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Data Visualization

Spring 2016

Assignment 2

Meet the Data

A built-in data set from RAW with information about the most popular cocktails, their ingredients, and the proportions of those ingredients.

Cocktail,Parts,Ingredient	Kamikaze,6,vodka
Bloody Mary,9,vodka	Kamikaze,6,triple sec
Bloody Mary,18, Tomato juice	Kamikaze,6,lime juice
Bloody Mary,3,lemon juice	Mojito,8,rum
Gin and Tonic,12,Gin	Mojito,6,lime juice
Gin and Tonic,29,Tonic Water	Mojito,1,sugar
Screwdriver,10,vodka	Mojito,1,mint
Screwdriver,20,orange juice	Mojito,12,soda
White Russian,10,vodka	Caribou Lou,6,rum
White Russian,4,coffee liqueur	Caribou Lou,3,pineapple juice
White Russian,6,cream	Cuba Libre,12,Cola
Cosmopolitan,8,vodka	Cuba Libre,6,rum
Cosmopolitan,3,cointreau	Jager Monster,9,Jagermeister
Cosmopolitan,3,lime juice	Jager Monster,6,orange juice
Cosmopolitan,6,cranberry juice	Daiquiri,9,rum
Apple Martini,8,vodka	Daiquiri,4,lime juice
Apple Martini,3,apple schnapps	Daiquiri,1,syrup
Apple Martini,3,cointreau	Whiskey Sour,3,whiskey
Long Island Iced Tea,3,vodka	Whiskey Sour,2,lemon juice
Long Island Iced Tea,3,tequila	Whiskey Sour,1,syrup
Long Island Iced Tea,3,rum	Mint Julep,18,whiskey
Long Island Iced Tea,3,triple sec	Mint Julep,1,mint
Long Island Iced Tea,3,Gin	Mint Julep,1,sugar
Long Island Iced Tea,5,lemon juice	Pina Colada,6,rum
Long Island Iced Tea,6,gomme syrup	Pina Colada,6,cream
Mudslide,6,vodka	Pina Colada,6,pineapple juice
Mudslide,6,coffee liqueur	Sex on the Beach,8,vodka
Mudslide,6,bailey's	Sex on the Beach,4,peach schnapps
Mudslide,6,cream	Sex on the Beach,8,orange juice
Margarita,7,tequila	Sex on the Beach,8,cranberry juice
Margarita,4,cointreau	B-52,4,coffee liqueur
Margarita,3,lime juice	B-52,4,bailey's
	B-52,4,cointreau

Time to Ask the Tough Questions

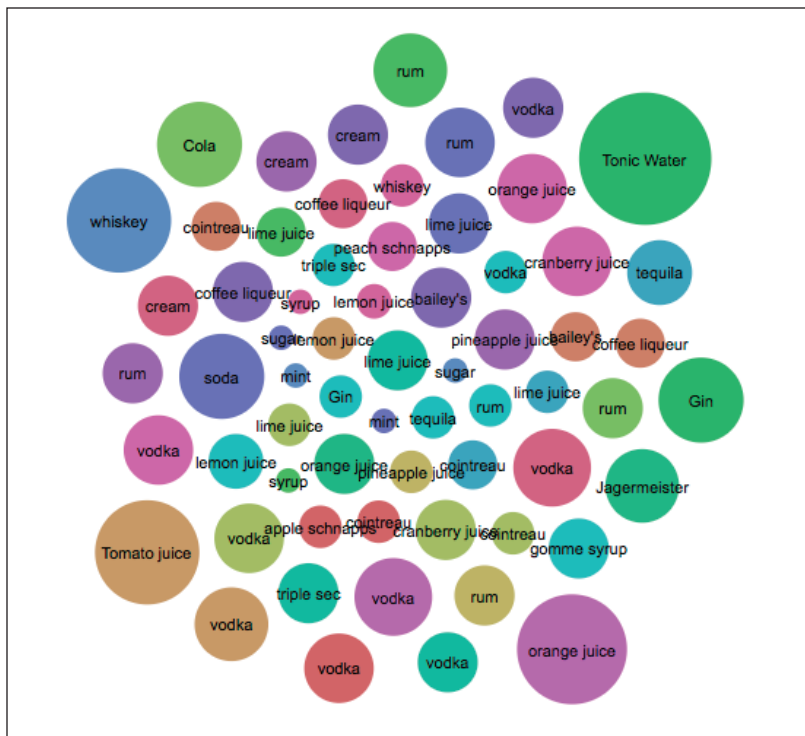
What is the most frequent number of ingredients used in the most popular cocktails?

Process

I started with Voyager and used a few different sets of data from The World Bank and Vincent Arel Bundock. However, after running into problems both with translating my data sets to Voyager and the tool itself, I moved on to Density Design Lab's RAW tool. I uploaded a few different data sets to that tool, but didn't find any that translated well to any of their types of graphs. So, I tried one of their built-in data sets, and was naturally drawn to information about cocktails and their ingredients.

As more of a beer drinker, I found myself unfamiliar with the makeup of most of the drinks that were listed, and wondered how many ingredients most of them had. My estimate was pretty high, mainly because my beer-drinking self perceived cocktails to be more complicated than they actually turned out to be. I also wondered about a few other questions, like which was the most often used non-alcoholic ingredient and which drinks had the highest proportion of alcohol. However, I decided that my original question would be the easiest to answer visually.

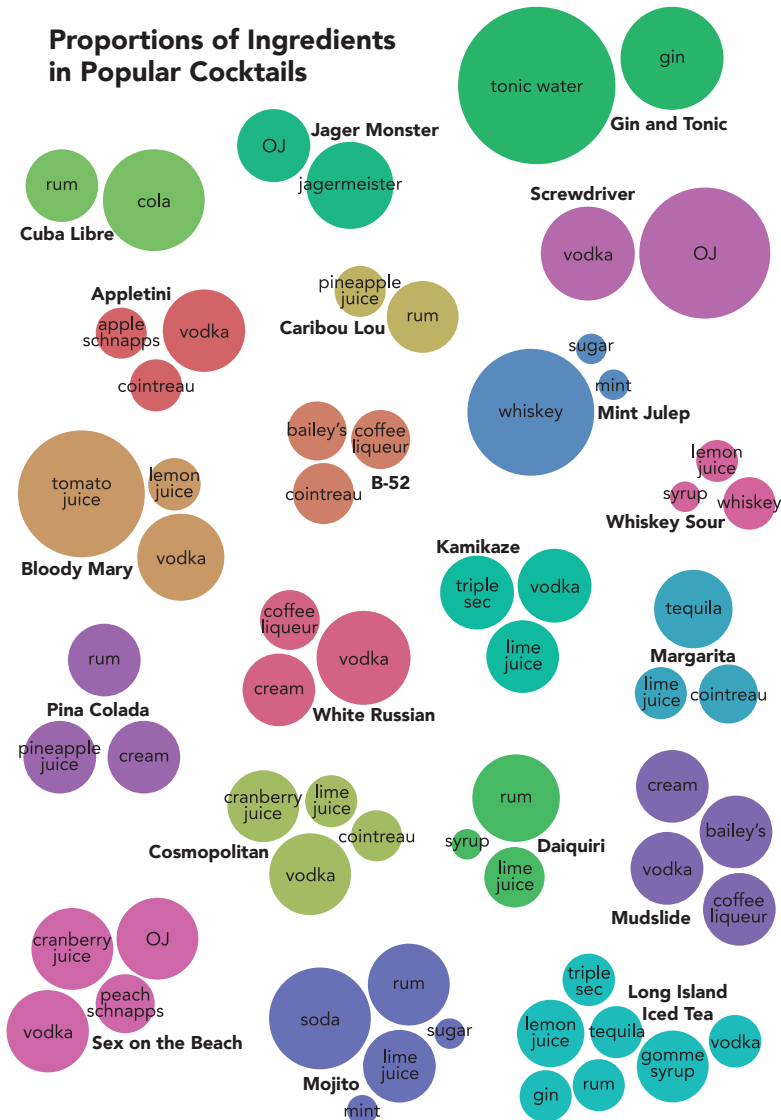
After trying a few different types of graphs, I ended up using a cluster force layout because it specifically asked for the right type of information.



First Iteration

RAW gave me a chart that showed the ingredients of each drink as a circle whose size corresponded to the proportion of the drink it made up, and whose color corresponded to the drink. However, the circles for each drink weren't placed near each other and the colors of the circles were all very similar, making it difficult to see which ingredients went in which drinks.

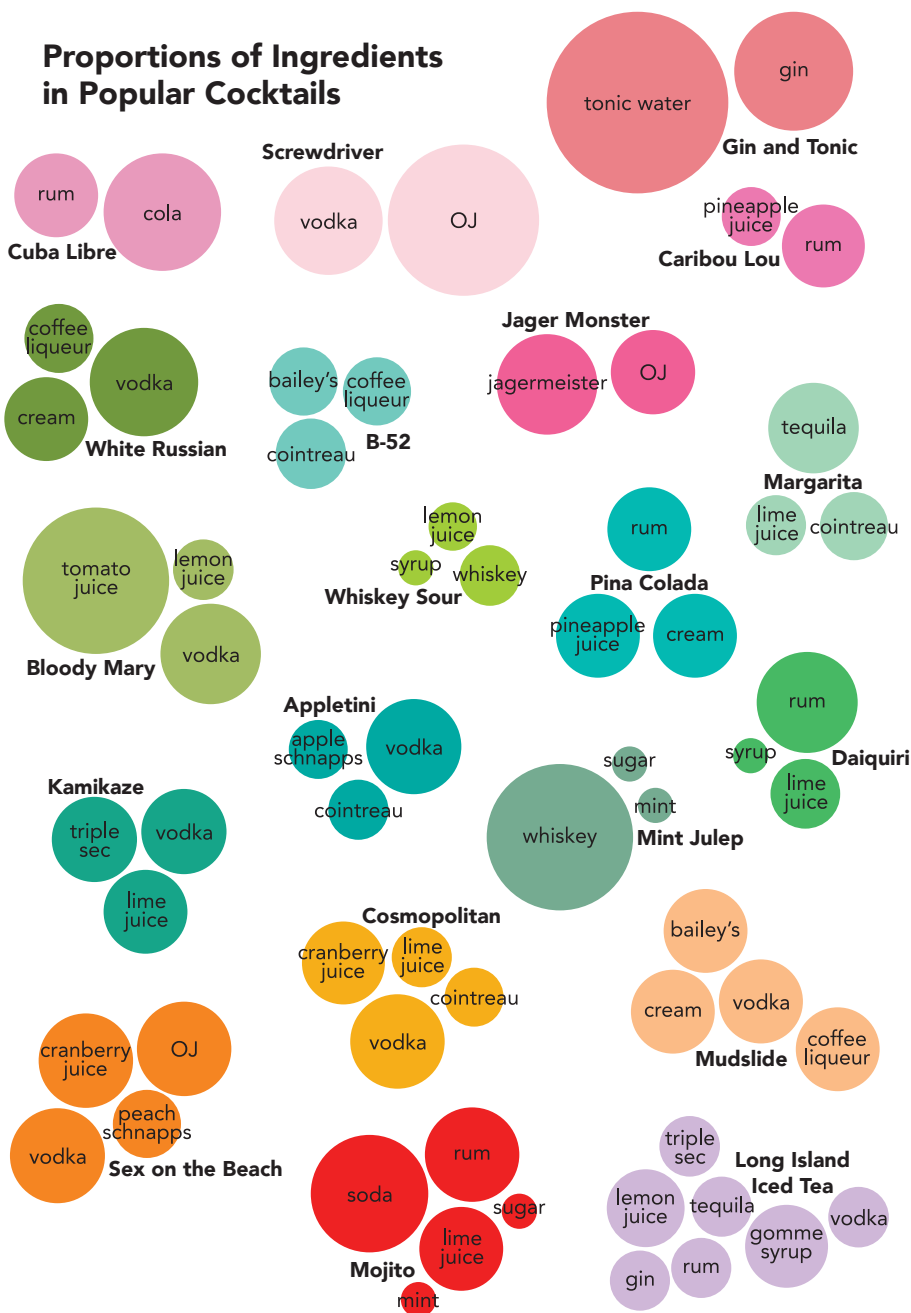
Proportions of Ingredients in Popular Cocktails



So close and yet so far.

At this point, I had organization but not enough to answer my question.

Proportions of Ingredients in Popular Cocktails

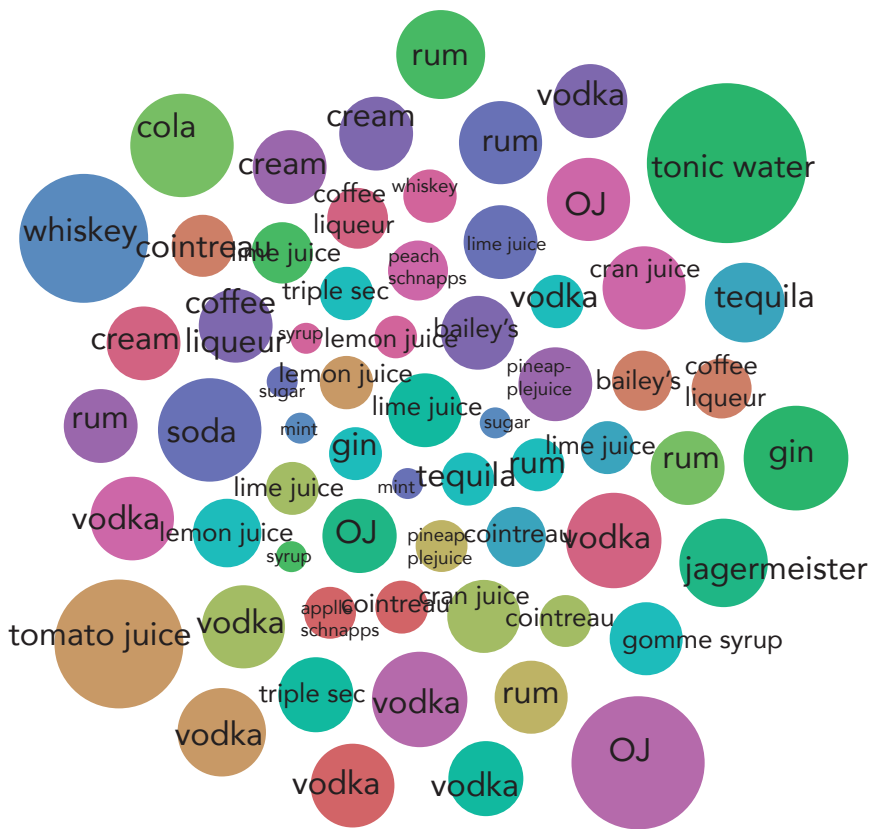


Caption:

Popular cocktails broken down by the proportion of their ingredients.

In sum...

A majority of the most popular cocktails use only three ingredients. No matter how inexperienced with mixed drinks one might be, the simplicity of only three ingredients for most cocktails (with the glaring exception of the Long Island Iced Tea) presents beer aficionados with a wonderfully simple task to undertake. In fact, only two of the twenty cocktails in the data used more than three ingredients. Now the only question is... shaken or stirred?



Let me introduce you to my friend, Adobe Illustrator

I took the chart into Illustrator and made it my own. At first, that led to this craziness. Then I started to organize the data a little more.