Lecture 20:
Toolkits for building speech/conversational/chatbot User Interfaces, and Visualizations

05-431/631 Software Structures for User Interfaces (SSUI)

Fall, 2021

Logistics

- Changed lecture order because speech or viz might be a topic for final projects

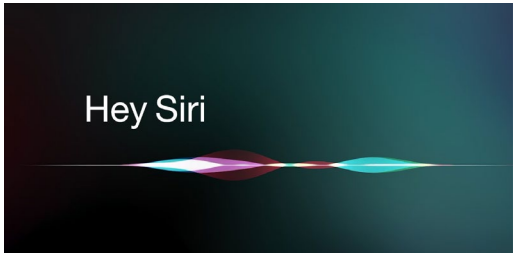
Based on:
Toolkits for Creating Conversational Interfaces

by Toby Jia-Jun Li http://toby.li/

04/20/2020

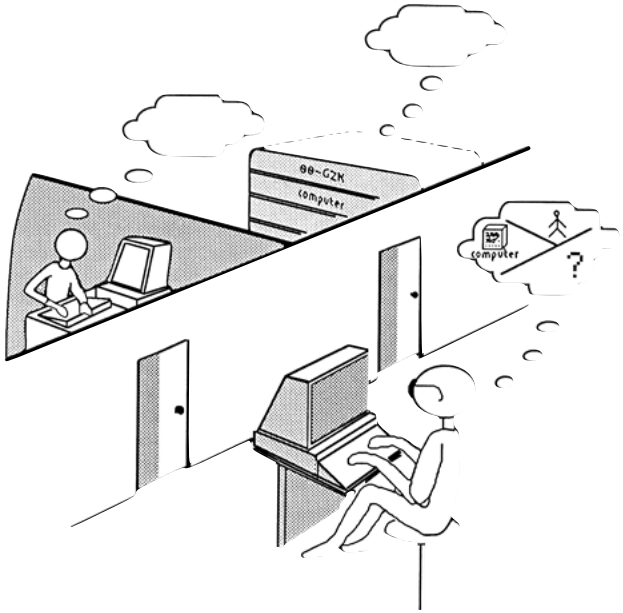
Conversational Interfaces

- Intelligent personal assistants
  Alexa, Siri, Google Assistant, Cortana…
- Voice command support for specific task domains
  e.g., Talking to your car
- Automated phone systems for customer service
- Chatbots for tech support or fun



History

Turing Test (1950)



History

- Let computers facilitate formulative thinking as they now facilitate the solution of formulated problems
- Enable men and computers to cooperate in making decisions and controlling complex situations without inflexible dependence on predetermined programs.
- “Man-Computer Symbiosis (1960): Cooperative interaction between men and electronic computers”

J. C. R. Licklider

Lots of research and commercial attempts

- Influential early *multi-modal* system: Put That There (1980)
  - Bolt, Richard A. “Put-that-there”: Voice and gesture at the graphics interface. *SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics*. Vol. 14. No. 3. ACM, 1980.
  - https://youtu.be/sC5Zg0fU2e8 (5:30)

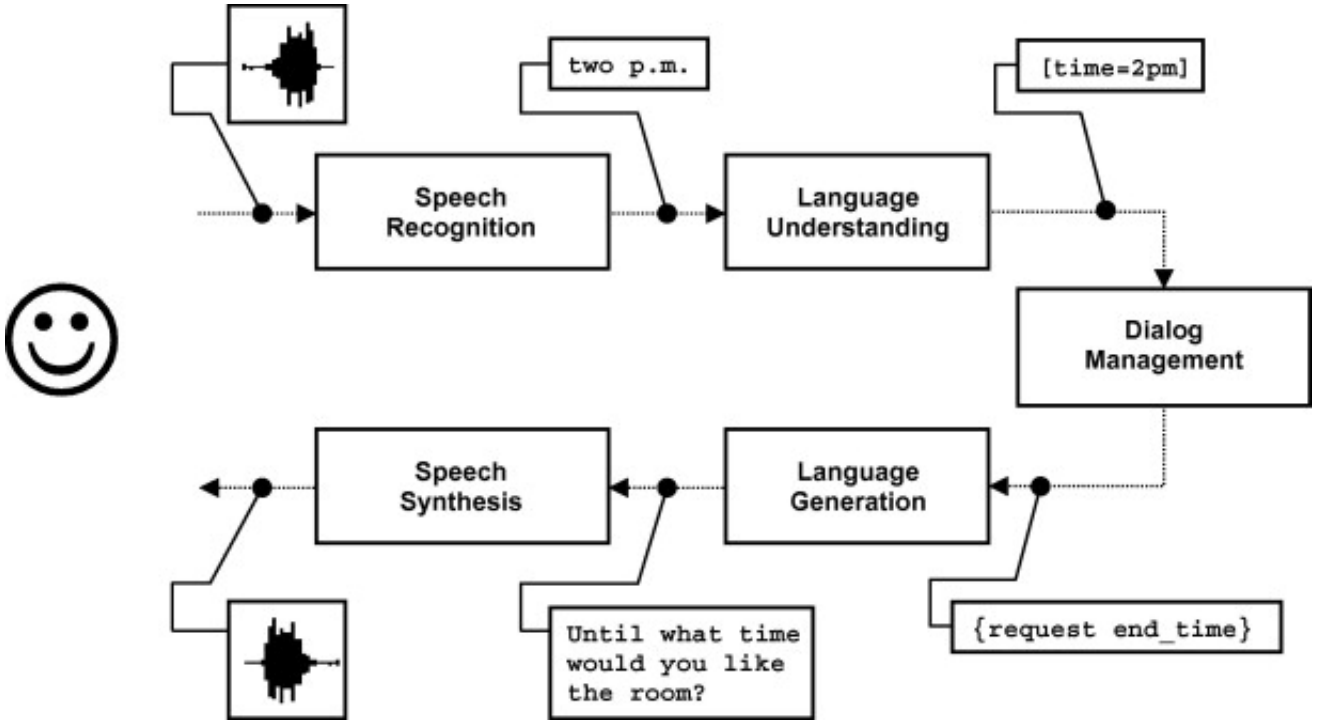
Advantages of conversational interfaces

- **Hands-free**: can handle situations where direct manipulation is not possible or convenient (e.g., far away, driving, users with accessibility needs)
- **Screen size independence**: can operate on devices with small screens (e.g., wearable) and no screen.
- **Intuitive to use**: well-designed conversational interfaces should have low learning barriers to users.
- **Efficient**: takes less time and effort for ***some tasks*** that require a lot of text entry, or navigating complex menus.
  - Can be inefficient and hard-to-use in some situations too! E.g., when the prompts are too verbose, when the affordances are unclear (discoverability), or when the error handling mechanism is lacking.

Two classes of conversational systems

1. Task-oriented conversational agents
   - Purpose: help the user perform some specific tasks
2. Social chatbots ("chit-chat" bots)
   - Purpose: maintain realistic conversations with humans

Practical architectures for task-oriented dialog systems



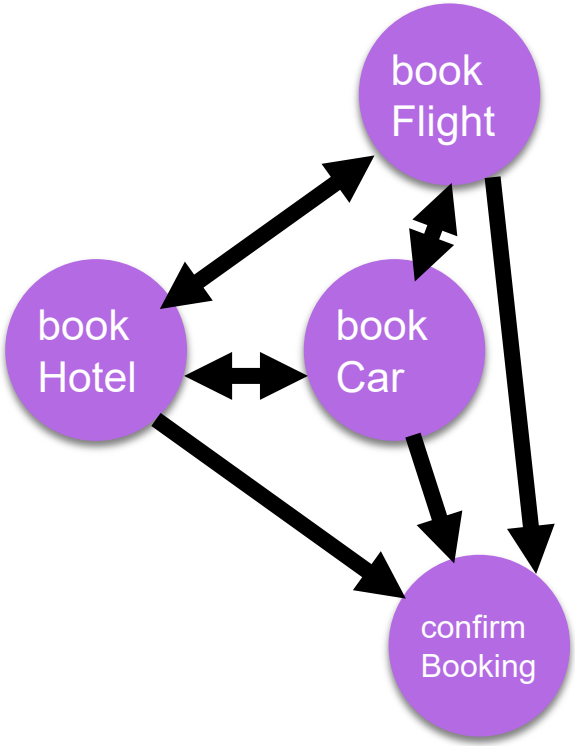
RavenClaw (Bohus and Rudnicky, 2003)

Bohus, Dan, and Alexander I. Rudnicky. "RavenClaw: Dialog management using hierarchical task decomposition and an expectation agenda." Eighth European Conference on Speech Communication and Technology. 2003.

Practical architectures for task-oriented dialog systems

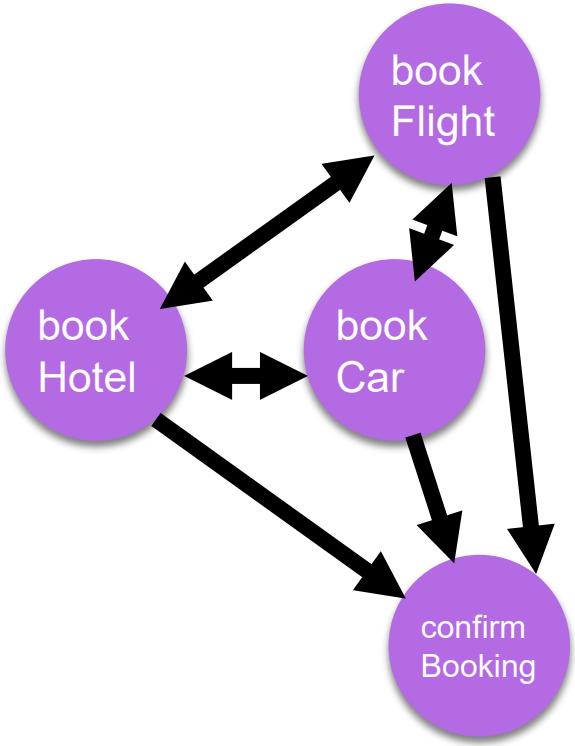
- Finite-state
  - The developer manually defines all the conversation states in the system, and the transitions between the states.
- Frame-based
  - **frame** (“intent”): the user’s intention for one conversation turn (e.g., book_flight)
  - **slot**: the information that the system needs to know to fulfill an intent (e.g., departure_date, destination_city)
  - **slot values**: the values that each slot can take

User: I want to book a flight for 2 to Munich.



User: I want to **book a flight** for 2 to Munich.

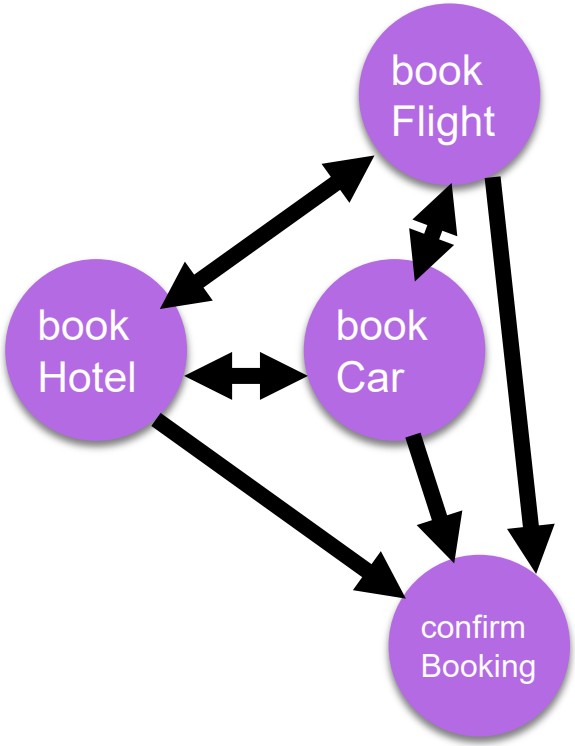
Intent recognition



Intent: bookFlight **Slots:** departureCity, arrivalCity, personCount, date

User: I want to book a flight for **2** to **Munich**.

Entity extraction / slot filling

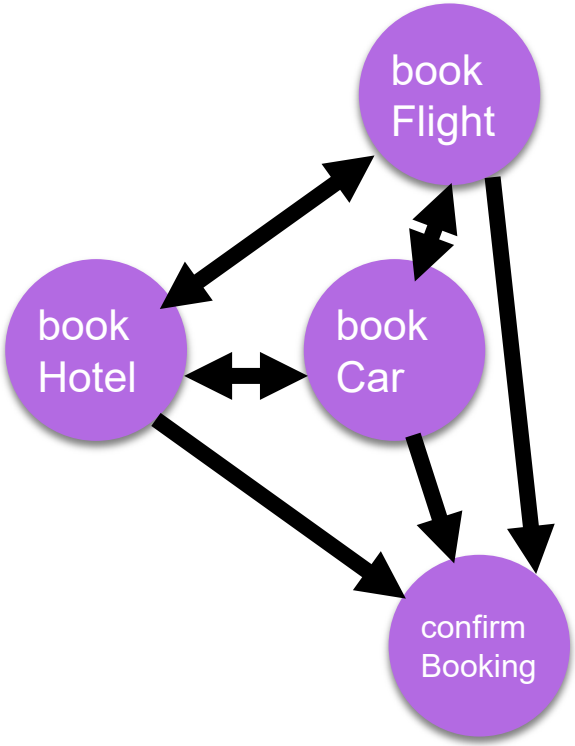


Intent: bookFlight **Slots:** departureCity, ~~**arrivalCity**~~, ~~**personCount**~~, date

User: I want to **book a flight** for **2** to **Munich**.

Bot: What city are you flying from?

User: Pittsburgh.

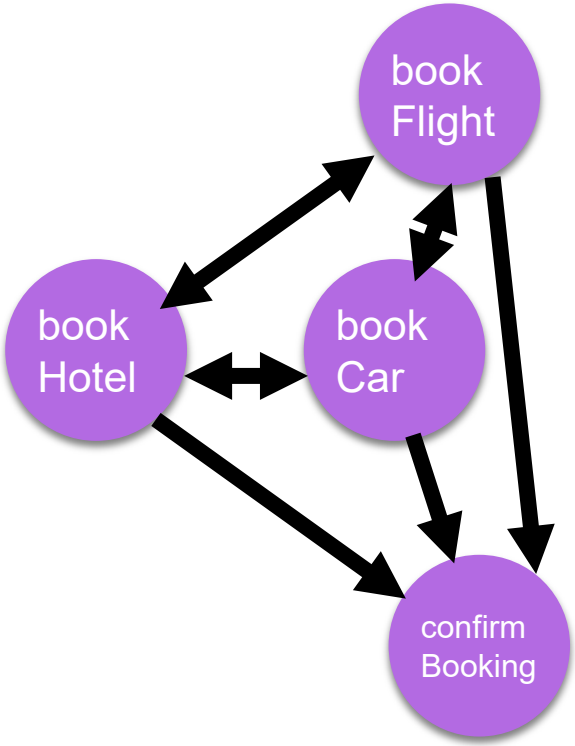


Intent: bookFlight **Slots:** departureCity, ~~**arrivalCity**~~, ~~**personCount**~~, date

User: I want to **book a flight** for **2** to **Munich**.

Bot: What city are you flying from?

User: **Pittsburgh**.



Intent: bookFlight **Slots:** ~~**departureCity**~~, ~~**arrivalCity**~~, ~~**personCount**~~, date

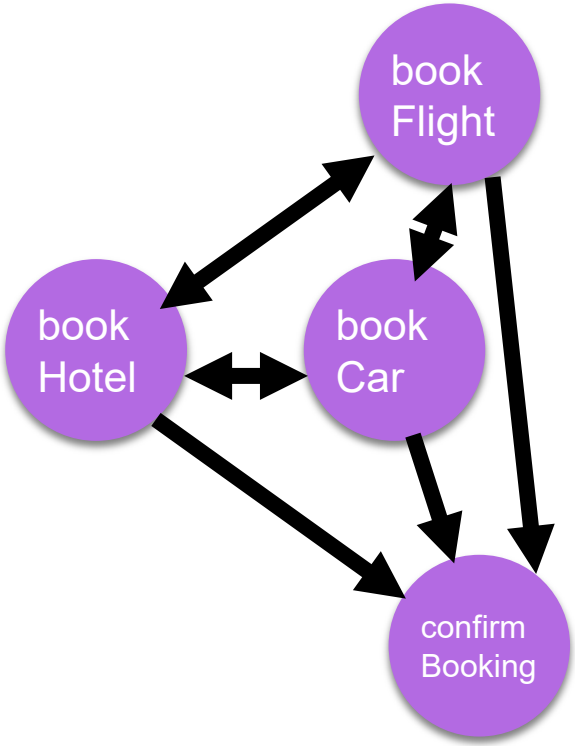
User: I want to **book a flight** for **2** to **Munich**.

Bot: What city are you flying from?

User: **Pittsburgh**.

Bot: What's the departure date for the flight?

User: **Tomorrow**.



Intent: bookFlight **Slots:** ~~**departureCity**~~, ~~**arrivalCity**~~, ~~**personCount**~~, ~~**date**~~

User: I want to **book a flight** for **2** to **Munich**.

Bot: What city are you flying from?

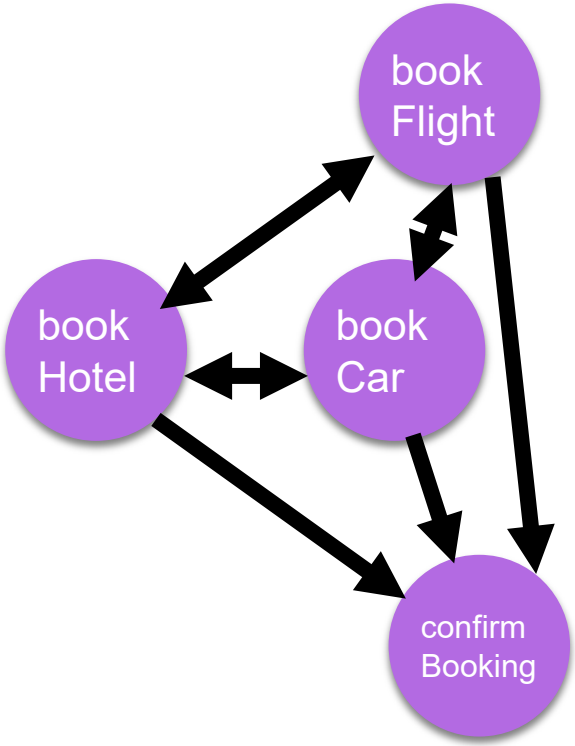
User: **Pittsburgh**.

Bot: What's the departure date for the flight?

User: **Tomorrow**.

Bot: Do you want to also book a hotel or a car?

User: I'd like to **get a place to stay** too.



Intent: bookHotel **Slots:** …..

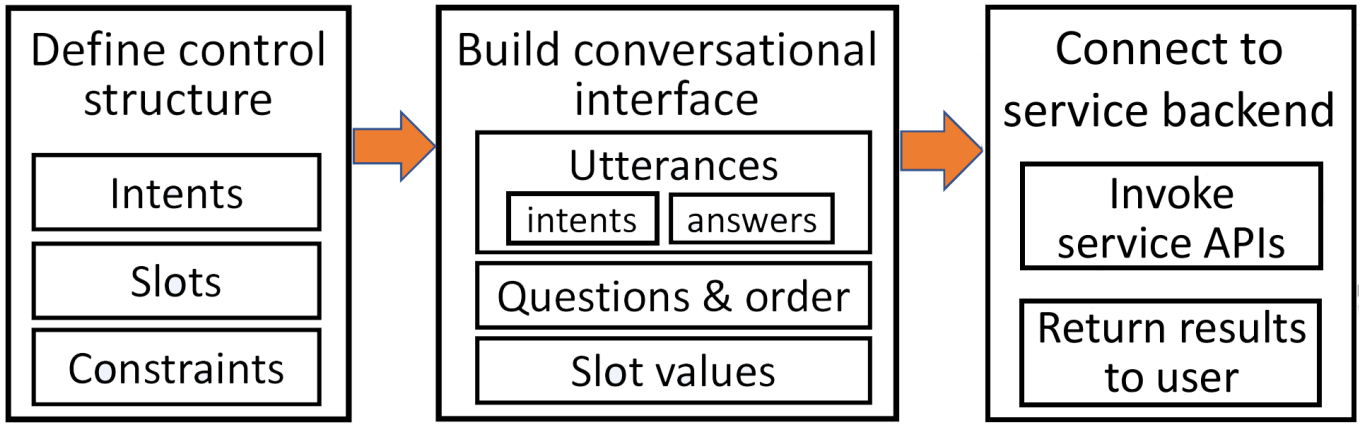
Existing tools for building slot-filling bots

Dialogflow

wit.ai

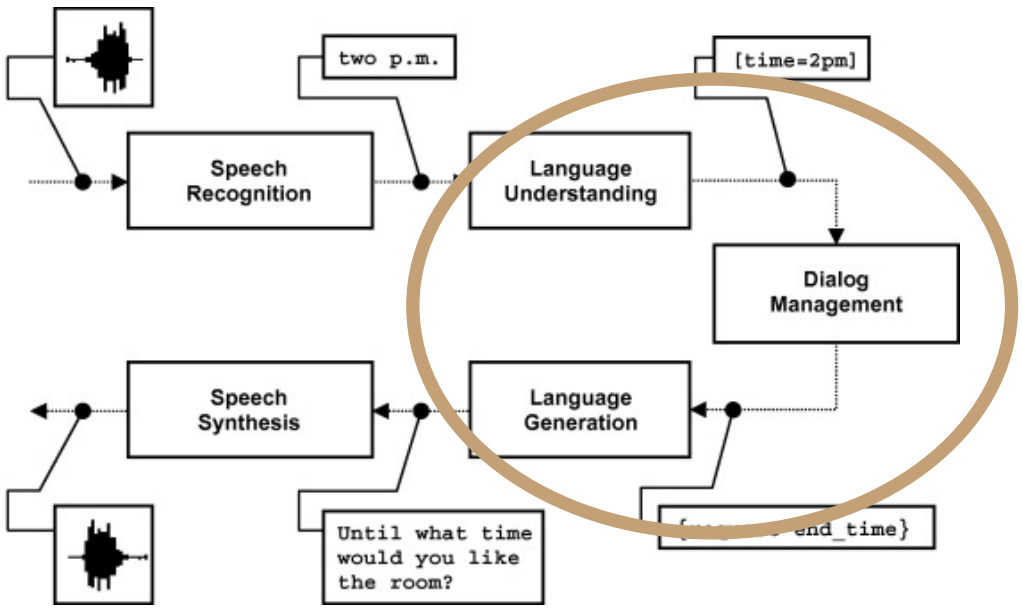
Microsoft Bot Framework

Amazon Lex



Dialogflow

- One of the more popular toolkits
  - https://cloud.google.com/dialogflow/docs
- Can easily connect to other Google components (e.g., speech recognition, speech synthesis, knowledge graph…)



Other architectures for dialog systems

1. **Rule-based**

```
(if (contains (or "hi" "hello")) (output "hello"))
(if (and (= detect_comm_type SELF_DISCLOSURE) (= detect_emotion SAD))
    (output "I'm sorry to hear [$USER_DISCLOSURE]"))
```

2. **Corpus-based:** use a very large corpus of human-human or human-machine conversations
   - **Information retrieval (IR) based approach:** find the best-matched prior utterance for the user's input in the corpus, and use the prior response for that utterance
   - **Sequence-to-sequence dialog generation:** model conversation as a sequence transduction problem -> generate a response from a user input (and probably with some other contexts encoded in)

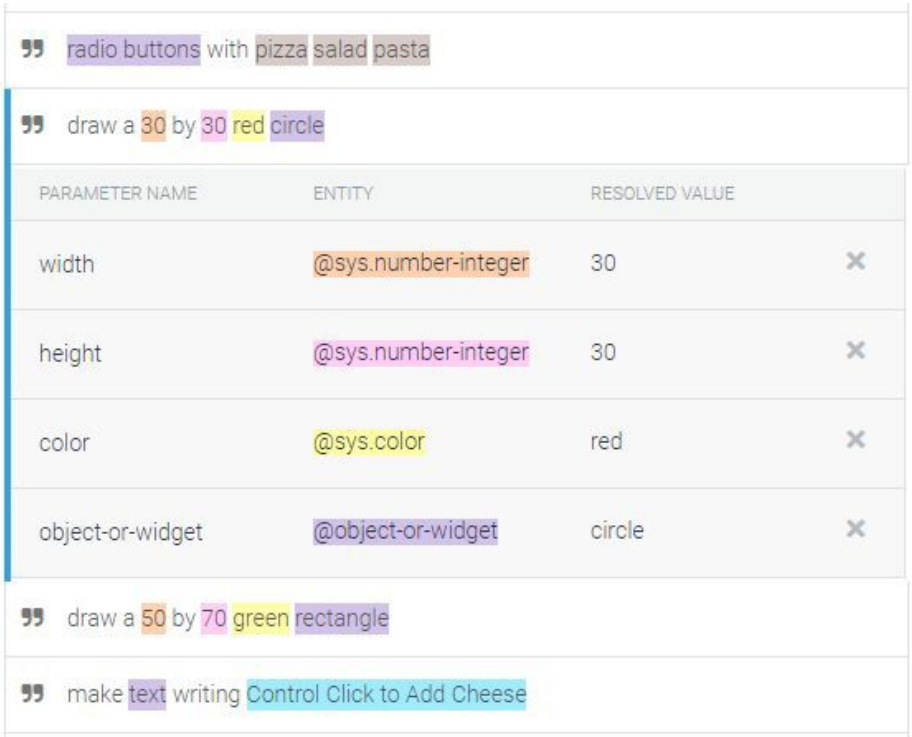
Example: 05-830 project (Spring'20)

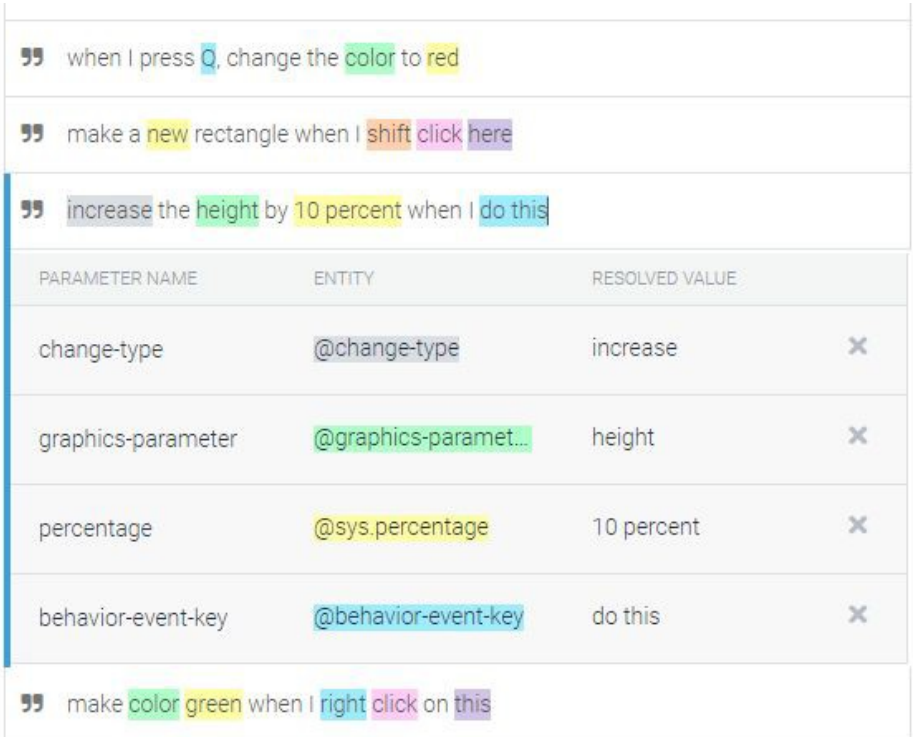
- Use DialogFlow to create a GUI Builder
- Thanks to Hongyi Zhang, Mengxin Cao, Ron Chew
- 1-month project

Conversation Design in DialogFlow

Two intents: **Initialization**, **Interaction**

Capability vs Complexity: What things do we need to specify via voice, or could we use a **demonstration**?





Conversation Design in DialogFlow

- Everyone has a different word for everything…
- Provide synonyms

x	x, shift x, move x
y	y, shift y, move y
width	width, wide
height	height, high, tall
color	color, shade, look, colour
thickness	thickness, thick, border
options	options, choices
text	text, label, write, line
size	size

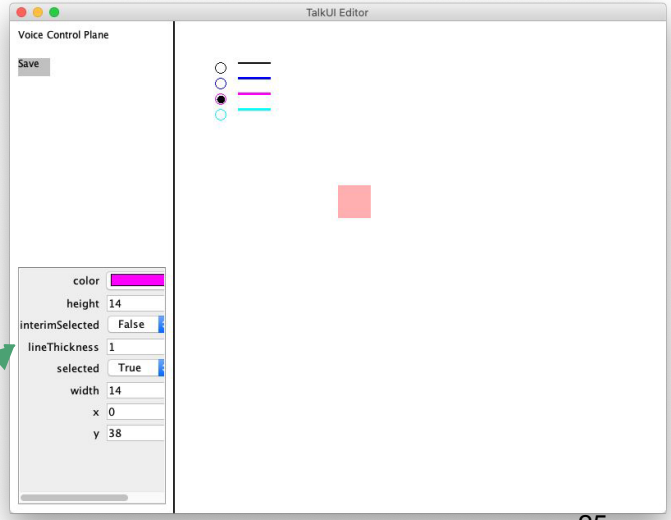
Click here to edit entry

FilledRect	FilledRect, Rectangle, Box, Square, Fill Rectangle, Filled Rectangle, Filled Box, Filled Square
OutlineRect	OutlineRect, Outlined Rectangle, Outline Rectangle, Outline Box, Outlined Box, Outline Square, Outlined Square
FilledEllipse	FilledEllipse, Circle, Oval, Ellipse, Filled Circle, Filled Oval, Filled Ellipse
OutlineEllipse	OutlineEllipse, Outlined Ellipse, Outlined Circle, Outlined Oval, Outline Circle, Outline Oval, Outline Ellipse
Text	Text, Label, Textbox, Text Box, line of text
ButtonPanel	ButtonPanel, Buttons, Button
CheckBoxPanel	CheckBoxPanel, Checkboxes, Check boxes, multi select
RadioButtonPanel	RadioButtonPanel, Radio Buttion, Radio Buttons, Single select, circle buttons, video buttons, video button, video, video patterns
NumberSlider	NumberSlider, Slider, Range, number selector

Click here to edit entry

Interface Design

- Features
  - Continuous voice monitoring
  - Voice control to interact with graphical objects
  - Dialog feedback in both audio and text
  - Property sheet that supports direct manipulation
  - Export existing canvas as a static picture



Property sheet of active object

Issues Encountered

DialogFlow Issues

- Speech-to-text is pretty crappy
  - Generic speech recognition service vs Google Assistant
  - Compounded by audio recording quality in Java
- Cannot have too many parameters in one intent, but graphics need many
  - Possible Solution: multiple intents, but difficult to manage

Interface Issues

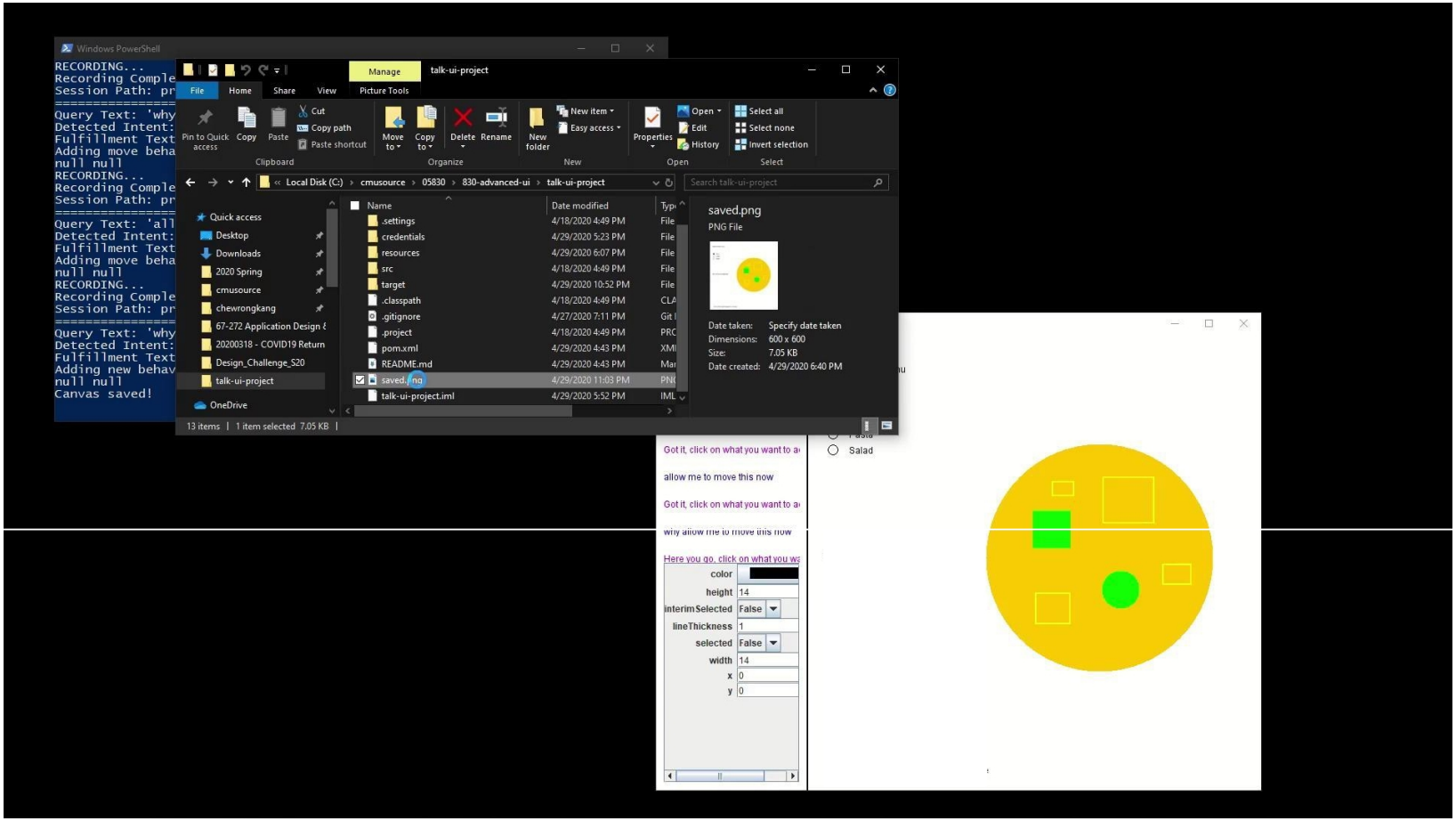
- Hardware heterogeneity
- Background noise interference
- Errors in text recognized from audio
- Timeout for slow interaction
- Property sheet not updated properly when integrated with our toolkit

Current limitations

- Doesn't give response in ideally real time
- Doesn't properly deal with errors from user input and system internals
- One way conversation, doesn't support constraints and "natural" placement

Video demo of result

- *Local video (4:28)*



Based on:
Toolkits for Visualization and UIs in Data Science

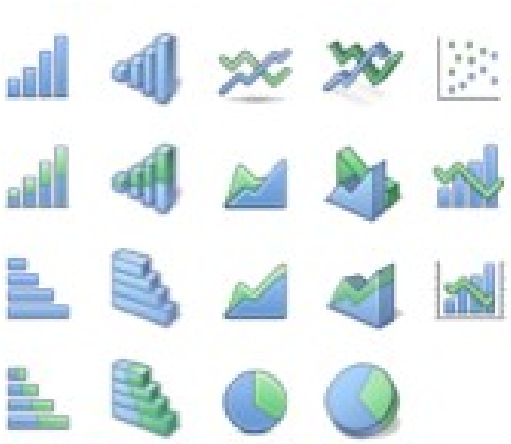
by Dominik Moritz, April 8, 2020

https://dig.cmu.edu

Origins

- Four major influences act on data analysis today:
  1. The formal theories of statistics.
  2. Accelerating developments in computers and display devices.
  3. The challenge, in many fields, of more and ever larger bodies of data.
  4. The emphasis on quantification in an ever wider variety of disciplines.
  - Data Analysis & Statistics. Turkey and Wilk. 1965.
  - Effective Data Visualization. Heer. 2015.

How do people create visualizations?



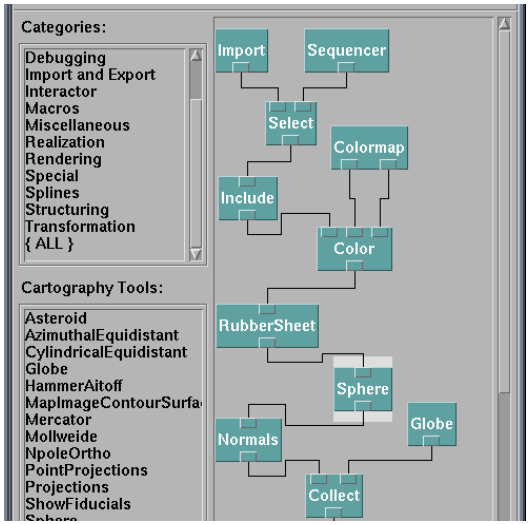


Chart Typology

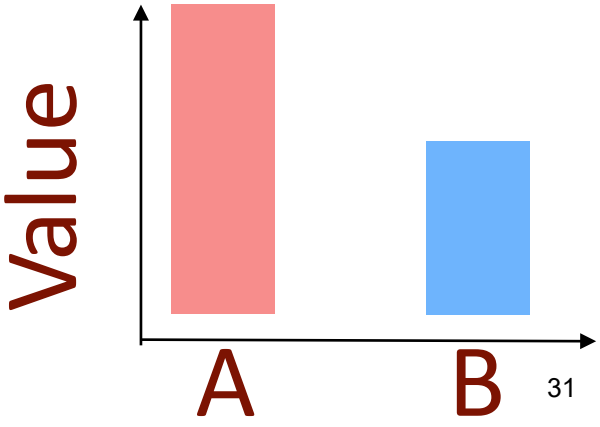
Pick from a stock of templates
Easy-to-use but limited expressiveness
Prohibits novel designs, new data types

Component Architecture

Permits more combinatorial possibilities Novel views require new operators, which requires software engineering

Drawing Visualizations with Imperative Programs

- Graphics APIs: Processing, OpenGL, Java2D, JavaScript/html SVG and Canvas
- Program by giving explicit steps. e.g.:
  - "Put a red bar here and a blue bar there."
  - "Draw a line and some text."
- Specification and execution are intertwined.
- *"You have unlimited power on this canvas. You can literally move mountains." — Bob Ross*



Example: processing.org

Processing - 0123 Beta

File Edit Sketch Tools Help

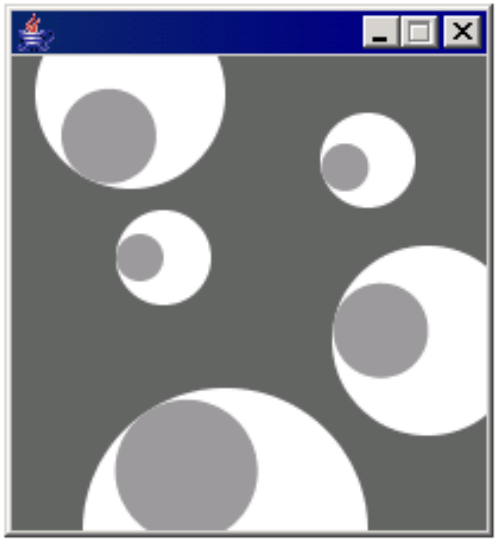
Run

sketch_070126a §

```
    ey = y;
    size = s;
  }

  void update(int mx, int my) {
    angle = atan2(my-ey, mx-ex);
  }

  void display() {
    pushMatrix();
    translate(ex, ey);
    fill(255);
    ellipse(0, 0, size, size);
    rotate(angle);
    fill(153);
    ellipse(size/4, 0, size/2, size/2);
    popMatrix();
  }
}
```



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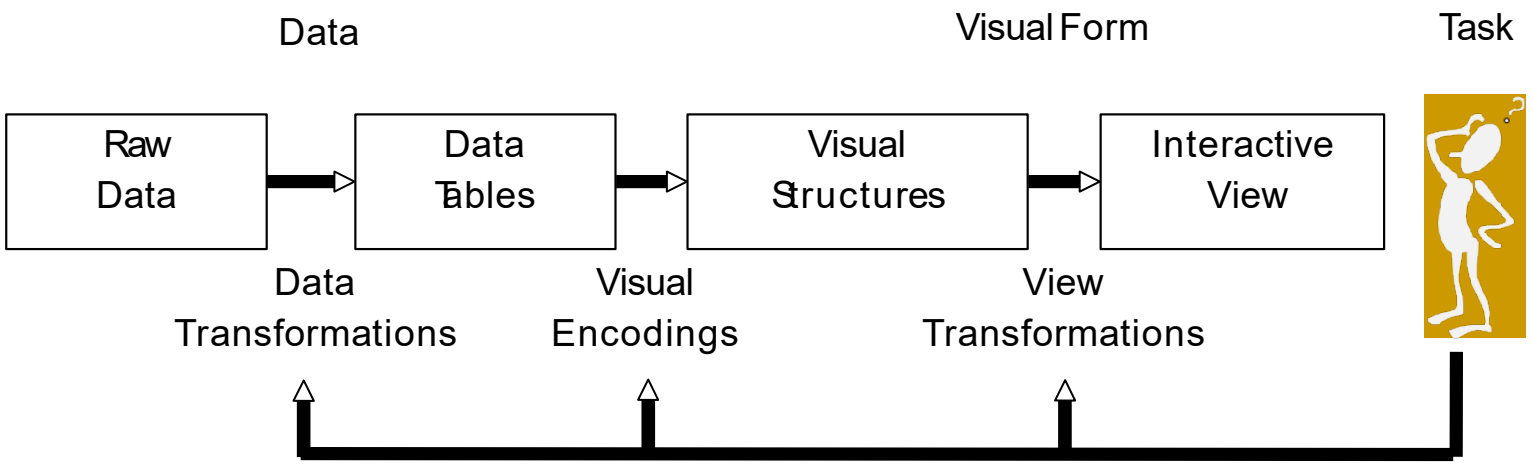
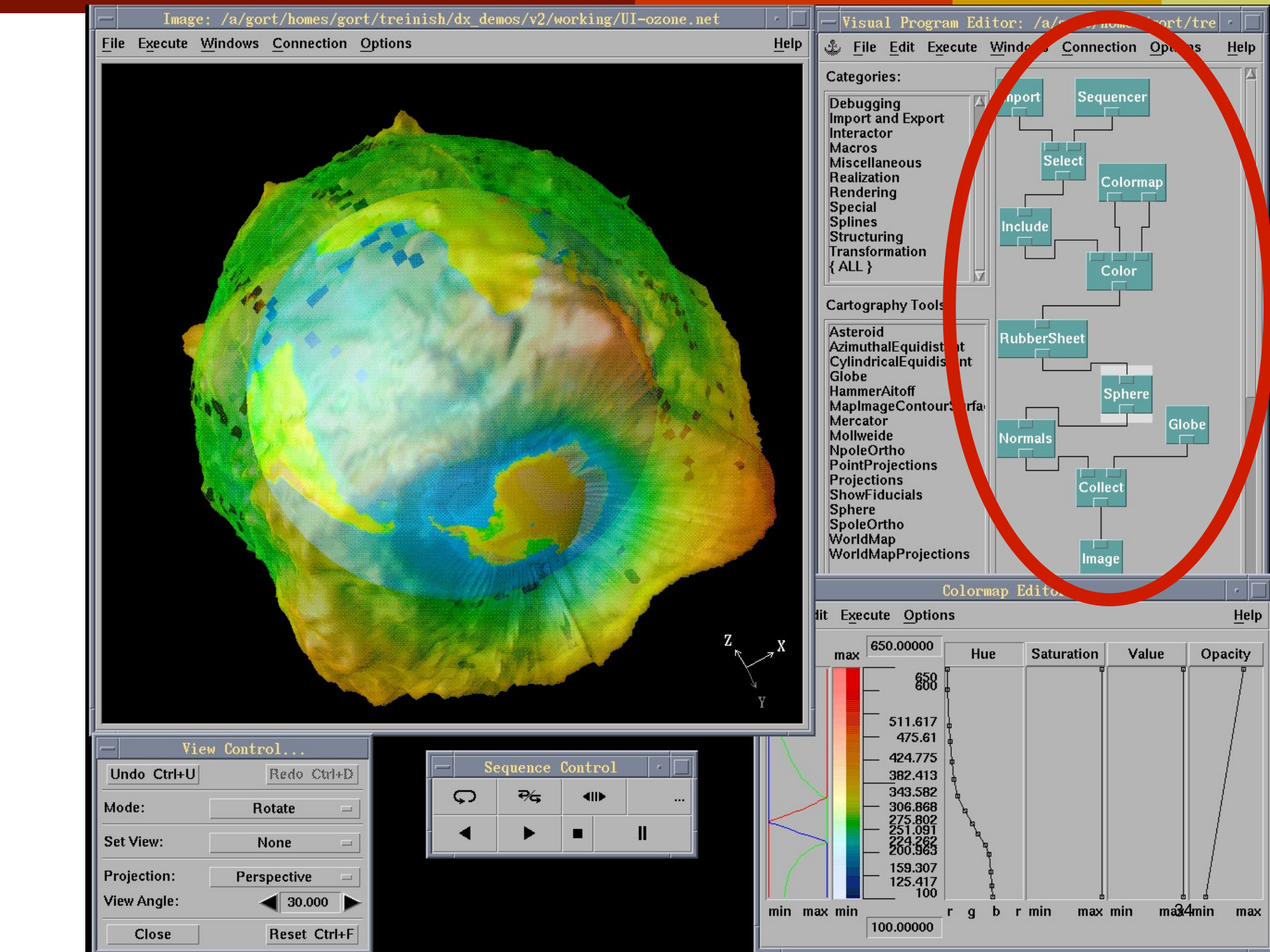
Component Architectures

- Component Architectures on top of the graphics APIs
  - Examples: Prefuse, Flare, Improvise, VTK
- Dataflow architecture – wire together nodes

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File Execute Windows Connection Options Help
Visual Program Editor:
File Edit Execute Connection Help
Categories:
Debugging
Import and Export
Interactor
Macros
Miscellaneous
Realization
Rendering
Special
Splines
Structuring
Transformation
{ ALL }
Cartography Tools
Asteroid
Globe
HammerAitoff
Mercator
Mollweide
NpoleOrtho
PointProjections
Projections
ShowFiducials
Sphere
SpoleOrtho
WorldMap
WorldMapProjections
Sequencer
Select
Colormap
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Color
RubberSheet
Sphere
Globe
Normals
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Execute Options Help
max
650.00000
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511.617
475.61
424.775
382.413
343.582
306.868
275.802
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224.262
200.963
159.307
125.417
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Hue
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min max min
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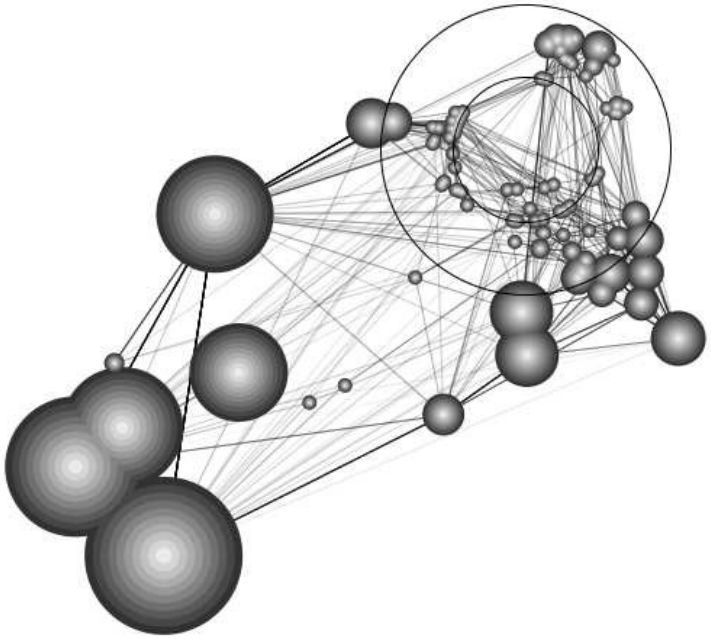
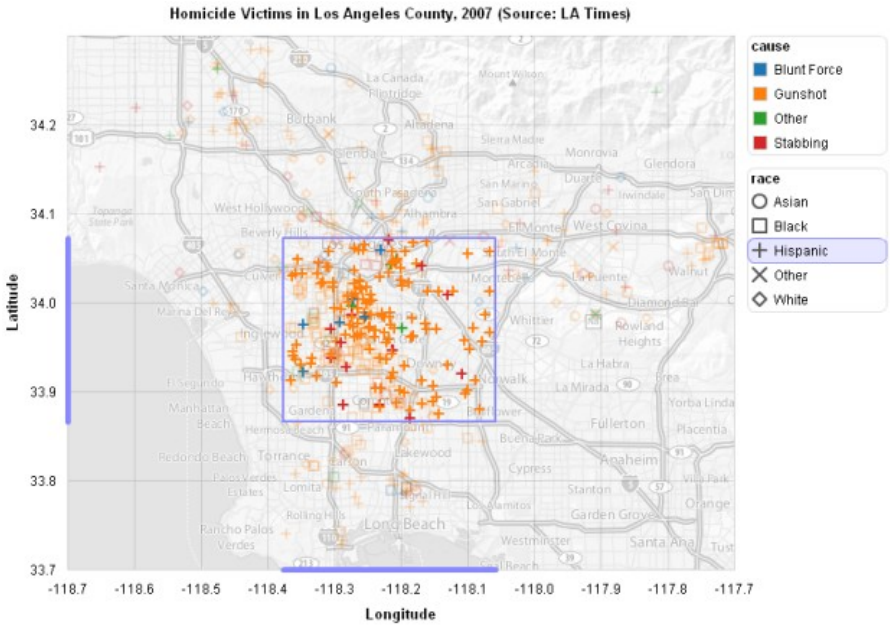
34
View Control...
Undo Ctrl+U
Redo Ctrl+D
Mode:
Rotate
Set View:
None
Projection:
Perspective
View Angle:
30.000
Close
Reset Ctrl+F
Sequence Control

Prefuse & Flare

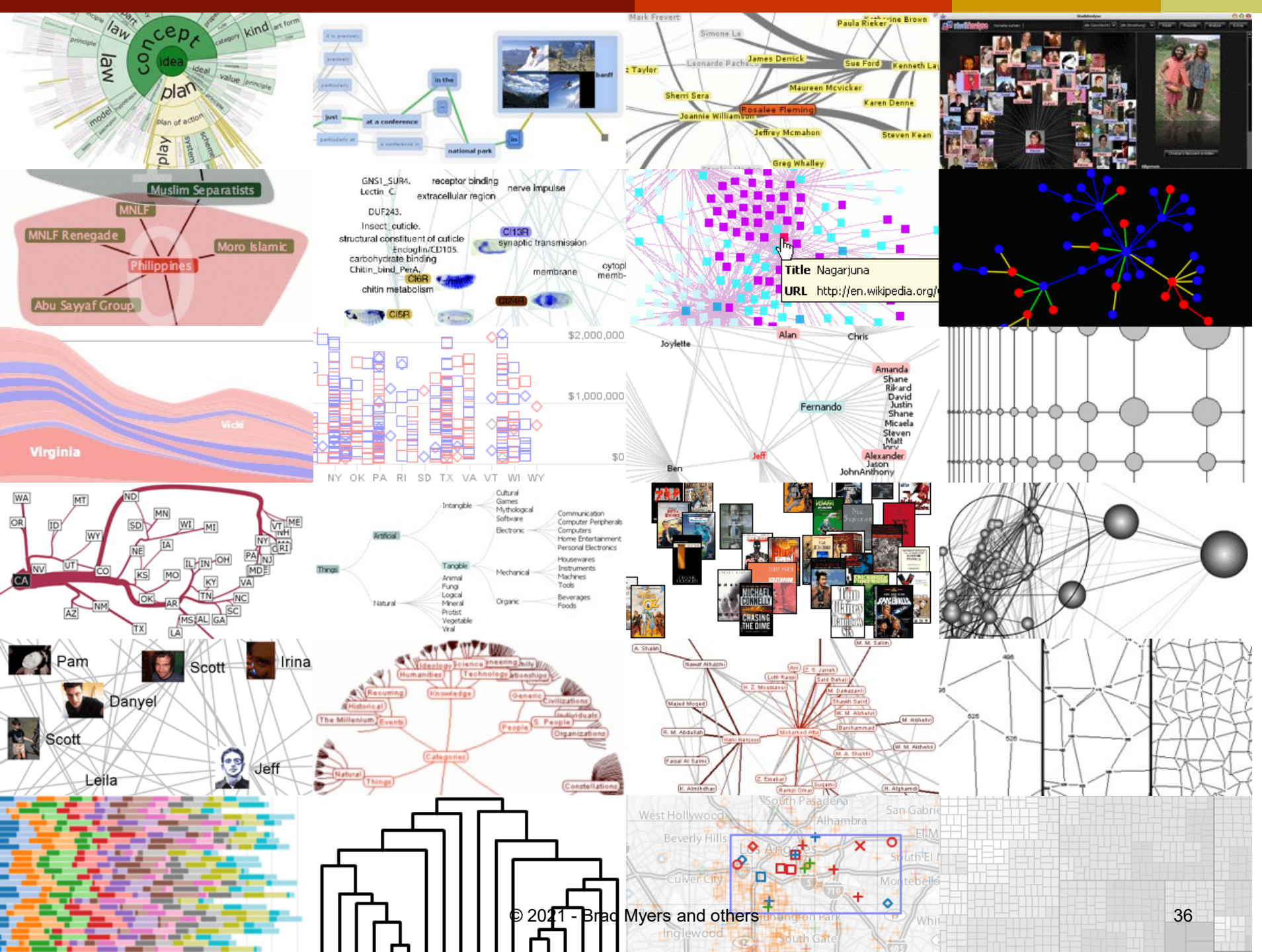
- Operator-based toolkits for visualization design
- Vis = (Input Data -> Visual Objects) + Operators





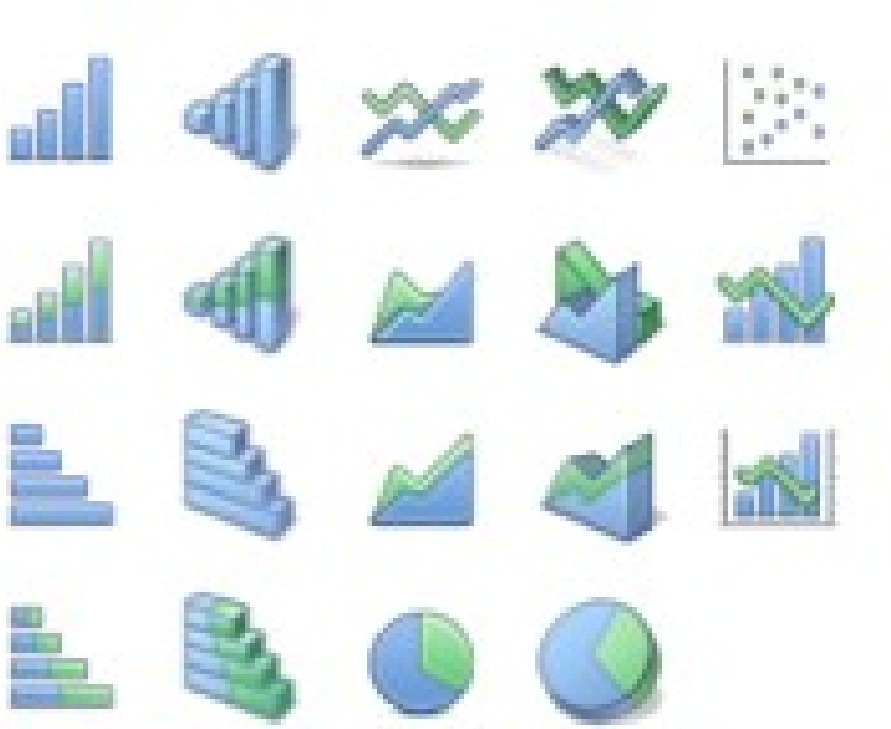
Prefuse (http://prefuse.org)

Flare (http://flare.prefuse.org)



Other extreme: Chart Typologies

- Excel, Many Eyes, Google Charts, Tableau



Select from Menus…

Data Sets : State Quick Facts

Uploaded By: zinggoat
Data Source: US Census Bureau
Description:
Tags: people census

Created at: Friday May 18, 3:08 PM

view as text | edit data set

	People QuickFacts	Population 2005 estimate	Population percent change April 1 2000 to July 1 2005	Population 2000	Population percent change 1990 to 2000	Persons under 5 years old percent 2004	Persons under 18 years old percent 2004	Persons 65 years old and over percent 2004
1	Alabama	4557808	0.03	4447100	0.1	0.07	0.24	0.13
2	Alaska	663661	0.06	626932	0.14	0.08	0.29	0.06
3	Arizona	5939292	0.16	5130632	0.4	0.08	0.27	0.13
4	Arkansas	2779154	0.04	2673400	0.14	0.07	0.25	0.14
5	California	36132147	0.07	33871648	0.14	0.07	0.27	0.11
6	Colorado	4665177	0.08	4301261	0.31	0.07	0.26	0.1
7	Connecticut	3510297	0.03	3405565	0.04	0.06	0.24	0.14
8	Delaware	843524	0.08	783600	0.18	0.07	0.23	0.13
9	Florida	17789864	0.11	15982378	0.24	0.06	0.23	0.17
10	Georgia	9072576	0.11	8186453	0.26	0.08	0.26	0.1
11	Hawaii	1275194	0.05	1211537	0.09	0.07	0.24	0.14
12	Idaho	1429096	0.1	1293953	0.29	0.07	0.27	0.11
13	Illinois	12763371	0.03	12419293	0.09	0.07	0.26	0.12

Choosing a visualization type for State Quick Facts

Analyze a text

Tag Cloud

How are you using your words? This enhanced tag cloud will show you the words popularity in the given set of text.

Learn more

Wordle

Wordle is a toy for generating "word clouds" from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text.

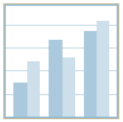
Learn more

Word Tree

See a branching view of how a word or phrase is used in a text. Navigate the text by zooming and clicking.

Learn more

Compare a set of values



Bar Chart

How do the items in your data set stack up? A bar chart is a simple and recognizable way to compare values. You can display several sets of bars for multivariate comparisons.

Learn more

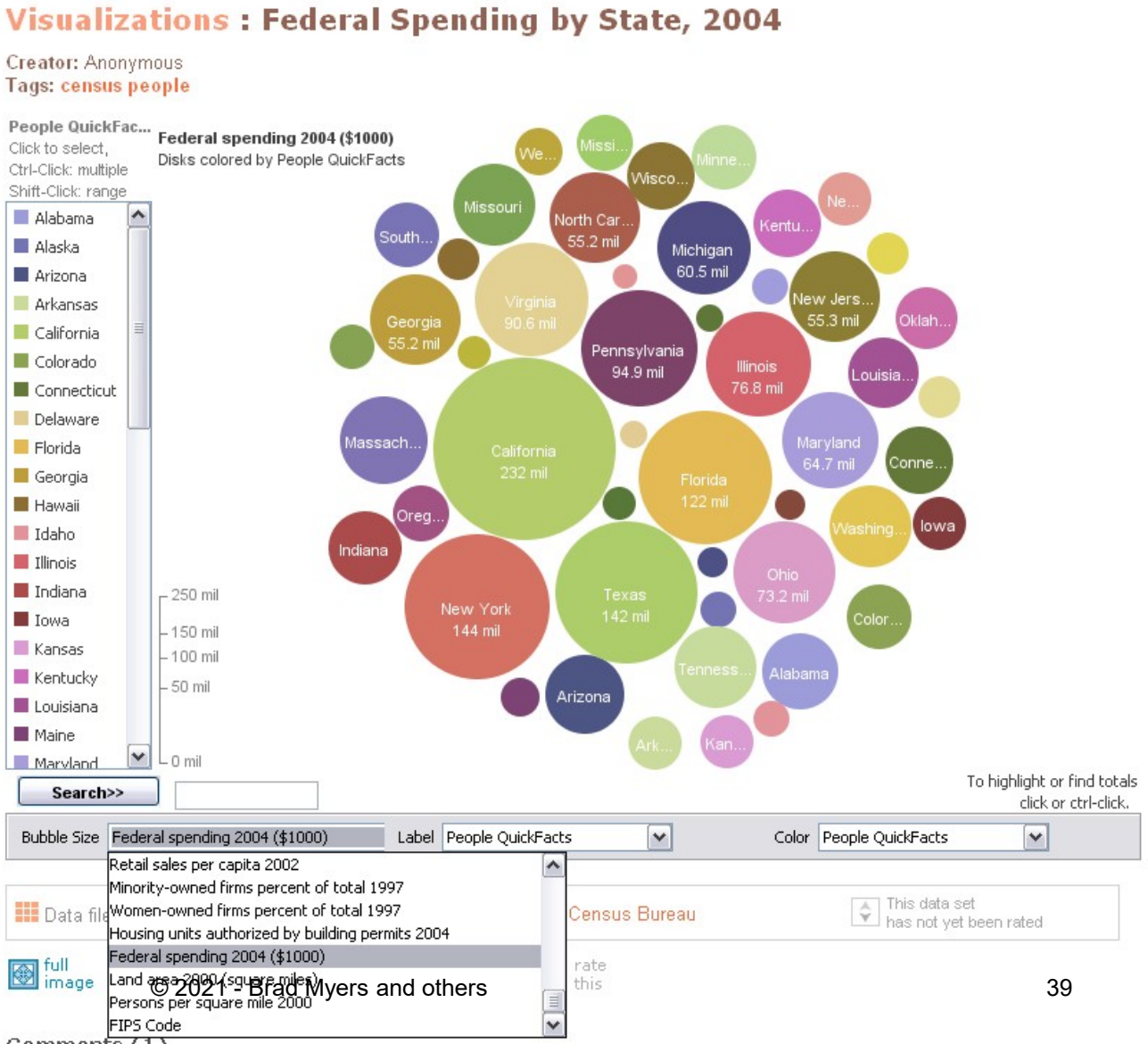
Block Histogram

This versatile chart lets you get a quick sense of how a single set of data is distributed. Each item in the data is an individual quantifiable block.

Learn more

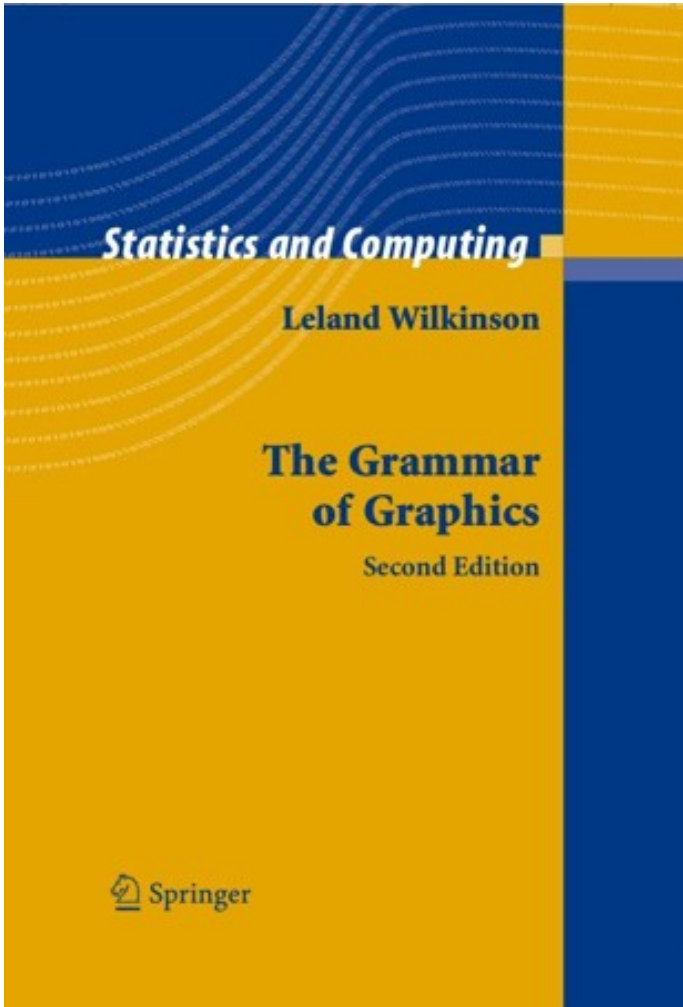
Results:

- Inflexible
- Can tinker after generated



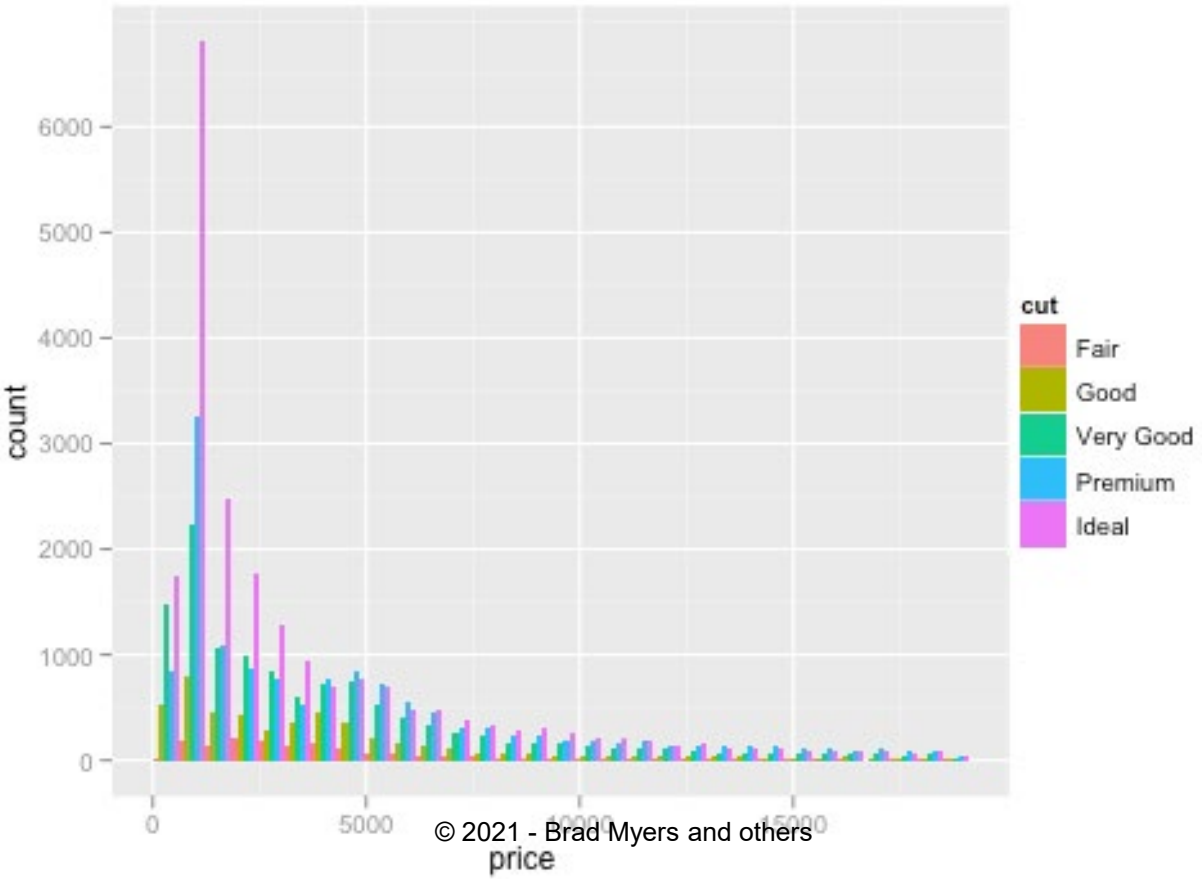
Visual Analysis Grammars

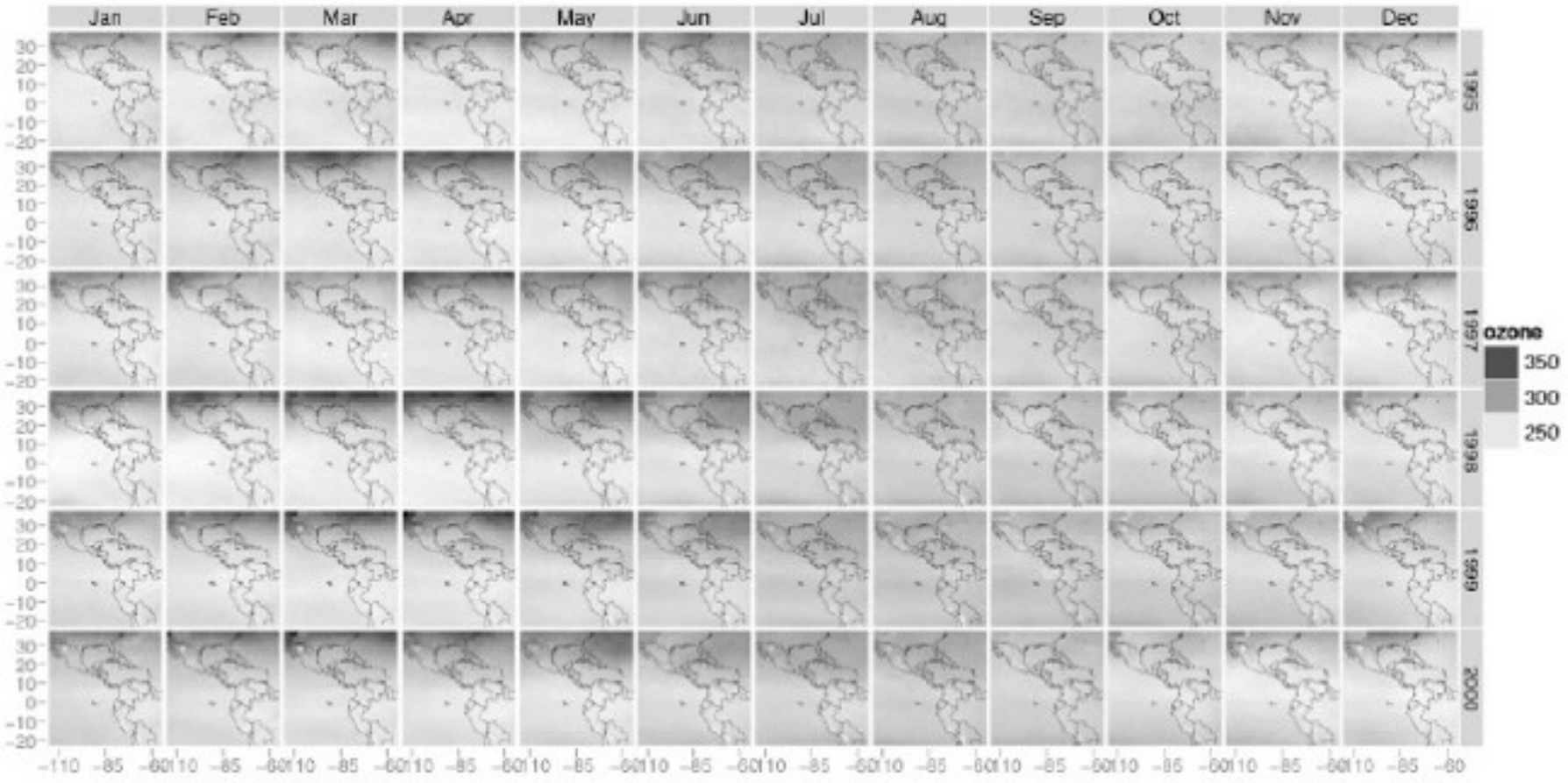
- Examples: VizQL, ggplot2
- Specialized programming language
  - Declarative – what to produce, not how (like html)



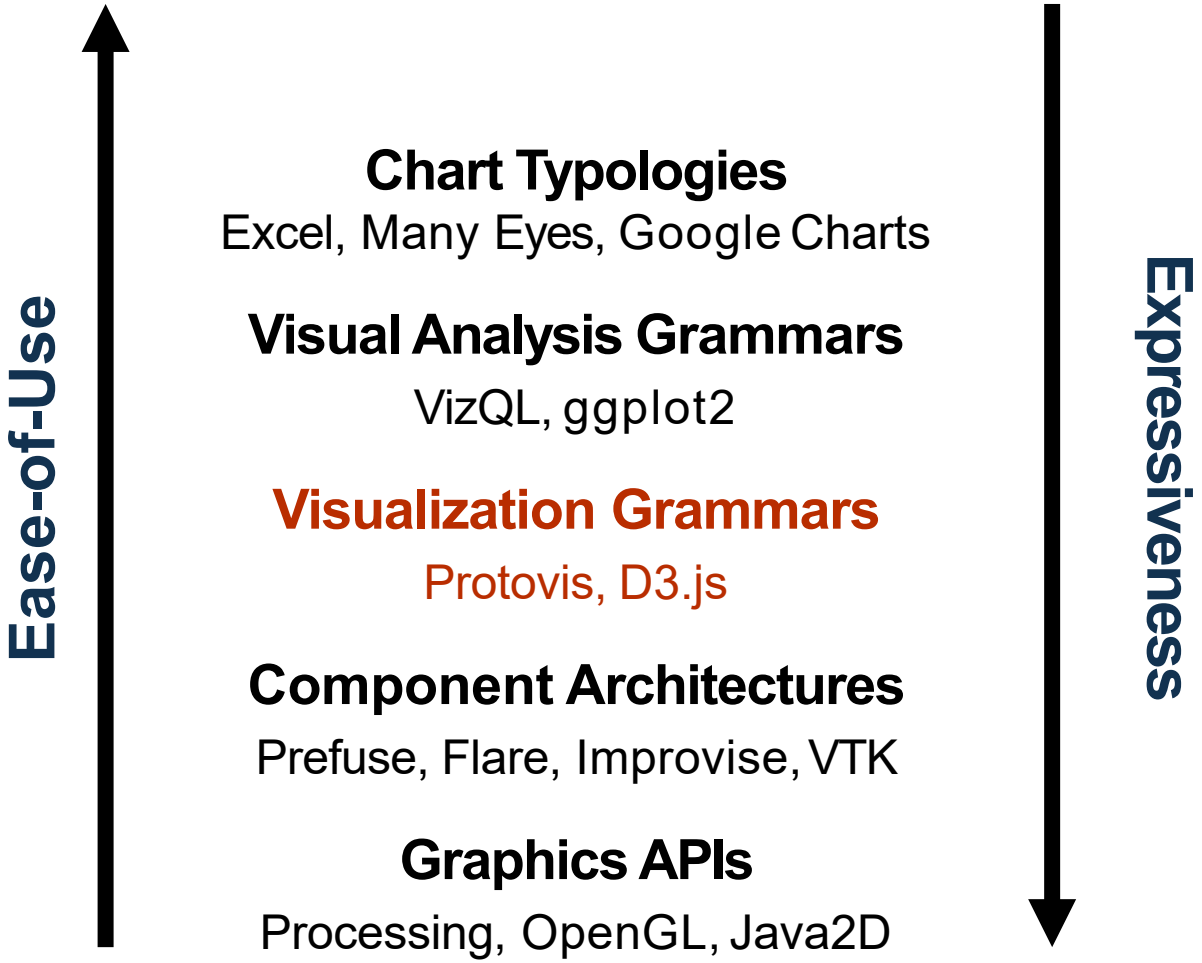
Grammar examples

- `ggplot(diamonds, aes(x=price, fill=cut)) + geom_bar(position="dodge")`

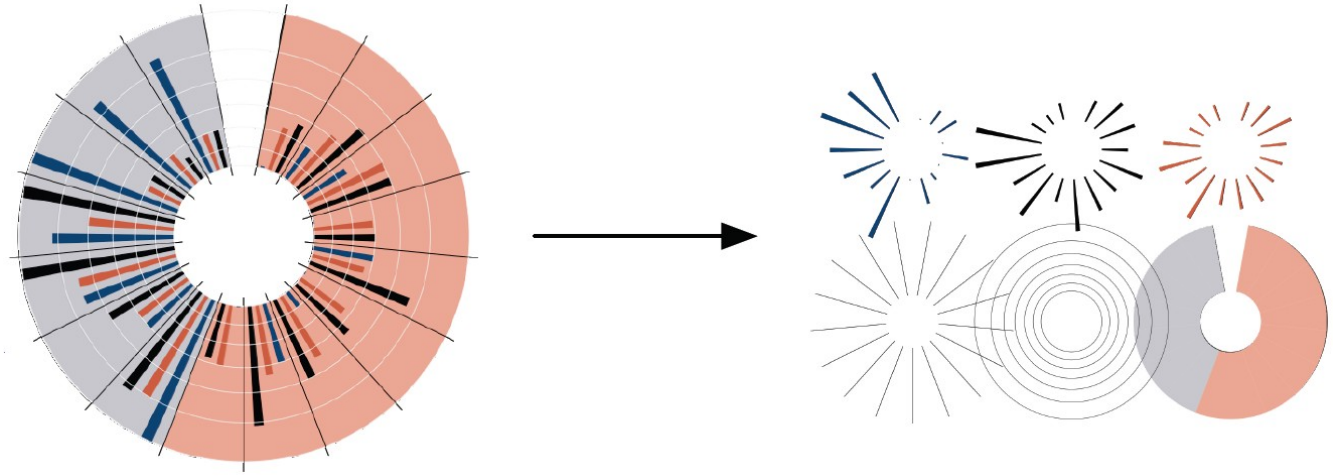





```
qplot(long, lat, data = expo, geom = "tile", fill = ozone,
  facets = year ~ month) +
scale_fill_gradient(low = "white", high = "black") + map
```



Protovis: A Grammar for Visualization



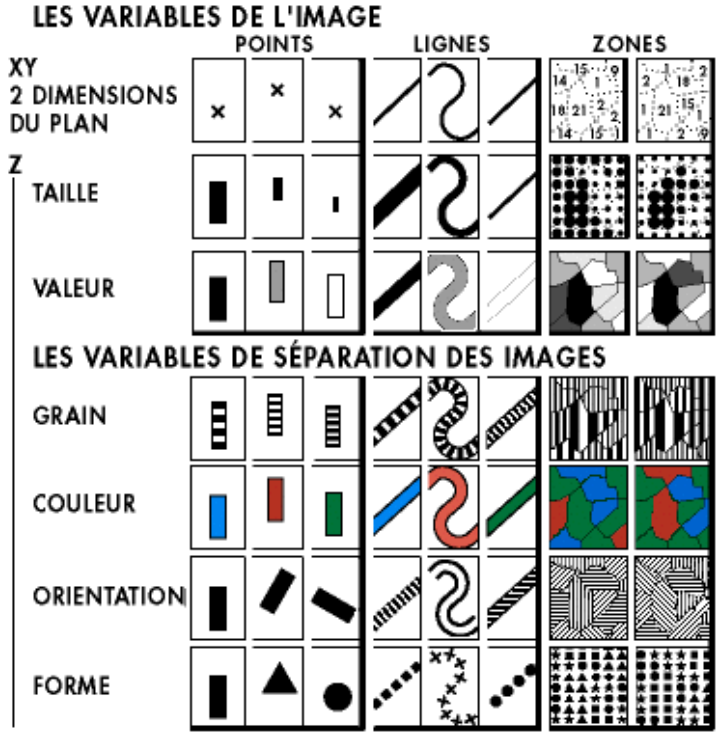
A graphic is a composition of data-representative marks.

Jeffrey Heer, Mike Bostock & Vadim Ogievetsky

Visualization Grammar

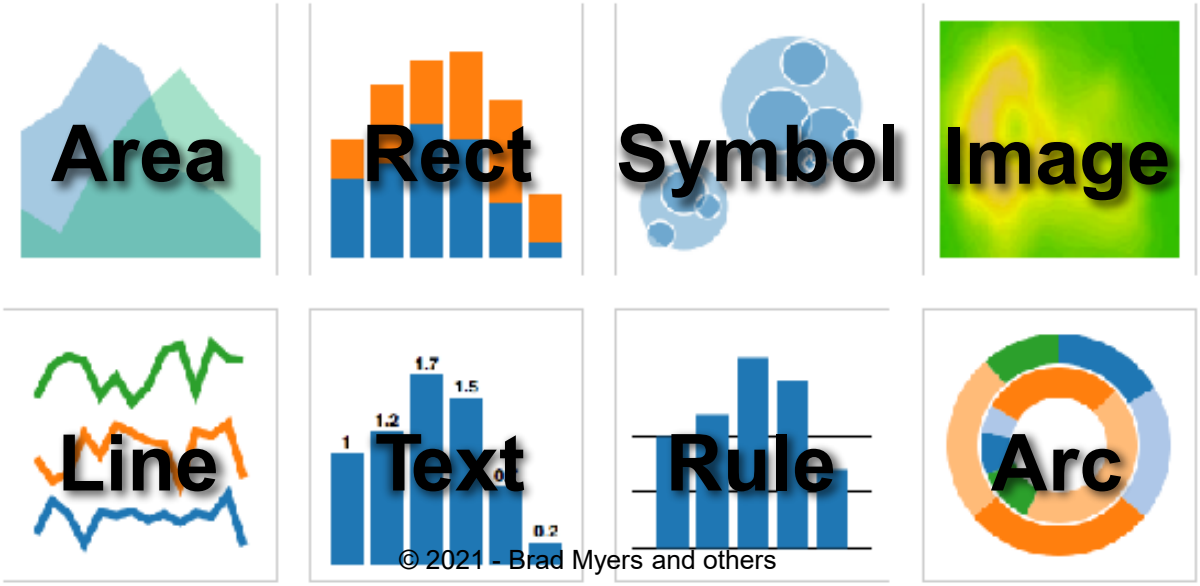
Data	Input data to visualize
Transforms	Grouping, stats, projection, layout
Scales	Map data values to visual values

Jacques Bertin
Sémiologie Graphique, 1967



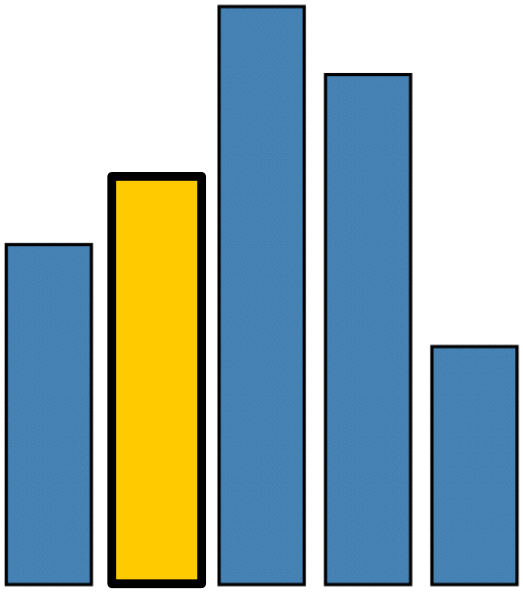
Visualization Grammar

Data	Input data to visualize
Transforms	Grouping, stats, projection, layout
Scales	Map data values to visual values
Guides	Axes & legends visualize scales
Marks	Data-representative graphics



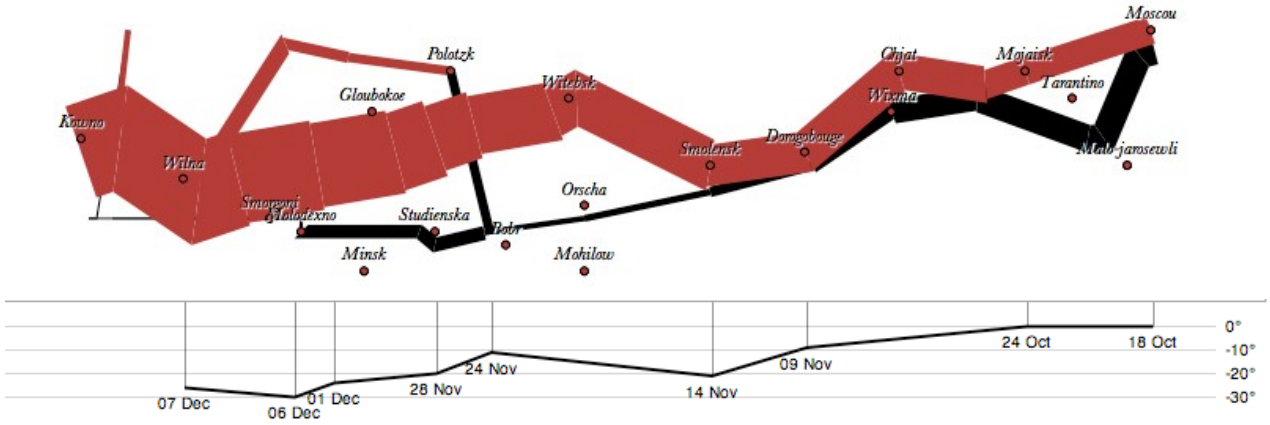
Properties of a "Mark"

RECT	λ : D → R
data	1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.5, 0.7
visible	true
left	1 * 25
bottom	0
width	20
height	1.2 * 80
fillStyle	blue
strokeStyle	black
lineWidth	1.5
...	...



```
var vis = new pv.Panel();
vis.add(pv.Bar)
   .data([1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.5, 0.7])
   .visible(true)
   .left((d) => this.index * 25)
   .bottom(0)
   .width(20)
   .height((d) => d * 80)
   .fillStyle("blue")
   .strokeStyle("black")
   .lineWidth(1.5);
vis.render();
```

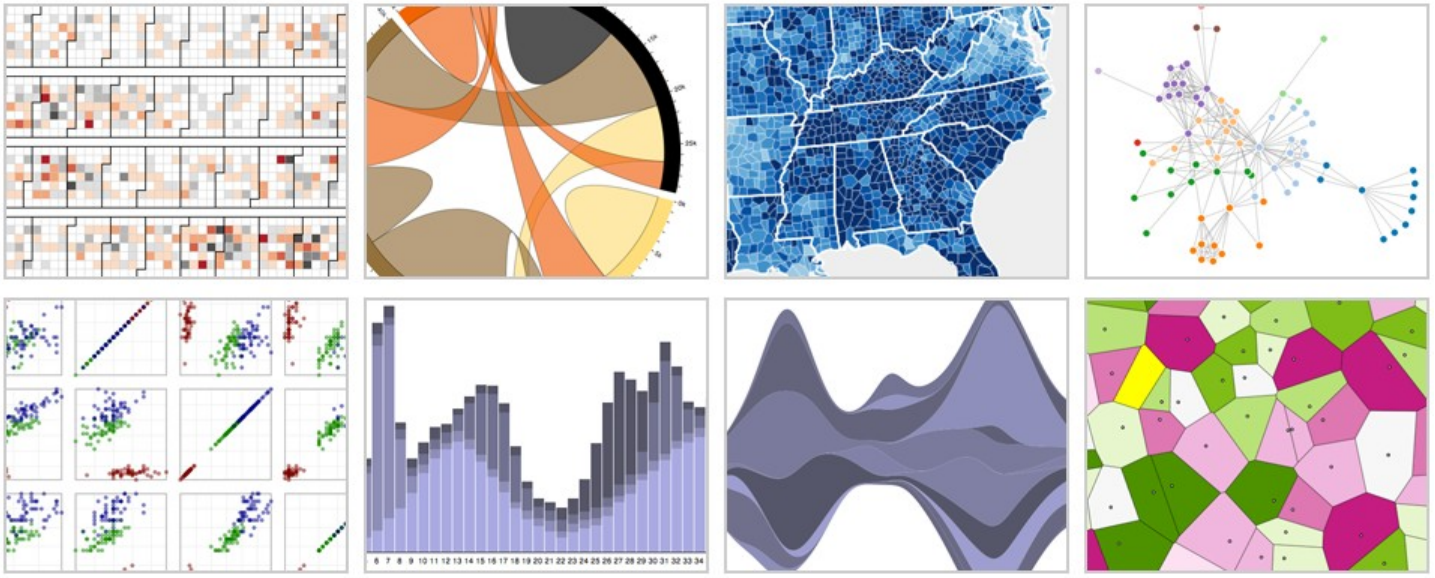
Minard 1869: Napoleon's March, in ProtoViz




```
var army = pv.nest(napoleon.army, "dir", "group“);
var vis = newpv.Panel();

var lines = vis.add(pv.Panel).data(army);
lines.add(pv.Line)
  .data(() => army[this.idx])
  .left(lon).top(lat).size((d) => d.size/8000)
  .strokeStyle(() => color[army[paneIndex][0].dir]);

vis.add(pv.Label).data(napoleon.cities)
  .left(lon).top(lat)
  .text((d) => d.city).font("italic 10pxGeorgia")
  .textAlign("center").textBaseline("middle");
```

```
vis.add(pv.Rule).data([0,-10,-20,-30])
  .top((d) => 300 - 2*d - 0.5).left(200).right(150)
  .lineWidth(1).strokeStyle("#ccc")
  .anchor("right").add(pv.Label)
    .font("italic 10px Georgia")
    .text((d) => d+"°").textBaseline("center");

vis.add(pv.Line).data(napoleon.temp)
  .left(lon).top(tmp) .strokeStyle("#0")
 .add(pv.Label)
  .top((d) => 5 + tmp(d))
  .text((d) => d.temp+"°"+d.date.substr(0,6))
```

d3.js: Data-Driven Documents



Mike Bostock, Dominik Moritz, Vadim Ogievetsky, Jeff Heer, etc.

Protovis vs. D3

Protovis

Specialized mark types

+ Streamlined design
- Limits expressiveness
- More overhead (slower)
- Harder to debug
- Self-contained model

Specify a scene (nouns)

+ Quick for static vis
- Delayed evaluation
- Animation, interaction are more cumbersome

D3

Bind data to DOM

- Exposes SVG/CSS/…
+ Exposes SVG/CSS/…
+ Less overhead (faster)
+ Debug in browser
+ Use with other tools

Transform a scene (verbs)

- More complex model
+ Immediate evaluation
+ Dynamic data, anim, and interaction natural

D3 Selections

- The core abstraction in D3 is a ***selection***.

```
// Add and configure an SVG element
var svg = d3.append("svg")          // add new SVG to page body
   .attr("width", 500)              // set SVG width to 500px
   .attr("height", 300);            // set SVG height to 300px
// Select & update existing rectangles contained in the SVG element
svg.selectAll("rect")               // select all SVG rectangles
   .attr("width", 100)              // set rect widths to 100px
   .style("fill", "steelblue");     // set rect fill colors
```

Data Binding

Selections can ***bind*** **data and DOM elements.**

```
var values = [ {…}, {…}, {…}, … ]; // input data as JS objects

// Select SVG rectangles and bind them to data values.
var bars = svg.selectAll("rect.bars").data(values);

// What if the DOM elements don't exist yet? The enter set represents data
// values that do not yet have matching DOM elements.
bars.enter().append("rect").attr("class", "bars");

// What if data values are removed? The exit set is a selection of existing
// DOM elements who no longer have matching data values.
bars.exit().remove();
```

D3 Modules

Data Parsing / Formatting (JSON, CSV, …)

Shape Helpers (arcs, curves, areas, symbols, …)

Scale Transforms (linear, log, ordinal, …)

Color Spaces (RGB, HSL, LAB, …)

Animated Transitions (tweening, easing, …)

Geographic Mapping (projections, clipping, …)

Layout Algorithms (stack, pie, force, trees, …)

Interactive Behaviors (brush, zoom, drag, …)