DATAVIS 10½ A PRACTICAL BRIEF INTRO TO DATA VISUALIZATION

PERE-PAU VÁZQUEZ – VIRVIG GROUP – UPC



OUTLINE

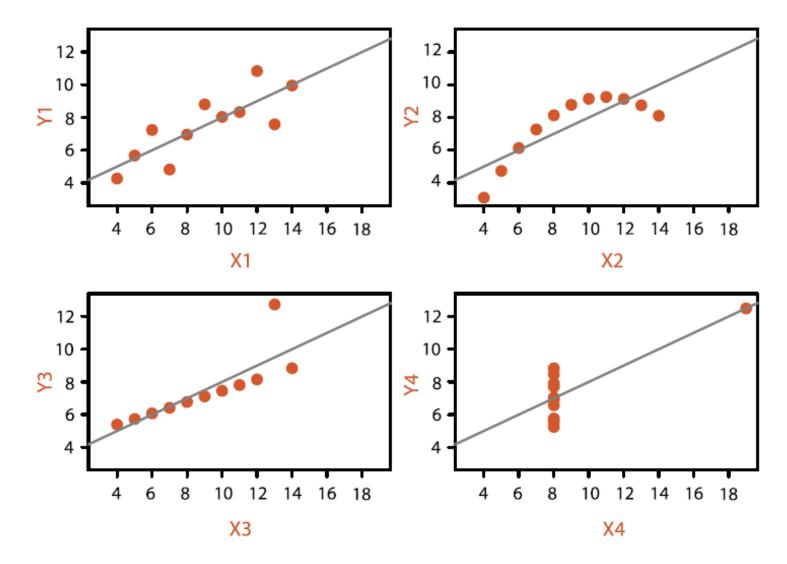
- Introduction to Visualization (concepts, goals, history...)
- Dos and don'ts of data visualization (and why it matters)
- Basic charts (purpose and implementation)
- Compound and interactive charts (how to implement multiple views)
- Further reading

NUMBERS ARE NOT ENOUGH

	1		2		3		4	
	Х	Y	Х	Y	Х	Y	Х	Y
	10.0	8.04	10.0	9.14	10.0	7.46	8.0	6.58
	8.0	6.95	8.0	8.14	8.0	6.77	8.0	5.76
	13.0	7.58	13.0	8.74	13.0	12.74	8.0	7.71
	9.0	8.81	9.0	8.77	9.0	7.11	8.0	8.84
	11.0	8.33	11.0	9.26	11.0	7.81	8.0	8.47
	14.0	9.96	14.0	8.10	14.0	8.84	8.0	7.04
	6.0	7.24	6.0	6.13	6.0	6.08	8.0	5.25
	4.0	4.26	4.0	3.10	4.0	5.39	19.0	12.50
	12.0	10.84	12.0	9.13	12.0	8.15	8.0	5.56
	7.0	4.82	7.0	7.26	7.0	6.42	8.0	7.91
	5.0	5.68	5.0	4.74	5.0	5.73	8.0	6.89
Mean	9.0	7.5	9.0	7.5	9.0	7.5	9.0	7.5
Variance	10.0	3.75	10.0	3.75	10.0	3.75	10.0	3.75
Correlation	0.816		0.816		0.816		0.816	

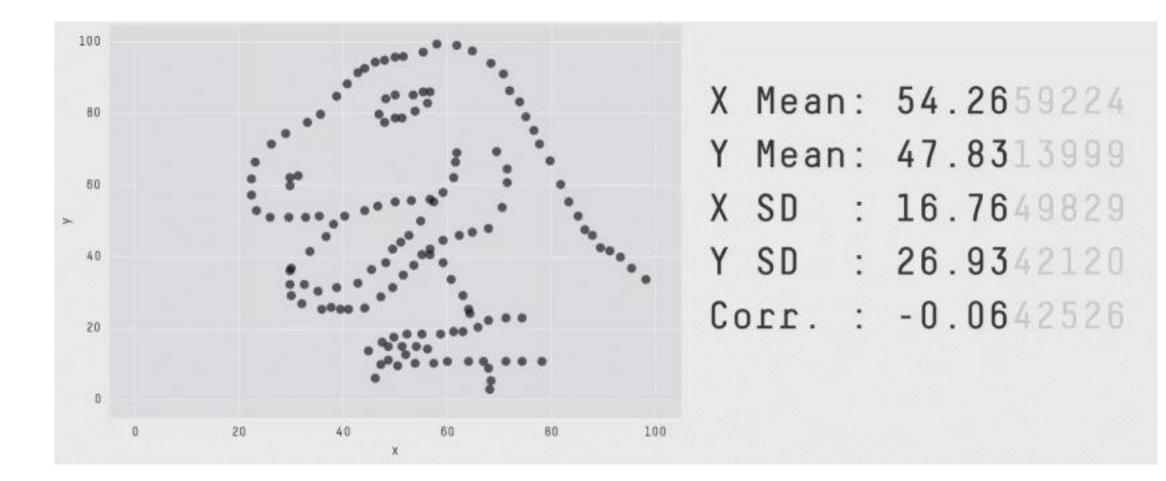
Anscombe's Quartet: Raw Data

NUMBERS ARE NOT ENOUGH



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NUMBERS ARE NOT ENOUGH



"...make both calculations and graphs. Both sorts of output should be studied; each will contribute to understanding."

F. J. Anscombe, 1973

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

Tamara Munzner, 2016

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

Tamara Munzner, 2016

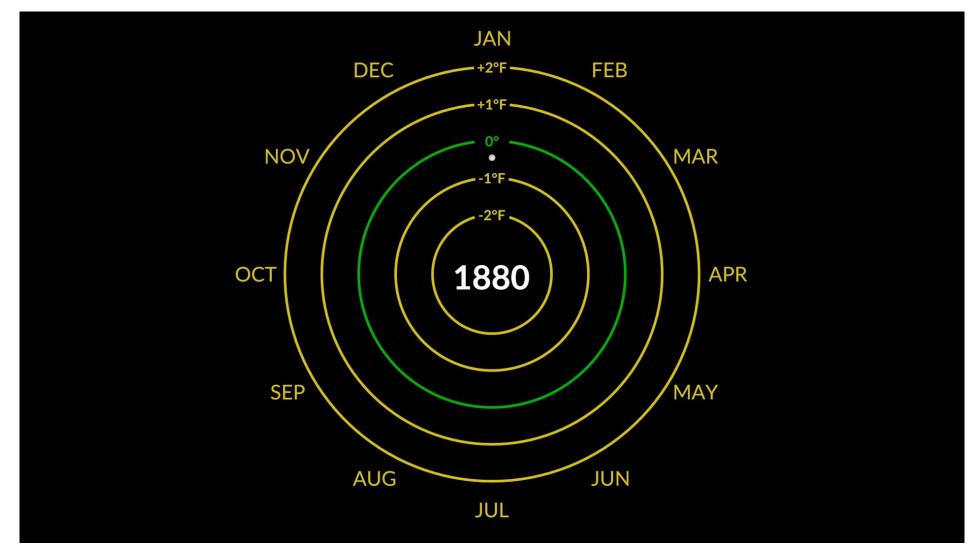
"A graphic is not 'drawn' once and for all; it is 'constructed' and reconstructed until it reveals all the relationships constituted by the interplay of the data. The best graphic operations are those carried out by the decision-maker themself."

Jacques Bertin

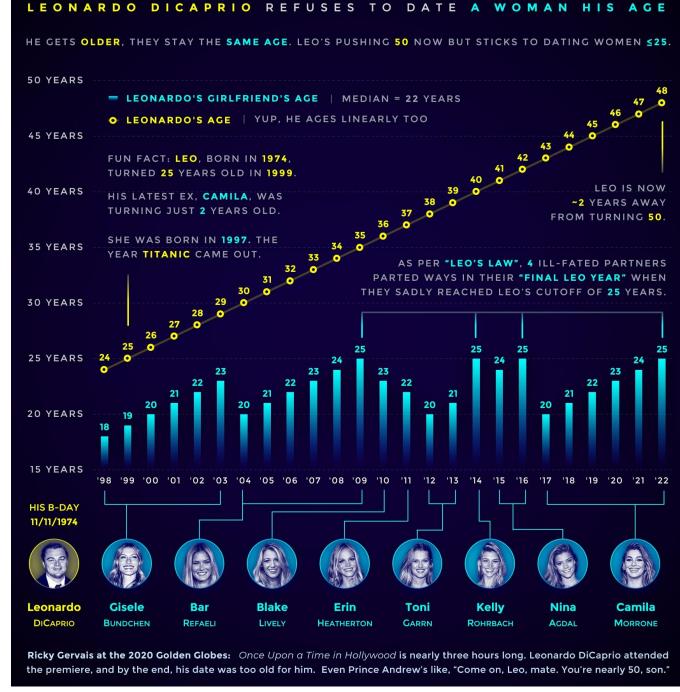
TODAY'S CONTENTS

- Organization
 - Do's and don'ts
 - Slides
 - Basic concepts
 - Slides
 - Visualization techniques
 - Using Altair
 - Multiple Views & Interaction
 - Slides + Altair

EXAMPLES



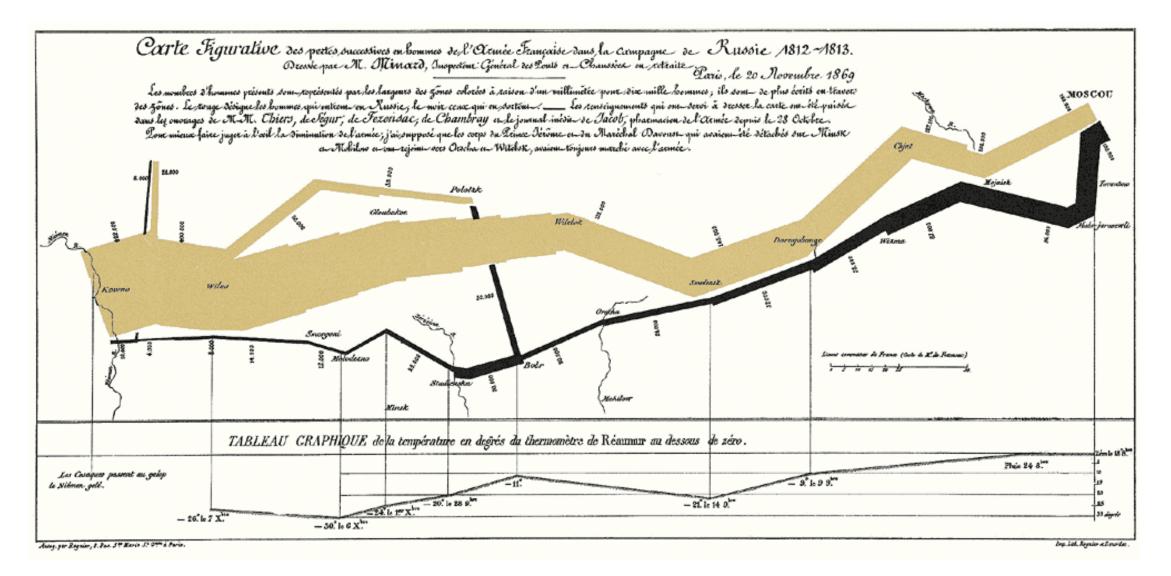
https://climate.nasa.gov/climate_resources/300/video-climate-spiral/

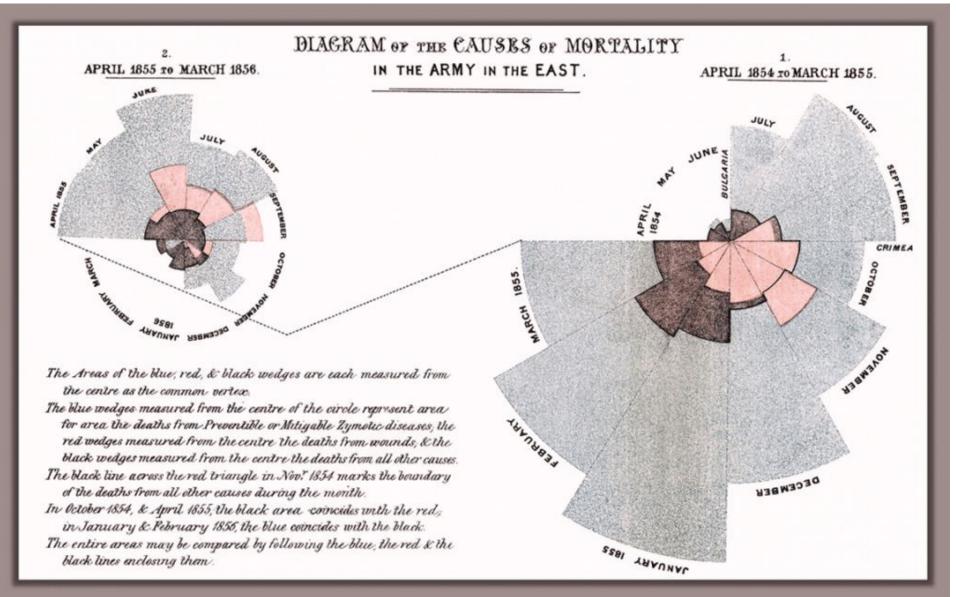


https://digg.com/data-viz/link/leonardo-di-caprio-dating-history-25-year-old-girlfriends-visualized-YjMeIPkdLJ

Inka's narrative Khipus contain histories and numerical data

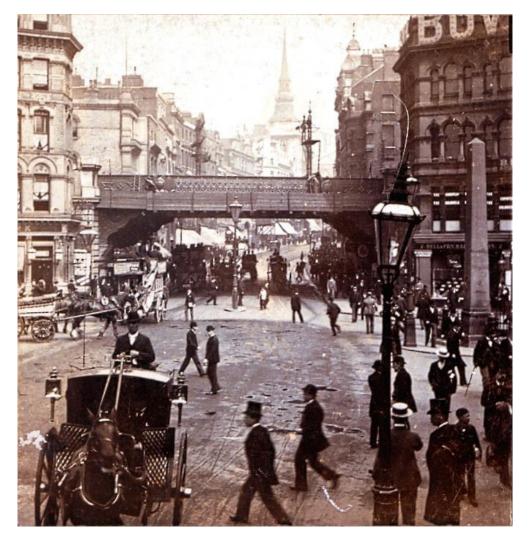






• Cholera epidemic in London 1854



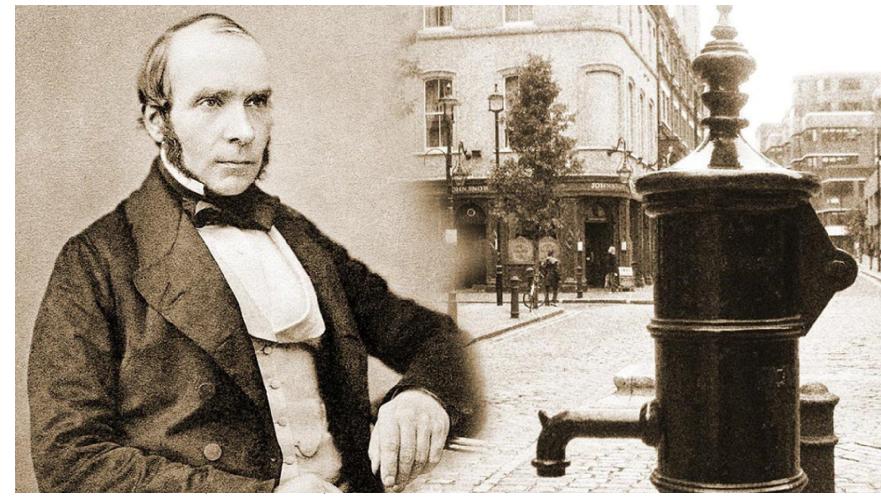


- Cholera epidemic in London 1854
 - John Snow



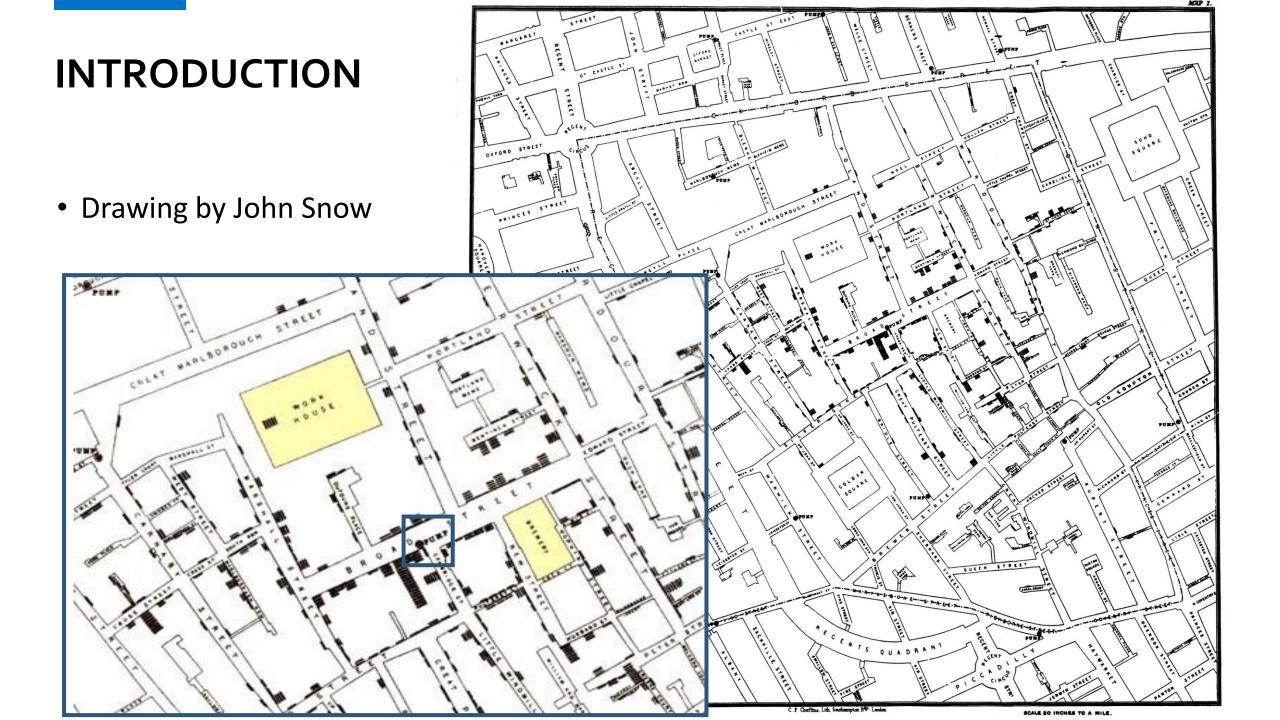


- Cholera epidemic in London 1854
 - John Snow





- Cholera epidemic in London 1854
 - Dr. John Snow was able to trace the source of the cholera outbreak in Soho
 - His findings inspired fundamental changes in the water and waste systems in London
 - He is considered one of the fathers of modern epidemiology



ethereside ethereside Representation & interaction

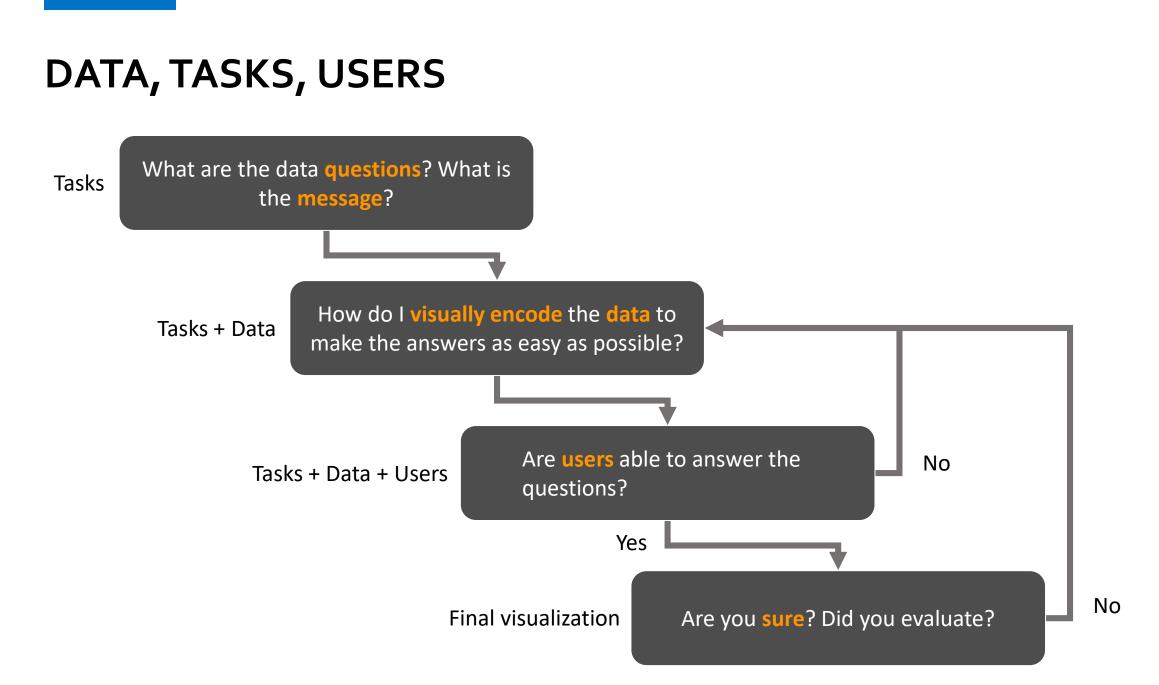
Data

Task

User

appropriateness

- Expressiveness: Show exactly the information in the data
 - Nothing more and nothing less
- *Effectiveness:* Take into account the **cognitive capabilities** of the human visual system, and
 - the task, application background, and other context-related information...
- Appropriateness: Cost-value ratio that assesses the benefit of the visualization process with respect to achieving the task
 - Mainly time (computation) and space (screen-space) efficiency



• Data types

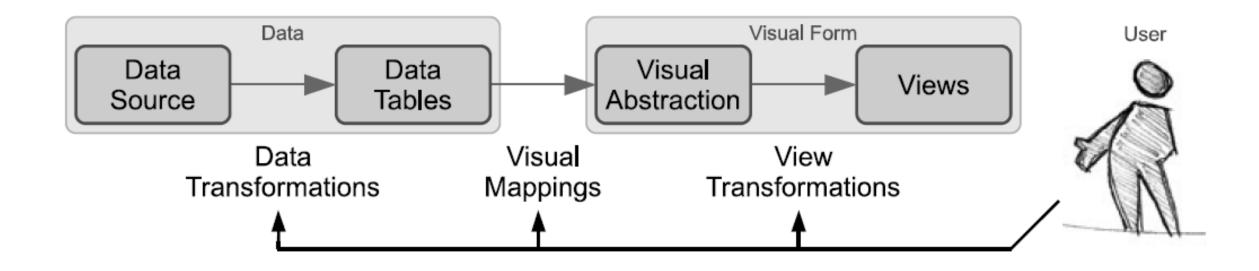
- Nominal (unordered set of names)
 - Examples: Car manufacturers and countries
 - Only test for inequality is possible
- Ordinal (ordered set of non-measureable data)
 - Examples: days of the week and rating scales
 - Tests for equality and "direction" (<,>,=, ≠)
- Quantitative (measured or simulated data)
 - Examples: physical measurements of height, weight, length
 - Full set of arithmetic operations possible

• Data structure

Structure	Examples
1-dimensional	Alphabetic lists, source code, texts/documents
2-dimensional	Planar or map data, photos
3-dimensional	Molecules, human body, buildings
Temporal	{start, finish}, e.g., medical records, project management, historical presentations
Multi-dimensional	N attributes -> points in n-dimensional space, e.g., relational databases
Tree	Hierarchies or tree structures, e.g., file directories, business organizations
Network	Connected as graphs, e.g., communications networks, social networks

VISUALIZATION PIPELINE

• The visualization pipeline is dynamic (Aigner et al., 2011)



- 1. Overview first
- 2. Zoom and filter
- 3. Then Details on Demand

- 1. Overview first: Provide **big picture** of the data, no details
- 2. Zoom and filter
- 3. Then Details on Demand

- 1. Overview first: Provide big picture of the data, no details
- 2. Zoom and filter: Focus on a **particular area** of the data
- 3. Then Details on Demand

- 1. Overview first: Provide big picture of the data, no details
- 2. Zoom and filter: Focus on a particular area of the data
- 3. Then Details on Demand: Only when requested, details of single data items

MARKS AND VISUAL VARIABLES

- Marks:
 - Geometric primitives
- Visual channels:
 - Control appearance of marks
 - Can redundantly code with multiple channels

MARKS AND VISUAL VARIABLES Points → Areas \rightarrow Lines Marks ➔ Color € Position → Horizontal → Vertical → Both Visual channels ļ • • ----➔ Shape € Tilt







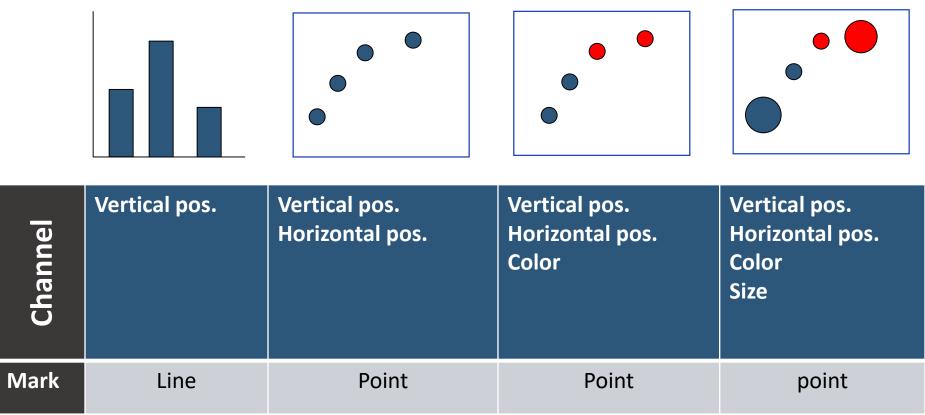
- **Points:** Location on the plane that has no theoretical length or area
 - Signification independent on the size and character of the mark

- Lines: Phenomenon on the plane which has a measurable length but no area
 - Independent of the width and other mark characteristics

- Areas: Something on the plane that has measurable size
 - Signification applies to the entire area covered by the visible mark

MARKS AND VISUAL CHANNELS

• Designing a visualization implies selecting a combination of marks and channels showing abstract data dimensions



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VISUAL VARIABLES. PERCEPTION

- Not everything is perceived equally:
 - Preattentive variables
 - Layouts

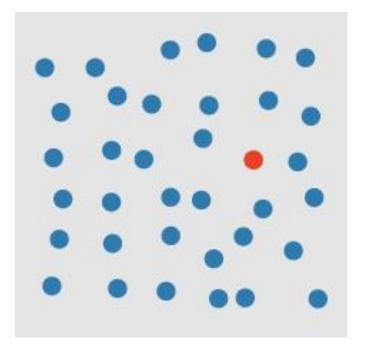
VISUAL VARIABLES. PERCEPTION. PREATTENTIVE VARIABLES

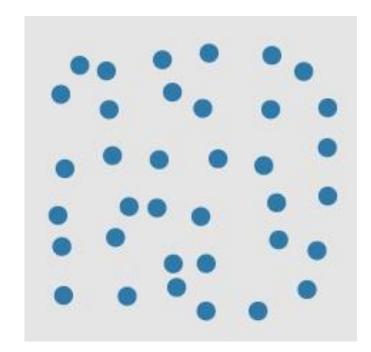
- A limited set of basic visual properties are processed *preattentively*
 - Information that "pops out"
 - Parallel processing by the low-level visual system (Stage 1 in the model)
 - Occurs prior to conscious attention
 - Important for designing effective visualizations
 - What features can be perceived rapidly?
 - Which properties are good discriminators?
 - What can mislead viewers?
 - How to design information such that it pops out?

• Example: Find the 3s

• Example: Find the 3s

• Is there a red circle present in the image?

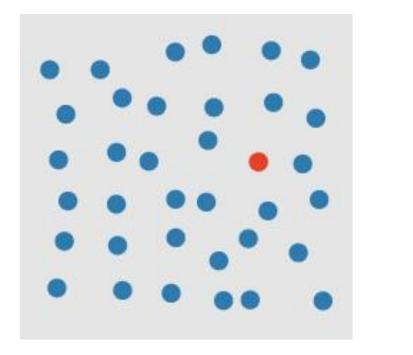


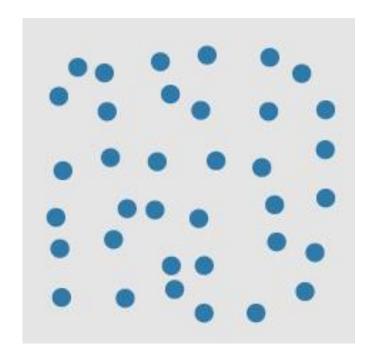


Images taken from http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/faculty/healey/PP/index.html

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• Is there a red circle present in the image?

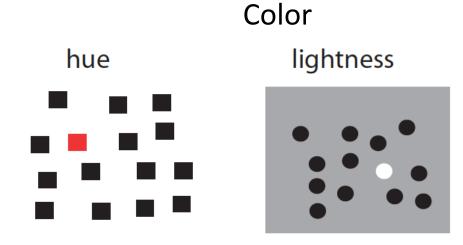




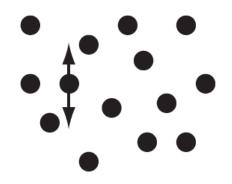
Color is preattentively processed!

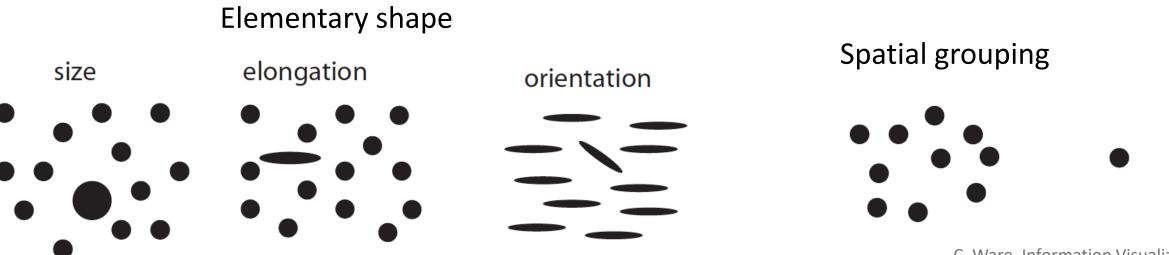
Images taken from http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/faculty/healey/PP/index.html

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Motion

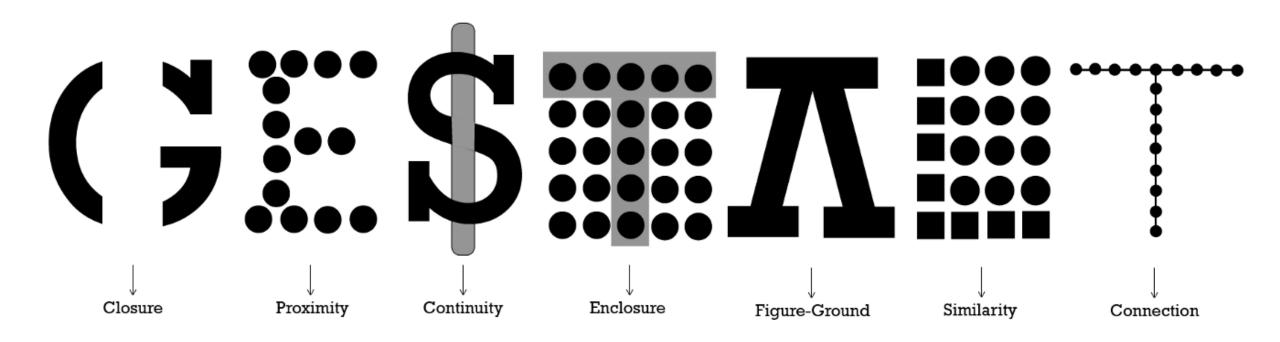




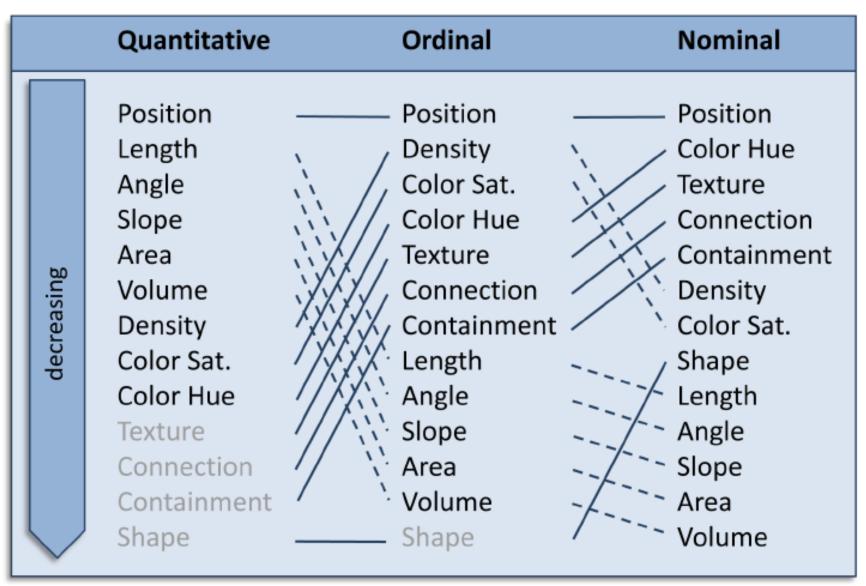
uez – Dept. Computer Science – UPC

C. Ware, Information Visualization. Perception for design, 2013

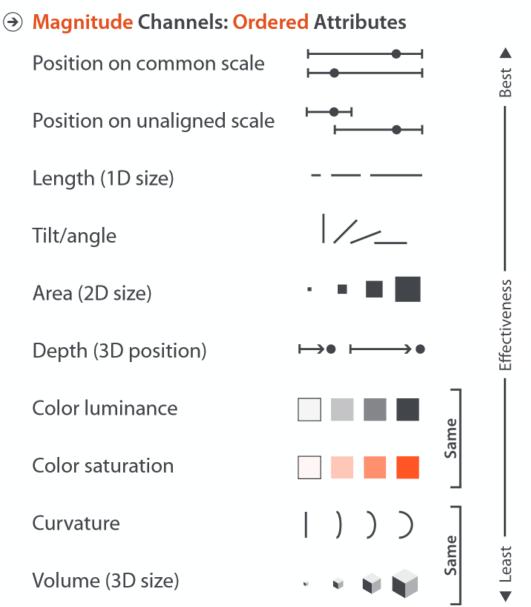
VISUAL VARIABLES. PERCEPTION. LAYOUTS



VISUAL VARIABLES. PERCEPTION



MARKS AND VISUAL VARIABLES



→ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes



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

OUTLINE

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- Further reading

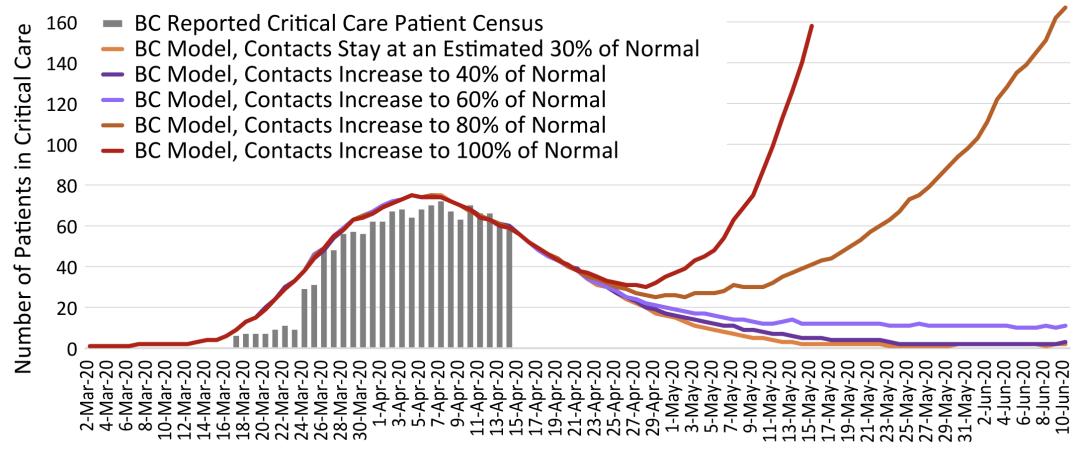
DO'S AND DON'TS

Very general principle:

strive to give **your viewer** the **greatest number** of **useful ideas** in the **shortest time** with the **least ink** in the **smallest space**

Tufte, E. The Visual Display of Quantitative Information (Graphic Press, Cheshire, Connecticut, USA, 2007).

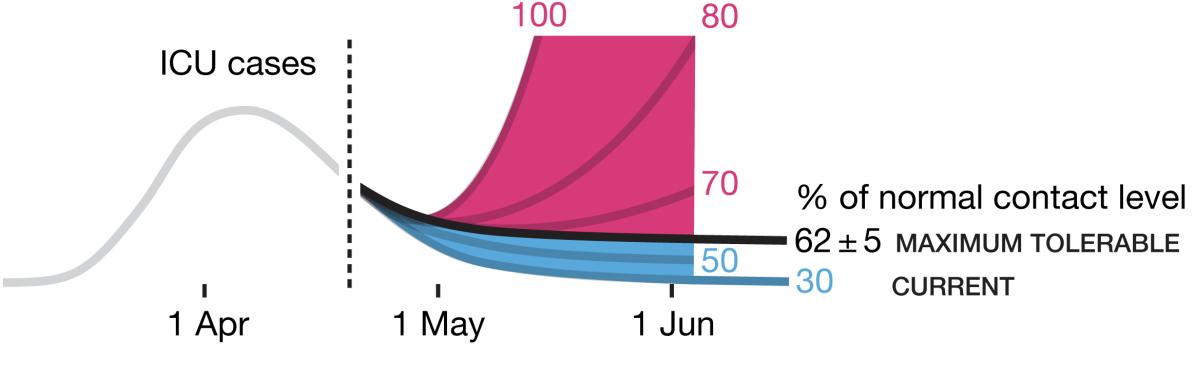
EXPLAIN YOUR DATA Example: critical care implications of dynamic model in BC's context



BCCDC http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/modelling-projections

EXPLAIN YOUR DATA

Critical care admission rate remains acceptable if restrictions are relaxed up to 60% of normal



http://mkweb.bcgsc.ca/the-covid-charts/

SATISFY YOUR AUDIENCE, NOT YOURSELF

table

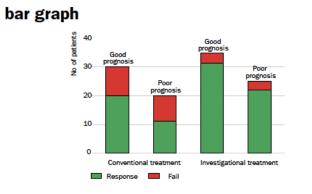
Influence of data display formats on physician investigators' decisions to stop clinical trials: prospective trial with repeated measures

Linda S Elting, Charles G Martin, Scott B Cantor, Edward B Rubenstein

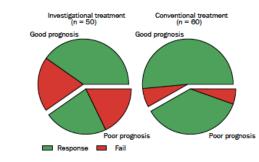
"...eight voiced considerable contempt for the [icon] display."

"... icon displays were often preferred by nurses, students, ... but were considered unacceptable by physicians."

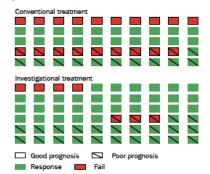




pie chart



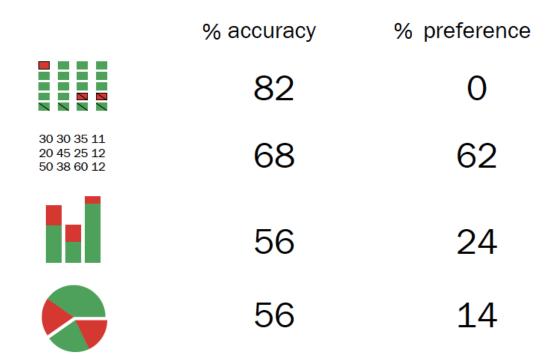
icon graph



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KEEP DATA LEGIBLE

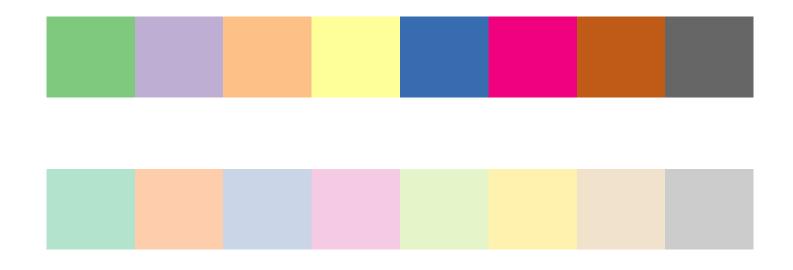
- The resolving power of the eye is approximately 50 cycles per degree (*see next slide*).
 - This limits us from distinguishing features smaller than 0.1 mm at a reading distance of 30 cm.
 - Larger features must be used to maintain legibility and comprehension. 1 point = 1/72 inch = 0.0353 cm

KEEP DATA LEGIBLE

- Cycles per degree (aka **acuity**):
 - Spatial resolving capacity of the visual system
 - Ability of the eye to see fine detail
 - Refers to the highest resolution we can see with the fovea
- Each cycle represents an element we can see isolated:
 - Commonly taken as a line pair: a black and white strokes together
- Other acuity limits: https://entokey.com/visual-acuity-2/

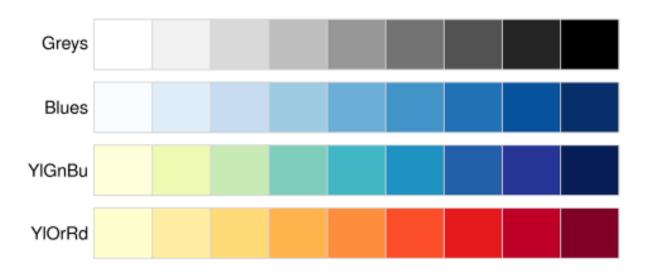
- Four types of use of color in vis:
 - To distinguish
 - To encode values
 - To highlight

- Four types of use of color in vis:
 - To distinguish: categorical data

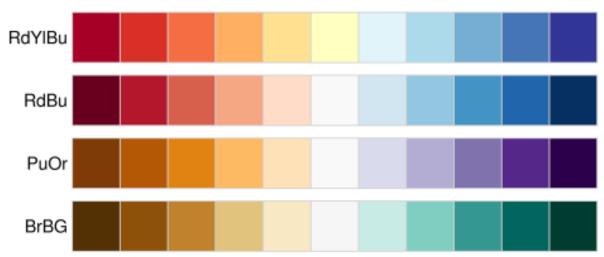


Sequential palettes

- Four types of use of color in vis:
 - To encode values. Quanitative data



Diverging palettes

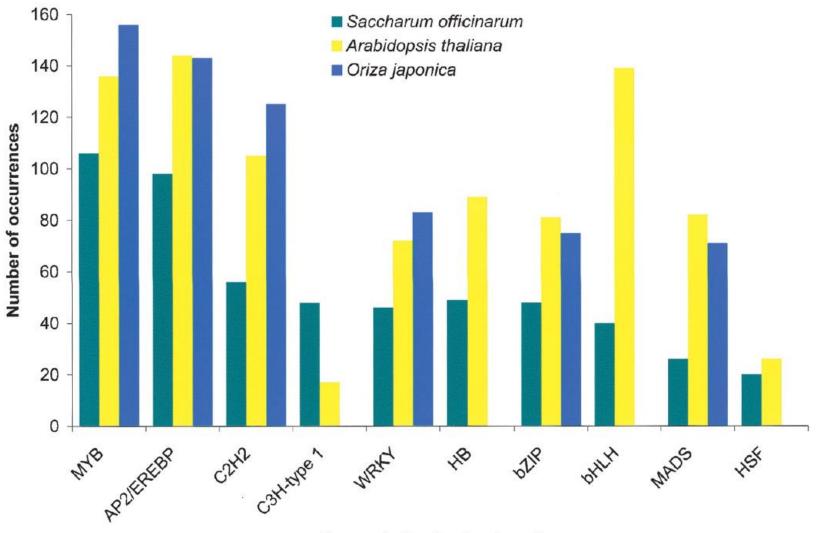


https://betterfigures.org/2015/06/23/picking-a-colour-scale-for-scientific-graphics/

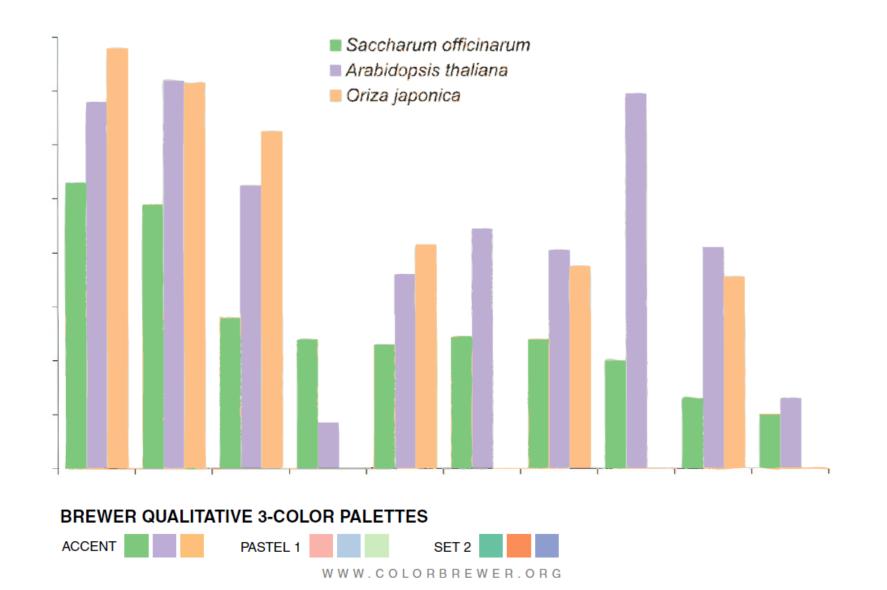
- Four types of use of color in vis:
 - To highlight elements/values



https://betterfigures.org/2015/06/23/picking-a-colour-scale-for-scientific-graphics/

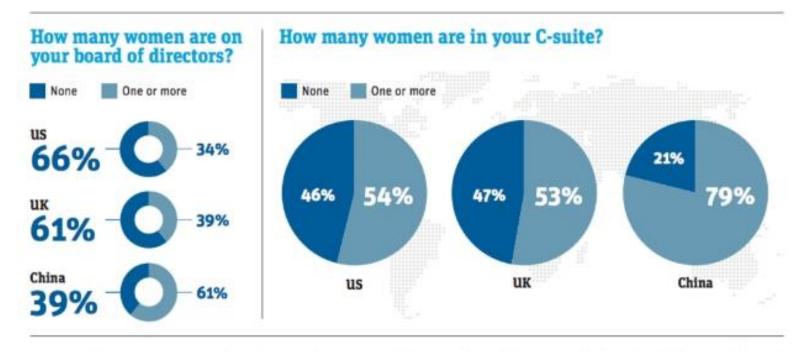


Transcription factor domains

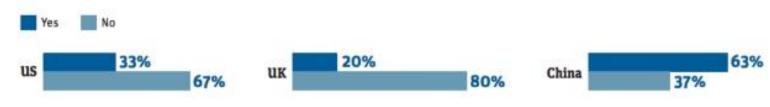


- General approach:
 - Design everything using neutral colors
 - Neutral can be light grey, corporate color...
 - Use color to highlight
 - Message
 - Takeaway
 - Region of interest

BE CONSISTENT



Do you have programs in place to increase the number of women in leadership positions?

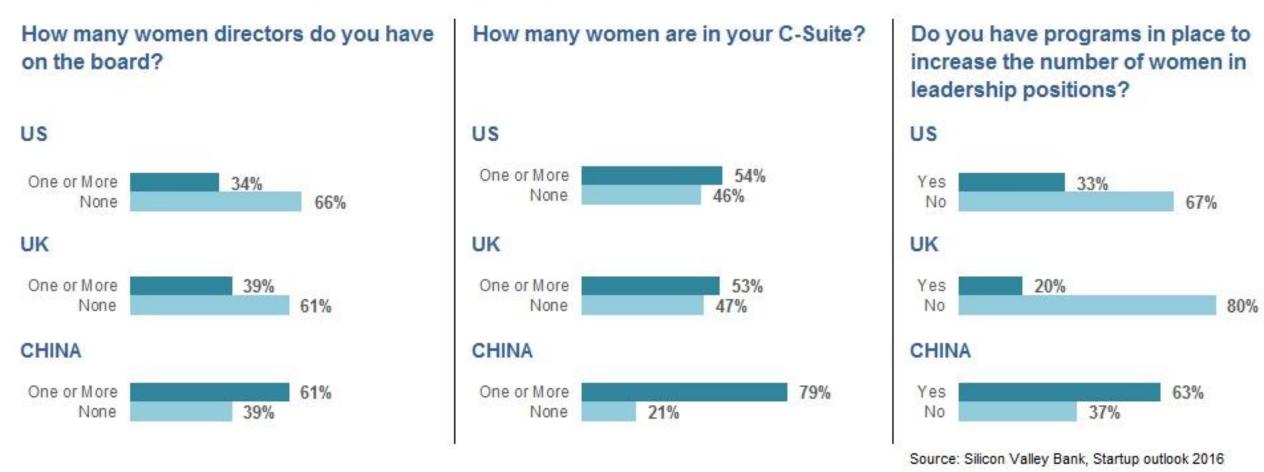


View the complete Startup Outlook 2016 report at svb.com/ieo

https://www.fastcompany.com/4011394/china-beats-the-u-s-when-it-comes-to-female-startup-leaders

BE CONSISTENT

China leads when it comes to female startup leaders with 79% of Chinese startups having one or more women in the C-Suite

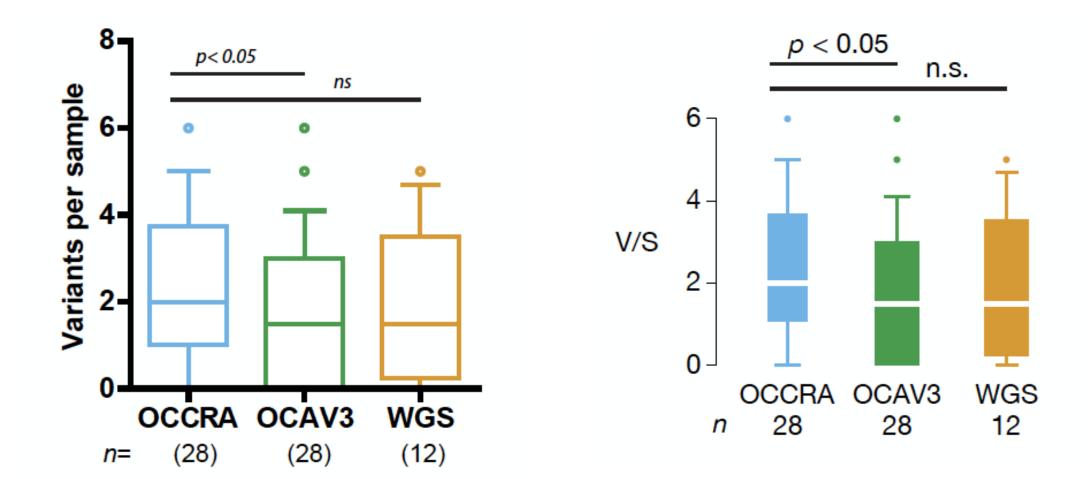


https://daydreamingnumbers.com/blog/consistency-in-charts/

EMPHASIZE THE MESSAGE/DATA

- Match the pertinence of an object with its visual salience
 - Which also means removing salience of non-important elements
- Apply visual organization Gestalt principles

EMPHASIZE THE MESSAGE/DATA

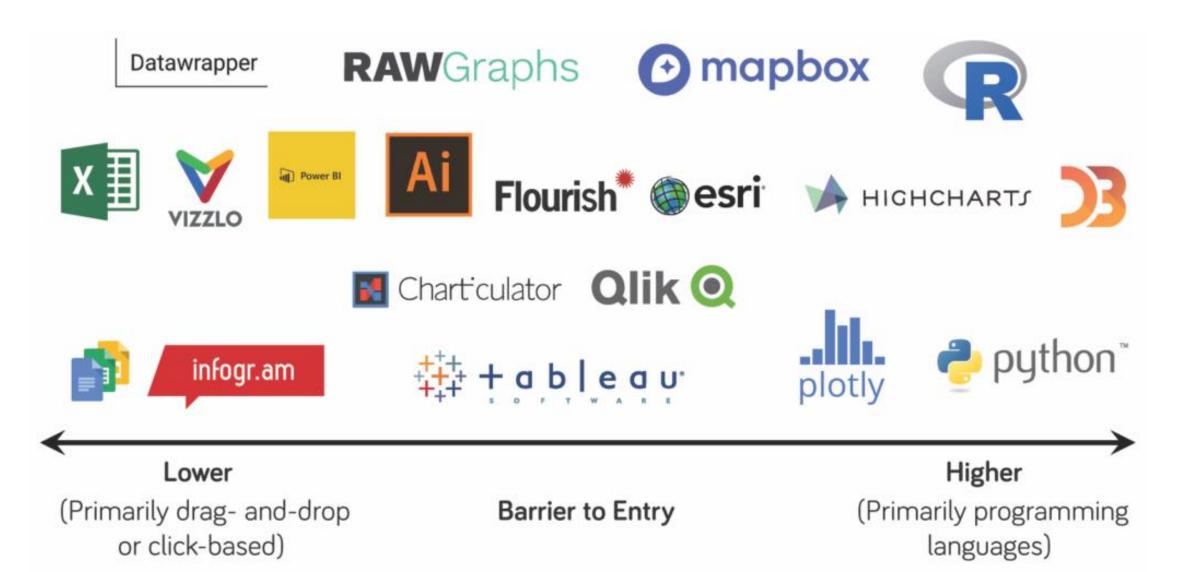


LET'S PRACTICE!!!

- Different ways to achieve this
 - Out-of-the box software
 - Libraries
 - Different amount of programming

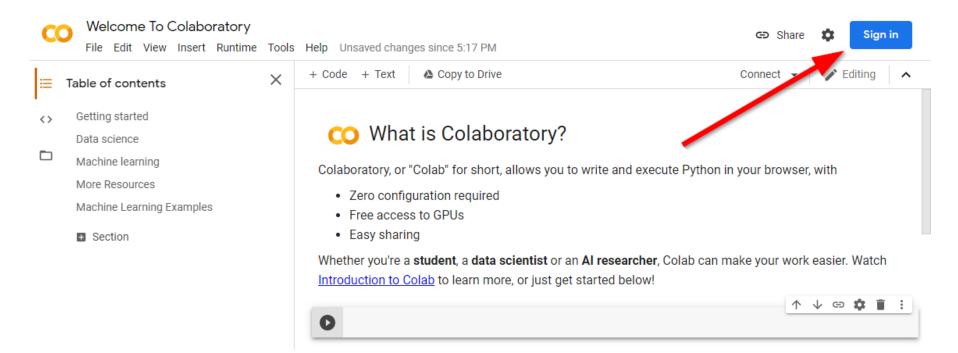
Tufte, E. The Visual Display of Quantitative Information (Graphic Press, Cheshire, Connecticut, USA, 2007).

LET'S PRACTICE LIBRARIES & SOFTWARE



GOOGLE COLAB

• Sign-in



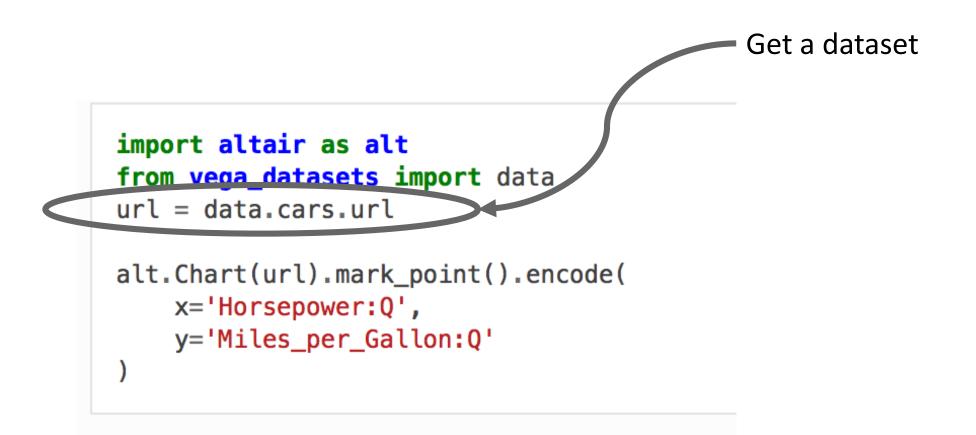
GOOGLE COLAB

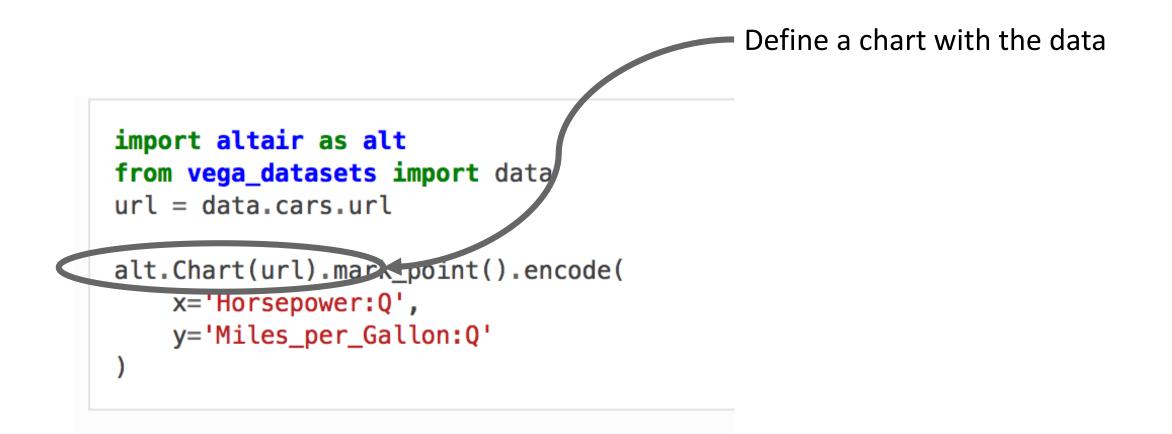
- Download and upload this notebook:
 - https://www.cs.upc.edu/~ppau/notebook.ipynb

```
Import library
import altair as alt
from vega_datasets import data
url = data.cars.url
alt.Chart(url).mark_point().encode(
   x='Horsepower:Q',
    y='Miles_per_Gallon:Q'
```



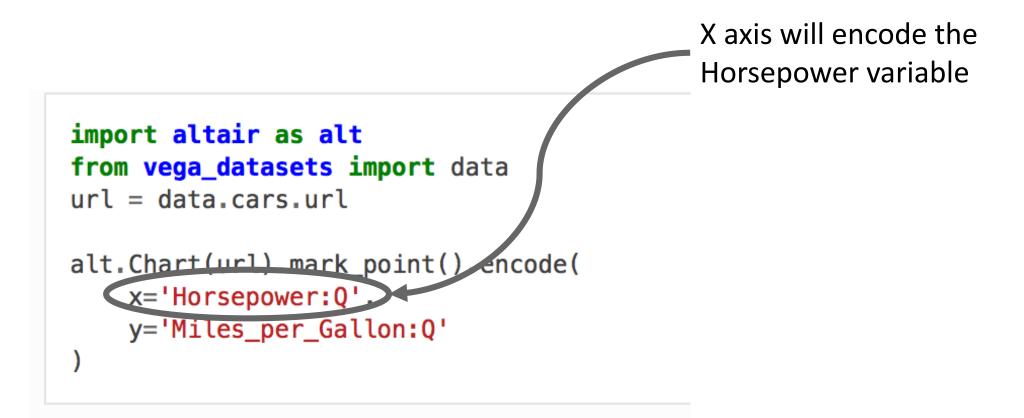




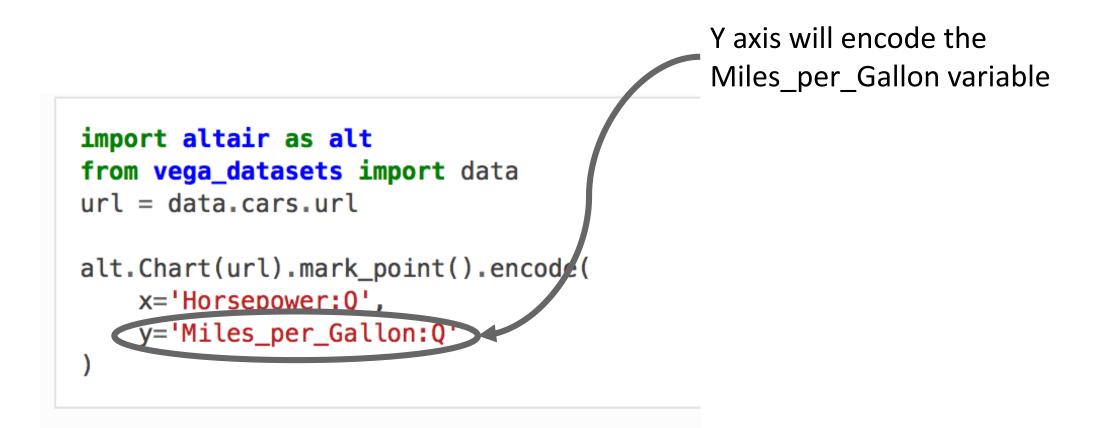




ALTAIR



ALTAIR



- Often information too complex for a single view
 - Show multiple views side by side
 - Different views of the data
 - Not merely isolated separate views
 - Mighty tools which show **data relationships**
- **Single view:** combination of a set of data together with specifications on how to display this data

- Advantages:
 - Eyes Beat Memory: two simultaneous views have lower cognitive load than remembering previous view
 - Facilitate data understanding
 - Comparison
 - Show details
 - Facilitate data exploration
 - Show focus + context
 - Different data + same encoding

- Challenges:
 - Real-estate trade-off: popup view vs. static side-by-side
 - Alternative: Single view that is changed through interaction (filtering, aggregation, navigation)
 - Choosing the most adequate implementation:
 - Visual representation selection
 - Data reduction
 - Design adequate interaction methods

- Coordinated views
 - Further step that adds linked interactions
 - Boosts expressivity
 - Increases exploration possibilities

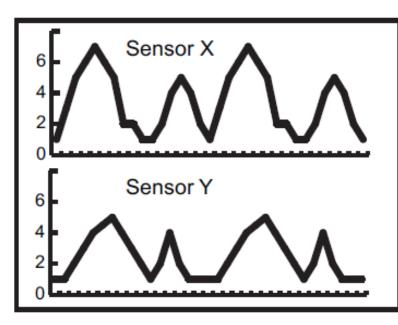
- Visual representation selection. Decisions:
 - Is all the data shared in both representations?
 - Which representation for each view?
 - How do we partition data?
- Answers linked to each other
- Multiple views approaches: Juxtaposition, superposition, and explicit encoding

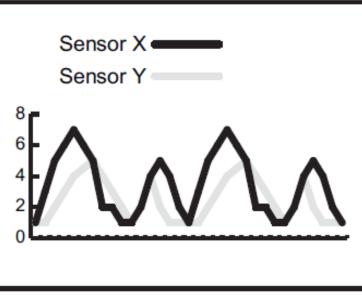
• Multiple views layouts (aka *facet, multiform*):

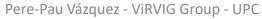
Juxtaposition

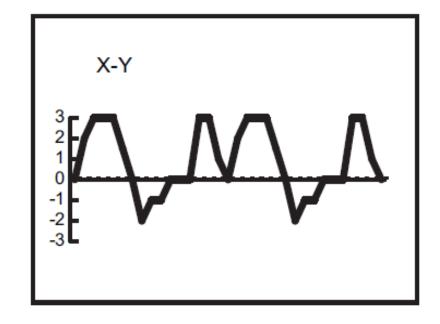
Superposition

Explicit encoding: difference





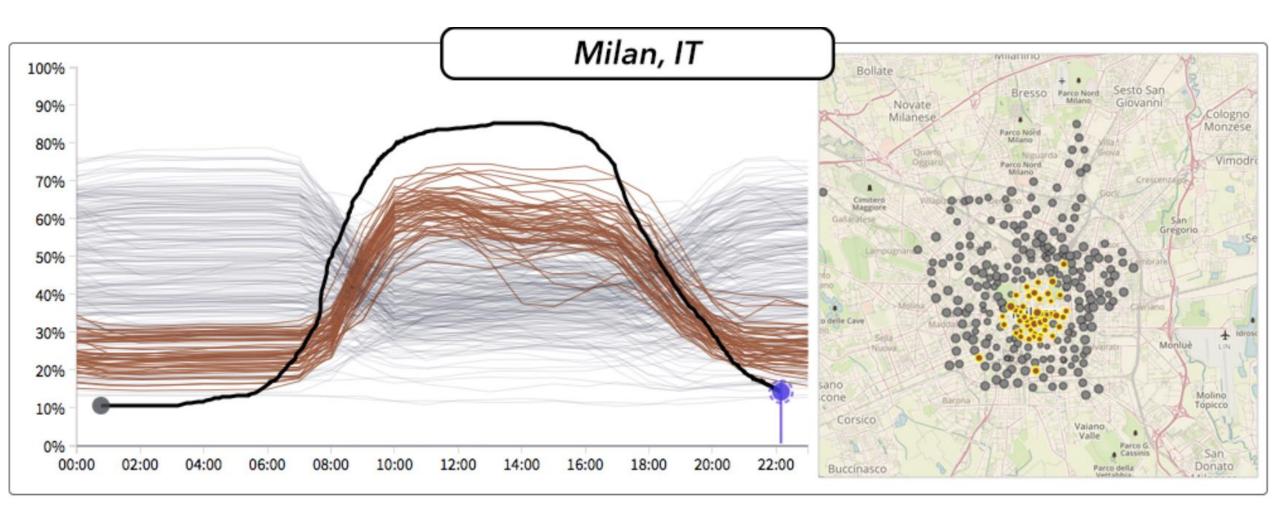




- Juxtaposition. Why?
 - Comparing two views that are simultaneously visible is relatively easy
 - Move our eyes back and forth
 - Alternative: change over time: comparing current state to its previous state requires users to consult their working memory

- Juxtaposition. Design choices
 - Which channels are shared
 - How much of the data is shared
 - How/if the navigation is synchronized
 - ... but also when to show them, how to arrange, which attributes used to split the data, how many regions...

- Juxtaposition. How?
 - Uniform design: Same representation, different data
 - Multiform design: Different encoding, same data
 - Can support more tasks
 - Need coordinating views with linked highlighting
- Juxtaposition. Shortcomings:
 - Larger display area required (e.g. 2x)
 - Trade-off between display area and working memory
 - Typically can encode more layers than superimposing



- Superposition:
 - Use of multiple layers over the same space
- Layer: set of objects spread out over a region
 - Spatially intermixed with objects that are not part of the visual layer
 - Each set of objects in each layer visually distinguishable from objects in other layers at a
 perceptual level

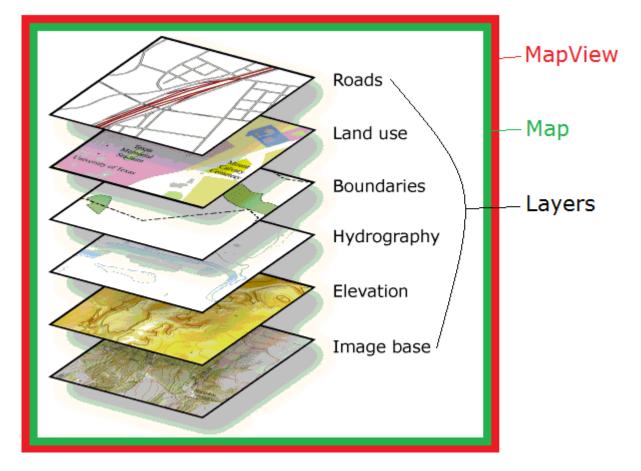
- Superposition. Why?
 - Does not require more space
 - Can use the whole view
 - May reduce eye movement required to compare

- Superposition. Design choices
 - How many layers?
 - More limited than when using juxtaposition
 - How are layers perceptually distinguished?
 - How to partition items into layers?
 - Are layers static? Or are they constructed dynamically in response to user interaction?

- Superposition. How?
 - Make different and non overlapping range of the visual channels active in the encoding
 - E.g. foreground and background
 - Number of distinguishable layers limited if they contain a substantial number of area marks
 - Two layers is achievable, three with careful design
 - Multiple layers only if few marks in each

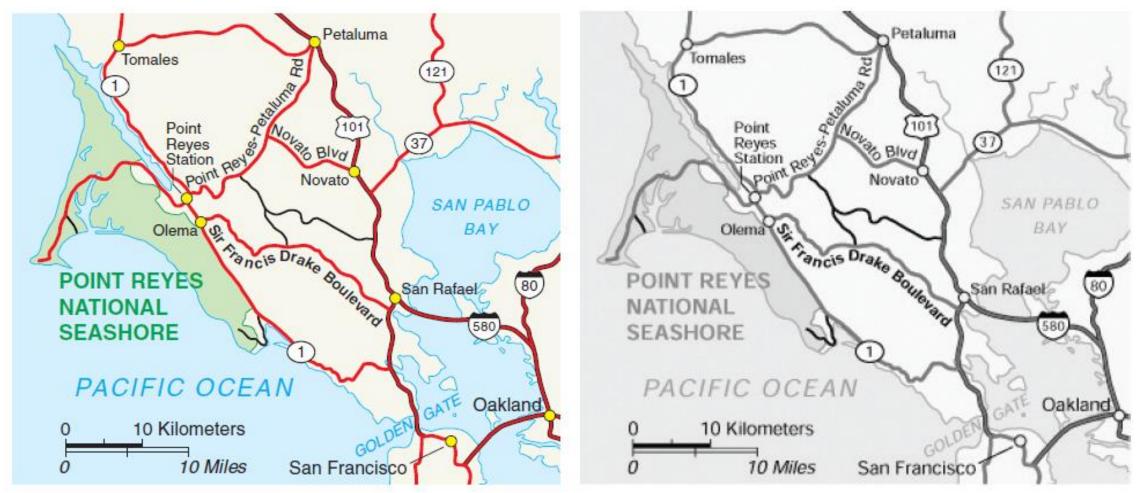
- Superposition. Static layers
 - All layers displayed simultaneously
 - Requires selective direction of visual attention

• Superposition. Static layers

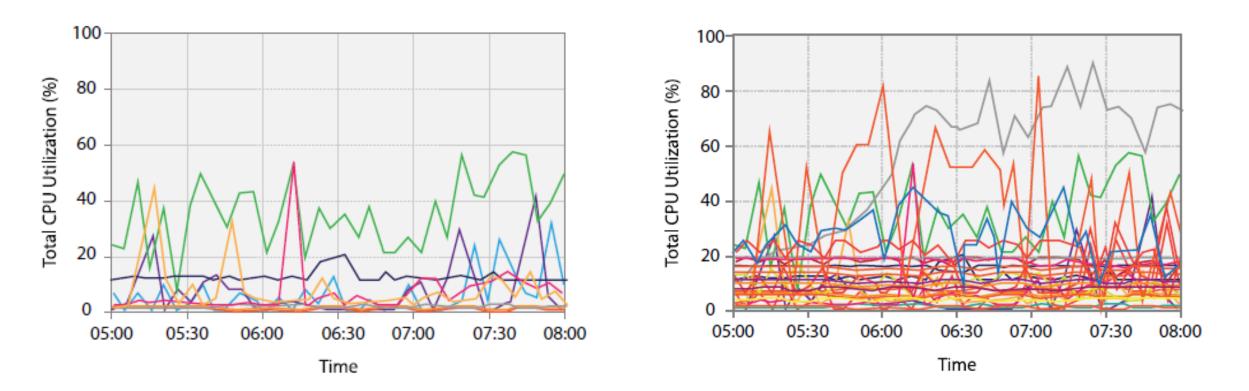


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• Superposition. Static layers



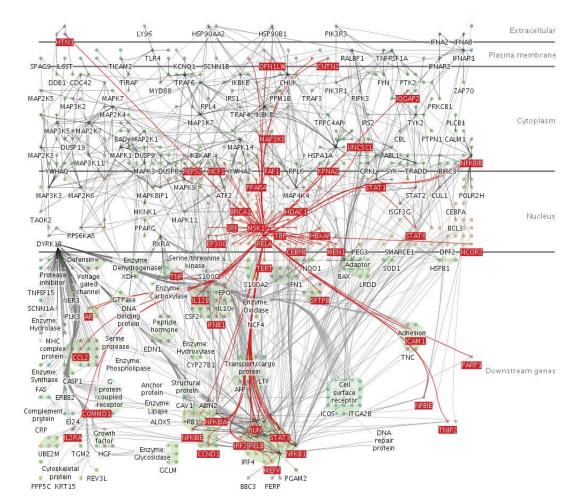
- Superposition. Static layers.
 - Line charts: up to a dozen lines



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- Superposition. Dynamic layers:
 - A layer with different salience is constructed interactively
 - Typically in response to user interaction
 - Can have a huge number of different layers
 - Not displayed simultaneously
 - Built on the fly

• Superposition. Dynamic layers



- Difference encoding:
 - Two or more layers with different layers of information combined
 - Only the difference: Different visual encoding
 - Original + difference: Original encoding for the data to compare and another visual cue for the difference
 - Many encoding variants





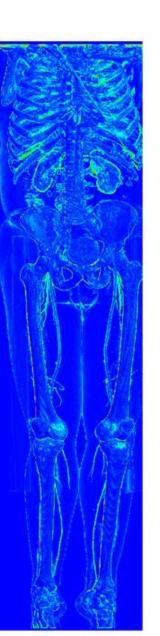
Algorithm 1



Algorithm 2

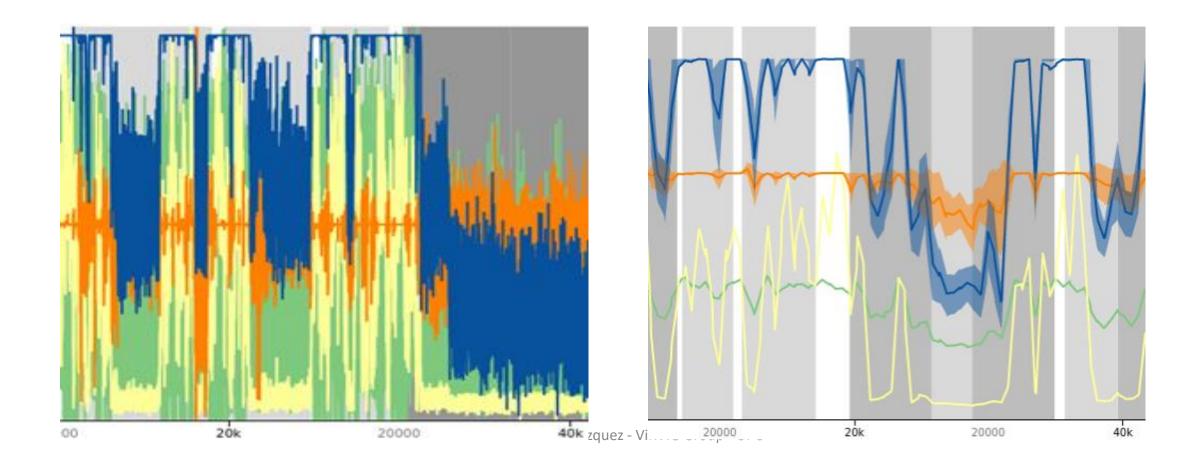


- Difference images:
 - Difference encoding
 - Similar regions: cold color (blue)
 - Different regions: warmer colors
 - Warmer \rightarrow larger difference





• Difference encoding: only differences (Tukey's fences) + average



INTERACTION

- Interaction
 - Problem:
 - You have a lot of data (& attributes) to understand
 - Do you?
 - Pack all the data into one complex representation
 - Spread the data into multiple coordinated views
 - Use interaction to reveal different subsets of the data

INTERACTION

- Interaction
 - "The effectiveness of information visualization hinges on two things: its ability to clearly and accurately represent information and our ability to interact with it to figure out what the information means."

S. Few, Now you see it

- Two key aspects of data visualization
 - Representation
 - Interaction
 - Interaction is Vital
 - Engage in a dialog with your data

INTERACTION

- Why interact?
 - 1. Select
 - 2. Explore
 - 3. Reconfigure
 - 4. Encode
 - 5. Abstract/Elaborate
 - 6. Filter
 - 7. Connect

MULTIPLE VIEWS. INTERACTION

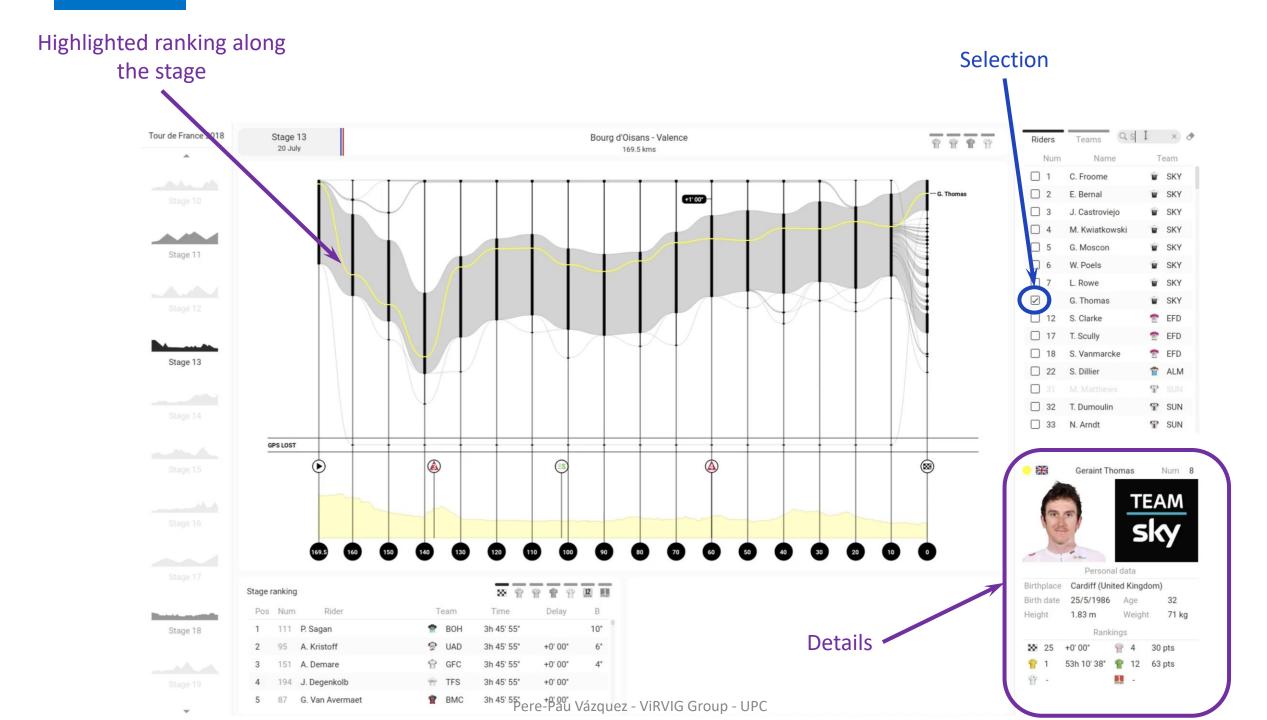
- Effective exploration comes from **coordinating/linking** views
 - Different names: linked views, multiple views, coordinated views, coordinated multiple views, and coupled views
- Linkage:
 - Actions in one view are somehow propagated to other views

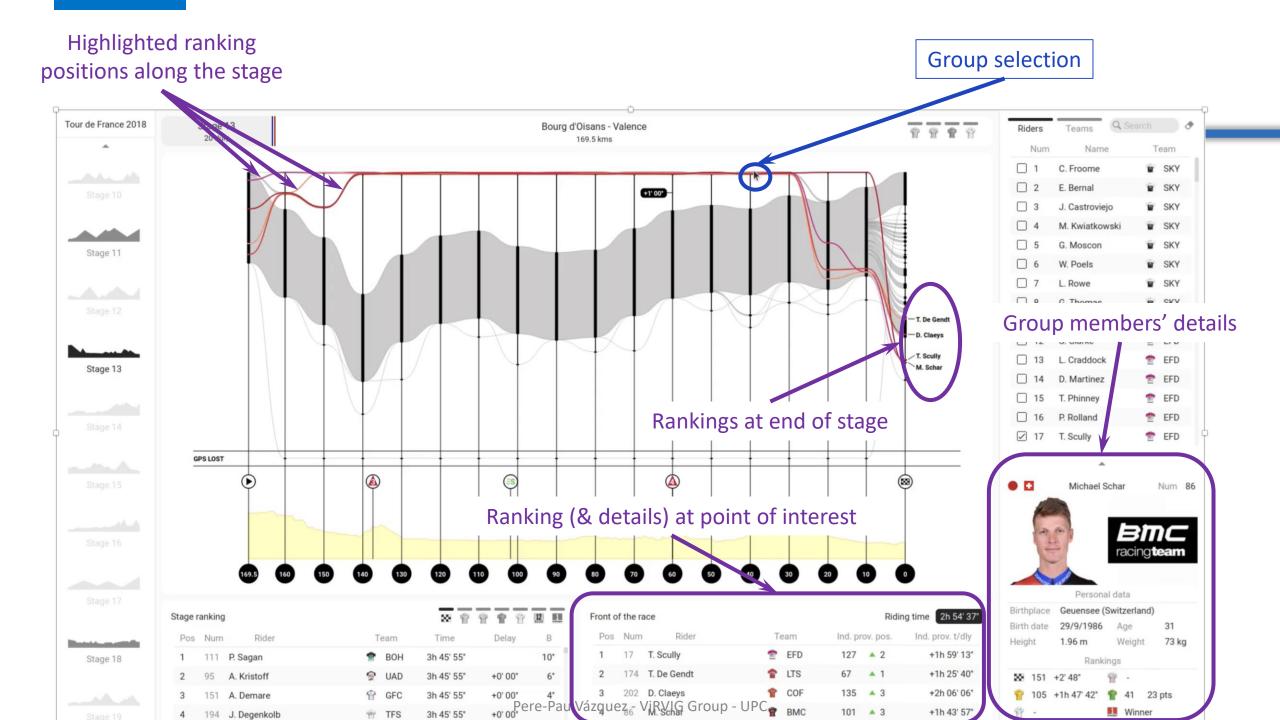
MULTIPLE VIEWS. INTERACTION

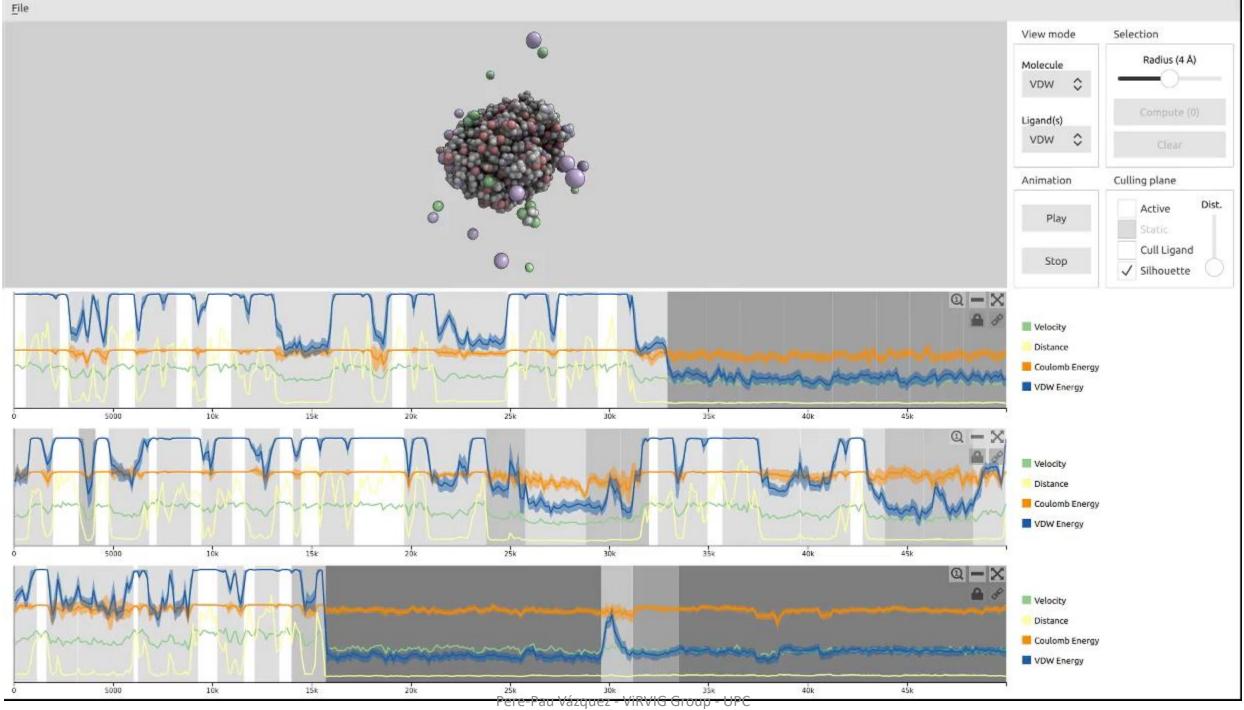
- Linking choices
 - Linked highlighting:
 - Highlighting / brushing items selected in one view selected in all others
 - Linked navigation:
 - View parameters change through the interaction with other views

MULTIPLE VIEWS. INTERACTION

- Linked highlighting:
 - Unleashes the full power of linked views. One of the most common forms of linking
 - items that are interactively selected in one view are immediately highlighted in all other views using in the same highlight color
 - also called **brushing** or **cross-filtering**
 - Special case of a shared visual encoding in the color channel



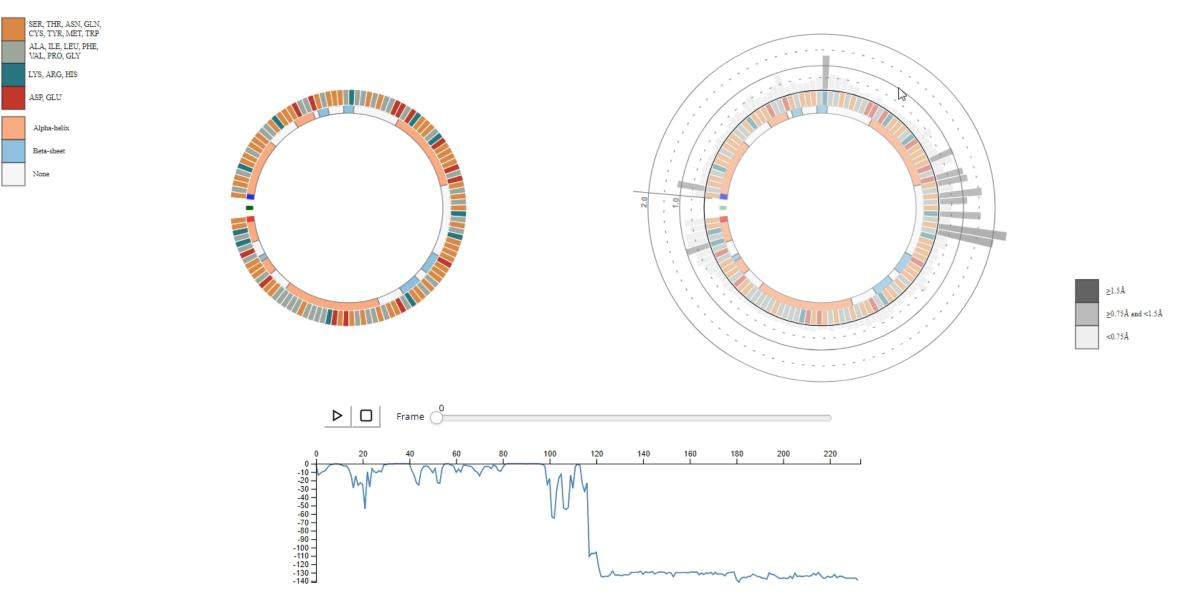




Visual Analysis of Protein-Ligand Interactions

Residues •

RMSF •



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FURTHER READING

- Information Visualization: Perception for Design, 3rd edition, Colin Ware, Morgan Kaufmann, 2013
- Tamara Munzner's: Visualization Analysis and Design, AK Peters, 2014.
- Color Basics for Creating Visualizations. Theresa-Marie Rhyne: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiG1Rn0Acn0</u>
- Jon Schwabish's "One chart at a time" Youtube series: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFFj22kjlZk</u>
- <u>https://public.tableau.com/es-es/s/gallery/visual-vocabulary</u>
- Visual Vocabulary Financial Times: <u>https://github.com/ft-interactive/chart-doctor/tree/master/visual-vocabulary</u>
- Claus Wilke Data Visualization free book: <u>https://clauswilke.com/dataviz</u>

DATAVIS 10½ A PRACTICAL BRIEF INTRO TO DATA VISUALIZATION

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