Here are my summaries. I've numbered them in order of preference. I think the paper numbered 1 has a significant lead on the other ones and would be well suited to being our main paper.

3. Comparison of Remote Visualization Strategies for Interactive Exploration of Large Data Sets

Overview: Covers several possible techniques including image based rendering, parallel visualization, and sampling. Presents a performance model and compares the methods. Also, includes multireslution sampling.
Citations: 18

2. 2. XmdvTool: Visual Interactive Data Exploration and Trend Discovery of High-dimensional Data Sets

Tool for outlier and pattern discovery using visual methods. Explains four techniques which are scatterplot matrices, star glyphs, parallel coordinates, and dimensional stacking. Also covers some of the challenges: visual exploration scale up, efficient data access, high dimensionality data, and caching. Fewer details on tool implementation.
Citations: 5

5. ADAPTIVE, MULTIRESOLUTION VISUALIZATION OF LARGE DATA SETS USING PARALLEL OCTREES

Summary: Combines data reduction techniques (hierarchical multiresltion of data) with parallelism. Utilizes octree to accomplish this with data distributed across nodes. Covers how to do data reduction, parallelism, and the software architecture of the project (communication).
Citations: 22

1. 1. HIERARCHICAL EXPLORATION OF LARGE MULTIVARIATE DATA SETS (yang_dagstuhl00)

Summary: Overview of hierarchical clustering with several techniques including glyph, parallel coordinates, scatterplot matrices, dimensional stacking, and pixel-based. Covers building trees and display techniques. Covers applying these techniques to the five methods mentioned above.
Citations: 22

4. DataSplash: A Direct Manipulation Environment for Programming Semantic Zoom Visualizations of Tabular Data

Summary: Covers semantic zoom which is a technique for displaying different graphical representations of objects. Explains an actual built system with examples and screenshots. Not much discussion of big data.
Citations: 32