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## Original Paper

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# Title of Your Manuscript Should Describe the Intervention: Study Design

## Abstract

**Background:**

**Objective:**

**Methods:**

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**Conclusions:**

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## Introduction

This section can include background information such as theories, prior work, and hypotheses.

If this section is quite lengthy, use of subheadings (use Word Heading 3) are encouraged to break up the material logically, e.g. Background, Prior Work, Goal of This Study etc. Subheadings should be consistent; therefore a subheading for the first part of the Methods section, for example, is also necessary (see below).

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## Methods

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### Statistical Analysis

#### Power

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### User Statistics

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The analysis of heat-clearing prescriptions is shown in Figure 9. The TCM expert was interested in Sanhuang (三黄): Huanglian (黄连), Huangqin (黄芩) and Huangbo (黄柏), which is a commonly used medicine combination for clearing heat and detoxification in TCM. The three medicines are relatively close in the medicine view

(Figure 9(left)), and the expert used a lasso to select them. Both

Huanglian-jiedutang (黄连解毒汤) and Danggui-liuhuangtang (当

归六黄汤) contain Sanhuang as suggested by the text below. The

expert further examined the formula view (Figure 9(right)) where these

two formulas were highlighted. According to the medicine attributes,

the function of Huanglian-jiedutang is to clear heat and detoxify. While

the composition of Danggui-liuhuangtang contains tonic medicines,

meaning that in addition to clearing heat and detoxification, it also has

the effect of nourishing Yin (滋阴).

The expert also made positive comments on the coloring of

medicines. For example, Danggui (当归) is a blood tonic medicine and

corresponds to red. On the other hand, Shigao (石膏) works on lungs,

and is colored white.

Overall, the expert thinks that our method is able to clearly dis-

assemble complex prescriptions and assist the memorization of their

functionalities. The interactive visual analysis process is new to TCM

students and experts and is helpful for enhancing their understanding

of formulas composition theories by making and testing their own hy-

pothesis. The color encoding of medicines allows TCM students and

beginners to understand the effect of medicines more intuitively and

facilitates the memorization. Moreover, the expert suggests that our

method can be extended to a new medical formula design tool.

## Discussion

### Principal Results

### Limitations

### Comparison with Prior Work

### Conclusions

In this paper, we have introduced a visual analysis method for TCM

formulas. Our method supports the visualization of medicine formulas

data as a hierarchy with an icicle plot in a formula view and multidimensional attribute data of medicines are visualized in a dimensionality reduction-based medicine view. Requirements and design choices of

our method are made through a close collaboration between visual-

ization and TCM experts in an iterative quick prototyping fashion.

Effective comparison of medicine formulas is supported with the icicle

plot using our new similarity-based tree layout algorithm; colors of

visual elements are assigned with a perceptual-guided data-driven color

encoding method that focuses perceptual uniformity and TCM con-

cepts of medicine attributes. Interactive analysis of medicine formulas

and corresponding medicines is available with brushing-and-linking

between the two views. Two uses cases of typical groups of medicine

formulas analyzed by the TCM expert demonstrate the effectiveness of our method for medicine formula composition learning and TCM

inheritance. The expert also suggests that our method could be poten-

tially used for designing new formulas. In the future, we would like to

further enhance the comparison capability of our method, for example,

supports comparing specific formulas in the icicle plot that are not

adjacent, and uses set visualization, e.g., bubble sets, to compare their

medicines in the medicine view. Moreover, we would like to apply our

method to analyze more groups of formulas and TCM prescriptions in a

clinical setting to assist TCM students and health providers to enhance

their understanding of formula composition theories and improve their

practice.

### Acknowledgements

Please include all authors’ contributions, funding information, financial disclosure, role of sponsors, and other acknowledgements here. This description should include the involvement, if any, in review and approval of the manuscript for publication and the role of sponsors. Omit if not applicable.

### Conflicts of Interest

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### Abbreviations

JMIR: Journal of Medical Internet Research

RCT: randomized controlled trial

## Multimedia Appendix 1

Multimedia appendices are supplementary files, such as a PowerPoint presentation of a conference talk about the study, additional screenshots of a website, mpeg/Quicktime video/audio files, Excel/Access/SAS/SPSS files containing original data (very long tables), and questionnaires. See <https://jmir.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/115003396688> for further information. Do not include copyrighted material unless you obtained written permission from the copyright holder, which should be uploaded together with your Publication Agreement form as supplementary file.

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## References

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