

Pixel-Adaptive Visual Comparison Between Many Phylogenetic Trees



Tamara Munzner
Department of Computer Science
University of British Columbia

Asilomar Microcomputer Workshop #50
25 Apr 2024

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#amw24>

@tamara@vis.social
@tamaramunzner

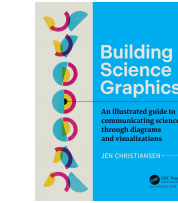
Hi again, 15 years later!

- still doing data visualization
 - yet more papers / projects / videos / software
 - I edit a book series

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#amw24>

Visualization book series highlights

- Data Sketches, by Nadieh Bremer & Shirley Wu
- Making with Data, by multitudes
- Building Science Graphics, by Jen Christiansen



<https://www.routledge.com/AK-Peters-Visualization-Series/book-series/CRCVIS>

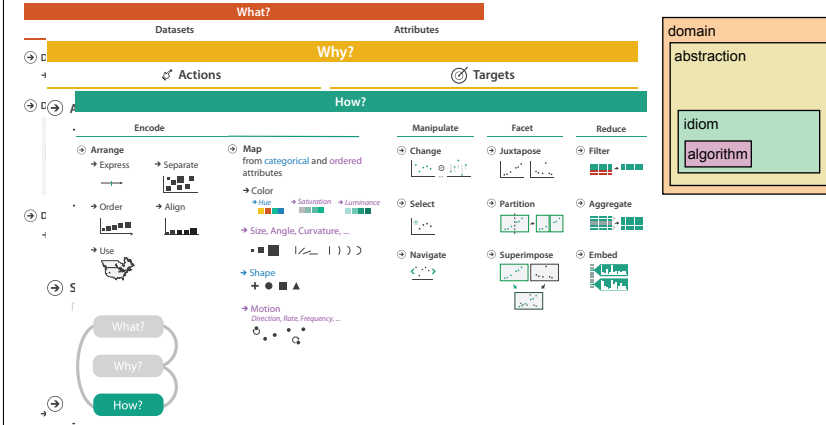
Hi again, 15 years later!

- still doing data visualization
 - yet more papers / projects / videos / software
 - I edit a book series
 - I wrote a book

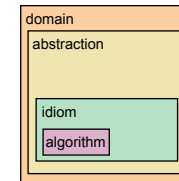


<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#amw24>

Visualization Analysis & Design book



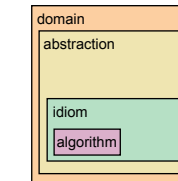
Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns



[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

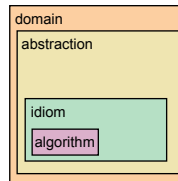
- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?



[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

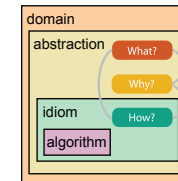
- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis



[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?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**

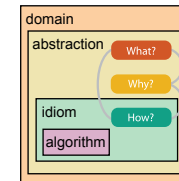


[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. IEEE TVCG 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

[A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks. Bremer and Munzner. IEEE TVCG 19(12):2376-2385, 2013 (Proc. InfoVis 2013).]

Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns

- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**
 - often don't just draw what you're given: transform to new form

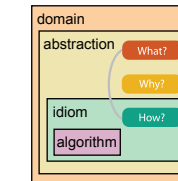


[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. IEEE TVCG 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

[A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks. Bremer and Munzner. IEEE TVCG 19(12):2376-2385, 2013 (Proc. InfoVis 2013).]

Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns

- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**
 - often don't just draw what you're given: transform to new form
 - **why** is the user looking at it? **task abstraction**

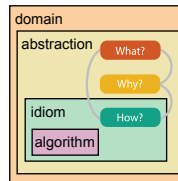


[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. IEEE TVCG 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

[A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks. Bremer and Munzner. IEEE TVCG 19(12):2376-2385, 2013 (Proc. InfoVis 2013).]

Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns

- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**
 - often don't just draw what you're given: transform to new form
 - **why** is the user looking at it? **task abstraction**
- idiom
 - **how** is it shown?

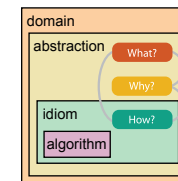


[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. IEEE TVCG 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

[A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks. Bremer and Munzner. IEEE TVCG 19(12):2376-2385, 2013 (Proc. InfoVis 2013).]

Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns

- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**
 - often don't just draw what you're given: transform to new form
 - **why** is the user looking at it? **task abstraction**
- idiom
 - **how** is it shown?
 - **visual encoding idiom**: how to draw
 - **interaction idiom**: how to manipulate

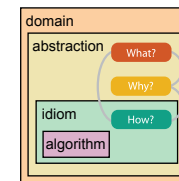


[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. IEEE TVCG 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

[A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks. Bremer and Munzner. IEEE TVCG 19(12):2376-2385, 2013 (Proc. InfoVis 2013).]

Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns

- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**
 - often don't just draw what you're given: transform to new form
 - **why** is the user looking at it? **task abstraction**
- idiom
 - **how** is it shown?
 - **visual encoding idiom**: how to draw
 - **interaction idiom**: how to manipulate

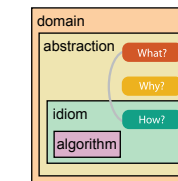


[A Nested Model of Visualization Design and Validation. Munzner. IEEE TVCG 15(6):921-928, 2009 (Proc. InfoVis 2009).]

[A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks. Bremer and Munzner. IEEE TVCG 19(12):2376-2385, 2013 (Proc. InfoVis 2013).]

Nested model: Four levels of visualization concerns

- domain situation
 - **who** are the target users?
- abstraction
 - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
 - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**
 - often don't just draw what you're given: transform to new form
 - **why** is the user looking at it? **task abstraction**
- idiom
 - **how** is it shown?
 - **visual encoding idiom**: how to draw
 - **interaction idiom**: how to manipulate
- algorithm
 - efficient computation



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

[A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks. Bremer and Munzner. IEEE TVCG 19(12):2376-2385, 2013 (Proc. InfoVis 2013).]

Why is validation difficult?

- different threats to validity at each level

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

Why is validation difficult?

- different threats to validity at each level

Domain situation
You misunderstood their needs

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

Why is validation difficult?

- different threats to validity at each level

Domain situation
You misunderstood their needs

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

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

Why is validation difficult?

- different threats to validity at each level

Domain situation
You misunderstood their needs

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

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

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

Why is validation difficult?

- different threats to validity at each level

Domain situation
You misunderstood their needs

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

[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

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

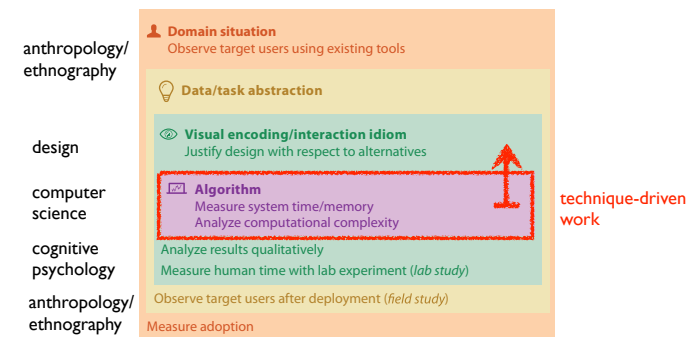
Validation solution: Use methods from appropriate fields at each level

[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

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

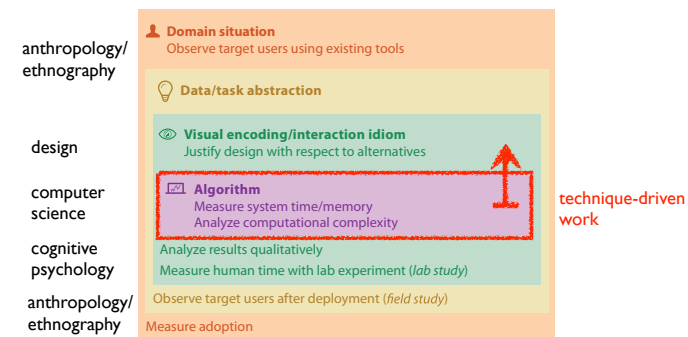
Validation solution: Use methods from appropriate fields at each level



[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

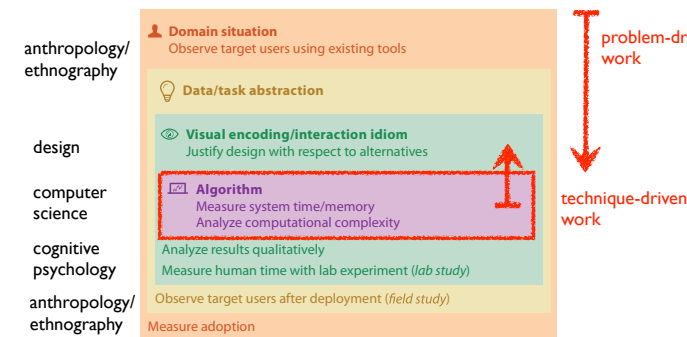
- avoid mismatches between level and validation



[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

- avoid mismatches between level and validation



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

Michael Sedlmair

Miriah Meyer

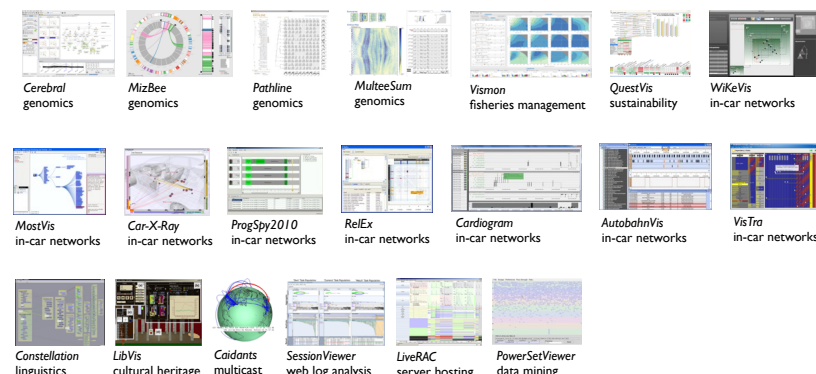
Design Study Methodology

Reflections from the Trenches and from the Stacks

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

Design Study Methodology: Reflections from the Trenches and from the Stacks. Sedlmair, Meyer, Munzner. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics 18(12):2431-2440, 2012 (Proc. InfoVis 2012).

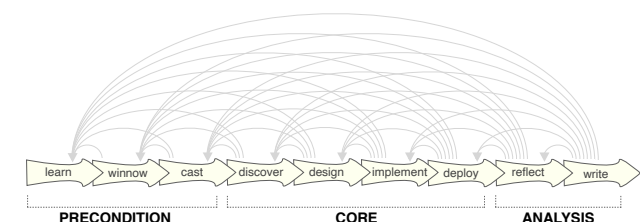
Lessons learned from the trenches: 20+ between us



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

9-stage framework

iterative



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

RelEx

Visualization for Actively Changing Overlay Network Specifications

joint work with:
Michael Sedlmair, Annika Frank, Andreas Butz

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

RelEx: Visualization for Actively Changing Overlay Network Specifications. Sedlmair, Frank, Butz, Munzner. IEEE TVCG 18(12):2729-2738, 2012 (Proc. InfoVis 2012).

Aggregated Dendrograms

for Visual Comparison Between Many Phylogenetic Trees

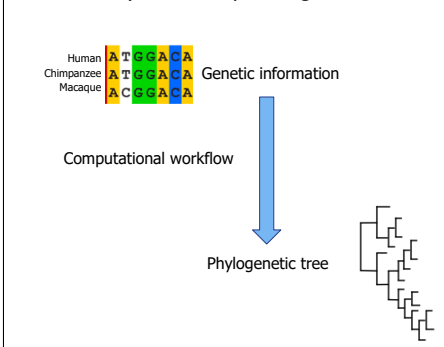
<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/labs/imager/tr/2019/adview/>

Aggregated Dendrograms for Visual Comparison Between Many Phylogenetic Trees. Liu, Zhan, Munzner. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG) 26(9):2732-2747, 2019.

Zipeng Liu, Shing Hei Zhan

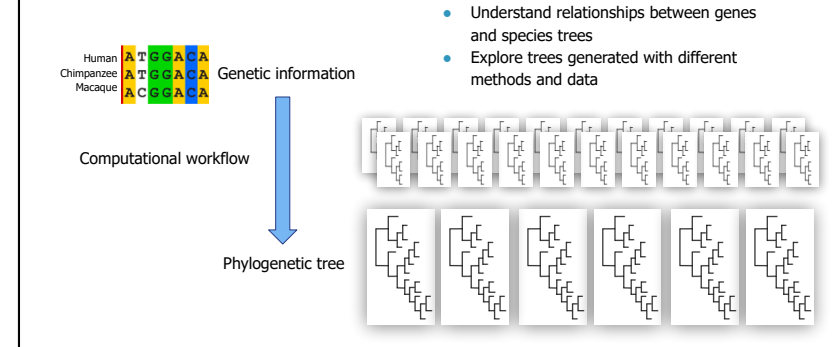
Phylogenetic tree

Evolutionary relationships of organisms

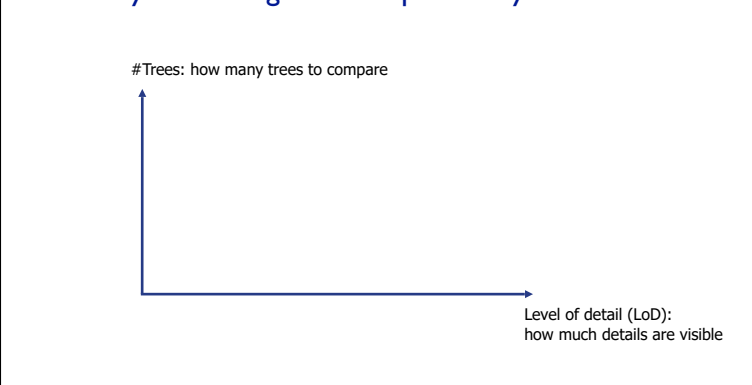


Many phylogenetic trees

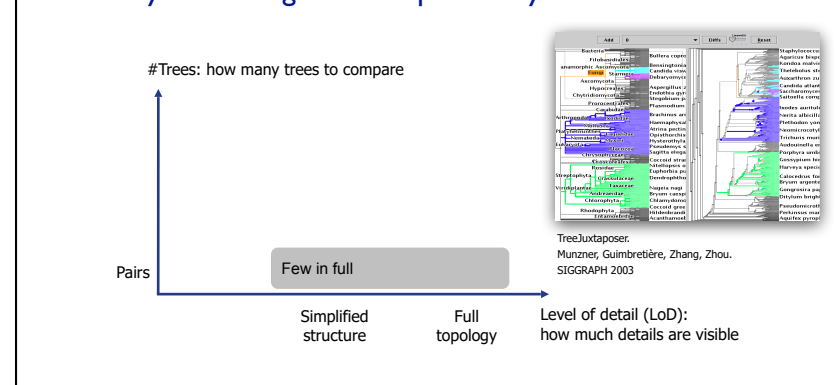
- Understand relationships between genes and species trees
- Explore trees generated with different methods and data



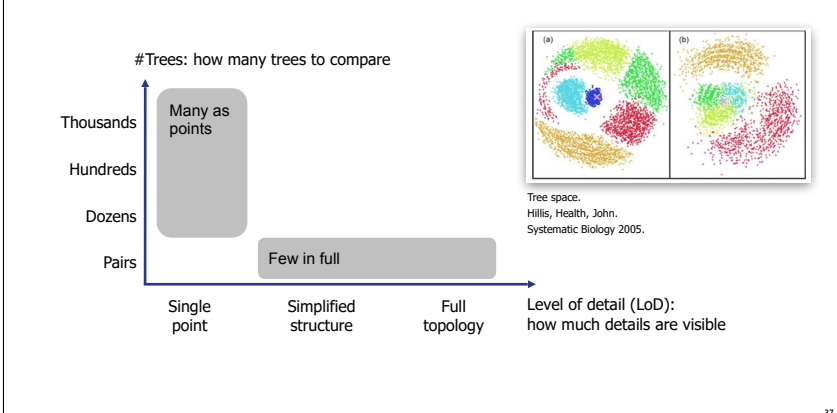
Scalability of existing tree comparison systems



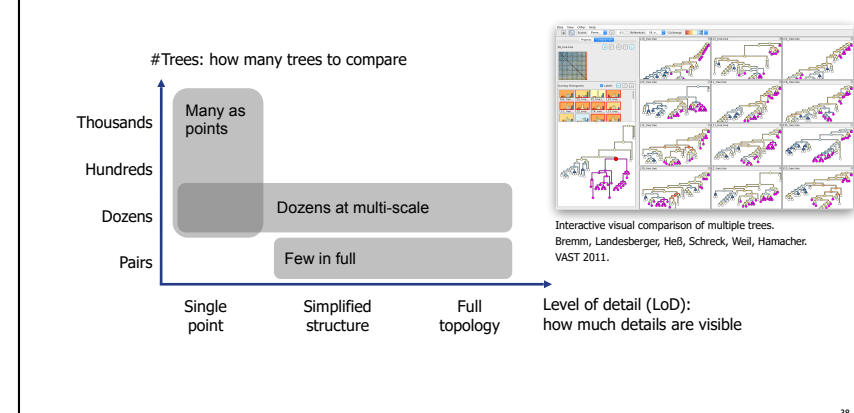
Scalability of existing tree comparison systems



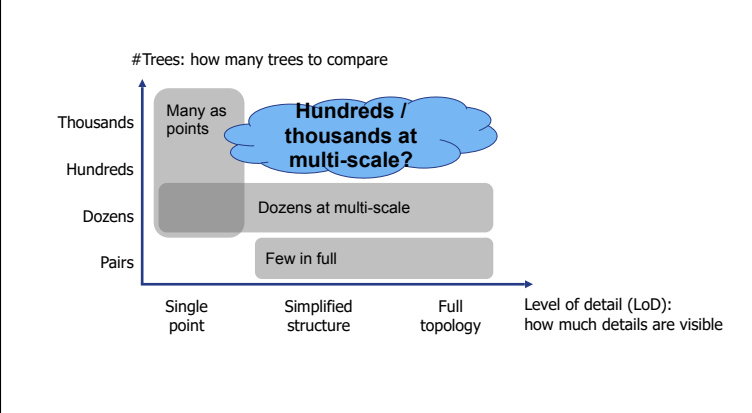
Scalability of existing tree comparison systems



Scalability of existing tree comparison systems



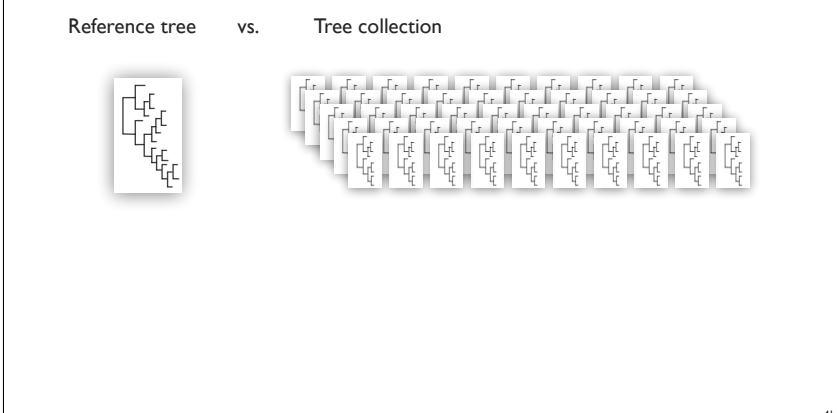
Comparing many phylogenetic trees



Contributions at abstraction, idiom, & algorithm levels

- data and task **abstractions** for comparison of phylogenetic trees
- new visual encoding **idiom**: Aggregated Dendrogram
 - compact tree representation that focuses on selected subtrees
 - algorithm** that adapts to available screen space
- interactive multi-view tool: **ADView**
 - covers multiple levels of details for tree comparison

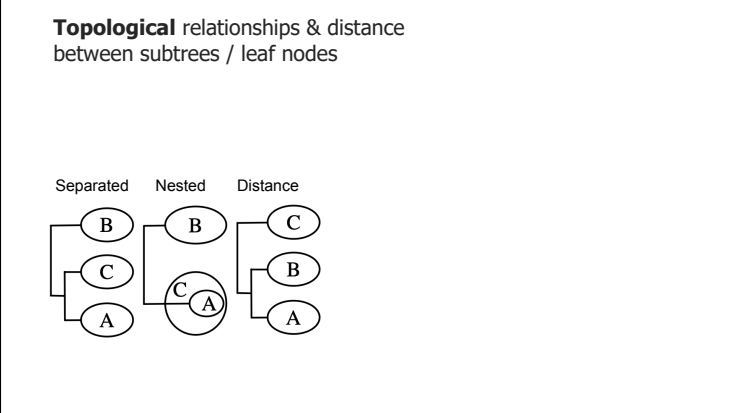
Data abstraction: Trees



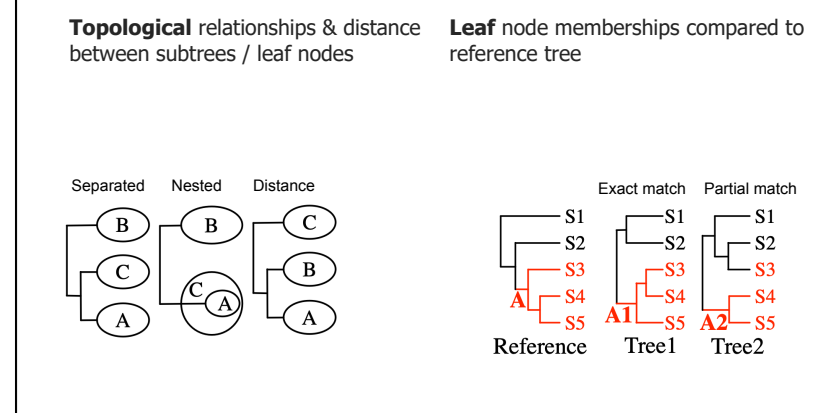
Task abstraction



Task abstraction

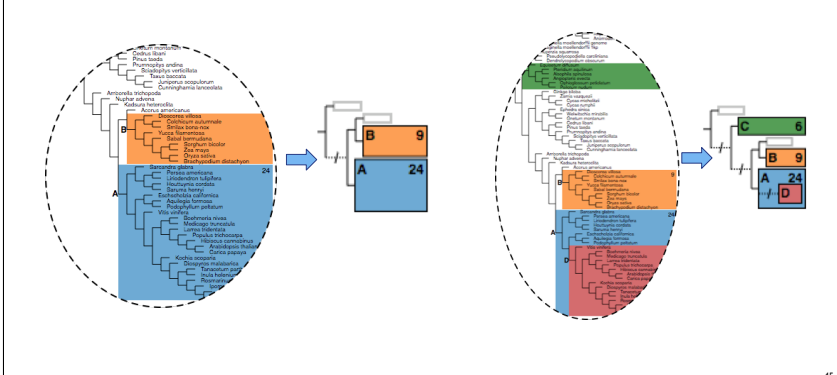


Task abstraction



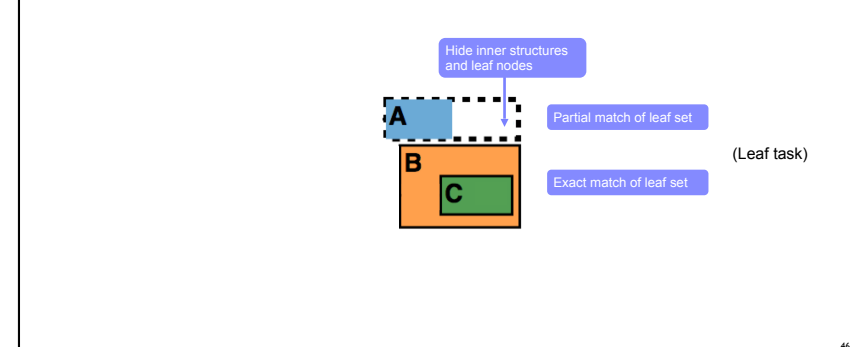
Aggregated Dendrogram: Intuition

Use glyphs to compress a tree according to user selections



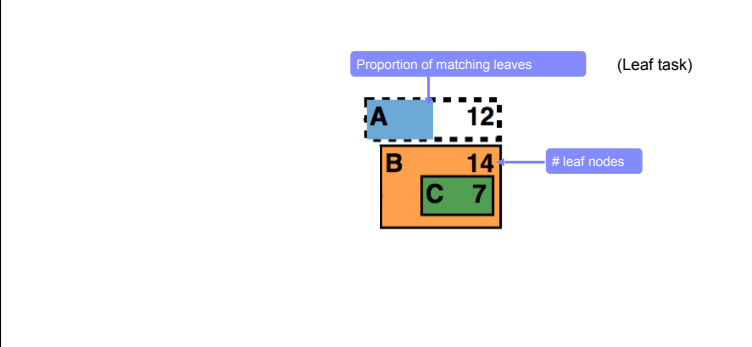
Visual design: focus + context

- focus
 - selected subtrees



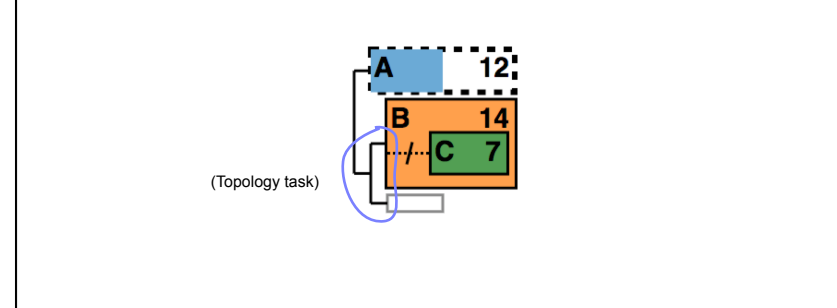
Visual design: focus + context

- focus
 - selected subtrees



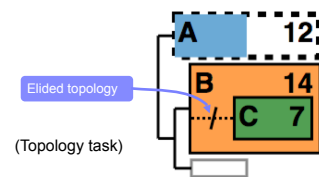
Visual design: focus + context

- focus
 - selected subtrees
 - topological relationships between them



Visual design: focus + context

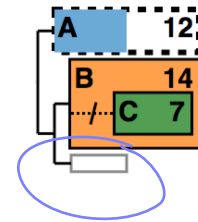
- focus
 - selected subtrees
 - topological relationships between them



49

Visual design: focus + context

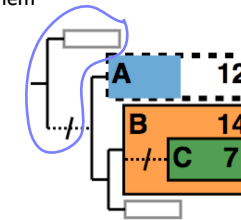
- focus
 - selected subtrees
 - topological relationships between them
- context
 - neighboring subtrees



50

Visual design: focus + context

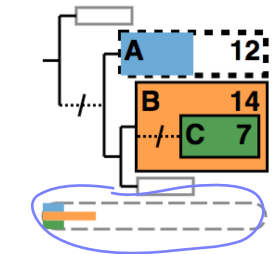
- focus
 - selected subtrees
 - topological relationships between them
- context
 - neighboring subtrees
 - upstream topology and root



51

Visual design: focus + context

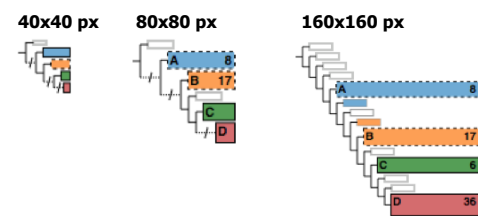
- focus
 - selected subtrees
 - topological relationships between them
- context
 - neighboring subtrees
 - upstream topology and root
 - missing leaf nodes



52

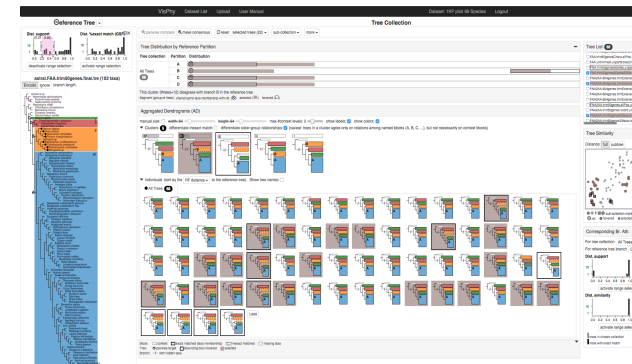
Visual design: algorithm adapts to space

- show more info when space permitted
 - labels
 - # leaf nodes
 - neighboring blocks



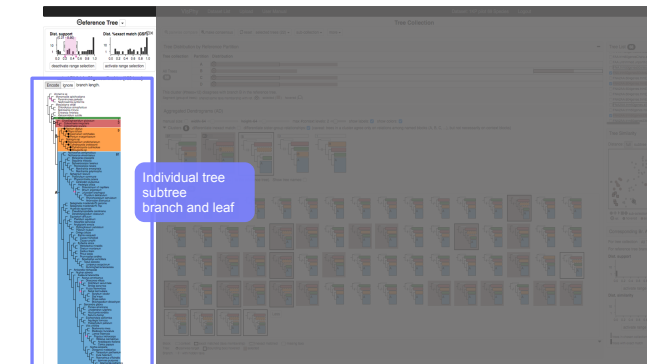
53

ADView interface: Multi-level structure across views



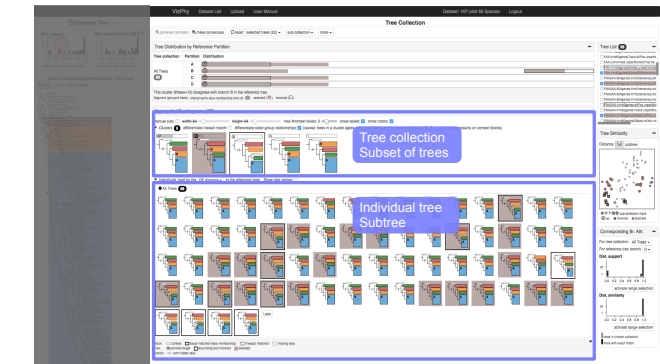
54

Interface walkthrough: reference tree



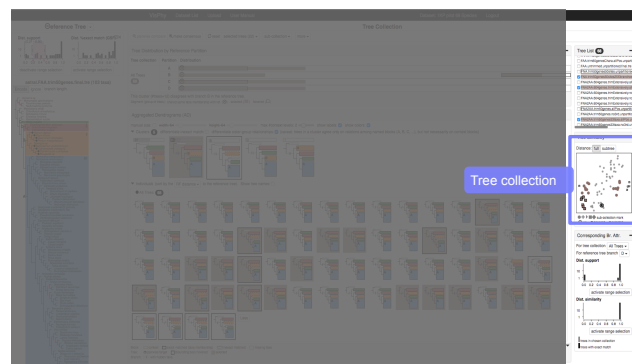
55

Interface walkthrough: individual & cluster ADs



56

Interface walkthrough: treespace



57

Validation with many biologists

- worked closely with a biology PhD student (second author)

58

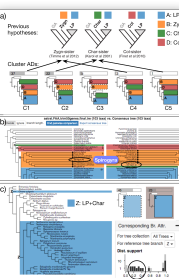
Validation with many biologists

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

59

Validation with many biologists

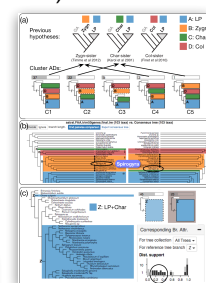
- worked closely with a biology PhD student (second author)
- demos, interviews and discussions
 - 10 biologists at different times throughout project
- user study sessions
 - 5 biologists, using their own datasets



60

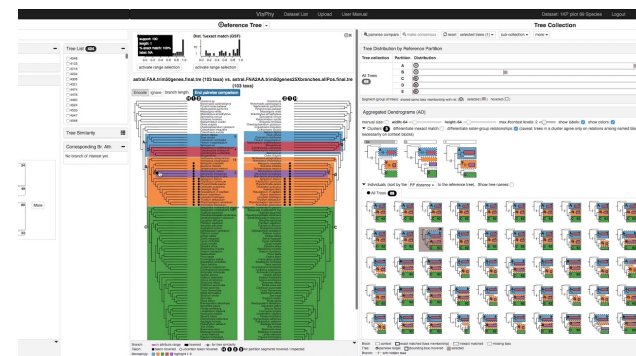
Validation with many biologists

- worked 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



61

Video

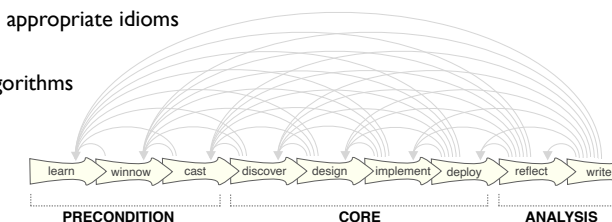
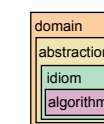


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SLcz7KNLjw>

62

Problem-driven visualization with design study methodology

- work through all four levels of nested model
 - investigate domain
- identify abstractions
 - crucial -- & difficult -- iterative process
- select or create appropriate idioms
- develop new algorithms
 - if need be



More information

- this talk
 - <http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#amw24>
- book
 - <http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/vadbook> (hardcopy on demo/stuff table)
- full courses, papers, videos, software, talks
 - <http://www.cs.ubc.ca/group/infovis>
 - <http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm>



@tamara@vis.social
@tamaramunzner

64