

Digital knowledge

The Enlightenment sought to submit traditional verities to a liberated, analytic human reason. The internet's purpose is to ratify knowledge through the accumulation and manipulation of ever expanding data. Human cognition loses its personal character. Individuals turn into data, and data become regnant.

—Henry Kissinger

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/06/henry-kissinger-ai-could-mean-the-end-of-human-history/559124/>

Digital knowledge

In Germany, after the Second World War, the authors of what was called Trümmerliteratur, or “rubble literature,” felt the need to rebuild their language, poisoned by Nazism, as well as their country, which lay in ruins. They understood that reality, truth, needed to be reconstructed from the ground up, with new language, just as the bombed cities needed to be rebuilt. I think we can learn from their example. We stand once again, though for different reasons, in the midst of the rubble of the truth. And it is for us—writers, thinkers, journalists, philosophers—to undertake the task of rebuilding our readers’ belief in reality, their faith in the truth. And to do it with new language, from the ground up.

—Salman Rushdie

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/truth-lies-and-literature>

Digital knowledge: the poetics of data

Definition: Like events imagined and enunciated against the continuity of time, data are imagined and annunciated against the seamlessness of phenomena

Lisa Gitelman, “Raw Data” is an Oxymoron

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The **imagination of data** is in some measure always an act of **classification**

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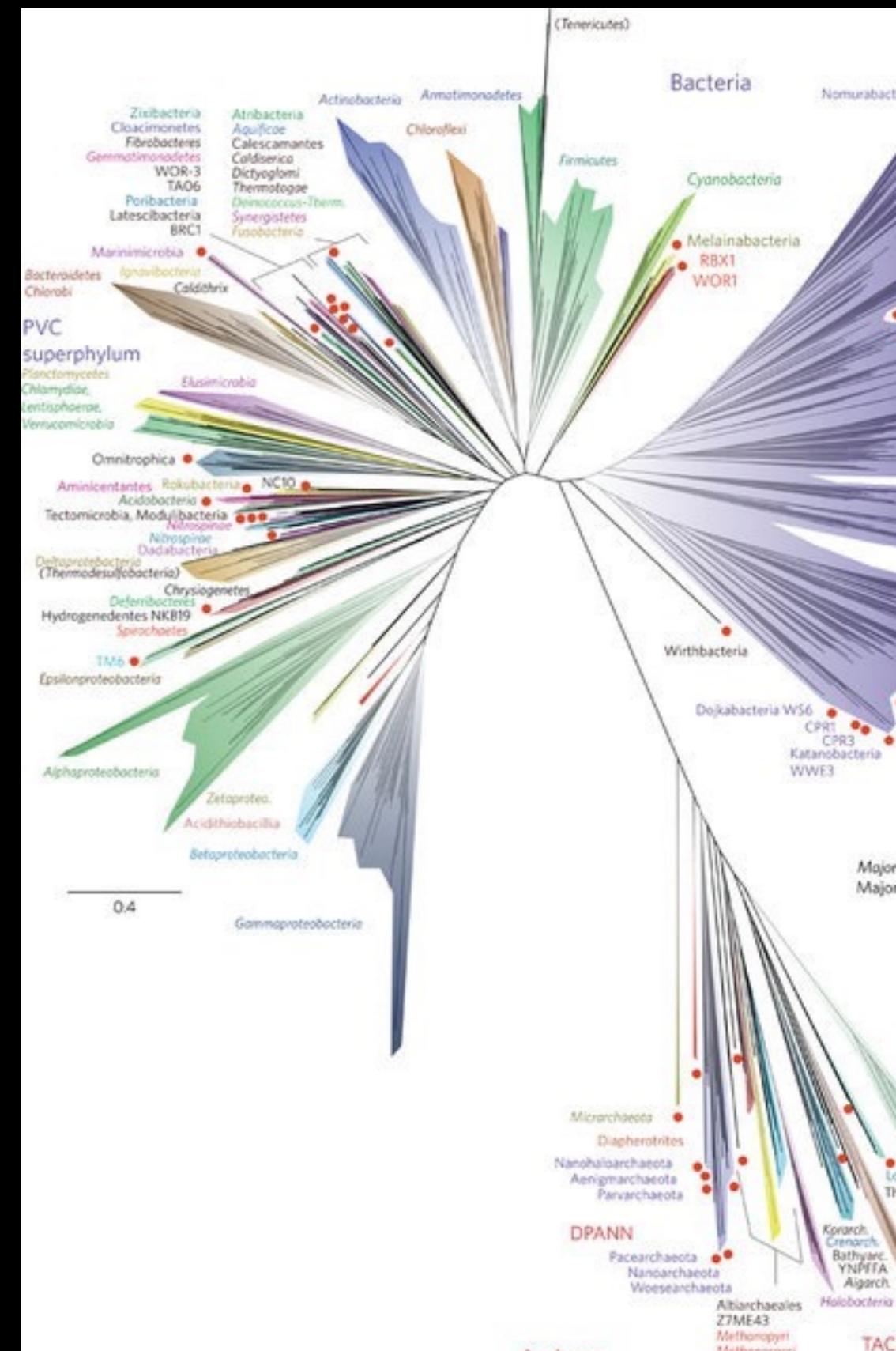
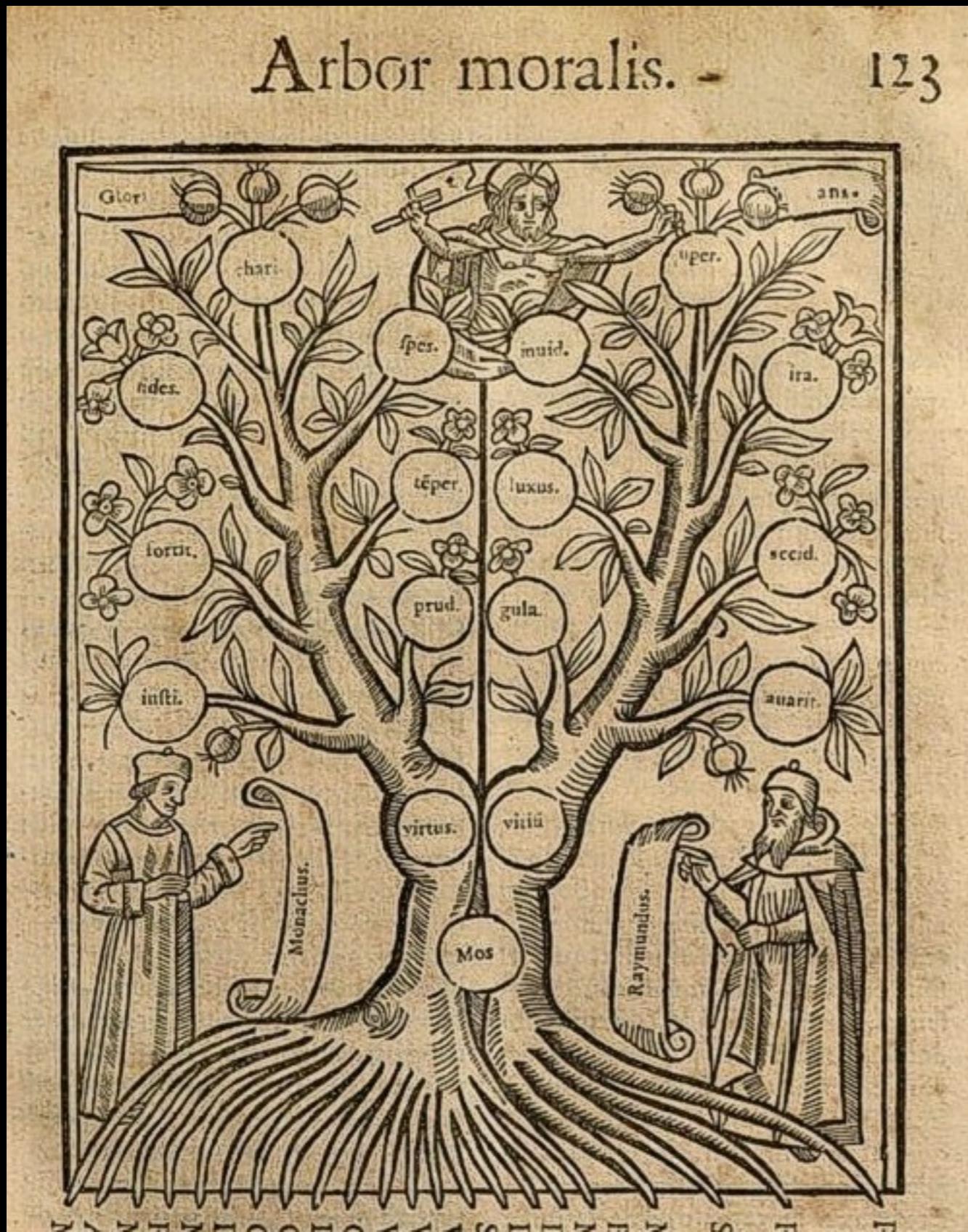
Data are aggregative

Data are mobilized graphically

The **imagination of data** is in some measure always an act of **classification / domains**

Lisa Gitelman, “Raw Data” is an Oxymoron

Taxonomies = POV



Life on Earth

Carl Linnaeus

Systema Naturae

Taxonomy

Life on Earth

Taxonomy: Domain & Scale

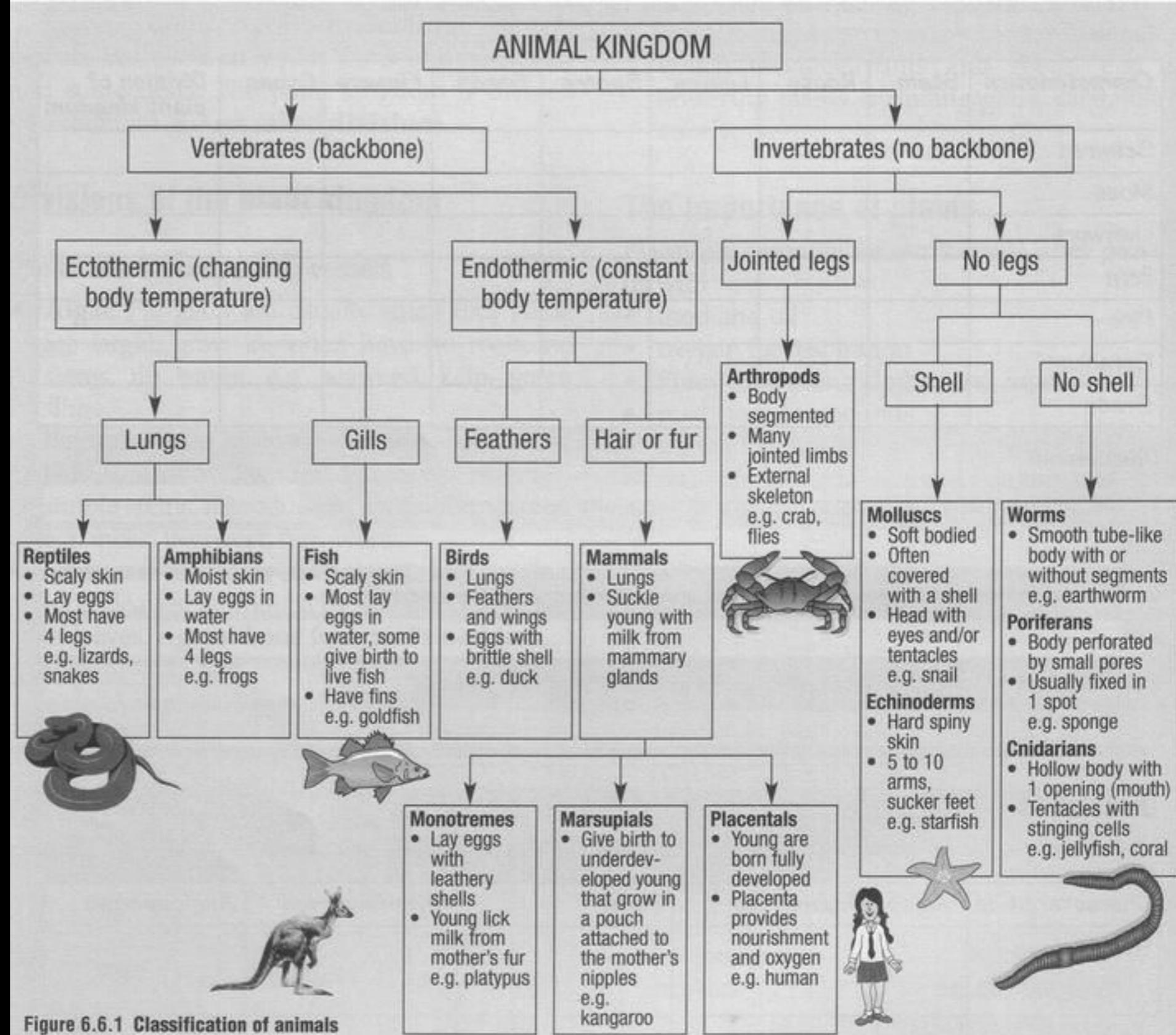
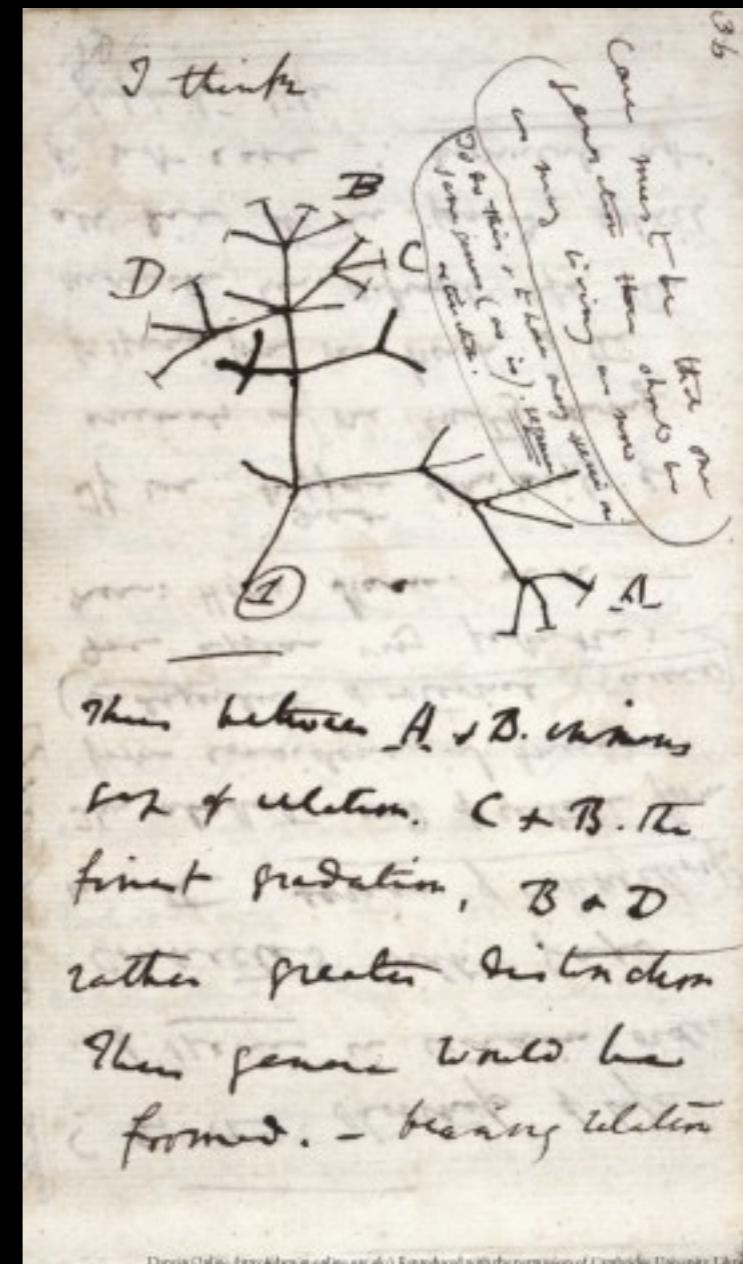


Figure 6.6.1 Classification of animals

Life on Earth — Tree Metaphor

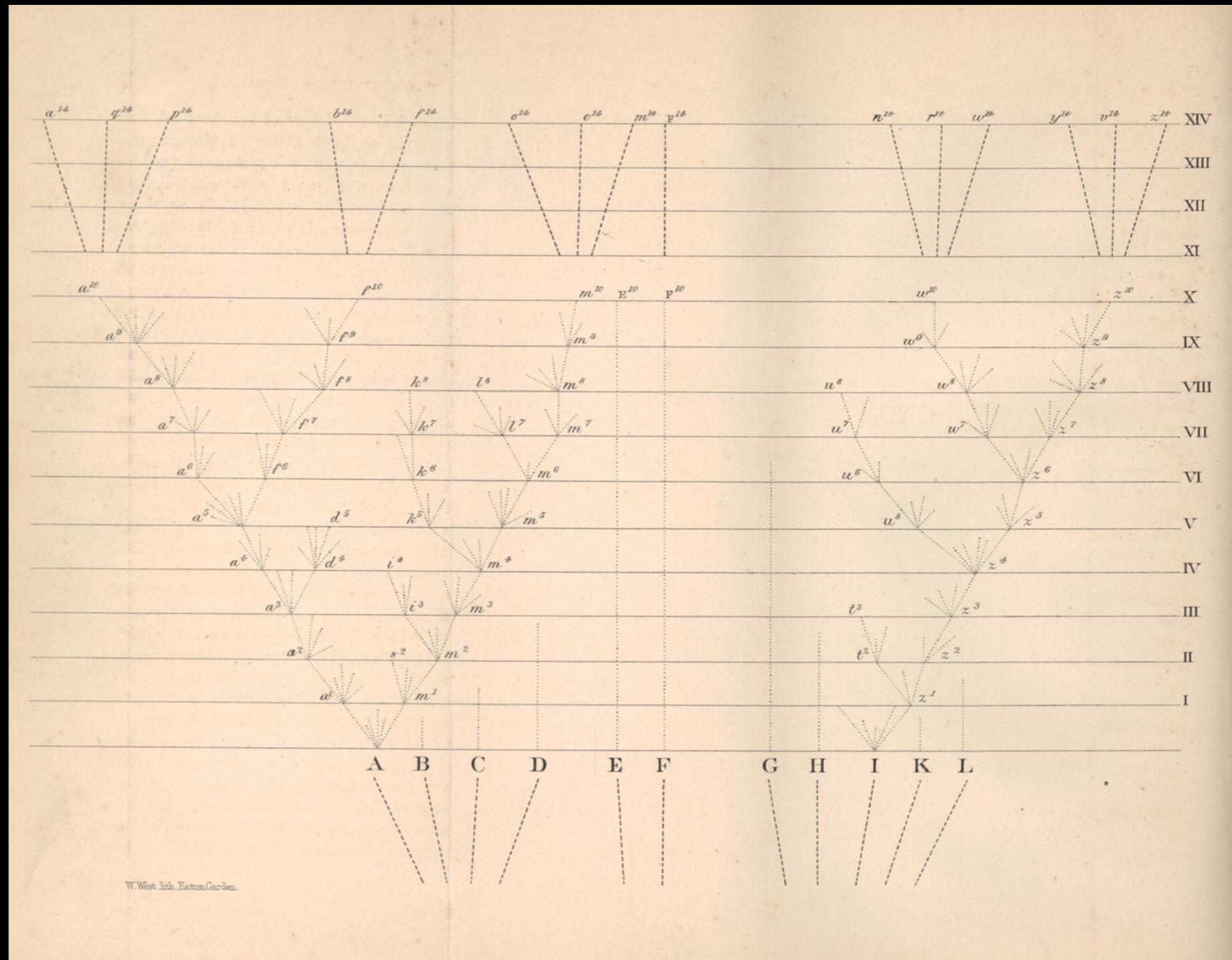
Darwin's initial sketch
of the phylogenetic tree.
Branching metaphor...



Darwin Online. http://www.darwinonline.org.uk. Reproduced with the permission of Cambridge University Press.

Life on Earth

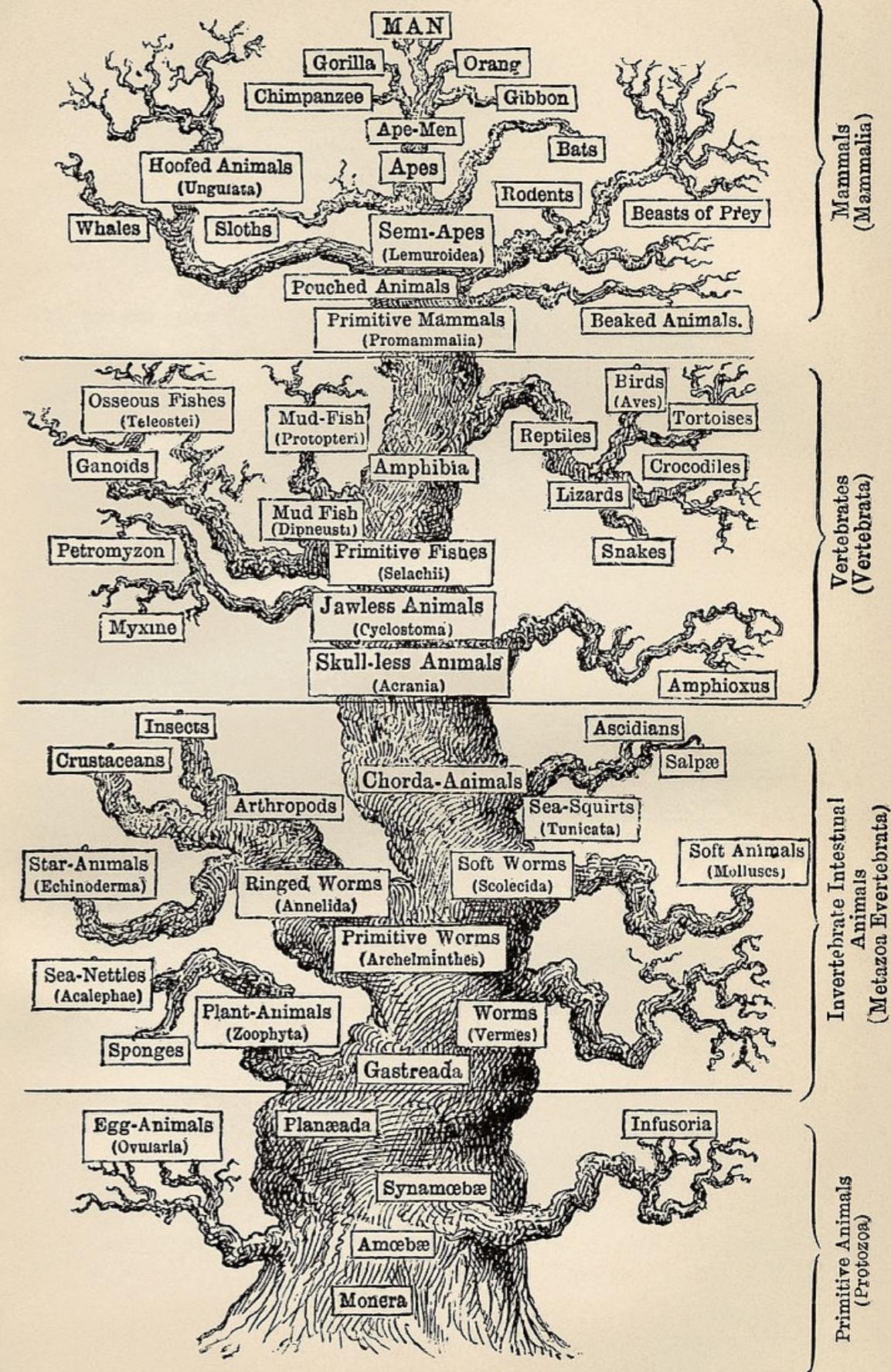
Darwin's illustration
of the phylogenetic tree
in *The Origin of Species*



Life on Earth

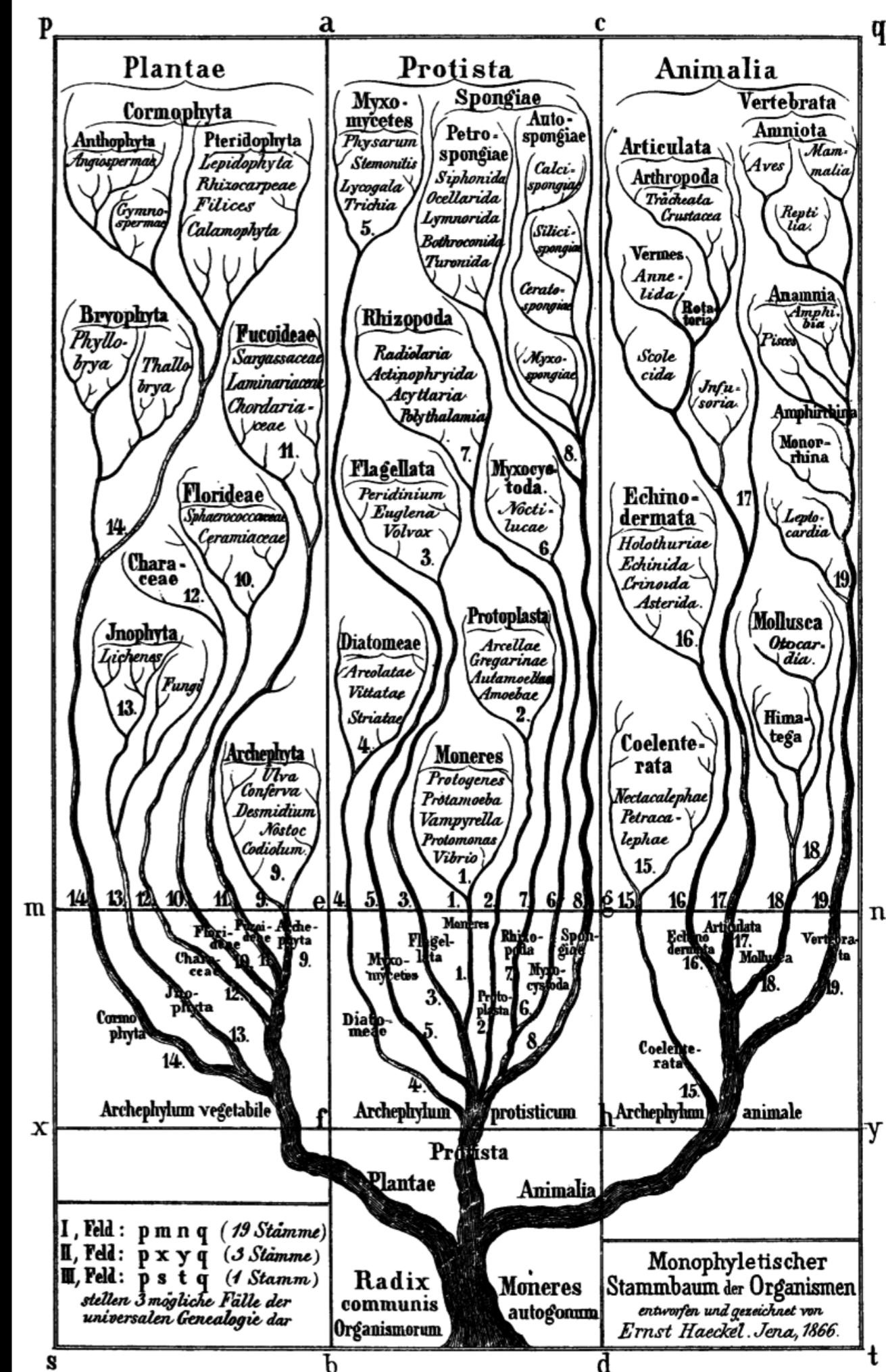
Erst Haeckel's illustration
of the phylogenetic tree,
A much more literal,
hierarchical tree.

PEDIGREE OF MAN.



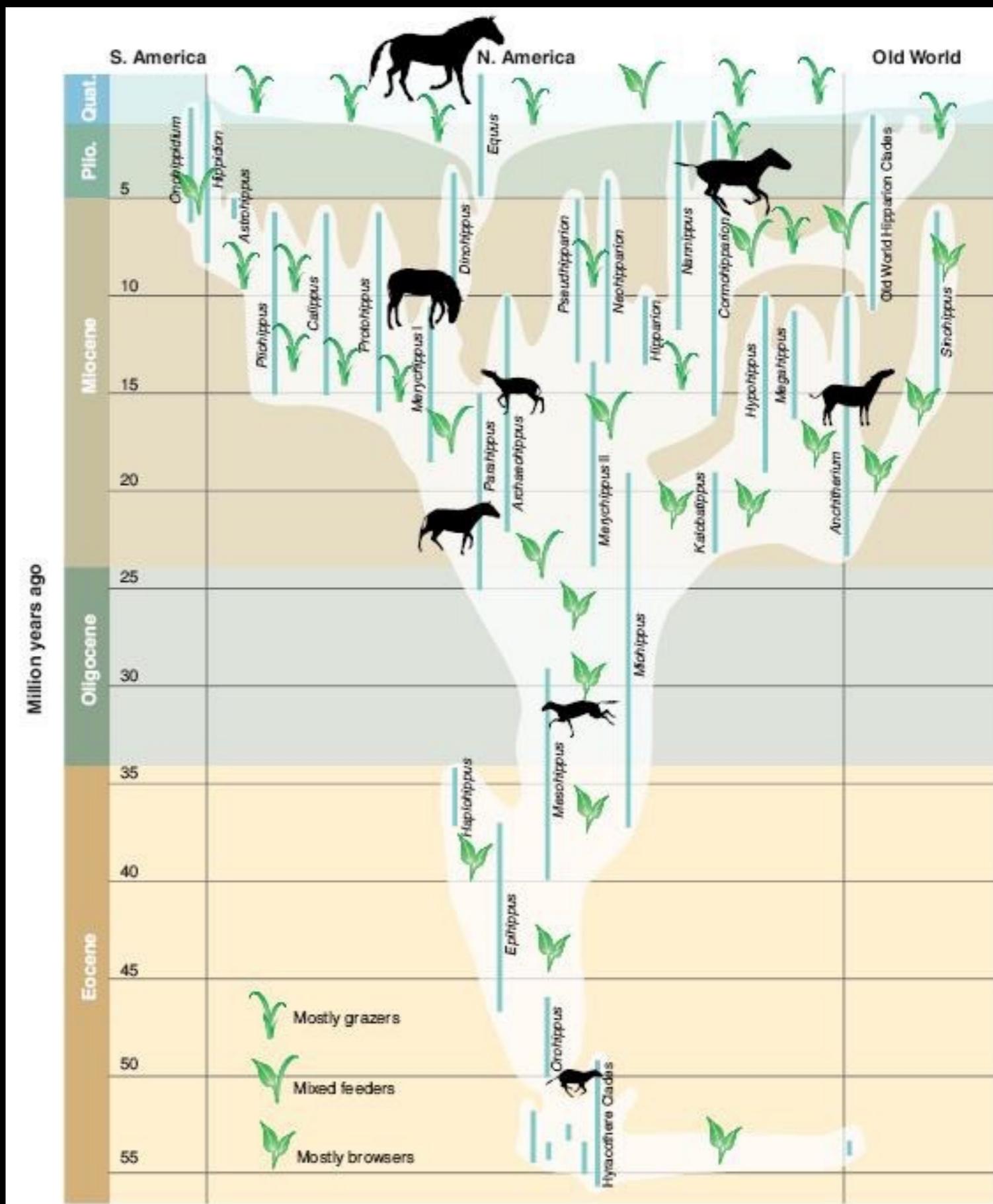
Life on Earth

Haeckel's more taxonomized illustration of the tree, still Metaphorical thinking.



Life on Earth

Bruce MacFadden,
Horse fossils 1985



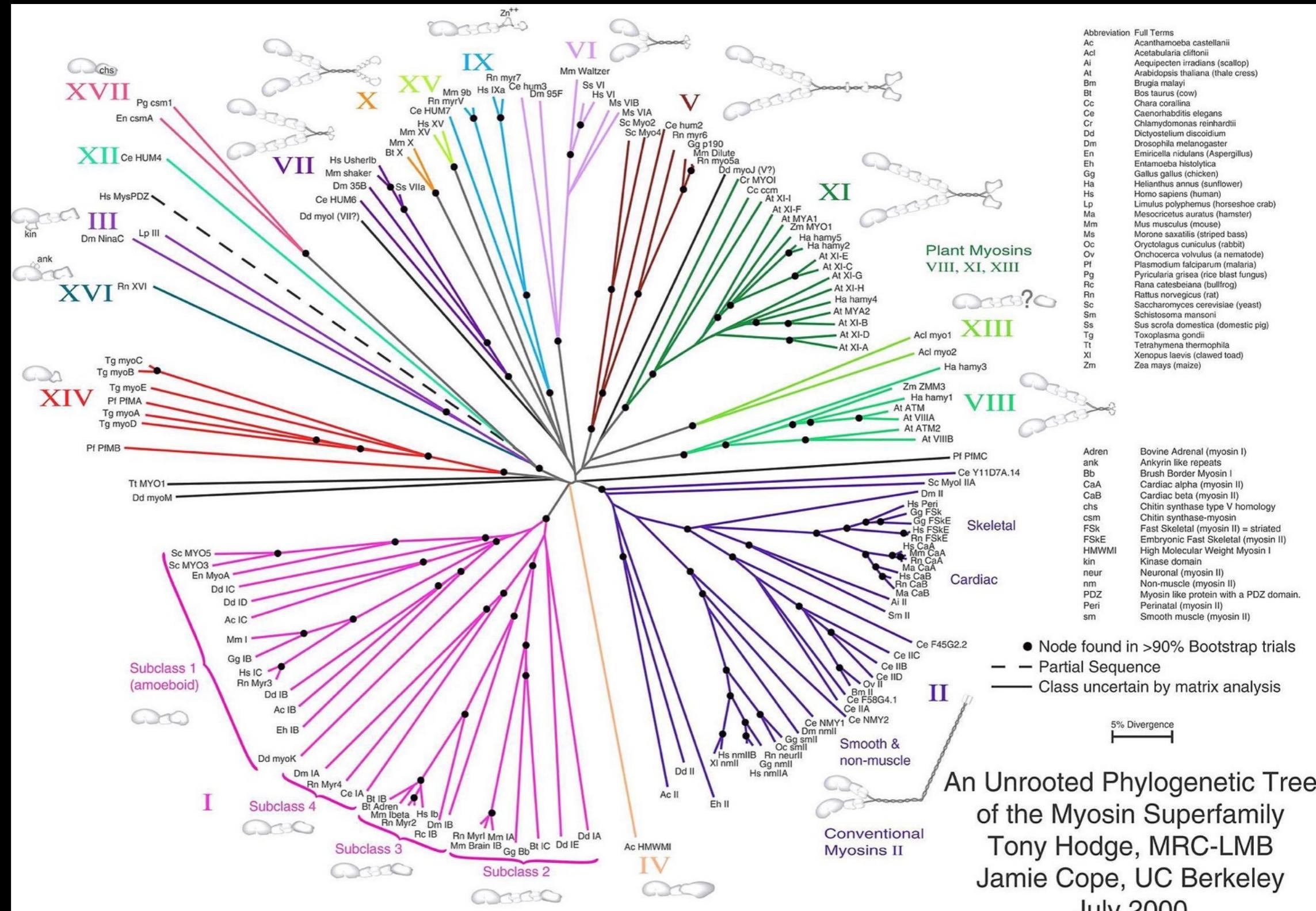
Life on Earth

Algorithmically generated “tree” in radial form

Similar interactive one:
<http://itol.embl.deitol.cgi>



Life on Earth

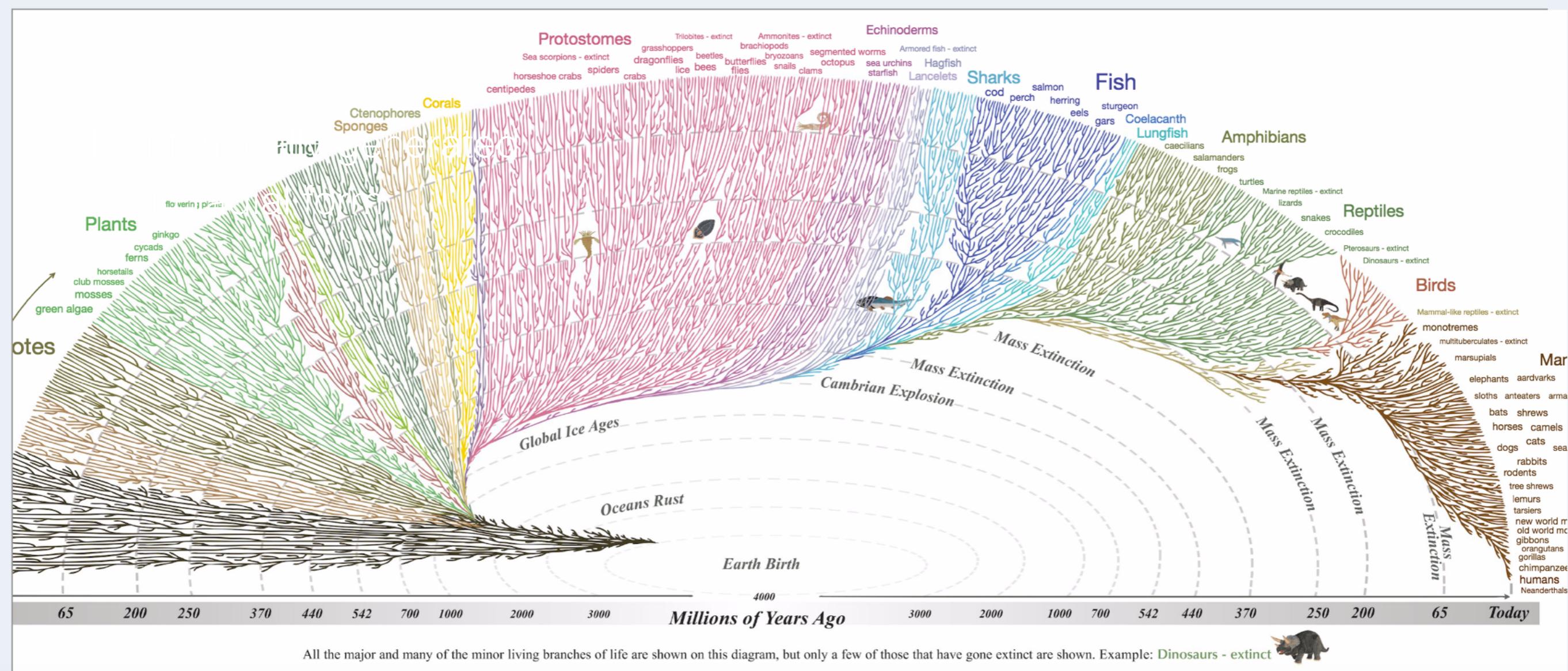


Life on Earth

Tree of Life Explorer

Click on the name of a creature to trace our lineages back to a common ancestor and discover our relationship.

Reset

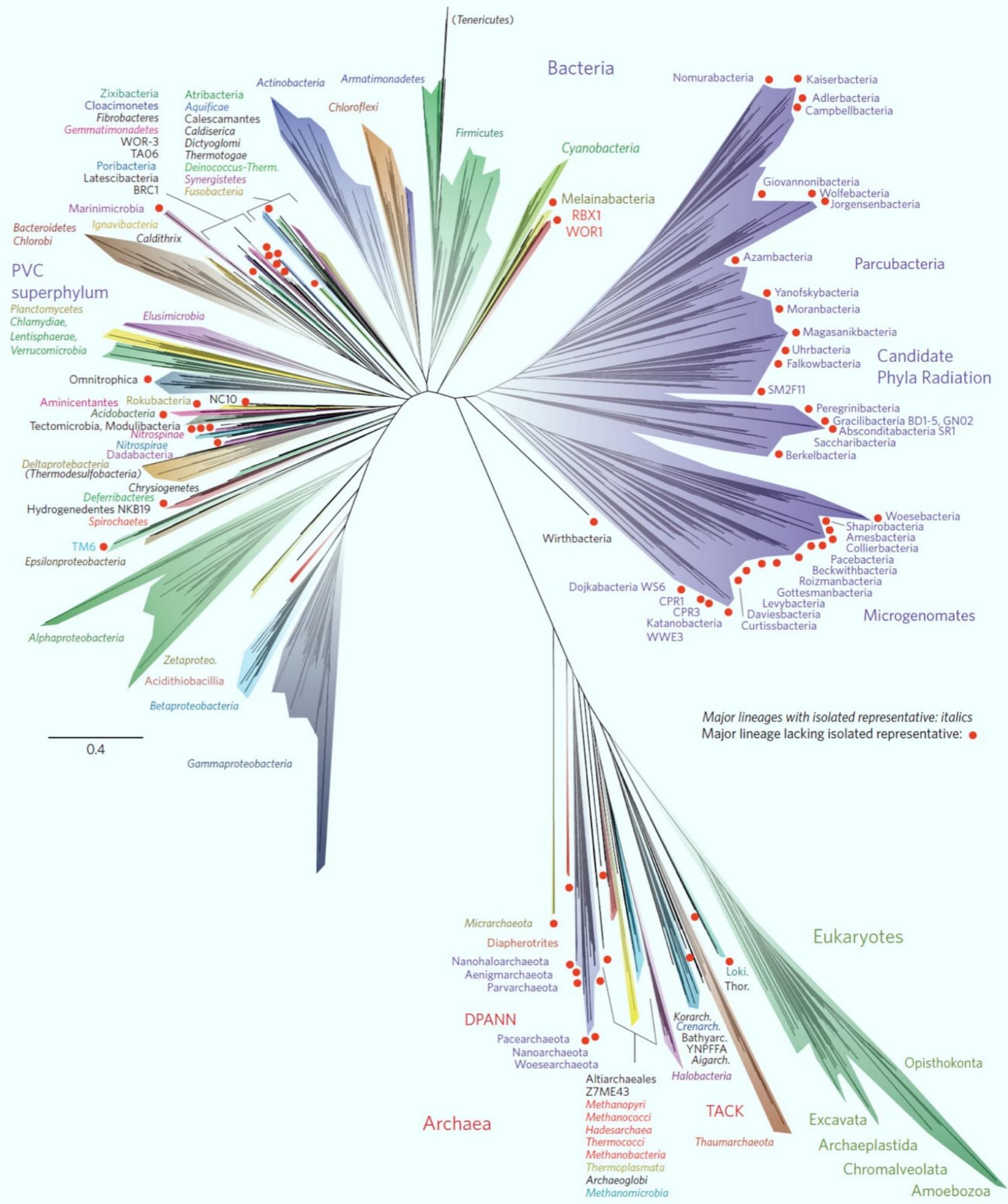


Leonard Eisenberg, 2008

<https://www.evogeneao.com/explore/tree-of-life-explorer>

Life on Earth

A new view of the tree of life,
2016



Taxonomies | Ontologies

on·tol·o·gy

/än'täləjē/

noun

noun: **ontology**; plural noun: **ontologies**

1. the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being.
2. a set of concepts and categories in a subject area or domain that shows their properties and the relations between them.
"what's new about our ontology is that it is created automatically from large datasets"

Origin



early 18th century: from modern Latin *ontologia*, from Greek *ōn*, *ont-* 'being' + *-logy*.

Translate ontology to Choose language

Use over time for: ontology



Taxonomies | Ontologies

arrangement

Taxonomies | Ontologies

arrangement

being

Taxonomies | Ontologies

arrangement
classification

being

Taxonomies | Ontologies

arrangement
classification

being
nature of

Taxonomies | Ontologies

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Taxonomies | Ontologies

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how you know
framework for knowledge base

Taxonomies | Ontologies

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specification of conceptualization

Taxonomies | Ontologies

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Taxonomies | Ontologies

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Taxonomies | Ontologies

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what?

Taxonomies | Ontologies

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Taxonomies | Ontologies

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how?	what?

Data = Measures
Creating a Point of View

Taxonomies | Ontologies

arrangement	being
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Data = Measures
Creating a Point of View

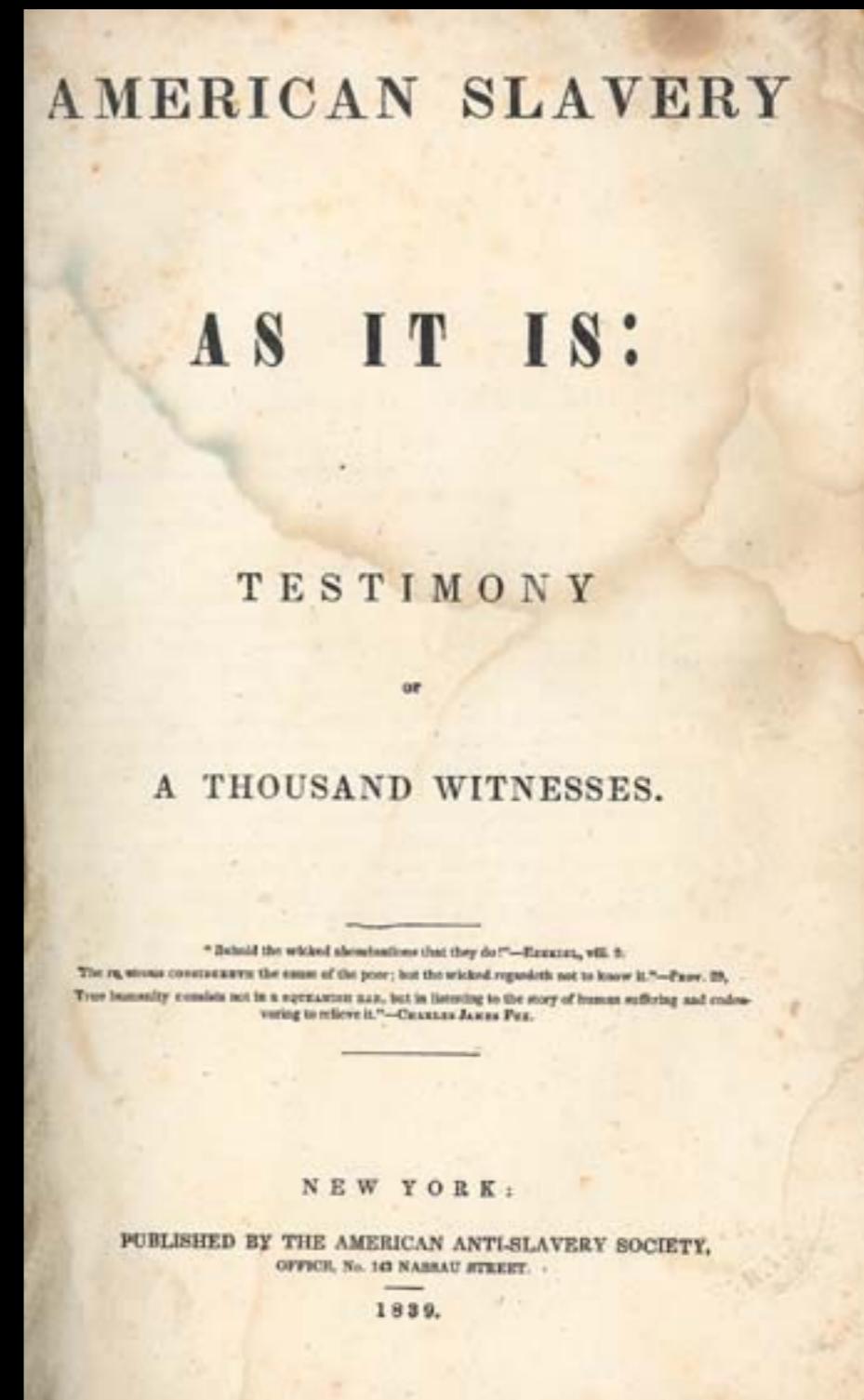
Making an argument with data
Selecting categories

NY birth certificate: Gender

Census: Citizen

Taxonomies/POV

Making an argument with data



Case 1: Grimké sisters

Taxonomies/POV

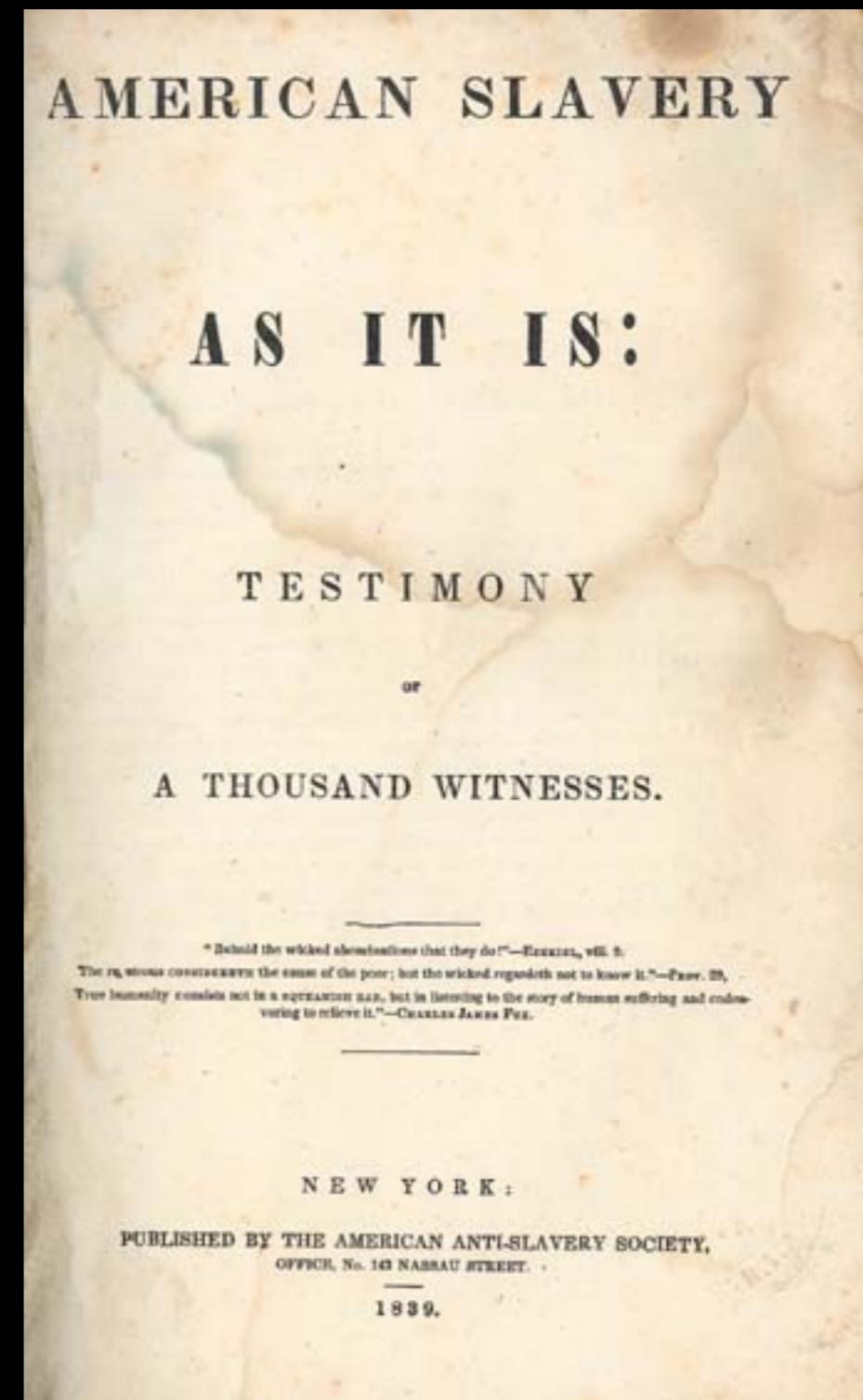
Making an argument with data

Data Will out

Ads for runaway slaves turned
against the slaveowners

Isolating and recontextualizing

Making it visible



Case 1: Grimké sisters

Taxonomies/POV

Making an argument with data

Concordance: keyword search

Mr. A. G. A. Beazley, in the Memphis Gazette," March 18, 1338.	"Ranaway, Abraham, 20 or 22 years of age, <i>his front teeth</i> out."
Mr. Samuel Townsend, in the "Huntsville [Ala.] Democrat," May 24, 1837.	"Ranaway, Dick, 18 or 20 years of age, <i>has one front tooth</i> out."
Mr. Philip A. Dew, in the "Virginia Herald," of May 24, 1837.	"Ranaway, Washington, about 25 years of age, <i>has an upper front tooth</i> out."
J. G. Dunlap, "Georgia Constitutionalist," April 24, 1838.	"Ranaway, negro woman Abbe, <i>upper front teeth</i> out."
John Thomas, "Southern Argus," August 7, 1838.	"Ranaway, Lewis, 25 or 26 years old, <i>one or two of his front teeth</i> out."
M. E. W. Gilbert, in the "Columbus [Ga.] Enquirer," Oct. 5. 1837.	"50 DOLLARS REWARD, for Prince, 25 or 26 years old, <i>one or two teeth</i> out in front on the upper jaw."
Publisher of the "Charleston Mercury," Aug. 31, 1838.	"Ranaway, Seller Saunders, <i>one fore tooth</i> out, about 22 years of age."
Mr. Byrd M. Grace, in the "Macon [Ga.] Telegraph," Oct. 16, 1838.	"Ranaway, Warren, about 25 or 26 years old, has lost <i>some of his front teeth</i> ."
Mr. George W. Barnes, in the "Milledgeville [Ga.] Journal," May 22, 1837.	"Ranaway, Henry, about 23 years old, has one of his <i>upper front teeth</i> out."
D. Herring, Warden of Baltimore Jail, in "Baltimore Chronicle," Oct. 6, 1837.	"Committed to jail Elizabeth Steward, 17 or 18 years old, has <i>one of her front teeth</i> out."
Mr. J. L. Colborn, in the "Huntsville [Ala.] Democrat," July 4, 1837.	"Ranaway Liley, 26 years of age, <i>one fore tooth</i> gone."
Samuel Harman Jr. in the "New Orleans Bee," Oct. 12, 1838.	"50 DOLLARS REWARD, for Adolphe, 28 years old, <i>two of his front teeth</i> are missing."

Were it necessary, we might easily add to the preceding list, *hundreds*. The reader will remark that all the slaves, whose ages are given, are *young*--not one has arrived at middle age; consequently it can hardly be supposed that they have lost their *teeth* either from age or decay. The probability that their *teeth* were taken out by force, is increased by the fact of their being *front teeth* in almost every case, and from the fact that the loss of no *other* is mentioned in the advertisements. It is well known that the *front teeth* are not generally the first to fail. Further, it is notorious that the *teeth* of the slaves are remarkably sound and serviceable, that they decay far less, and at a much later period of life than the *teeth* of the whites: owing partly, no doubt, to original constitution; but more probably to their diet, habits, and mode of life.

Case 1: Grimké sisters

Taxonomies/POV

Making an argument with data

Sorting and categorizing and
annotating the ads

The painstaking extraction of
ready public information... Don't
think of WikiLeaks, think of the
power of search itself

Case 1: Grimké sisters

III. BRANDINGS, MAIMINGS, GUN-SHOT WOUNDS, &

The slaves are often branded with hot irons, pursued with fire arms and *shot*, hunted with dogs, maimed with knives, dirks, &c.; have their ears cut off, their eyes knocked out, their bones dislocated, their fingers and toes cut off, their faces and other parts of their persons disfigured with scars and marks, with the lash.

We shall adopt, under this head, the same course as that pursued under previous ones,--first, to expose the slaveholders themselves, to the mutilations, &c. by copying their own graphic descriptions of the slaves, under their own names, and in newspapers published in the slave states, and, generally, in their advertisements; and, as heretofore, insert only so much of each advertisement as will be necessary to make the point clear.

WITNESSES.	TESTIMONY.
Mr. Micajah Ricks, Nash County, North Carolina, in the Raleigh "Standard," July 18, 1838.	"Ranaway, a negro woman and two children, who had been sold to Mr. Ricks, she went off, <i>I burnt her with a hot iron</i> on her face, <i>I tried to make the letter M.</i> "
Mr. Asa B. Metcalf, Kingston, Adams Co. Mi. in the "Natchez Courier," June 15, 1832.	"Ranaway Mary, a black woman, has a brand on her right arm near the shoulder, caused by a <i>hot iron</i> ."
Mr. William Overstreet, Benton, Yazoo Co. Mi. in the "Lexington (Kentucky) Observer," July 22, 1838.	"Ranaway a negro man named Henry, has a brand on his left shoulder, and scars from a <i>dirk</i> on and under his left arm, and a brand on his right arm, caused by the <i>whip</i> ."
Mr. R. P. Carney, Clark Go. Ala., in the "Mobile Register," Dec. 22, 1832.	One hundred dollars reward for a negro man, about 30 years old, he is <i>branded</i> on the <i>left shoulder</i> .
Mr. J. Guyler, Savannah Georgia, in the "Republican," April 12, 1837.	"Ranaway Laman, an old negro man, has a brand on his right shoulder."
J. A. Brown, jailor, Charleston, South Carolina, in the "Mercury," Jan. 12, 1837.	"Committed to jail a negro man, has a brand on his right shoulder."
Mr. J Scrivener, Herring Bay, Anne Arundel Co. Maryland, in the Annapolis Republican, April 18, 1837.	"Ranaway negro man Elijah, has a brand on his right shoulder, apparently occasioned by a <i>shot</i> ."

Taxonomies/POV

Making an argument with data

Index: creating a point of view

Highlighting the lede

Case 1: Grimké sisters

Taxonomies/POV

Truth/Authority: Frederick Douglass...established his own experiences and observations fit a larger pattern

"The **imagination** to see that Southern newspapers not only could be made to speak against themselves, but also could be picked through tagged and sorted to support a new mode of understanding... informatics"

Finding the information

Trimming sifting aggregatin

The Anti-Slavery Bungle.

MARCUS R. ROBINSON, EDITOR.

"NO UNION WITH SLAVERYHOLDERS."

ANN PEARSON, PUBLISHING AGENT.

VOL. 13.—NO. 13.

SALEM, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1857.

WHOLE NO. 631.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY BUGLE.
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, AT SALEM, OHIO,
BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN ANTI-
SLAVERY SOCIETY.

TERMS—\$1.00 per annum, payable in advance
or \$1.00 at the end of the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS intended for insertion, to
be addressed to MARCUS R. ROBINSON, Editor.

Orders for the paper and money remitting
money in part payment for the same, should be
addressed to ANN PEARSON, Publishing Agent,
Beine, Columbian Co., Ohio.

Any money received and diverted or spent
elsewhere may be sued at our risk.

We occasionally send numbers to those who
are not subscribers, but who are believed to be in-
terested in the dissemination of anti-slavery truth
with the hope that they will assist in furthering
our cause or use their influence in extending its circula-
tion among their friends.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

One Square (16 lines) three weeks, \$1.00
Each additional insertion, .25
Six months, .00
One year, .00

Two Squares six months, .00
One year, .00

One Fourth Column one year, with privilege of
changing monthly, .00

Half column, changing monthly, .00

ADVERTISING eight lines will be inserted
one year for \$1.00; six months, \$1.00.

J. HEDDICK, Printer.

NOTES AGAINST THE ANTI-SLAVERY BUGLE.

George Roberts, Brighton, Michigan.
Photo T. Morris, Leslie, Michigan.
Adrian, Samuel Bayhall, Michigan,
Lionard, Daniel Feltier
Plymouth, Isaac N. Hulden,
Troyland, Eusebii Dafforn,
Samuel D. Moore,
Union City, John D. Zimmerman, Michigan.
Malley Green, The Fox,
Seth Cook, Photo H. Morris,
Bedford, Henry Gossell,
Farmington, Abram Powell,
Wolf Creek, Warren Gilbert,
Ann Arbor, R. Glaser.

At the only head which holds in harmony the people of these thirty-one States?"

We can answer that question most satisfactorily.
The Southern wing of the Democratic party like
those Garrisonian disowners, and threatening to
divide the Union. President Pierce's Secretary
of War, Jeff Davis, and the late Mr. Collier,
when no one will dare having been a leading
member of the Anti-Slavery party, have now
joined others. Mr. Collier went so far that Old
Hickory threatened to have him hung. Let the
Pine-Duster never discount him as a traitor.
Why? Because he was an Anti-Slavery Democrat
and a member of the Anti-Slavery party in the execution
of the enforcement, patriotic editor of that organiza-
tion may now be sent by mail at our risk.

Now a session of Congress passed but that some
experts are apter than others for the possible
dissolution of the Union. But the cry of
"treason," "Democrats traitors," and "Seces-
sionists" is never raised again since, by the action
of the Pine-Duster, we have closed over ex-
actly a week to have them hang. But when a cer-
tain's friend of ladies and gentlemen get together
for the purpose of assisting them, and par-
ticipate in the country, with a Garrisonian sentiment at
the Anti-Slavery party, then the Anti-Slavery party
is in the exact by his newspaper remarks.

This is a free country. We are in favor of all
representing their opinions upon the principles of
equal rights, and freedom. We are in favor of
the right of self-government, and the right of
the people to govern themselves. We are in favor
of the right of the slaves to govern themselves. We
are in the exact by his newspaper remarks.

The "Confederacy did not go home
yesterday afternoon as we had anticipated." That
was, that after passing a lot of resolutions
yesterday, they got into a snarl, and remained to
pass a third time in order to make all safe.

Mr. Wadleigh, a colored brother who didn't quite
know what he was talking about, said that when the
Confederacy was formed, the white crowd
laughed at the nondescript Wadleigh, tried to
get him up to seriously interrogate. Wadleigh
further said that this was a contemptible move
when attempting to close the names of the slave
of 1400 who were in the business of the slaves
and signed a Circular to the colored men of
Cleveland to make arrangements to meet at
the American Union. With these traits to
the country the principle of dissolving the Union
is a foreign creation. While the country
represented by the Garrison party was
the last partition, these Abolitionists held in
their undivided government. The Garrisonians
were anxious to be purged. But yesterday the
leaders of the slaves said—"We have no
place in the Blue-Blazer." And the next day
gained at Chaplin's Hall and during the pro-
gramme as an unapologetic movement, forced
into the discussion of its chief and the discussion

of the male slaves arose and wished the same of the
men who were in the resolution, and a majority
voted to propose as follows: "In the name of
God, who inspired us with the suggestion of a just black
brother, who insisted that this country bid him be the
man alone and mind his own business.—So the
resolution was introduced to get a resolution pro-
posed and carried in the name of the Garrison's friends, for
further action in the evening.

The evening session, at least until after nine
o'clock, was spent, mainly in trifling. Salina P.
Chase, Burleigh thinking himself the great
attractor in the evening as well as in the afternoon,
had a speech although she was not of the
party. She had concluded, however, so that they
could not refrain from popping up around the
room by popping corn, getting in a word here
and there.

During the meeting broke up the oil收藏者,
refusing to shake the dust from his hair when it
was blown Cleveland, or being a place near to the
house.

Report of Speeches and Discussions at the
Cleveland Division Convention.
(Continued)

REPORT DAY—THURSDAY MORNING.

Mr. Brown of Cleveland, said that when the
people become abolitionists to the extent necessary
to make them willing to sacrifice the value for the
overthrow of slavery, he thought it likely they
ought to have abolished without division. He
thought the people of Cleveland, he was sure, were
opposed to slavery, and honestly so, who would
work harder for the slaves abolished by the power
of the cause than by its dissolution. They
ought to have dissolved rather than slavery. If that
were the only alternative. But they thought that
by his effort that would be required to dissolve
the Union, slavery might be abolished and the union
stand. He thought abolitionists often had too
little charity for those who had not advanced
far in themselves. Men are often repelled by se-
niority, when, by a more general influence,
they might be won over to truth. He was in for
want of full and free discussion; he hoped we
should have distinctly stated the views of all
parties in this convention. His own mind, he con-
fessed was not fully made up. The question is
as dissolution a necessity? That it would be a
catastrophe in some respects, all will agree. Great
causes would be jeopardized, if not sacrificed.
But, I think, if dissolution is necessary, how is
it to be accomplished, and what are to be its re-
sults? That the abolition of slavery would
not result in bad as doubt; but there are other
great interests to be regarded. Slavery is an evil
not the only evil of the land.

From the Anti-Slavery Journal.

THE DISCUSSION CONVENTION.

In September it was announced that the Dis-
cussion Association to the number of six thousand
had signed a Circular to the colored men of
Cleveland to make arrangements to meet at
the American Union. With these traits to
the country the principle of dissolving the Union
is a foreign creation. While the country
represented by the Garrison party was
the last partition, these Abolitionists held in
their undivided government. The Garrisonians
were anxious to be purged. But yesterday the
leaders of the slaves said—"We have no
place in the Blue-Blazer." And the next day
gained at Chaplin's Hall and during the pro-
gramme as an unapologetic movement, forced
into the discussion of its chief and the discussion

of the male slaves arose and wished the same of the slave
of 1400 who were in the business of the slaves
and signed a Circular to the colored men of
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Truth/Authority

Poetics of truth telling: authority/testimony

Reading is the central act
of imagining information

Case 1: Grimké sisters

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN;
OR,
LIFE AMONG THE LOWLY.

BY
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.



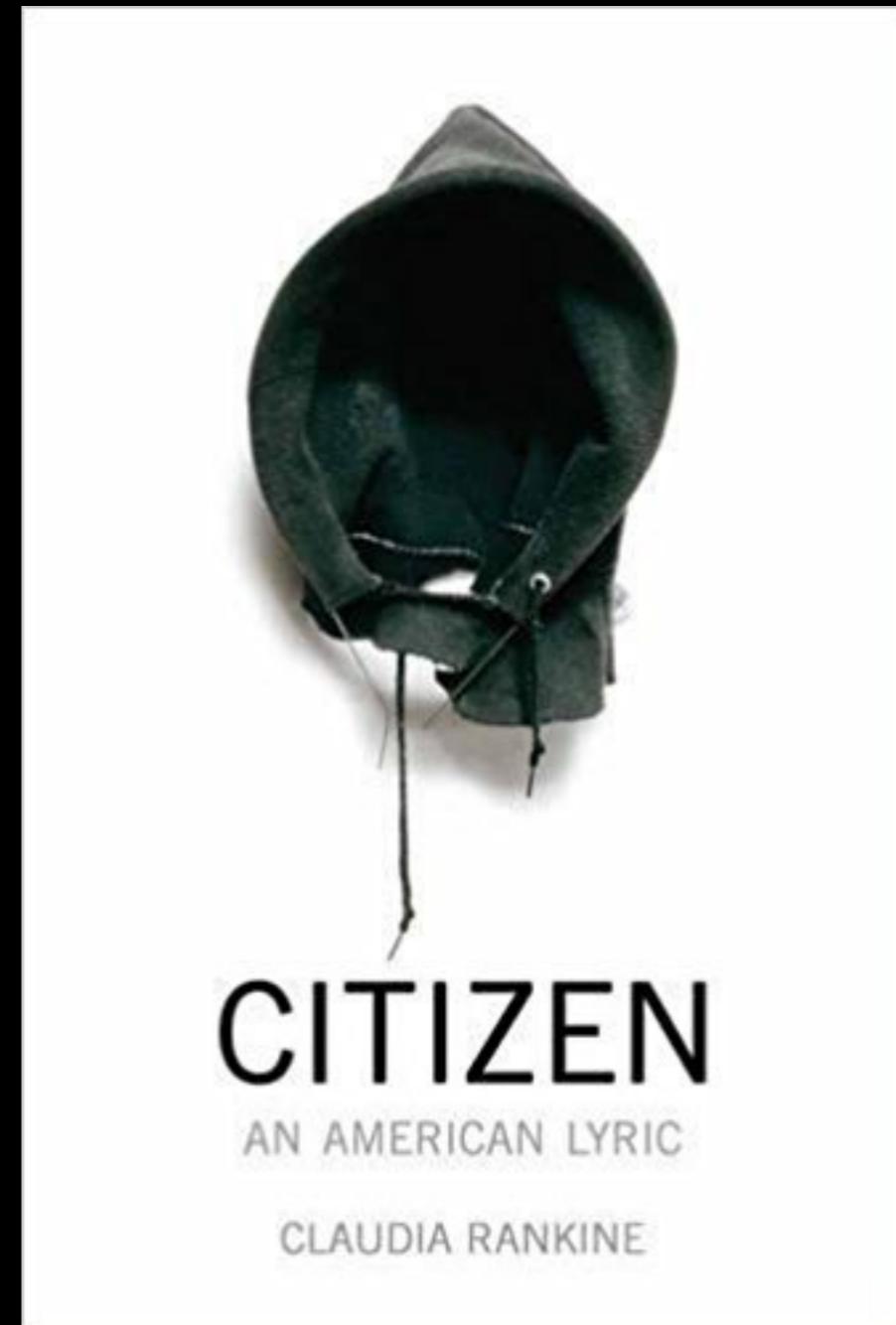
VOL. I.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH THOUSAND.

Poetics of truth telling: authority/testimony

Reading is the central act
of imagining information

poetry/criticism (based on
qualitative data)



Poetics of truth telling: authority/testimony

Data itself has become spectacle...

We live in a world shaped by fear and hype, not because it has to be that way, but because this is the obvious paradigm that can fuel the capitalist information architectures we have produced.

—Danah Boyd

Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

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Our obsession with quantitative data means that we think we understand when we hear numbers in polls, which we use to judge people whose views are different than our own.

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Polls are polarizing

They are built on dividing and differentiating because that's how computers **read**--that's what digital knowledge is

Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

Taxonomies/POV

Making an argument with data

Finding the information

95% Dem.	86% Dem.	99% Dem.	94% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.
94% Dem.	92% Dem.	>99% Dem.	>99% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.
93% Dem.	85% Dem.	>99% Dem.	93% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.
90% Dem.	79% Dem.	99% Dem.	93% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Likely Dem.	Solid Dem.
88% Dem.	94% Dem.	>99% Dem.	>99% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.
87% Dem.	74% Dem.	99% Dem.	82% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.
87% Dem.	80% Dem.	>99% Dem.	84% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.
85% Dem.	89% Dem.	>99% Dem.	99% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.	Solid Dem.
82% Dem.	69% Dem.	87% Dem.	85% Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Tossup	Leaning Dem.
82% Dem.	73% Dem.	93% Dem.	74% Dem.	Likely Dem.	Likely Dem.	Likely Dem.
81% Dem.	78% Dem.	91% Dem.	74% Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Likely Dem.	Likely Dem.
79% Dem.	78% Dem.	96% Dem.	85% Dem.	Solid Dem.	Likely Dem.	Solid Dem.
79% Dem.	76% Dem.	88% Dem.	74% Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Tossup	Likely Dem.
76% Dem.	66% Dem.	82% Dem.	82% Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Tossup	Leaning Dem.
72% Dem.	65% Dem.	76% Dem.	70% Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Leaning Dem.
71% Dem.	57% Dem.	78% Dem.	55% Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Likely Dem.	Leaning Dem.
71% Dem.	60% Dem.	82% Dem.	70% Dem.	Tossup	Tossup	Leaning Dem.
66% Dem.	55% Dem.	77% Dem.	53% Dem.	Tossup	Leaning Dem.	Leaning Dem.
64% Dem.	54% Dem.	63% Dem.	50%	Tossup	Tossup	Leaning Dem.
61% Dem.	56% Dem.	67% Dem.	55% Dem.	Leaning Dem.	Tossup	Leaning Dem.
56% Dem.	51% Rep.	54% Rep.	60% Dem.	Tossup	Tossup	Leaning Dem.
63% Rep.	73% Rep.	89% Rep.	70% Rep.	Leaning Rep.	Likely Rep.	Leaning Rep.
74% Rep.	63% Rep.	77% Rep.	70% Rep.	Leaning Rep.	Likely Rep.	Leaning Rep.
82% Rep.	76% Rep.	98% Rep.	91% Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.
84% Rep.	81% Rep.	>99% Rep.	65% Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.
85% Rep.	82% Rep.	93% Rep.	97% Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.
86% Rep.	86% Rep.	94% Rep.	84% Rep.	Likely Rep.	Likely Rep.	Likely Rep.
86% Rep.	77% Rep.	86% Rep.	74% Rep.	Likely Rep.	Likely Rep.	Likely Rep.
86% Rep.	81% Rep.	>99% Rep.	>99% Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.	Solid Rep.

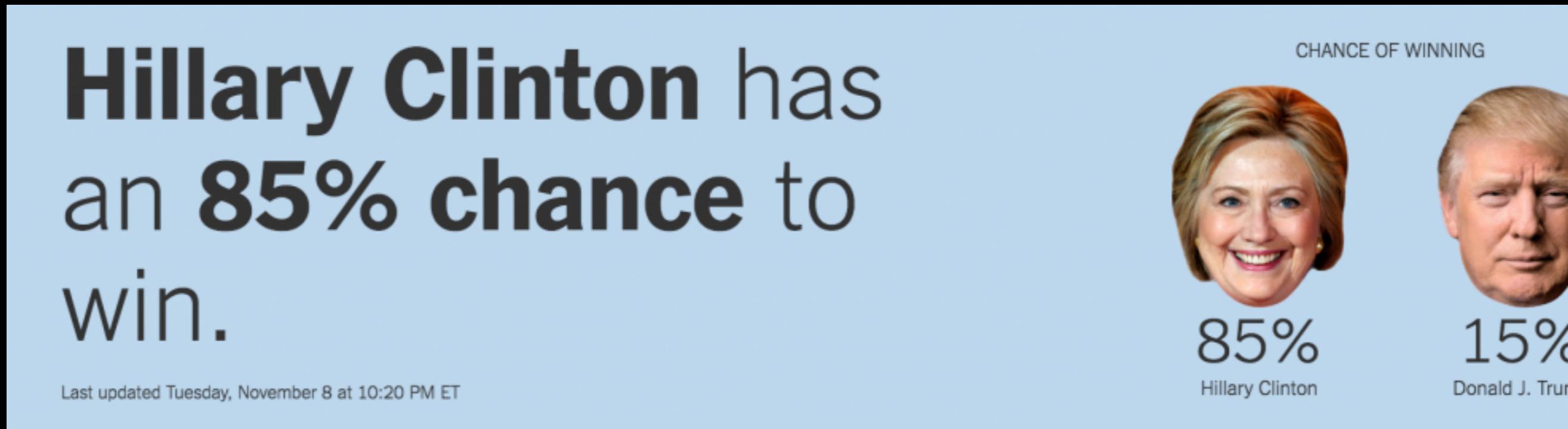
Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

Taxonomies/POV

Making an argument with data

Finding the information

Trimming sifting aggregating



Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

Taxonomies/POV

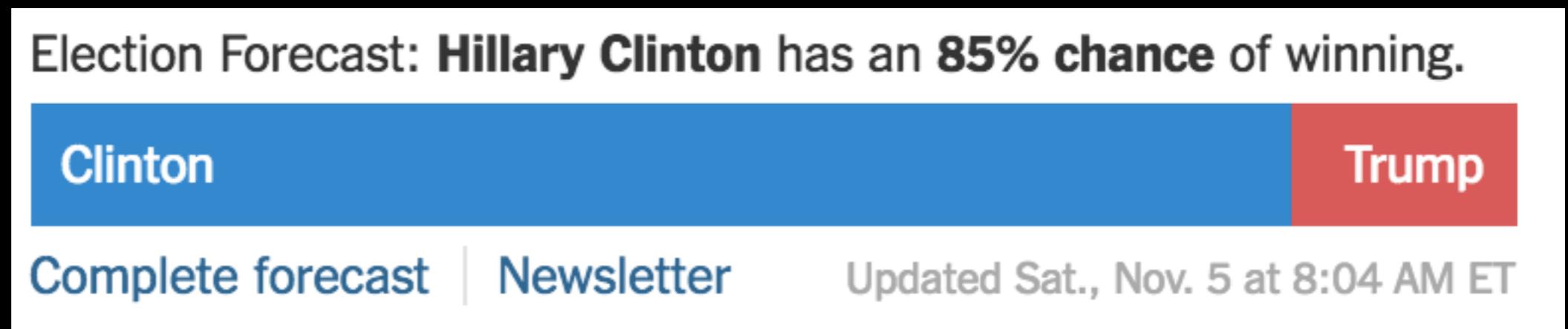
Making an argument with data

Finding the information

Trimming sifting aggregating

creating a point of view

Highlighting the lede



Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

Taxonomies/POV

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Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

Taxonomies/POV

Making an argument with data

Further Reading

[http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/
the-real-story-of-2016/](http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-real-story-of-2016/)



Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

Poetics of truth telling: authority/testimony

Spectacle has a cost. It always has. And we are about to see what that cost will be.

—Danah Boyd

Case 2: New York Times Election Polls

Poetics of truth telling: authority/testimony

Spectacle / Speculative

Truth/Authority