

Visualising the Revolution:

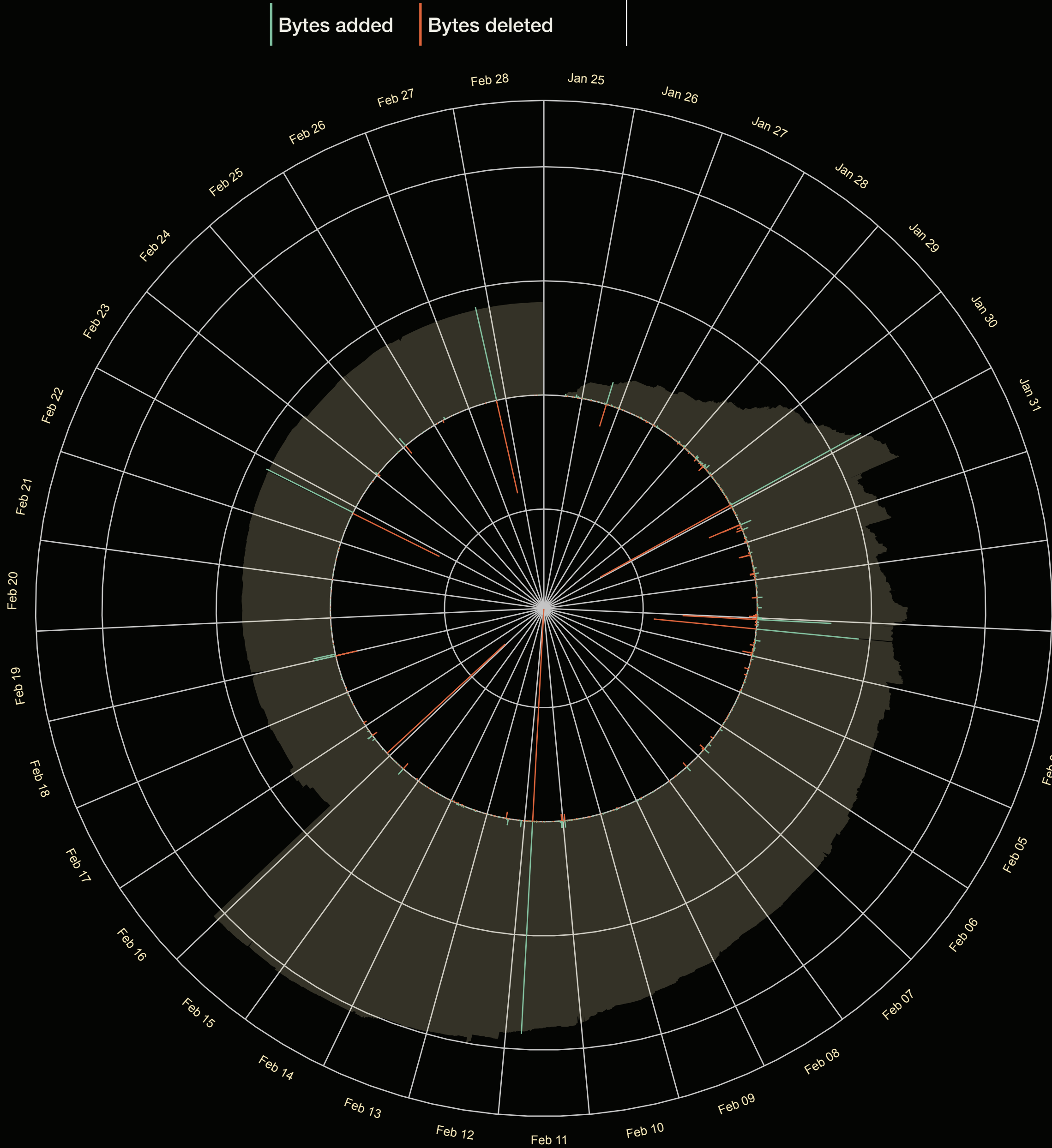
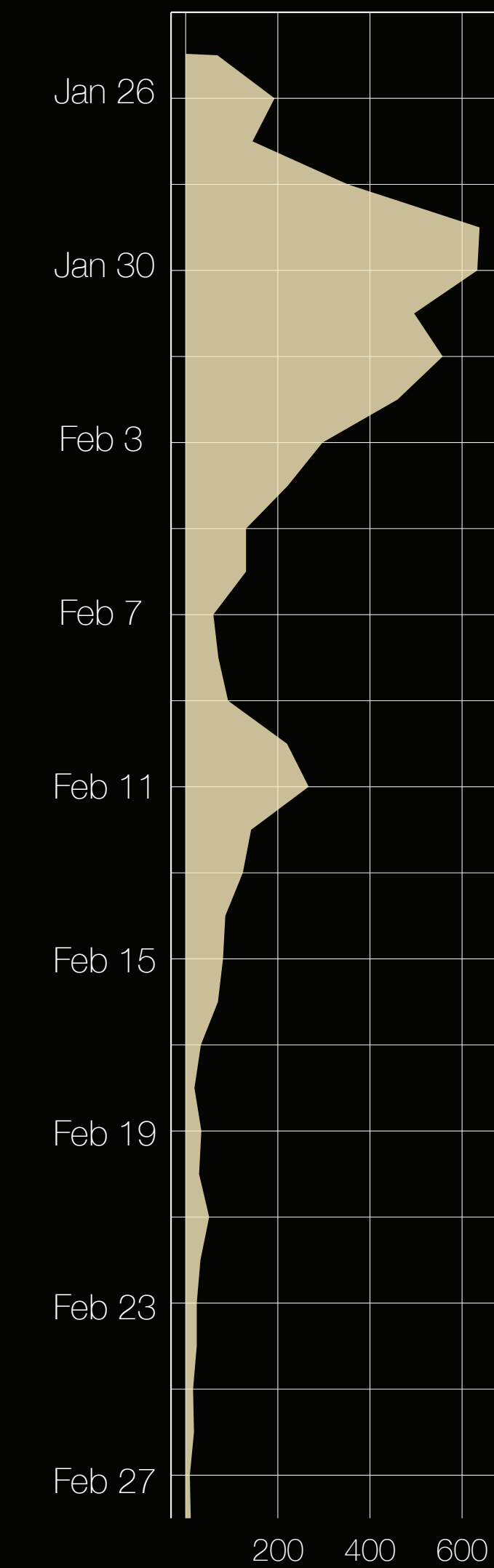
In her book *Writing The Revolution: Wikipedia and the Survival of Facts in the Digital Age*¹, Heather Ford tells the story of the creation of the Wikipedia article made for the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. Since the creation of this page in 2011, it has been edited over 8,000 times by over 2,000 editors. Ford describes the process an article goes through in order to survive. This poster shows the labour and efforts of Wikipedia editors, with a focus on the early life of the page as events unfolded in real time.

All editing activity from 25 January 2011 to 9 July 2023²



Focus on page edits between 25 January 2011 and 28 February 2011

Page edits per day



25 January: Day of Revolt.
2011 Egyptian Protests page
created by The Egyptian Liberal

“Over the next three hours The Egyptian Liberal continues to work alone on the article. He shores up facts and shapes them according to Wikipedia’s rules and standards, thereby establishing a defensive position for the tide that will inevitably break as news of events in Egypt spreads” (Ford, p54)

28 January: Friday of Anger
protests commence

29 January: Curfew imposed

2 February: Mubarak supporters
clash with anti-government
protesters in Tahrir Square.

10 February: President Hosni
Mubarak addresses nation, but
does not resign. Demonstrations
escalate.

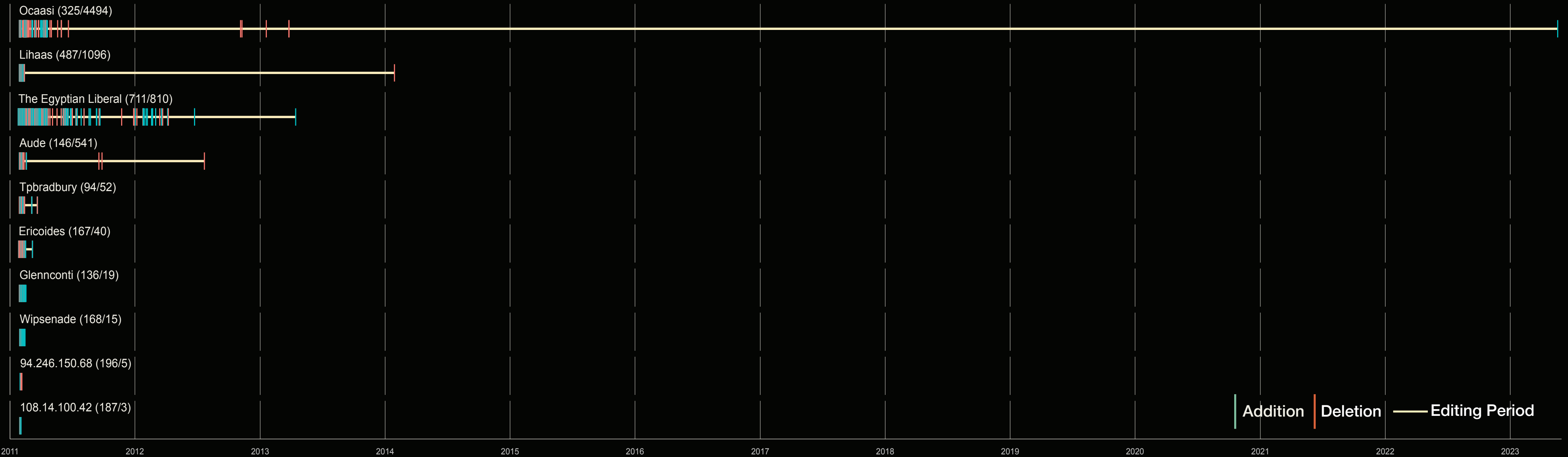
11 February: 06:00 Vice President
Omar Suleiman announces
Mubarak has resigned.
A discussion commences on talk
page about article name change,
with the final decision to be given
on 12 February.

*“But the page is moved about
three hours after the discussion
is initiated - that is, long before
the decision is made to move the
page is announced. Suprisingly,
no editor reverts this move,
despite it being performed before
the final decision on the survey is
announced” (Ford p95)*

13 February: The Egyptian
constitution is suspended, and
parliament dissolved.

Top 10 page contributors:

User name (total number of page edits/days between first and last edit)



1. Ford, H. (2022) *Writing the revolution: Wikipedia and the survival of facts in the Digital age*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
2. 2011 *Egyptian revolution* (2023) *Wikipedia*. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Egyptian_revolution (Accessed: 15 July 2023).