

**Alexander Lex**

@alexander\_lex

<http://alexander-lex.net>

# Driving Scientific Discovery with **Interactive Visual Data Analysis**



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF UTAH



**visualization**  
**design lab**



[www.sci.utah.edu](http://www.sci.utah.edu)

# CURRICULUM VITAE

<http://alexander-lex.net>

**PhD from Graz University of Technology, 2008-2012**

**PostDoc at Harvard University, 2012-2015**

**Assistant Professor** of Computer Science at SCI  
Institute, University of Utah, since 2015

**NSF CAREER Award, 2018**

**> \$ 2 mio USD** funding for my lab from NSF, NIH,  
DoD, Industry

**Currently funding 6 PhD students, 1 SE**

**Applied for Early Tenure in Fall 2019**

**Publish in Data Vis, Bioinformatics, and HCI**

**8 Best Paper Awards or Honorable Mentions**



# visualization design lab

<http://vdl.sci.utah.edu/>



**visualization**

**The purpose of computing is insight,  
not numbers.**

**pictures**

**[Card, Mackinlay, Shneiderman]**

**[Richard Wesley Hamming]**

**Banana** *M. acuminata*

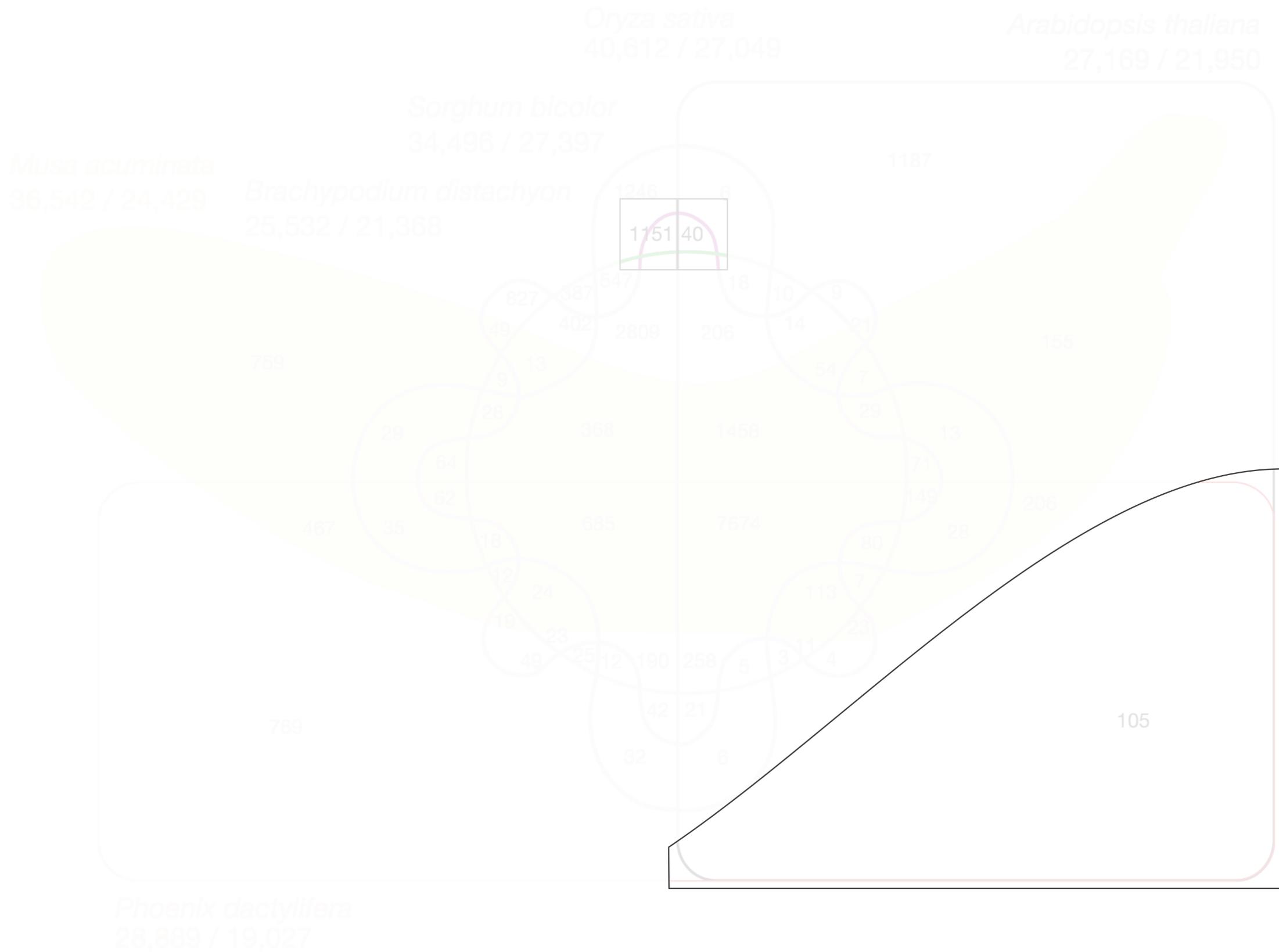
**Date** *P. dactylifera*

**Cress** *Arabidopsis thaliana*

**Rice** *Oryza sativa*

**Sorghum** *Sorghum bicolor*

**Brome** *Brachypodium distachyon*



[D'Hont et al., Nature, 2012]

# GOOD DATA VISUALIZATION

- ... makes data **accessible**
- ... combines strengths of **humans and computers**
- ... enables **insight**
- ... **communicates**

# CAN'T WE JUST TRUST STATISTICS?

| <b>I</b> |      | <b>II</b> |      | <b>III</b> |       | <b>IV</b> |      |
|----------|------|-----------|------|------------|-------|-----------|------|
| 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 |

**Mean x: 9 y: 7.50**

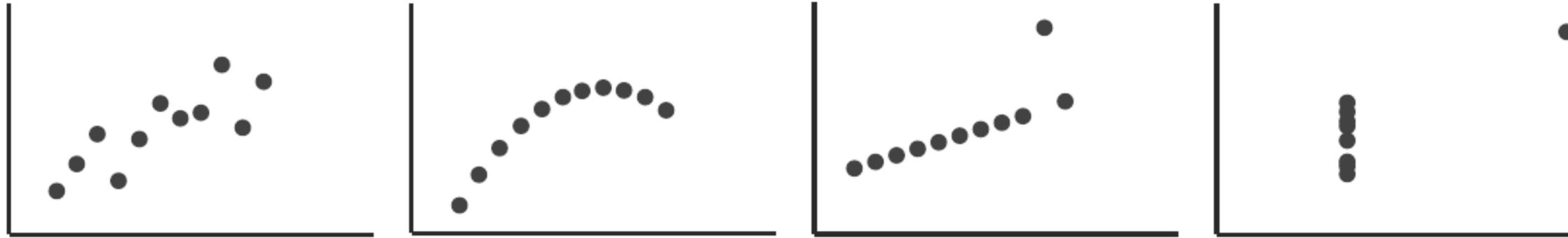
**Variance x: 11 y: 4.122**

**Correlation x - y: 0.816**

**Linear regression:  $y = 3.00 + 0.500x$**

12.5  
5.56  
7.91  
6.89

# ANSCOMBE'S QUARTETT

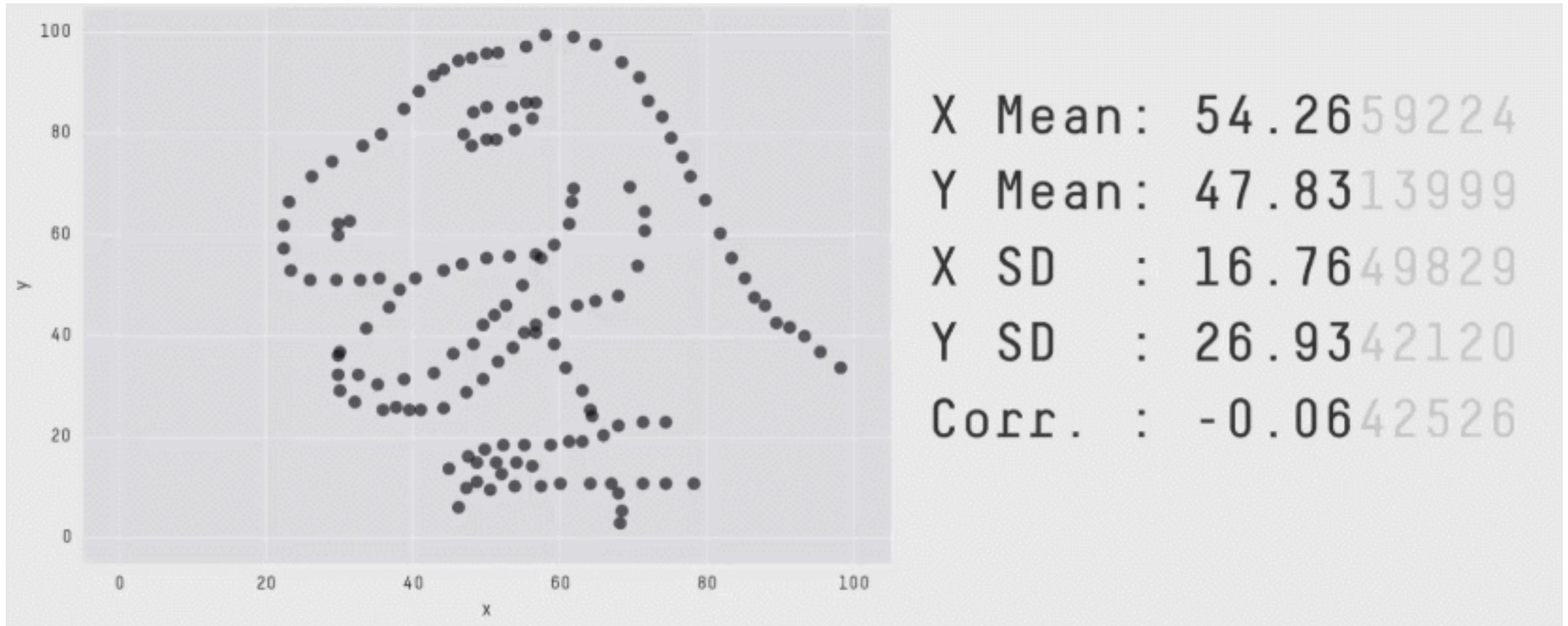


**Mean x: 9 y: 7.50**

**Variance x: 11 y: 4.122**

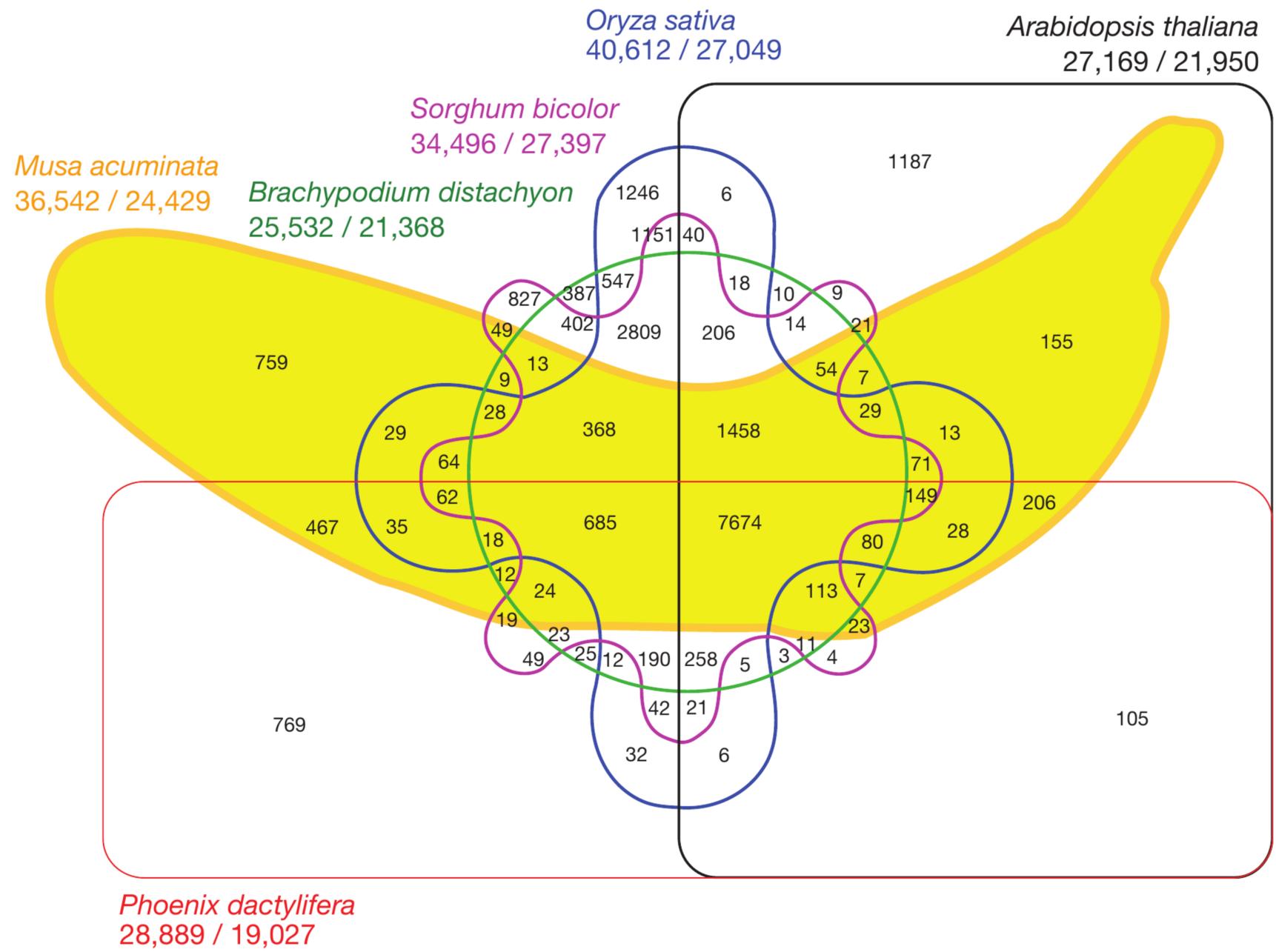
**Correlation x - y: 0.816**

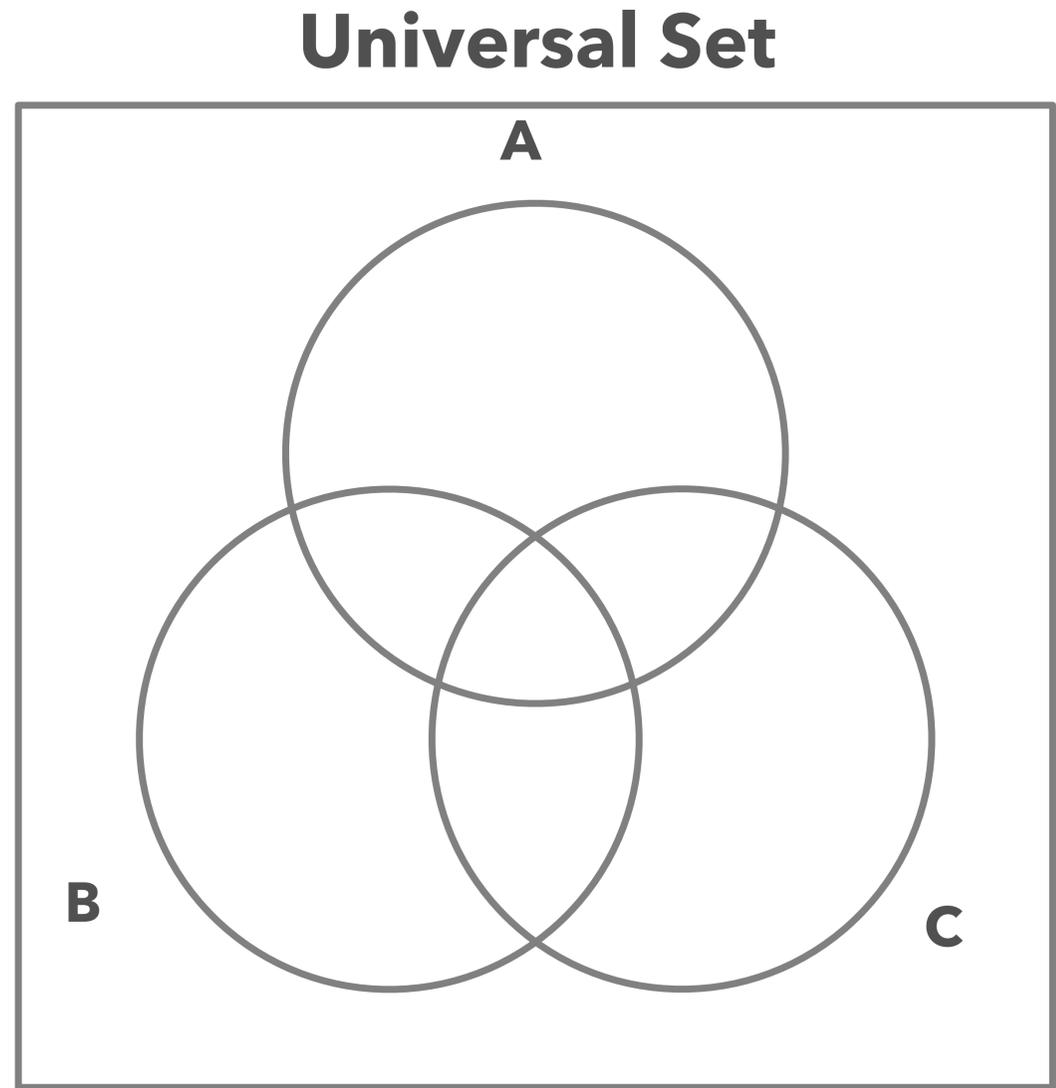
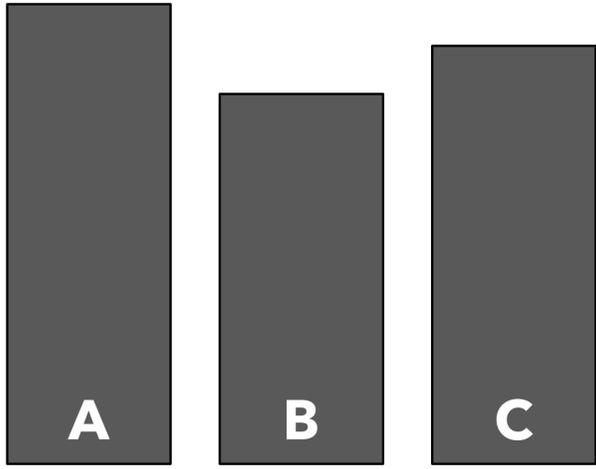
**Linear regression:  $y = 3.00 + 0.500x$**

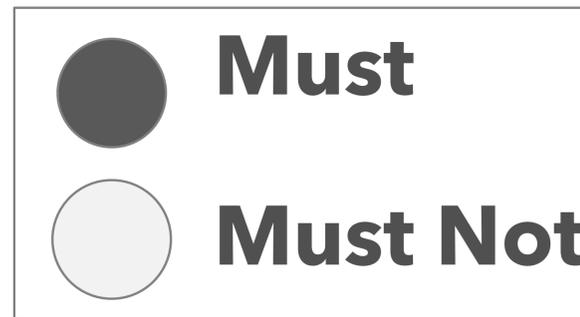
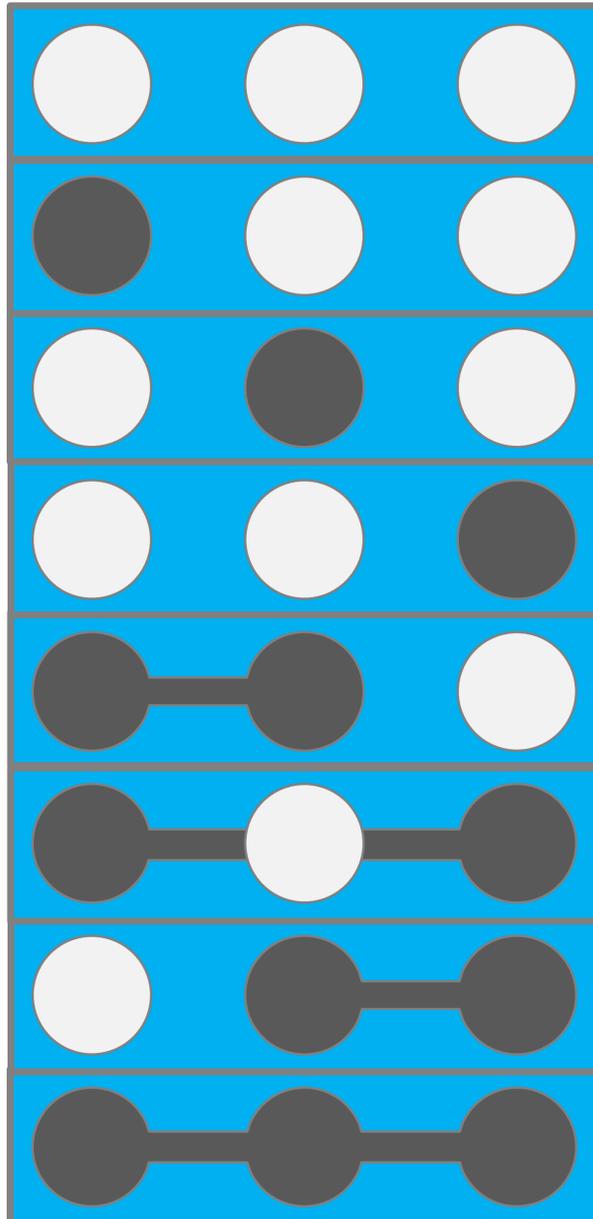
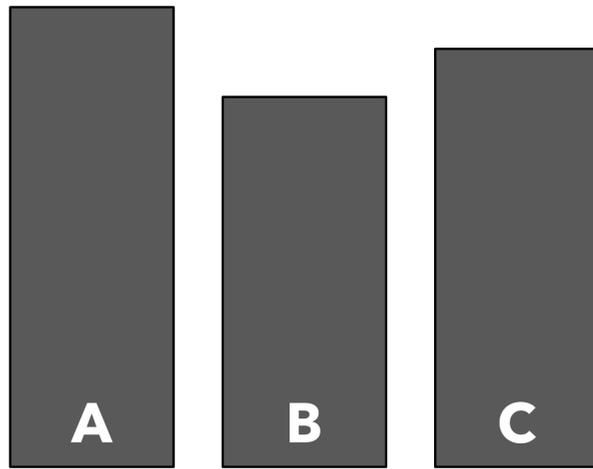


**Same Stats, Different Graphs: Generating Datasets with Varied Appearance and Identical Statistics through Simulated Annealing, CHI 2017, Justin Matejka, George Fitzmaurice**

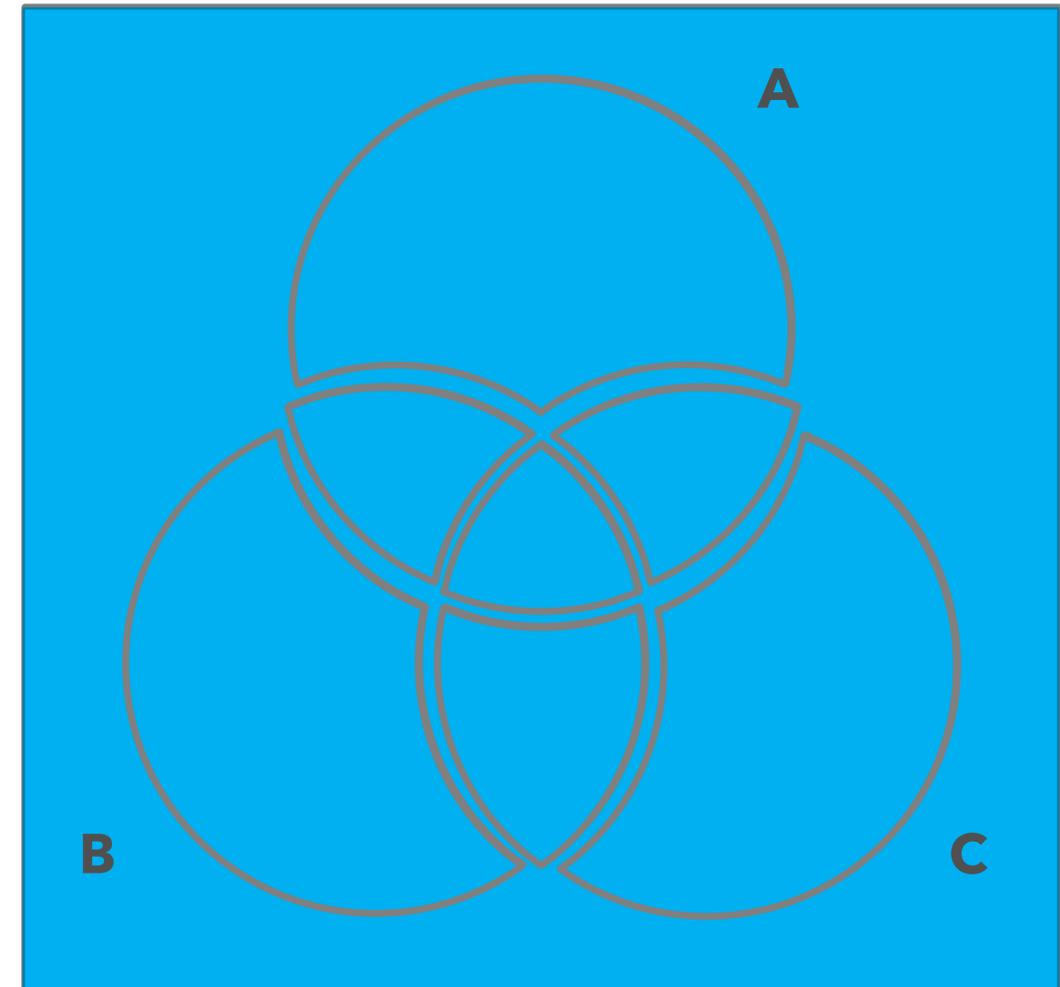
# SO CAN WE DO BETTER?

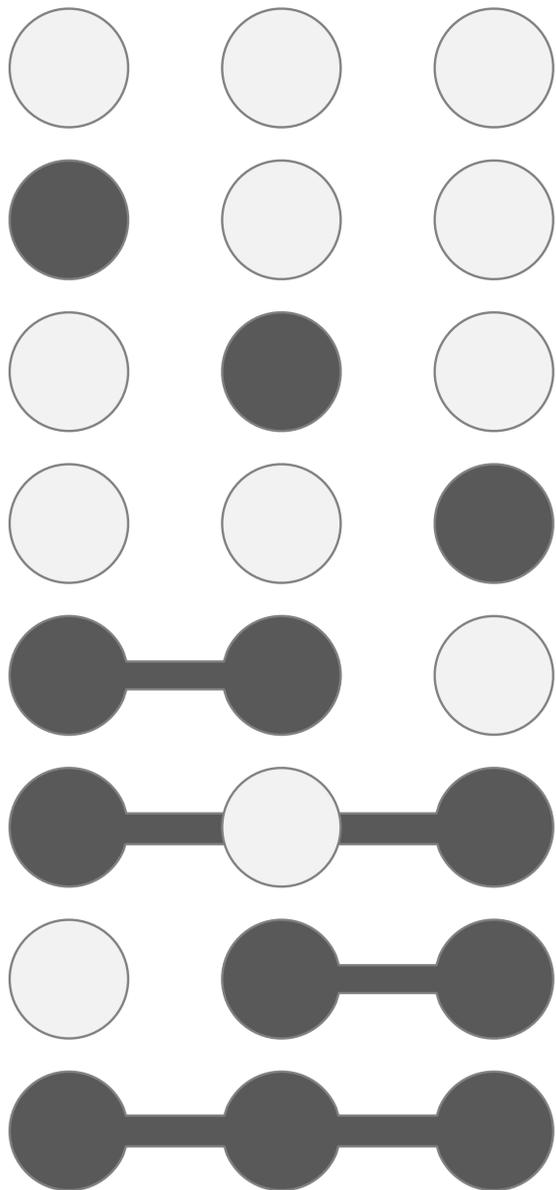
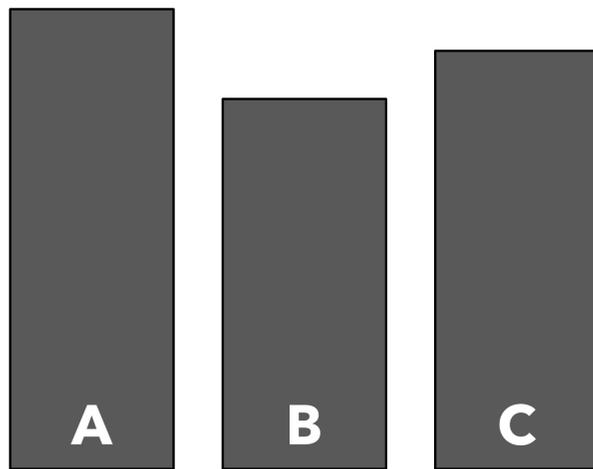




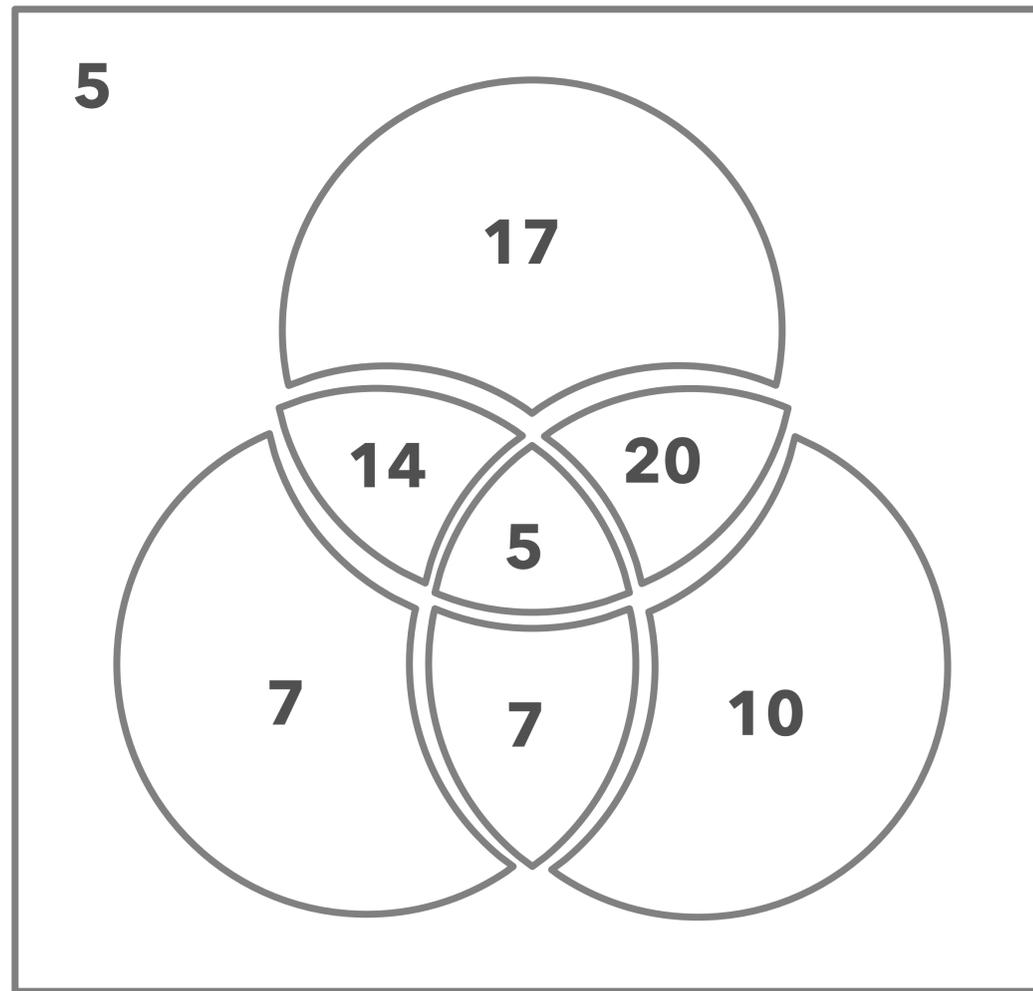
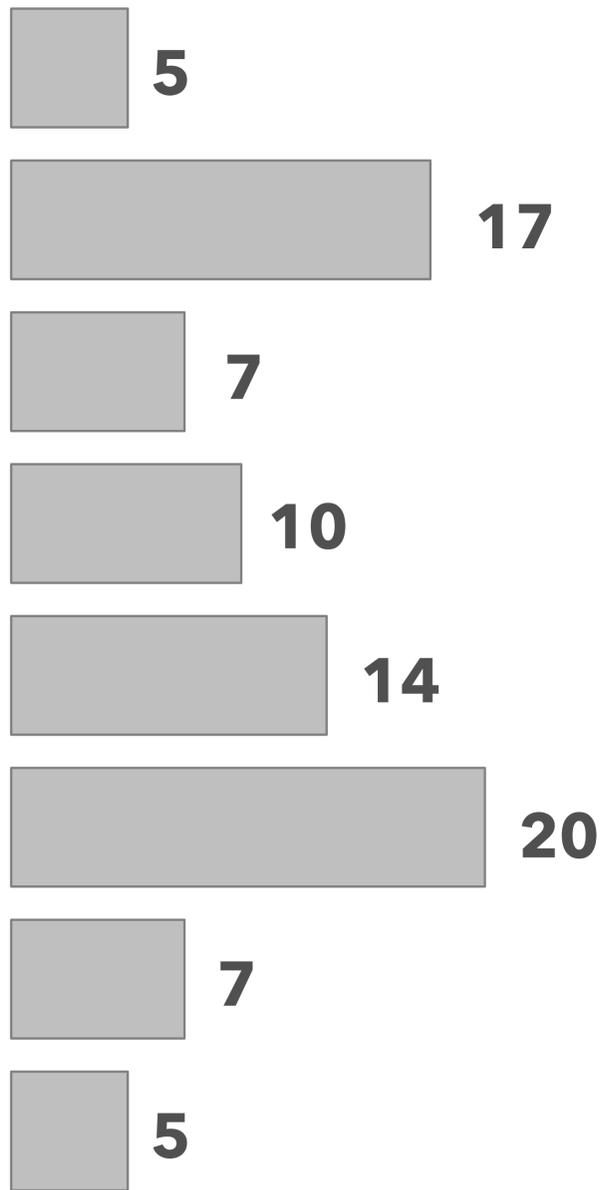


### Universal Set

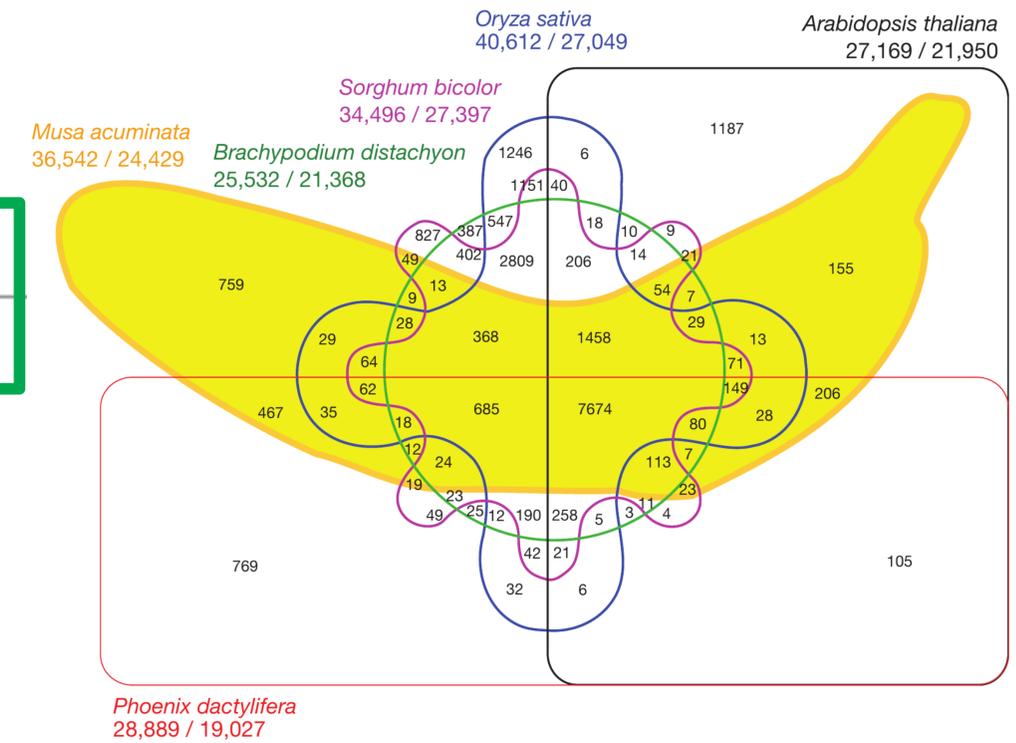
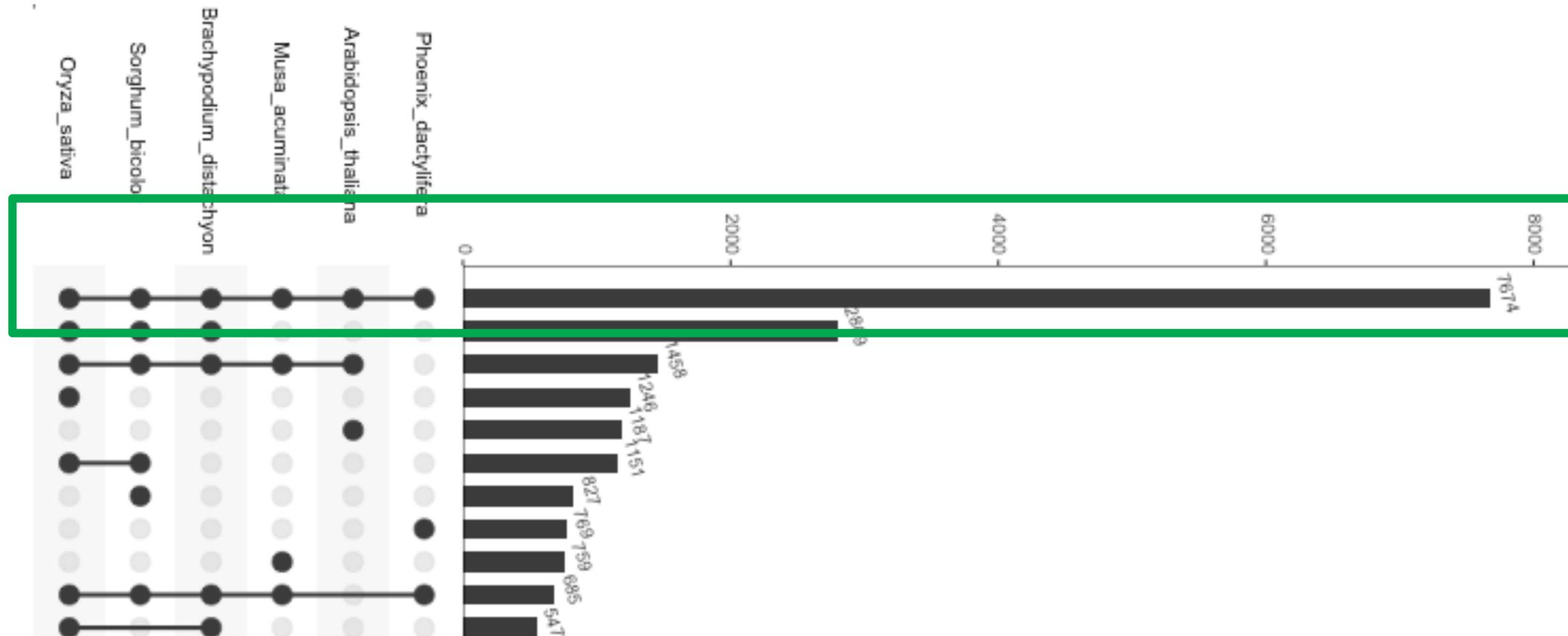




**Cardinality**

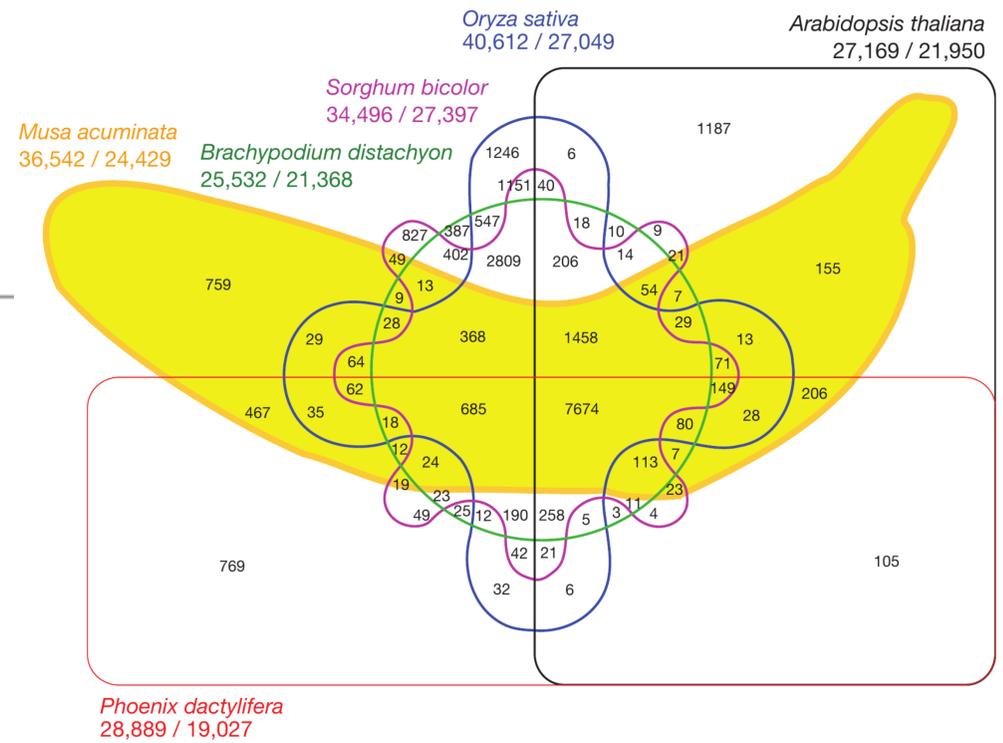
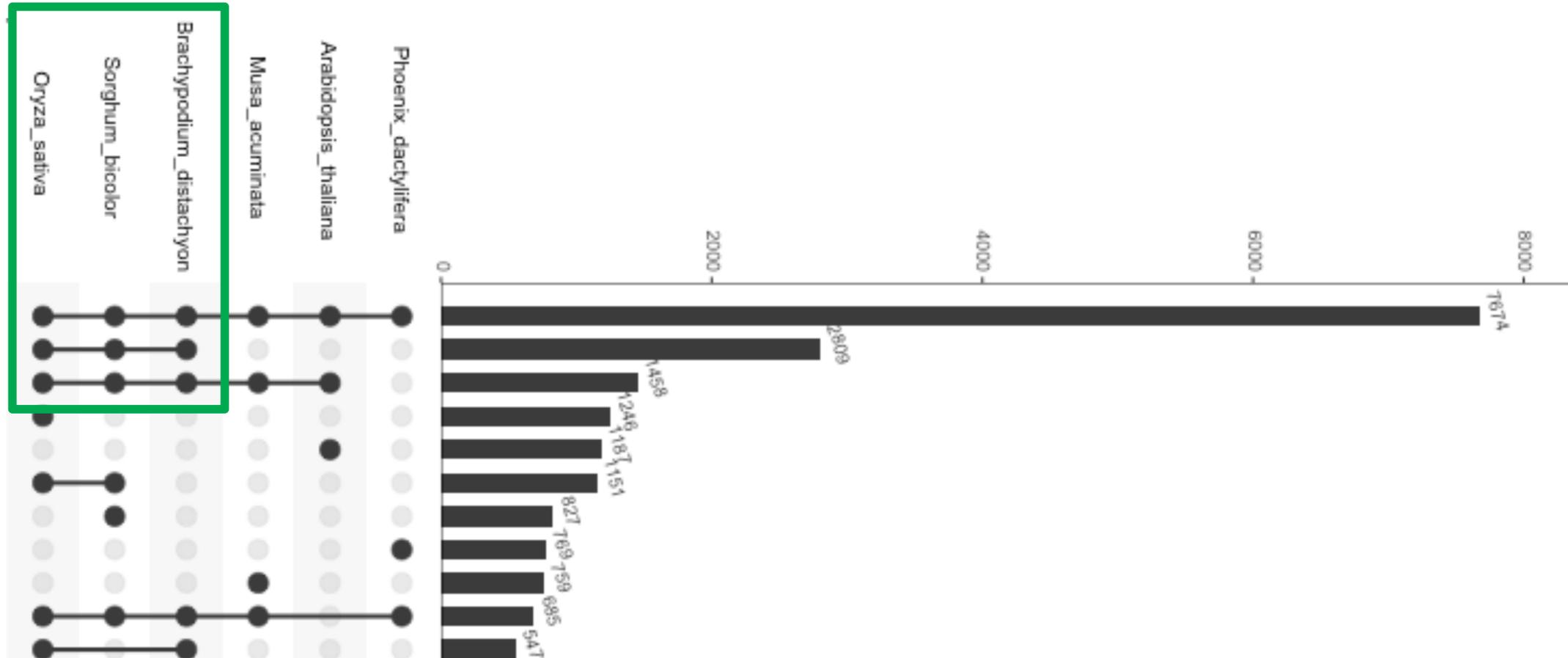


# THE BANANA CHART REDESIGNED: UPSET



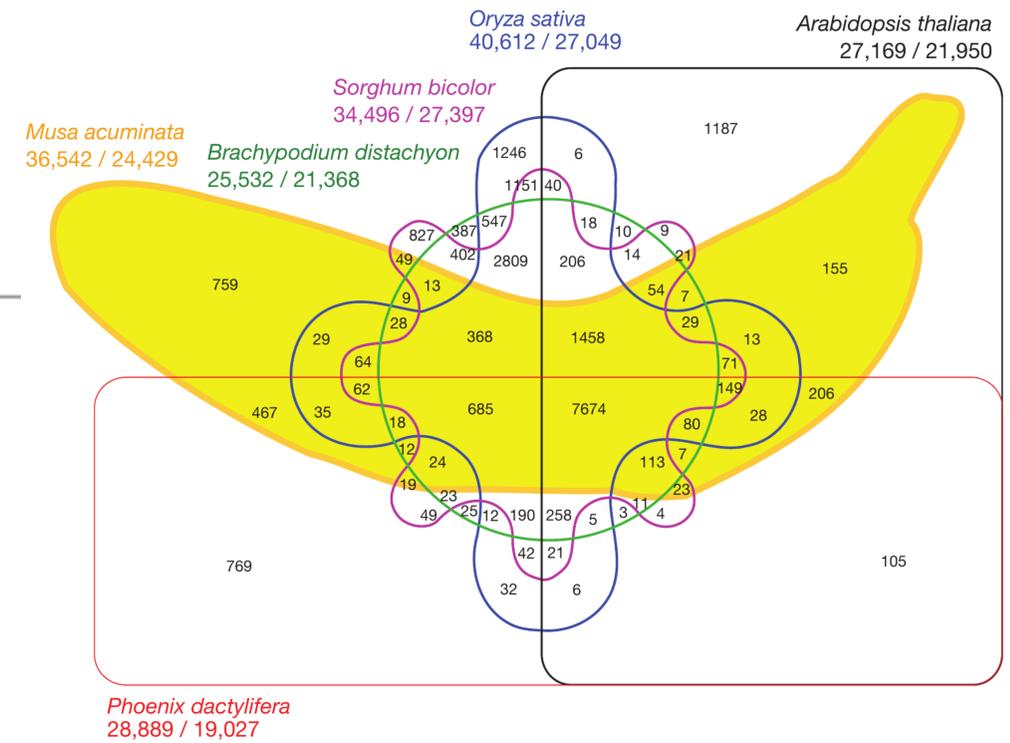
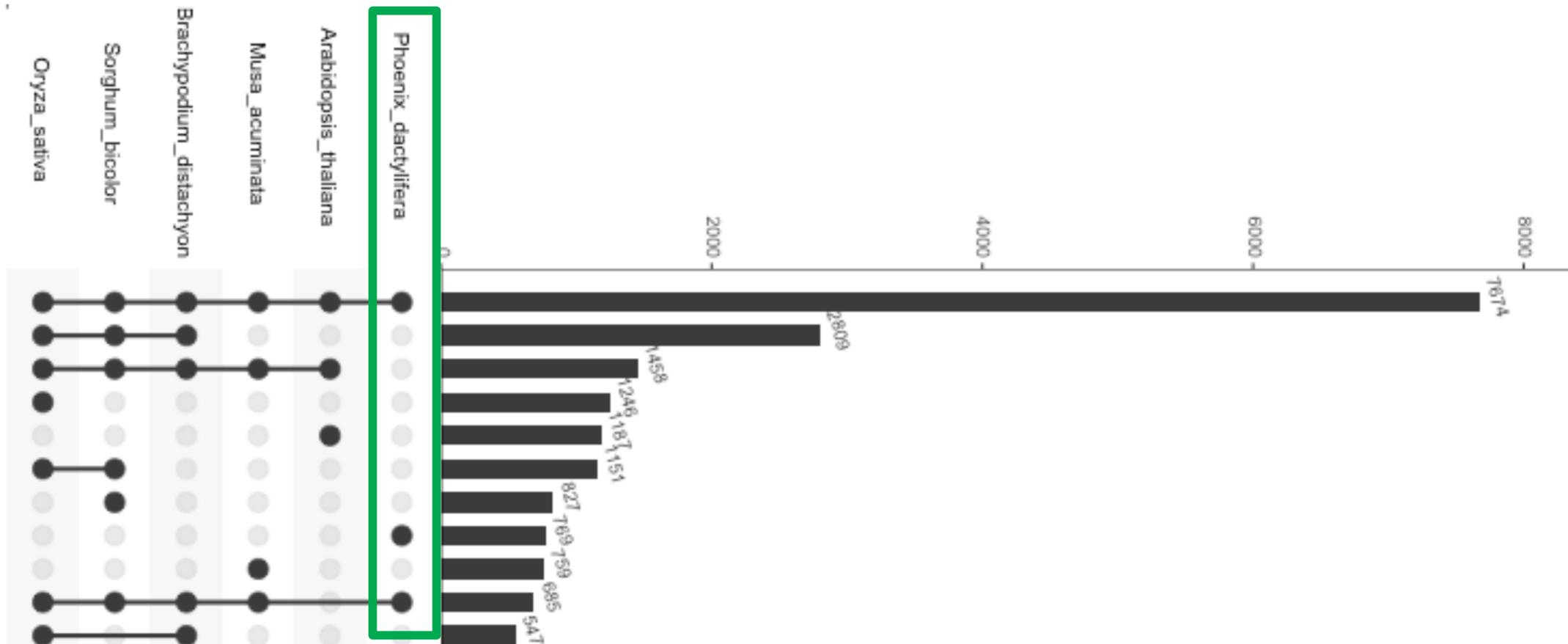
Largest Intersection Includes All Sets

# THE BANANA CHART REDESIGNED: UPSET



Three Leftmost Species Are Most Similar

# THE BANANA CHART REDESIGNED: UPSET

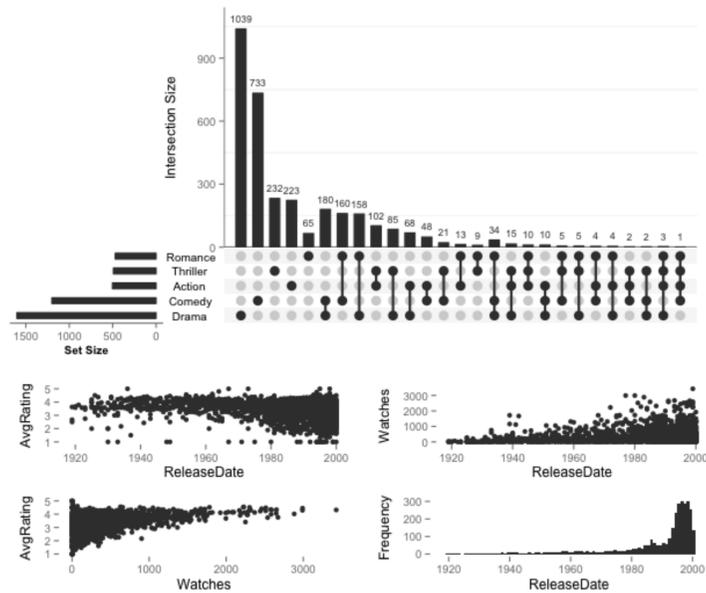


Rightmost species is most different

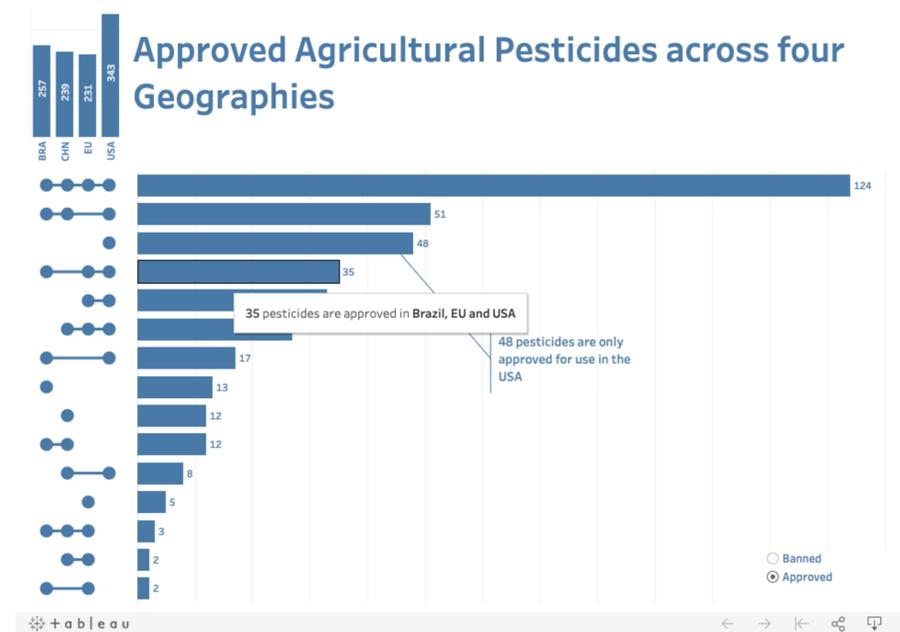


# UPSET

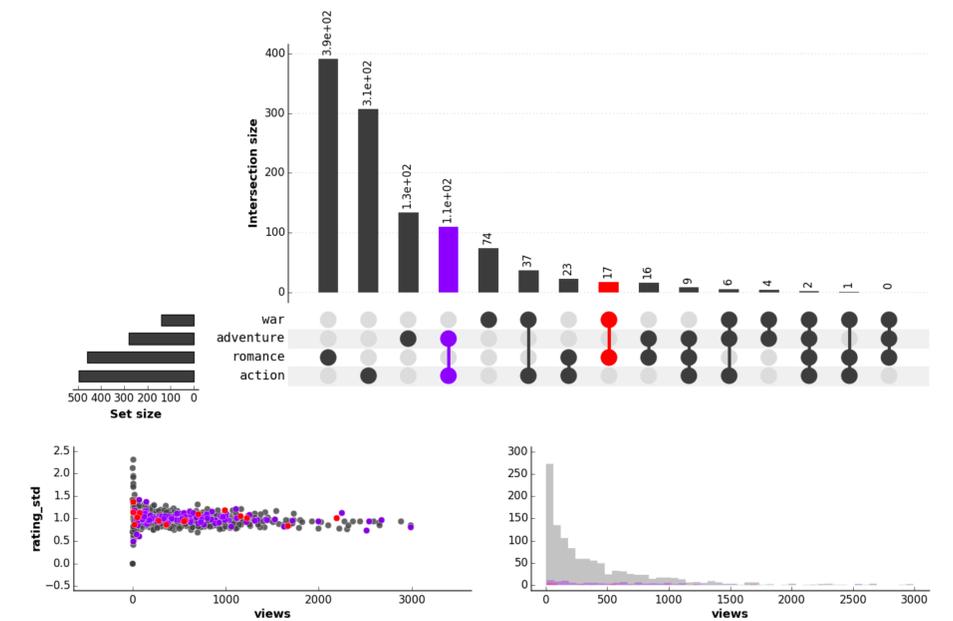
The canonical way to show set data with  $> 3$  sets  
Second-most cited VIS paper of the last decade  
Multiple implementations in various languages



R



Tableau



Python

**DATA SCIENCE**

## **WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?**

**A data scientist is a statistician who lives in San Fransisco.**

**Data science is statistics on a Mac.**

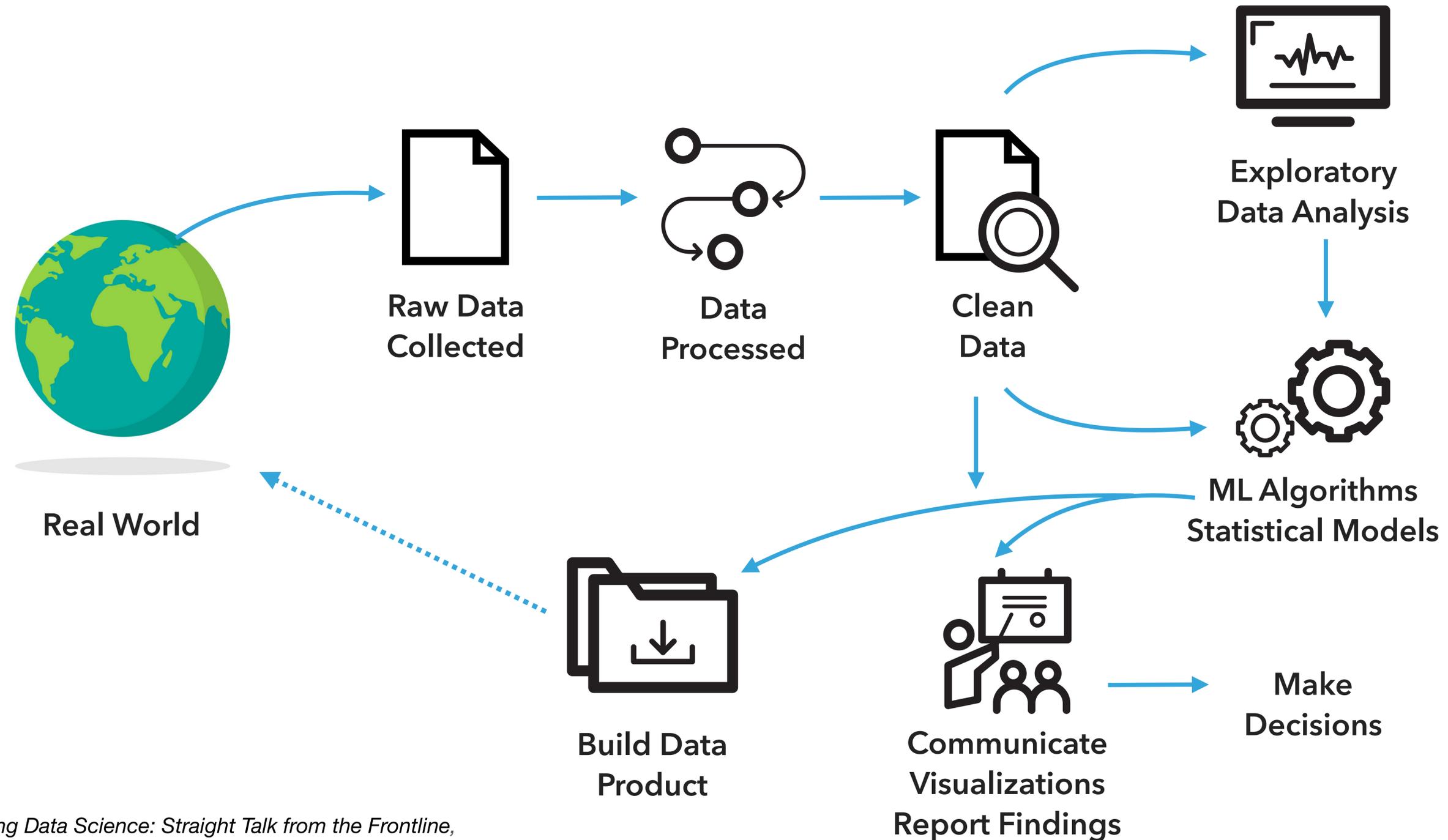
**A data scientist is someone who is better at statistics than any software engineer and better at software engineering than any statistician.**

# WHAT IS DATA SCIENCE?

Data science is a multi-disciplinary field that uses scientific methods, processes, algorithms, and systems to extract knowledge and insights from structured and unstructured data.[Wikipedia]

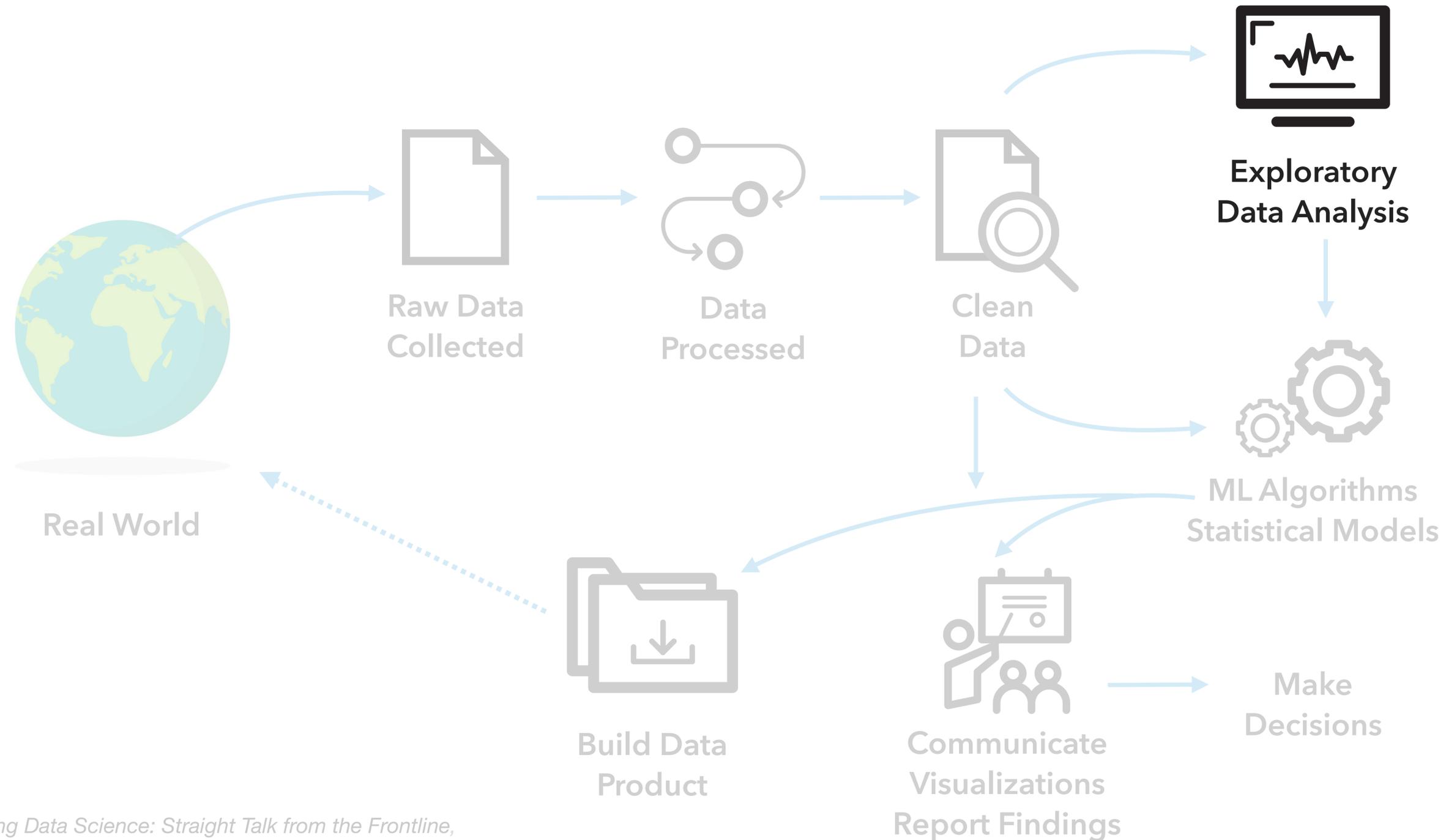
## **What's the Role of Visualization?**

# What's the Role of **Visualization** in **Data Science**?



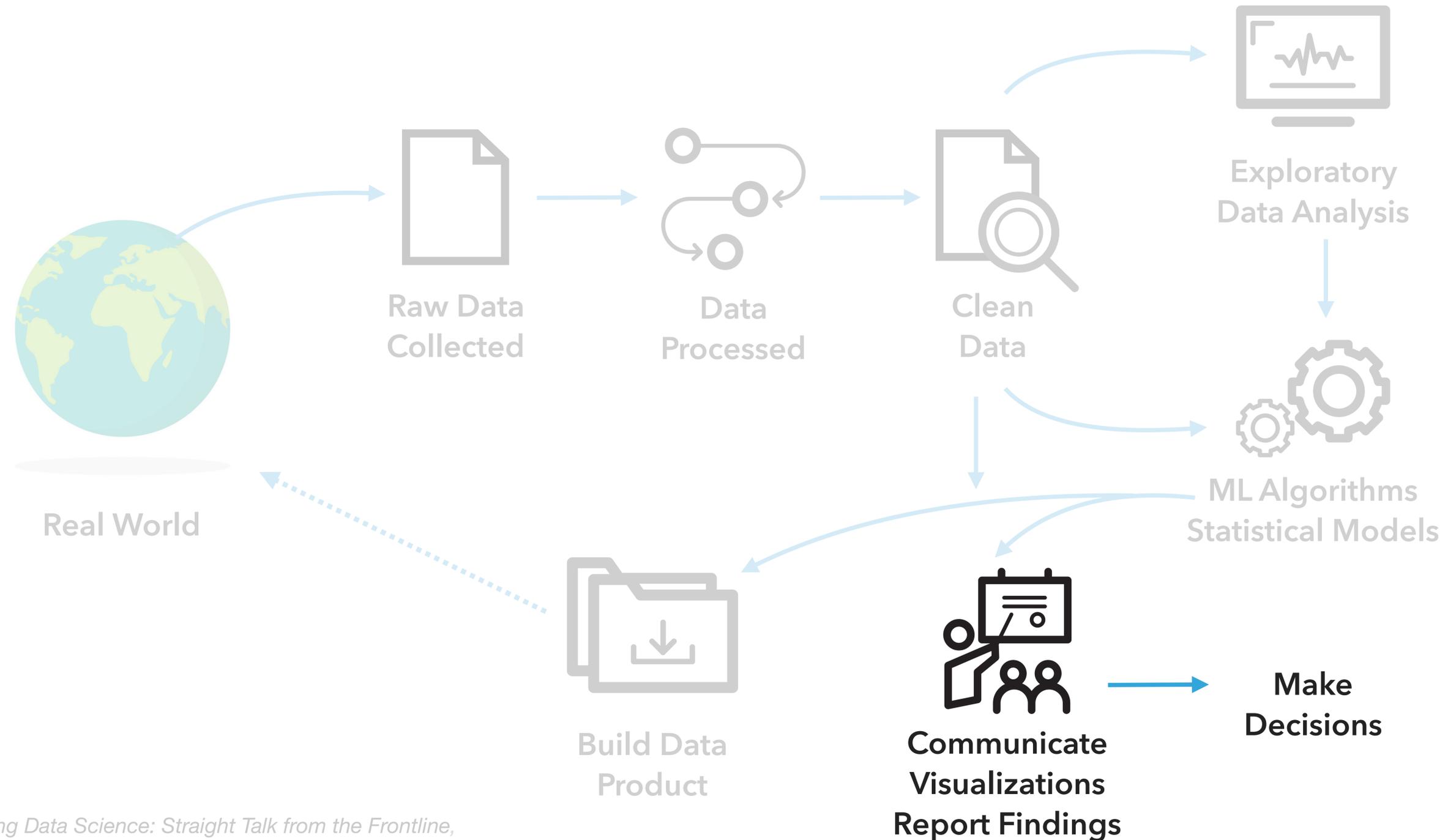
*Adapted from Doing Data Science: Straight Talk from the Frontline,  
[O'Neil and Schutt, 2013]*

# What's the Role of **Visualization** in **Data Science**?



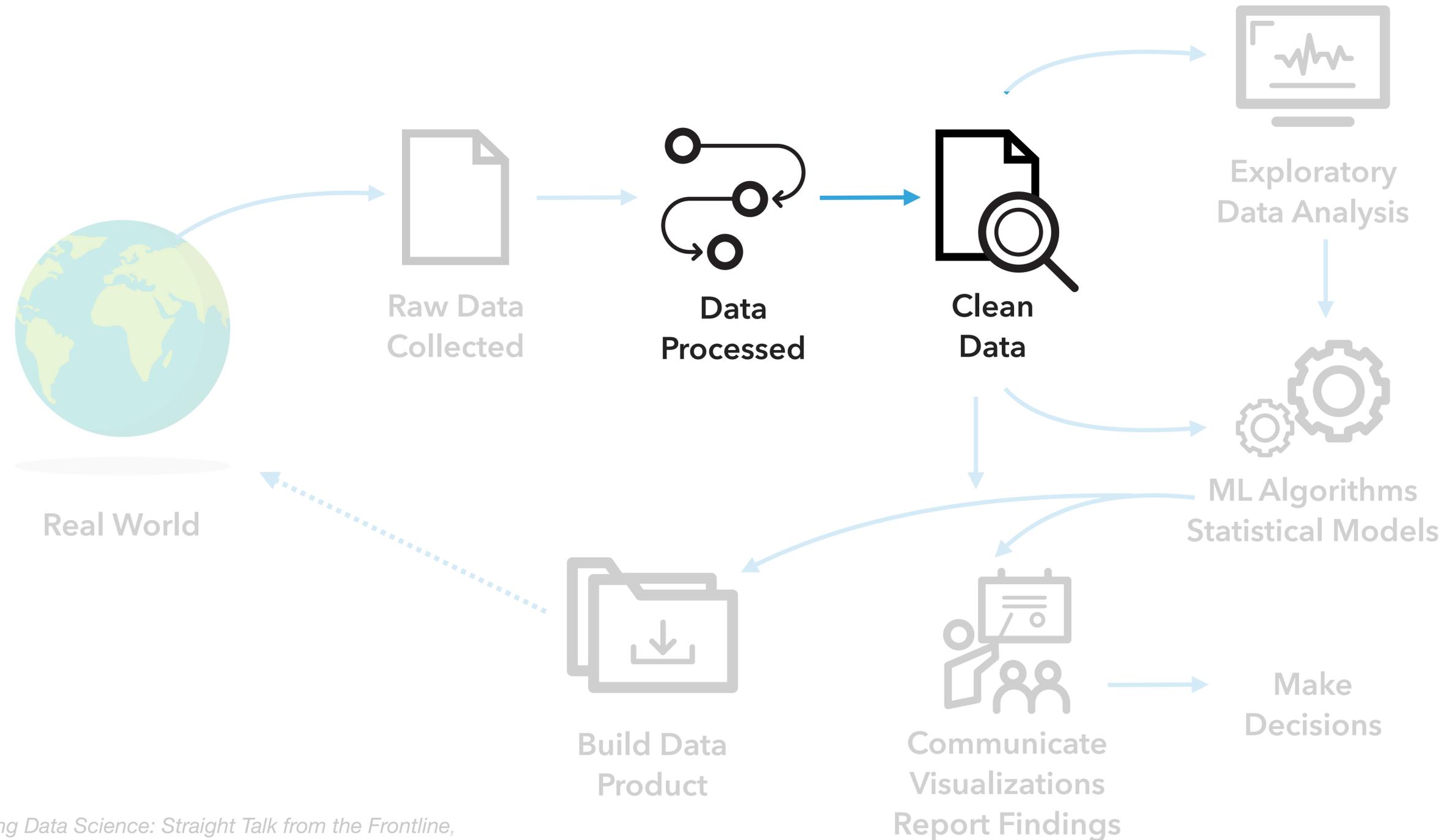
*Adapted from Doing Data Science: Straight Talk from the Frontline,  
[O'Neil and Schutt, 2013]*

# What's the Role of **Visualization** in **Data Science**?



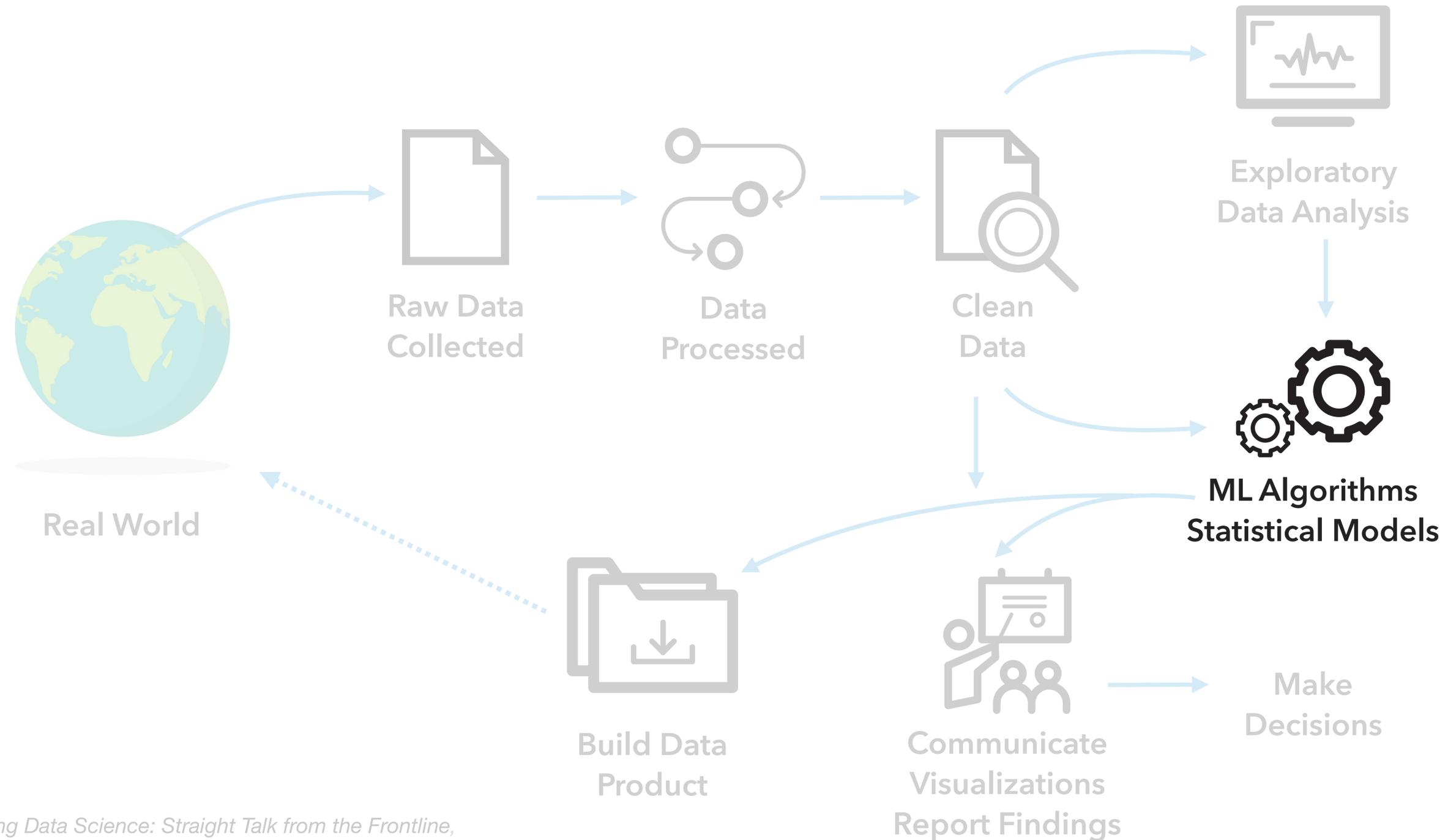
*Adapted from Doing Data Science: Straight Talk from the Frontline,  
[O'Neil and Schutt, 2013]*

# What's the Role of **Visualization** in **Data Science**?



*Adapted from Doing Data Science: Straight Talk from the Frontline,  
[O'Neil and Schutt, 2013]*

# What's the Role of **Visualization** in **Data Science**?



*Adapted from Doing Data Science: Straight Talk from the Frontline,  
[O'Neil and Schutt, 2013]*

***Visualization =***

***Human Data Interaction***

# RESEARCH AREAS

## **TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Novel Visualization  
Techniques**

**Visualization Process  
Innovations**

**Data Wrangling  
Methods**

## **DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES**

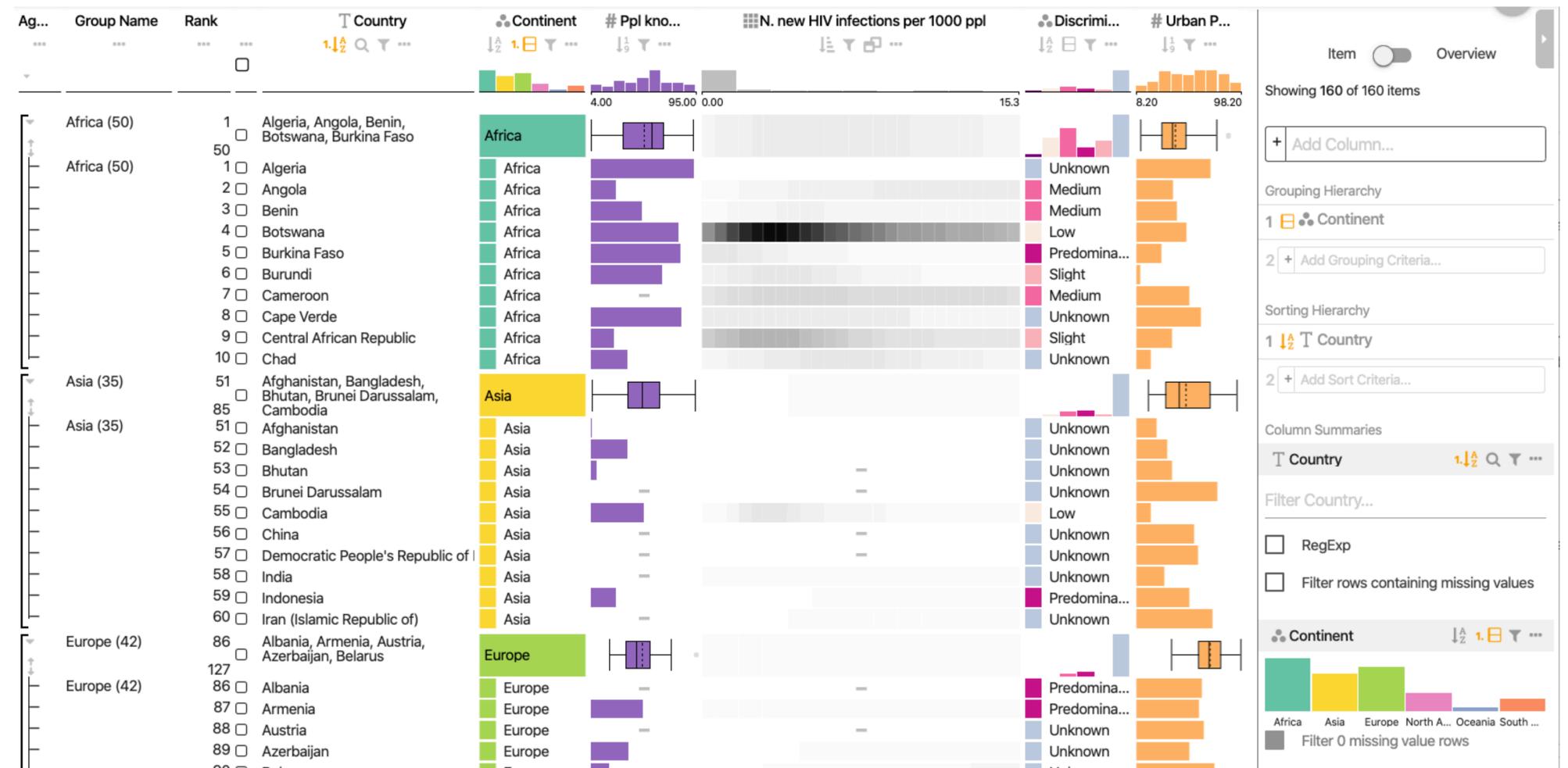
**Tailored Methods  
and Systems for High  
Impact Science  
Problems**

## **EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK**

**Evaluation  
Methodology**

**Design Spaces /  
Taxonomies**

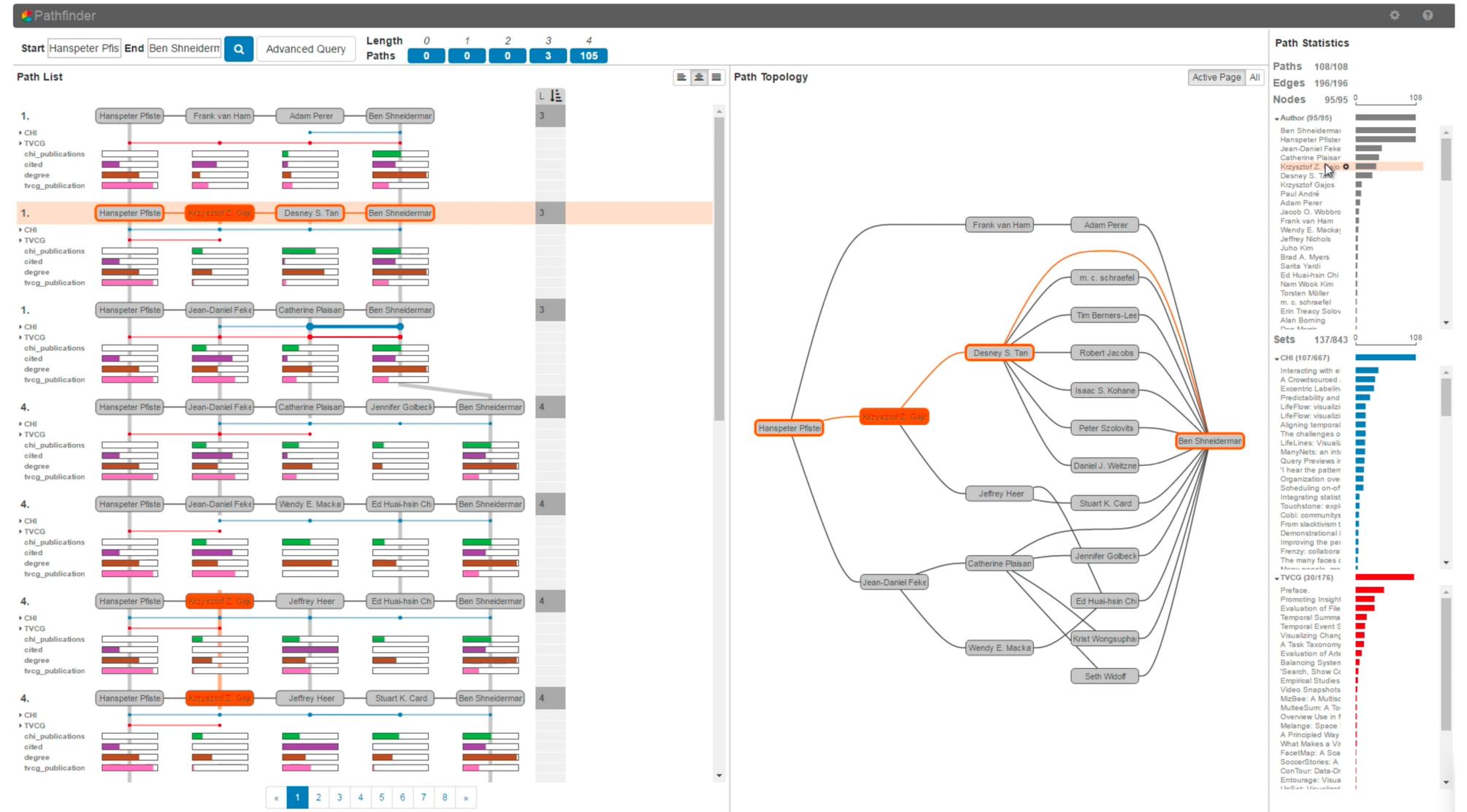
## Novel Visualization Techniques



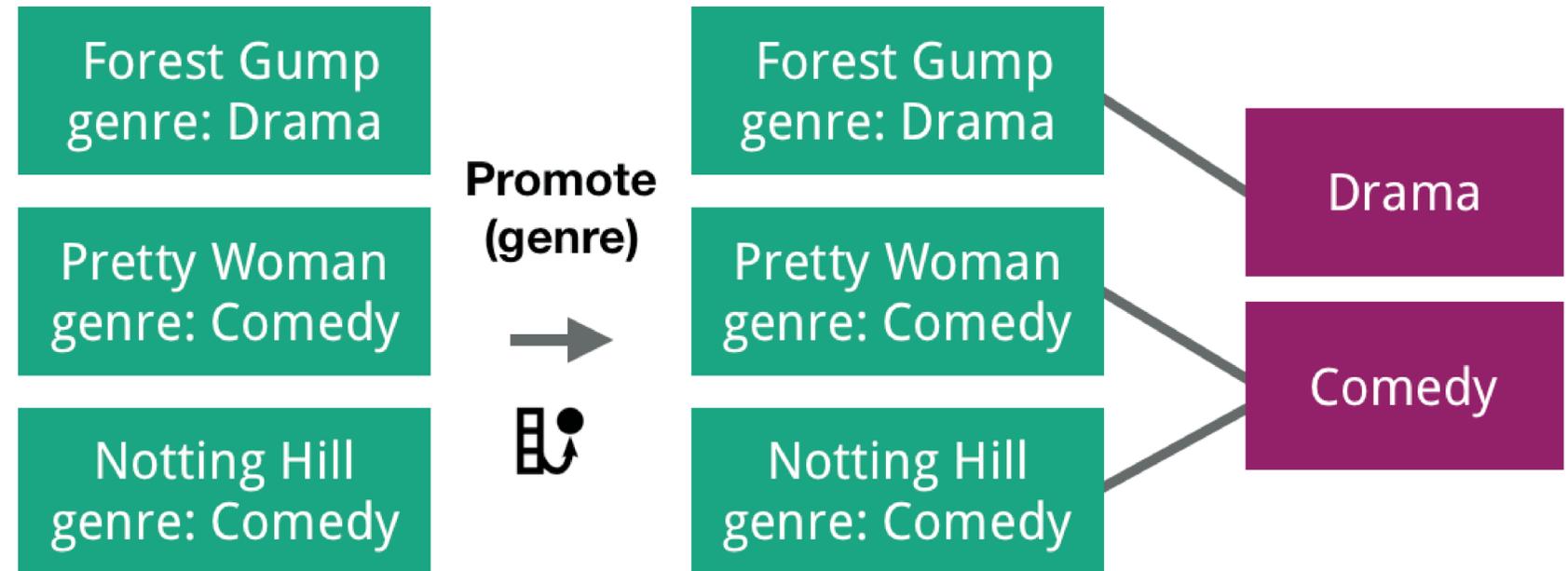
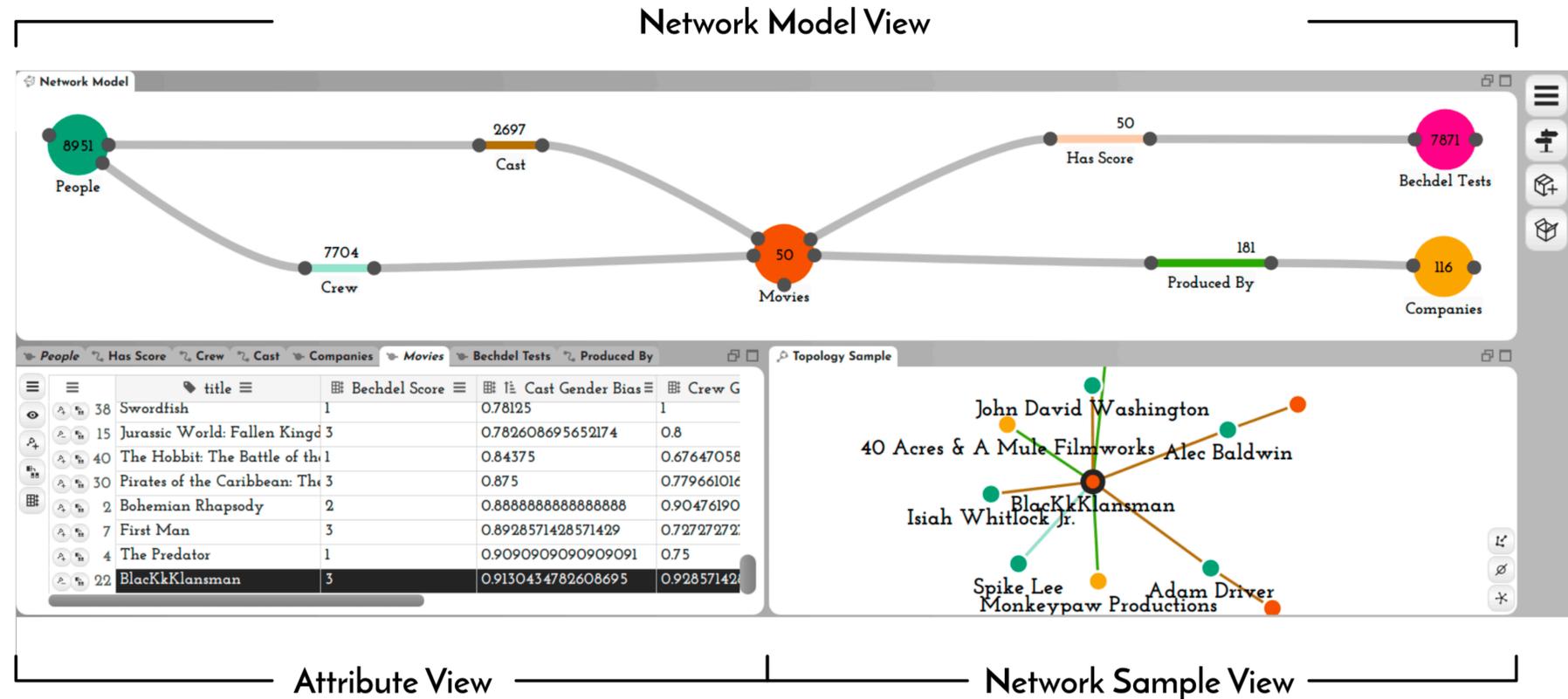
# TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## Novel Visualization Techniques

# Multivariate Networks



## Data Wrangling Methods



## **TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Data Wrangling  
Methods**

## **DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES**

**Tailored Methods  
and Systems for High  
Impact Science  
Problems**



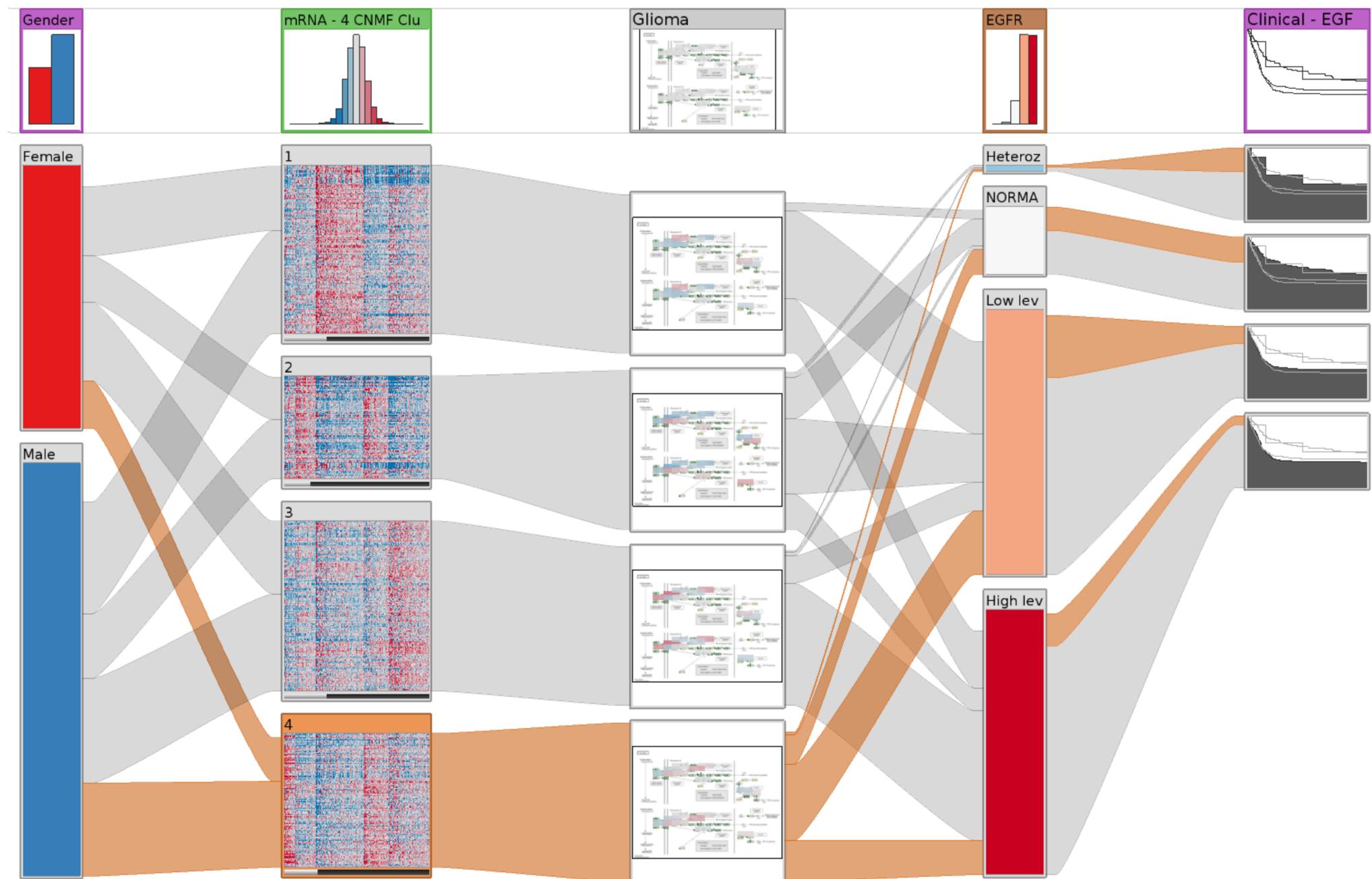
## Tailored Methods and Systems for High Impact Science Problems



# DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES

## Genomic Data

Tailored Methods  
and Systems for High  
Impact Science  
Problems



## **DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES**

**Tailored Methods  
and Systems for High  
Impact Science  
Problems**

## **EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK**

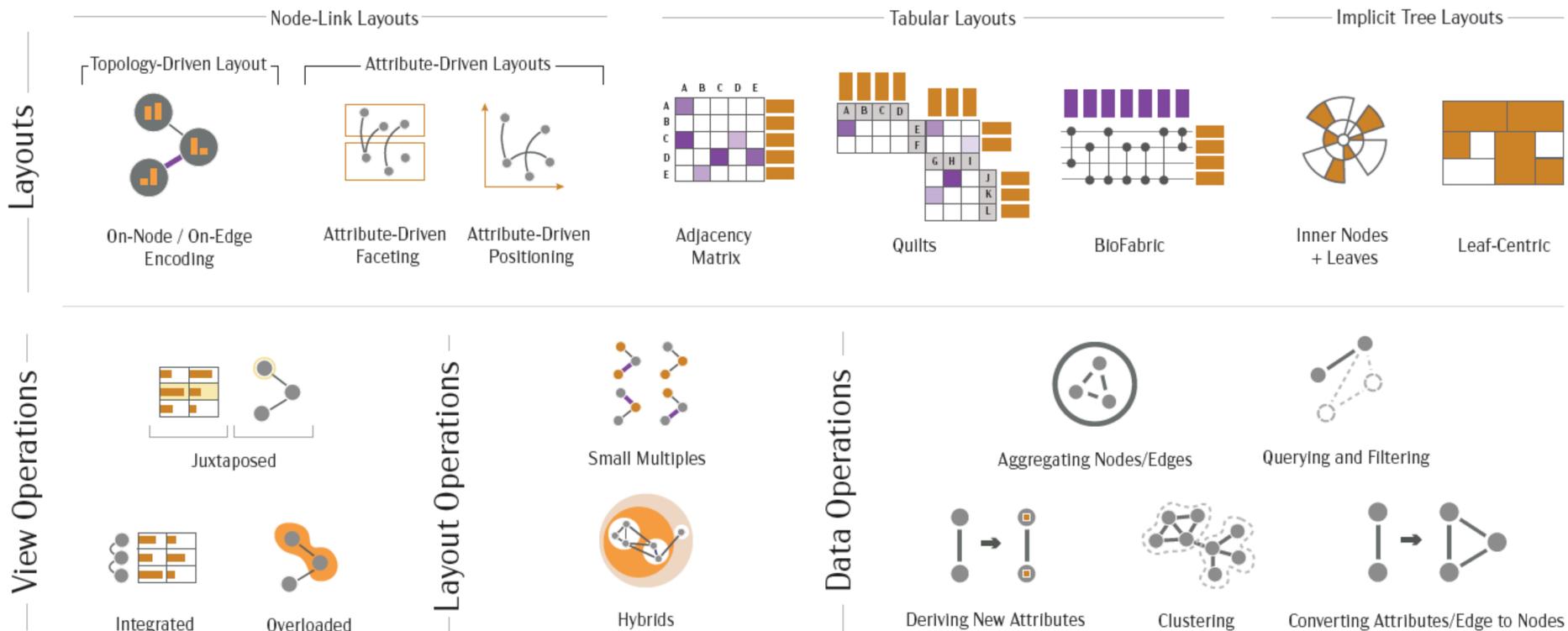
**Evaluation  
Methodology**

**Design Spaces /  
Taxonomies**

# EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK

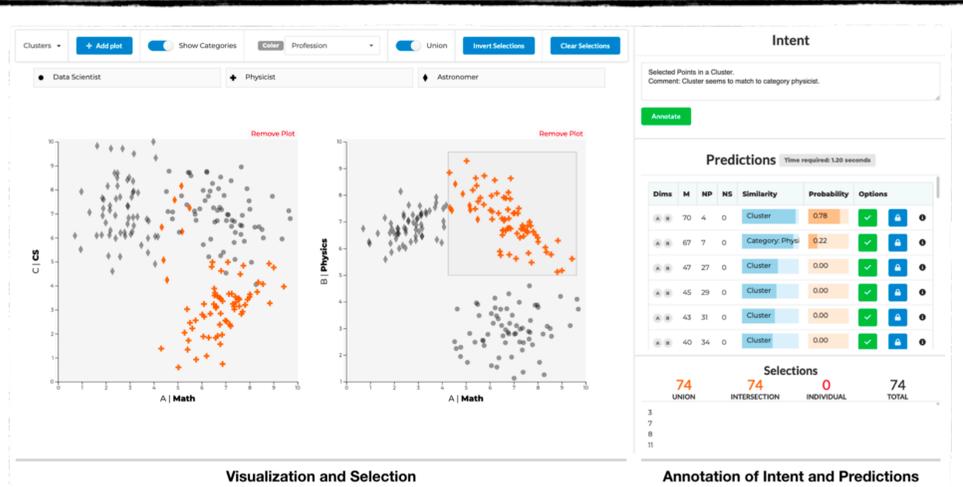
## Evaluation Methodology

## Design Spaces / Taxonomies



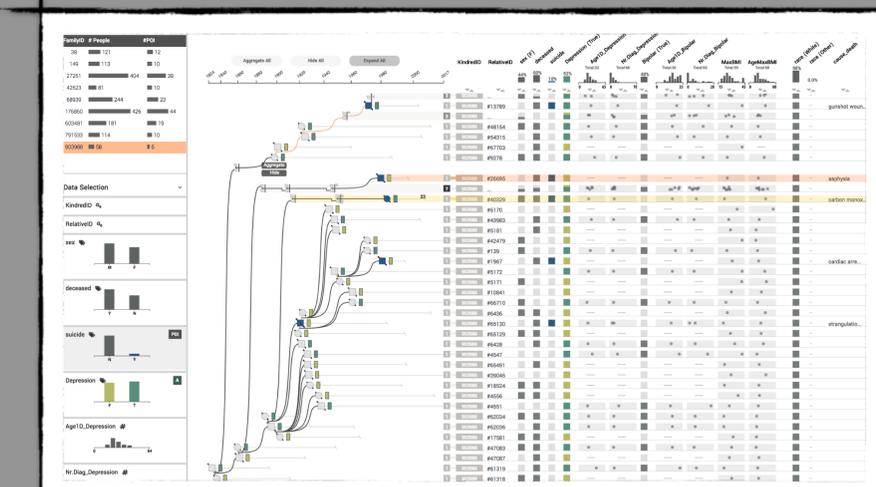
# TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## Literate Visualization



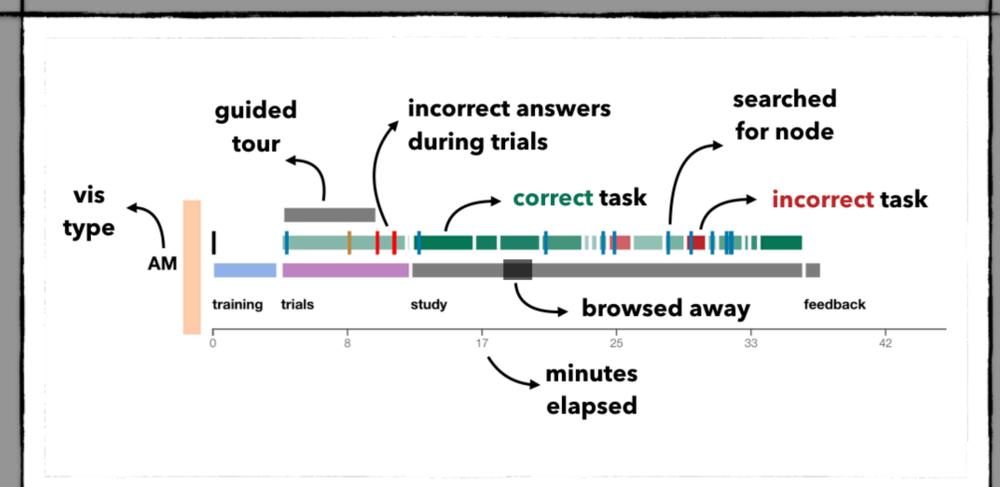
# DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES

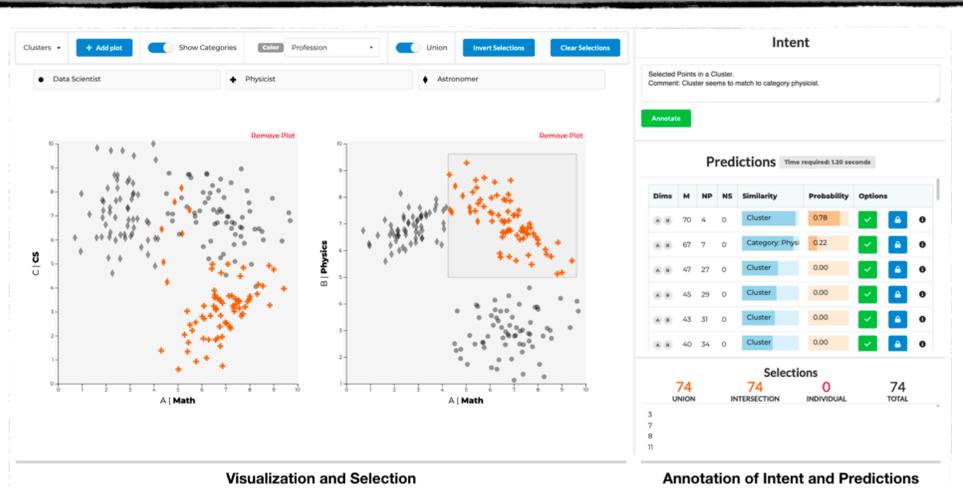
## Clinical Genealogies



# EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK

## Evaluating Complex Systems





## LITERATE VISUALIZATION:

MAKING VISUAL ANALYSIS SESSIONS REPRODUCIBLE AND REUSABLE

Samuel Gratzl, Alexander Lex, Nils Gehlenborg, Nicola Cosgrove, Marc Streit

# REPRODUCIBILITY CRISIS IN SCIENCE

## Reproducibility Rates

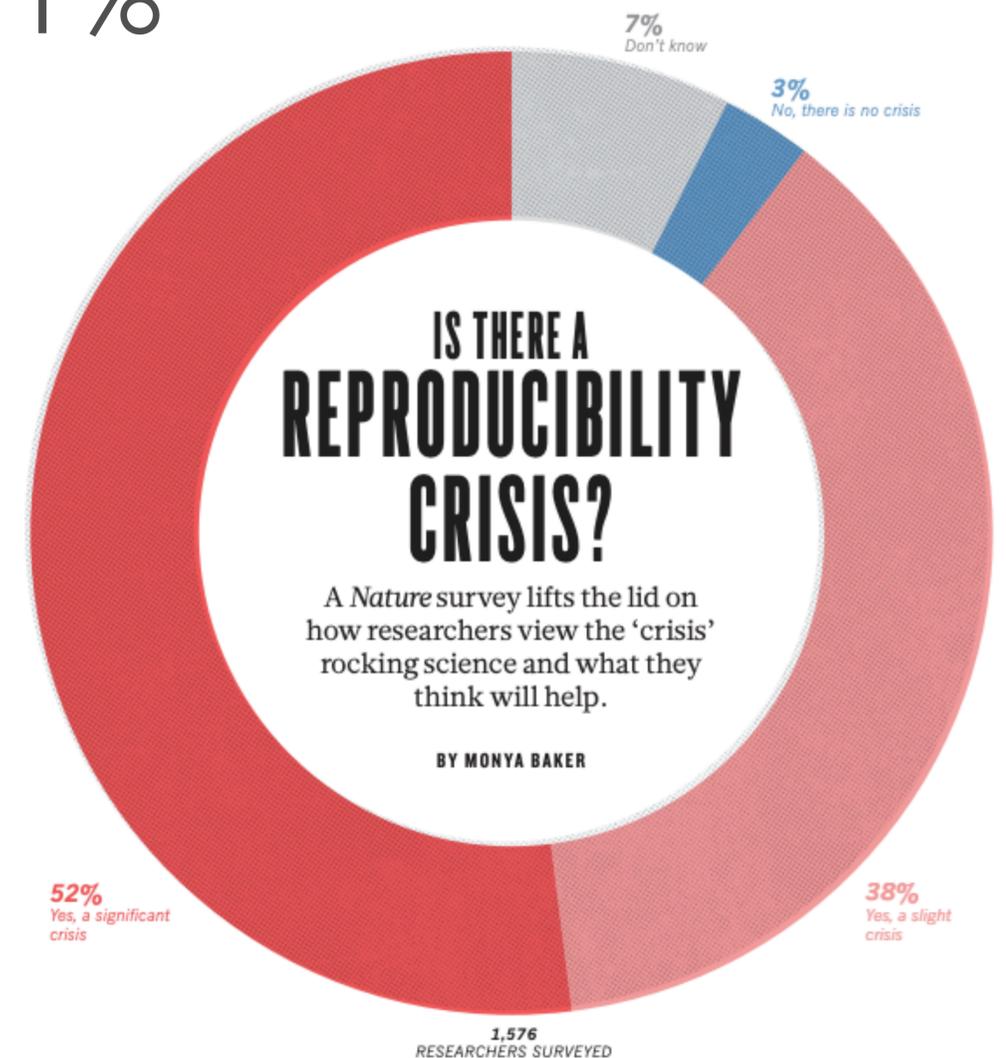
Psychology: 40%

Cancer Biology: 11%

[Baker, Penny, 2016]

[Open Science Collaboration, 2016]

[Begley, Ellis, 2012]



# WHY IS THERE A REPRODUCIBILITY CRISIS?

**Perverse incentives (publish or perish)**

**Bias for “flashy” results**

**Problems in data analysis**

**Lack of data sharing**

**Lack of sharing the analysis process**

...



# LITERATE PROGRAMMING

**Explain the why and how  
using any means necessary!**

Text

Images / Visualizations

Formulas

Videos

Links

Code

[Donald E. Knuth, 1984]

# LITERATE PROGRAMMING IN THE WILD

The Observable interface displays a document titled "Random Probability Plots" by Mike Bostock. It includes a search bar, navigation links (Explore, Demo, Fork, Sign in), and a heart icon. The main content area shows a text introduction, a code cell for generating uniform random data, a Q-Q plot, and a histogram.

```
uniformData = Float64Array(1000) [0.8364988573005558, 0.5923236613754859, 0.4144779646837171, 0.9507874319661884]
uniformData = Float64Array.from({length: 1000}, d3.randomUniform())
```

qqnorm(uniformData)

Observable

The R Markdown interface shows a document titled "1-example.Rmd" with R code for generating a contour map of the Maunga Whau volcano using the viridis color palette. The code includes comments and R-specific syntax like `library(viridis)` and `image(volcano, col = viridis(200))`. The rendered output shows two contour plots: one using the default viridis palette and another using the 'magma' option.

```
1 ---
2 title: "Viridis Demo"
3 output: html_document
4 ---
5
6 {r include = FALSE}
7 library(viridis)
8
9
10 The code below demonstrates two color palettes in the
11 [viridis](https://github.com/sjmgarnier/viridis) package. Each plot
12 displays a contour map of the Maunga Whau volcano in Auckland, New
13 Zealand.
14
15 ## Viridis colors
16 {r}
17 image(volcano, col = viridis(200))
18
19
20 ## Magma colors
21 {r}
22 image(volcano, col = viridis(200, option = "A"))
23
24
```

R Markdown

The Jupyter Notebook interface displays a document titled "07-hypothesis-testing" with Python code for hypothesis testing. The code includes comments and imports for `ipywidgets` and `scipy`. It defines a function `compare_distributions` and uses `interact` to create a slider for `sample_size`. The rendered output shows a plot comparing the normal distribution pdf (black line) and the t distribution pdf (red line) for a sample size of 5.

```
1 # there is some trouble with this package for some python versions
2 # if it doesn't work, don't worry about it
3 from ipywidgets import interact
4
5 samp_mean = 0
6 samp_std_dev = 1
7
8 x = sc.linspace(samp_mean-4*samp_std_dev,samp_mean+4*samp_std_dev,1000);
9 def compare_distributions(sample_size):
10     pdf1 = norm.pdf(x, loc=samp_mean, scale=samp_std_dev/sc.sqrt(sample_size))
11     pdf2 = t.pdf(x,df=sample_size-1,loc=samp_mean, scale=samp_std_dev/sc.sqrt(sample_size))
12     plt.plot(x, pdf1, linewidth=2, color='k',label='normal distribution pdf')
13     plt.plot(x, pdf2, linewidth=2, color='r',label='t distribution pdf')
14     plt.xlim(x.min(),x.max())
15     plt.ylim(0,2)
16     plt.legend()
17     plt.show()
18
19 interact(compare_distributions,sample_size=(2,20,1))
```

Jupyter Notebooks

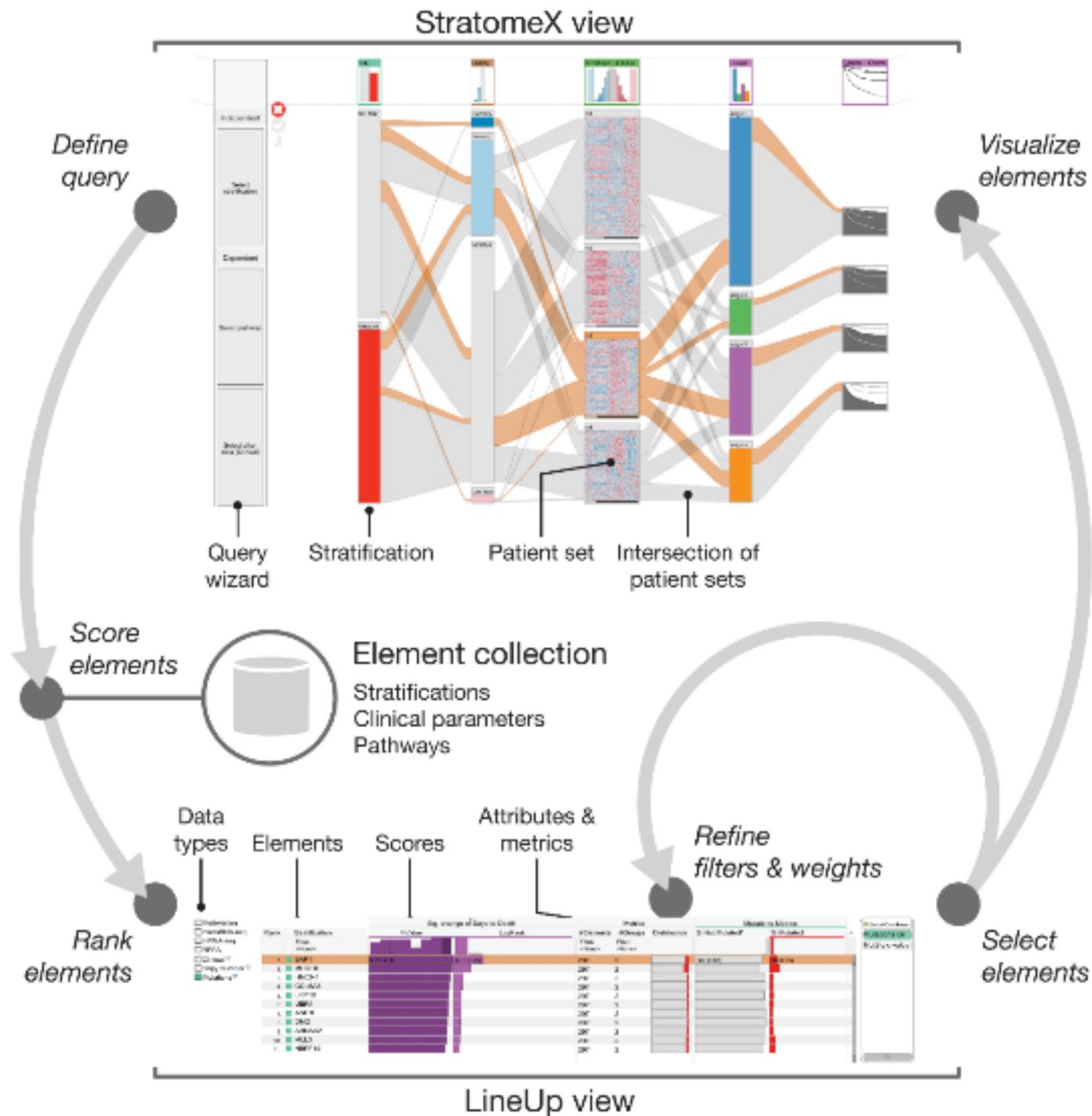
# LITERATE VISUALIZATION

**Idea: make the process of an interactive, visual analysis session well reasoned and documented**

**Current State:**

**no record of **what** was done,  
let alone **why****

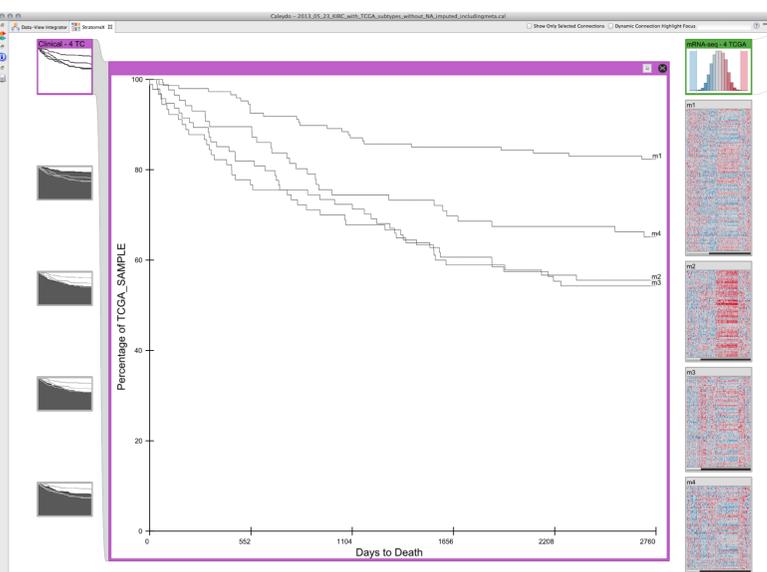
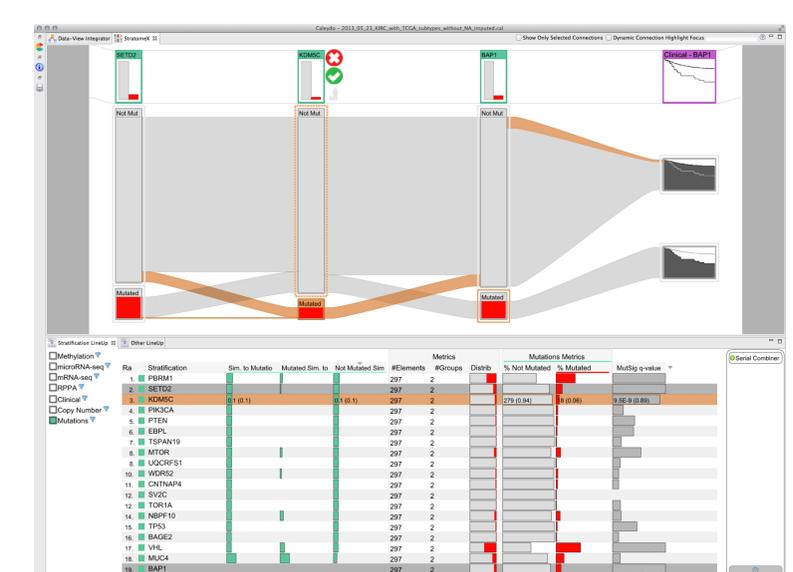
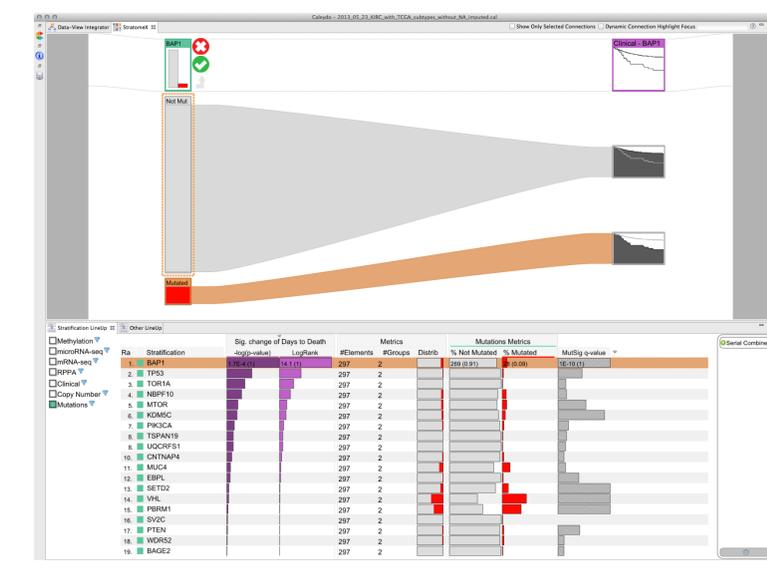
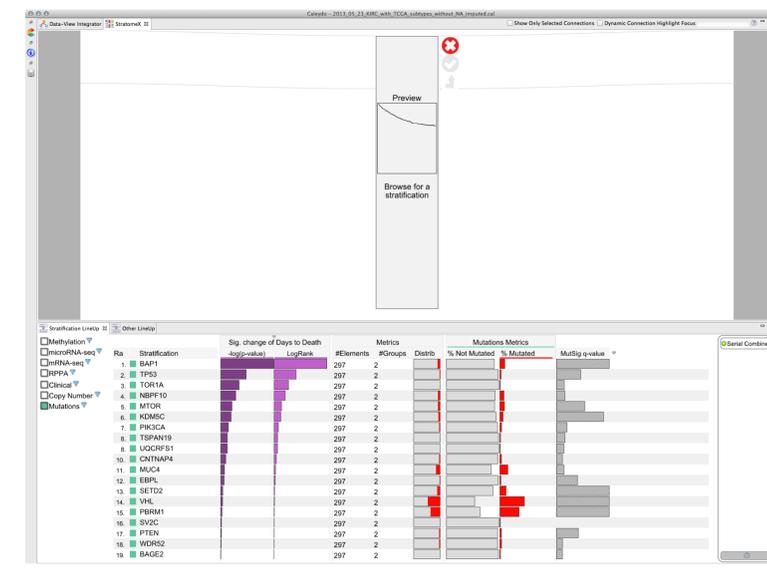
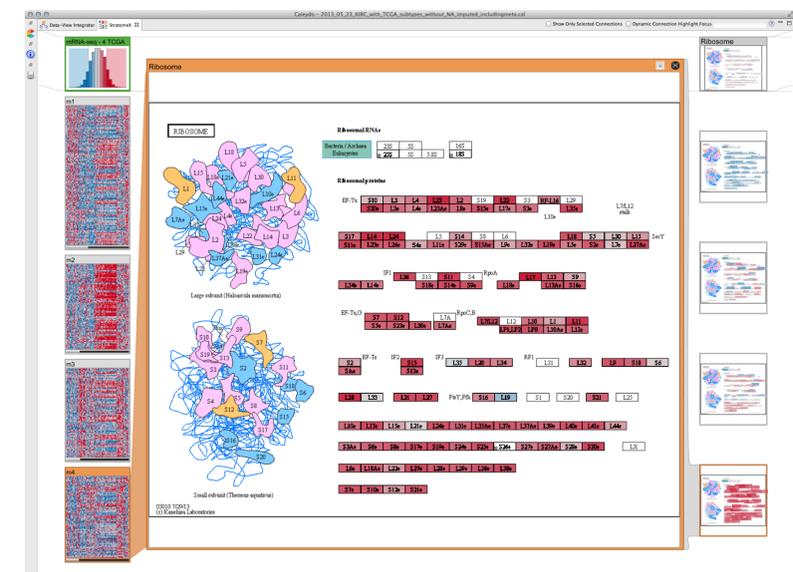
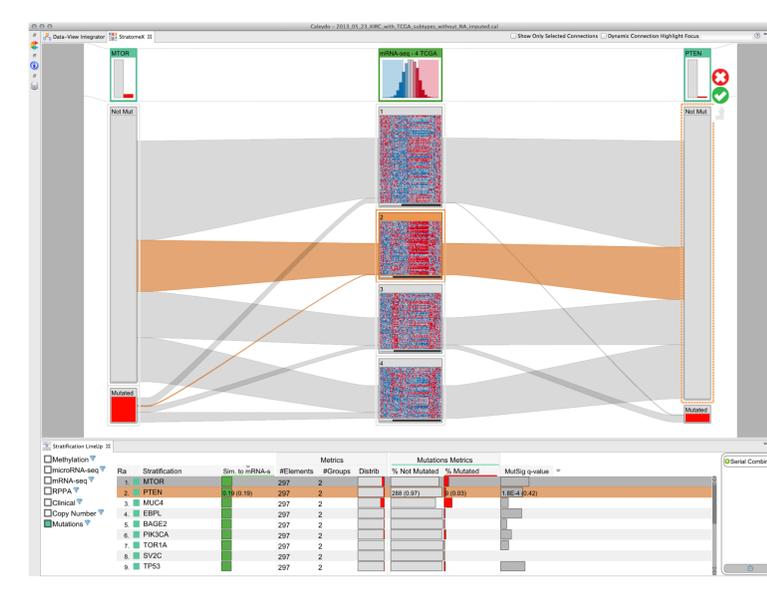
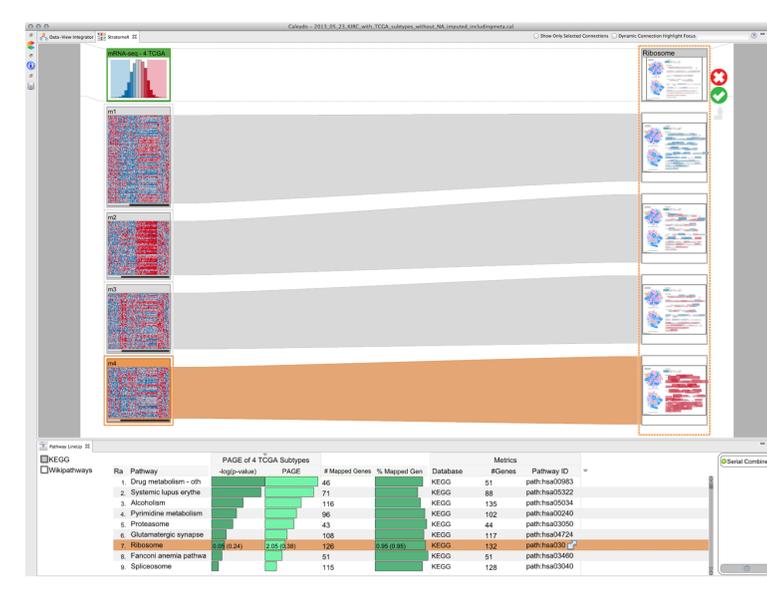
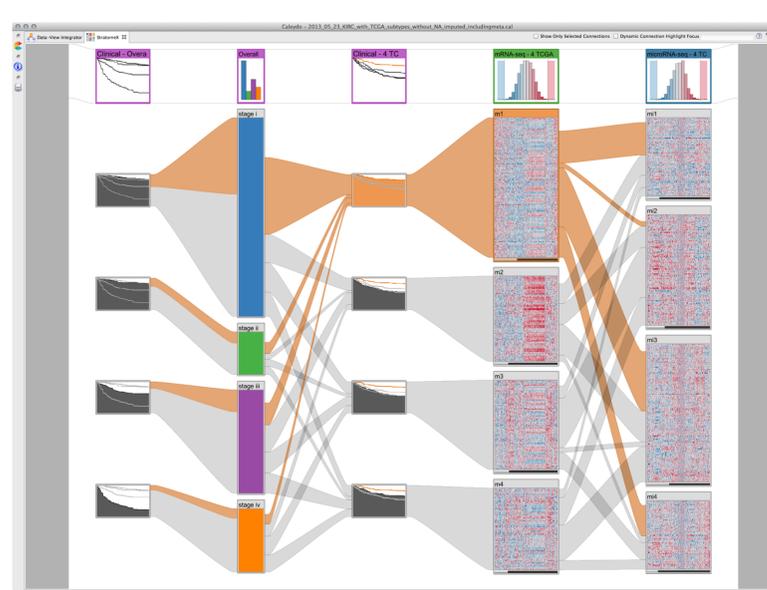
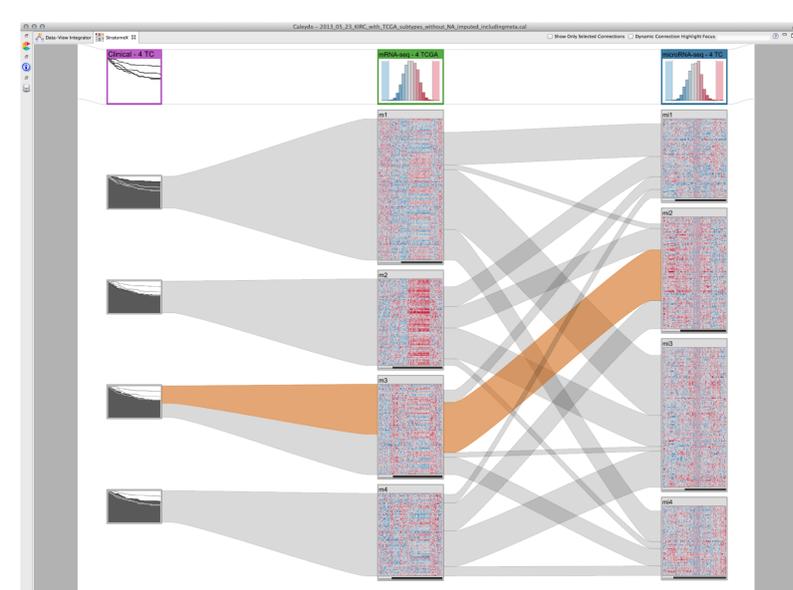
# A MANUAL ATTEMPT AT LITERATE VISUALIZATION



## Guided Visual Exploration of Genomic Stratifications in Cancer

*Nature Methods* 11, 9 (2014), 884-885





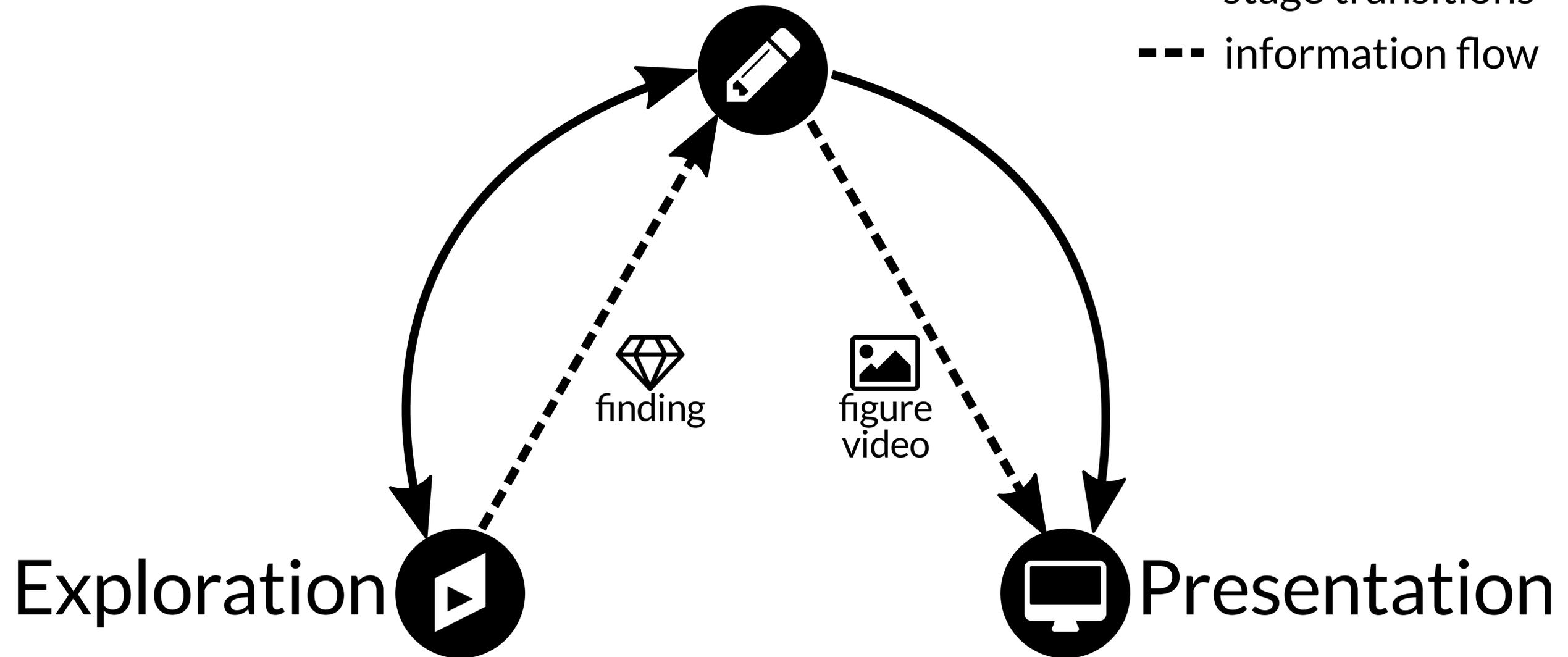
# CASE STUDY

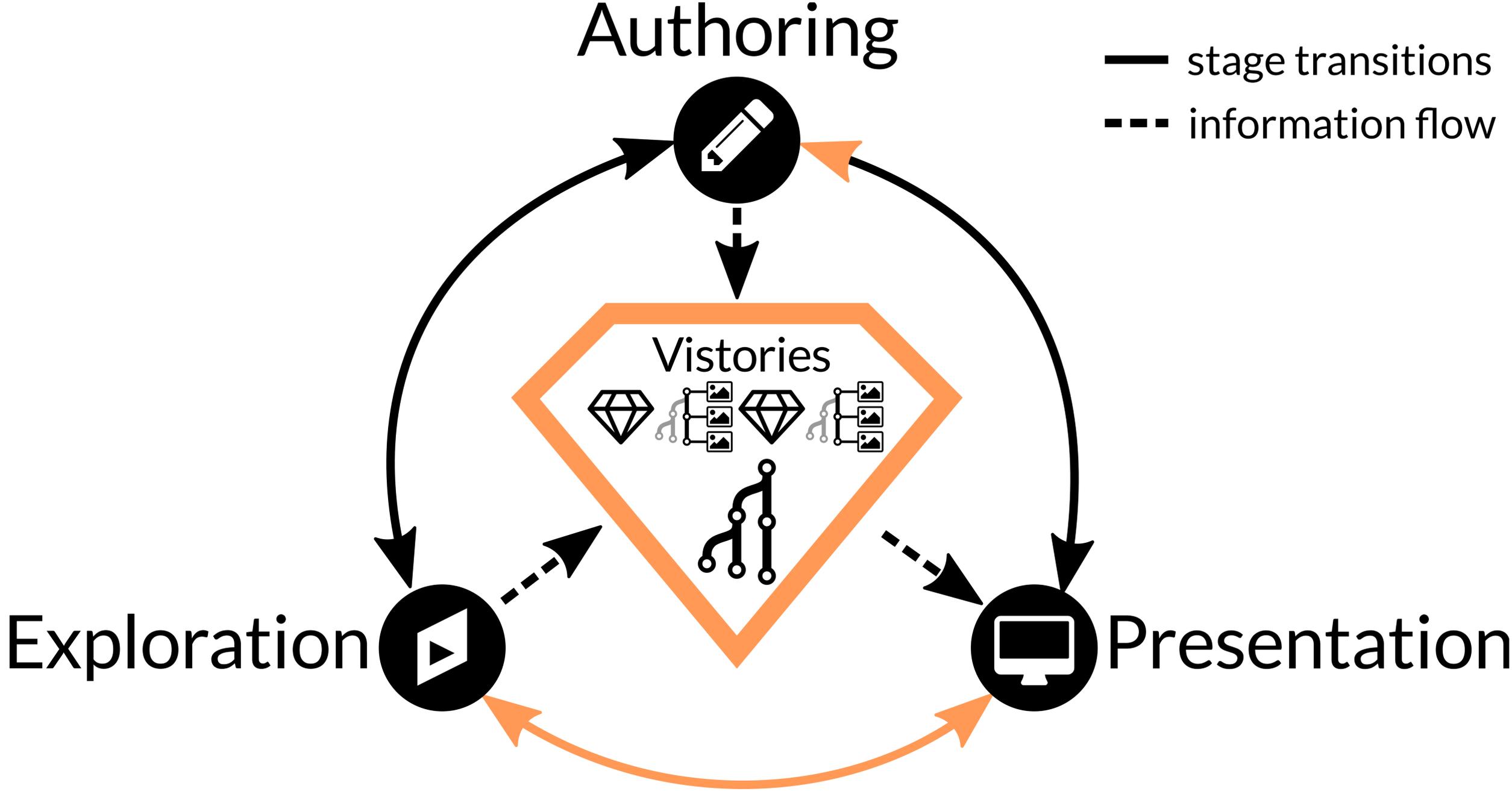
Streit et al., Guided Visual Exploration of Genomic Stratifications in Cancer, Nature Methods, 2014



# Authoring

— stage transitions  
- - - information flow





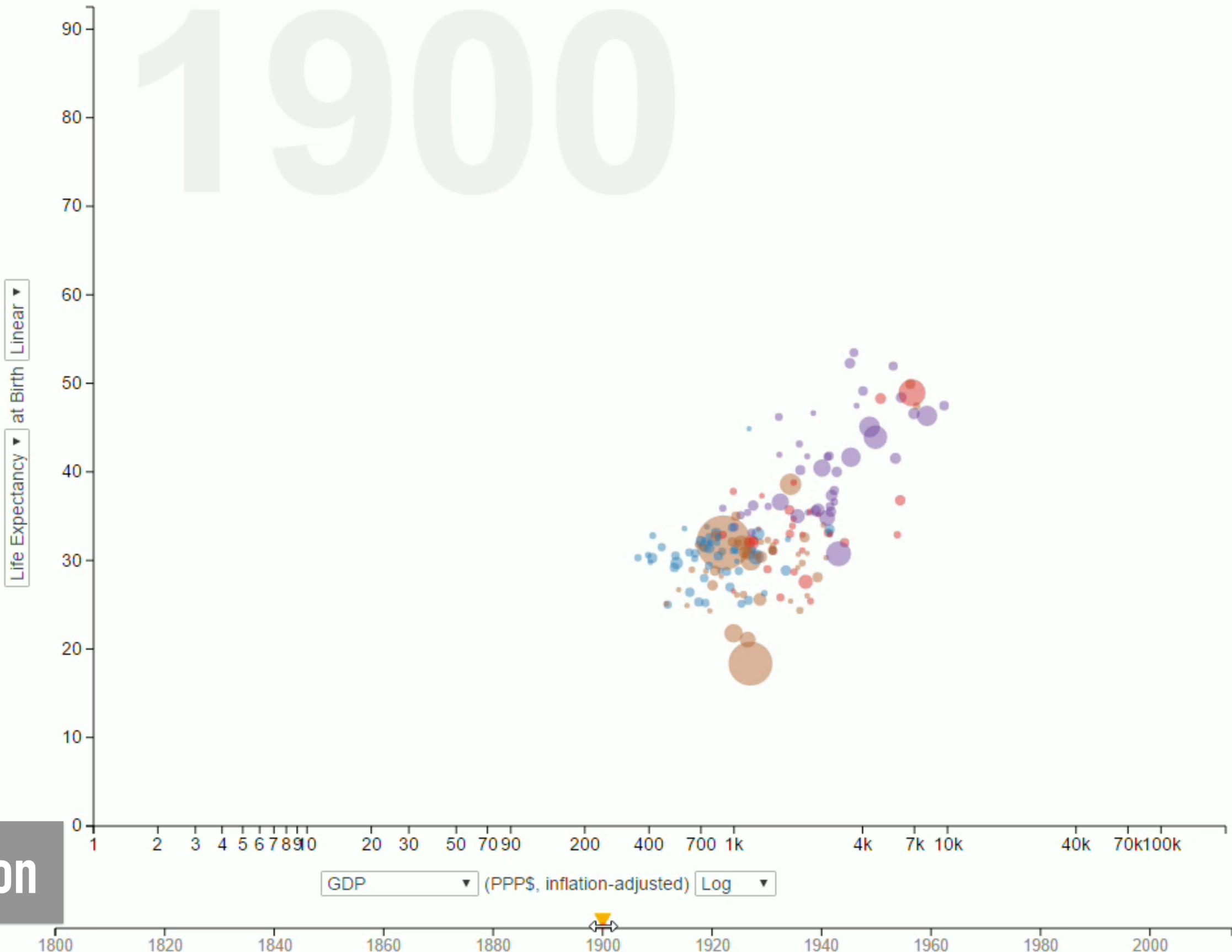
**Color:** Continent

- Africa
- America
- Asia
- Europe

**Size:** Population

Sqrt

- 800M
- 600M
- 400M
- 200M
- 100M



**Provenance**

- Start
- X=GDP
- Y=Life Expectancy
- Size=Population
- Color=Continent
- Year 1800
- scale(X)=Log
- Year 1900

# Exploration

- Data
- Visual
- Selections
- Layout
- Analysis

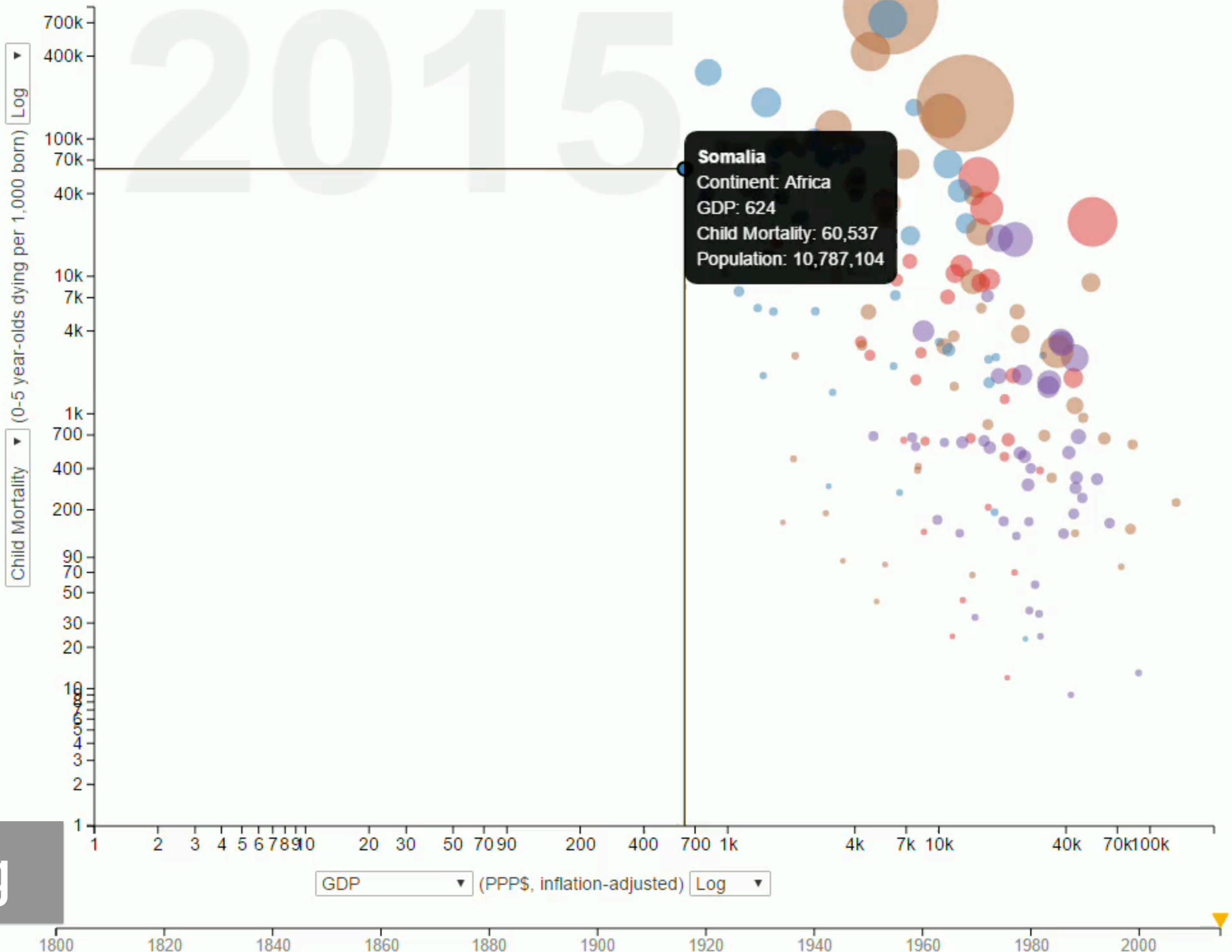
**Color:** Continent

- Africa
- America
- Asia
- Europe

**Size:** Population

Sqrt

- 800M
- 600M
- 400M
- 200M
- 100M



**Provenance**

- Year 1800
- Y=Child Mortality
- scale(X)=Log
- scale(Y)=Log
- Year 1860
- Year 1920
- Year 2015
- Country Somalia

- Data
- Visual
- Selections
- Layout
- Analysis

**Authoring**

Annotations

A → □

Continent

- Africa
- America
- Asia
- Europe

Size: Population

sqrt

- 800M
- 600M
- 400M
- 200M
- 100M



Provenance

- Start
- X=GDP
- Y=Life Expectancy
- Size=Population
- Color=Continent
- Year 1800
- Y=Child Mortality
- scale(X)=Log

- Data
- Visual
- Selections
- Layout
- Analysis

Story

Select + New Story Extract Bookmarked

My story to Country Somalia

slide description

00:00 My story to Country Somalia

00:01 scale(X)=Log

00:03 scale(Y)=Log

00:04 Year 1860

00:06 Year 1920

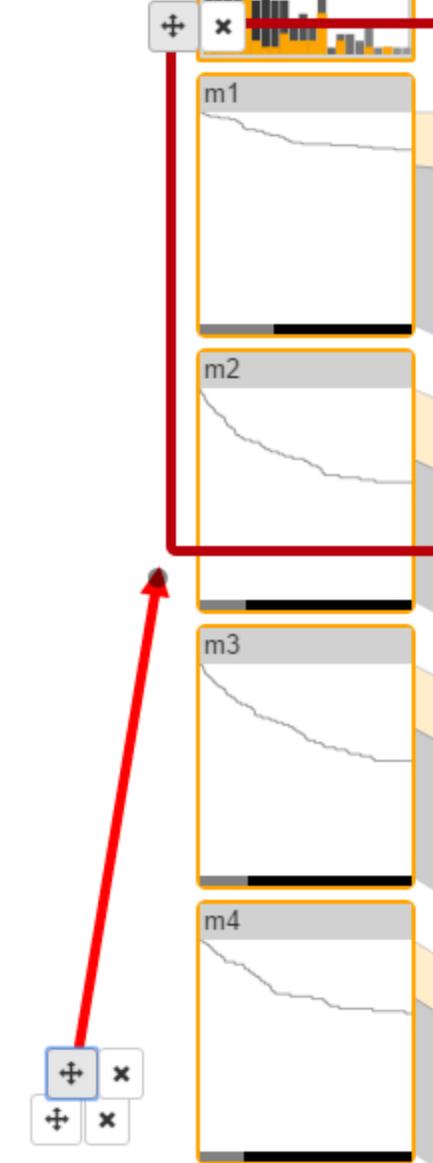
00:07 Year 2015

00:09 Country Somalia

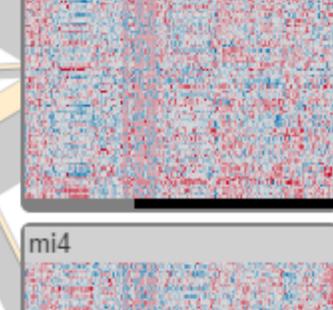
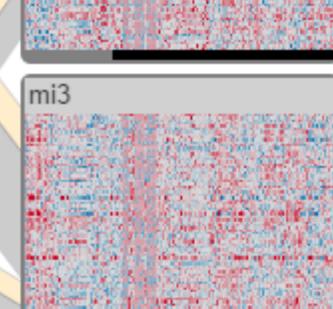
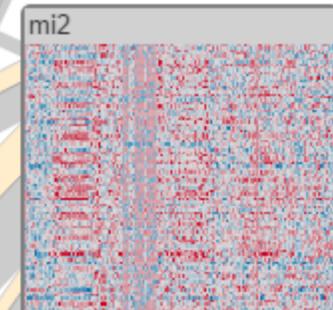
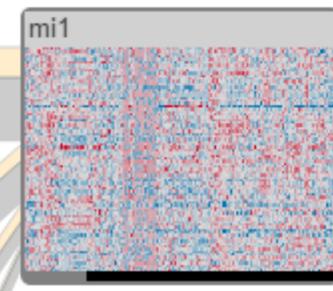
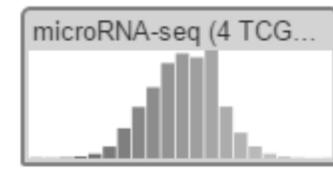
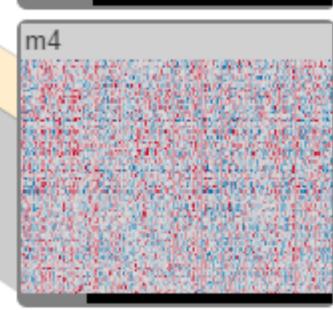
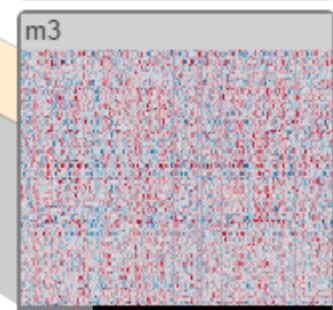
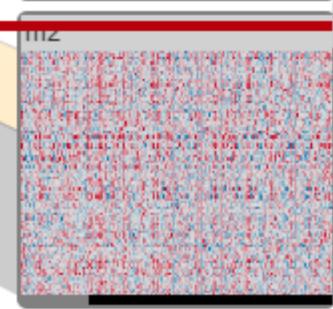
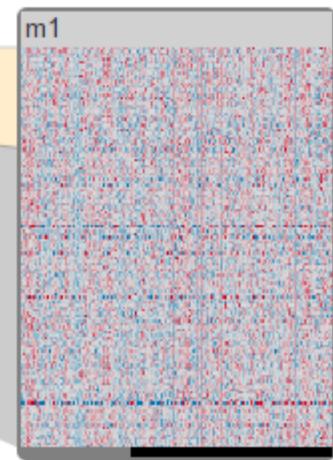
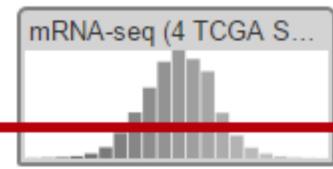
00:16

# Presentation

Annotations



**Kaplan-Meier Plot**  
 showing survival of patients  
 in connected block



**Provenance**

- 86 TCGA\_SAMPLES
- 62 TCGA\_SAMPLES
- 32 TCGA\_SAMPLES
- no TCGA\_SAMPLES
- 147 TCGA\_SAMPLES
- patient.daystodeath (4 TCGA...)
- patient.daystodeath (4 TCGA...)
- patient.daystodeath (4 TCGA...)

Legend: Data, Visual, Selections, Layout, Analysis

**Story**

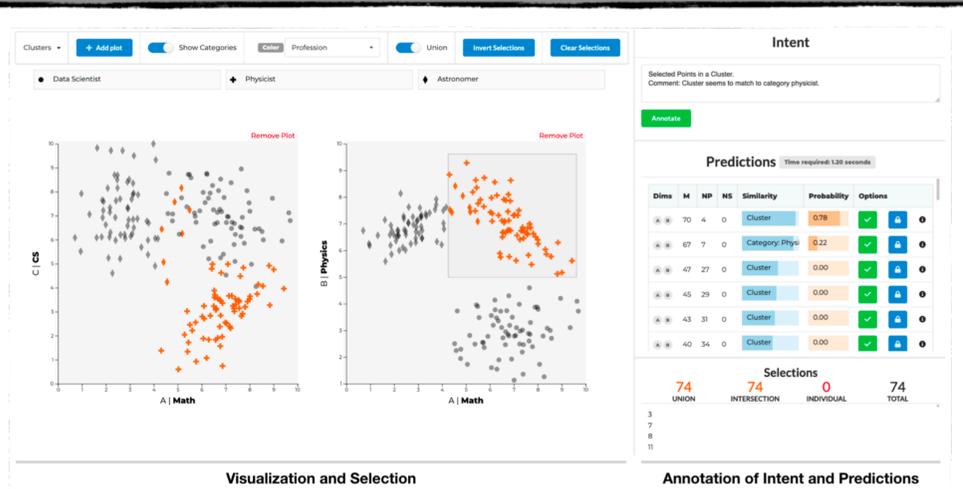
- 00:15 Compare Stratifications
- 00:18 T
- 00:18 microRNA-seq (4 TCGA Subtypes)
- 00:19 Select Bands 1
- 00:20 Select Bands 2
- 00:20 Select Bands 3
- 00:20 Select Bands 4
- 00:21 Select Bands 5
- 00:21 Viewing Stratified Patient Survival
- 00:24 T
- 00:24 147 TCGA\_SAMPLES
- 00:26 Days to Death≠mRNA-seq (4 TCGA Subtypes)
- 00:27 **Kaplan Maier Plot**
- 00:29 T
- 00:30 Adding a Categorical Parameter
- 00:30 Days to Death≠microRNA-seq (4 TCGA Subtypes)
- 00:32 Days to Death≠Clinical (Overall Stage)
- 00:33

Navigation: [Previous] [Next]

**PROGRESS;  
BUT  
PROVENANCE IS  
“DUMB”**

**We solved the **WHAT,**  
but not the **WHY****

**So, can we make it easier to capture  
the why?**

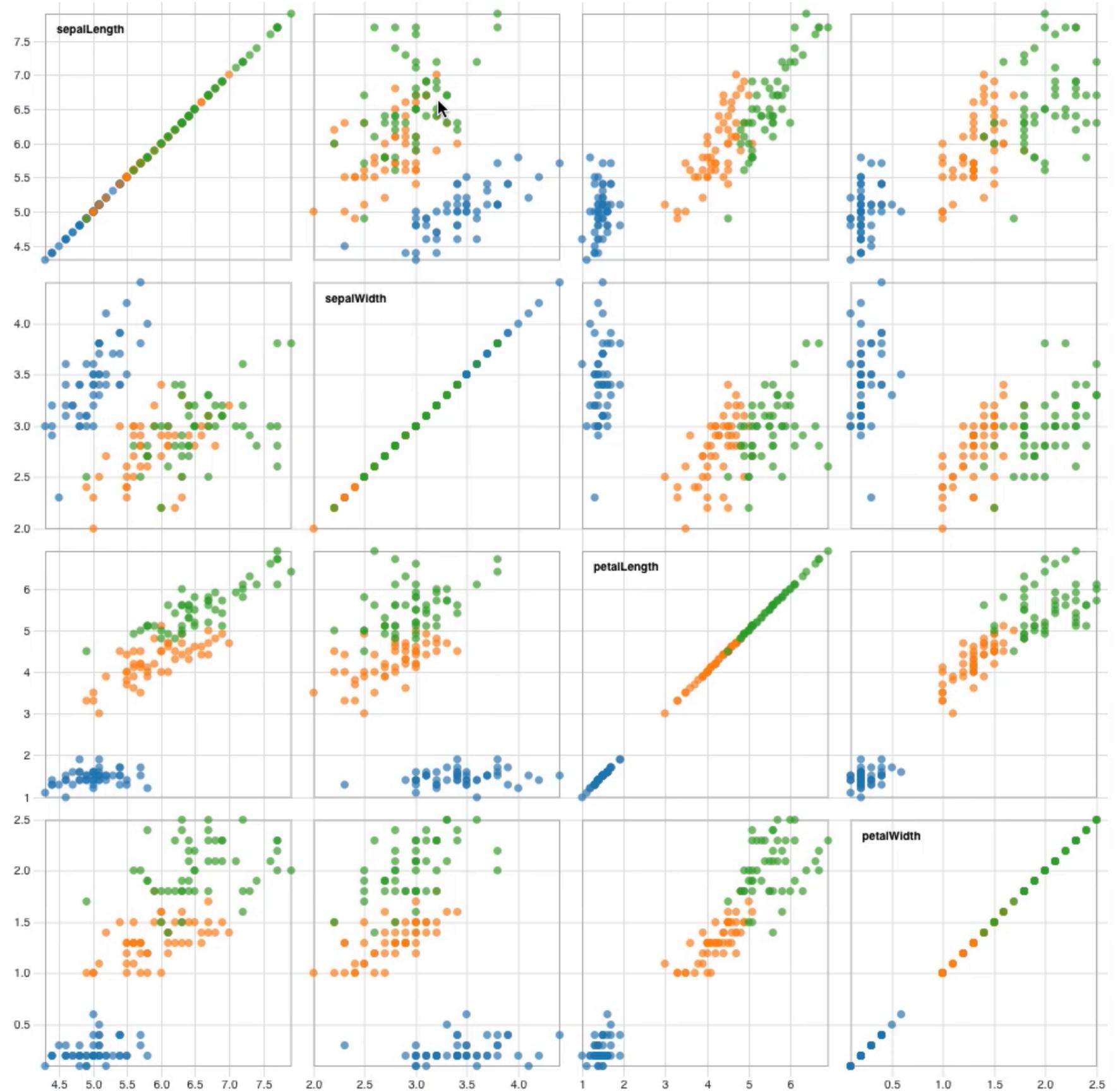


## CAPTURING USER INTENT

### WHEN BRUSHING IN SCATTERPLOTS

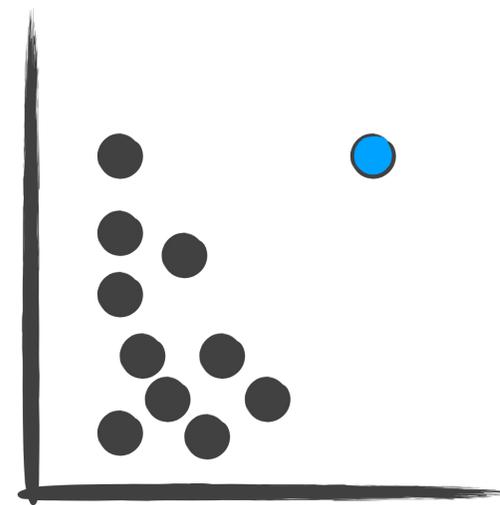
Kiran Gadhave, Jochen Görtler, Oliver Deussen, Miriah Meyer, Jeff Phillips

# WHAT'S BRUSHING?

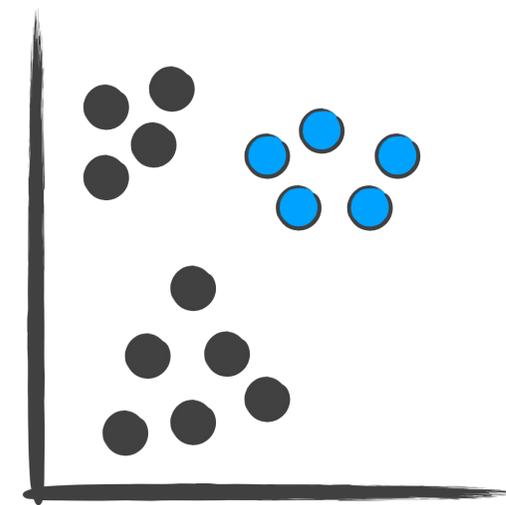


# WHAT IS INTENT WHEN BRUSHING?

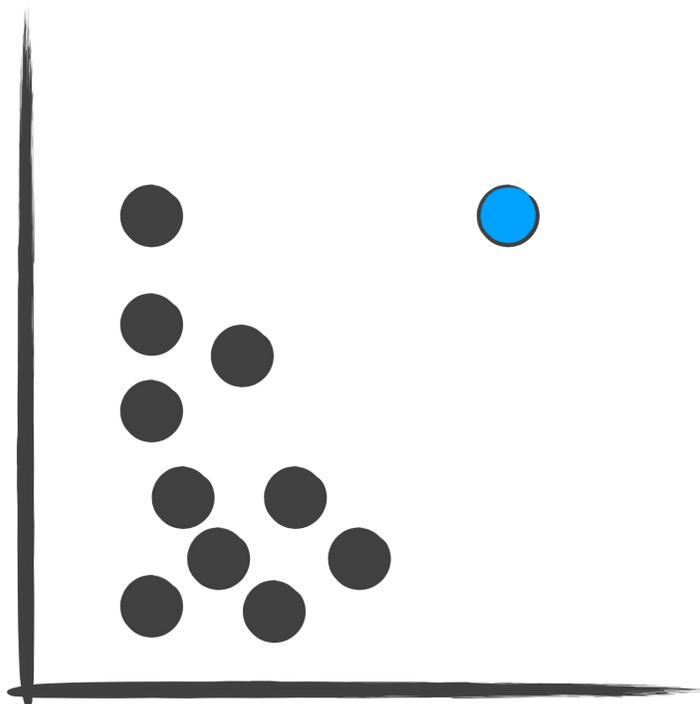
**Intent is the user's reason for performing a brush with a visualization.**



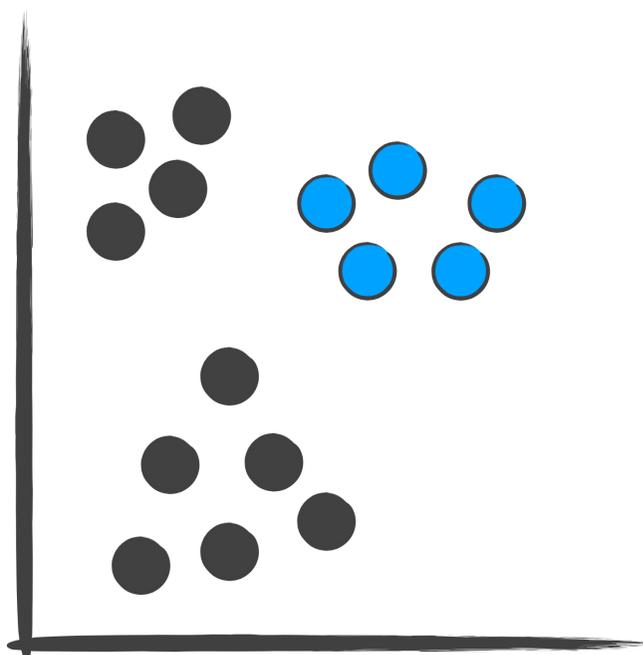
Outlier



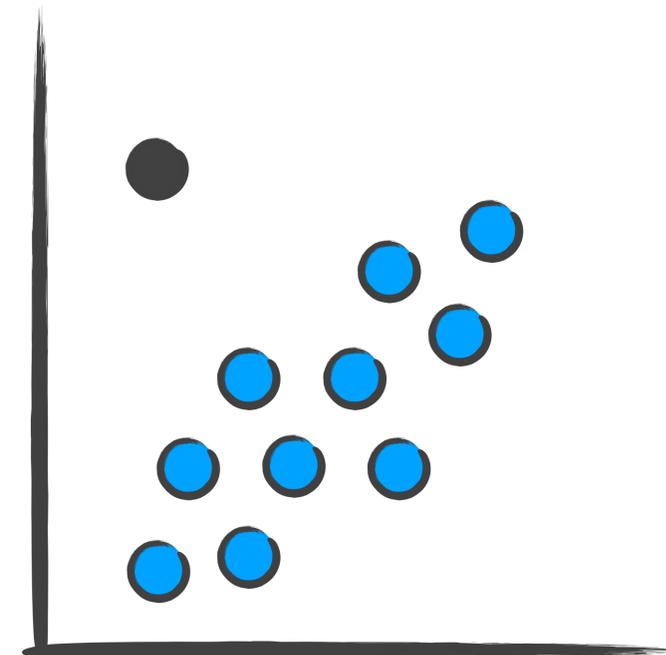
Clusters



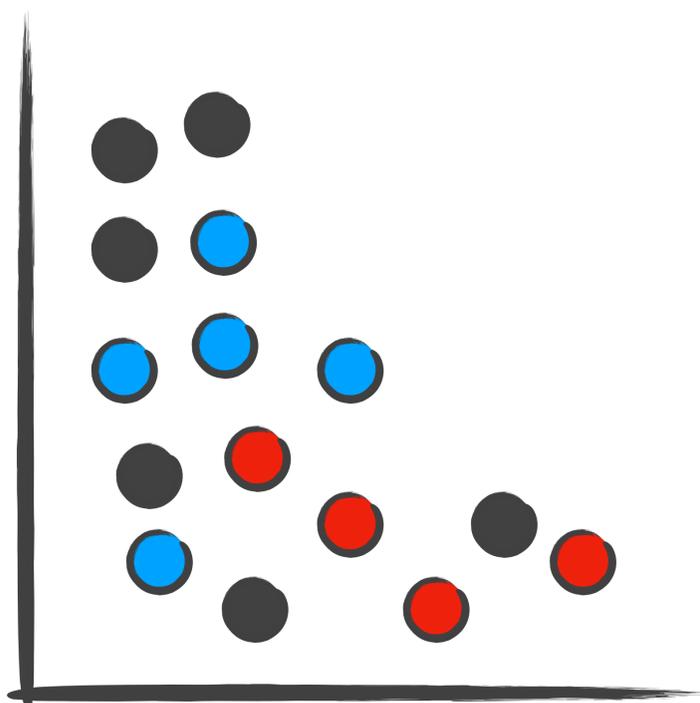
Outlier



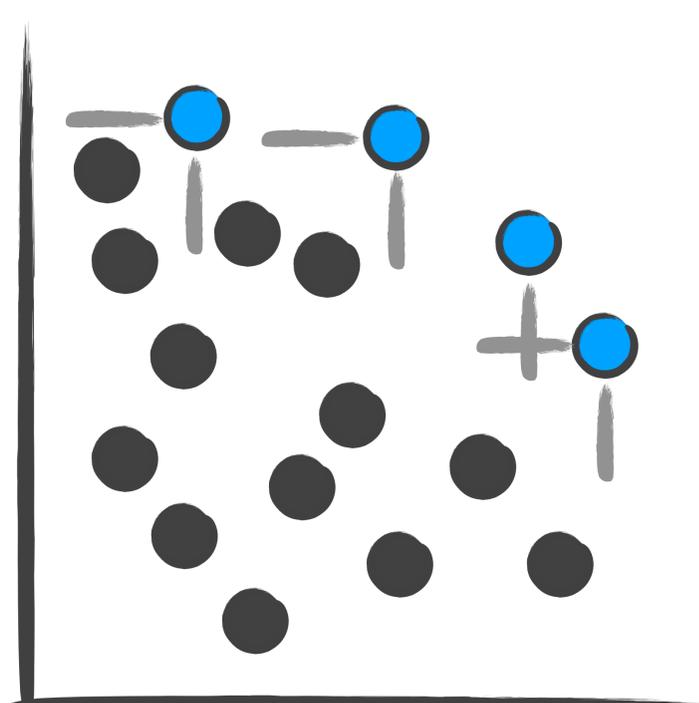
Clusters



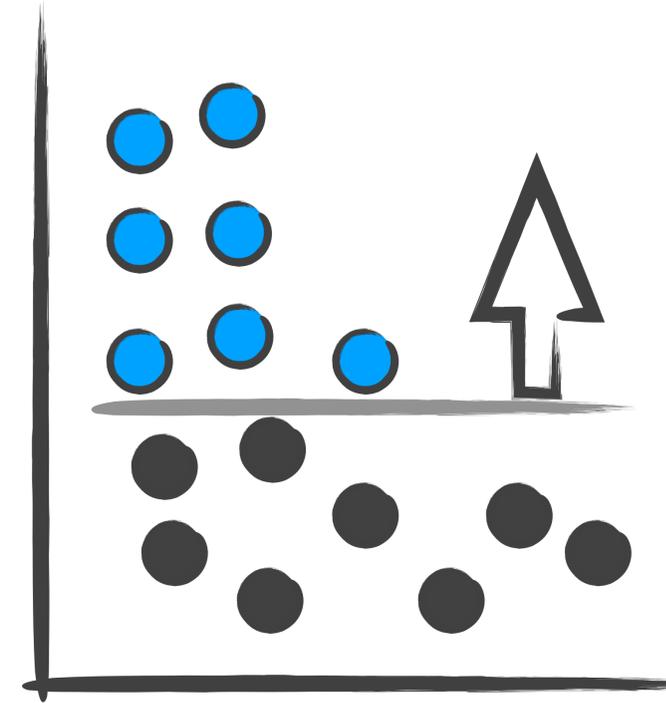
Correlation



Categories



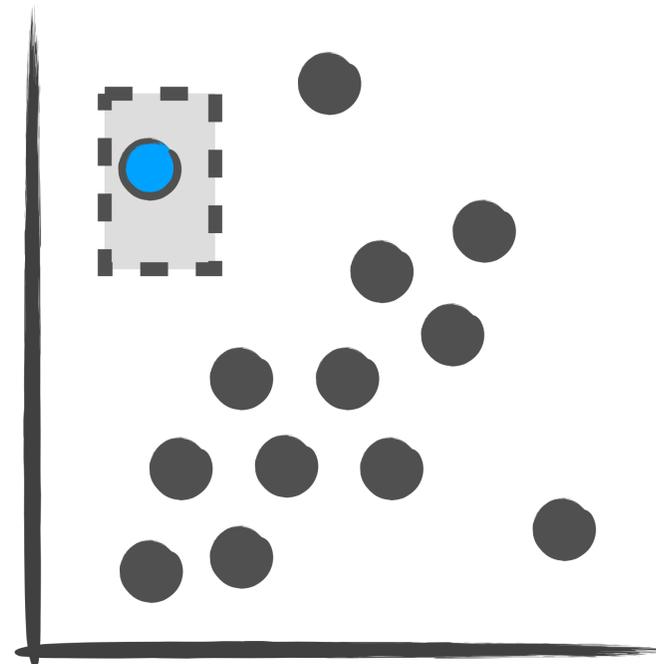
Multivariate Optimization



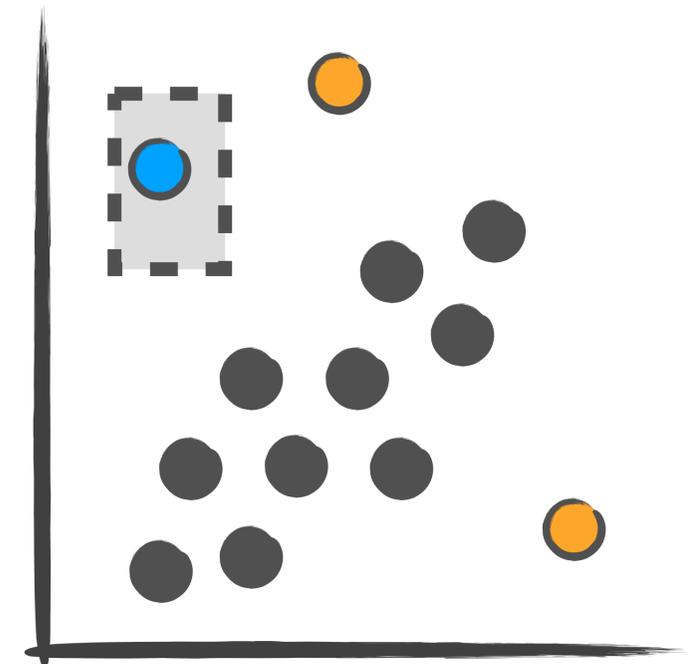
Ranges

# WHY DO WE CARE?

**Speed up** complex selections



Selection

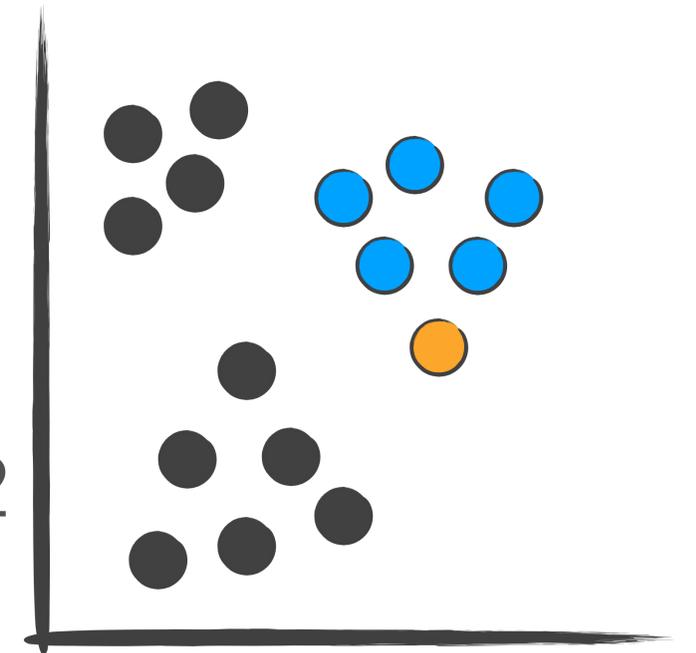


Outliers?

# WHY DO WE CARE?

## **ID Based Selection:**

Selected Elements: 7, 9, 13, 18, 22



## **Semantic Selection:**

Elements in K-Means cluster centered at  $[2, 3]$

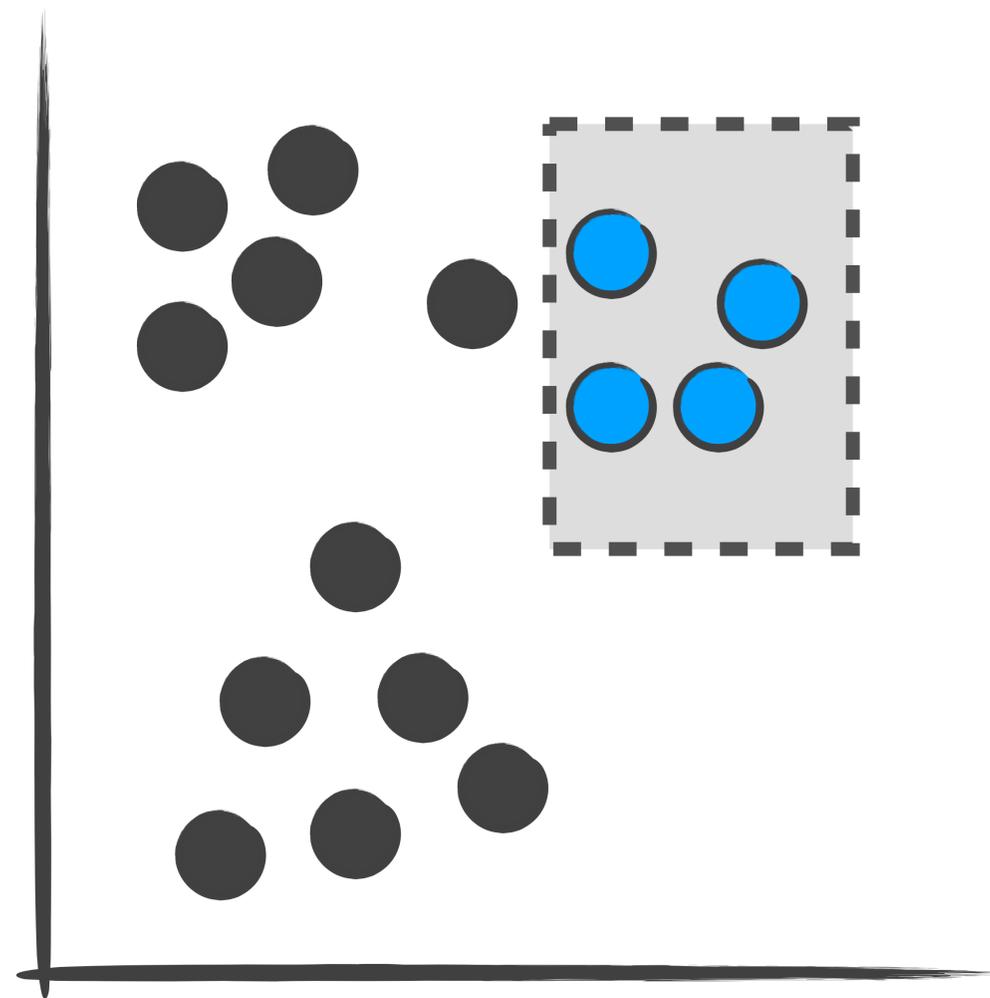
## **Meaningful, higher level concept:**

**improves reproducibility**

## **Robust to changes and updates in dataset:**

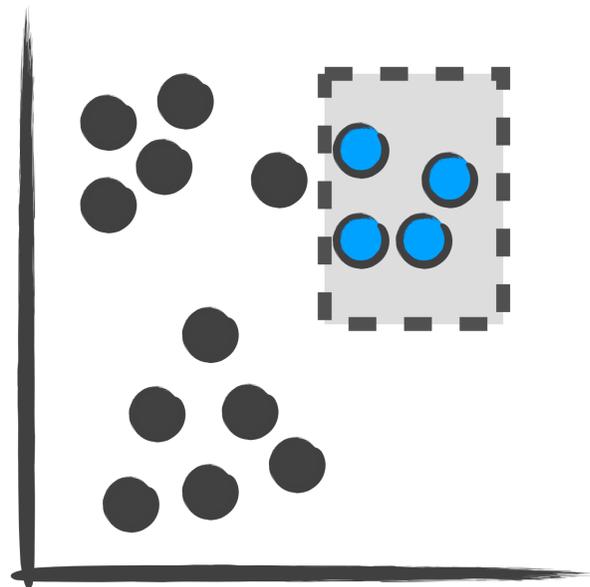
**enables re-usability**

# HOW DO WE INFER INTENT?

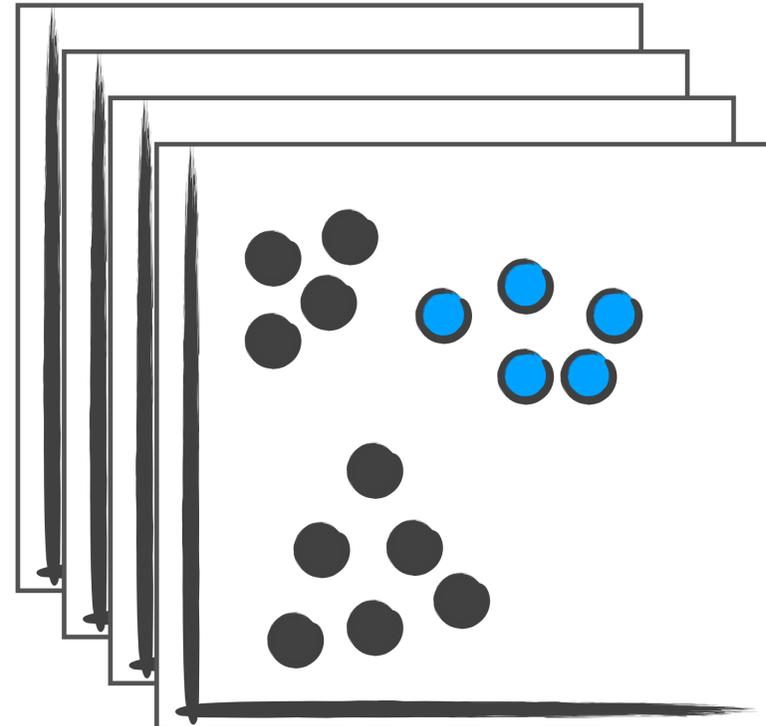


**Selection**

# HOW DO WE INFER INTENT?



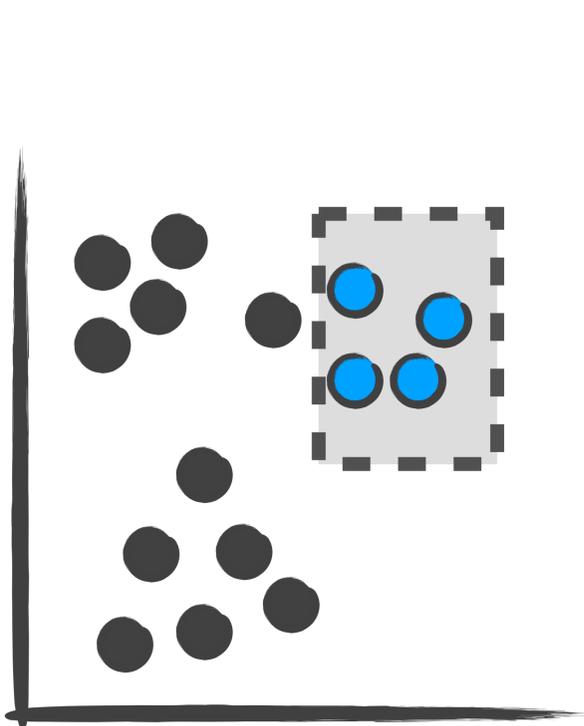
**Selection**



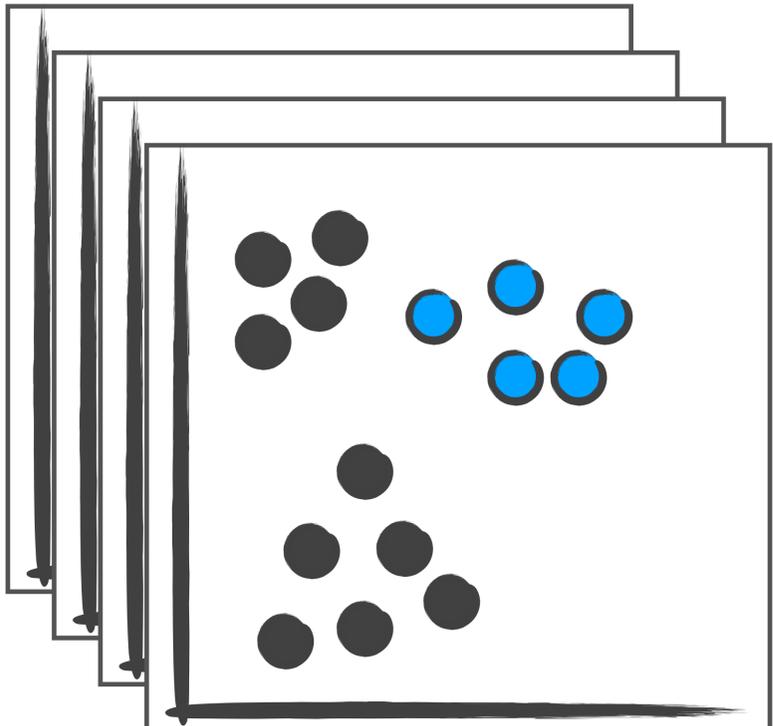
**Predictions**

- K-Means
- DBScan
- Regression
- Outlier Detection
- Skyline
- Decision Trees / Ranges
- Categories

# HOW DO WE INFER INTENT?



**Selection**



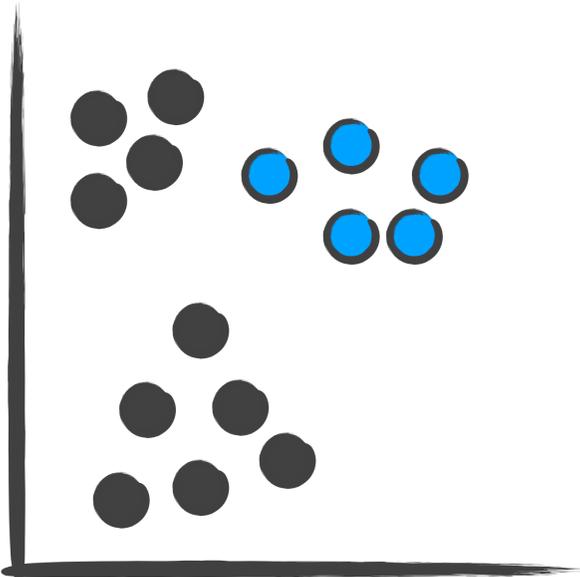
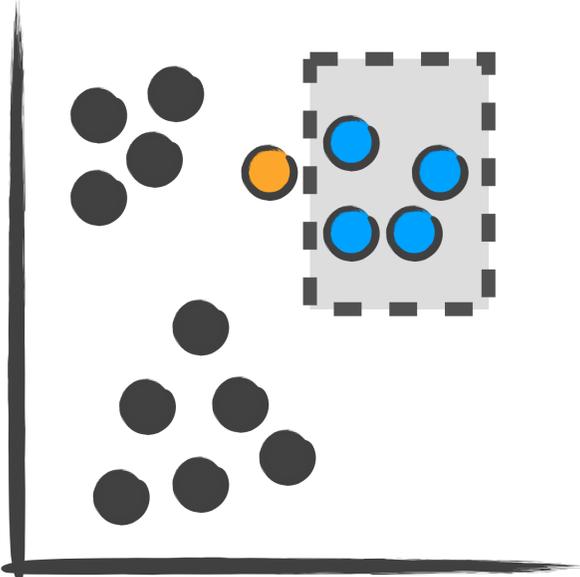
**Predictions**

- K-Means
- DBScan
- Regression
- Outlier Detection
- Skyline
- Decision Trees / Ranges
- Categories

- 1. Range 
- 2. Cluster 
- 3. Outlier 

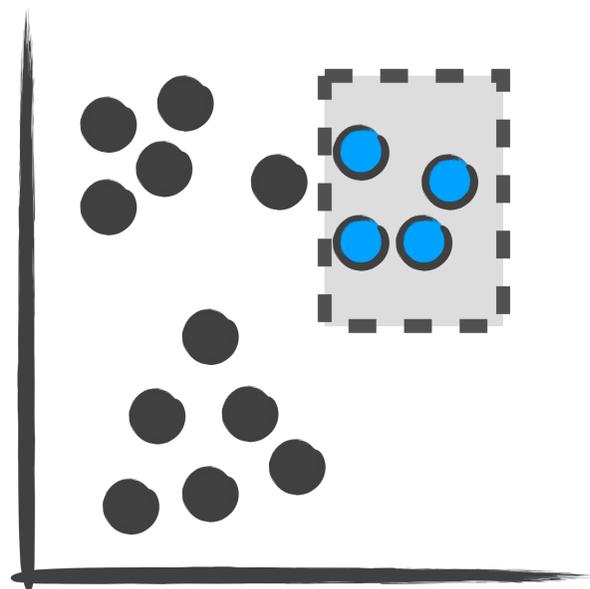
**Ranking**

- Jaccard Distance
- Naive Bayes
- Classifier
- Heuristic
- Measures

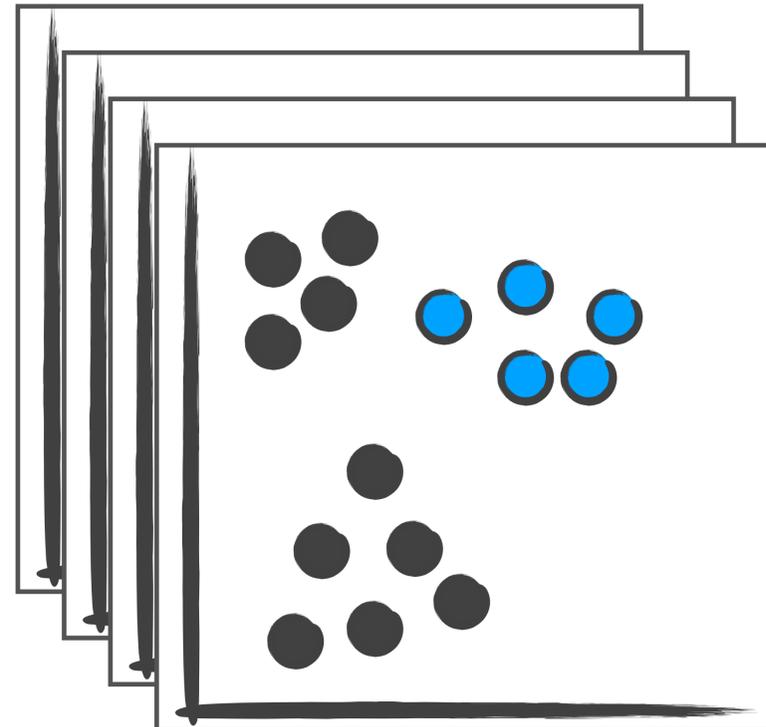


$$J(S, C) = \frac{|S \cap C|}{|S \cup C|}$$

# HOW DO WE INFER INTENT?



**Selection**



**Predictions**

K-Means  
DBScan  
Regression  
Outlier Detection  
Skyline  
Decision Trees / Ranges  
Categories

1. Range 
2. Cluster 
3. Outlier 

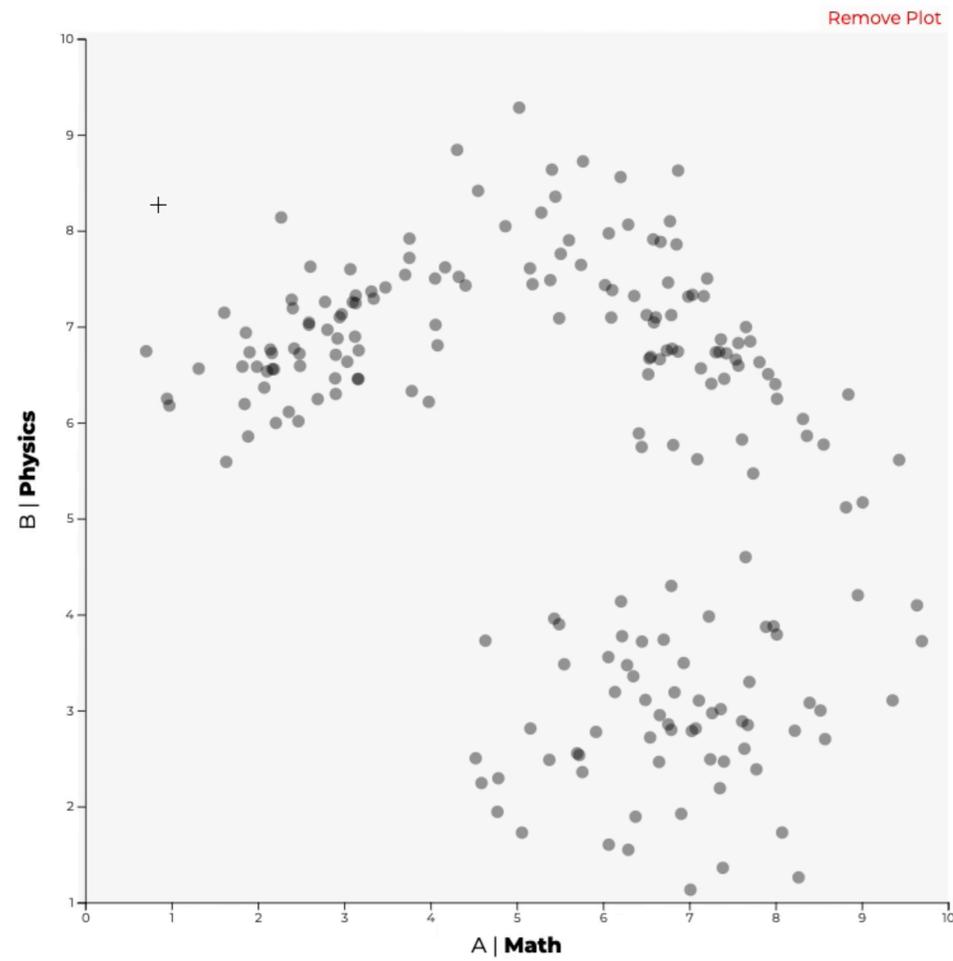
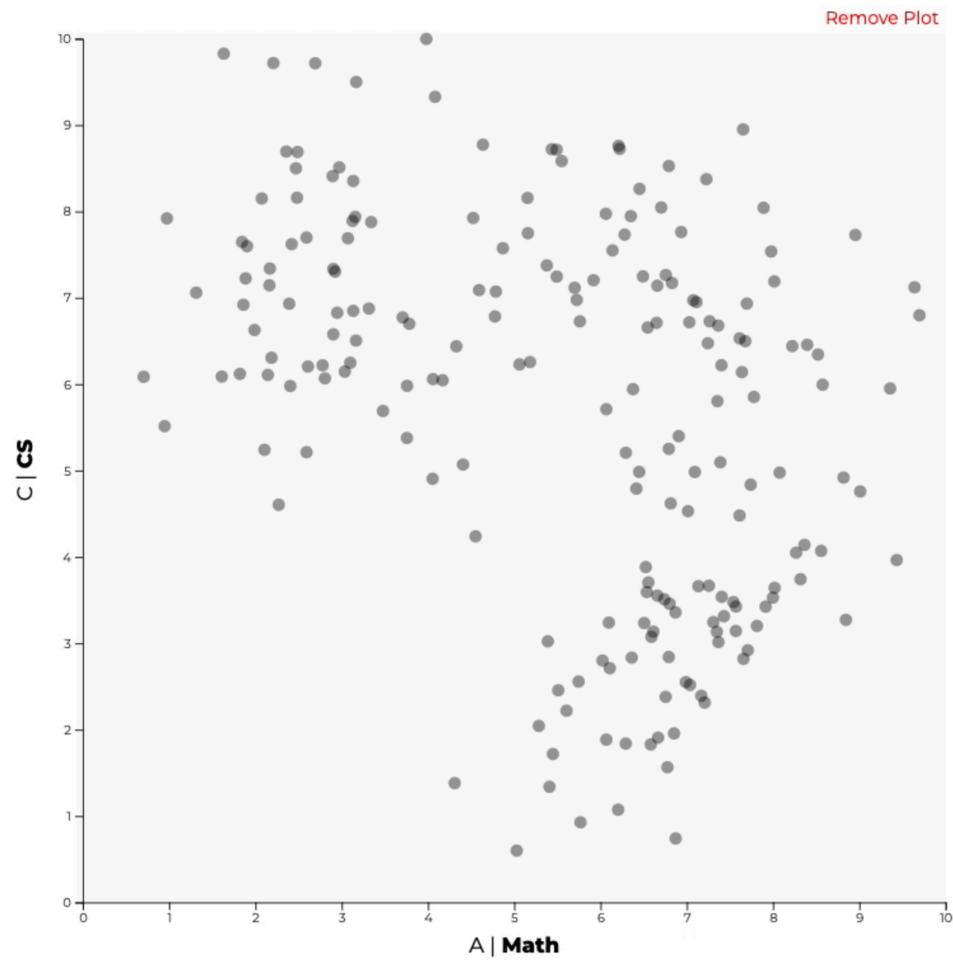
*I think this cluster...*

**Ranking**

Jaccard Distance  
Naive Bayes  
Classifier  
Heuristic  
Measures

**Confirming Intent  
& Annotation**

Clusters ▾ + Add plot  Show Categories  Union Invert Selections Clear Selections



**Visualization and Selection**

**Intent**

Please interact

Annotate

**Predictions** Time required: 0.01 seconds

**Selections**

UNION INTERSECTION INDIVIDUAL TOTAL

**Annotation of Intent and Predictions**

## TOWARDS LITERATE VISUALIZATION

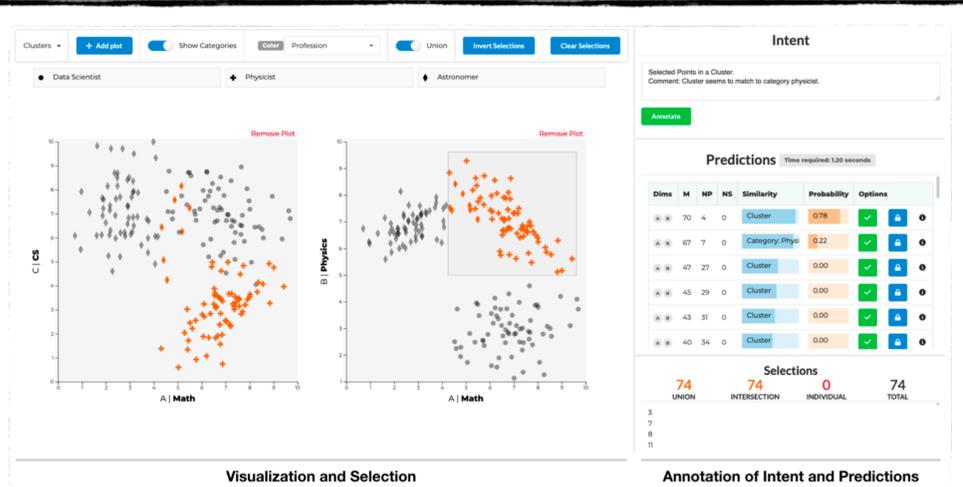
Semantic Selections & Annotations allow us to have **higher-level information** about events in an analysis process.

Analysts have the **means to justify** their choices.

Makes it easier to **build analysis stories** and retrieve important states.

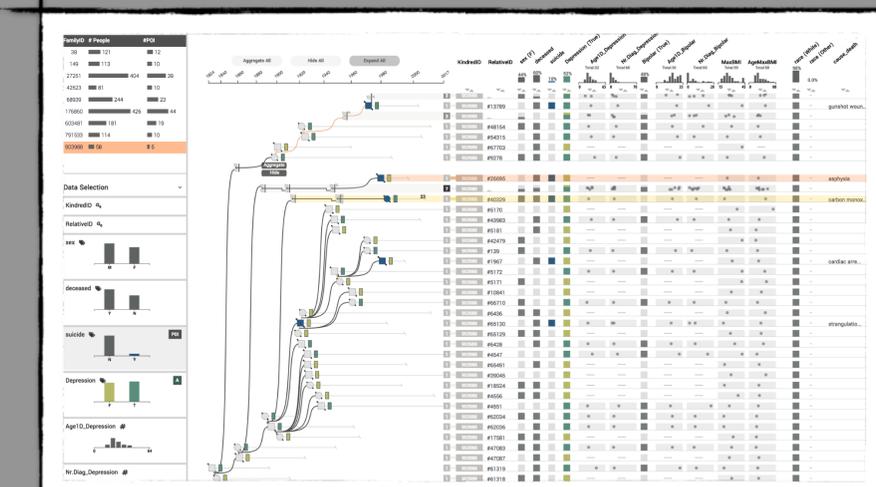
# TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## Literate Visualization



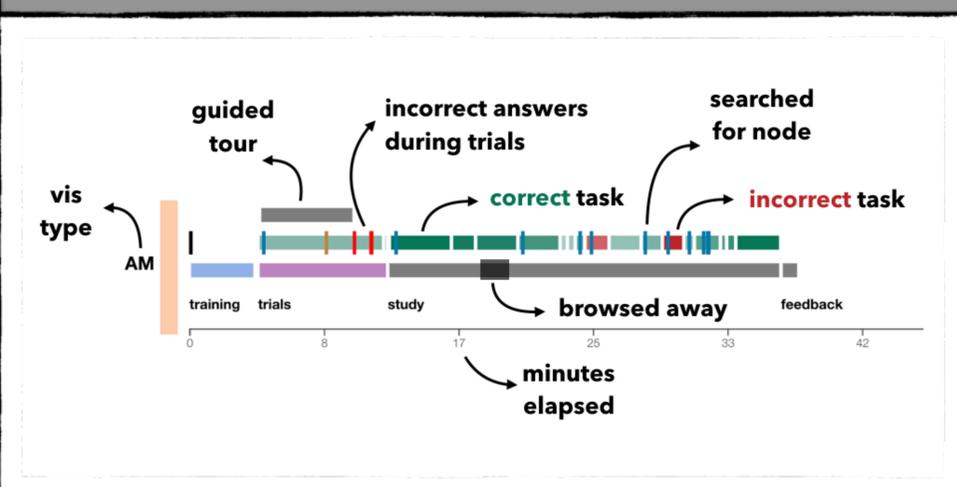
# DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES

## Clinical Genealogies



# EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK

## Evaluating Complex Systems

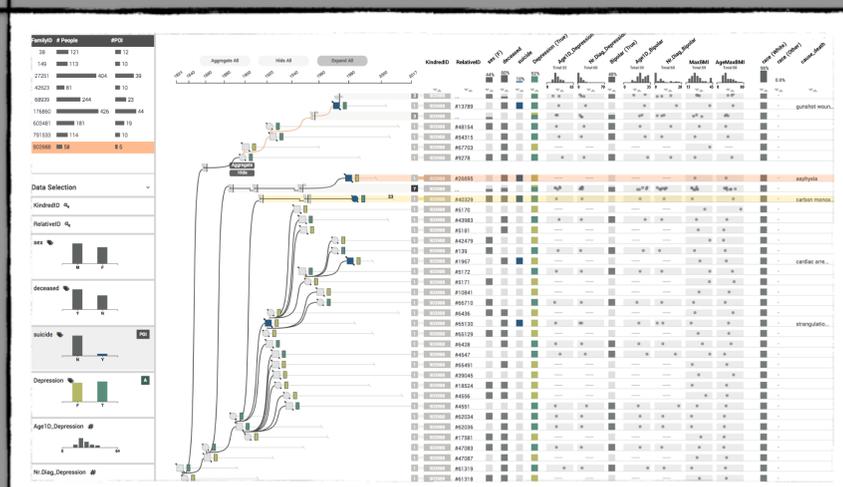


## Clinical Genealogies

**LINEAGE:**

**VISUALIZING CLINICAL DATA IN GENEALOGY GRAPHS**

**Carolina Nobre, Nils Gehlenborg, Hilary Coon, Alexander Lex**





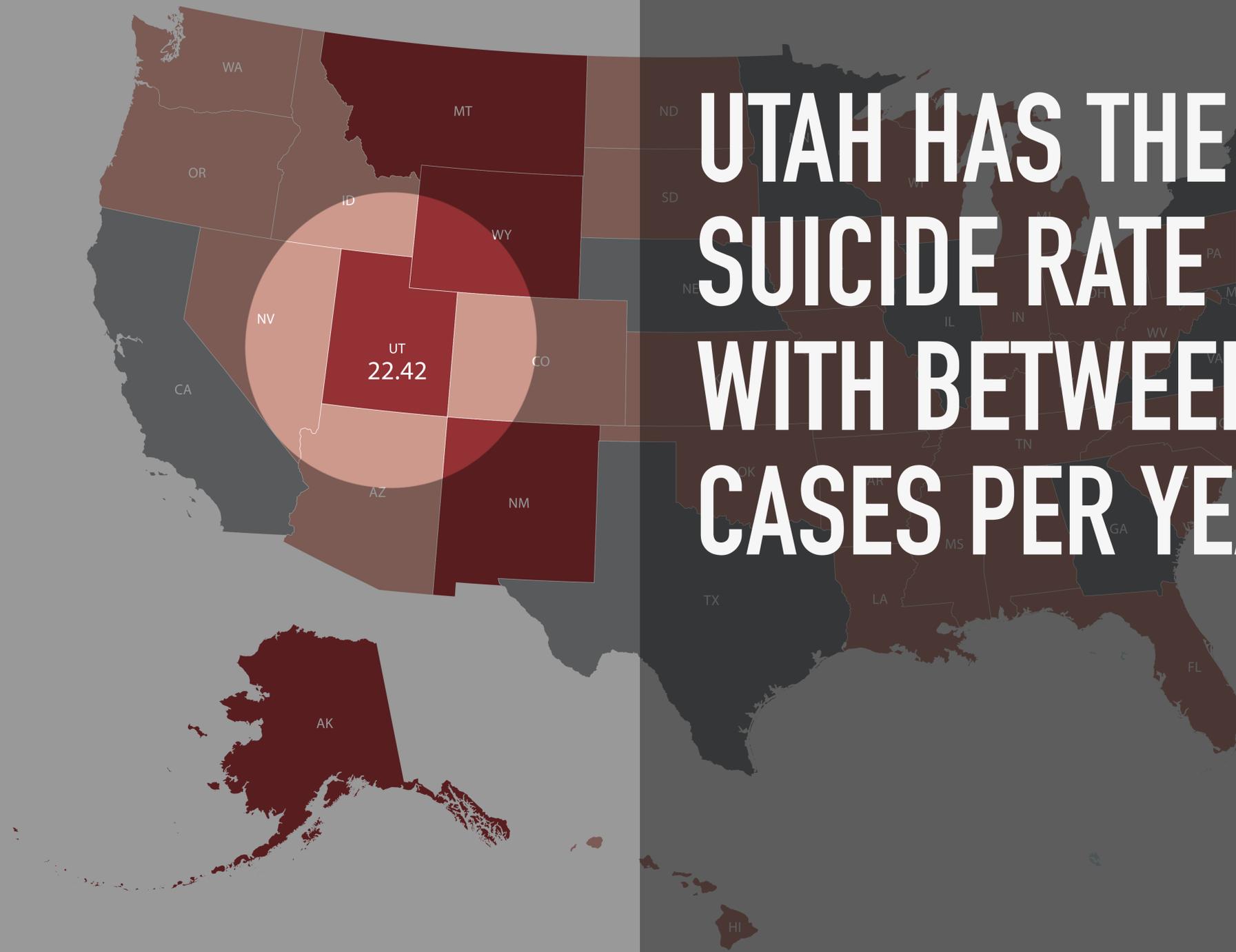
THE WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION ESTIMATES  
**ONE PERSON DIES OF  
SUICIDE EVERY 40 SECONDS**

**SUICIDE IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH  
IN YOUTHS BETWEEN 15 AND 29 YEARS OLD**



AVERAGE SUICIDE RATE BY STATE  
(National average 13.26 per 100,000)

- Top 5 states with the highest suicide rates
- States with suicide rates above the national average
- States with suicide rates below the national average



**UTAH HAS THE 5TH HIGHEST SUICIDE RATE IN THE COUNTRY, WITH BETWEEN 500-600 CASES PER YEAR.**



Original Contribution

Acute Air Pollution Exposure and Risk of Suicide Completion

OPEN

Citation: *Transl Psychiatry* (2013) 3, e325; doi:10.1038/tp.2013.100  
© 2013 Macmillan Publishers Limited All rights reserved 2158-3188/13  
[www.nature.com/tp](http://www.nature.com/tp)



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Genetic risk factors in two Utah pedigrees at high risk for suicide

H Coon<sup>1</sup>, T Darlington<sup>1</sup>, R Pimentel<sup>2</sup>, KR Smith<sup>2,3</sup>, CD Huff<sup>4</sup>, H Hu<sup>4</sup>, L Jerominski<sup>1</sup>, J Hansen<sup>1</sup>, M Klein<sup>5</sup>, WB Callor<sup>6</sup>, J Byrd<sup>6</sup>, A Bakian<sup>1</sup>, SE Crowell<sup>1,7</sup>, WM McMahon<sup>1</sup>, V Rajamanickam<sup>8</sup>, NJ Camp<sup>8</sup>, E McGlade<sup>1,9</sup>, D Yurgelun-Todd<sup>1,9</sup>, T Grey<sup>6</sup> and D Gray<sup>1,9</sup>

er, Hilary Coon, Douglas Gray, Phillip Wilson,  
nshaw

Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Utah, 650 Komasa Drive, Suite 206,  
@hsc.utah.edu).

for publication August 11, 2014.

We have used unique population-based data re  
over twice that expected from demographically  
two high-risk pedigrees. In the first of these (ped  
death was 30.95. In the second (pedigree 5), 7/5  
decedents in pedigree 12 and nine in pedigree  
analyzed using the Variant Annotation, Analysis,  
functional impact of the DNA variation, aggrega  
prioritized variants that were: (1) shared across  
(3) ≤ 5% in genotyping data from 398 other Ut  
from 1358 controls and/or in dbSNP. Results inc  
*FAM38A* and *HRCT1* for pedigree 5). Other gene

The Role of Social Isolation in Suicide

Deborah L. Trout M.A.

First published: Spring 1980 | <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.utah.edu/10.1111/j.1943-278X.1980.tb00693.x>

| Cited by: 95

The author wishes to thank Dr. Charles Neuringer for his assistance with the preparation of this manuscript.

# MOTIVATION & DATA

Understand **Complex Conditions**

Discover **Genetic Risk Factors**

## **Dataset:**

118k people, 19k suicide cases, ~2k  
with genomic data, 550 families

Based on **Utah Population Database**

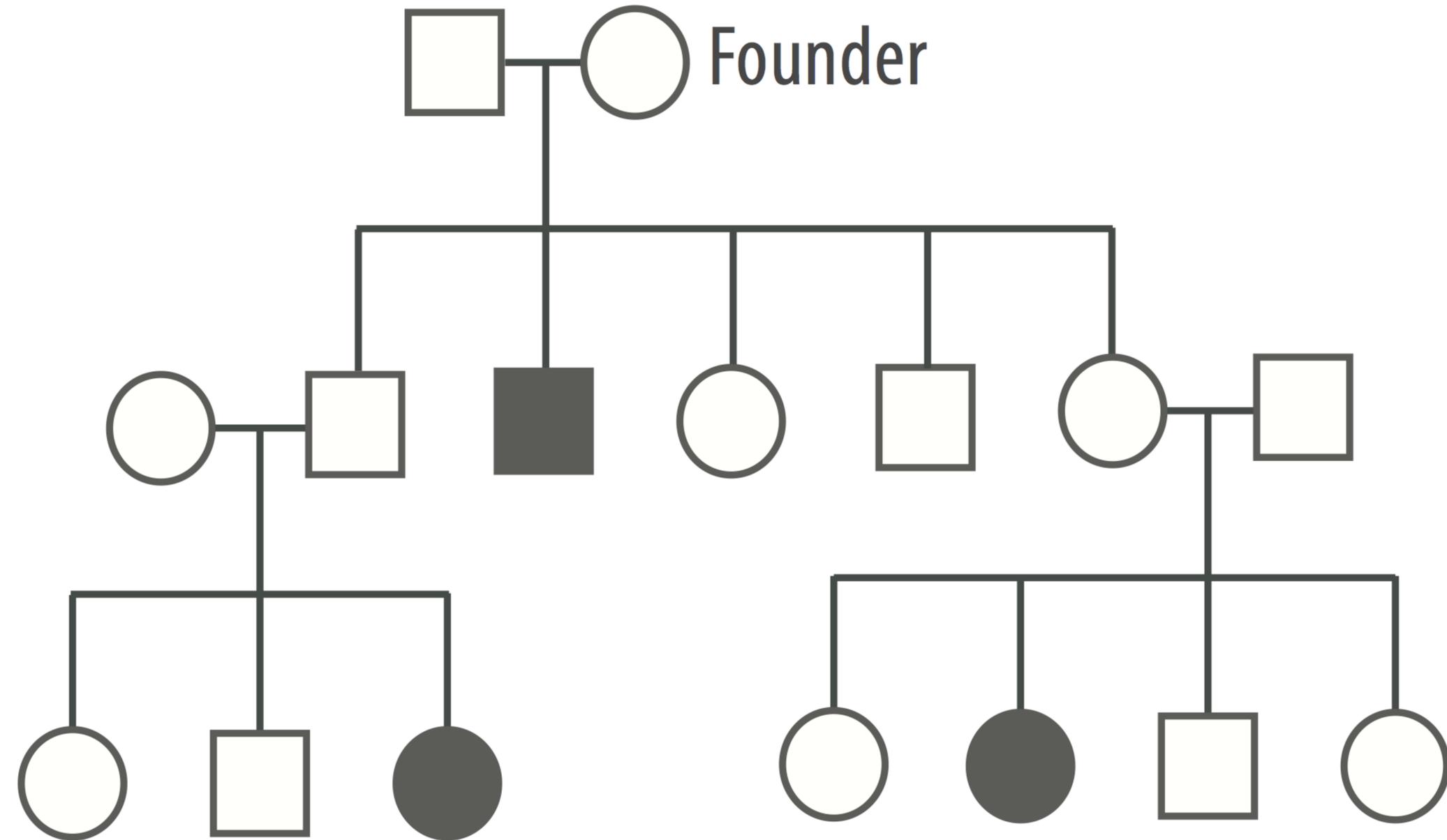
## SPECIFIC GOALS

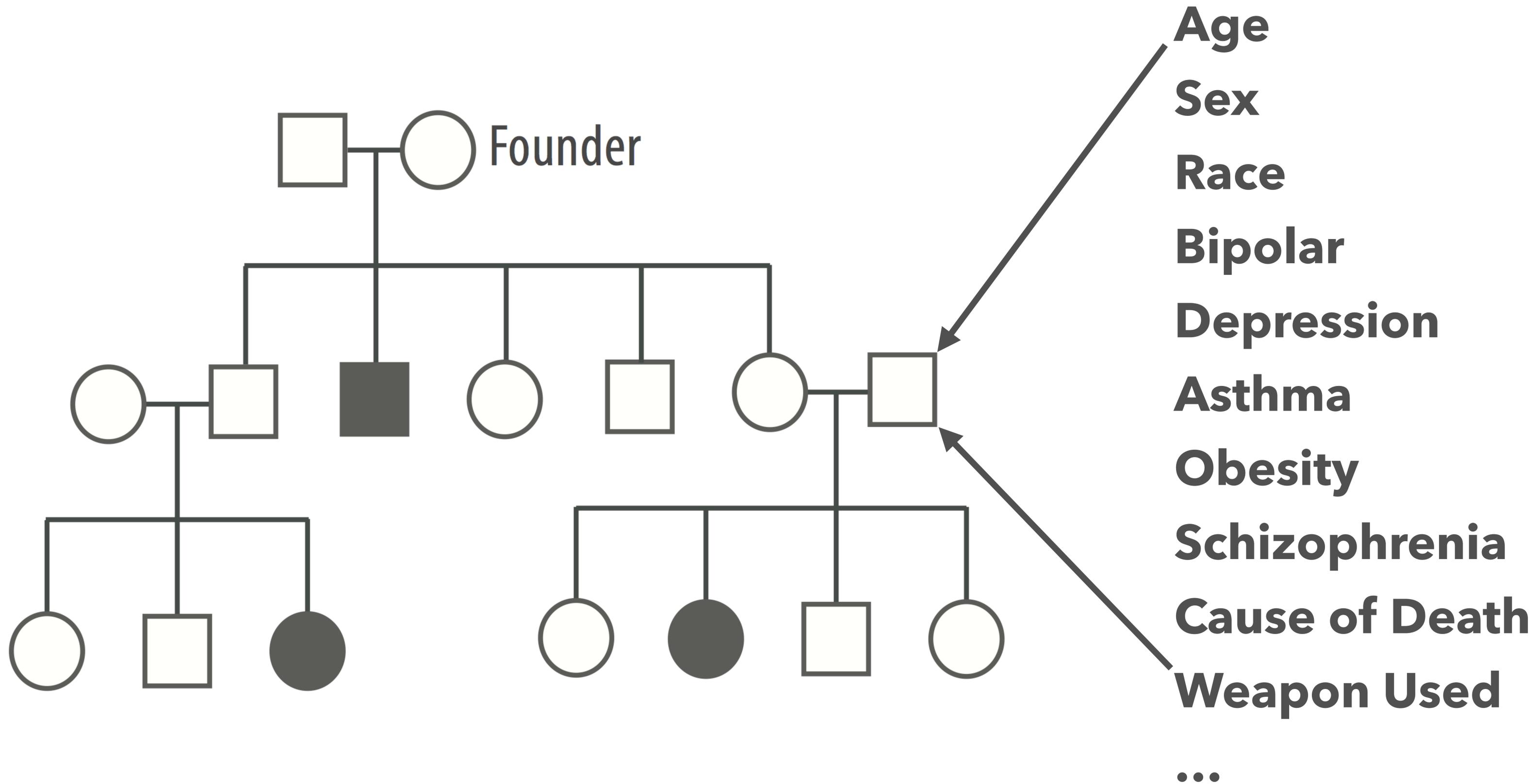
**Find familial cases that also have an “interesting” phenotype**

e.g., predominantly female, associated with rare psychiatric disease, etc.

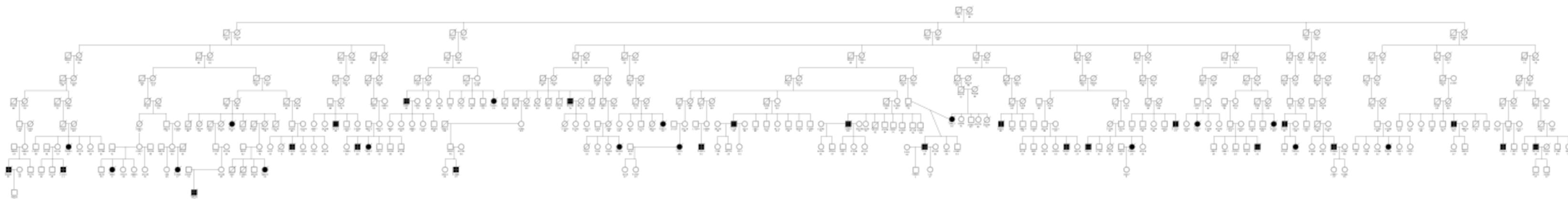
**Prioritize those cases for analysis of shared genomic sequences**

**Proofread the Data!**

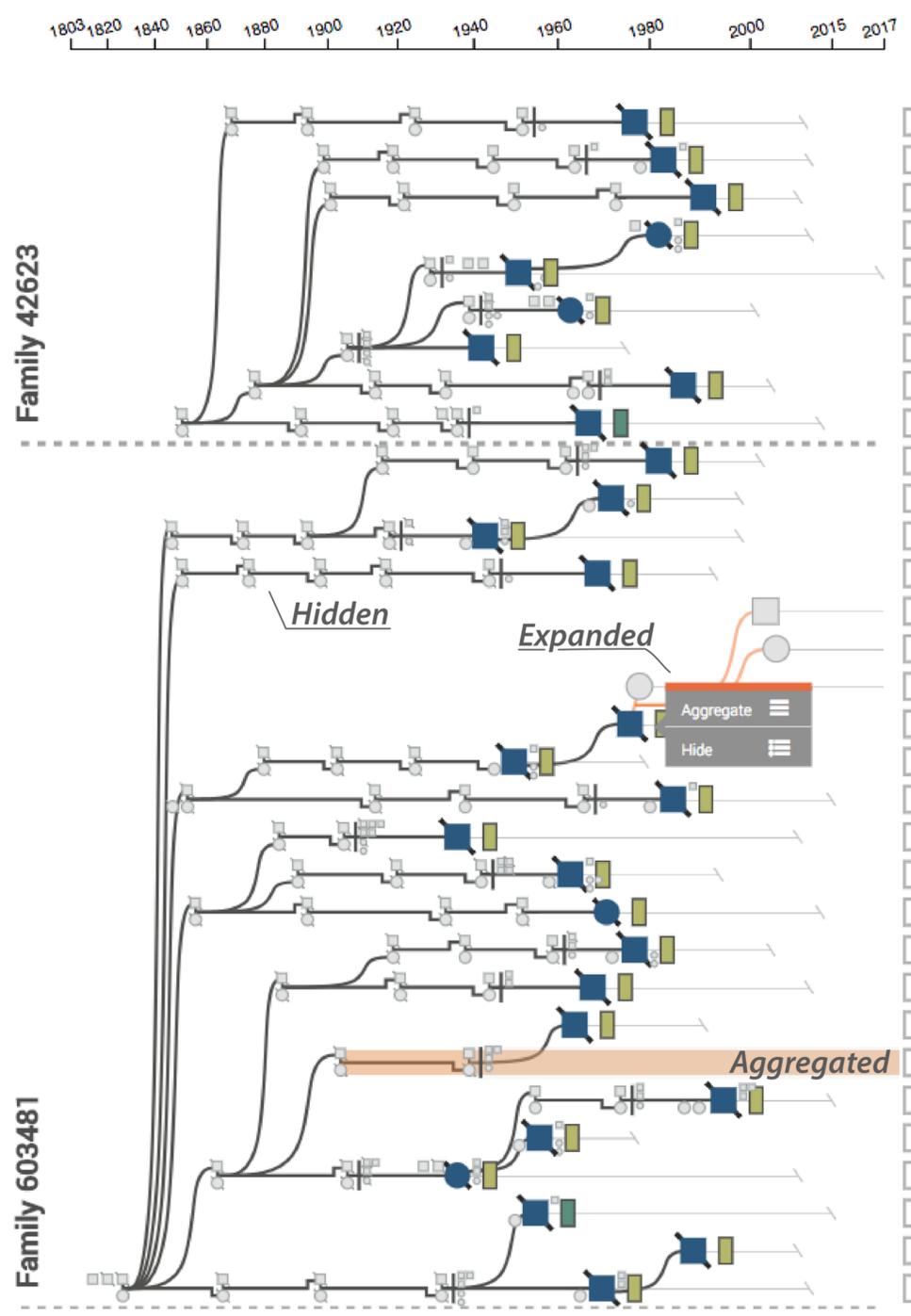
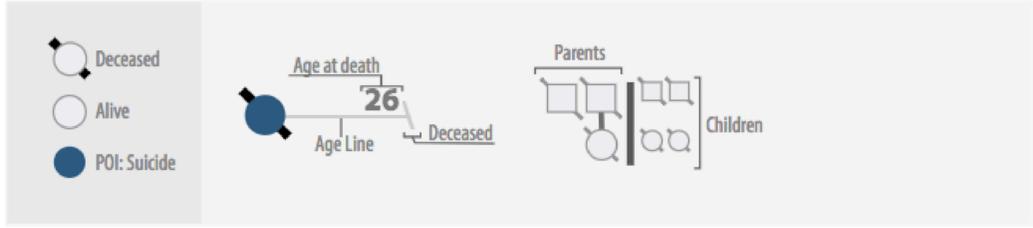




# GENEALOGY WITH ~400 MEMBERS RENDERED WITH PROGENY

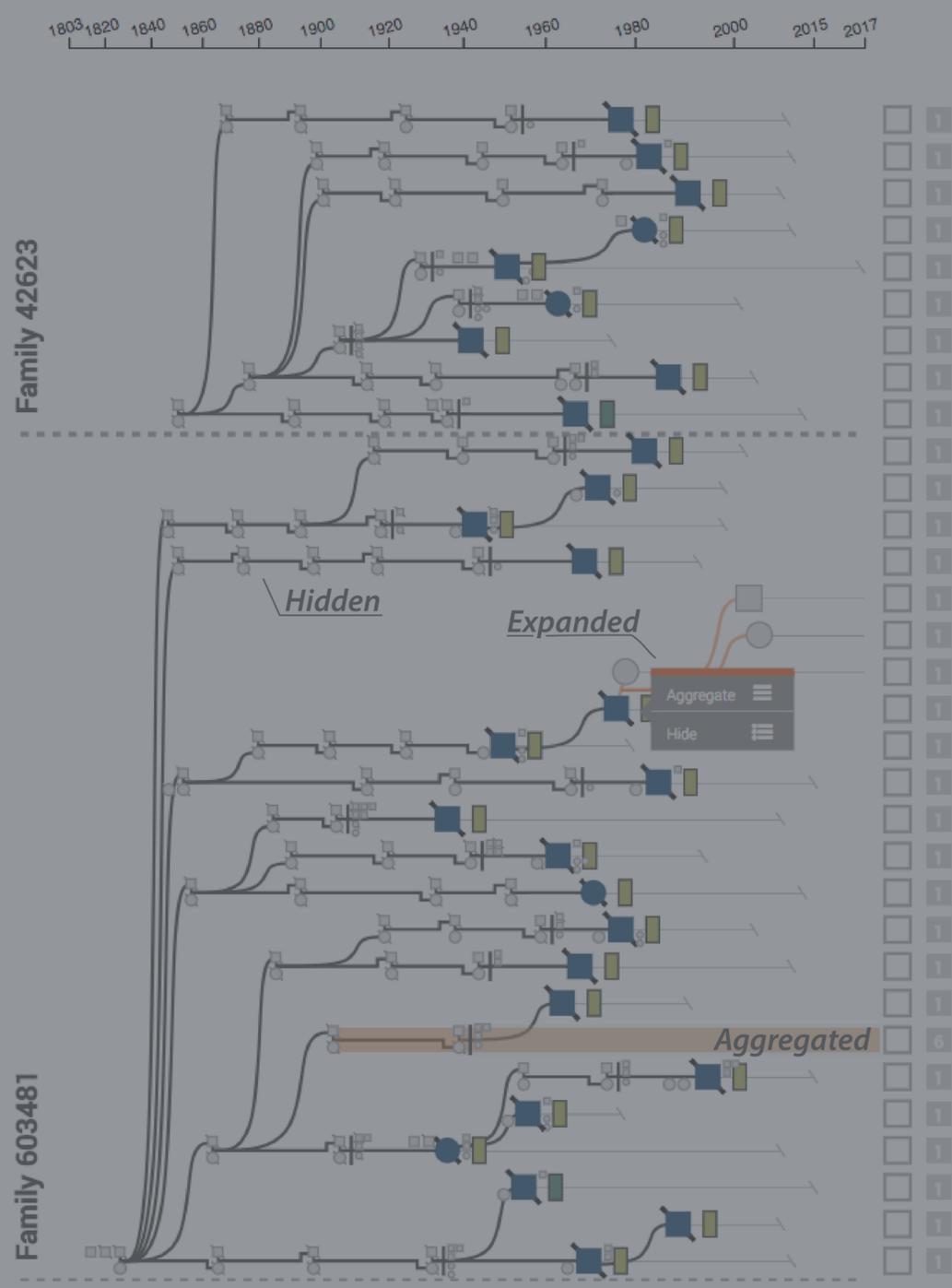
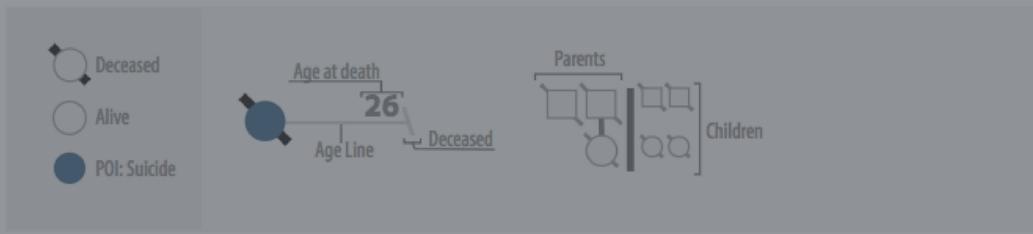


| Family Selector |         |            | Expand |
|-----------------|---------|------------|--------|
| ID              | #People | #POI       |        |
| - 42623         | 88      | 10 (11.4%) |        |
| - 603481        | 192     | 19 (9.9%)  |        |
| + 563221        | 215     | 20 (9.3%)  |        |
| + 564118        | 150     | 14 (9.3%)  |        |
| + 564323        | 1164    | 36 (3.1%)  |        |
| + 564569        | 243     | 21 (8.6%)  |        |
| + 565350        | 268     | 23 (8.6%)  |        |
| + 565984        | 92      | 9 (9.8%)   |        |
| + 567427        | 169     | 15 (8.9%)  |        |
| + 568085        | 1624    | 58 (3.6%)  |        |
| + 568132        | 74      | 7 (9.5%)   |        |
| + 569170        | 148     | 14 (9.5%)  |        |
| + 569543        | 197     | 19 (9.6%)  |        |
| + 570128        | 346     | 30 (8.7%)  |        |
| + 570915        | 246     | 23 (9.3%)  |        |
| + 571227        | 227     | 20 (8.8%)  |        |
| + 572059        | 406     | 32 (7.9%)  |        |
| + 572163        | 339     | 15 (4.4%)  |        |
| + 572218        | 384     | 16 (4.2%)  |        |
| + 572324        | 750     | 25 (3.3%)  |        |
| + 572326        | 750     | 25 (3.3%)  |        |
| + 572932        | 245     | 20 (8.2%)  |        |
| + 573378        | 239     | 21 (8.8%)  |        |
| + 575370        | 134     | 11 (8.2%)  |        |
| + 576442        | 185     | 15 (8.1%)  |        |



| ID | sex (F) | deceased | suicide | Age | PD | alcohol | depression | cause_de      | MaxBMI |
|----|---------|----------|---------|-----|----|---------|------------|---------------|--------|
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | shotgun wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | hanging       |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | suffocatio... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gun shot t... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | shotgun wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | shotgun wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | shotgun wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 6  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |

| Family Selector |         |            | Expand |
|-----------------|---------|------------|--------|
| ID              | #People | #POI       |        |
| 42623           | 88      | 10 (11.4%) |        |
| 603481          | 192     | 19 (9.9%)  |        |
| 563221          | 215     | 20 (9.3%)  |        |
| 564118          | 150     | 14 (9.3%)  |        |
| 564323          | 1164    | 36 (3.1%)  |        |
| 564569          | 243     | 21 (8.6%)  |        |
| 565350          | 268     | 23 (8.6%)  |        |
| 565984          | 92      | 9 (9.8%)   |        |
| 567427          | 169     | 15 (8.9%)  |        |
| 568085          | 1624    | 58 (3.6%)  |        |
| 568132          | 74      | 7 (9.5%)   |        |
| 569170          | 148     | 14 (9.5%)  |        |
| 569543          | 197     | 19 (9.6%)  |        |
| 570128          | 346     | 30 (8.7%)  |        |
| 570915          | 246     | 23 (9.3%)  |        |
| 571227          | 227     | 20 (8.8%)  |        |
| 572059          | 406     | 32 (7.9%)  |        |
| 572163          | 339     | 15 (4.4%)  |        |
| 572218          | 384     | 16 (4.2%)  |        |
| 572324          | 750     | 25 (3.3%)  |        |
| 572326          | 750     | 25 (3.3%)  |        |
| 572932          | 245     | 20 (8.2%)  |        |
| 573378          | 239     | 21 (8.8%)  |        |
| 575370          | 134     | 11 (8.2%)  |        |
| 576442          | 185     | 15 (8.1%)  |        |

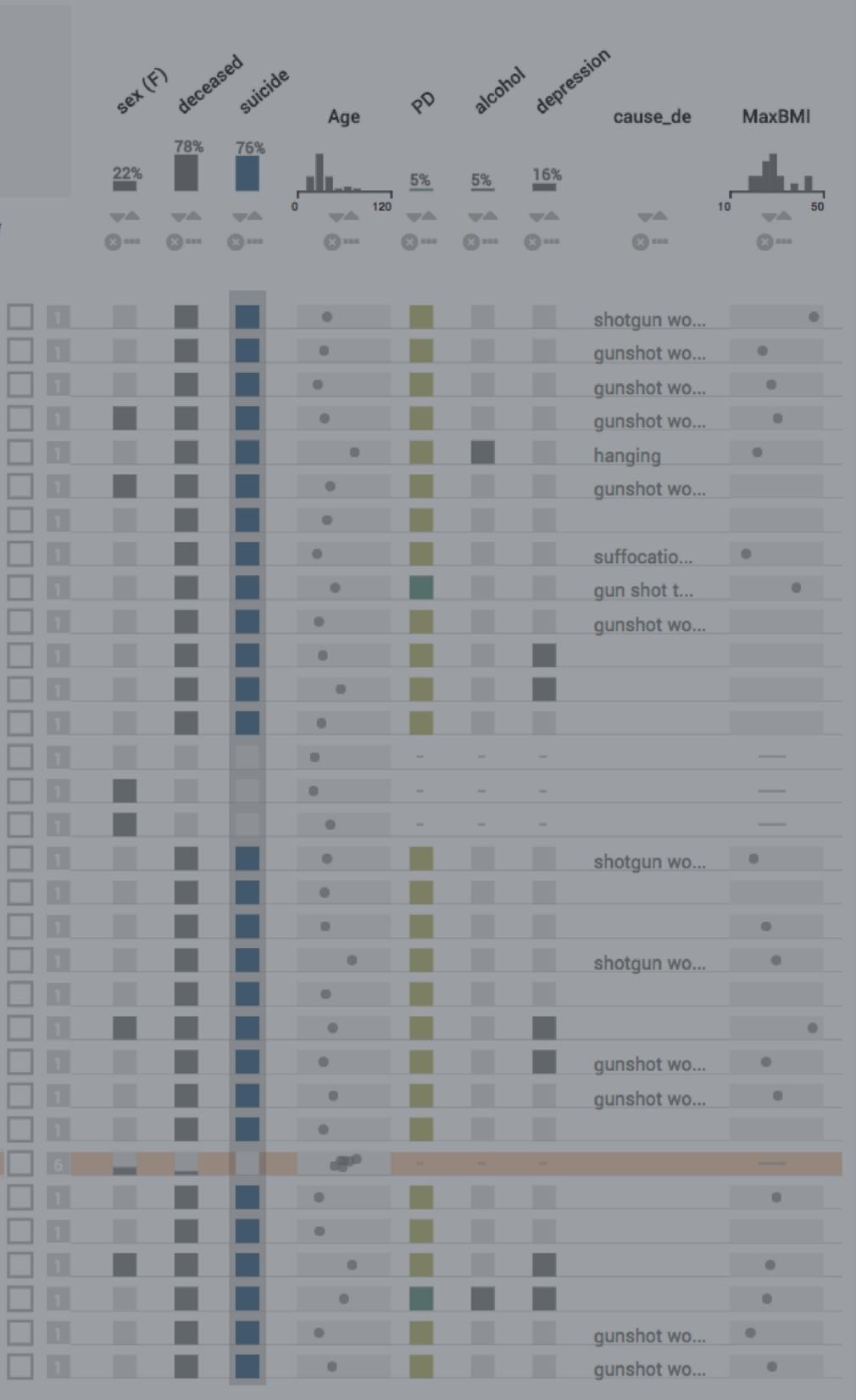
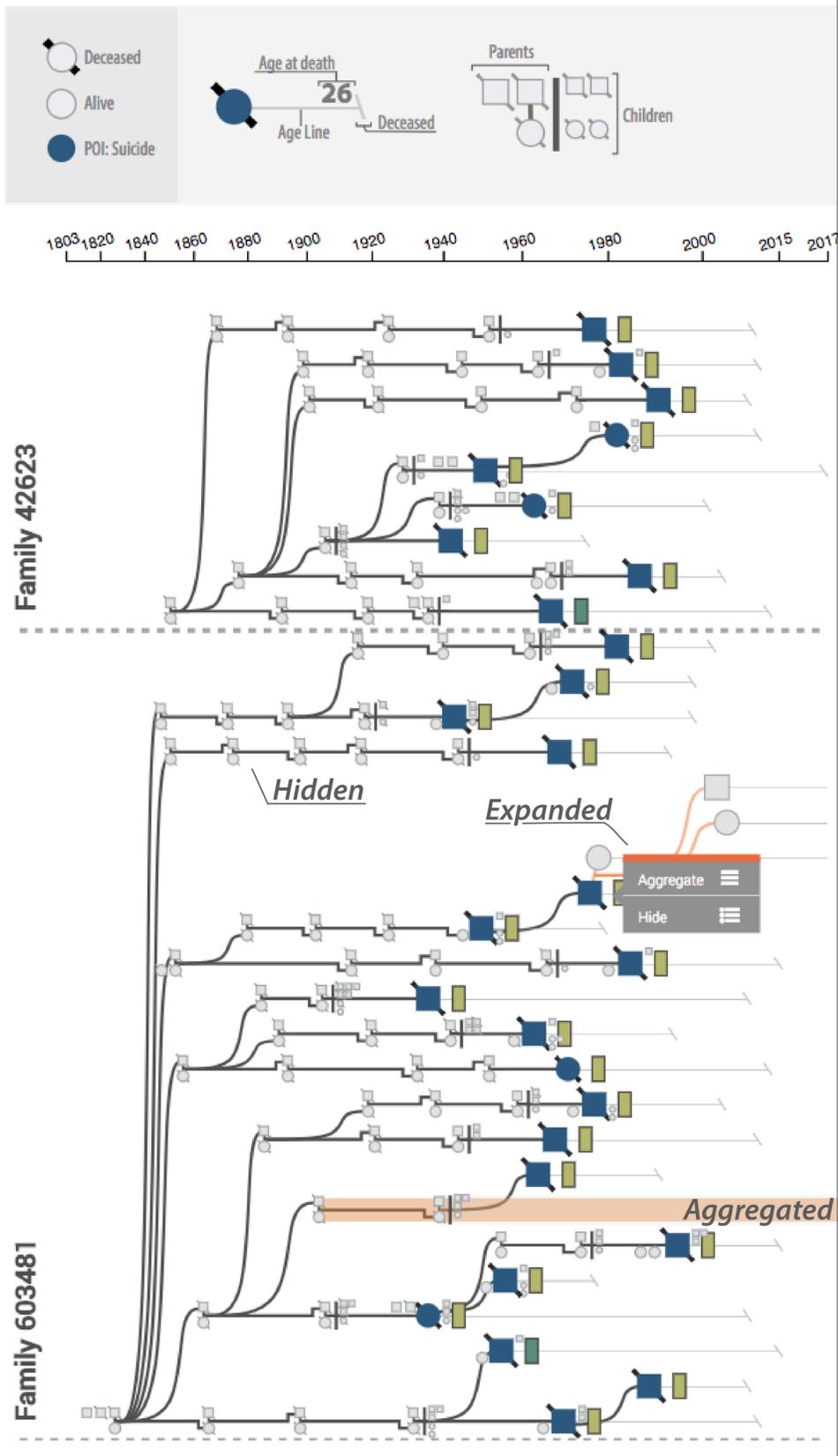


| ID | sex (F) | deceased | suicide | Age | PD | alcohol | depression | cause_de      | MaxBMI |
|----|---------|----------|---------|-----|----|---------|------------|---------------|--------|
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | shotgun wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | hanging       |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | suffocatio... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gun shot t... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | shotgun wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | shotgun wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 6  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            |               |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |
| 1  |         |          |         |     |    |         |            | gunshot wo... |        |

# Family Selector

Family Selector Expand

| ID     | #People | #POI       |
|--------|---------|------------|
| 42623  | 88      | 10 (11.4%) |
| 603481 | 192     | 19 (9.9%)  |
| 563221 | 215     | 20 (9.3%)  |
| 564118 | 150     | 14 (9.3%)  |
| 564323 | 1164    | 36 (3.1%)  |
| 564569 | 243     | 21 (8.6%)  |
| 565350 | 268     | 23 (8.6%)  |
| 565984 | 92      | 9 (9.8%)   |
| 567427 | 169     | 15 (8.9%)  |
| 568085 | 1624    | 58 (3.6%)  |
| 568132 | 74      | 7 (9.5%)   |
| 569170 | 148     | 14 (9.5%)  |
| 569543 | 197     | 19 (9.6%)  |
| 570128 | 346     | 30 (8.7%)  |
| 570915 | 246     | 23 (9.3%)  |
| 571227 | 227     | 20 (8.8%)  |
| 572059 | 406     | 32 (7.9%)  |
| 572163 | 339     | 15 (4.4%)  |
| 572218 | 384     | 16 (4.2%)  |
| 572324 | 750     | 25 (3.3%)  |
| 572326 | 750     | 25 (3.3%)  |
| 572932 | 245     | 20 (8.2%)  |
| 573378 | 239     | 21 (8.8%)  |
| 575370 | 134     | 11 (8.2%)  |
| 576442 | 185     | 15 (8.1%)  |

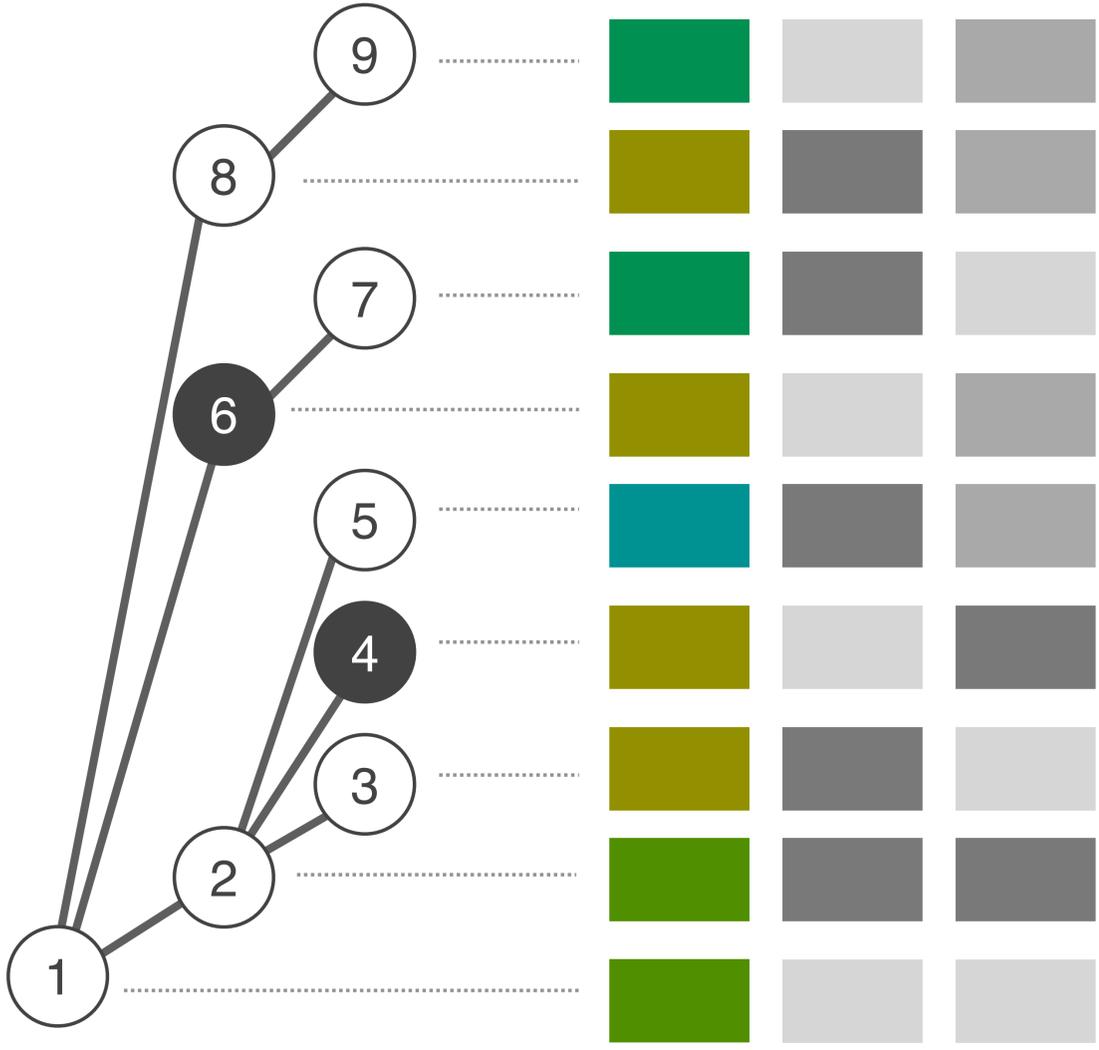
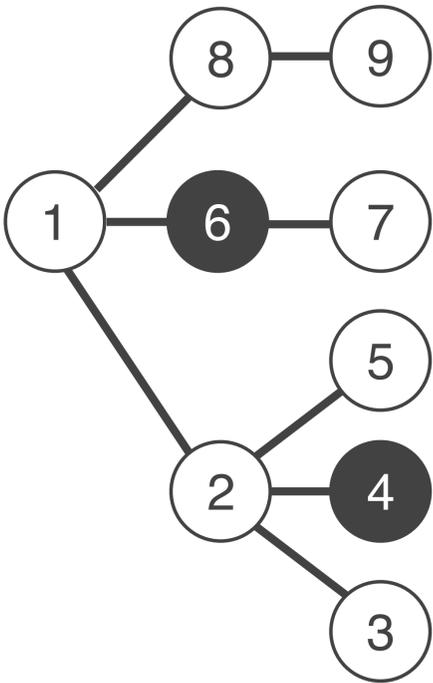


Family Selector

Pedigree Visualization



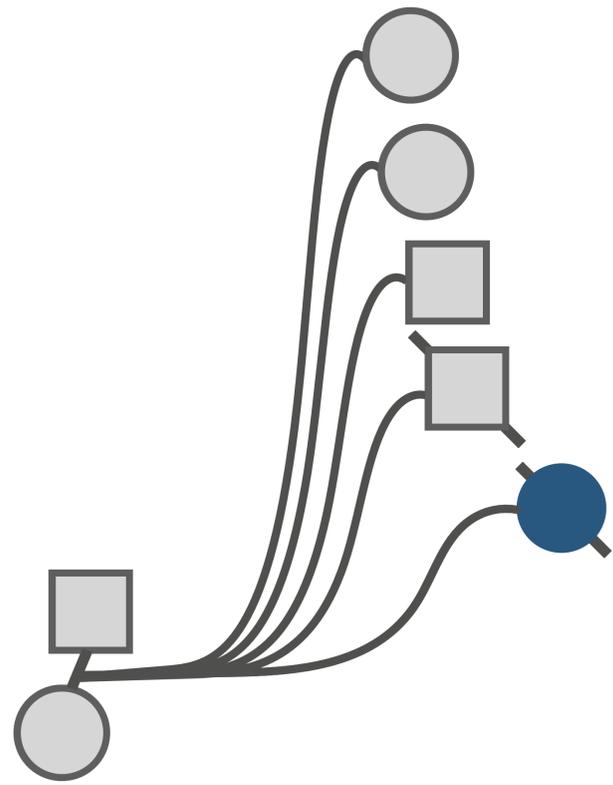
# LINEARIZING

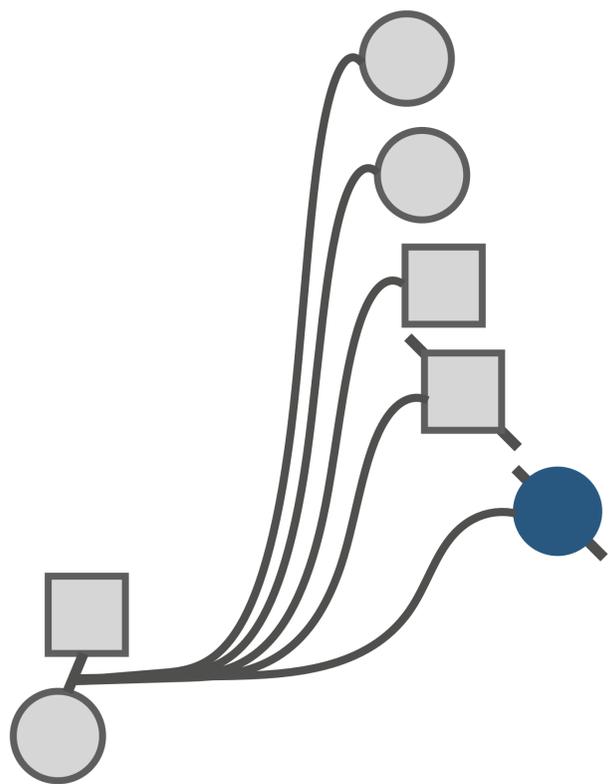


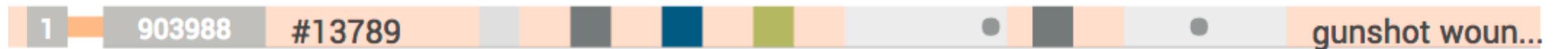
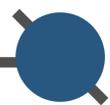
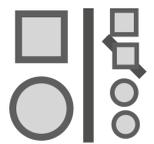


Can't show many people

Lots of missing data







KindredID

RelativeID

sex (F)

deceased

suicide

Bipolar (True)

MaxBMI

Depression (True)

Age1D\_Depression

cause\_death

45%

59%

9%

47%

Total:59

50%

Total:32

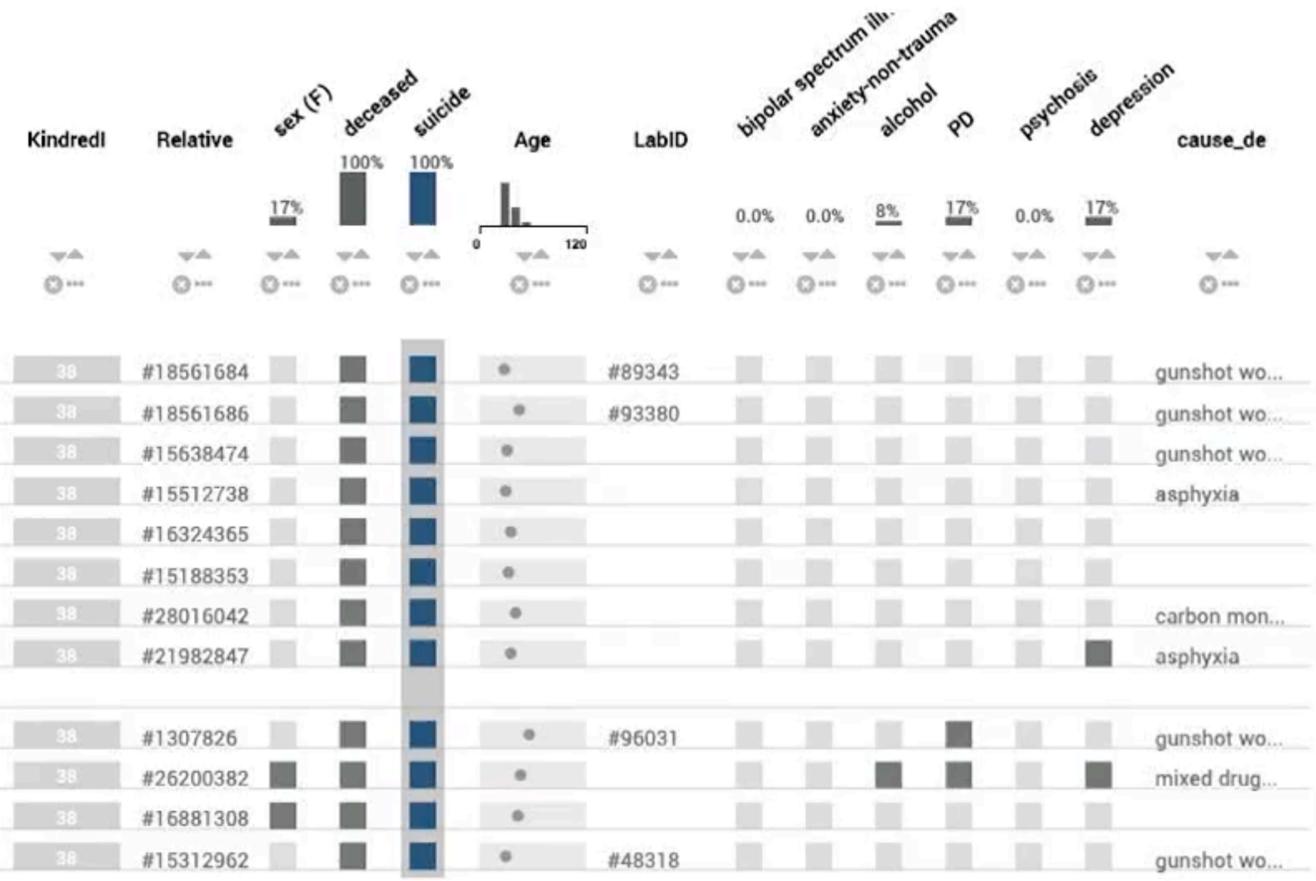
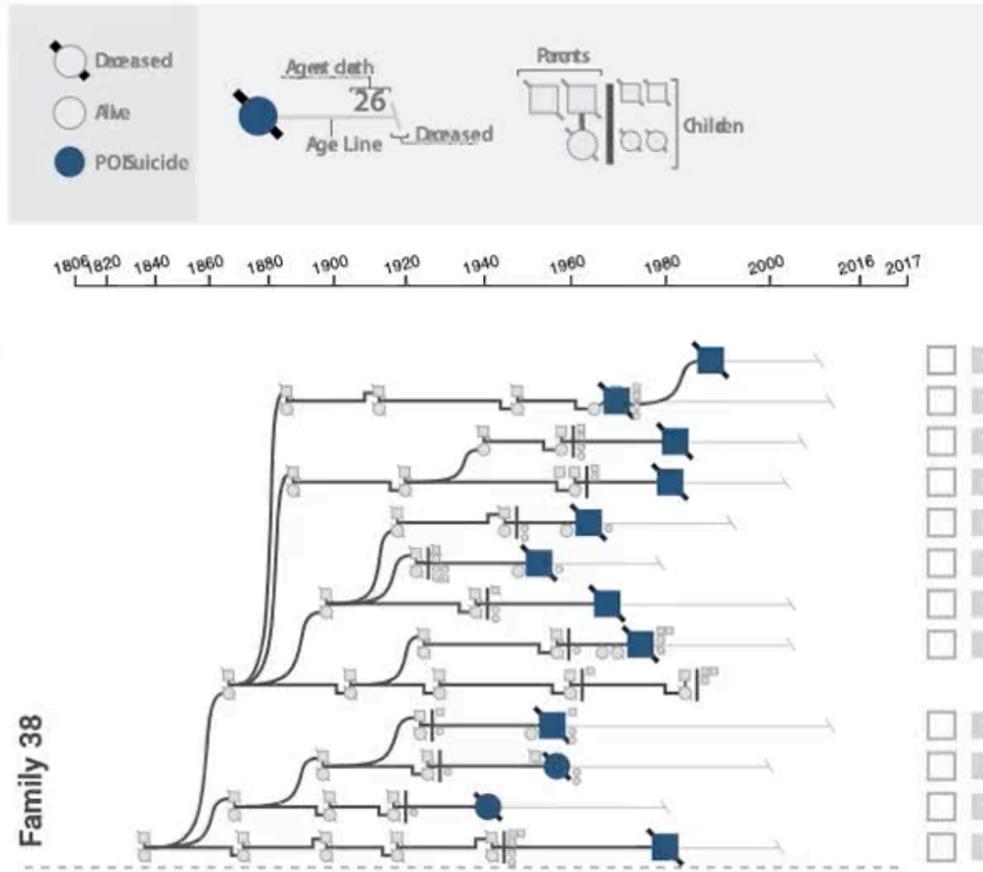
15

45

0

65

| Family Selector |         |            | Expand |
|-----------------|---------|------------|--------|
| ID              | #People | #POI       |        |
| - 38            | 129     | 12 (9.3%)  |        |
| - 38            | 129     | 12 (9.3%)  |        |
| + 149           | 122     | 10 (8.2%)  |        |
| + 212           | 368     | 35 (9.5%)  |        |
| + 234           | 145     | 13 (9%)    |        |
| + 331           | 389     | 19 (4.9%)  |        |
| + 490           | 277     | 25 (9%)    |        |
| + 709           | 285     | 28 (9.8%)  |        |
| + 1253          | 245     | 23 (9.4%)  |        |
| + 1474          | 237     | 18 (7.6%)  |        |
| + 1627          | 171     | 17 (9.9%)  |        |
| + 1787          | 768     | 29 (3.8%)  |        |
| + 1843          | 218     | 18 (8.3%)  |        |
| + 1881          | 196     | 19 (9.7%)  |        |
| + 2053          | 322     | 31 (9.6%)  |        |
| + 2082          | 209     | 21 (10%)   |        |
| + 2117          | 190     | 17 (8.9%)  |        |
| + 2194          | 164     | 13 (7.9%)  |        |
| + 2208          | 162     | 13 (8%)    |        |
| + 2563          | 157     | 15 (9.6%)  |        |
| + 2749          | 230     | 19 (8.3%)  |        |
| + 2902          | 224     | 17 (7.6%)  |        |
| + 3222          | 191     | 20 (10.5%) |        |
| + 3841          | 313     | 15 (4.8%)  |        |
| + 3933          | 198     | 8 (4%)     |        |



## **USAGE & FUTURE WORK**

**Currently used by team of Psychiatry researchers on a daily basis**

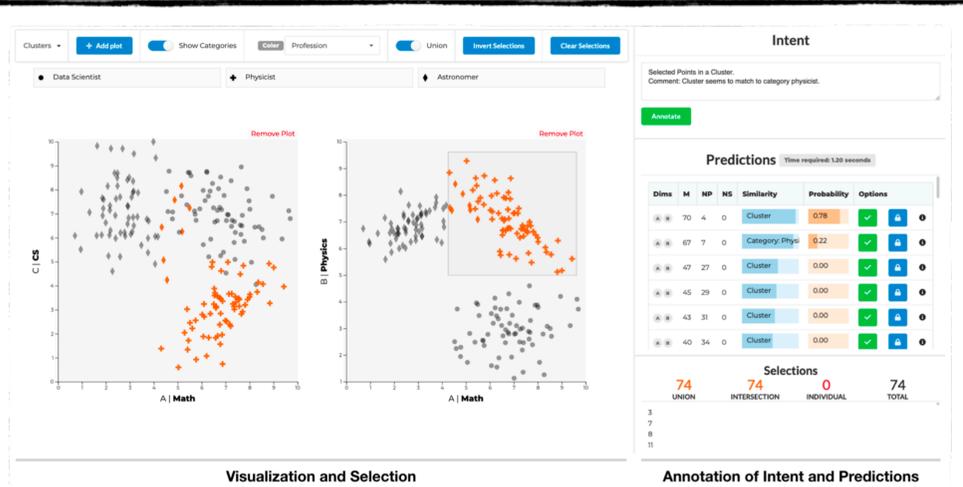
**Widespread interest from other labs working with UPDB data**

**Integration of other data types**

Geospatial, Environmental, Genomic

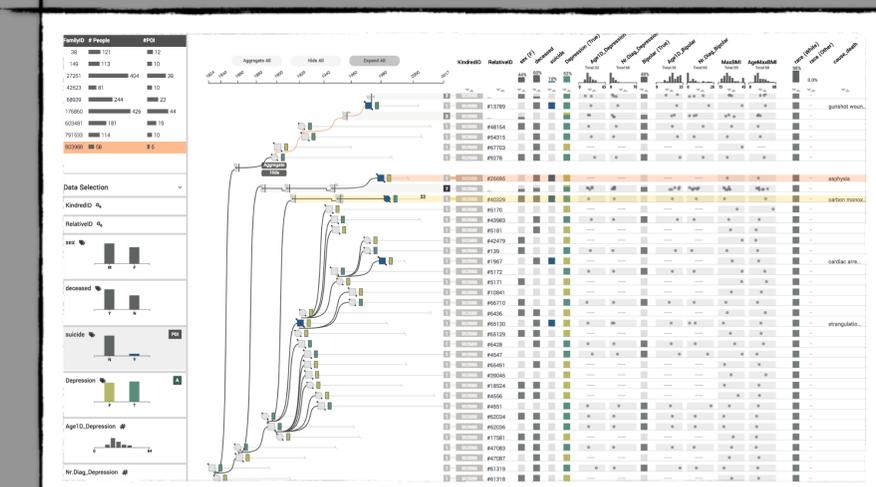
# TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## Literate Visualization



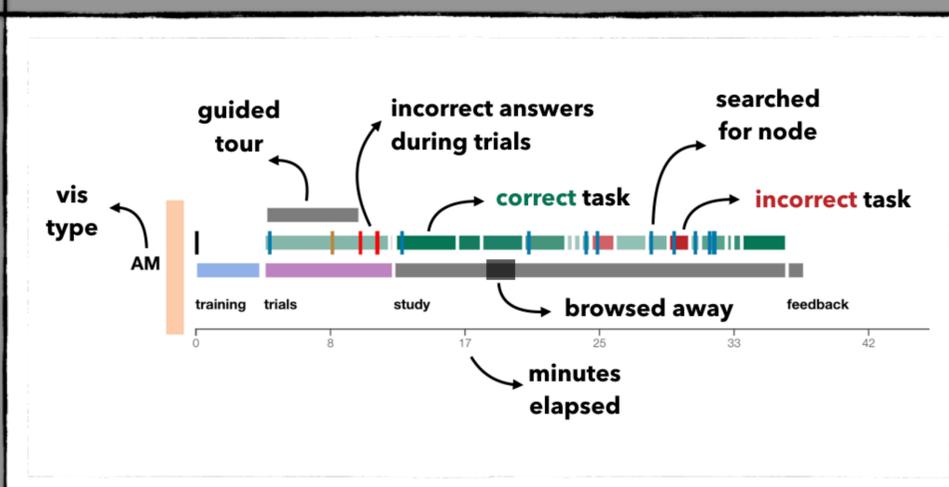
# DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES

## Clinical Genealogies

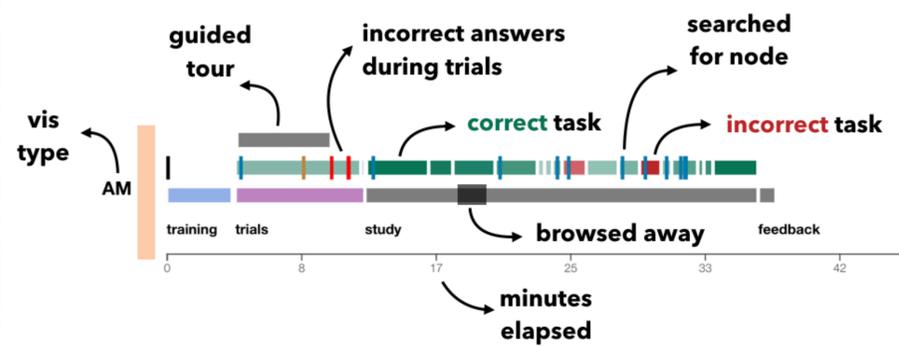


# EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK

## Evaluating Complex Systems



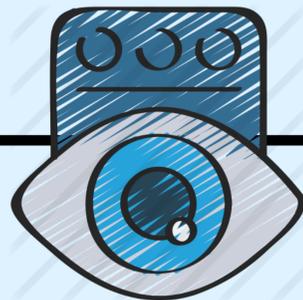
## Evaluating Complex Systems



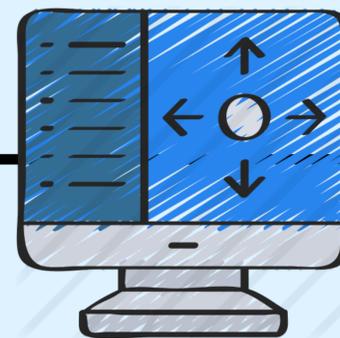
## Empirically Evaluating Complex Interactive Visualization Techniques

Carolina Nobre, Dylan Wootton, Lane Harrison

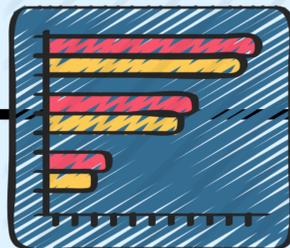
**Perceptual studies**



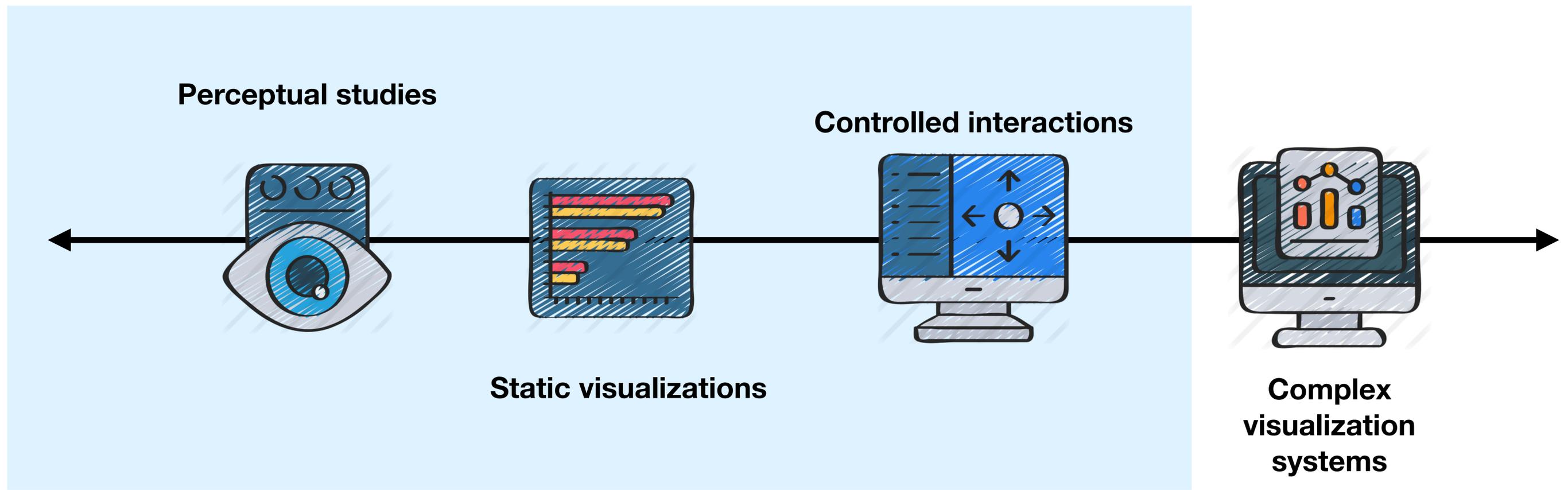
**Controlled interactions**

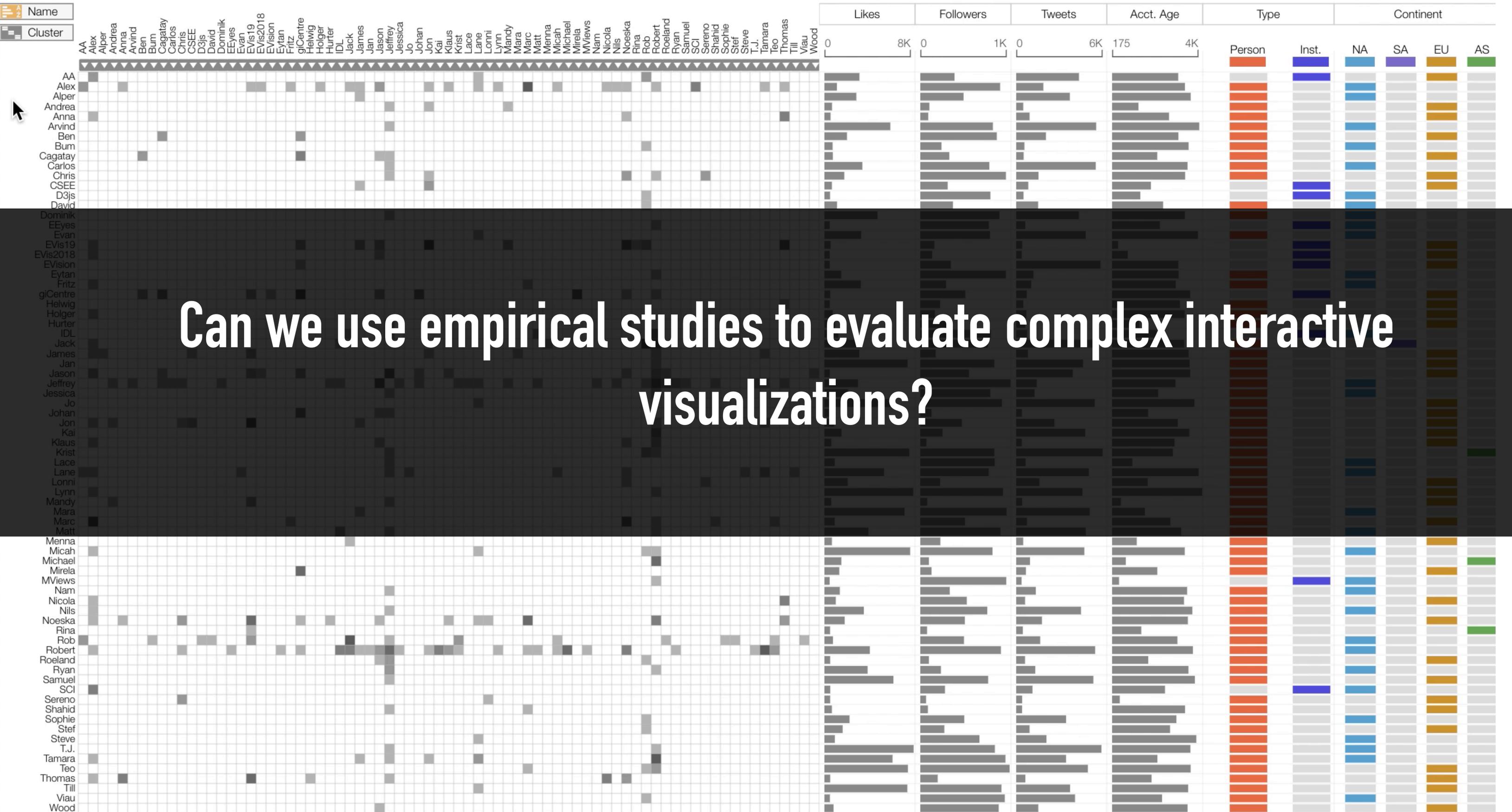


**Static visualizations**



**Complex visualization systems**





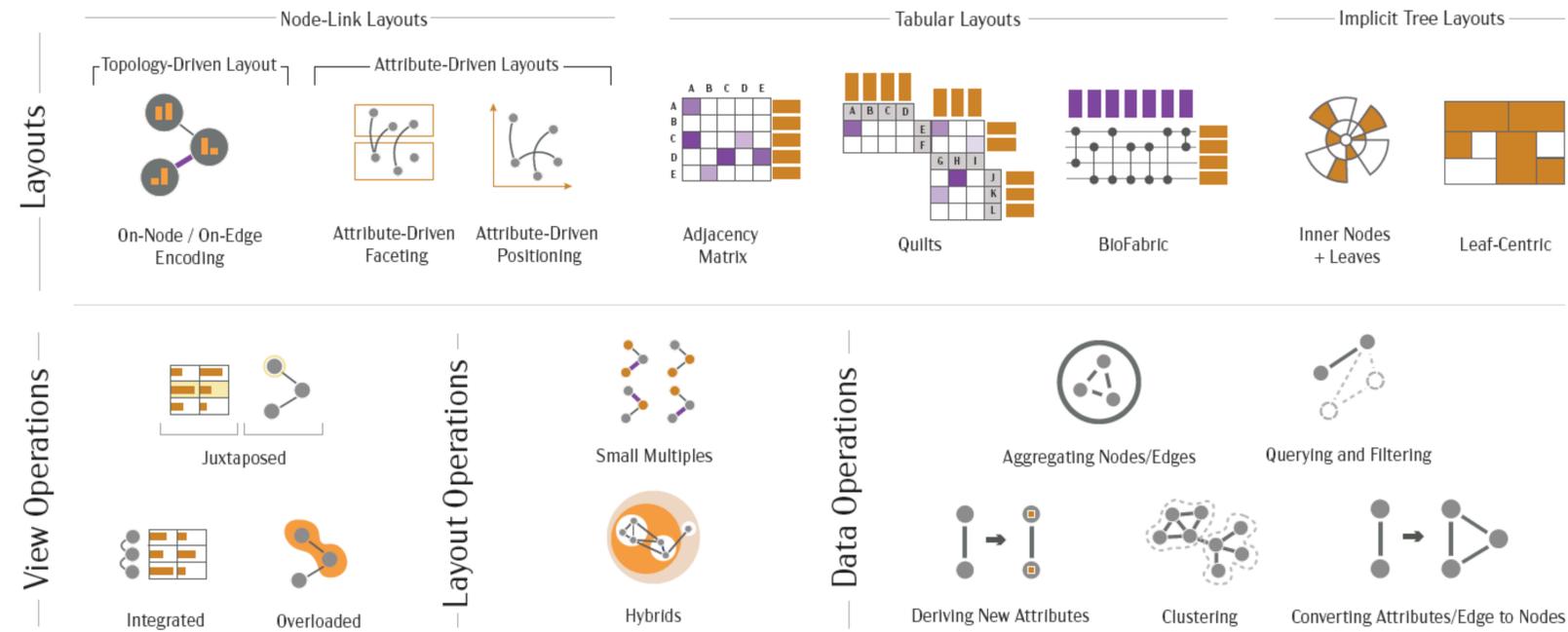
Can we use empirical studies to evaluate complex interactive visualizations?

# The State of the Art in Visualizing Multivariate Networks

C. Nobre<sup>1</sup>, M. Meyer<sup>1</sup>, M. Streit<sup>2</sup>, and A. Lex<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Utah, Utah, USA

<sup>2</sup>Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria



**Figure 1:** A typology of operations and layouts used in multivariate network visualization. *Layouts* describe the fundamental choices for encoding multivariate networks. *View Operations* capture how topology and attribute focused visualizations can be combined. *Layout Operations* are applied to basic layouts to create specific visualization techniques. *Data Operations* are used to transform a network or derive attributes before visualizations. The colors reflect node attributes (orange), edge attributes (purple), and topology (grey).

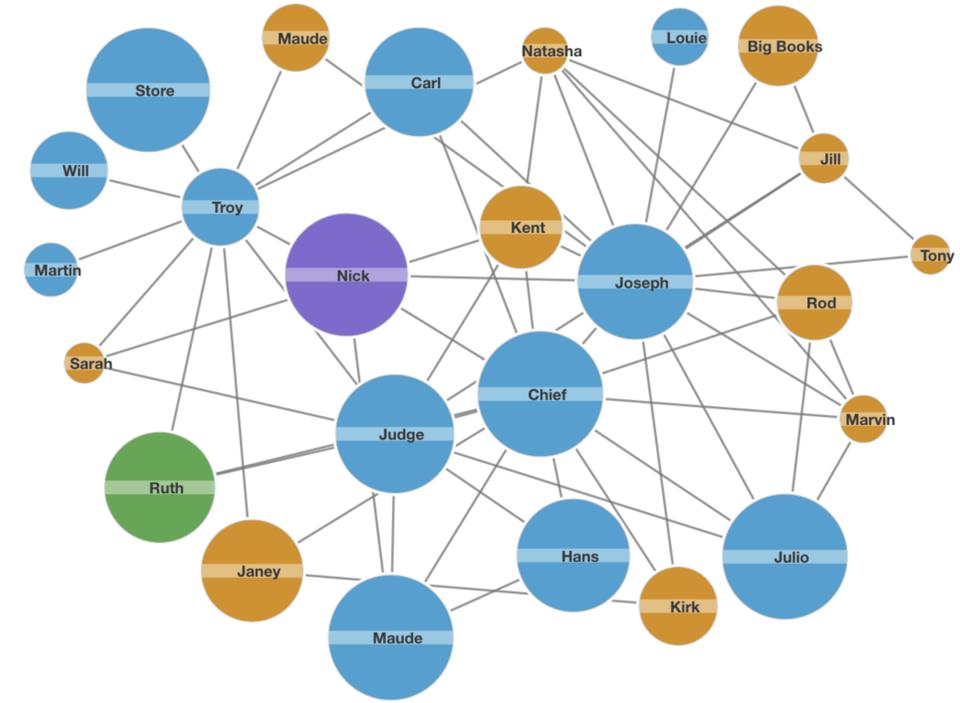
## Abstract

Multivariate networks are made up of nodes and their relationships (links), but also data about those nodes and links as attributes. Most real-world networks are associated with several attributes, and many analysis tasks depend on analyzing both, relations and attributes. This survey on multivariate networks provides a comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art in network visualization practices and classification techniques along four axes: layouts, view operations, layout operations, and data operations. We also provide an analysis of tasks specific to multivariate networks and give recommendations for which technique to use in which scenario. Finally, we survey application areas and evaluation methodologies.

# Which is better for which task?

# CHALLENGE CONFOUNDERS

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE THAT WHAT  
WE TEST IS WHAT WE CARE ABOUT?





CHALLENGE  
SCALE  
NEED STATISTICAL POWER  
HOW CAN WE DO THIS IN A  
CROWDSOURCED SETTING?

## Quickly find research participants you can trust.

Launch your study to tens of thousands of trusted participants in minutes. Recruit niche or representative samples on-demand. Prolific builds the most powerful and flexible tools for online research. Sign up for free.

### Research

Collect high quality responses from people around the world within minutes. [Learn more](#)

[SIGN UP TO RESEARCH](#)

### Participate

Take part in engaging research, earn cash, and help improve human knowledge. [Learn more](#)

[SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE](#)



**Find any research participant, anywhere in the world**

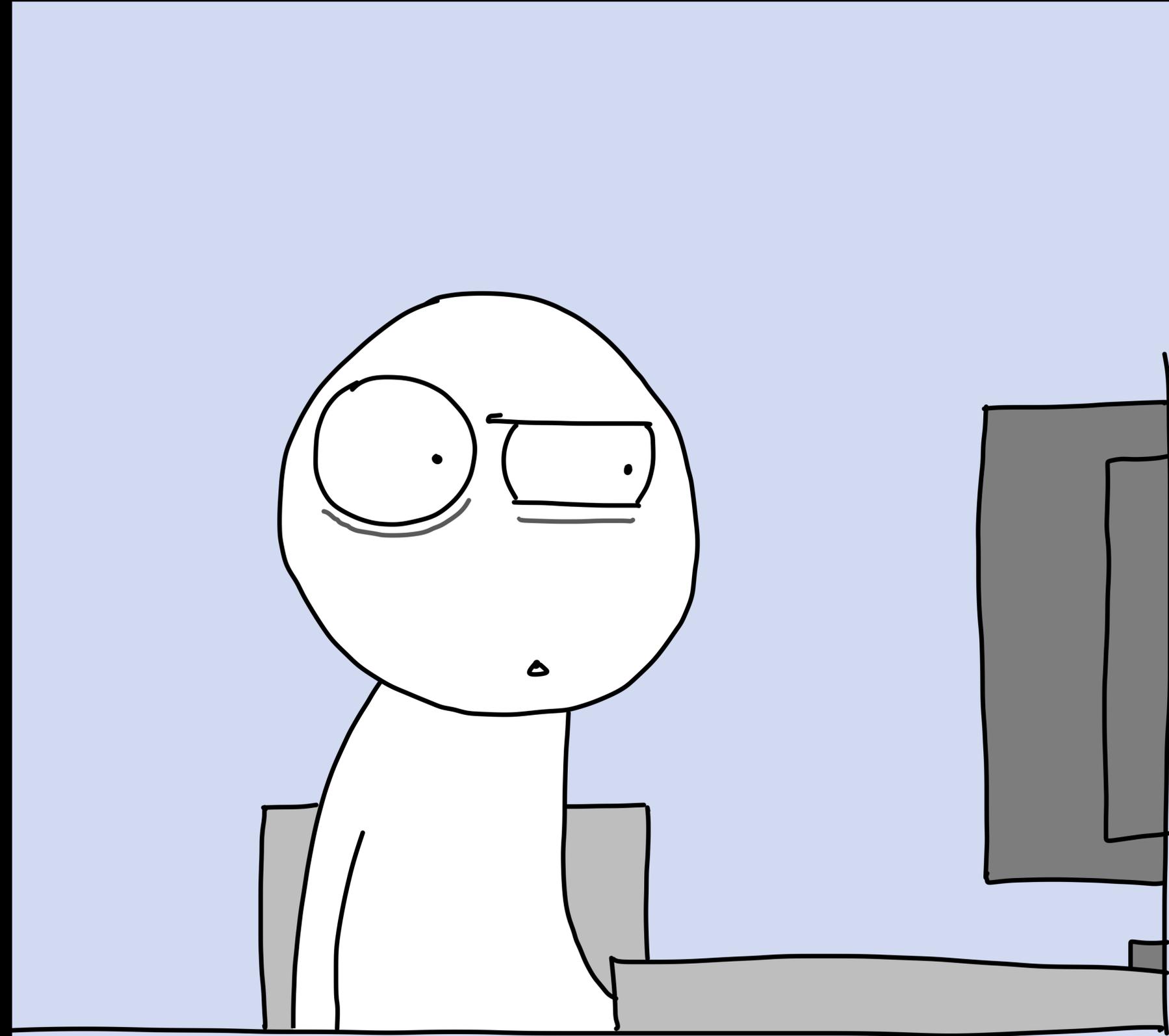
Our participant pool is profiled, high quality and fast. The average study is completed in under 2 hours. Filter particip

**WHAT DID I JUST SEE?**

**CHALLENGE**

# NOVICE USERS

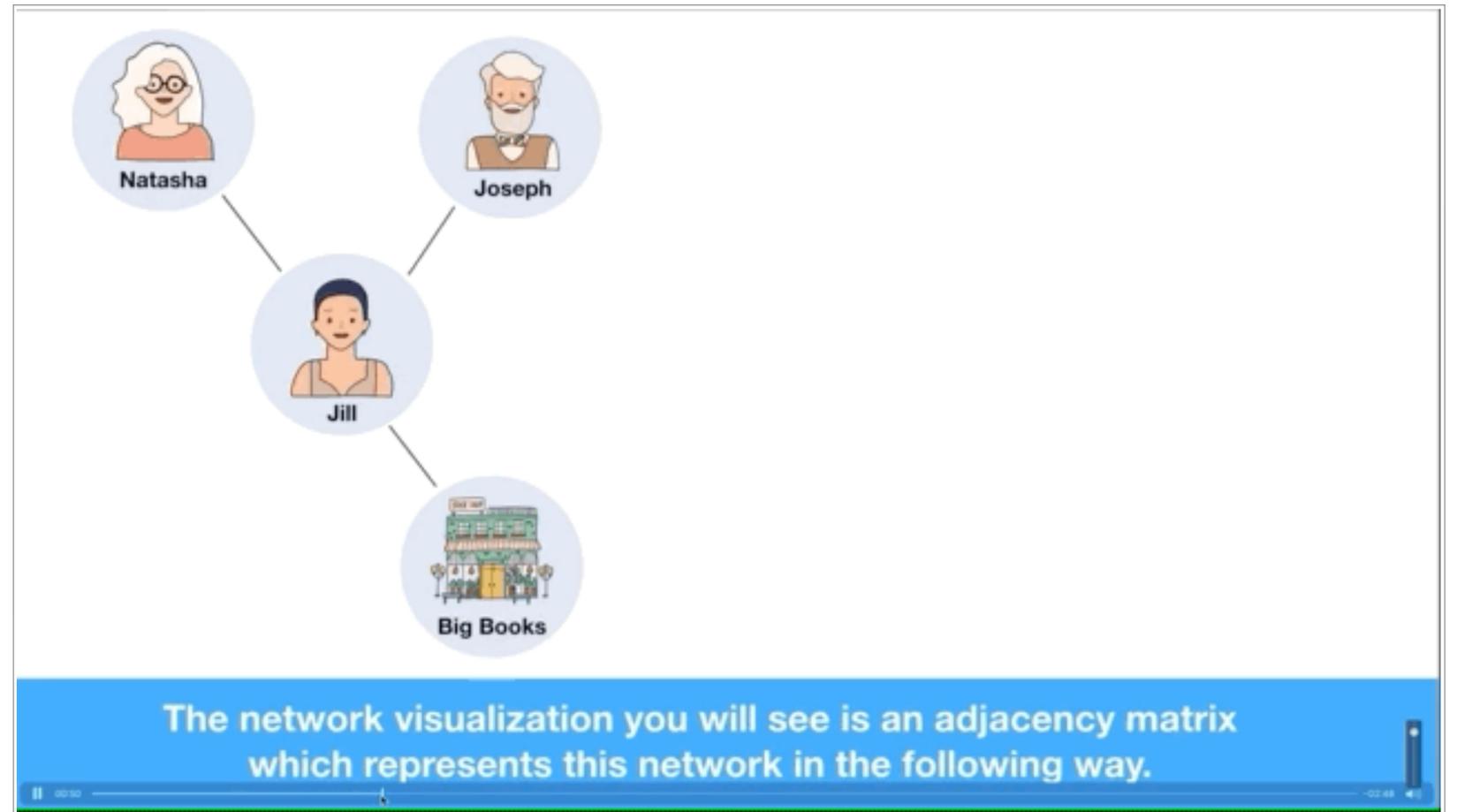
NOVICE USERS DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT ADVANCED  
VISUALIZATIONS



**SOLUTION**

# NOVICE USERS

TRAINING CAN GIVE USERS THE EXPERTISE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE TASKS.



Let's start off with some Practice Tasks

In this section, you will get familiar with the visualization by following a guided tour of the visualization, and then answering two practice tasks.

**Reminder: In order to be compensated for this study, you must complete the guided tour that will pop up at the start of the trials!**

**You will only be allowed to proceed once you have answered the trial questions correctly.**

You are not being timed for this portion of the study so take your time!

Start Practice Session

# INCENTIVES

HOW CAN WE GET USERS  
TO TRY HARD

AND

TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXPERIMENT  
THAT TAKES ~1H



# INCENTIVES

AN INTERESTING PROBLEM

MONEY

Multivariate Network Exploration - Link COMPLETED ACTION

100%

26 Aug 2019, 21:04  
Published

\$15.67/hr  
Average reward per hour

73,947 of 86,264  
Eligible Participants

150/150  
Submissions Progress

✓ Approve all   ✉ Message all   \$ Bonus payment   Find by ID...   More

| <input type="checkbox"/> | PARTICIPANT ID           | STARTED            | TIME TAKEN | STUDY CODE | STATUS    |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5d64894fa174790001c3845b | 26 Aug 2019, 21:13 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5d6495352721a700192dd040 | 26 Aug 2019, 21:18 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5c2e92db867f660001afe4ba | 26 Aug 2019, 21:19 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5d64759fedf23500018f9334 | 26 Aug 2019, 21:24 | 00:32:18   | HX615JBC   | APPROVED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5d64939d0d4a200001d27315 | 26 Aug 2019, 21:25 | N/A        |            | TIMED-OUT | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5c9e41603bd25f001bdcf950 | 26 Aug 2019, 21:35 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5bd7a3c40aac450001f95450 | 26 Aug 2019, 21:42 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 58f1dcf2c8b7eb0001878e57 | 26 Aug 2019, 21:39 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5cdf839d836810001978ce7b | 26 Aug 2019, 21:40 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5b1087bce9270900013c1730 | 26 Aug 2019, 21:45 | 01:04:45   | HX615JBC   | APPROVED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5bb6c8c870f8df0001bfb6c  | 26 Aug 2019, 21:48 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5bb28b15d8afe200018d104e | 26 Aug 2019, 21:59 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5bedc523794030000192a863 | 26 Aug 2019, 22:00 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5ae39b74030a700001b73262 | 26 Aug 2019, 22:02 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5b90bf1a42e93f00017cc9e9 | 26 Aug 2019, 22:02 | 00:25:48   | HX615JBC   | APPROVED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5c32fd3afd5bd20001297a2f | 26 Aug 2019, 22:30 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5c22bbb80091e40001c928e4 | 26 Aug 2019, 22:39 | N/A        |            | TIMED-OUT | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5d4dc127a370c600156b255b | 26 Aug 2019, 22:45 | 00:38:58   | HX615JBC   | APPROVED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5cbacd419bb663000137721c | 26 Aug 2019, 23:53 | N/A        |            | RETURNED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5c2c888df42a780001468c5f | 27 Aug 2019, 00:12 | 01:11:17   | HX615JBC   | APPROVED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5c8da3f6f2ad95001766a6f3 | 27 Aug 2019, 18:27 | 01:01:38   | HX615JBC   | APPROVED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5cc604bd3bbb120018a3c0e2 | 27 Aug 2019, 18:18 | 00:42:06   | HX615JBC   | APPROVED  | ✉ | ✓ | ✕ |

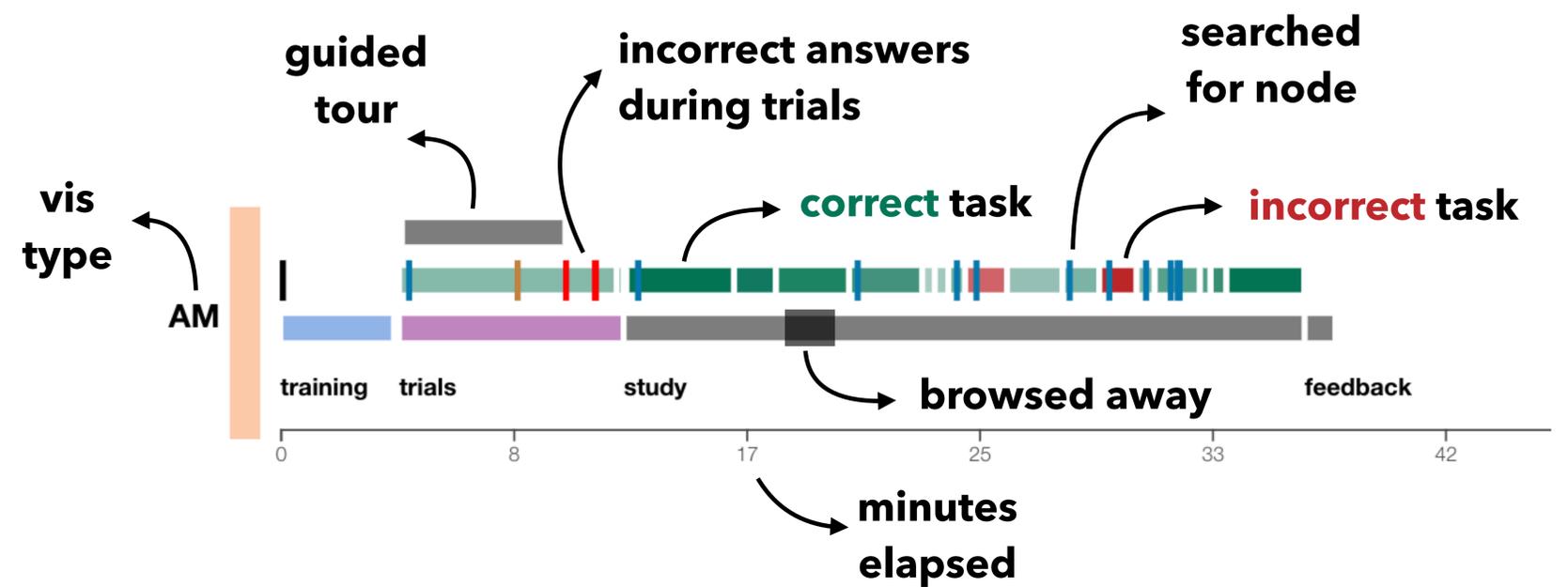
~ \$ 4,500 in 2h

# VALIDATION

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE  
THIS ALL WORKS?

DETAILED PROVENANCE TRACKING

MULTIPLE PILOTS

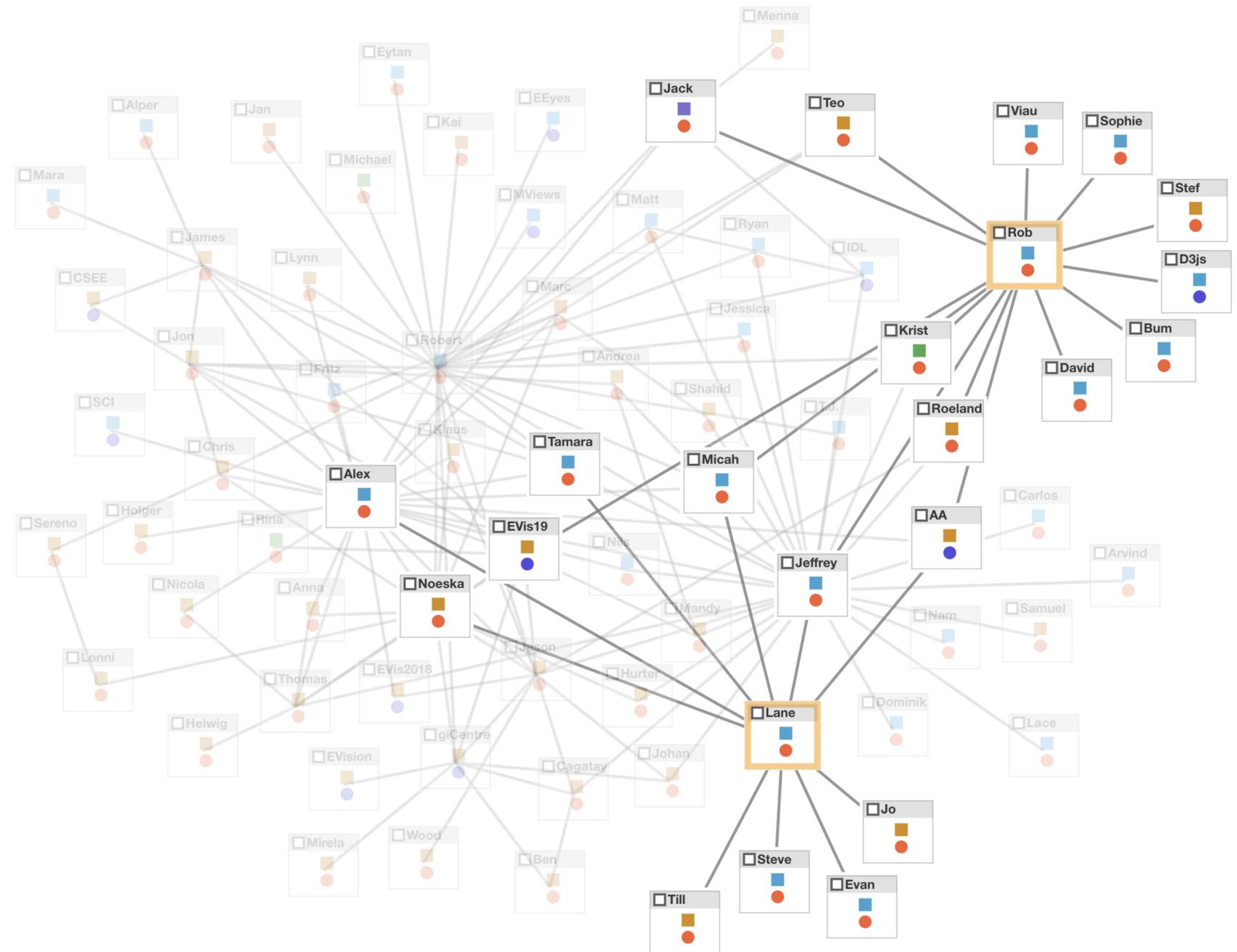




# SELECTED RESULTS

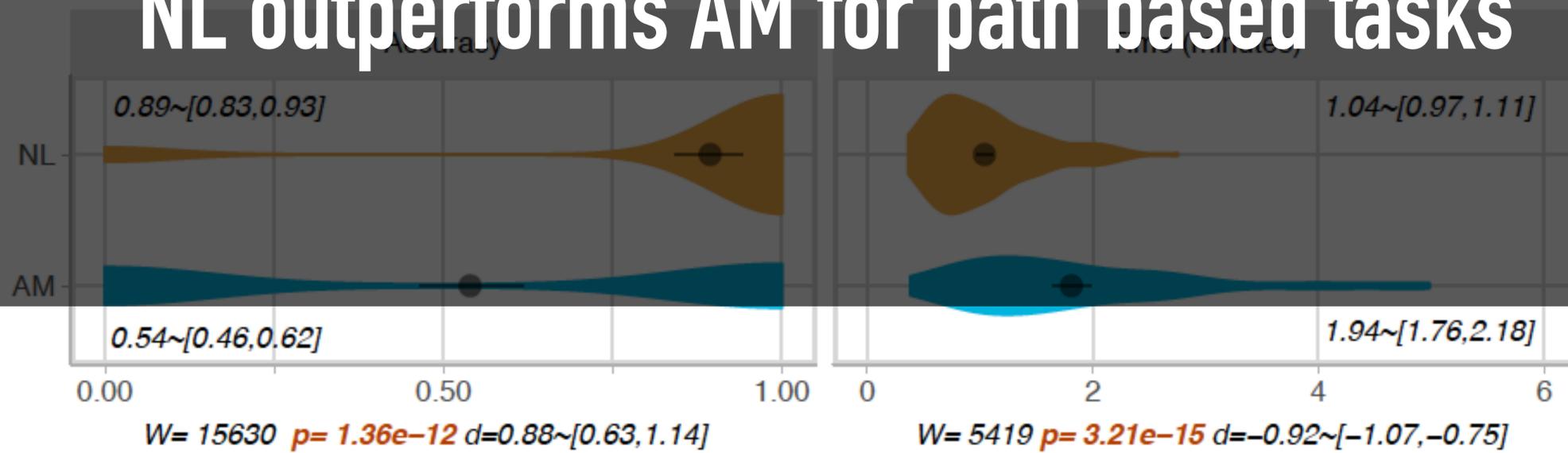
# PATHS

Is NL or AM better for  
Path Tasks?

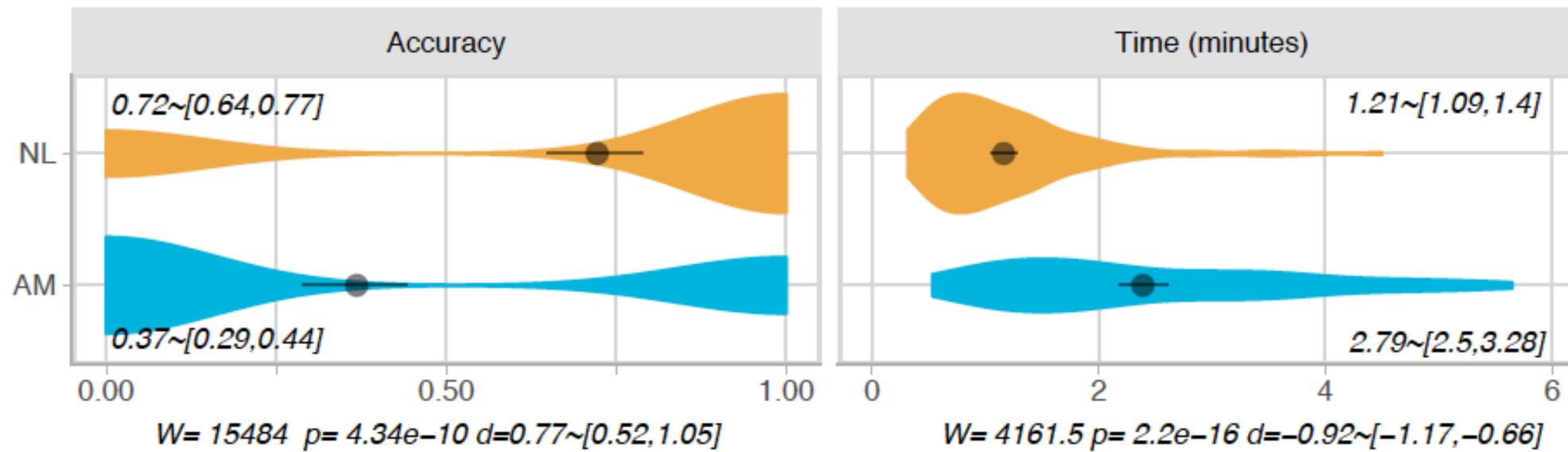


# NL outperforms AM for path based tasks

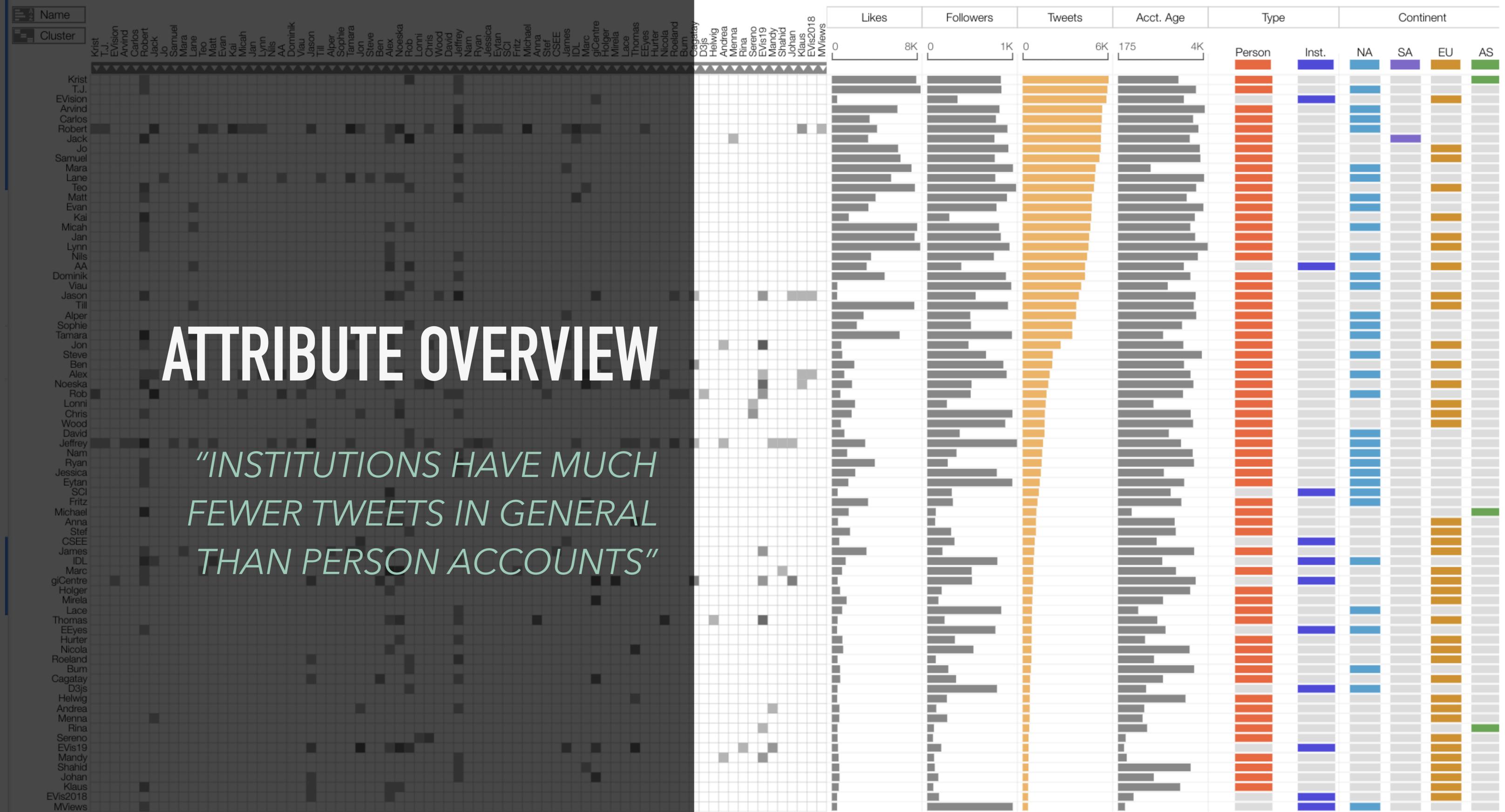
T13 - Attribute along Shortest Path



T15 - Attribute on Multiple Paths



**What types of insight do NL and AM representations support?**

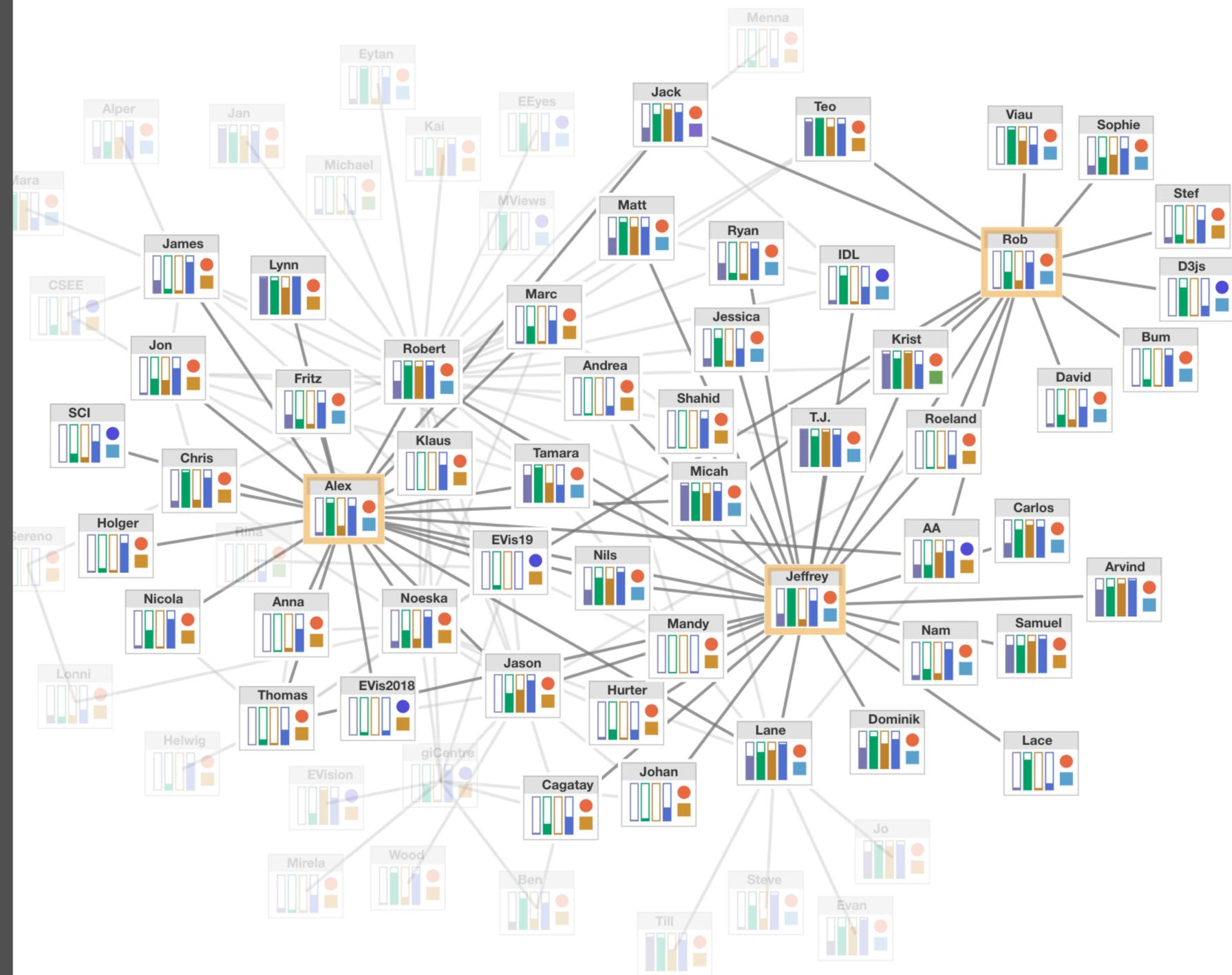


# ATTRIBUTE OVERVIEW

*"INSTITUTIONS HAVE MUCH FEWER TWEETS IN GENERAL THAN PERSON ACCOUNTS"*

# TOPOLOGY-ATTRIBUTE

*"IT DOES SEEM A BIT ODD THAT JEFFREY ALEX AND ROB HAVE SUCH LARGE NETWORKS WITH THEIR LOWER THAN AVERAGE TWEETING."*



# RECAP

CAN WE DO QUANTITATIVE  
EVALUATION WITH COMPLEX  
SYSTEMS?

## Yes We Can!

- Picking the right techniques
- Evidence-based design
- Design validation
- Careful training
- Good compensation

**Pushing the boundary** of what can be  
evaluated using crowdsourcing

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

## **TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Novel Visualization  
Techniques**

**Visualization Process  
Innovations**

**Data Wrangling  
Methods**

## **DOMAIN DRIVEN TECHNIQUES**

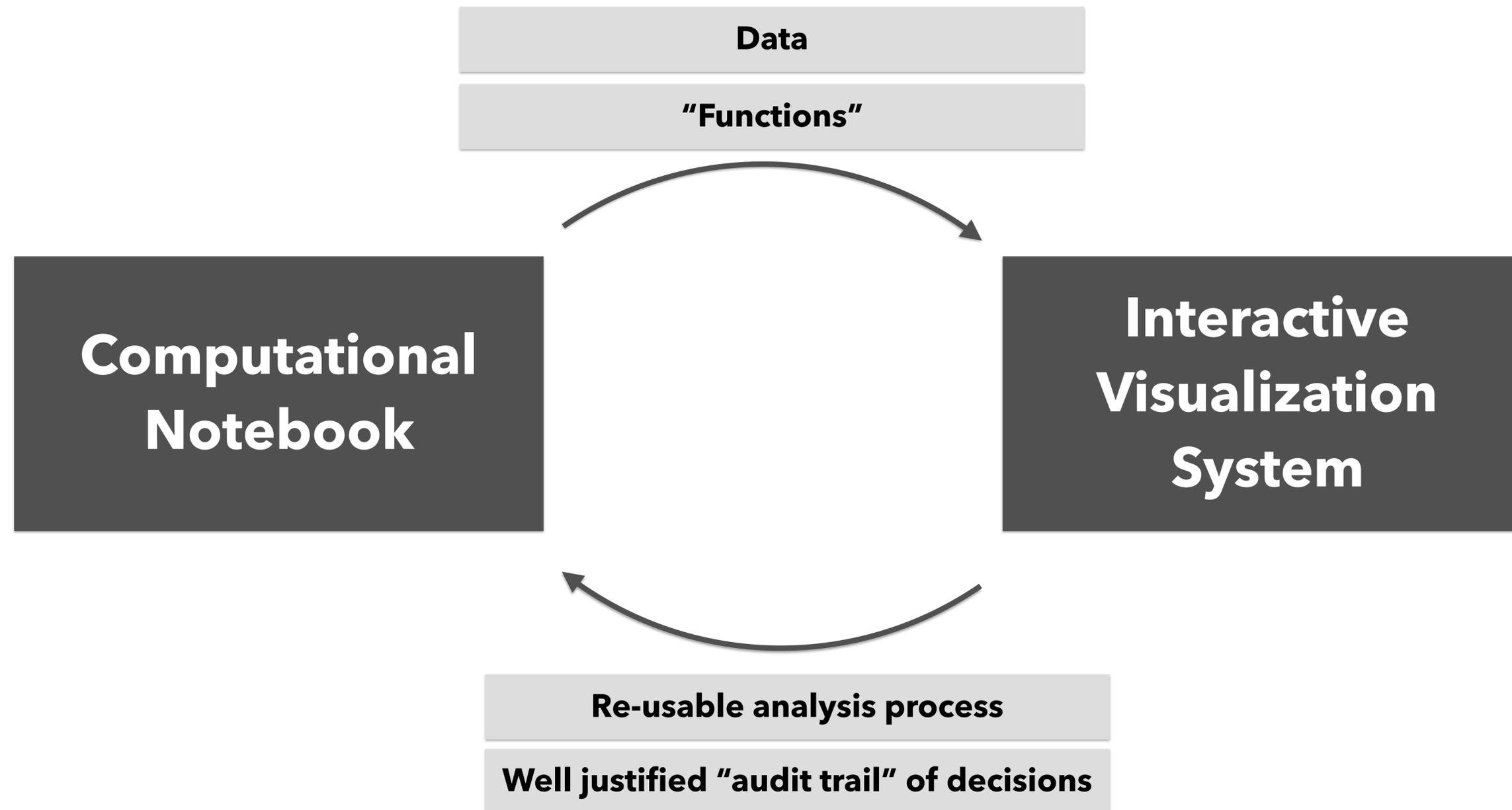
**Tailored Methods  
and Systems for High  
Impact Science  
Problems**

## **EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK**

**Evaluation  
Methodology**

**Design Spaces /  
Taxonomies**

# Vision: Make Transitions between **Computational Work** and **Interactive Visualization** Seamless





**Science Drives Visualization Research**



**Visualization Research Enables Science**

**Needed: Methods to transition from  
prototypes to **robust tools****

## EMPIRICAL & THEORETICAL WORK



A lot of vis design uses best practices with weak empirical foundations

Need to continue to develop strategies to **validate complex methods**



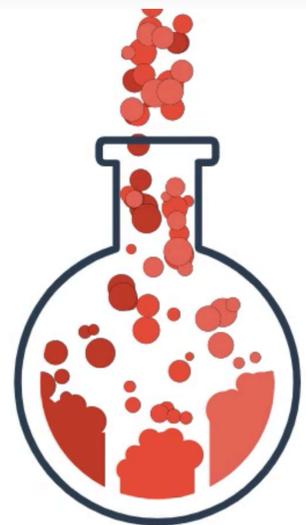
**Alexander Lex**

@alexander\_lex

<http://alexander-lex.net>



Thanks to: Carolina Nobre, Kiran Gadhave, Jen Rogers, Haihan Lin, Dylan Wootton, Jochen Görtler, Oliver Deussen, Miriah Meyer, Jeff Phillips, Samuel Gratzl, Holger Stitz, Marc Streit, Nils Gehlenborg, Hilary Coon, Lane Harrison, Hendrik Strobel, Romain Vuillemot, Hanspeter Pfister, and many Others!



**visualization**  
**design lab**



