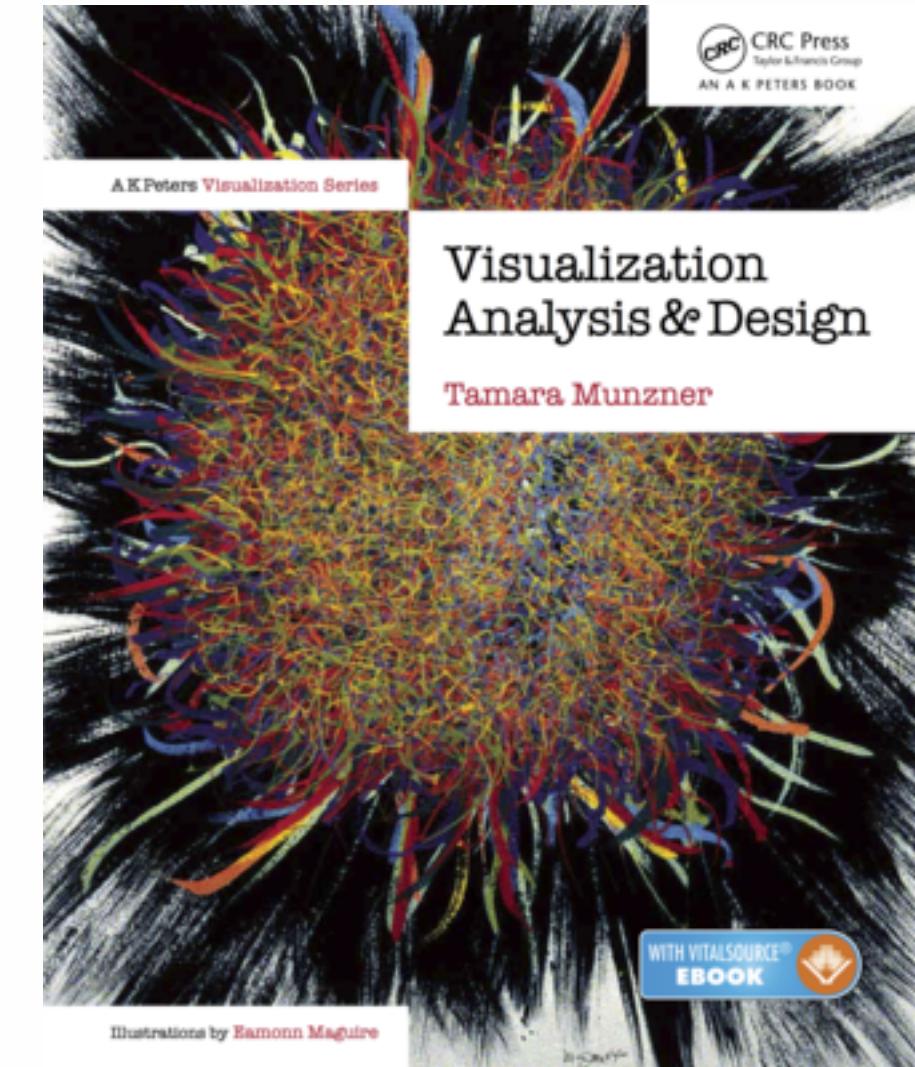


# Visualization Analysis & Design

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Department of Computer Science  
University of British Columbia

UBC STAT 545A Guest Lecture  
October 22 2015, Vancouver BC



<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#vad15bryan>

@tamaramunzner

# Defining visualization (vis)

**Computer-based visualization systems provide visual representations of datasets designed to help people carry out tasks more effectively.**

Why?...

# Why have a human in the loop?

**Computer-based visualization systems provide visual representations of datasets designed to help people carry out tasks more effectively.**

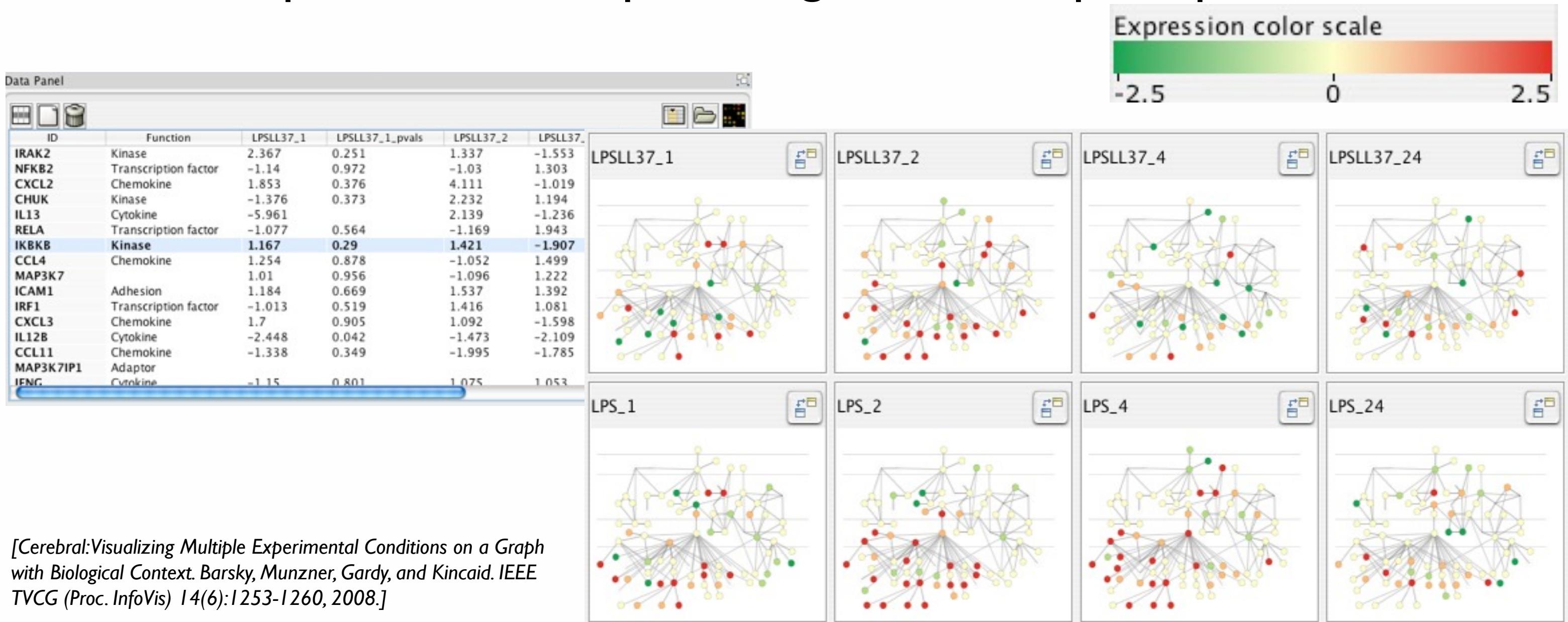
**Visualization is suitable when there is a need to augment human capabilities rather than replace people with computational decision-making methods.**

- don't need vis when fully automatic solution exists and is trusted
- many analysis problems ill-specified
  - don't know exactly what questions to ask in advance
- possibilities
  - long-term use for end users (e.g. exploratory analysis of scientific data)
  - presentation of known results
  - stepping stone to better understanding of requirements before developing models
  - help developers of automatic solution refine/debug, determine parameters
  - help end users of automatic solutions verify, build trust

# Why use an external representation?

**Computer-based visualization systems provide visual representations of datasets designed to help people carry out tasks more effectively.**

- external representation: replace cognition with perception



# Why represent all the data?

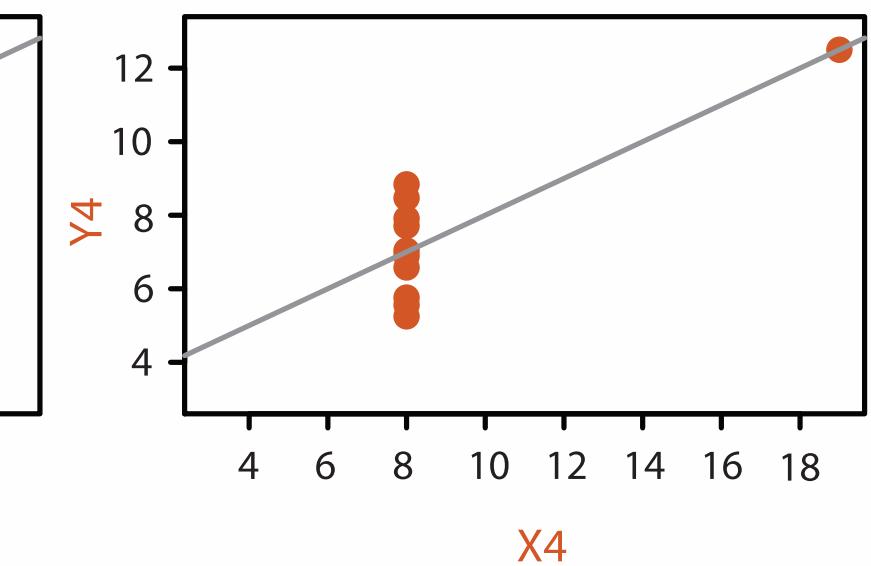
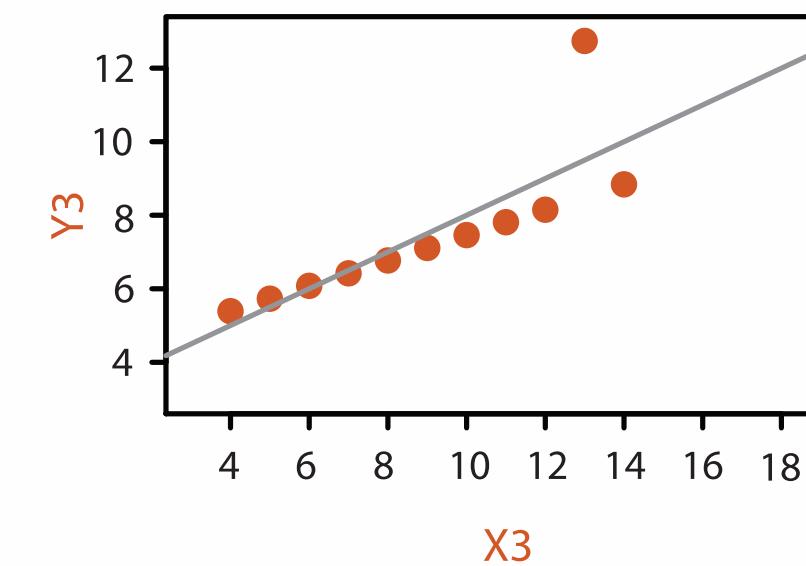
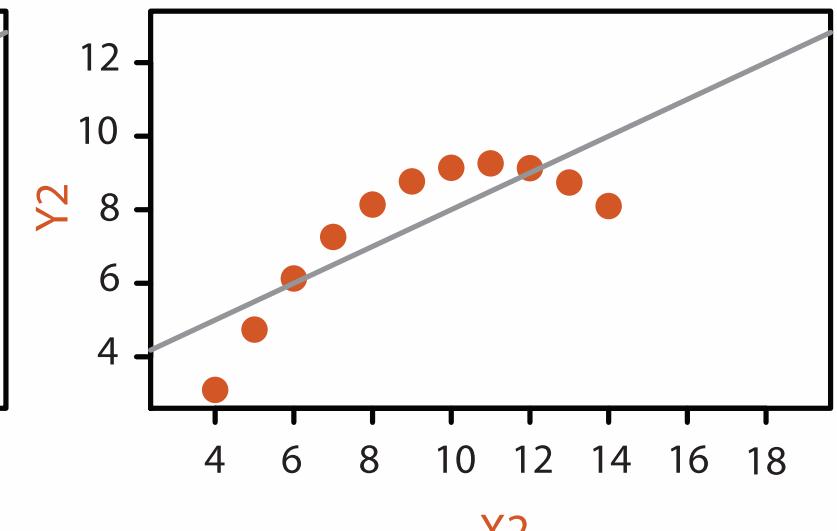
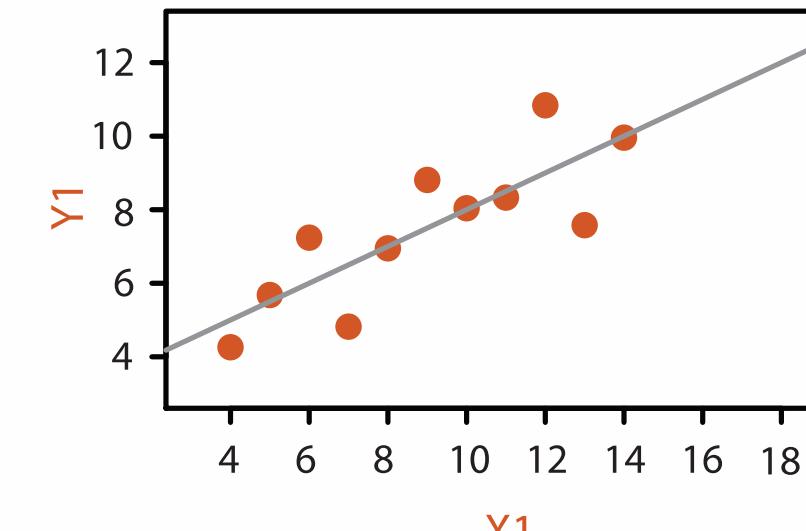
**Computer-based visualization systems provide visual representations of datasets designed to help people carry out tasks more effectively.**

- summaries lose information, details matter
  - confirm expected and find unexpected patterns
  - assess validity of statistical model

## Anscombe's Quartet

### Identical statistics

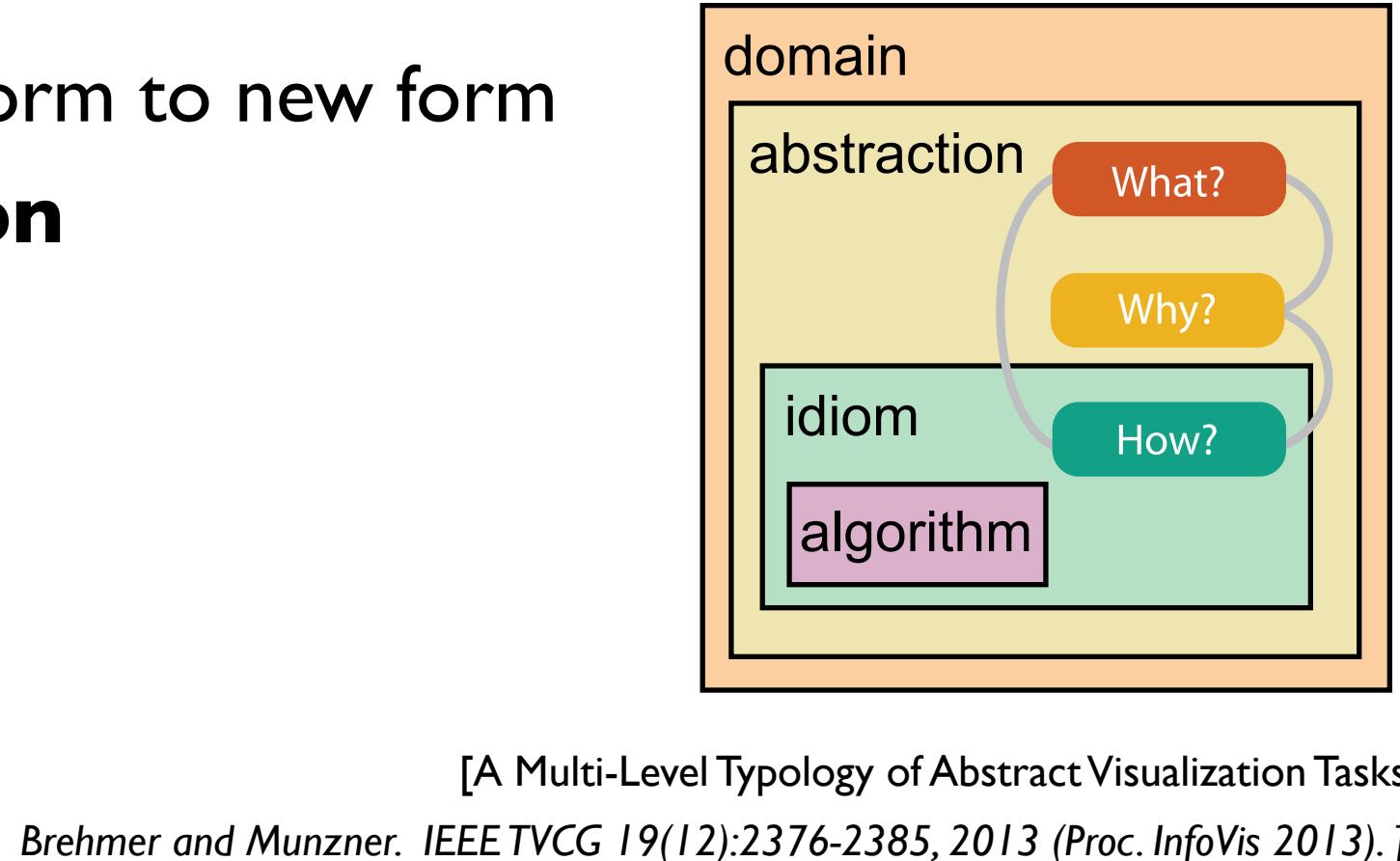
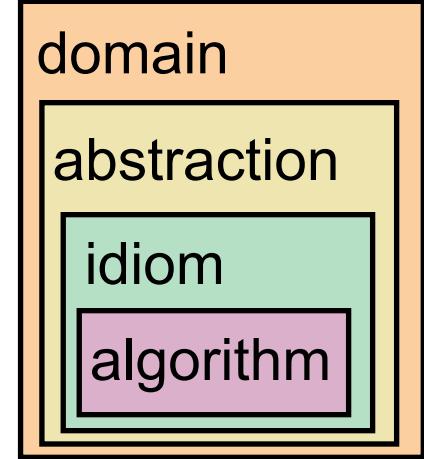
x mean	9
x variance	10
y mean	8
y variance	4
x/y correlation	1



# Analysis framework: Four levels, three questions

- **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).]



# Why is validation difficult?

- different ways to get it wrong at each level



# Why is validation difficult?

- solution: use methods from different fields at each level

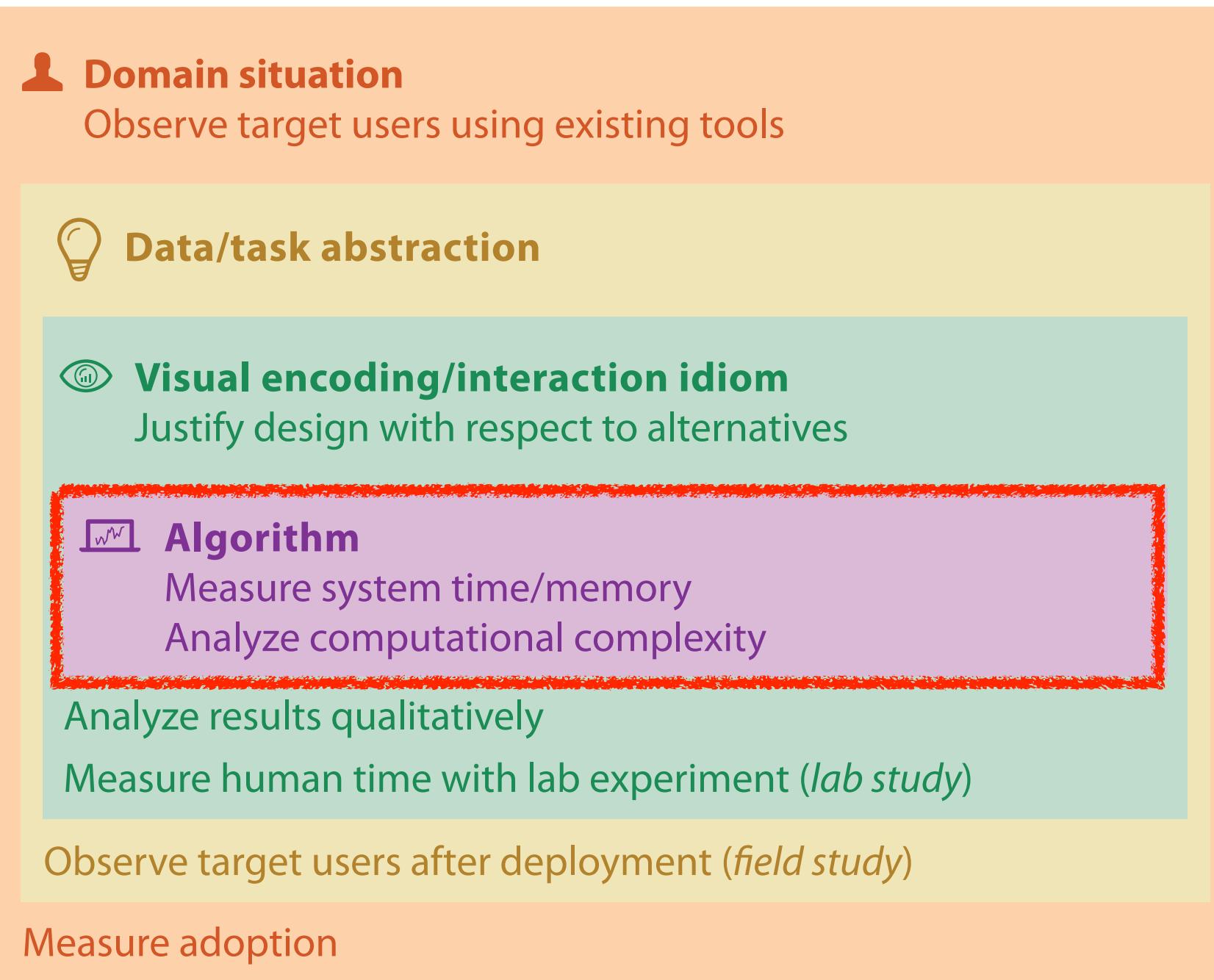
anthropology/  
ethnography

design

computer  
science

cognitive  
psychology

anthropology/  
ethnography



problem-driven  
work

technique-driven  
work

# What?

## Datasets

### → Data Types

→ Items → Attributes → Links → Positions → Grids

### → Data and Dataset Types

Tables	Networks & Trees	Fields	Geometry	Clusters, Sets, Lists
Items	Items (nodes)	Grids	Items	Clusters, Sets, Lists
Attributes	Links	Positions	Positions	Items

## Attributes

### → Attribute Types

→ Categorical



→ Ordered

→ Ordinal

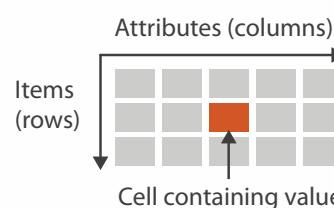


→ Quantitative

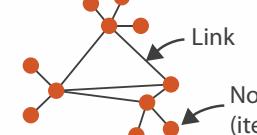


### → Dataset Types

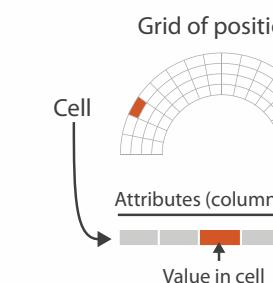
#### → Tables



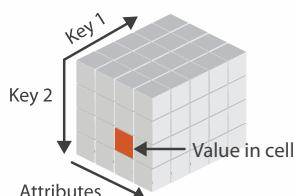
#### → Networks



#### → Fields (Continuous)



#### → Multidimensional Table



#### → Trees



#### → Geometry (Spatial)



### → Ordering Direction

#### → Sequential



#### → Diverging



#### → Cyclic



### → Dataset Availability

#### → Static



#### → Dynamic



What?

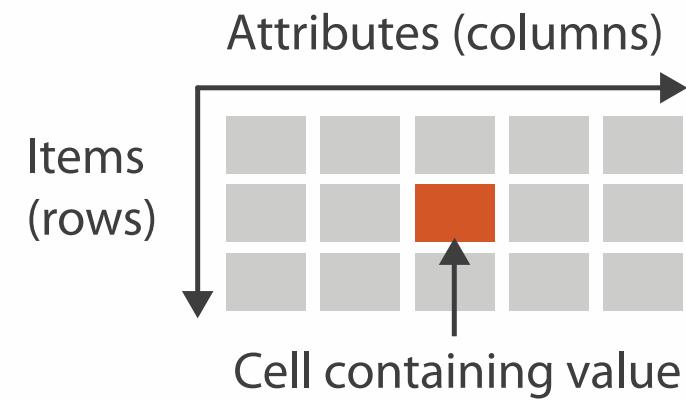
Why?

How?

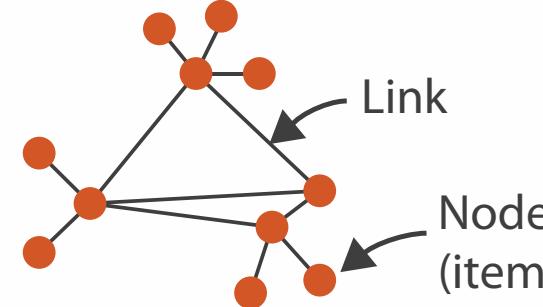
# Types: Datasets and data

## → Dataset Types

→ Tables

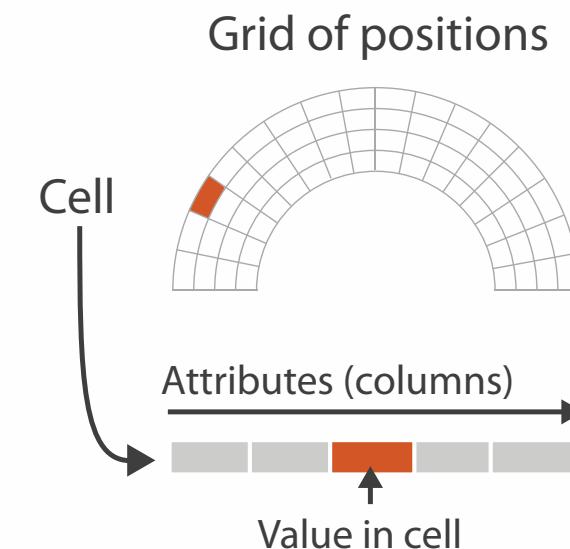


→ Networks

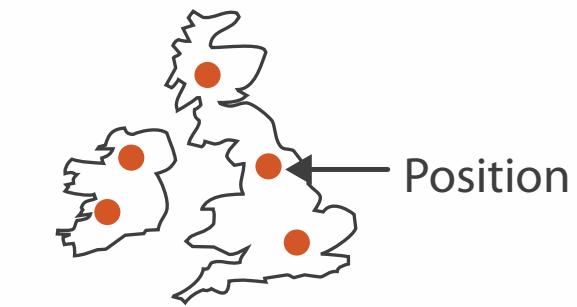


→ Spatial

→ Fields (Continuous)



→ Geometry (Spatial)



## → Attribute Types

→ Categorical

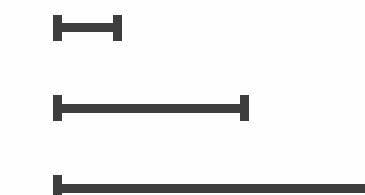


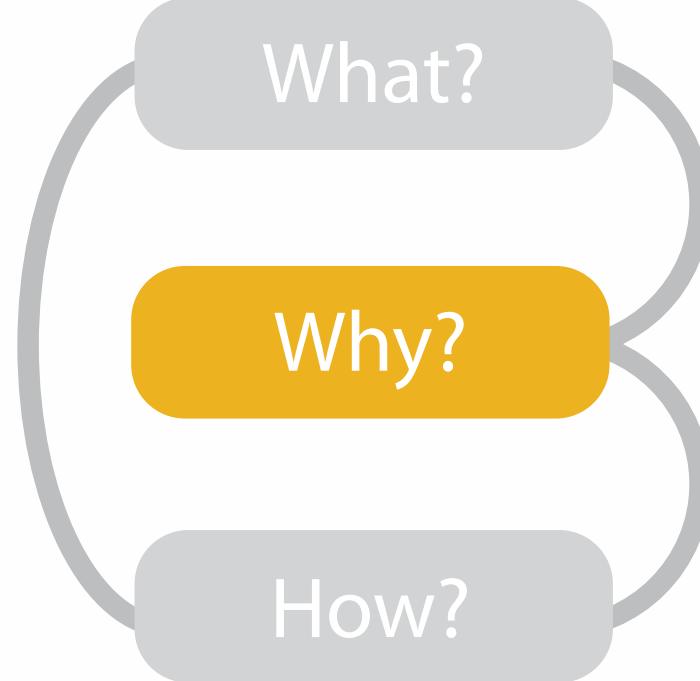
→ Ordered

→ *Ordinal*

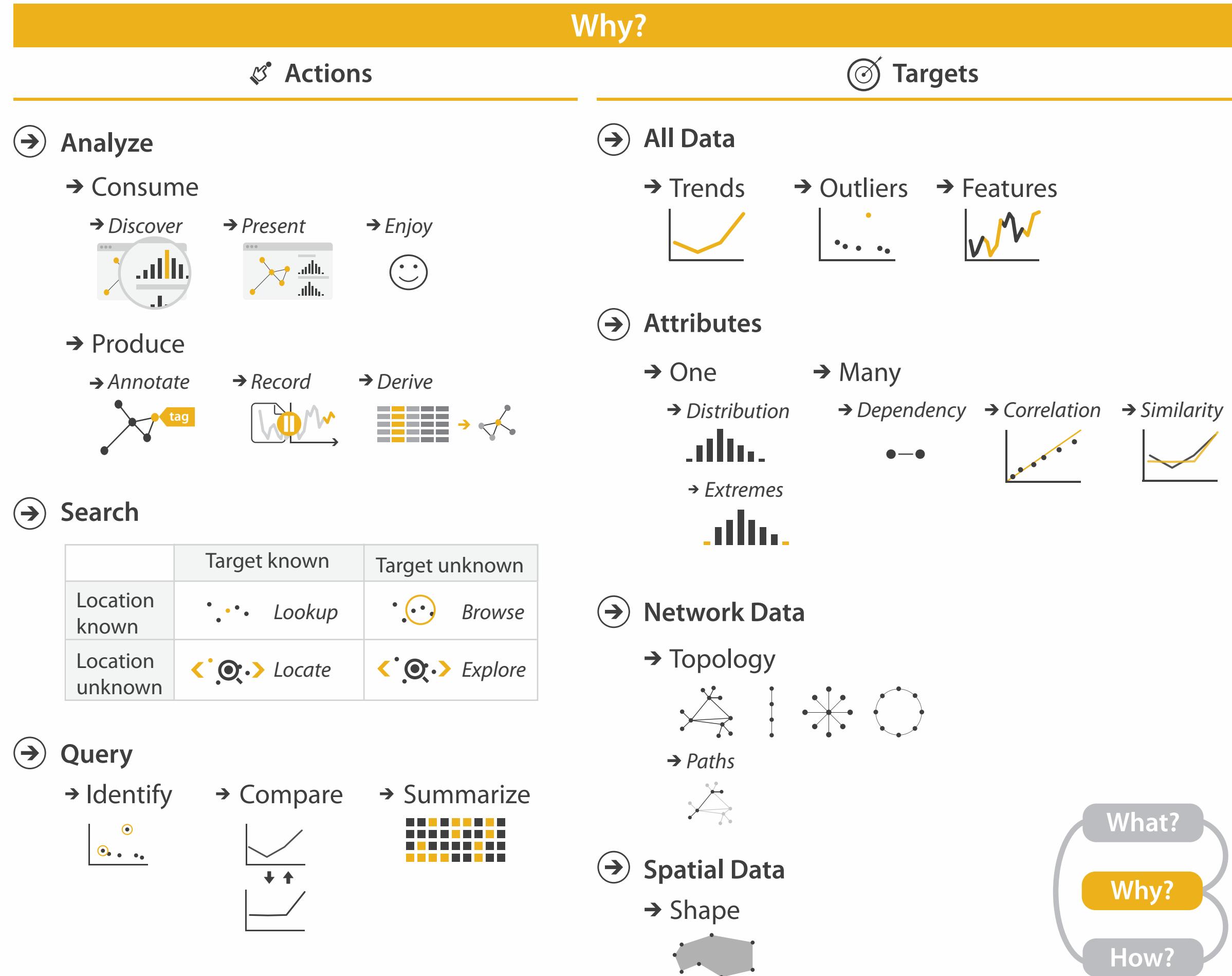


→ *Quantitative*



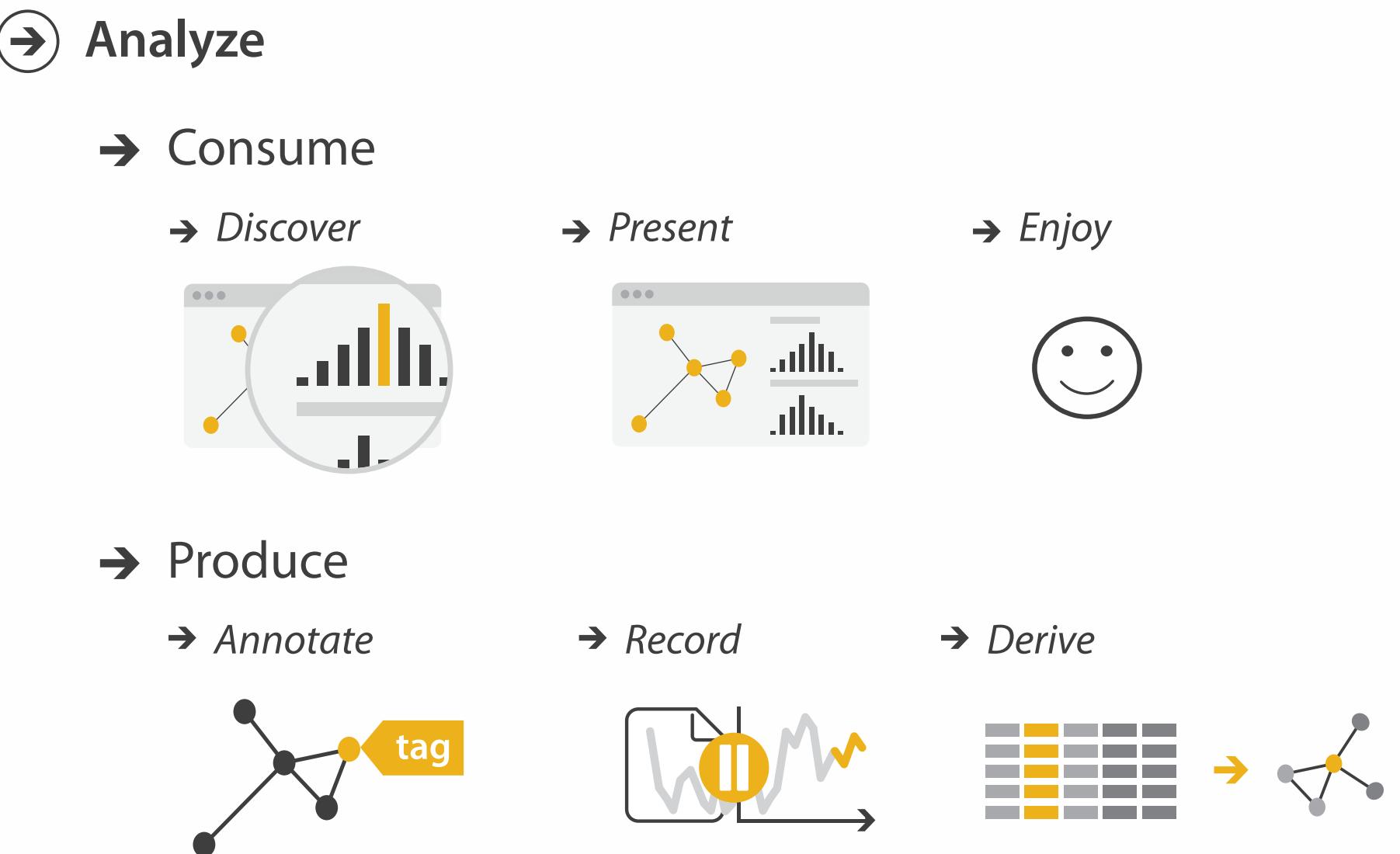


- {action, target} pairs
  - *discover distribution*
  - *compare trends*
  - *locate outliers*
  - *browse topology*



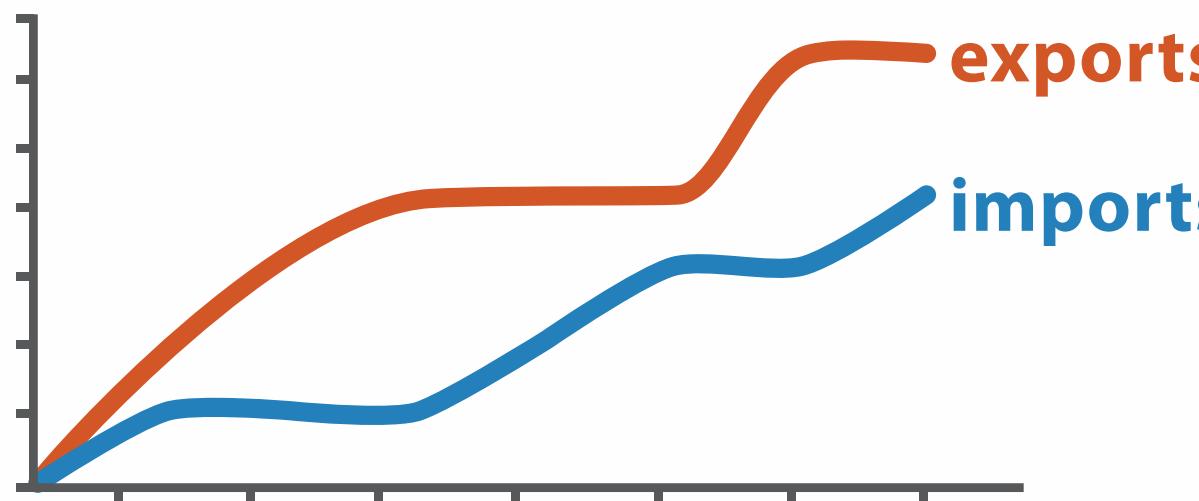
# Actions: Analyze

- consume
  - discover vs present
    - classic split
    - aka explore vs explain
  - enjoy
    - newcomer
    - aka casual, social
- produce
  - annotate, record
  - derive
    - crucial design choice

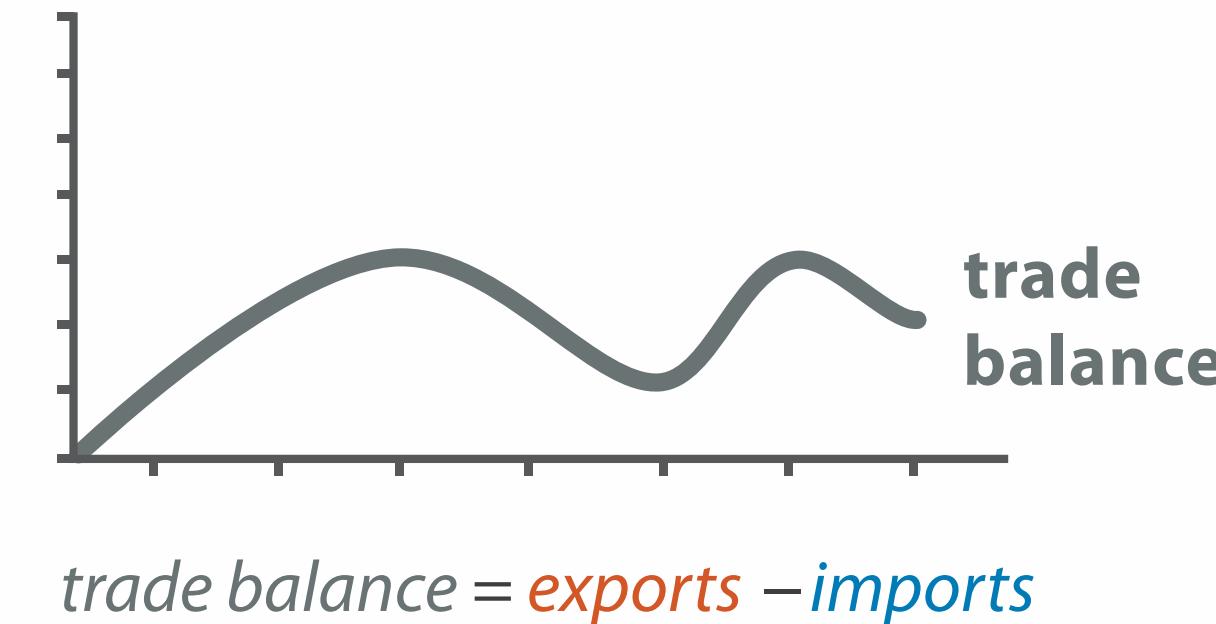


# Derive

- 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

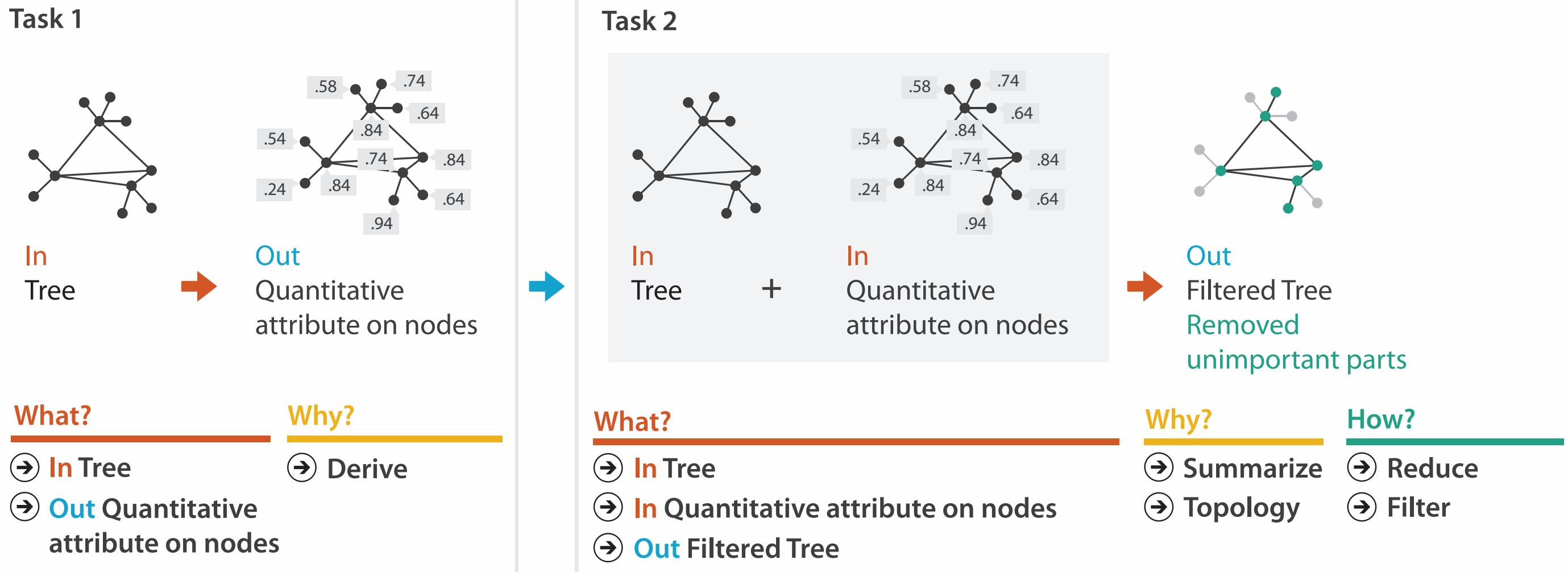
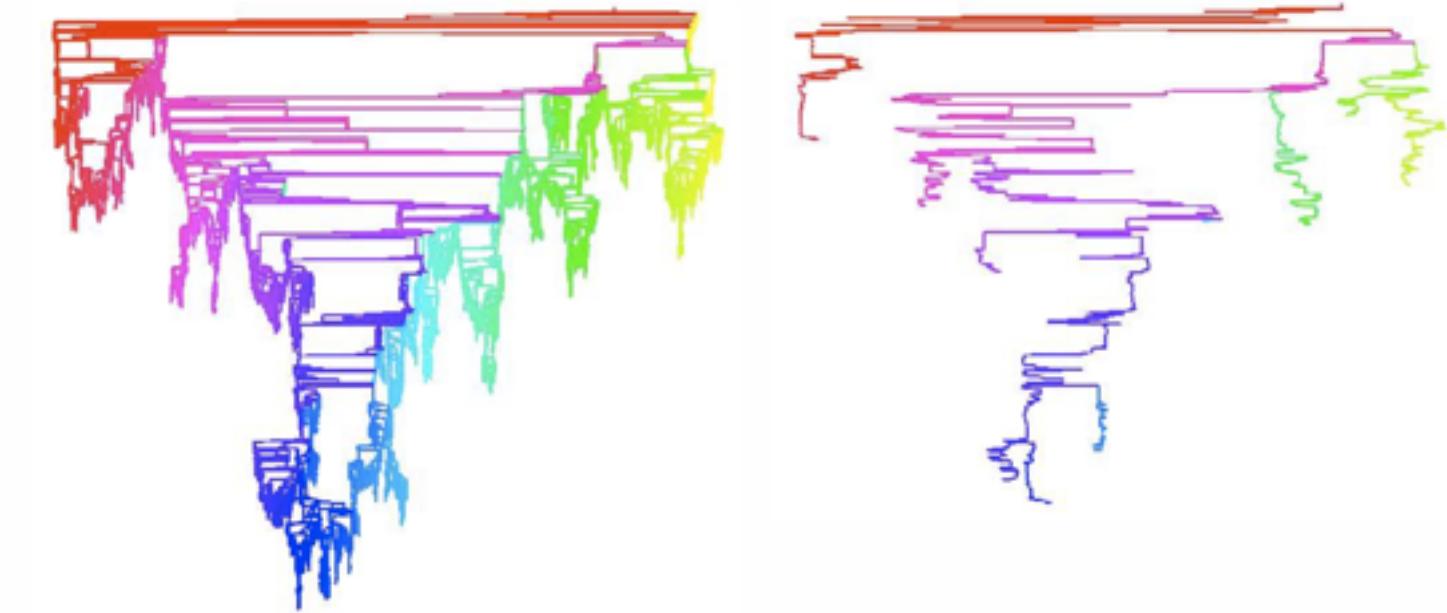


Derived Data

# 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.]



# Actions: Search, query

- what does user know?

- target, location

- how much of the data matters?

- one, some, all

→ Search

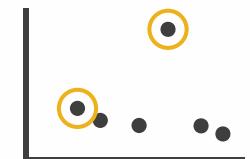
	Target known	Target unknown
Location known	 <i>Lookup</i>	 <i>Browse</i>
Location unknown	 <i>Locate</i>	 <i>Explore</i>

→ Query

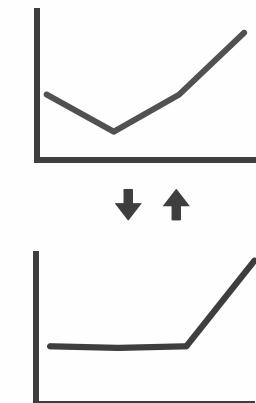
- independent choices for each of these three levels

- analyze, search, query
  - mix and match

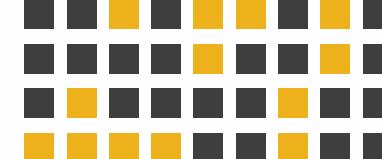
→ Identify



→ Compare



→ Summarize



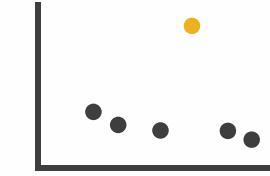
# Targets

## → All Data

→ Trends



→ Outliers



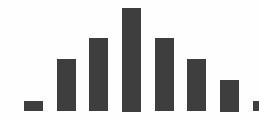
→ Features



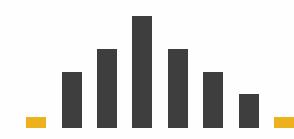
## → Attributes

→ One

→ *Distribution*



→ *Extremes*

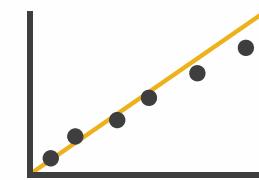


→ Many

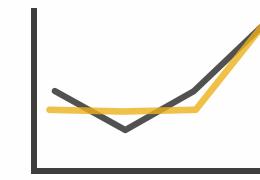
→ *Dependency*



→ *Correlation*

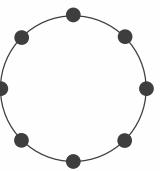
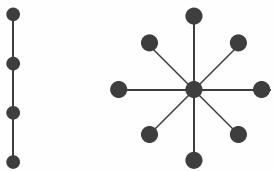
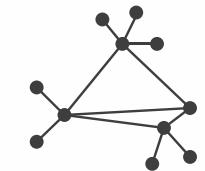


→ *Similarity*

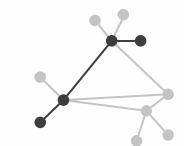


## → Network Data

→ Topology



→ Paths

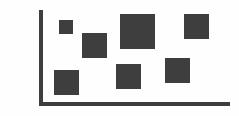
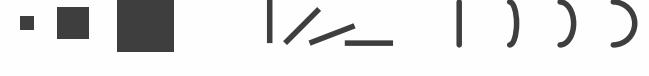


## → Spatial Data

→ Shape



# How?

Encode	Manipulate	Facet	Reduce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Arrange</li> <li>→ Express</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Separate</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Map from categorical and ordered attributes</li> <li>→ Color <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Hue</li> <li>→ Saturation</li> <li>→ Luminance</li> </ul> </li> <li>→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Change</li> </ul> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Order</li> <li>→ Align</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Select</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Partition</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Filter</li> </ul> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Use</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Navigate</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Superimpose</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Aggregate</li> </ul> 

What?

Why?

How?

# How to encode: Arrange space, map channels

## Encode

---

### → Arrange

→ Express



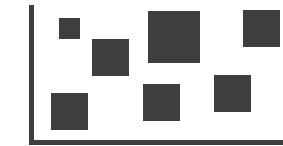
→ Order



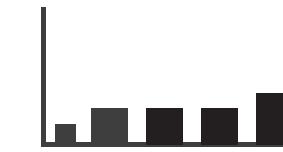
→ Use



### → Separate



### → Align



### → Map

from **categorical** and **ordered** attributes

### → Color

→ *Hue*



→ *Saturation*



→ *Luminance*



### → Size, Angle, Curvature, ...

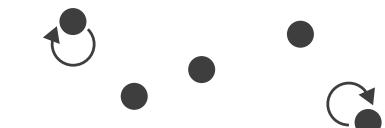


### → Shape



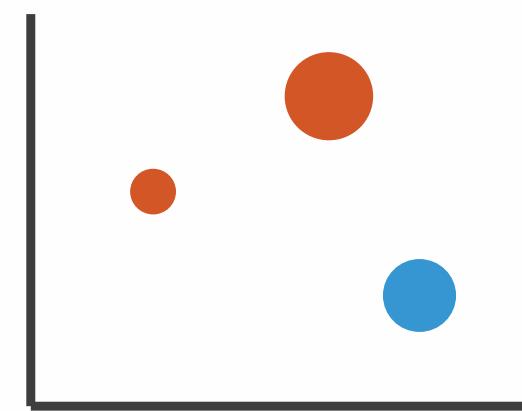
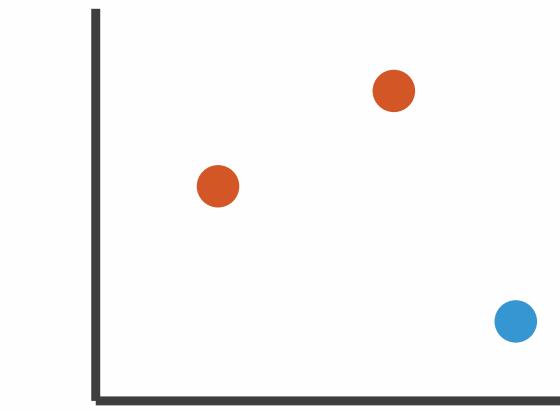
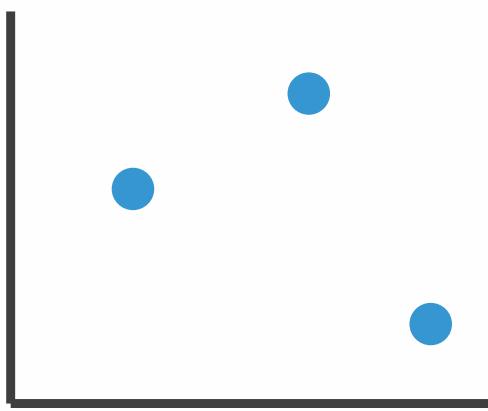
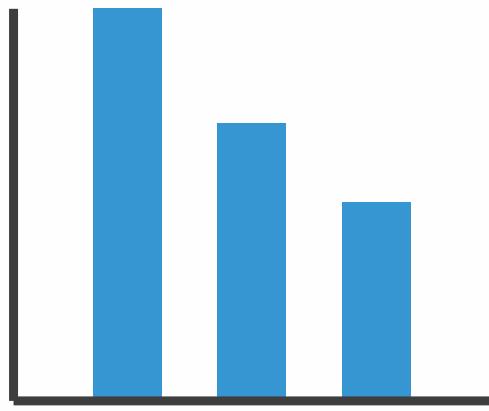
### → Motion

*Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...*



# Encoding visually

- analyze idiom structure

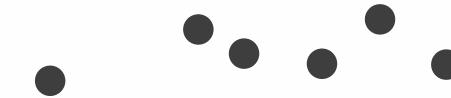


# Definitions: Marks and channels

- marks

- geometric primitives

→ Points



→ Lines



→ Areas



- channels

- control appearance of marks

→ Position

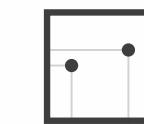
→ Horizontal



→ Vertical



→ Both



→ Color



→ Shape



→ Tilt



→ Size

→ Length



→ Area

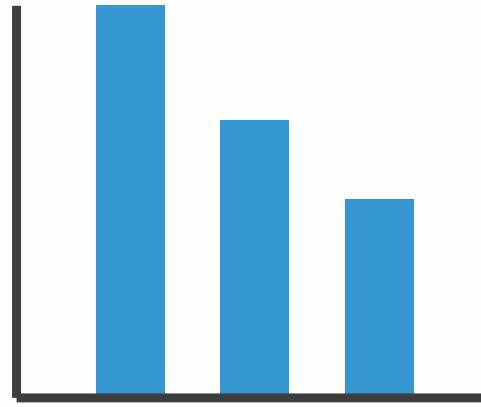


→ Volume



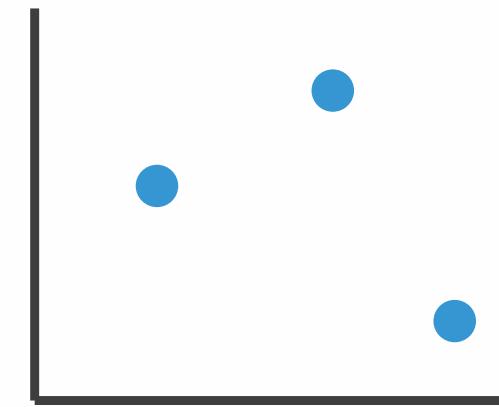
# Encoding visually with marks and channels

- analyze idiom structure
  - as combination of marks and channels



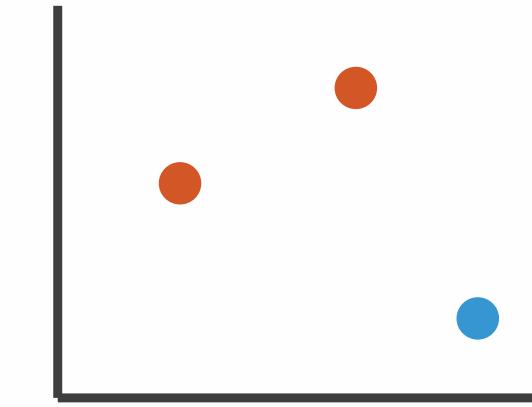
1:  
vertical position

mark: line



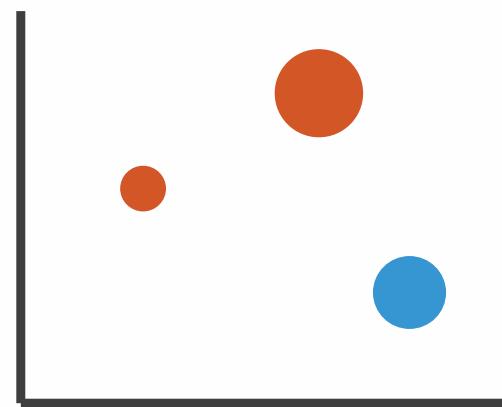
2:  
vertical position  
horizontal position

mark: point



3:  
vertical position  
horizontal position  
color hue

mark: point



4:  
vertical position  
horizontal position  
color hue  
size (area)

mark: point

# Channels

Position on common scale



Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



Tilt angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



Color luminance



Same

Color saturation



Curvature



Same

Volume (3D size)



Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Shape



# Channels: Matching Types

## → 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



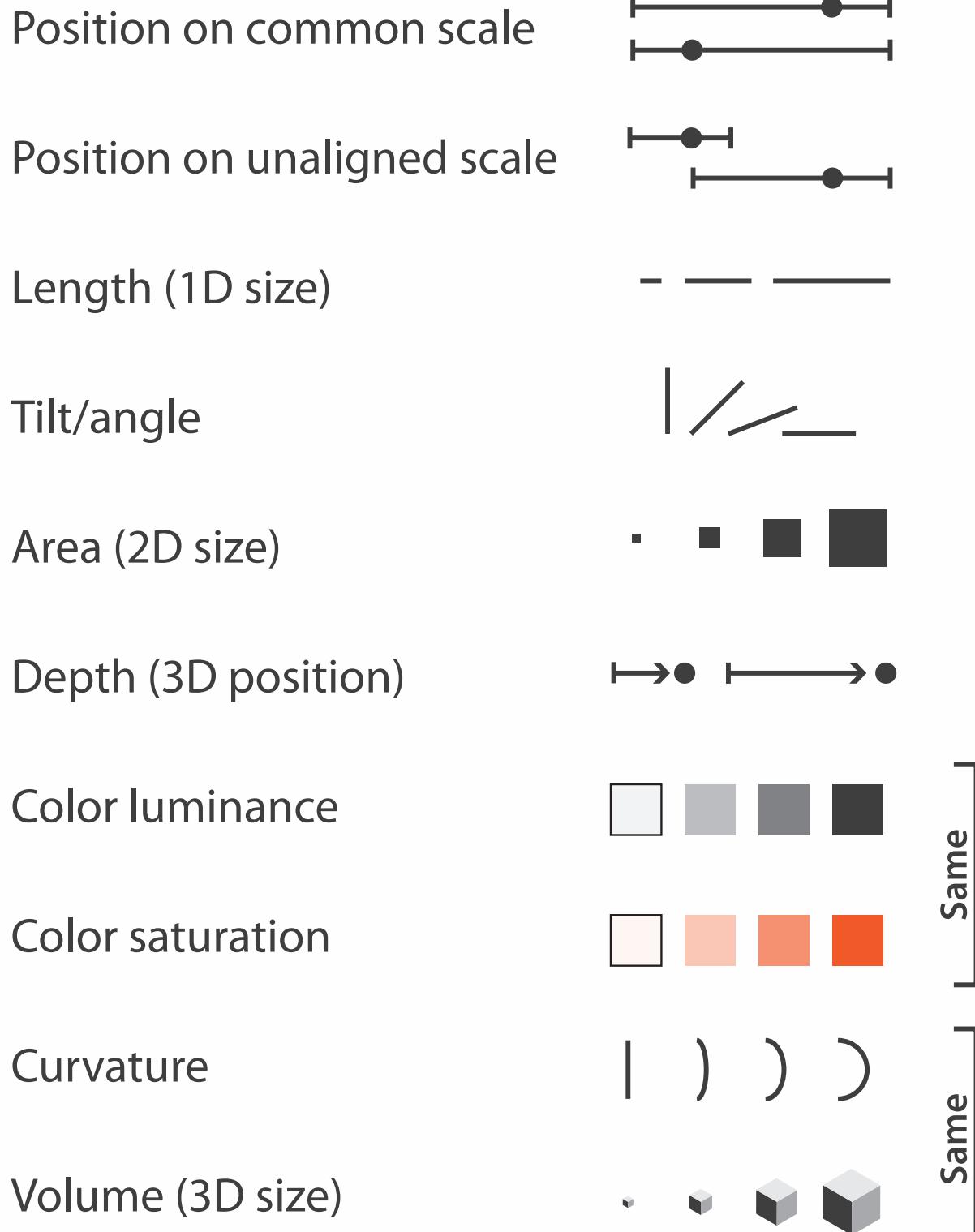
Shape



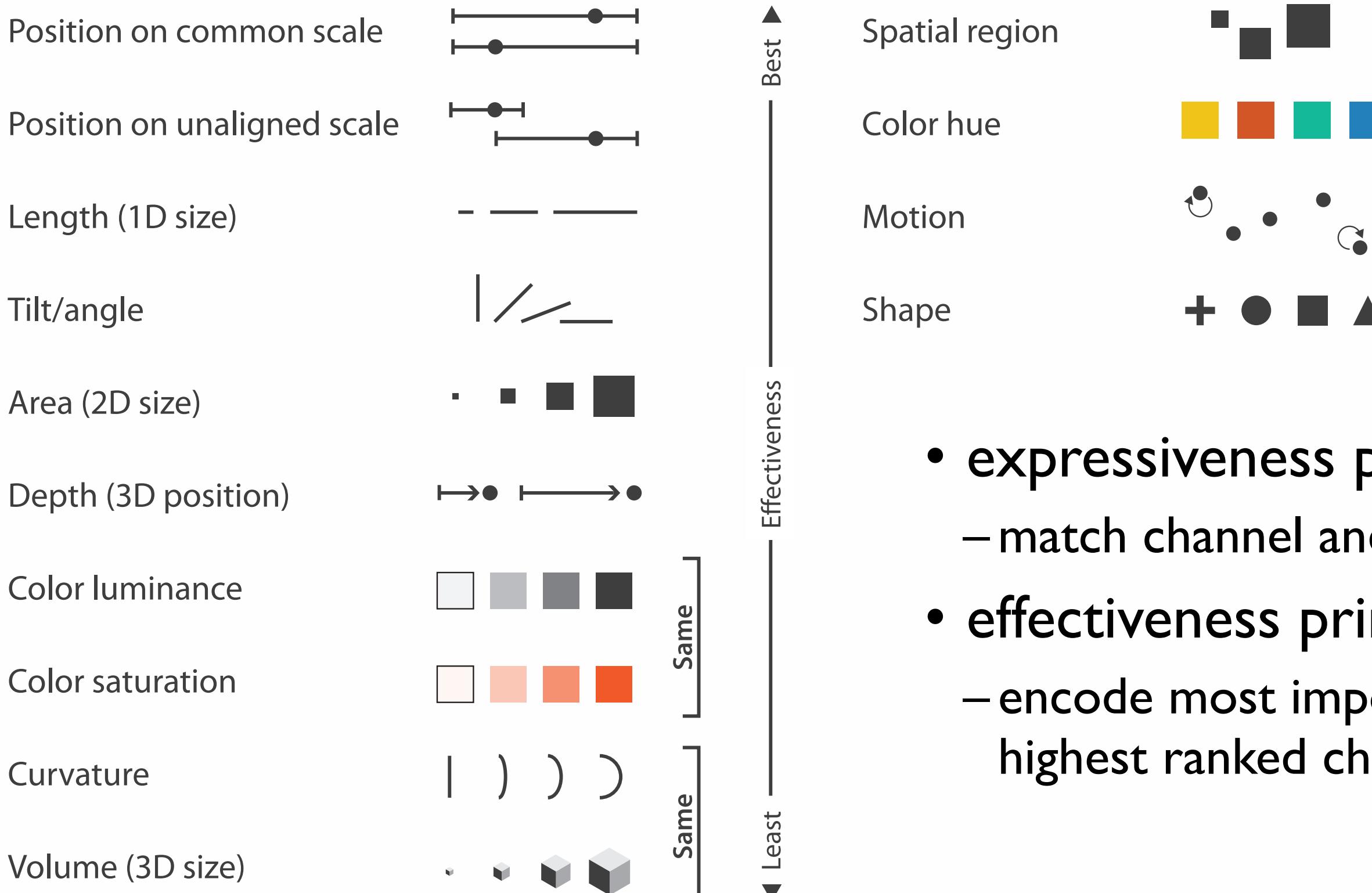
- **expressiveness principle**
  - match channel and data characteristics

# Channels: Rankings

## → Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes



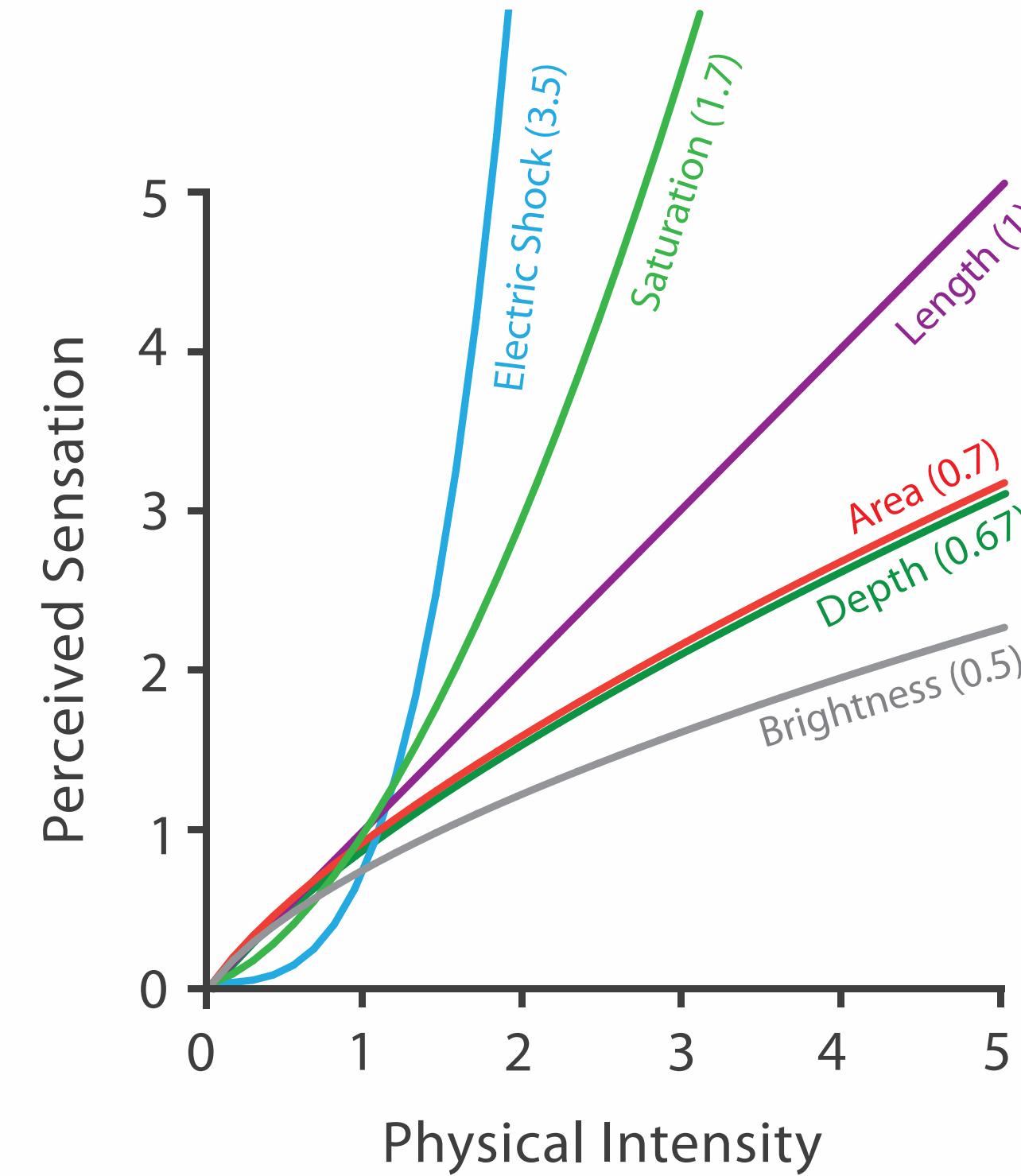
## → Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes



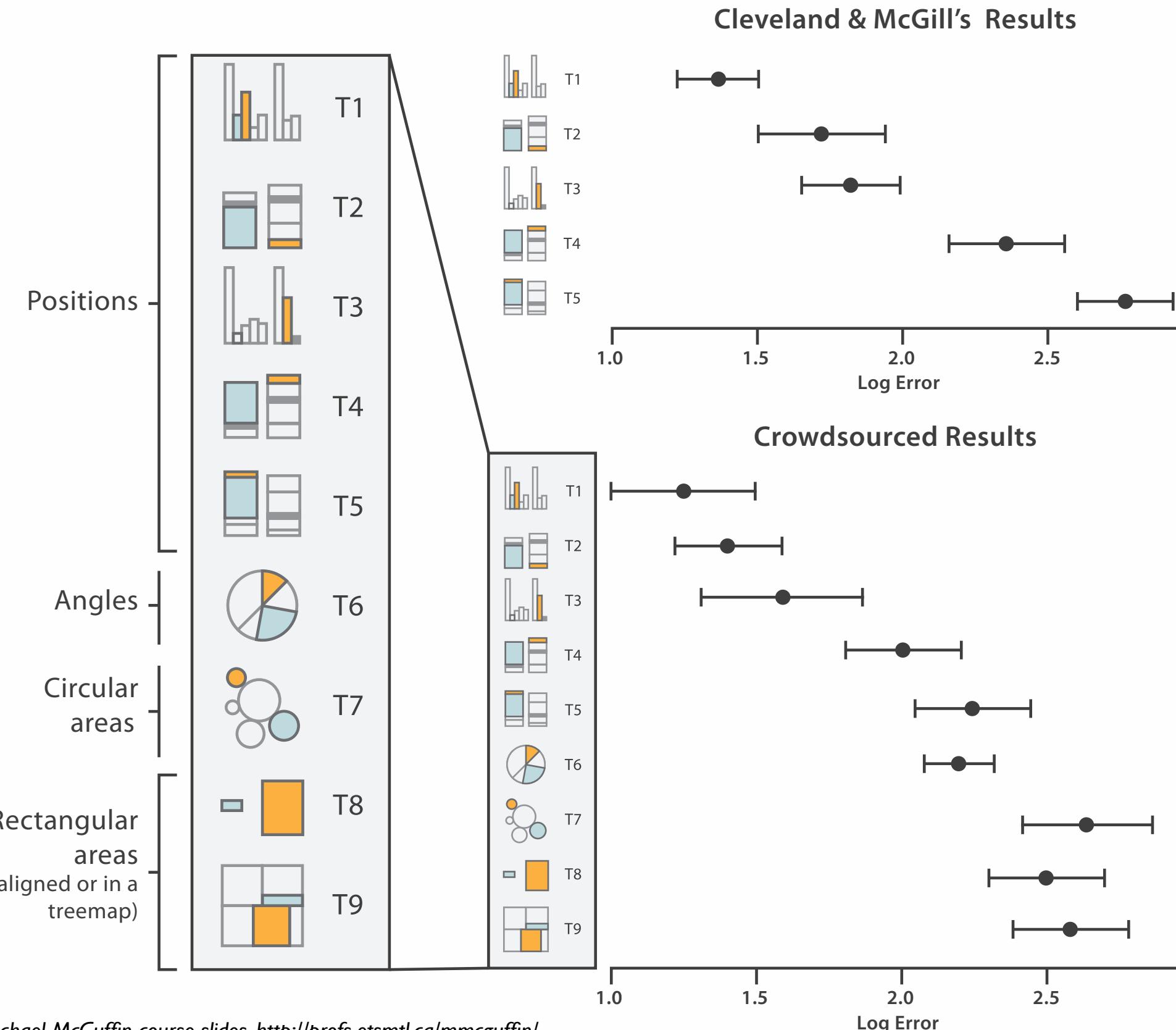
- **expressiveness principle**
  - match channel and data characteristics
- **effectiveness principle**
  - encode most important attributes with highest ranked channels

# Accuracy: Fundamental Theory

Steven's Psychophysical Power Law:  $S = I^n$



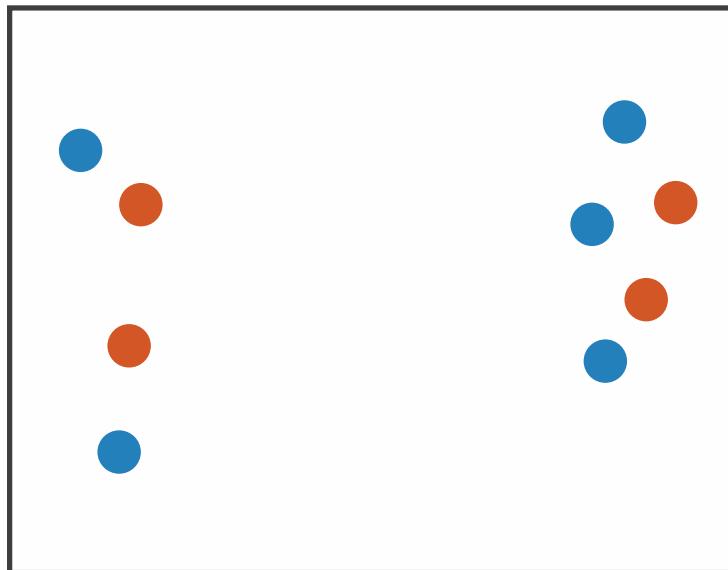
# Accuracy: Vis experiments



[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.]

# Separability vs. Integrality

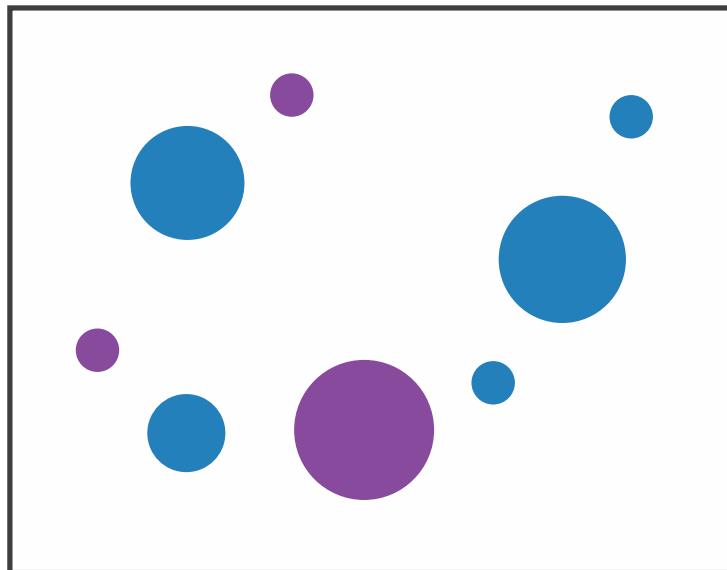
Position  
+ Hue (Color)



Fully separable

2 groups each

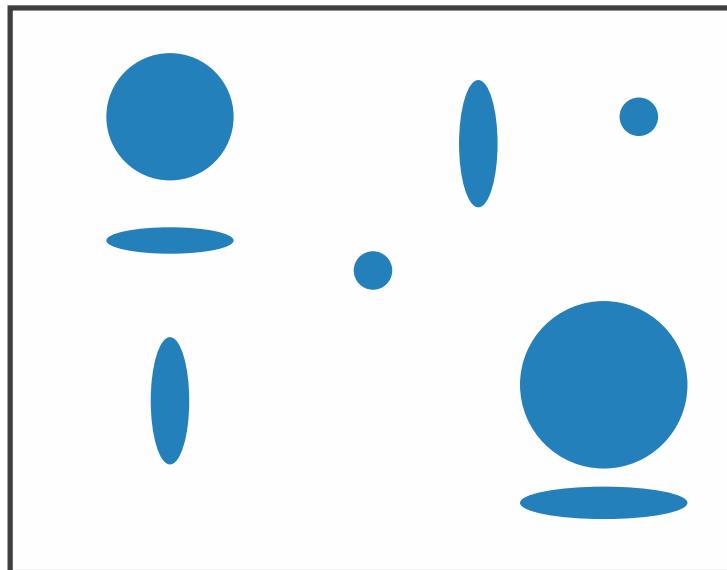
Size  
+ Hue (Color)



Some interference

2 groups each

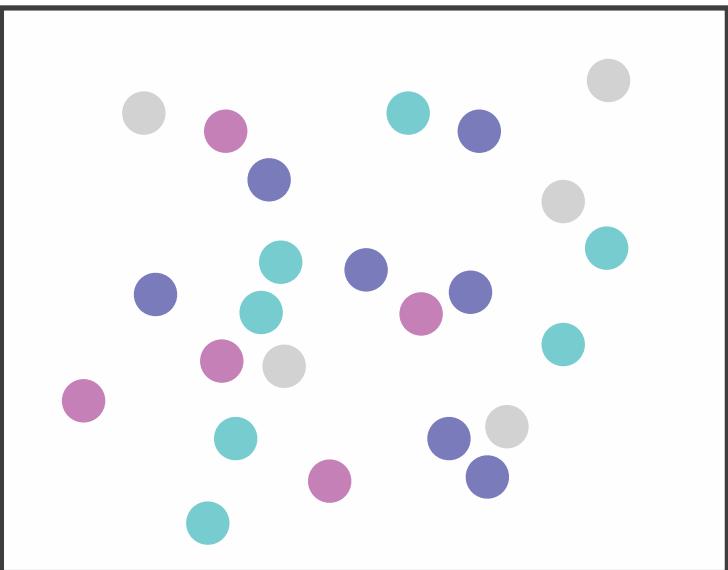
Width  
+ Height



Some/significant  
interference

3 groups total:  
integral area

Red  
+ Green



Major interference

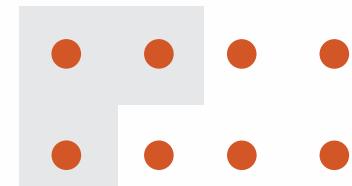
4 groups total:  
integral hue

# Grouping

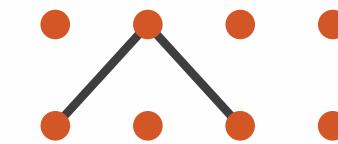
- containment
- connection
- proximity
  - same spatial region
- similarity
  - same values as other categorical channels

## Marks as Links

### → Containment



### → Connection



## → Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

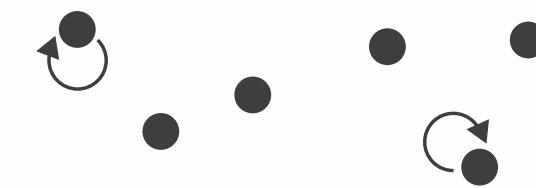
Spatial region



Color hue



Motion

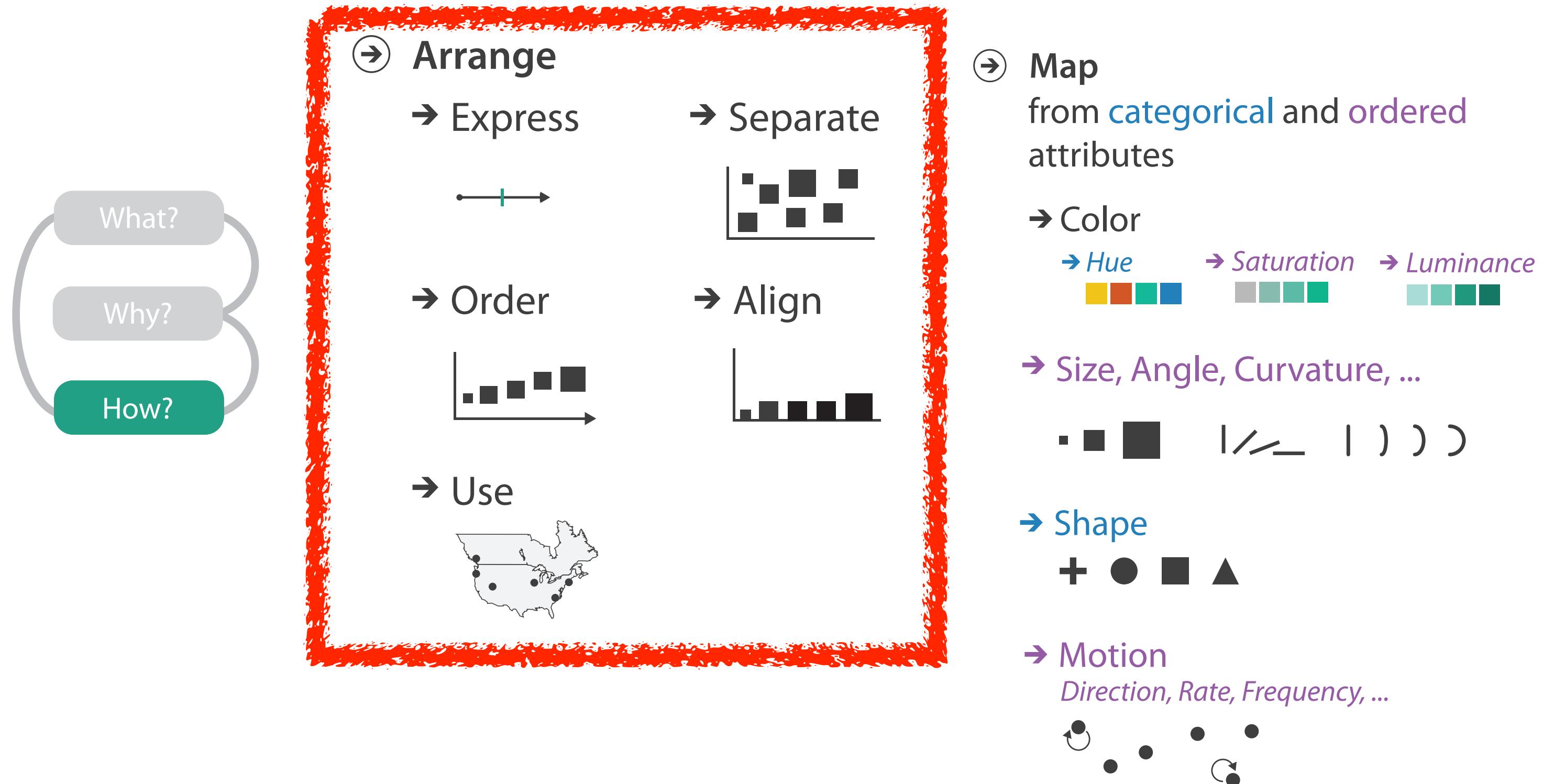


Shape



# How to encode: Arrange position and region

## Encode



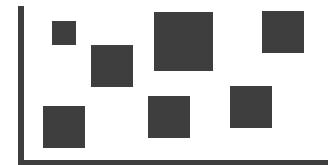
# Arrange tables

## → Express Values

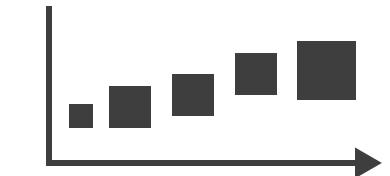


## → Separate, Order, Align Regions

→ Separate



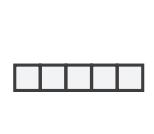
→ Order



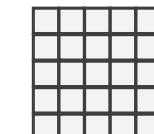
→ Align



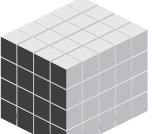
→ 1 Key  
*List*



→ 2 Keys  
*Matrix*

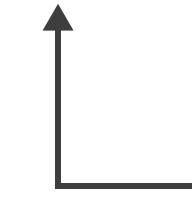


→ 3 Keys  
*Volume*

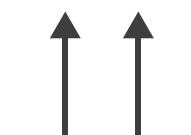


## → Axis Orientation

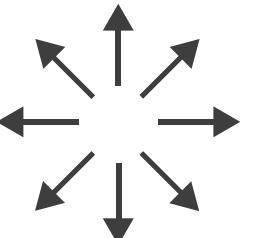
→ Rectilinear



→ Parallel

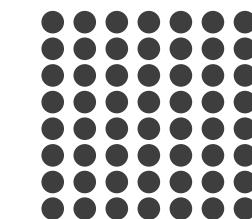


→ Radial

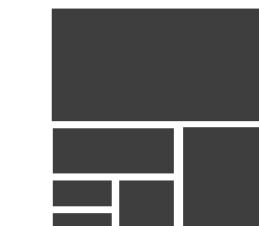


## → Layout Density

→ Dense



→ Space-Filling

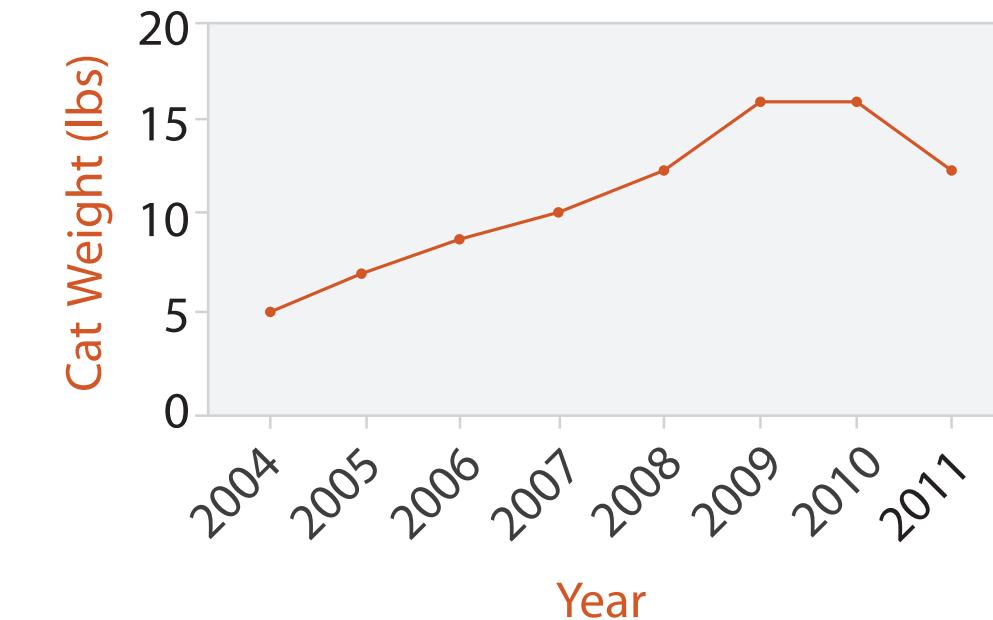
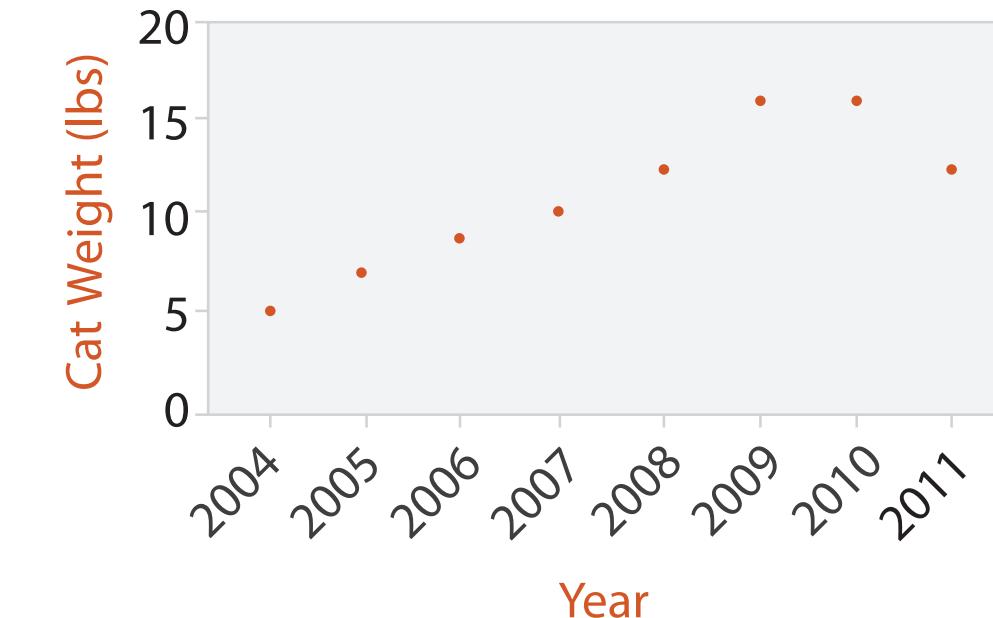
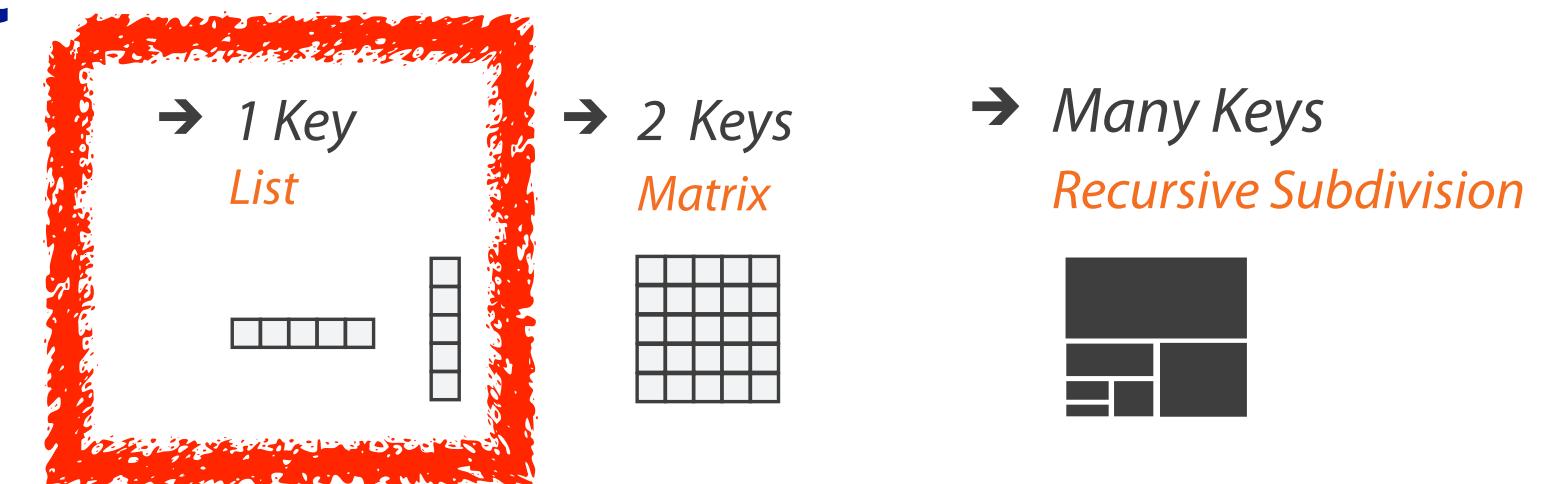


→ Many Keys  
*Recursive Subdivision*



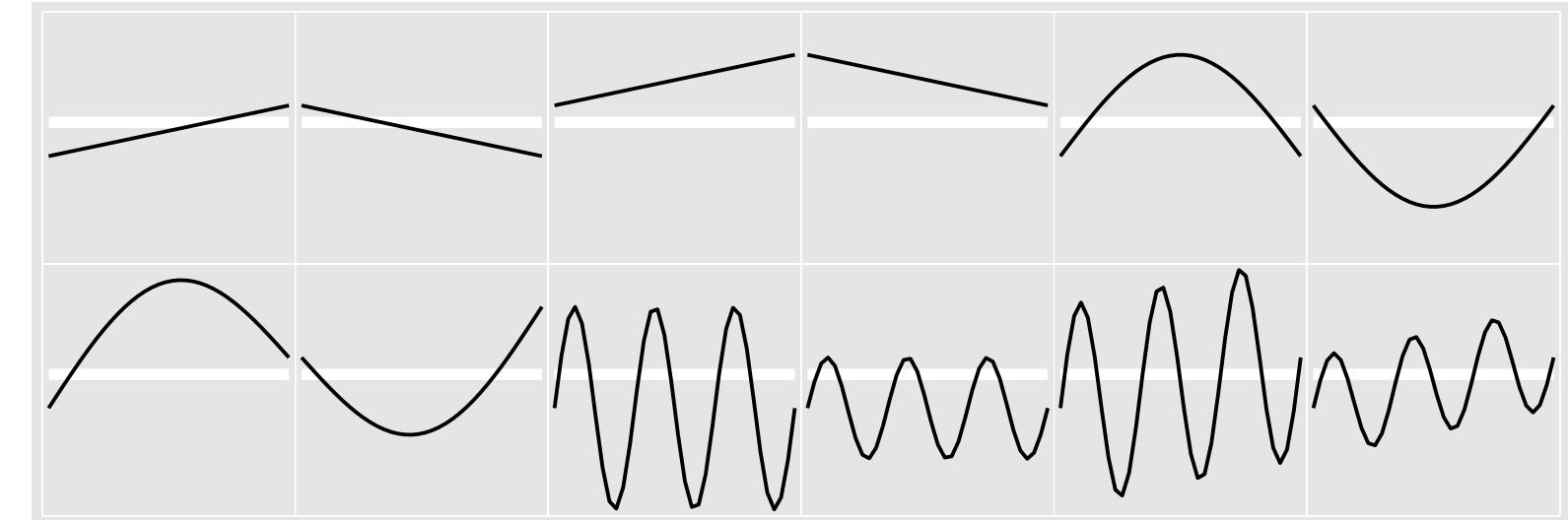
# Idioms: dot chart, line chart

- one key, one value
  - data
    - 2 quant attrs
  - mark: points
    - dot plot: + 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



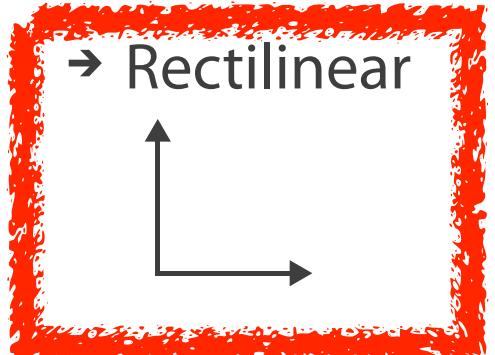
# Idiom: glyphmaps

- rectilinear good for linear vs nonlinear trends

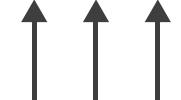


- radial good for cyclic patterns

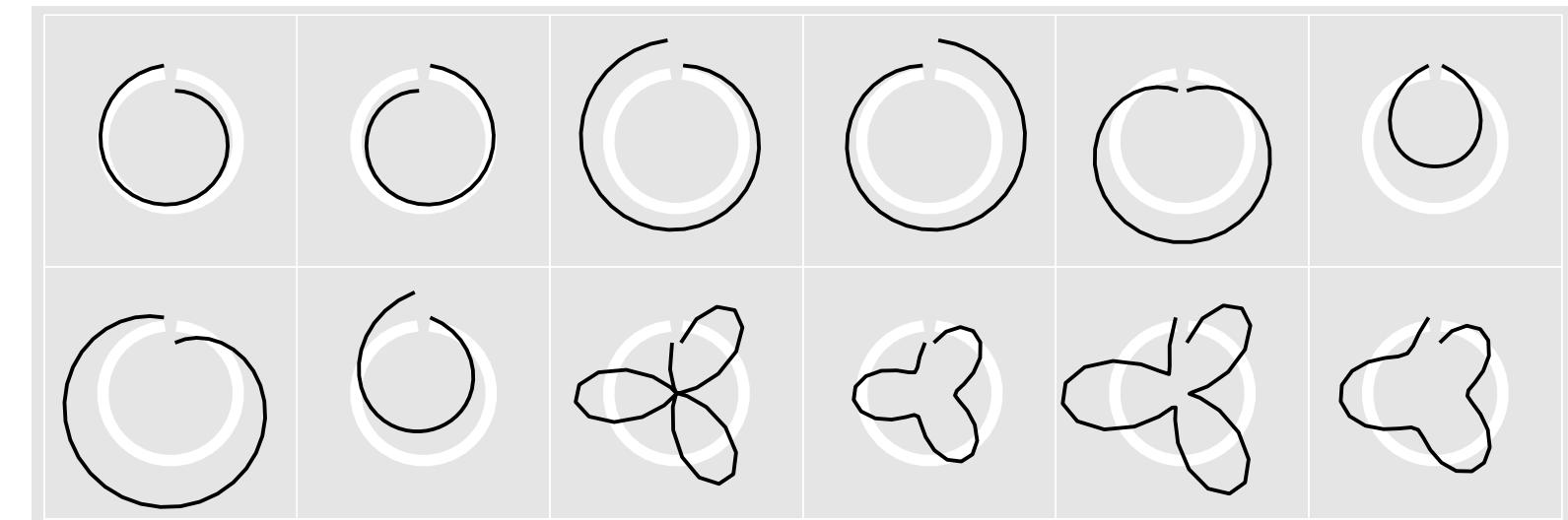
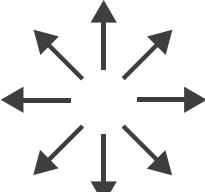
→ Axis Orientation



→ Parallel



→ Radial



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

# Idiom: heatmap

- two keys, one value

- data

- 2 categ attrs (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)

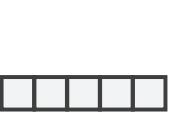
- task

- find clusters, outliers

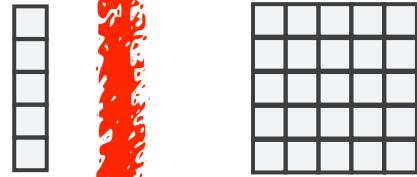
- scalability

- 1M items, 100s of categ levels, ~10 quant attrib levels

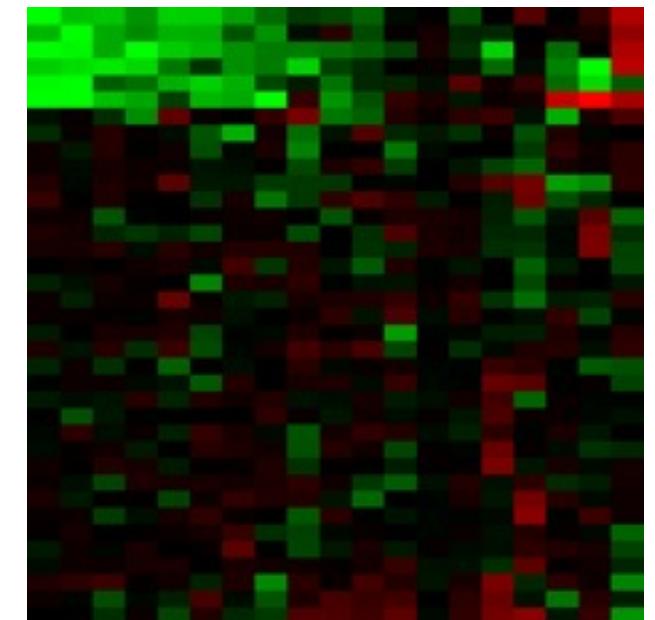
→ 1 Key  
*List*



→ 2 Keys  
*Matrix*

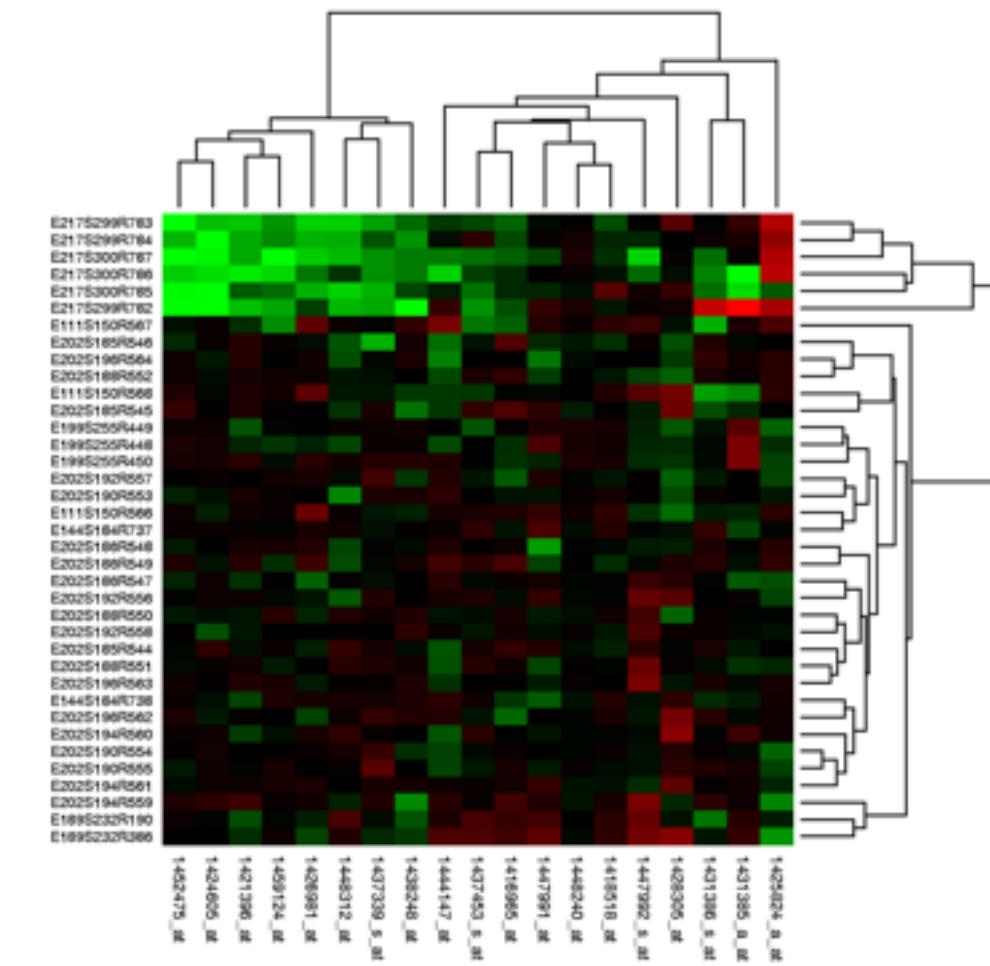


→ Many Keys  
*Recursive Subdivision*



# 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



# Arrange spatial data

## → Use Given

### → Geometry

→ *Geographic*

→ *Other Derived*

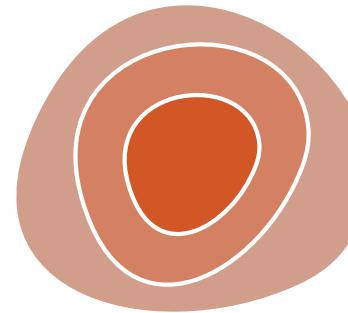


### → Spatial Fields

→ *Scalar Fields (one value per cell)*

→ *Isocontours*

→ *Direct Volume Rendering*



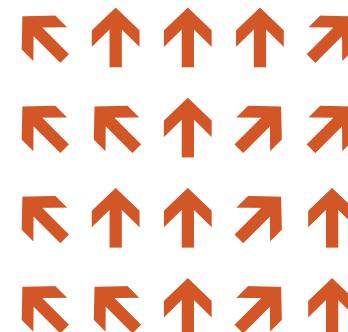
→ *Vector and Tensor Fields (many values per cell)*

→ *Flow Glyphs (local)*

→ *Geometric (sparse seeds)*

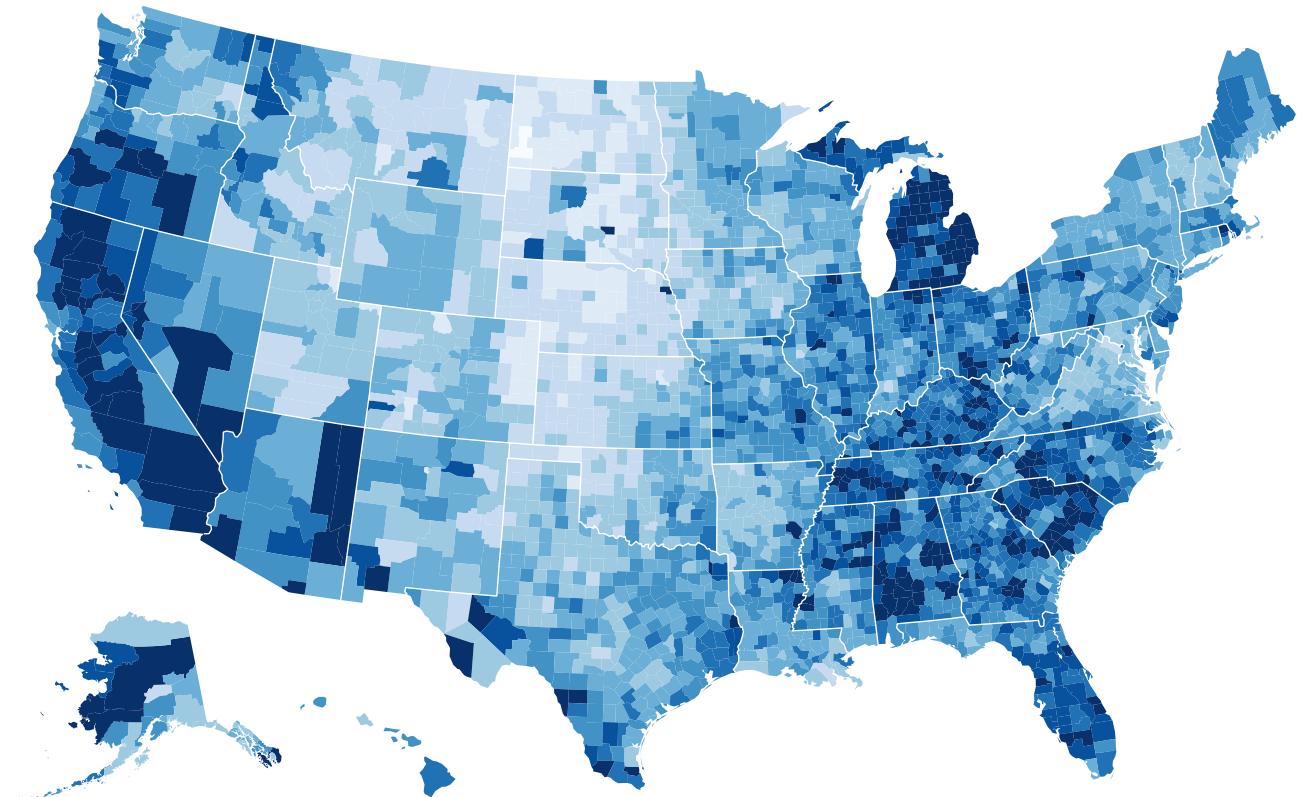
→ *Textures (dense seeds)*

→ *Features (globally derived)*



# Idiom: choropleth map

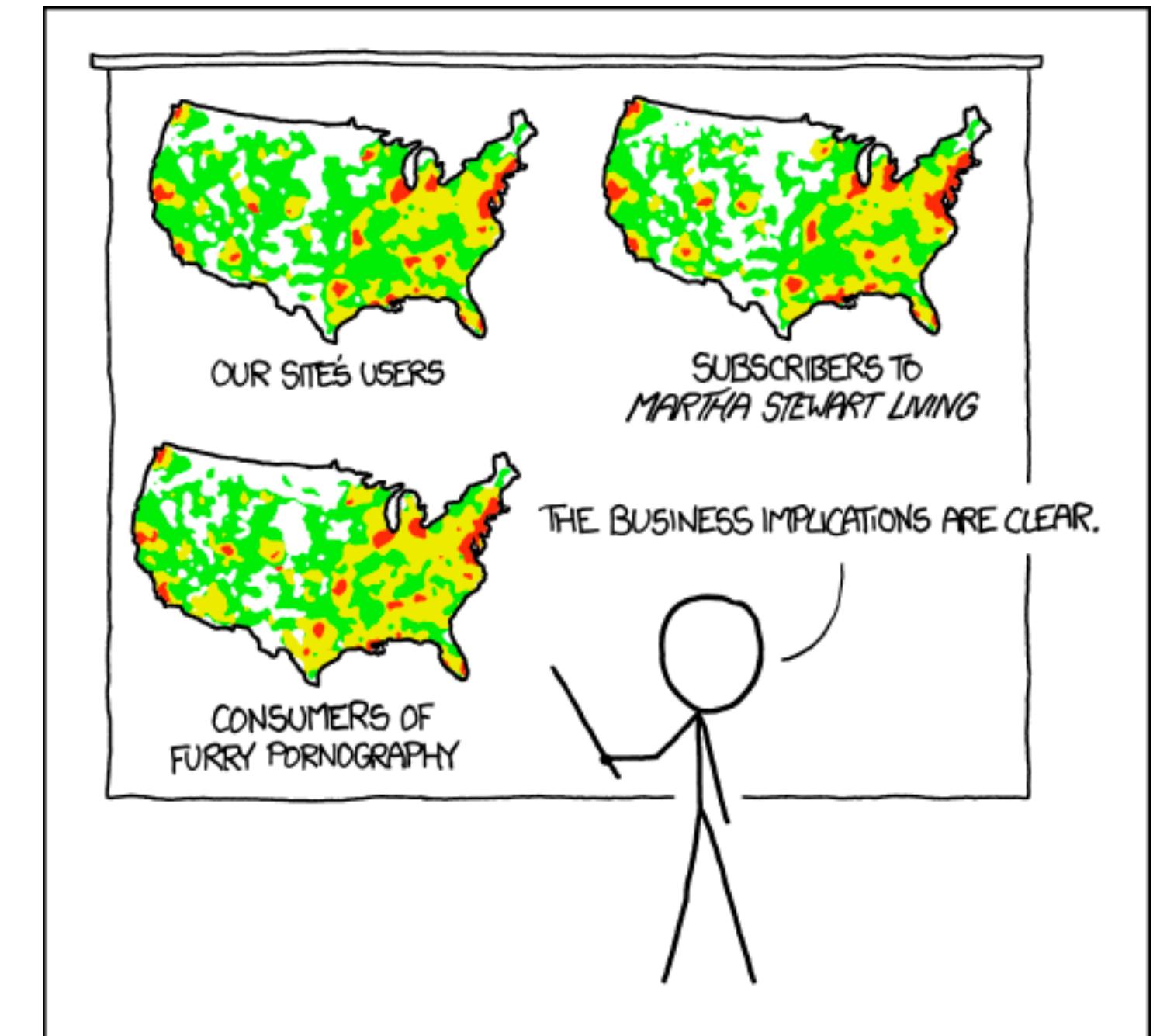
- **use given spatial data**
  - when central task is understanding spatial relationships
- **data**
  - geographic geometry
  - table with 1 quant attribute per region
- **encoding**
  - use given geometry for area mark boundaries
  - sequential segmented colormap



<http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/4060606>

# Population maps trickiness

- beware!

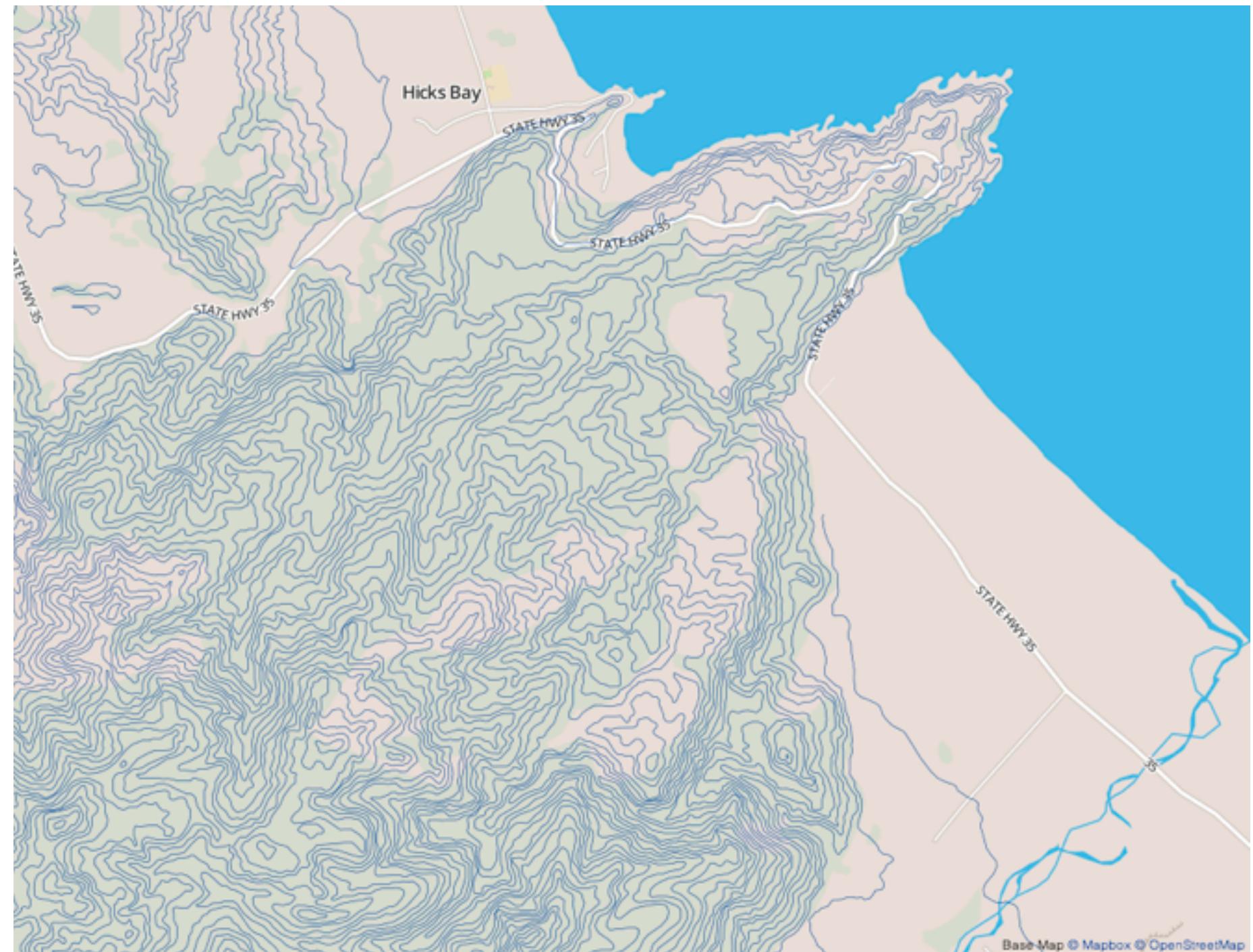


PET PEEVE #208:  
GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE MAPS WHICH ARE  
BASICALLY JUST POPULATION MAPS

[ <https://xkcd.com/1138> ]

# Idiom: topographic map

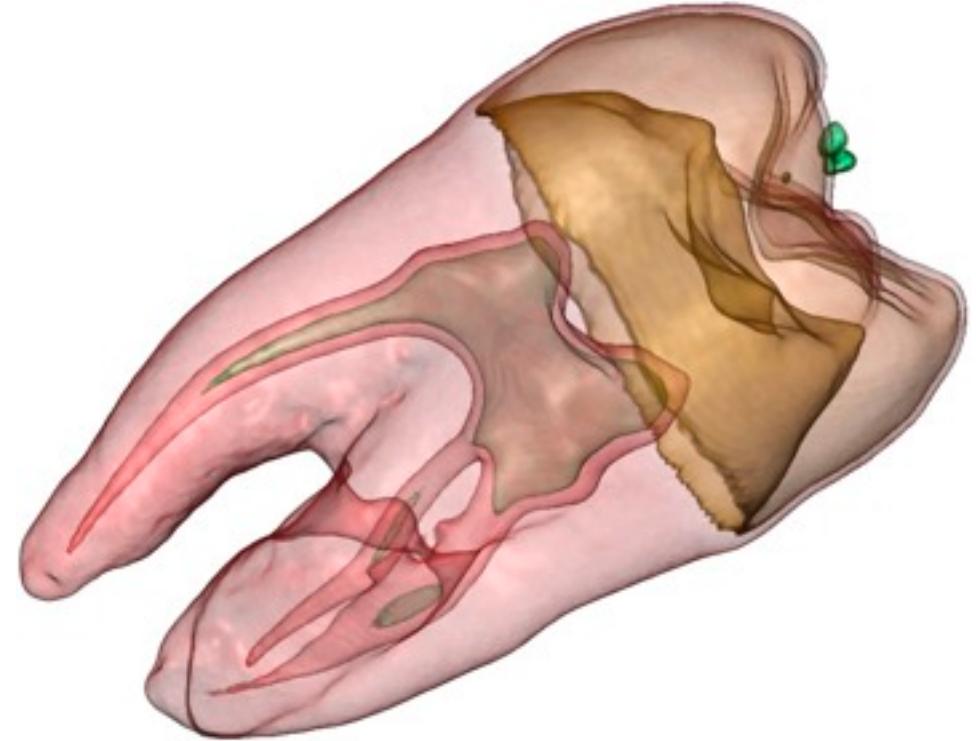
- data
  - geographic geometry
  - scalar spatial field
    - 1 quant attribute per grid cell
- derived data
  - isoline geometry
    - isocontours computed for specific levels of scalar values



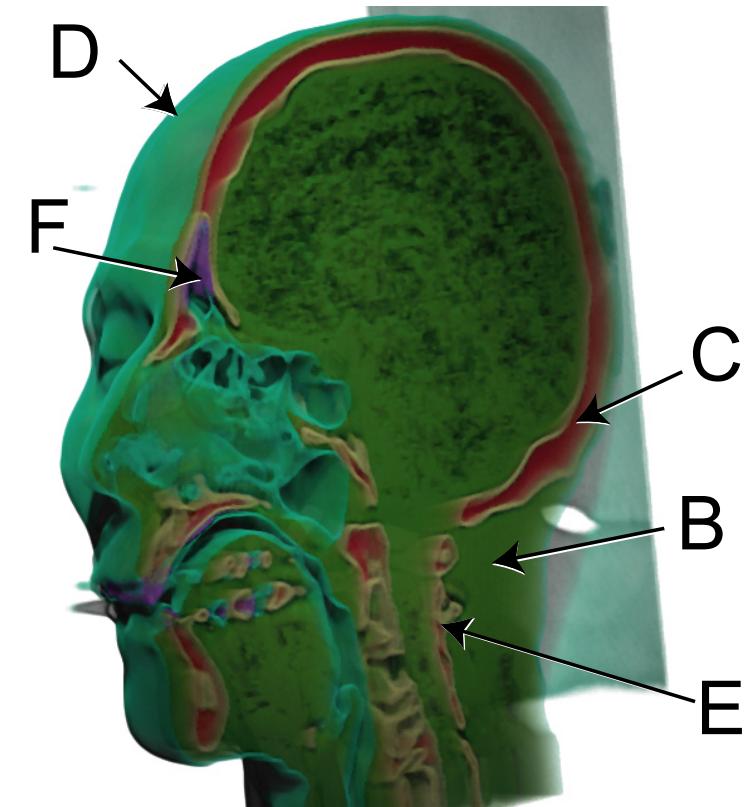
Land Information New Zealand Data Service

# Idioms: **isosurfaces**, direct volume rendering

- data
  - scalar spatial field
    - 1 quant attribute per grid cell
- task
  - shape understanding, spatial relationships
- **isosurface**
  - derived data: isocontours computed for specific levels of scalar values
- **direct volume rendering**
  - transfer function maps scalar values to color, opacity
    - no derived geometry



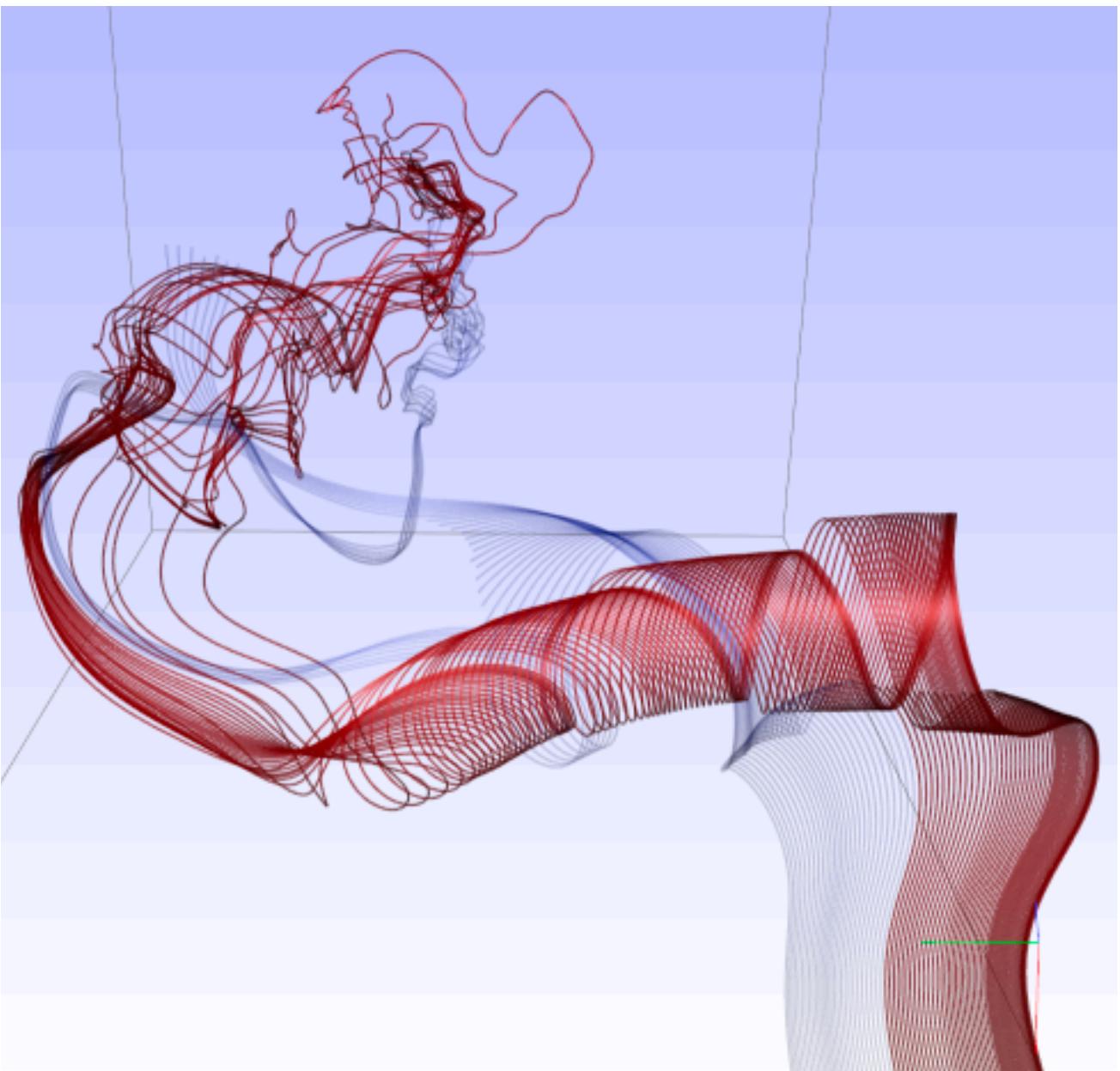
[Interactive Volume Rendering Techniques. Kniss. Master's thesis, University of Utah Computer Science, 2002.]



[Multidimensional Transfer Functions for Volume Rendering. Kniss, Kindlmann, and Hansen. In *The Visualization Handbook*, edited by Charles Hansen and Christopher Johnson, pp. 189–210. Elsevier, 2005.]

# Idiom: similarity-clustered streamlines

- data
  - 3D vector field
- derived data (from field)
  - streamlines: trajectory particle will follow
- derived data (per streamline)
  - curvature, torsion, tortuosity
  - signature: complex weighted combination
  - compute cluster hierarchy across all signatures
  - encode: color and opacity by cluster
- tasks
  - find features, query shape
- scalability
  - millions of samples, hundreds of streamlines



[*Similarity Measures for Enhancing Interactive Streamline Seeding.*  
McLoughlin, Jones, Laramee, Malki, Masters, and Hansen. IEEE Trans.  
Visualization and Computer Graphics 19:8 (2013), 1342–1353.]

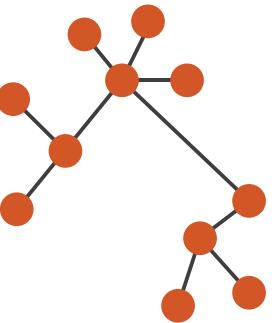
# Arrange networks and trees

## → Node–Link Diagrams

Connection Marks

NETWORKS

TREES



## → Adjacency Matrix

Derived Table

NETWORKS

TREES

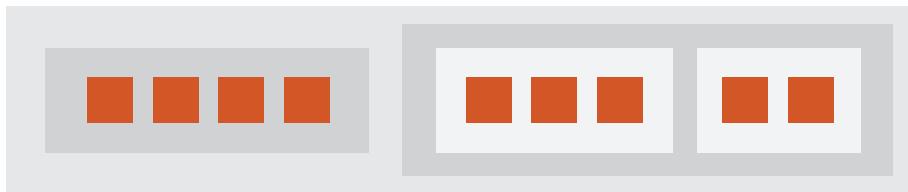
light gray	dark red	light gray	light gray	light gray
dark red	light gray	dark red	dark red	light gray
light gray	dark red	light gray	dark red	light gray
light gray	dark red	dark red	light gray	dark red
light gray	light gray	light gray	dark red	light gray

## → Enclosure

Containment Marks

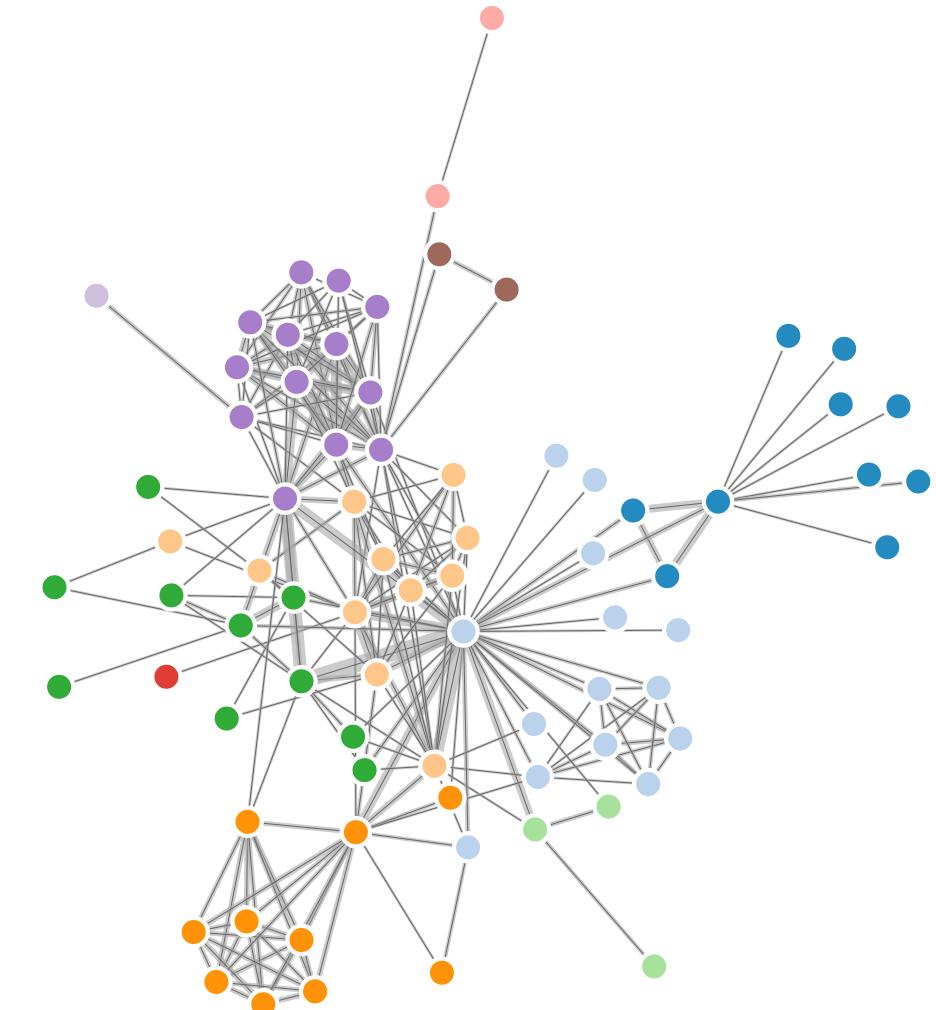
NETWORKS

TREES



# Idiom: force-directed placement

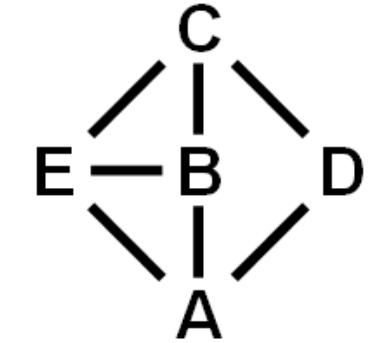
- visual encoding
  - link connection marks, node point marks
- considerations
  - spatial position: no meaning directly encoded
    - left free to minimize crossings
  - proximity semantics?
    - sometimes meaningful
    - sometimes arbitrary, artifact of layout algorithm
    - tension with length
      - long edges more visually salient than short
- tasks
  - explore topology; locate paths, clusters
- scalability
  - node/edge density  $E < 4N$



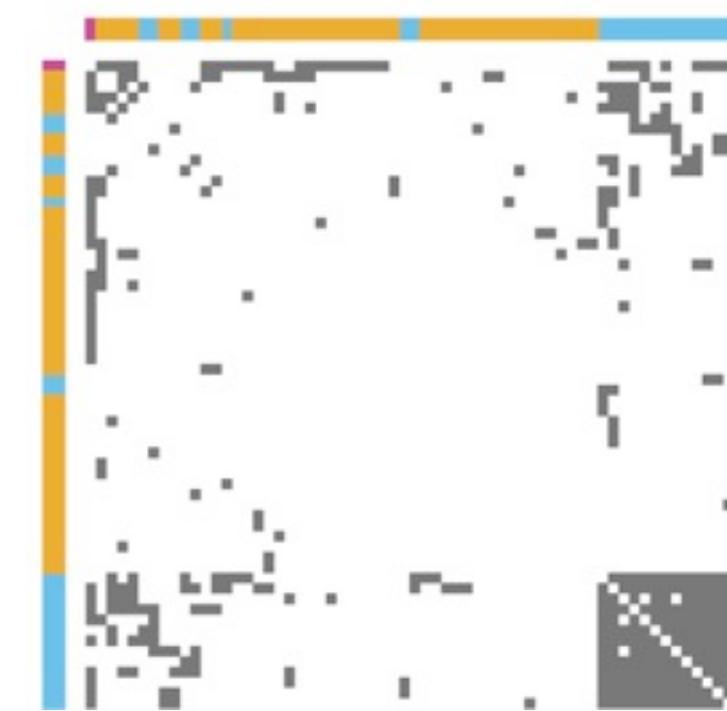
# Idiom: adjacency matrix view

- data: network
  - transform into same data/encoding as heatmap
- derived data: table from network
  - 1 quant attrib
    - weighted edge between nodes
  - 2 categ attribs: node list x 2
- visual encoding
  - cell shows presence/absence of edge
- scalability
  - 1K nodes, 1M edges

	A	B	C	D	E
A	A				
B		B			
C			C		
D				D	
E					E



[NodeTrix: a Hybrid Visualization of Social Networks.  
Henry, Fekete, and McGuffin. IEEE TVCG (Proc. InfoVis)  
13(6):1302-1309, 2007.]

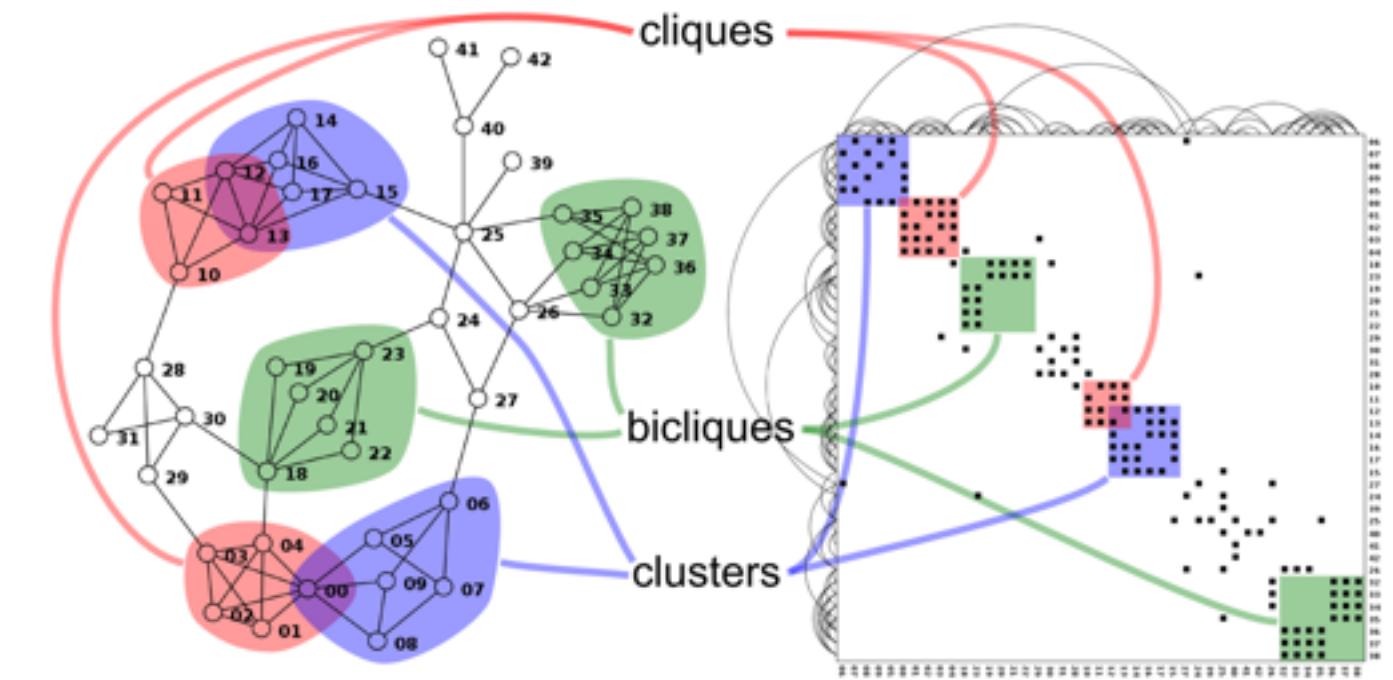


[Points of view: Networks. Gehlenborg and Wong. Nature Methods 9:115.]

# Connection vs. adjacency comparison

- adjacency matrix strengths
  - predictability, scalability, supports reordering
  - some topology tasks trainable
- node-link diagram strengths
  - topology understanding, path tracing
  - intuitive, no training needed
- empirical study
  - node-link best for small networks
  - matrix best for large networks
    - if tasks don't involve topological structure!

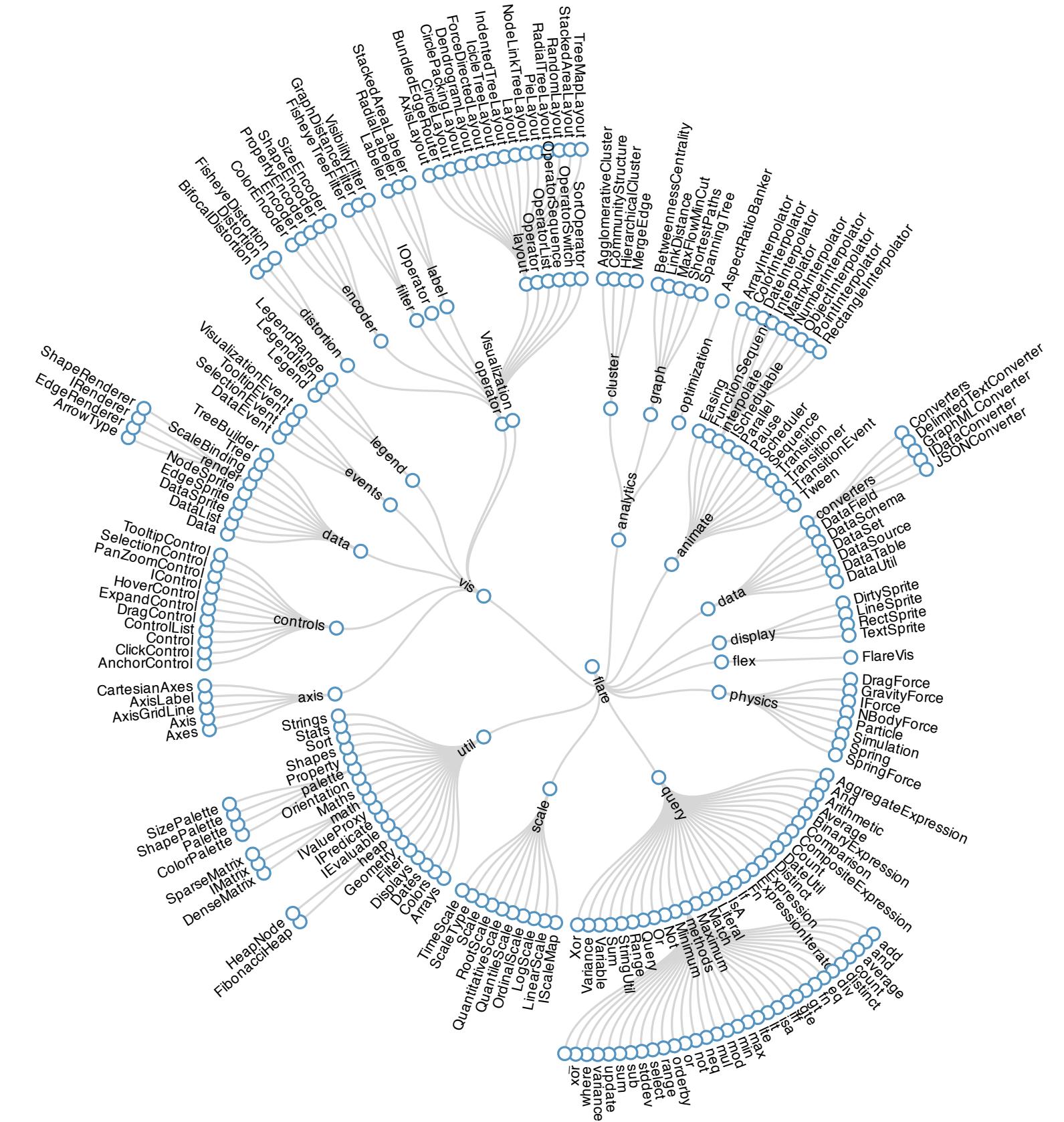
[*On the readability of graphs using node-link and matrix-based representations: a controlled experiment and statistical analysis.*  
Ghoniem, Fekete, and Castagliola. *Information Visualization 4:2* (2005), 114–135.]



<http://www.michaelmcguffin.com/courses/vis/patternsInAdjacencyMatrix.png>

# Idiom: radial node-link tree

- data
  - tree
- encoding
  - link connection marks
  - point node marks
  - radial axis orientation
    - angular proximity: siblings
    - distance from center: depth in tree
- tasks
  - understanding topology, following paths
- scalability
  - 1K - 10K nodes



# Idiom: treemap

- data
  - tree
  - 1 quant attrib at leaf nodes
- encoding
  - area containment marks for hierarchical structure
  - rectilinear orientation
  - size encodes quant attrib
- tasks
  - query attribute at leaf nodes
- scalability
  - 1M leaf nodes

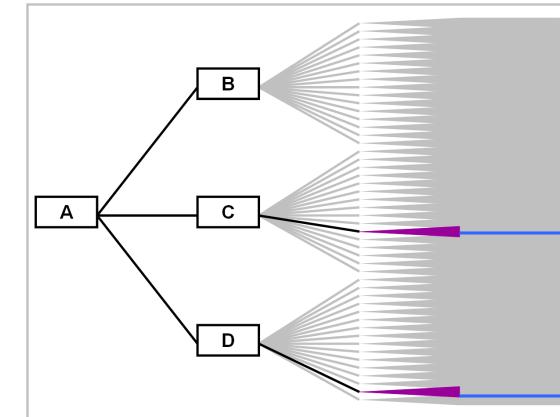
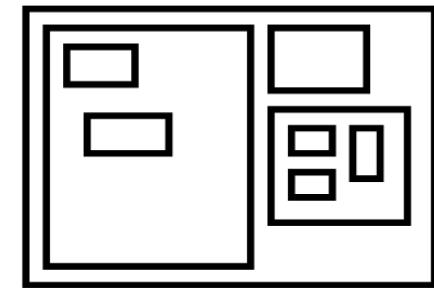
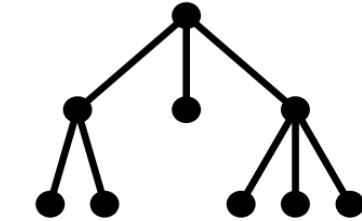
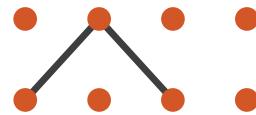
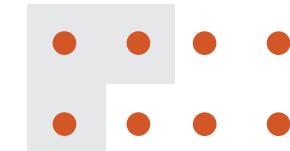


[http://tulip.labri.fr/Documentation/3\\_7/userHandbook/html/ch06.html](http://tulip.labri.fr/Documentation/3_7/userHandbook/html/ch06.html)

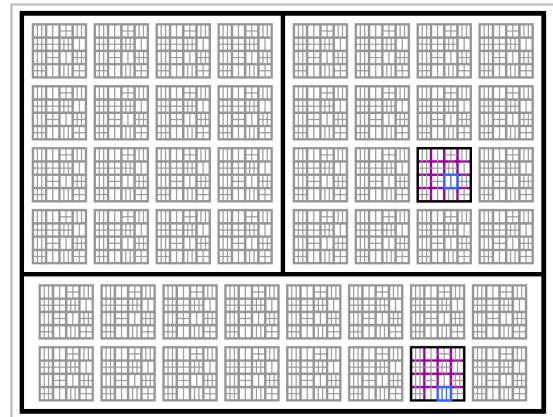
# Connection vs. containment comparison

- marks as links (vs. nodes)
  - common case in network drawing
  - 1D case: connection
    - ex: all node-link diagrams
    - emphasizes topology, path tracing
    - networks and trees
  - 2D case: containment
    - ex: all treemap variants
    - emphasizes attribute values at leaves (size coding)
    - only trees

→ Containment → Connection



Node-Link Diagram

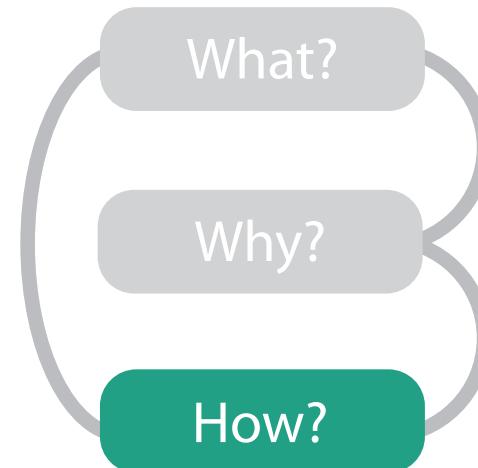


Treemap

[*Elastic Hierarchies: Combining Treemaps and Node-Link Diagrams*. Dong, McGuffin, and Chignell. Proc. InfoVis 2005, p. 57-64.]

# How to encode: Mapping color

## Encode

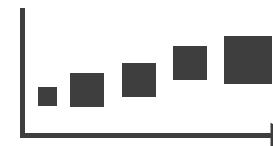


### → Arrange

→ Express



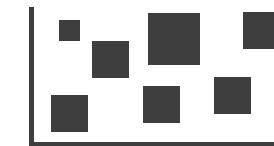
→ Order



→ Use



→ Separate



→ Align



### → Map

from categorical and ordered attributes

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...



→ Shape



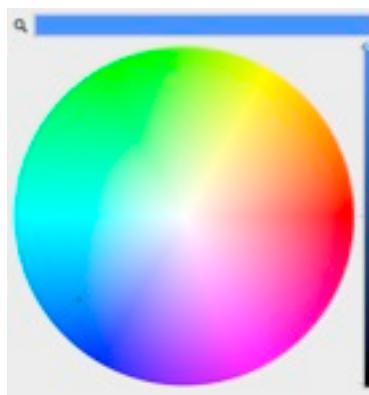
→ Motion

Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...

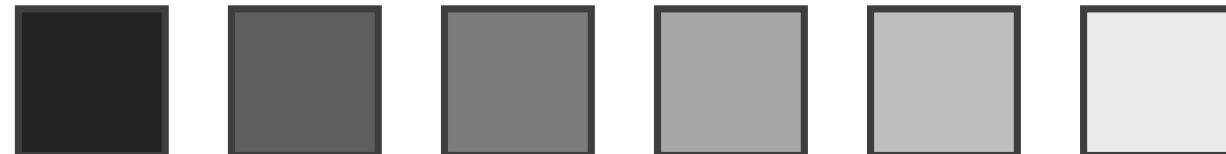


# Color: Luminance, saturation, hue

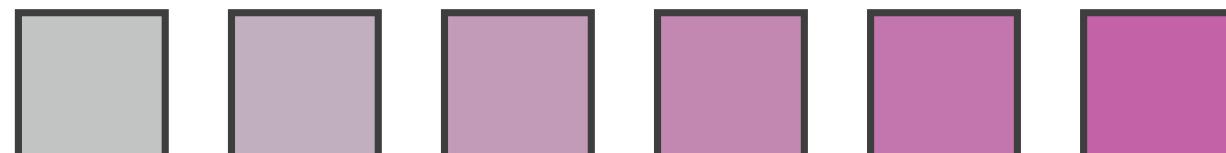
- 3 channels
  - identity for categorical
    - hue
  - magnitude for ordered
    - luminance
    - saturation
- RGB: poor for encoding
- HSL: better, but beware
  - lightness  $\neq$  luminance



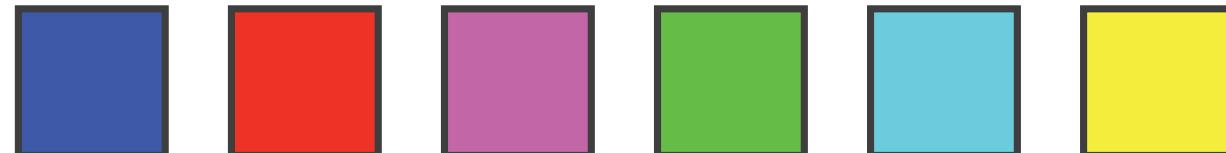
Luminance



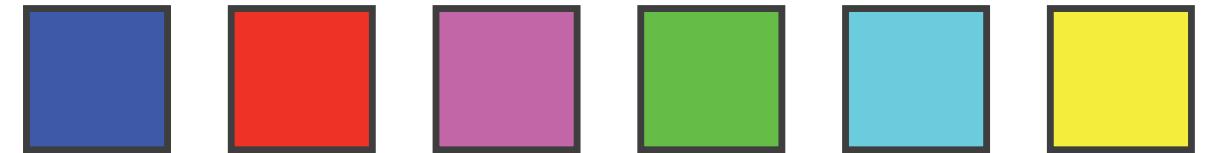
Saturation



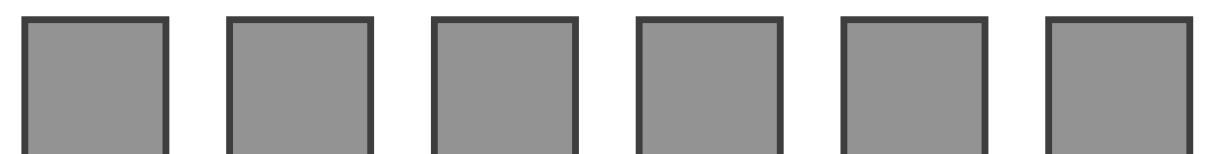
Hue



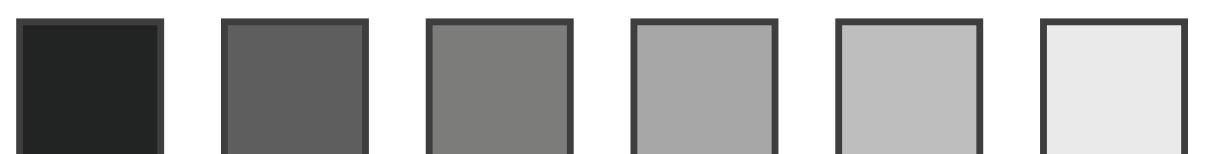
Corners of the RGB  
color cube



L from HLS  
**All the same**

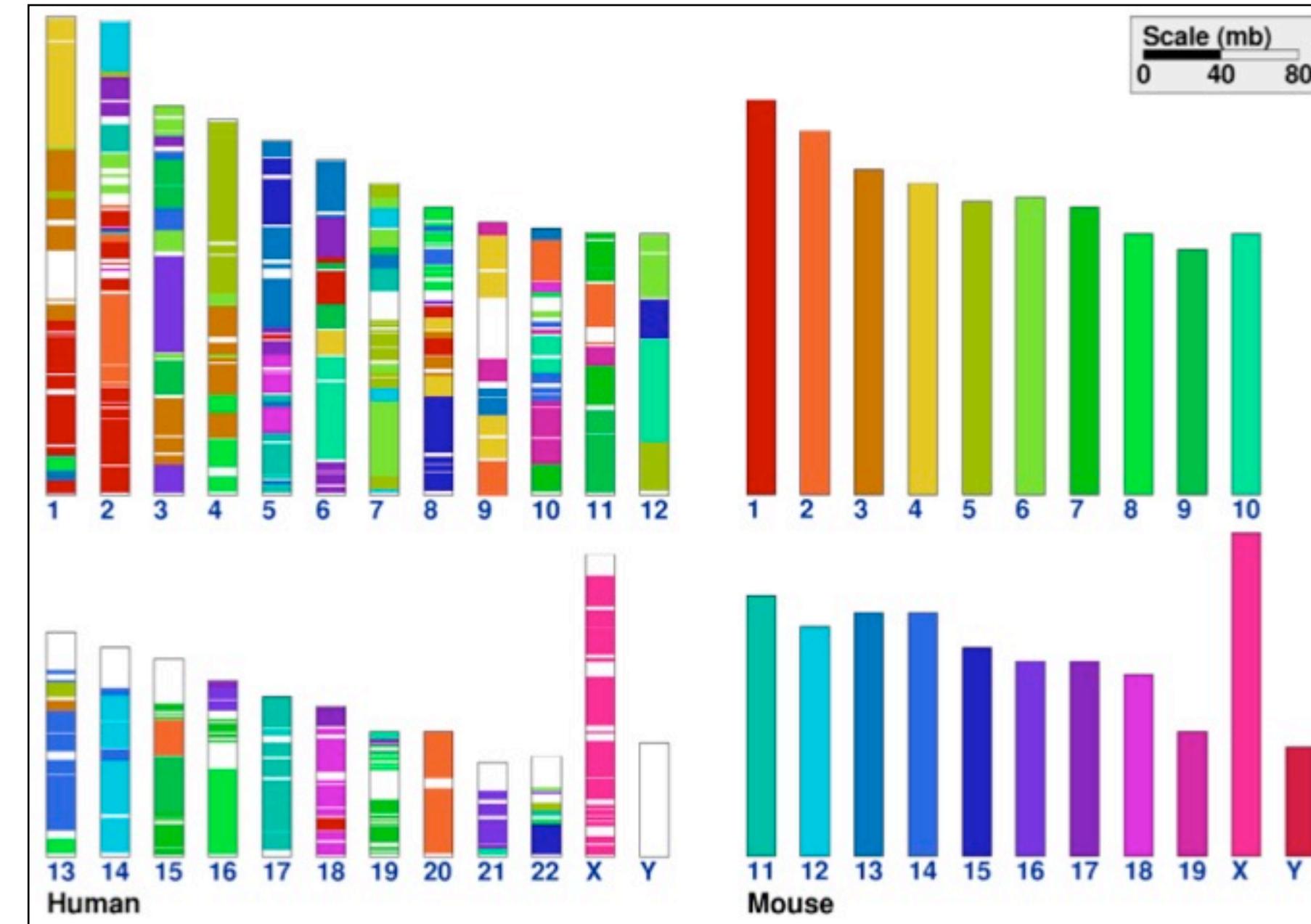


Luminance values



# Categorical color: Discriminability constraints

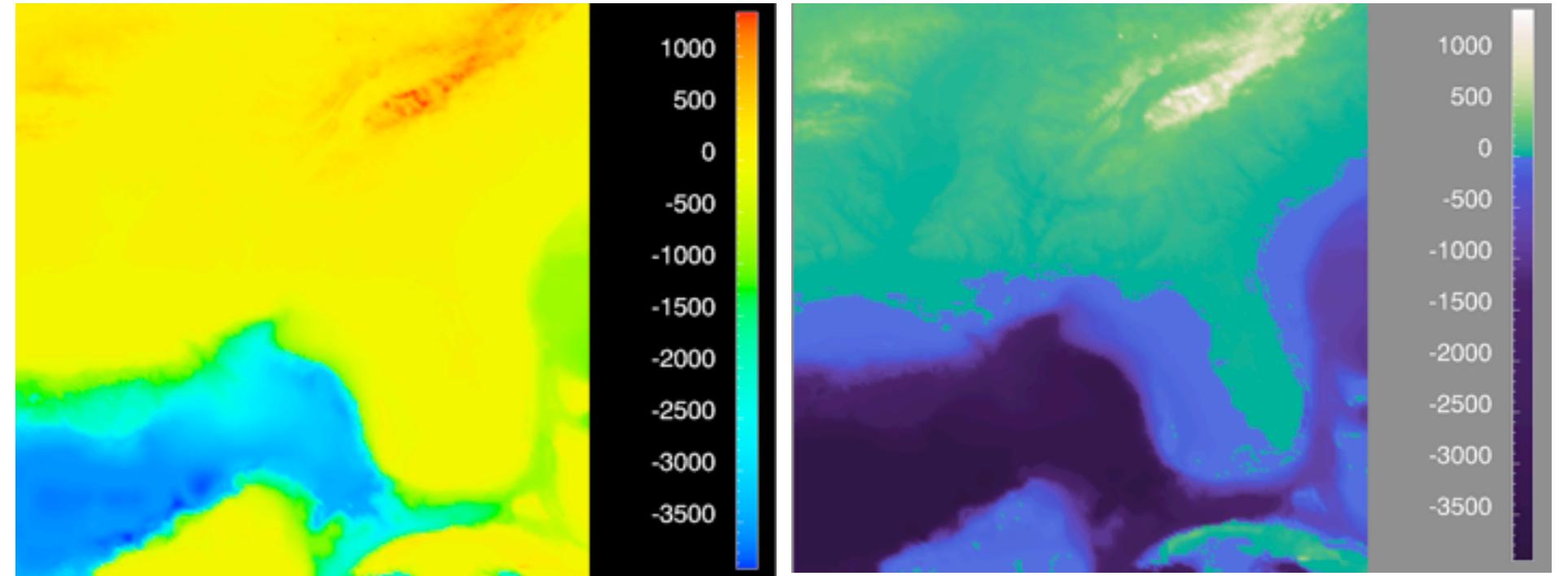
- noncontiguous small regions of color: only 6-12 bins



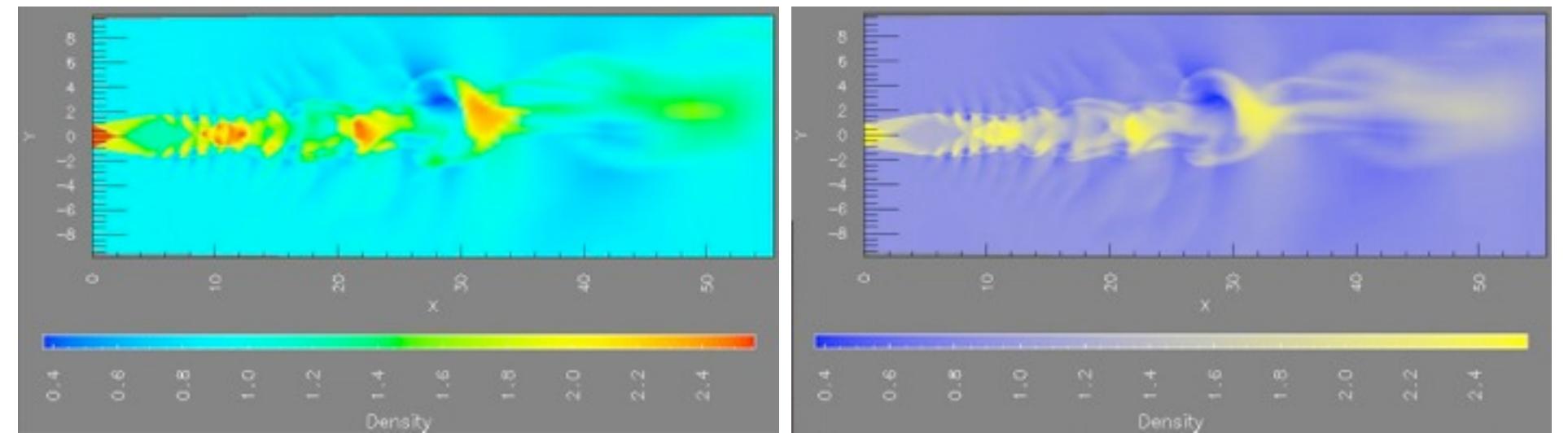
[Cinteny: flexible analysis and visualization of synteny and genome rearrangements in multiple organisms. Sinha and Meller. BMC Bioinformatics, 8:82, 2007.]

# Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

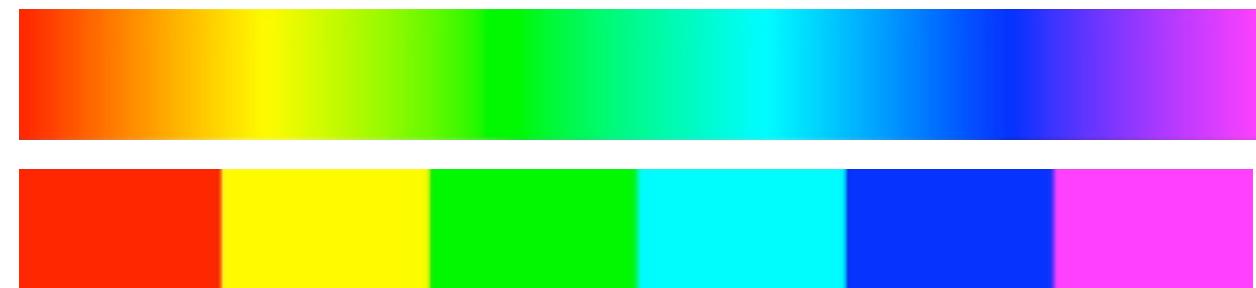
- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable
- alternatives
  - fewer hues for large-scale structure
  - multiple hues with monotonically increasing luminance for fine-grained
  - segmented rainbows good for categorical, ok for binned



[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. <http://www.research.ibm.com/people/l/lloyd/color/color.HTM>]

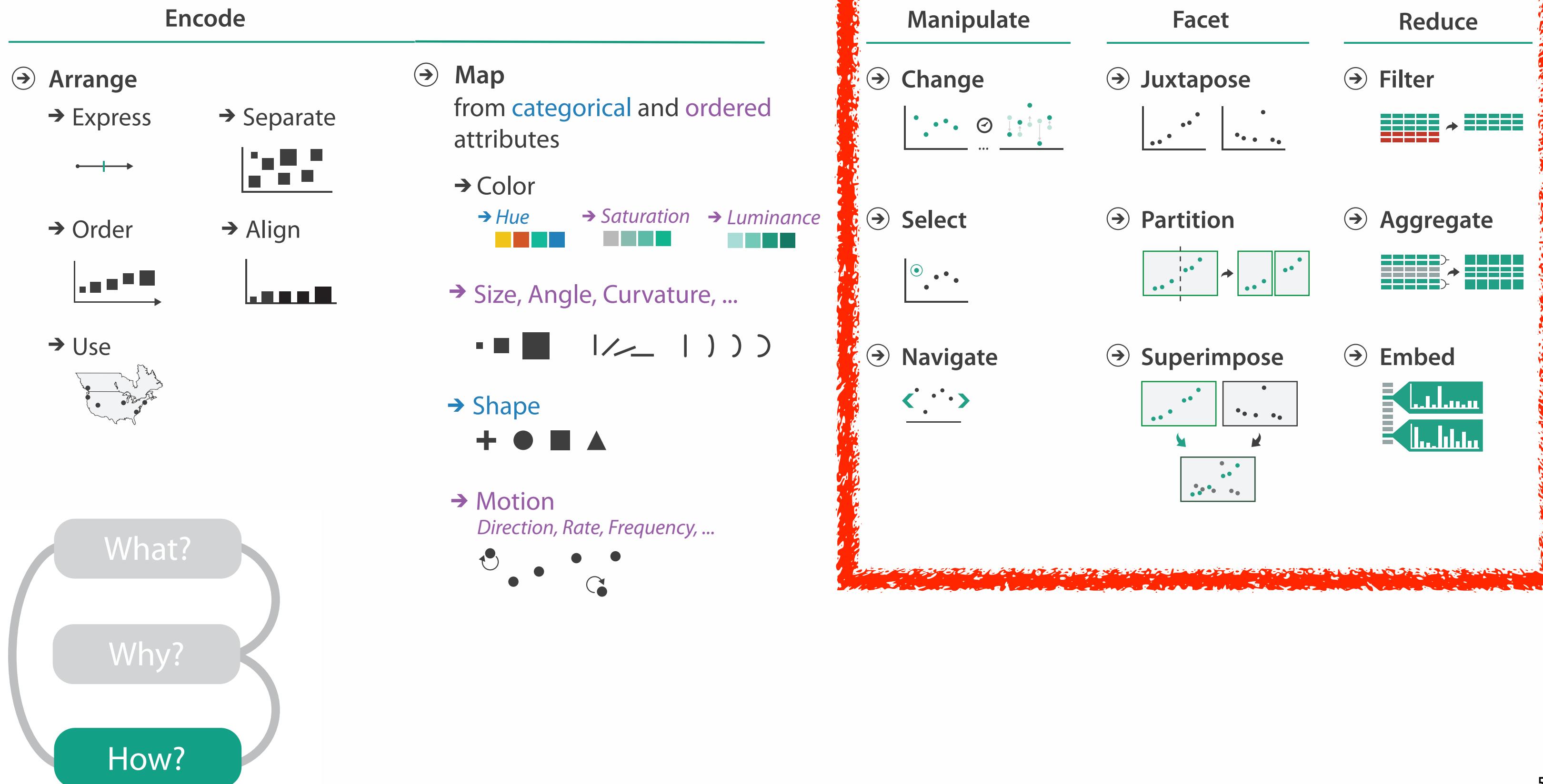


[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman, Rogowitz, and Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]

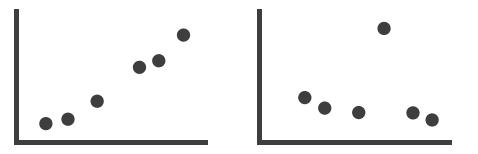
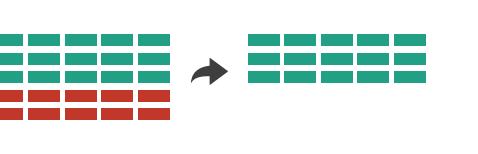
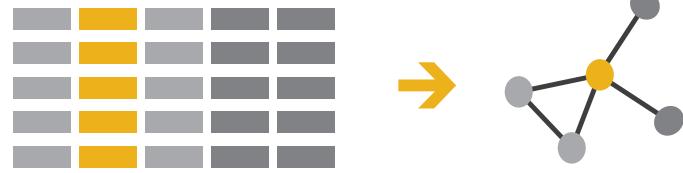
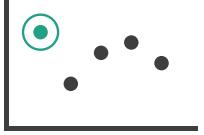
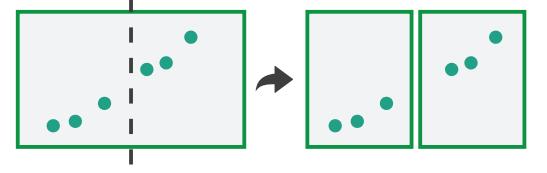
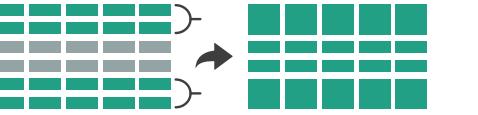
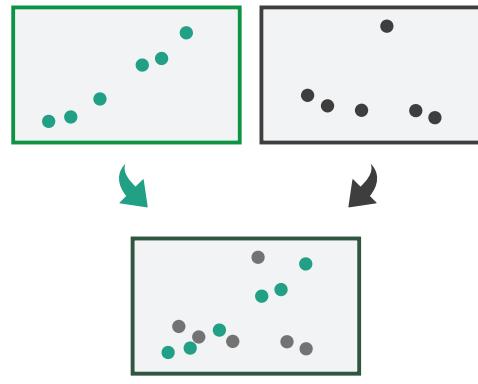


[Transfer Functions in Direct Volume Rendering: Design, Interface, Interaction. Kindlmann. SIGGRAPH 2002 Course Notes]

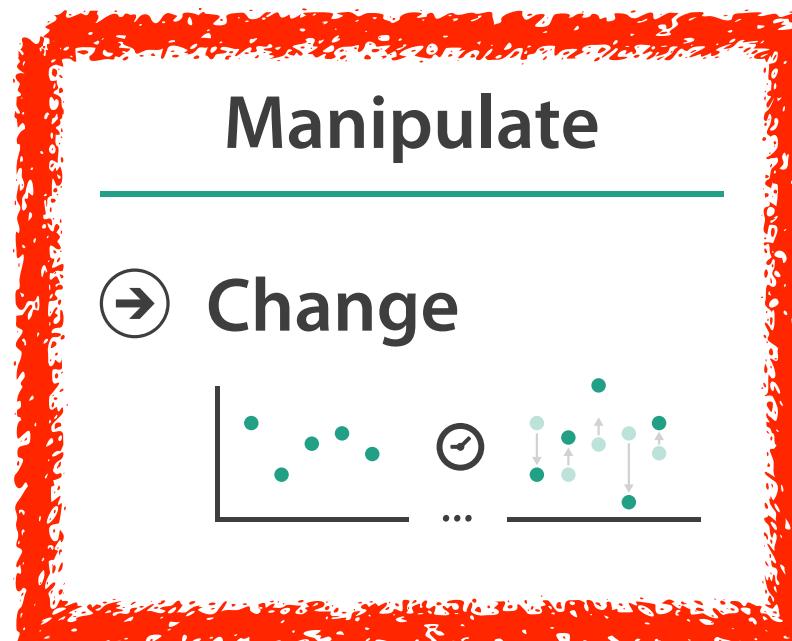
# How?



# How to handle complexity: 3 more strategies + 1 previous

Manipulate	Facet	Reduce	→ Derive
→ Change 	→ Juxtapose 	→ Filter 	
→ Select 	→ Partition 	→ Aggregate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• change view over time</li><li>• facet across multiple views</li><li>• reduce items/attributes within single view</li><li>• derive new data to show within view</li></ul>
→ Navigate 	→ Superimpose 	→ Embed 	

# How to handle complexity: 3 more strategies + 1 previous



→ Select



→ Navigate



Facet

→ Juxtapose

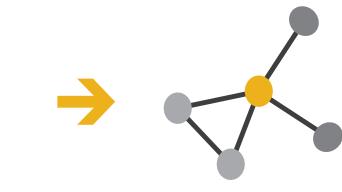
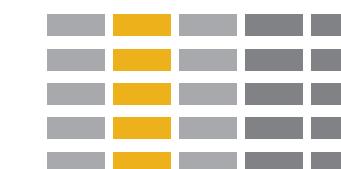


Reduce

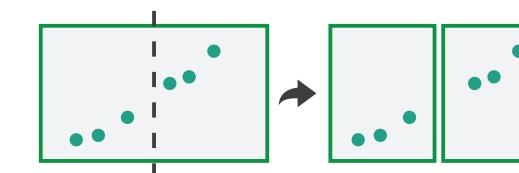
→ Filter



→ Derive



→ Partition

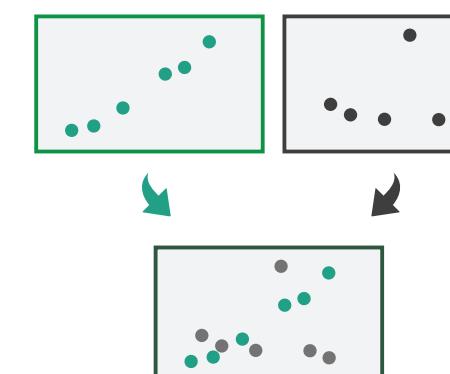


→ Aggregate



- change over time
  - most obvious & flexible of the 4 strategies

→ Superimpose

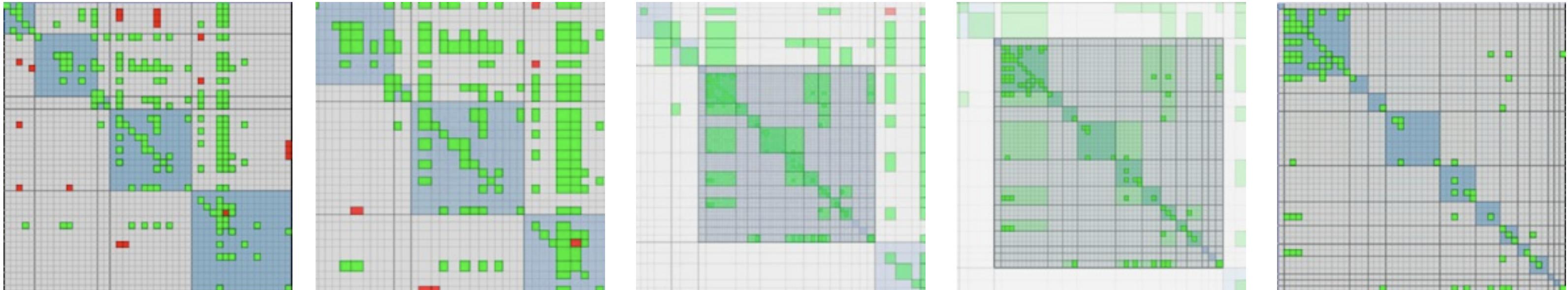


→ Embed



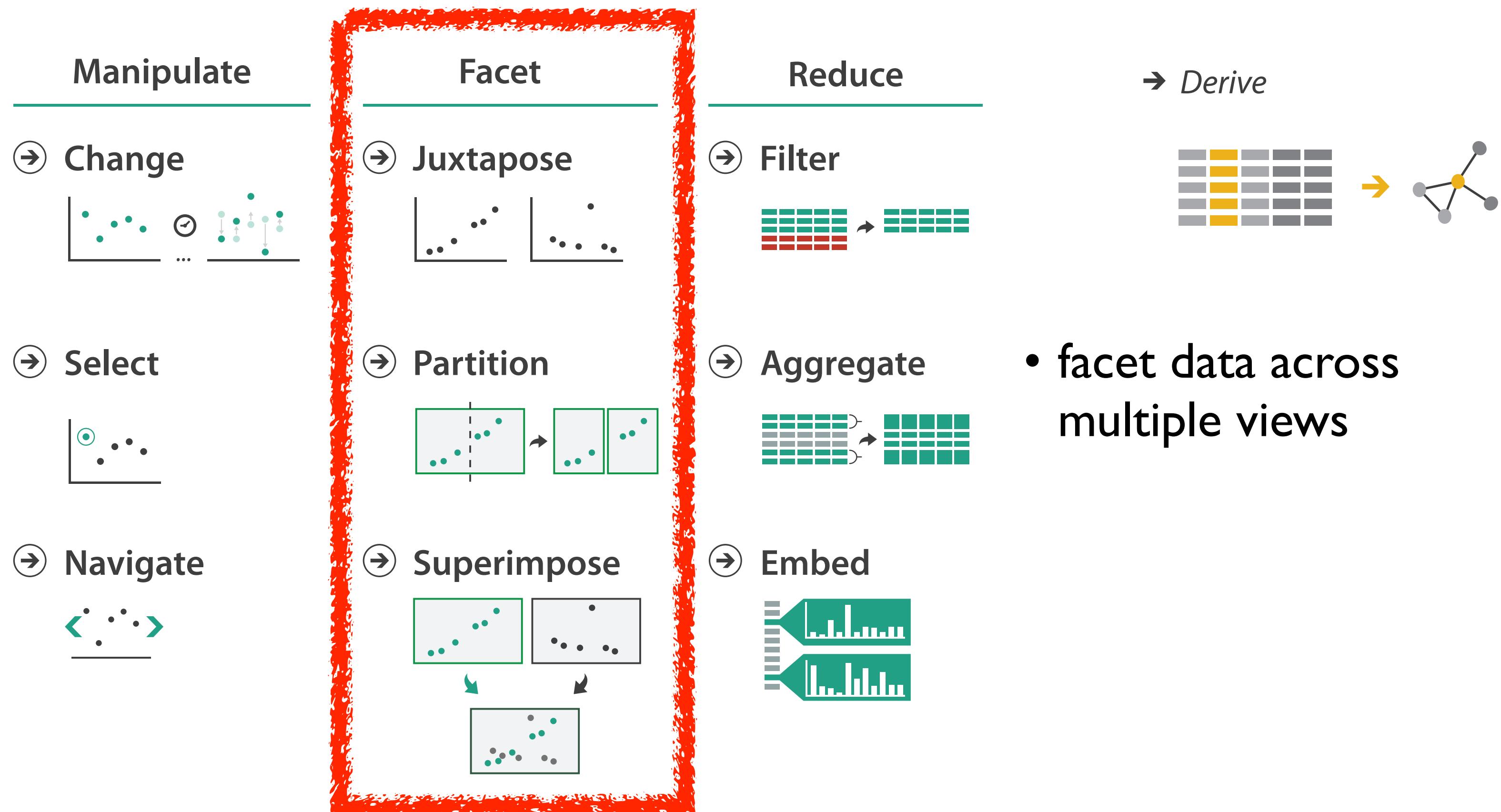
# Idiom: Animated transitions

- smooth transition from one state to another
  - alternative to jump cuts
  - support for item tracking when amount of change is limited
- example: multilevel matrix views
  - scope of what is shown narrows down
    - middle block stretches to fill space, additional structure appears within
    - other blocks squish down to increasingly aggregated representations



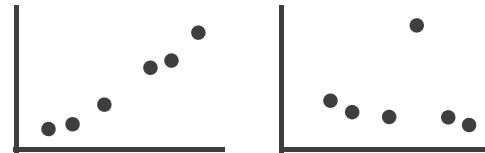
[Using Multilevel Call Matrices in Large Software Projects. van Ham. Proc. IEEE Symp. Information Visualization (InfoVis), pp. 227–232, 2003.]

# How to handle complexity: 3 more strategies + 1 previous

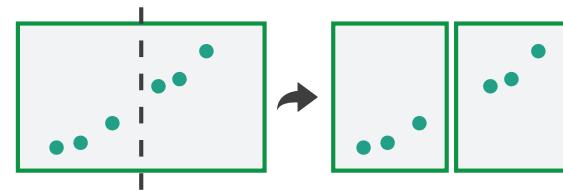


# Facet

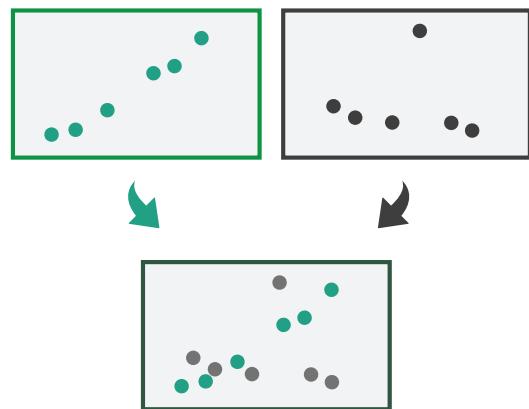
## → Juxtapose



## → Partition



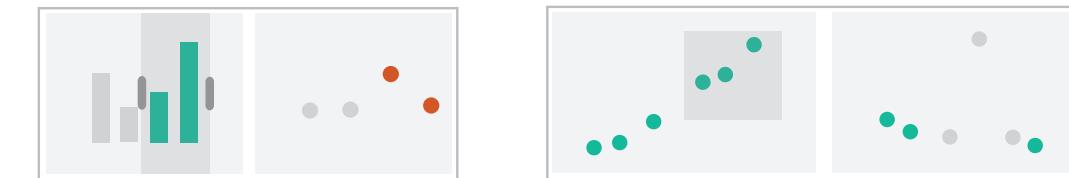
## → Superimpose



## → Coordinate Multiple Side By Side Views

→ Share Encoding: Same/Different

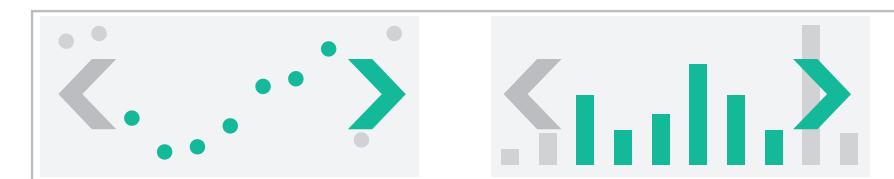
→ *Linked Highlighting*



→ Share Data: All/Subset/None



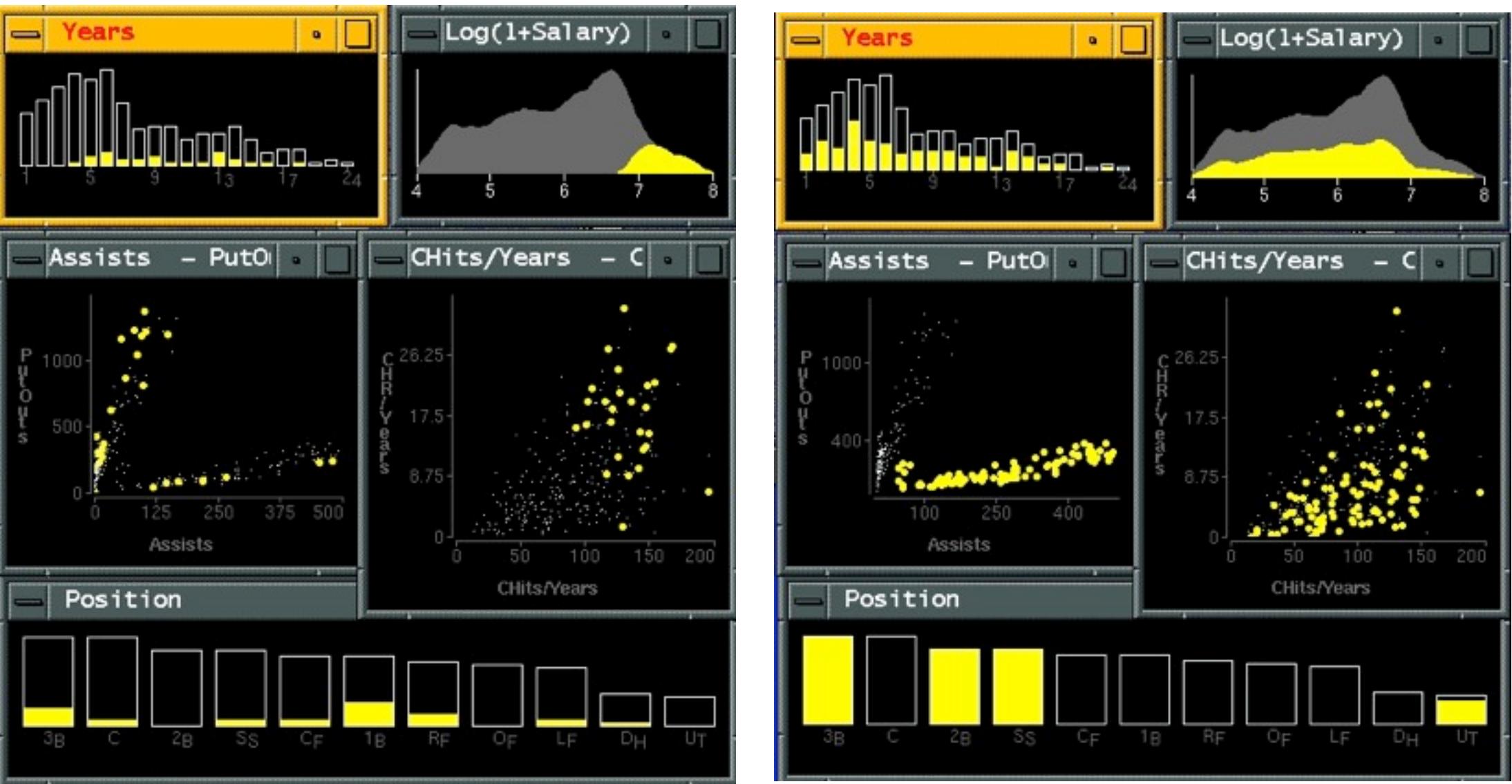
→ Share Navigation



# Idiom: Linked highlighting

# System: EDV

- see how regions contiguous in one view are distributed within another
  - powerful and pervasive interaction idiom
- encoding: different
  - **multiform**
- data: all shared



[*Visual Exploration of Large Structured Datasets. Wills. Proc. New Techniques and Trends in Statistics (NTTS), pp. 237–246. IOS Press, 1995.*]

# Idiom: bird's-eye maps

- encoding: same
- data: subset shared
- navigation: shared
  - bidirectional linking

- differences
  - viewpoint
  - (size)

- **overview-detail**

# System: Google Maps

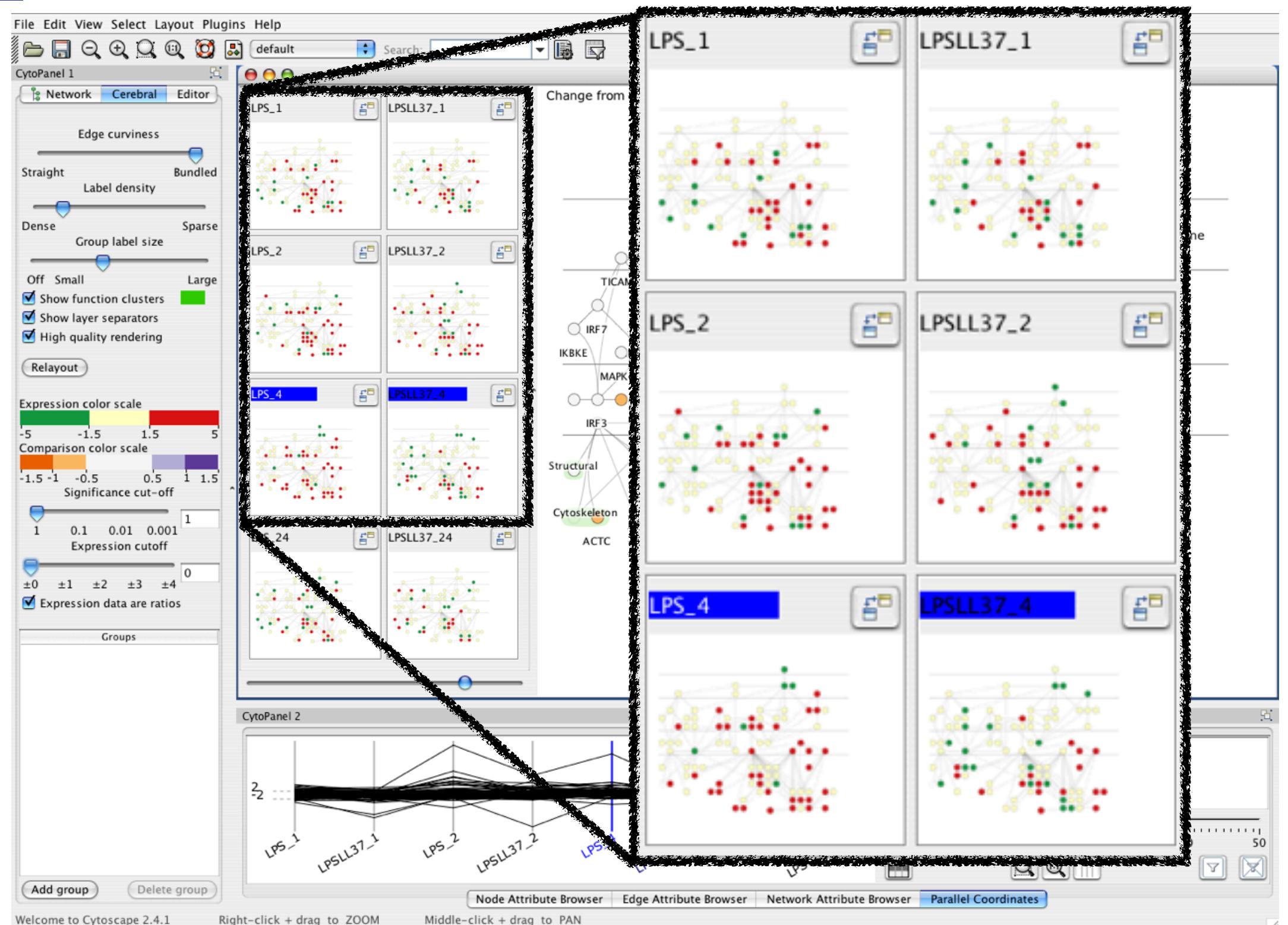


[A Review of Overview+Detail, Zooming, and Focus+Context Interfaces.  
Cockburn, Karlson, and Bederson. ACM Computing Surveys 41:1 (2008),  
1–31.]

# Idiom: Small multiples

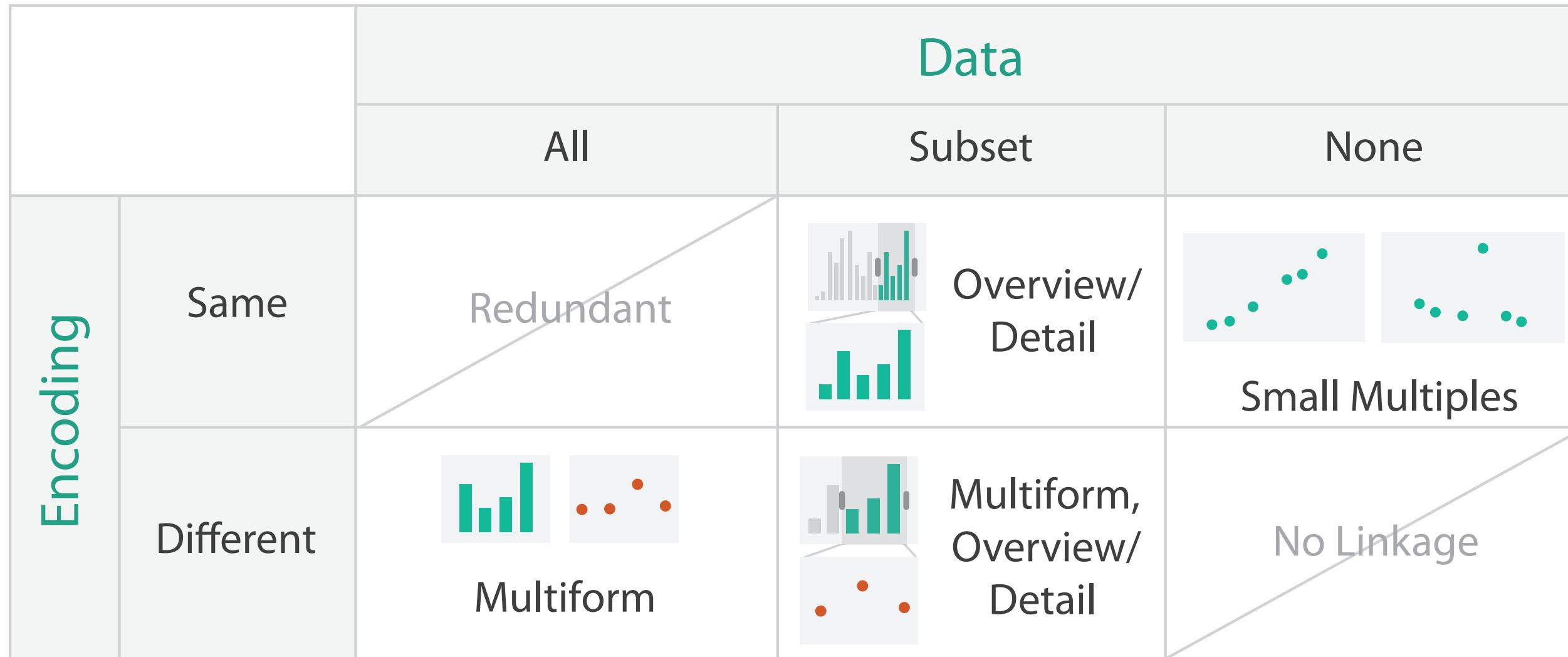
# System: Cerebral

- encoding: same
- data: none shared
  - different attributes for node colors
  - (same network layout)
- navigation: shared



[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.]

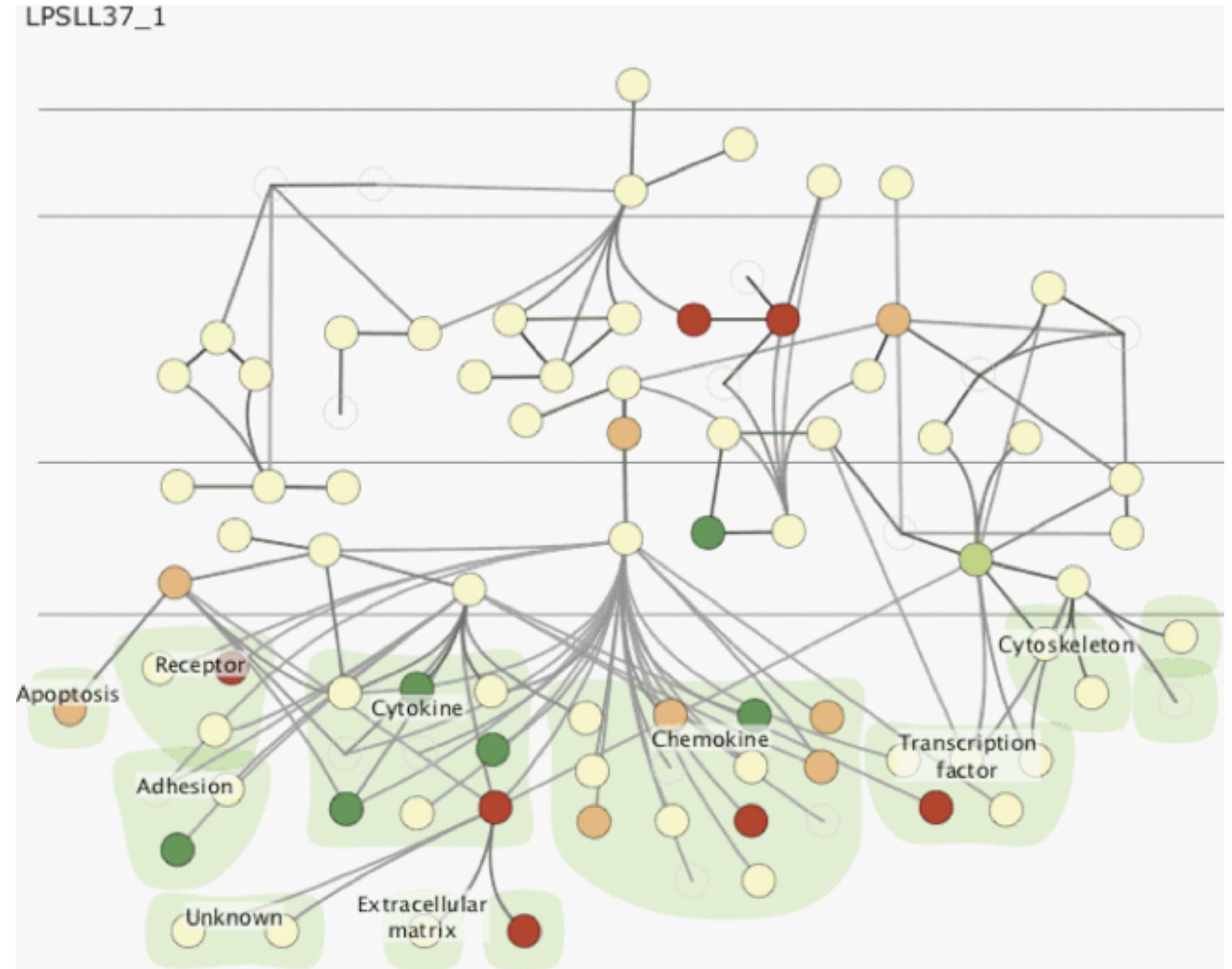
# Coordinate views: Design choice interaction



- **why juxtapose views?**
  - benefits: eyes vs memory
    - lower cognitive load to move eyes between 2 views than remembering previous state with single changing view
  - costs: display area, 2 views side by side each have only half the area of one view

# Why not animation?

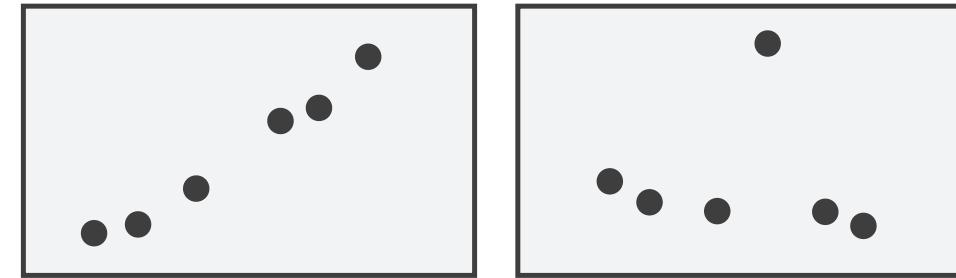
- disparate frames and regions: comparison difficult
  - vs contiguous frames
  - vs small region
  - vs coherent motion of group
- safe special case
  - animated transitions



# Partition into views

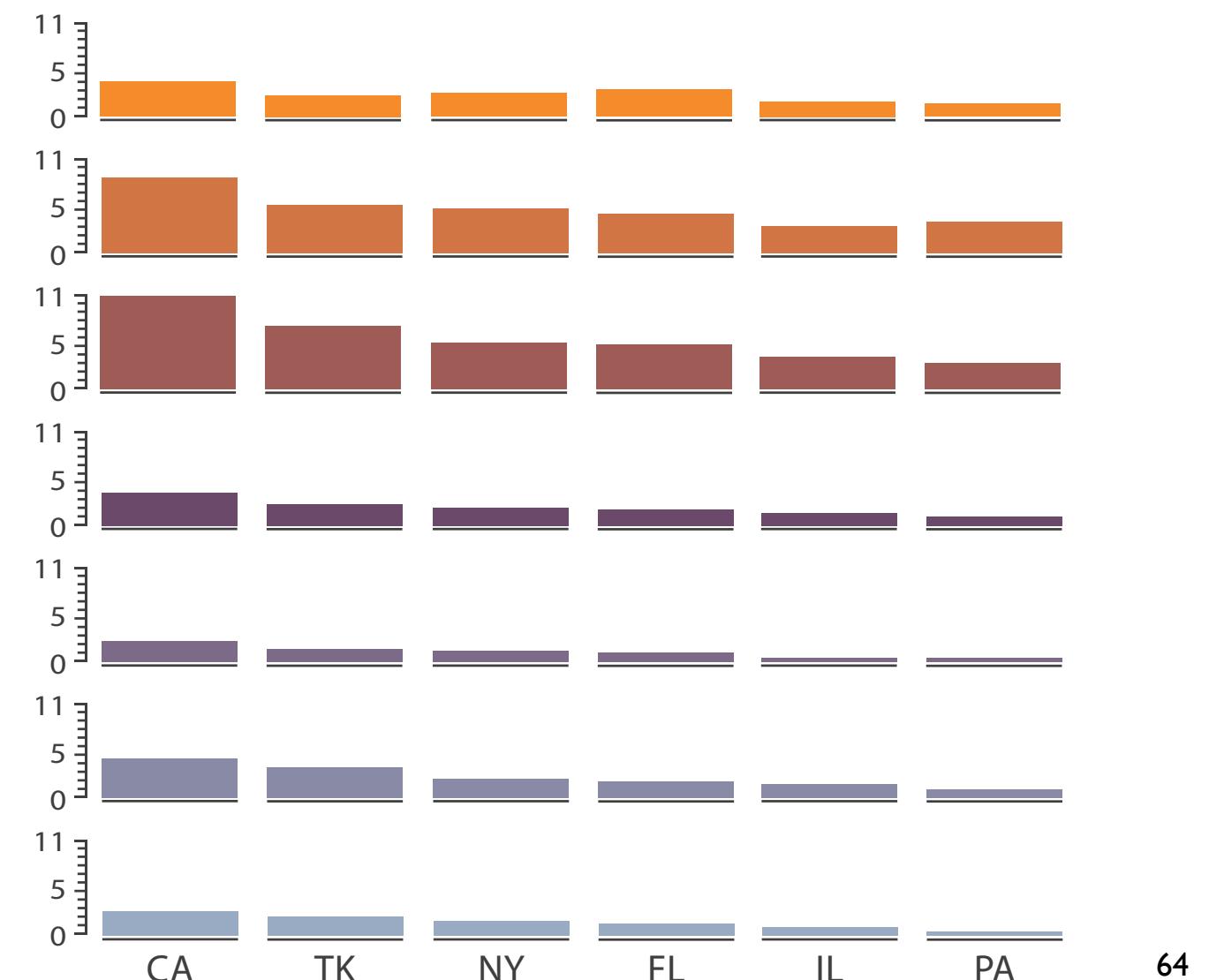
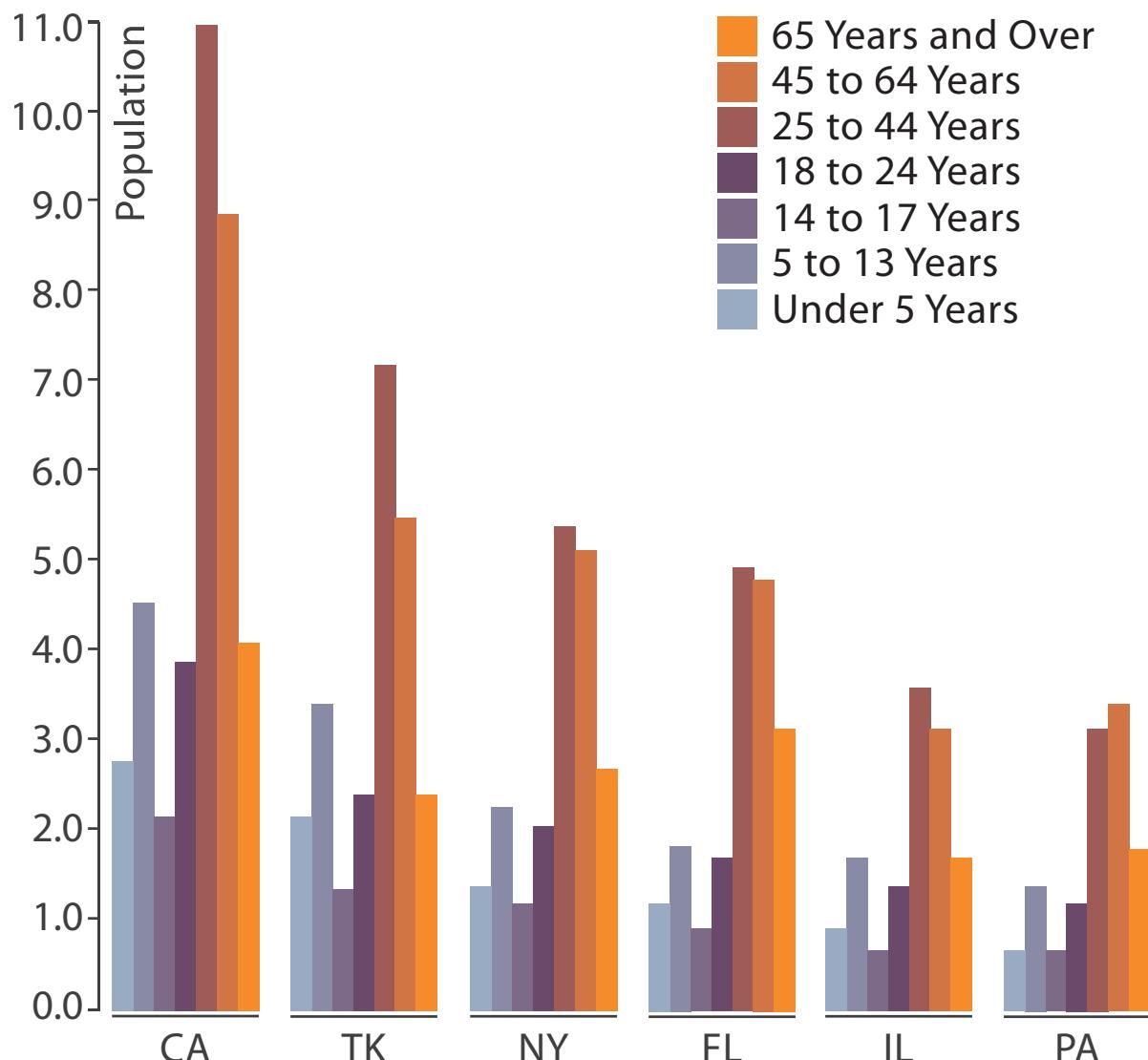
- how to divide data between views
  - encodes association between items using spatial proximity
  - major implications for what patterns are visible
  - split according to attributes
- design choices
  - how many splits
    - all the way down: one mark per region?
    - stop earlier, for more complex structure within region?
  - order in which attrs used to split
  - how many views

## → Partition into Side-by-Side Views



# Partitioning: List alignment

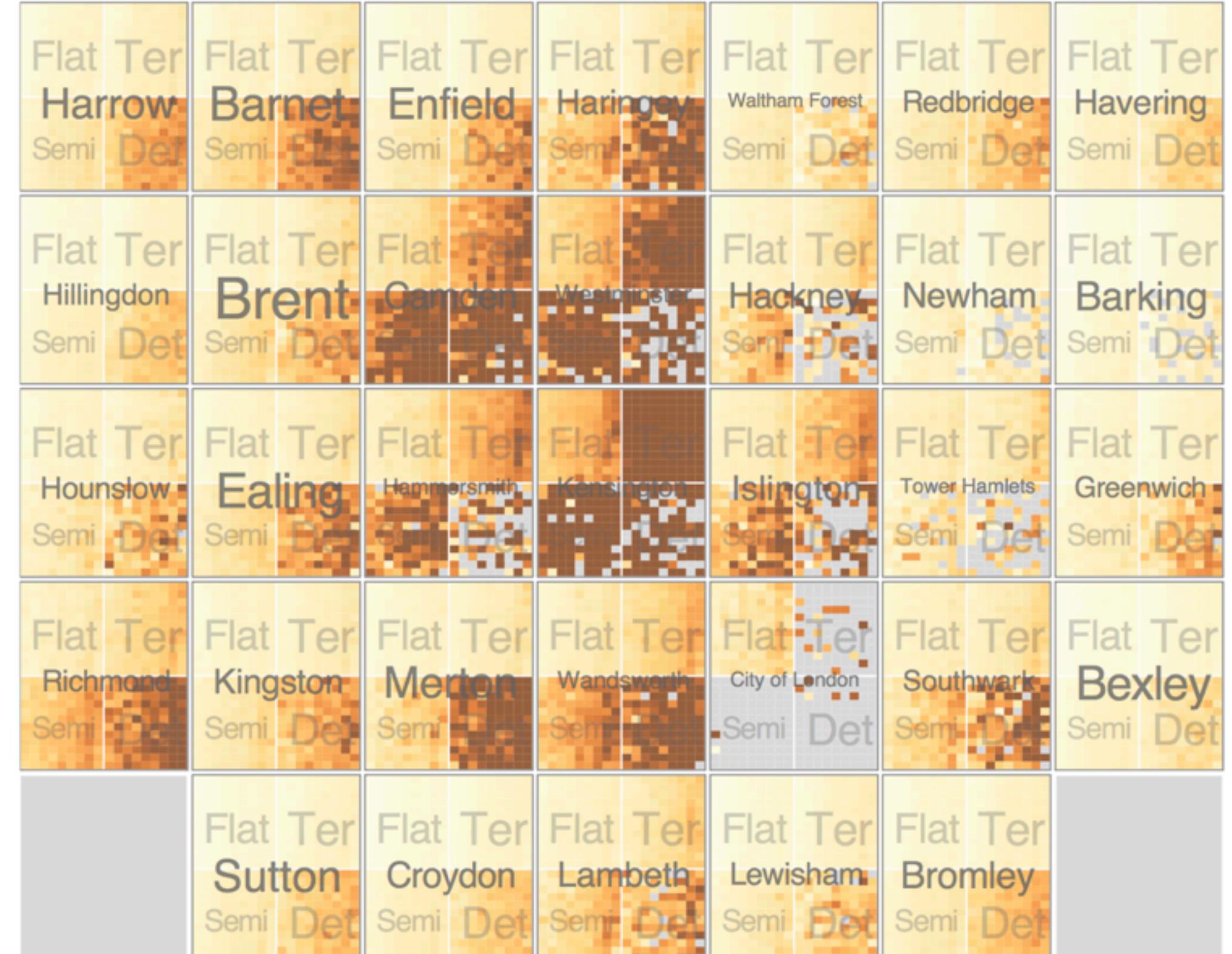
- single bar chart with grouped bars
  - split by state into regions
    - complex glyph within each region showing all ages
  - compare: easy within state, hard across ages
- small-multiple bar charts
  - split by age into regions
    - one chart per region
  - compare: easy within age, harder across states



# Partitioning: Recursive subdivision

# System: **HIVE**

- split by neighborhood
- then by type
- then time
  - years as rows
  - months as columns
- color by price
- neighborhood patterns
  - where it's expensive
  - where you pay much more for detached type



# Partitioning: Recursive subdivision

# System: **HIVE**

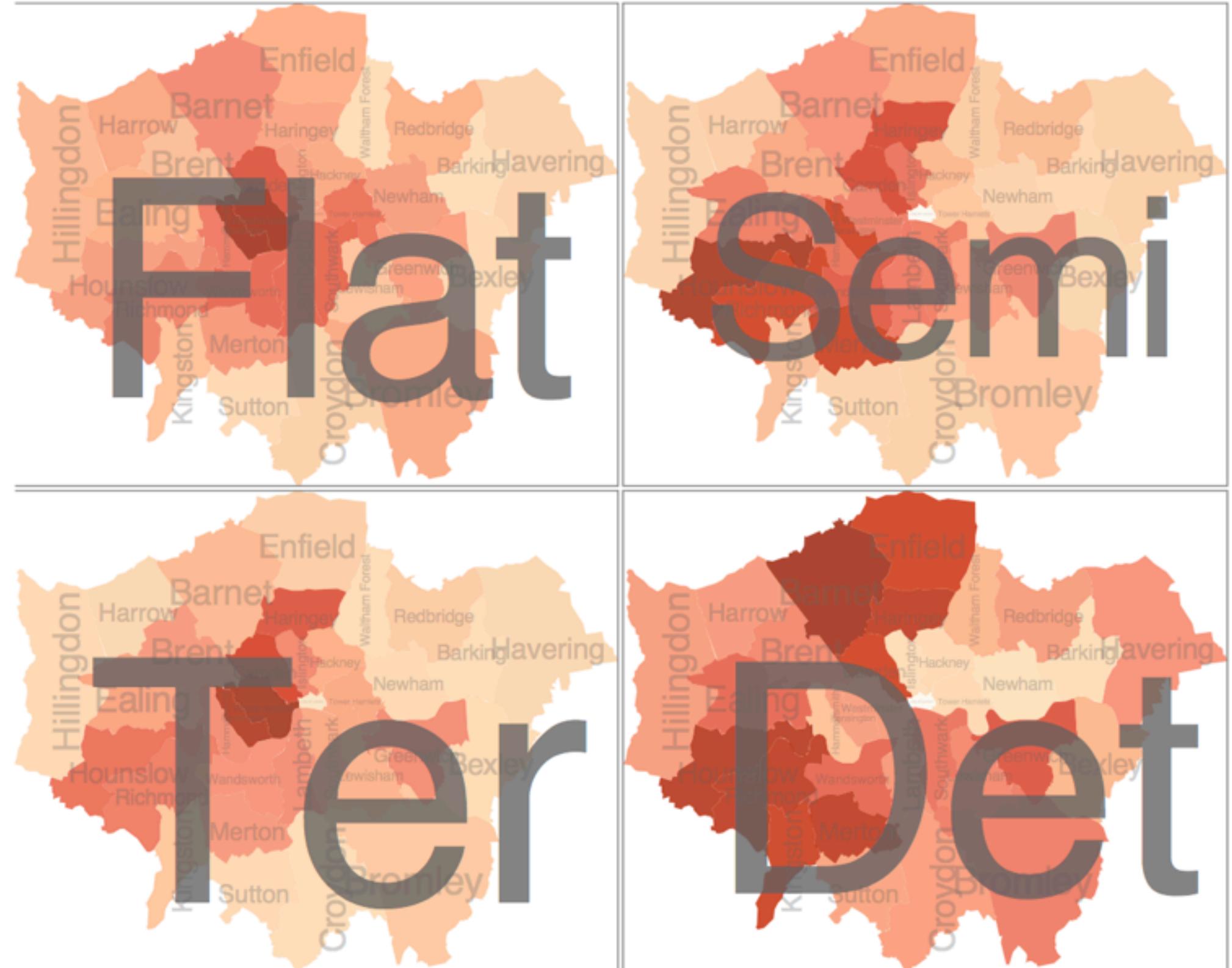
- switch order of splits
  - type then neighborhood
- switch color
  - by price variation
- type patterns
  - within specific type, which neighborhoods inconsistent



# Partitioning: Recursive subdivision

System: **HIVE**

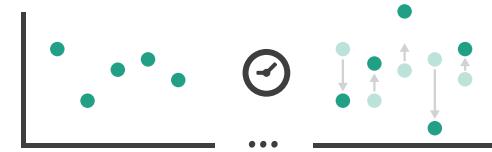
- different encoding for second-level regions
  - choropleth maps



# How to handle complexity: 3 more strategies + 1 previous

## Manipulate

### → Change



### → Select

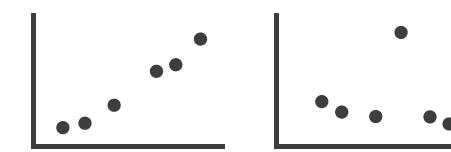


### → Navigate

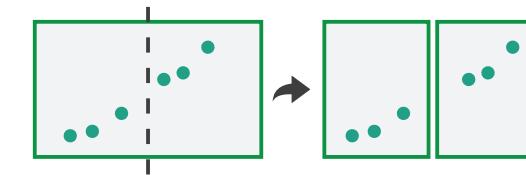


## Facet

### → Juxtapose



### → Partition



### → Superimpose



## Reduce

### → Filter



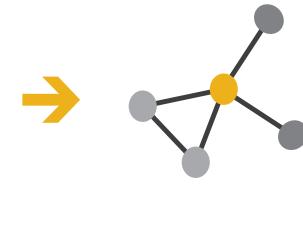
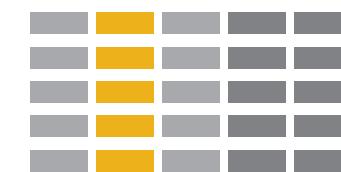
### → Aggregate



### → Embed



→ Derive



- reduce what is shown within single view

# Reduce items and attributes

- reduce/increase: inverses
- filter
  - pro: straightforward and intuitive
    - to understand and compute
  - con: out of sight, out of mind
- aggregation
  - pro: inform about whole set
  - con: difficult to avoid losing signal
- not mutually exclusive
  - combine filter, aggregate
  - combine reduce, facet, change, derive

## Reducing Items and Attributes

### → Filter

→ Items

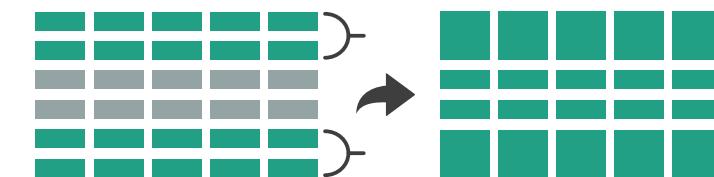


→ Attributes

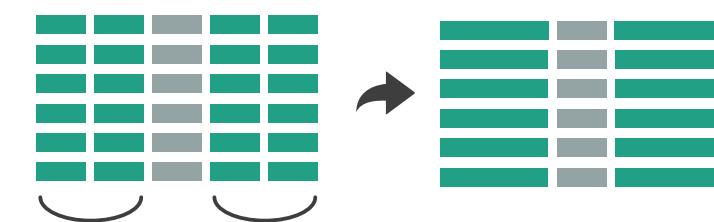


### → Aggregate

→ Items



→ Attributes



## Reduce

### → Filter



### → Aggregate

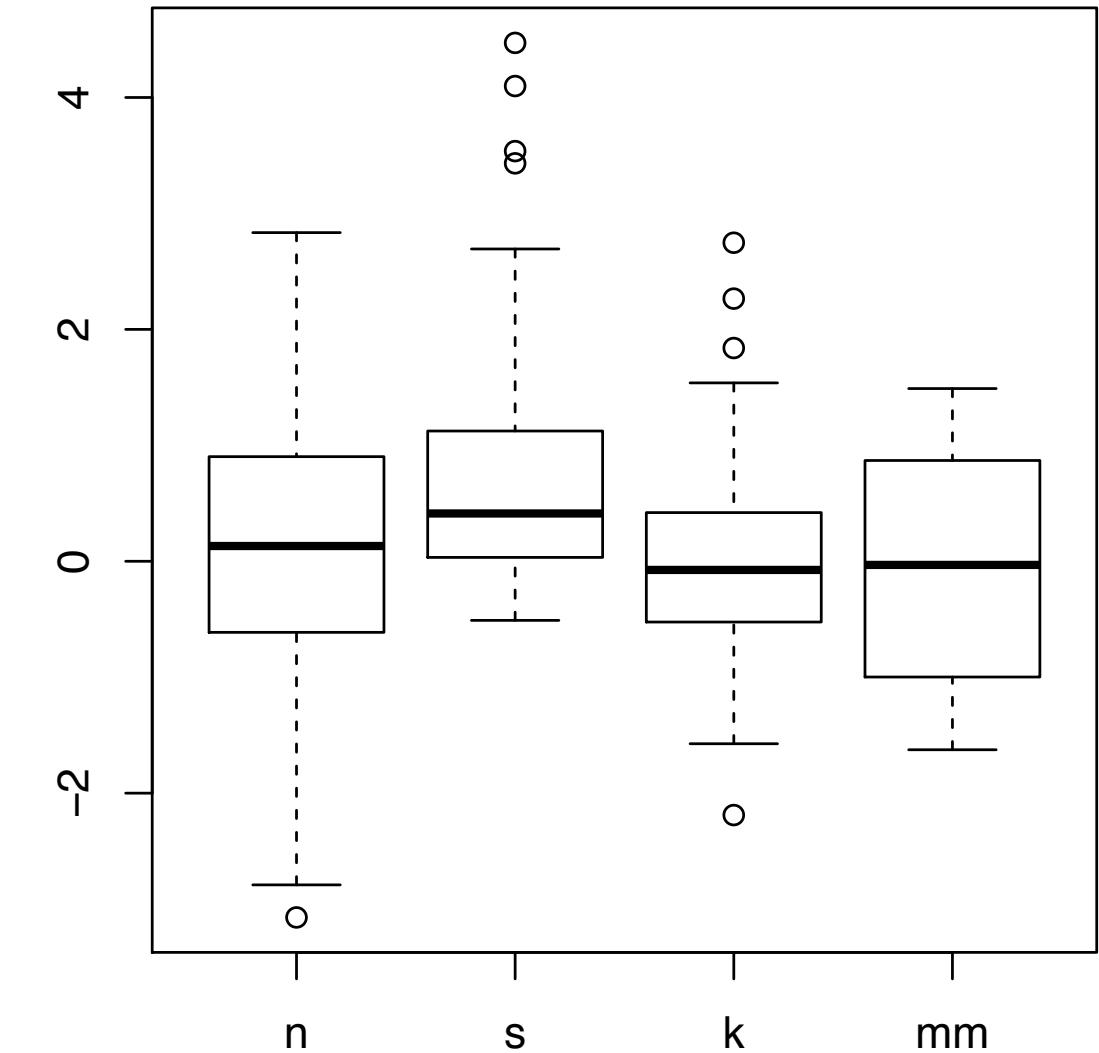


### → Embed



# Idiom: **boxplot**

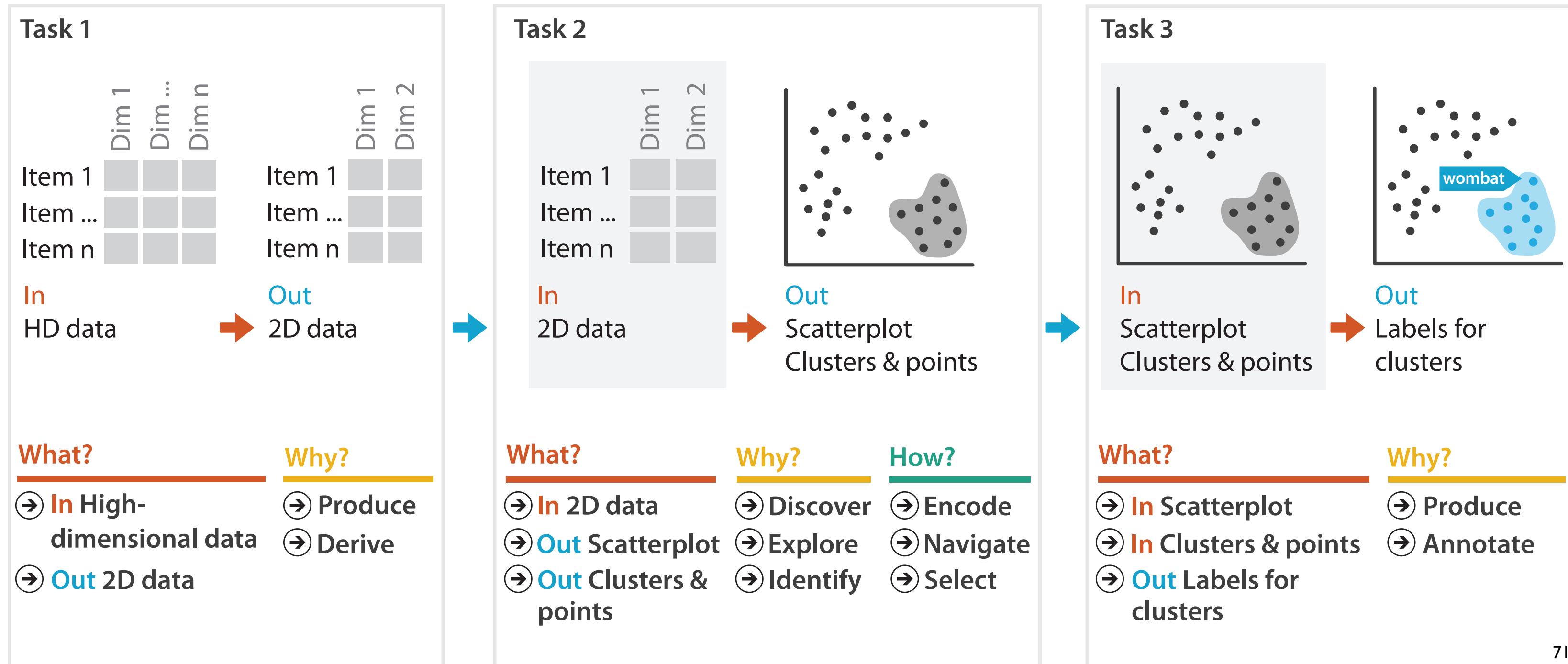
- static item aggregation
- task: find distribution
- data: table
- derived data
  - 5 quant attrs
    - median: central line
    - lower and upper quartile: boxes
    - lower upper fences: whiskers
      - values beyond which items are outliers
    - outliers beyond fence cutoffs explicitly shown



[40 years of boxplots. Wickham and Stryjewski. 2012. had.co.nz]

# Idiom: Dimensionality reduction for documents

- attribute aggregation
  - derive low-dimensional target space from high-dimensional measured space



# What?

## Datasets

→ Data Types

→ Items

→ Data and D

Tables

Items

Attributes

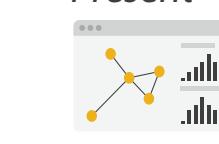
→ Analyze

→ Consume

→ Discover



→ Present



→ Enjoy



→ Dataset Typ

→ Tables

Attrik

Items

(rows)

→ Produce

→ Annotate



→ Search

→ Multidim

Key 1

Attributes

	Target
Location known	•
Location unknown	• ↗

→ Geometr

→ Query

→ Identify



## Attributes

Why?

Targets

→ All Data

→ Trends



→ Outliers



→ Features



How?

### Encode

→ Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



→ Map

from categorical and ordered attributes

→ Color

→ Hue      → Saturation      → Luminance

→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...



→ Shape



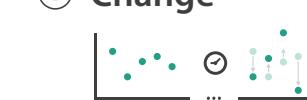
→ Motion

Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...



### Manipulate

→ Change



→ Select



→ Navigate



### Facet

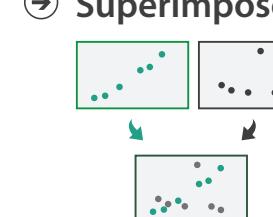
→ Juxtapose



→ Partition



→ Superimpose



### Reduce

→ Filter



→ Aggregate



→ Embed



domain

abstraction

What?

Why?

How?

idiom

algorithm

What?

Why?

# More Information

**@tamaramunzner**

- this talk

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#vad15bryan>

- book page (including tutorial lecture slides)

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

– 20% promo code for book+ebook combo:

HVN17

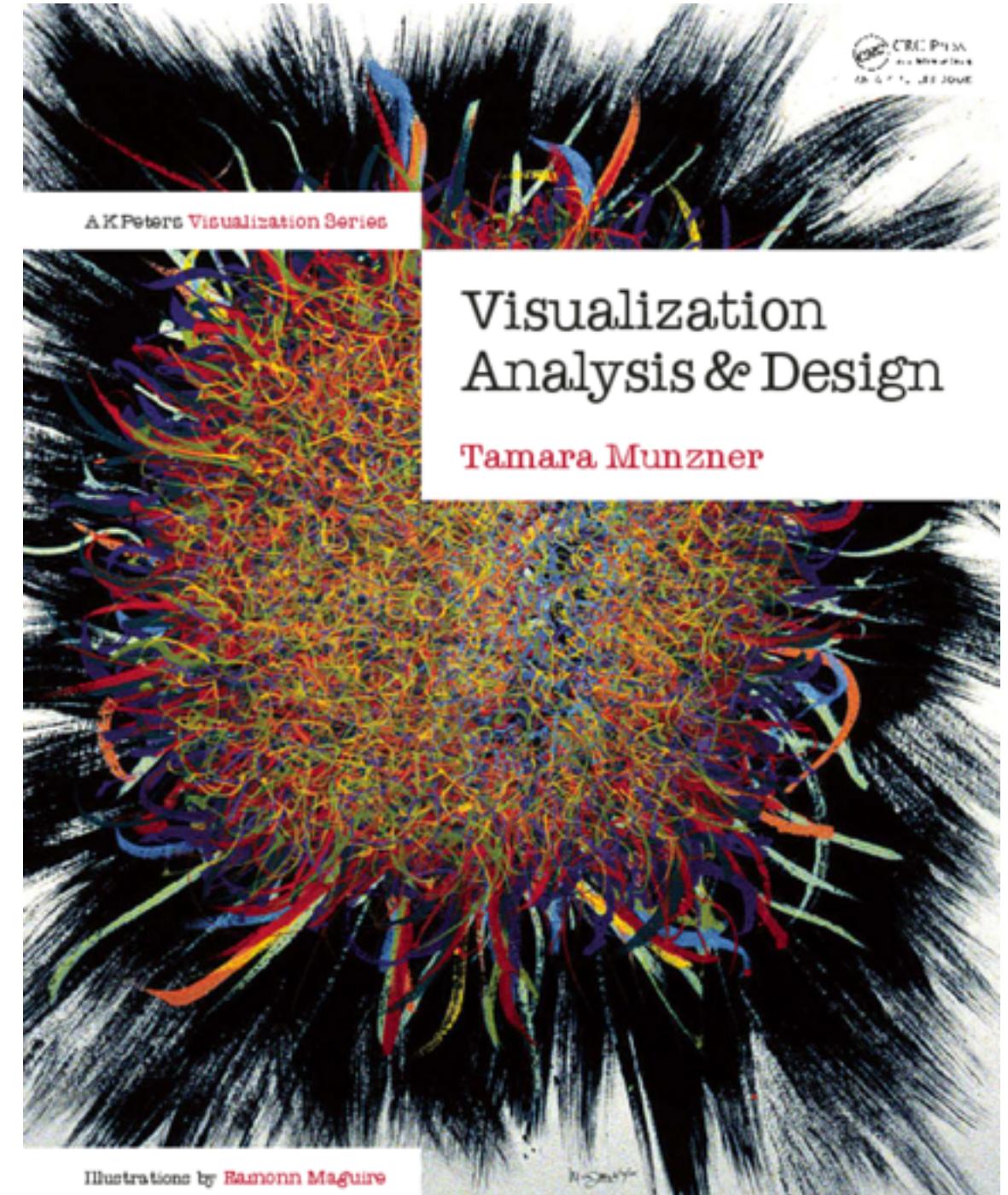
– <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466508910>

– illustrations: Eamonn Maguire

- papers, videos, software, talks, full courses

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

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



Munzner. A K Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, Visualization Series, 2014.

Visualization Analysis and Design.