

# Information Visualization

## Marks & Channels, Rules of Thumb

### Design Study Methodology

*Ex: Decoding*

**Tamara Munzner**  
 Department of Computer Science  
 University of British Columbia

Week 3, 22 Sep 2021  
<https://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/courses/547-21>

**Logistics**

- new room! (FSC 2330)
  - if door isn't unlocked, DFP admins on 3rd floor can open (FSC 3641)
  - to hear about Designing for People seminars
    - <https://dfp.ubc.ca/about/contact> for signups
    - next seminar is from new-ish BC visualization prof!  
 Oct 13 12-1  
 Charles Perrin, UVic  
 The case for more flexible data visualization interfaces

**Plan for today**

- 45 min: Marks & Channels
  - mini-lecture
  - examples & discussion
  - further Q&A
- 30 min: Rules of Thumb, Design Study Methodology
  - further Q&A
- 5 min: upcoming
  - next week: async reading, sync project pitches
- (break)
- 75 min small groups exercise: Decoding
  - 45 min: breakout groups
  - 30 min: reportbacks

## Mini-Lecture

### Marks and channels

- marks
  - basic geometric elements
- channels
  - control appearance of marks

### Channels: Rankings

⊕ **Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes**

- Position on common scale
- Position on unaligned scale
- Length (1D size)
- Tilt/angle
- Area (2D size)
- Depth (3D position)
- Color luminance
- Color saturation
- Curvature
- Volume (3D size)

⊕ **Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes**

- Spatial region
- Color hue
- Motion
- Shape

Effectiveness: Best (up) / Least (down)

- expressiveness
  - match channel and data characteristics
- effectiveness
  - channels differ in accuracy of perception
- distinguishability
  - match available levels in channel w/ data

### Redundant encoding

- multiple channels
  - sends stronger message
  - but uses up channels

Length, Position, and Value

### Marks: Constrained vs encodable

- math view: geometric primitives have dimensions
  - ⊕ Points
  - ⊕ Lines
  - ⊕ Areas
- constraint view: mark type constrains what else can be encoded
  - points: 0 constraints on size, can encode more attributes w/ size & shape
  - lines: 1 constraint on size (length), can still size code other way (width)
  - areas: 2 constraints on size (length/width), cannot size code or shape code
    - interlocking: size, shape, position
- quick check: can you size-code another attribute, or is size/shape in use?

### Grouping

- containment
- connection

**Marks as Links**

- ⊕ Containment
- ⊕ Connection

⊕ **Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes**

- Spatial region
- Color hue
- Motion
- Shape

### Marks for links

- ⊕ Connection
- ⊕ Containment

Containment can be nested

[Untangling Euler Diagrams, Riche and Dwyer, 2010]

## Examples

### Quiz: Name those marks & channels

- A: Shooting Media Coverage

Mass Shootings By Race Of Shooter  
 NYTimes Coverage Of Mass Shootings By Race Of Shooter

<https://twitter.com/MonaChalabi/status/118879046693679106?s=20>

### Quiz: Name those marks & channels

- B: Tax Rates

Effective tax rate 2007-12

OVERALL 29.1%

S&P 500 companies

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/05/25/sunday-review/corporate-taxes.html>

### Quiz: Name those marks & channels

- C: Sunsquatch

Sunsquatch  
 Best spots to see the eclipse and bigfoot... at the same time!

<https://flowingdata.com/2017/08/20/sunsquatch-the-only-eclipse-map-you-need/>

### Quiz: Name those marks & channels

- D: UFC fights

UFC fights from 1993 to 2018

Submission: armbar, Knockout, Fight

Most TKO's from punches occur in the first match on a fight night.

Nov, 1993

Fights ending in a form of armbar

<https://multimedia.scmp.com/infographics/sport/article/3010883/bruce-lee-and-mixed-martial-arts>

### Analyzing marks

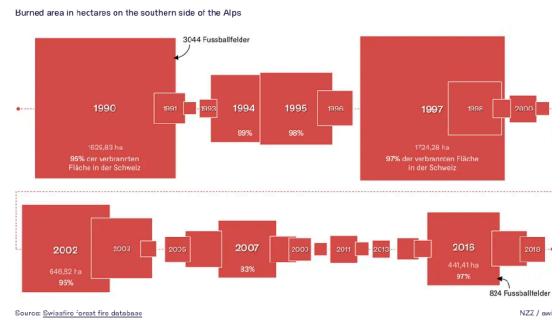
- what type of mark?
  - line?
    - no, not length coded
  - point mark with rectangular shape?
    - yes!
  - area?
    - no, area/shape does not convey meaning

Nov, 1993

<https://multimedia.scmp.com/infographics/sport/article/3010883/bruce-lee-and-mixed-martial-arts/index.html>

## Quiz: Name those marks & channels

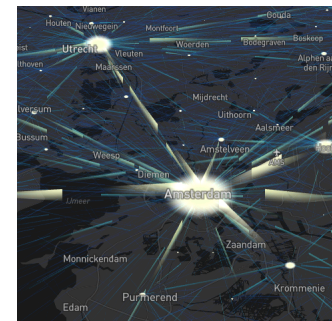
- E: Alpen Forest Fires



<https://www.nzz.ch/wissenschaft/waldbraende-erklart-in-der-schweiz-und-in-europa-ld.1483688>

## Quiz: Name those channels

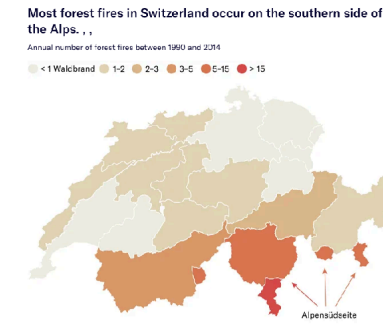
- F: Netherlands Commuters



<https://observablehq.com/@ilyabo/animated-flow-map-of-commuters-in-the-netherlands-in-2016>

## Quiz: Name that mark

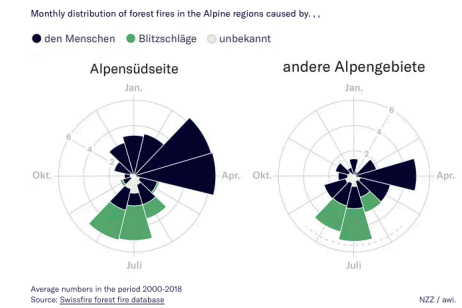
- G: Yet More Alpen Forest Fires



<https://www.nzz.ch/wissenschaft/waldbraende-erklart-in-der-schweiz-und-in-europa-ld.1483688>

## Quiz: Name those marks & channels

- H: More Alpen Forest Fires



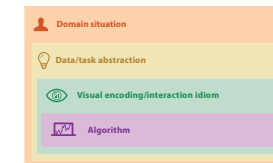
<https://www.nzz.ch/wissenschaft/waldbraende-erklart-in-der-schweiz-und-in-europa-ld.1483688>

## Q&A/Backup Slides

## Marks and Channels

## Visual encoding

- how to systematically analyze idiom structure?



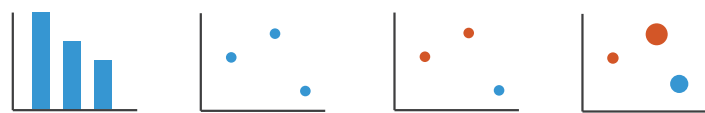
## Visual encoding

- how to systematically analyze idiom structure?



## Visual encoding

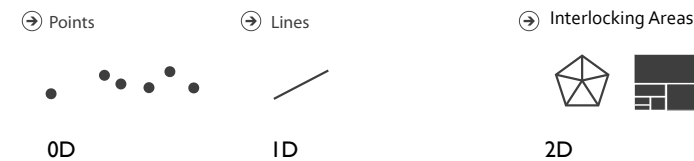
- how to systematically analyze idiom structure?



- marks & channels
  - marks: represent items or links
  - channels: change appearance of marks based on attributes

## Marks for items

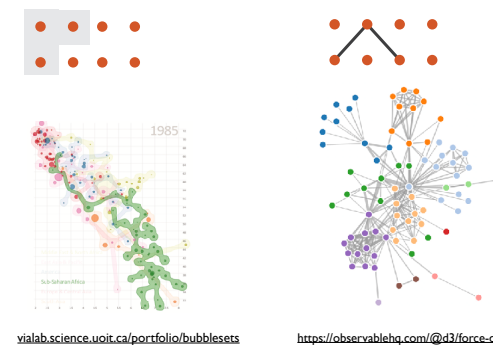
- basic geometric elements



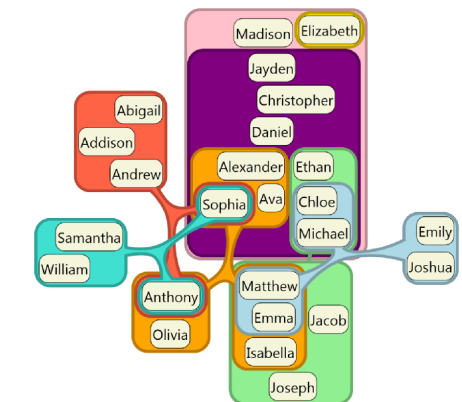
- 3D mark: volume, rarely used

## Marks for links

- Containment
- Connection



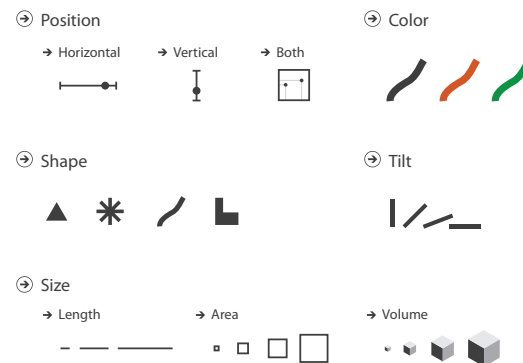
## Containment can be nested



[Untangling Euler Diagrams, Riche and Dwyer, 2010]

## Channels

- control appearance of marks
  - proportional to or based on attributes
- many names
  - visual channels
  - visual variables
  - retinal channels
  - visual dimensions
  - ...



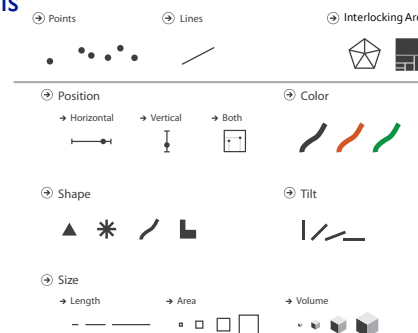
## Definitions: Marks and channels

- marks
  - geometric primitives



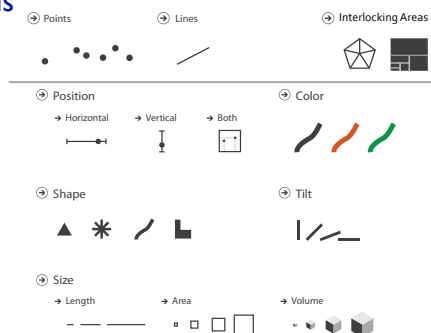
## Definitions: Marks and channels

- marks
  - geometric primitives
- channels
  - control appearance of marks



## Definitions: Marks and channels

- marks
  - geometric primitives
- channels
  - control appearance of marks
  - channel properties differ
    - type & amount of information that can be conveyed to human perceptual system



# Visual encoding

- analyze idiom structure as combination of marks and channels



# Visual encoding

- analyze idiom structure as combination of marks and channels

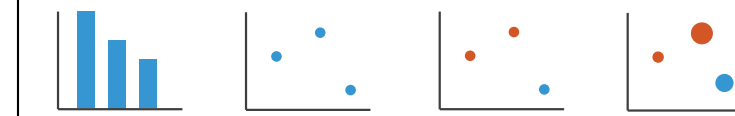


1:  
vertical position

mark: line

# Visual encoding

- analyze idiom structure as combination of marks and channels

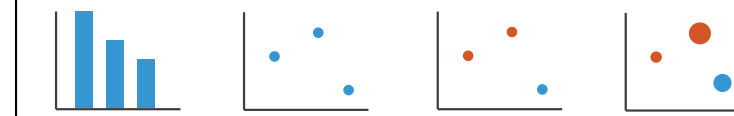


1:  
vertical position  
2:  
vertical position  
horizontal position

mark: line      mark: point

# Visual encoding

- analyze idiom structure as combination of marks and channels



1:  
vertical position  
2:  
vertical position  
horizontal position  
3:  
vertical position  
horizontal position  
color hue

mark: line      mark: point      mark: point

# Visual encoding

- analyze idiom structure as combination of marks and channels

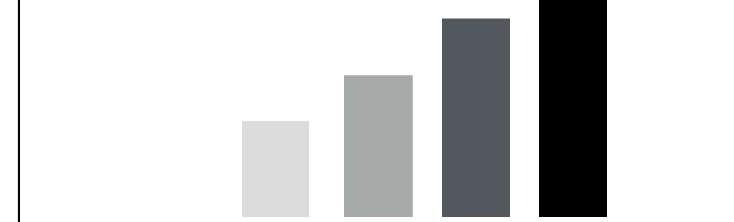


1:  
vertical position  
2:  
vertical position  
horizontal position  
3:  
vertical position  
horizontal position  
color hue  
4:  
vertical position  
horizontal position  
color hue  
size (area)

mark: line      mark: point      mark: point      mark: point

# Redundant encoding

- multiple channels
  - sends stronger message
  - but uses up channels



Length, Position, and Luminance

# Marks as constraints

- math view: geometric primitives have dimensions



# Marks as constraints

- math view: geometric primitives have dimensions



- constraint view: mark type constrains what else can be encoded
  - points: 0 constraints on size, can encode more attributes w/ size & shape
  - lines: 1 constraint on size (length), can still size code other way (width)
  - interlocking areas: 2 constraints on size (length/width), cannot size or shape code
    - interlocking: size, shape, position

# Marks as constraints

- math view: geometric primitives have dimensions



- constraint view: mark type constrains what else can be encoded
  - points: 0 constraints on size, can encode more attributes w/ size & shape
  - lines: 1 constraint on size (length), can still size code other way (width)
  - interlocking areas: 2 constraints on size (length/width), cannot size or shape code
    - interlocking: size, shape, position

- quick check: can you size-code another attribute
  - or is size/shape in use?

# Scope of analysis

- simplifying assumptions: one mark per item, single view

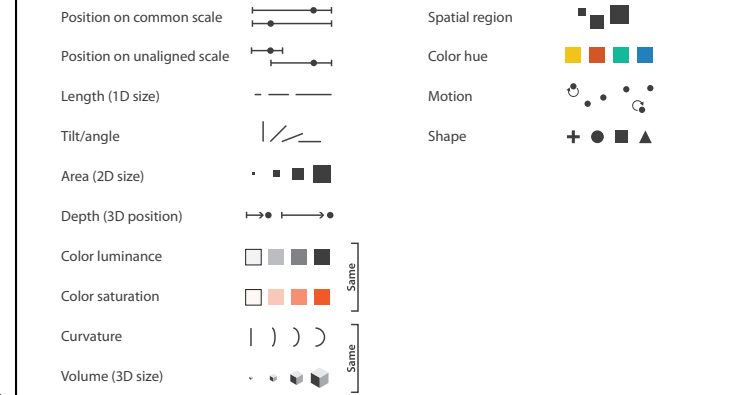
- later on
  - multiple views
  - multiple marks in a region (glyph)
  - some items not represented by marks (aggregation and filtering)

# When to use which channel?

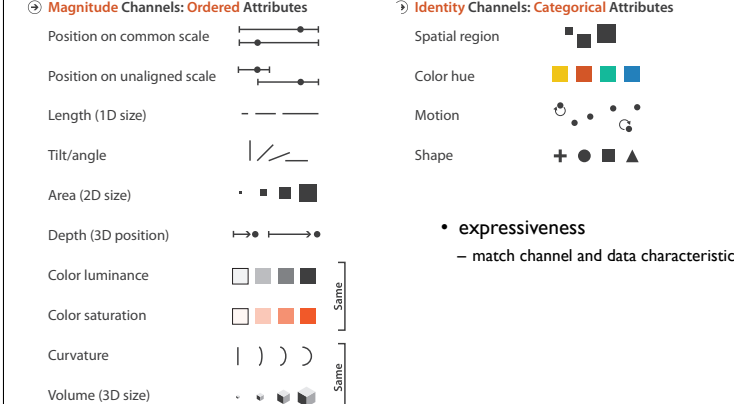
**expressiveness**  
match channel type to data type

**effectiveness**  
some channels are better than others

# Channels: Rankings

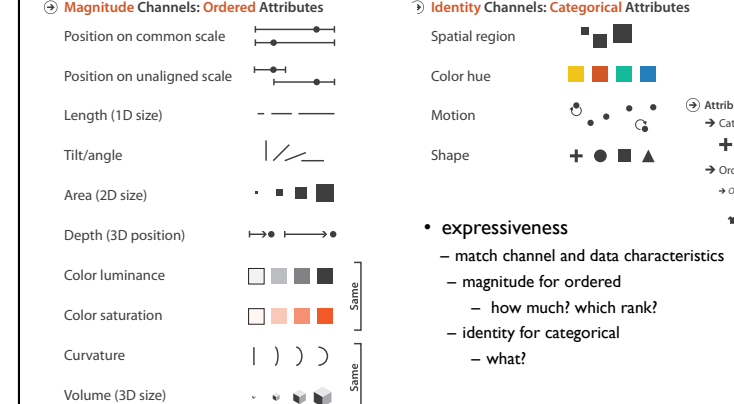


# Channels: Rankings



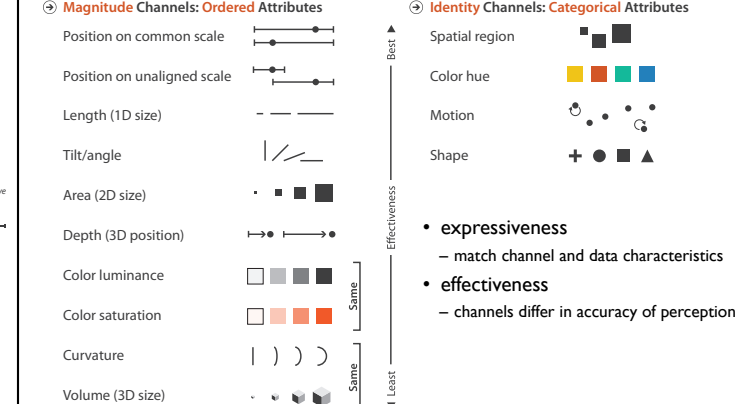
- expressiveness
  - match channel and data characteristics

# Channels: Rankings



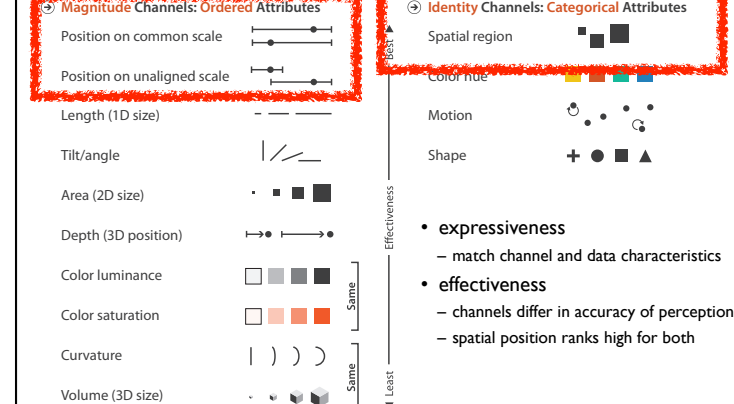
- expressiveness
  - match channel and data characteristics
  - magnitude for ordered
    - how much? which rank?
  - identity for categorical
    - what?

# Channels: Rankings



- expressiveness
  - match channel and data characteristics
- effectiveness
  - channels differ in accuracy of perception

# Channels: Rankings



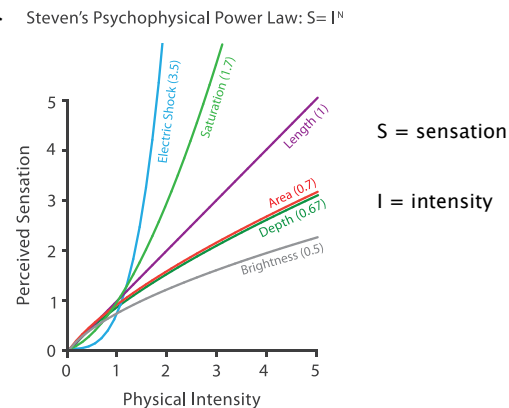
- expressiveness
  - match channel and data characteristics
- effectiveness
  - channels differ in accuracy of perception
  - spatial position ranks high for both

## Channel effectiveness

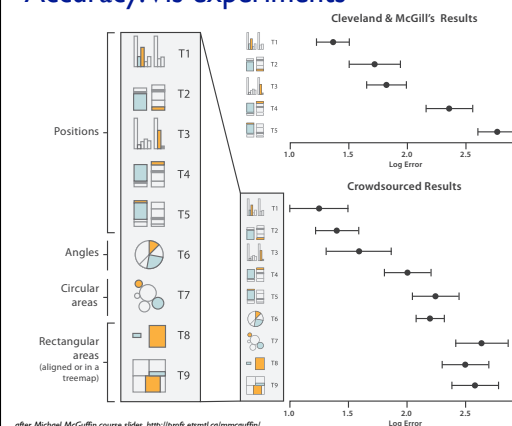
- accuracy: how precisely can we tell the difference between encoded items?
- discriminability: how many unique steps can we perceive?
- separability: is our ability to use this channel affected by another one?
- popout: can things jump out using this channel?

## Accuracy: Fundamental theory

- length is accurate: linear
- others magnified or compressed
- exponent characterizes



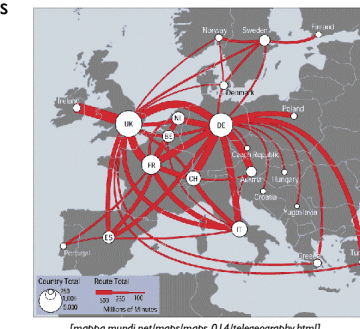
## Accuracy: Vis experiments



[Crowdsourcing Graphical Perception: Using Mechanical Turk to Assess Visualization Design. Heer and Bostock. Proc ACM Conf. Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2010, p. 203–212.]

## Discriminability: How many usable steps?

- must be sufficient for number of attribute levels to show
- linewidth: few bins



## Separability vs. Integrality

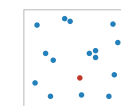
<p>Position + Hue (Color)</p> <p>Fully separable</p> <p>2 groups each</p>	<p>Size + Hue (Color)</p> <p>Some interference</p> <p>2 groups each</p>	<p>Width + Height</p> <p>Some/significant interference</p> <p>3 groups total: integral area</p>	<p>Red + Green</p> <p>Major interference</p> <p>4 groups total: integral hue</p>
---	---	---	--

## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?

## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?



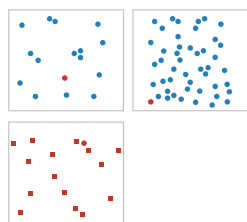
## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?



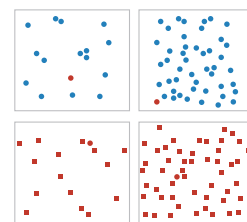
## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?



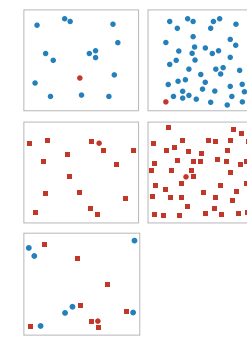
## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?



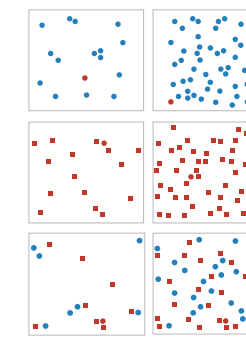
## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?



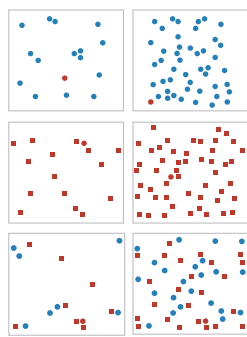
## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?



## Popout

- find the red dot
- how long does it take?
- parallel processing on many individual channels
- speed independent of distractor count
- speed depends on channel and amount of difference from distractors
- serial search for (almost all) combinations
- speed depends on number of distractors



## Popout

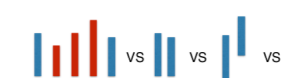
- many channels
- tilt, size, shape, proximity, shadow, direction, ...

## Popout

- many channels
- tilt, size, shape, proximity, shadow, direction, ...
- but not all!
- parallel line pairs do not pop out from tilted pairs

## Factors affecting accuracy

- alignment
- distractors
- distance
- common scale

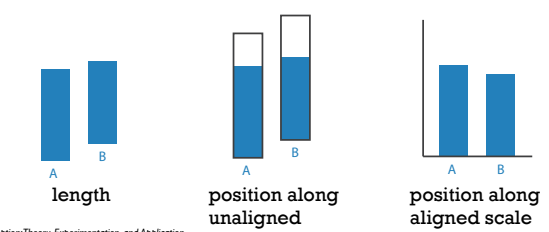


## Relative vs. absolute judgements

- perceptual system mostly operates with relative judgements, not absolute

## Relative vs. absolute judgements

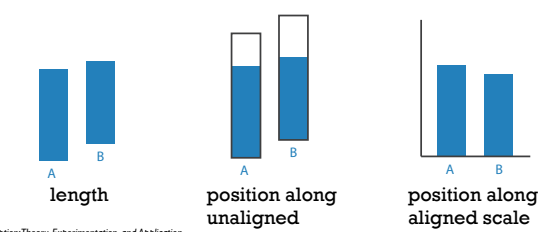
- perceptual system mostly operates with relative judgements, not absolute
  - that's why accuracy increases with common frame/scale and alignment



after [Graphical Perception: Theory, Experimentation, and Application to the Development of Graphical Methods, Cleveland and McGill, Journ. American Statistical Association 79:387 (1984), 531–554.]

## Relative vs. absolute judgements

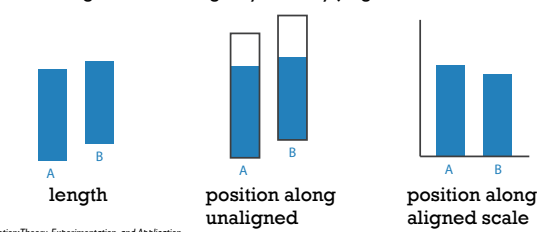
- perceptual system mostly operates with relative judgements, not absolute
  - that's why accuracy increases with common frame/scale and alignment
  - Weber's Law: ratio of increment to background is constant



after [Graphical Perception: Theory, Experimentation, and Application to the Development of Graphical Methods, Cleveland and McGill, Journ. American Statistical Association 79:387 (1984), 531–554.]

## Relative vs. absolute judgements

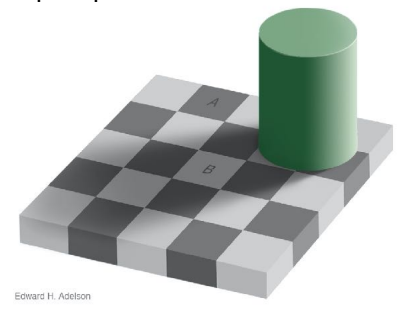
- perceptual system mostly operates with relative judgements, not absolute
  - that's why accuracy increases with common frame/scale and alignment
  - Weber's Law: ratio of increment to background is constant
    - filled rectangles differ in length by 1:9, difficult judgement
    - white rectangles differ in length by 1:2, easy judgement



after [Graphical Perception: Theory, Experimentation, and Application to the Development of Graphical Methods, Cleveland and McGill, Journ. American Statistical Association 79:387 (1984), 531–554.]

## Relative luminance judgements

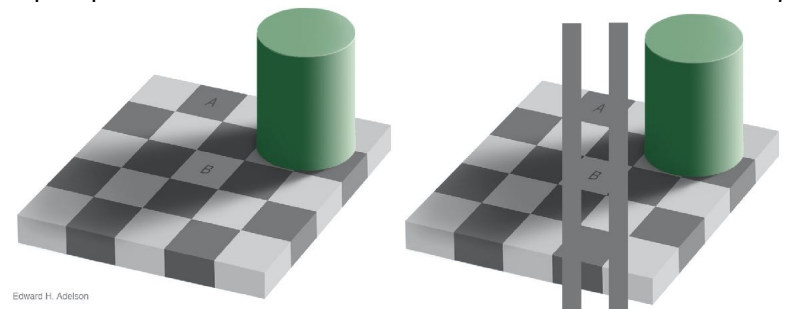
- perception of luminance is contextual based on contrast with surroundings



Edward H. Adelson

## Relative luminance judgements

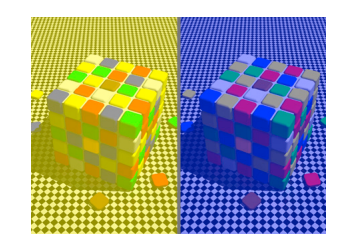
- perception of luminance is contextual based on contrast with surroundings



Edward H. Adelson

## Relative color judgements

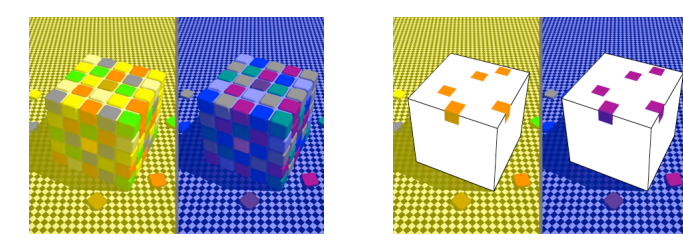
- color constancy across broad range of illumination conditions



<http://www.purveslab.net/seeifyourself/>

## Relative color judgements

- color constancy across broad range of illumination conditions



<http://www.purveslab.net/seeifyourself/>

## Grouping

**Marks as Links**

- Containment
- Connection

**Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes**

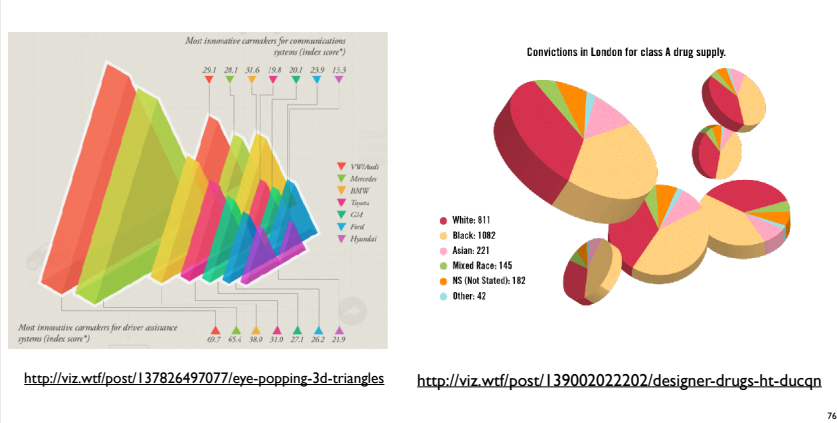
- Spatial region
- Color hue
- Motion
- Shape

# Rules of Thumb

## Rules of Thumb Summary

- No unjustified 3D
- No unjustified 2D
- Eyes beat memory
- Resolution over immersion
- Overview first, zoom and filter, details on demand
- Responsiveness is required
- Function first, form next

## Unjustified 3D all too common, in the news and elsewhere



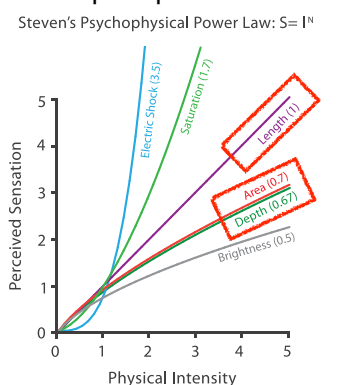
<http://viz.wtf/post/137826497077/eye-popping-3d-triangles>

<http://viz.wtf/post/139002022202/designer-drugs-ht-ducqn>

## Depth vs power of the plane

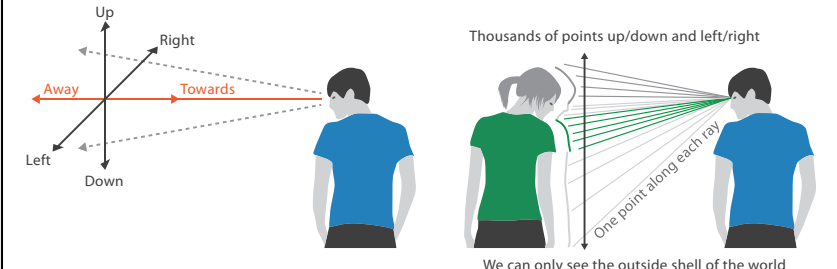
- high-ranked spatial position channels: **planar** spatial position
  - not depth!

- Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes**
- Position on common scale
  - Position on unaligned scale
  - Length (1D size)
  - Tilt/angle
  - Area (2D size)
  - Depth (3D position)



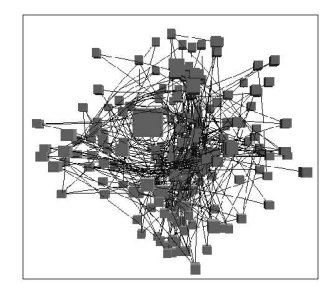
## No unjustified 3D: Danger of depth

- we don't really live in 3D: we **see** in 2.05D
  - acquire more info on image plane quickly from eye movements
  - acquire more info for depth slower, from head/body motion



## Occlusion hides information

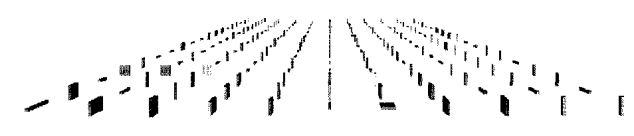
- occlusion
- interaction can resolve, but at cost of time and cognitive load



[Distortion Viewing Techniques for 3D Data, Carpendale et al. InfoVis 1996.]

## Perspective distortion loses information

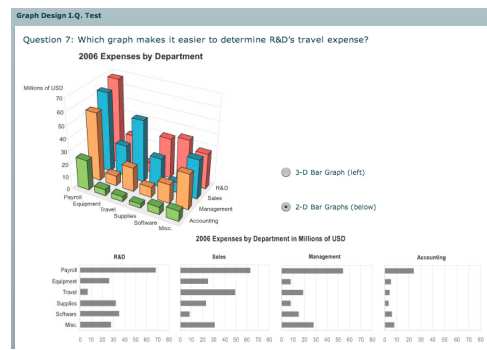
- perspective distortion
  - interferes with all size channel encodings
  - power of the plane is lost!



[Visualizing the Results of Multimedia Web Search Engines, Mukherjee, Hirata, and Hara. InfoVis 96]

## 3D vs 2D bar charts

- 3D bars very difficult to justify!
  - perspective distortion
  - occlusion
- faceting into 2D almost always better choice

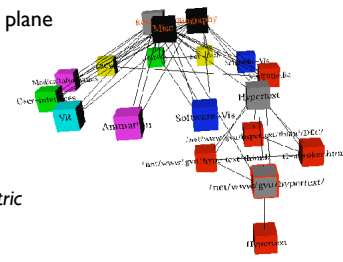


[http://perceptualedge.com/files/GraphDesignQ.html]

## Tilted text isn't legible

- text legibility
  - far worse when tilted from image plane
- further reading

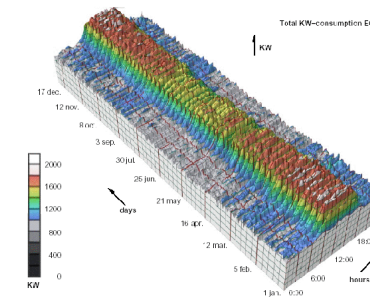
[Exploring and Reducing the Effects of Orientation on Text Readability in Volumetric Displays. Grossman et al. CHI 2007]



[Visualizing the World-Wide Web with the Navigational View Builder. Mukherjee and Foley. Computer Networks and ISDN Systems, 1995.]

## No unjustified 3D example: Time-series data

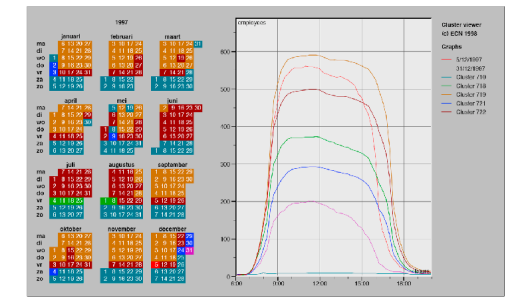
- extruded curves: detailed comparisons impossible



[Cluster and Calendar based Visualization of Time Series Data. van Wijk and van Selow, Proc. InfoVis 99.]

## No unjustified 3D example: Transform for new data abstraction

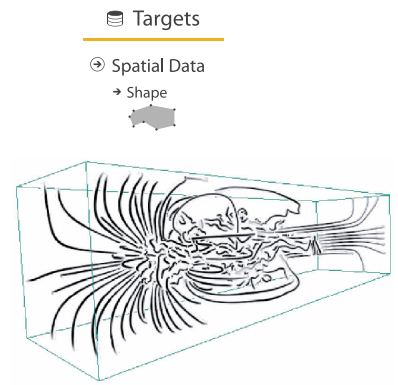
- derived data: cluster hierarchy
- juxtapose multiple views: calendar, superimposed 2D curves



[Cluster and Calendar based Visualization of Time Series Data. van Wijk and van Selow, Proc. InfoVis 99.]

## Justified 3D: shape perception

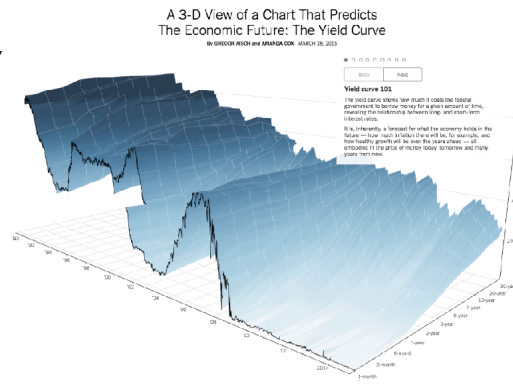
- benefits outweigh costs when task is shape perception for 3D spatial data
  - interactive navigation supports synthesis across many viewpoints



[Image-Based Streamline Generation and Rendering. Li and Shen. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG) 13:3 (2007), 630-640.]

## Justified 3D: Economic growth curve

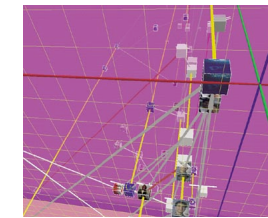
- constrained navigation steps through carefully designed viewpoints



http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/03/19/upshot/3d-yield-curve-economic-growth.html

## No unjustified 3D

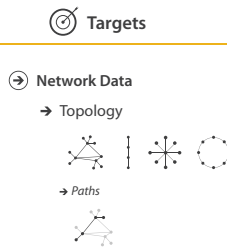
- 3D legitimate for true 3D spatial data
- 3D needs very careful justification for abstract data
  - enthusiasm in 1990s, but now skepticism
  - be especially careful with 3D for point clouds or networks



[WEBPATH—a three dimensional Web history. Frecon and Smith. Proc. InfoVis 1999]

## No unjustified 2D

- consider whether network data requires 2D spatial layout
  - especially if reading text is central to task!
  - arranging as network means lower information density and harder label lookup compared to text lists
- benefits outweigh costs when topological structure/context important for task
  - be especially careful for search results, document collections, ontologies



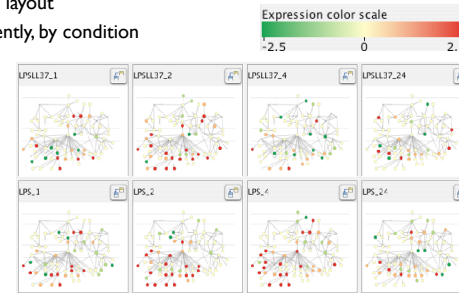
## Eyes beat memory

- principle: external cognition vs. internal memory
  - easy to compare by moving eyes between side-by-side views
  - harder to compare visible item to memory of what you saw
- implications for animation
  - great for choreographed storytelling
  - great for transitions between two states
  - poor for many states with changes everywhere
    - consider small multiples instead



## Eyes beat memory example: Cerebral

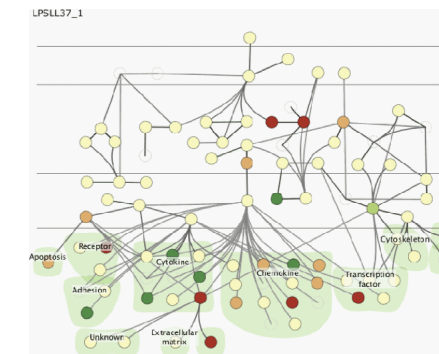
- small multiples: one graph instance per experimental condition
  - same spatial layout
  - color differently, by condition



[Cerebral: Visualizing Multiple Experimental Conditions on a Graph with Biological Context. Barsky, Munzner, Gardy, and Kincaid. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis 2008) 14:6 (2008), 1253-1260.]

## Why not animation?

- disparate frames and regions: comparison difficult
  - vs contiguous frames
  - vs small region
  - vs coherent motion of group
- safe special case
  - animated transitions

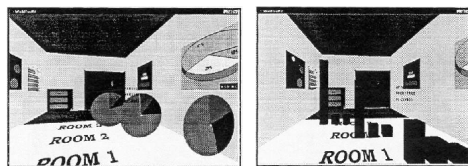


## Change blindness

- if attention is directed elsewhere, even drastic changes not noticeable
  - remember door experiment?
- change blindness demos
  - mask in between images
  - https://youtu.be/bh\_9XFzbWV8

## Resolution beats immersion

- immersion typically not helpful for abstract data
  - do not need sense of presence or stereoscopic 3D
  - desktop also better for workflow integration
- resolution much more important: pixels are the scarcest resource
- virtual reality for abstract data difficult to justify thus far
  - but stay tuned with second wave, AR (augmented reality) has more promise



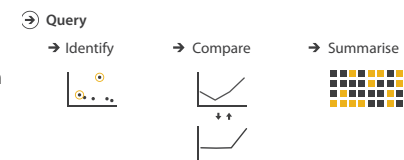
[Development of an information visualization tool using virtual reality. Kirner and Martins. Proc. Symp. Applied Computing 2000]

## Overview first, zoom and filter, details on demand

- influential mantra from Shneiderman

[The Eyes Have It: A Task by Data Type Taxonomy for Information Visualizations. Shneiderman. Proc. IEEE Visual Languages, pp. 336-343, 1996.]

- overview = summary
  - microcosm of full vis design problem



## Rule of thumb: Responsiveness is required

- visual feedback: three rough categories
  - 0.1 seconds: perceptual processing
    - subsecond response for mouseover highlighting - ballistic motion
  - 1 second: immediate response
    - fast response after mouseclick, button press - Fitts' Law limits on motor control
  - 10 seconds: brief tasks
    - bounded response after dialog box - mental model of heavyweight operation (file load)
- scalability considerations
  - highlight selection without complete redraw of view (graphics frontbuffer)
  - show hourglass for multi-second operations (check for cancel/undo)
  - show progress bar for long operations (process in background thread)
  - rendering speed when item count is large (guaranteed frame rate)

## Function first, form next

- start with focus on functionality
  - possible to improve aesthetics later on, as refinement
  - if no expertise in-house, find good graphic designer to work with
  - aesthetics do matter: another level of function
    - visual hierarchy, alignment, flow
    - Gestalt principles in action
    - (not covered in this class)
- dangerous to start with aesthetics
  - usually impossible to add function retroactively

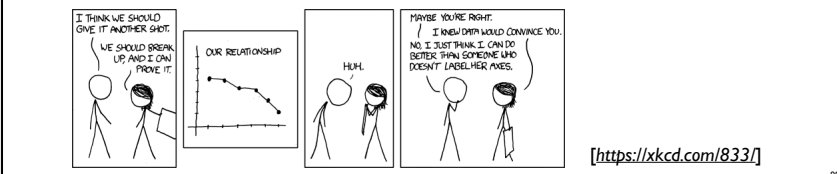
# Form: Basic graphic design ideas

- proximity
  - do group related items together
  - avoid equal whitespace between unrelated
- alignment
  - do find/make strong line, stick to it
  - avoid automatic centering
- repetition
  - do unify by pushing existing consistencies
- contrast
  - if not identical, then very different
  - avoid not quite the same



# Best practices: Labelling

- make visualizations as self-documenting as possible
  - meaningful & useful title, labels, legends
- axes and panes/subwindows should have labels
  - and axes should have good mix/max boundary tick marks
- everything that's plotted should have a legend
  - and own header/labels if not redundant with main title
- use reasonable numerical format
  - avoid scientific notation in most cases



# Rules of Thumb Summary

- No unjustified 3D
  - Power of the plane
  - Disparity of depth
  - Occlusion hides information
  - Perspective distortion dangers
  - Tilted text isn't legible
- No unjustified 2D
- Eyes beat memory
- Resolution over immersion
- Overview first, zoom and filter, details on demand
- Responsiveness is required
- Function first, form next

# Design Study Methodology

Michael Sedlmair  
Miriah Meyer  
Tamara Munzner

## Design Study Methodology

Reflections from the Trenches and from the Stacks

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

## Methodology for problem-driven work

- definitions
- 9-stage framework
- 32 pitfalls & how to avoid them
- comparison to related methodologies

## Lessons learned from the trenches: 21 between us

## Design study methodology: definitions

## 9 stage framework

## 9-stage framework

**learn winnow cast**

## 9-stage framework

**discover design implement deploy**

## 9-stage framework

**reflect write**

- guidelines: confirm, refine, reject, propose

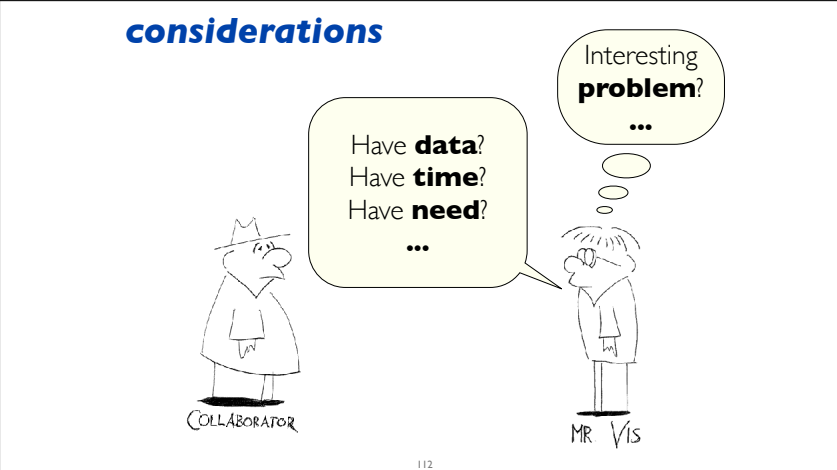
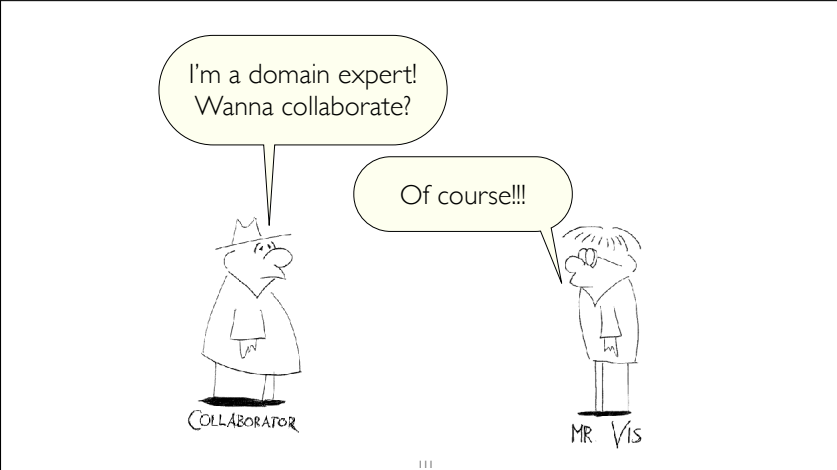
## 9-stage framework

**iterative**

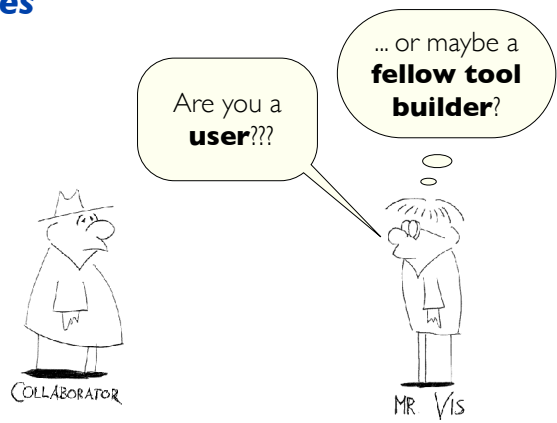
## Design study methodology: 32 pitfalls

- and 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



roles

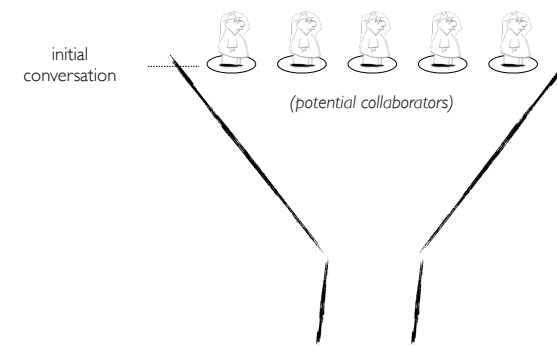


113

METAPHOR  
Winnowing

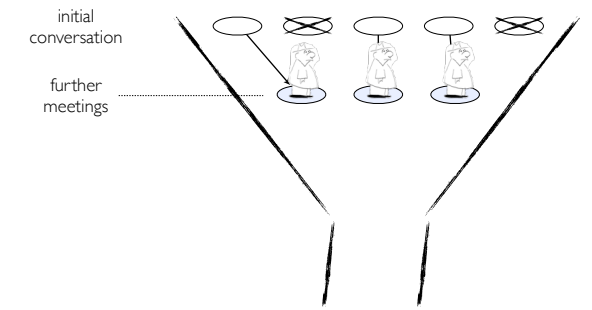


Collaborator winnowing



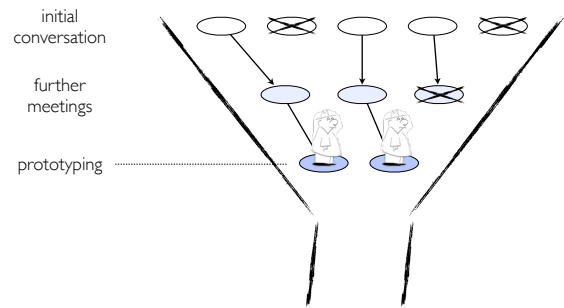
115

Collaborator winnowing



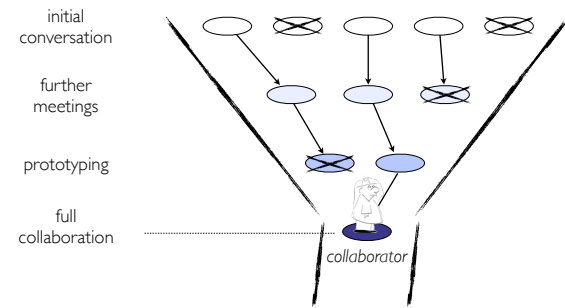
116

Collaborator winnowing



117

Collaborator winnowing



118

Collaborator winnowing



119

EXAMPLE FROM THE TRENCHES  
Premature Collaboration!

PowerSet Viewer  
2 years / 4 researchers

WikeVis  
0.5 years / 2 researchers

120

EXAMPLE FROM THE TRENCHES  
Premature Collaboration!

PowerSet Viewer  
2 years / 4 researchers

WikeVis  
0.5 years / 2 researchers

**- Fellow tool builders**  
**- Data promised**

121

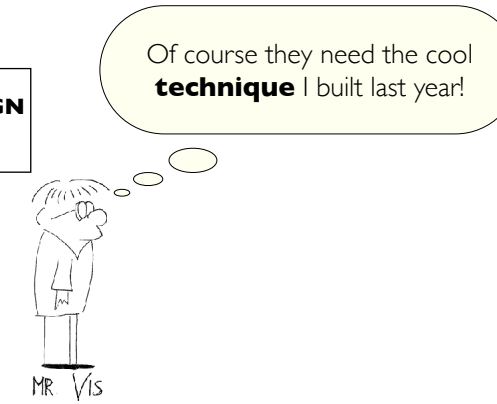
Design study methodology: 32 pitfalls

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
PF-15	ignoring practices that currently work well	discover
PF-16	expecting <i>just talking</i> or <i>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

122

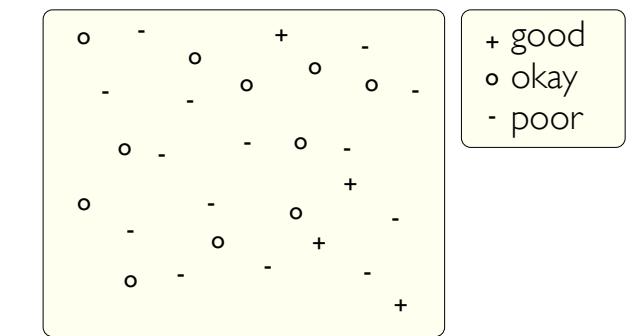
PITFALL

PREMATURE DESIGN COMMITMENT



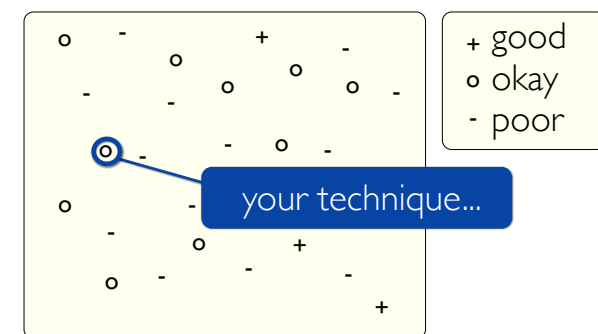
123

METAPHOR  
Design Space



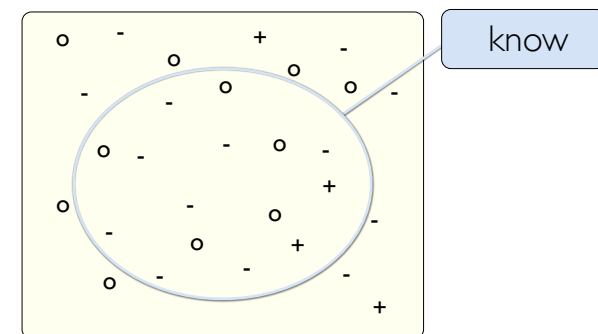
124

METAPHOR  
Design Space



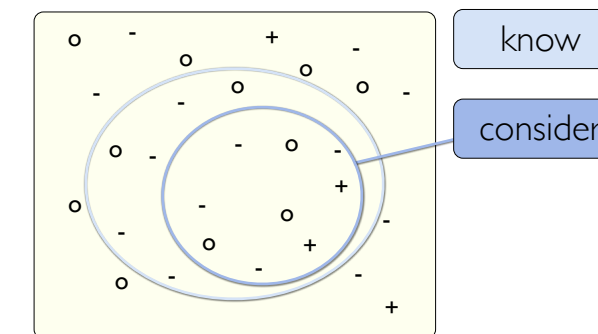
125

METAPHOR  
Design Space



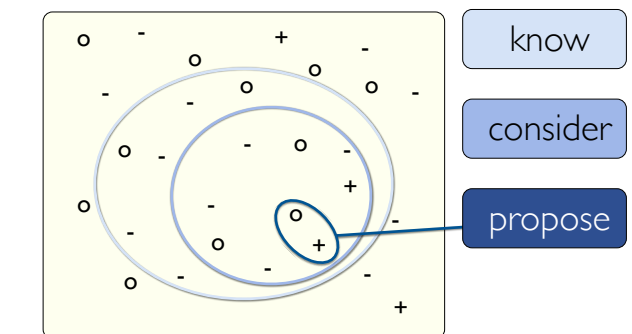
126

METAPHOR  
Design Space



127

METAPHOR  
Design Space

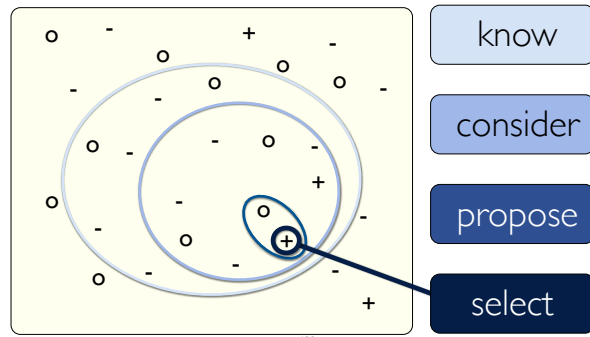


128



# METAPHOR

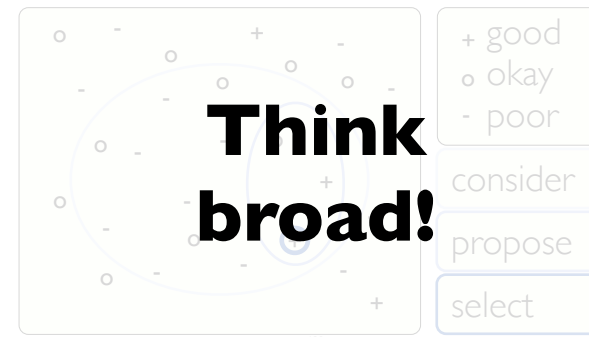
## Design Space



129

# METAPHOR

## Design Space



130

## Design study methodology: 32 pitfalls

PF-21	mistaking technique-driven for problem-driven work	design
PF-22	nonrapid prototyping	implement
PF-23	usability: too little / too much	implement
PF-24	premature end: insufficient deploy time built into schedule	deploy
PF-25	usage study not case study: non-real task/data/user	deploy
PF-26	liking necessary but not sufficient for validation	deploy
PF-27	failing to improve guidelines: confirm, refine, reject, propose	reflect
PF-28	insufficient writing time built into schedule	write
PF-29	no technique contribution $\neq$ good design study	write
PF-30	too much domain background in paper	write
PF-31	story told chronologically vs. focus on final results	write
PF-32	premature end: win race vs. practice music for debut	write

131

PITFALL  
**PREMATURE PUBLISHING**

I can write a design study paper in a week!



**“writing is research”**  
[Wolcott: Writing up qualitative research, 2009]

132

# METAPHOR

## Horse Race vs. Music Debut

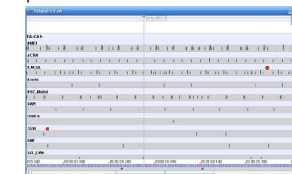


133

# EXAMPLE FROM THE TRENCHES

## Don't step on your own toes!

First design round published



AutobahnVis 1.0  
[Sedlmair et al., Smart Graphics, 2009]

Subsequent work not stand-alone paper



AutobahnVis 2.0  
[Sedlmair et al., Information Visualization 10(3), 2011]

134

## Reflections from the stacks: Wholesale adoption inappropriate

- ethnography
  - rapid, goal-directed fieldwork
- grounded theory
  - not empty slate: vis background is key
- action research
  - aligned
    - intervention as goal
    - transferability not reproducibility
    - personal involvement is key
  - opposition
    - translation of participant concepts into visualization language
    - researcher lead not facilitate design
    - orthogonal to vis concerns: participants as writers, adversarial to status quo, postmodernity



135

## Next week

- to read & discuss (async, before next class)
  - VAD book, Ch 7: Arrange Tables
  - paper: LineUp [technique]
  - paper: Revisiting Bertin Matrices [technique]
- sync class: project pitches!
  - 2 min each
  - if already have full or partial team, can combine your times together
  - up to you: prerecord video OR present live, need slides either way
    - due by 1pm (Wed Sep 29)
      - if prerecorded, videos and slides. if live: slides
    - video creation tips/resources <https://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/courses/547-21/video.html>
  - near-realtime Q&A / discussion through dedicated Piazza thread

136

## Plan for today

- 45 min: Marks & Channels
  - mini-lecture
  - examples & discussion
  - further Q&A
- 30 min: Rules of Thumb, Design Study Methodology
  - further Q&A
- 5 min: upcoming
  - next week: async reading, sync project pitches
- (break)
- 75 min small groups exercise: Decoding
  - 45 min: breakout groups
  - 30 min: reportbacks

137