

NATHAN GRIMBERG
INFO 4 P1 PART B

BAMBOO STALKS

This model reveals how much a user spends on the phone every day
it also represents the space in between phone calls.

What does it answer?

When does a user receive/make calls. How long out of the day do they spend on the phone?

Why is it novel?

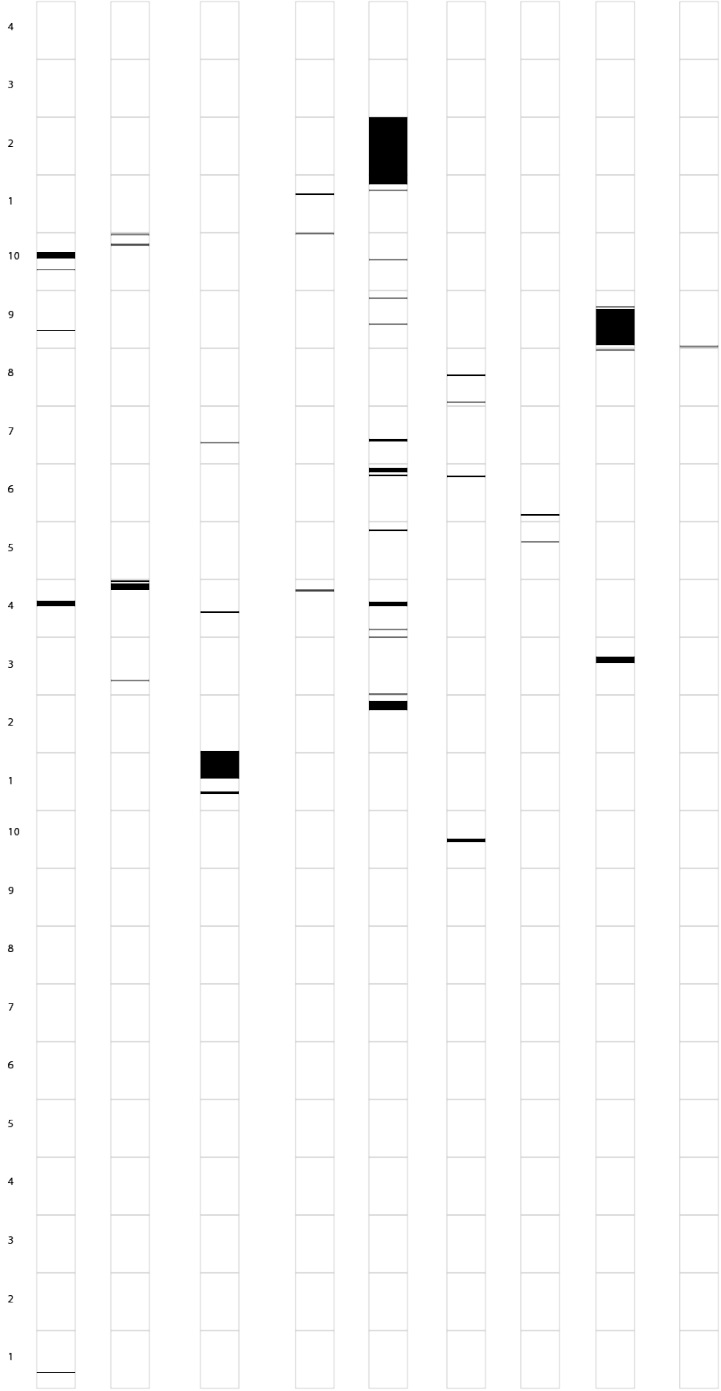
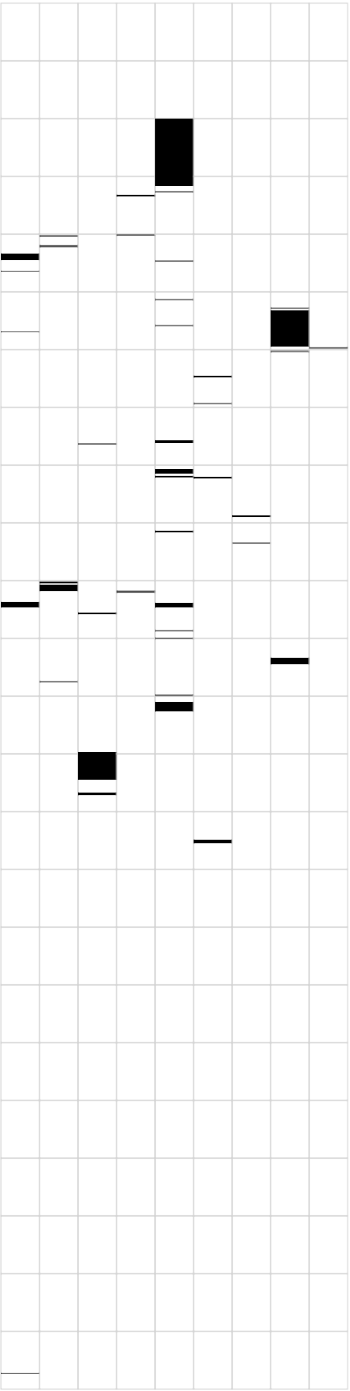
You can see exactly when a call was placed in relation to the whole day. You can at a glance determine how many calls were placed in a day roughly.

Strengths

I think it is really easy on the eyes personally. It’s pleasing to look at and the graph is simple enough that it can be grasped instantly imho. I was comparing and contrasting this to a chart that this kind of data is usually found in. For a billing period you can immediately discern how heavy or weak traffic was for that period.

Weaknesses

My graph lacks specificity you can’t determine if a call was incoming or outcoming or what the ratio of incoming to outcoming is. I wanted to instantiate each data point (rectangle) as an object and I think that could have afforded greater flexibility as far as additional data is concerned.



PROCESS

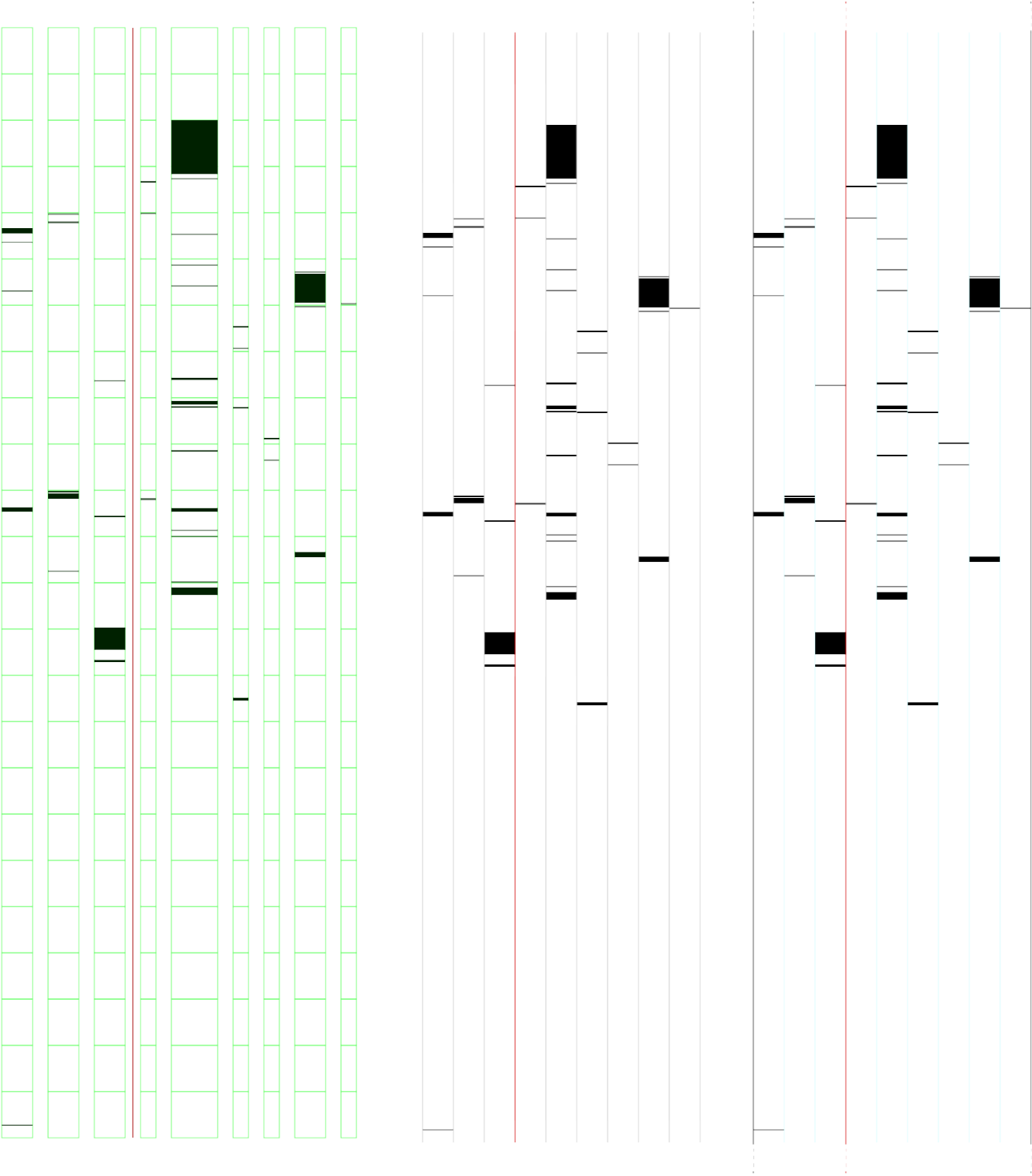
I started with a few really weird shapes. I wanted to make something really new and artsy. Something paradigm breaking. I had worked with this kind of data before for a really bad summer job. When you look at data like this you want something that can provide an overview quickly but can be drilled down into if you need an added level of detail.

I started with fairly simple star plots but I quickly found that they wouldn't really communicate the data set well. So I started to get frustrating and I mostly just tried to sketch some cool shapes. This was also ultimately underwhelming.

I was reading about recursion and I was trying to get through godel escher bach. So as my shapes became more treelike I stumbled on the idea of bamboo. Each node of data could be the actual length of the call, this would be a really literal kind of visualization and I think it could work as a really effective tool.

This technique blows up the splotches in between the data points and represents the calls themselves as a portion of the day. Their location would be based on the actual time they had occurred. I thought this would be great for pattern recognition the rest was just sugar.

The night before this was due I switched the scale around based on convention and I changed the color in the background from green to grey (for color blind people)



PROCESS WORK

