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Proposal for implementation of Google Charts in Gratia Web

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Current Status

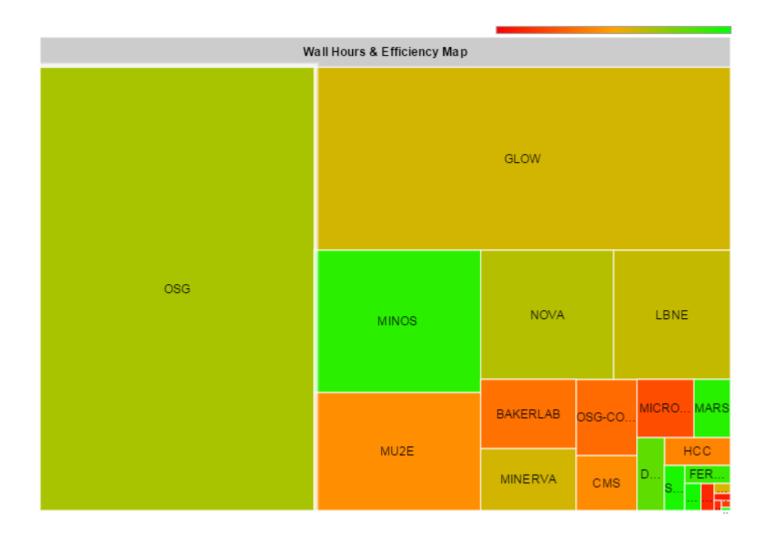
- 6 Different types of plots available with Mathplotlib
 - Horizontal Bar
 - Stacked Bar
 - Stacked Line
 - Cumulative
 - Pie
 - Quality Map
- 1 type of plot available with Google Charts
 - Tree Map
- Plots are generated on the server side
- An instance of a plot can be defined with an xml configuration that defines the SQL, the query parameters and the plot type configuration
- 230 Predefined plot instances available



Matplotlib Limitations

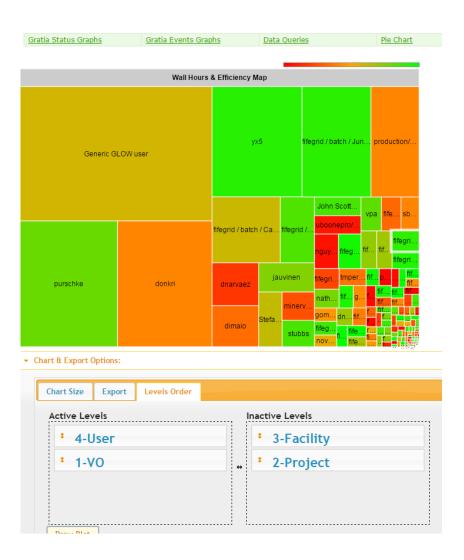
- Plots are created on the server side and served as a file through the web server
- Changes in the plot would require the browser to reload the image via AJAX or an HTTP request
- Tooltips for the plots could be implemented, however it would require a large additional development per each type of plot
- Dynamic functionalities could also be implemented, however it would also require additional development, and also it would require a good network connection between client and server to provide a good user experience

Google Tree Map on Gratia Web





Google Tree Map on Gratia Web





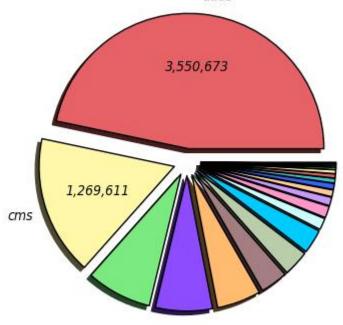
Motivation

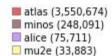
- An initial development to allow javascript plotting libraries has already been done
- Client side plotting can provide new functionalities for plots:
 - Plot style customization
 - Animations
 - Tooltips
 - Dynamic exploration of data
- Most of the existing types of plots can be replaced with a single Google Chart type of plot
- Google Charts offers additional types of visualizations that could be useful for additional analysis

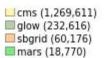


Pie









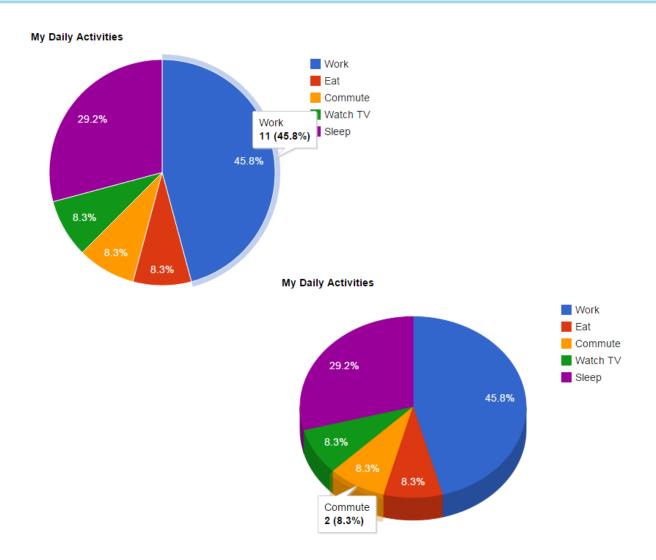






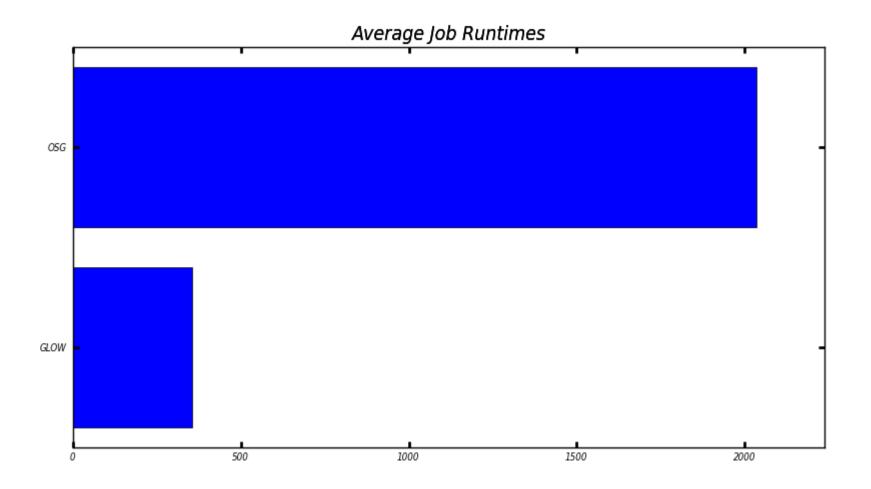


Google Charts Pie





Horizontal Bar

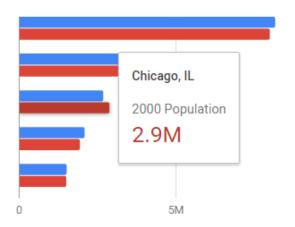


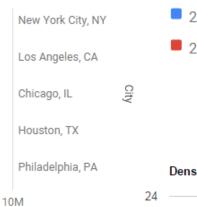


Google Charts Bar/Column Charts

Population of Largest U.S. Cities

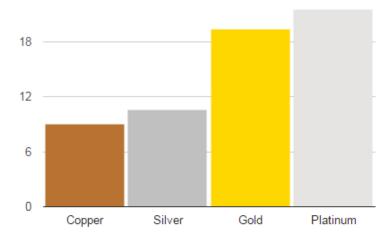
Based on most recent and previous census data





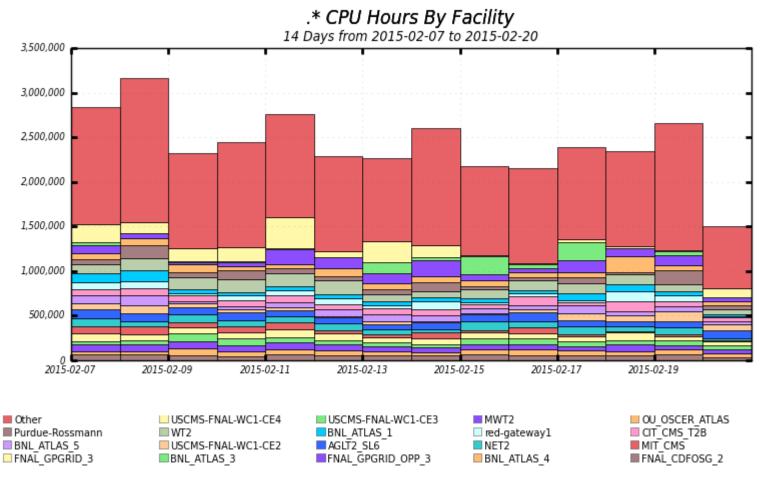








Stacked Bar







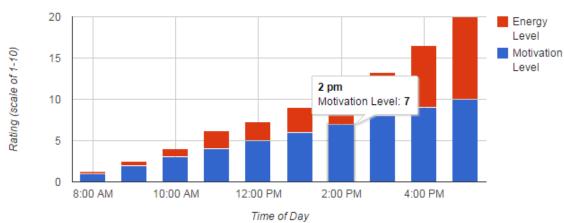
Google Charts Bar/Column Charts

Population of Largest U.S. Cities

Based on most recent and previous census data

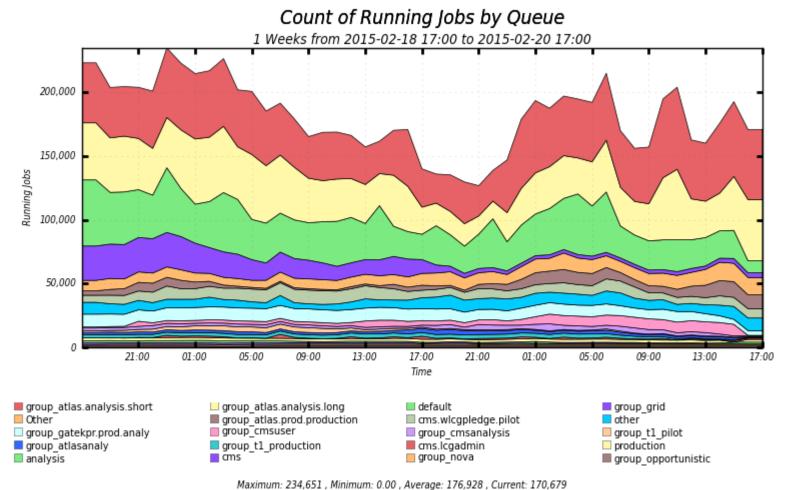


Motivation and Energy Level Throughout the Day





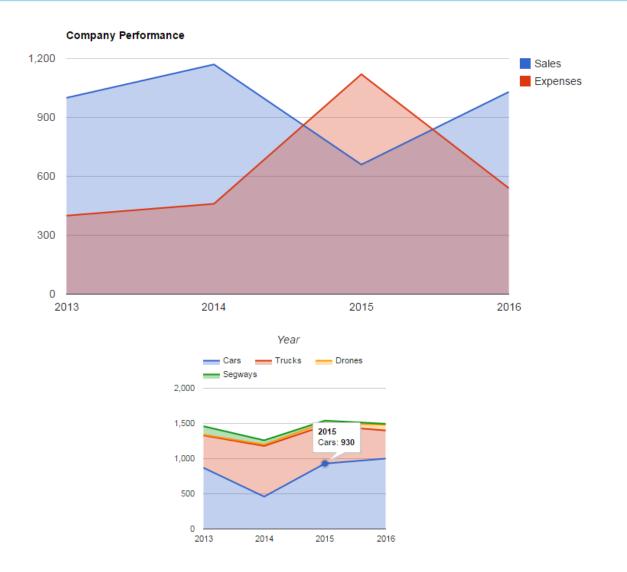
Stacked Line





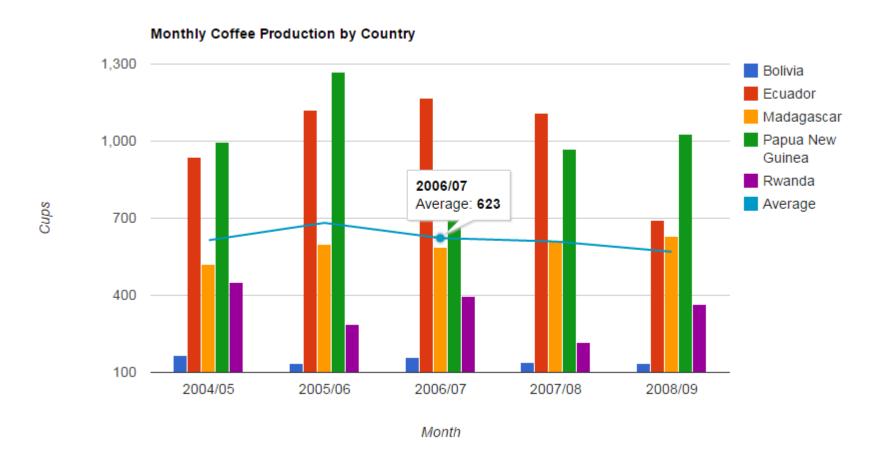


Google Area Chart



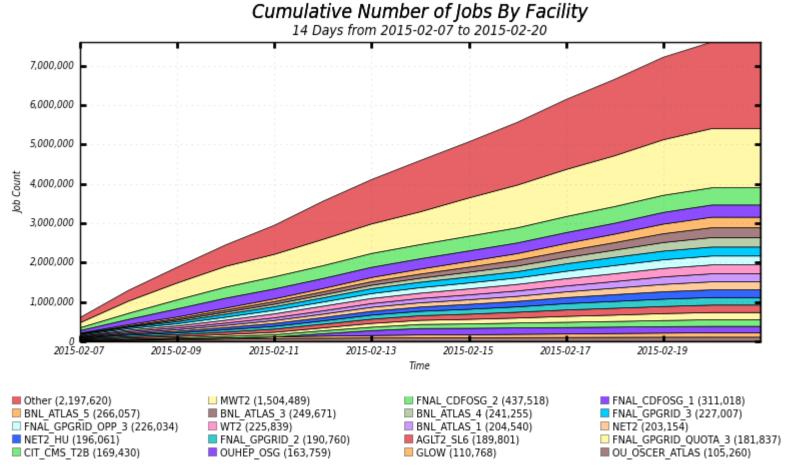


Google Combo Chart





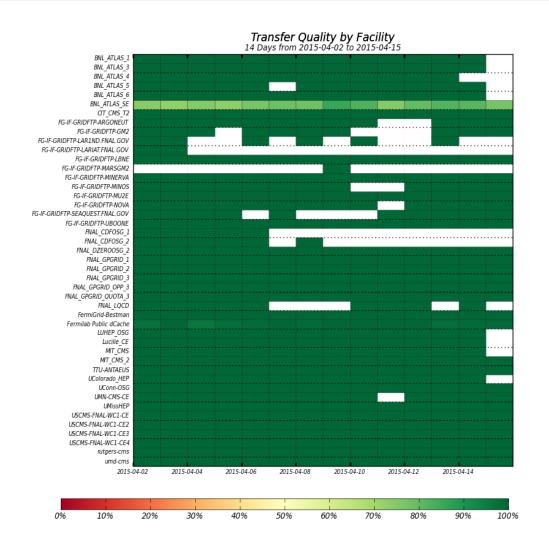
Cumulative





Quality Map

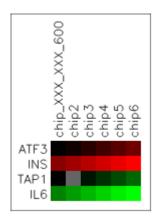
17





Workarounds for missing types of plots

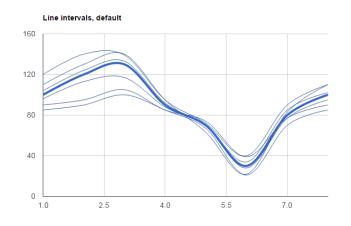
- The cumulative and the quality map plots do not have an equivalent in the Google Charts API
- The cumulative plot can be obtained as an Area Chart using a callback function that will cumulate the given data series before the data is plotted by the Google Charts API.
- There are community made Visualizations that can replace be used instead, like the BioHeatMap:

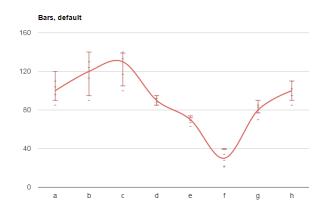


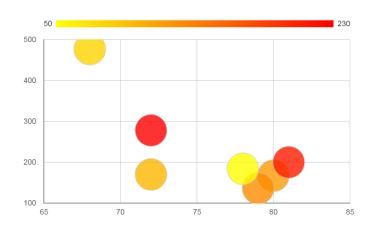


18

More Google Charts Visualizations











Advantages

- Existing code for the Google Charts Tree Map can be reused
- Code will be less coupled separating plotting and data retrieving functionalities
- Code will be easier to understand because plotting, and styling functionalities will be provided by the Google Charts API
- Reduce the load on the server side since images are created on the client side
- Code will be designed to avoid re implementing each one of the 230 plot instances already defined. Code engineering and including an additional configuration parameter will determine whether matplotlib or Google Chart should be used



Costs

- Google Charts API code is licensed and hosted by Google
- Image (PNG) requests for plots would not be supported NOTE:
 - Users can still generate images from the client browser.
 - Server provided static images for dashboards must be generated using tools like Phantom.js or using matplotlib
- 3 Months of estimated time for development



Migration to Google Charts

Questions?

Thanks!

