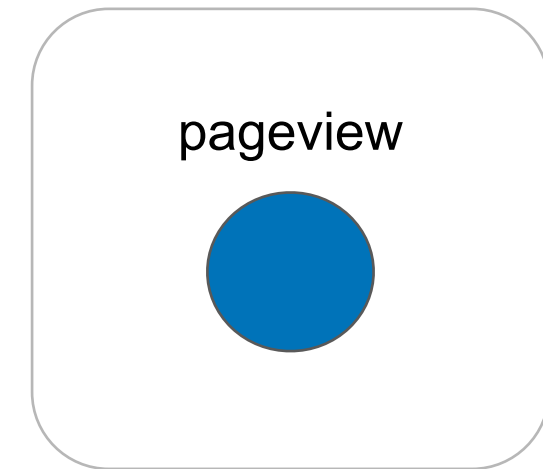
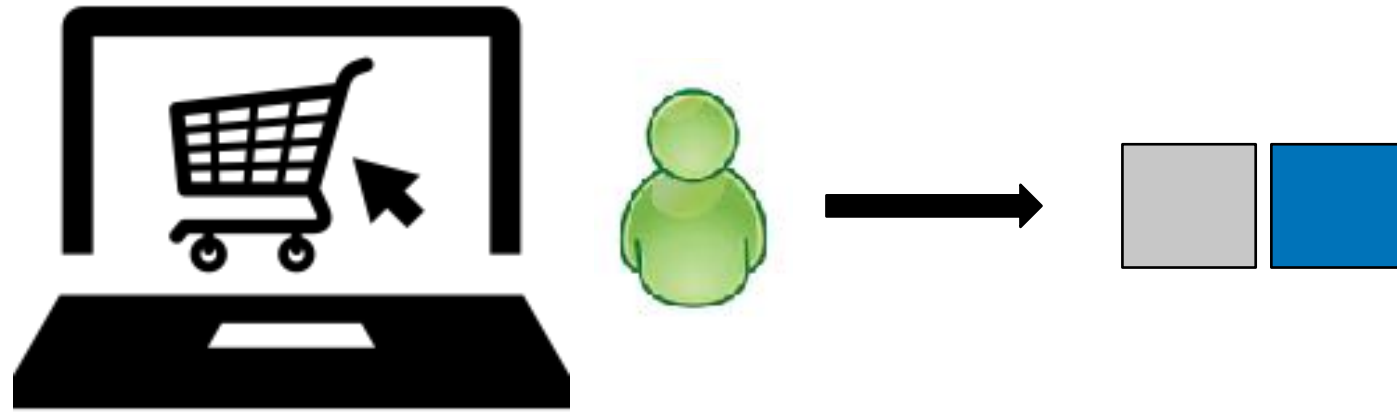
Action Hierarchy



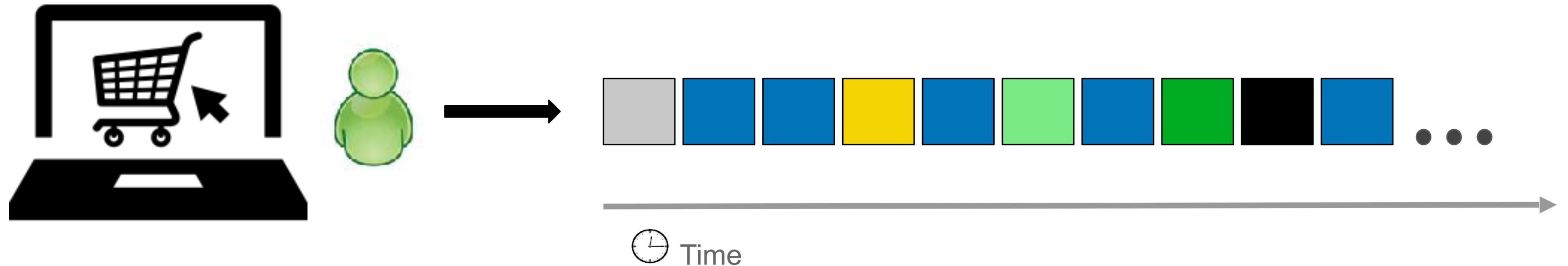
Data: *Sequences*



Data: *Sequences*



Data: *Client Sequences*



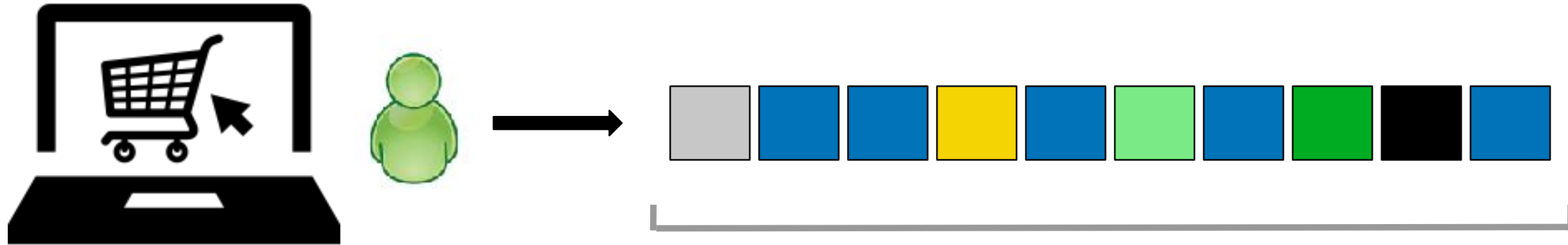
Client Sequences: all actions performed by a single user

Data: *Session Sequences*



Session Sequences: all actions performed by a single user within a defined amount of time (Δ) from each other.
 Δ is usually 30 min.

Data: *Sequence Attributes*



Start time

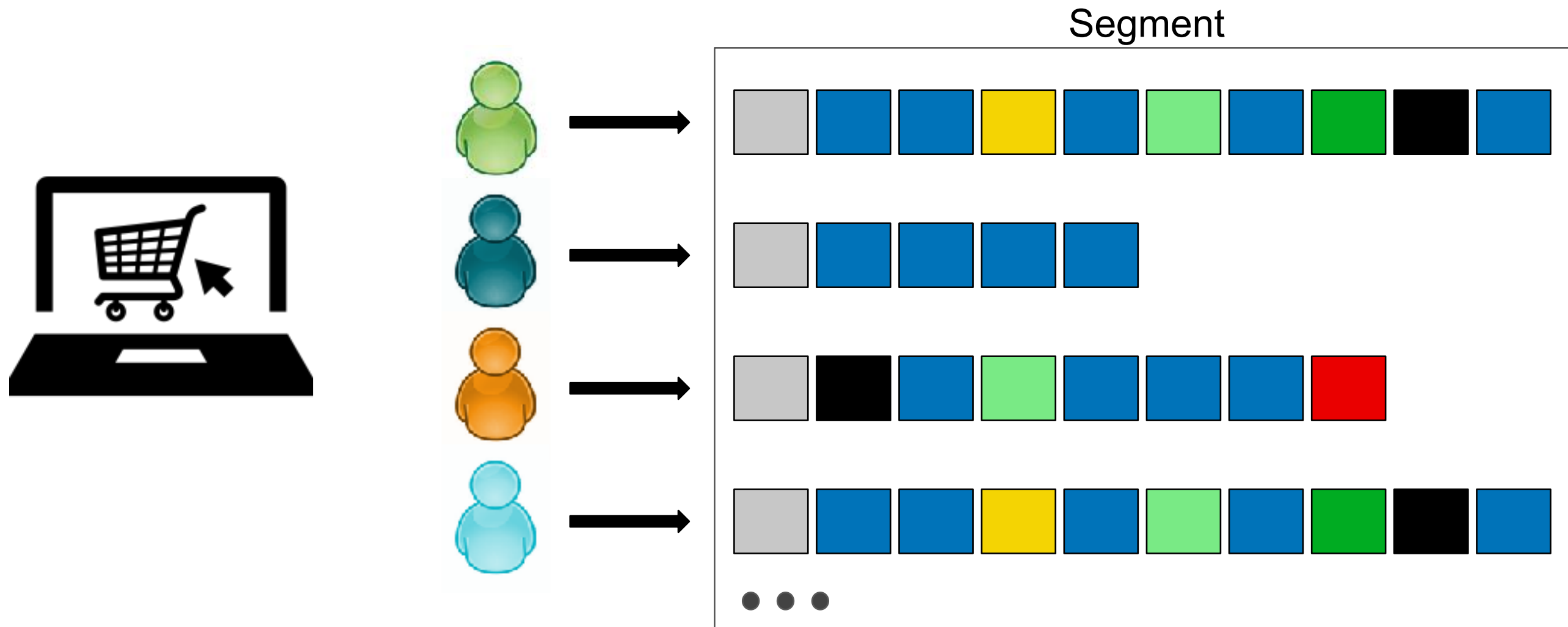
End time

Duration

Action Counts

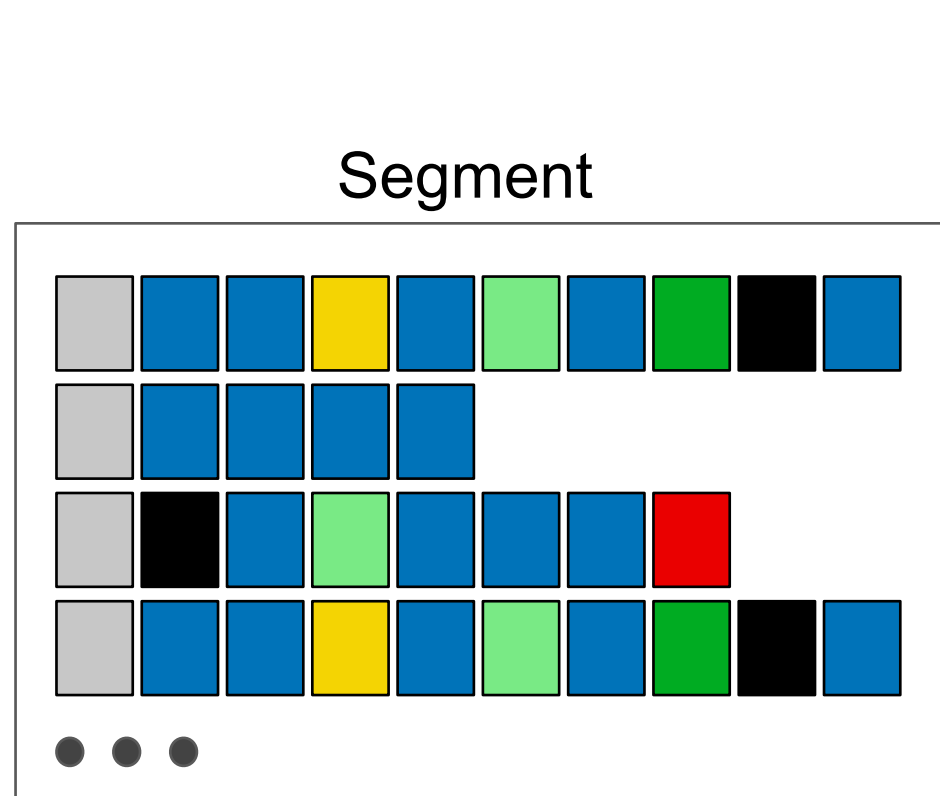
■ : 1
■ : 1
■ : 5
■ : 1
■ : 1

Data: *Segments*



Segment: any set of sequences

Data: *Segment Attributes*



Size

Counts of sequences:
Absolute, Relative

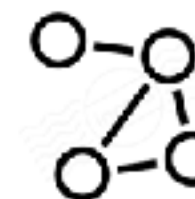
Sequence Related

Sequence Distributions:
Start Time, Duration, Action Counts

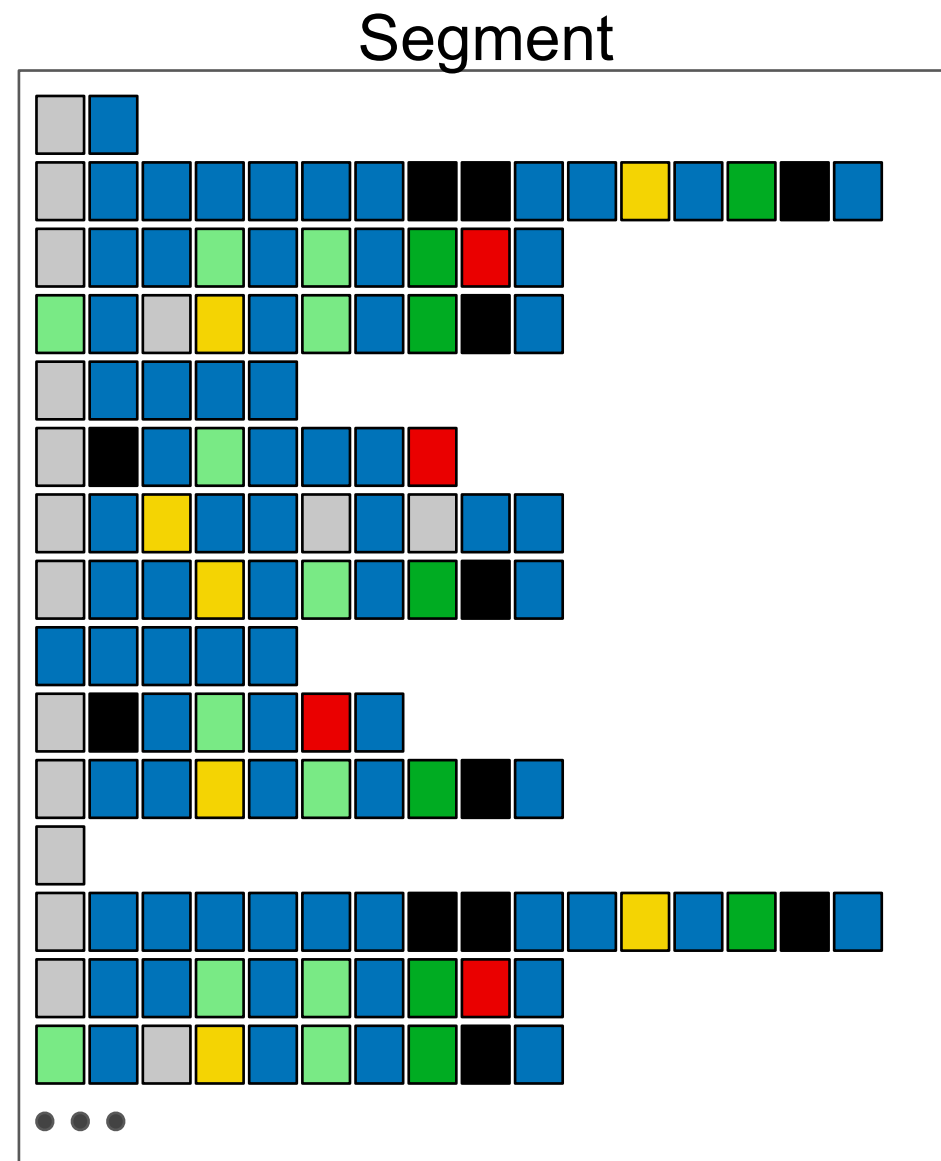


Action Related

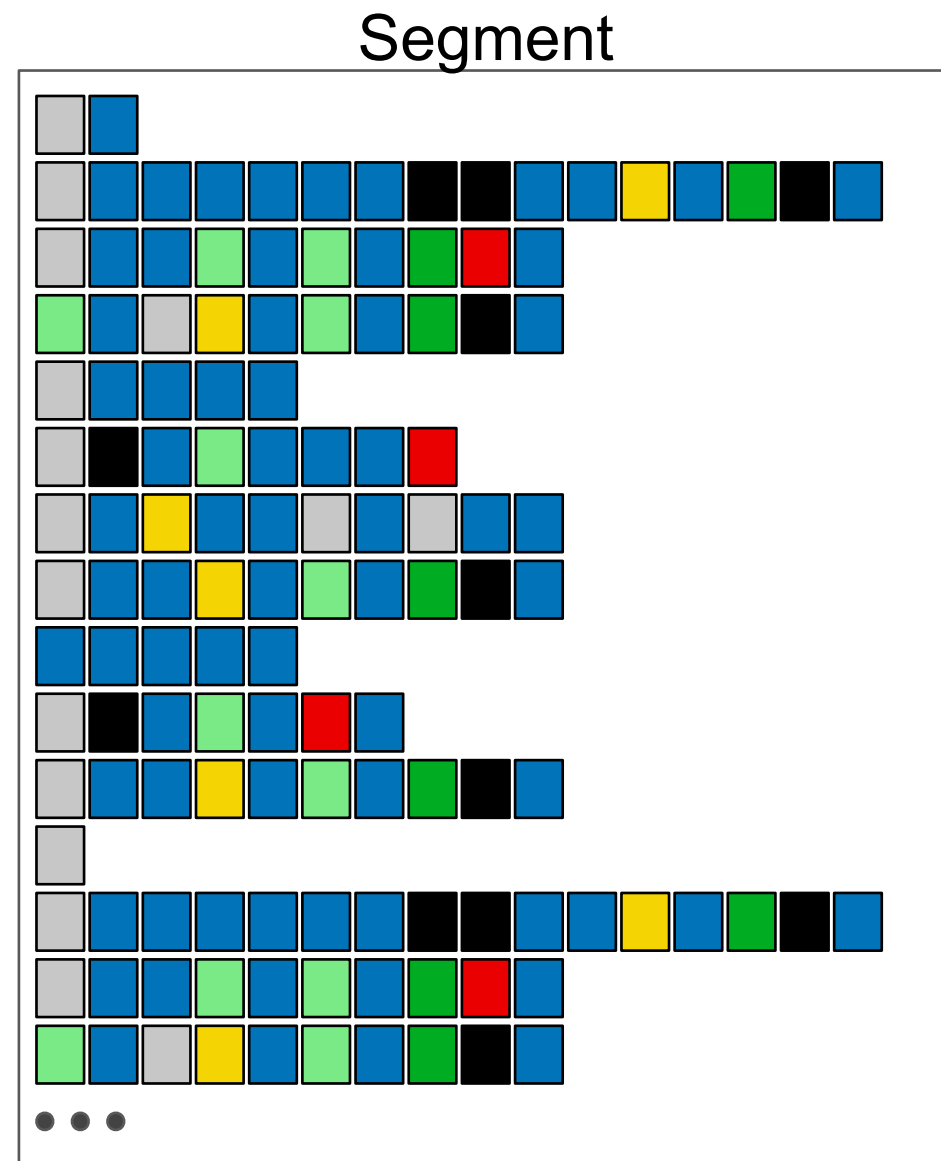
Action Distributions:
Action Transitions:
action before, action after



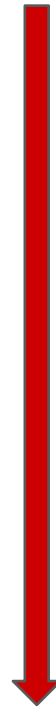
Real-world Clickstream Data



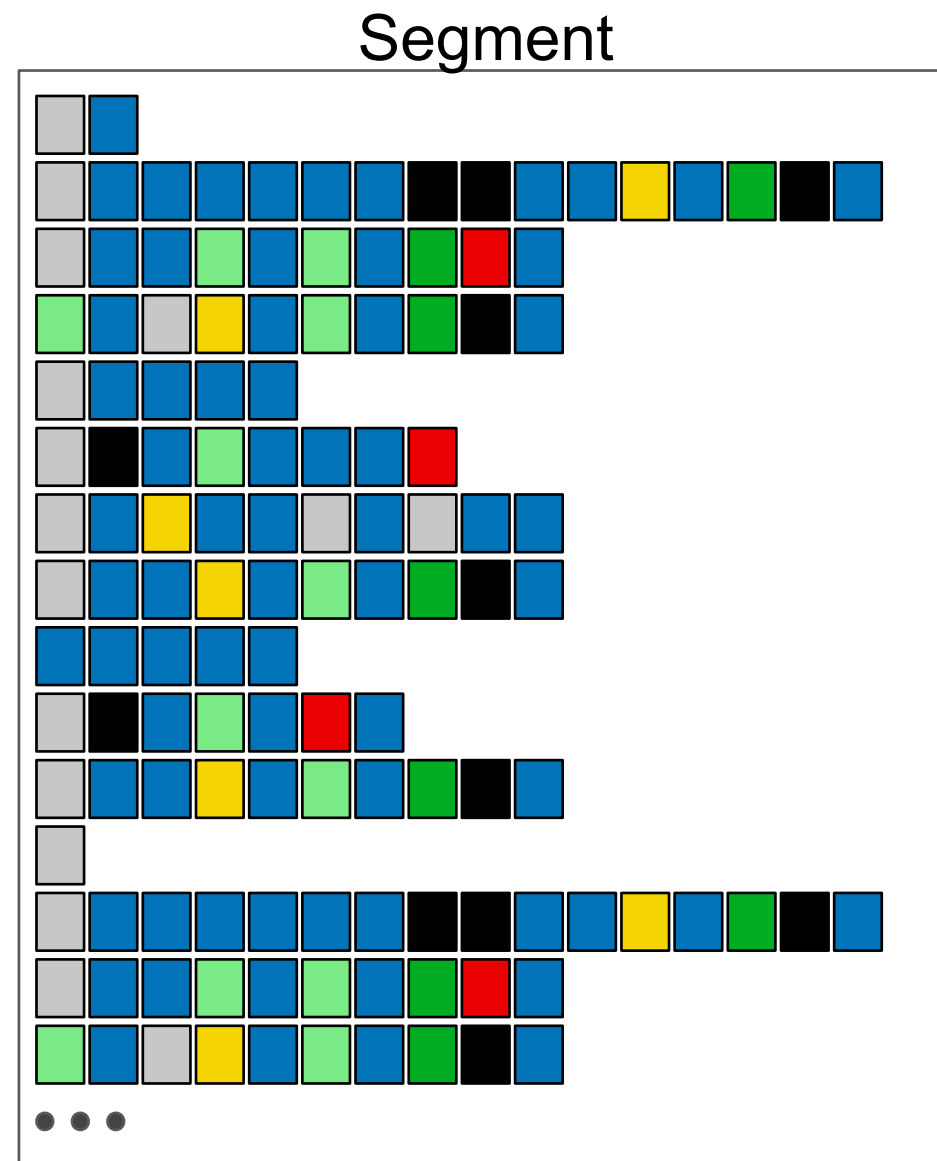
Real-world Clickstream Data



Scale is huge



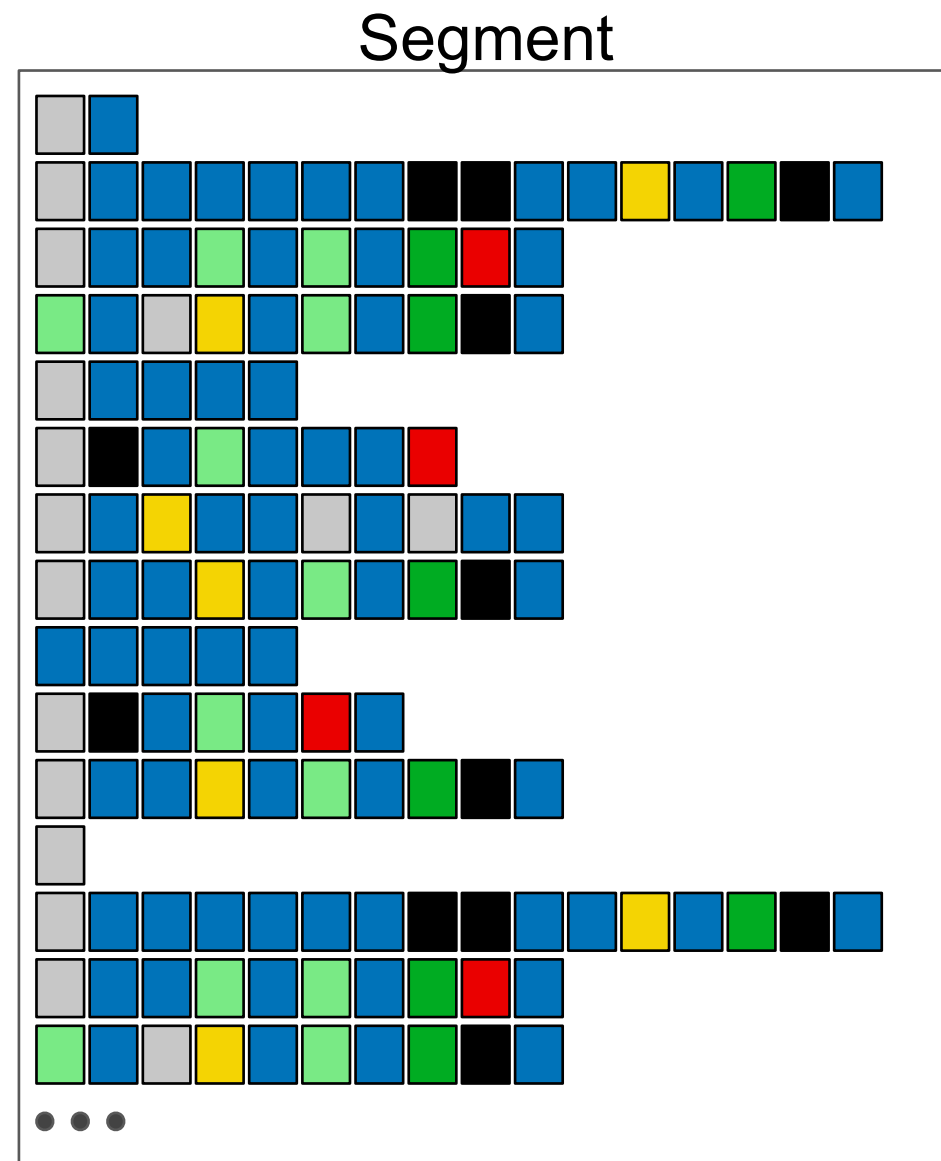
Real-world Clickstream Data



Scale is huge

Variability is high

Real-world Clickstream Data



Scale is huge

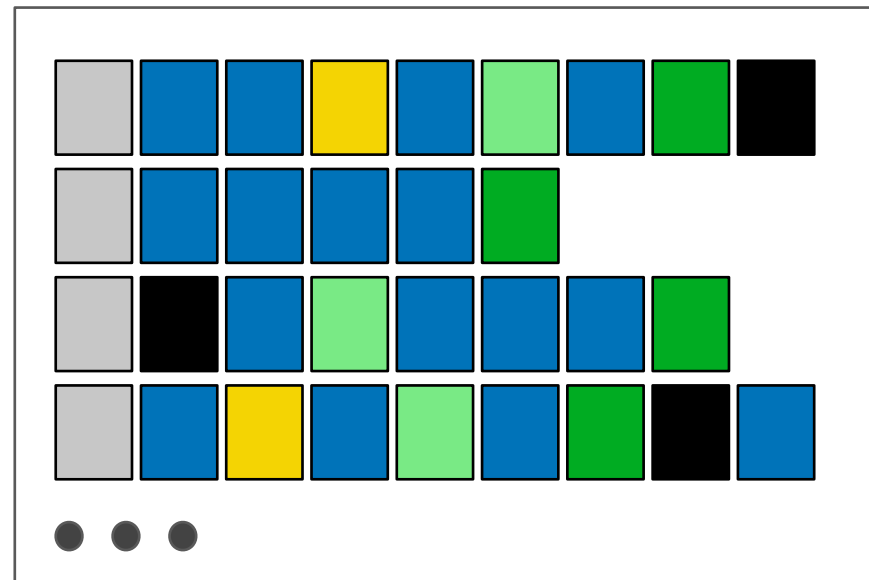
Variability is high

Most work **fails** when
applied to real-world data

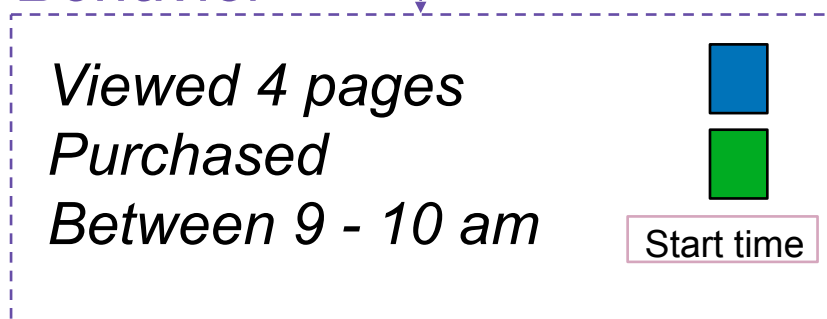
What are
Clickstream Data Analysis Tasks?

Tasks: Segment Behavior

Segment



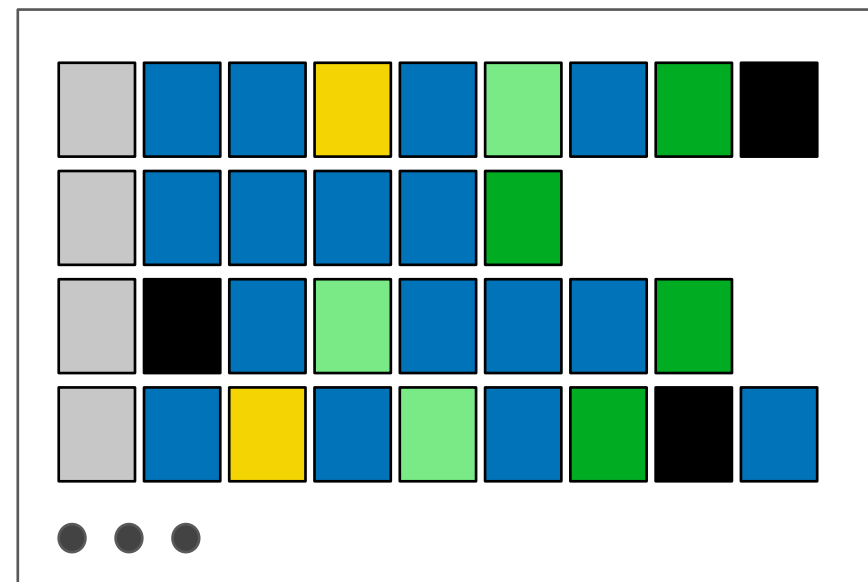
Behavior



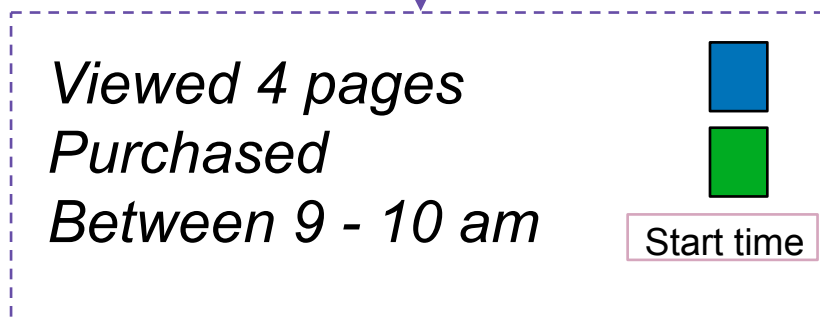
Behavior: set of attribute constraints

Tasks: Segment Behavior

Segment



Behavior

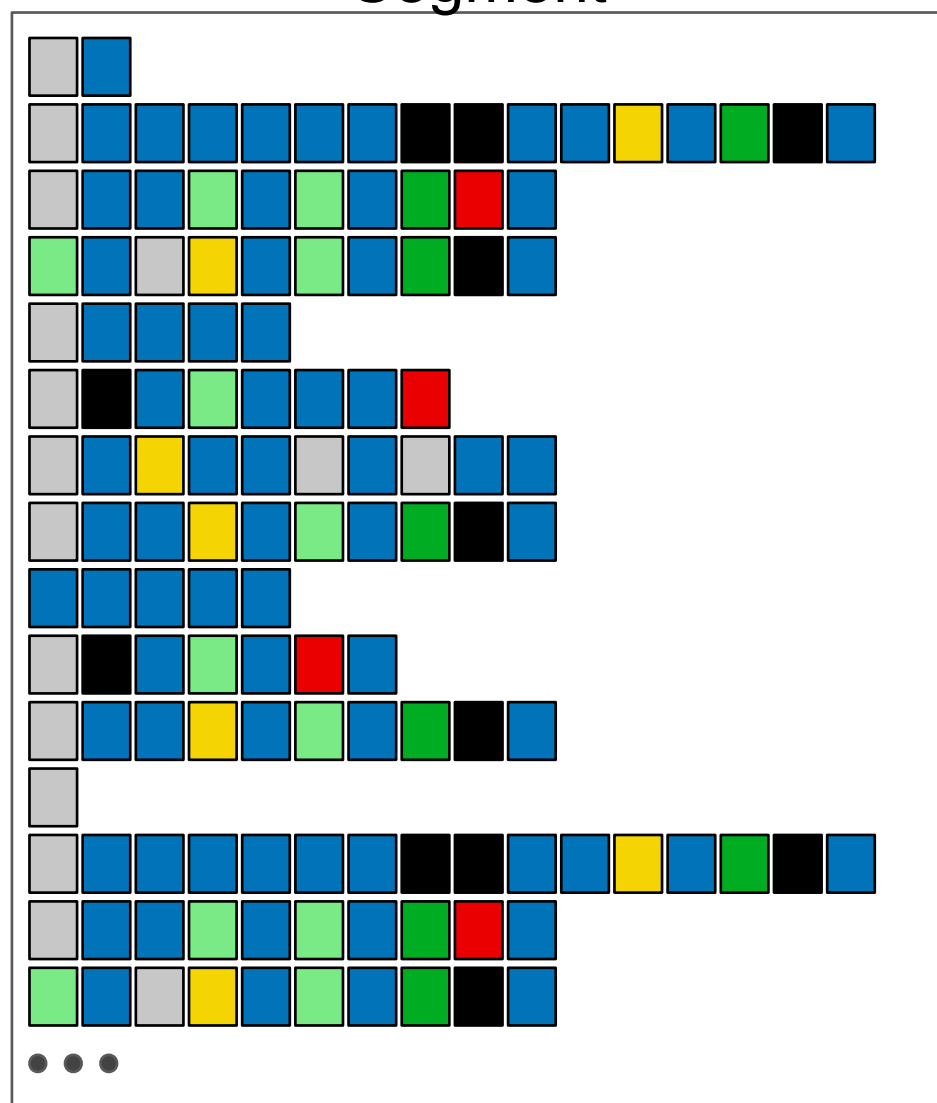


Behavior: set of attribute constraints

- **Expected**
Users add to cart before purchasing
- **Unexpected**
No purchases on a certain month
- **Favorable**
Purchased
- **Unfavorable**
Bounced

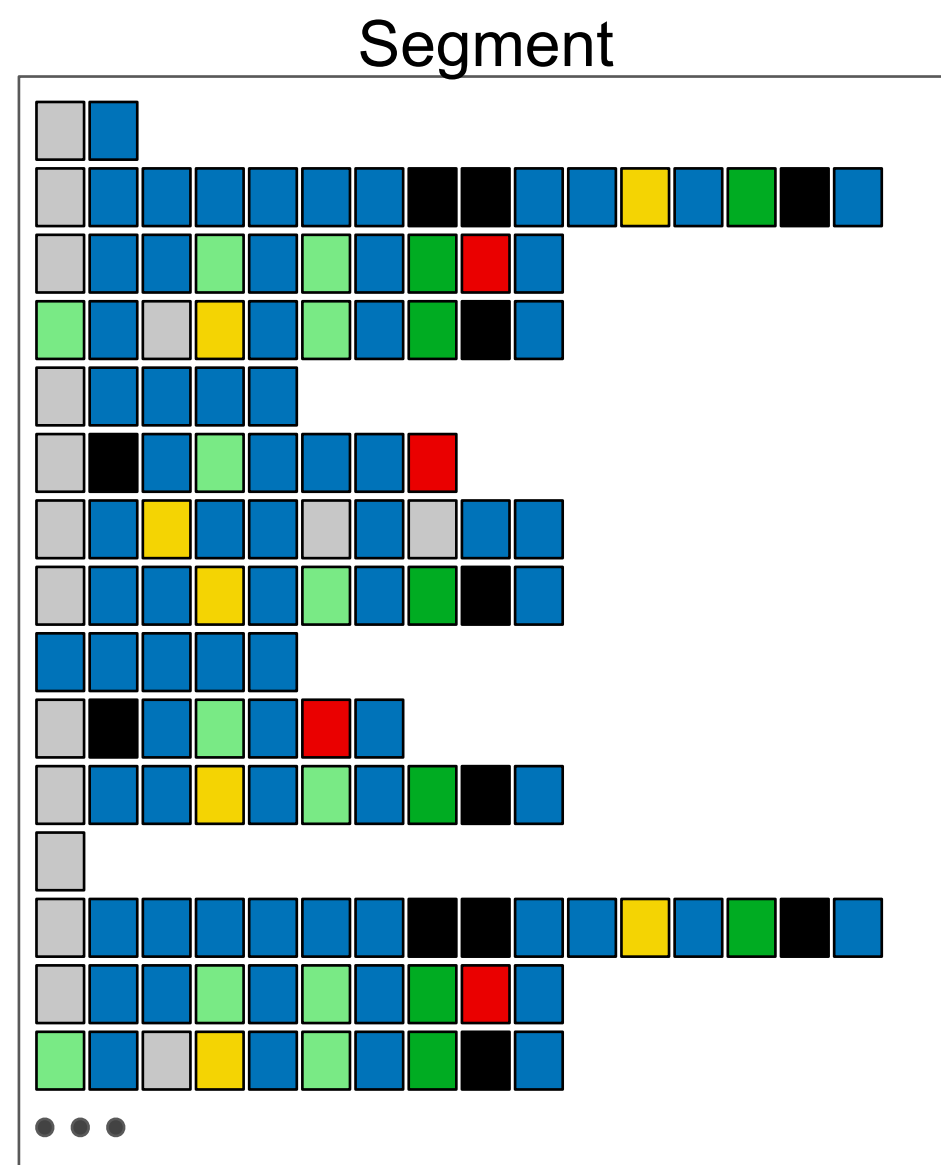
Tasks: Task Abstraction

Segment



Identify: Find some set of sequences that constitutes interesting *behavior*

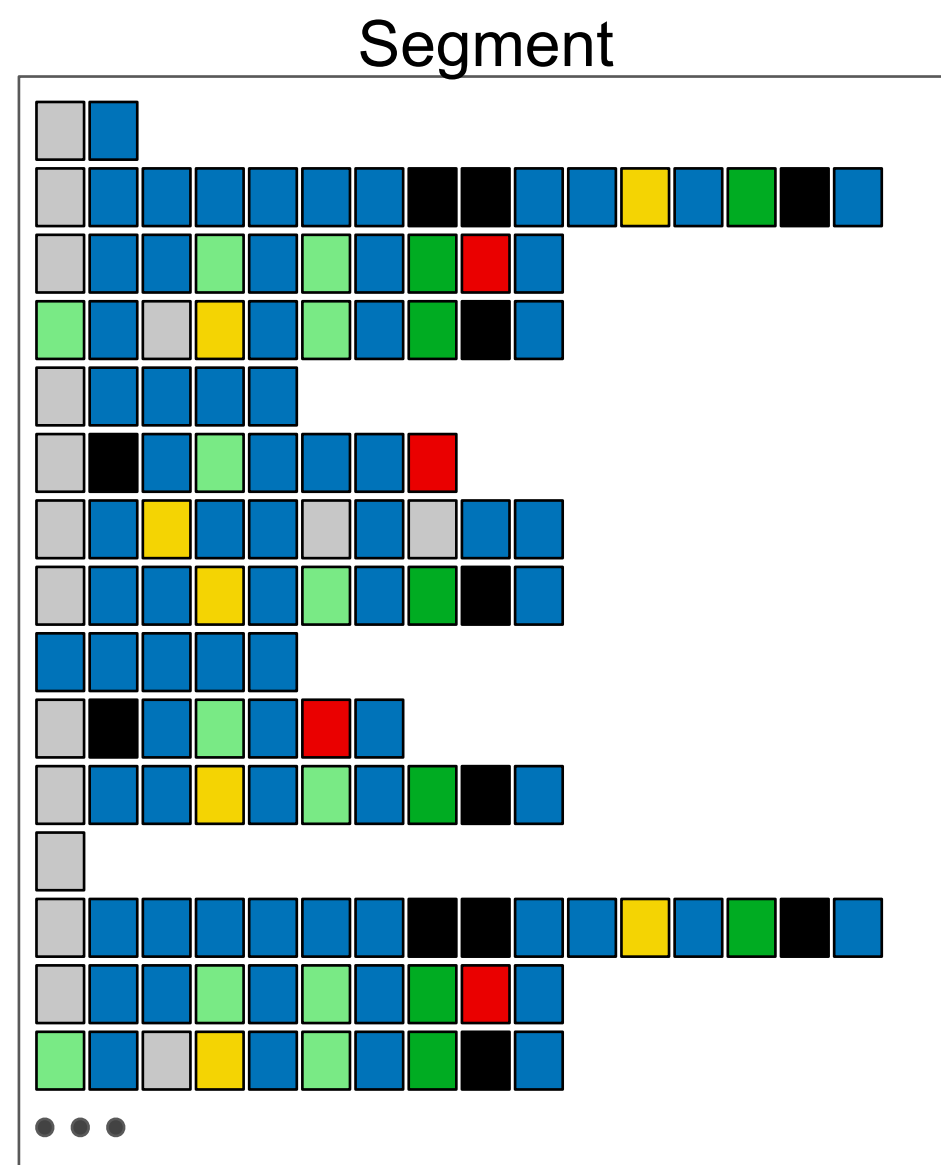
Tasks: Task Abstraction



Identify: Find some set of sequences that constitutes interesting *behavior*

Drilldown: Distinguish more specific *behaviors* to further partition a segment previously defined by looser constraints

Tasks: Task Abstraction

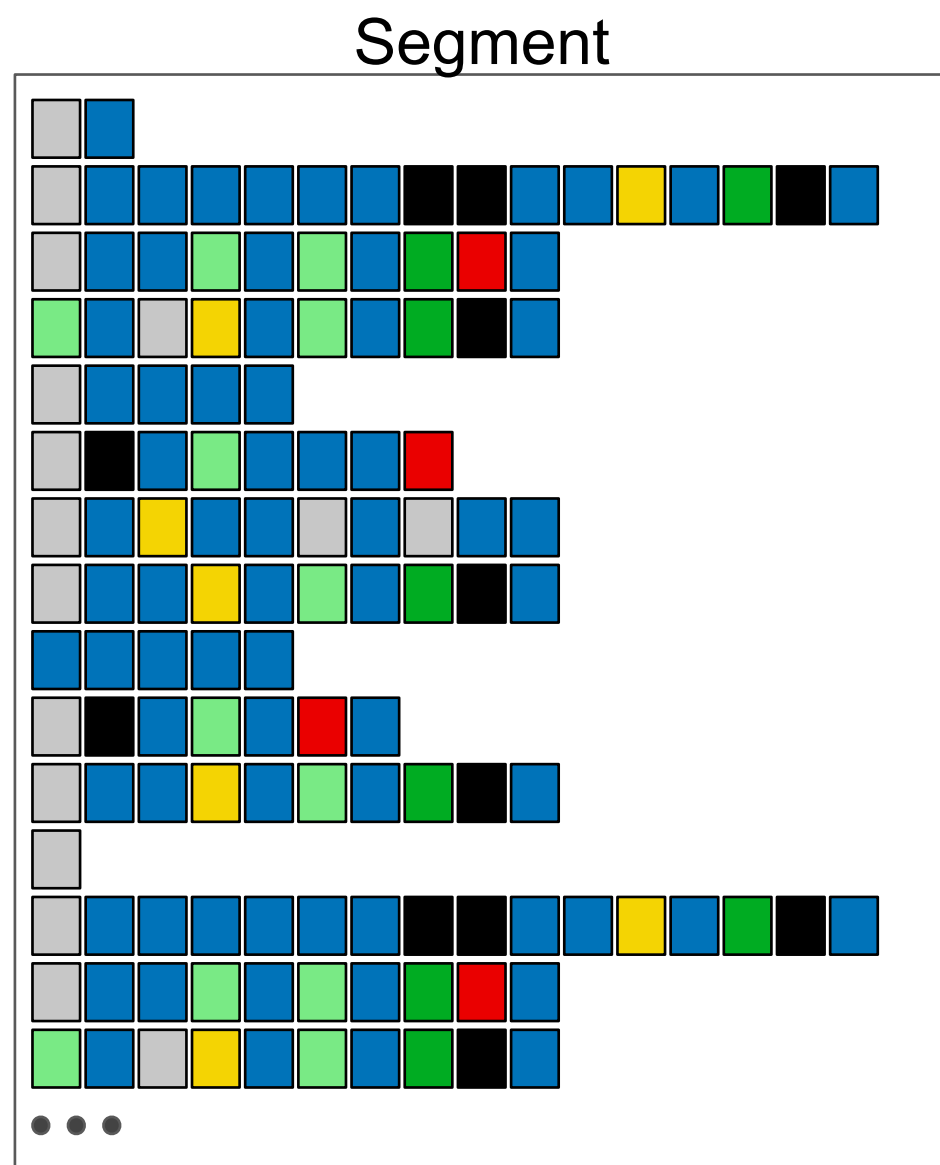


Identify: Find some set of sequences that constitutes interesting *behavior*

Drilldown: Distinguish more specific *behaviors* to further partition a segment previously defined by looser constraints

Frequency: Determine how many sequences are in the segment defined by *behavior*

Tasks: Task Abstraction



Identify: Find some set of sequences that constitutes interesting *behavior*

Drilldown: Distinguish more specific *behaviors* to further partition a segment previously defined by looser constraints

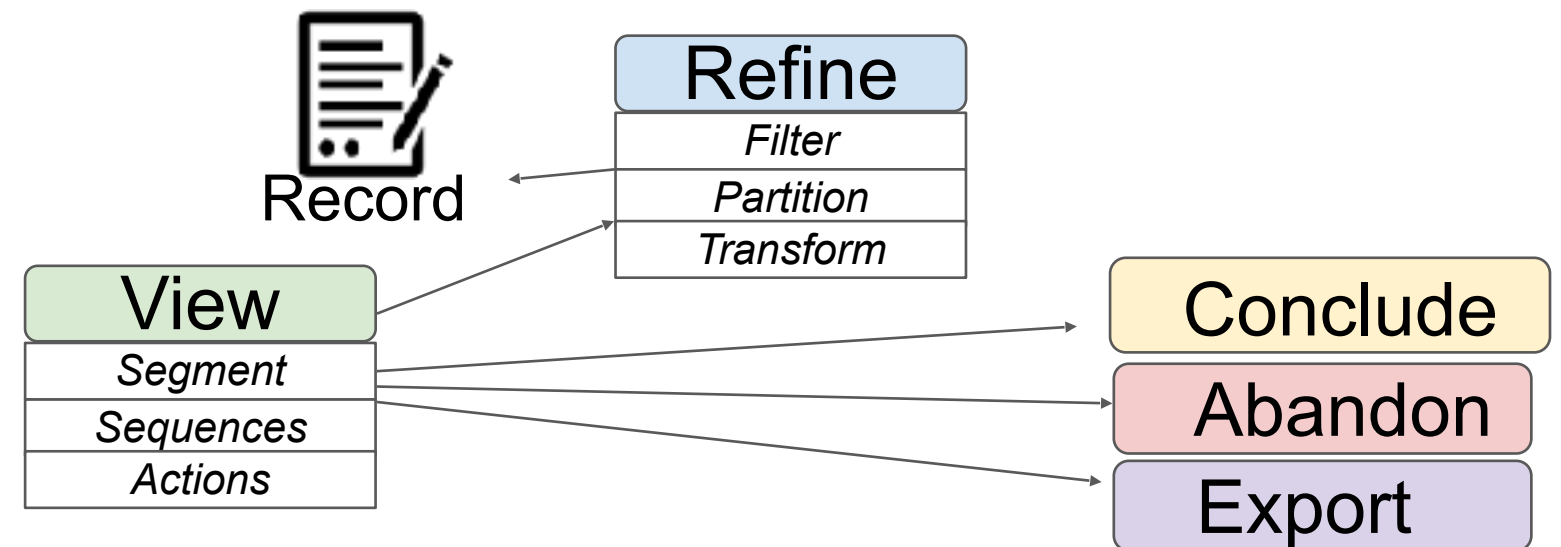
Frequency: Determine how many sequences are in the segment defined by *behavior*

Ordering within sequence: Match if one action subsequence occurs before (or after) another action subsequence in a sequence

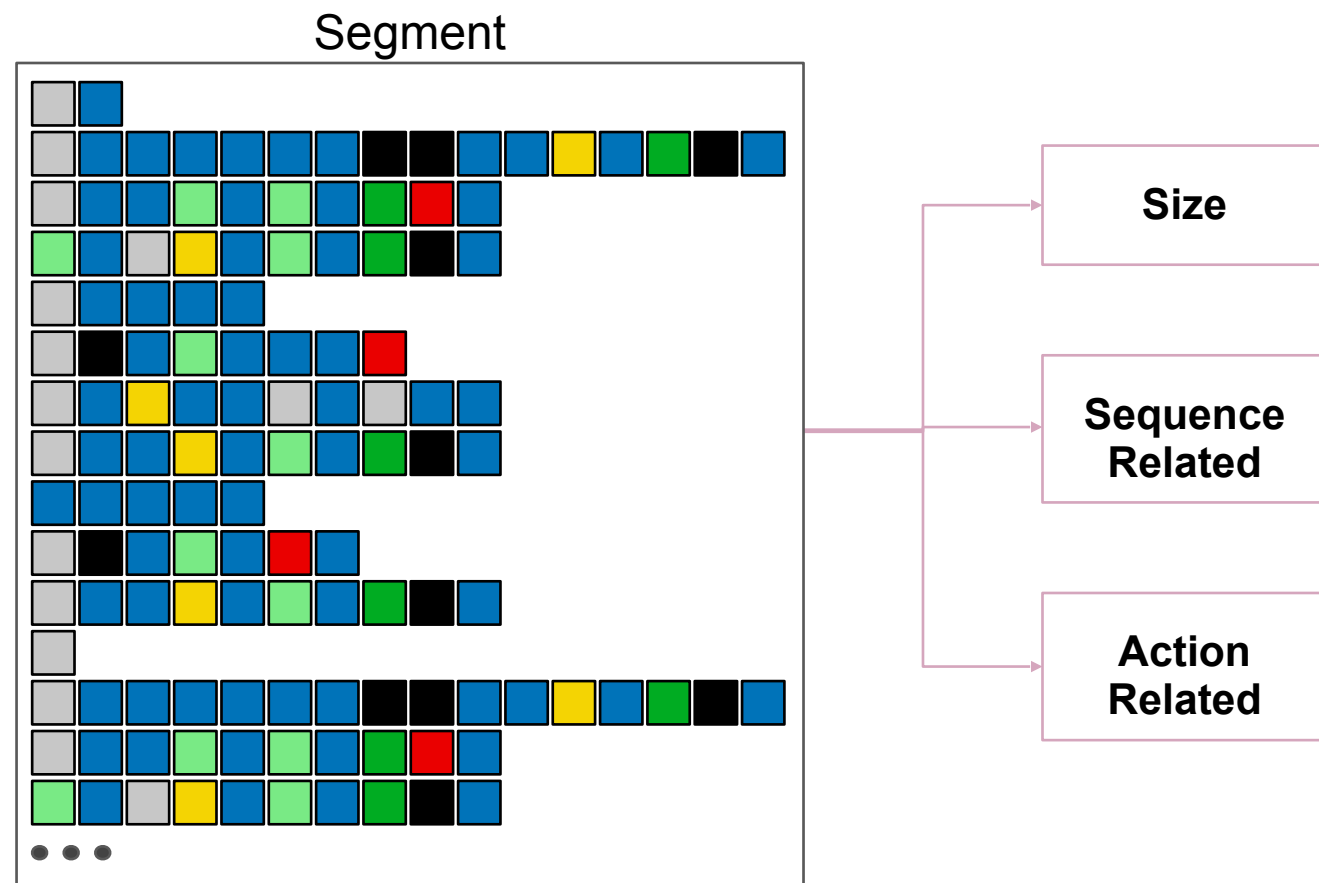
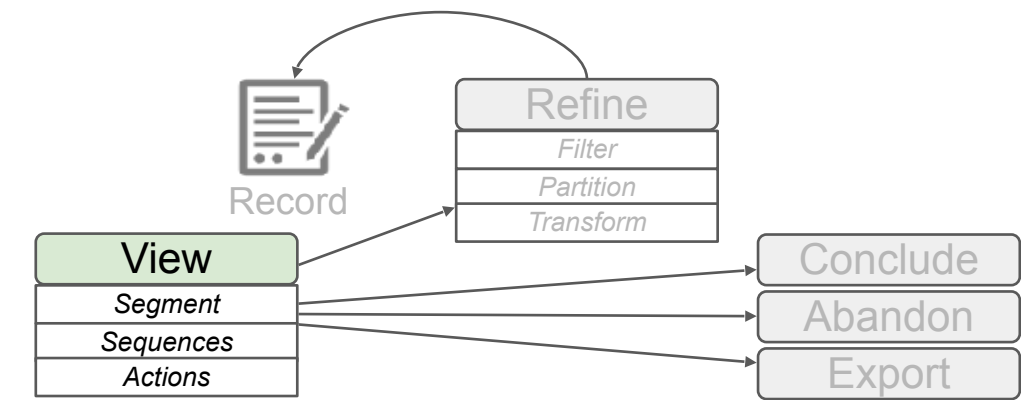
High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model

High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model

- Abstraction above task/data level to provide design rationale
- Take a *giant, noisy dataset* and refine it into *small, clean segments* for
 - actionable insights
 - downstream analysis
- Bridge the gap between *real-world data* and other techniques

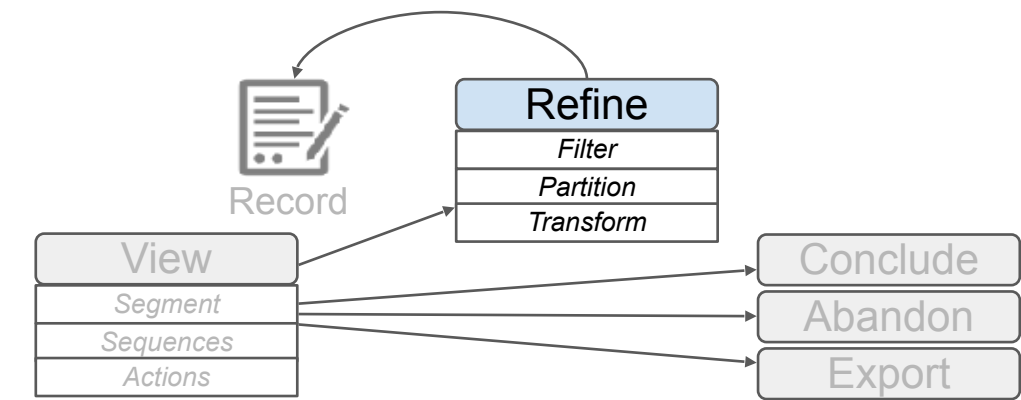
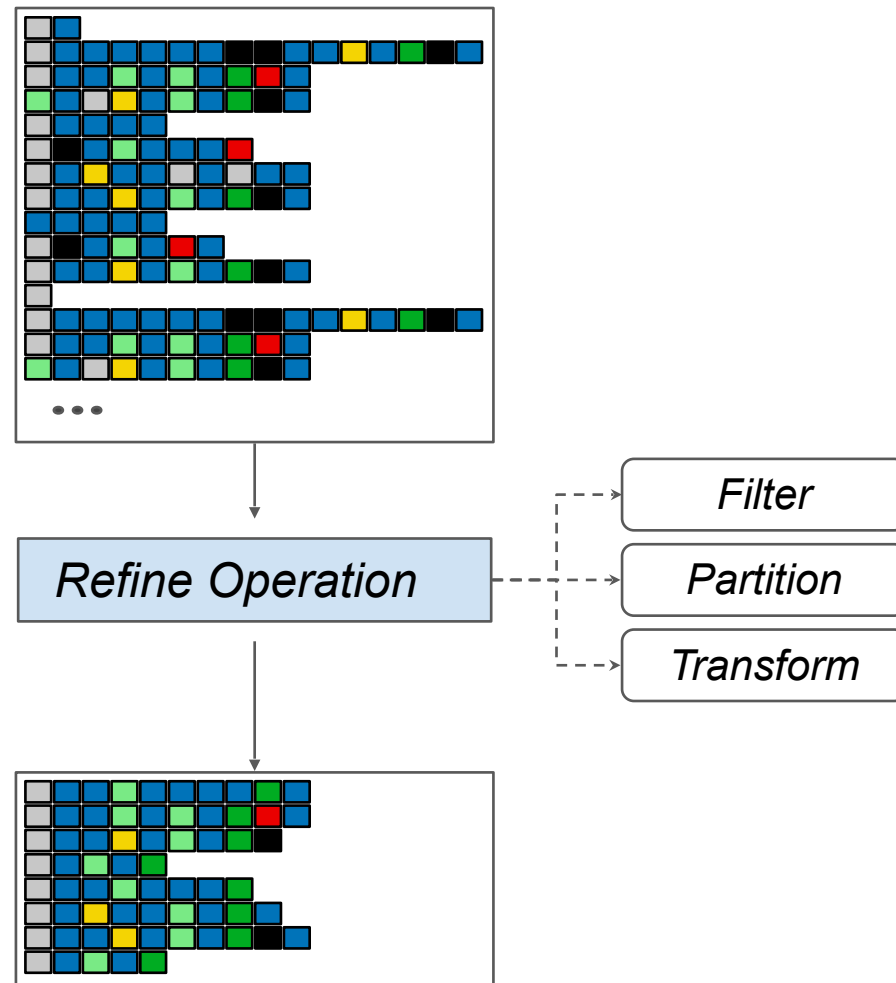


High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model



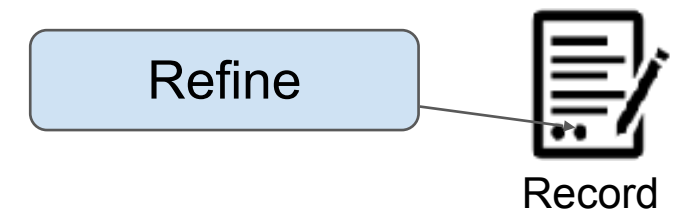
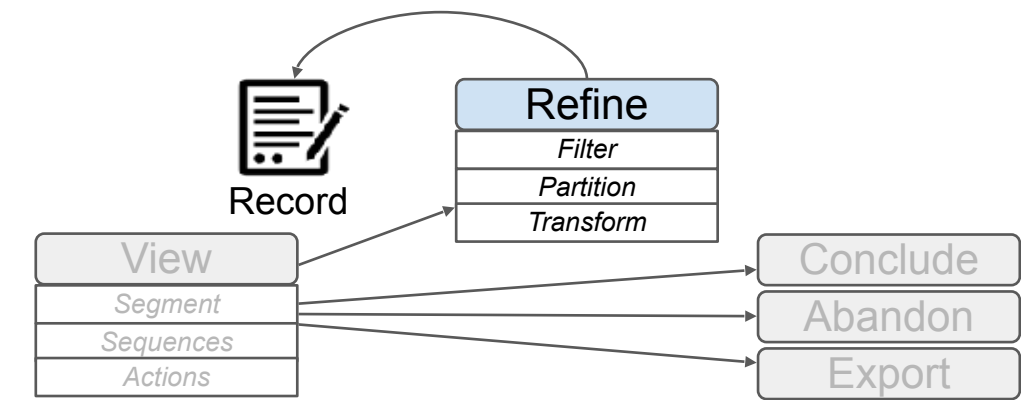
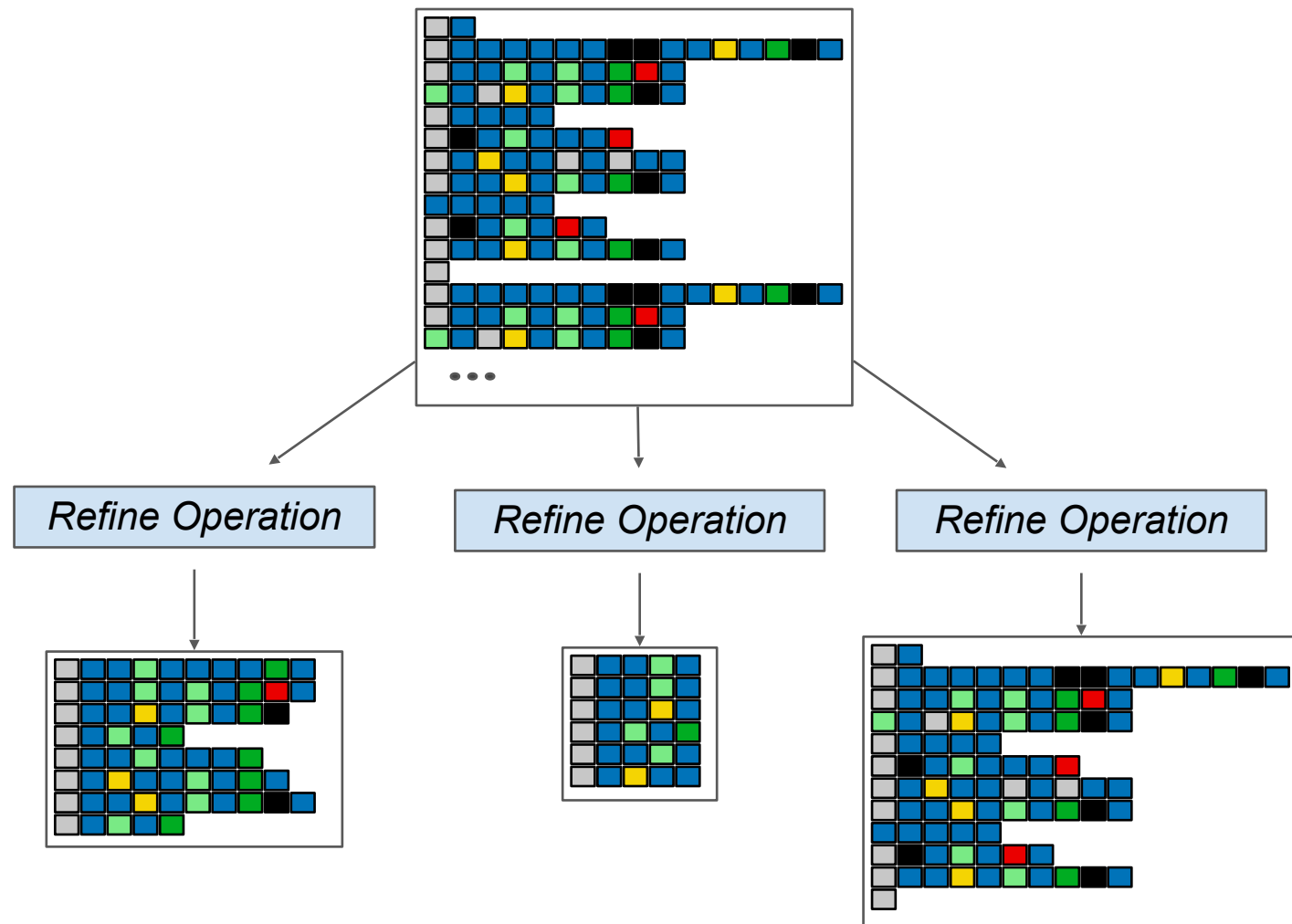
- Gives Insight into underlying data of segment
 - Action Attributes
 - Sequence Attributes
 - Segment Attributes
- Leads to:
 - Insights
 - New ways on how to *refine*
 - Whether segment should be *abandoned*
 - Whether segment should be *exported*

High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model



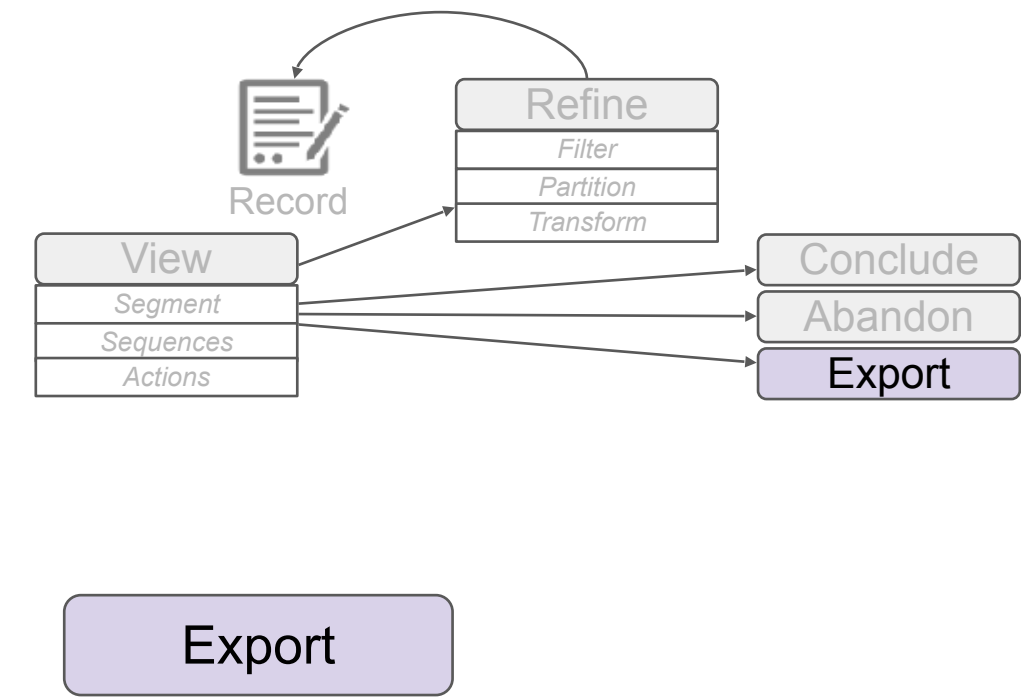
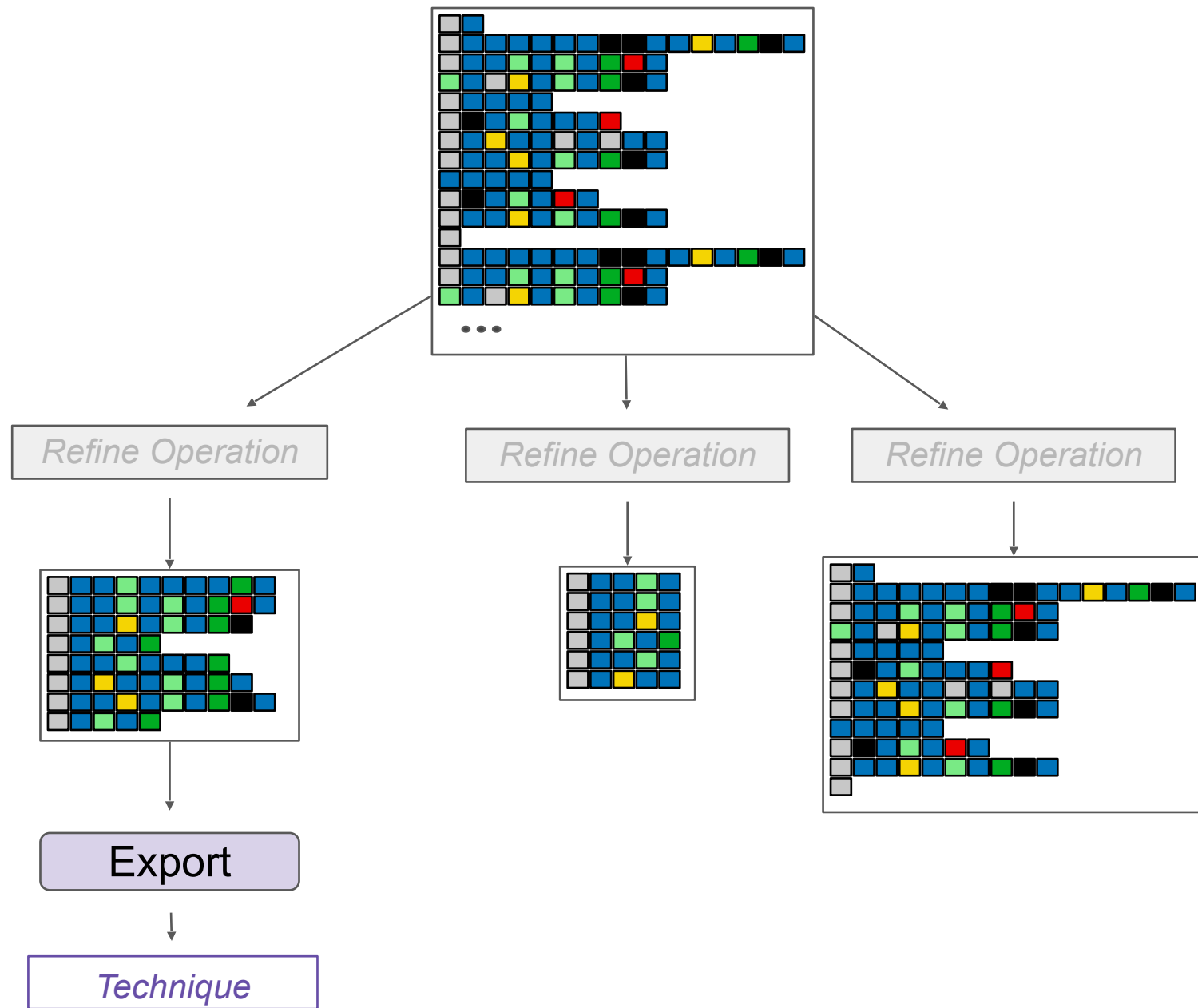
- Apply operation to create new segments
- Type of Refinements
 - *Filter*
 - *Partition*
 - *Transform*

High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model



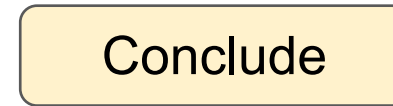
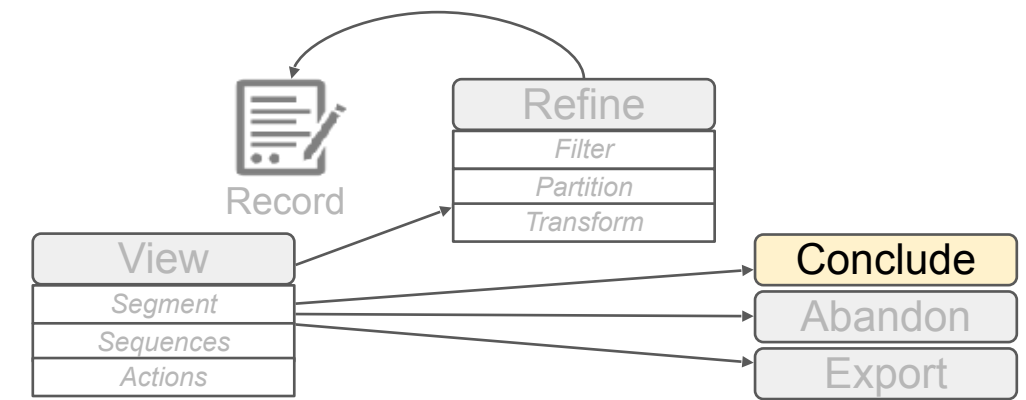
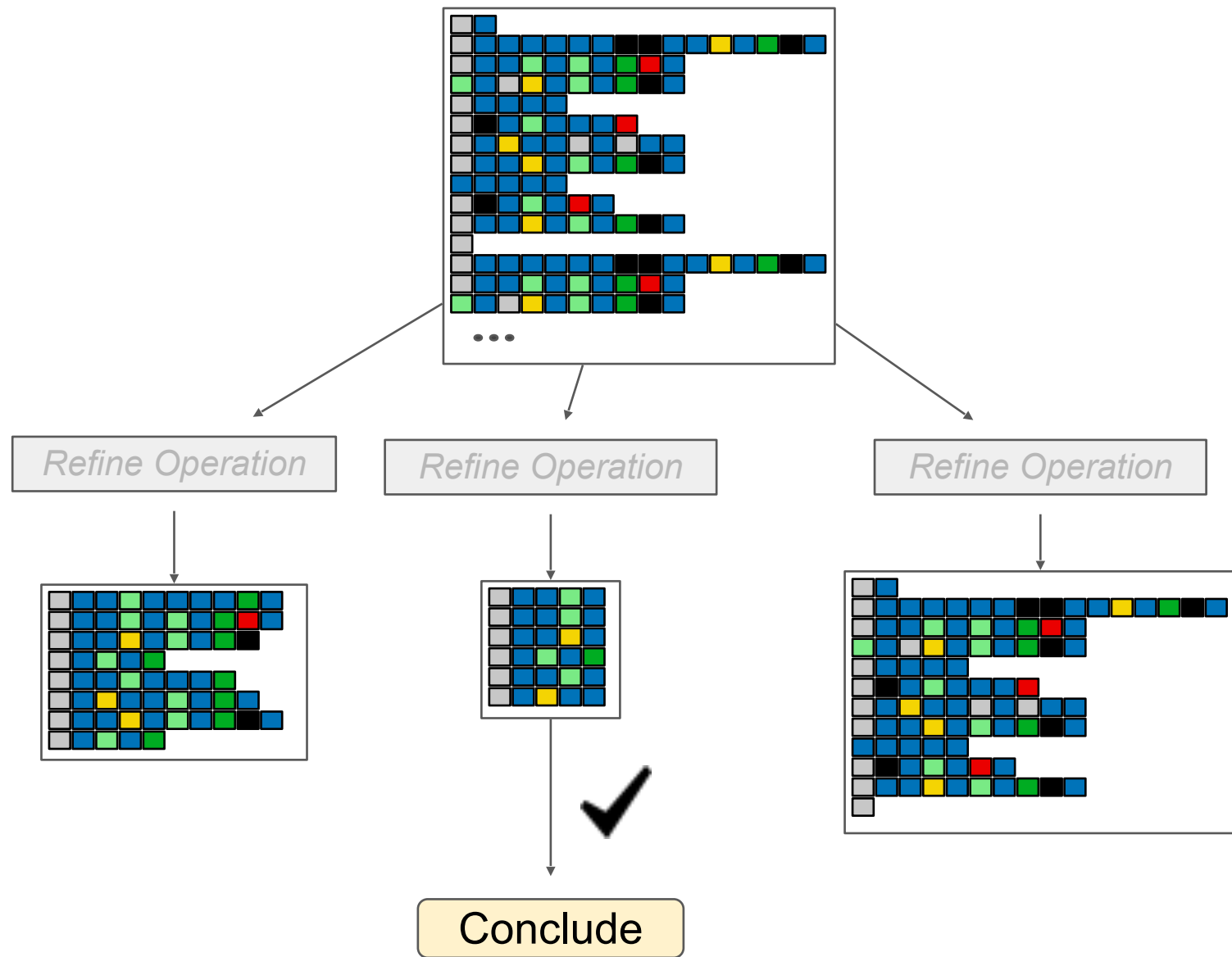
- Record all refinement steps automatically
- Keep track of questions asked and hypotheses tested
- Ability to create and view multiple segments from the same segment

High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model



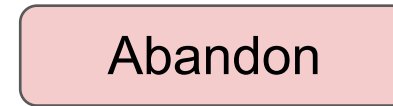
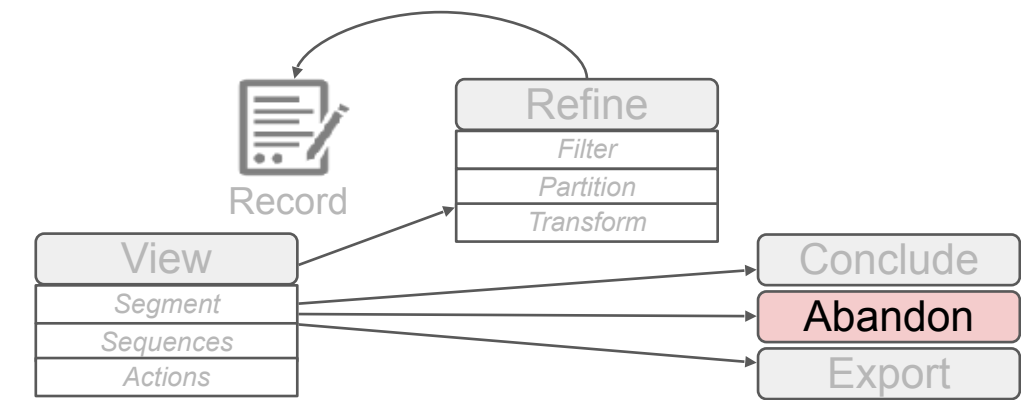
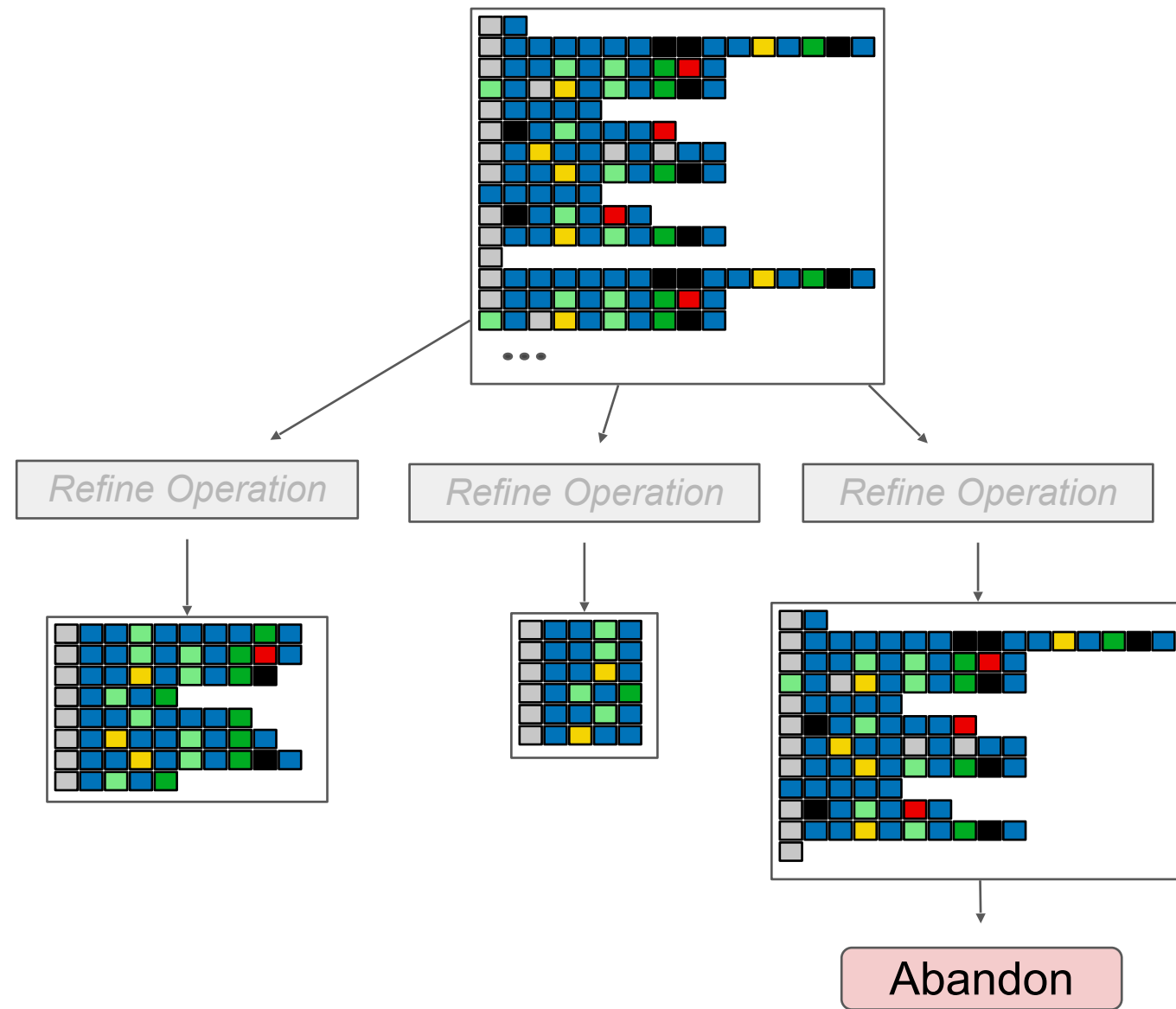
- Export refined segments for further downstream analysis, to more specific tools:
 - Pattern mining
 - Clustering

High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model



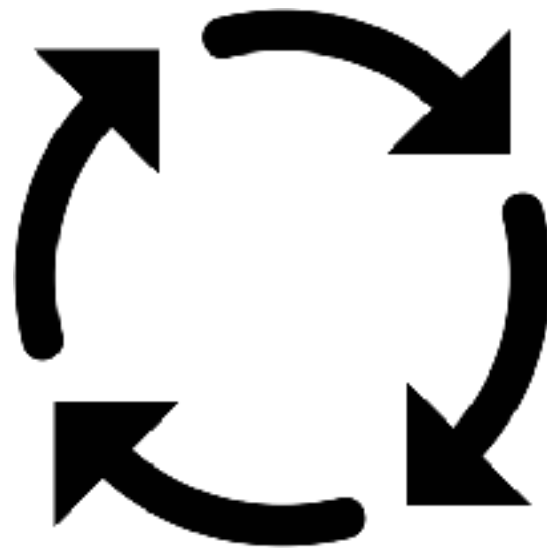
- Discover actionable insight by *viewing* segment

High-Level Segmentifier Analysis Model



- By *viewing* the segment, analyst *abandons* if:
 - No actionable insights
 - No further ways to *refine*
 - Not suitable for *export*

Why Visual Analytics?



- Automation would be nice...
 - Put data in, actionable results appear
- ... but it is not realistic
 - Many possible questions, data-driven interplay between finding answers and generating new questions
- Human-in-the-loop visual data analysis
 - Integrate computing power of machine with intuition of domain experts

Solution

Video

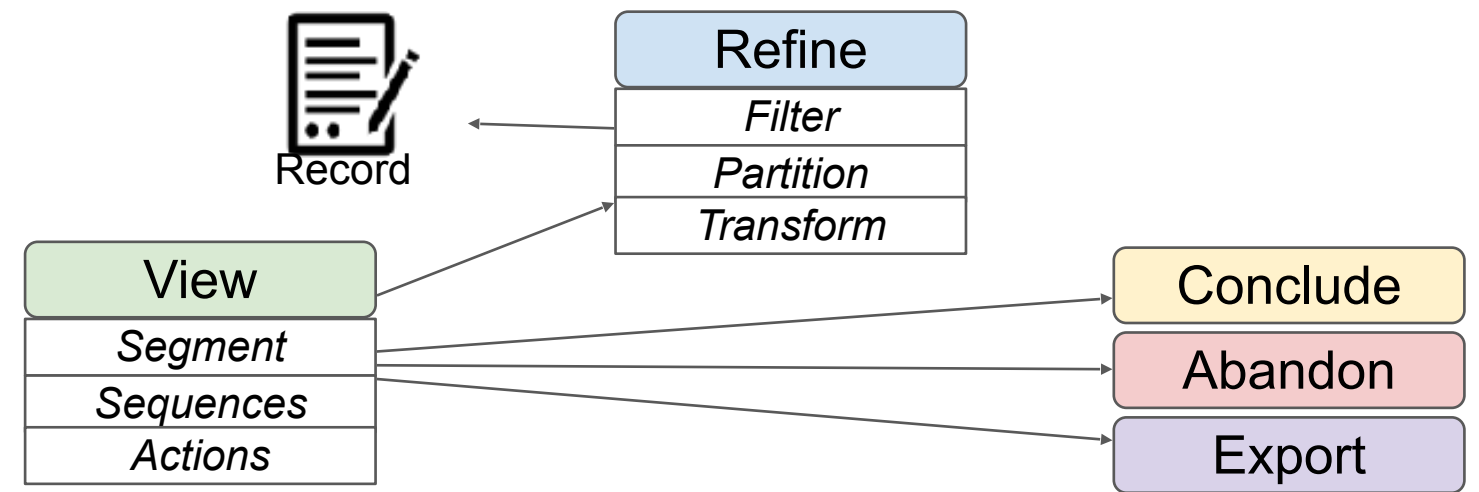
Segmentifier: Interactively Refining
Clickstream Data into Actionable
Segments



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TobYDFeISOg&t=20s>

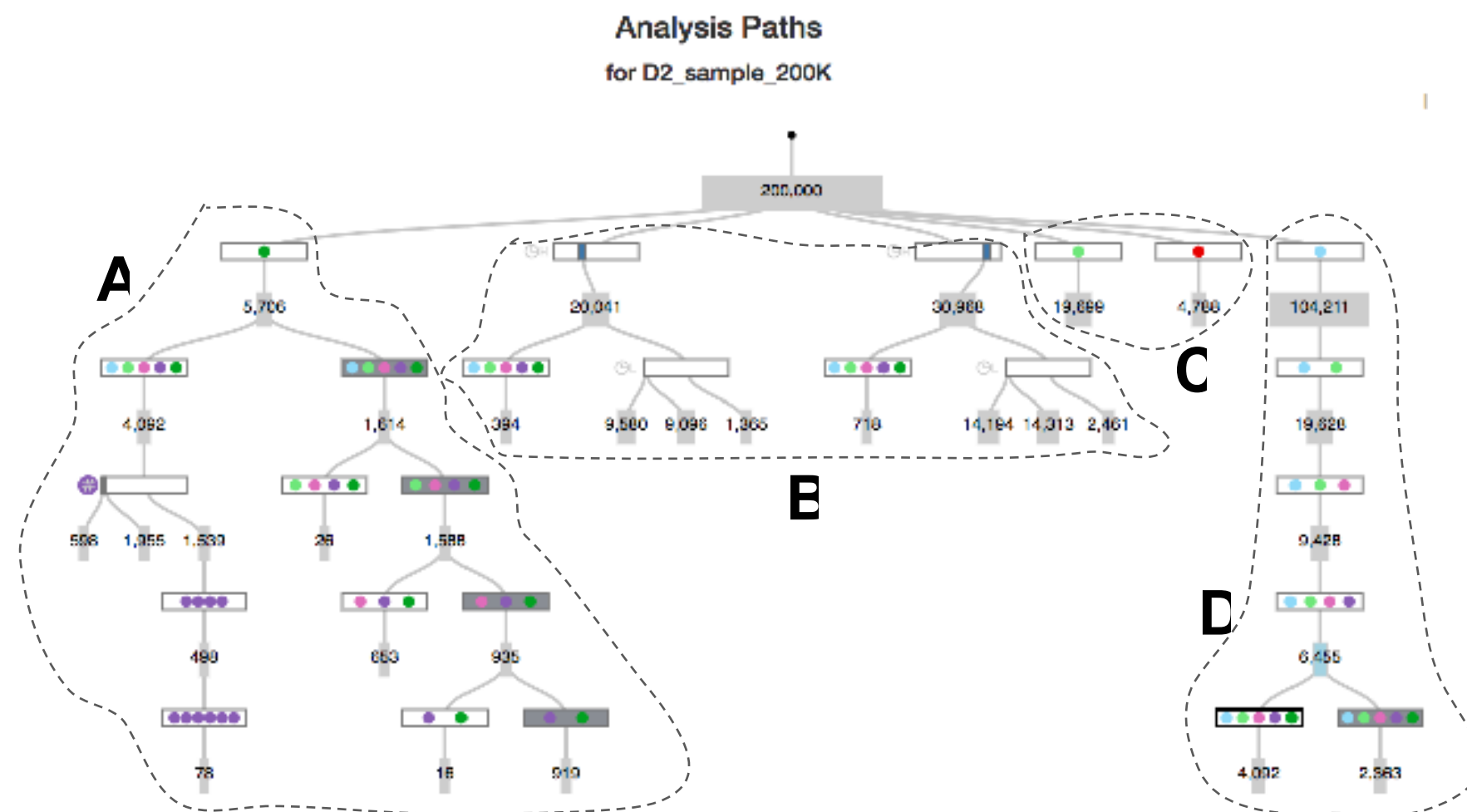
Segmentifier Contributions

- Thorough **characterization of task and data abstraction** for clickstream data analysis



Segmentifier Contributions

- Thorough **characterization of task and data abstraction** for clickstream data analysis
- **Segmentifier: novel analytics interface** for refining data segments and viewing characteristics before downstream fine-grained analysis
- Preliminary **evidence of utility**



Three case studies of problem-driven work

- e-commerce



- facilities management



- biology





Michael
Oppermann



Ocupado

Visualizing Location-Based Counts Over Time Across Buildings

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/labs/imager/tr/2020/ocupado/>

Ocupado: Visualizing Location-Based Counts Over Time Across Buildings.

Oppermann and Munzner. *Computer Graphics Forum (Proc. EuroVis 2020)* 39(3):127-138 2020.

Location-Based Counts

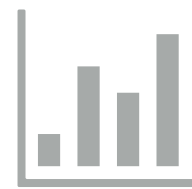




**Previous measurement required
physical counting or installation
of additional hardware.**



Previous measurement required physical counting or installation of additional hardware.

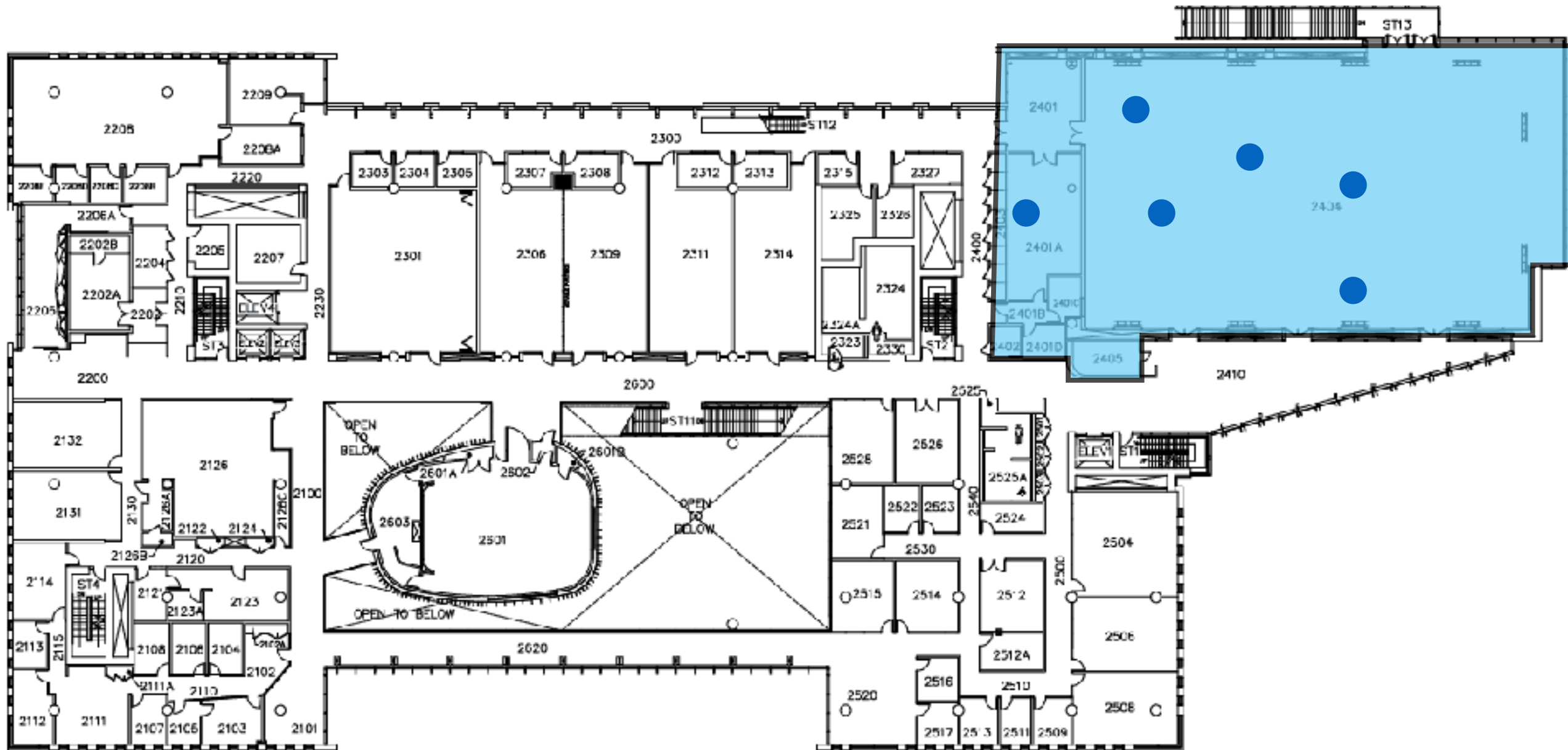


Previous visualization attempts were limited in space and time.

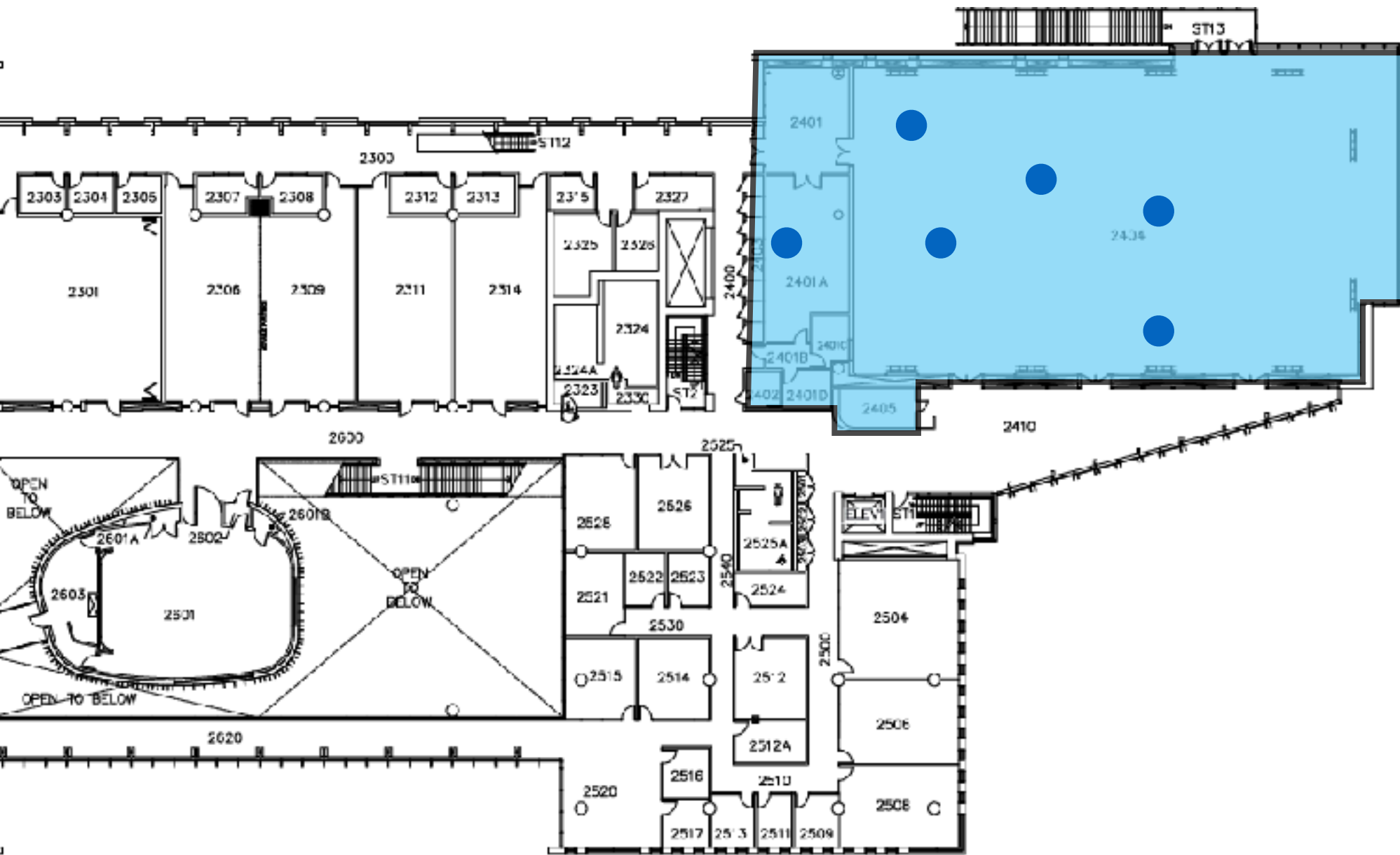


Design Study

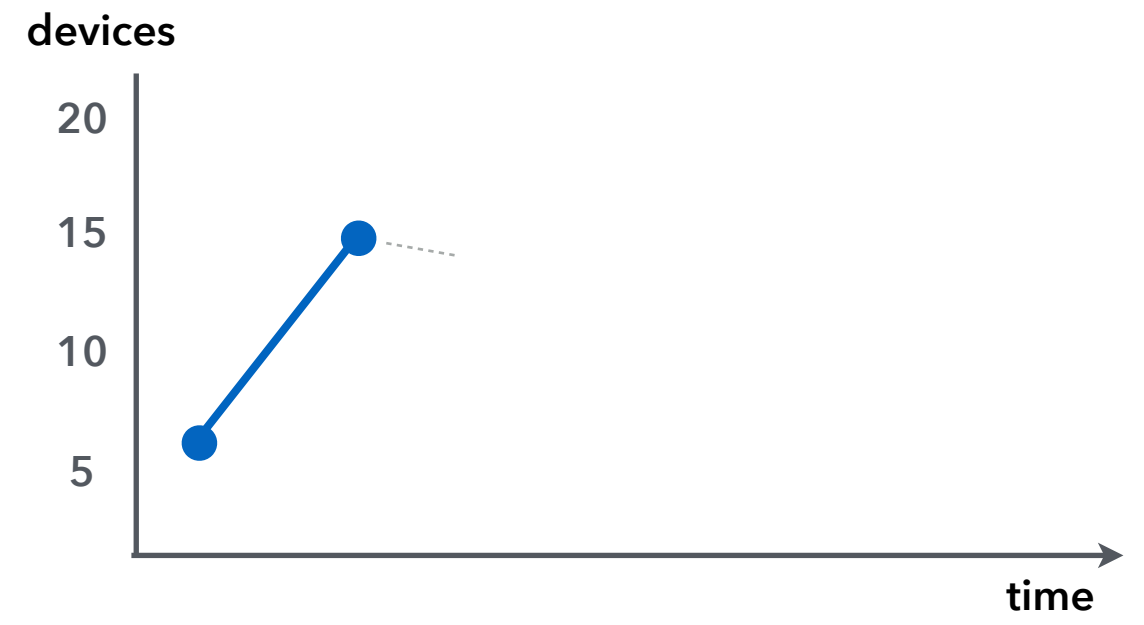
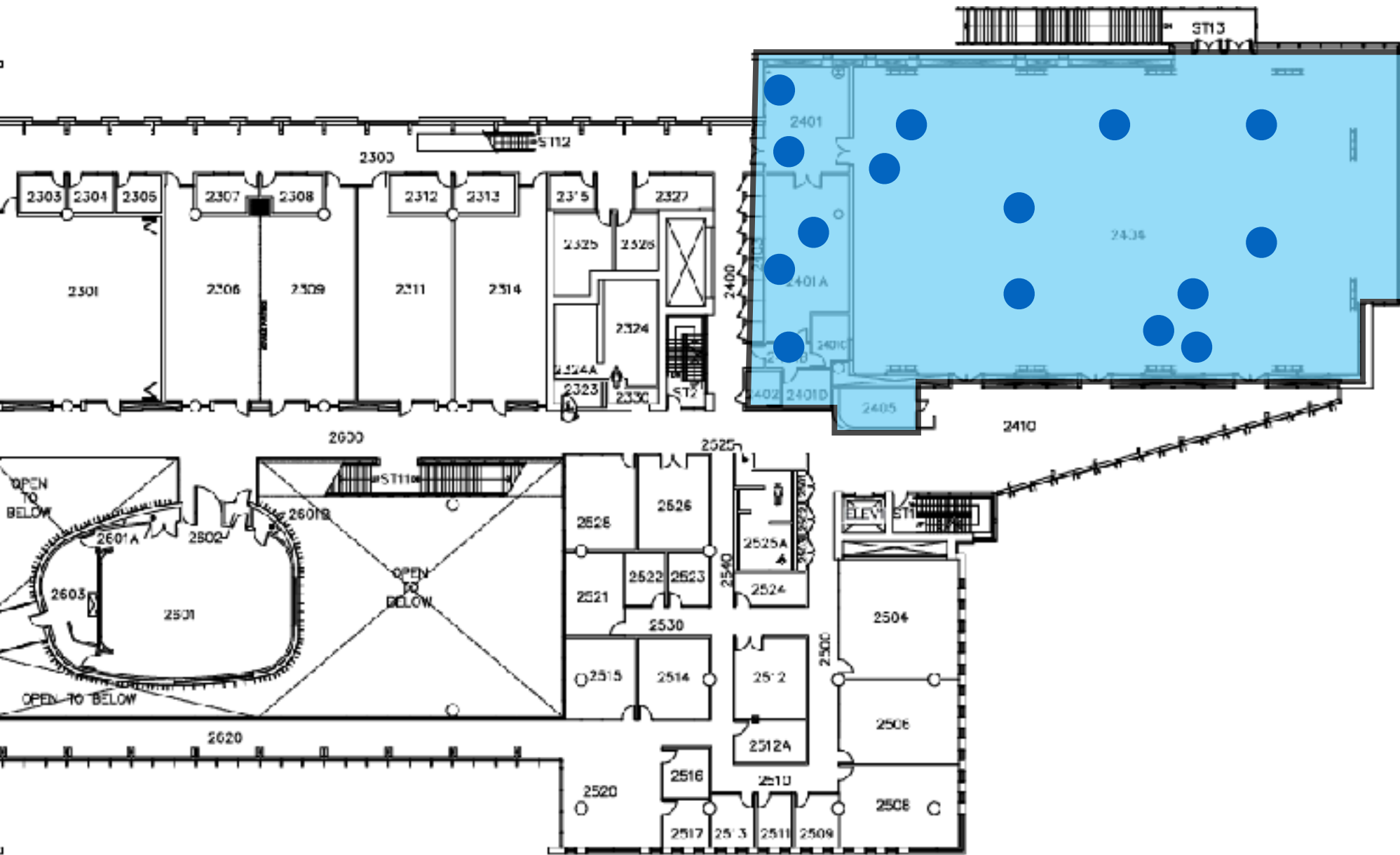
WiFi Connections: Location-Based Counts



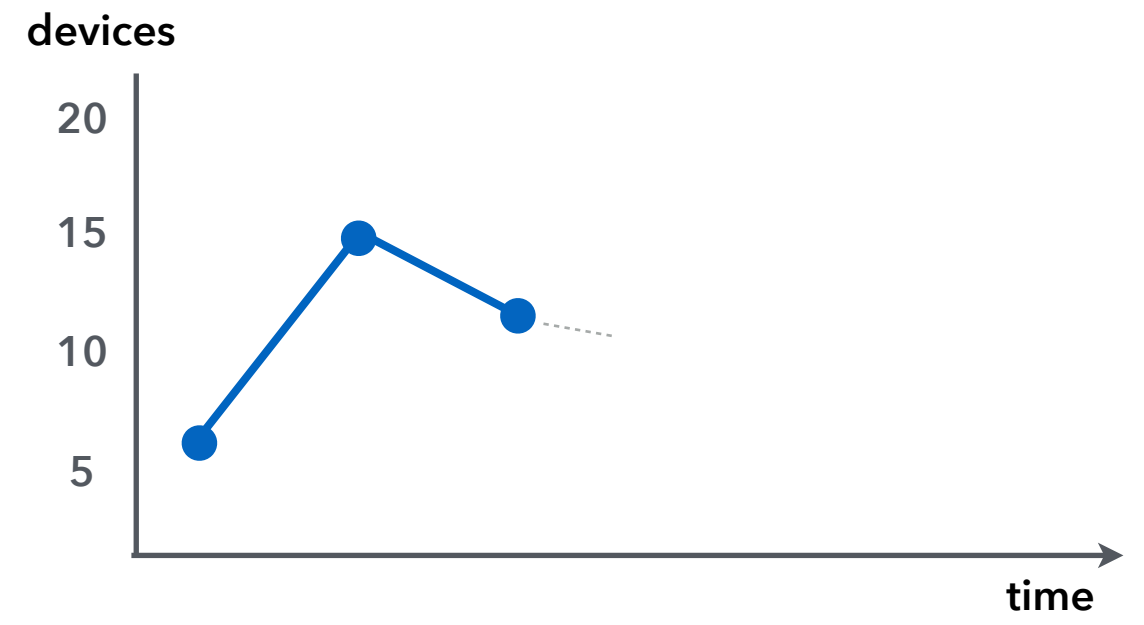
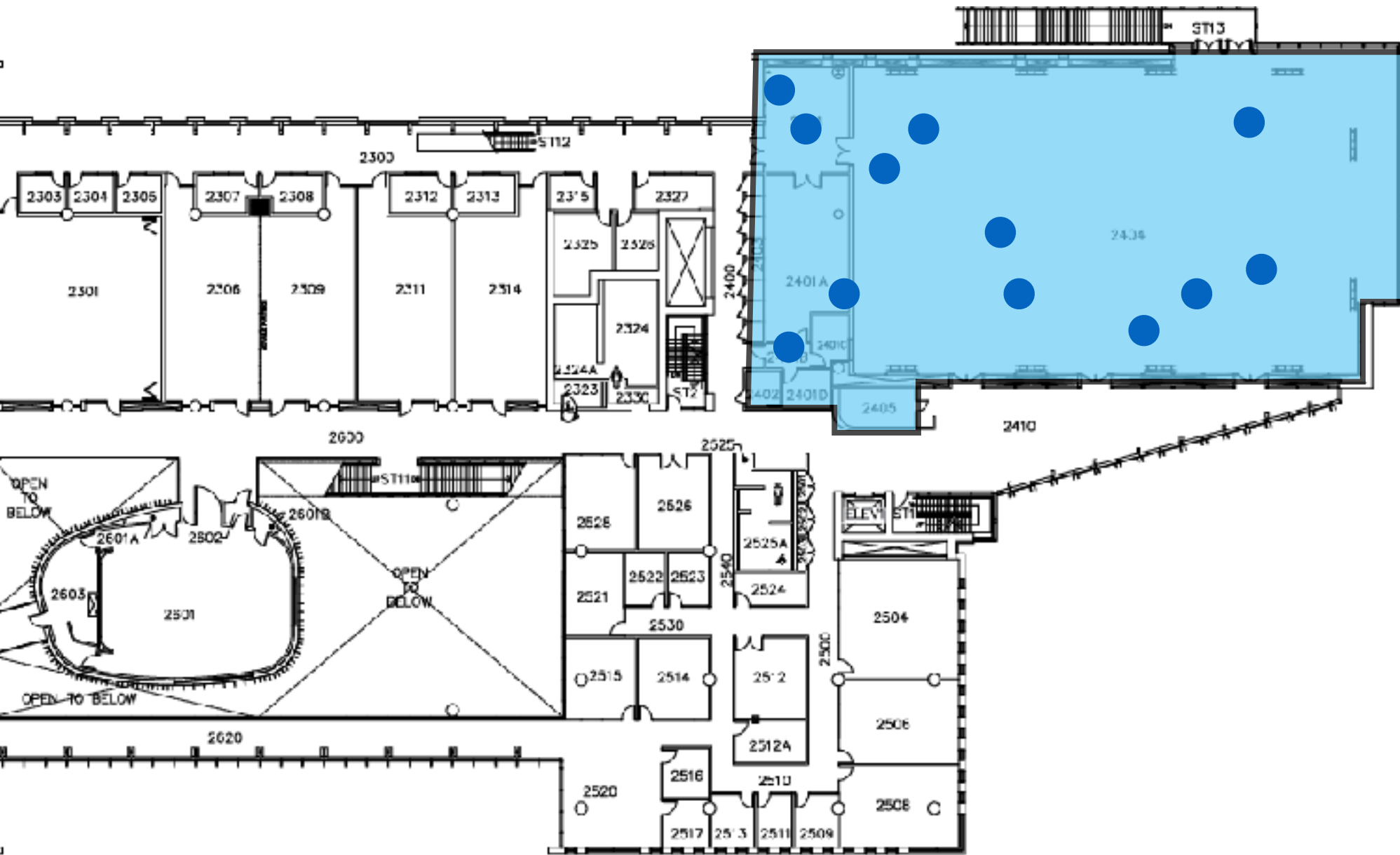
WiFi Connections: Location-Based Counts



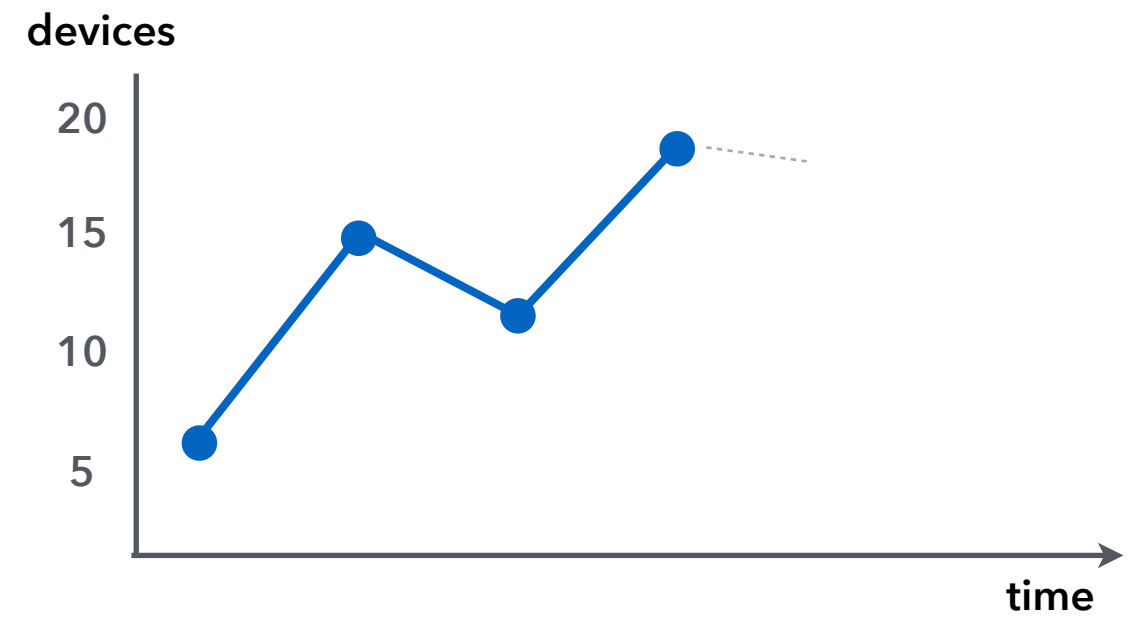
WiFi Connections: Location-Based Counts



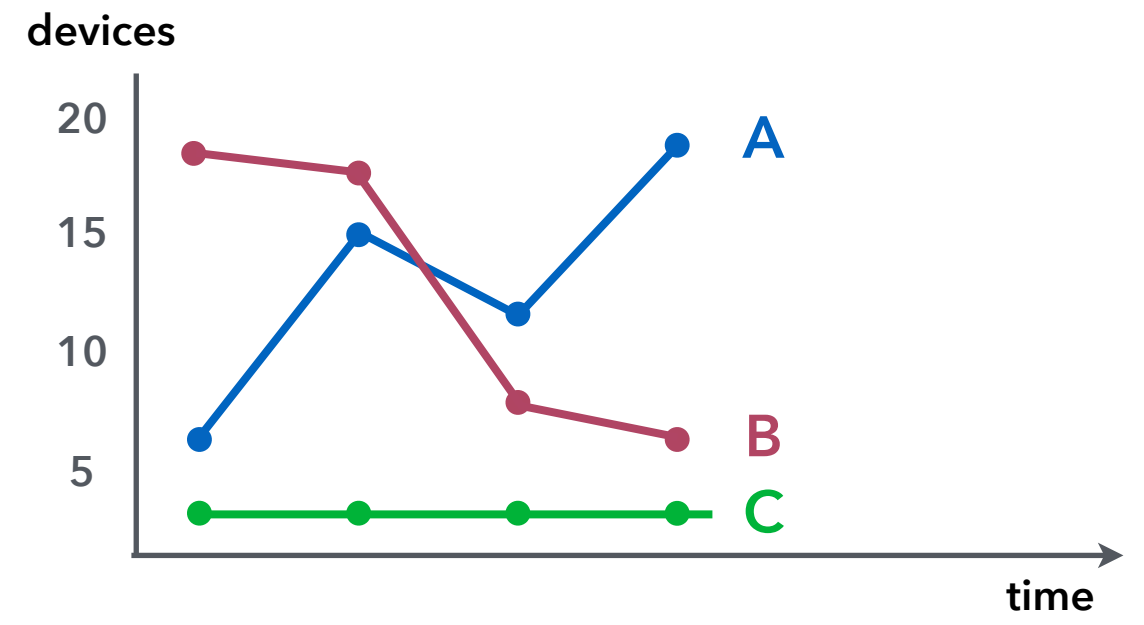
WiFi Connections: Location-Based Counts



WiFi Connections: Location-Based Counts



WiFi Connections: Location-Based Counts



WiFi Connections: Location-Based Counts



Location-Based Counts

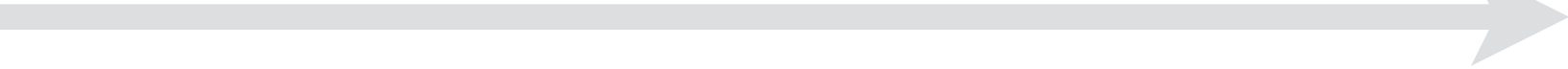
- ▶ **Regular intervals (e.g., every 5 minutes)**
- ▶ **Spatial hierarchy (Zone → Floor → Building → Campus)**
- ▶ **No trajectories or device identifiers are recorded**
- ▶ **Intrinsic privacy advantages**

Data

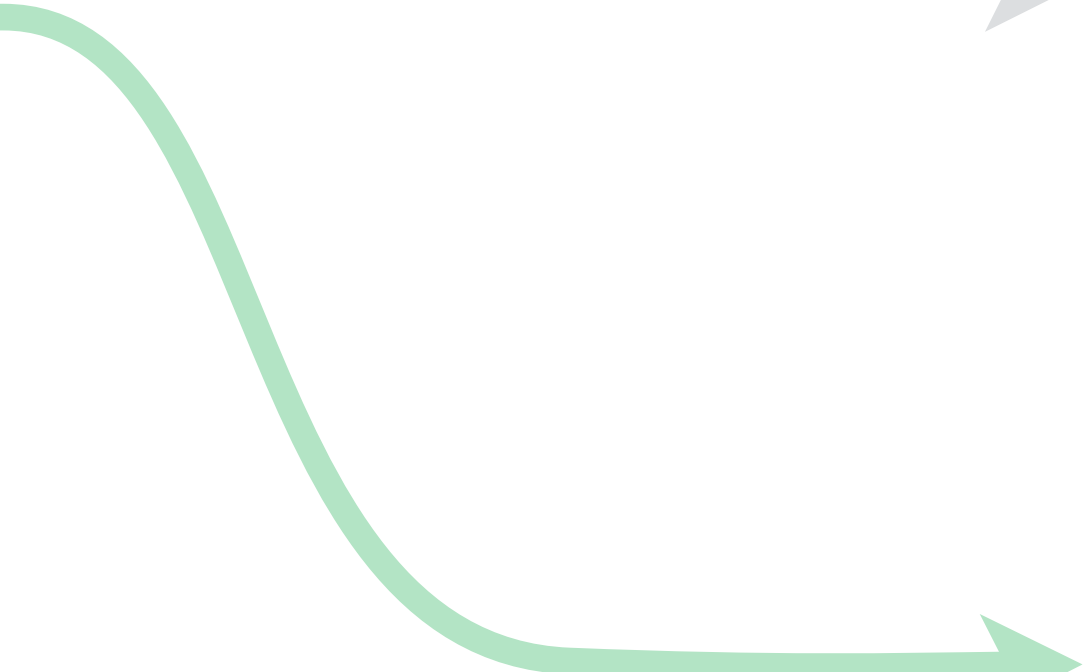


**Automated
HVAC control**

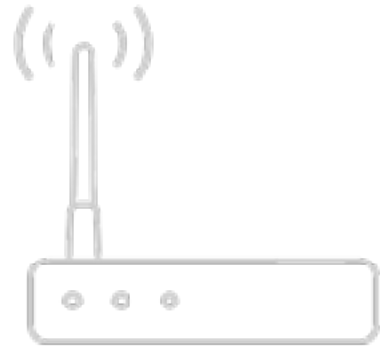
Data



Data



Decision making

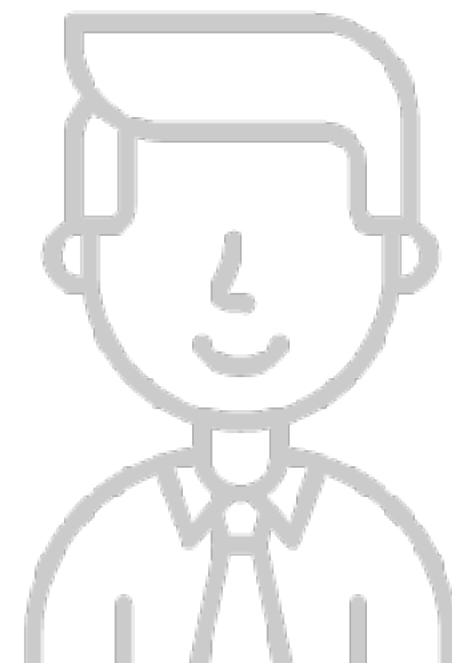
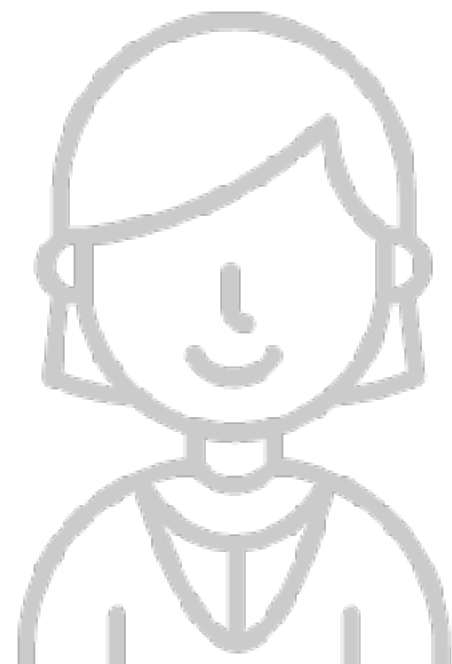
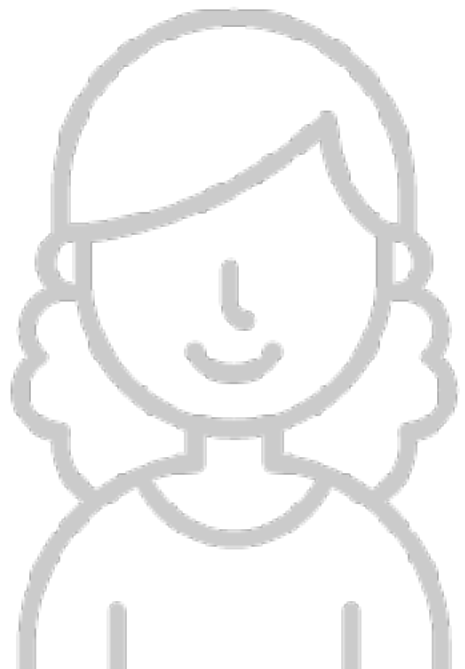


WiFi connections as a proxy for occupancy



WiFi connections as a proxy for occupancy

Interviews with potential stakeholders



Focus Domains

- ▶ **Space planning**
- ▶ **Building management**
- ▶ **Custodial services**
- ▶ **Classroom management**
- ▶ **Data quality control**

Focus Domains

- ▶ Space planning
- ▶ Building management
- ▶ Custodial services
- ▶ Classroom management
- ▶ Data quality control



**Semi-structured discussions
and live demos**

Tasks



Confirm assumptions or previous observations.

Do students occupy room x in evenings or on weekends?

Tasks

- Confirm assumptions or previous observations.**
- Monitor the current/recent utilization rate.**
Which rooms are empty/busy?

Tasks

- Confirm assumptions or previous observations.**
- Monitor the current/recent utilization rate.**
- Communicate space usage and justify decisions.**
Space usage improved after renovation.

Tasks



Confirm assumptions or previous observations.



Monitor the current/recent utilization rate.



Communicate space usage and justify decisions.

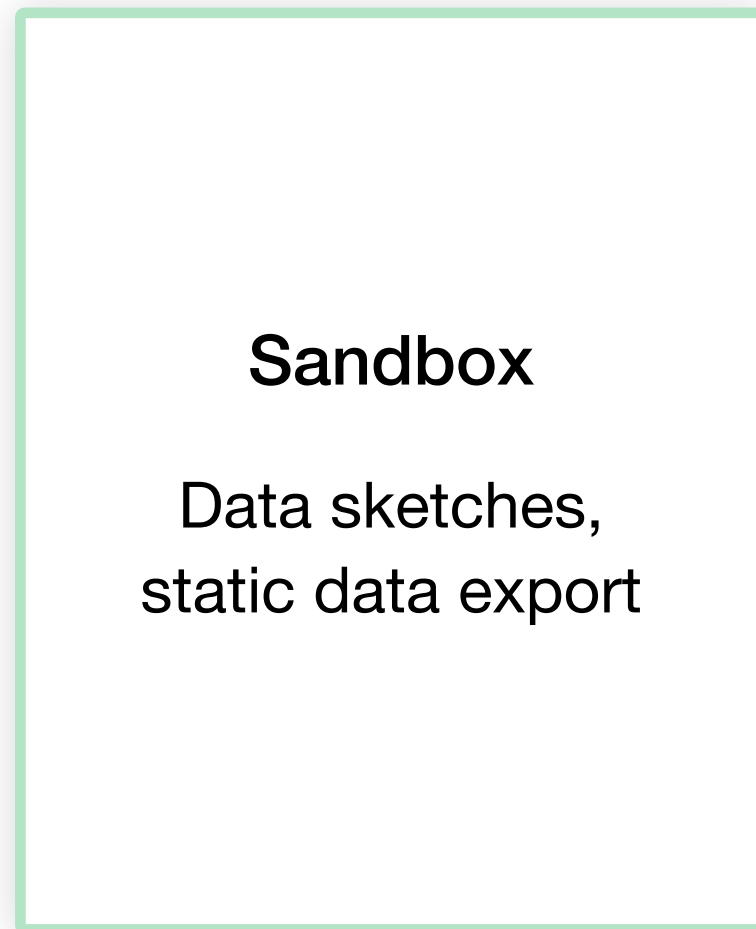


Validate the data (quality control).

Check minimum size of a room that can be captured.

Spatial and Temporal Data Granularities

Visualization Prototypes



Visualization Prototypes

Sandbox

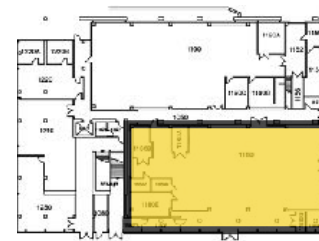
Data sketches,
static data export

- ▶ **original plan: different interface for each stakeholder**
- ▶ **realization: task & data abstractions match multiple stakeholders**
- ▶ **if slice by space & time granularity**

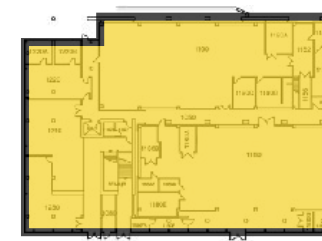
Spatial and Temporal Data Granularities

Regions of interest

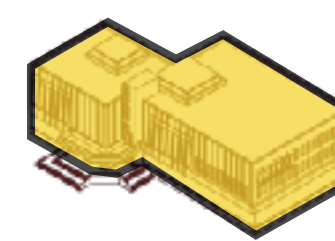
Zone



Floor



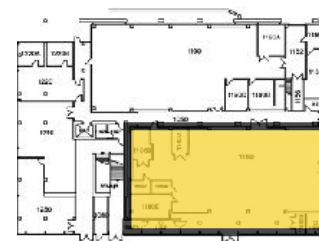
Building



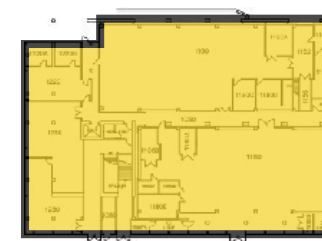
Spatial and Temporal Data Granularities

Regions of interest

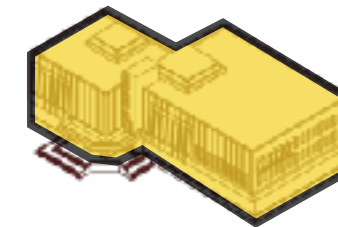
Zone



Floor



Building



Periods of interest

Mondays

Weekdays

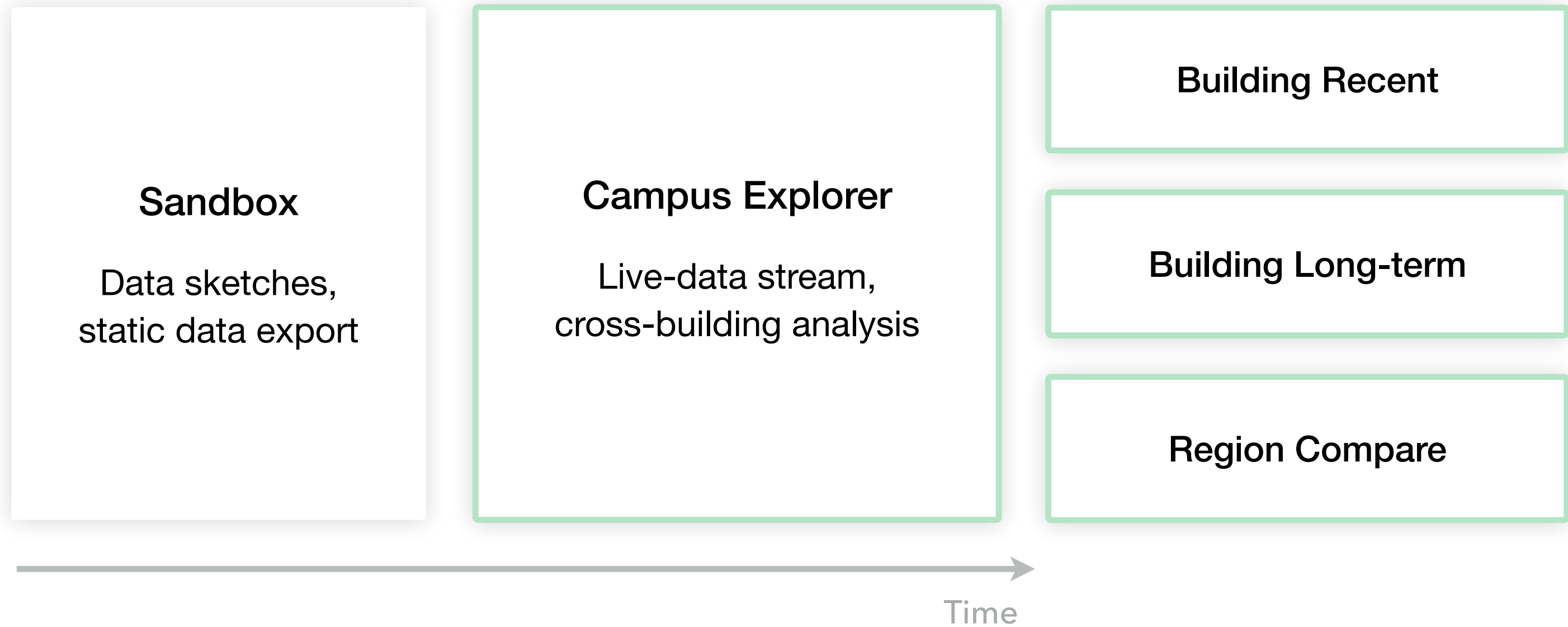
last 12 hours

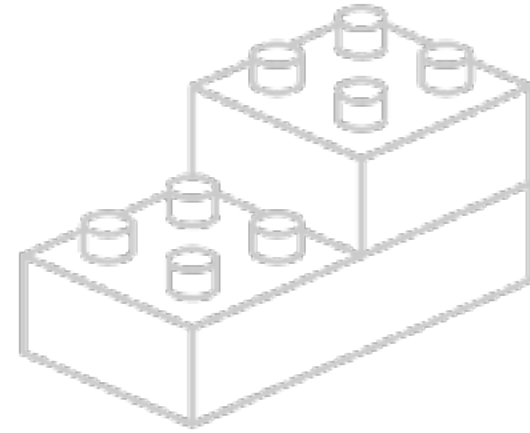
Summer term

Fr 8-10am

Weekends

Visualization Prototypes





Reusable Visualization Components

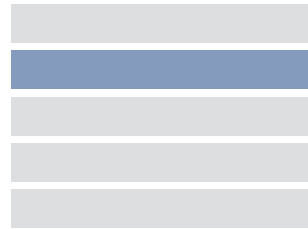
Reusable Visualization Components

Layout

Visual Encoding

Facet

Comparisons



Sparkline



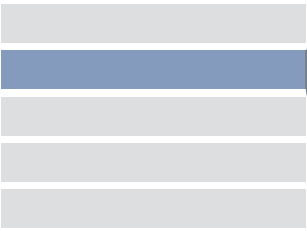

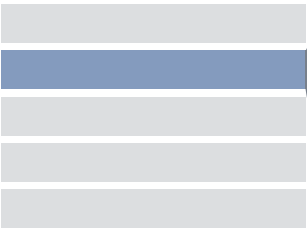
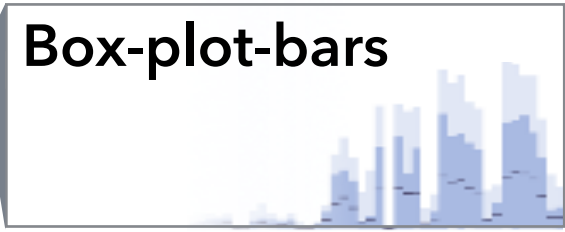
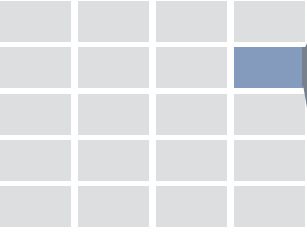

Juxtaposition

Repeating patterns, trends, outliers
(contiguous)

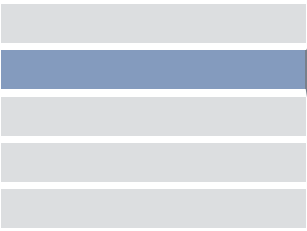

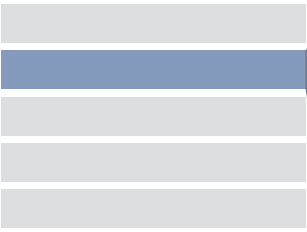
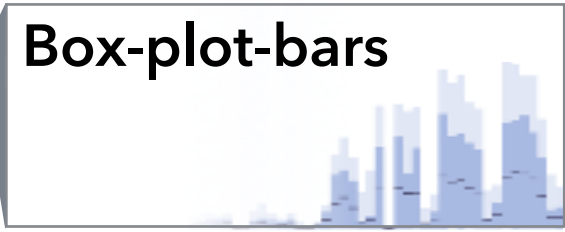
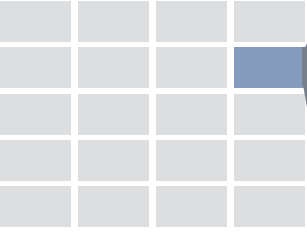

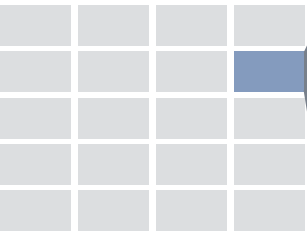
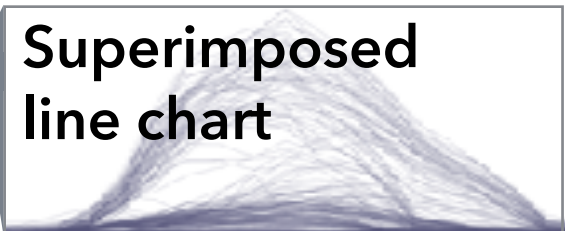
Reusable Visualization Components

Layout	Visual Encoding	Facet	Comparisons
	Sparkline 	Juxtaposition	Repeating patterns, trends, outliers (contiguous)
	Box-plot-bars 	Juxtaposition	Repeating patterns, trends, outliers (<i>non-contiguous</i>)

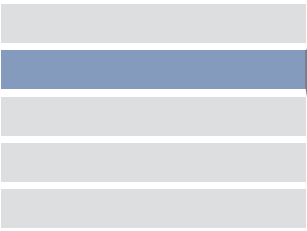

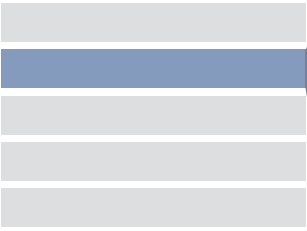
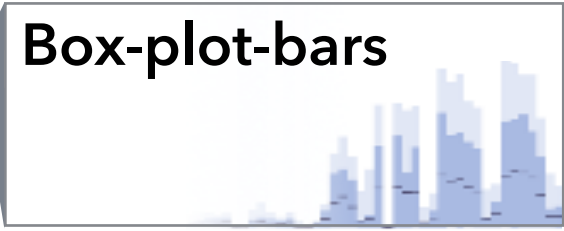
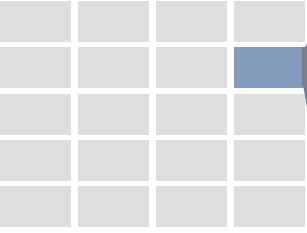

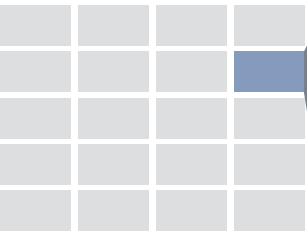
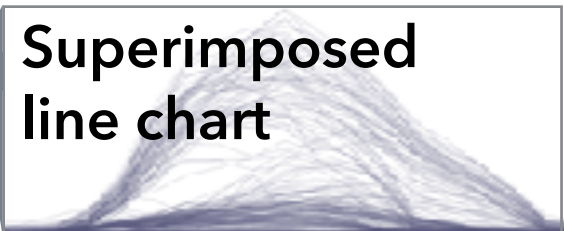
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	Confidence band line chart 	Aggregation	Typical utilization profiles

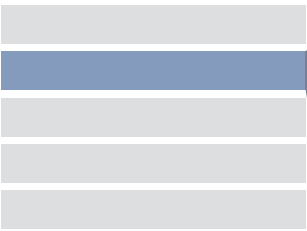

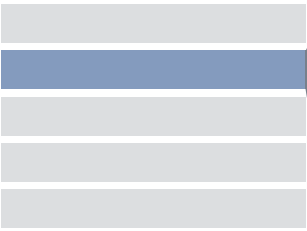
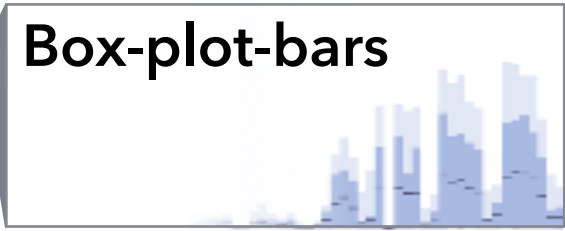
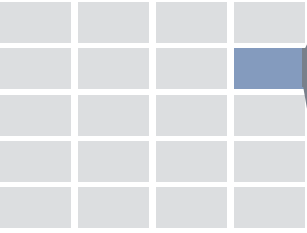
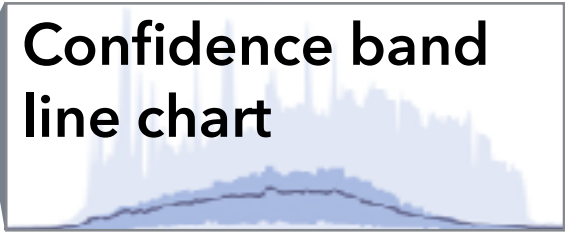
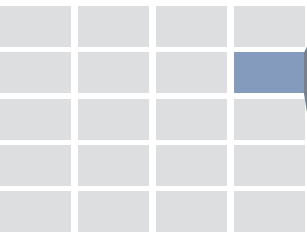
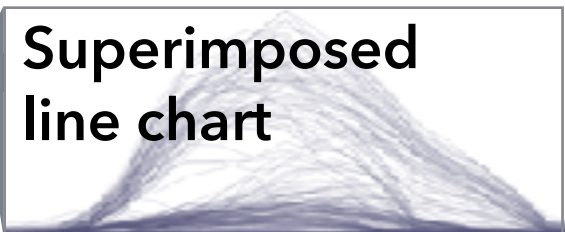
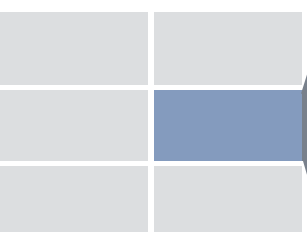

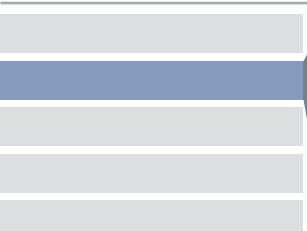
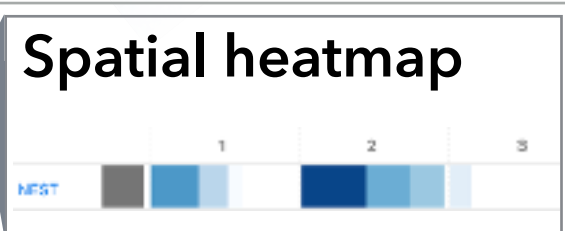
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	Superimposed line chart 	Superposition	Within-session patterns, outliers

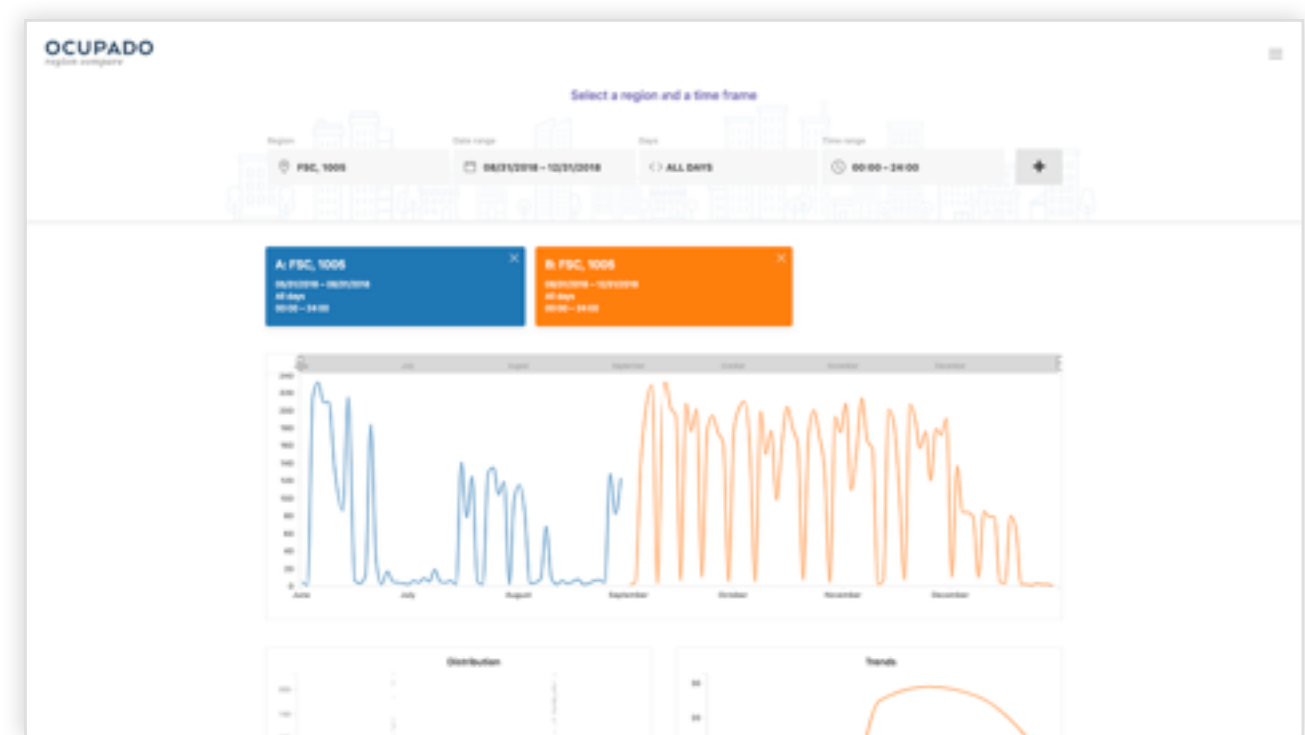
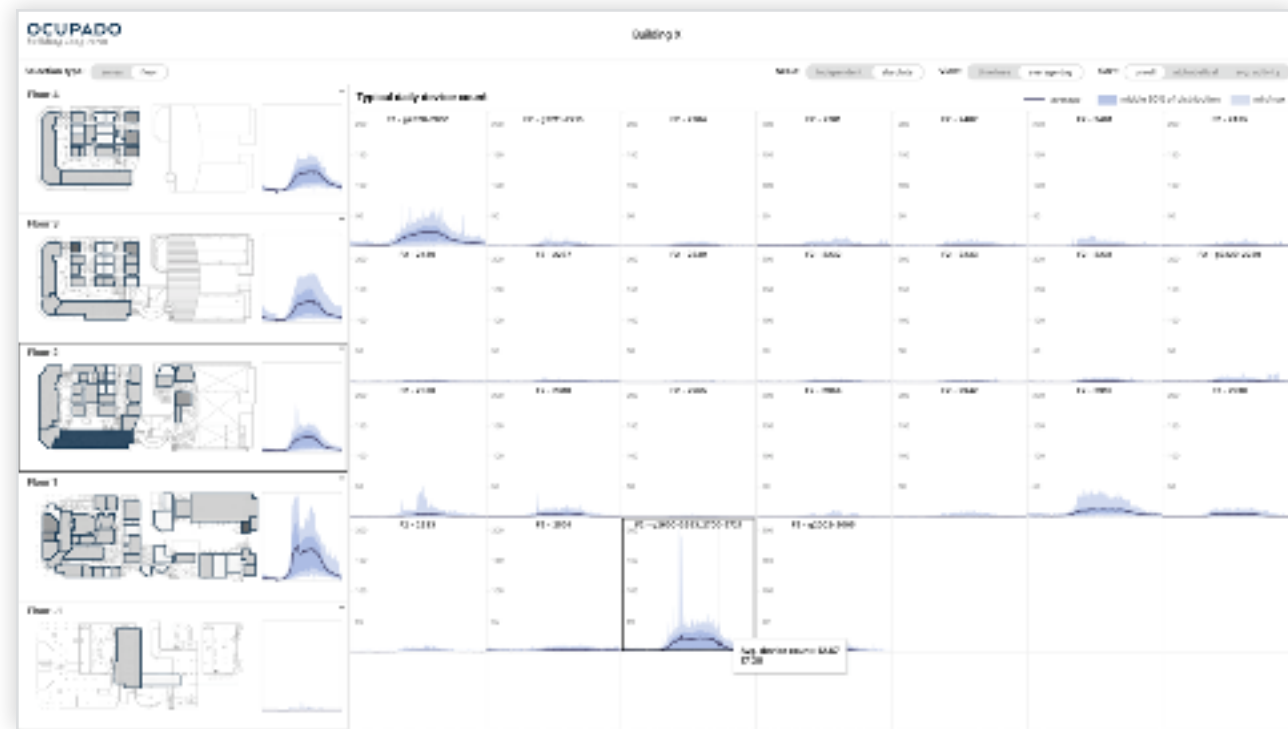
Reusable Visualization Components

	Layout	Visual Encoding	Facet	Comparisons
<i>Temporal</i>		Sparkline 	Juxtaposition	Repeating patterns, trends, outliers (contiguous)
		Box-plot-bars 	Juxtaposition	Repeating patterns, trends, outliers (<i>non-contiguous</i>)
		Confidence band line chart 	Aggregation	Typical utilization profiles
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Reusable Visualization Components

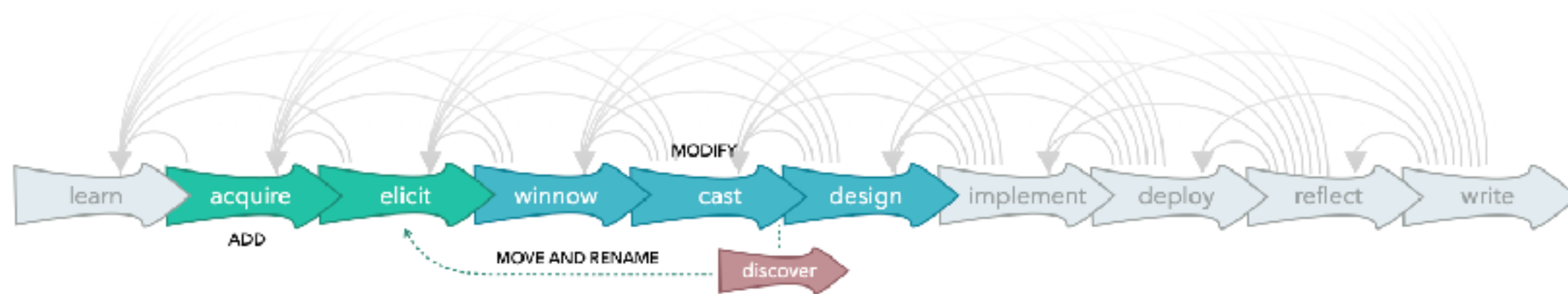
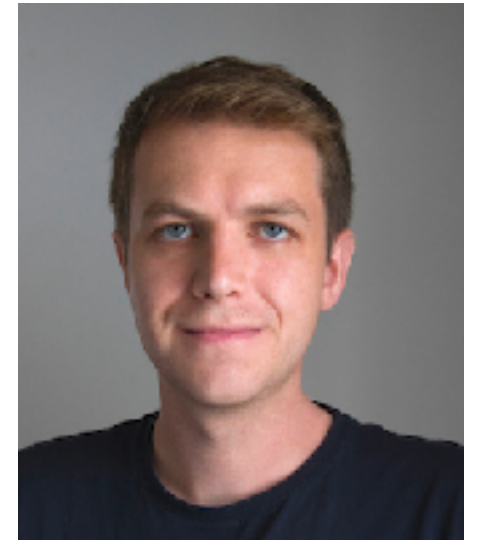
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<i>Temporal</i>		Sparkline 	Juxtaposition	Repeating patterns, trends, outliers (contiguous)
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		Confidence band line chart 	Aggregation	Typical utilization profiles
		Superimposed line chart 	Superposition	Within-session patterns, outliers
<i>Spatial</i>		Floor plan with symbols 	Superposition	Within local spatial neighborhood
		Spatial heatmap 	Containment (nested)	Across distributed regions

Ocupado Interfaces



Ocupado Contributions

- ▶ Analysis and abstraction of data and tasks for studying space utilization
- ▶ Ocupado, a set of visual decision support tools
- ▶ Generalizable design choices for visualizing non-trajectory spatiotemporal data relating to large-scale indoor environments



Data-First Design Studies

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/group/infovis/pubs/2020/data-first/>

Data-First Design Studies.

Oppermann and Munzner. Proc. IEEE VIS BELIV Workshop 2020.

Original DSM framework



Original DSM framework



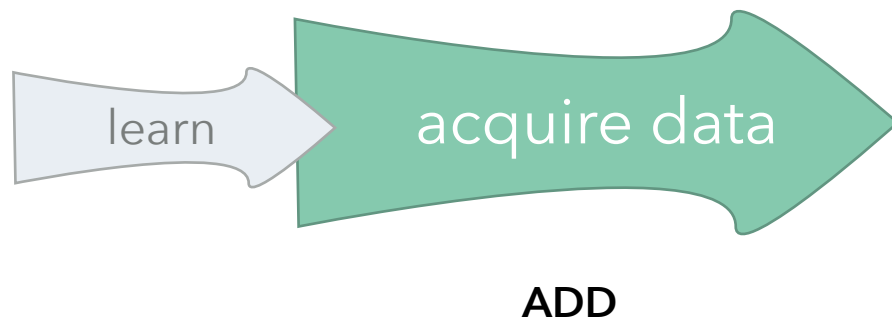
Data-first DSM framework



Original DSM framework



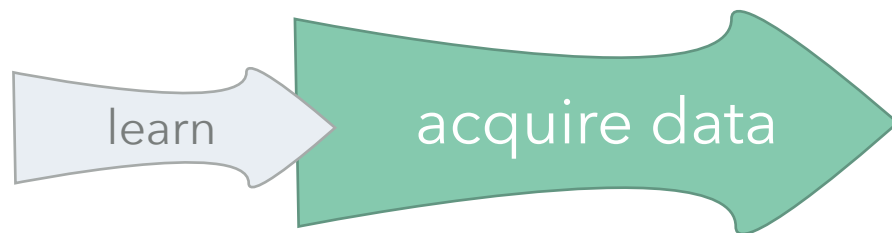
Data-first DSM framework



Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework



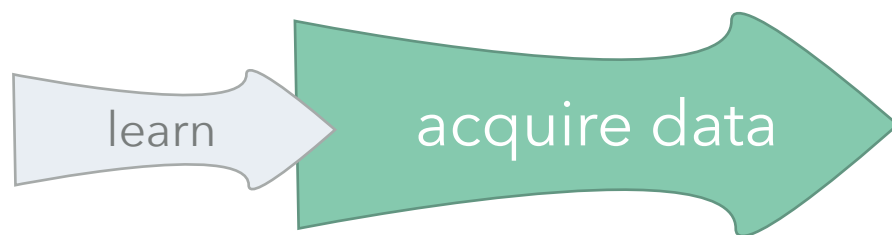
ADD

- ▶ What type of data am I working with?

Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework



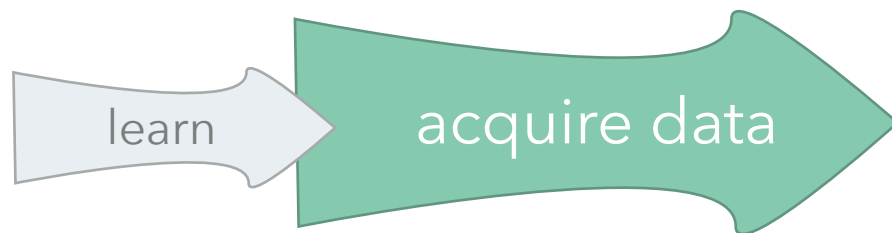
ADD

- ▶ What type of data am I working with?
- ▶ Are there any data quality challenges?

Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework



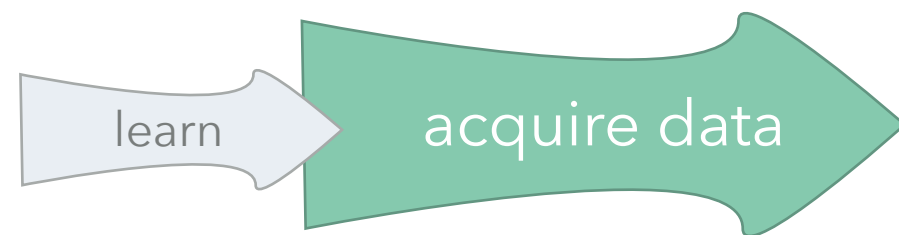
ADD

- ▶ What type of data am I working with?
- ▶ Are there any data quality challenges?
- ▶ What is special about this data?

Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework



ADD

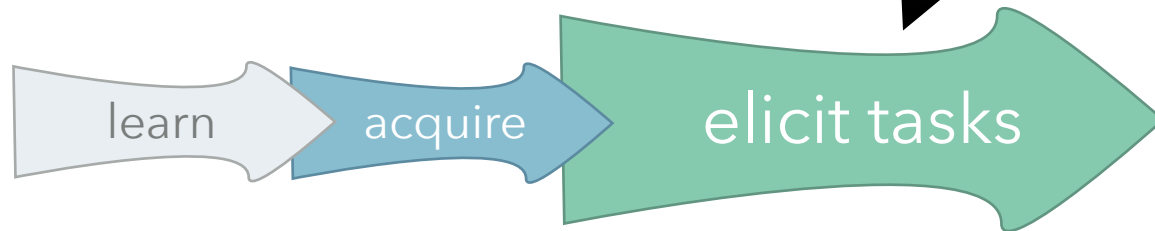
- ▶ What type of data am I working with?
- ▶ Are there any data quality challenges?
- ▶ What is special about this data?
- ▶ Who would benefit from seeing and exploring it?

Original DSM framework



MOVE AND RENAME

Data-first DSM framework

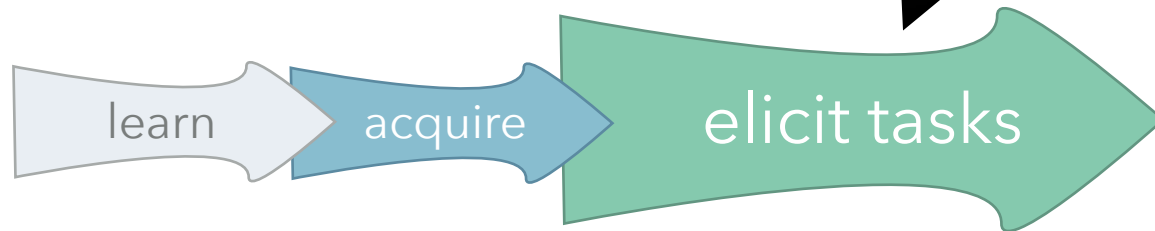


Original DSM framework



MOVE AND RENAME

Data-first DSM framework



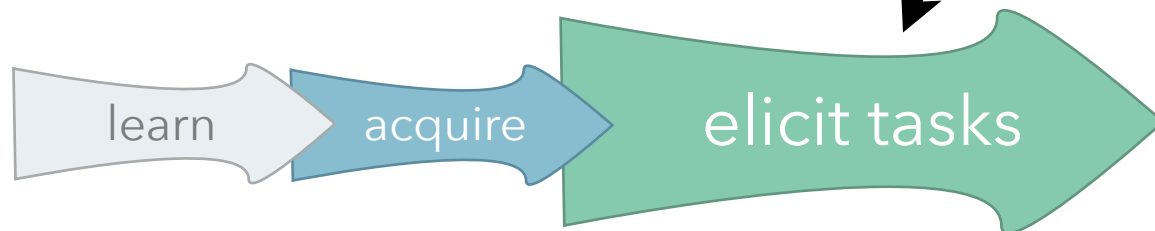
- ▶ Multiple potential stakeholders

Original DSM framework



MOVE AND RENAME

Data-first DSM framework



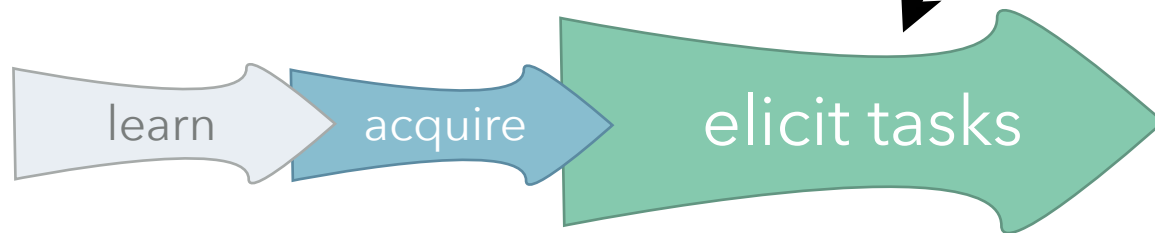
- ▶ Multiple potential stakeholders
- ▶ Explain initial data abstractions

Original DSM framework



MOVE AND RENAME

Data-first DSM framework

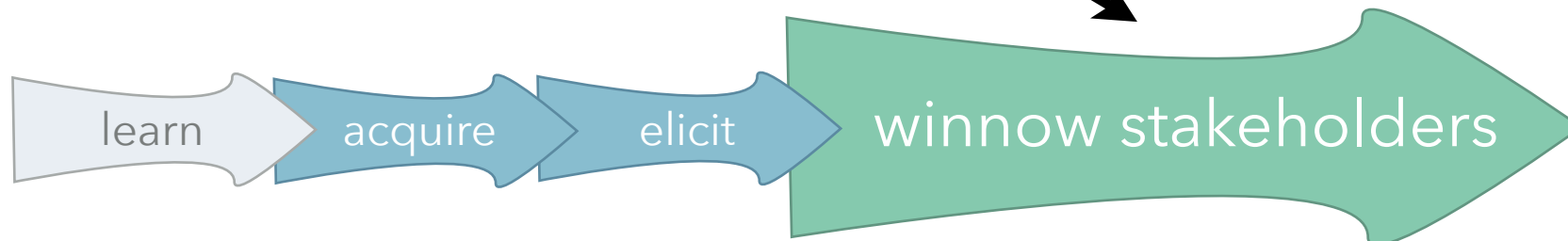


- ▶ Multiple potential stakeholders
- ▶ Explain initial data abstractions
- ▶ Learn about unsolved stakeholder needs

Original DSM framework



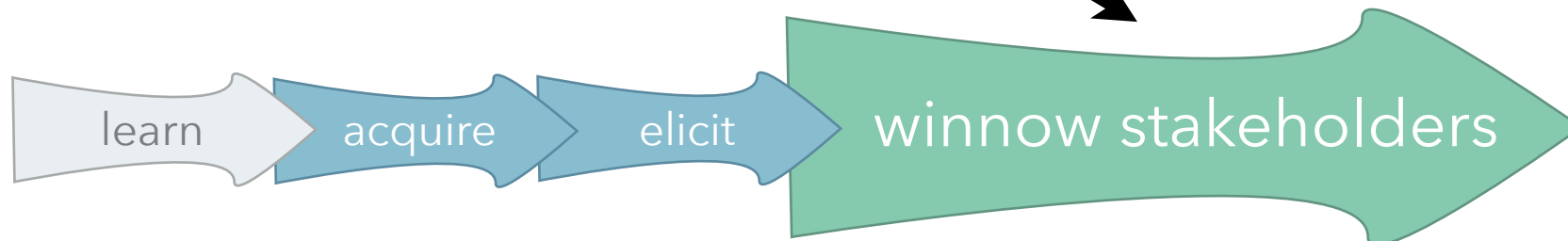
Data-first DSM framework



Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework



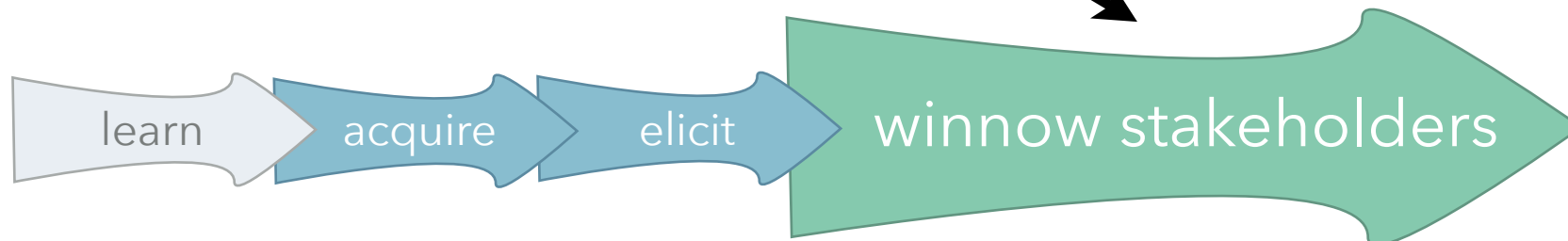
MODIFY

- ▶ How frequent are their data-relevant tasks?

Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework

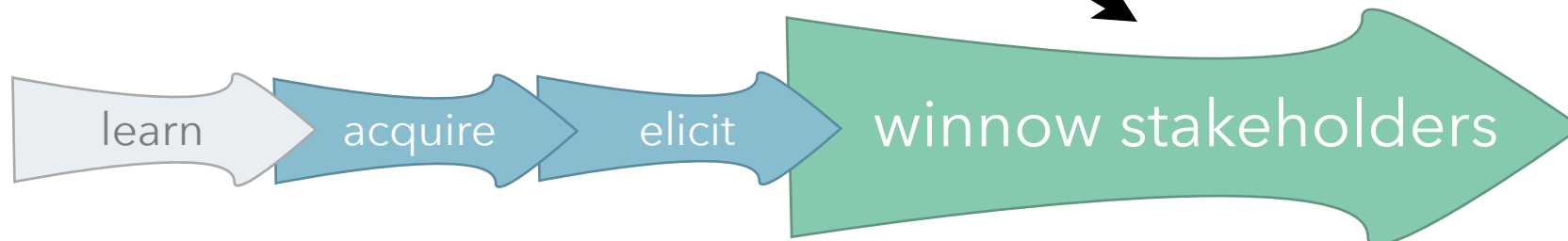


- ▶ How frequent are their data-relevant tasks?
- ▶ How central are these tasks to the stakeholder's primary mission?

Original DSM framework

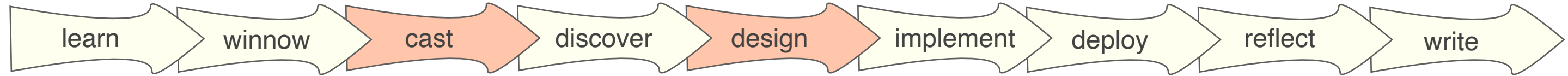


Data-first DSM framework

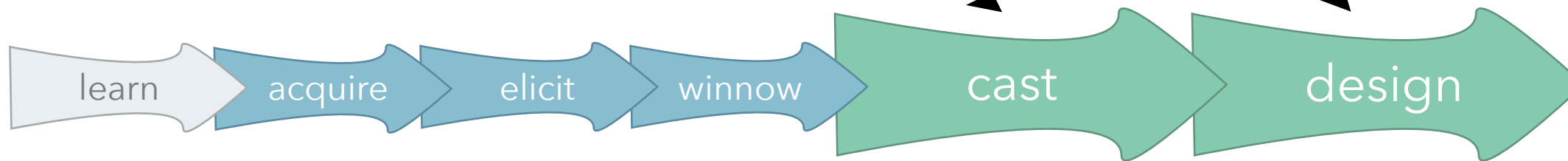


- ▶ How frequent are their data-relevant tasks?
- ▶ How central are these tasks to the stakeholder's primary mission?
- ▶ How many people in the organization deal with these tasks?

Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework

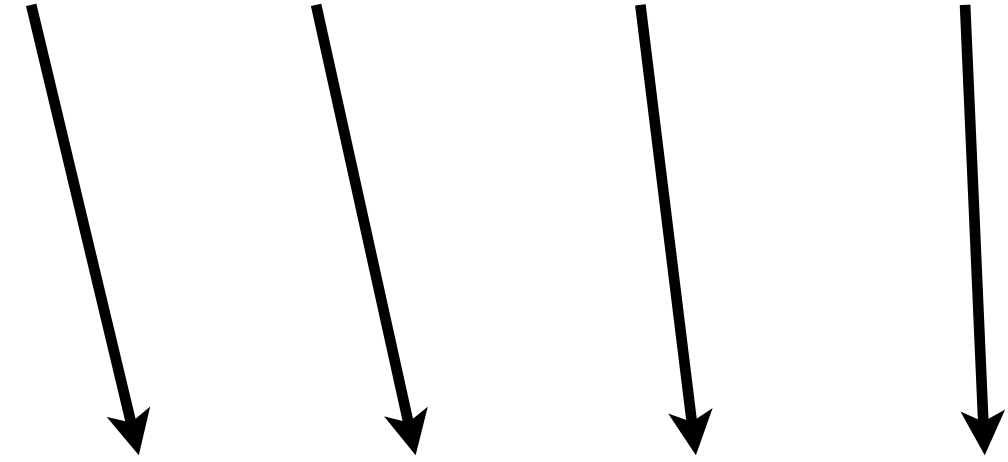
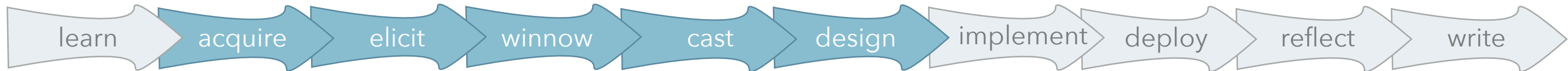


MODIFY

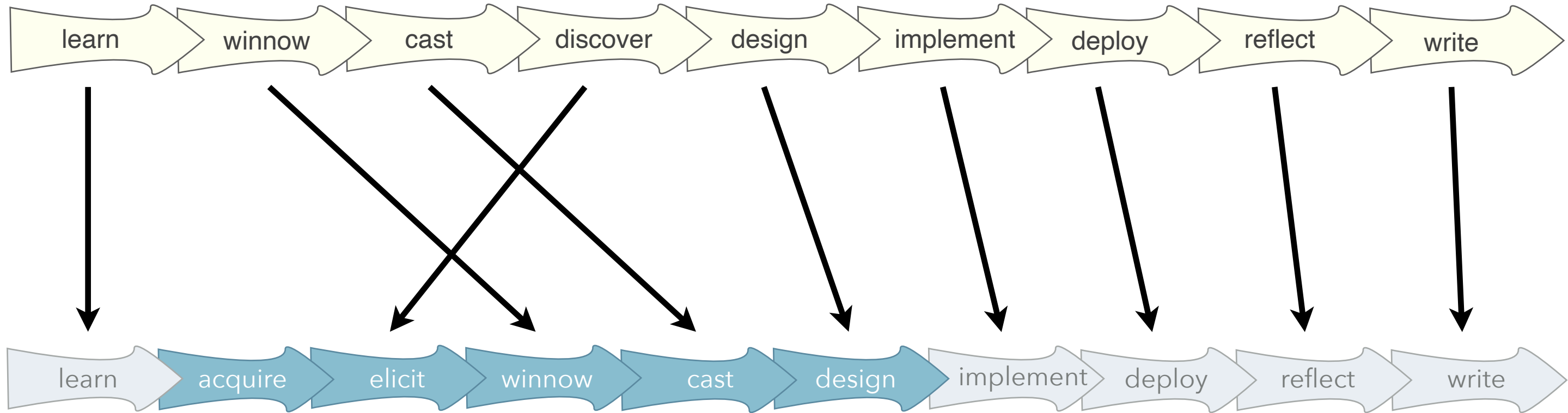
Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework



Original DSM framework



Data-first DSM framework

Three case studies of problem-driven work

- e-commerce



- facilities management



- biology





Zipeng
Liu



Shing Hei
Zhan



Aggregated Dendrograms

for Visual Comparison Between Many Phylogenetic Trees

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/labs/imager/tr/2019/adview>

Aggregated Dendrograms for Visual Comparison Between Many Phylogenetic Trees.

Liu, Zhan, Munzner. *IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG)* 26(9):2732-2747, 2019.

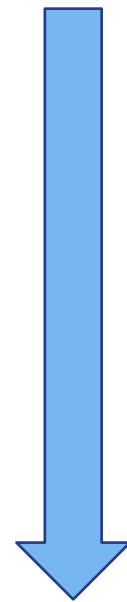
Phylogenetic tree

Evolutionary relationships of organisms

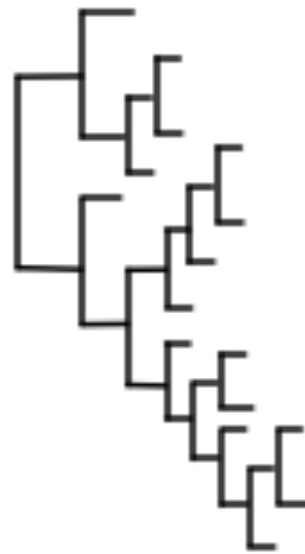
Human	A	T	G	G	A	C	A
Chimpanzee	A	T	G	G	A	C	A
Macaque	A	C	G	G	A	C	A

Genetic information

Computational workflow



Phylogenetic tree



Many phylogenetic trees

Human
Chimpanzee
Macaque

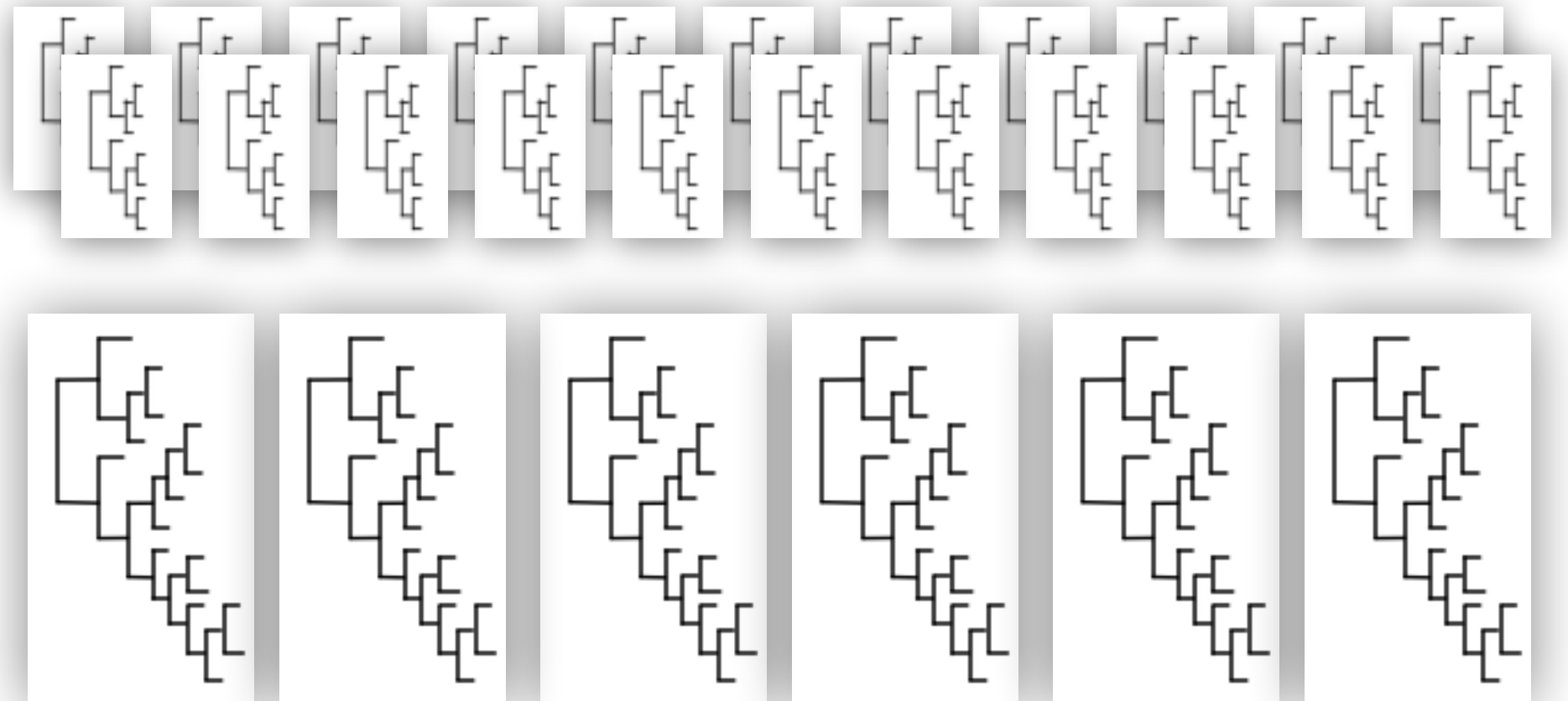
A	T	G	G	A	C	A
A	T	G	G	A	C	A
A	C	G	G	A	C	A

Genetic information

Computational workflow

Phylogenetic tree

- Understand relationships between genes and species trees
- Explore trees generated with different methods and data



Scalability of Existing Tree Comparison Systems

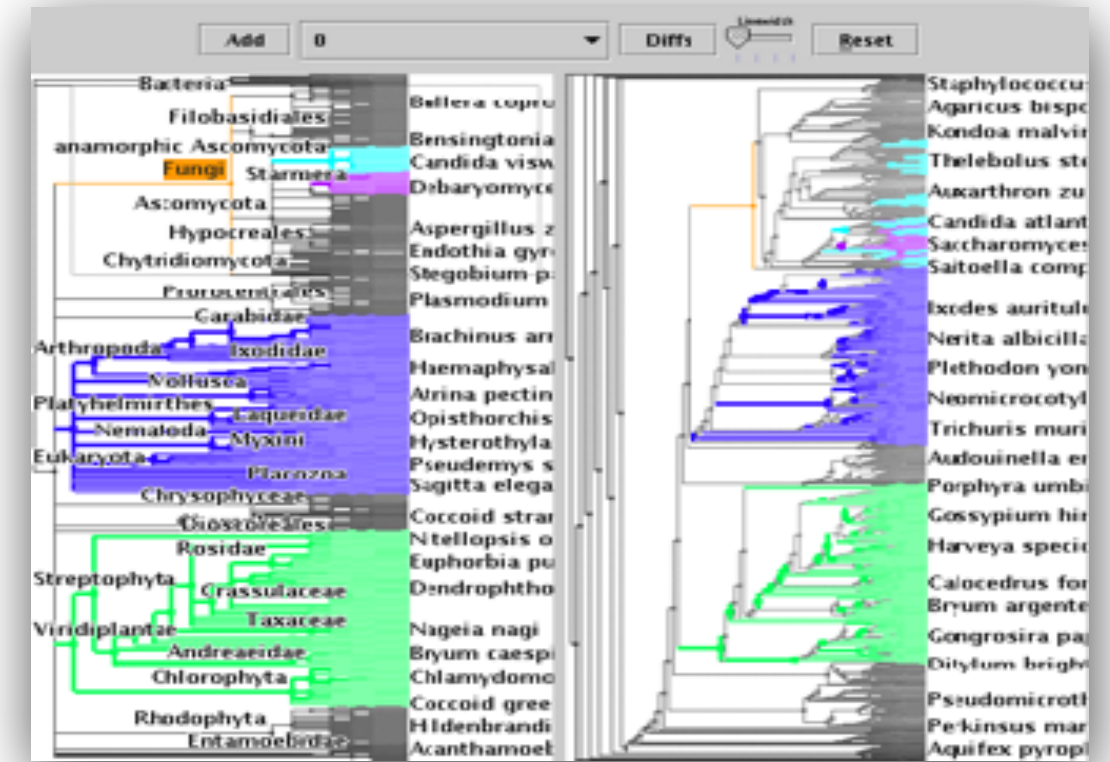
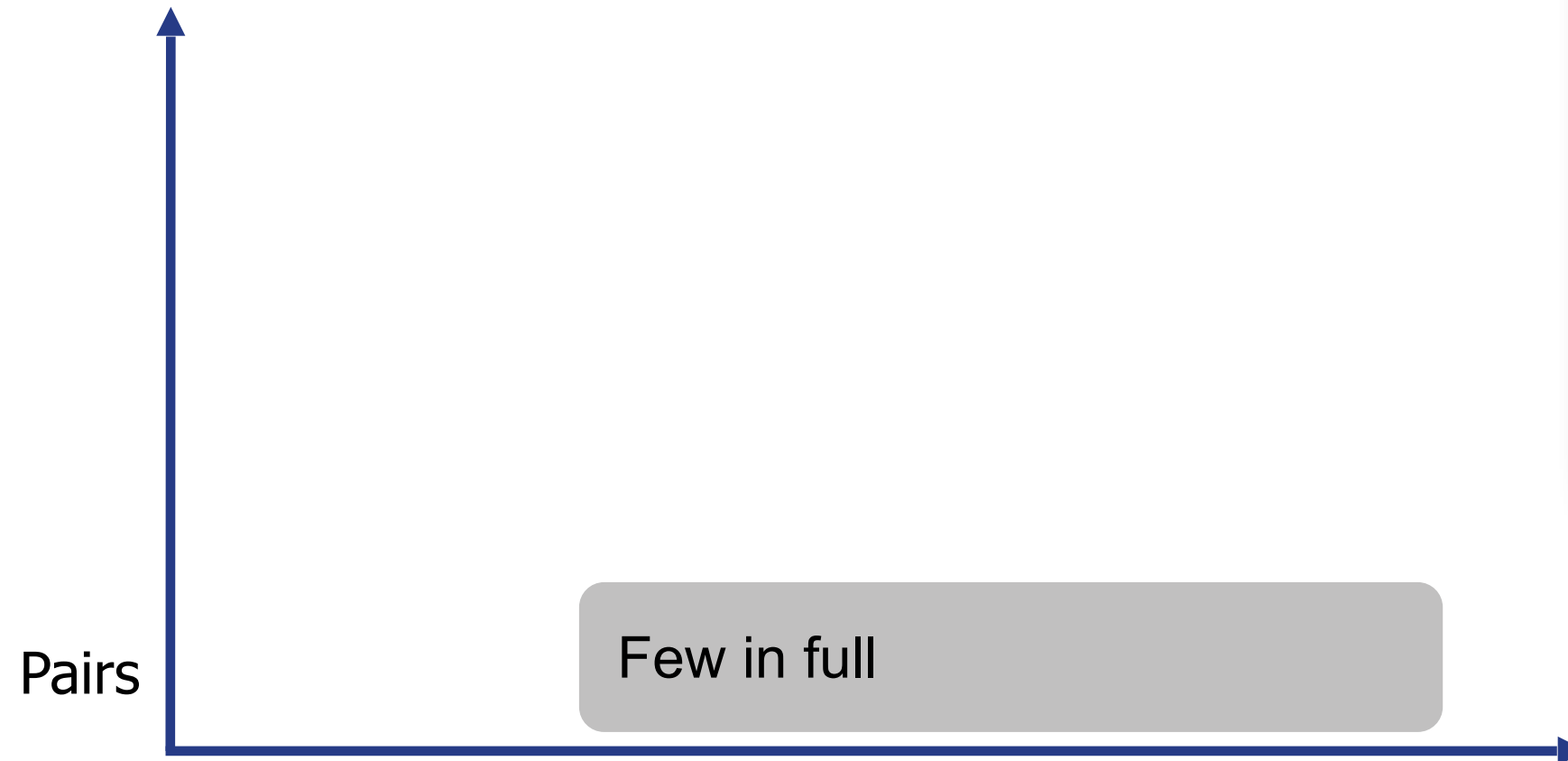
#Trees: how many trees to compare



Level of detail (LoD):
how much details are visible

Scalability of Existing Tree Comparison Systems

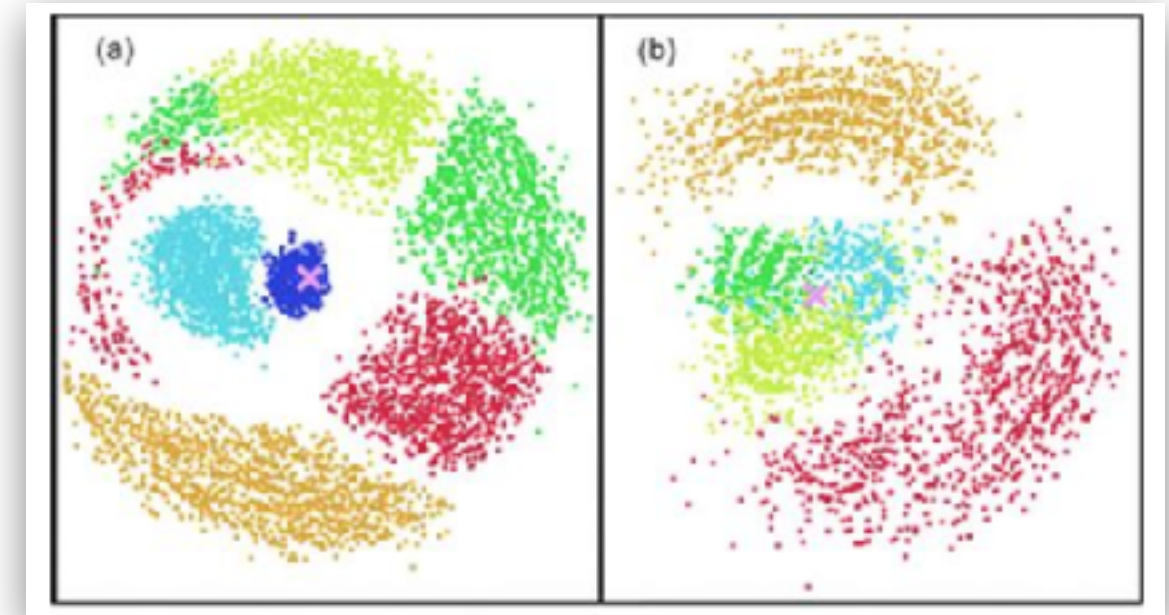
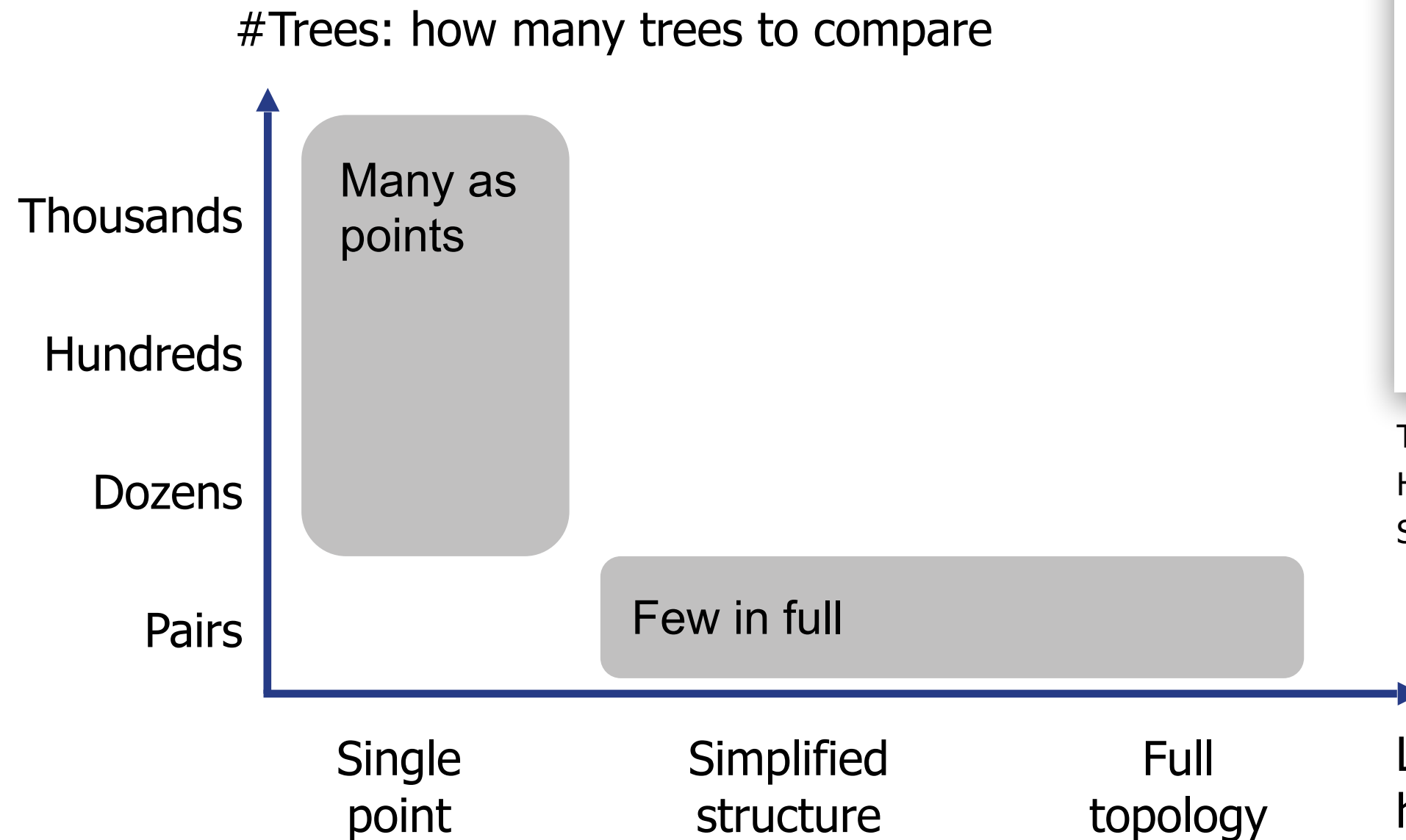
#Trees: how many trees to compare



TreeJuxtaposer.
Munzner, Guimbretière, Zhang, Zhou.
SIGGRAPH 2003

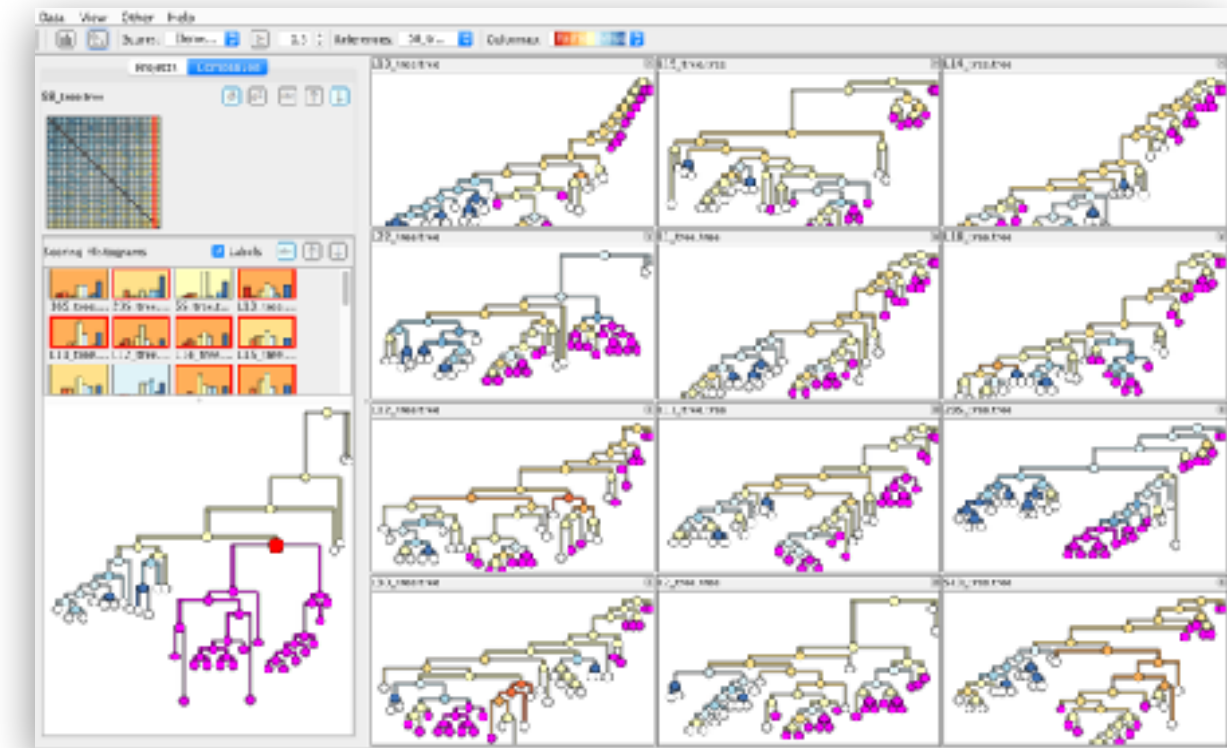
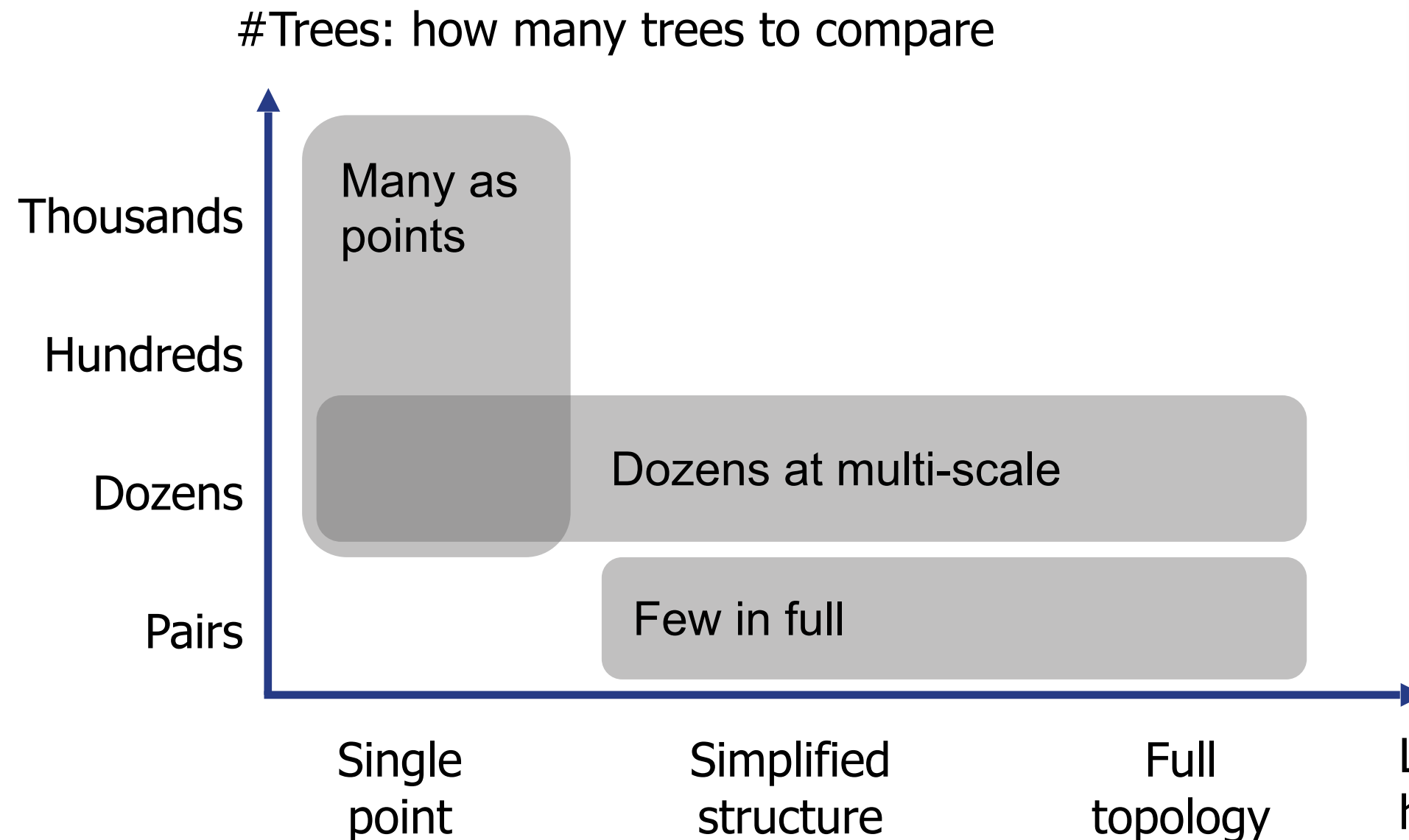
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Scalability of Existing Tree Comparison Systems



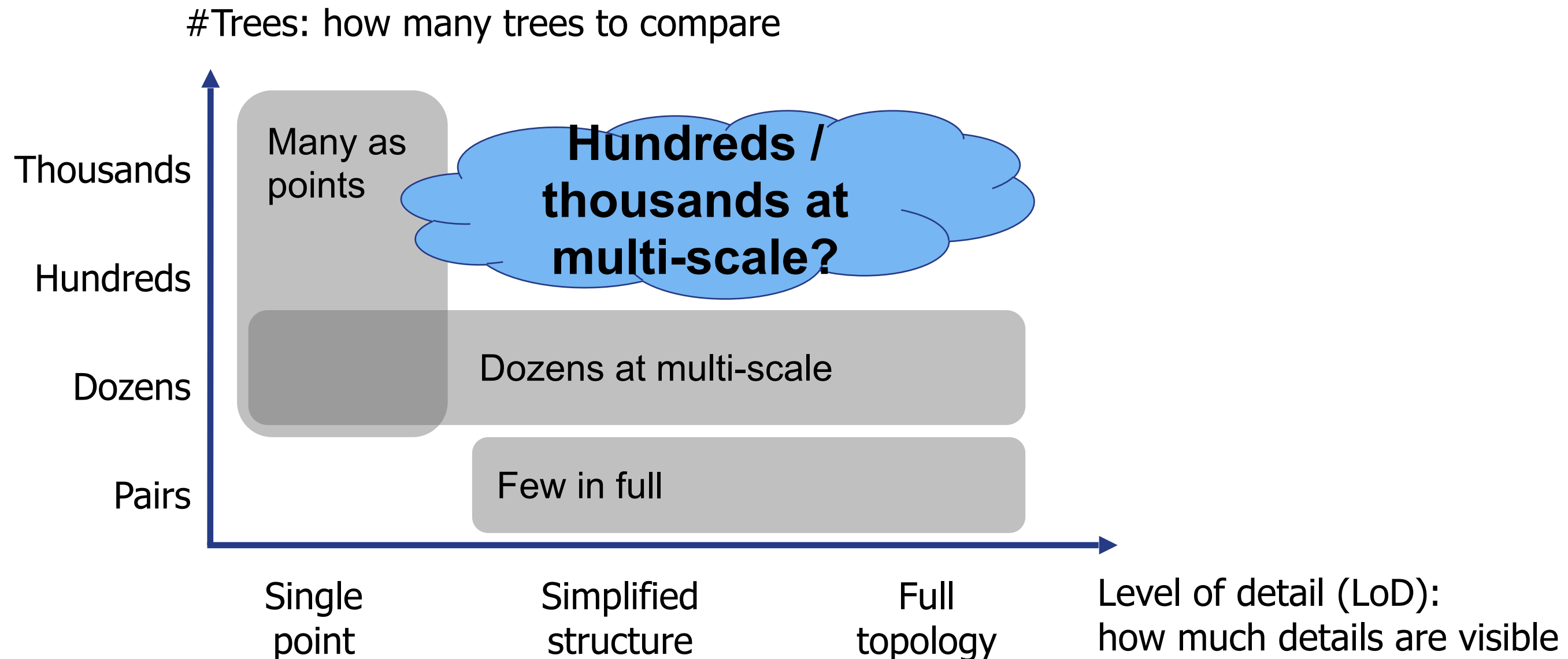
Tree space.
Hillis, Heath, John.
Systematic Biology 2005.

Scalability of Existing Tree Comparison Systems



Interactive visual comparison of multiple trees.
Bremm, Landesberger, Heß, Schreck, Weil, Hamacher.
VAST 2011.

Comparing many phylogenetic trees

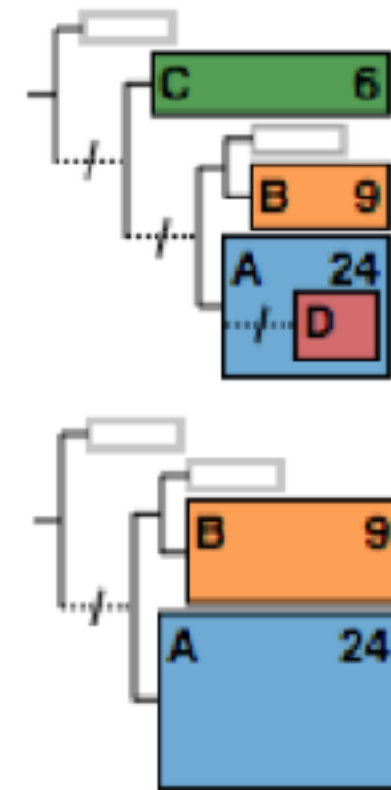


Contributions include idiom & algorithm levels

- Data and task abstractions for comparison of phylogenetic trees

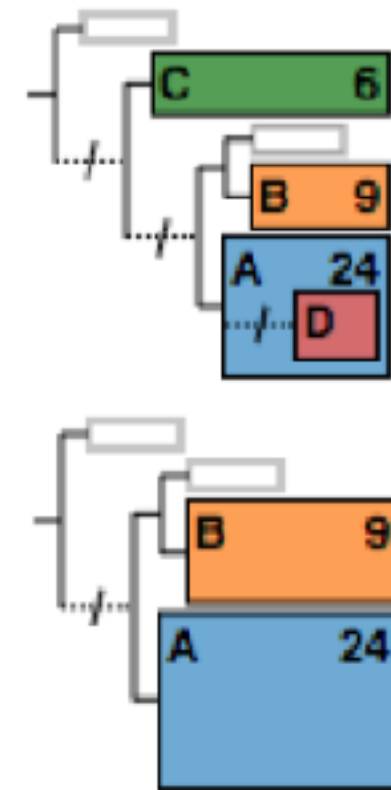
Contributions include idiom & algorithm levels

- Data and task abstractions for comparison of phylogenetic trees
- A new visual encoding: **Aggregated Dendrogram**
 - Compact tree representation that focuses on selected subtrees
 - Adapts to available screen space



Contributions include idiom & algorithm levels

- Data and task abstractions for comparison of phylogenetic trees
- A new visual encoding: **Aggregated Dendrogram**
 - Compact tree representation that focuses on selected subtrees
 - Adapts to available screen space
- A multi-view interactive tool: **ADView**
 - Covers multiple levels of details for tree comparison





Data & Tasks

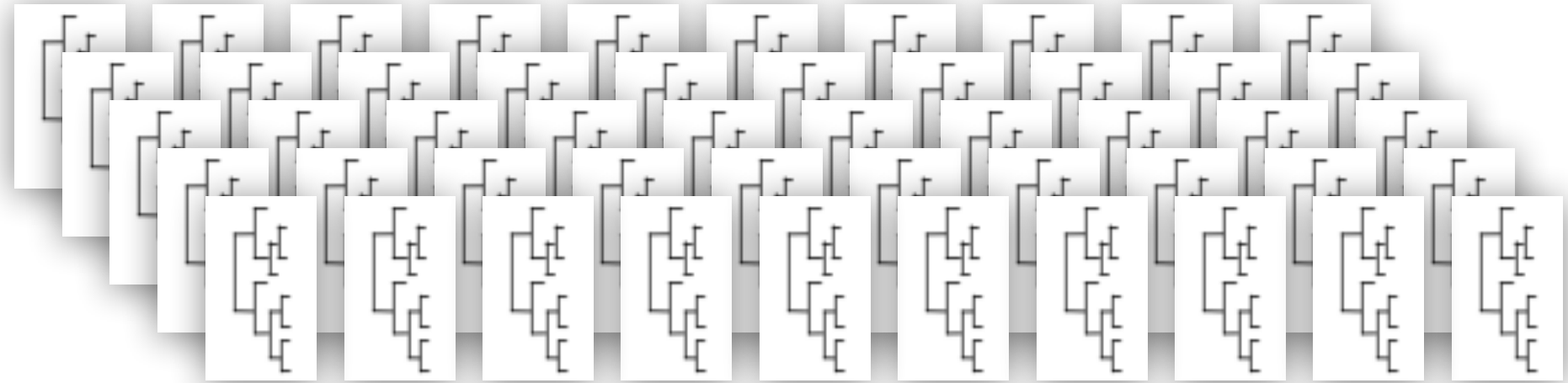
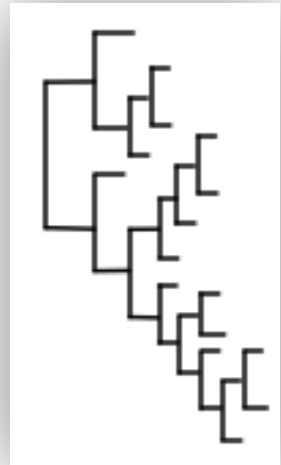
- Tree data
- Two crucial tasks

Tree data

Reference tree

vs.

Tree collection

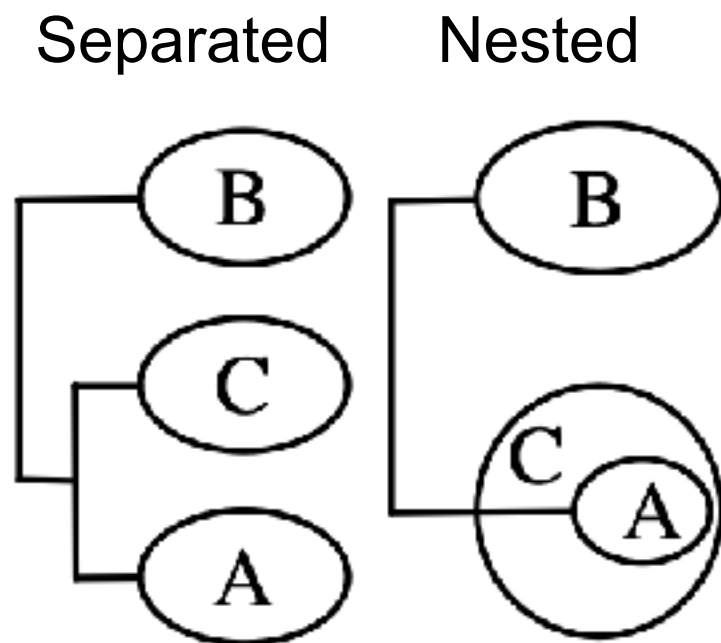


Two crucial tasks

Topological relationships between subtrees / leaf nodes

Two crucial tasks

Topological relationships between subtrees / leaf nodes

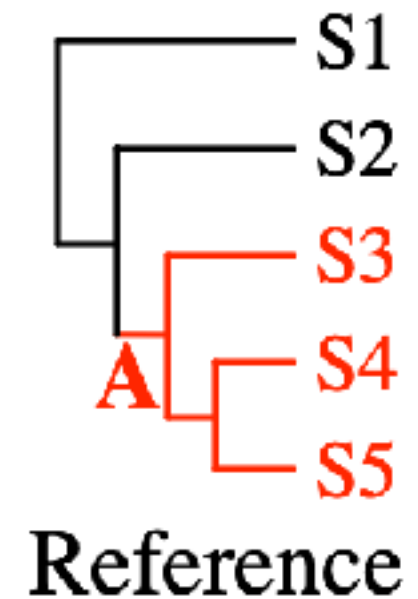
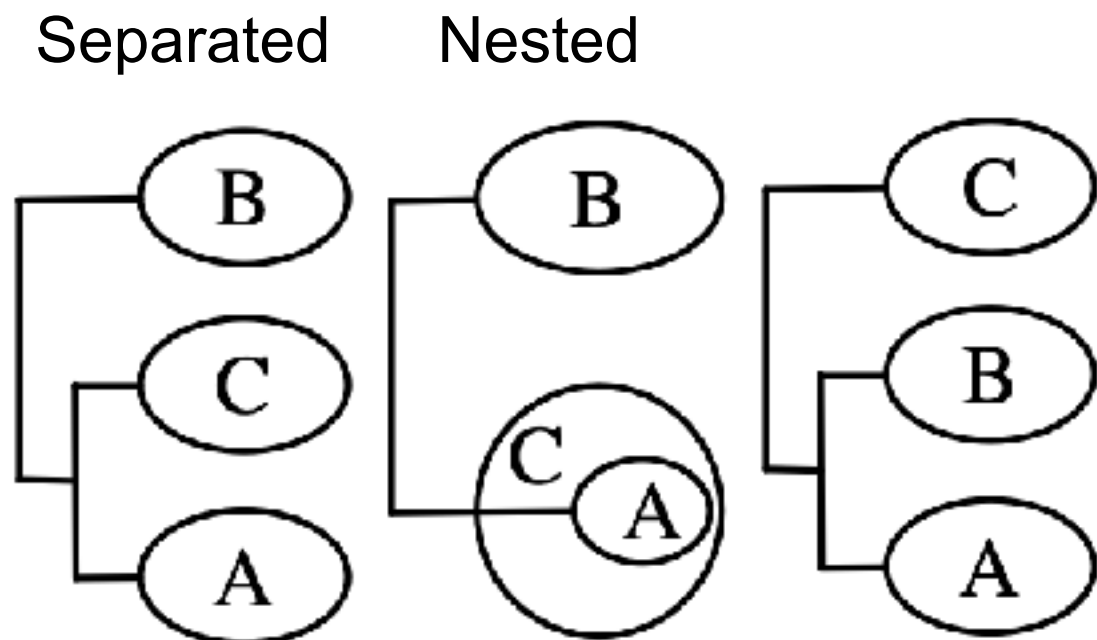


Two crucial tasks

Topological relationships between subtrees / leaf nodes

- Topological distance

Leaf node memberships compared to reference tree

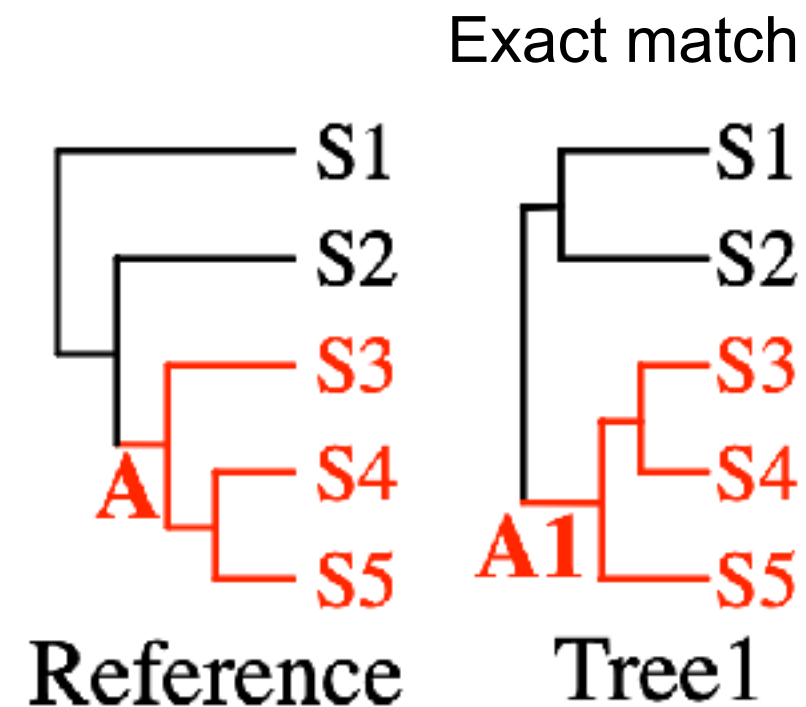
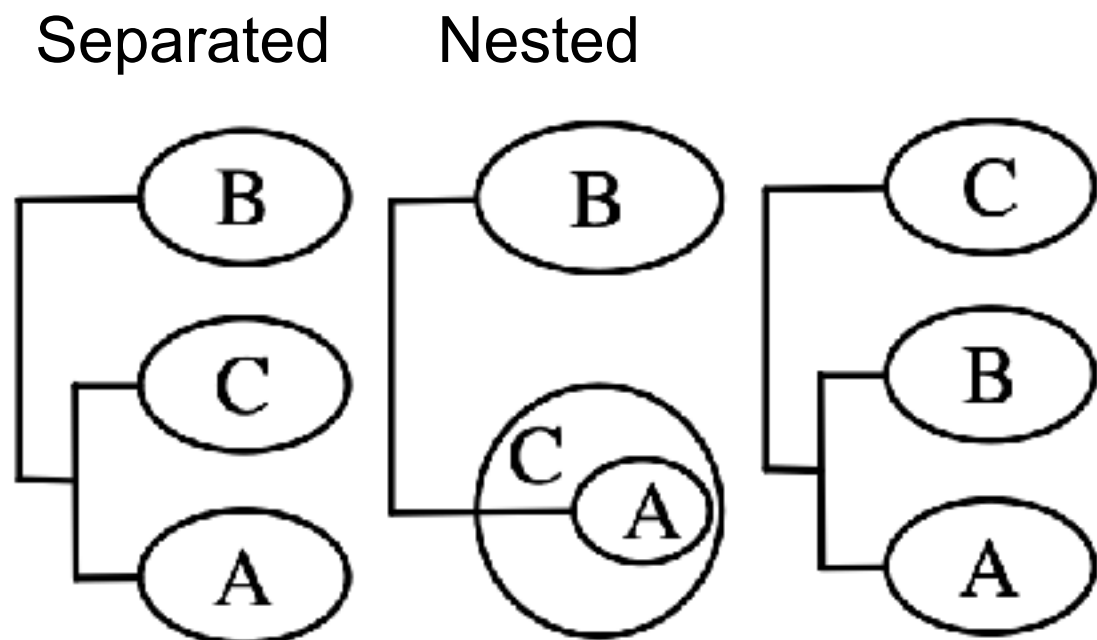


Two crucial tasks

Topological relationships between subtrees / leaf nodes

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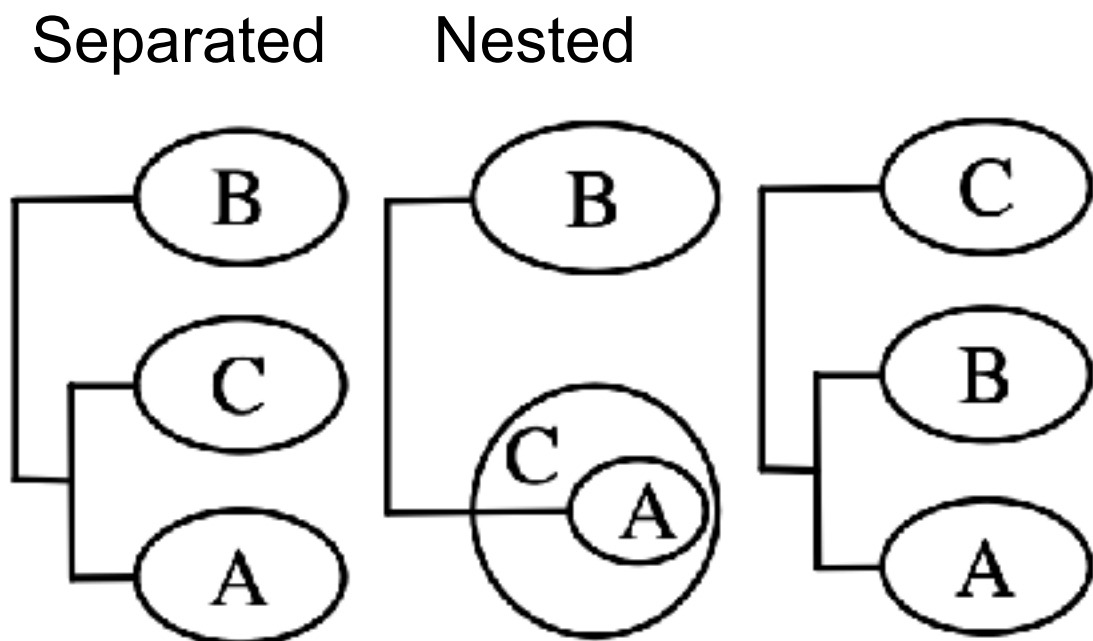
Leaf node memberships compared to reference tree



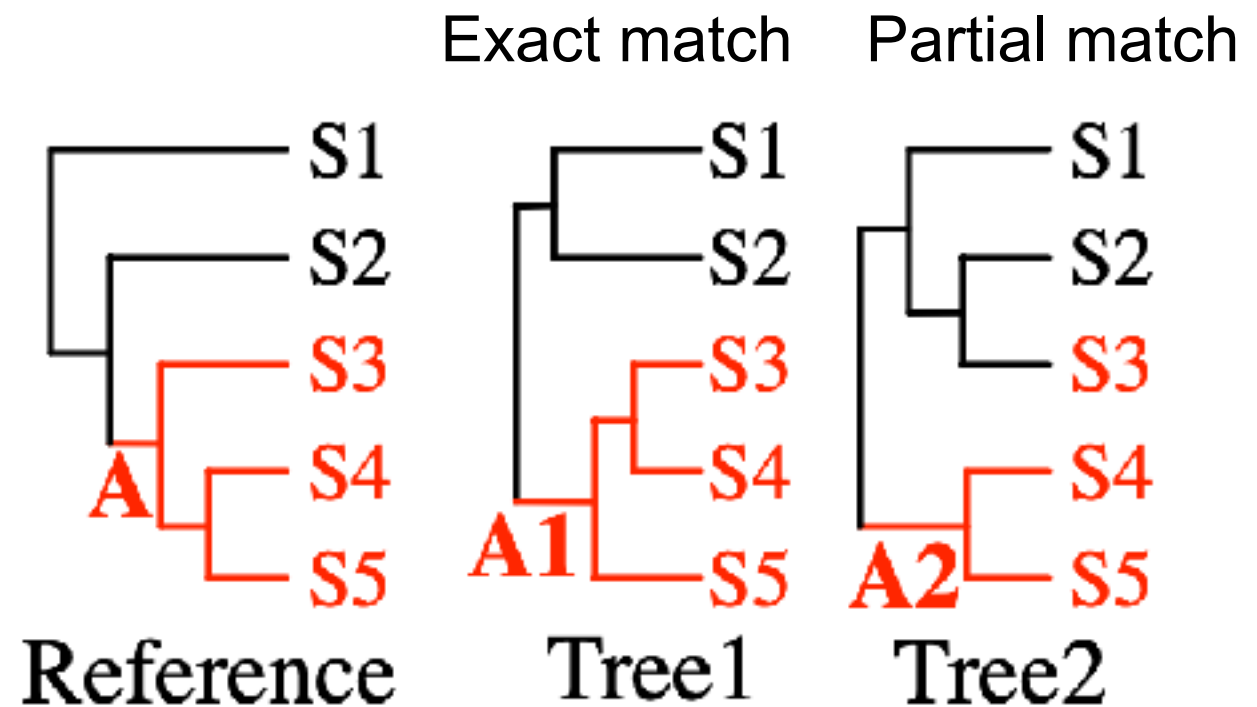
Two crucial tasks

Topological relationships between subtrees / leaf nodes

- Topological distance



Leaf node memberships compared to reference tree



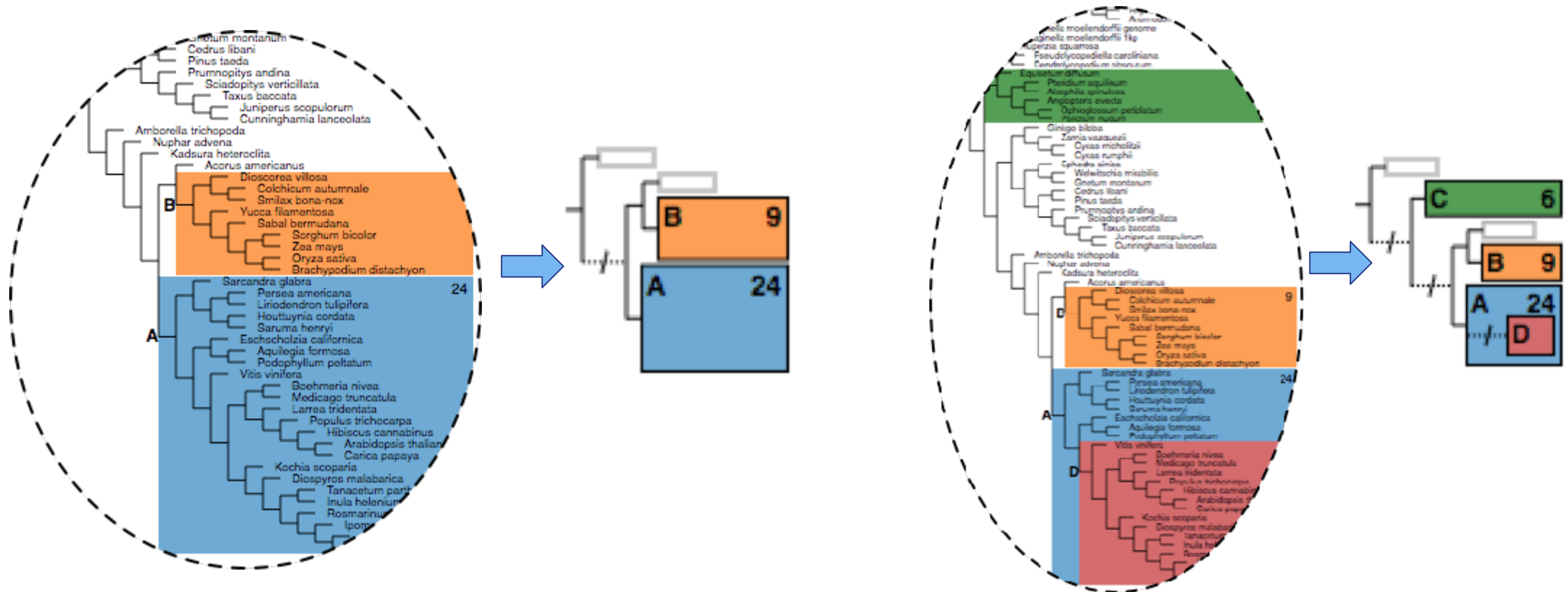


Aggregated Dendrogram (AD)

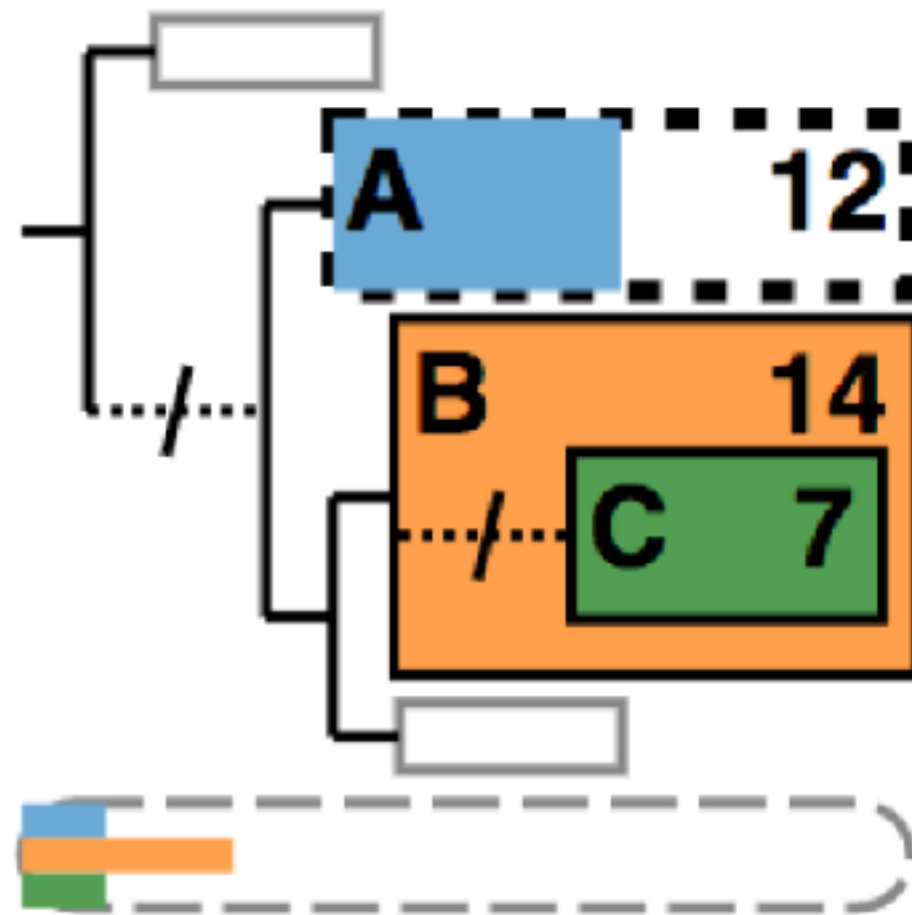
- Intuition
- Visual design

Intuition

Use glyphs to compress a tree according to user selections

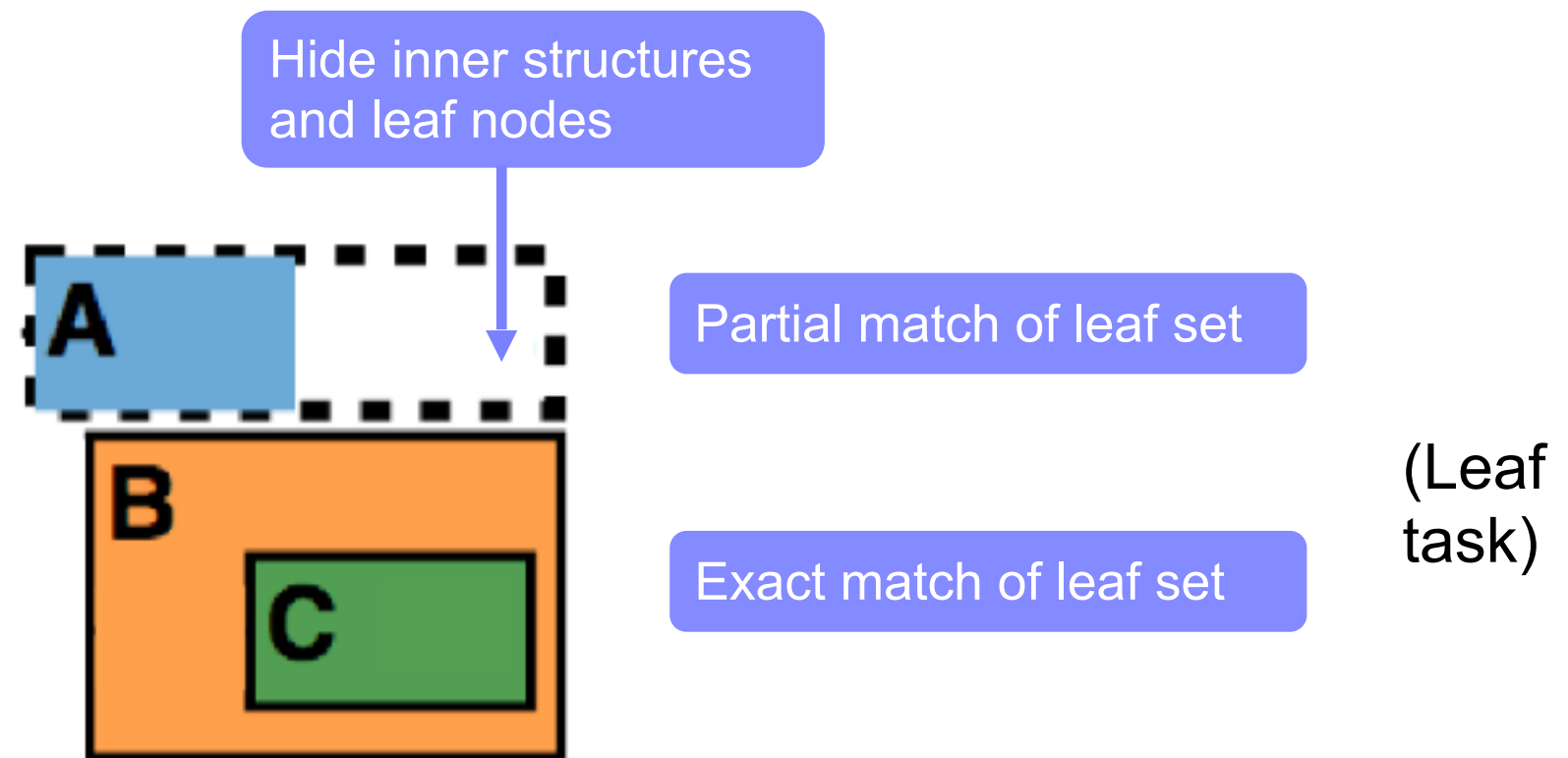


Visual design: focus + context



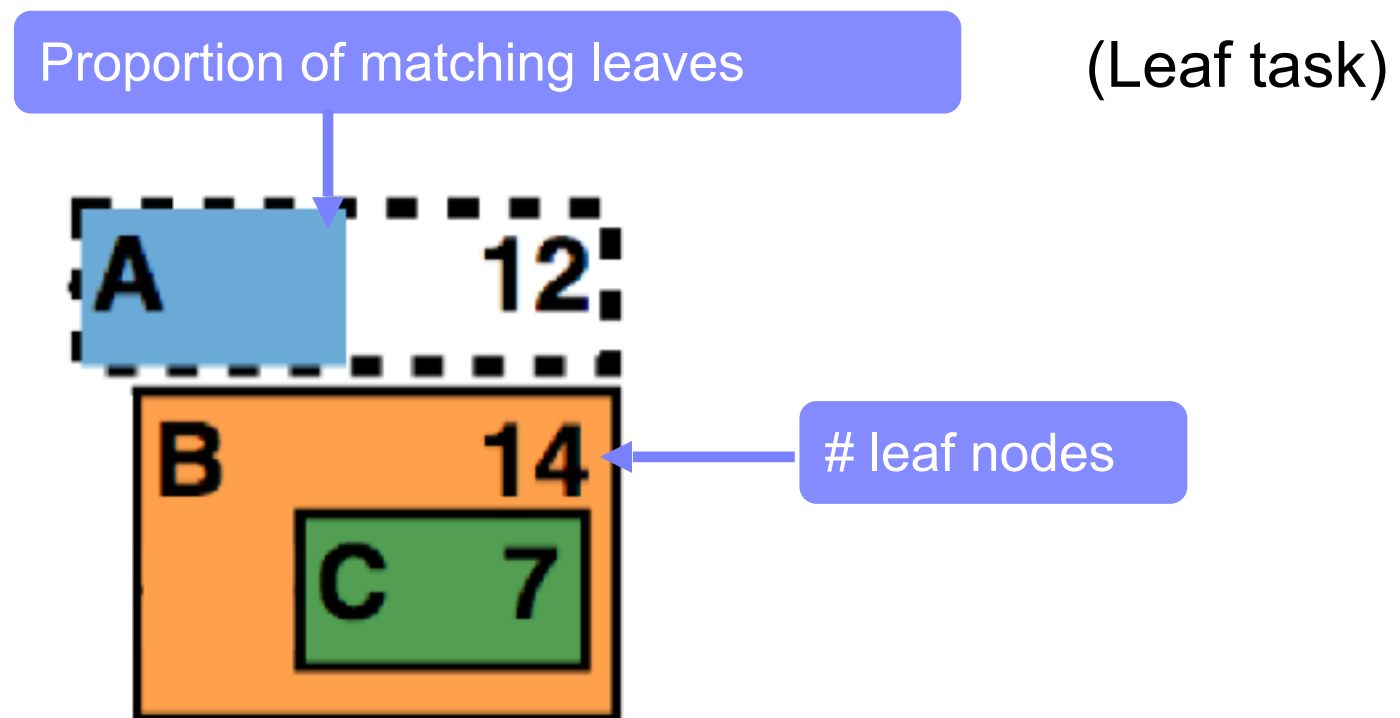
Visual design: focus + context

- Focus
 - Selected subtrees



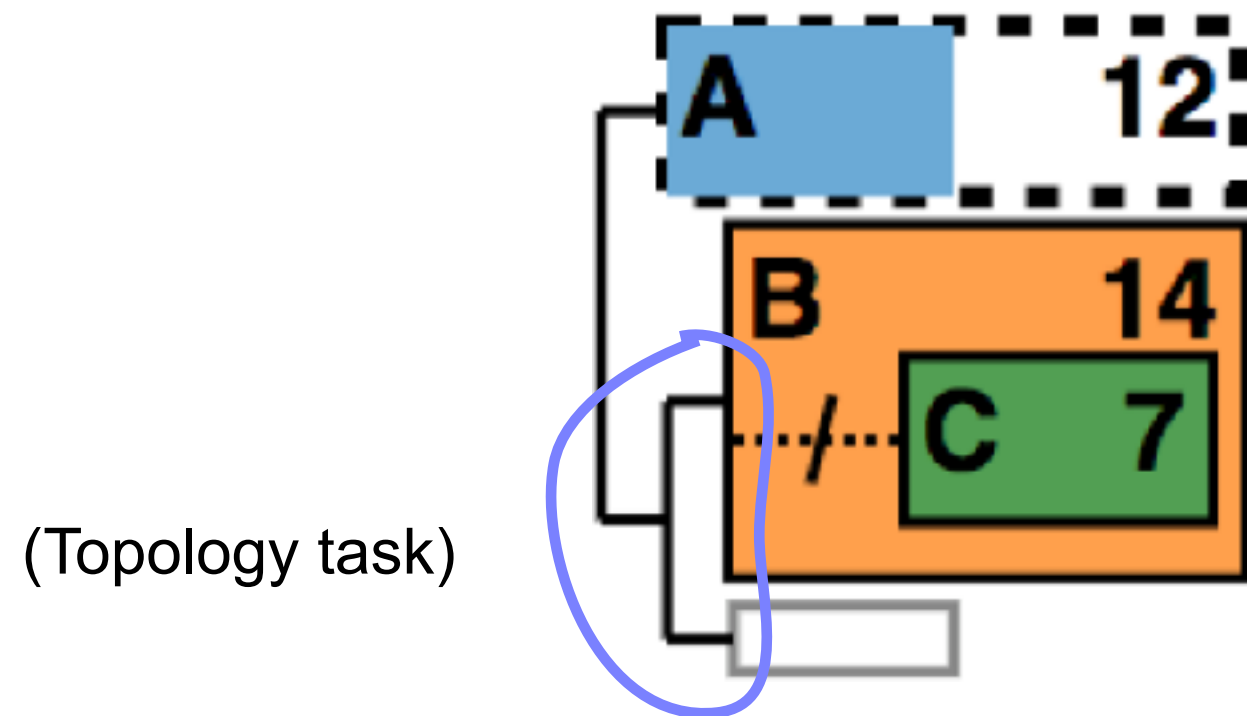
Visual design: focus + context

- Focus
 - Selected subtrees



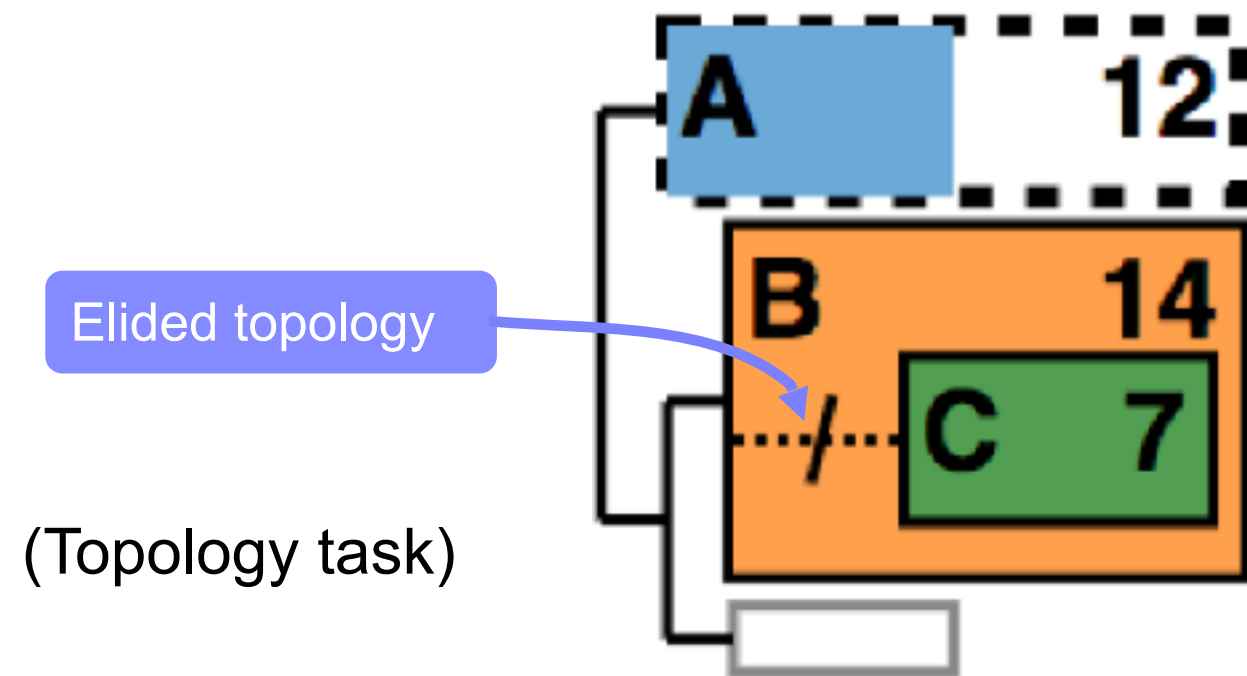
Visual design: focus + context

- Focus
 - Selected subtrees
 - Topological relationships between them



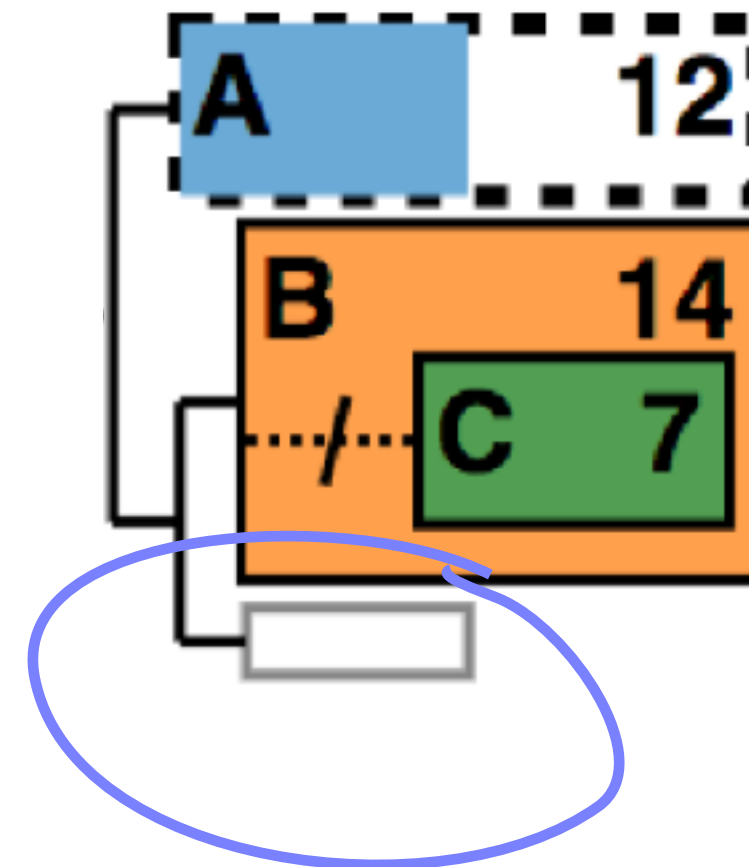
Visual design: focus + context

- Focus
 - Selected subtrees
 - Topological relationships between them



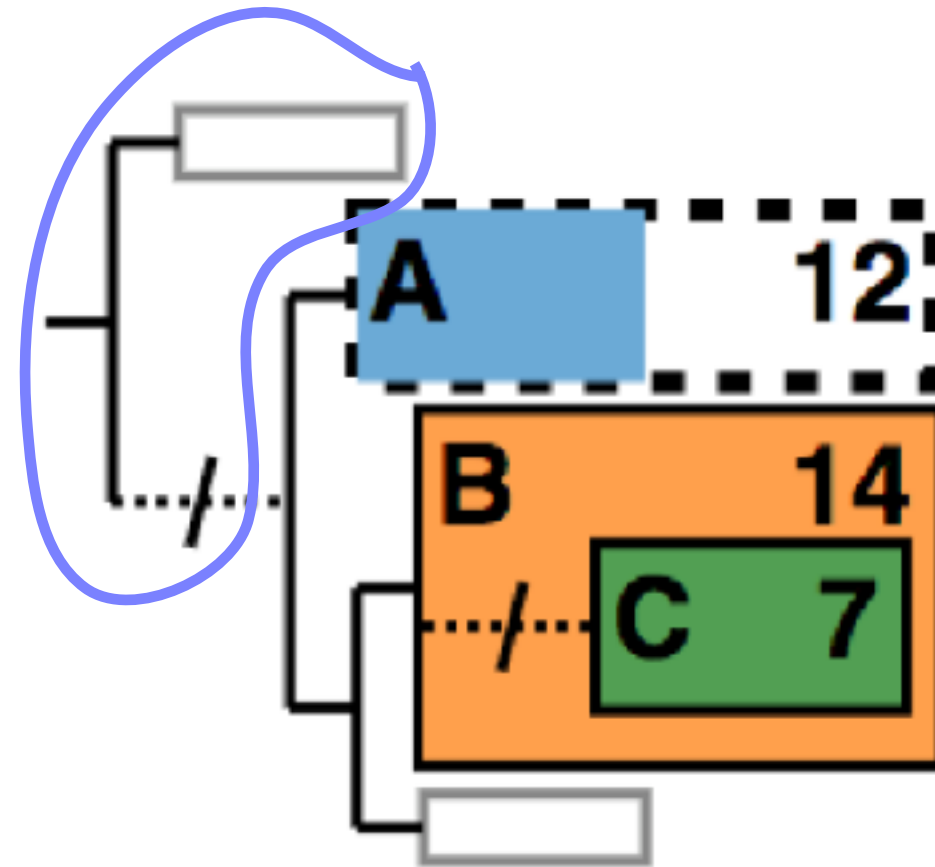
Visual design: focus + context

- Focus
 - Selected subtrees
 - Topological relationships between them
- Context
 - Neighboring subtrees



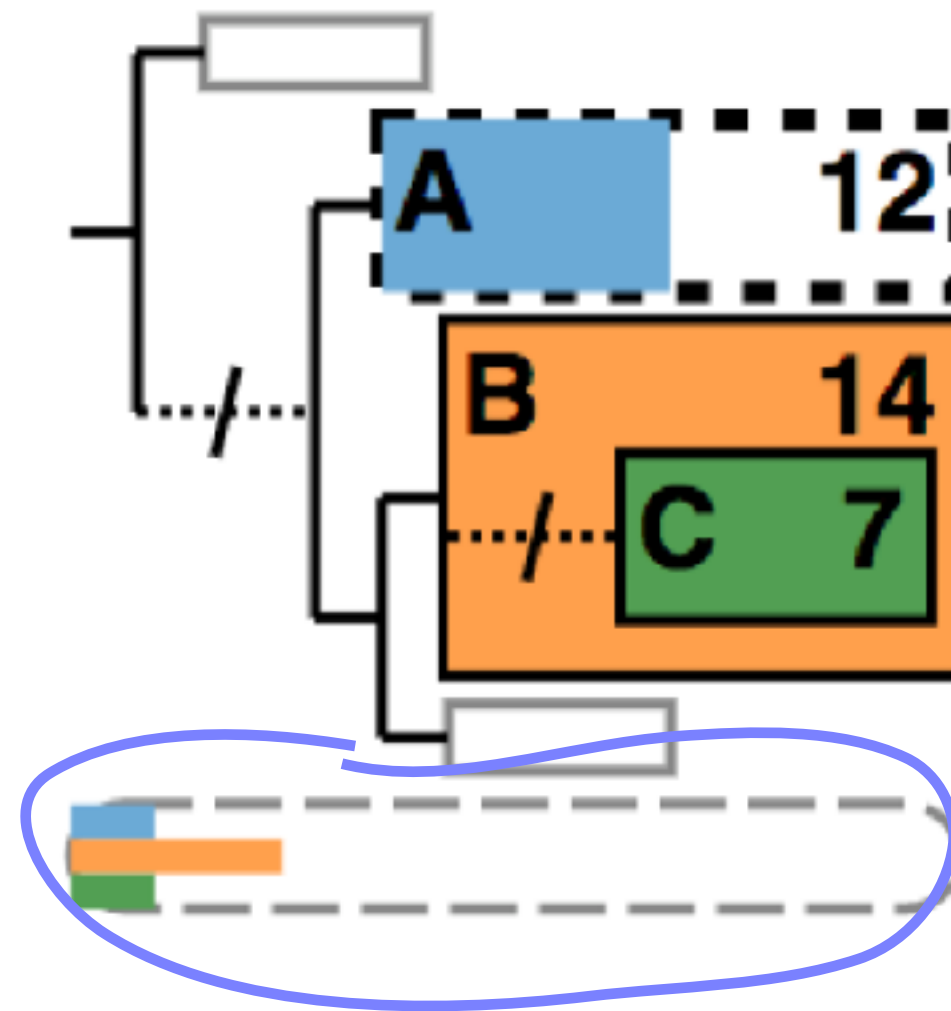
Visual design: focus + context

- Focus
 - Selected subtrees
 - Topological relationships between them
- Context
 - Neighboring subtrees
 - Upstream topology and root



Visual design: focus + context

- Focus
 - Selected subtrees
 - Topological relationships between them
- Context
 - Neighboring subtrees
 - Upstream topology and root
 - Missing leaf nodes



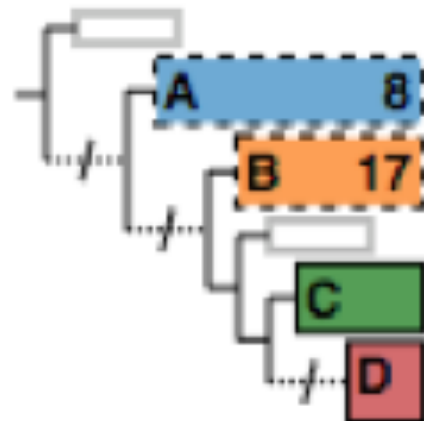
Visual design: algorithm adapts to space

- Show more info when space permitted
 - Labels
 - #leaf nodes
 - Neighboring blocks

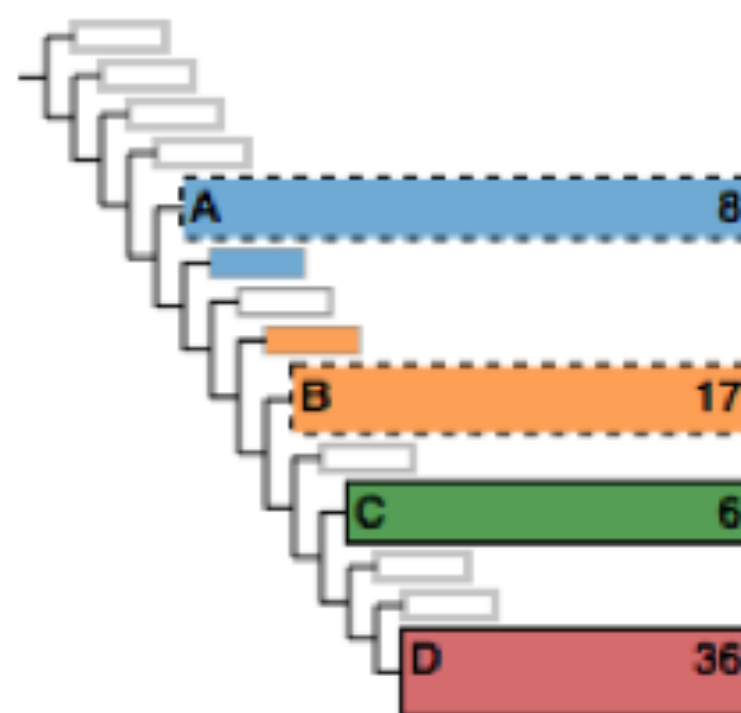
40x40 px



80x80 px



160x160 px



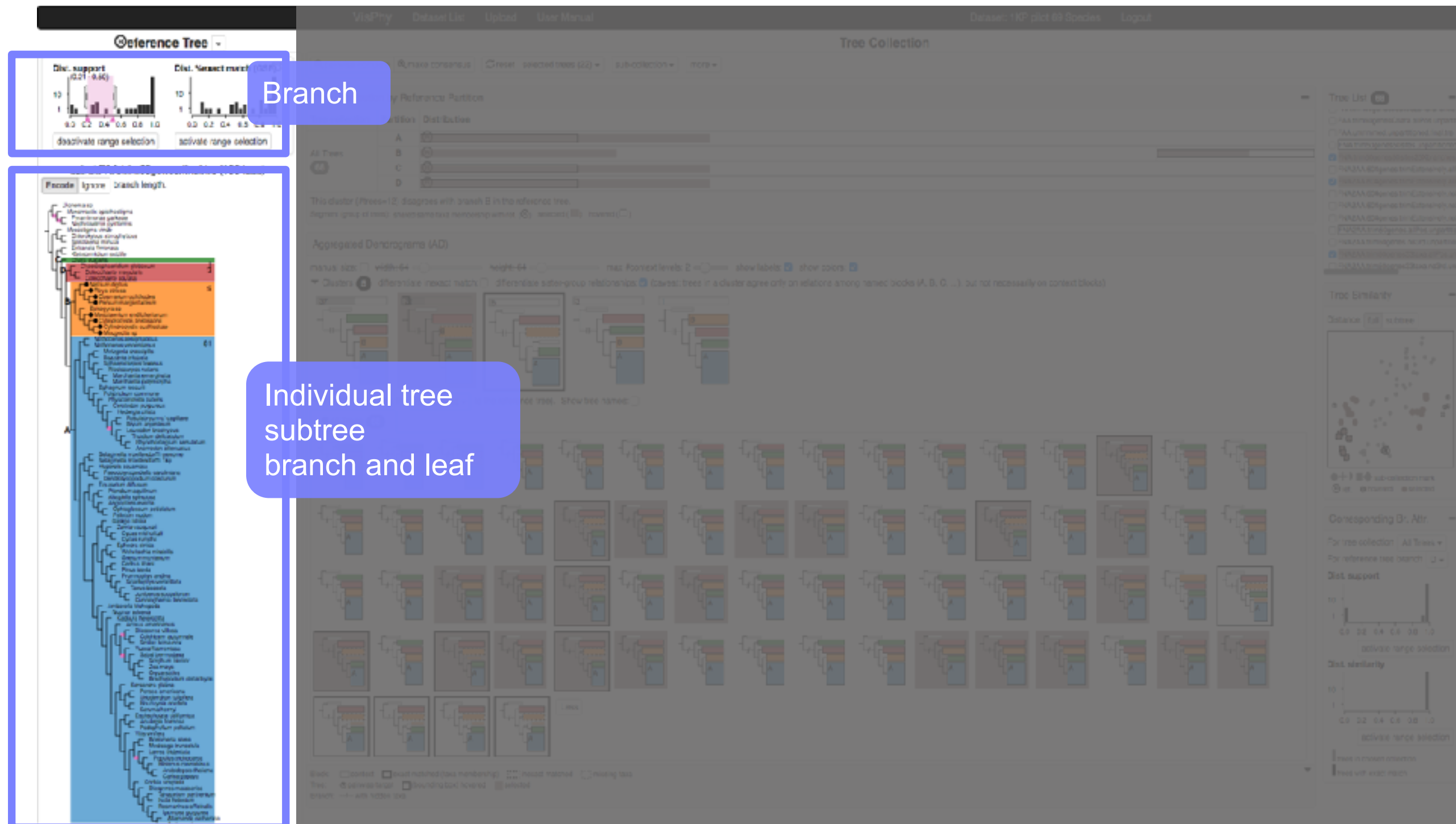
ADView Interface: Multi-level structure across views

The screenshot displays the ADView interface, which is used for analyzing phylogenetic tree collections. The interface is divided into several main sections:

- Reference Tree:** Located on the left, it shows a large phylogenetic tree with a color-coded background. Above it are two histograms: "Dist. support (0.21 - 0.4)" and "Dist. Exact match (0.01 - 0.1)".
- Tree Collection:** The top right section, featuring a "Tree Distribution by Reference Partition" table and a "Tree List" on the far right. The table shows partitions A, B, C, and D with their respective distributions across 66 trees.
- Aggregated Dendrograms (AD):** The central part of the interface, showing a grid of small dendrograms. It includes controls for "manual size", "width", "height", "max font size", "show labels", and "show colors". There are also checkboxes for "Clusters" and "Individuals".
- Tree Similarity:** A scatter plot on the right side showing the relationship between different trees.
- Corresponding Br. Attr.:** A section at the bottom right with two histograms: "Dist. support" and "Dist. similarity", both with "activate range selection" buttons.

At the top of the interface, there is a navigation bar with links for "VisPhy", "Dataset List", "Upload", "User Manual", "Dataset: 1KP plant 69 Species", and "Logout".

Multi-level structure across views



Interface walkthrough: tree collection main views

The screenshot displays the 'Tree Collection' interface. At the top, navigation links include 'VisPhy', 'Dataset List', 'Upload', and 'User Manual'. The current dataset is '1KP pilot 69 Species'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Tree Distribution by Reference Partition:** A table showing the distribution of trees across four partitions (A, B, C, D). A blue callout box labeled 'Tree collection Subset of trees' points to this table.
- Annotations and Clusters:** A section for 'Annotations (Annotations: 143)' with various filters and a 'Clusters' section. A blue callout box labeled 'Tree collection Subset of trees' points to this area.
- All Trees:** A grid of 66 small tree thumbnails. A blue callout box labeled 'Individual tree Subtree' points to one of these thumbnails.

On the right side, there are several panels:

- Tree List:** A list of tree identifiers with checkboxes for selection.
- Tree Similarity:** A scatter plot showing the similarity between trees.
- Corresponding Br. Attr.:** Two histograms showing 'Dist. support' and 'Dist. similarity' for the selected tree collection and a reference tree branch.

At the bottom left, there is a 'Reference Tree' panel showing a large tree structure and associated statistics.

Interface walkthrough: tree collection aux. views

The screenshot displays the 'Tree Collection' interface. On the left, a large reference tree is visible. The main area shows a grid of smaller trees. Three callout boxes are overlaid on the right side:

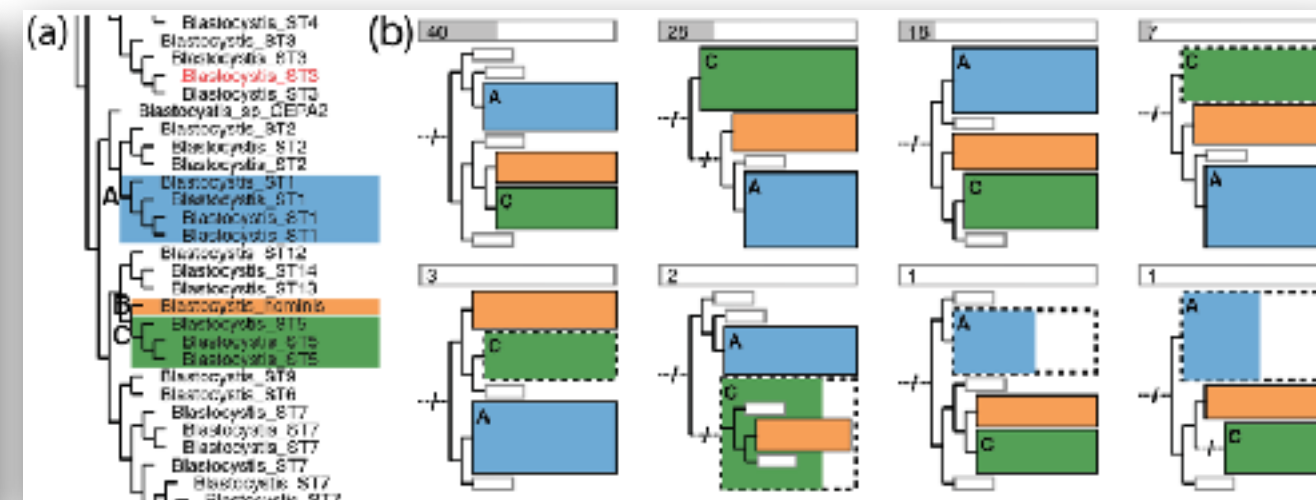
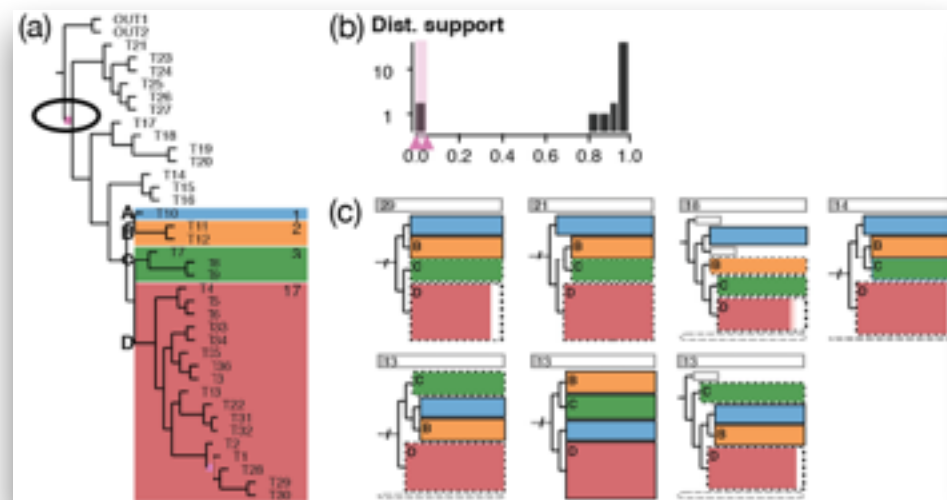
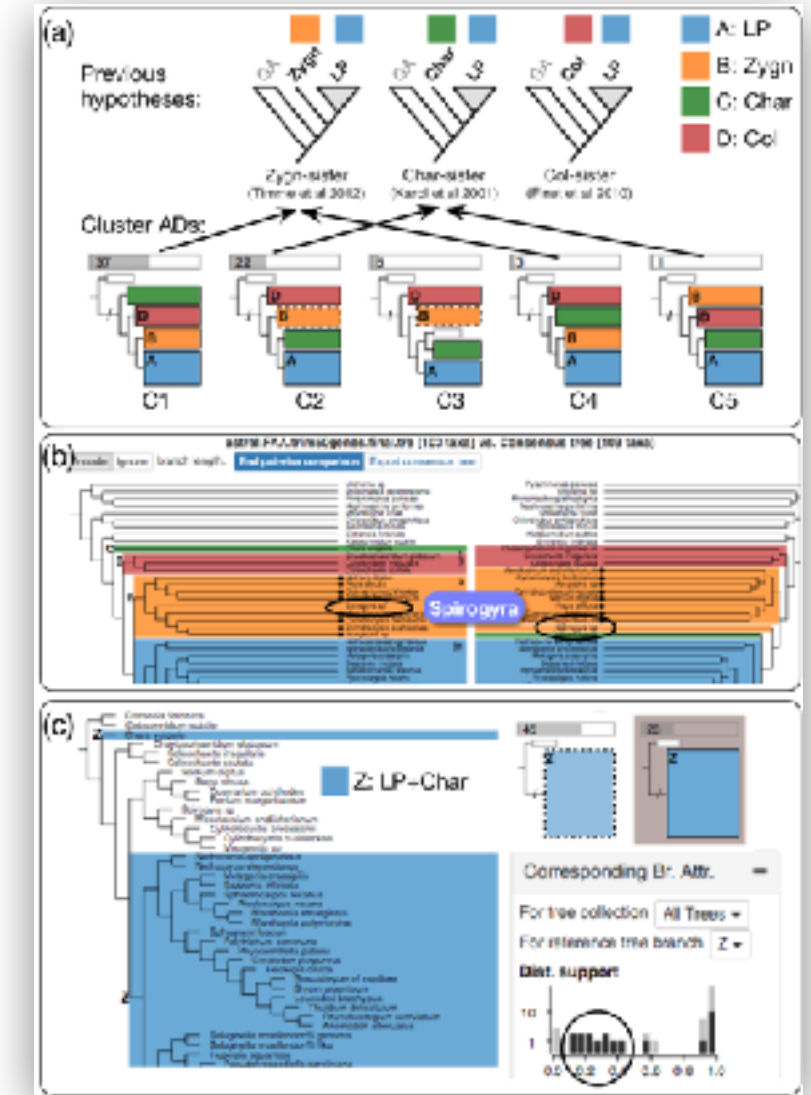
- Individual tree:** Points to a 'Tree List' panel on the right, which contains a list of tree identifiers with checkboxes.
- Tree collection:** Points to a scatter plot titled 'Distance' showing the relationship between different trees in the collection.
- branch:** Points to a 'Corresponding Br. Attr.' panel, which displays two histograms: 'Dist. support' and 'Dist. similarity', both showing distributions for a specific branch.

Validation with many biologists

- Work closely with a biology PhD student (second author)
- Demos, interviews and discussions
 - 10 biologists at different times throughout project

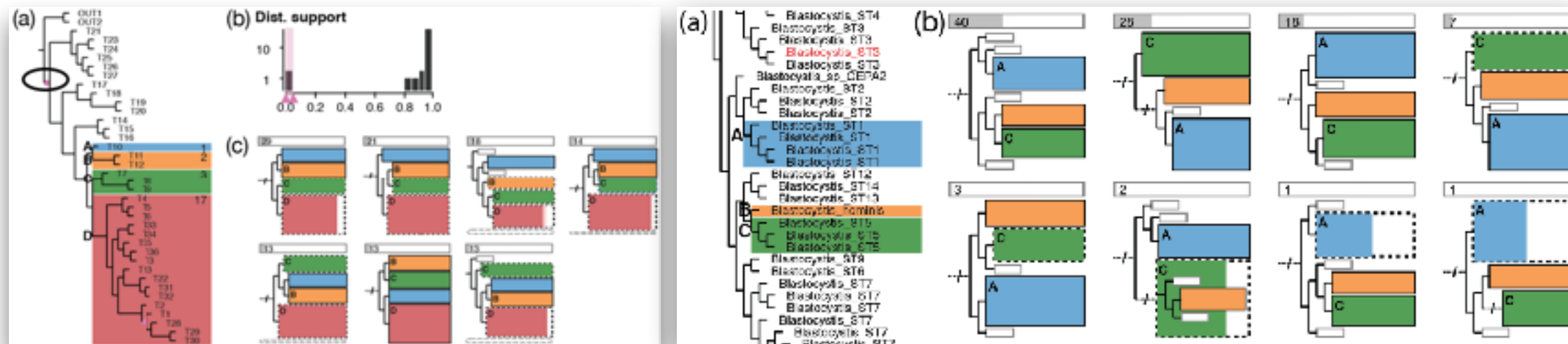
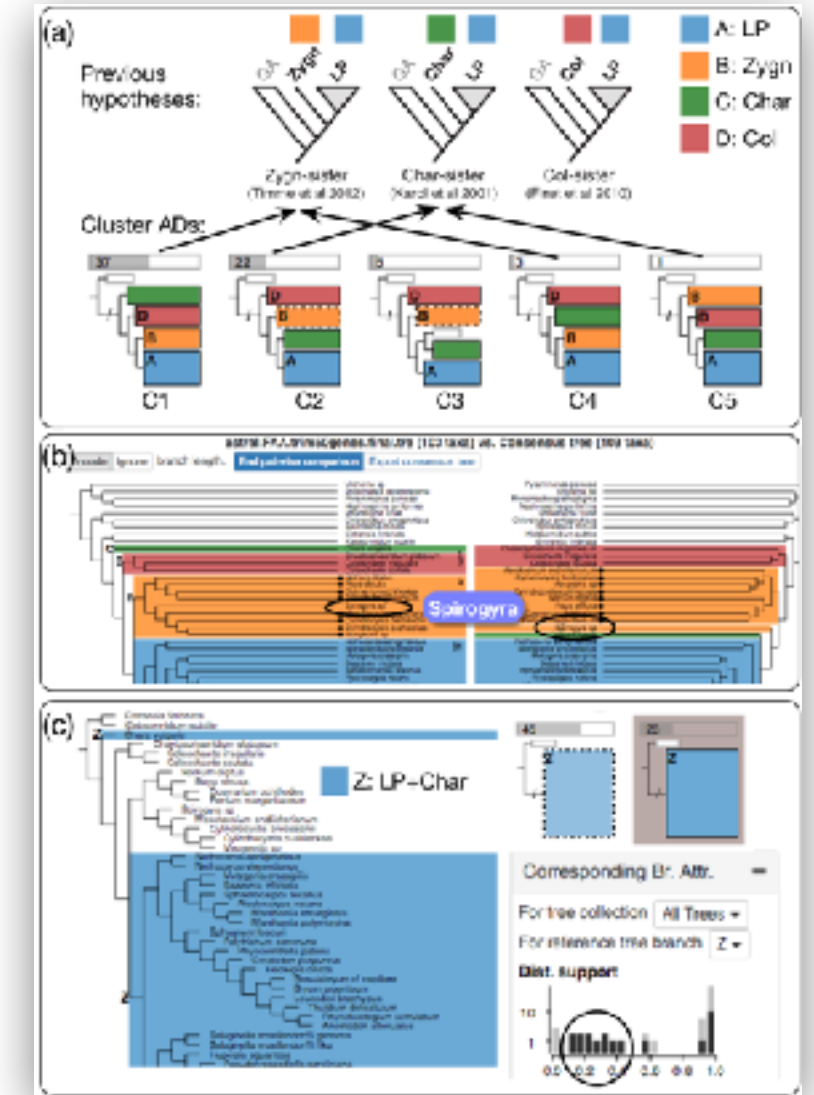
Validation with many biologists

- Work closely with a biology PhD student (second author)
- Demos, interviews and discussions
 - 10 biologists at different times throughout project
- User study sessions
 - 5 biologists
 - Using their own datasets



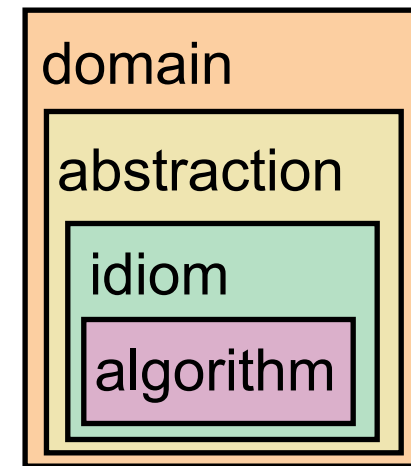
Validation with many biologists

- Work closely with a biology PhD student (second author)
- Demos, interviews and discussions
 - 10 biologists at different times throughout project
- User study sessions
 - 5 biologists
 - Using their own datasets
- Biologists confirmed
 - Validity of data and task abstractions
 - Utility of ADView



Problem-driven visualization through design studies

- methodology matters
 - identify abstractions
 - crucial & difficult, iterative process
 - select appropriate idioms
 - or create new ones if necessary
- three examples
 - different domains
 - different methods

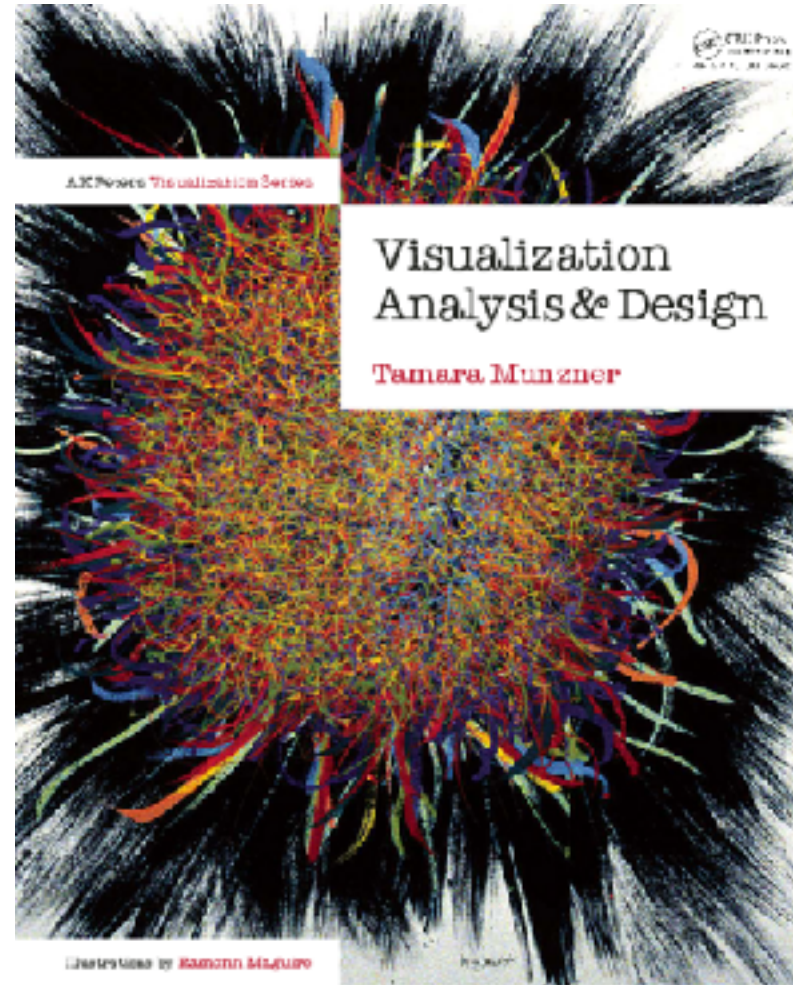


More information

- theoretical foundations: book (+ tutorial/course lecture slides)

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/vadbook>

Visualization Analysis and Design.
Munzner.
AK Peters Visualization Series.
CRC Press, 2014.



- papers, videos, software, talks, courses

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/group/infovis>

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm>

- this talk

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#vinci21>

 [@tamaramunzner](https://twitter.com/tamaramunzner)

