

# Visualization Analysis & Design

## *Full-Day Tutorial*

**Tamara Munzner**

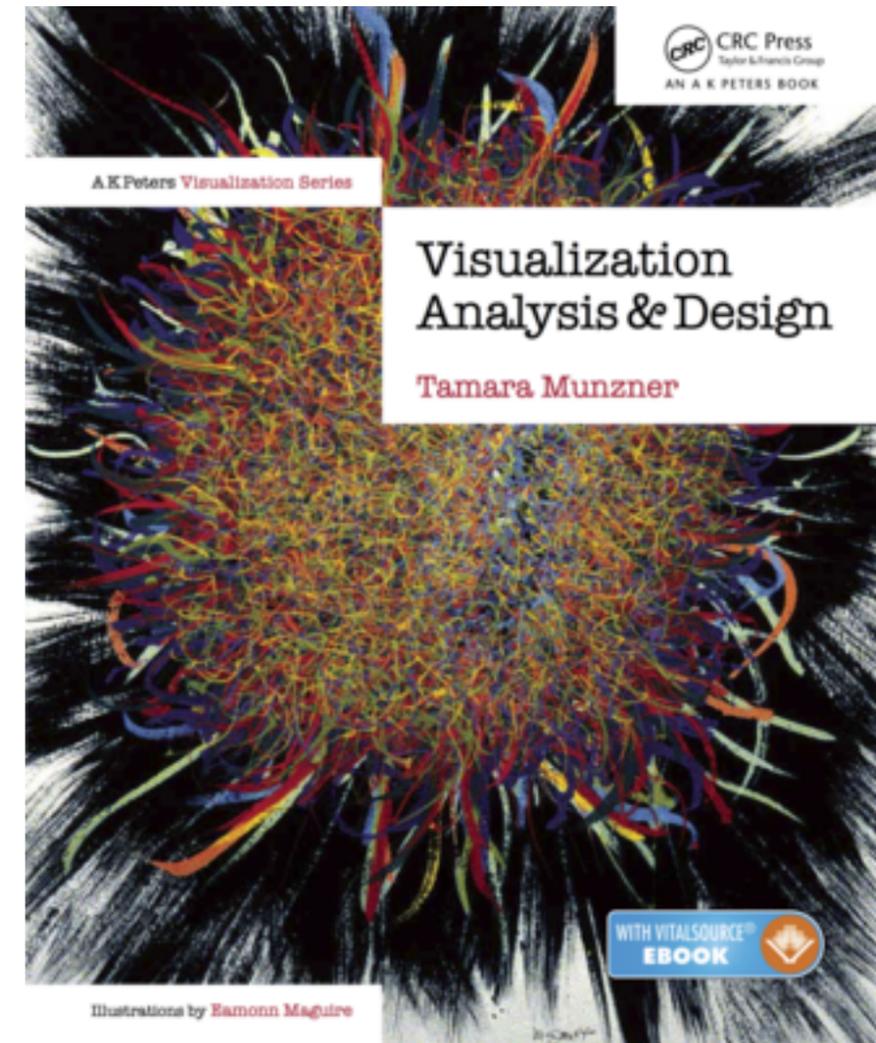
Department of Computer Science

**University of British Columbia**

*VIS 2017 Tutorial*

*September 2017, Phoenix AZ*

[www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#vad17fullday](http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#vad17fullday)



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

# Outline

- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - Arrange Tables
  - Arrange Spatial Data
  - Arrange Networks and Trees
- **Session 3 2:00-3:40pm**  
**Color & Interaction**
  - Map Color
  - Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate
  - Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# Defining visualization (vis)

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

Why?...

# Visualization (vis) defined & motivated

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

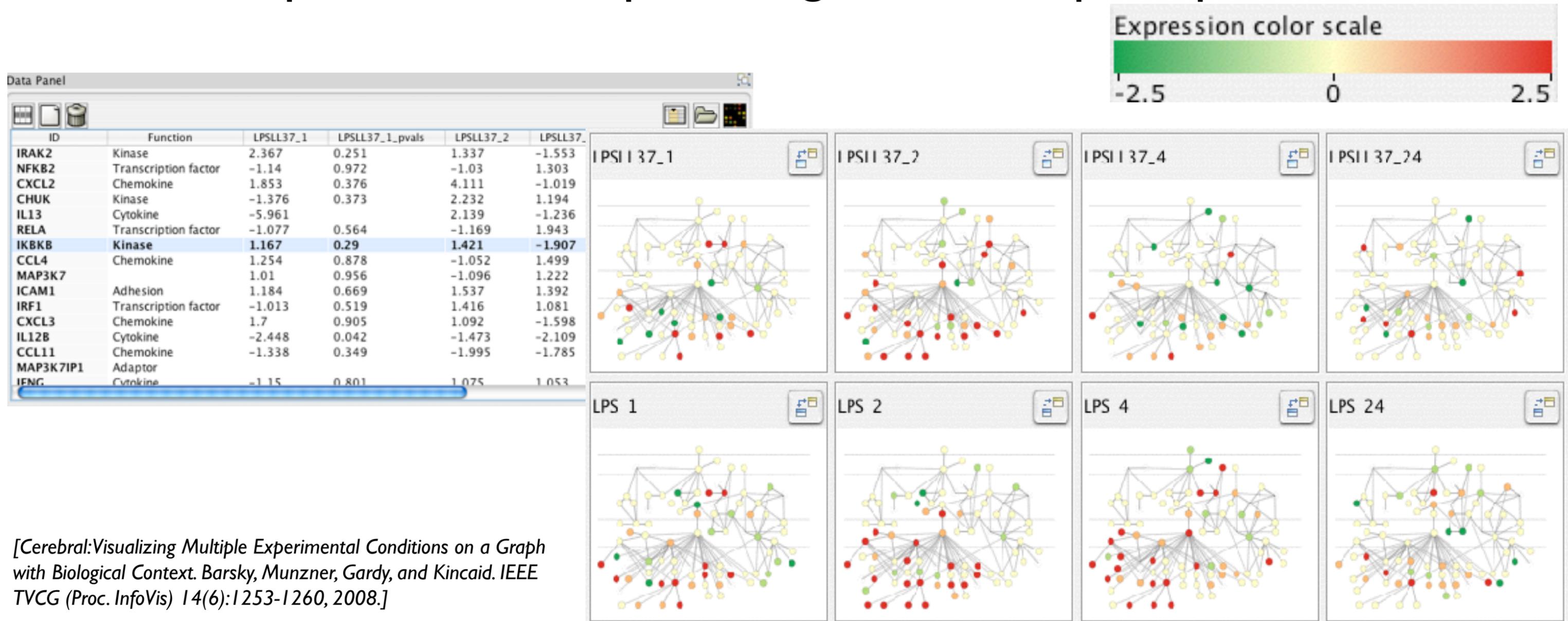
**Visualization is suitable when there is a need to augment human capabilities rather than replace people with computational decision-making methods.**

- human in the loop needs the details & no trusted automatic solution exists
  - doesn't know exactly what questions to ask in advance
  - exploratory data analysis
    - *speed up* through human-in-the-loop visual data analysis
  - present known results to others
  - stepping stone towards automation
    - before model creation to provide understanding
    - during algorithm creation to refine, debug, set parameters
    - before or during deployment to build trust and monitor

# 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



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

# Why depend on vision?

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

- human visual system is high-bandwidth channel to brain
  - overview possible due to background processing
    - subjective experience of seeing everything simultaneously
    - significant processing occurs in parallel and pre-attentively
- sound: lower bandwidth and different semantics
  - overview not supported
    - subjective experience of sequential stream
- touch/haptics: impoverished record/replay capacity
  - only very low-bandwidth communication thus far
- taste, smell: no viable record/replay devices

# Why represent all the data?

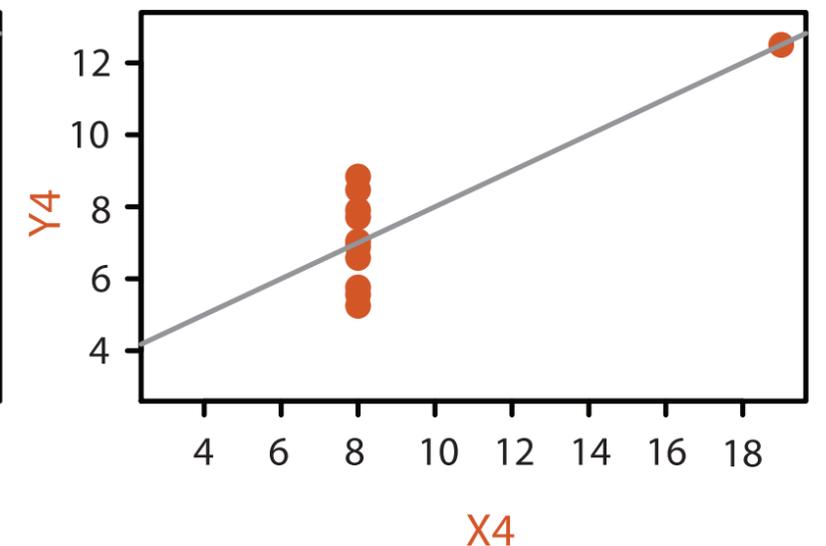
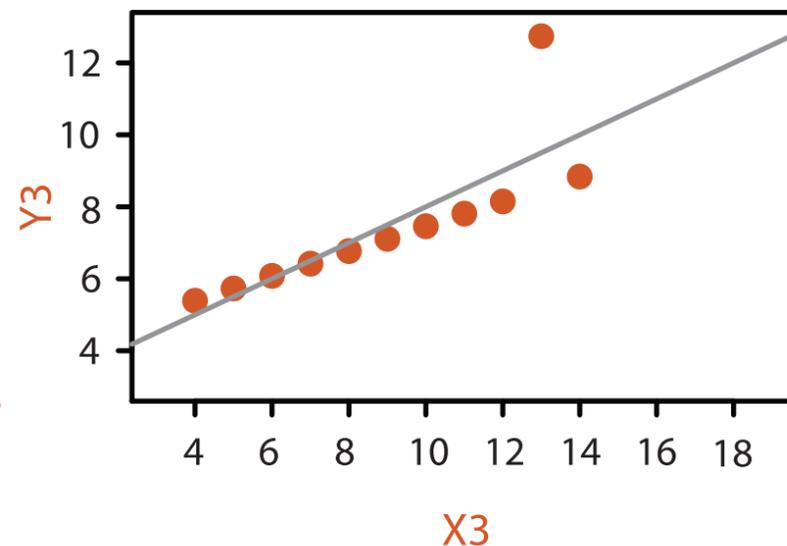
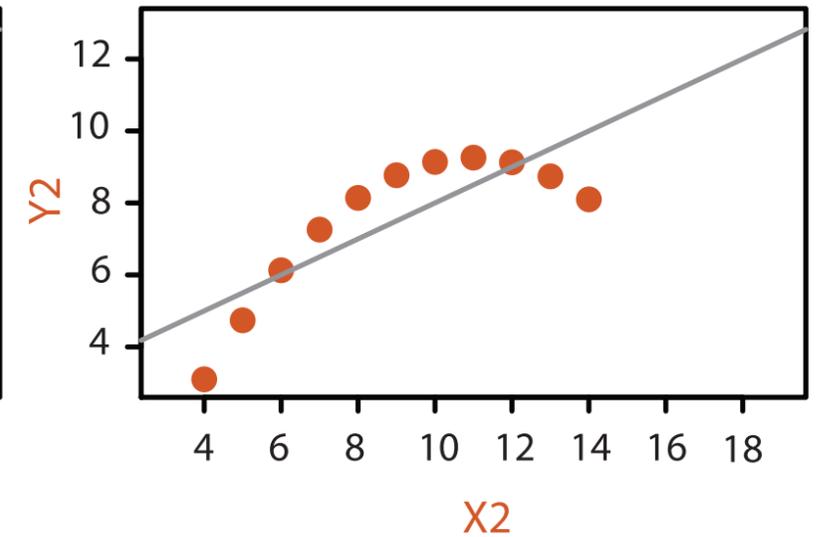
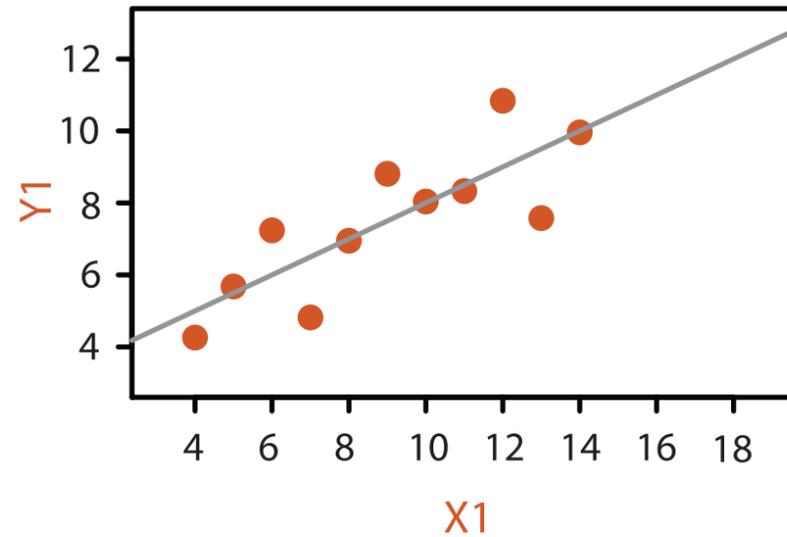
Computer-based visualization systems provide visual **representations of datasets** designed to help people carry out tasks more effectively.

- 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	7.5
y variance	3.75
x/y correlation	0.816



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

Same Stats, Different Graphs

# Why focus on tasks and effectiveness?

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

- effectiveness requires match between data/task and representation
  - set of representations is huge
  - many are ineffective mismatch for specific data/task combo
  - increases chance of finding good solutions if you understand full space of possibilities
- what counts as effective?
  - novel: enable entirely new kinds of analysis
  - faster: speed up existing workflows
- how to validate effectiveness
  - many methods, must pick appropriate one for your context

# What resource limitations are we faced with?

**Vis designers must take into account three very different kinds of resource limitations: those of computers, of humans, and of displays.**

- computational limits
  - processing time
  - system memory
- human limits
  - human attention and memory
- display limits
  - pixels are precious resource, the most constrained resource
  - **information density**: ratio of space used to encode info vs unused whitespace
    - tradeoff between clutter and wasting space, find sweet spot between dense and sparse

# Why analyze?

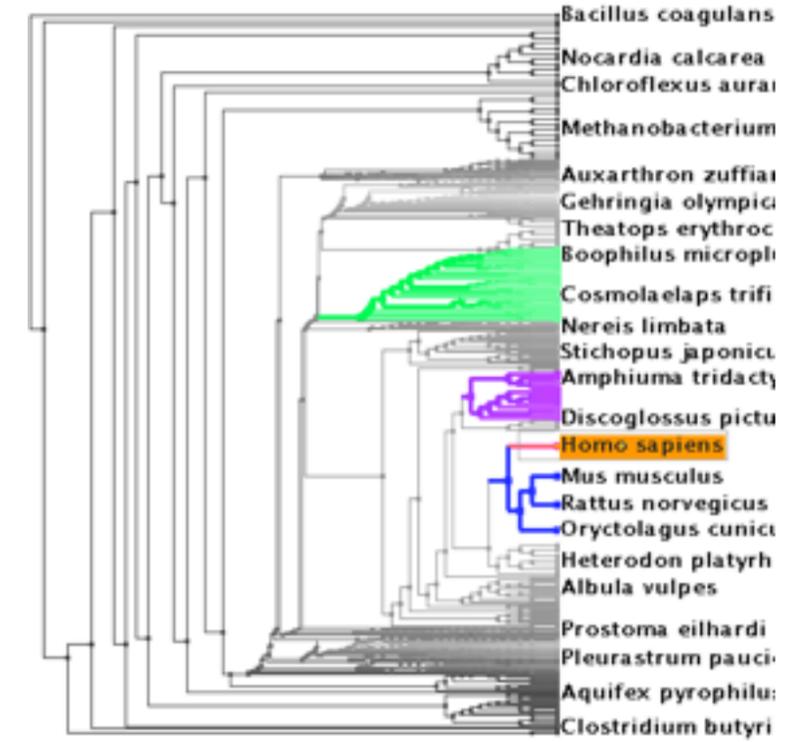
- imposes structure on huge design space
  - scaffold to help you think systematically about choices
  - analyzing existing as stepping stone to designing new
  - most possibilities ineffective for particular task/data combination

## SpaceTree



[SpaceTree: Supporting Exploration in Large Node Link Tree, Design Evolution and Empirical Evaluation. Grosjean, Plaisant, and Bederson. Proc. InfoVis 2002, p 57–64.]

## TreeJuxtaposer



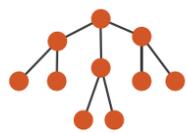
[TreeJuxtaposer: Scalable Tree Comparison Using Focus +Context With Guaranteed Visibility. ACM Trans. on Graphics (Proc. SIGGRAPH) 22:453– 462, 2003.]

### What?

### Why?

### How?

#### → Tree



#### → Actions

→ Present → Locate → Identify



#### → Targets

→ Path between two nodes



#### → SpaceTree

→ Encode → Navigate → Select → Filter → Aggregate



#### → TreeJuxtaposer

→ Encode → Navigate → Select → Arrange



What?

Why?

How?

## Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.
  - *Chap 1: What's Vis, and Why Do It?*

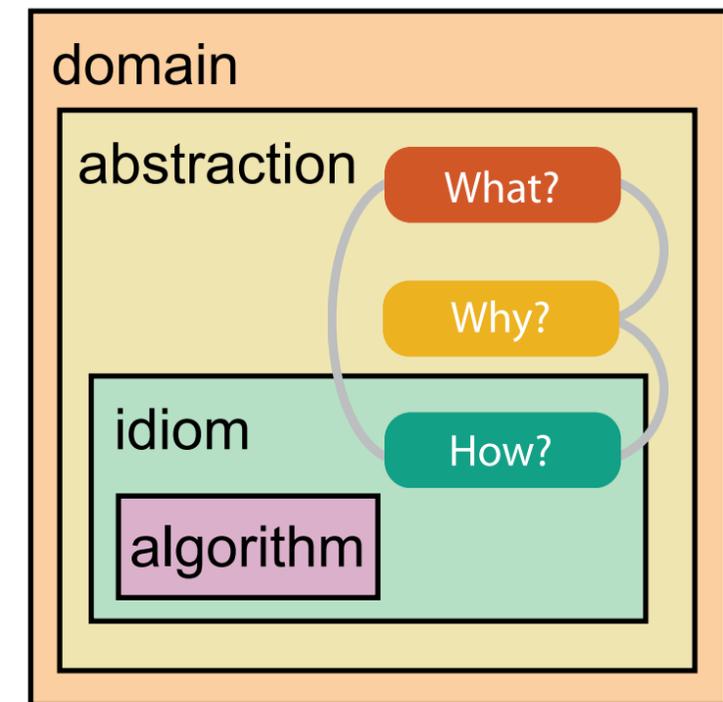
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# Nested model: Four levels of vis design

- *domain situation*
  - who are the target users?
- *abstraction*
  - translate from specifics of domain to vocabulary of vis
    - **what** is shown? **data abstraction**
    - **why** is the user looking at it? **task abstraction**
- *idiom*
  - **how** is it shown?
    - **visual encoding idiom**: how to draw
    - **interaction idiom**: how to manipulate
- *algorithm*
  - efficient computation

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



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

# Why is validation difficult?

- different ways to get it wrong at each level



## Domain situation

You misunderstood their needs



## Data/task abstraction

You're showing them the wrong thing



## Visual encoding/interaction idiom

The way you show it doesn't work

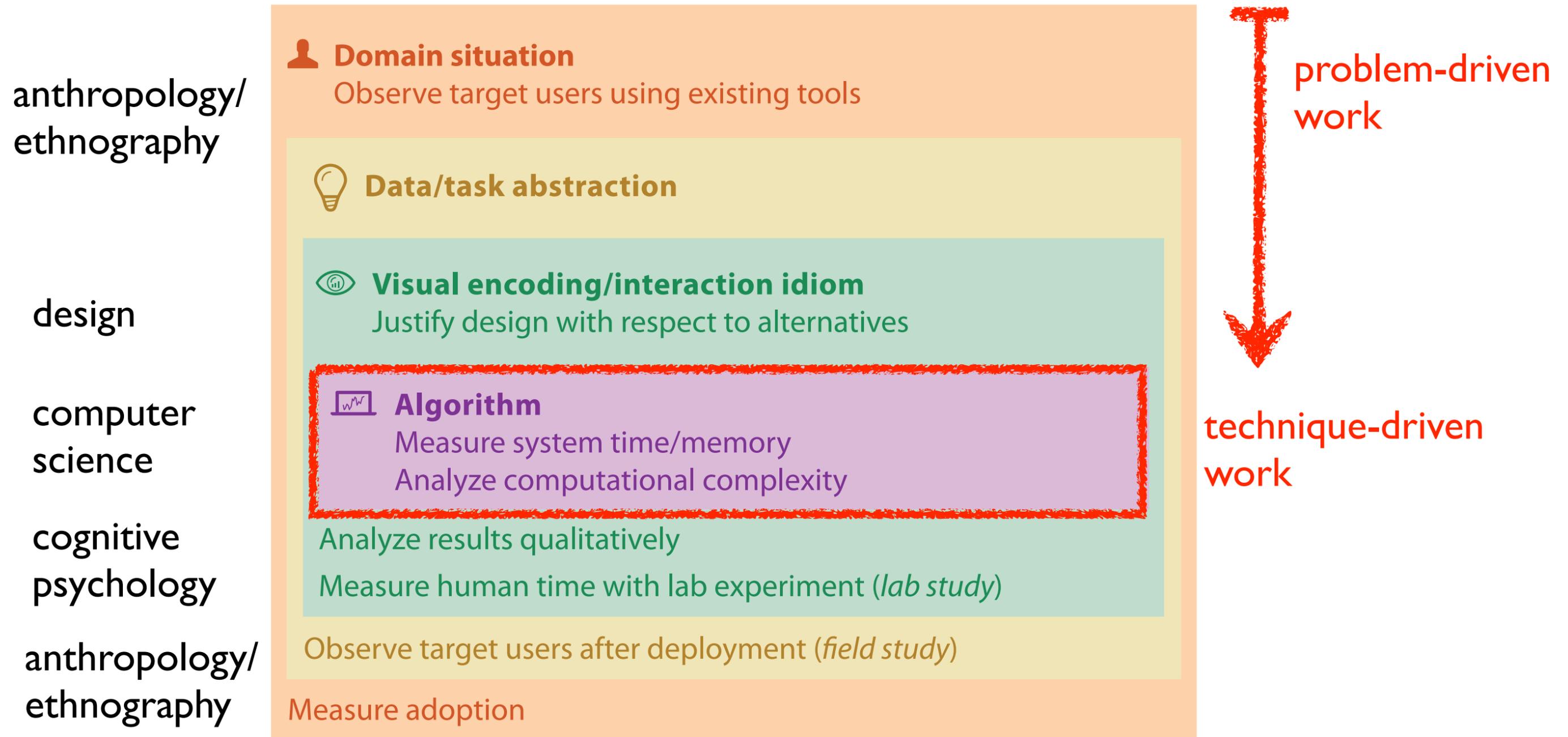


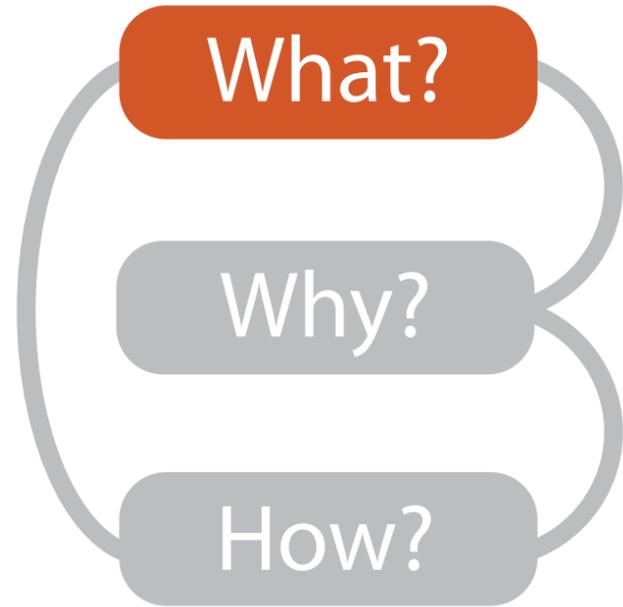
## Algorithm

Your code is too slow

# Why is validation difficult?

- solution: use methods from different fields at each level





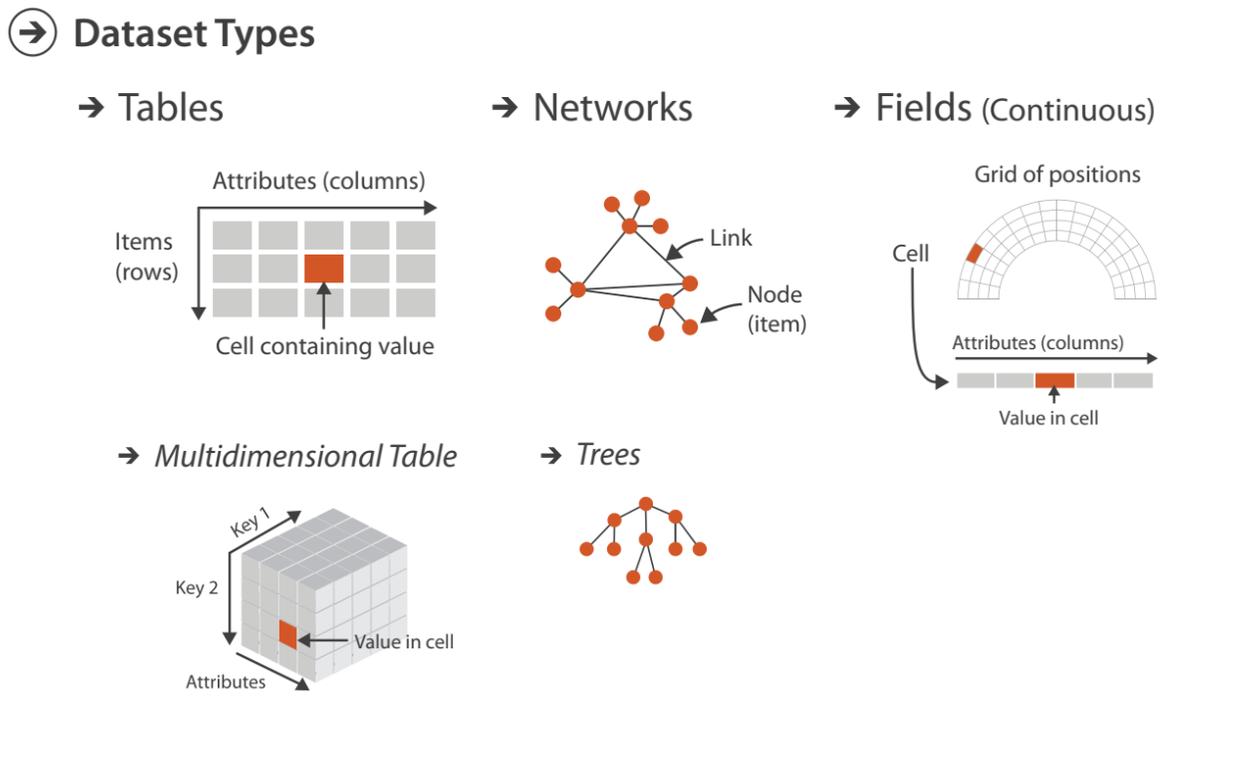
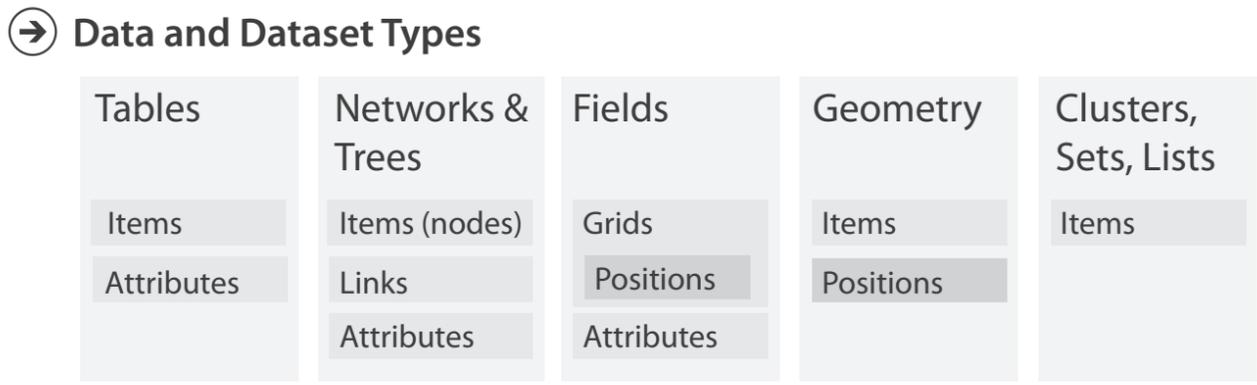
# What?

## Datasets

## Attributes

- ➔ **Data Types**
  - ➔ Items
  - ➔ Attributes
  - ➔ Links
  - ➔ Positions
  - ➔ Grids

- ➔ **Attribute Types**
  - ➔ Categorical
    - +   ●   ■   ▲
  - ➔ Ordered
    - ➔ Ordinal
      - 👕   🧥   🧥
    - ➔ Quantitative
      - ┆┆   ┆┆┆   ┆┆┆┆



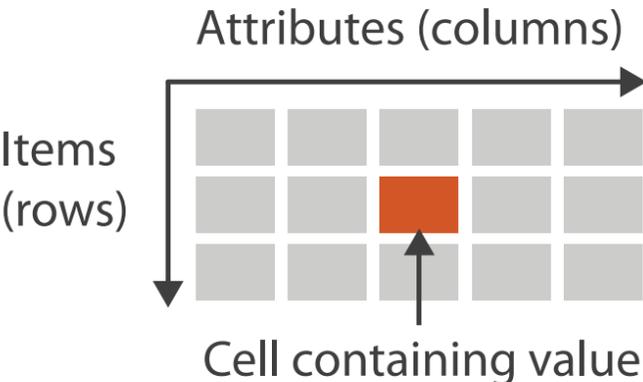
- ➔ **Ordering Direction**
- ➔ Sequential
    -
  - ➔ Diverging
    - ←→
  - ➔ Cyclic
    - ↻



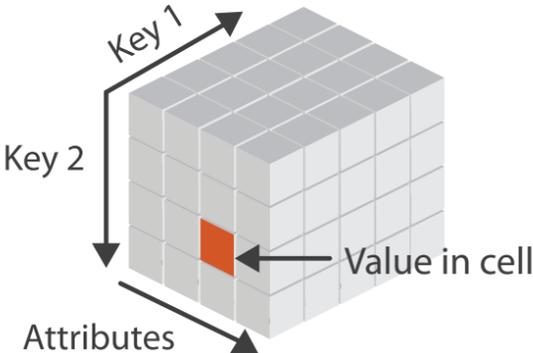
# Three major datatypes

## → Dataset Types

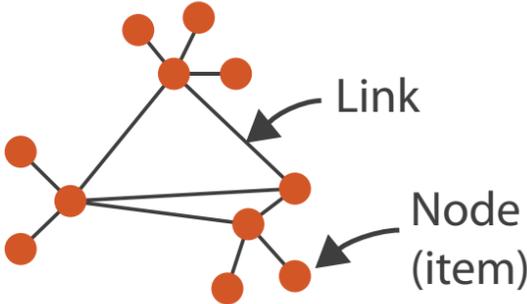
### → Tables



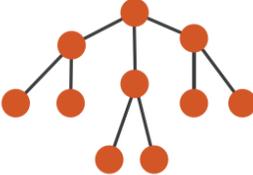
### → Multidimensional Table



### → Networks

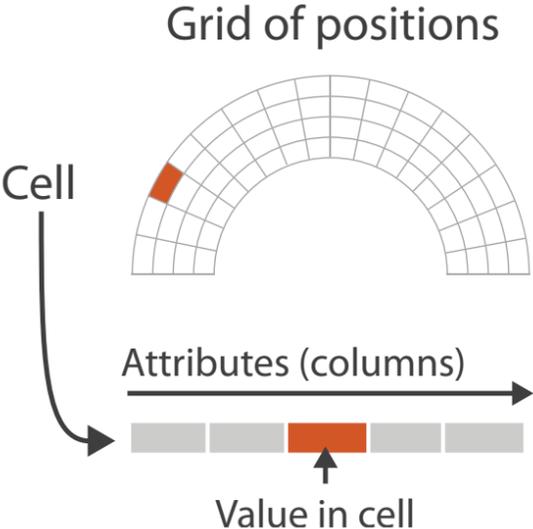


### → Trees



### → Spatial

#### → Fields (Continuous)



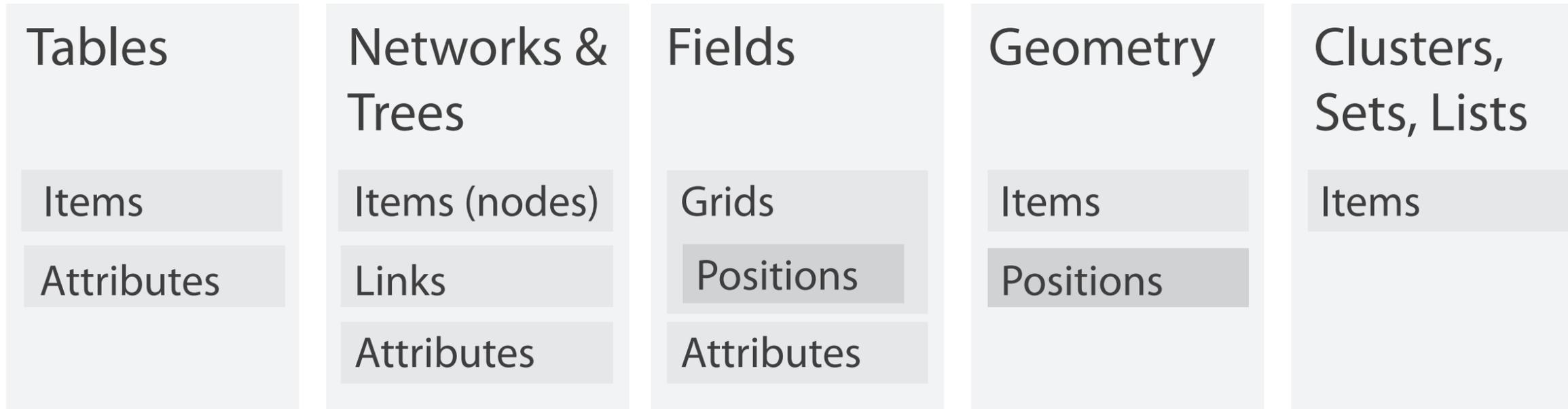
#### → Geometry (Spatial)



- visualization vs computer graphics
  - geometry is design decision

# Dataset and data types

## → Data and Dataset Types



## → Data Types

→ Items    → Attributes    → Links    → Positions    → Grids

## → Dataset Availability

→ Static



→ Dynamic



# Attribute types

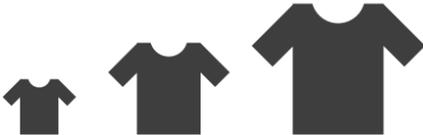
## ➔ Attribute Types

➔ Categorical

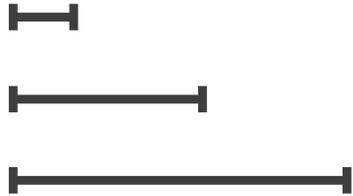


➔ Ordered

➔ *Ordinal*



➔ *Quantitative*



## ➔ Ordering Direction

➔ Sequential

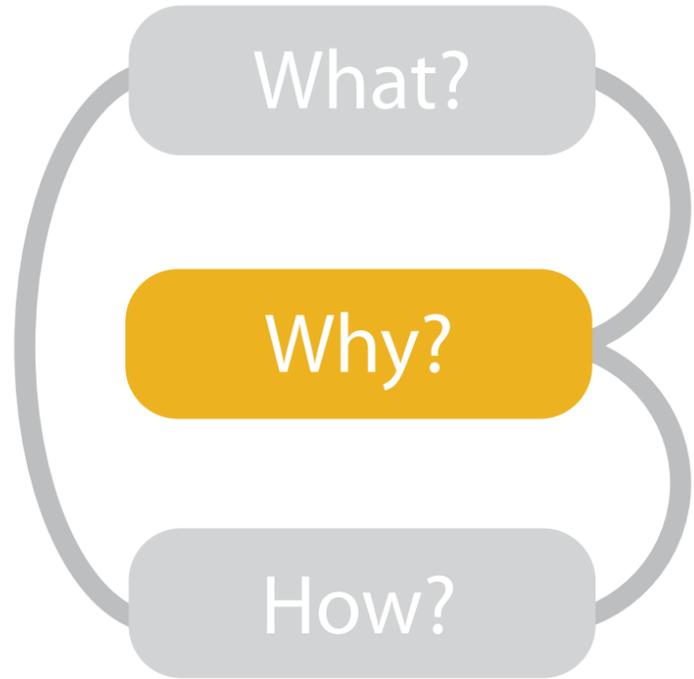


➔ Diverging



➔ Cyclic





## 👉 Actions

## 🎯 Targets

### ➔ Analyze

➔ Consume

➔ Discover



➔ Present



➔ Enjoy



➔ Produce

➔ Annotate



➔ Record



➔ Derive



### ➔ Search

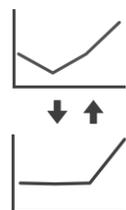
	Target known	Target unknown
Location known	•••• Lookup	•••• Browse
Location unknown	<••••> Locate	<••••> Explore

### ➔ Query

➔ Identify



➔ Compare

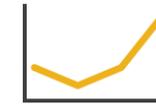


➔ Summarize



### ➔ All Data

➔ Trends



➔ Outliers



➔ Features



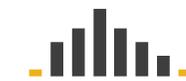
### ➔ Attributes

➔ One

➔ Distribution



➔ Extremes

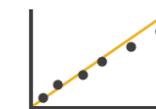


➔ Many

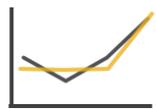
➔ Dependency



➔ Correlation



➔ Similarity



### ➔ Network Data

➔ Topology



➔ Paths

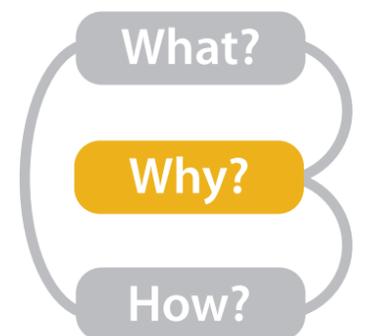


### ➔ Spatial Data

➔ Shape



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



# Actions: Analyze

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

## → Analyze

### → Consume

→ Discover



→ Present

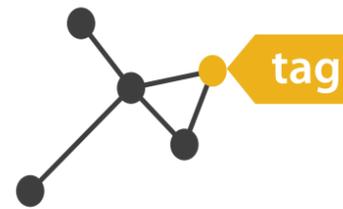


→ Enjoy



### → Produce

→ Annotate



→ Record

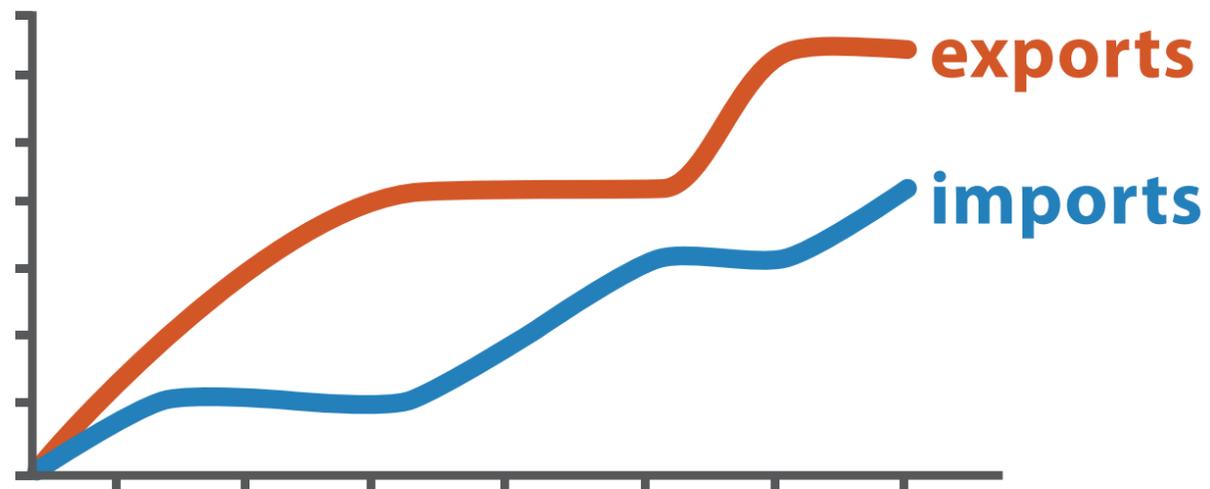


→ Derive

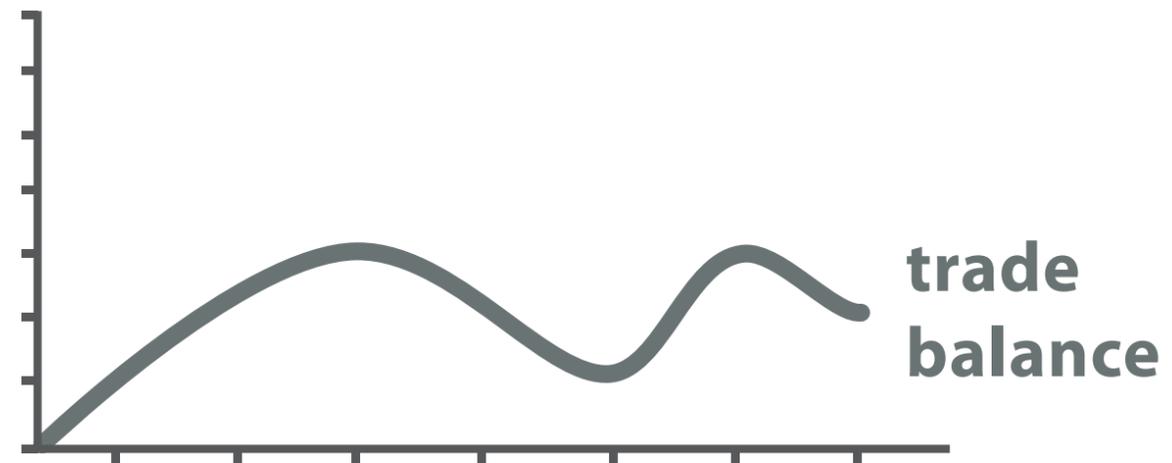


# Derive

- 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



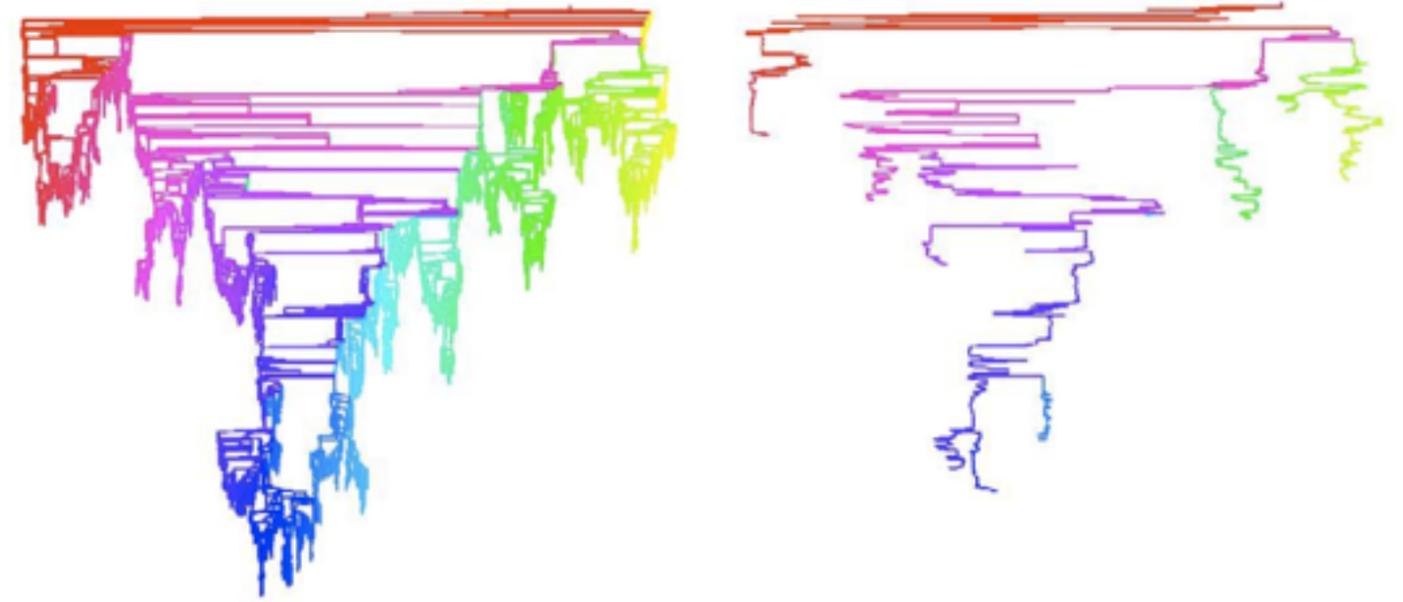
$$\text{trade balance} = \text{exports} - \text{imports}$$

Derived Data

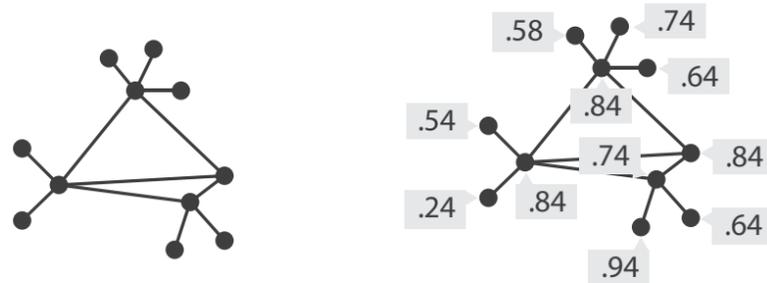
# Analysis example: Derive one attribute

- 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.]*



## Task 1



**In**  
Tree

➔

**Out**  
Quantitative  
attribute on nodes

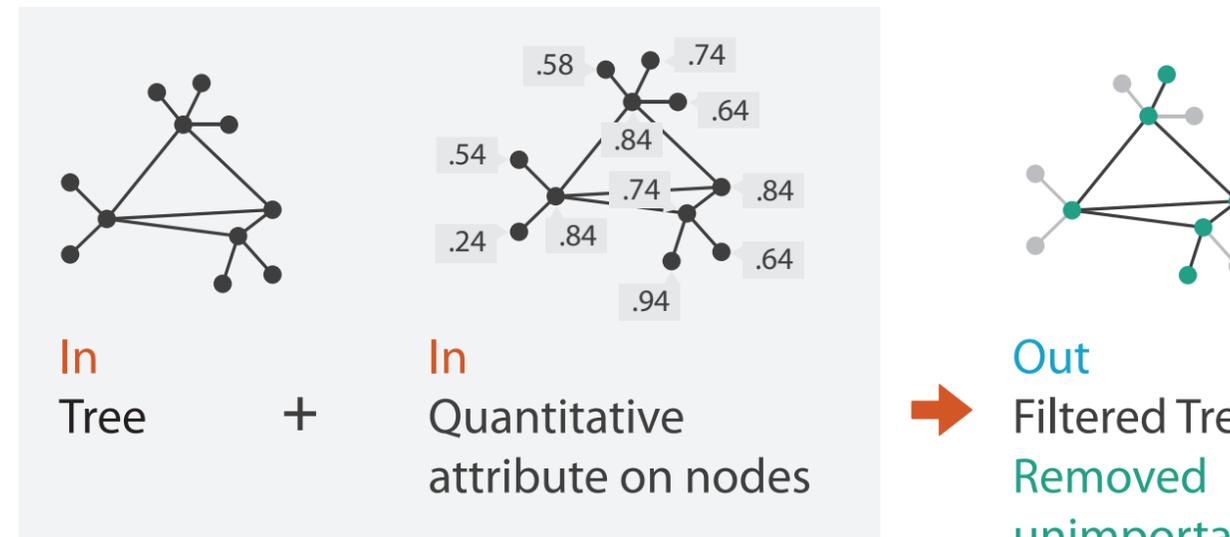
### What?

- ➔ In Tree
- ➔ Out Quantitative attribute on nodes

### Why?

- ➔ Derive

## Task 2



**In**  
Tree

+

**In**  
Quantitative  
attribute on nodes

➔

**Out**  
Filtered Tree  
Removed  
unimportant parts

### What?

- ➔ In Tree
- ➔ In Quantitative attribute on nodes
- ➔ Out Filtered Tree

### Why?

- ➔ Summarize
- ➔ Topology

### How?

- ➔ Reduce
- ➔ Filter

# Actions: Search, query

- what does user know? → Search

- target, location

- how much of the data matters?

- one, some, all

	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



# Why: Targets

## → All Data

→ Trends



→ Outliers



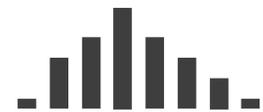
→ Features



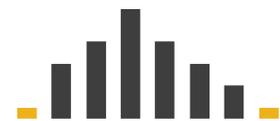
## → Attributes

→ One

→ *Distribution*



→ *Extremes*

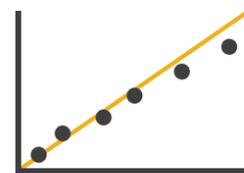


→ Many

→ *Dependency*



→ *Correlation*

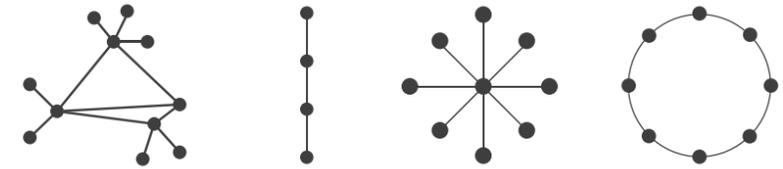


→ *Similarity*



## → Network Data

→ Topology

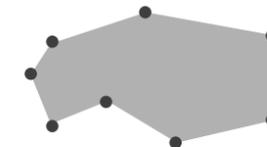


→ *Paths*



## → Spatial Data

→ Shape



# How?

## Encode

### → Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



### → Map

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

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...



→ Shape



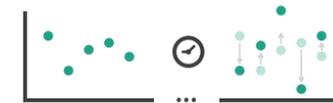
→ Motion

*Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...*



## Manipulate

### → Change



### → Select



### → Navigate

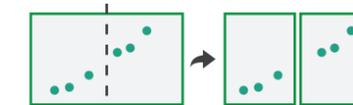


## Facet

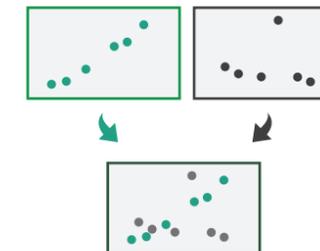
### → Juxtapose



### → Partition

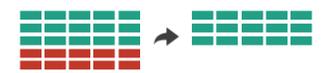


### → Superimpose



## Reduce

### → Filter



### → Aggregate



### → Embed



What?

Why?

How?

# Further reading

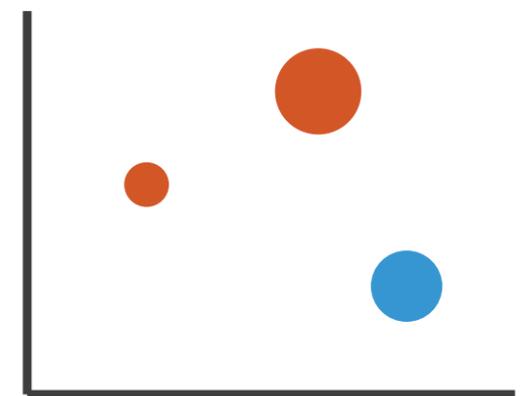
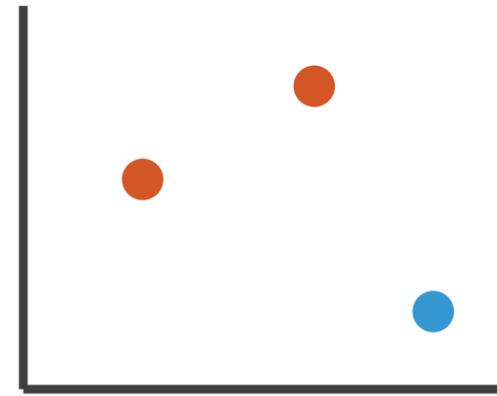
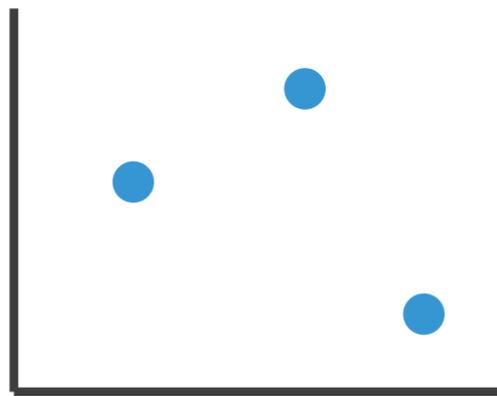
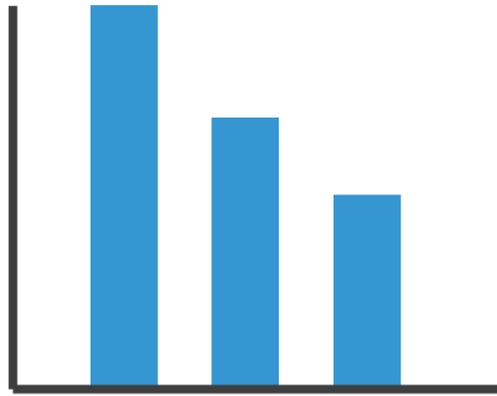
- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.
  - *Chap 2:What: Data Abstraction*
  - *Chap 3:Why:Task Abstraction*
- *A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks*. Brehmer and Munzner. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis) 19:12 (2013), 2376–2385.
- *Low-Level Components of Analytic Activity in Information Visualization*. Amar, Eagan, and Stasko. Proc. IEEE InfoVis 2005, p 111–117.
- *A taxonomy of tools that support the fluent and flexible use of visualizations*. Heer and Shneiderman. Communications of the ACM 55:4 (2012), 45–54.
- *Rethinking Visualization:A High-Level Taxonomy*. Tory and Möller. Proc. IEEE InfoVis 2004, p 151–158.
- Visualization of Time-Oriented Data. Aigner, Miksch, Schumann, and Tominski. Springer, 2011.

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**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# Visual encoding

- analyze idiom structure

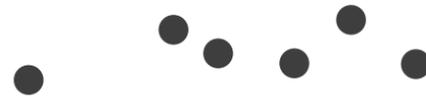


# Definitions: Marks and channels

- marks

- geometric primitives

➔ Points



➔ Lines



➔ Areas



- channels

- control appearance of marks

- can redundantly code with multiple channels

➔ Position

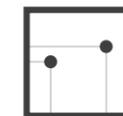
➔ Horizontal



➔ Vertical



➔ Both



➔ Color



➔ Shape



➔ Tilt



➔ Size

➔ Length



➔ Area

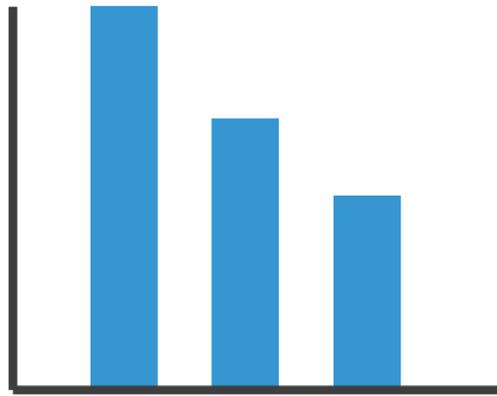


➔ Volume



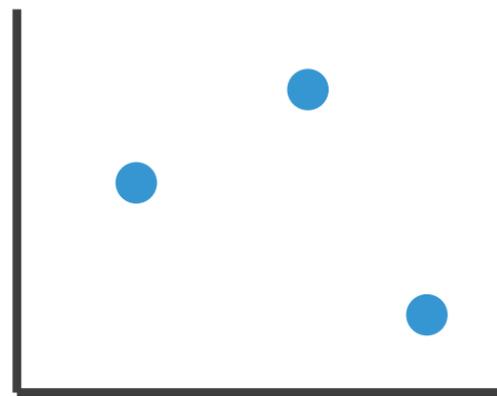
# Visual encoding

- analyze idiom structure
  - as combination of marks and channels



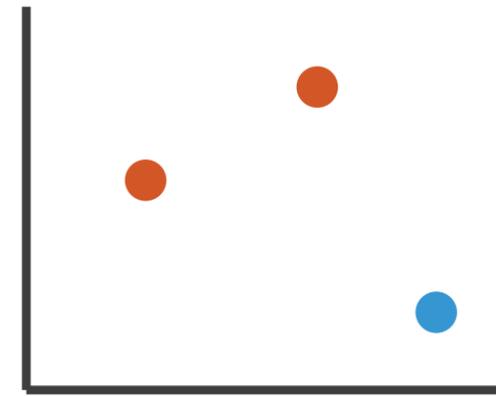
1:  
vertical position

mark: line



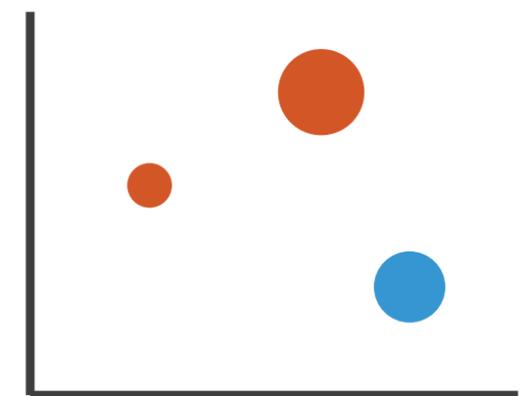
2:  
vertical position  
horizontal position

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)



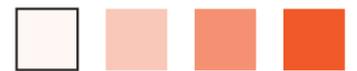
Depth (3D position)



Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



Same

Same

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) 

Same  
Same

## ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region 

Color hue 

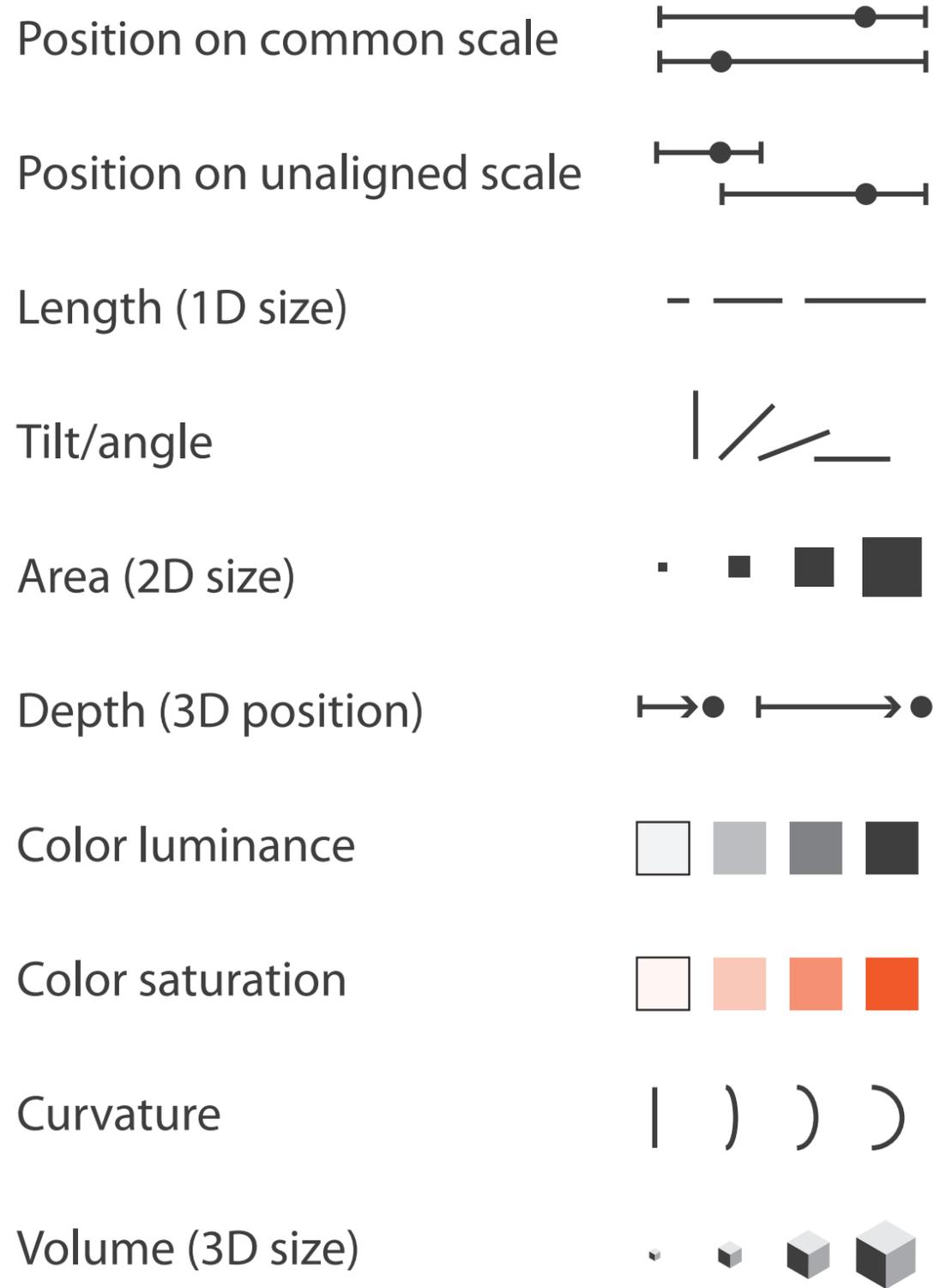
Motion 

Shape 

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

# Channels: Rankings

## ➔ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes



## ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes



Best

Effectiveness

Least

Same

Same

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

# Channels: Expressiveness types and effectiveness 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)



Same

## ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Shape



Best

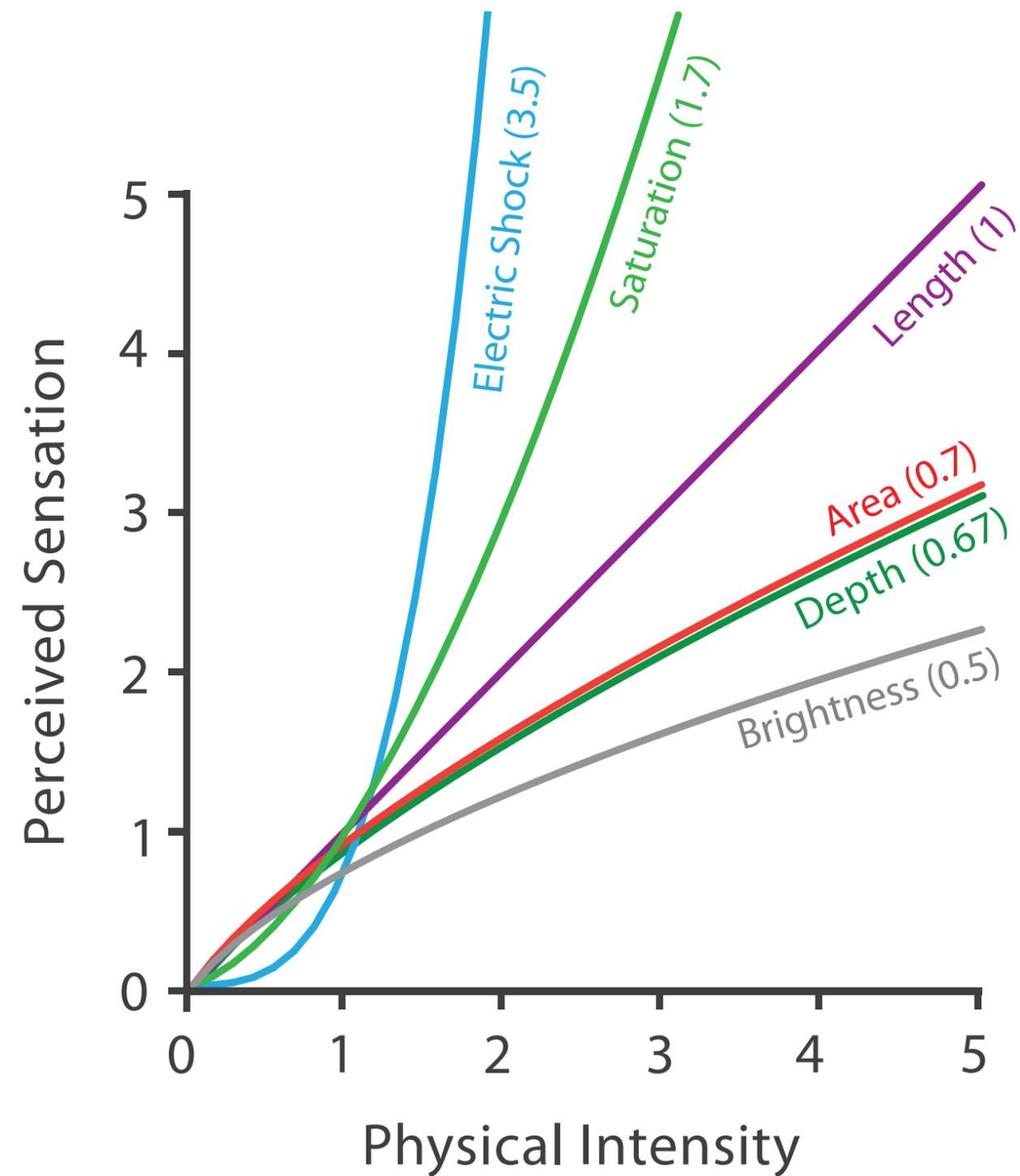
Effectiveness

Least

- **expressiveness principle**
  - match channel and data characteristics
- **effectiveness principle**
  - encode most important attributes with highest ranked channels
  - spatial position ranks high for both

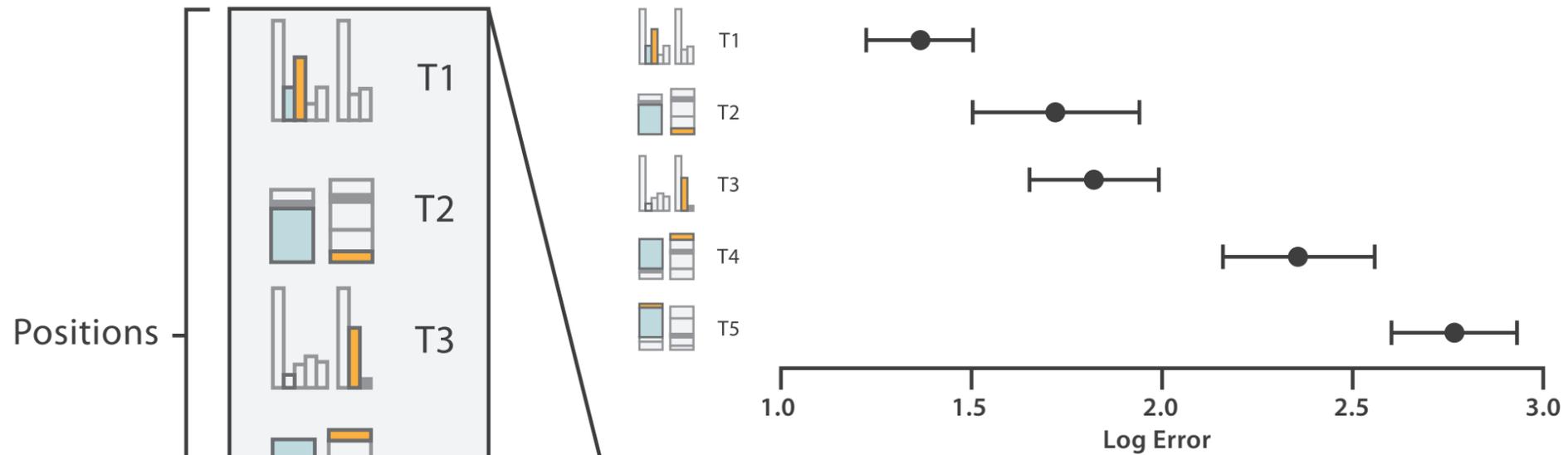
# Accuracy: Fundamental Theory

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

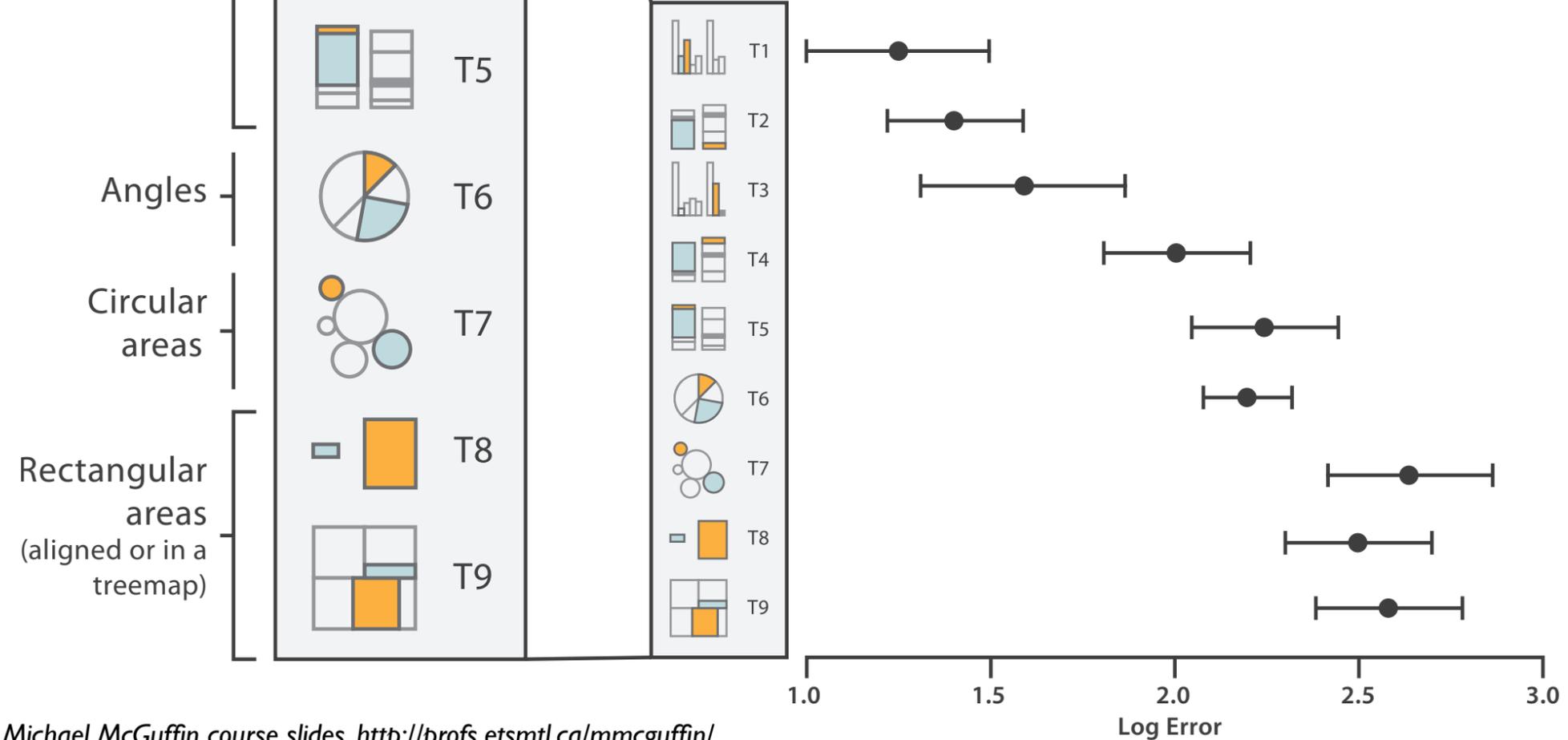


# Accuracy: Vis experiments

Cleveland & McGill's Results



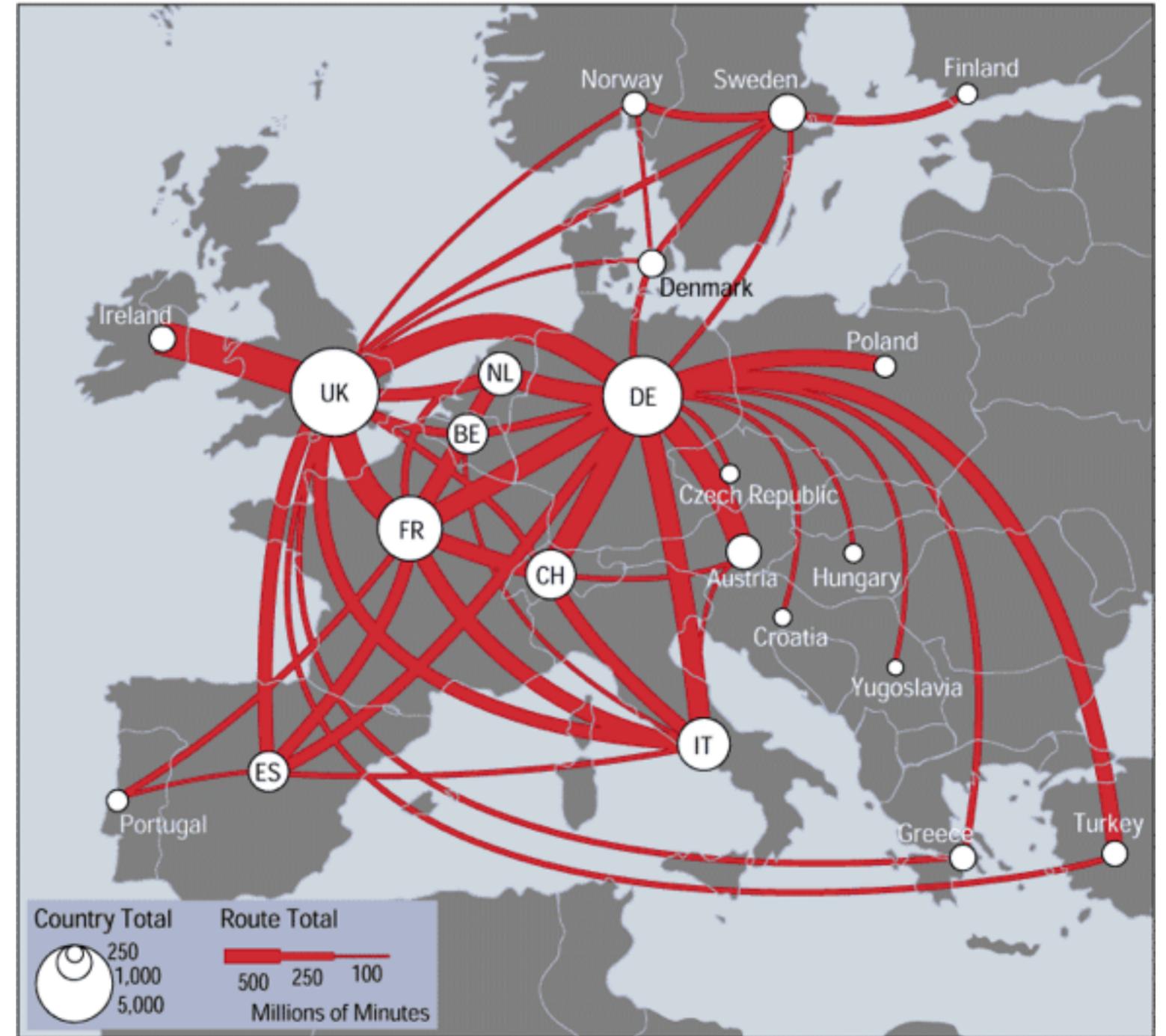
Crowdsourced Results



*[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?

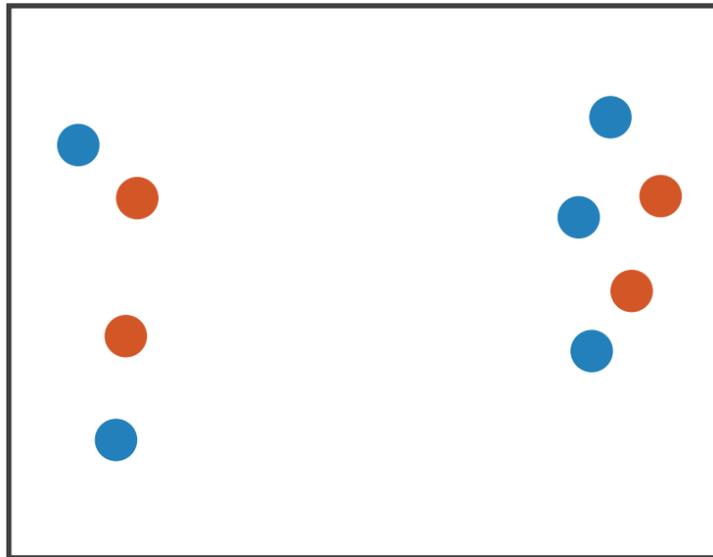
- must be sufficient for number of attribute levels to show
  - linewidth: few bins



[[mappa.mundi.net/maps/maps\\_014/telegeography.html](http://mappa.mundi.net/maps/maps_014/telegeography.html)]

# Separability vs. Integrality

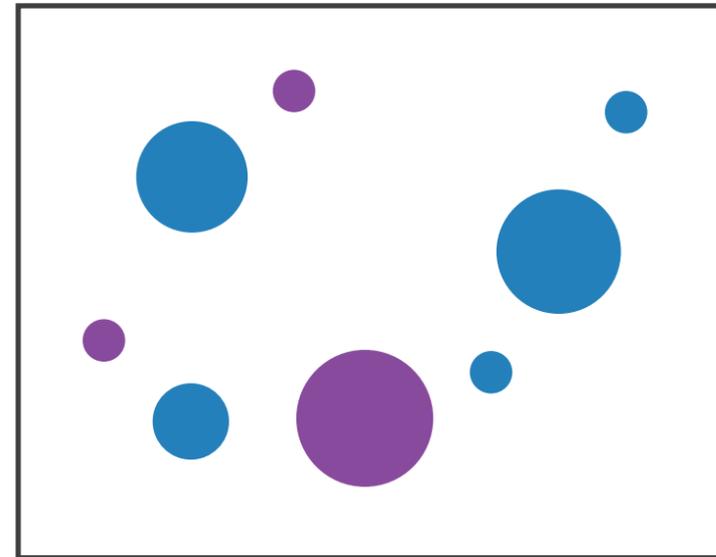
Position  
+ Hue (Color)



Fully separable

2 groups each

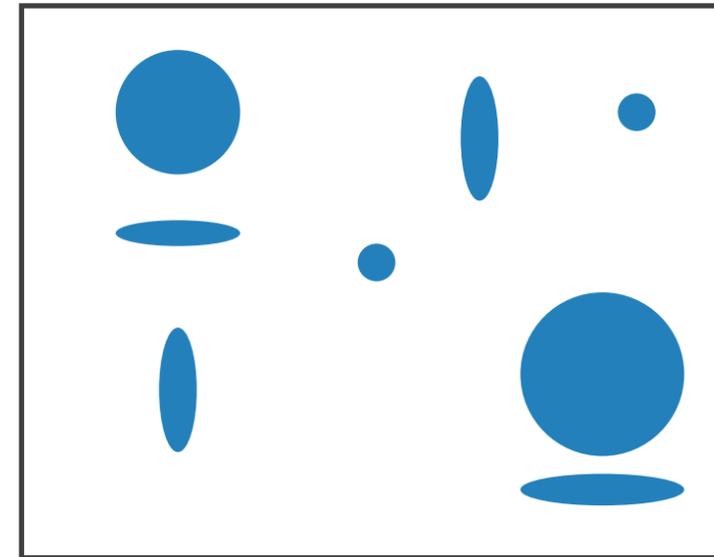
Size  
+ Hue (Color)



Some interference

2 groups each

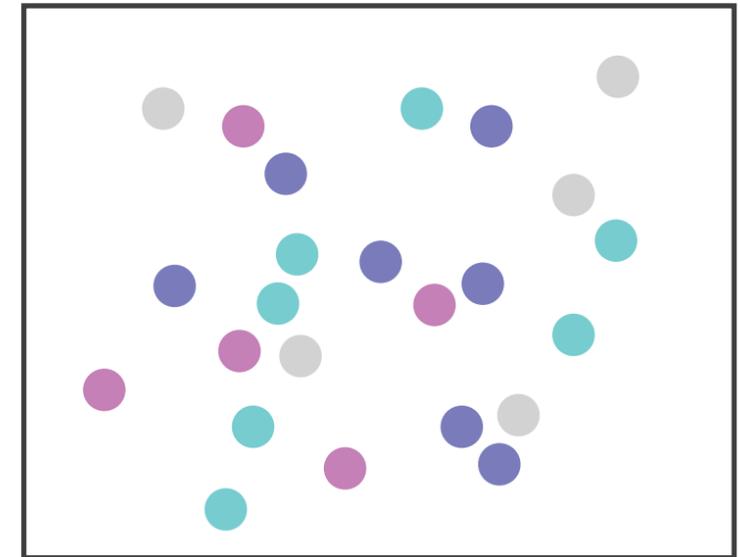
Width  
+ Height



Some/significant  
interference

3 groups total:  
integral area

Red  
+ Green

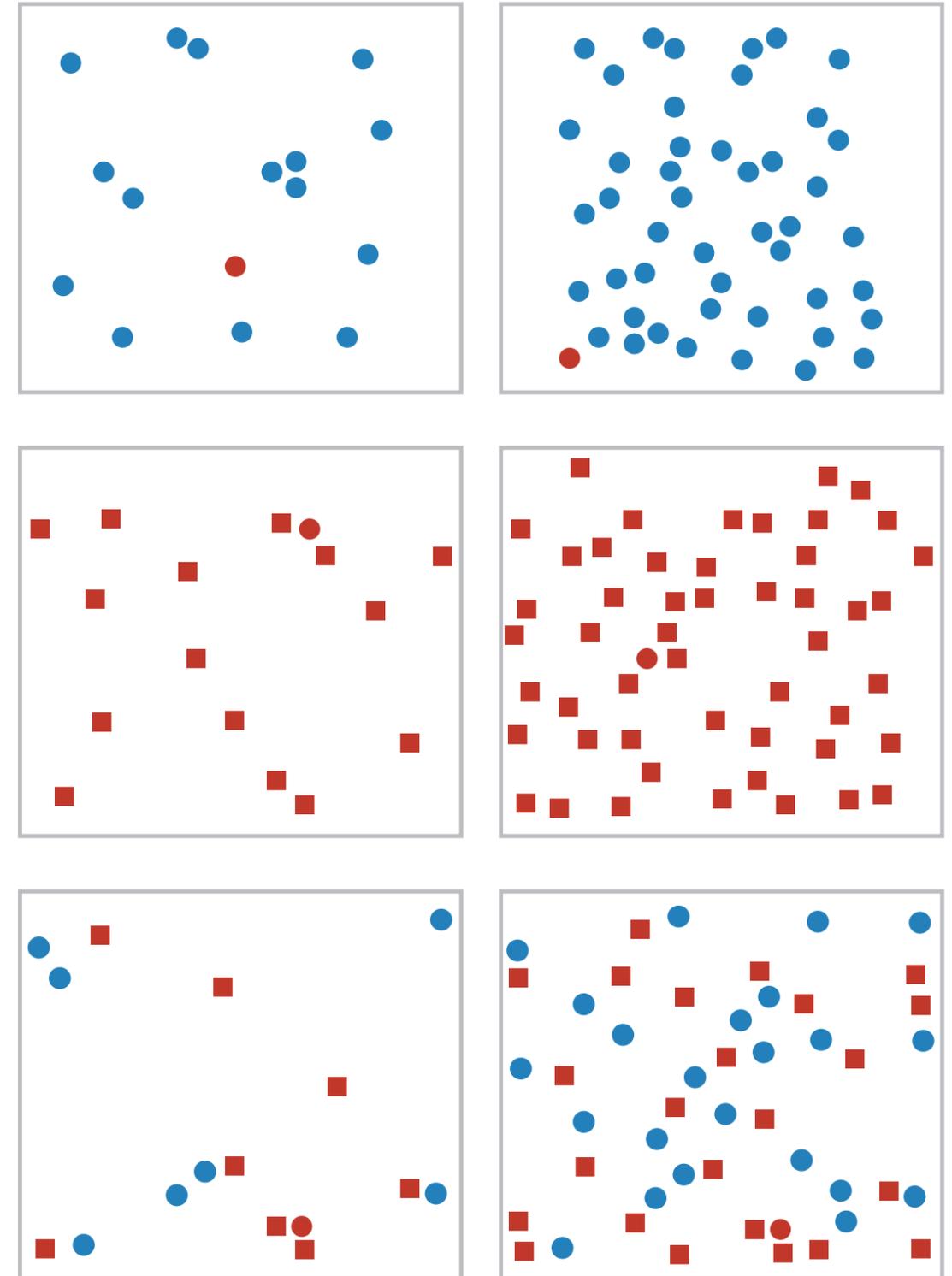


Major interference

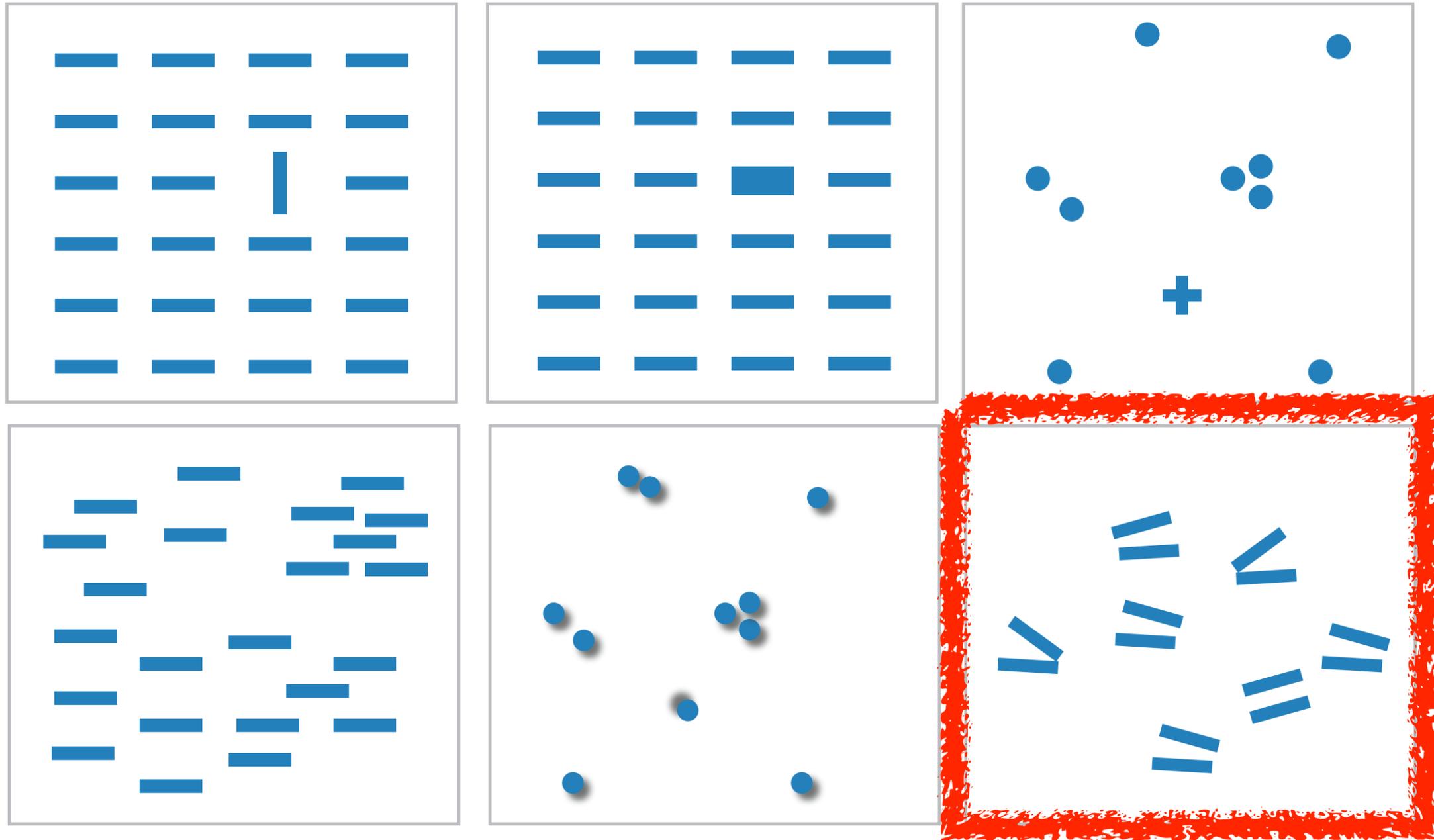
4 groups total:  
integral hue

# 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, ...
- but not all! parallel line pairs do not pop out from tilted pairs

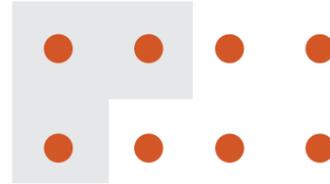
# Grouping

- containment
- connection

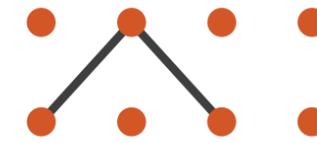
- proximity
  - same spatial region
- similarity
  - same values as other categorical channels

## Marks as Links

### ➔ Containment



### ➔ Connection



### ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

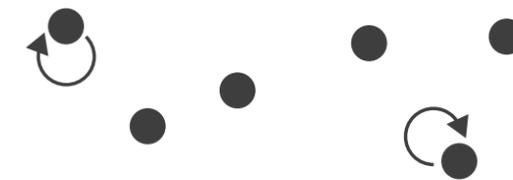
Spatial region



Color hue



Motion



Shape

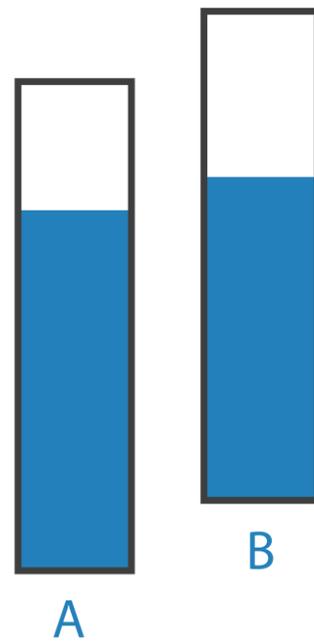


# Relative vs. absolute judgements

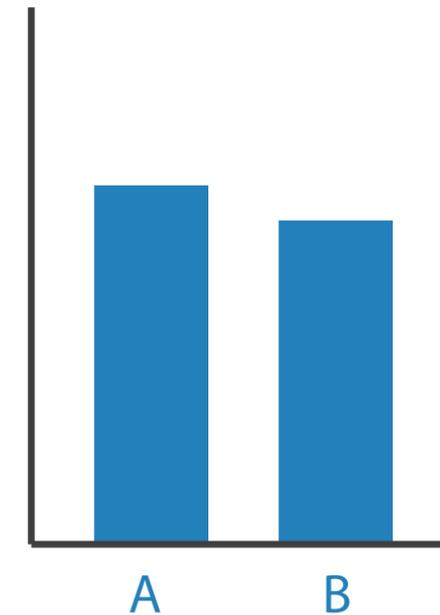
- perceptual system mostly operates with relative judgements, not absolute
  - that's why accuracy increases with common frame/scale and alignment
  - Weber's Law: ratio of increment to background is constant
    - filled rectangles differ in length by 1:9, difficult judgement
    - white rectangles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



length



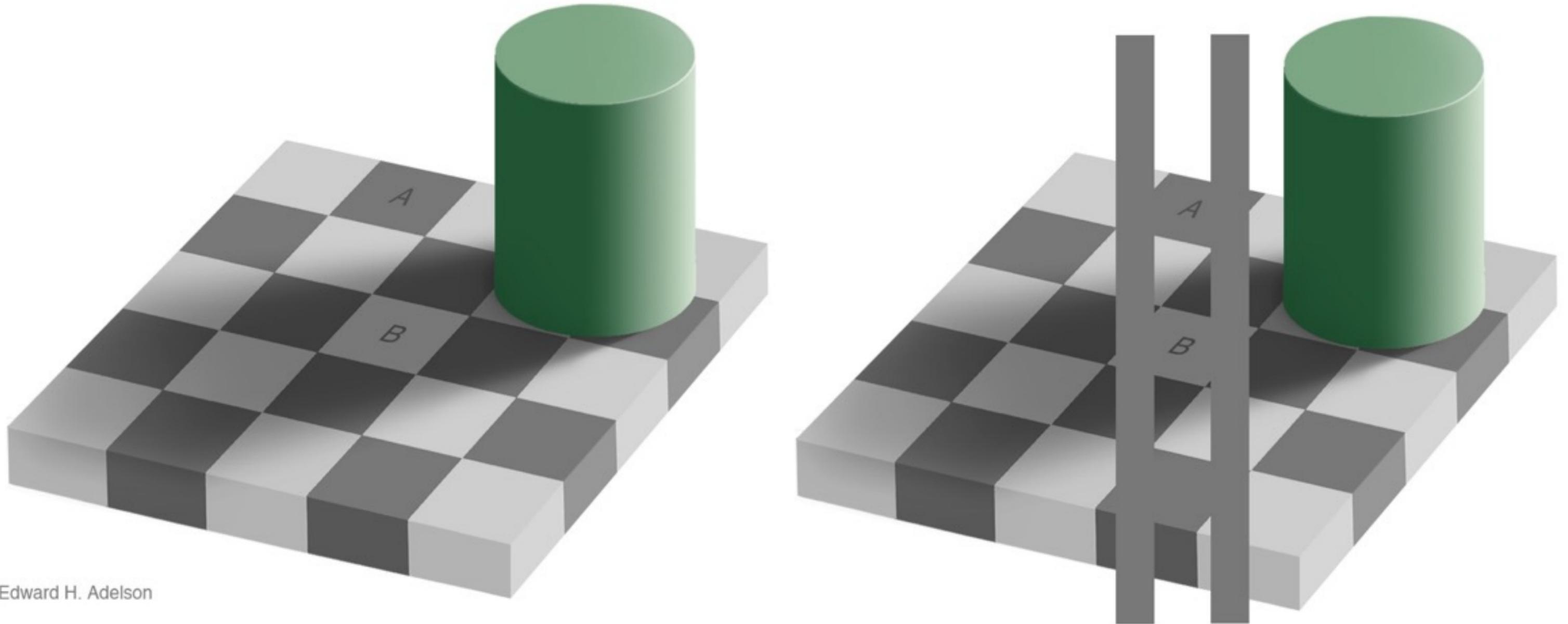
position along  
unaligned  
common scale



position along  
aligned scale

# Relative luminance judgements

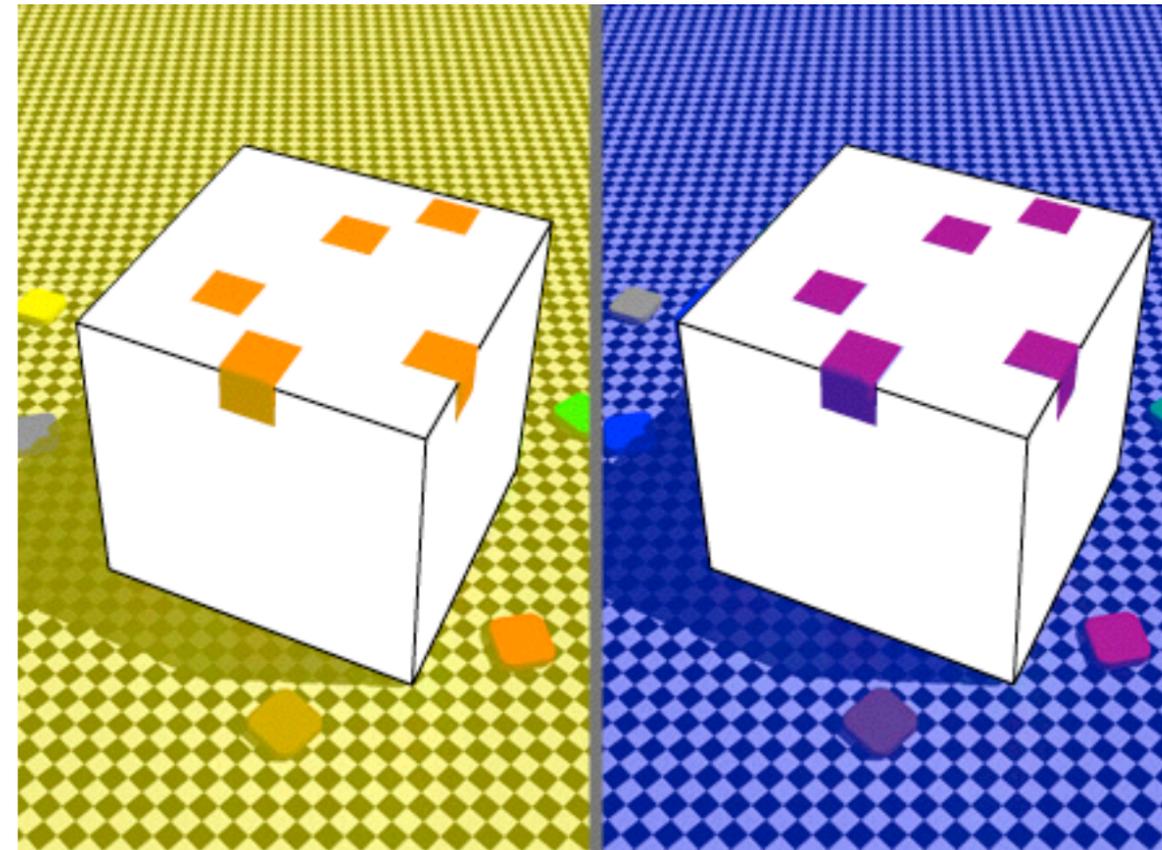
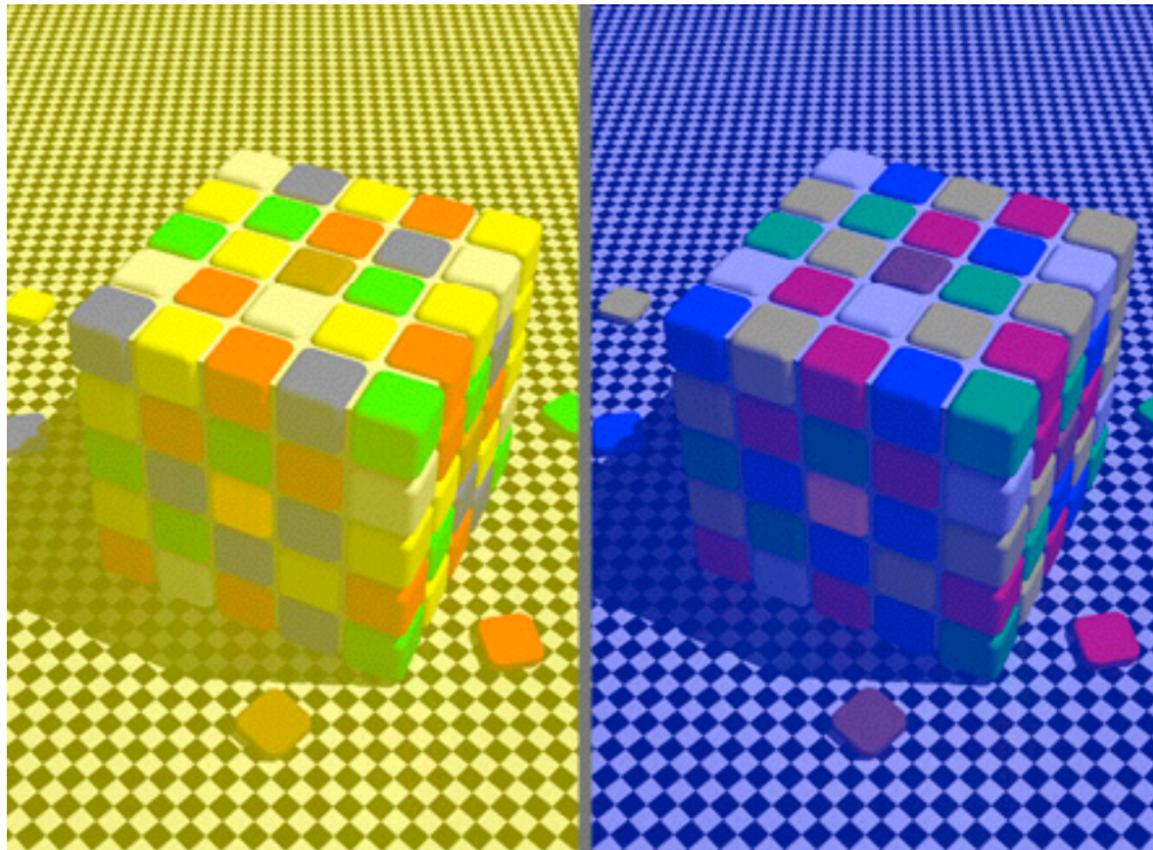
- perception of luminance is contextual based on contrast with surroundings



Edward H. Adelson

# Relative color judgements

- color constancy across broad range of illumination conditions



## Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.
  - *Chap 5: Marks and Channels*
- *On the Theory of Scales of Measurement*. Stevens. Science 103:2684 (1946), 677–680.
- *Psychophysics: Introduction to its Perceptual, Neural, and Social Prospects*. Stevens. Wiley, 1975.
- *Graphical Perception: Theory, Experimentation, and Application to the Development of Graphical Methods*. Cleveland and McGill. Journ. American Statistical Association 79:387 (1984), 531–554.
- *Perception in Vision*. Healey. <http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/faculty/healey/PP>
- *Visual Thinking for Design*. Ware. Morgan Kaufmann, 2008.
- *Information Visualization: Perception for Design*, 3rd edition. Ware. Morgan Kaufmann /Academic Press, 2004.

# Outline

- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - **Arrange Tables**
  - Arrange Spatial Data
  - Arrange Networks and Trees
- **Session 3 2:00-3:40pm**  
**Color & Interaction**
  - Map Color
  - Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate
  - Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# How?

## Encode

### → Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



### → Map

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

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...

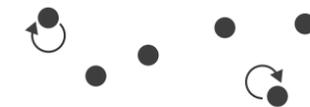


→ Shape



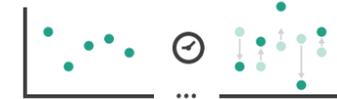
→ Motion

*Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...*



## Manipulate

### → Change



### → Select



### → Navigate



## Facet

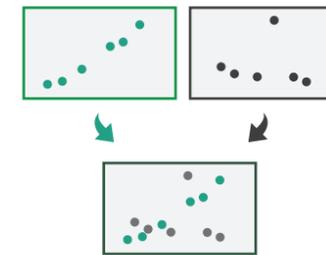
### → Juxtapose



### → Partition

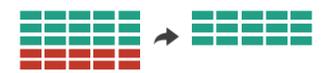


### → Superimpose



## Reduce

### → Filter



### → Aggregate



### → Embed



What?

Why?

How?

# Encode tables: Arrange space

## Encode

---

### ➔ Arrange

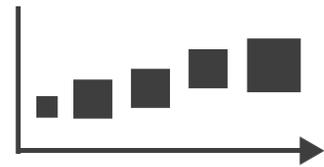
➔ Express



➔ Separate



➔ Order



➔ Align



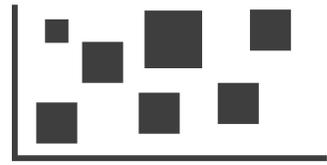
# Arrange tables

## → Express Values

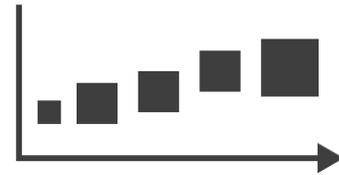


## → Separate, Order, Align Regions

→ Separate



→ Order



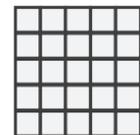
→ Align



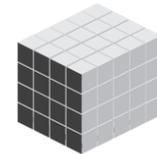
→ 1 Key  
*List*



→ 2 Keys  
*Matrix*



→ 3 Keys  
*Volume*

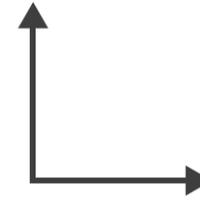


→ Many Keys  
*Recursive Subdivision*



## → Axis Orientation

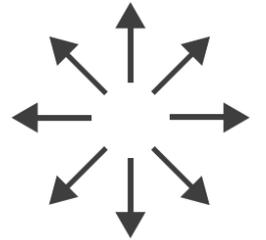
→ Rectilinear



→ Parallel

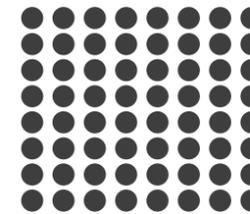


→ Radial



## → Layout Density

→ Dense



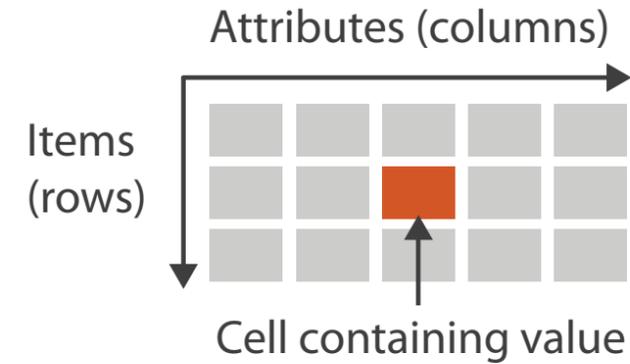
→ Space-Filling



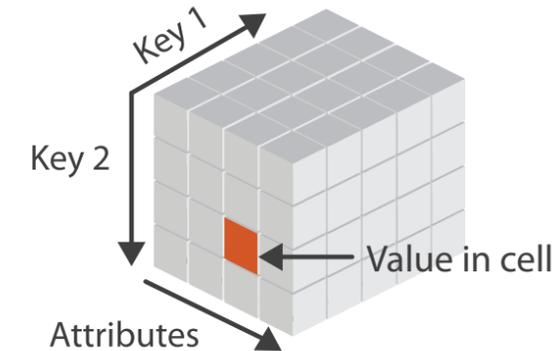
# Keys and values

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

→ Tables



→ *Multidimensional Table*



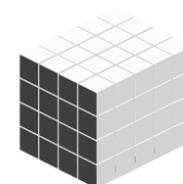
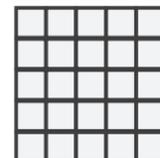
⊕ Express Values

→ 1 Key  
*List*

→ 2 Keys  
*Matrix*

→ 3 Keys  
*Volume*

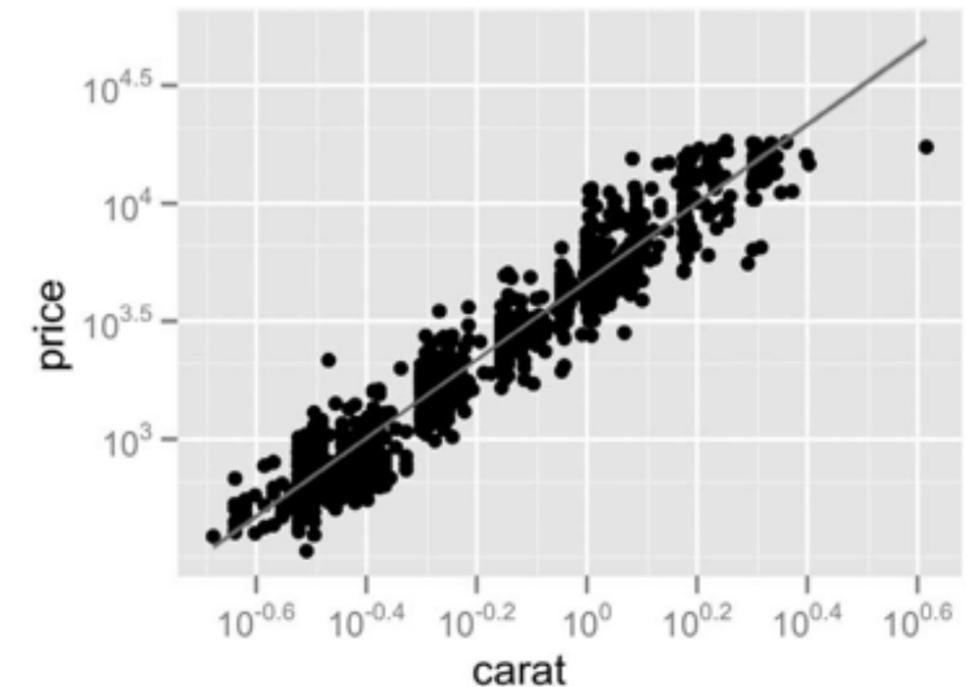
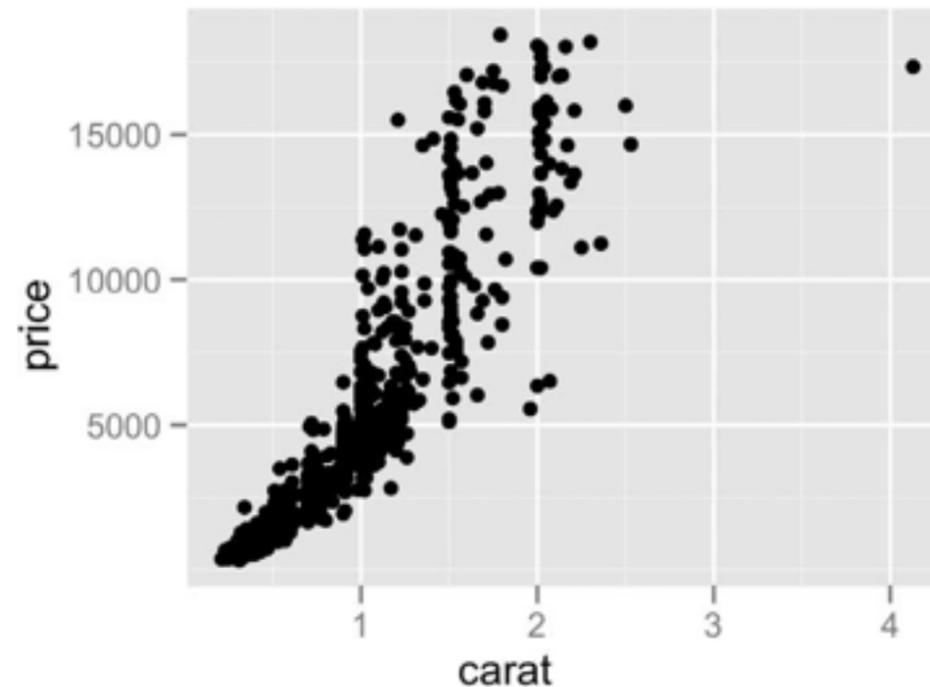
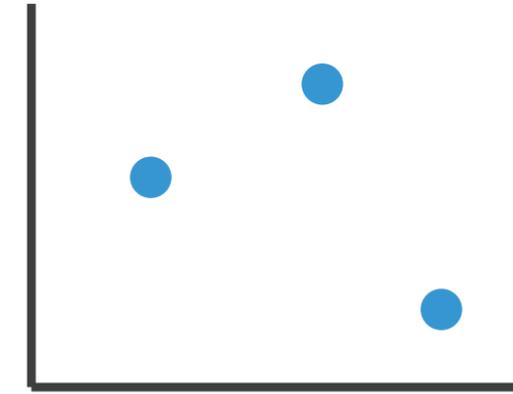
→ Many Keys  
*Recursive Subdivision*



# Idiom: scatterplot

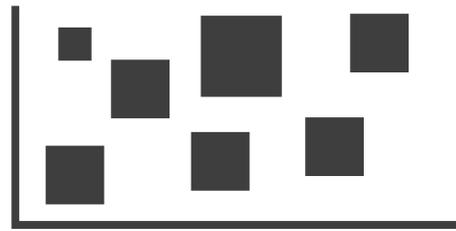
- *express* values
  - quantitative attributes
- no keys, only values
  - data
    - 2 quant attribs
  - mark: points
  - channels
    - horiz + vert position
  - tasks
    - find trends, outliers, distribution, correlation, clusters
  - scalability
    - hundreds of items

➔ Express Values

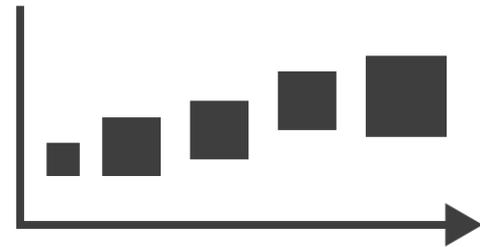


# Some keys: Categorical regions

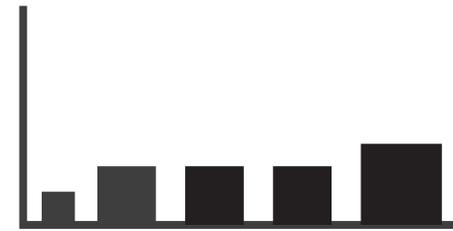
→ Separate



→ Order

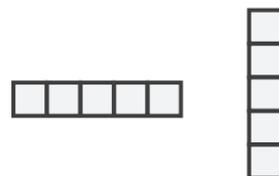


→ Align

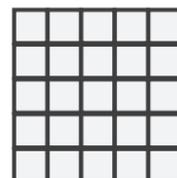


- **regions:** contiguous bounded areas distinct from each other
  - using space to *separate* (proximity)
  - following expressiveness principle for categorical attributes
- use ordered attribute to *order* and *align* regions

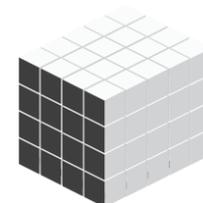
→ 1 Key  
*List*



→ 2 Keys  
*Matrix*



→ 3 Keys  
*Volume*



→ Many Keys  
*Recursive Subdivision*



# Idiom: bar chart

- one key, one value

- data

- 1 categ attrib, 1 quant attrib

- mark: lines

- channels

- length to express quant value
- spatial regions: one per mark
  - separated horizontally, aligned vertically
  - ordered by quant attrib

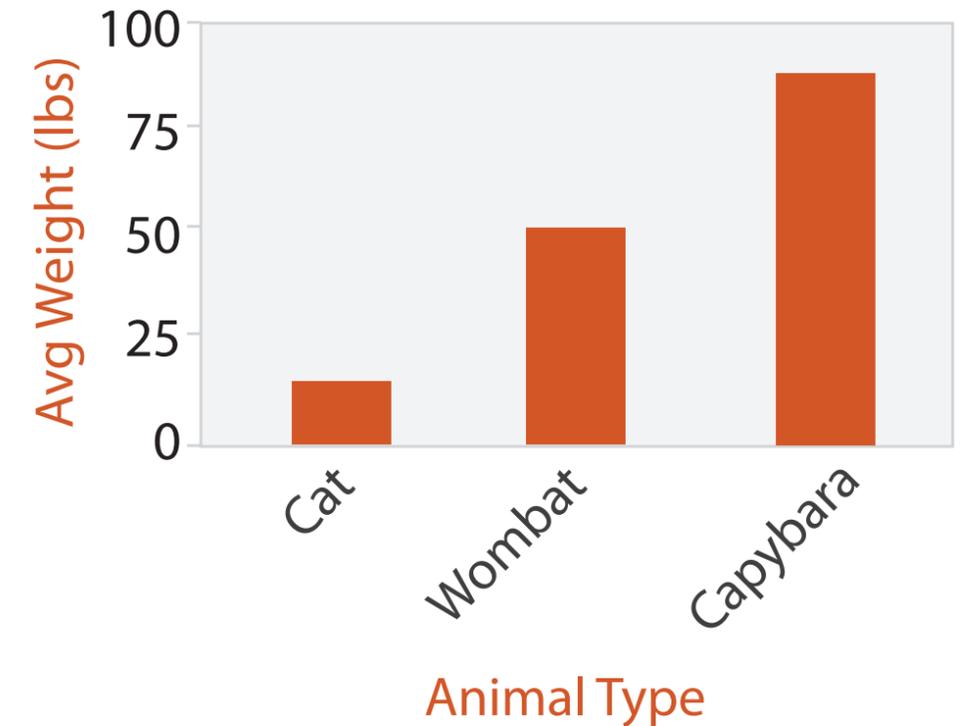
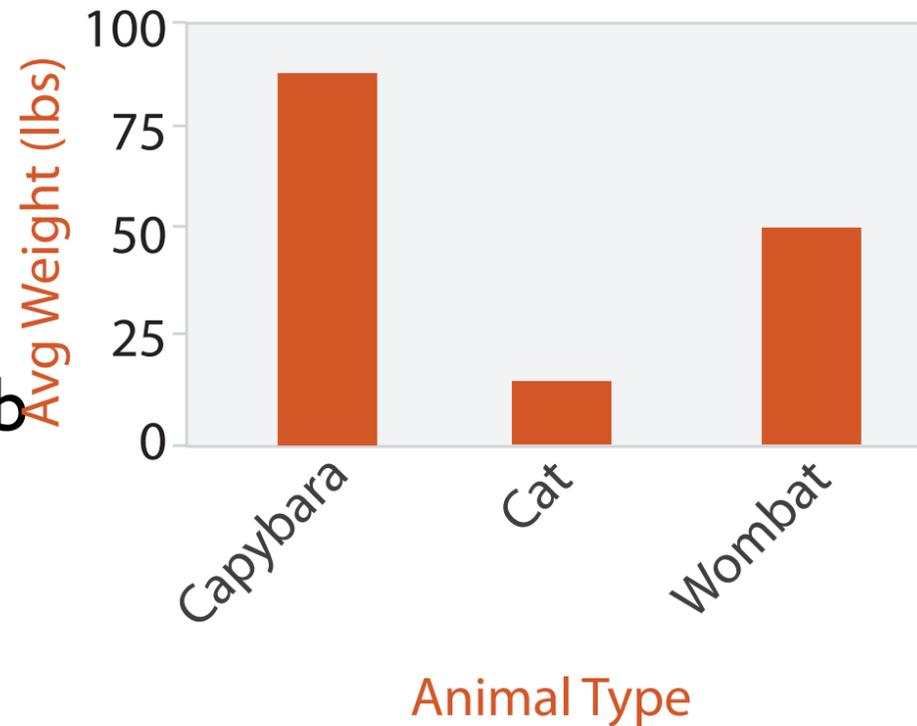
» by label (alphabetical), by length attrib (data-driven)

- task

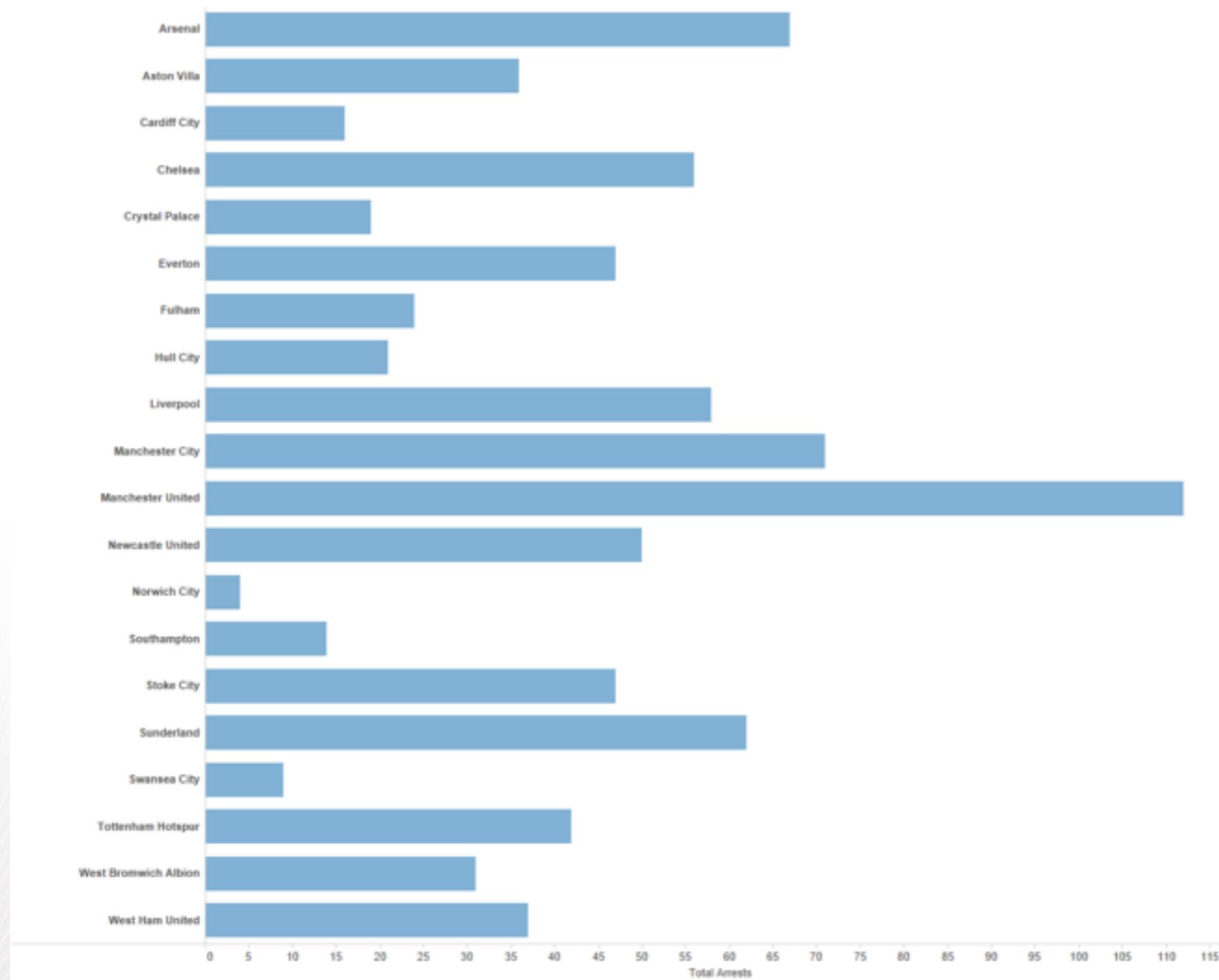
- compare, lookup values

- scalability

- dozens to hundreds of levels for key attrib



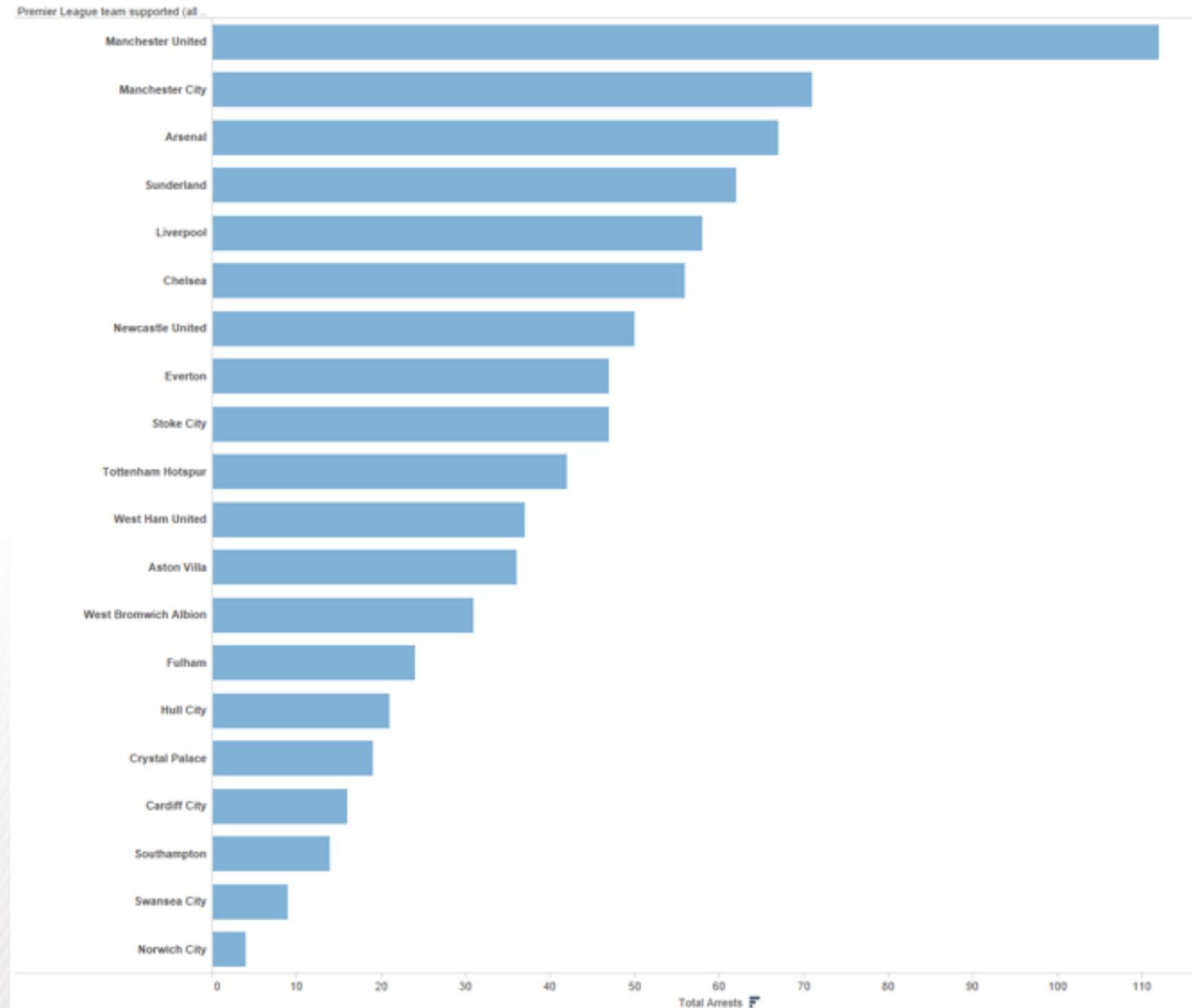
# Separated and Aligned but not Ordered



LIMITATION: Hard to know rank. What's the 4<sup>th</sup> most? The 7<sup>th</sup>?

*[Slide courtesy of Ben Jones]*

# Separated, Aligned and Ordered



[Slide courtesy of Ben Jones]

# Separated but not Ordered or Aligned



**LIMITATION: Hard to make comparisons**

*[Slide courtesy of Ben Jones]*

# Idiom: **line chart / dot plot**

- one key, one value

- data

- 2 quant attribs

- mark: points

- line connection marks between them

- channels

- aligned lengths to express quant value
- separated and ordered by key attrib into horizontal regions

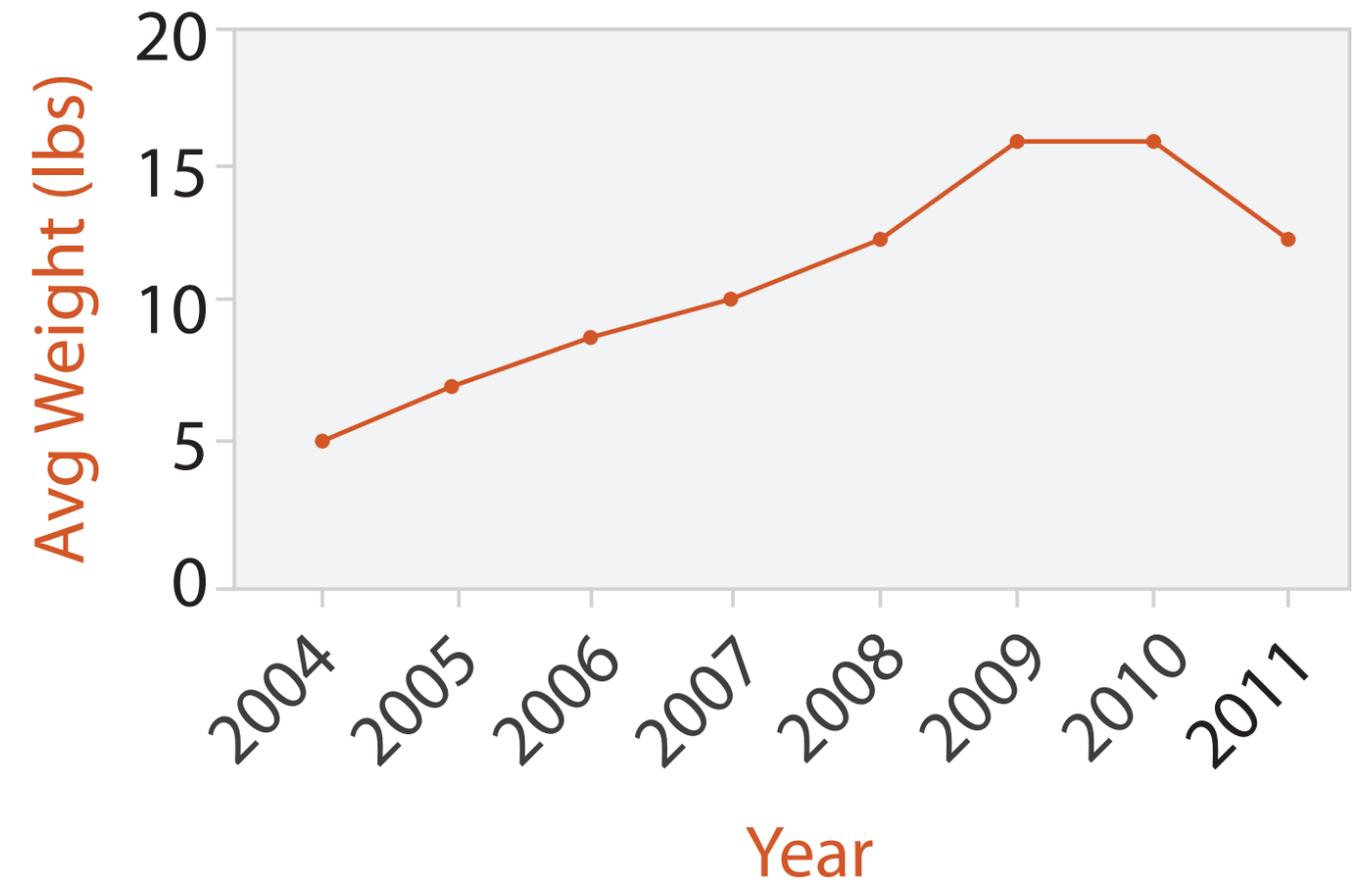
- task

- find trend

- connection marks emphasize ordering of items along key axis by explicitly showing relationship between one item and the next

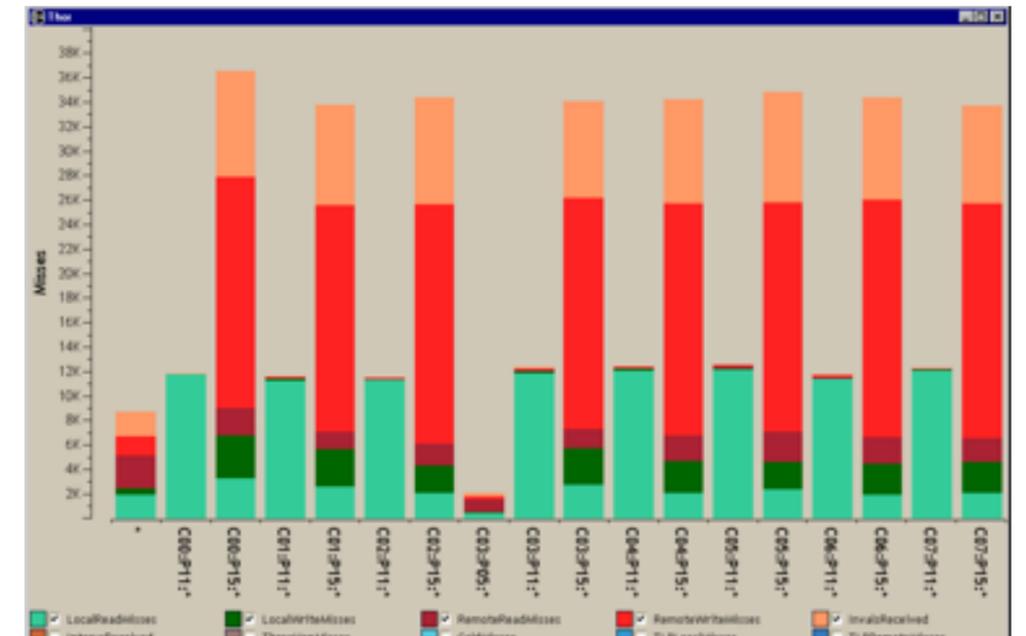
- scalability

- hundreds of key levels, hundreds of value levels



# Idiom: stacked bar chart

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



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

# Idiom: streamgraph

- generalized stacked graph

- emphasizing horizontal continuity

- vs vertical items

- data

- | categ key attrib (artist)
- | ordered key attrib (time)
- | quant value attrib (counts)

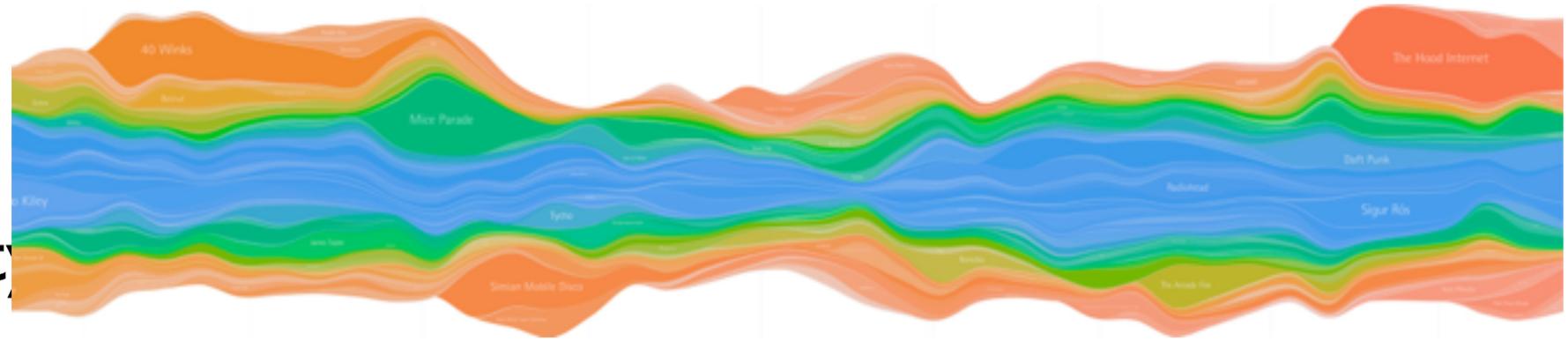
- derived data

- geometry: layers, where height encodes counts
- | quant attrib (layer ordering)

- scalability

- hundreds of time keys
- dozens to hundreds of artist keys

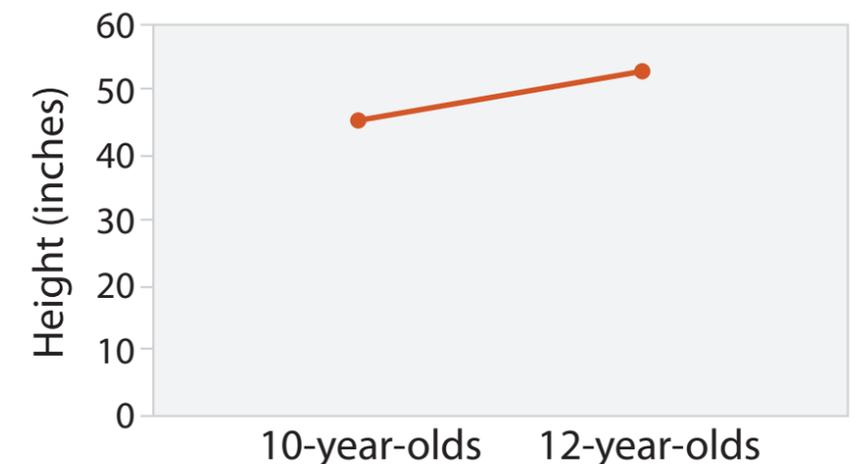
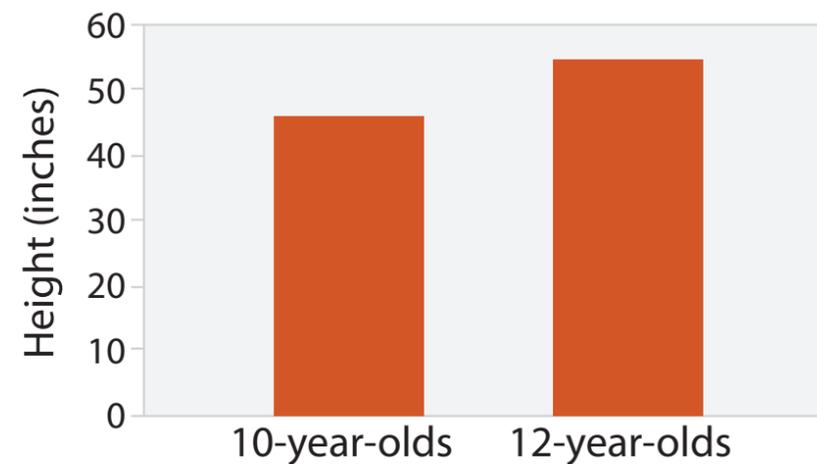
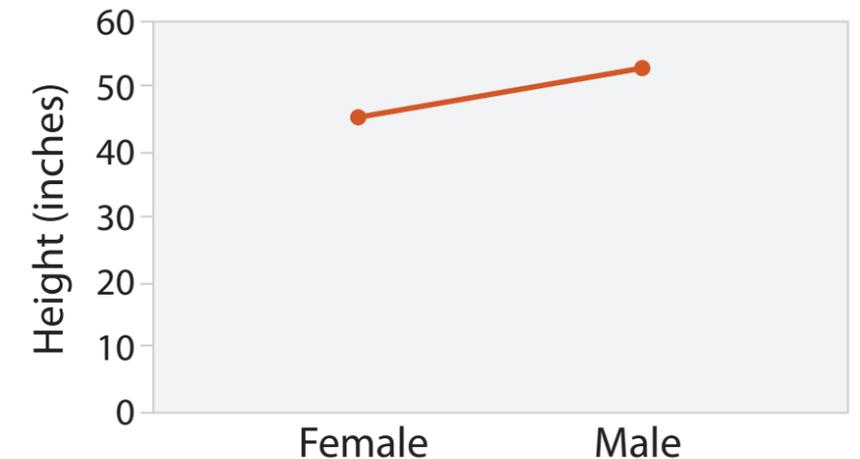
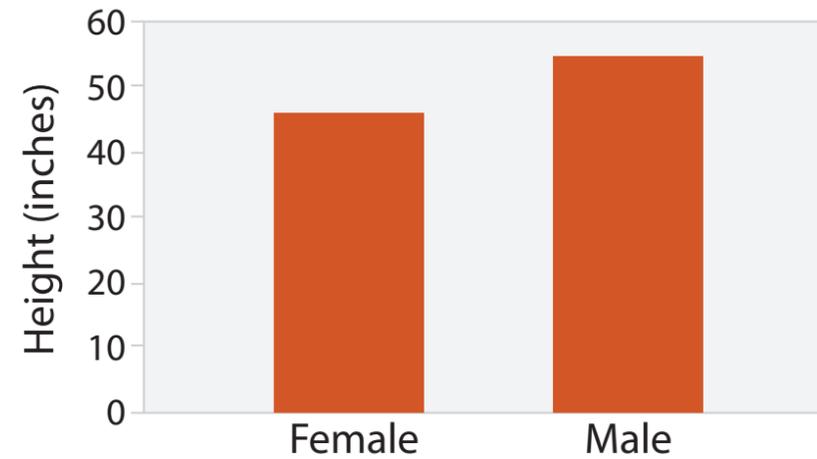
- more than stacked bars, since most layers don't extend across whole chart



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

# Choosing bar vs line charts

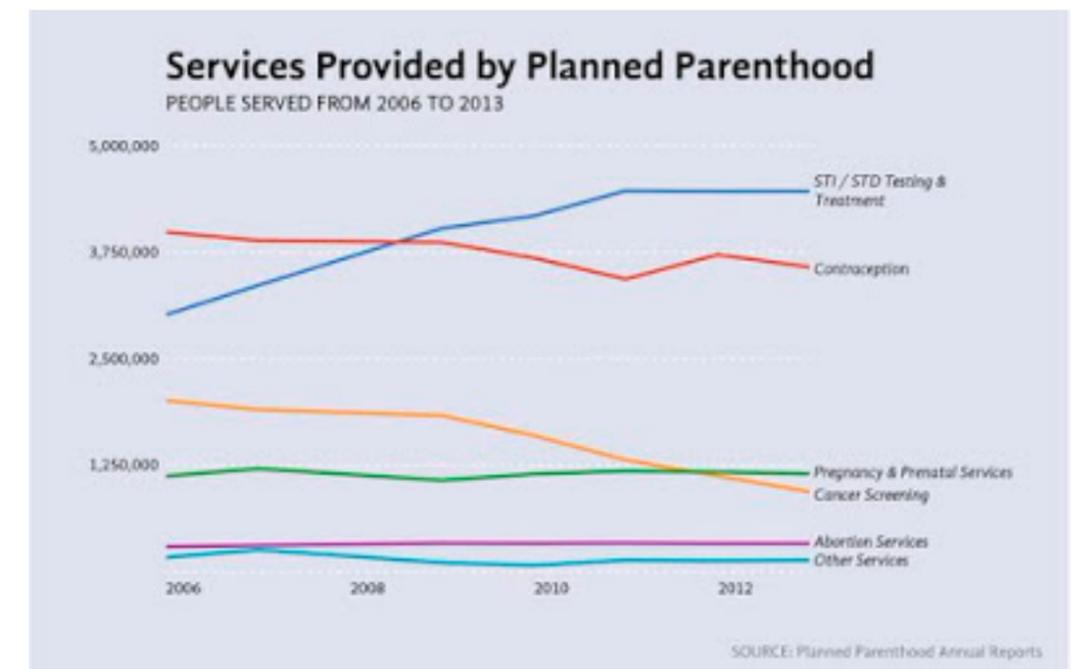
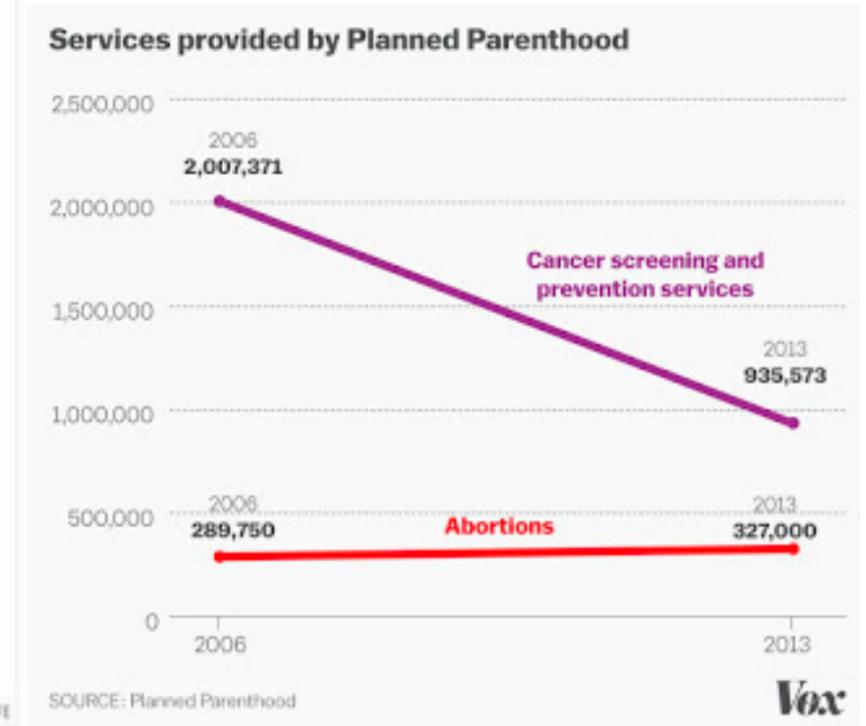
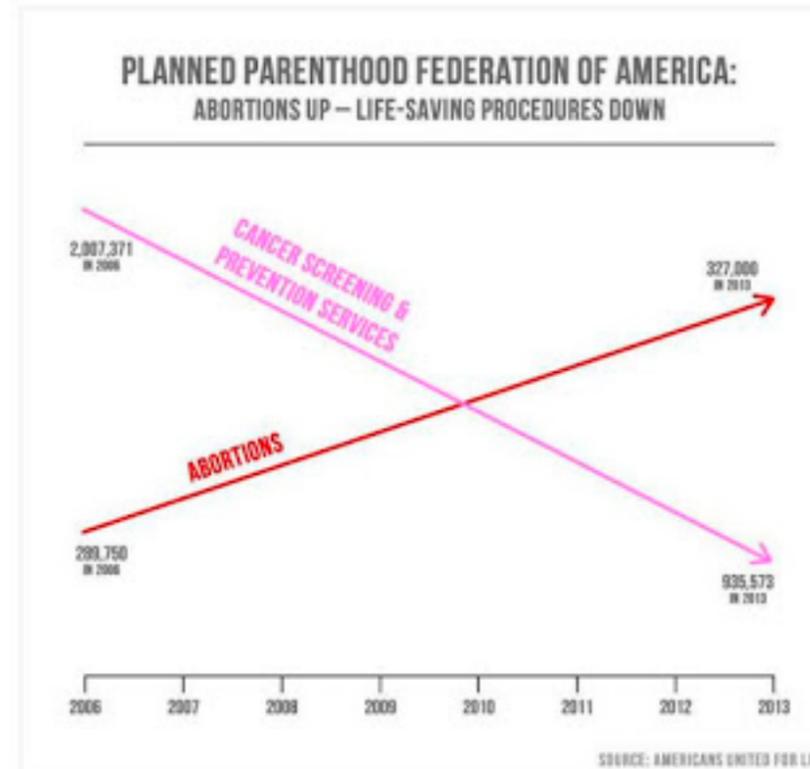
- depends on type of key attrib
  - bar charts if categorical
  - line charts if ordered
- do not use line charts for categorical key attribs
  - violates expressiveness principle
    - implication of trend so strong that it overrides semantics!
      - “The more male a person is, the taller he/she is”



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

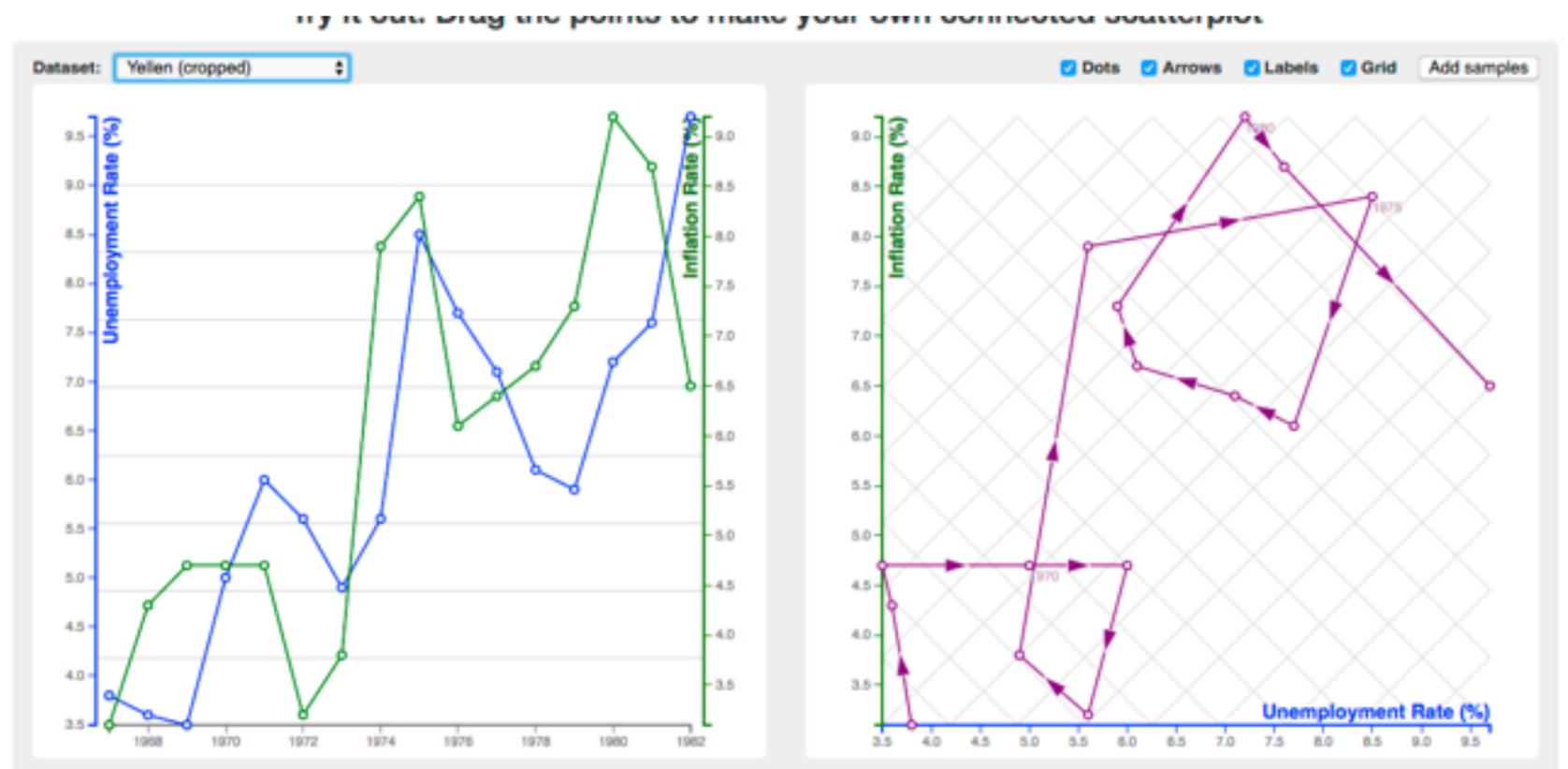
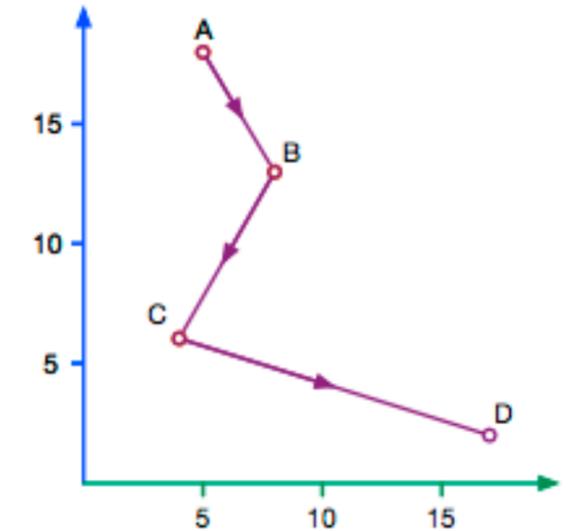
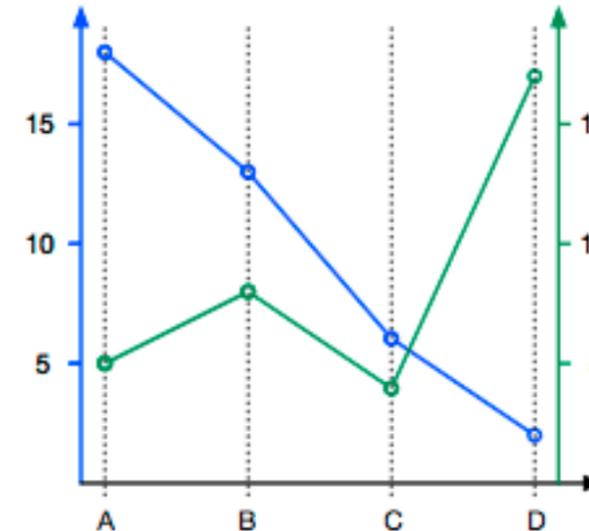
# Chart axes

- labelled axis is critical
- avoid cropping y-axis
  - include 0 at bottom left
  - or slope misleads
- dual axes controversial
  - acceptable if commensurate
  - beware, very easy to mislead!



# Idiom: connected scatterplots

- scatterplot with line connection marks
  - popular in journalism
  - horiz + vert axes: value attribs
  - line connection marks: temporal order
  - alternative to dual-axis charts
    - horiz: time
    - vert: two value attribs
- empirical study
  - engaging, but correlation unclear

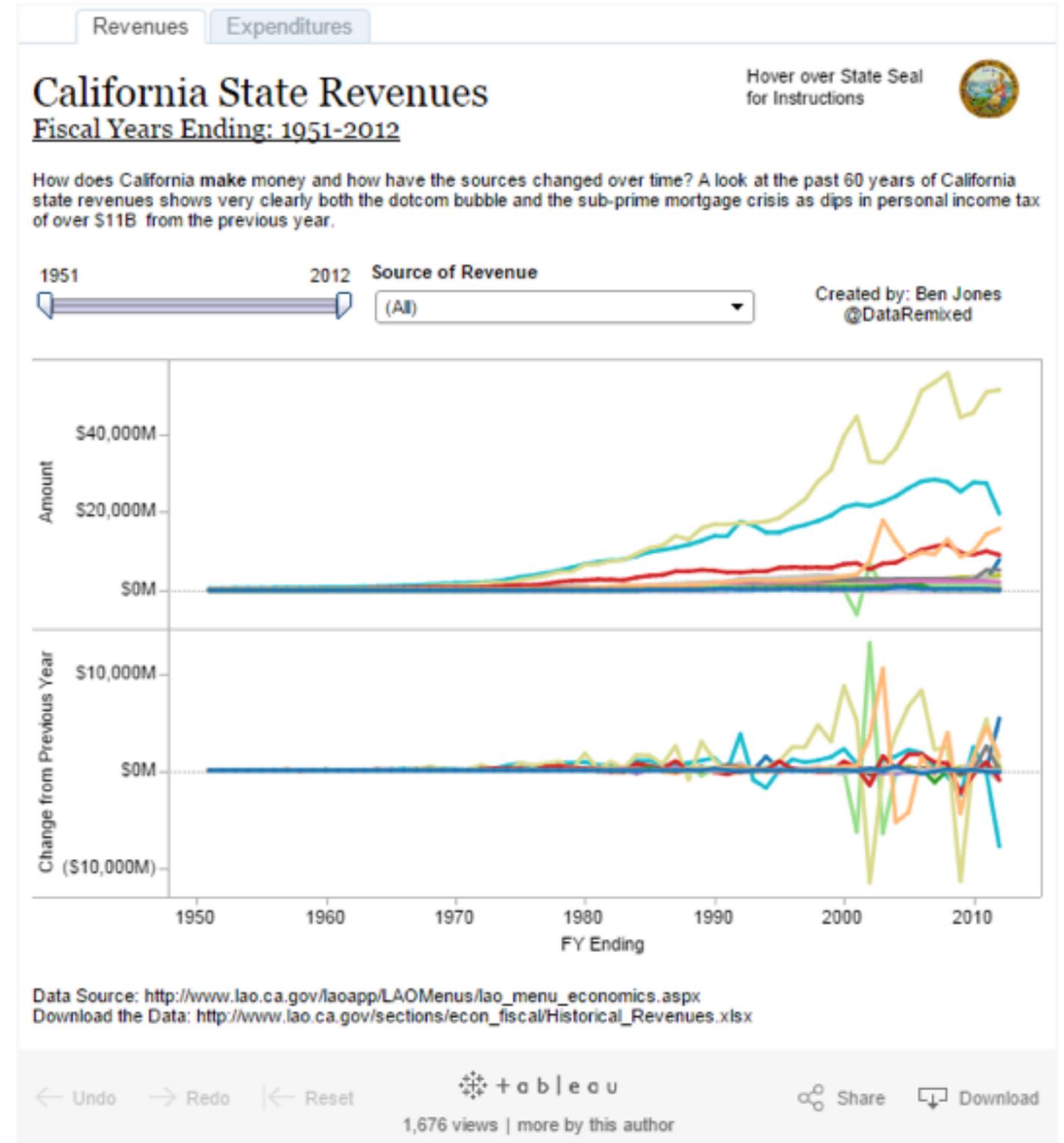


[The Connected Scatterplot for Presenting Paired Time Series.  
Haroz, Kosara and Franconeri. IEEE TVCG 22(9):2174-86, 2016.]

[http://steveharoz.com/research/connected\\_scatterplot/](http://steveharoz.com/research/connected_scatterplot/)

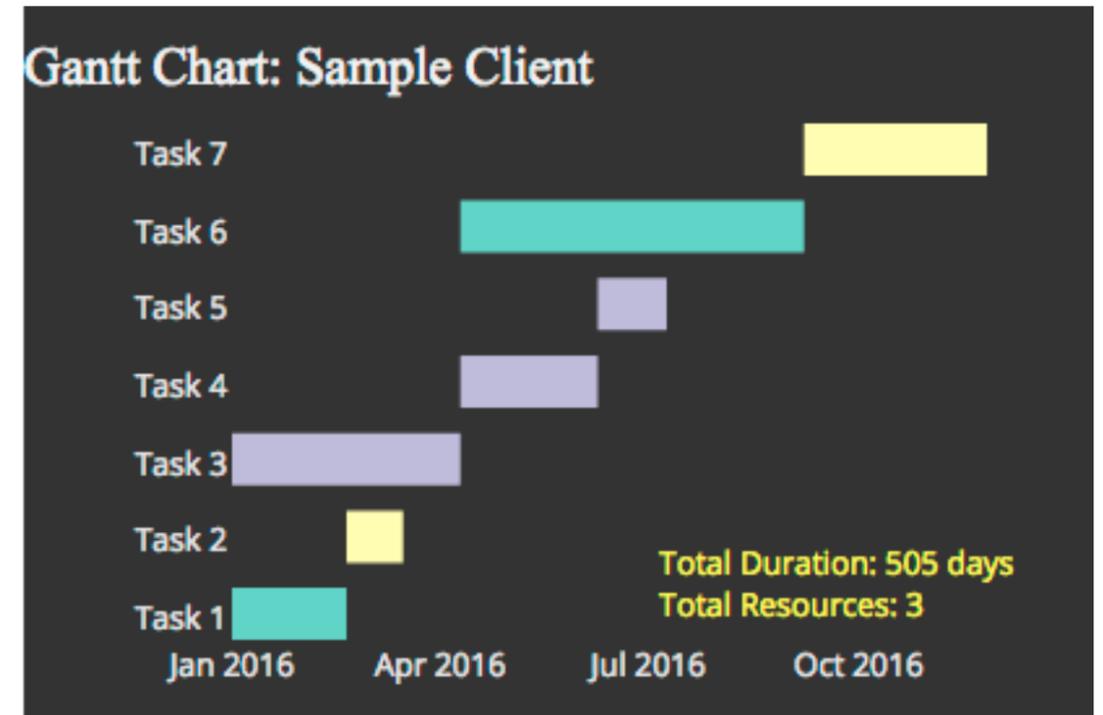
# Idiom: Indexed line charts

- data: 2 quant attires
  - 1 key + 1 value
- derived data: new quant value attrib
  - index
  - plot instead of original value
- task: show change over time
  - principle: normalized, not absolute
- scalability
  - same as standard line chart

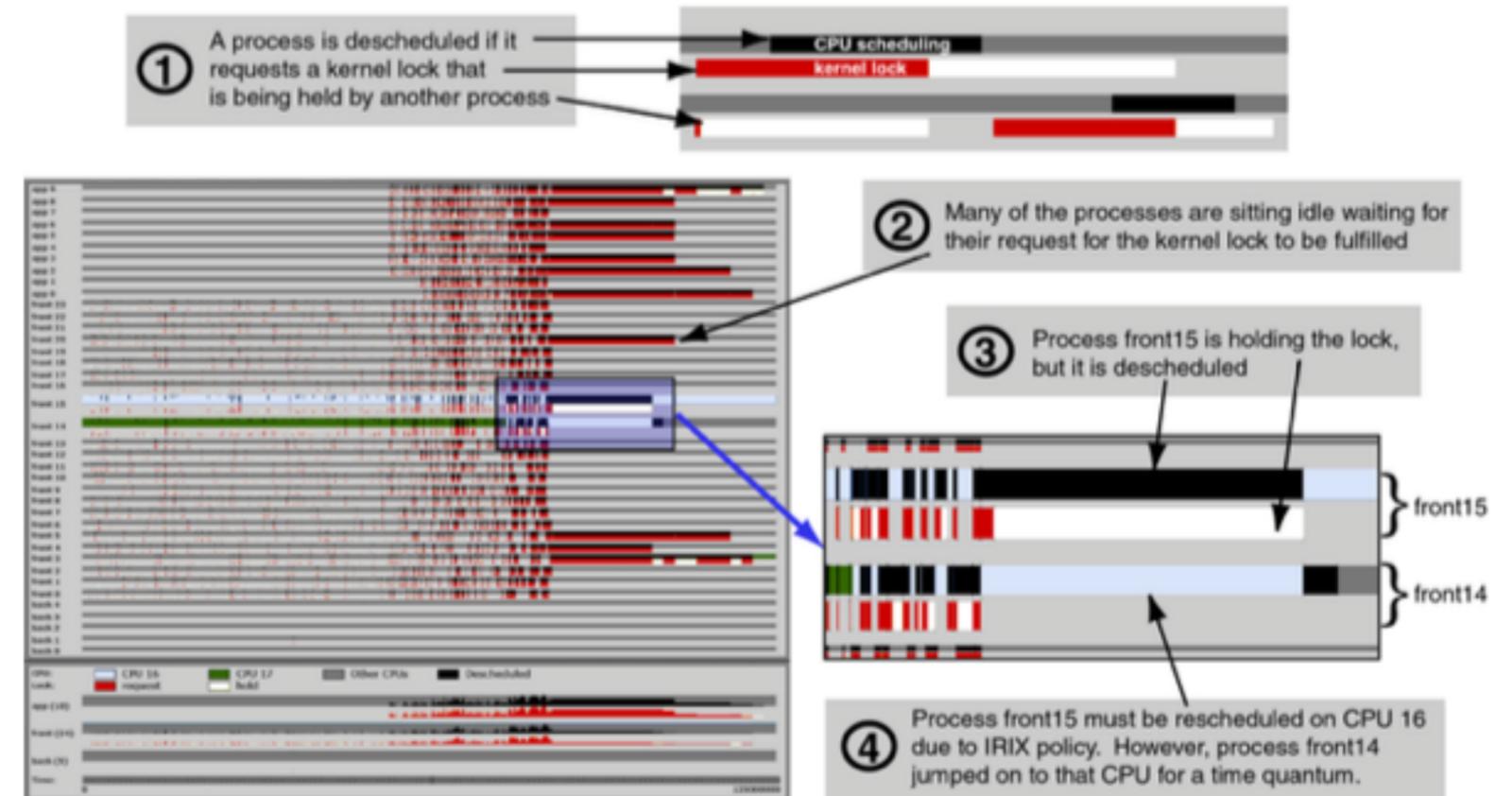


# Idiom: Gantt charts

- one key, two (related) values
  - data
    - 1 categ attrib, 2 quant attribs
  - mark: line
    - length: duration
  - channels
    - horiz position: start /end times
    - horiz length: duration
  - task
    - emphasize temporal overlaps, start/end dependencies between items
  - scalability
    - dozens of key levels
    - hundreds of value levels



<https://www.r-bloggers.com/gantt-charts-in-r-using-plotly/>



[Performance Analysis and Visualization of Parallel Systems Using SimOS and Rivet: A Case Study. Bosch, Stolte, Stoll, Rosenblum, and Hanrahan. Proc. HPCA 2000.]

# Idiom: heatmap

- two keys, one value

- data

- 2 categ attribs (gene, experimental condition)
- 1 quant attrib (expression levels)

- marks: area

- separate and align in 2D matrix
  - indexed by 2 categorical attributes

- channels

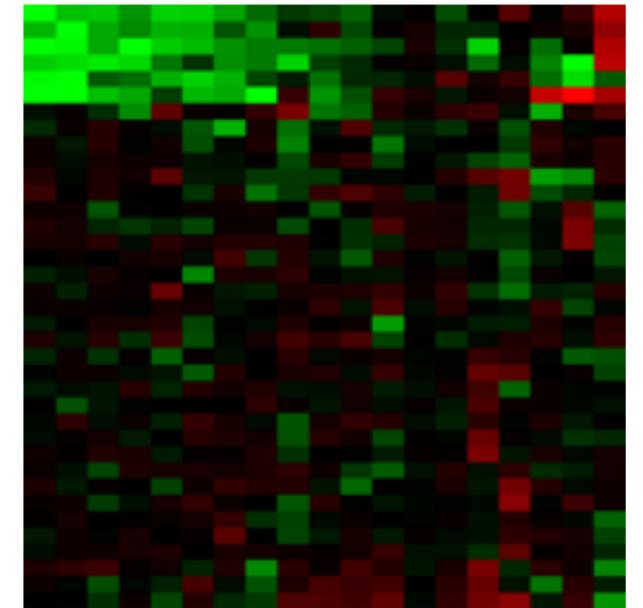
- color by quant attrib
  - (ordered diverging colormap)

- task

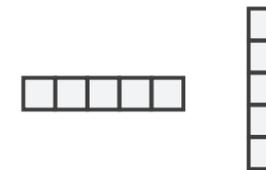
- find clusters, outliers

- scalability

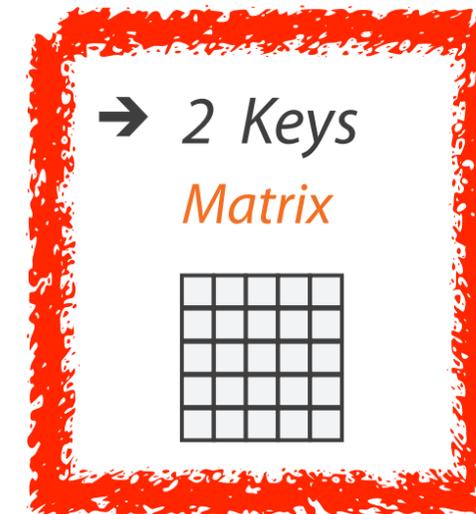
- 1M items, 100s of categ levels, ~10 quant attrib levels



→ 1 Key  
*List*



→ 2 Keys  
*Matrix*

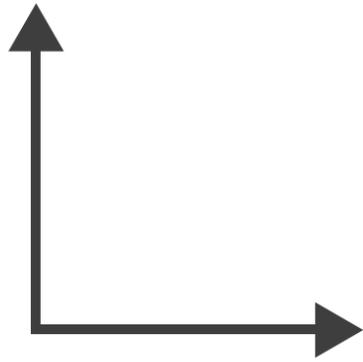


→ Many Keys  
*Recursive Subdivision*

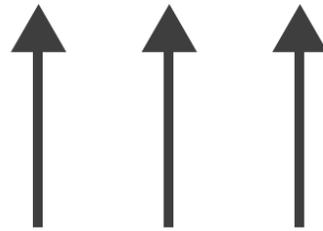


# ➔ Axis Orientation

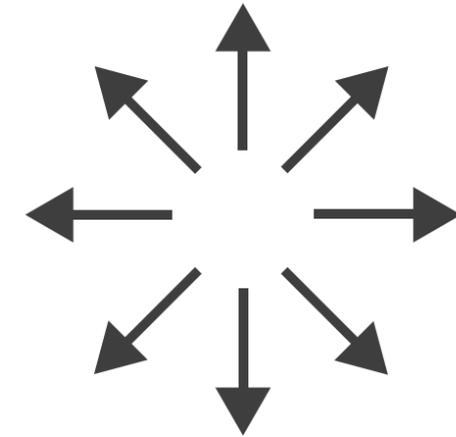
➔ Rectilinear



➔ Parallel



➔ Radial



# Idioms: scatterplot matrix, parallel coordinates

- scatterplot matrix (SPLOM)

- rectilinear axes, point mark
- all possible pairs of axes
- scalability
  - one dozen attribs
  - dozens to hundreds of items

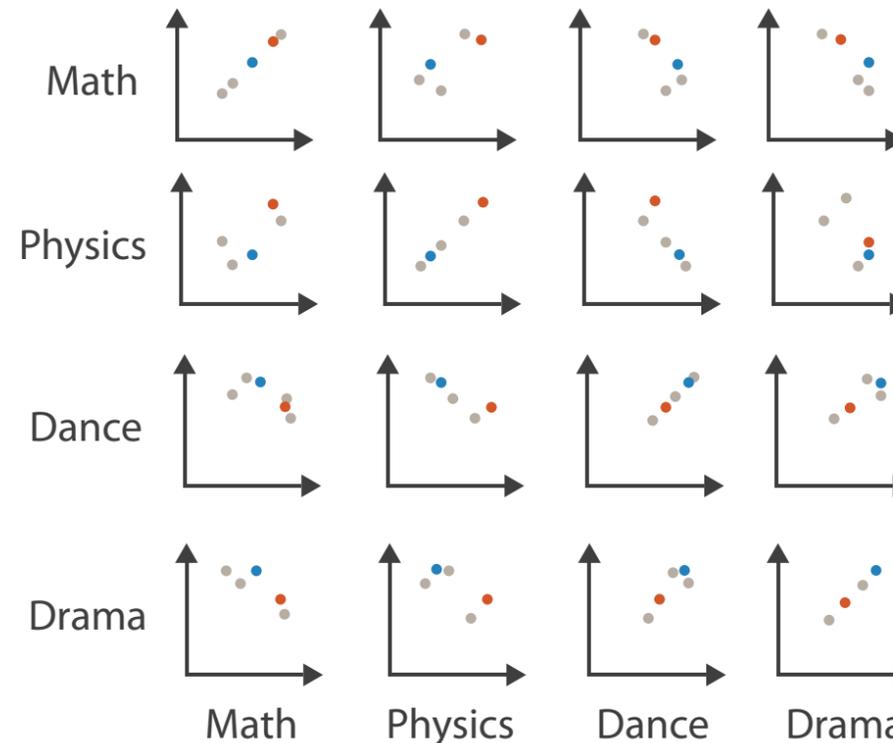
- parallel coordinates

- parallel axes, jagged line representing item
- rectilinear axes, item as point
  - axis ordering is major challenge

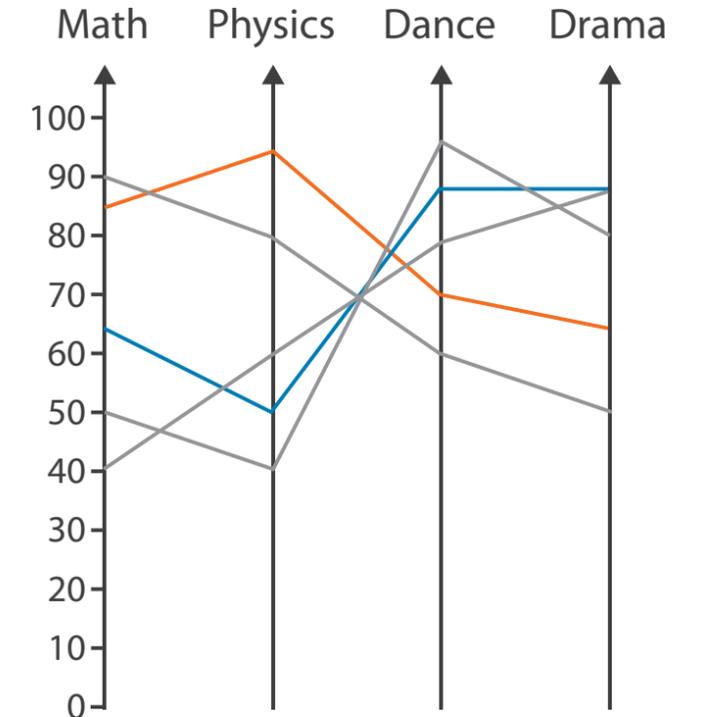
- scalability

- dozens of attribs
- hundreds of items

Scatterplot Matrix



Parallel Coordinates

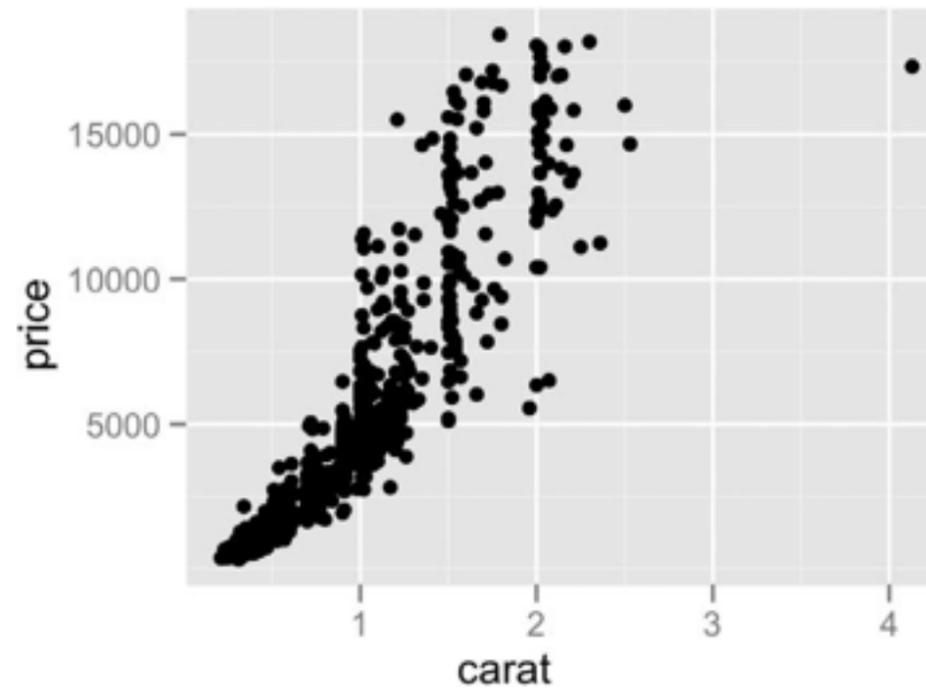


Table

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

# Task: Correlation

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



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

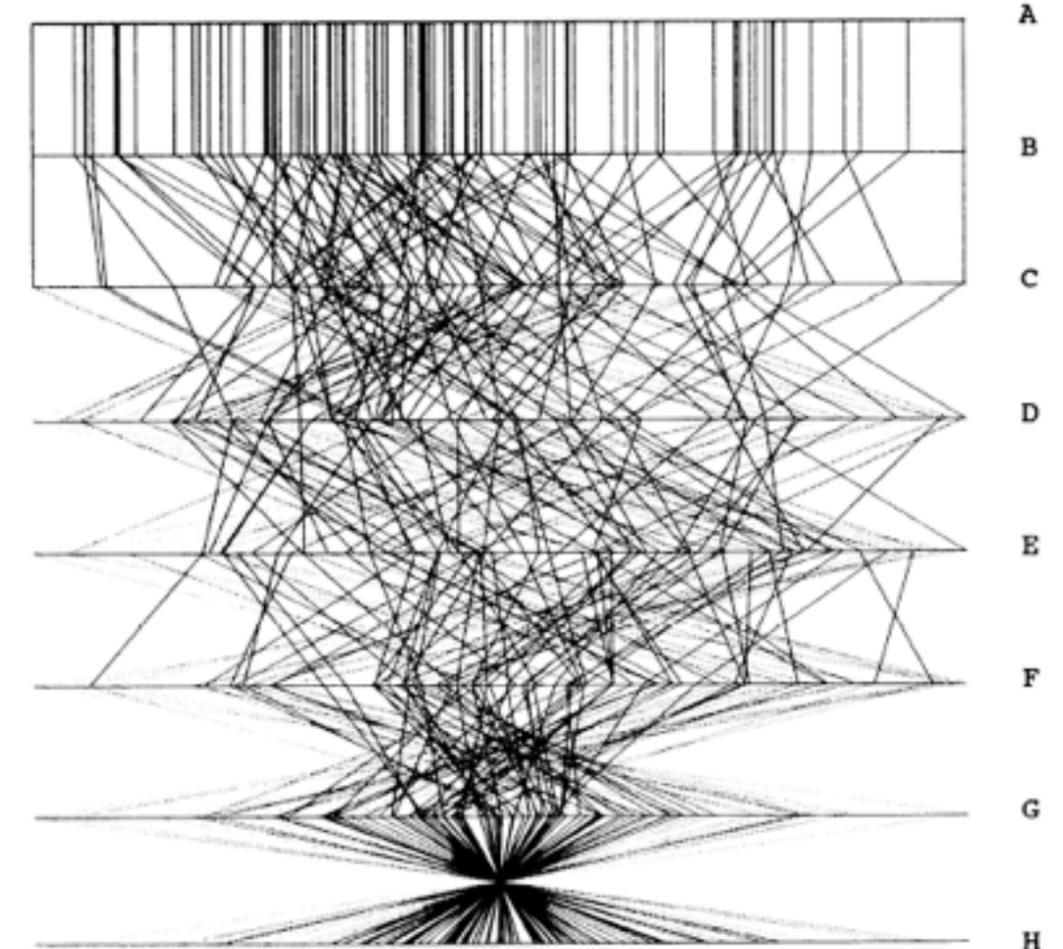
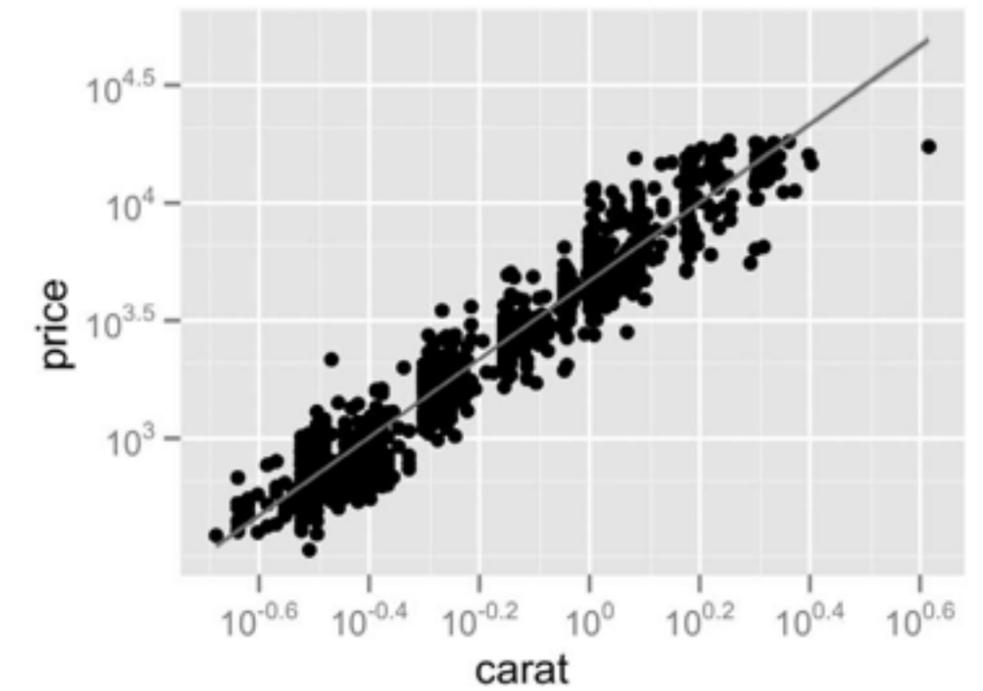
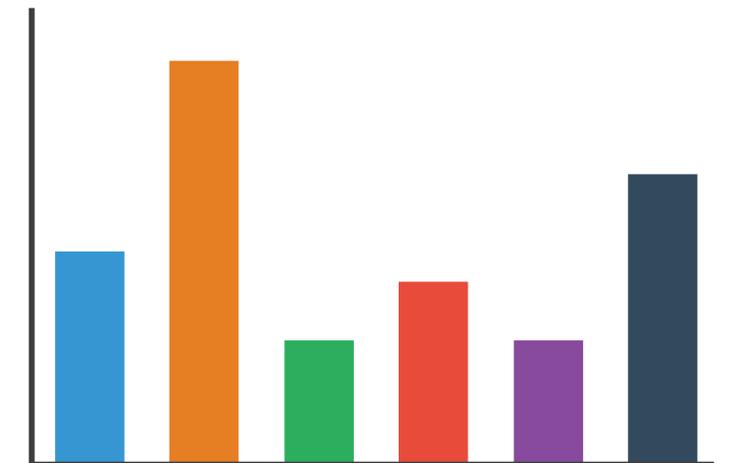
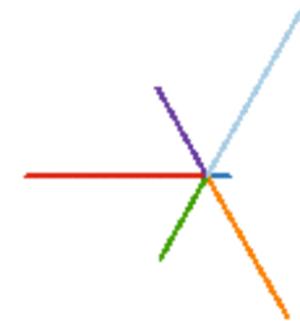


Figure 3. Parallel Coordinate Plot of Six-Dimensional Data Illustrating Correlations of  $\rho = 1, .8, .2, 0, -.2, -.8, \text{ and } -1$ .

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

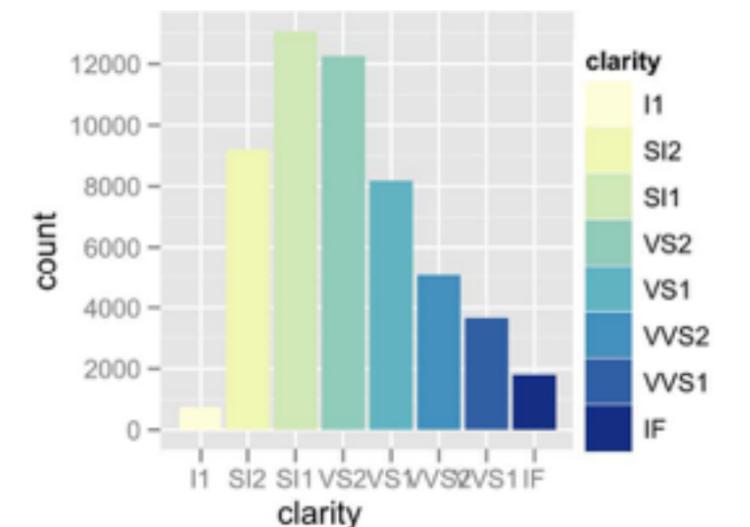
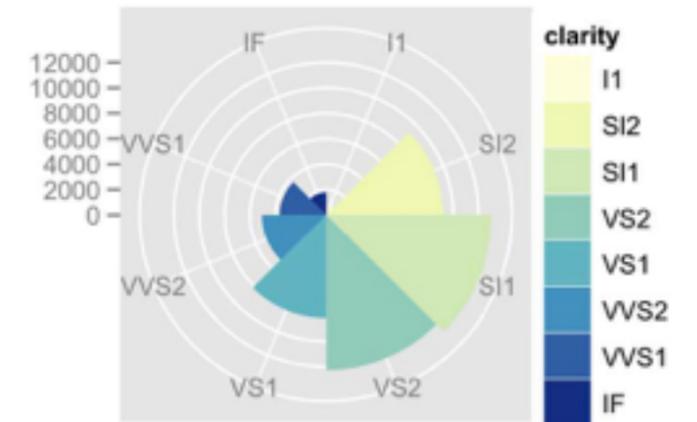
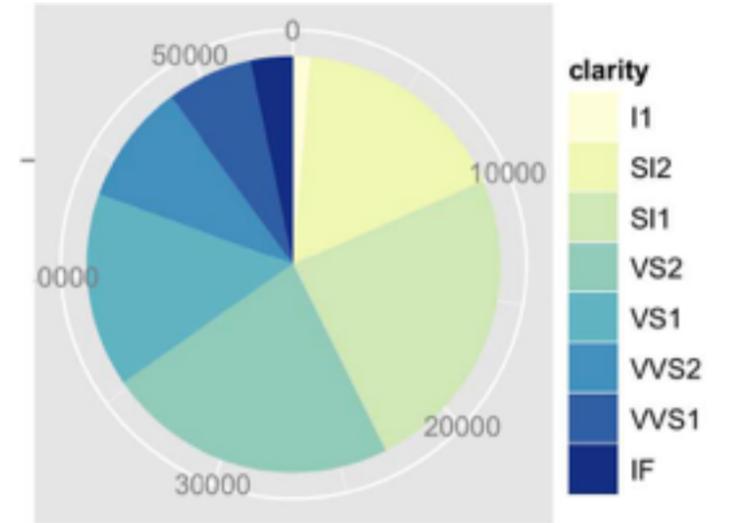
# Idioms: radial bar chart, star plot

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



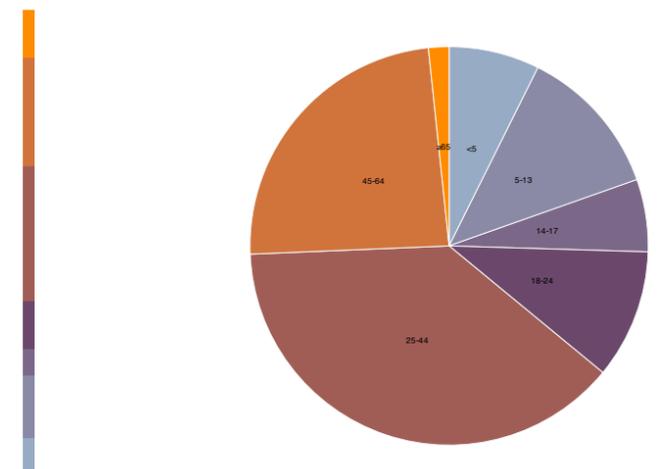
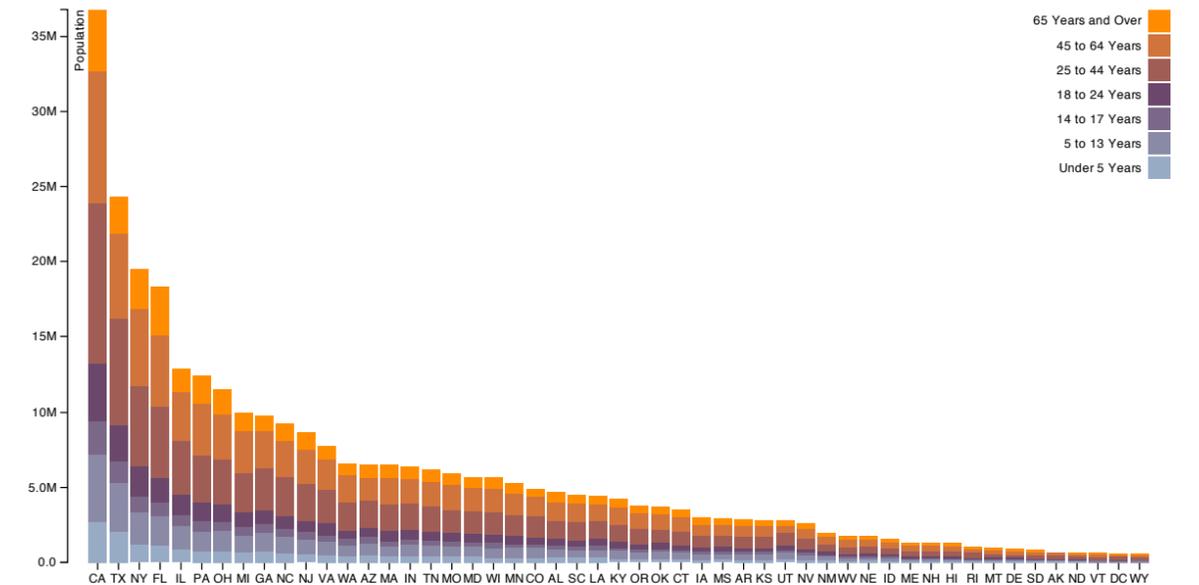
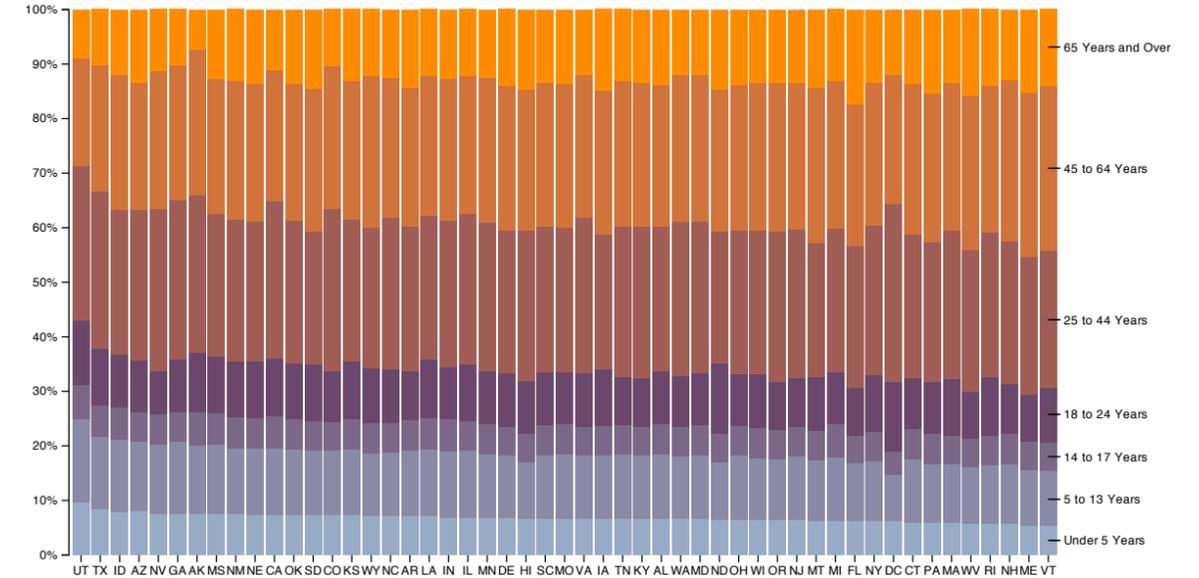
# Idioms: pie chart, polar area chart

- pie chart
  - area marks with angle channel
  - accuracy: angle/area less accurate than line length
    - arclength also less accurate than line length
- polar area chart
  - area marks with length channel
  - more direct analog to bar charts
- data
  - I categ key attrib, I quant value attrib
- task
  - part-to-whole judgements



# Idioms: **normalized stacked bar chart**

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



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

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

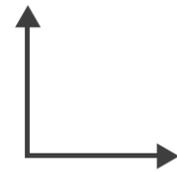
<http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/3886394>.

# Idiom: **glyphmaps**

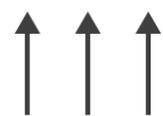
- rectilinear good for linear vs nonlinear trends
- radial good for cyclic patterns

## ➔ Axis Orientation

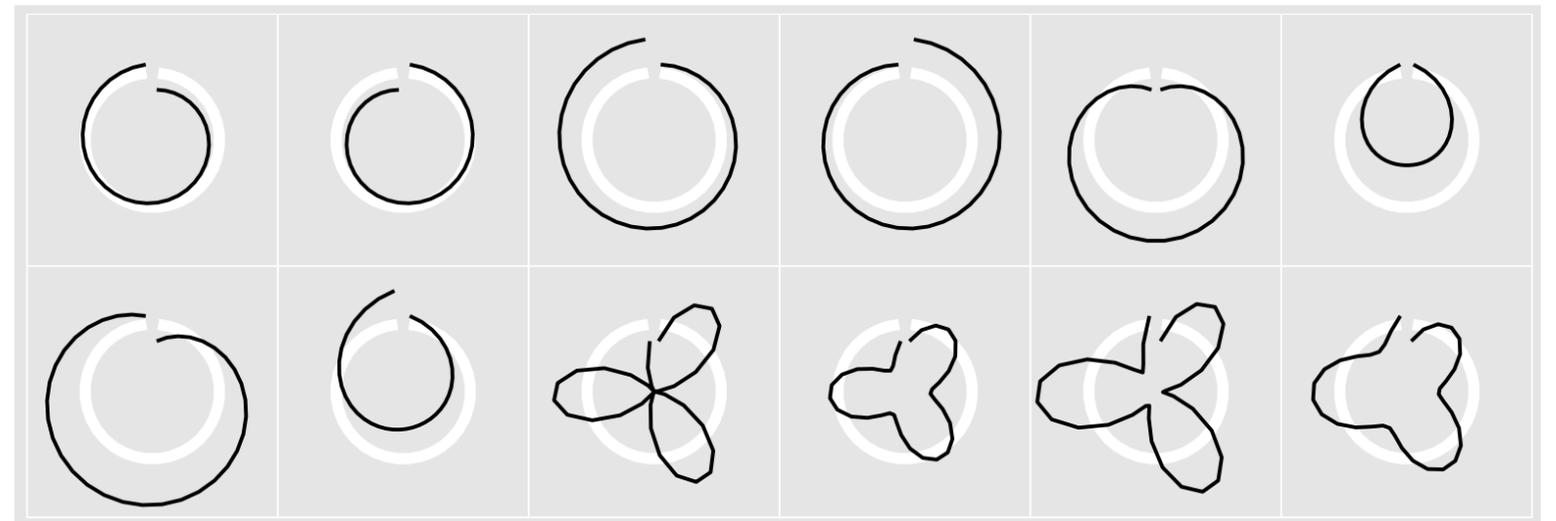
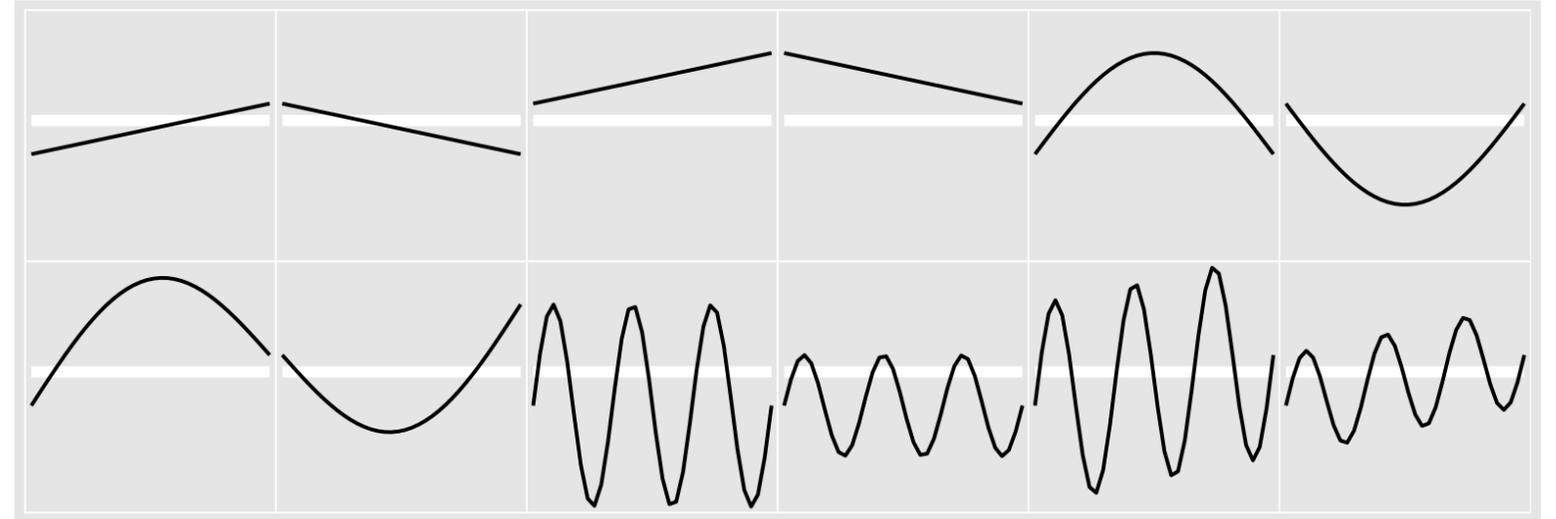
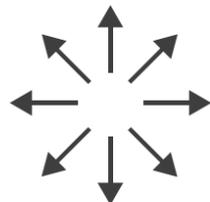
➔ Rectilinear



➔ 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.]

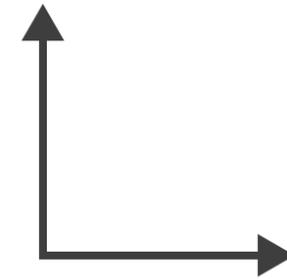
# Orientation limitations

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

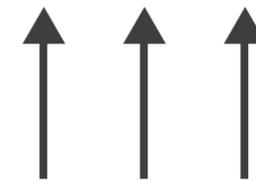
*[Uncovering Strengths and Weaknesses of Radial Visualizations - an Empirical Approach. Diehl, Beck and Burch. IEEE TVCG (Proc. InfoVis) 16(6):935–942, 2010.]*

## ➔ **Axis Orientation**

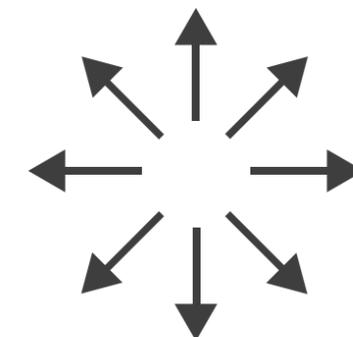
➔ Rectilinear



➔ Parallel

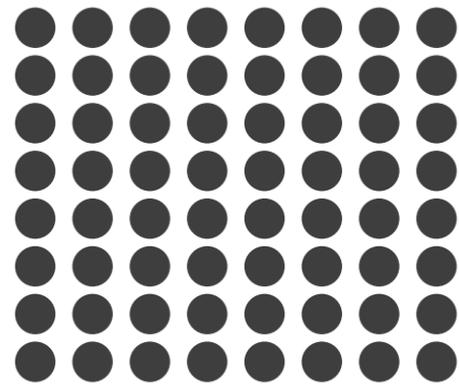


➔ Radial

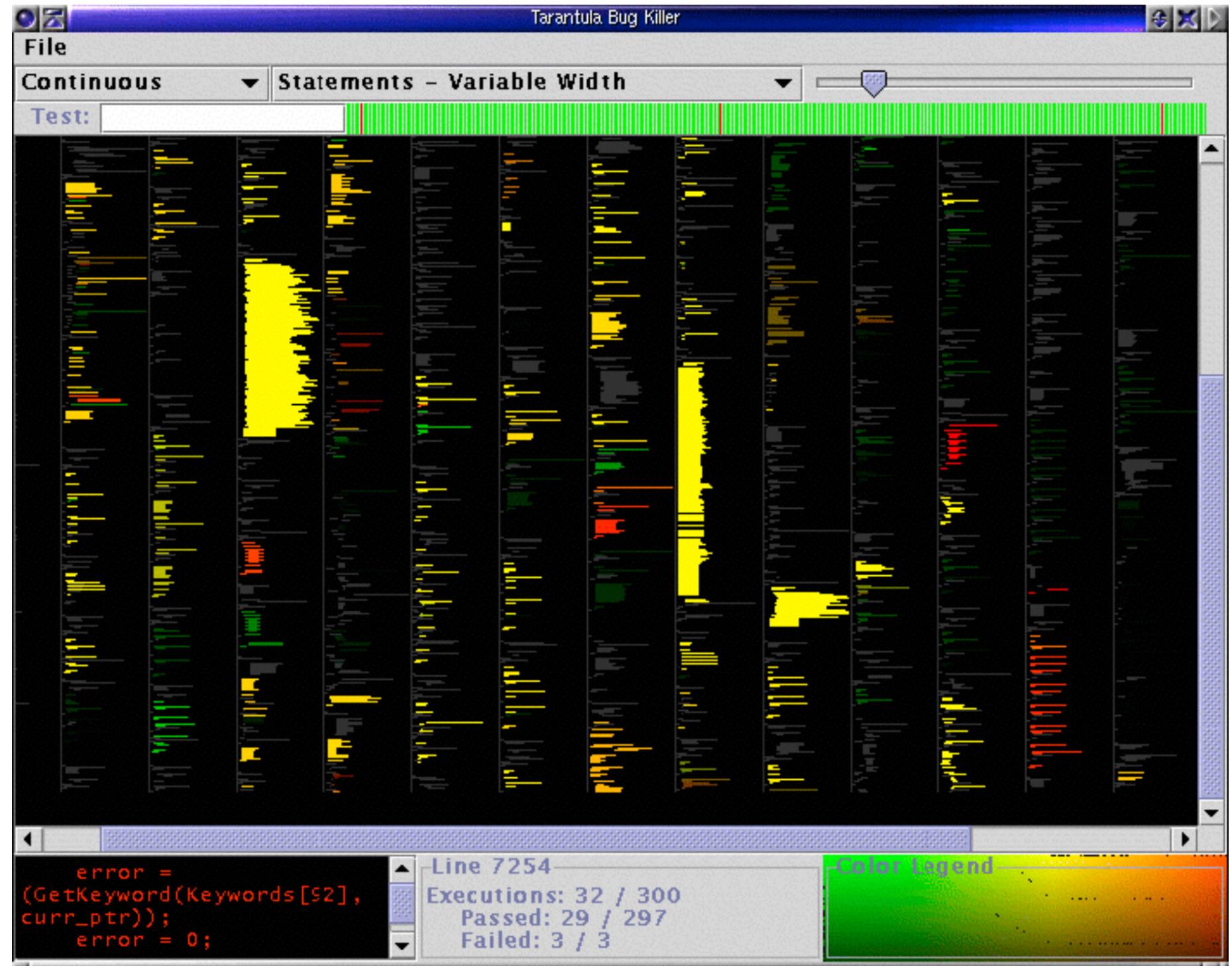


# → Layout Density

→ Dense



# dense software overviews



## Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.  
–*Chap 7: Arrange Tables*
- Visualizing Data. Cleveland. Hobart Press, 1993.
- *A Brief History of Data Visualization*. Friendly. 2008.  
<http://www.datavis.ca/milestones>

# Outline

- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - Arrange Tables
  - **Arrange Spatial Data**
  - Arrange Networks and Trees
- **Session 3 2:00-3:40pm**  
**Color & Interaction**
  - Map Color
  - Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate
  - Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# Arrange spatial data

## → Use Given

### → Geometry

→ *Geographic*

→ *Other Derived*

### → Spatial Fields

→ *Scalar Fields (one value per cell)*

→ *Isocontours*

→ *Direct Volume Rendering*

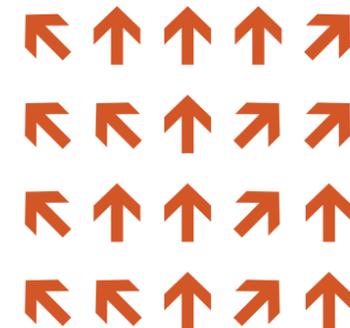
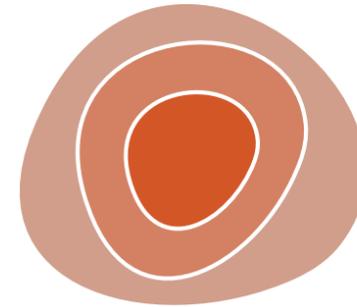
→ *Vector and Tensor Fields (many values per cell)*

→ *Flow Glyphs (local)*

→ *Geometric (sparse seeds)*

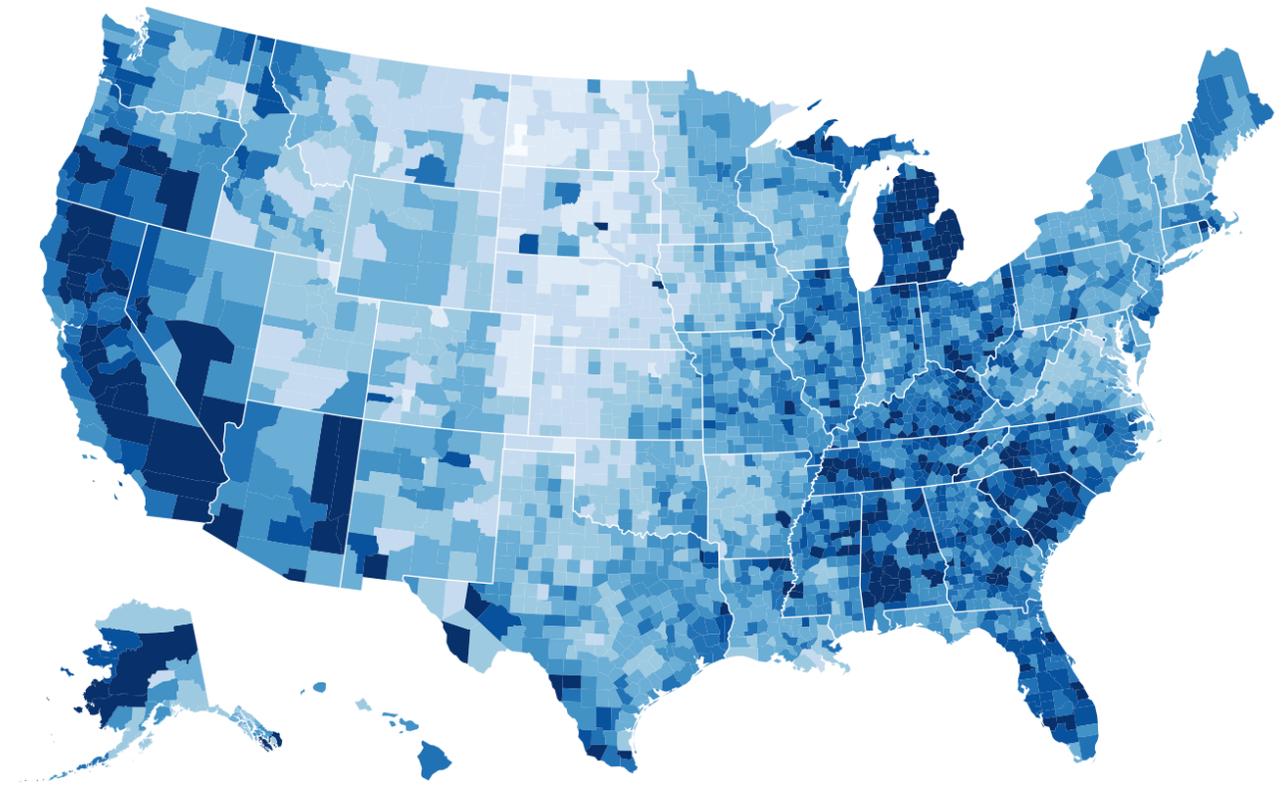
→ *Textures (dense seeds)*

→ *Features (globally derived)*



# Idiom: **choropleth map**

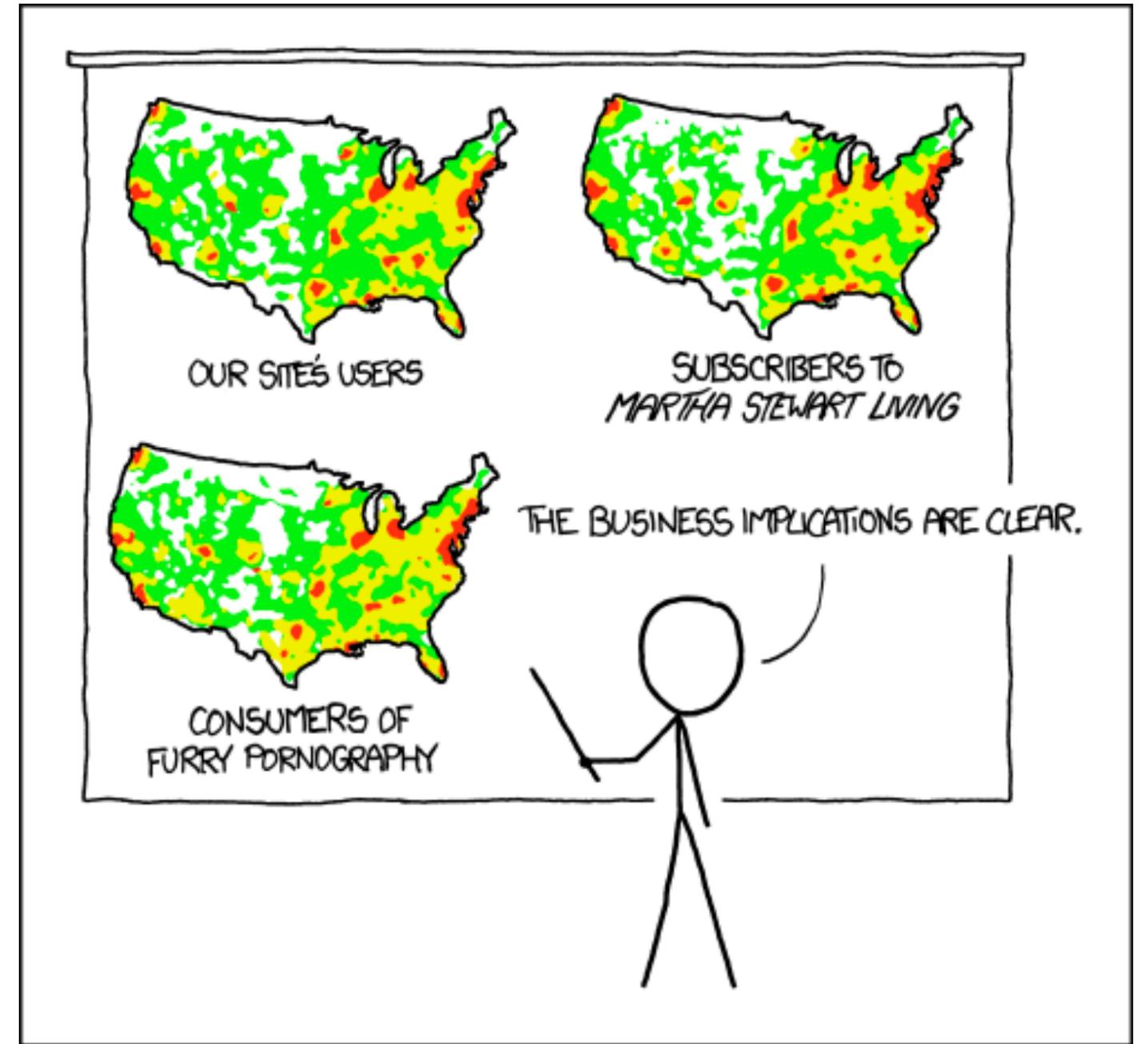
- *use* given spatial data
  - when central task is understanding spatial relationships
- data
  - geographic geometry
  - table with 1 quant attribute per region
- encoding
  - use given geometry for area mark boundaries
  - sequential segmented colormap *[more later]*
  - (geographic heat map)



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

# Population maps trickiness

- beware!
- absolute vs relative again
  - population density vs per capita
- investigate with Ben Jones Tableau Public demo
  - <http://public.tableau.com/profile/ben.jones#!/vizhome/PopVsFin/PopVsFin>  
*Are Maps of Financial Variables just Population Maps?*
  - yes, unless you look at per capita (relative) numbers

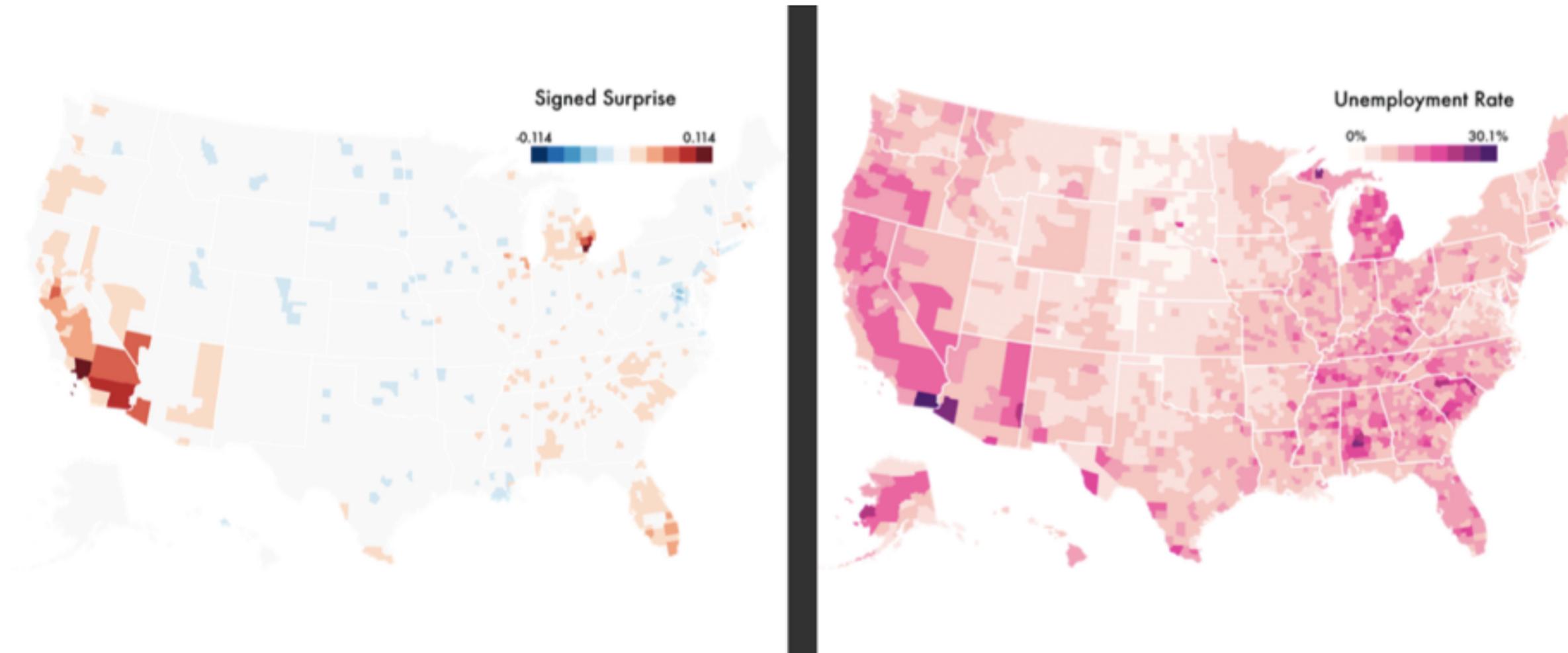


PET PEEVE #208:  
GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE MAPS WHICH ARE  
BASICALLY JUST POPULATION MAPS

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

# Idiom: Bayesian surprise maps

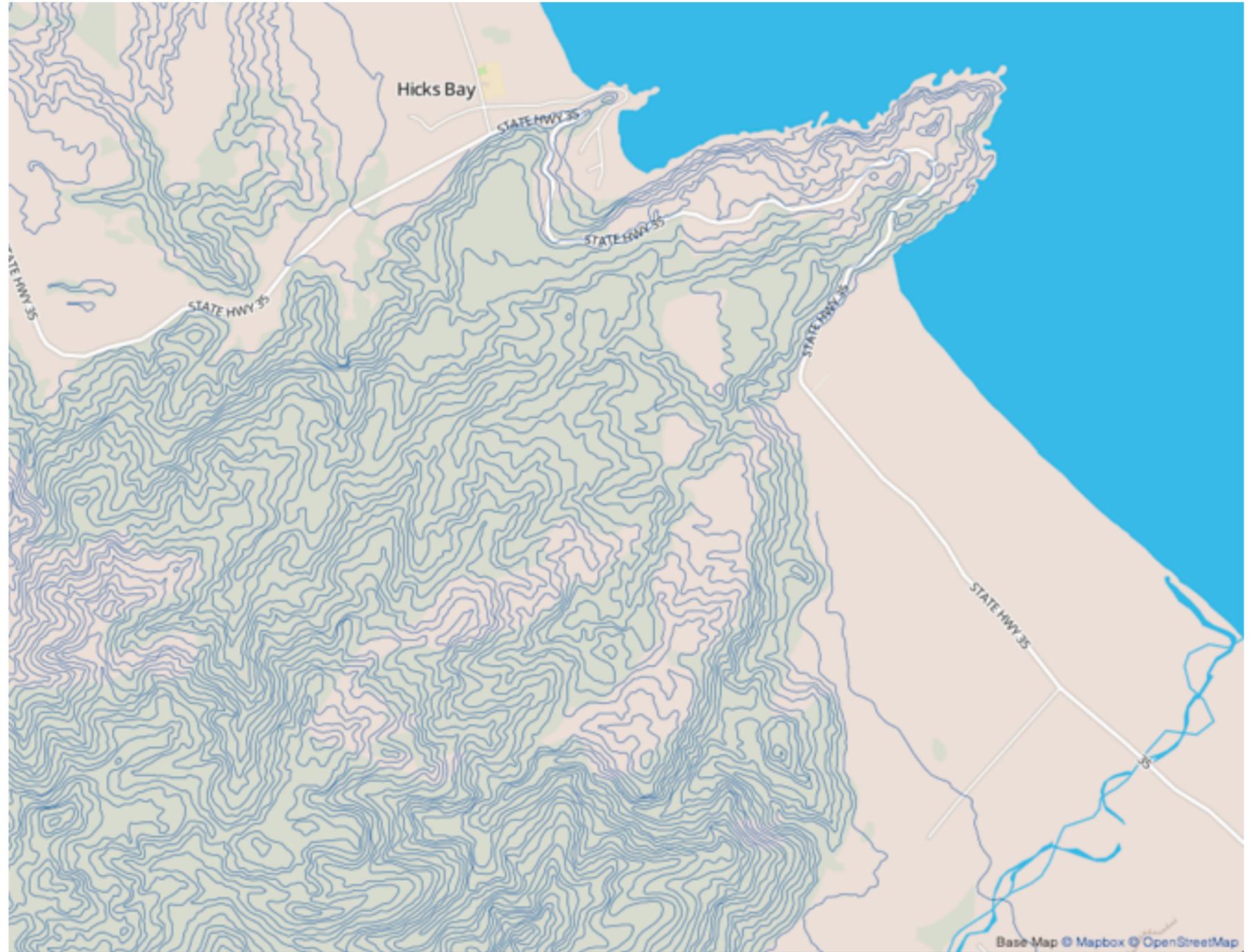
- use models of expectations to highlight surprising values
- confounds (population) and variance (sparsity)



[Surprise! Bayesian Weighting for De-Biasing Thematic Maps. Correll and Heer. Proc InfoVis 2016]

# Idiom: **topographic map**

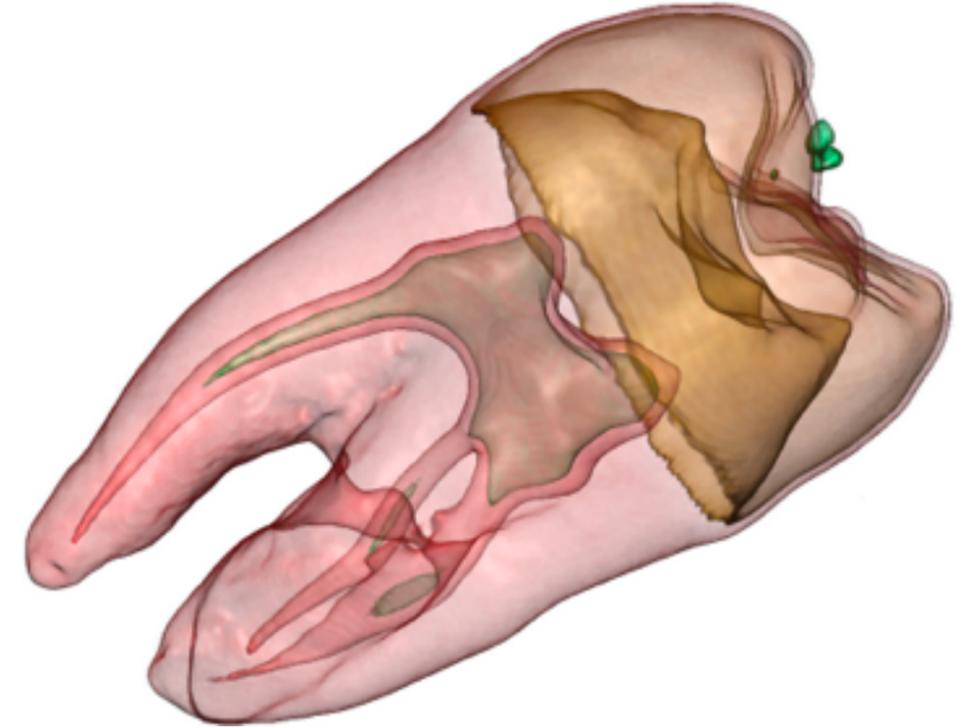
- data
  - geographic geometry
  - scalar spatial field
    - 1 quant attribute per grid cell
- derived data
  - isoline geometry
    - isocontours computed for specific levels of scalar values



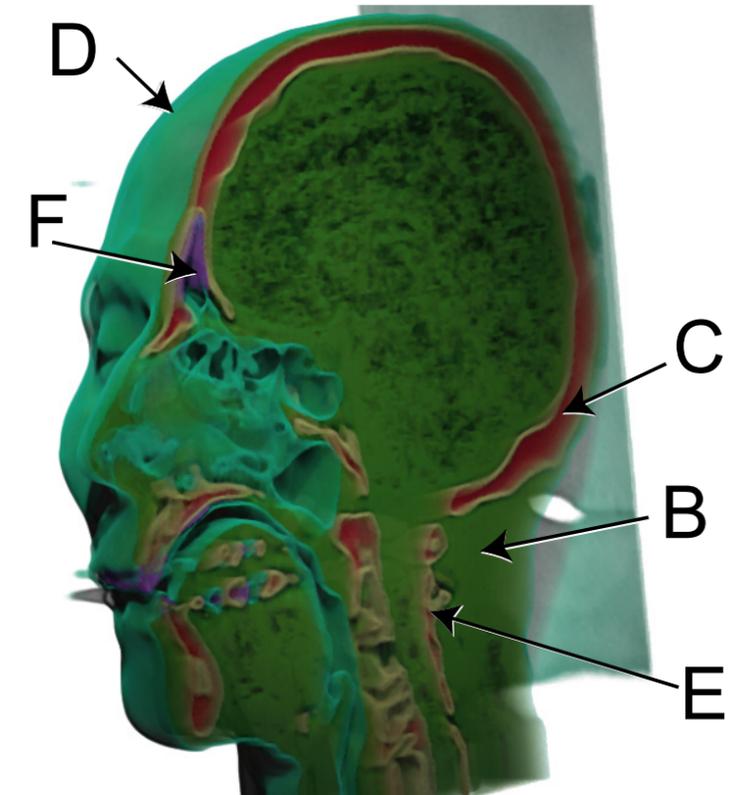
*Land Information New Zealand Data Service*

# 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



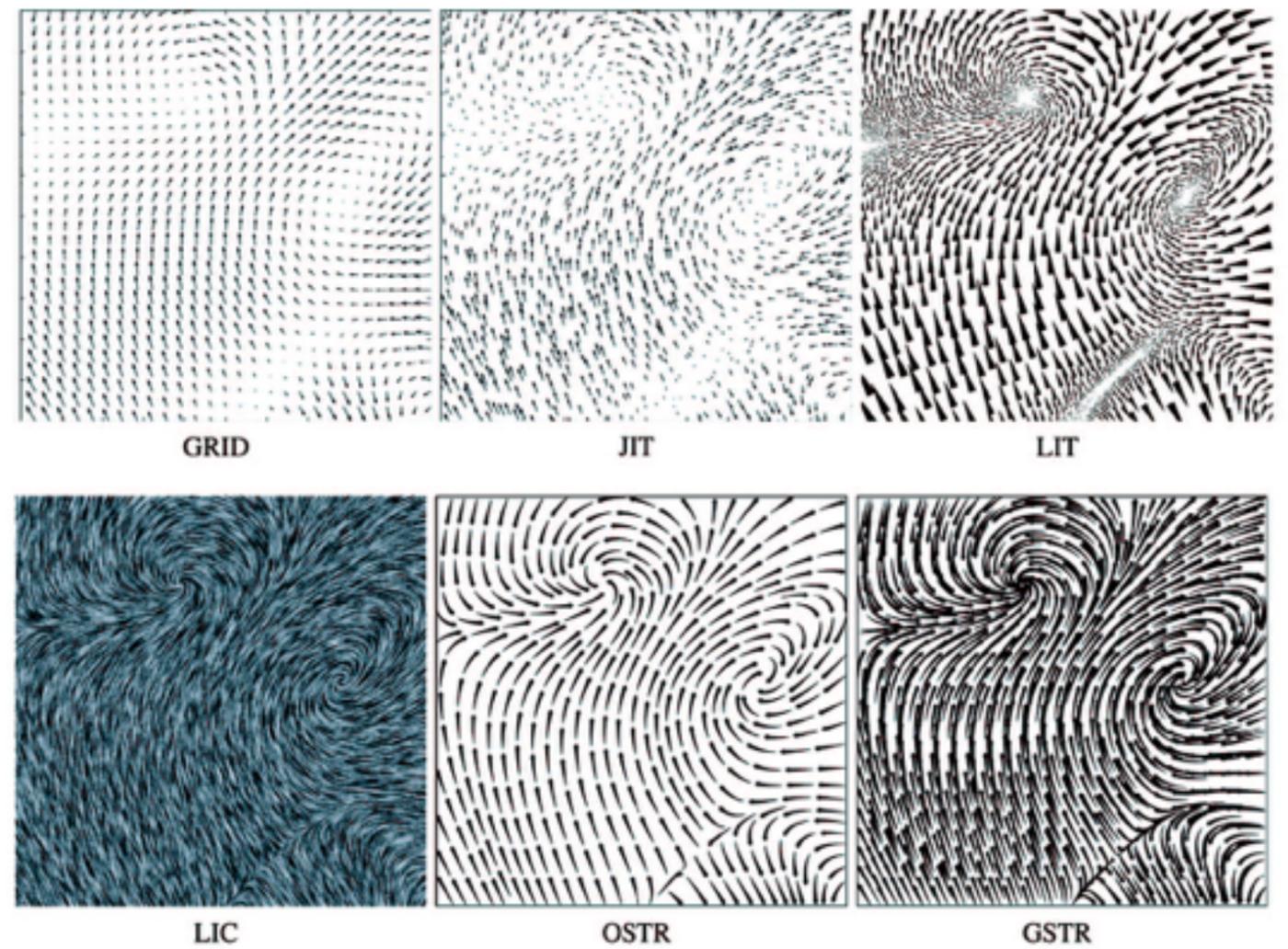
[Interactive Volume Rendering Techniques. Kniss. Master's thesis, University of Utah Computer Science, 2002.]



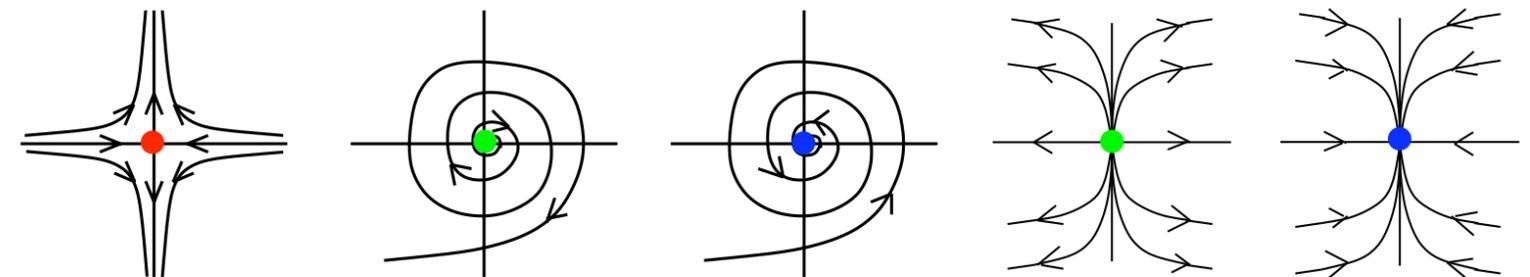
[Multidimensional Transfer Functions for Volume Rendering. Kniss, Kindlmann, and Hansen. In *The Visualization Handbook*, edited by Charles Hansen and Christopher Johnson, pp. 189–210. Elsevier, 2005.]

# Vector and tensor fields

- data
  - many attribs per cell
- idiom families
  - flow glyphs
    - purely local
  - geometric flow
    - derived data from tracing particle trajectories
    - sparse set of seed points
  - texture flow
    - derived data, dense seeds
  - feature flow
    - global computation to detect features
      - encoded with one of methods above



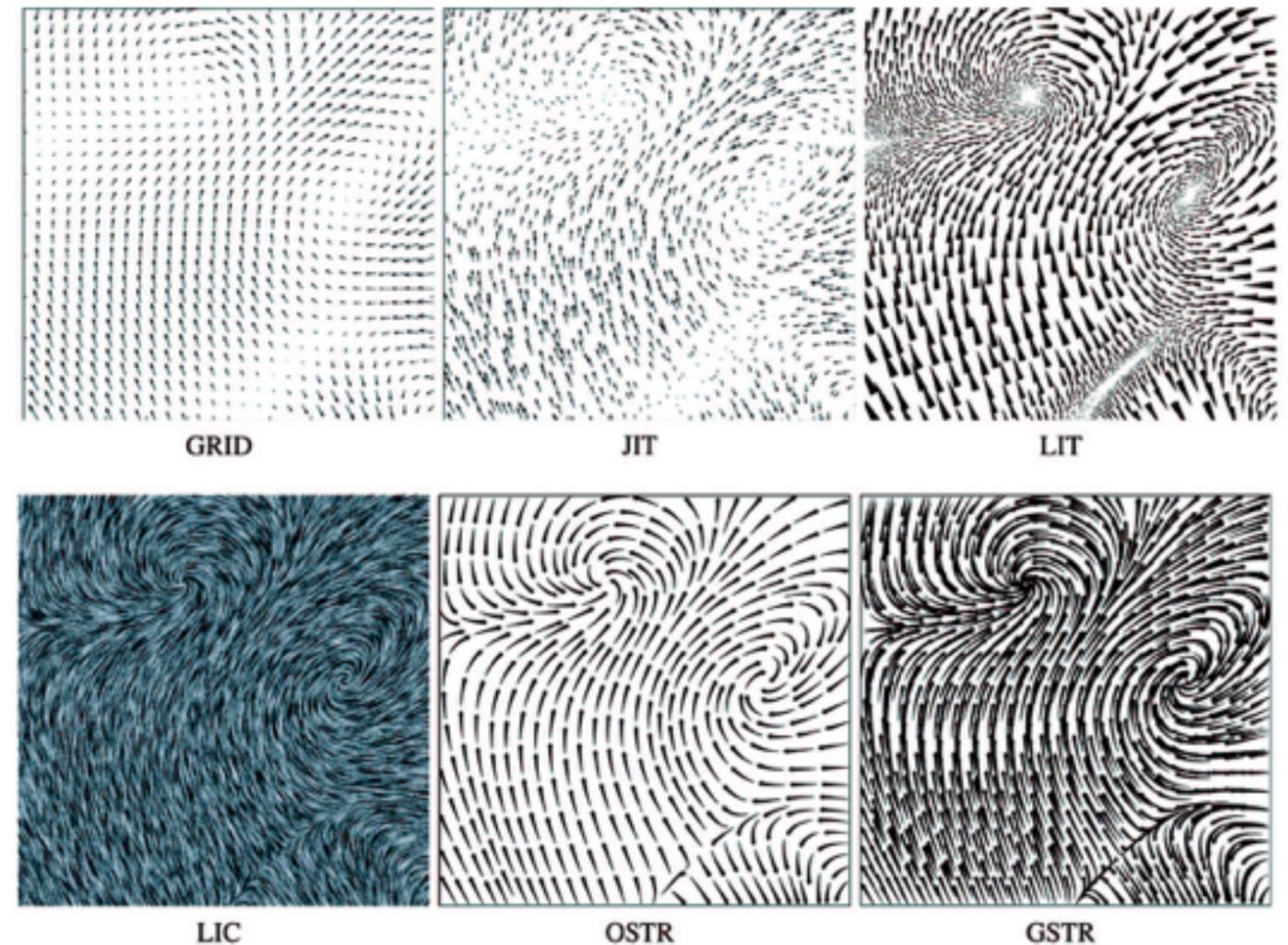
[Comparing 2D vector field visualization methods: A user study. Laidlaw et al. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG) 11:1 (2005), 59–70.]



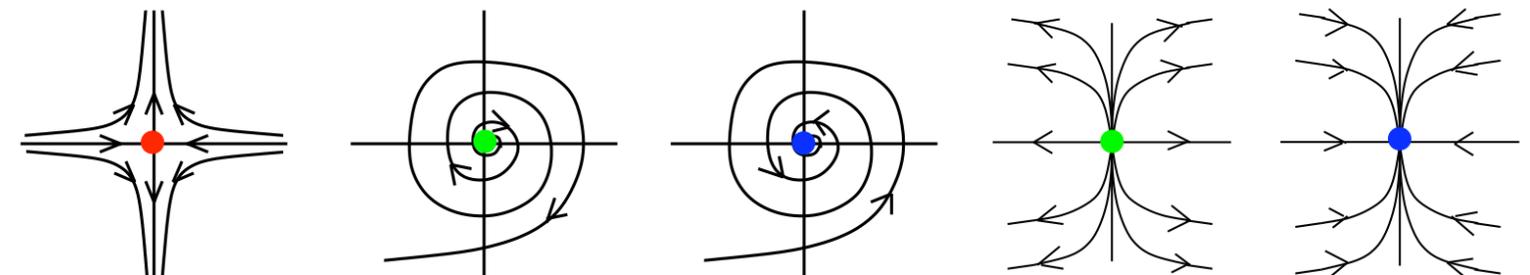
[Topology tracking for the visualization of time-dependent two-dimensional flows. Tricoche, Wischgoll, Scheuermann, and Hagen. Computers & Graphics 26:2 (2002), 249–257.]

# Vector fields

- empirical study tasks
  - finding critical points, identifying their types
  - identifying what type of critical point is at a specific location
  - predicting where a particle starting at a specified point will end up (advection)



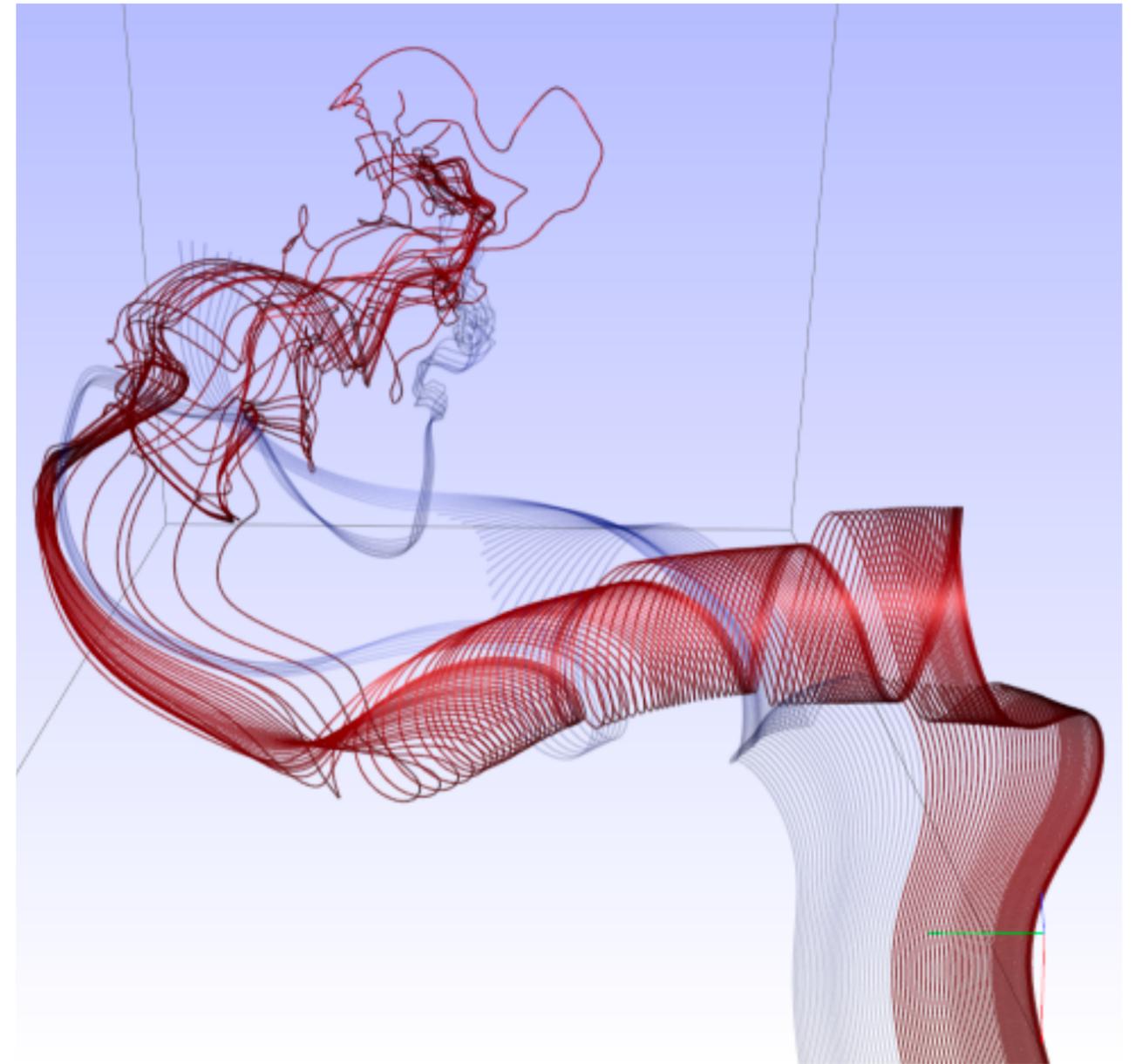
[Comparing 2D vector field visualization methods: A user study. Laidlaw et al. *IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG)* 11:1 (2005), 59–70.]



[Topology tracking for the visualization of time-dependent two-dimensional flows. Tricoche, Wischgoll, Scheuermann, and Hagen. *Computers & Graphics* 26:2 (2002), 249–257.]

# 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.]

## Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.  
–*Chap 8: Arrange Spatial Data*
- How Maps Work: Representation, Visualization, and Design. MacEachren. Guilford Press, 1995.
- Overview of visualization. Schroeder and. Martin. In The Visualization Handbook, edited by Charles Hansen and Christopher Johnson, pp. 3–39. Elsevier, 2005.
- Real-Time Volume Graphics. Engel, Hadwiger, Kniss, Reza-Salama, and Weiskopf. AK Peters, 2006.
- Overview of flow visualization. Weiskopf and Erlebacher. In The Visualization Handbook, edited by Charles Hansen and Christopher Johnson, pp. 261–278. Elsevier, 2005.

# Outline

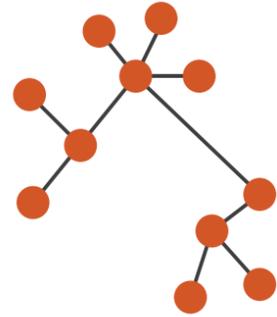
- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - Arrange Tables
  - Arrange Spatial Data
  - **Arrange Networks and Trees**
- **Session 3 2:00-3:40pm**  
**Color & Interaction**
  - Map Color
  - Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate
  - Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# Arrange networks and trees

## → Node–Link Diagrams Connection Marks

✓ NETWORKS

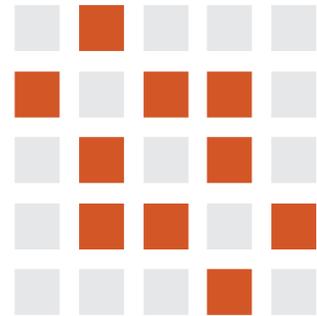
✓ TREES



## → Adjacency Matrix Derived Table

✓ NETWORKS

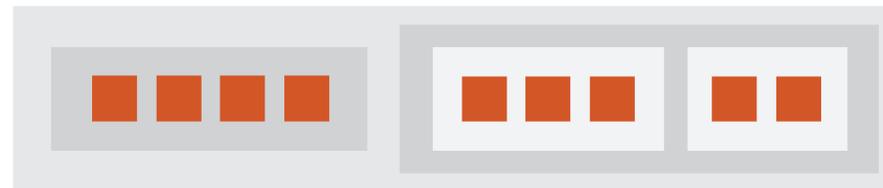
✓ TREES



## → Enclosure Containment Marks

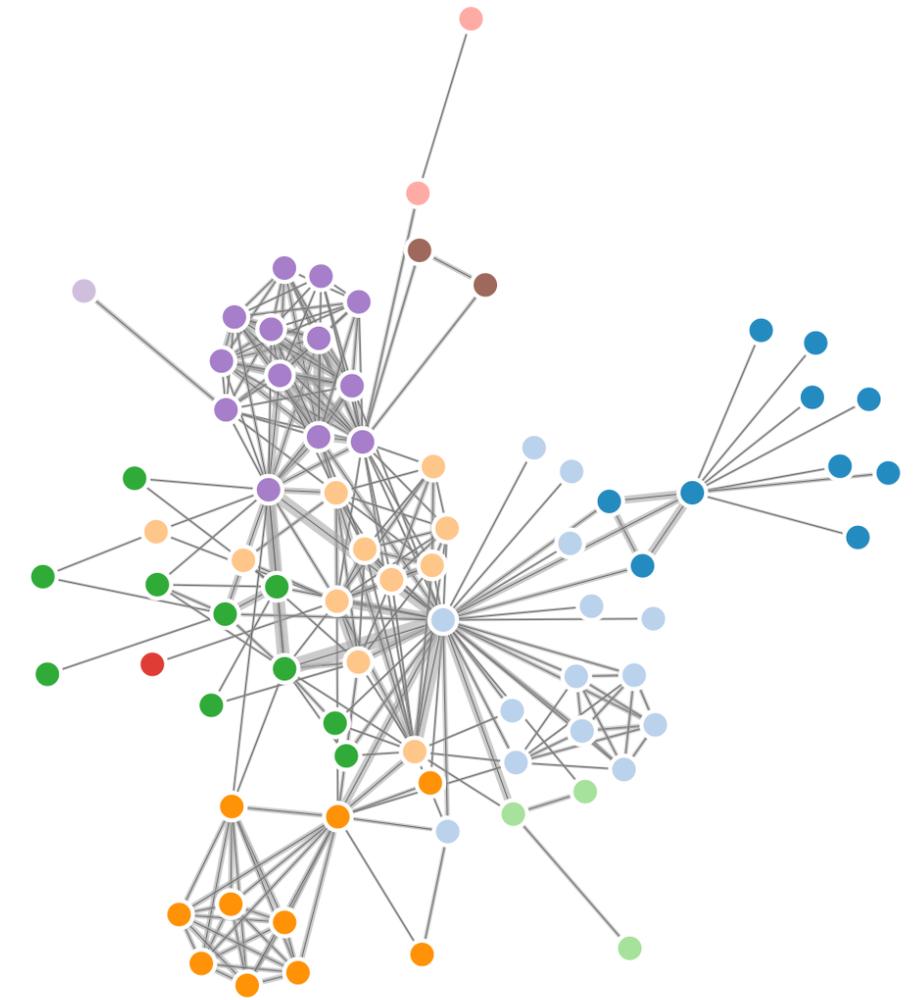
✗ NETWORKS

✓ TREES



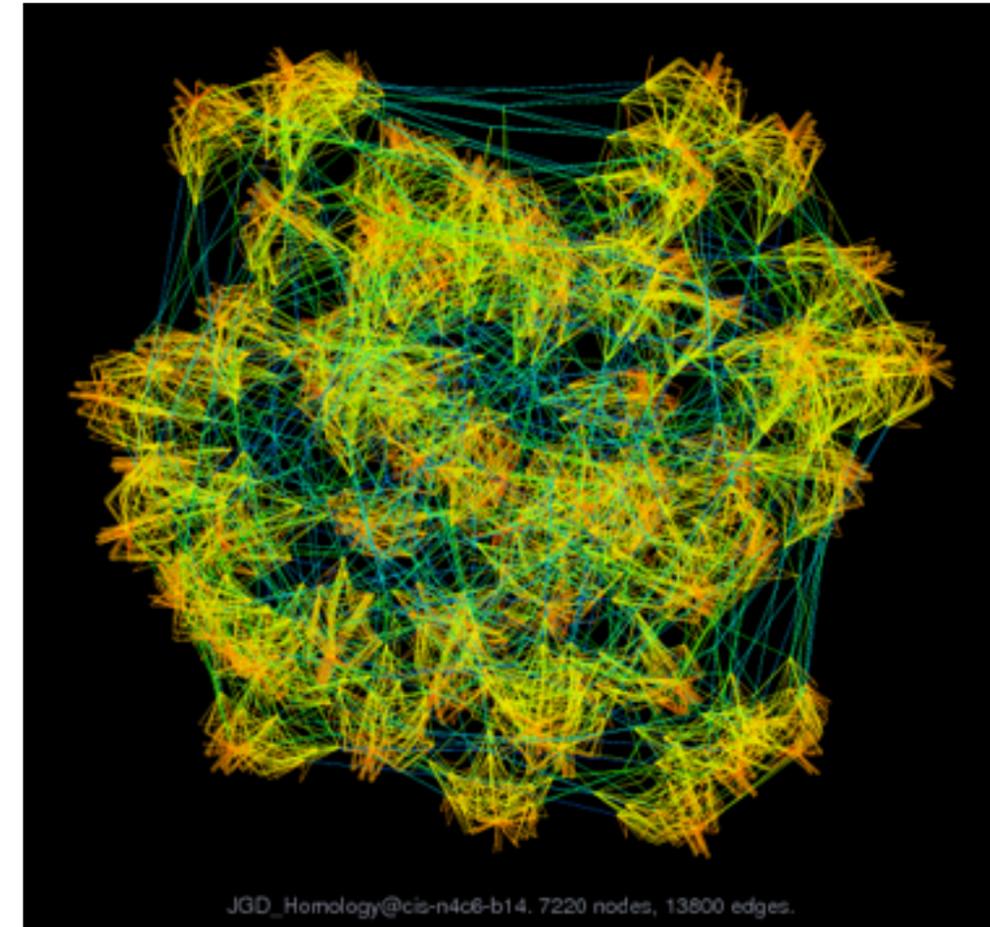
# Idiom: **force-directed placement**

- 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  $E < 4N$

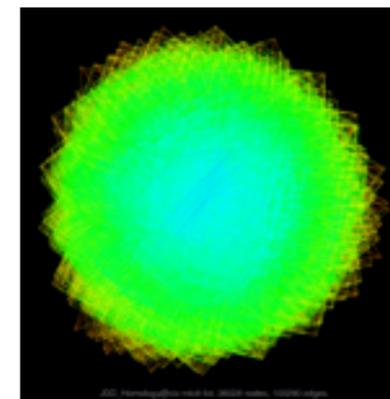


# Idiom: **sfdp** (multi-level force-directed placement)

- data
  - original: network
  - derived: cluster hierarchy atop it
- considerations
  - better algorithm for same encoding technique
    - same: fundamental use of space
    - hierarchy used for algorithm speed/quality but not shown explicitly
    - (more on algorithm vs encoding in afternoon)
- scalability
  - nodes, edges: 1K-10K
  - hairball problem eventually hits



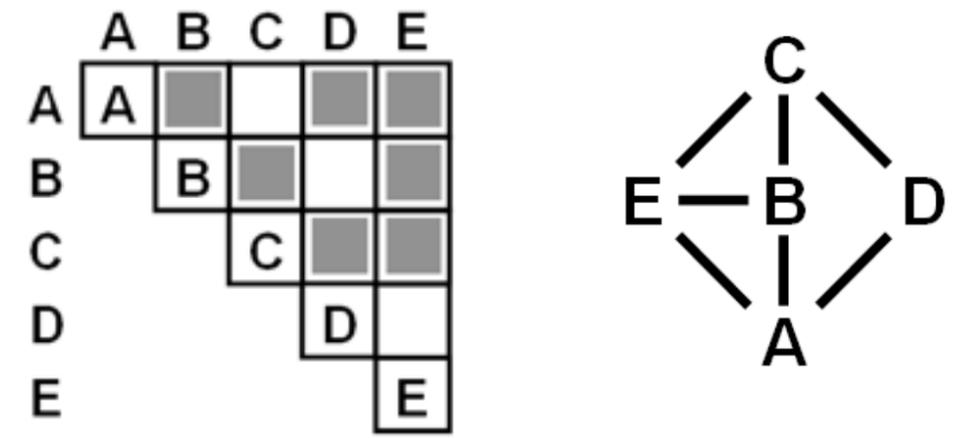
*[Efficient and high quality force-directed graph drawing. Hu. The Mathematica Journal 10:37–71, 2005.]*



<http://www.research.att.com/yifanhu/GALLERY/GRAPHS/index1.html>

# 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



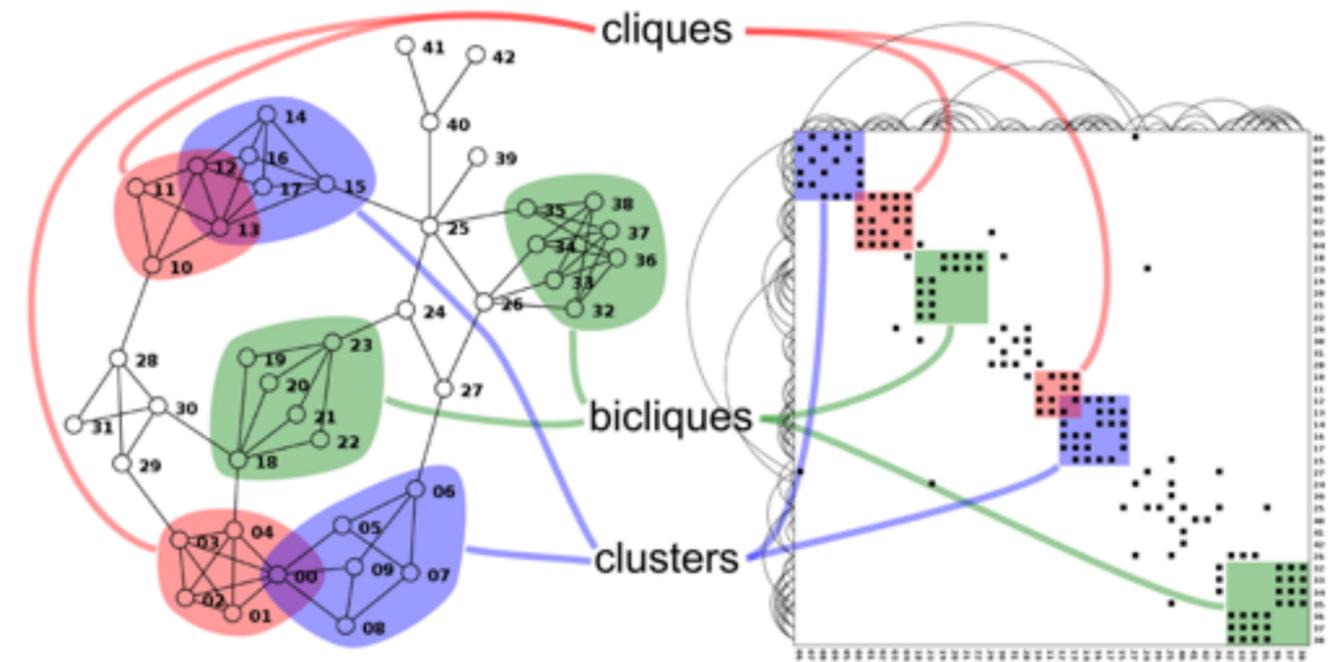
[NodeTrix: a Hybrid Visualization of Social Networks. Henry, Fekete, and McGuffin. IEEE TVCG (Proc. InfoVis) 13(6):1302-1309, 2007.]



[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!

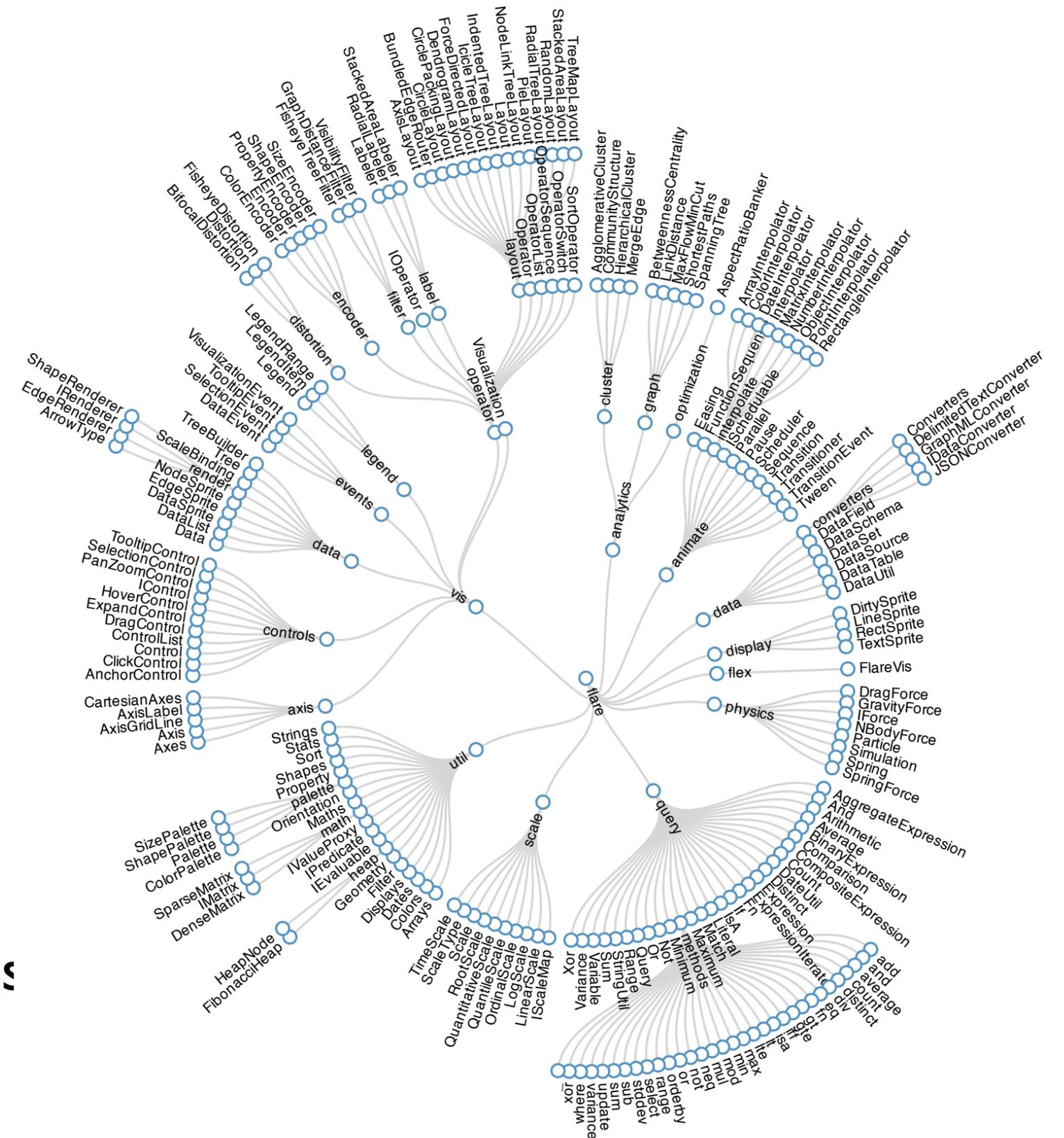


<http://www.michaelmcguffin.com/courses/vis/patternsInAdjacencyMatrix.png>

*[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.]*

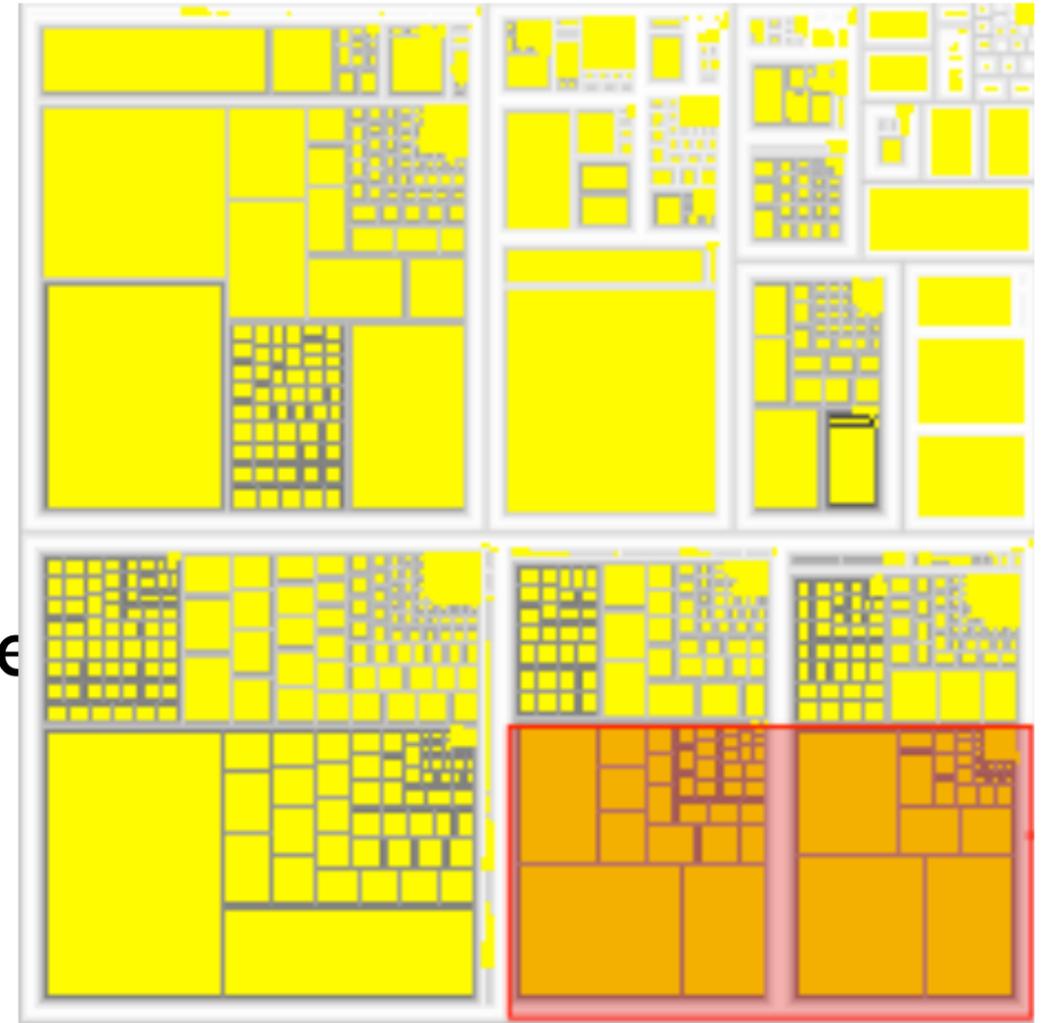
# Idiom: radial node-link tree

- 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

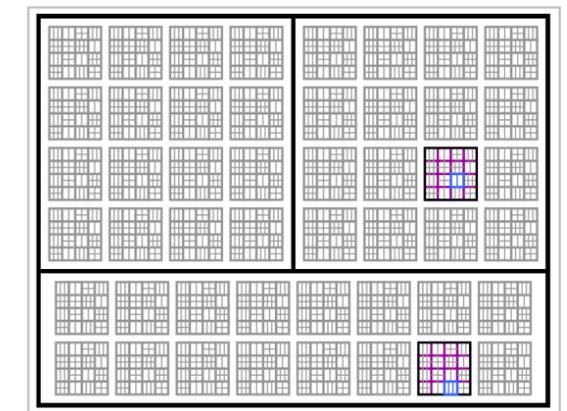
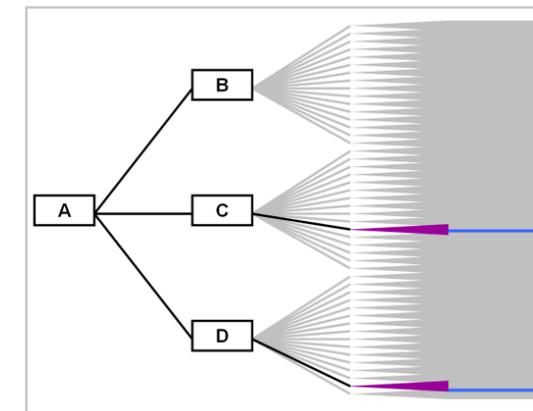
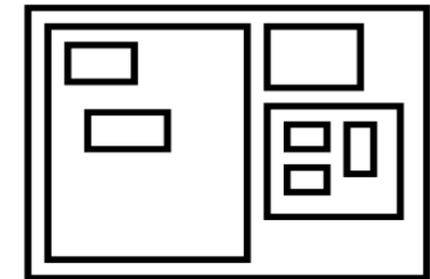
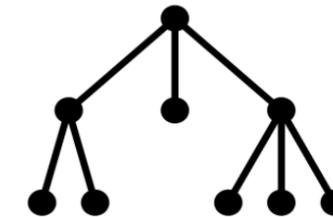
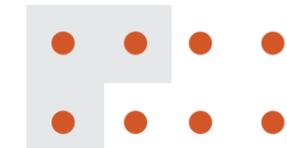
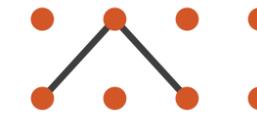


[http://tulip.labri.fr/Documentation/3\\_7/userHandbook/html/ch06.html](http://tulip.labri.fr/Documentation/3_7/userHandbook/html/ch06.html)

# Link marks: Connection and containment

- 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

➔ Connection    ➔ Containment



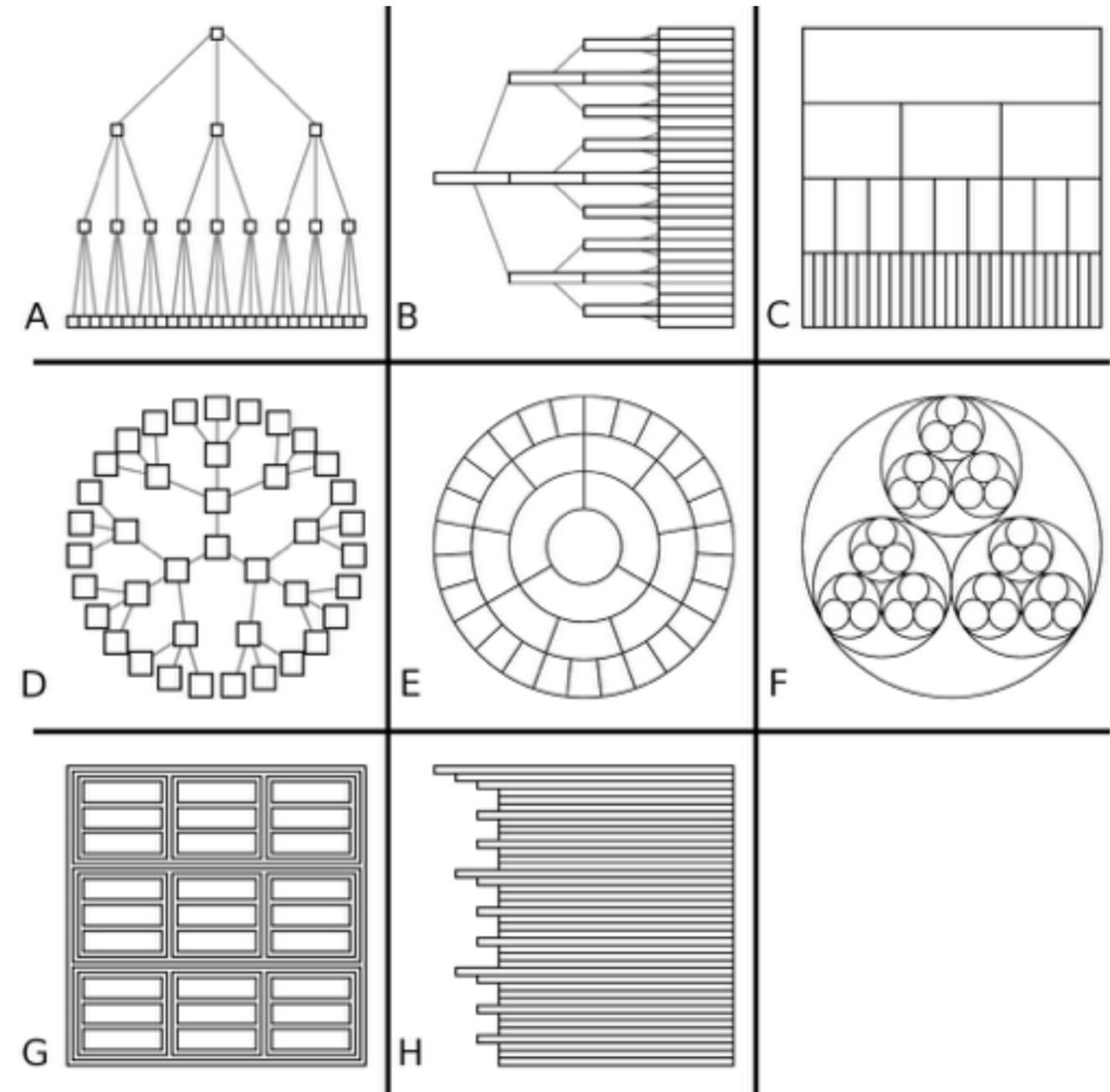
**Node-Link Diagram**

**Treemap**

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

# Tree drawing idioms comparison

- data shown
  - link relationships
  - tree depth
  - sibling order
- design choices
  - connection vs containment link marks
  - rectilinear vs radial layout
  - spatial position channels
- considerations
  - redundant? arbitrary?
  - information density?
    - avoid wasting space



*[Quantifying the Space-Efficiency of 2D Graphical Representations of Trees. McGuffin and Robert. Information Visualization 9:2 (2010), 115–140.]*

# Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.  
–*Chap 9: Arrange Networks and Trees*
- Visual Analysis of Large Graphs: State-of-the-Art and Future Research Challenges. von Landesberger et al. Computer Graphics Forum 30:6 (2011), 1719–1749.
- Simple Algorithms for Network Visualization: A Tutorial. McGuffin. Tsinghua Science and Technology (Special Issue on Visualization and Computer Graphics) 17:4 (2012), 383–398.
- Drawing on Physical Analogies. Brandes. In Drawing Graphs: Methods and Models, LNCS Tutorial, 2025, edited by M. Kaufmann and D. Wagner, LNCS Tutorial, 2025, pp. 71–86. Springer-Verlag, 2001.
- <http://www.treevis.net> Treevis.net: A Tree Visualization Reference. Schulz. IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications 31:6 (2011), 11–15.
- Perceptual Guidelines for Creating Rectangular Treemaps. Kong, Heer, and Agrawala. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis) 16:6 (2010), 990–998.

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# Idiom design choices: Encode

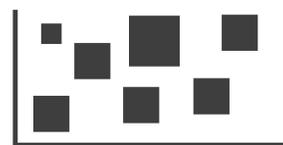
## Encode

### → Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



### → Map

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

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...

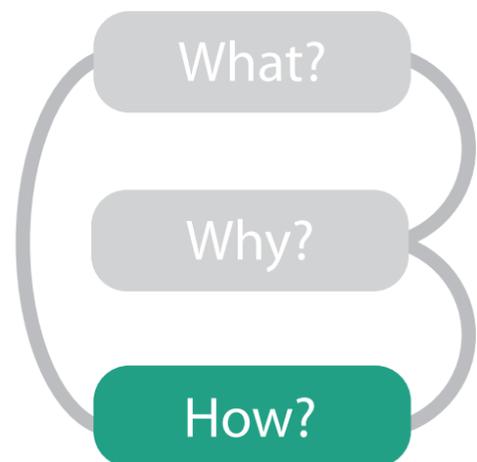


→ Shape

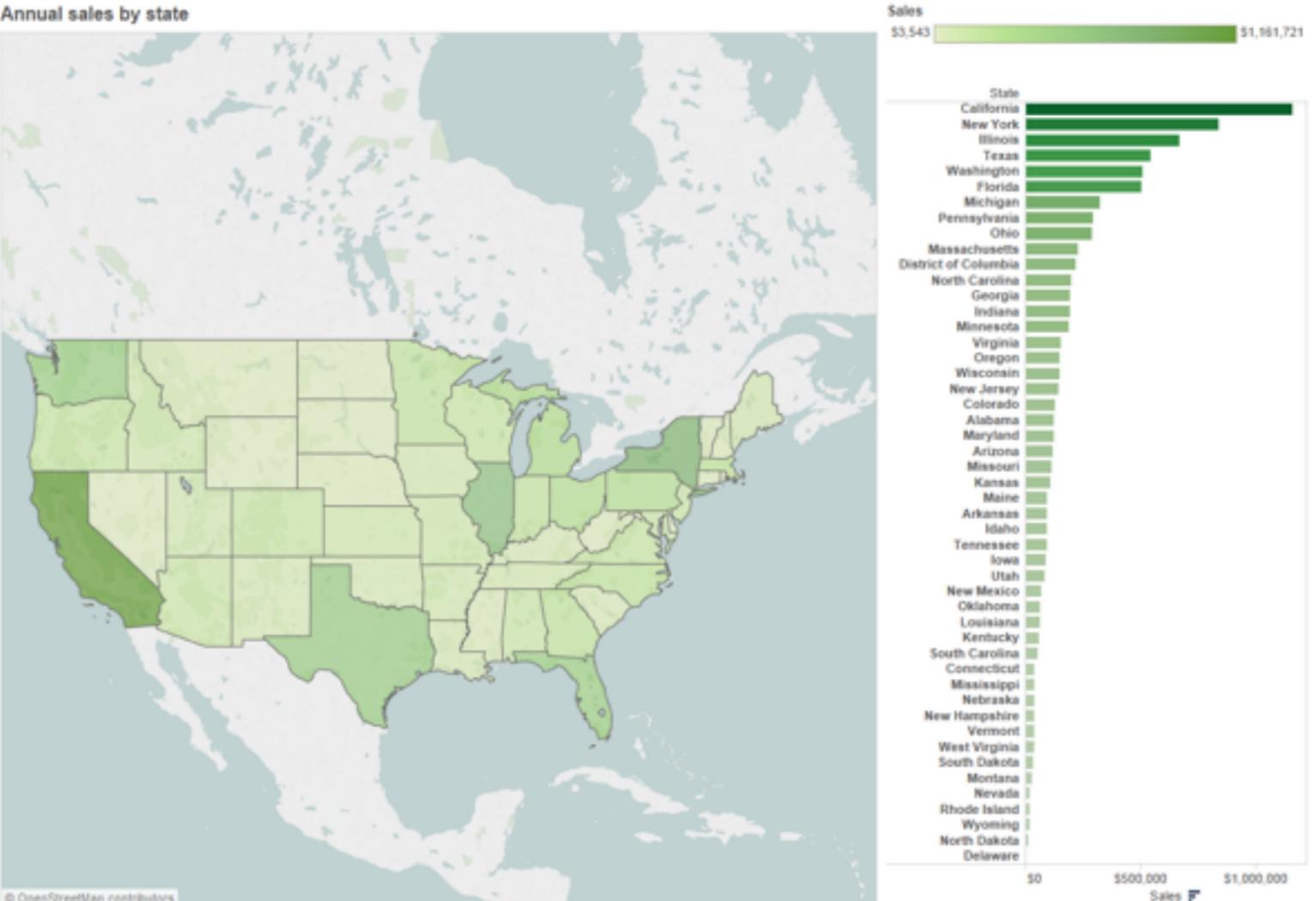
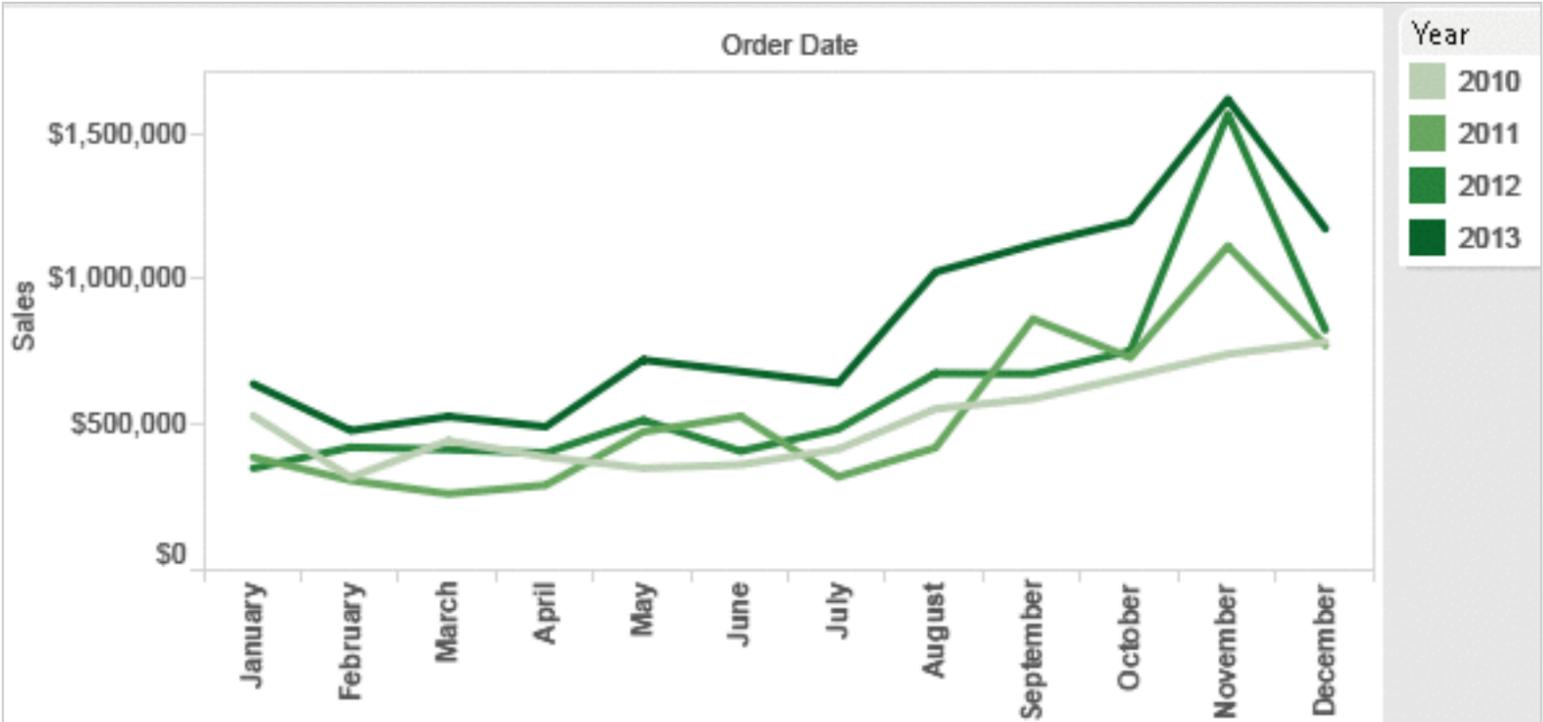
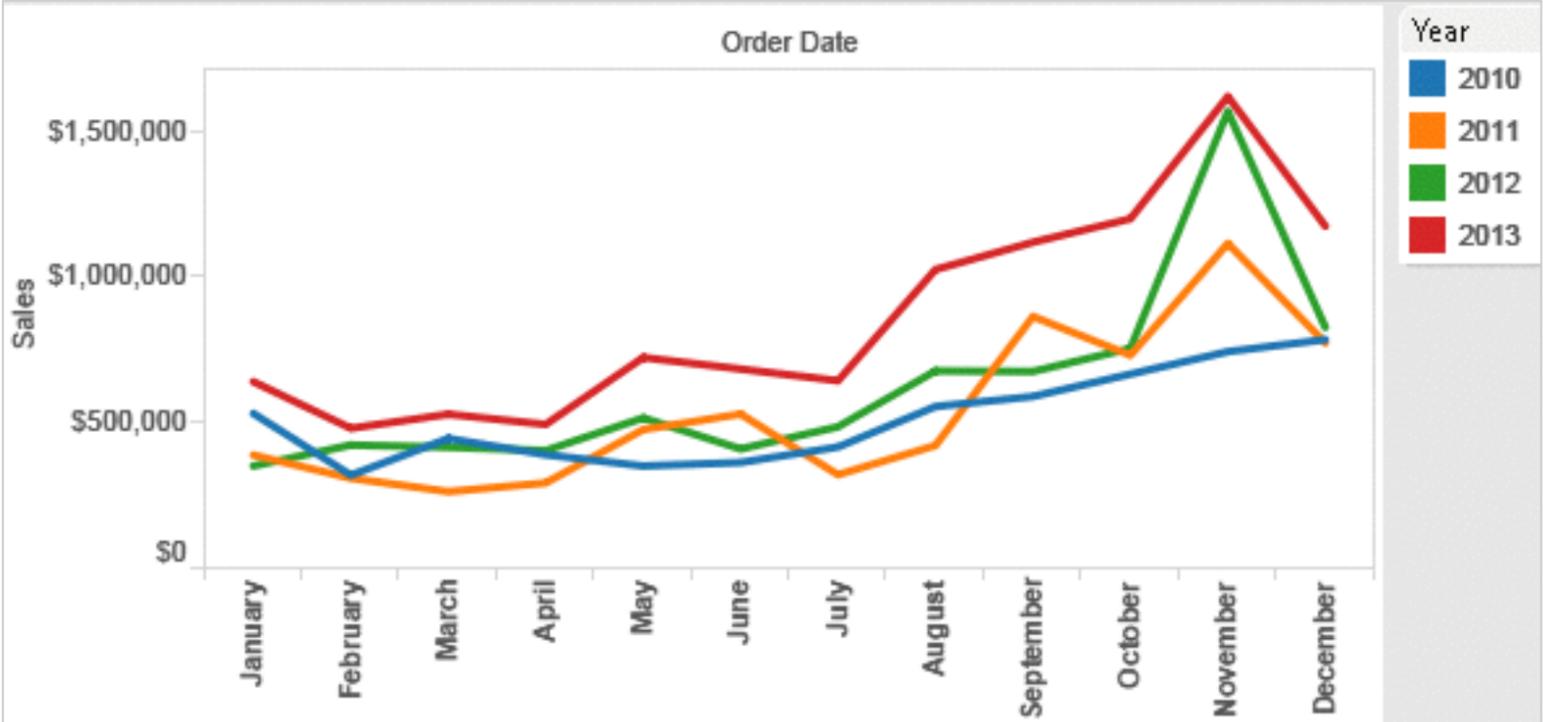


→ Motion

*Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...*



# Categorical vs ordered color



*[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]*

# Decomposing color

- first rule of color: do not talk about color!
  - color is confusing if treated as monolithic

- decompose into three channels

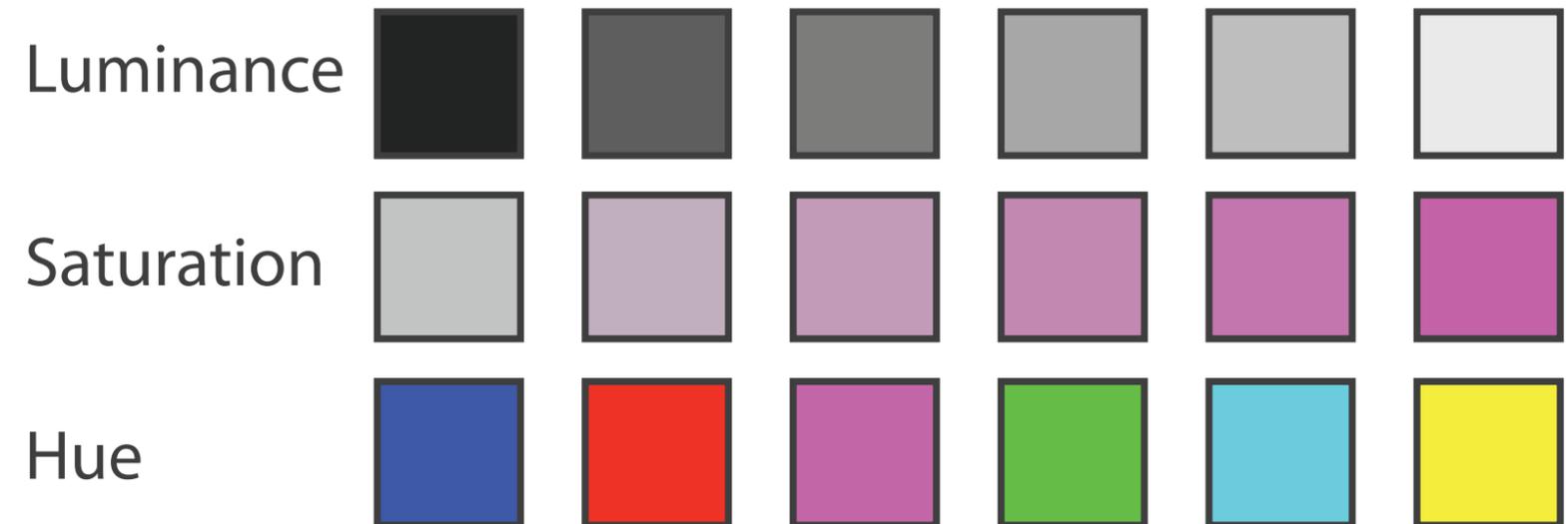
- ordered can show magnitude

- luminance: how bright

- saturation: how colorful

- categorical can show identity

- hue: what color

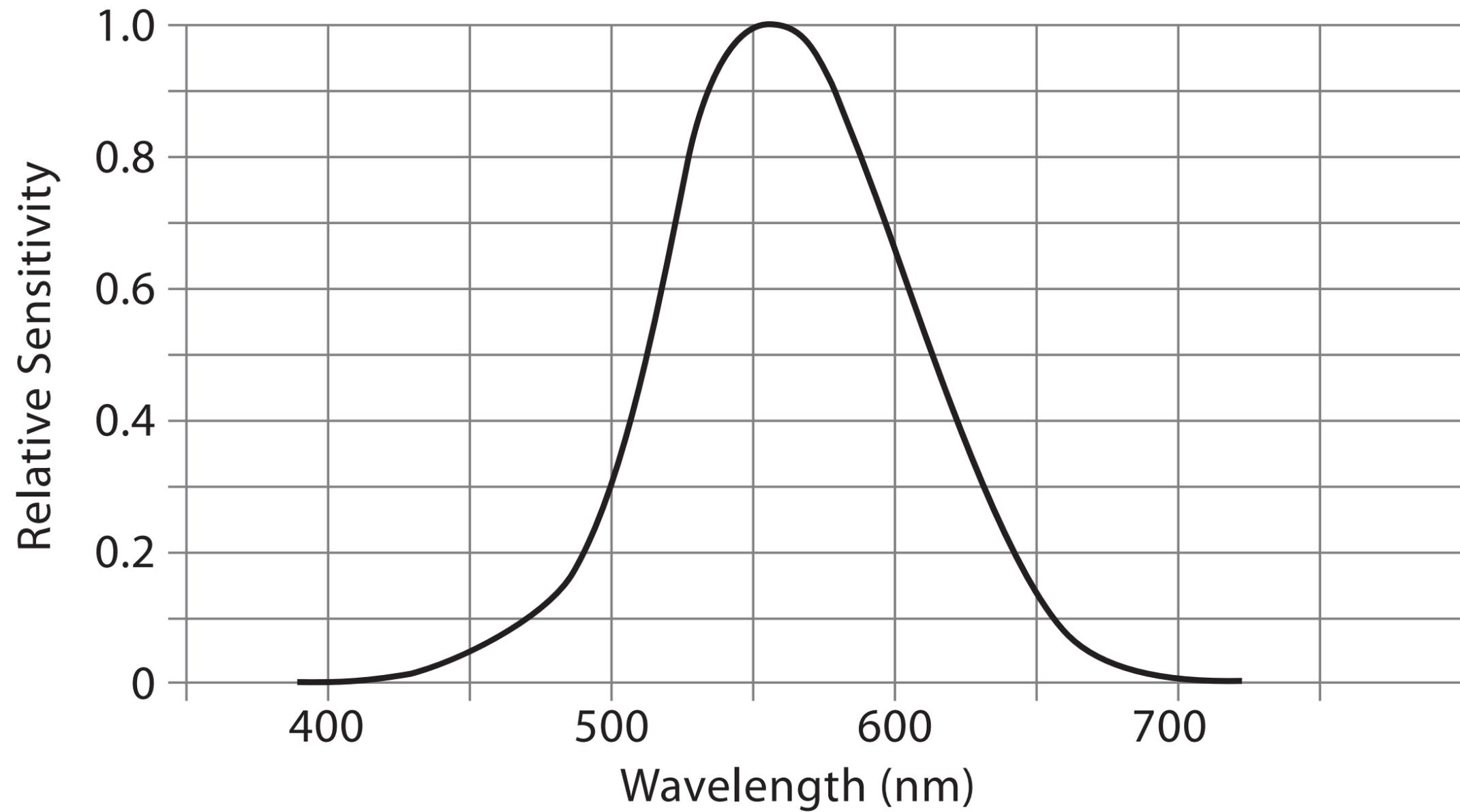


- channels have different properties

- what they convey directly to perceptual system

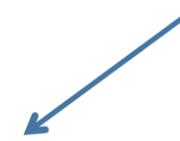
- how much they can convey: how many discriminable bins can we use?

# Spectral sensitivity



# Luminance

- need luminance for edge detection
  - fine-grained detail only visible through luminance contrast
  - legible text requires luminance contrast!
- intrinsic perceptual ordering



Luminance information



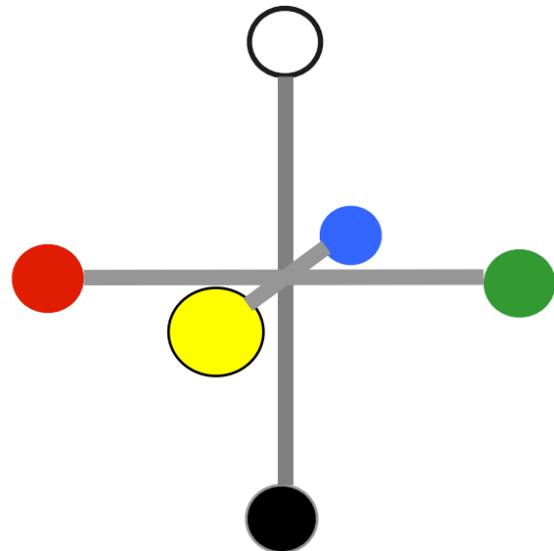
Chroma information



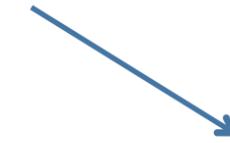
*[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices.  
Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]*

# Opponent color and color deficiency

- perceptual processing before optic nerve
  - one achromatic luminance channel ( $L^*$ )
    - edge detection through luminance contrast
  - 2 chroma channels
    - red-green ( $a^*$ ) & yellow-blue axis ( $b^*$ )
- “color blind”: one axis has degraded acuity
  - 8% of men are red/green color deficient
  - blue/yellow is rare



Luminance information



Chroma information

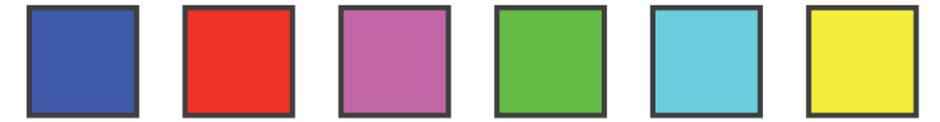


*[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices.  
Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]*

# Color spaces

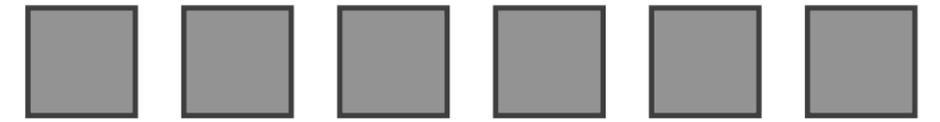
- CIE L\*a\*b\*: good for computation
  - L\* intuitive: perceptually linear luminance
  - a\*b\* axes: perceptually linear but nonintuitive
- RGB: good for display hardware
  - poor for encoding
- HSL/HSV: somewhat better for encoding
  - hue/saturation wheel intuitive
  - beware: only pseudo-perceptual!
  - lightness (L) or value (V)  $\neq$  luminance or L\*
- Luminance, hue, saturation
  - good for encoding
  - but not standard graphics/tools colorspace

Corners of the RGB color cube

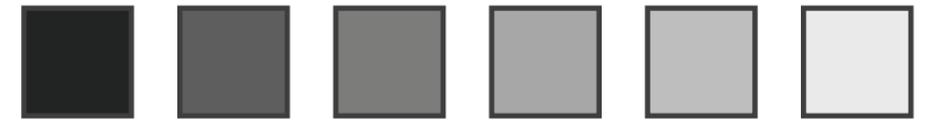


L from HLS

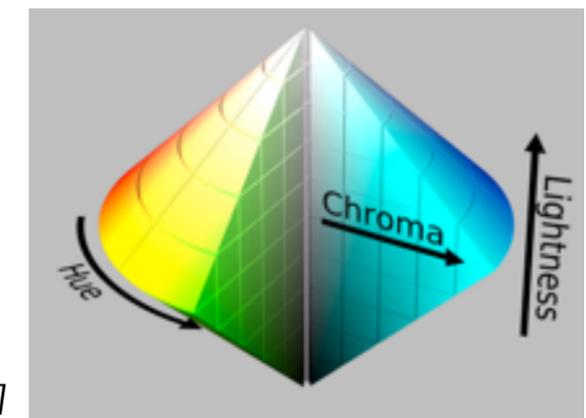
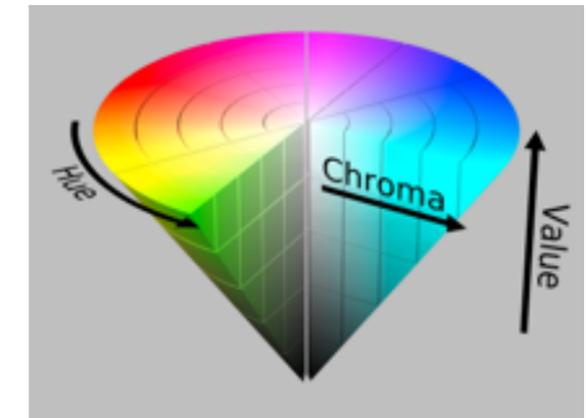
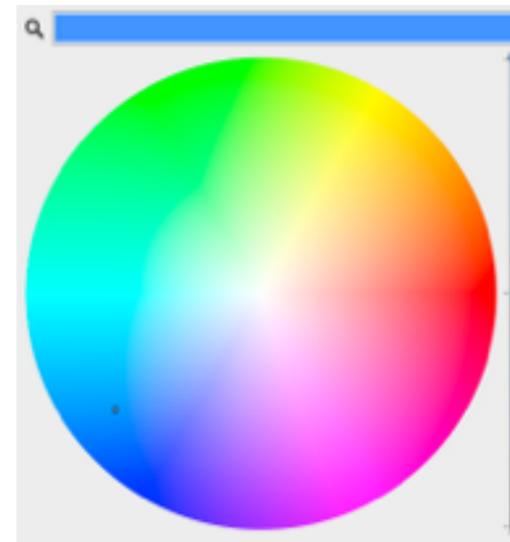
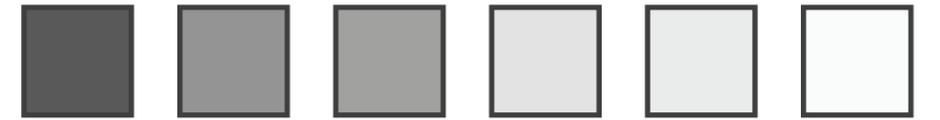
All the same



Luminance values



L\* values



# Designing for color deficiency: Check with simulator



**Normal vision**



**Deuteranope**

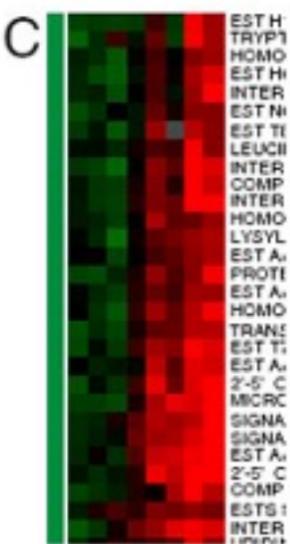


**Protanope**



**Tritanope**

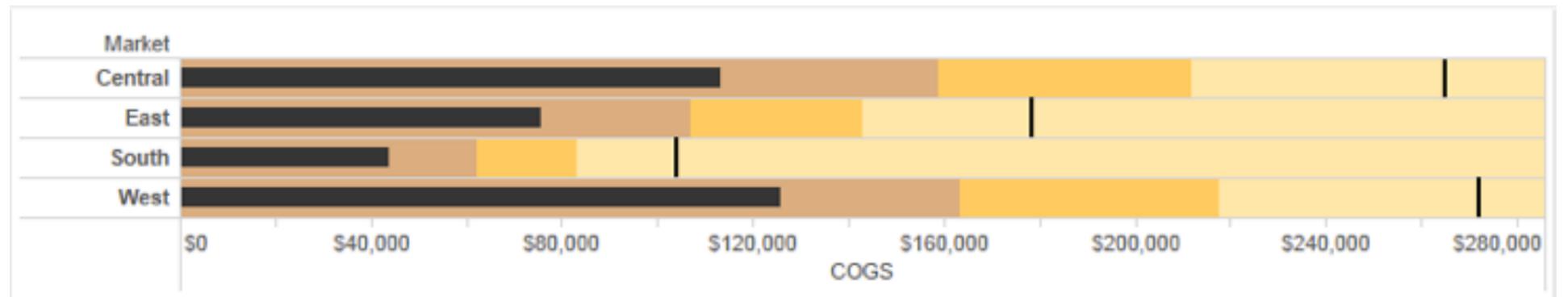
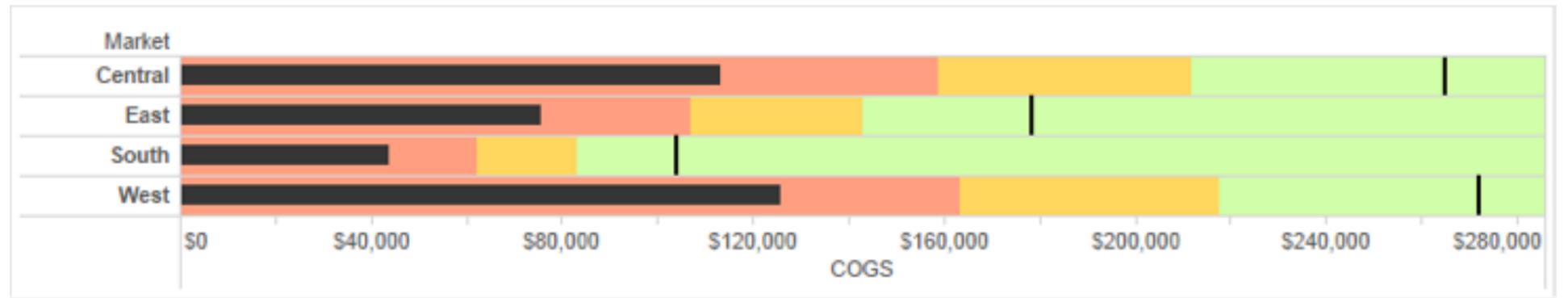
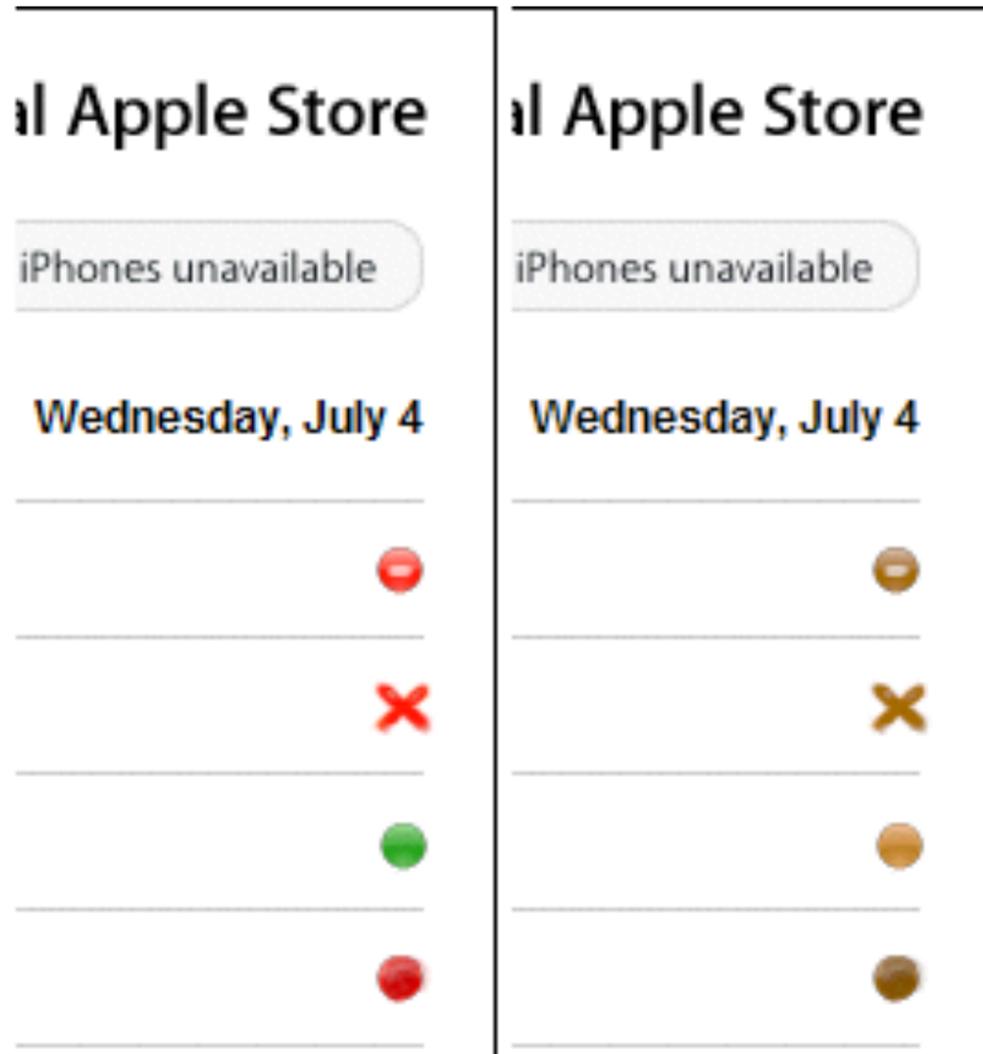
<http://rehue.net>



*[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]*

# Designing for color deficiency: Avoid encoding by hue alone

- redundantly encode
  - vary luminance
  - change shape

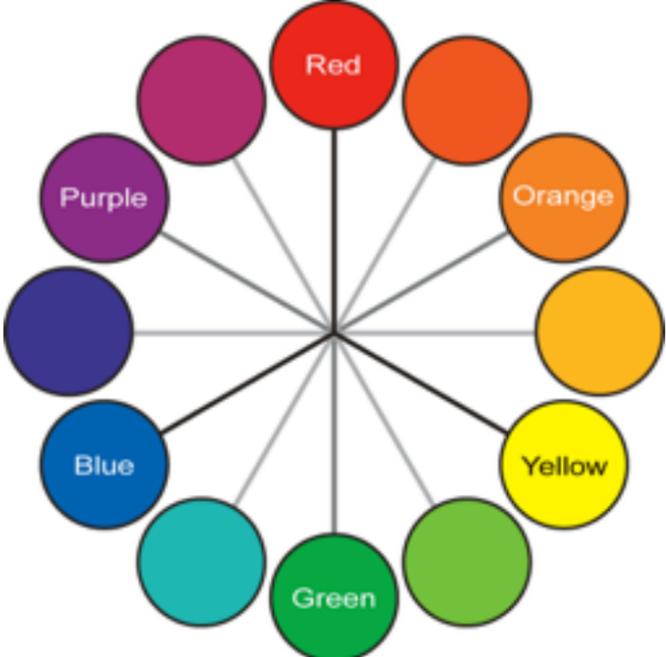


Deuteranope simulation

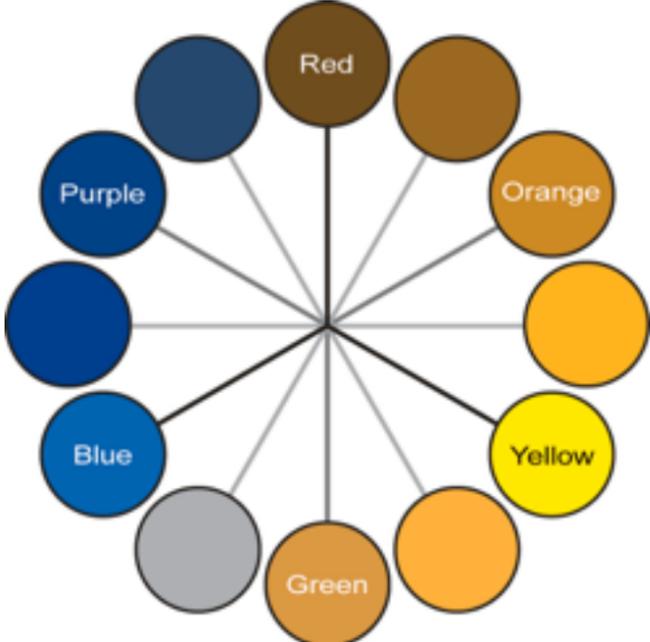
Change the shape

Vary luminance

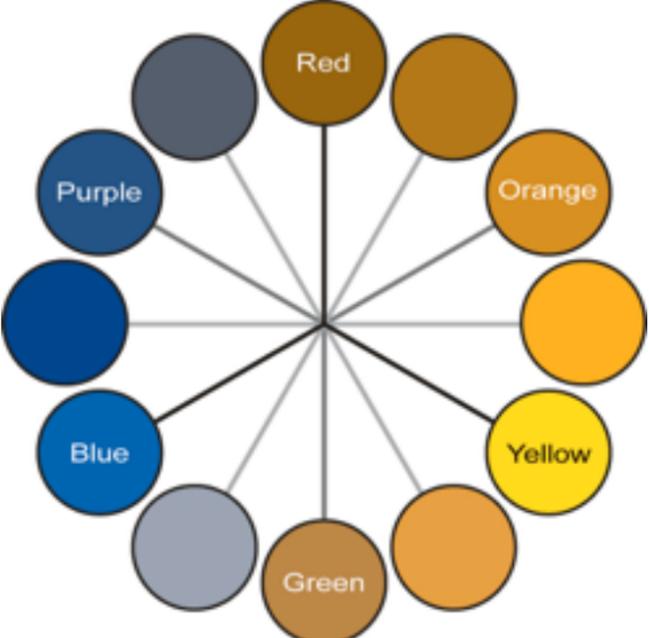
# Color deficiency: Reduces color to 2 dimensions



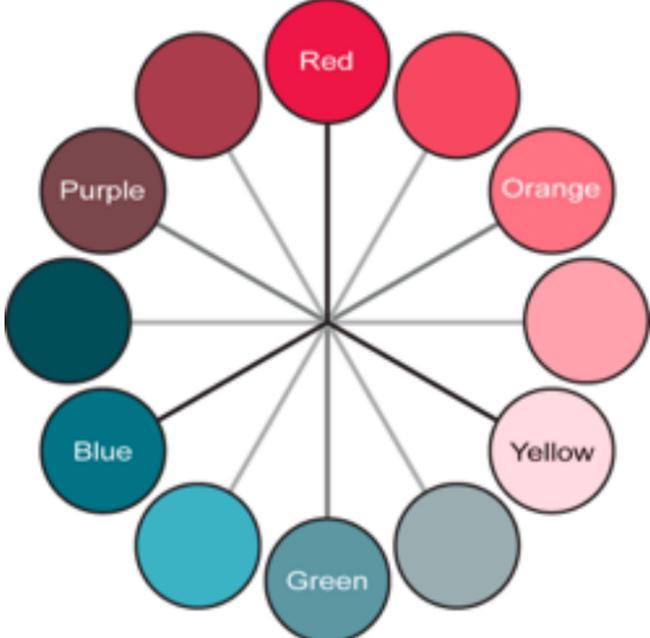
**Normal**



**Protanope**



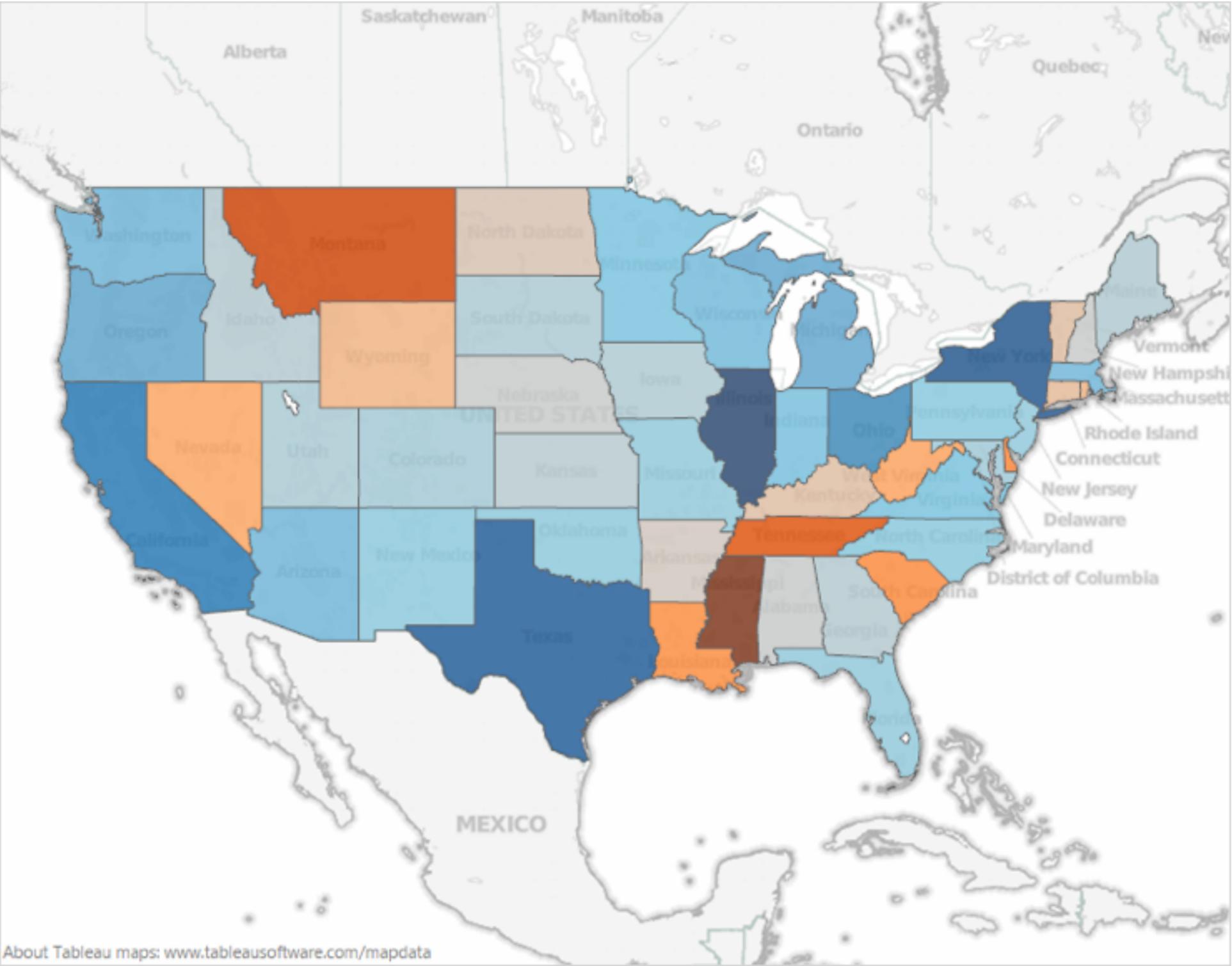
**Deuteranope**



**Tritanope**

*[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]*

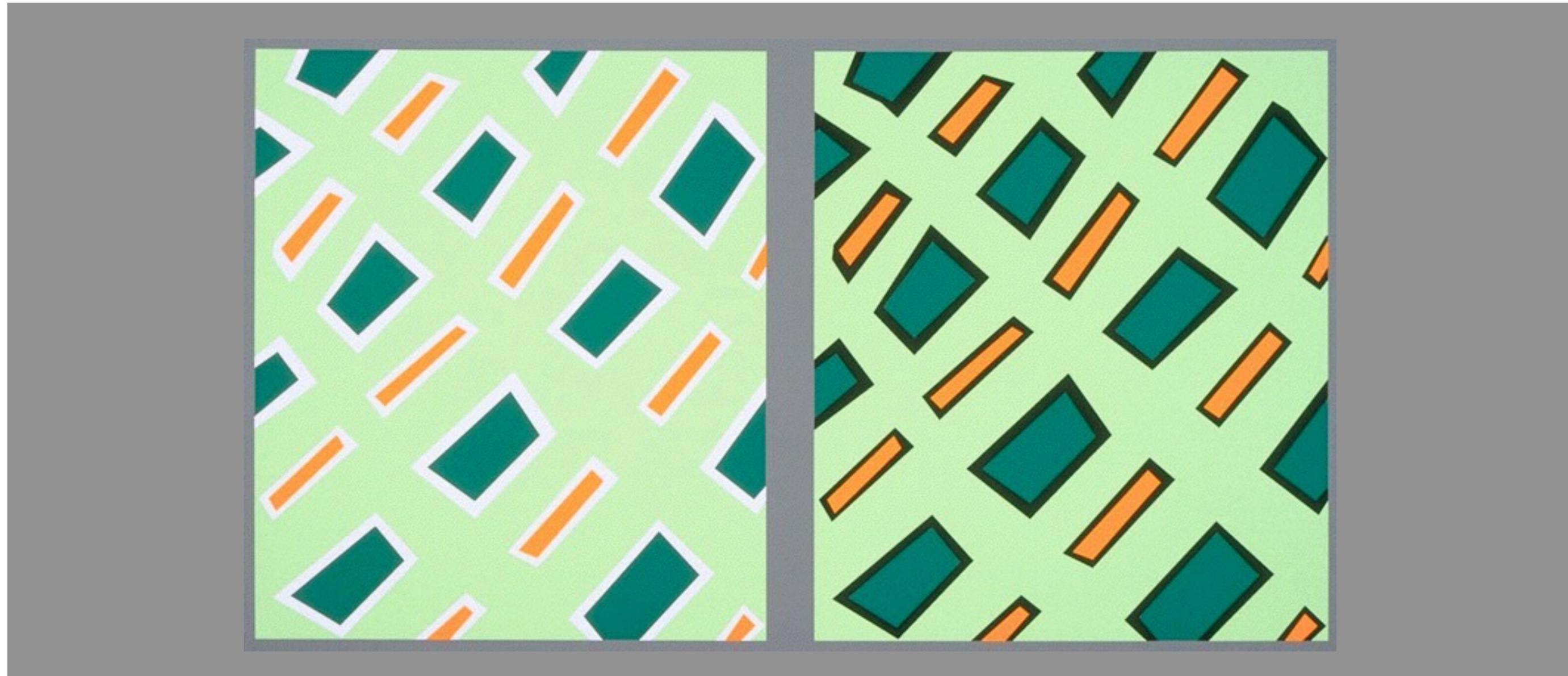
# Designing for color deficiency: Blue-Orange is safe



[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]

# Bezold Effect: Outlines matter

- color constancy: simultaneous contrast effect



*[Seriously Colorful: Advanced Color Principles & Practices. Stone.Tableau Customer Conference 2014.]*

# Color/Lightness constancy: Illumination conditions

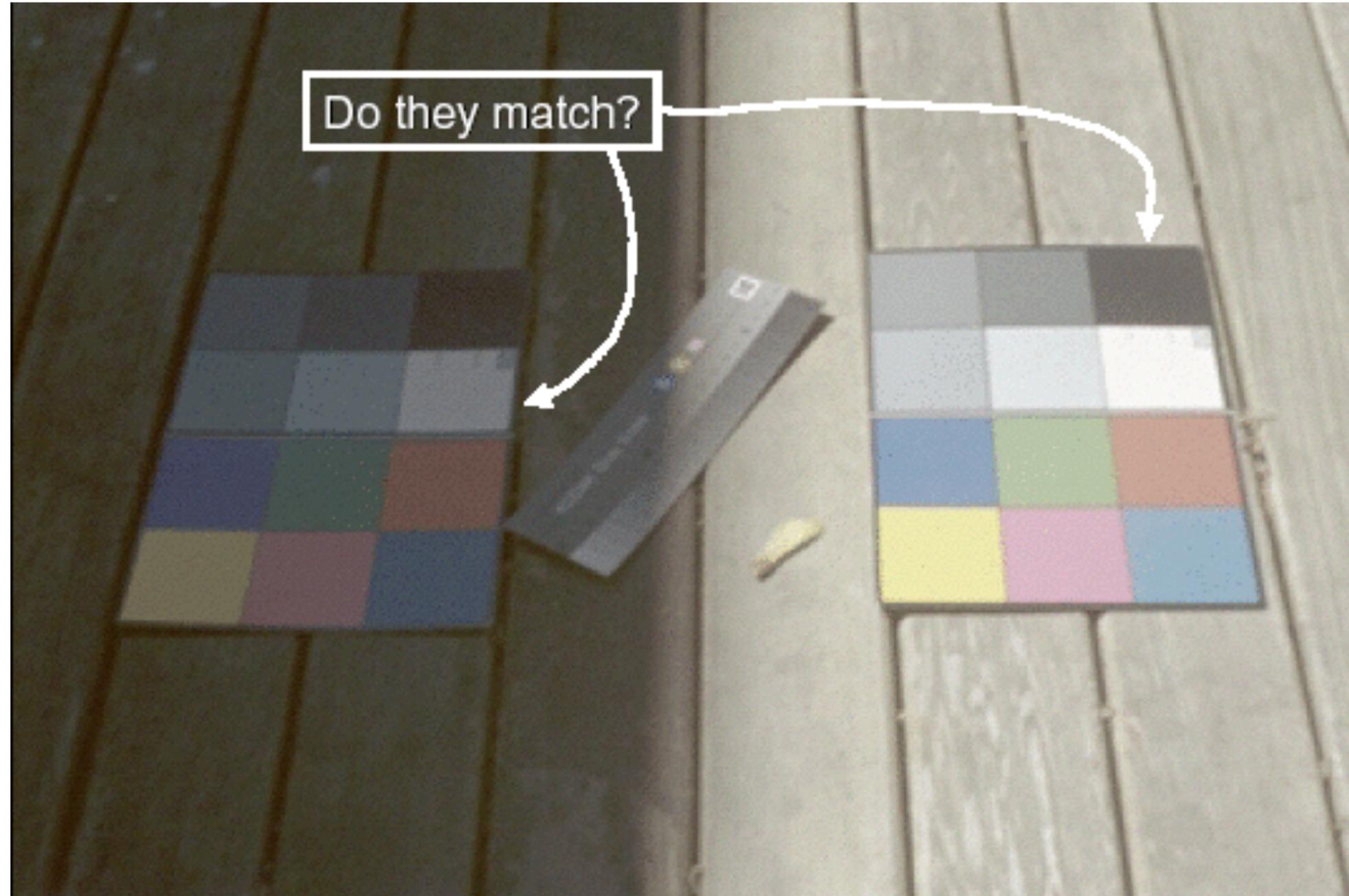


Image courtesy of John McCann

# Color/Lightness constancy: Illumination conditions

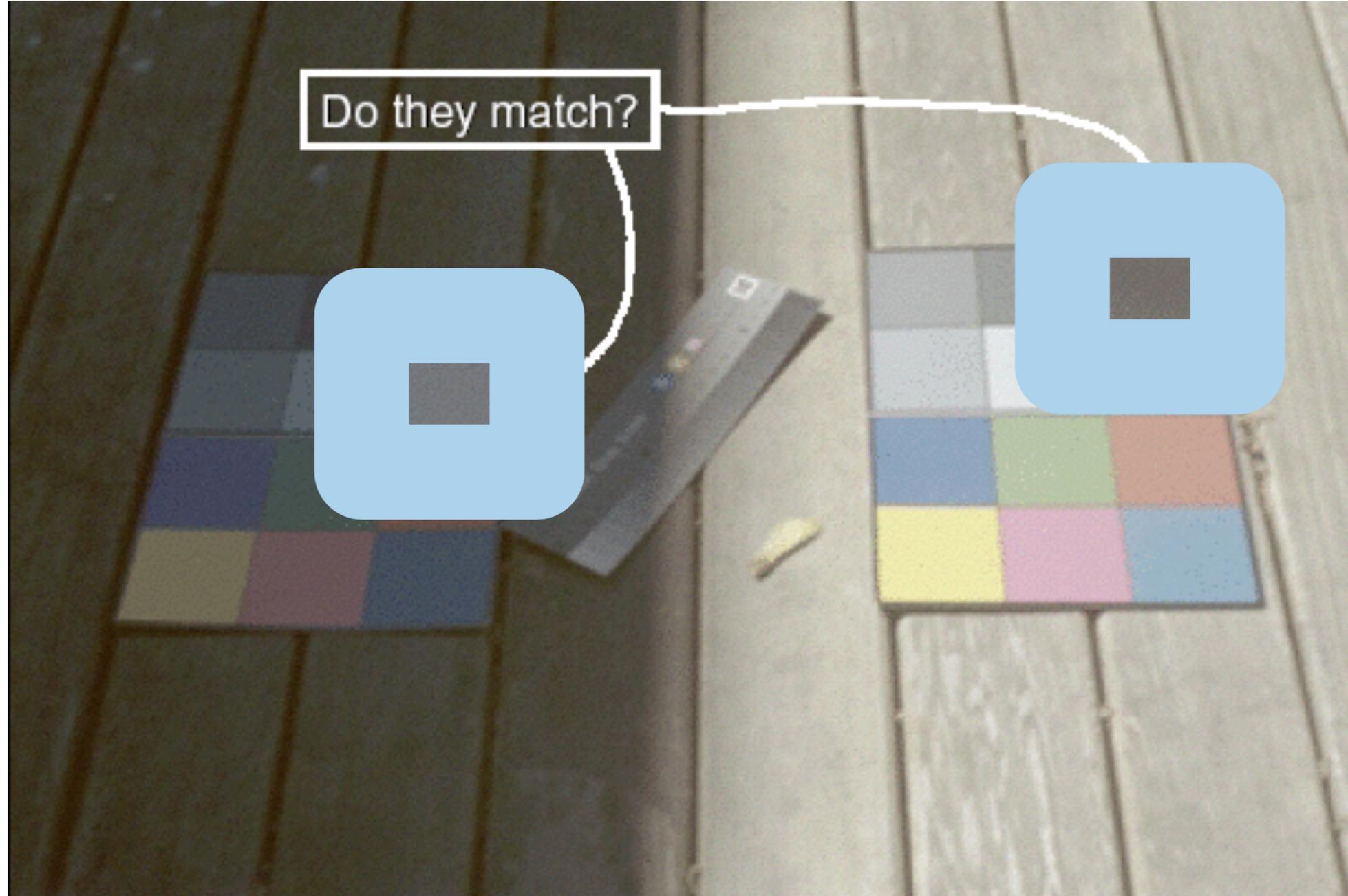
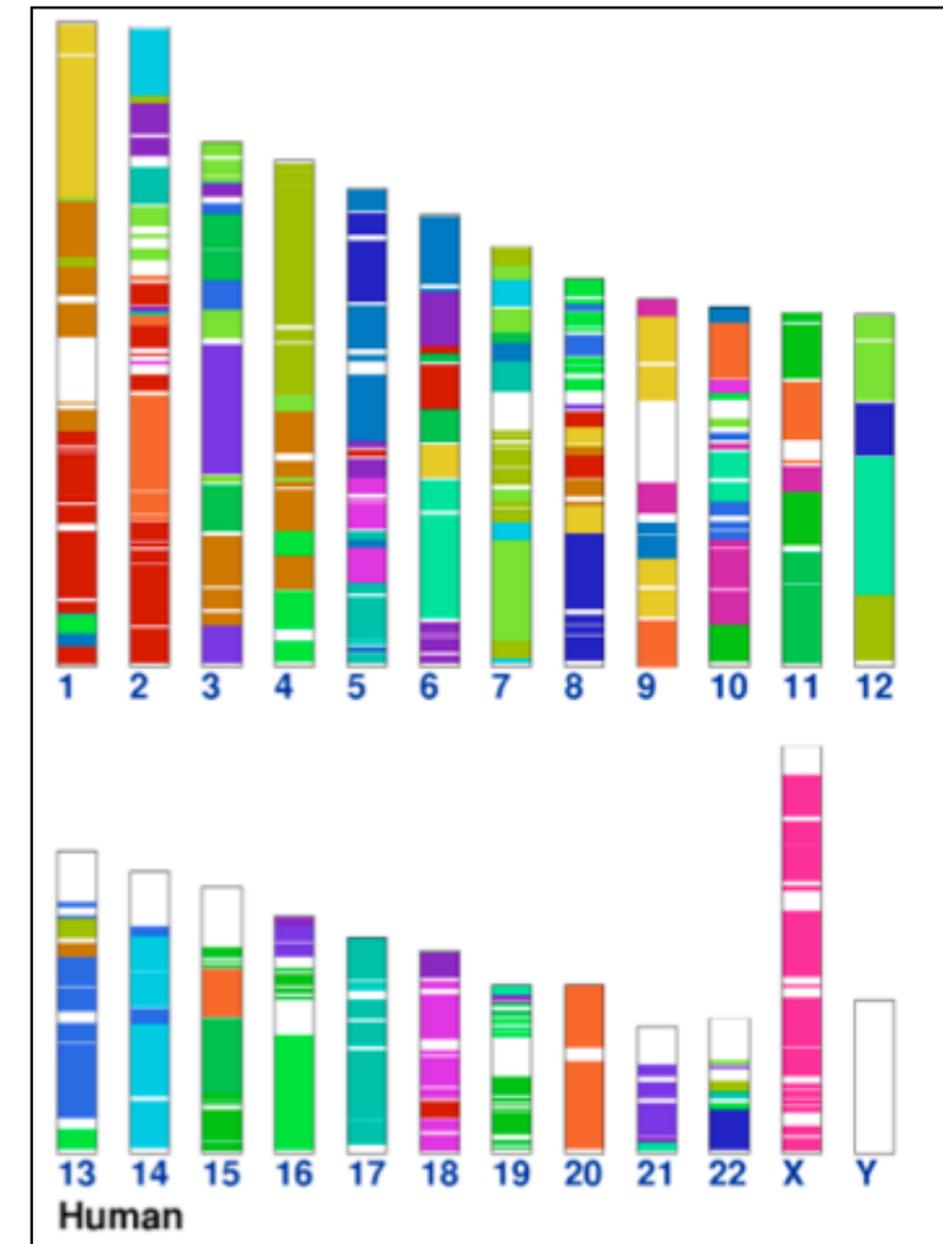
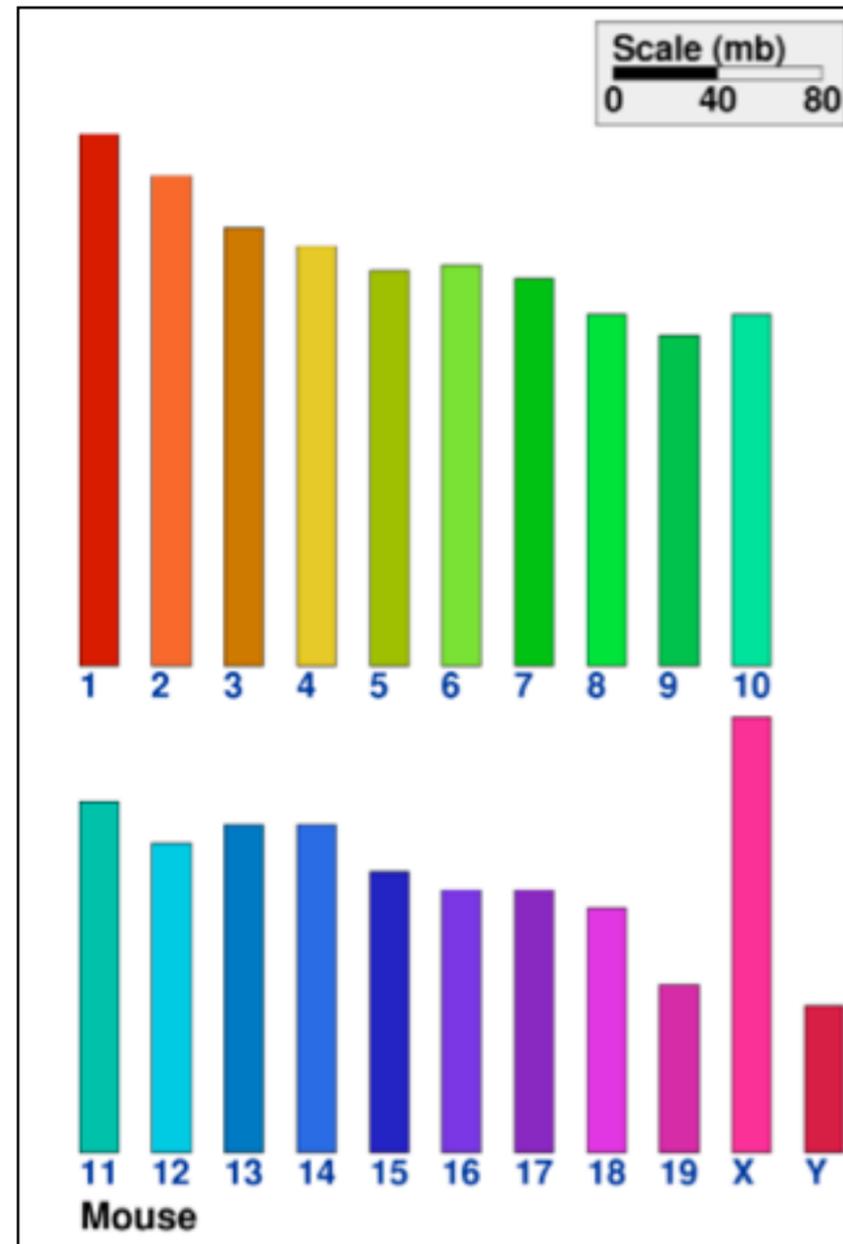


Image courtesy of John McCann

# Categorical color: limited number of discriminable bins

- human perception built on relative comparisons
  - great if color contiguous
  - surprisingly bad for absolute comparisons
- noncontiguous small regions of color
  - fewer bins than you want
  - rule of thumb: 6-12 bins, including background and highlights

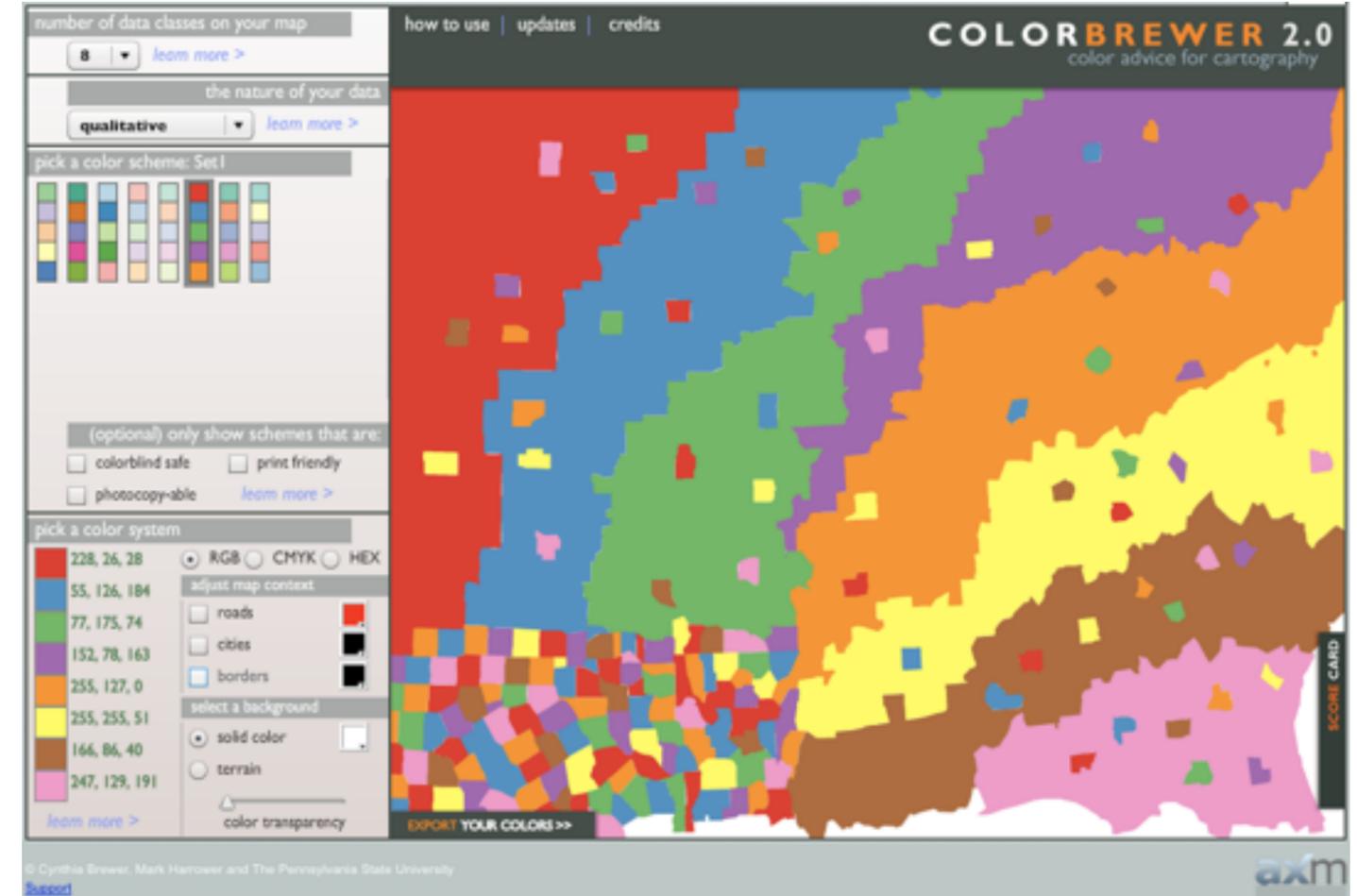
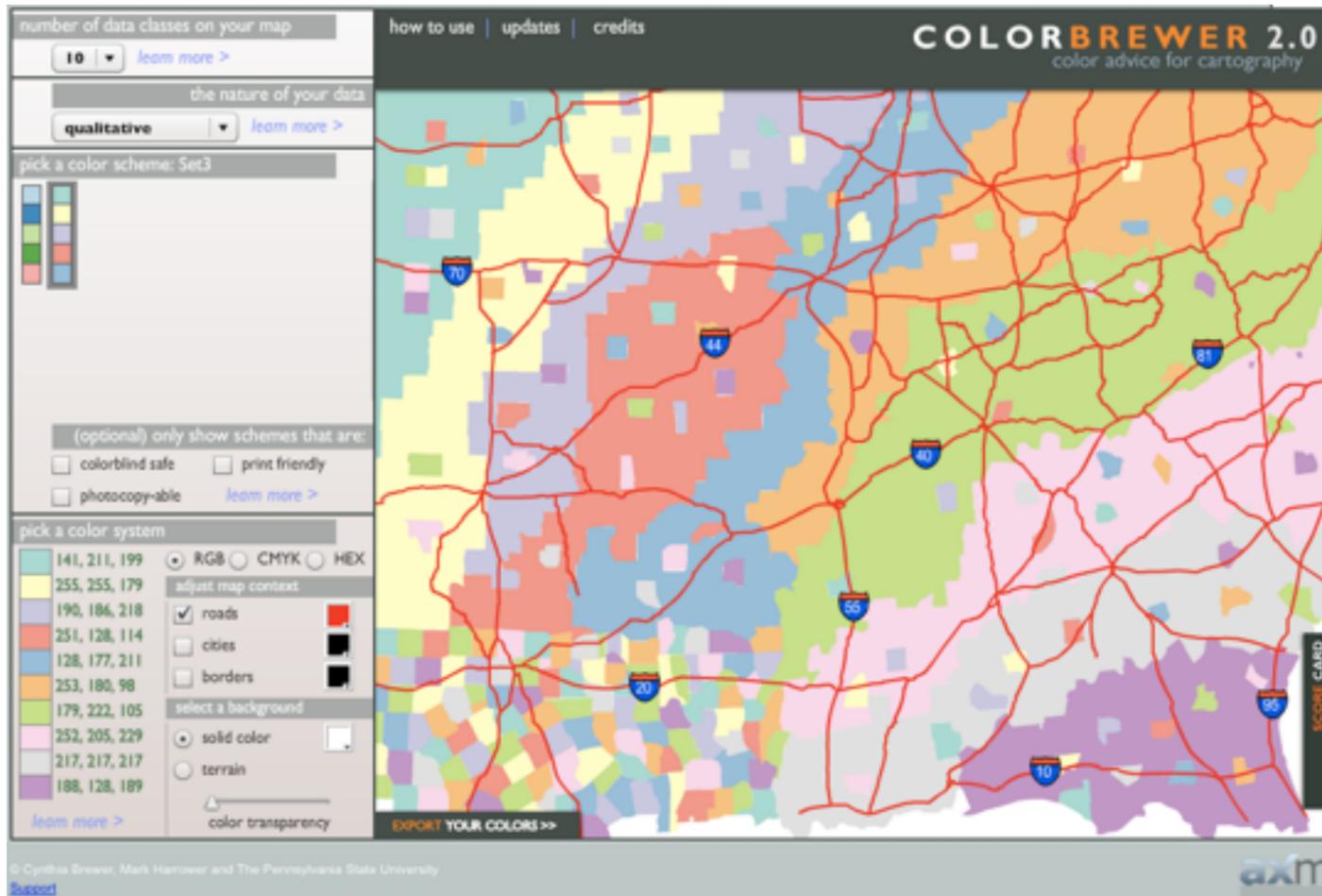


–alternatives? this afternoon!

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

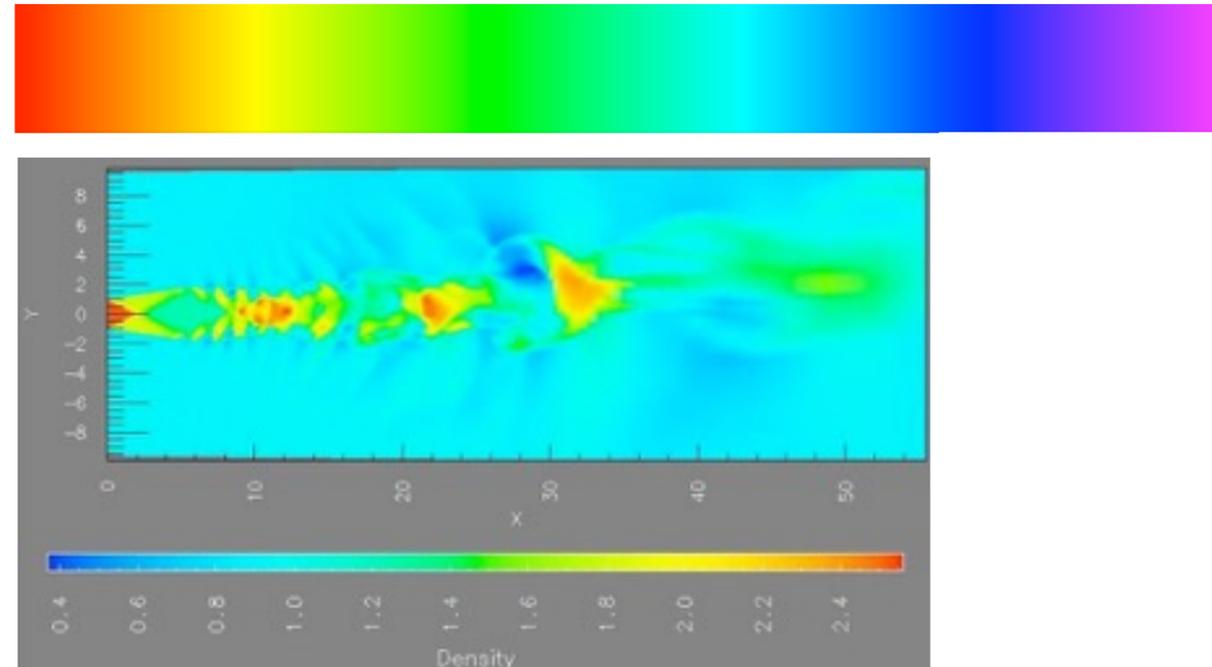
# ColorBrewer

- <http://www.colorbrewer2.org>
- saturation and area example: size affects salience!

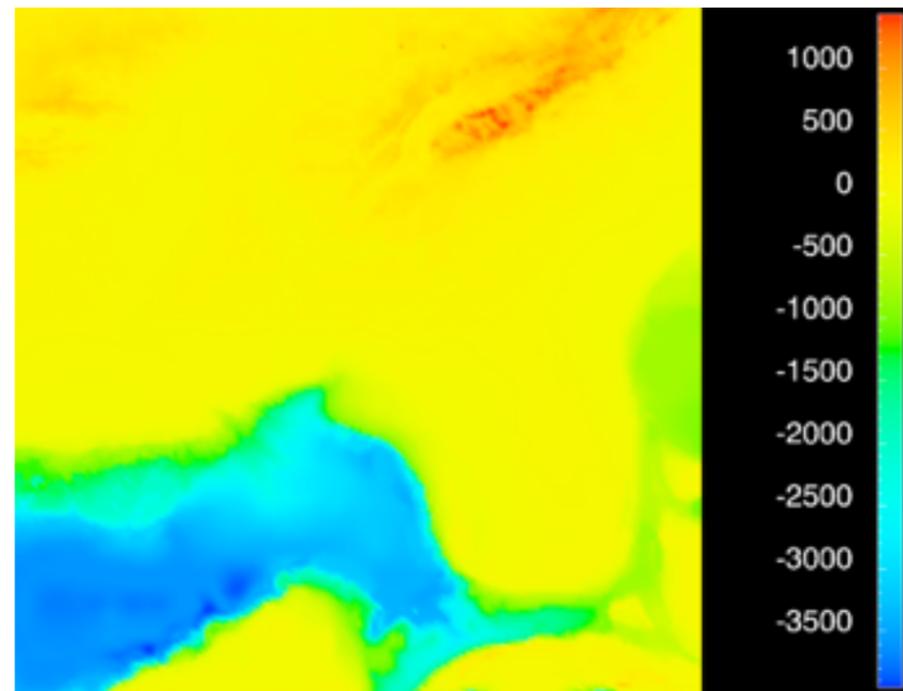


# Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable



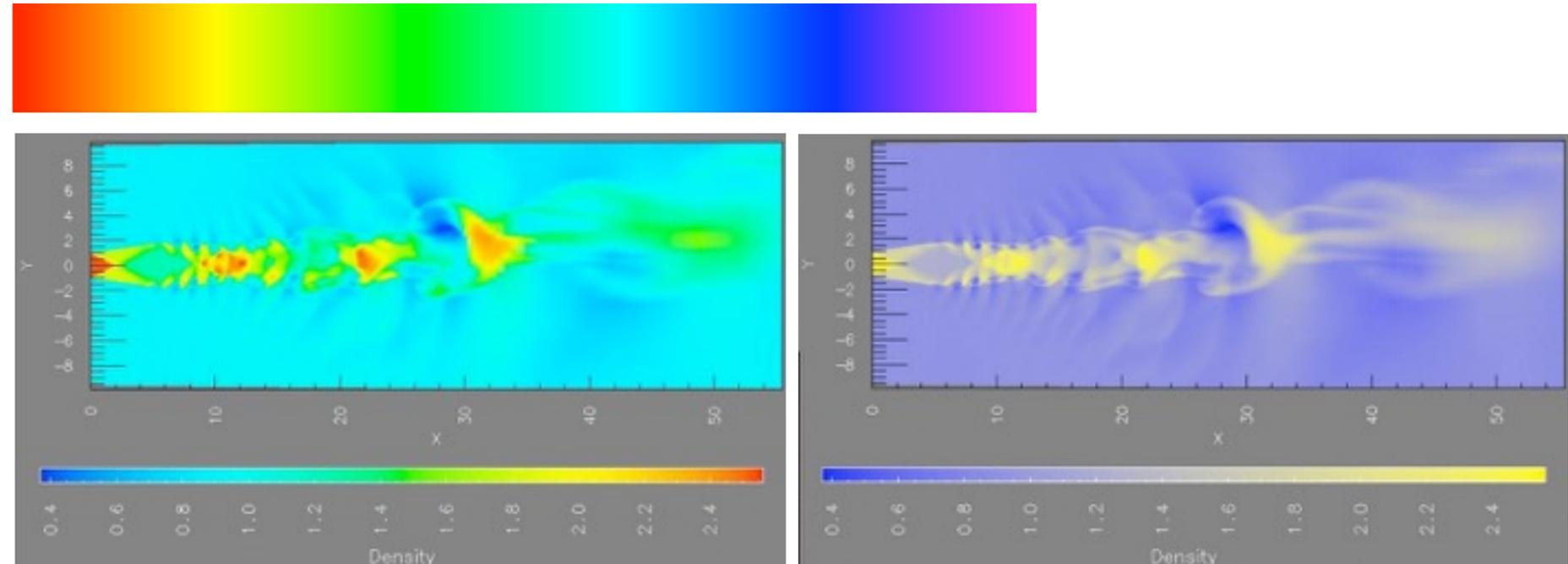
[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman, Rogowitz, and Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]



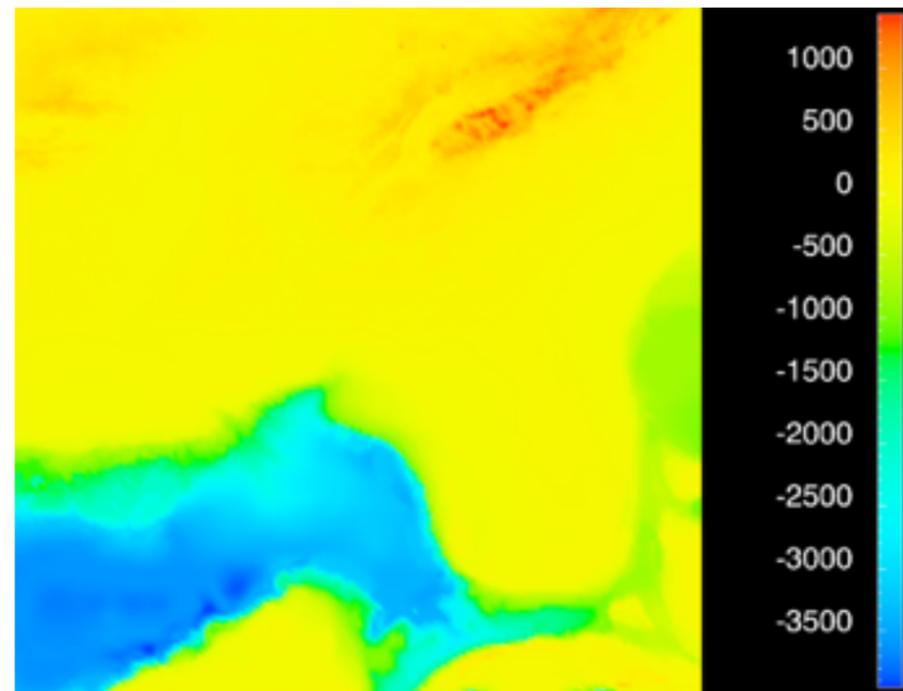
[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. <http://www.research.ibm.com/people/lloyd/color/color.HTM>]

# Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable
- alternatives
  - large-scale structure: fewer hues



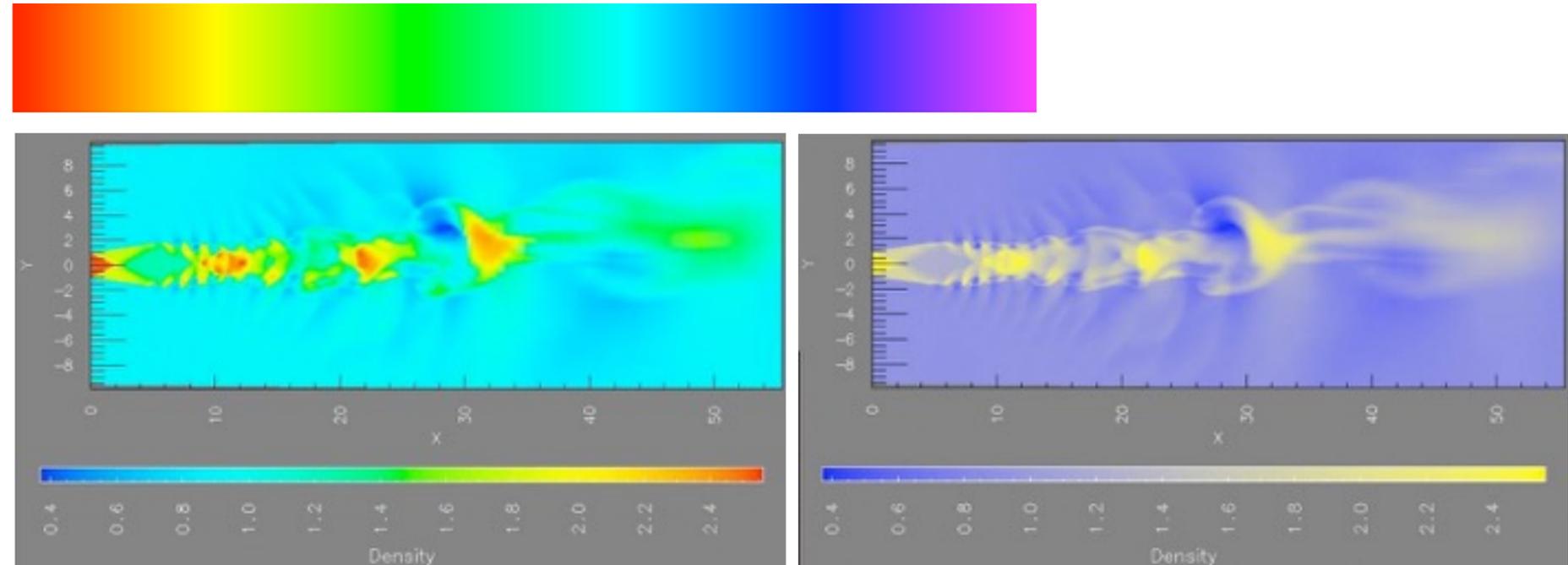
[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman, Rogowitz, and Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]



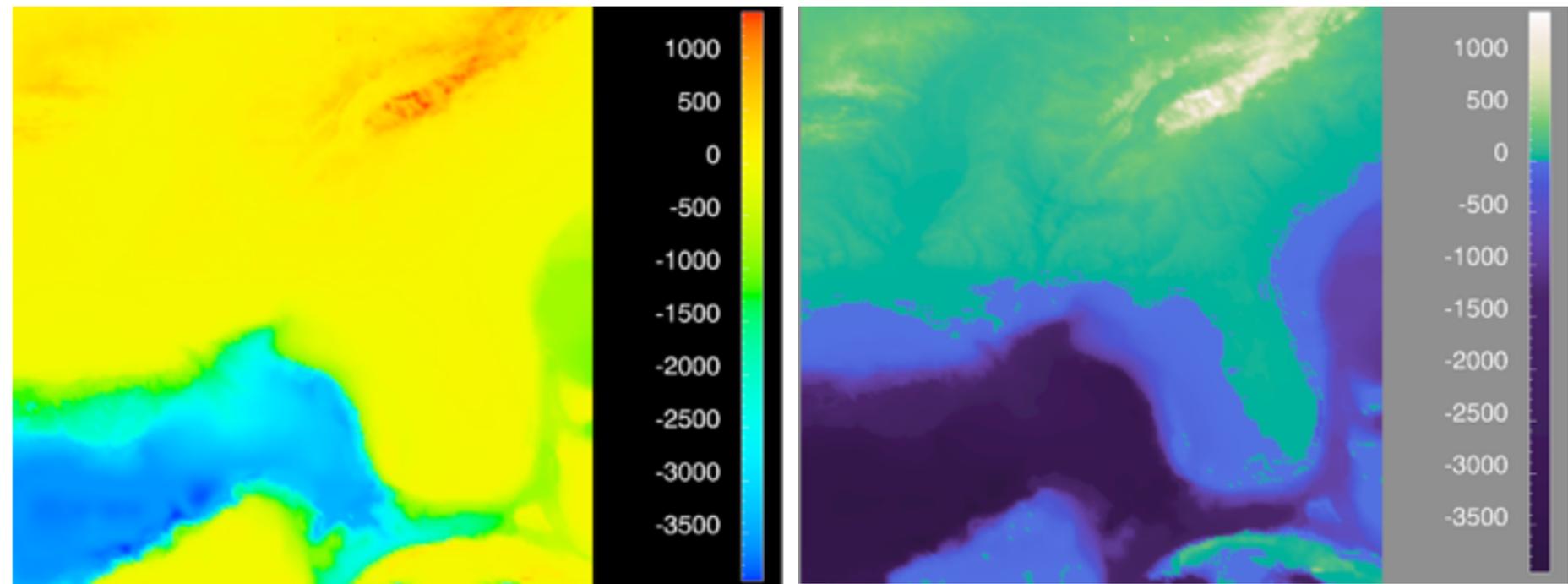
[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. <http://www.research.ibm.com/people/lloyd/color/color.HTM>]

# Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable
- alternatives
  - large-scale structure: fewer hues
  - fine structure: multiple hues with monotonically increasing luminance [eg viridis R/python]



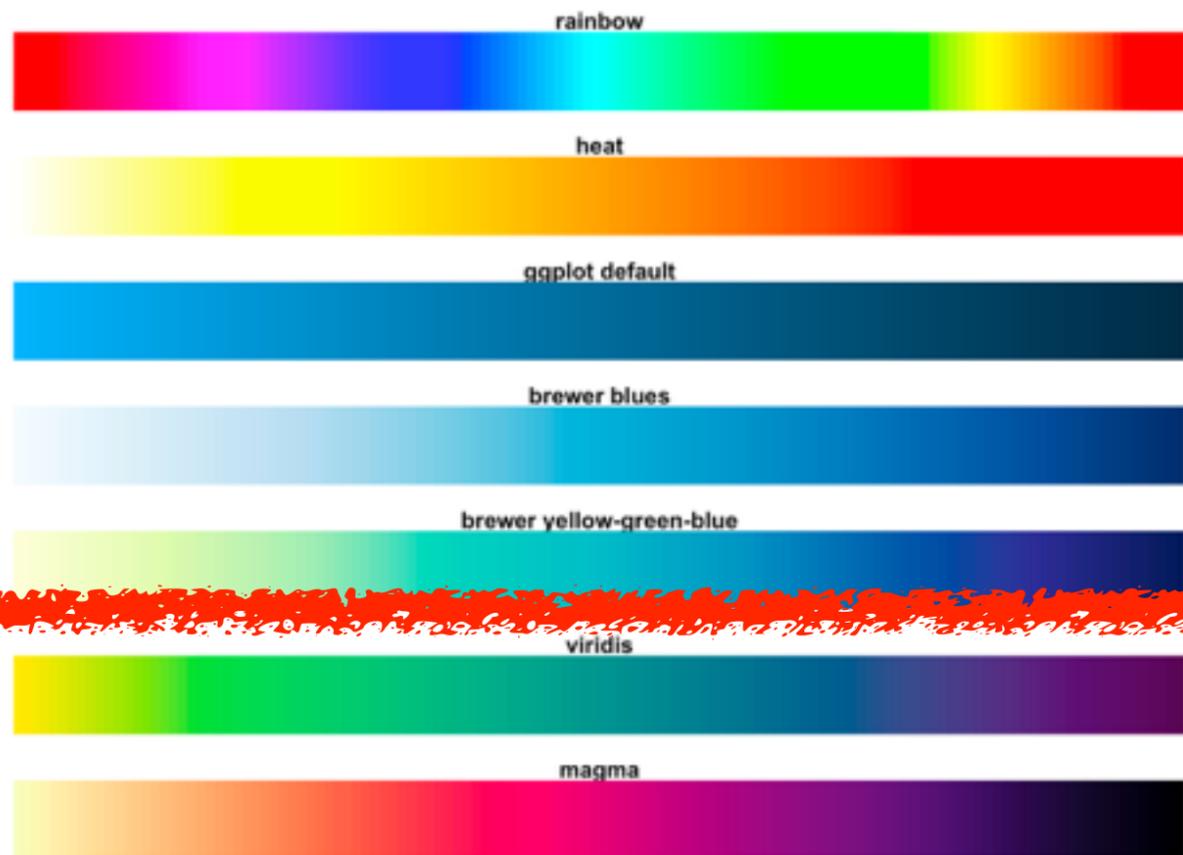
[A Rule-based Tool for Assisting Colormap Selection. Bergman, Rogowitz, and Treinish. Proc. IEEE Visualization (Vis), pp. 118–125, 1995.]



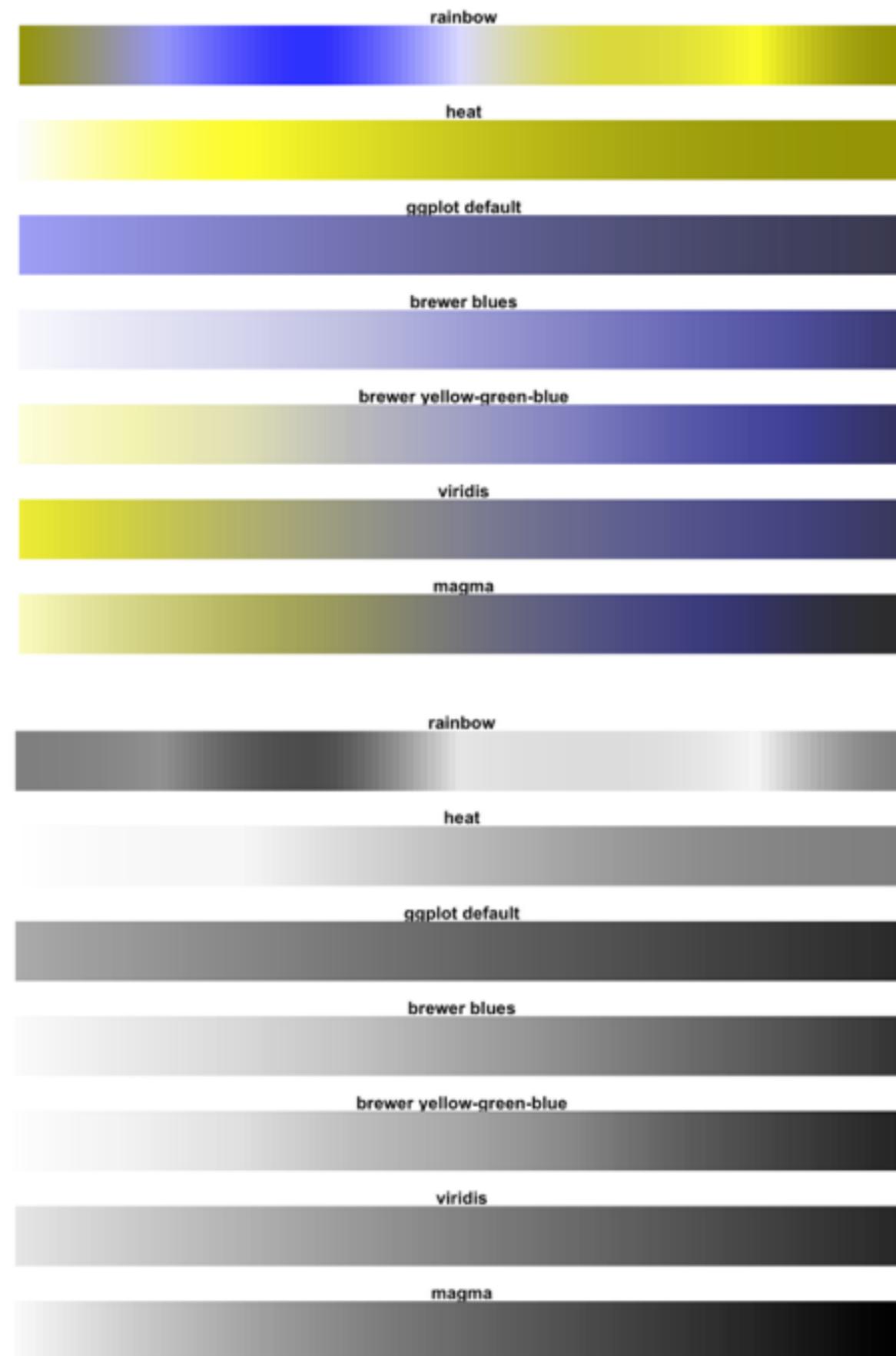
[Why Should Engineers Be Worried About Color? Treinish and Rogowitz 1998. <http://www.research.ibm.com/people/lloyd/color/color.HTM>]

# Viridis

- colorful, perceptually uniform, colorblind-safe, monotonically increasing luminance

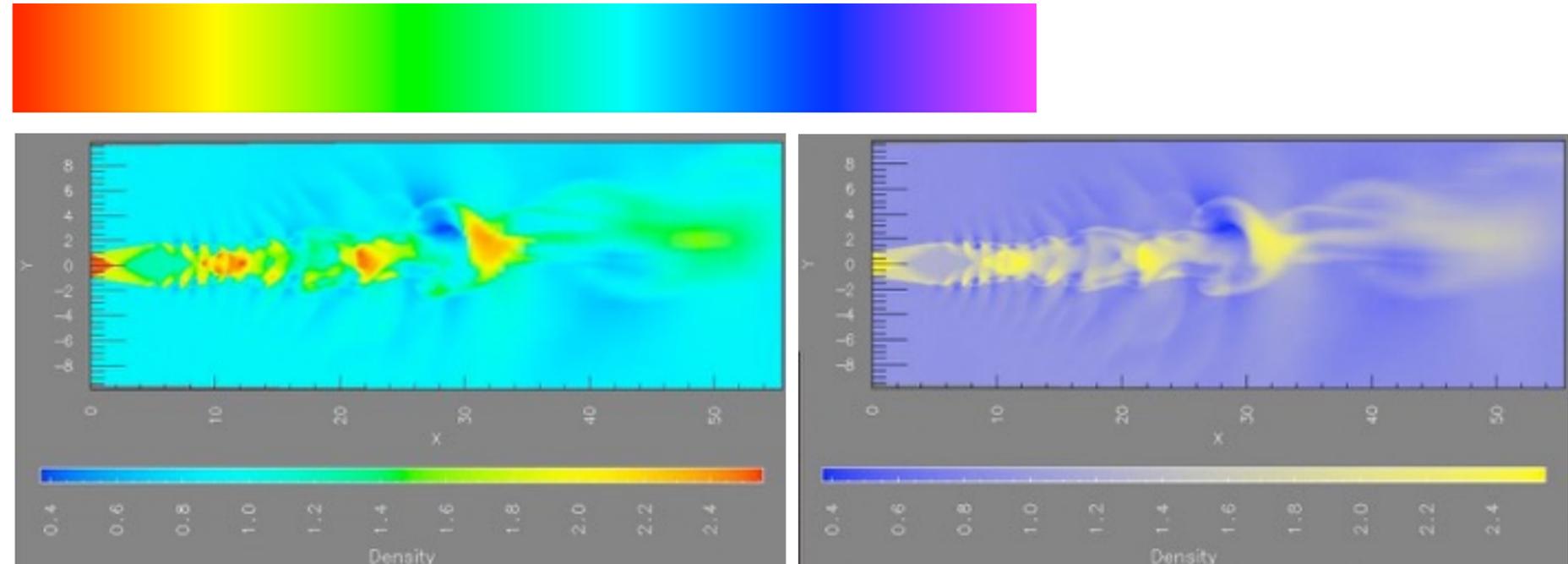


<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/viridis/vignettes/intro-to-viridis.html>

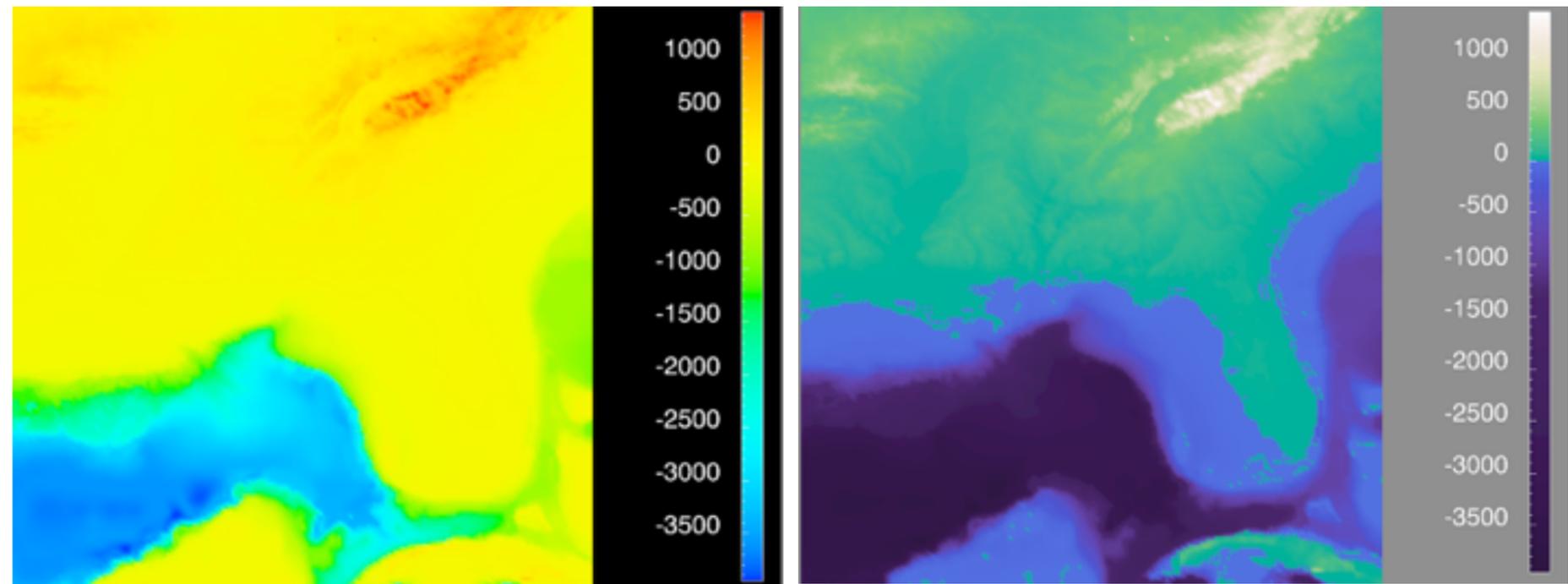


# Ordered color: Rainbow is poor default

- problems
  - perceptually unordered
  - perceptually nonlinear
- benefits
  - fine-grained structure visible and nameable
- alternatives
  - large-scale structure: fewer hues
  - fine structure: multiple hues with monotonically increasing luminance [eg viridis R/python]
  - segmented rainbows for binned or categorical



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



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



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

# Colormaps

→ Categorical



→ Ordered

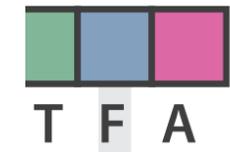
→ *Sequential*



→ *Diverging*

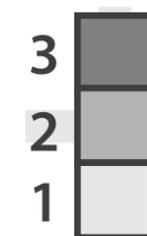
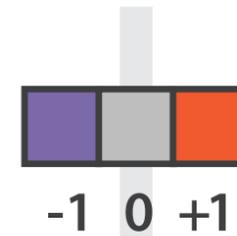


**Binary**



**Categorical**

**Diverging**



**Sequential**

after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994.  
<http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/c/a/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html>]

# Colormaps

→ Categorical

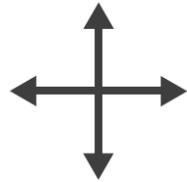


→ Ordered

→ *Sequential*



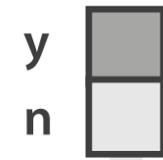
→ Bivariate



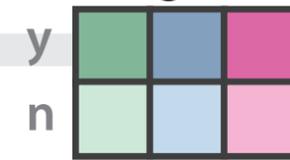
→ *Diverging*



**Binary**

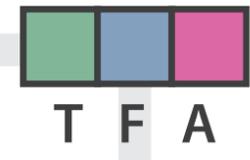


*Categorical*

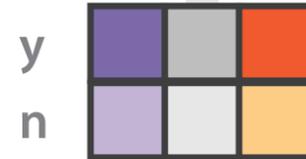


*Binary*

**Categorical**

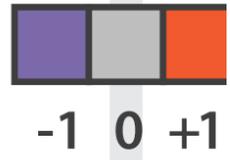


*Diverging*

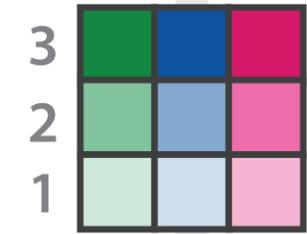


*Binary*

**Diverging**

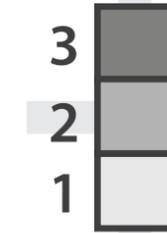


*Categorical*



*Sequential*

**Sequential**



after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994. <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/c/a/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html>]

# Colormaps

→ Categorical



→ Ordered

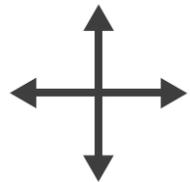
→ Sequential



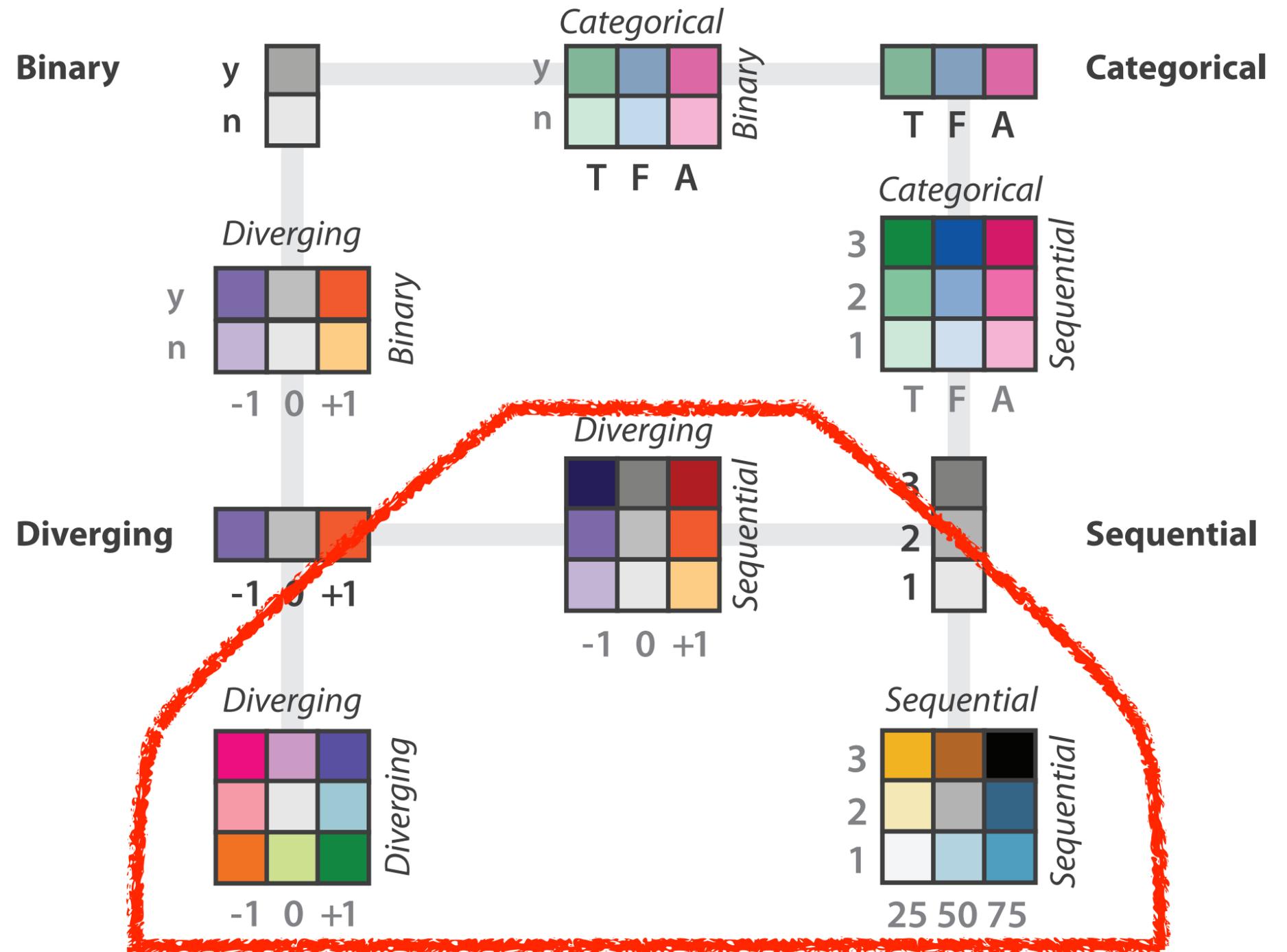
→ Diverging



→ Bivariate



use with care!



after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994. <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/cl/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html>]

# Colormaps

→ Categorical



→ Ordered

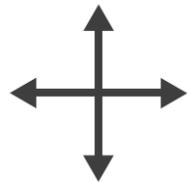
→ Sequential



→ Diverging



→ Bivariate



- color channel interactions

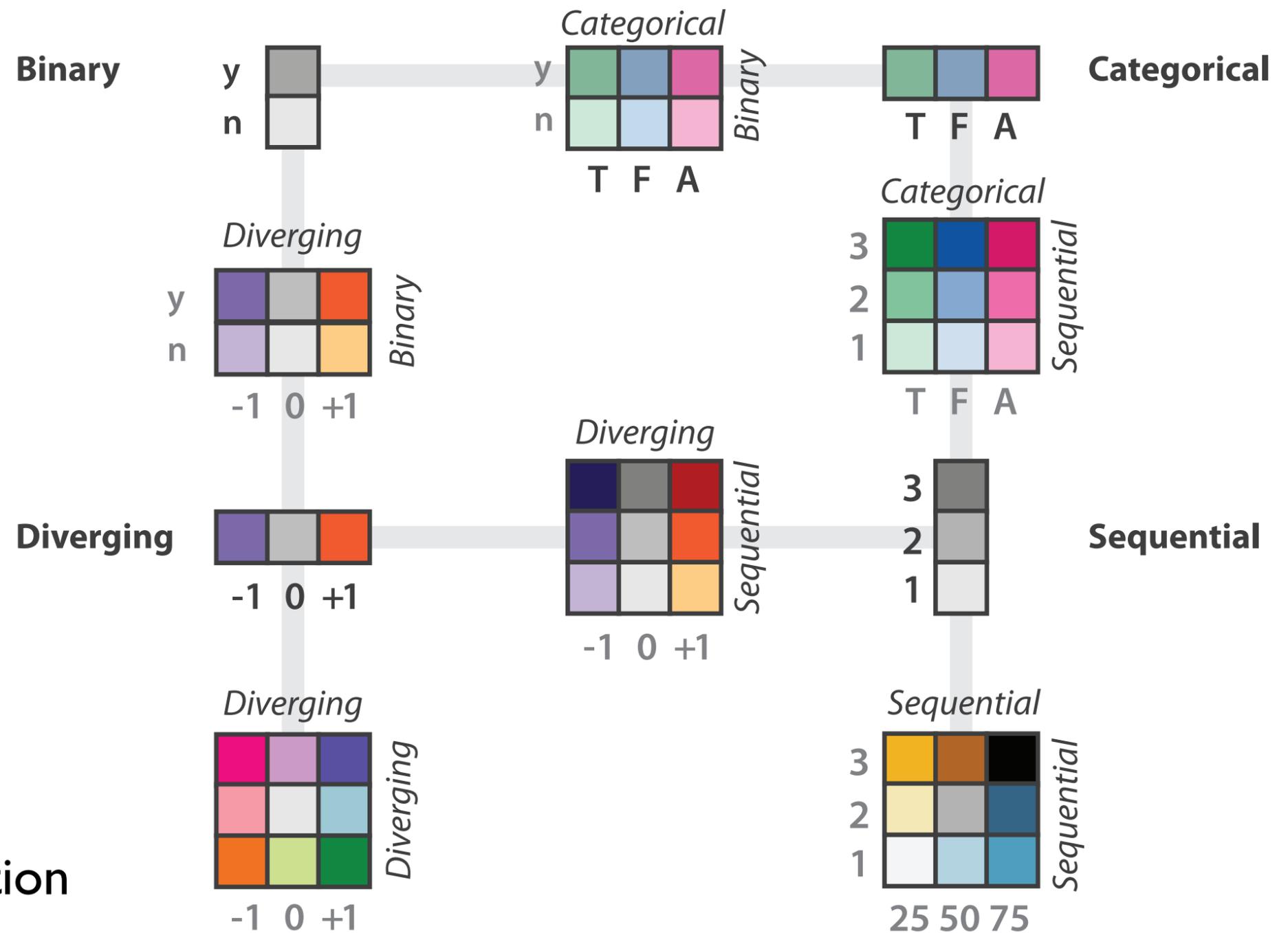
- size heavily affects salience

- small regions need high saturation

- large need low saturation

- saturation & luminance: 3-4 bins max

- also not separable from transparency



after [Color Use Guidelines for Mapping and Visualization. Brewer, 1994. <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/cl/cab38/ColorSch/Schemes.html>]

# Map other channels

- size
  - length accurate, 2D area ok, 3D volume poor
- angle
  - nonlinear accuracy
    - horizontal, vertical, exact diagonal
- shape
  - complex combination of lower-level primitives
  - many bins
- motion
  - highly separable against static
    - binary: great for highlighting
  - use with care to avoid irritation

## ➔ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...

➔ Length



➔ Angle



➔ Area



➔ Curvature



➔ Volume



## ➔ Shape



## ➔ Motion

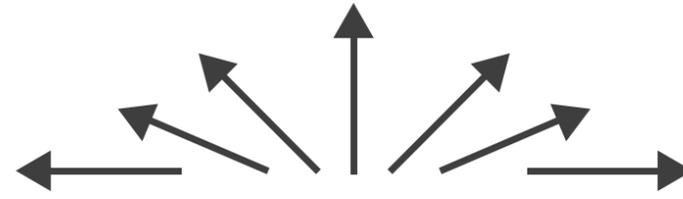
➔ Motion  
*Direction, Rate,  
Frequency, ...*



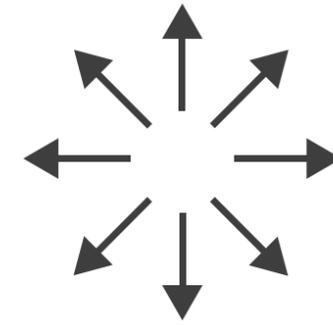
# Angle



Sequential ordered  
line mark or arrow glyph



Diverging ordered  
arrow glyph



Cyclic ordered  
arrow glyph

# Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014
  - Chap 10: Map Color and Other Channels*
- ColorBrewer, Brewer.
  - <http://www.colorbrewer2.org>
- *Color In Information Display*. Stone. IEEE Vis Course Notes, 2006.
  - <http://www.stonesc.com/Vis06>
- A Field Guide to Digital Color. Stone. AK Peters, 2003.
- *Rainbow Color Map (Still) Considered Harmful*. Borland and Taylor. IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications 27:2 (2007), 14–17.
- Visual Thinking for Design. Ware. Morgan Kaufmann, 2008.
- Information Visualization: Perception for Design, 3rd edition. Ware. Morgan Kaufmann / Academic Press, 2004.
- <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/viridis/vignettes/intro-to-viridis.html>

# Outline

- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - Arrange Tables
  - Arrange Spatial Data
  - Arrange Networks and Trees
- **Session 3 2:00-3:40pm**  
**Color & Interaction**
  - Map Color
  - **Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate**
  - Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# How?

## Encode

### → Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



### → Map

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

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...

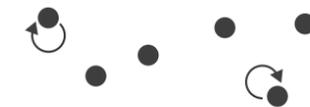


→ Shape



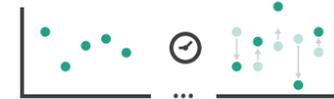
→ Motion

*Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...*



## Manipulate

### → Change



### → Select



### → Navigate



## Facet

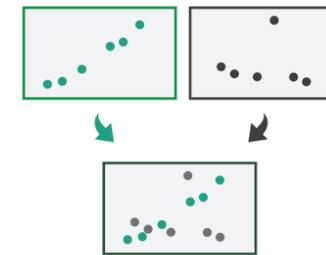
### → Juxtapose



### → Partition

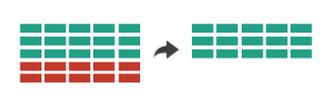


### → Superimpose

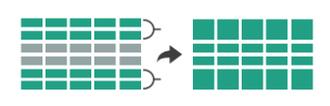


## Reduce

### → Filter



### → Aggregate



### → Embed



What?

Why?

How?

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

→ *Derive*



Manipulate

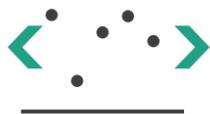
→ Change



→ Select

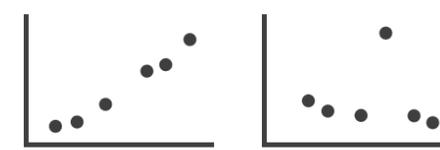


→ Navigate

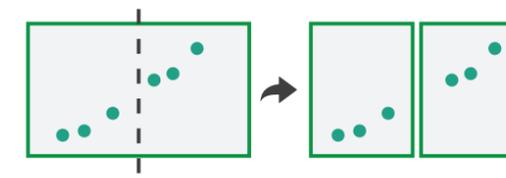


Facet

→ Juxtapose



→ Partition

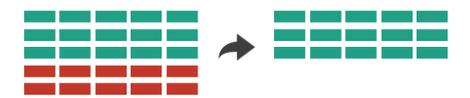


→ Superimpose

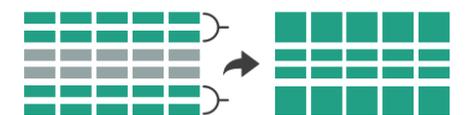


Reduce

→ Filter



→ Aggregate



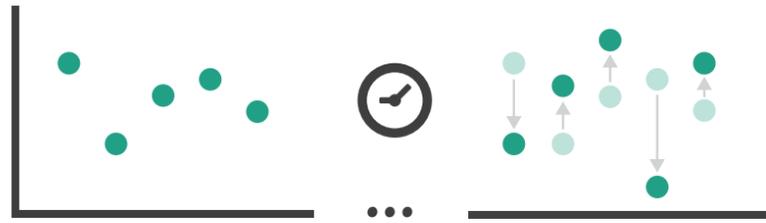
→ Embed



- derive new data to show within view
- change view over time
- facet across multiple views
- reduce items/attributes within single view

# Manipulate

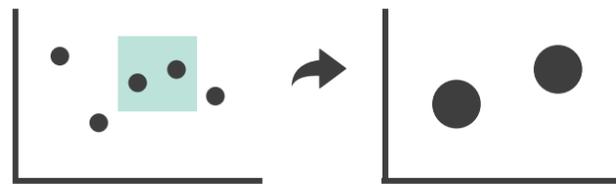
## → Change over Time



## → Navigate

### → Item Reduction

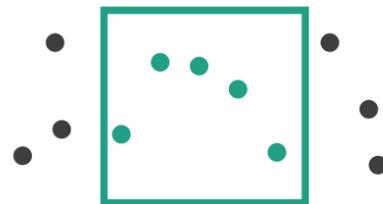
→ Zoom  
*Geometric* or *Semantic*



### → Pan/Translate

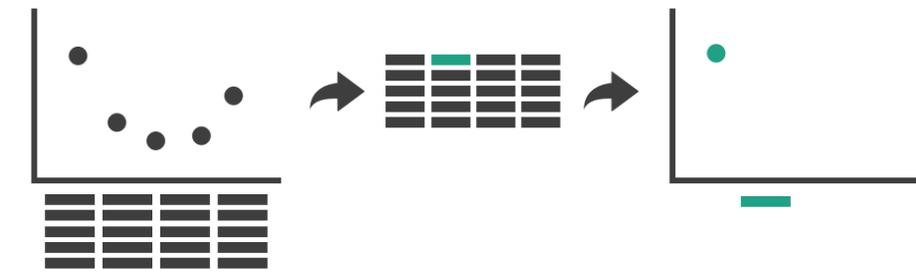


### → Constrained

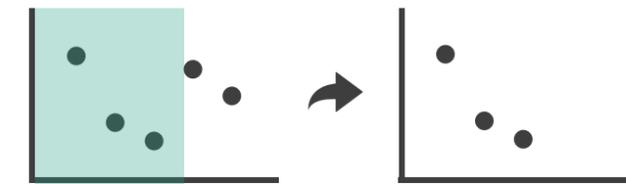


### → Attribute Reduction

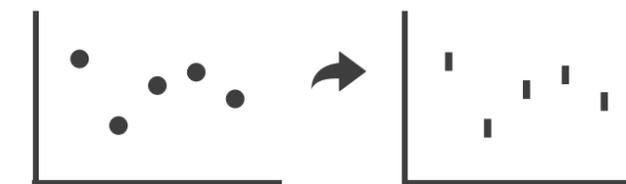
#### → Slice



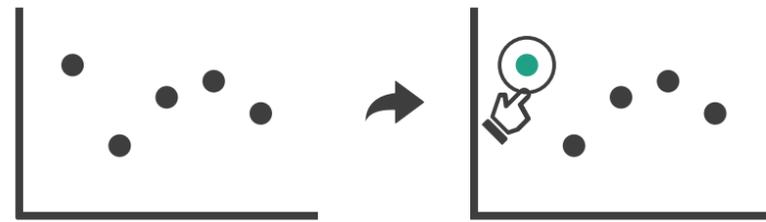
#### → Cut



#### → Project



## → Select

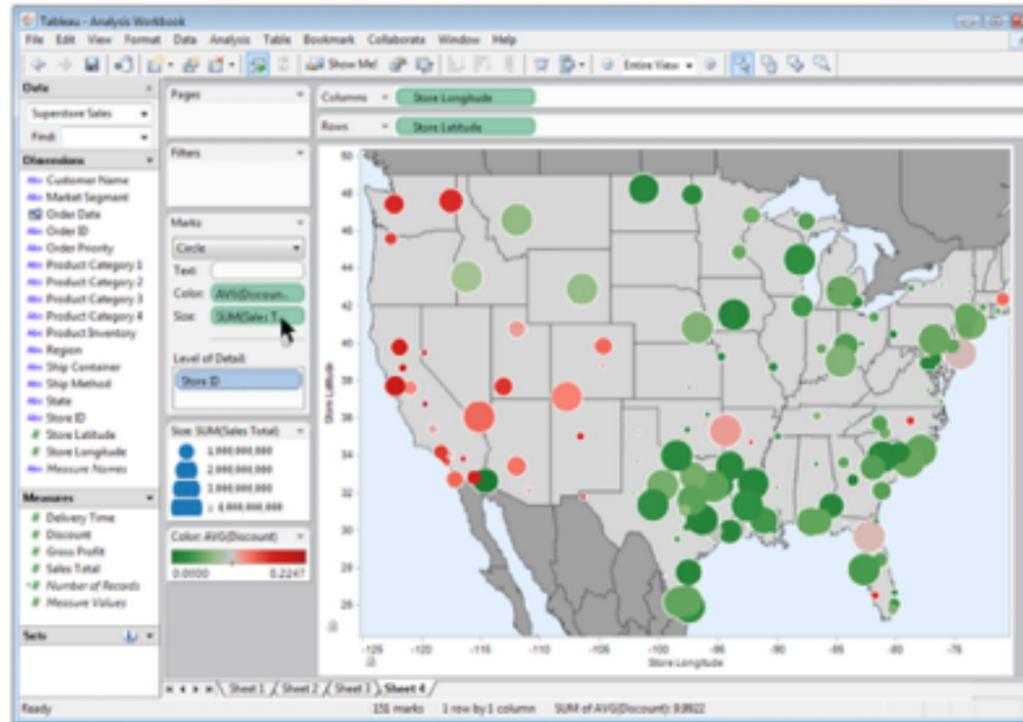
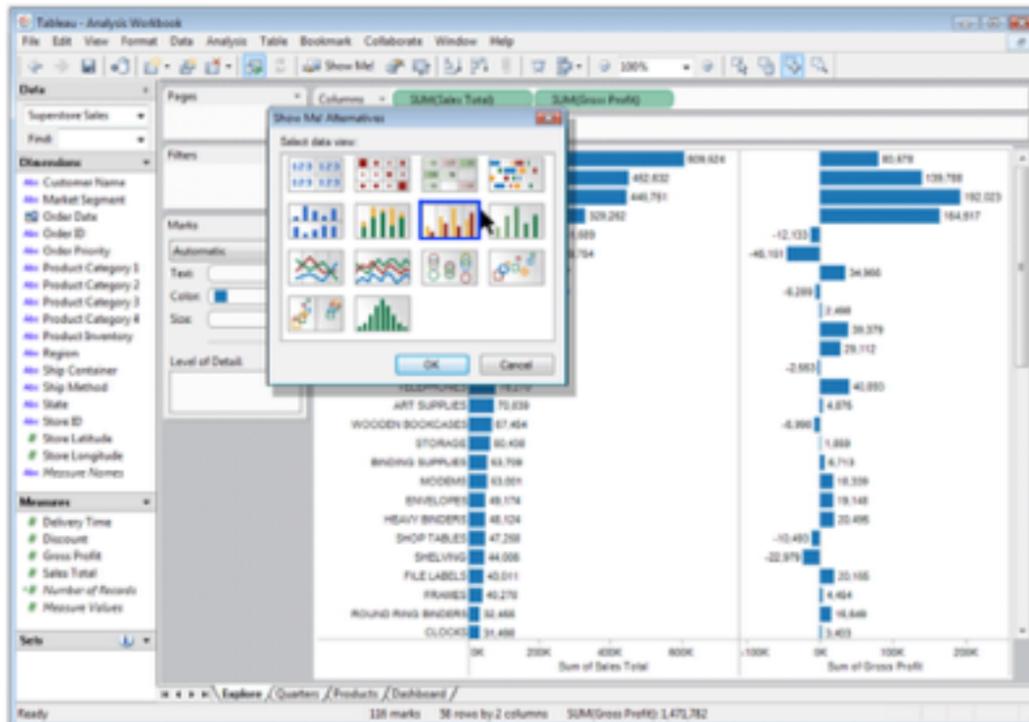
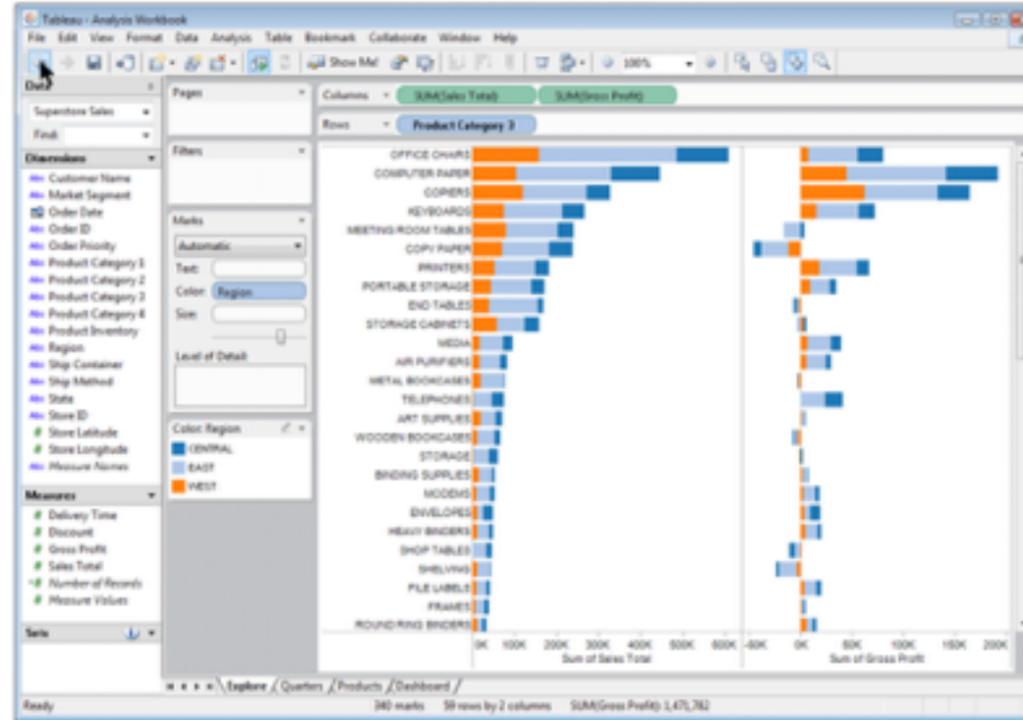
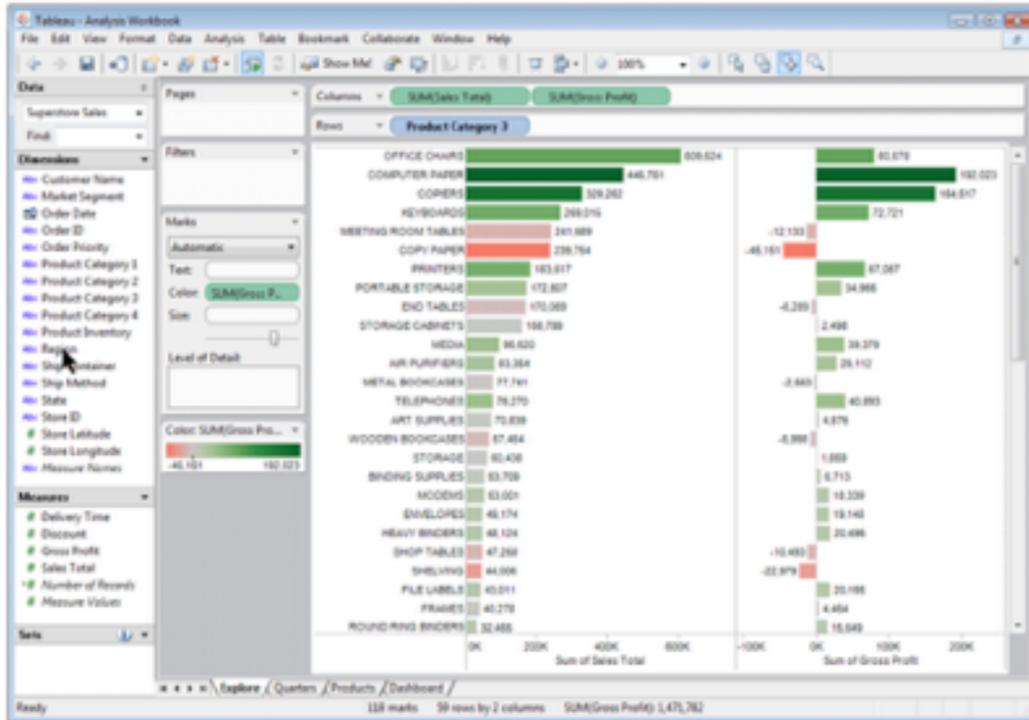


# Change over time

- change any of the other choices
  - encoding itself
  - parameters
  - arrange: rearrange, reorder
  - aggregation level, what is filtered...
  
  - interaction entails change

# Idiom: Re-encode

# System: Tableau

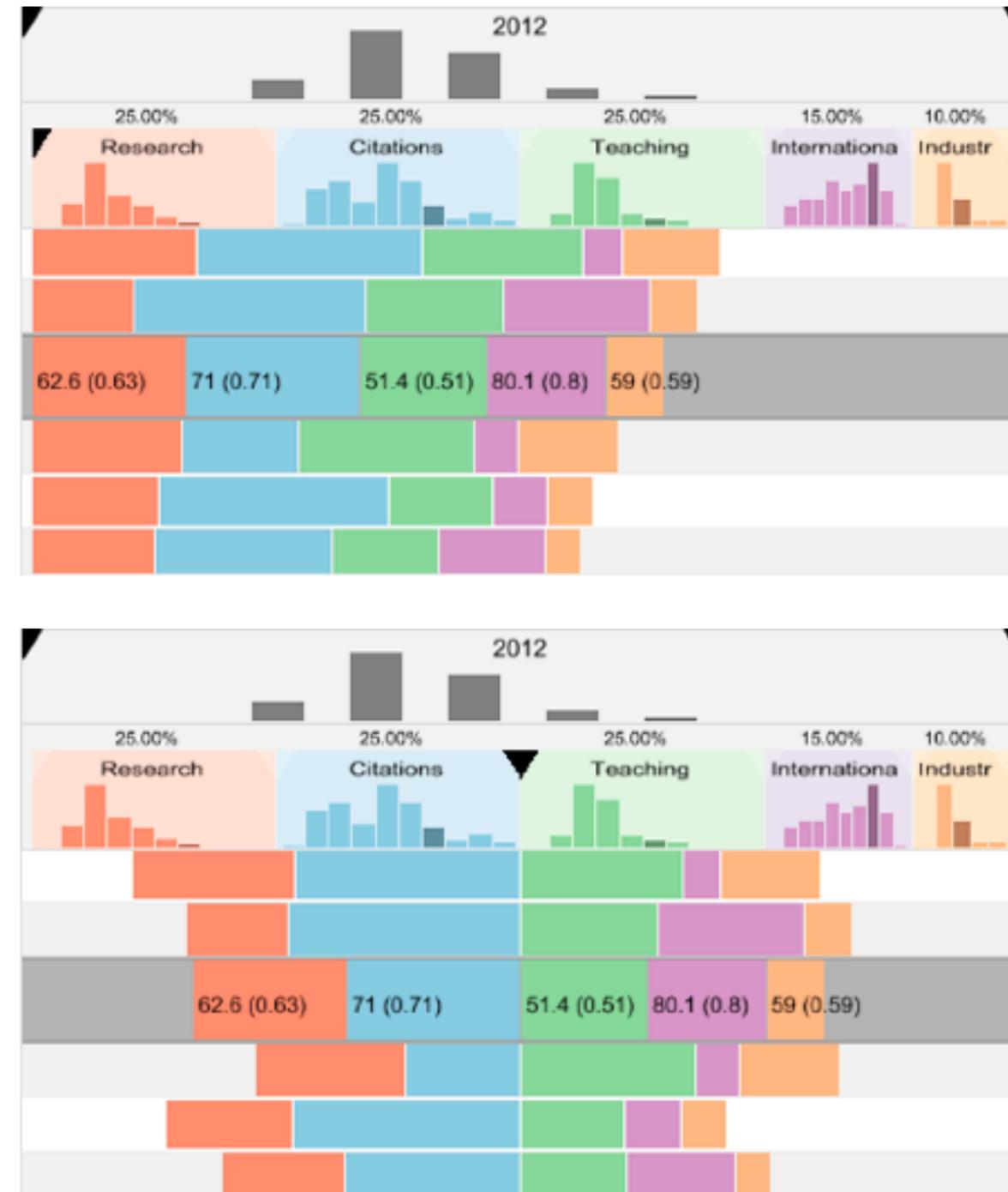


made using Tableau, <http://tableausoftware.com>

# Idiom: **Realign**

- stacked bars
  - easy to compare
    - first segment
    - total bar
- align to different segment
  - supports flexible comparison

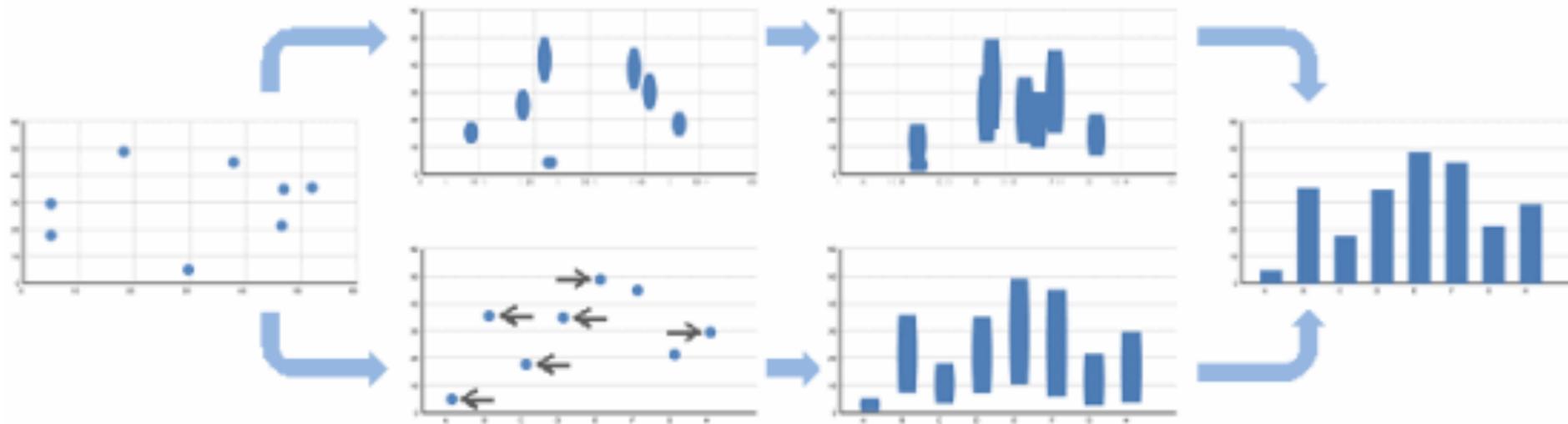
# System: **LineUp**



[LineUp: Visual Analysis of Multi-Attribute Rankings. Gratzl, Lex, Gehlenborg, Pfister, and Streit. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis 2013) 19:12 (2013), 2277–2286.]

# Idiom: **Animated transitions**

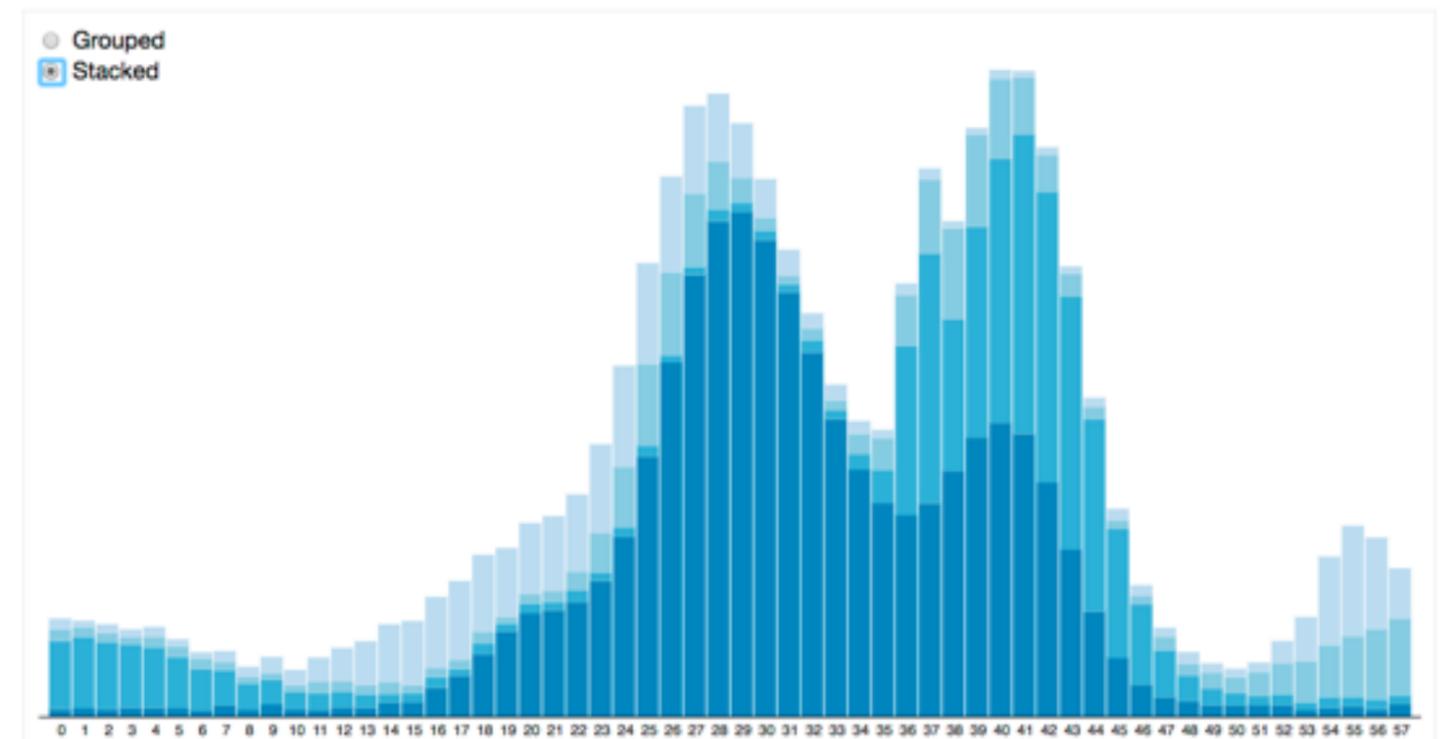
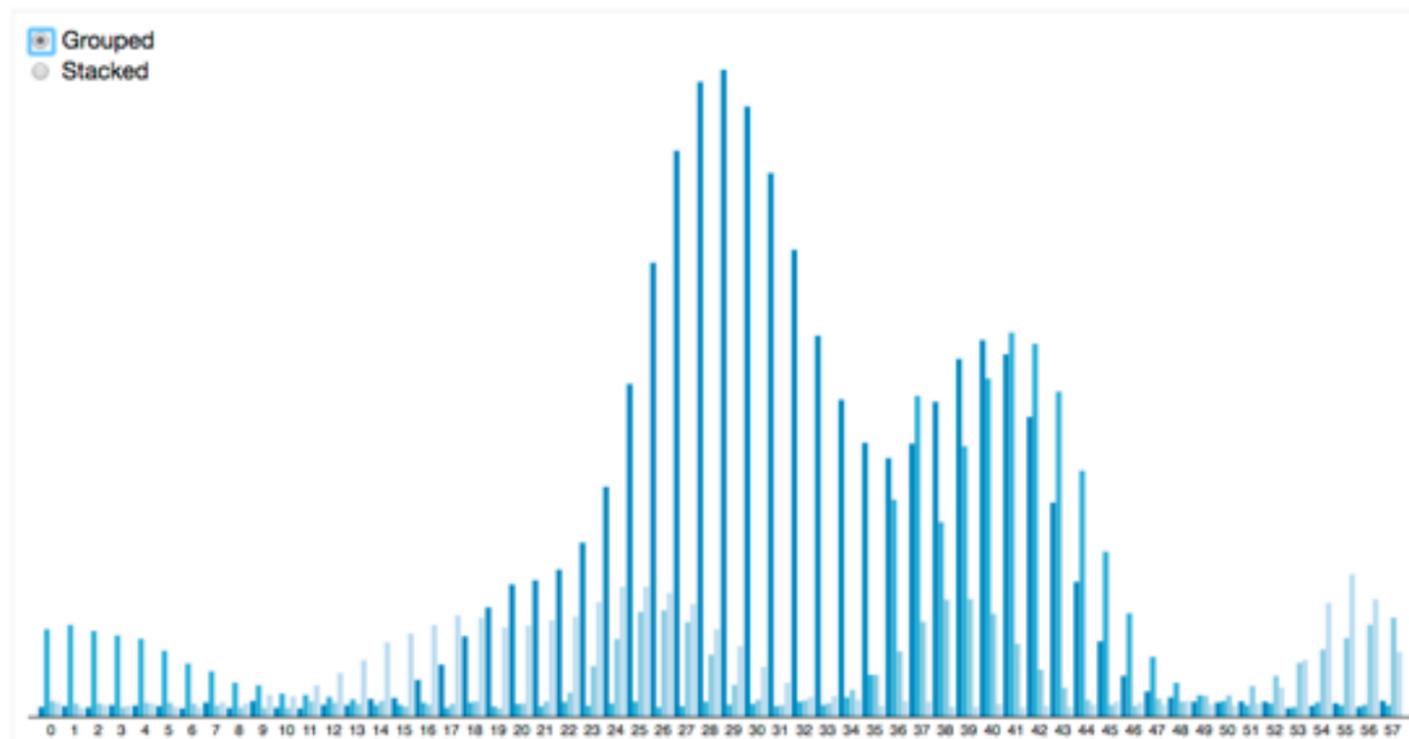
- smooth interpolation from one state to another
  - alternative to jump cuts, supports item tracking
  - best case for animation
  - staging to reduce cognitive load
- example: animated transitions in statistical data graphics



video: [vimeo.com/19278444](https://vimeo.com/19278444)

# Idiom: **Animated transitions - visual encoding change**

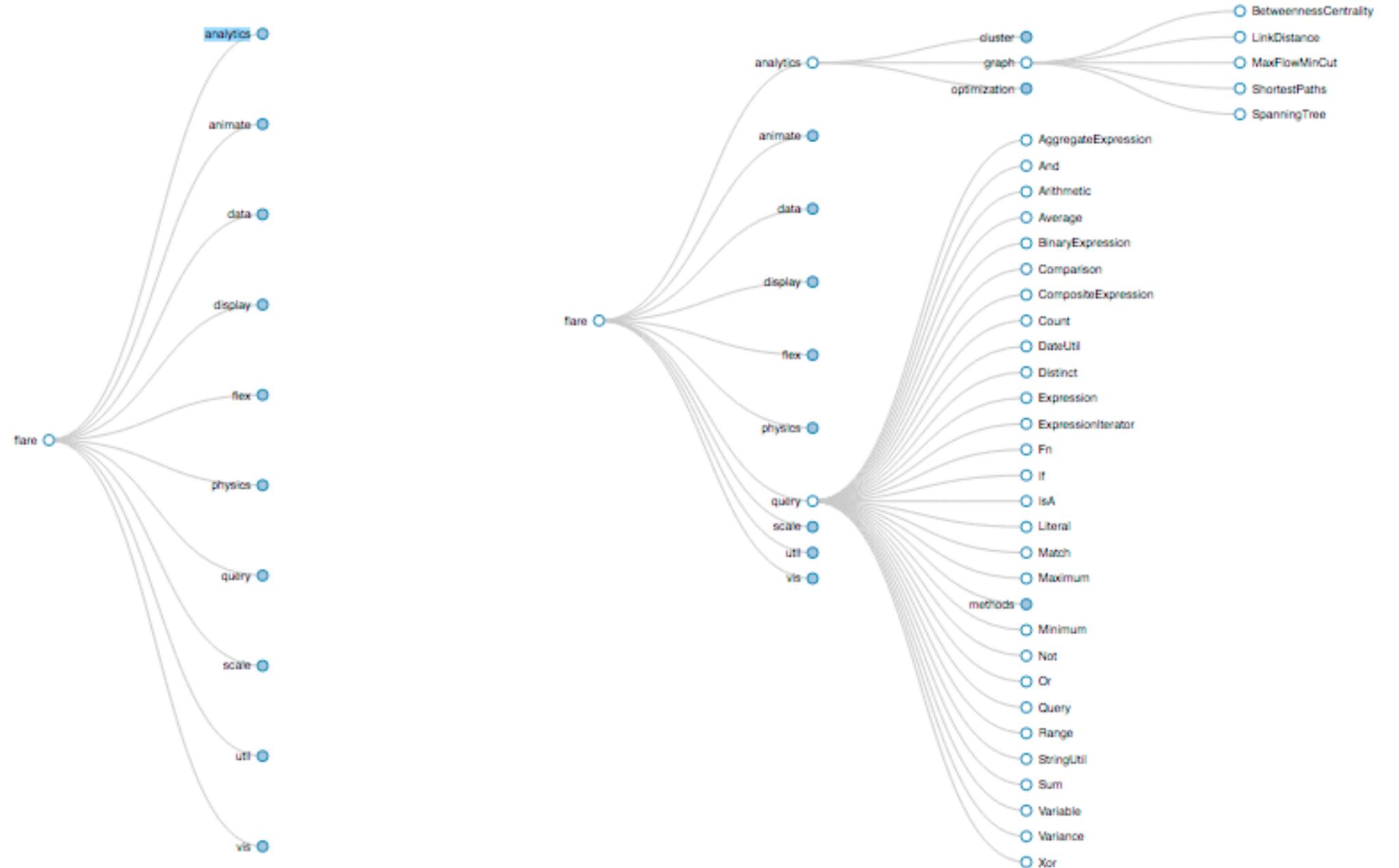
- smooth transition from one state to another
  - alternative to jump cuts, supports item tracking
  - best case for animation
  - staging to reduce cognitive load



*[Stacked to Grouped Bars](<http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/3943967>)*

# Idiom: **Animated transition - tree detail**

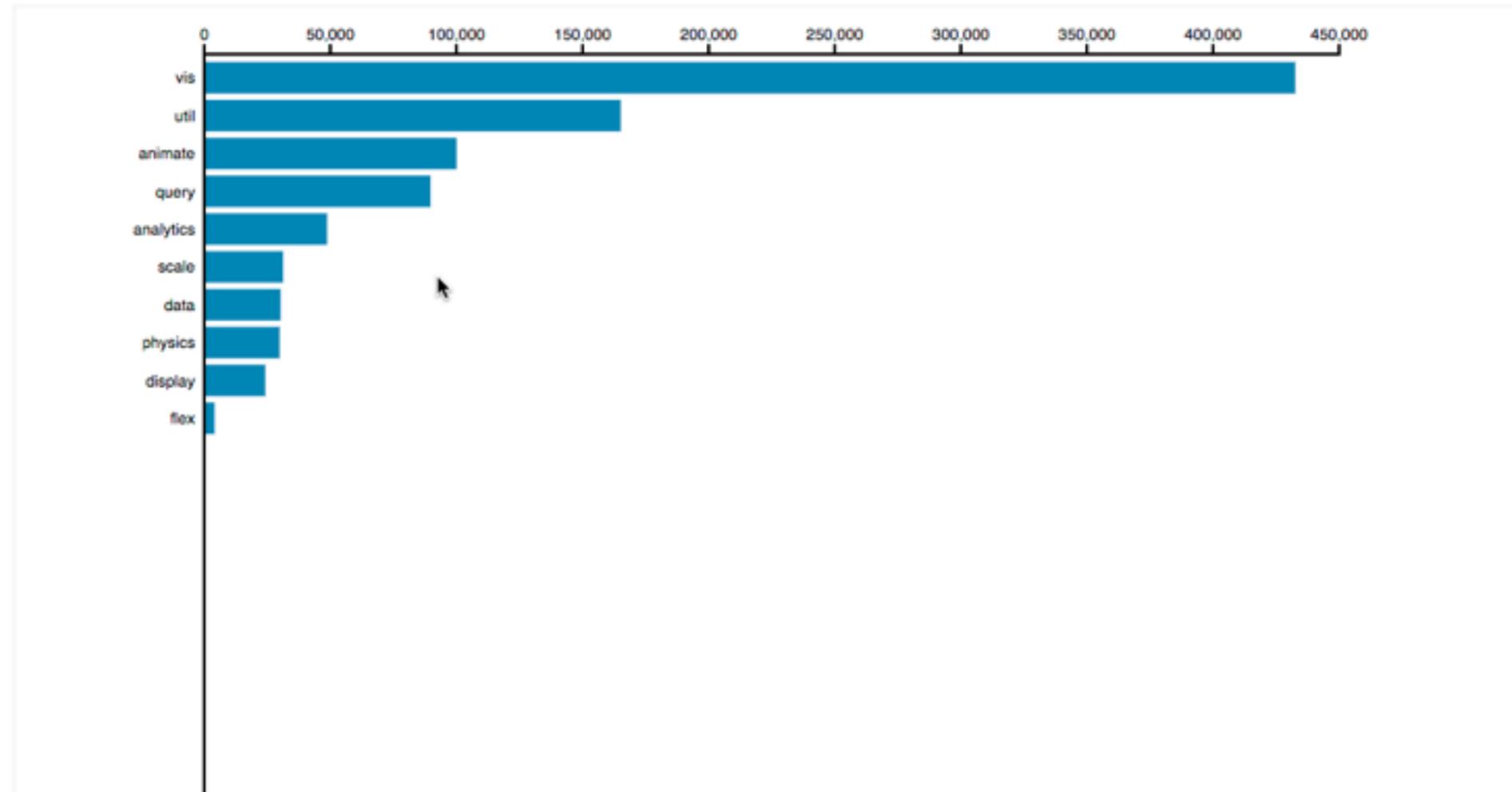
- animated transition
  - network drilldown/rollup



[Collapsible Tree](<https://blocks.org/mbostock/4339083>)

# Idiom: **Animated transition - bar detail**

- example: hierarchical bar chart
  - add detail during transition to new level of detail



[Hierarchical Bar Chart](<https://blocks.org/mbostock/1283663>)

# Navigate: Changing item visibility

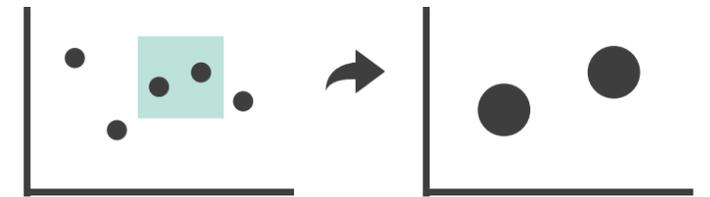
- change viewpoint
  - changes which items are visible within view
  - camera metaphor
    - zoom
      - geometric zoom: familiar semantics
      - semantic zoom: adapt object representation based on available pixels
        - » dramatic change, or more subtle one
    - pan/translate
    - rotate
      - especially in 3D
  - constrained navigation
    - often with animated transitions
    - often based on selection set

## ➔ Navigate

➔ Item Reduction

➔ Zoom

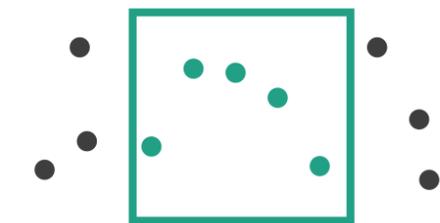
*Geometric* or *Semantic*



➔ Pan/Translate



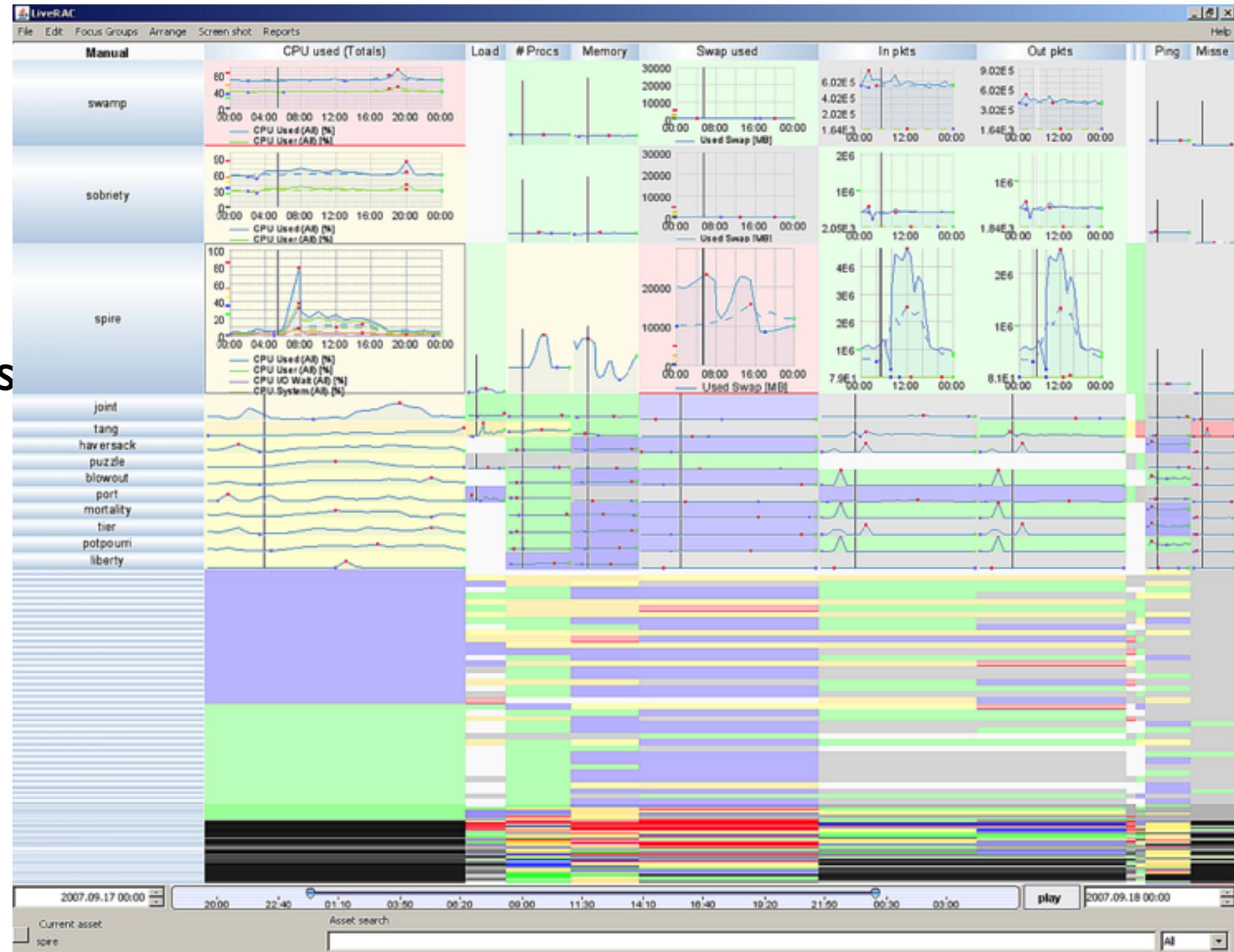
➔ Constrained



# Idiom: Semantic zooming

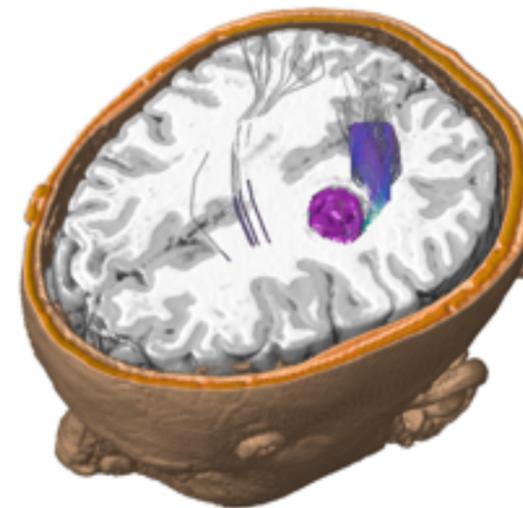
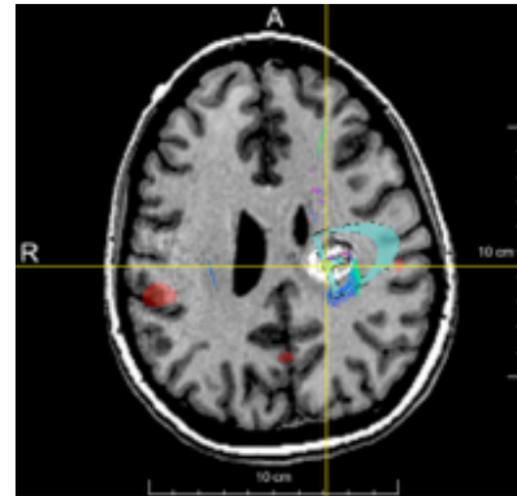
# System: LiveRAC

- visual encoding change
  - colored box
  - sparkline
  - simple line chart
  - full chart: axes and tickmarks



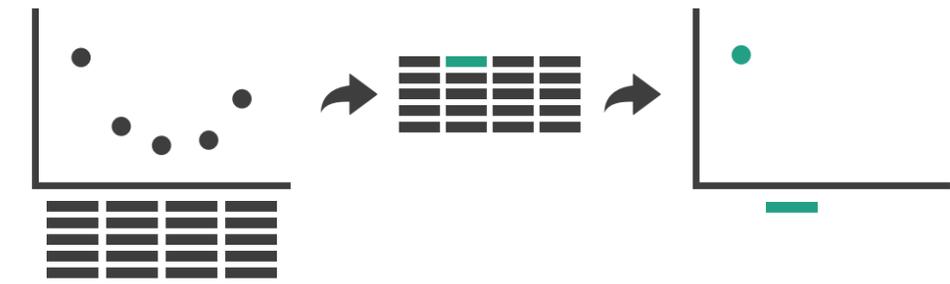
# Navigate: Reducing attributes

- continuation of camera metaphor
  - slice
    - show only items matching specific value for given attribute: slicing plane
    - axis aligned, or arbitrary alignment
  - cut
    - show only items on far side of plane from camera
  - project
    - change mathematics of image creation
      - orthographic
      - perspective
      - many others: Mercator, cabinet, ...

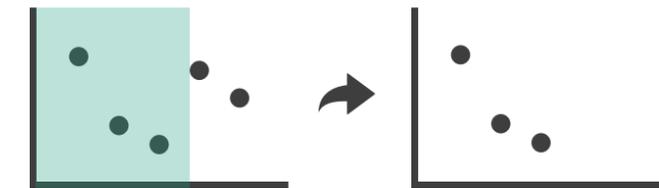


→ Attribute Reduction

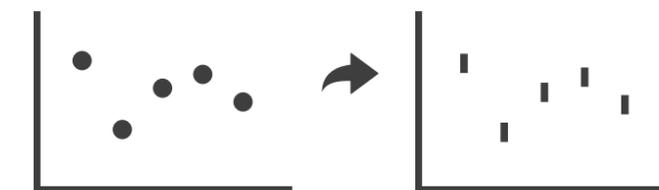
→ *Slice*



→ *Cut*



→ *Project*



## Further reading

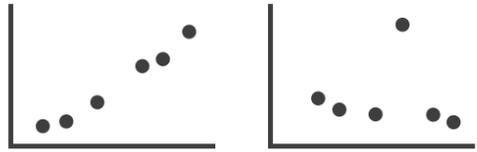
- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.
  - Chap 11: Manipulate View*
- *Animated Transitions in Statistical Data Graphics*. Heer and Robertson. IEEE Trans. on Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. InfoVis07) 13:6 (2007), 1240–1247.
- *Selection: 524,288 Ways to Say “This is Interesting”*. Wills. Proc. IEEE Symp. Information Visualization (InfoVis), pp. 54–61, 1996.
- *Smooth and efficient zooming and panning*. van Wijk and Nuij. Proc. IEEE Symp. Information Visualization (InfoVis), pp. 15–22, 2003.
- *Starting Simple - adding value to static visualisation through simple interaction*. Dix and Ellis. Proc. Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI), pp. 124–134, 1998.

# Outline

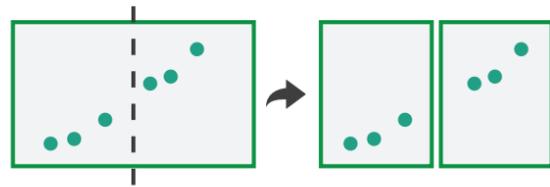
- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - Arrange Tables
  - Arrange Spatial Data
  - Arrange Networks and Trees
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  - Map Color
  - Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate
  - **Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose**
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# Facet

## → Juxtapose



## → Partition



## → Superimpose



# Juxtapose and coordinate views

→ Share Encoding: Same/Different

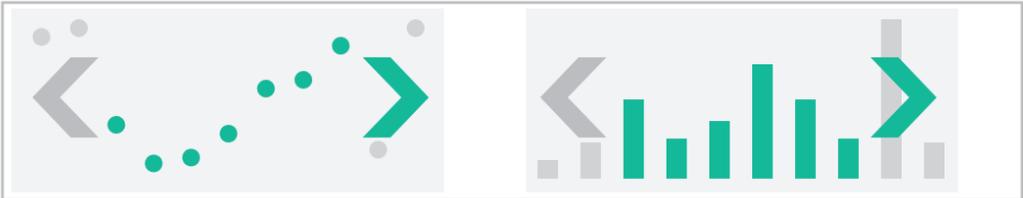
→ *Linked Highlighting*



→ Share Data: All/Subset/None



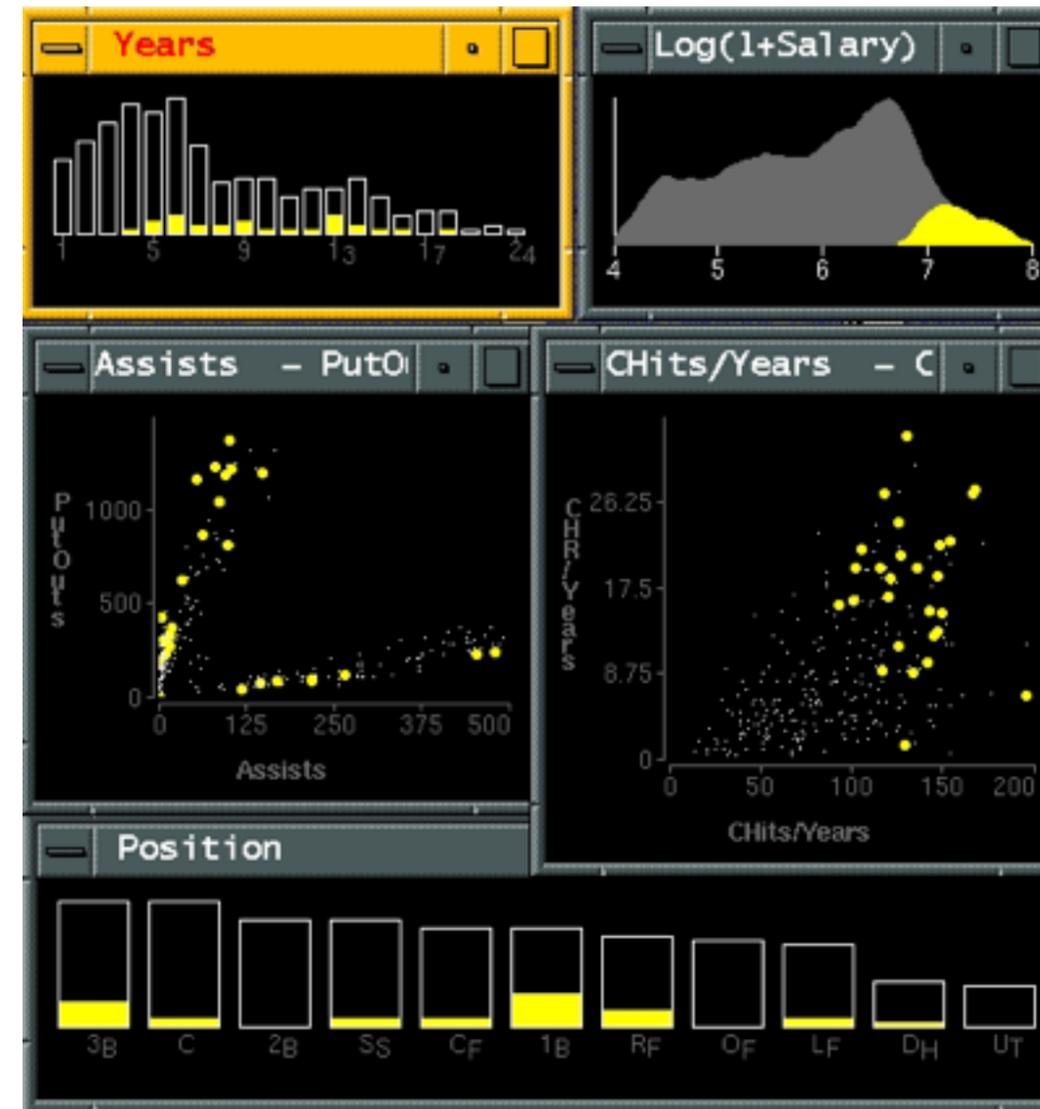
→ Share Navigation



# 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

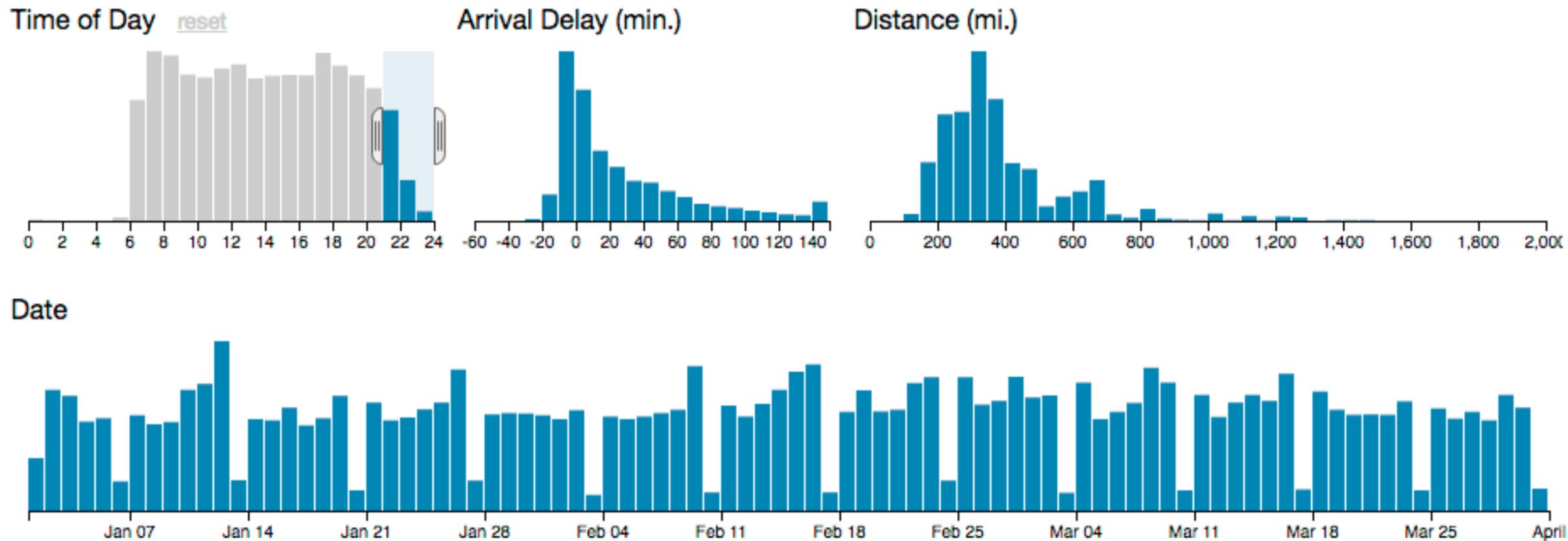


*[Visual Exploration of Large Structured Datasets. Wills. Proc. New Techniques and Trends in Statistics (NTTS), pp. 237–246. IOS Press, 1995.]*

# Idiom: **cross filtering**

# System: **Crossfilter**

- item filtering
- coordinated views/controls combined
  - all scented histogram bisliders update when any ranges change



[\[http://square.github.io/crossfilter/\]](http://square.github.io/crossfilter/)

# Idiom: **bird's-eye maps**

# System: **Google Maps**

- encoding: same
- data: subset shared
- navigation: shared
  - bidirectional linking
  
- differences
  - viewpoint
  - (size)
  
- ***overview-detail***

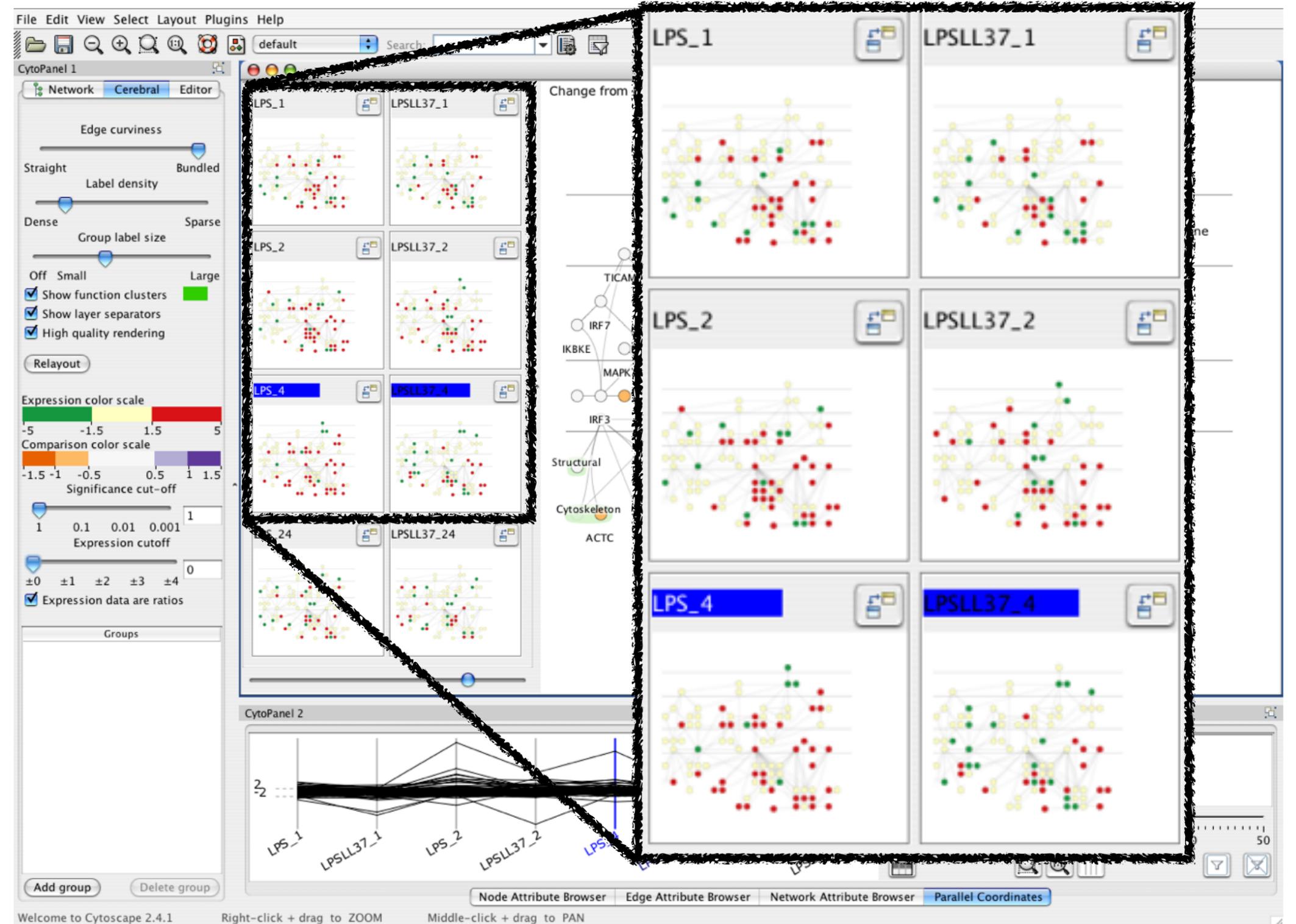


[A Review of Overview+Detail, Zooming, and Focus+Context Interfaces. Cockburn, Karlson, and Bederson. *ACM Computing Surveys* 41:1 (2008), 1–31.]

# Idiom: Small multiples

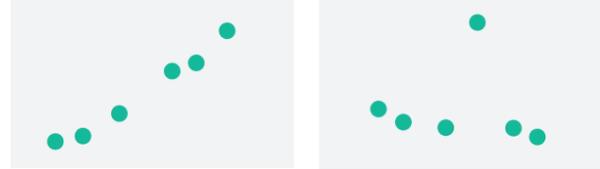
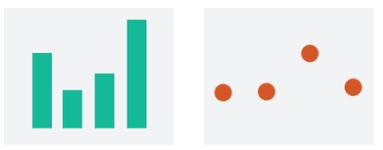
# System: Cerebral

- 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

		Data		
		All	Subset	None
Encoding	Same	Redundant	 Overview/ Detail	 Small Multiples
	Different	 Multiform	 Multiform, Overview/ Detail	No Linkage

- why juxtapose views?

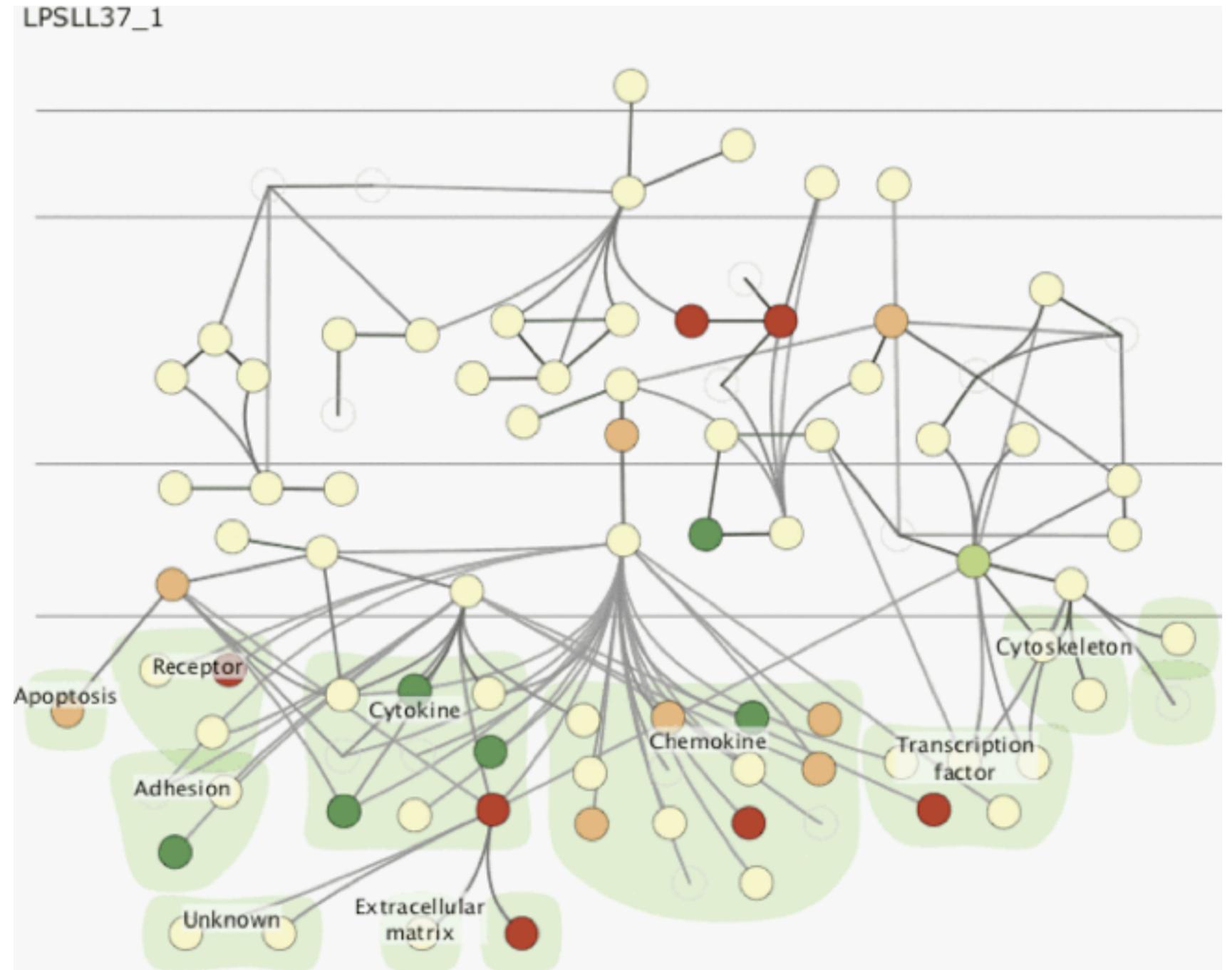
- benefits: eyes vs memory

- 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

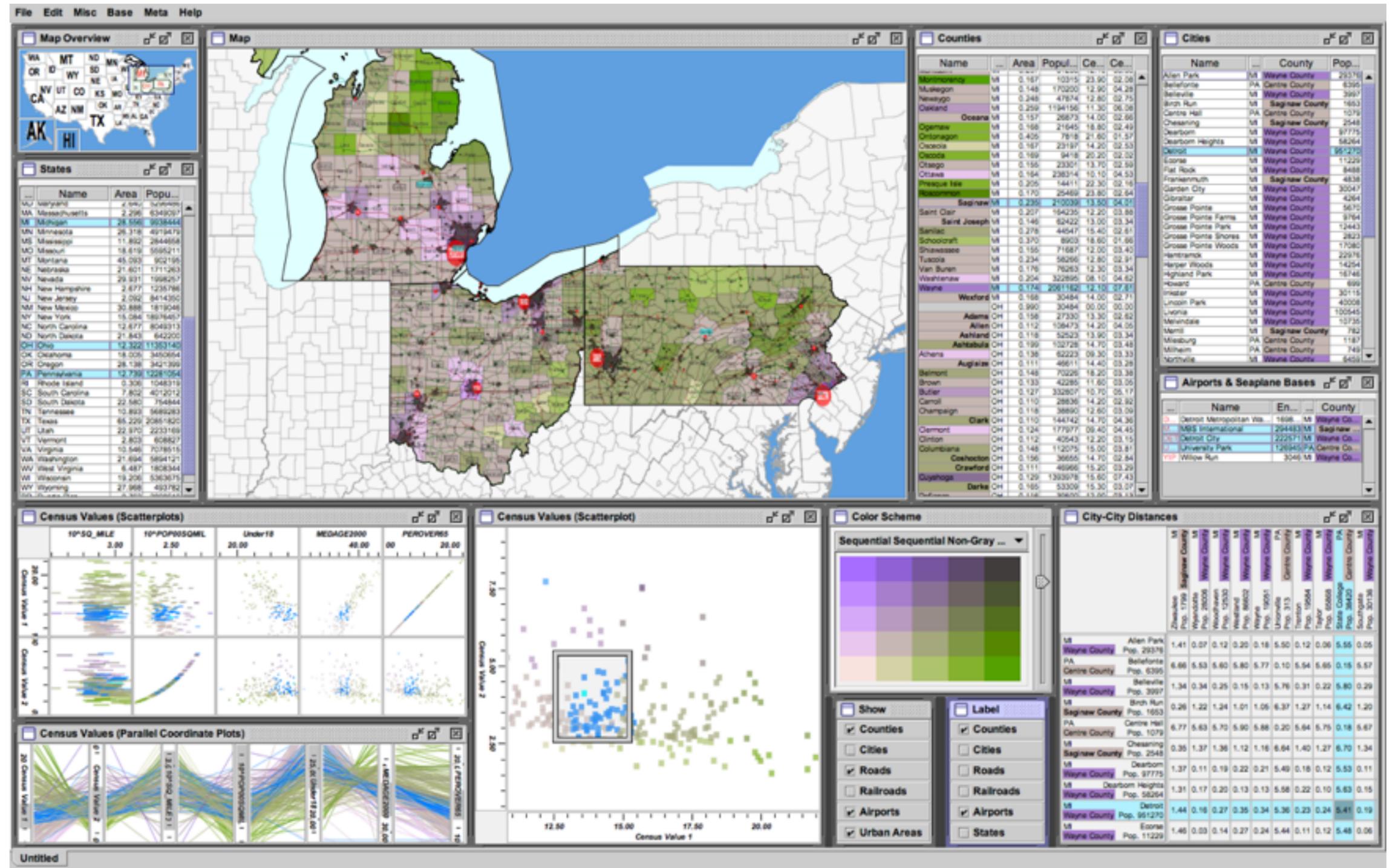
# Why not animation?

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



# System: **Improvise**

- investigate power of multiple views
  - pushing limits on view count, interaction complexity
  - how many is ok?
    - open research question
  - reorderable lists
    - easy lookup
    - useful when linked to other encodings

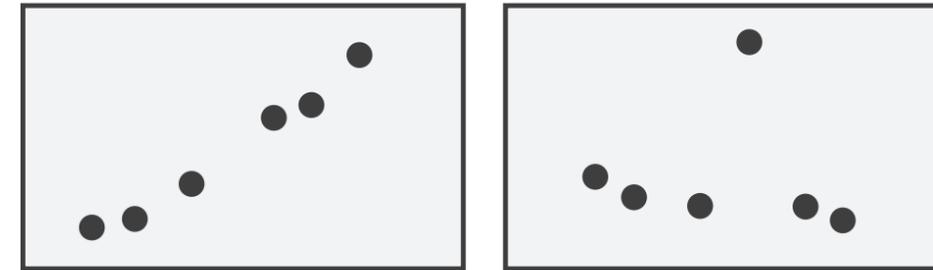


[Building Highly-Coordinated Visualizations In Improvise. Weaver. Proc. IEEE Symp. Information Visualization (InfoVis), pp. 159–166, 2004.]

# Partition into views

- how to divide data between views → Partition into Side-by-Side Views

- split into regions by attributes
- encodes association between items using spatial proximity
- order of splits has major implications for what patterns are visible



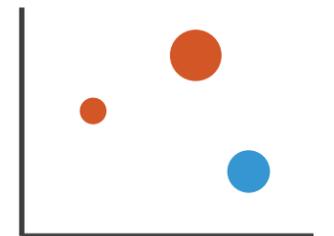
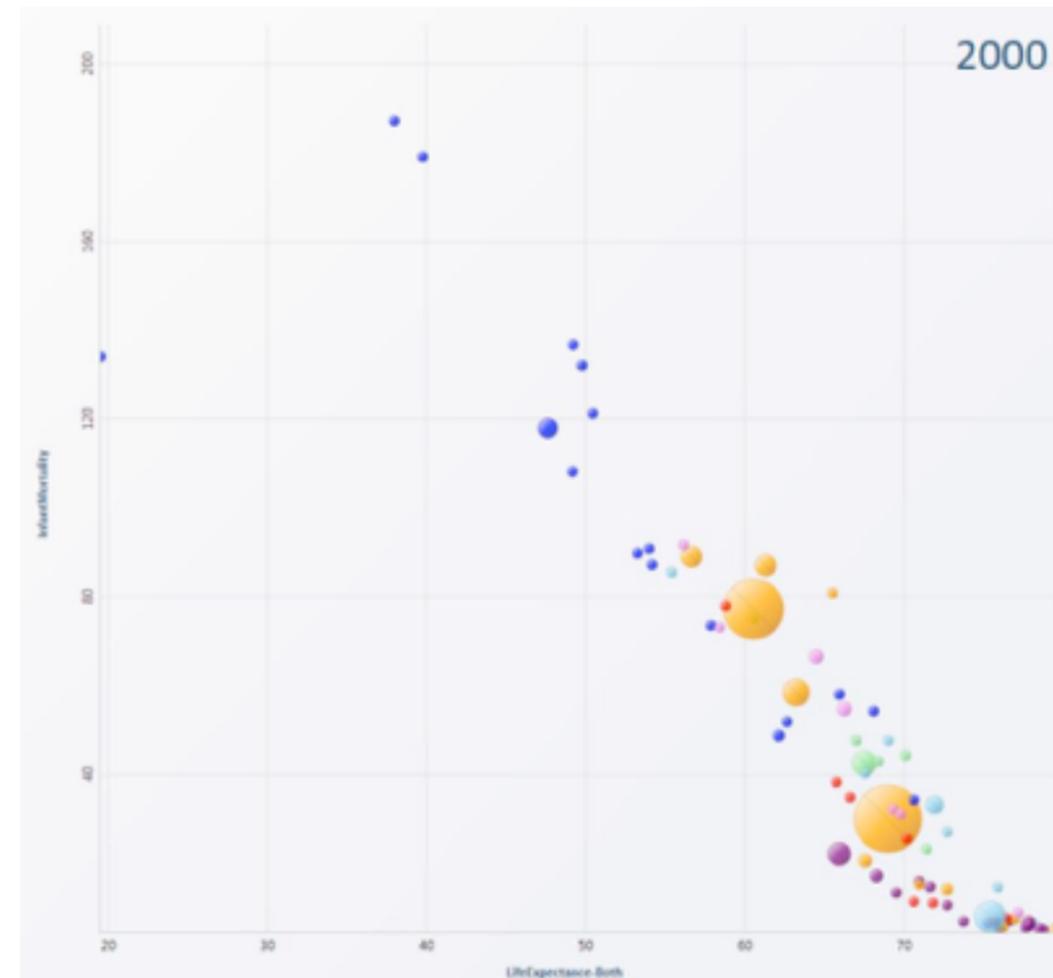
- no strict dividing line

– *view: big/detailed*

- contiguous region in which visually encoded data is shown on the display

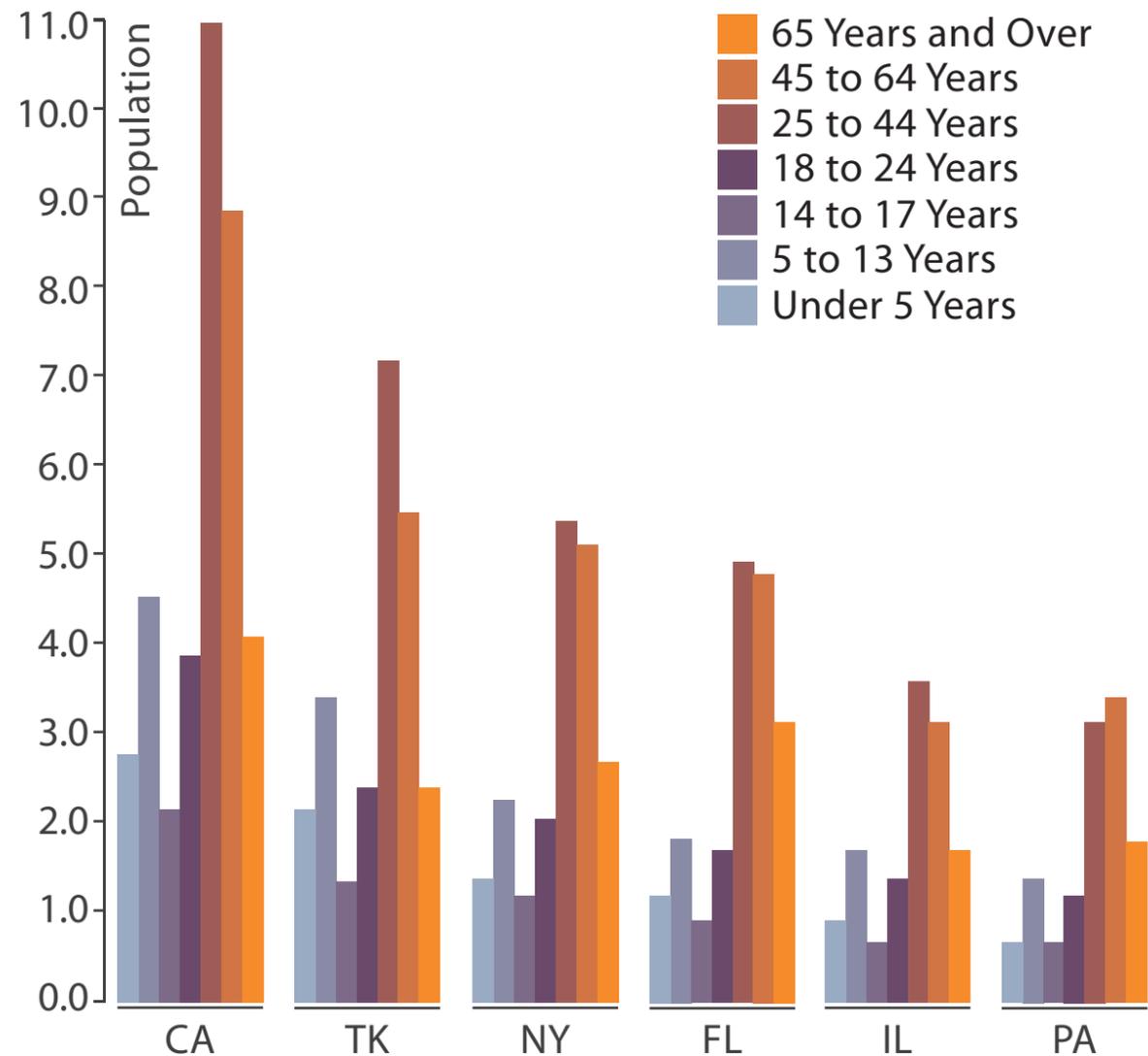
– *glyph: small/iconic*

- object with internal structure that arises from multiple marks

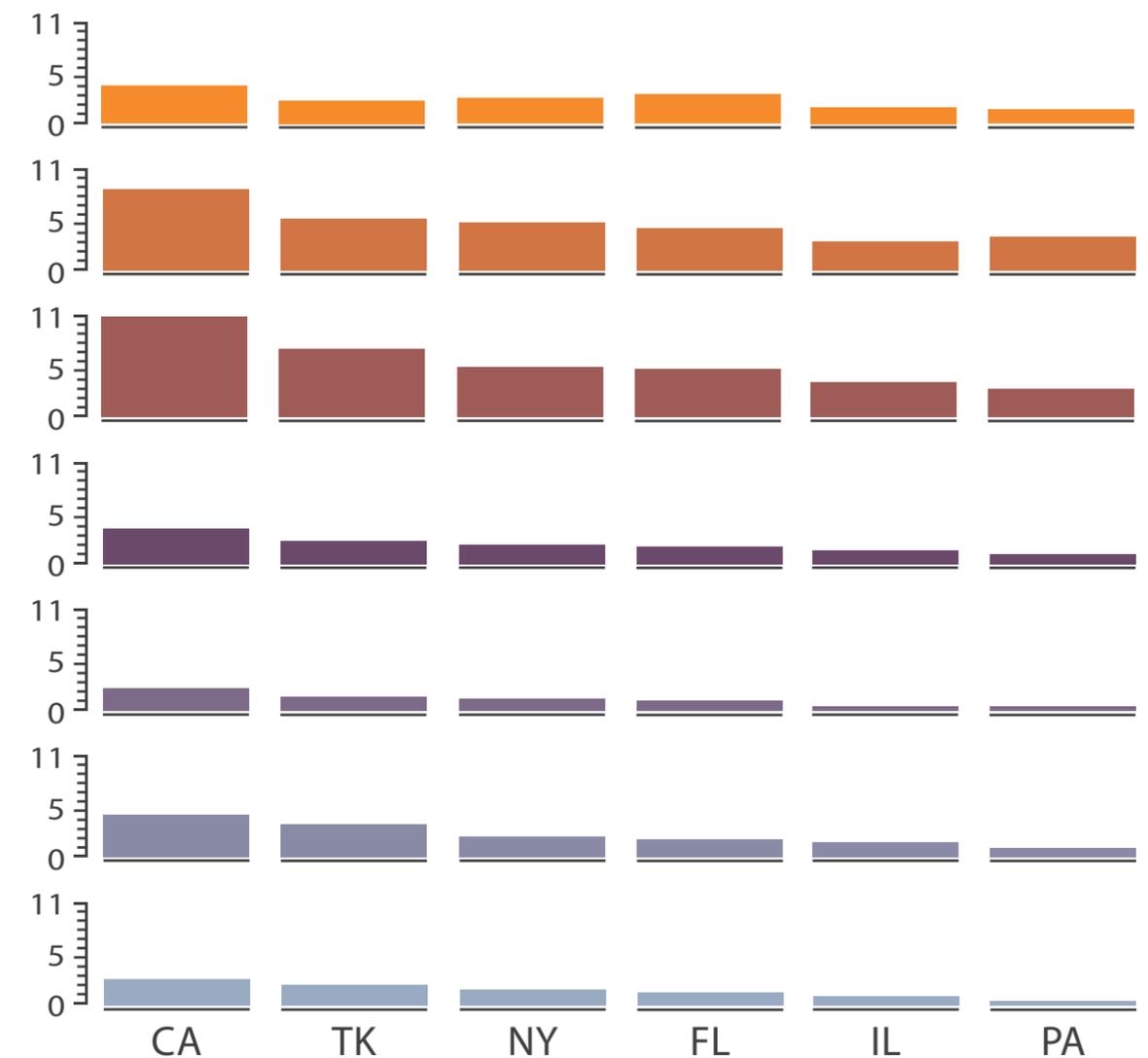


# Partitioning: List alignment

- 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



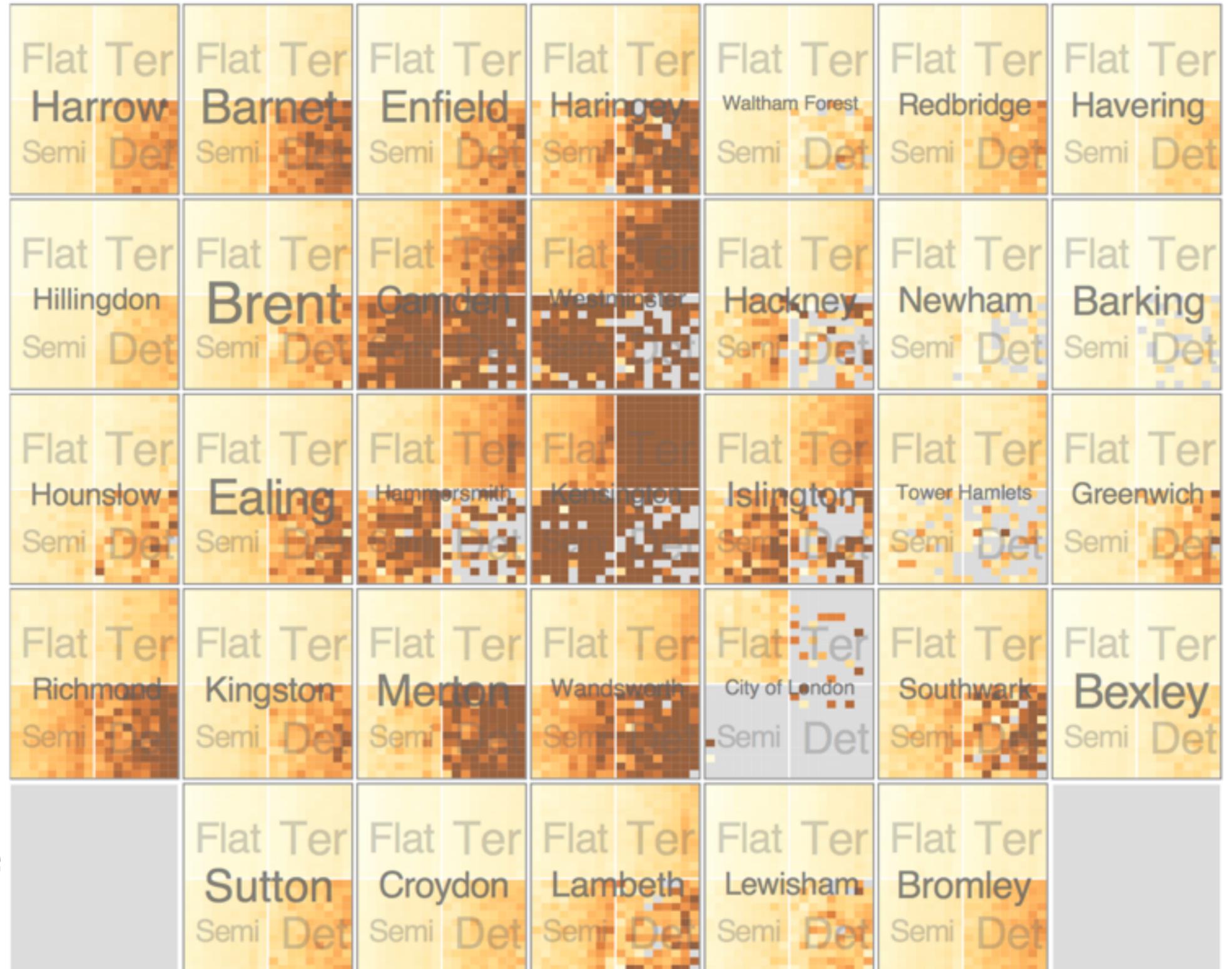
- small-multiple bar charts
  - split by age into regions
    - one chart per region
  - compare: easy within age, harder across states



# 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**

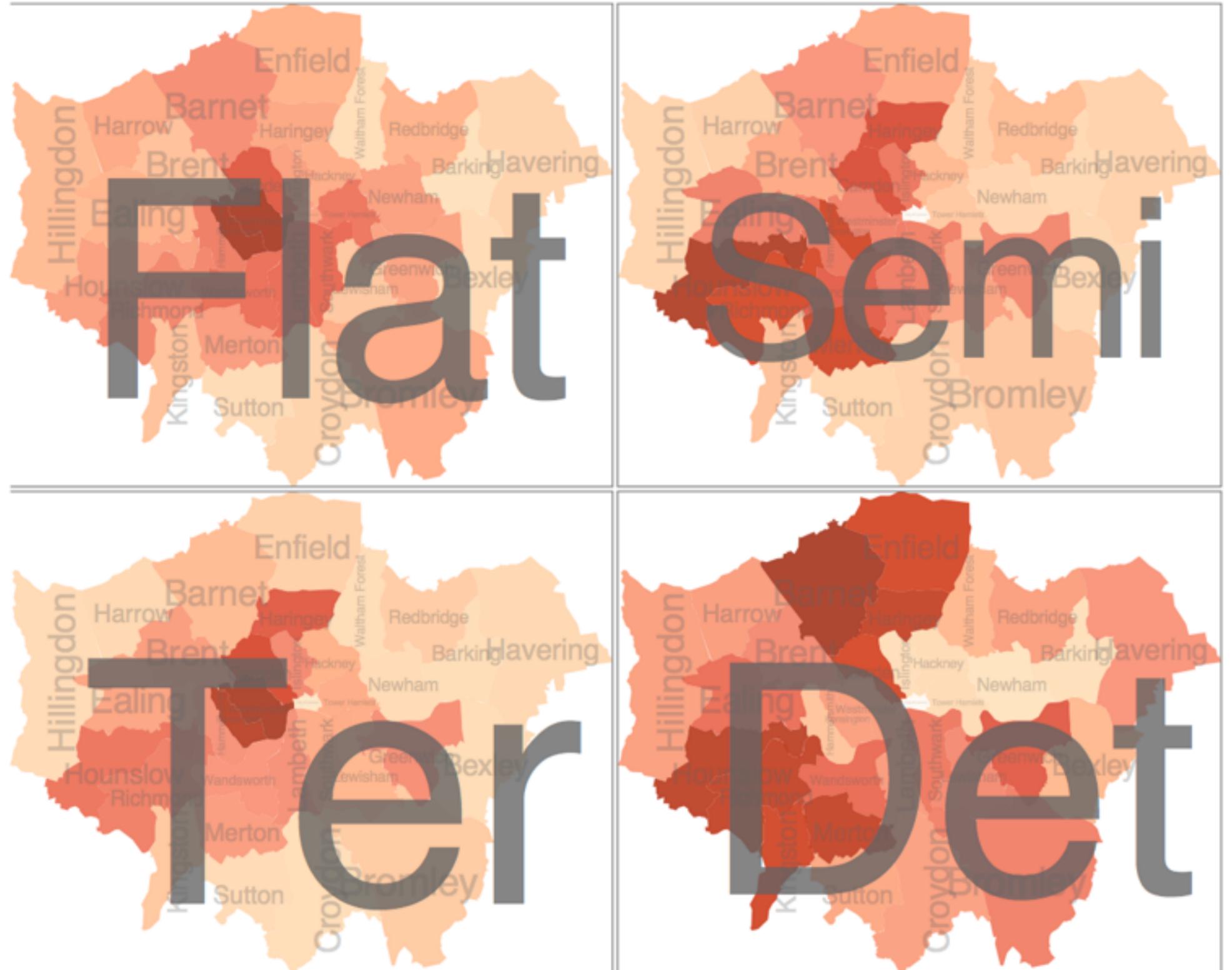
- switch order of splits
  - type then neighborhood
- switch color
  - by price variation
- type patterns
  - within specific type, which neighborhoods inconsistent



# Partitioning: Recursive subdivision

System: **HIVE**

- different encoding for second-level regions  
– choropleth maps



# Partitioning: Recursive subdivision

System: **HIVE**

- size regions by sale counts
  - not uniformly
- result: treemap



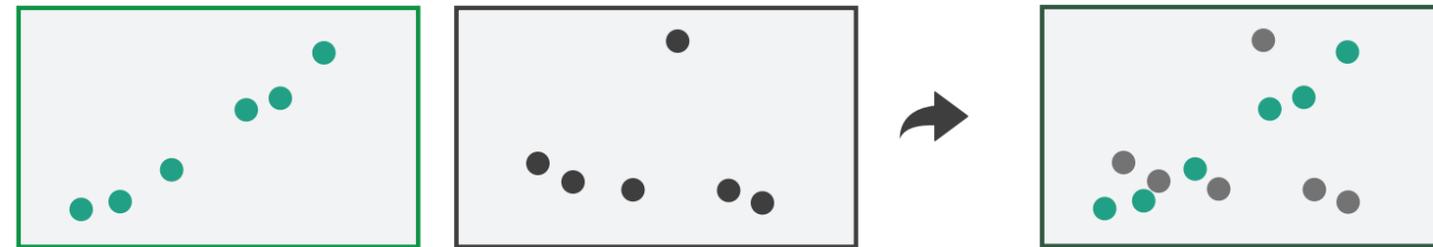
# Superimpose layers

- *layer*: set of objects spread out over region
  - each set is visually distinguishable group
  - extent: whole view

## ➔ Superimpose Layers

- design choices

- how many layers, how to distinguish?
  - encode with different, nonoverlapping channels
  - two layers achievable, three with careful design
- small static set, or dynamic from many possible?



# Static visual layering

- foreground layer: roads
  - hue, size distinguishing main from minor
  - high luminance contrast from background
- background layer: regions
  - desaturated colors for water, parks, land areas
- user can selectively focus attention
- “get it right in black and white”
  - check luminance contrast with greyscale view

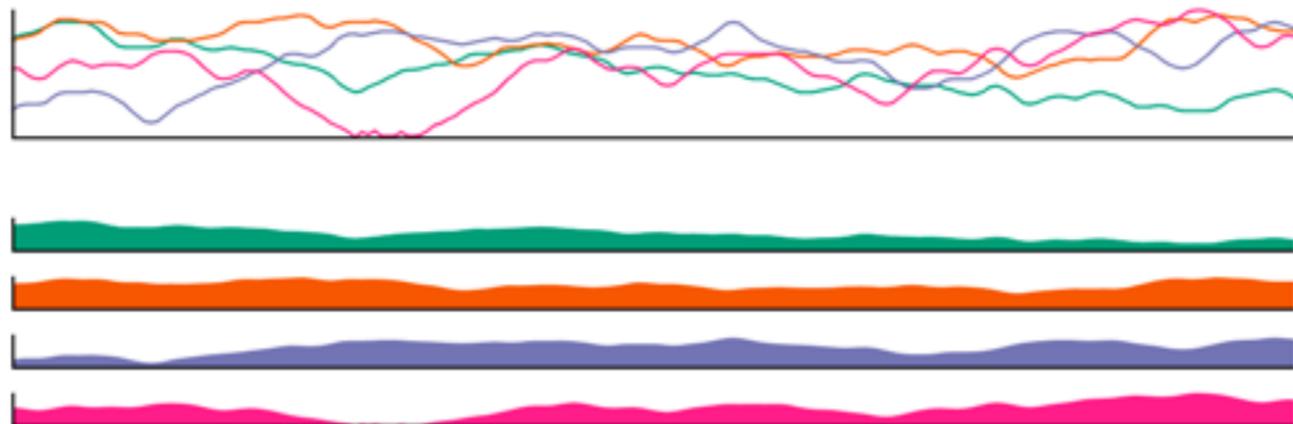


[Get it right in black and white. Stone. 2010.

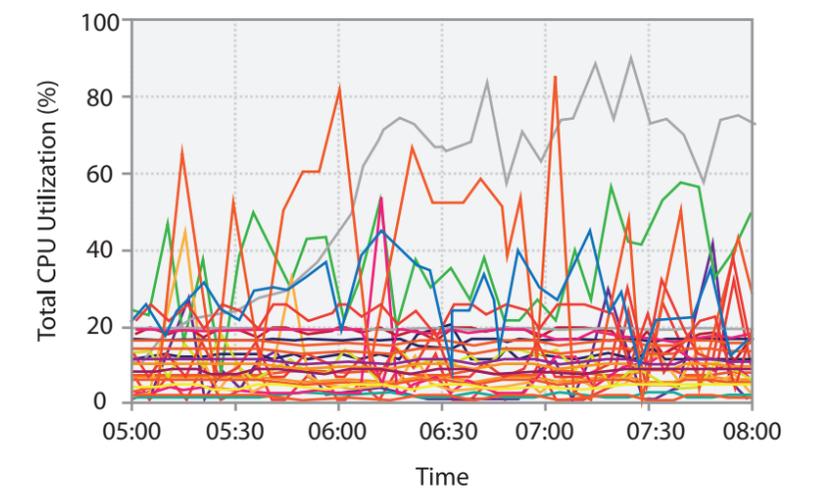
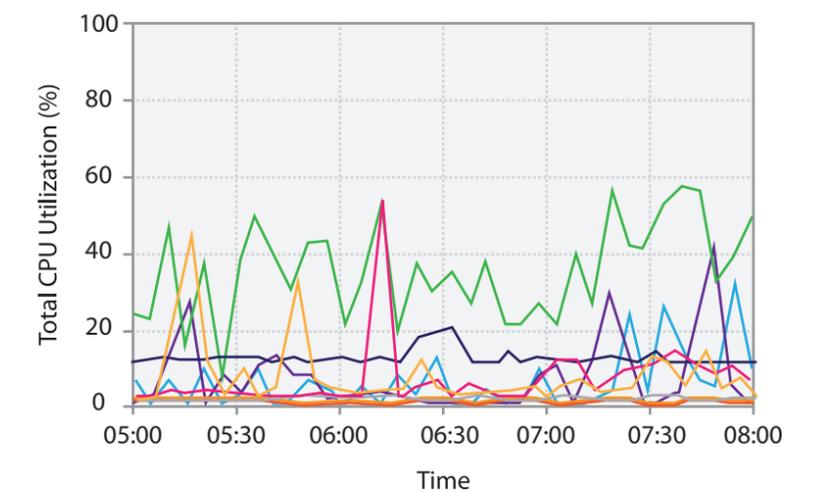
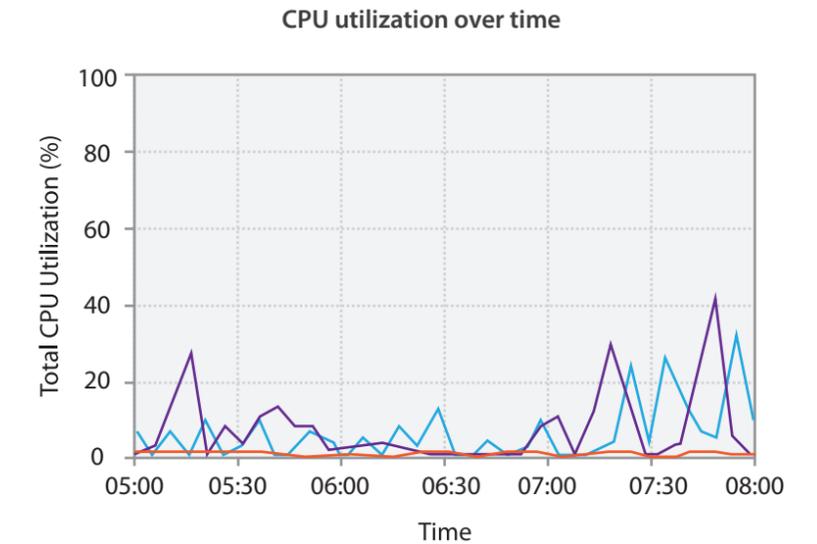
<http://www.stonesc.com/wordpress/2010/03/get-it-right-in-black-and-white>]

# Superimposing limits

- few layers, but many lines
  - up to a few dozen
  - but not hundreds
- superimpose vs juxtapose: empirical study
  - superimposed for local, multiple for global
  - tasks
    - local: maximum, global: slope, discrimination
  - same screen space for all multiples vs single superimposed

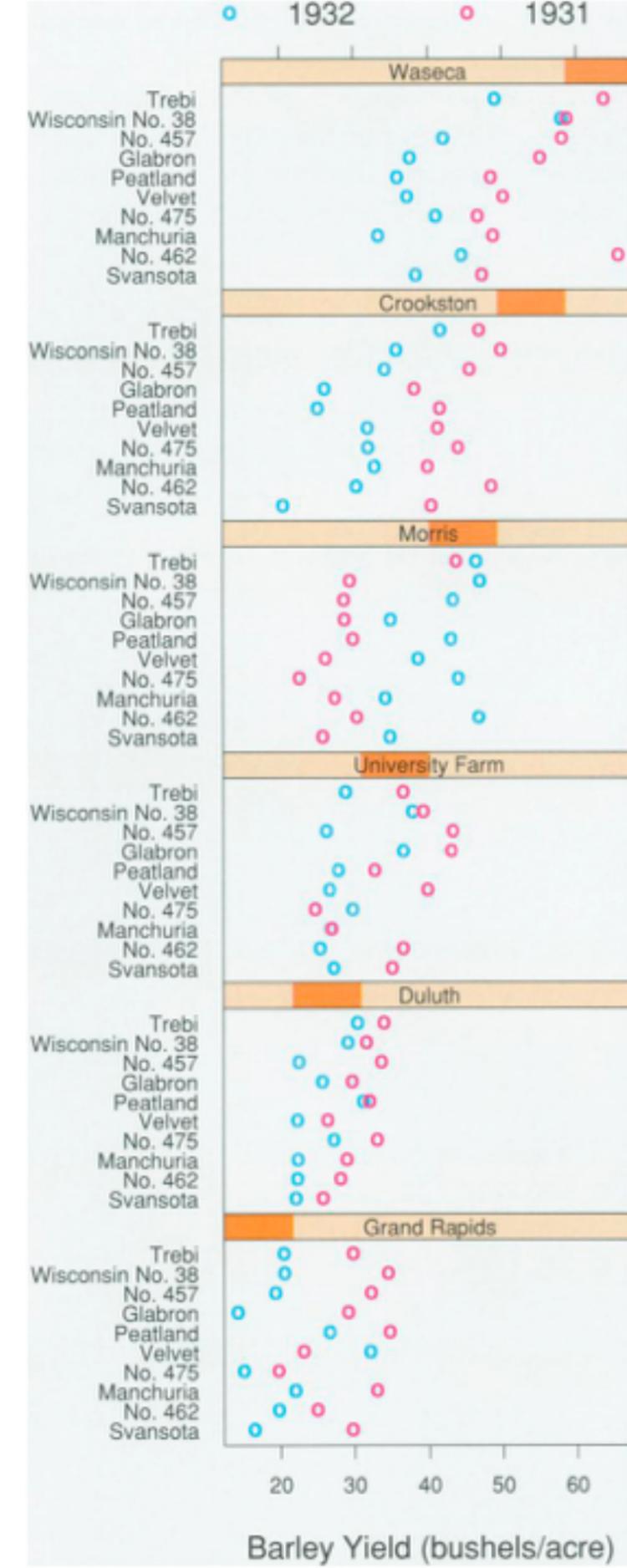


[Graphical Perception of Multiple Time Series. Javed, McDonnel, and Elmqvist. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proc. IEEE InfoVis 2010) 16:6 (2010), 927–934.]



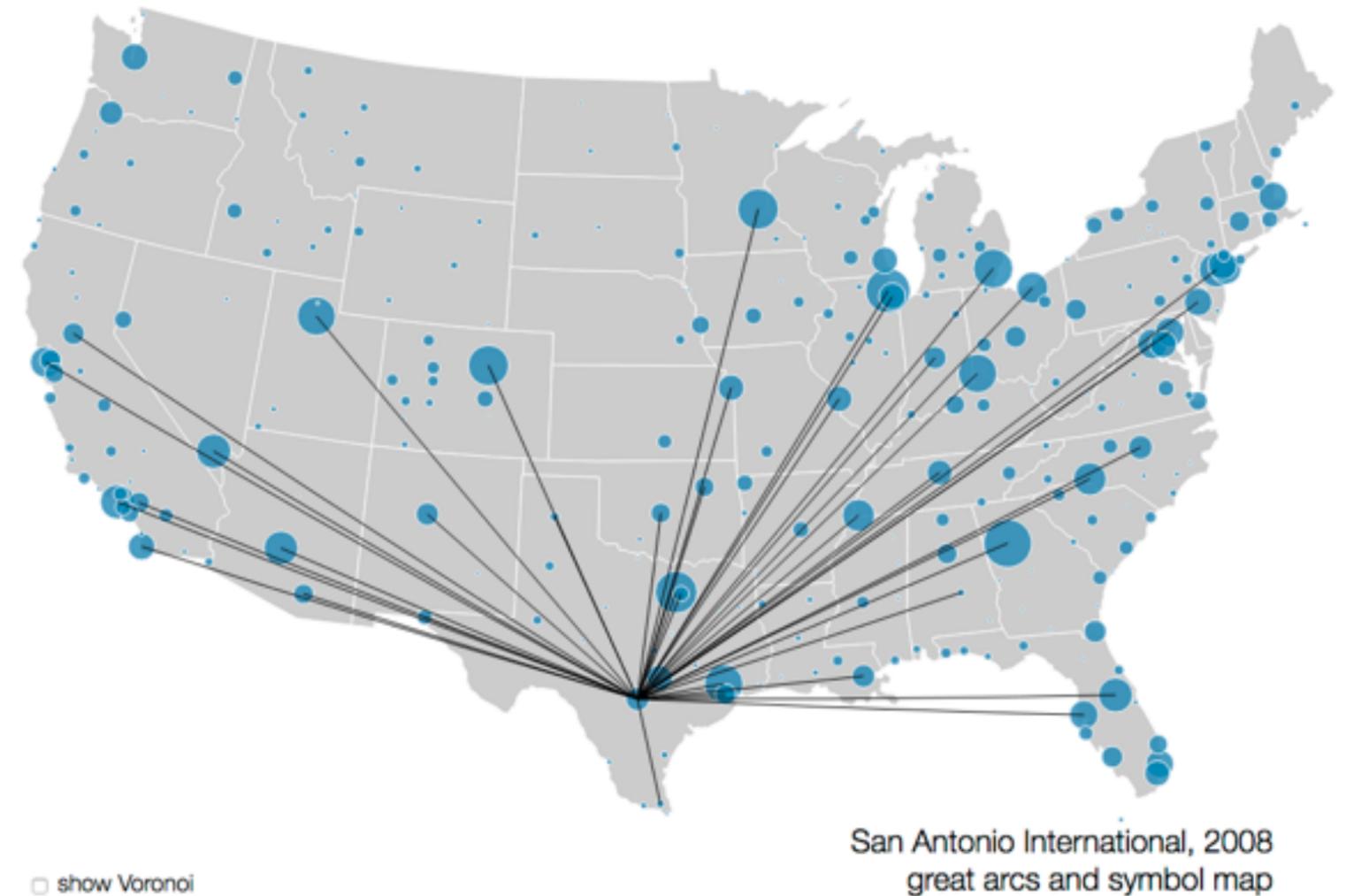
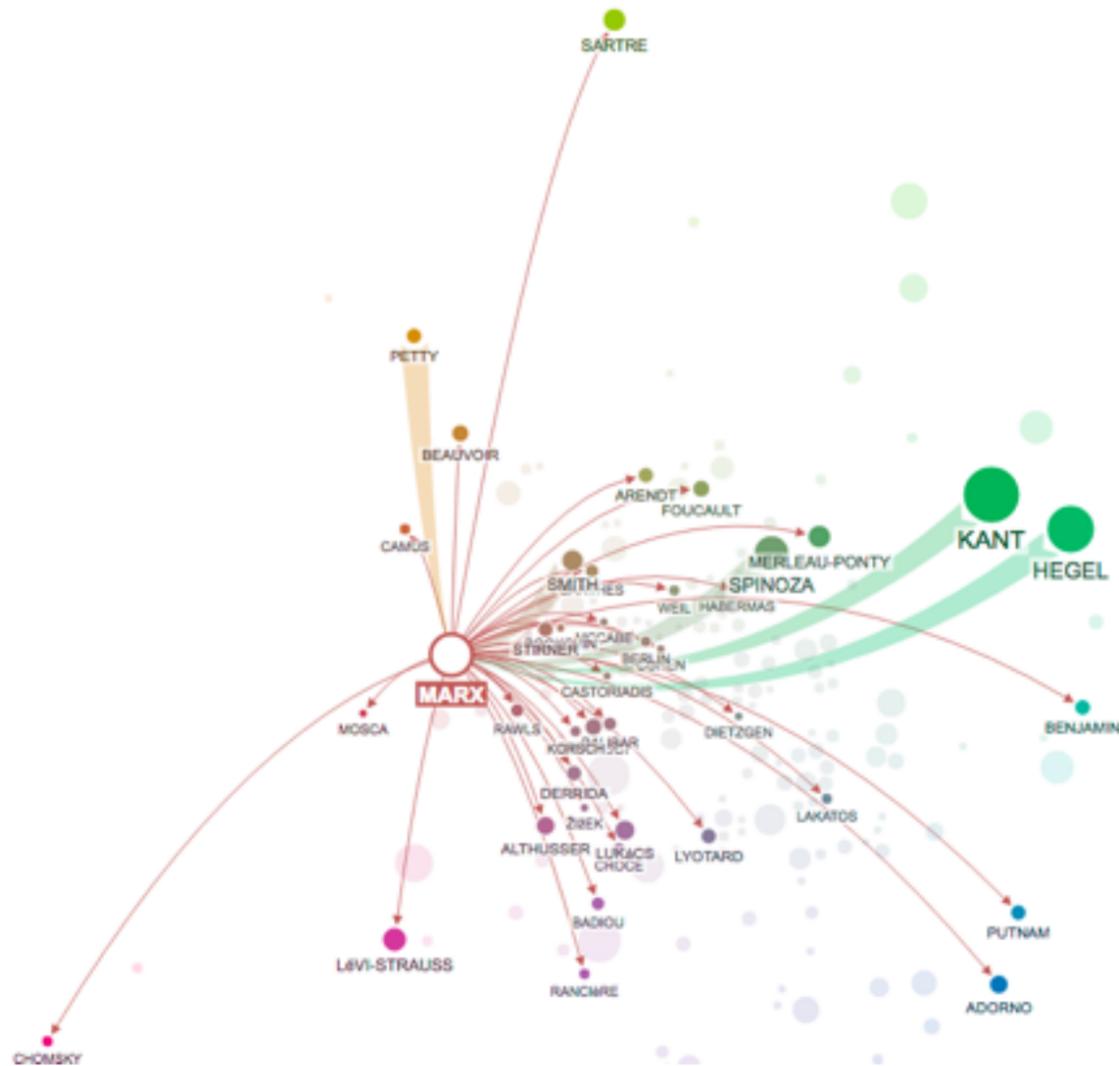
# Idiom: Trellis plots

- superimpose within same frame
  - color code by year
- partitioning
  - split by site, rows are wheat varieties
- main-effects ordering
  - derive value of median for group, use to order
  - order rows within view by variety median
  - order views themselves by site median



# Dynamic visual layering

- interactive based on selection
- one-hop neighbour highlighting demos: click vs hover (lightweight)



<http://mariandoerk.de/edgemaps/demo/>

<http://mbostock.github.io/d3/talk/20111116/airports.html>

# Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.  
–*Chap 12: Facet Into Multiple Views*
- *A Review of Overview+Detail, Zooming, and Focus+Context Interfaces*. Cockburn, Karlson, and Bederson. ACM Computing Surveys 41:1 (2008), 1–31.
- *A Guide to Visual Multi-Level Interface Design From Synthesis of Empirical Study Evidence*. Lam and Munzner. Synthesis Lectures on Visualization Series, Morgan Claypool, 2010.
- *Zooming versus multiple window interfaces: Cognitive costs of visual comparisons*. Plumlee and Ware. ACM Trans. on Computer-Human Interaction (ToCHI) 13:2 (2006), 179–209.
- *Exploring the Design Space of Composite Visualization*. Javed and Elmqvist. Proc. Pacific Visualization Symp. (PacificVis), pp. 1–9, 2012.
- *Visual Comparison for Information Visualization*. Gleicher, Albers, Walker, Jusufi, Hansen, and Roberts. Information Visualization 10:4 (2011), 289–309.
- *Guidelines for Using Multiple Views in Information Visualizations*. Baldonado, Woodruff, and Kuchinsky. In Proc. ACM Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI), pp. 110–119, 2000.
- *Cross-Filtered Views for Multidimensional Visual Analysis*. Weaver. IEEE Trans. Visualization and Computer Graphics 16:2 (Proc. InfoVis 2010), 192–204, 2010.
- *Linked Data Views*. Wills. In Handbook of Data Visualization, Computational Statistics, edited by Unwin, Chen, and Härdle, pp. 216–241. Springer-Verlag, 2008.
- *Glyph-based Visualization: Foundations, Design Guidelines, Techniques and Applications*. Borgo, Kehrer, Chung, Maguire, Laramee, Hauser, Ward, and Chen. In Eurographics State of the Art Reports, pp. 39–63, 2013.

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# 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, change, facet

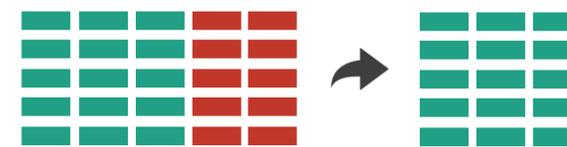
## Reducing Items and Attributes

### ① Filter

→ Items



→ Attributes

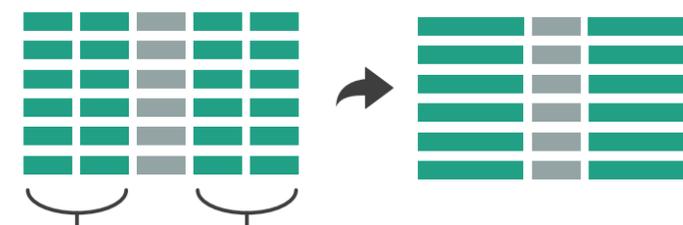


### ② Aggregate

→ Items



→ Attributes



## Reduce

### ① Filter



### ② Aggregate



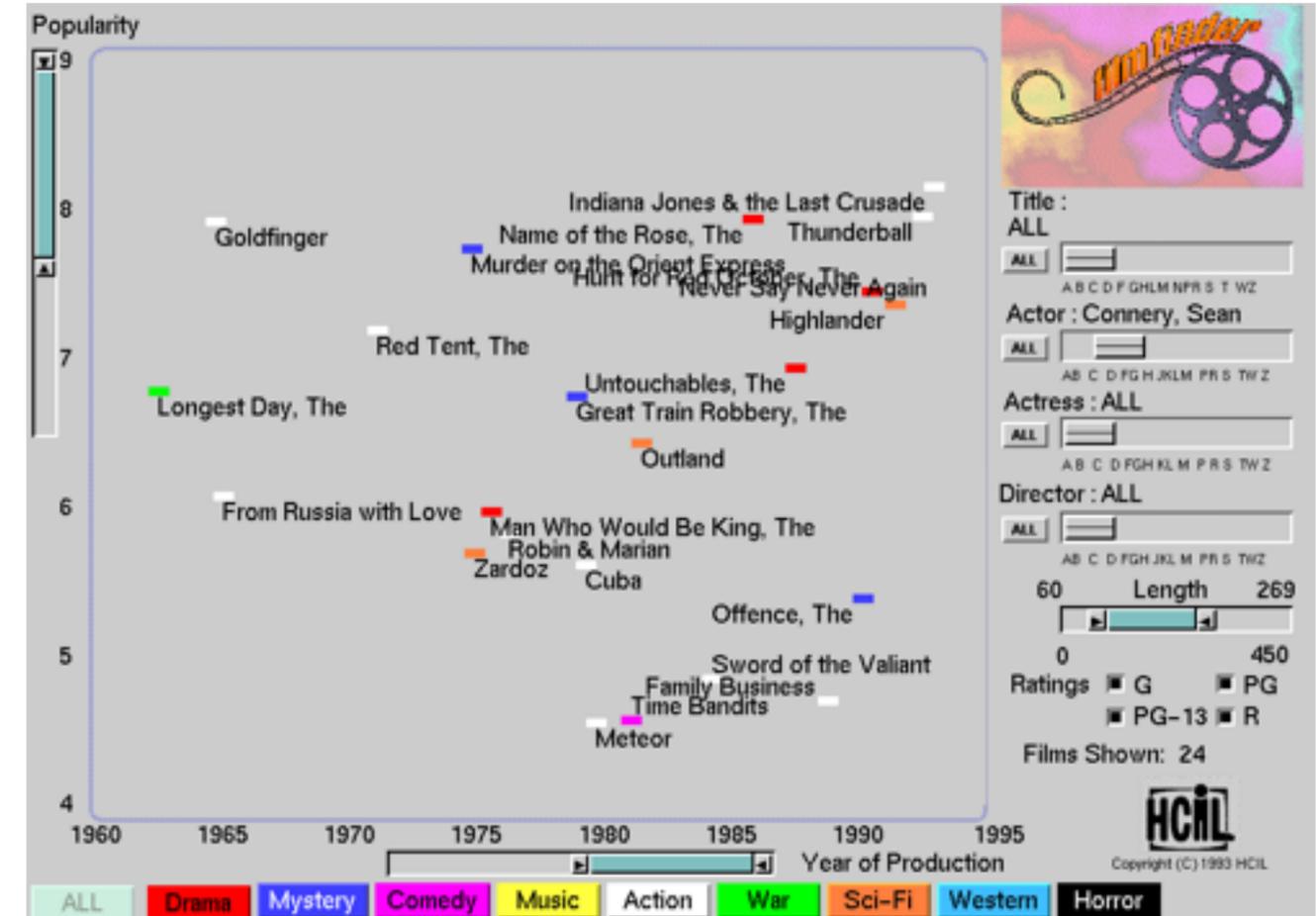
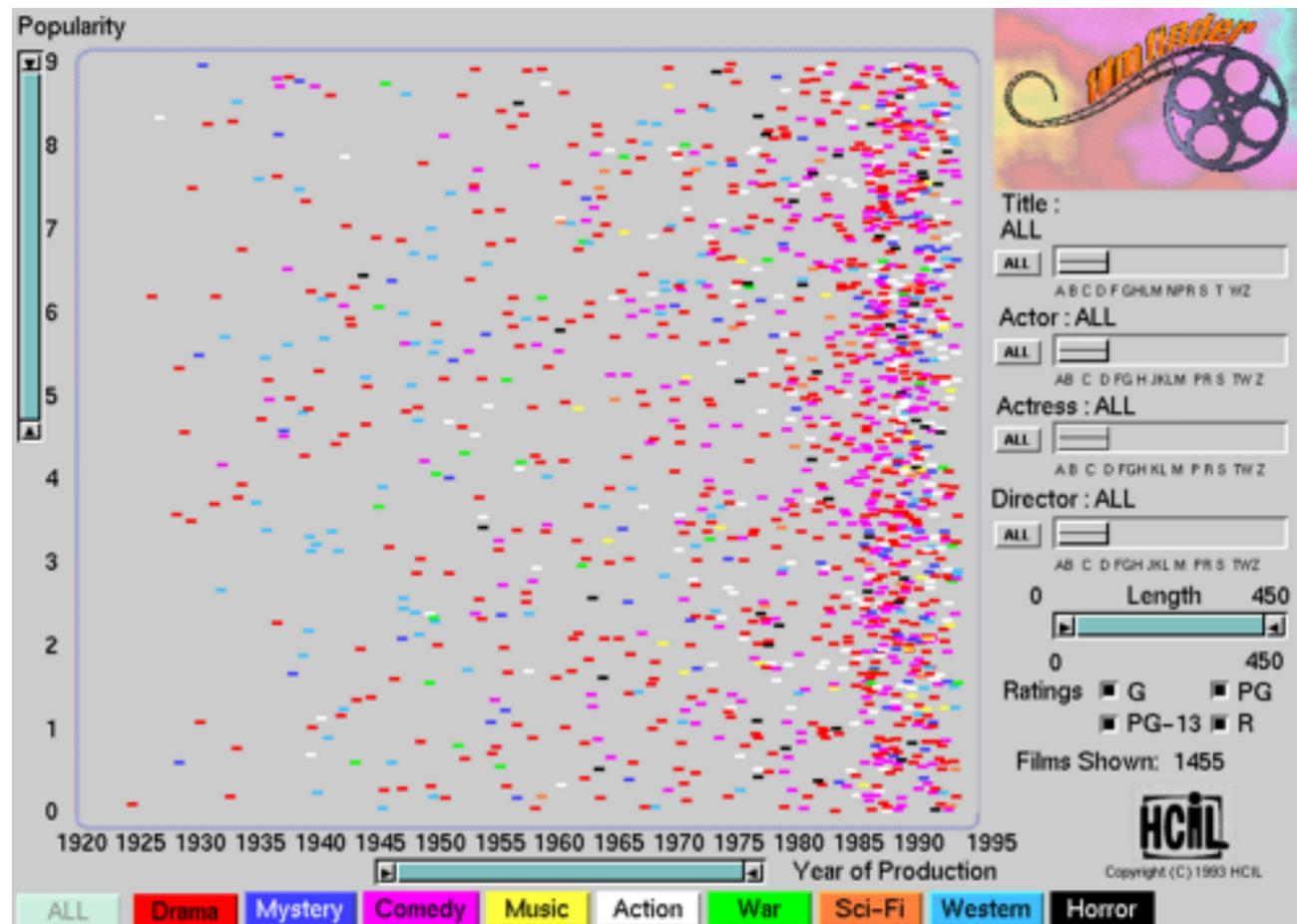
### ③ Embed



# Idiom: **dynamic filtering**

# System: **FilmFinder**

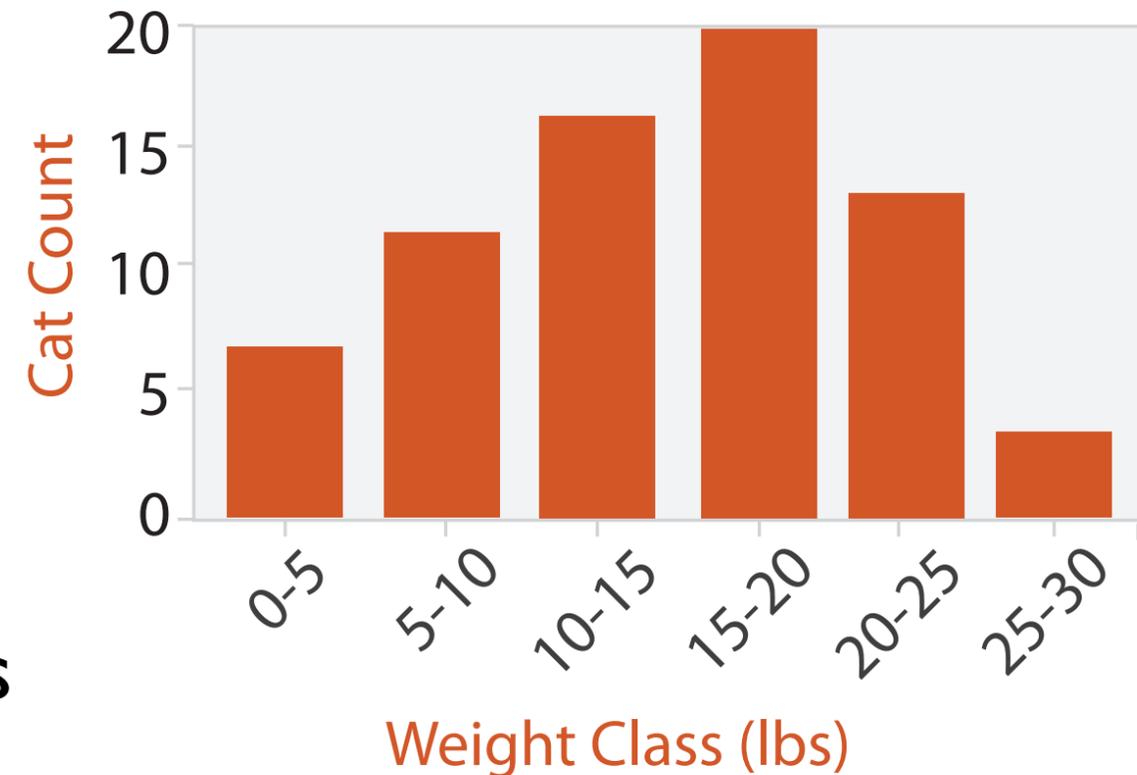
- item filtering
- browse through tightly coupled interaction
  - alternative to queries that might return far too many or too few



[Visual information seeking: Tight coupling of dynamic query filters with starfield displays. Ahlberg and Shneiderman. Proc. ACM Conf. on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), pp. 313–317, 1994.]

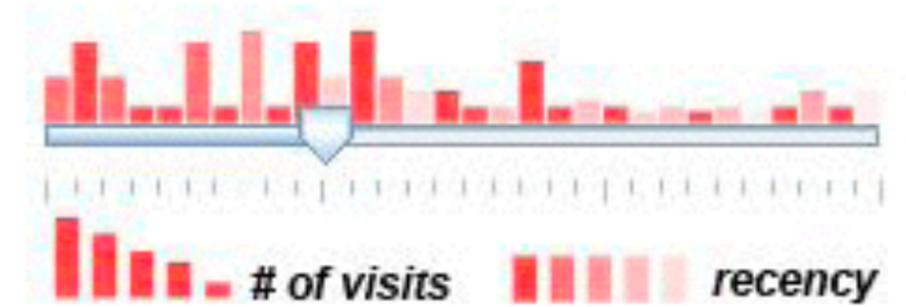
# Idiom: **histogram**

- static item aggregation
- task: find distribution
- data: table
- derived data
  - new table: keys are bins, values are counts
- bin size crucial
  - pattern can change dramatically depending on discretization
  - opportunity for interaction: control bin size on the fly

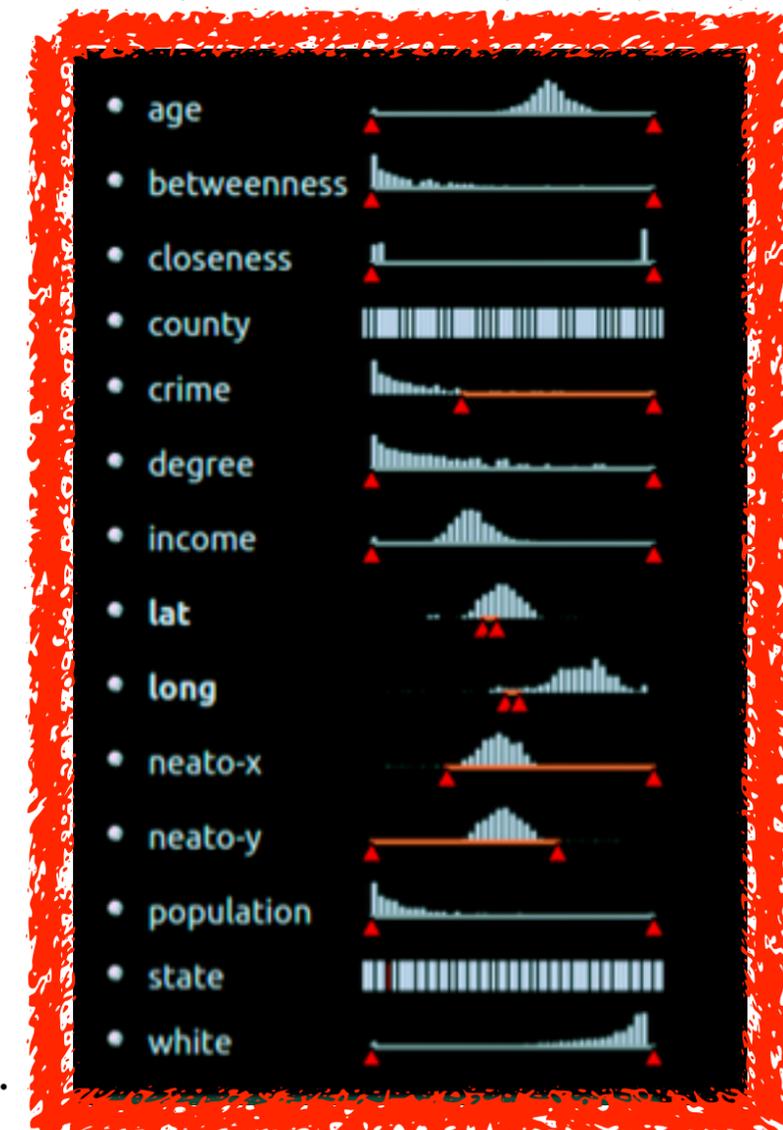
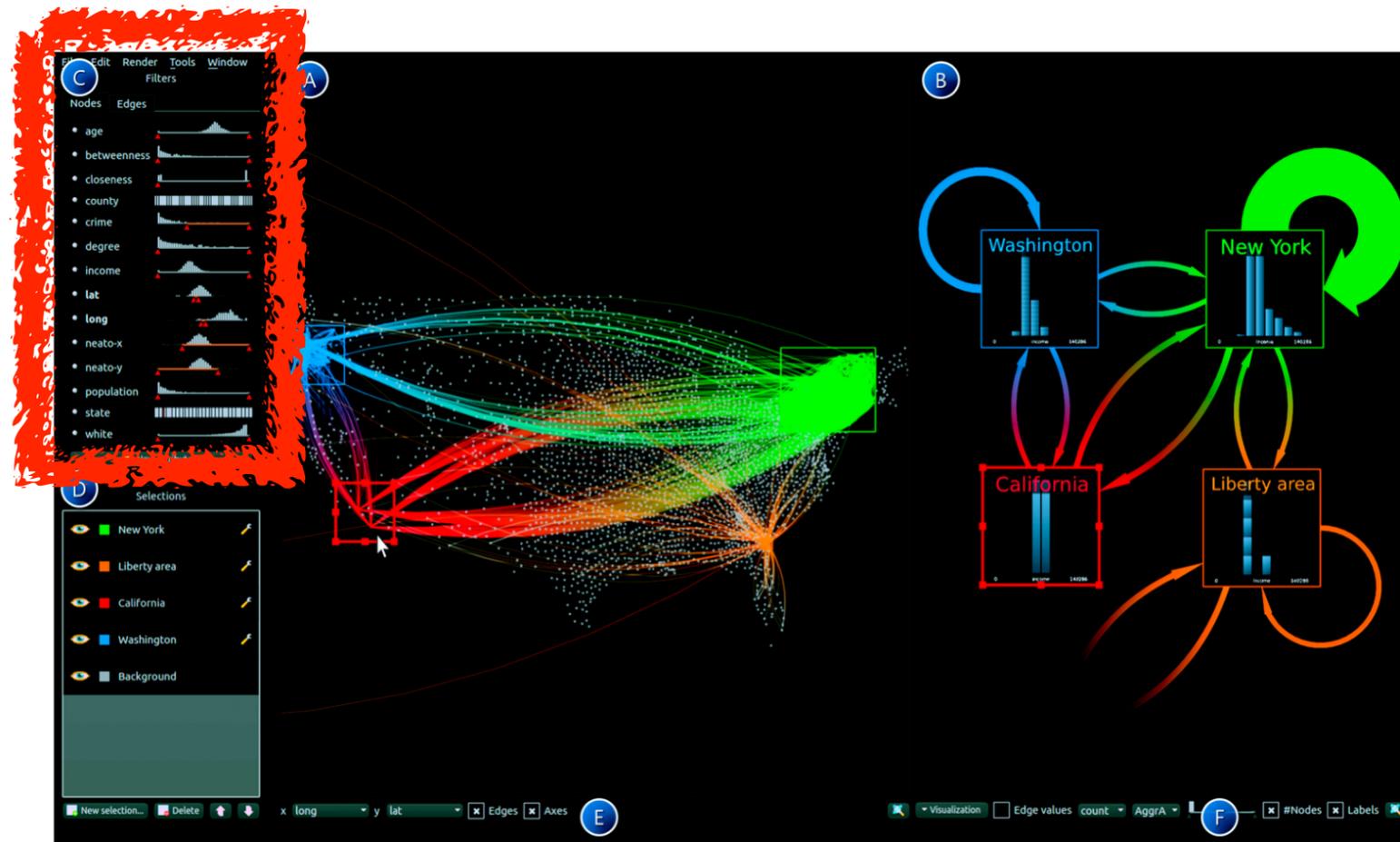


# Idiom: scented widgets

- augmented widgets show information scent
  - cues to show whether value in drilling down further vs looking elsewhere
- concise use of space: histogram on slider



[Scented Widgets: Improving Navigation Cues with Embedded Visualizations. Willett, Heer, and Agrawala. IEEE TVCG (Proc. InfoVis 2007) 13:6 (2007), 1129–1136.]



[Multivariate Network Exploration and Presentation: From Detail to Overview via Selections and Aggregations. van den Elzen, van Wijk, IEEE TVCG 20(12): 2014 (Proc. InfoVis 2014).]

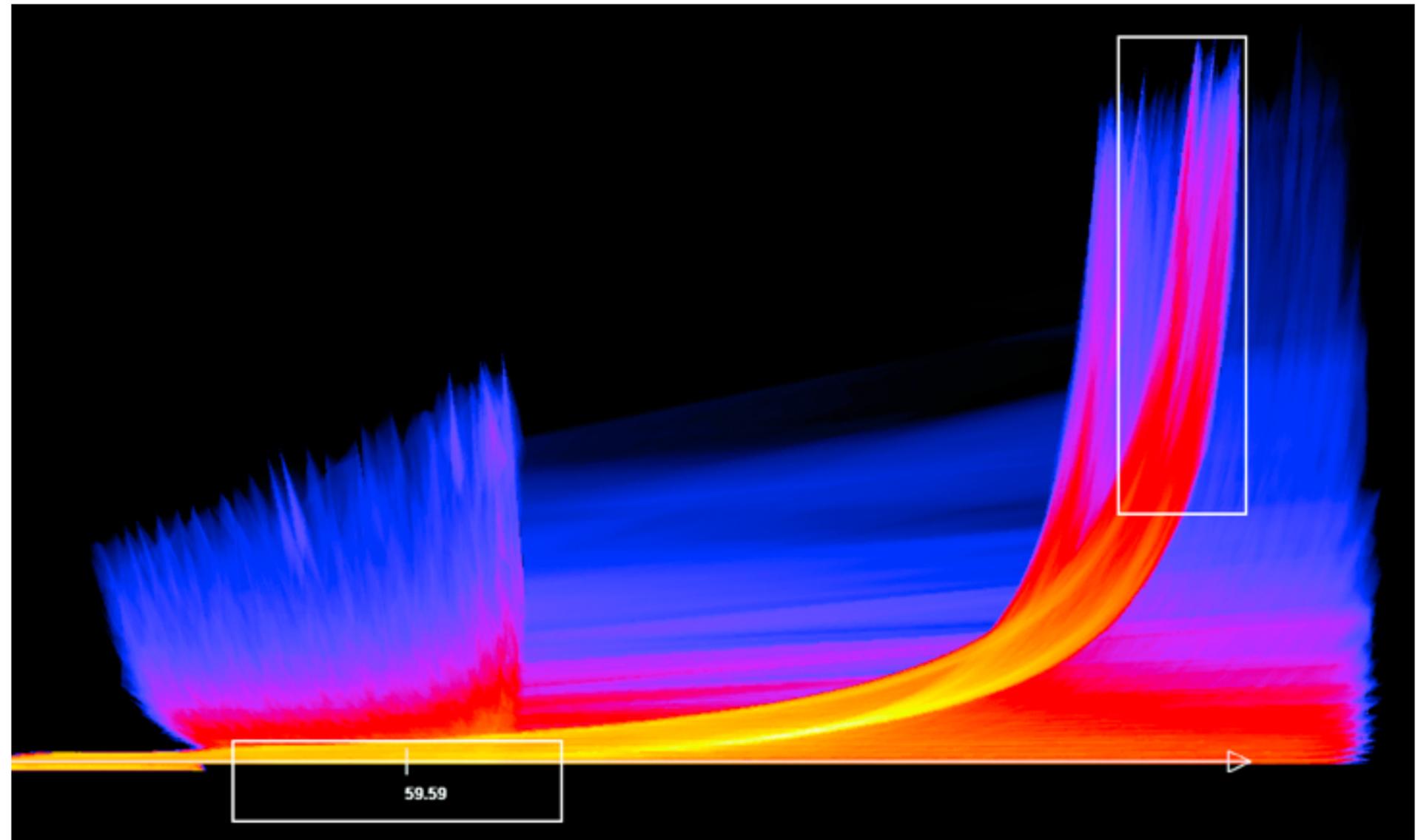
# Scented histogram bisliders: detailed



[ICLIC: Interactive categorization of large image collections. van der Corput and van Wijk. Proc. PacificVis 2016.]

# Continuous scatterplot

- static item aggregation
- data: table
- derived data: table
  - key attribs x,y for pixels
  - quant attrib: overplot density
- dense space-filling 2D matrix
- color: sequential categorical hue + ordered luminance colormap

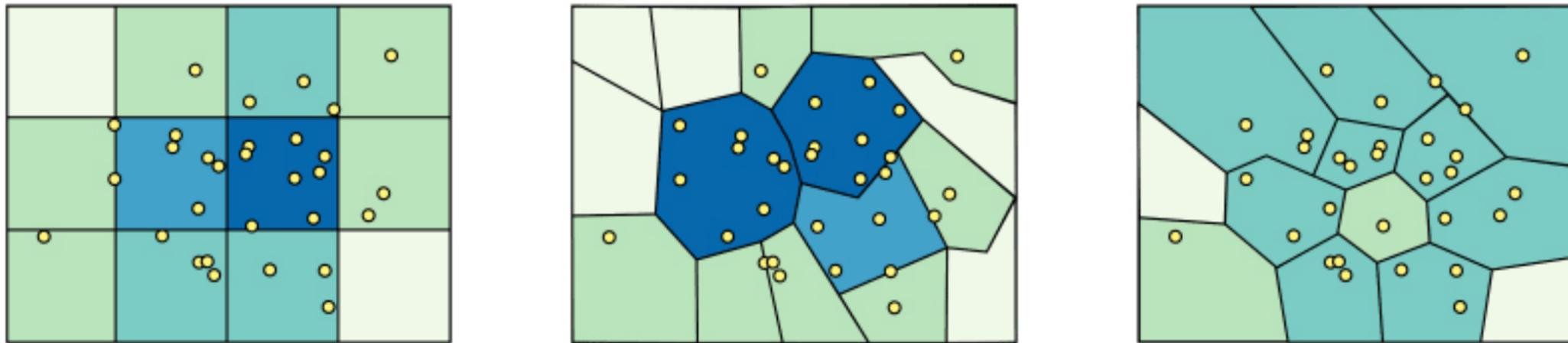


# Spatial aggregation

- MAUP: Modifiable Areal Unit Problem

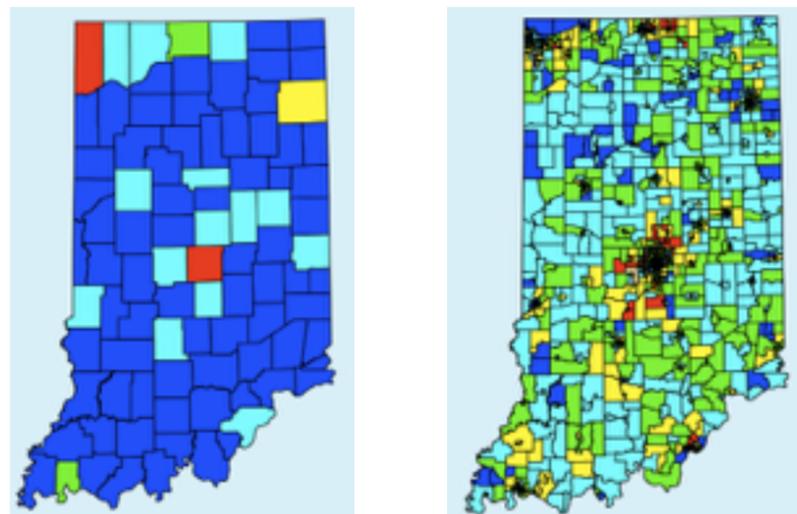
- gerrymandering (manipulating voting district boundaries) is only one example!

- zone effects



*[[http://www.e-education.psu.edu/geog486/l4\\_p7.html](http://www.e-education.psu.edu/geog486/l4_p7.html), Fig 4.cg.6]*

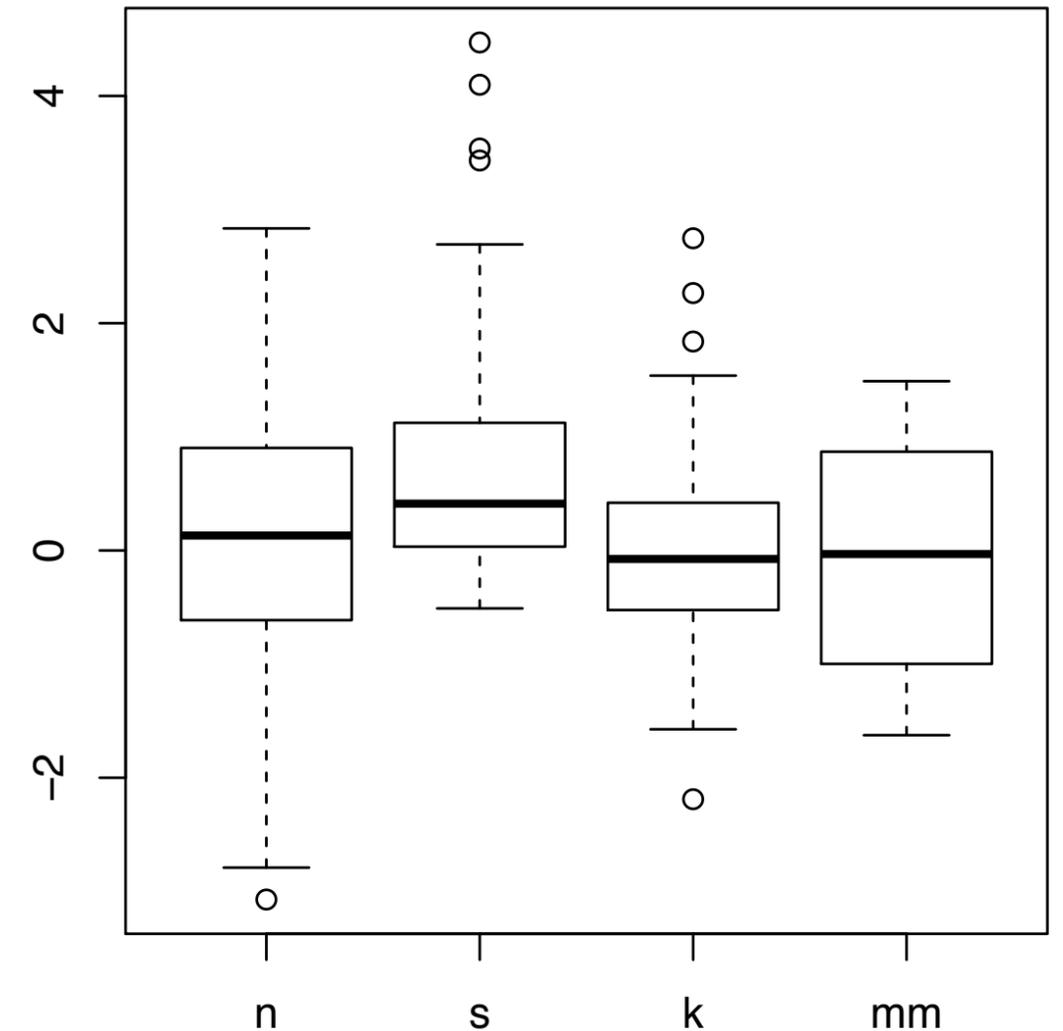
- scale effects



*<https://blog.cartographica.com/blog/2011/5/19/the-modifiable-areal-unit-problem-in-gis.html>*

# Idiom: **boxplot**

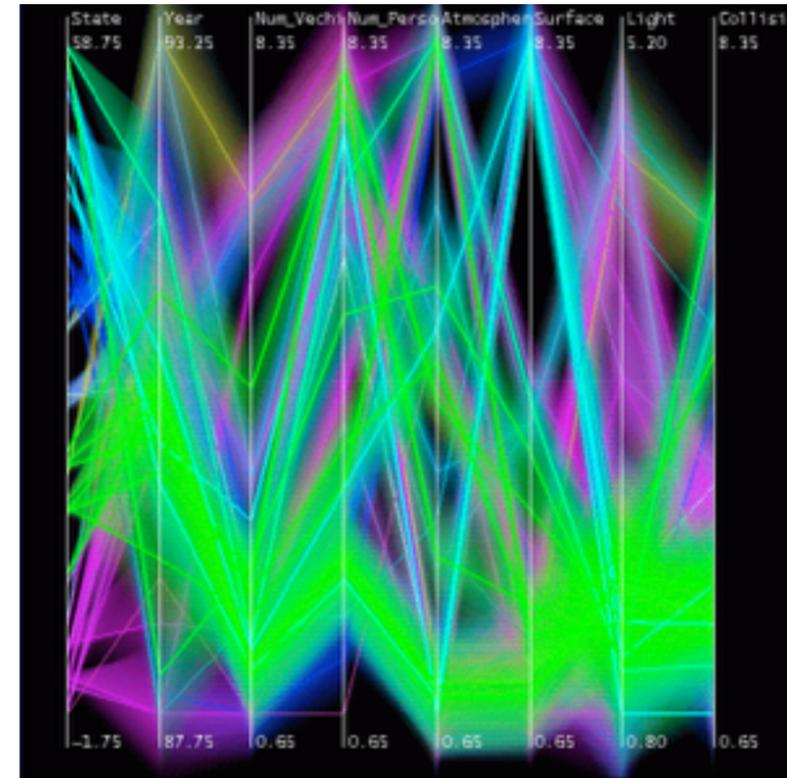
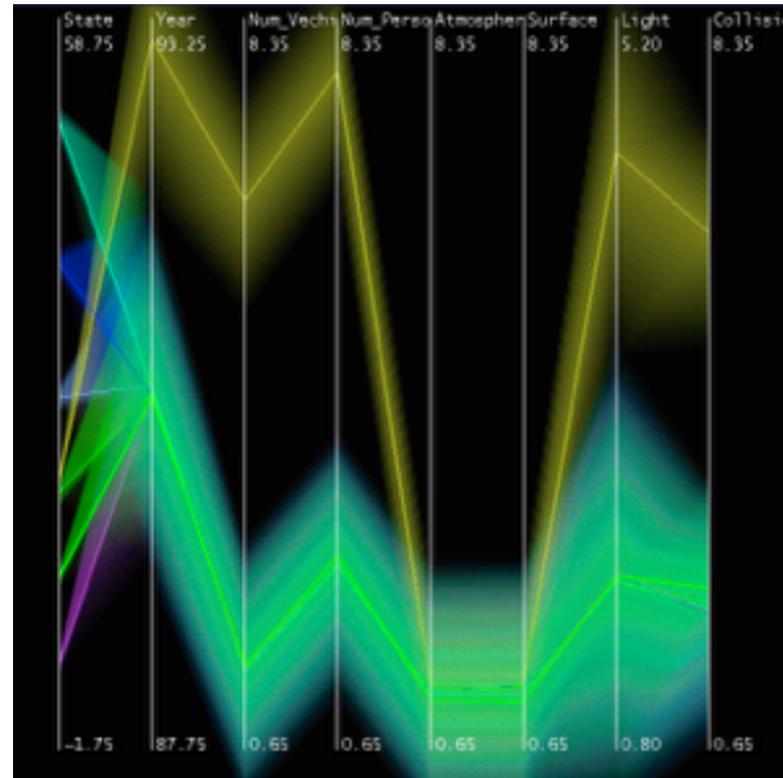
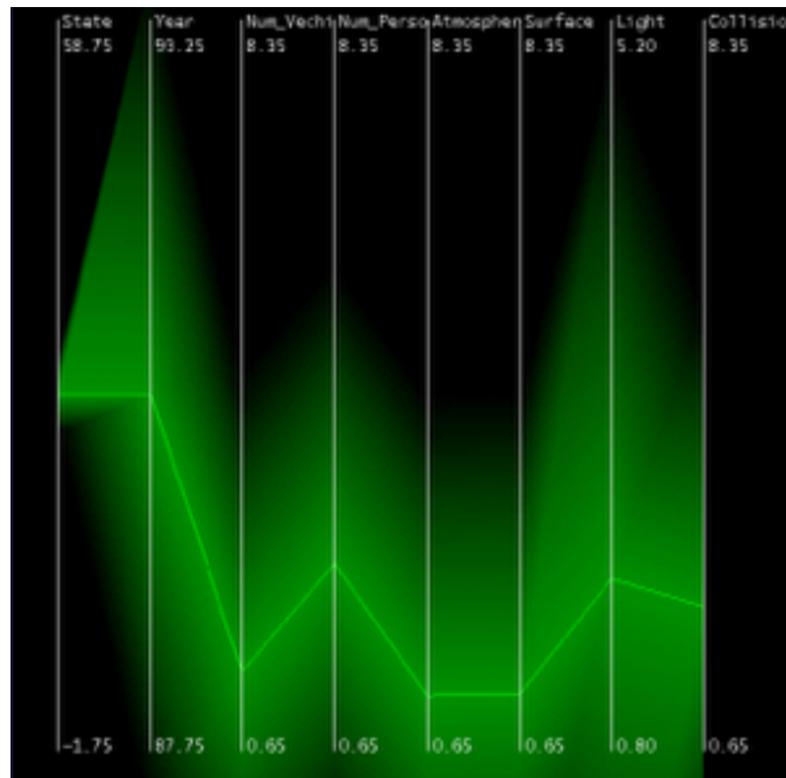
- static item aggregation
- task: find distribution
- data: table
- derived data
  - 5 quant attribs
    - median: central line
    - lower and upper quartile: boxes
    - lower upper fences: whiskers
      - values beyond which items are outliers
  - outliers beyond fence cutoffs explicitly shown



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

# Idiom: Hierarchical parallel coordinates

- dynamic item aggregation
- derived data: *hierarchical clustering*
- encoding:
  - cluster band with variable transparency, line at mean, width by min/max values
  - color by proximity in hierarchy



[Hierarchical Parallel Coordinates for Exploration of Large Datasets. Fua, Ward, and Rundensteiner. Proc. IEEE Visualization Conference (Vis '99), pp. 43– 50, 1999.]

# Dimensionality reduction

- attribute aggregation
  - derive low-dimensional target space from high-dimensional measured space
  - use when you can't directly measure what you care about
    - true dimensionality of dataset conjectured to be smaller than dimensionality of measurements
    - latent factors, hidden variables

Tumor  
Measurement Data

data: 9D measured space

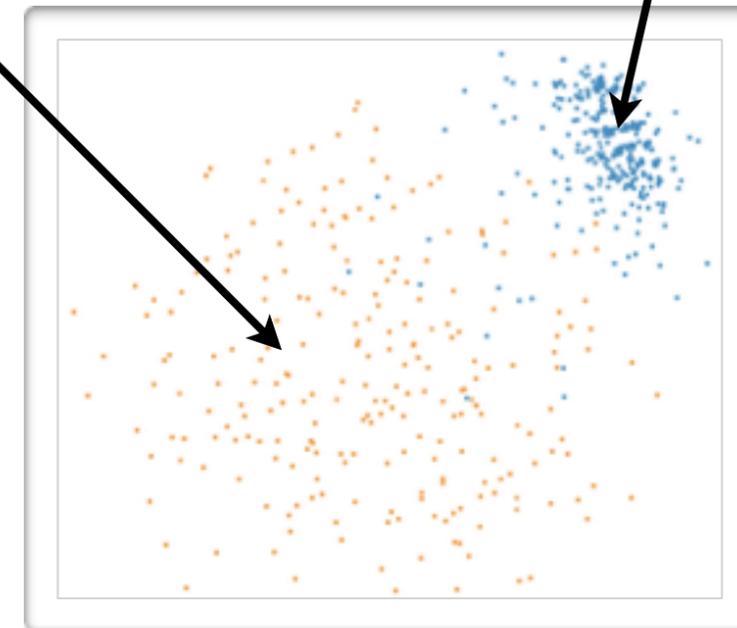


**DR**



Malignant

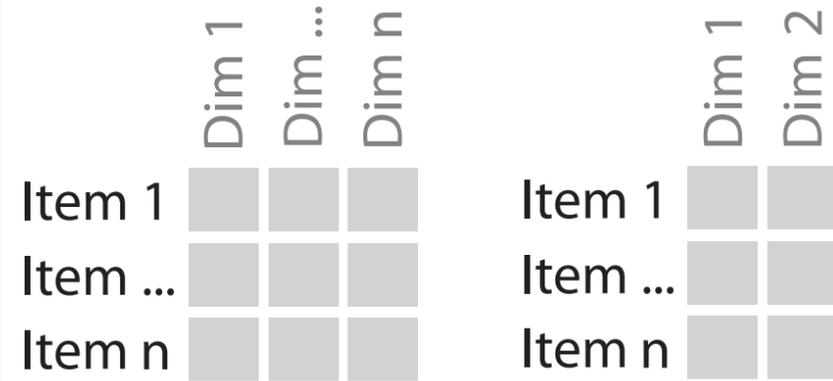
Benign



derived data: 2D target space

# Idiom: Dimensionality reduction for documents

## Task 1



**In** HD data → **Out** 2D data

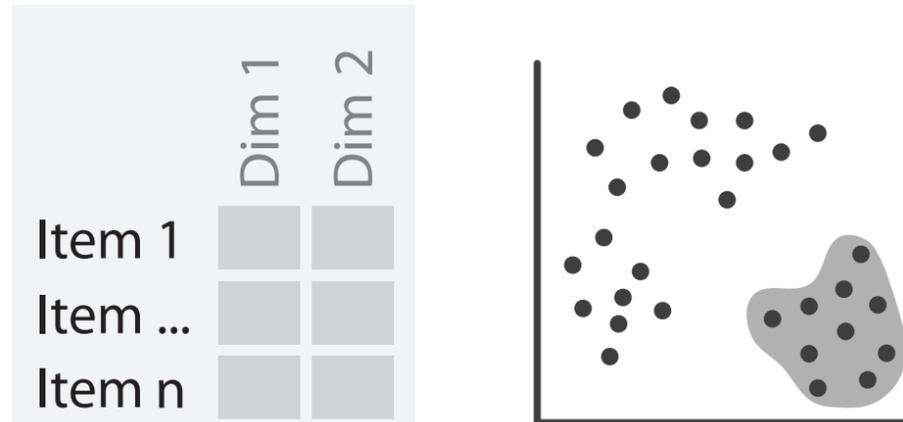
### What?

### Why?

- **In** High-dimensional data
- **Out** 2D data

- Produce
- Derive

## Task 2



**In** 2D data → **Out** Scatterplot  
Clusters & points

### What?

### Why?

### How?

- **In** 2D data
- **Out** Scatterplot
- **Out** Clusters & points

- Discover
- Explore
- Identify

- Encode
- Navigate
- Select

## Task 3



**In** Scatterplot  
Clusters & points → **Out** Labels for clusters

### What?

### Why?

- **In** Scatterplot
- **In** Clusters & points
- **Out** Labels for clusters

- Produce
- Annotate

## Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Munzner. AK Peters Visualization Series, CRC Press, 2014.
  - Chap 13: Reduce Items and Attributes*
- *Hierarchical Aggregation for Information Visualization: Overview, Techniques and Design Guidelines*. Elmqvist and Fekete. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics 16:3 (2010), 439–454.
- *A Review of Overview+Detail, Zooming, and Focus+Context Interfaces*. Cockburn, Karlson, and Bederson. ACM Computing Surveys 41:1 (2008), 1–31.
- *A Guide to Visual Multi-Level Interface Design From Synthesis of Empirical Study Evidence*. Lam and Munzner. Synthesis Lectures on Visualization Series, Morgan Claypool, 2010.

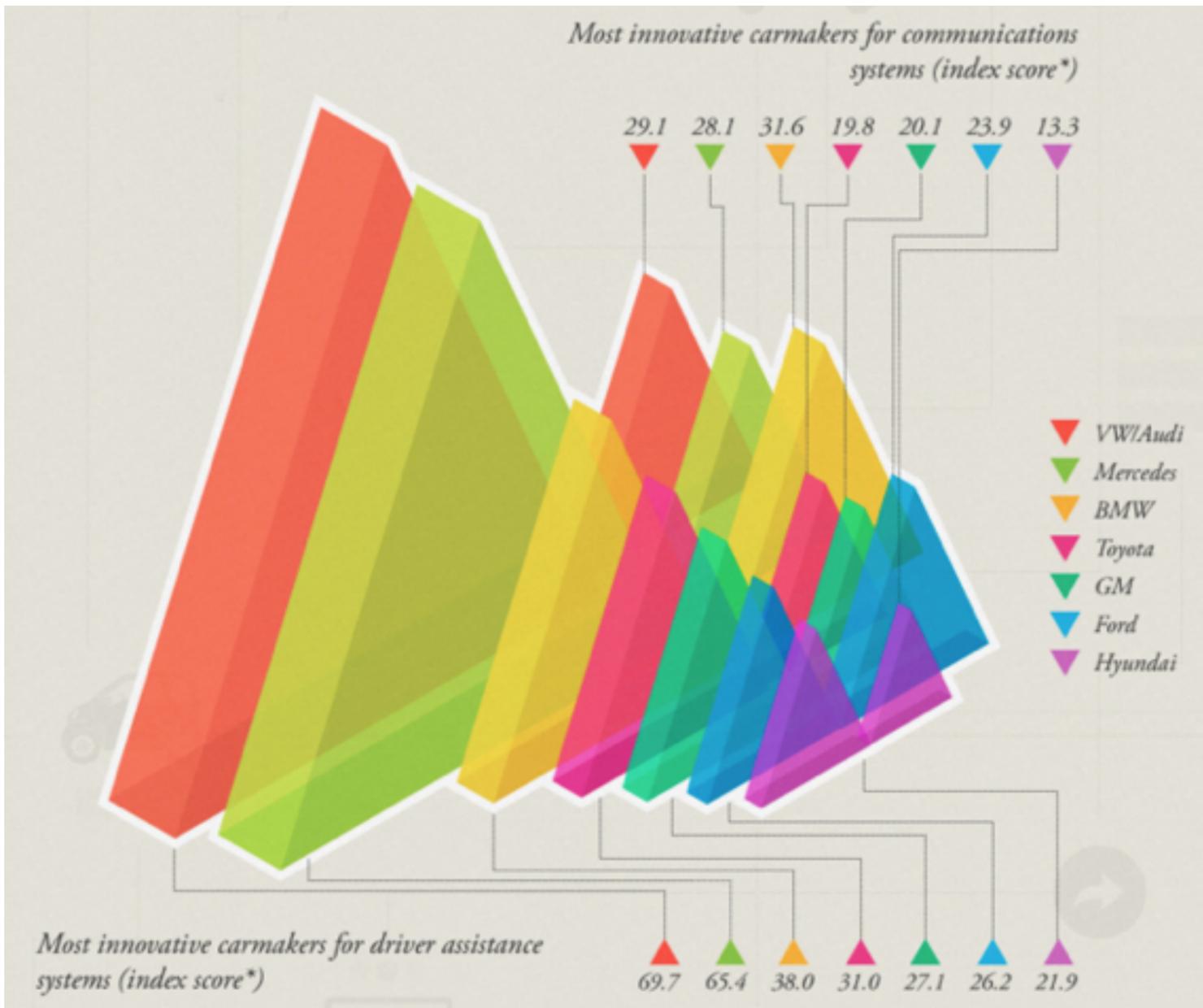
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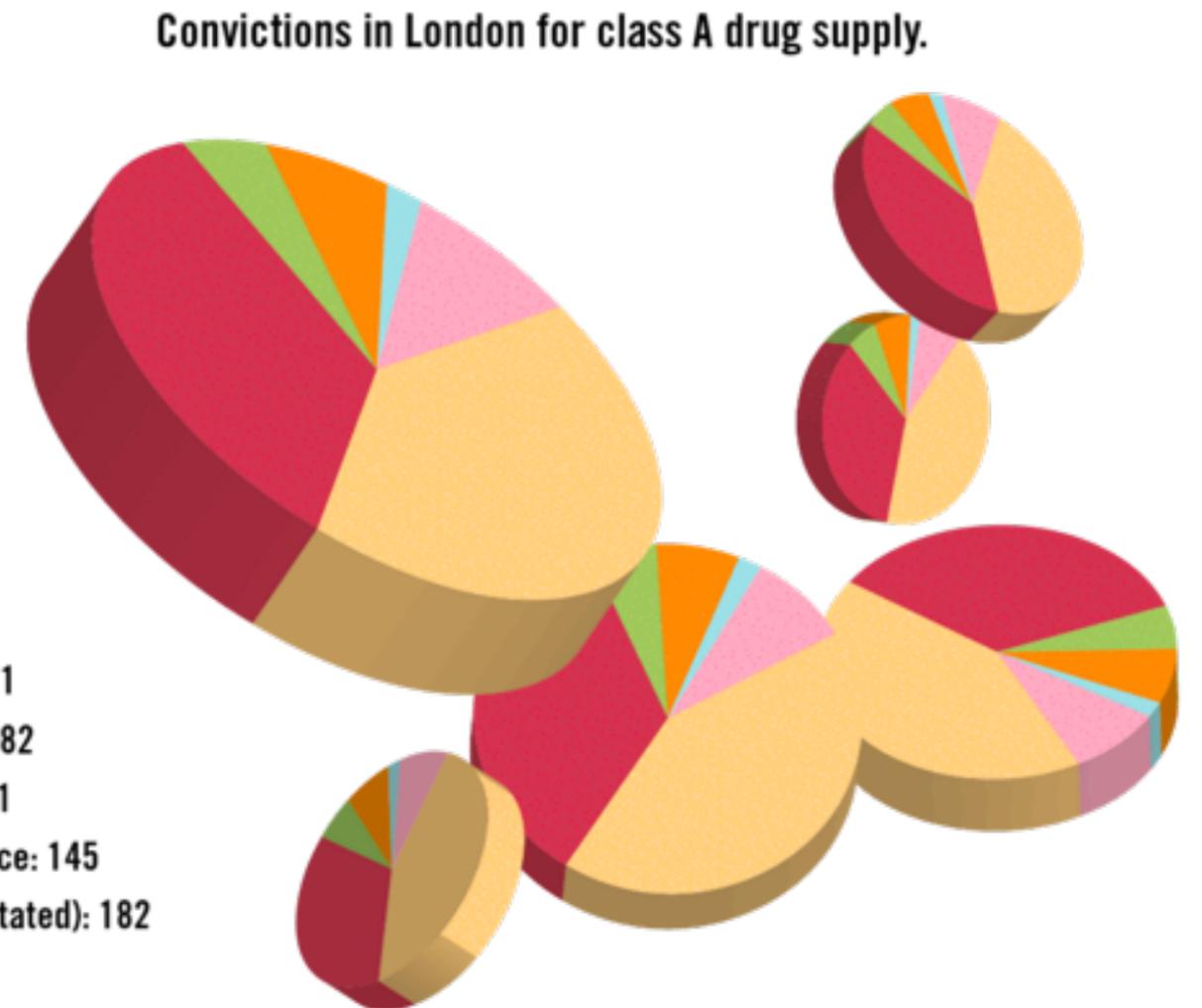
# Rules of Thumb

- **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**

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



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



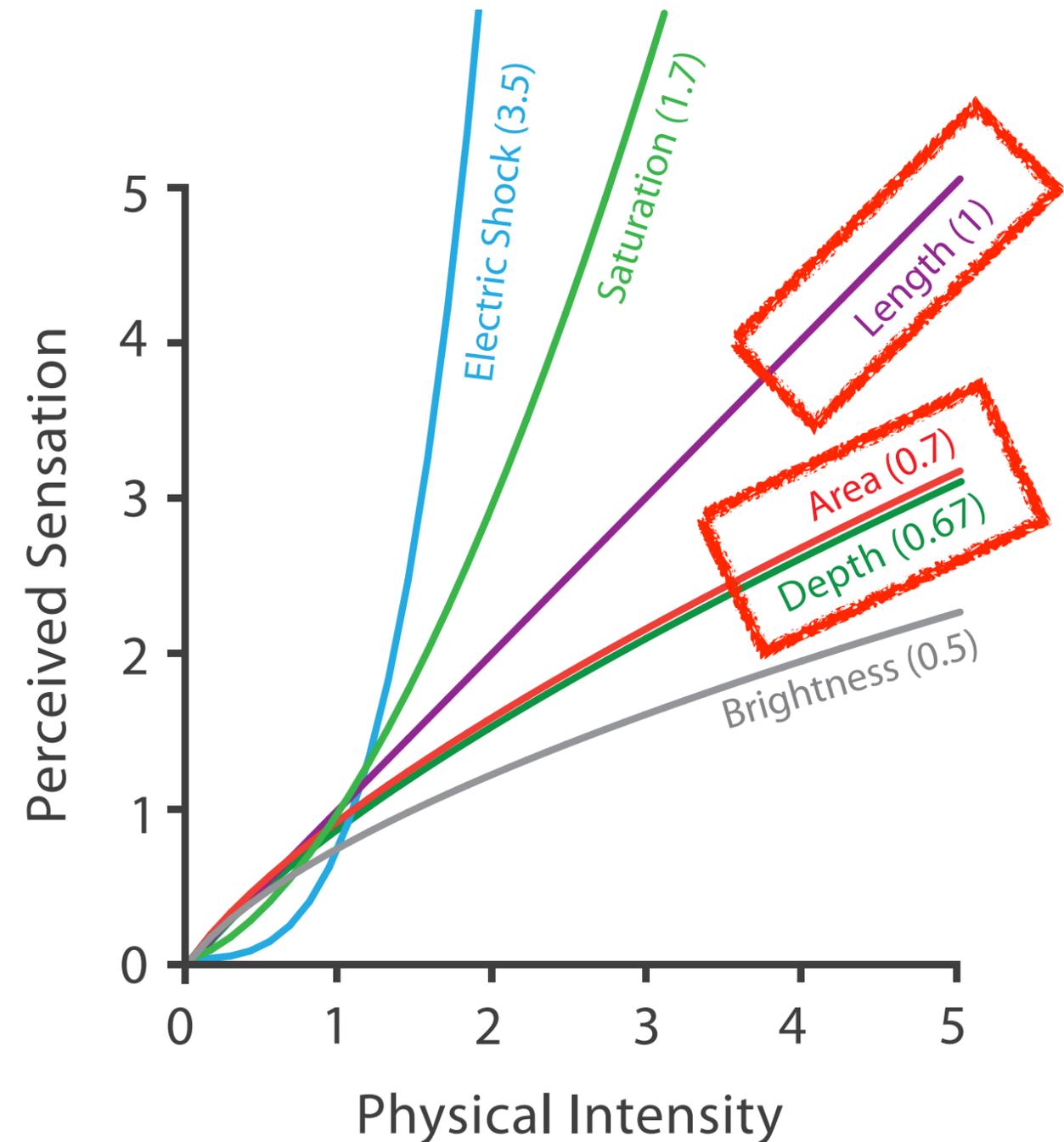
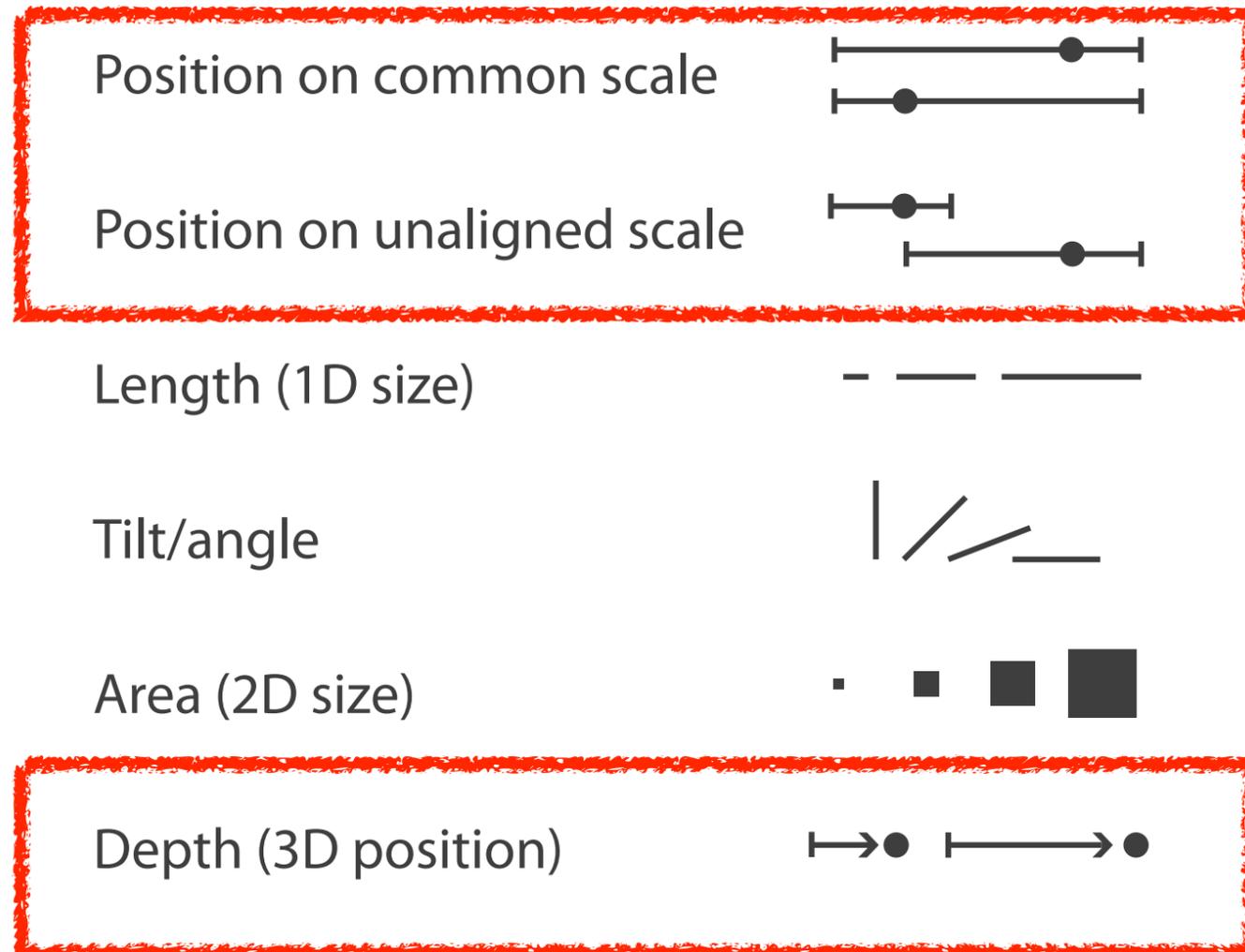
<http://viz.wtf/post/139002022202/designer-drugs-ht-ducqn>

# Depth vs power of the plane

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

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

## ➔ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes



# No unjustified 3D: 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



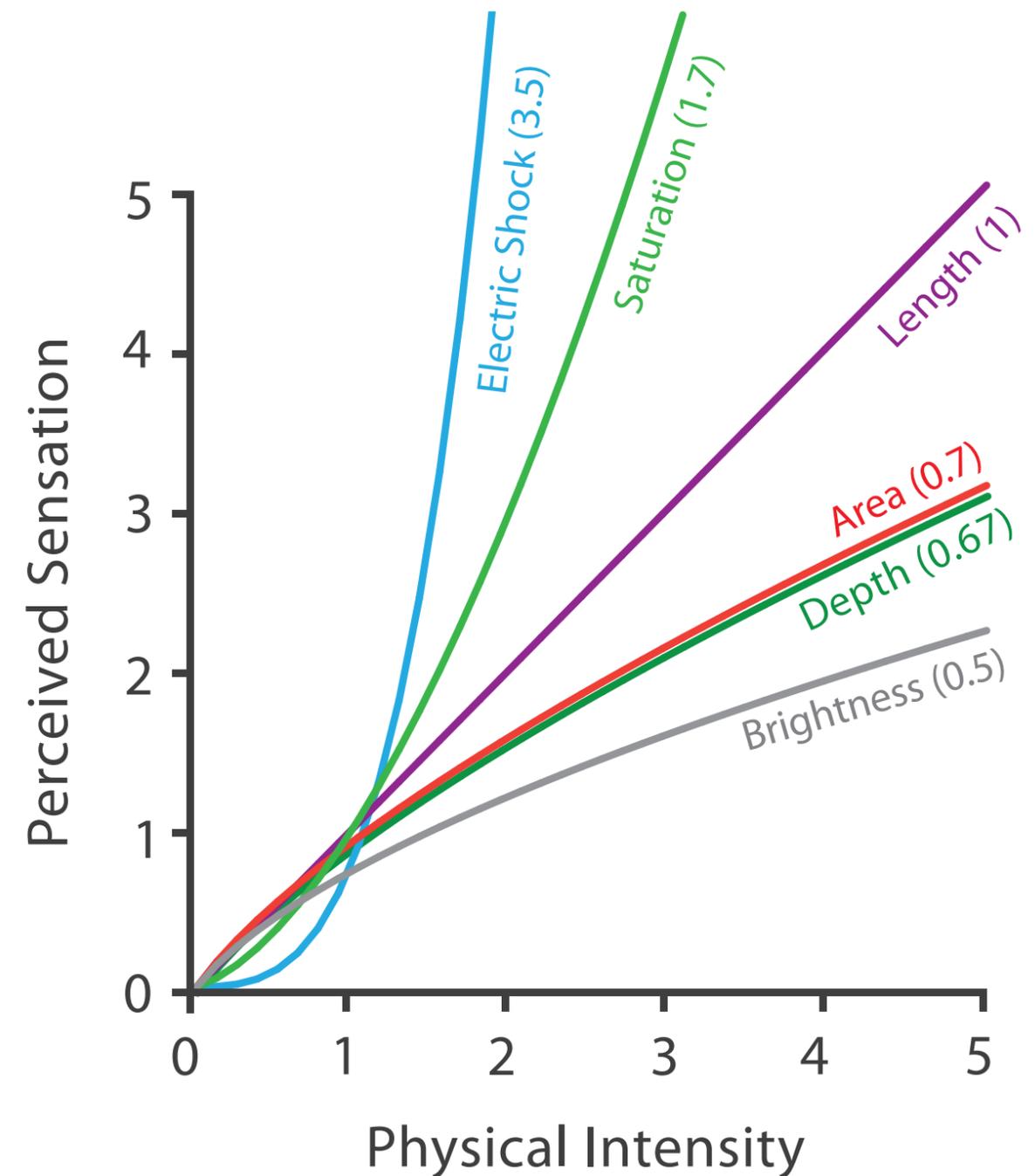
Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)

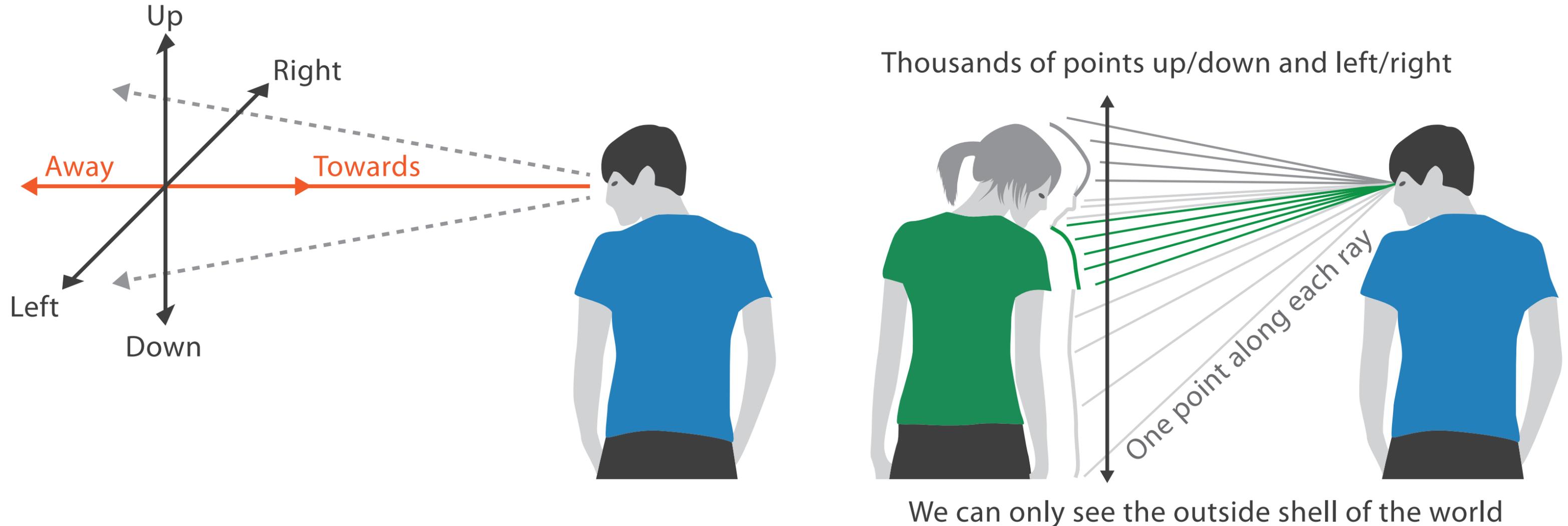


Steven's Psychophysical Power Law:  $S = I^N$



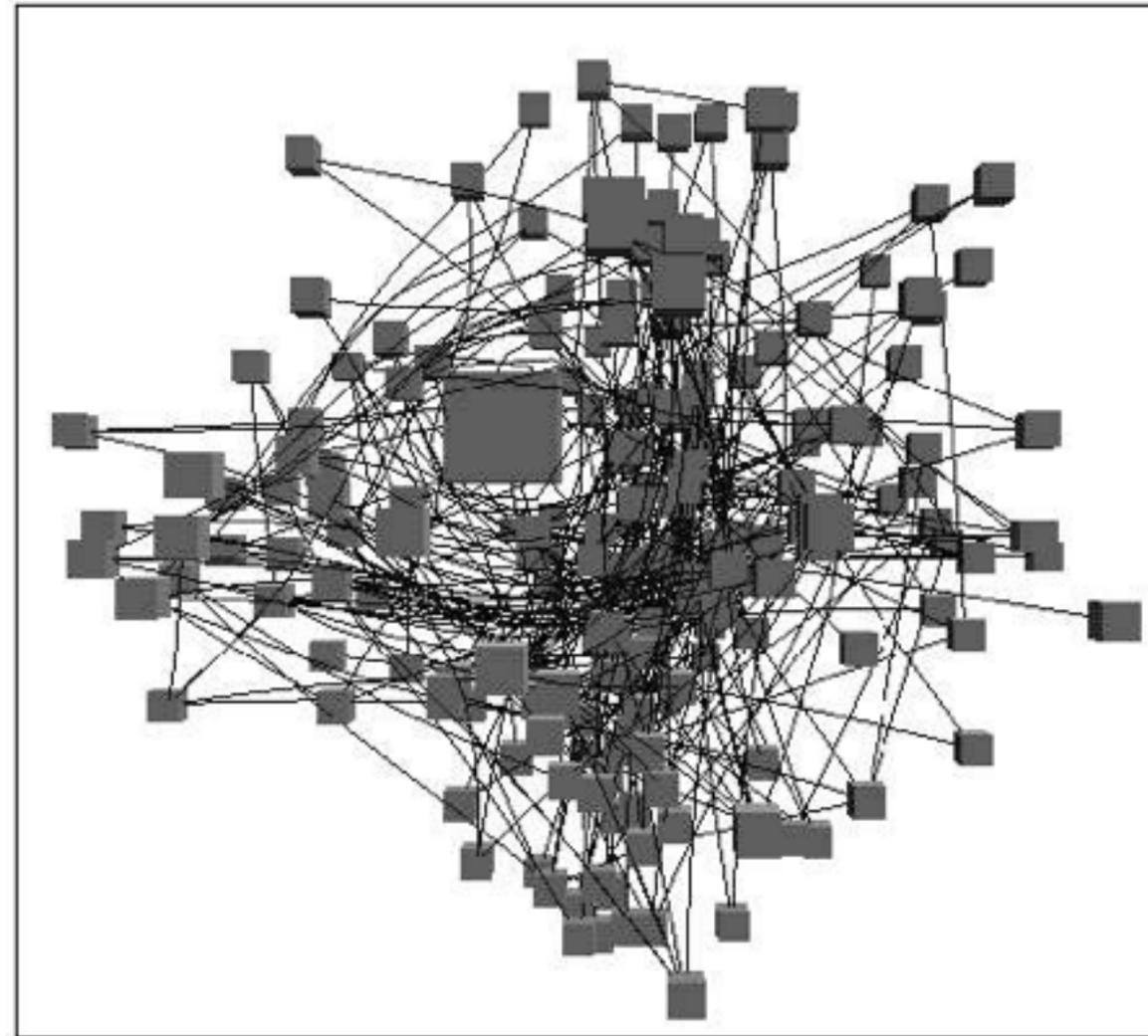
# No unjustified 3D: Danger of depth

- 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

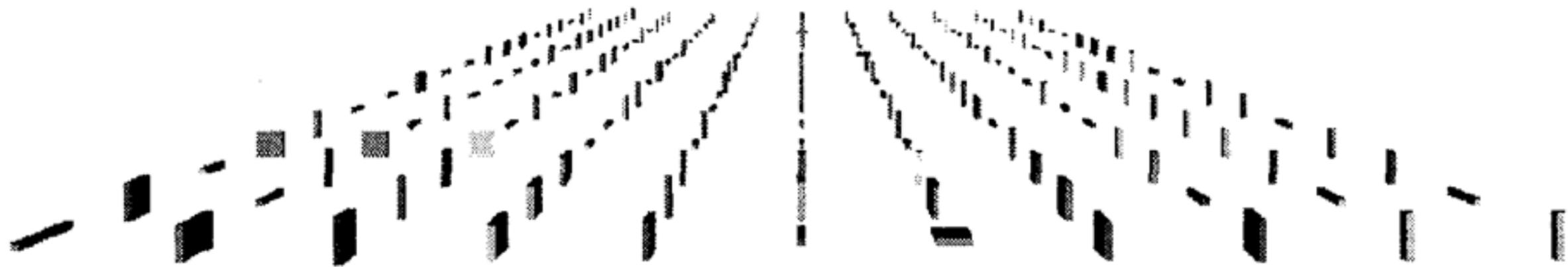
- occlusion
- interaction can resolve, but at cost of time and cognitive load



*[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.  
Mukherjea, Hirata, and Hara. InfoVis 96]*

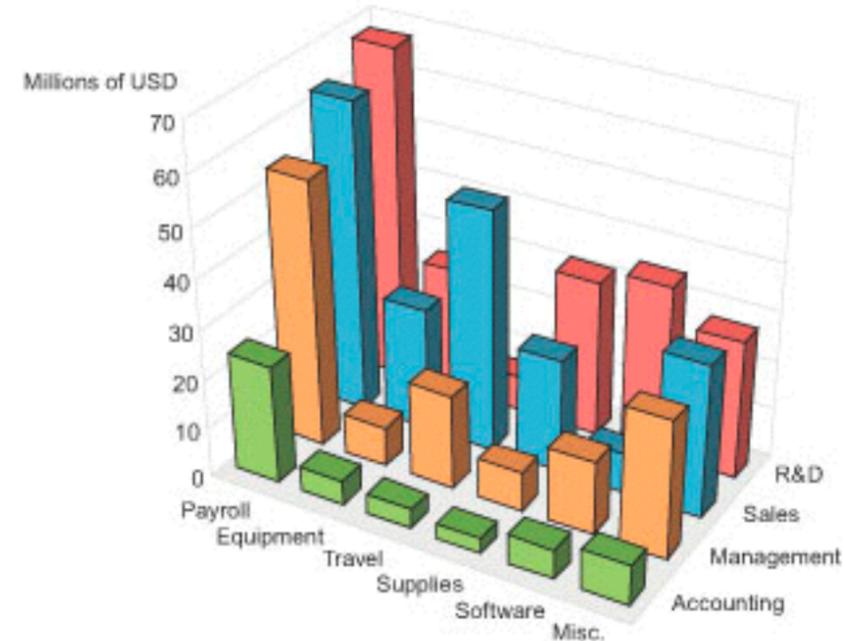
# 3D vs 2D bar charts

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

## Graph Design I.Q. Test

Question 7: Which graph makes it easier to determine R&D's travel expense?

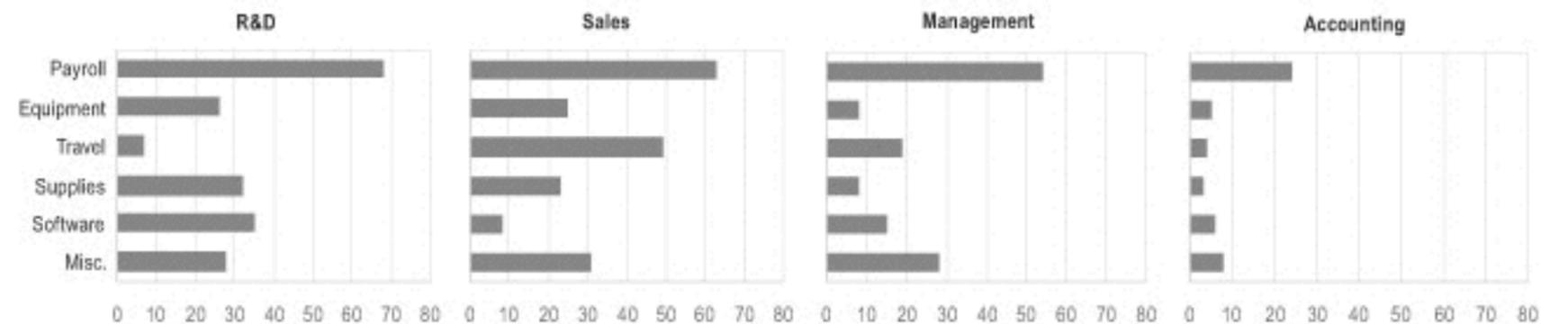
2006 Expenses by Department



3-D Bar Graph (left)

2-D Bar Graphs (below)

2006 Expenses by Department in Millions of USD



[<http://perceptualedge.com/files/GraphDesignIQ.html>]

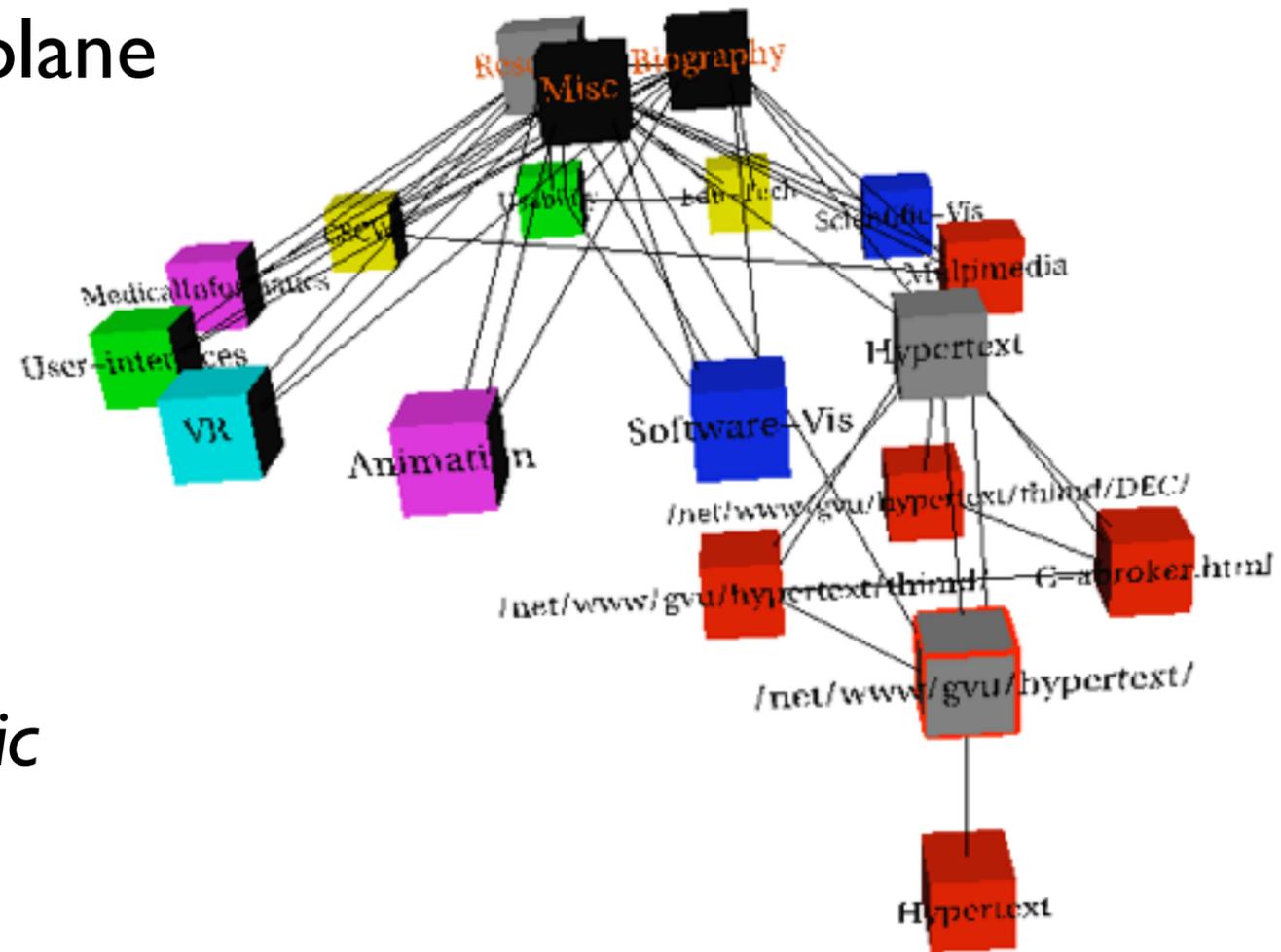
# Tilted text isn't legible

- text legibility
  - far worse when tilted from image plane

- further reading

*[Exploring and Reducing the Effects of Orientation on Text Readability in Volumetric Displays.*

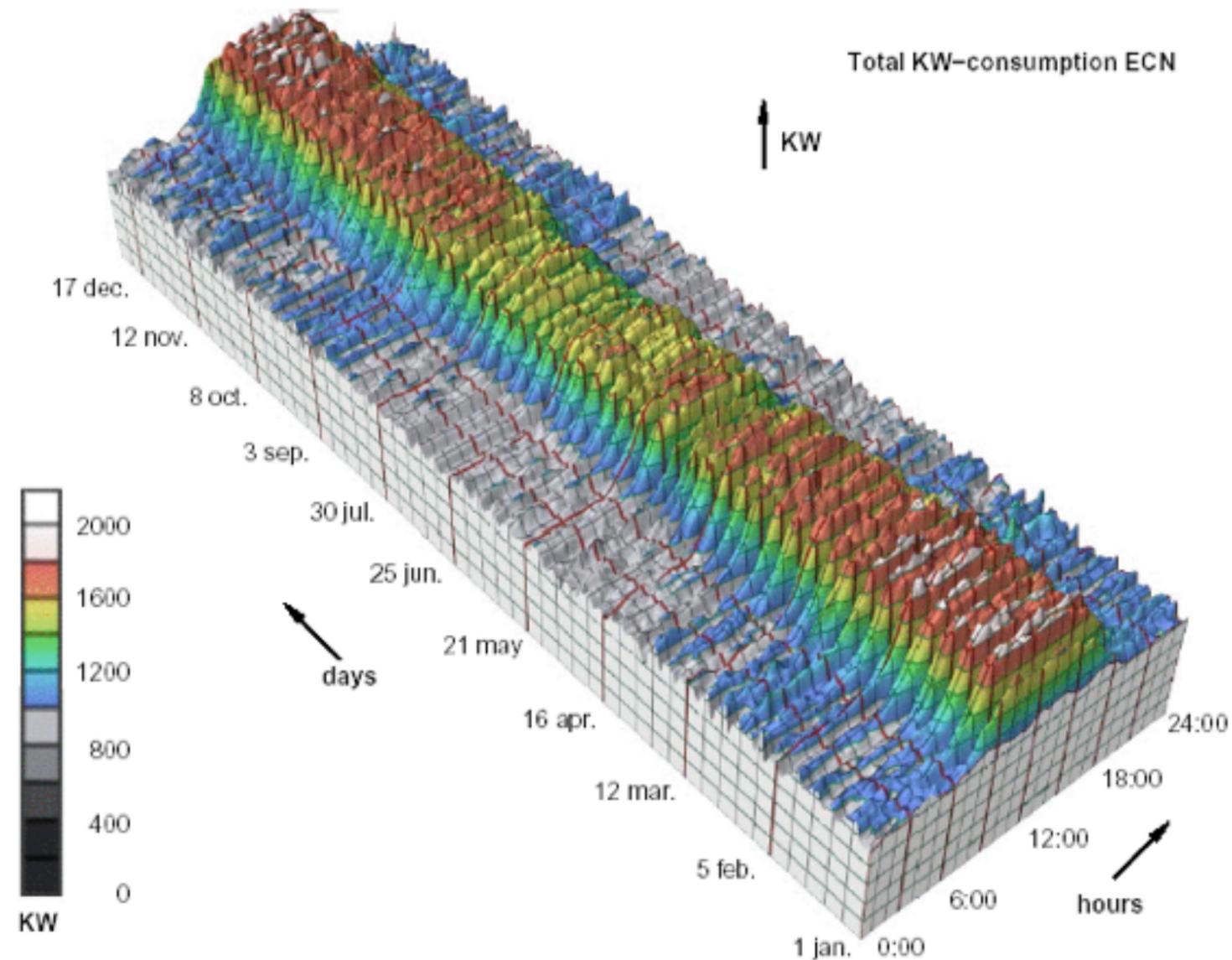
*Grossman et al. CHI 2007]*



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

# No unjustified 3D example: Time-series data

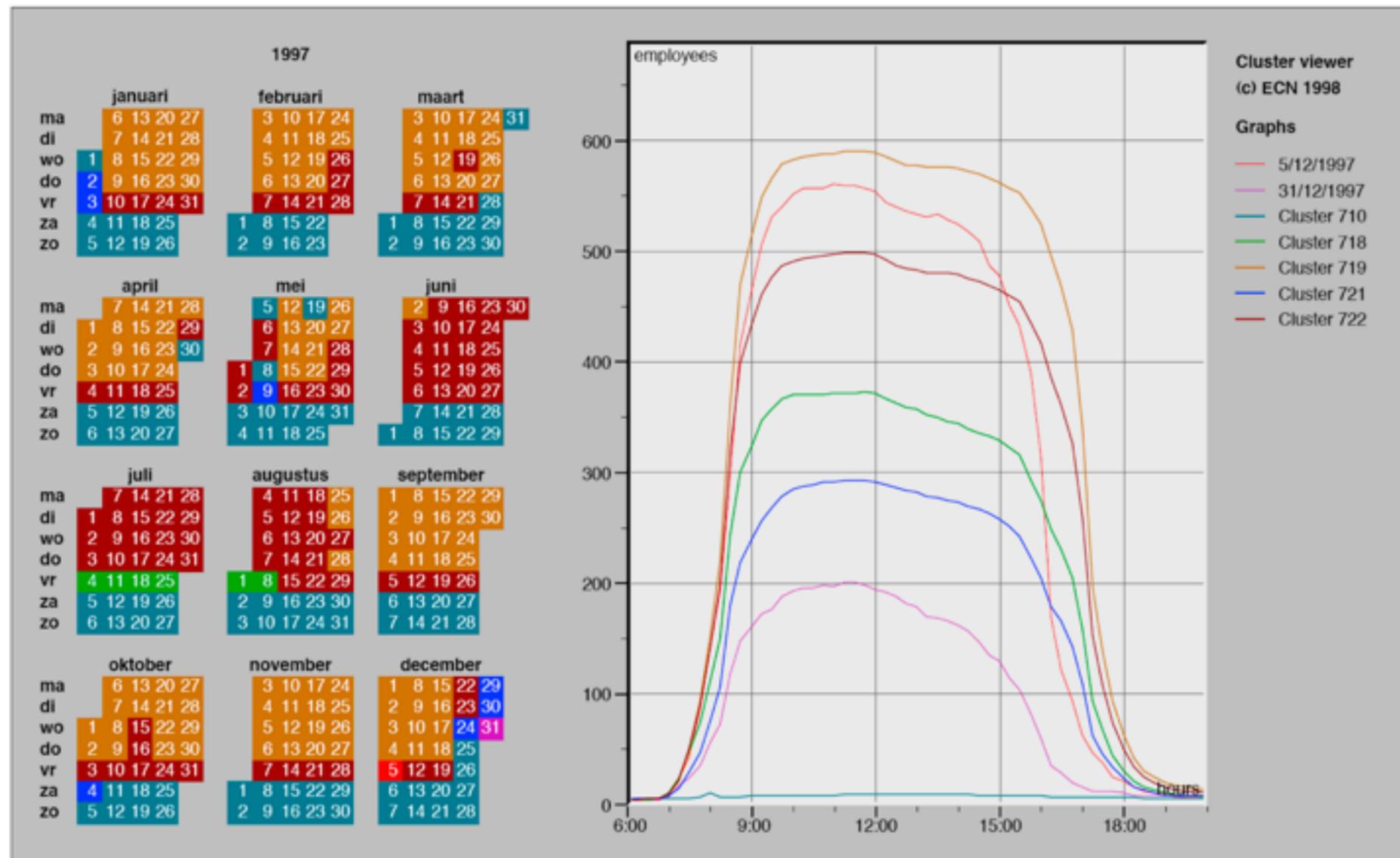
- extruded curves: detailed comparisons impossible



*[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.]

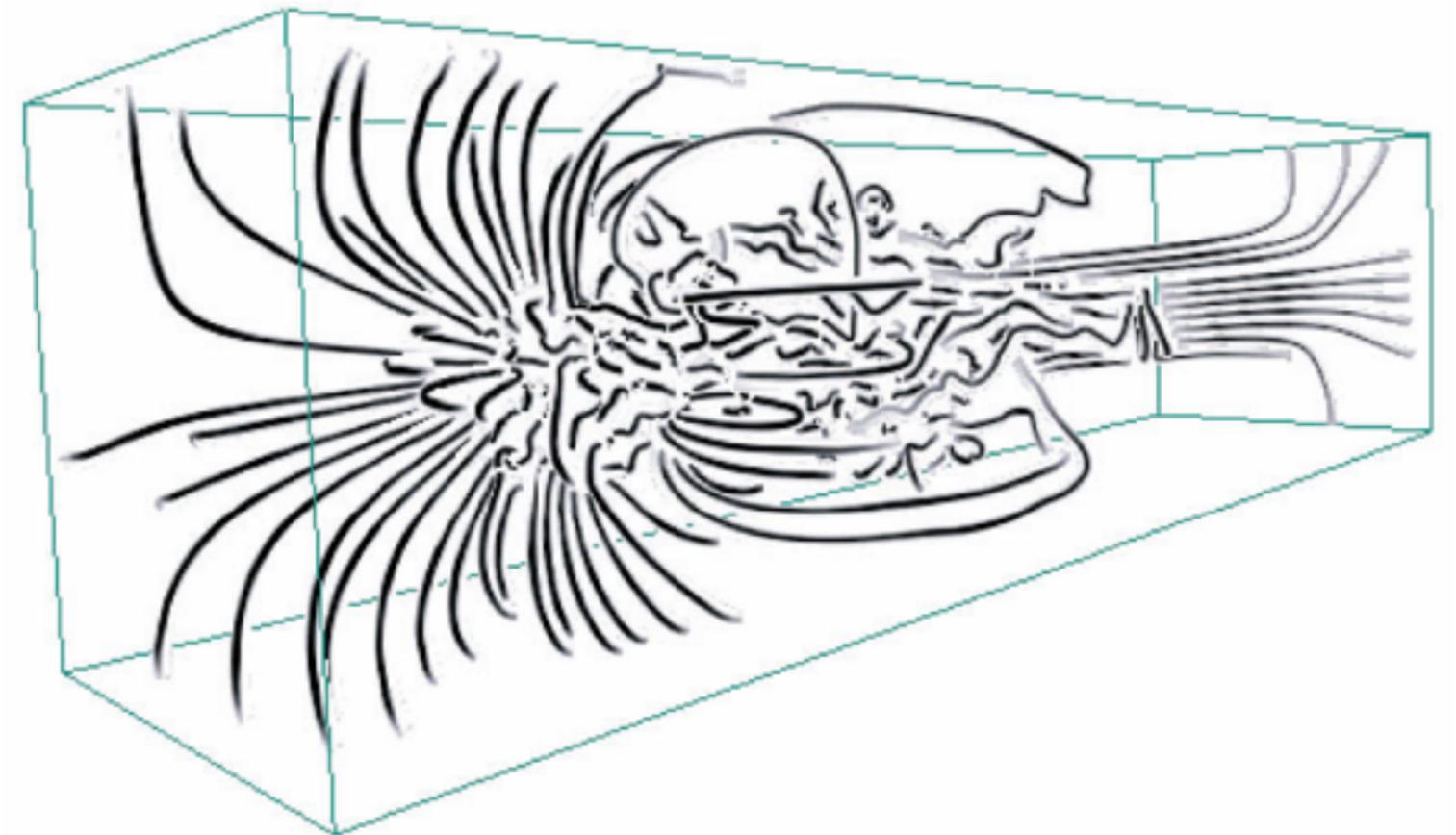
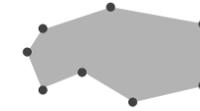
# Justified 3D: shape perception

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

 Targets

⊙ Spatial Data

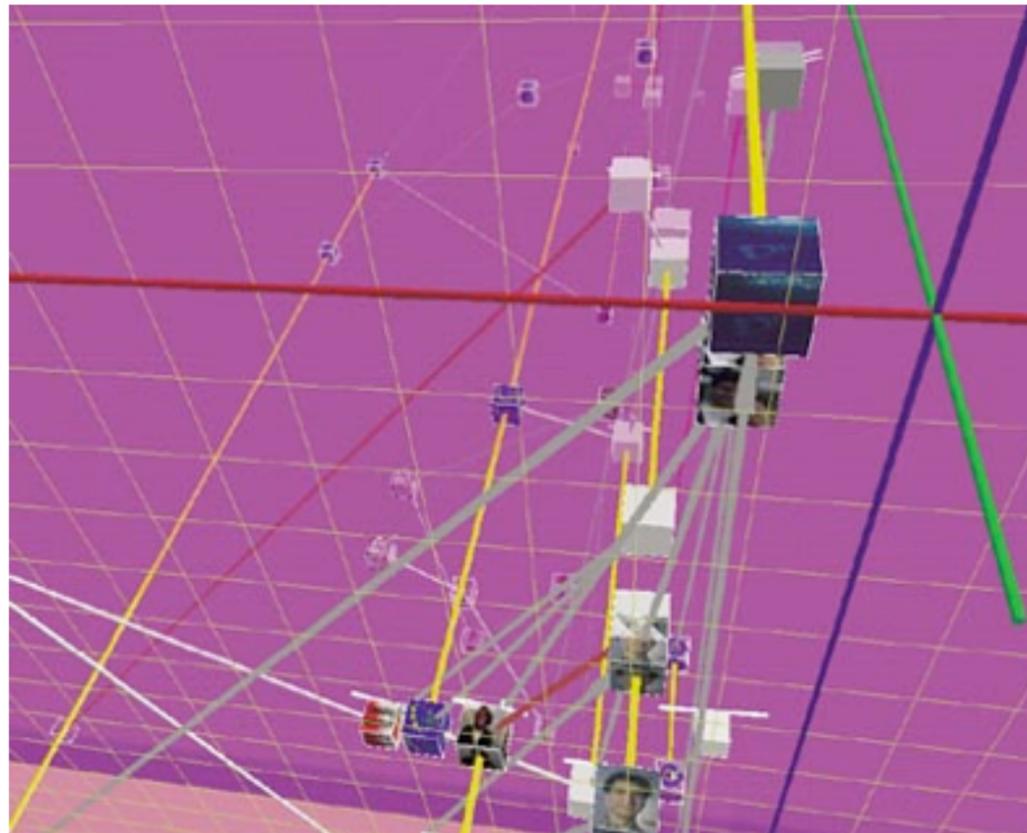
→ Shape





# 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

## Targets

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### ➔ Network Data

➔ Topology



➔ Paths



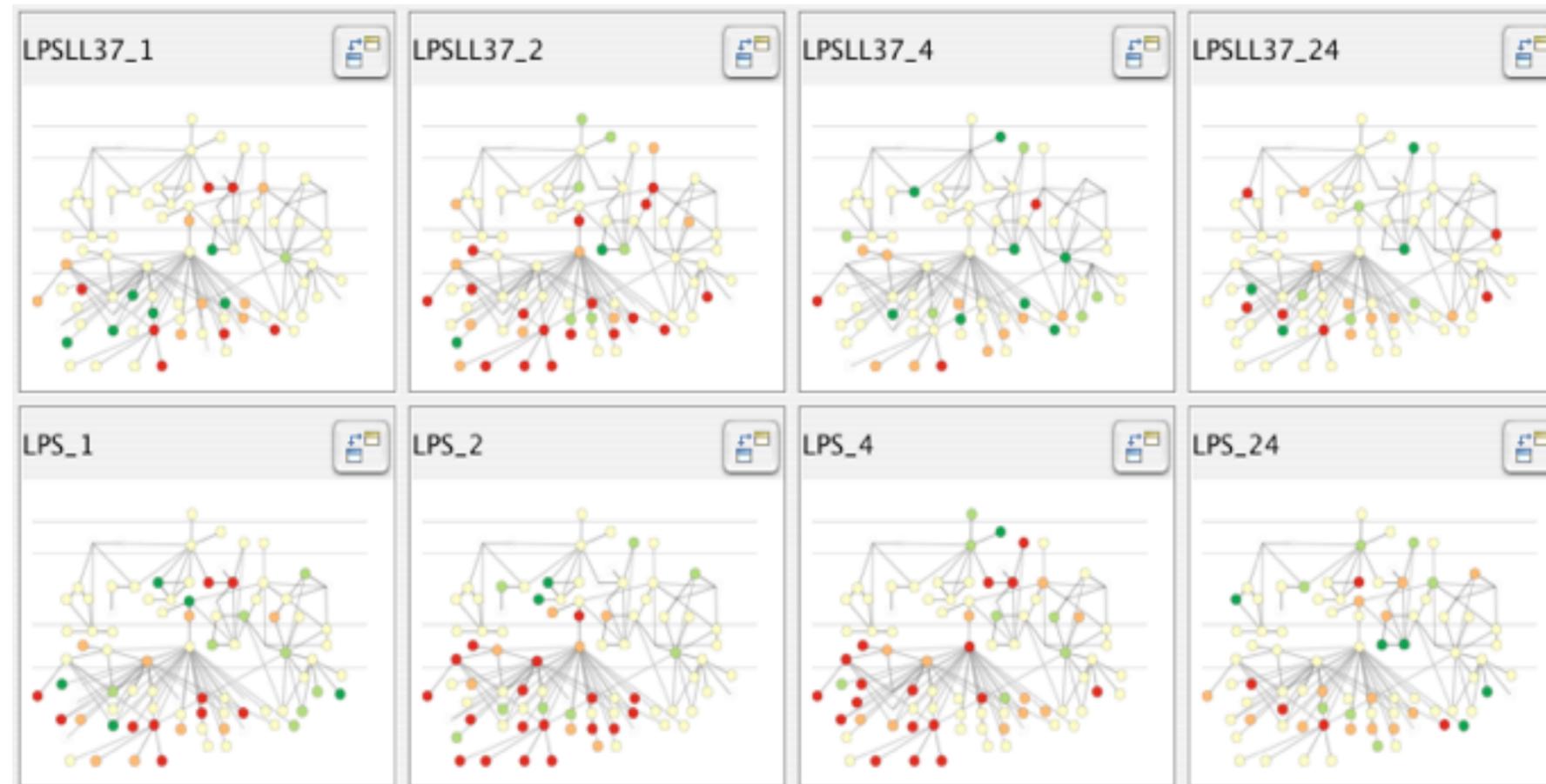
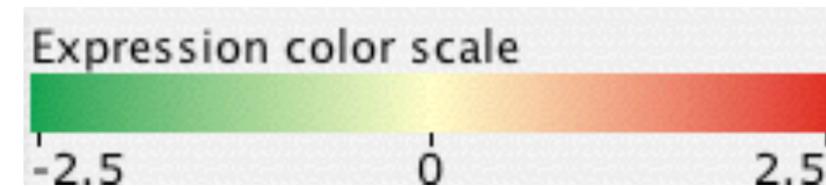
# Eyes beat memory

- 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



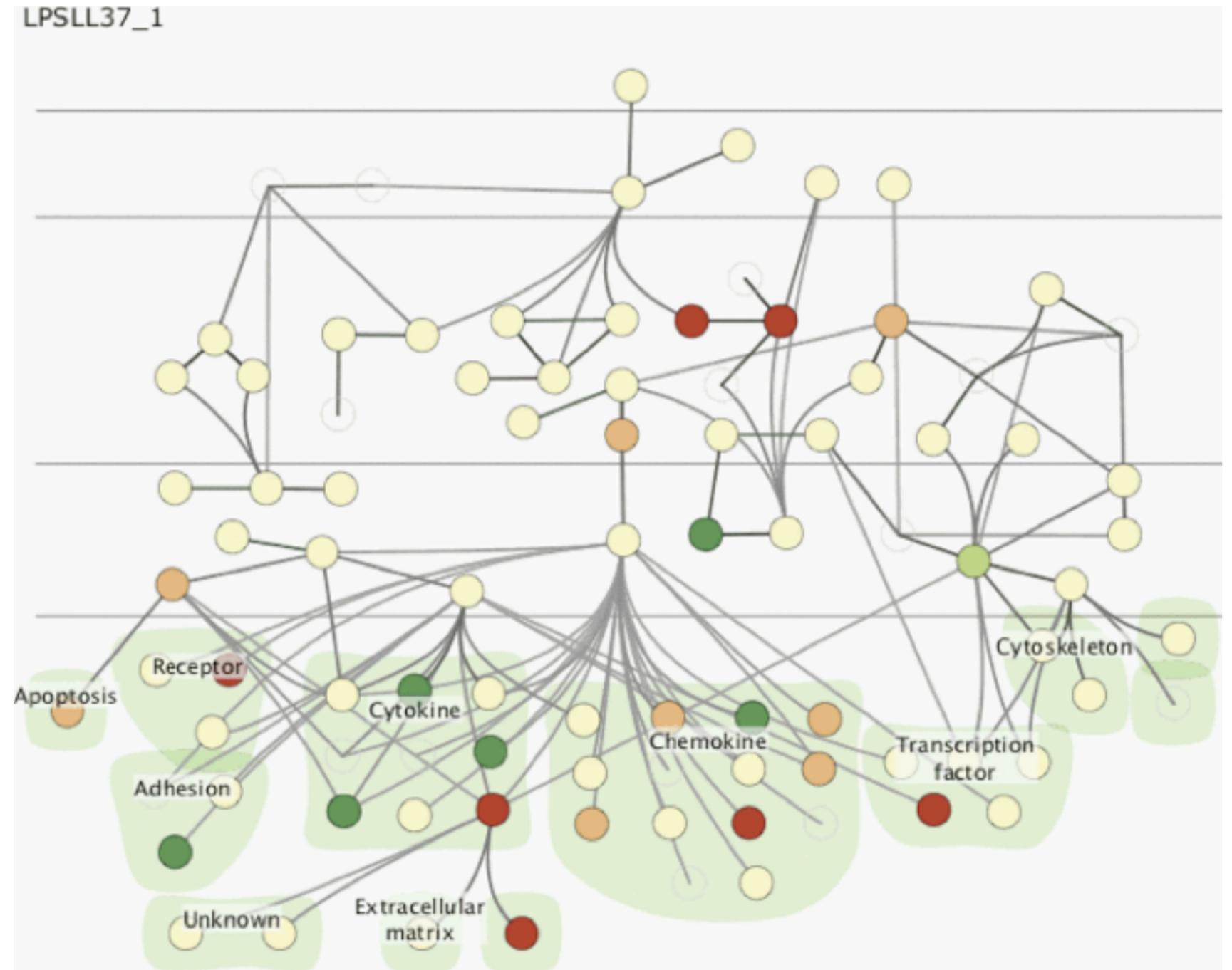
# Eyes beat memory example: Cerebral

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



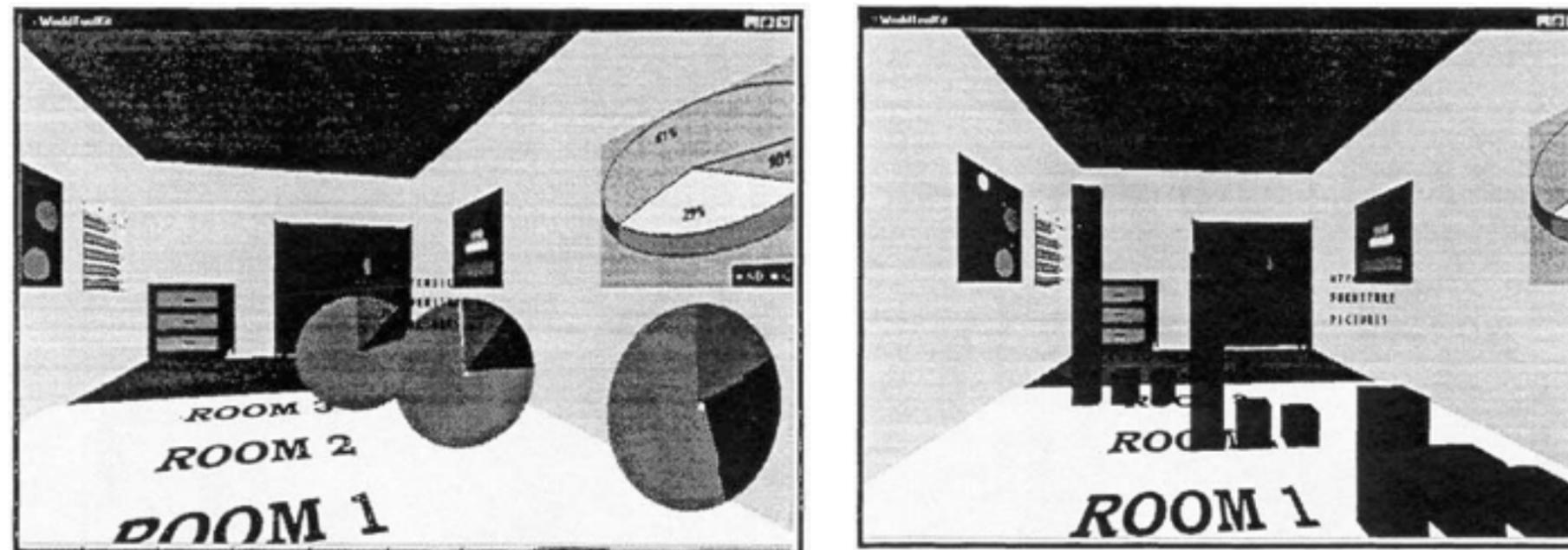
# Why not animation?

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



# 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



*[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

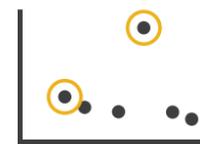
- influential mantra from Shneiderman

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

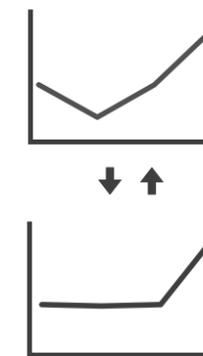
- **overview = summary**
  - microcosm of full vis design problem

→ Query

→ Identify



→ Compare



→ Summarise



# Responsiveness is required

- three major categories
  - 0.1 seconds: perceptual processing
  - 1 second: immediate response
  - 10 seconds: brief tasks
- importance of visual feedback

# Function first, form next

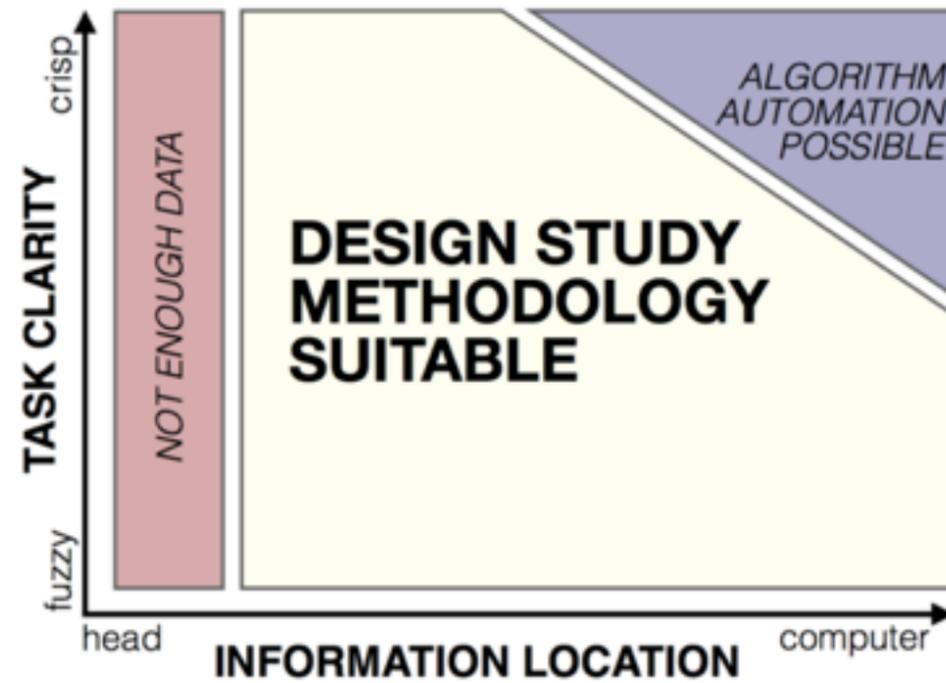
- start with focus on functionality
  - possible to improve aesthetics later on, as refinement
  - if no expertise in-house, find good graphic designer to work with
  - aesthetics do matter: another level of function
    - visual hierarchy, alignment, flow
    - Gestalt principles in action
- dangerous to start with aesthetics
  - usually impossible to add function retroactively

## Further reading

- Visualization Analysis and Design. Tamara Munzner. CRC Press, 2014.  
– *Chap 6: Rules of Thumb*
- Designing with the Mind in Mind: Simple Guide to Understanding User Interface Design Rules. Jeff Johnson. Morgan Kaufmann, 2010.  
– *Chap 12: We Have Time Requirements*
- The Non-Designer's Design Book. 3rd edition. Robin Williams. Peachpit Press, 2008.

# Outline

- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - Arrange Tables
  - Arrange Spatial Data
  - Arrange Networks and Trees
- **Session 3 2:00-3:40pm**  
**Color & Interaction**
  - Map Color
  - Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate
  - Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - **Design Study Methodology**



Michael Sedlmair



Miriah Meyer



# Design Study Methodology

*Reflections from the Trenches and from the Stacks*

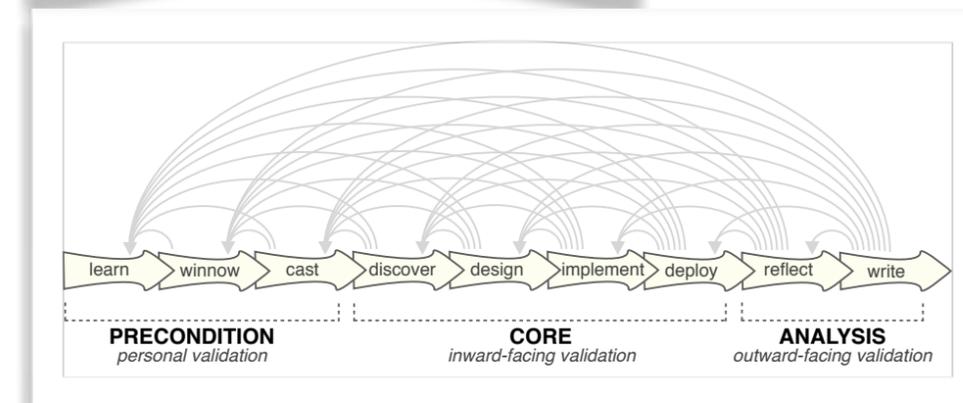
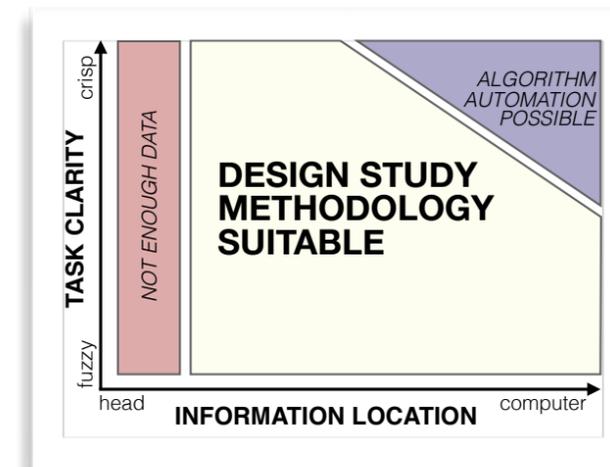
Tamara Munzner  
@tamaramunzner



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

# Methodology for problem-driven work

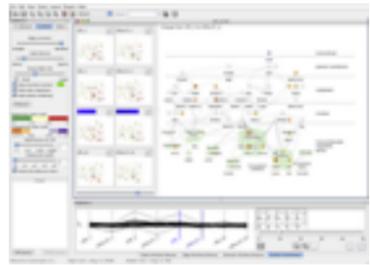
- definitions
- 9-stage framework
- 32 pitfalls & how to avoid them
- comparison to related methodologies



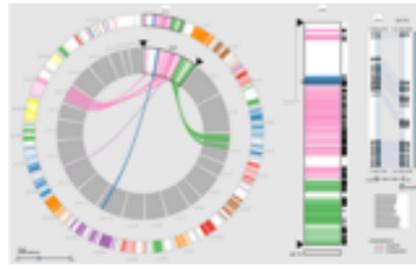
PF-1	premature advance: jumping forward over stages	general
PF-2	premature start: insufficient knowledge of vis literature	learn
PF-3	premature commitment: collaboration with wrong people	winnow
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PF-7	researcher expertise does not match domain problem	winnow
PF-8	no need for research: engineering vs. research project	winnow
PF-9	no need for change: existing tools are good enough	winnow



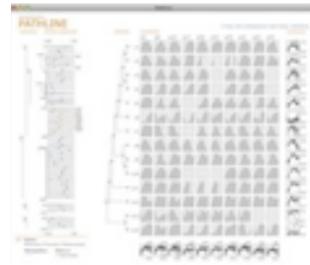
# Lessons learned from the trenches: 21 between us



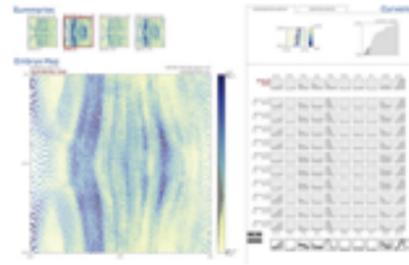
*Cerebral*  
genomics



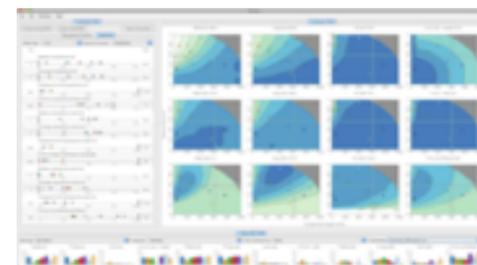
*MizBee*  
genomics



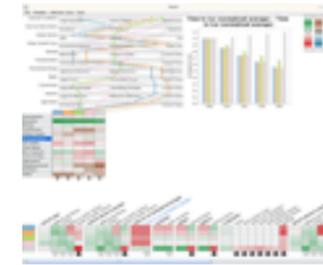
*Pathline*  
genomics



*MulteeSum*  
genomics



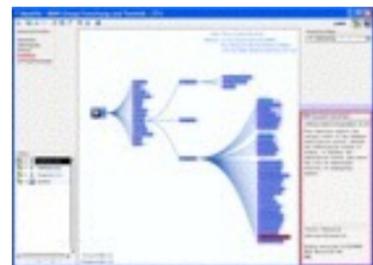
*Vismon*  
fisheries management



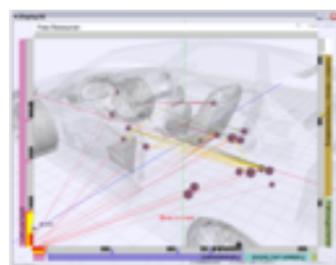
*QuestVis*  
sustainability



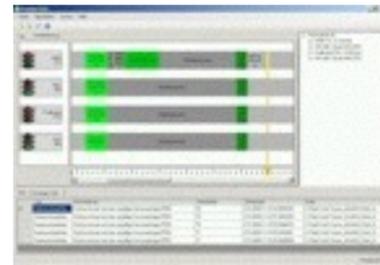
*WiKeVis*  
in-car networks



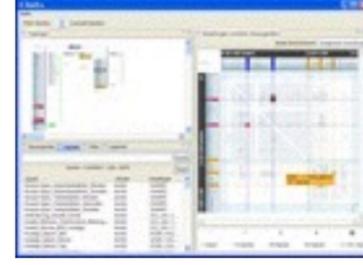
*MostVis*  
in-car networks



*Car-X-Ray*  
in-car networks



*ProgSpy2010*  
in-car networks



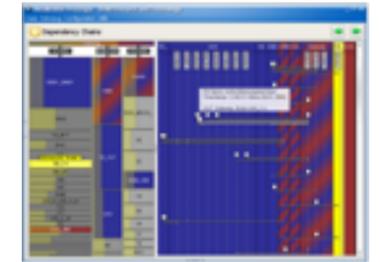
*ReEx*  
in-car networks



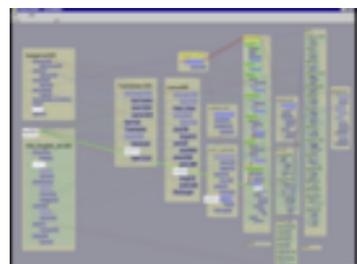
*Cardiogram*  
in-car networks



*AutobahnVis*  
in-car networks



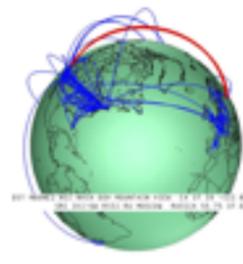
*VisTra*  
in-car networks



*Constellation*  
linguistics



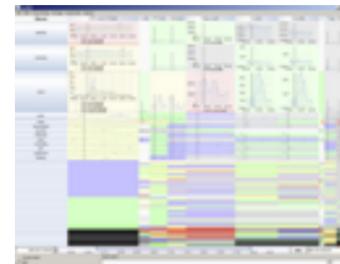
*LibVis*  
cultural heritage



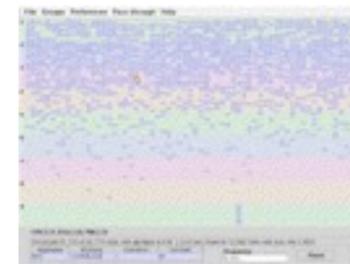
*Caidants*  
multicast



*SessionViewer*  
web log analysis



*LiveRAC*  
server hosting

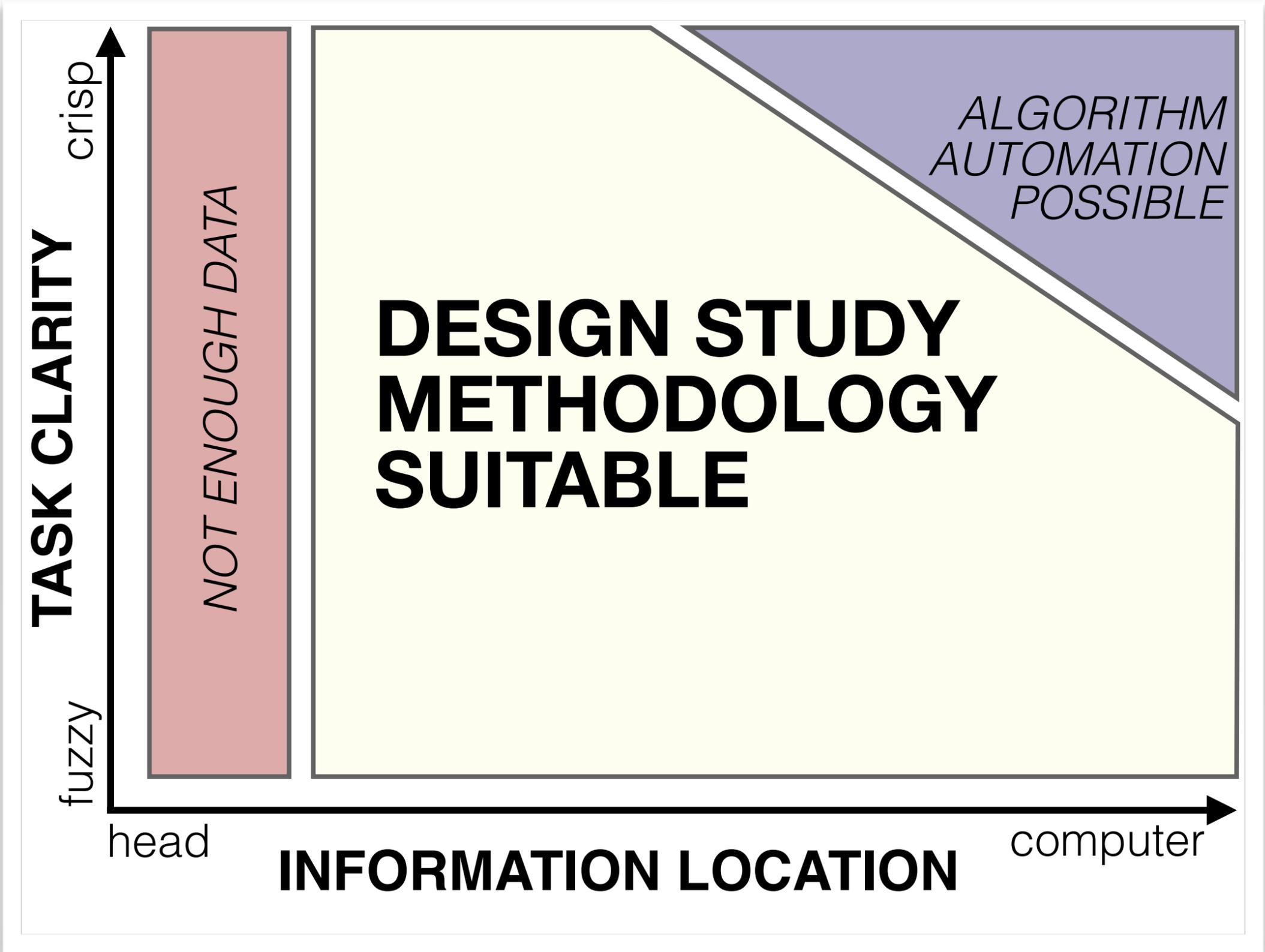


*PowerSetViewer*  
data mining

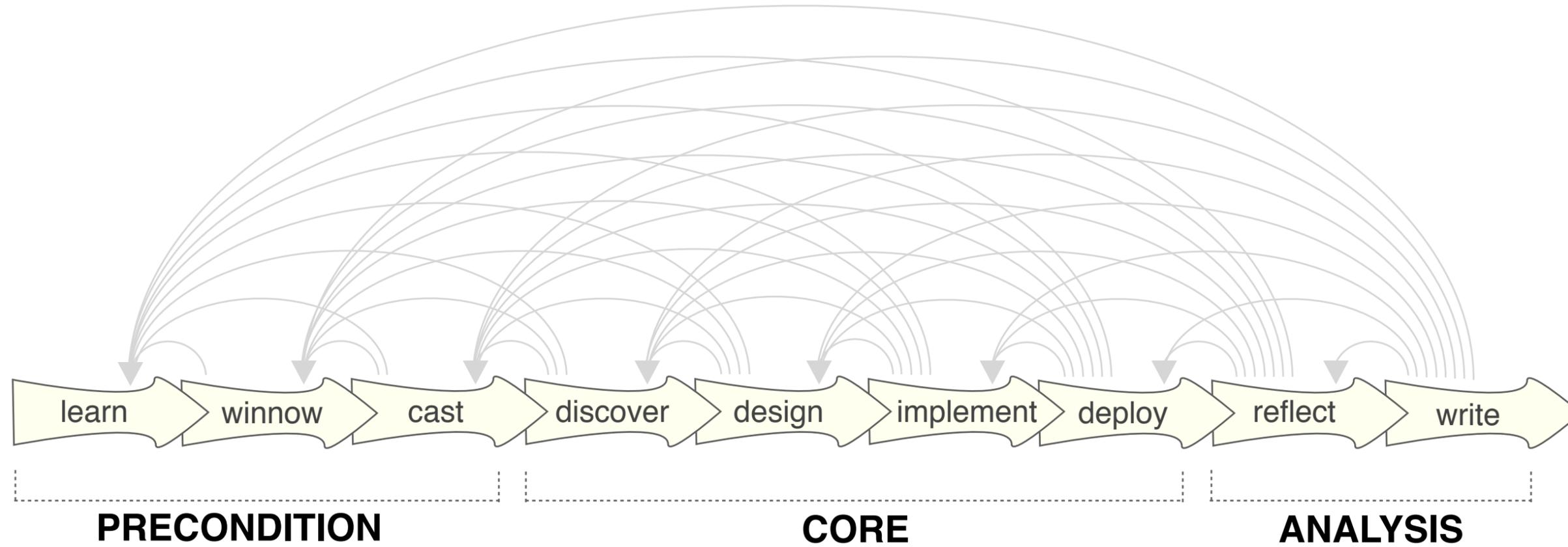


*LastHistory*  
music listening

# Design study methodology: definitions

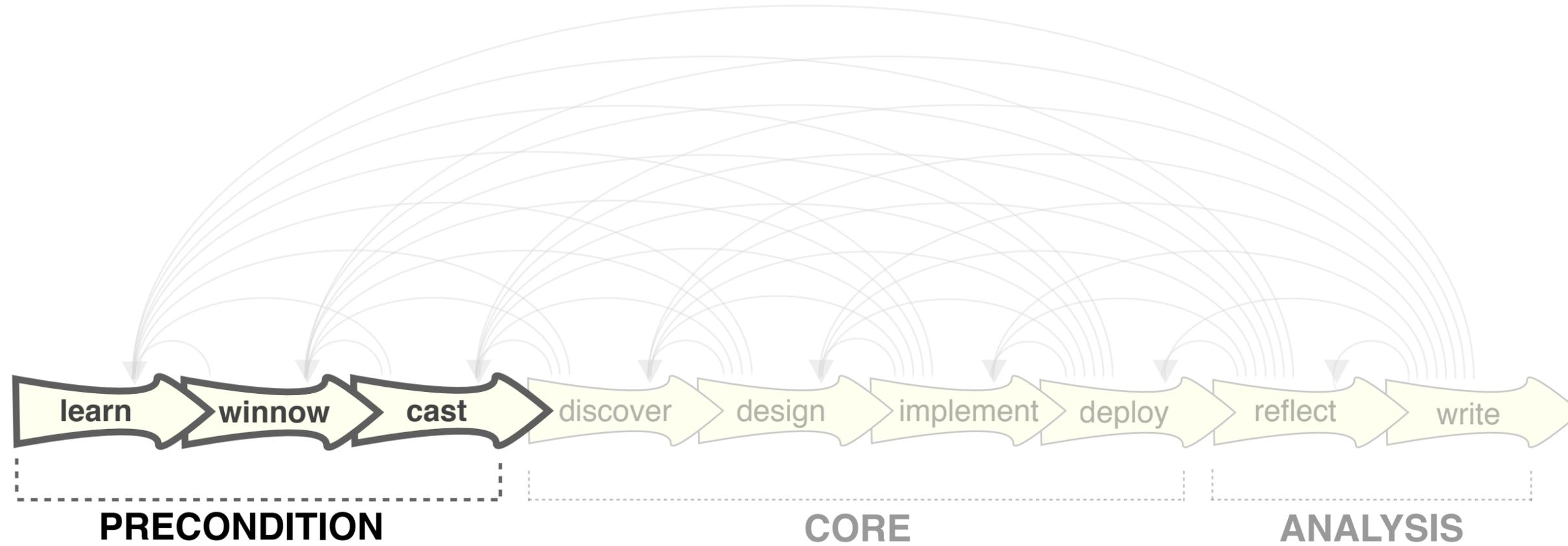


# 9 stage framework



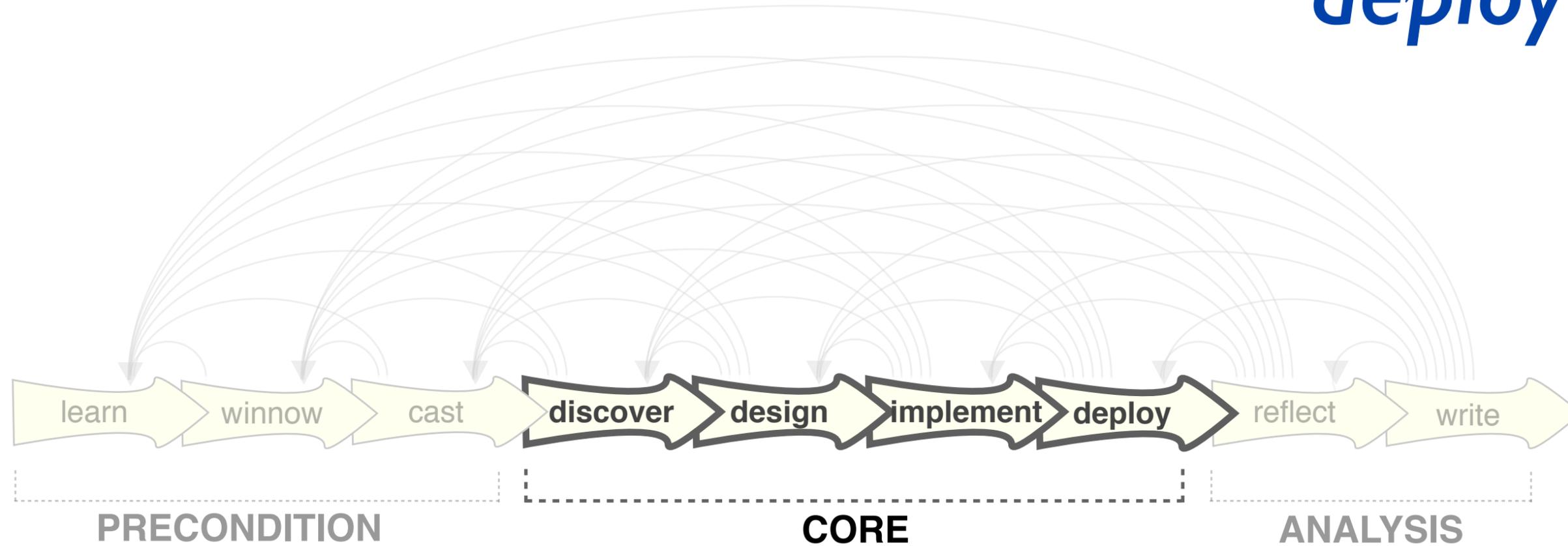
# 9-stage framework

*learn*  
*winnow*  
*cast*



# 9-stage framework

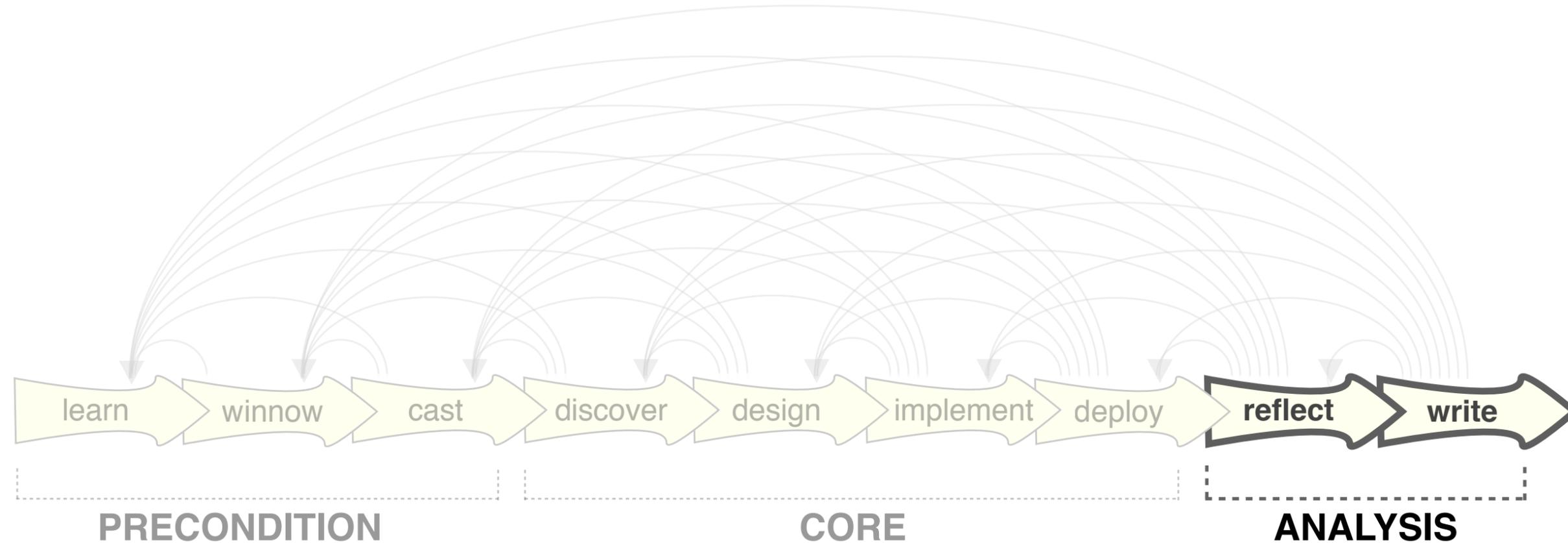
*discover*  
*design*  
*implement*  
*deploy*



# 9-stage framework

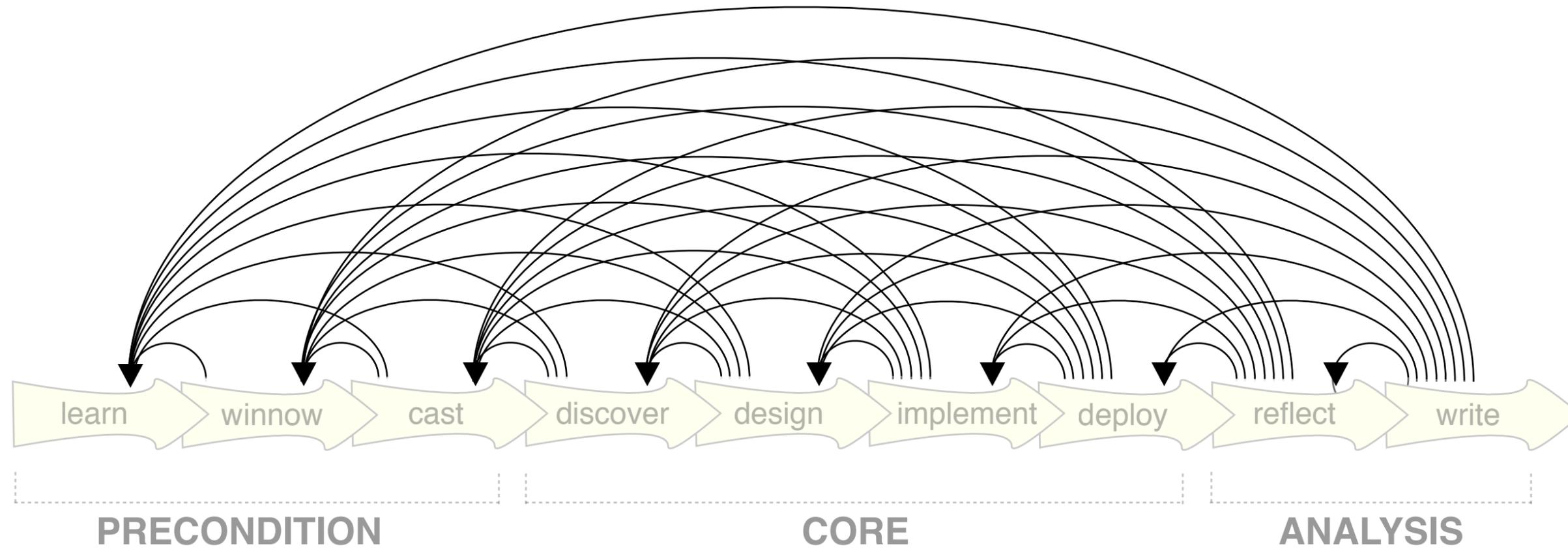
- guidelines: confirm, refine, reject, propose

*reflect*  
*write*



# 9-stage framework

*iterative*



# 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

I'm a domain expert!  
Wanna collaborate?



COLLABORATOR

Of course!!!



MR. VIS

# considerations



Have **data**?  
Have **time**?  
Have **need**?  
...



# roles



Are you a **user???**

... or maybe a **fellow tool builder?**

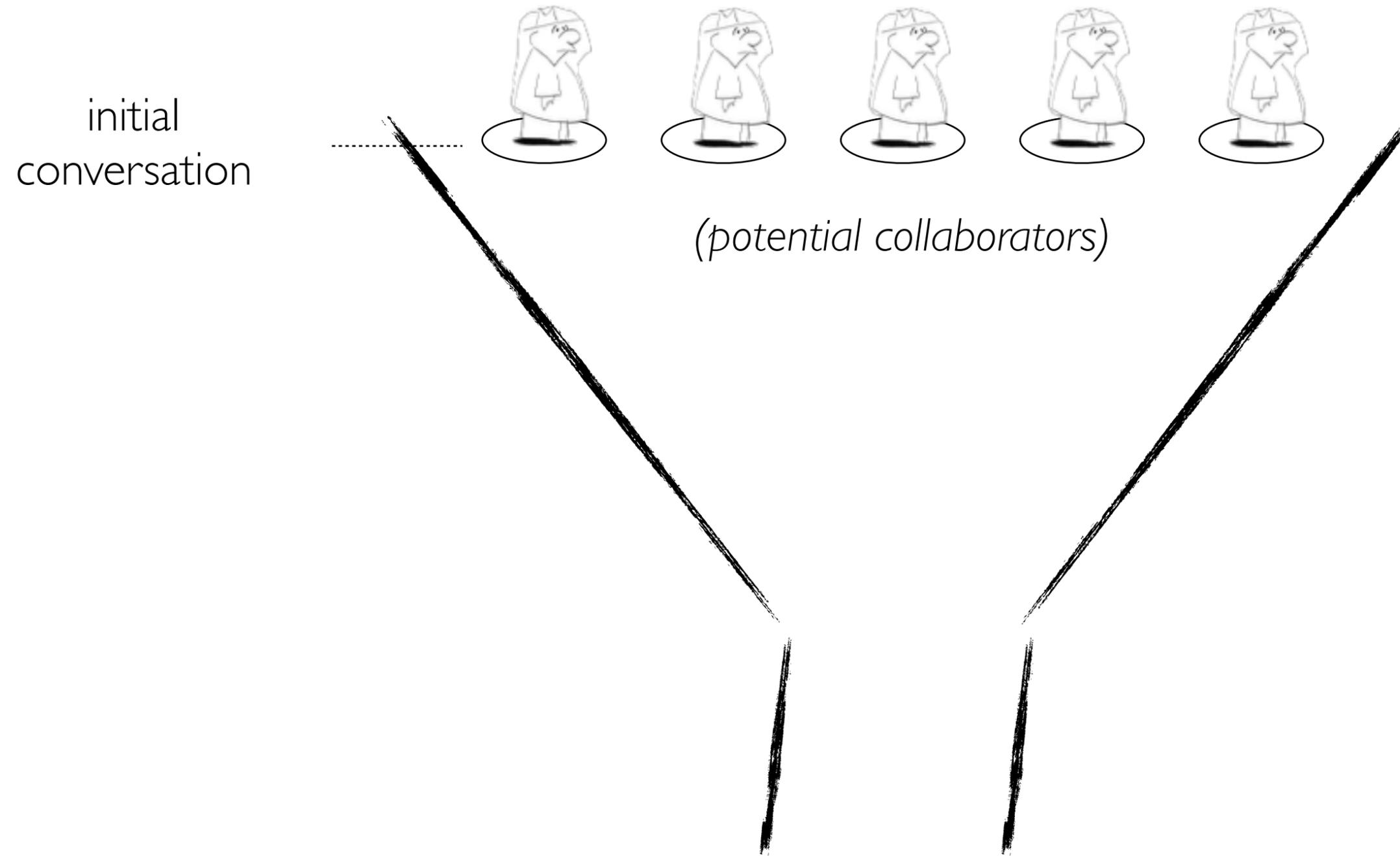


# METAPHOR

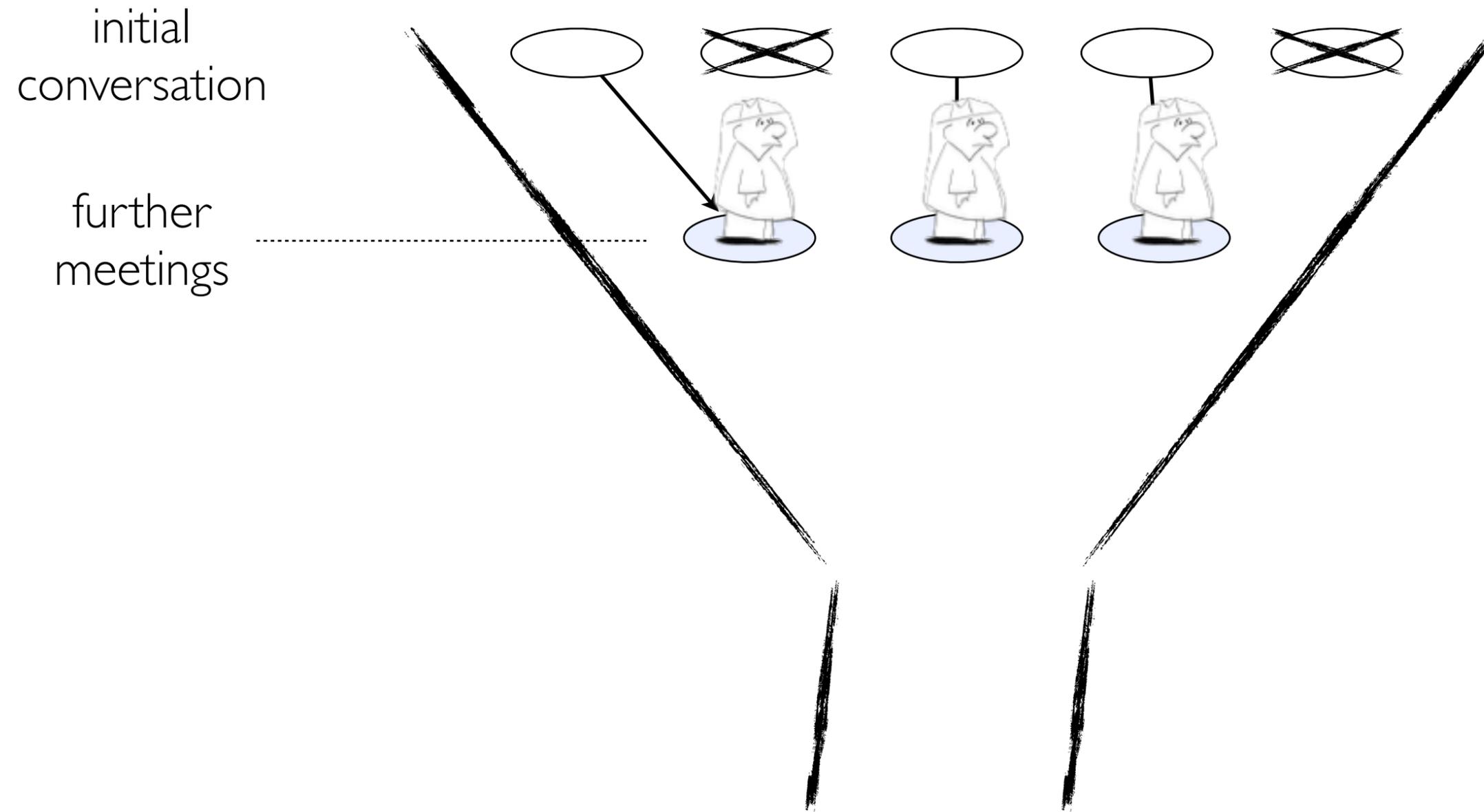
## Winnowing



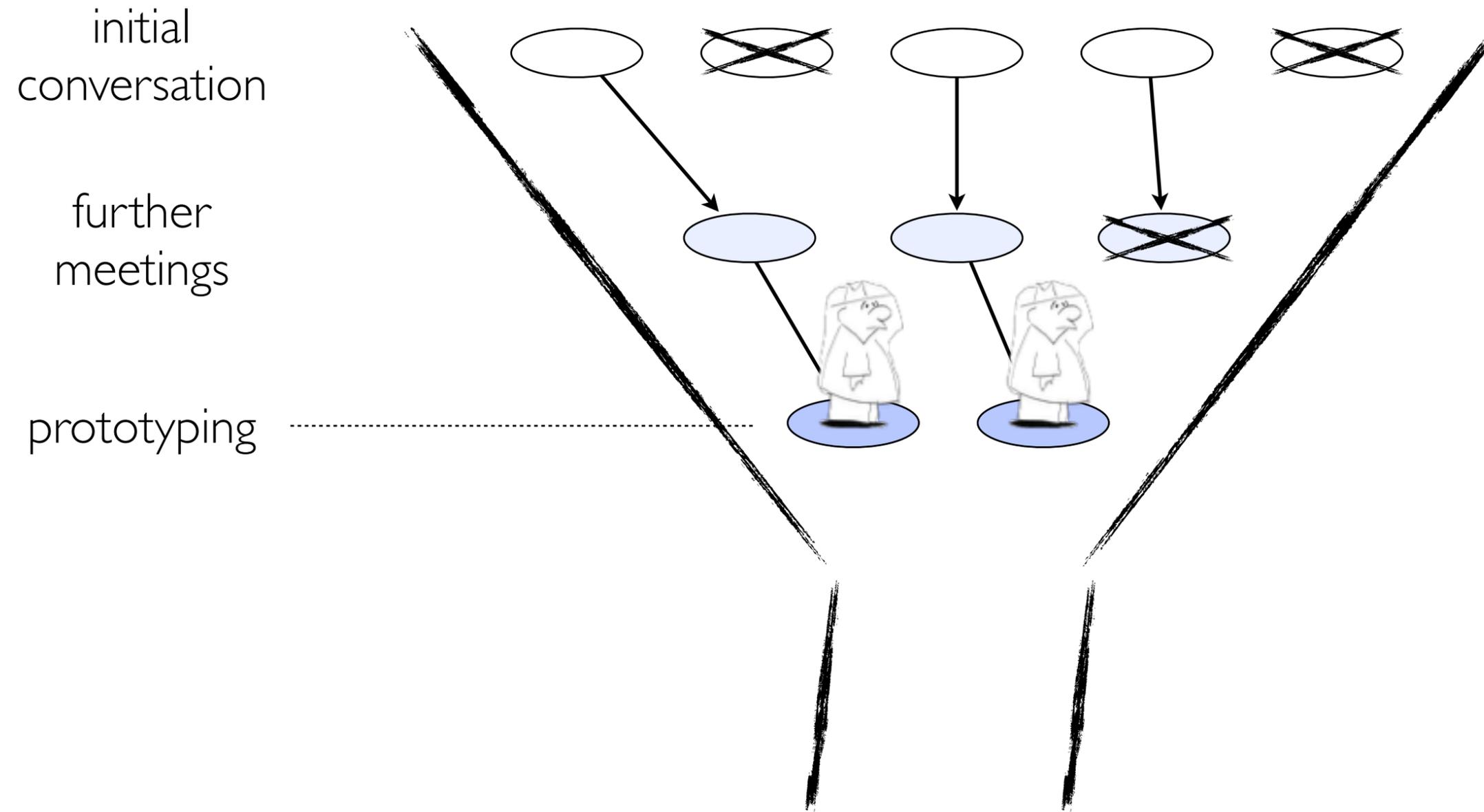
# Collaborator winnowing



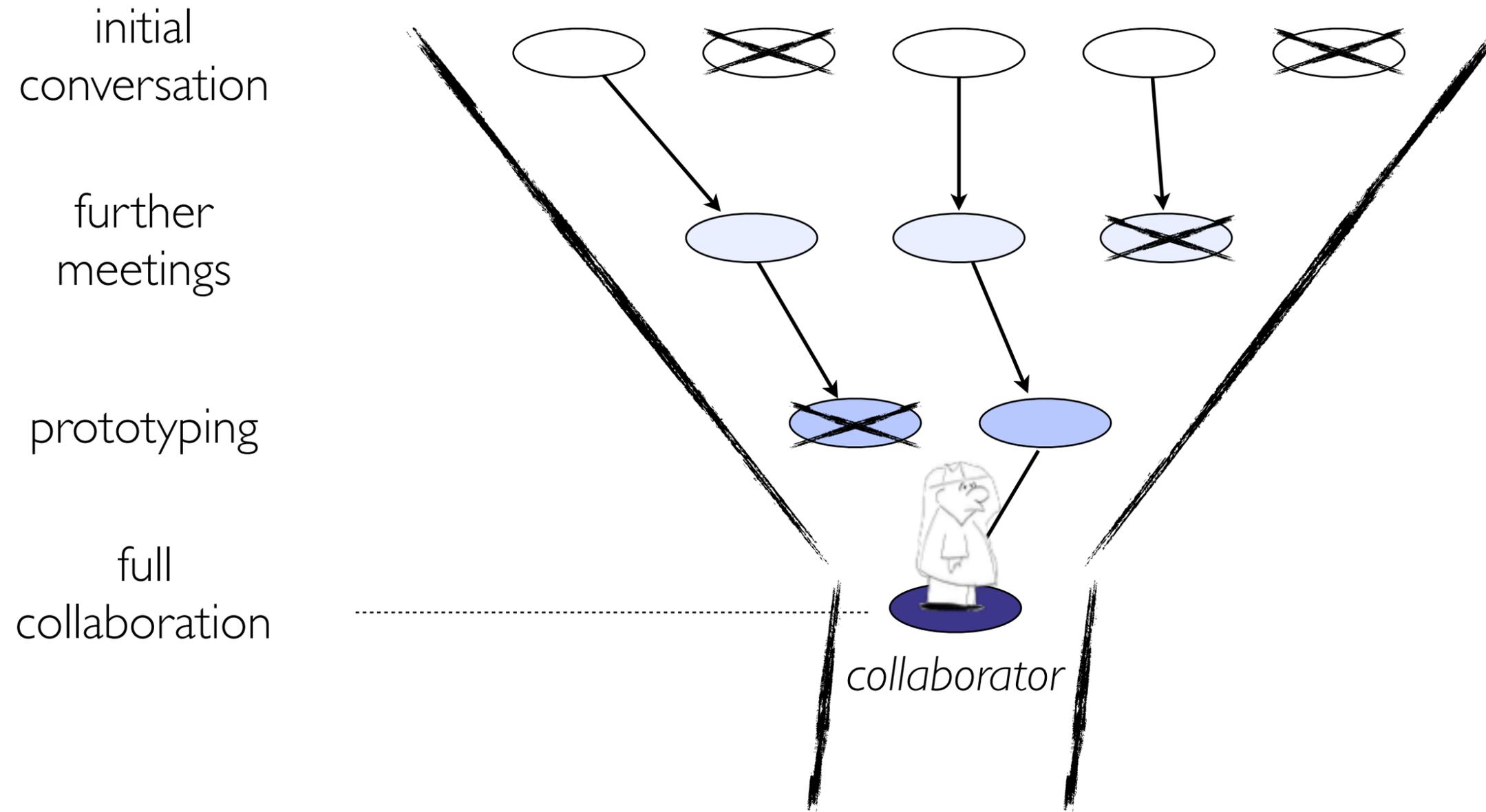
# Collaborator winnowing



# Collaborator winnowing



# Collaborator winnowing



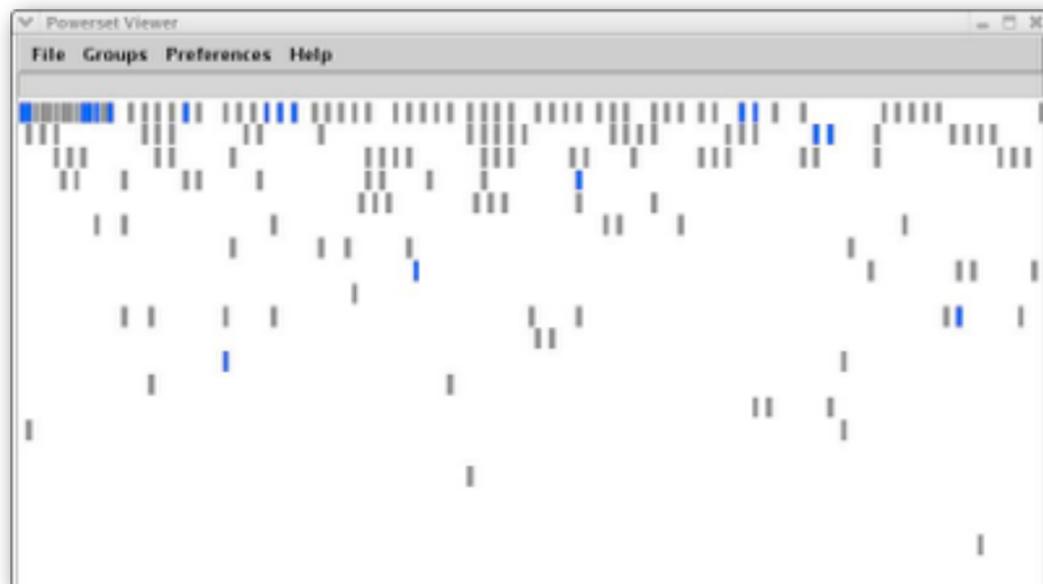
# Collaborator winnowing



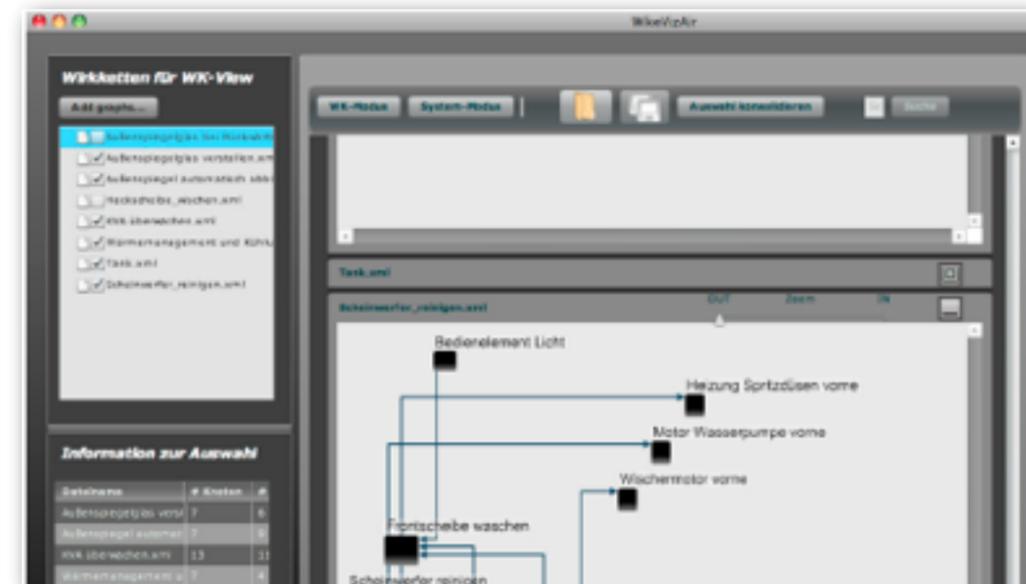
# EXAMPLE FROM THE TRENCHES

## Premature Collaboration!

PowerSet Viewer  
2 years / 4 researchers



WikeVis  
0.5 years / 2 researchers



# EXAMPLE FROM THE TRENCHES

## Premature Collaboration!

PowerSet Viewer  
2 years / 4 researchers

WikeVis  
0.5 years / 2 researchers



- Fellow tool builders
- Data promised

# 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

PITFALL

**PREMATURE DESIGN  
COMMITMENT**

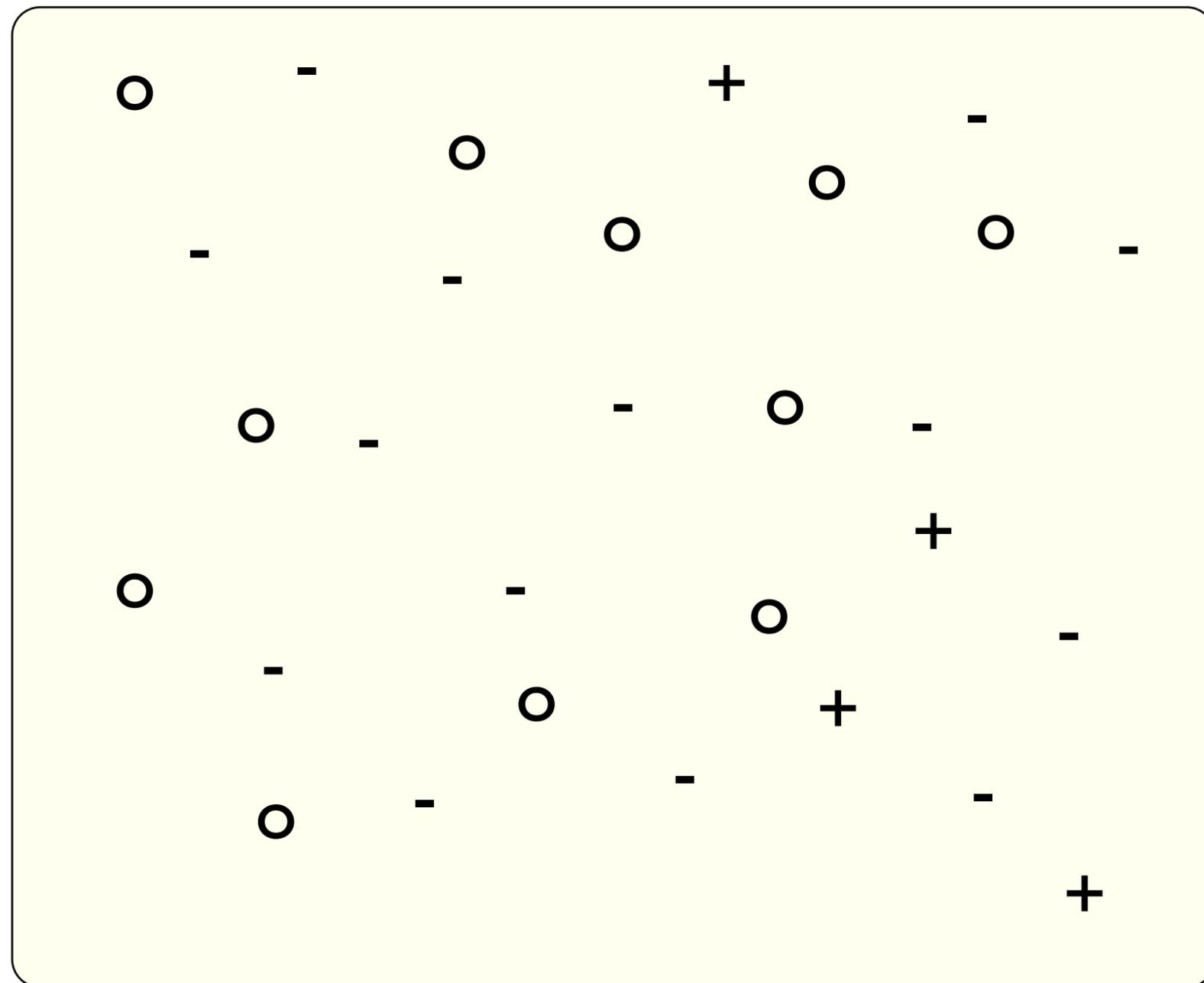
Of course they need the cool  
**technique** I built last year!



MR. VIS

# METAPHOR

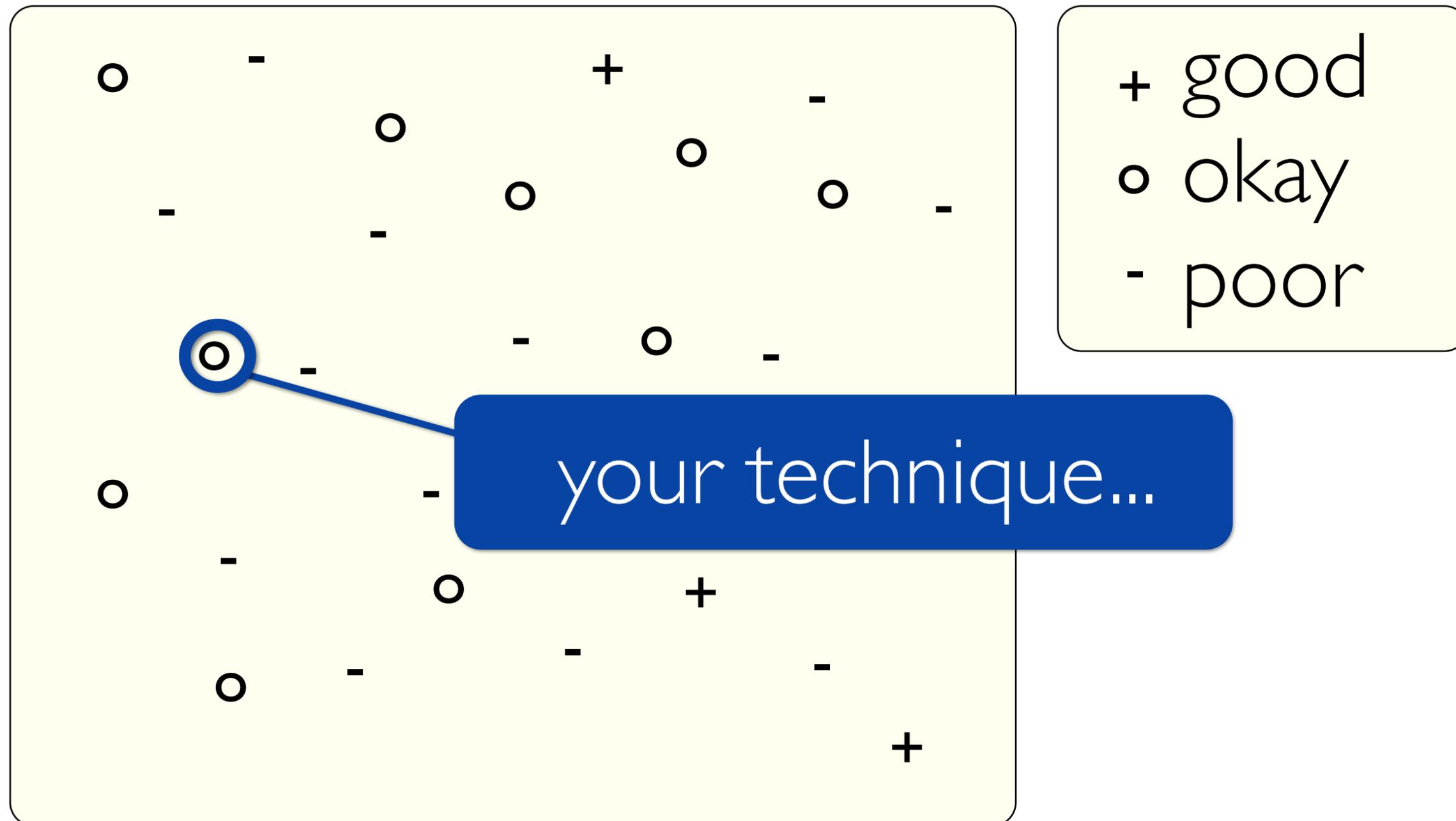
## Design Space



+ good  
o okay  
- poor

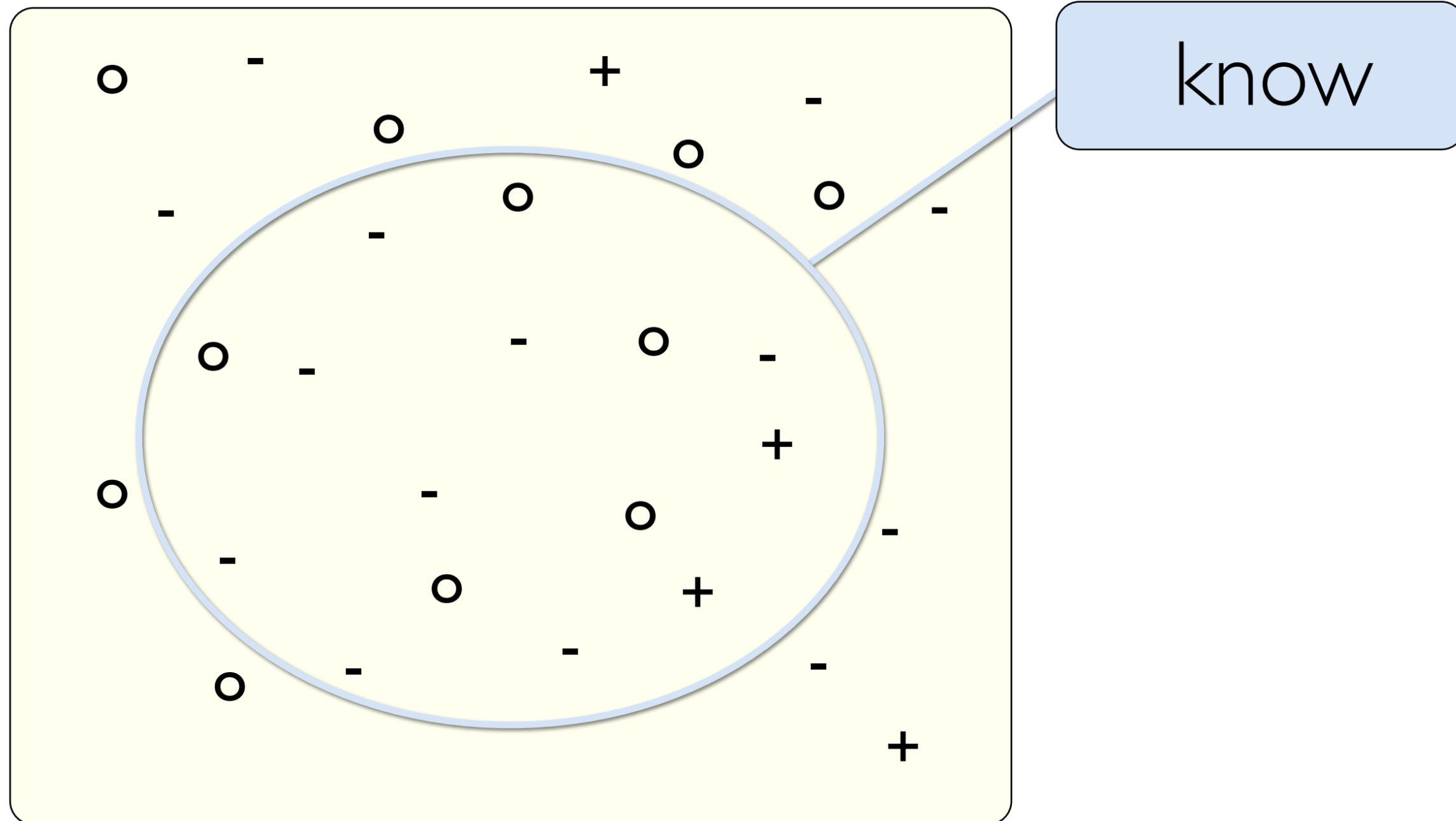
# METAPHOR

## Design Space



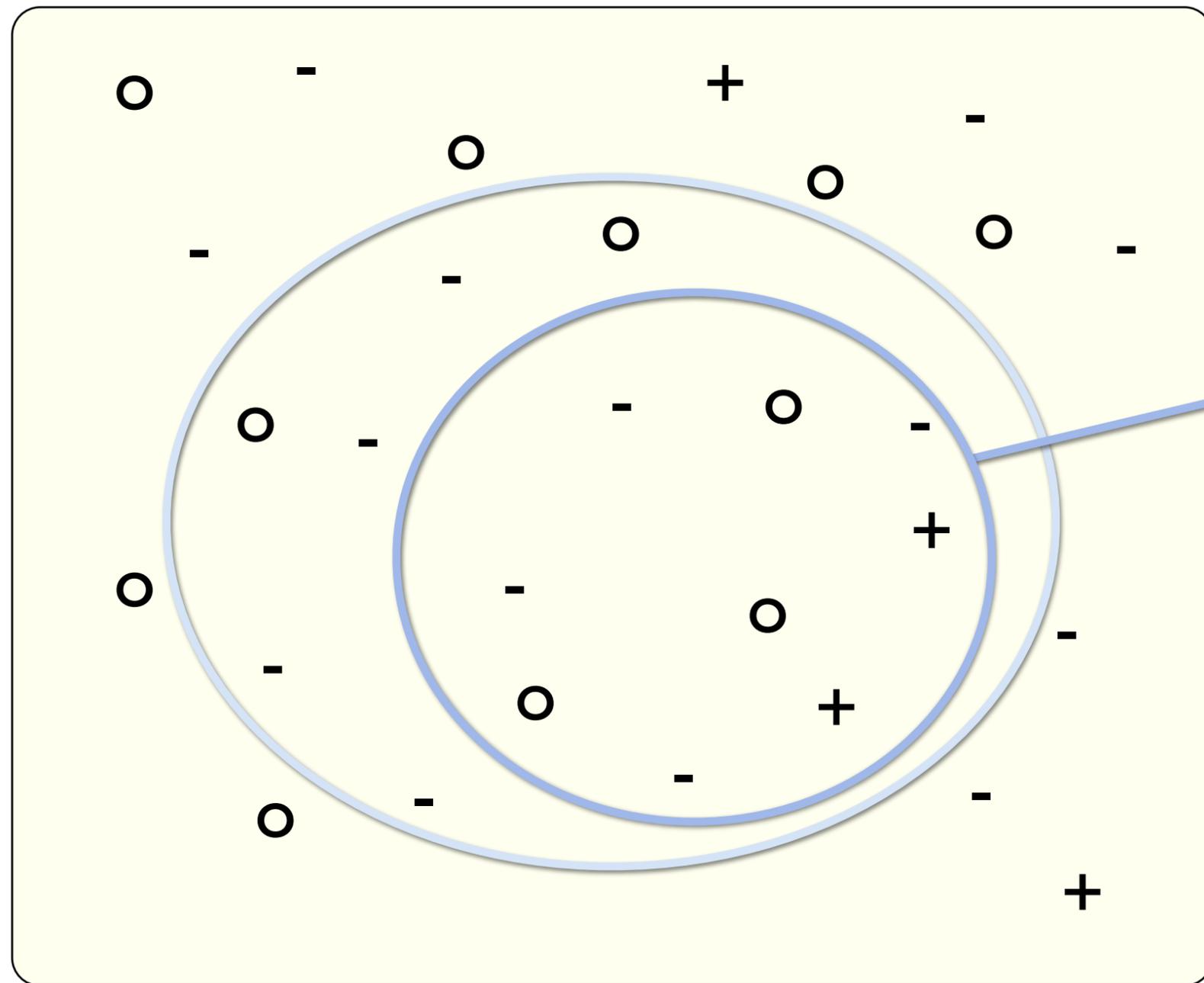
# METAPHOR

## Design Space



# METAPHOR

## Design Space

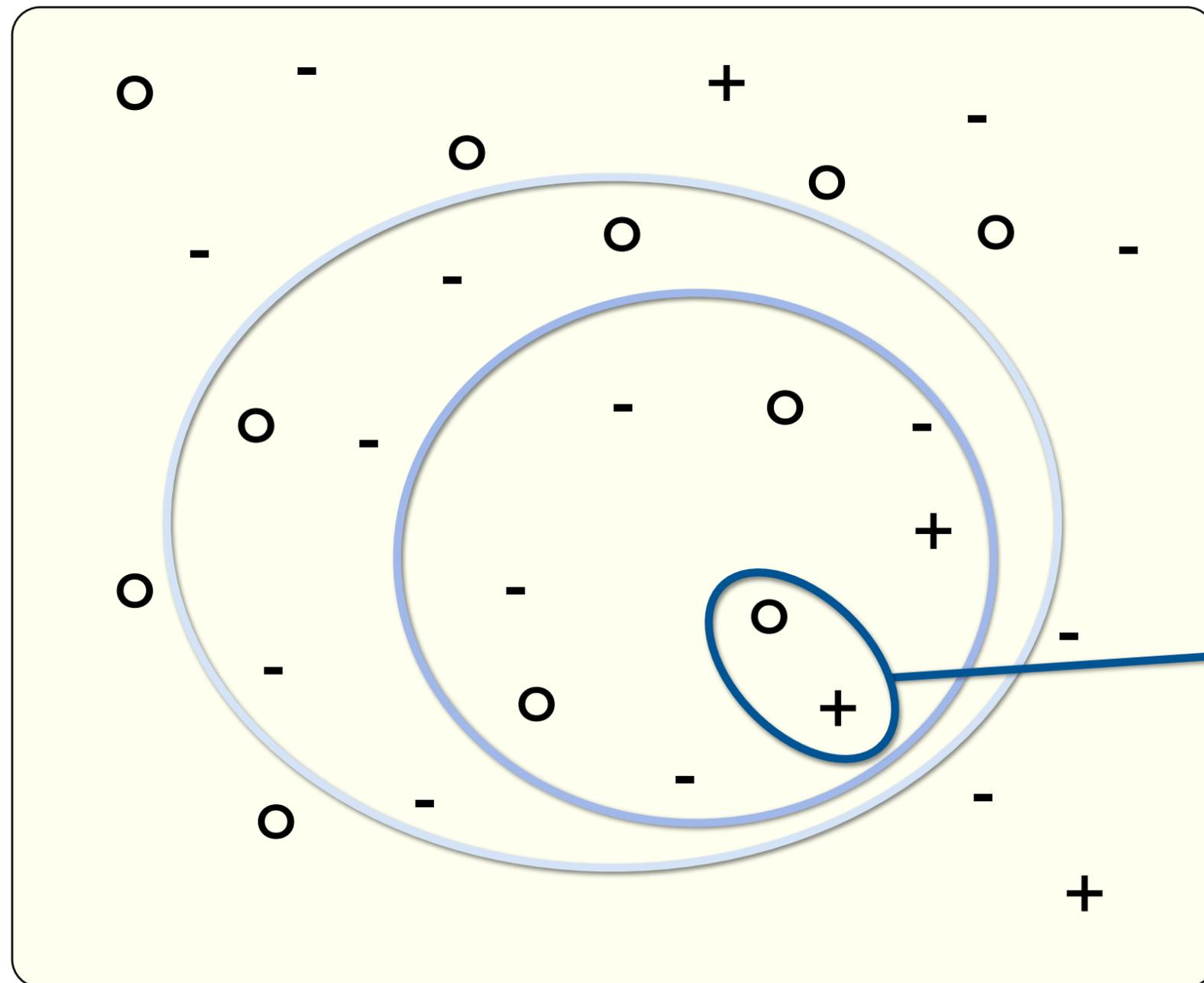


know

consider

# METAPHOR

## Design Space



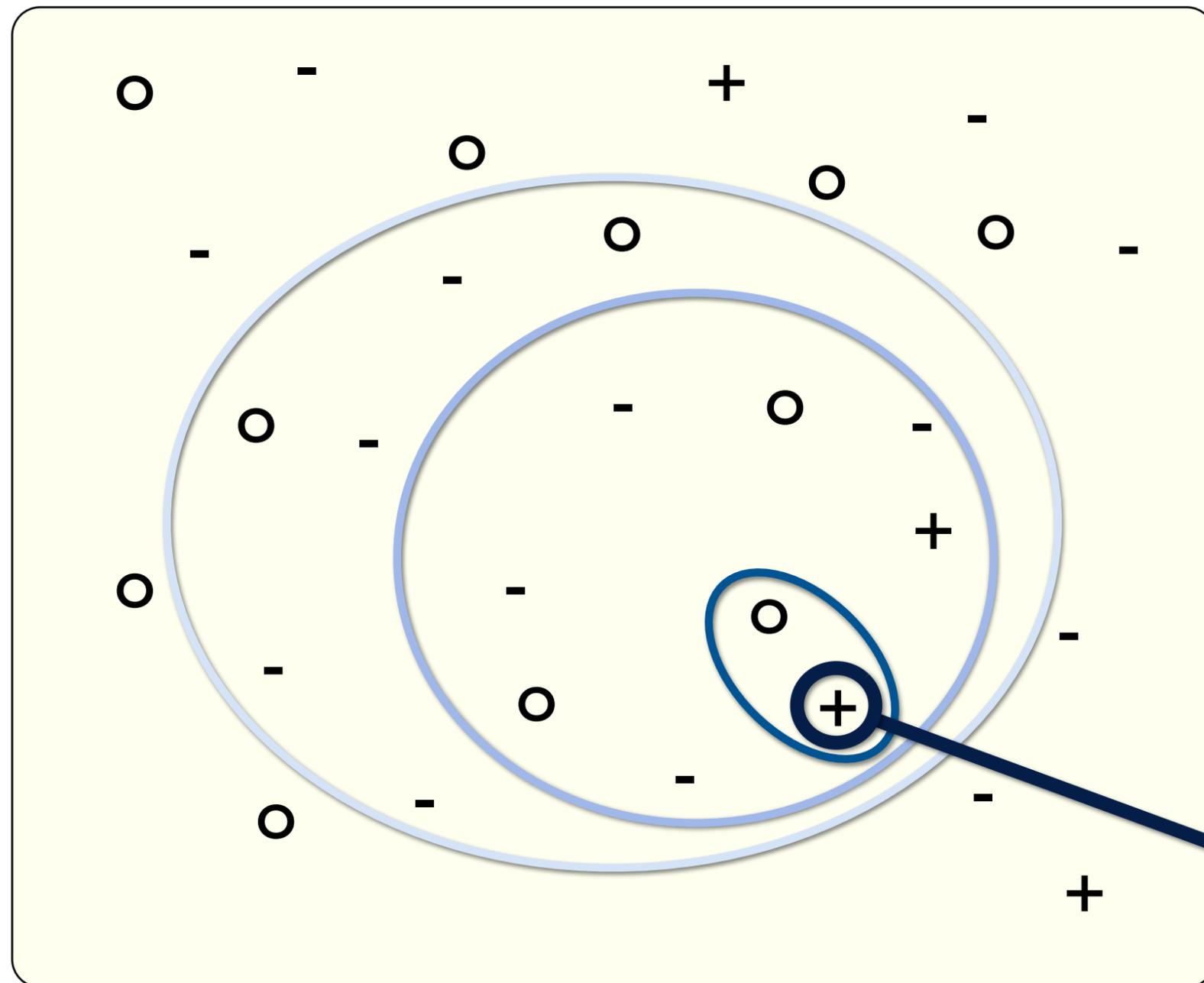
know

consider

propose

# METAPHOR

## Design Space



know

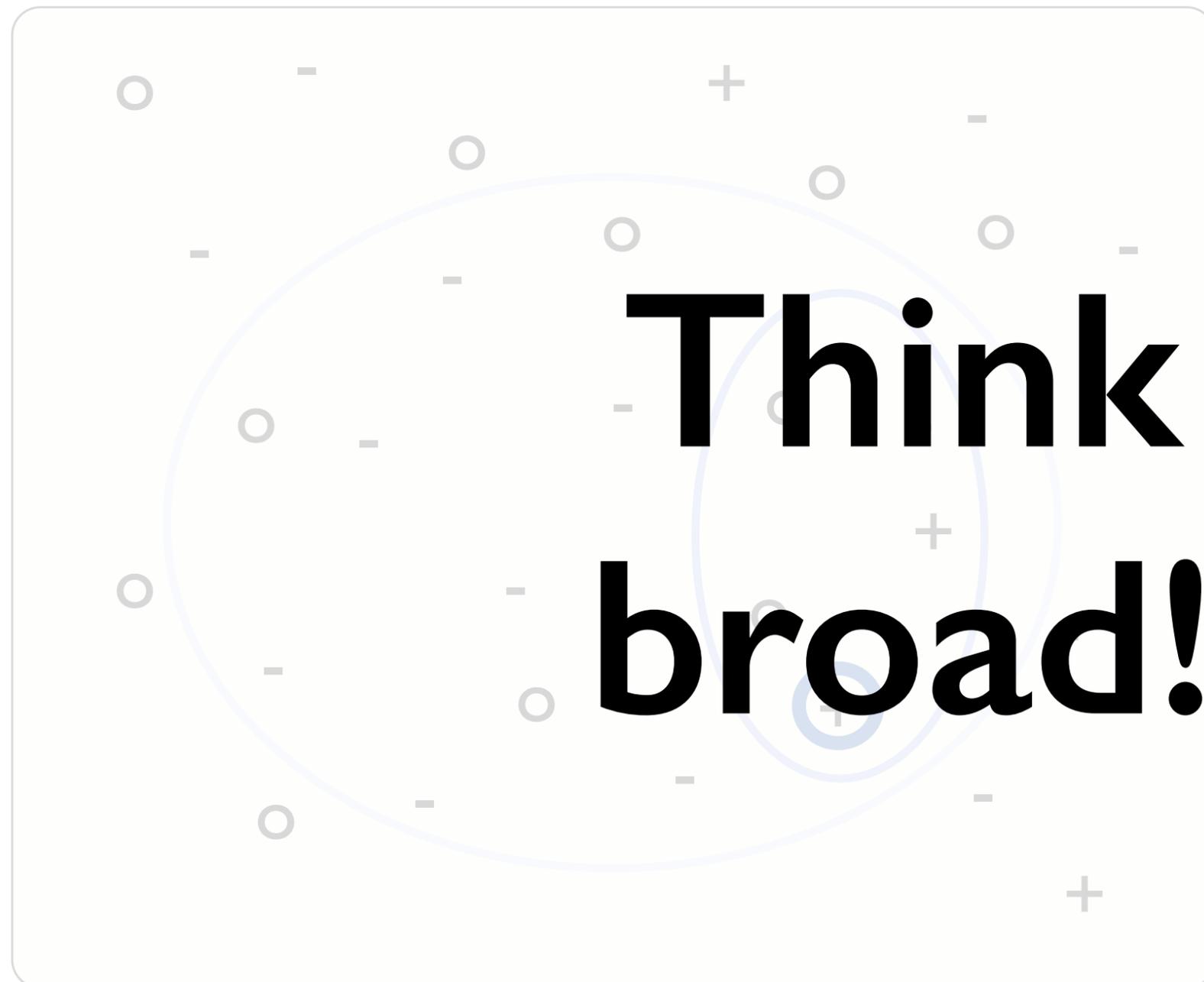
consider

propose

select

# METAPHOR

## Design Space



+ good  
o okay  
- poor

consider

propose

select

# 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	<i>liking</i> 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

PITFALL

**PREMATURE  
PUBLISHING**

I can write a design study **paper**  
in a week!



***“writing is research”***

[Wolcott: Writing up qualitative research, 2009]

# METAPHOR

## Horse Race vs. Music Debut

Must be first!



technique-driven

Am I ready?

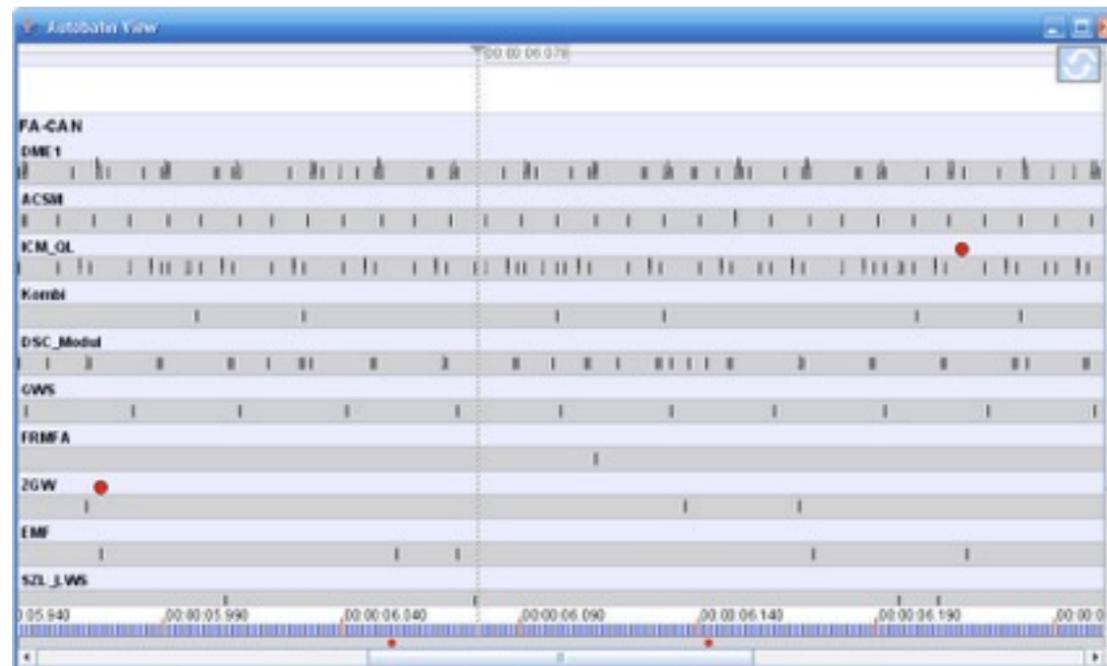


problem-driven

# EXAMPLE FROM THE TRENCHES

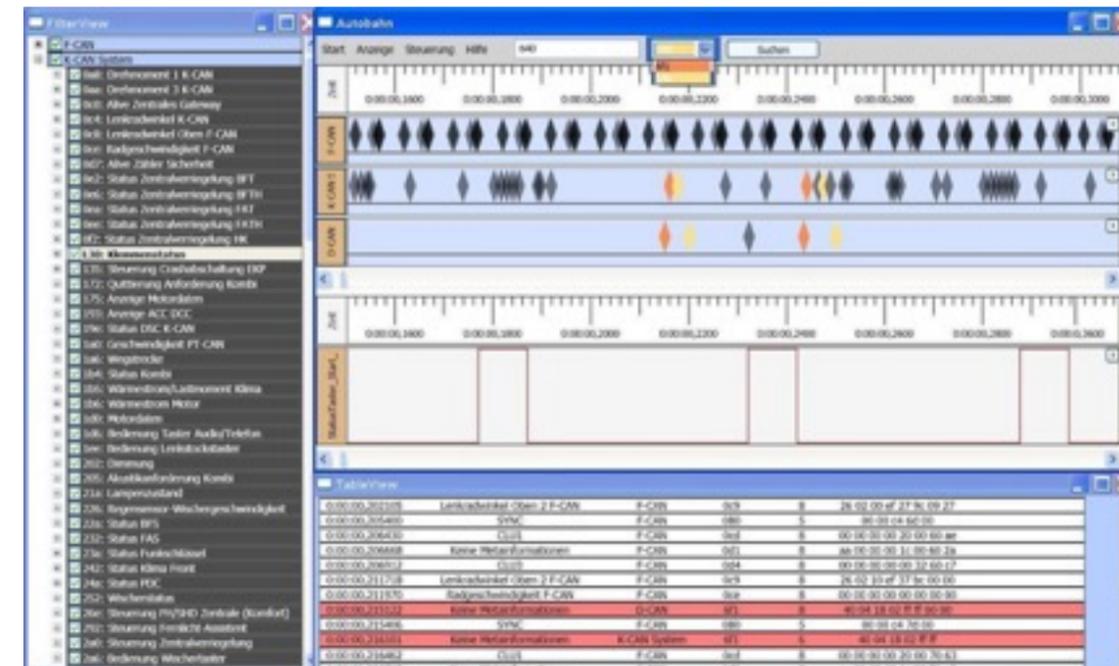
## Don't step on your own toes!

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]

# 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



# Outline

- **Session 1 8:30-10:10am**  
**Visualization Analysis Framework**
  - Introduction: Definitions
  - Analysis: What, Why, How
  - Marks and Channels
- **Session 2 10:30am-12:10pm**  
**Spatial Layout**
  - Arrange Tables
  - Arrange Spatial Data
  - Arrange Networks and Trees
- **Session 3 2:00-3:40pm**  
**Color & Interaction**
  - Map Color
  - Manipulate: Change, Select, Navigate
  - Facet: Juxtapose, Partition, Superimpose
- **Session 4 4:15-5:55pm**  
**Guidelines & Methods**
  - Reduce: Filter, Aggregate
  - Rules of Thumb
  - Design Study Methodology

# What?

Datasets

Attributes

domain

abstraction

What?

Why?

idiom

How?

algorithm

# Why?

Actions

Targets

→ Data Types

→ Items

→ Data and D

Tables

Items

Attributes

→ Analyze

→ Consume

→ Discover



→ Present



→ Enjoy



→ All Data

→ Trends



→ Outliers

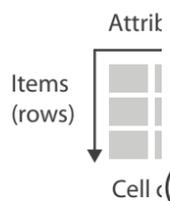


→ Features



→ Dataset Typ

→ Tables



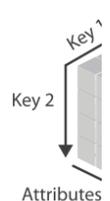
→ Produce

→ Annotate



→ Search

→ Multidir



	Tar
Location known	••
Location unknown	<••

→ Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



→ Map

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

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...



→ Shape



→ Motion

Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...



# How?

Encode

Manipulate

Facet

Reduce

→ Arrange

→ Express



→ Separate



→ Order



→ Align



→ Use



→ Map

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

→ Color

→ Hue



→ Saturation



→ Luminance



→ Size, Angle, Curvature, ...



→ Shape



→ Motion

Direction, Rate, Frequency, ...



→ Change



→ Select



→ Navigate



→ Juxtapose



→ Partition



→ Superimpose



→ Filter



→ Aggregate



→ Embed



What?

Why?

→ Geometr



→ Query

→ Identify



# More Information

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

- this talk

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#vad17fullday>

- book page (including tutorial lecture slides)

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

– 20% promo code for book+ebook combo:  
HVN17

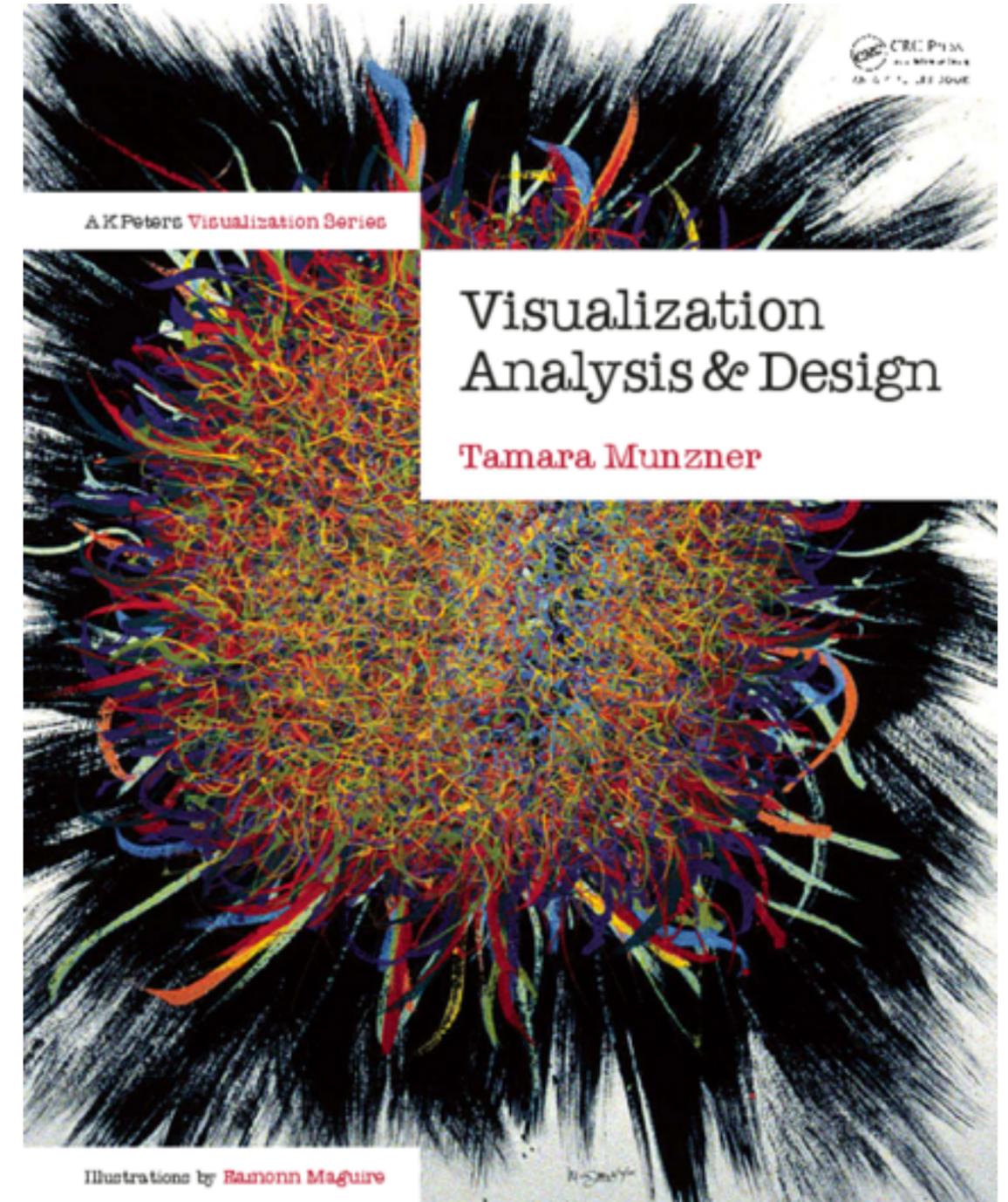
– <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466508910>

– illustrations: Eamonn Maguire

- papers, videos, software, talks, courses

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

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



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