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Dear NSF Review Panel,

I am writing to voice my commitment to collaborating with Prof. Jeffrey Heer. We have a history of working closely on research projects and advising students, and are currently pursuing joint research in two areas.

The first research topic is collaborative visual analytics. The goals of this research are (a) to understand how social interaction and an understanding of social context can facilitate successful data analysis, (b) to develop models and tools for representing and annotating data transformations, visualizations, and social activity (e.g., textual and graphical annotations, discussions, links, tags), and (c) to design and test visual interfaces that leverage our tools to support collaborative analysis practices.

The second research topic is the development and evaluation of design guidelines for data visualization via graphical perception experiments. We are conducting new human subjects experiments to address unresolved issues in graphical perception. We will apply the results of these studies to (a) develop guidelines for effective visualization design, (b) instantiate these guidelines in automated design procedures, and (c) validate our guidelines and resulting tools through case study deployments.

Though distinct from Prof. Heer's CAREER proposal goals of creating new interactive tools for authoring visualizations and data transformations, I believe our collaborative projects are highly complementary to this proposed research. I expect each project will generate valuable insights that will inform and improve the others.

Sincerely,

Maneesh Agrawala