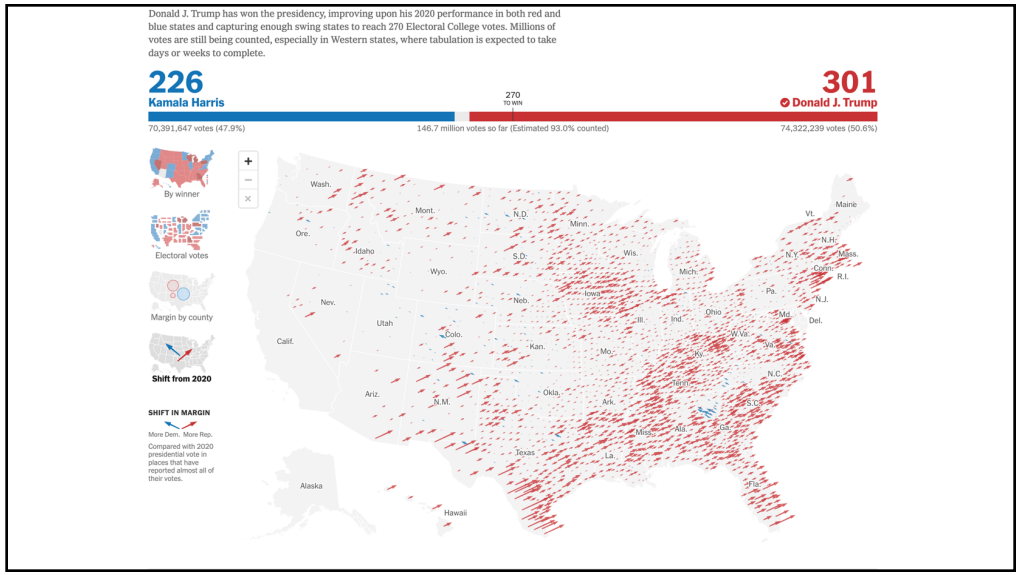
DECONSTRUCTING VISUALIZATIONS

CS 448B | Fall 2025

MANEESH AGRAWALA

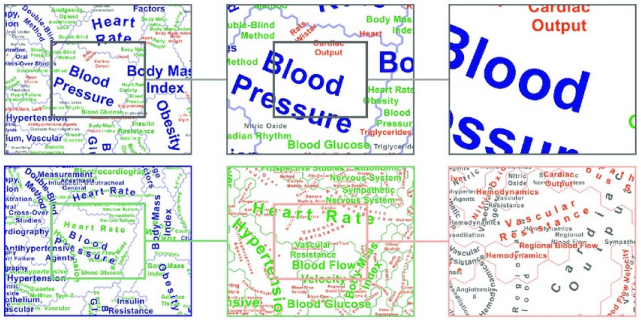
1



2

READING RESPONSE: QUESTIONS/THOUGHTS

I also found it interesting that the Herman et al. paper distinguishes between two different types of zooms: ***geometric and semantic zooming***. I initially did not realize there was a difference, as I use zoom as a synonym for enlarge, but using real-world examples helped solidify my understanding. It seems that geometric zoom simply means enlarging, like zooming in on a photo taken with your phone, while semantic zooming is similar to zooming in on google maps, with more information being shown in the sense of continent -> country -> state -> city etc.



Geometric zoom

Semantic zoom

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DECONSTRUCTING VISUALIZATIONS

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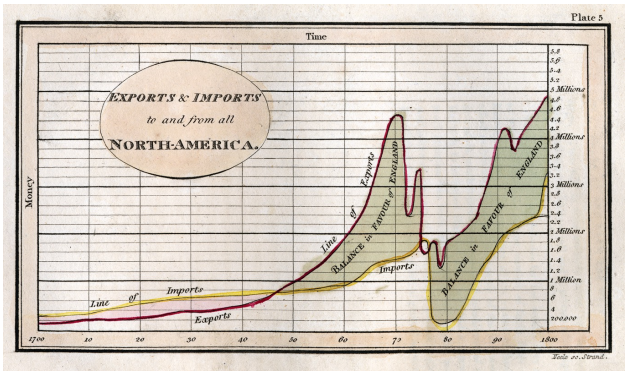
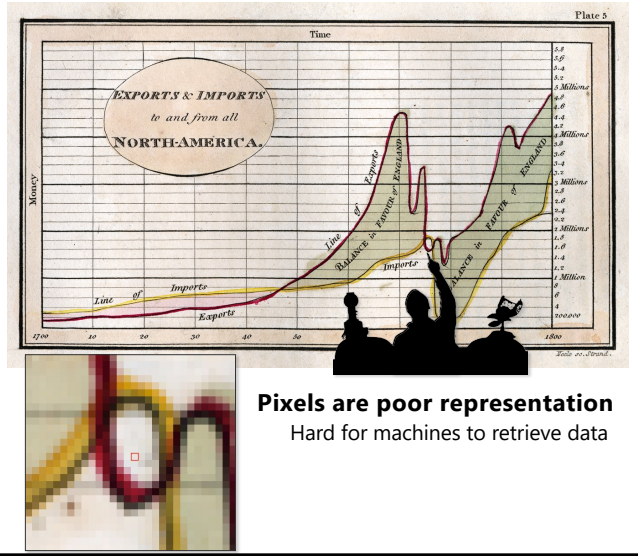


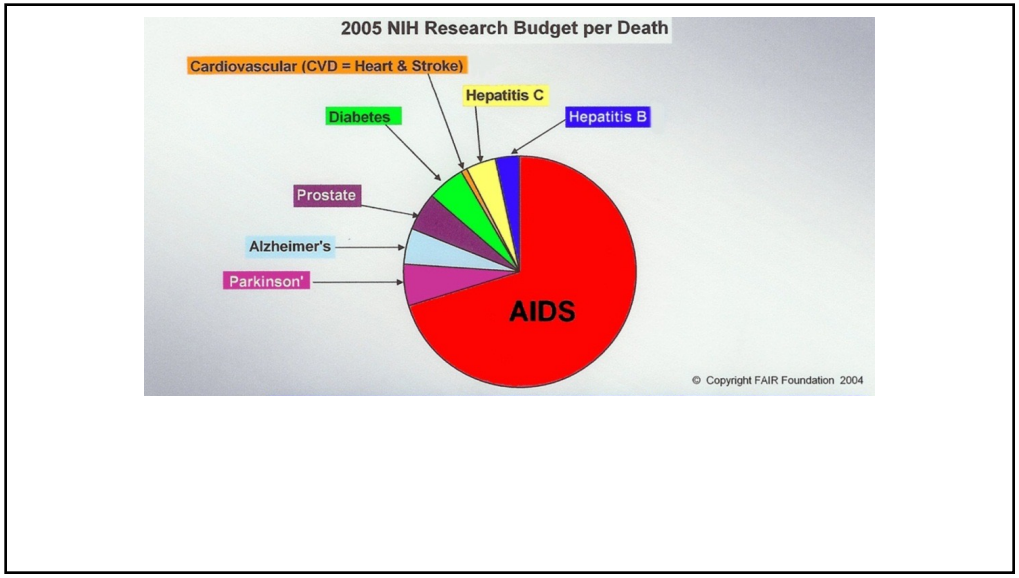
6



Pixels are poor representation

Hard for machines to retrieve data

7


2005 NIH Research Budget per Death
Cardiovascular (CVD = Heart & Stroke)
Hepatitis C
Diabetes
Hepatitis B
Prostate
Alzheimer's
Parkinson'
AIDS
© Copyright FAIR Foundation 2004

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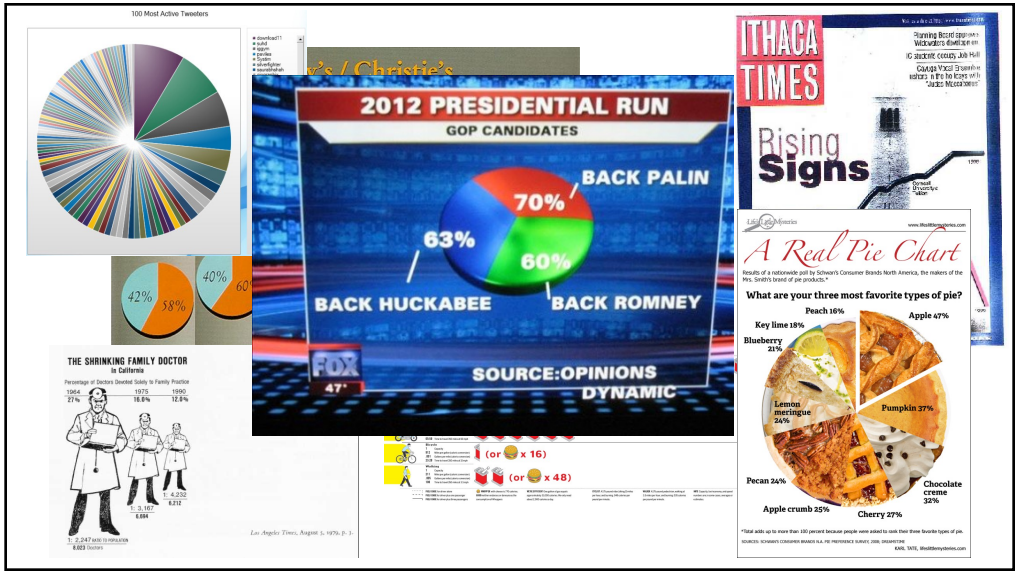
100 Most Active Tweeters
2012 PRESIDENTIAL RUN
GOP CANDIDATES
BACK PALIN
70%
63%
60%
BACK HUCKABEE
BACK ROMNEY
FOX
47°
SOURCE:OPINIONS DYNAMIC
ITHACA TIMES
Rising Signs
A Real Pie Chart
What are your three most favorite types of pie?
Peach 16%
Apple 47%
Key lime 18%
Blueberry 21%
Pumpkin 37%
Lemon meringue 24%
Pecan 24%
Chocolate creme 32%
Apple crumb 25%
Cherry 27%
THE SHRINKING FAMILY DOCTOR
In California
Percentage of Doctors Devoted Solely to Family Practice
1964 27%
1975 16.6%
1990 12.6%
Los Angeles Times, August 3, 1979, p. 1.

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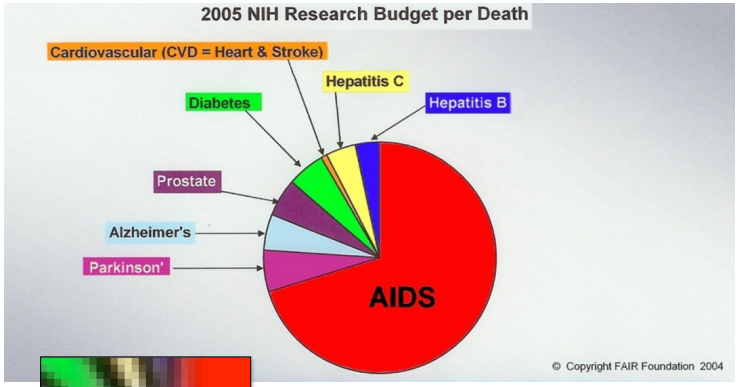

Pixels are a poor representation

- Hard for people to manipulate
- Hard for machines to retrieve data

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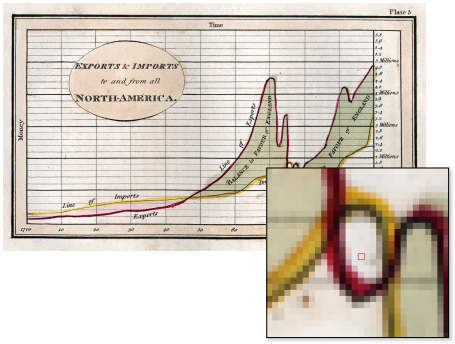

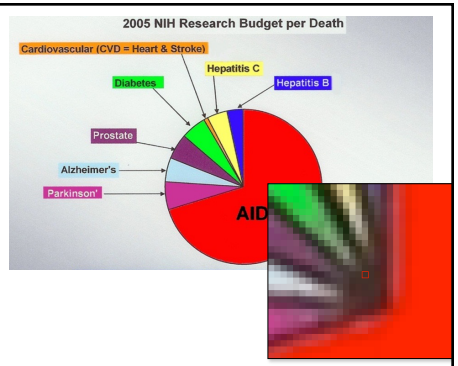

Pixels are a poor representation of charts and graphs

Cannot index, search, manipulate or interact with the data

Goal: ***Reconstruct higher-level representation*** *of charts and graphs that lets machines and people* ***redesign, reuse*** *and* ***revitalize*** *them*

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TODAY

Learning Objectives

1. How to deconstruct charts and graphs into an editable representation
2. How to use this representation to support interactive reading of visualization

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WHAT IS A GOOD REPRESENTATION?

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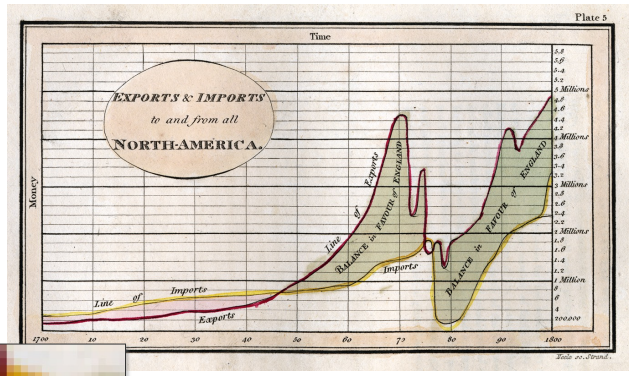

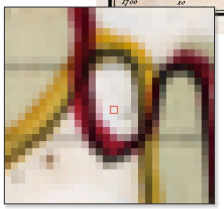

Data

Year	Exports	Imports
1700	170,000	300,000
1701	171,000	302,000
1702	176,000	303,000
1703	180,000	312,000
1704	187,000	319,000
…	…	…

Marks

Mappings

mark: lines
Year → x-pos (Q)
Exports → y-pos (Q)
Imports → y-pos (Q)
Exports → color (N)
Imports → color (N)

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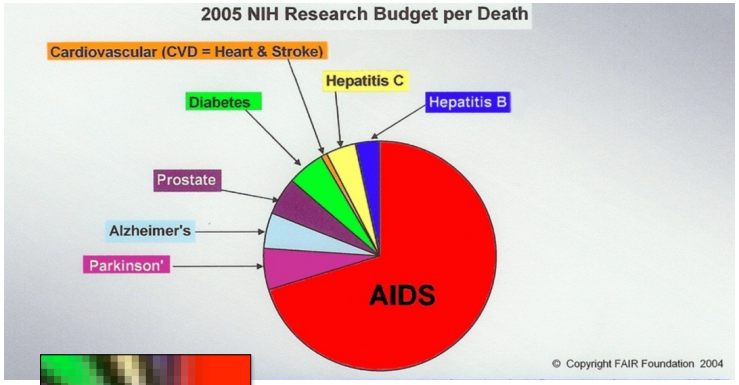

Data

Disease	Budget
Aids	70.0%
Alzheimer's	5.0%
Cardiovascular	1.1%
Diabetes	4.8%
Hepatitus B	4.1%
Hepatitus C	3.8%
Parkinson'	6.0%
Prostate	5.2%

Marks

Mappings

mark: areas
Budget → angle (Q)
Disease → color (N)

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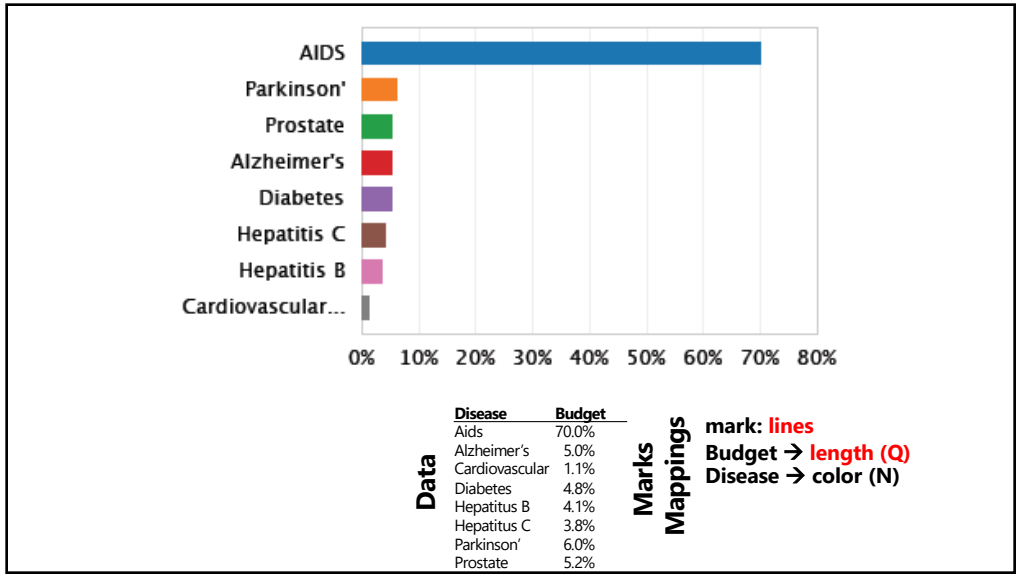

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APPROACH

Classification: Determine chart type

Mark extraction: Retrieve graphical marks

Data extraction: Retrieve underlying data values

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CLASSIFICATION OF CHART TYPE

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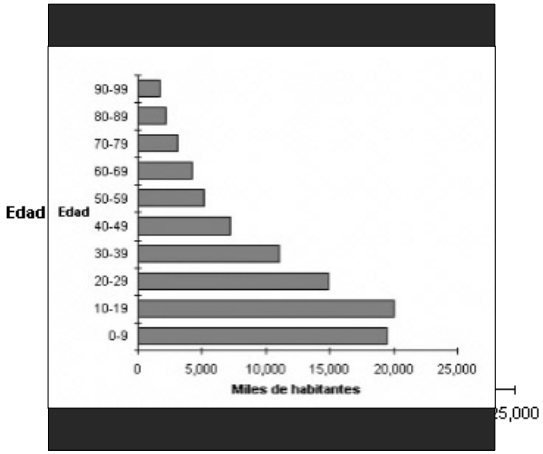
TRAINING



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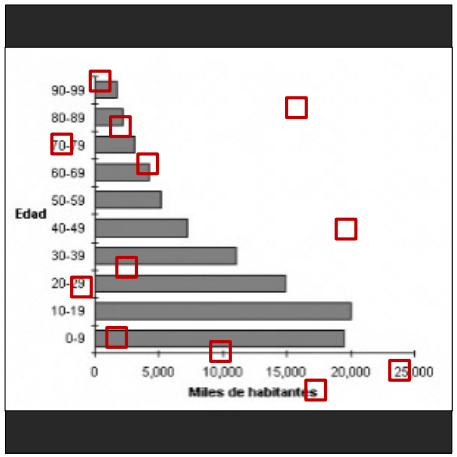
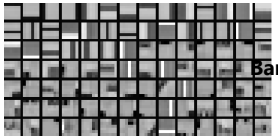
TRAINING

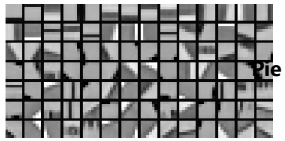


20

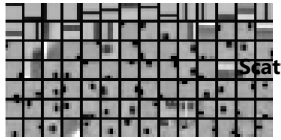
TRAINING



Bar Charts



Pie Charts



Scatter Plots

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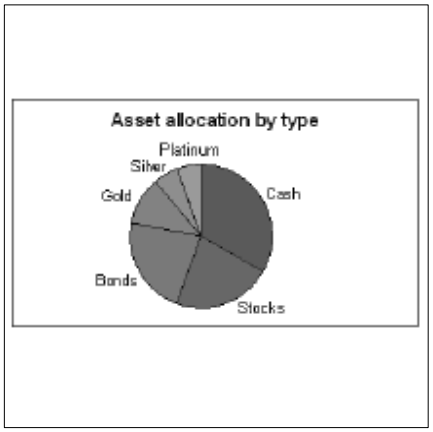
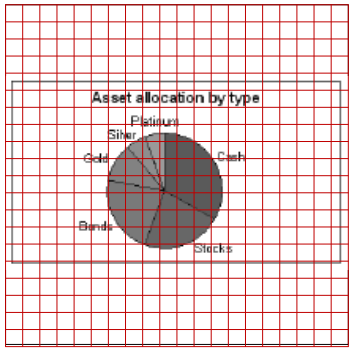
CLASSIFICATION



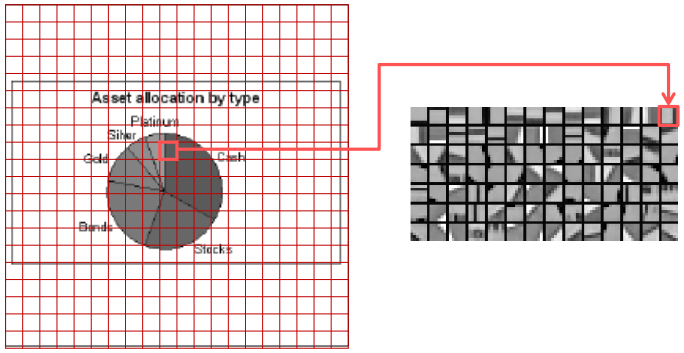
22

CLASSIFICATION



23

CLASSIFICATION



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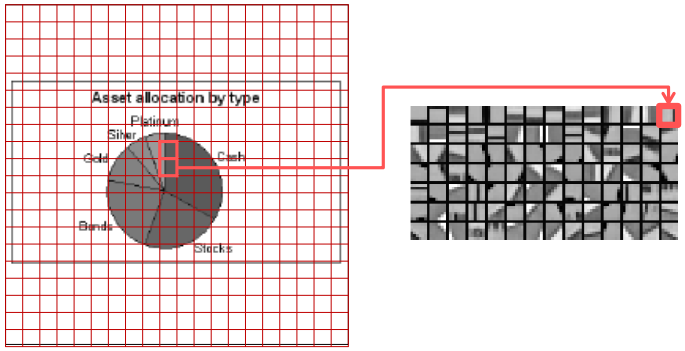
CLASSIFICATION



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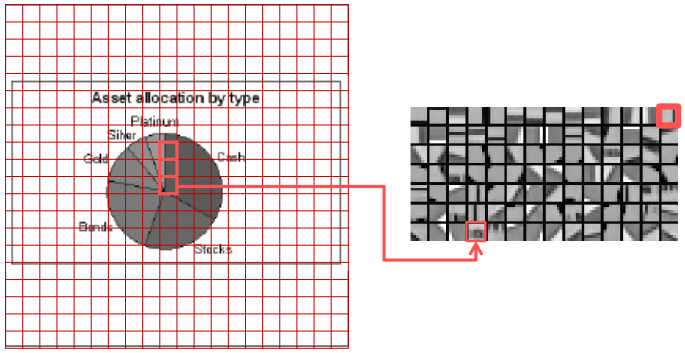
CLASSIFICATION



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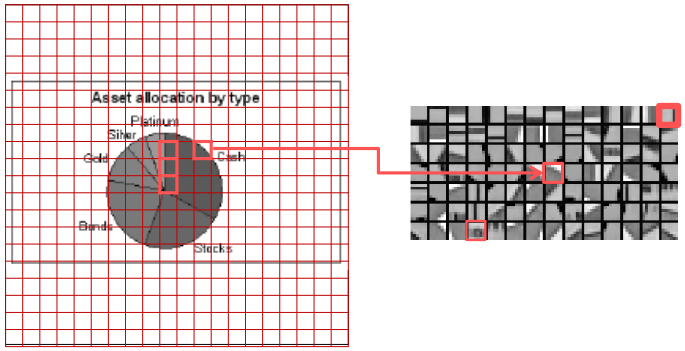
CLASSIFICATION



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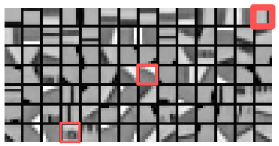
CLASSIFICATION



SVM Classifier → Pie Chart

Corpus: 667 charts, 5 chart types [Prasad 2007]	Average Accuracy
[Prasad 2007] Multi-class SVM	84%
ReVision: Multi-class SVM	88%
ReVision: Binary SVM (yes/no for each chart type)	96%

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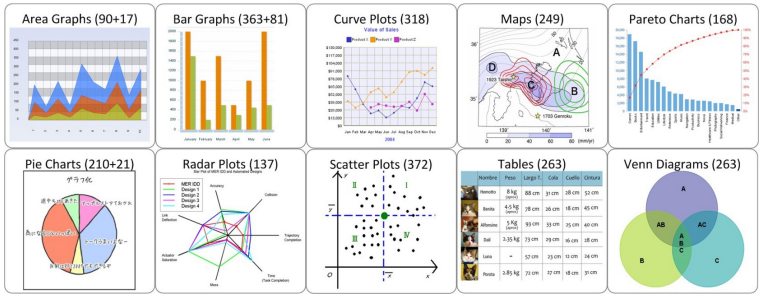
OUR CORPUS

Over 2500 labeled images and 10 chart types



ReVision binary SVMs give 96% classification accuracy

http://vis.berkeley.edu/papers/revision

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MARK AND DATA EXTRACTION

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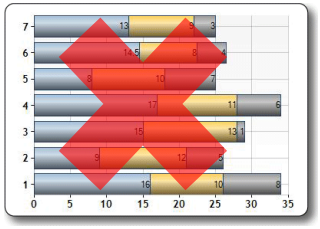
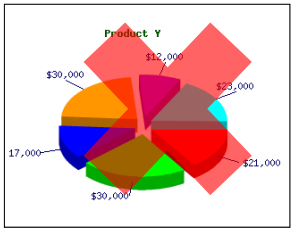
ASSUMPTIONS

Bar charts and pie charts only

No shading or texture, 3D, stacked bars, or exploded pies





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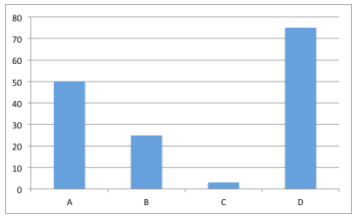
BAR CHARTS



→

marks: lines

y-value	x-value
50	A
25	B
4	C
75	D

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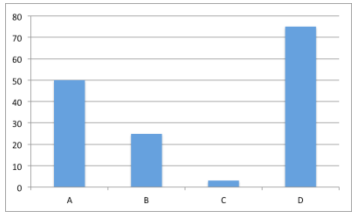
BAR CHARTS

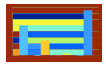


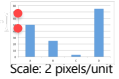
marks: lines

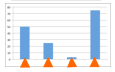
y-value	x-value
50	A
35	B
4	C
75	D

Extract Marks ↓ ↑ **Extract Data**

Find Foreground Rectangles → **Identify Orientation and Baseline** → **Recover Bar Values** → **Associate Labels with Bars**







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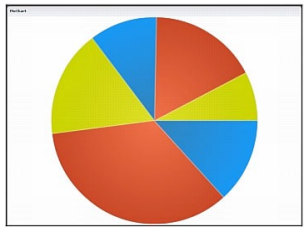
PIE CHARTS



marks: areas

percentage	category
22.3	A
22.4	B
10.8	C
5.6	D
5.6	E
33.3	F

Extract Marks

Extract Data

Fit Ellipse Using RNASAC → Unroll Pie and Find Transitions → Compute Area Percentages → Associate Labels with Areas

Scale: 50 pixels/percent

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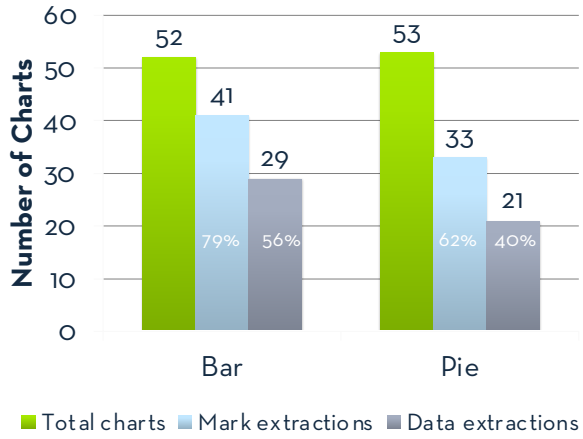
EXTRACTION RESULTS



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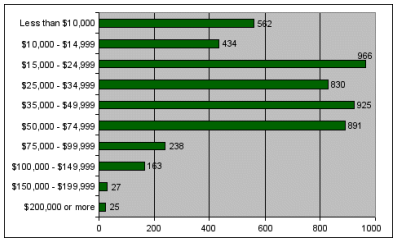
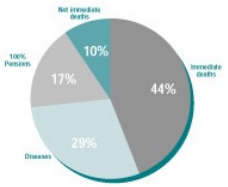
DATA EXTRACTION ERROR

Bar Charts



7.7%

Pie Charts



4.6%

Average chart size: 342 x 452 pixels [Prasad 2007]

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REDESIGN

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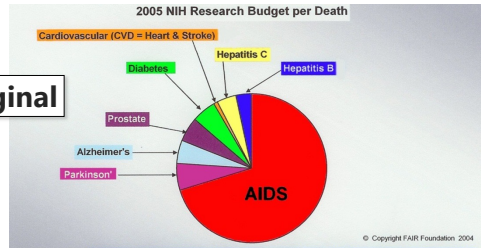
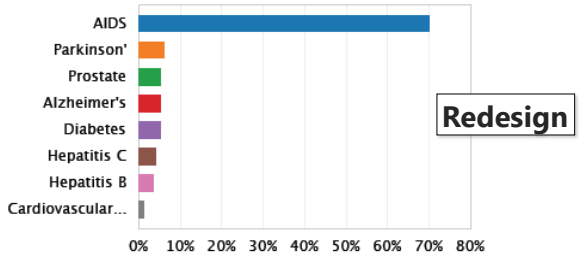
Original



Redesign



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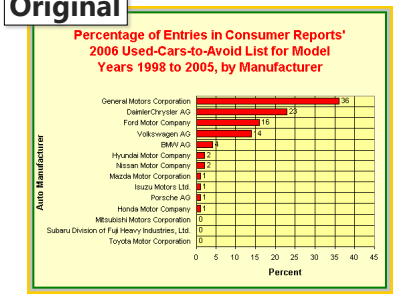
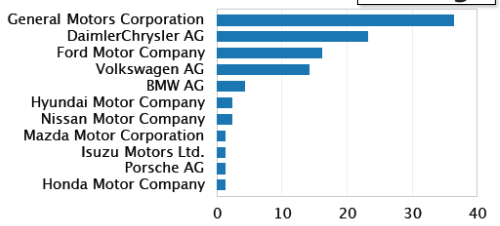
Original



Redesign



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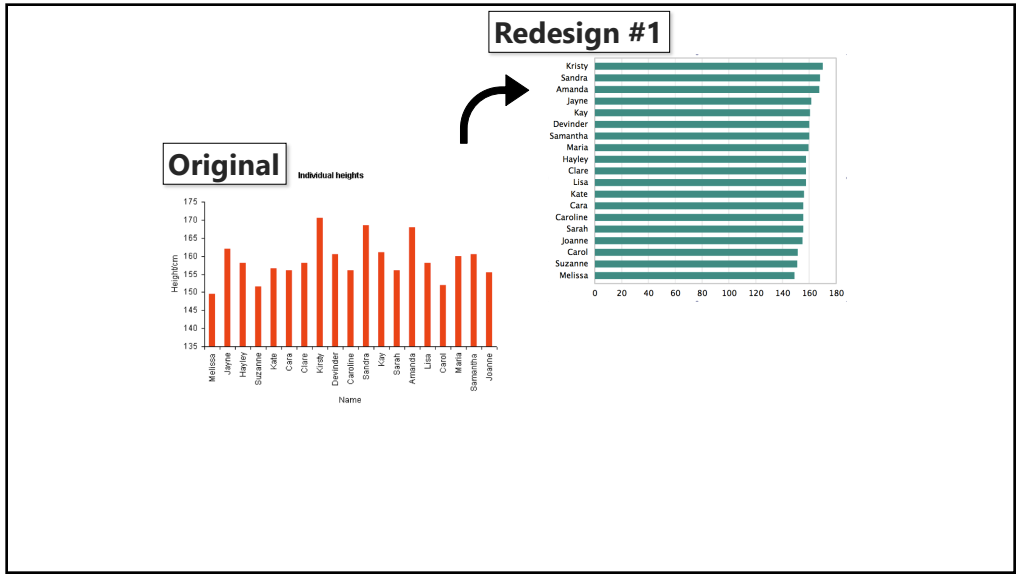
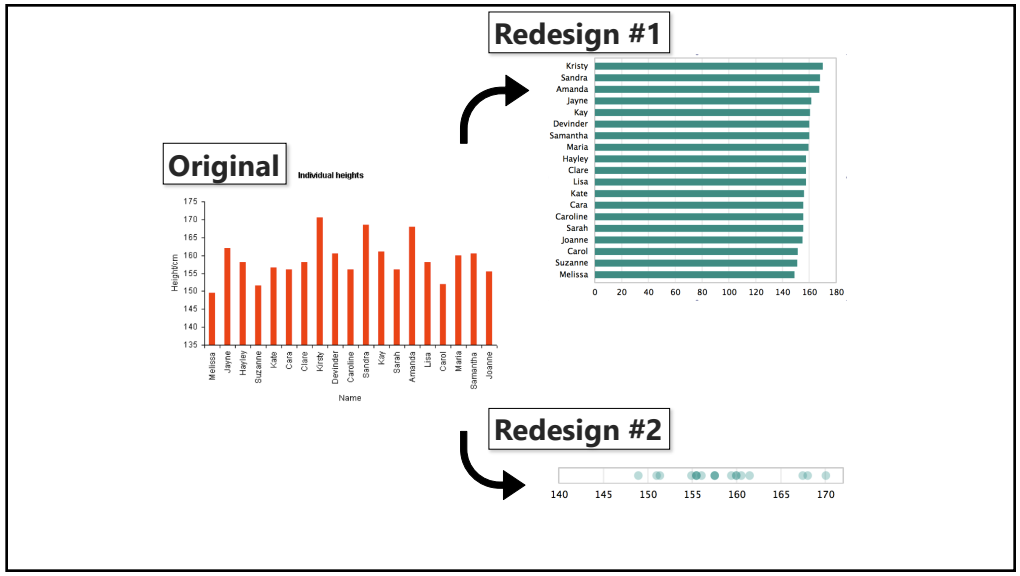

Redesign #1
Original
Individual heights
Height/cm
Name
Kristy
Sandra
Amanda
Jayne
Kay
Devinder
Samantha
Maria
Hayley
Clare
Lisa
Kate
Cara
Caroline
Sarah
Joanne
Carol
Suzanne
Melissa

50


Redesign #1
Original
Individual heights
Height/cm
Name
Redesign #2

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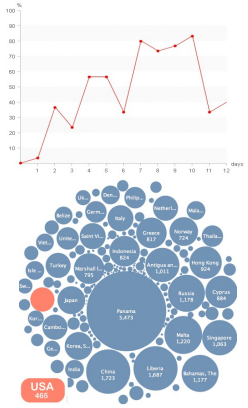
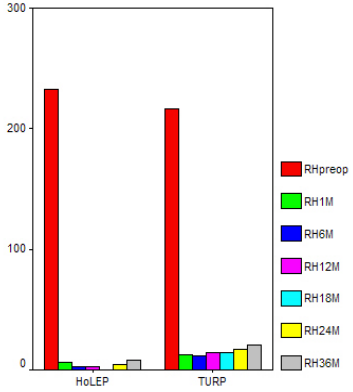
LIMITATIONS

Additional Chart Types



Handling Legends



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FINAL PROJECT

Design Reviews Dec 1 and Dec 3 (signups next week)

Data analysis/explainer

Analyze dataset in depth & make a visual explainer

Deliverables

An article with multiple different interactive visualizations
Short video (2 min) demoing and explaining the project

Schedule

Design Review and Feedback: 10th week of quarter, 12/1 and 12/3
Final code and video: Sun 12/7 8pm

Grading

Groups of up to 3 people, graded individually
Clearly report responsibilities of each member

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THIS WEEK

Guest lecture (Hari Subramonyam) this Wed 11/12

No lecture next Wed 11/19

Do the readings and submit reading responses

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INTERACTIVE READING

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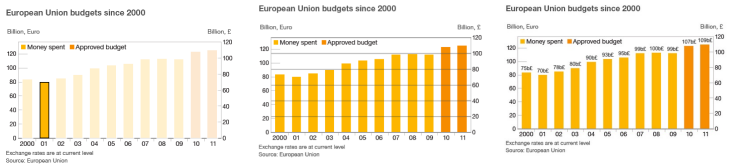

Graphical Overlays

Visual elements that are layered onto a chart to facilitate the perceptual and cognitive processes involved in chart reading

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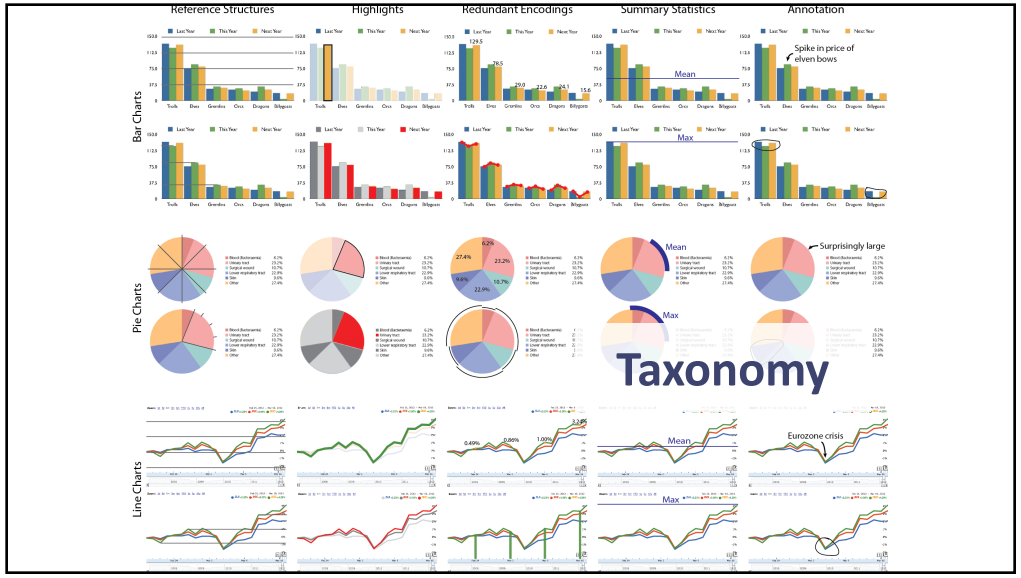

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Graphical overlay gallery

This gallery contains examples of graphical overlays, described in our paper. We have extracted marks and data from the charts using ReVision (for bars and pie charts) and Datathief (for line charts), but all of the overlays are generated in-browser. Try out some of the parameters, or click on an image thumbnail below the gallery to view some example overlays.

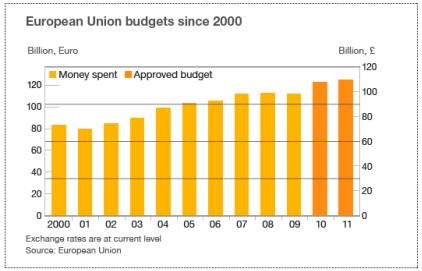


Chart type: Bar
Chart: 00281
Overlay type: Reference structures
Regular gridlines
Lines emanating from marks

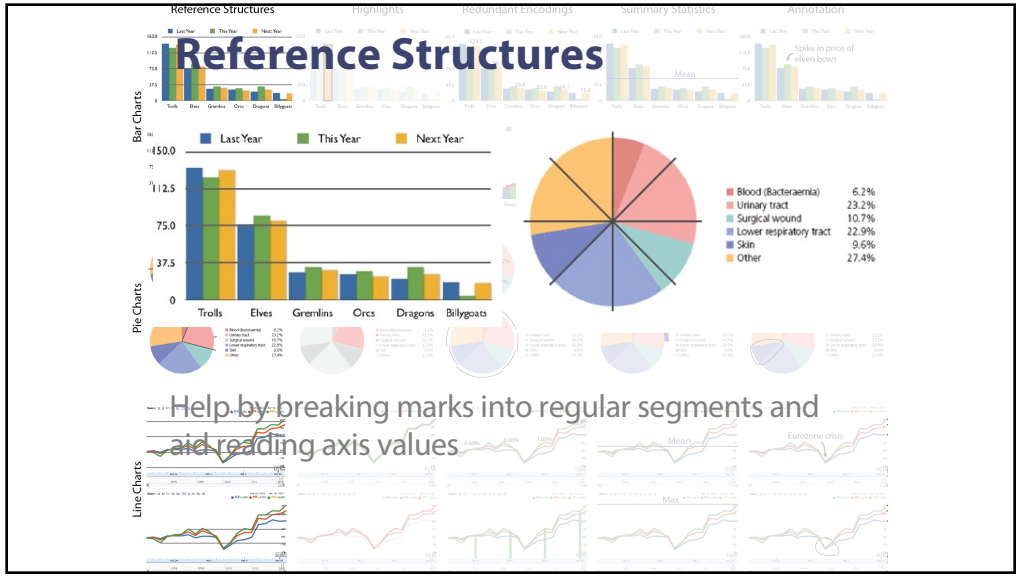
Parameters

Overlay Underlay
Static Interactive
Divisions: 4
Line thickness: 1

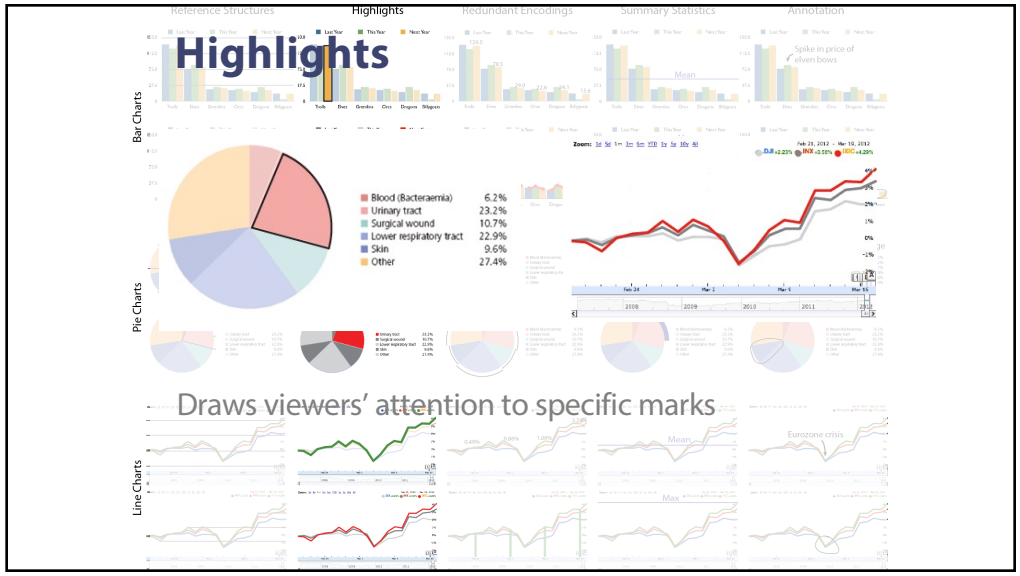
Places regular gridlines at user defined intervals.

Demo

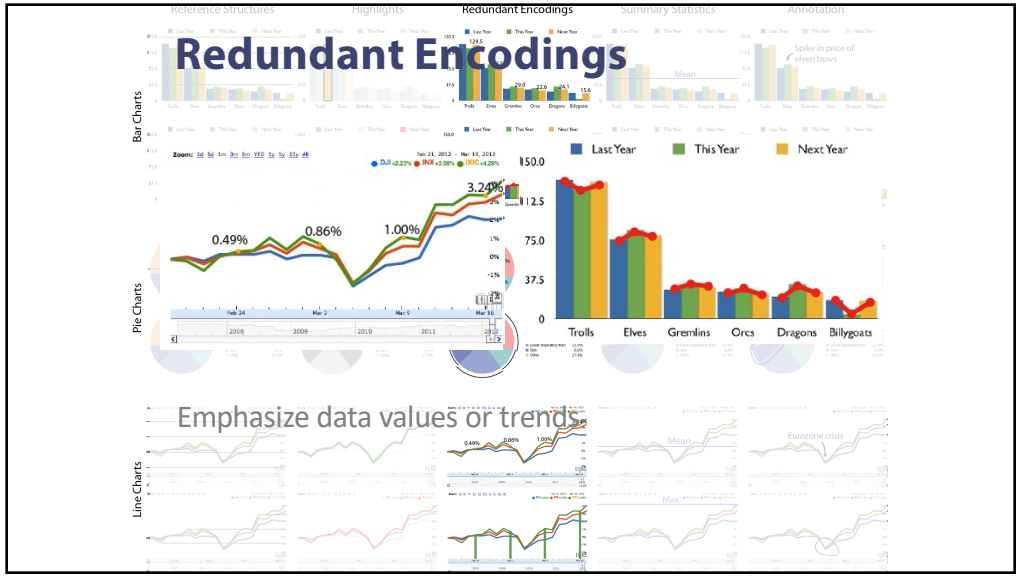
60


Reference Structures
Highlights
Redundant Encodings
Summary Statistics
Annotation
Reference Structures
Bar Charts
Last Year
This Year
Next Year
450.0
112.5
75.0
37.5
0
Trolls
Elves
Gremlins
Orcs
Dragons
Billygoats
Pie Charts
Blood (Bacteraemia) 6.2%
Urinary tract 23.2%
Surgical wound 10.7%
Lower respiratory tract 22.9%
Skin 9.6%
Other 27.4%
Help by breaking marks into regular segments and aid reading axis values
Line Charts
Mean
Max
Eurozone crisis

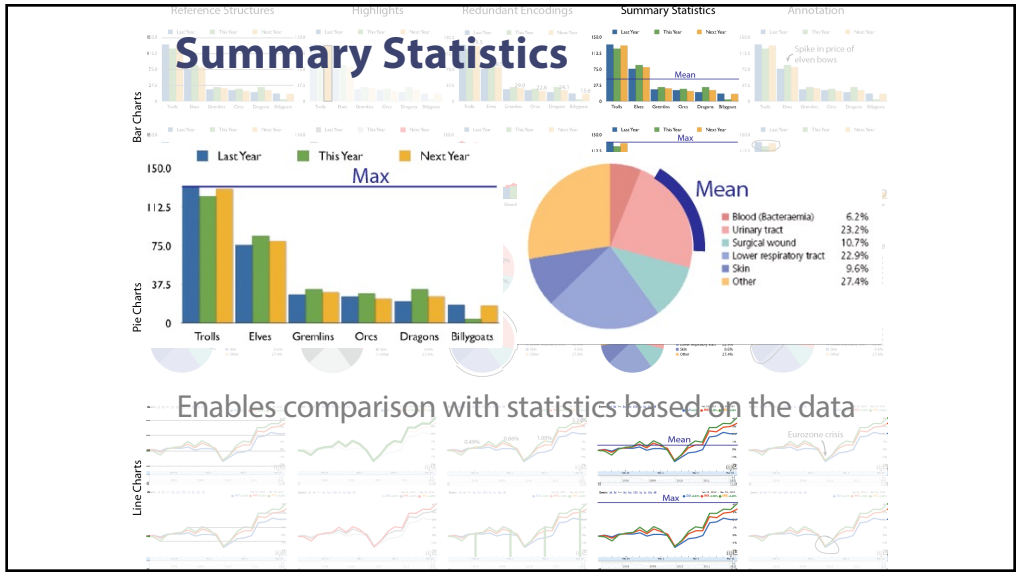
61


Reference Structures
Highlights
Redundant Encodings
Summary Statistics
Annotation
Highlights
Bar Charts
Blood (Bacteraemia) 6.2%
Urinary tract 23.2%
Surgical wound 10.7%
Lower respiratory tract 22.9%
Skin 9.6%
Other 27.4%
Pie Charts
Draws viewers' attention to specific marks
Line Charts
Mean
Max
Eurozone crisis

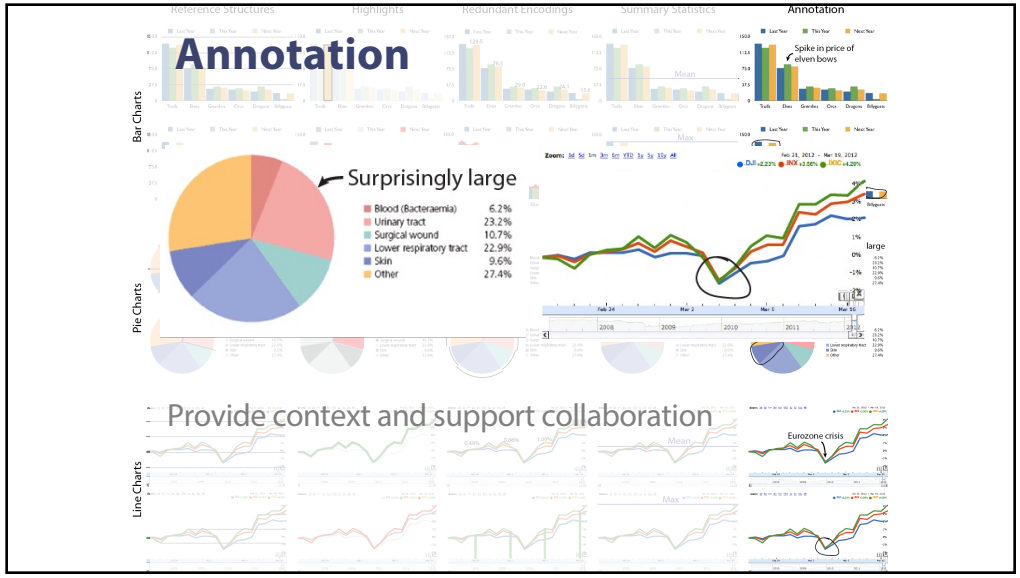
62


Reference Structures
Highlights
Redundant Encodings
Summary Statistics
Annotation
Redundant Encodings
Bar Charts
Pie Charts
Line Charts
Last Year
This Year
Next Year
0.49%
0.86%
1.00%
3.24%
150.0
112.5
75.0
37.5
0
Trolls
Elves
Gremlins
Orcs
Dragons
Billygoats
Emphasize data values or trends

63

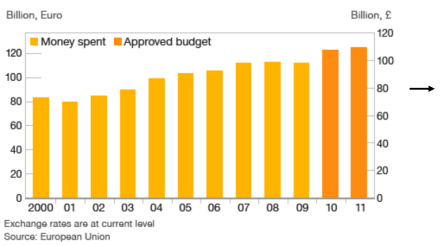

Reference Structures
Highlights
Redundant Encodings
Summary Statistics
Annotation
Summary Statistics
Bar Charts
Pie Charts
Line Charts
Last Year
This Year
Next Year
Max
Mean
150.0
112.5
75.0
37.5
0
Trolls
Elves
Gremlins
Orcs
Dragons
Billygoats
Blood (Bacteraemia) 6.2%
Urinary tract 23.2%
Surgical wound 10.7%
Lower respiratory tract 22.9%
Skin 9.6%
Other 27.4%
Enables comparison with statistics based on the data

64



65

European Union budgets since 2000



mark: lines

year	money
2000	85
2001	78
2002	87
2003	90
2004	98
…	…

Most overlays only require access to marks

- Reference structures (**marks**)
- Highlights (**marks**)
- Redundant encodings (**marks** and ***data***)
- Summary statistics (**marks**)
- Annotations (**marks**)

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INTERACTIVE DOCUMENTS

How can we facilitate reading text and charts together?

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Goal: Extract references between text and chart

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Problem: Diversity of writing styles

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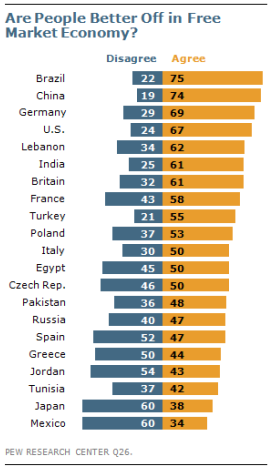
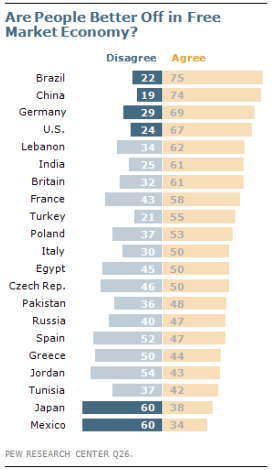
EXAMPLE 1: PEW RESEARCH



Skepticism for capitalism is lowest in Brazil (22%), China (19%), Germany (29%) (although East Germans are less supportive than West Germans) and the U.S. (24%). Skepticism for free markets is highest in Mexico (60%) and Japan (60%).

70

EXAMPLE 1: PEW RESEARCH



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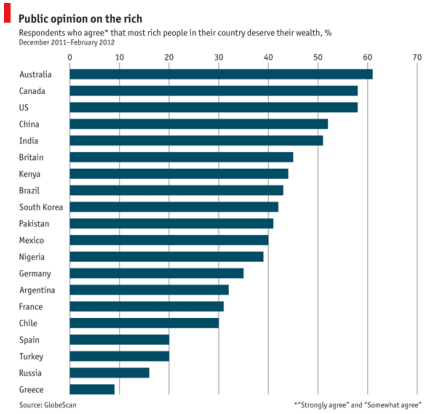
71

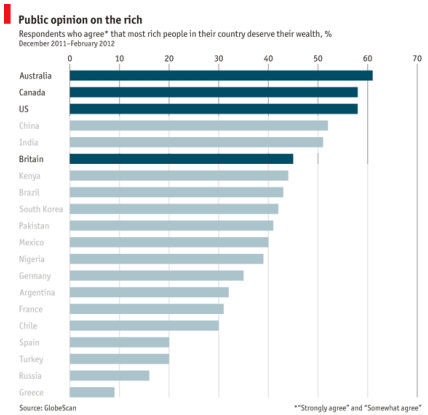
EXAMPLE 2: ECONOMIST



Top earners have attracted more opprobrium as their salaries and the performance of the economy have headed in opposite directions. Europeans and Latin Americans tend to have similar attitudes to the rich; the Anglo-Saxon world is a bit more forgiving.

72

EXAMPLE 2: ECONOMIST



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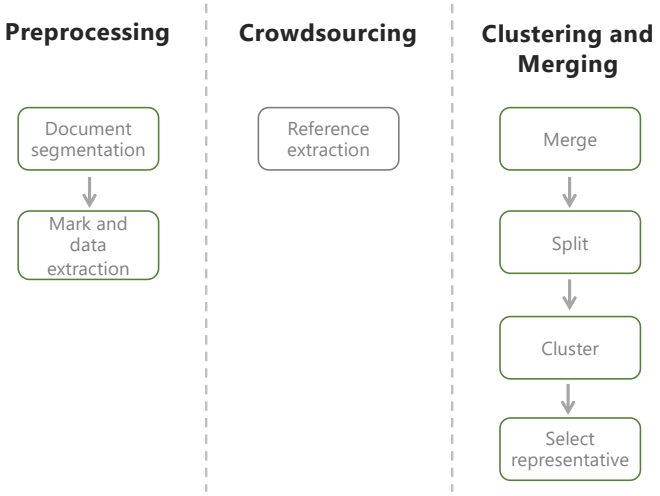
73



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DEMO

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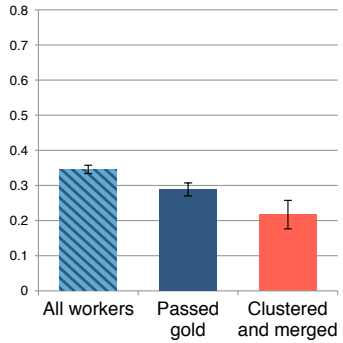
EVALUATION



Avg. F_1 distance: expert specified references vs. crowd specified references

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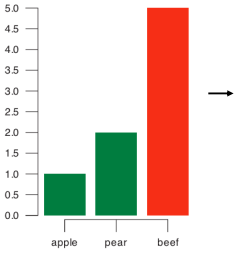
DECONSTRUCTING D3 CHARTS

```
1 items = [{name: "apple",type: "fruit", cost: 1.00},
2          {name: "pear", type: "fruit", cost: 2.00},
3          {name: "beef", type: "meat",  cost: 5.00}]

4 var bars = svg.selectAll("rect")
5                .data(items)
6                .enter()
7                .append("rect");

8 bars.attr("x", function(d, i)
9       {return i * 25;})
10    .attr("y", function(d)
11      {return h - d.price * 10;})
12    .attr("height", function(d)
13      {return d.price * 10;})
14    .attr("fill", function(d, i)
15      {if(d.type == "fruit"){return "green";}
16       else if (d.type == "meat"){return "red";}})
17    .attr("width", "20px")
18    .attr("stroke-width", 0);
```



Data

deconID	name	type	cost
2	apple	fruit	1.00
3	pear	fruit	2.00
4	beef	meat	5.00

Marks

fill	xPosition	height
green	35 px	20 px
green	60 px	40 px
red	85 px	100 px

Mappings

type → *fill*
cost → *height*
cost → *yPos*
cost → *area*
deconID → *xPos*

D3 Code **D3 Chart** **Our Deconstruction**

Automatically convert D3 code into mapping based representation to enable redesign and style reuse

Deconstructing and Restyling D3 Visualizations. Jonathan Harper and Maneesh Agrawala. User Interface Software Technology (UIST) 2014.

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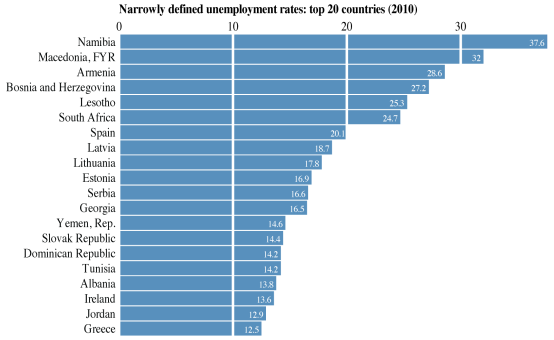
DECONSTRUCTING D3 CHARTS



country	rate	deconID
Namibia	37.6	17
Macedonia, FYR	32.0	21
Armenia	28.6	25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	27.2	29
Lesotho	25.3	33
South Africa	24.7	37
Spain	20.1	41
Latvia	18.7	45
...	...	...

rate → *width*
rate → *area*
rate → *xPos*
deconID → *yPos*

Deconstructing and Restyling D3 Visualizations. Jonathan Harper and Maneesh Agrawala. User Interface Software Technology (UIST) 2014.

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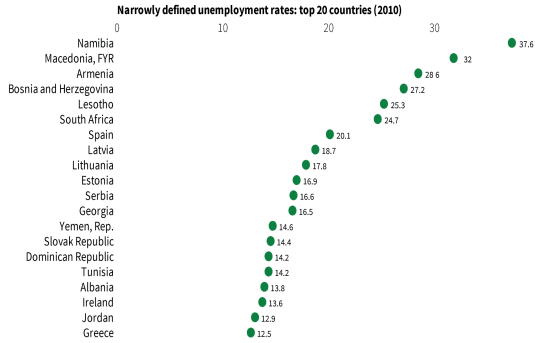
DECONSTRUCTING D3 CHARTS



country	rate	deconID
Namibia	37.6	17
Macedonia, FYR	32.0	21
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Lesotho	25.3	33
South Africa	24.7	37
Spain	20.1	41
Latvia	18.7	45
...	...	...

rate ↦ *xPos*
deconID ↦ *yPos*

Deconstructing and Restyling D3 Visualizations. Jonathan Harper and Maneesh Agrawala. User Interface Software Technology (UIST) 2014.

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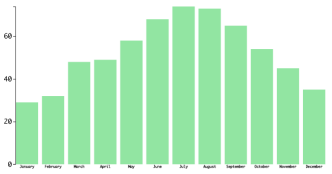
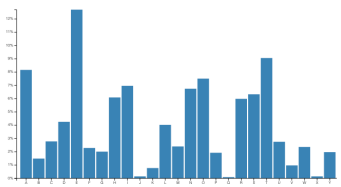
AUTOMATIC REDESIGN

Can we automatically redesign charts to improve

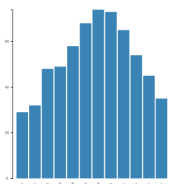
- Perceptual effectiveness?
- Visual aesthetics?
- Accessibility for vision impaired users?



Data Source



Style Target



Result

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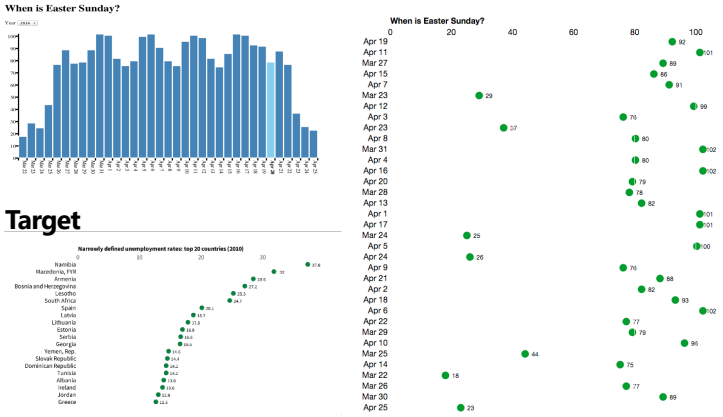
Data Source



Style Target

Converting Basic D3 Charts into Reusable Style Templates. Jonathan Harper and Maneesh Agrawala. IEEE TVCG. 2018.

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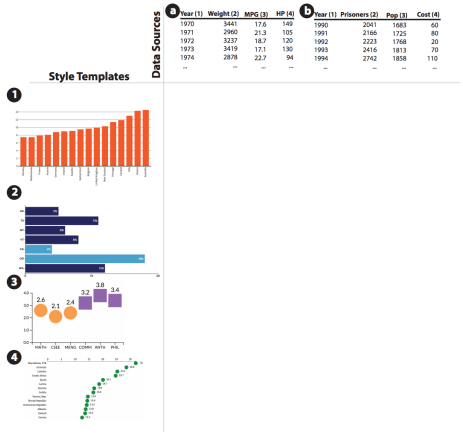
REUSABLE STYLE TEMPLATES



Converting Basic D3 Charts into Reusable Style Templates. Jonathan Harper and Maneesh Agrawala. IEEE TVCG. 2018.

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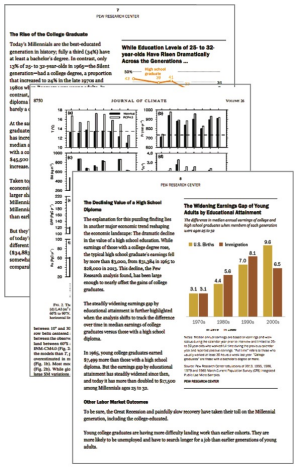
DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS



Many specialized collections

Scientific: PLOS, JSTOR, ACM DL, …
Web visualizations: D3, Processing, …
News: New York Times, Pew research, …

How can deconstruction aid search?

Search by chart type, data type, marks, data, …
Similarity search with inexact matching
Query expansion

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TAKEAWAYS

A ***chart*** is a collection of ***mappings between data and marks***

We ***can reconstruct*** this representation ***from chart bitmaps***

Such reconstruction ***enables redesign***, ***reuse*** and ***revitalization***

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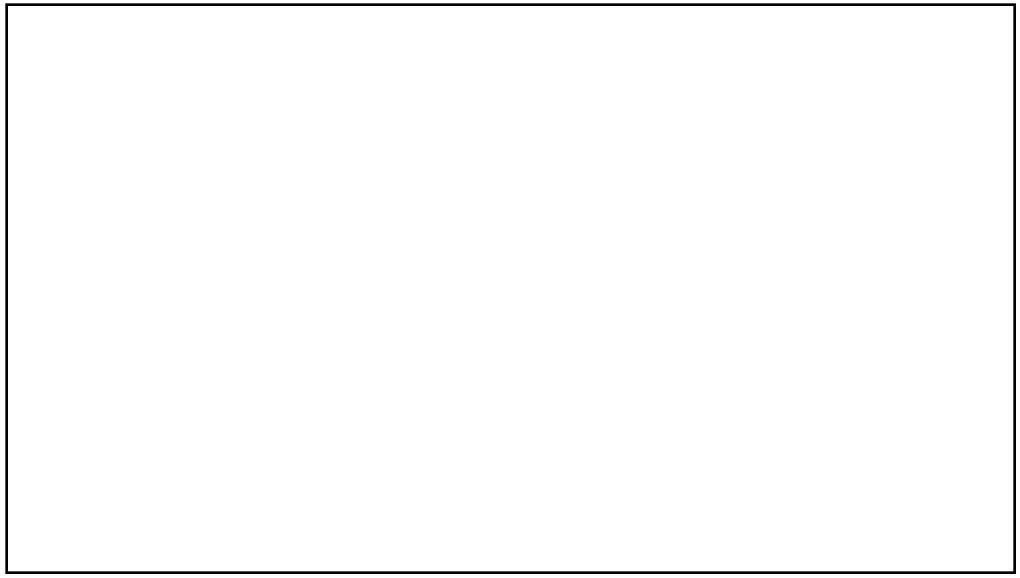

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