

# Visual Analytics with a Focus on Time

Invited Talk @ CNRS MAP 2015  
Marseille, 21<sup>nd</sup> January 2015

ALEXANDER RIND

alexander.rind@fhstp.ac.at, <http://alex.timebench.org>  
St. Poelten University of Applied Sciences, Institute of Creative\Media/Technologies

# Why me?

7 years of research experience in Visual Analytics /  
Information Visualization with a Focus on Time

Danube University Krems

Vienna University of Technology

St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences

7 peer-refereed journal articles, esp.

TimeBench – a data model and open source software  
Survey on Electronic Health Records Visualization

interest in cultural heritage as application domain

# St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences

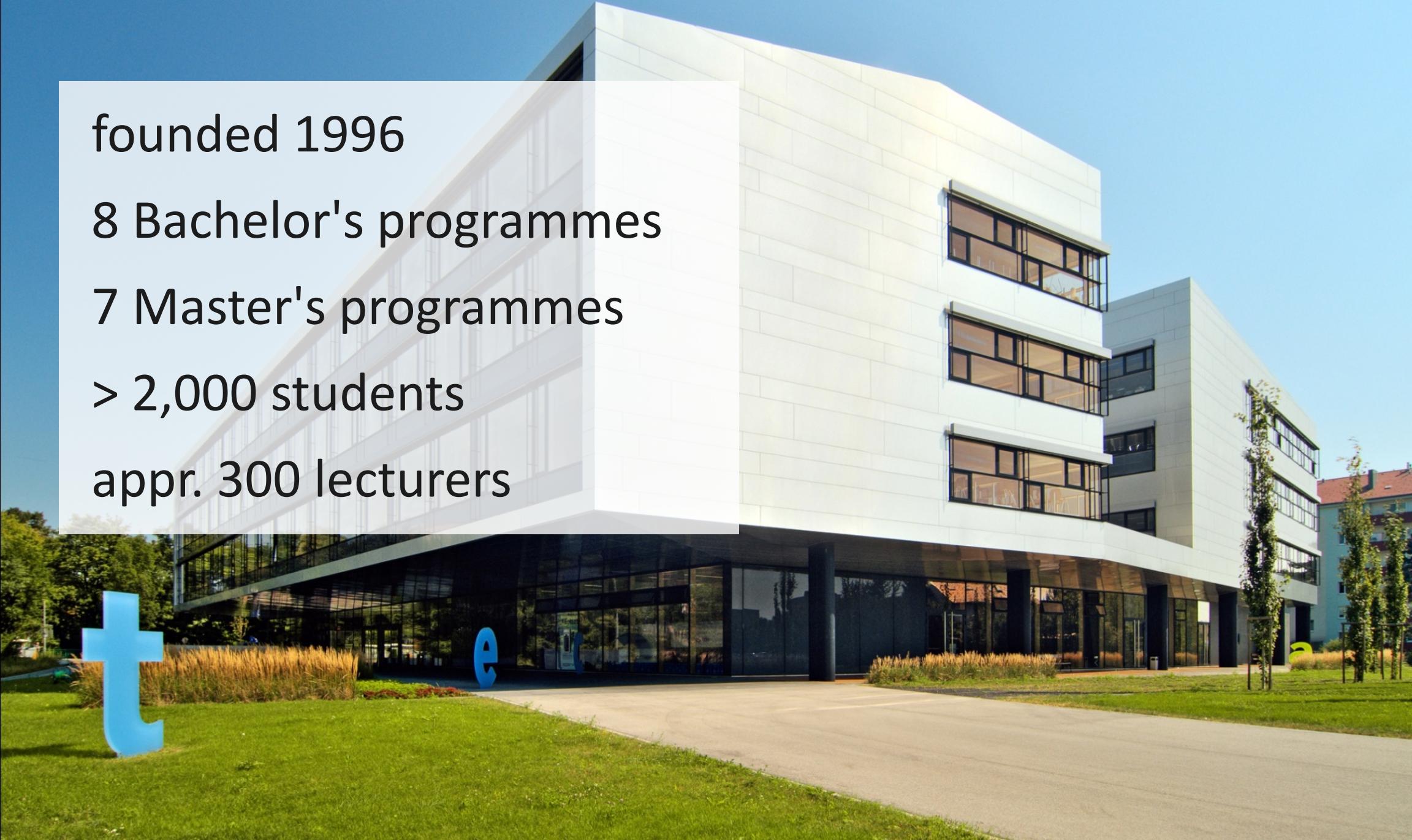
founded 1996

8 Bachelor's programmes

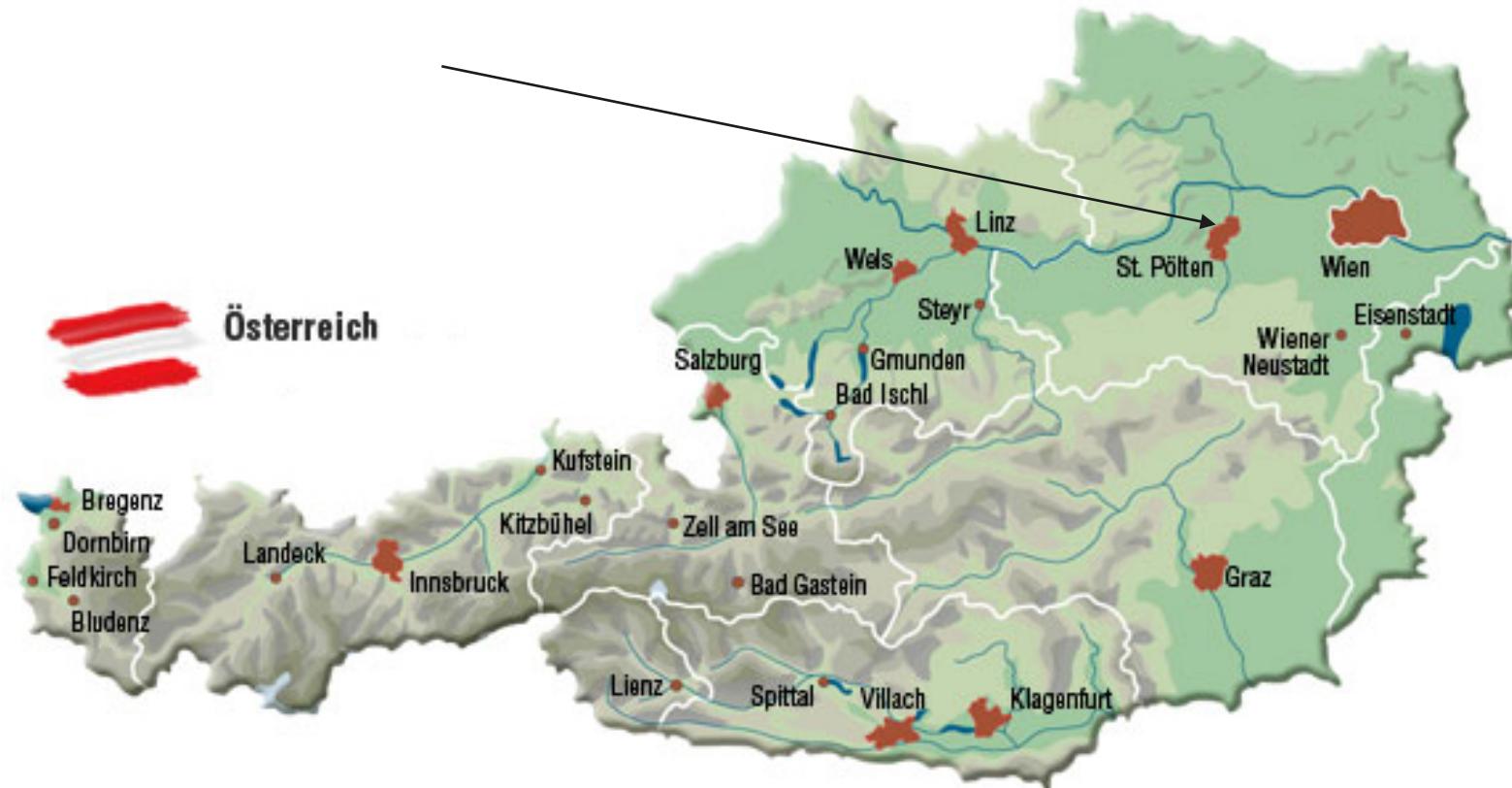
7 Master's programmes

> 2,000 students

appr. 300 lecturers



# St. Pölten/Lower Austria



## Distances:

Vienna 60 km (by train: 25 min.)

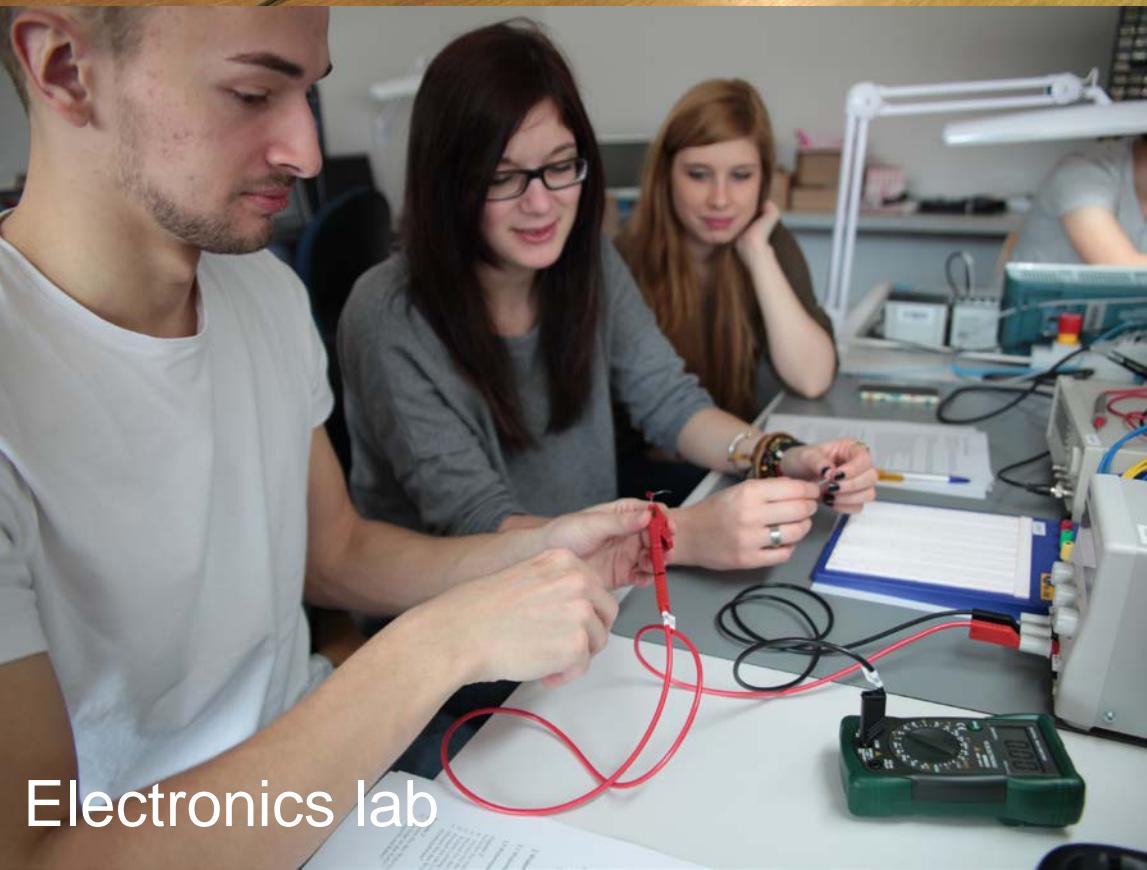
Marseilles 964 km, Paris 982 km



TV lab



Usability lab

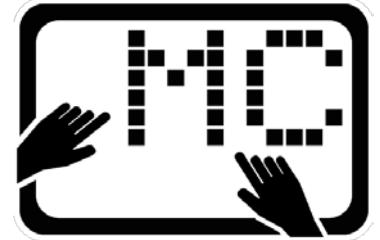


Electronics lab



Audio lab

# Media Computing Research Group



## Game Design & Human Computer Interaction

Peter Judmaier, Gernot Rottermanner, Bernhard Zeller



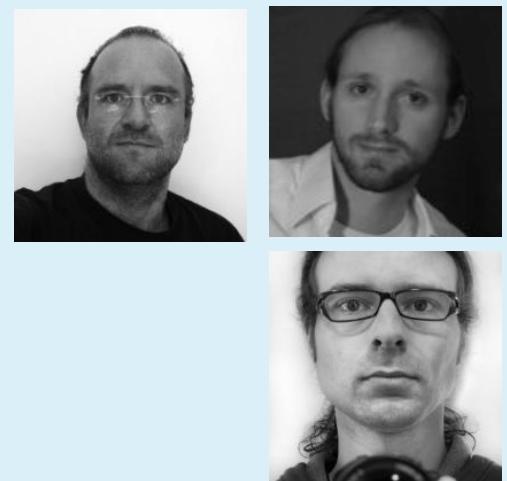
## Information Visualization & Visual Analytics

Wolfgang Aigner, Christina Niederer, Alexander Rind,  
Markus Wagner, Andrea Haberson



## Multimedia Signal Processing & Retrieval

Markus Seidl, Matthias Zeppelzauer,  
Ewald Wieser



# Multi-touch HCI: The Revelation

WEITERE INFORMATIONEN VERFÜGBAR

° VISION I °

I. VISION DES JOHANNES  
IST VISION OF JOHN

BILDBESCHREIBUNG:

Die 7 christlichen Gemeinden in Kleinasien

BIBELTEXT:

(...) Schreib das, was du siehst, in ein Buch und schick es an die sieben Gemeinden nach Ephesus, nach Smyrna, nach Pergamon, nach Thyatira, nach Sardes, nach Philadelphia und nach Laodizea.

DIE GEHEIME  
OFFENBARUNG  
THE REVELATION

VERWENDEN SIE  
IHRE FINGER AUF  
DEM GROSSEN BILD:

BILD VERGRÖSSERN

BILD VERKLEINERN

BILD VERSchieBEN

FIGUREN AUSWÄHLEN

SYMBOLERKLÄRUNG:

BERÜHRBARE FIGUREN  
ANZEIGEN

ZURÜCK ZUM START

ÜBERSICHT

BIBELTEXT ZEIGEN

WEITERE INFOS

HILFE (=DIESE ANSICHT)

DIE GEHEIME  
OFFENBARUNG  
THE REVELATION

7

# Game Design: Playing Valcamonica

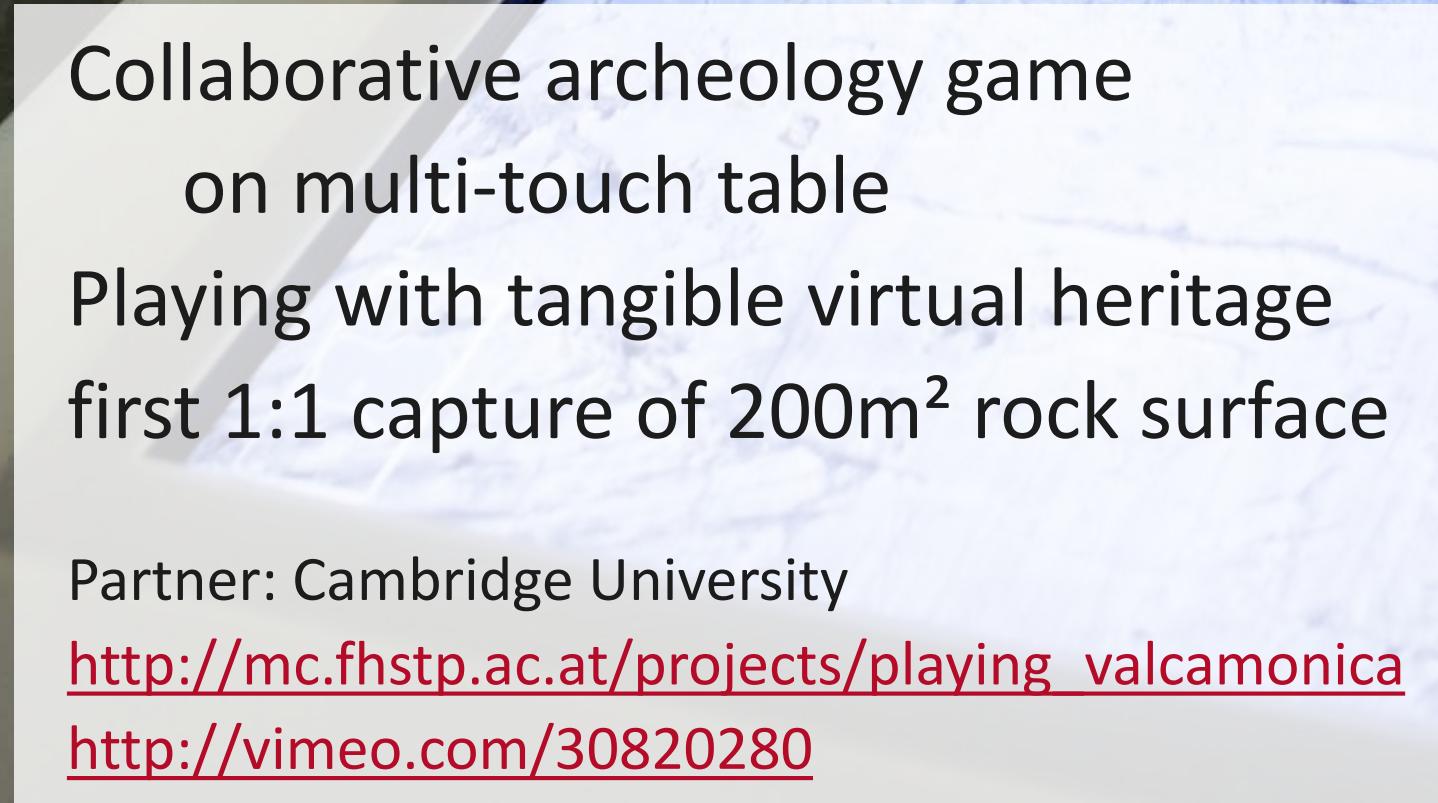
Collaborative archeology game  
on multi-touch table

Playing with tangible virtual heritage  
first 1:1 capture of 200m<sup>2</sup> rock surface

Partner: Cambridge University

[http://mc.fhstp.ac.at/projects/playing\\_valcamonica](http://mc.fhstp.ac.at/projects/playing_valcamonica)

<http://vimeo.com/30820280>



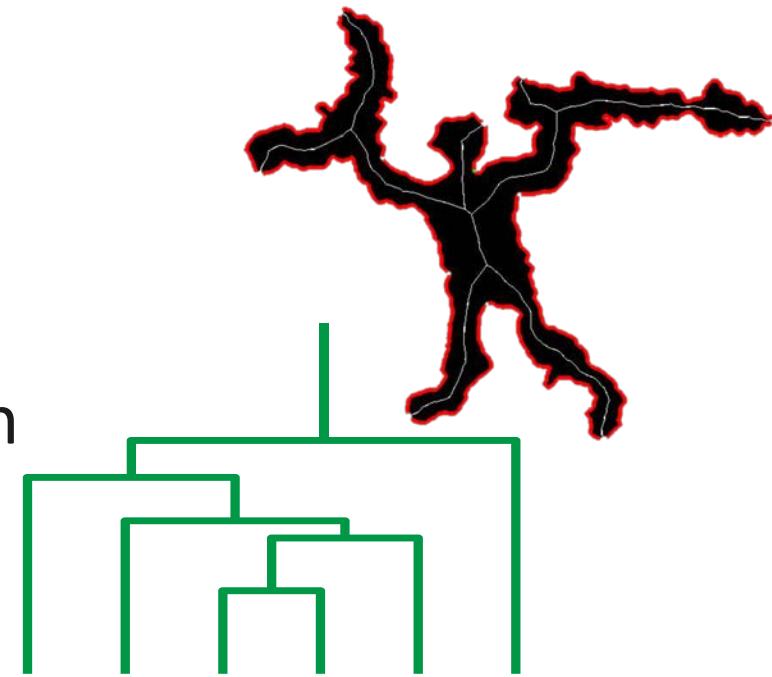
# Media Processing: 3D-Pitoti



3D-Acquisition, Intelligent Processing,  
3D Presentation of Rock Art

St. Pölten's Tasks:

Petroglyph segmentation and classification  
Shape analysis, shape classification,  
Analysis of surface topology

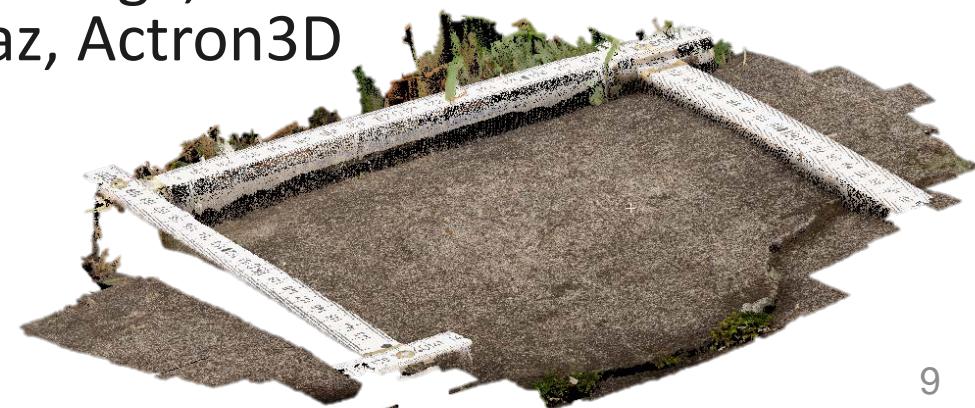


Partners: Univ. of Nottingham , Univ. of Cambridge,  
CCSP, Bauhaus Univ. Weimar, TU Graz, Actron3D

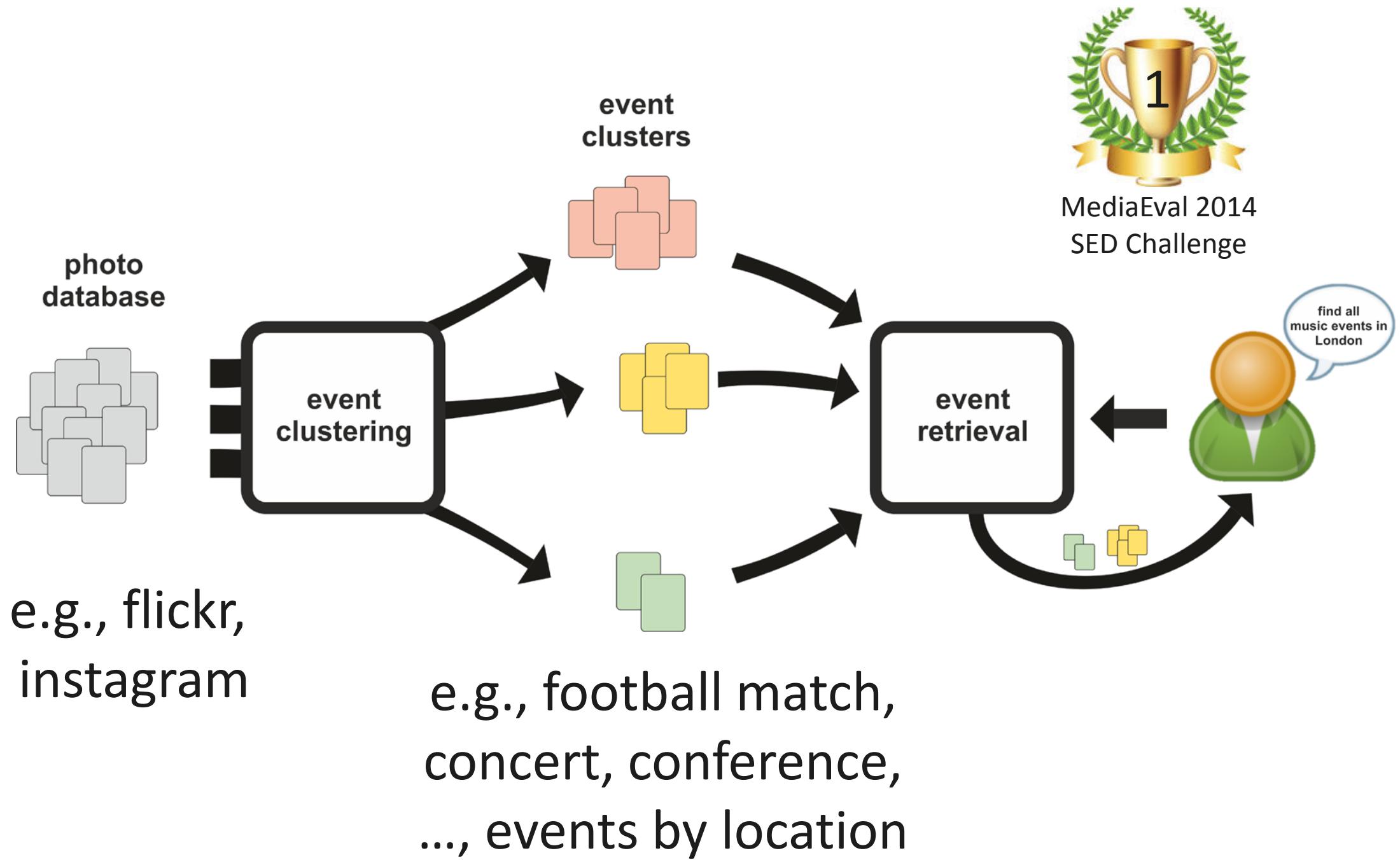
Funding: EU FP7

<http://3d-pitoti.eu>

[Seidl et al., 2014]



# Media Retrieval: Social Event Detection

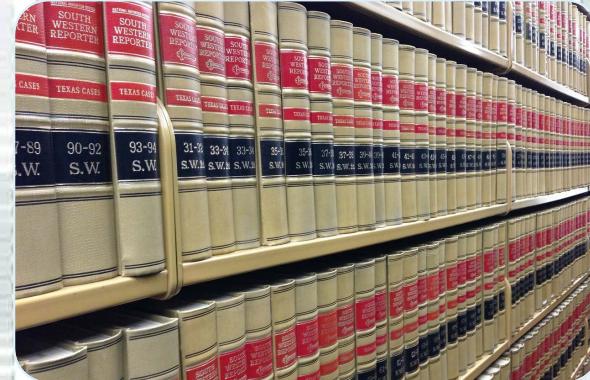


# Visual Analytics with a Focus on Time

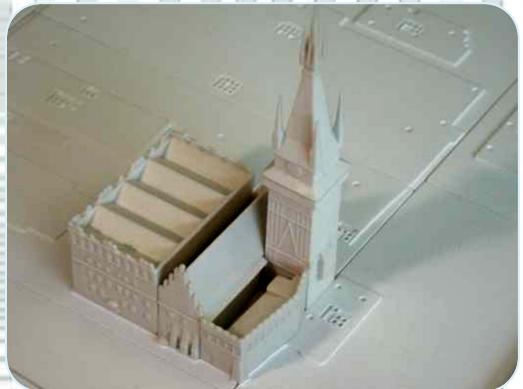
# Electronic Health Records



# Text Corpora & Narratives



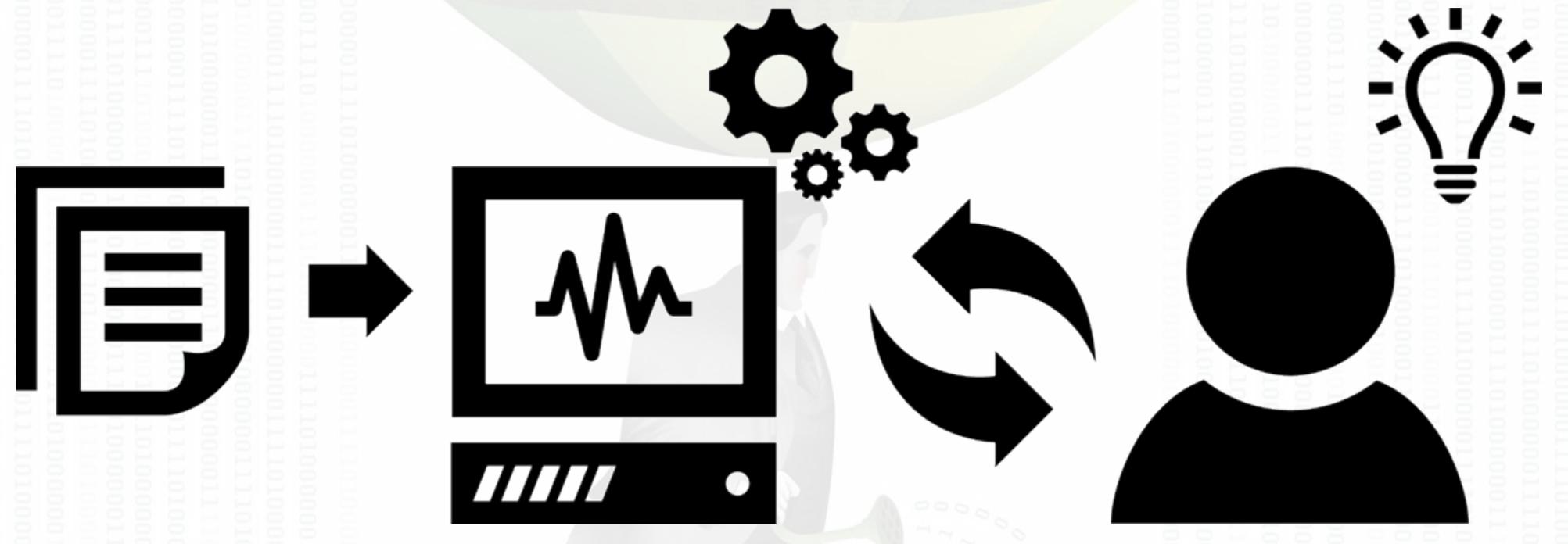
# Cultural Heritage



## Business Transactions

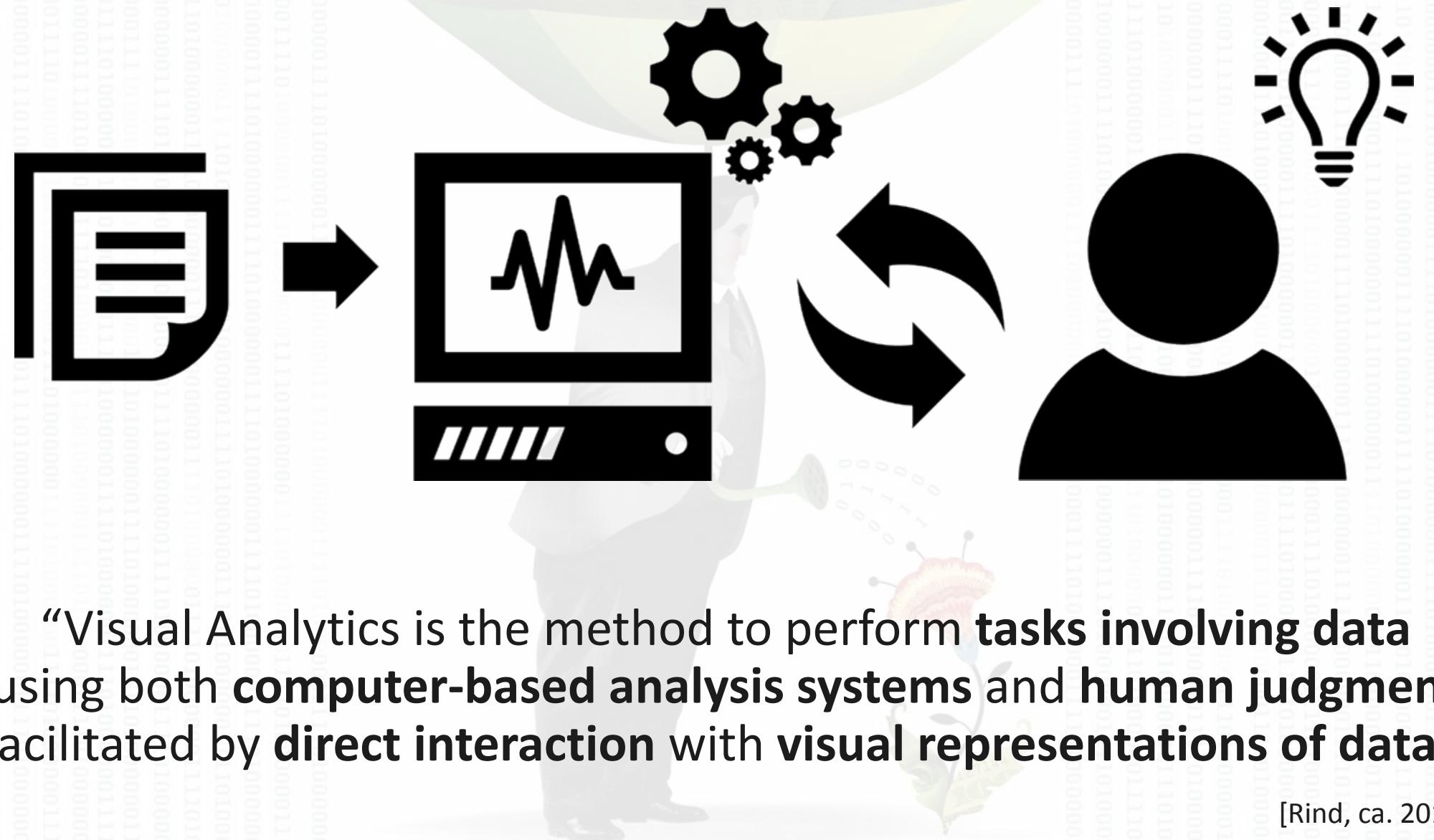


Image: Brett Ryder (The Economist, 2010); Dudek & Blaise (2013)



“Visual Analytics is the science of analytical reasoning facilitated by interactive visual interfaces.”

[Thomas & Cook, 2005]



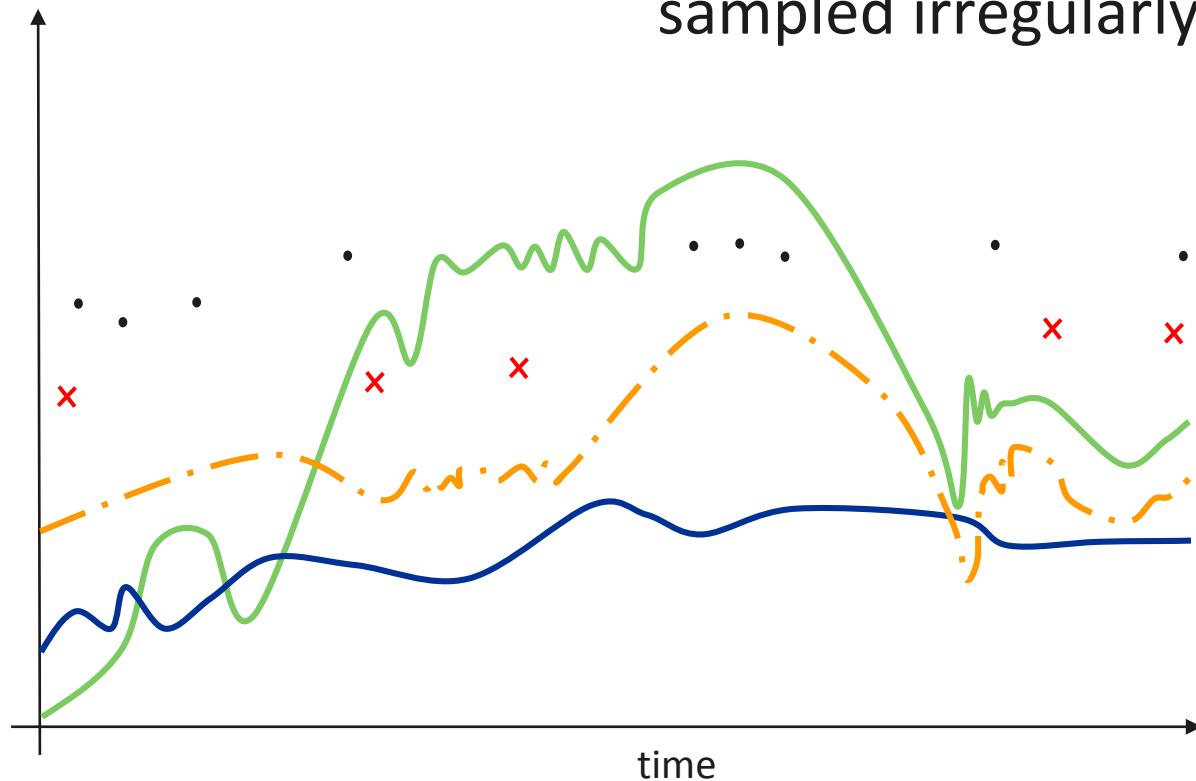
# Challenges of Time-oriented Data

e.g., analyzing electronic health records

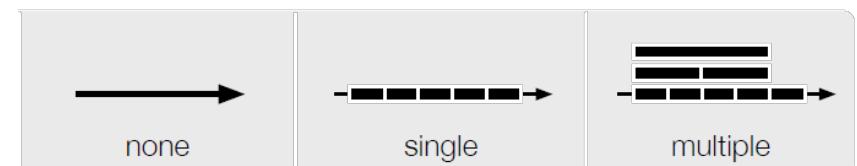
time-oriented

multivariate

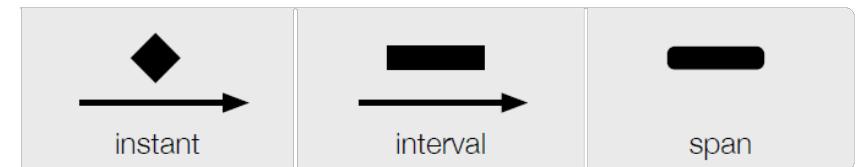
sampled irregularly



multiple granularities & cycles

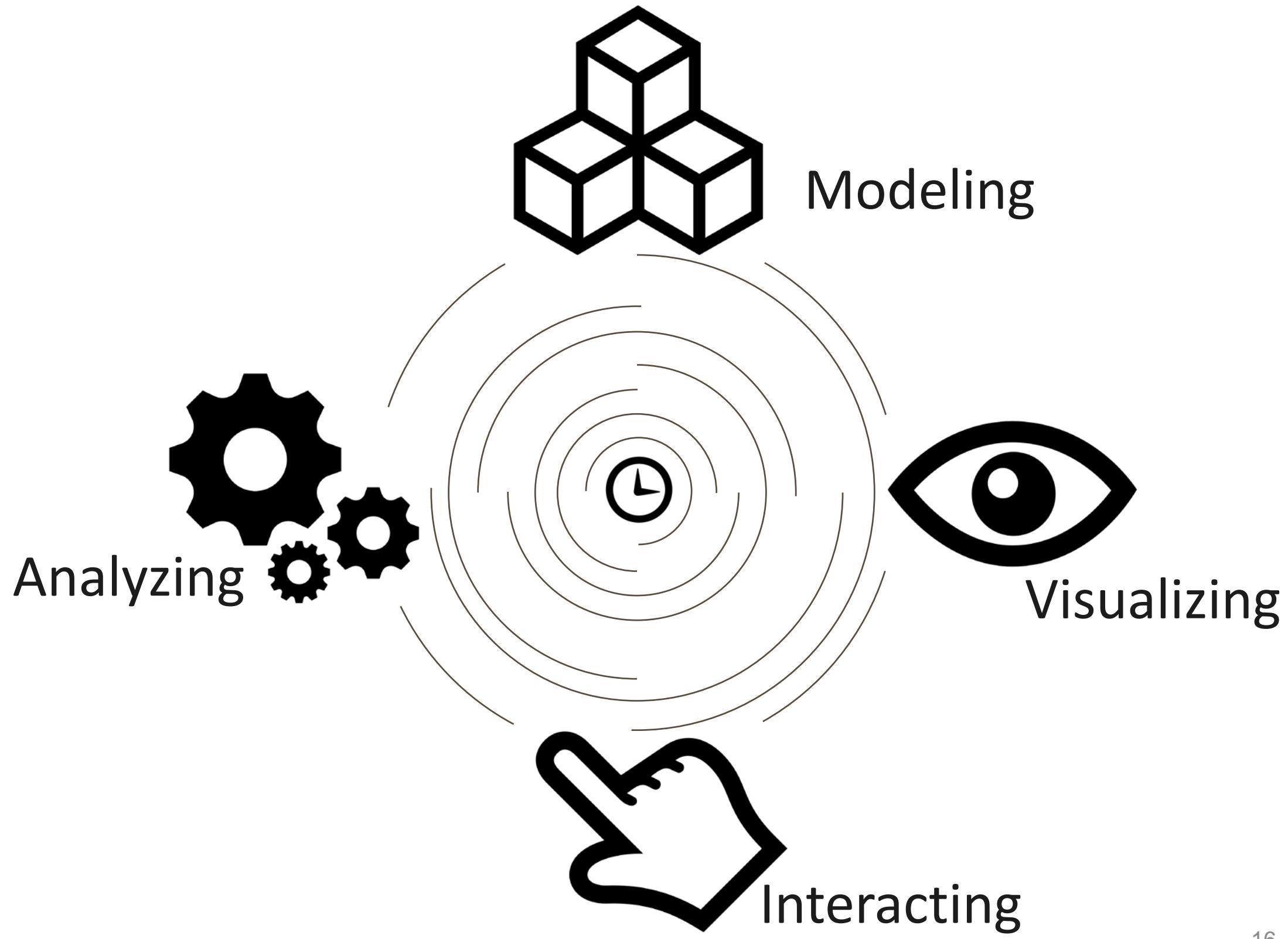


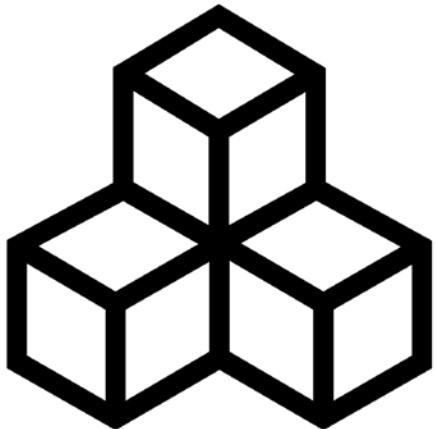
different time primitives



temporal indeterminacy





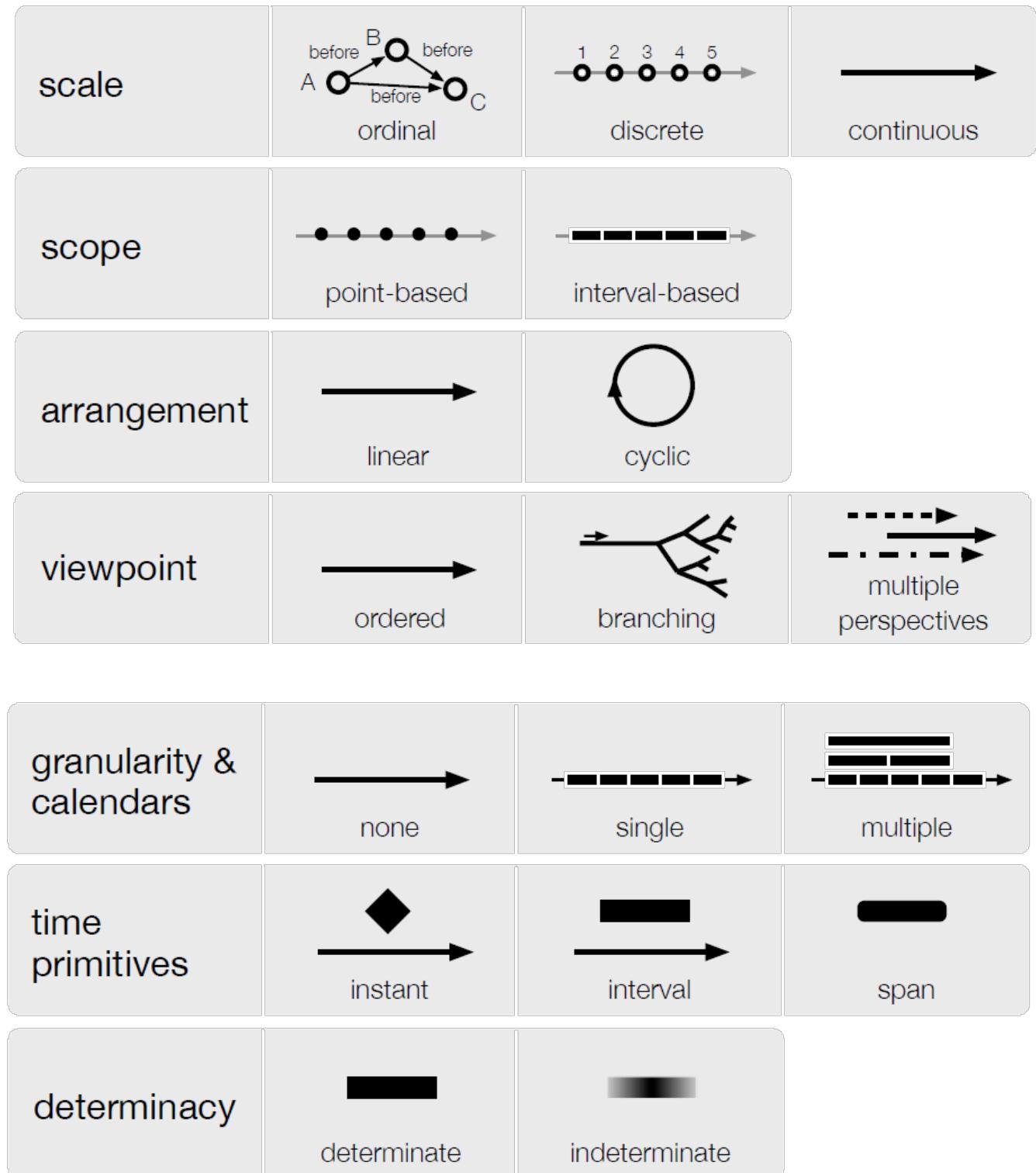


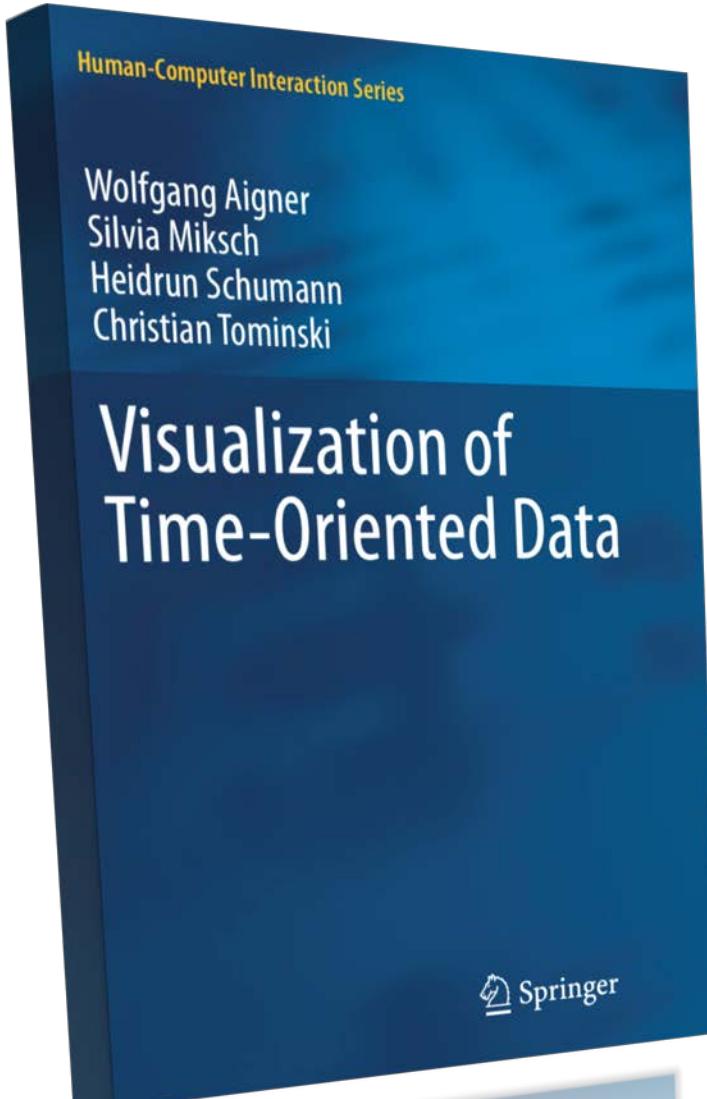
# Modeling Time & Time-Oriented Data

# Visualization of Time-Oriented Data

Springer

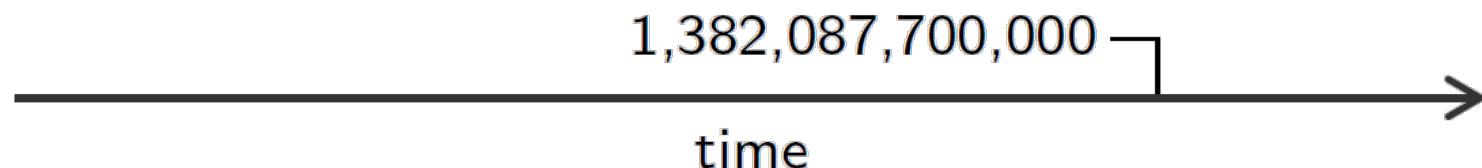
Springer





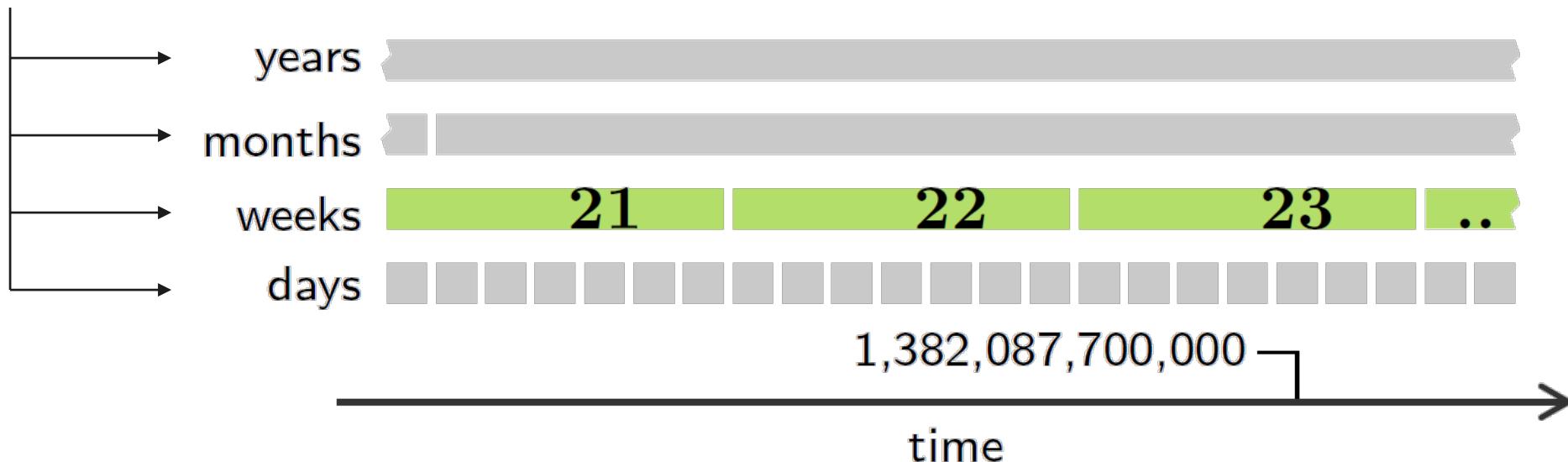
scale	3.14 3.27 4.88 quantitative	coconut banana apple qualitative
frame of reference	▼ abstract	 spatial
kind of data	 events	 states
number of variables	 univariate	 multivariate
internal time inherent in the data model	 non-temporal	 temporal
external time extrinsic to the data model	 static	 dynamic

# Challenging Aspect: Multiple Granularities & Cycles



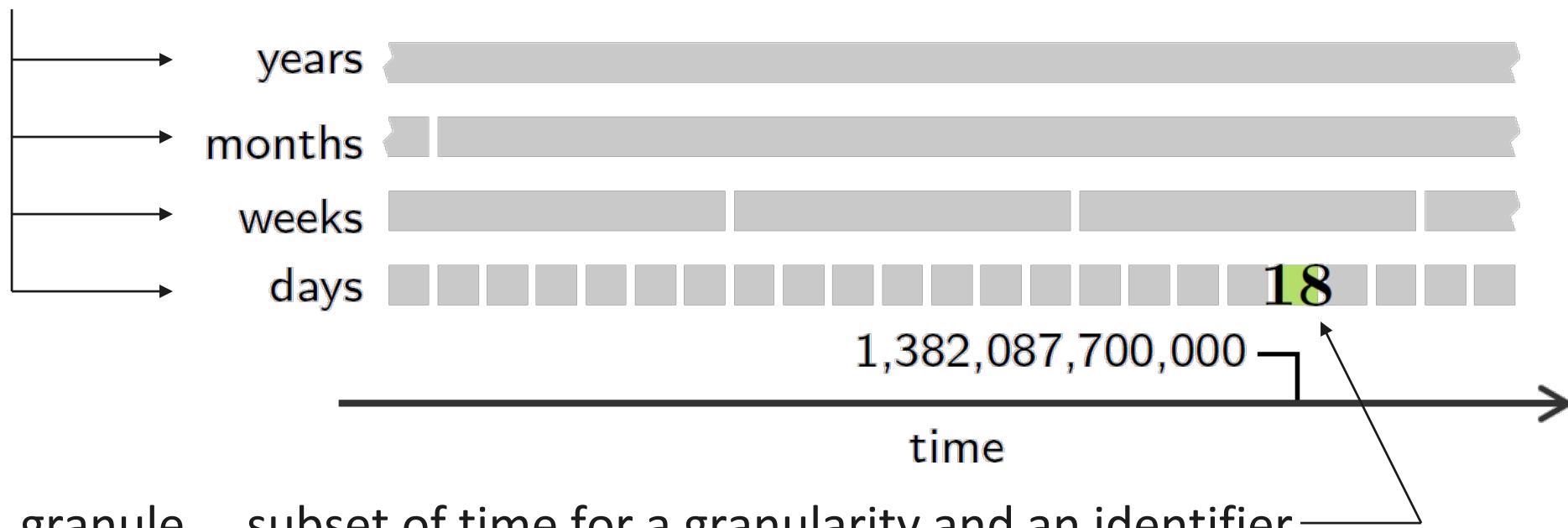
# Challenging Aspect: Multiple Granularities & Cycles

granularities ... map time and integer numbers



# Calendar Operations for Granularities

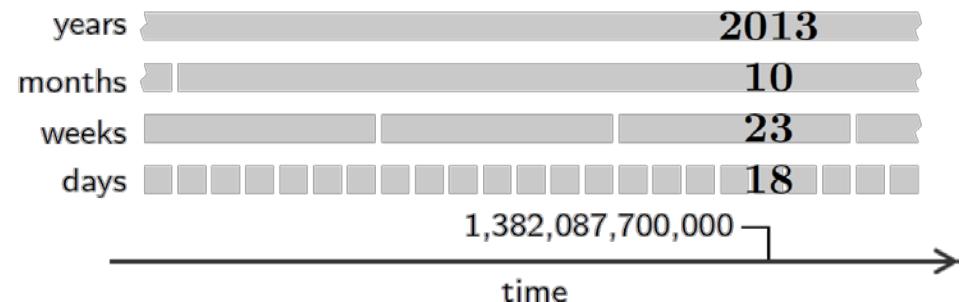
granularities ... map time and integer numbers



granule ... subset of time for a granularity and an identifier

# Calendar Operations based on Granularities

anchor data on any granularity



convert granules to another granularity

roll-up / drill down

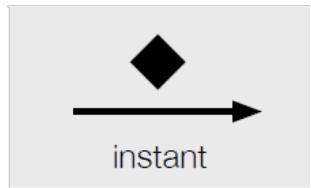
group granules by identifier

(e.g., every Wednesday in March)

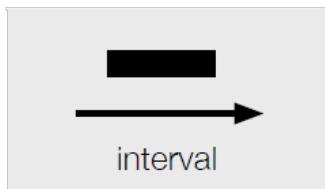
shifting granules by a given number

check qualitative temporal relations

# Challenging Aspect: Different Time Primitives



1 time point

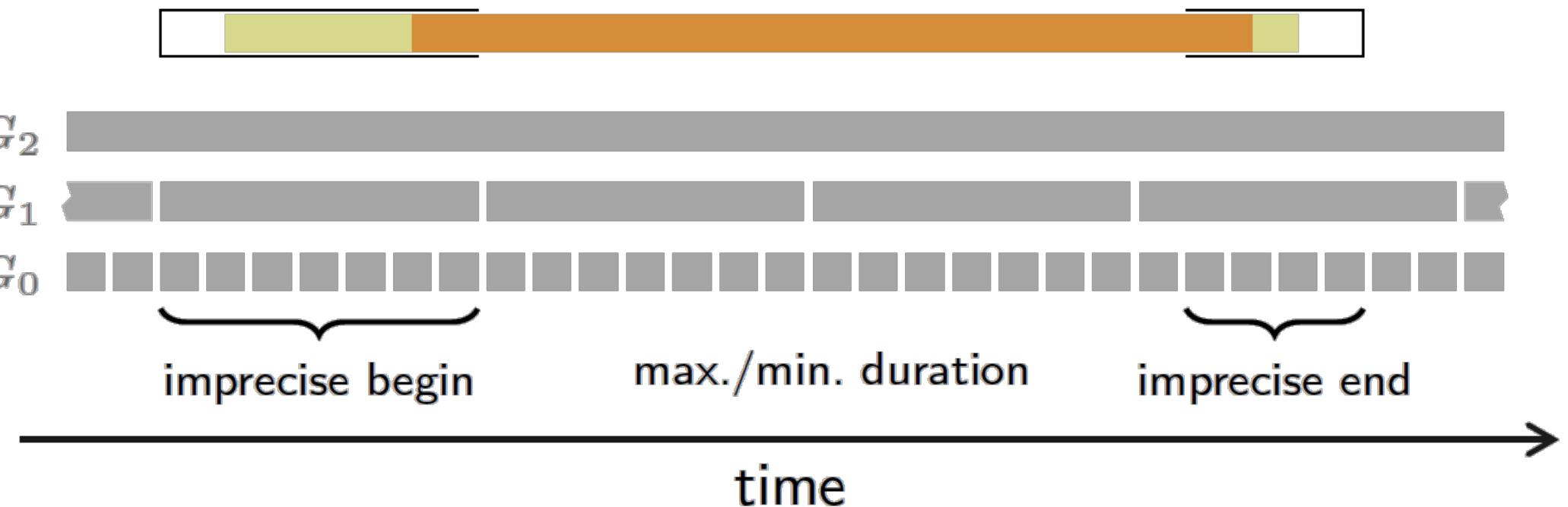


period between 2 time points



duration of a period (not anchored in time)

# Challenging Aspect: Temporal Indeterminacy

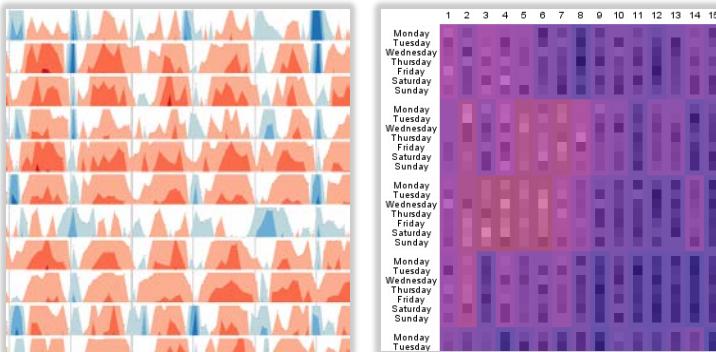
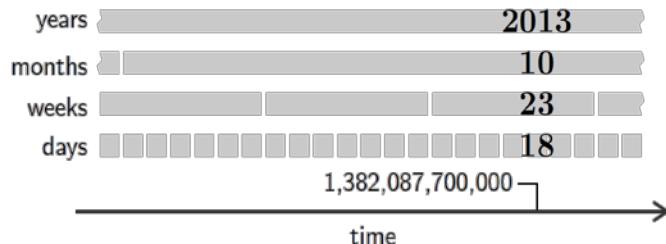




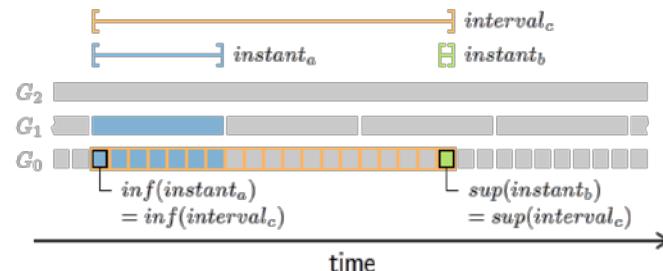
# TimeBench.org

A Software Library for  
Visual Analytics of Time-Oriented Data

multiple granularities & cycles



different time primitives



temporal indeterminacy

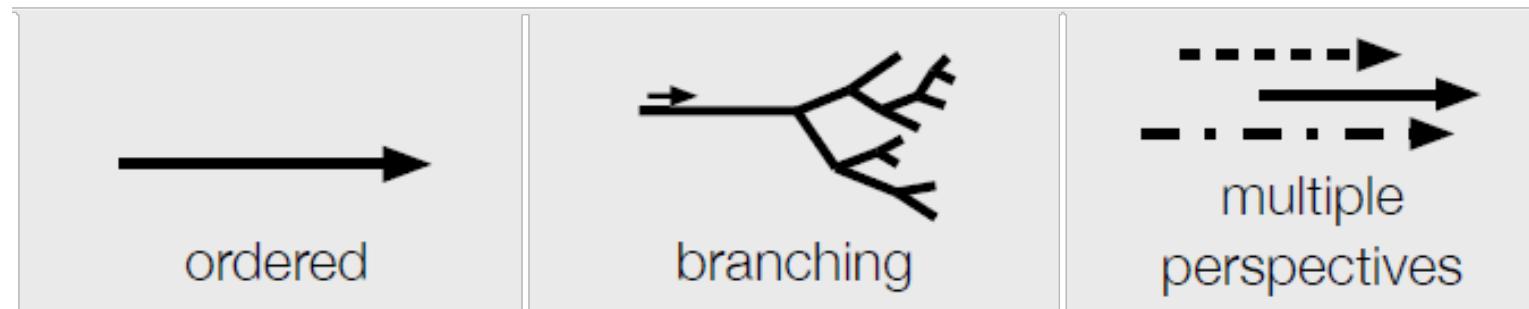


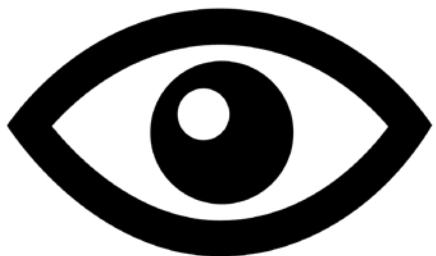
Rind, Lammarsch, Aigner, Alsallakh, Miksch:

**TimeBench: A Data Model and Software Library for Visual Analytics of Time-Oriented Data – VAST/TVCG, 2013**



# Challenging Aspect: Viewpoints

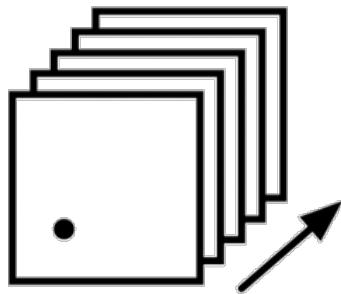




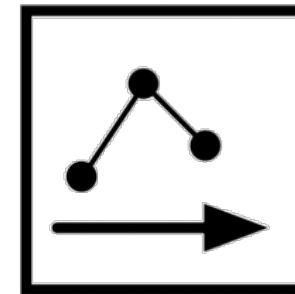
# Visualizing Time-Oriented Data

# Visualizing time

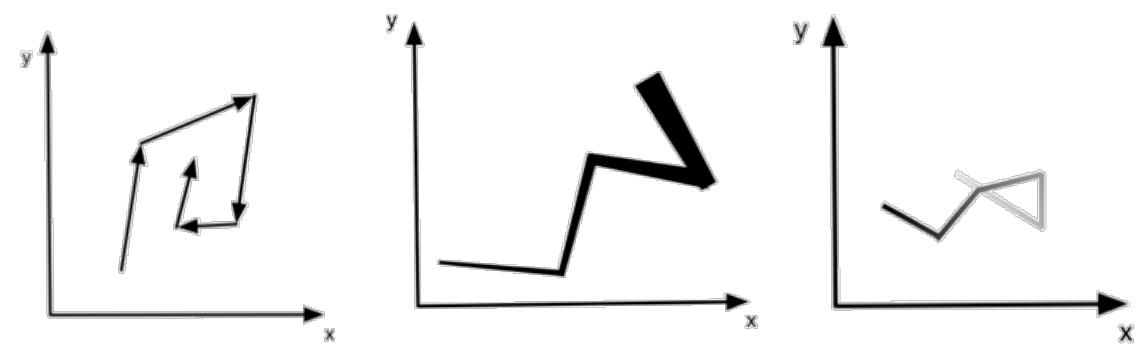
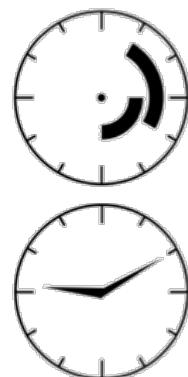
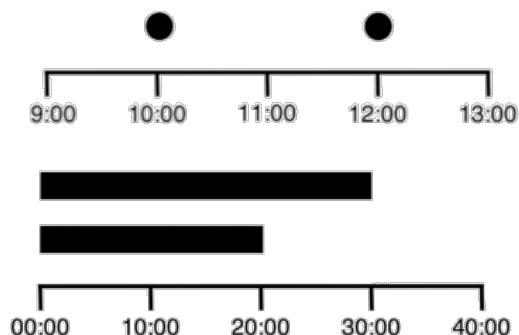
Dynamic:  
**Time → Time (Animation)**



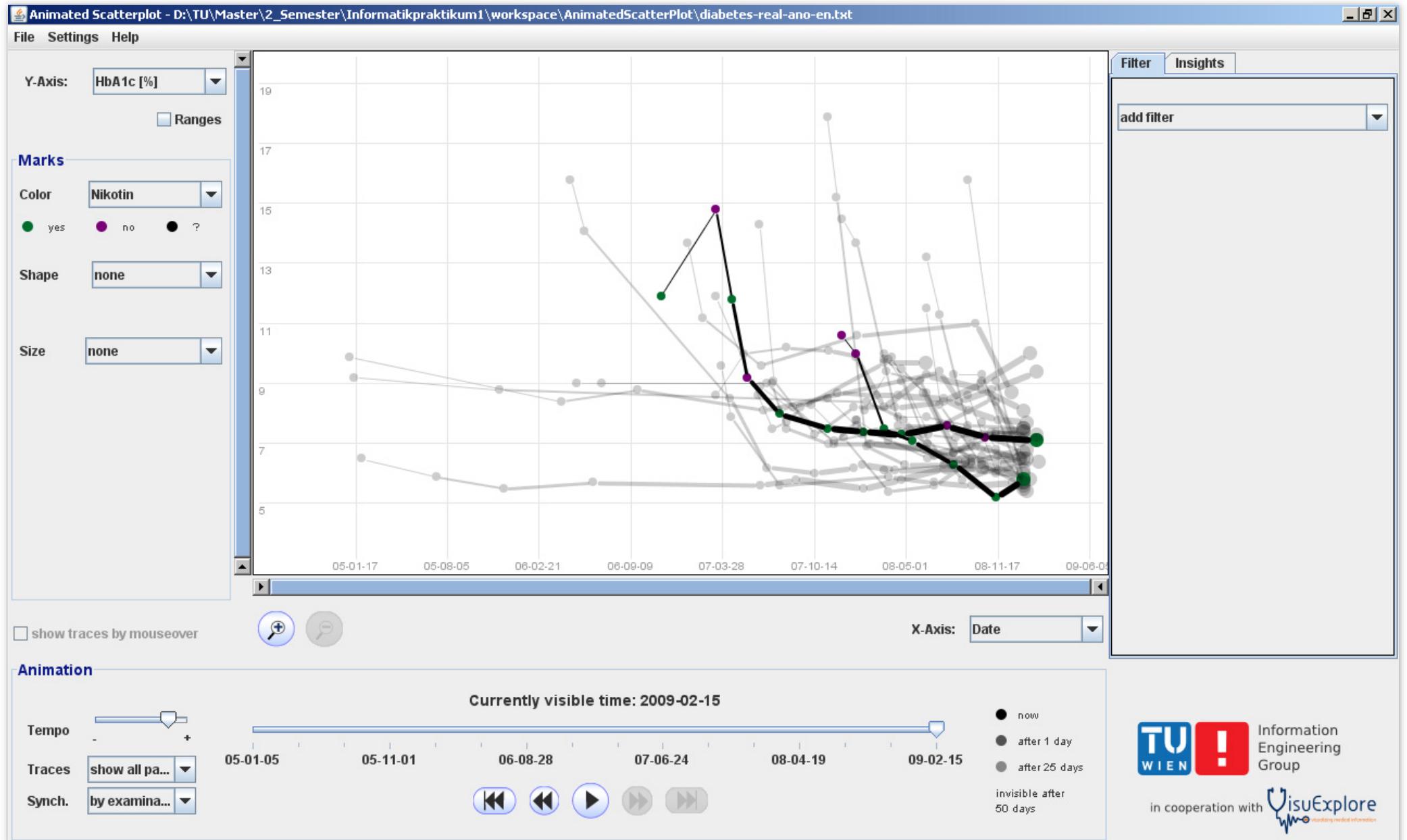
Static:  
**Time → Space**



Visual variables:  
position, length, angle, slope, connection, thickness, ...



# TimeRider



Rind, Aigner, Miksch, Wiltner, Pohl, Drexler, Neubauer, Suchy:

Visually Exploring Multivariate Trends in Patient Cohorts Using Animated Scatter Plots – HCII, 2011

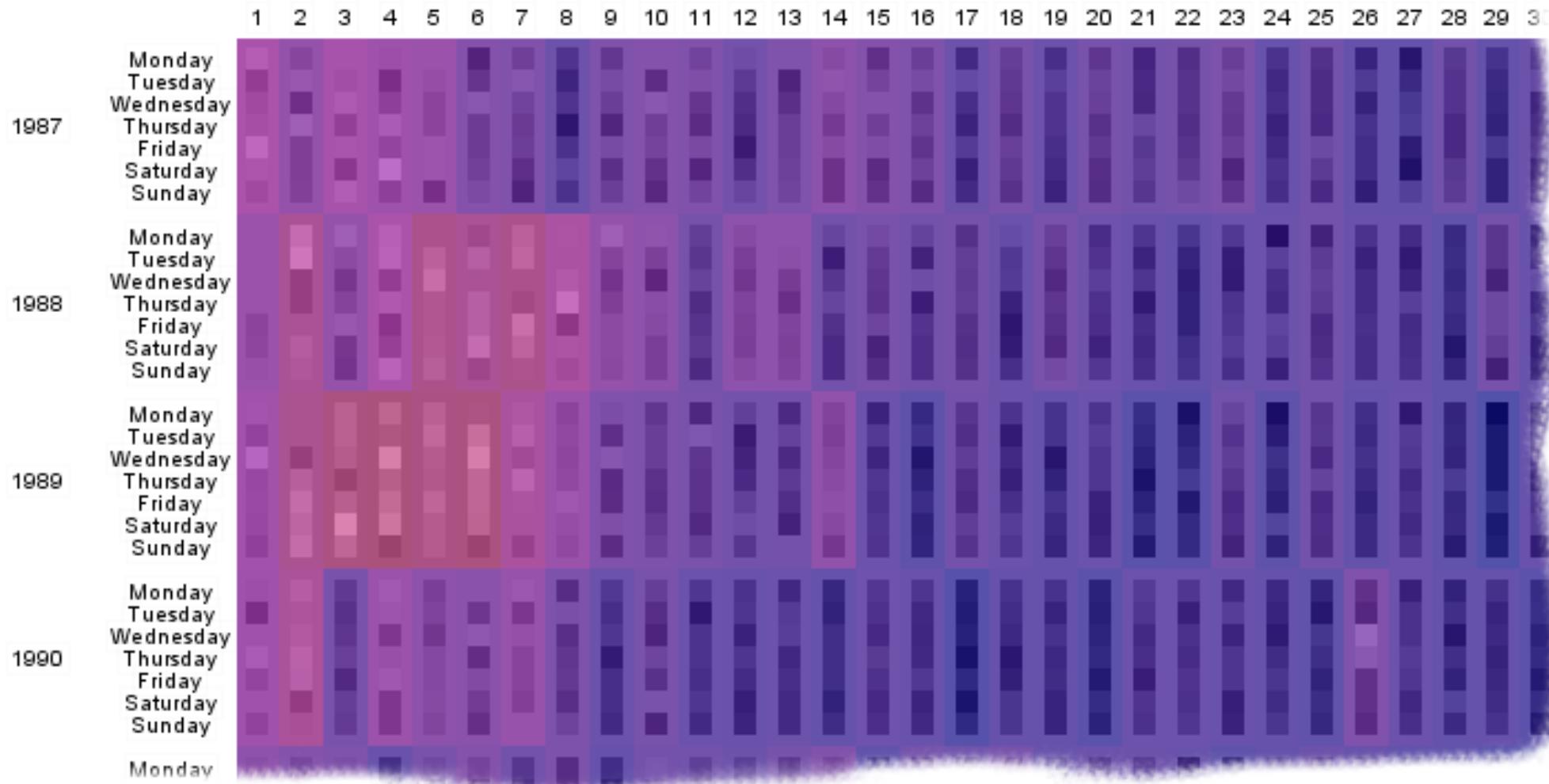
# VisuExplore



Rind, Aigner, Miksch, Wiltner, Pohl, Turic, Drexler:

**Visual Exploration of Time-oriented Patient Data for Chronic Diseases:  
Design Study and Evaluation– USAB, 2011**

# GROOVE

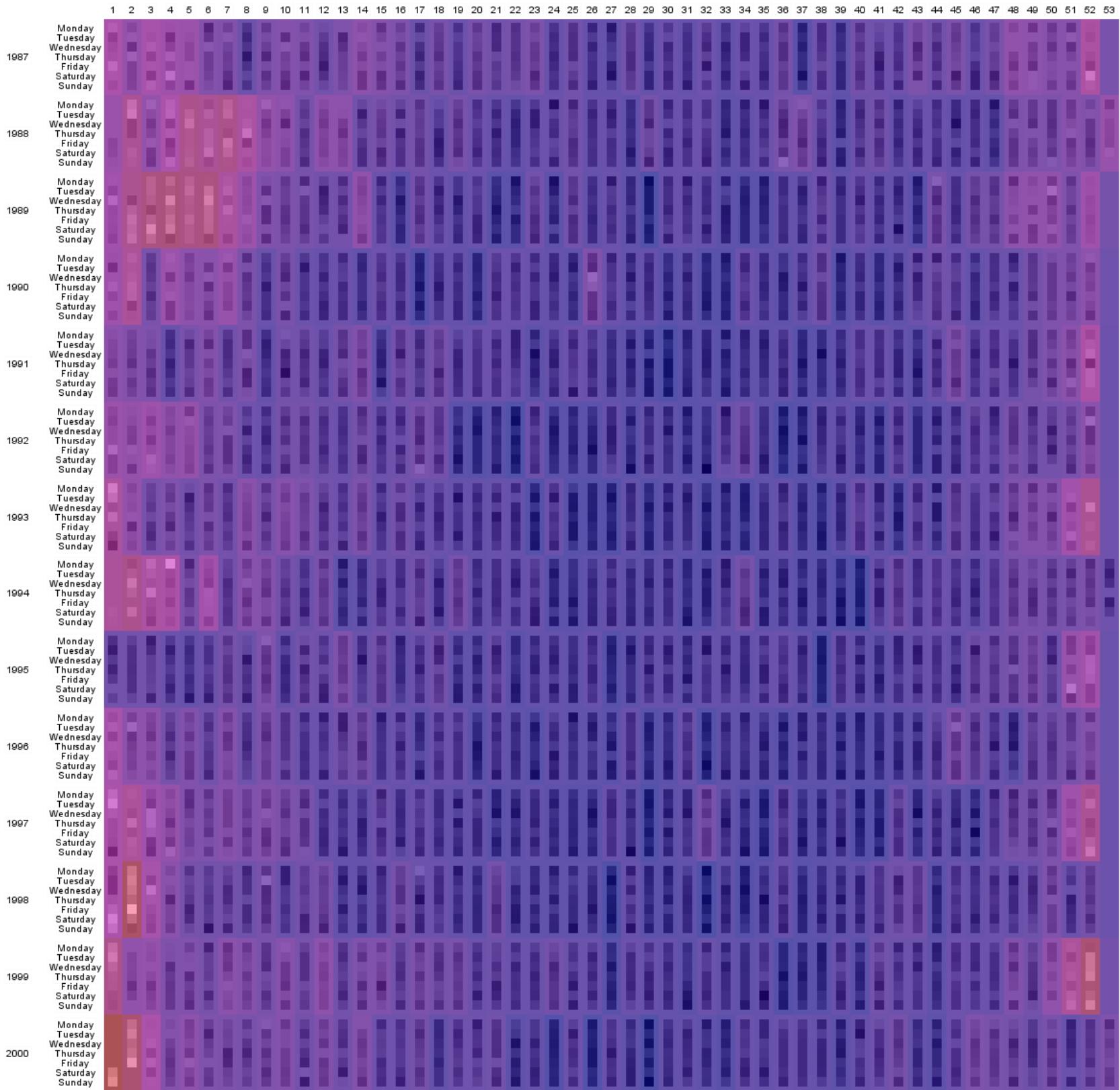


Lammarsch et al.:

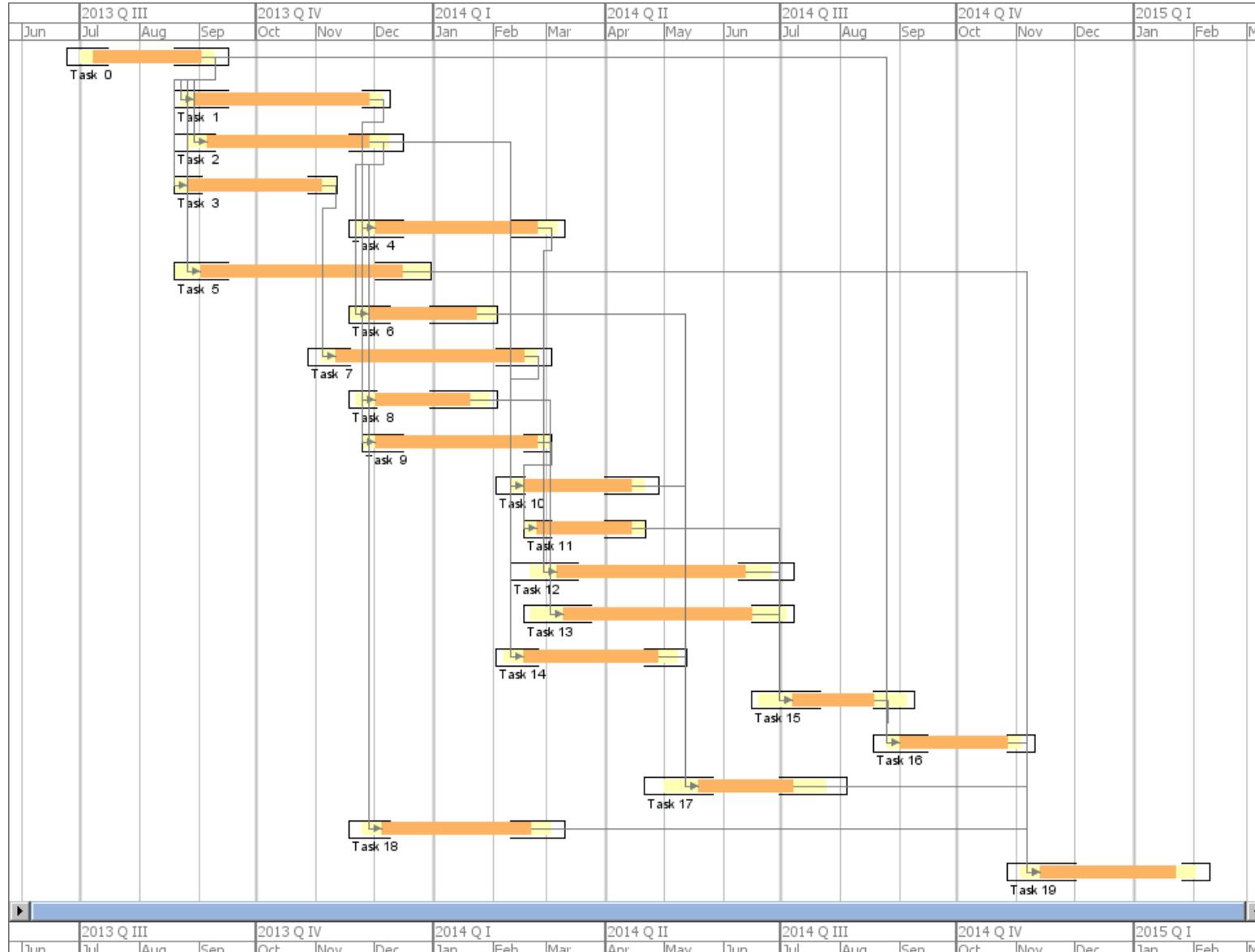
**Hierarchical Temporal Patterns and Interactive Aggregated Views for Pixel-Based Visualizations – Proc. IV, 2005**

Rind, Lammarsch, Aigner, Alsallakh, Miksch:

**TimeBench: A Data Model and Software Library for Visual Analytics of Time-Oriented Data – TVCG, 2013**



# PlanningLines



Aigner et al.:

**PlanningLines: novel glyphs for representing temporal uncertainties and their evaluation – Proc. IV, 2005**

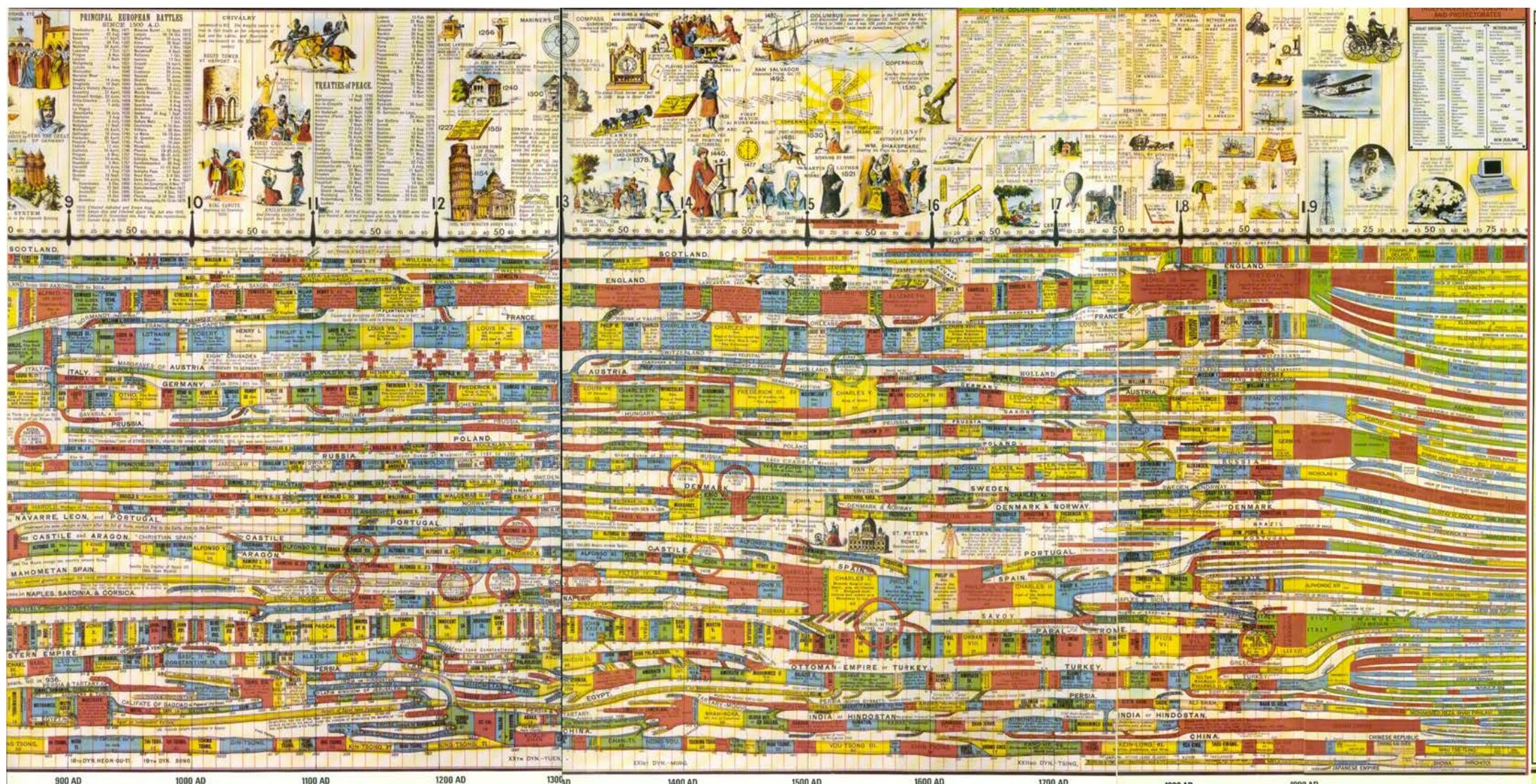
Rind, Lammarsch, Aigner, Alsallakh, Miksch:

**TimeBench: A Data Model and Software Library for Visual Analytics of Time-Oriented Data – TVCG, 2013**



Interacting with  
Time-Oriented Data

# Example: Historical Timelines



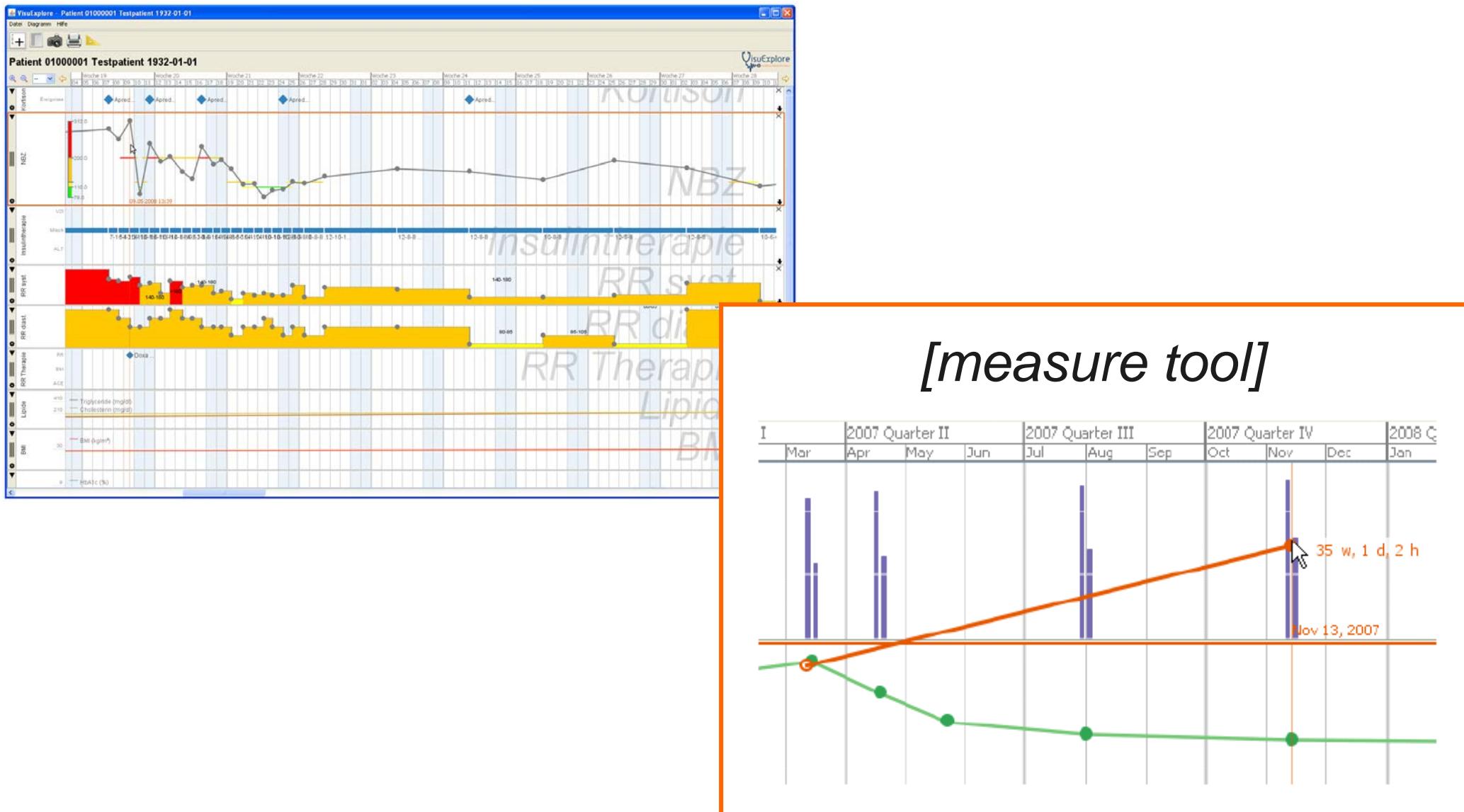
based on Deacon (1890)

# Example: Historical Timelines



by Barbeu-Dubourg (1753)

# Example: Historical Timelines



Rind, Aigner, Miksch, Wiltner, Pohl, Turic, Drexler:

Visual Exploration of Time-oriented Patient Data for Chronic Diseases:  
Design Study and Evaluation– USAB, 2011

# VisuExplore

# vs. Gravi ++



[Rind et al., 2011]



Pohl, Wiltner, Miksch, Aigner, Rind:

Analysing Interactivity in Information Visualisation – KI, 2012



# **EvalBench**.org

A Software Library for Visualization Evaluation

Reduces implementation effort for evaluation features

Consistent and reproducible execution of study protocols

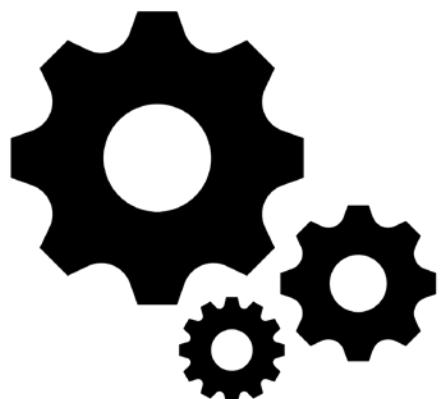
Integrates well with existing visualization prototypes

**Free and open source software (@GitHub)**

**supports:** controlled experiments • interaction logging • laboratory questionnaires • heuristic evaluations • insight diaries

*Aigner, Hoffmann, Rind:*

**EvalBench: Design and Implementation of a Software Library  
for Evaluation in Visualization - CGF, 2013**



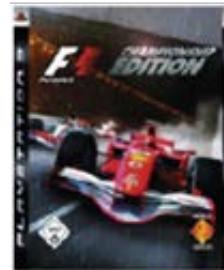
# Automated Analysis of Time-Oriented Data

# Temporal Data Mining

Example: Retail



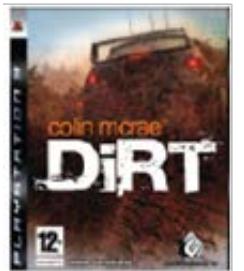
A



B



C



D

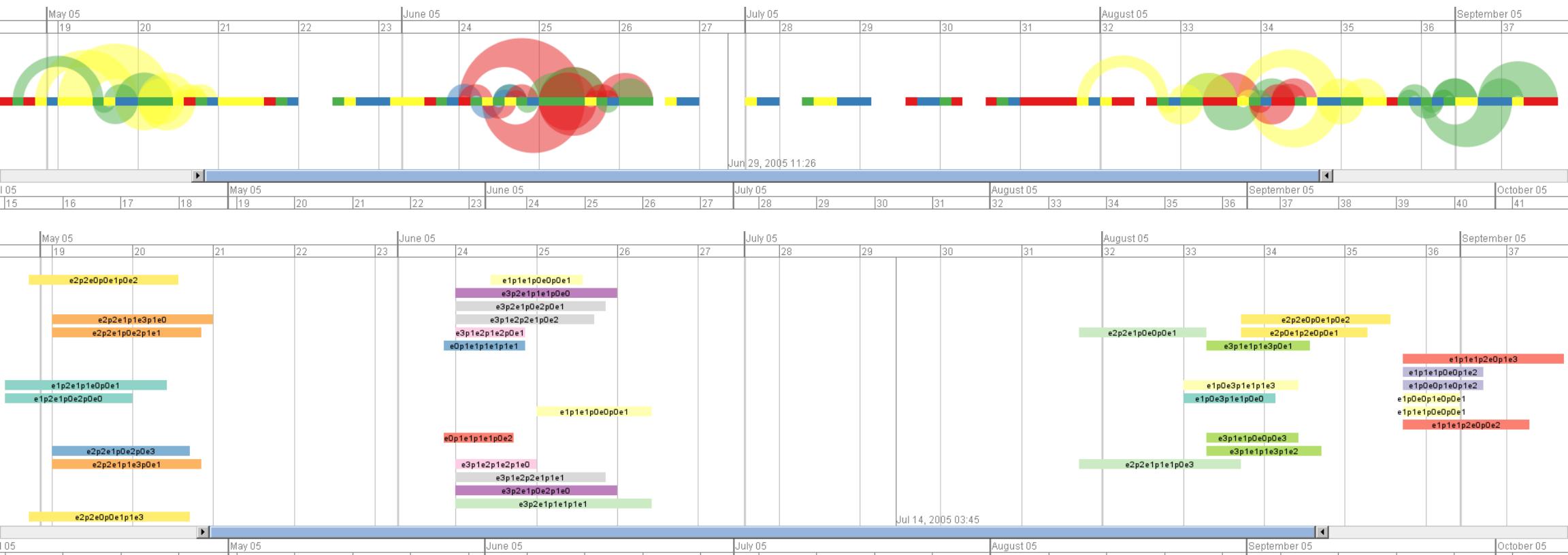


ABCD



*A-1day-B-5days-C-3months-D*

# MuTIny & MEMuRY



Lammarsch, Aigner, Bertone, Miksch, Rind:

**Mind the Time: Unleashing Temporal Aspects in Pattern Discovery – Computers & Graphics, 2014**

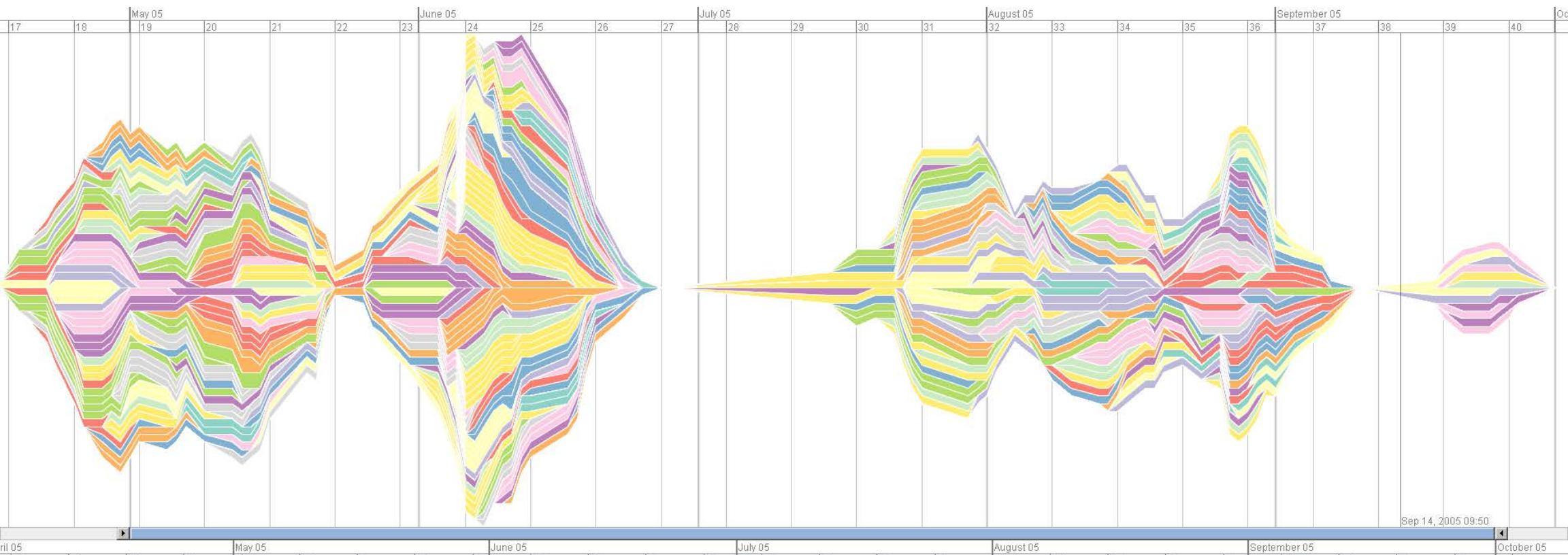
Bertone, Lammarsch, Turic, Aigner, Miksch, Gärtner:

**MuTIny: A Multi-Time Interval Pattern Discovery Approach to Preserve the Temporal Information in Between - ECDM, 2010**

Bertone, Lammarsch, Turic, Aigner, Miksch:

**Does Jason Bourne need Visual Analytics to catch the Jackal? - EuroVAST, 2010**

# MuTIny & MEMuRY



Lammarsch, Aigner, Bertone, Miksch, Rind:

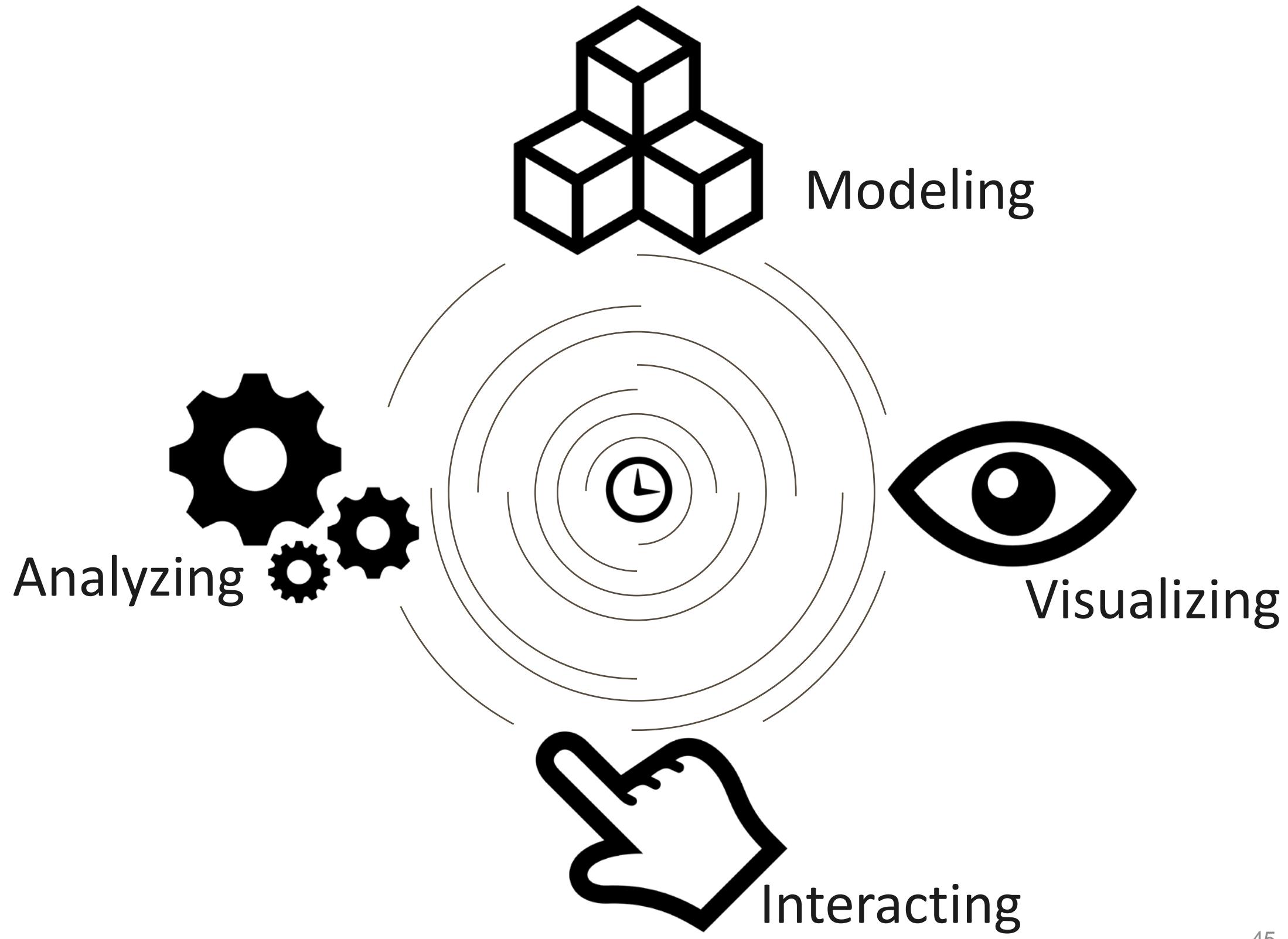
**Mind the Time: Unleashing Temporal Aspects in Pattern Discovery – Computers & Graphics, 2014**

Bertone, Lammarsch, Turic, Aigner, Miksch, Gärtner:

**MuTIny: A Multi-Time Interval Pattern Discovery Approach to Preserve the Temporal Information in Between - ECDM, 2010**

Bertone, Lammarsch, Turic, Aigner, Miksch:

**Does Jason Bourne need Visual Analytics to catch the Jackal? - EuroVAST, 2010**



# Future Challenges

## Science of interaction

What is the role and value of interactivity for sensemaking with visualizations?

## Knowledge-Assisted Visual Analytics

How can the Visual Analytics process benefit from externalized and shared knowledge of analysts?

## Event Sequences in Software

How can we effectively analyze software behavior patterns, especially malicious behaviors?

## Time in Humanities

How can we model time characteristics in narratives, plays, etc. such as multiple perspectives for visual analytics in humanities?



[www.infovis-wiki.net](http://www.infovis-wiki.net)



[www.evalbench.org](http://www.evalbench.org)



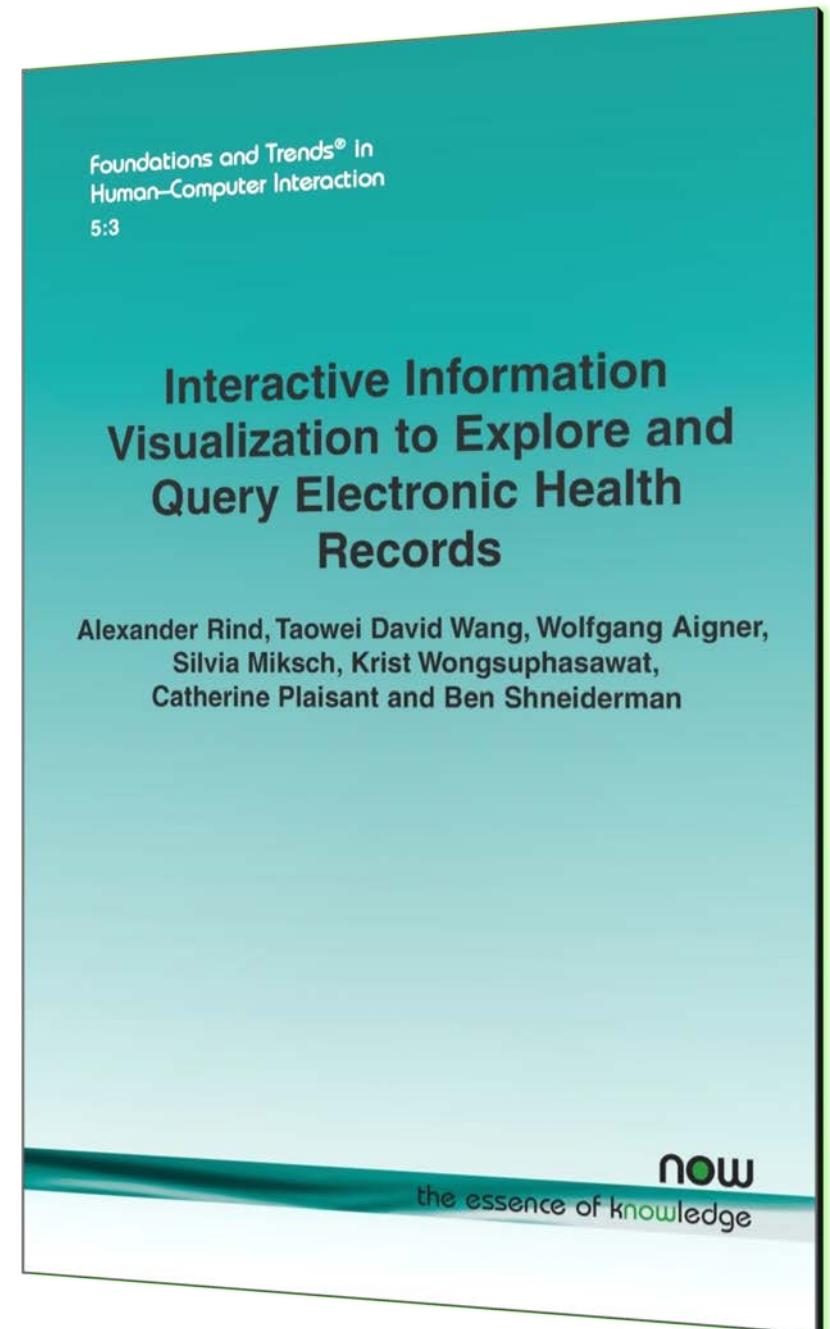
[www.timebench.org](http://www.timebench.org)

Alexander Rind • Tawei David Wang  
• Wolfgang Aigner • Silvia Miksch •  
Krist Wongsuphasawat • Catherine  
Plaisant • Ben Shneiderman

## Interactive Information Visualization to Explore and Query Electronic Health Records

State of the Art Review

Foundations and Trends® in Human–Computer Interaction, 2013, 92 pages  
[doi: 10.1561/1100000039](https://doi.org/10.1561/1100000039)



Human-Computer Interaction Series

Wolfgang Aigner  
Silvia Miksch  
Heidrun Schumann  
Christian Tominski

# Visualization of Time-Oriented Data

 Springer

 Springer

Wolfgang Aigner • Silvia Miksch •  
Heidrun Schumann •  
Christian Tominski  
**Visualization of  
Time-Oriented Data**

*with a foreword by Ben Shneiderman*

Springer

1st Edition., 2011, XVIII, 286 p. 221 illus., 198 in color.  
Hardcover, ISBN 978-0-85729-078-6.

## Table of Contents

Introduction • Historical Background •  
Time & Time-Oriented Data • Visualization Aspects •  
Interaction Support • Analytical Support •  
Survey of Visualization Techniques • Conclusion

**[www.timeviz.net](http://www.timeviz.net)**

# survey.timeviz.net

TimeViz Browser

http://survey.timeviz.net/ Google

sunseitn.lan Webmail Net-Shopping Apple (49) Computer Privat Feuerwehr Uni Wien Sonstiges google newsmap netculture Articles

TimeViz Browser

## The TimeViz Browser

A Visual Survey of Visualization Techniques for Time-Oriented Data

# of Techniques: 110

Search:

Data

Frame of Reference

- Abstract
- Spatial

Number of Variables

- Univariate
- Multivariate

Time

Arrangement

- Linear
- Cyclic

Time Primitives

- Instant
- Interval

Visualization

Mapping

- Static
- Dynamic

Dimensionality

- 2D
- 3D

Enhanced Interactive Spiral

# survey.timeviz.net

TimeViz Browser

http://survey.timeviz.net/ Google

sunseitn.lan Webmail Net-Shopping Apple (49) Computer Privat Feuerwehr Uni Wien Sonstiges google newsmap netculture Articles >

TimeViz Browser

## The TimeViz Browser

A Visual Survey of Visualization Techniques for Time-Oriented Data

# of Techniques: 110

Search:

Data

Frame of Reference

- Abstract
- Spatial

Number of Variables

- Univariate
- Multivariate

Time

Arrangement

- Linear
- Cyclic

Time Primitive

- Instant
- Interval

Visualization

Mapping

- Static
- Dynamic

Dimensionality

- 2D
- 3D

**GROOVE**

Source: Generated with the GROOVE software.

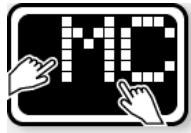
GROOVE (Granularity Overview OVerlay) visualizations as presented by Lammarsch, T.; Aigner, W.; Bertone, A.; Gärtner, J.; Mayr, E.; Miksch, S. & Smuc, M. (2009) utilize a user-configurable set of four time granularities to partition a dataset in a regular manner. That is, a recursive layout is achieved that shows columns and rows of larger blocks and a pixel arrangement within blocks for the detail structure. Following the concept of recursive patterns (see [Recursive Pattern](#)) ...

[Read more in our book ...](#)

**References**

- Lammarsch, T.; Aigner, W.; Bertone, A.; Gärtner, J.; Mayr, E.; Miksch, S. & Smuc, M.: [Hierarchical Temporal Patterns and Interactive Aggregated Views for Pixel-based Visualizations](#). Proceedings of the International Conference Information Visualisation (IV), IEEE Computer Society, 2009.

# Acknowledgements



St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences  
Institute of Creative\Media/Technologies, Media Computing Research Group



Vienna University of Technology  
Laura Bassi Centre of Expertise for Visual Analytics Science and Technology



Danube University Krems  
Department of Information and Knowledge Engineering

Wolfgang Aigner, Bilal Alsallakh, Alessio Bertone, Markus Bögl, Felix Drexler, Paolo Federico, Peter Filzmoser, Johannes Gärtner, Eduard Gröller, Theresia Gschwandtner, Helwig Hauser, Klaus Hinum, Bernhard Hoisl, Stephan Hoffmann, Christian Kainz, Katharina Kaiser, Simone Kriglstein, Tim Lammarsch, Rui Ma, Eva Mayr, Luana Micallef, Silvia Miksch, Barbara Neubauer, Jürgen Pfeffer, Catherine Plaisant, Margit Pohl, Hanna Risku, Peter Rodgers, Thomas Schneider, Alexander Schratt, Heidrun Schumann, Andreas Seyfang, Ben Shneiderman, Michael Smuc, Nikolaus Suchy, Christian Tominski, Martin Tomitsch, Thomas Turic, Taowei David Wang, Markus Wagner, Simone Wiltner, Florian Windhager, Eva Wohlfart, Krist Wongsuphasawat, Lukas Zenk

## Supported by:



**FFG**  
FORSCHUNG WIRKT.

**FWF**  
Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



**bmwf**  
Bundesministerium für  
Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend

CENTRES OF EXPERTISE  
**LAURA BASSI**

# References

- Aigner, W., Hoffmann, S., & Rind, A. (2013). EvalBench: A Software Library for Visualization Evaluation. *Computer Graphics Forum*, 32(3), 41–50. doi:10.1111/cgf.12091
- Aigner, W., Miksch, S., Schumann, H., & Tominski, C. (2011). *Visualization of Time-Oriented Data*. Berlin: Springer.
- Aigner, W., Miksch, S., Thurnher, B., & Biffl, S. (2005). PlanningLines: novel glyphs for representing temporal uncertainties and their evaluation. In Proc. 9th Int. Conf. Information Visualisation (pp. 457–463). IEEE. doi:10.1109/IV.2005.97
- Bertone, A., Lammarsch, T., Turic, T., Aigner, W., & Miksch, S. (2010). Does Jason Bourne need Visual Analytics to catch the Jackal? In J. Kohlhammer & D. Keim (Eds.), Proc. 1st Int. Symp. Visual Analytics Science and Technology Held in Europe (EuroVAST 2010) (pp. 61–67). doi:10.2312/PE/EuroVAST/EuroVAST10/061-067
- Bertone, A., Lammarsch, T., Turic, T., Aigner, W., Miksch, S., & Gaertner, J. (2010). MuTIny: A Multi-Time Interval Pattern Discovery Approach To Preserve The Temporal Information In Between. In Proc. IADIS European Conf. on Data Mining, ECDM (pp. 101–106). Freiburg, Germany.
- Lammarsch, T., Aigner, W., Bertone, A., Gärtner, J., Mayr, E., Miksch, S., & Smuc, M. (2009). Hierarchical Temporal Patterns and Interactive Aggregated Views for Pixel-Based Visualizations. In Proc. 13th Int. Conf. Information Visualisation, 2009 (pp. 44–50). doi:10.1109/IV.2009.52
- Lammarsch, T., Aigner, W., Bertone, A., Miksch, S., & Rind, A. (2014). Mind the time: Unleashing temporal aspects in pattern discovery. *Computers & Graphics*, 38, 38–50. doi:10.1016/j.cag.2013.10.007
- Pohl, M., Wiltner, S., Miksch, S., Aigner, W., & Rind, A. (2012). Analysing Interactivity in Information Visualisation. *KI - Künstliche Intelligenz*, 26(2), 151–159. doi:10.1007/s13218-012-0167-6
- Rind, A., Aigner, W., Miksch, S., Wiltner, S., Pohl, M., Drexler, F., ... Suchy, N. (2011). Visually Exploring Multivariate Trends in Patient Cohorts Using Animated Scatter Plots. In M. M. Robertson (Ed.), *Ergonomics and Health Aspects of Work with Computers* (LNCS 6779, pp. 139–148). Heidelberg: Springer. doi:10.1007/978-3-642-21716-6\_15
- Rind, A., Aigner, W., Miksch, S., Wiltner, S., Pohl, M., Turic, T., & Drexler, F. (2011). Visual Exploration of Time-Oriented Patient Data for Chronic Diseases: Design Study and Evaluation. In A. Holzinger & K.-M. Simonic (Eds.), *Information Quality in e-Health*, Proc. USAB 2011 (LNCS 7058, pp. 301–320). Heidelberg: Springer. doi:10.1007/978-3-642-25364-5\_22
- Rind, A., Lammarsch, T., Aigner, W., Alsallakh, B., & Miksch, S. (2013). TimeBench: A Data Model and Software Library for Visual Analytics of Time-Oriented Data. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 19(12), 2247–2256. doi:10.1109/TVCG.2013.206
- Rind, A., Wang, T. D., Aigner, W., Miksch, S., Wongsuphasawat, K., Plaisant, C., & Shneiderman, B. (2013). Interactive Information Visualization to Explore and Query Electronic Health Records. *Foundations and Trends in Human–Computer Interaction*, 5(3), 207–298. doi:10.1561/1100000039
- Seidl, M., E. Wieser, M. Zeppelzauer, A. Pinz, & C. Breiteneder (2014). Graph-based Similarity of Petroglyphs. To appear in Workshop Proc. of "Where Computer Vision meets Art" ECCV - European Conf. on Computer Vision - 2014 Workshops, Zürich, CH, Springer.
- Thomas, J. J., & Cook, K. A. (Eds.). (2005). *Illuminating the Path: The Research and Development Agenda for Visual Analytics*. IEEE.
- Zaharieva, M., Schopfhauser, D., Del Fabro, M., & Zeppelzauer, M. (2014). Clustering and Retrieval of Social Events in Flickr. In CEUR Workshop Proc. (Vol. 1043, p. 2). Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain, October 16-17, 2014.