

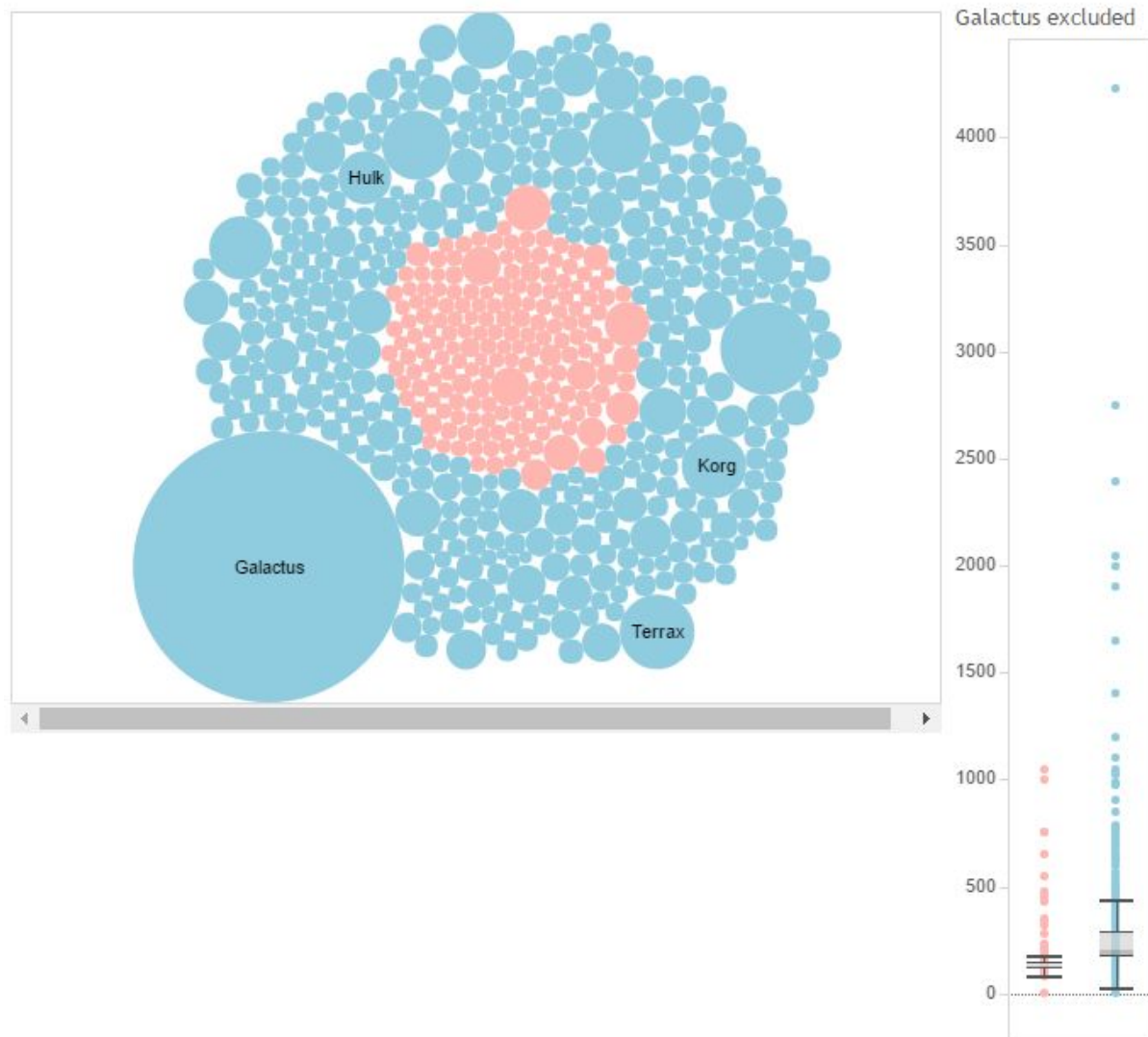
Marvel Wiki

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Our team of KULEuven Digital Humanities students chose to visualise data from several Marvel wiki datasets. It includes information about the characters, such as a description, eye and hair color, sex, sexual orientation etcetera. As tools we mostly used Tableau, supplemented with Voyant for the word clouds.

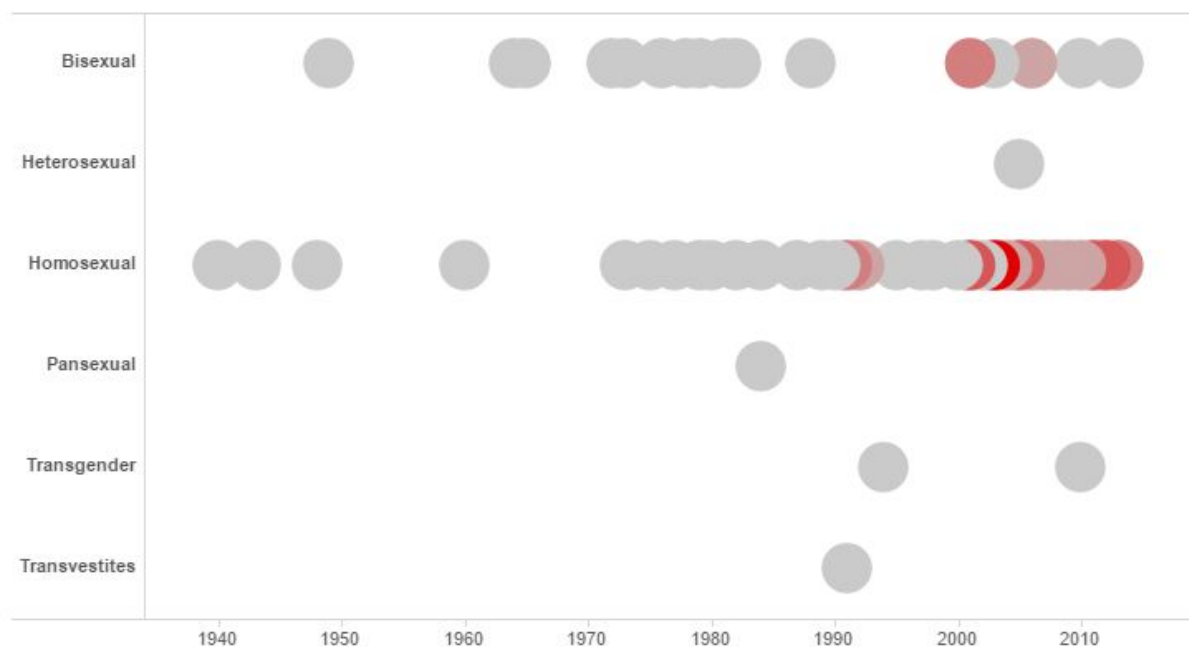
Here we're going to talk about three of our visualisations, a bubble chart about height, a timeline of sexual orientation and deceased versus dead characters. For more visualisations about the Marvel characters, take a look at our website [INSERT LINK](#)

Height



Let's start with the height of the characters. This visualisation was one of the most important ones we started with, as it showed the importance of interaction with your visualisation. As you can see, Galactus is skewing the whole dataset by being a massive outlier with a very large height. This turns the rest of the data into something mostly uniform. By being able to interact with the visualisation, we can exclude this outlier and look at the rest of the characters into more detail. This is true not only for the bubble charts, but the accompanying boxplot as well.

Sexual Orientation

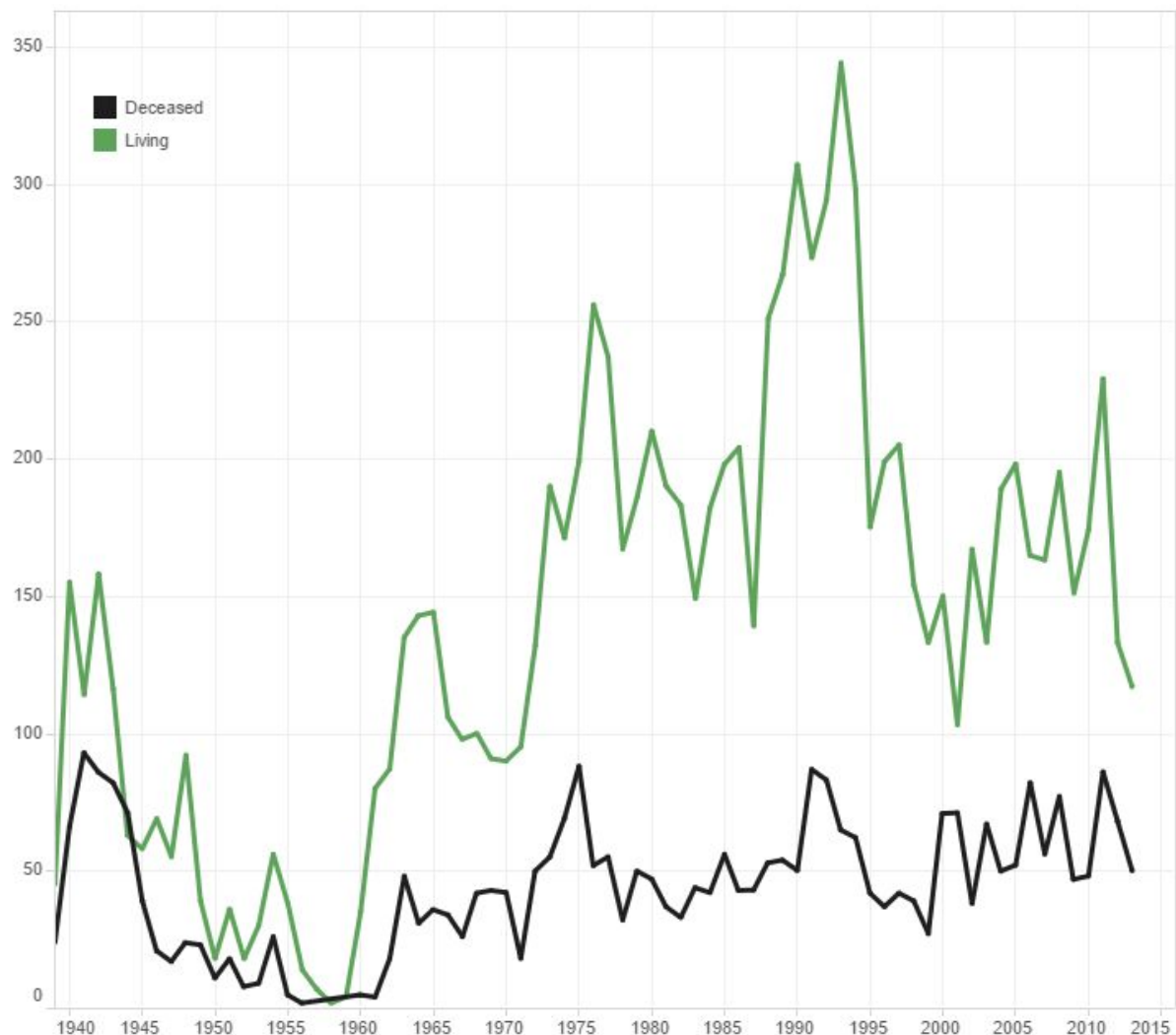


Sexual orientation was a very interesting part of the data to work with. We struggled a little with finding the right way to visualize this, trying to find a way to include a timeline and quantities for several categories that would still be easy to interpret. Out of a list of several visualisations we decided on this one, because it clearly shows some important trends in the prevalence of sexual minorities in pop culture.

The trends we're talking about start in 2001, when gay marriage first got legalized in the Netherlands. This is when we see a clear rise in the amount of bisexual and homosexual characters. The same thing happens in 2003, with gay marriage being legal in Belgium, and later in the USA. These legal changes have as consequence that it's more acceptable to see these things in public and in pop culture, which is clearly

represented in Marvel too. The one pansexual character in the database occurs before any of these events, which is an interesting finding in itself.

Living vs. Deceased



We decided to plot deceased and living characters of our second or 'blue' dataset over time using a line chart. This seems to follow major events in history starting with the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941. At the start of the second World War Marvel Comics seems to reinforce the spirits of the soldiers by creating more living characters than deceased characters. However, in 1944 the reality of the war seems to hit with the advent of D-Day and this is the only year where dead characters surpass the living.

In the aftermath of the second World War we see a drop of characters in general and only in 1965 do we see the number of living characters rise again. The important events afterwards seem to impact the living characters more than the deceased characters. We see a decline in living characters during the escalation of the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1968, but a rise when a ceasefire was reached in 1973. Two decades later we see a small drop after a steep rise in living characters during the first

Gulf War. Finally the shocking news of 9/11 also shows when the number of living characters suddenly drop.