

Multivariate Visualization of Longitudinal Clinical Data

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Background

Diabetes mellitus (DM)

- Complex disease
- Different **disease trajectories** can lead to different outcomes

Data

1456 patients with diabetes

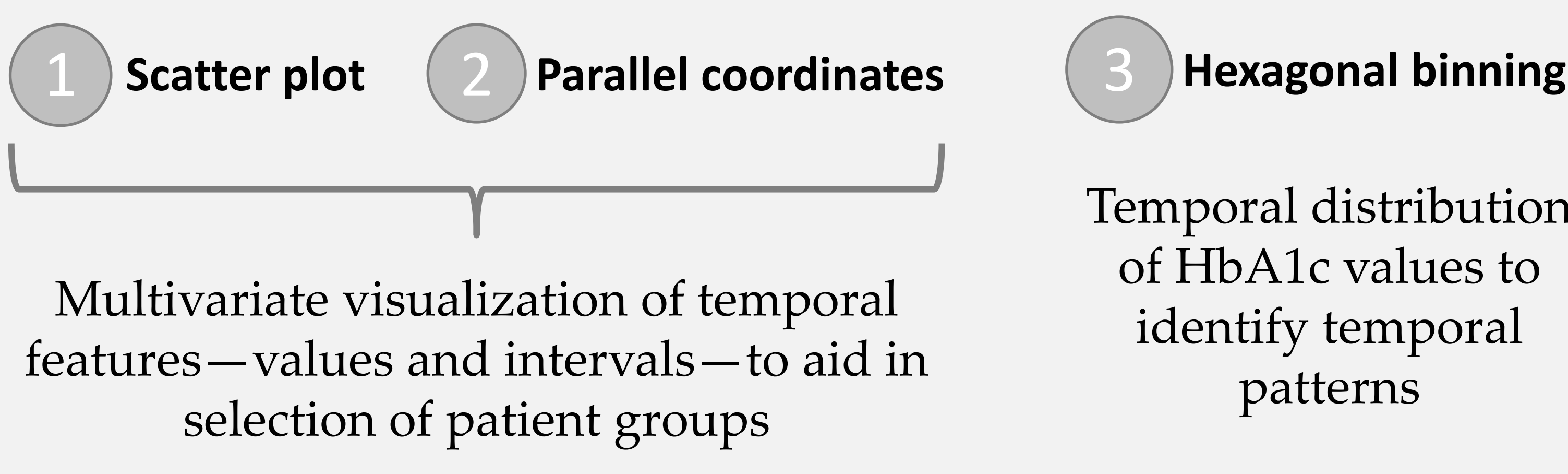
- Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c)
 - Longitudinal
 - 27,187 total values
 - Aligned by death at right
- ICD-9 codes
- Demographic information
 - Age at death
 - Gender
 - Race

Problem

- Longitudinal clinical data for large cohort
- Irregular temporal sampling
- Identify and select temporal patterns of interest
- Relate temporal patterns to other data



Longitudinal HbA1c Values

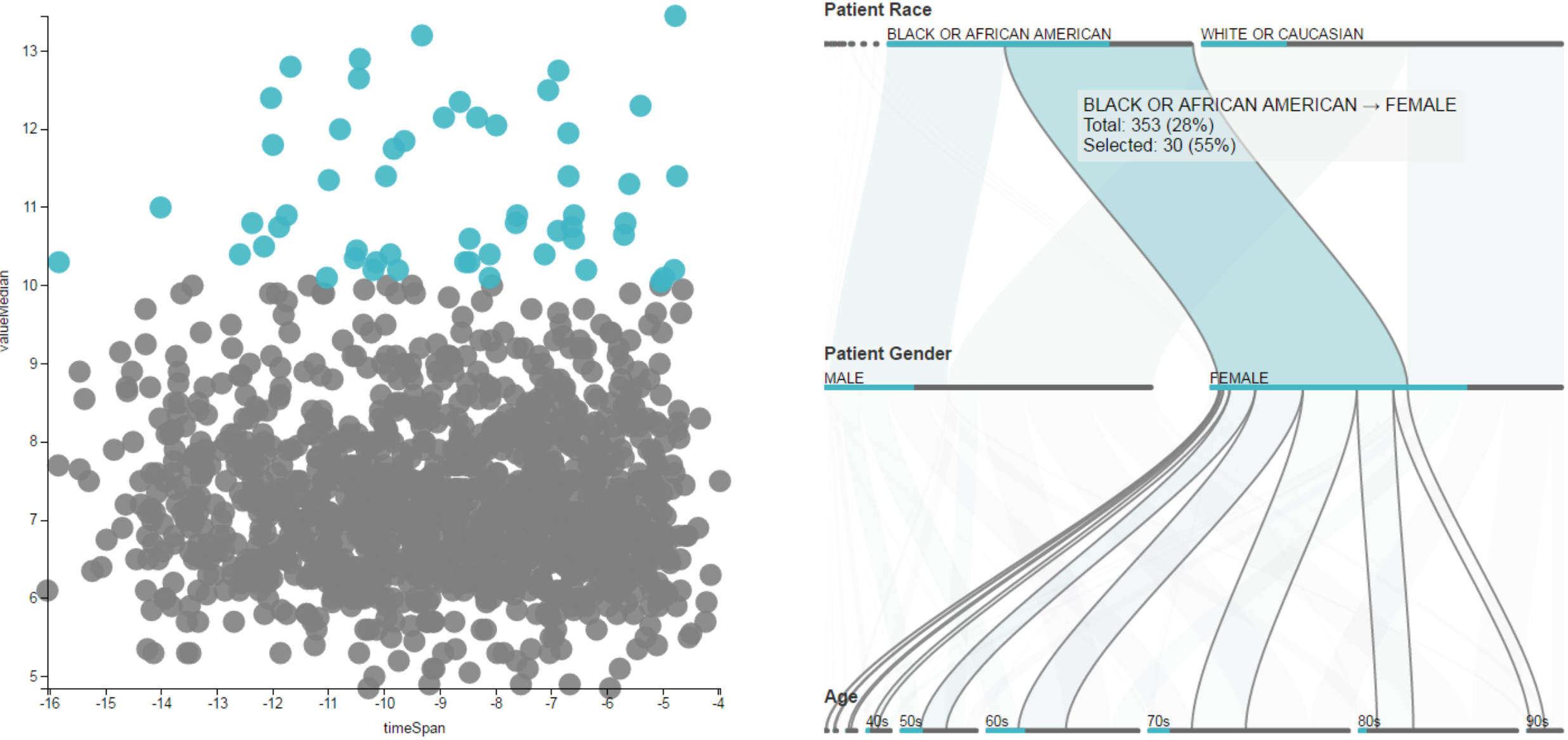


ICD-9 Codes

4 Icicle plot

Demographic Information

5 Parallel sets



Selecting all patients with median HbA1c value ≥ 10 in the scatter plot (left) reveals a high proportion (55%) of black or African American females in this group, as shown in the parallel sets visualization (right).

Comparison of two groups, a and b, of selected patients.

- **Scatter plot:** Select patients with relatively high first (y-axis) and last (x-axis) HbA1c values (a) and patients with comparable first values, but low last values (b)
- **Hexagonal binning:** General trend toward improved control for group b vs group a
- **Icicle plot:** Noticeable increase in the prevalence of many diagnoses for group b vs. group a
- **Parallel sets:** Demographic similarities and differences



Diagnosis frequencies for patients with a long median interval between HbA1c readings (top) vs. a short median interval (bottom), selected using the scatter plot (left).

The frequencies shown in the icicle plot view (right) are noticeably higher for a number of diagnoses in the bottom image, such as those related to certain mental disorders (highlighted in black).

