Week 2: Tasks & Data, Tables

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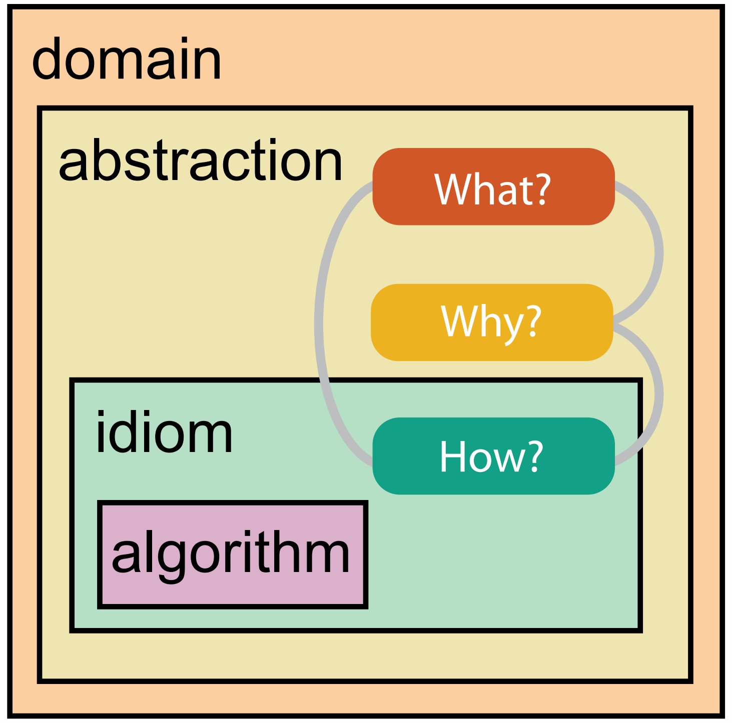
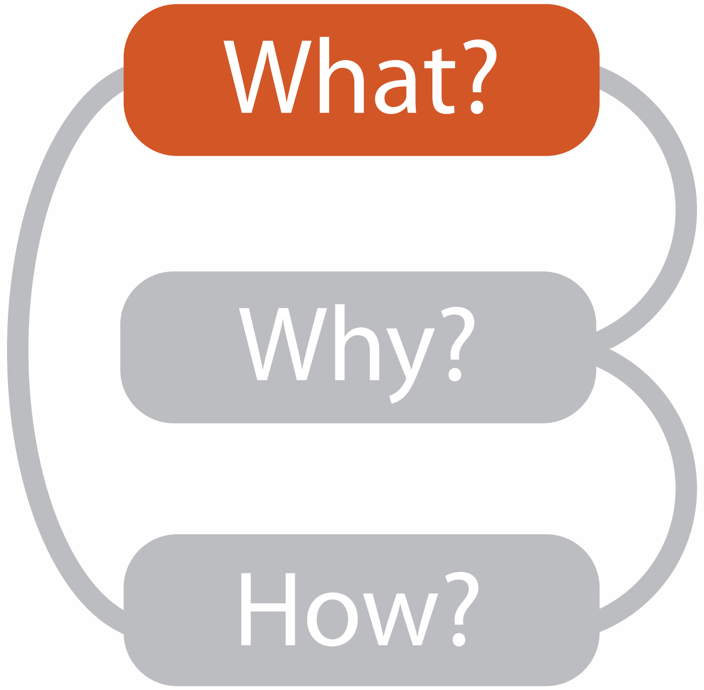
JRNL 520M, Special Topics in Contemporary Journalism: Visualization for Journalists
Week 2: 22 September 2015

http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/courses/journ15

Data abstraction: What

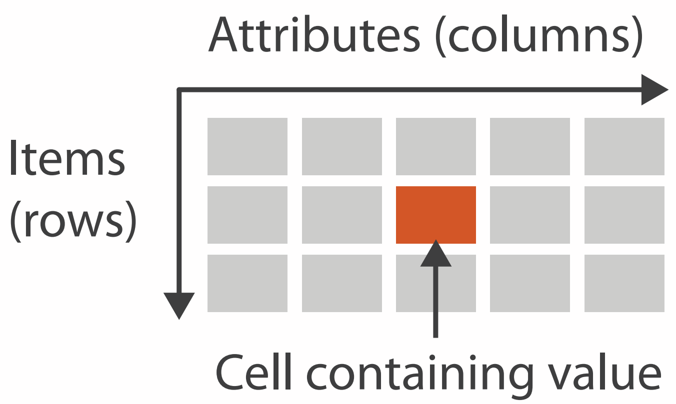




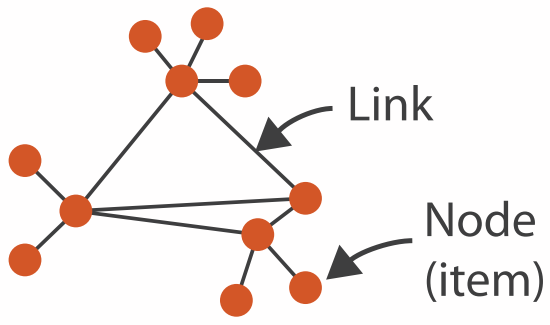
Data Abstraction

➔ Dataset Types

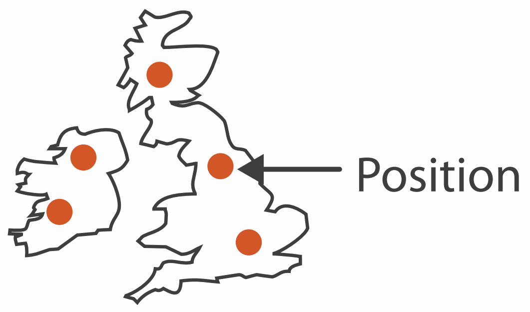
➔ Tables



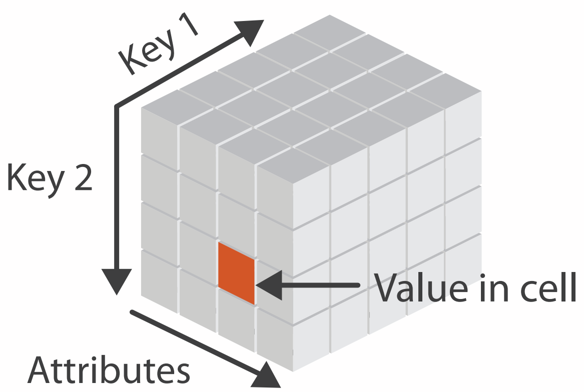
➔ Networks



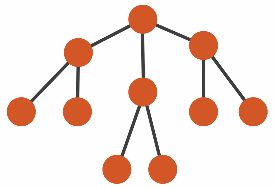
➔ Spatial



➔ *Multidimensional Table*



➔ *Trees*



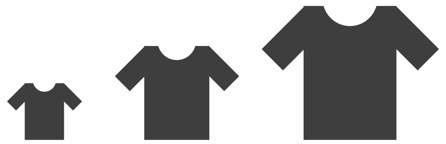
Attribute types

➔ Attribute Types

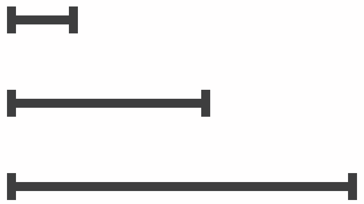
➔ Categorical

➔ Ordered

➔ *Ordinal*



➔ *Quantitative*

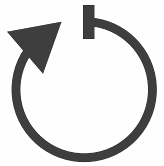


➔ Ordering Direction

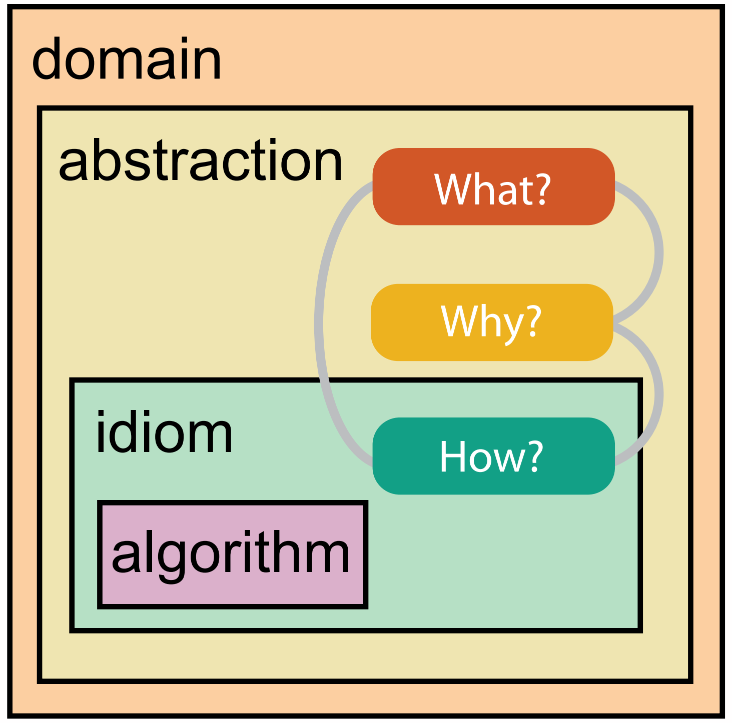
➔ Sequential

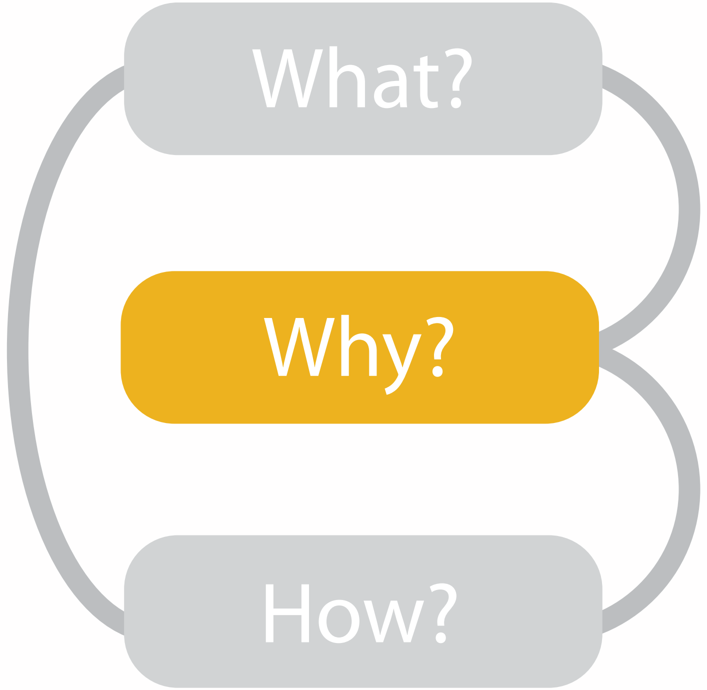
➔ Diverging

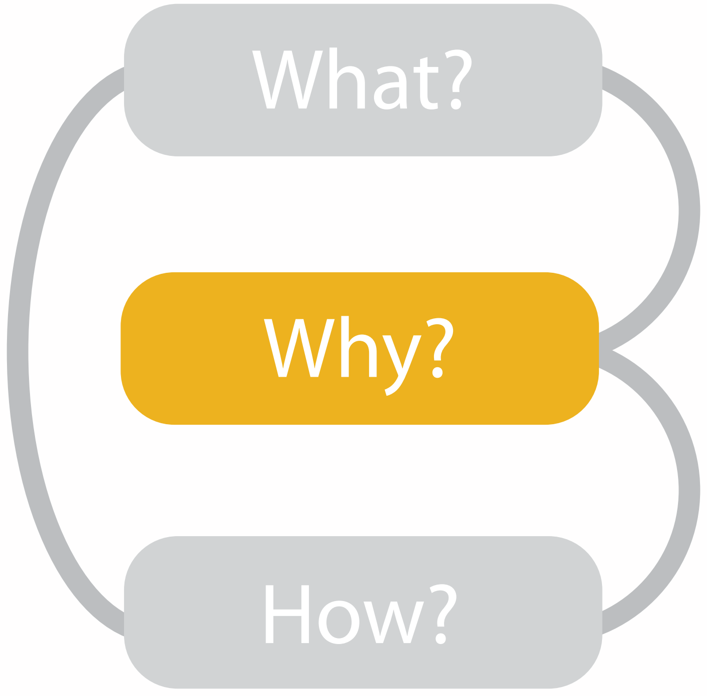
➔ Cyclic



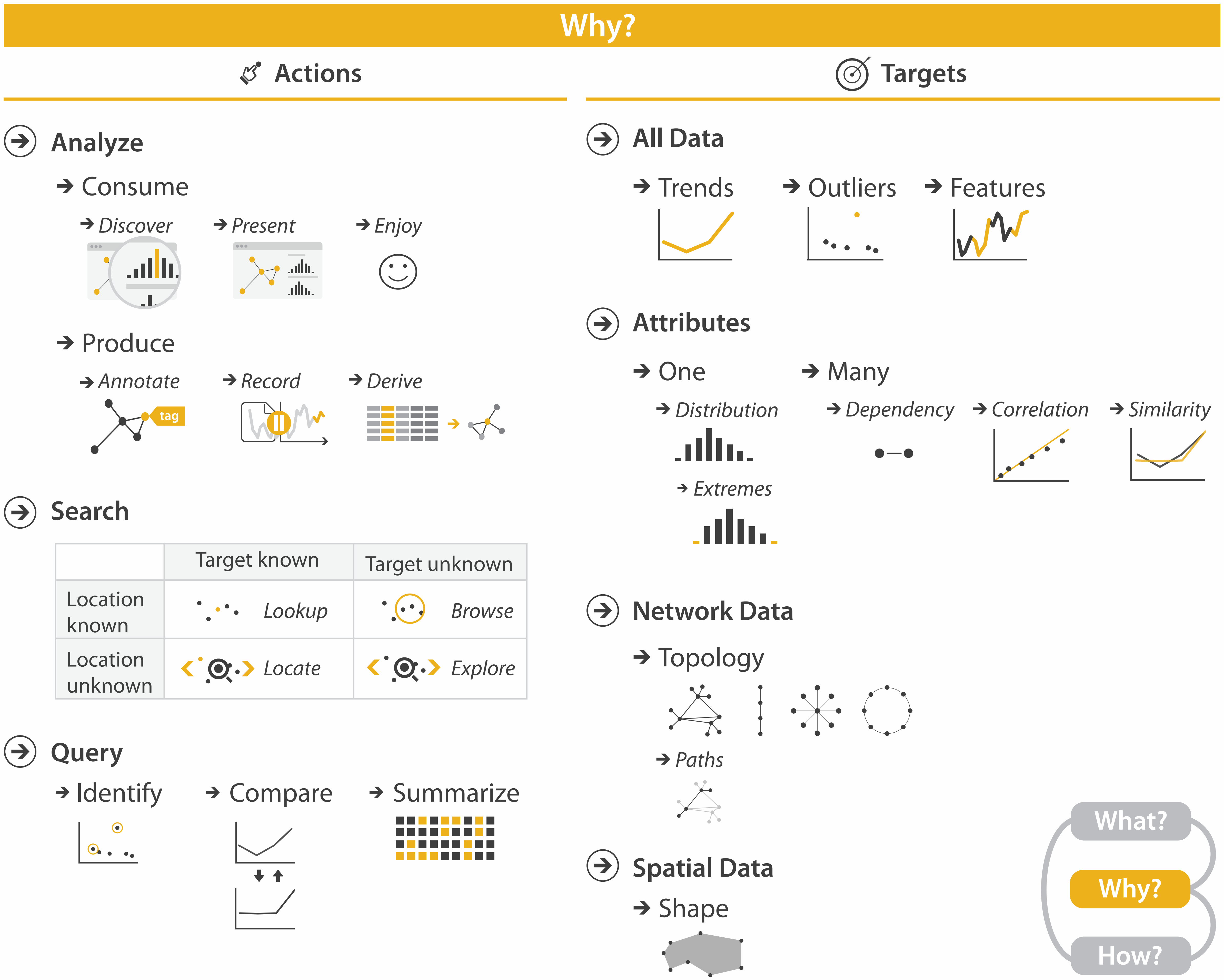
Tasks abstraction: Why







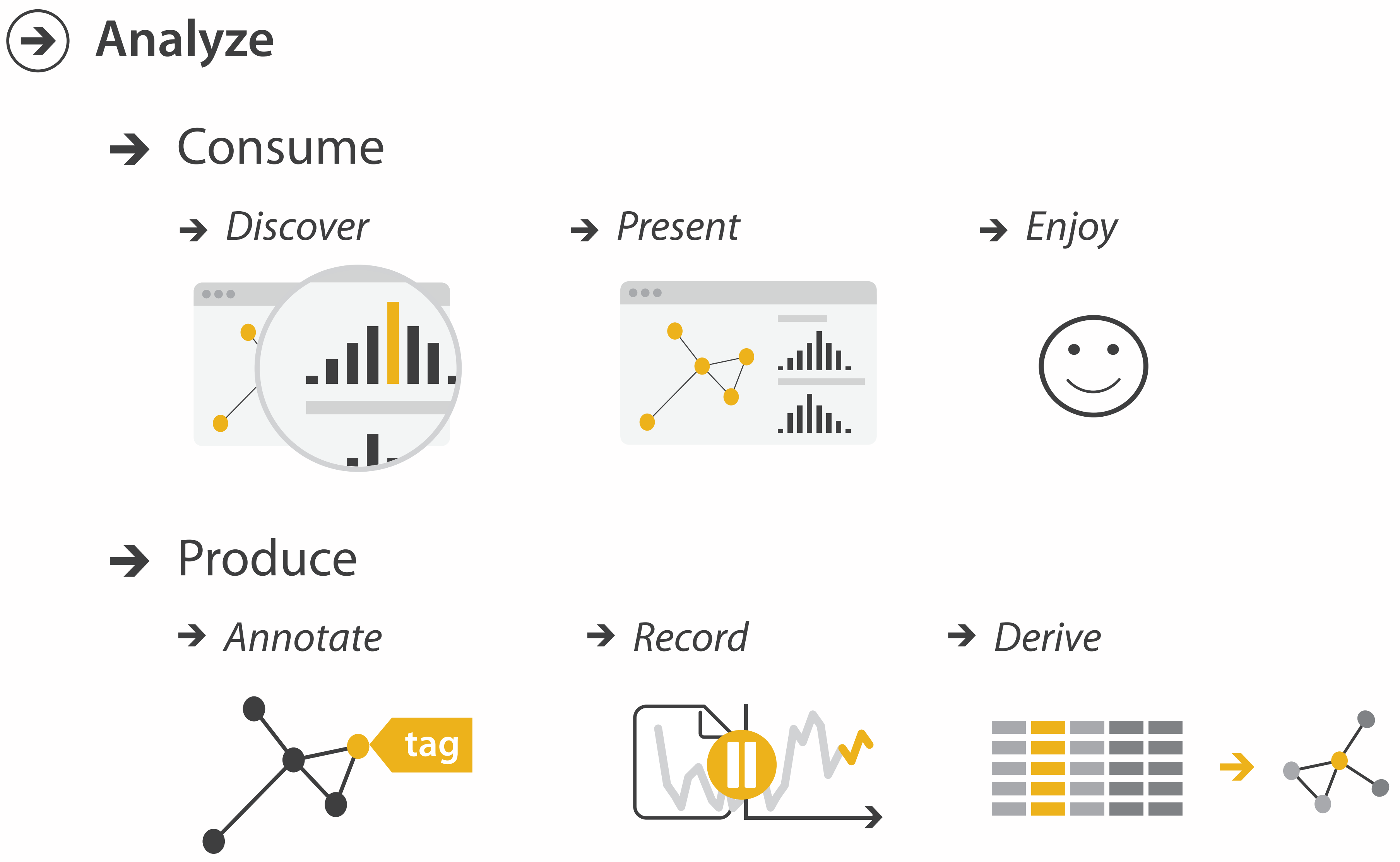
- {action, target} pairs
  - *discover distribution*
  - *compare trends*
  - *locate outliers*
  - *browse topology*



Actions: Analyze

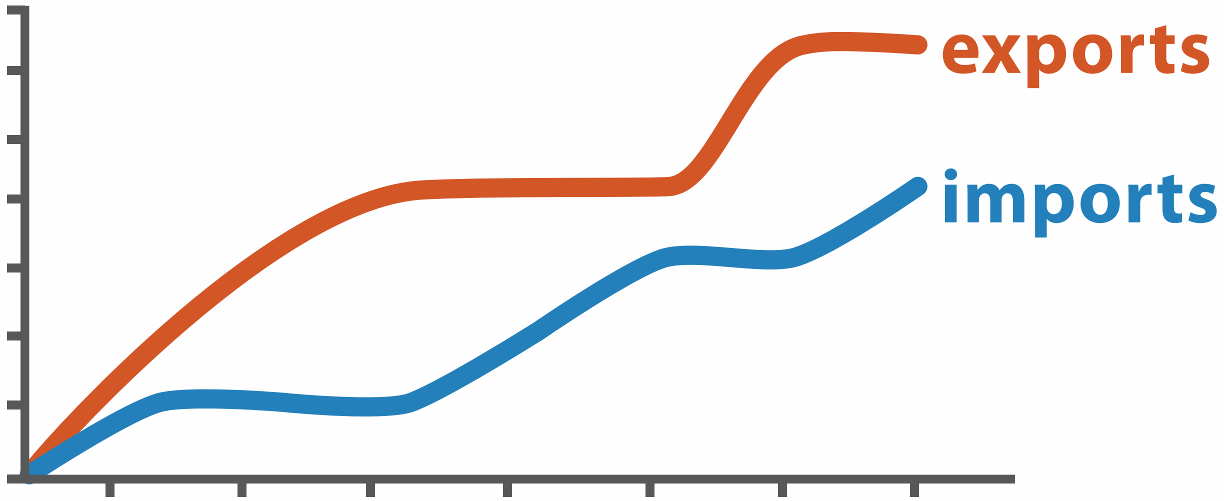
- consume
  - discover vs present
    - classic split
    - aka explore vs explain
  - enjoy
    - newcomer
    - aka casual, social

- produce
  - annotate, record
  - derive
    - crucial design choice

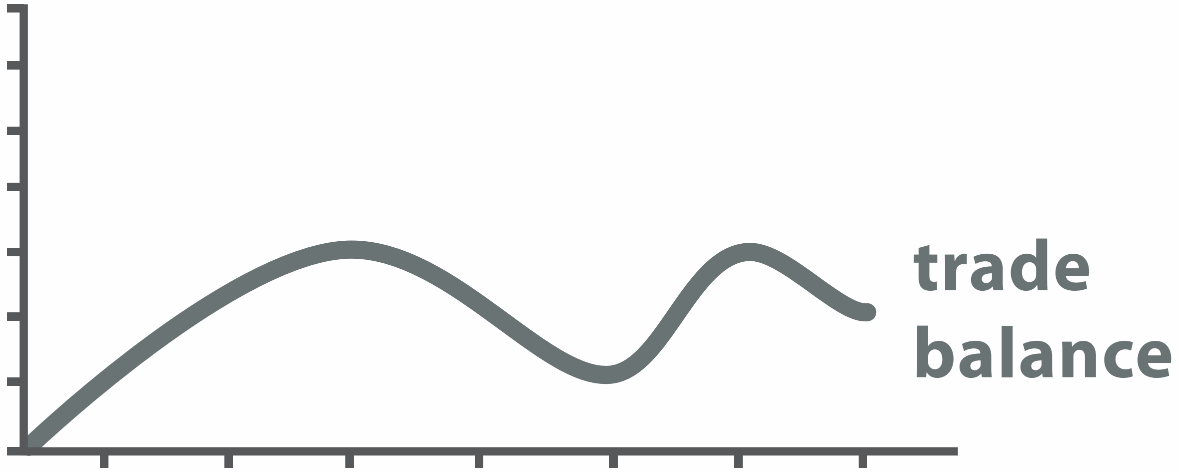


Derive

- don't just draw what you're given!
  - decide what the right thing to show is
  - create it with a series of transformations from the original dataset
  - draw that
- one of the four major strategies for handling complexity



Original Data



trade balance = exports − imports

Derived Data

Actions: Search, query

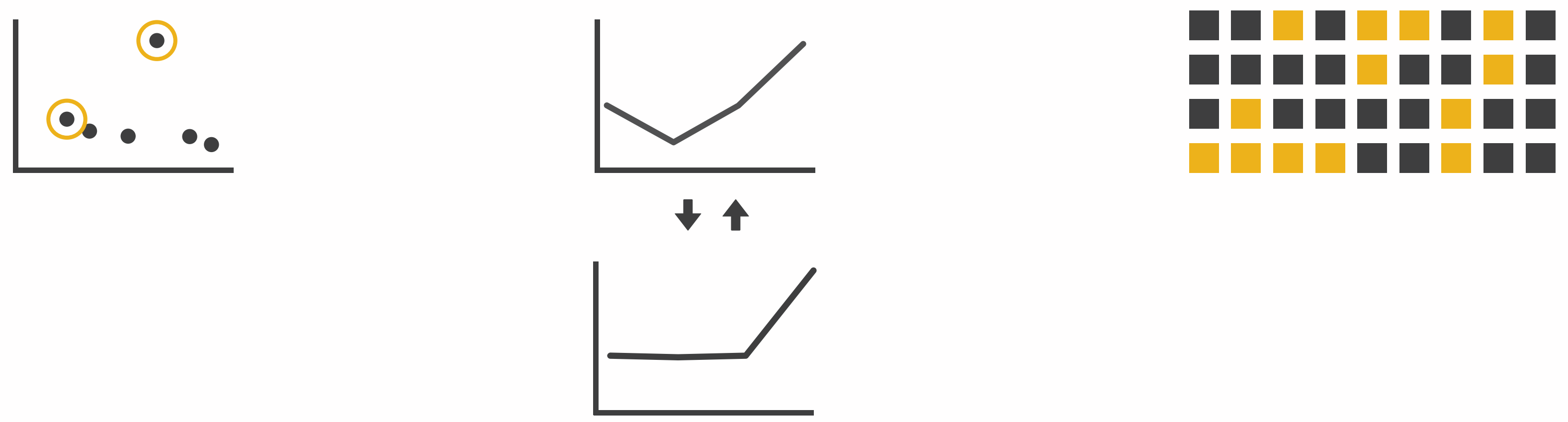
- what does user know?
  - target, location
- how much of the data matters?
  - one, some, all
- independent choices for each of these three levels
  - analyze, search, query
  - mix and match

➔ Search

	Target known	Target unknown
Location known	*Lookup*	*Browse*
Location unknown	*Locate*	*Explore*

➔ Query

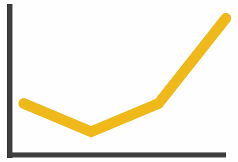
→ Identify → Compare → Summarize



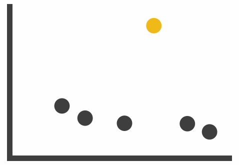
Why: Targets

ALL DATA

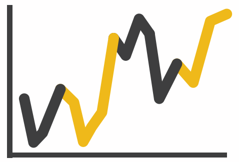
- Trends



- Outliers

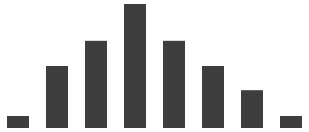


- Features

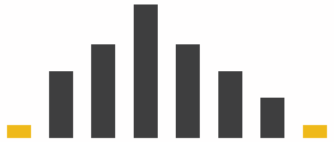


ATTRIBUTES

- One
  - *Distribution*

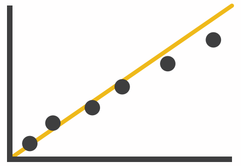


  - *Extremes*

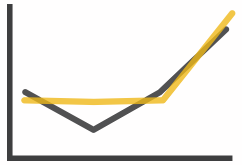


- Many
  - *Dependency*

  - *Correlation*

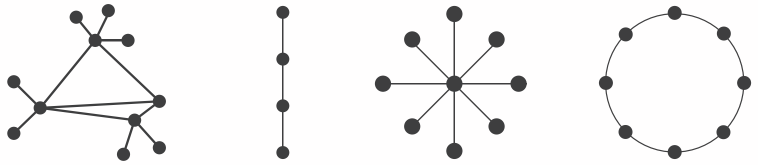


  - *Similarity*

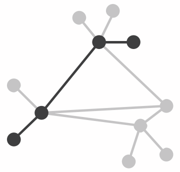


NETWORK DATA

- Topology

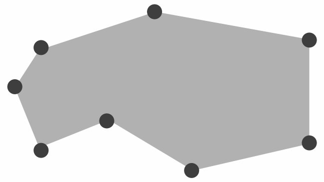


  - *Paths*



SPATIAL DATA

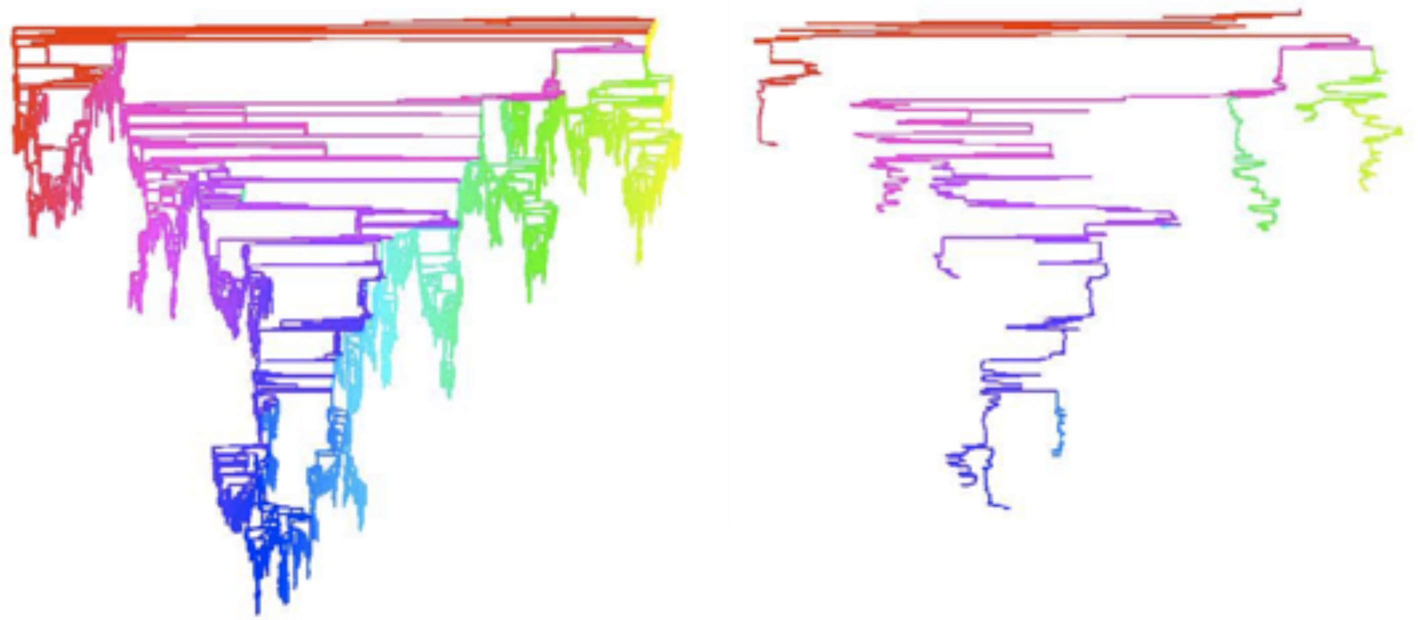
- Shape

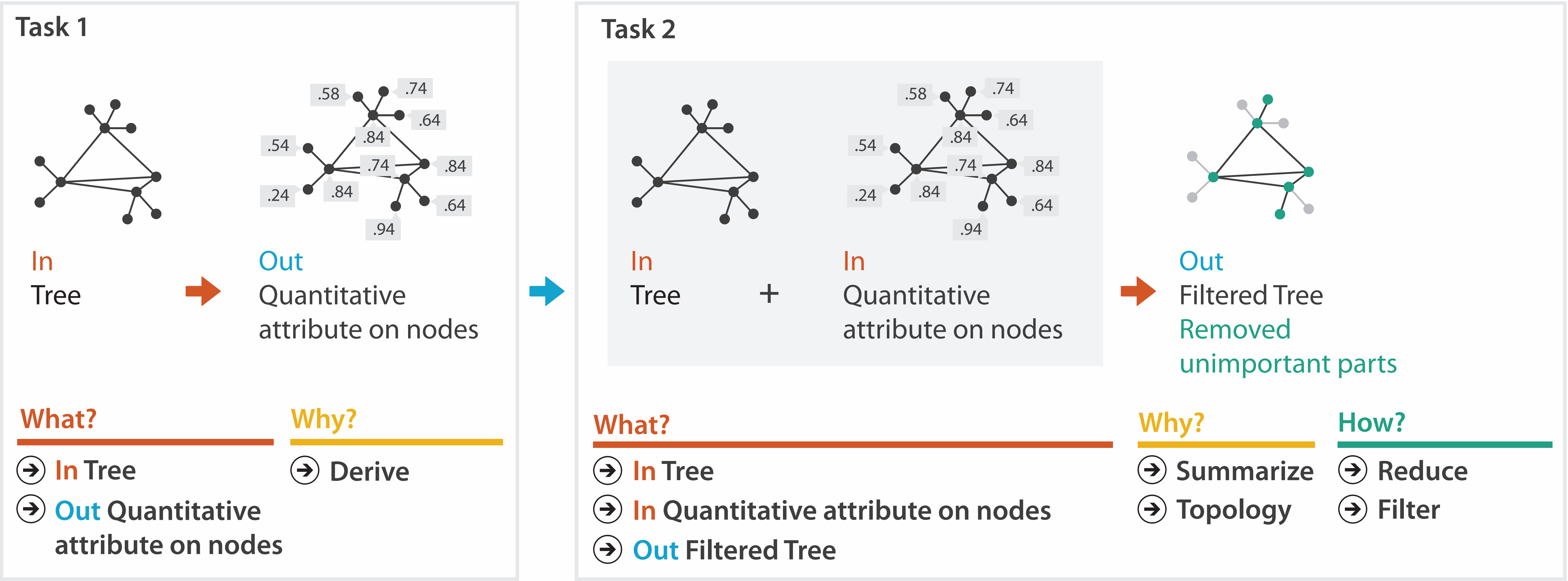


Analysis example: Derive one attribute

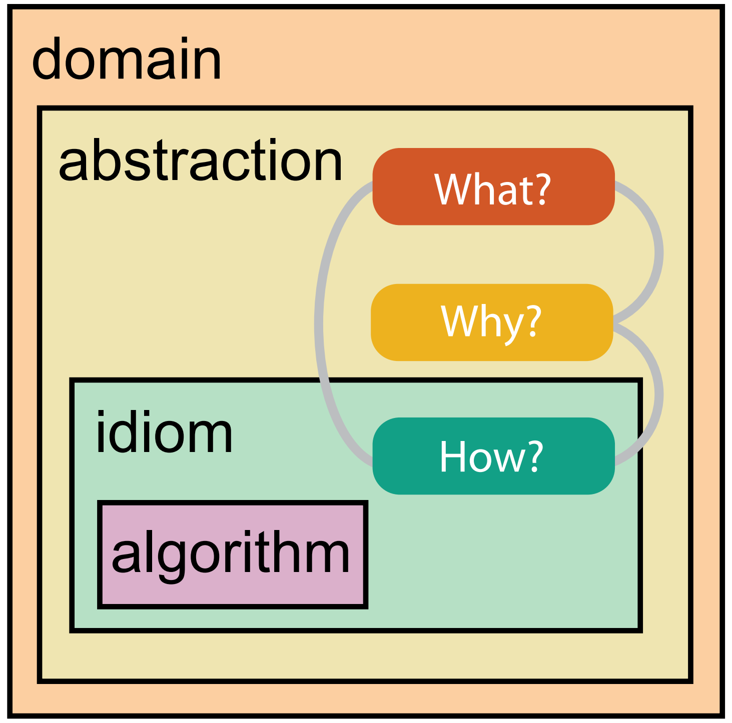
- Strahler number
  - centrality metric for trees/networks
  - derived quantitative attribute
  - draw top 5K of 500K for good skeleton

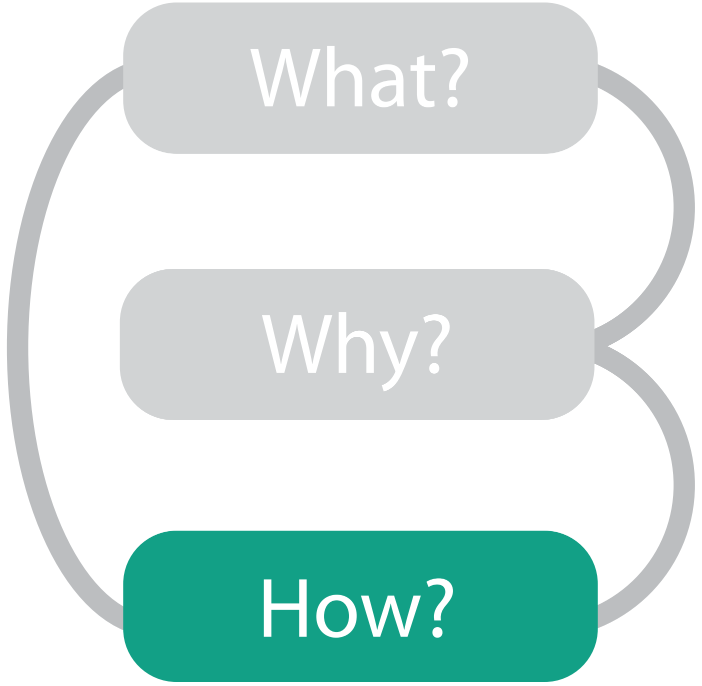
[Using Strahler numbers for real time visual exploration of huge graphs. Auber. Proc. Intl. Conf. Computer Vision and Graphics, pp. 56–69, 2002.]





Visual encoding and interaction idiom: How





How?

Encode

Arrange
- → Express
- → Separate
- → Order
- → Align
- → Use

Map
from categorical and ordered attributes

- → Color
  - → *Hue*
  - → *Saturation*
  - → *Luminance*
- → Size, Angle, Curvature, ...
- → Shape
- → Motion
  - *Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...*

Manipulate

Change

Select

Navigate

Facet

Juxtapose

Partition

Superimpose

Reduce

Filter

Aggregate

Embed

What?

Why?

How?

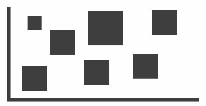
How?

Encode

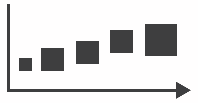
Arrange

- Express

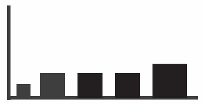
- Separate



- Order



- Align



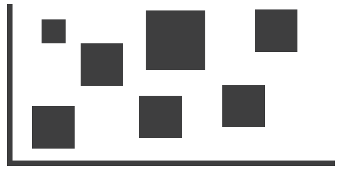
Encode tables: Arrange space

Encode

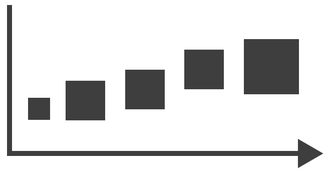
Arrange

→ Express

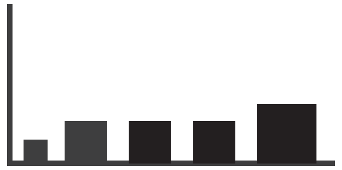
→ Separate



→ Order

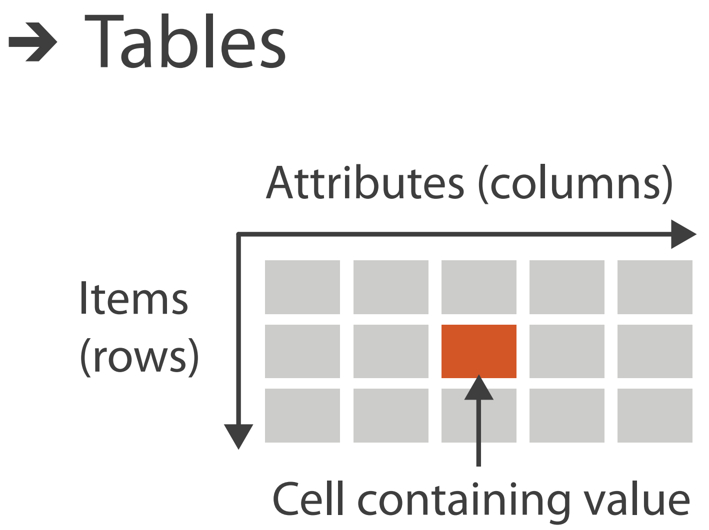


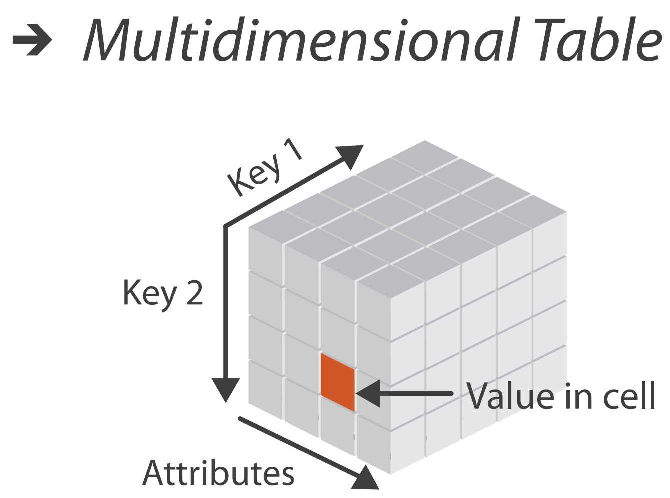
→ Align

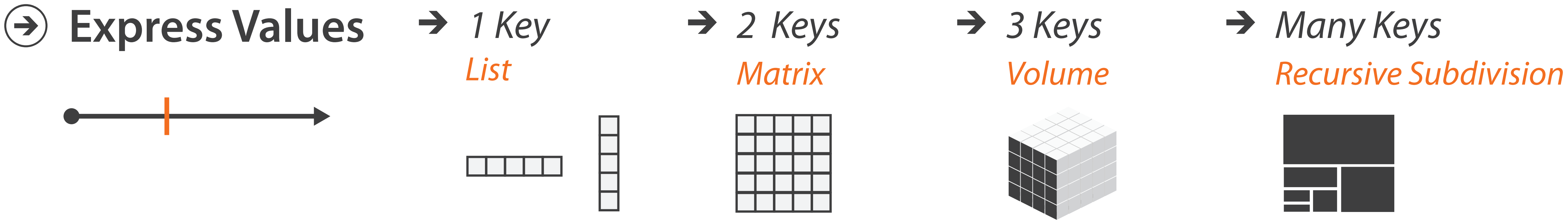


Keys and values

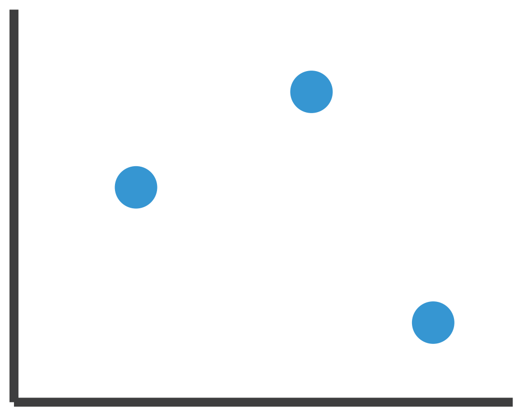
- key
  - independent attribute
  - used as unique index to look up items
  - simple tables: 1 key
  - multidimensional tables: multiple keys
- value
  - dependent attribute, value of cell
- classify arrangements by key count
  - 0, 1, 2, many...



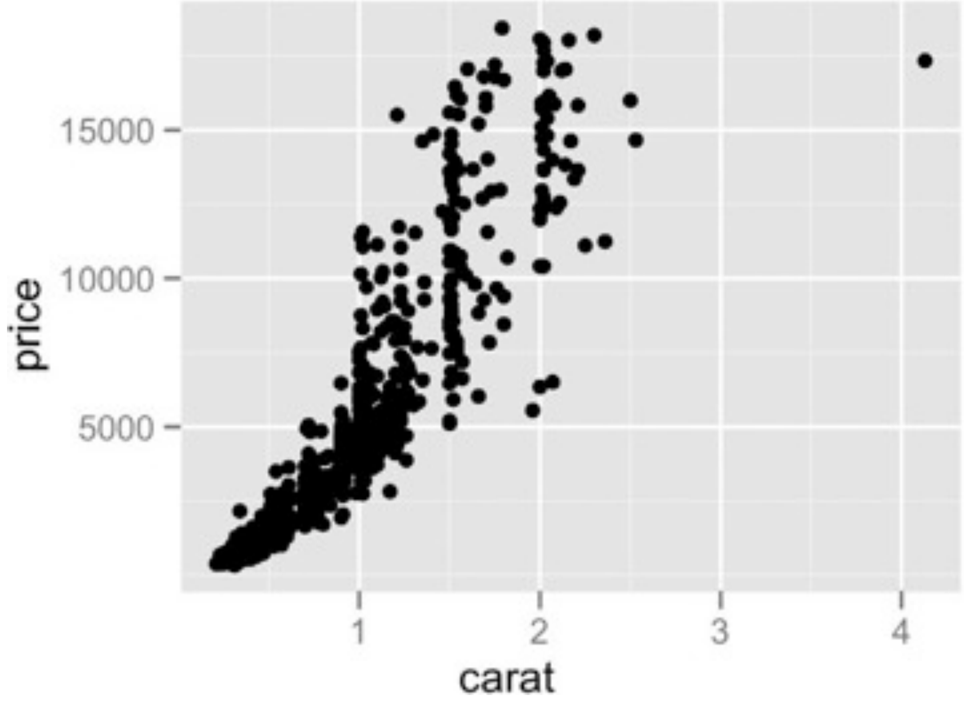


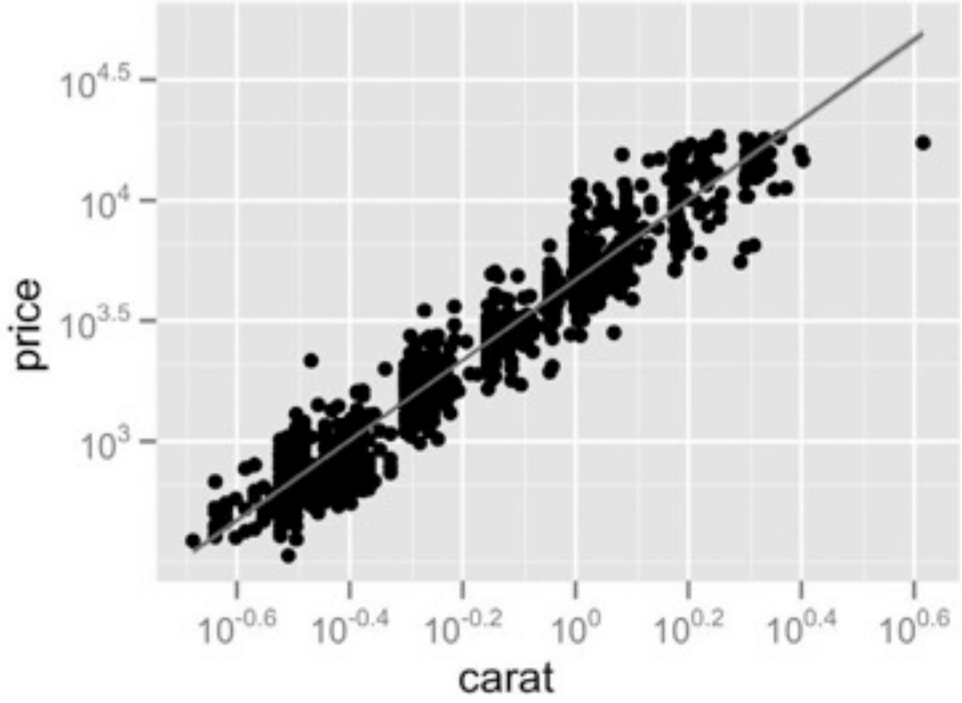


Idiom: **scatterplot**



- ***express*** values
  - quantitative attributes
- no keys, only values
  - data
    - 2 quant attribs
  - mark: points
  - channels
    - horiz + vert position
  - tasks
    - find trends, outliers, distribution, correlation, clusters
  - scalability
    - hundreds of items





[A layered grammar of graphics. Wickham. Journ. Computational and Graphical Statistics 19:1 (2010), 3–28.]

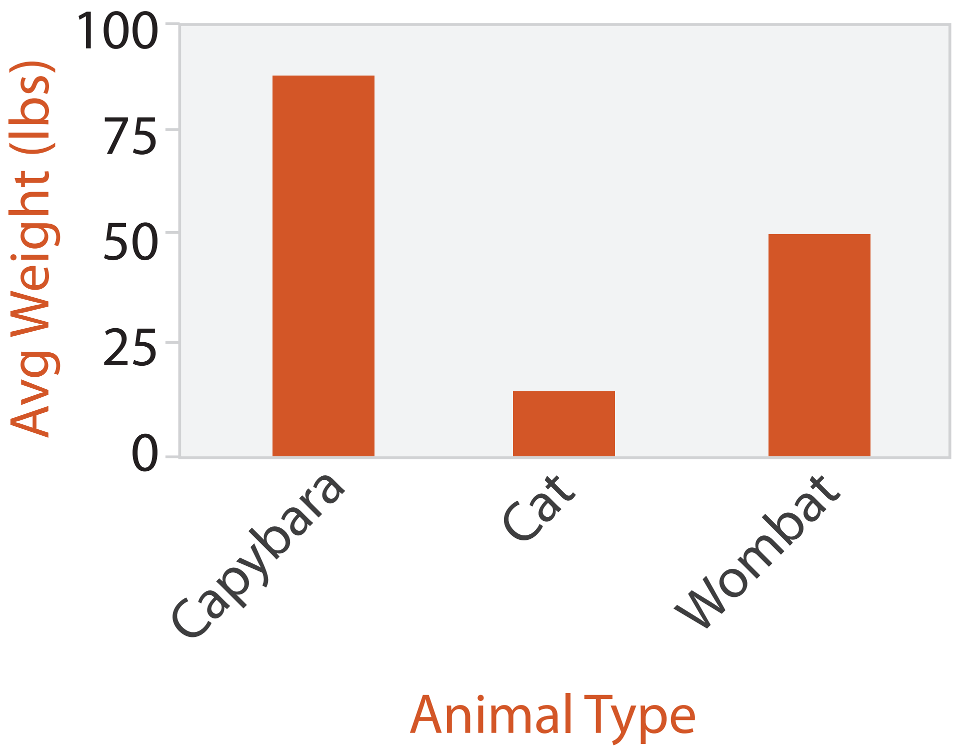
Some keys: Categorical regions

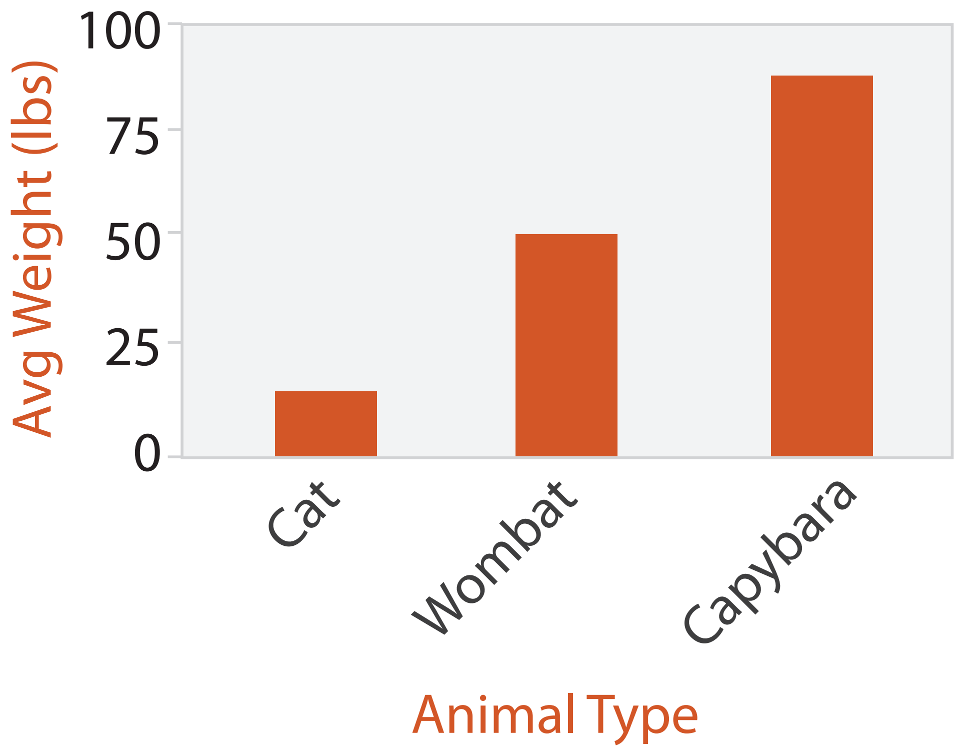
→ Separate → Order → Align

- **regions**: contiguous bounded areas distinct from each other
  - using space to ***separate*** (proximity)
  - following expressiveness principle for categorical attributes
- use ordered attribute to ***order*** and ***align*** regions

→ *1 Key* *List* → *2 Keys* *Matrix* → *3 Keys* *Volume* → *Many Keys* *Recursive Subdivision*

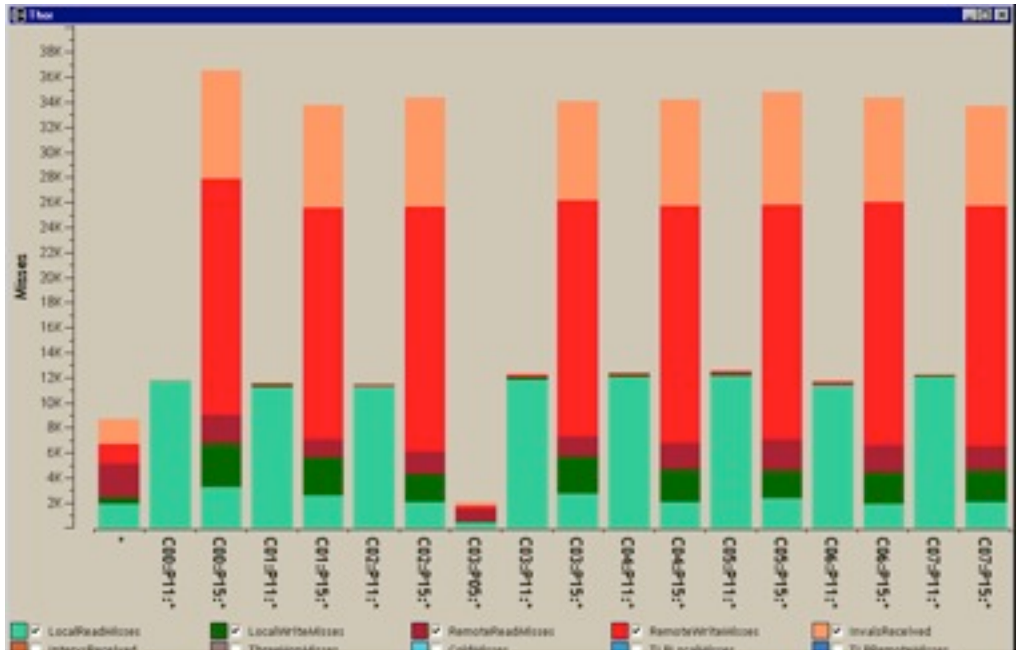
Idiom: **bar chart**





- one key, one value
  - data
    - 1 categ attrib, 1 quant attrib
  - mark: lines
  - channels
    - length to express quant value
    - spatial regions: one per mark
      - separated horizontally, aligned vertically
      - ordered by quant attrib
        - » by label (alphabetical), by length attrib (data-driven)
  - task
    - compare, lookup values
  - scalability
    - dozens to hundreds of levels for key attrib

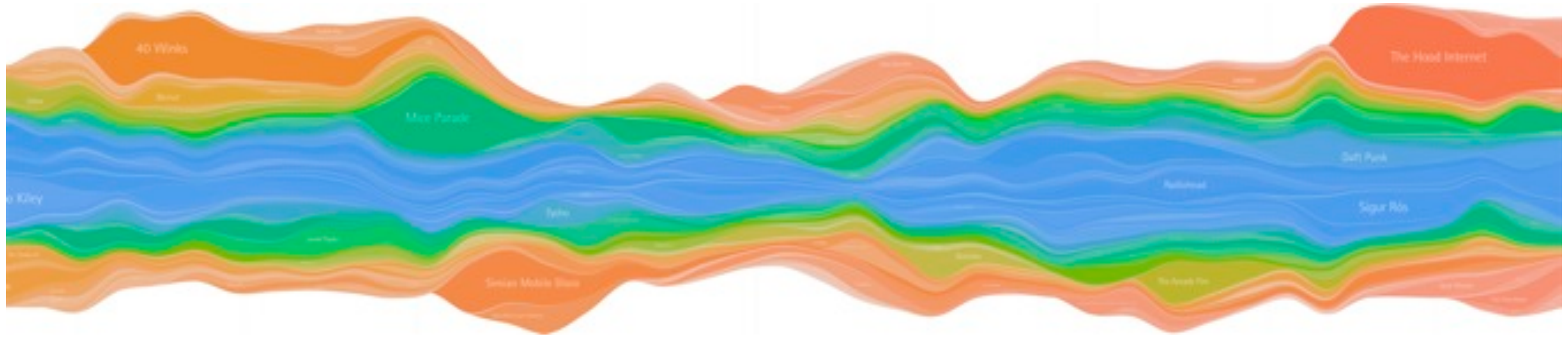
Idiom: **stacked bar chart**



- one more key
  - data
    - 2 categ attrib, 1 quant attrib
  - mark: vertical stack of line marks
    - **glyph**: composite object, internal structure from multiple marks
  - channels
    - length and color hue
    - spatial regions: one per glyph
      - aligned: full glyph, lowest bar component
      - unaligned: other bar components
  - task
    - part-to-whole relationship
  - scalability
    - several to one dozen levels for stacked attrib

[Using Visualization to Understand the Behavior of Computer Systems. Bosch. Ph.D. thesis, Stanford Computer Science, 2001.]

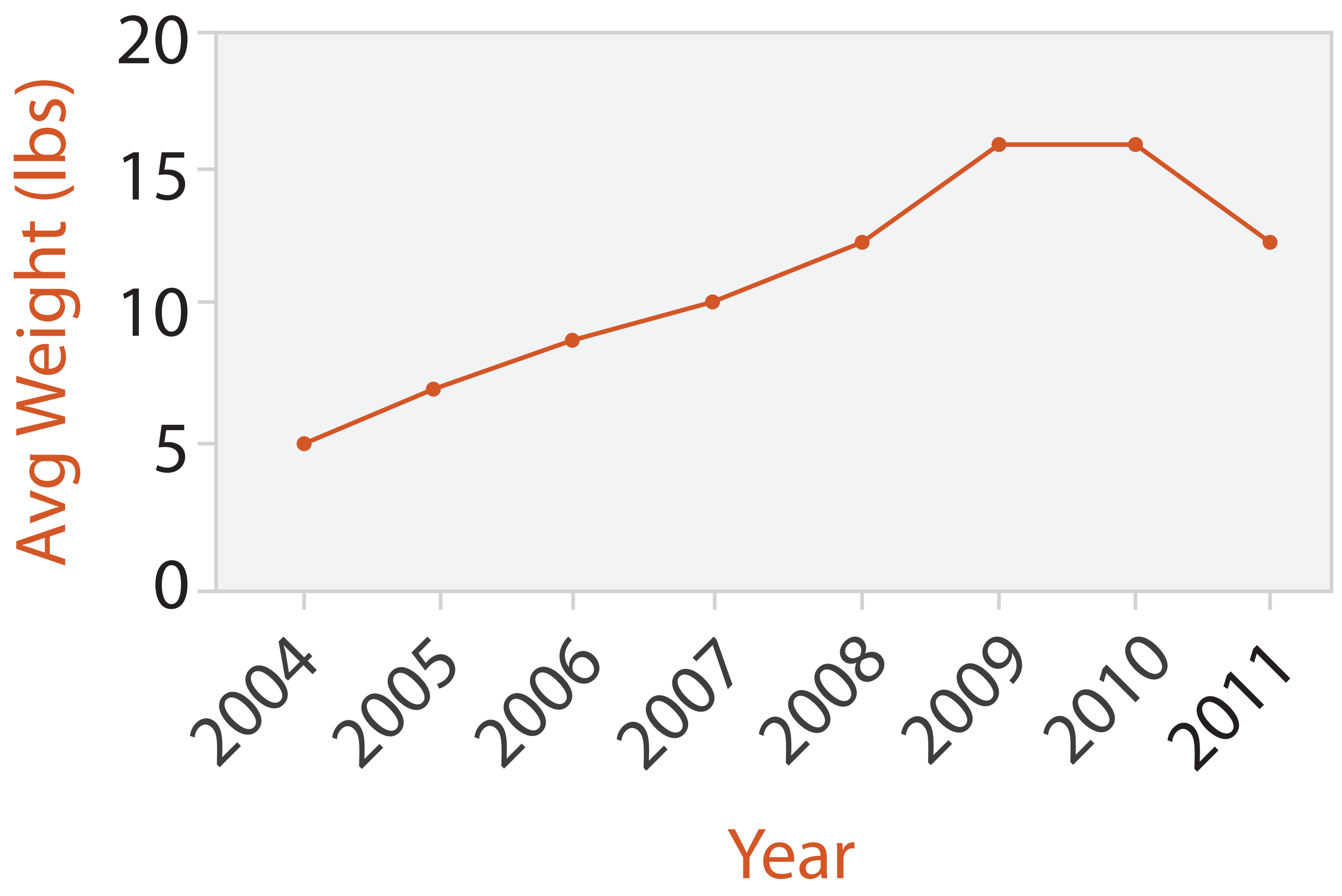
Idiom: **streamgraph**



[Stacked Graphs Geometry & Aesthetics. Byron and Wattenberg. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis 2008) 14(6): 1245–1252, (2008).]

- generalized stacked graph
  - emphasizing horizontal continuity
    - vs vertical items
  - data
    - 1 categ key attrib (artist)
    - 1 ordered key attrib (time)
    - 1 quant value attrib (counts)
  - derived data
    - geometry: layers, where height encodes counts
    - 1 quant attrib (layer ordering)
  - scalability
    - hundreds of time keys
    - dozens to hundreds of artist keys
      - more than stacked bars, since most layers don't extend across whole chart

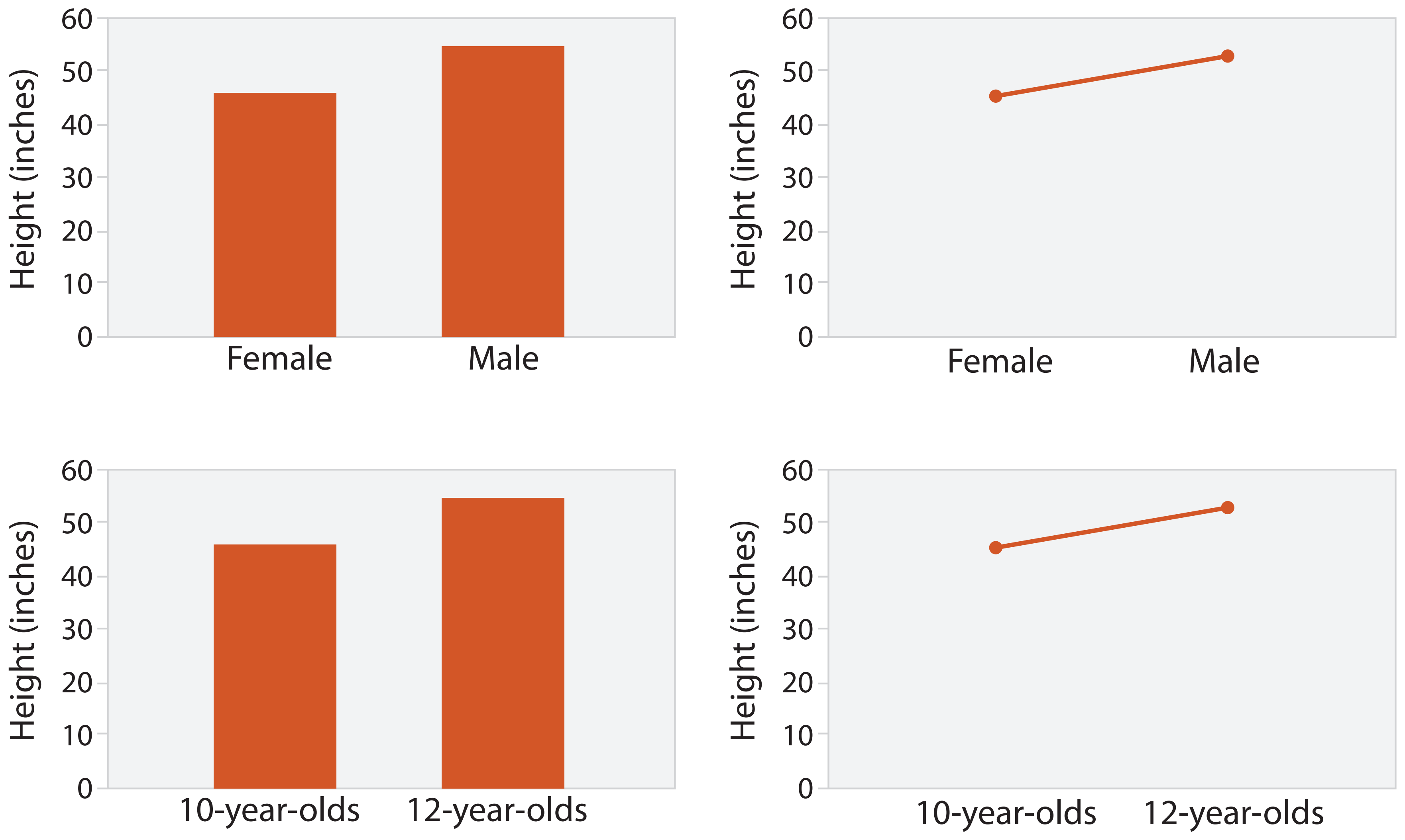
Idiom: **line chart**



- one key, one value
  - data
    - 2 quant attribs
  - mark: points
    - line connection marks between them
  - channels
    - aligned lengths to express quant value
    - separated and ordered by key attrib into horizontal regions
  - task
    - find trend
      - connection marks emphasize ordering of items along key axis by explicitly showing relationship between one item and the next

Choosing bar vs line charts

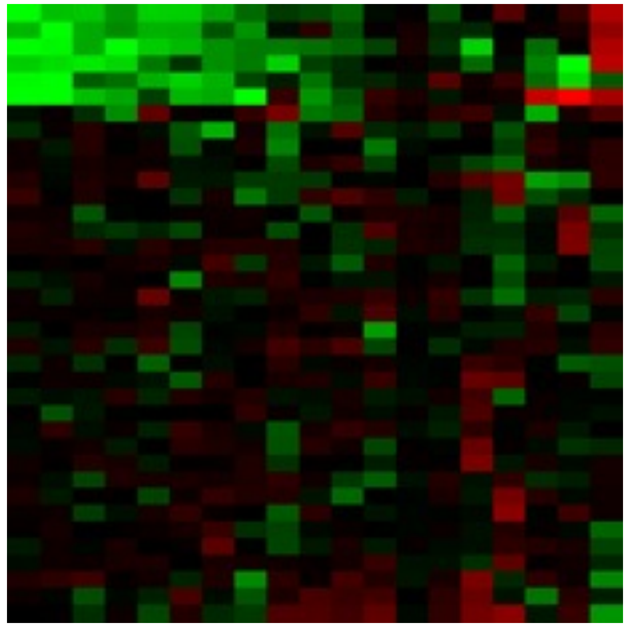
- depends on type of key attrib
  - bar charts if categorical
  - line charts if ordered
- do not use line charts for categorical key attribs
  - violates expressiveness principle
    - implication of trend so strong that it overrides semantics!
      - "The more male a person is, the taller he/she is"

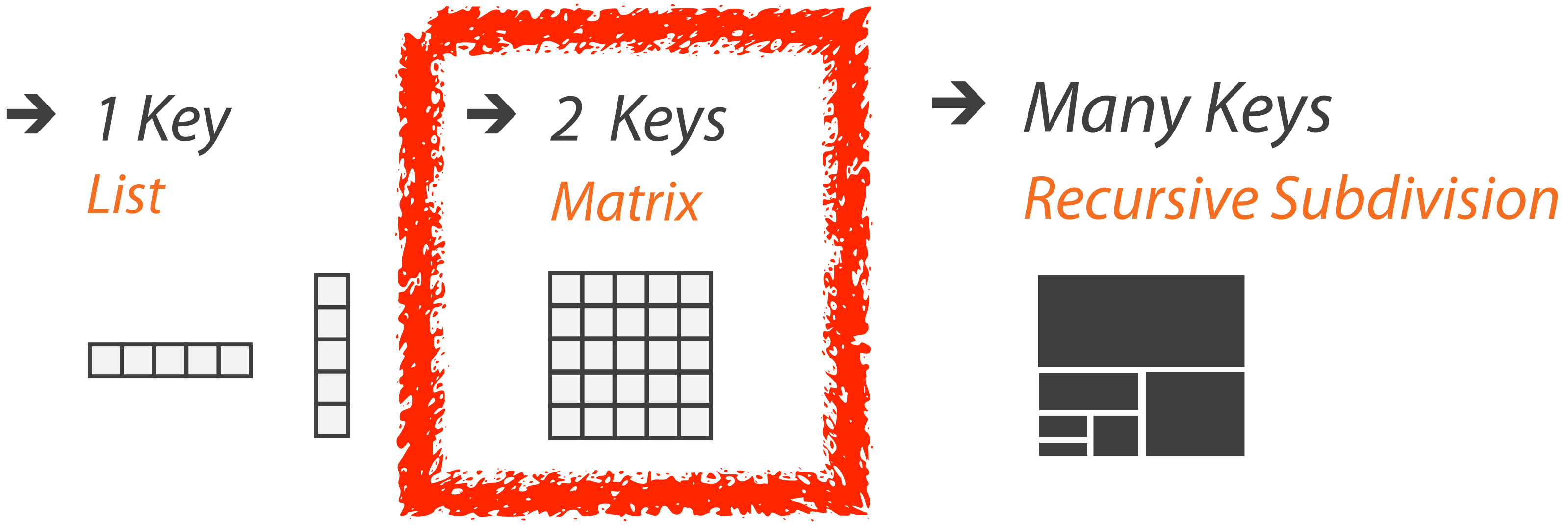


after [Bars and Lines: A Study of Graphic Communication. Zacks and Tversky. Memory and Cognition 27:6 (1999), 1073–1079.]

Idiom: **heatmap**

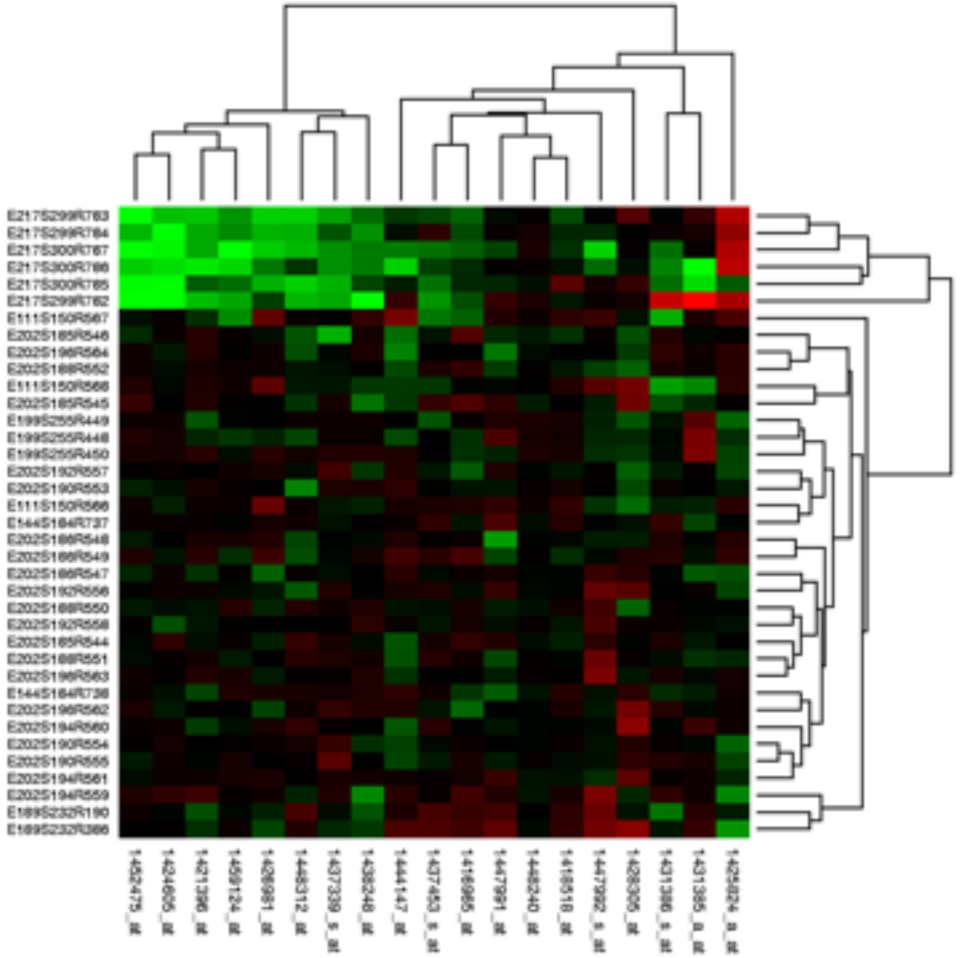
- two keys, one value
  - data
    - 2 categ attribs (gene, experimental condition)
    - 1 quant attrib (expression levels)
  - marks: area
    - separate and align in 2D matrix
      - indexed by 2 categorical attributes
  - channels
    - color by quant attrib
      - (ordered diverging colormap)
  - task
    - find clusters, outliers
  - scalability
    - 1M items, 100s of categ levels, ~10 quant attrib levels





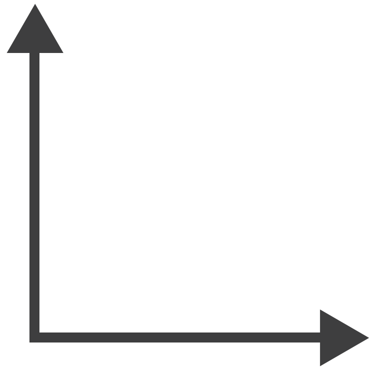
Idiom: **cluster heatmap**

- in addition
  - derived data
    - 2 cluster hierarchies
  - dendrogram
    - parent-child relationships in tree with connection line marks
    - leaves aligned so interior branch heights easy to compare
  - heatmap
    - marks (re-)ordered by cluster hierarchy traversal

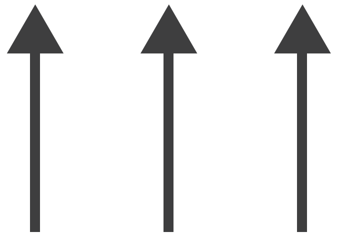


➔ Axis Orientation

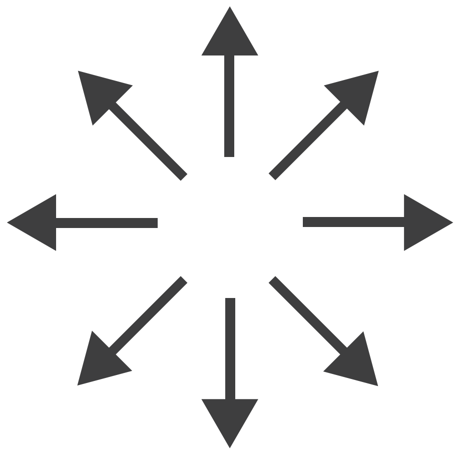
- ➔ Rectilinear



- ➔ Parallel

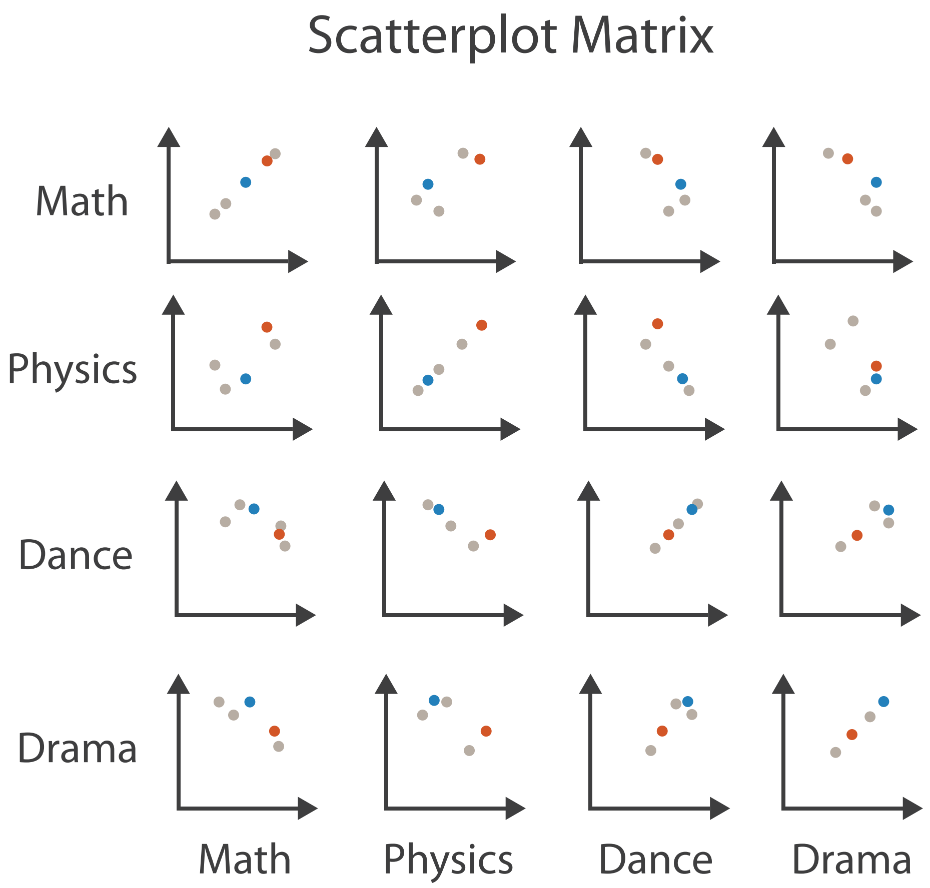


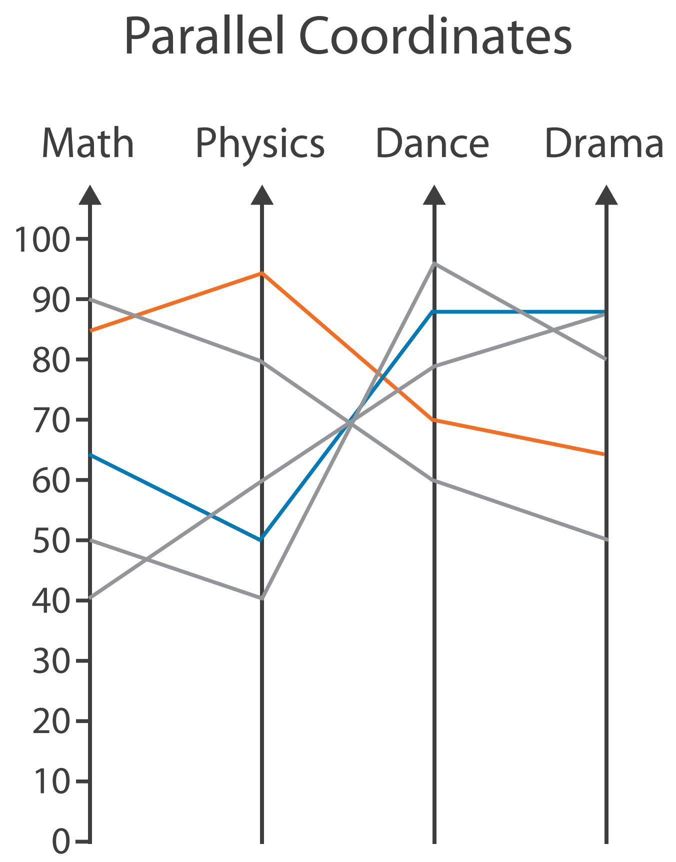
- ➔ Radial



Idioms: **scatterplot matrix, parallel coordinates**

- scatterplot matrix (SPLOM)
  - rectilinear axes, point mark
  - all possible pairs of axes
  - scalability
    - one dozen attribs
    - dozens to hundreds of items
- parallel coordinates
  - parallel axes, jagged line representing item
  - rectilinear axes, item as point
    - axis ordering is major challenge
  - scalability
    - dozens of attribs
    - hundreds of items





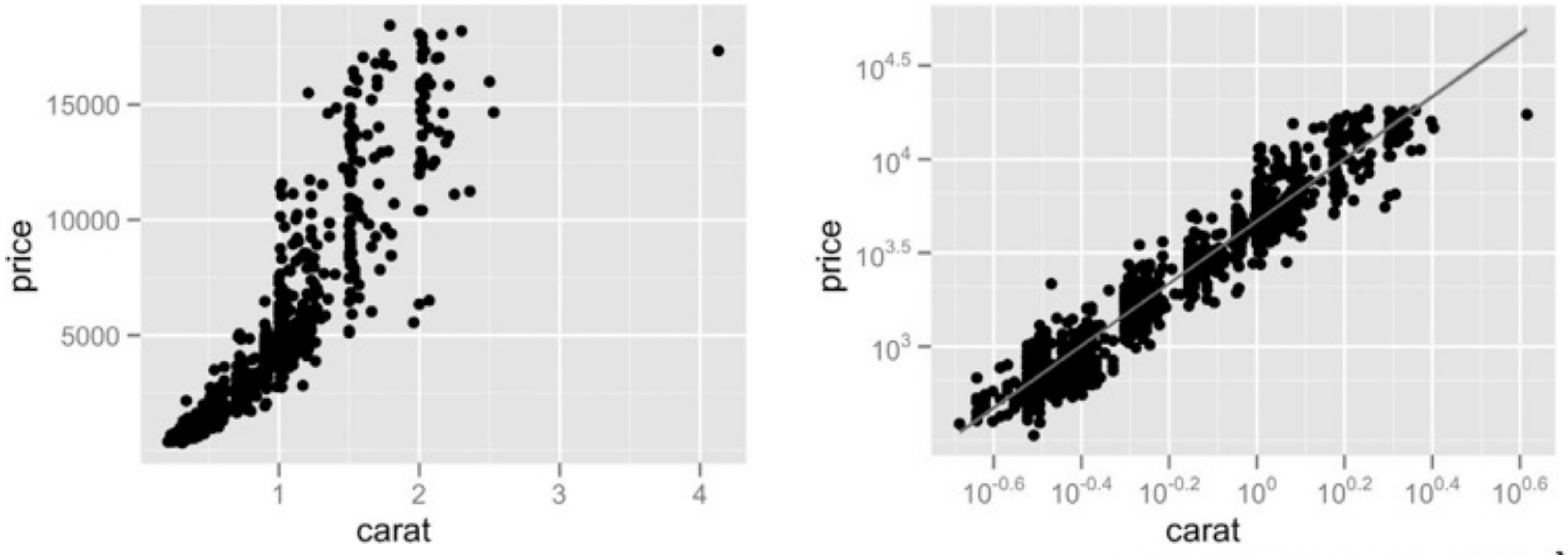
Table

Math	Physics	Dance	Drama
85	95	70	65
90	80	60	50
65	50	90	90
50	40	95	80
40	60	80	90

after [Visualization Course Figures. McGuffin, 2014. http://www.michaelmcguffin.com/courses/vis/]

Task: Correlation

- scatterplot matrix
  - positive correlation
    - diagonal low-to-high
  - negative correlation
    - diagonal high-to-low
  - uncorrelated
- parallel coordinates
  - positive correlation
    - parallel line segments
  - negative correlation
    - all segments cross at halfway point
  - uncorrelated
    - scattered crossings



[A layered grammar of graphics. Wickham. Journ. Computational and Graphical Statistics 19:1 (2010), 3–28.]

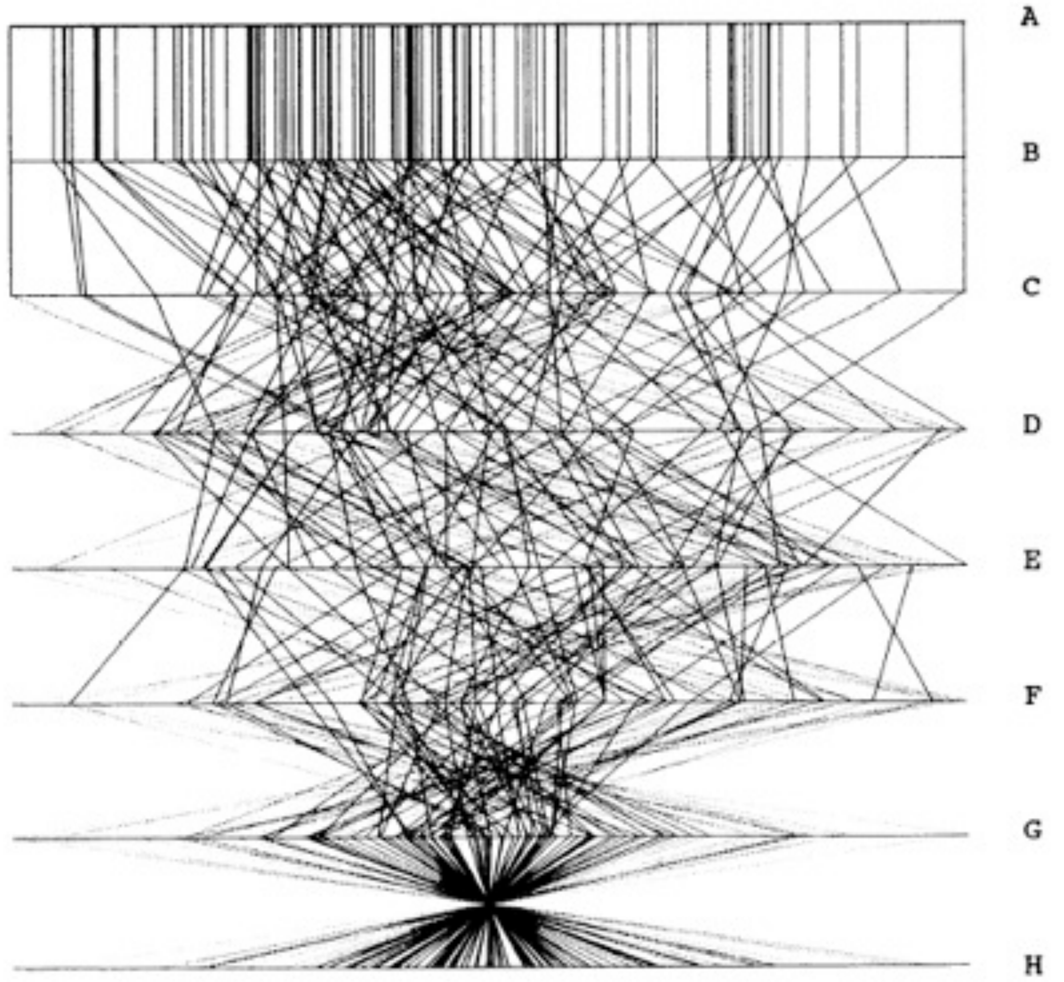


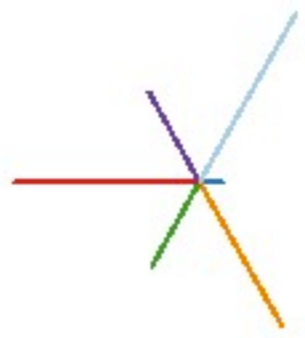
Figure 3. Parallel Coordinate Plot of Six-Dimensional Data Illustrating Correlations of ρ = 1, .8, .2, 0, −.2, −.8, and −1.

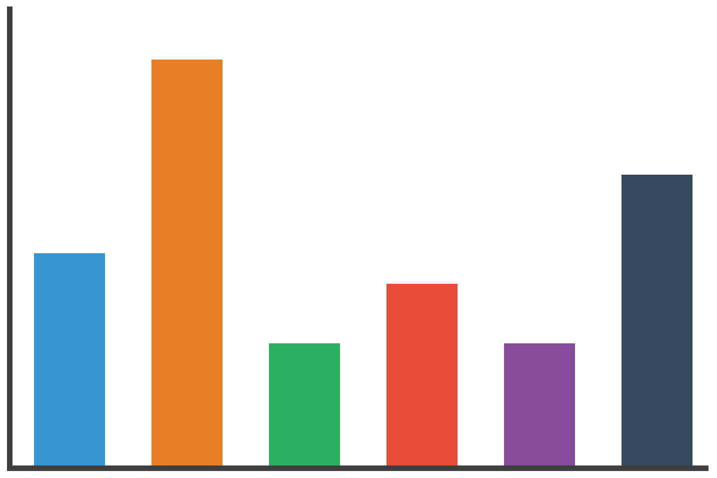
[Hyperdimensional Data Analysis Using Parallel Coordinates. Wegman. Journ. American Statistical Association 85:411 (1990), 664–675.]

Idioms: **radial bar chart, star plot**

- radial bar chart
  - radial axes meet at central ring, line mark
- star plot
  - radial axes, meet at central point, line mark
- bar chart
  - rectilinear axes, aligned vertically

- accuracy
  - length unaligned with radial
    - less accurate than aligned with rectilinear

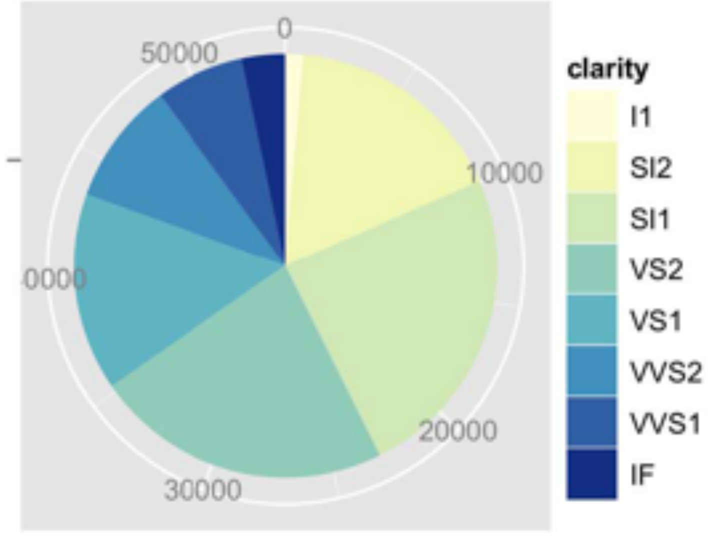




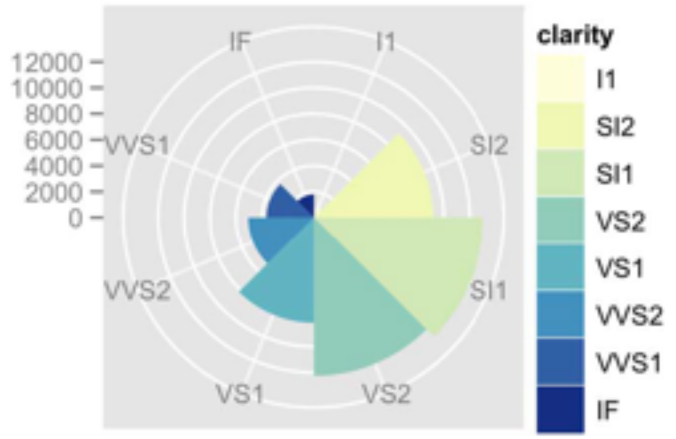
[Vismon: Facilitating Risk Assessment and Decision Making In Fisheries Management. Booshehrian, Möller, Peterman, and Munzner. Technical Report TR 2011-04, Simon Fraser University, School of Computing Science, 2011.]

Idioms: **pie chart, polar area chart**

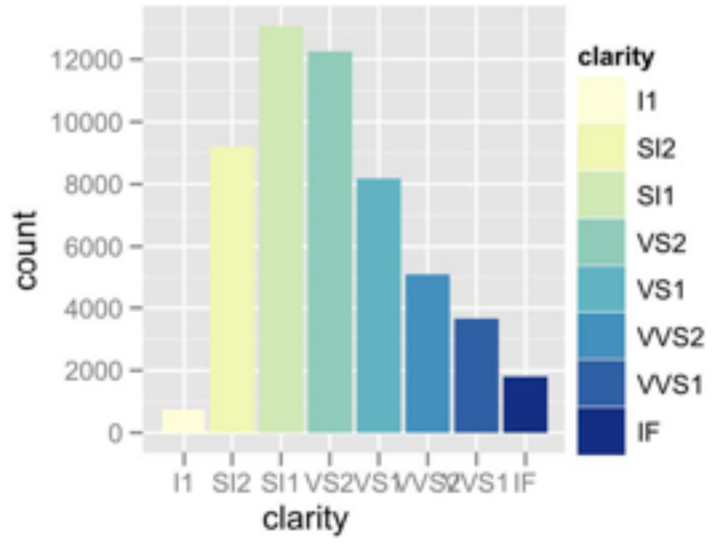
- pie chart
  - area marks with angle channel
  - accuracy: angle/area much less accurate than line length



- polar area chart
  - area marks with length channel
  - more direct analog to bar charts



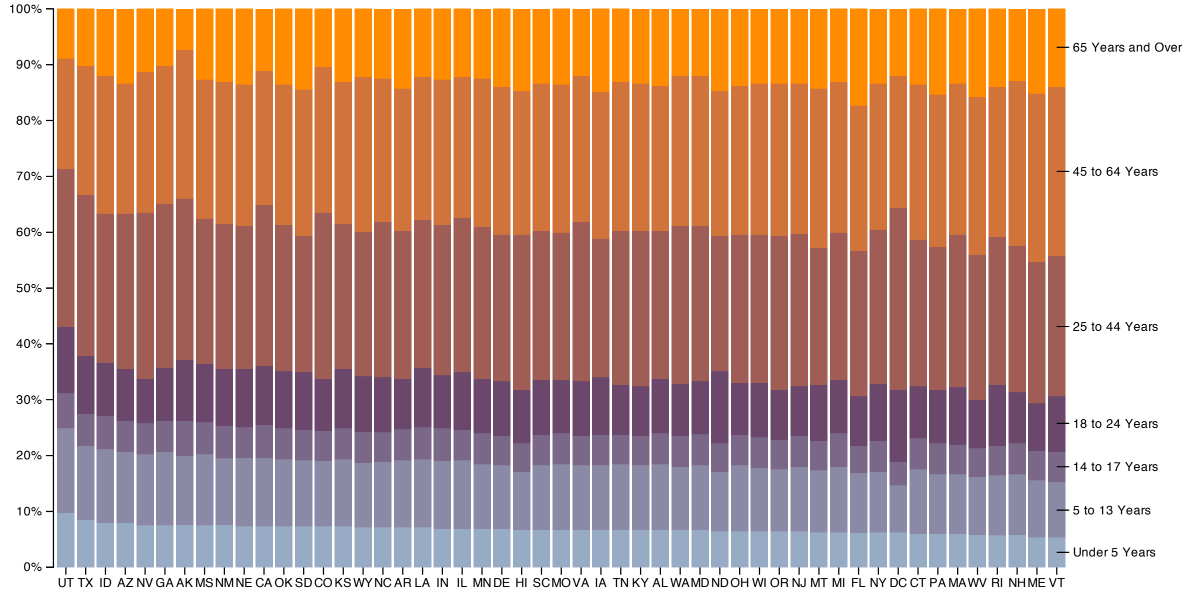
- data
  - 1 categ key attrib, 1 quant value attrib
- task
  - part-to-whole judgements

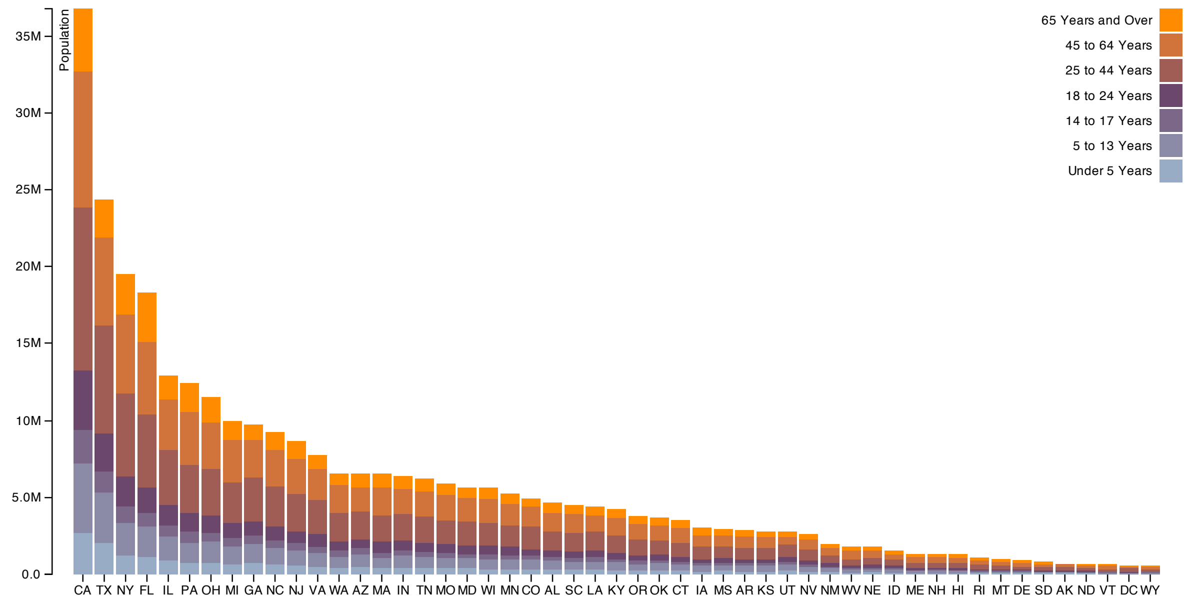


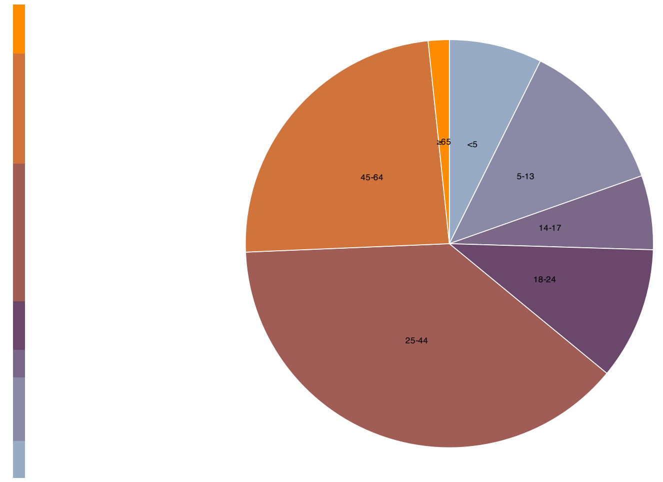
[A layered grammar of graphics. Wickham. Journ. Computational and Graphical Statistics 19:1 (2010), 3–28.]

Idioms: **normalized stacked bar chart**

- task
  - part-to-whole judgements
- normalized stacked bar chart
  - stacked bar chart, normalized to full vert height
  - single stacked bar equivalent to full pie
    - high information density: requires narrow rectangle
- pie chart
  - information density: requires large circle







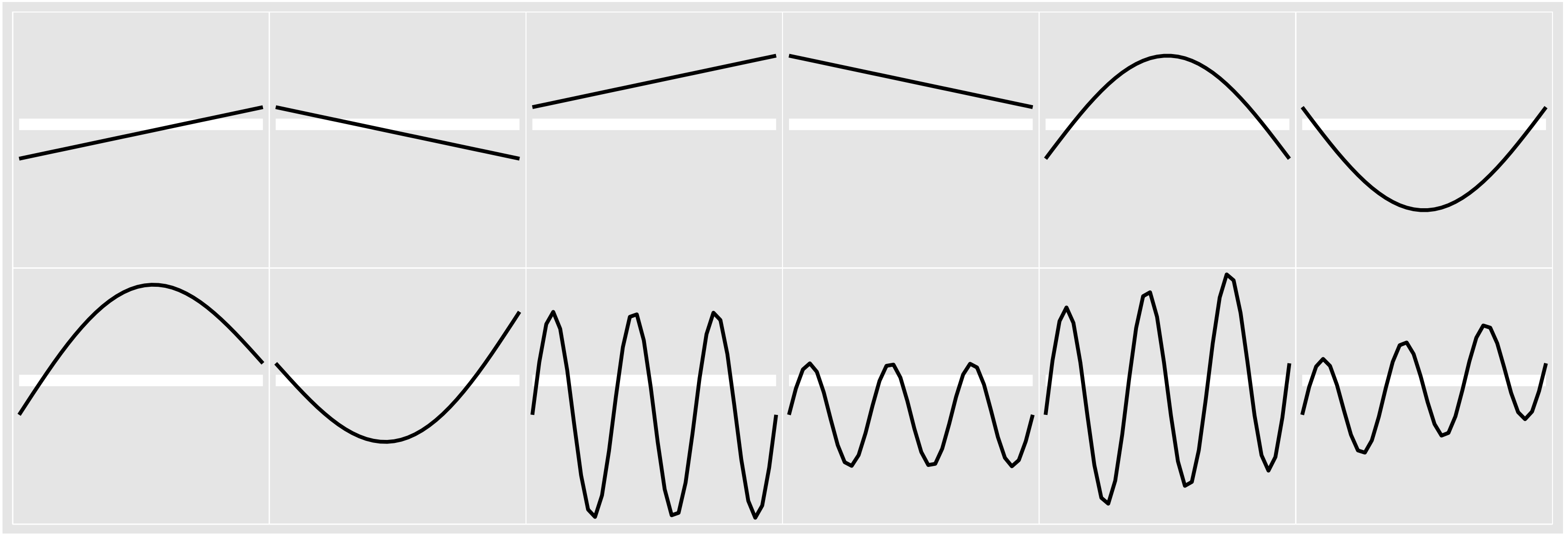
http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/3887235,

http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/3886208,

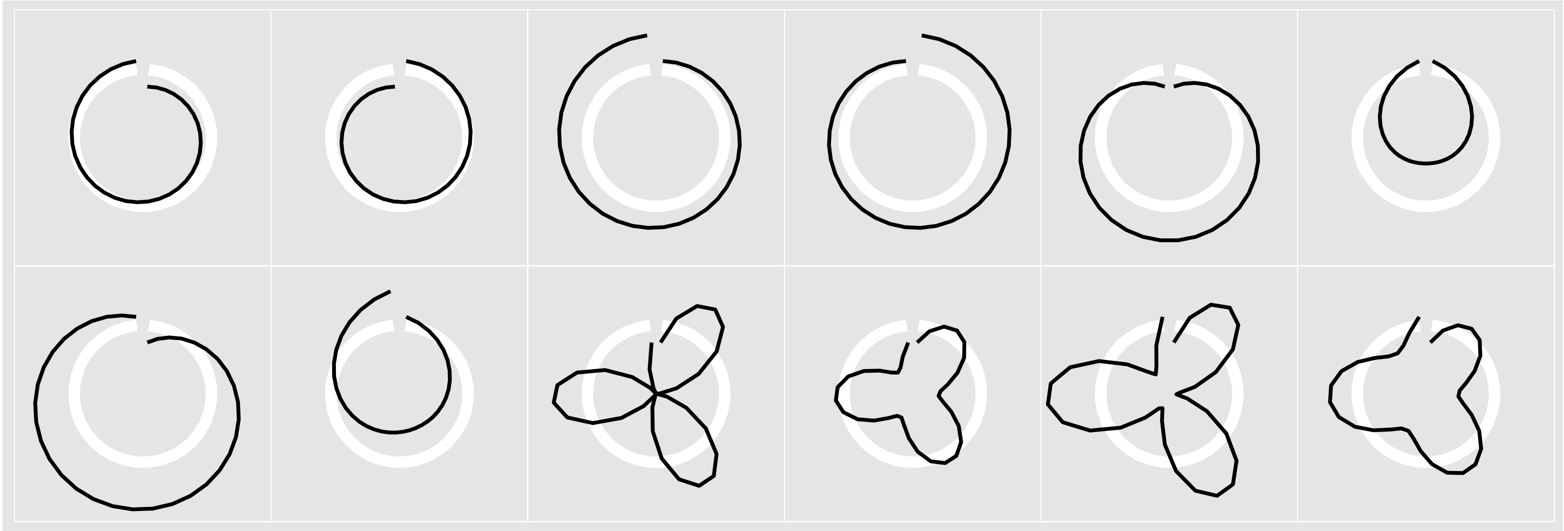
http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/3886394.

Idiom: **glyphmaps**

- rectilinear good for linear vs nonlinear trends



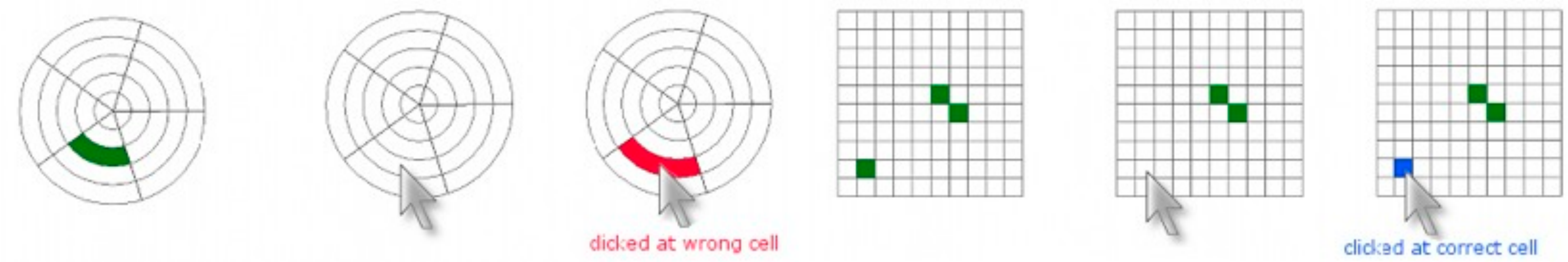
- radial good for cyclic patterns



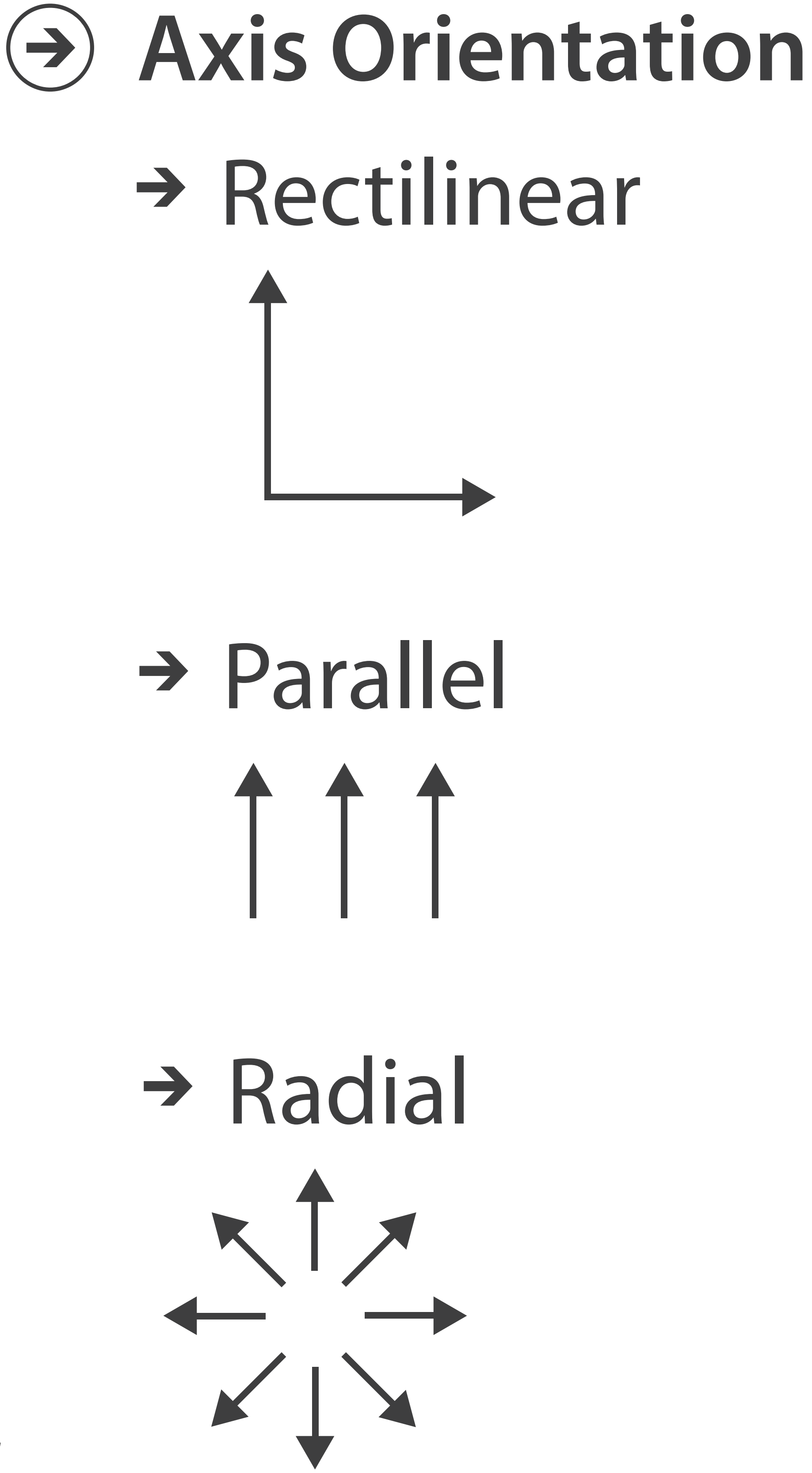
[Glyph-maps for Visually Exploring Temporal Patterns in Climate Data and Models. Wickham, Hofmann, Wickham, and Cook. Environmetrics 23:5 (2012), 382–393.]

Orientation limitations

- rectilinear: scalability wrt #axes
    - 2 axes best
    - 3 problematic
        - more in afternoon
    - 4+ impossible
- parallel: unfamiliarity, training time
- radial: perceptual limits
    - asymmetry: angles lower precision than lengths
        - sometimes can be exploited!



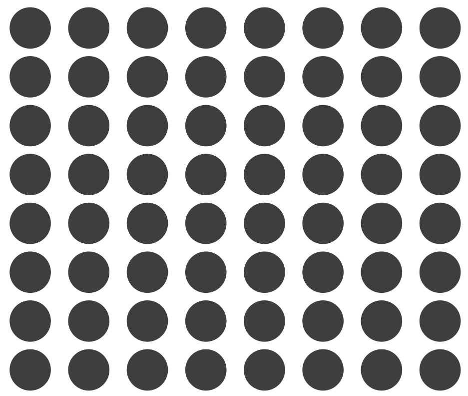
[Uncovering Strengths and Weaknesses of Radial Visualizations - an Empirical Approach. Diehl, Beck and Burch. IEEE TVCG (Proc. InfoVis) 16(6):935–942, 2010.]

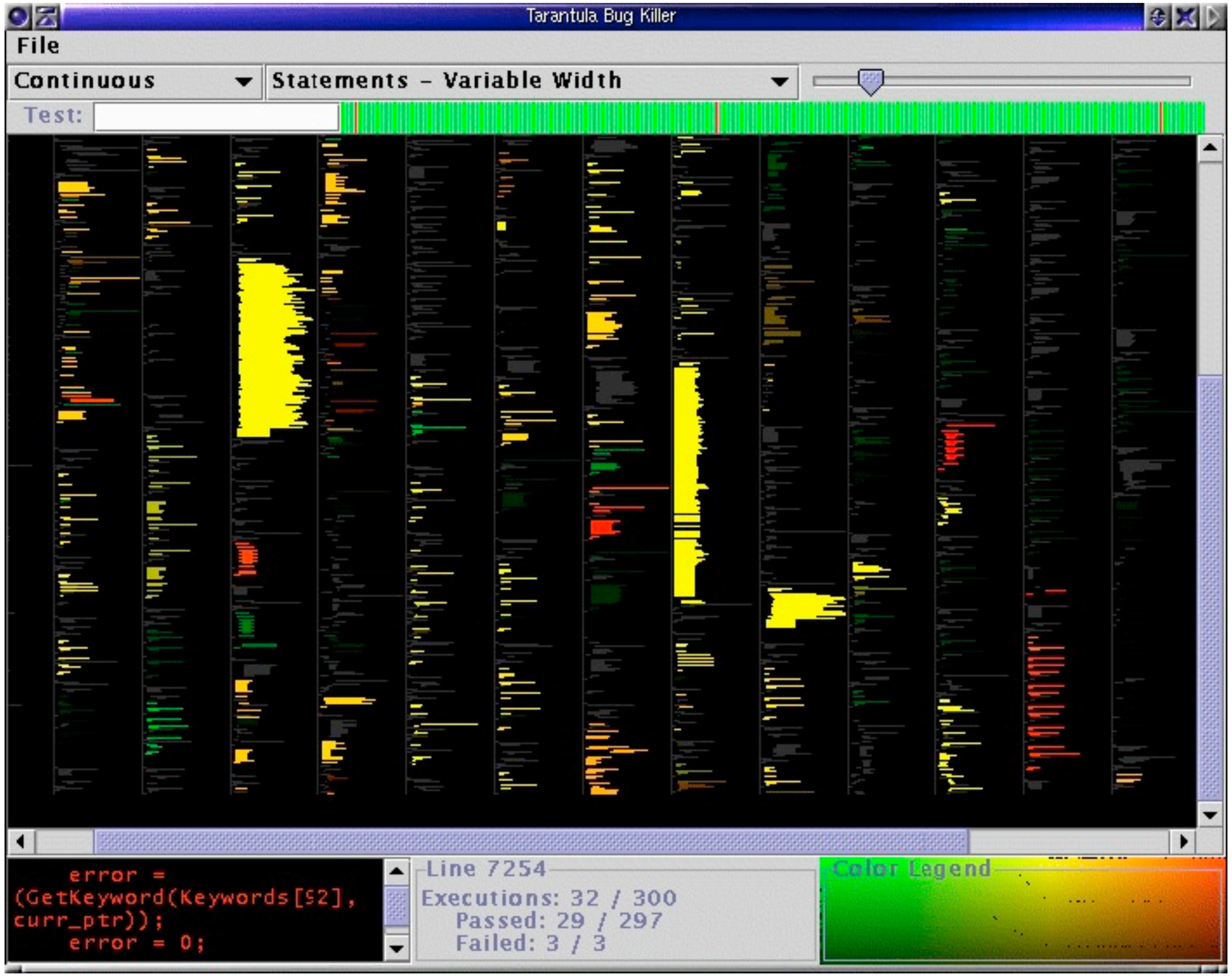


➔ Layout Density

dense software overviews

- ➔ Dense





[Visualization of test information to assist fault localization. Jones, Harrold, Stasko. Proc. ICSE 2002, p 467-477.]

Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Tamara Munzner. CRC Press, 2014.
  - *Chap 2: Data Abstraction*
  - *Chap 3: Task Abstraction*
  - *Chap 7: Tables*

- *A Brief History of Data Visualization.* Friendly. 2008. http://www.datavis.ca/milestones

Now

- Break (15 min)
- Demo (30 min)
  - Guest lecture/demo from Robert Kosara on data wrangling
    - Tableau and Wrangler
- Lab 2 (45 min)

Lab/Assignment 2

- two main datasets
  - development aid from Guardian Datablog
  - your choice from small set
- focus on tasks and spatial layout as discussed in class for your exploration, story discovery, and writeup
  - provide rationale justifying your design decisions
- submit next week
  - by 9am Tue, email tmm@cs.ubc.ca with subject JOURN Week 2