E F F E C T I V E
Data Visualization

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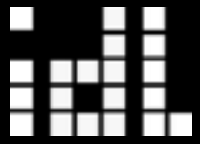



Fundamentals

The Value of Visualization

Data Analysis & Statistics, Tukey & Wilk 1965

Four major influences act on data analysis today:

1. The formal theories of statistics.
2. Accelerating developments in computers and display devices.
3. The challenge, in many fields, of more and larger bodies of data.
4. The emphasis on quantification in a wider variety of disciplines.

While some of the influences of statistical theory on data analysis have been helpful, others have not.

Exposure, the effective laying open of the data to display the unanticipated, is to us a major portion of data analysis. Formal statistics has given almost no guidance to exposure; indeed, it is not clear how the **informality** and **flexibility** appropriate to the **exploratory character of exposure** can be fitted into any of the structures of formal statistics so far proposed.

Nothing - not the careful logic of mathematics, not statistical models and theories, not the awesome arithmetic power of modern computers - nothing can substitute here for the **flexibility of the informed human mind**.

Accordingly, both approaches and techniques need to be structured so as to **facilitate human involvement and intervention**.

Set A		Set B		Set C		Set D	
X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
10	8.04	10	9.14	10	7.46	8	6.58
8	6.95	8	8.14	8	6.77	8	5.76
13	7.58	13	8.74	13	12.74	8	7.71
9	8.81	9	8.77	9	7.11	8	8.84
11	8.33	11	9.26	11	7.81	8	8.47
14	9.96	14	8.1	14	8.84	8	7.04
6	7.24	6	6.13	6	6.08	8	5.25
4	4.26	4	3.1	4	5.39	19	12.5
12	10.84	12	9.11	12	8.15	8	5.56
7	4.82	7	7.26	7	6.42	8	7.91
5	5.68	5	4.74	5	5.73	8	6.89

Summary Statistics

$u_X = 9.0$ $\sigma_X = 3.317$

$u_Y = 7.5$ $\sigma_Y = 2.03$

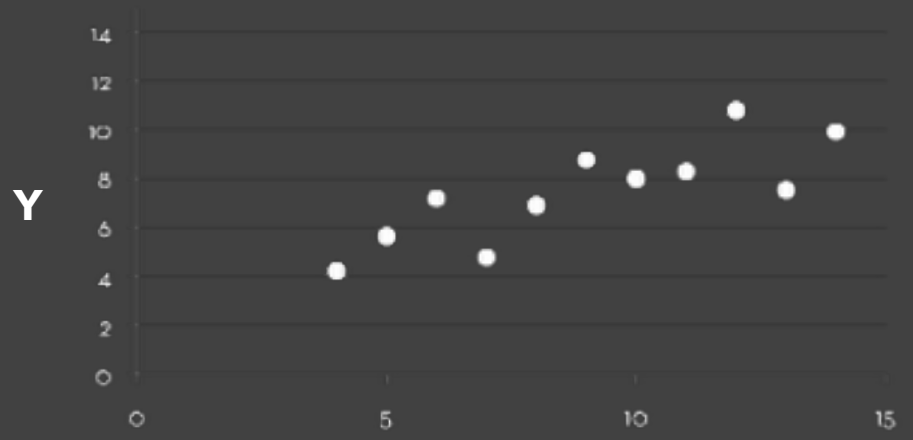
Linear Regression

$Y = 3 + 0.5\ X$

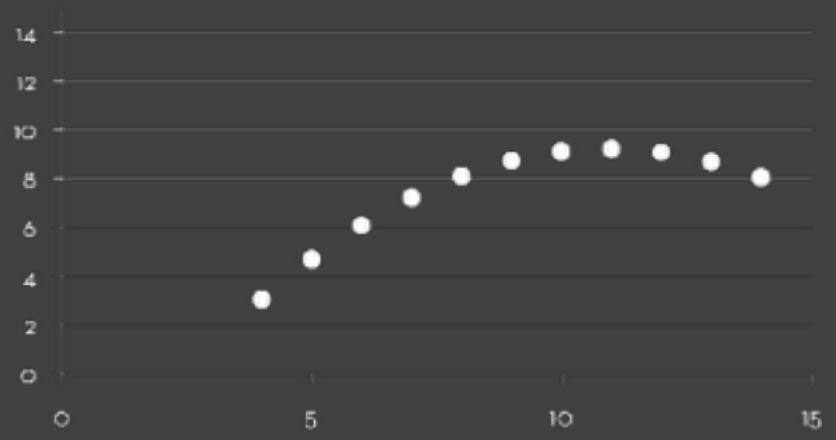
$R^2 = 0.67$

[Anscombe 1973]

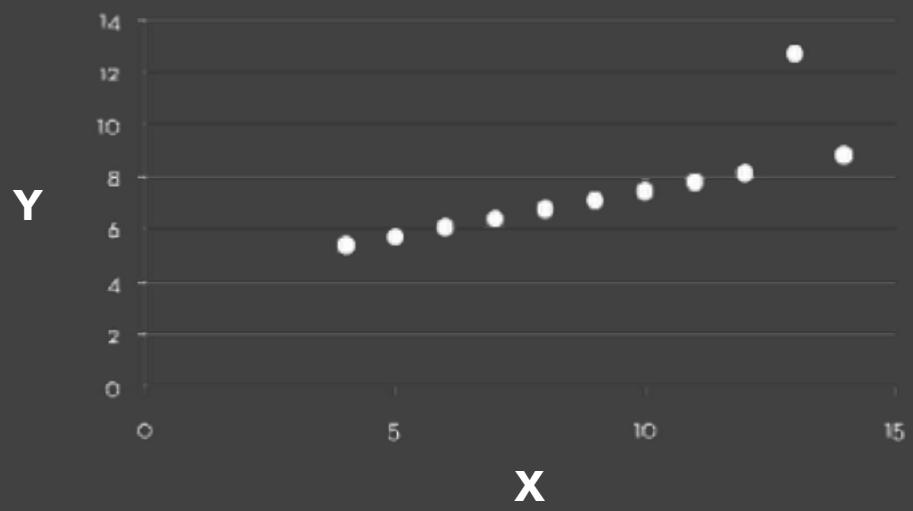
Set A



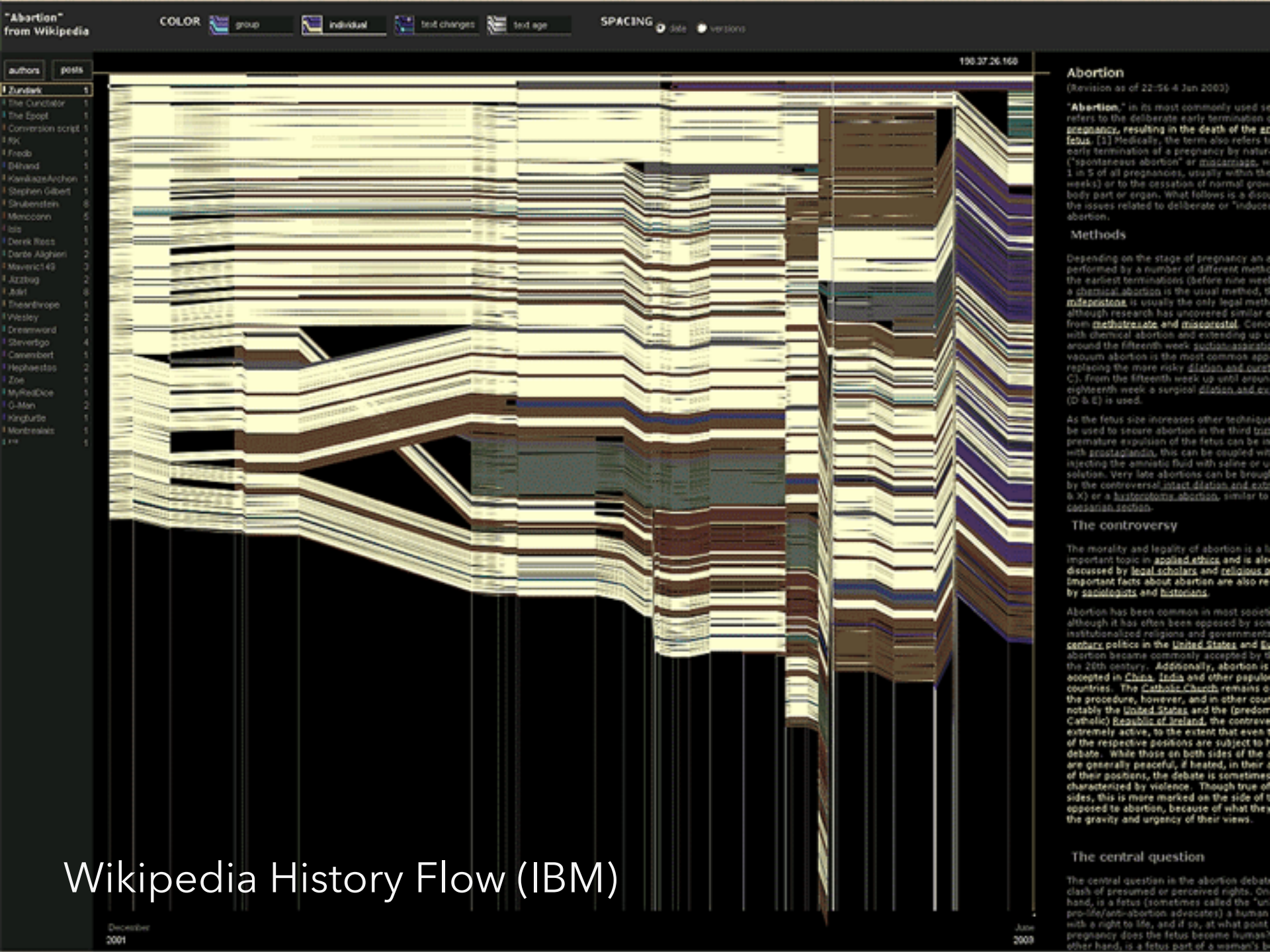
Set B



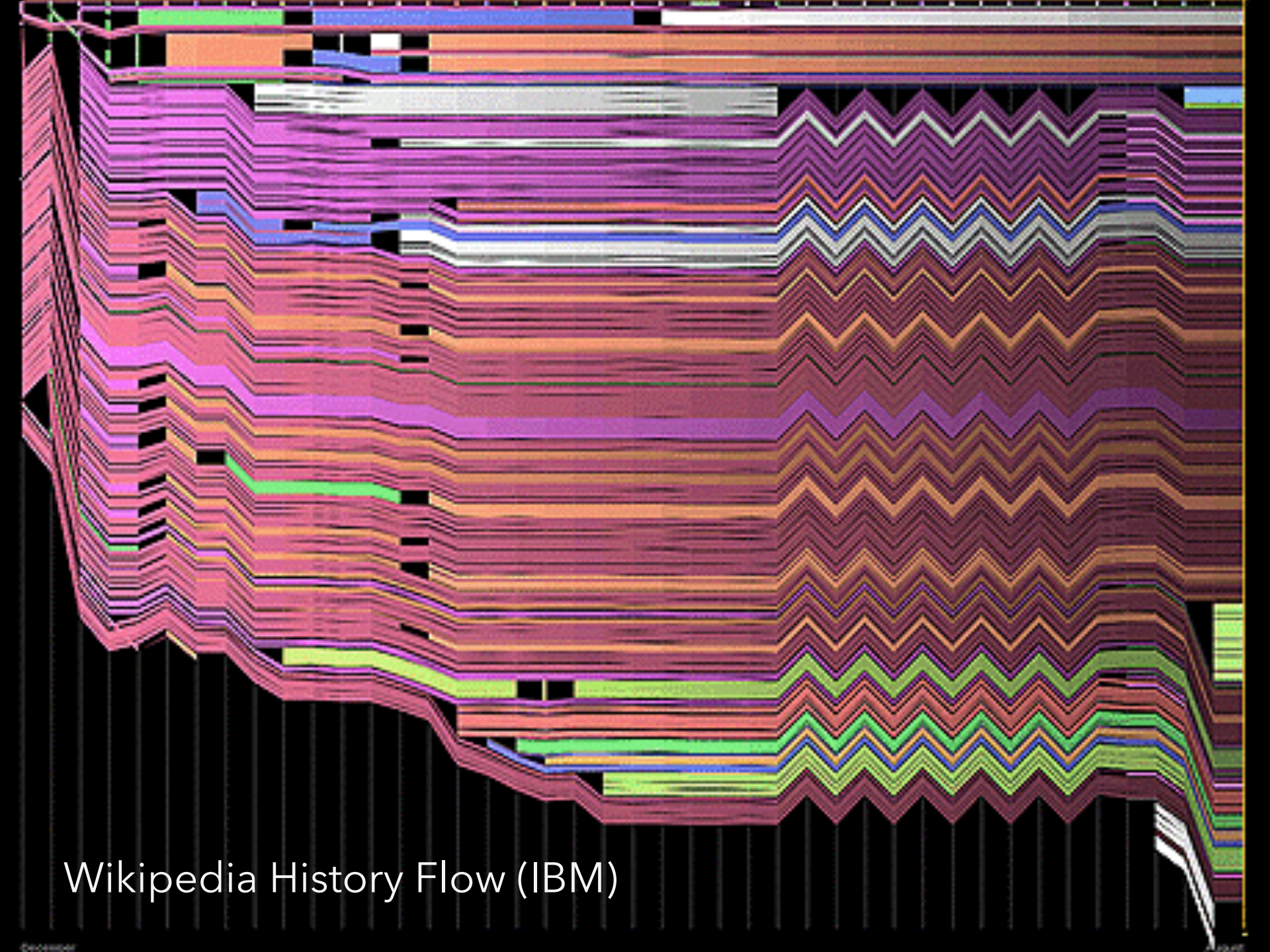
Set C



Set D



Wikipedia History Flow (IBM)


Wikipedia History Flow (IBM)

Graph Viewer

Graph Viewer

Roll-up by:

All

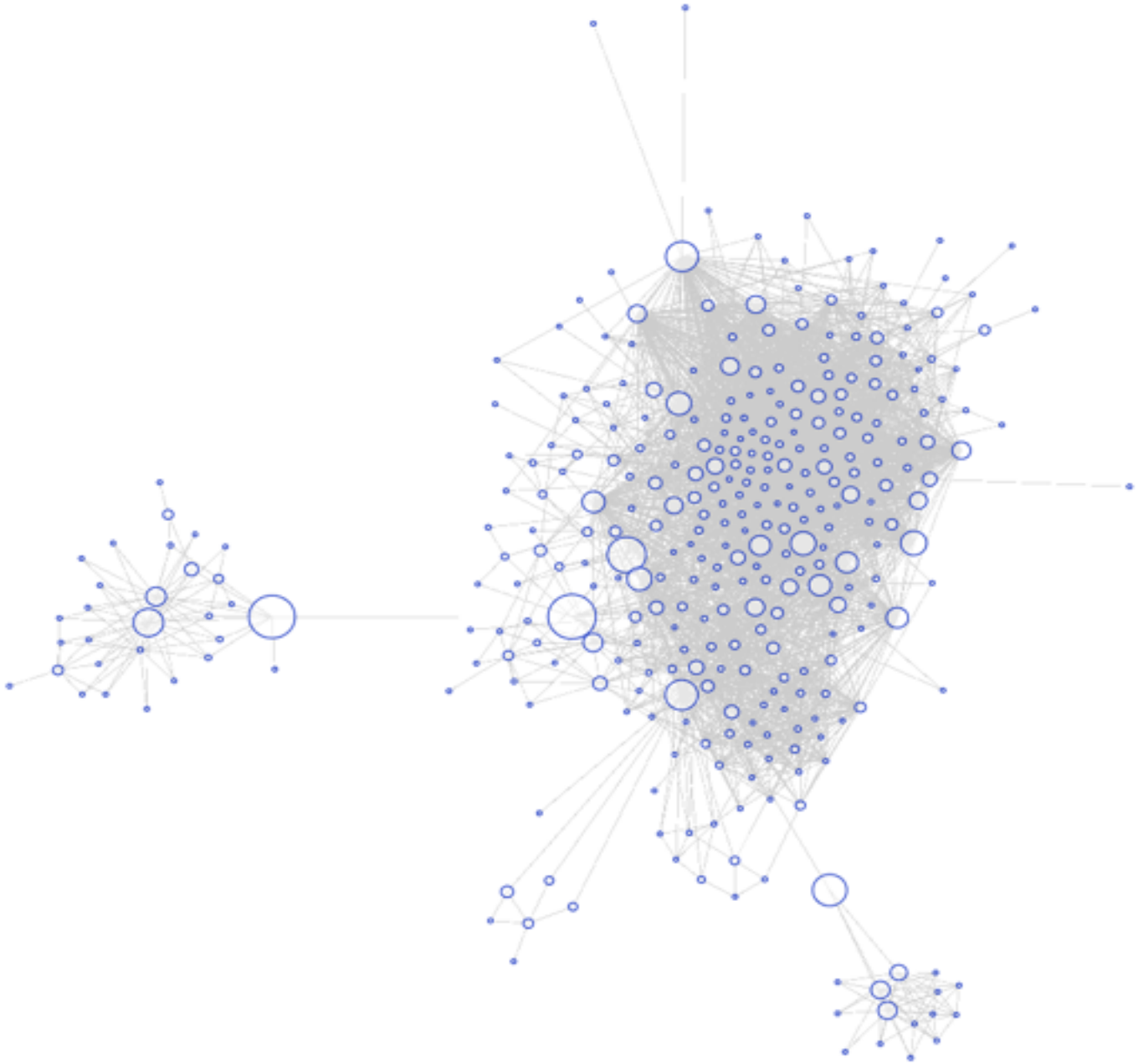
Visualization:

Node-Link

Sort by:

None

Edge centrality filters:



Images

Animate

Graph Viewer

Graph Viewer

Roll-up by:

All

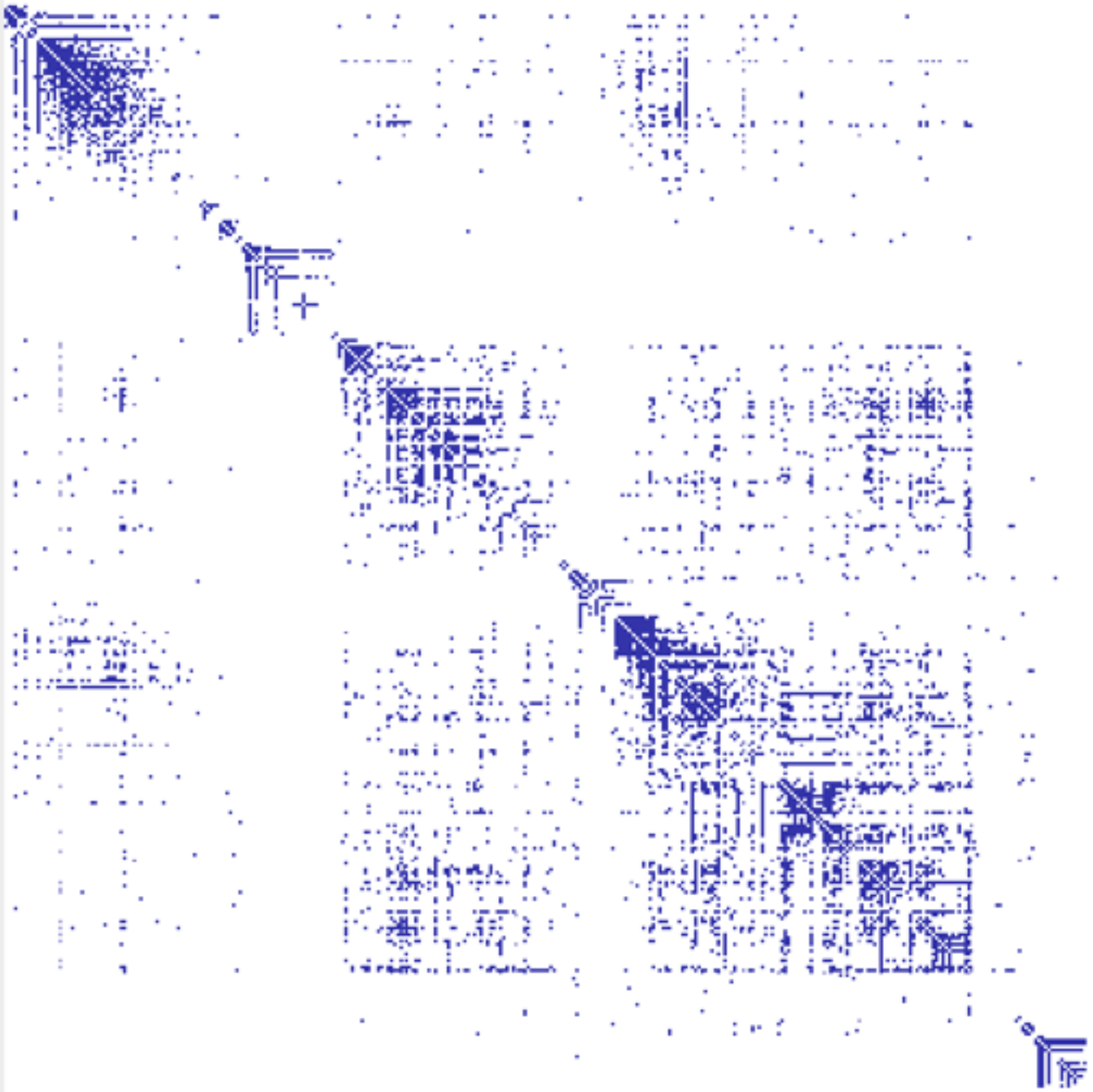
Visualization:

Matrix

Sort by:

Linkage

Edge centrality filters:



Graph Viewer

Graph Viewer

Roll-up by:

All

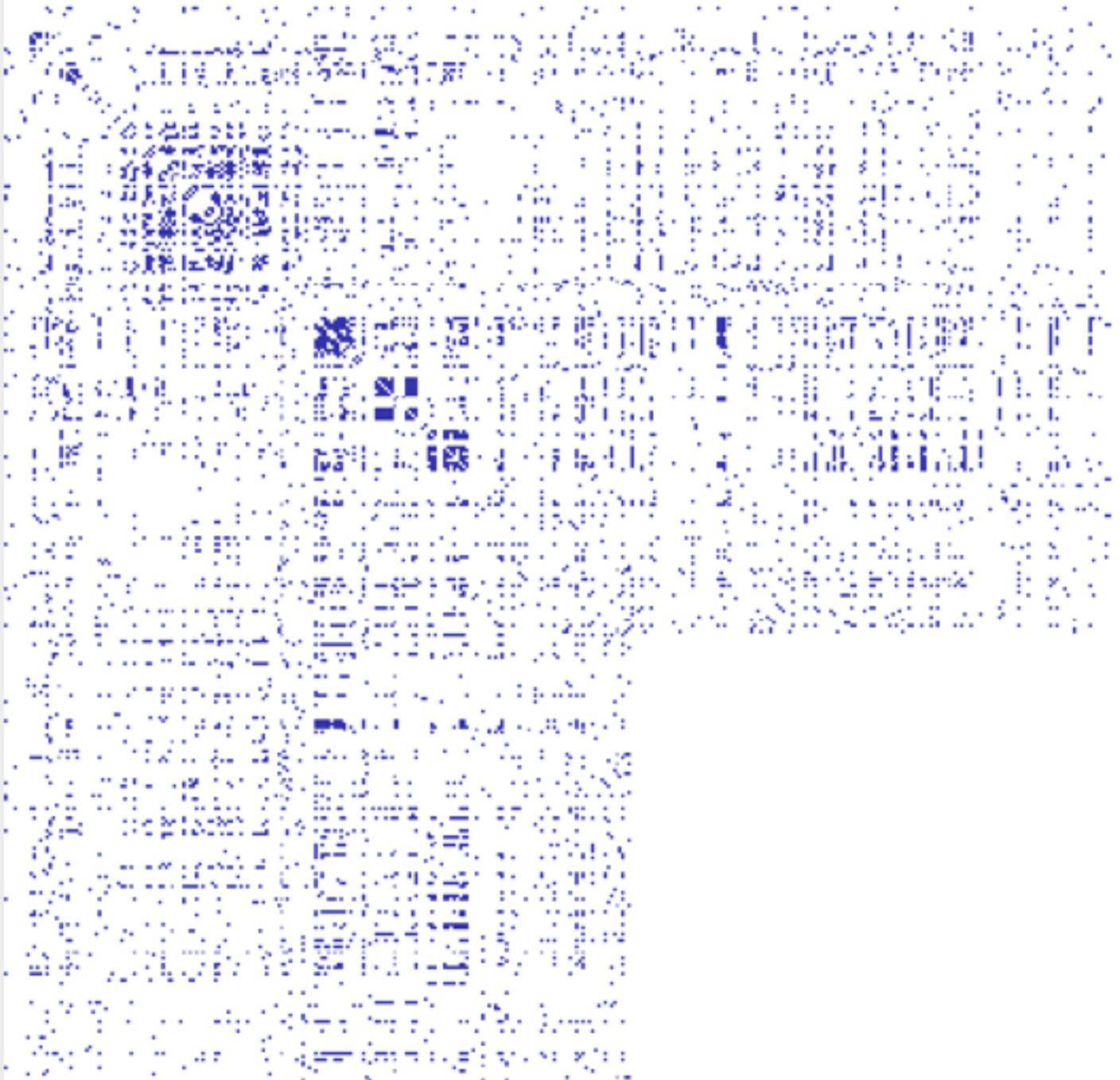
Visualization:

Matrix

Sort by:

None

Edge centrality filters:



What is Visualization?

"Transformation of the symbolic into the geometric"
[McCormick et al. 1987]

"... finding the artificial memory that best supports our natural means of perception." [Bertin 1967]

"The use of computer-generated, interactive, visual representations of data to amplify cognition."
[Card, Mackinlay, & Shneiderman 1999]

Why Create Visualizations?

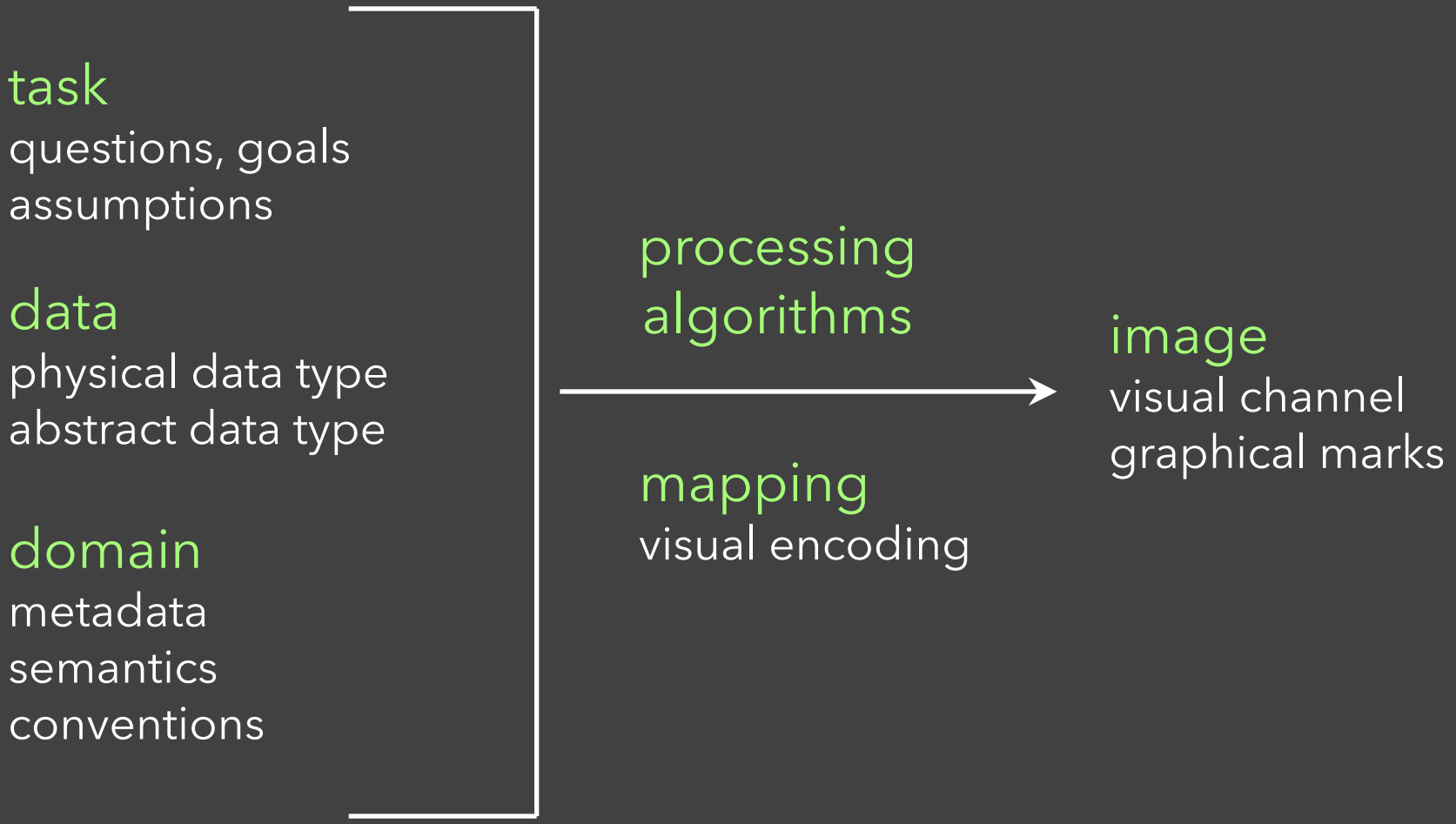
Why Create Visualizations?

Answer questions (or discover them)
Make decisions
See data in context
Expand memory
Support graphical calculation
Find patterns
Present argument or tell a story
Inspire

The Value of Visualization

Data & Image Models

Visual Encoding



Nominal, Ordinal and Quantitative

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N - Nominal (labels or categories)

- Fruits: apples, oranges, …

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O - Ordered

- Quality of meat: Grade A, AA, AAA

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Q - Interval (location of zero arbitrary)

- Dates: Jan, 19, 2006; Location: (LAT 33.98, LONG -118.45)
- Only differences (i.e. intervals) may be compared

Nominal, Ordinal and Quantitative

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- Fruits: apples, oranges, …

O - Ordered

- Quality of meat: Grade A, AA, AAA

Q - Interval (location of zero arbitrary)

- Dates: Jan, 19, 2006; Location: (LAT 33.98, LONG -118.45)
- Only differences (i.e. intervals) may be compared

Q - Ratio (zero fixed)

- Physical measurement: Length, Mass, Temp, …
- Counts and amounts

Nominal, Ordinal and Quantitative

N - Nominal (labels or categories)

- Operations: =, ≠

O - Ordered

- Operations: =, ≠, <, >

Q - Interval (location of zero arbitrary)

- Operations: =, ≠, <, >, -
- Can measure distances or spans

Q - Ratio (zero fixed)

- Operations: =, ≠, <, >, -, %
- Can measure ratios or proportions

Visual Language is a Sign System

Jacques Bertin

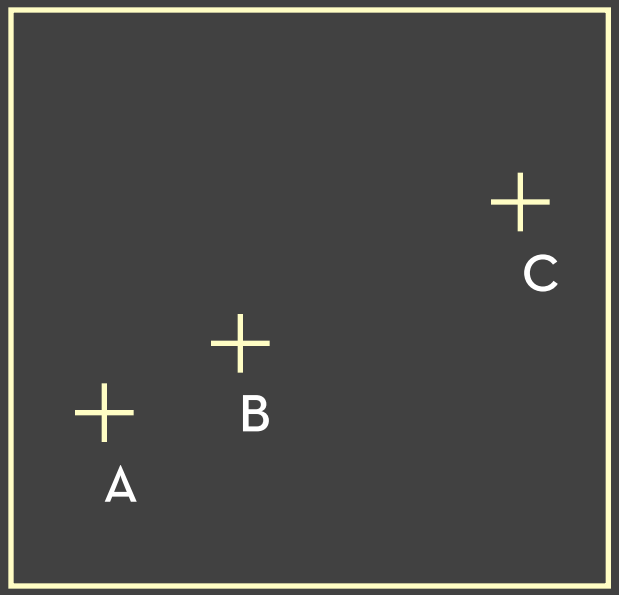
Images perceived as a set of signs

Sender encodes information in signs

Receiver decodes information from signs

Sémiologie Graphique, 1967

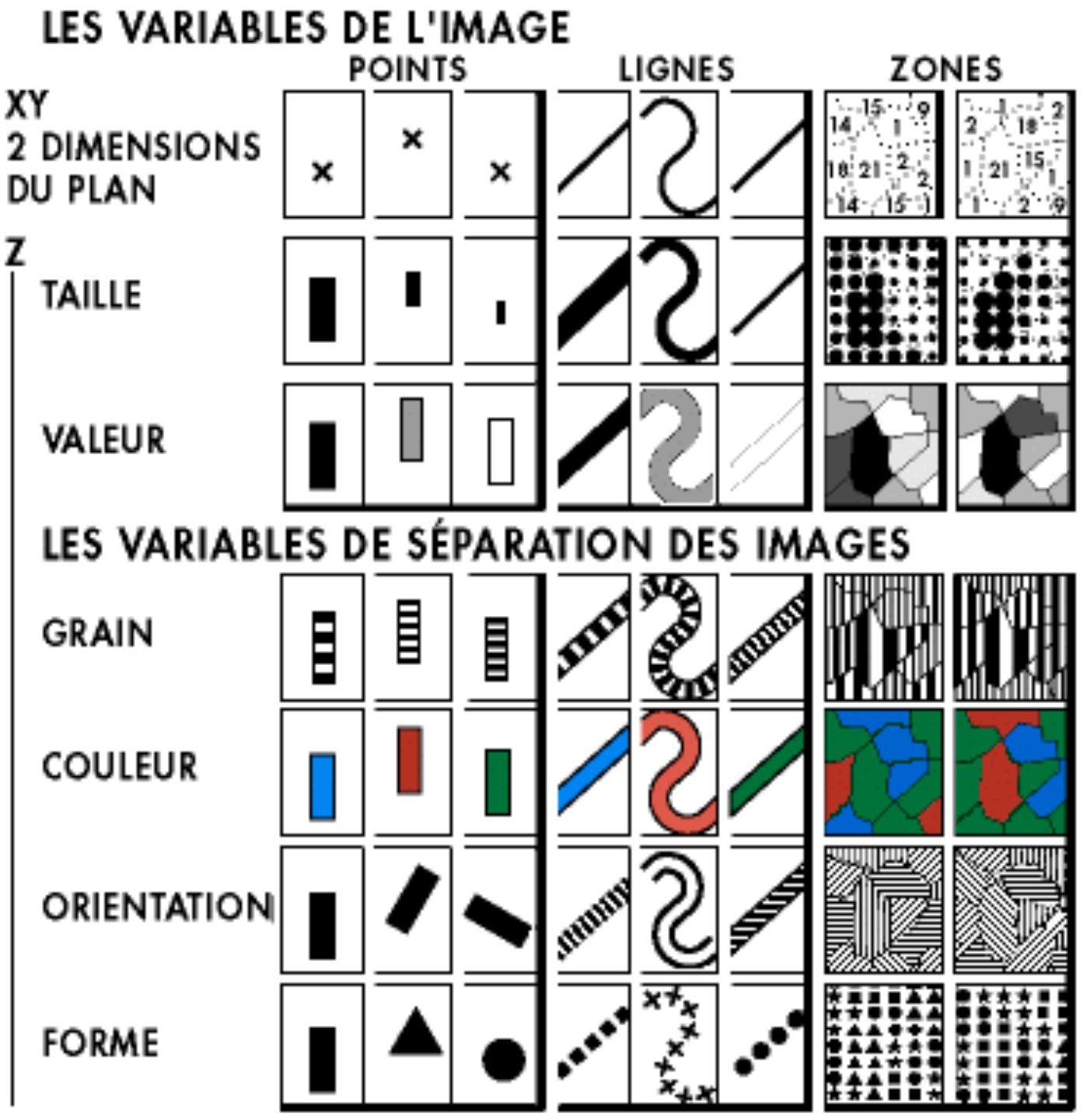
Bertin's Semiology of Graphics



1. A, B, C are distinguishable
2. B is between A and C.
3. BC is twice as long as AB.

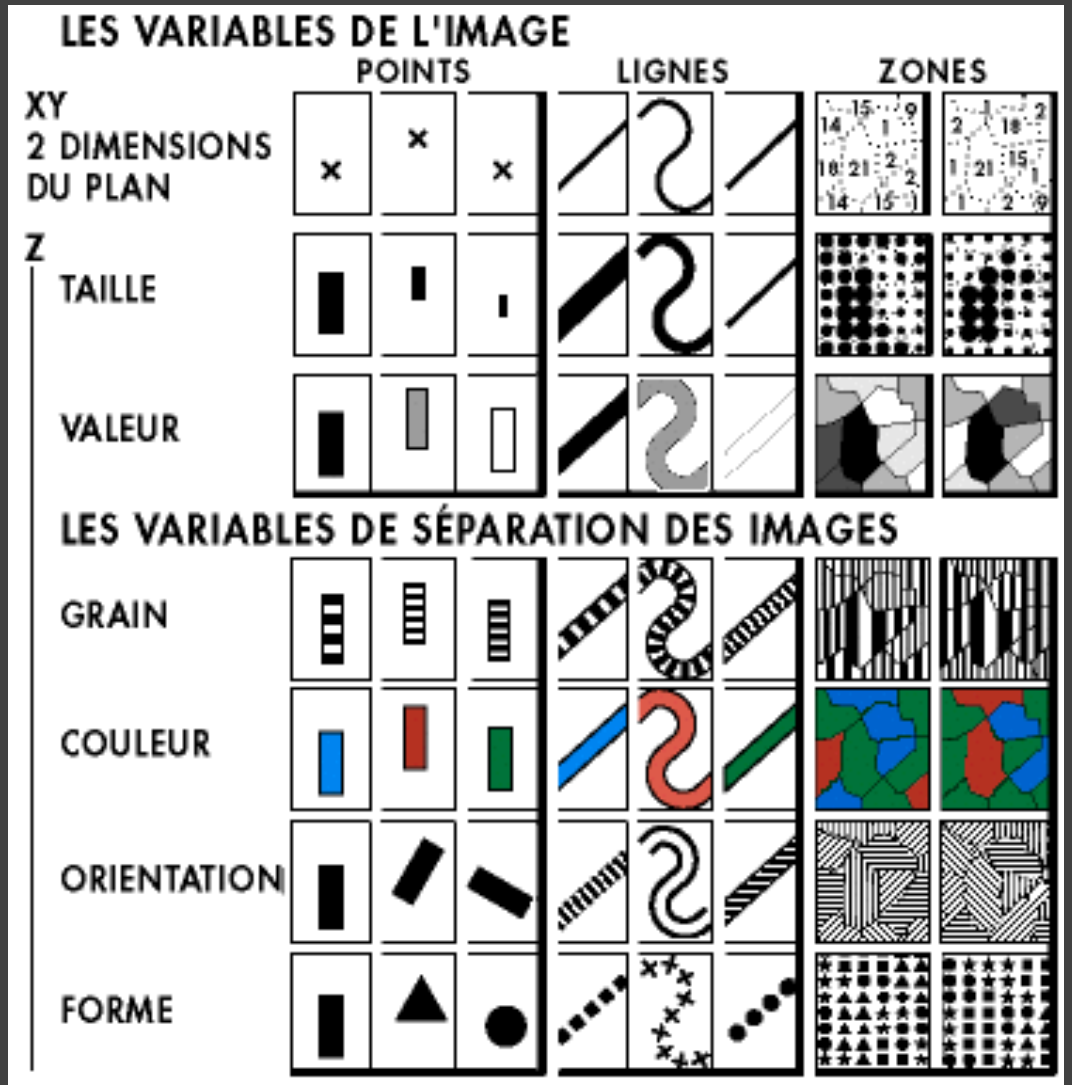
∴ Encode quantitative variables

"Resemblance, order and proportion are the three signfields in graphics." - Bertin


LES VARIABLES DE L'IMAGE
POINTS
LIGNES
ZONES
XY
2 DIMENSIONS
DU PLAN
Z
TAILLE
VALEUR
LES VARIABLES DE SÉPARATION DES IMAGES
GRAIN
COULEUR
ORIENTATION
FORME

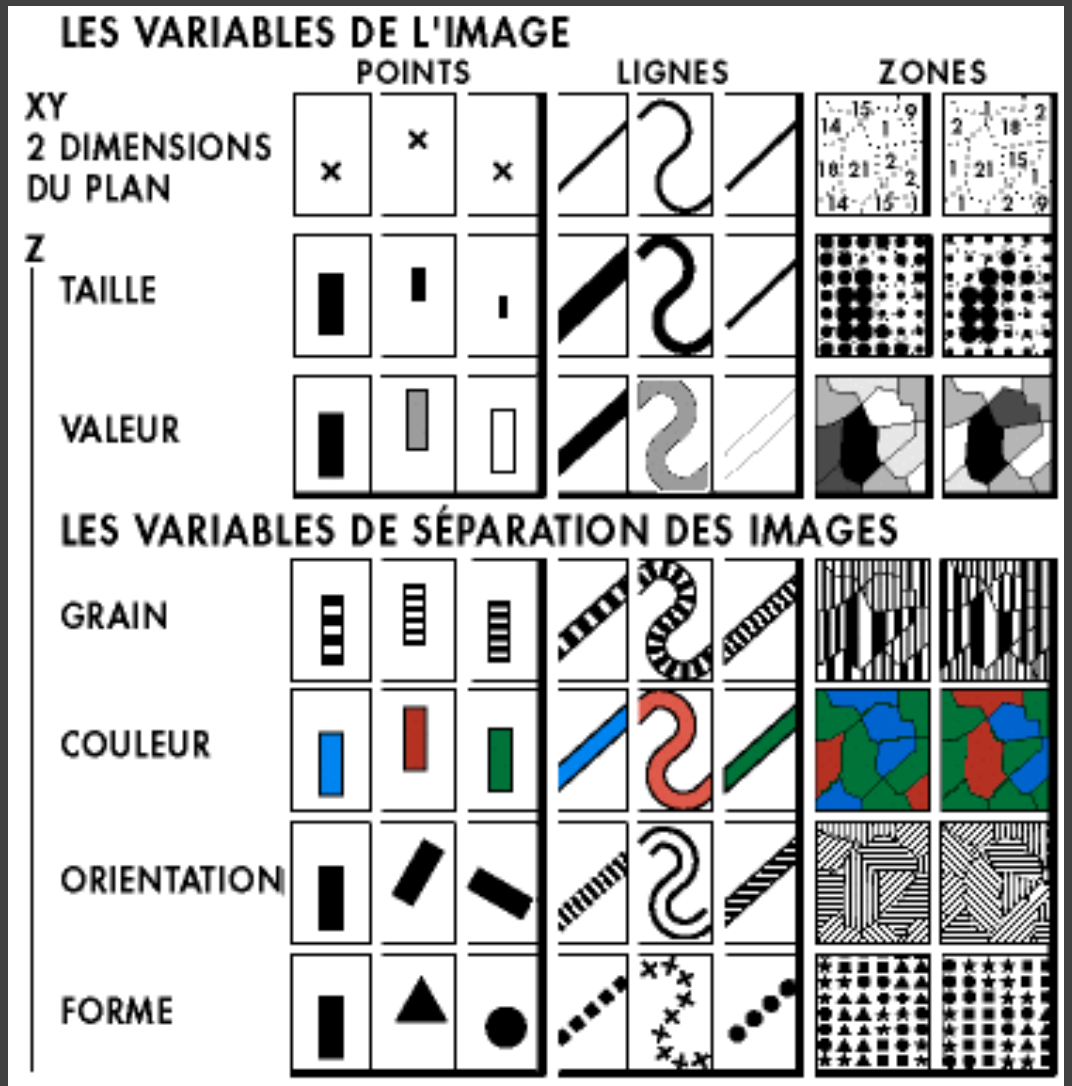
Visual Encoding Variables

Position (x 2)
Size
Value
Texture
Color
Orientation
Shape



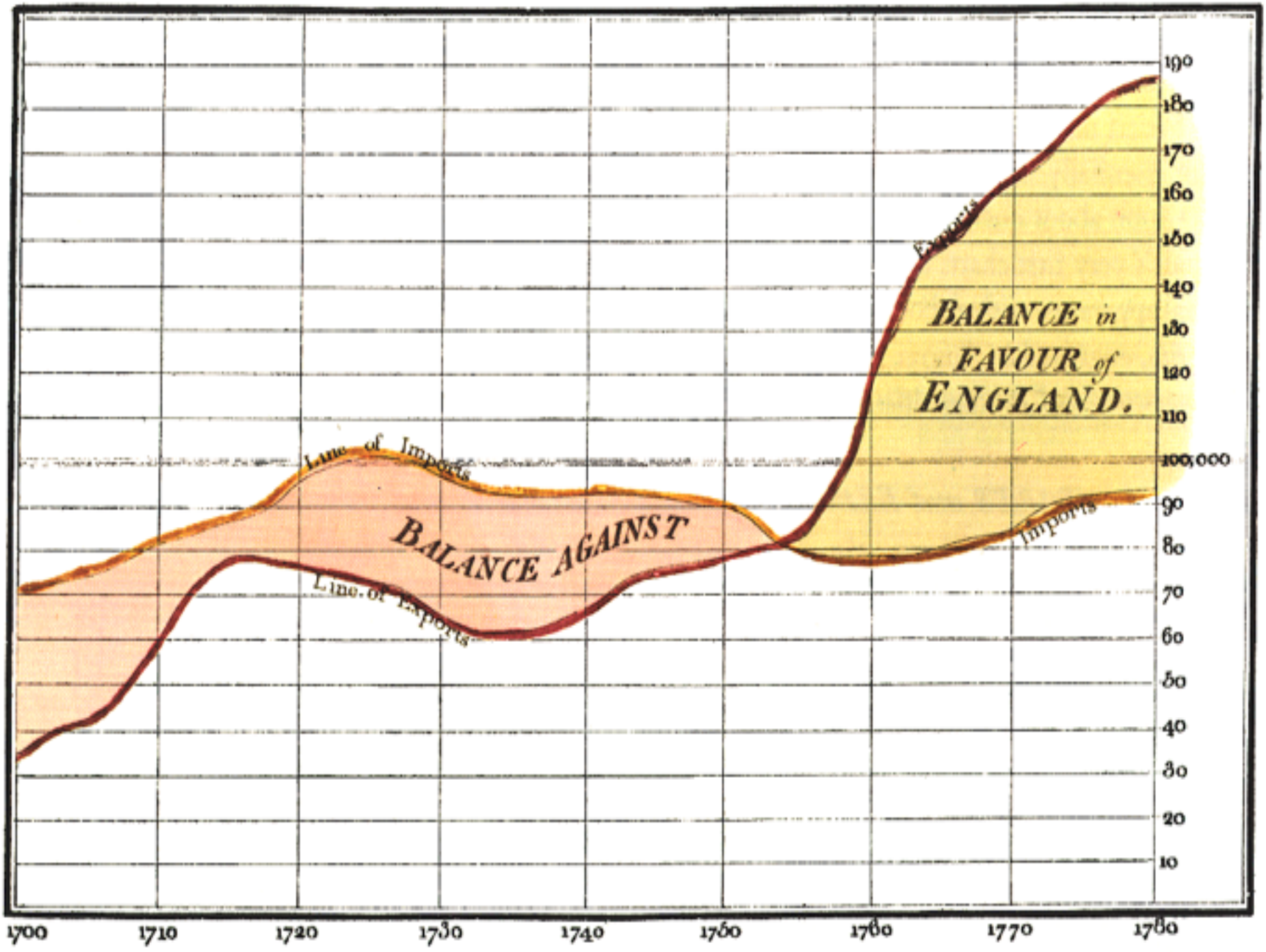
Visual Encoding Variables

Position
Length
Area
Volume
Value
Texture
Color
Orientation
Shape
Transparency
Blur / Focus …

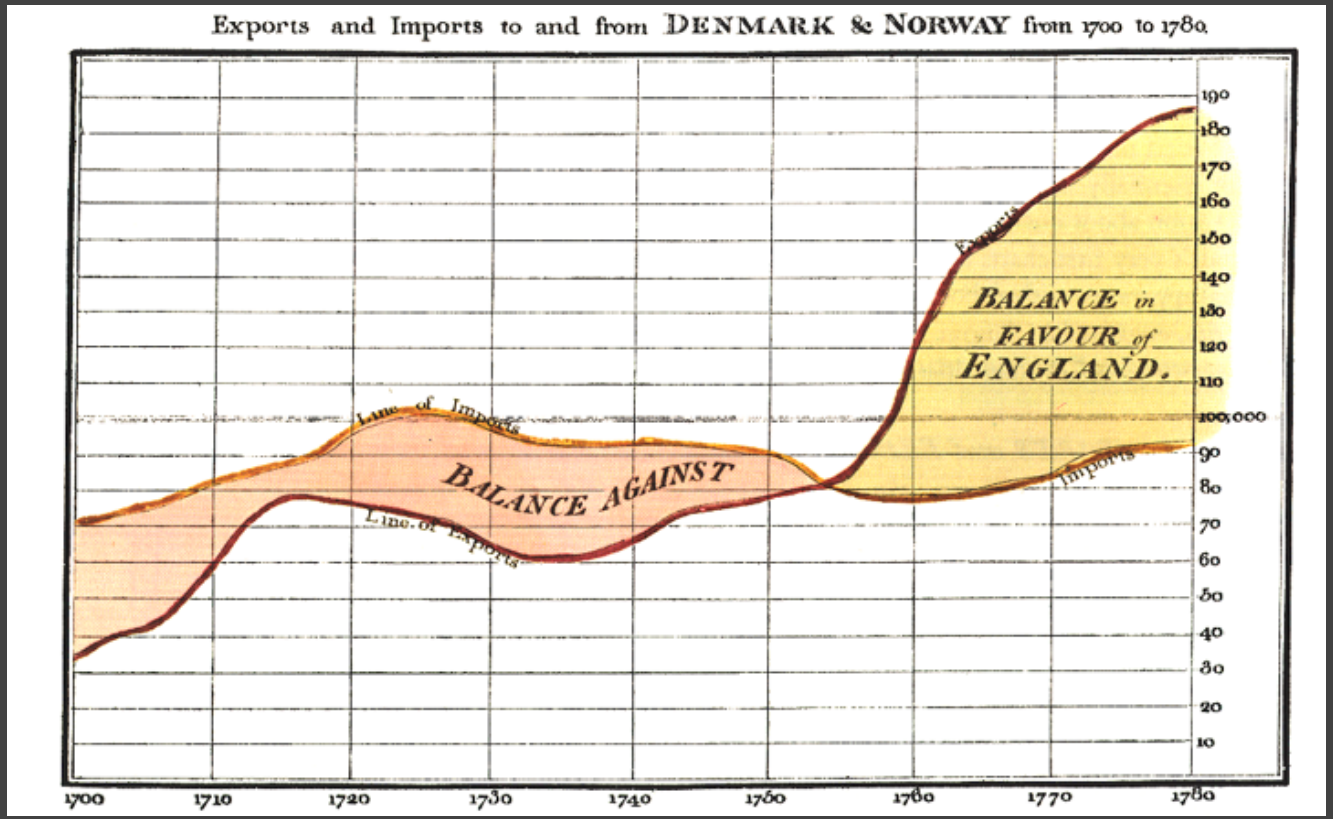


Deconstructions

Exports and Imports to and from DENMARK & NORWAY from 1700 to 1780.



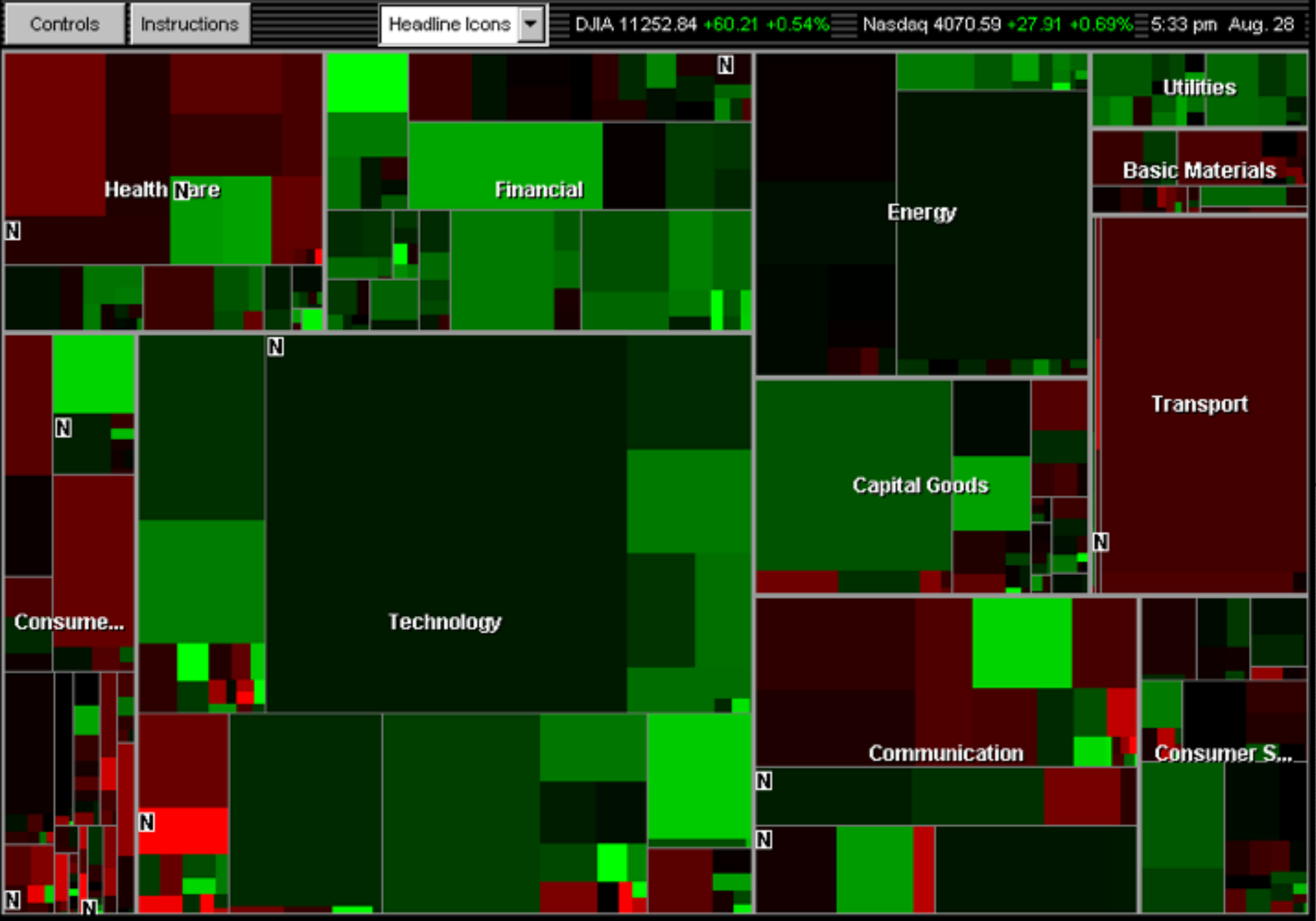
William Playfair, 1786



X-axis: year (Q)

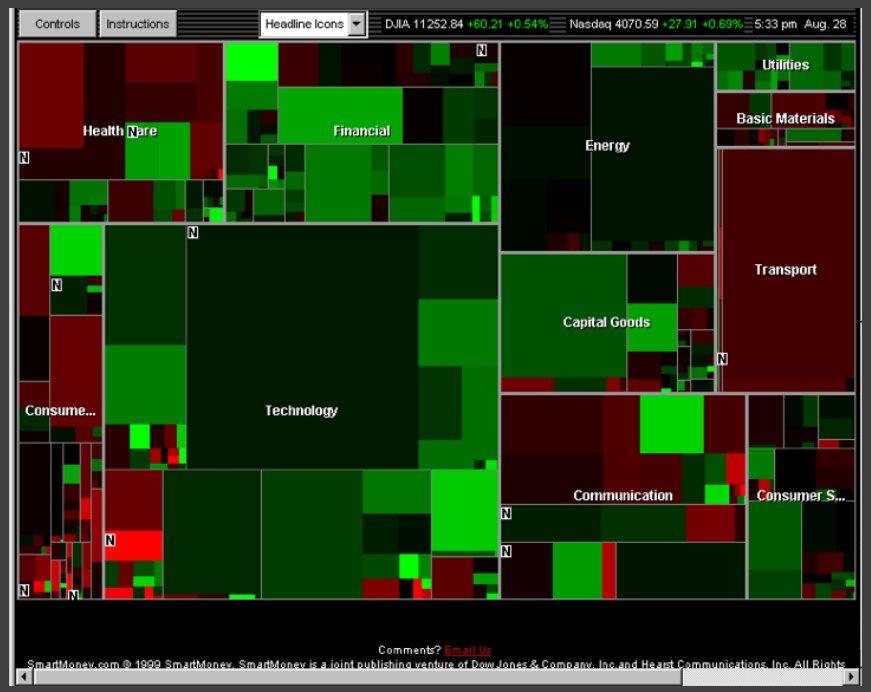
Y-axis: currency (Q)

Color: imports/exports (N, O)



http://www.smartmoney.com/marketmap/

Wattenberg's Map of the Market



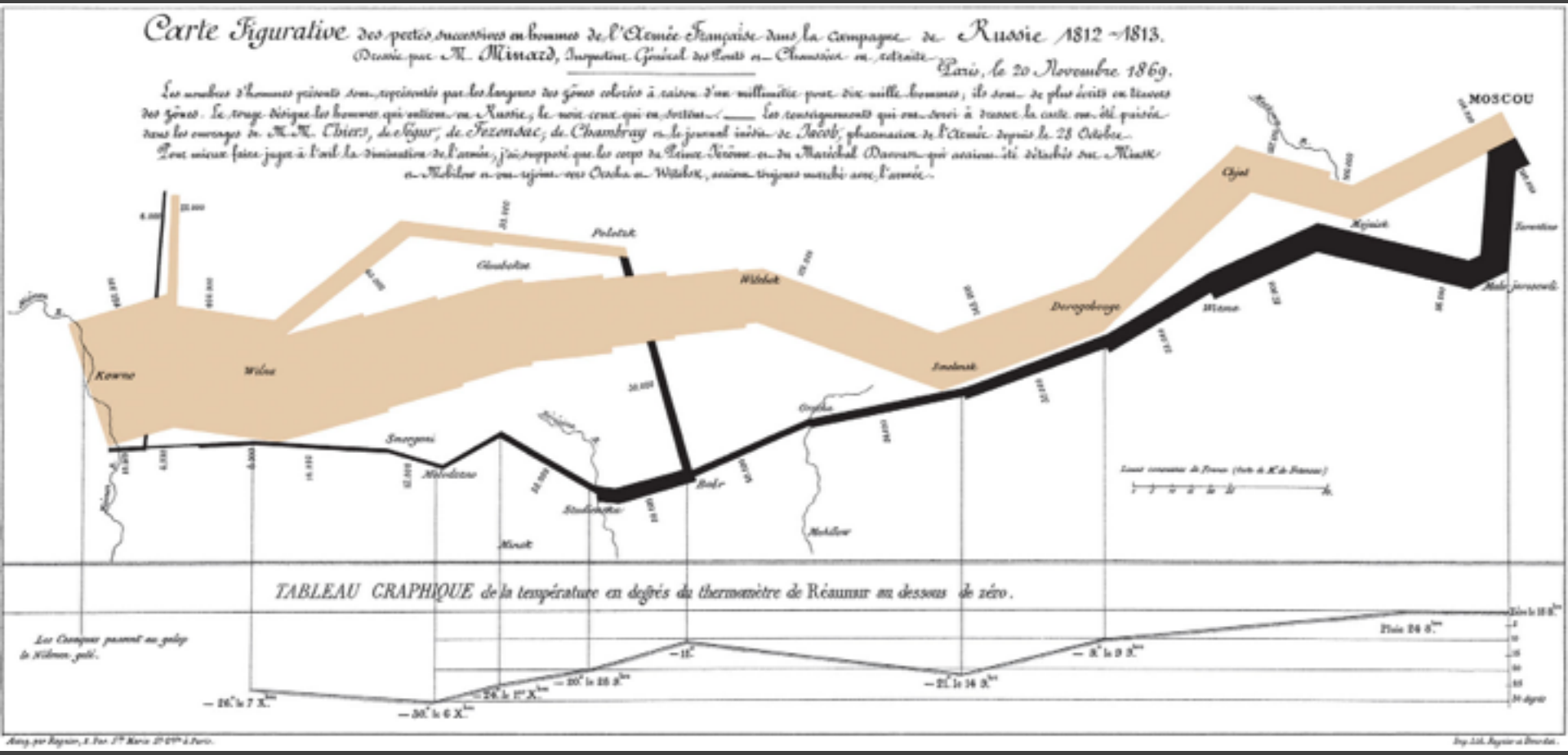
Rectangle Area: market cap (Q)

Rectangle Position: market sector (N), market cap (Q)

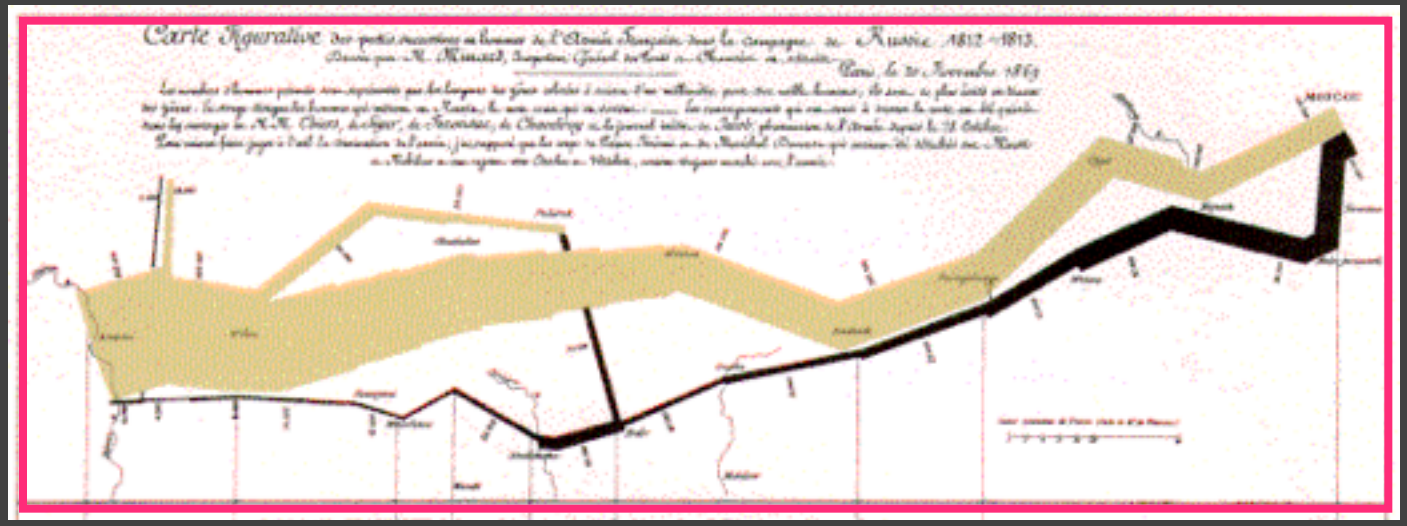
Color Hue: loss vs. gain (N, O)

Color Value: magnitude of loss or gain (Q)

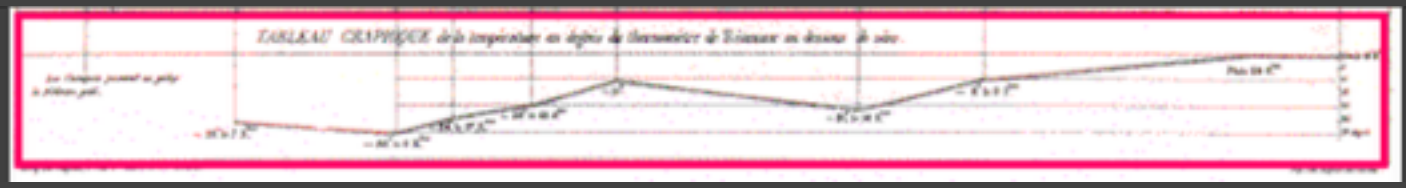
Minard 1869: Napoleon's March



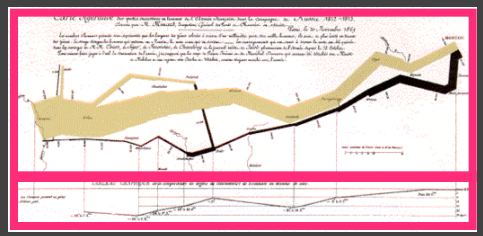
Single-Axis Composition



+



=

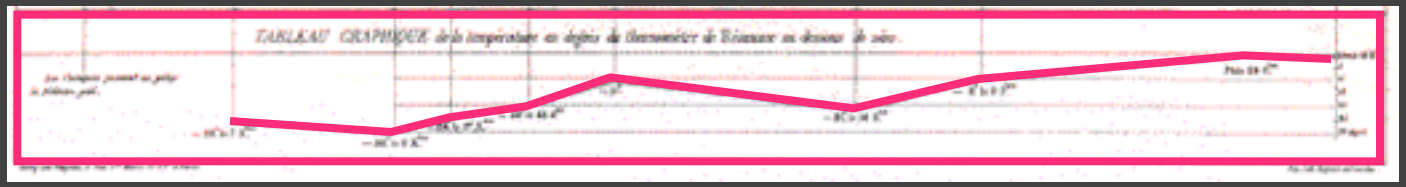


Mark Composition

Y-axis: temperature (Q)

\+ X-axis: longitude (Q) / time (O)

=



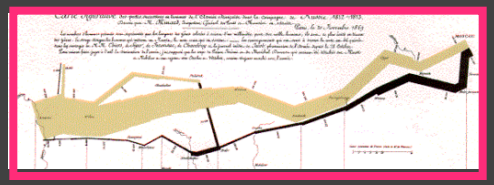
Temp over space/time (Q x Q)

Mark Composition

Y-axis: longitude (Q)

\+ **X-axis**: latitude (Q)

\+ **Width**: army size (Q)

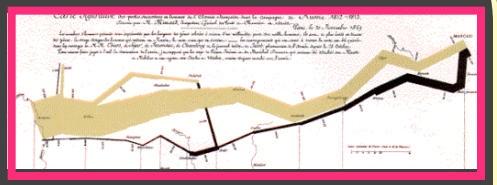


Army position (Q x Q) and army size (Q)

longitude (Q)

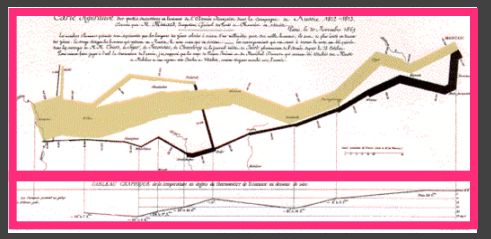
latitude (Q)

army size (Q)



temperature (Q)

latitude (Q) / time (O)



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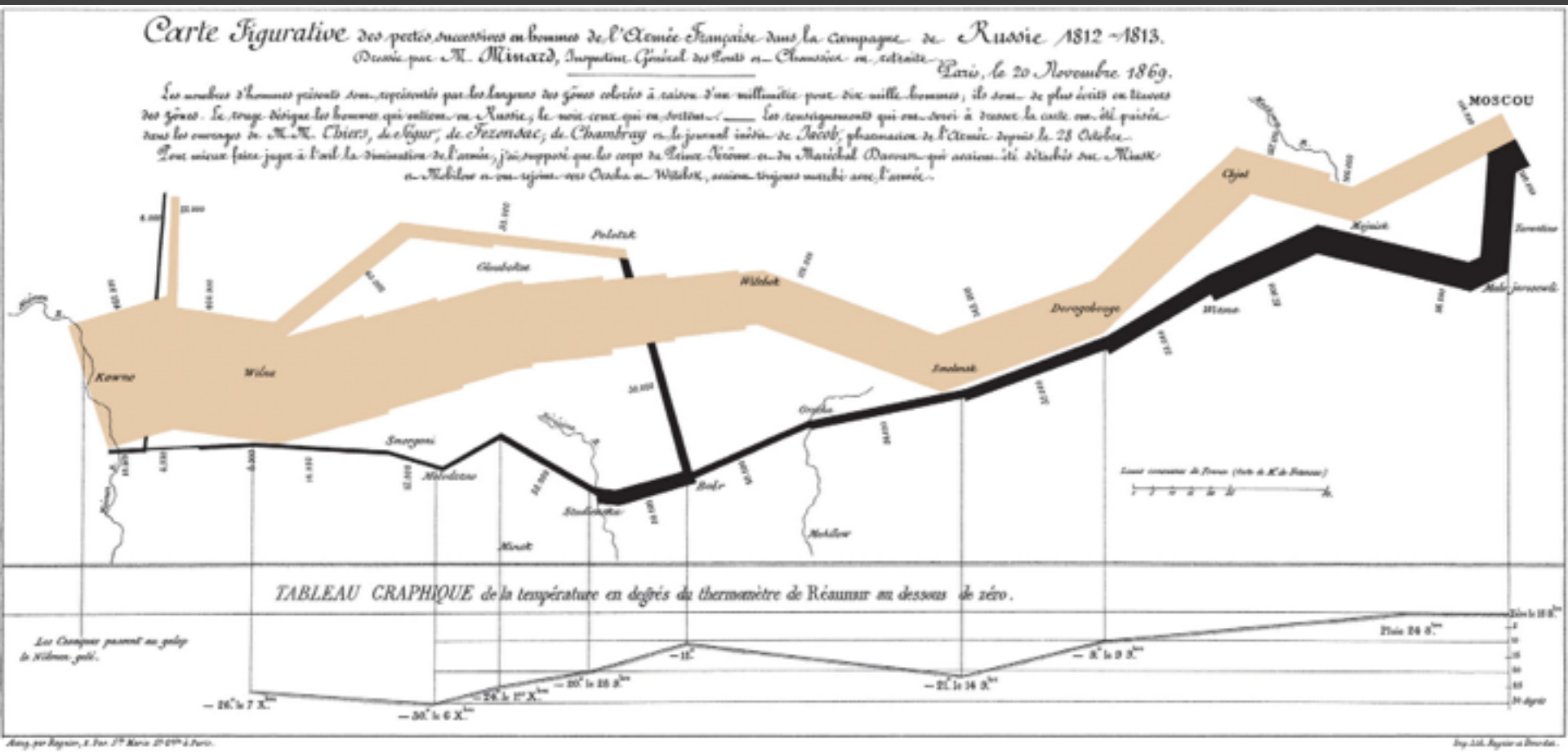


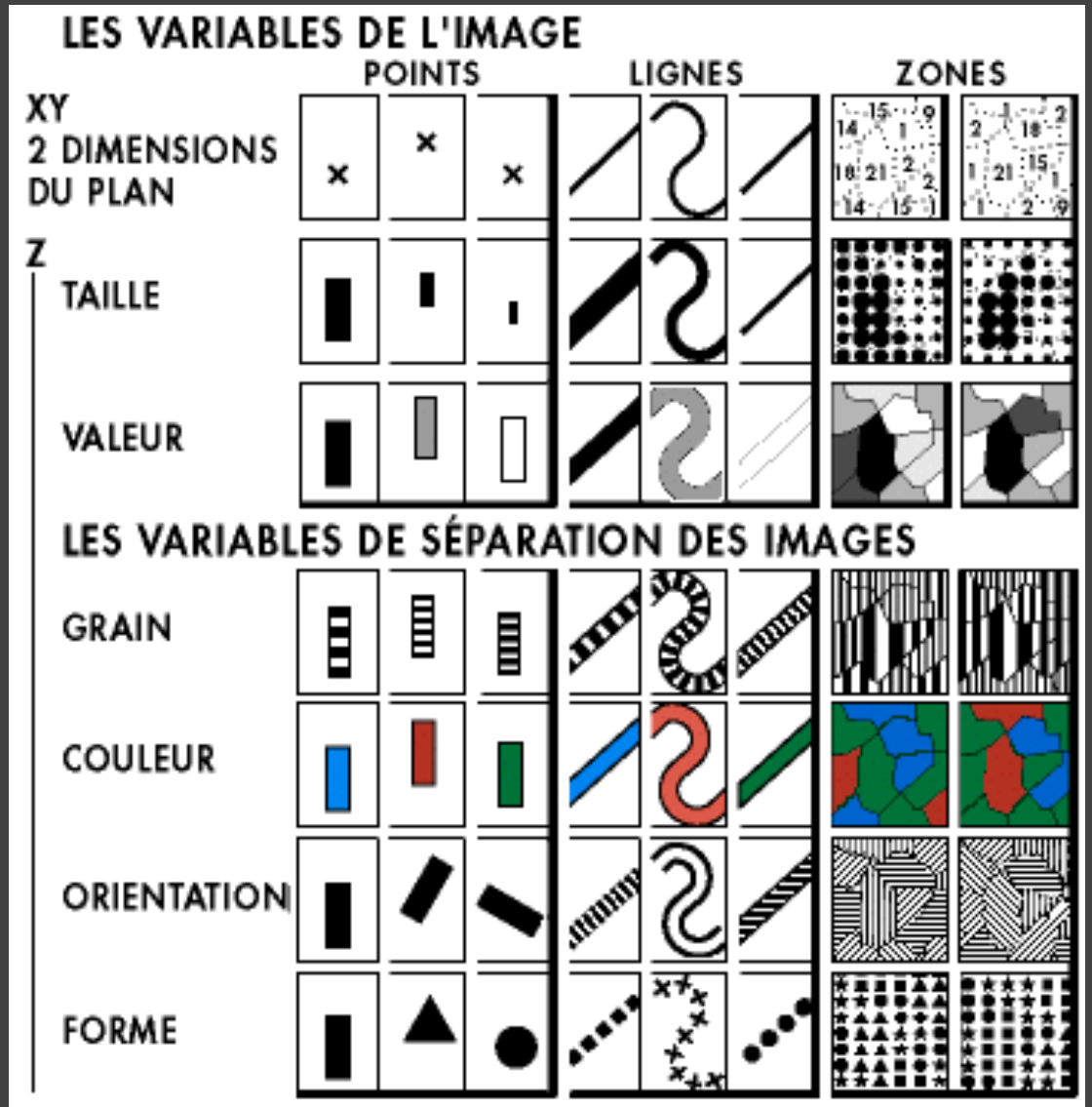
Depicts at least 5 quantitative variables. Any others?

Multidimensional Data

Visual Encoding Variables

Position (X)
Position (Y)
Size
Value
Texture
Color
Orientation
Shape

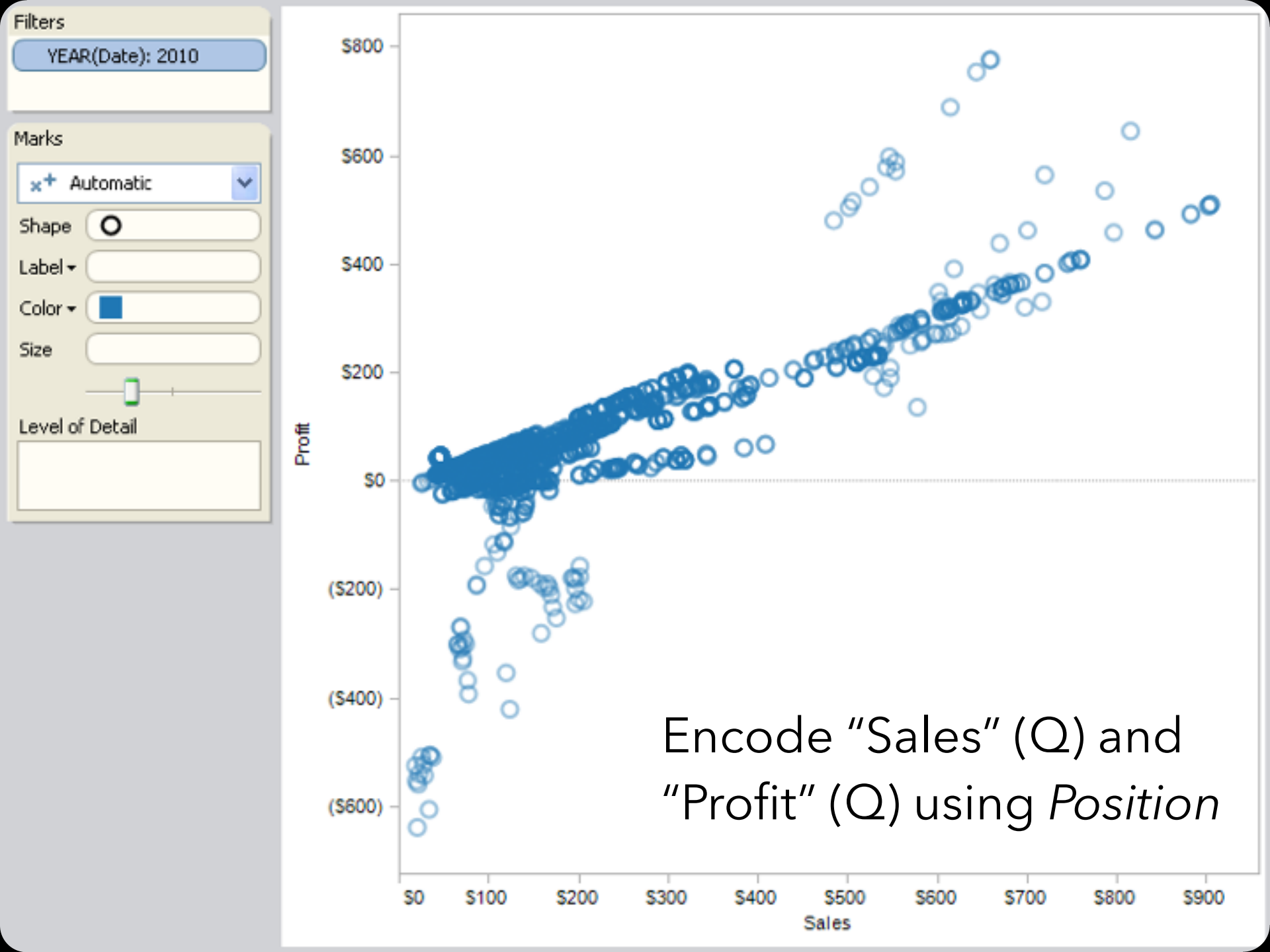
~8 dimensions?

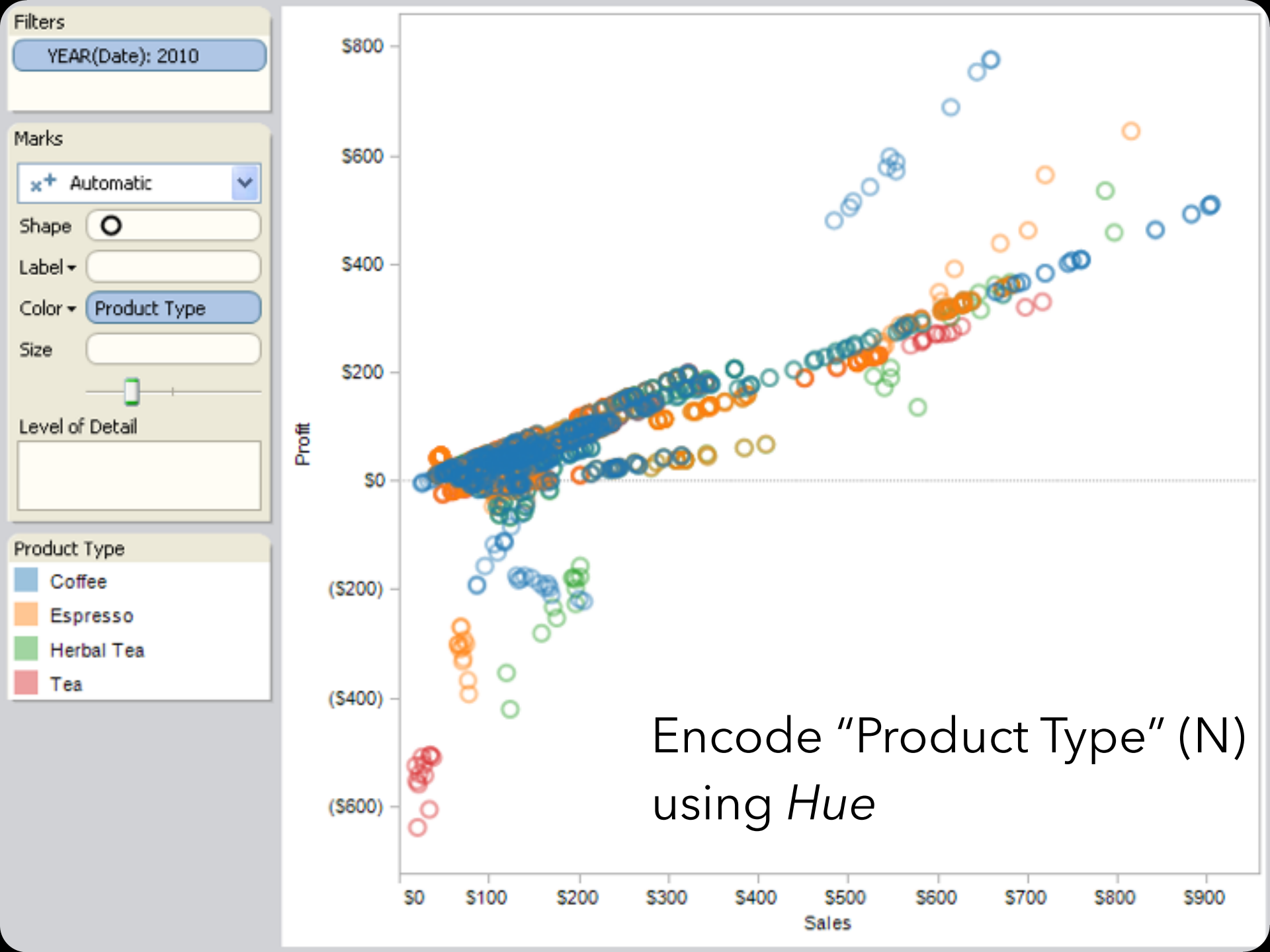


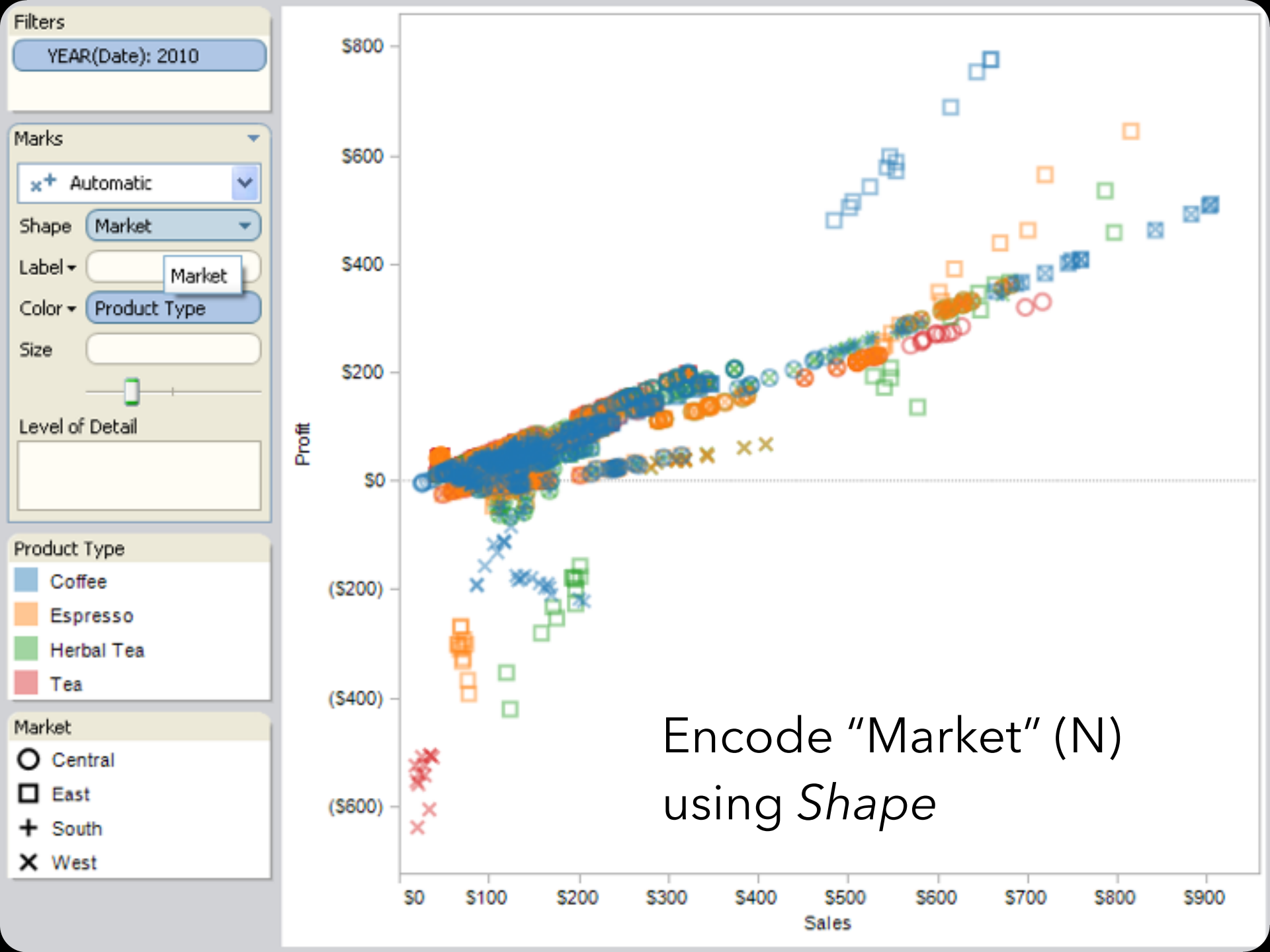
Example: Coffee Sales

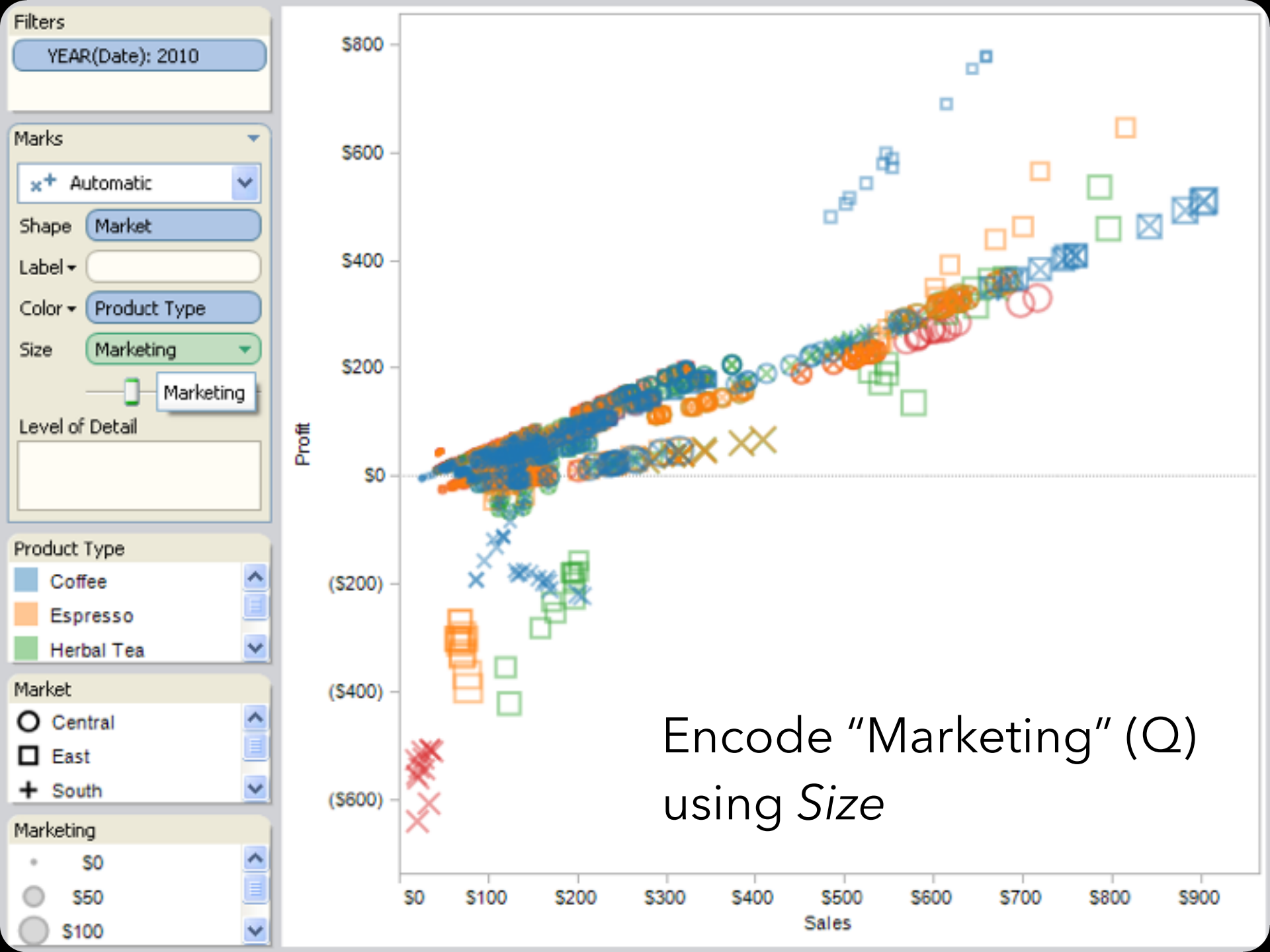
Sales figures for a fictional coffee chain:

Sales	Q-Ratio
Profit	Q-Ratio
Marketing	Q-Ratio
Product Type	N {Coffee, Espresso, Herbal Tea, Tea}
Market	N {Central, East, South, West}

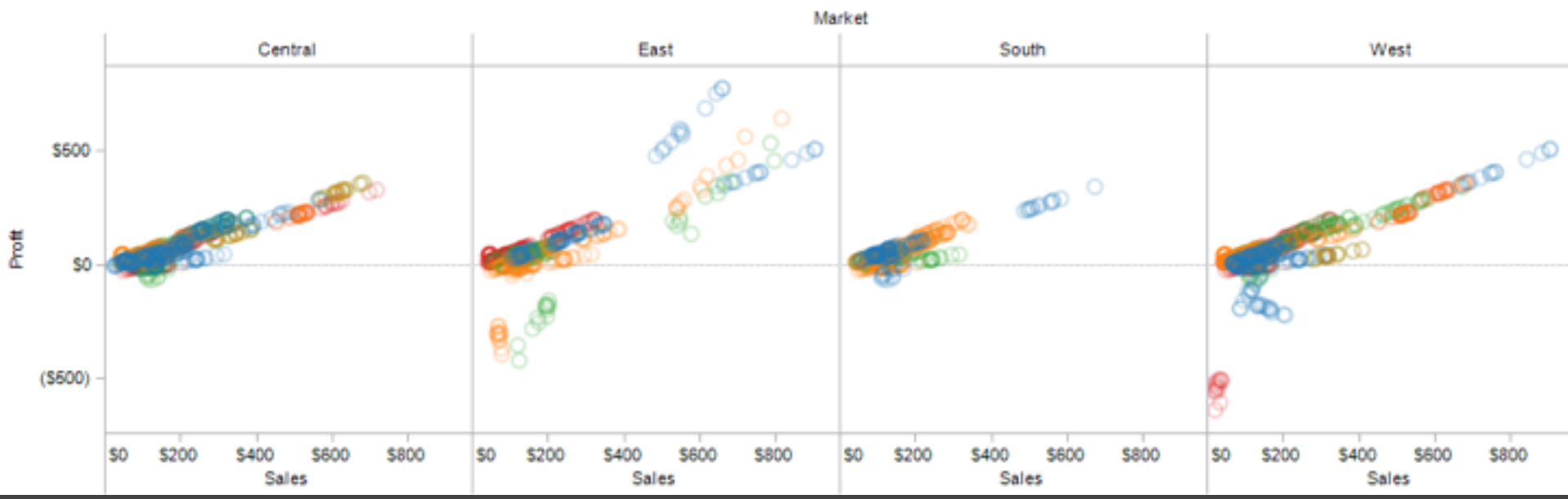

Filters
YEAR(Date): 2010
Marks
Automatic
Shape
Label
Color
Size
Level of Detail
$800
$600
$400
$200
$0
($200)
($400)
($600)
Profit
$0
$100
$200
$300
$400
$500
$600
$700
$800
$900
Sales
Encode “Sales” (Q) and
“Profit” (Q) using *Position*


Filters
YEAR(Date): 2010
Marks
Automatic
Shape
Label
Color
Product Type
Size
Level of Detail
Product Type
Coffee
Espresso
Herbal Tea
Tea
$800
$600
$400
$200
$0
($200)
($400)
($600)
Profit
$0
$100
$200
$300
$400
$500
$600
$700
$800
$900
Sales
Encode “Product Type” (N) using *Hue*


Filters
YEAR(Date): 2010
Marks
Automatic
Shape
Market
Label
Market
Color
Product Type
Size
Level of Detail
Product Type
Coffee
Espresso
Herbal Tea
Tea
Market
Central
East
South
West
$800
$600
$400
$200
$0
($200)
($400)
($600)
Profit
$0
$100
$200
$300
$400
$500
$600
$700
$800
$900
Sales
Encode “Market” (N)
using *Shape*


Filters
YEAR(Date): 2010
Marks
Automatic
Shape
Market
Label
Color
Product Type
Size
Marketing
Marketing
Level of Detail
Product Type
Coffee
Espresso
Herbal Tea
Market
Central
East
South
Marketing
$0
$50
$100
$800
$600
$400
$200
$0
($200)
($400)
($600)
Profit
$0
$100
$200
$300
$400
$500
$600
$700
$800
$900
Sales
Encode “Marketing” (Q) using *Size*

Trellis Plots



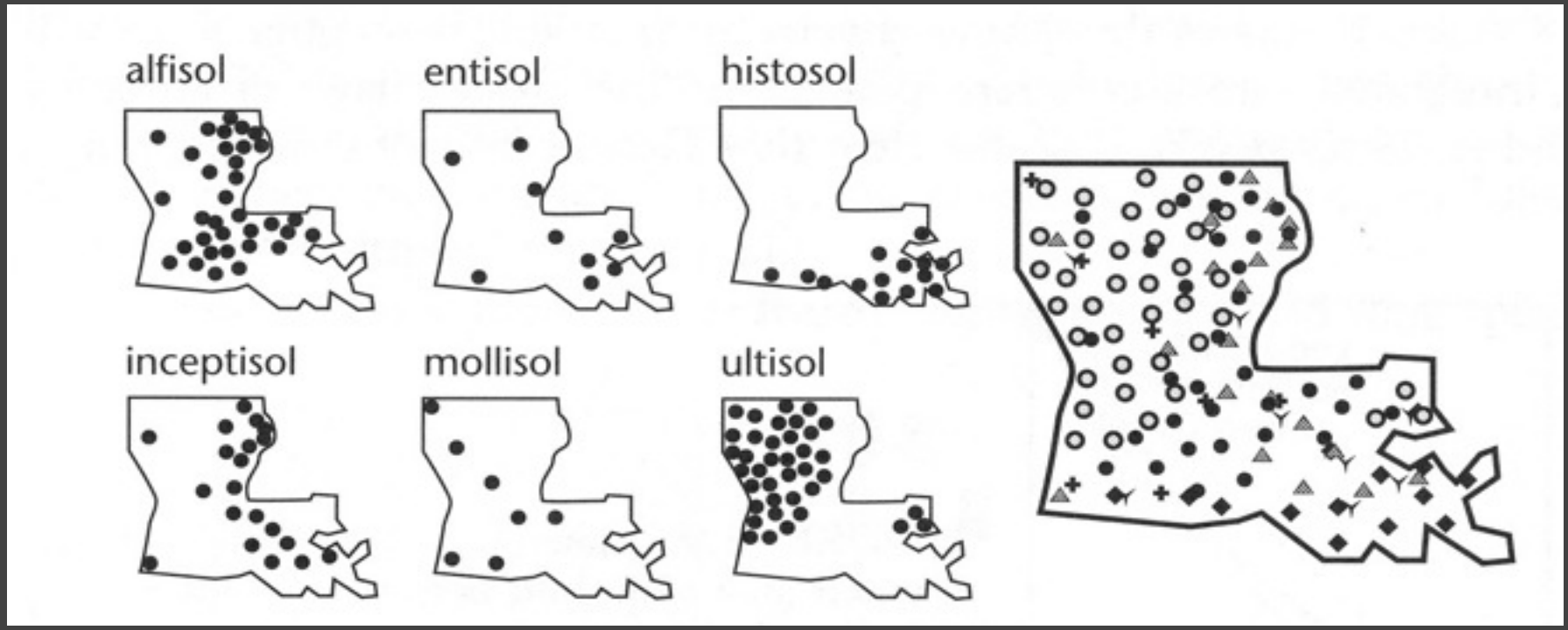
A *trellis plot* subdivides space to enable comparison across multiple plots.

Typically nominal or ordinal variables are used as dimensions for subdivision.

Small Multiples

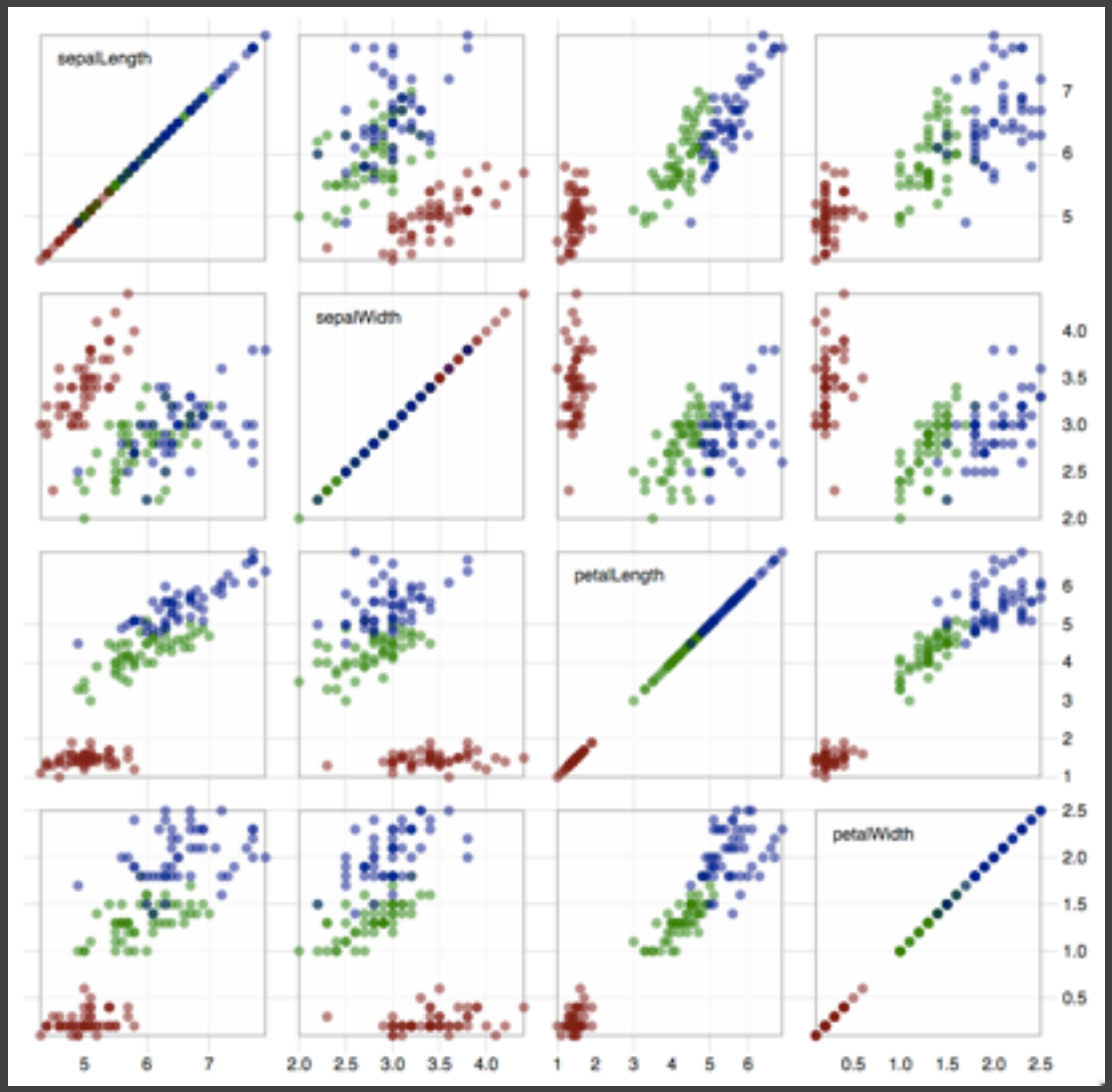
[MacEachren 95, Figure 2.11, p. 38]

Small Multiples

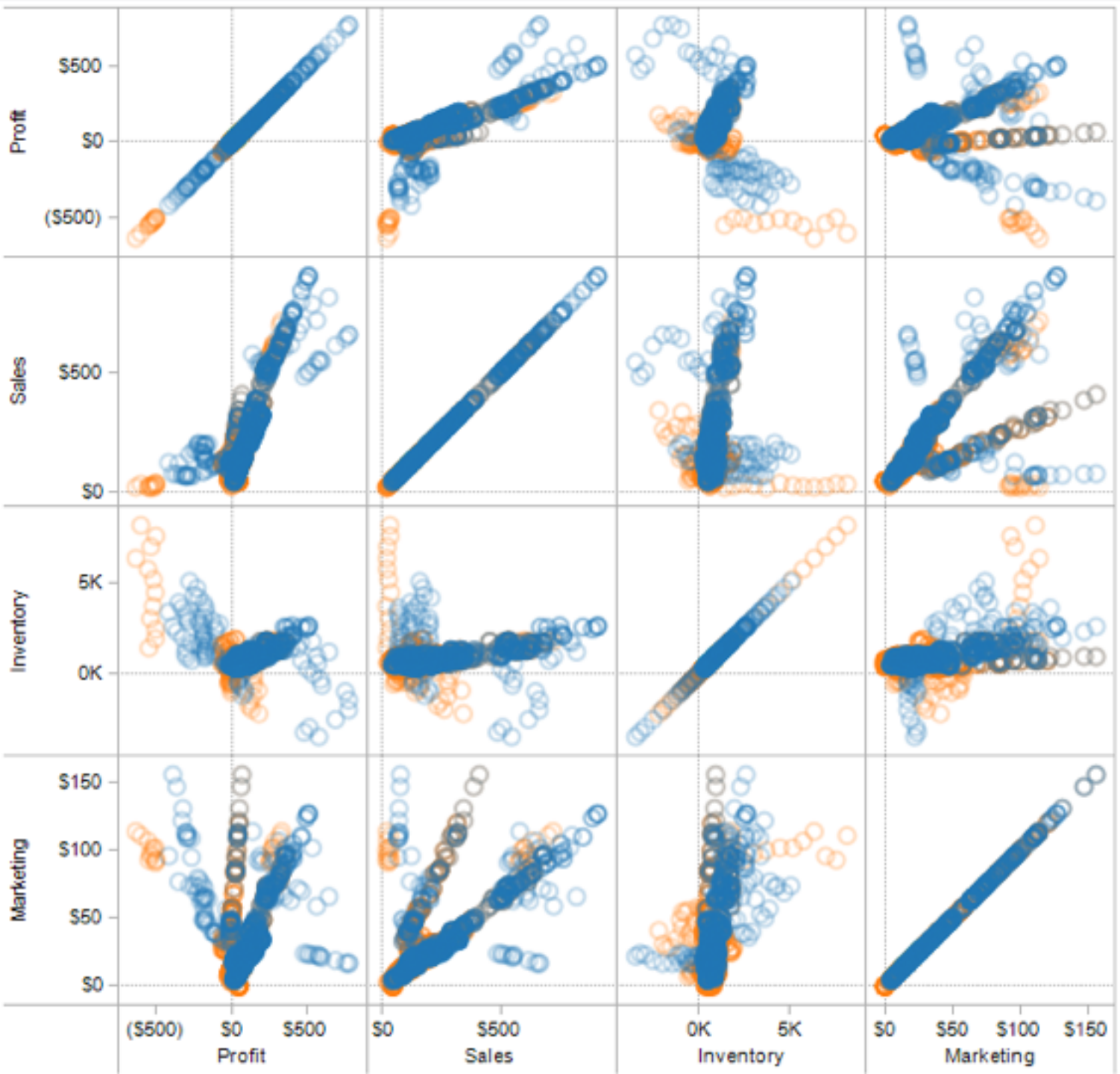


[MacEachren 95, Figure 2.11, p. 38]

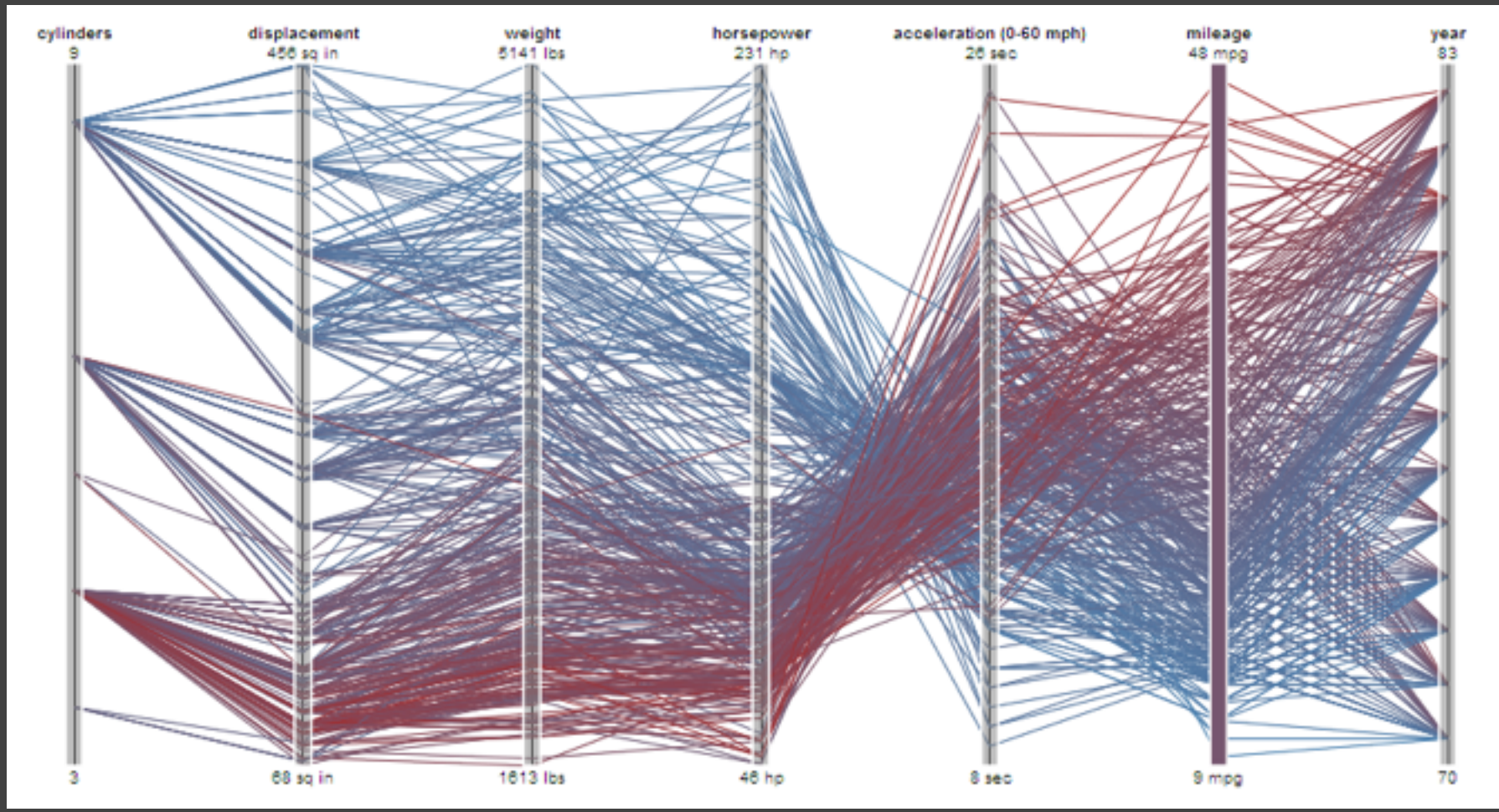
Scatterplot Matrix (SPLOM)

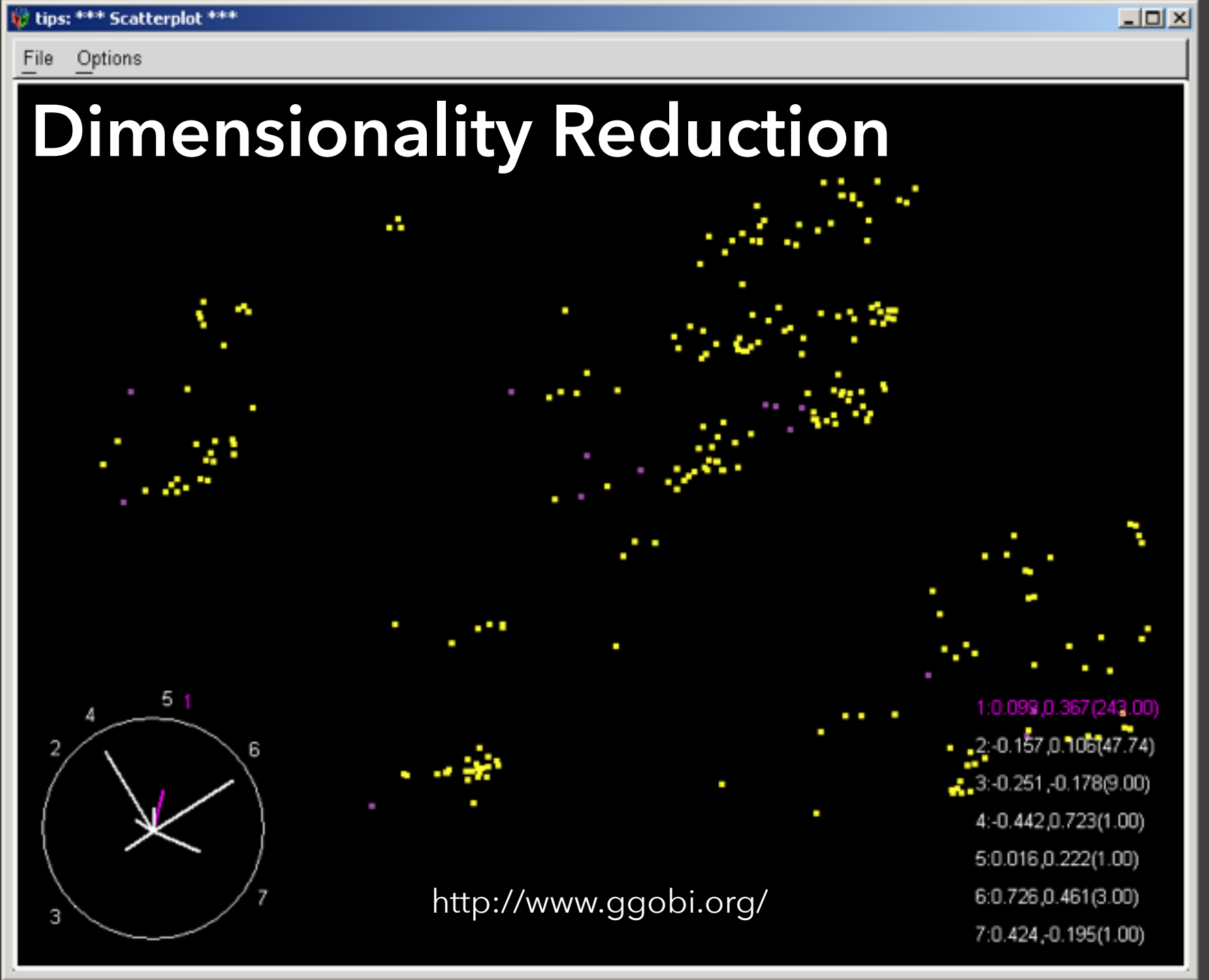


Scatter plots for pairwise comparison of each data dimension.

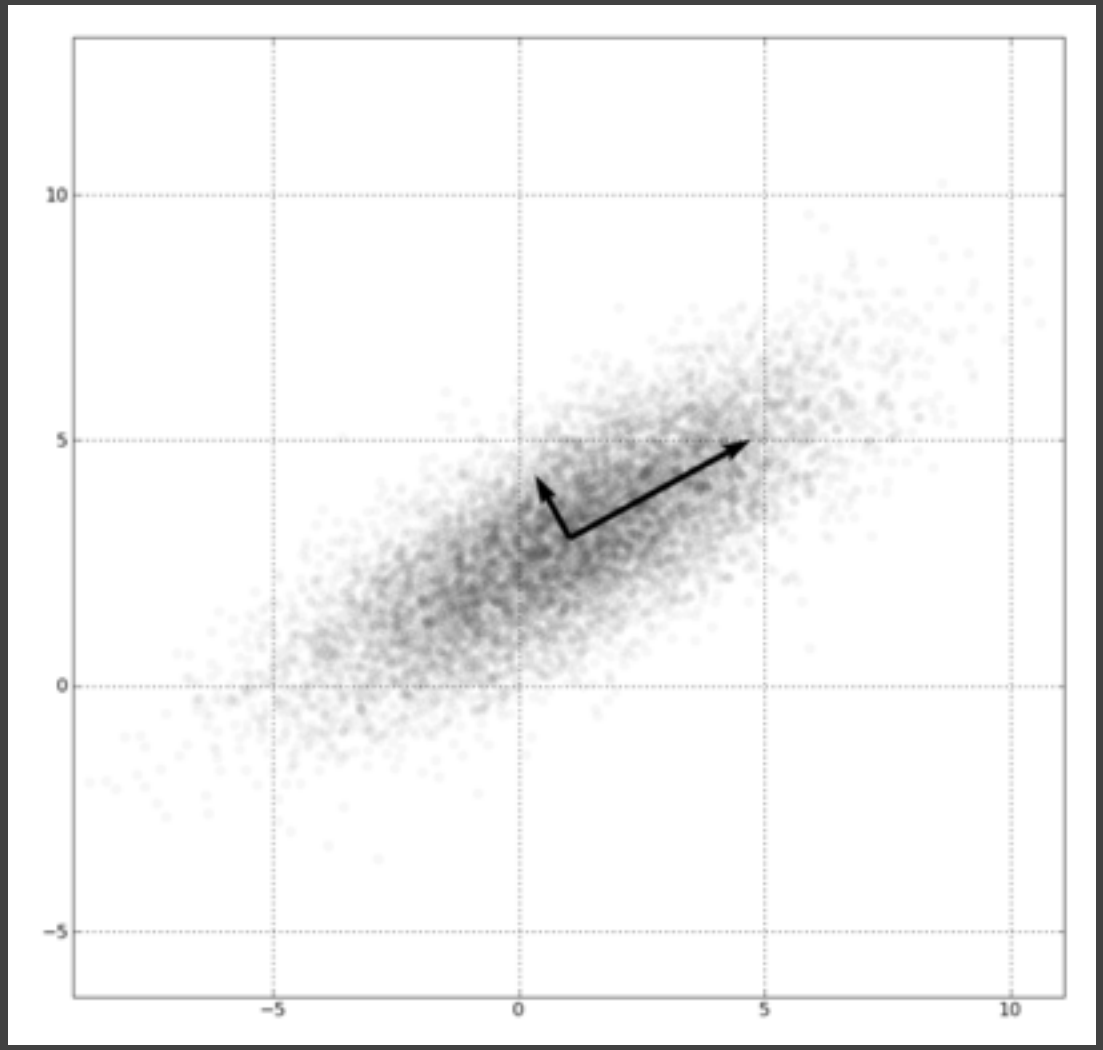

Profit
$500
$0
($500)
Sales
$500
$0
Inventory
5K
0K
Marketing
$150
$100
$50
$0
($500)
$0
$500
Profit
$0
$500
Sales
0K
5K
Inventory
$0
$50
$100
$150
Marketing

Parallel Coordinates [Inselberg]



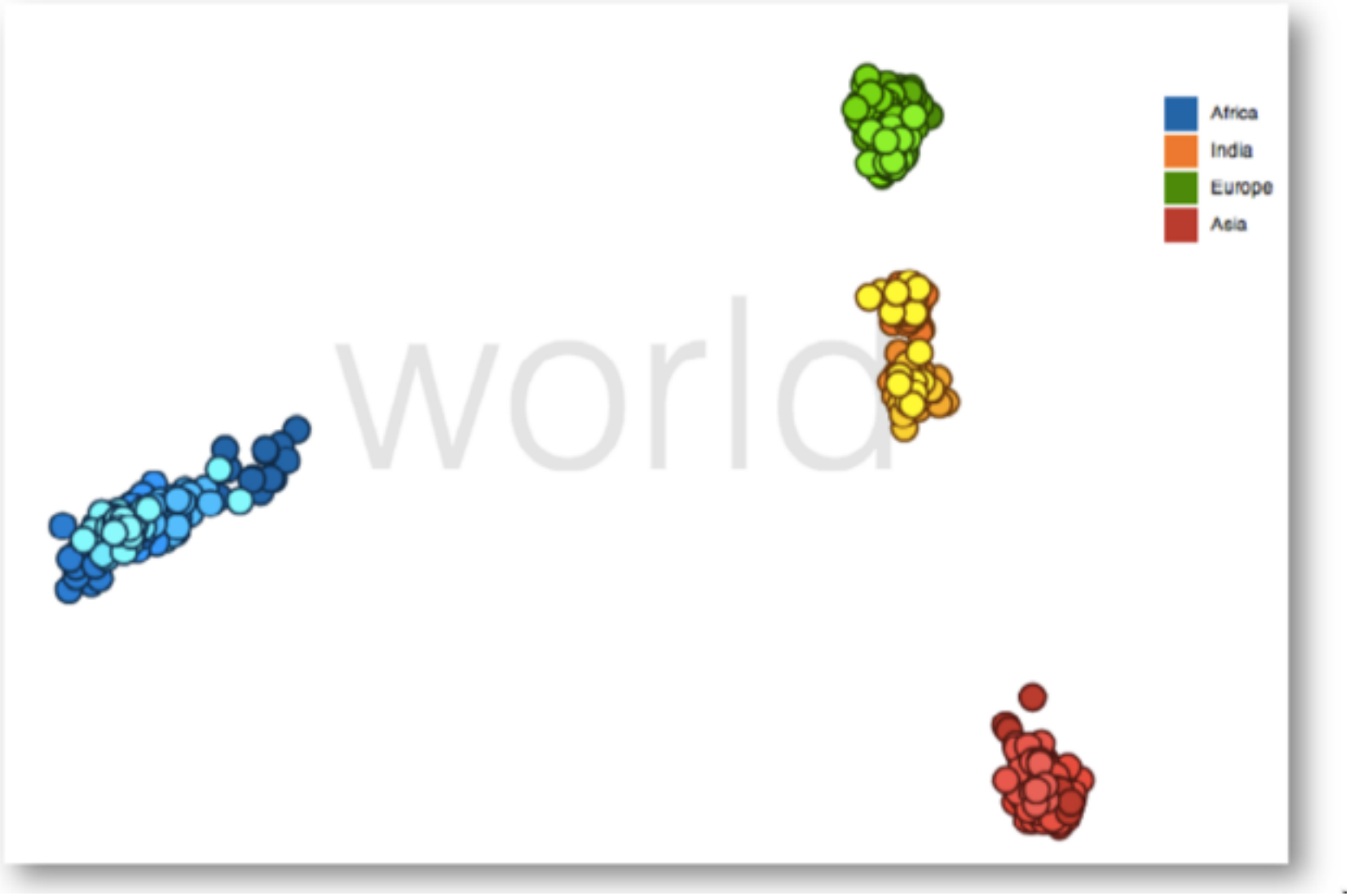

tips: *** Scatterplot ***
File
Options
Dimensionality Reduction
5
1
4
2
6
3
7
1:0.093,0.367(243.00)
2:-0.157,0.106(47.74)
3:-0.251,-0.178(9.00)
4:-0.442,0.723(1.00)
5:0.016,0.222(1.00)
6:0.726,0.461(3.00)
7:0.424,-0.195(1.00)
http://www.ggobi.org/

Principal Components Analysis



1. Mean-center the data.
2. Find ⊥ basis vectors that maximize the data variance.
3. Plot the data using the top vectors.

PCA on Genetic Sequences



Visualizing Multiple Dimensions

Strategies:
Avoid “over-encoding”
Use space and small multiples intelligently
Reduce the problem space
Use interaction to generate *relevant* views

Rarely does a single visualization answer all questions. Instead, the ability to generate appropriate visualizations quickly is key.

Perception

Design Principles

What makes a visualization **“good”**?

Design Principles [Mackinlay 86]

Expressiveness

A set of facts is *expressible* in a visual language if the sentences (i.e. the visualizations) in the language express all the facts in the set of data, and only the facts in the data.

Effectiveness

A visualization is more *effective* than another visualization if the information conveyed by one visualization is more readily perceived than the information in the other visualization.

Design Principles [Mackinlay 86]

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Expresses facts not in the data

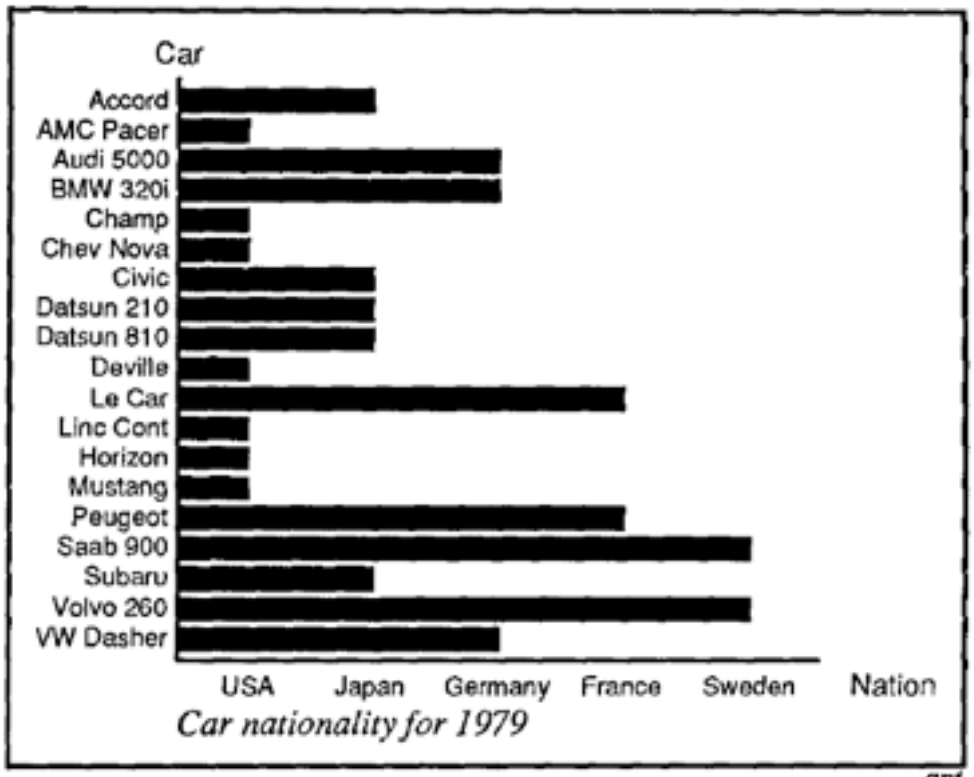

Fig. 11. Incorrect use of a bar chart for the *Nation* relation. The lengths of the bars suggest an ordering on the vertical axis, as if the USA cars were longer or better than the other cars, which is not true for the *Nation* relation.

A length is interpreted as a quantitative value.

Design Principles [Mackinlay 86]

Expressiveness

A set of facts is *expressible* in a visual language if the sentences (i.e. the visualizations) in the language express all the facts in the set of data, and only the facts in the data.

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A visualization is more *effective* than another visualization if the information conveyed by one visualization is more readily perceived than the information in the other visualization.

Design Principles [Mackinlay 86]

Expressiveness
A set of facts is *expressible* in a visual language if the sentences (i.e. the visualizations) in the language express all the facts in the set of data, and only the facts in the data.

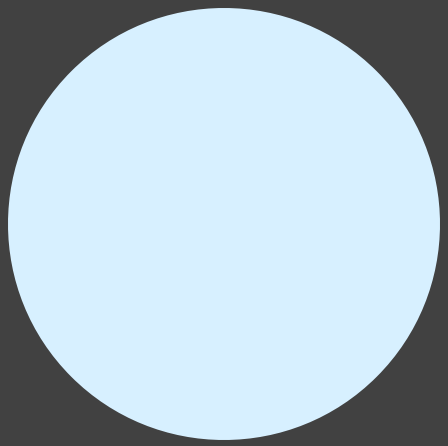
Effectiveness
A visualization is more *effective* than another visualization if the information conveyed by one visualization is more readily perceived than the information in the other visualization.

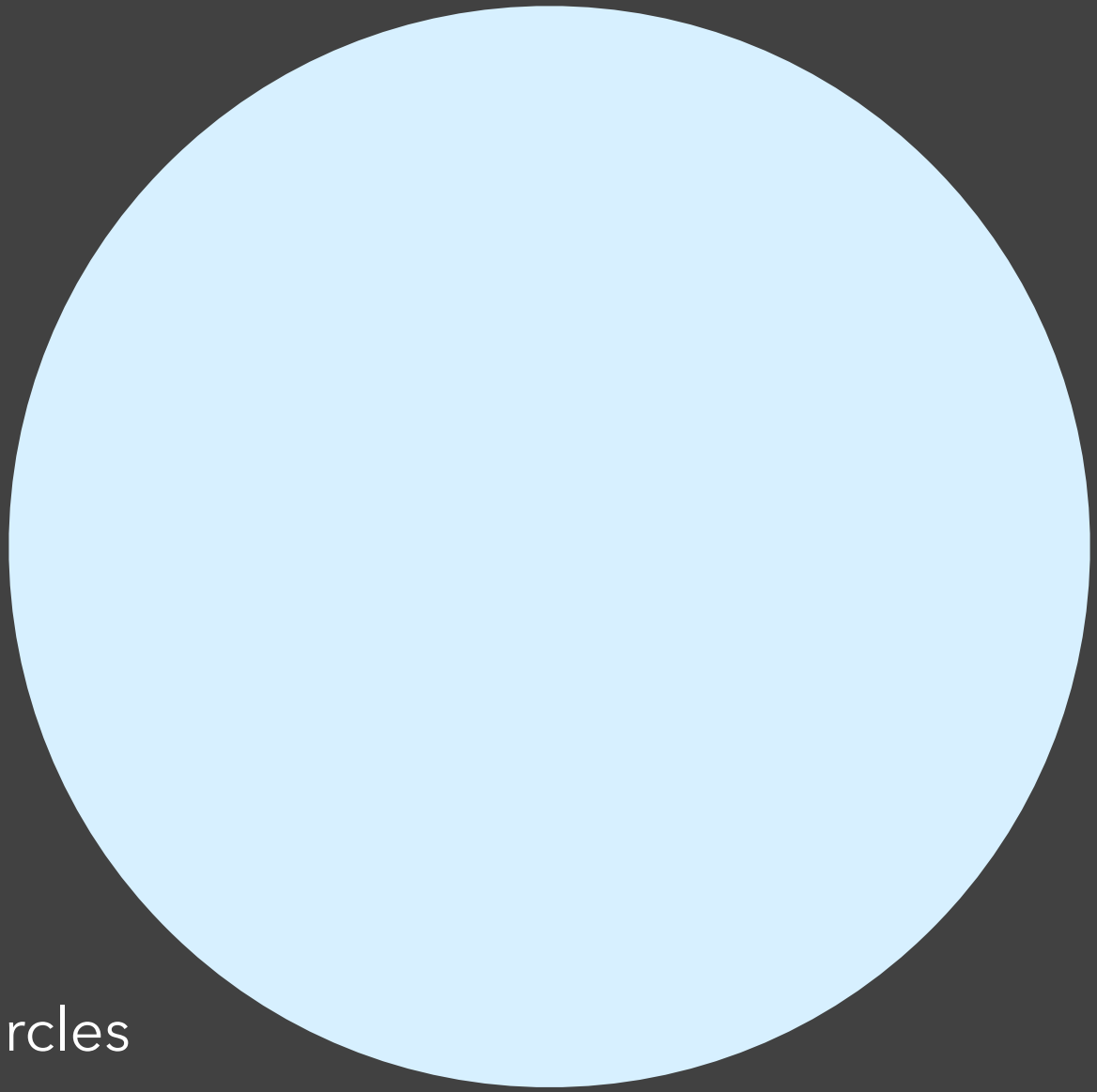
Design Principles *Translated*

Tell the truth and nothing but the truth
(don't lie, and don't lie by omission)

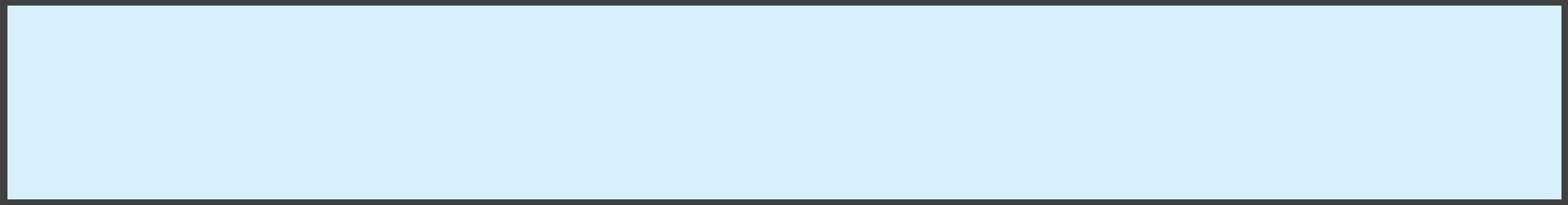
Use encodings that people decode better
(where better = faster and/or more accurate)

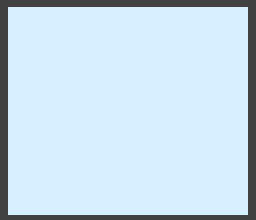
Graphical Perception





Compare area of circles





Compare length of bars

Steven's Power Law

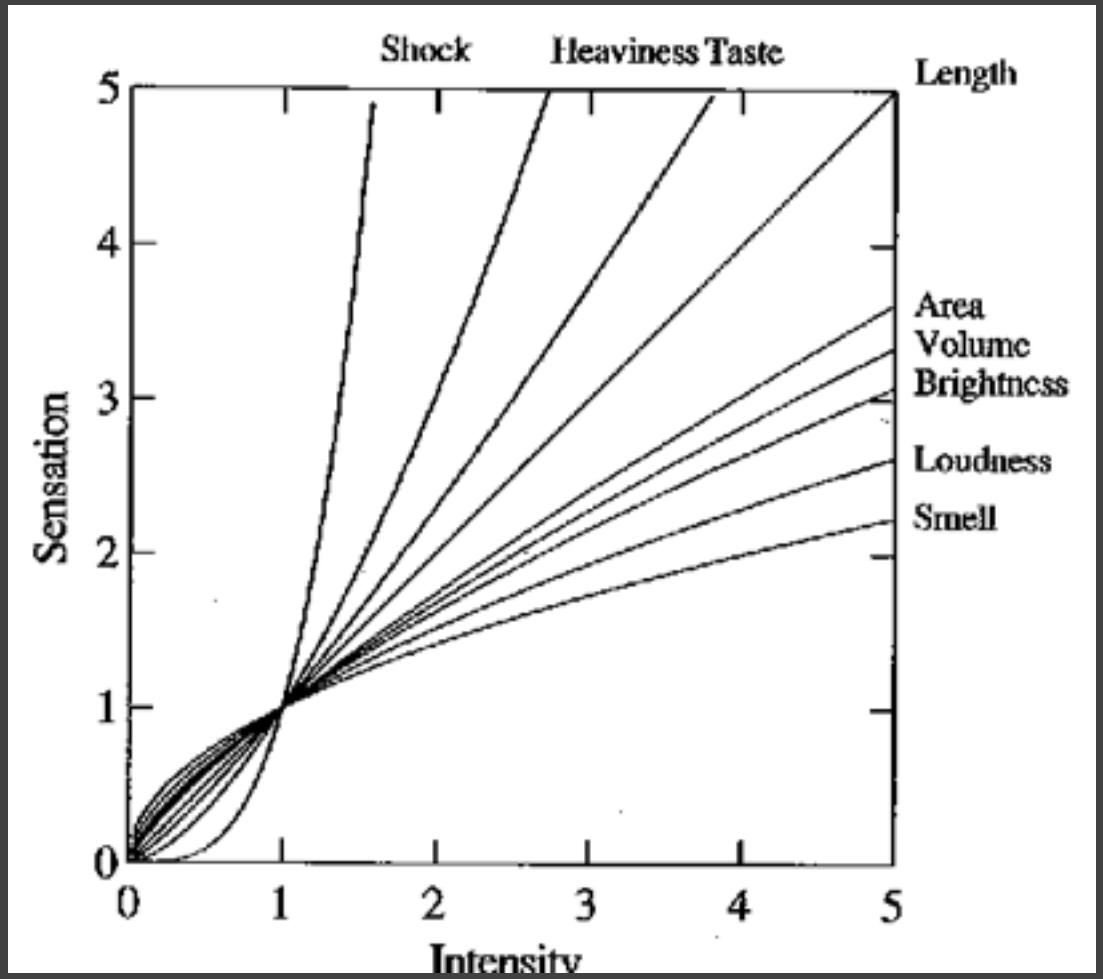
Exponent
(Empirically Determined)

$$S = I^p$$

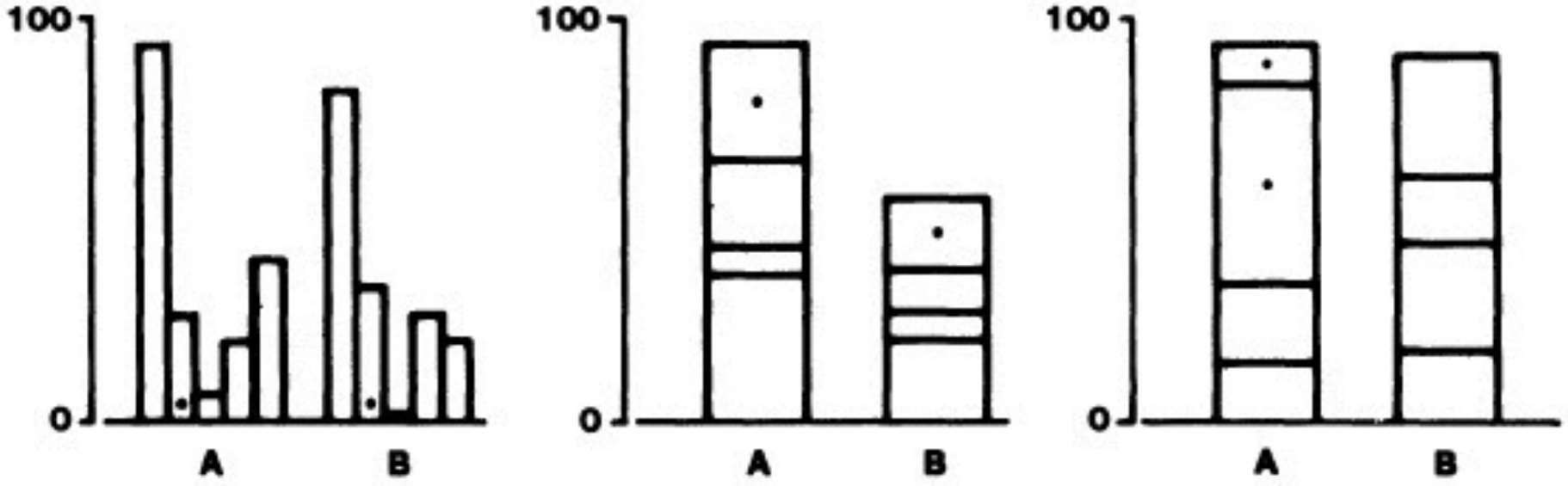
Perceived Sensation

Physical Intensity

Predicts bias, not necessarily accuracy!



[Graph from Wilkinson 99, based on Stevens 61]



Graphical Perception [Cleveland & McGill 84]

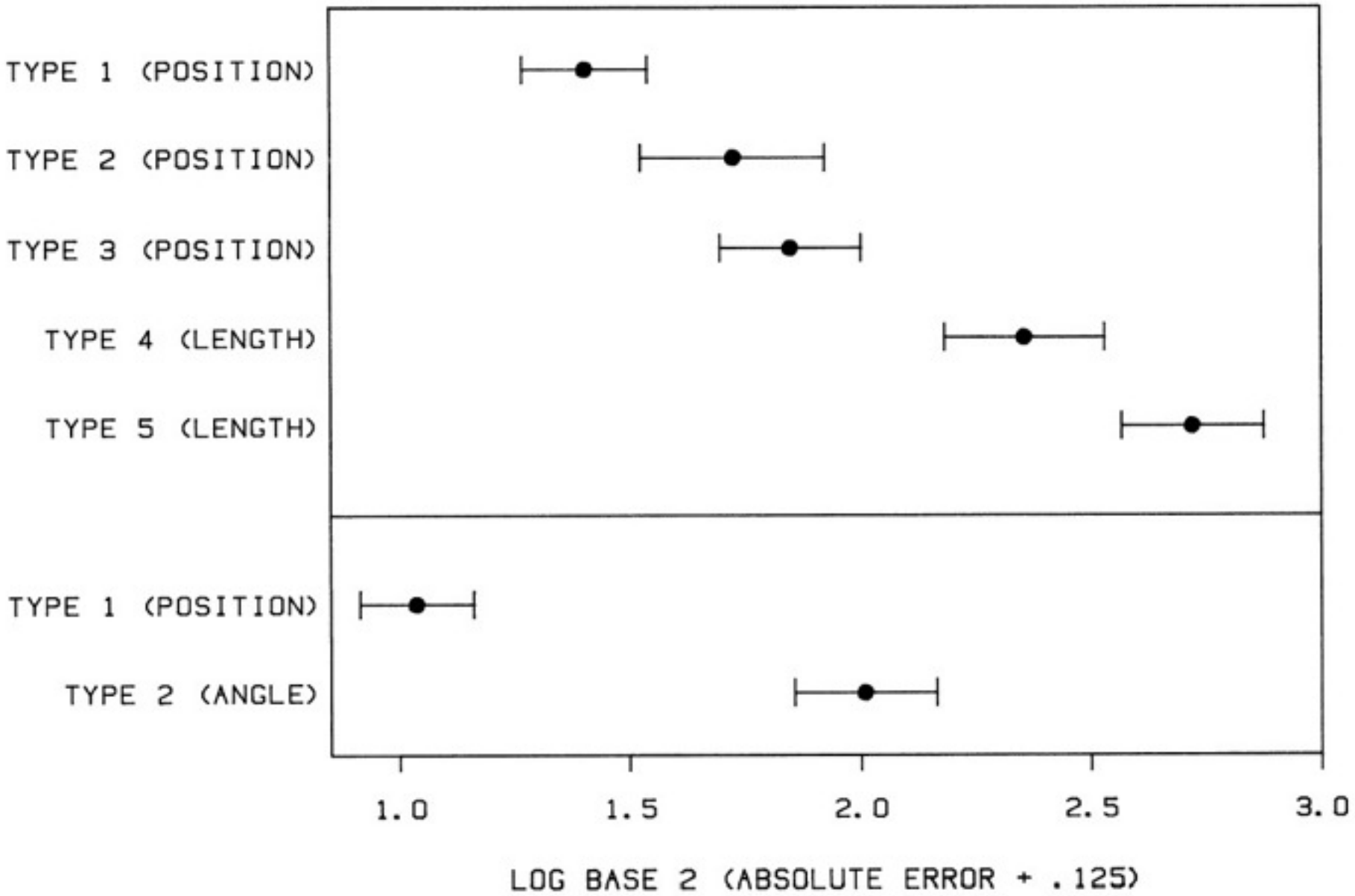
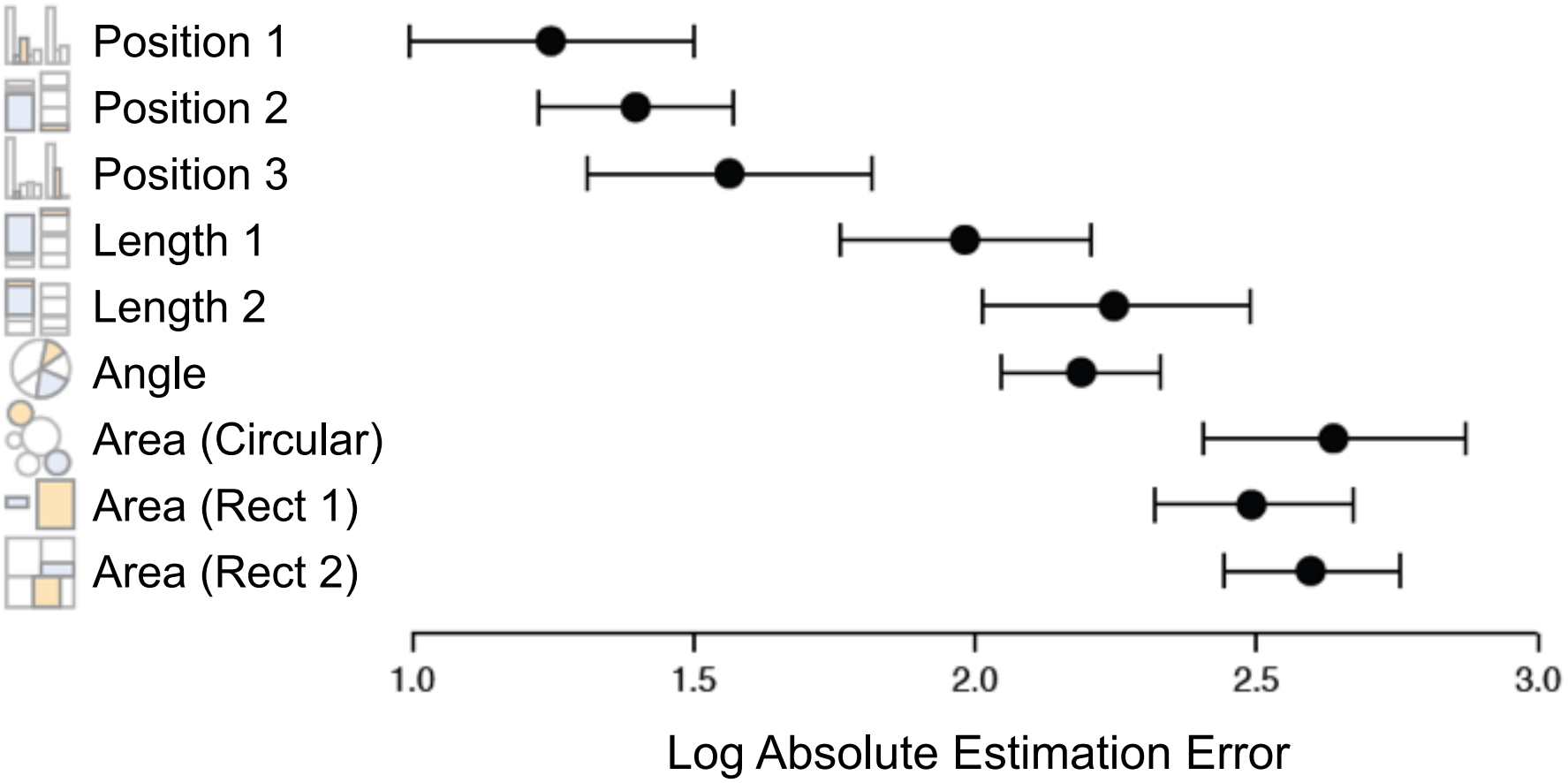


Figure 16. Log absolute error means and 95% confidence intervals for judgment types in position–length experiment (top) and position–angle experiment (bottom).



Graphical Perception Experiments

Empirical estimates of encoding effectiveness

Relative Magnitude Estimation

Most accurate

Least accurate

Position (common) scale

Position (non-aligned) scale

Length

Slope

Angle

Area

Volume

Color hue-saturation-density

Effectiveness Rankings [Mackinlay 86]

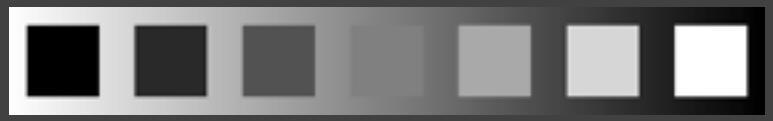
QUANTITATIVE	ORDINAL	NOMINAL
Position	Position	Position
Length	Density (Value)	Color Hue
Angle	Color Sat	Texture
Slope	Color Hue	Connection
Area (Size)	Texture	Containment
Volume	Connection	Density (Value)
Density (Value)	Containment	Color Sat
Color Sat	Length	Shape
Color Hue	Angle	Length
Texture	Slope	Angle
Connection	Area (Size)	Slope
Containment	Volume	Area
Shape	Shape	Volume

Color

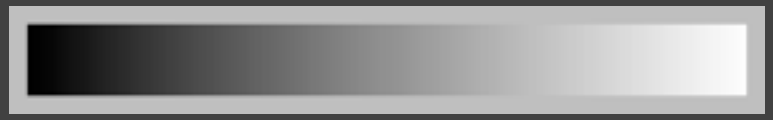
Encoding Data with Color

Value is perceived as ordered

∴ Encode ordinal variables (O)



∴ Encode continuous variables (Q) [not as well]

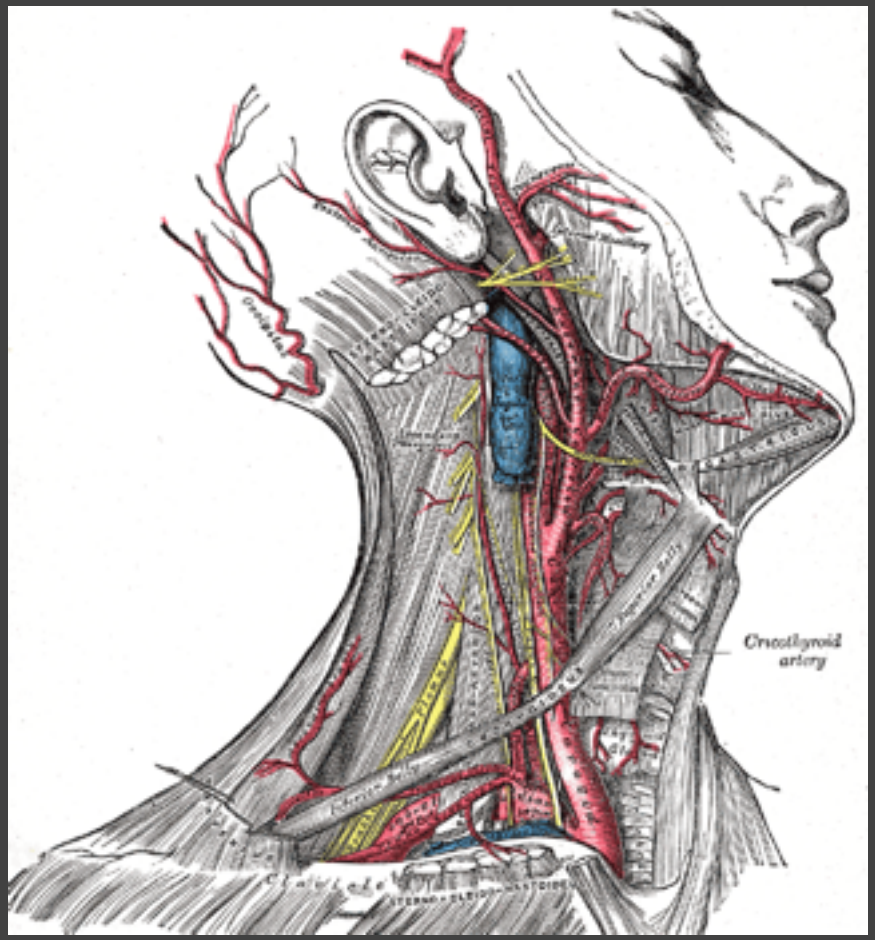


Hue is normally perceived as unordered

∴ Encode nominal variables (N) using color

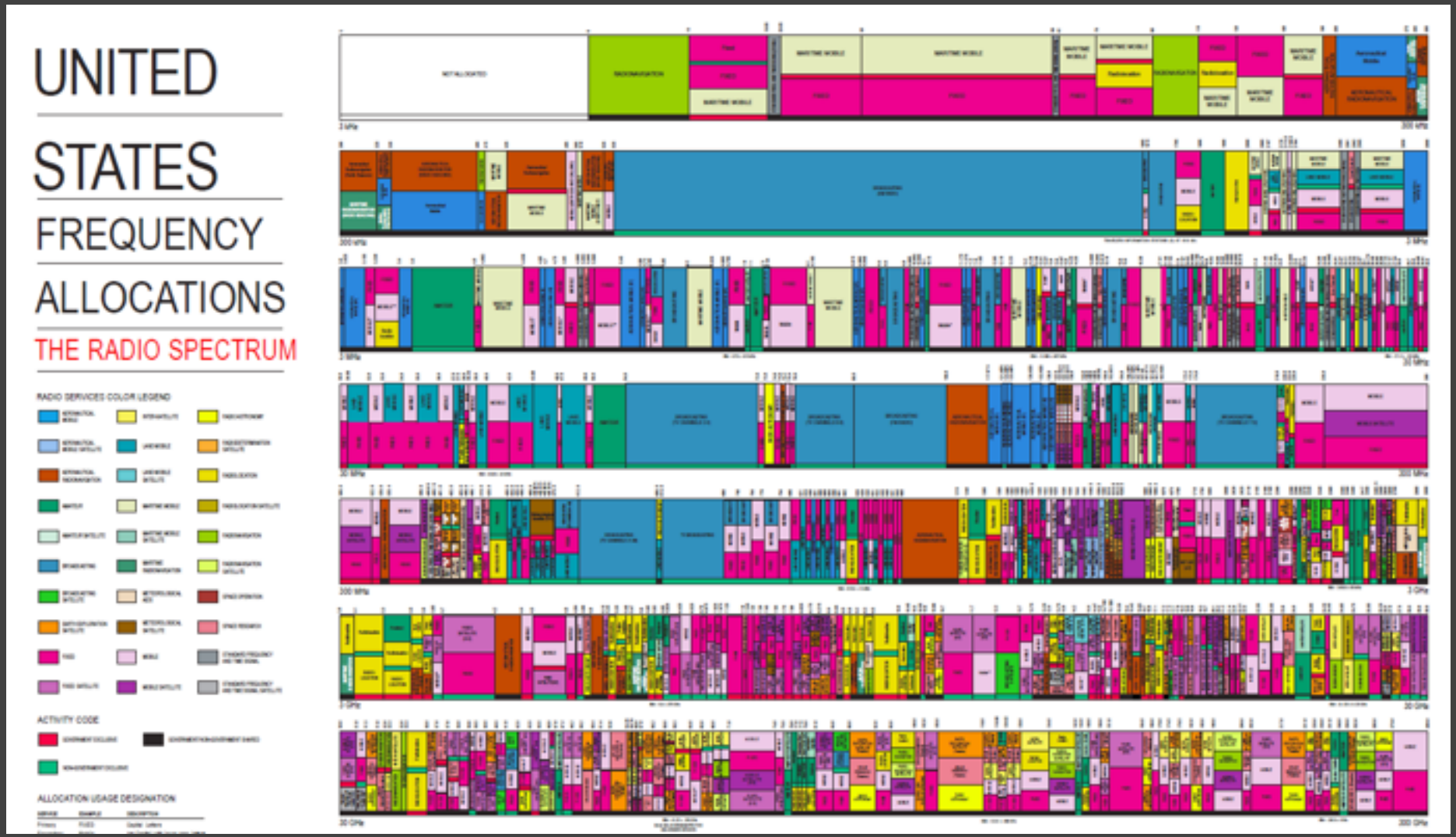
Categorical Color

Gray's Anatomy



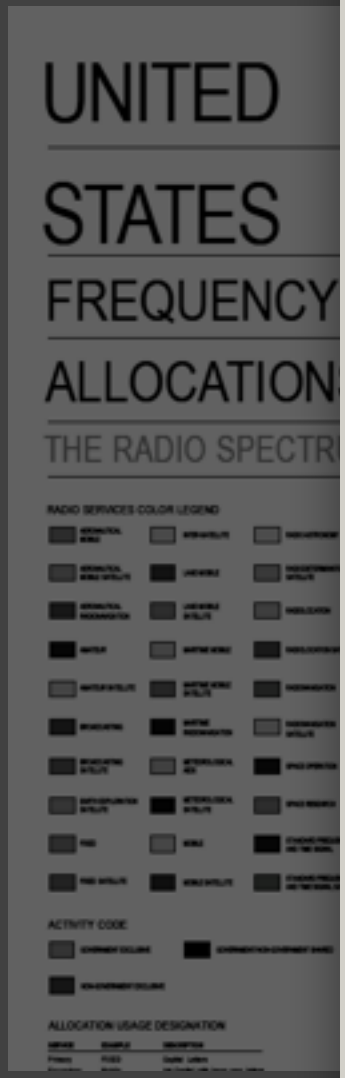
Superficial dissection of the right side of the neck, showing the carotid and subclavian arteries. (http://www.bartleby.com/107/illus520.html)

Allocation of the Radio Spectrum



http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/allochrt.html

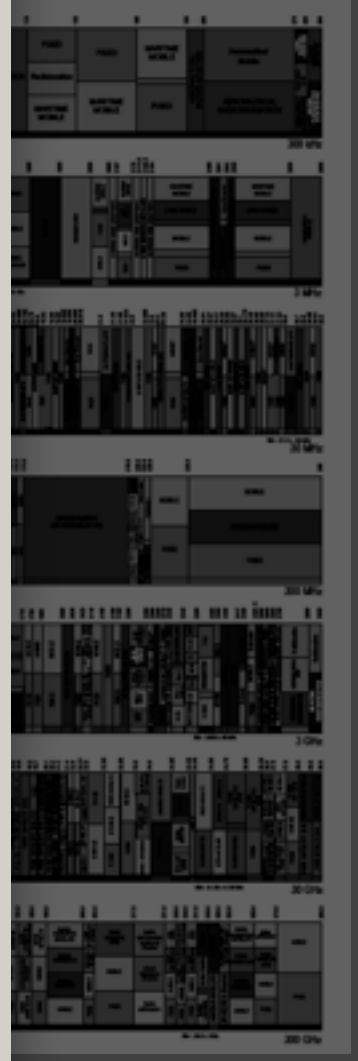
Alloc rum



RADIO SERVICES COLOR LEGEND

- AERONAUTICAL MOBILE
- AERONAUTICAL MOBILE SATELLITE
- AERONAUTICAL RADIONAVIGATION
- AMATEUR
- AMATEUR SATELLITE
- BROADCASTING
- BROADCASTING SATELLITE
- EARTH EXPLORATION SATELLITE
- FIXED
- FIXED SATELLITE
- INTER-SATELLITE
- LAND MOBILE
- LAND MOBILE SATELLITE
- MARITIME MOBILE
- MARITIME MOBILE SATELLITE
- MARITIME RADIONAVIGATION
- METEOROLOGICAL AIDS
- METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE
- MOBILE
- MOBILE SATELLITE
- RADIO ASTRONOMY
- RADIODETERMINATION SATELLITE
- RADIOLOCATION
- RADIOLOCATION SATELLITE
- RADIONAVIGATION
- RADIONAVIGATION SATELLITE
- SPACE OPERATION
- SPACE RESEARCH
- STANDARD FREQUENCY AND TIME SIGNAL
- STANDARD FREQUENCY AND TIME SIGNAL SATELLITE

ACTIVITY CODE



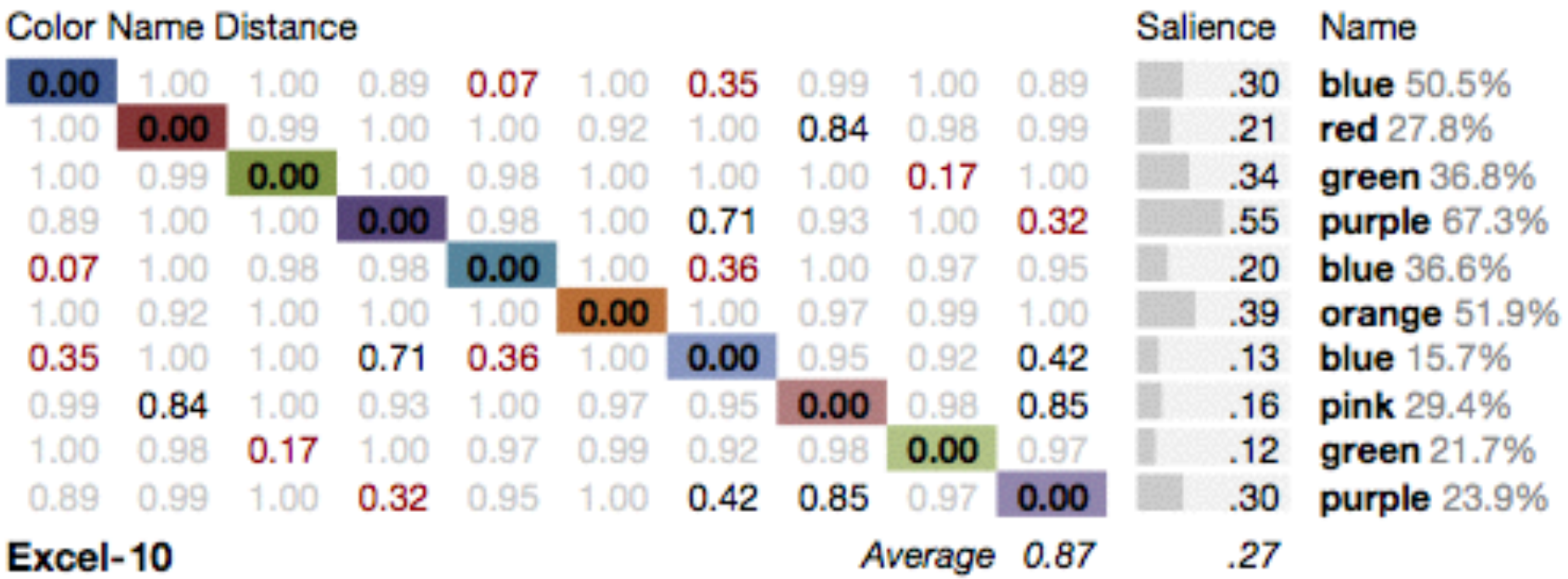
Palette Design & Color Names

Minimize overlap and ambiguity of colors.

http://vis.stanford.edu/color-names

Palette Design & Color Names

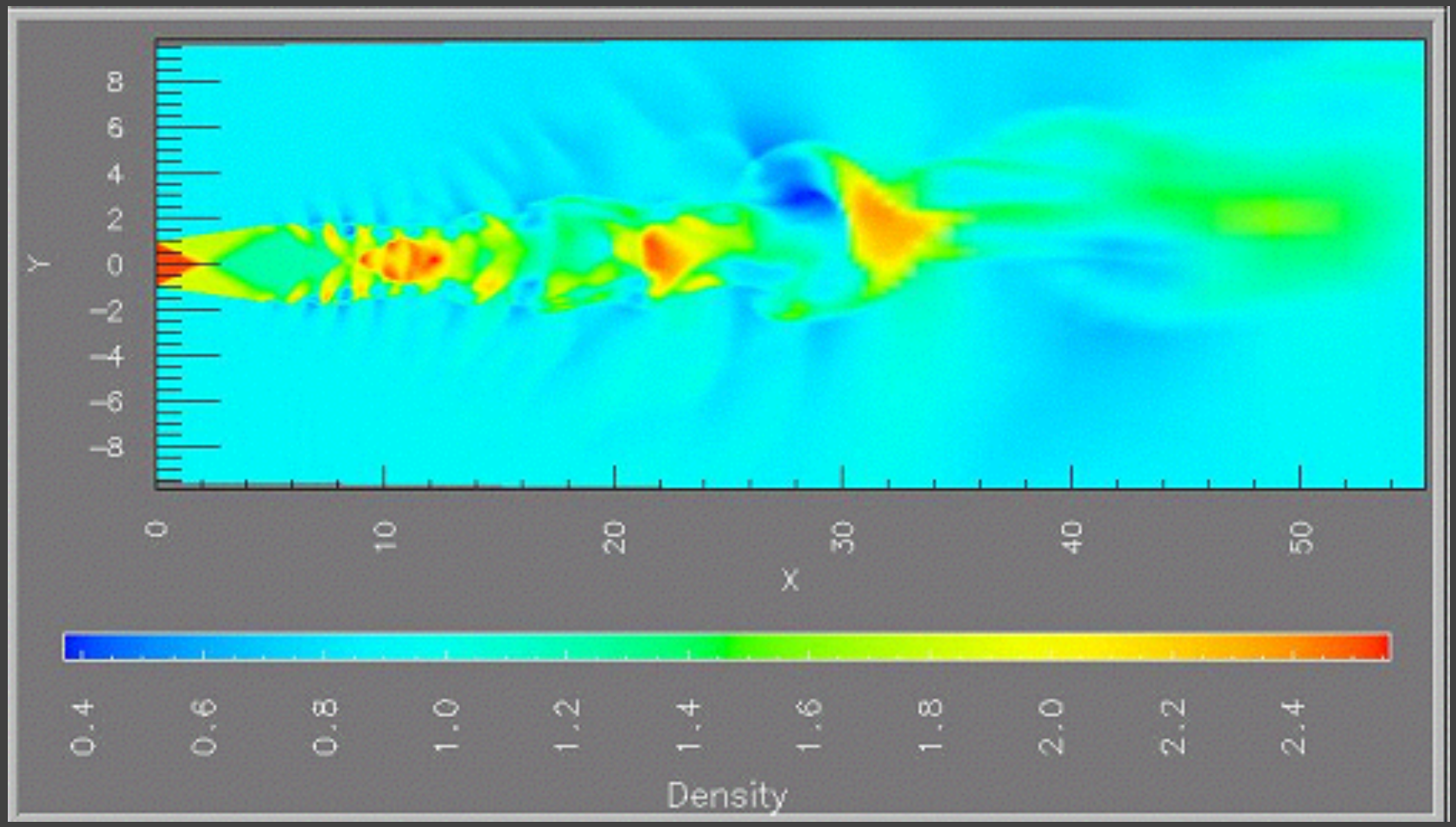
Minimize overlap and ambiguity of colors.



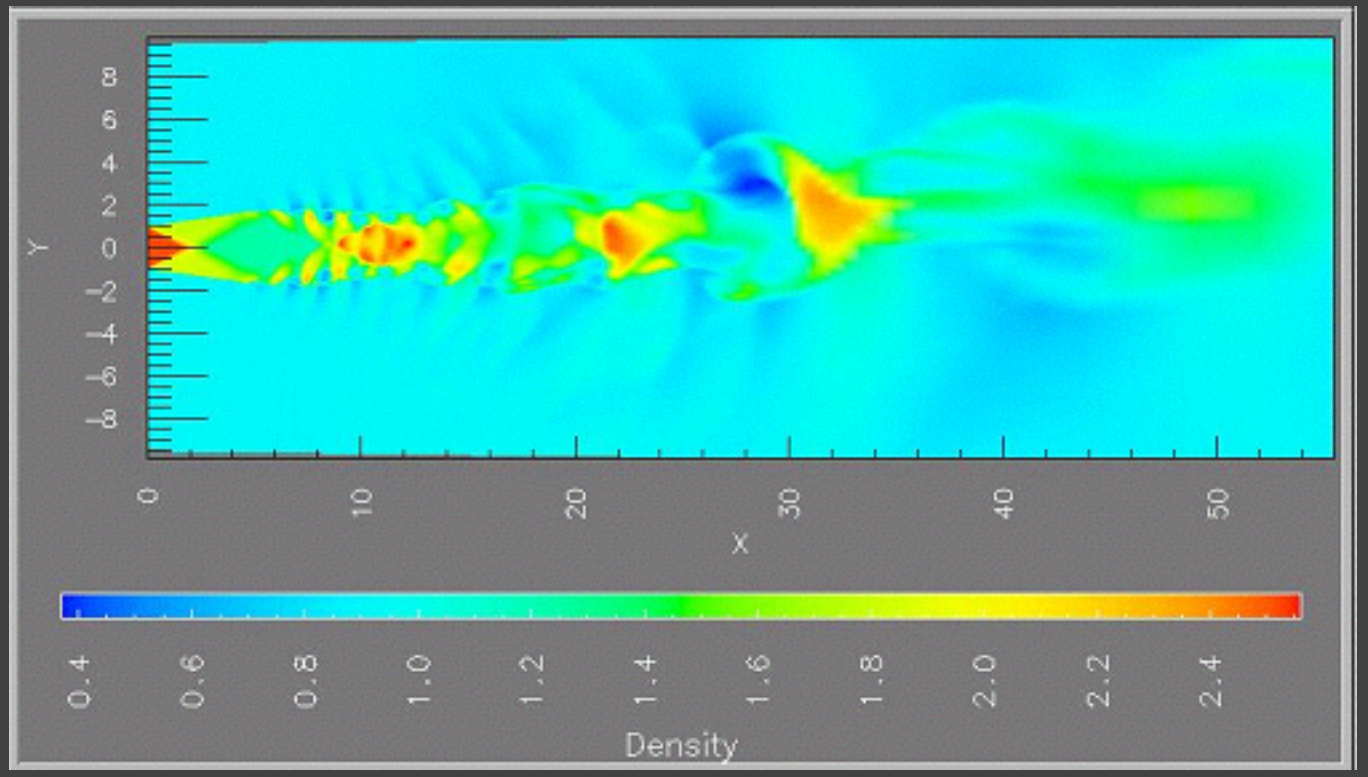
http://vis.stanford.edu/color-names

Quantitative Color

Rainbow Color Maps



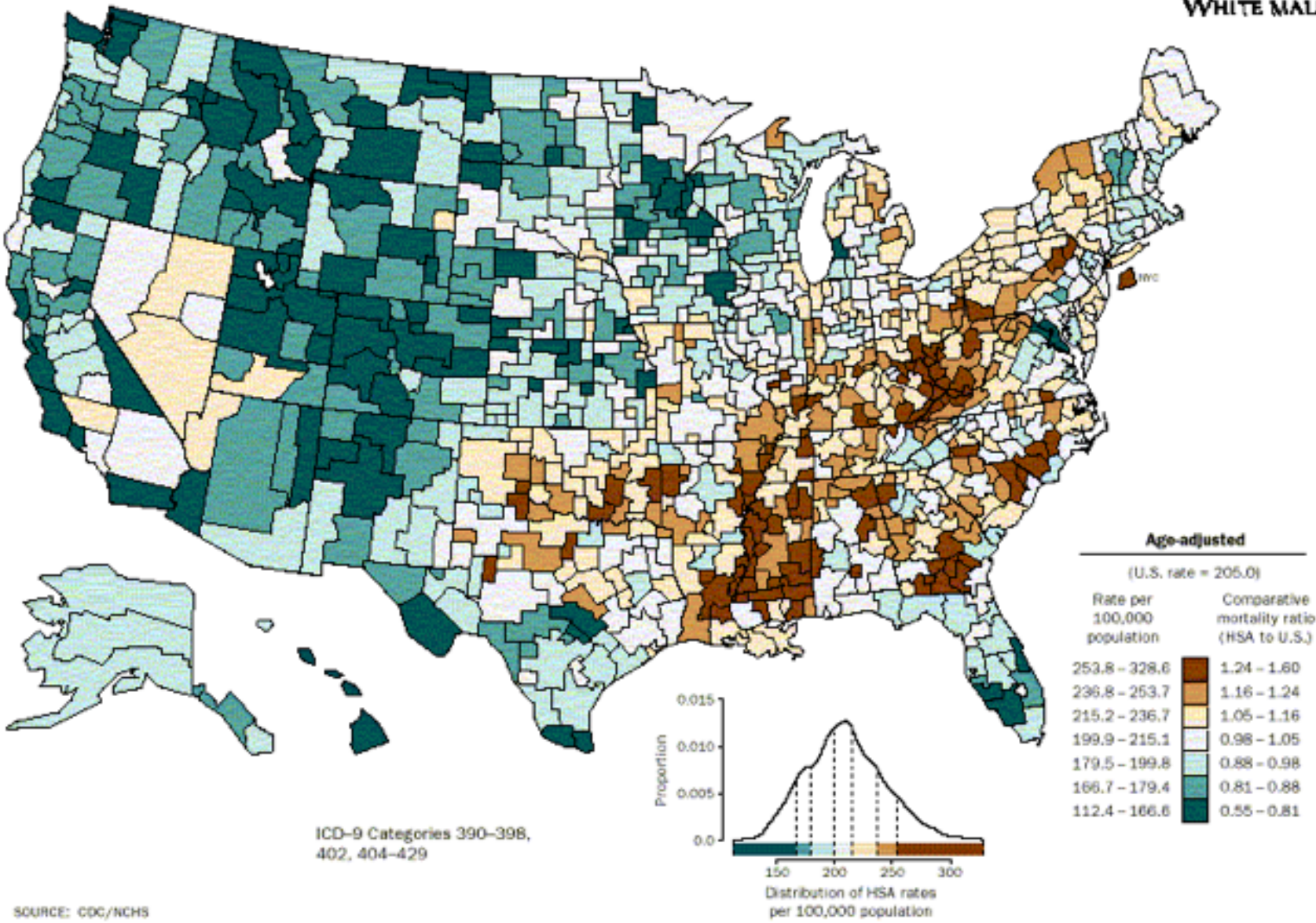
Be Wary of Rainbows!



1. People segment colors into classes
2. Hues are not naturally ordered
3. Different lightness emphasizes certain scalar values
4. Low luminance colors (blue) hide high frequencies

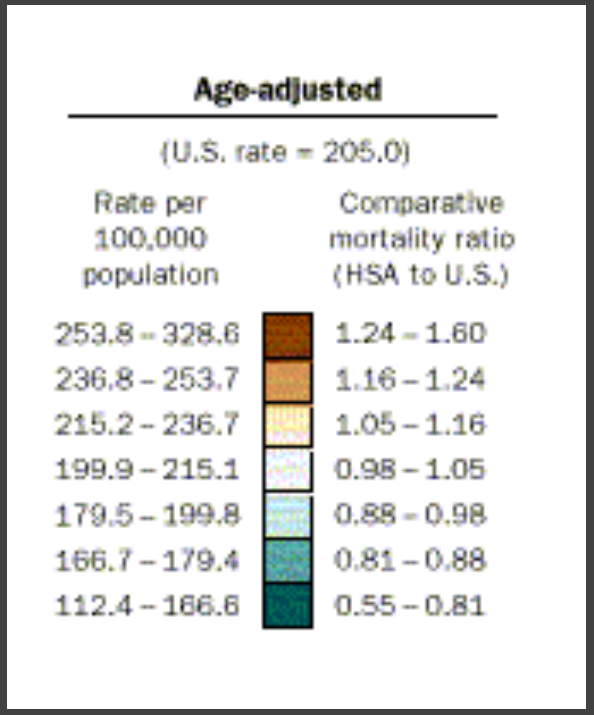
Age-adjusted death rates by HSA, 1988-92

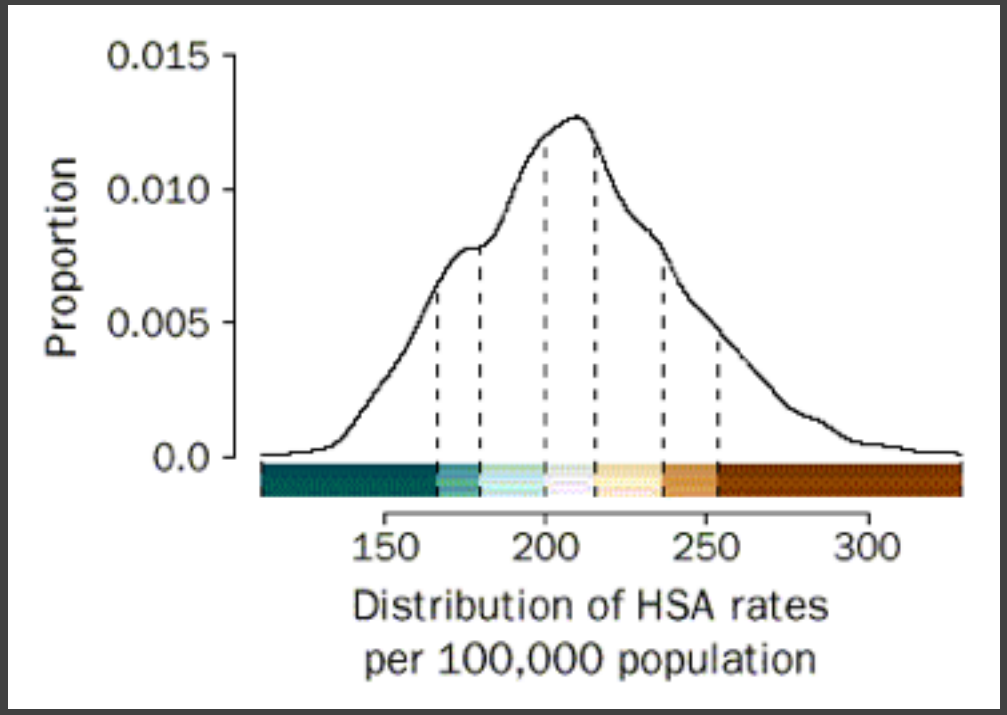
Heart disease
White male



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS

Classing Quantitative Data





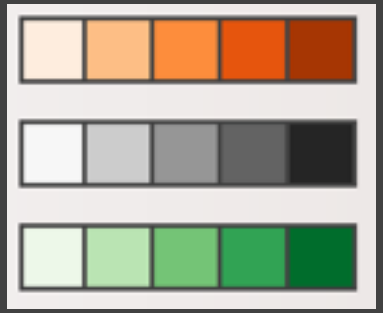
Age-adjusted mortality rates for the United States.
Common option: break into 5 or 7 quantiles.

Quantitative Color Encoding

Sequential color scale

Constrain hue, vary luminance/saturation

Map higher values to darker colors



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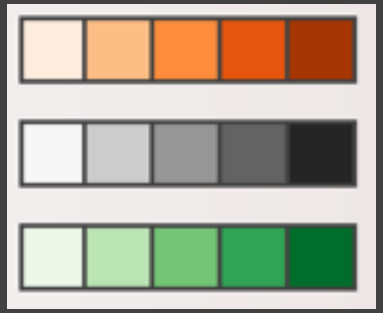
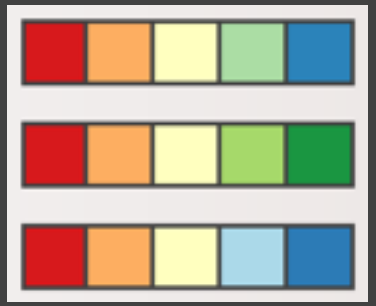


Diverging color scale

Useful when data has meaningful “midpoint”

Use neutral color (e.g., grey) for midpoint

Use saturated colors for endpoints



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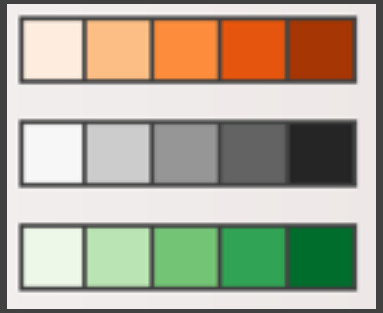

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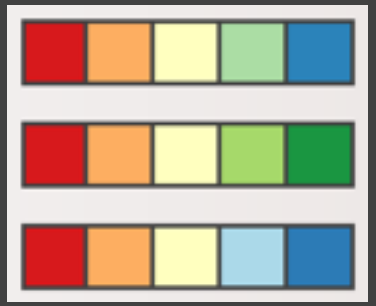
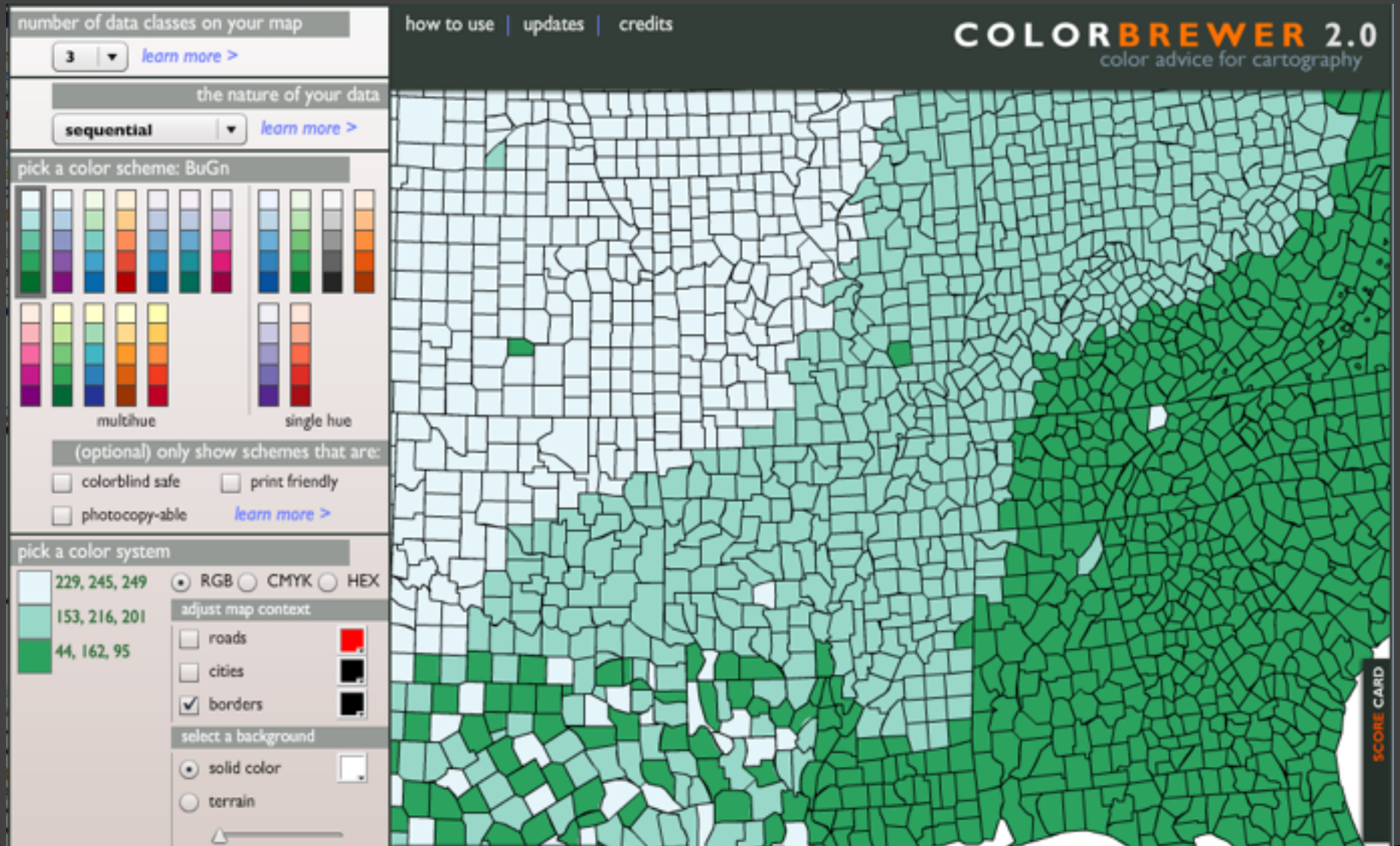


Limit number of steps in color to 3-9

Color Brewer: Palettes for Maps



Hints for the Colorist

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Use **only a few** colors (~6 ideal)

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Get it right in **black and white**

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Get it right in **black and white**

Respect the **color blind**

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Colors should be **distinctive** and **named**

Strive for color **harmony** (natural colors?)

Use **cultural conventions**; appreciate symbolism

Get it right in **black and white**

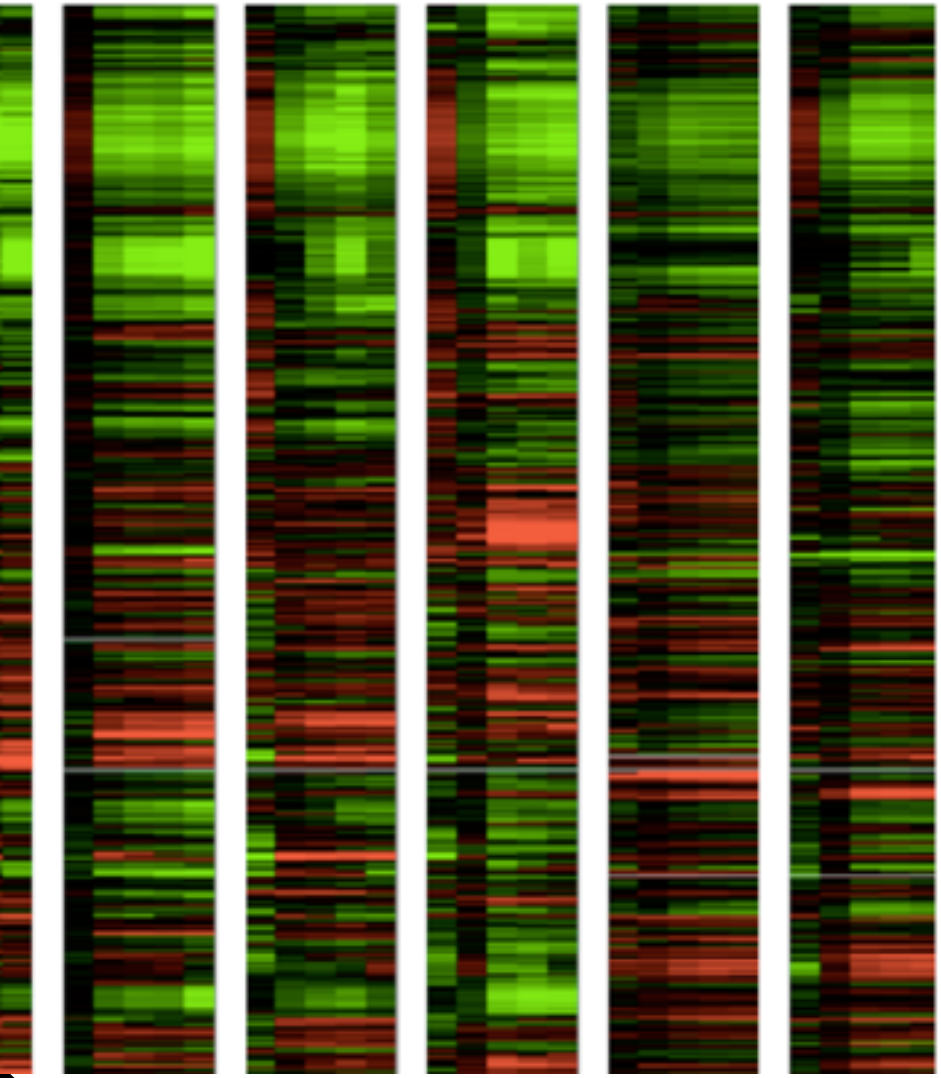
Respect the **color blind**

Take advantage of **perceptual color spaces**

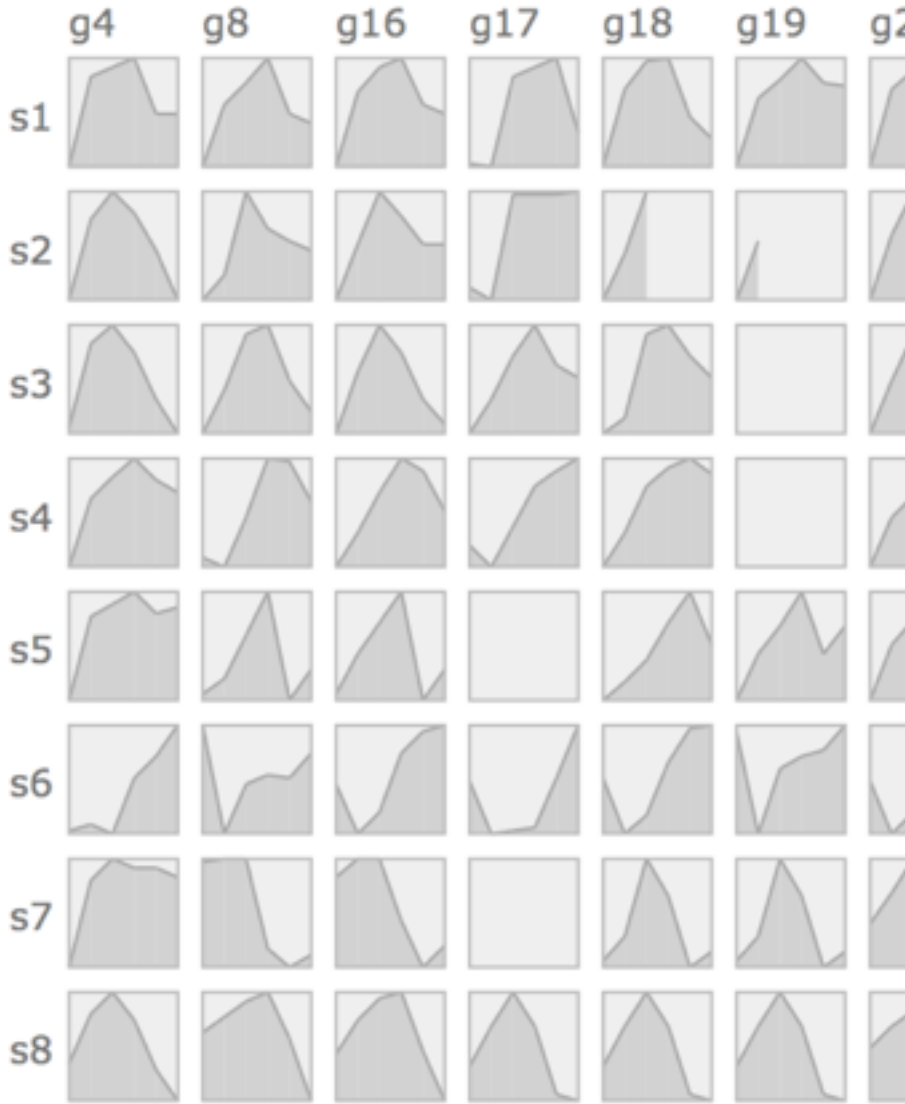
Perceptual Re-designs

Gene Expression Time-Series [Meyer et al 11]

Color Encoding



Position Encoding

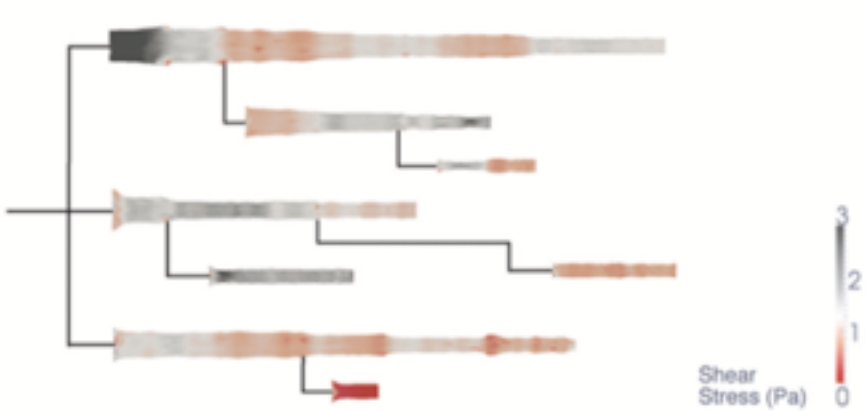


Artery Visualization [Borkin et al 11]

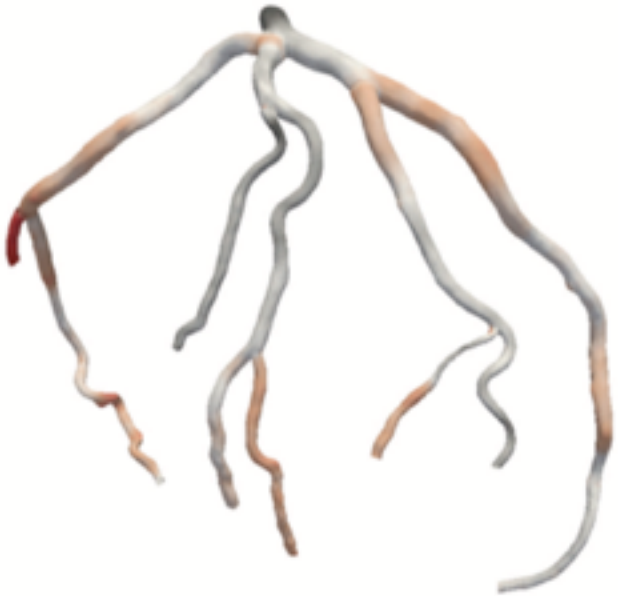
Rainbow Palette

Diverging Palette

2D



3D



Artery Visualization [Borkin et al 11]

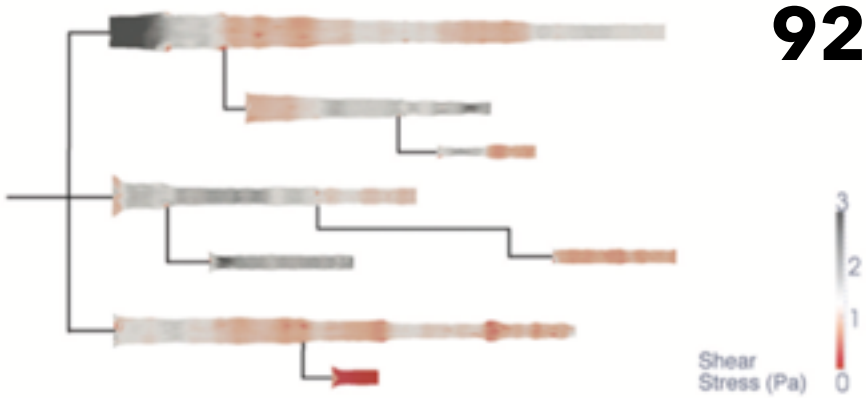
Rainbow Palette

Diverging Palette

2D

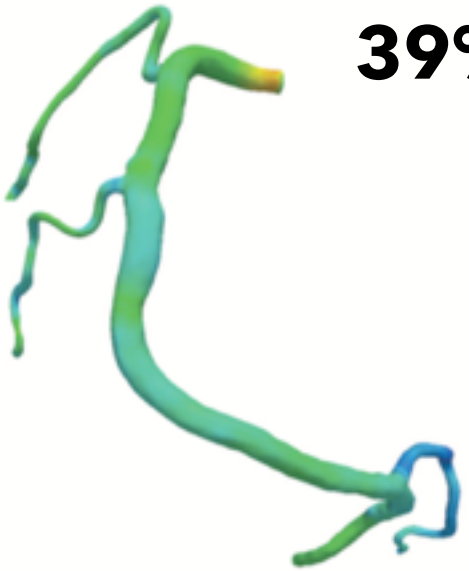
Accuracy: **62%**

92%

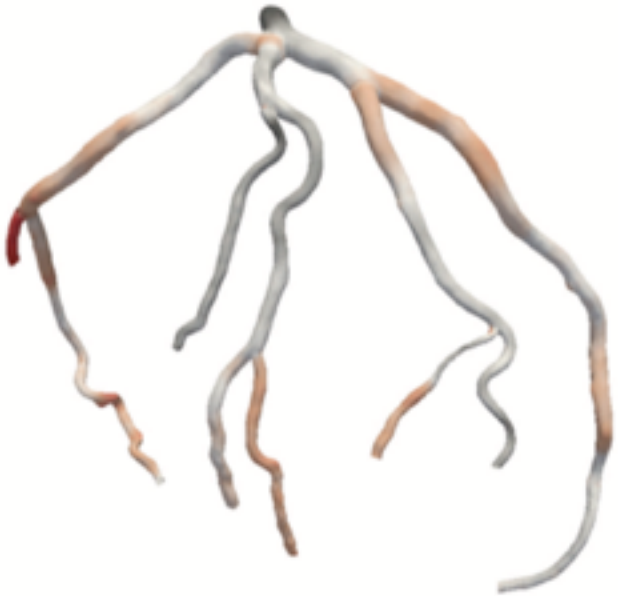


3D

39%



71%



Interaction

Taxonomy of Interactions

Taxonomy of Interactions

Data and View Specification

Visualize, Filter, Sort, Derive

Taxonomy of Interactions

Data and View Specification
Visualize, Filter, Sort, Derive

View Manipulation
Select, Navigate, Coordinate, Organize

Taxonomy of Interactions

Data and View Specification
Visualize, Filter, Sort, Derive

View Manipulation
Select, Navigate, Coordinate, Organize

Process and Provenance
Record, Annotate, Share, Guide

Selection

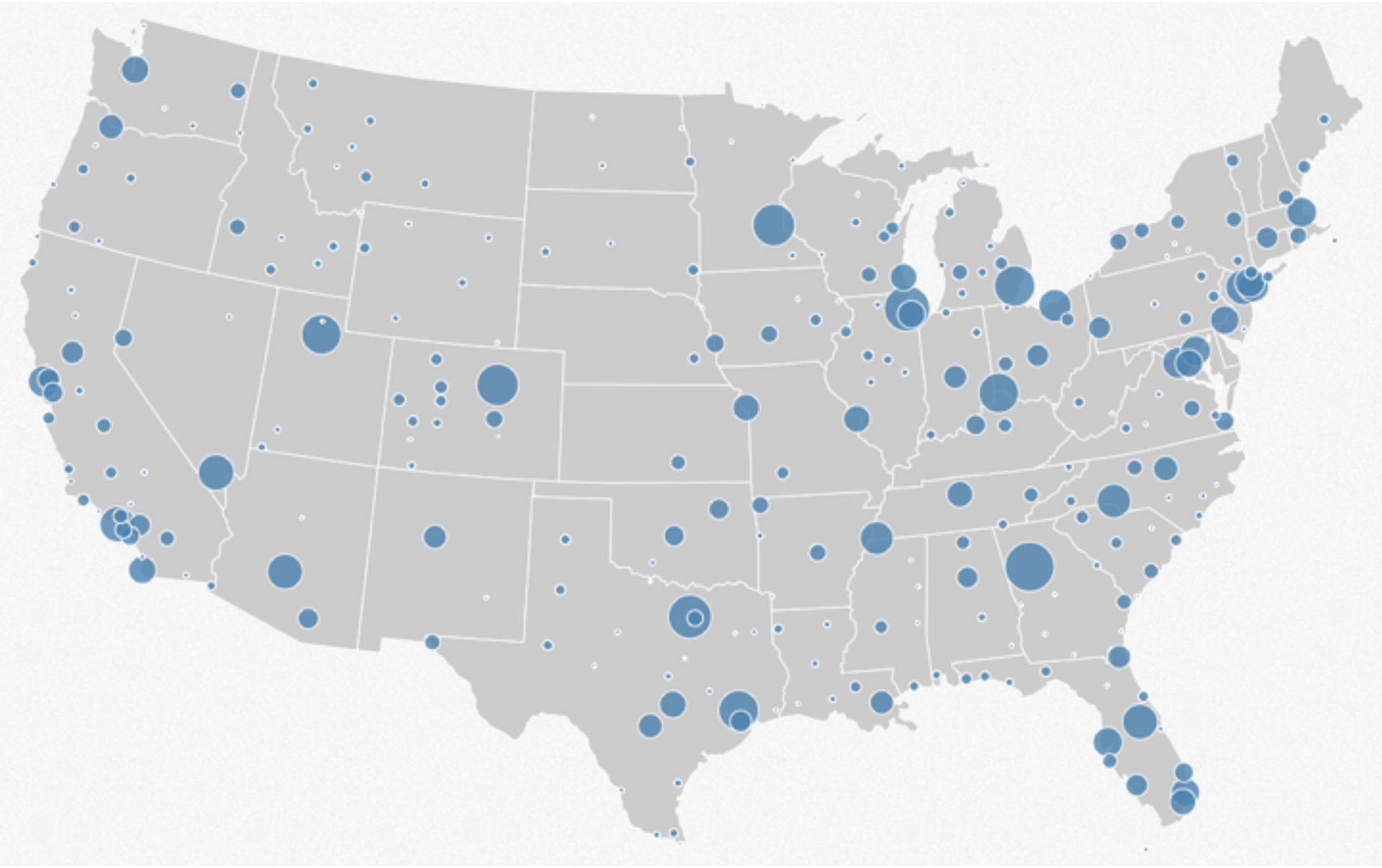
Basic Selection Methods

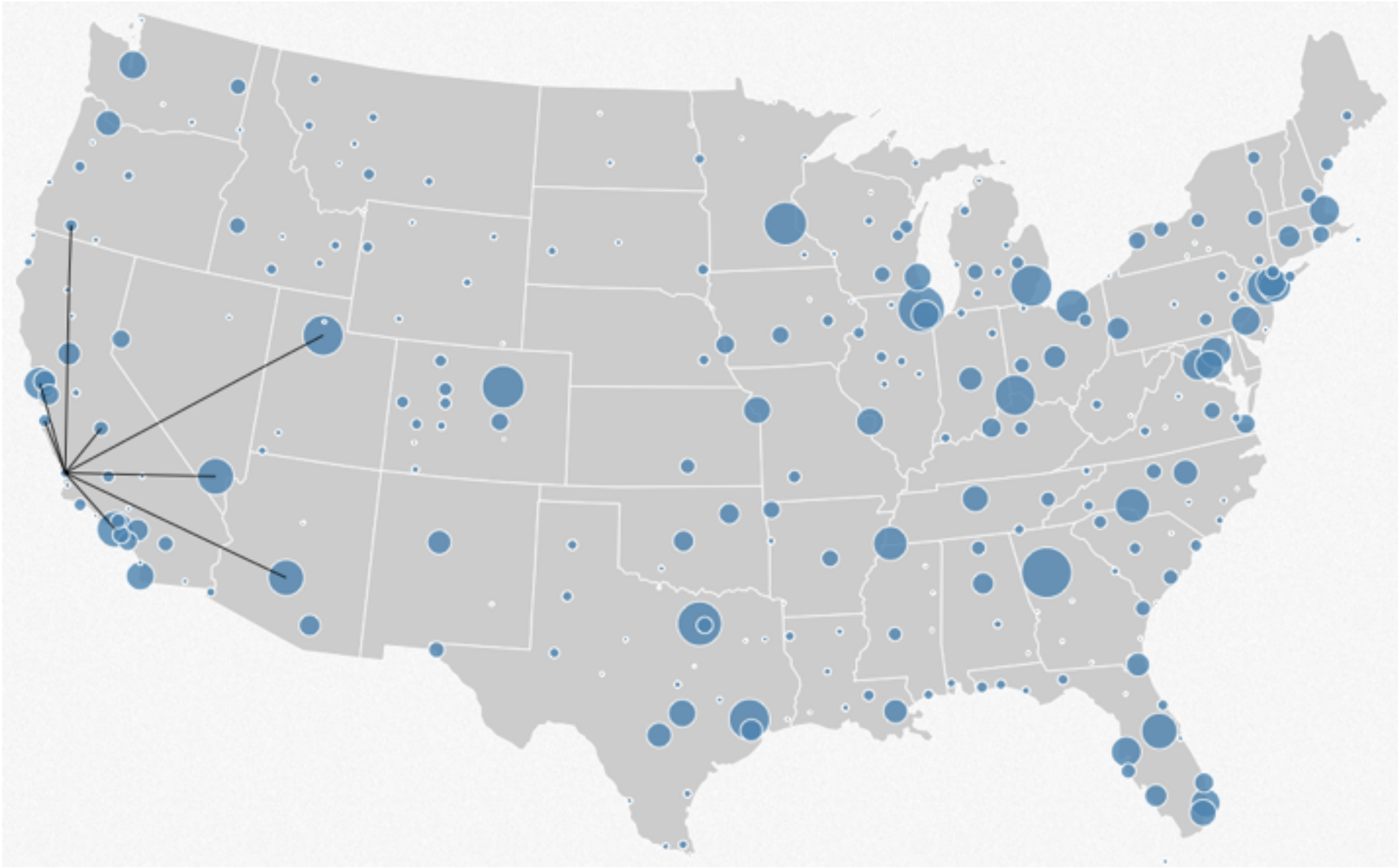
Point Selection

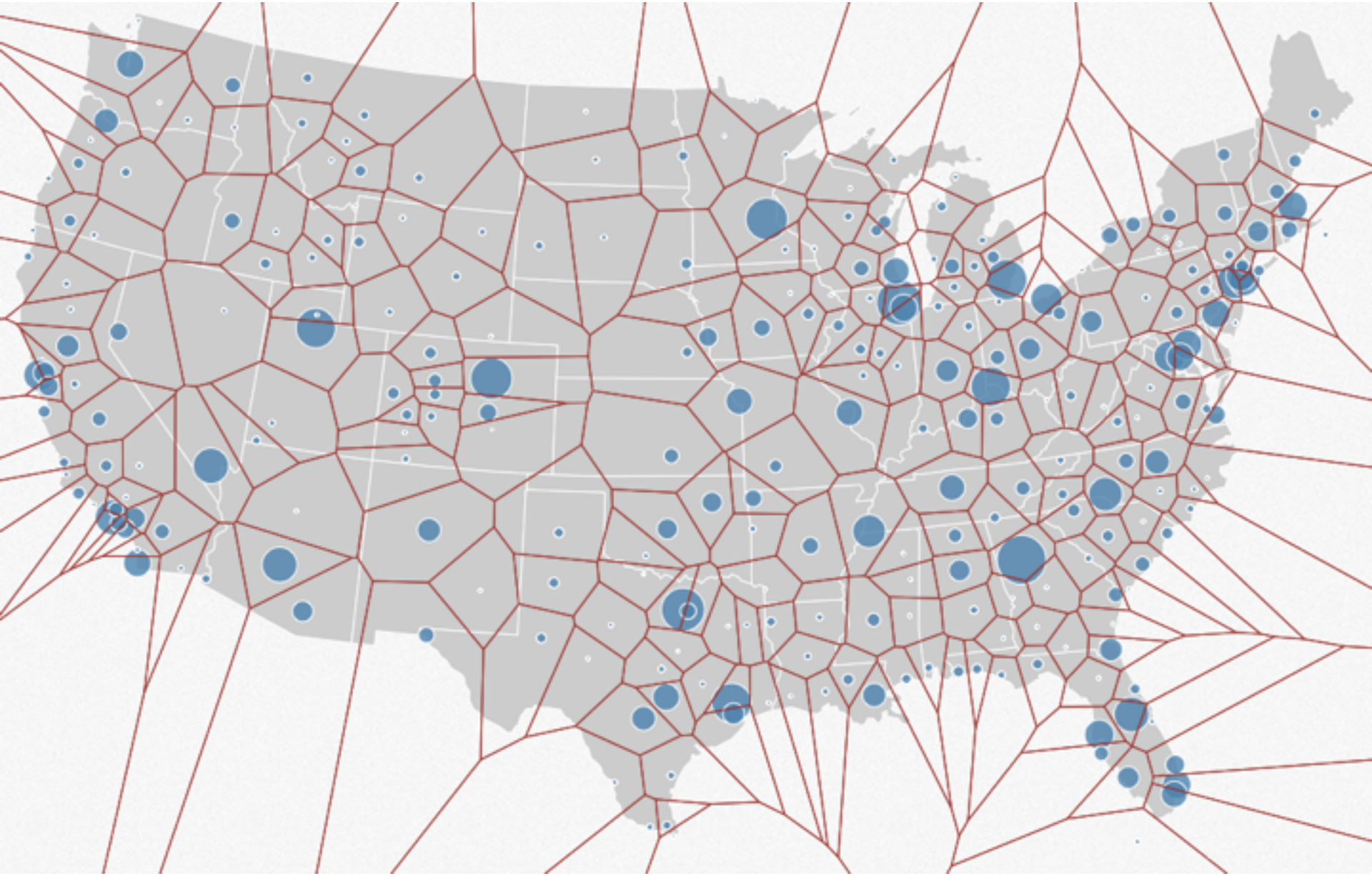
Mouse Hover / Click

Touch / Tap

Select Nearby Element (e.g., Bubble Cursor)







Basic Selection Methods

Point Selection

Mouse Hover / Click

Touch / Tap

Select Nearby Element (e.g., Bubble Cursor)

Region Selection

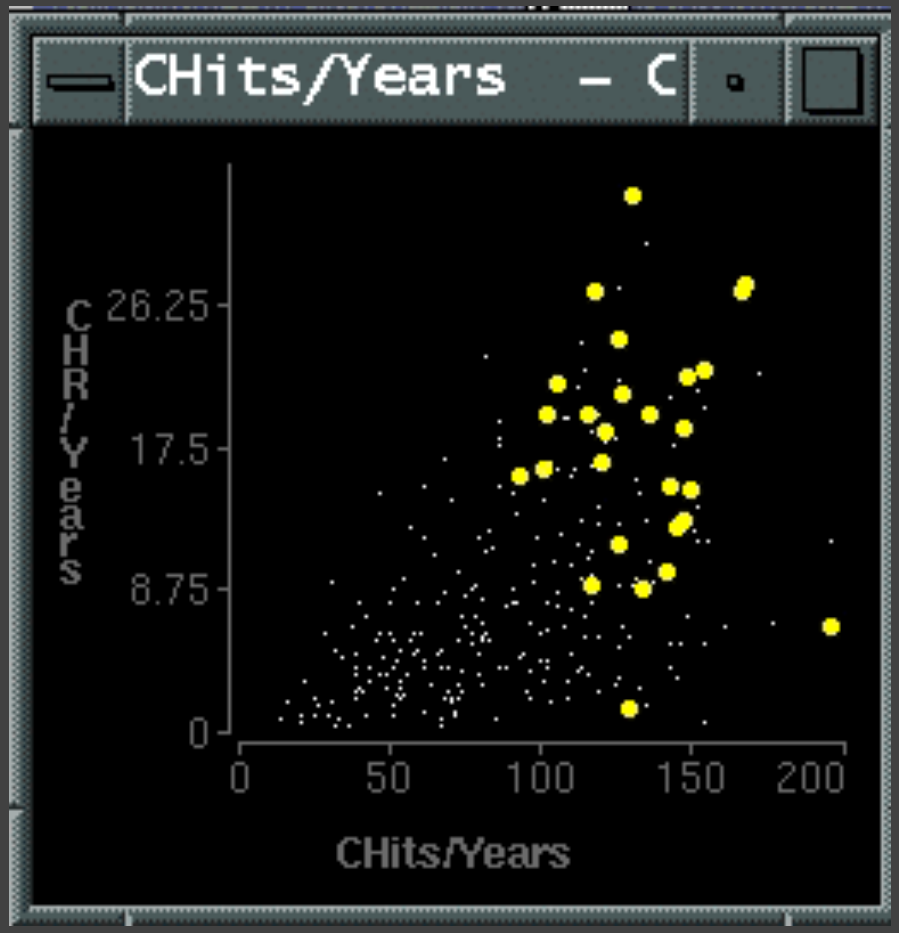
Rubber-band (rectangular) or Lasso (freehand)

Area cursors (“brushes”)

Brushing & Linking

Brushing

Direct attention to a subset of data [Wills 95]

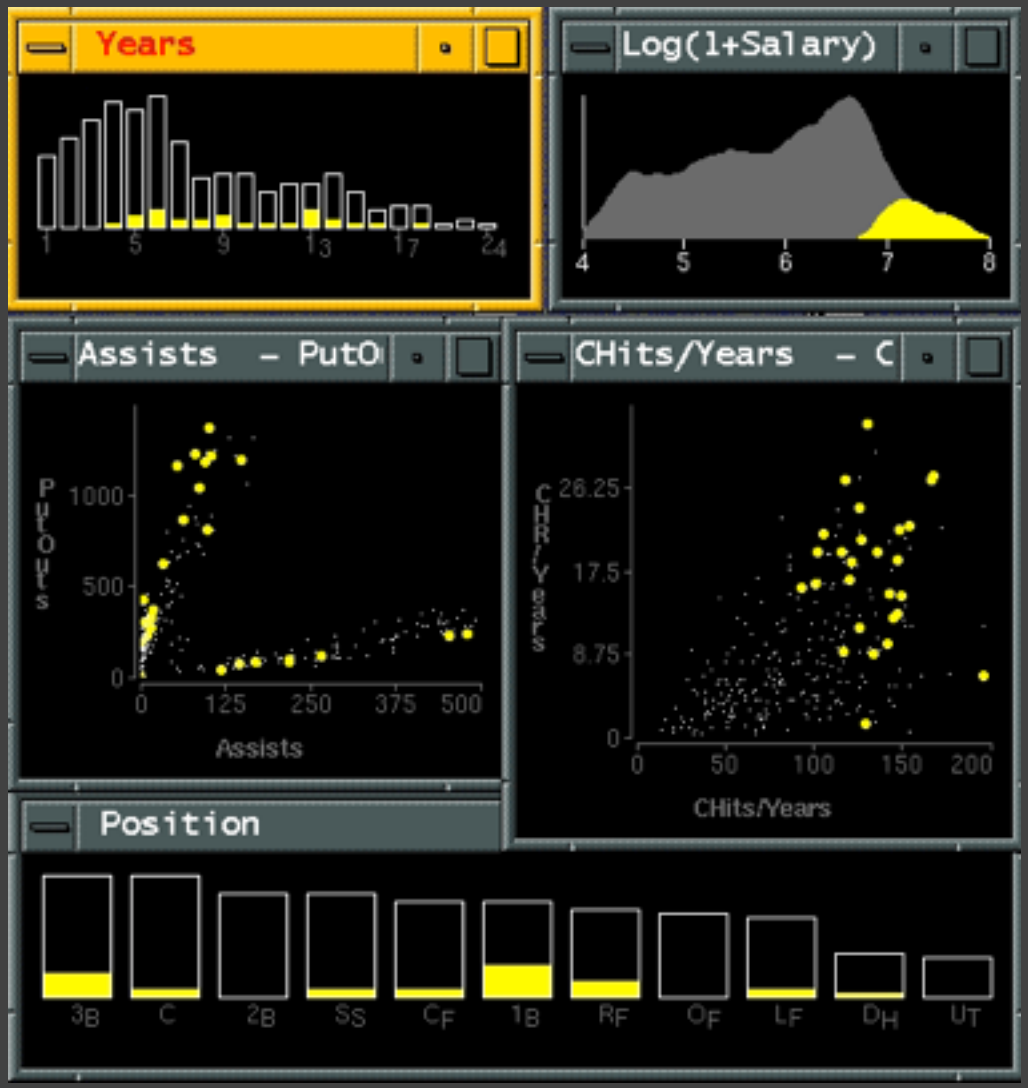


Brushing & Linking

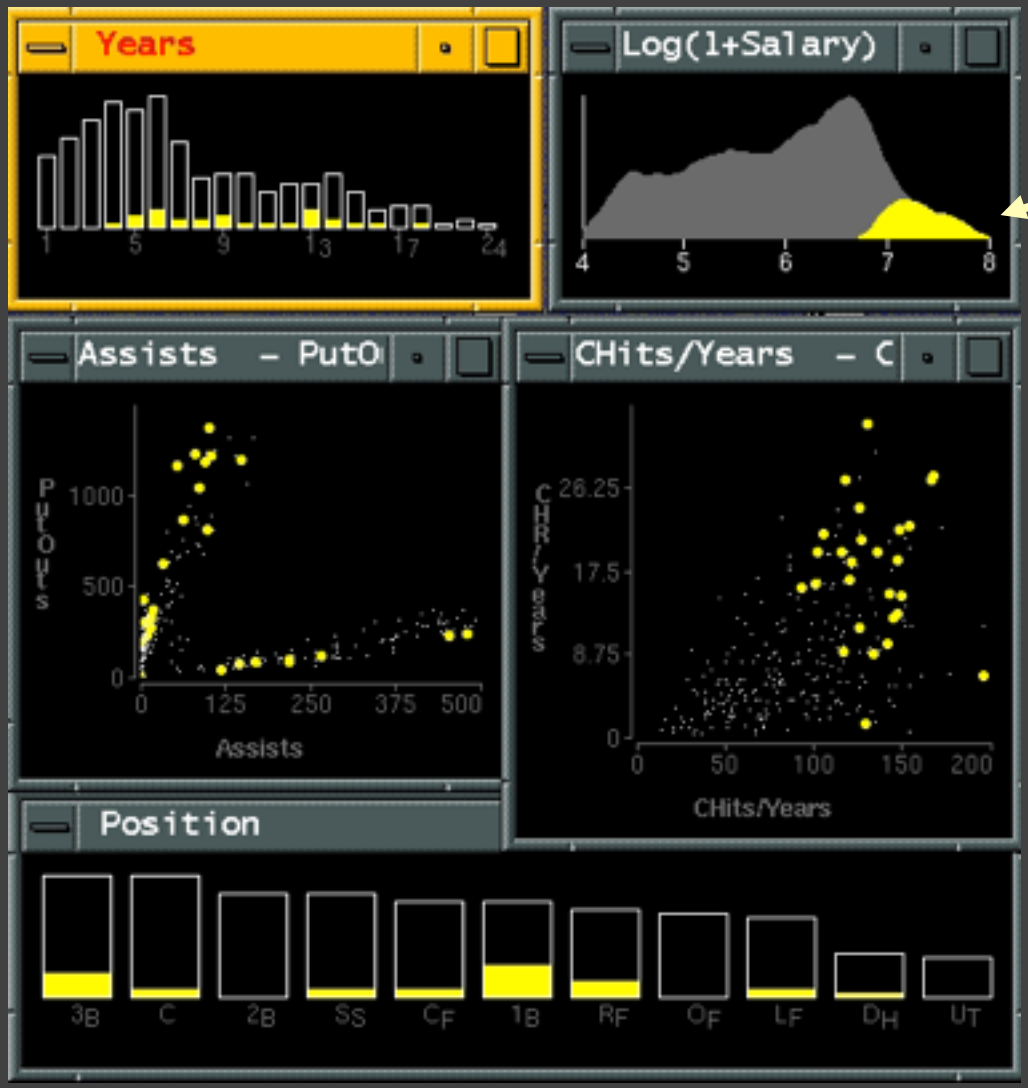
Select ("***brush***") a subset of data
See selected data in other views

The components must be ***linked***
by *tuple* (matching data points), or
by *query* (matching range or values)

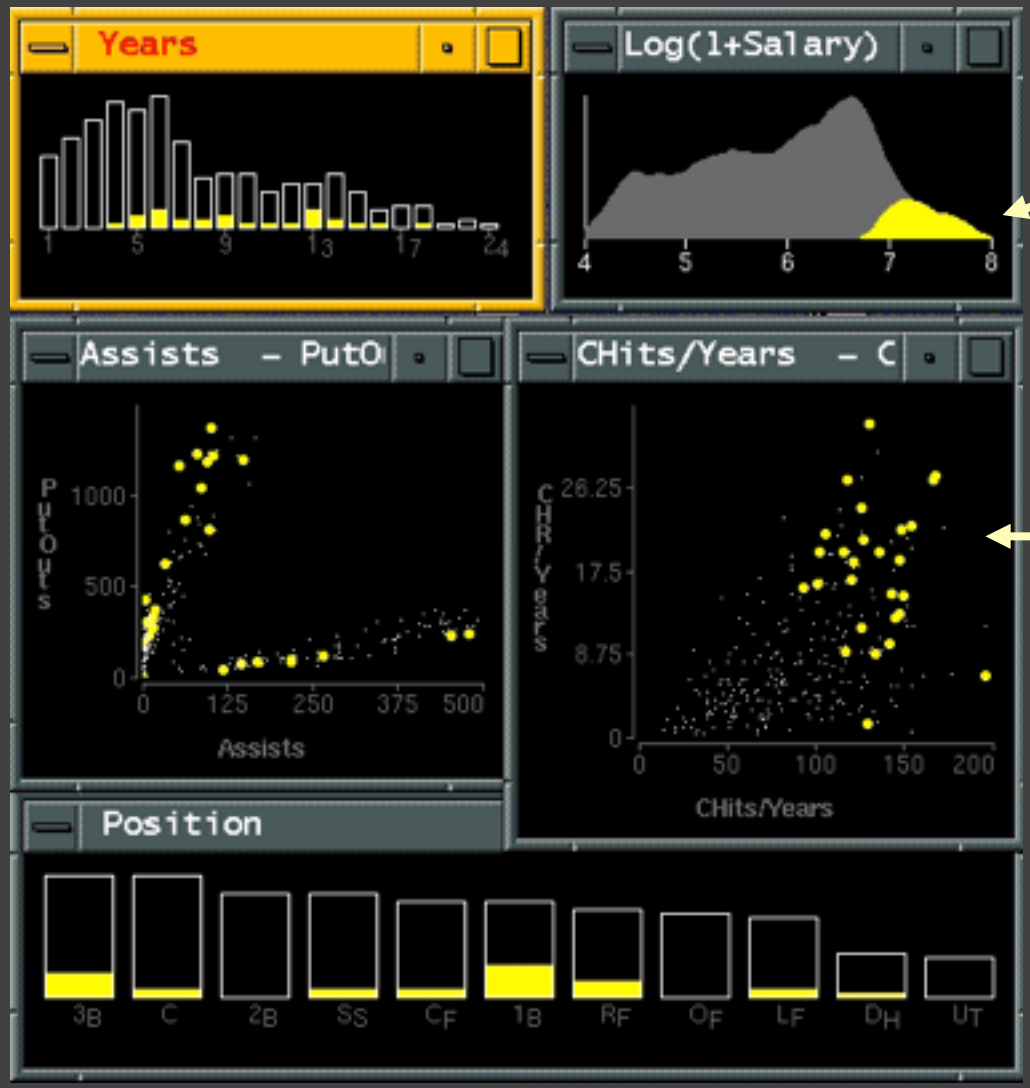
Baseball Statistics [Wills 95]



Baseball Statistics [Wills 95]



Baseball Statistics [Wills 95]

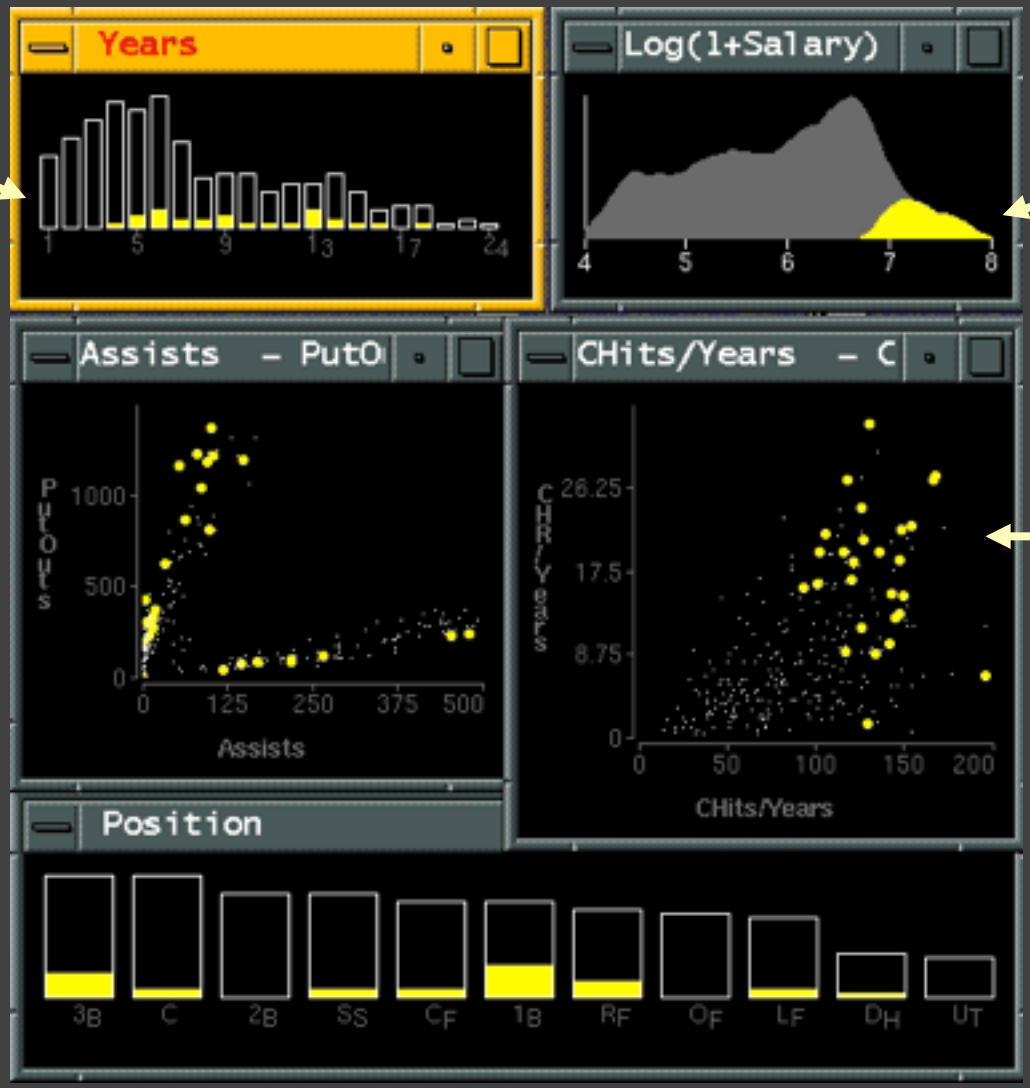


select high salaries

avg career HRs vs avg career hits (batting ability)

Baseball Statistics [Wills 95]

how long in majors

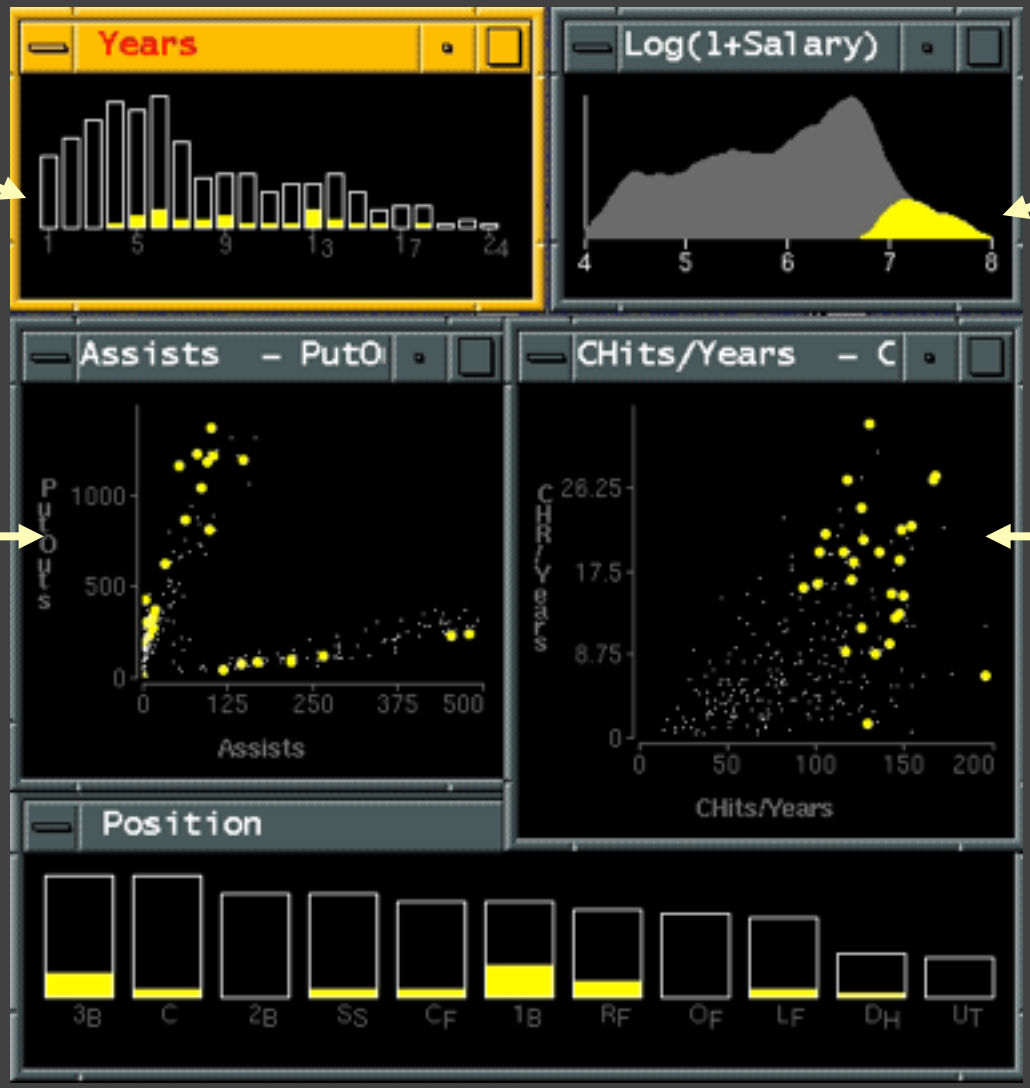


select high salaries

avg career HRs vs avg career hits (batting ability)

Baseball Statistics [Wills 95]

how long in majors



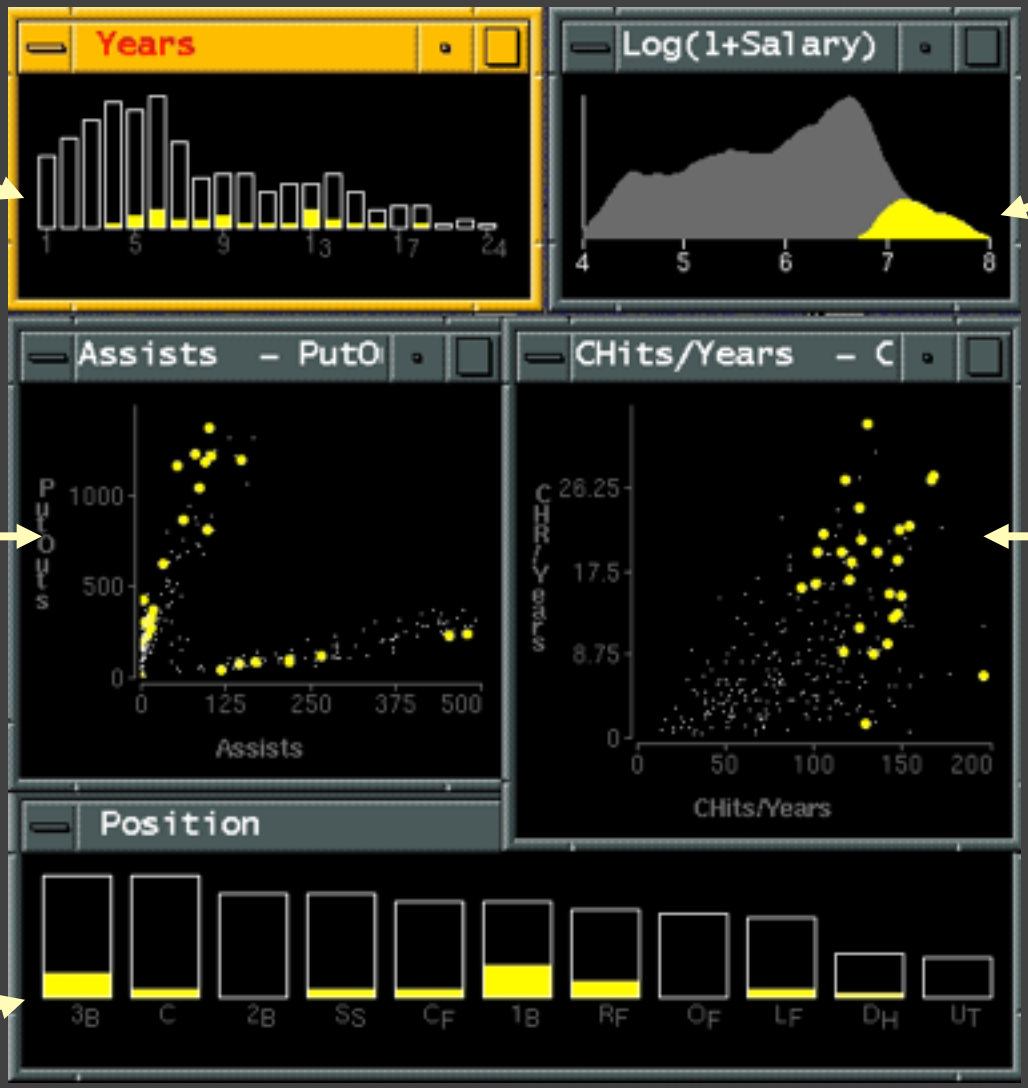
select high salaries

avg assists vs avg putouts (fielding ability)

avg career HRs vs avg career hits (batting ability)

Baseball Statistics [Wills 95]

how long in majors



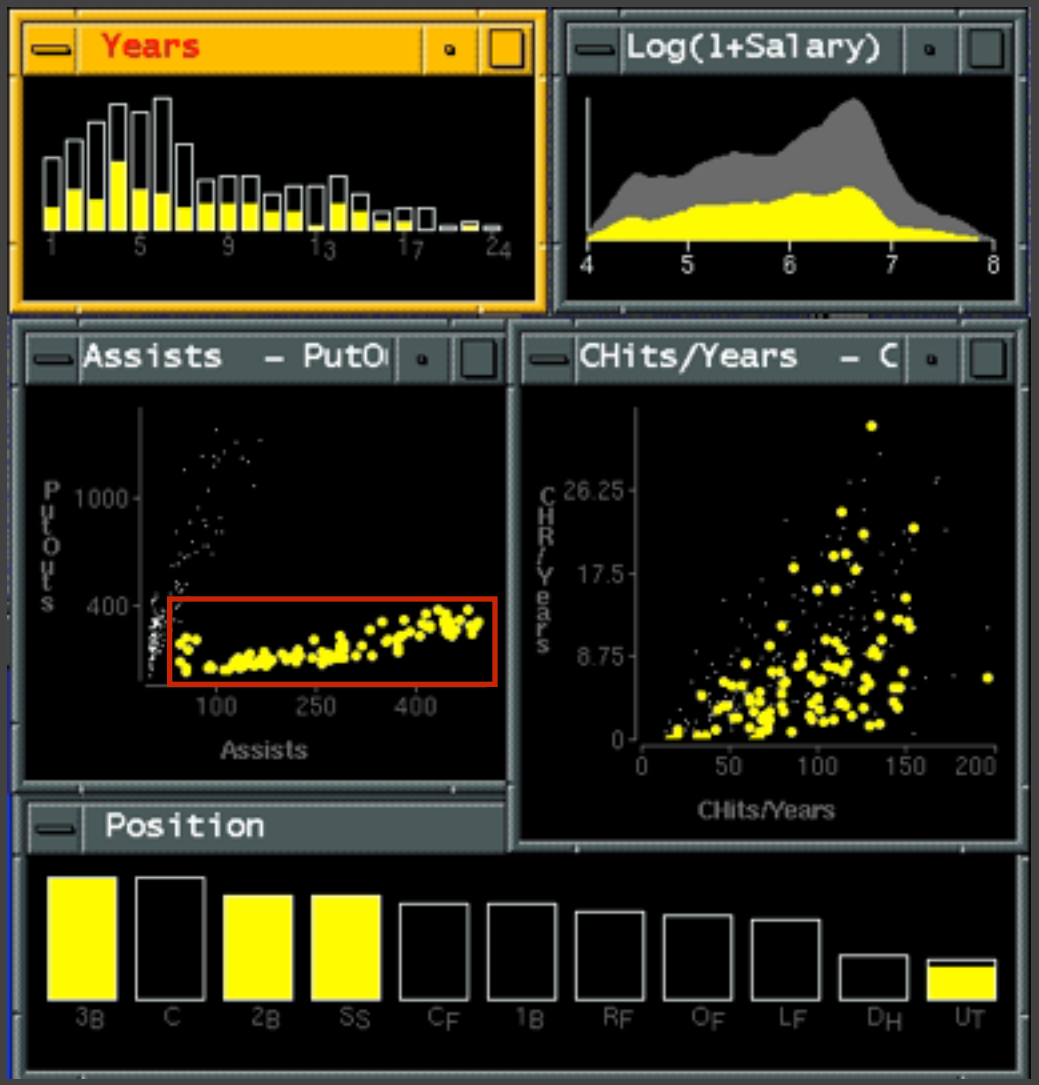
select high salaries

avg assists vs avg putouts (fielding ability)

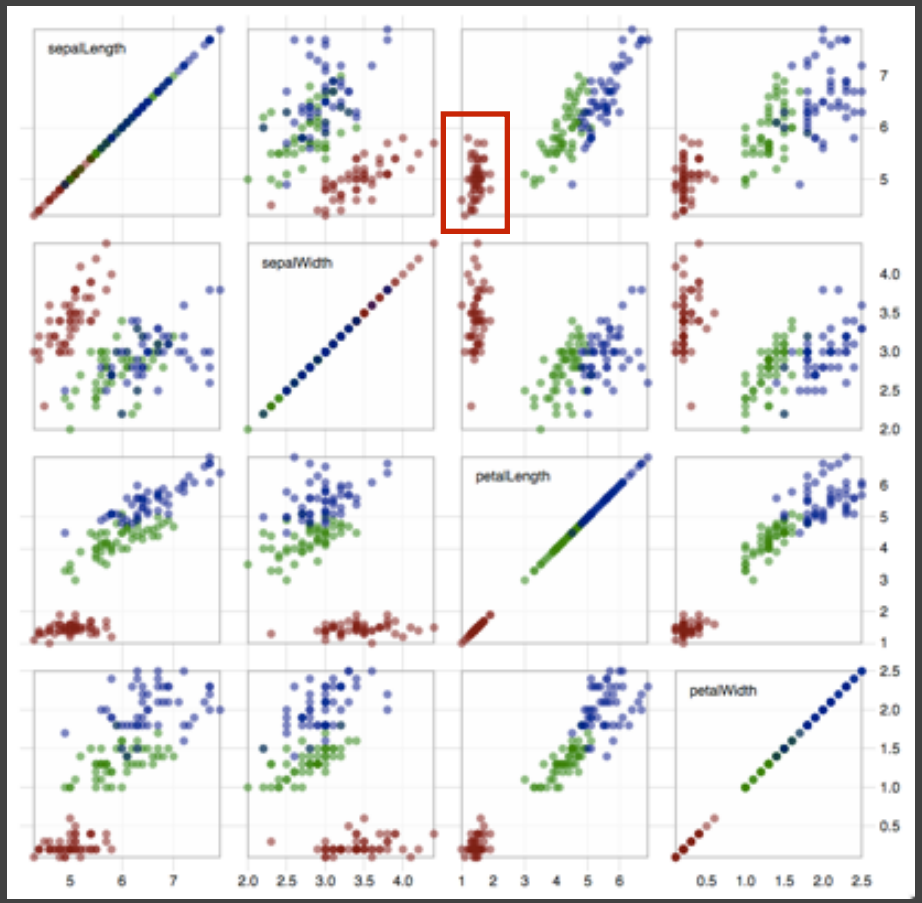
avg career HRs vs avg career hits (batting ability)

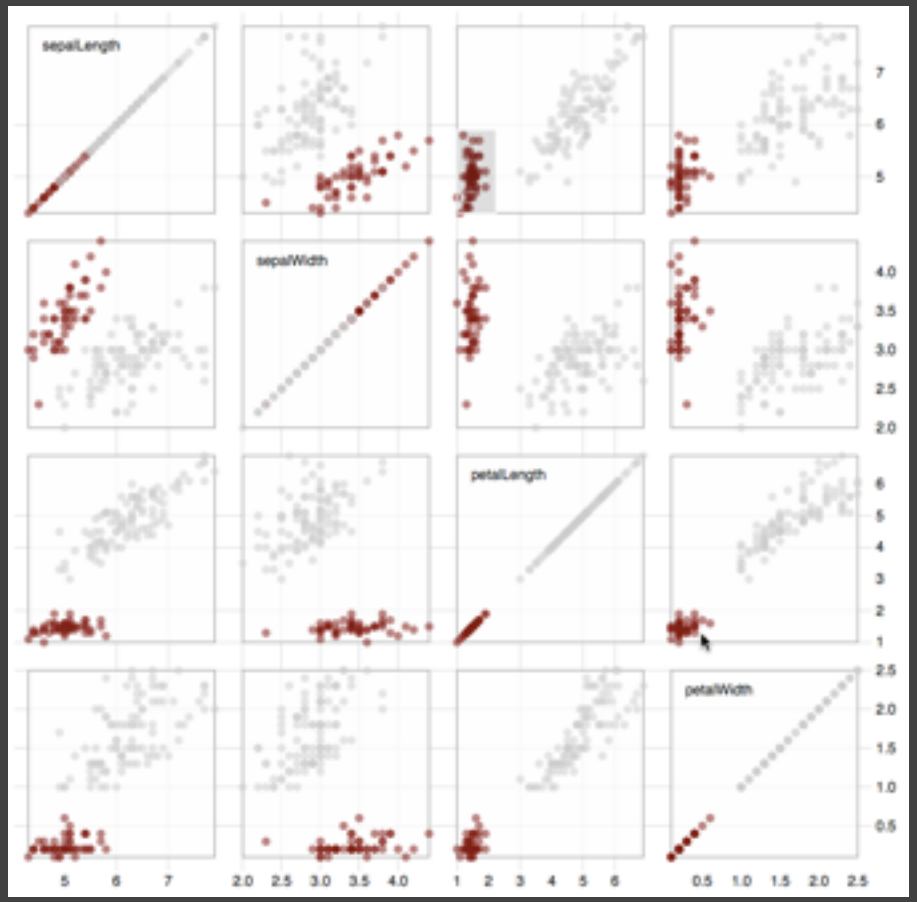
distribution of positions played

Linking Assists to Positions



Brushing Scatterplots





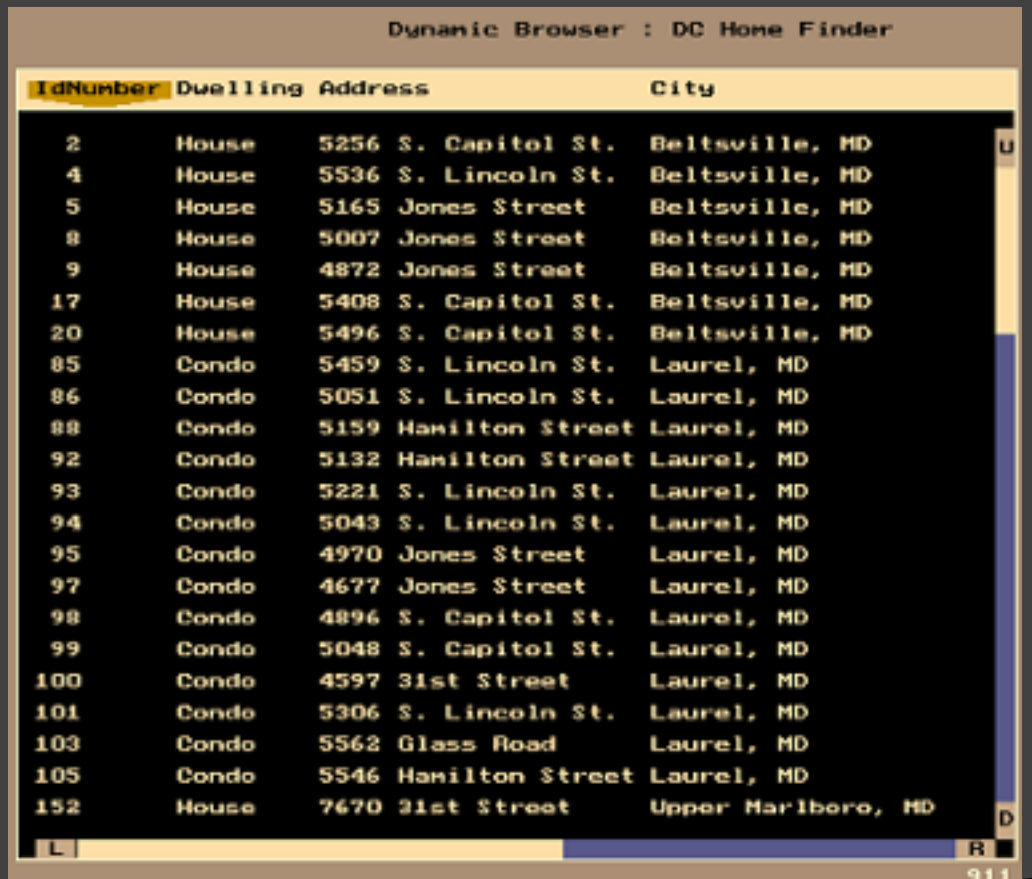
Dynamic Queries

Query & Results

SELECT house FROM seattle_homes

WHERE price < 1,000,000 AND bedrooms > 2

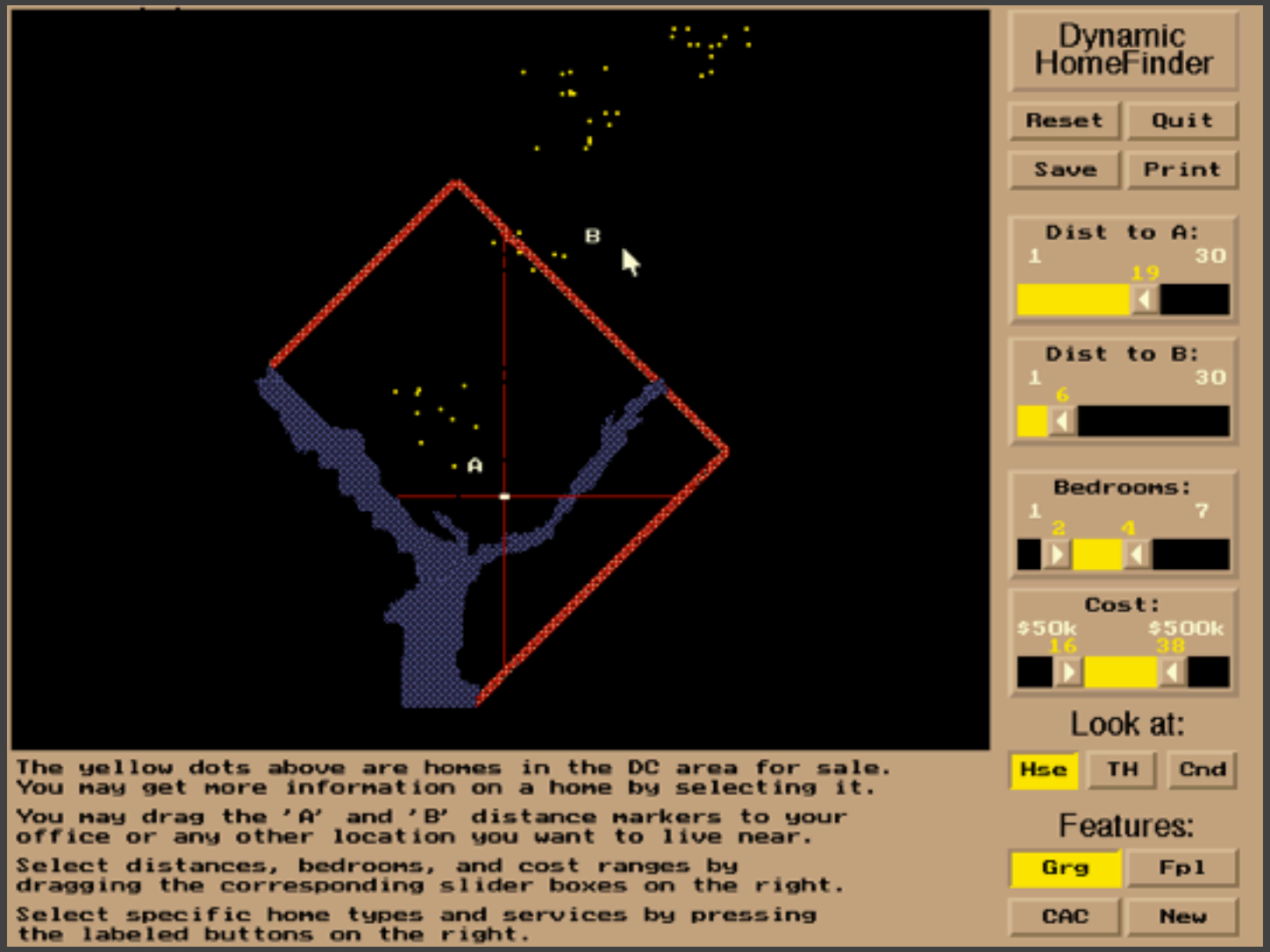
ORDER BY price



Issues with Textual Queries

1. For programmers
2. Rigid syntax
3. Only shows exact matches
4. Too few or too many hits
5. No hint on how to reformulate the query
6. Slow question-answer loop
7. Results returned as table

HomeFinder

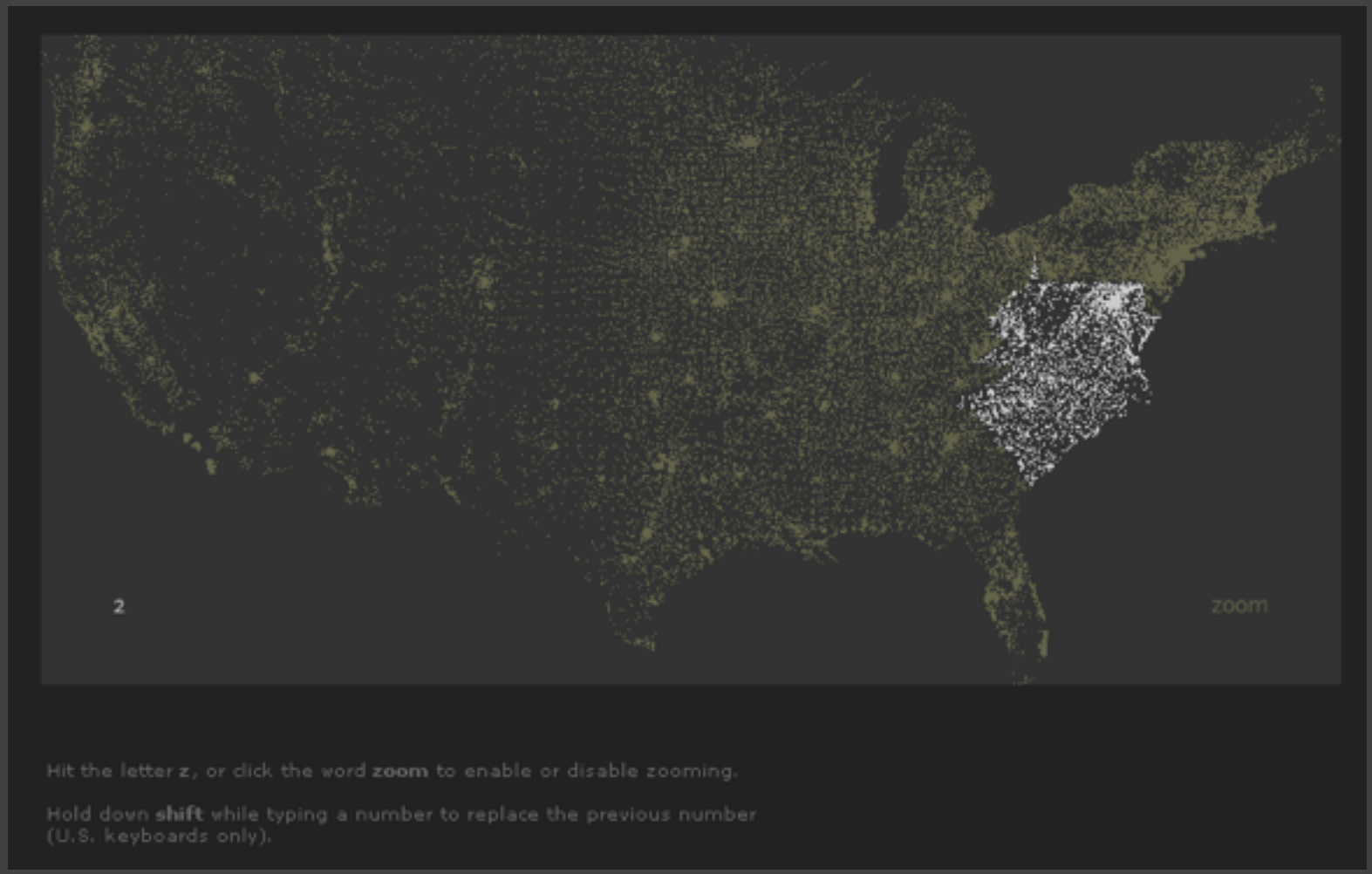


[Williamson and Shneiderman 92]

Direct Manipulation

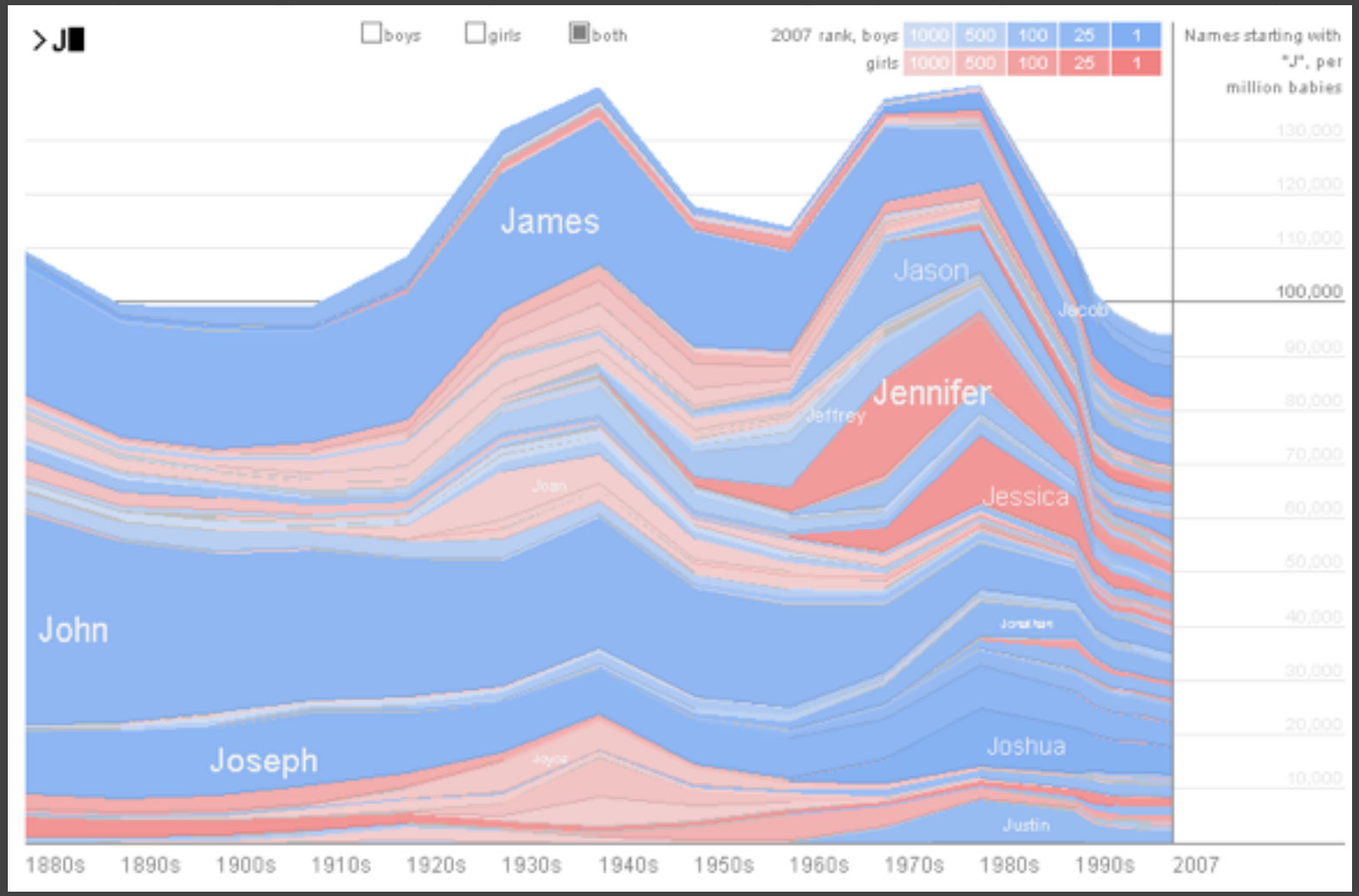
1. Visual representation of objects and actions
2. Rapid, incremental and reversible actions
3. Selection by pointing (not typing)
4. Immediate and continuous display of results

Zipdecode [Fry 04]



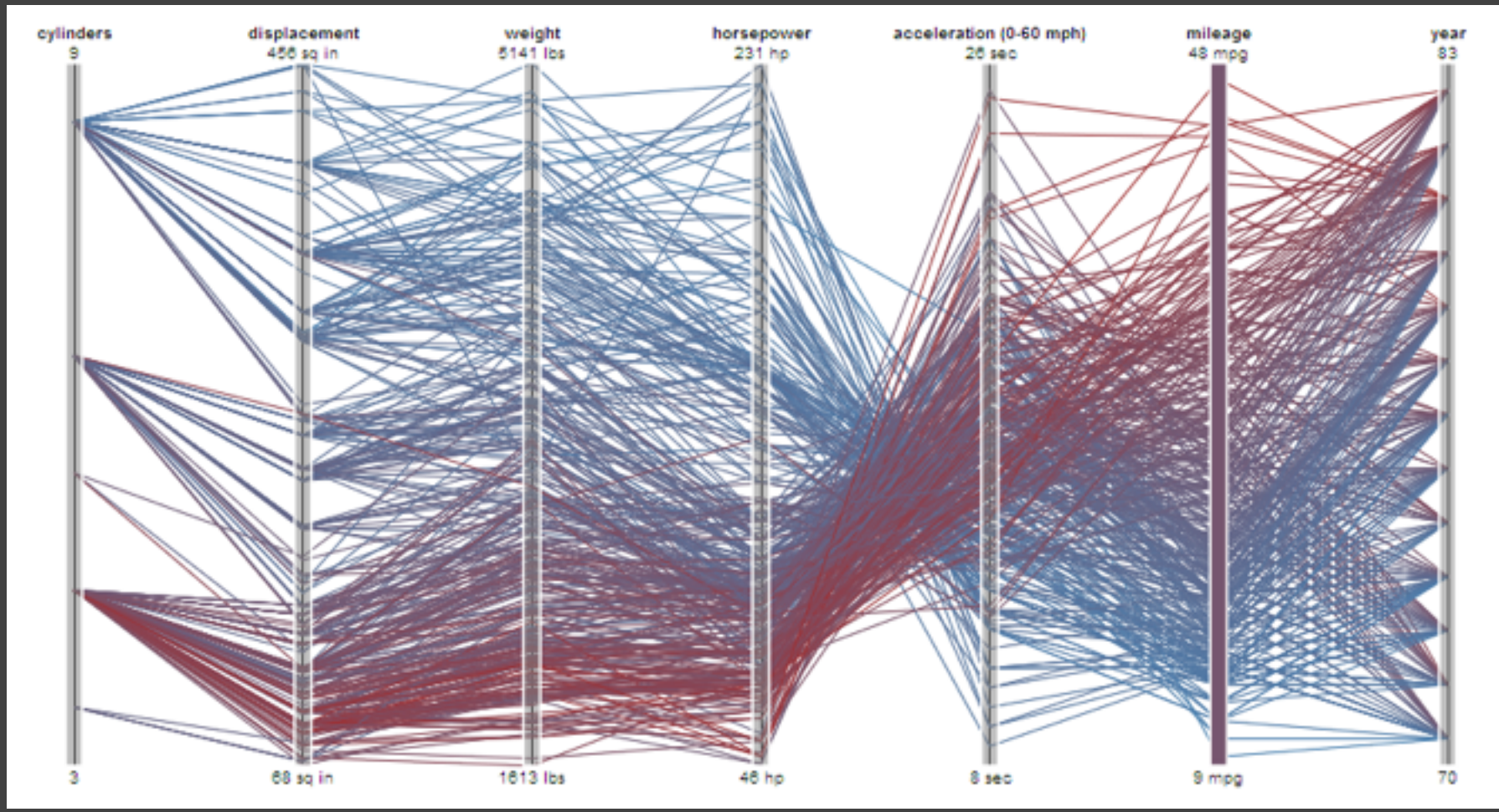
http://benfry.com/zipdecode/

NameVoyager [Wattenberg 06]

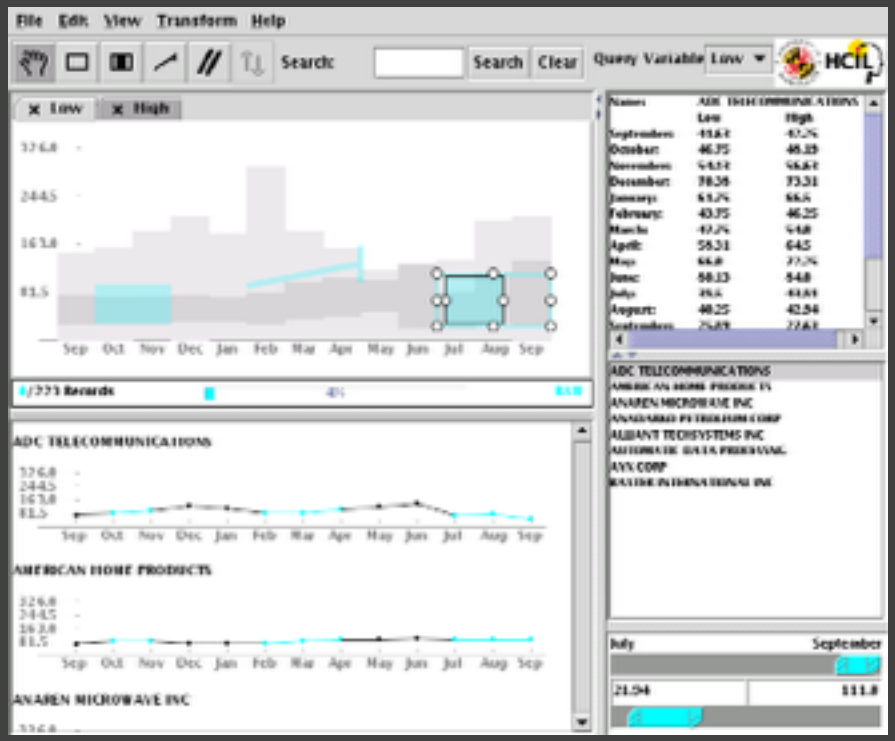


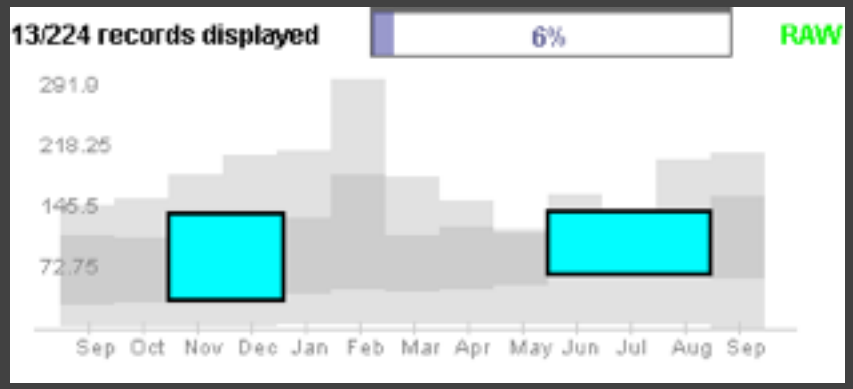
http://www.babynamewizard.com/voyager

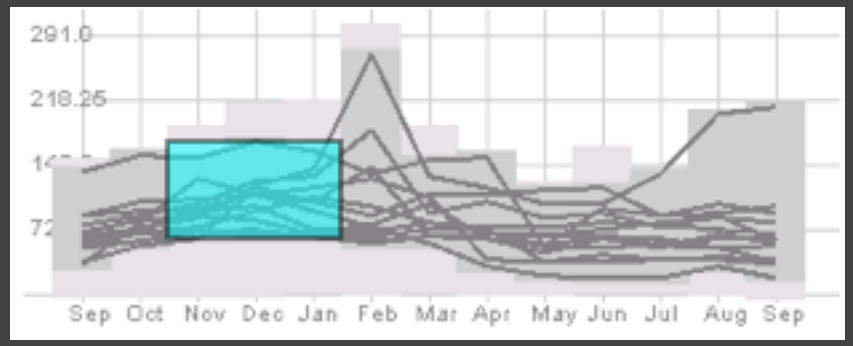
Parallel Coordinates [Inselberg]



TimeSearcher [Hocheiser 02]

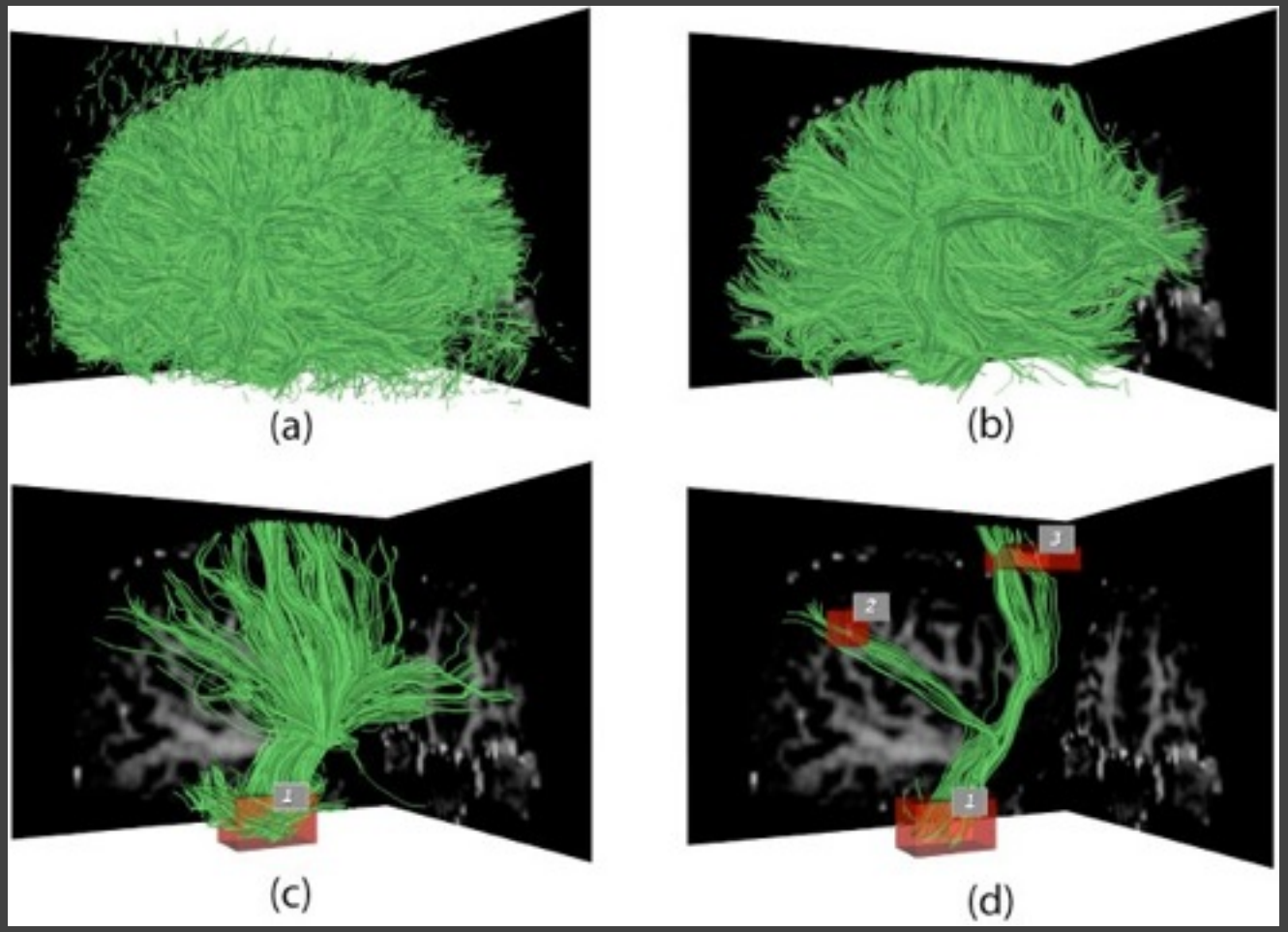




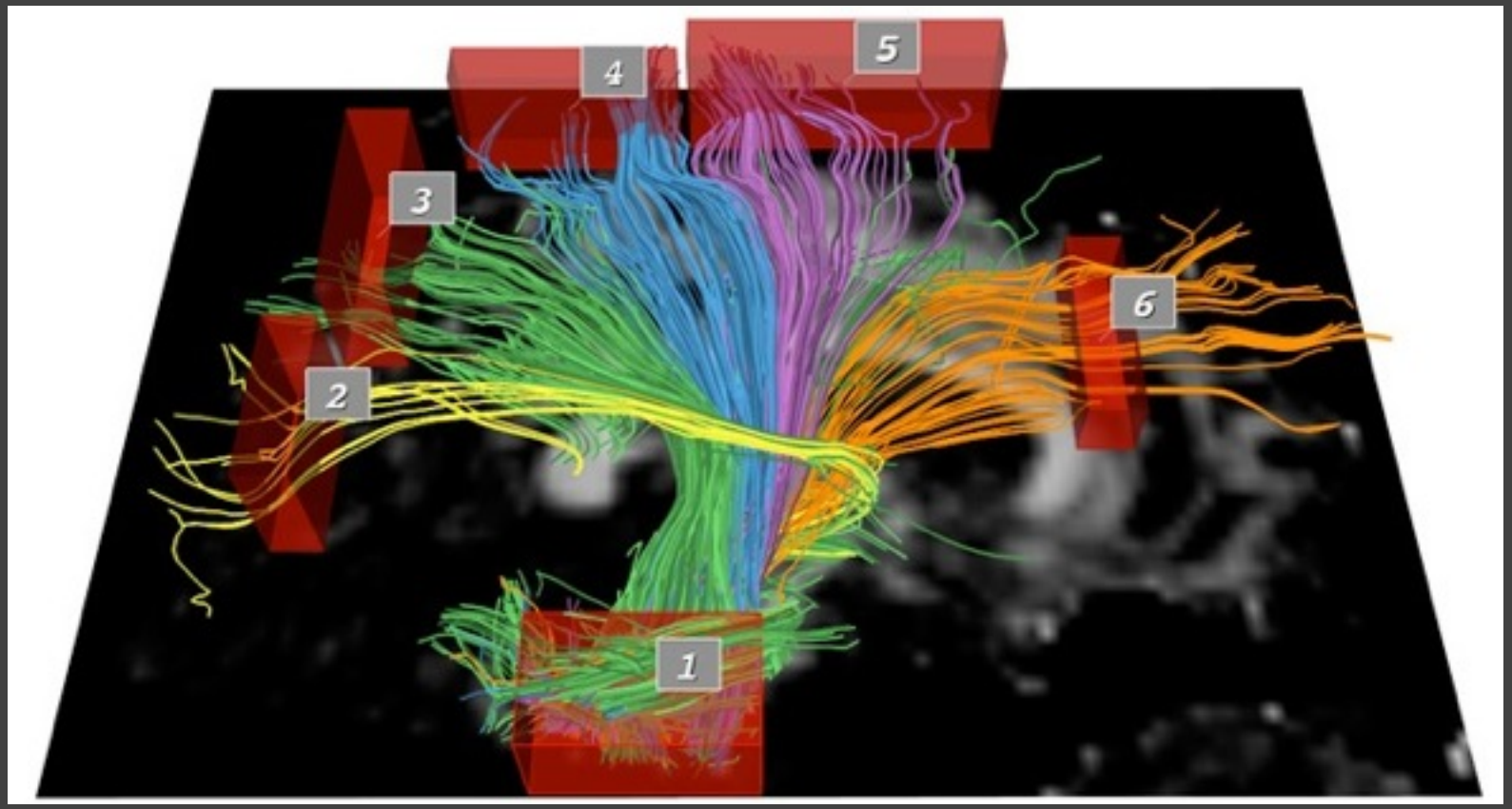


Builds on Wattenberg's [2001] idea for sketch-based queries of time-series data.

3D Dynamic Queries [Akers 04]



3D Dynamic Queries [Akers 04]



Pros & Cons

Pros

Controls useful for both novices and experts

Quick way to explore data

Pros & Cons

Pros

Controls useful for both novices and experts

Quick way to explore data

Cons

Simple queries

Lots of controls

Amount of data shown limited by screen space

Who would use these kinds of tools?

Examples

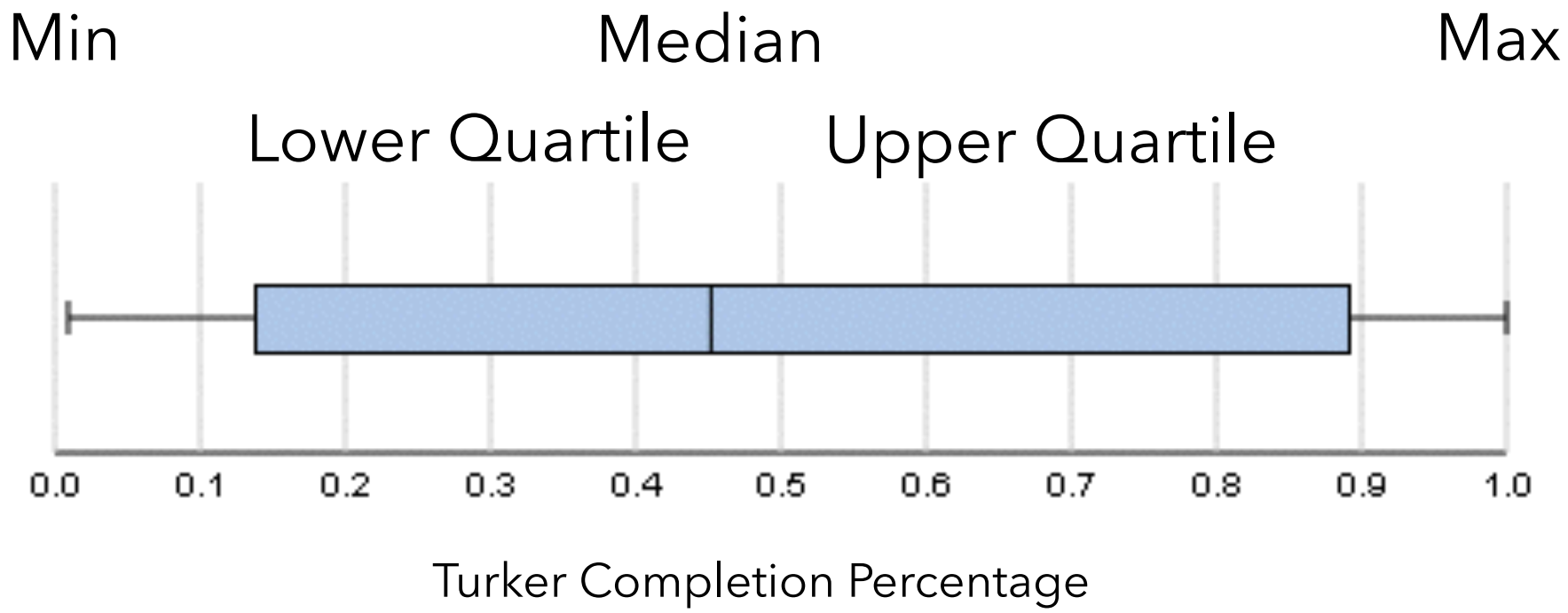
Analysis Example: MTurk Participation

Data Set: Turker Participation

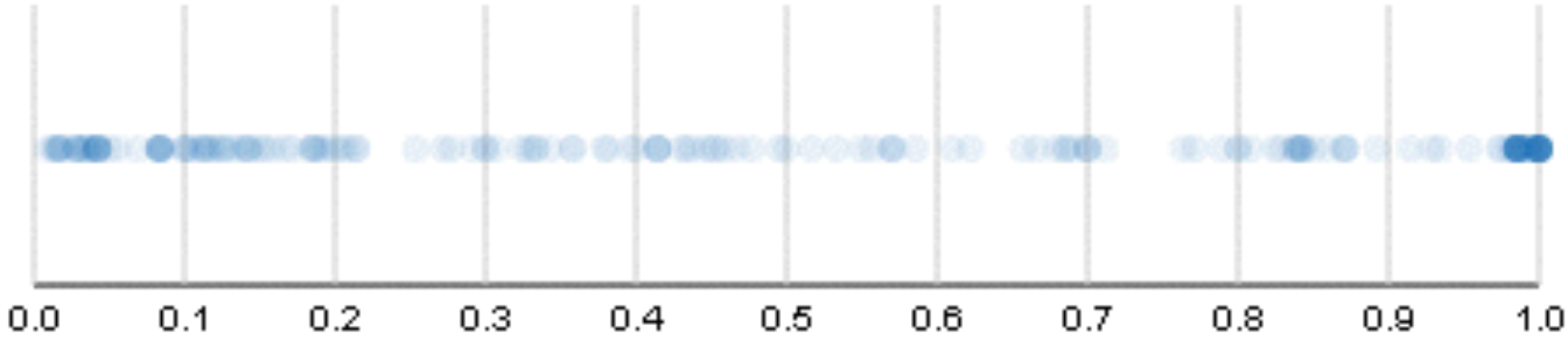
Turker ID	String (N)
Avg. Completion Rate	Number [0,1] (Q)

Collected in 2009 by Heer & Bostock.

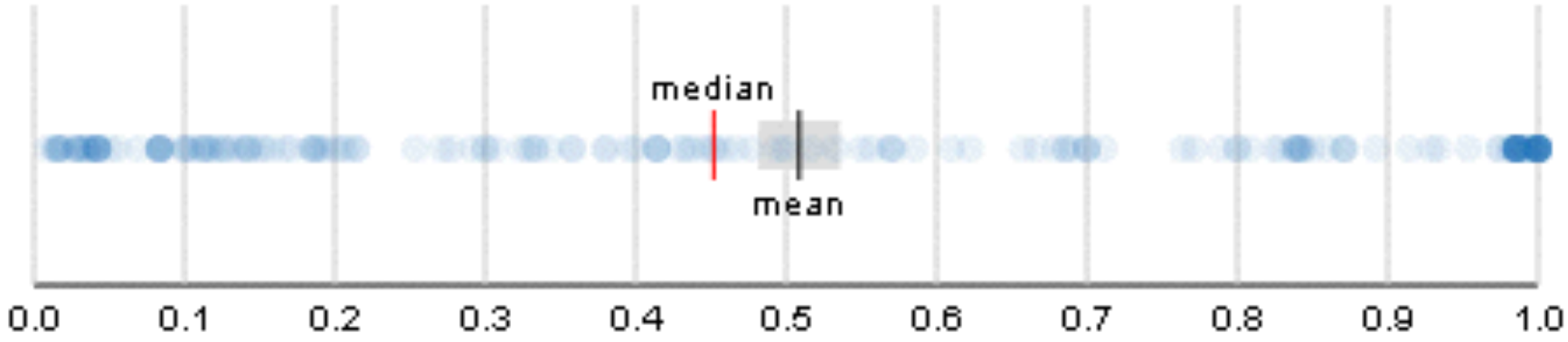
What questions might we ask of the data?
What charts might provide insight?


Min
Median
Max
Lower Quartile
Upper Quartile
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
0.6
0.7
0.8
0.9
1.0
Turker Completion Percentage

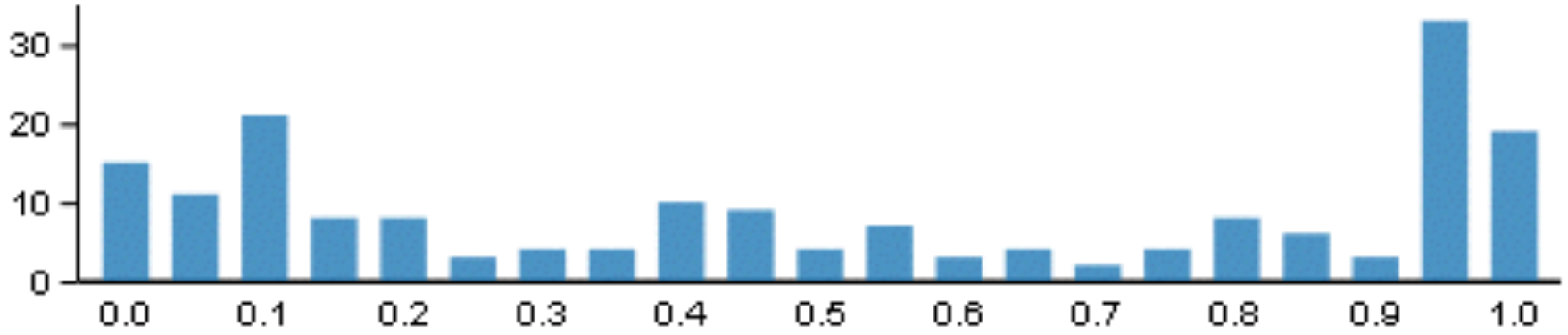
Box Plot



Dot Plot (with transparency for overlap)

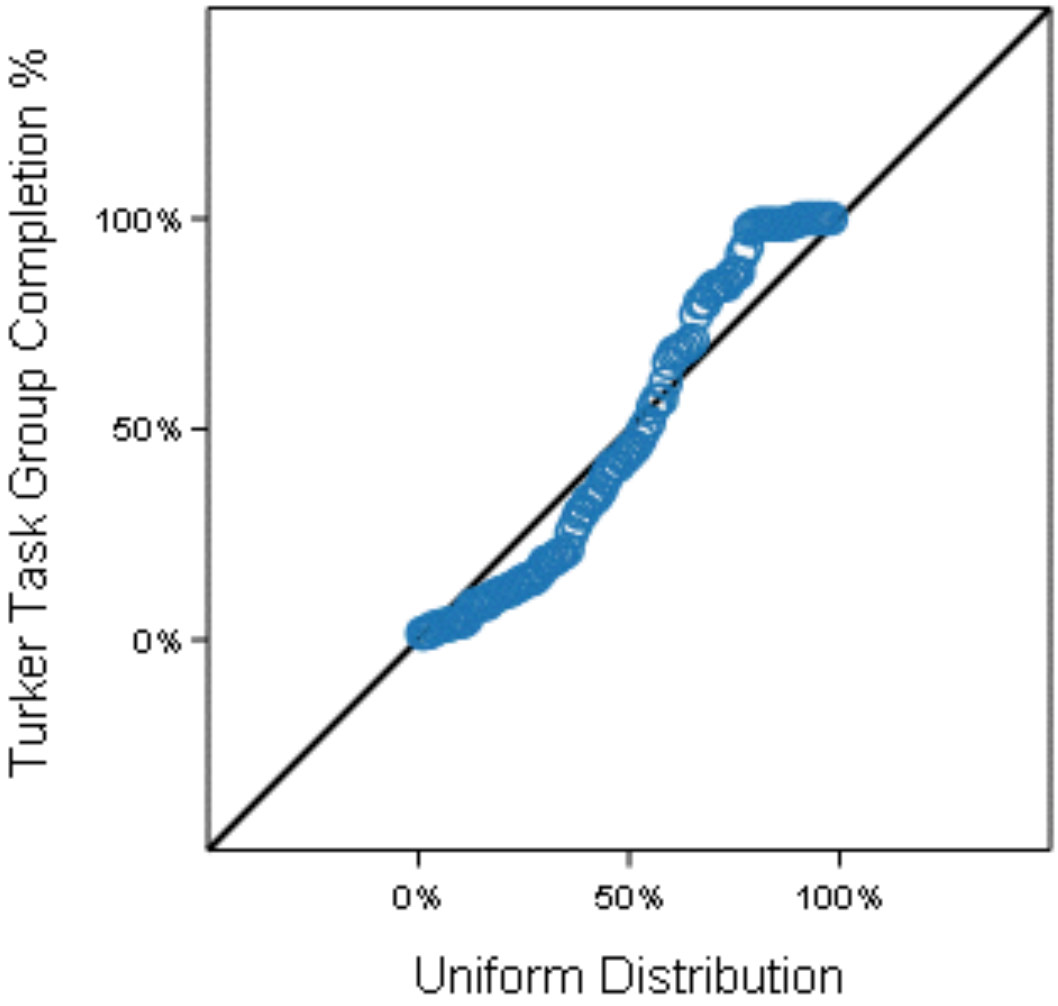


Dot Plot (with Reference Lines)



Turker Completion Percentage

Histogram (binned counts)

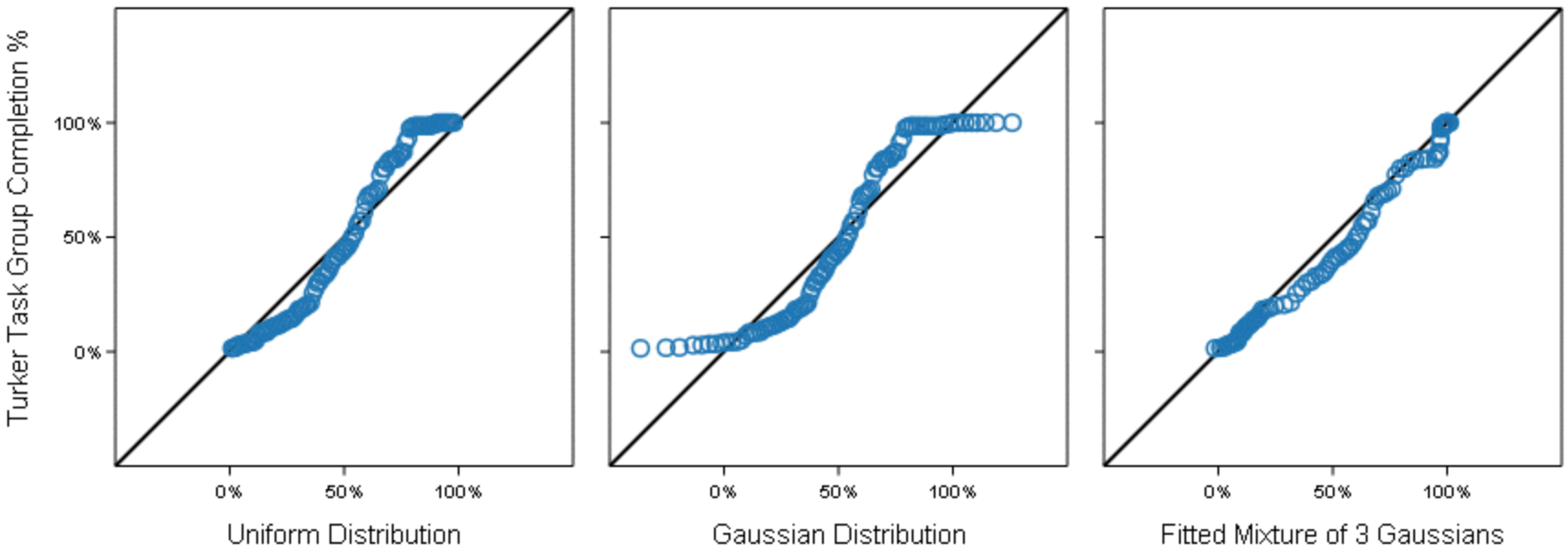


Quantile-Quantile Plot

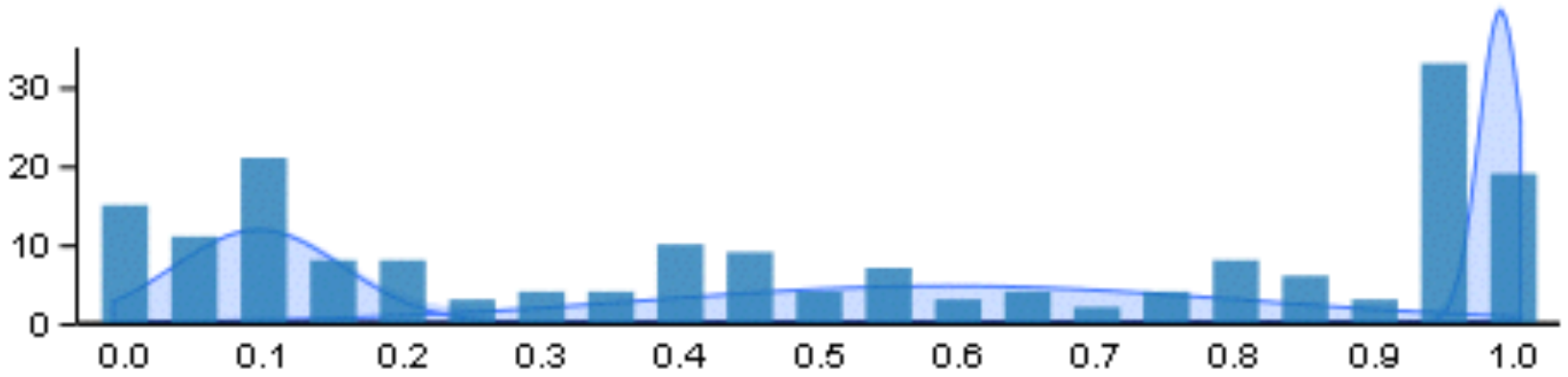
Used to compare two distributions; in this case, one actual and one theoretical.

Plots the quantiles (here, the percentile values) against each other.

Similar distributions lie along the diagonal. If linearly related, values will lie along a line, but with potentially varying slope and intercept.



Quantile-Quantile Plots



Histogram (+ Fitted Mixture of 3 Gaussians)

Data Set: Turker Participation

Even for “simple” data, a variety of graphics might provide insight. Tailor the choice of graphic to the questions being asked, but be open to surprises.

Graphics can be used to understand and help assess the quality of statistical models.

Premature commitment to a model and lack of verification can lead an analysis astray.

Analysis Example: Antibiotic Effectiveness

Data Set: Antibiotic Effectiveness

Genus of Bacteria	String (N)
Species of Bacteria	String (N)
Antibiotic Applied	String (N)
Gram-Staining?	Pos / Neg (N)
Min. Inhibitory Concent. (g)	Number (Q)

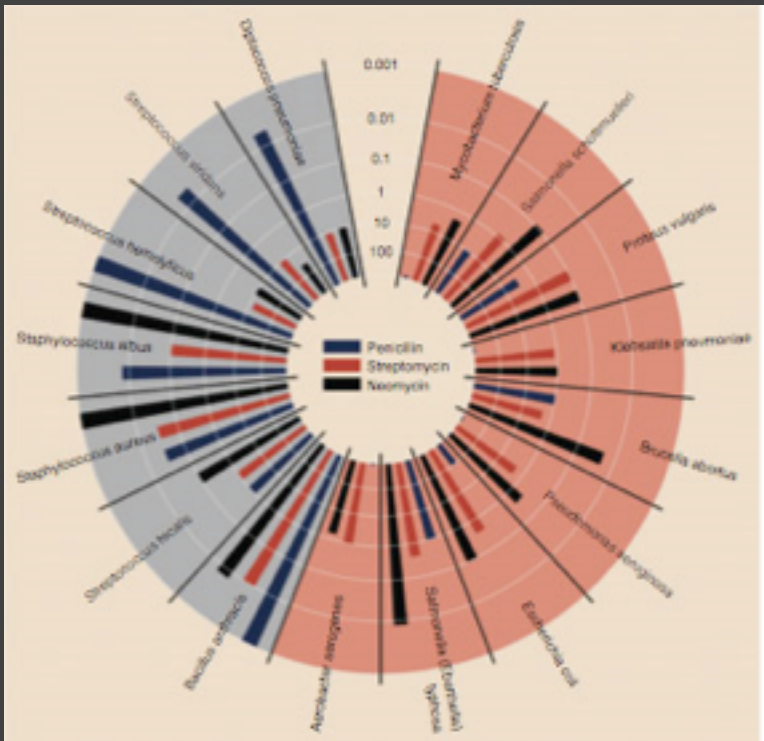
Collected prior to 1951.

What questions might we ask?

Table 1: Burtin's data.

Bacteria	Antibiotic			Gram Staining
	Penicillin	Streptomycin	Neomycin	
Aerobacter *aerogenes*	870	1	1.6	negative
Brucella *abortus*	1	2	0.02	negative
Brucella *anthracis*	0.001	0.01	0.007	positive
Diplococcus *pneumoniae*	0.005	11	10	positive
Escherichia *coli*	100	0.4	0.1	negative
Klebsiella *pneumoniae*	850	1.2	1	negative
Mycobacterium *tuberculosis*	800	5	2	negative
Proteus *vulgaris*	3	0.1	0.1	negative
Pseudomonas *aeruginosa*	850	2	0.4	negative
Salmonella (Eberthella) *typhosa*	1	0.4	0.008	negative
Salmonella *schottmuelleri*	10	0.8	0.09	negative
Staphylococcus *albus*	0.007	0.1	0.001	positive
Staphylococcus *aureus*	0.03	0.03	0.001	positive
Streptococcus *fecalis*	1	1	0.1	positive
Streptococcus *hemolyticus*	0.001	14	10	positive
Streptococcus *viridans*	0.005	10	40	positive

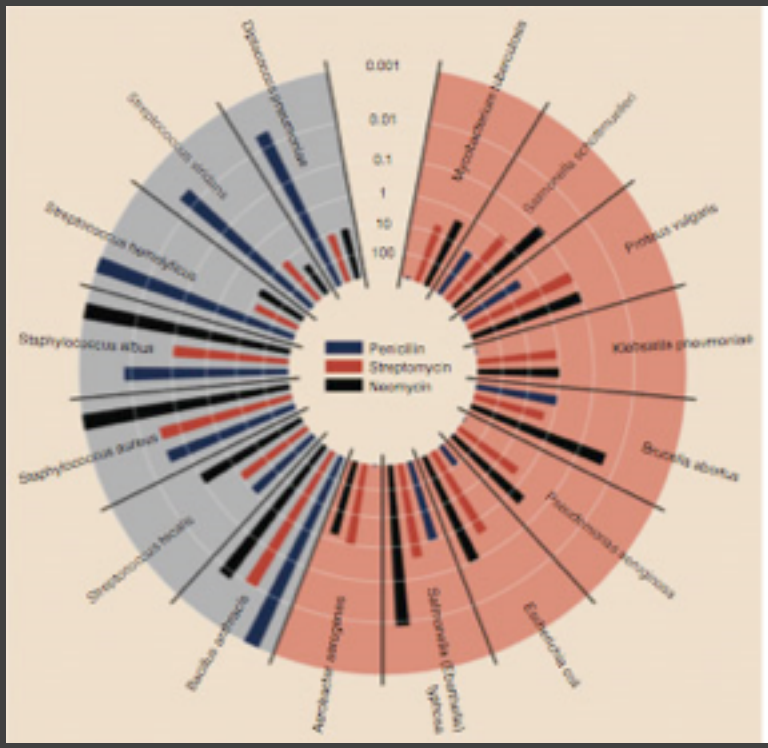
How do the drugs compare?



Bacteria	Penicillin	Antibiotic Streptomycin	Neomycin	Gram stain
Aerobacter aerogenes	870	1	1.6	–
Brucella abortus	1	2	0.02	–
Bacillus anthracis	0.001	0.01	0.007	+
Diplococcus pneumoniae	0.005	11	10	+
Escherichia coli	100	0.4	0.1	–
Klebsiella pneumoniae	850	1.2	1	–
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	800	5	2	–
Proteus vulgaris	3	0.1	0.1	–
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	850	2	0.4	–
Salmonella (Eberthella) typhosa	1	0.4	0.008	–
Salmonella schottmuelleri	10	0.8	0.09	–
Staphylococcus albus	0.007	0.1	0.001	+
Staphylococcus aureus	0.03	0.03	0.001	+
Streptococcus fecalis	1	1	0.1	+
Streptococcus hemolyticus	0.001	14	10	+
Streptococcus viridans	0.005	10	40	+

Original graphic by Will Burtin, 1951

How do the drugs compare?



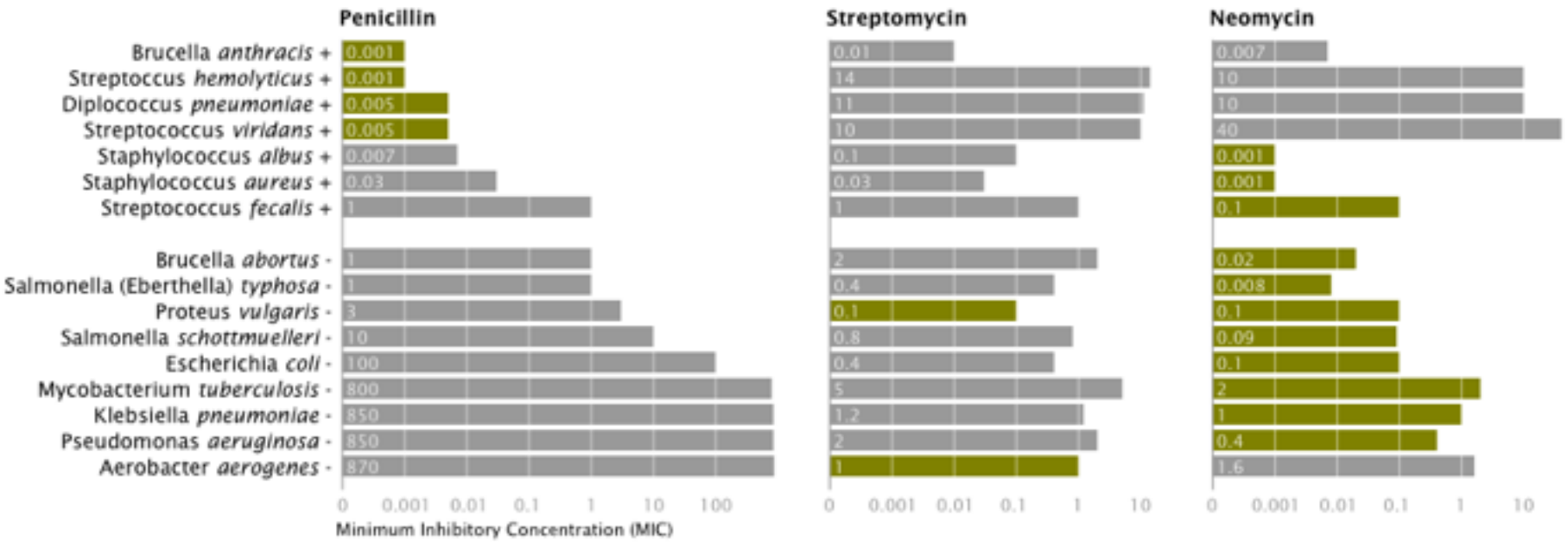
Bacteria	Penicillin	Antibiotic Streptomycin	Neomycin	Gram stain
Aerobacter aerogenes	870	1	1.6	–
Brucella abortus	1	2	0.02	–
Bacillus anthracis	0.001	0.01	0.007	+
Diplococcus pneumoniae	0.005	11	10	+
Escherichia coli	100	0.4	0.1	–
Klebsiella pneumoniae	850	1.2	1	–
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	800	5	2	–
Proteus vulgaris	3	0.1	0.1	–
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	850	2	0.4	–
Salmonella (Eberthella) typhosa	1	0.4	0.008	–
Salmonella schottmuelleri	10	0.8	0.09	–
Staphylococcus albus	0.007	0.1	0.001	+
Staphylococcus aureus	0.03	0.03	0.001	+
Streptococcus fecalis	1	1	0.1	+
Streptococcus hemolyticus	0.001	14	10	+
Streptococcus viridans	0.005	10	40	+

Radius: 1 / log(MIC)

Bar Color: Antibiotic

Background Color: Gram Staining

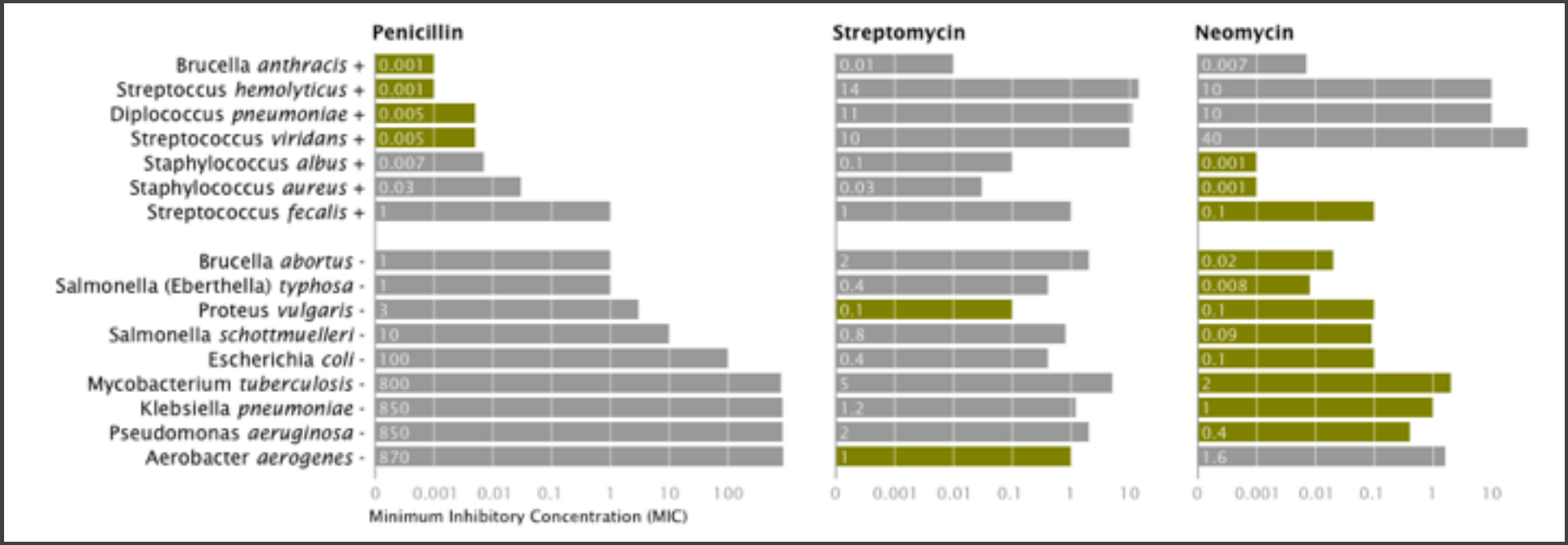
How do the drugs compare?



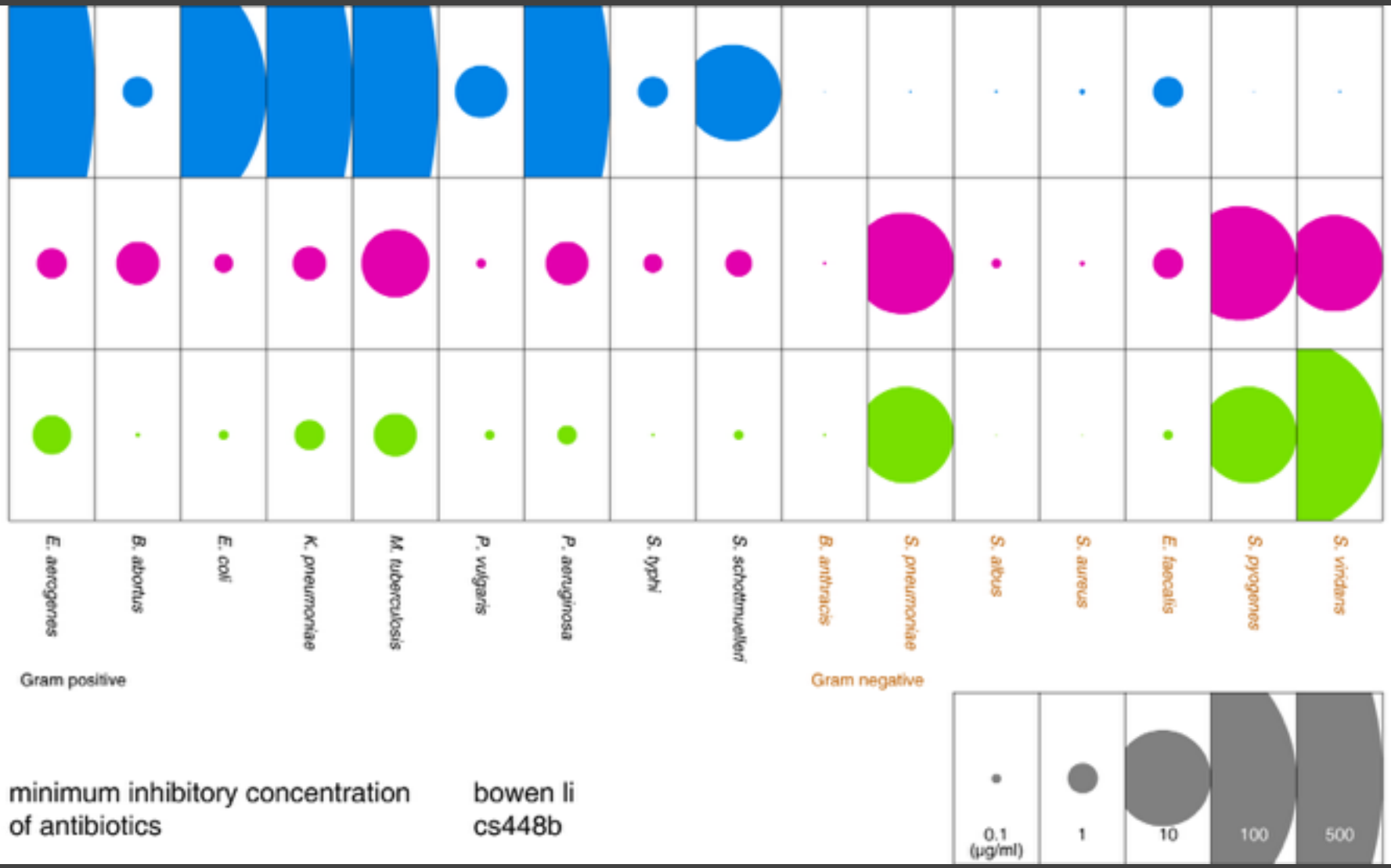
Mike Bostock

Stanford CS448B, Winter 2009

How do the drugs compare?



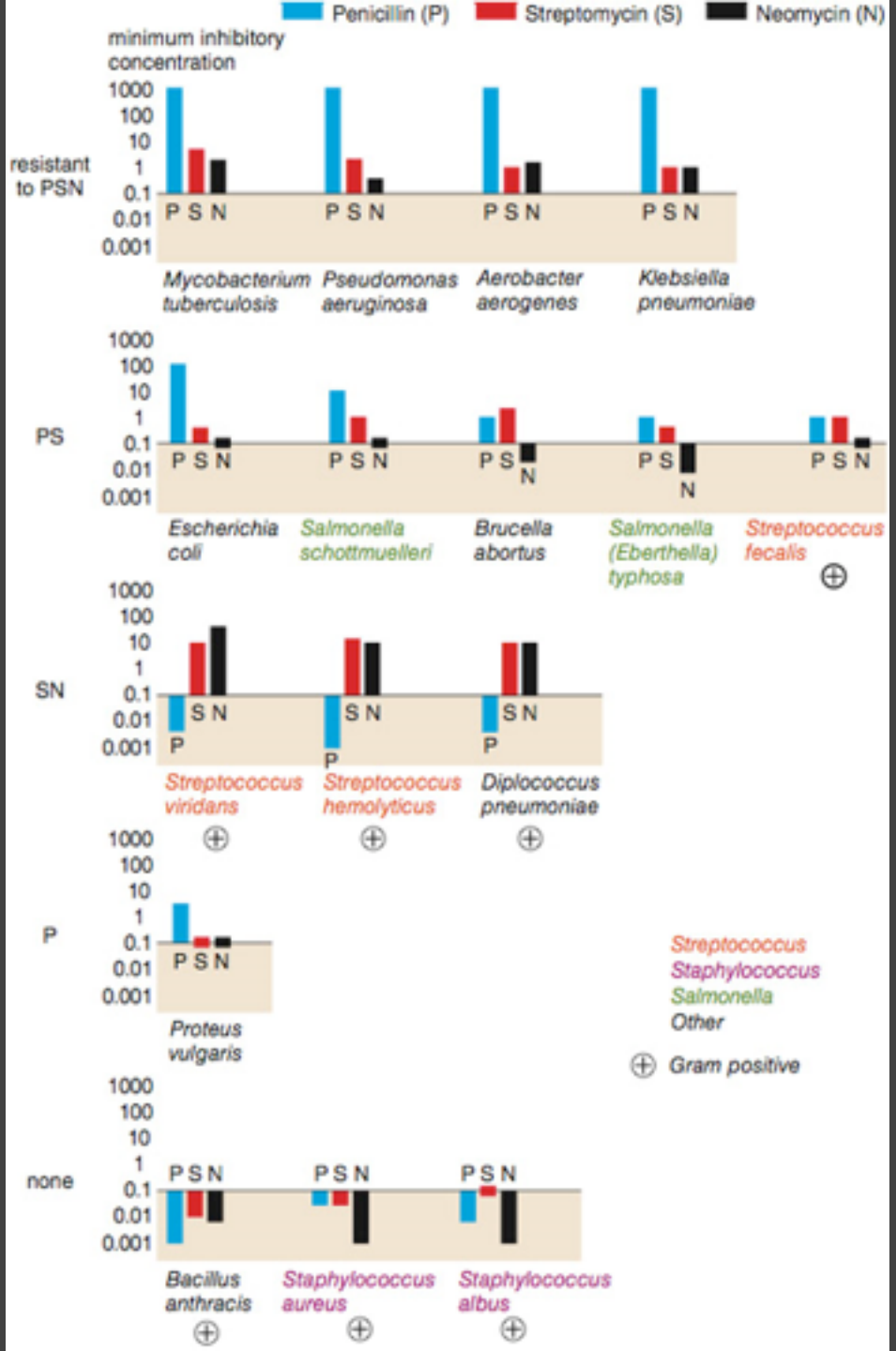
X-axis: Antibiotic | log(MIC)
Y-axis: Gram-Staining | Species
Color: Most-Effective?



Bowen Li

Stanford CS448B, Fall 2009

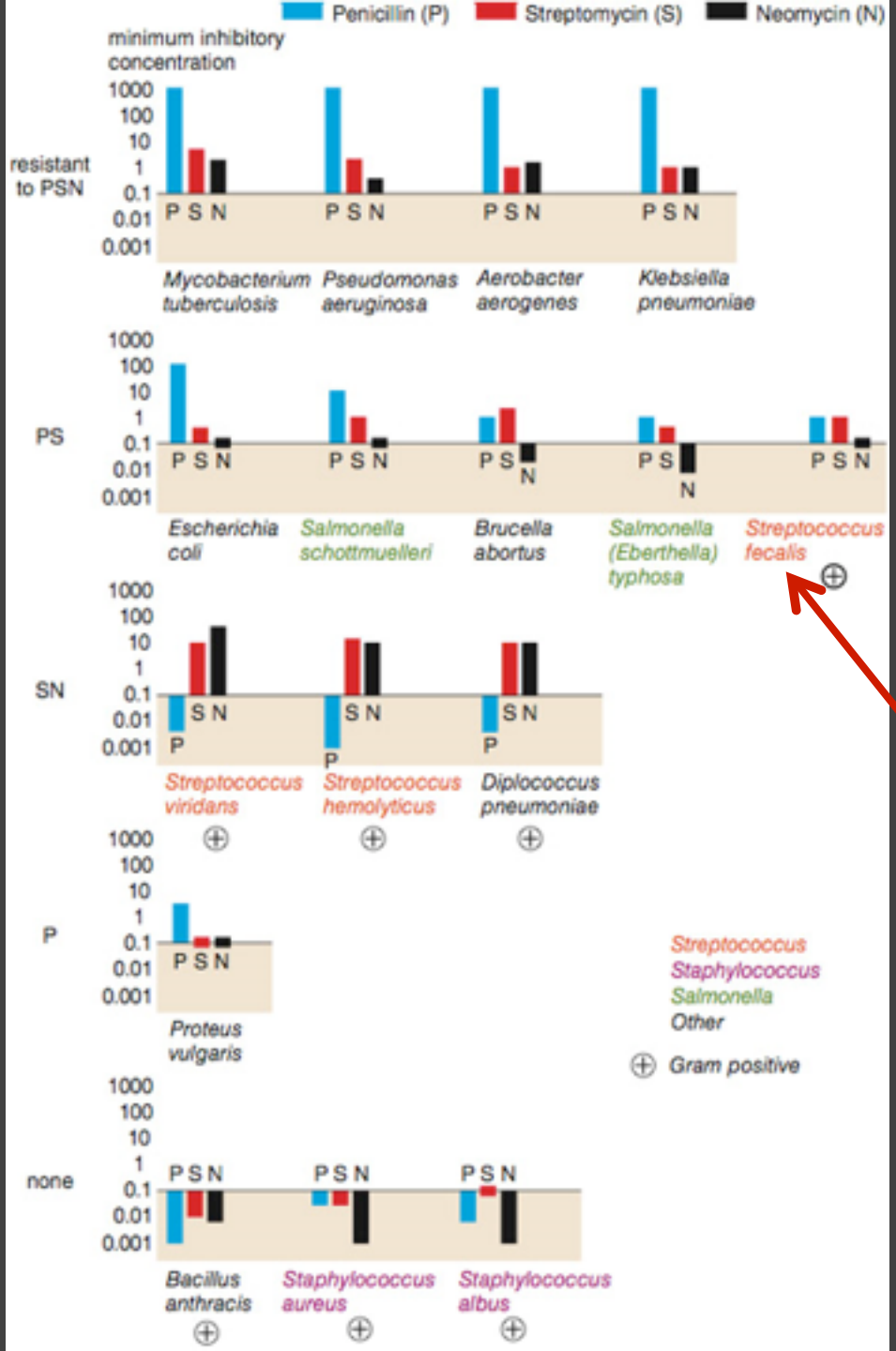
Do the bacteria group by antibiotic resistance?



Do the bacteria group by antibiotic resistance?

Wainer & Lysen

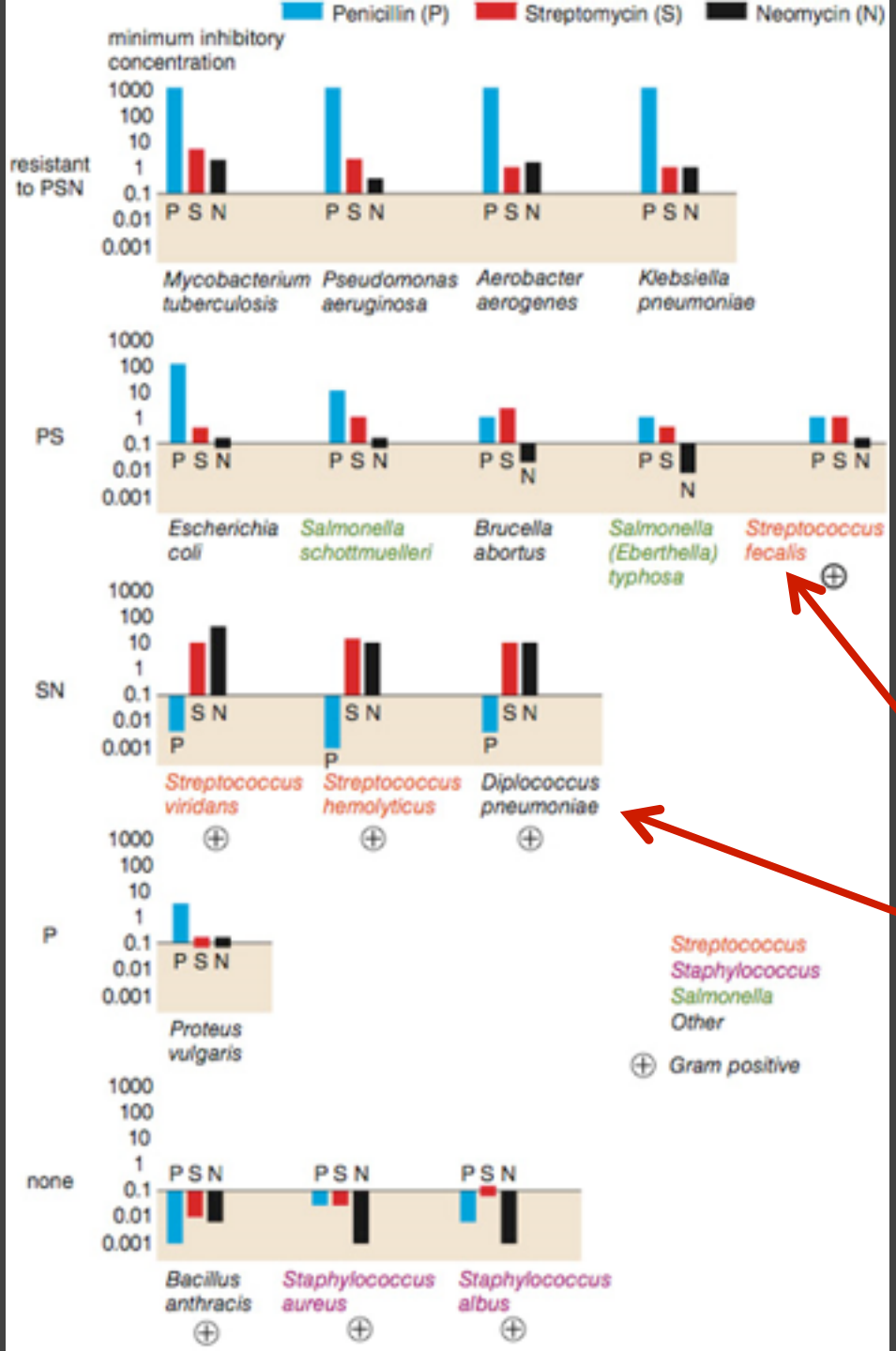
American Scientist, 2009



Do the bacteria group by antibiotic resistance?

Not a streptococcus!
(realized ~30 yrs later)

Wainer & Lysen
American Scientist, 2009



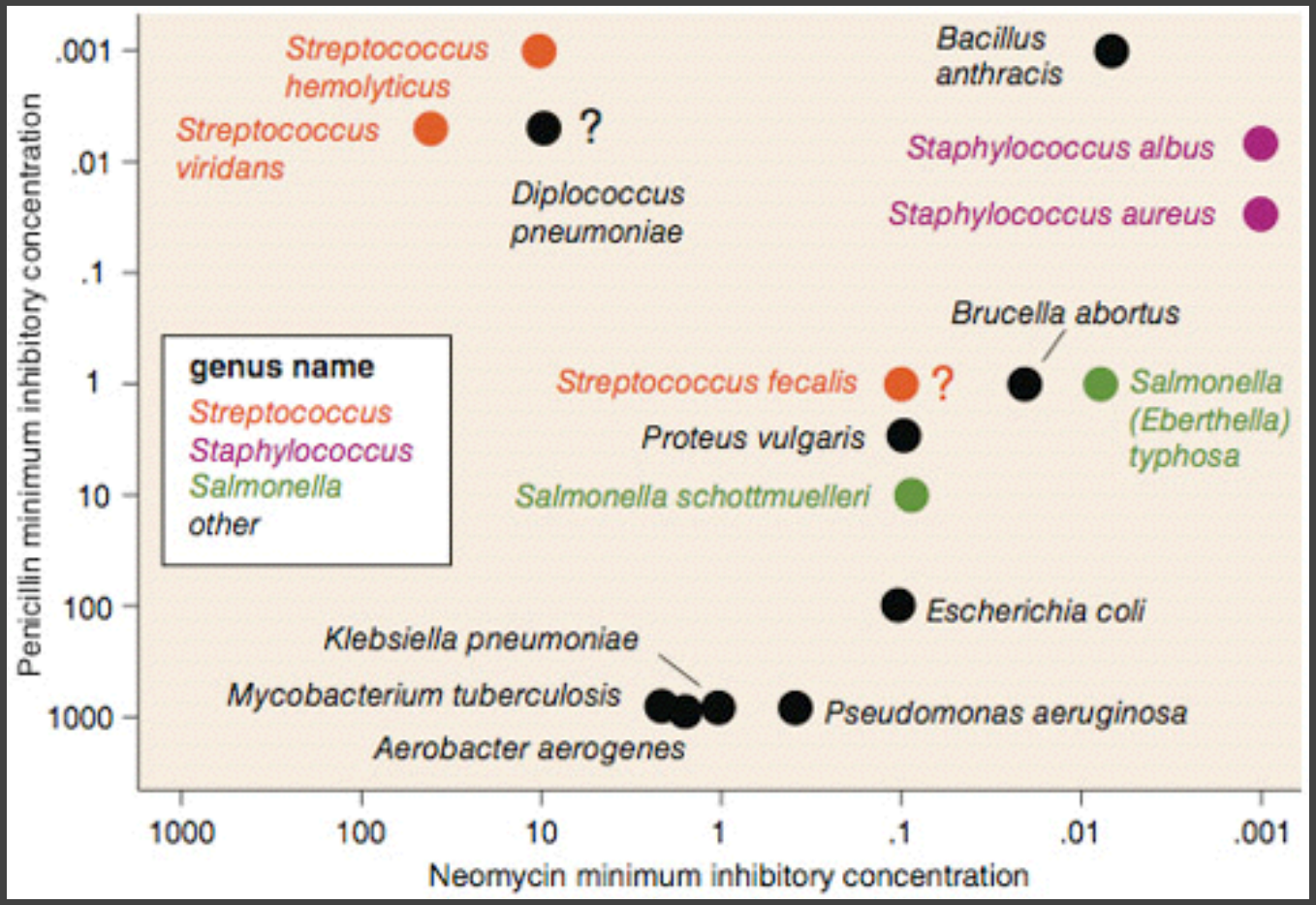
Do the bacteria group by antibiotic resistance?

Not a streptococcus!
(realized ~30 yrs later)

Really a streptococcus!
(realized ~20 yrs later)

Wainer & Lysen
American Scientist, 2009

Do the bacteria group by resistance?
Do different drugs correlate?



Do the bacteria group by resistance?
Do different drugs correlate?

Wainer & Lysen
American Scientist, 2009

Lesson: Iterative Exploration

Exploratory Process

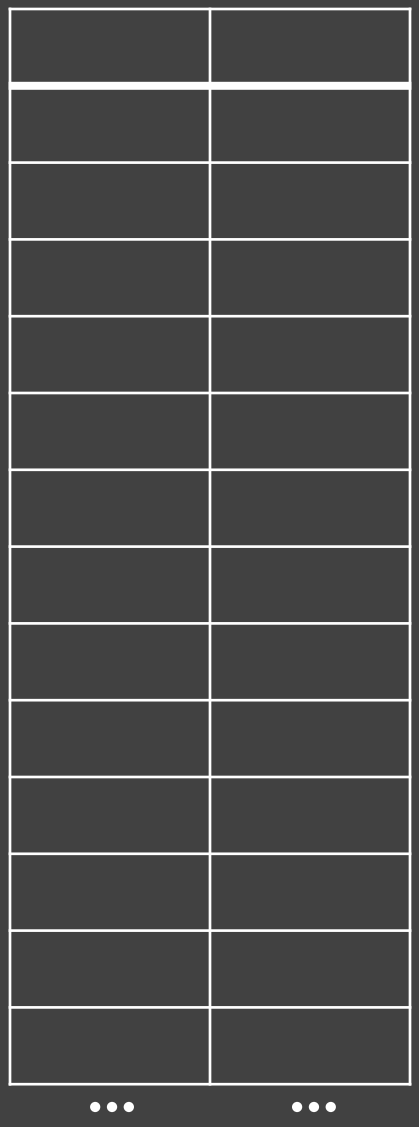
1 Construct graphics to address questions
2 Inspect “answer” and assess new questions
3 Repeat…

Transform data appropriately (e.g., invert, log)

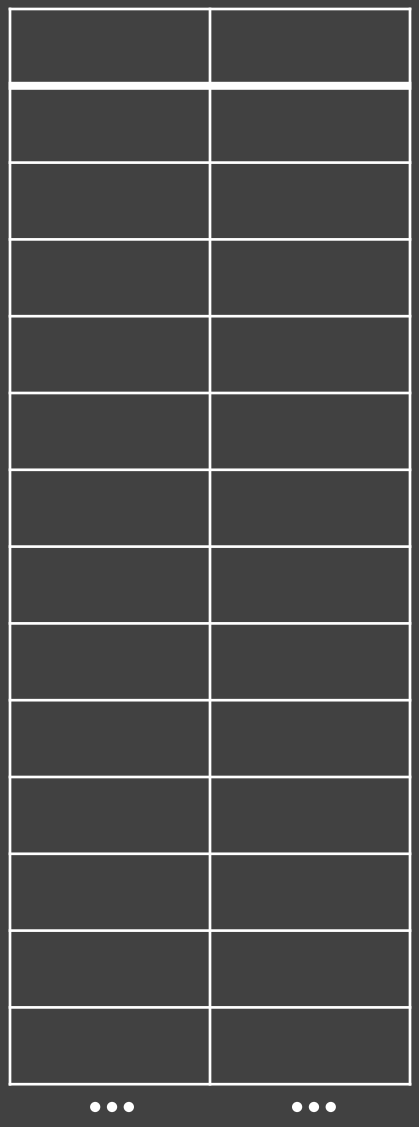
“Show data variation, not design variation” -Tufte

Visualizing Big Data

Tall data

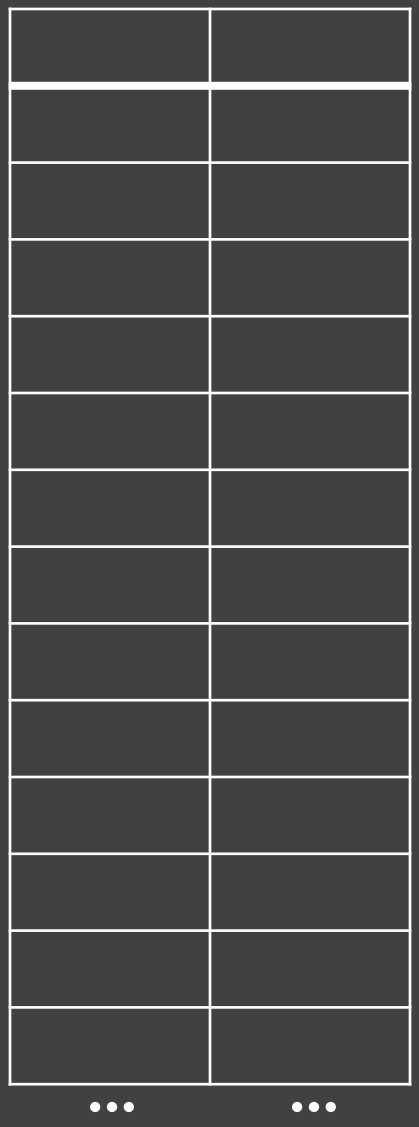


Tall data



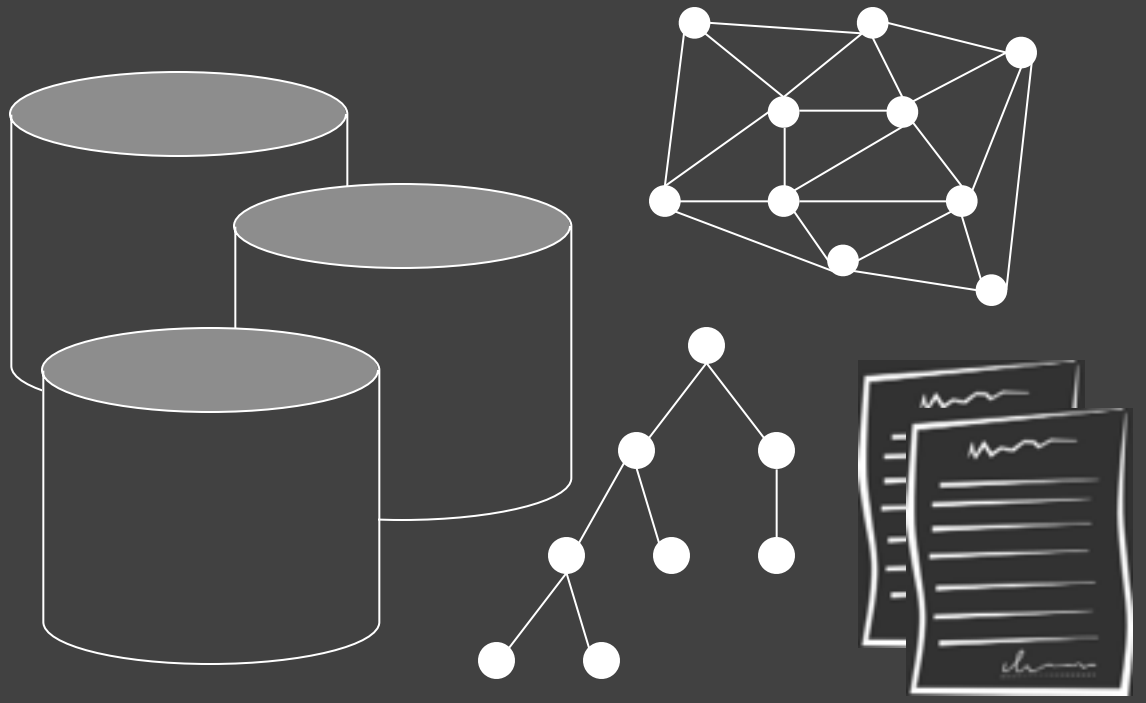
Wide data

Tall data

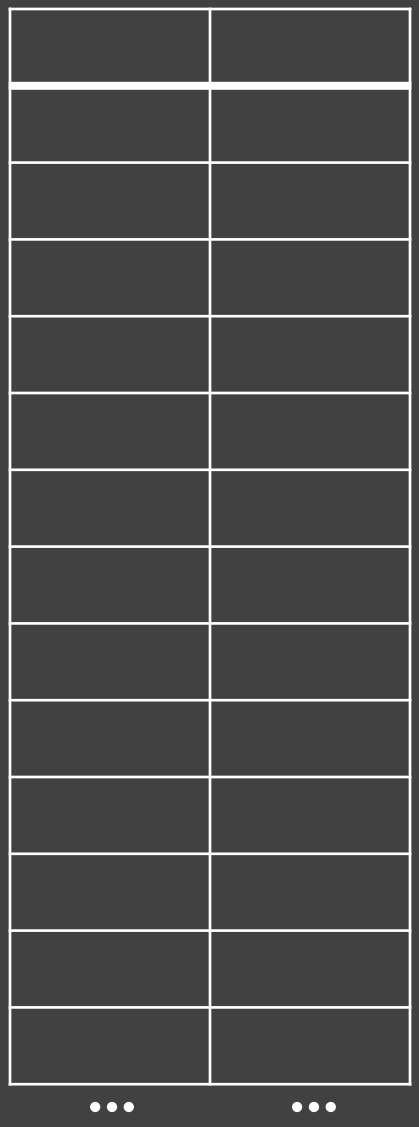


Wide data

Diverse data



Tall data



Wide data

Diverse data

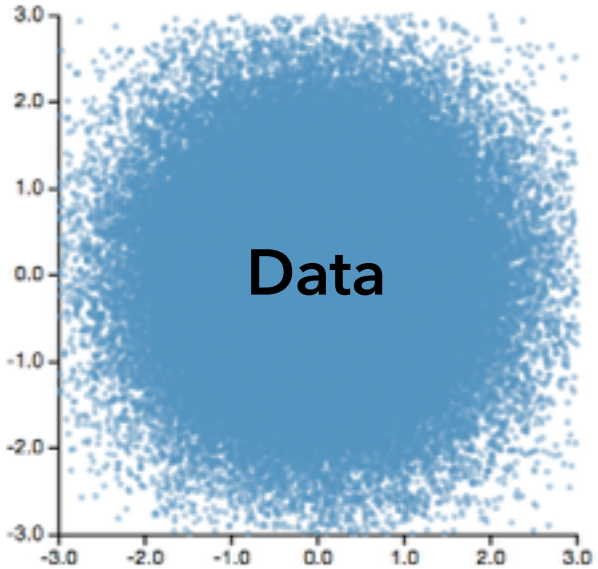
How can we visualize and interact with **billion+ record** databases in real-time?

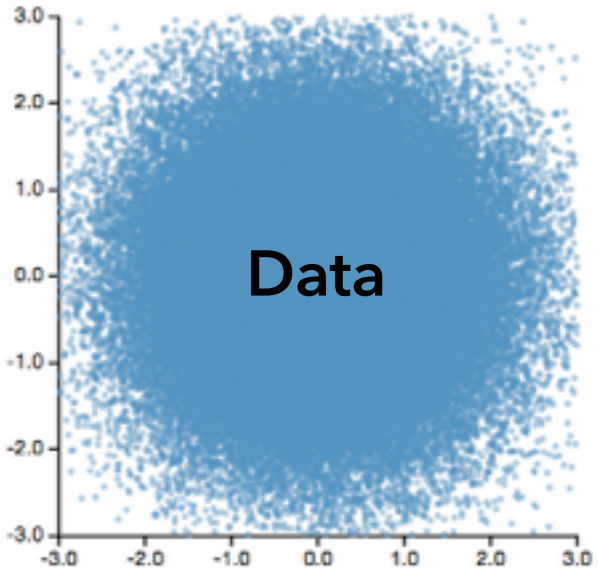
Two Challenges:

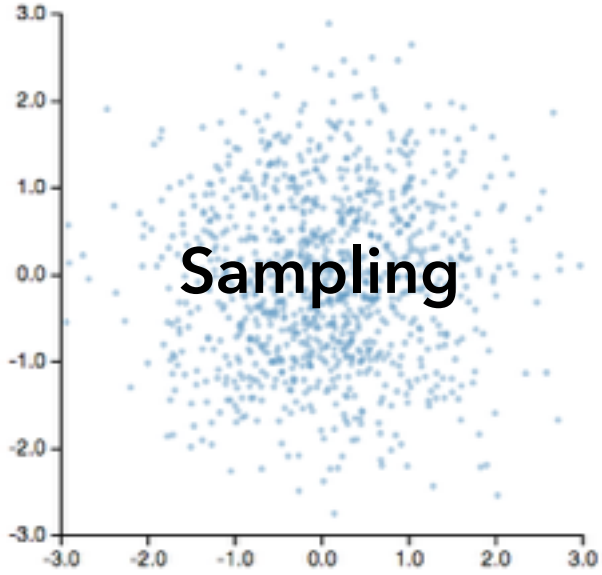
1. Effective **visual encoding**
2. Real-time **interaction**

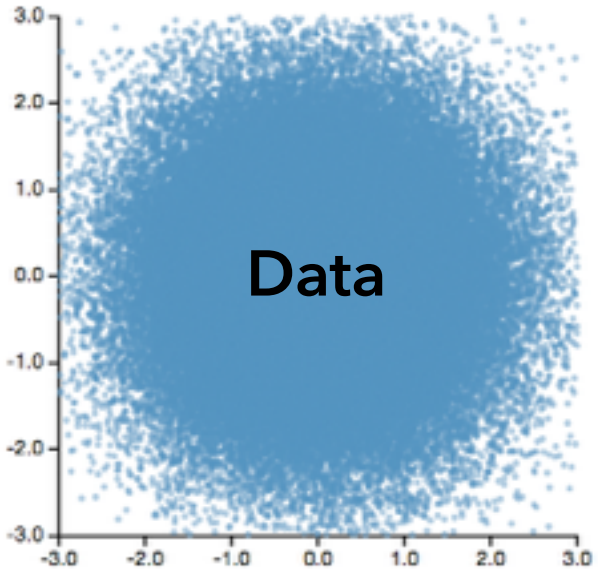
Perceptual and interactive scalability should be limited by the **chosen resolution** of the visualized data, not the number of records.

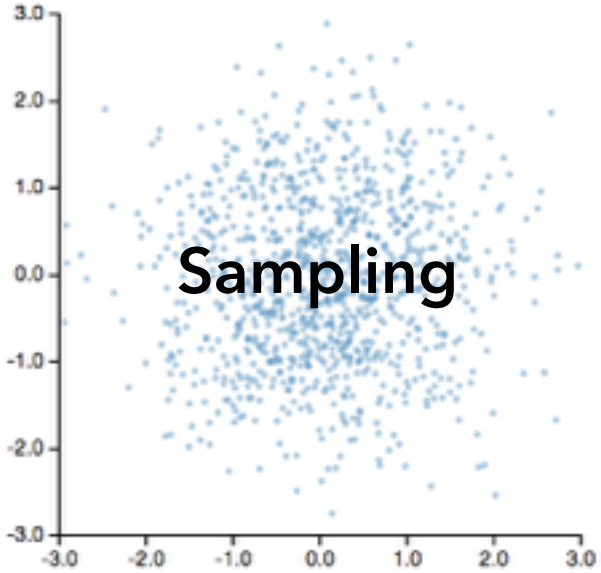
Perception

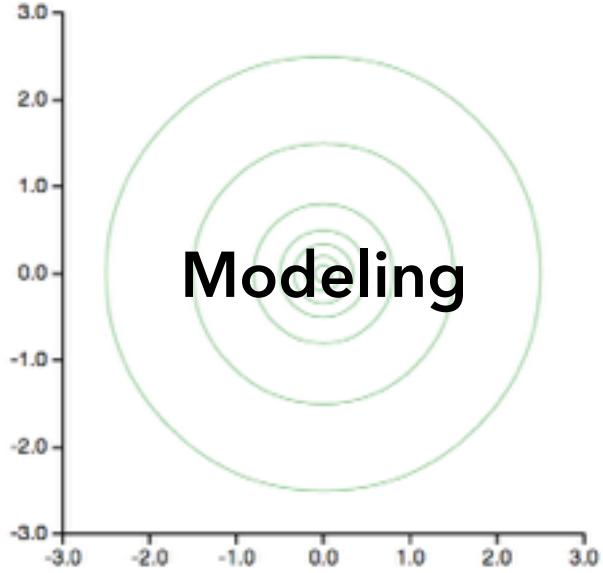

Data
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0
-2.0
-1.0
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0

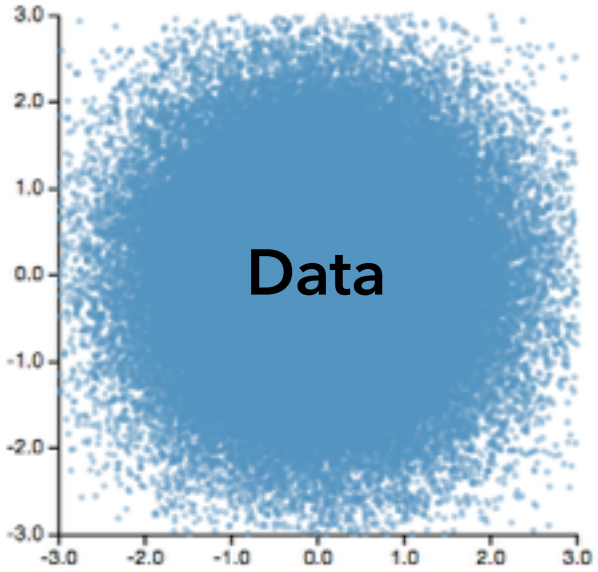

Data
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0
-2.0
-1.0
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0

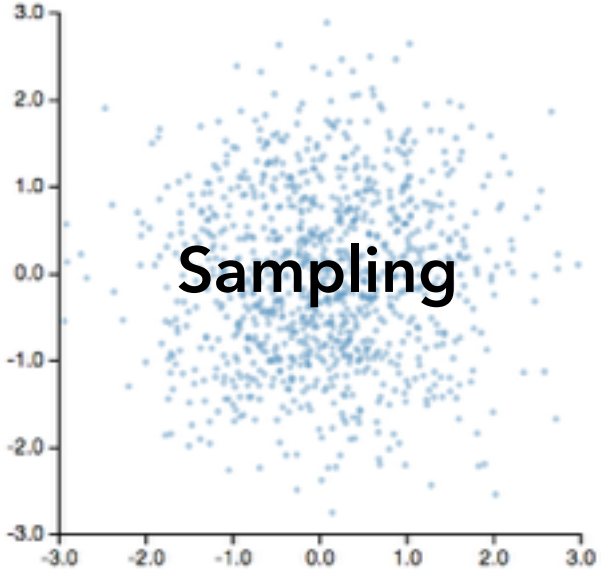

Sampling
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0
-2.0
-1.0
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0

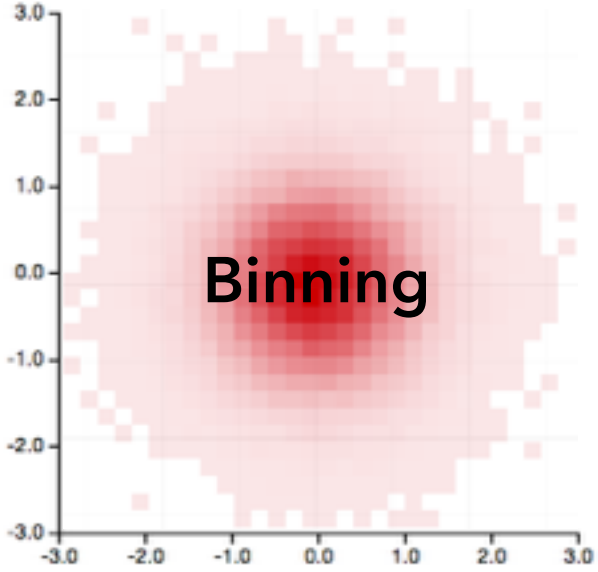

Data
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0
-2.0
-1.0
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0

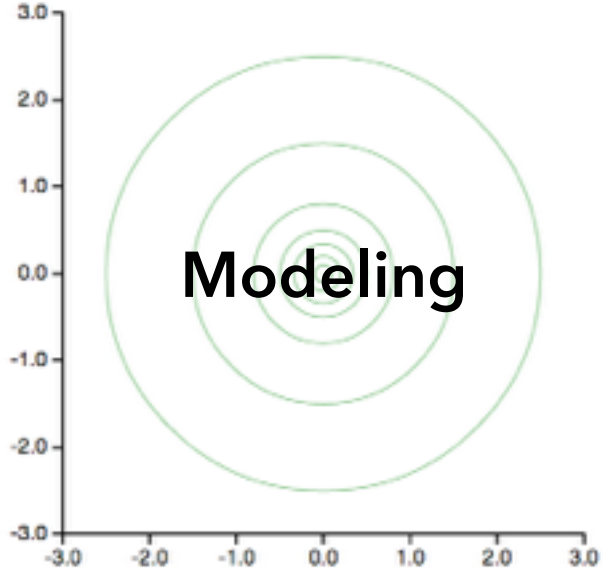

Sampling
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0
-2.0
-1.0
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0

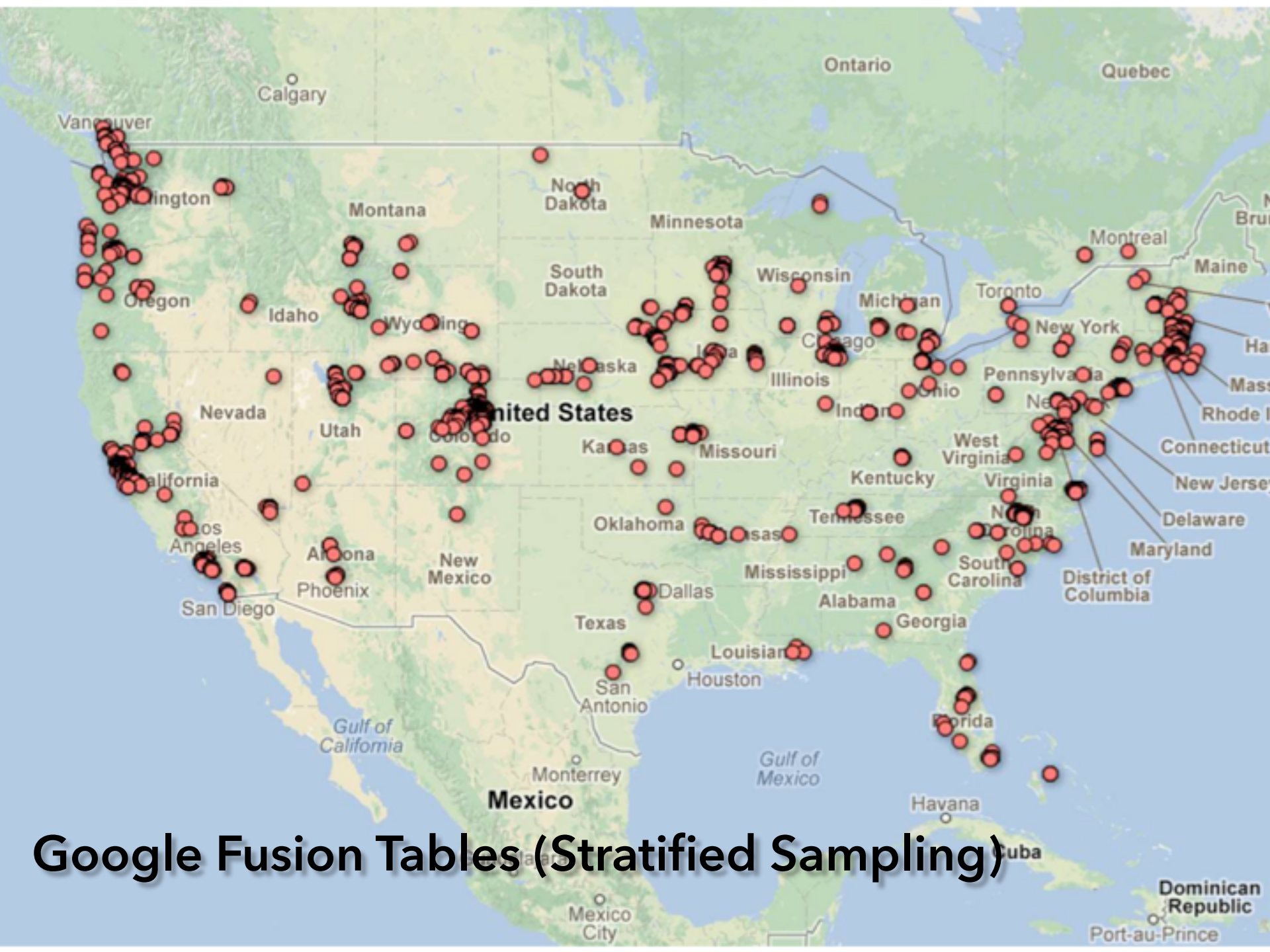

Modeling
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0
-2.0
-1.0
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0


Data
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0

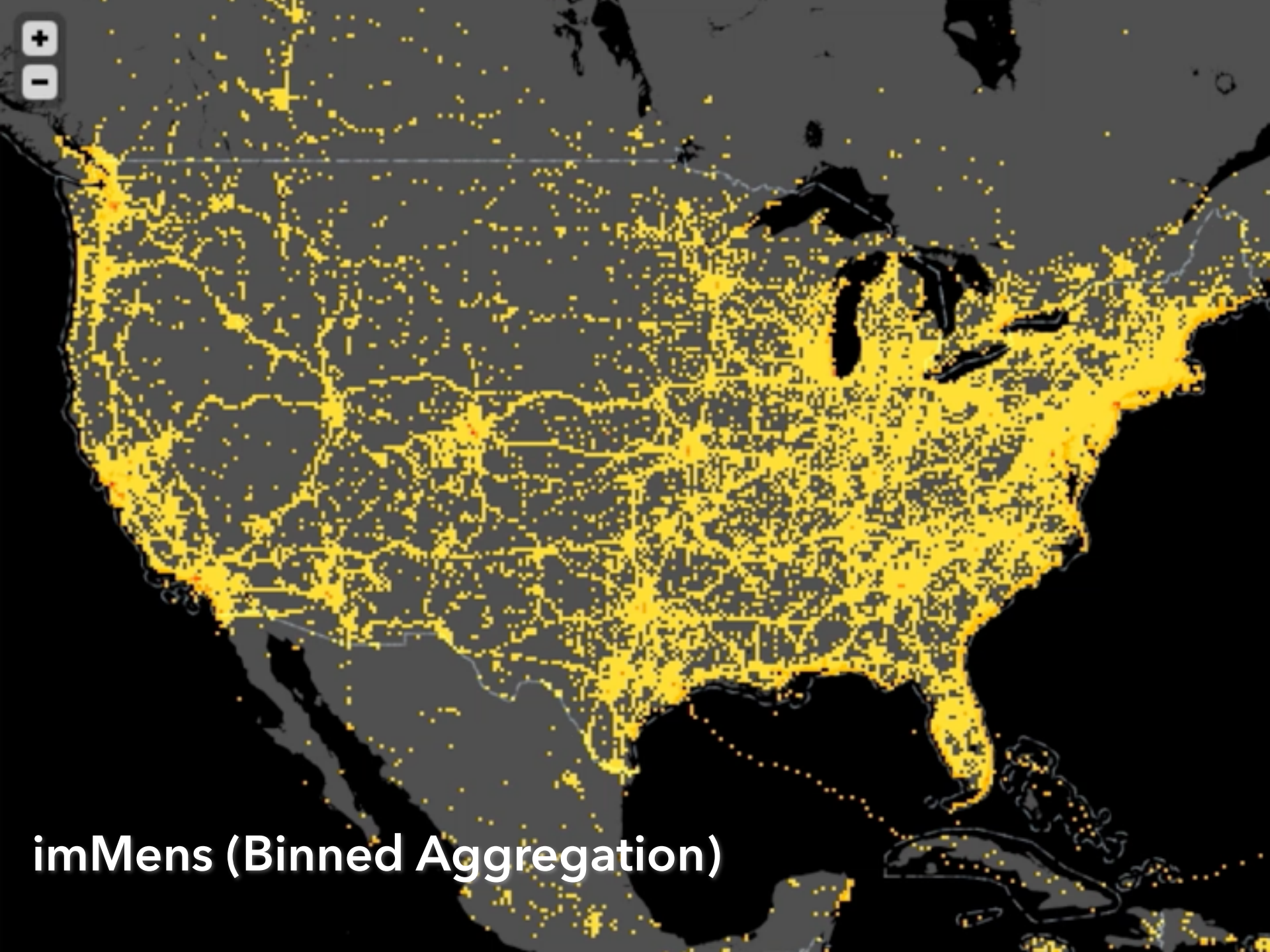

Sampling
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0


Binning
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0


Modeling
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
-1.0
-2.0
-3.0
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0



Google Fusion Tables (Stratified Sampling)


imMens (Binned Aggregation)

Bin > Aggregate (> Smooth) > Plot

1. Bin Divide data domain into discrete “buckets”

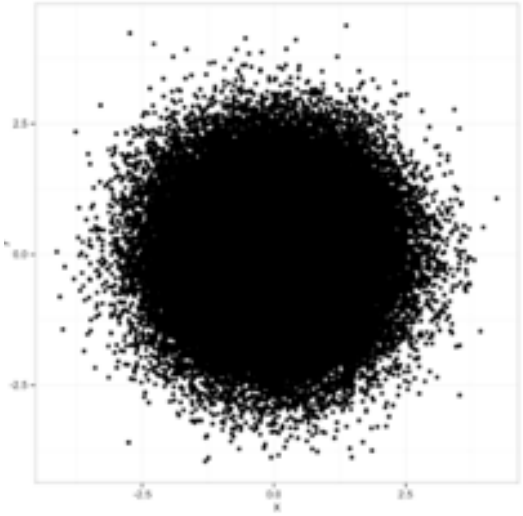
Categories: Already discrete (but check cardinality)

Numbers: Choose bin intervals (uniform, quantile, ...)

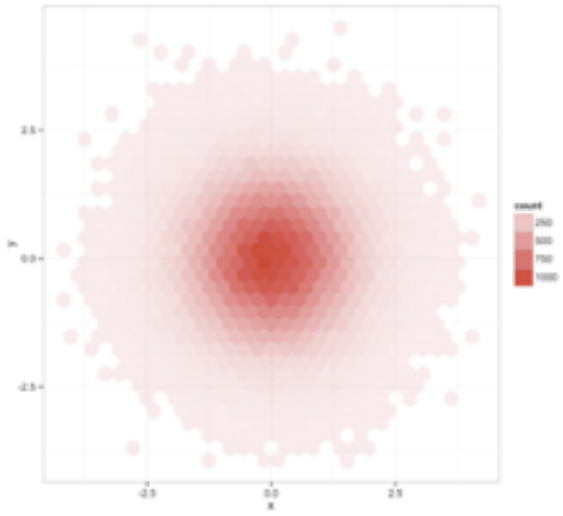
Time: Choose time unit: Hour, Day, Month, etc.

Geo: Bin x, y coordinates *after* cartographic projection

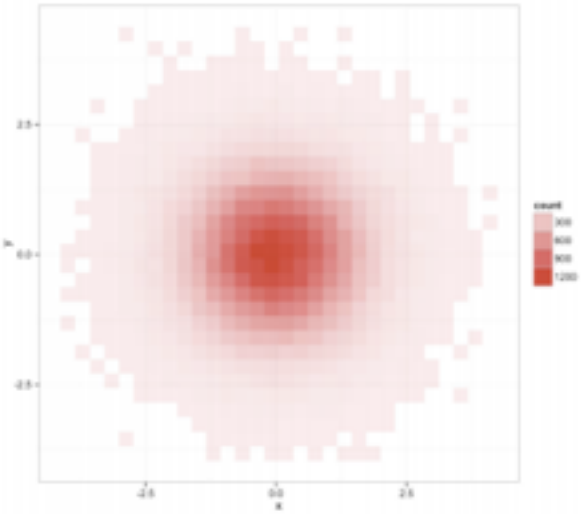
Hexagonal or Rectangular Bins?



100,000 Data Points



Hexagonal Bins



Rectangular Bins

Hex bins better estimate density for 2D plots, but **the improvement is marginal** [Scott 92], while rectangles support **reuse** and **query processing**.

Bin > Aggregate (> Smooth) > Plot

1. Bin Divide data domain into discrete “buckets”

Categories: Already discrete (but check cardinality)

Numbers: Choose bin intervals (uniform, quantile, ...)

Time: Choose time unit: Hour, Day, Month, etc.

Geo: Bin x, y coordinates *after* cartographic projection

Bin > Aggregate (> Smooth) > Plot

1. Bin Divide data domain into discrete "buckets"
Categories: Already discrete (but check cardinality)
Numbers: Choose bin intervals (uniform, quantile, ...)
Time: Choose time unit: Hour, Day, Month, etc.
Geo: Bin x, y coordinates *after* cartographic projection

2. Aggregate Count, Sum, Average, Min, Max, ...

Bin > Aggregate (> Smooth) > Plot

1. Bin Divide data domain into discrete "buckets"
Categories: Already discrete (but check cardinality)
Numbers: Choose bin intervals (uniform, quantile, ...)
Time: Choose time unit: Hour, Day, Month, etc.
Geo: Bin x, y coordinates *after* cartographic projection

2. Aggregate Count, Sum, Average, Min, Max, ...

(**3. Smooth** Optional: smooth aggregates [Wickham '13])

Bin > Aggregate (> Smooth) > Plot

1. Bin Divide data domain into discrete "buckets"
Categories: Already discrete (but check cardinality)
Numbers: Choose bin intervals (uniform, quantile, ...)
Time: Choose time unit: Hour, Day, Month, etc.
Geo: Bin x, y coordinates *after* cartographic projection

2. Aggregate Count, Sum, Average, Min, Max, ...

(**3. Smooth** Optional: smooth aggregates [Wickham '13])

4. Plot Visualize the aggregate summary values

Plot: Visual Encoding

Use Most Effective Encoding [Cleveland & McGill '84]

1D Plot -> Position or Length Encoding

Histograms, line charts, etc.

Plot: Visual Encoding

Use Most Effective Encoding [Cleveland & McGill '84]

1D Plot -> Position or Length Encoding

Histograms, line charts, etc.

2D Plot -> Area or Color Encoding

Spatial dimensions (x, y) already allocated.
While less effective than **area** for magnitude estimation, **color** can be used at the per-pixel level and provides an overall "gestalt"

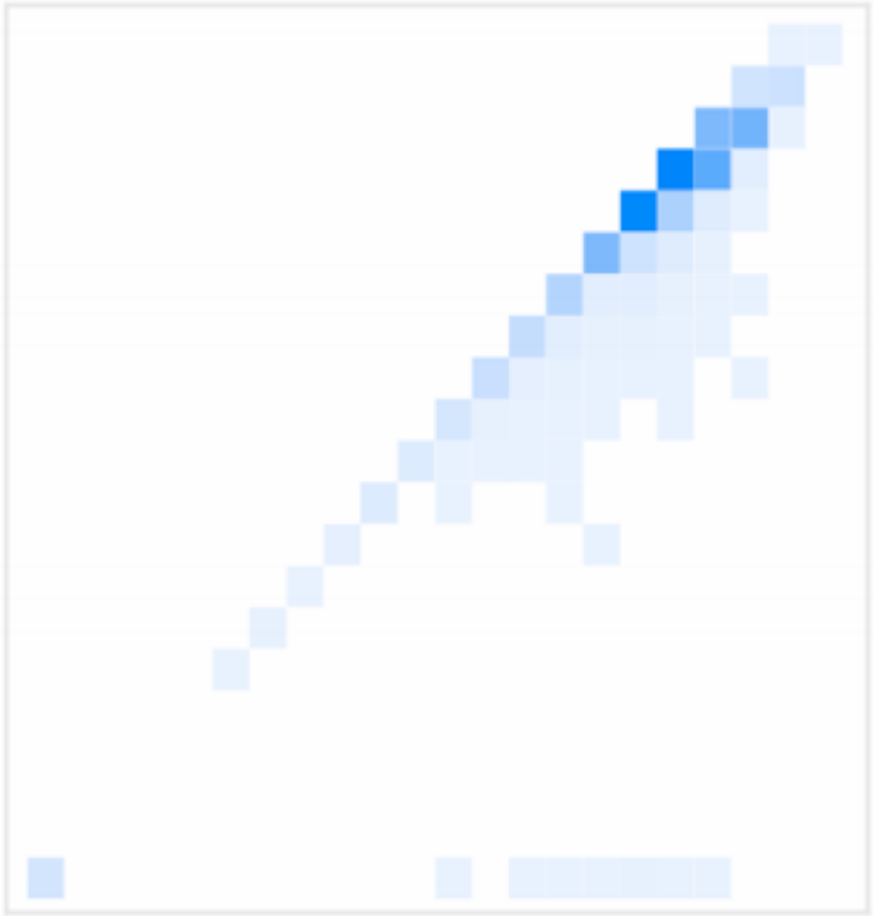
Design Space of Binned Plots

Numeric	Ordinal	Temporal	Geographic

Standard Color Ramp

Counts near zero are white.

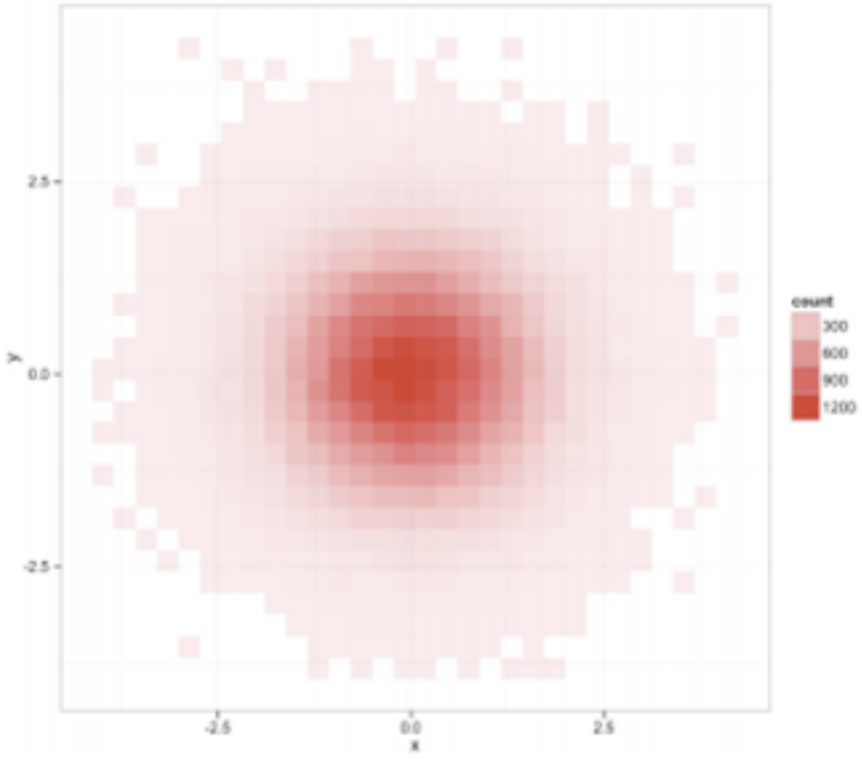
-> Outliers are missed



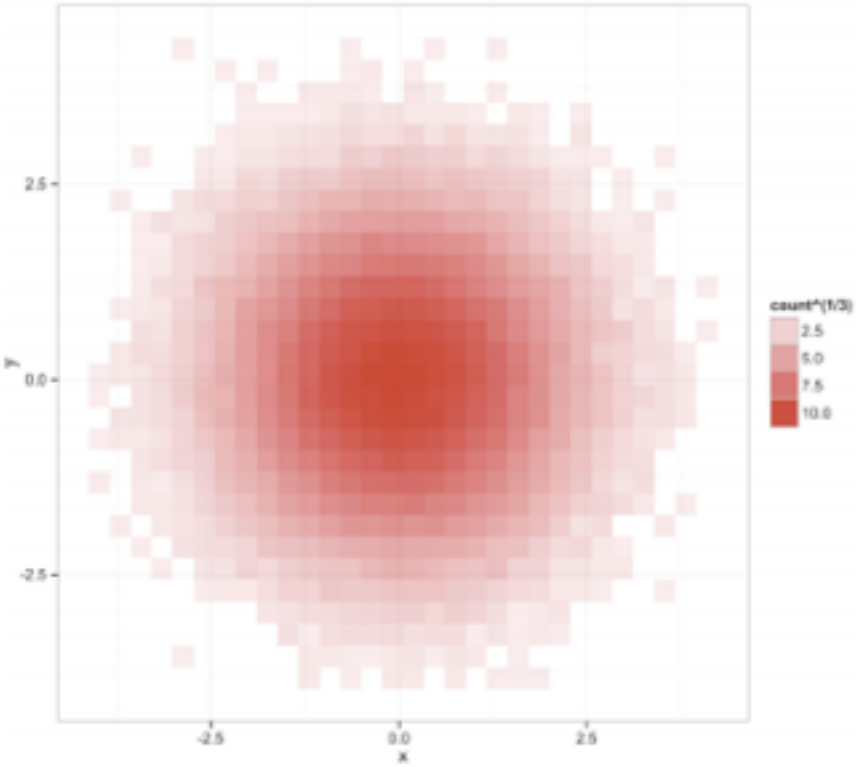
Add Discontinuity after Zero

Counts near zero remain visible.

-> Outliers can be seen



Linear Alpha Interpolation
is not *perceptually* linear.



Cube-Root Alpha Interpolation
approximates perceptual linearity.

Color Encoding

Data Value ($x > 0$, $x >= x_{min}$, $x <= x_{max}$)

$$Y = \alpha + \left(\frac{\hat{x} - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}} \right)^{\gamma} (1 - \alpha)$$

Luminance (in range 0-1)

Color Encoding

Min. Non-Zero Intensity (α=0.15) [1]

Perceptual Scaling (γ=1/3) [2]

$$Y = \alpha + \left(\frac{\hat{x} - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}} \right)^{\gamma} (1 - \alpha)$$

User-Adjustable Min/Max Values [3]

[1] Keep small non-zero values visible (outliers!)

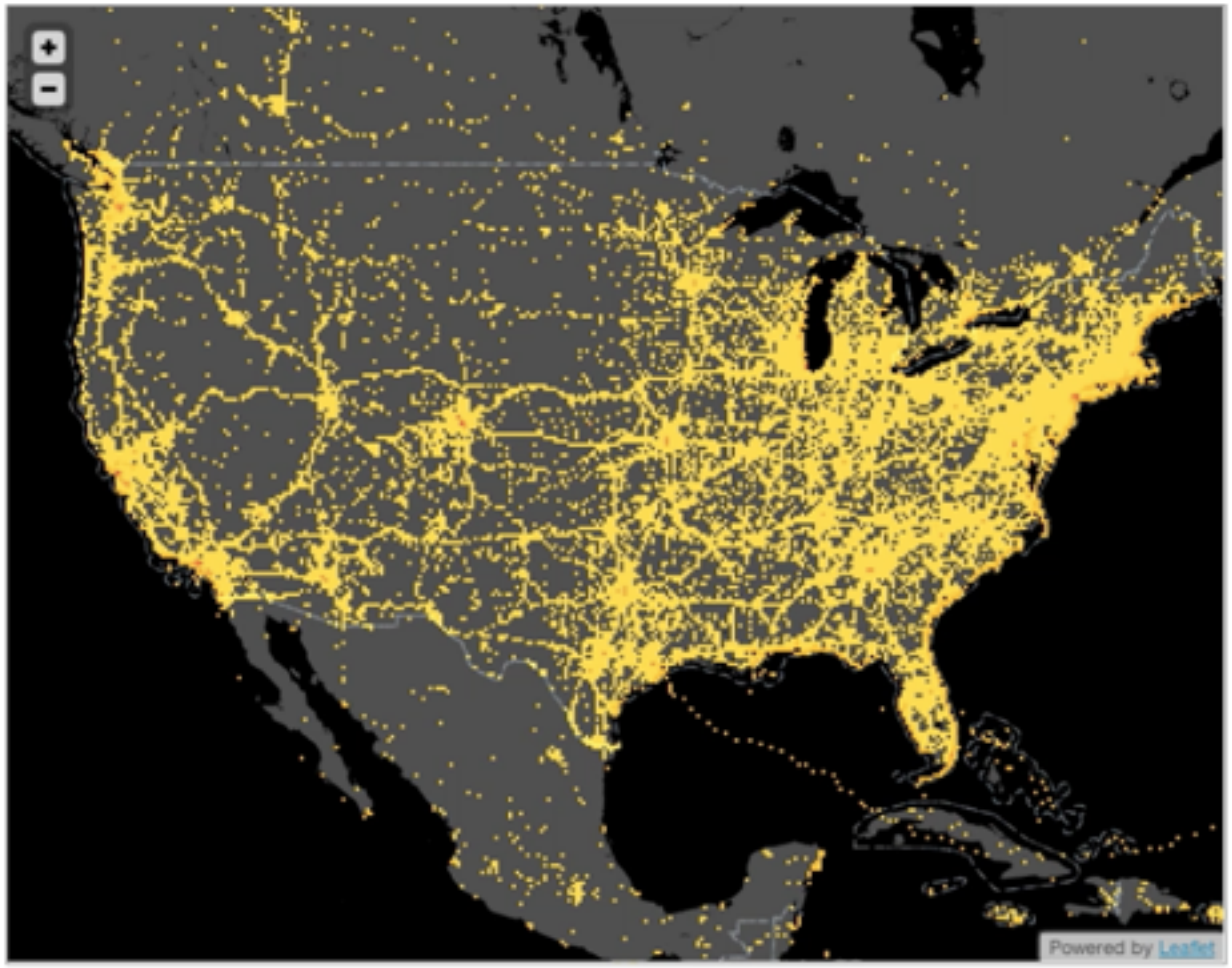
[2] Match color ramp to perceptual distances

[3] Enable exploration across value ranges

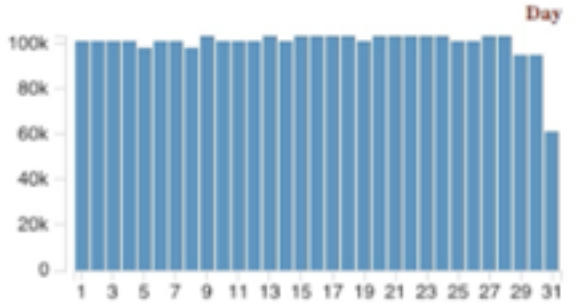
Interaction

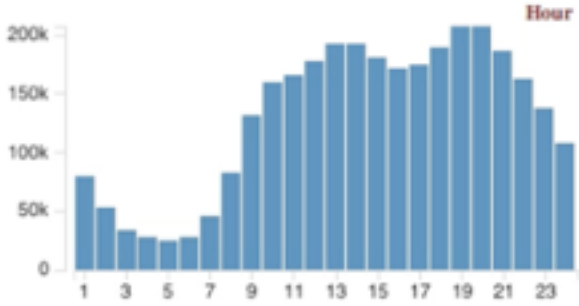
Interaction Techniques?

1. **Select** Detail-on-Demand
2. **Navigate** Pan & Zoom
3. **Query** Brush & Link


Powered by Leaflet


Month
300k
250k
200k
150k
100k
50k
0
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

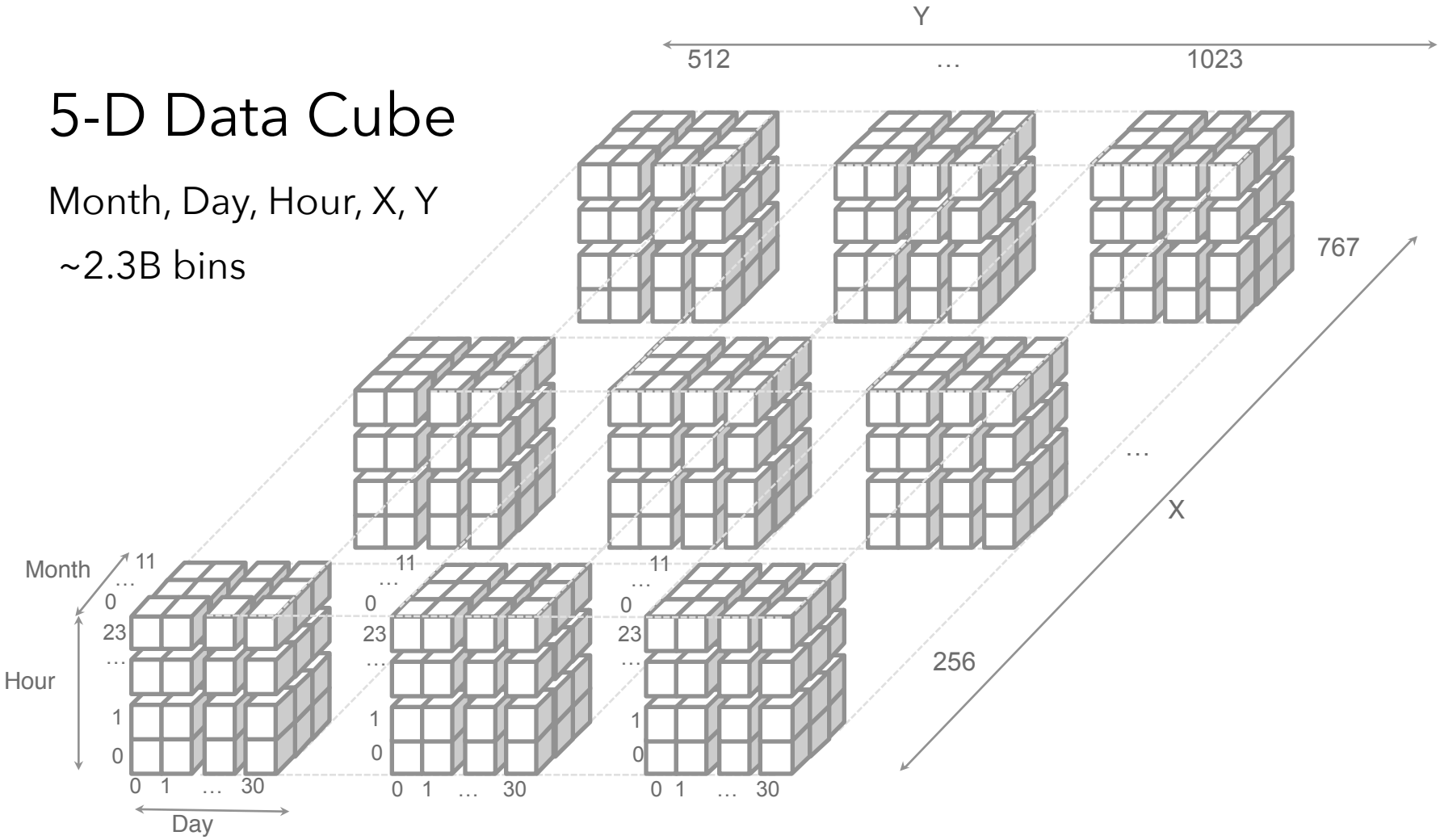

Day
100k
80k
60k
40k
20k
0
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31


Hour
200k
150k
100k
50k
0
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23

5-D Data Cube

Month, Day, Hour, X, Y

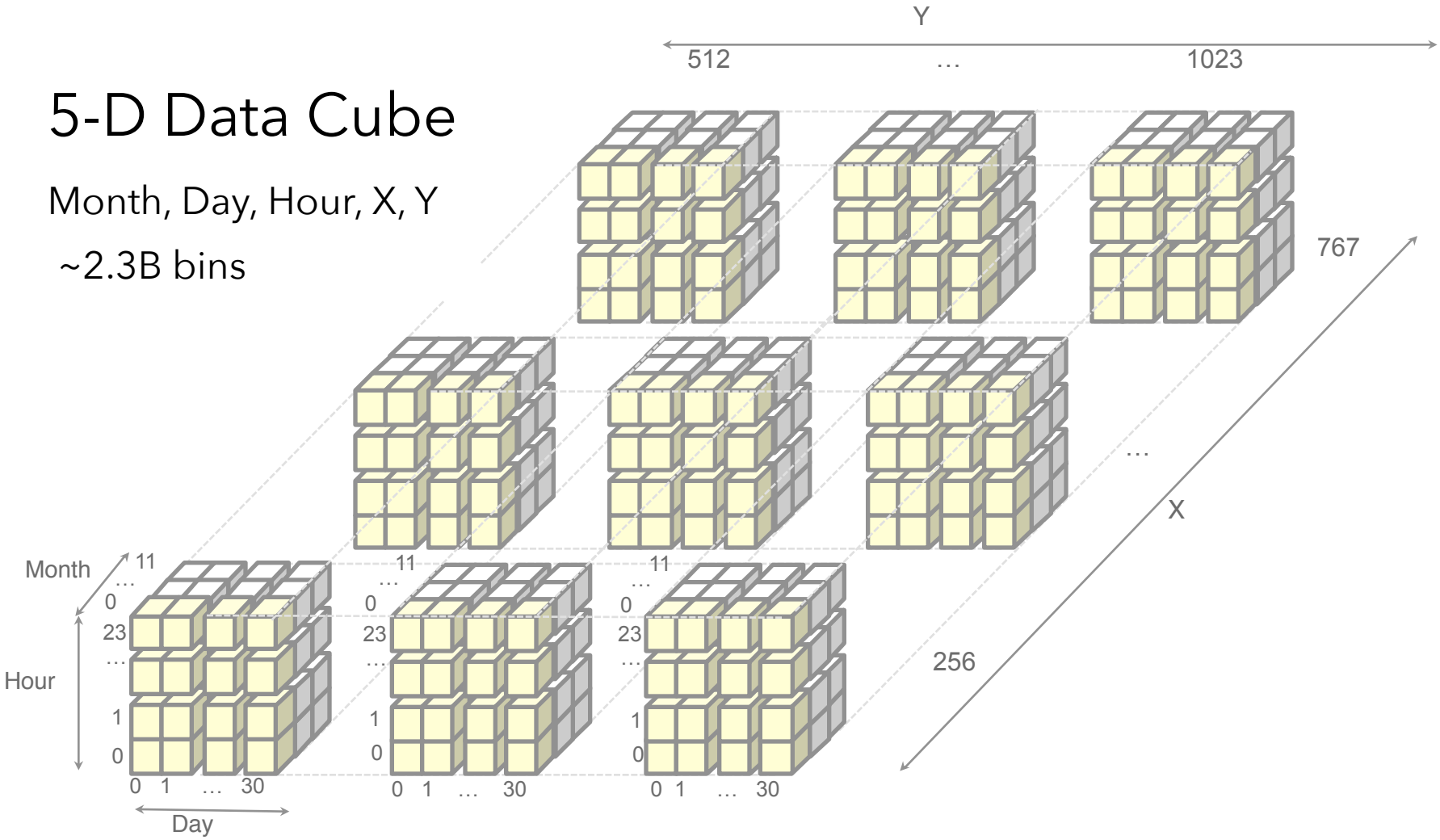
~2.3B bins

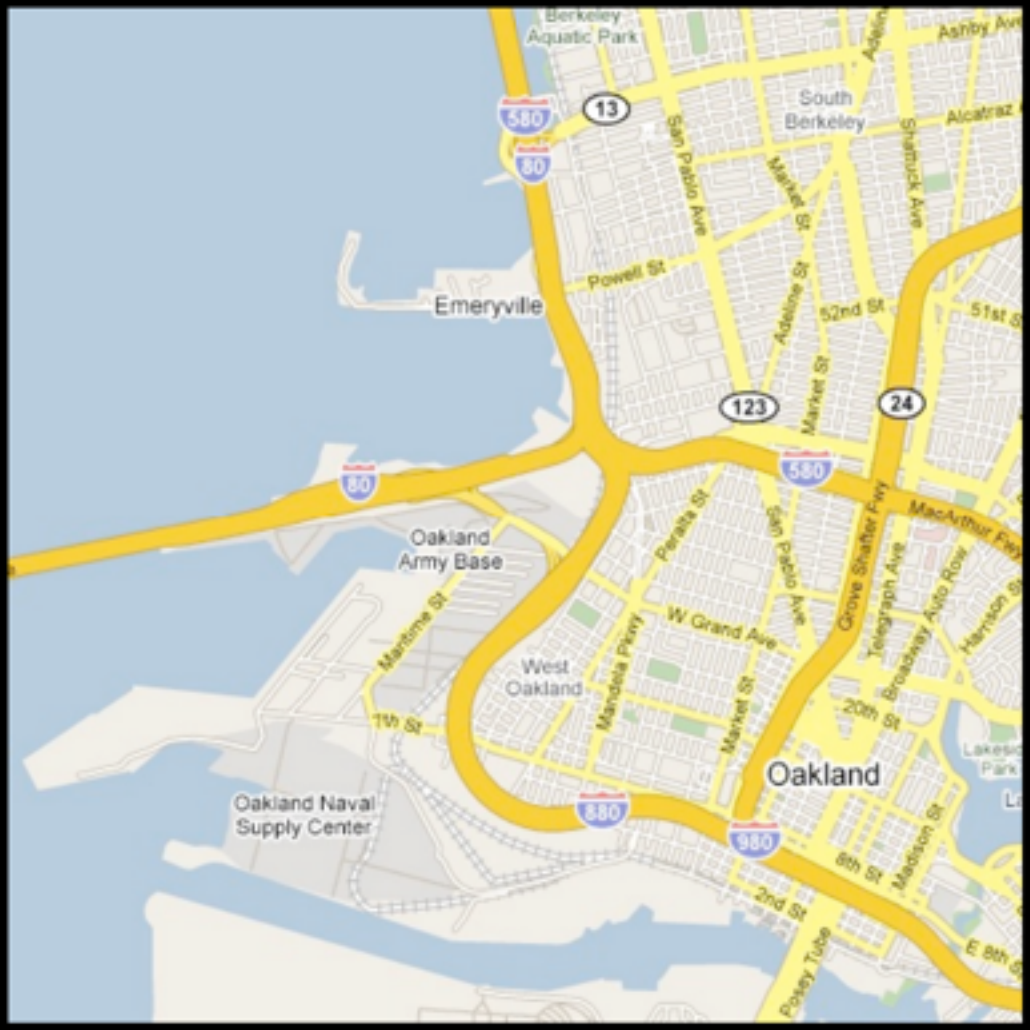


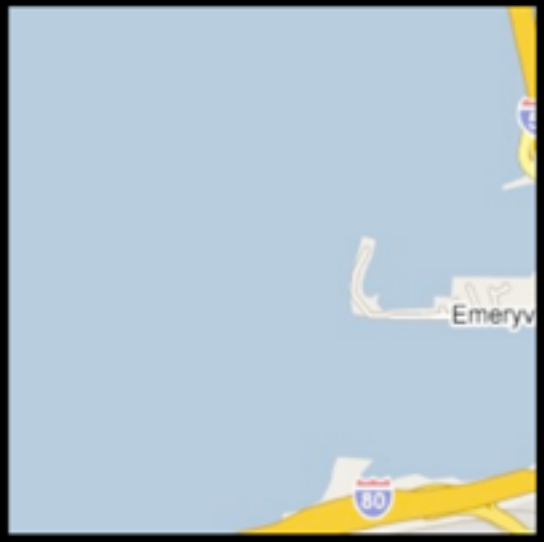
5-D Data Cube

Month, Day, Hour, X, Y

~2.3B bins

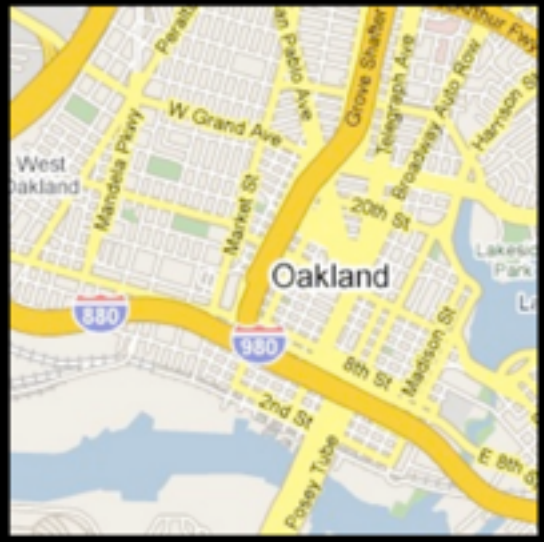



Berkeley Aquatic Park
Ashby Ave
580
13
South Berkeley
Alcatraz
80
San Pablo Ave
Market St
Shattuck Ave
Powell St
Emeryville
52nd St
51st St
Adeline St
123
24
Market St
580
80
MacArthur Fwy
Oakland Army Base
Peralta St
San Pablo Ave
Grove Shafter Fwy
Telegraph Ave
Broadway Auto Row
Harrison St
Maritime St
W Grand Ave
West Oakland
Mandela Pkwy
20th St
7th St
Market St
Oakland
Oakland Naval Supply Center
880
980
6th St
Madison St
2nd St
E 8th St
Posey Tube


Emeryv
80


Berkeley
Aquatic Park
Ashby Ave
13
South
Berkeley
Alcatraz
80
San Pablo Ave
Shattuck Ave
Powell St
Adeline St
52nd St
51st S
123
Market St
24
580

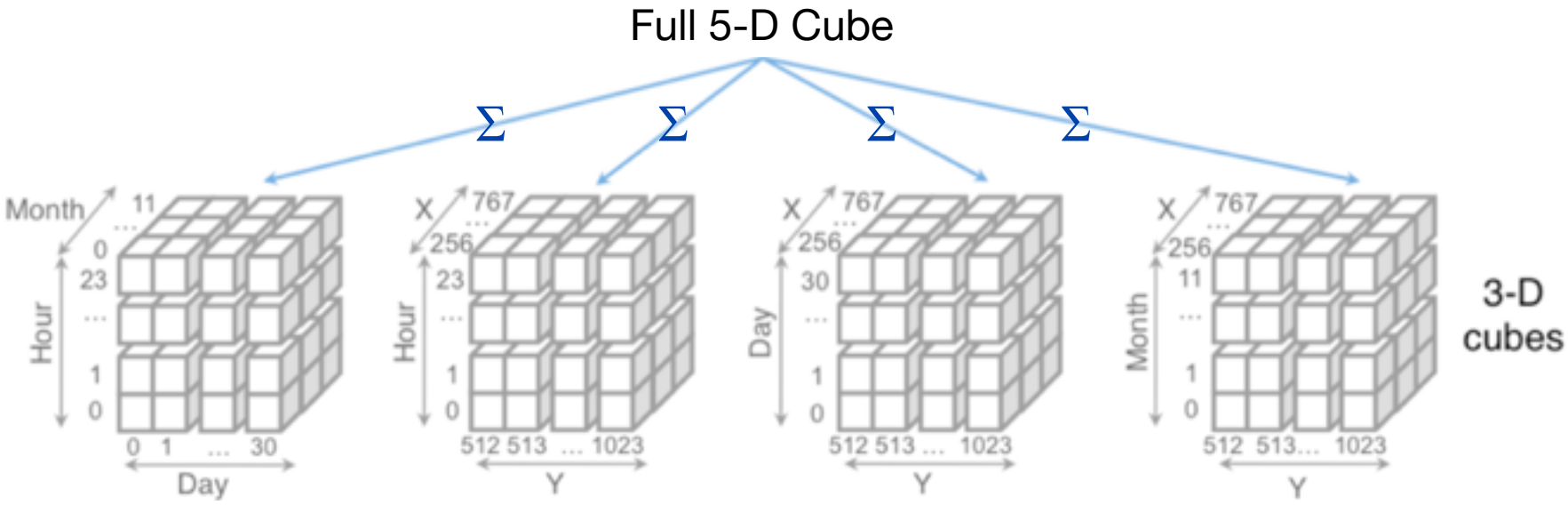

Oakland
Army Base
Maritime St
7th St
Oakland Naval
Supply Center


W Grand Ave
Grove Shafter
Telegraph Ave
Broadway
Auto Row
Harrison St
Mandela Pkwy
West
Oakland
Market St
20th St
Oakland
880
980
8th St
Madison St
2nd St
E 8th St
Posey Tube

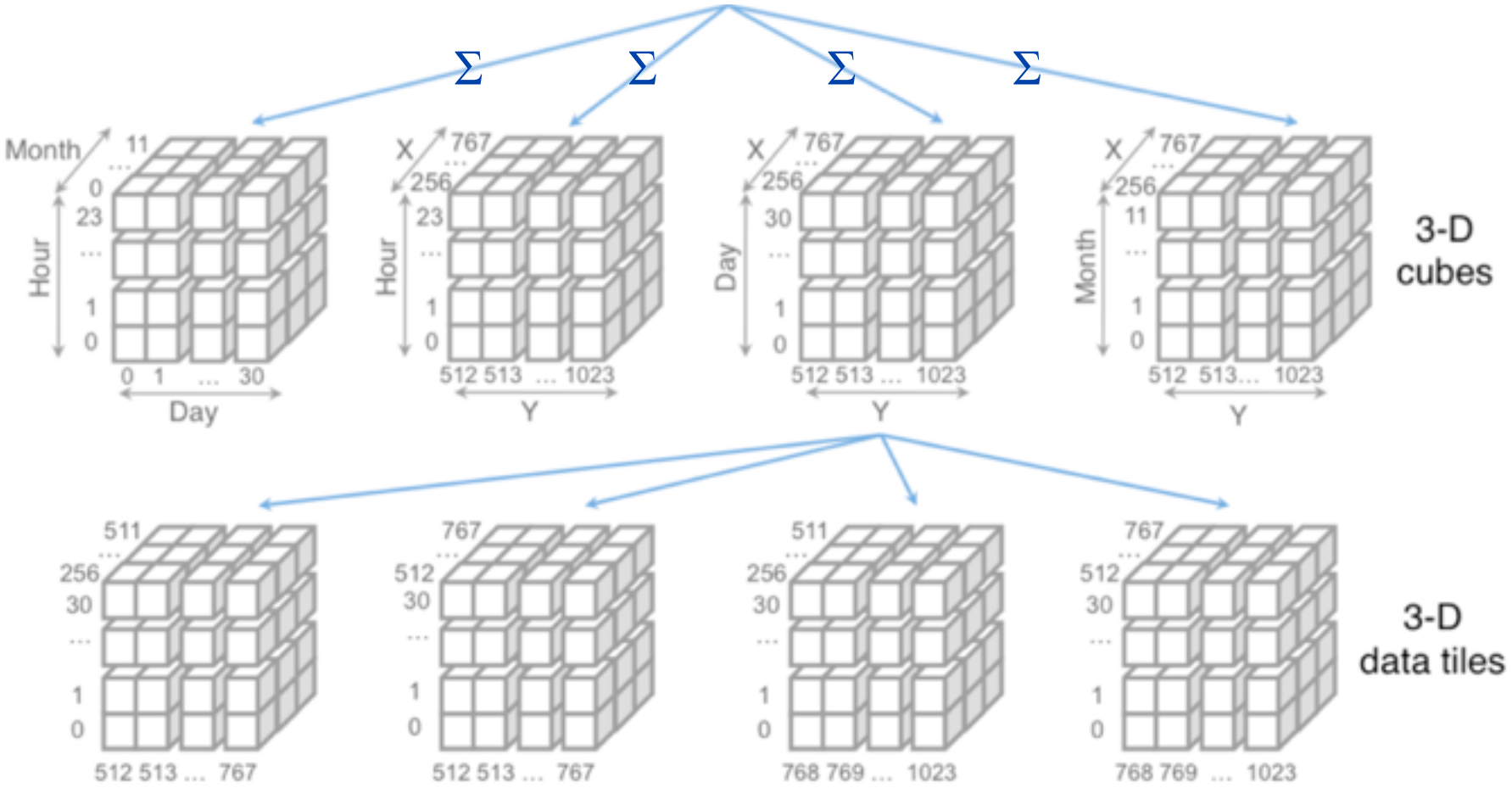
Multivariate Data Tiles

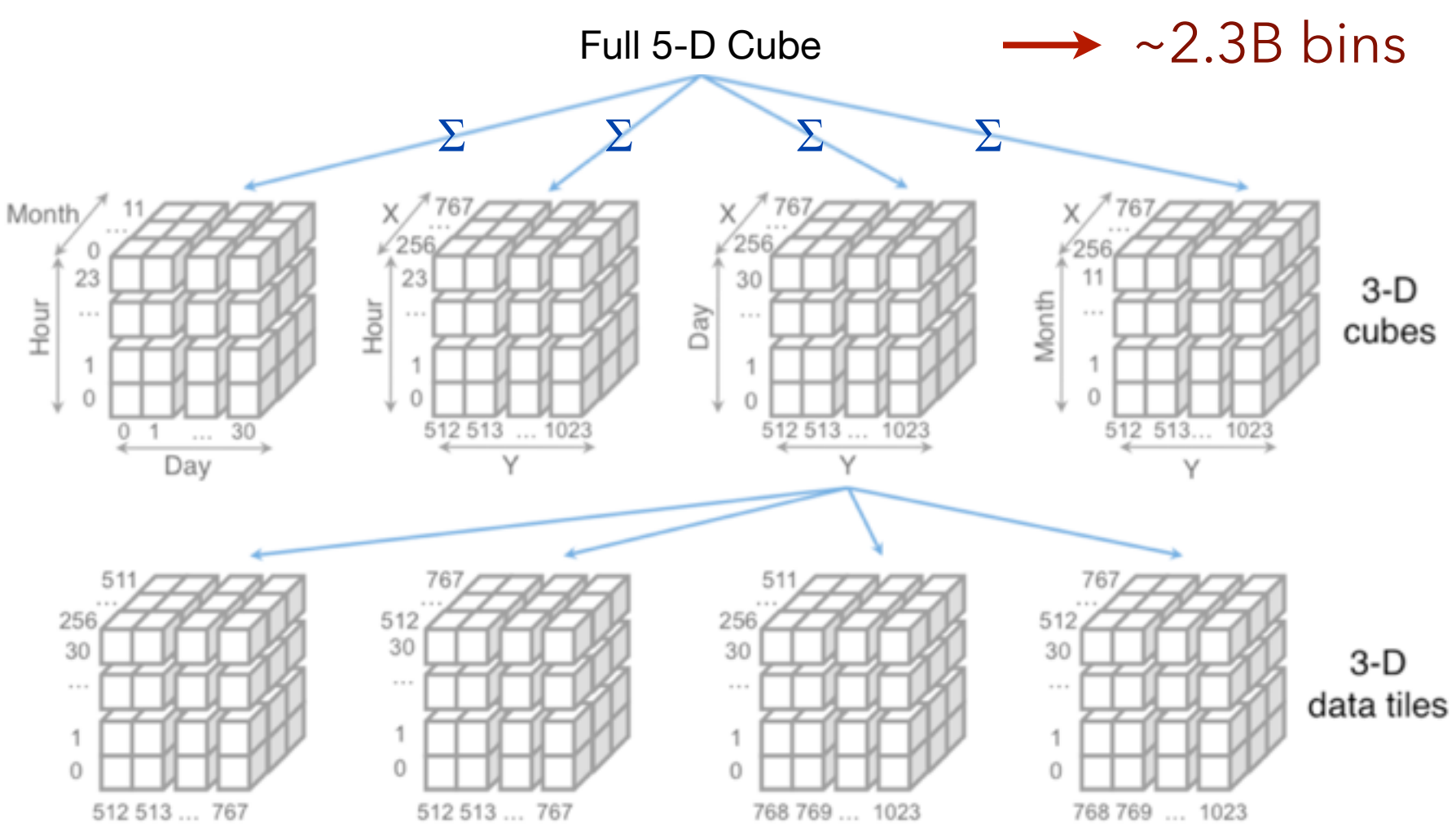
1. Send data, not pixels
2. Embed multi-dim data

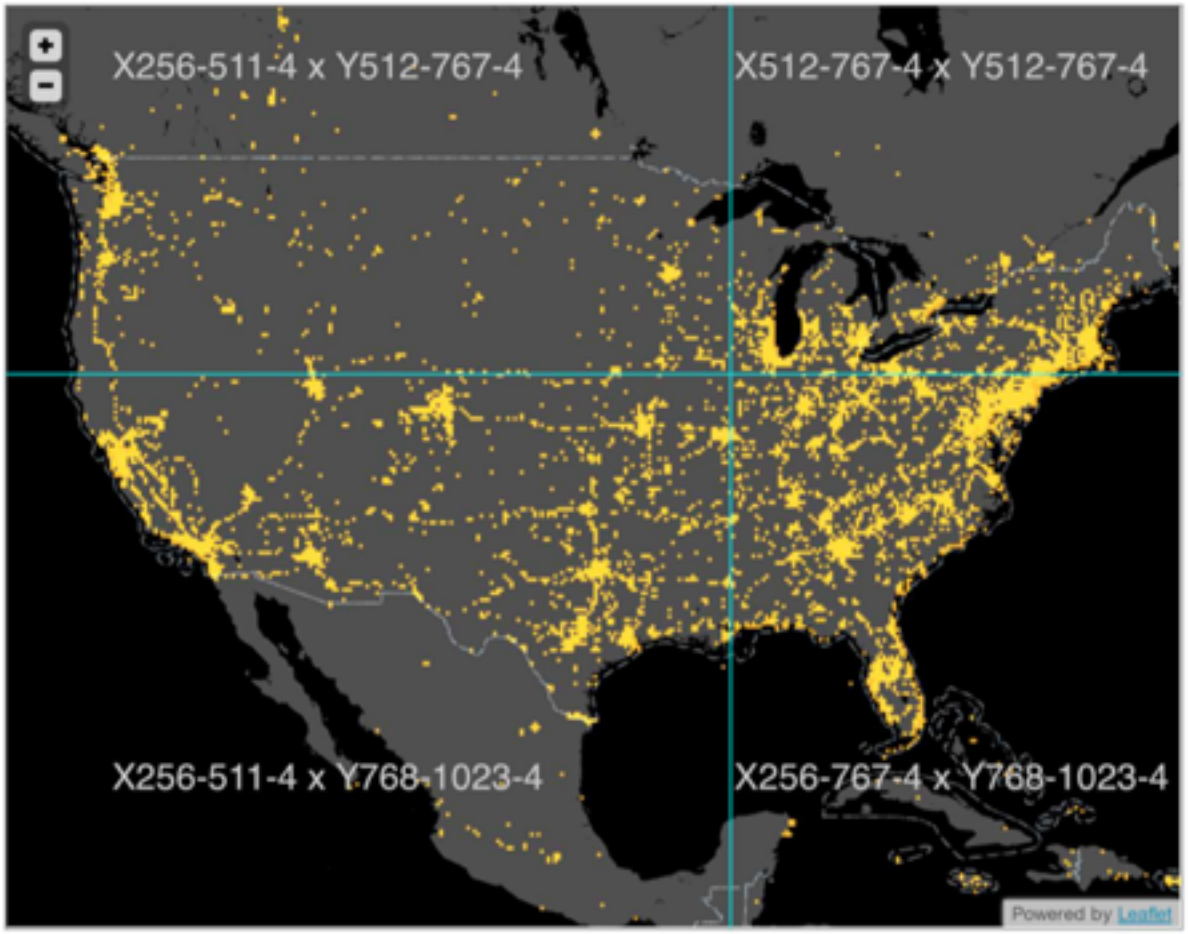
Full 5-D Cube

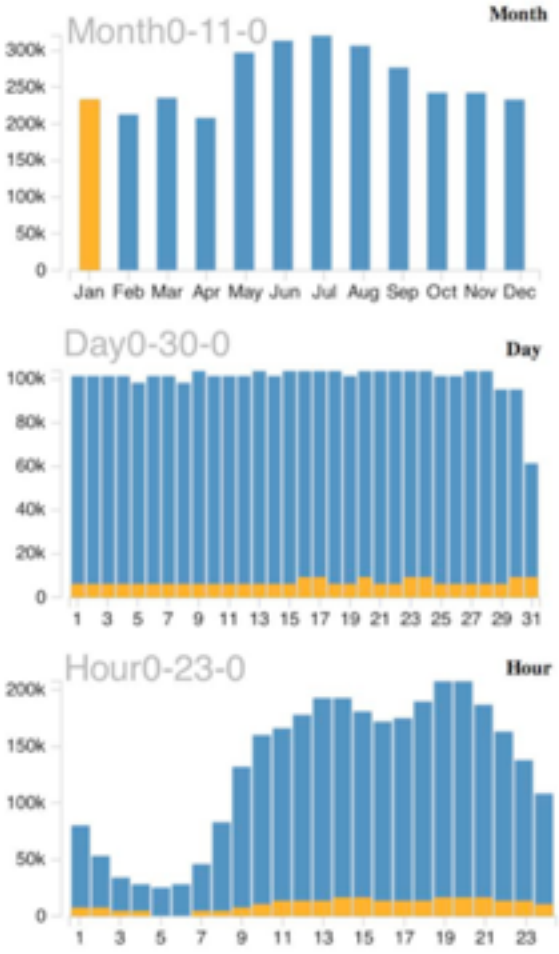


For any pair of 1D or 2D binned plots, the maximum number of dimensions needed to support brushing & linking is **four**.


Full 5-D Cube
Σ
Σ
Σ
Σ
Month
Hour
Day
X
Hour
Y
X
Day
Y
X
Month
Y
3-D cubes
3-D data tiles
13 3-D Data Tiles


Full 5-D Cube
~2.3B bins
Σ
Σ
Σ
Σ
Month
Hour
Day
X
Hour
Y
X
Day
Y
X
Month
Y
3-D cubes
3-D data tiles
13 3-D Data Tiles
~17.6M bins
(in 352KB!)


X256-511-4 x Y512-767-4
X512-767-4 x Y512-767-4
X256-511-4 x Y768-1023-4
X256-767-4 x Y768-1023-4
Powered by Leaflet


Month
Month0-11-0
300k
250k
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100k
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Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Day
Day0-30-0
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60k
40k
20k
0
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31
Hour
Hour0-23-0
200k
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100k
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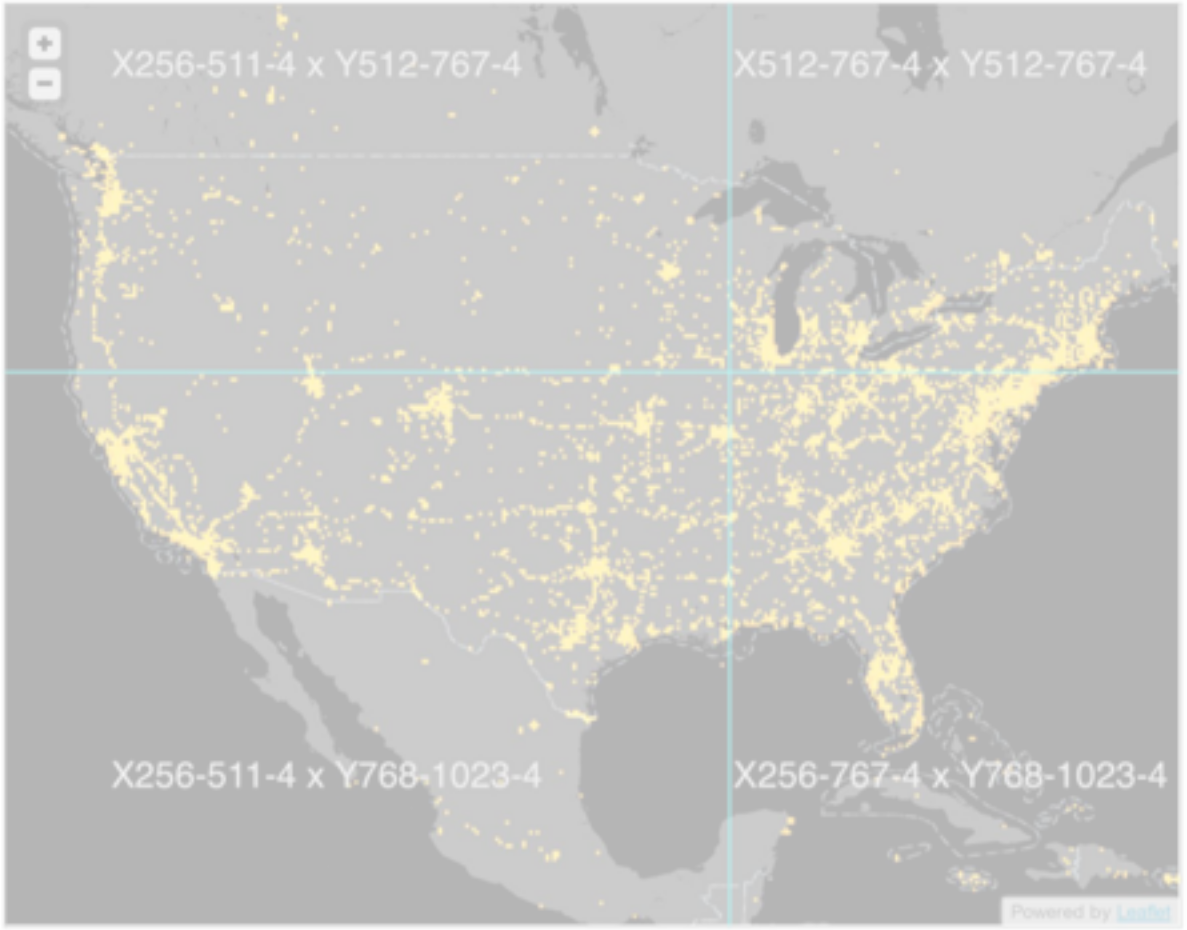
0
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23


X256-511-4 x Y512-767-4
X512-767-4 x Y512-767-4
X256-511-4 x Y768-1023-4
X256-767-4 x Y768-1023-4
Powered by Leaflet

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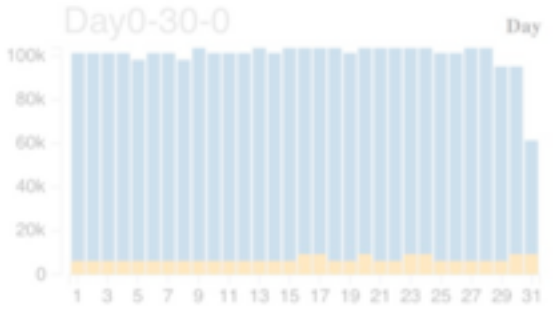
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec


Day
Day0-30-0
100k
80k
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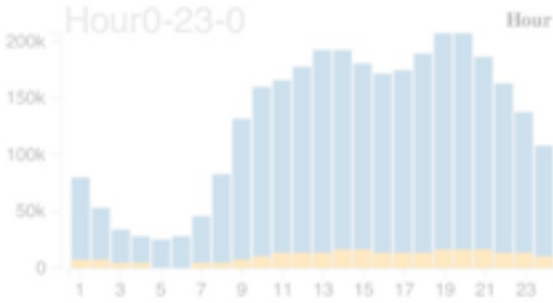
20k
0
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31


Hour
Hour0-23-0
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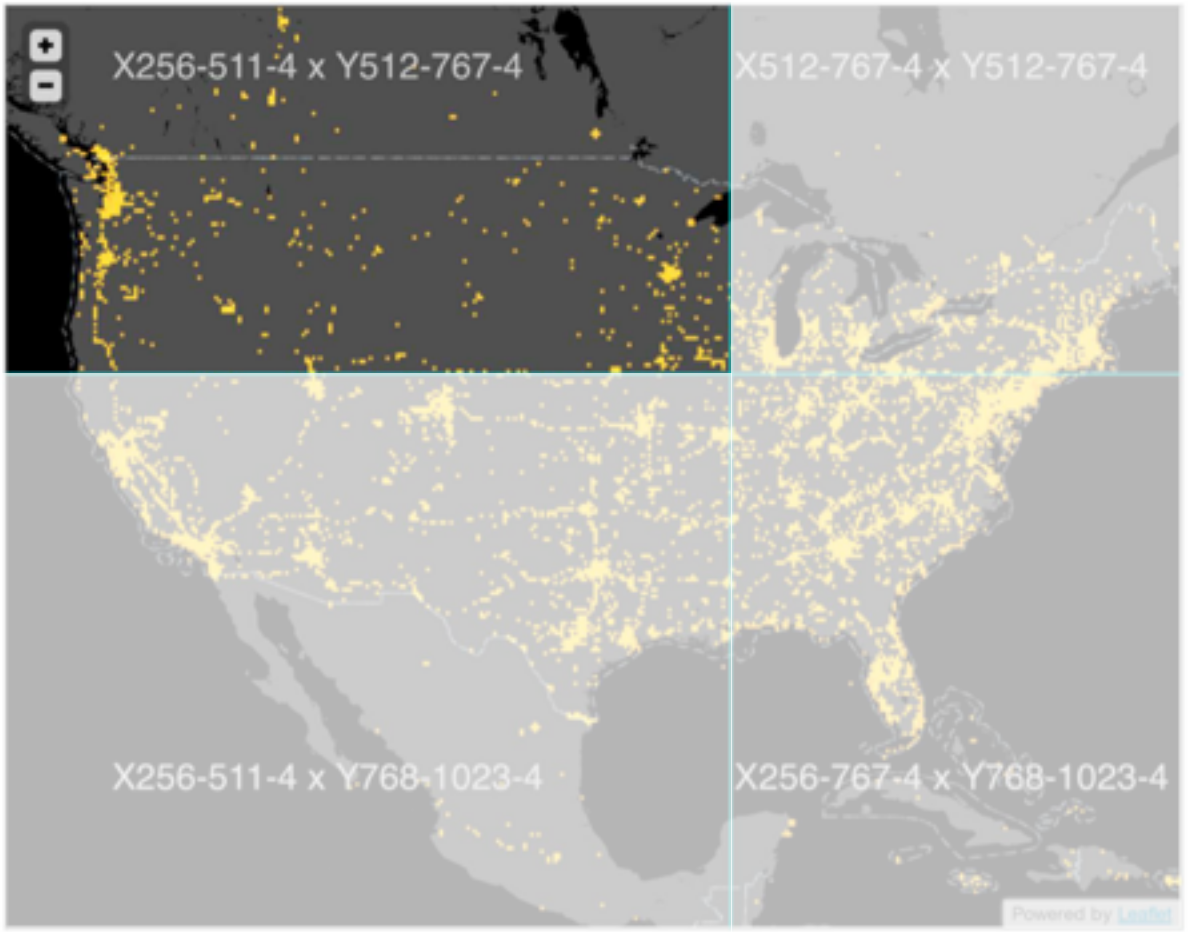
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23


X256-511-4 x Y512-767-4
X512-767-4 x Y512-767-4
X256-511-4 x Y768-1023-4
X256-767-4 x Y768-1023-4
Powered by Leaflet


Month
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300k
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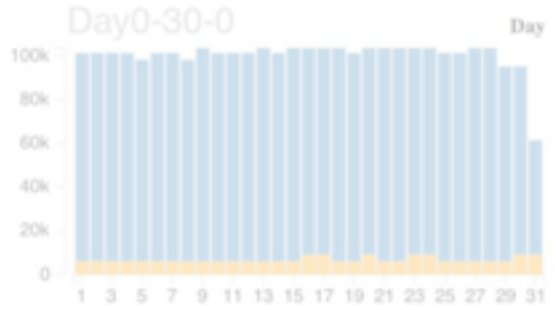
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec


Day0-30-0
Day
100k
80k
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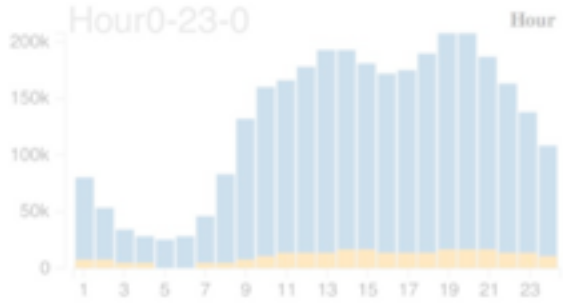
40k
20k
0
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31


Hour0-23-0
Hour
200k
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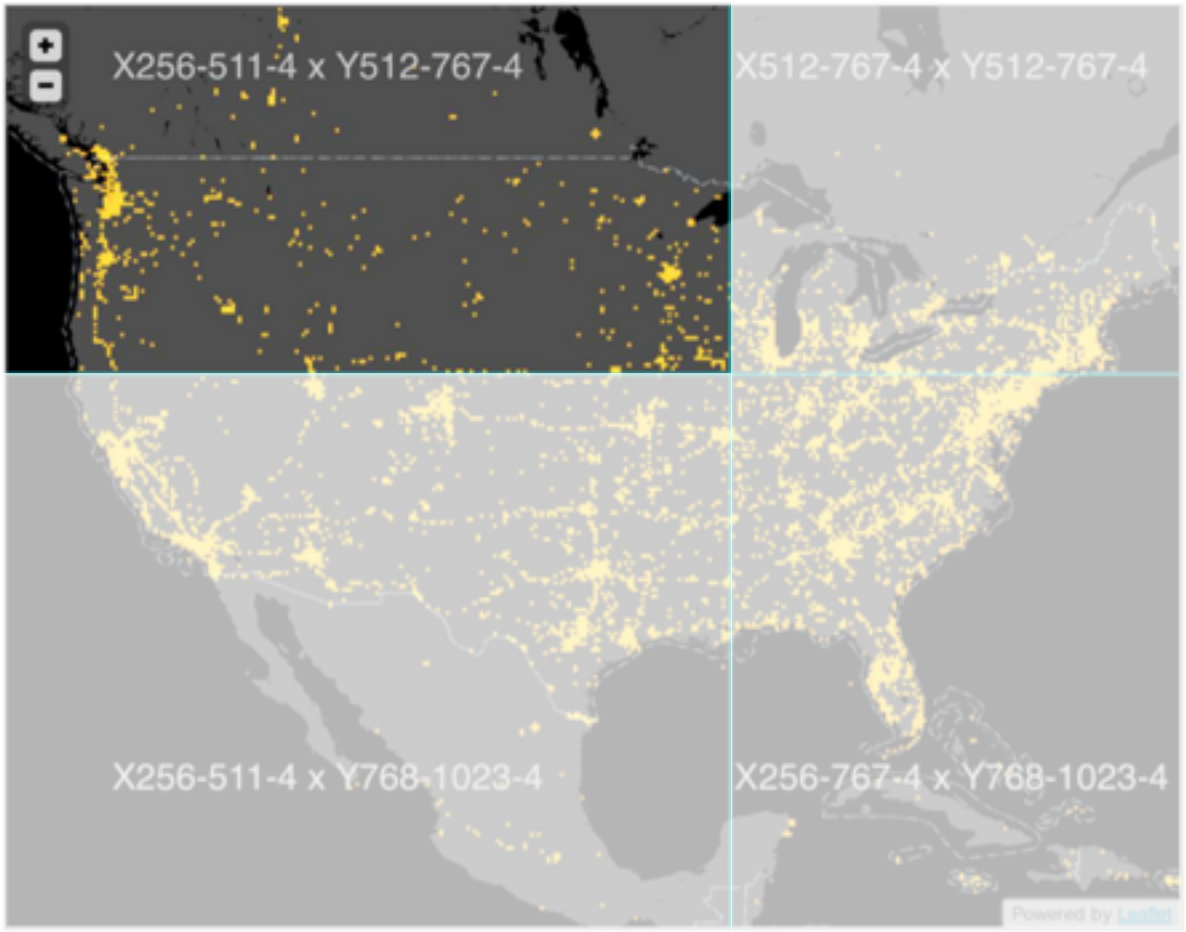
0
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23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X512-767-4 x Y512-767-4
X256-511-4 x Y768-1023-4
X256-767-4 x Y768-1023-4
Powered by Leaflet

Month
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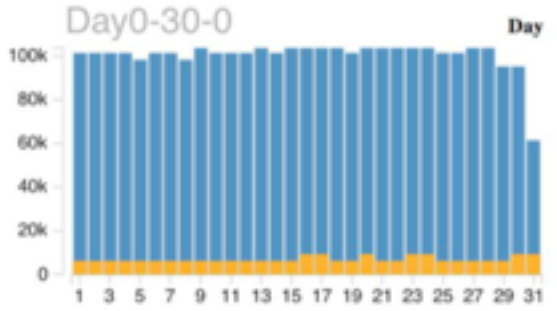
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec


Day0-30-0
Day
100k
80k
60k
40k
20k
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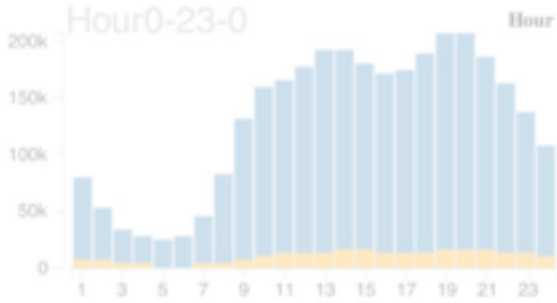
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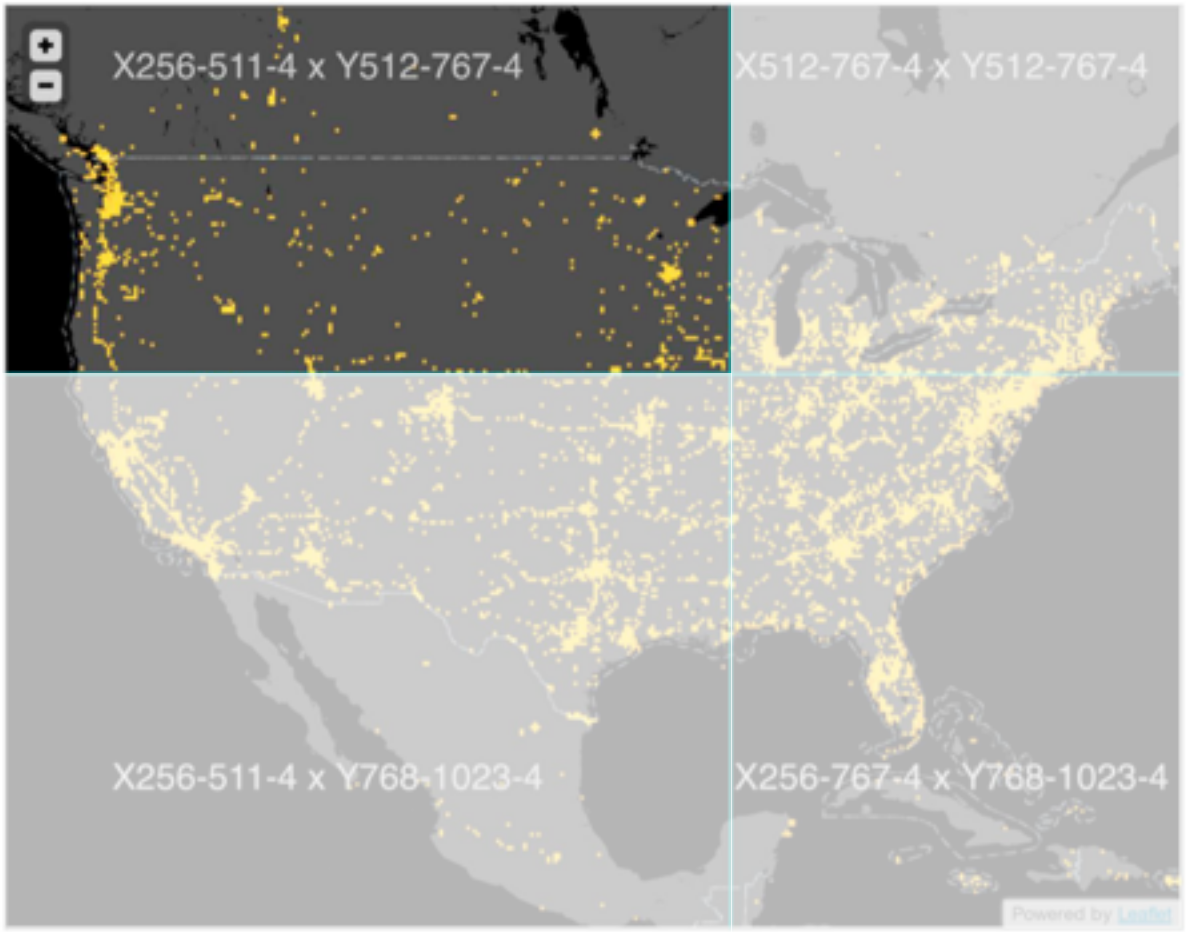
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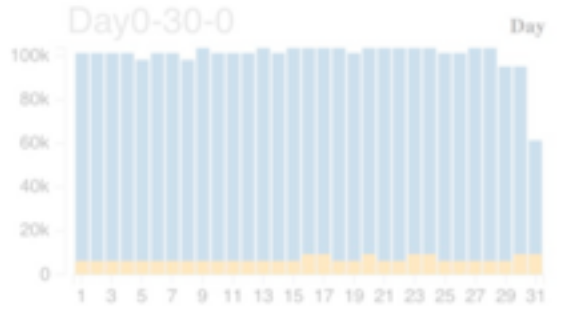
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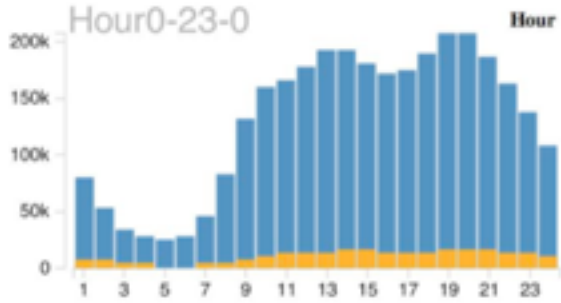
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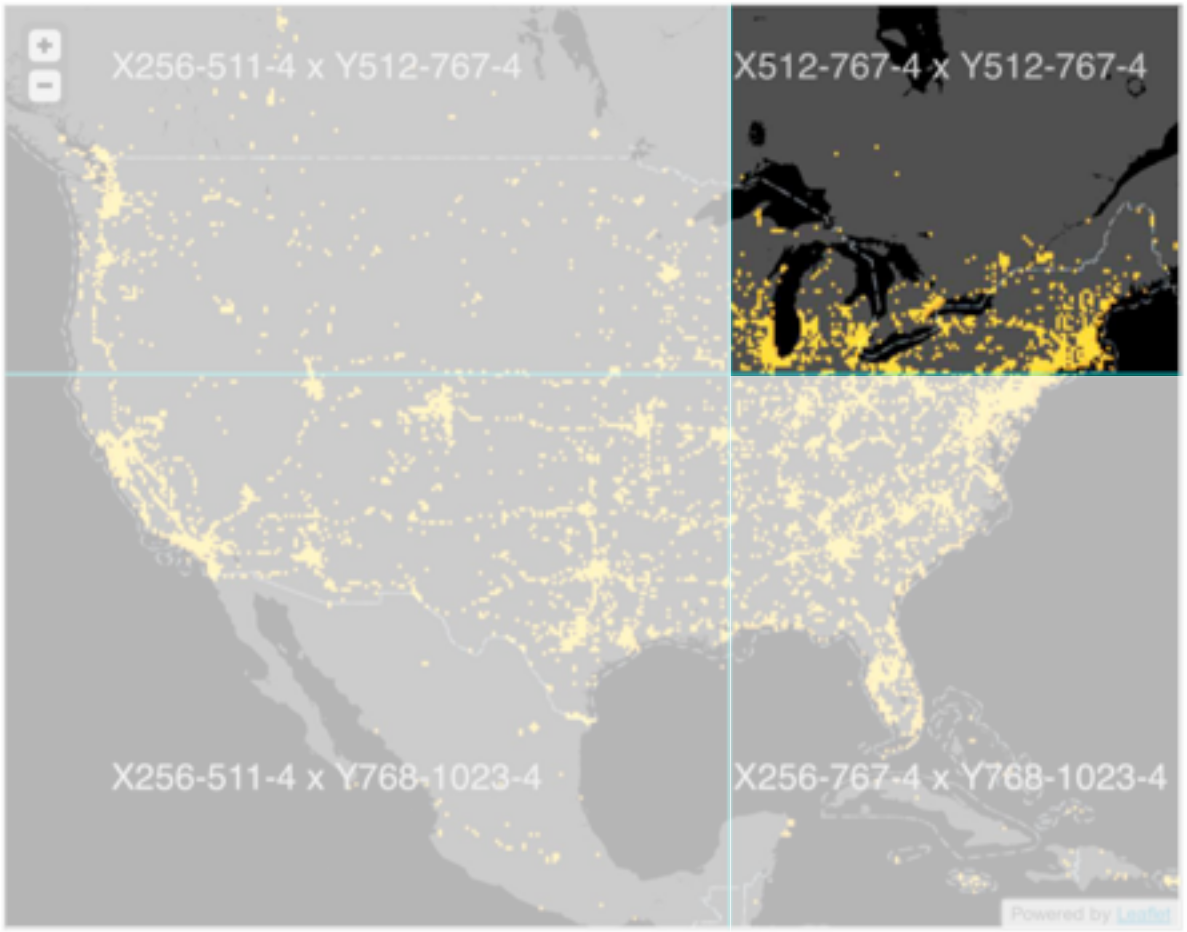
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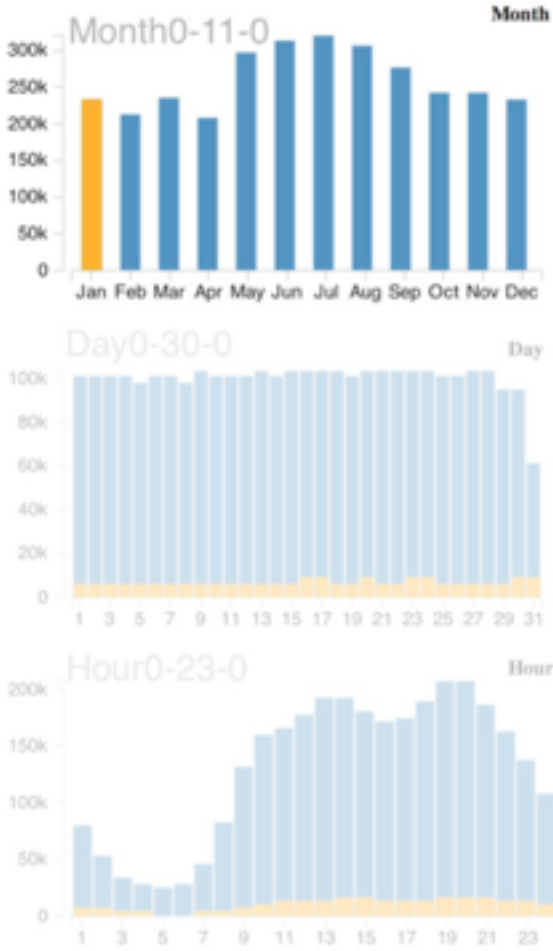
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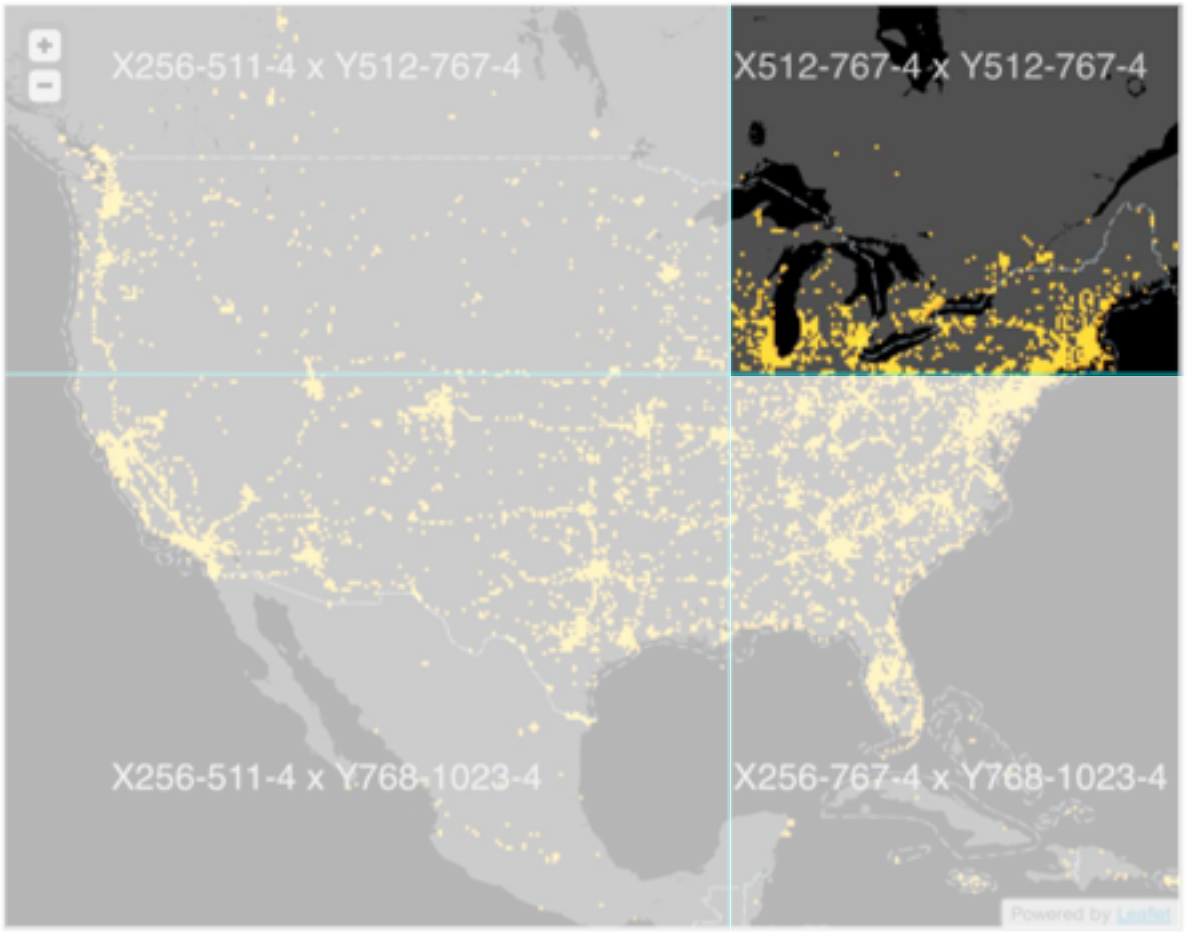
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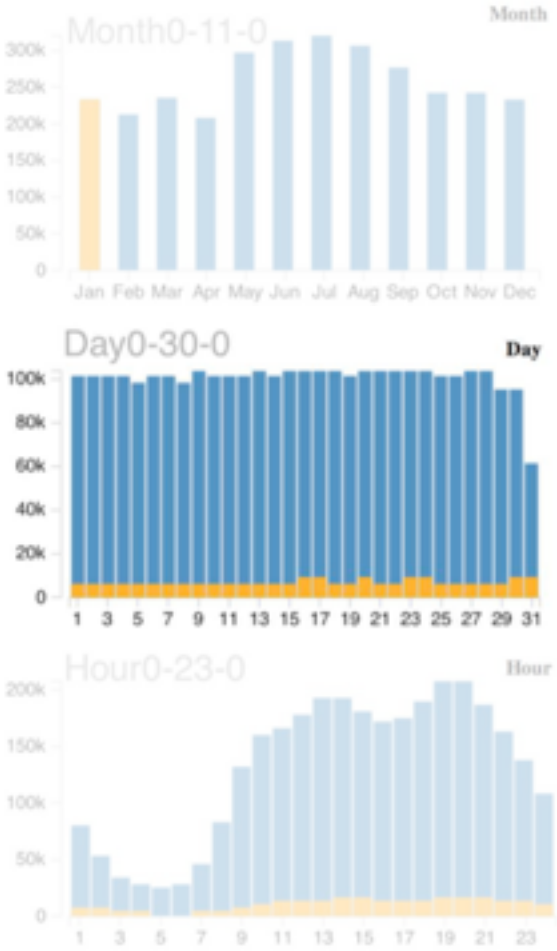
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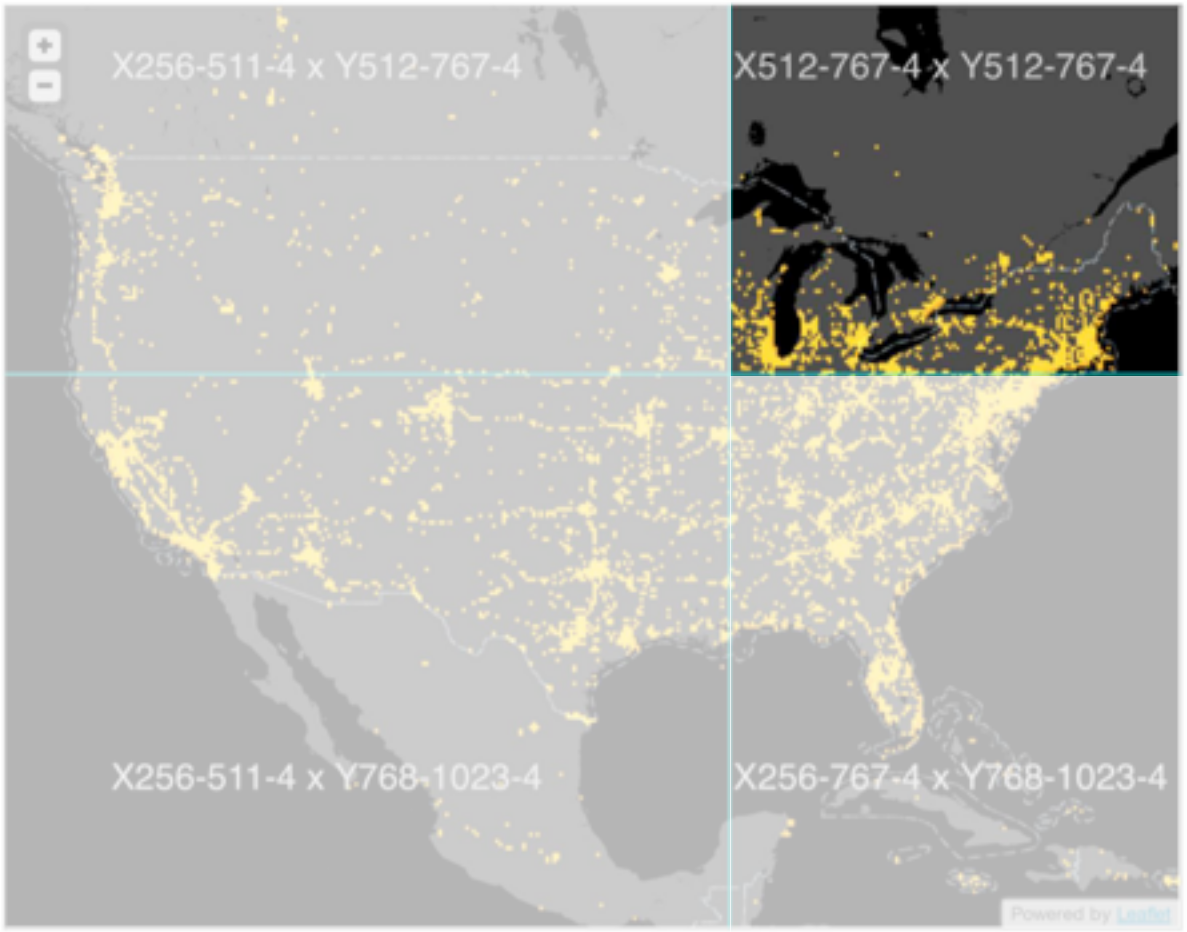
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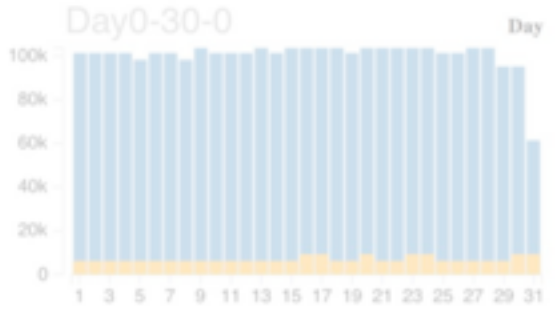
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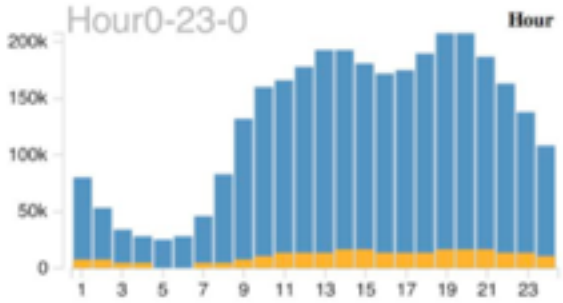
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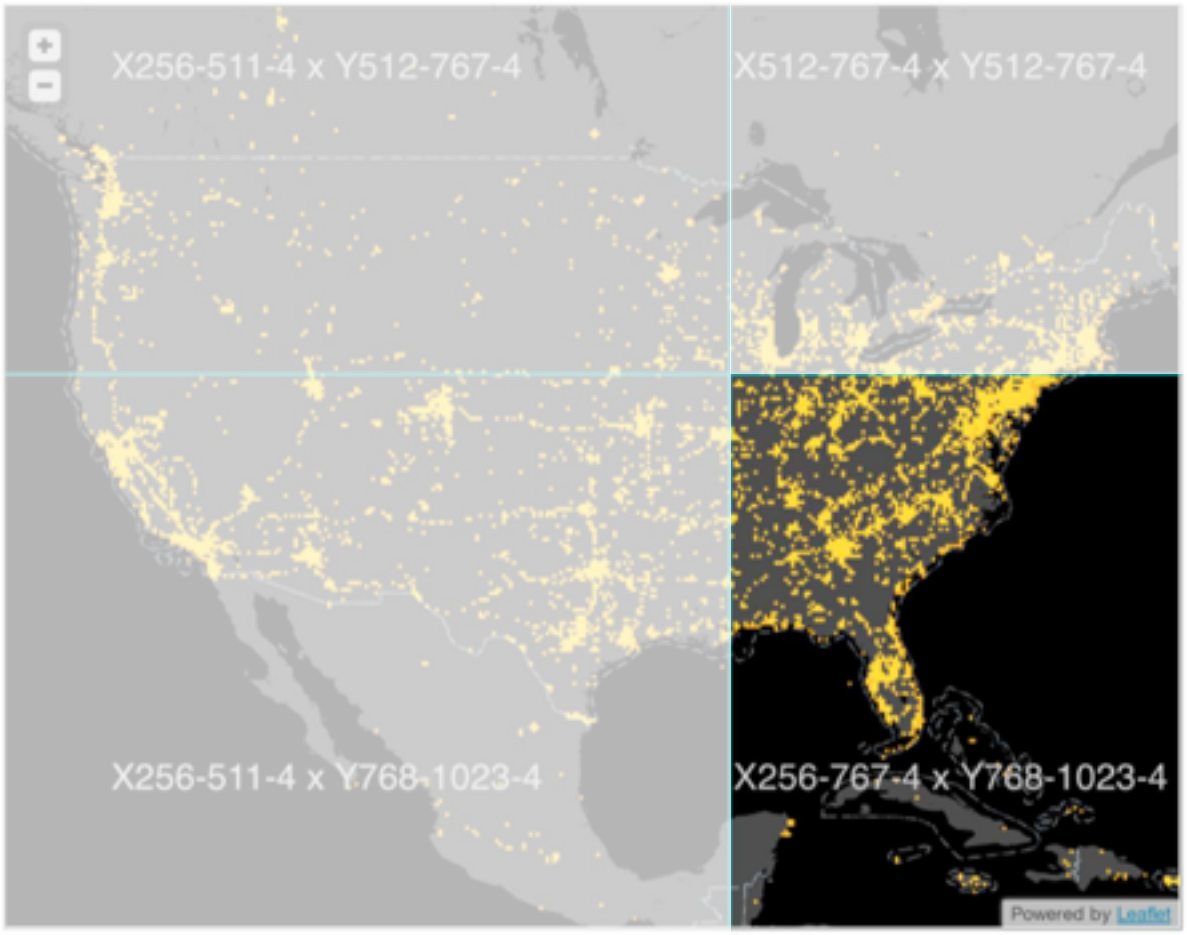
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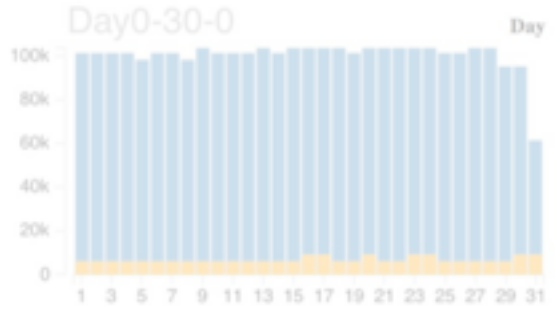
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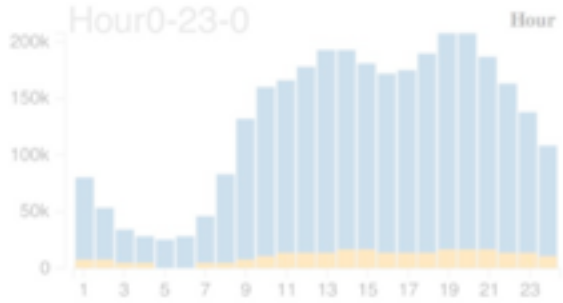
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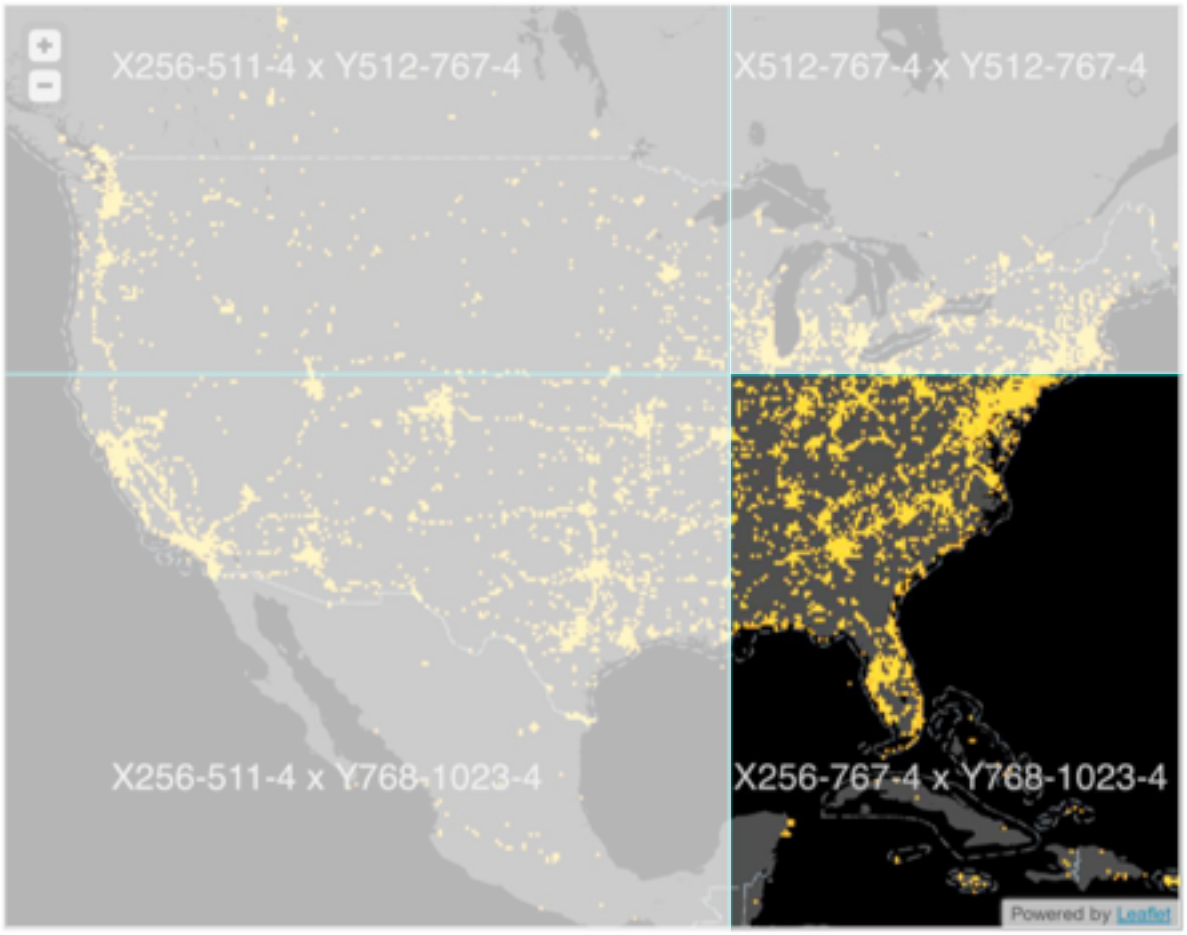
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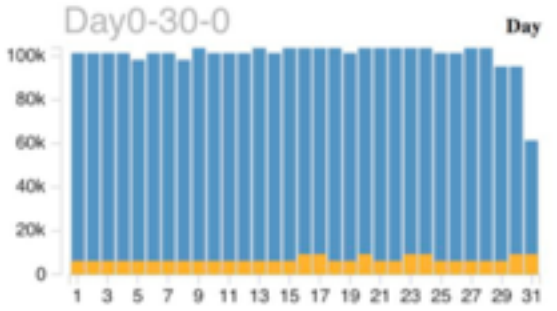
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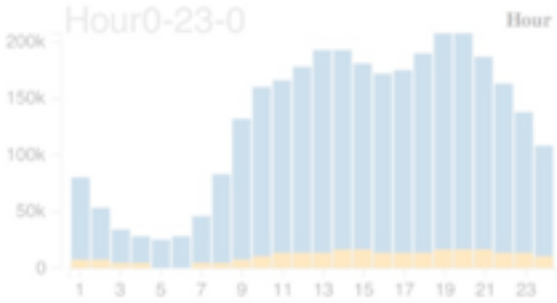
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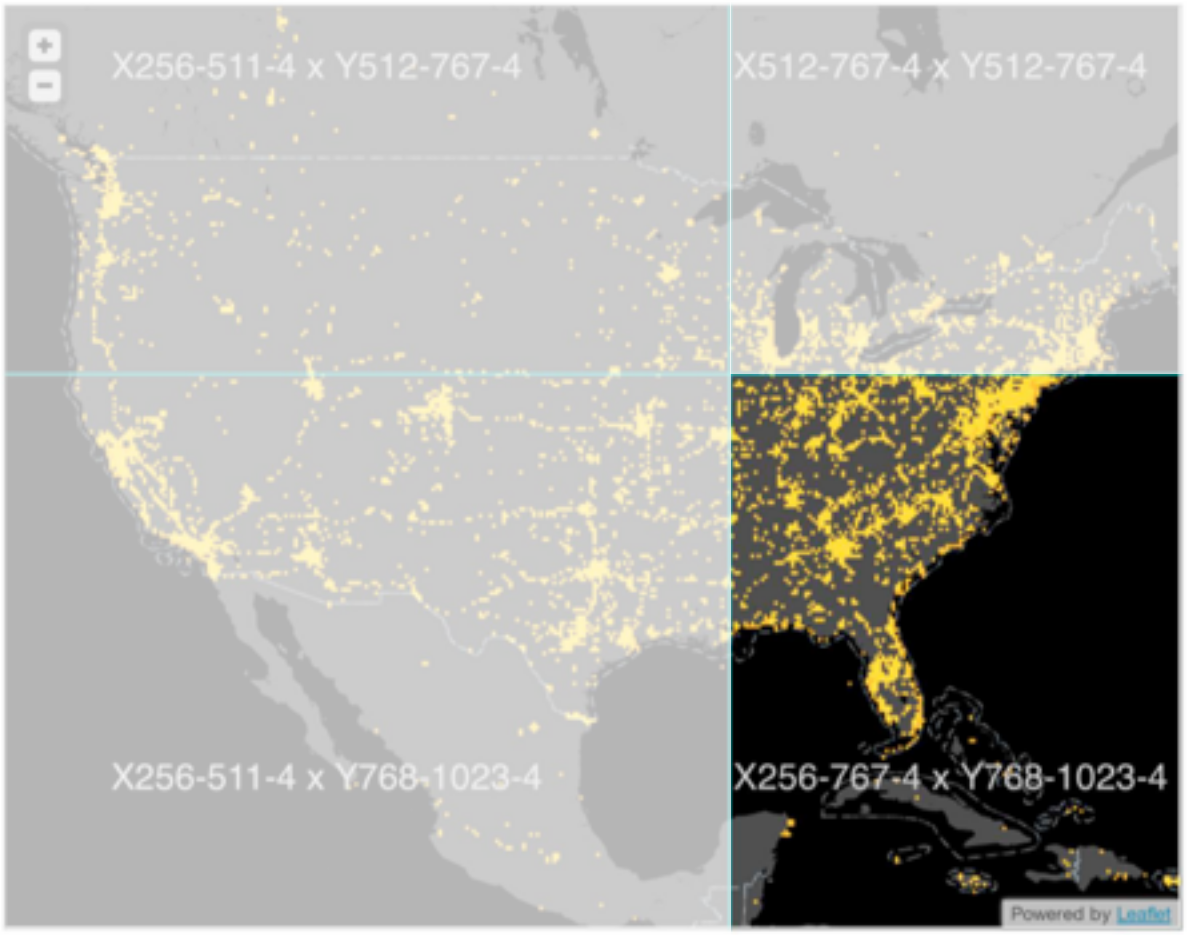
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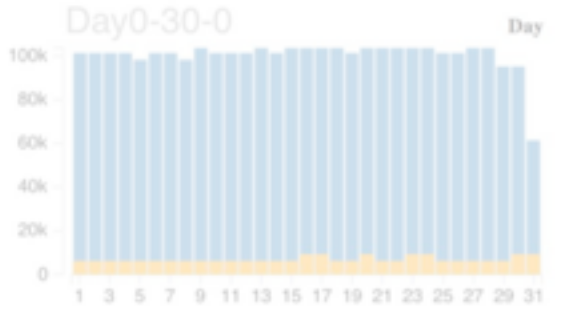
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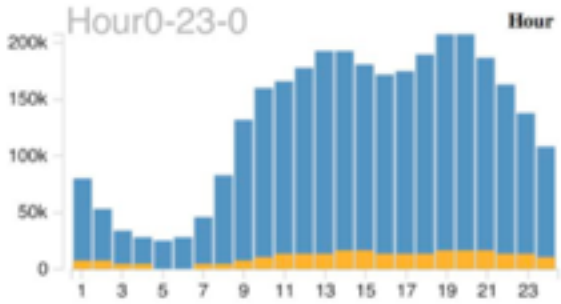
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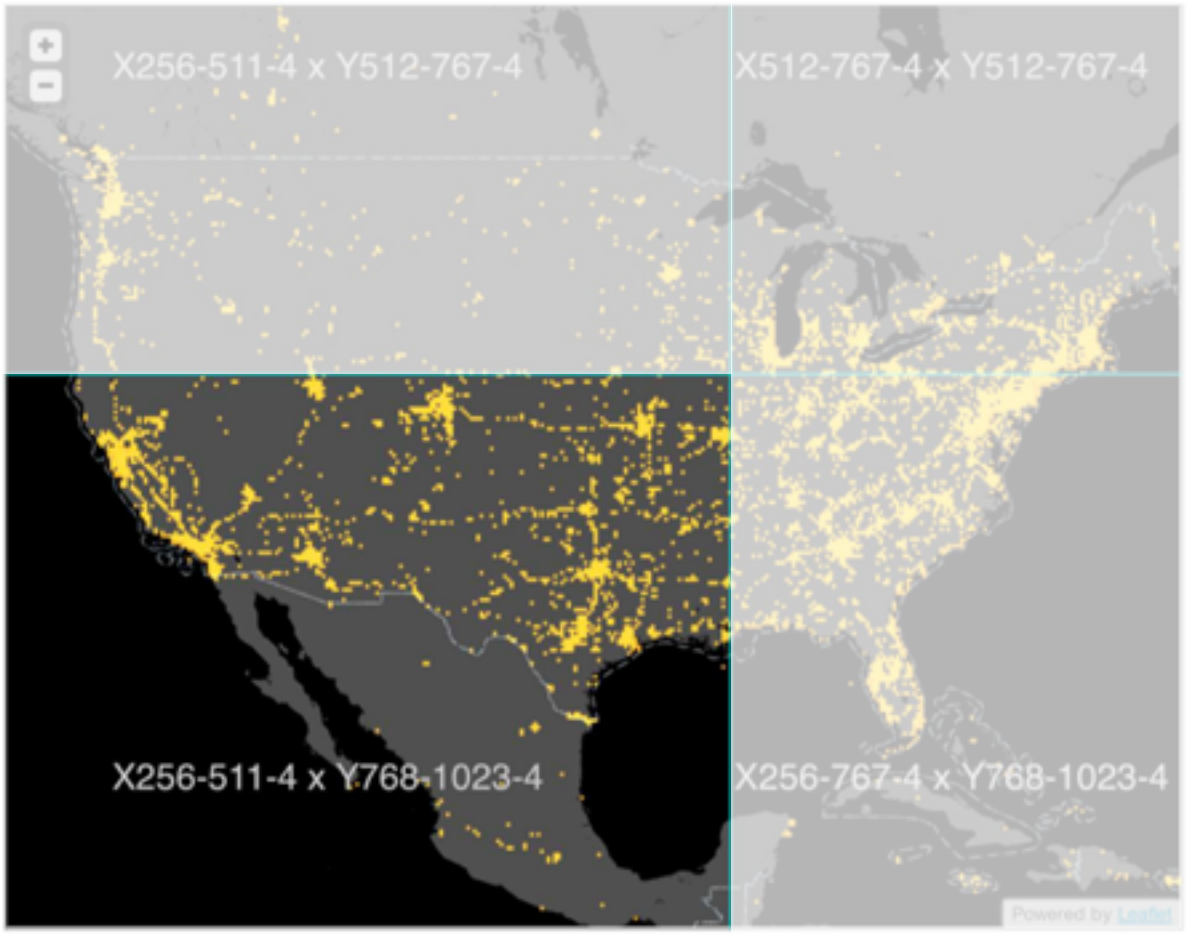
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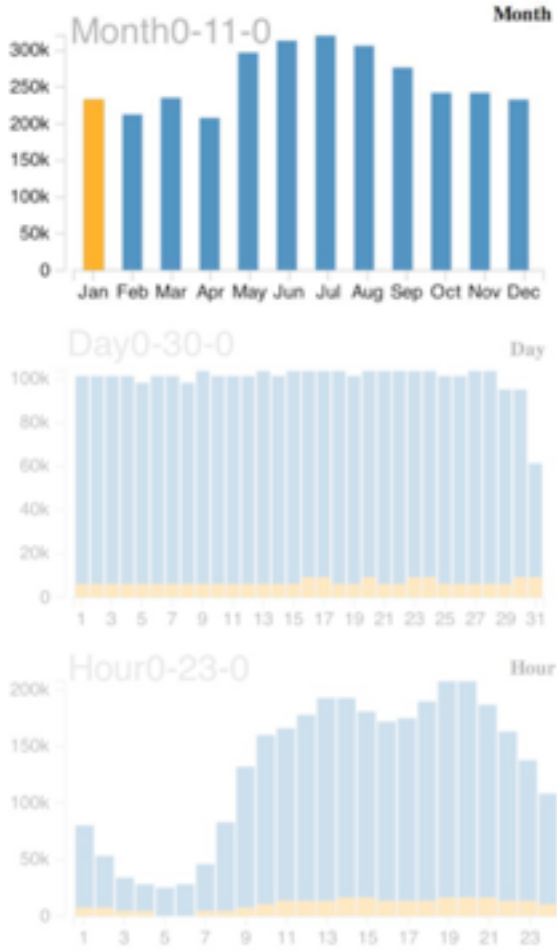
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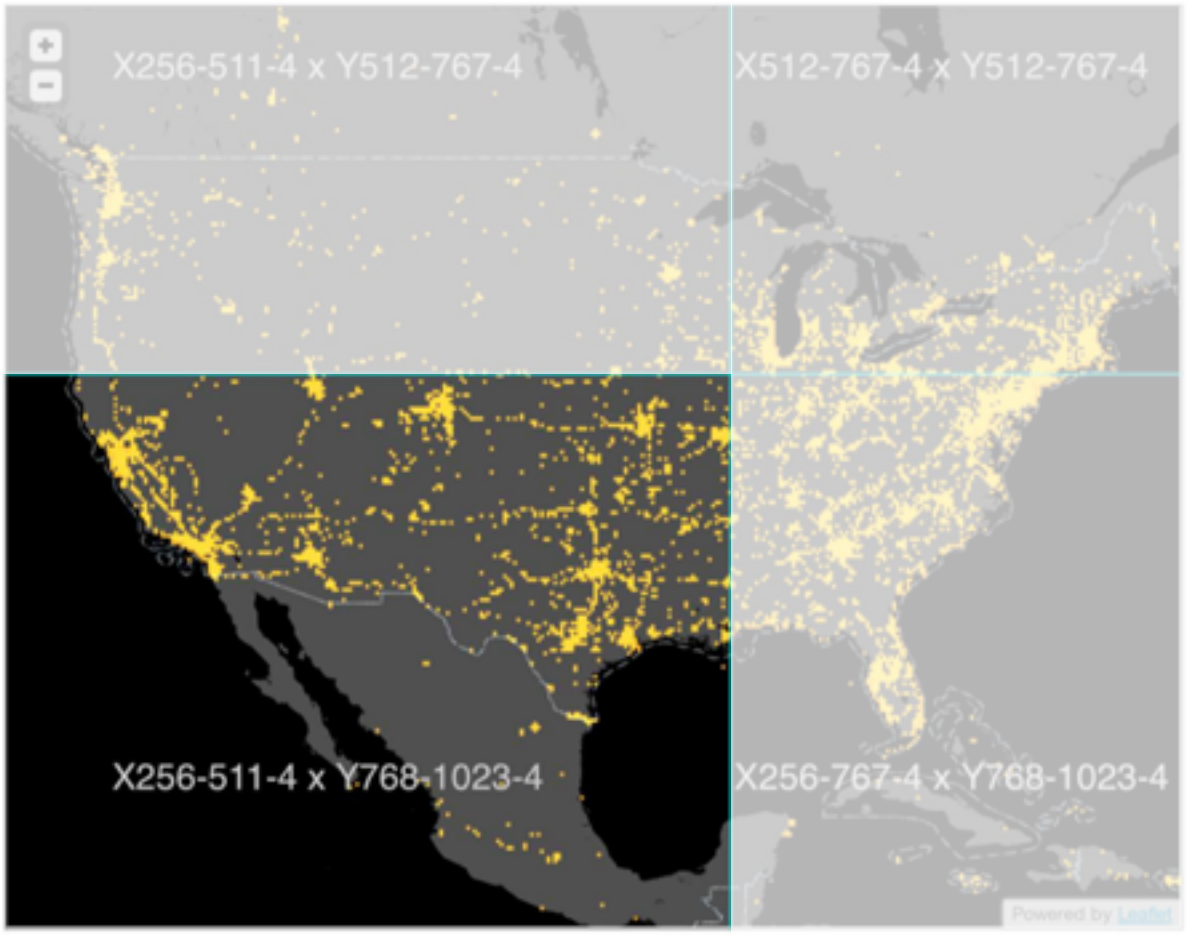
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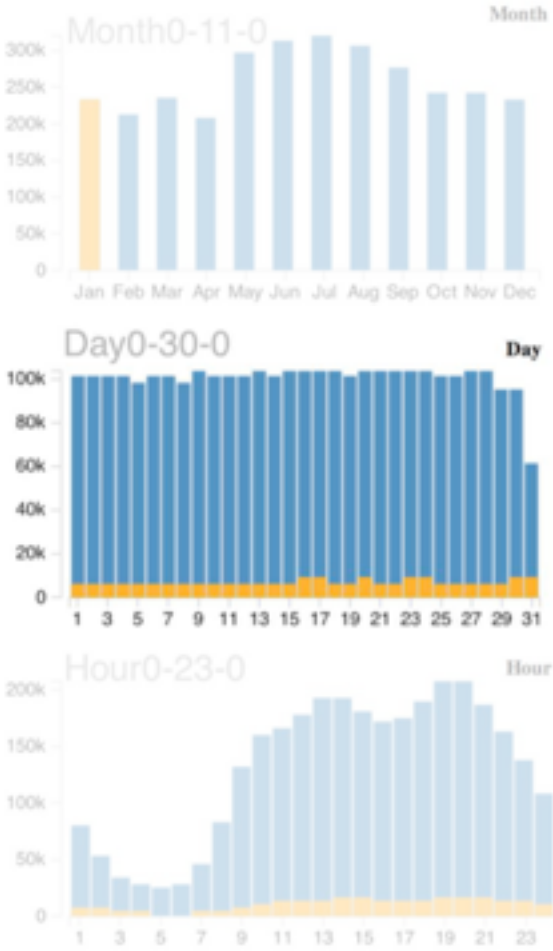
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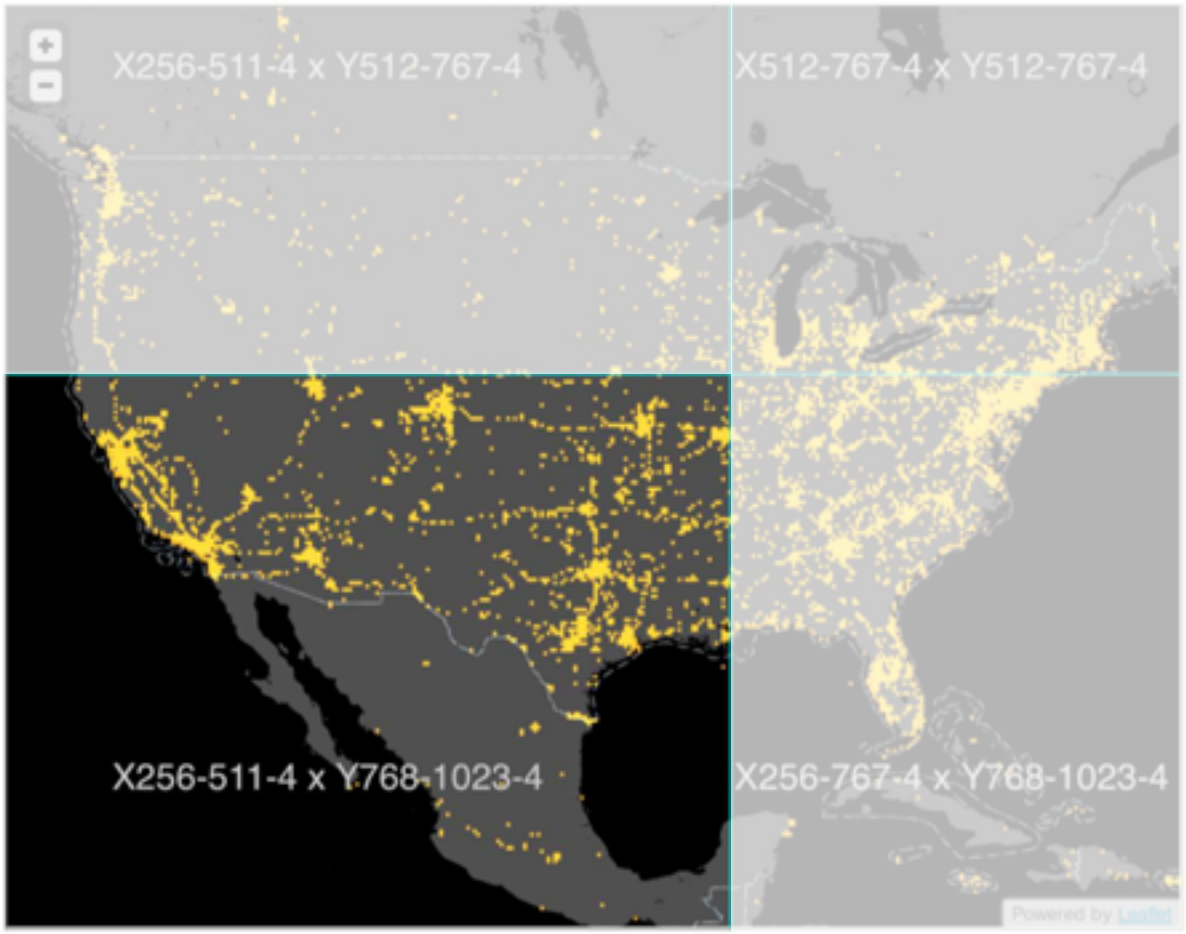
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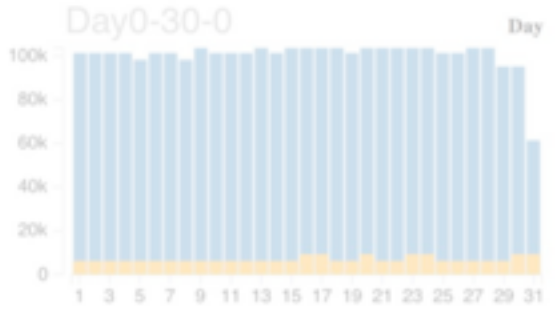
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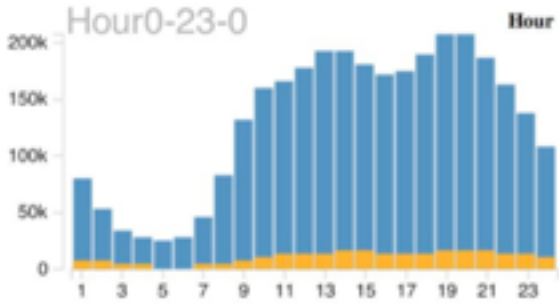
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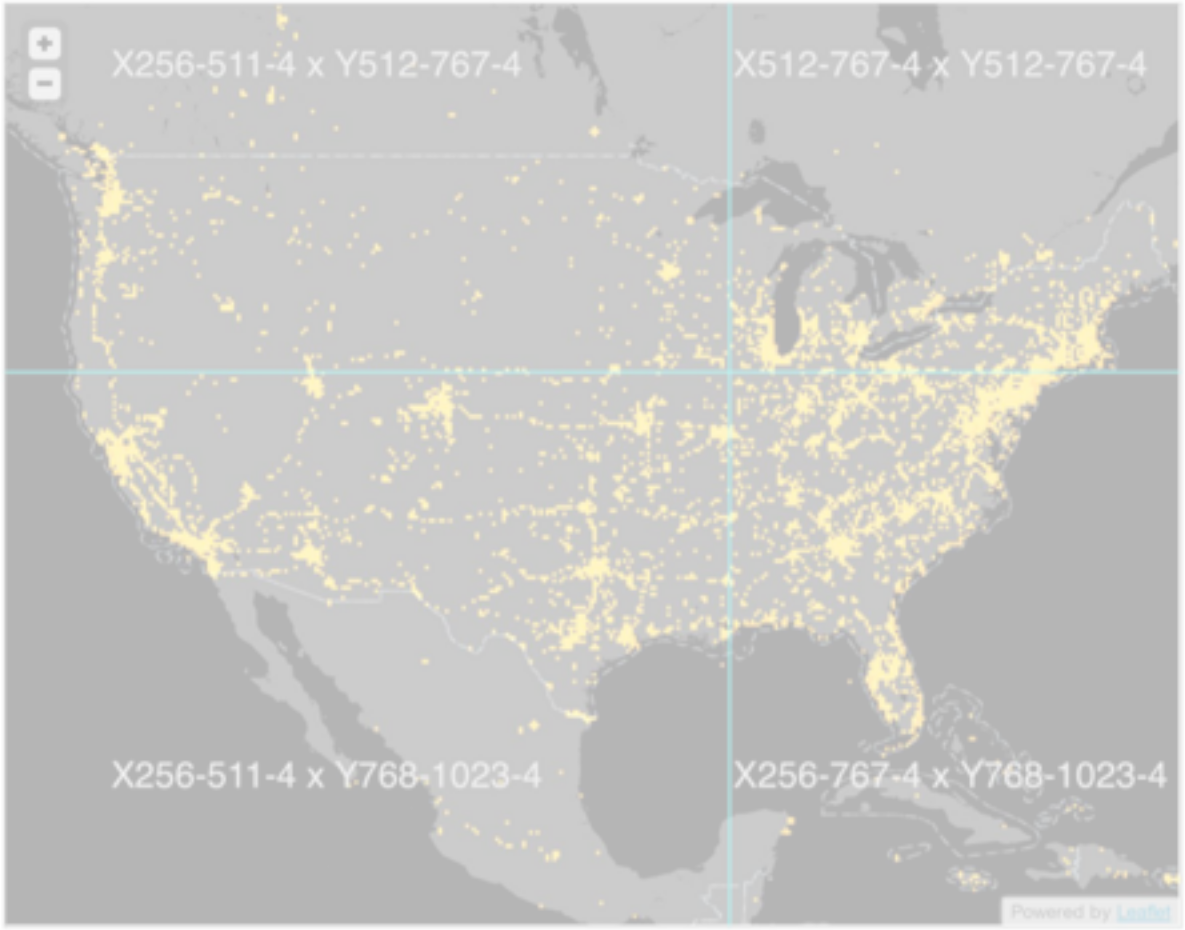
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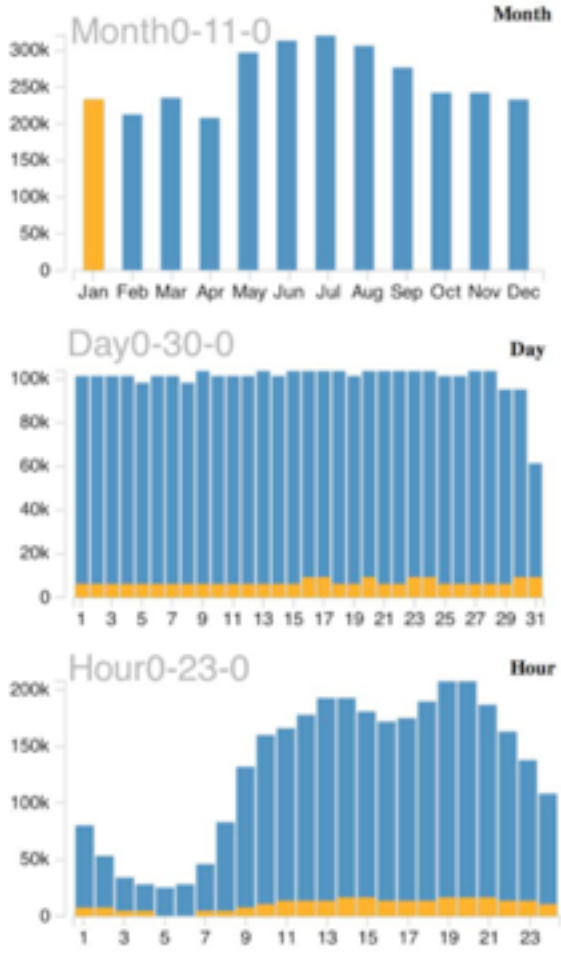
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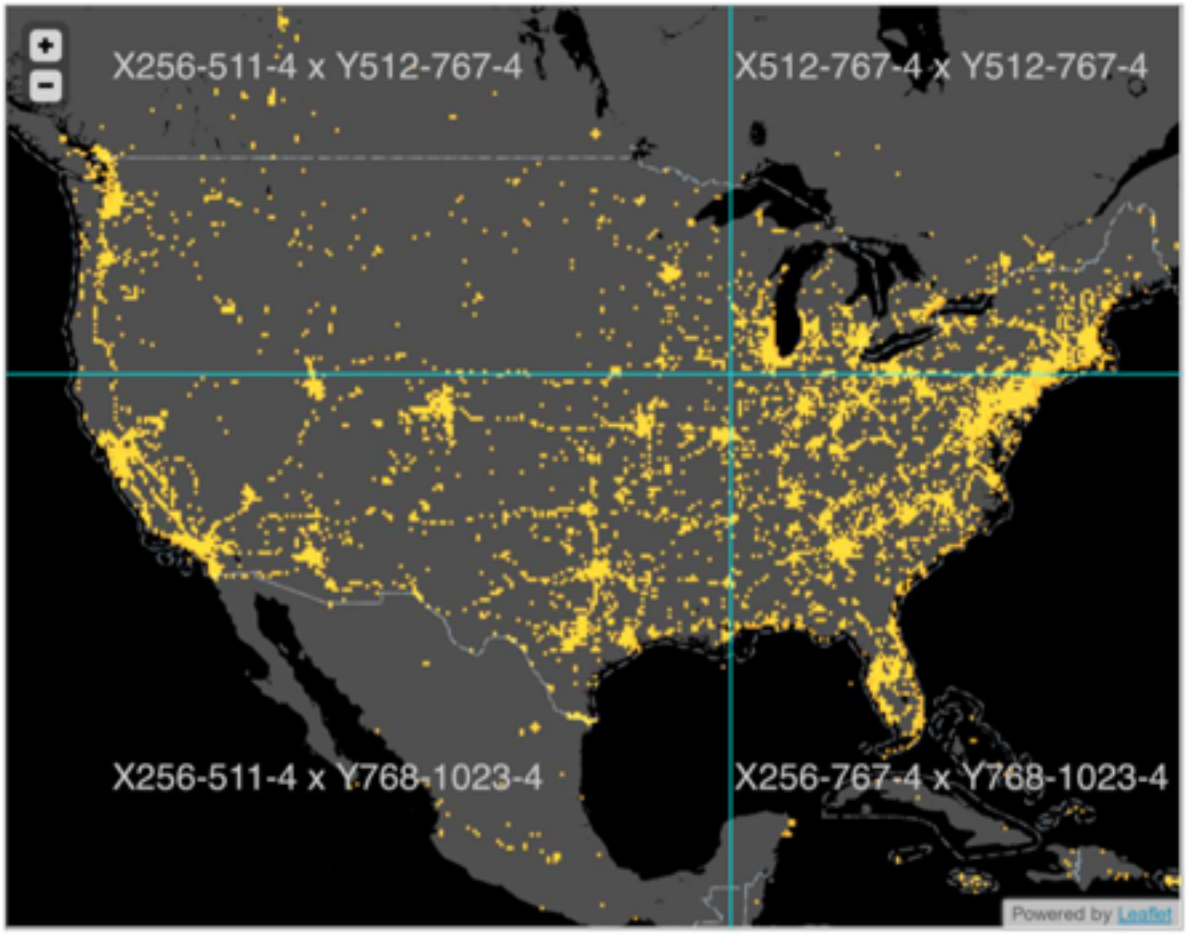
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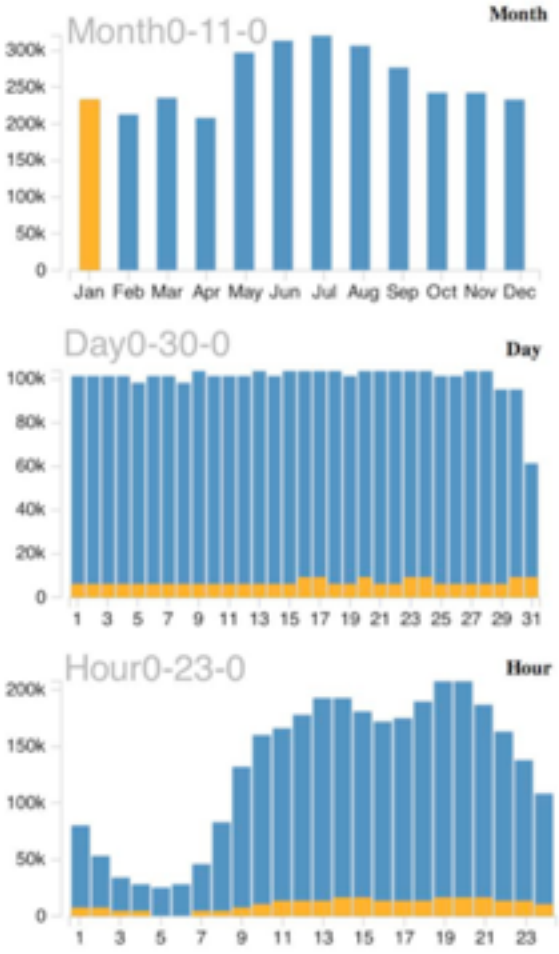
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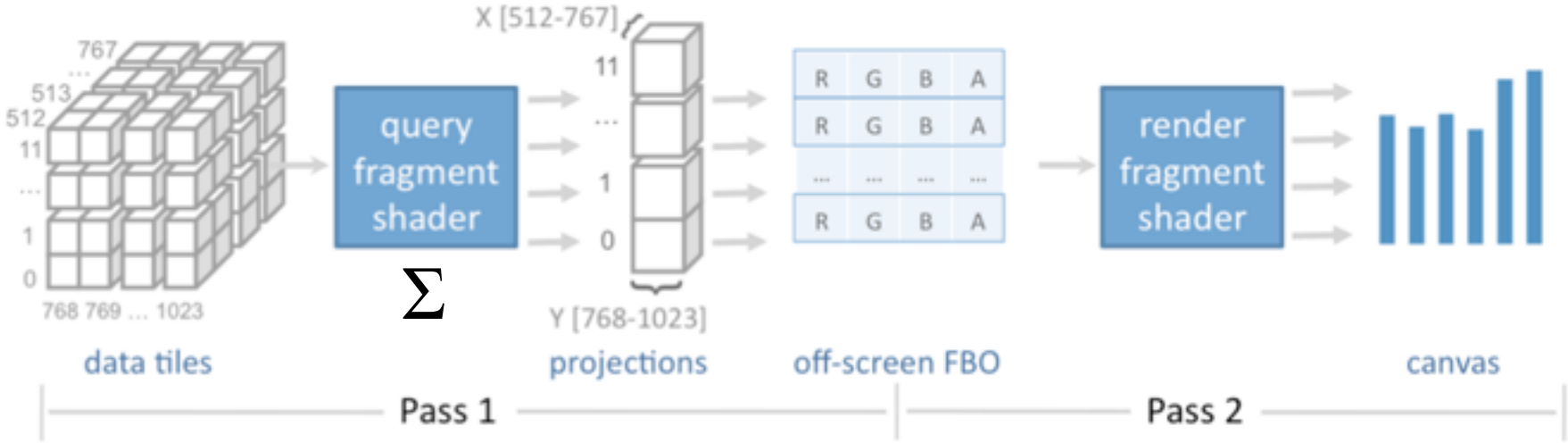
Query & Render on GPU (WebGL)

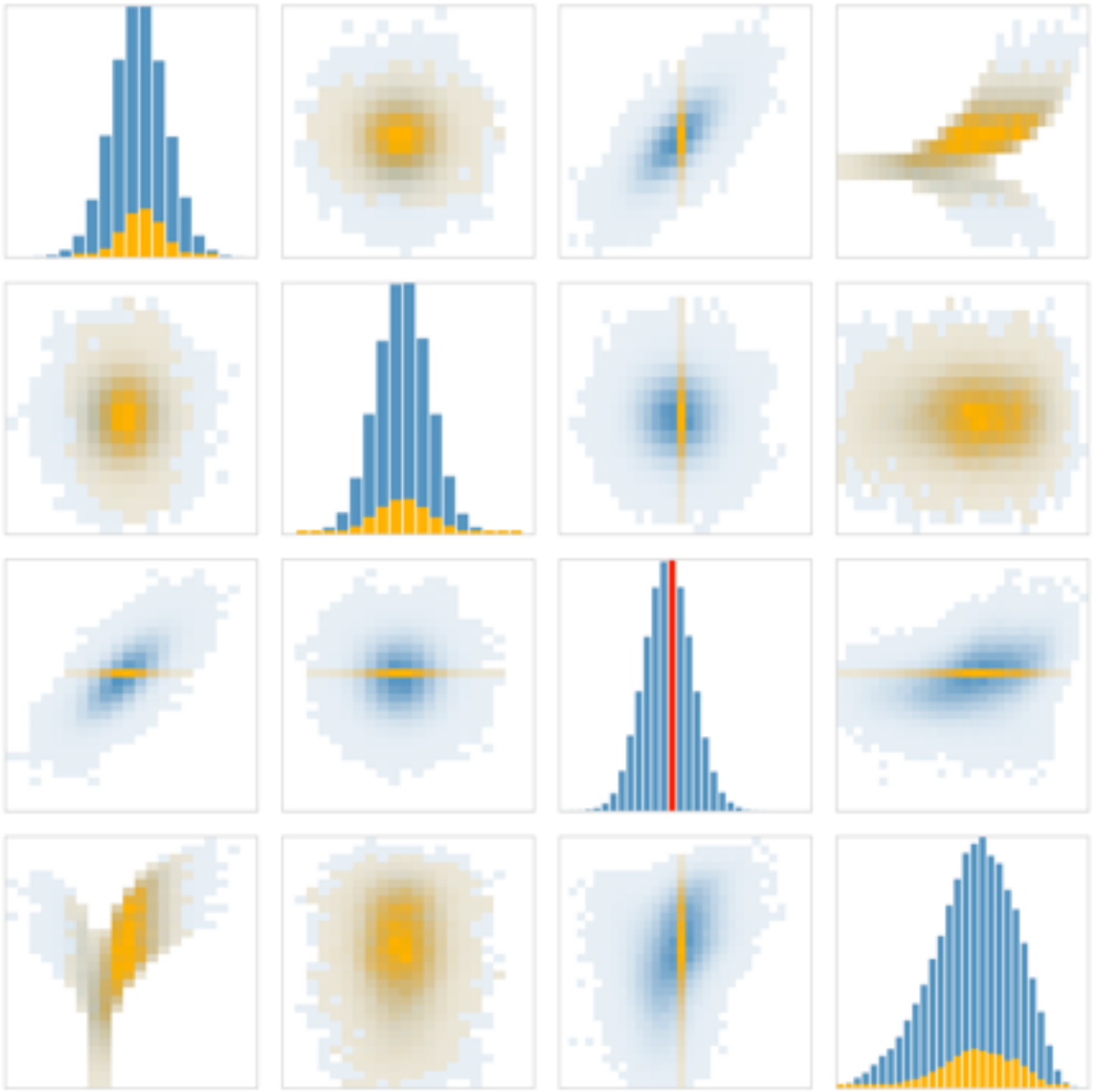


Pre-compute tiles & send from server.

Bind data tiles as image textures.

Execute queries in parallel on GPU.

Performance Benchmarks



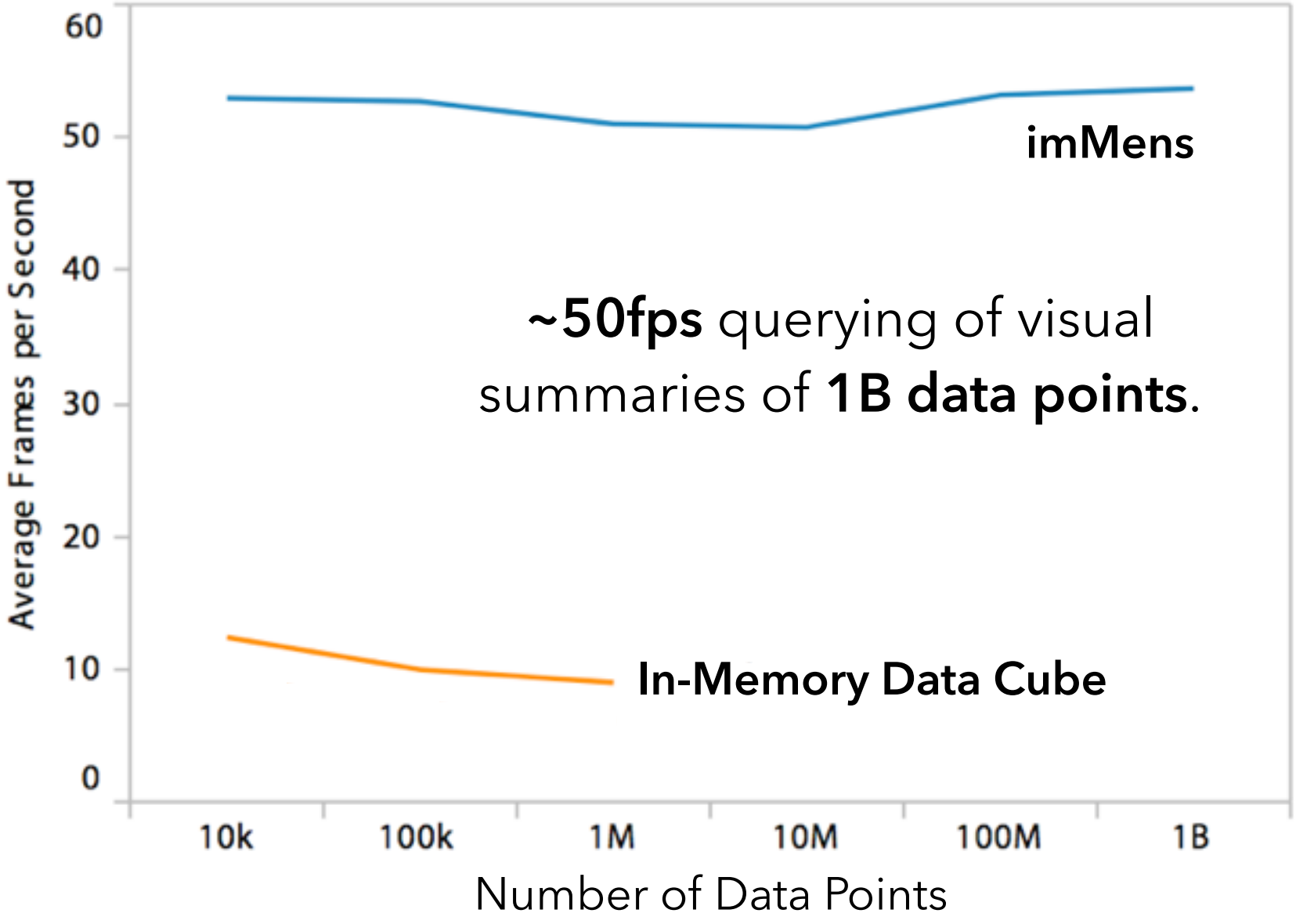
Simulate interaction:
brushing & linking
across binned plots.

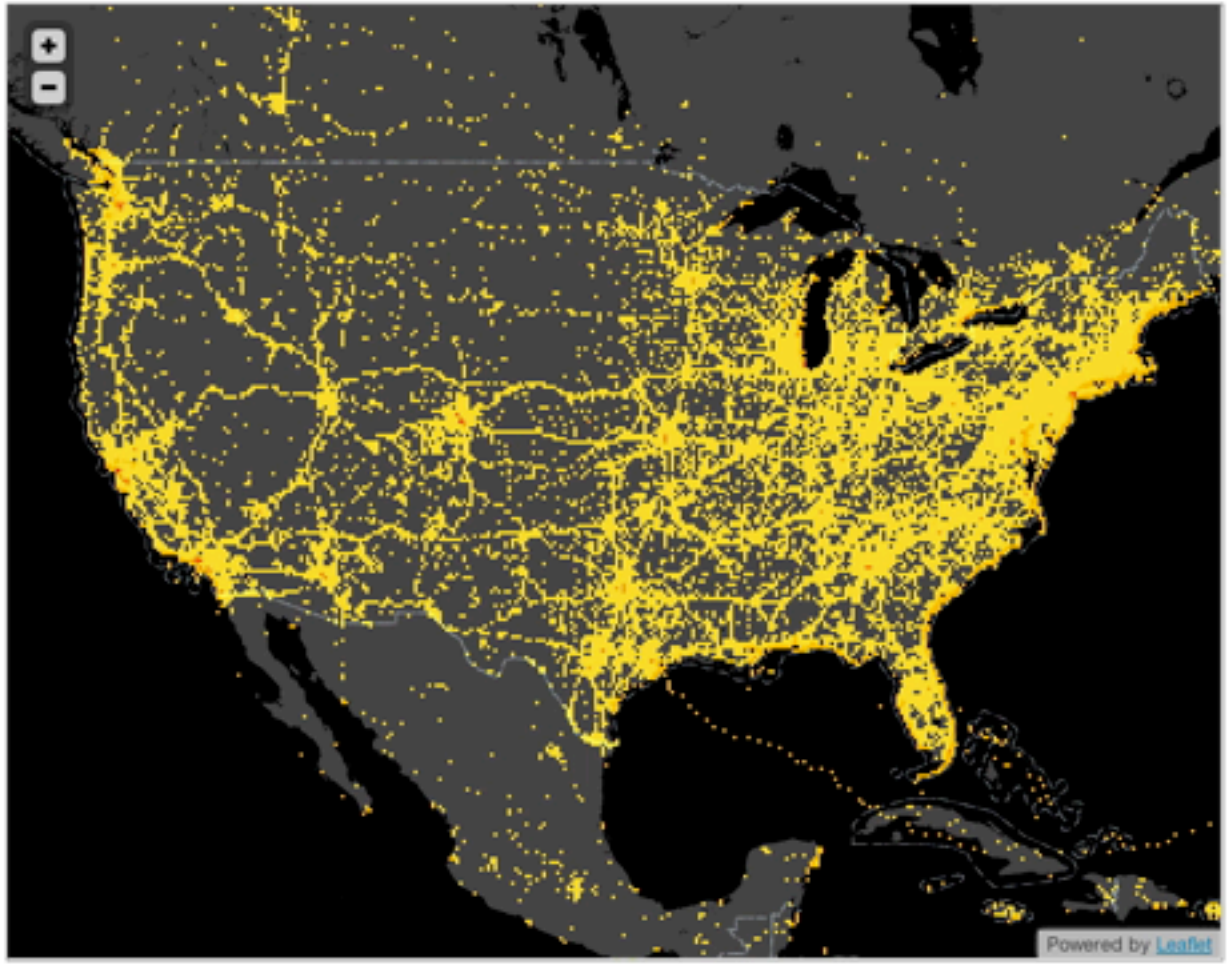
- 4x4 and 5x5 plots
- 10 to 50 bins

Measure time from
selection to render.

Test setup:
2.3 GHz MacBook Pro
NVIDIA GeForce GT 650M
Google Chrome v.23.0

5 dimensions x 50 bins/dim x 25 plots

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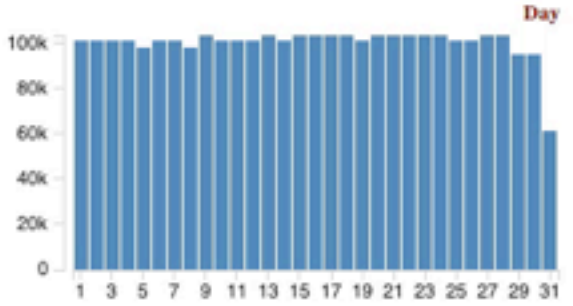
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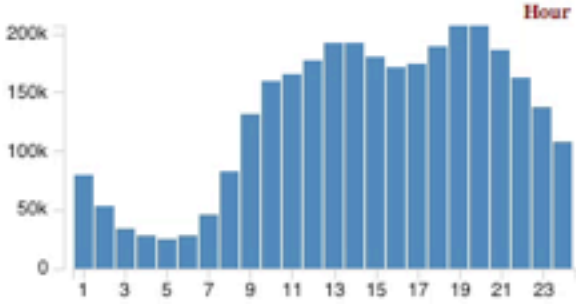
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Visualizing Big Data

Acknowledgments

Zhicheng “Leo” Liu, Biye Jiang

Sean Kandel, Lars Grammel

Mike Bostock

Maneesh Agrawala, Pat Hanrahan