

The slide features two large, thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned on the left side, with its vertical leg extending downwards and its horizontal leg extending to the right. The other is on the right side, with its vertical leg extending upwards and its horizontal leg extending to the left. They frame the central text.

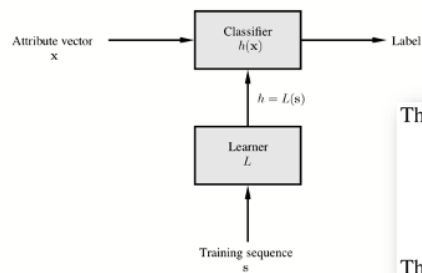
# **LABELLING**

Interaction with Machine Learning  
Cambridge MPhil ACS 2020-2021

# What's the big deal?

## Supervised learning: a quick reminder

We don't want to design  $h$  explicitly.



The *training sequence*  $s$  is a sequence of  $m$  labelled examples.

$$s = \begin{pmatrix} (x_1, y_1) \\ (x_2, y_2) \\ \vdots \\ (x_m, y_m) \end{pmatrix}$$

That is, examples of attribute vectors  $x$  with their correct label attached.

So we use a *learner*  $L$  to infer it on the basis of a sequence  $s$  of *training examples*.

## The human-centric approach to labelling

- Explicitly acknowledges human work involved in building and deploying ML systems
- A central role is for humans to specify behaviour through training labels
- Are labels an objective mathematical truth?
- *End-user activity of labelling is particularly interesting*

The *human-centric* approach to machine learning explicitly acknowledges the human work involved in building and deploying machine learning systems. A central role for humans is to specify the desired behaviour of the system through the provision of training data with labels. When viewed through the lens of traditional statistical philosophy, these labels are intended to capture an objective mathematical property of the data. However, when faced with the irregular, noisy, and subjective application domains of human-centric systems, this assumption unfortunately produces numerous challenges which can result in both a poor user experience as well as poorer resultant models.

These challenges can be effectively addressed by addressing the interaction design of the end-user activity of *labelling*. This is because not only is labelling the primary mechanism for non-expert interaction with machine learning, but also because it is where the end-user most clearly encounters the tension between the statistical ideals of supervised learning and human-centricity.

Interactive machine learning (IML) systems enable users to train, customise, and apply machine learning models in a variety of domains. The end-users of these systems are typically non-experts with no knowledge of machine learning or programming. In contrast, the professional practice of machine learning, engineering

or 'data science' typically requires expertise in both those areas. The key design strategy for reducing the expertise requirements of applied IML systems is to abstract away using automation nearly all technical aspects of training and applying models, *except* the provision of training data.



# Crayons

Fails, J. A., & Olsen, D. R. (2003).  
Interactive machine learning. *Proceedings  
of the 8th International Conference on  
Intelligent User Interfaces - IUI'03*, 39.  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/604050.604056>

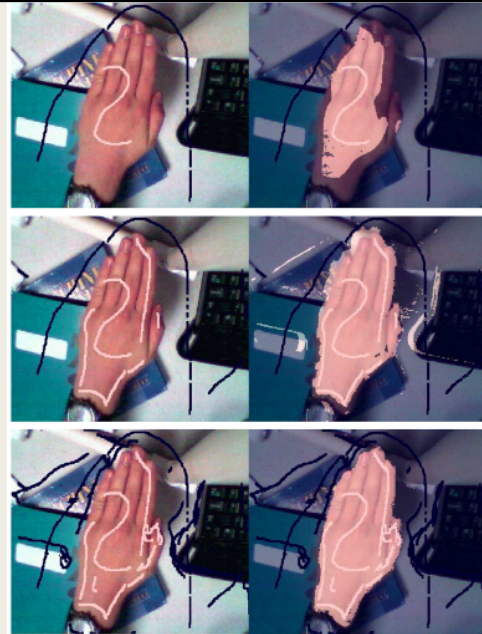
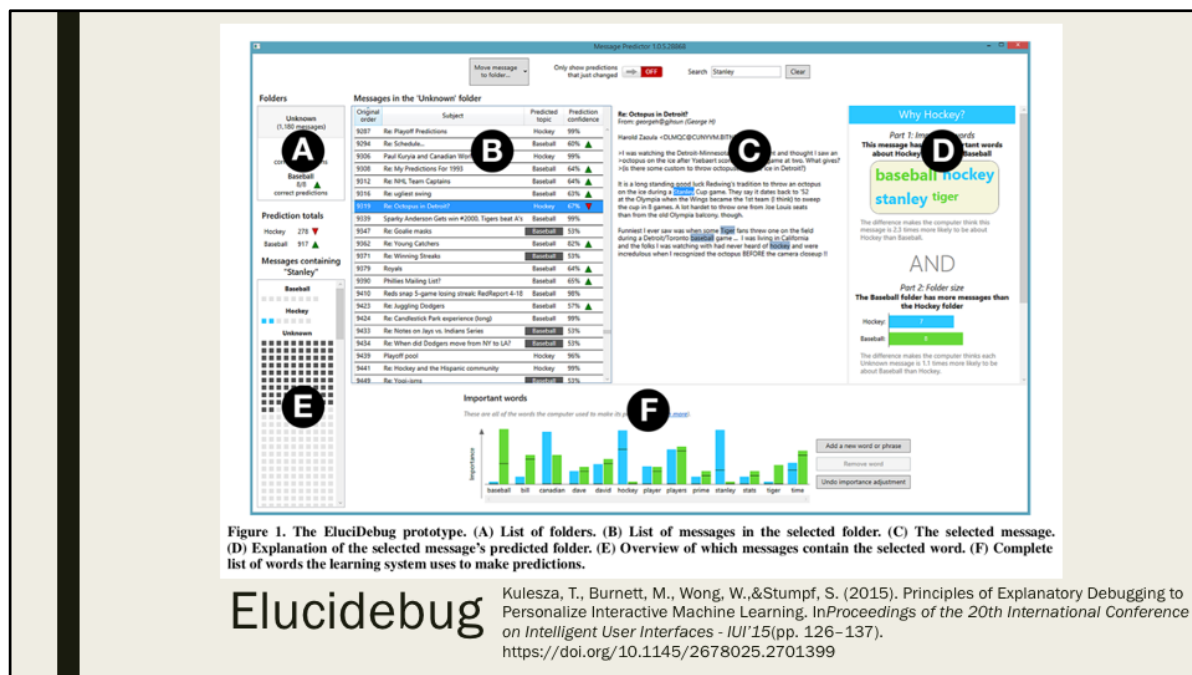


Figure 5 – Crayons interaction process

In the *Crayons* application (Fails&Olsen, 2003), users can train a model to segment images into different parts. Crayons enables end-users to build image segmentation classifiers, that is, pixel-level binary classifiers which segment portions of an image as falling into one of two classes. For example, a 'hand detector' classifier would take a 2D image of size  $w \times h$  as input, and as output, produce  $w \cdot h$  binary labels, one for each pixel, corresponding to whether or not the pixel is part of a hand in the image. To build such a classifier in Crayons, users paint labels on an image as they would using a brush tool in a graphics application such as Microsoft Paint or Adobe Photoshop, being able to toggle between two 'brushes' for the two classes. As the user paints, a model is trained, and the output of the model is rendered onto the same image, through a translucent overlay. This allows the user to focus further annotation on misclassified areas.



Another example of an end-user controlled IML system is *EluciDebug* (Kulesza, Burnett, Wong, & Stumpf, 2015). *EluciDebug* allows end-users to build multi-class classifiers for organising short to medium-length pieces of text, such as email. The user performs manual annotation by moving emails to folders, where each folder represents a class. As the user organises their email, a model is trained, and the output of the model is presented as suggestions for classification within the email client itself, which the user may accept or overrule. The key thing to note is that both systems involve a training loop, where the user provides annotations either in the form of training examples or potentially by manually adjusting model parameters (as can be done in *EluciDebug*). Next, a model is trained and the model output is somehow presented back to the user for further action in such a way as to directly suggest which further annotation or adjustment actions would be useful.

- Users interact with IML systems by providing labelled training instances that exemplify how the system ought to behave
- In labelling data in this way, users are forced to abide by statistical assumptions of supervised machine learning models that have been implicitly embedded in IML systems.

## Labelling *could* be viewed as programming or model construction...

- Model construction:
  - *Fitting models to data*
  - *Uncovering 'natural law' (Breiman, L. (2001). Statistical Modeling: The Two Cultures. Statistical Science, 16(3), 199–215.)*
  - *A 'techno-pragmatist' view*

These examples of interacting with a system in order to control its future behaviour can be considered either as programming, or as model construction. The programming perspective suggests that the user wants the system to behave in a certain way, and is training it to do so. The model construction perspective suggests that the system is trying to discover what the user wants, and is building a model of the user's intentions based on observations of the user's behaviour. These two perspectives carry very different philosophical assumptions.

Let's start with the model construction view:

The practice of fitting models to data has its roots in the statistical philosophy that there exists some natural law underlying observed data (Breiman, 2001). Due to imperfections in the data collection process, the observed data is subject to noise. The objective of data modelling, then, is to uncover the parameters of the underlying law. This philosophy has influenced the design of supervised learning algorithms, and in turn, the assumptions of supervised learning have, by default, driven the design of IML systems. This design influence may be termed 'techno-pragmatism', where the interaction is designed around satisfying the technical needs of statistical models. The purpose of the user, within the overall system design, is to satisfy the requirement for an 'objective' function, encoding the underlying 'law', in which the labels provided by the user define the 'ground truth' of that law. The techno-pragmatist statistical view

of IML is therefore fundamentally concerned with notions of truth, law and objectivity.

## The model construction approach is limiting

- IML is often inherently subjective
- Consider the functions of a thermostat, vs machine translation, music reharmonisation, artistic style transfer

In contrast to the techno-pragmatist view, in which the user is regarded as a source of objective ground truth for a statistical inference algorithm, we argue that the function of an intelligent machine learning system is to be subjective, or more precisely, to replay versions of subjective behaviour that has previously been captured from humans. This type of “intelligence” can be distinguished from mere objective automation, of the kind exhibited by a heating thermostat or adaptive suspension, where behaviour is determined by direct measurement and physical laws. Those objective systems do not require labelling (or at least, the labels are implicit in the design of the sensing channels). Examples of subjective judgements include giving names to things, composing texts, making valuations, or expressing desires – all related to human needs and interpretations. None would be meaningful in the absence of any human to interpret the result, meaning that they are inherently subjective.

In many cases, a machine learning system is therefore expected to emulate subjective human judgments, and it does this by replicating judgments that humans have been seen to make. Here are some extreme examples: machine translation systems are trained using texts that have been written by humans; music harmonisation systems are trained using music that has been written by humans; and artistic style generators are trained using pictures painted by humans. In a sense, these “intelligent” algorithms offer a kind of mechanised plagiarism, in which the statistical algorithm simply mashes up and disguises the original works until it is impossible to sort out who the rightful authors were.

These kinds of creative “intelligence” offer an extreme case of machine behaviour that is derived from subjective human decisions, but almost all supervised learning systems demonstrate similar dependencies. Data is acquired by observing humans (whether researchers, volunteers, anonymous Mechanical Turkers or Google searchers) making decisions and expressing themselves. The actions of those humans are then replayed by the system as appropriate, based on statistical likelihood that a human would do the same thing in that situation.

## Labelling is an act of programming

- A label is an instruction to the system
- Label providers are engaging in intentional creative acts, which are statistically encoded

This human-centred perspective on machine learning systems focuses on the ways in which system behaviour depends on human actions rather than following physical laws. When a machine appears to behave autonomously, we ask whether this behaviour has been derived by observing humans. The observation may either be covert, in which case the intelligence of the system has been achieved by appropriating the subjectively authored intentions of others, or else it is done with their awareness and permission. In the latter (overt) case those users become programmers, determining future system behaviour by authoring examples of what that behaviour should look like.

Labelling is thus a kind of programming, albeit one that is often highly collaborative. A label is an instruction to the system, instructing it by example to behave in a certain way in a certain kind of situation. The system users who provide category labels for supervised learning systems are engaging in (minor) intentional creative acts. Of course, these intentional acts are statistically encoded and aggregated in ways that make it difficult or impossible to acknowledge who the original author was – but the original authors are undeniably humans.

## Human judgement types (non-exhaustive)

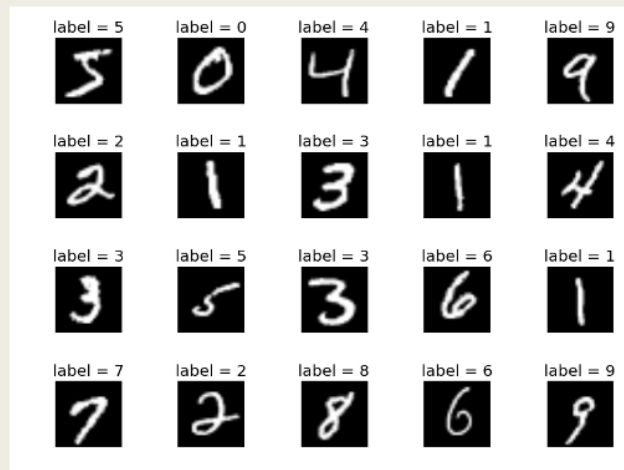
- Perceptual judgements
- Judgements that reflect domain expertise
- Judgements of patterns in human experience
- Judgement of patterns in individual intent

So, the purpose of the statistical model in an IML system is not to capture a natural law. Rather, an IML system aims to reproduce human judgment ability. In order to analyse the implications for design, we categorise human judgments into four (non-exhaustive) types.

perceptual judgements,  
judgements that reflect domain expertise,  
judgement of patterns in human experience, and  
judgement of patterns in individual intent.



## Perceptual judgements



*Perceptual* judgments are those that rely principally on the human perceptual system for assignment of a stimulus to a perceptual category. An example is labelling digits in the MNIST database (LeCun Yann, Cortes Corinna, & Burges Christopher, 1998). These are often presented as 'objective' judgments, although the assumption of objectivity is only possible because the training examples themselves have been selected to reflect a consensus judgment that the labeller is assumed to share. The MNIST database does not include invalid 'digits', non-digits, ambiguous shapes, or artistic subversions of the concept of a digit. Think about the following question: are labels representative of objective 'facts' about the neuroscience of human vision, or the subjective assumptions shared by the labellers and data set designers?

## Domain expertise

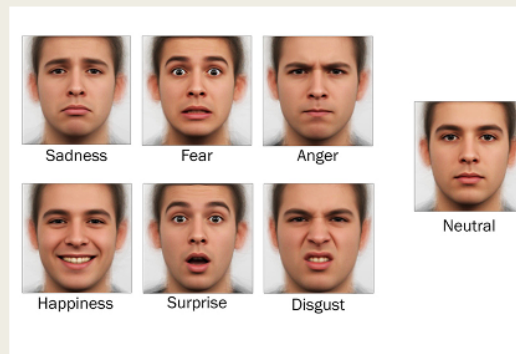
Sarkar, A., Morrison, C., Dorn, J. F., Bedi, R., Steinheimer, S., Boisvert, J.,...Lindley, S. (2016). Setwise Comparison: Consistent, Scalable, Continuum Labels for Computer Vision. In *Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - CHI'16* (pp. 261–271). New York, New York, USA: ACM Press. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2858036.2858199>

Chen, N. (2016). Challenges of Applying Machine Learning to Qualitative Coding. *ACM SIGCHI Workshop on Human-Centered Machine Learning*. Retrieved from <http://hcmi2016.goldsmithsdigital.com/program/>

- Concepts may have unclear definitions
- Inter-rater variability (previous experience, training, methods and heuristics used for labelling)
- Access to adequate experts poses logistical challenges, e.g., quorum for averaging

*Domain expertise* judgments rely on labellers' recognised expertise in a particular area. Two example are multiple sclerosis assessment through the analysis of patient videos (Sarkar et al., 2016), and assigning qualitative codes to social science research data (Chen, 2016). Despite these judgments being provided by experts, the concepts being labelled may have unclear definitions, impairing label quality. Moreover, many sources may contribute to inter-rater variability, such as variations in previous experience, training, methods and heuristics used for labelling. Finally, for domain expertise judgments, access to experts is clearly a prerequisite, which may pose logistical challenges if such expertise is rare.

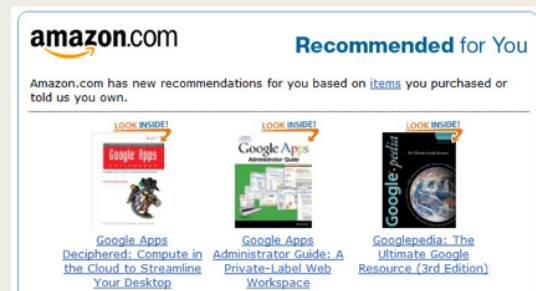
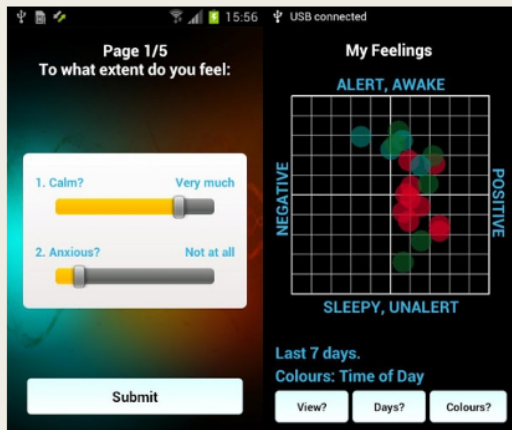
## Human experience judgements



- Universalism
- Variations across age, gender, culture, not encoded, but a primary challenge for affective computing (Picard, 2003)

*Human experience* judgments are those that aim to capture some universal aspect of the human experience. This might be regarded as a special case of the domain expertise judgment where the domain is being human, as opposed to say, a dog or a monkey. An example is capturing labels for affect recognition (Picard, 1997). Here, there is a tenuous assumption that any given person is acting as a representative judge on behalf of all humanity, in relation to universal human experience. In practice, people differ. Typical approaches to mitigate this variation include crowdsourcing and averaging across labellers. Nonetheless, affect labelling is subject to variations across age, gender, culture, and other factors which are yet to be modelled. While such variation is recognised as a primary challenge for affective computing (Picard, 2003), it is not explicitly modelled or acknowledged in the labelling interface (for example, by asking the labeller to assess the extent of their own individuality).

## Individual intent



- Poor user motivation to provide information, and poor ability to self-report (Afzal & Robinson, 2014)
- 'Implicit' signals can work well, but not perfect

*Individual intent* judgments reflect personal feelings, desires, and attributes. Unlike the previous three categories, which appeal to different standards of objectivity (perceptual reality, objective expertise, and universality) these judgements are acknowledged to be inherently subjective because they model an individual. For example, applications built with the EmotionSense platform (Lathia et al., 2013) aim to use emotional inference from mobile phone sensors to induce behavioural change, as a sort of personal therapist. However, the system relies at least partially on self-reporting affective states, which suffers from two issues: users may not be motivated to provide this information repeatedly and consistently, and more importantly, they may not be capable of consistently self-reporting their emotional state (Afzal & Robinson, 2014). Recommender systems such as Amazon's product recommendations circumvent this issue by measuring judgments from concrete actions supposedly reflecting revealed intent rather than expressed intent: products which were viewed or not viewed, bought or not bought. Such actions are unambiguous signals of intent (because the user interface paradigm enforces this), but are still not immune to misdirection, for example when a user clicks on multiple irrelevant links in order to disguise their search history.

## The human origins of data

- Ethical challenges of data collection, e.g. consent
- Label quality depends a lot on the labeller: expertise, judgement ability, attentiveness
- 'Data-hungriness' of models. Solutions: One-shot learning, TrueSkill, etc.?
- Distinction between unclear labels and unclear label boundaries
- Outliers and 'unrateables'
- Incorrect framing of regression as classification

Even before it has been labelled, training data reflects human judgements and priorities. Modern supervised learning techniques require large training sets to build stable models, but the scale of data acquisition can raise ethical challenges, including consent to use data for new purposes, protected categories of data such as clinical patient data, and privacy and anonymity concerns which make it difficult to aggregate data.

While labeling data is a seemingly simple task, it is actually fraught with problems (e.g., [9, 19, 26]). Labels reflect a labeler's mapping between the data and their underlying *concept* (i.e., their abstract notion of the target class). Thus, label quality is affected by factors such as the labeler's expertise or familiarity with the concept or data, their judgment ability and attentiveness during labeling, and the ambiguity and changing distribution of the data itself.

Moreover, some applications require fast convergence. For instance, the TrueSkill system (Herbrich, Minka, & Graepel, 2006) was developed for matching players in online games. A gross mismatch in skill results in a less enjoyable experience for all players: the weaker player outclassed, and the stronger player unchallenged. A fast estimate of the player's skill, requiring only a few games, is also desirable, as repeated mismatches may cause players to stop playing the game. Another example of a technical approach dealing with fast convergence is one-shot learning (Fei-Fei, Fergus, & Perona, 2006).

Data itself carries epistemological assumptions that have been embedded in the way it was collected. From the machine learning perspective, there may not be a formal distinction between *examples* which cannot be placed exactly in the space of labels, and label *boundaries* which are not precise. However, they are very different from the perspective of a human labeller. Imprecise label boundaries may undermine labeller confidence throughout the entire labelling activity. Training examples may also pose problems because they are outliers, or simply unrateable. As noted by Chen (Chen, 2016), outliers are typically discarded in quantitative analyses, but become the focus of attention in qualitative analyses. Examples that are unrateable (perhaps because of data corruption or because they contain no meaningful information) may impair the labelling process if the labelling tool has no provision to mark examples as unrateable, or the labeller is not equipped to identify such a situation should it arise.

In some cases, a regression problem is incorrectly framed as a classification problem for the purpose of labelling – it is easier to ask labellers to provide one of a discrete set of labels than a real number on a continuous scale. However, this can result in the unnecessary conceptualisation of examples as belonging to a set of discrete categories, which causes issues for examples on the boundaries of different categories. This is the problem faced by the Assess MS problem, detailed in the next section. Unclear concepts cause problems generally in precision, but less so for accuracy.


Revolt (Chee Chang et al., CHI 2017)


The other workers have also finished labeling the same items you just labeled. The following items received different labels. Please provide an explanation for each of your labels below.


**Item 1:** You labeled "Not Cat". Please focus on describing things about the item that could have made it difficult or ambiguous for others. This is a tiger.

**Item 2:** You labeled "Maybe/NotSure". Please focus on describing things about the item that could have made it difficult or ambiguous for others. This is a cartoon drawing of a cat.



We want to know if the main theme of the items below are "Cats". Label "Cat" if you think the main theme of the item is Cats, otherwise label "Not Cat". Label "Maybe/Not Sure" for items that you are uncertain about "Cat", or if you think other workers might pick different labels.

 ☐ Cat  
☒ Not Cat  
☐ Maybe/Not Sure

 ☒ Cat  
☐ Not Cat  
☐ Maybe/Not Sure

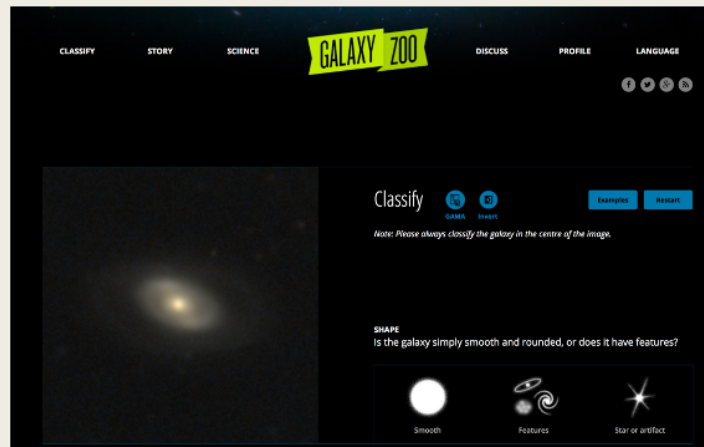
 ☐ Cat  
☐ Not Cat  
☒ Maybe/Not Sure

You labeled differently on the following items. Please review all the explanations provided by other workers and pick or come up with good category names so the requesters can make an informed decision afterwards.

	Comment	worker1: This is a tiger.
	<div>big cats</div> <div>cartoon cats</div> <div>cats with dogs</div>	<b>worker2:</b> This is a big cat.
		<b>worker3:</b> Do lions and other big cats
	Comment	worker1: This is a cartoon drawing of a cat
	<div>big cats</div> <div>cartoon cats</div> <div>cats with dogs</div>	<b>worker2:</b> Cat drawing
		<b>worker3:</b> Do cartoon cats count?

17

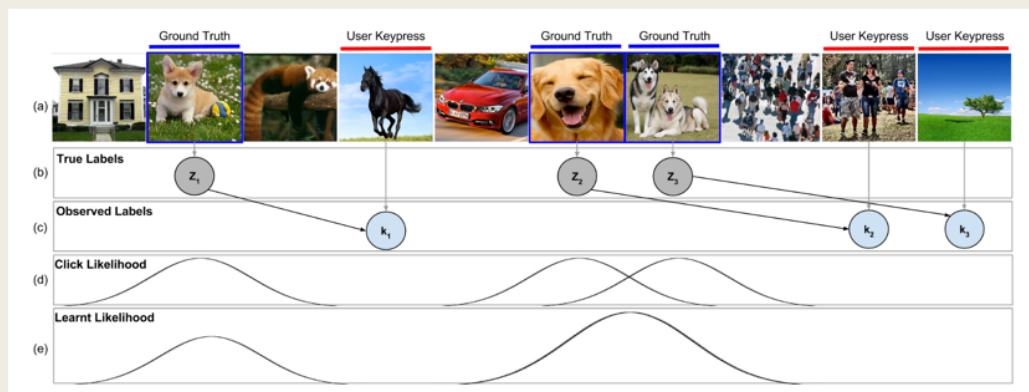
## Human fallibility, consistency and stamina



Humans are fallible. If there are large amounts of data to be labelled, the quality of judgements can be impaired as the labeller becomes tired. In the Assess MS project described in the next section, neurologists would spend an entire workday, sometimes two, continuously labelling short video clips (Sarkar et al., 2016). Appropriate tools, such as the setwise comparison tool developed for Assess MS, can mitigate this problem. Explicit strategies to maintain interest and prevent boredom have been applied in experiments such as the Galaxy Zoo (Lintott et al., 2008) which show compelling evidence for the benefit of ludic and engaging labelling tools.

Even in optimum conditions, people still make mistakes, misinterpret instructions or disagree with each other. This is well understood in scientific studies where data must be categorised by an observer, such as coding of free-text questionnaire responses. Where one researcher might interpret an observed response in one way, another sees it differently. This difference might come from not stating or communicating criteria that have been applied by one rater, or from terminological imprecision, for example, stemming from a different understanding of the criteria that two raters might have, or simply their wishful thinking in relation to a hypothesis.

## Embracing error to improve speed



Krishna et al., 2016 (Embracing Error to Enable Rapid Crowdsourcing. CHI 2016)



## Measuring label reliability

- Inter and intra-rater reliability measurements
  - E.g., Cohen's Kappa, Krippendorff's Alpha
- Error with respect to 'ground truth'

In response to this problem, qualitative social science researchers monitor the reliability of classification judgments. They want to know whether a judge consistently makes the same judgment in equivalent cases, and also whether two judges make the same decision as each other. The second is more often discussed, because it happens so consistently. It is described as inter-rater reliability (IRR), and is often summarised by a statistical measure such as Cohen's kappa (for the case of two raters), which compares the level of agreement to what might be expected from chance. IRR testing is intuitively appealing to computer scientists such as HCI researchers, because the first rating can be considered as a design decision, and the second rating as a test of that decision. Inter-rater reliability is never 100%, but pragmatic allowance for the limits of human performance means that certain thresholds are considered acceptable within the range of observation error.

The question of whether a single person agrees with themselves (when repeating the same judgment) is less often asked in computer science, but of more concern in medicine, where it is quite likely that a clinician might assess the same patient more than once, with a considerable interval between the assessments. Clinical research suggests that this test-retest reliability is also imperfect, with clinicians applying different criteria at different times, perhaps because of explicit training and

correction, or perhaps because of changing tacit or contextual factors that the clinician may not be consciously aware of. We discuss this issue further next.

# STRUCTURED LABELLING FOR CONCEPT EVOLUTION

Case study I

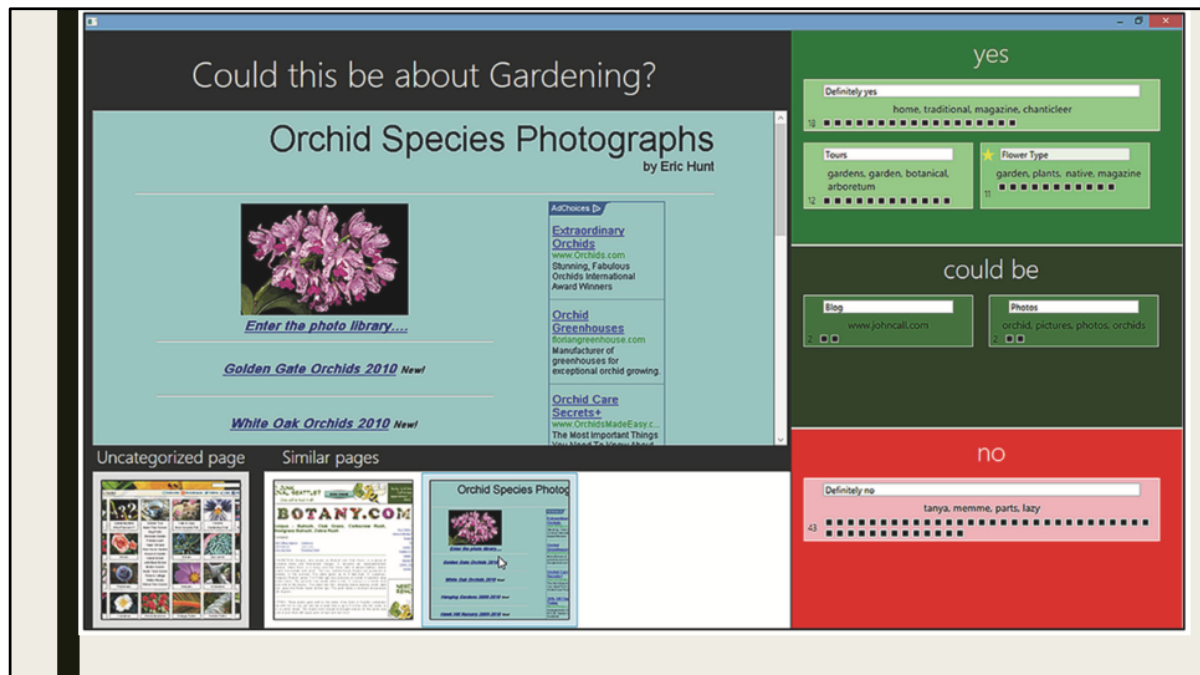
## Problem: Label concepts evolve over time

- Concept evolution: user process of defining/refining concepts
- Concept drift: labels change over time (related but different)

(Mostly from the paper)

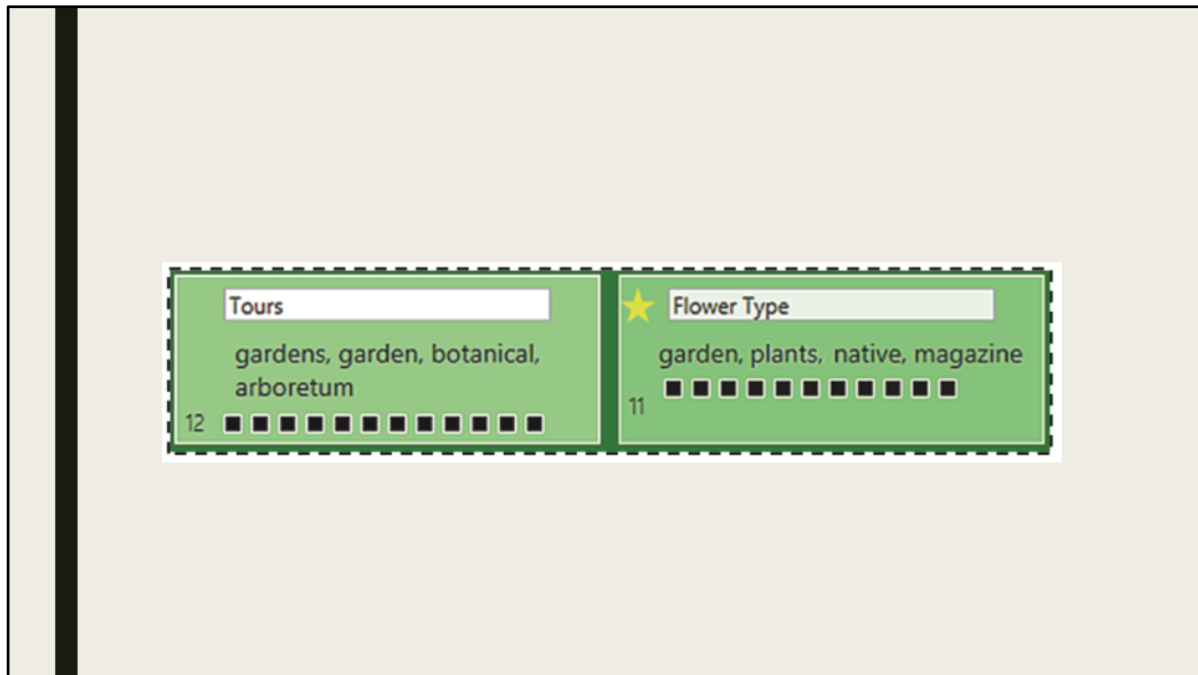
This paper addresses a distinct problem in labeling data that we refer to as *concept evolution*. Concept evolution refers to the labeler's process of defining and refining a concept in their minds, and can result in different labels being applied to similar items due to changes in the labeler's notion of the underlying concept. The paper presents a formative study where the authors found that people labeling a set of web pages twice with a four-week gap between labeling sessions were, on average, only 81% consistent with their initial labels. This inconsistency in labeling similar items can be harmful to machine learning, which is fundamentally based on the idea that similar inputs should have similar outputs.

A separate problem in data labeling is *concept drift*, where the underlying data is fundamentally changing over time [29]. An example of concept drift is a news recommender that attempts to recommend the most interesting recent news. Here, the concept of *interesting* may remain the same over time, but the data (in this case the news) is constantly drifting as a result of changing current events. Most solutions to concept drift model concepts temporally, such as by discarding or weighting information according to a moving window over the data (e.g., [27, 33]) or by automatically identifying new types of data (e.g., [5, 15]). Critically, none of these solutions are intended to help a *user* refine their own idea of a concept, a problem which may be exacerbated in the presence of concept drift.



we introduce *structured labelling* (Figure 1), a novel interaction technique for helping people define and refine their concepts as they label data. Structured labeling allows people to organize their concept definition by grouping and tagging data (as much or as little as they choose) within a *traditional labelling* scheme (e.g., labeling into mutually exclusive categories such as ‘yes’, ‘no’, and ‘could be’). This organization capability helps to increase label consistency by helping people explicitly surface and recall labeling decisions. Further, because the structure is malleable (users can create, delete, split, and merge groups), it is well-suited for situations where users are likely to frequently refine their concept definition as they observe new data.

**Kulesza’s structured labeling approach allows people to group data in whatever way makes sense to them. By seeing the resulting structure, people can gain a deeper understanding of the concept they are modeling. Here, the user sees an uncategorized page (top left) and can drag it to an existing group (right), or create a new group for it. The thumbnails (bottom left) show similar pages in the dataset to help the user gauge whether creating a new group is warranted.**



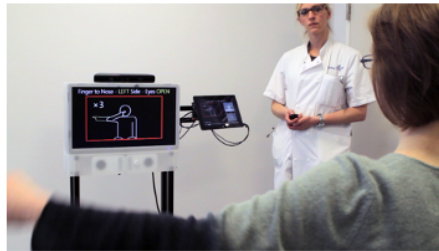
Our assisted structuring tool provides users with automatic summaries of each group's contents (below the user-supplied tag area) and recommends a group for the current item via an animation and yellow star indicator. The black squares indicate how many items are in each group.

# SORTABLE

Case study II

# Assess MS

- Aim: a more consistent way of quantifying progression of motor illness in multiple sclerosis
- Input: Kinect RGB + depth videos of standard clinical movements
- Output: a standardised clinical disability score

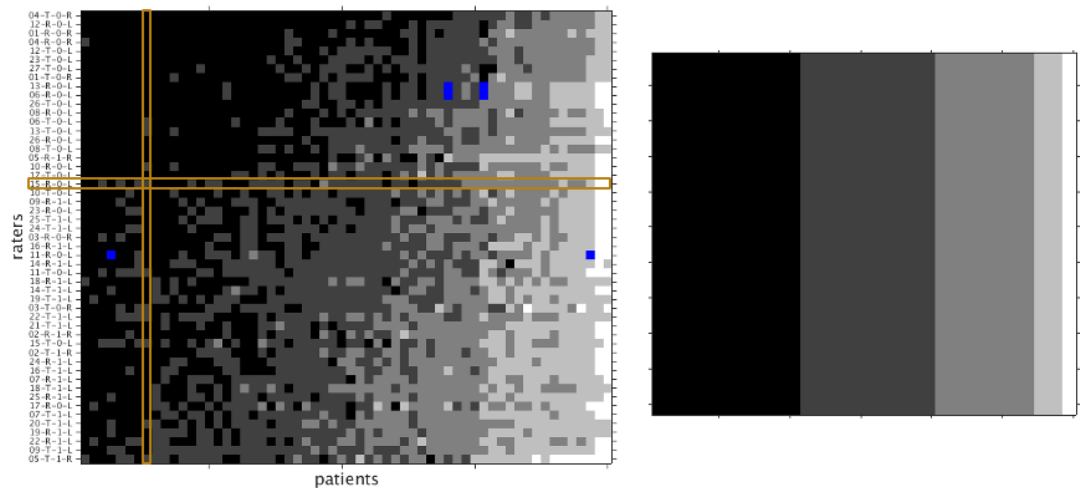




# Problem: consistent labels

- Numeric scoring has poor labeller agreement
  - concept boundaries unclear even after iteration
- Crowdsourcing?
  - ➡ can't, need highly expert labellers
- Average across labellers?
  - ➡ can't, patient confidentiality
- Model individual labeller noise/bias?
  - ➡ can't, learning effects

Inter-rater consistency is limited



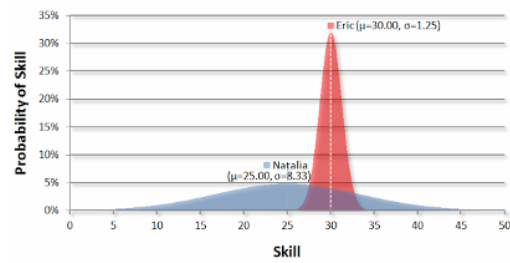
# Partial solution

- Preference judgements
  - 'this is **better / worse / equal** to that' as opposed to 'this is a **3**, that is a **4**'.
- Not scalable :(

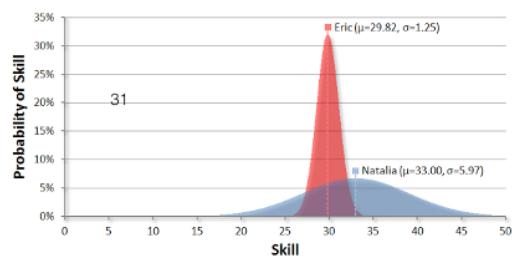
# A better solution

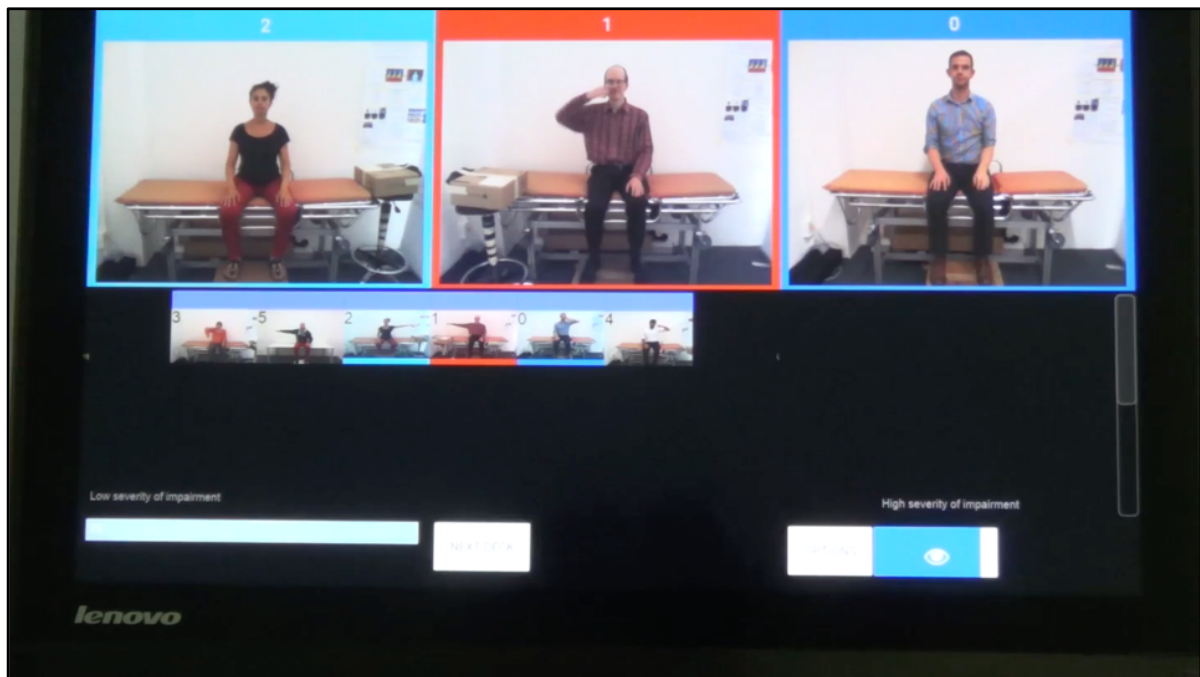
- Setwise comparison + TrueSkill inference
  - Order **sets** of videos with overlap
  - but don't need all pairwise comparisons
  - **Infer** remaining relationships

Prior



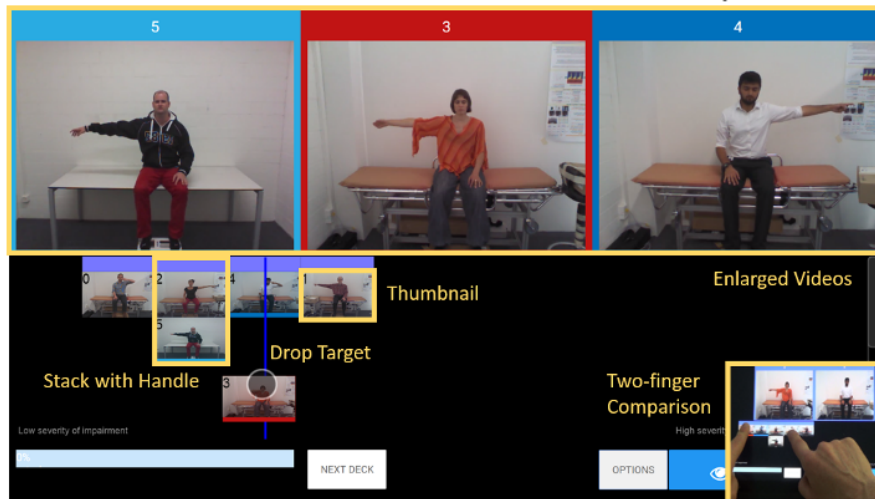
After Natalia wins





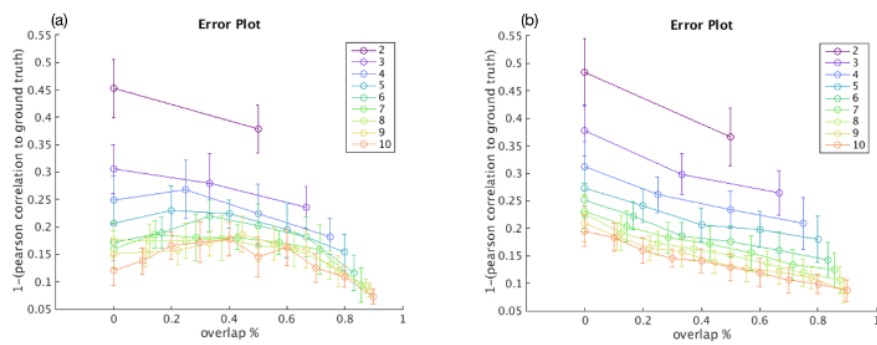
# SorTable

an interface for setwise comparison



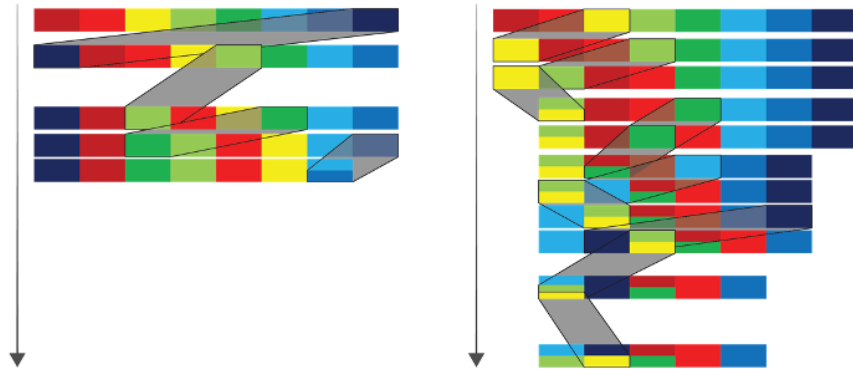
33

# Choosing deck size and overlap





## Sorting strategies

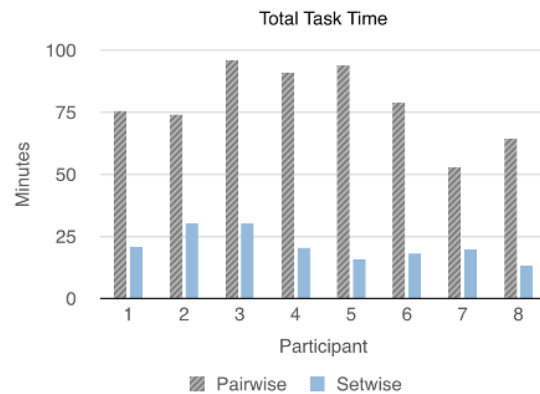


## So, does it work?

- Already known: pairwise comparison achieves higher consistency than assigning numerical scores, but very slow
- **Question:** Does setwise comparison achieve a better efficiency-consistency tradeoff?
- Compared pairwise and setwise using 8 neurologists rating a set of 40 videos

## Result 1: Setwise comparison is more efficient

- Setwise task time was 54 minutes less on average ( $p = 4 \cdot 10^{-5}$ )



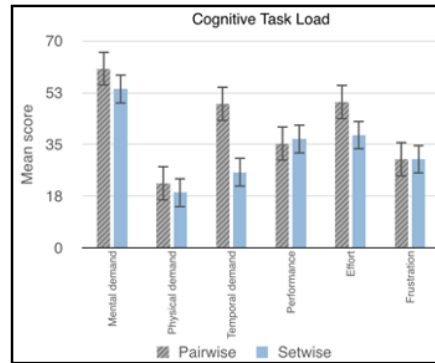
## Result 2: Setwise comparison is more consistent!

Agreement *between* labellers

	Global ICC	Average ICC mean±sd [min–max]
<i>Pairwise</i>	0.70	$0.77 \pm 0.1[0.64 - 0.94]$
<i>Setwise</i>	0.83	$0.85 \pm 0.07[0.72 - 0.95]$
<i>t-test</i>		$p = 5 \cdot 10^{-4}$

# Why is it more consistent???

- *Inferring* missing comparisons was better than *measuring* all comparisons.
- Cognitive load assessment was inconclusive.
- Potential explanations:
  - Fatigue
  - TrueSkill's implicit noise modelling
  - Increased reference points



## Sortable: conclusions

- Labels need not be solicited directly, but can be inferred
- Interaction design eased the burden of labelling
- The most informative labels are not necessarily the best

We reframed the problem so that users were not providing labels directly, but providing information from which labels could be reconstructed. In this way, we could build upon strong human capability in relative judgement and still provide the classification labels required by the Assess MS system. This overcame noisy labels, improving the accuracy of the algorithm by 10%.

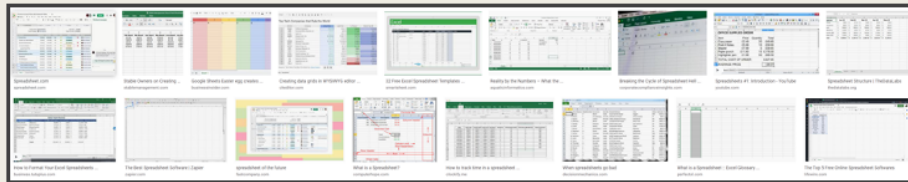
A key insight was to by enabling setwise rather than pairwise comparison, achieving three benefits for the users. First, the presentation of videos in sets builds upon human short-term memory to make multiple comparisons at once. Second, the ability to create stacks to indicate that videos are the same can substantially reduce the number of comparisons the labeller needs to make when sorting. Third, SorTable facilitates mixed-strategy sorting, including the automatic display of the left and right neighbours of the currently selected video, and the ability to compare any two videos with a two-finger gesture. All interactions are touch based.

We found that choosing videos to label to maximise TrueSkill's information gain and ultimately decrease the number of required labels was not a good strategy for human labellers. It is less cognitively taxing for people to differentiate between very different videos rather than similar ones. Put differently, labels that satisfy a classifier's information needs perfectly may also be the hardest for humans to give

(Lang&Baum,1992), and increase stress and fatigue.

# INFERRING UNITS IN SPREADSHEETS





Top search results for *spreadsheet*.

10 contain numbers that have some form of unit.

By units we mean physical units like grams, seconds, or currencies.

456/867 unit annotated workbooks from EUSES referred to some unit.

Units are core to many spreadsheet domains.

Unit information is valuable for:

- Catching errors.

- Presenting information.

- Localisation.

- Comprehension.

***But most spreadsheet systems do not directly support units  
and even if they did, users may not provide new unit information.***

Our challenge is ***unit inference***: given a numeric cell, tell me its unit.

## The Task

	A	B
1	10	weight in kgs
2	20	
3	30	(\$/kg)
4	=(A1+A2)*A3	

Given a spreadsheet, only a subset of the cells must have a unit annotation in order to fully infer the units in the sheet.

These are the **critical cells**. They could be: { A1, A3 }, { A2, A3 }, or { A3, A4 }.

**Our task:** synthesise a unit annotation for critical cells using text in the sheet.

Orchard et al. Evolving Fortran types with inferred units-of-measure. ICCS 15.

## Our Solution (Part One)

We know that inference is worthwhile, and we have a mechanism to evaluate it. We just need to implement it!

1. Run a logical inference algorithm. Output critical cells.
2. Annotate critical cells using nearby text cells that match unit templates such as:  
"Area (acres)" or "dollars per month".

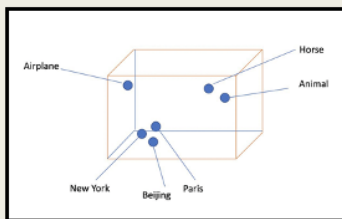
Problem.

Many text cells are like "Credit card charges" rather than "Area (acres)".

Our templates are precise, but have low recall.

## Our Solution (Part Two)

Use a machine learning model to extract dimensions from text cells if we fail to match a template.



We start with a word embedding that maps words into a vector space. 'Similar' words are 'close' in the vector space.

For a given text cell, we assign a score to each dimension (rather than unit).

In words:

- The score for a dimension  $d$  with respect to a text cell  $t$  is the max score of a unit  $u$  in  $d$  with respect to  $t$ .
- The score for a unit  $u$  with respect to  $t$  is the average 'distance' between the embedding for  $u$  and the embedding of each word in  $t$ .

Subject to a weak transitivity constraint.

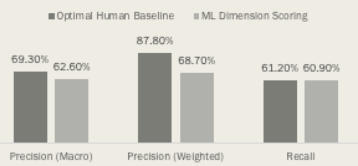
Cosine similarity.

at the end of this... so we're done, right?

We take the inference approach of Chambers and Erwig, although we aim to infer concrete physical units (instead of dimensions). Through a fully-automated process based on formulas, formatting and nearby textual labels (described in Section V), we infer the units of each critical variable without any upfront user attention requirements. By reducing the (apparent) cost to the user to zero, we can greatly reduce the barrier to adoption. Of course, there is no free lunch.

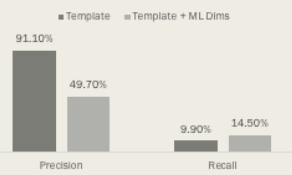
# Evaluation

Human Baseline vs ML Dimension Inference (760 Text Samples from Spreadsheets)



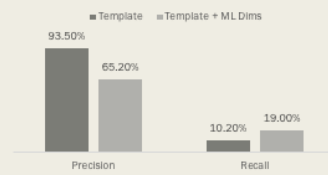
Task: Take snippets like "Salary (\$)", remove the unit, and predict the dimension from "Salary".

Full Algorithm (Unit Inference)



Task: Infer the critical cells in a workbook and find a (unit/dimension) annotation for each using text and (templates/templates + ml dimension scoring).  
Dataset: 330 annotated workbooks from EUSES.

Full Algorithm (Dimension Inference)



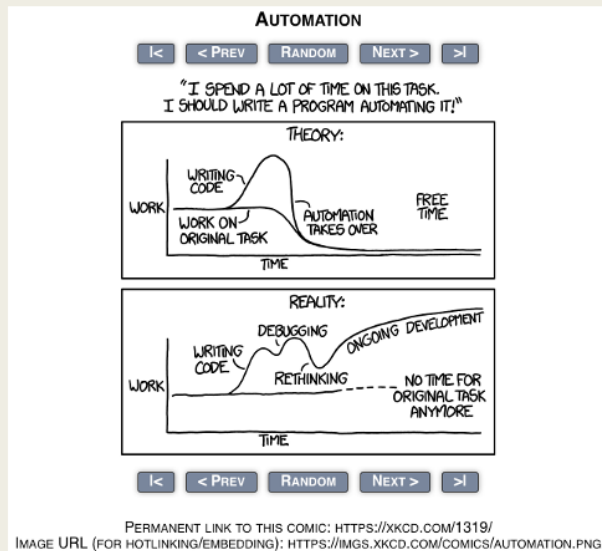
The catch is that inference is not perfect, and when inferred units are incorrect, the user will need to invest attention to rectify the inference (a tradeoff that has not been previously acknowledged in such work). The question is under what circumstances does this result in a situation beneficial to the user, i.e., under what conditions does the unit inference system result in a lower overall attention investment cost?

## Attention Investment (Blackwell)

- The decision to start programming is based on an implicit cost-benefit analysis:
  - *cost of getting the work done manually*
  - *investment cost of automation*
  - *pay-off: the overall cost reduction as a result of automation*
  - *risk: probability no payoff will result, or additional costs incurred*
  
- Blackwell, Alan F. "First steps in programming: A rationale for attention investment models." *Proceedings IEEE 2002 Symposia on Human Centric Computing Languages and Environments*. IEEE, 2002.

This question is precisely the one answered by the decision calculus of Horvitz's principles for mixed-initiative systems[17], but applied to the user's attention. Our key observation, which allows us to combine the theories of attention investment and mixed-initiative systems, is that the utility functions in Horvitz's calculus can be expressed in terms of Blackwell's attention units.





- 'Automating' comes from the roots 'auto-' meaning 'self-', and 'mating', meaning 'screwing'.

## Simplified model of error production

- Over the course of interacting with a spreadsheet (authoring, editing, reading, etc.), a unit error occurs with some probability  $P_u$ .
- If a unit error occurs, the user incurs an attentional cost  $R_u$  of recovering from the unit error.
- However, if we have a working inference system, the cost of recovering from a unit error is zero.
- If there is an inference error (which occurs with probability  $P_i$ ), the user must recover from it (with cost  $R_i$ ).

Without inference, the expected cost is

$$P_u R_u + (1 - P_u) \cdot 0 = P_u R_u$$

The cost with inference is:

$$\begin{aligned} &P_u (P_i R_i + (1 - P_i) \cdot 0) + (1 - P_u) (P_i R_i + (1 - P_i) \cdot 0) \\ &= P_i R_i \end{aligned}$$

So the system lowers the overall attentional costs of using spreadsheets if:

$$P_i R_i < P_u R_u$$

Finally if we design the system such that:  $R_i \leq R_u$  then we obtain the bound:  $P_i < P_u$

Similarly, we derive an expression for the expected cost with inference, with terms corresponding to the four cases where unit errors do and do not occur, and inference errors do and do not occur. Recall our assumption that when inference works, the cost of fixing a unit error is zero. Therefore, in the case where there is both a unit error and an inference error, we assume that resolving a unit inference error must also resolve any unit errors and therefore costs at most  $R_i$ , not  $R_i + R_u$ .

If we now further assume our system is designed such that  $R_i \leq R_u$ , that is, the cost of recovering from a unit inference error is not higher than the cost of recovering from a unit error (a reasonable design objective), we obtain the bound  $P_i < P_u$ .

Thus, we arrive at a simple, calculable criterion by which we can contextualise the performance of an imperfect error-prevention system: in order for an inference system to lower the expected attentional cost to the user, the rate of inference error must be less than the natural rate of the error that the system is designed to prevent. Previous work estimates that dimension errors occur in 42.5% of spreadsheets [2], thus the error rate of our system must also not exceed 42.5%.

## Simplifying assumptions

- Risk-neutrality
- No external costs
- Single error
- Guaranteed error discovery and recovery
- Zero-sum inference
- Inference has cheaper recovery
- Fixed error probabilities and costs
- Short-term/long-term conflation

**Risk-neutrality:** we assume the user is risk-neutral; that is, it is sufficient for the expected attentional cost of a system with inference to be merely lower than the expected attentional cost without inference. However, behavioural economics shows that people can be risk-averse or risk-loving, with most people being slightly risk-averse [18]. For example: given the choice of a 50% chance of winning \$100, or a guaranteed win of \$50, which would you choose? A risk-neutral person views both options as equivalent due to their equal expected payoff. A risk-averse person prefers the uncertain win only if the expected payoff is higher than that of the certain win; the difference between those two quantities is known as the person's risk premium. It is almost certainly the case that users of inference systems are slightly risk-averse, and therefore our inference system must not merely match the attention requirements of the status quo, but improve upon it by a risk premium (that might be possible to empirically determine, but has not yet been done).

**No external costs:** we only model attentional costs and utility. The full cost of an error in a spreadsheet varies according to its context; a unit error might result in incorrect real-world decisions, financial and reputational loss, and many other negative externalities. It is unclear how to model or account for these in a principled way.

**Single error:** we do not model multiple errors and episodes of error recovery.

**Guaranteed error discovery and recovery:** we do not model the likelihood of the user not detecting unit and inference errors, and of not fixing them. We assume that if a unit or inference error exists, the user always discovers it, chooses to fix it, and does so successfully. In the case where both a unit and an inference error occurs, the user discovers and fixes the inference error (which automatically fixes the unit error, see next point).

**Zero-sum inference:** we assume that if unit inference works, then the cost of recovering from a unit error is zero. This would be trivially the case if unit inference prevented unit errors from occurring in the first place. In this case it can be interpreted as the probability that a unit error would have occurred without the interface. This assumption and the previous one subsume another assumption we make (which Horvitz's model is particularly concerned about), namely perfect inference of user goals. That is, we assume that the way in which our inference system ultimately fixes or prevents unit errors is always perfectly aligned with the user's goals.

**Inference has cheaper recovery:** the cost of recovering from a unit inference error is less than or equal to the cost of recovering from a unit error (note a corollary design principle: incorrect inference should not be error-genic; if the inference system introduces the very error it is designed to prevent, the cost of recovering from an inference error cannot be less than the cost of recovering from a unit error).

**Fixed error probabilities and costs:** we model the probability of unit and inference errors to be fixed for all users and spreadsheets (e.g., interpreted as an empirical probability).

Short-term/long-term conflation: we do not distinguish between Blackwell's long-term focus (on the inference system as a whole) and Horvitz's short-term focus (on each individual opportunity for inference and user interruption). In the future we might treat these differently, using long-term empirical probabilities for the former analysis, and sheet-specific probabilities generated by our inference model for the latter

## Attention investment & mixed-initiative systems, two sides of the same coin?

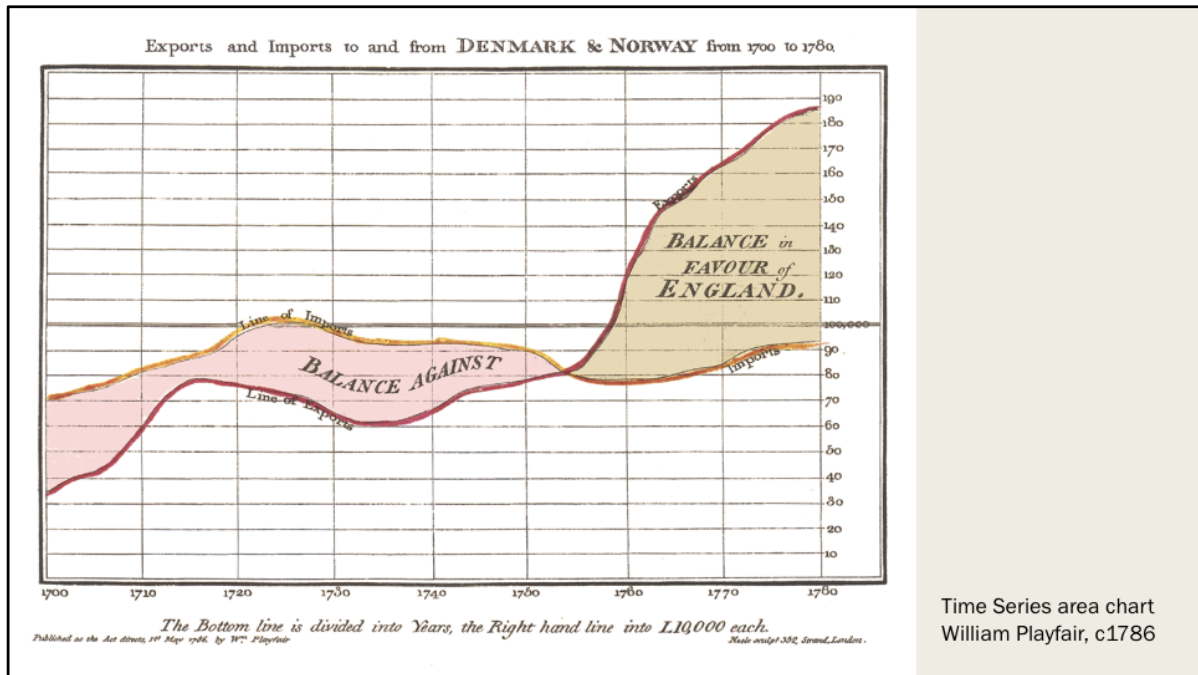
Aspect	Attention investment	Mixed-initiative systems
Purpose of model	To explain user behaviour	To determine system behaviour
Decision problem	Is the expected payoff of automation greater than that of non-automation? If so, the user takes action.	Is the expected utility of the (automated) action greater than that of inaction? If so, the system takes action.
Instance of concern	This model applies at each investment opportunity, that is, each time the user has an opportunity to automate something.	This model applies at each inference/automation/interruption opportunity, that is, each time the system can take an individual action.
Implementation of model	This is a long-term calculus in the user's mind. In our context, we assume a rational, learning user, who will eventually approximate $P_u$ to be the long term rate of unit error, $P_i$ to be the overall inference error rate.	This is a short-term calculus which the system can calculate for any given prediction. In our context, $P_u$ would be interpreted as the sheet or cell error likelihood, and $P_i$ would be the inference confidence in a specific prediction.

Since our system sits at the intersection of concerns treated by both Blackwell's account of attention investment and Horvitz's account of mixed-initiative systems, we have conducted an analysis that draws on concepts from both. In doing so, we have been able to identify a number of similarities and differences between them. In Table II, we present our comparison of the two theories. These theories approach two different problems from two very different perspectives, but ultimately produce a mathematically identical solution (namely, to compute the expected payoff to the user of implementing a technical intervention, versus not implementing it). Therefore, when applying these theories in new contexts, it is important to consider their difference in perspective, because though the equations are the same, our interpretation of the quantities encoded varies.



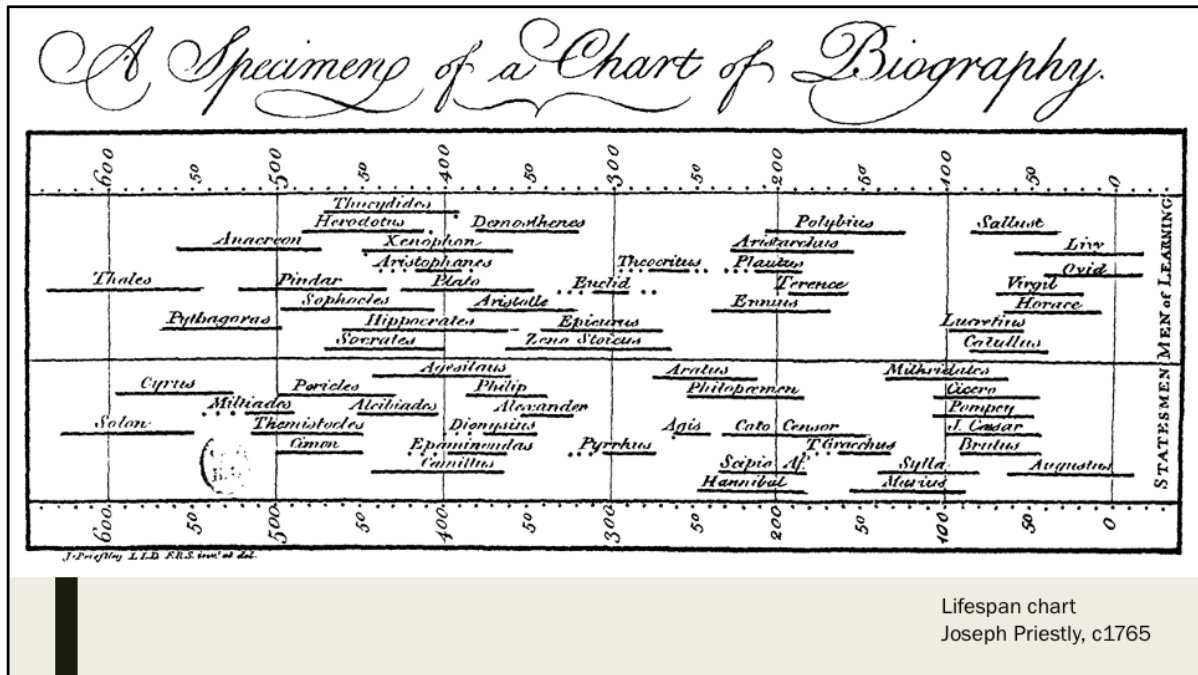
# VISUALISATION

Interaction with Machine Learning  
Cambridge MPhil ACS 2020-2021



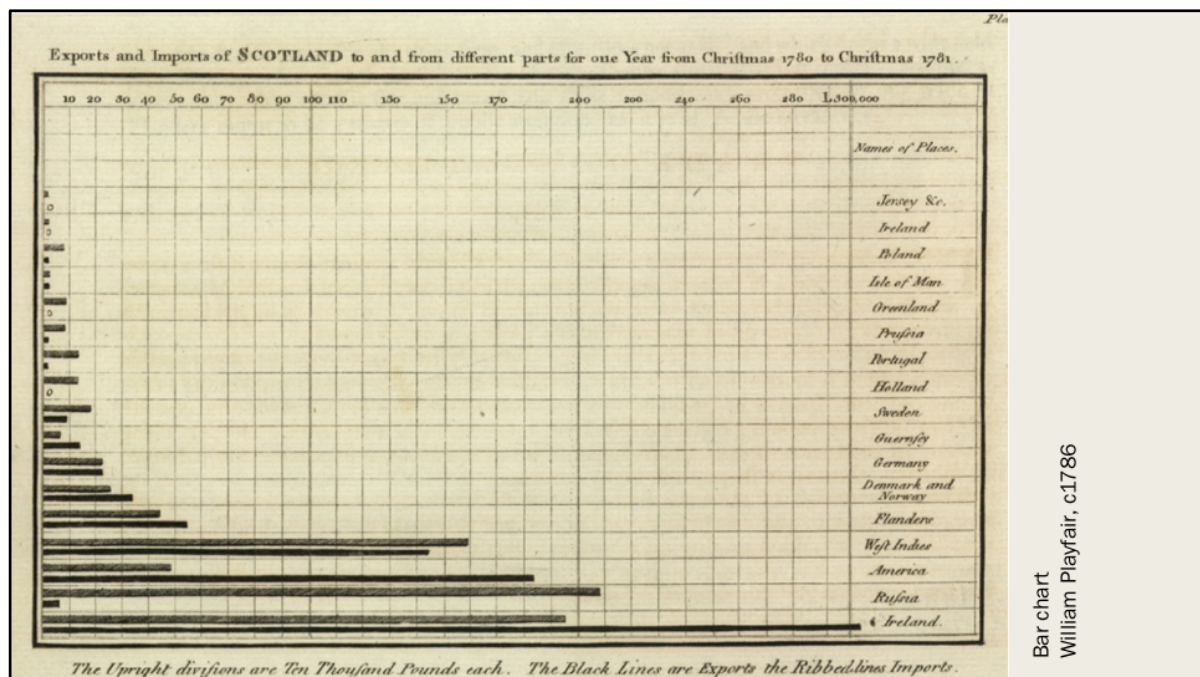
**William Playfair** (22 September 1759 – 11 February 1823) was a [Scottish](#) engineer and [political economist](#), the founder of [graphical methods of statistics](#).<sup>[1]</sup> He invented several types of [diagrams](#): in 1786 the [line](#), [area](#) and [bar chart](#) of economic data, and in 1801 the [pie chart](#) and circle graph, used to show part-whole relations.





Lifespan chart  
Joseph Priestly, c1765

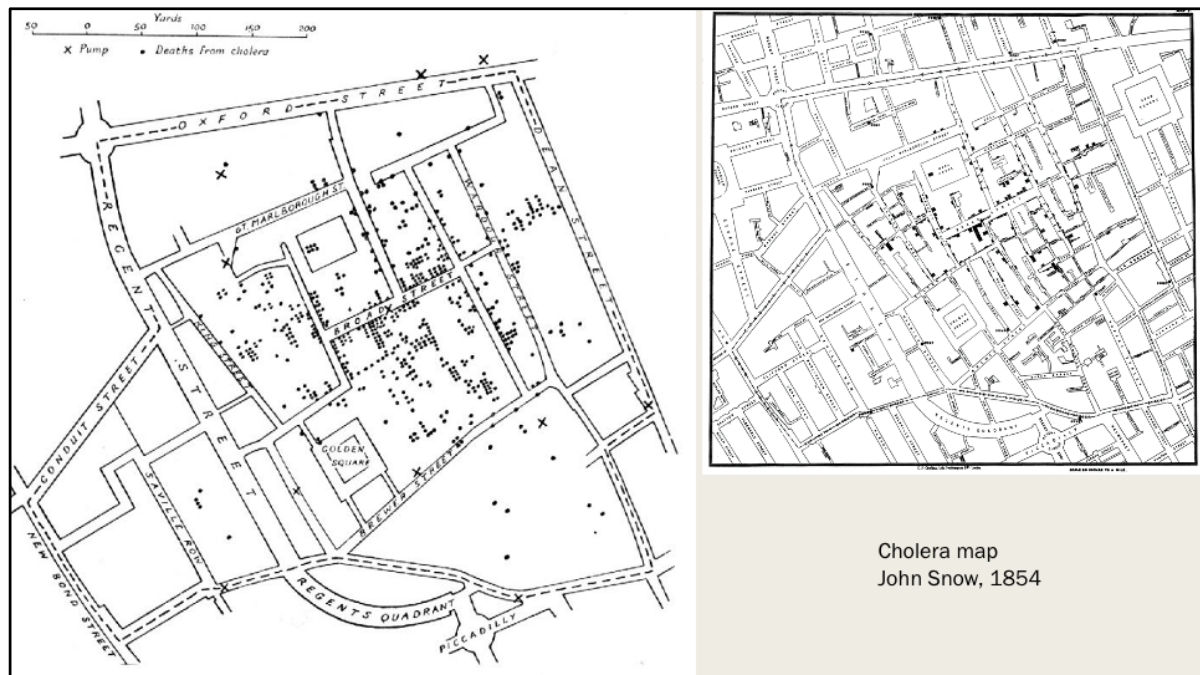
Two decades before Playfair's first achievements, in 1765 [Joseph Priestley](#) had created the innovation of the first timeline charts, in which individual bars were used to visualise the life span of a person, and the whole can be used to compare the life spans of multiple persons. According to [James R. Beniger](#) and Robyn (1978) "Priestley's timelines proved a commercial success and a popular sensation, and went through dozens of editions".



These timelines directly inspired William Playfair's invention of the [bar chart](#), which first appeared in his *Commercial and Political Atlas*, published in 1786.

Playfair was driven to this invention by a lack of data. In his *Atlas* he had collected a series of 34 plates about the import and export from different countries over the years, which he presented as [line graphs](#) or surface charts: line graphs shaded or tinted to show the difference [skip back to slide].

Because Playfair lacked the necessary series data for Scotland, he graphed its trade data for a single year as a series of 34 bars, one for each of 17 trading partners. In this bar chart Scotland's imports and exports from and to 17 countries in 1781 are represented. "This bar chart was the first quantitative graphical form that did not locate data either in space, as had coordinates and tables, or time, as had Priestley's timelines. It constitutes a pure solution to the problem of discrete quantitative comparison".

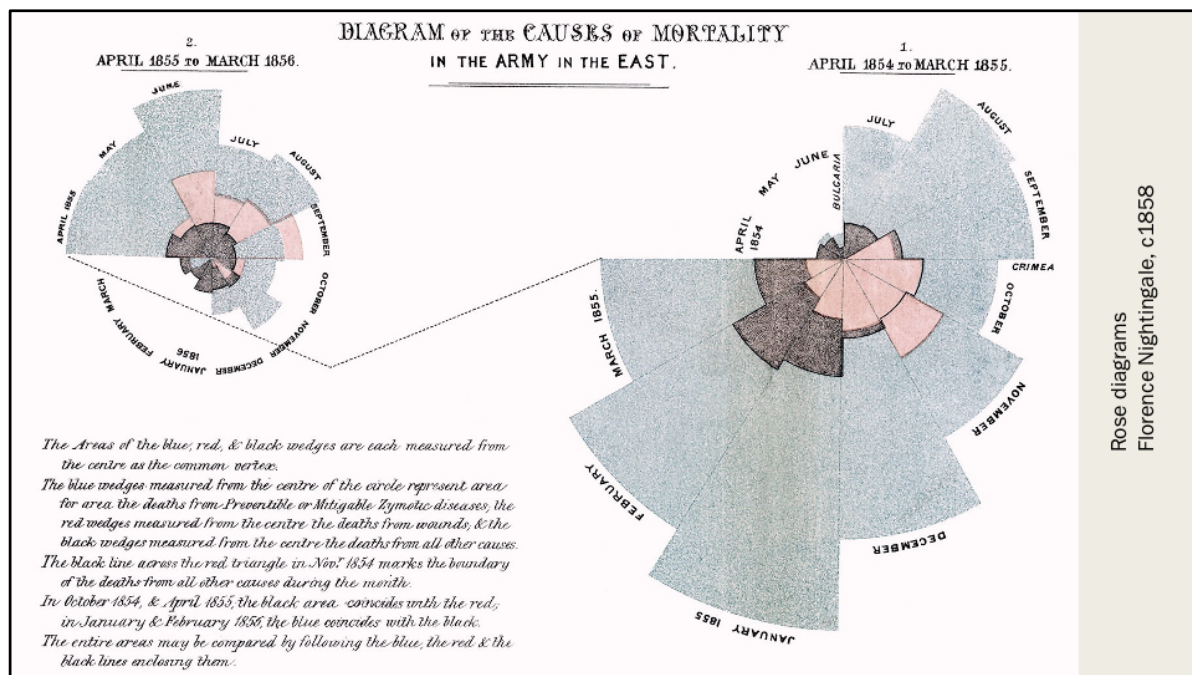


John Snow (15 March 1813 – 16 June 1858) was an English physician and a leader in the adoption of anaesthesia and medical hygiene. He is considered one of the fathers of modern epidemiology, in part because of his work in tracing the source of a cholera outbreak in Soho, London, in 1854

Snow was a skeptic of the then-dominant [miasma theory](#) that stated that diseases such as cholera and [bubonic plague](#) were caused by pollution or a noxious form of "bad air". The [germ theory of disease](#) had not yet been developed, so Snow did not understand the mechanism by which the disease was transmitted. His observation of the evidence led him to discount the theory of foul air. He first publicised his theory in an 1849 essay, *On the Mode of Communication of Cholera*,<sup>[14]</sup> followed by a more detailed treatise in 1855 incorporating the results of his investigation of the role of the water supply in the [Soho](#) epidemic of 1854.<sup>[15][16]</sup>

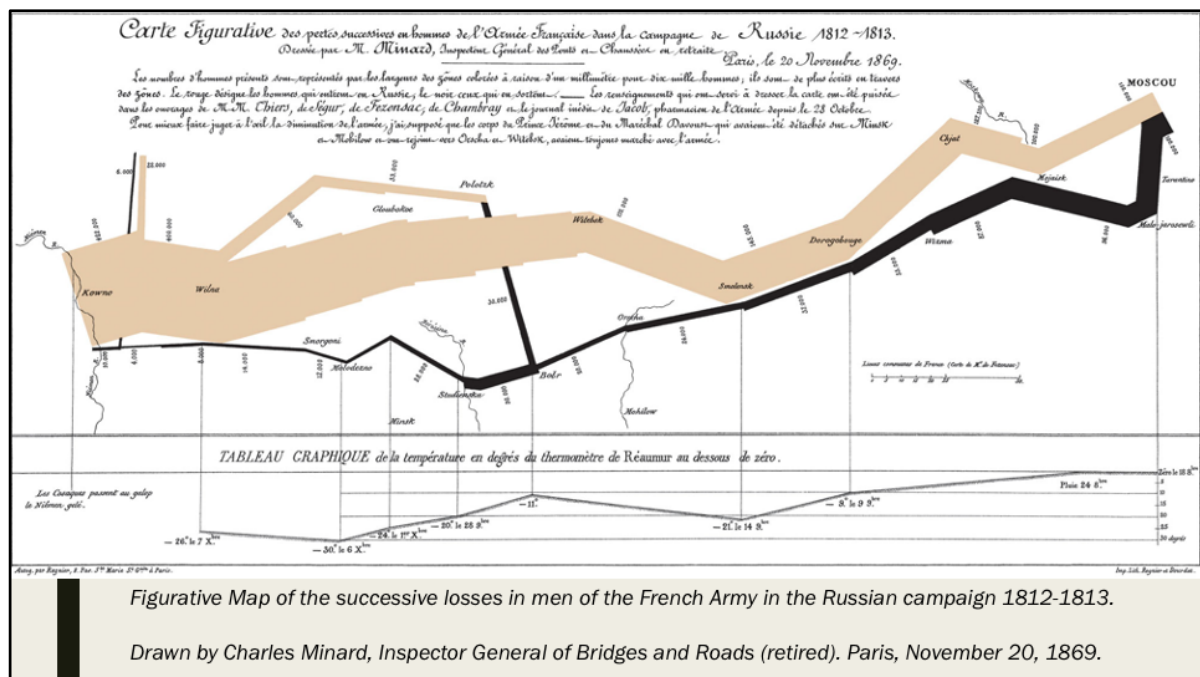
By talking to local residents (with the help of [Reverend Henry Whitehead](#)), he identified the source of the outbreak as the public water pump on Broad Street (now [Broadwick Street](#)). Although Snow's chemical and microscope examination of a water sample from the [Broad Street pump](#) did not conclusively prove its danger, his studies of the pattern of the disease were convincing enough to persuade the local council to disable the well pump by removing its handle.

Snow used a dot map to illustrate the cluster of cholera cases around the pump. He also used statistics to illustrate the connection between the quality of the water source and cholera cases. He showed that the Southwark and Vauxhall Waterworks Company was taking water from sewage-polluted sections of the Thames and delivering the water to homes, leading to an increased incidence of cholera. Snow's study was a major event in the history of public health and geography. It is regarded as the founding event of the science of epidemiology. Snow's map, demonstrating the spatial clustering of cholera deaths around the Broad Street well, provided strong evidence in support of his theory that cholera was a water-borne disease. Snow used some proto-GIS methods to buttress his argument: first he drew Thiessen polygons around the wells, defining straight-line least-distance service areas for each. A large majority of the cholera deaths fell within the Thiessen polygon surrounding the Broad Street pump, and a large portion of the remaining deaths were on the Broad Street side of the polygon surrounding the bad-tasting Carnaby Street well. Next, using a pencil and string, Snow redrew the service area polygons to reflect shortest routes along streets to wells. An even larger proportion of the cholera deaths fell within the shortest-travel-distance area around the Broad Street pump.



Rose diagrams  
Florence Nightingale, c1858

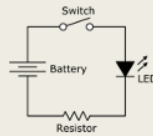
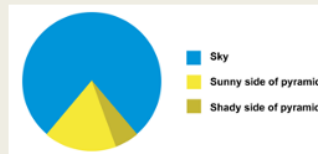
In 1858 nurse, statistician, and reformer [Florence Nightingale](#) published *Notes on Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency, and Hospital Administration of the British Army. Founded Chiefly on the Experience of the Late War. Presented by Request to the Secretary of State for War*. This privately printed work contained a color statistical graphic entitled "[Diagram of the Causes of Mortality in the Army of the East](#)" which showed that epidemic disease, which was responsible for more British deaths in the course of the Crimean War than battlefield wounds, could be controlled by a variety of factors including nutrition, ventilation, and shelter. The graphic, which Nightingale used as a way to explain complex statistics simply, clearly, and persuasively, has become known as Nightingale's "Rose Diagram."



Map of Napoleon's army by Charles Joseph Minard. Minard was a pioneer of the use of graphics in engineering and statistics. He is most well known for his cartographic depiction of numerical data on a map of Napoleon's disastrous losses suffered during the Russian campaign of 1812. The illustration depicts Napoleon's army departing the Polish-Russian border. A thick band illustrates the size of his army at specific geographic points during their advance and retreat. This graphic is notable for displaying six types of data in two dimensions: the number of Napoleon's troops; the distance traveled; temperature; latitude and longitude; direction of travel; and location relative to specific dates.[2] This type of band graph for illustration of flows was later called a Sankey diagram, although Matthew Sankey used this visualisation 30 years later and only for thematic energy flow).

# What is visualisation?

- Charts & statistical visualisations
- Typography & typesetting
- Diagrams
- Illustrations and drawings
- Infographics
- Symbols
- Marks



## Always Kern Your Titles, Big Type & Capitals With Care

"Notice the hanging quote outside of the margin of the body of text. Also notice how the leading of this body of text and title is a bit tighter than the one above and how this text does not end with a widow."

The first thing you should do when laying out a body of text is to choose your line, to set and to leading. For most designers this part is the most difficult. Always make every line even, printed or 100% using the actual font and you will see that the result looks like a hanging quote and the rest of the text will take care of itself. You see this is the correct number of pages you had planned for.

Before you start to typeset your text, make sure you have a good understanding of the text. The designer knows that as a printer you will have to make sure the text is as good as possible. You will see that the text is as good as possible. You will see that the text is as good as possible. You will see that the text is as good as possible.

Finally, notice how the body of text does not have any widows or orphans. The text above, A widow is a word or line in a paragraph that is left at the end of a page. The text below, A widow is a word or line in a paragraph that is left at the end of a page. The text below, A widow is a word or line in a paragraph that is left at the end of a page.



When you hear the word visualisation, you might think of a bar chart or a pie chart.

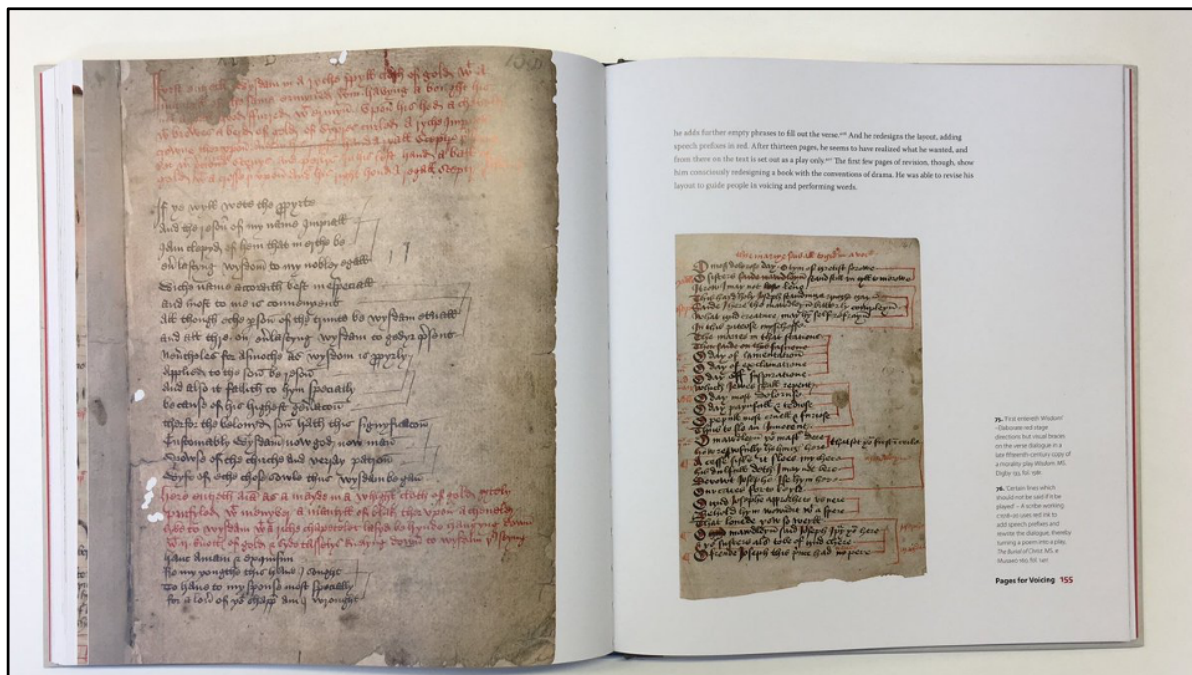




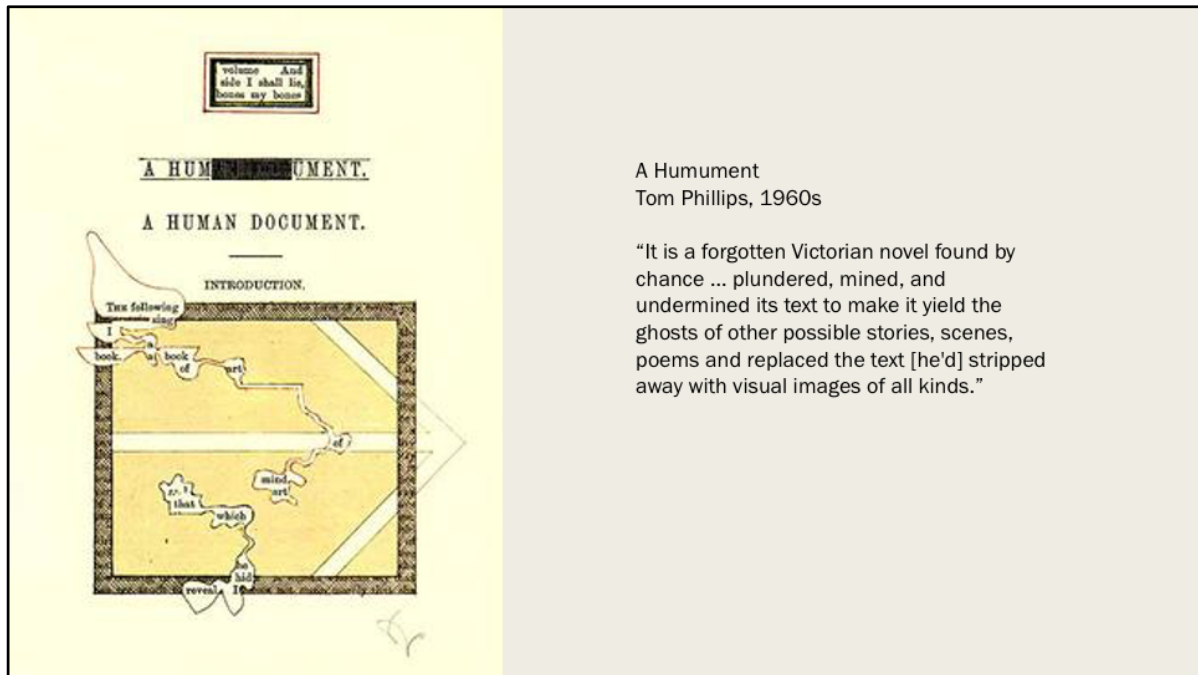
Daniel Wakelin







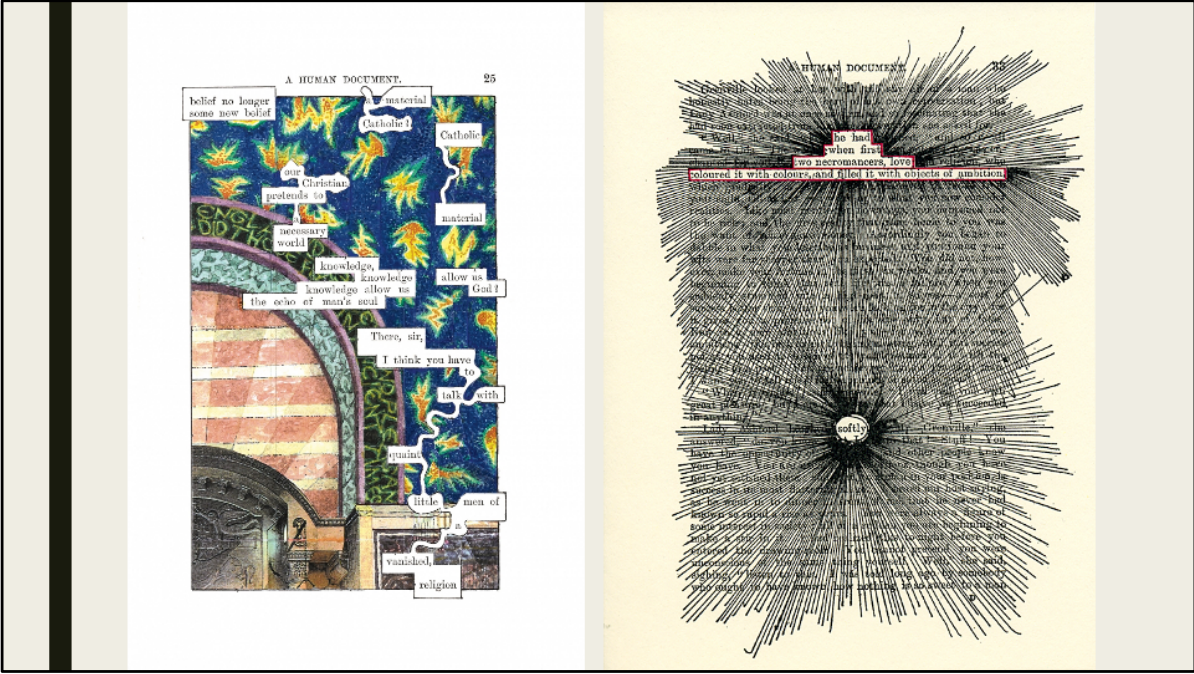
Late 15<sup>th</sup> century morality play.  
A poem converted into a play.

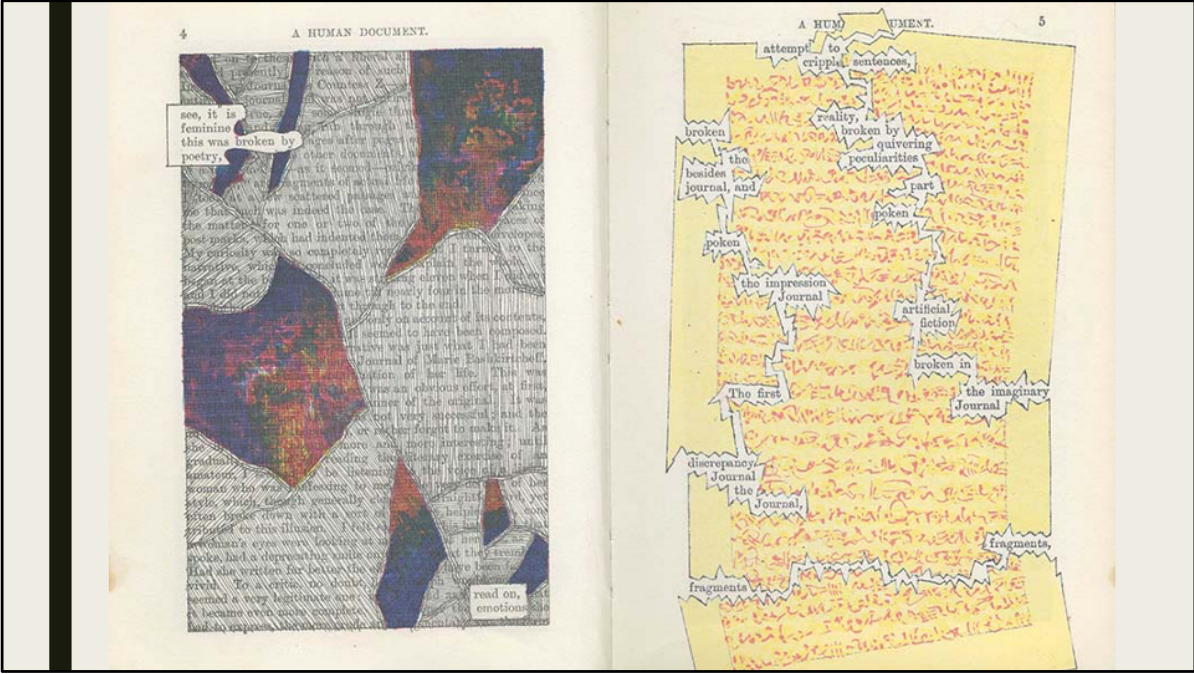


A Humument  
Tom Phillips, 1960s

"It is a forgotten Victorian novel found by chance ... plundered, mined, and undermined its text to make it yield the ghosts of other possible stories, scenes, poems and replaced the text [he'd] stripped away with visual images of all kinds."

Tom Phillips, 1960s











India infographic 1950s - Chittaprosad Bhattacharya - cartoonist

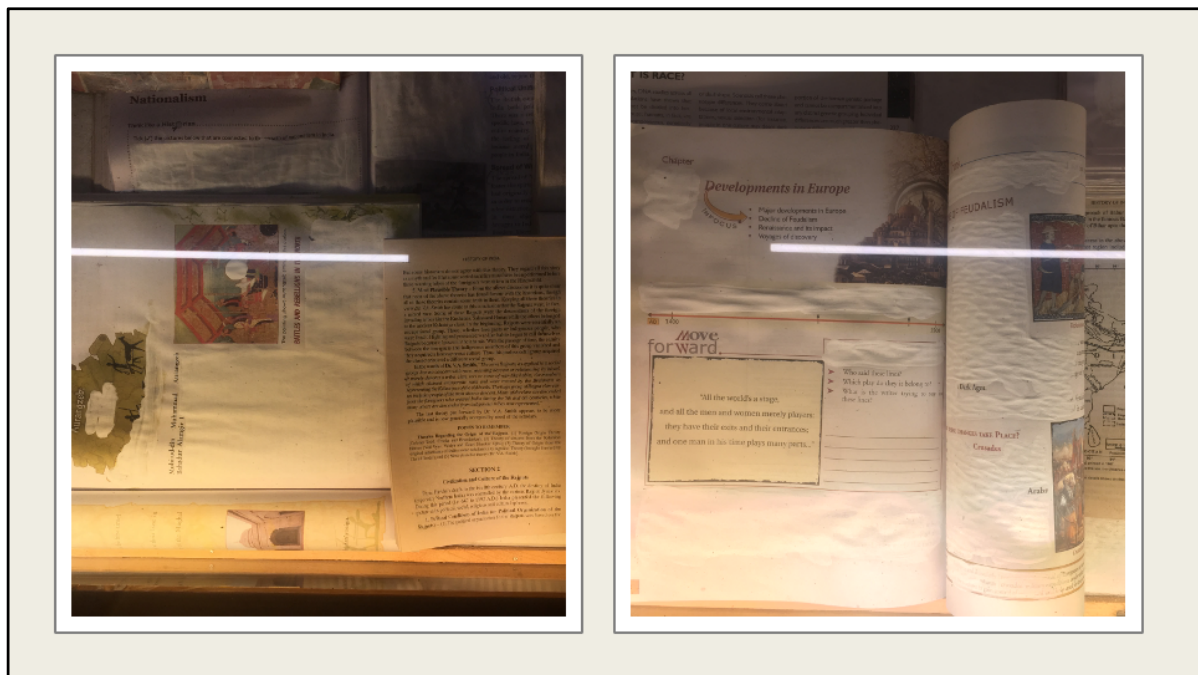


Celia Junior – growth of IT industry in Kerala, income disparity



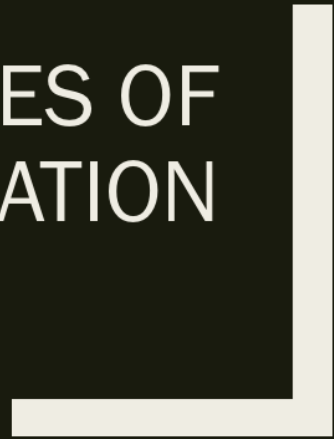
Celia Yuniol – positions of power and control in administrations

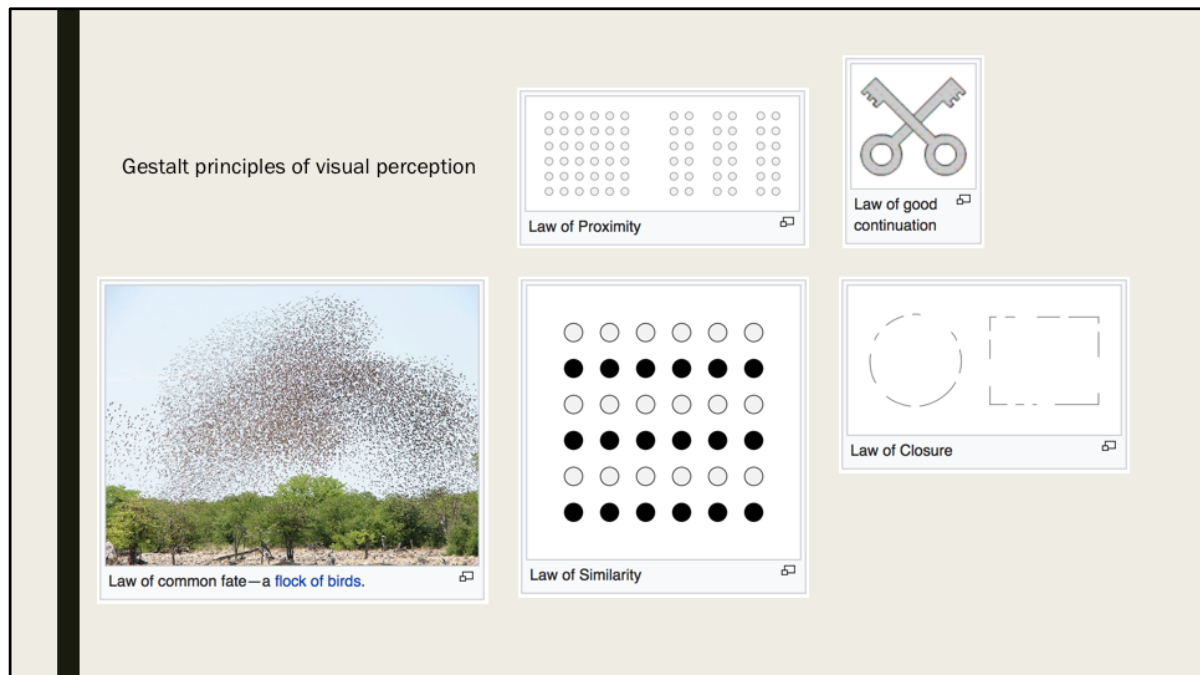




History – a construct

# THEORIES OF VISUALISATION





The **principles of grouping** (or **Gestalt laws of grouping**) are a set of principles in [psychology](#), first proposed by [Gestalt psychologists](#) in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to account for the observation that humans naturally perceive objects as organized patterns and objects, a principle known as [Prägnanz](#). Gestalt psychologists argued that these principles exist because the mind has an innate disposition to perceive patterns in the stimulus based on certain rules.

For example, the law of common fate. Birds may be distinguished from their background as a single flock because they are moving in the same direction and at the same velocity, even when each bird is seen—from a distance—as little more than a dot. The moving 'dots' appear to be part of a unified whole. The law of common fate is used extensively in user-interface design, for example where the movement of a [scrollbar](#) is synchronised with the movement (i.e. cropping) of a window's [content viewport](#); The movement of a physical mouse is synchronised with the movement of an on-screen arrow cursor, and so on.

The principle of similarity states that, all else being equal, [perception](#) lends itself to seeing [stimuli](#) that physically resemble each other as part of the same object, and stimuli that are different as part of a different object.

The Gestalt law of proximity states that "objects or shapes that are close to one another appear to form groups".

The principles of similarity and proximity often work together to form a Visual Hierarchy. Either principle can dominate the other, depending on the application and combination of the two. For example, in the grid to the left, the similarity principle dominates the proximity principle and you probably see rows before you see columns.

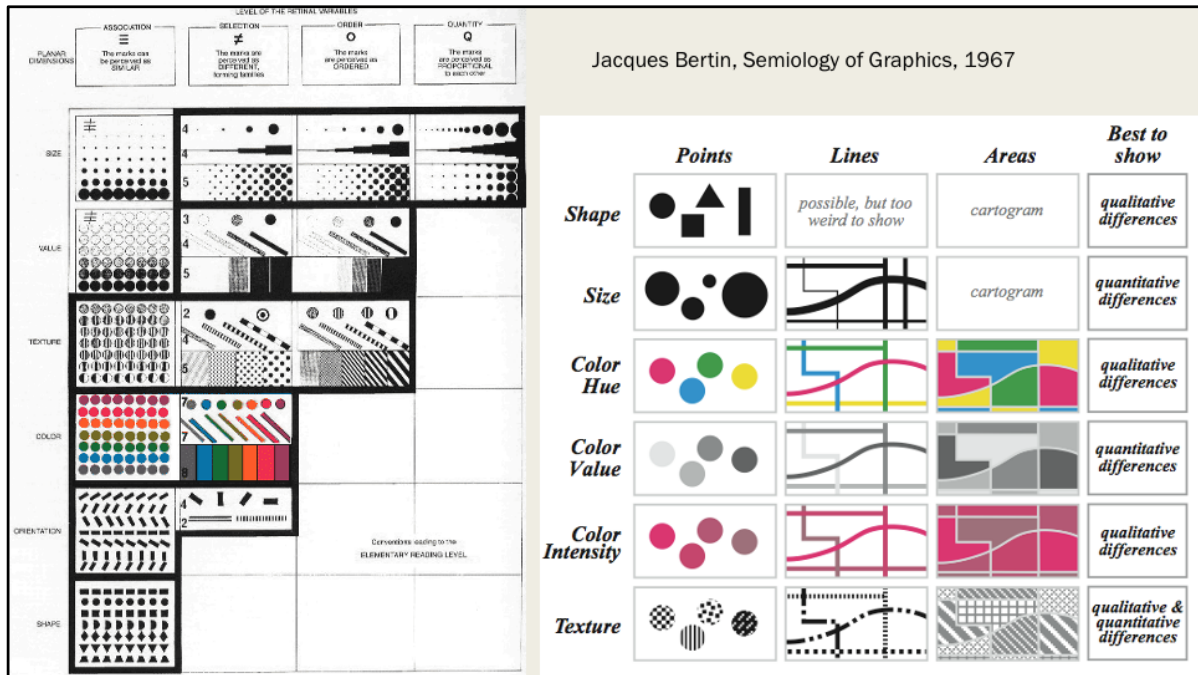
The principle of closure refers to the [mind's](#) tendency to see complete figures or forms even if a picture is incomplete

The law of good continuation. When there is an intersection between two or more objects, people tend to perceive each object as a single uninterrupted object.

	Graphic Resources	Correspondence	Design Uses	<p>Bertin, J. (1967). <i>Semiotique graphique</i>. Paris: Editions Gauthier-Villars. English translation by W.J. Berg (1983) as <i>Semiology of graphics</i>, Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press</p> <p>Blackwell, A.F. and Engelhardt, Y. (2002). A meta-taxonomy for diagram research. In M. Anderson &amp; B. Meyer &amp; P. Olivier (Eds.), <i>Diagrammatic Representation and Reasoning</i>, London: Springer-Verlag, pp. 47-64.</p> <p>Engelhardt, Y. (2002). <i>The Language of Graphics. A framework for the analysis of syntax and meaning in maps, charts and diagrams</i>. PhD Thesis, University of Amsterdam.</p> <p>MacEachren, A.M. (1995). <i>How maps work: Representation, visualization, and design</i>. Guilford.</p>
Marks	Shape Orientation Size Texture Saturation Colour Line	Literal (visual imitation of physical features) Mapping (quantity, relative scale) Conventional (arbitrary)	Mark position, identify category (shape, texture colour) Indicate direction (orientation, line) Express magnitude (saturation, size, length) Simple symbols and colour codes	
Symbols	Geometric elements Letter forms Logos and icons Picture elements Connective elements	Topological (linking) Depictive (pictorial conventions) Figurative (metonym, visual puns) Connotative (professional and cultural association) Acquired (specialist literacies)	Texts and symbolic calculi Diagram elements Branding Visual rhetoric Definition of regions	
Regions	Alignment grids Borders and frames Area fills White space Gestalt integration	Containment Separation Framing (composition, photography) Layering	Identifying shared membership Segregating or nesting multiple surface conventions in panels Accommodating labels, captions or legends	
Surfaces	The plane Material object on which marks are imposed (paper, stone) Mounting, orientation and display context Display medium	Literal (map) Euclidean (scale and angle) Metrical (quantitative axes) Juxtaposed or ordered (regions, catalogues) Image-schematic Embodied/situated	Typographic layouts Graphs and charts Relational diagrams Visual interfaces Secondary notations Signs and displays	

Bertin, Richards, MacEachren, Blackwell & Engelhardt and Engelhardt.

One approach is to take a holistic perspective on visual language, information design, notations, or diagrams. Specialist research communities in these fields address many relevant factors from low-level visual perception to critique of visual culture. Across all of them, it can be necessary to ignore (or not be distracted by) technical and marketing claims, and to remember that all visual representations simply comprise marks on a surface that are intended to correspond to things understood by the reader. The two dimensions of the surface can be made to correspond to physical space (in a map), to dimensions of an object, to a pictorial perspective, or to continuous abstract scales (time or quantity). The surface can also be partitioned into regions that should be interpreted differently. Within any region, elements can be aligned, grouped, connected or contained in order to express their relationships. In each case, the correspondence between that arrangement, and the intended interpretation, must be understood by convention or explained. Finally, any individual element might be assigned meaning according to many different semiotic principles of correspondence.



Graphic resources  
 "Planar dimensions"  
 Retinal variables

Cleveland, W. S., & McGill, R. (1984). Graphical Perception: Theory, Experimentation, and Application to the Development of Graphical Methods. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 79(387), 531–554. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2288400>

Heer, J., & Bostock, M. (2010). Crowdsourcing graphical perception: using (Mechanical Turk) to assess visualisation design. *ACM Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*, 203–212.

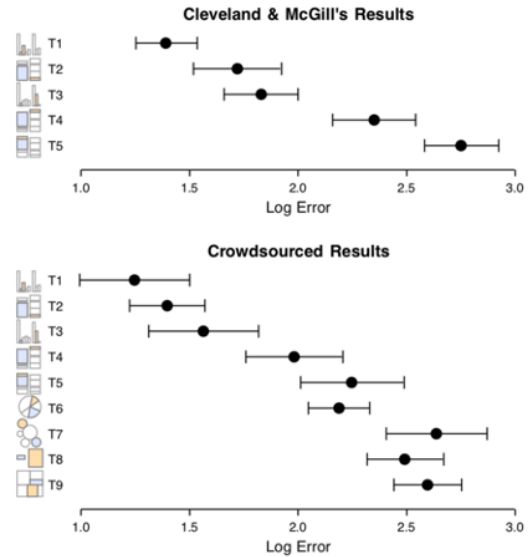
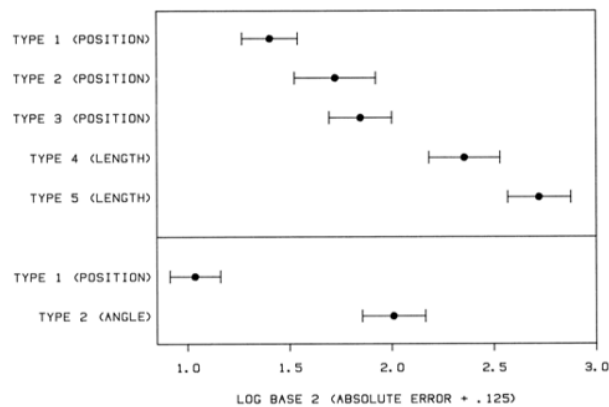
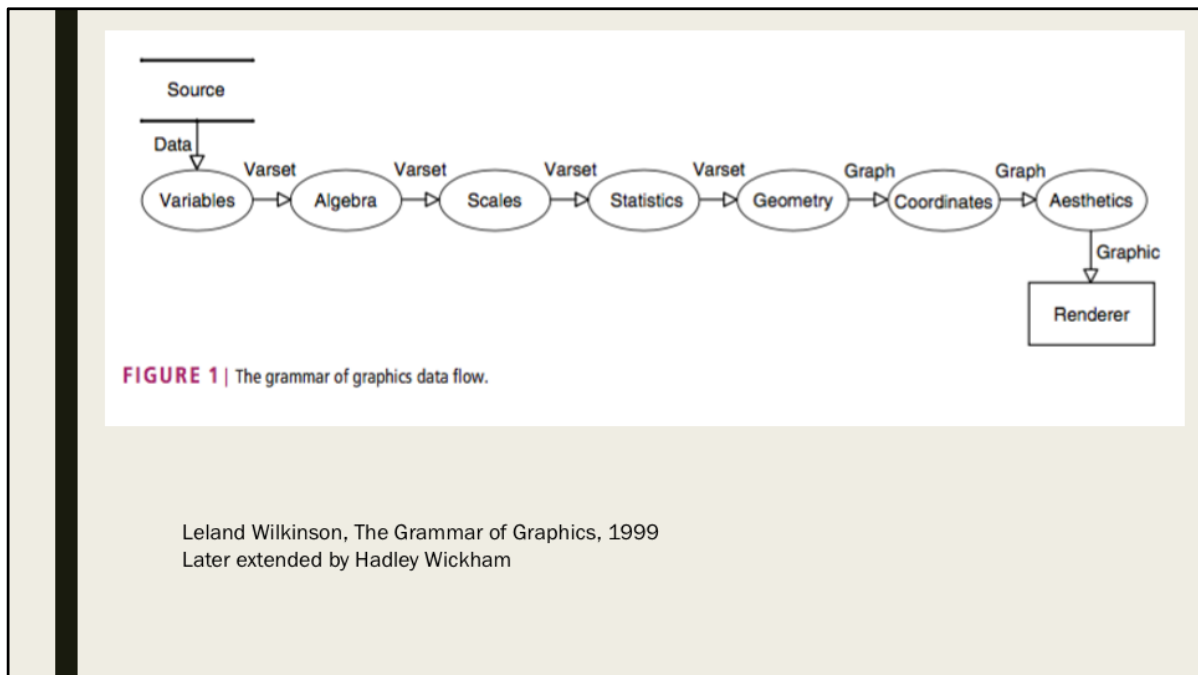
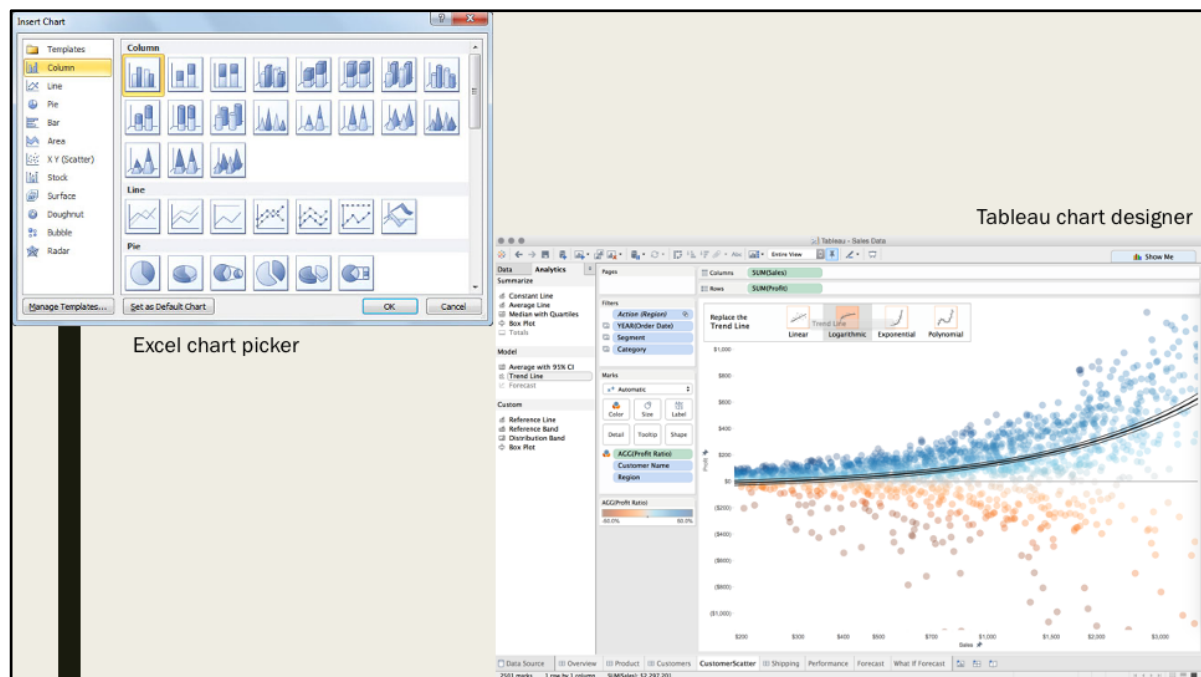


Figure 4: Proportional judgment results (Exp. 1A & B). Top: Cleveland & McGill's [7] lab study. Bottom: MTurk studies. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.



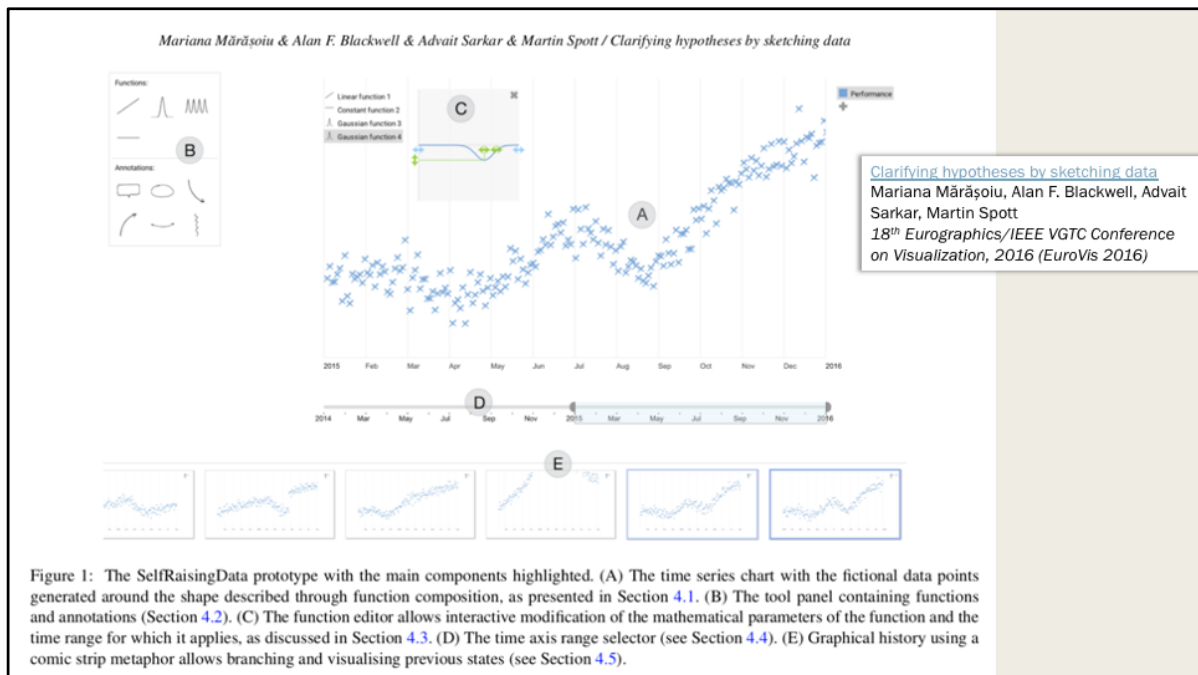
Take a framework like this and formally encode it.

The grammar of graphics was the foundation for the [R](#) package [ggplot2](#)



Grammar of graphics is great for people who think about visualisation in such rarefied planes of abstraction, but it is not really suited to the mental models and expertise of most end-users. So we have simplified alternatives such as the Excel chart picker, which reframes the pipeline in terms of concrete examples. This is perhaps limiting in terms of the types of visualisations you can achieve, but is vastly more usable. Another point in the spectrum is Tableau's chart designer. This came out of Christopher Stolte's PhD work at Stanford in the late 90s, early 2000s.





The directionality of data -> visualisation in the grammar of graphics can also be limiting. What about visualisation -> data?

## Principles of visualisation

- Structural: e.g., Bertin, Wilkinson/Wickham
- Perceptual/cognitive: e.g., Bertin, Cleveland & McGill
- Aesthetic/designerly: e.g., Edward Tufte (Visual Display of Quantitative Information)

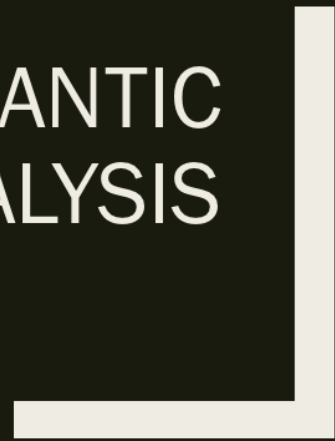
## Interaction and visualisation

- Shneiderman's mantra: Overview, zoom, filter, detail-on-demand
- Yi et al (2007): Yi, J. S., Kang, Y.-A., Stasko, J., & Jacko, J. (2007). Toward a deeper understanding of the role of interaction in information visualization. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 13(6), 1224–31. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2007.70515>
- Lam, H (2008): Lam, H. (2008). A framework of interaction costs in information visualization. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 14(6), 1149–56. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2008.109>

Yi, J. S., Kang, Y.-A., Stasko, J., & Jacko, J. (2007). Toward a deeper understanding of the role of interaction in information visualization. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 13(6), 1224–31. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2007.70515>

Lam, H. (2008). A framework of interaction costs in information visualization. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 14(6), 1149–56. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2008.109>

# LATENT SEMANTIC ANALYSIS



**A**

$$M = \begin{matrix} & D_1 & D_2 & D_3 & D_4 & D_5 & D_6 & \dots & D_n \\ \begin{matrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ T_3 \\ T_4 \\ T_5 \\ T_6 \\ \vdots \\ T_m \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0.00060 & 0.00012 & 0.00003 & 0.00003 & 0.00333 & 0.00048 & \dots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{2n} \\ 0 & 2.98862 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.49431 & \dots & a_{3n} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 13.32555 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{4n} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{5n} \\ 1.03442 & 1.03442 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3.10326 & \dots & a_{6n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & a_{m3} & a_{m4} & a_{m5} & a_{m6} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

**B**

$$U = \begin{matrix} & C_1 & C_2 & C_3 & \dots & C_m \\ \begin{matrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ T_3 \\ T_4 \\ T_5 \\ T_6 \\ \vdots \\ T_m \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2m} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \dots & a_{3m} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & \dots & a_{4m} \\ a_{51} & a_{52} & a_{53} & \dots & a_{5m} \\ a_{61} & a_{62} & a_{63} & \dots & a_{6m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & a_{m3} & \dots & a_{mm} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\Sigma_k = \begin{matrix} & D_1 & D_2 & D_3 & \dots & D_n \\ \begin{matrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ T_3 \\ T_4 \\ \vdots \\ T_m \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_{33} & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{mm} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$V_k^T = \begin{matrix} & D_1 & D_2 & D_3 & \dots & D_n \\ \begin{matrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \\ C_3 \\ C_4 \\ \vdots \\ C_n \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \dots & a_{3n} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & \dots & a_{4n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

An example of a term-document matrix with a weighting function (tf-idf). M, D, and T refer to the term-document matrix, the set of all documents in the corpus, and the set of all terms in the corpus, respectively.  $T_1$  is an example of a common word that occurs frequently in documents, whereas  $T_3$ ,  $T_4$ , and  $T_6$  are comparatively rarer words and receive a higher weight. **(B)** An illustration of the dimensionality-reduction step of LSI. U,  $\Sigma$ , and  $V^T$  are truncated and become  $\Sigma_k$ ,  $U_k$ , and  $V_k^T$ , respectively. C, D, and T refer to the set of LSI topics, documents, and terms, respectively. Here, we illustrate a reduction to three dimensions.

These matrices can then be used as a distance metric for both terms and documents. Any two documents can be compared by computing the cosine distance between their corresponding column vectors in  $V^T$ . Likewise, any two terms can be compared by computing the cosine distance between their corresponding row vectors in U.

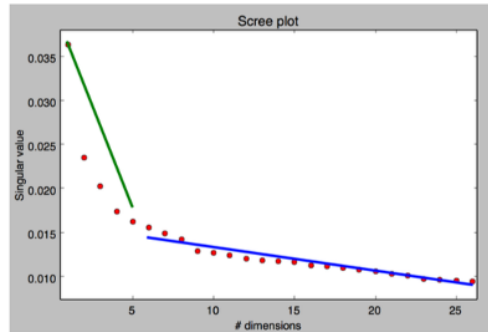
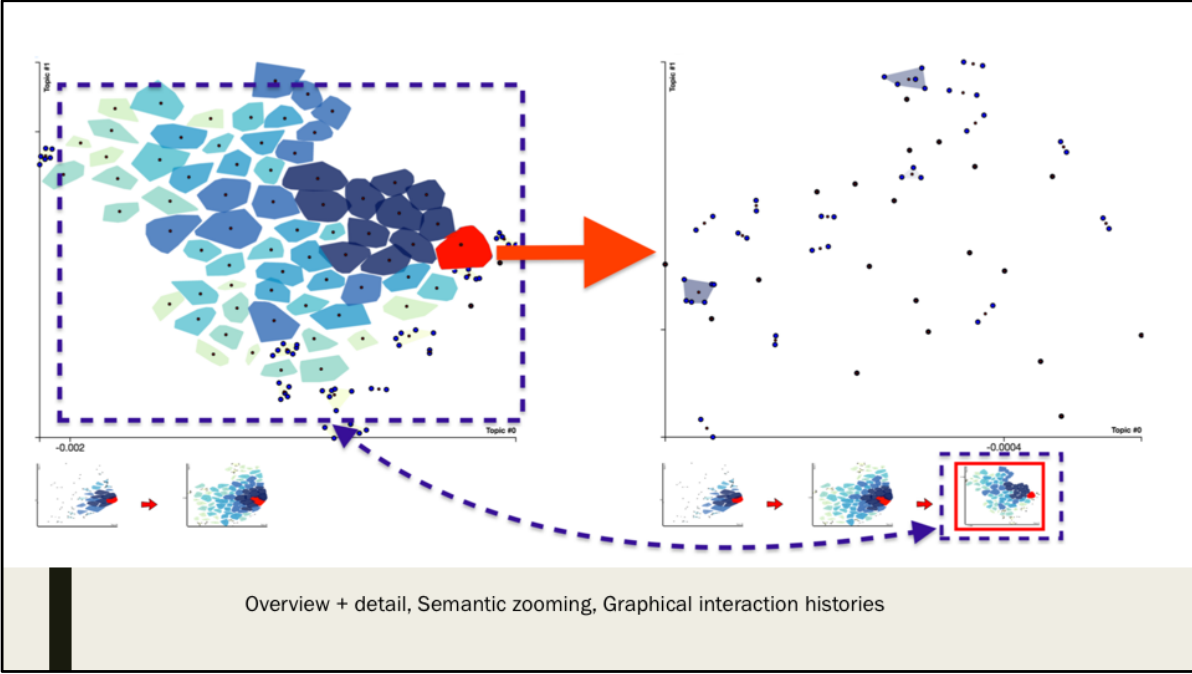


Figure 3.1: Singular value scree plot with a knee found by L-method at the 5<sup>th</sup> singular value



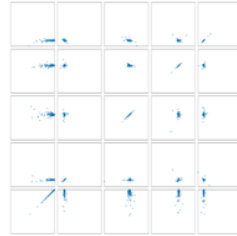
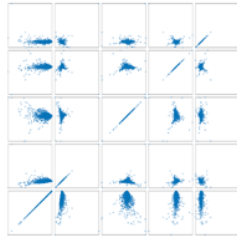


Figure 3.9: Random sampling performed in each scatter plot. The plots show very dense areas and a number of potentially interesting points. The shape is distorted. Sampling more values in white areas improves performance.

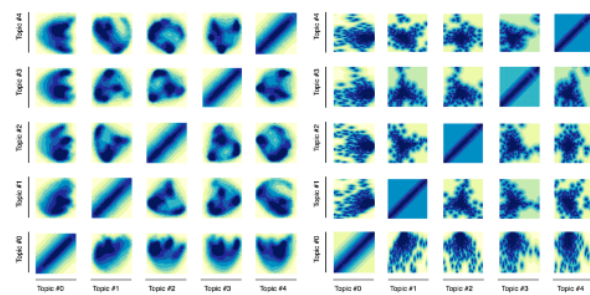


Figure 3.10: Two examples of heat map matrices. The colour scale ranging from light yellow to dark blue indicates the estimated probability density of the data distribution. Blue areas indicate higher probabilities of data points at that position.



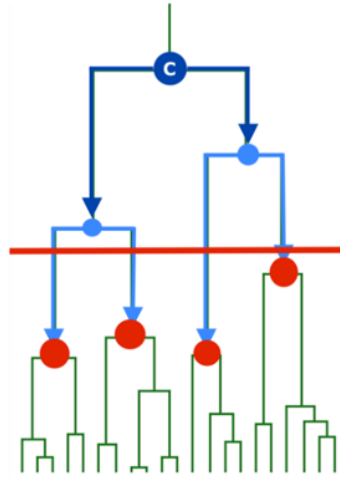


Figure 3.15: Obtaining the expansion of a cluster. To determine which clusters would become  $C$ 's children in the expansion tree, a cut (in red) is made at the height corresponding to the minimum displayable distance between clusters.  $C$ 's children are then expanded until the clusters immediately below the cut are reached; these are then chosen as  $C$ 's expansion.

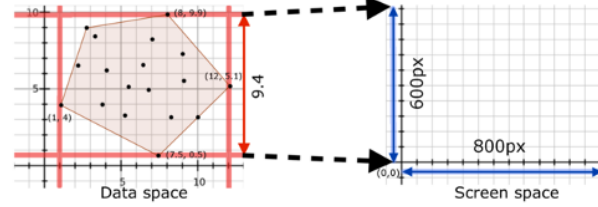
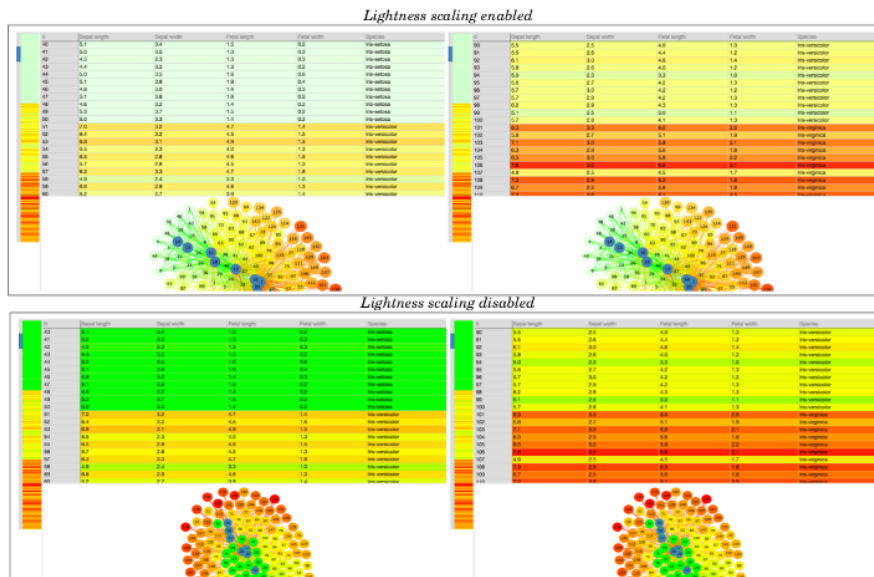


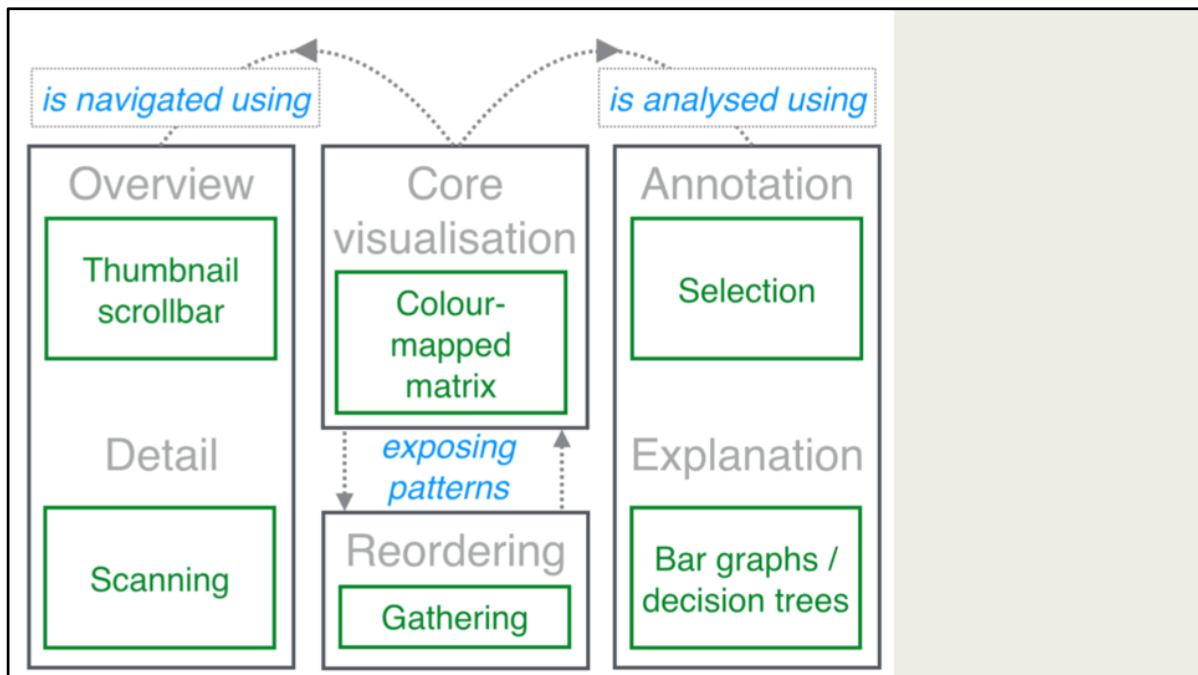
Figure 3.16: Mapping from data to screen space. The cluster shown is a cluster we want to expand and will be fragmented into its descendant clusters. By knowing the extent on one dimension in data space and the size of the y-axis in screen space, we can obtain a linear mapping between the two spaces. We can do the same for the other data dimension and x-axis.

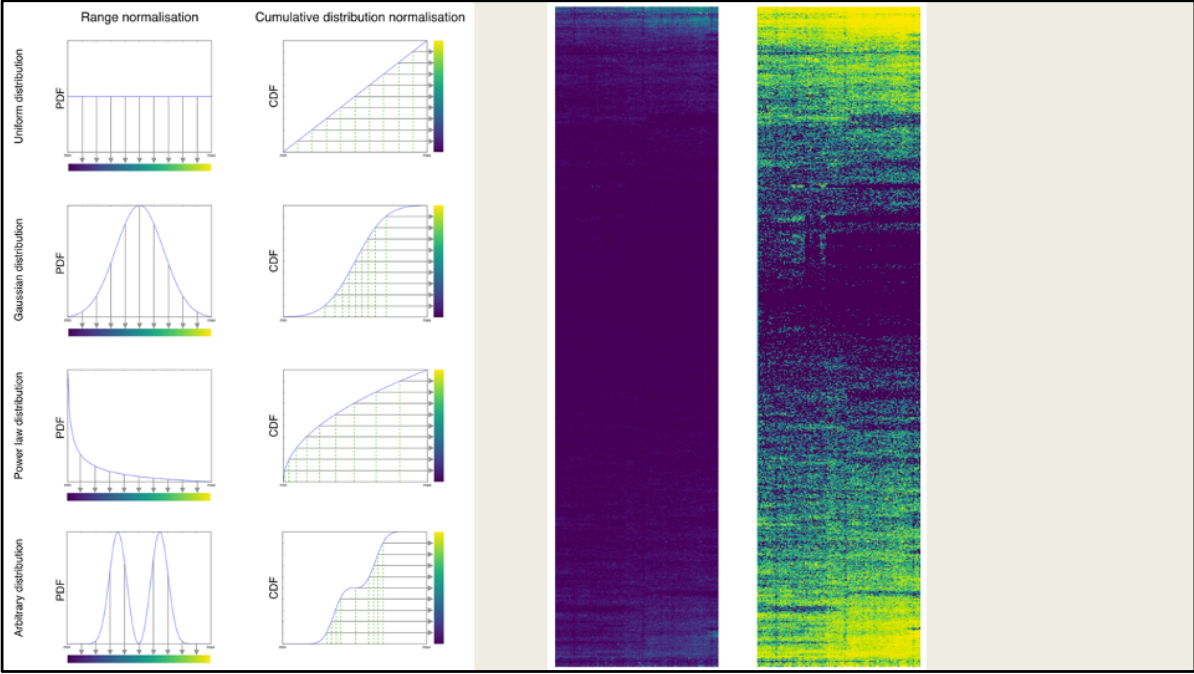
BRAINCEL

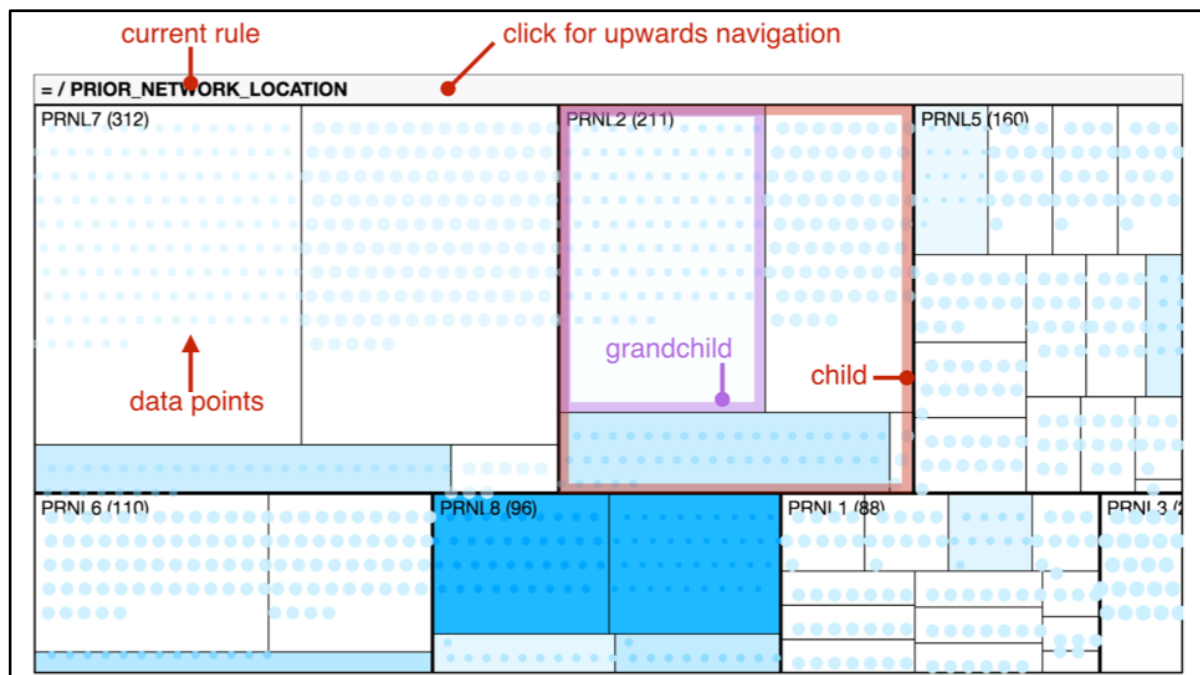


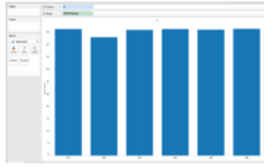
**Figure 5.5:** The effect of lightness scaling. Without lightness scaling, high-confidence (green) rows command disproportionately greater visual attention (the effect is most apparent onscreen).

GATHERMINER





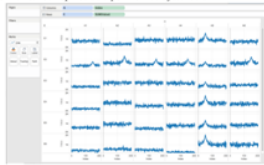




(a) This strategy involved comparing bar charts of each attribute-value pairing, aggregated over the entire span of time. Since the interesting features in our time series consisted of unusual spikes/bumps, this usually reflected in a higher/lower overall sum or average for those series – easily spotted in an unusually tall or short bar.



(b) This strategy involved comparing aggregate line charts of each attribute-value pairing. Here, any attribute-value that caused spikes or dips was clearly reflected.



(c) This interesting strategy also compared aggregate line charts of each attribute-value pairing. Here, by creating a 2D matrix of small multiples, the analyst was able to investigate the interaction of any two attributes.

Figure 4.15: Three successful strategies in Tableau.



(a) This strategy involved inspecting a completely aggregated line graph. In this dataset, we prepared a number of time series that had spikes at about  $1/3$  and  $2/3$  the duration of the series, which are clearly visible in the aggregate chart. However, there are also a number of series which have an upward spike in the halfway mark, and an equal number which have an equal and opposite downward spike at the same position. The two cancel each other out and become invisible in the aggregate line graph, and so the analyst never discovers them.



(b) This strategy, similar to the first successful strategy, uses summary bar graphs to represent the time series. However, since the series are completely disaggregated (one bar is generated per series), it is impossible to seek out global patterns.



(c) This strategy involved scanning through the entire list of time series, represented as line graphs, and manually noting down the attributes of any which appeared interesting. Needless to say, this is extremely ineffective and led to several false correlations being "discovered".

Figure 4.16: Three unsuccessful strategies using Tableau.