

Looks Good To Me: Visualizations As Sanity Checks

Michael Correll

Mingwei Li

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Carlos Scheidegger



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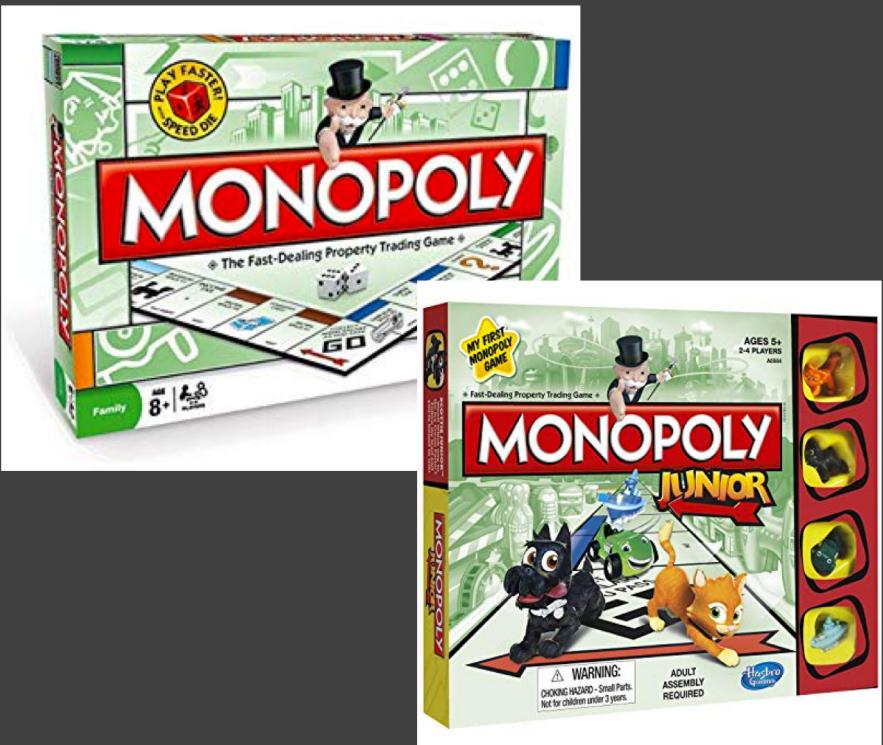


Research Questions

Do data quality issues we care about have **characteristic visual patterns** in our visualizations?

Are these characteristic patterns **robustly detectable** across design parameters?

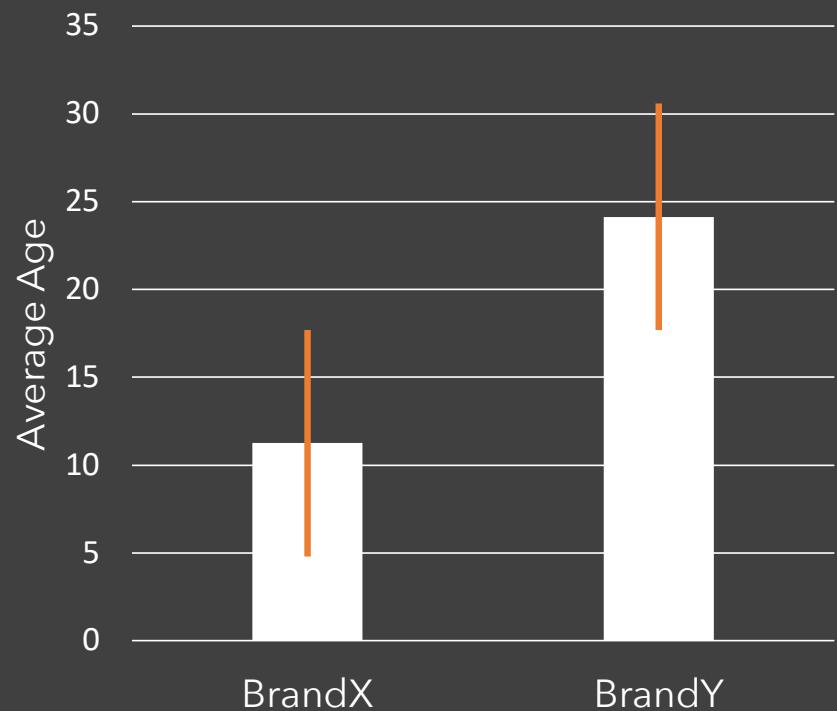
The Focus Test



We recruited 100 children. We gave each child toys from both Brands X and Y. We then asked which brand they preferred.

Does **age** have an affect on
brand preference?

The Focus Test

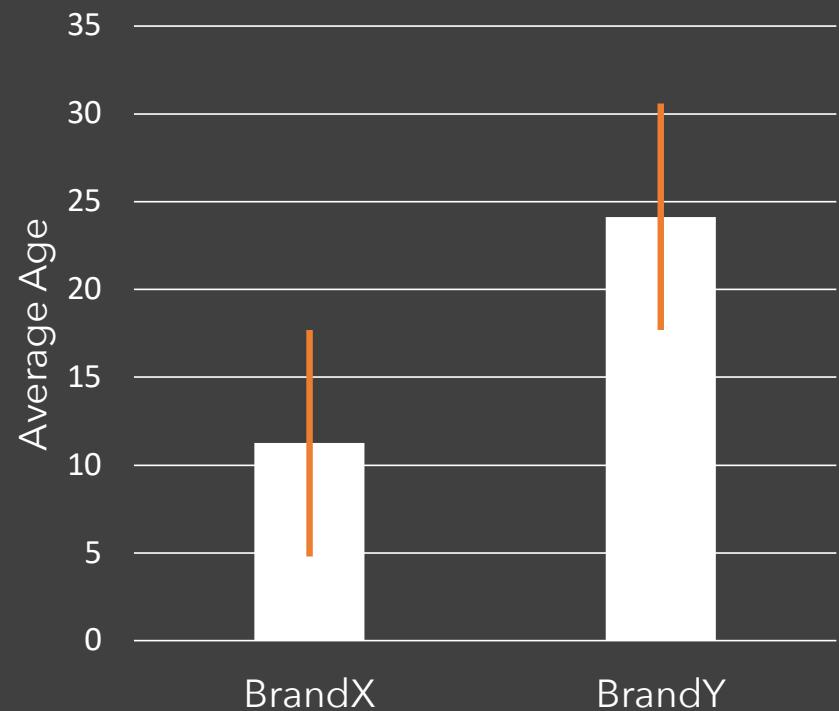


We gave 100 children toys from Brands X and Y. We then asked them which toys they preferred.

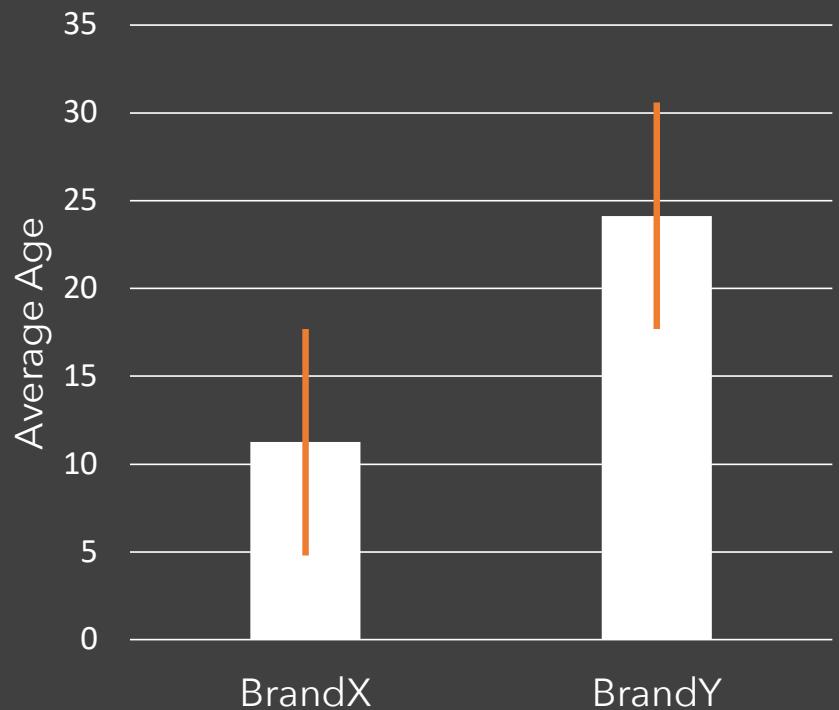
Does **age** have an affect on
brand preference?

Distribution of Age

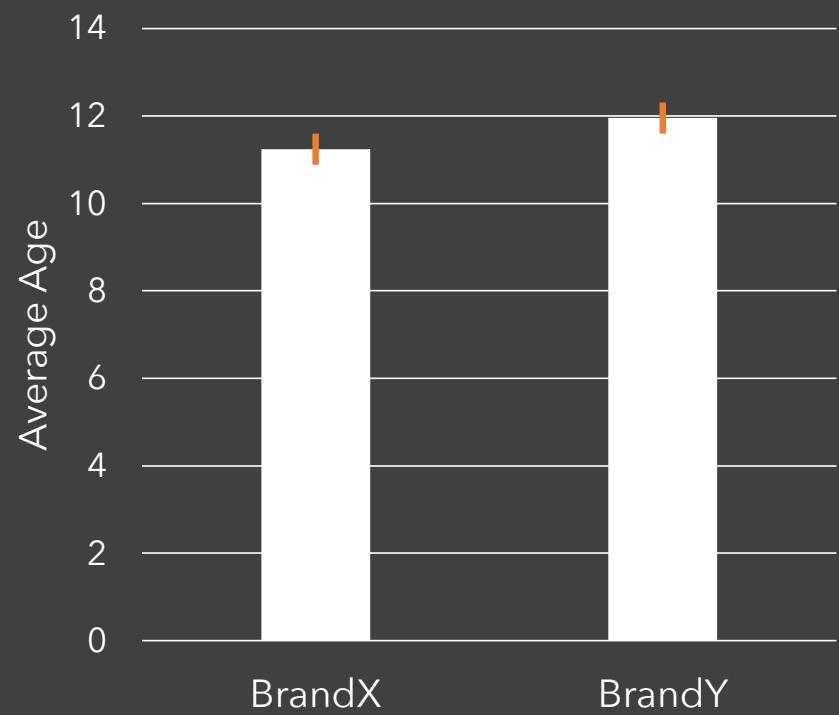


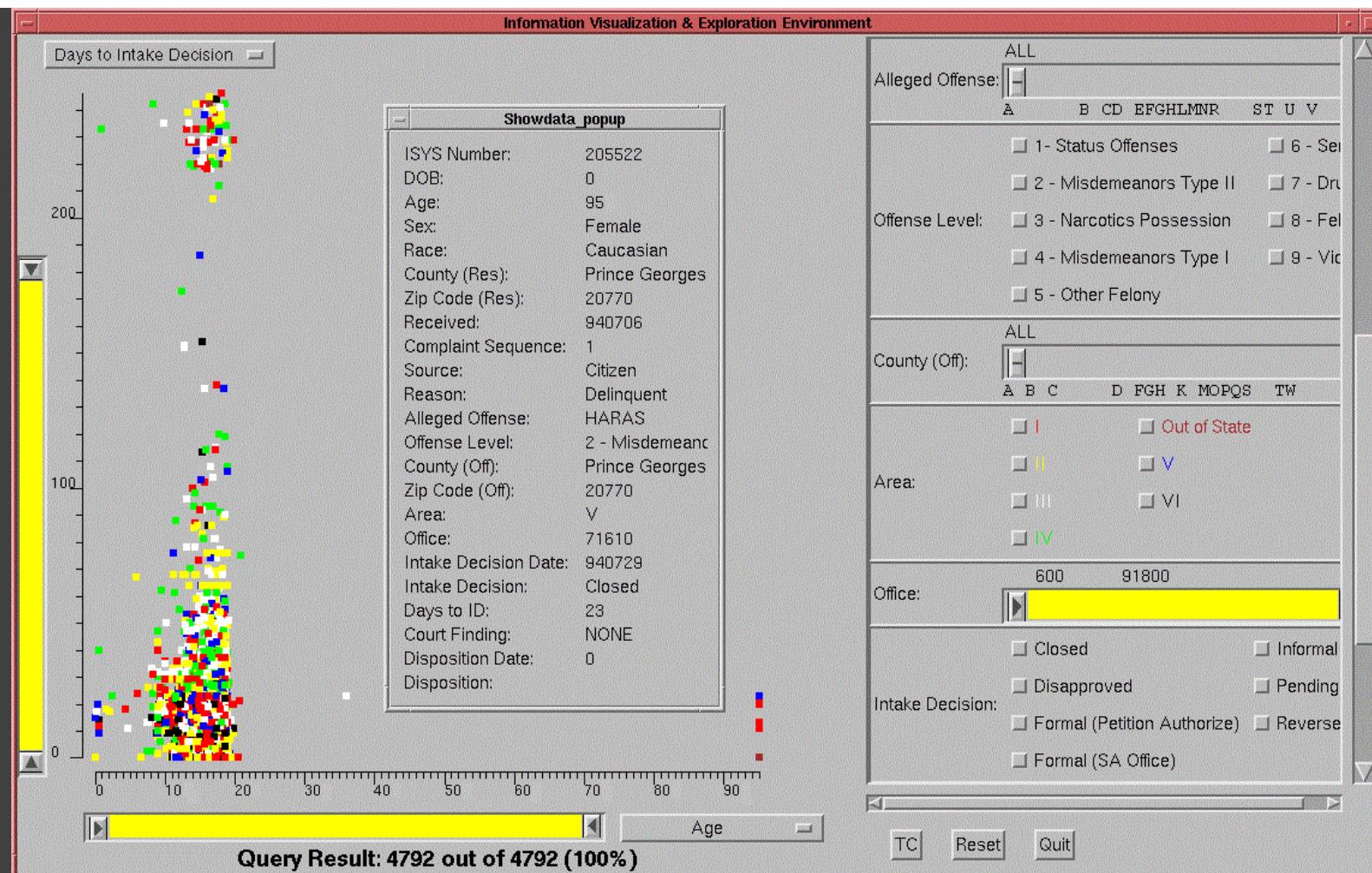


Age	Prefers
99	BrandX
99	BrandX
99	BrandY
16	BrandX
4	BrandX
10	BrandX
16	BrandX
10	BrandY

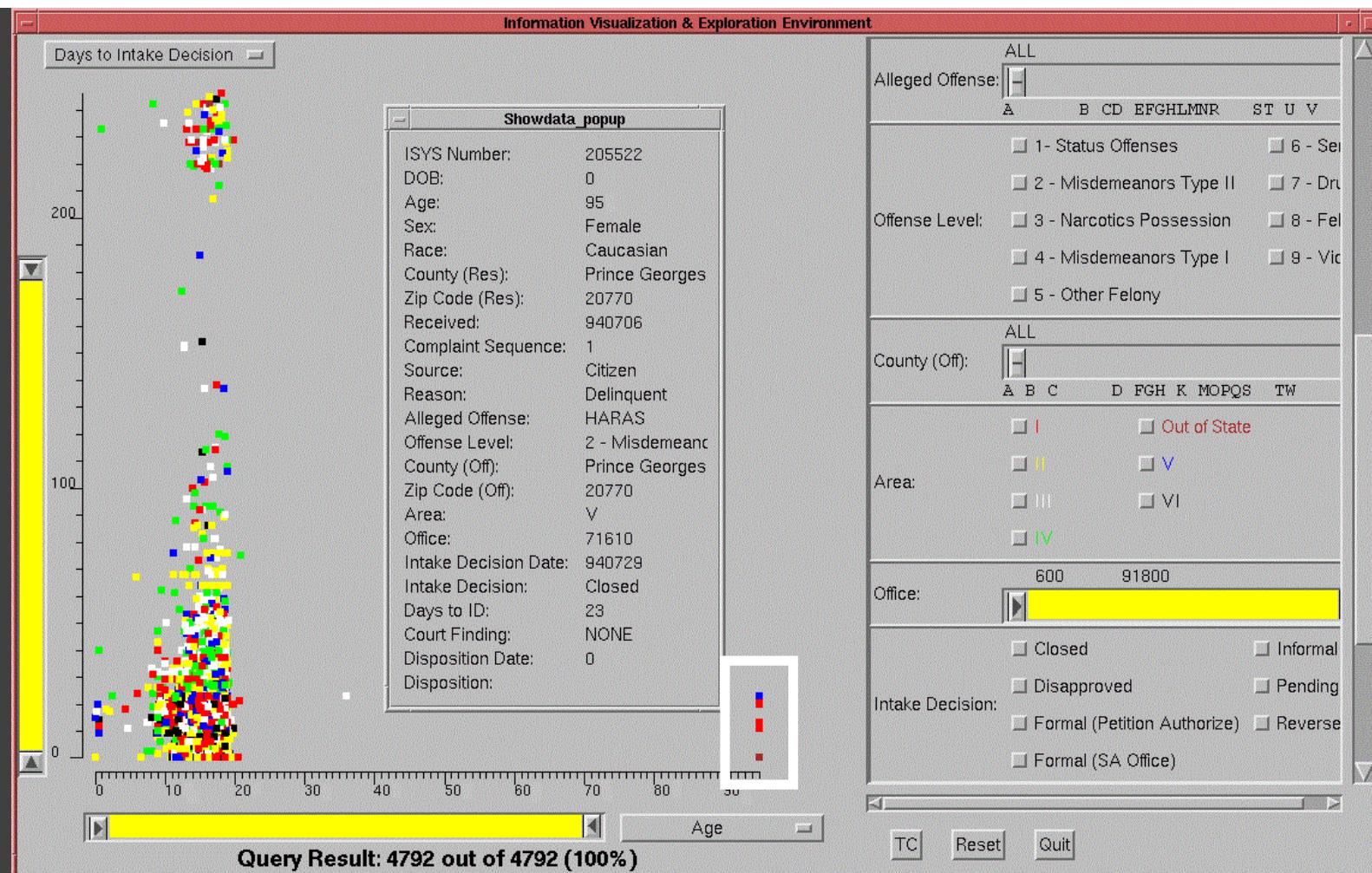


Age	Prefers
99	BrandX
99	BrandX
99	BrandY
16	BrandX
4	BrandX
10	BrandX
16	BrandX
10	BrandY

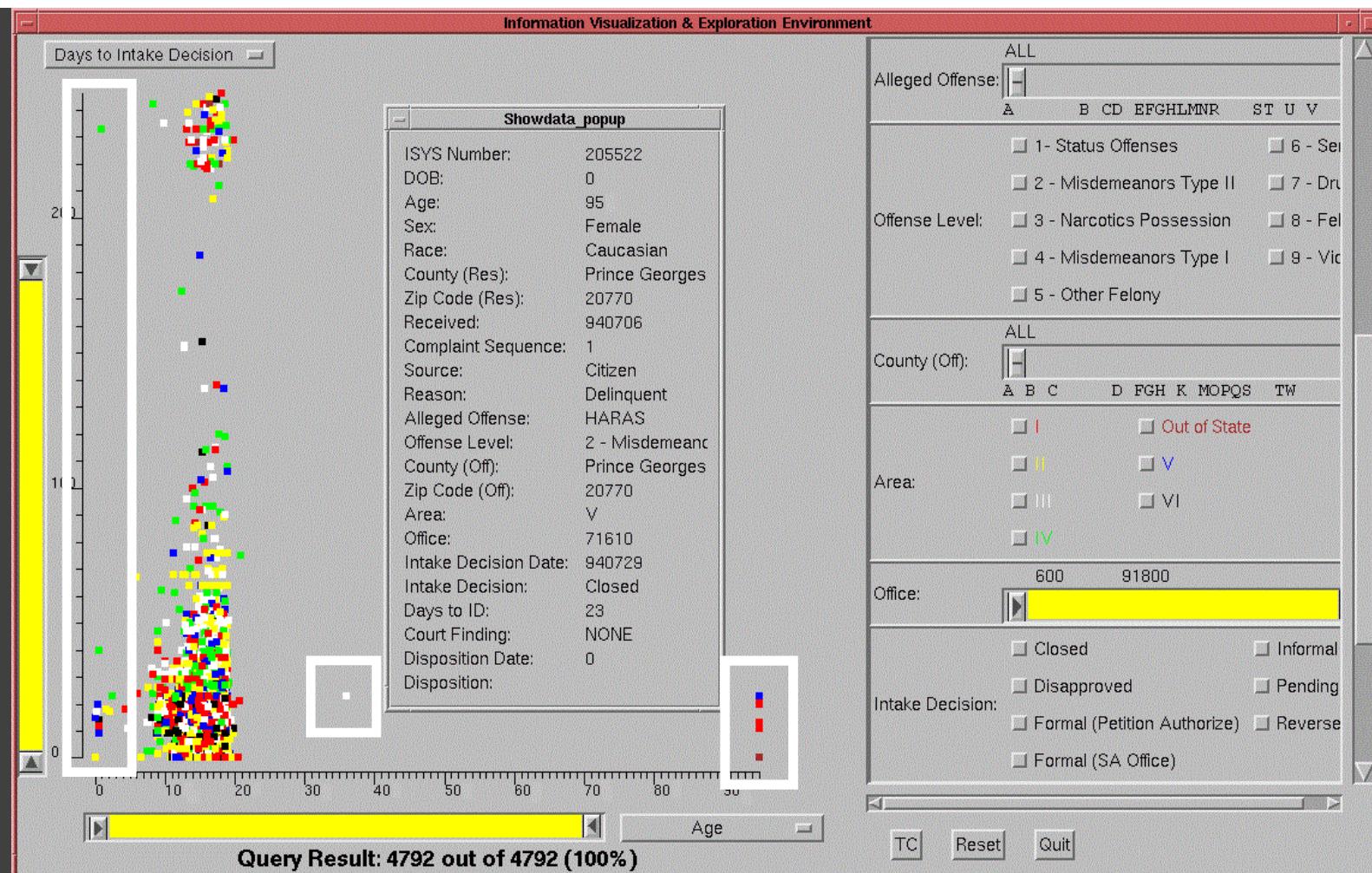




[Plaisant96]



[Plaisant96]



[Plaisant96]

← → | ⌂ ⌃ ⌄



Field Clean Up 27 Fields 3K Rows | Filter Values... Create Calculated Field... Search ...

Changes (5)

CPI	Year	Country	Birth Rate	Business Tax Rate	CO2 Emissions	Ease of Business (clusters)	Ease of Business	Energy Usage	GDP
null	null	null	0.02	null	87,931	Low	null	26,998	54,790,058,957

The dashboard displays five bar charts under the heading "Changes (5)":

- Life Expectancy Fem...**: 50 bars, Y-axis from null to 90.
- Life Expectancy Male**: 48 bars, Y-axis from null to 81.
- Mobile Phone Usage**: 1K bars, Y-axis from null to 3.
- Population 0-14**: 377 bars, Y-axis from null to 0.6.
- Population 15-64**: 299 bars, Y-axis from null to 0.9.
- Population 65+**: 209 bars, Y-axis from null to 0.3.





We can't trust the visualization unless
we can trust the data.

We can't trust the data unless we can
visualize it.

Research Question

Do data quality issues we care about have **characteristic visual patterns** in our visualizations?

Are these characteristic patterns **robustly detectable** across design parameters?

Outline

Framework

Study

Outline

Framework

Study

Algebraic Vis

<http://algebraicvis.net/>

[Kindlmann14]

21

Commutative Diagram

Data: D

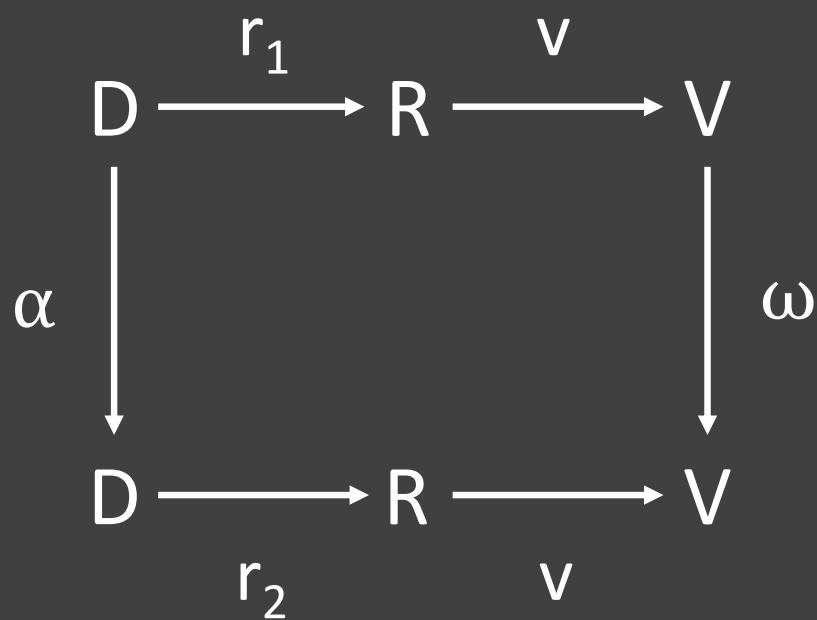
Data Representations: R

Visualizations: V

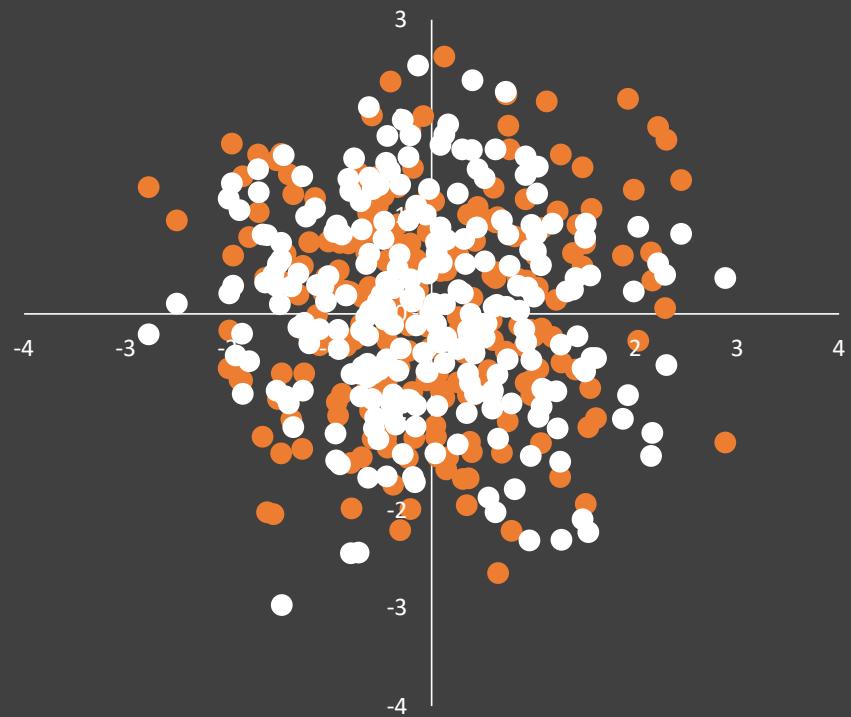
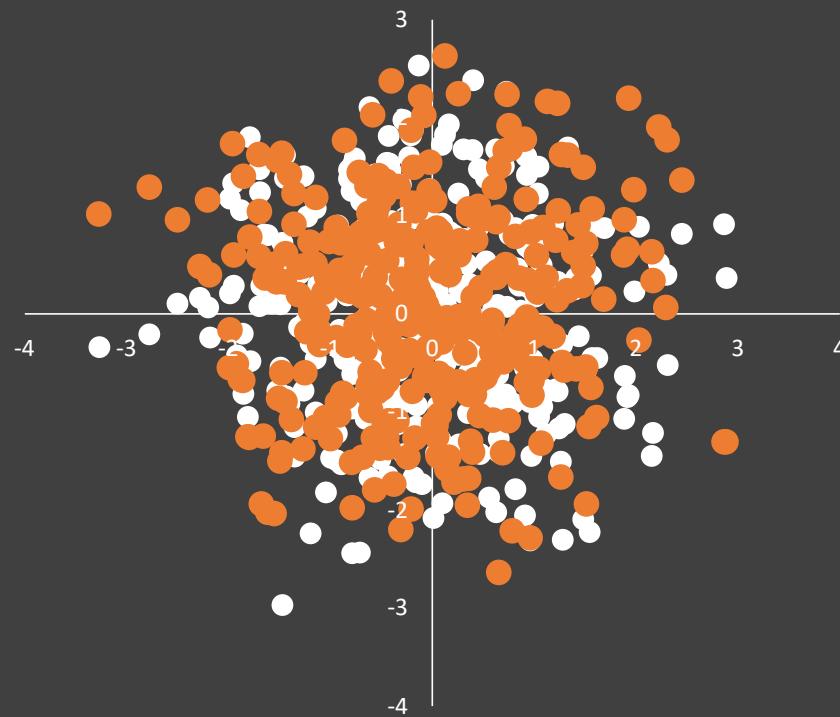
α : data operation

ω : design operation

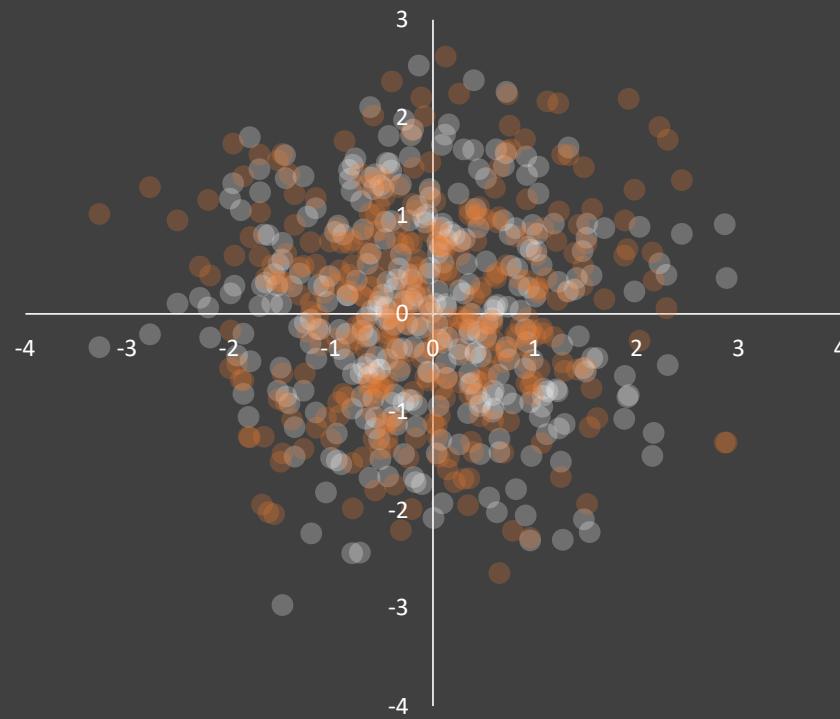
We want stuff to *commute*.



Algebraic Violations: Different Vizzes!

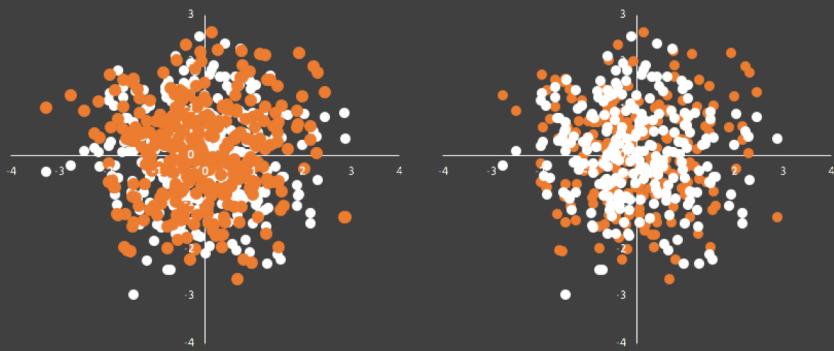


Algebraic Violations: Different Vizzes!



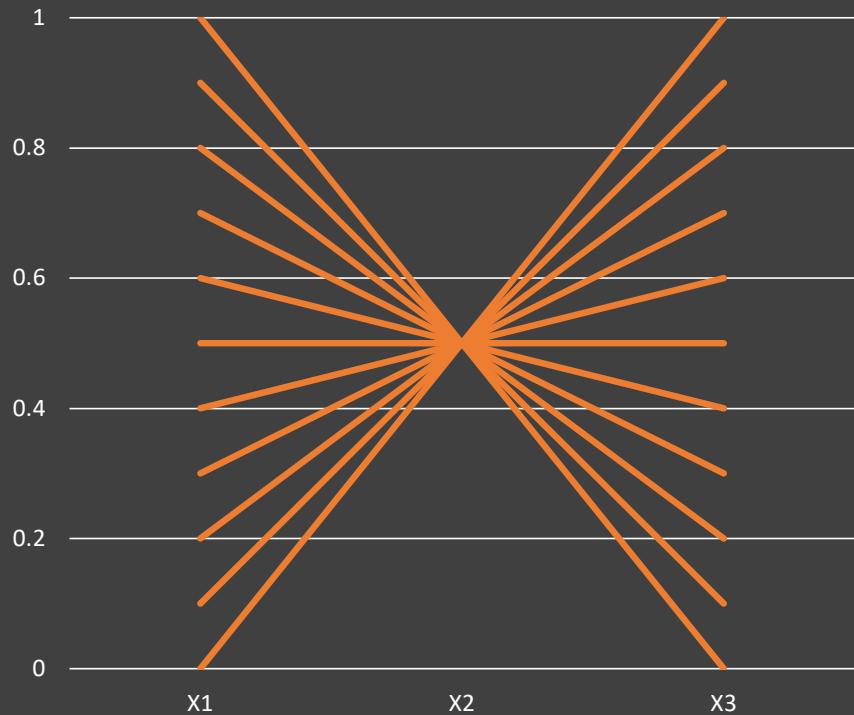
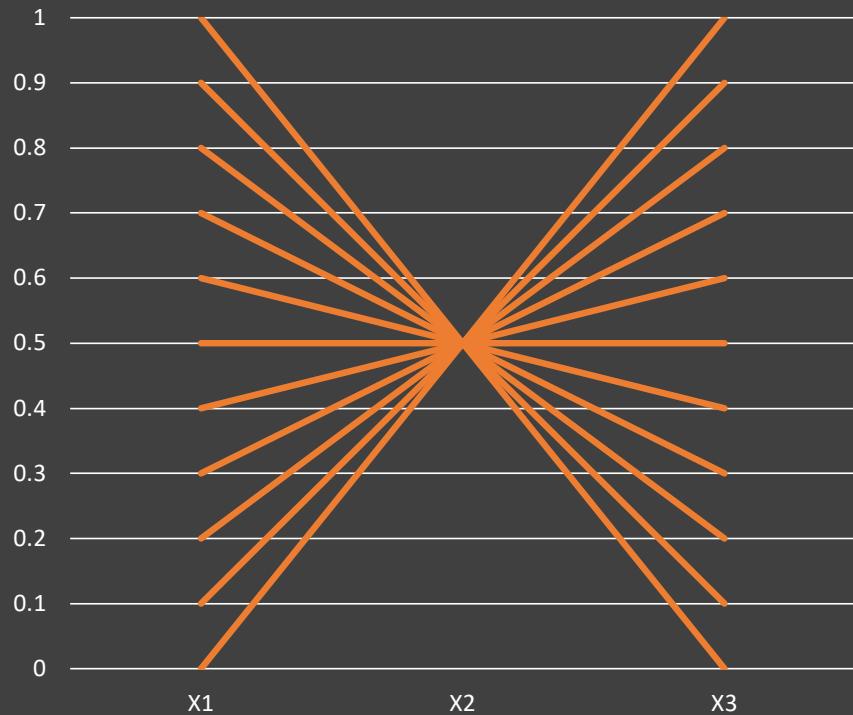
Algebraic Violations

Hallucinator

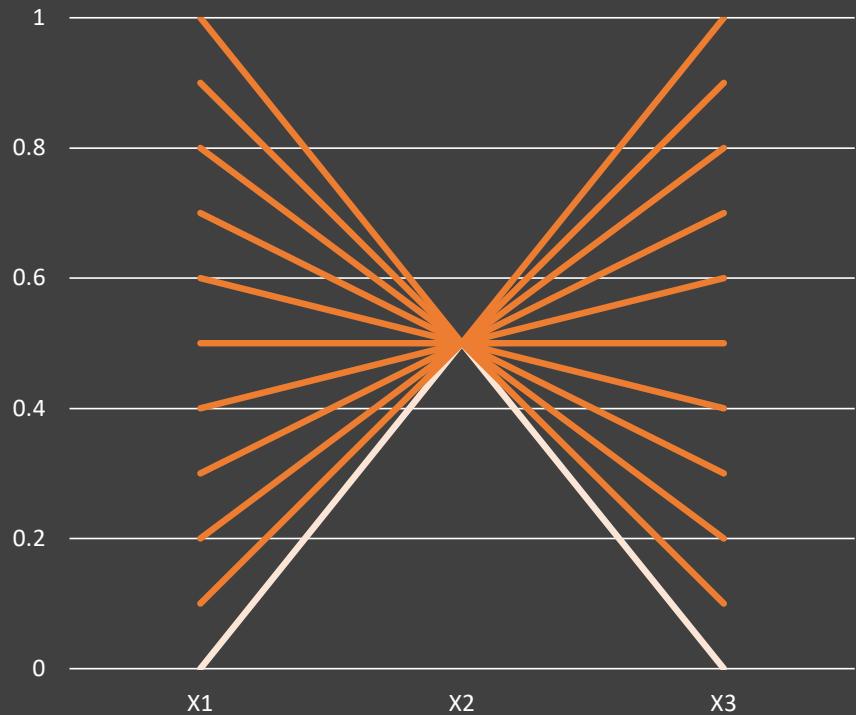
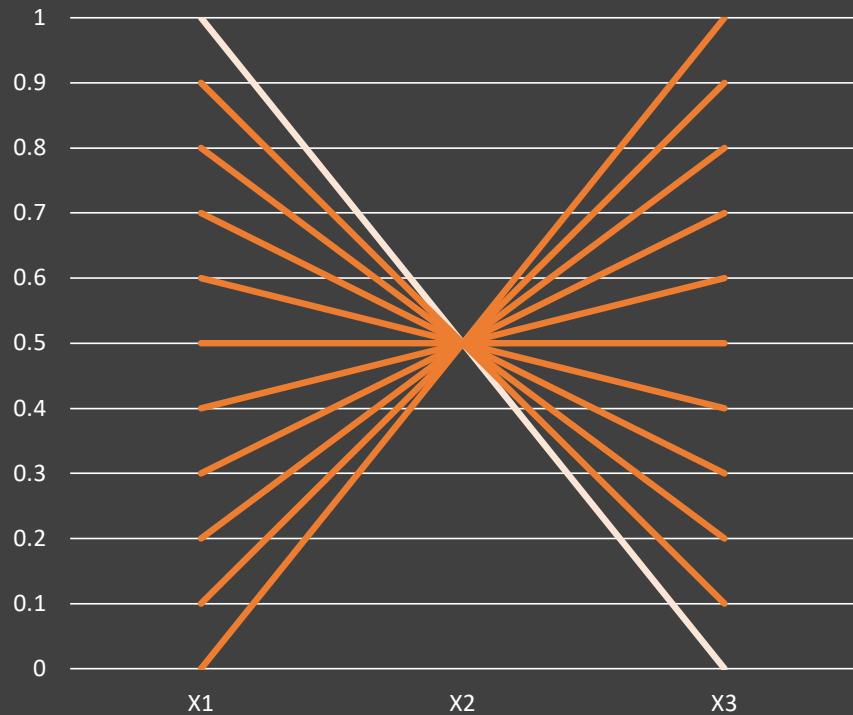


A **difference** in the **visualization** should only occur when there's a **difference** in the **data**.

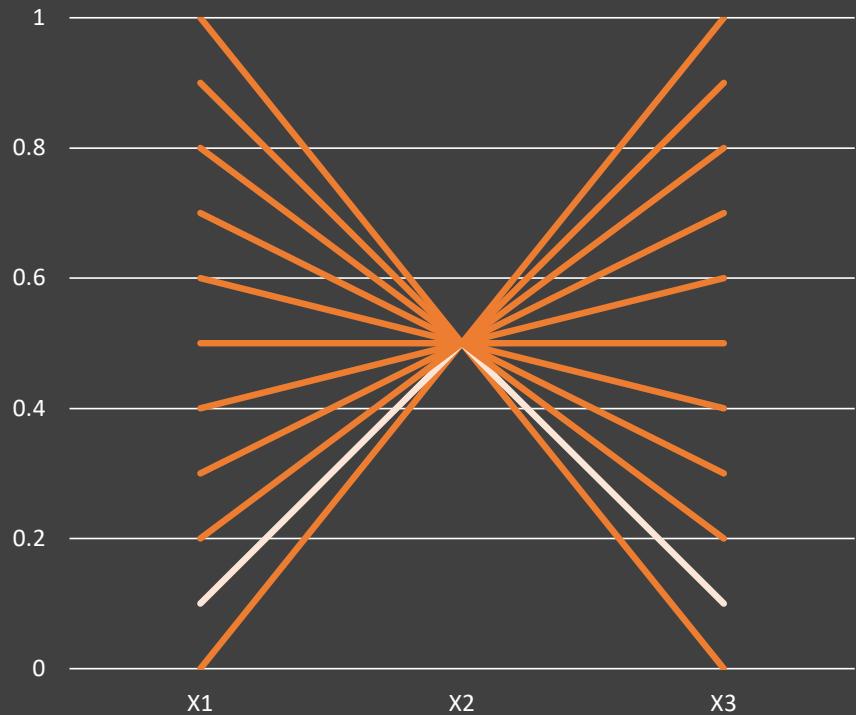
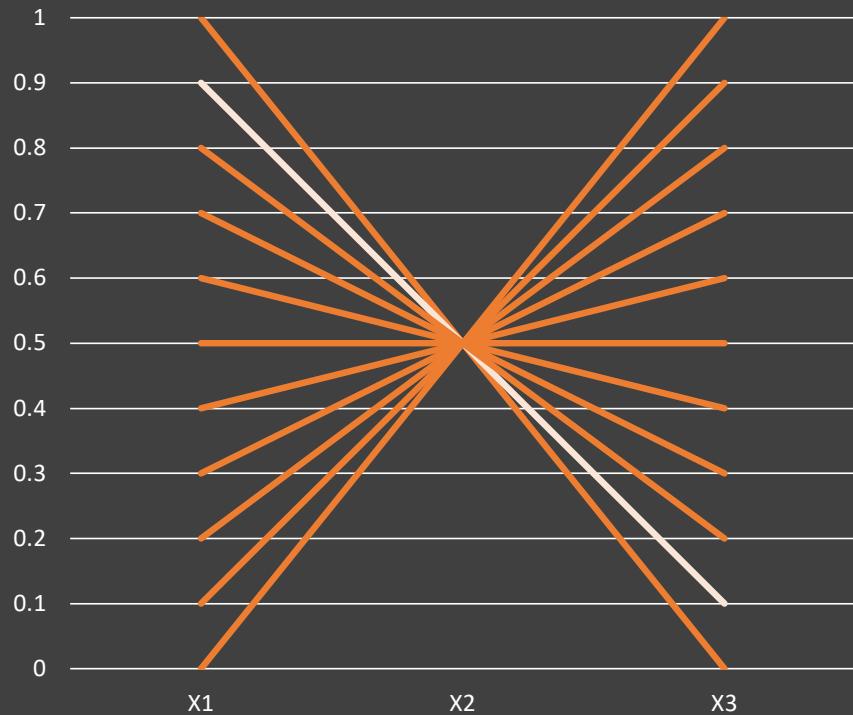
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



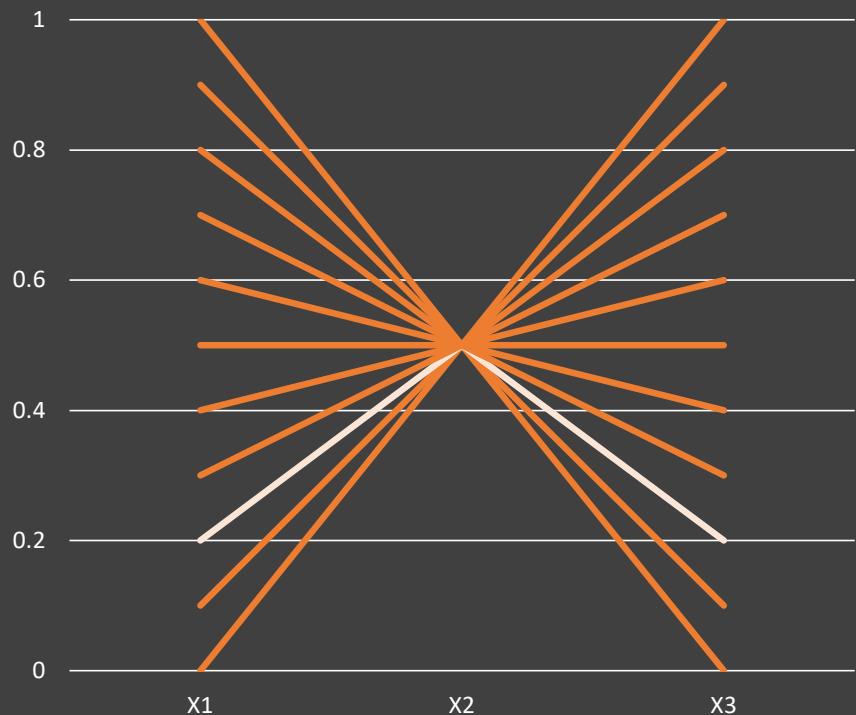
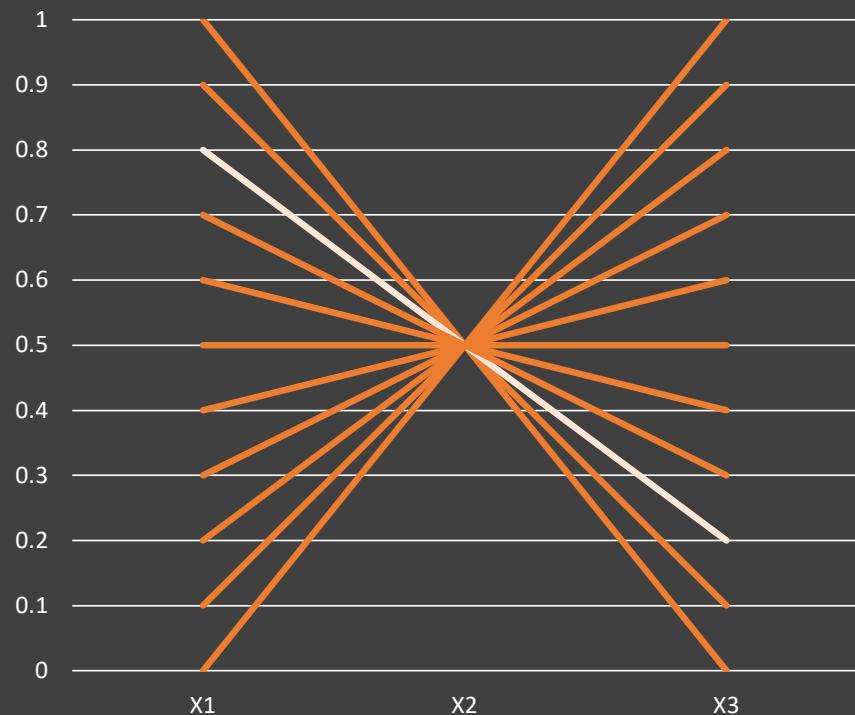
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



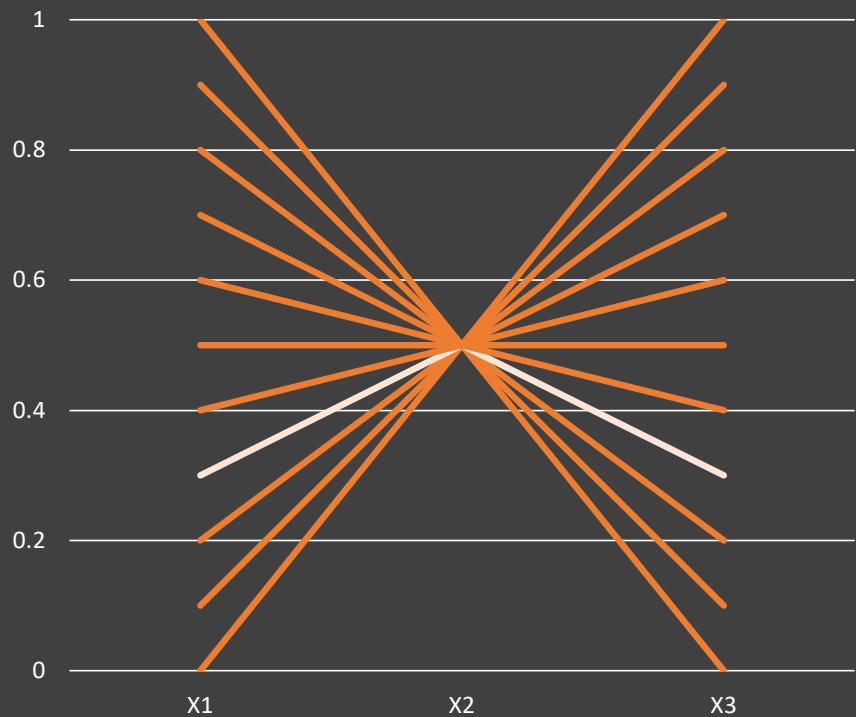
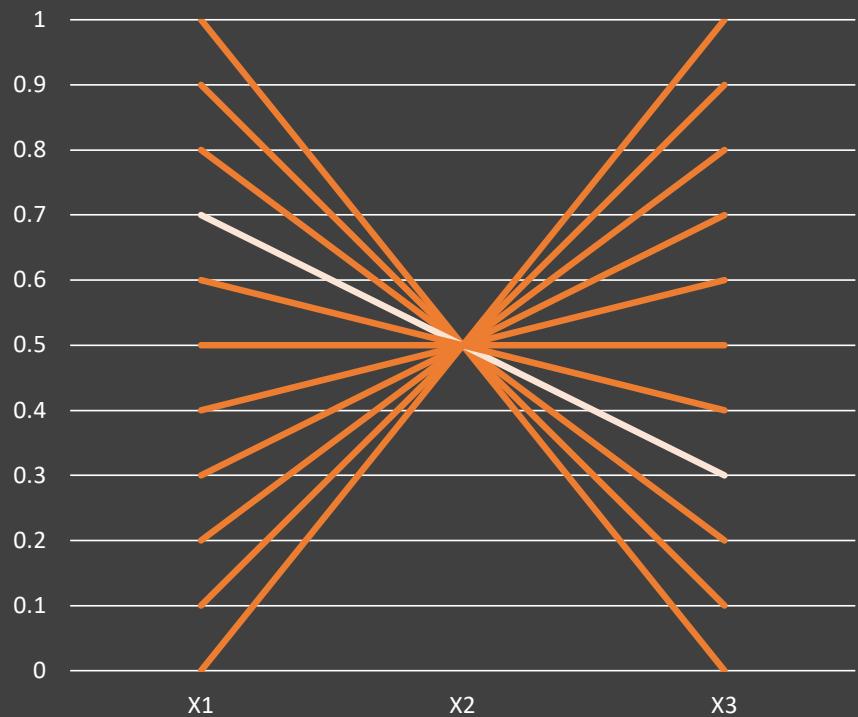
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



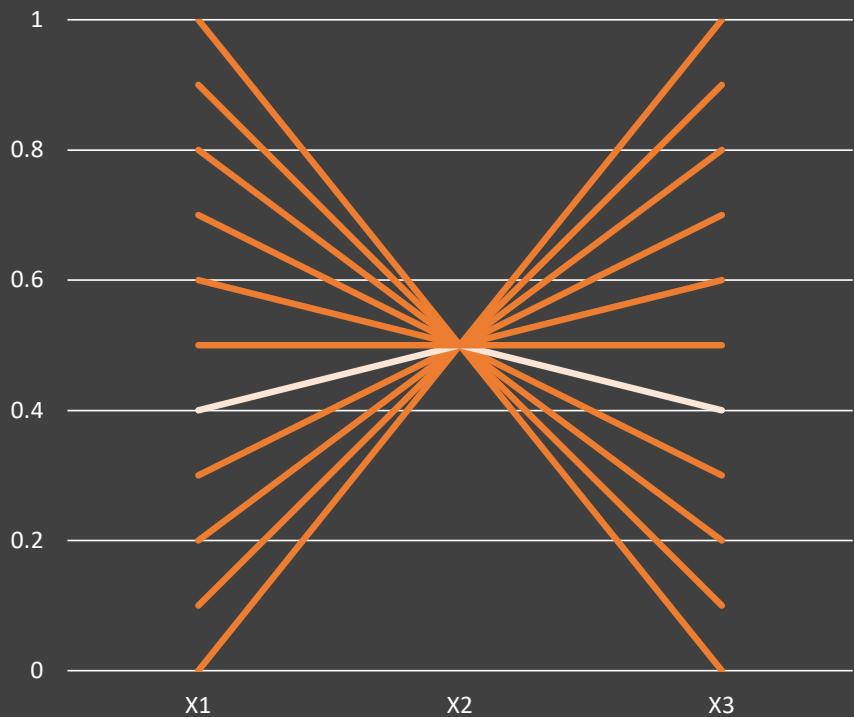
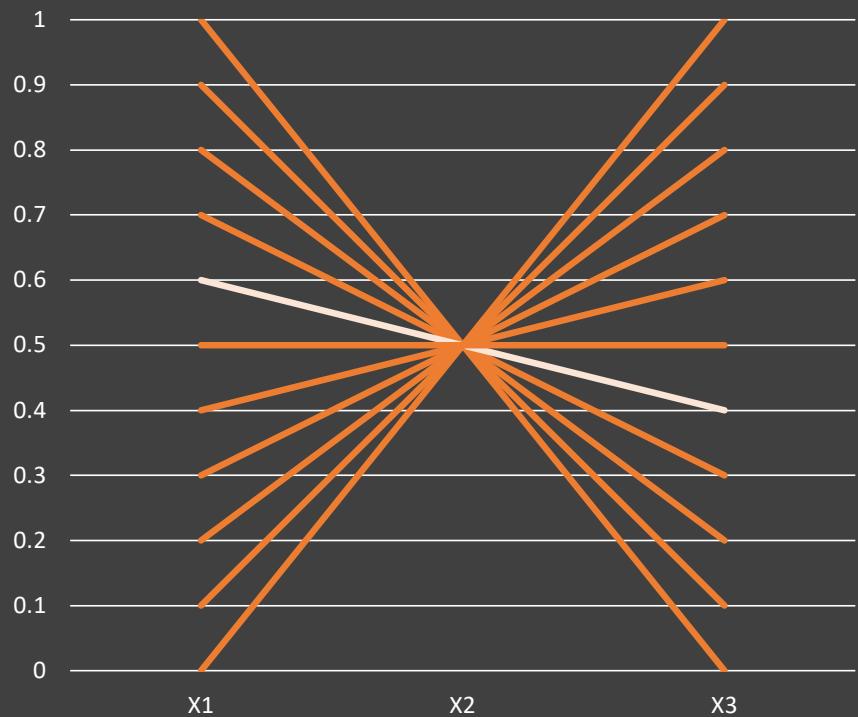
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



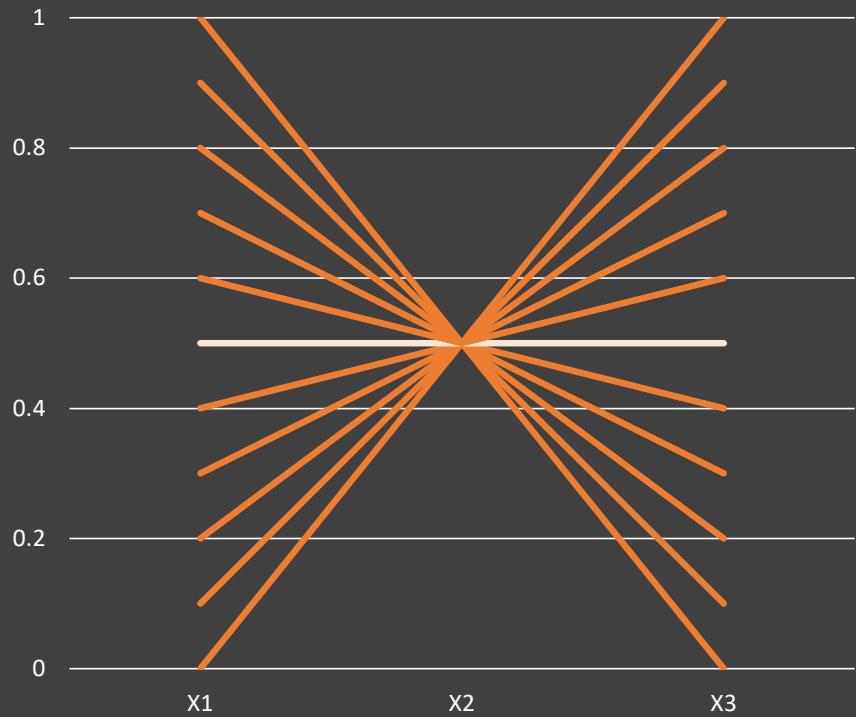
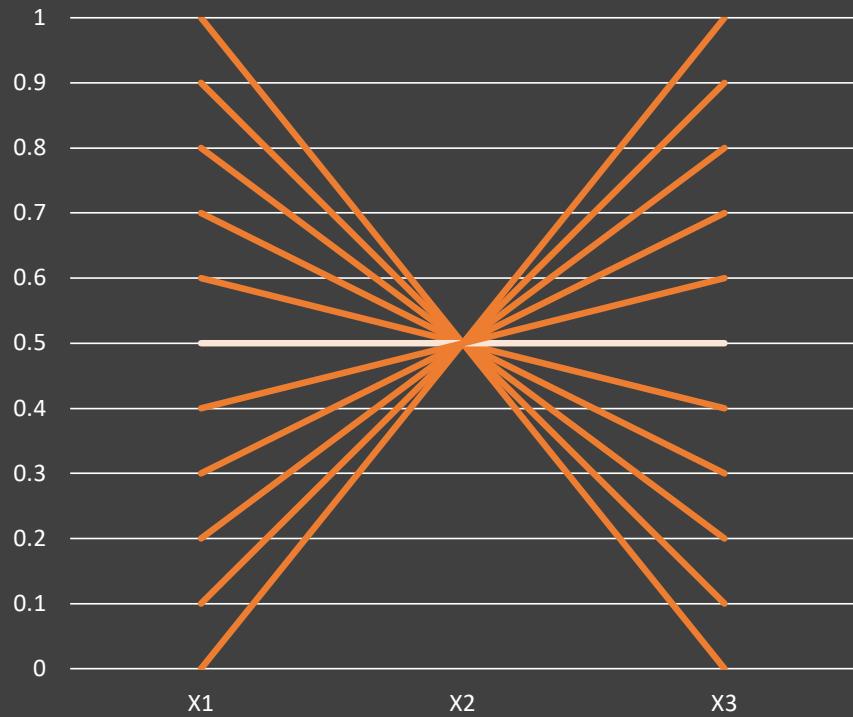
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



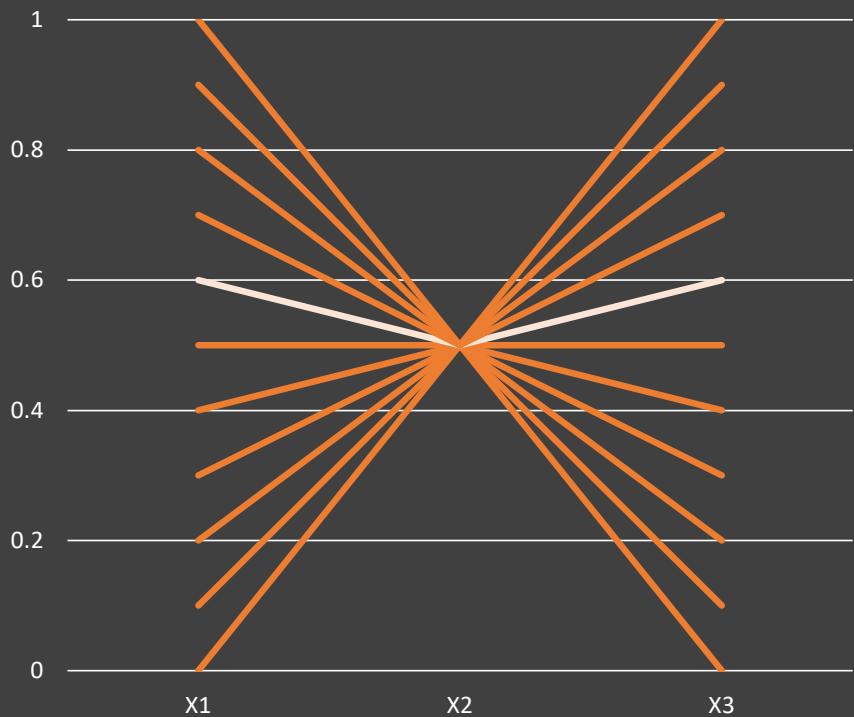
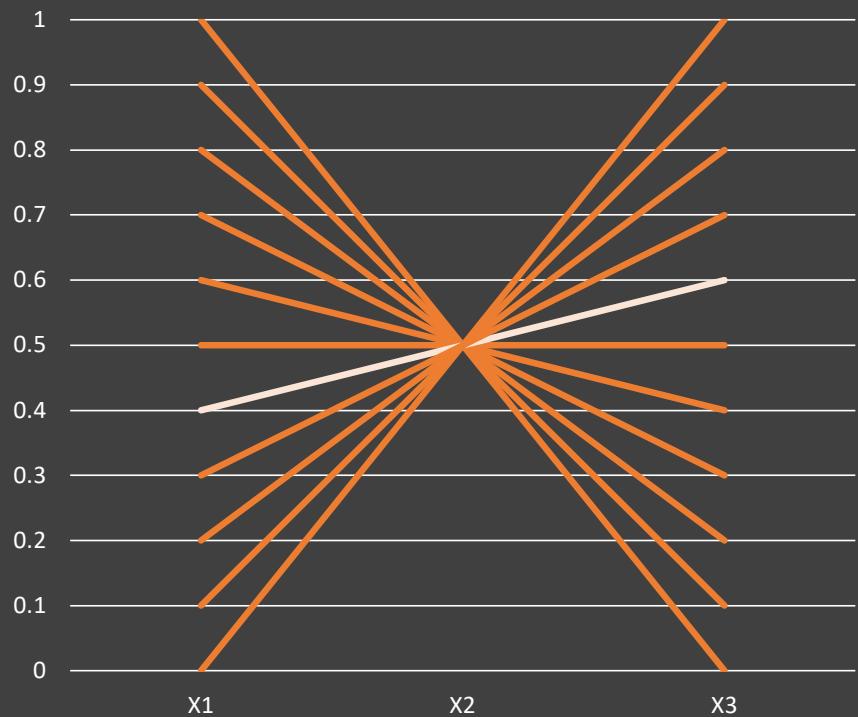
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



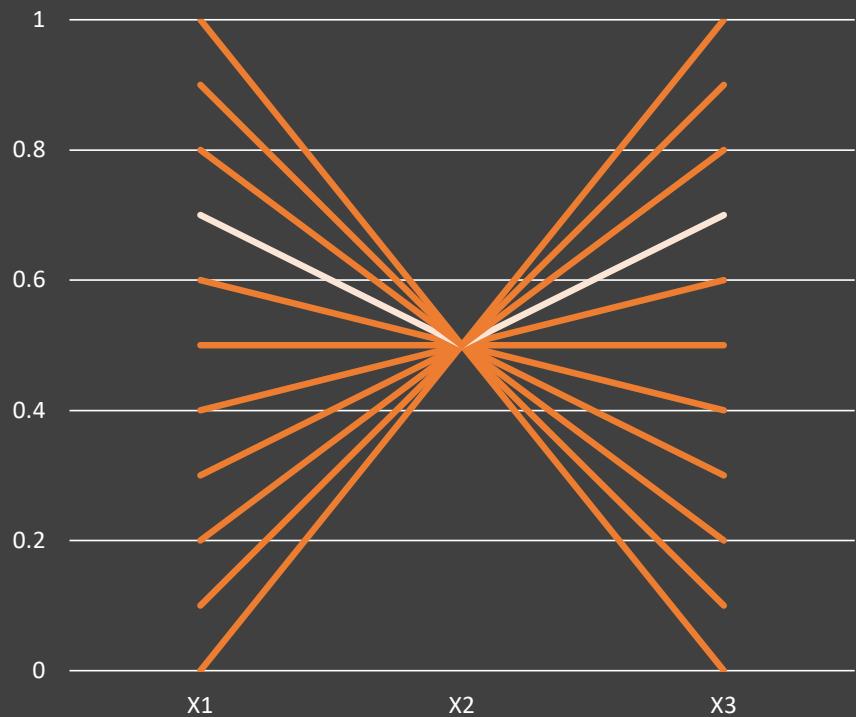
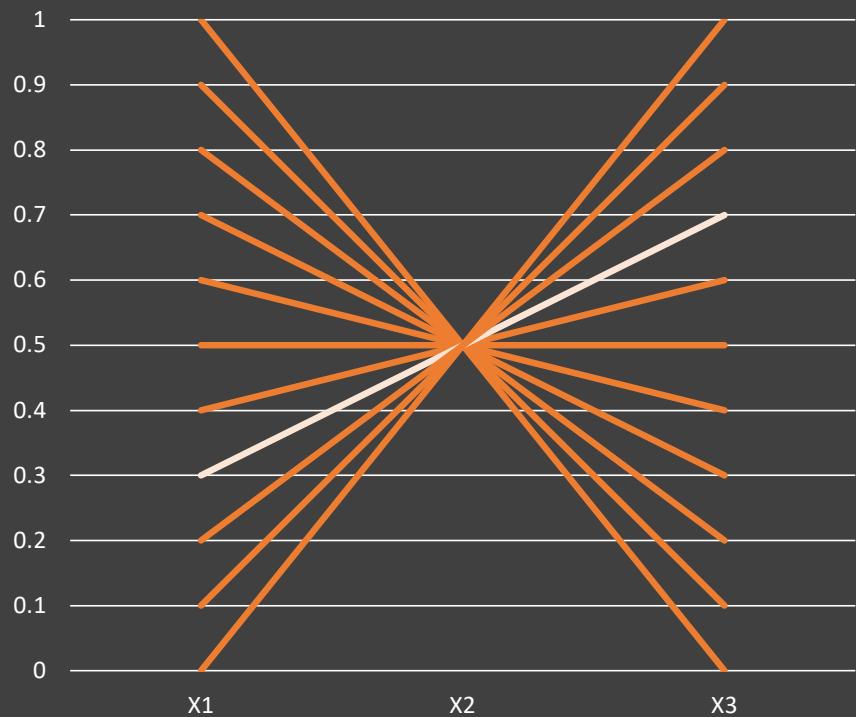
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



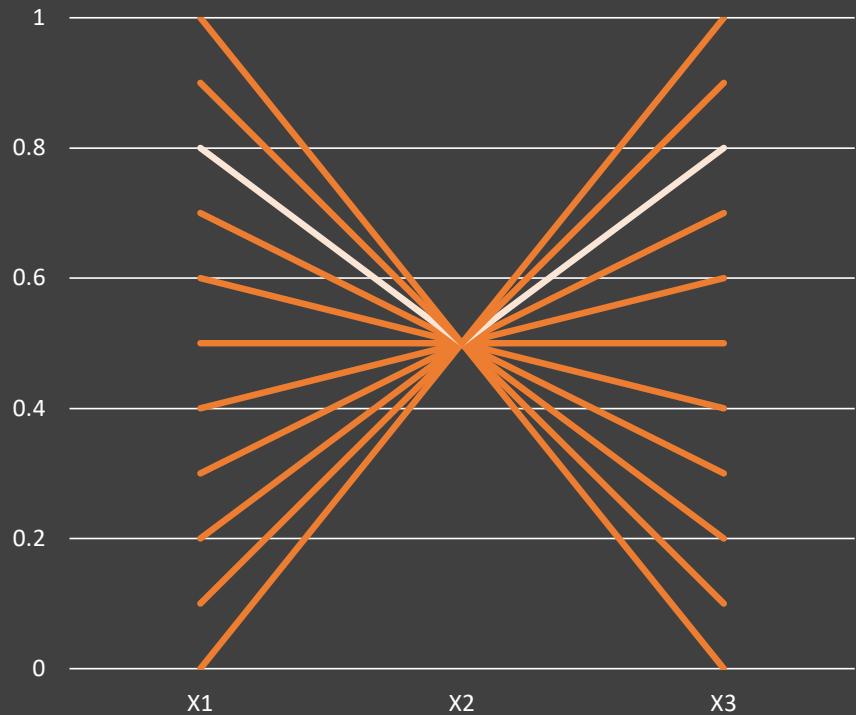
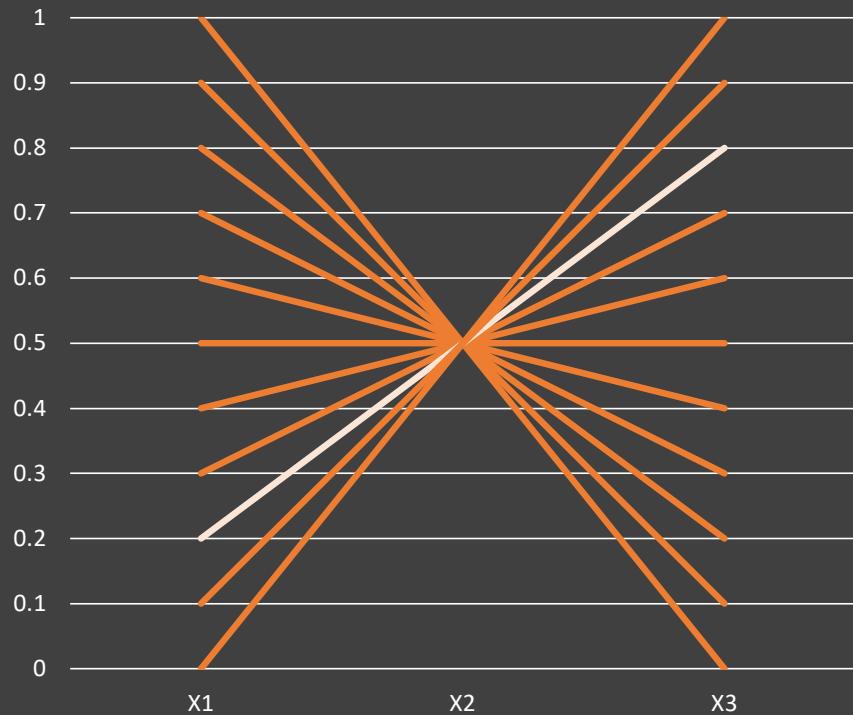
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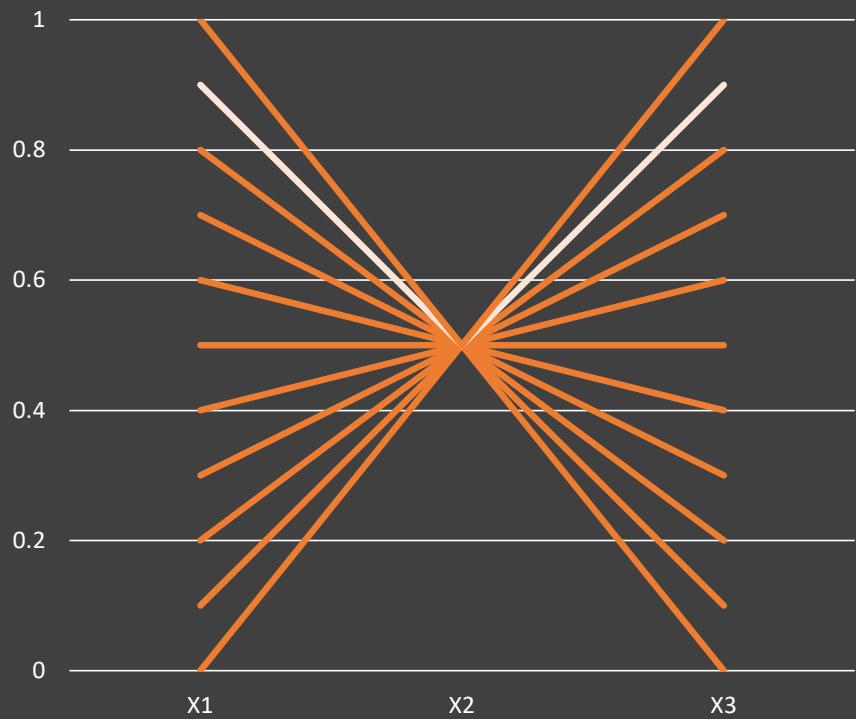
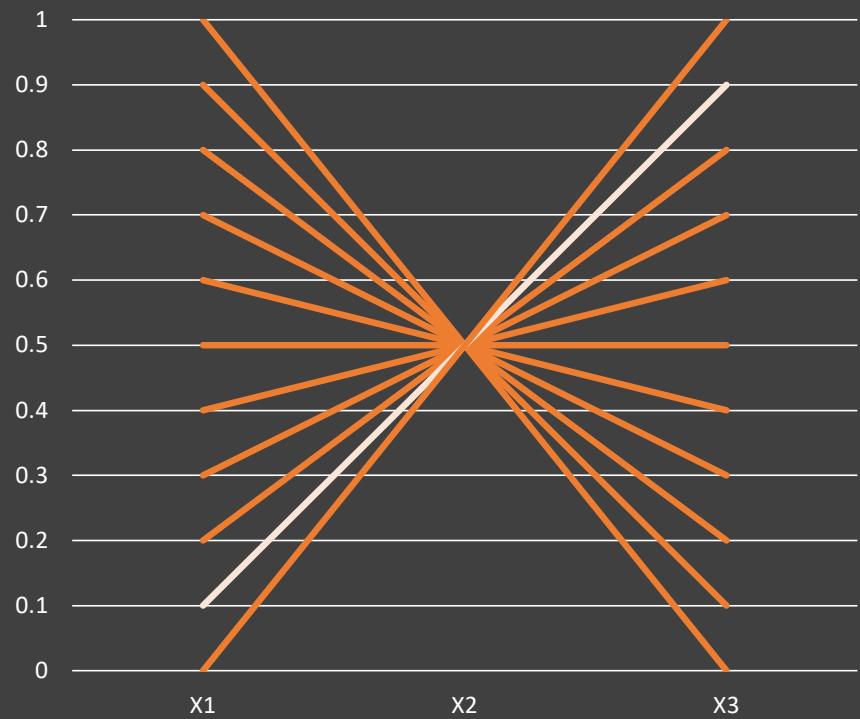
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



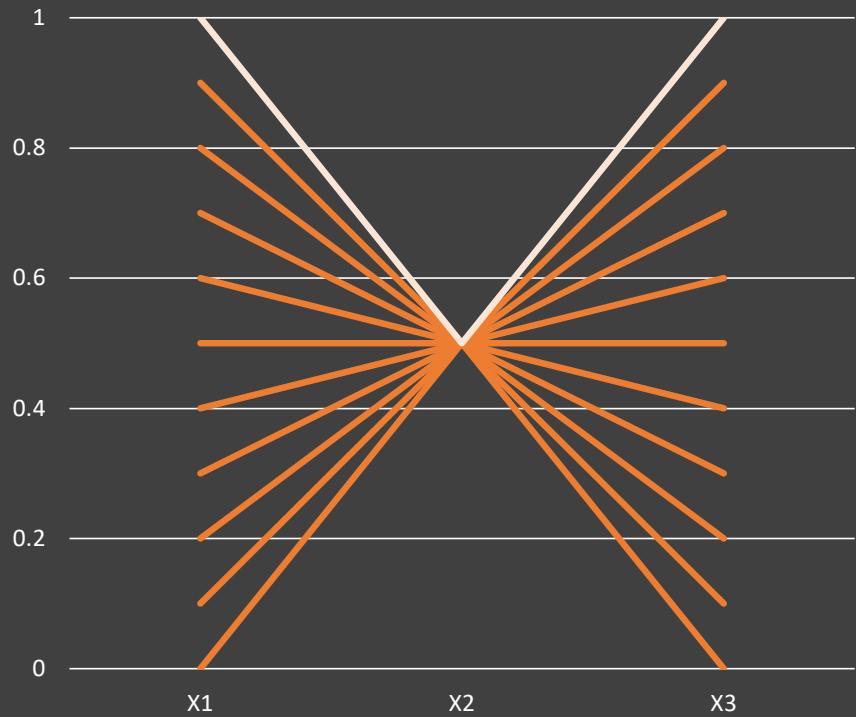
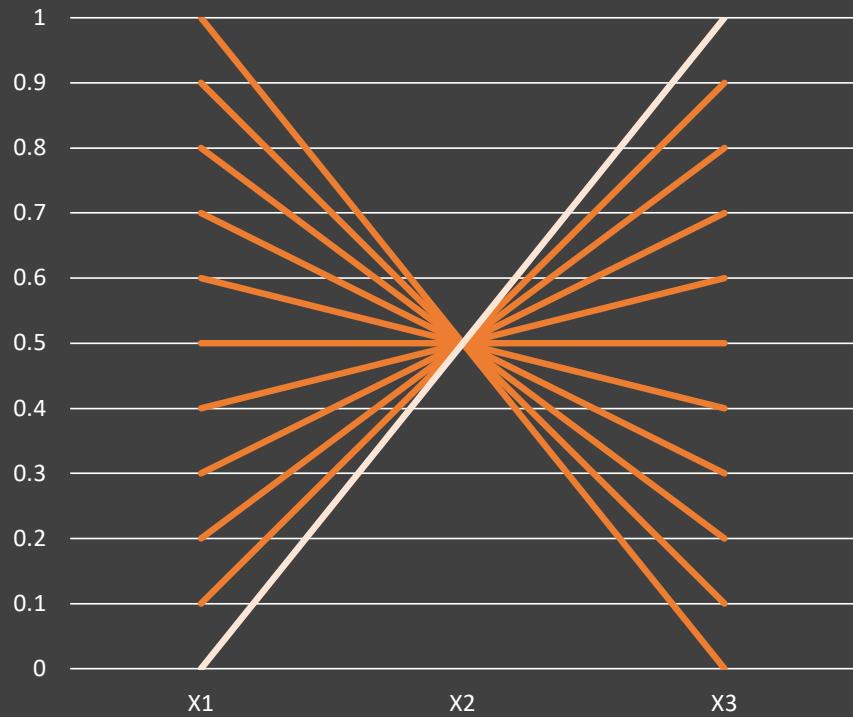
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



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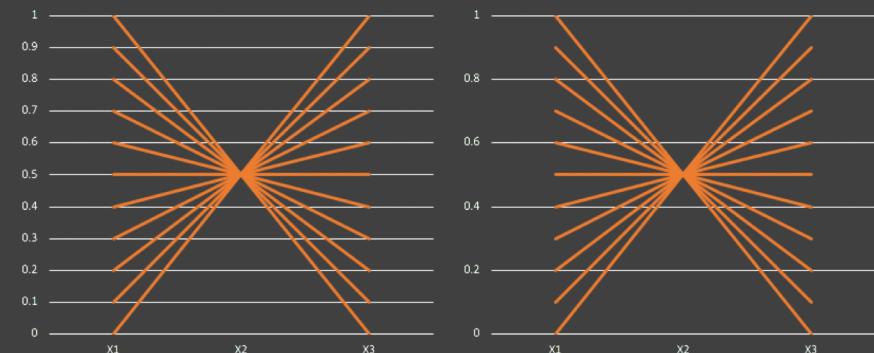
Algebraic Violations: Same Vizzes!



Algebraic Violations

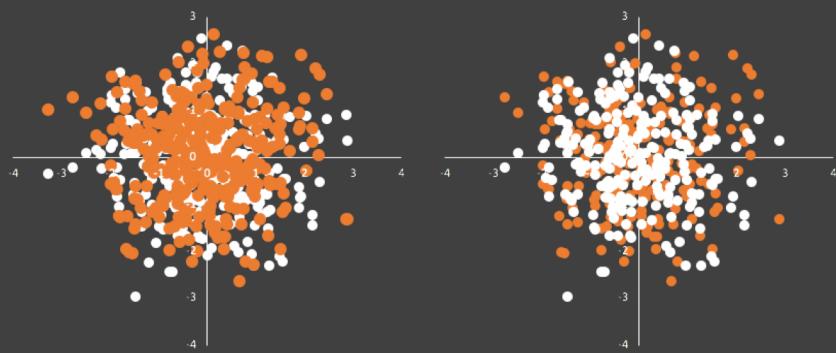
A **similarity** in the **visualization** should only occur when there's a **similarity** in the **data**.

Confuser

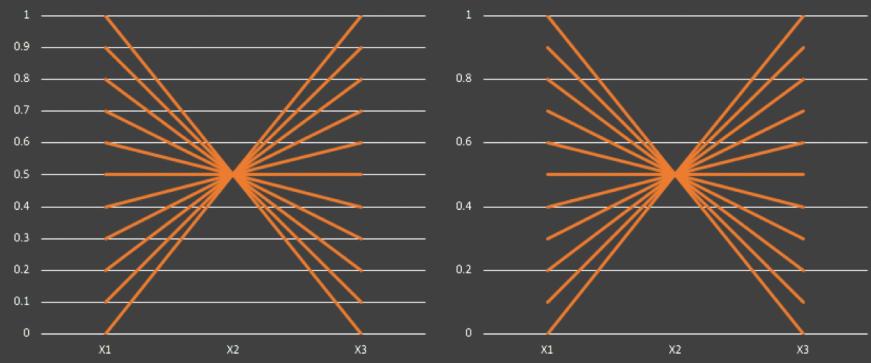


Algebraic Violations

Hallucinator

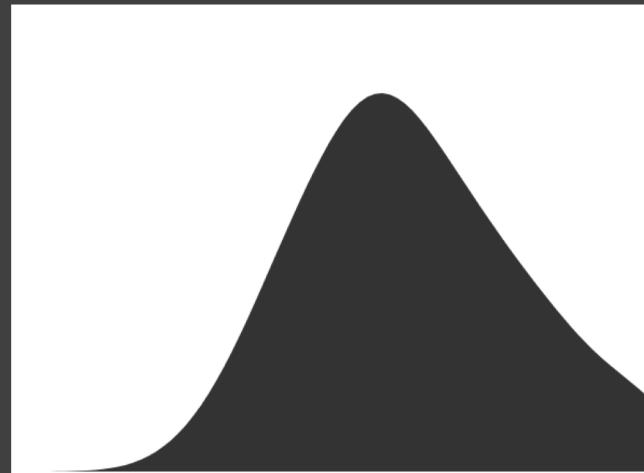


Confuser



Outliers

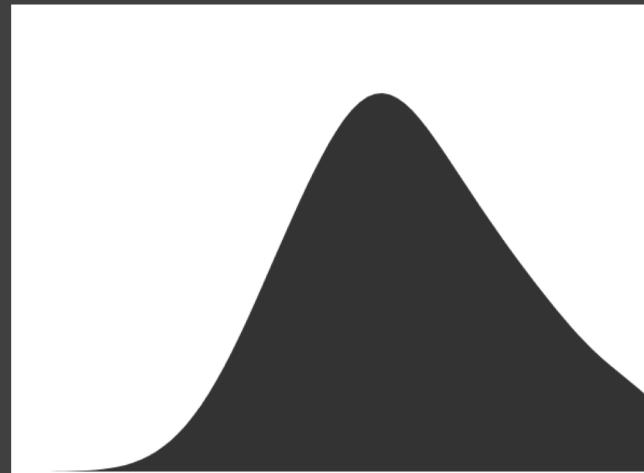
"Good" Data



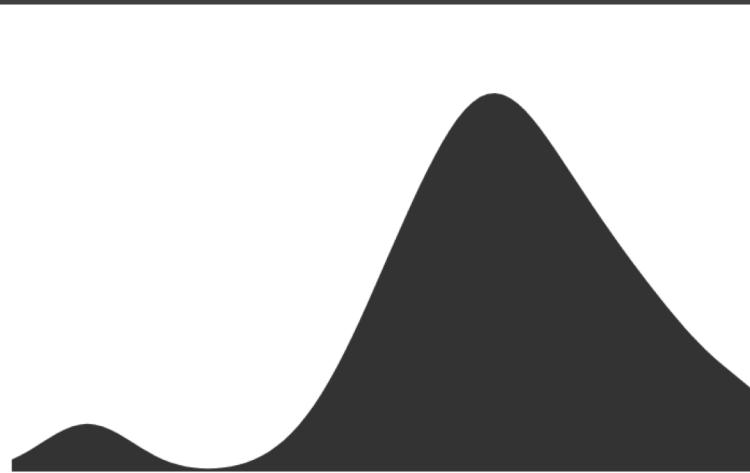
"Bad" Data

Outliers

"Good" Data



"Bad" Data



Outliers

"Good" Data

"Bad" Data



Confusers

"Good" Data

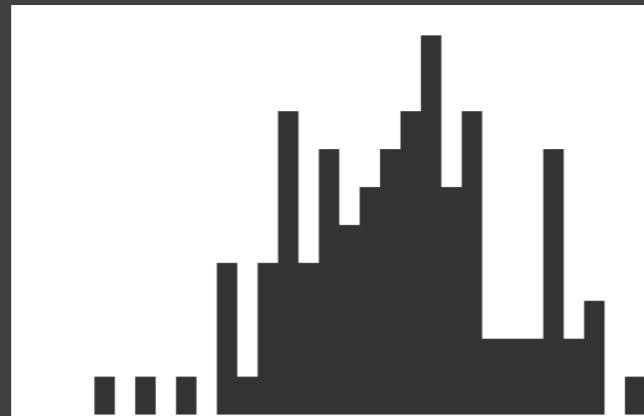


"Bad" Data

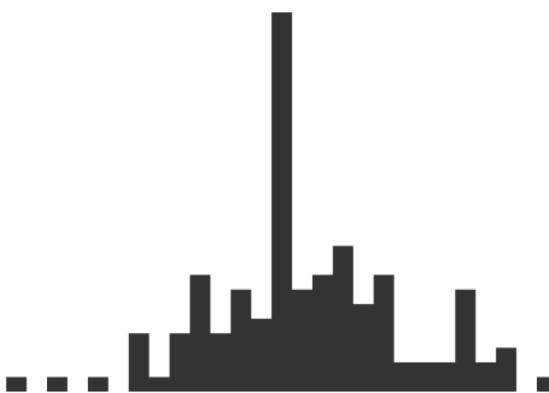


Confusers

"Good" Data



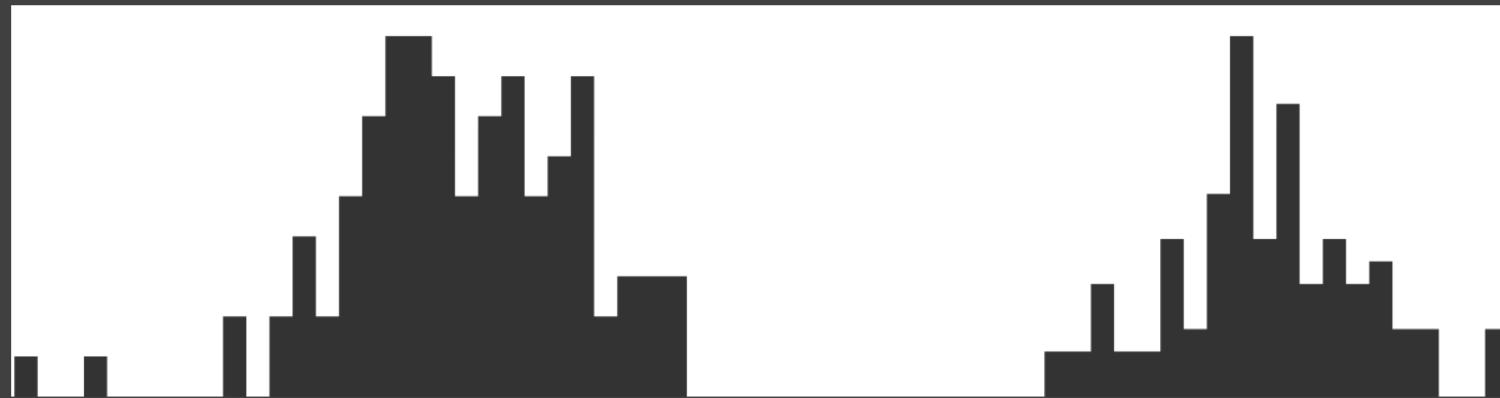
"Bad" Data



Hallucinators

"Good" Data

Also "Good" Data



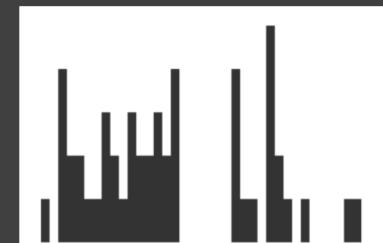
Hallucinators

"Good" Data

Also "Good" Data



Setting Parameters



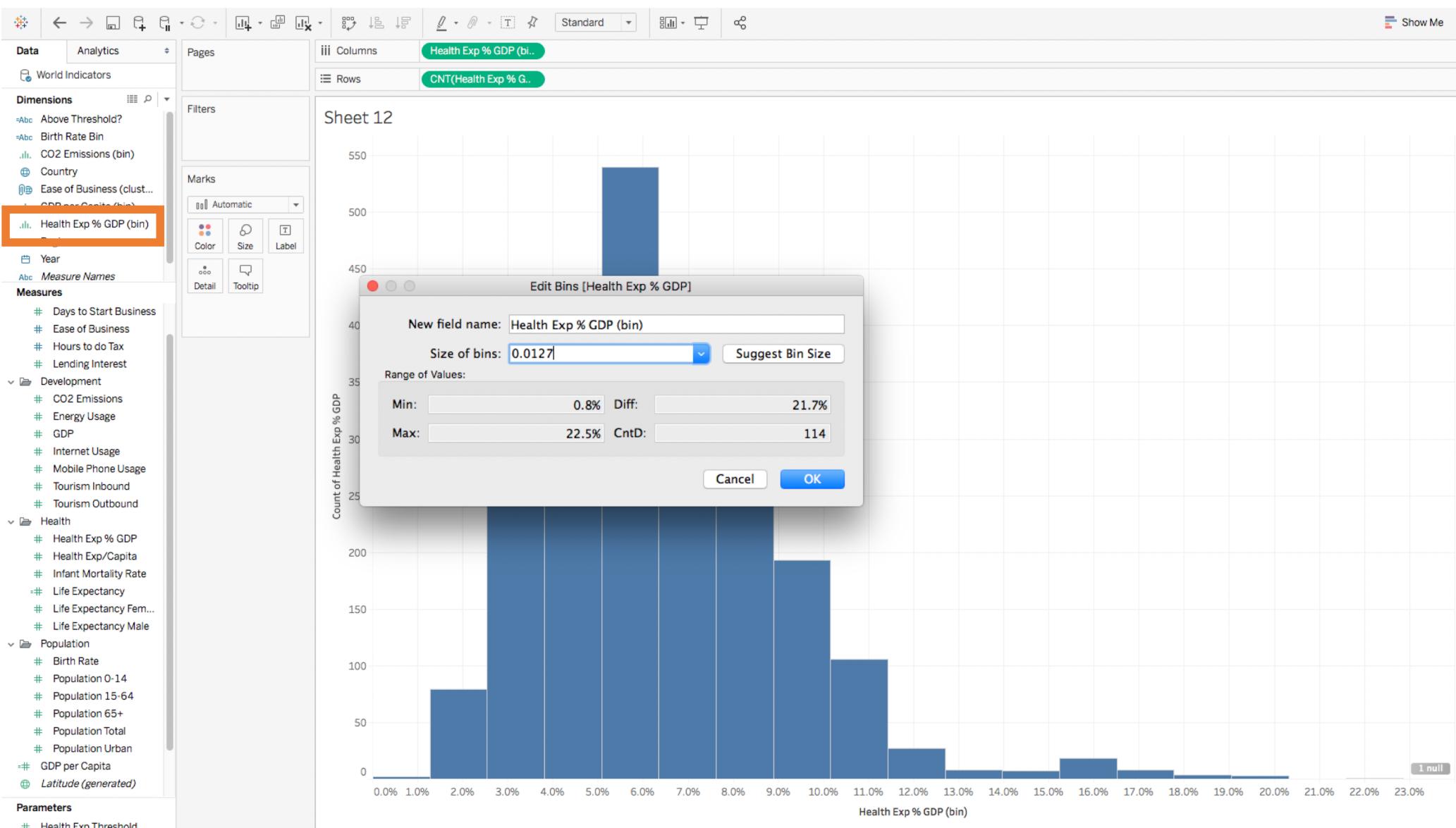
Skim summary statistics

n obs: 32

n variables: 11

— Variable type:numeric

	variable	missing	complete	n	mean	sd	p0	p25	p50	p75	p100	hist
am	0	32	32	0.41	0.5	0	0	0	1	1	1	
carb	0	32	32	2.81	1.62	1	2	2	4	8	8	
cyl	0	32	32	6.19	1.79	4	4	6	8	8	8	
disp	0	32	32	230.72	123.94	71.1	120.83	196.3	326	472	472	
drat	0	32	32	3.6	0.53	2.76	3.08	3.7	3.92	4.93	4.93	
gear	0	32	32	3.69	0.74	3	3	4	4	5	5	
hp	0	32	32	146.69	68.56	52	96.5	123	180	335	335	
mpg	0	32	32	20.09	6.03	10.4	15.43	19.2	22.8	33.9	33.9	
qsec	0	32	32	17.85	1.79	14.5	16.89	17.71	18.9	22.9	22.9	
vs	0	32	32	0.44	0.5	0	0	0	1	1	1	
wt	0	32	32	3.22	0.98	1.51	2.58	3.33	3.61	5.42	5.42	



Problems

We **rely on univariate summaries** to detect data quality issues

The **choice of design parameters** determine how visible these problems are.

Parameters are often **hidden** from the user or **difficult to adjust**

Outline

Framework

Study

Measuring Sanity Checkability?

Can people find whether or not a data flaw exists?

Is the visual pattern of the data flaw robust enough to hold up against sampling variability?

Lineups Protocol!



Lineups Protocol!



Lineups Protocol!



Methods

Lineup study on prolific.ac

32 participants

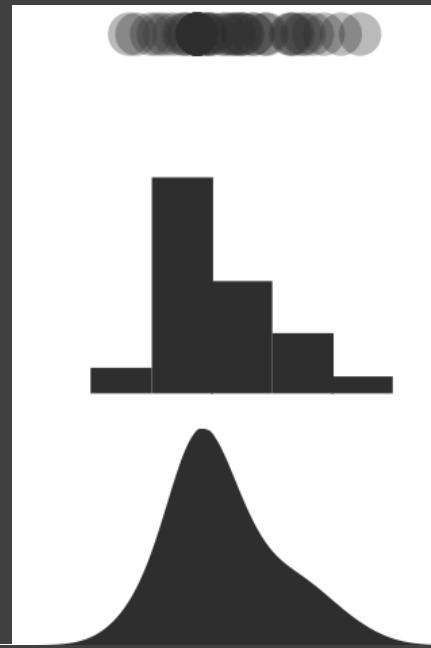
288 training lineups

2592 trial lineups

Data Flaws



Visualization Types

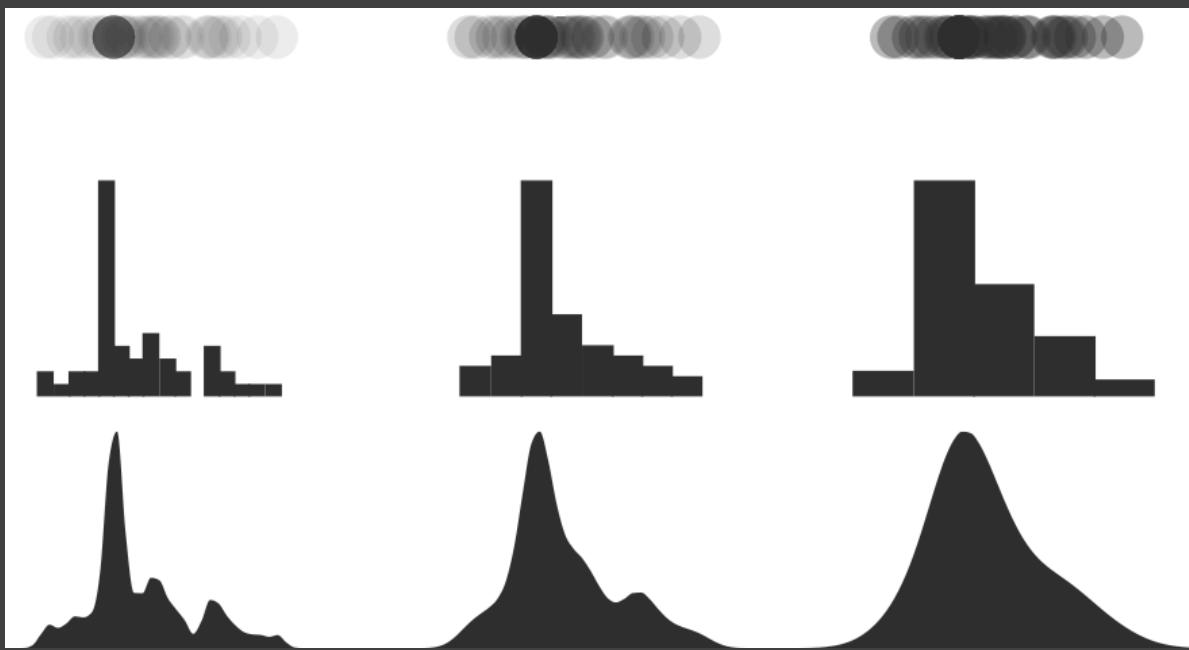


Dot Plots

Histograms

Density Plots

Parameter Types

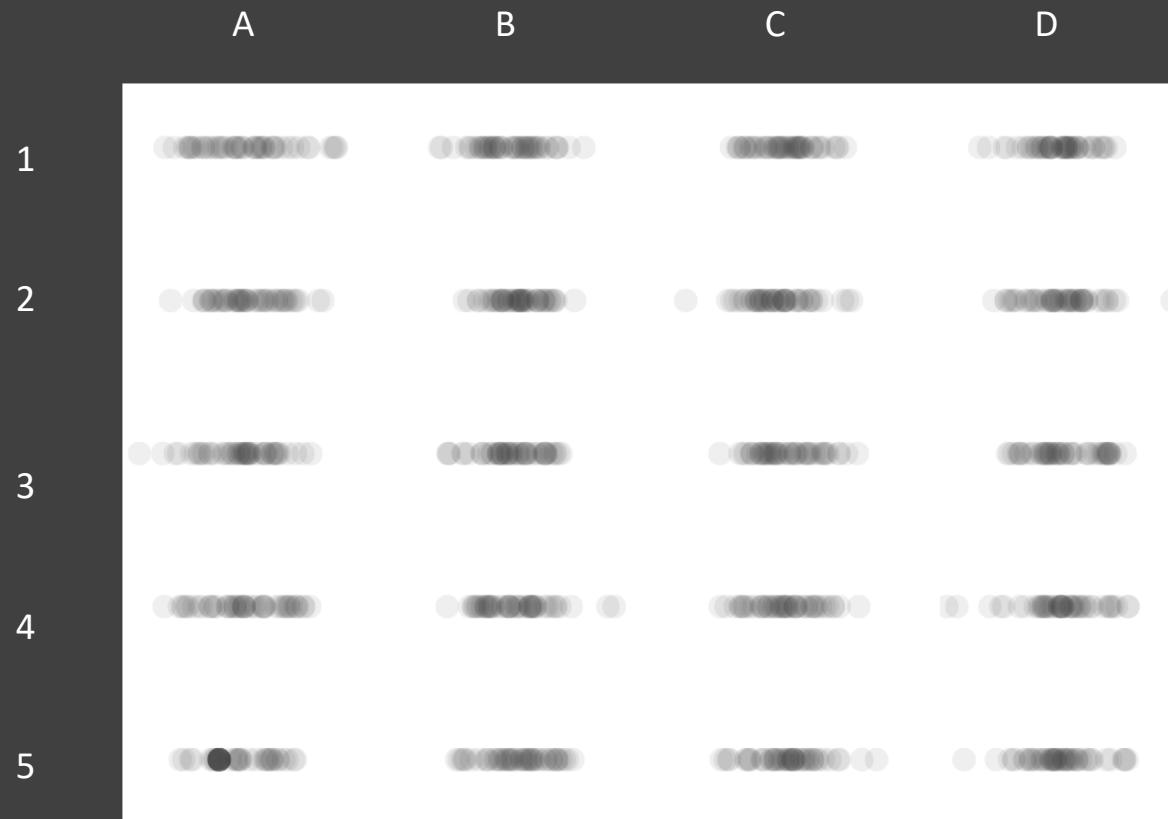


Mark Opacity

Bin Count

Kernel Bandwidth

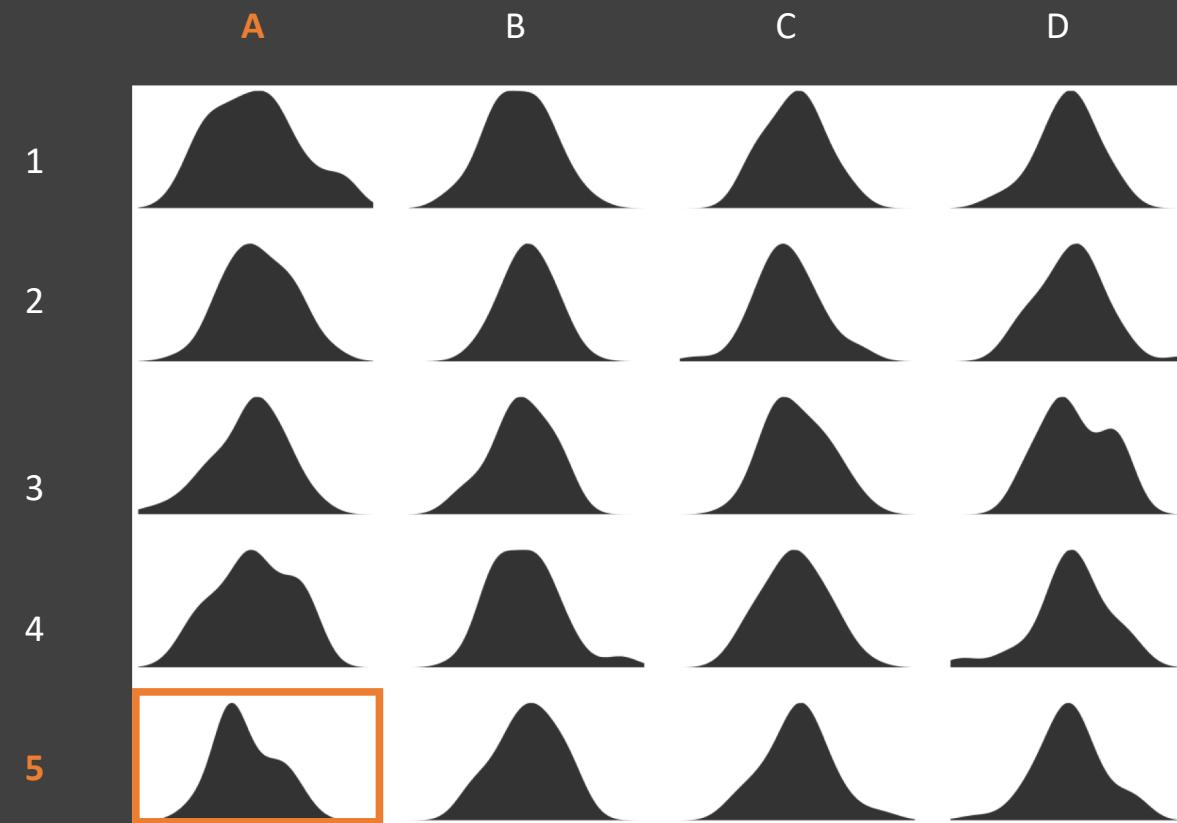
Where's the Spike?



Where's the Spike?



Where's the Spike?



Results

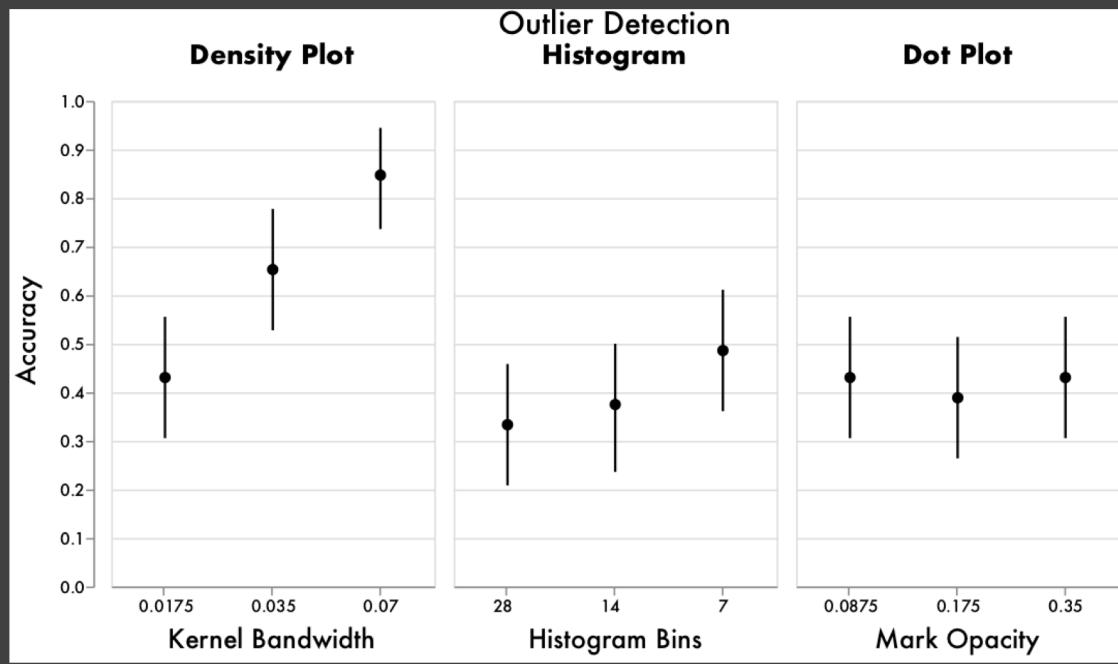
Outliers Are Tough To Hide

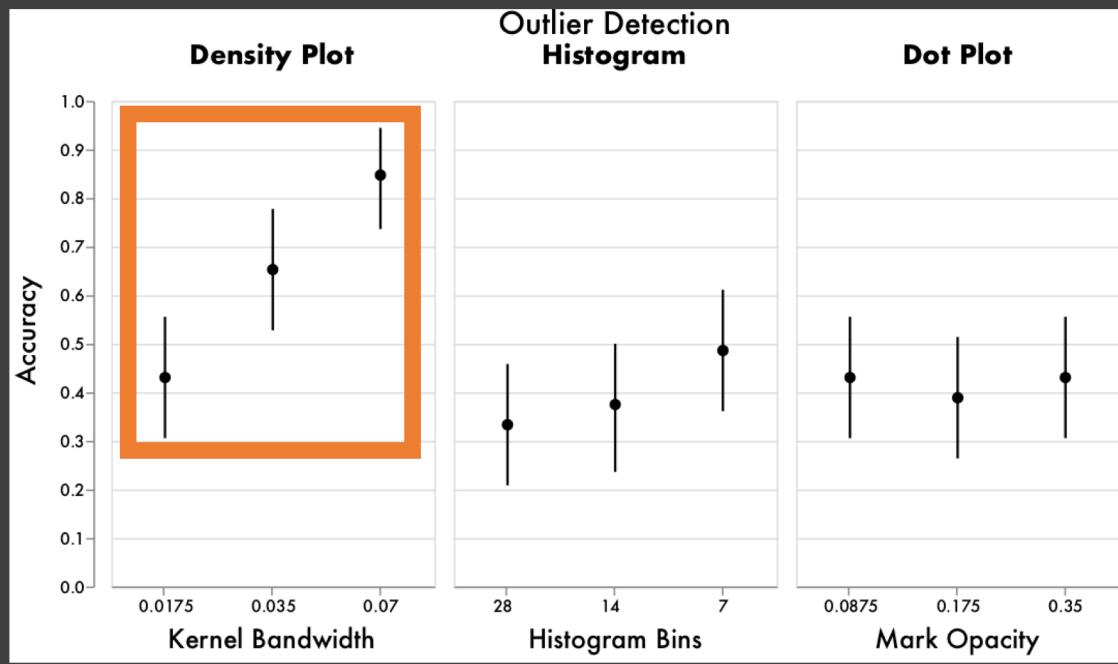
Gaps Are Easy To Hide

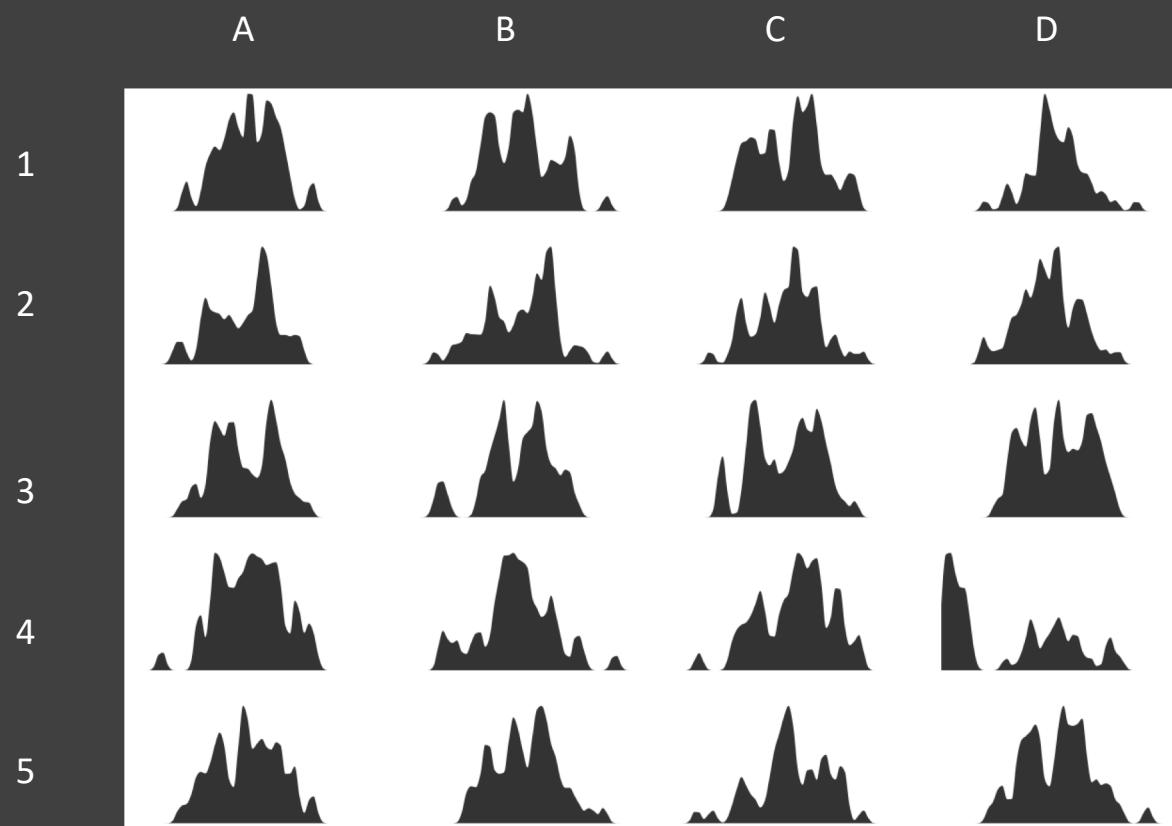
Results

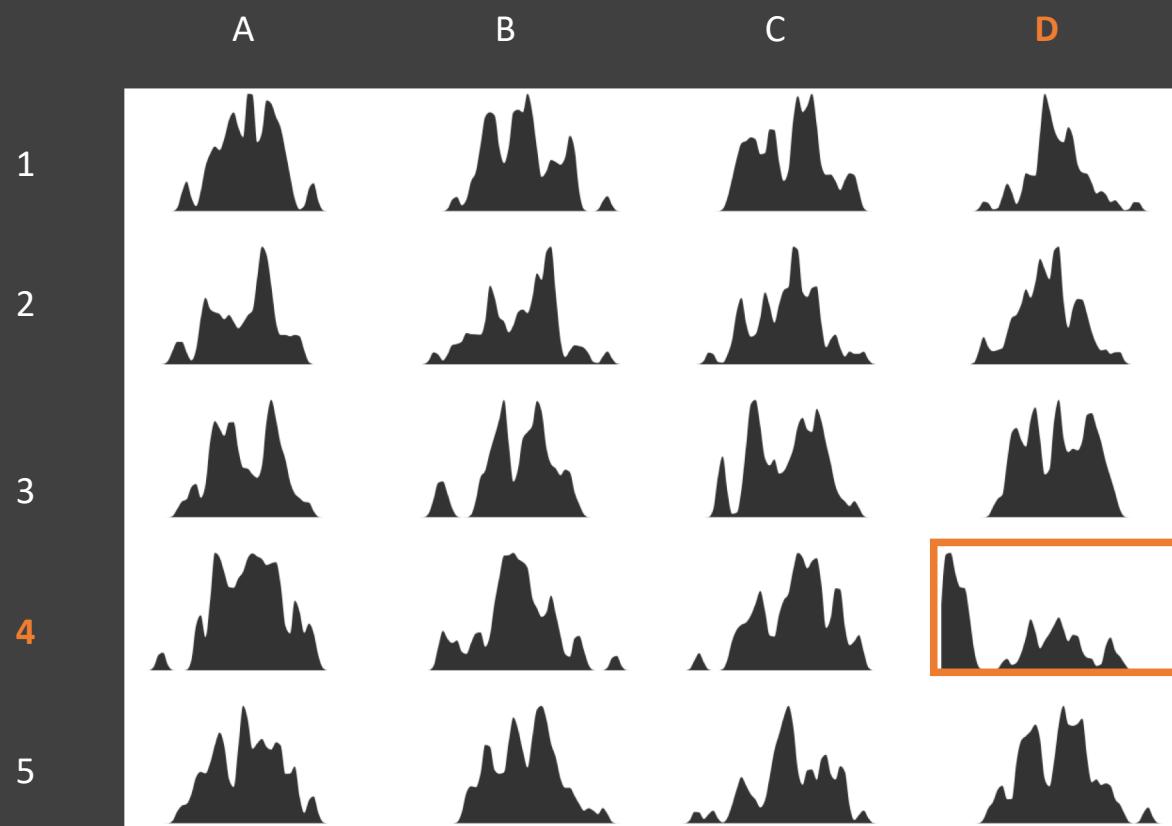
Outliers Are Tough To Hide

Gaps Are Easy To Hide





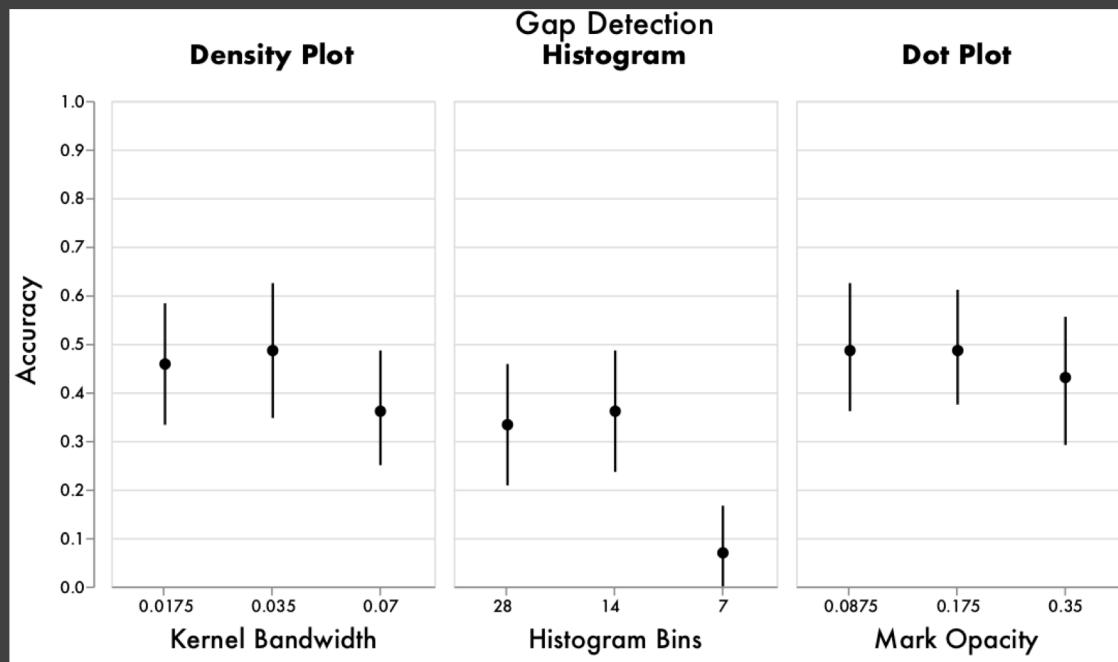


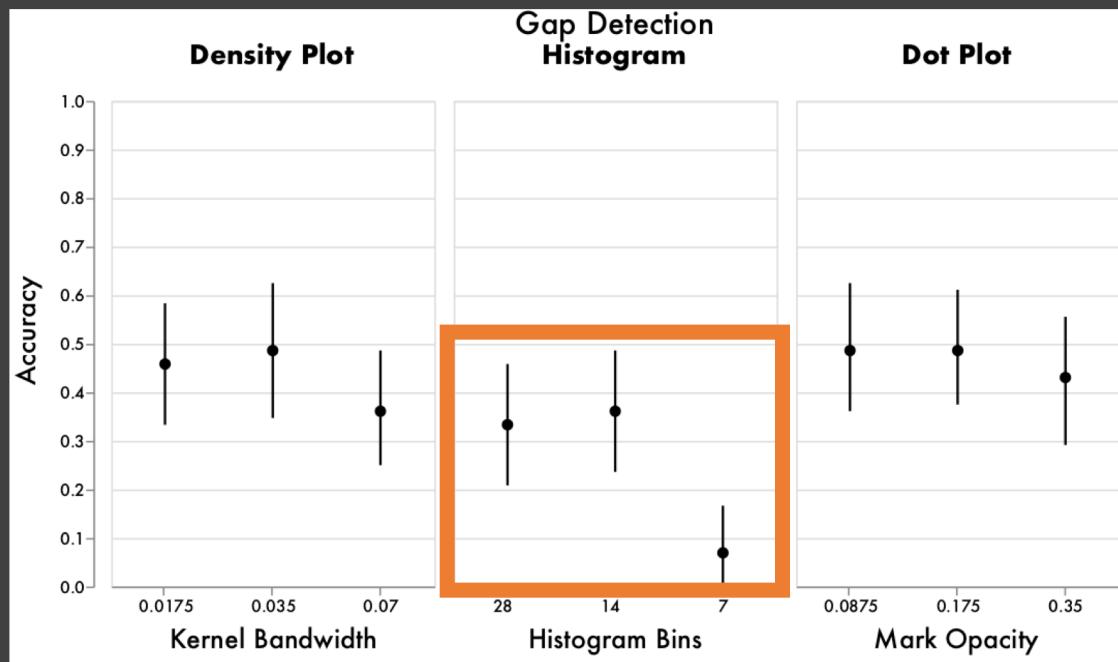


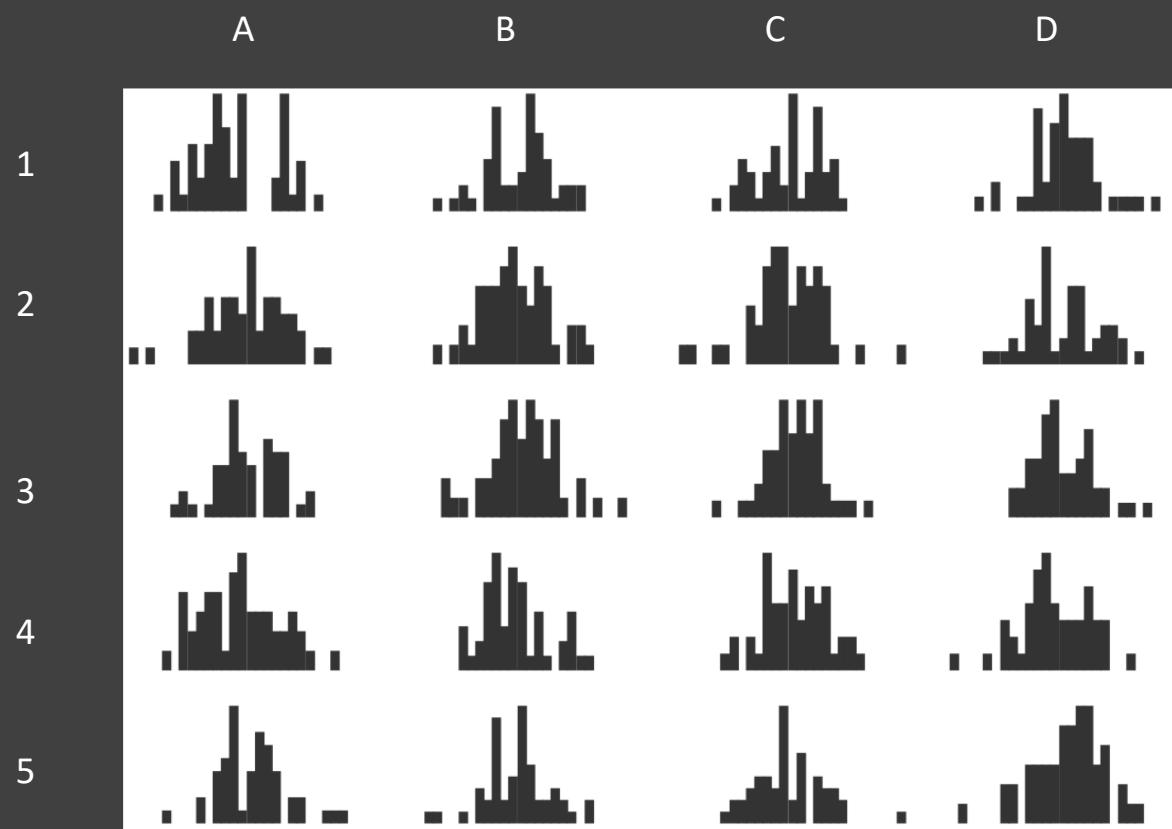
Results

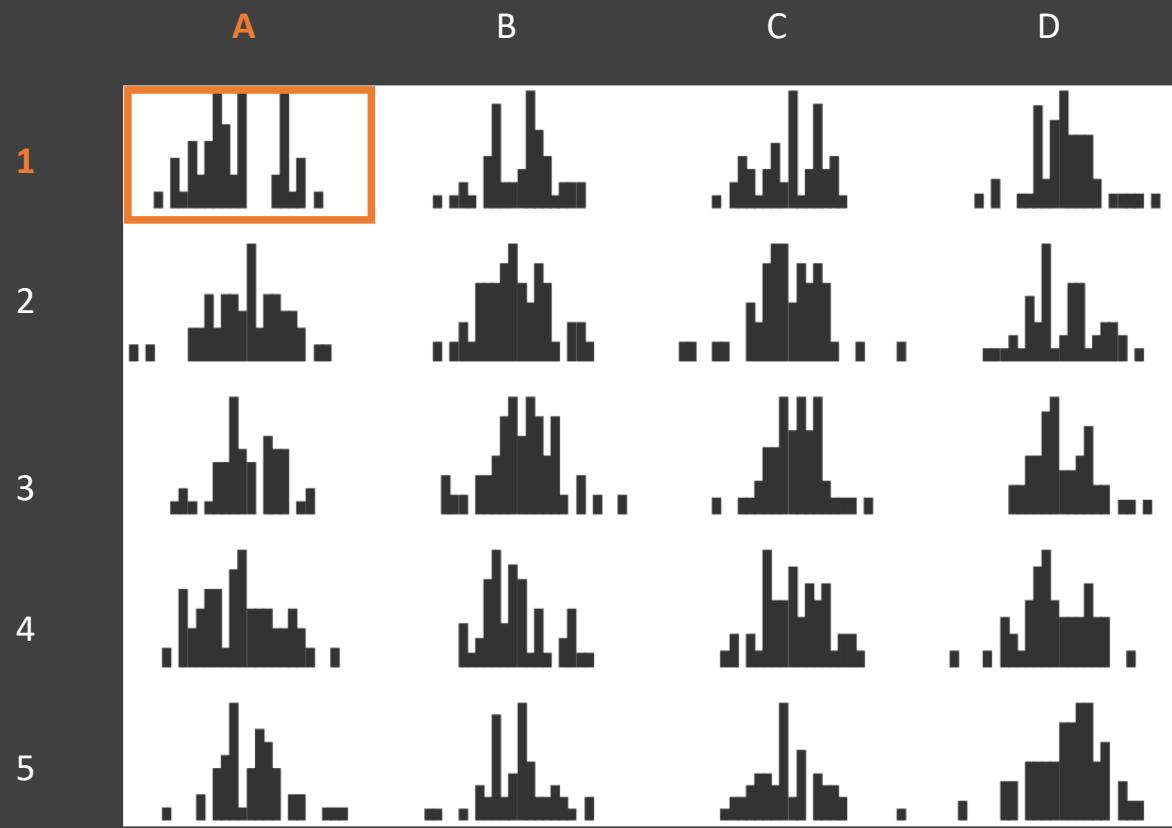
Outliers Are Tough To Hide

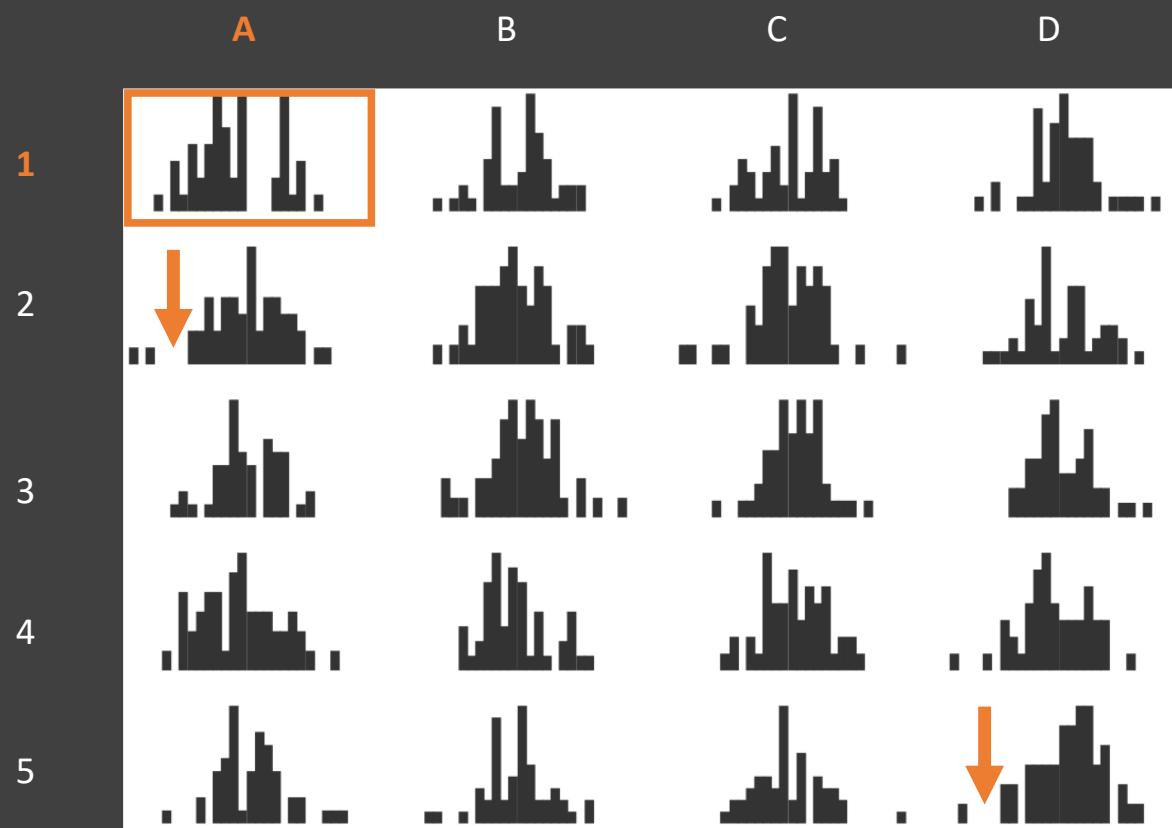
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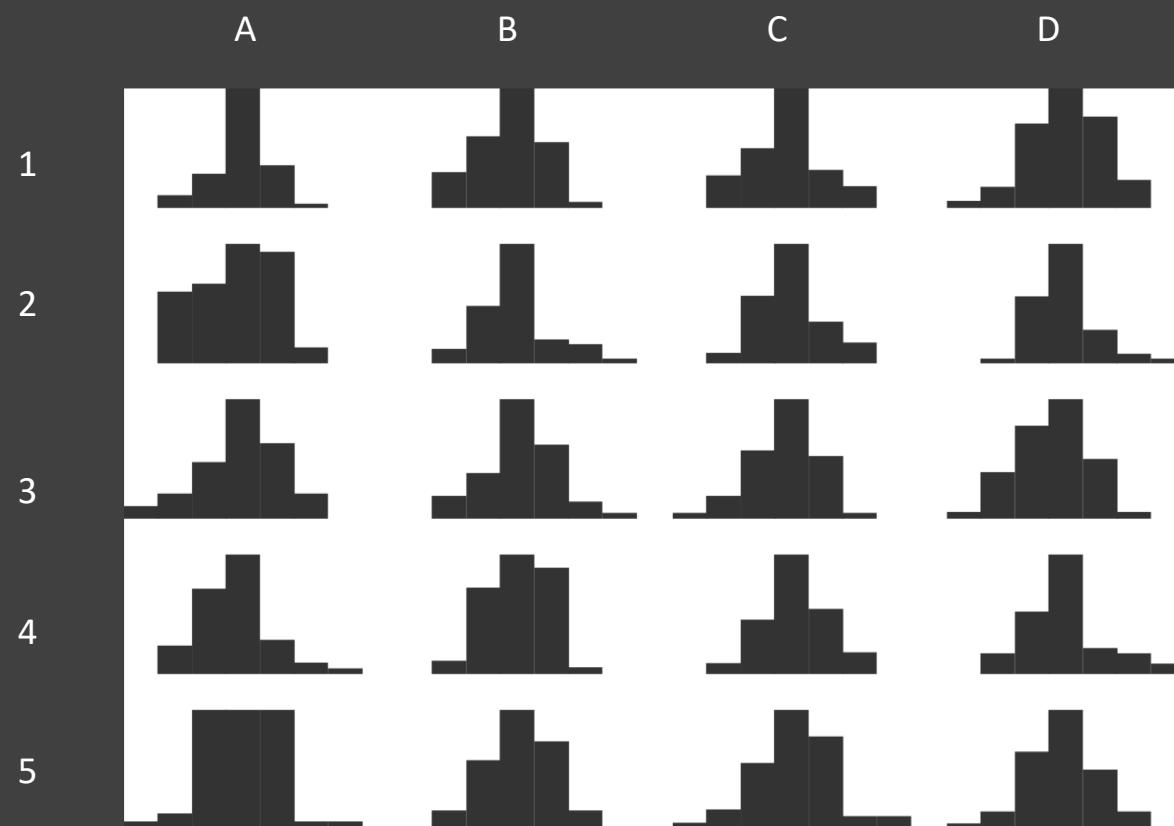


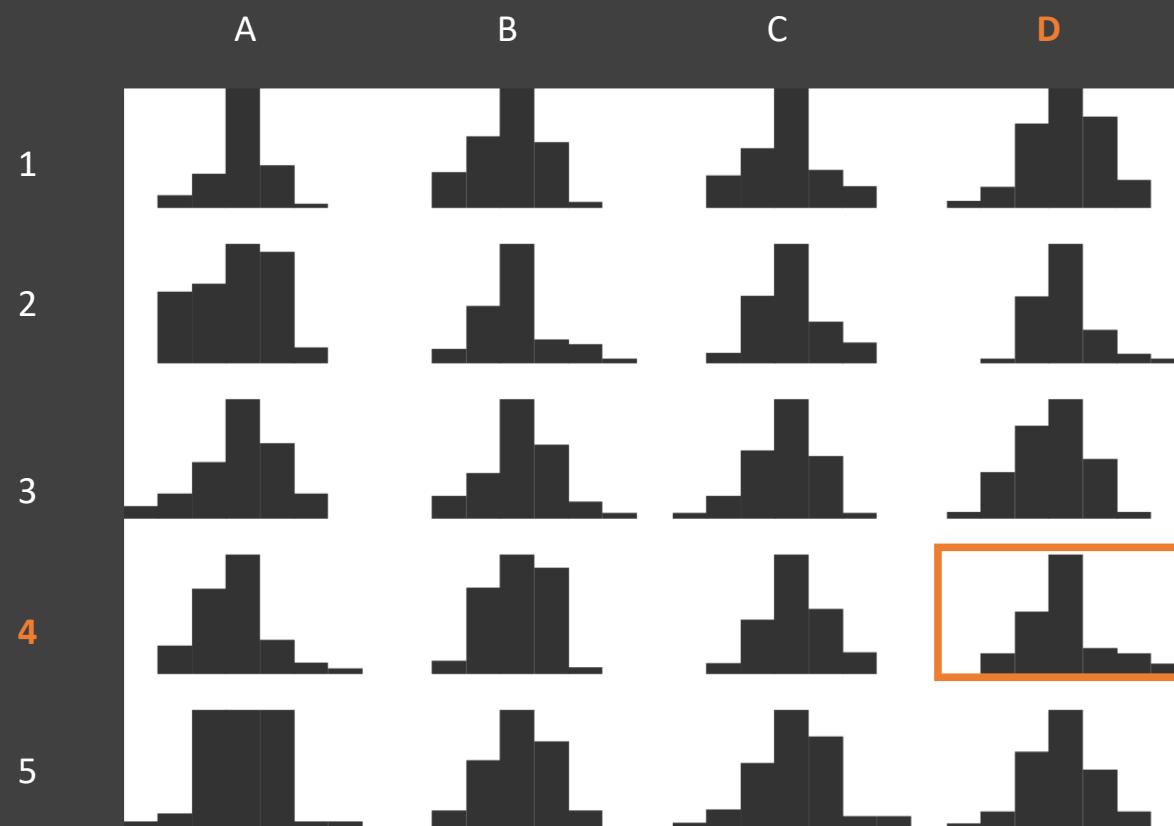


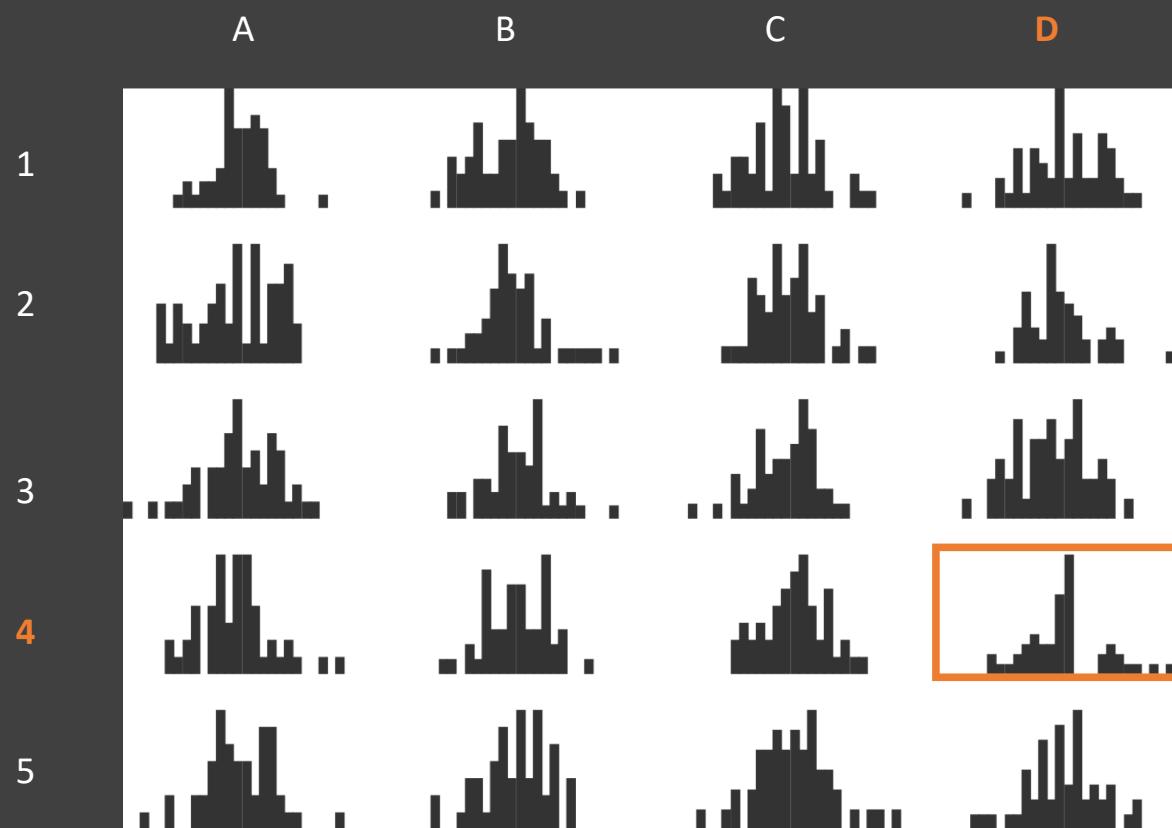


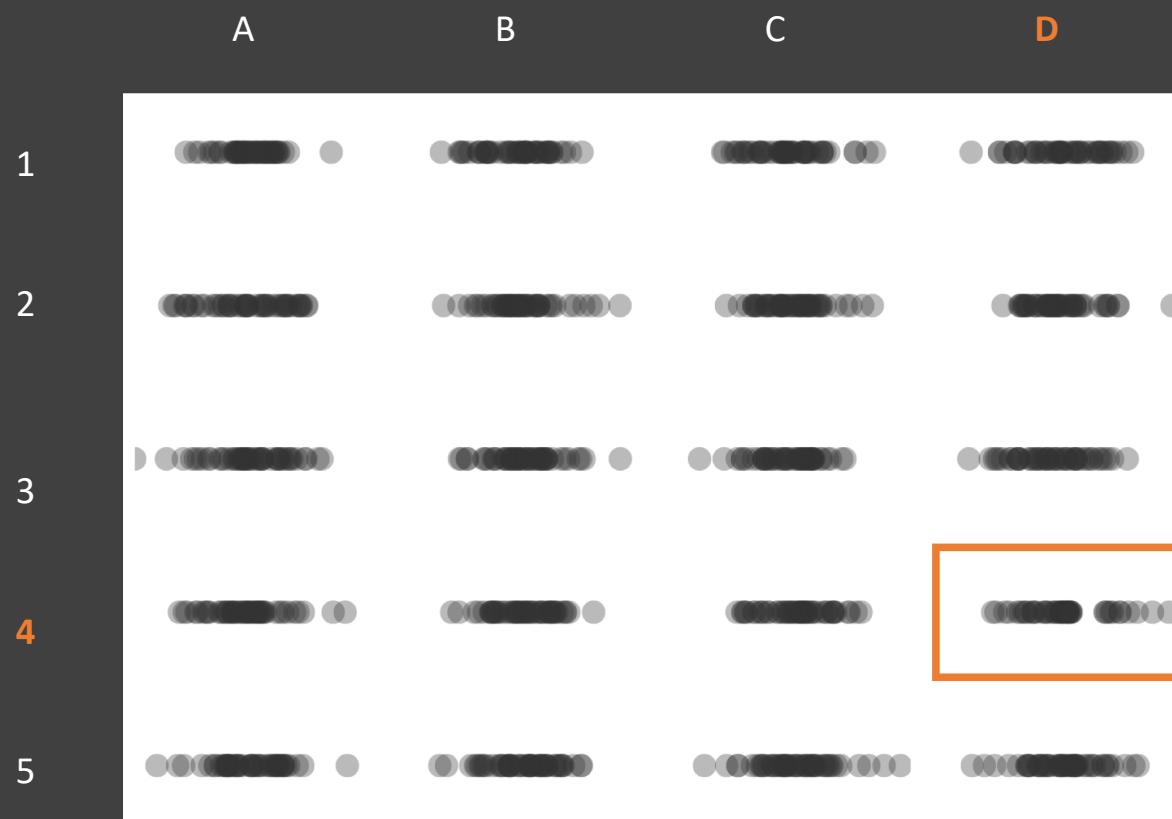












What should we do next?

Intervene!

Supplement!

What should we do next?



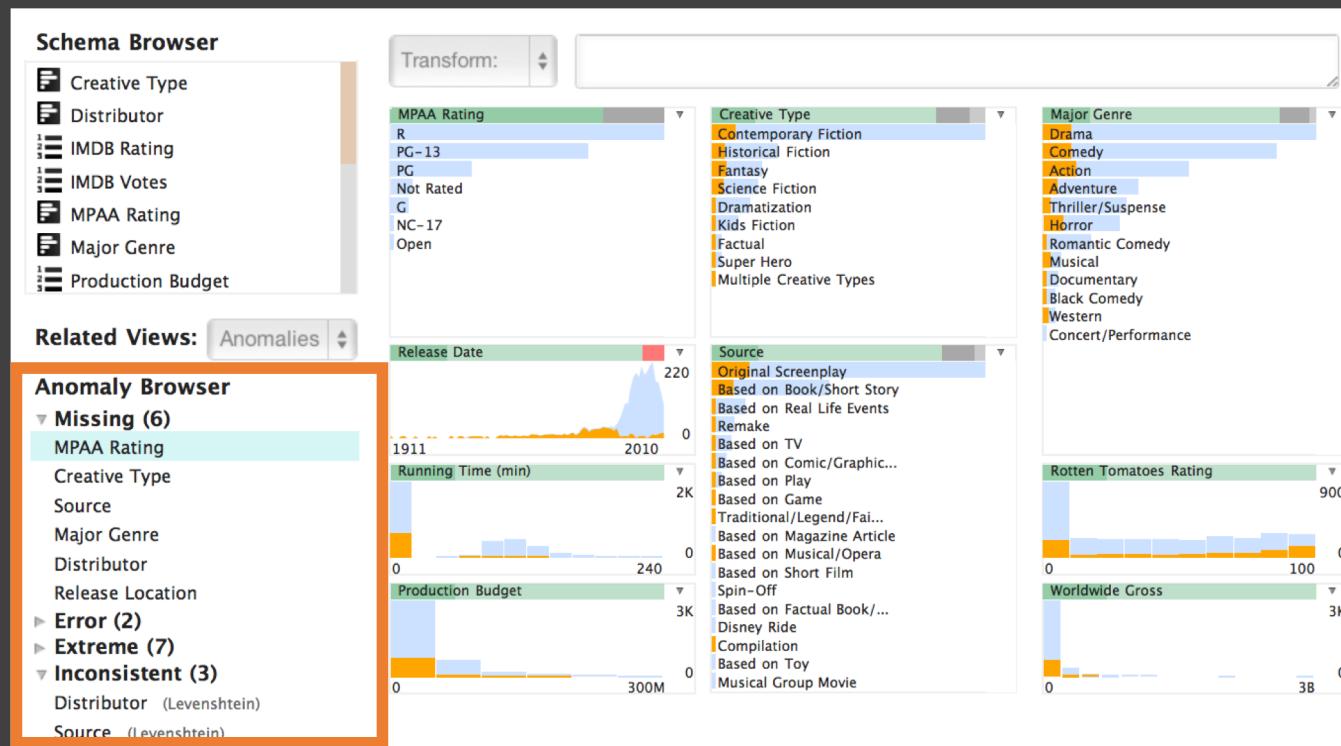
Intervene!

Supplement!

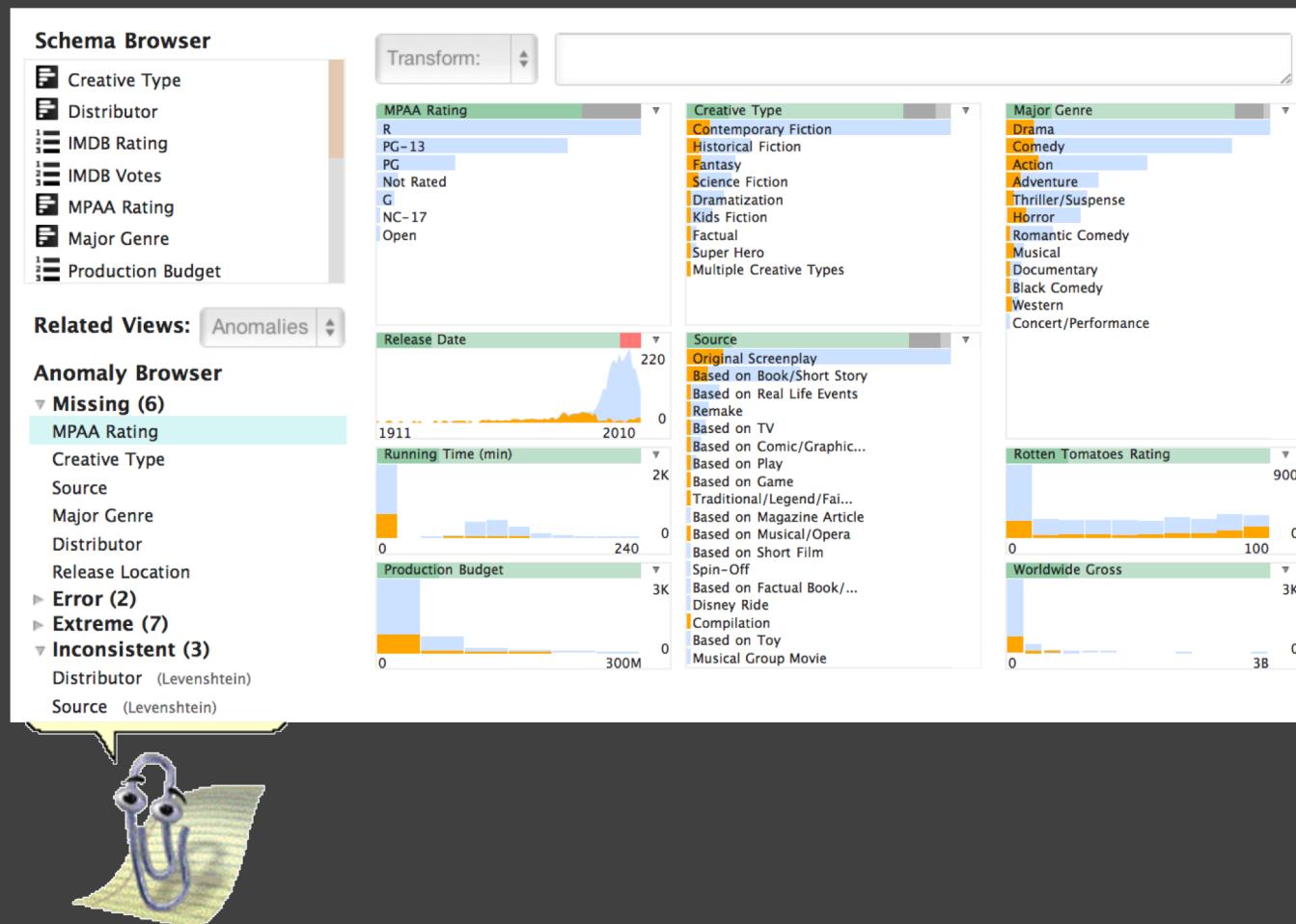
What should we do next?

Intervene!

Supplement!



[Kandel12]



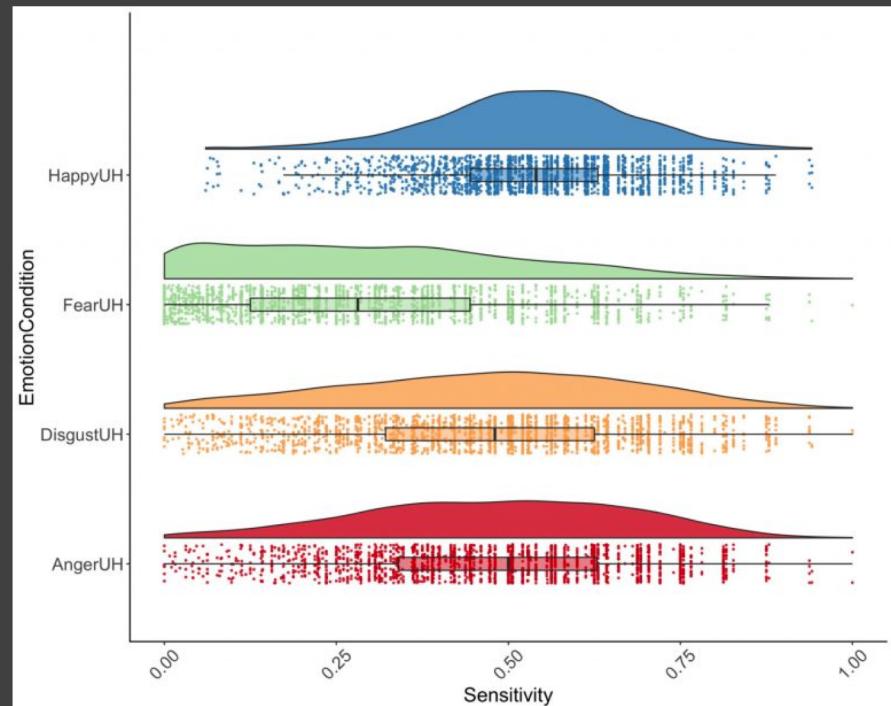
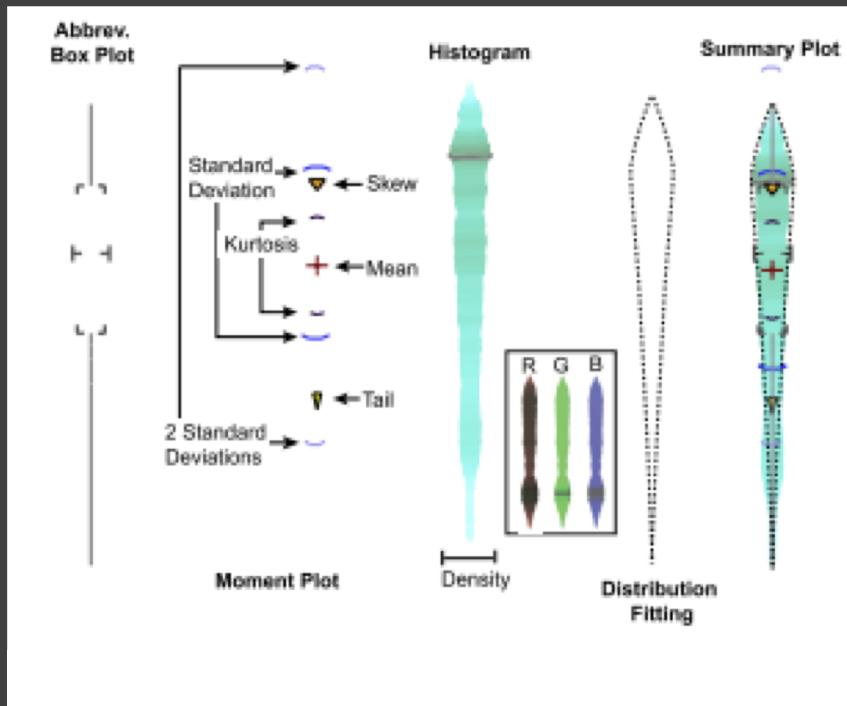
[Kandel12]

What should we do next?

Intervene!

Supplement!

Supplement!



[Potter10], xeno.graphics

Research Questions

Do data quality issues we care about have **characteristic visual patterns** in our visualizations?

Are these characteristic patterns **robustly detectable** across design parameters?

Thanks!



Work partially supported by NSF award IIS-1513651 and the Arizona Board of Regents

Data, code, and study materials at:
<http://bit.ly/sanityvis>

[Anscombe73] Anscombe, F. "Graphs in Statistical Analysis." *American Statistician*, 1973.

[Buja09] Buja, A. et al. "Statistical inference for exploratory data analysis and model diagnostics." *The Royal Society*, 2009.

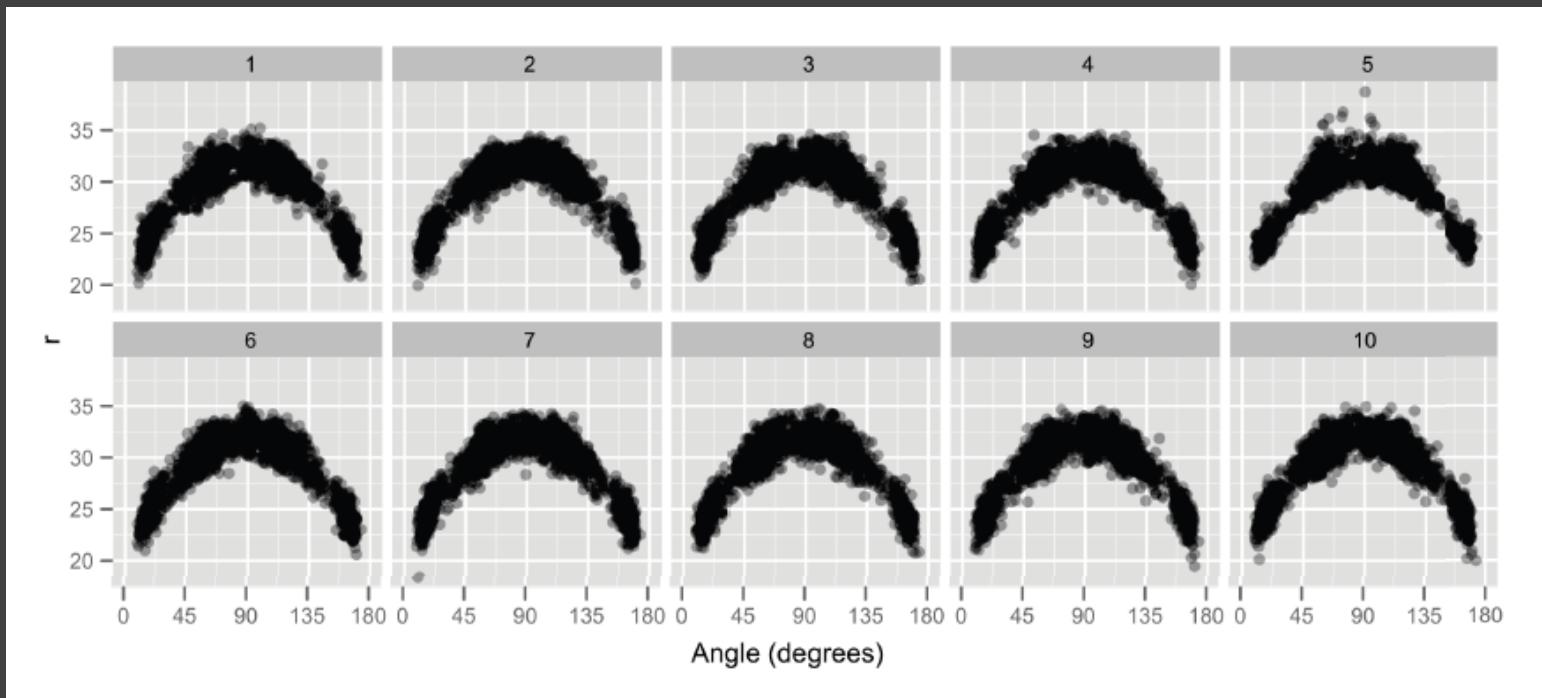
[Correll17] Correll, M. and Heer, J. "Black Hat Visualization." DECISIVe, 2017.

[Kindlmann14] Kindlmann, G. and Scheidegger, C. "An algebraic process for visualization design." *TVCG*, 2014.

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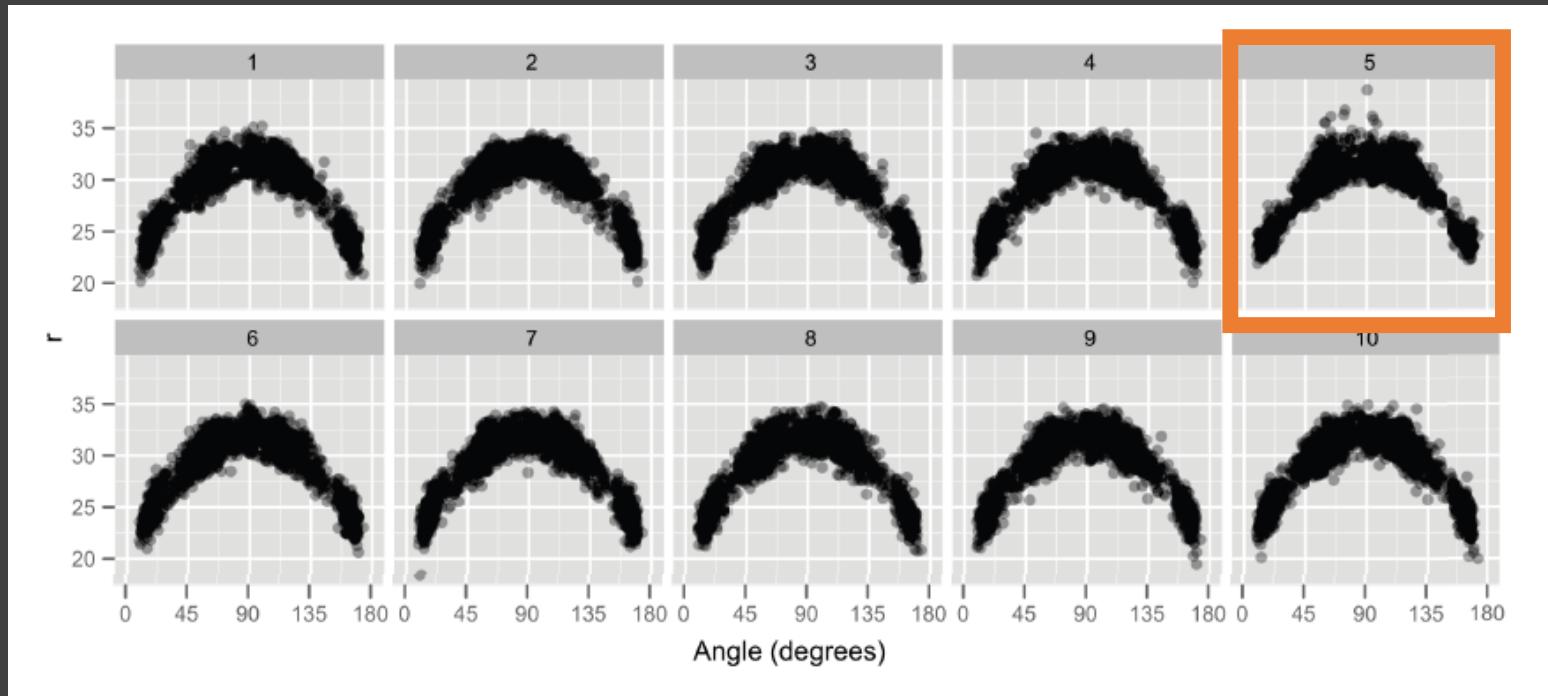
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Distance vs. angle for 3 point shots by the LA Lakers.

One plot is the real data. The others are generated according to a null hypothesis of quadratic relationship.

[Wickham10]



Distance vs. angle for 3 point shots by the LA Lakers.

One plot is the real data. The others are generated according to a null hypothesis of quadratic relationship.

[Wickham10]

Extra Slides

Data Oddities

Outliers

Trends

"Insights"

...

Data Oddities

Outliers
Trends
"Insights"
...

Visual Oddities

Patterns
Gestalts
...

Statistical Oddities

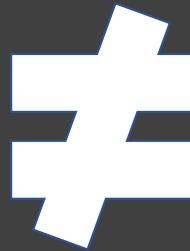
$p < 0.05$
 $x_i > Q_3 + 1.5 \times IQR$
...

Data Oddities

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Statistical Oddities

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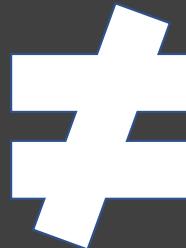
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Statistical Oddities

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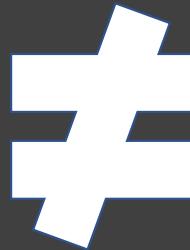
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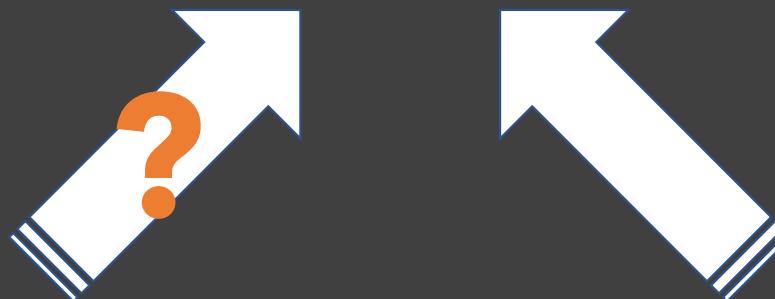


Statistical Oddities

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Statistical Oddities

$p < 0.05$
 $x_i > Q_3 + 1.5 \times IQR$
...

Set I		Set II		Set III		Set IV	
X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
10	8.04	10	9.14	10	7.46	8	6.58
8	6.95	8	8.14	8	6.77	8	5.76
13	7.58	13	8.74	13	12.74	8	7.71
9	8.81	9	8.77	9	7.11	8	8.84
11	8.33	11	9.26	11	7.81	8	8.47
14	9.96	14	8.1	14	8.84	8	7.04
6	7.24	6	6.13	6	6.08	8	5.25
4	4.26	4	3.1	4	5.39	19	12.5
12	10.84	12	9.11	12	8.15	8	5.56
7	4.82	7	7.26	7	6.42	8	7.91
5	5.68	5	4.74	5	5.73	8	6.89

Summary Statistics

$$\mu_X = 9.0 \quad \sigma_X = 3.317$$

$$\mu_Y = 7.5 \quad \sigma_Y = 2.03$$

Linear Regression

$$Y = 3 + 0.5 X$$

$$R^2 = 0.67$$

[Anscombe73]

Set I		Set II		Set III		Set IV	
X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
10	8.04	10	9.14	10	7.46	8	6.58
8	6.95	8	8.14	8	6.77	8	5.76
13	7.58	13	8.74	13	12.74	8	7.71
9	8.81	9	8.77	9	7.11	8	8.4
11	8.33	11	9.26	11	7.91	8	7.77
14	9.96	14	8.1	14	6.58	8	7.04
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 Don't Turn Off Your Brain Yet 

Summary Statistics

$$\mu_X = 9.0 \quad \sigma_X = 3.317$$

$$\mu_Y = 7.5 \quad \sigma_Y = 2.03$$

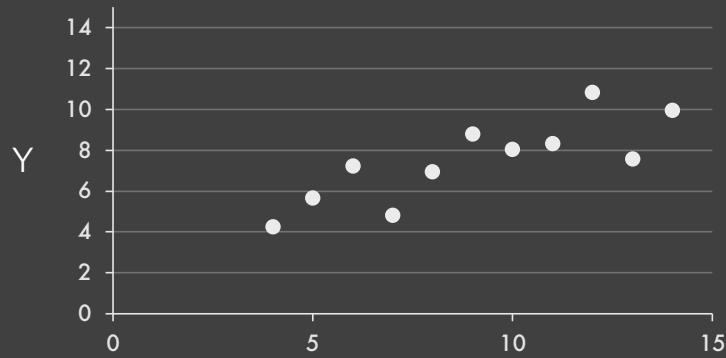
Linear Regression

$$Y = 3 + 0.5 X$$

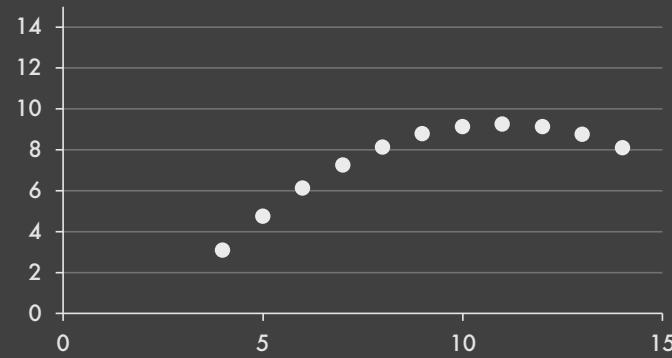
$$R^2 = 0.67$$

[Anscombe73]

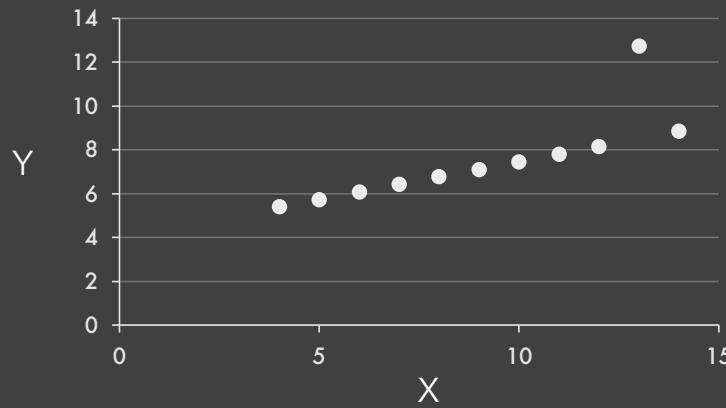
Set I



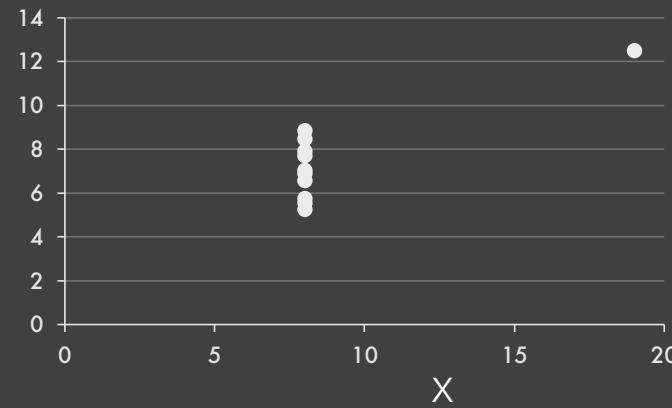
Set II



Set III



Set IV



100



Research Questions

Do data quality issues we care about have **characteristic visual patterns** in our visualizations?

Are these characteristic patterns **robustly detectable**?

tl;dr: **we did a penetration test on univariate summaries**

Penetration Testing

Penetration Testing



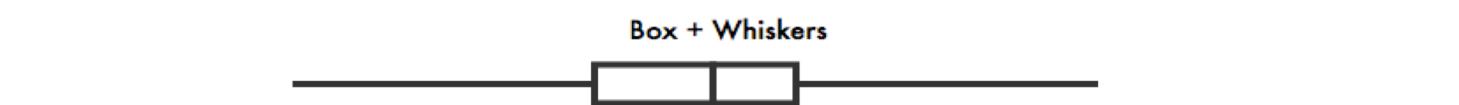


Strip Chart

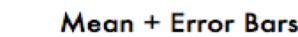
Dot Plot



Beeswarm Chart



Box + Whiskers



Histogram



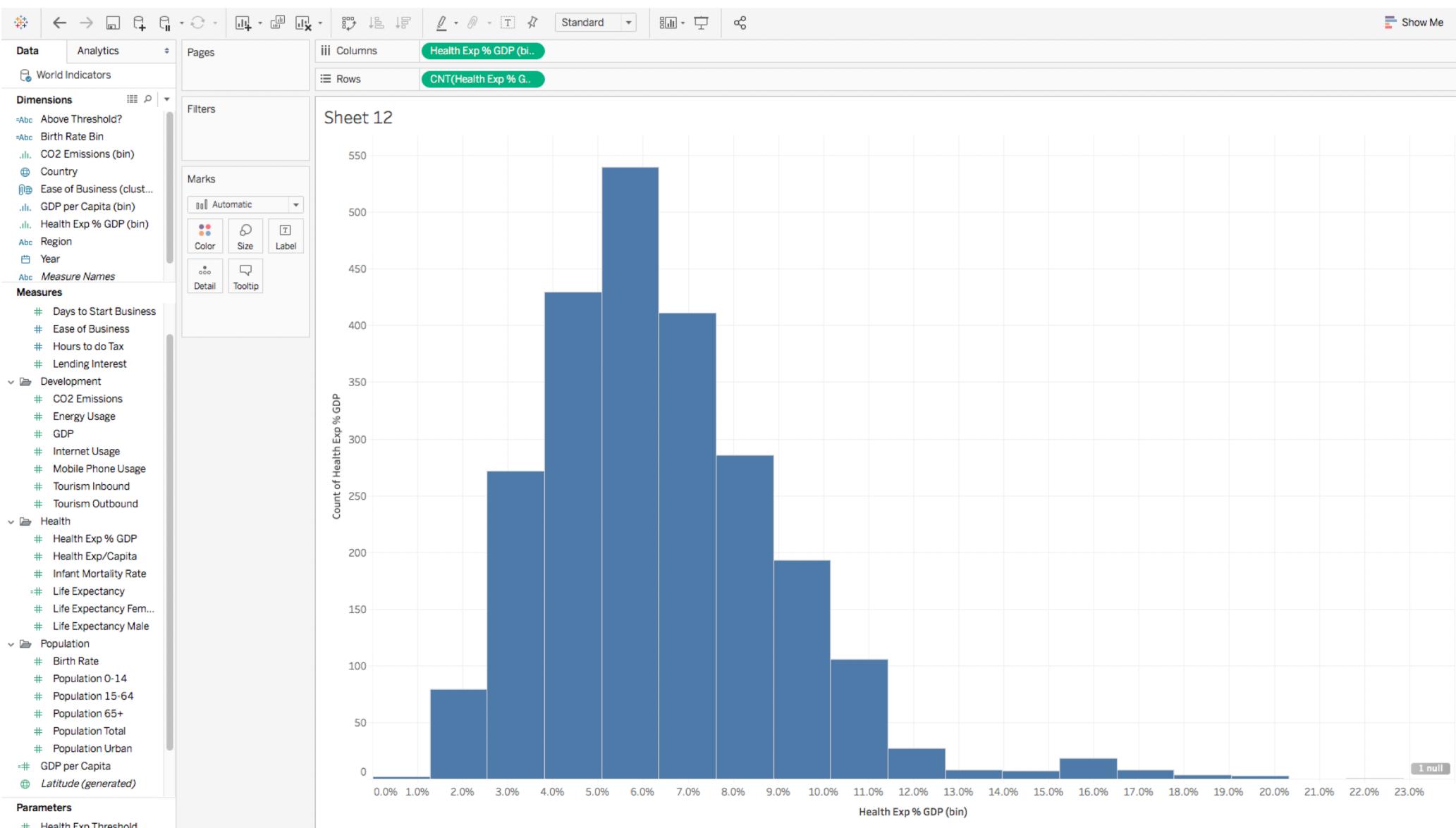
Density Chart

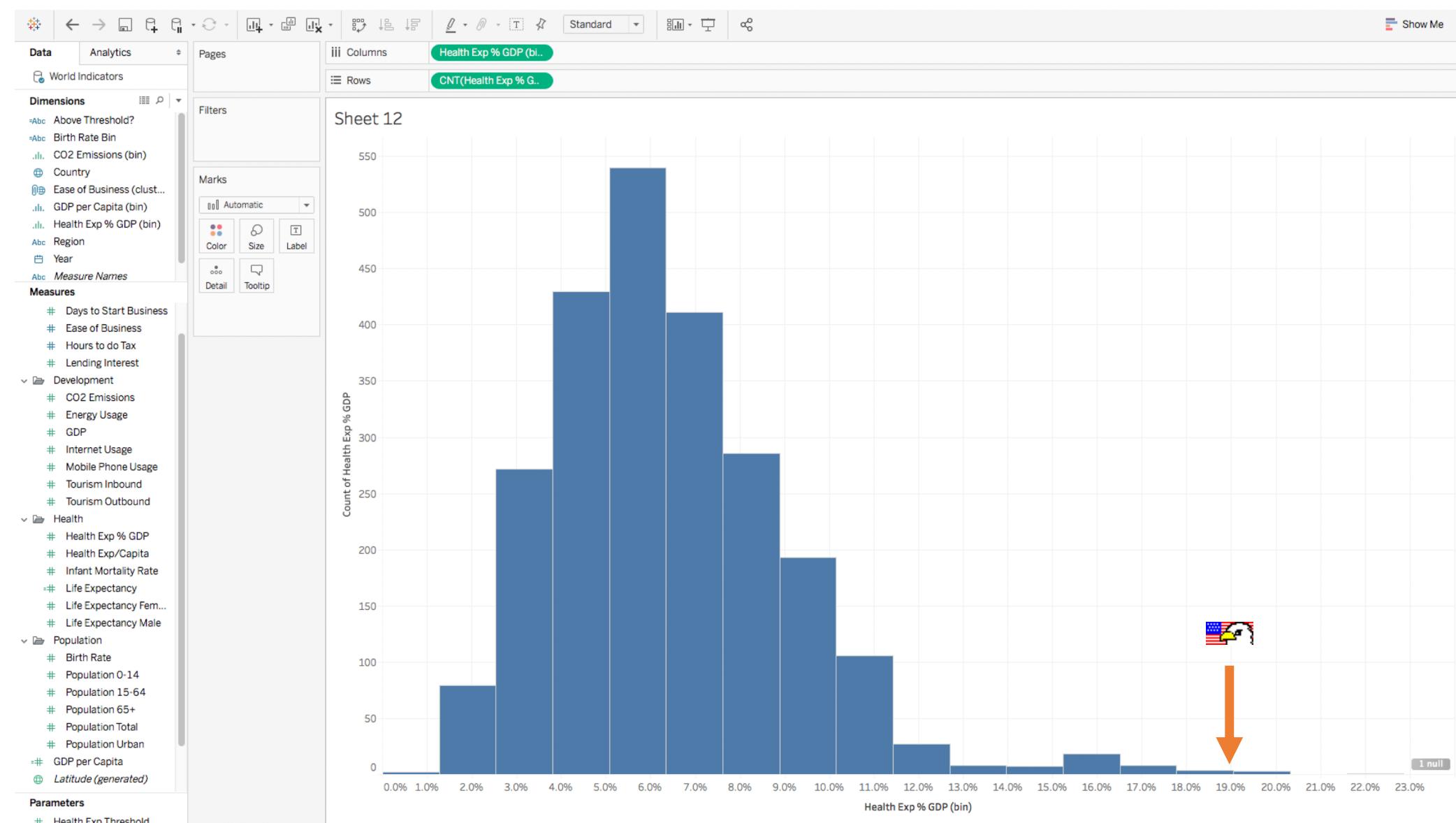
Gradient Chart

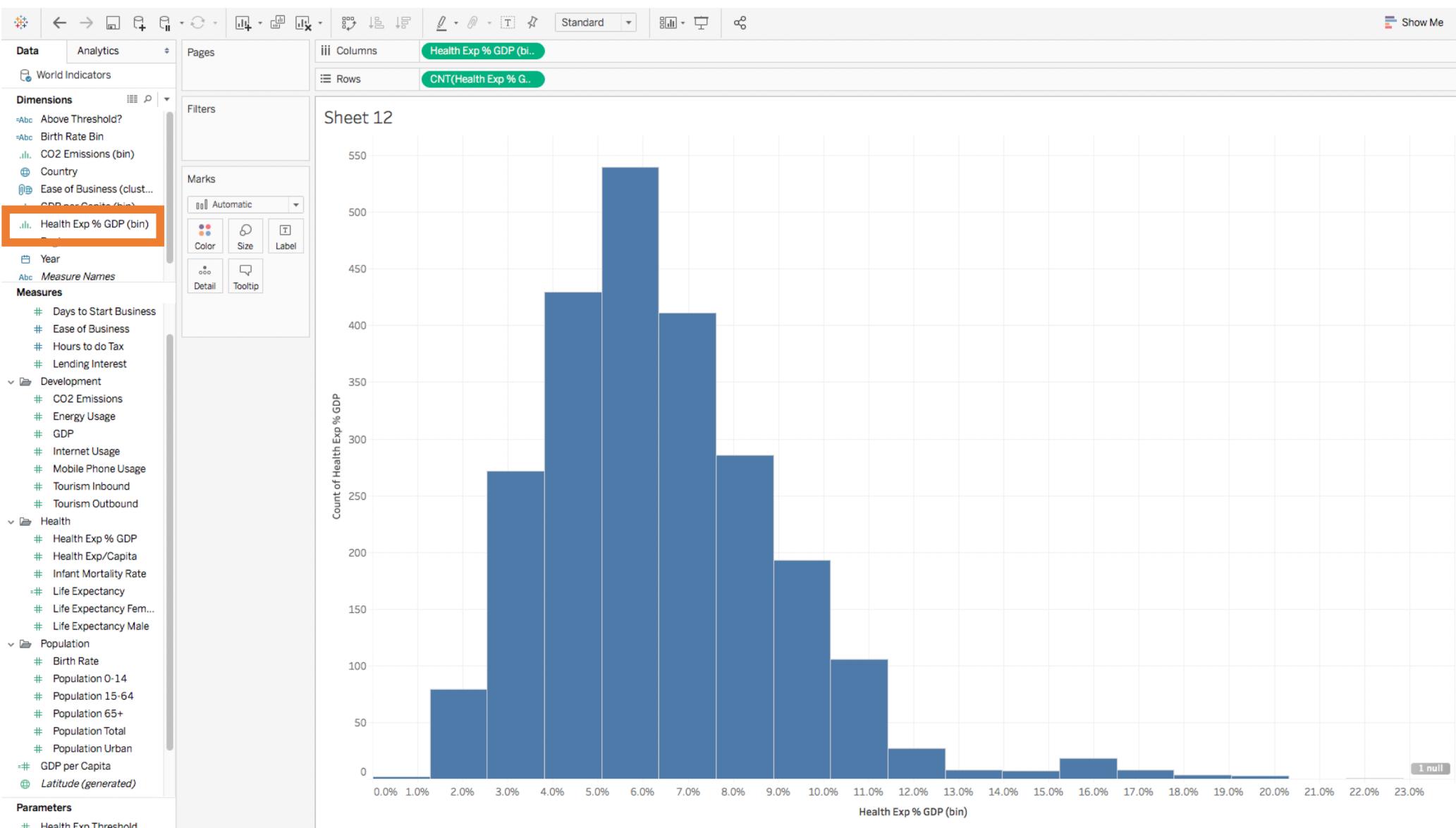
Horizon Chart

Violin Chart









Visualization
Designer



Data

You



Visualization
Designer



Data

You

Visualization
Designer



Data

You

Visualization Attack

Flaw Types:

Noise:

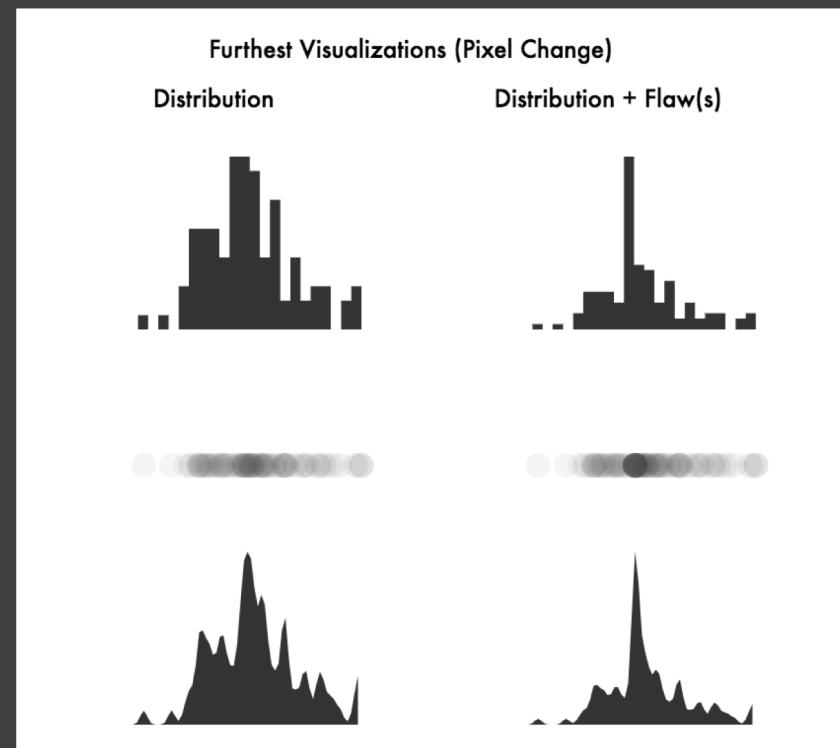
Mean Bias:

Outliers:

Mode:

Re-Sample

Simulate



Visualization Attack

Flaw Types:

Noise:

Mean Bias:

Outliers:

Mode:

Re-Sample

Simulate

