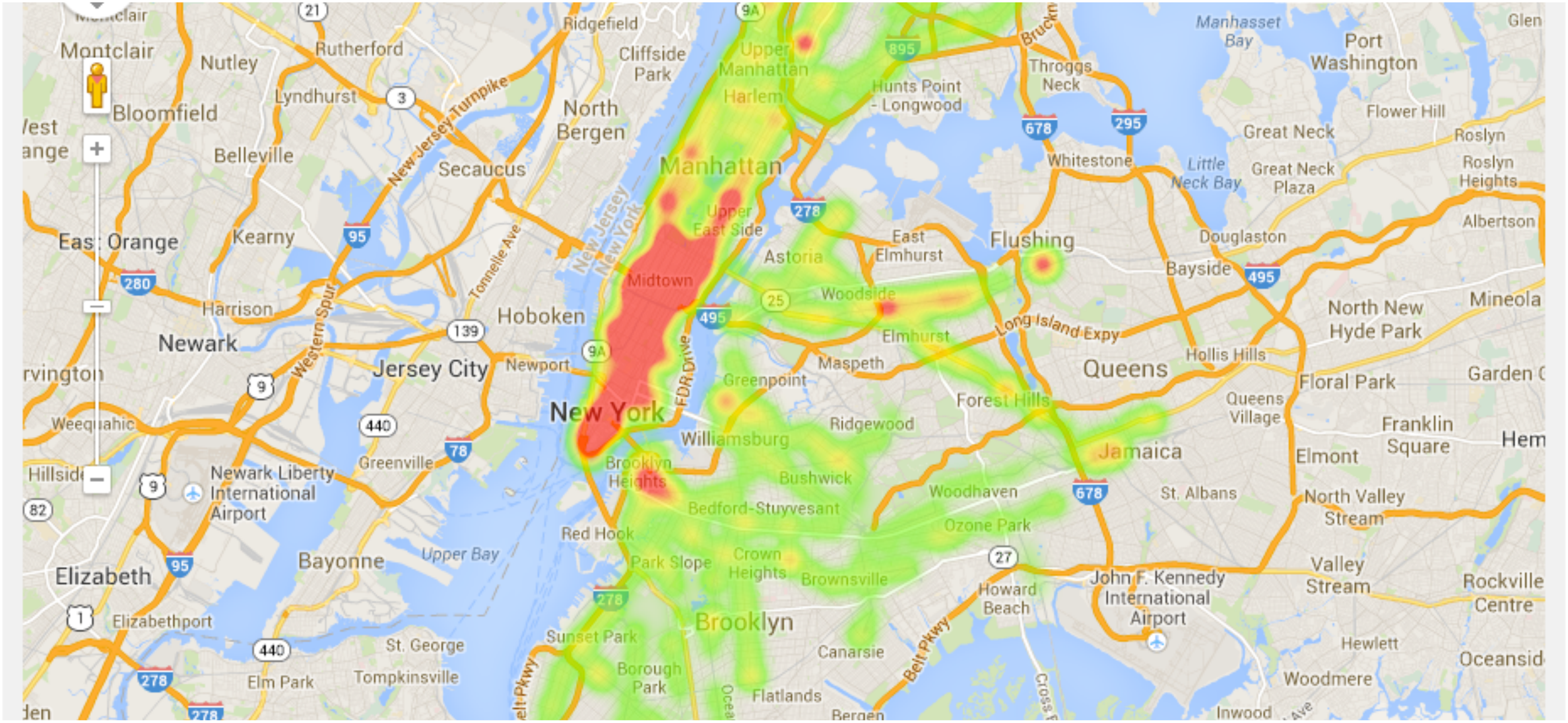
Programming Principles in Python (CSCI 503/490)

Visualization

Dr. David Koop

Exploring Data through Visualization



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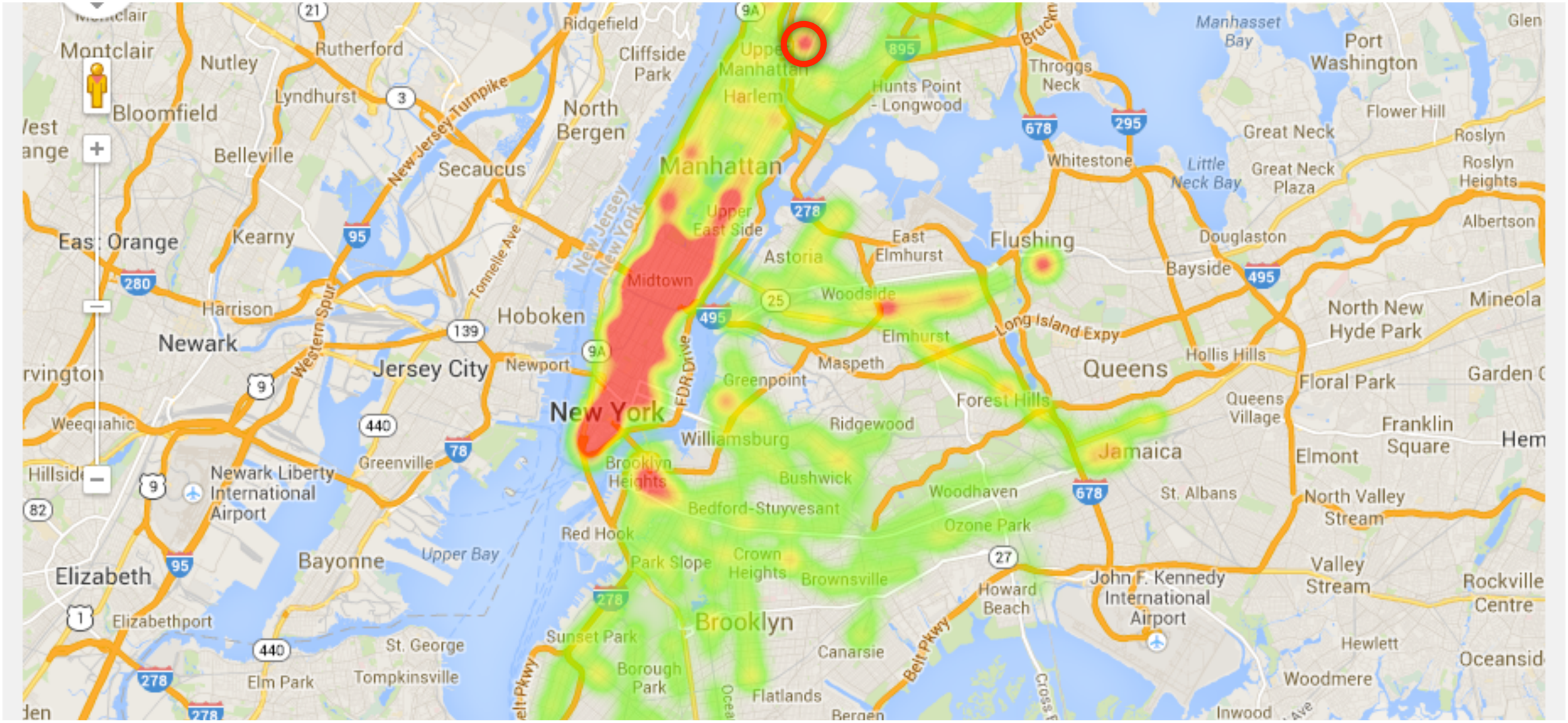
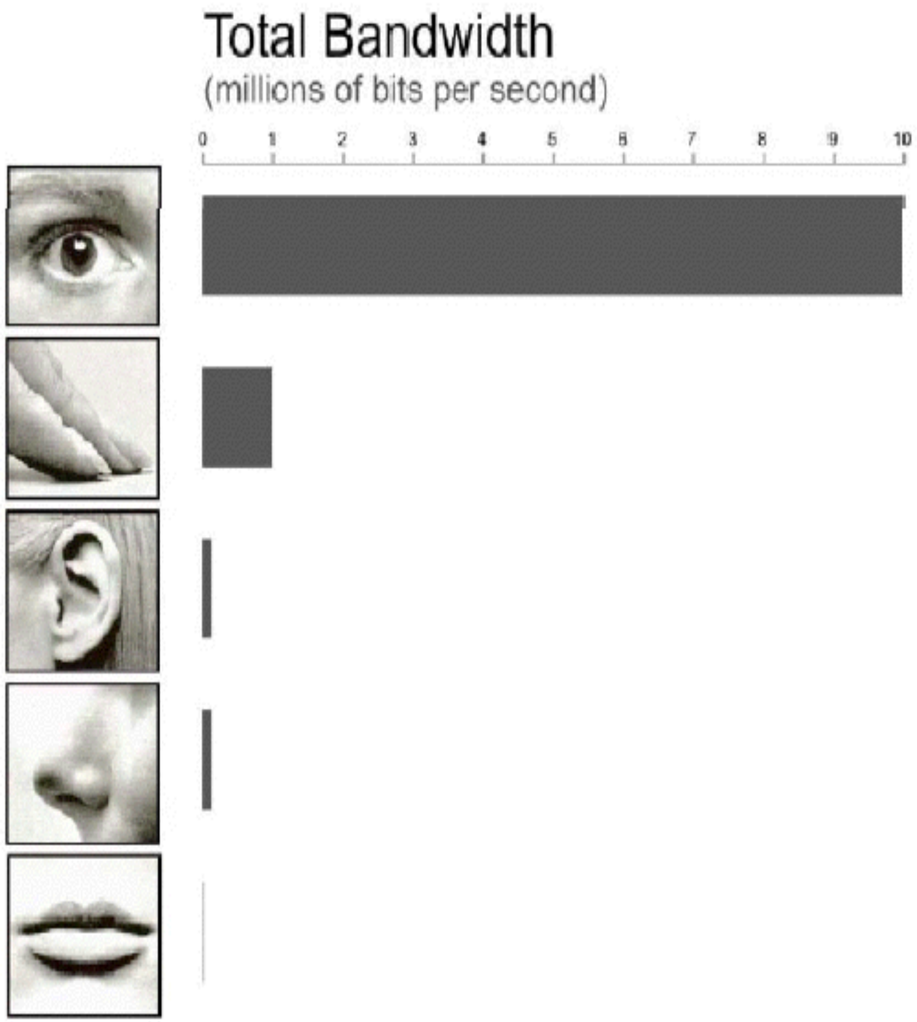
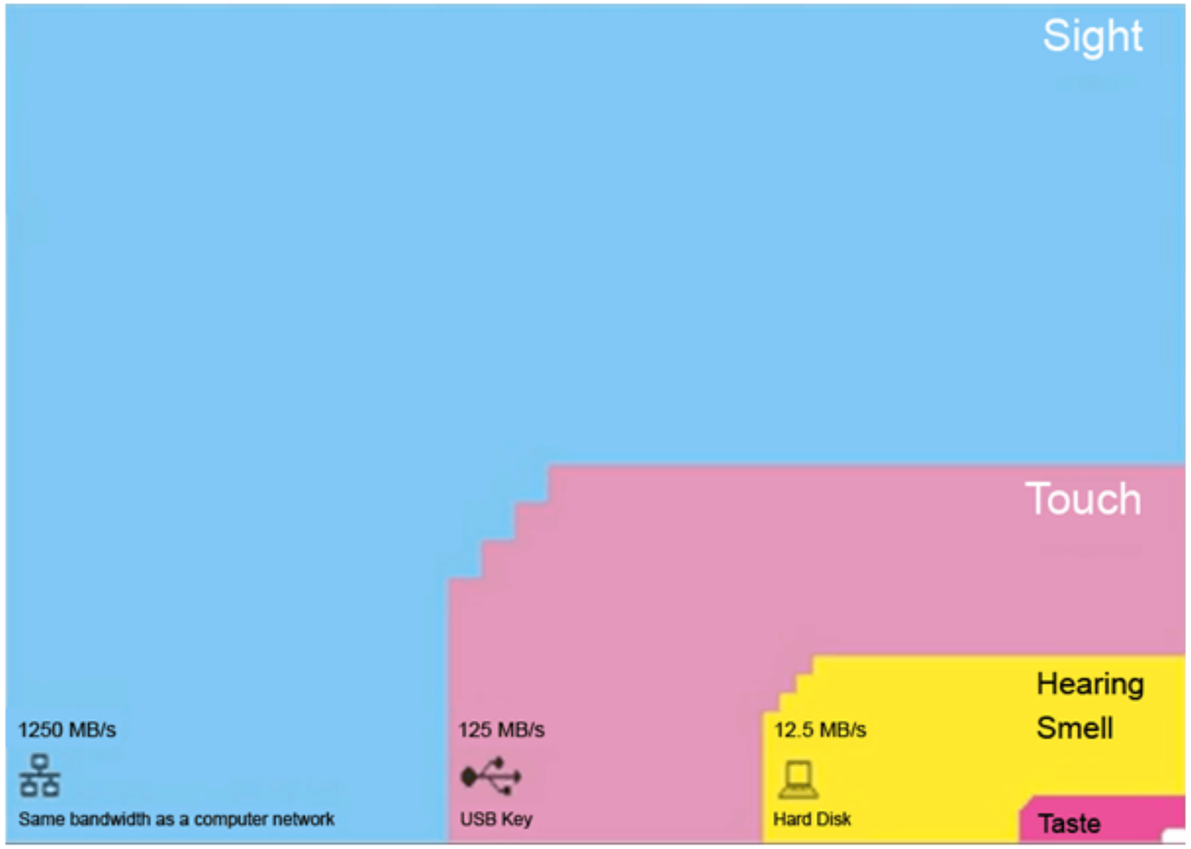


Why do we visualize data?



[via A. Lex]



[T. Nørretranders]

Why Visual?

I		II		III		IV	
x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y
10.0	8.04	10.0	9.14	10.0	7.46	8.0	6.58
8.0	6.95	8.0	8.14	8.0	6.77	8.0	5.76
13.0	7.58	13.0	8.74	13.0	12.74	8.0	7.71
9.0	8.81	9.0	8.77	9.0	7.11	8.0	8.84
11.0	8.33	11.0	9.26	11.0	7.81	8.0	8.47
14.0	9.96	14.0	8.10	14.0	8.84	8.0	7.04
6.0	7.24	6.0	6.13	6.0	6.08	8.0	5.25
4.0	4.26	4.0	3.10	4.0	5.39	19.0	12.50
12.0	10.84	12.0	9.13	12.0	8.15	8.0	5.56
7.0	4.82	7.0	7.26	7.0	6.42	8.0	7.91
5.0	5.68	5.0	4.74	5.0	5.73	8.0	6.89

[F. J. Anscombe]

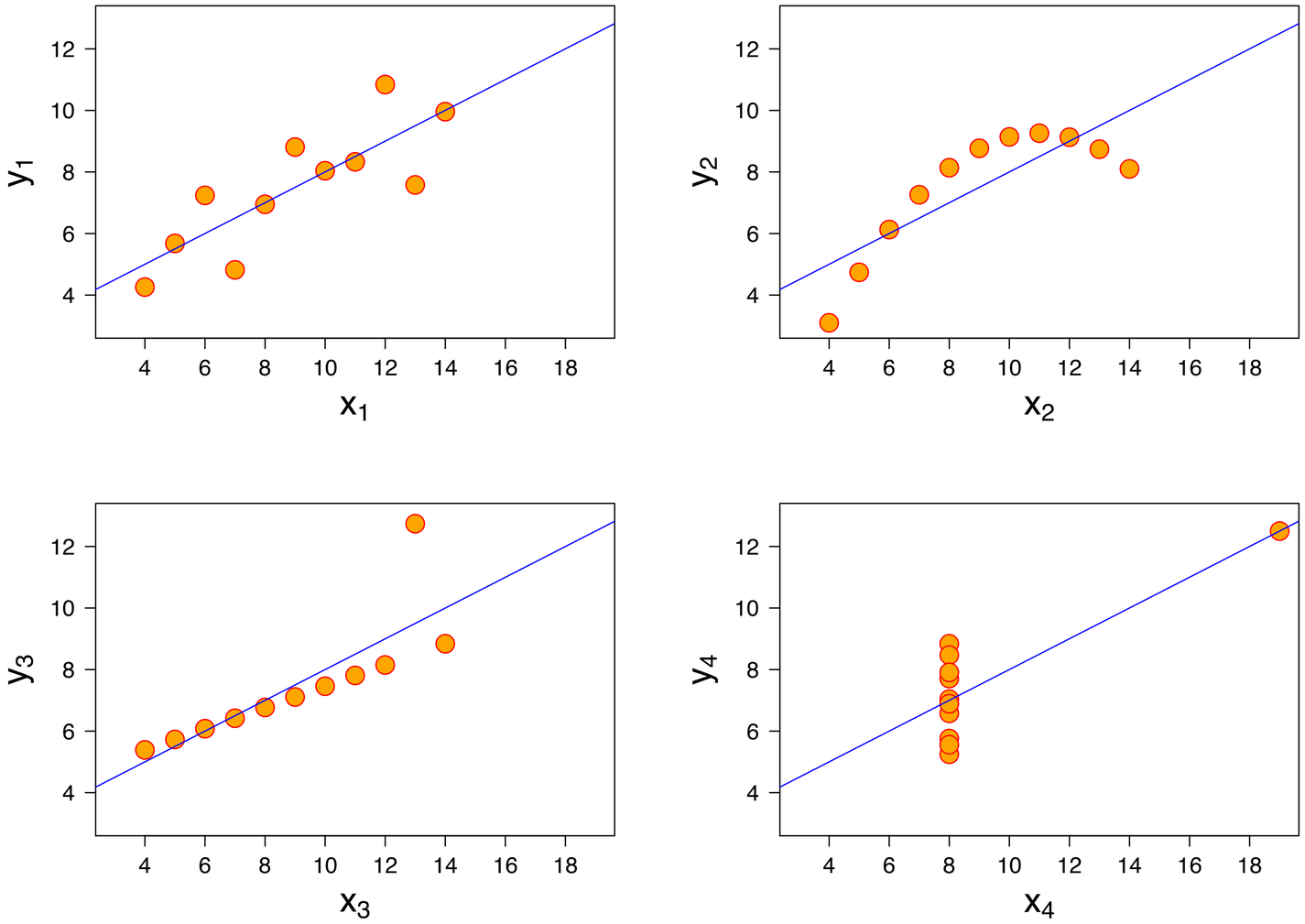
Why Visual?

I		II		III		IV	
x	y	x	y	x	y	x	y
10.0	8.04	10.0	9.14	10.0	7.46	8.0	6.58
8.0	6.95	8.0	8.14	8.0	6.77	8.0	5.76
13.0	7.58	13.0	8.74	13.0	12.74	8.0	7.71
9.0	8.81	9.0	8.77	9.0	7.11	8.0	8.84
11.0	8.33	11.0	9.26	11.0	7.81	8.0	8.47
14.0	9.96	14.0	8.10	14.0	8.84	8.0	7.04
6.0	7.24	6.0	6.13	6.0	6.08	8.0	5.25
4.0	4.26	4.0	3.10	4.0	5.39	19.0	12.50
12.0	10.84	12.0	9.13	12.0	8.15	8.0	5.56
7.0	4.82	7.0	7.26	7.0	6.42	8.0	7.91
5.0	5.68	5.0	4.74	5.0	5.73	8.0	6.89

Mean of x	9
Variance of x	11
Mean of y	7.50
Variance of y	4.122
Correlation	0.816

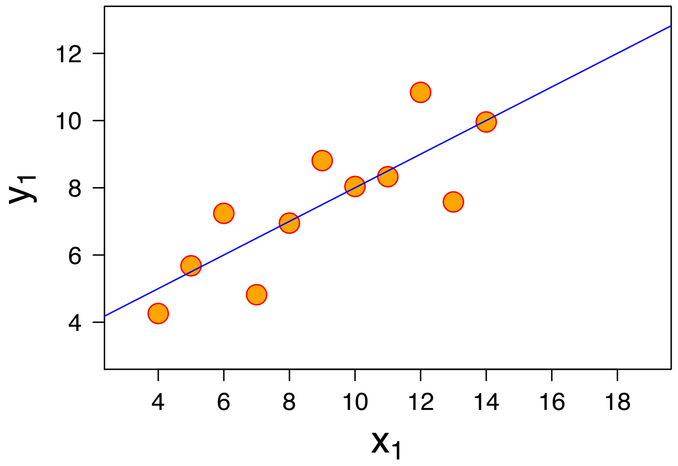
[F. J. Anscombe]

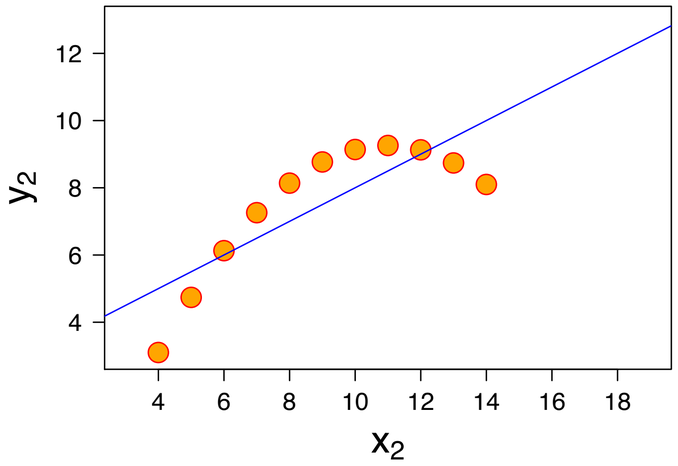
Why Visual?

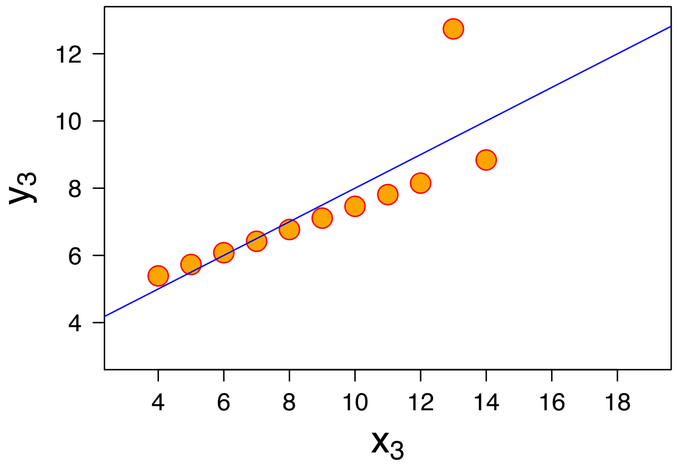


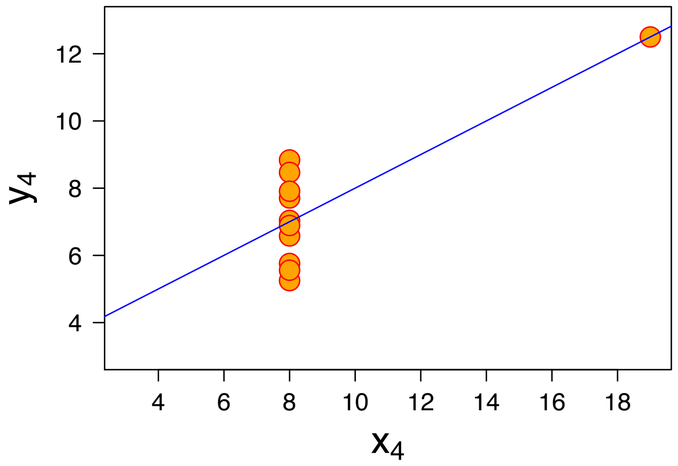
[F. J. Anscombe]

Why Visual?









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[F. J. Anscombe]

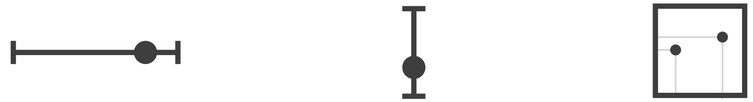
Visualization Goals

- "The purpose of visualization is **insight**, not pictures" – B. Schneiderman

- Identify patterns, trends
- Spot outliers
- Find similarities, correlation

Data is Encoded via Visual Channels

- **Position**
  - Horizontal
  - Vertical
  - Both



- **Color**

- **Shape**

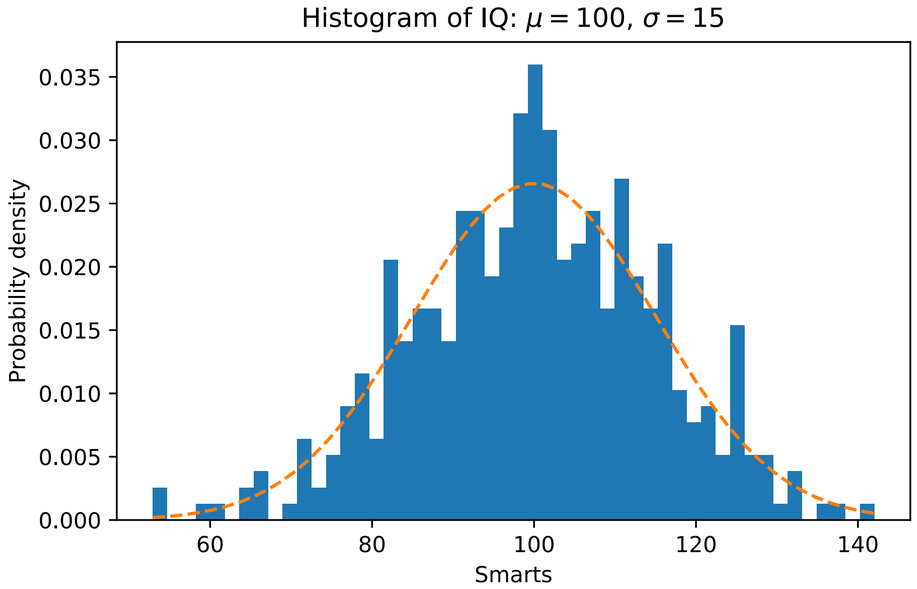
- **Tilt**

- **Size**
  - Length
  - Area
  - Volume

[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

matplotlib

- Strengths:
  - Designed like Matlab
  - Many rendering backends
  - Can reproduce almost any plot
  - Proven, well-tested
- Weaknesses:
  - API is imperative
  - Not originally designed for the web
  - Dated styles



pandas Integration

- Can call many of these methods directly from pandas
- Handled through `kind` kwarg or `.plot` accessor
- It will try to guess a reasonable visualization, but may fail:
  - `fruit.plot()`
- Instead, specify x and y and other parameters:
  - `fruit.plot(kind='bar',x='name',y='price')`
  - `plt.bar(x='name',height='price',data=fruit) # SIMILAR`
  - `fruit.plot.scatter(x='price',y='count',c='name') # ERROR`
  -
```
colors = {'Apple': 'red','Orange': 'orange',
          'Banana': 'yellow','Pear': 'green'}
fruit.plot.scatter(x='price',y='count',
                   c=fruit['name'].map(colors))
```

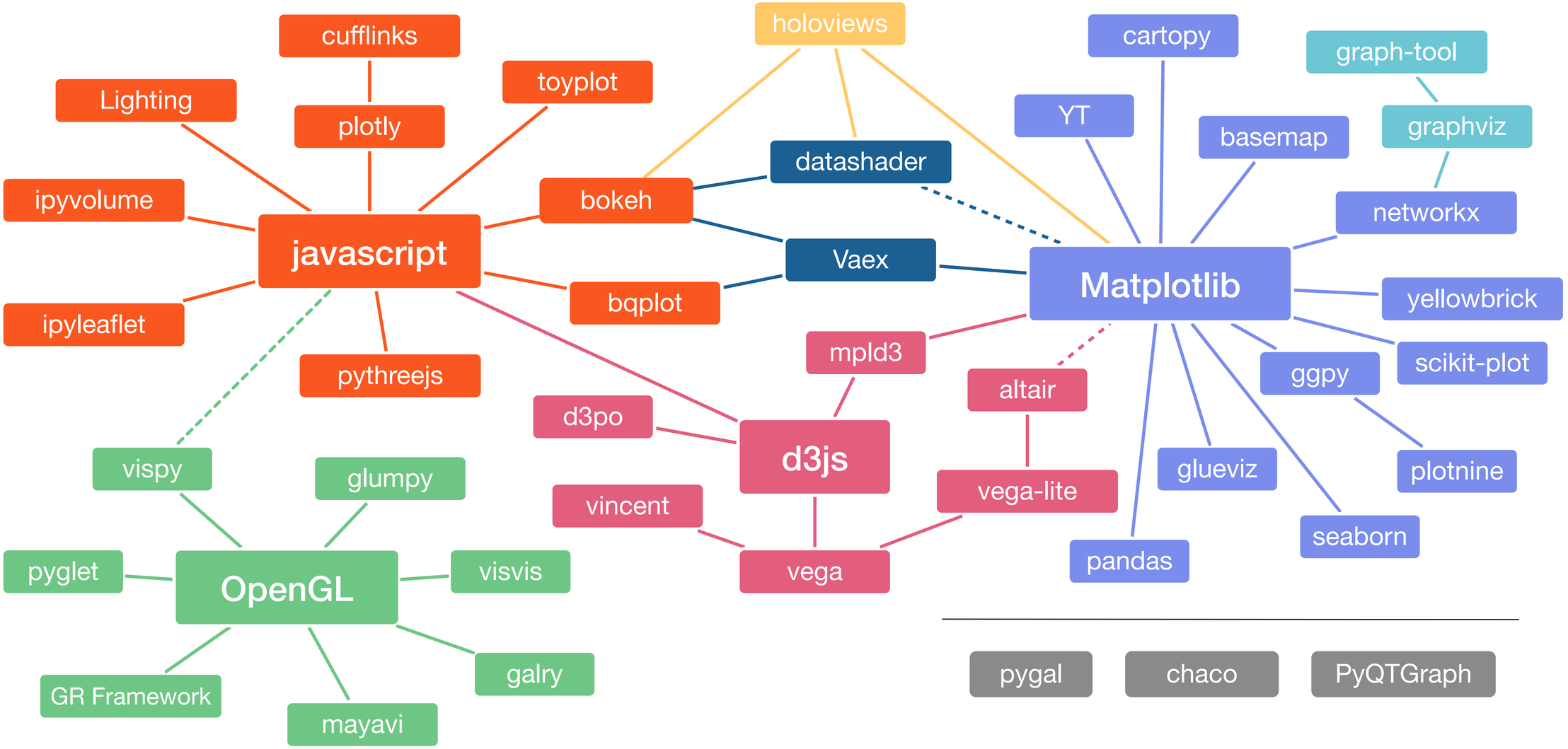
Assignment 8

- Due Monday
- Data and Visualization
- Pokemon Data

Final Exam

- Wednesday, May 10, **10:00**-11:50am in PM 110
- **More comprehensive** than Test 2
- Expect questions from topics covered on Test 1 and 2
- Expect questions from the last four weeks of class (data, visualization, machine learning)
- Similar format

The Python Visualization Landscape



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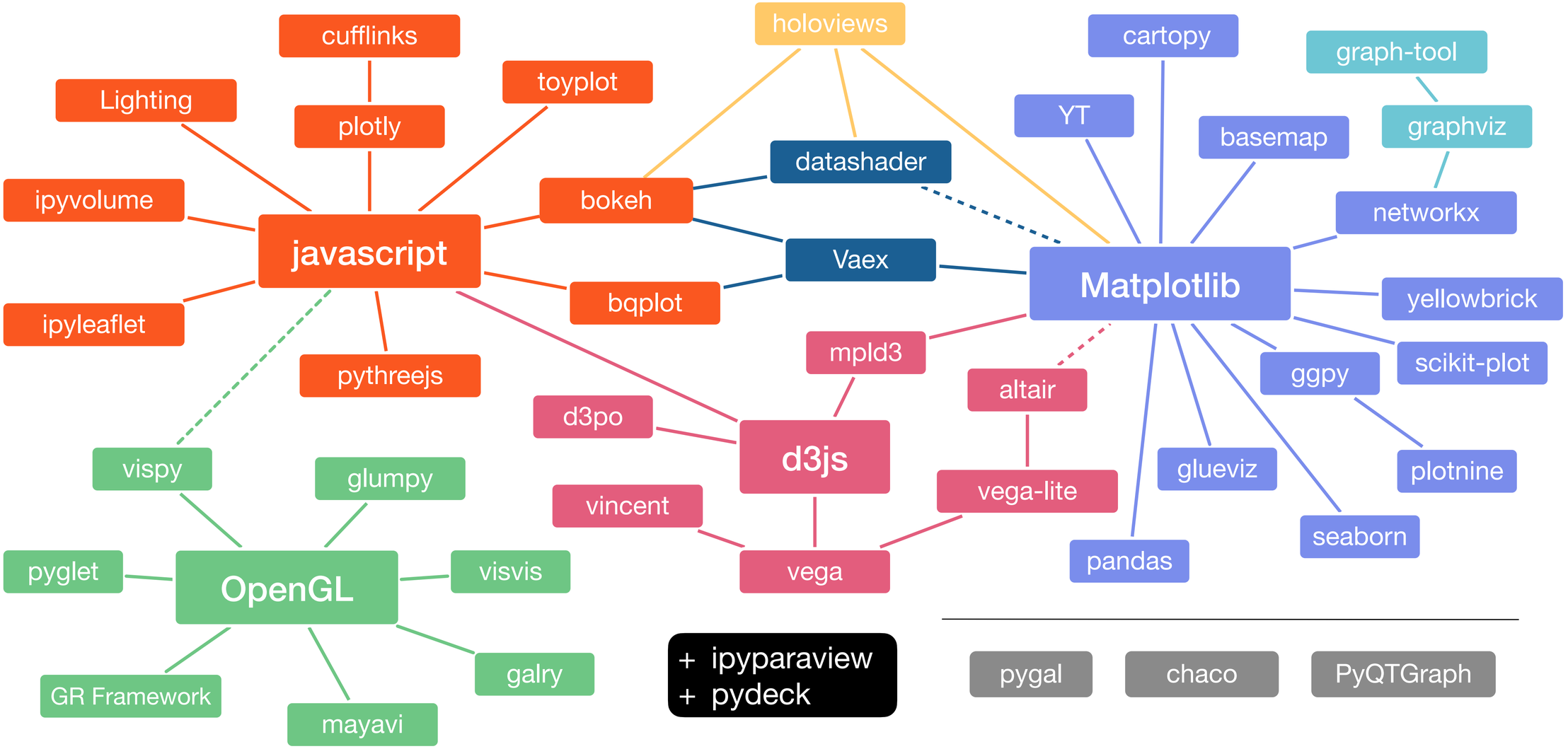


History of Vega-Lite & Altair

- "Grammar of Graphics", L. Wilkinson
- "A Layered Grammar of Graphics", H. Wickham
- ggplot: plotting library for R
- Vega: similar idea for Javascript/JSON (U. Washington, A. Satyanarayan)
  - "Declarative language for creating, saving, and sharing interactive visualization designs"
  - More focus on interaction and reactive signals
  - Separation between specification and runtime
- Vega-Lite: higher-level language than Vega (U. Washington, D. Moritz)
  - uses carefully designed rules to default settings

History of Vega-Lite & Altair

- Altair: Python interface to Vega-Lite (J. VanderPlas)
  - "spend more time understanding your data and its meaning"
  - Specify the what, minimize the amount of code directing the how
  - Python can write JSON specification just as well as any other language
  - Bindings make it more Python-friendly, integrate with pandas, add support for Jupyter, etc.
- Vega Fusion (J. Mease)
  - Scaling to larger datasets
  - Serverside scaling

Basic Example

- ```
  import altair as alt
  import pandas as pd
  data = pd.DataFrame({'x': [1,3,4,6,10],'y': [1,5,2,7,3]})
  alt.Chart(data).mark_line().encode(x='x', y='y')
  ```
- Easiest to use data from a pandas data frame
  - Another option is a csv or json file
  - Can support geo_interface, too
- `Chart` is the basic unit
- Mark: `.mark_*()` indicates the geometry created for each data item
- Encode: `.encode()` allows visual properties to be set to data attributes
  ```

Visual Marks

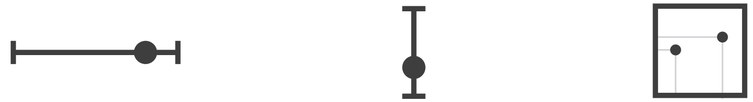
- **Marks** are the basic graphical elements in a visualization
- Marks classified by dimensionality:

Points **Lines** **Areas**

- Also can have surfaces, volumes
- Think of marks as a mathematical definition, or if familiar with tools like Adobe Illustrator or Inkscape, the path & point definitions
- Altair: area, bar, circle, geoshape, image, line, point, rect, rule, square, text, tick
  - Also compound marks: boxplot, errorband, errorbar

Encode via Visual Channels

- **Position**
  - Horizontal
  - Vertical
  - Both



- **Color**

- **Shape**

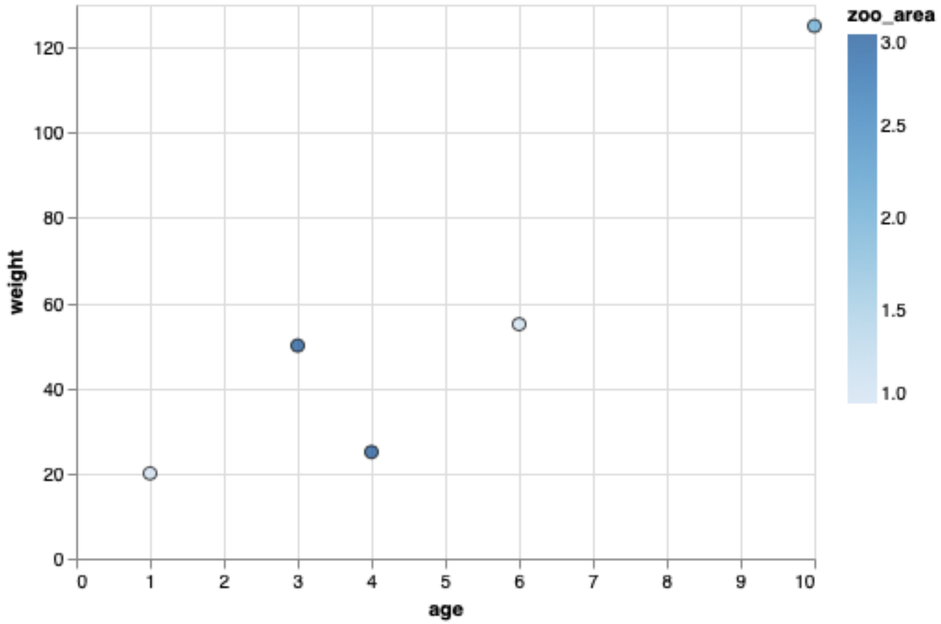
- **Tilt**

- **Size**
  - Length
  - Area
  - Volume

[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Easily Explore Different Encodings

```
data = pd.DataFrame({
    'age': [1,3,4,6,10],
    'weight': [20,50,25,55,125],
    'zoo_area': [1,3,3,1,2],
    'num_scoops': [3,2,4,2,3]
})
alt.Chart(data).mark_point(
    filled=True, size=50,
    stroke='black',strokeWidth=1
).encode(
    x='age',
    y='weight',
    color='zoo_area'
)
```



Problem: zoo_area is not a continuous value,
nor is it ordered in any way!

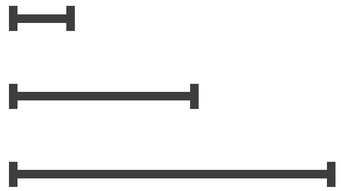
Data Attributes and Altair Types

➔ Categorical

➔ Ordered

➔ *Ordinal*

➔ *Quantitative*



[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

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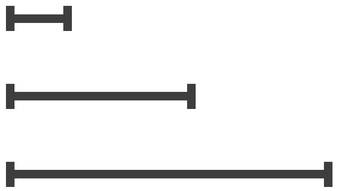
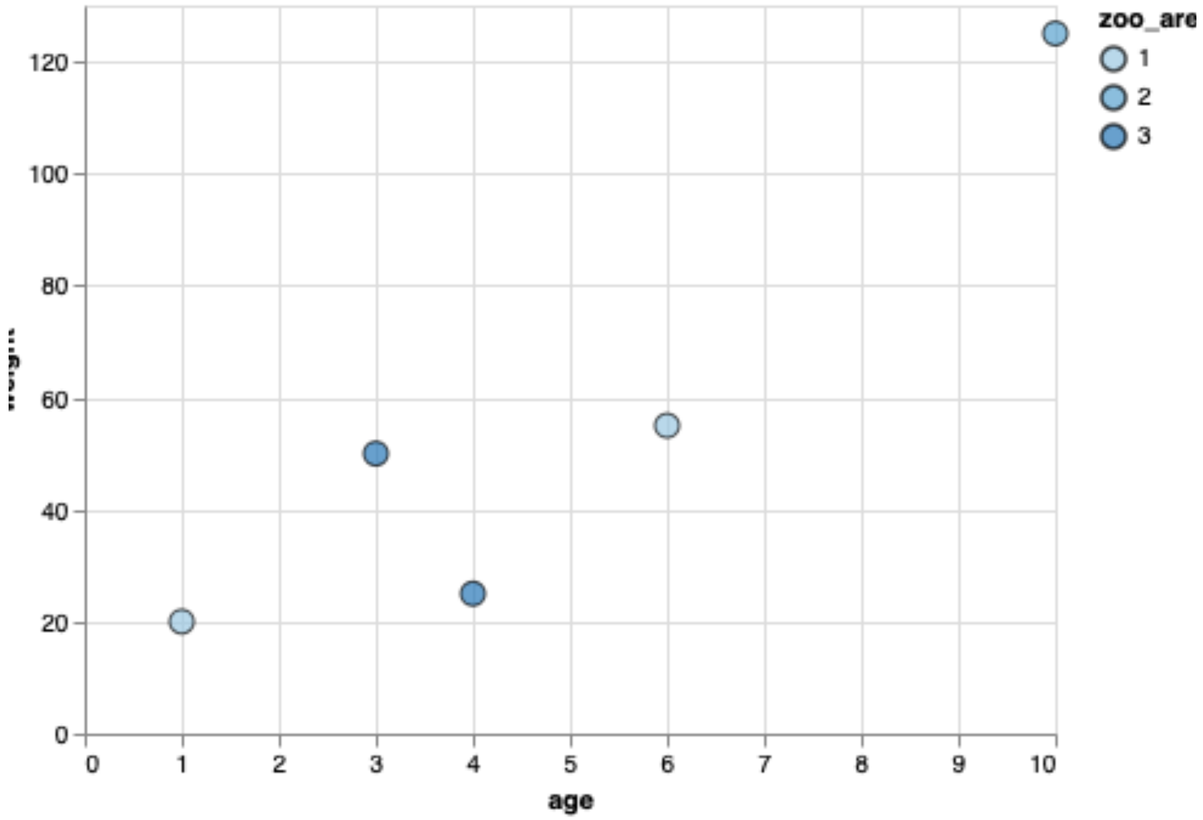


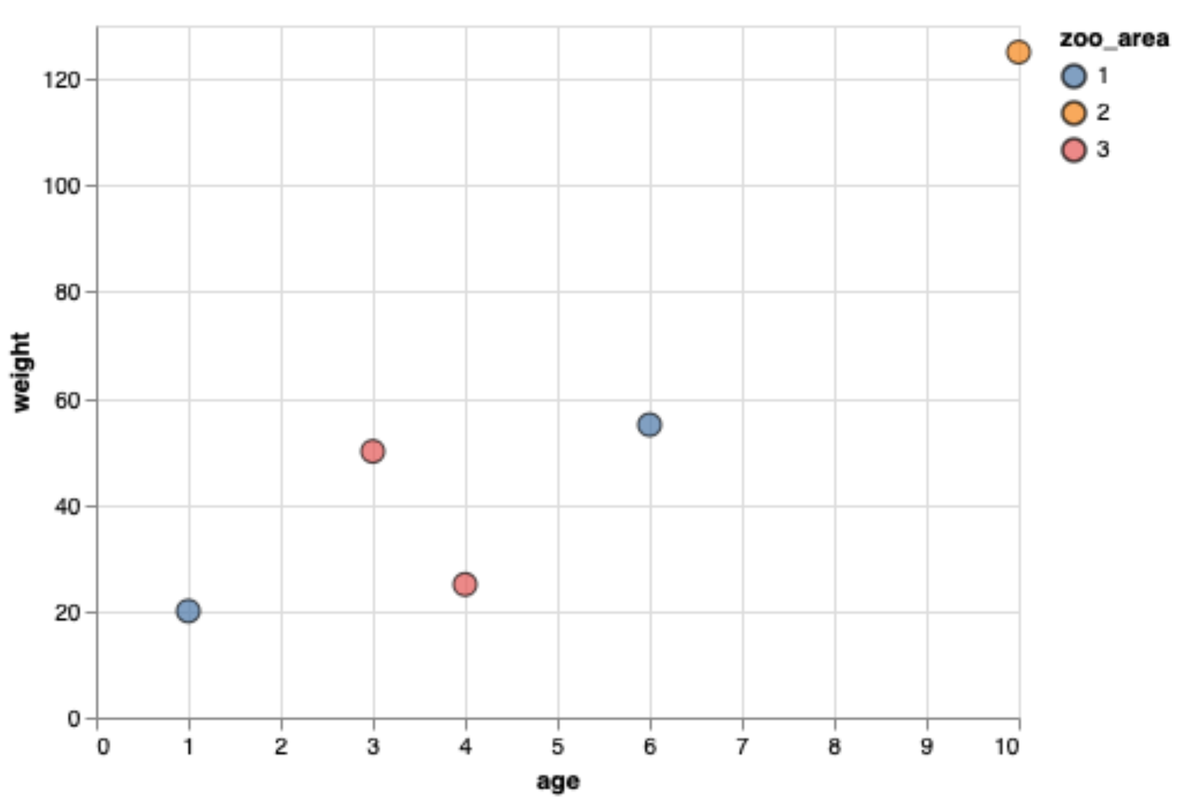
- Categorical data = Nominal (N)
- Ordinal data = Ordinal (O)
- Quantitative data = Quantitative (Q)
- Temporal data = Temporal (T)

[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Specifying the Type



`zoo_area:O`

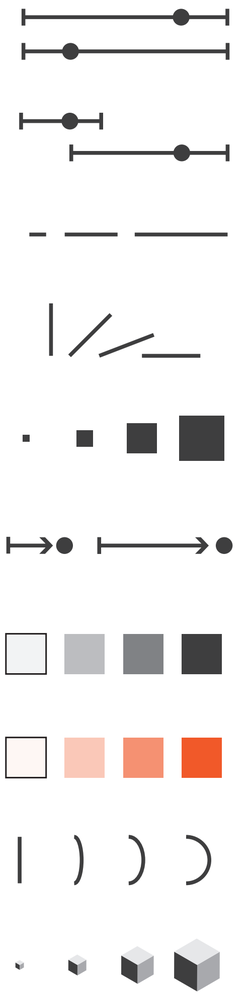


`zoo_area:N`

Different Channels for Different Attribute Types

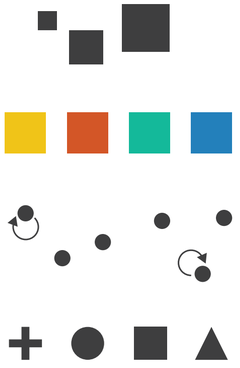
Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes

- Position on common scale
- Position on unaligned scale
- Length (1D size)
- Tilt/angle
- Area (2D size)
- Depth (3D position)
- Color luminance
- Color saturation
- Curvature
- Volume (3D size)



Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes

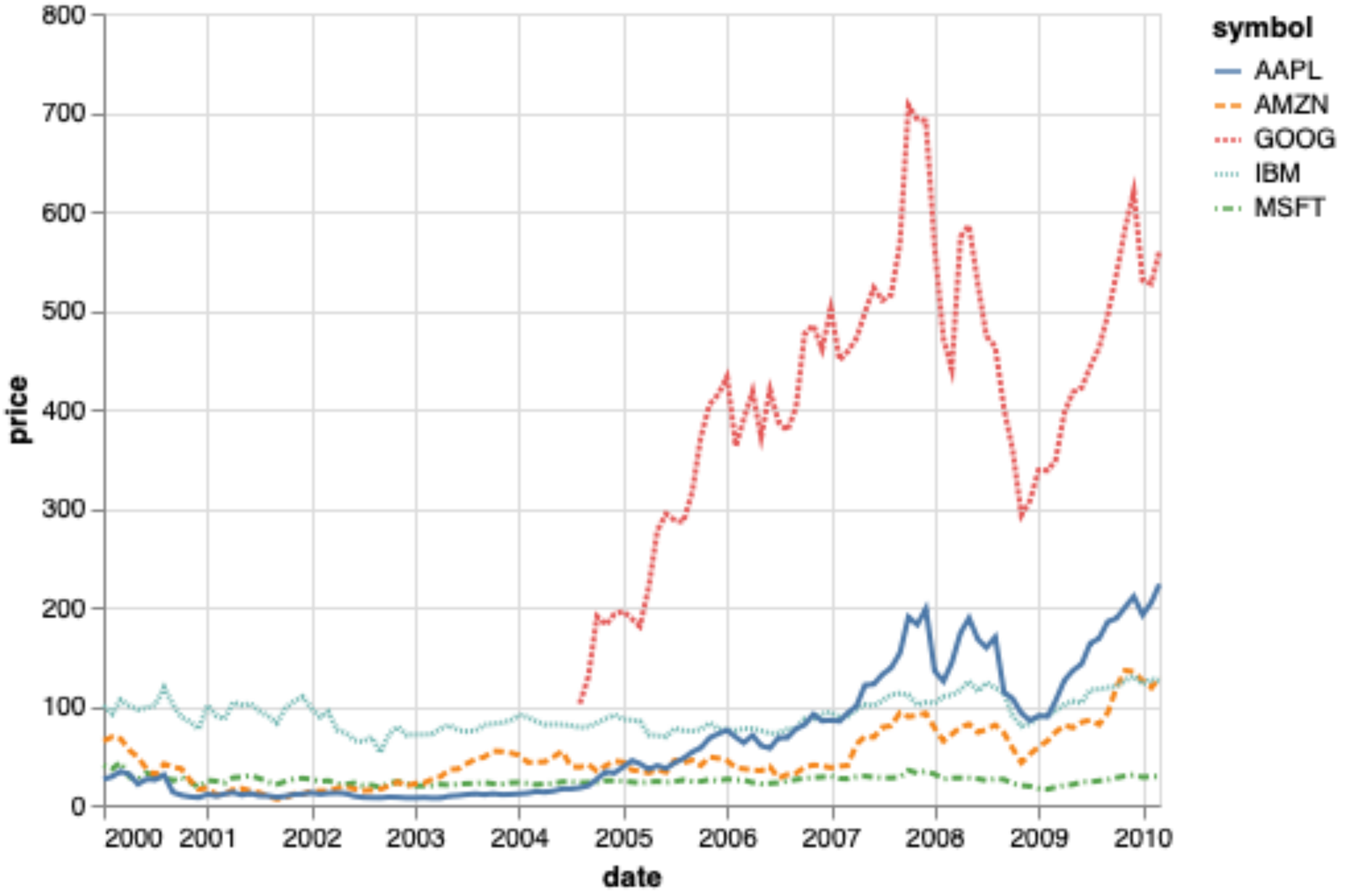
- Spatial region
- Color hue
- Motion
- Shape



Altair will use its rules to pick whether to use color hue or saturation based on the type

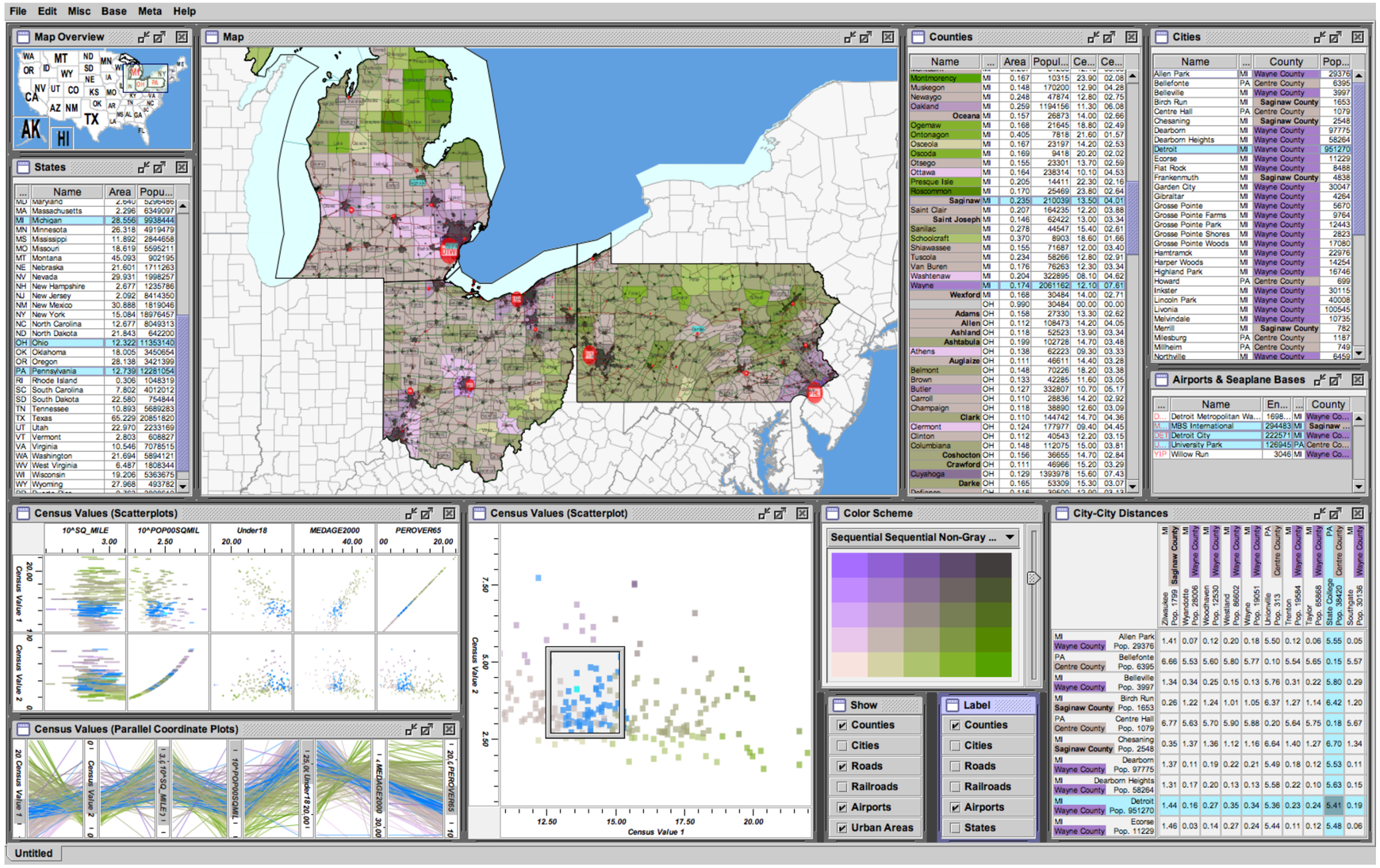
[Munzner (ill. Maguire), 2014]

Multiple Views in Visualization



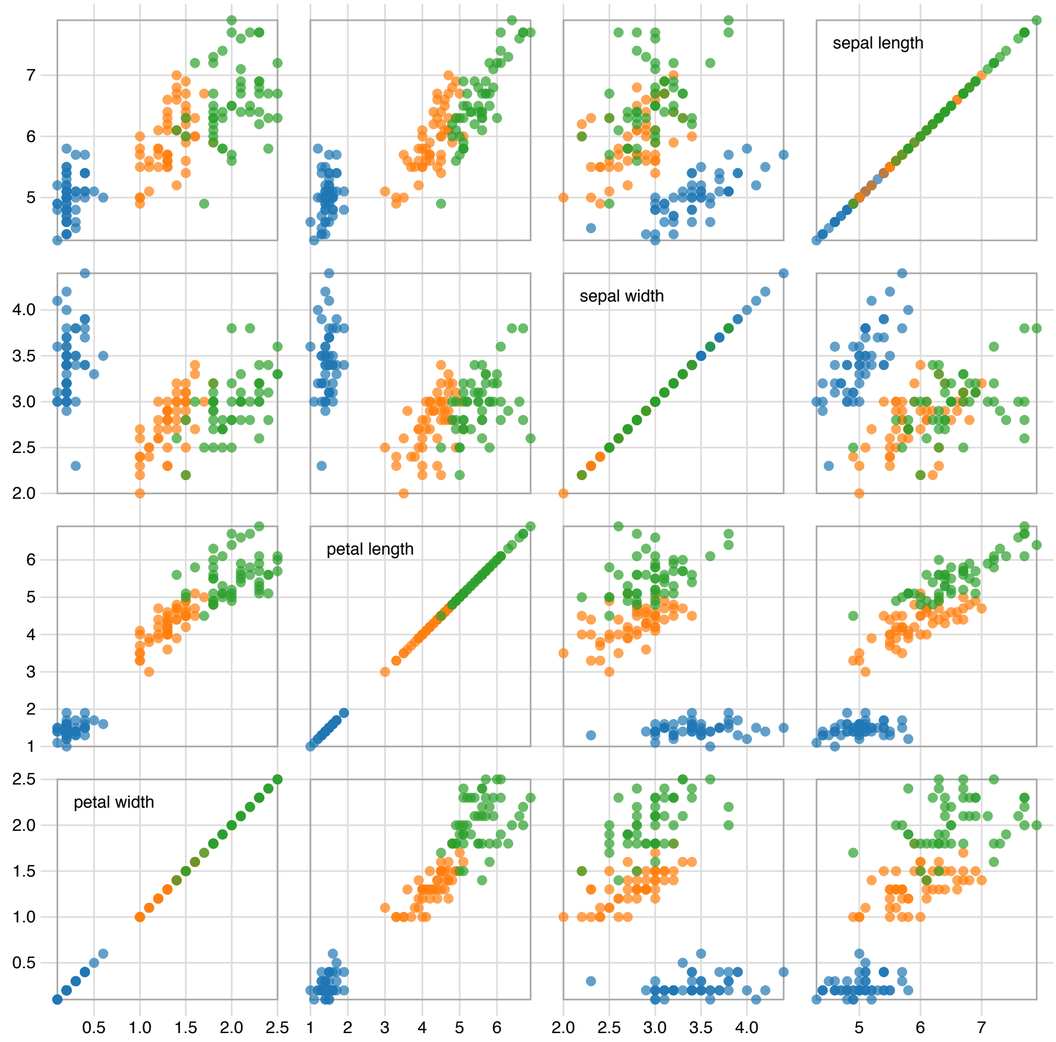
[Altair]

Multiple Views in Visualization



[Improvise, Weaver, 2004]

Multiple Views in Visualization

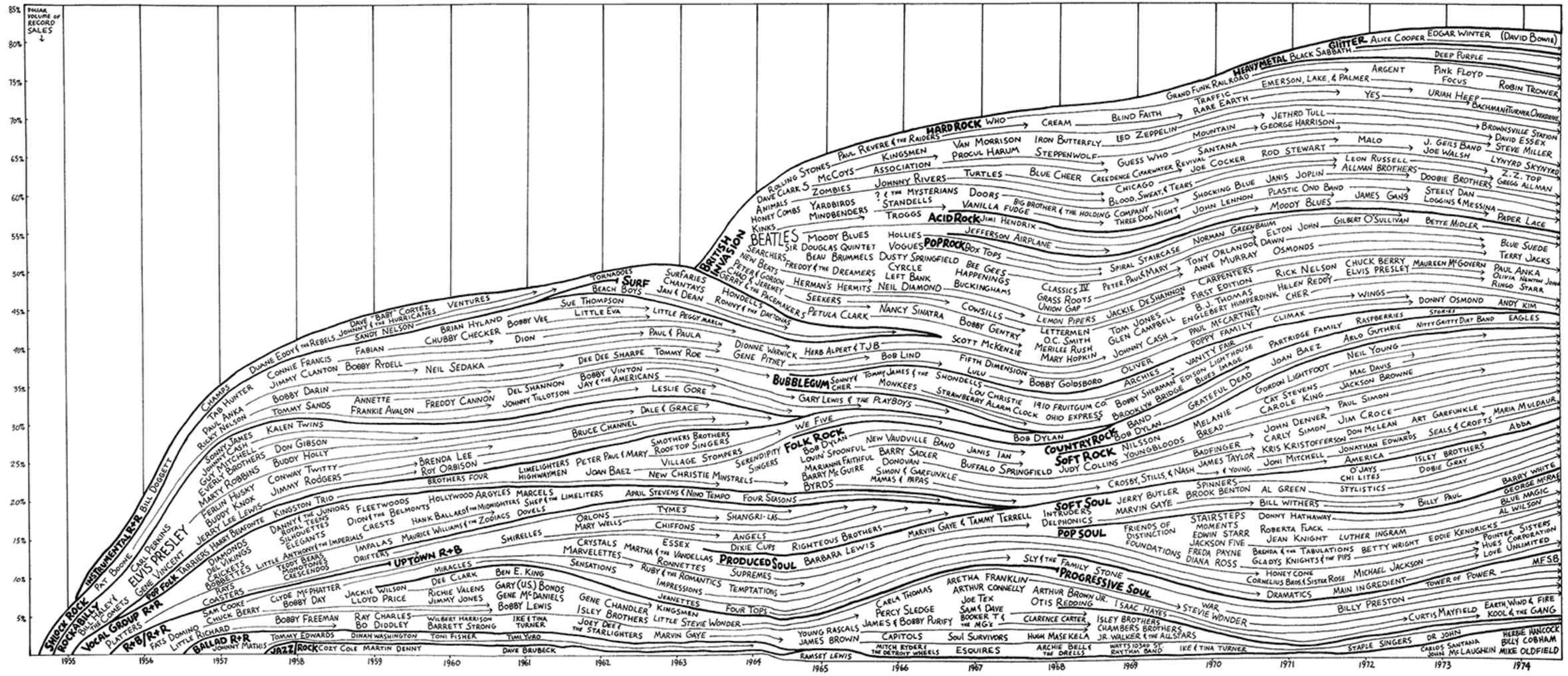


[M. Bostock]

Altair Supports Concatenation, Layering, & Repetition

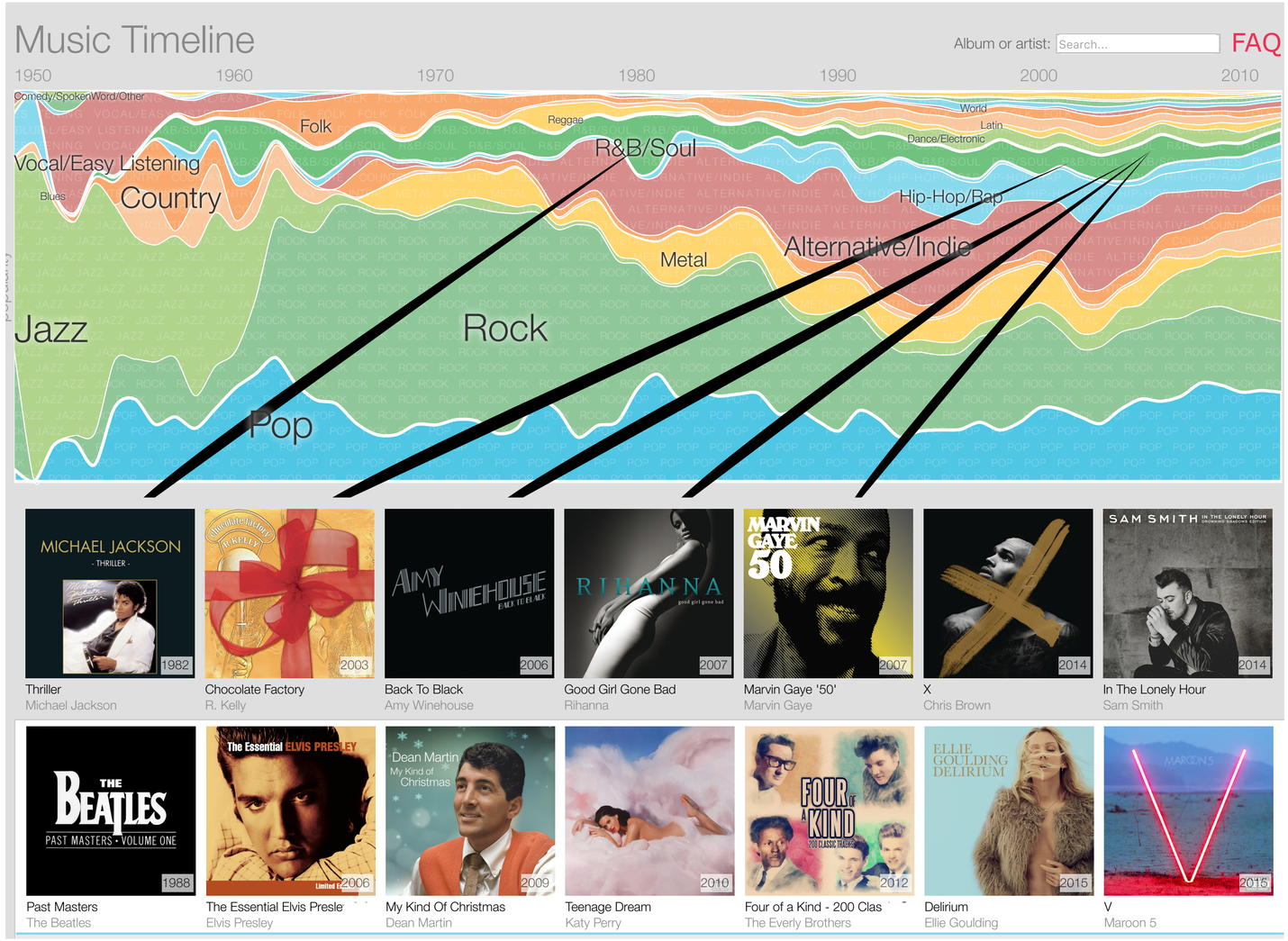
- Layering:
  - + Operator
- Concatenation:
  - Horizontal: | operator
  - Vertical: & operator
- Repetition
  - Use of .repeat for layout
  - Reference repeated variables in the encoding

Visualization



[Rock 'N' Roll is Here to Pay, R. Garofalo, 1977 (via Tufte)]

Also Visualization, but with Interaction



[Music Timeline, Google Research (no working version)]

Interaction

- Grammar of Graphics, why not Grammar of Interaction?
- Vega-Lite/Altair is about **interactive** graphics
- Types of Interactions:
  - Selection
  - Zoom
  - Brushing

Selection

- Selection is often used to initiate other changes
- User needs to select something to drive the next change
- What can be a selection target?
  - Items, links, attributes, (views)
- How?
  - mouse click, mouse hover, touch
  - keyboard modifiers, right/left mouse click, force
- Selection modes:
  - Single, multiple
  - Contiguous?

Highlighting

- Selection is the user action
- Feedback is important!
- How? Change selected item's visual encoding
  - Change color: want to achieve visual popout
  - Add outline mark: allows original color to be preserved
  - Change size (line width)
  - Add motion: marching ants

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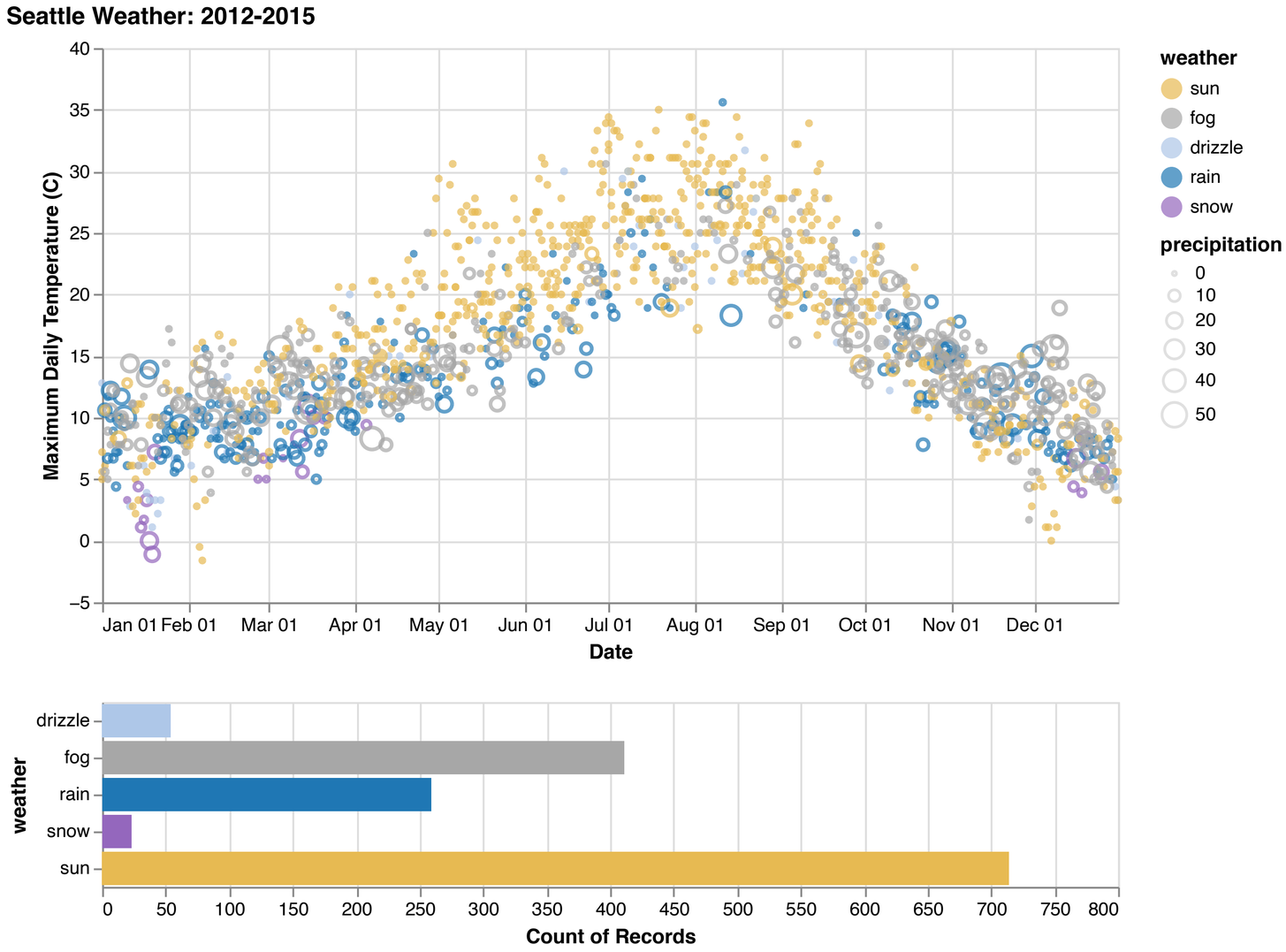
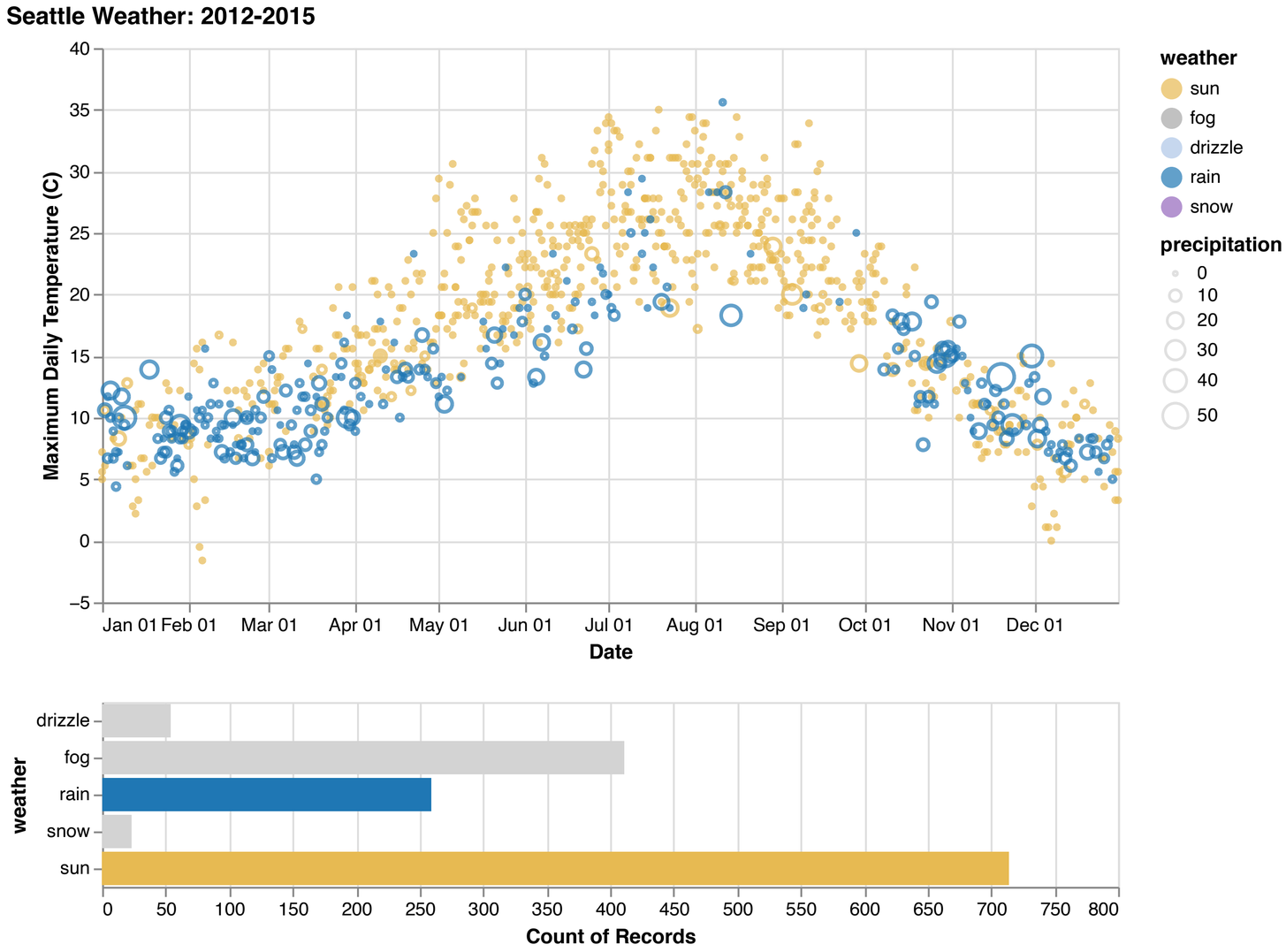
Altair's Interactive Charts

- https://altair-viz.github.io/gallery/index.html#interactive-charts

Interaction



Weather Selection: Rain vs. Sun



Date Selection: July-September Sun