

Accessibility and the Software Structures of Assistive Technologies

As told from my perspective in data visualization.

Big thanks to Patrick Carrington for some of these slides.



Frank Elavsky



hcii.cmu.edu, axle-lab.com, dig.cmu.edu



Today

Intro Accessibility and Assistive Technology

Models of Disability (Perspectives)

A demonstration of assistive technology in action

Accessibility



CLASS QUESTION

What is Disability?

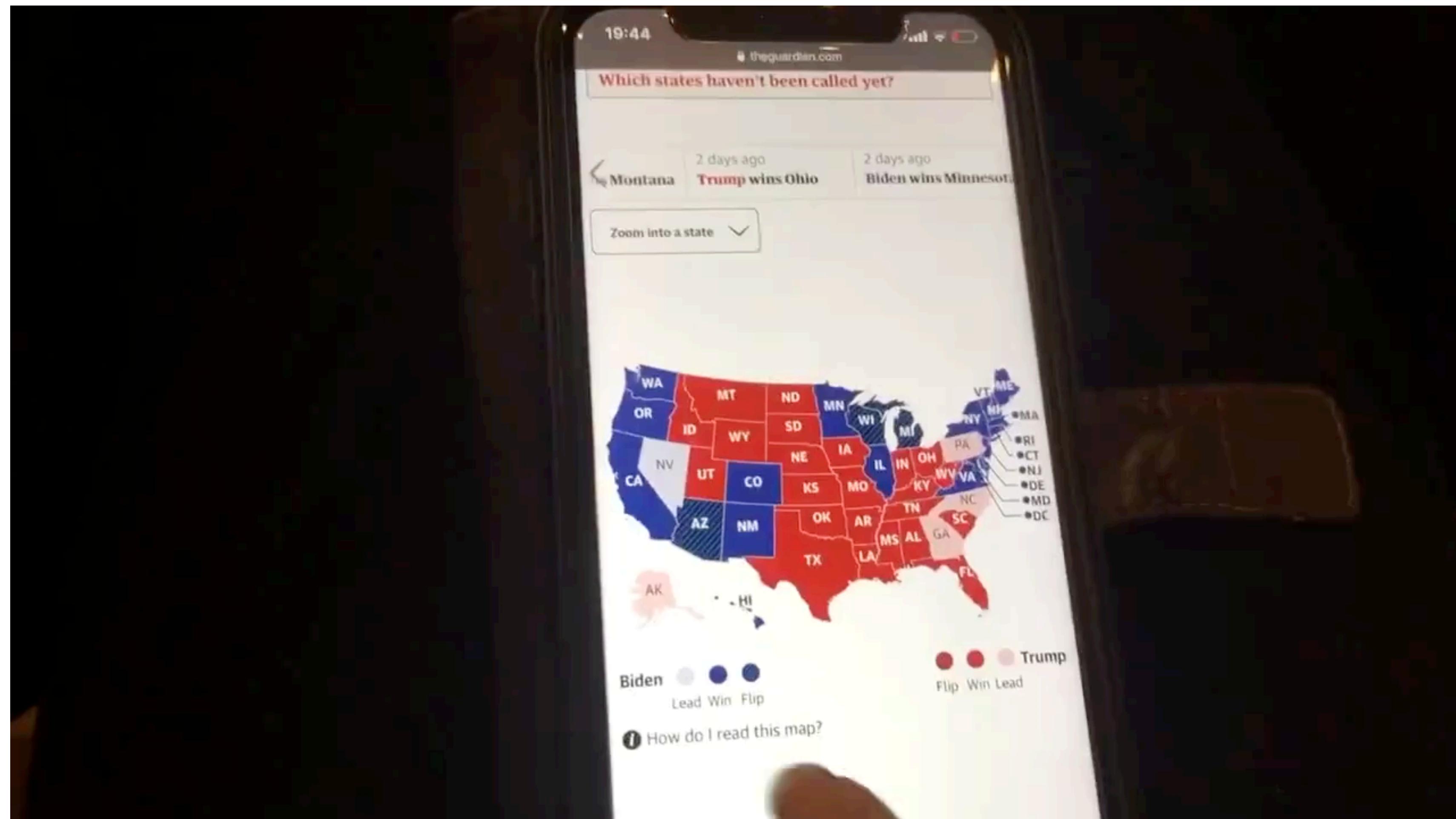


CLASS QUESTION

What is Accessibility?

What is an inaccessible experience like?

Credit: Sarah Fossheim [on twitter](#)





CLASS QUESTION

Why does
Accessibility matter?

Access is a human right

Accessibility for people with disabilities is an internationally recognized human right.

It is the morally and ethically correct thing to do.



UN CRPD Article 9: Accessibility, UN CRPD Article 10: Right to Life

Disability is Widespread

Worldwide **more than 1.3 billion people** (~16%) experience some form of disability [World Health Organization, 2023]

Disability affects 13% of the U.S. population [U.S. Census Bureau, 2021]

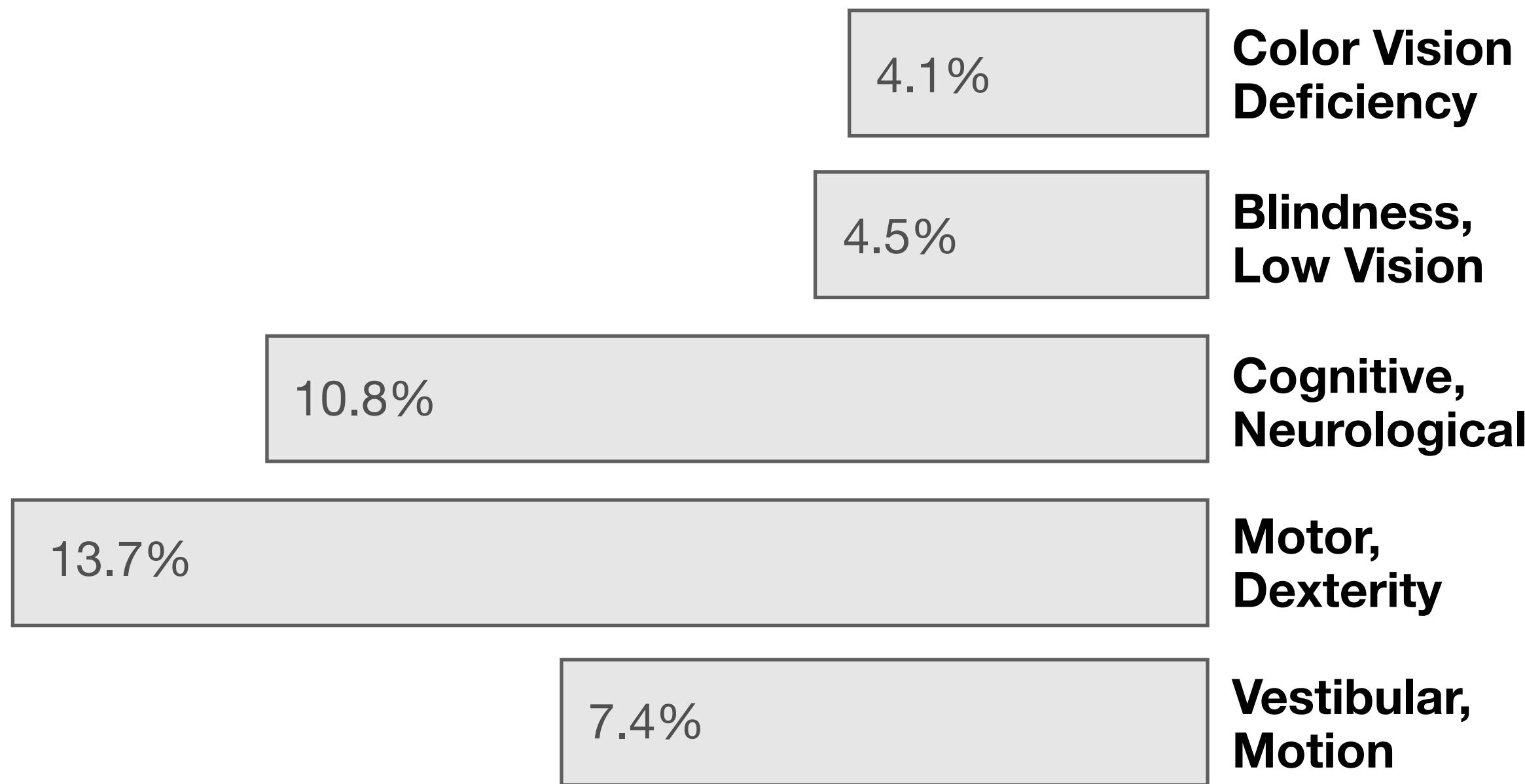
Disability is Widespread

(Roughly) One in four Americans has disability of some sort

One in ten Americans has a severe disability

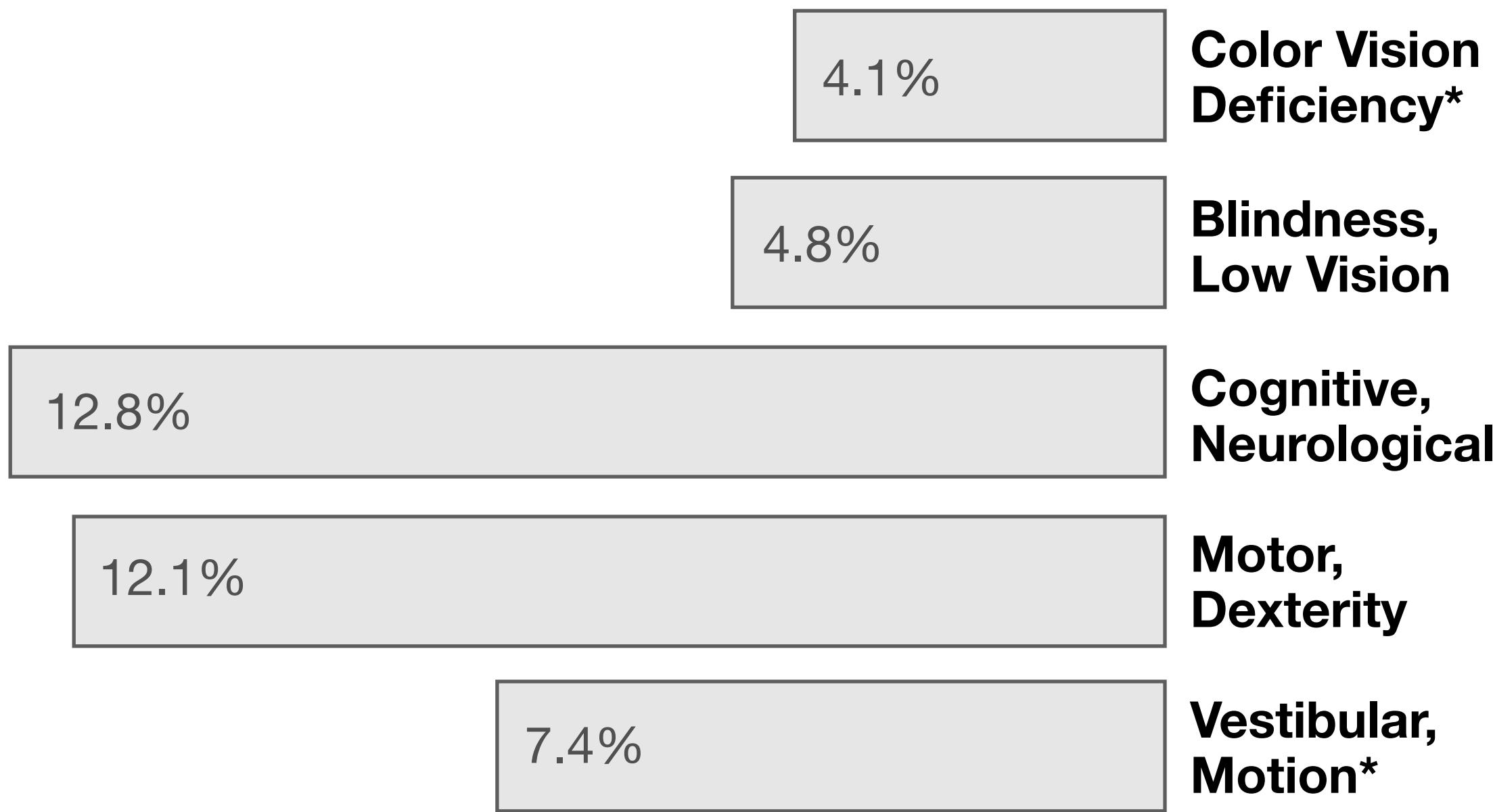
- “An impairment that significantly limits one or more major life activities”

You or a loved one are fairly likely to be impacted by some disability at some point in your life



Source: Okoro et al. "Prevalence of Disabilities and Health Care Access by Disability Status and Type Among Adults"

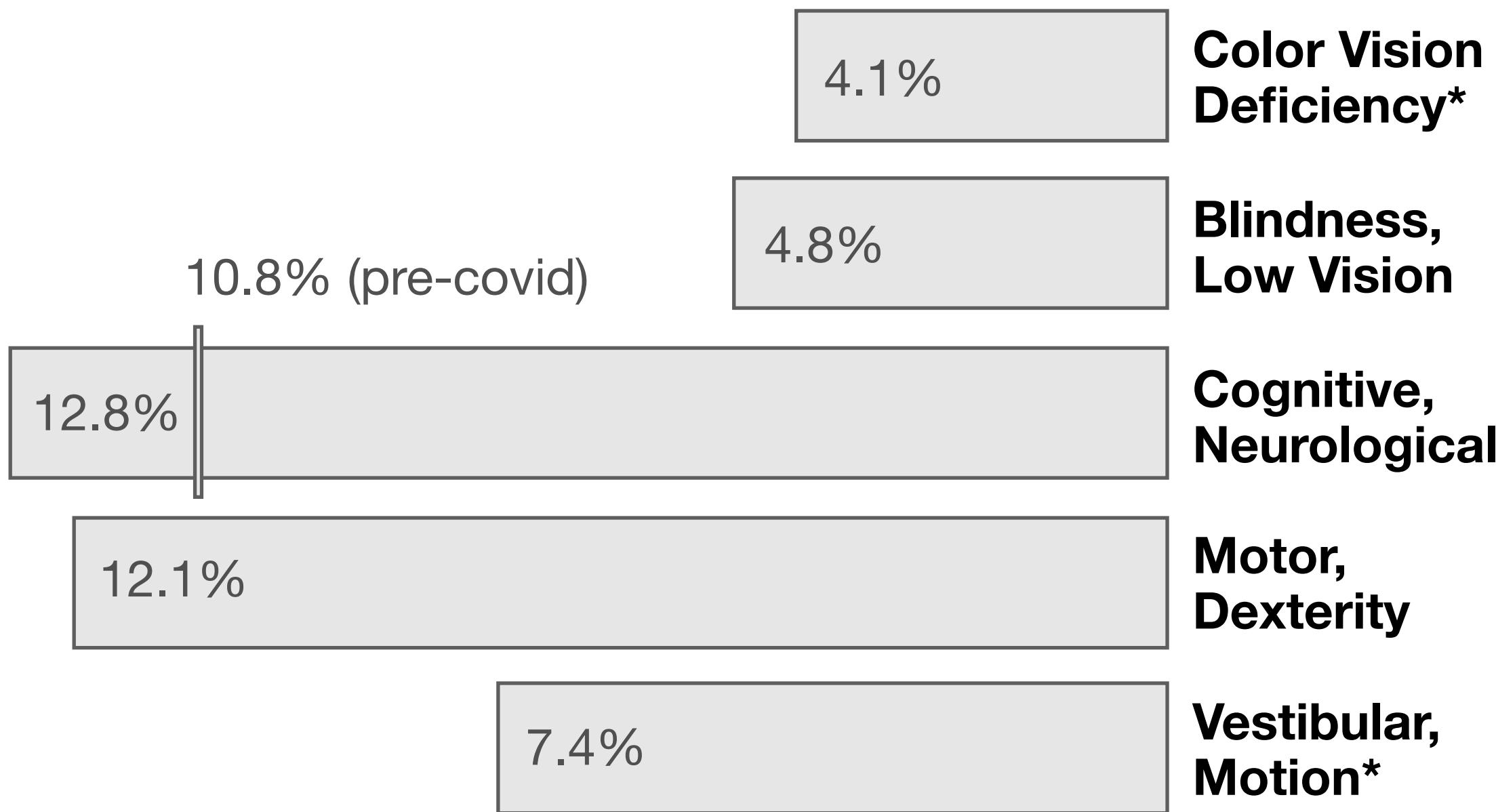
~26% of people living in the United States self-report living with a disability that affects their daily life (2017)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Disability and Health Data System (DHDS). 2023. Available from: <http://dhds.cdc.gov>

*No new data

~27% of people living in the United States self-report living with a disability that affects their daily life (2023)

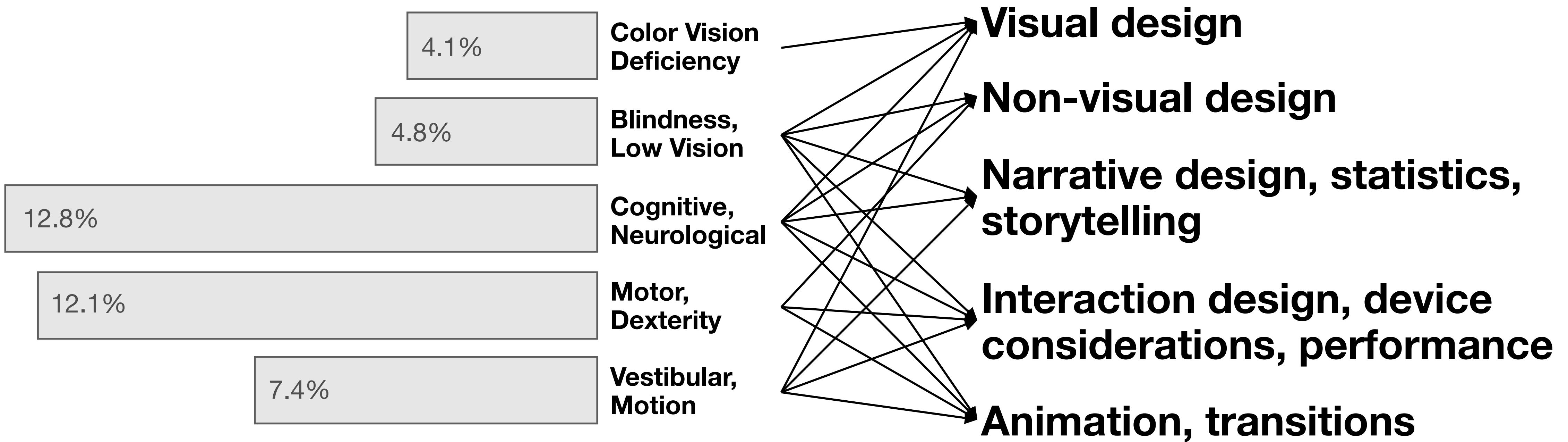


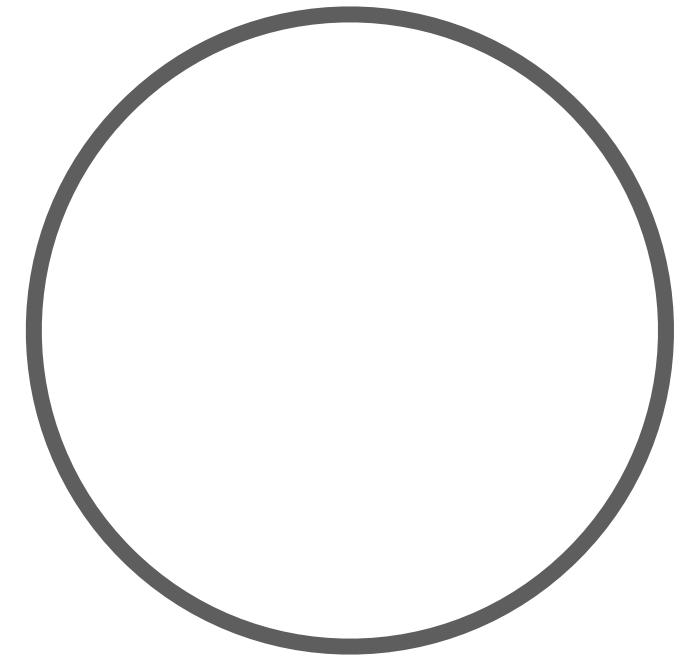
Cognitive disability is on the rise

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Disability and Health Data System (DHDS). 2023. Available from: <http://dhds.cdc.gov>

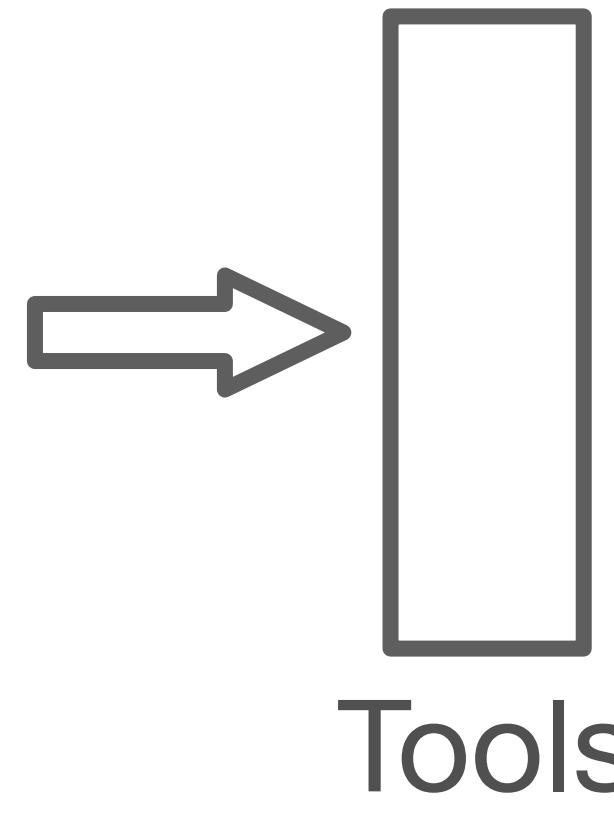
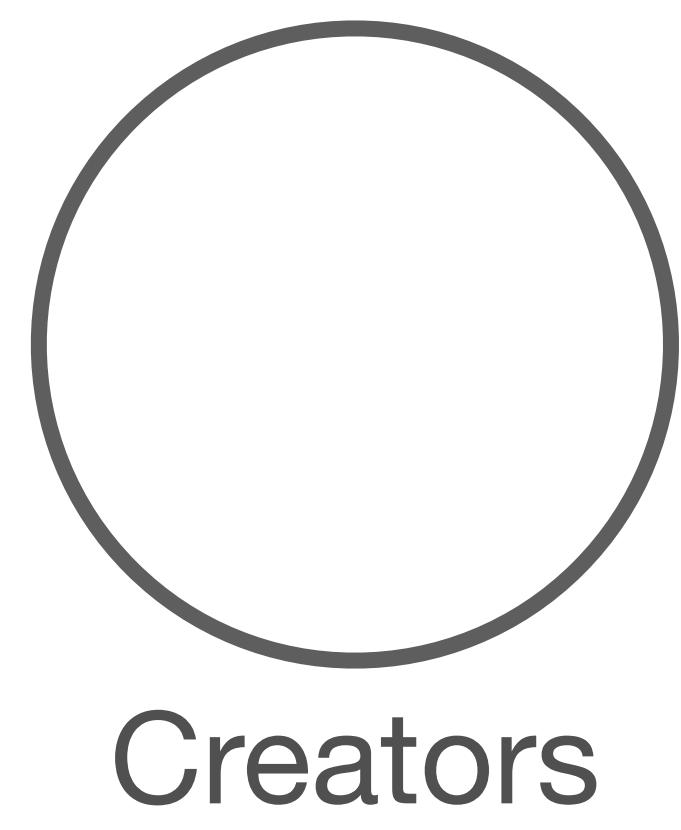
*No new data

Accessibility affects every aspect of visualization work

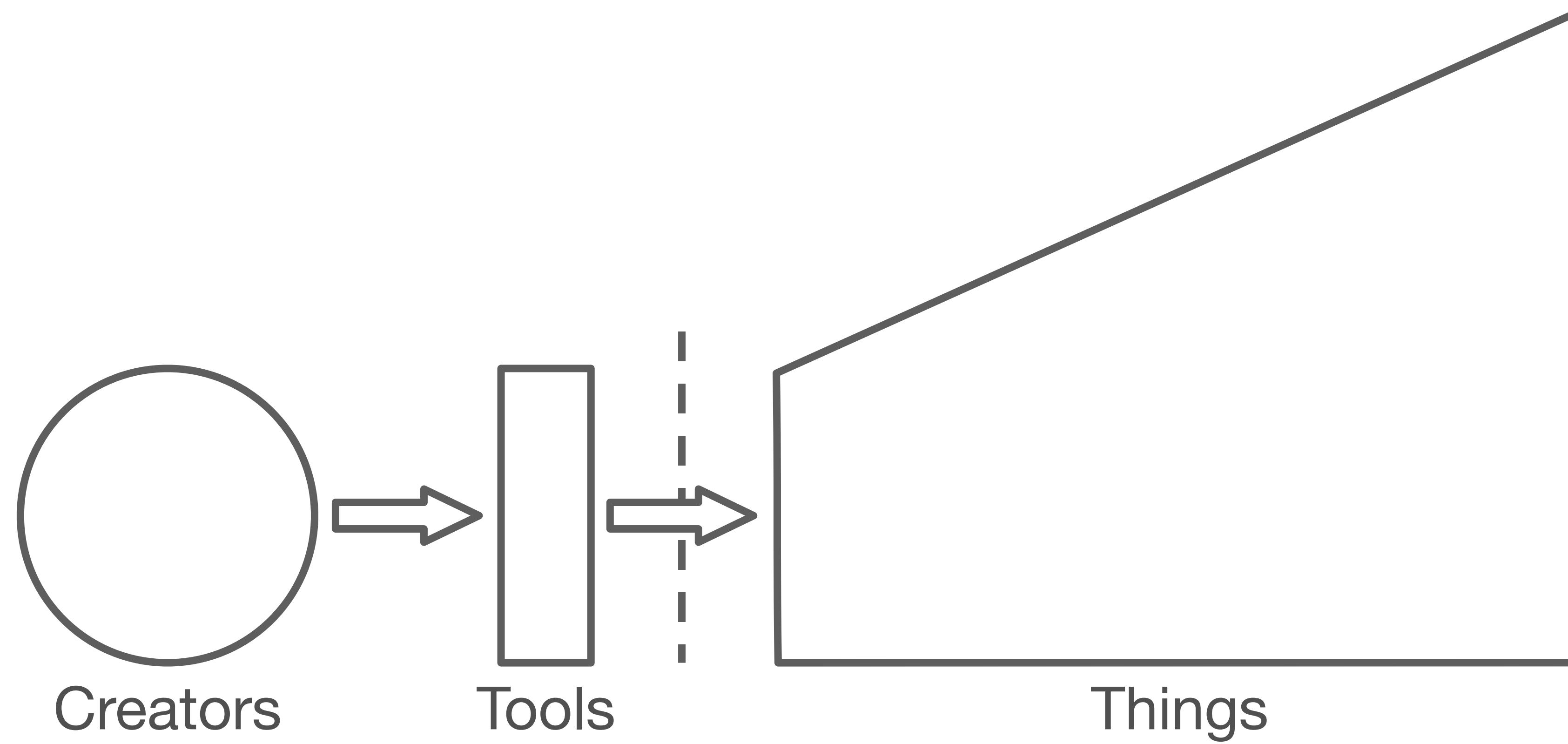


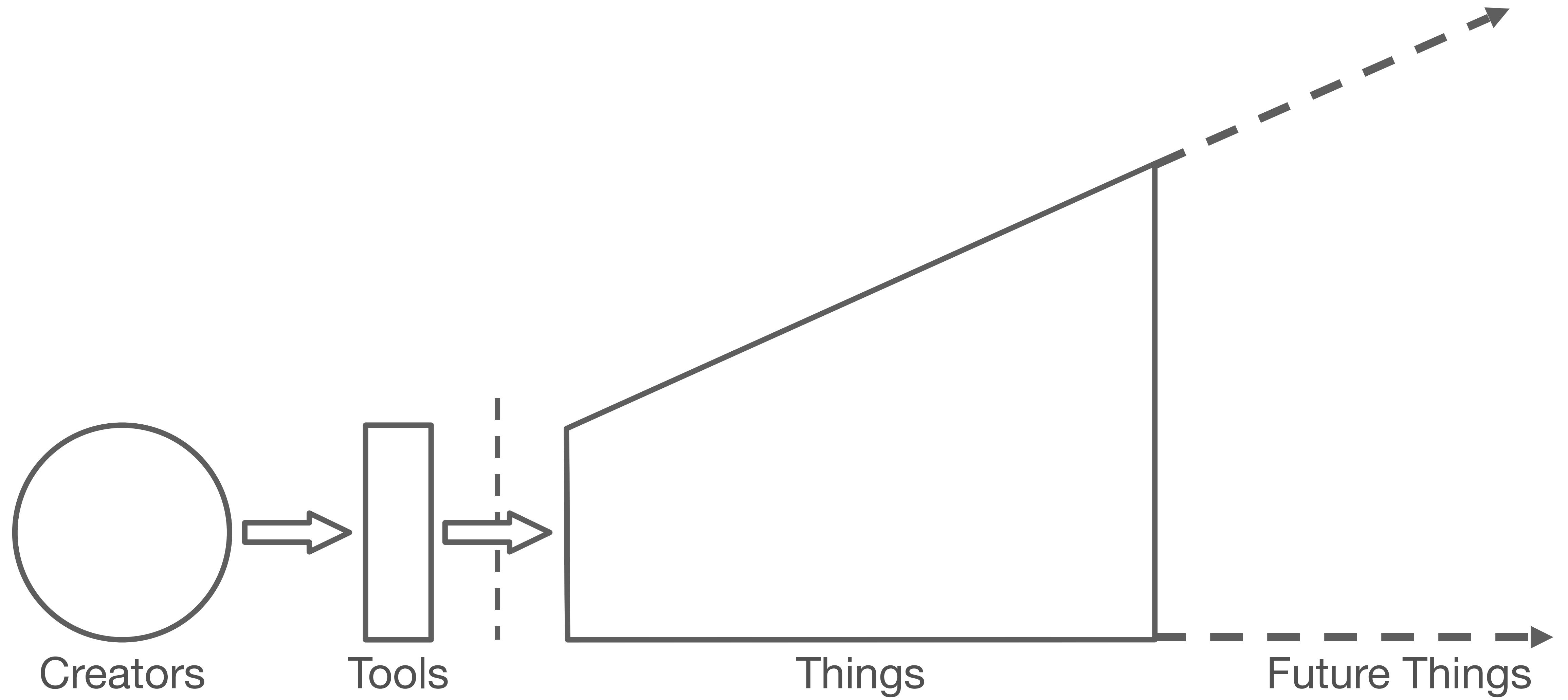


Creators

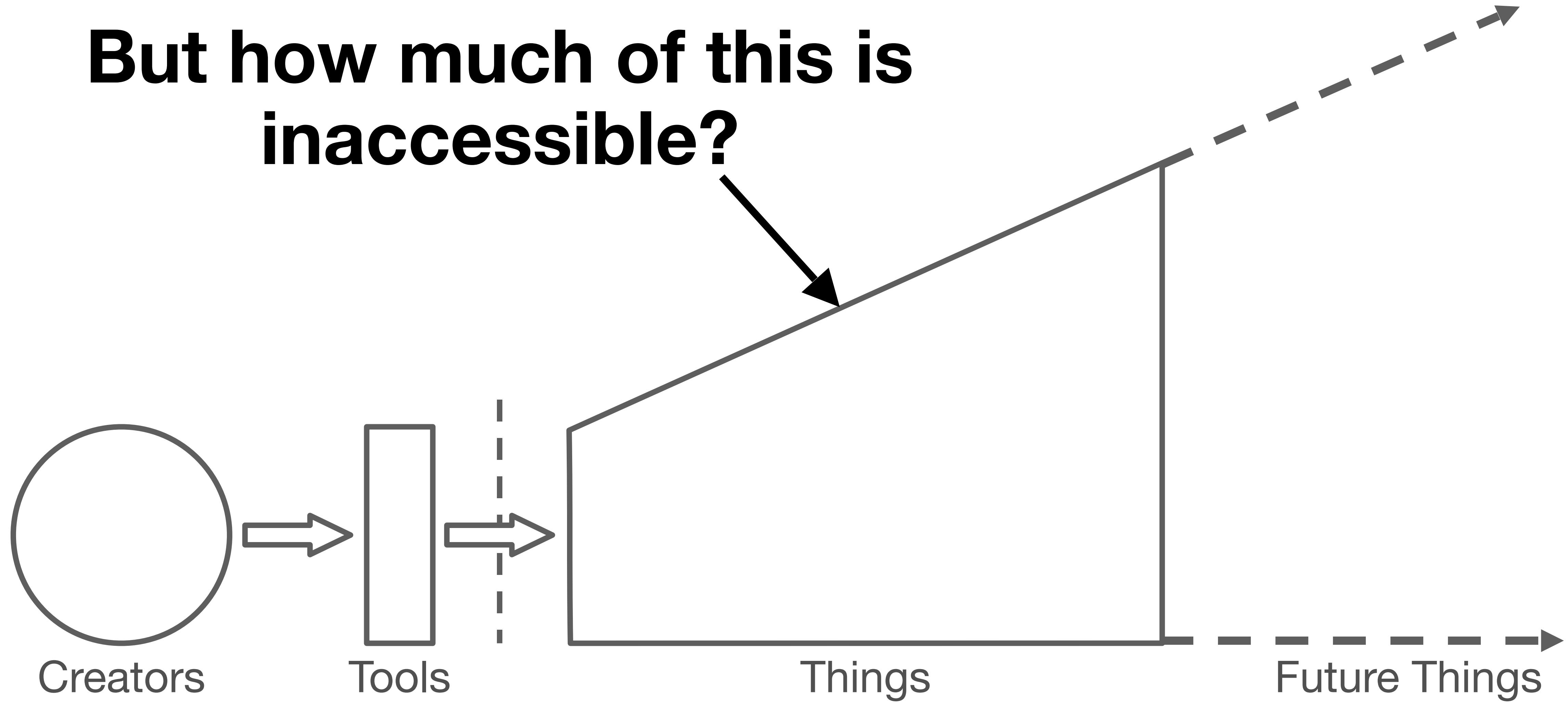


Tools



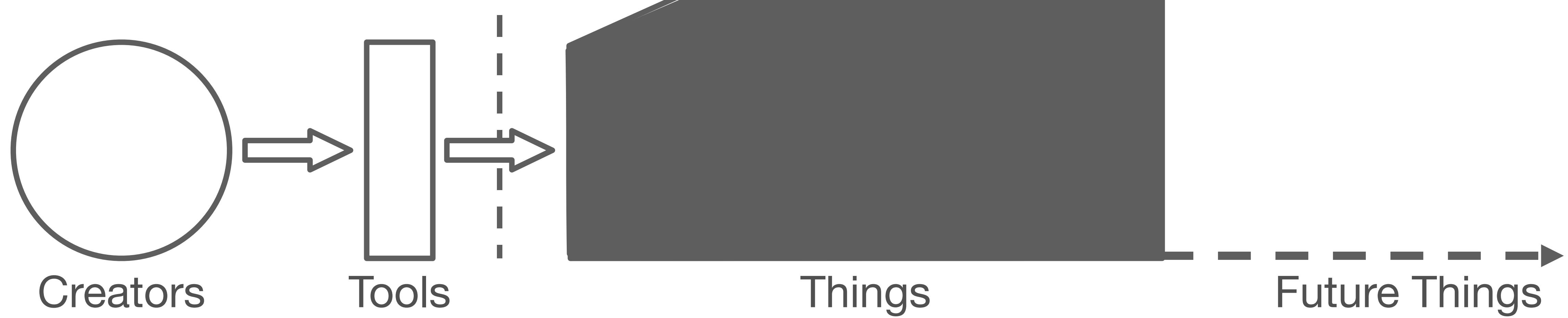


But how much of this is inaccessible?



97-99%

Source: World Wide Web Consortium. "The WebAIM Million Report." 2019-2024





CLASS QUESTION

Who is *responsible* for
making things accessible?

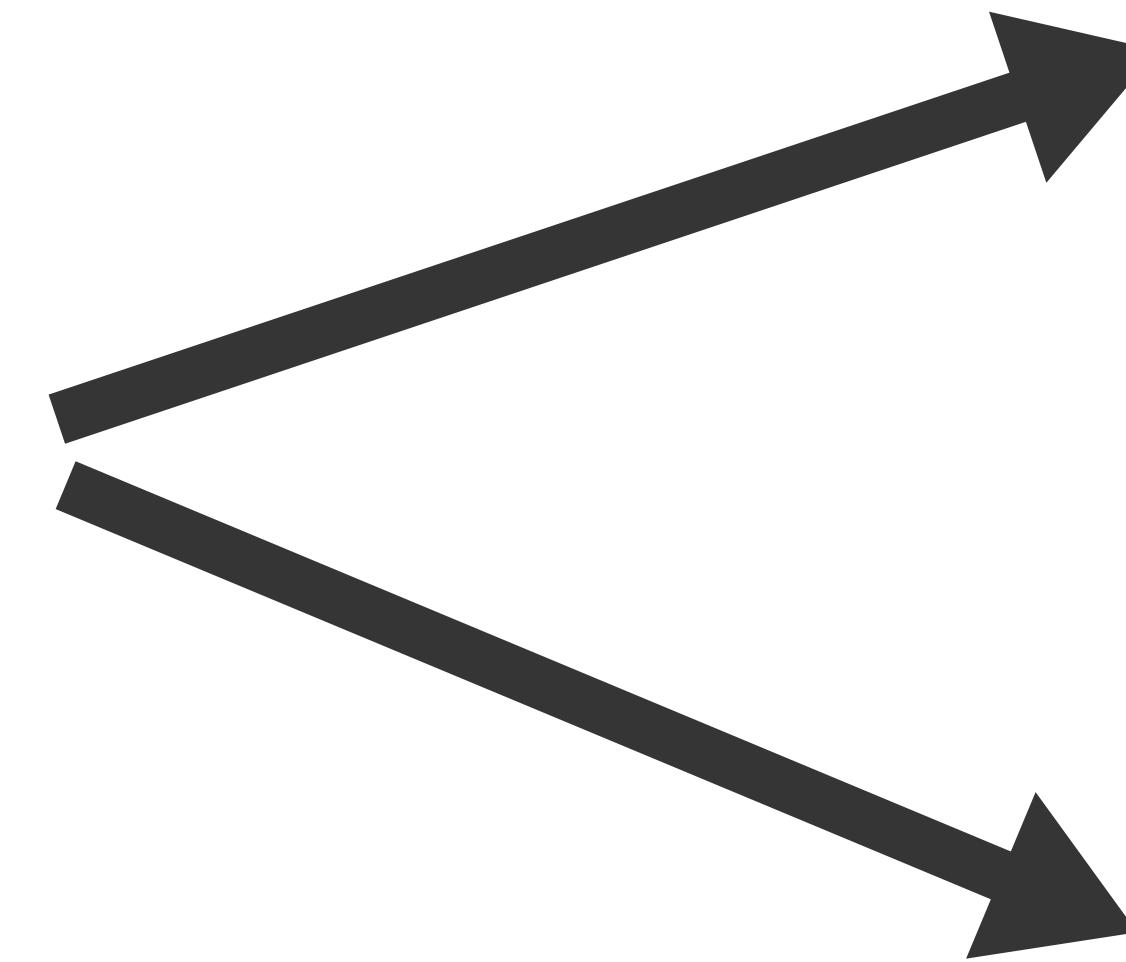
What about curbs in our cities?



Medicalizing framing: the body is the cause/location of disability (according to normative standards).



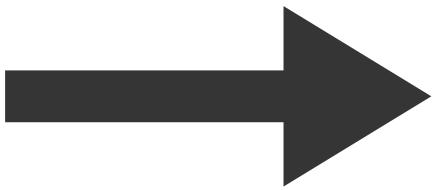
Augment or “cure” the body, the person typically bears the cost of access.



Social framing: The *curb* is the source/location where disability is produced (as a “barrier” to access).



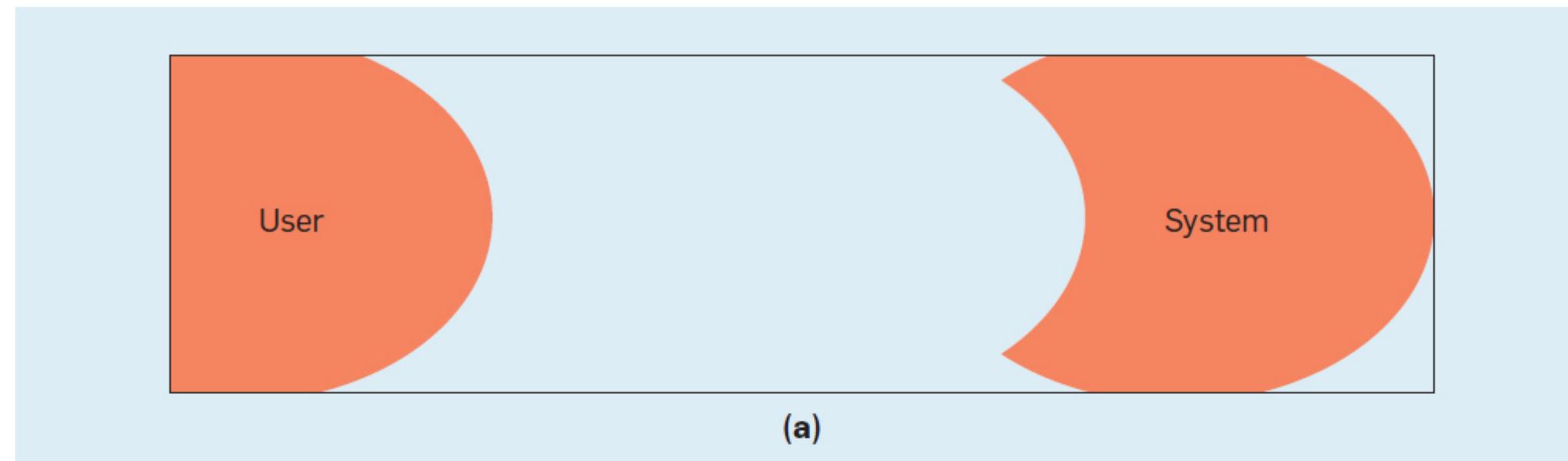
We built barriers, so now we need to fix them.



Concept: Ability Assumptions

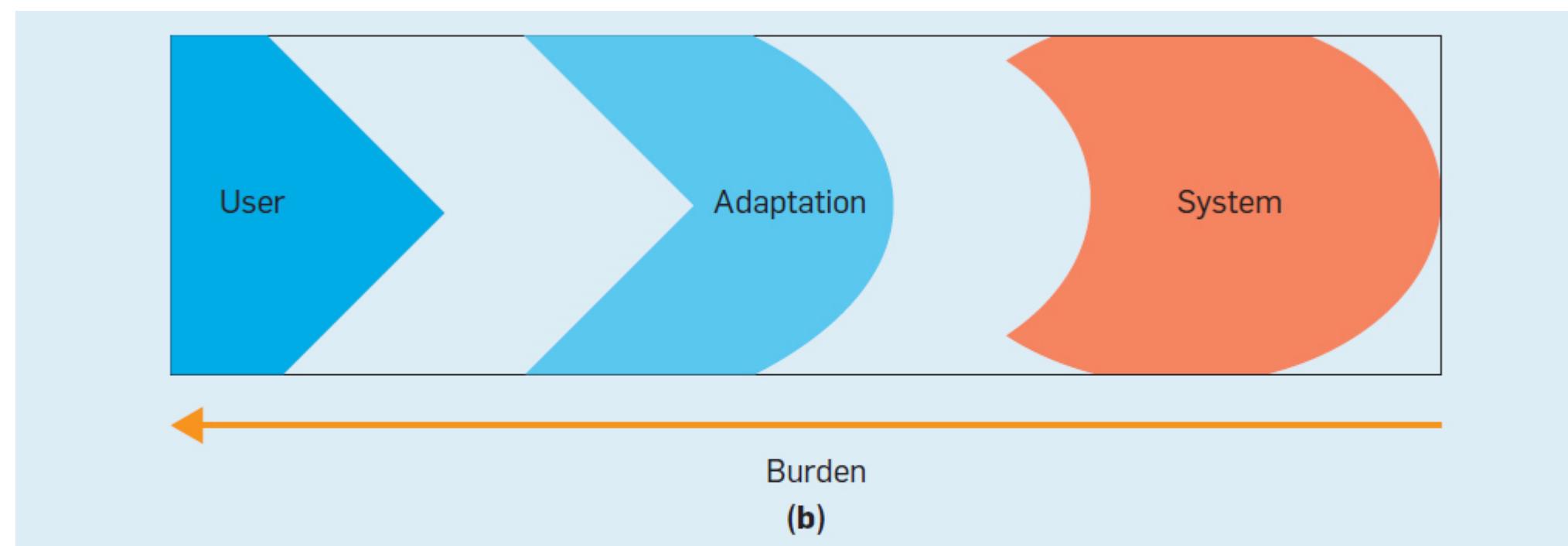
Ability Assumptions

(Wobbrock et al) <https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2018/6/228034-ability-based-design/fulltext>



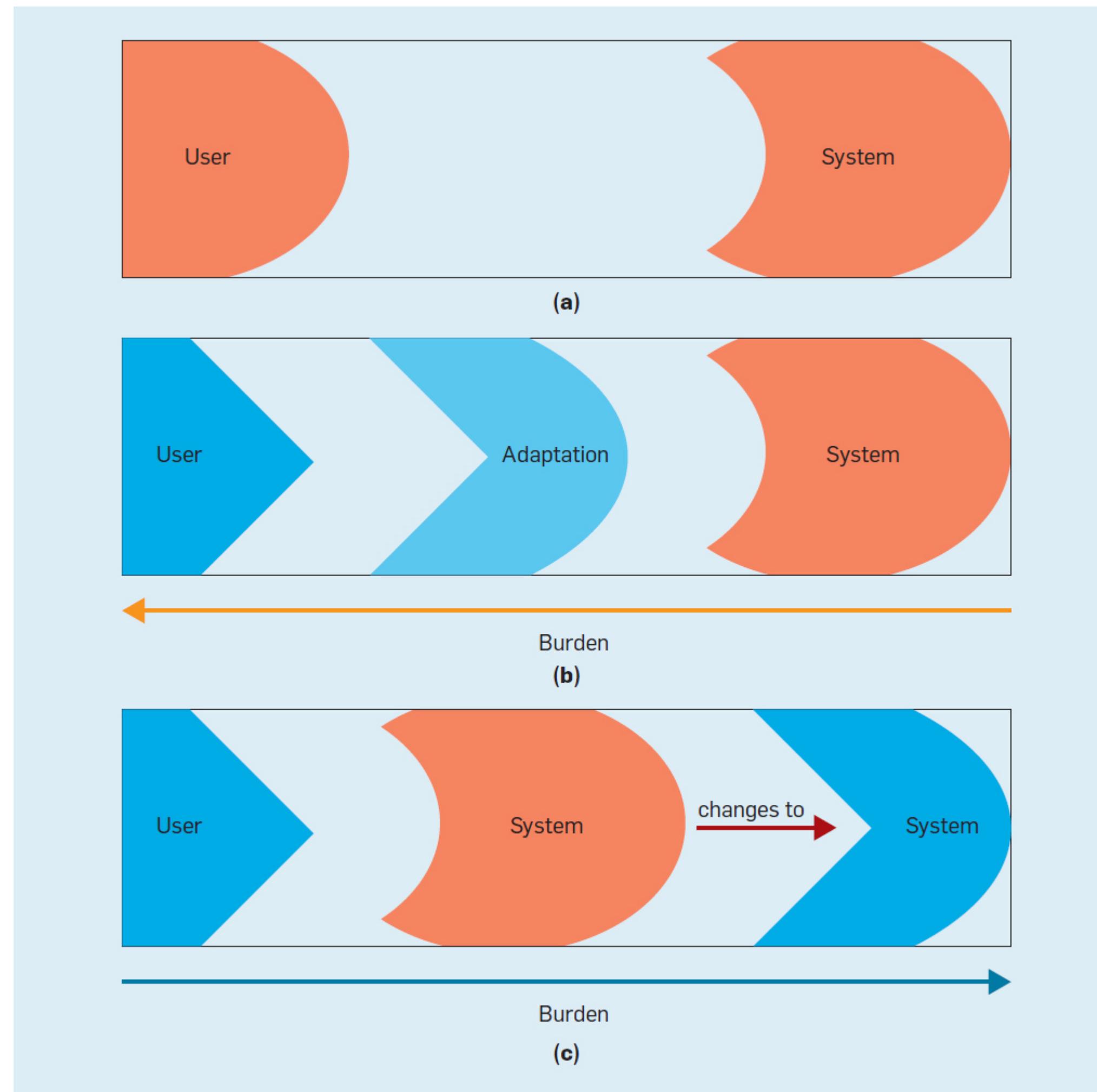
Ability Assumptions

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Ability Assumptions

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A curb exclusively assumes the ability to step up



A cut curb has fewer *exclusive* ability assumptions



Concept: Situational Impairment

Permanent

Touch

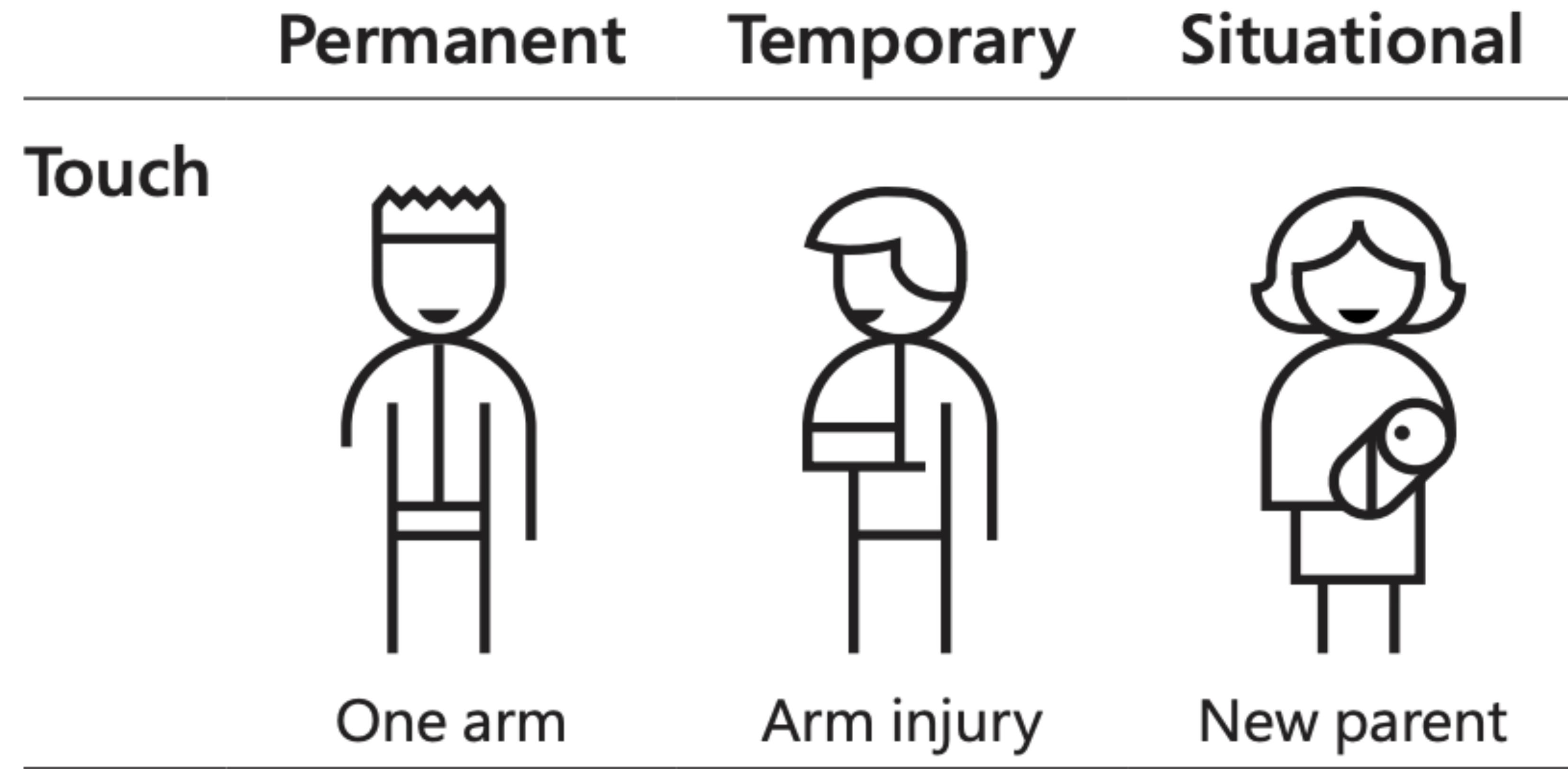


One arm

	Permanent	Temporary
Touch		
	One arm	
		Arm injury

	Permanent	Temporary	Situational
Touch			
			
	One arm	Arm injury	New parent

We all experience situational impairment in our daily lives. **Accessibility benefits everyone!**



“Design for One, Extend to All”

	Permanent	Temporary	Situational
Touch			
	One arm	Arm injury	New parent
See			
	Blind	Cataract	Distracted driver
Hear			
	Deaf	Ear infection	Bartender
Speak			
	Non-verbal	Laryngitis	Heavy accent

Microsoft's Inclusive Design 101 Toolkit: https://download.microsoft.com/download/b/0/d/b0d4bf87-09ce-4417-8f28-d60703d672ed/inclusive_toolkit_manual_final.pdf

Turns out, a lot of barriers are *shared*!



So how do we *catch* barriers?

Listen to people with disabilities (PWD).

There are a lot of ways to listen:

1. Actually ask them!
2. Find where they are already speaking
3. Find where they have already spoken:
 - Research
 - Blog posts
 - Accessibility standards

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1. Actually ask them!
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 - Research
 - Blog posts
 - **Accessibility standards**

An acronym in web standards:

P
O
U
R

An acronym in web standards:

Perceivable
Ousable
Relevant

An acronym in web standards:

Perceivable
Operable
U
R

An acronym in web standards:

Perceivable
Operable
Ununderstandable
R

The 4 pillars of accessible design:

Perceivable

Operable

Understandable

Robust

**Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust**

Chartability's additions:

**+
C
A
F**

Elavsky et al, “Chartability.” (2022)

**Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust**

Chartability's additions:

+

**Compromising
A
F**

Elavsky et al, “Chartability.” (2022)

**Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust**

Chartability's additions:

+

**Compromising
Assistive
F**

Elavsky et al, “Chartability.” (2022)

**Perceivable
Operable
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+

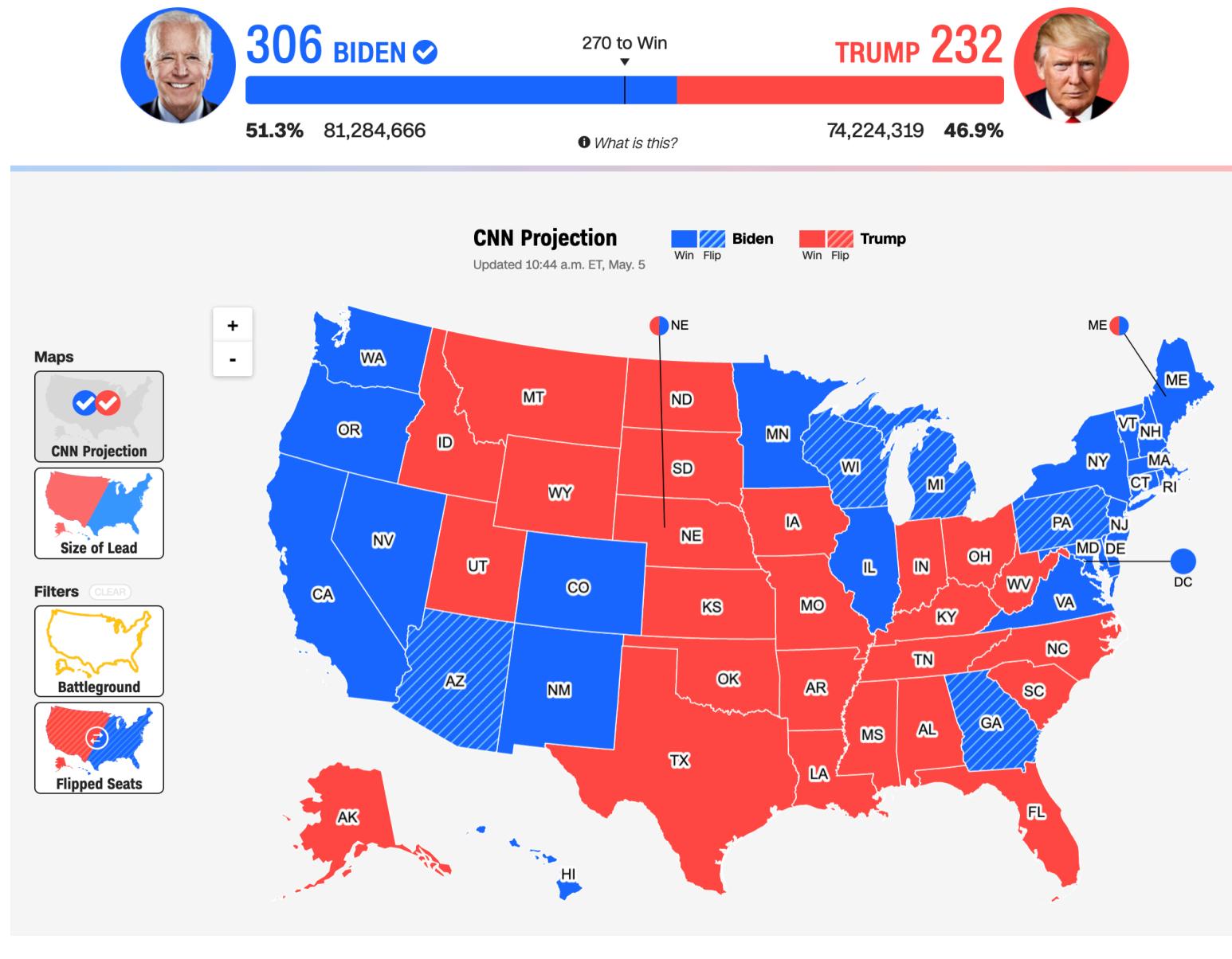
**Compromising
Assistive
Flexible**

Elavsky et al, “Chartability.” (2022)

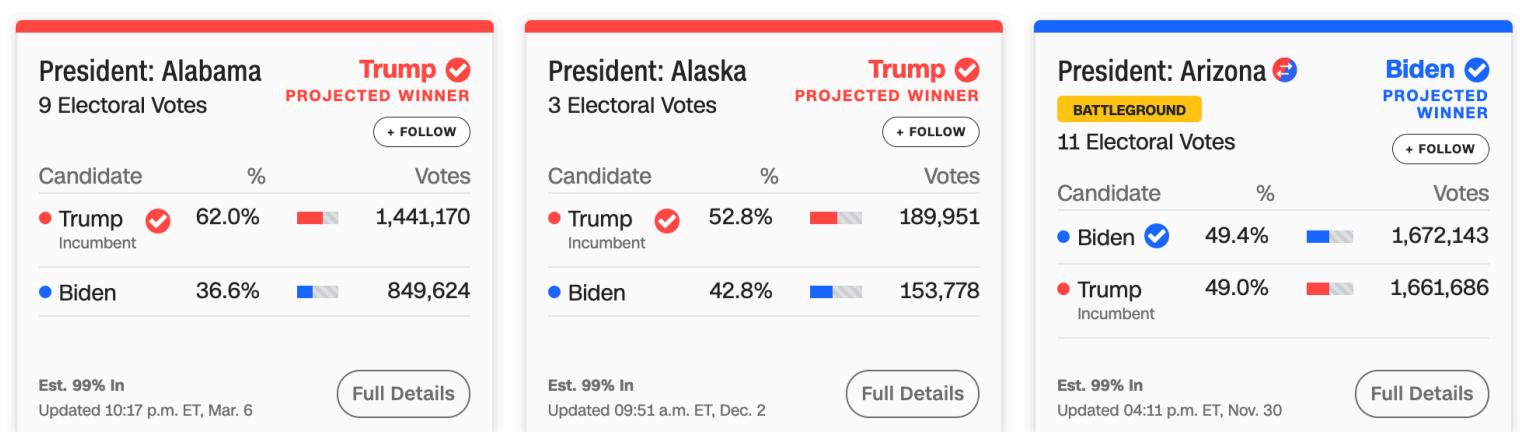
PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

Joe Biden wins election to be the 46th US President

Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes put native son Joe Biden above the 270 needed to become the 46th President of the United States. Born in Scranton, the former vice president and longtime Delaware senator defeated Donald Trump, the first President to lose a reelection bid since George H.W. Bush in 1992.

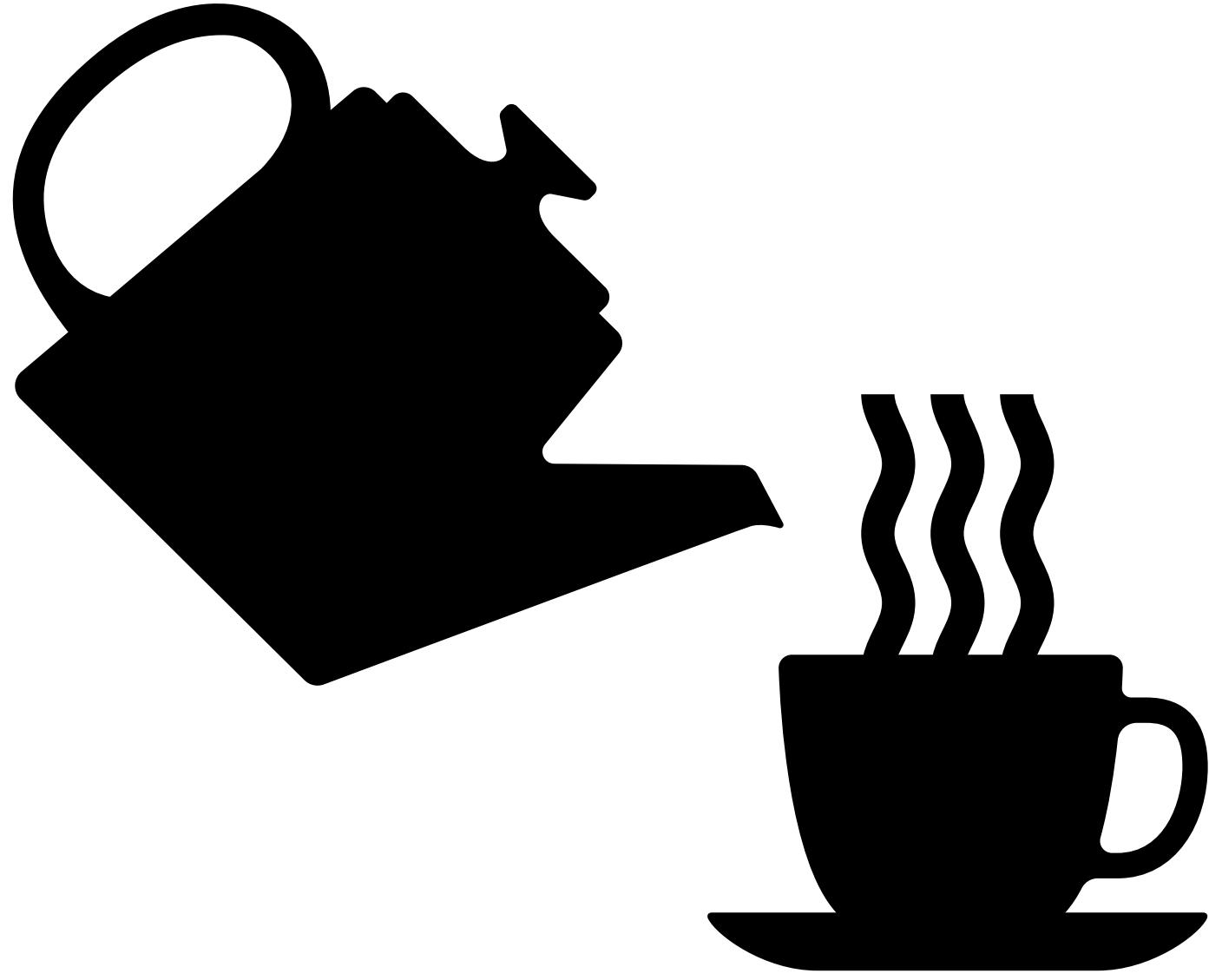


STATE RESULTS



Let's evaluate this map from CNN with Chartability.

Elavsky et al, “Chartability.” (2022)



POUR+CAF

“I need to pour a cup of coffee to help me consider accessible design!”

Perceivable

Can someone perceive this in multiple ways? Is each way easy?

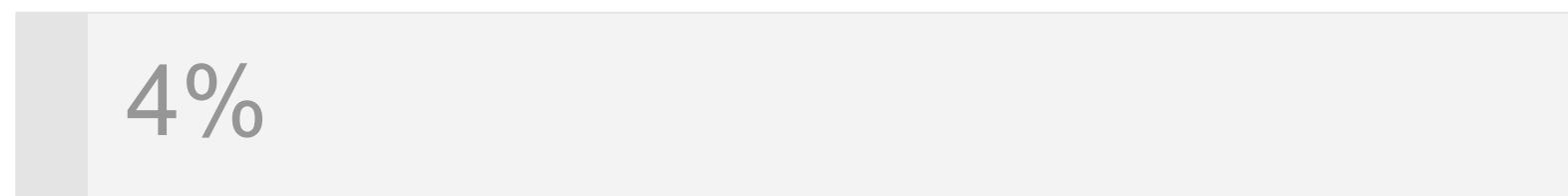
Perceivable Checklist:

1. High Contrast
2. Colorblind-Safe + Redundant Encoding
3. Alt Text

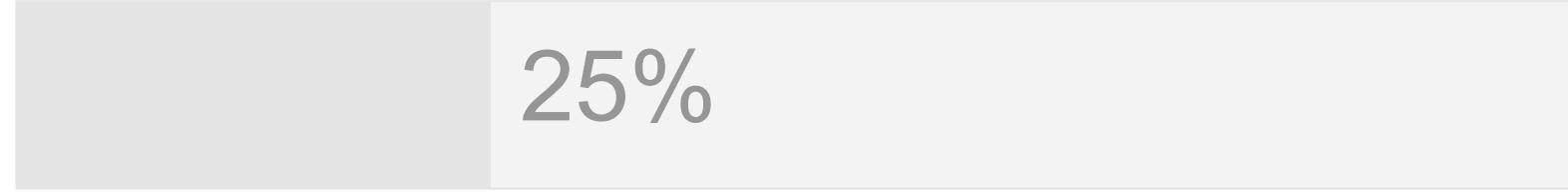
Design with high contrast

Colorblindness Disproportionately Overrepresented in A11y Resources

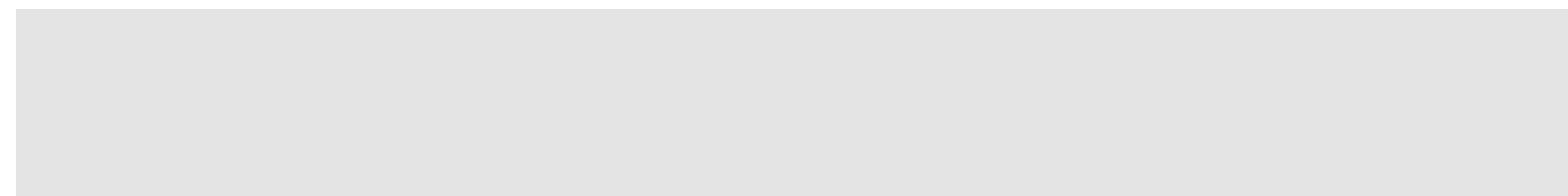
Colorblindness: % of People



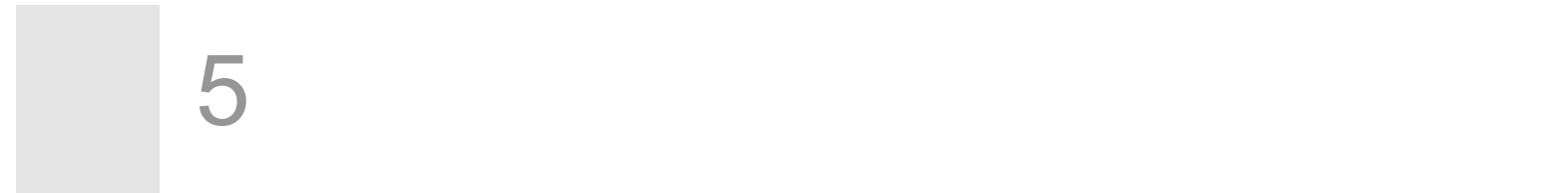
Low Vision: % of People



Colorblindness: # of Resources



Low Vision: # of Resources

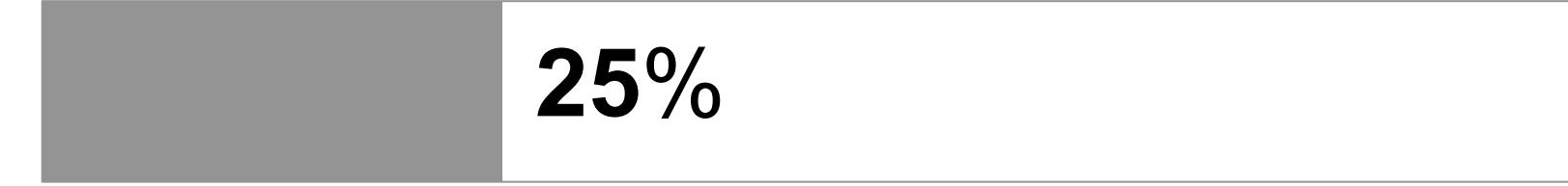


Colorblindness Disproportionately Overrepresented in A11y Resources

Colorblindness: % of People



Low Vision: % of People



Colorblindness: # of Resources



Low Vision: # of Resources



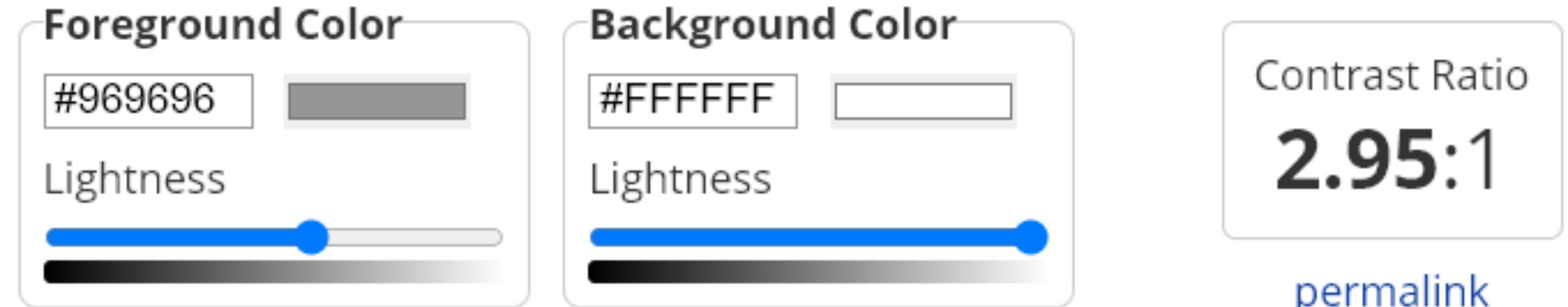
Use High Contrast Text

Text needs at least 4.5:1 contrast against its background.

Large text (bold and 16pt or larger) can be 3:1 or higher.

Contrast Checker

[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > Contrast Checker



Normal Text

WCAG AA: **Fail**

WCAG AAA: **Fail**

The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

Large Text

WCAG AA: **Fail**

WCAG AAA: **Fail**

The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

Use High Contrast Geometries

Chart elements need at least 3:1 contrast against their background.

Contrast Checker

[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > Contrast Checker

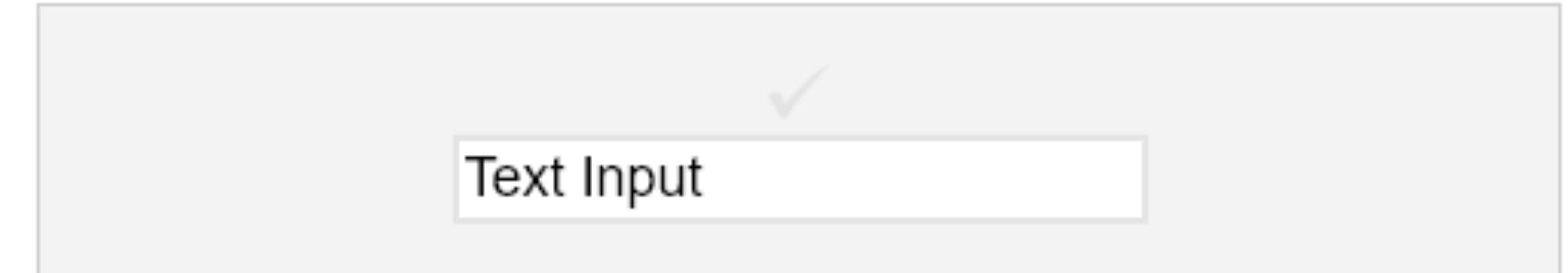
Foreground Color
#E4E4E4
Lightness 

Background Color
#F3F3F3
Lightness 

Contrast Ratio
1.14:1
[permalink](#)

Graphical Objects and User Interface Components

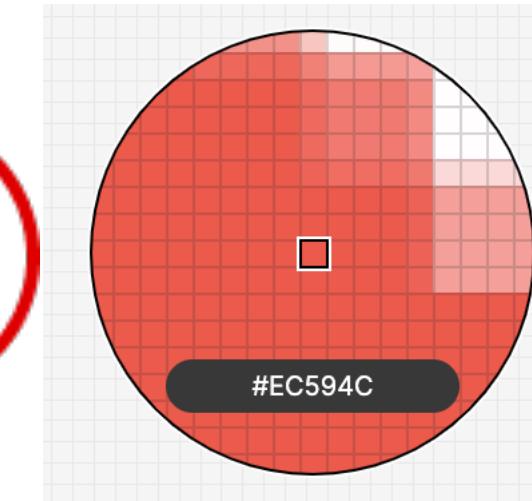
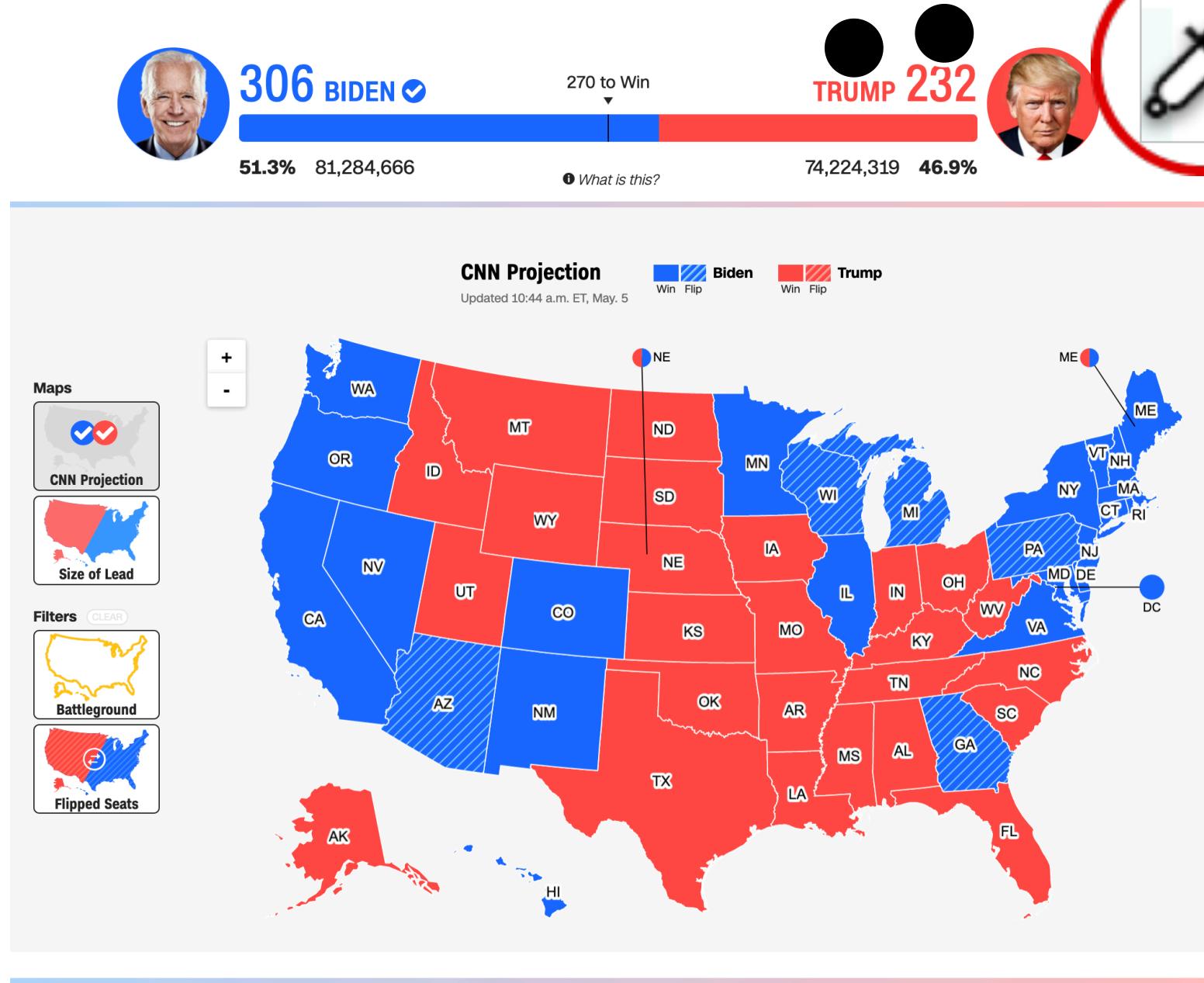
WCAG AA: **Fail**



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Joe Biden wins election to be the 46th US President

Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes put native son Joe Biden above the 270 needed to become the 46th President of the United States. Born in Scranton, the former vice president and longtime Delaware senator defeated Donald Trump, the first President to lose a reelection bid since George H.W. Bush in 1992.



Contrast Checker

[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > Contrast Checker

Foreground Color

#EC594C

Lightness



Background Color

#FFFFFF

Lightness



Contrast Ratio

3.44:1

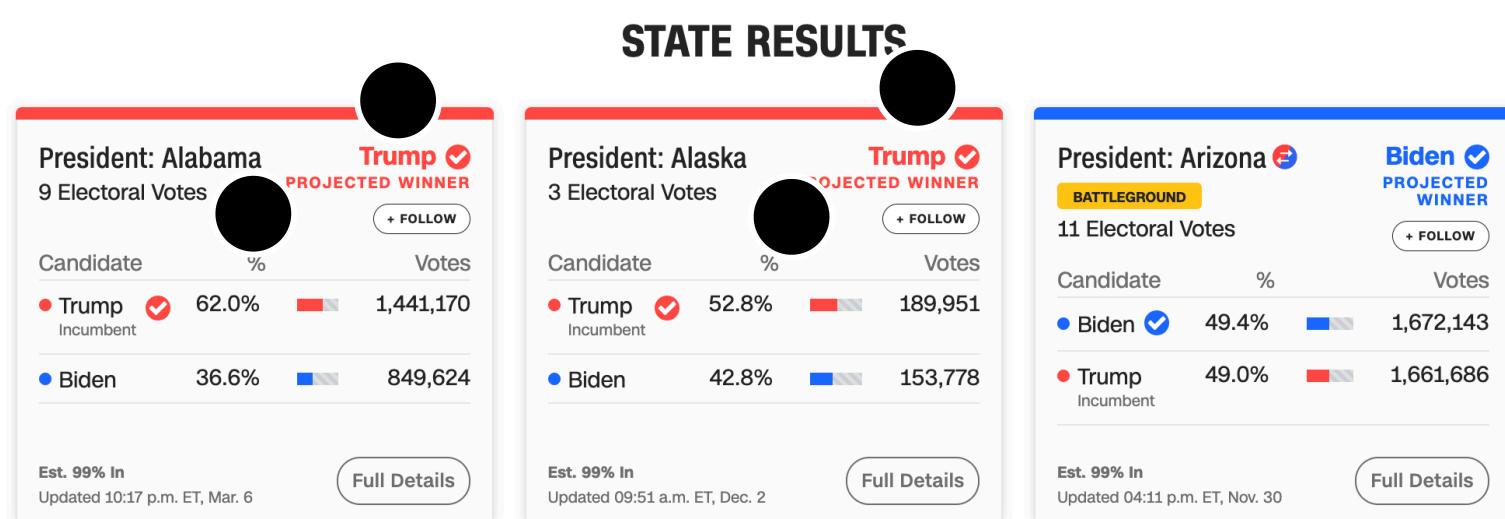
[permalink](#)

Normal Text

WCAG AA: **Fail**

WCAG AAA: **Fail**

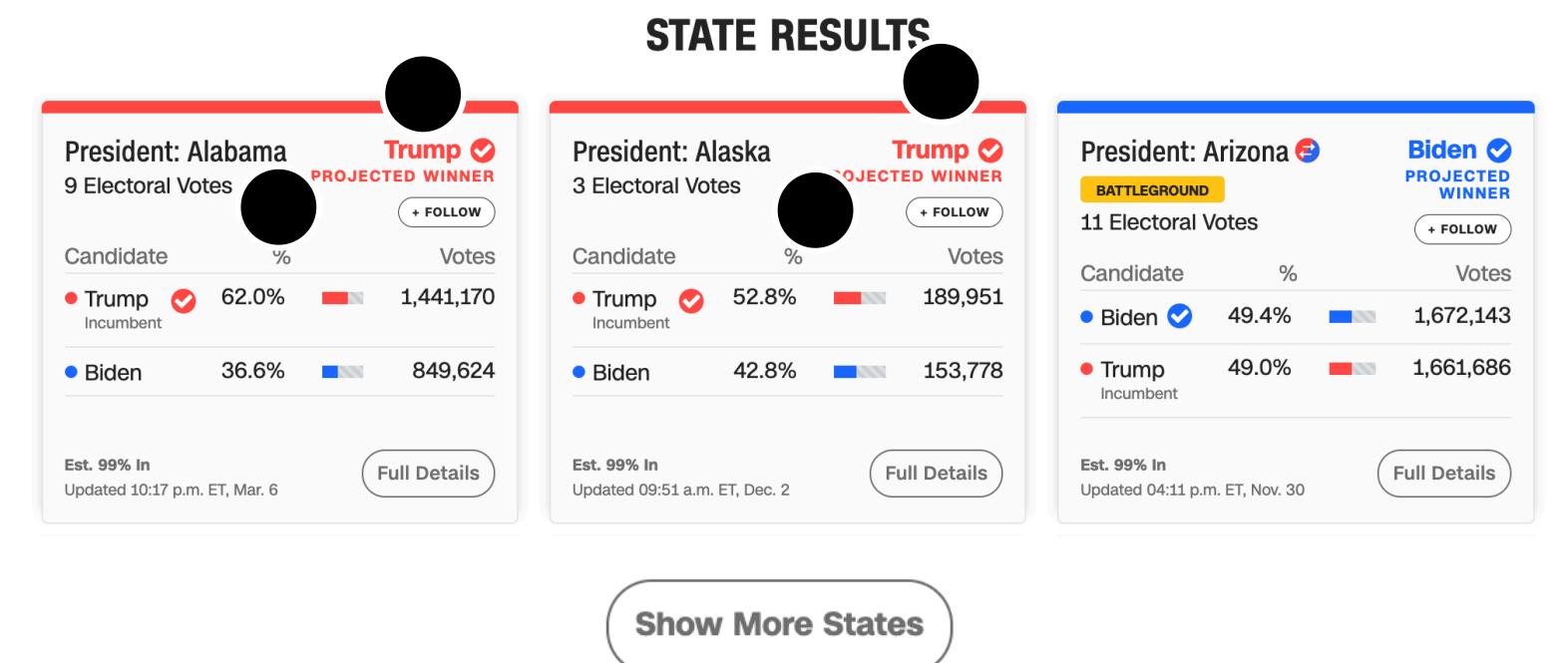
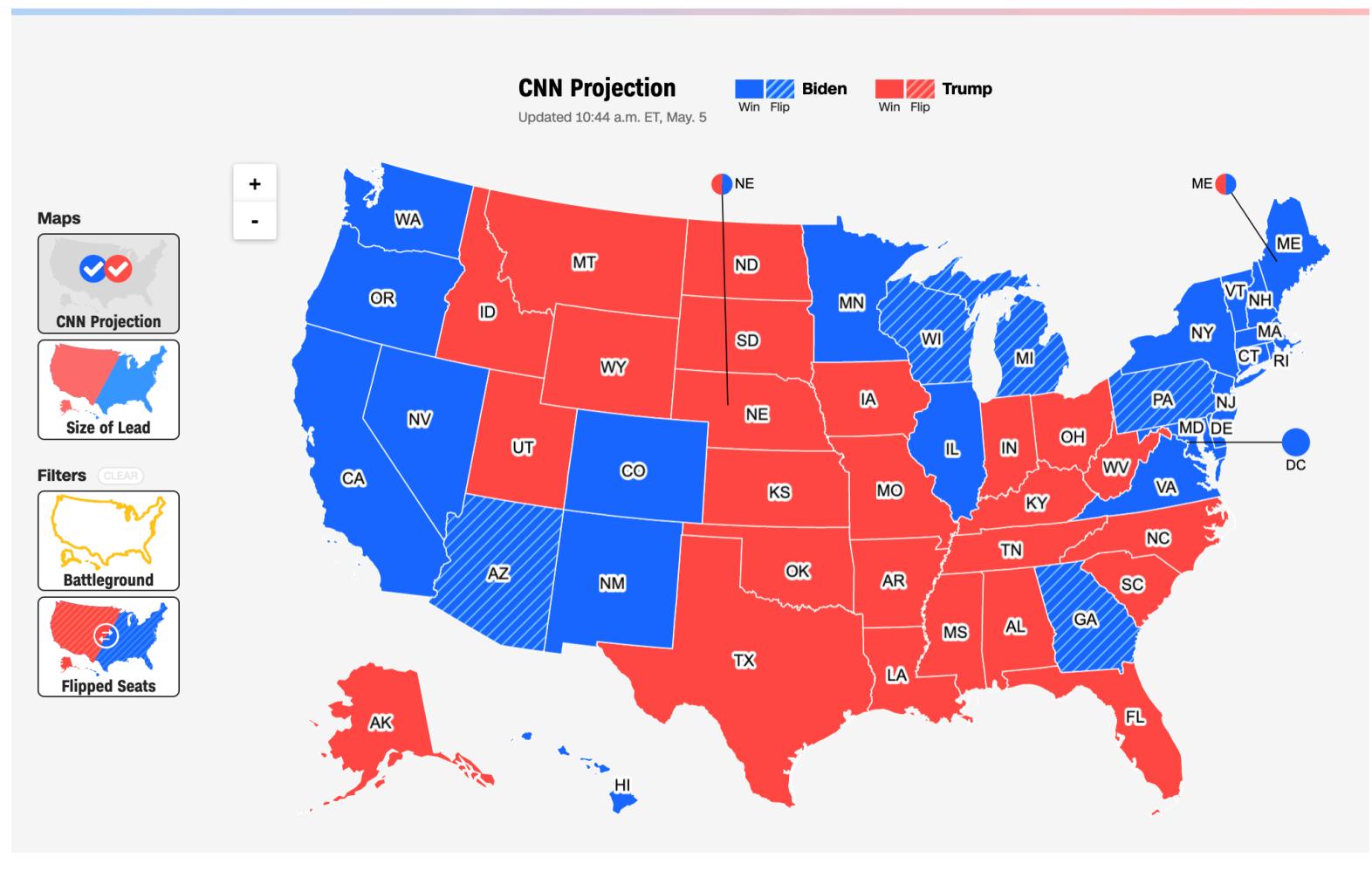
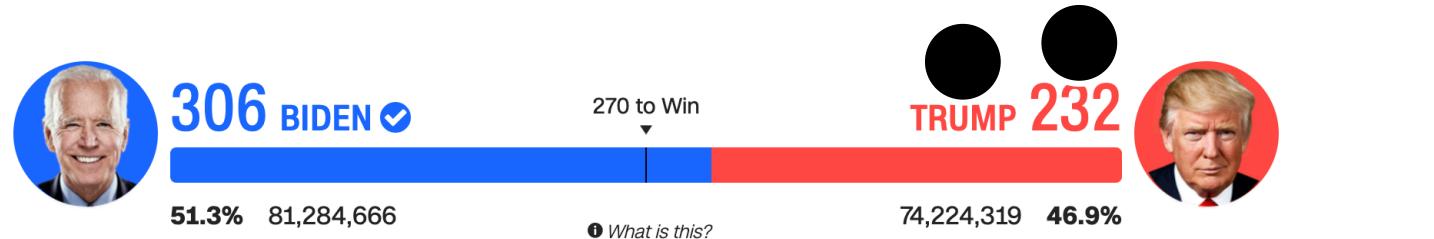
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PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

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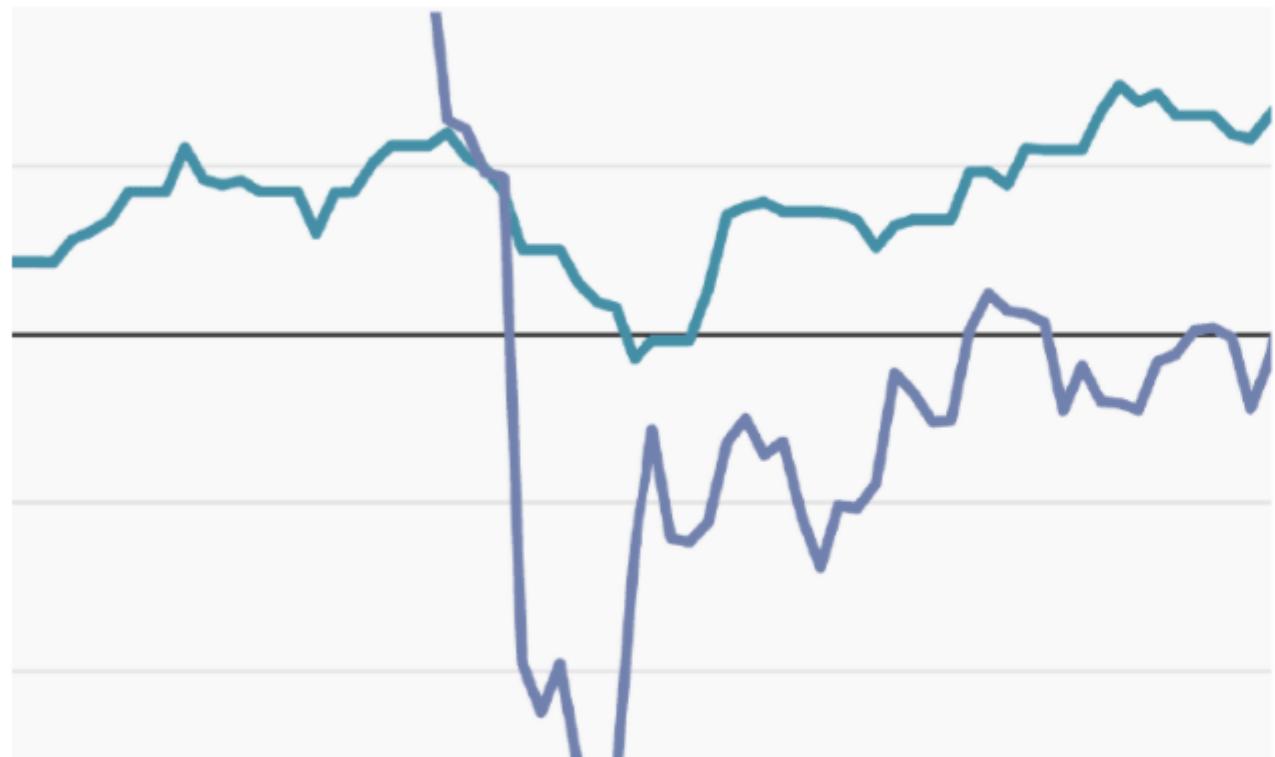
Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes put native son Joe Biden above the 270 needed to become the 46th President of the United States. Born in Scranton, the former vice president and longtime Delaware senator defeated Donald Trump, the first President to lose a reelection bid since George H.W. Bush in 1992.



6 instances of low contrast

Don't rely on color alone!

(Muth) <https://blog.datawrapper.de/colorblindness-part2/>

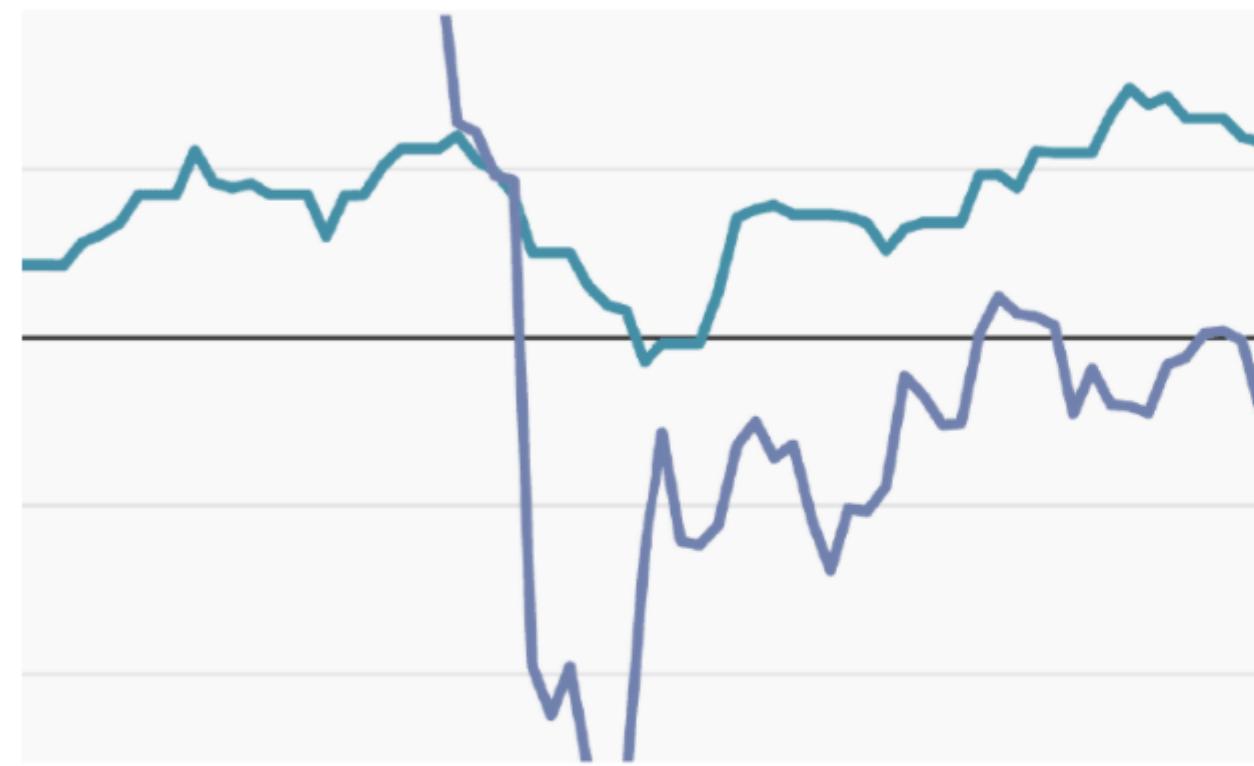


WHAT PEOPLE WITH NORMAL
VISION SEE

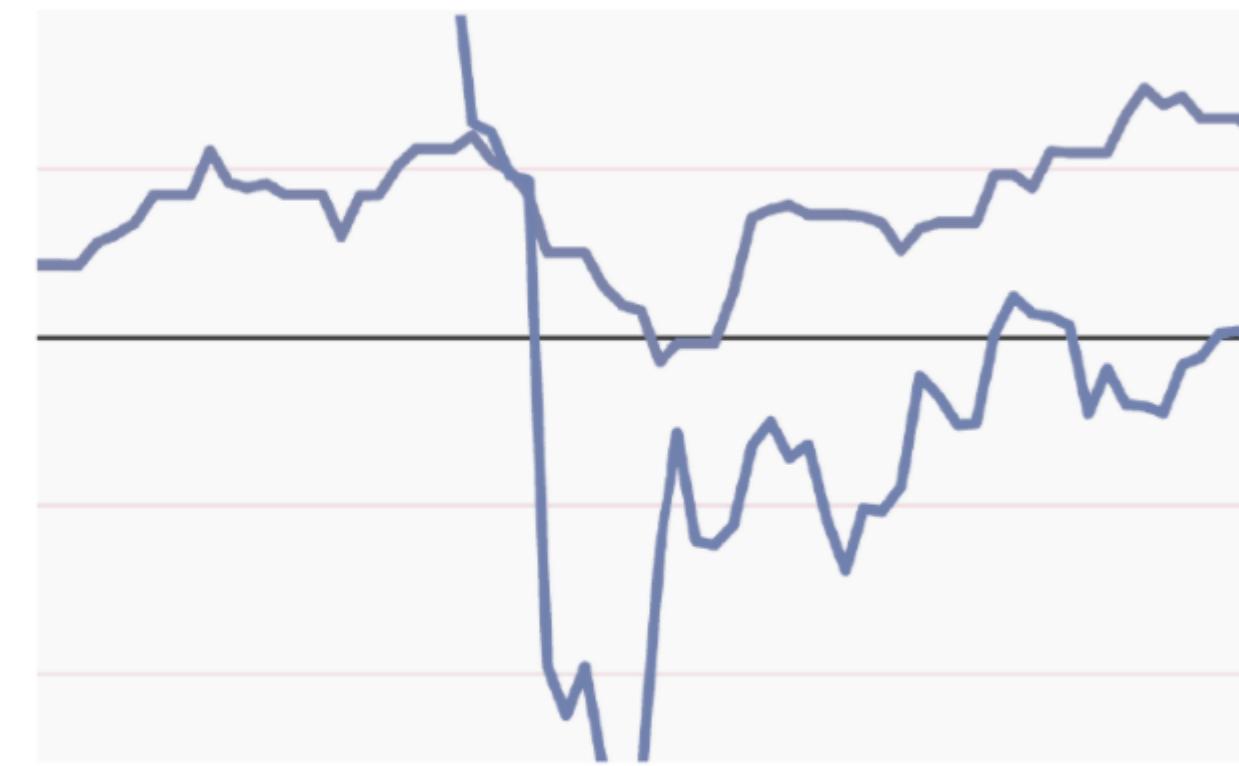


WHAT GREEN-BLIND PEOPLE SEE
1% OF MEN

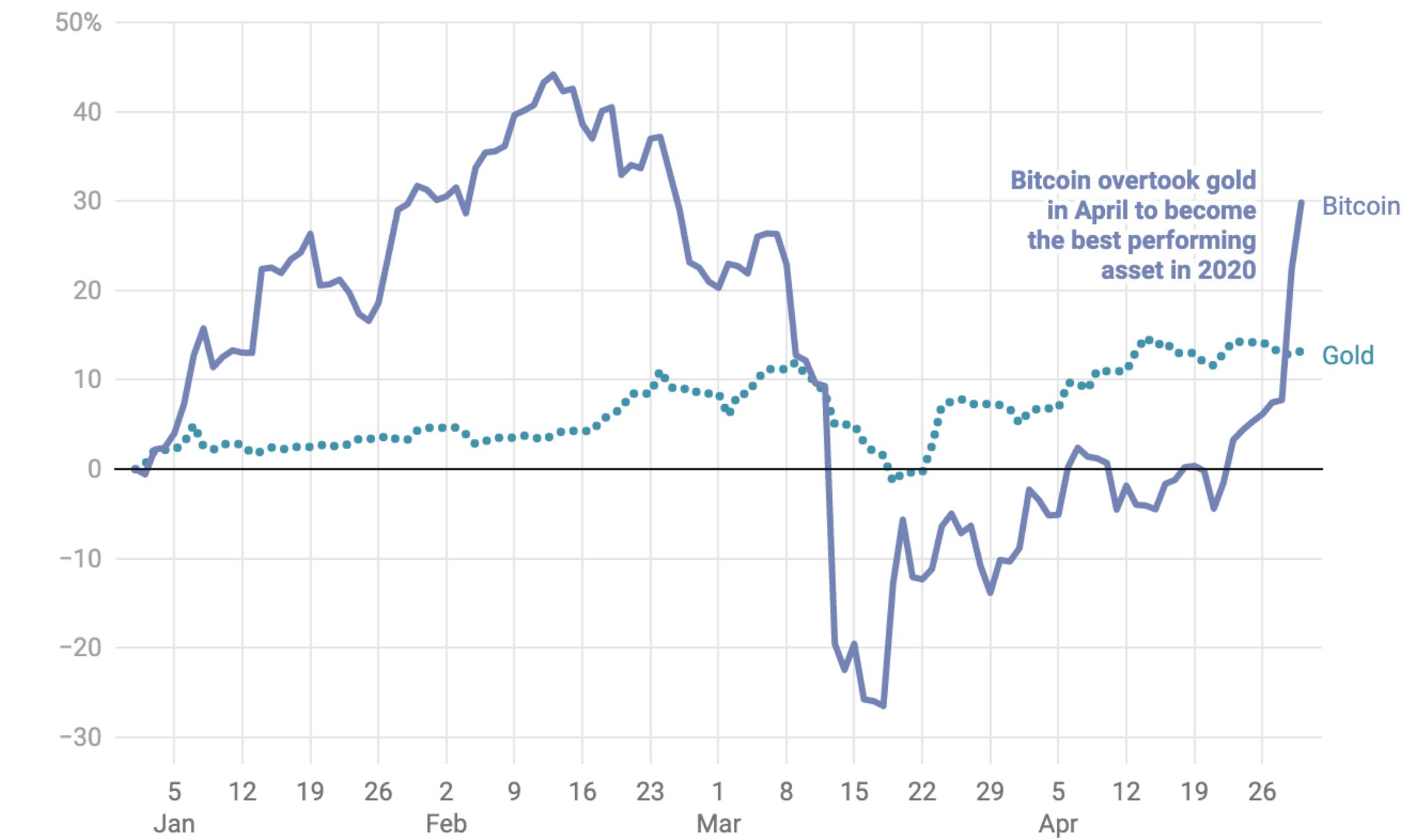
“Redundant encoding” is one strategy



WHAT PEOPLE WITH NORMAL
VISION SEE



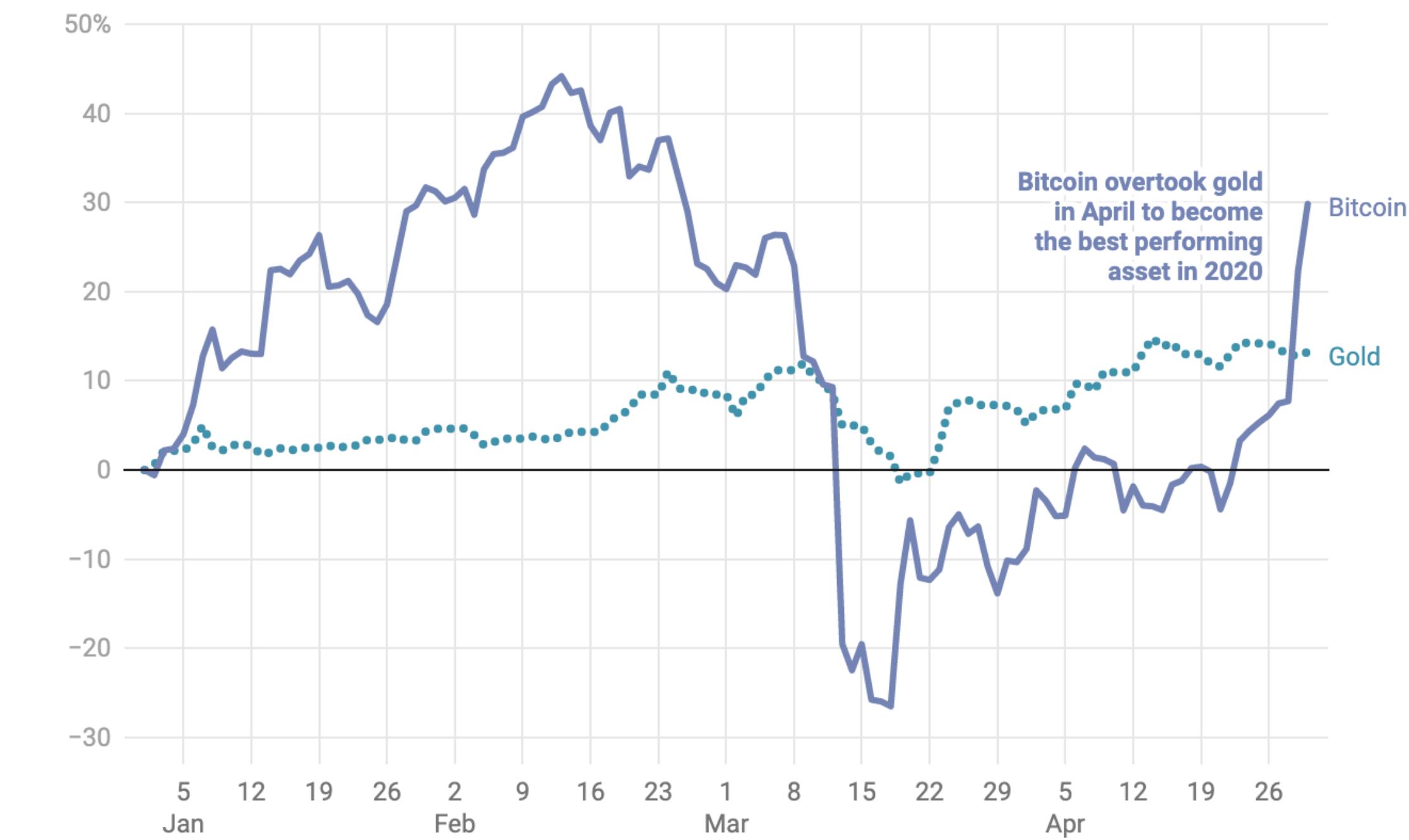
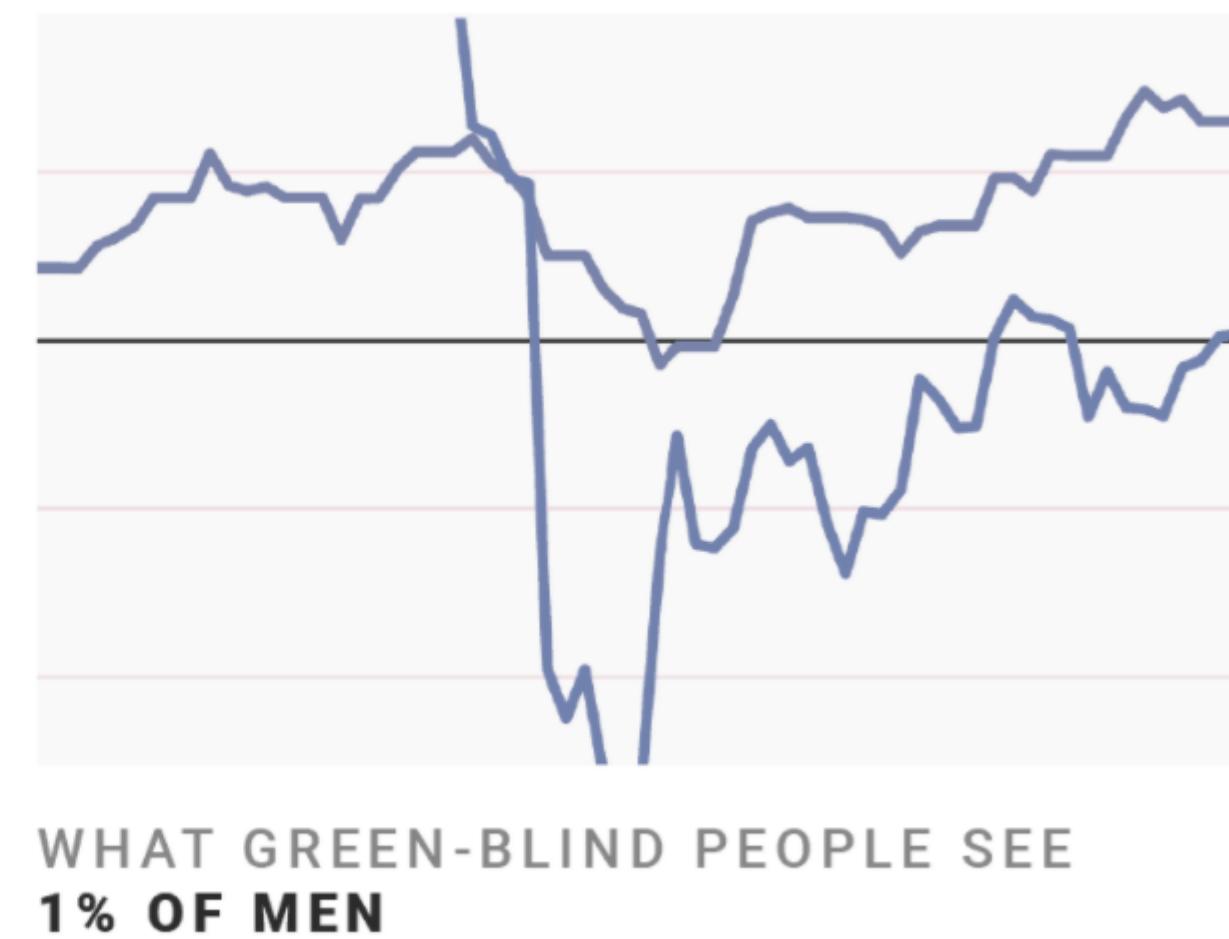
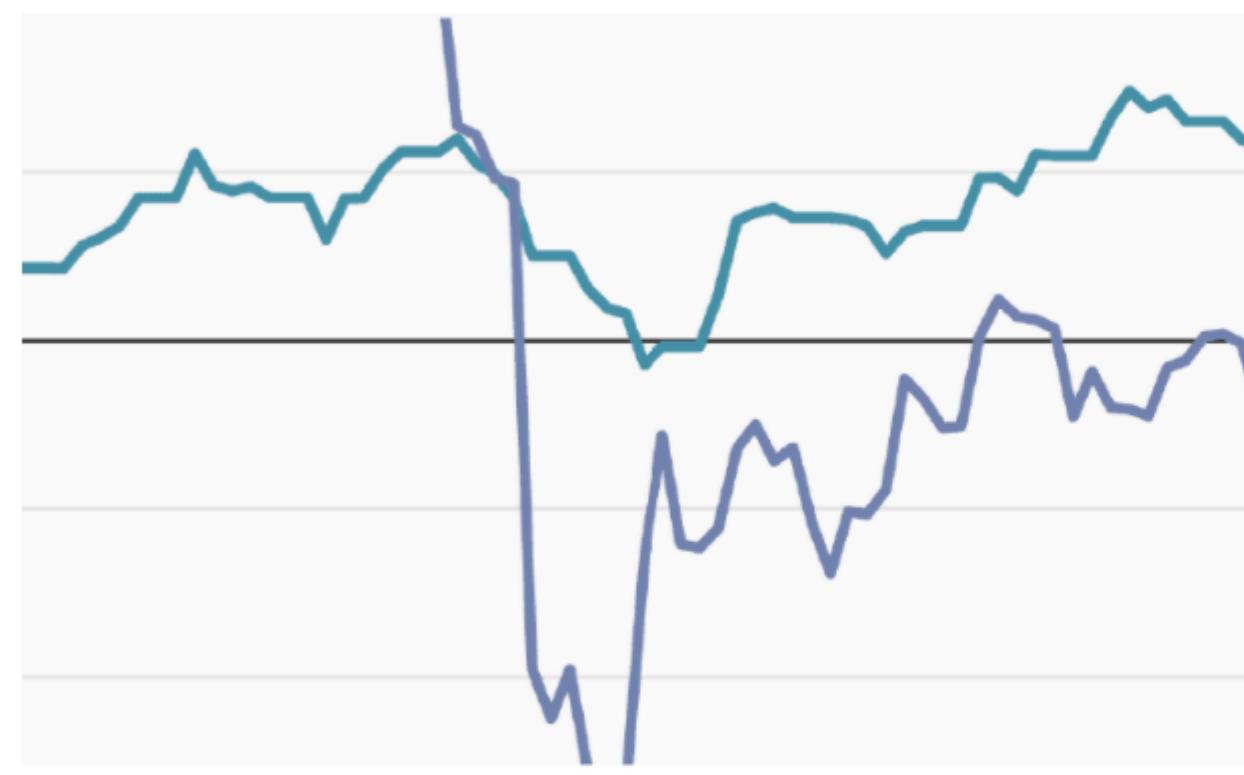
WHAT GREEN-BLIND PEOPLE SEE
1% OF MEN



Bitcoin and gold price change (%) between January and May 2020

Chart: Based on [Anthony Cuthbertson](#) • Source: [CoinMarketCap](#), Nasdaq, Gold Price • Get the data

A note: “Color-vision deficiency” and “colorblindness” refer to the same thing, both terms are fine to use.



Bitcoin and gold price change (%) between January and May 2020

Chart: Based on [Anthony Cuthbertson](#) • Source: [CoinMarketCap](#), Nasdaq, Gold Price • [Get the data](#)

But sometimes you can't redundantly encode!



306 BIDEN

51.3% 81,284,666

270 to Win



TRUMP 232

74,224,319 46.9%

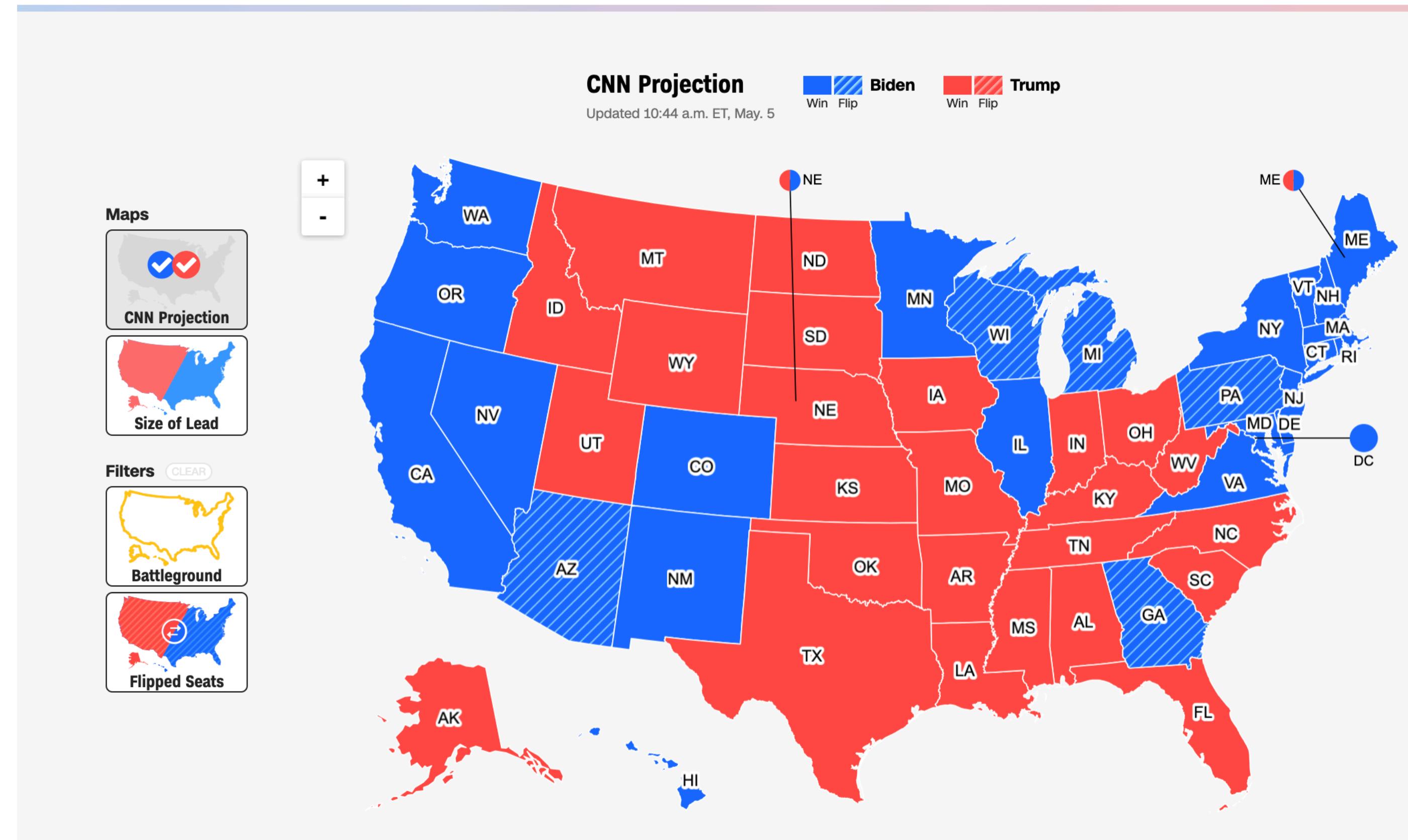
What is this?

CNN Projection

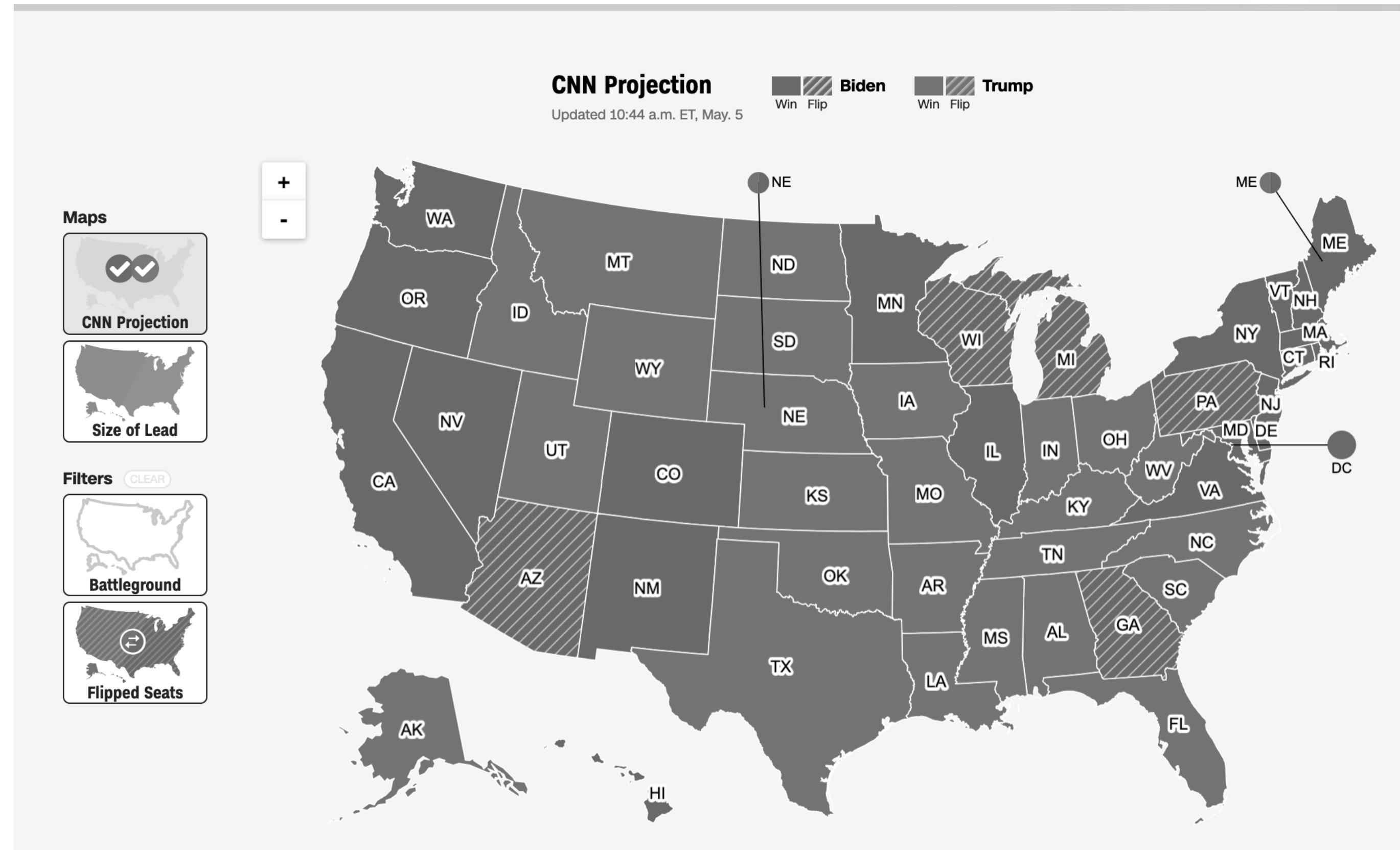
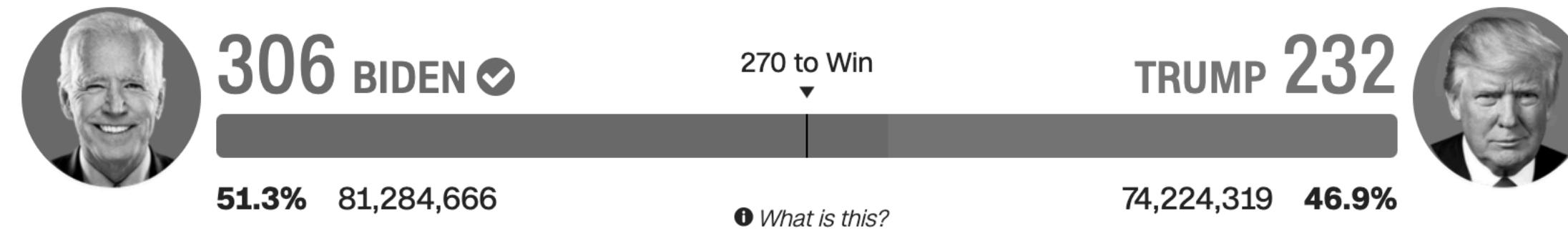
Updated 10:44 a.m. ET, May 5

Biden
Win Flip

Trump
Win Flip



This map is trouble in greyscale



The division here matters!



306 BIDEN ✓

51.3% 81,284,666

270 to Win



232 TRUMP

74,224,319 46.9%

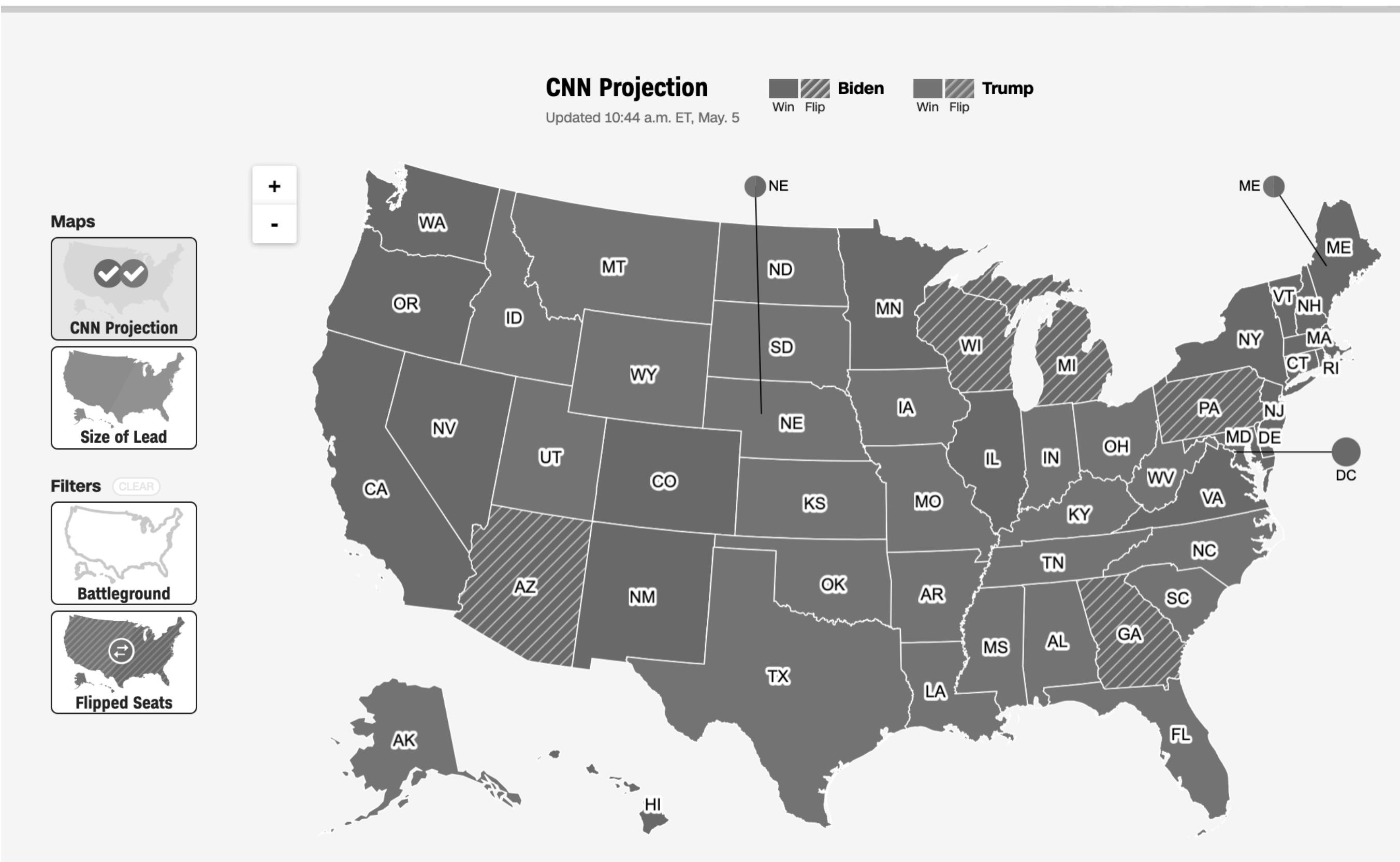
ⓘ What is this?

CNN Projection

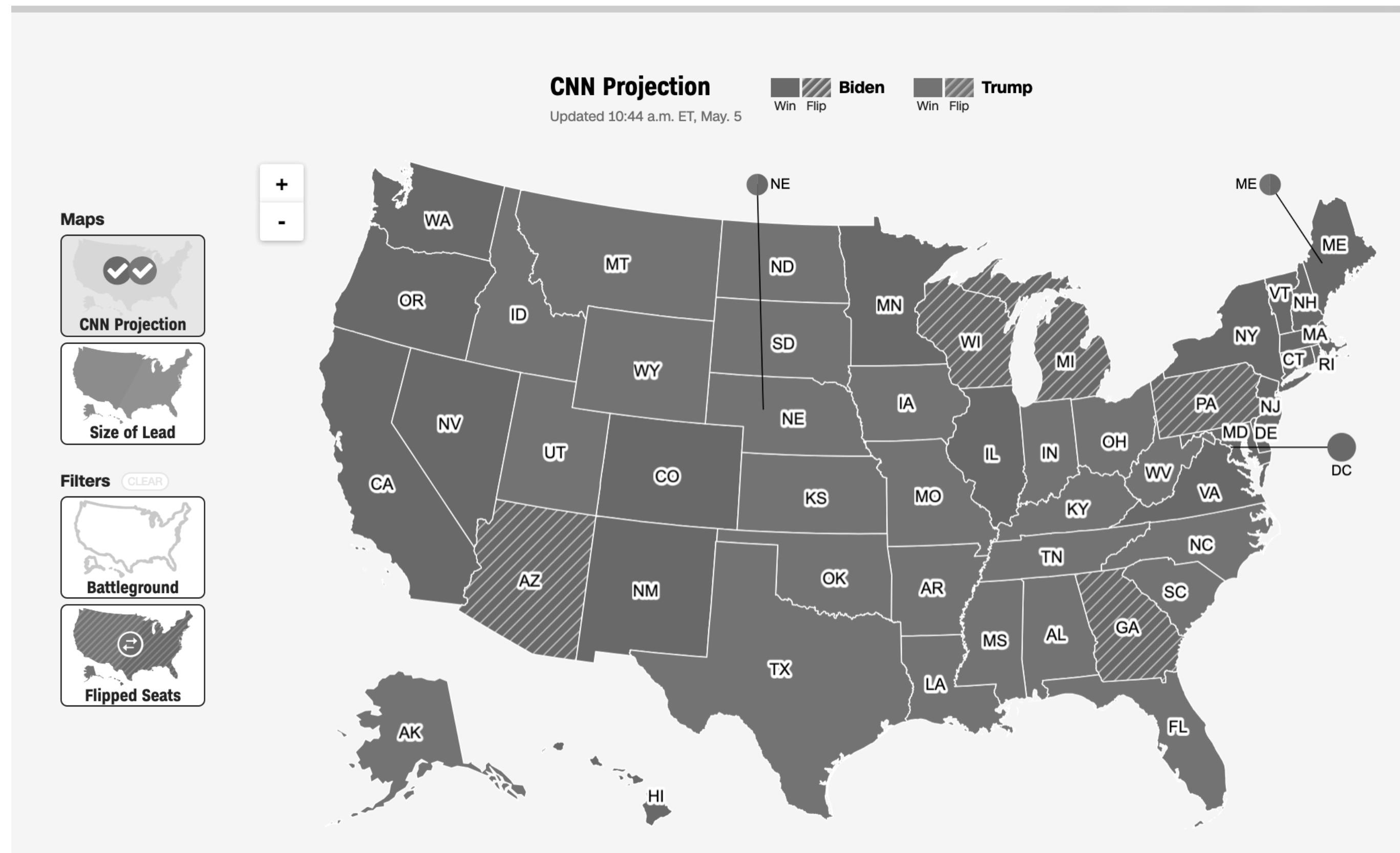
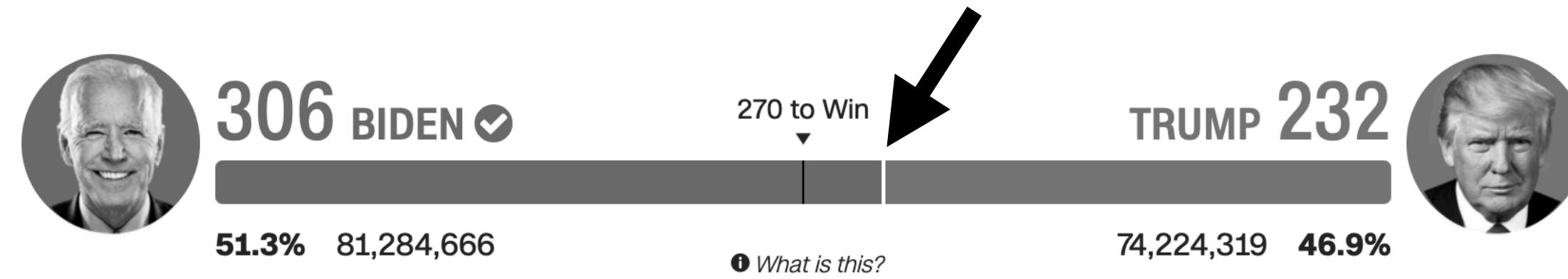
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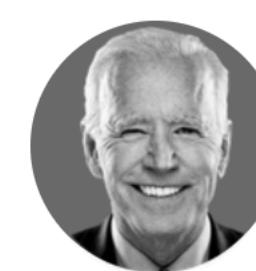
Trump
Win Flip



Maybe a small white divider, like the states?



Perhaps test a darker blue too?



306 BIDEN ✓

51.3% 81,284,666



270 to Win



232 TRUMP

74,224,319 46.9%

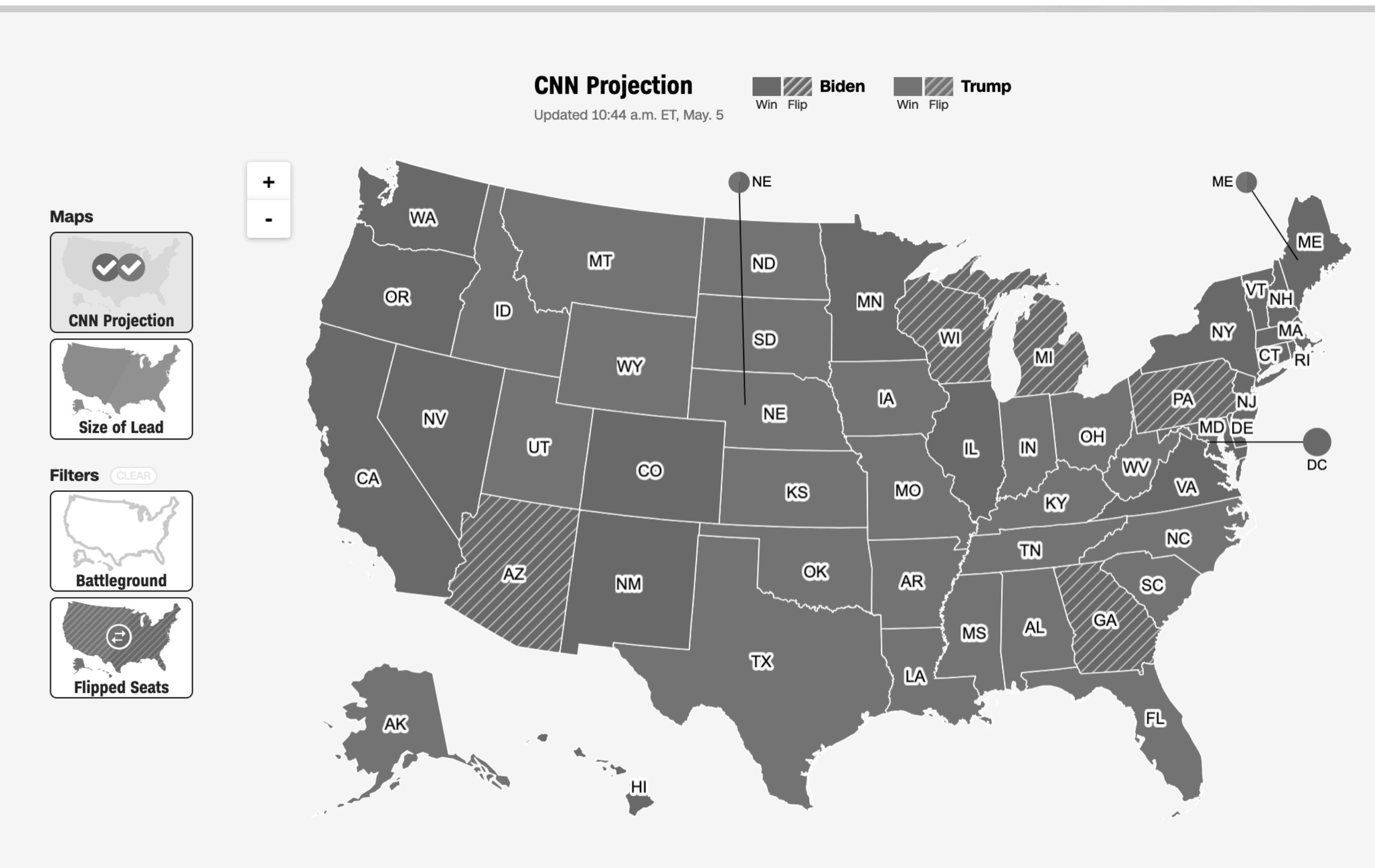
ⓘ What is this?

CNN Projection

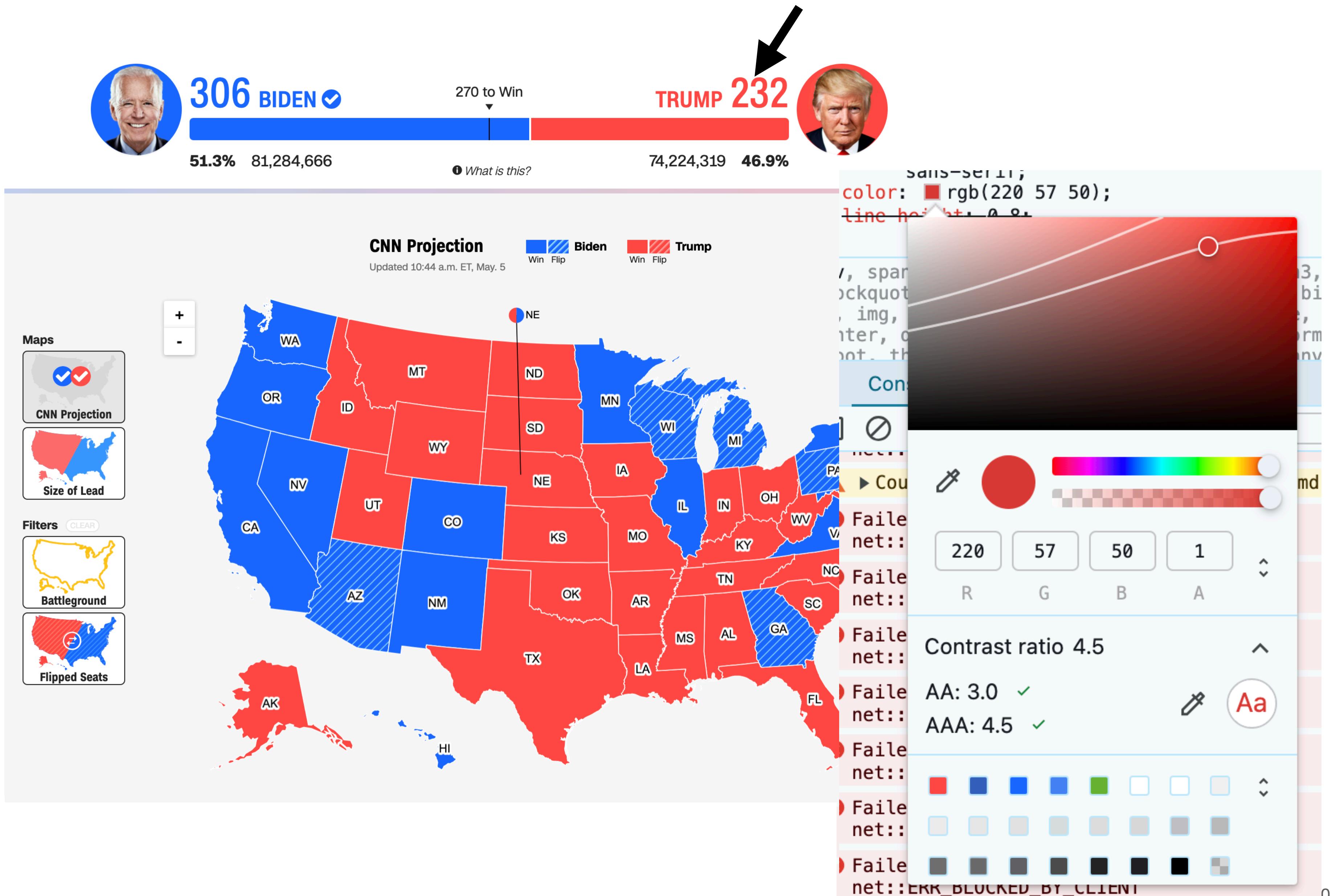
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Biden
Win Flip

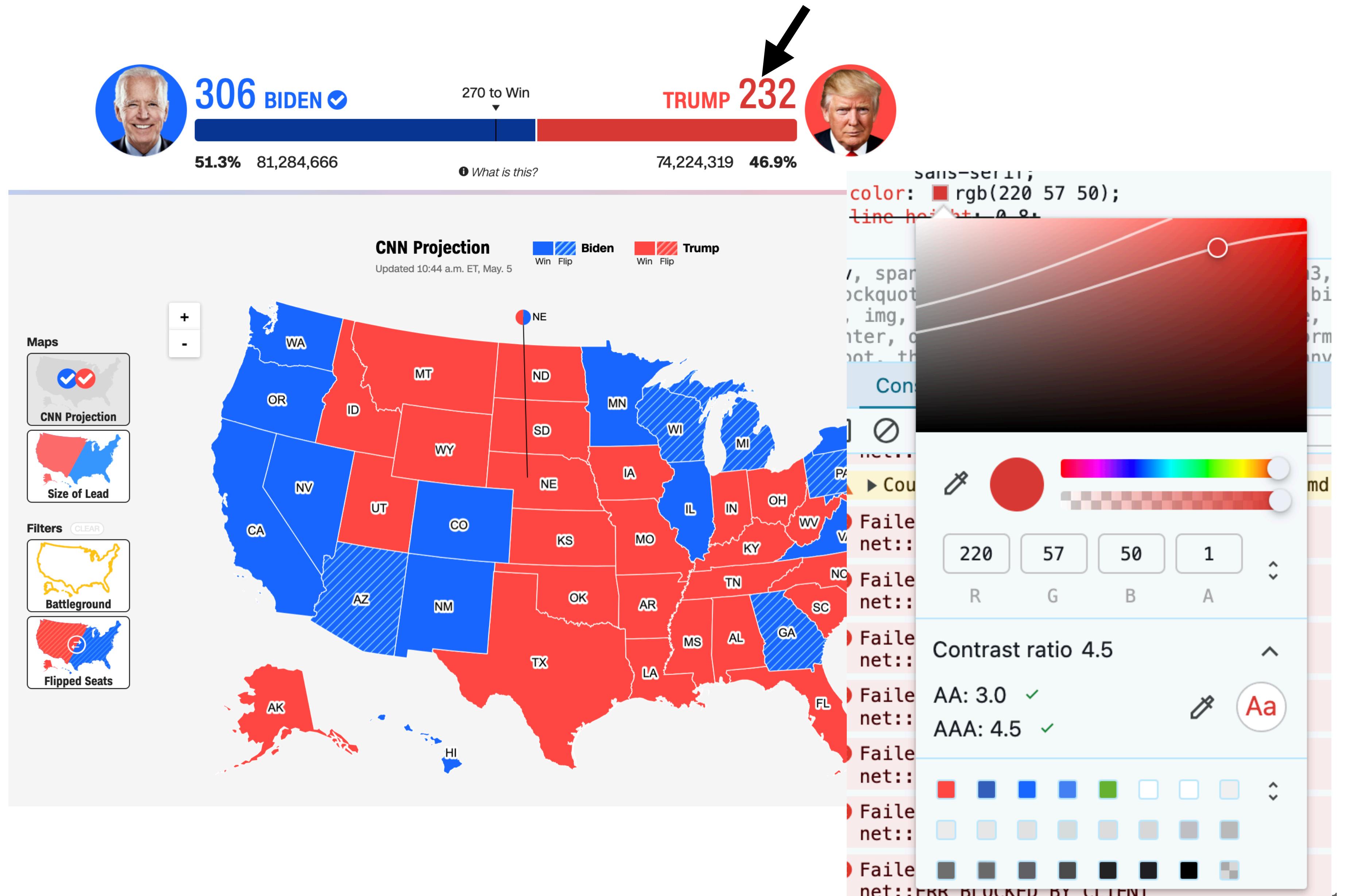
Trump
Win Flip



What if we fix the contrast failures at the same time?



This text now passes!



Let's check that greyscale again...



Before



306 BIDEN

51.3% 81,284,666

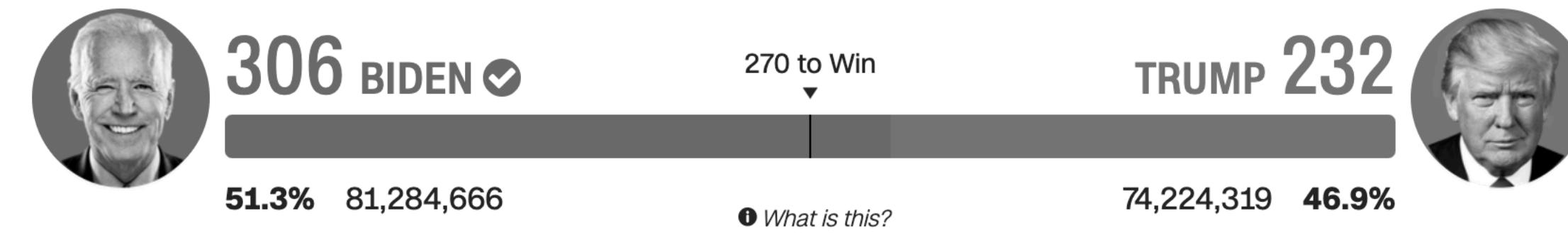
270 to Win



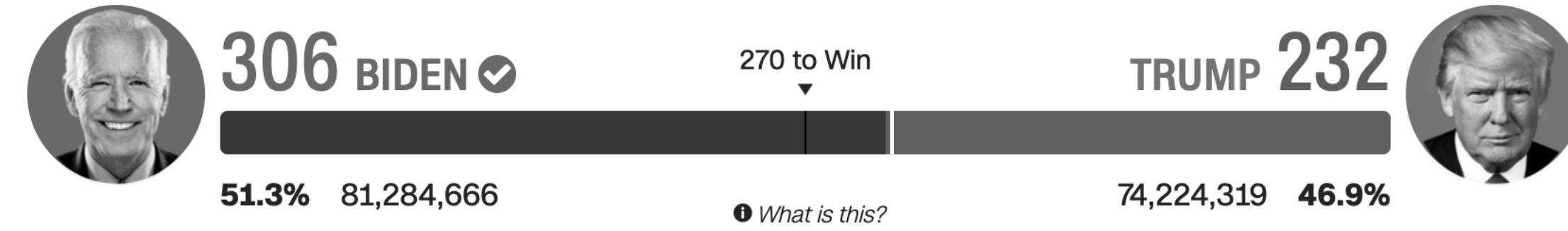
TRUMP 232

74,224,319 **46.9%**

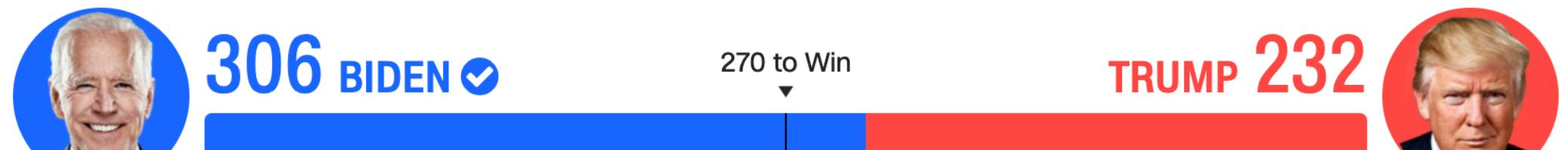
What is this?



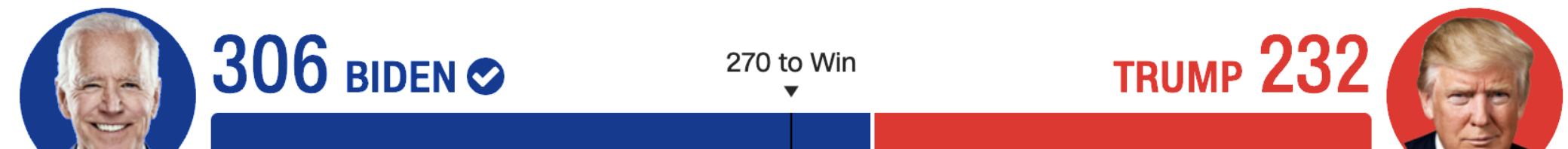
And after!



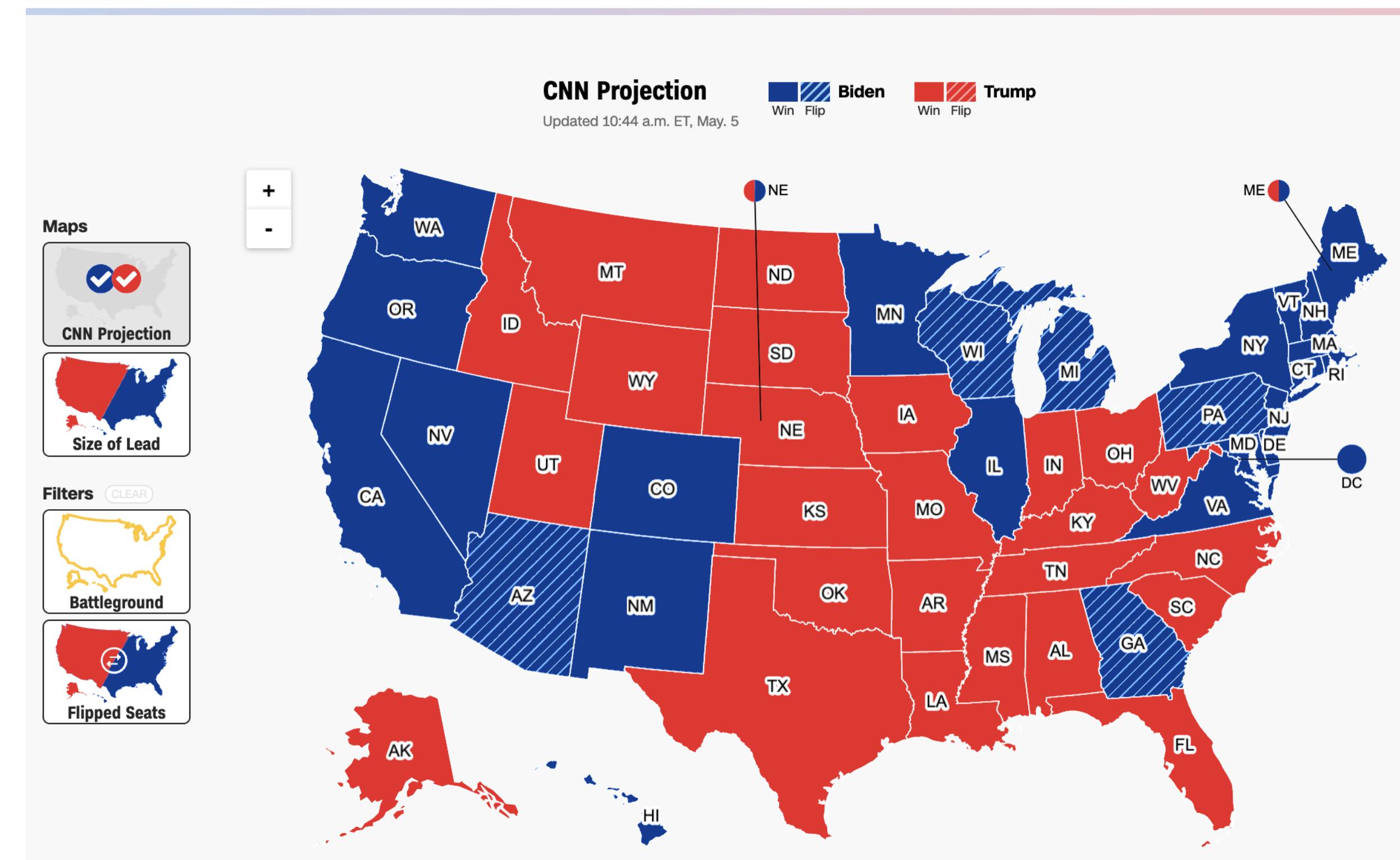
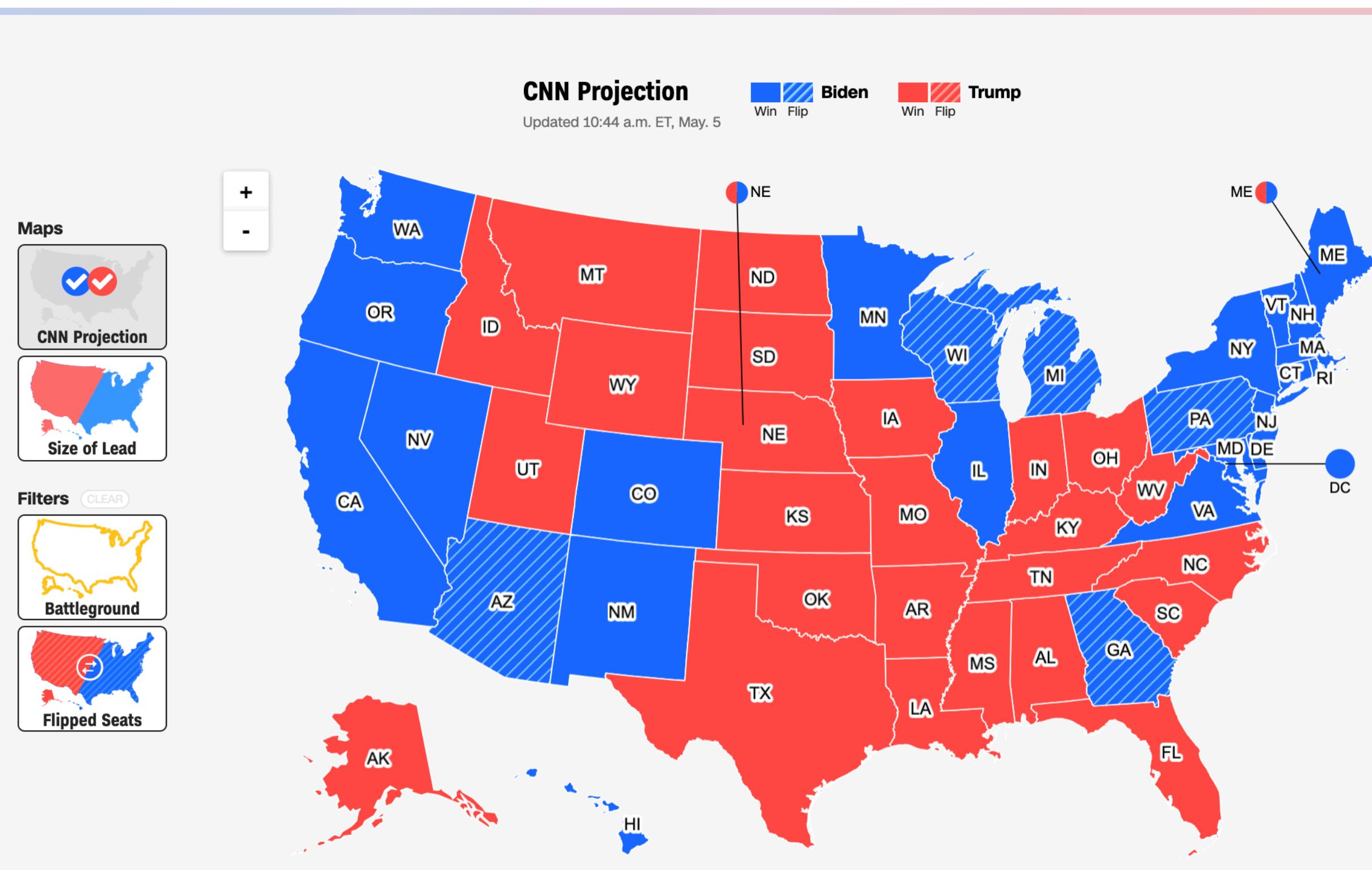
Sufficient contrast can help folks differentiate



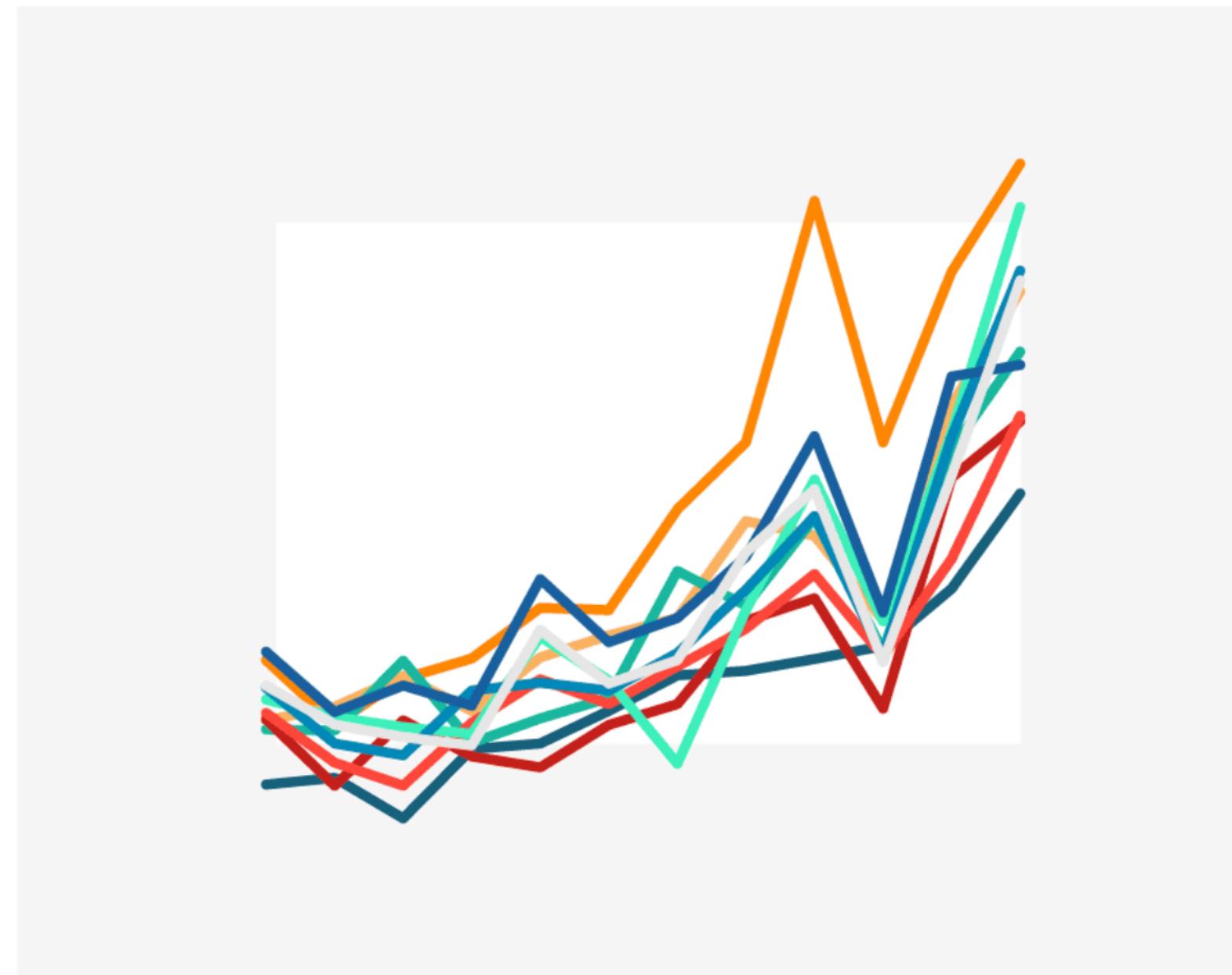
What is this?



What is this?



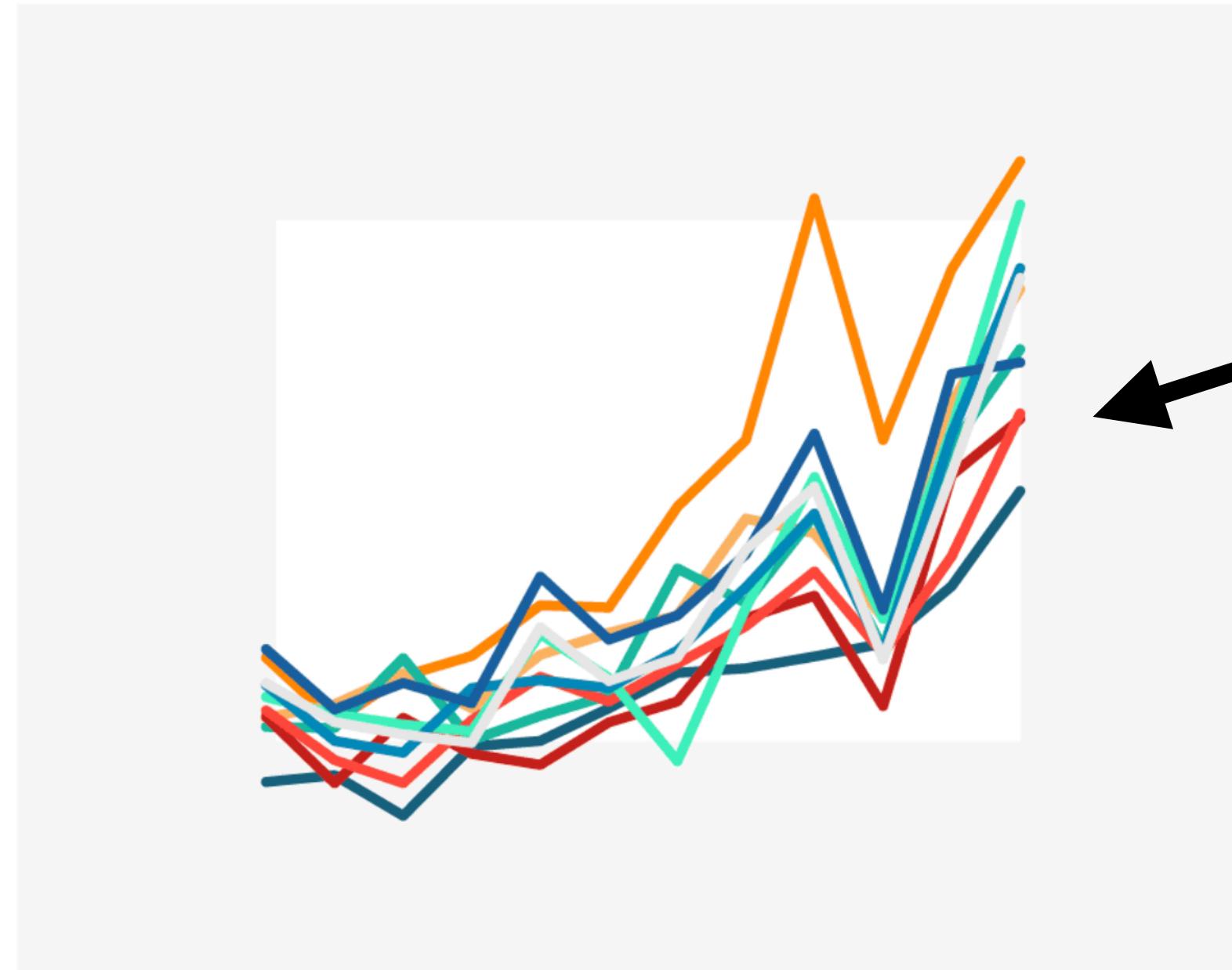
But what about more than 2 colors?



NOT IDEAL

Source: [Datawrapper](#)

But what about more than 2 colors?

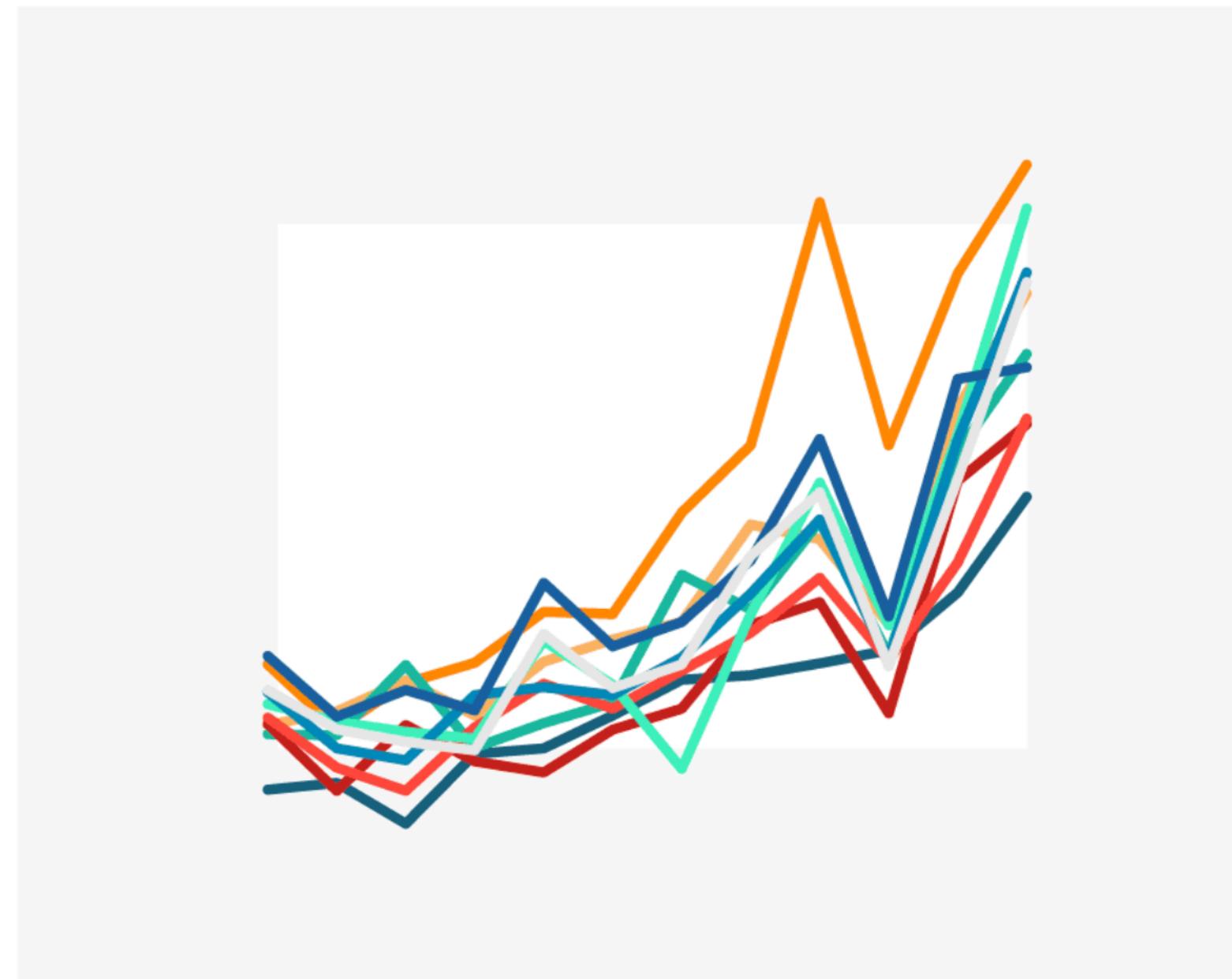


NOT IDEAL

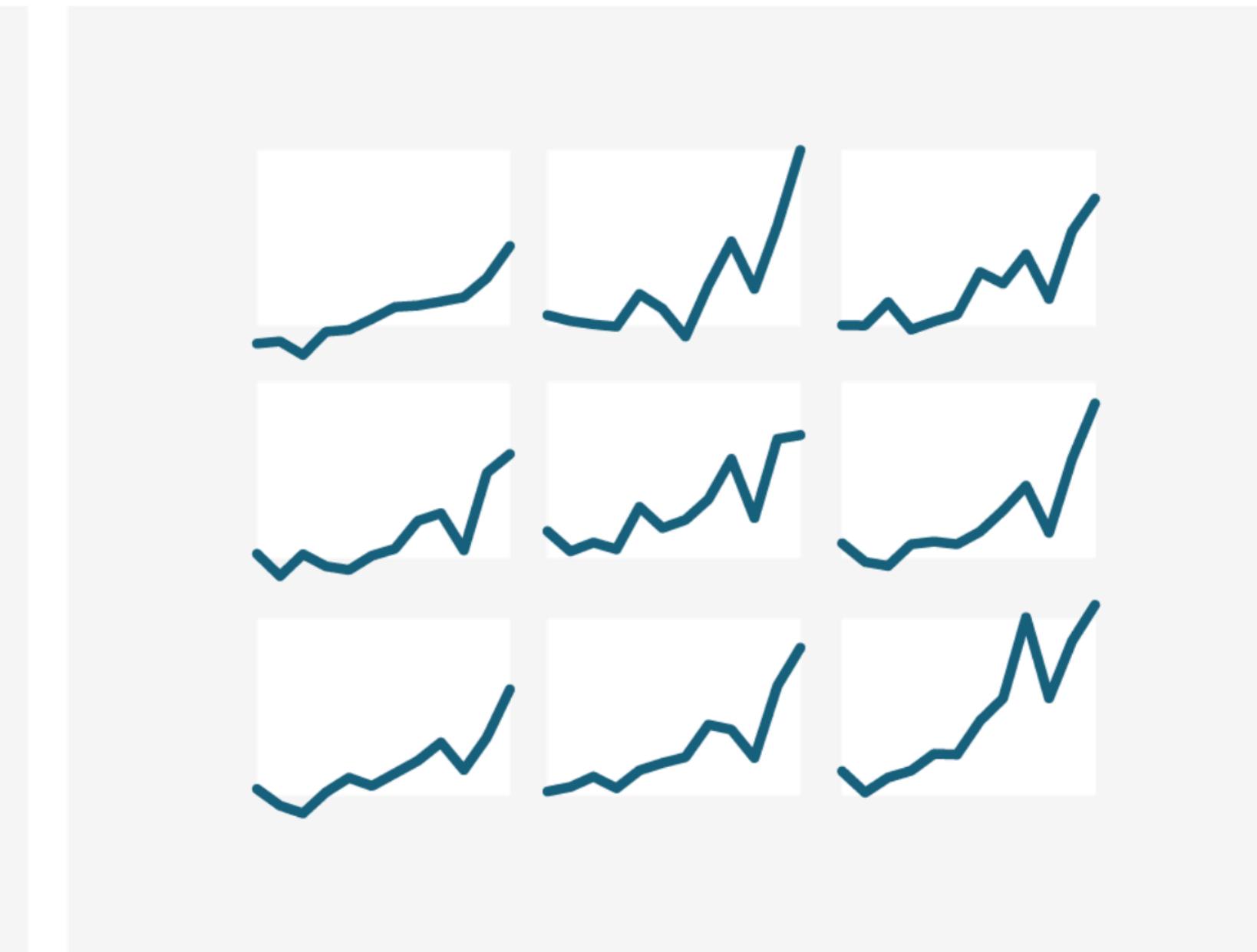
Finding “pair” contrast gets
really hard after 3+ colors...

Source: [Datawrapper](#)

Reduce your colors and redesign!



NOT IDEAL



BETTER

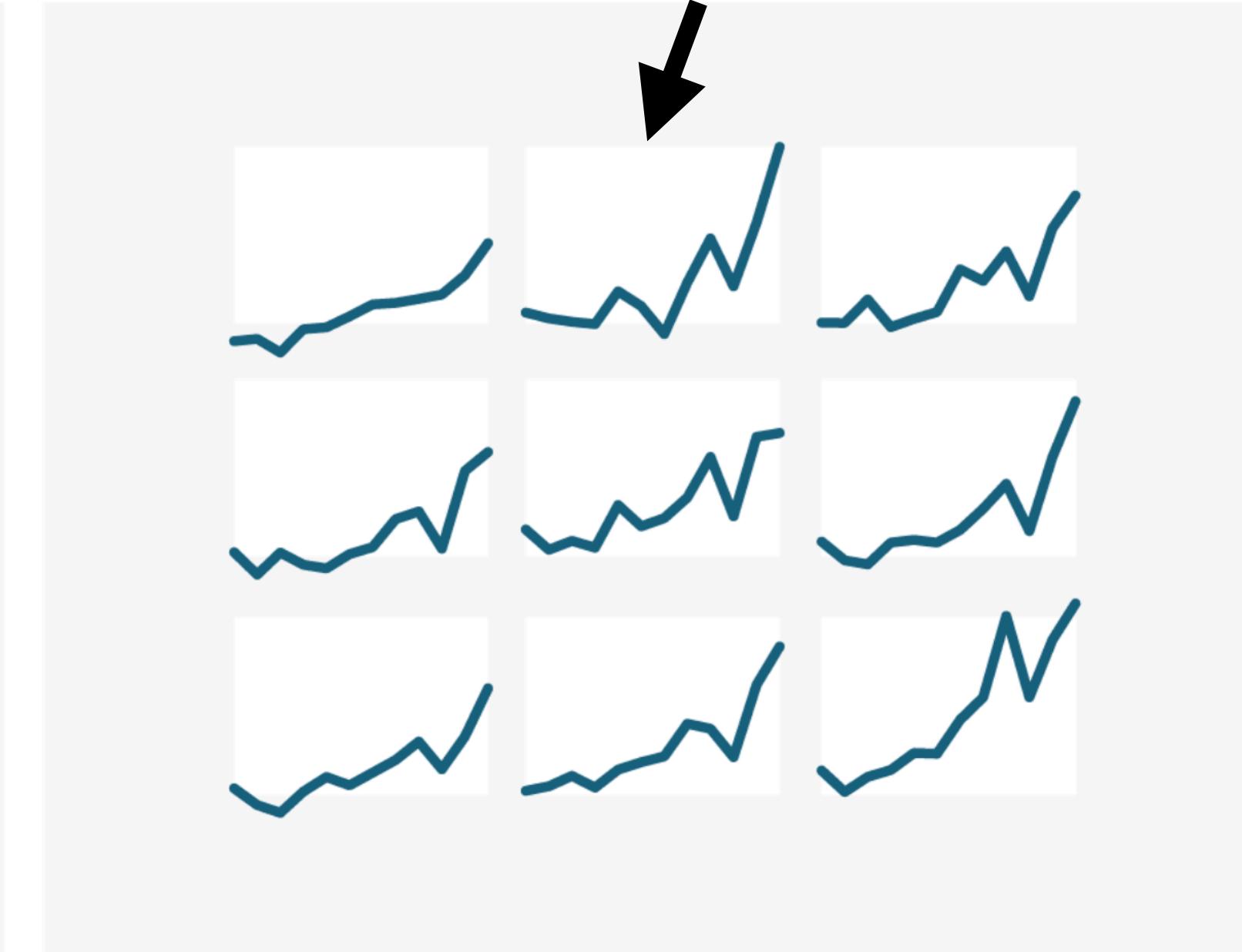
Source: [Datawrapper](#)

Reduce your colors and redesign!

Using “small multiples” is an easy, powerful technique



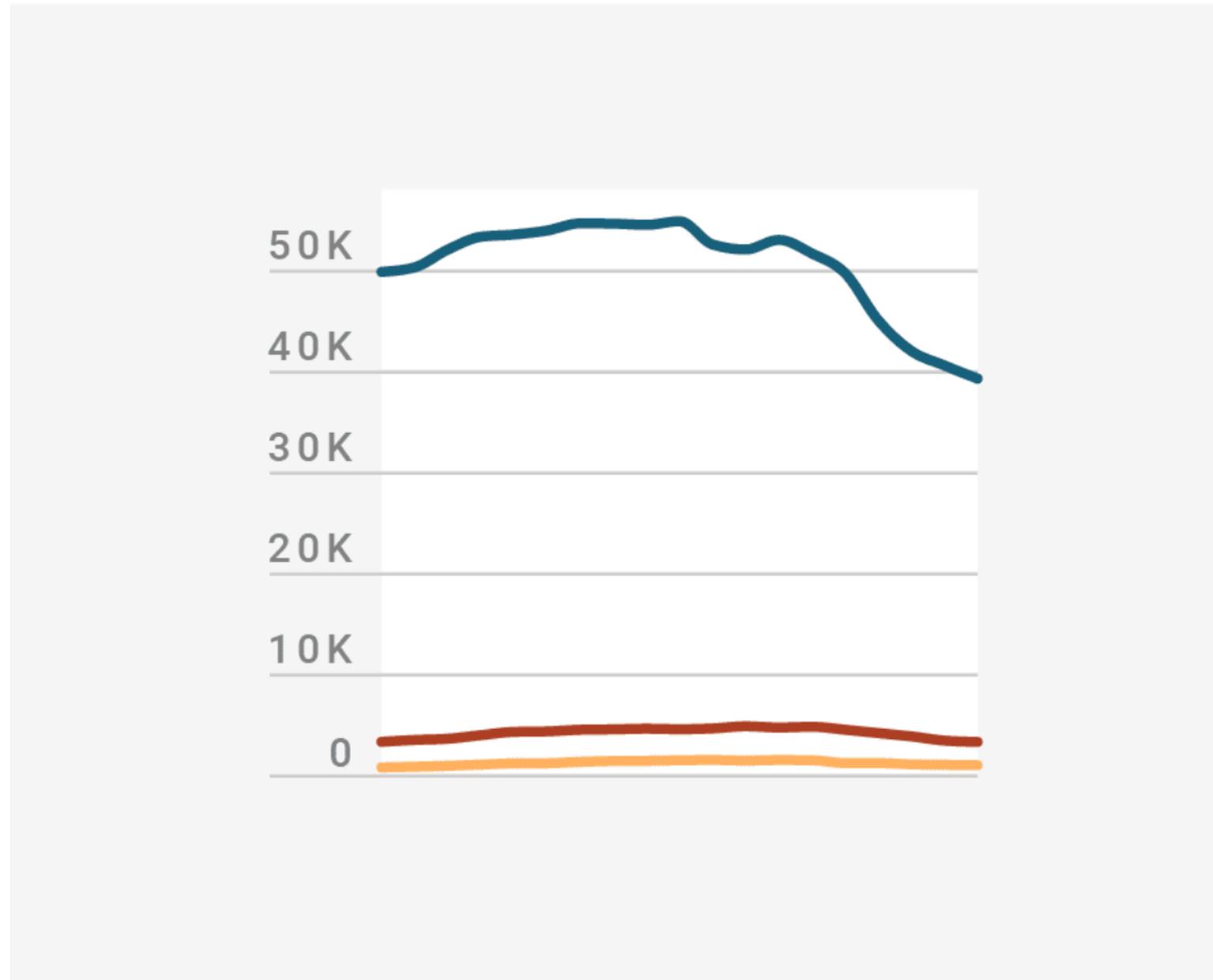
NOT IDEAL



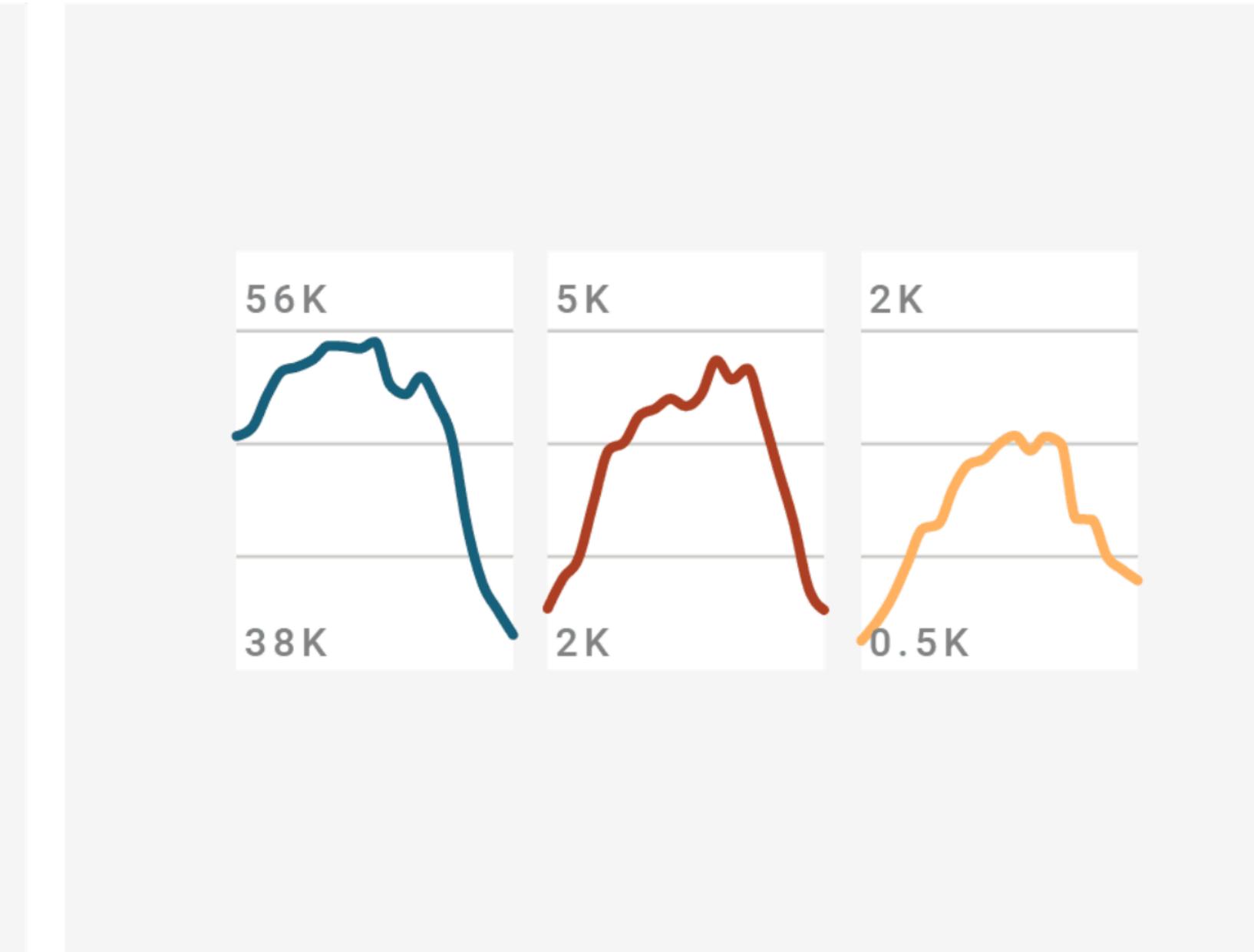
BETTER

Source: [Datawrapper](#)

Or simply separate your colors, if they matter



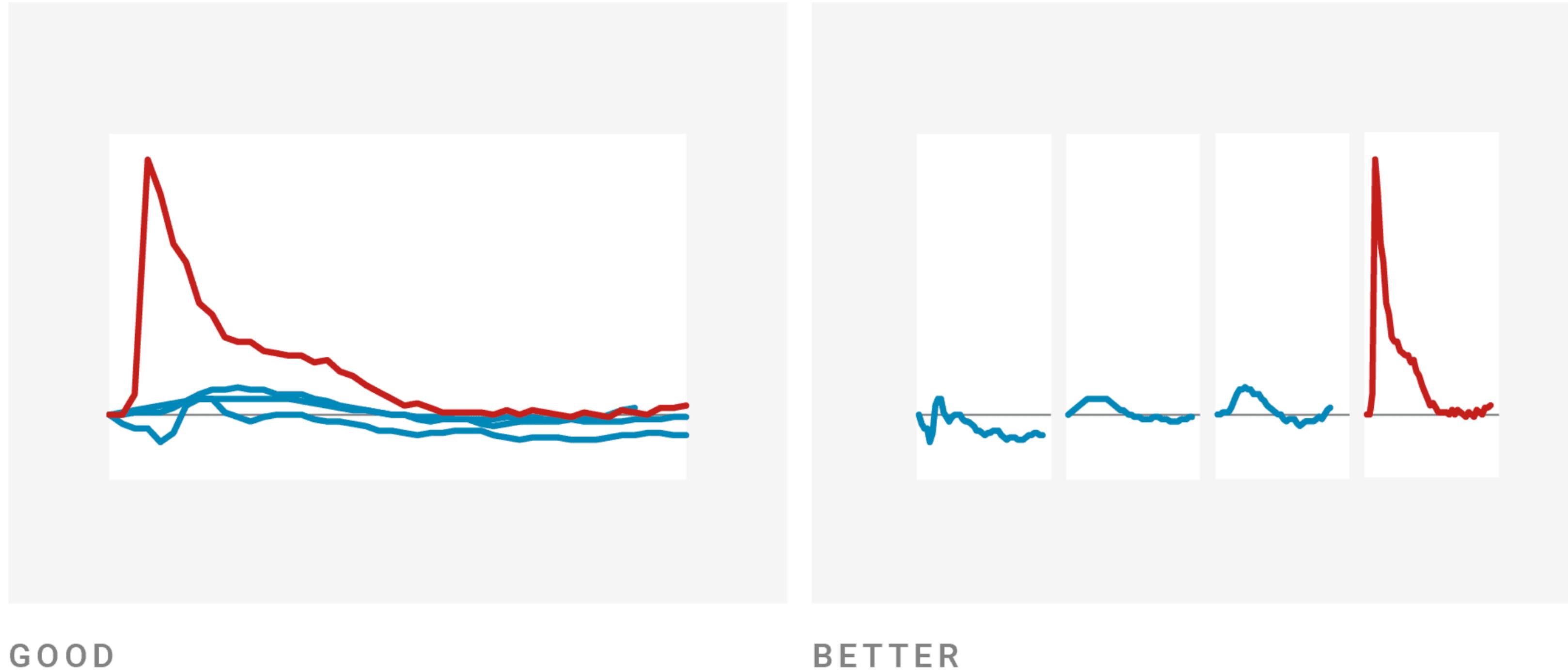
GOOD



ALSO GOOD

Source: [Datawrapper](#)

My favorite use of color is to pick just one for *emphasis*



Source: [Datawrapper](#)

Add alt text

There is great research on alt text, but the most important thing to know is that you should add it to every image you post online (including twitter), in a document, or presentation.

Guidance: <https://medium.com/nightingale/writing-alt-text-for-data-visualization-2a218ef43f81>

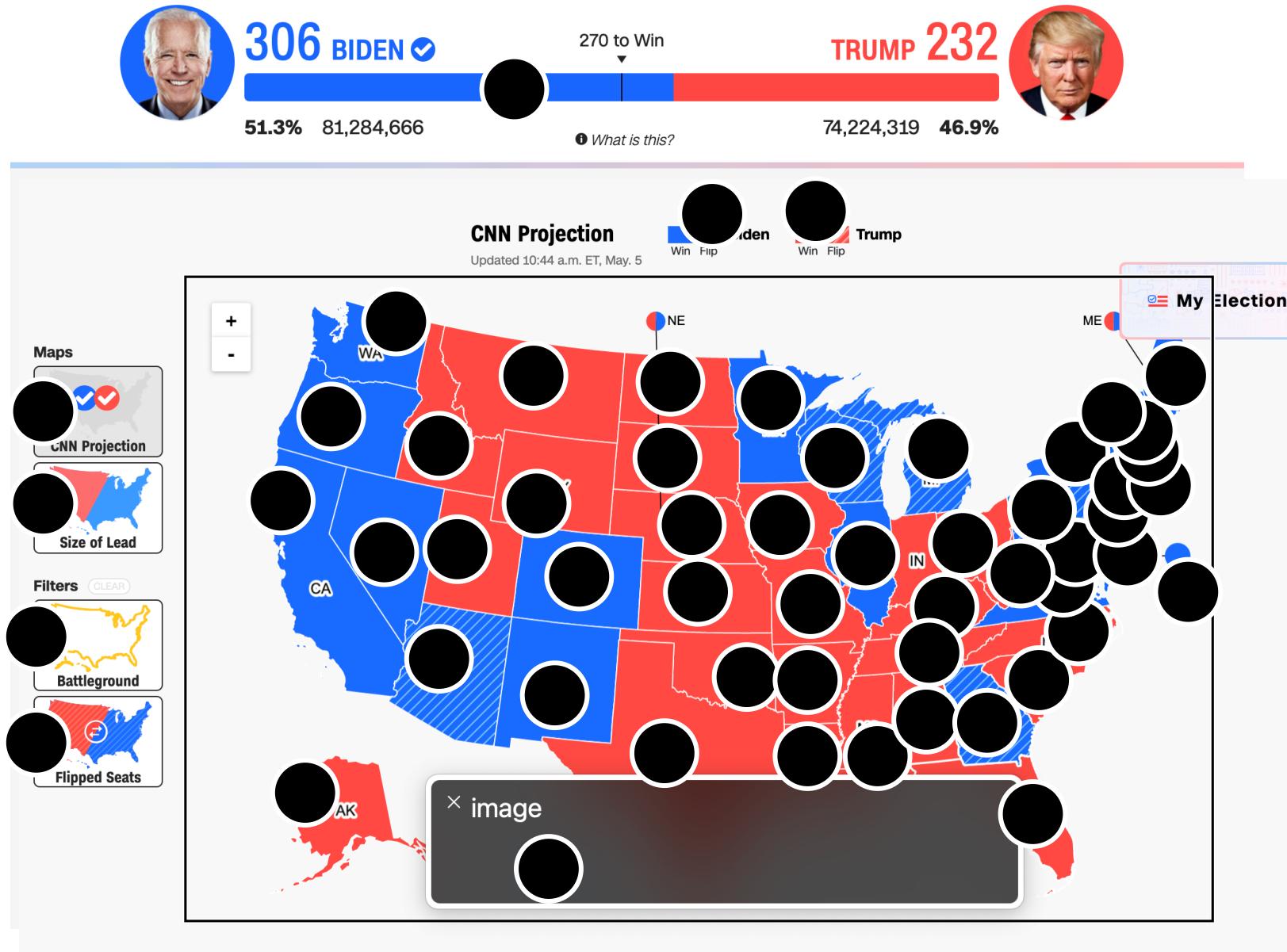
alt= "**Chart type** of **type of data**
where **reason for including chart**"

Include a **link to data source**
somewhere in the text

PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

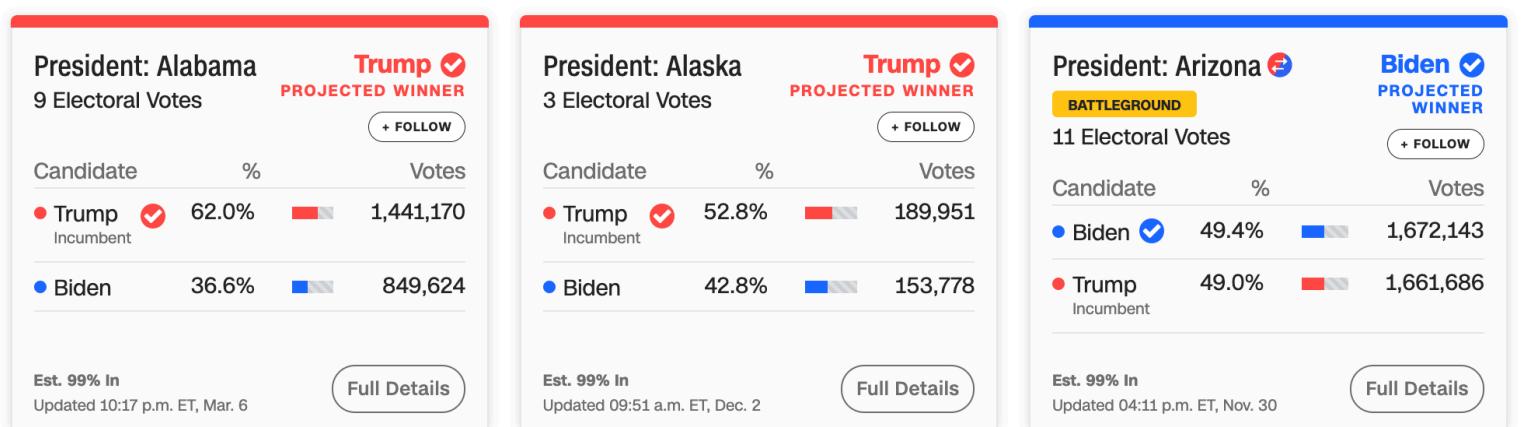
Joe Biden wins election to be the 46th US President

Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes put native son Joe Biden above the 270 needed to become the 46th President of the United States. Born in Scranton, the former vice president and longtime Delaware senator defeated Donald Trump, the first President to lose a reelection bid since George H.W. Bush in 1992.



57 instances of
“Content is only visual”

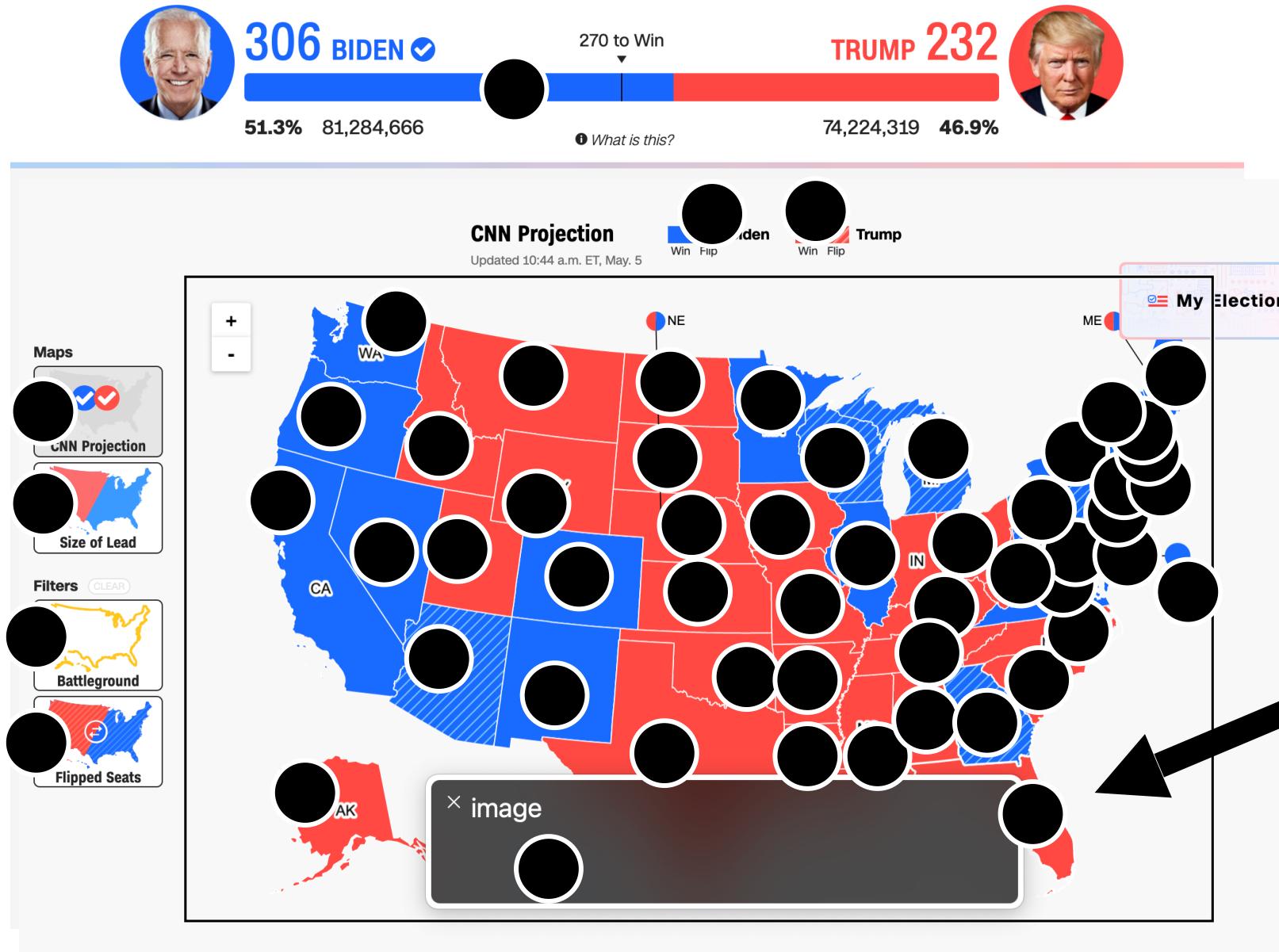
STATE RESULTS



PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

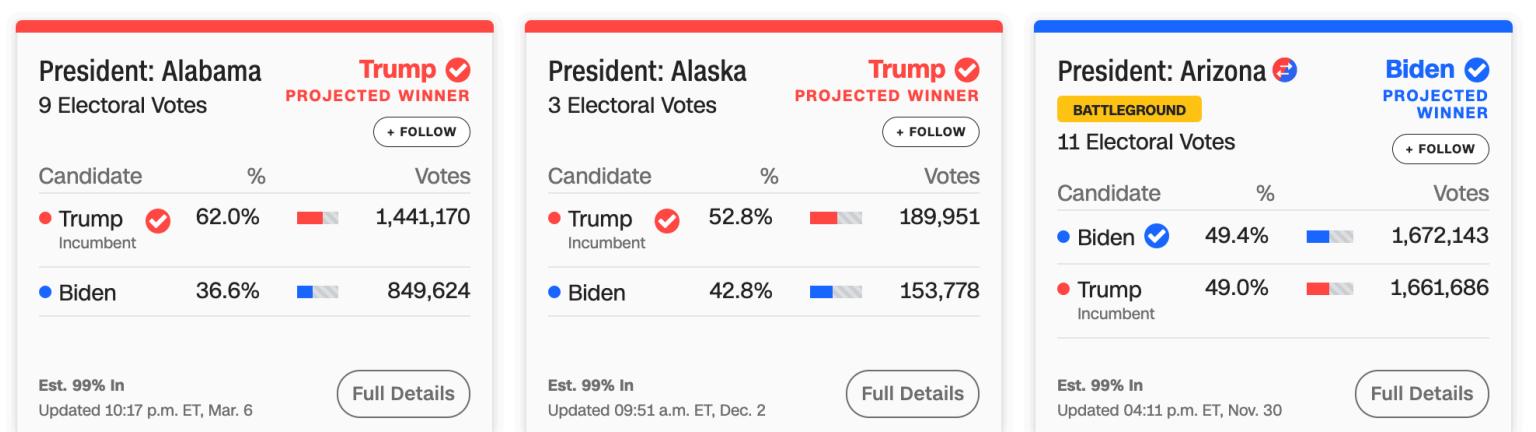
Joe Biden wins election to be the 46th US President

Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes put native son Joe Biden above the 270 needed to become the 46th President of the United States. Born in Scranton, the former vice president and longtime Delaware senator defeated Donald Trump, the first President to lose a reelection bid since George H.W. Bush in 1992.



Each state should announce to screen readers what state it is and who won it, not “image!”

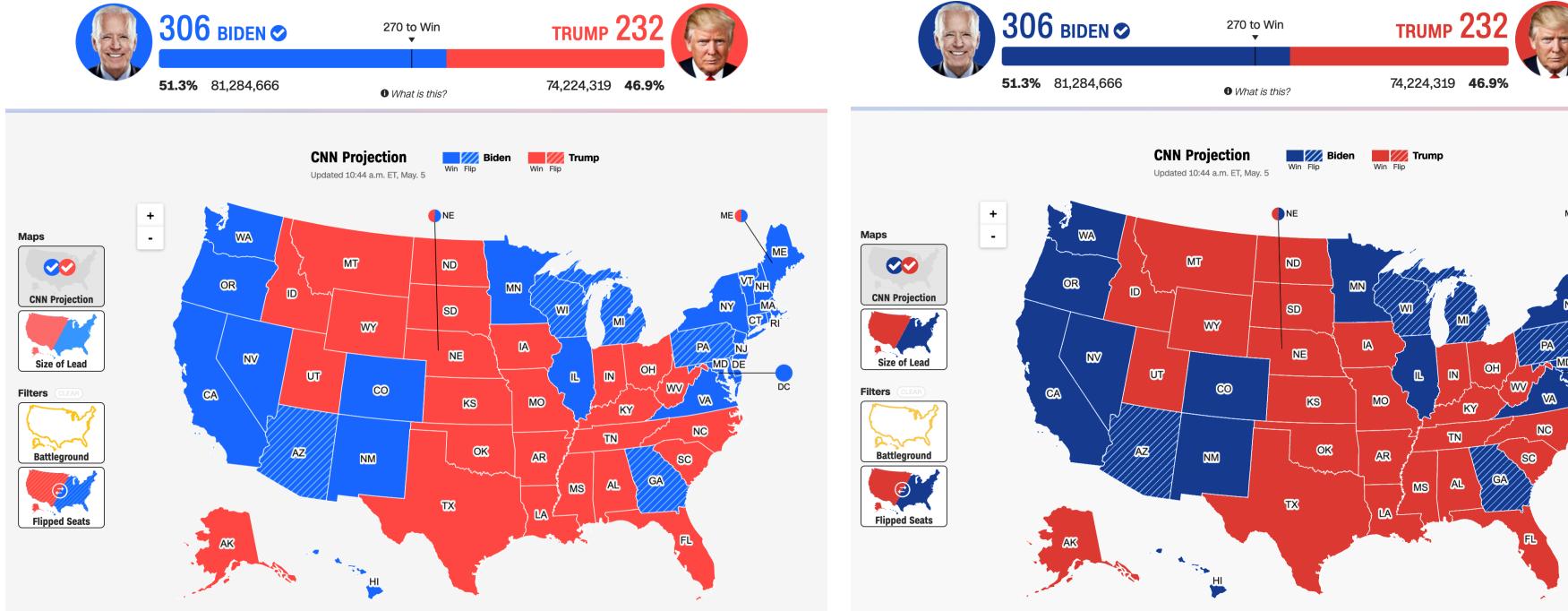
STATE RESULTS



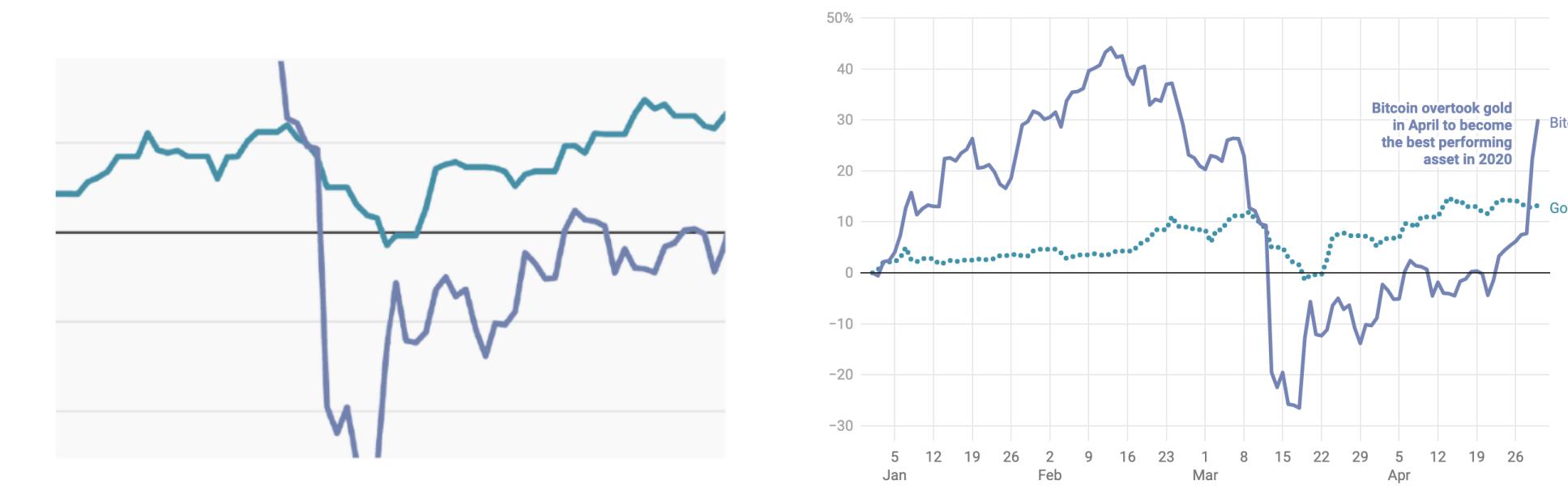
Show More States

Recap: Perceivability

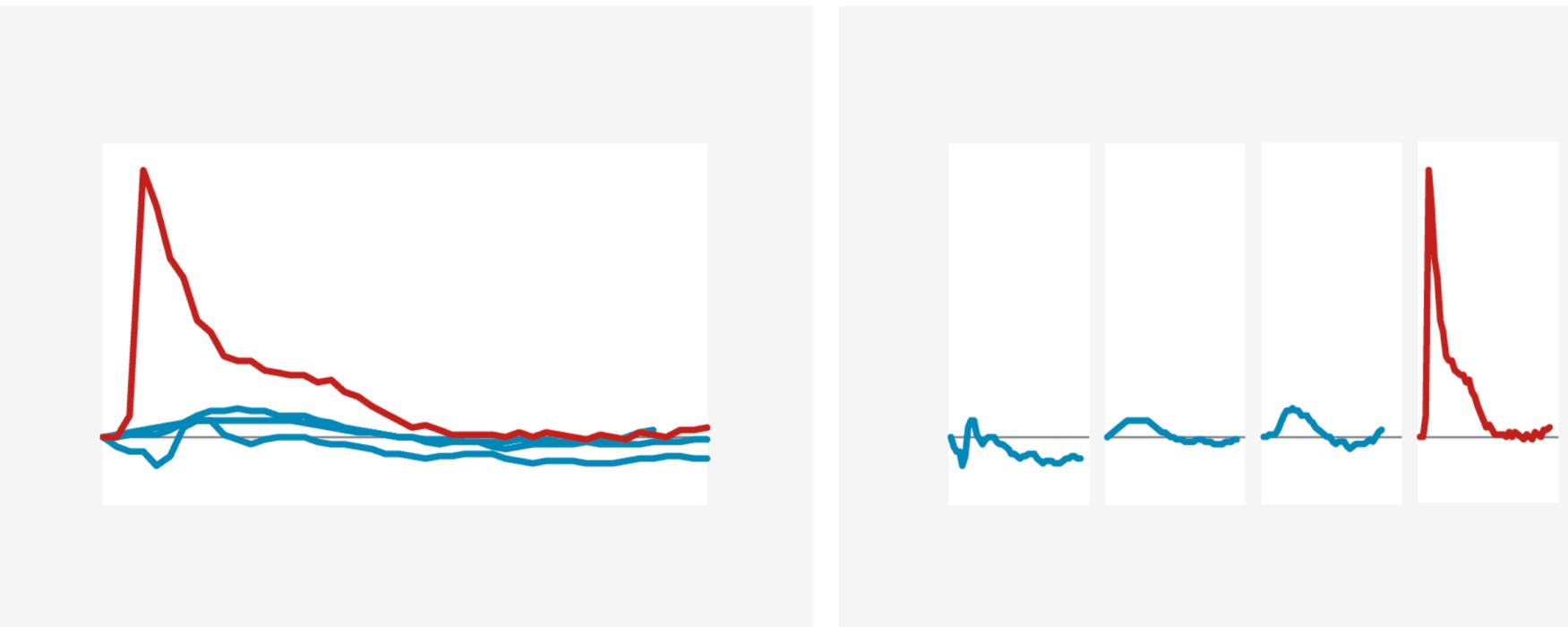
Use high contrast



Use redundant encoding



Reduce colors and crowding



Add alt text

alt= “**Chart type** of **type of data**
where **reason for including chart**”

Include a **link to data source**
somewhere in the text

Perceivable Evaluation Toolkit:

1. [Contrast Checker](#)
2. Safe color design
 - a. [CVD Checker](#)
 - b. [Redundant encoding design ideas](#)
 - c. [Small multiples design ideas](#)
3. [Alt Text](#)

Operable

Can someone operate this in multiple ways? Is each way easy?

Operable Checklist:

1. Mouse
2. Keyboard-only
3. Screen Reader

Many assistive input technologies “navigate”



A person in a wheelchair operating an old computer using a desk-mounted sip and puff device called the POSSUM.

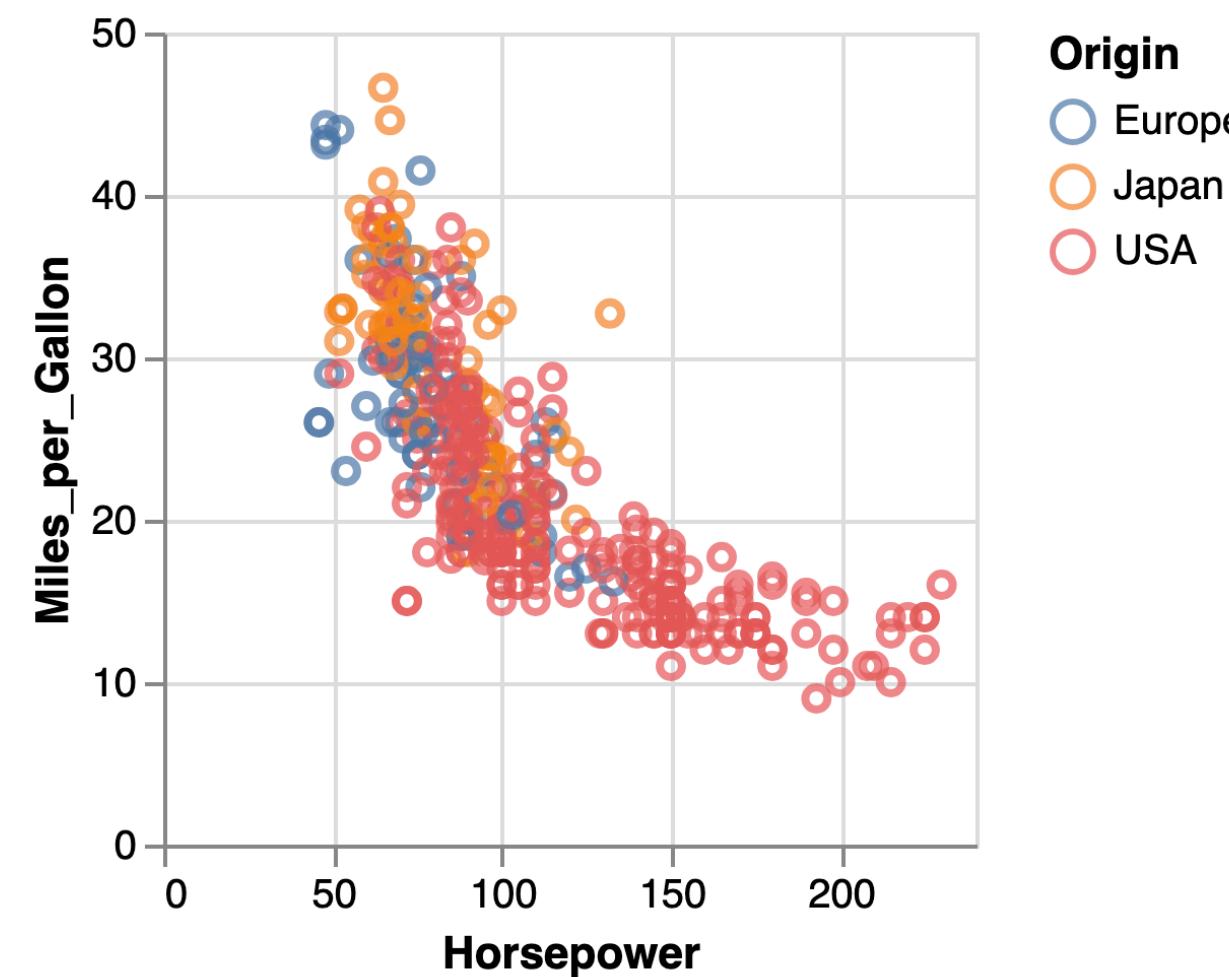
Image credit: [Wikipedia](#), Public Domain, 1960. Photographer: Possum Ltd.

Why “keyboard-only?”

Some things work for screen readers but not for keyboard-only users!

Scatterplot with External Links and Tooltips

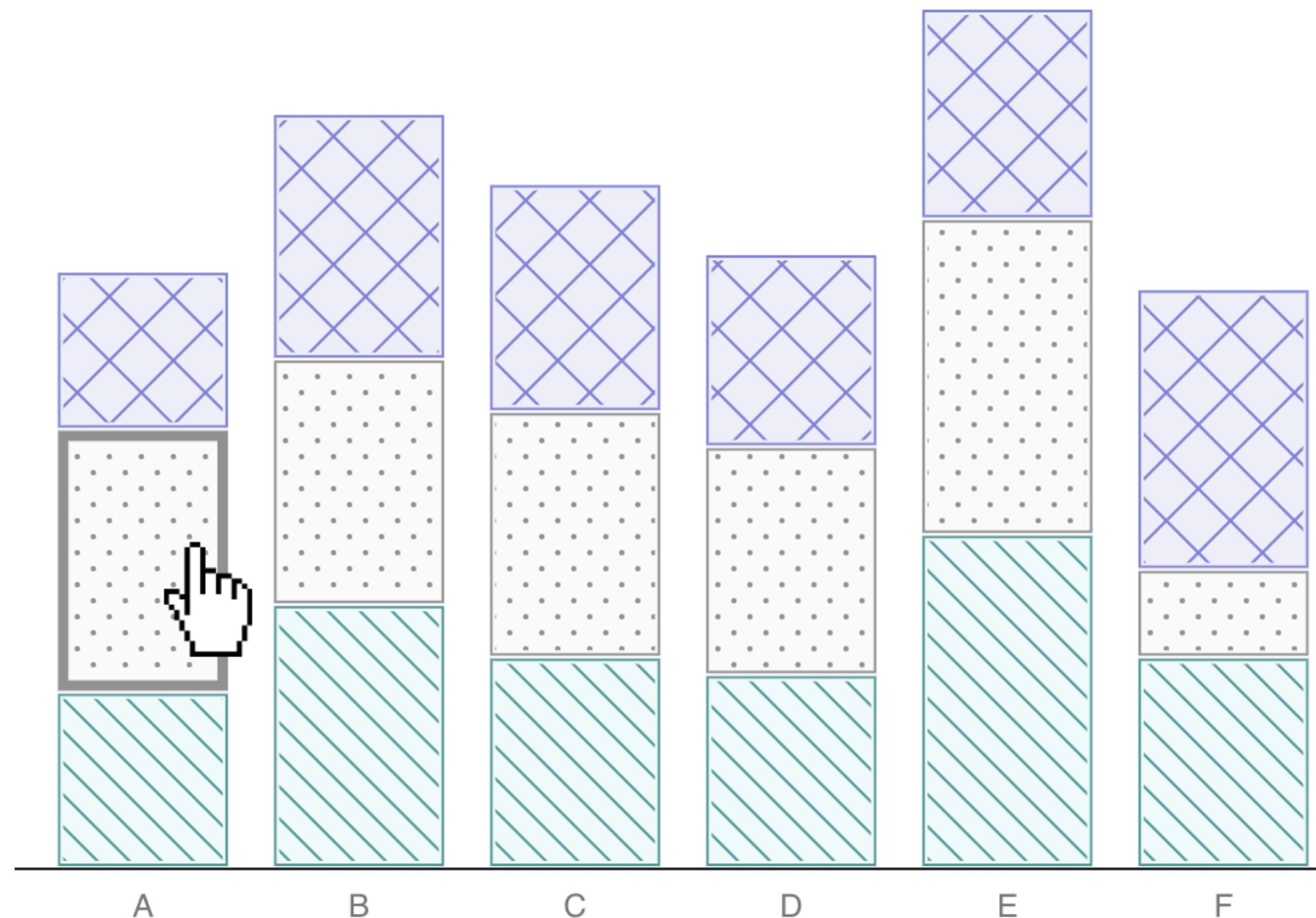
A scatterplot showing horsepower and miles per gallons that opens a Google search for the car that you click on.



https://vega.github.io/vega-lite/examples/point_href.html

Ensure Keyboard Access (if interactive)

1 2 3



Status: Category 2 of Building A has been selected.

Products In Building A that belong to Category 2*

Product Name	Count in Stock
--------------	----------------

Product A	147
-----------	-----

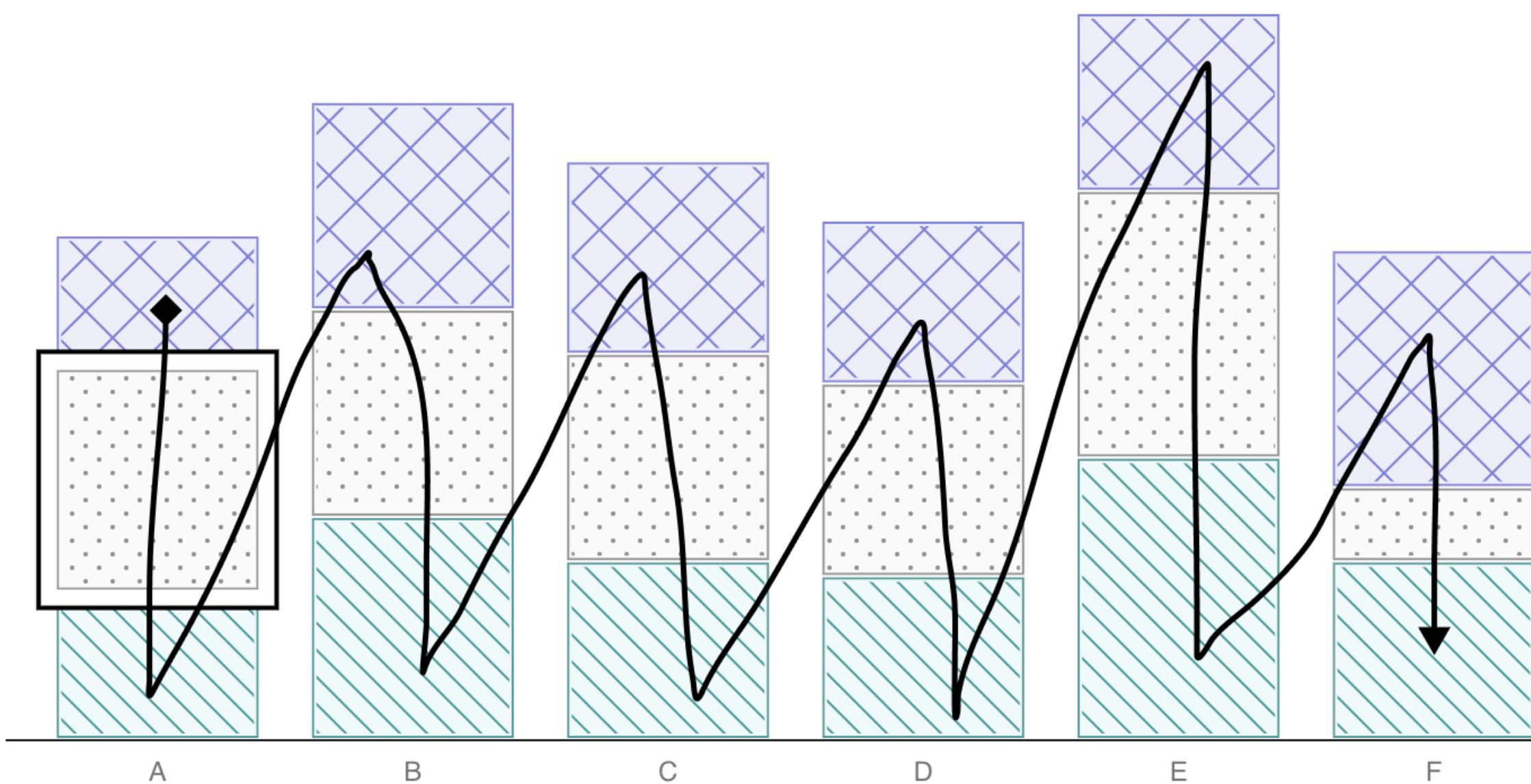
Product C	88
-----------	----

Product M	69
-----------	----

*This table has been populated by the selection in the preceding chart.

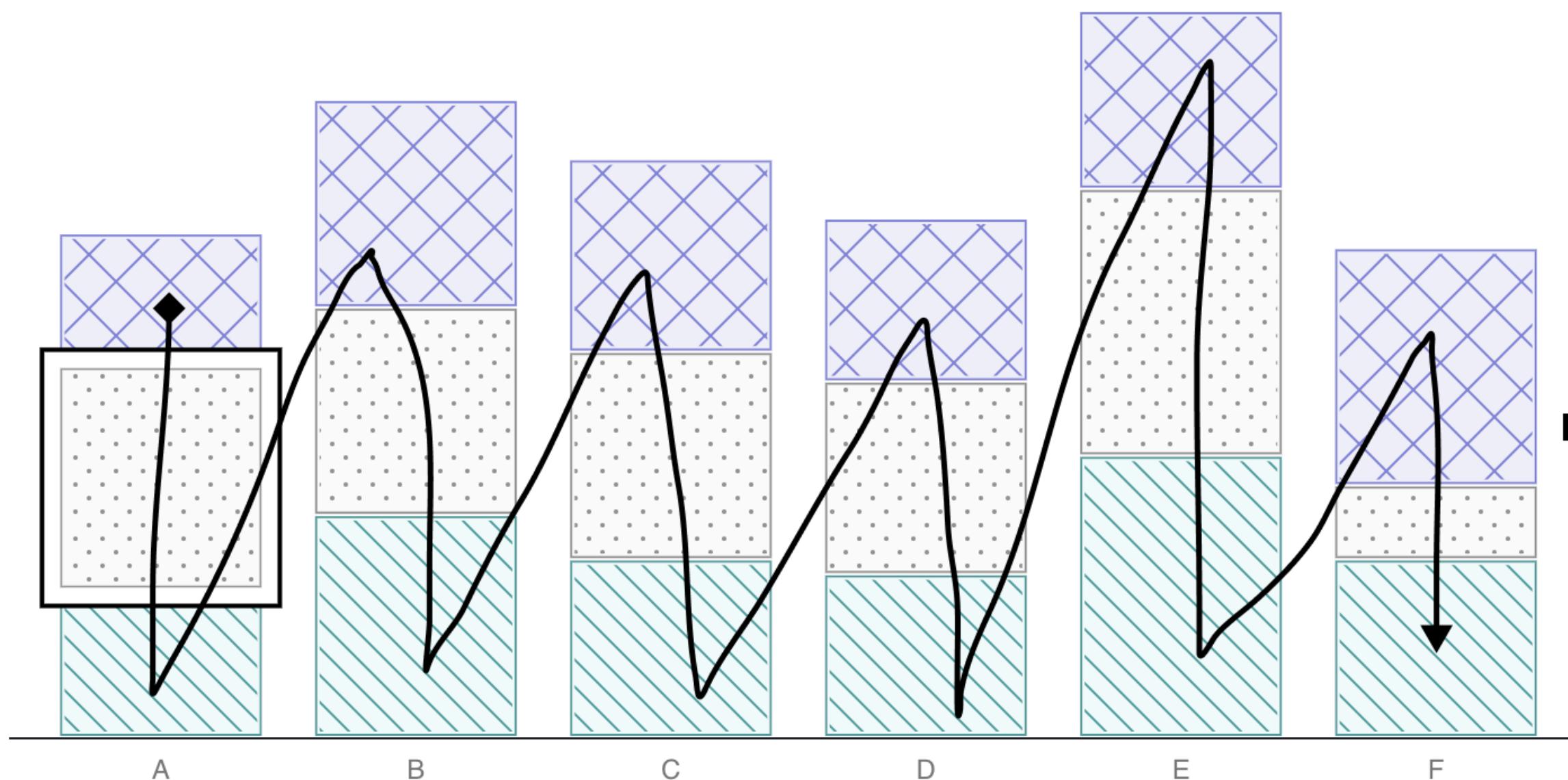
How does someone move around? By default, it is as elements are rendered:

1 2 3

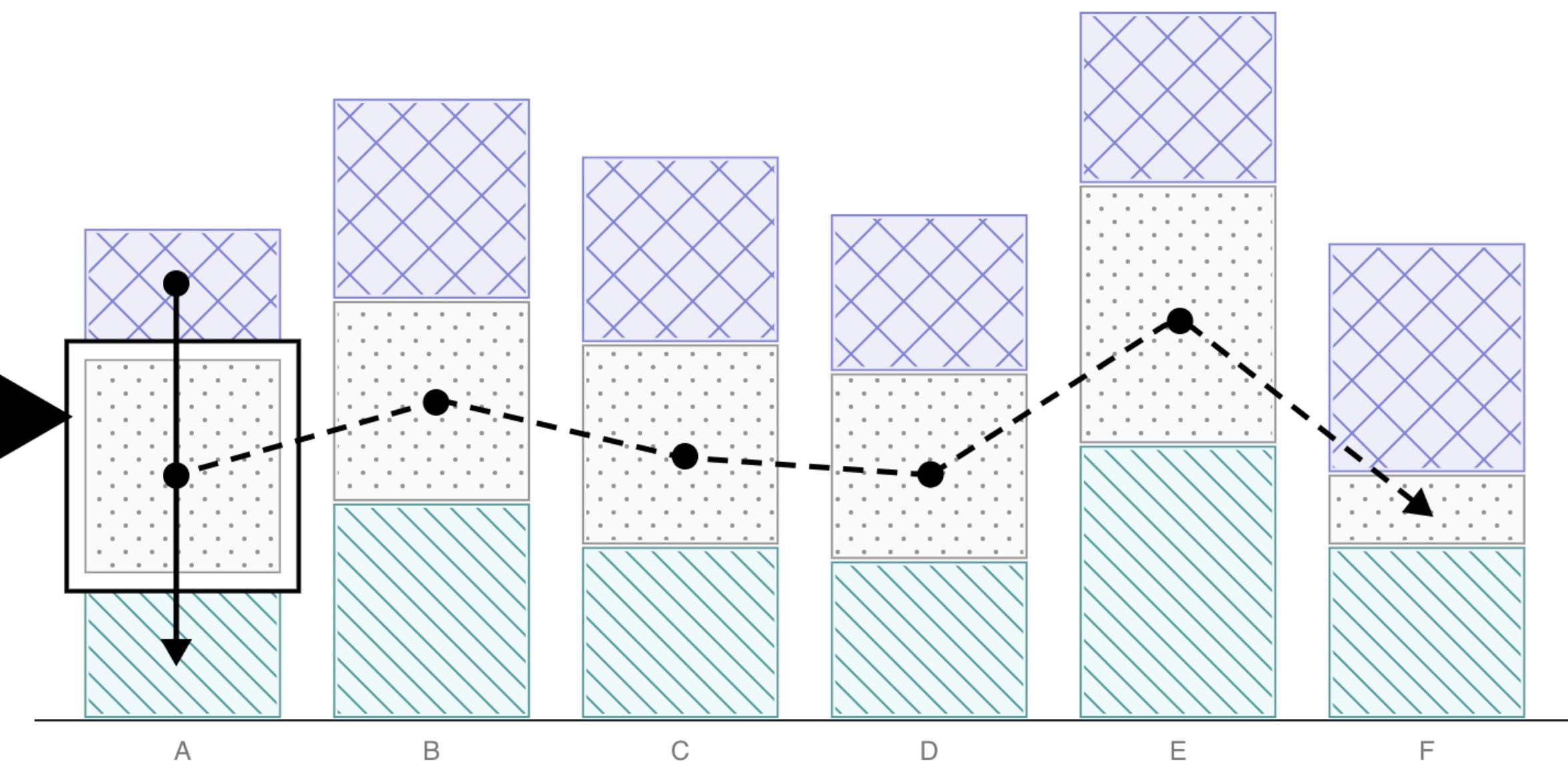


Consider more flexible movement when data exploration matters

1 2 3

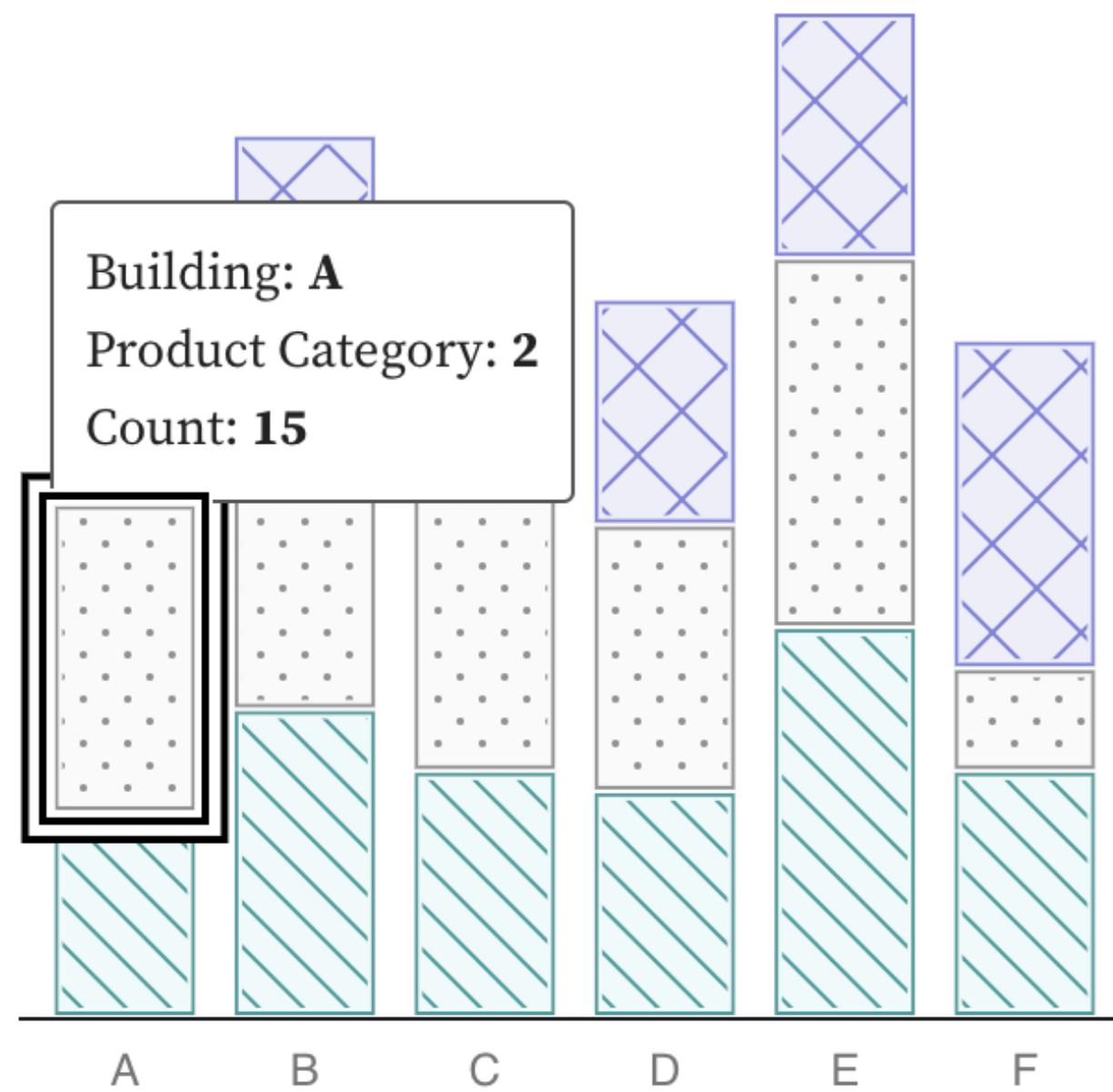


1 2 3



Alt text should communicate operability

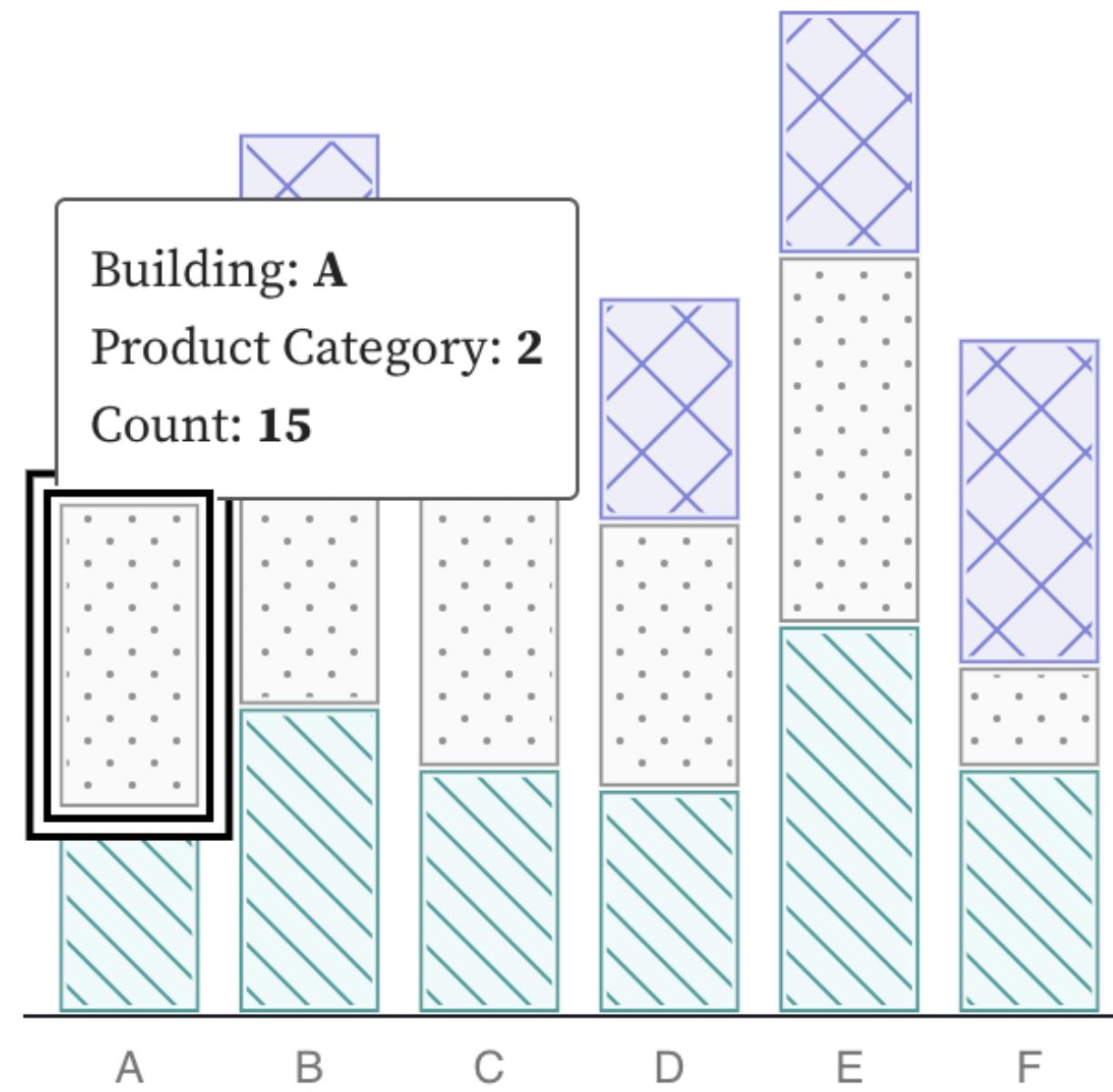
1 2 3



✖ Building A. Product Category 2.
Count 15. Bar 2 of 3. Image.

Semantics matter

1 2 3

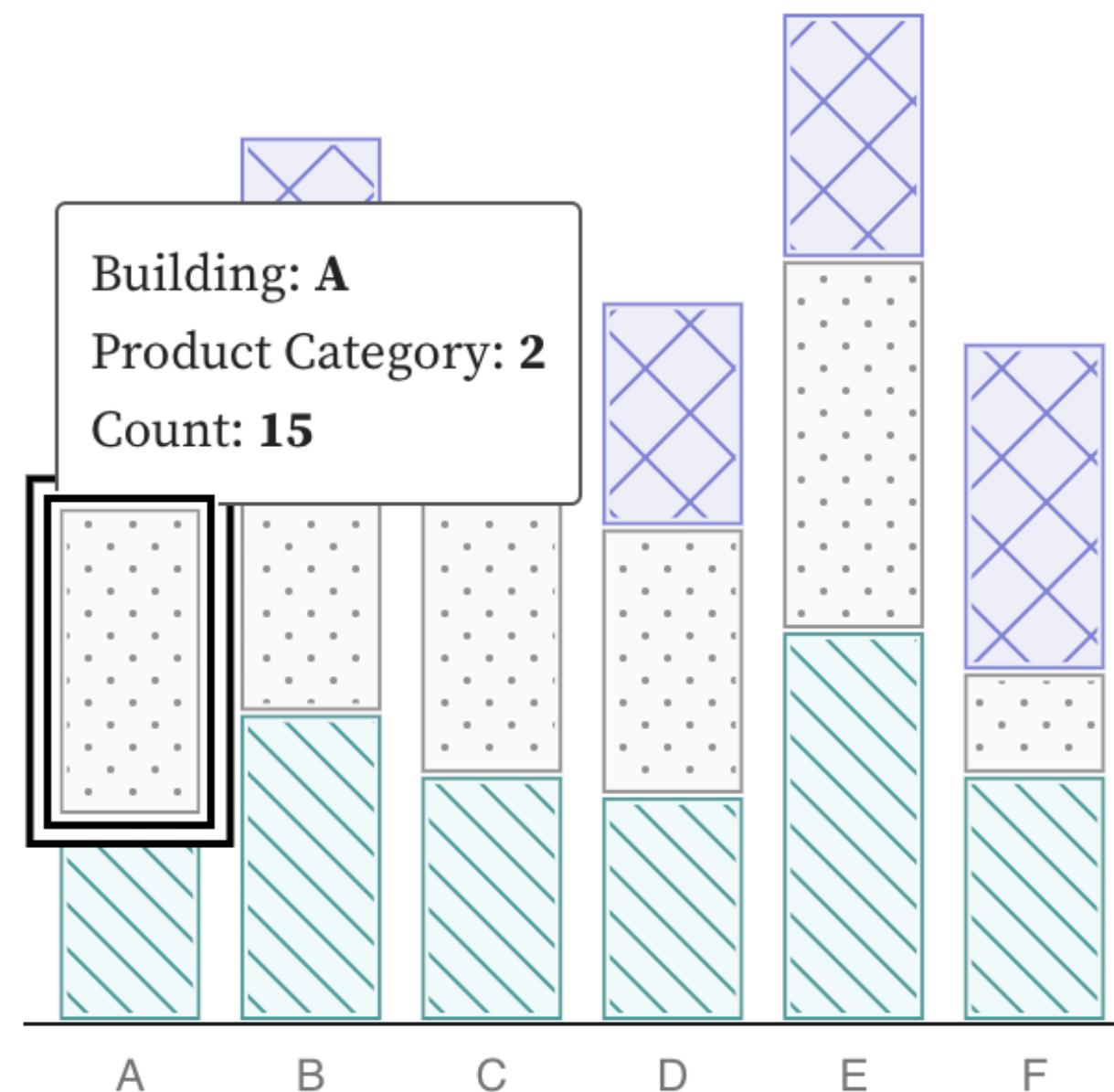


“Image” doesn’t signal interactivity!

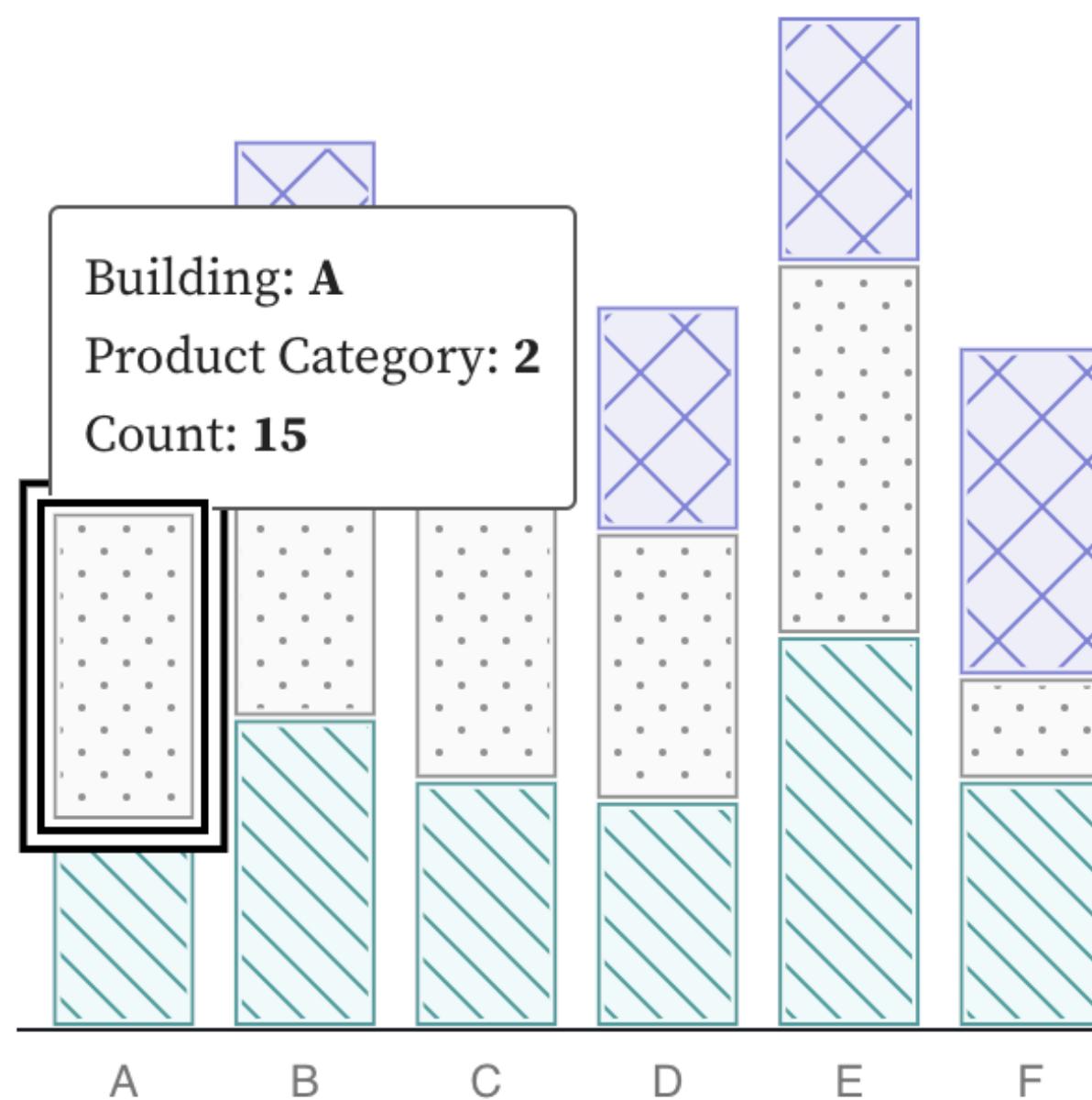
✗ Building A. Product Category 2.
Count 15. Bar 2 of 3. Image.

“Aria” states and roles are standardized

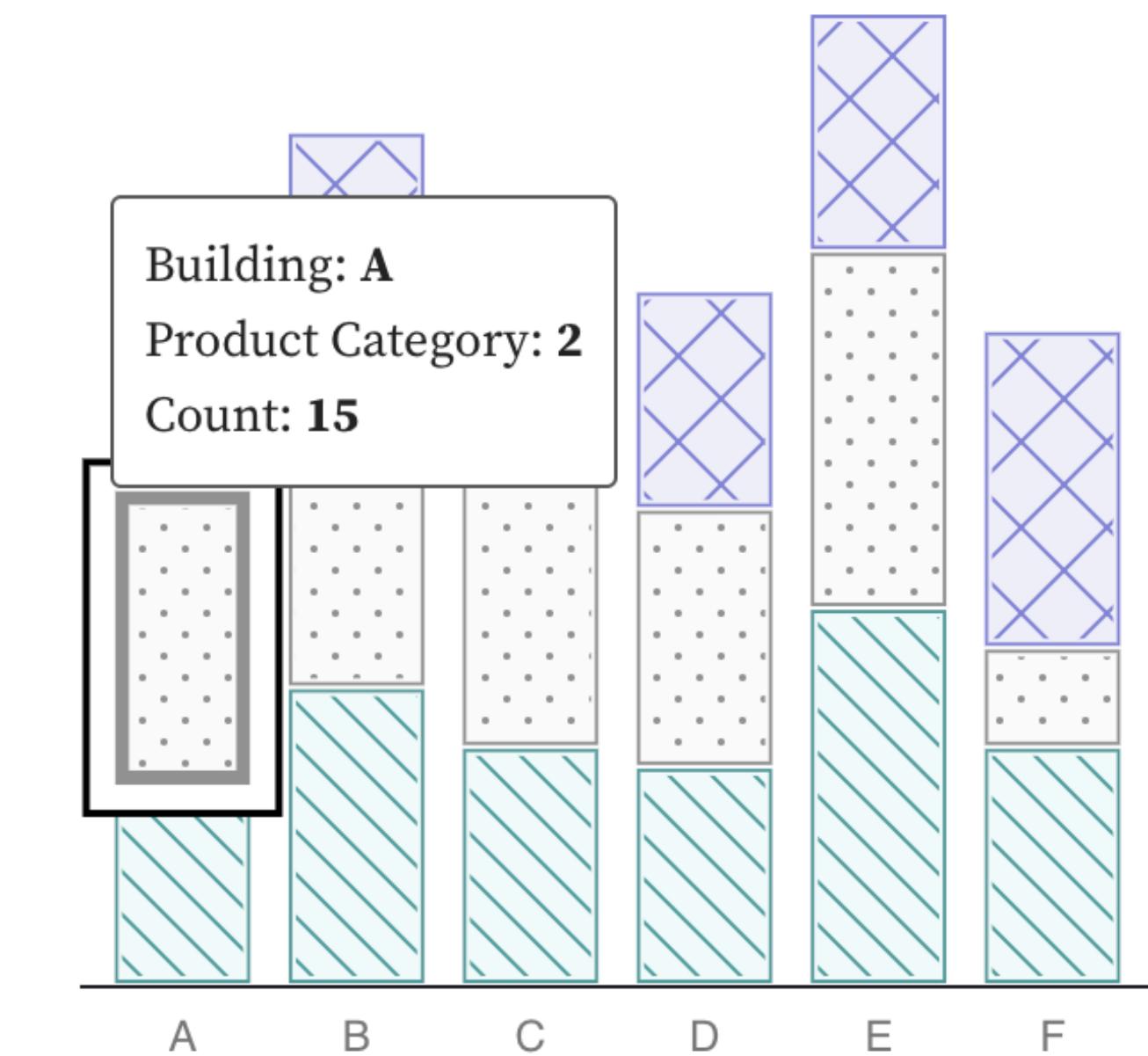
1 2 3



1 2 3



1 2 3



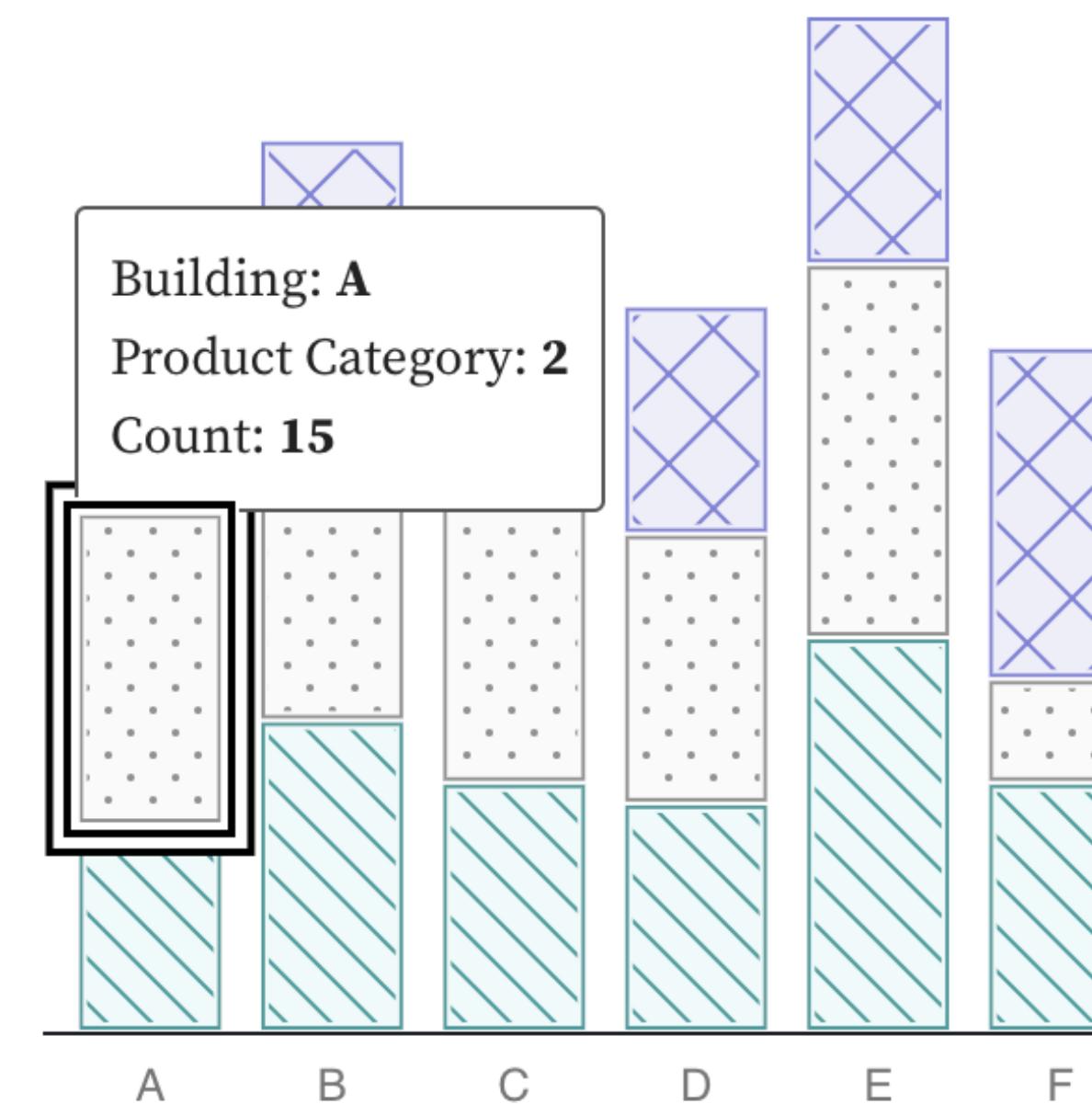
× Building A. Product Category 2.
Count 15. Bar 2 of 3. Image.

× Building A. Product Category
2. Count 15. Bar 2 of 3., toggle
button

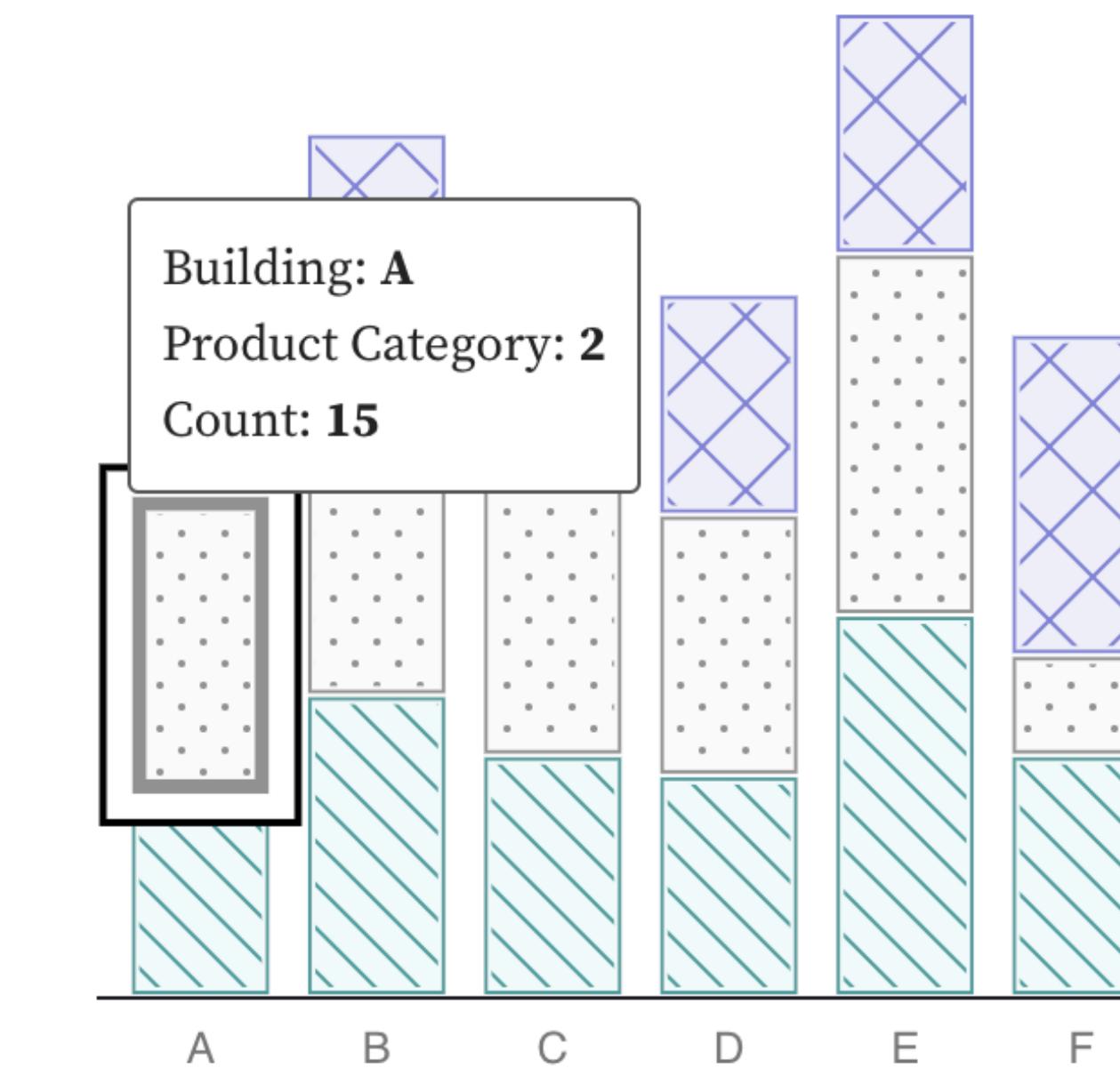
× selected, Building A. Product
Category 2. Count 15. Bar 2 of
3., toggle button

Communicating operability should be visual too

Hovered/focused

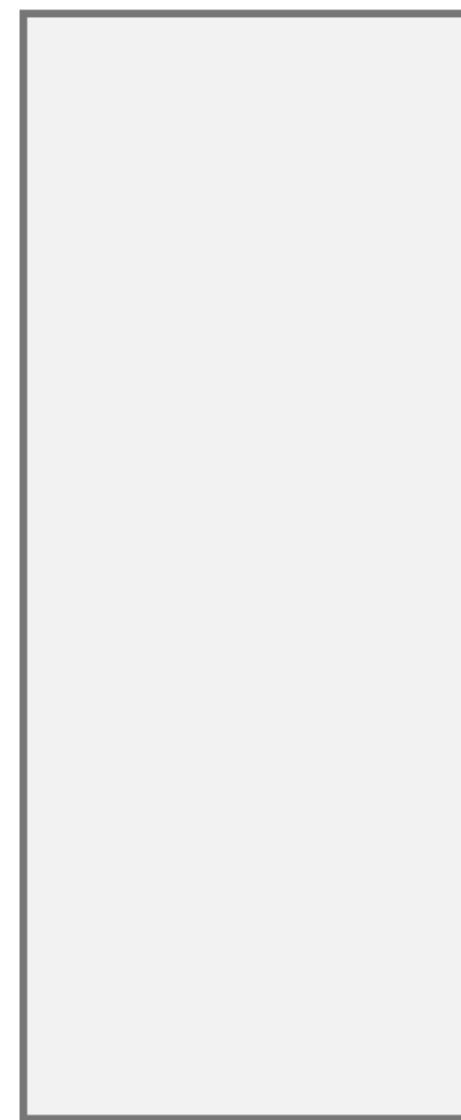


Selected

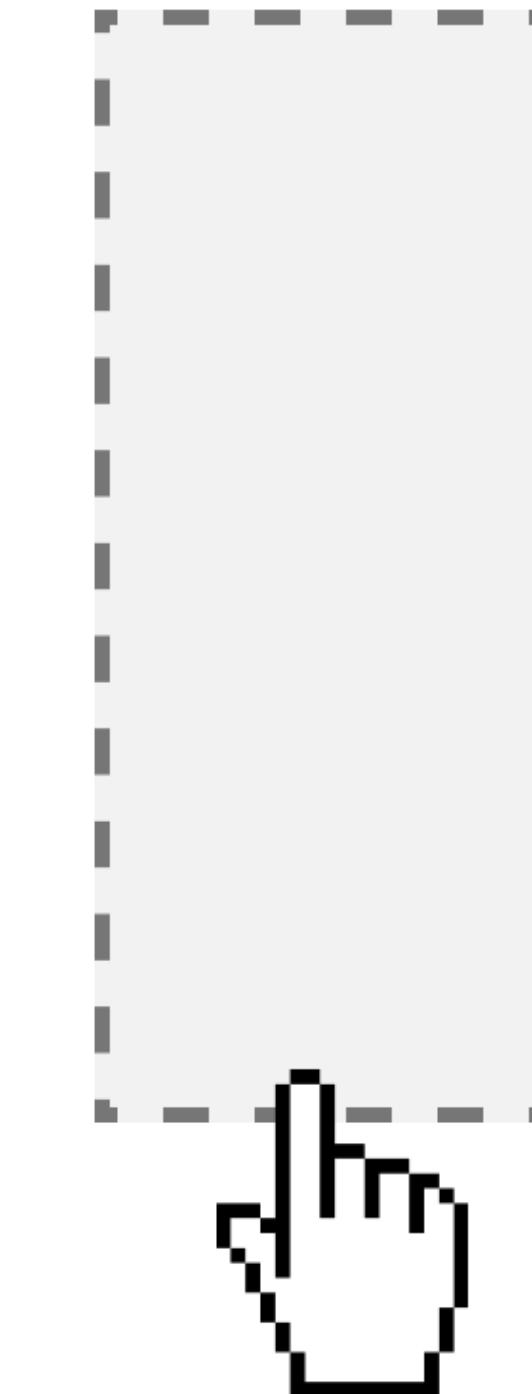


Design your own interaction styling

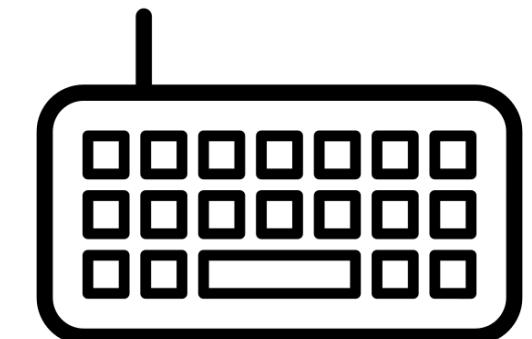
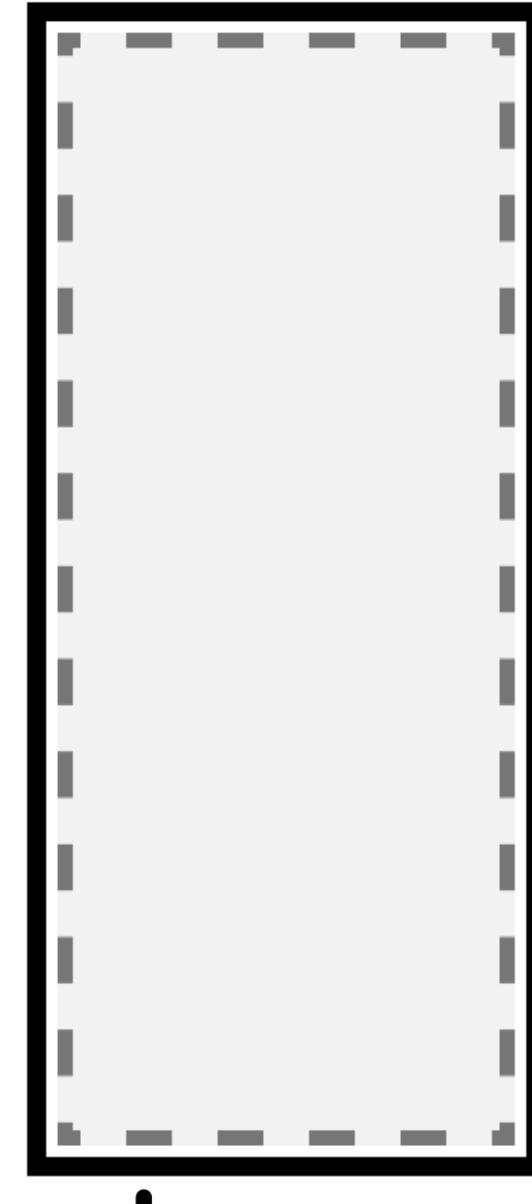
Default



Hovered



Focused



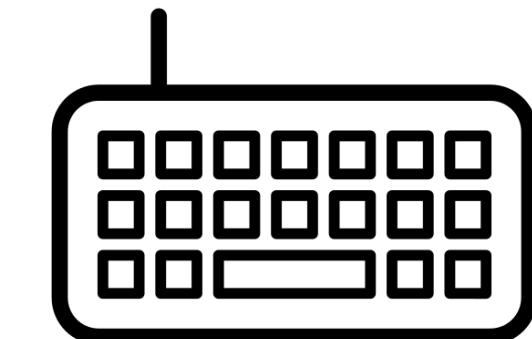
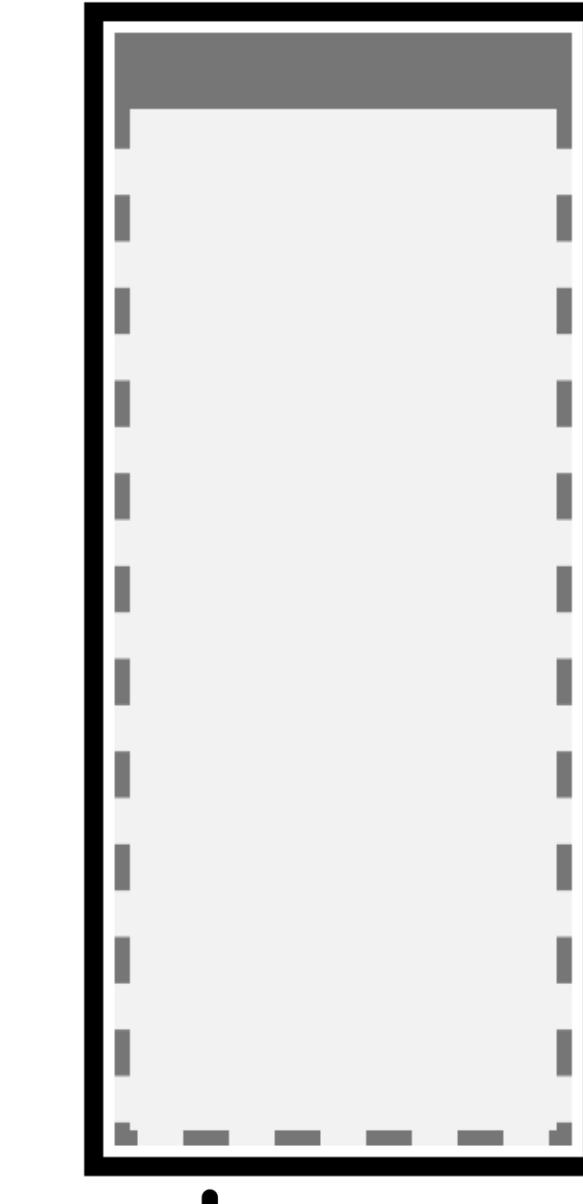
Selected



Hovered + Selected



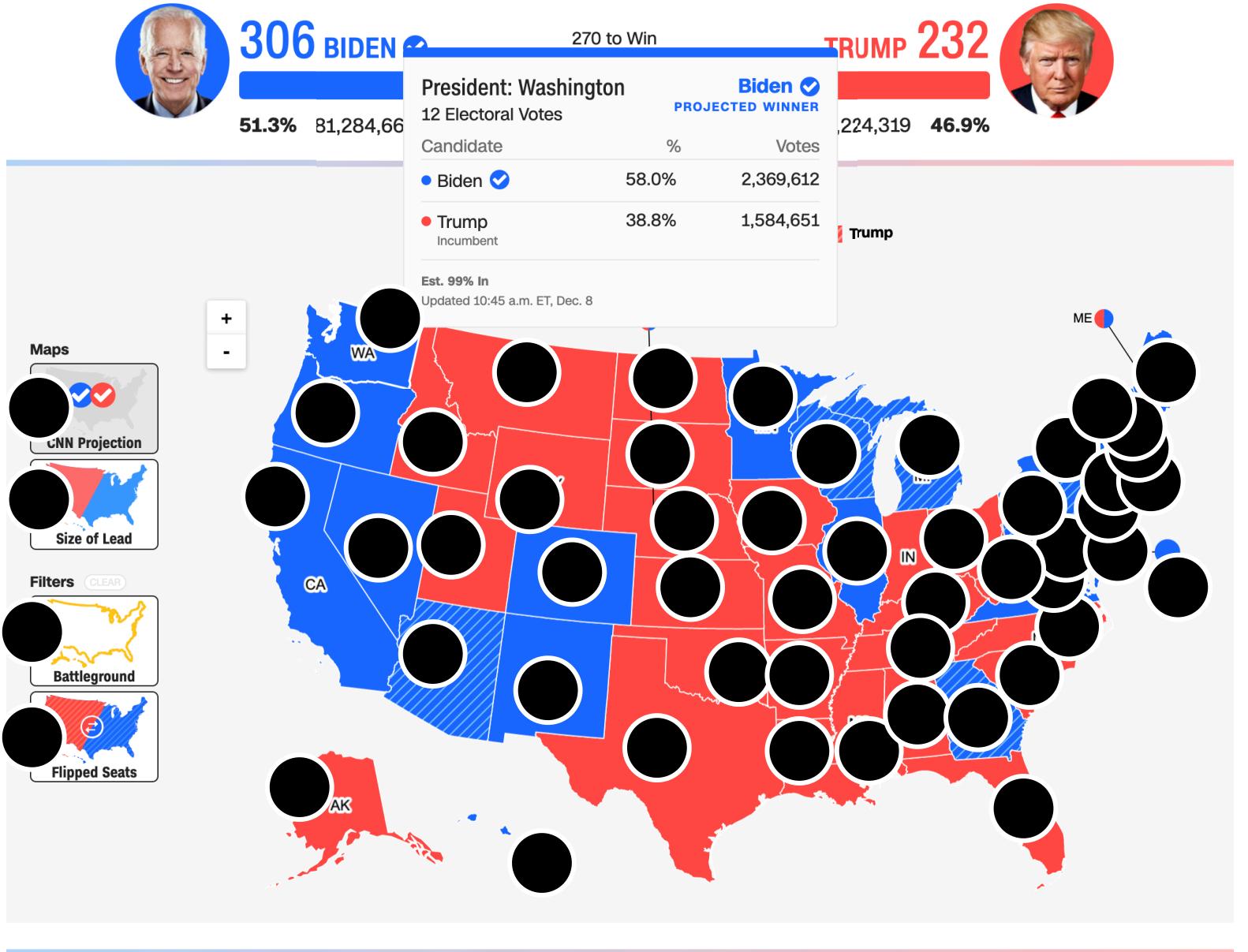
Focused + Selected



PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

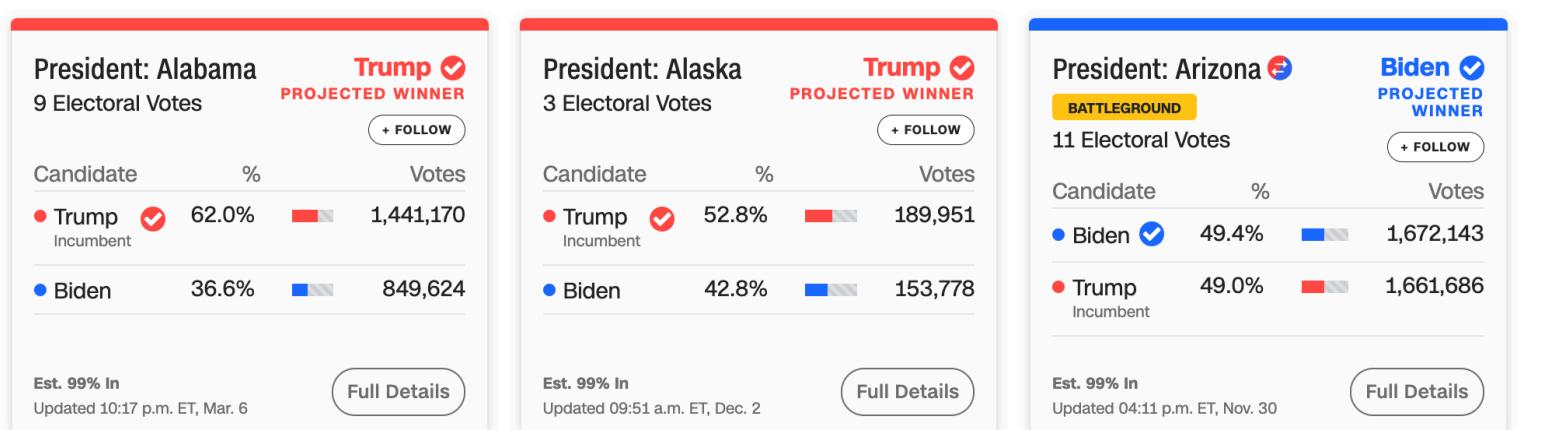
Joe Biden wins election to be the 46th US President

Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes put native son Joe Biden above the 270 needed to become the 46th President of the United States. Born in Scranton, the former vice president and longtime Delaware senator defeated Donald Trump, the first President to lose a reelection bid since George H.W. Bush in 1992.

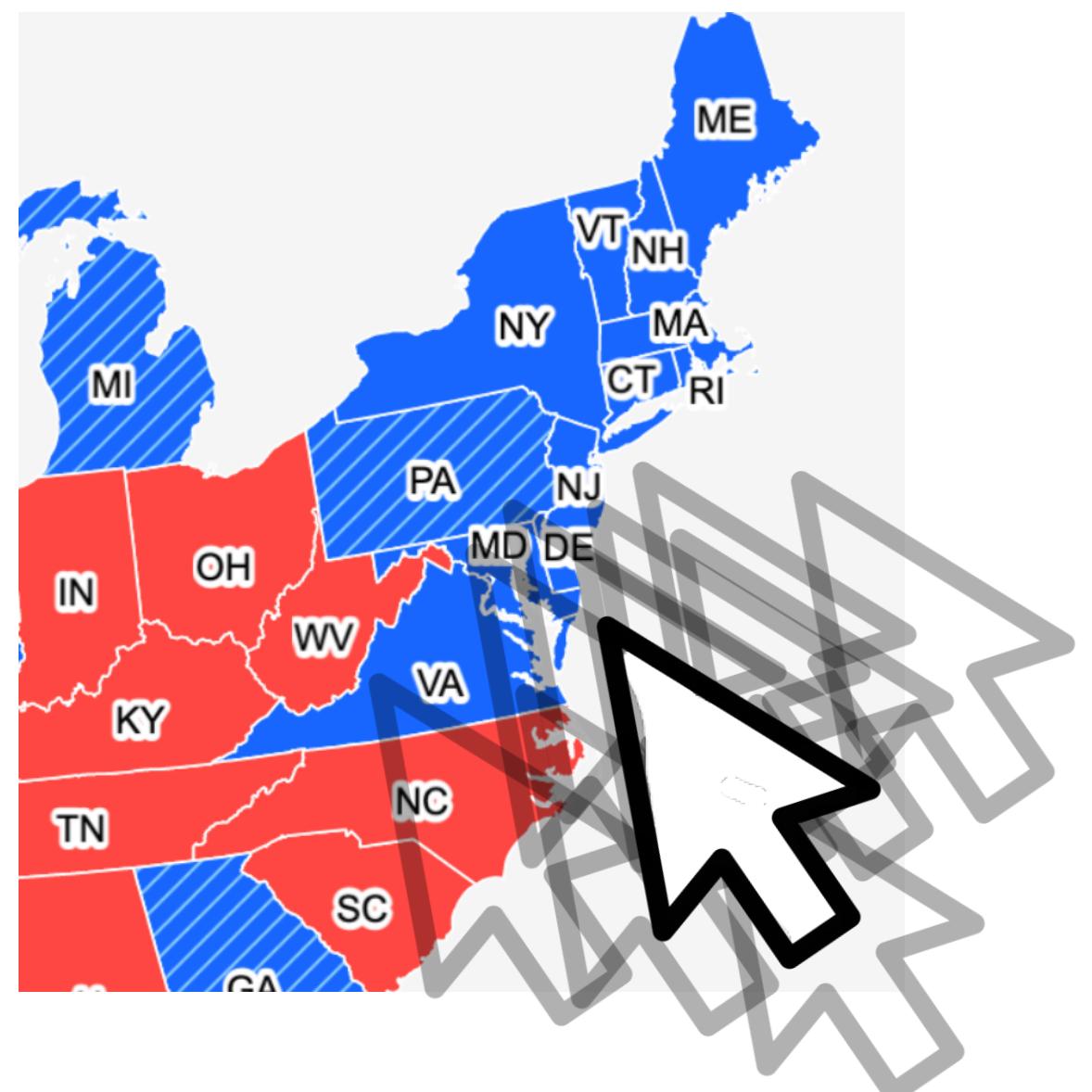


54 instances of “only one input type”

STATE RESULTS



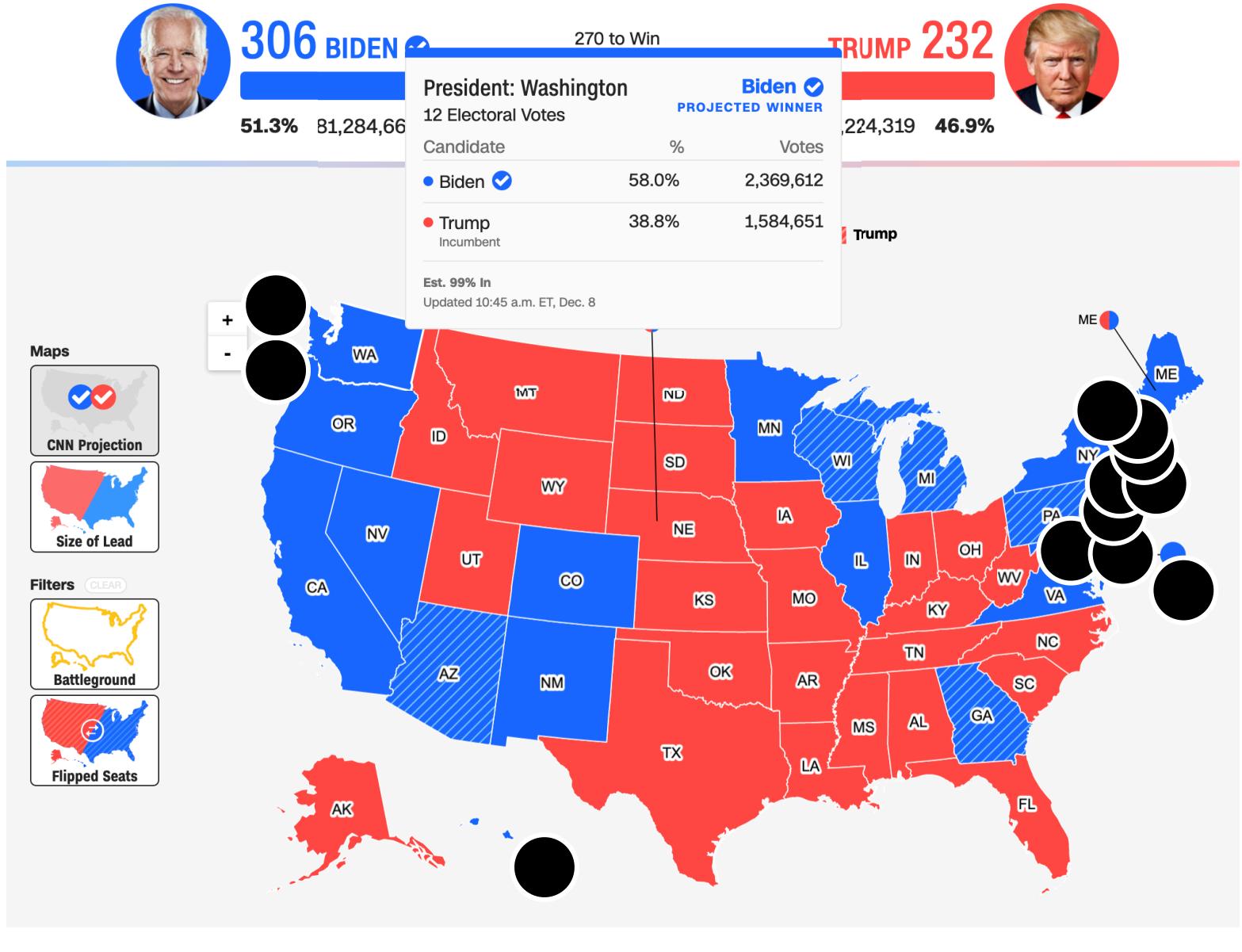
**Expecting users to hover on
something tiny is an accessibility
design failure**



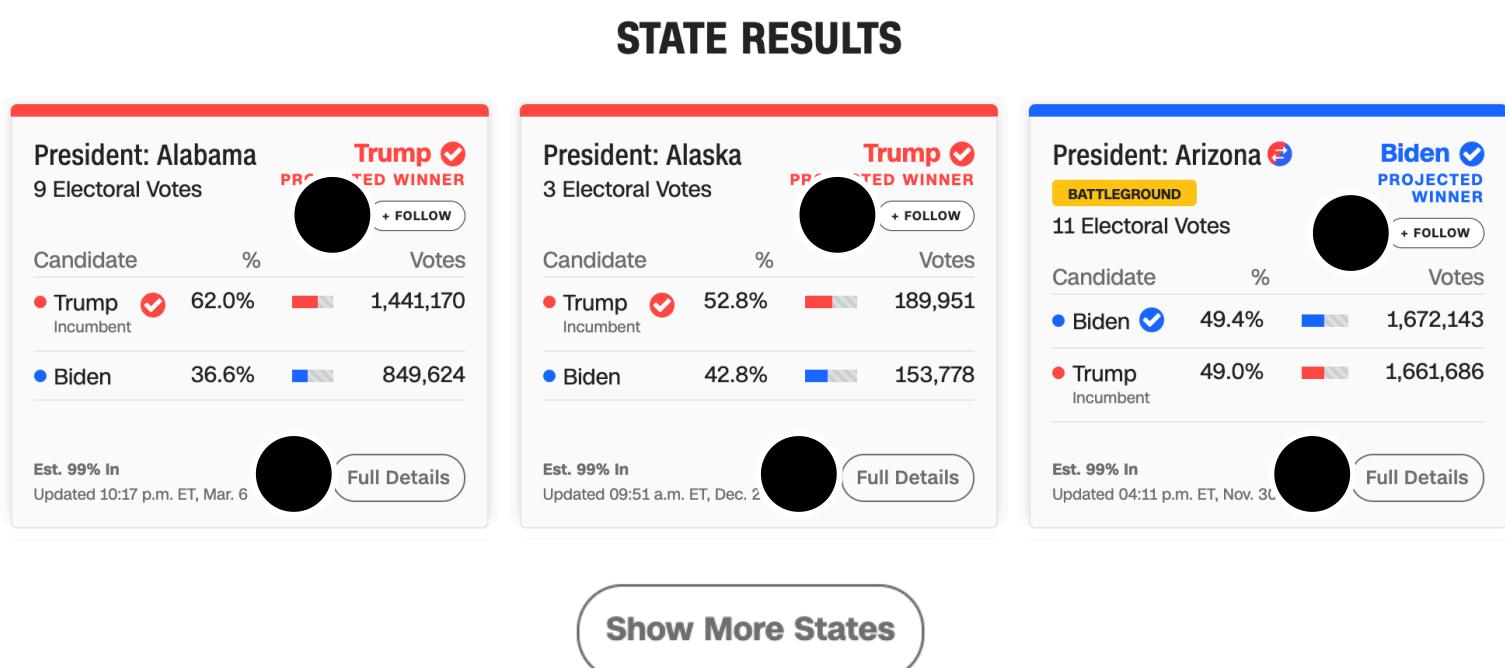
PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

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Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes put native son Joe Biden above the 270 needed to become the 46th President of the United States. Born in Scranton, the former vice president and longtime Delaware senator defeated Donald Trump, the first President to lose a reelection bid since George H.W. Bush in 1992.

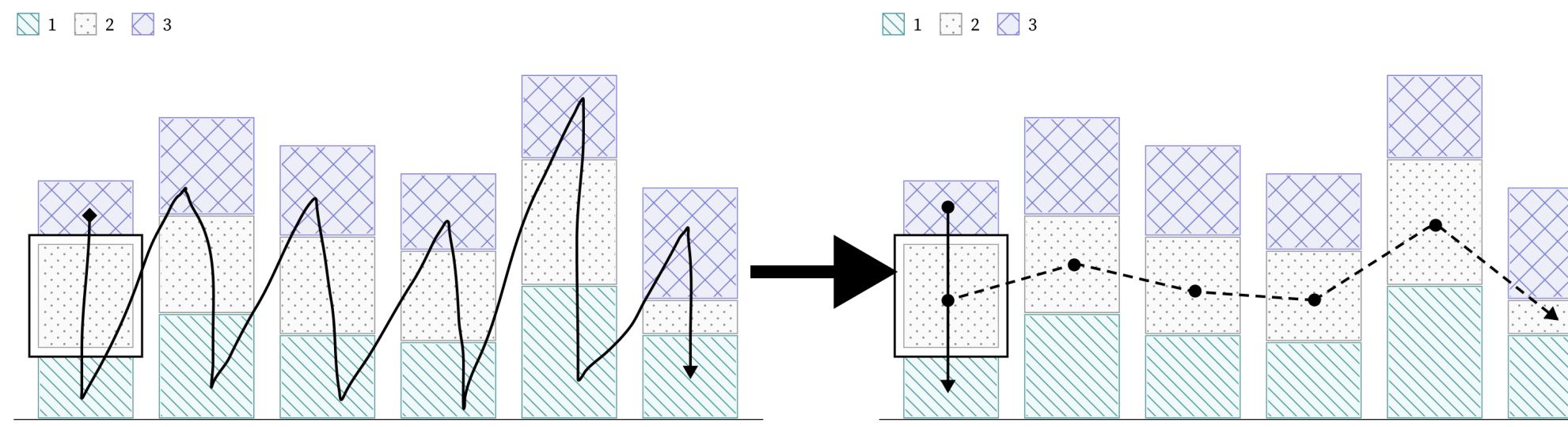


18 instances of
“target pointer size
is too small”

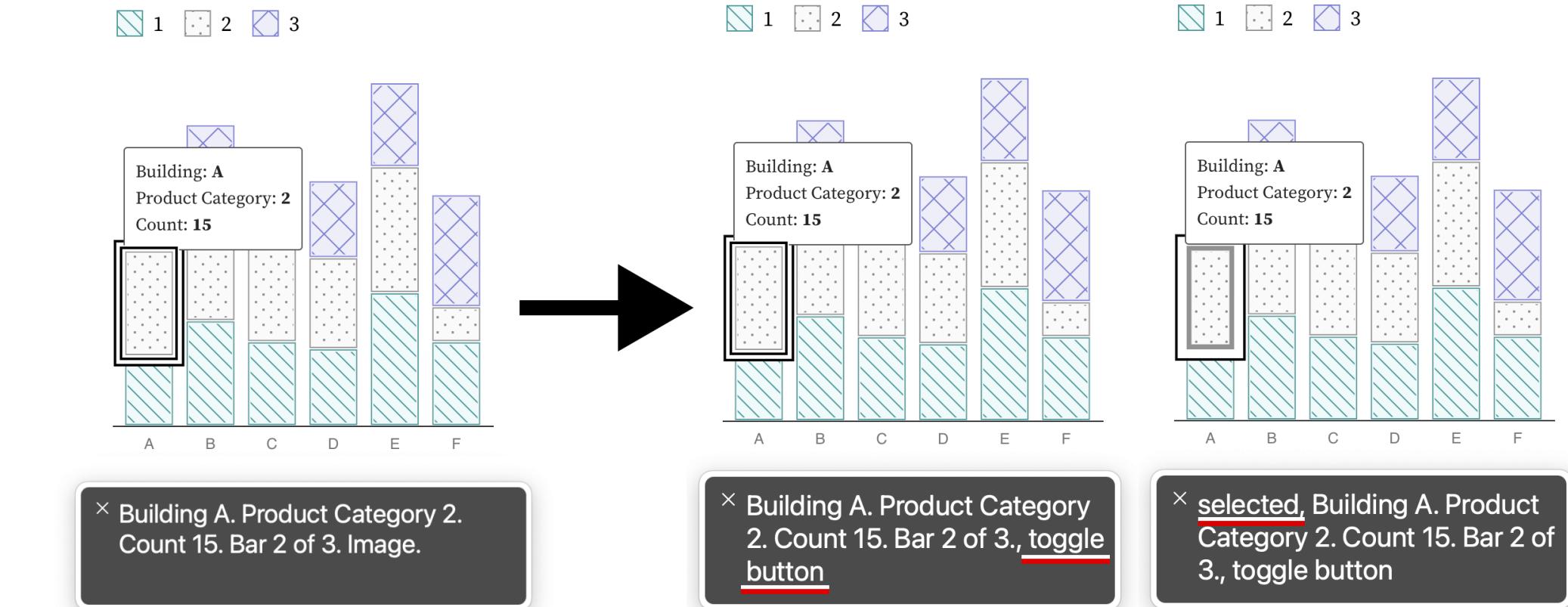


Recap: Operability

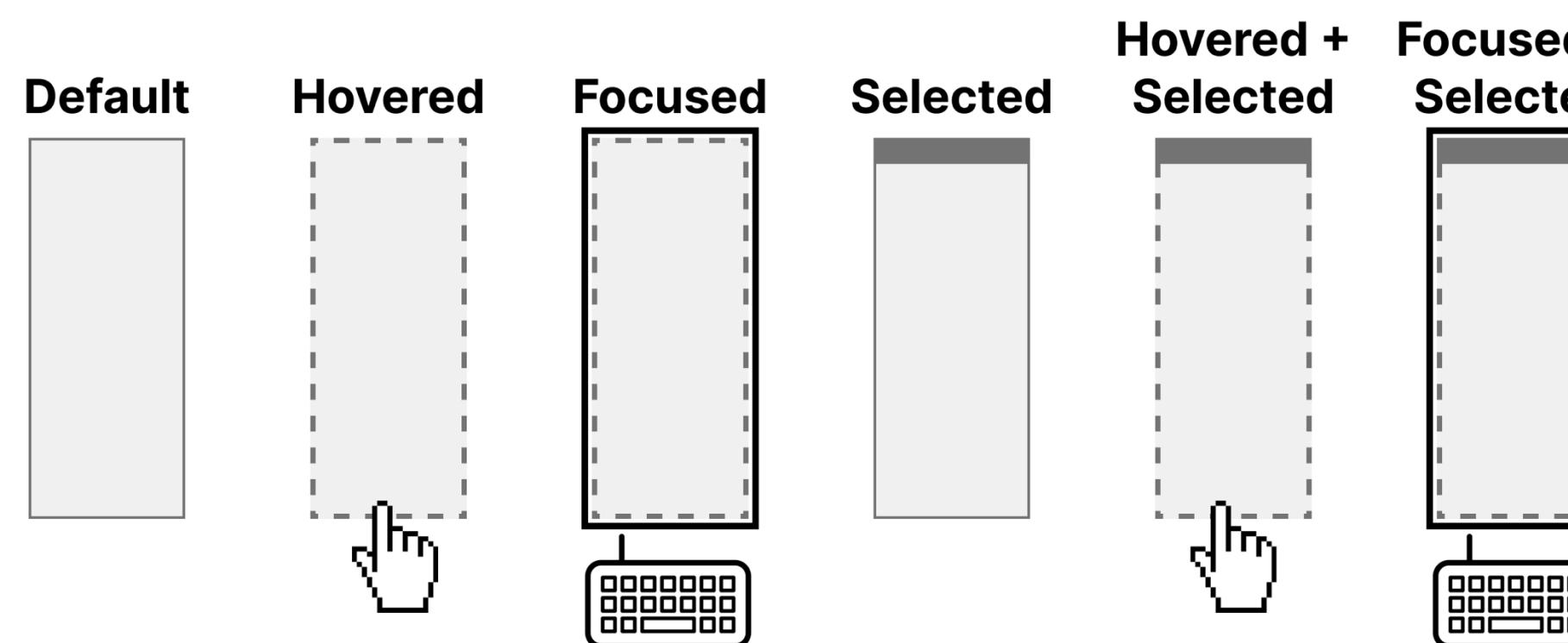
Consider how someone navigates



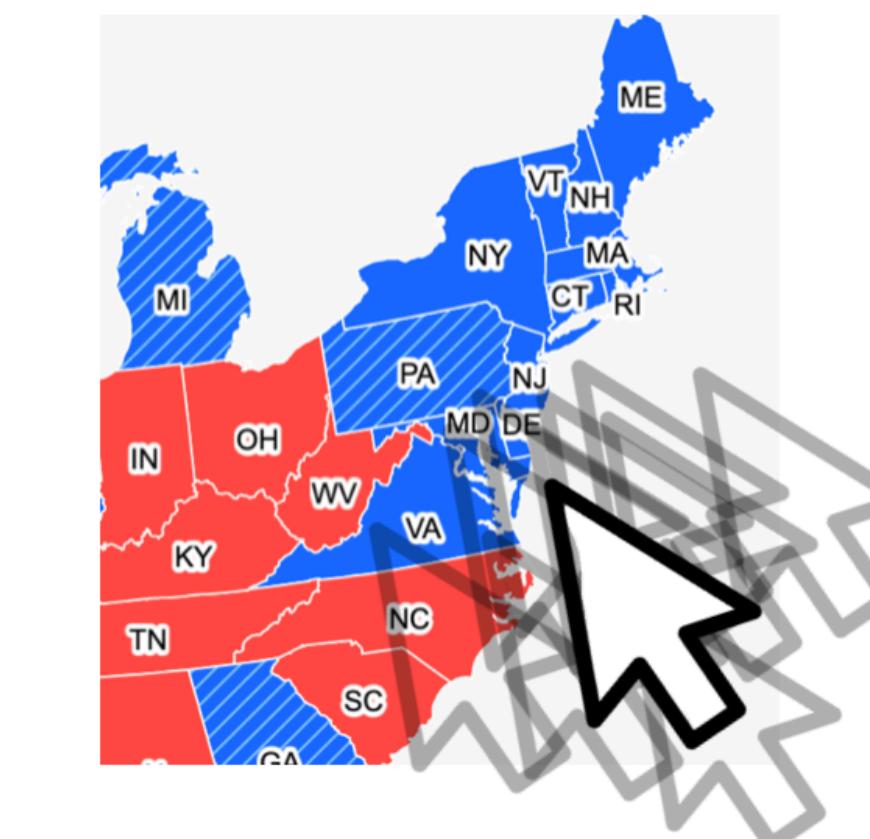
Describe the functionality of elements



Communicate interaction state visually



Improve the size of interaction areas



Operable Evaluation Toolkit:

1. **Use your mouse:** can it do something meaningful? (tooltip, click event, etc) If so:
 - a. Test using a **keyboard-only**: can you navigate *and* use keyboard activation (spacebar/enter) on the visualization?
 - b. Test using a **screen reader**: Can you use a screen reader to navigate and use keyboard activation on the visualization?
2. **Check sizes:** can a mouse easily interact with this?

Understandable

Can someone understand this in multiple ways? Is each way easy?

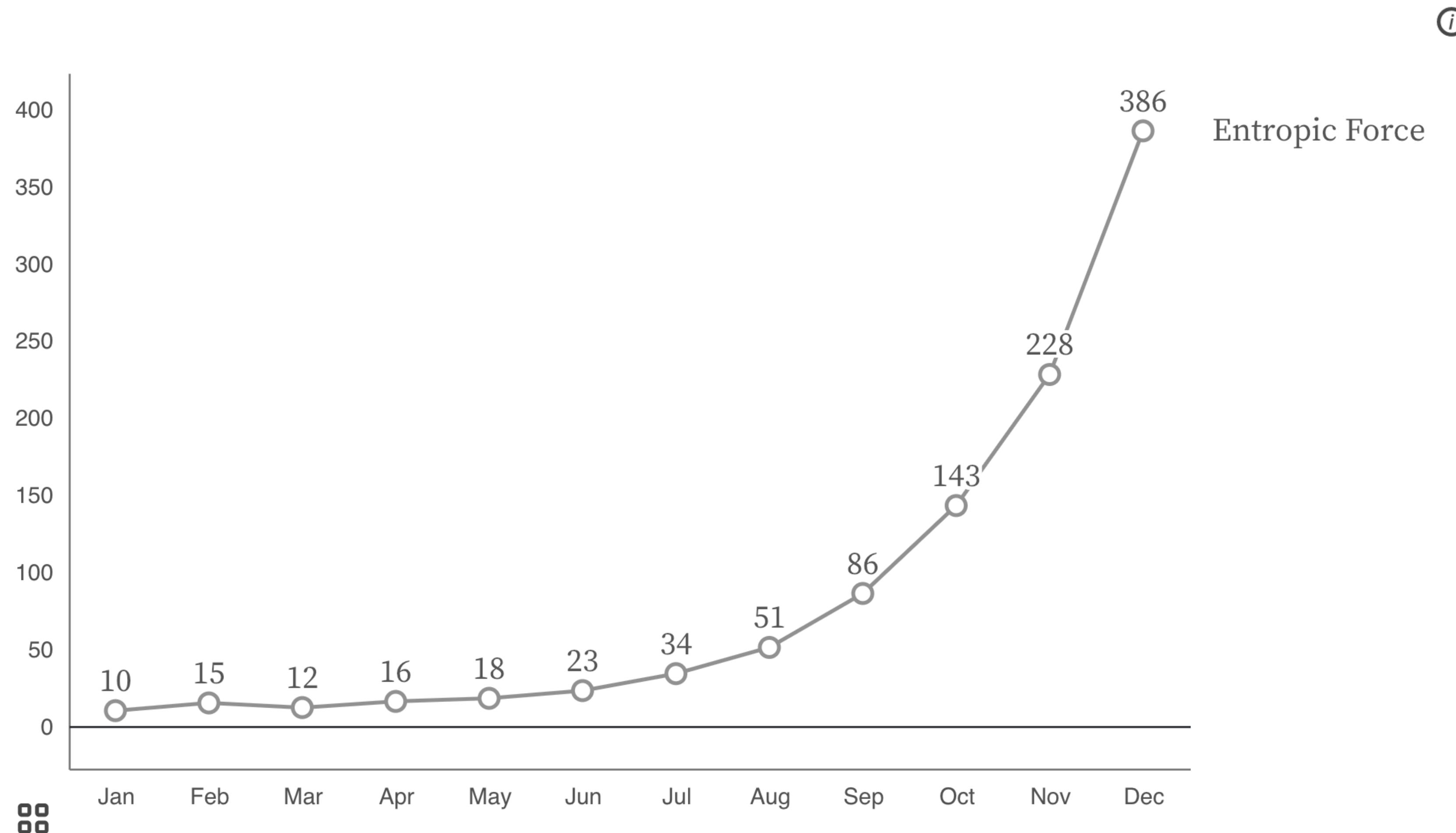
Understandable Checklist:

1. Descriptive title, summary, or caption
2. Data table or data download
3. Reading level

Non-descriptive titles are inaccessible

Entropic Force

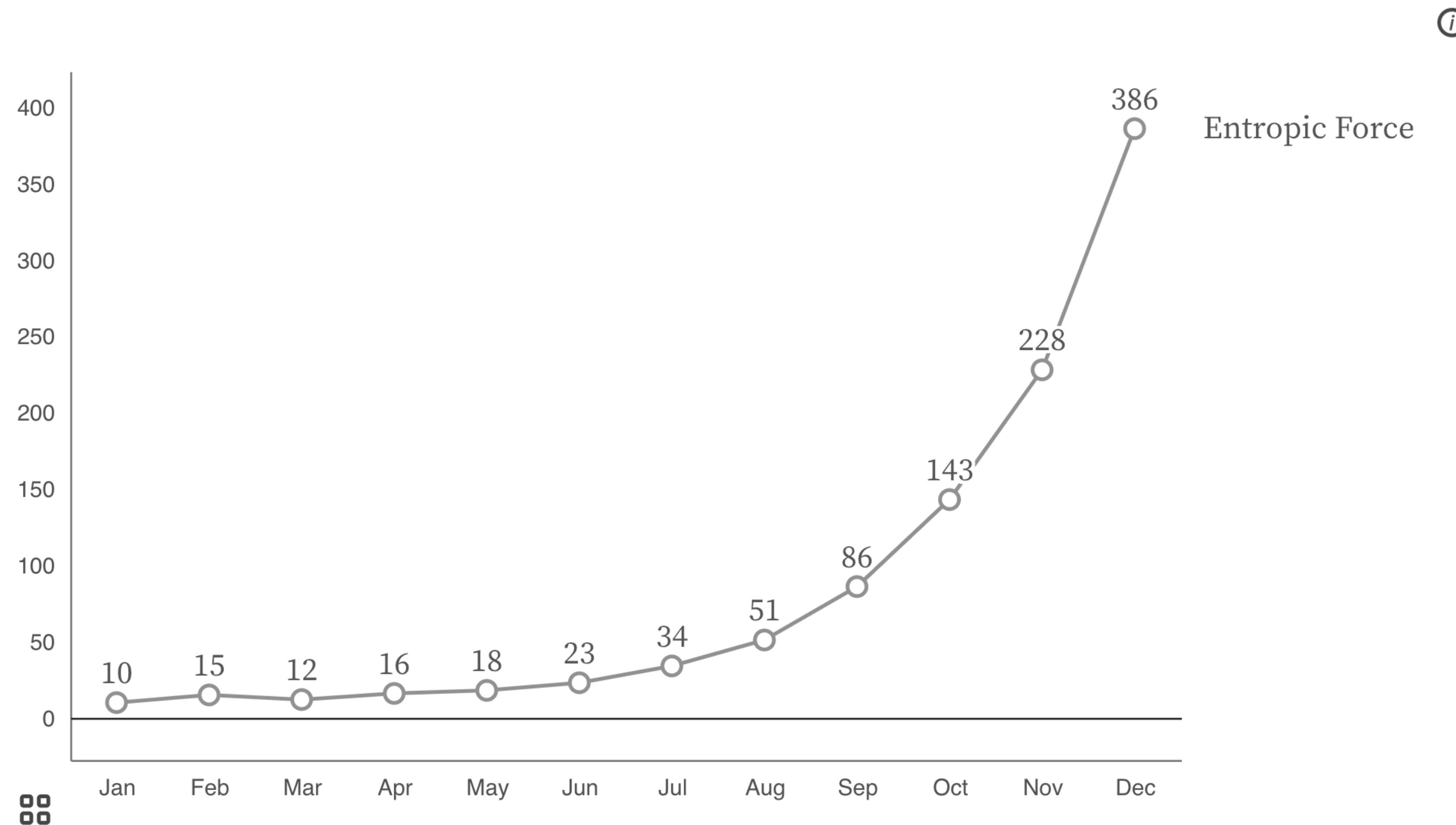
In EF units (non-normalized)



Descriptive titles have summaries/takeaways

Entropic Force has Increased Exponentially

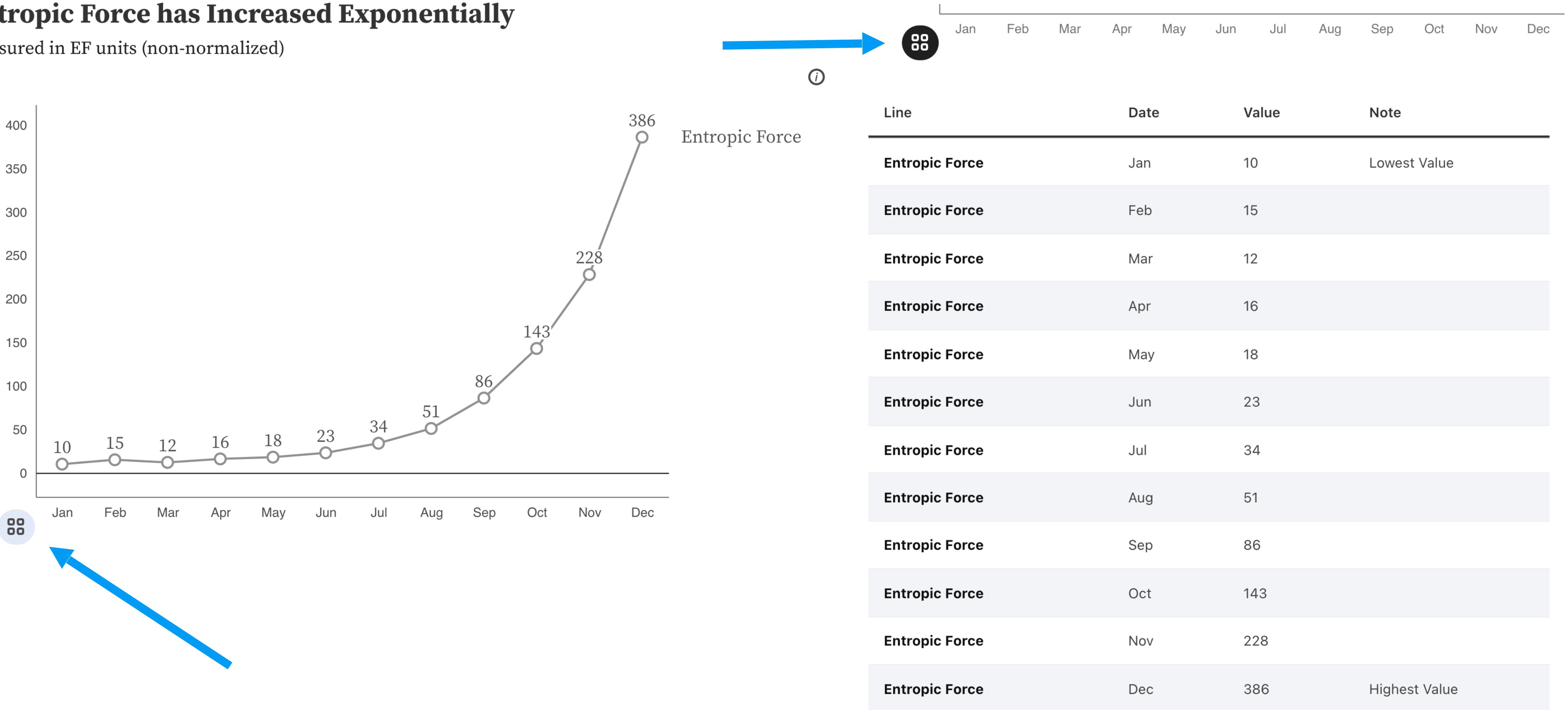
Measured in EF units (non-normalized)



All charts should have data available!

Entropic Force has Increased Exponentially

Measured in EF units (non-normalized)



Technical language is often overkill

Measured in EF units (non-normalized). EF units are valuable for catching egregious over-simulation in models that use randomized data decimation techniques. This particular evaluation findings demonstrate that the randomization models are significantly over-producing entropy in our latest force simulations.

Hemingway

Editor

Readability

Post-graduate

Poor. Aim for 14.

Words: 39

Show More ▾

1 adverb. Aim for 0 or fewer.

0 uses of passive voice. Nice work.

1 phrase has a simpler alternative.

0 of 3 sentences are hard to read.

2 of 3 sentences are very hard to read.

Keep summaries as non-technical as possible

If the topic is technical, provide a “plain language” summary somewhere close by that is easy to find (either in the same location or with by providing a link).

Measured in EF units (non-normalized). EF units are valuable for catching egregious over-simulation in models that use randomized data decimation techniques. This particular evaluation findings demonstrate that the randomization models are significantly over-producing entropy in our latest force simulations.

Hemingway Editor

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Words: 39

Show More ▾

1 adverb. Aim for 0 or fewer.

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1 phrase has a simpler alternative.

0 of 3 sentences are hard to read.

2 of 3 sentences are very hard to read.

Measured in EF units (non-normalized). These units are helpful for catching bad data loss when we remove our data at random. We are producing too much entropic force in our latest models.

Hemingway Editor

Readability

Grade 6

Good

Words: 32

Show More ▾

0 adverbs. Well done.

0 uses of passive voice. Nice work.

0 phrases have simpler alternatives.

0 of 3 sentences are hard to read.

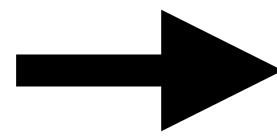
0 of 3 sentences are very hard to read.

Recap: Understandability

Use concise, descriptive titles

Entropic Force

In EF units (non-normalized)



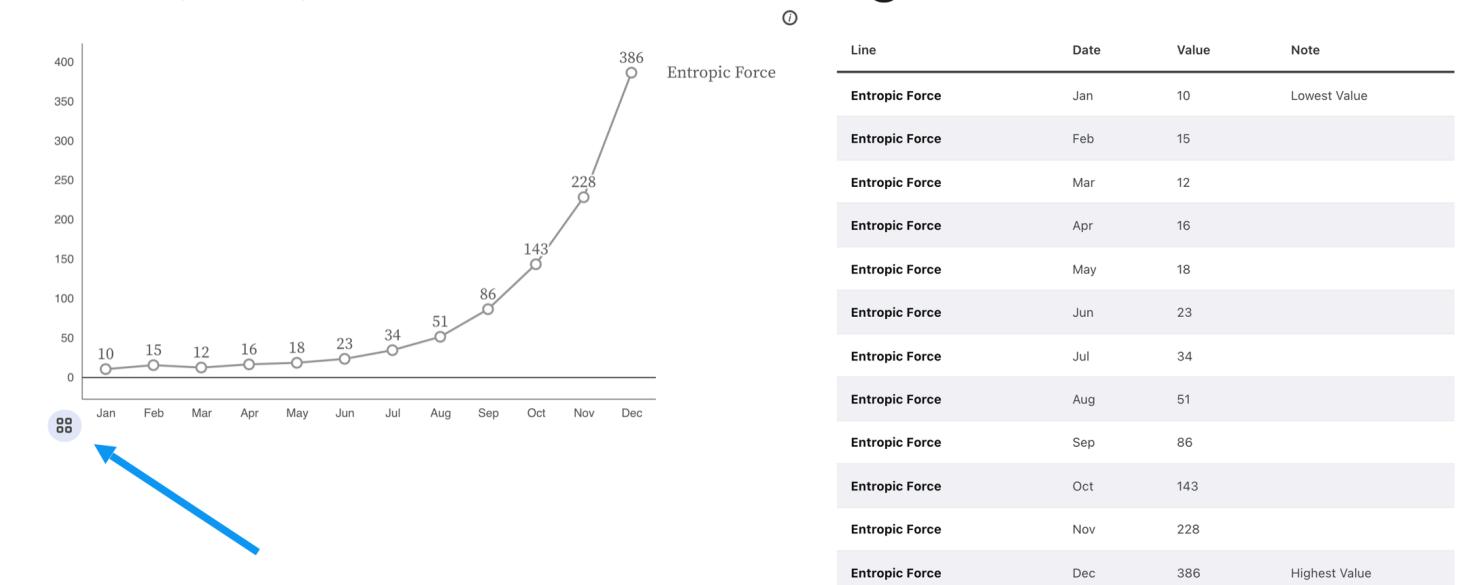
Entropic Force has Increased Exponentially

Measured in EF units (non-normalized)

Add easy-to-access data or tables

Entropic Force has Increased Exponentially

Measured in EF units (non-normalized)



Simplify your language

Hemingway

Readability

Post-graduate

Poor. Aim for 14.

Words: 39

Show More ▾

1 adverb. Aim for 0 or fewer.

0 uses of passive voice. Nice work.

1 phrase has a simpler alternative.

0 of 3 sentences are hard to read.

2 of 3 sentences are very hard to read.

Measured in EF units (non-normalized). These units are helpful for catching bad data loss when we remove our data at random. We are producing too much entropic force in our latest models.

Hemingway

Readability

Grade 6

Good

Words: 32

Show More ▾

0 adverbs. Well done.

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0 of 3 sentences are hard to read.

0 of 3 sentences are very hard to read.

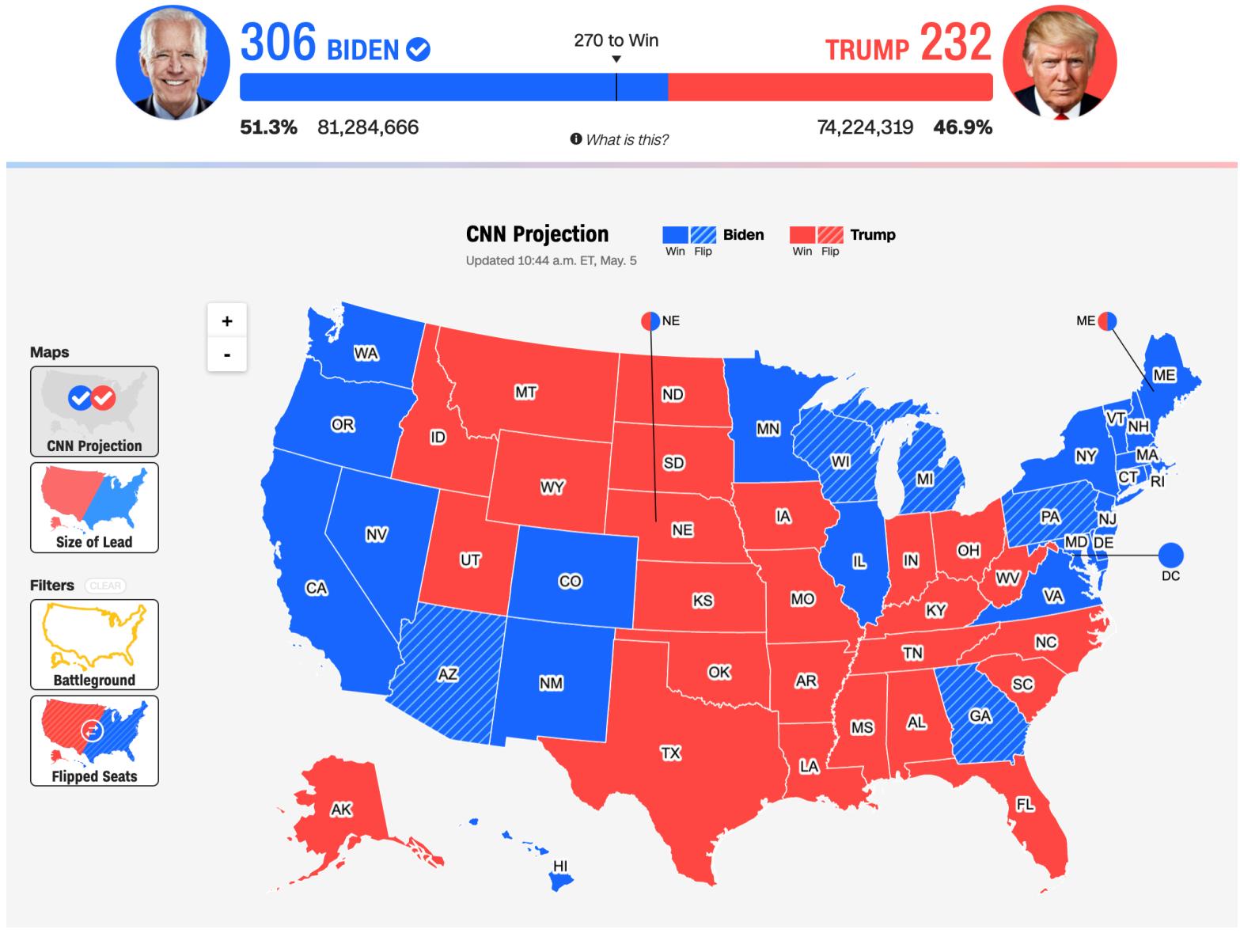
Understandable Evaluation Toolkit:

1. Is there a [descriptive title](#), summary, or caption?
2. Is there an [accessible table](#) or downloadable data file provided?
3. Is the descriptive text supporting the visualization presented at [a reading level at grade 9](#) or below?

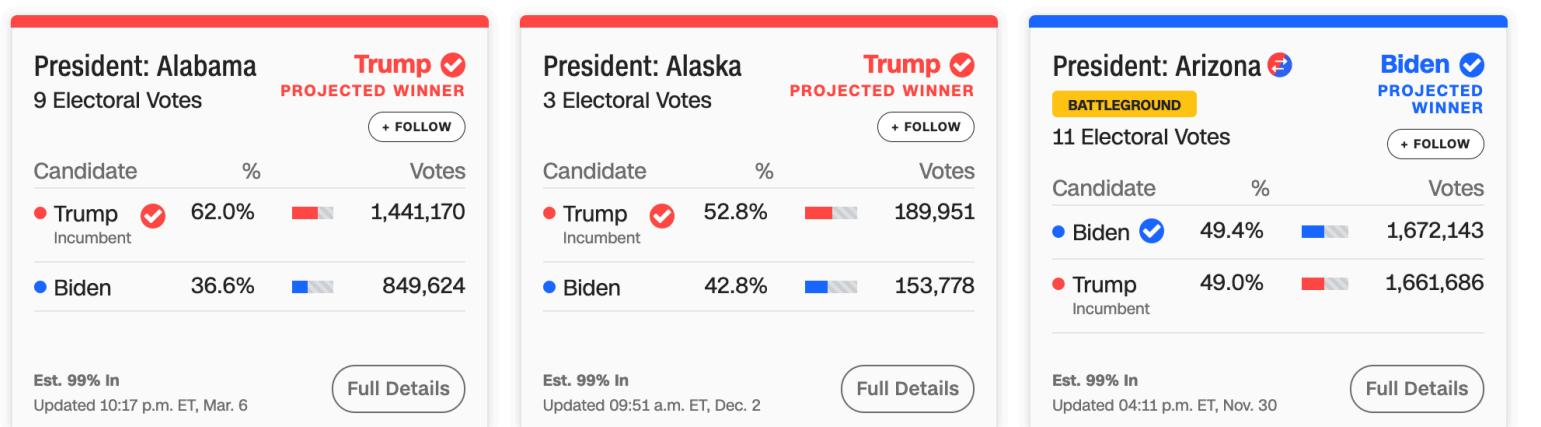
PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

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STATE RESULTS



Show More States

Continue this for:
Robust,
Compromising,
Assistive,
and Flexible

978 access failures found in ~60 minutes.

Perceivable:

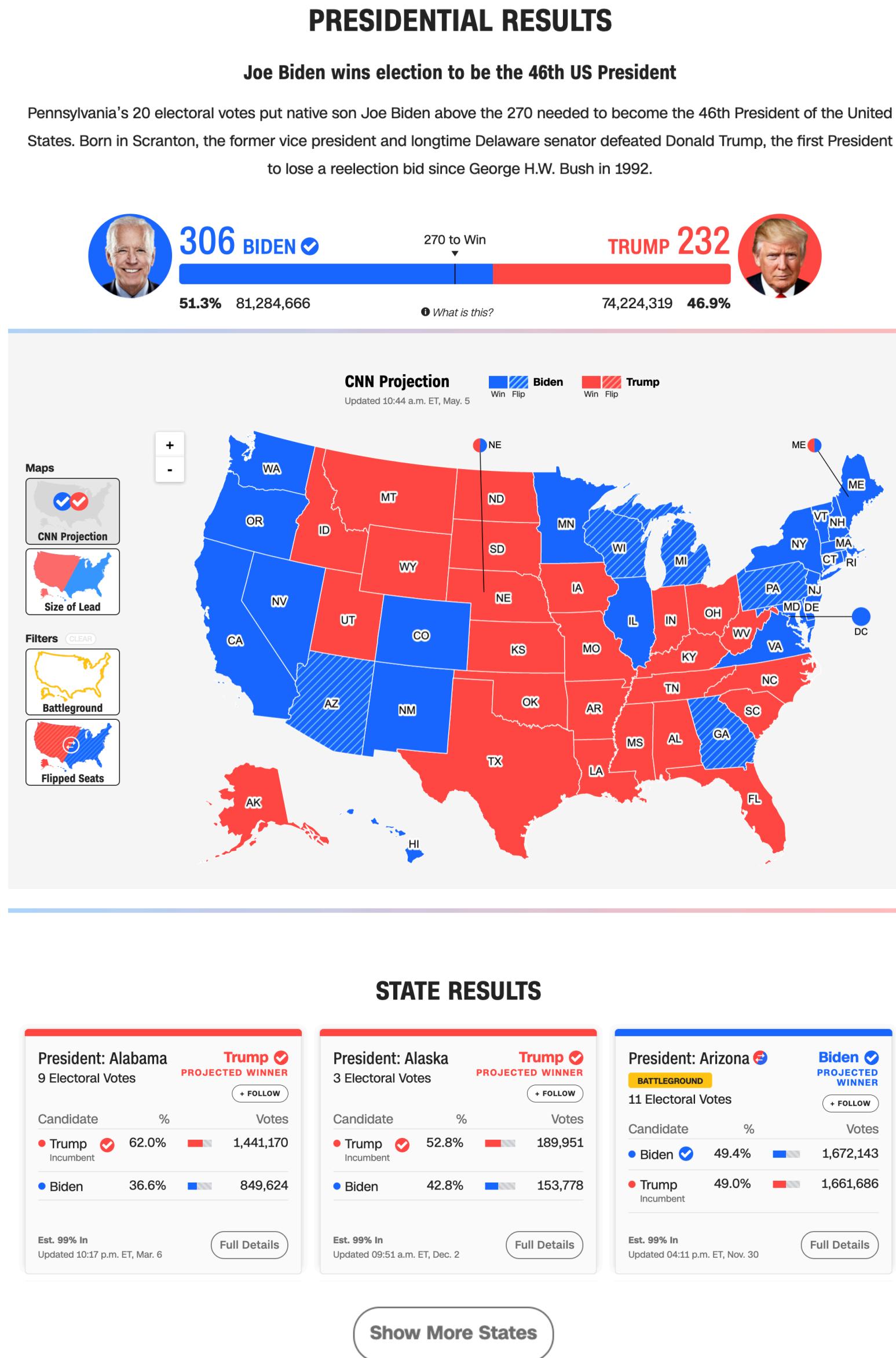
- 6 - Low contrast
- 57 - Content is only visual
- 50 - Color alone is used
- 3 - Meaningful elements can be distinguished

Operable:

- 54 - Interaction modality only has one input type
- 58 - No interaction cues or instructions
- 5 - Low contrast on interactive elements
- 4 - Keyboard focus indicator missing
- 4 - Complex actions have no alternative
- 18 - Target pointer interaction is too small

Understandable:

- 4 - Interactive context is not clear
- 6 - Metrics or variables are undefined



Robust:

- 275 - Does not conform to standards
- 82 - Semantically invalid
- 12 - Fragile technology support

Compromising:

- 54 - Information can only be reached through single process
- 61 - Information cannot be navigated according to narrative or structure

Assistive:

- 101 - Navigation and interaction is tedious

Flexible:

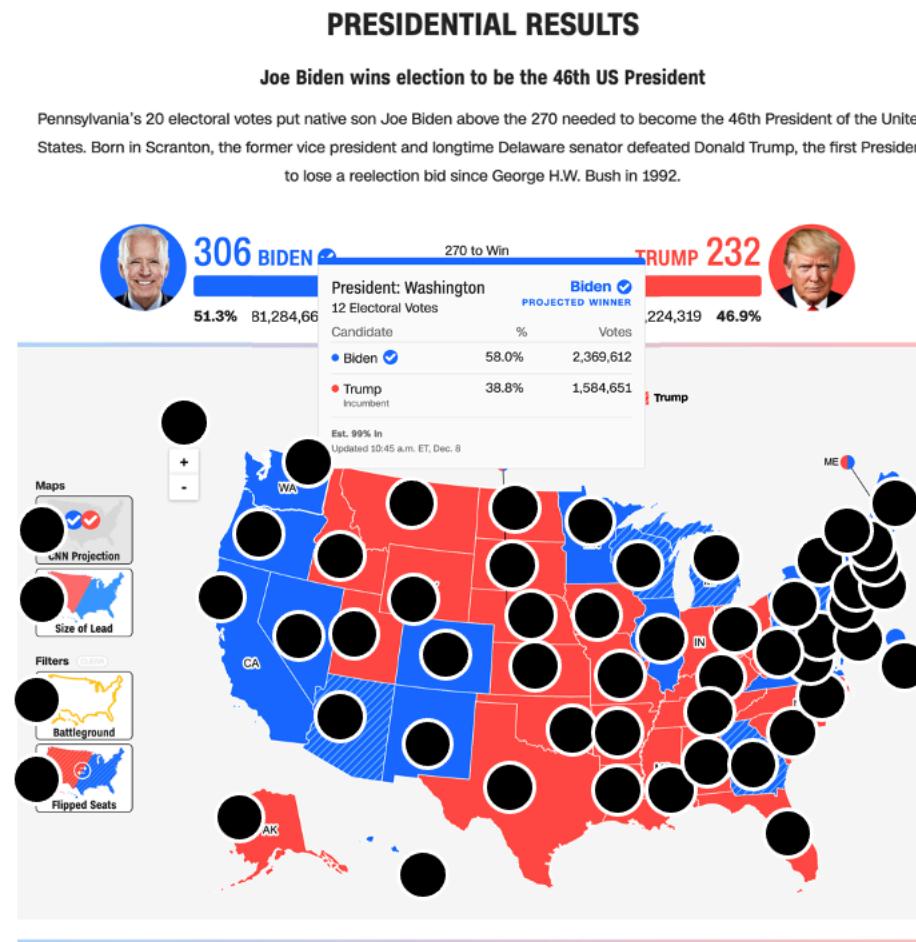
- 2 - User style change not respected
 - 121 - User text adjustments are not respected
 - 1 - Scrolling experiences cannot be adjusted or opted out of
- Contrast and textures cannot be adjusted

What and how of visualization accessibility

(My recent research)

Chartability:

What are accessibility barriers?

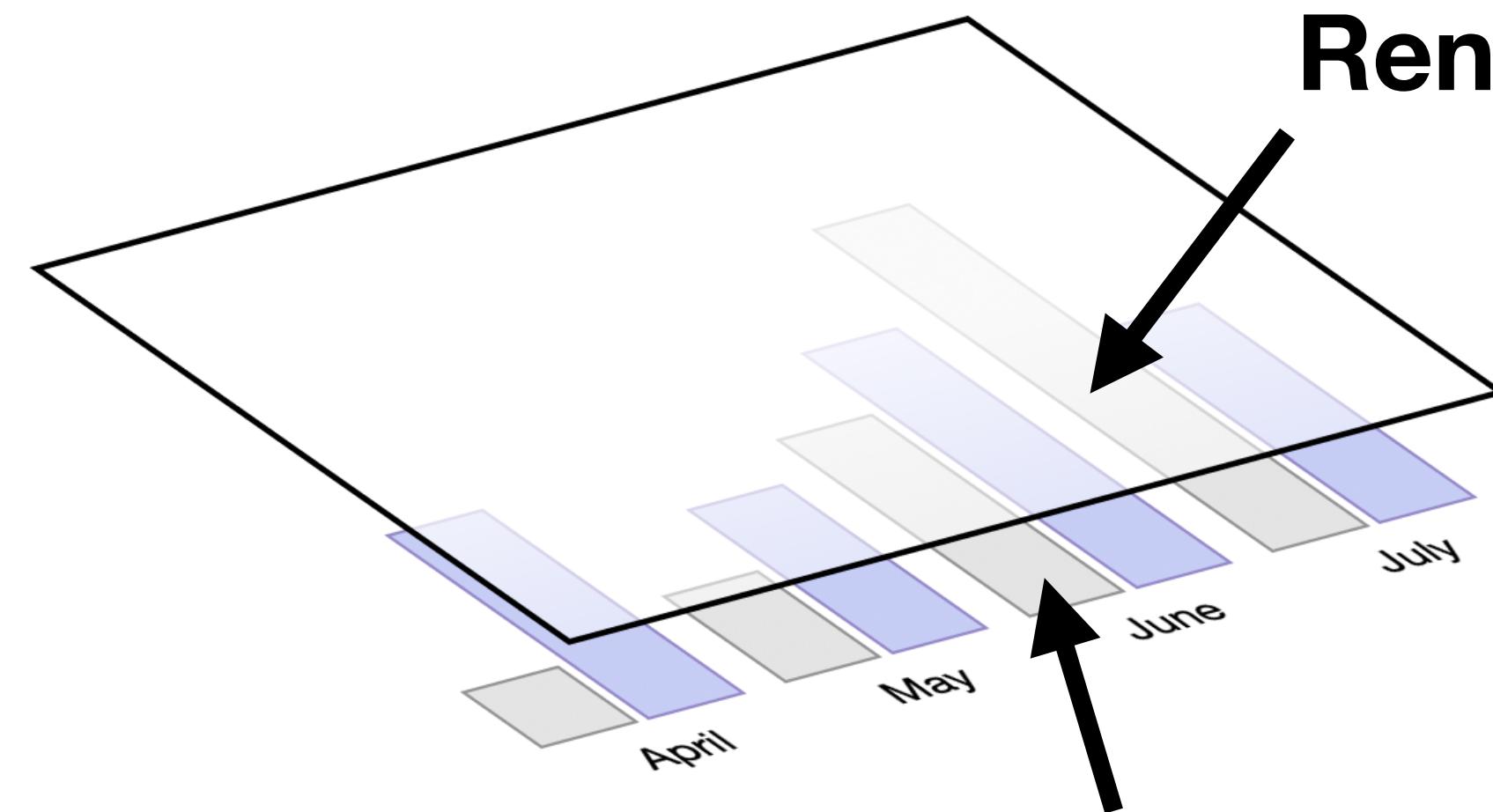
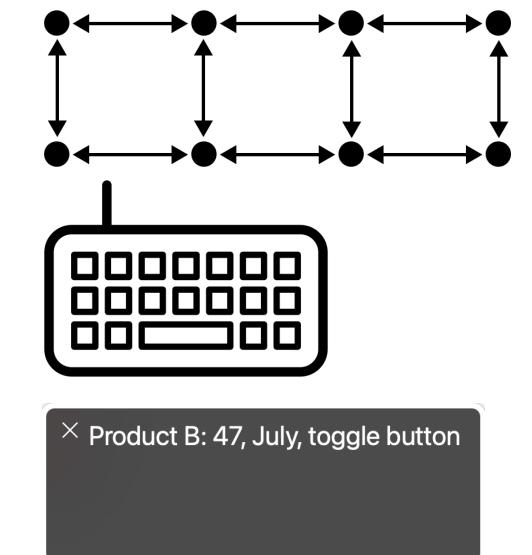


Data Navigator:
How do we build accessible visualizations?

Structure

Input

Rendering



To any visualization toolkit

Past problems:

**Problem 1: Do people who build stuff
know what is or isn't accessible?**

**Problem 2: What do we do with
all these pixels?**

Why are pixels so much trouble?

Product AC is trending up, Product AB is tanking

Product AC initiated its launch with 12 clients and our internal marketing personnel cultivated 27 new acquisitions by the close of the calendar year. Product AB started with 42 clients and after a controversy in June, dropped to 4 by December.

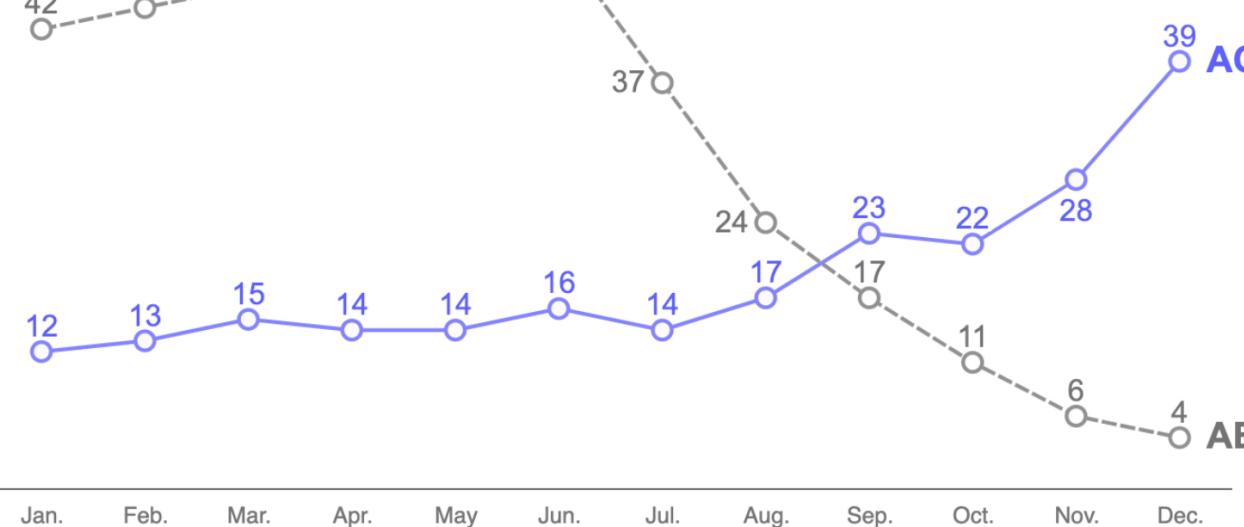
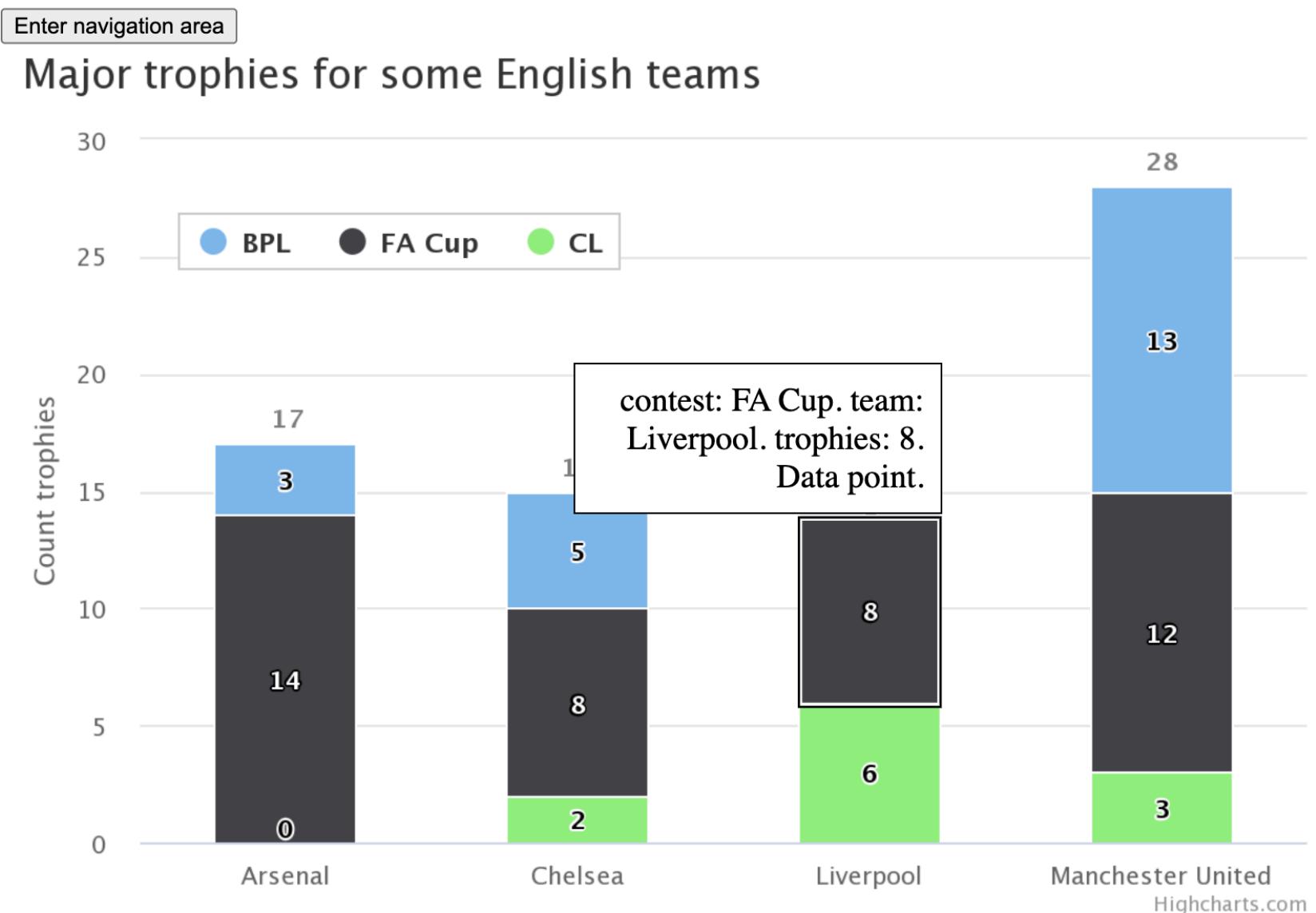


Figure 1: Last year's performance of Products AC and AB. Data is made possible by Sam Smith on the marketing data team.



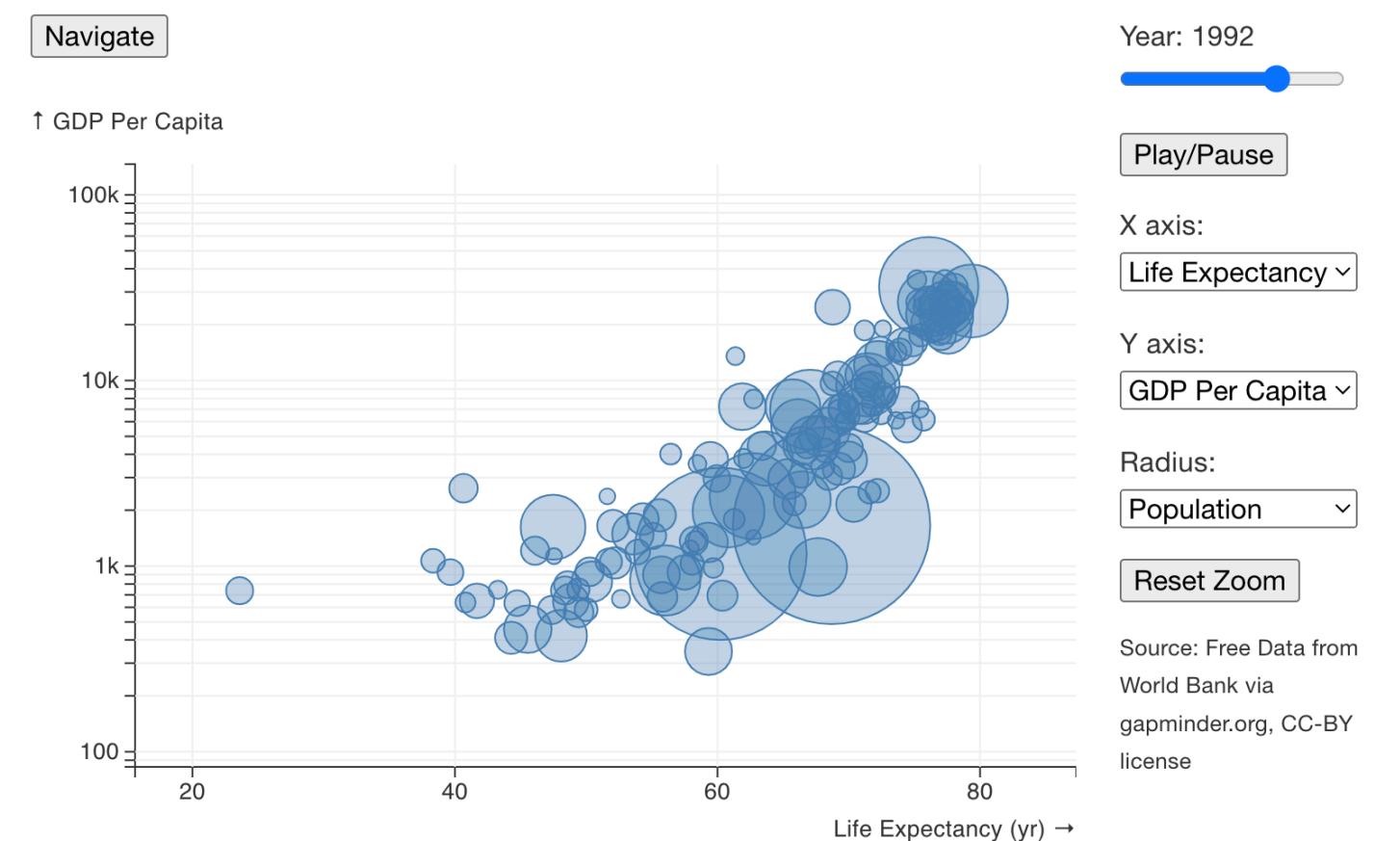
[First demo link](#)

[Second demo link](#)

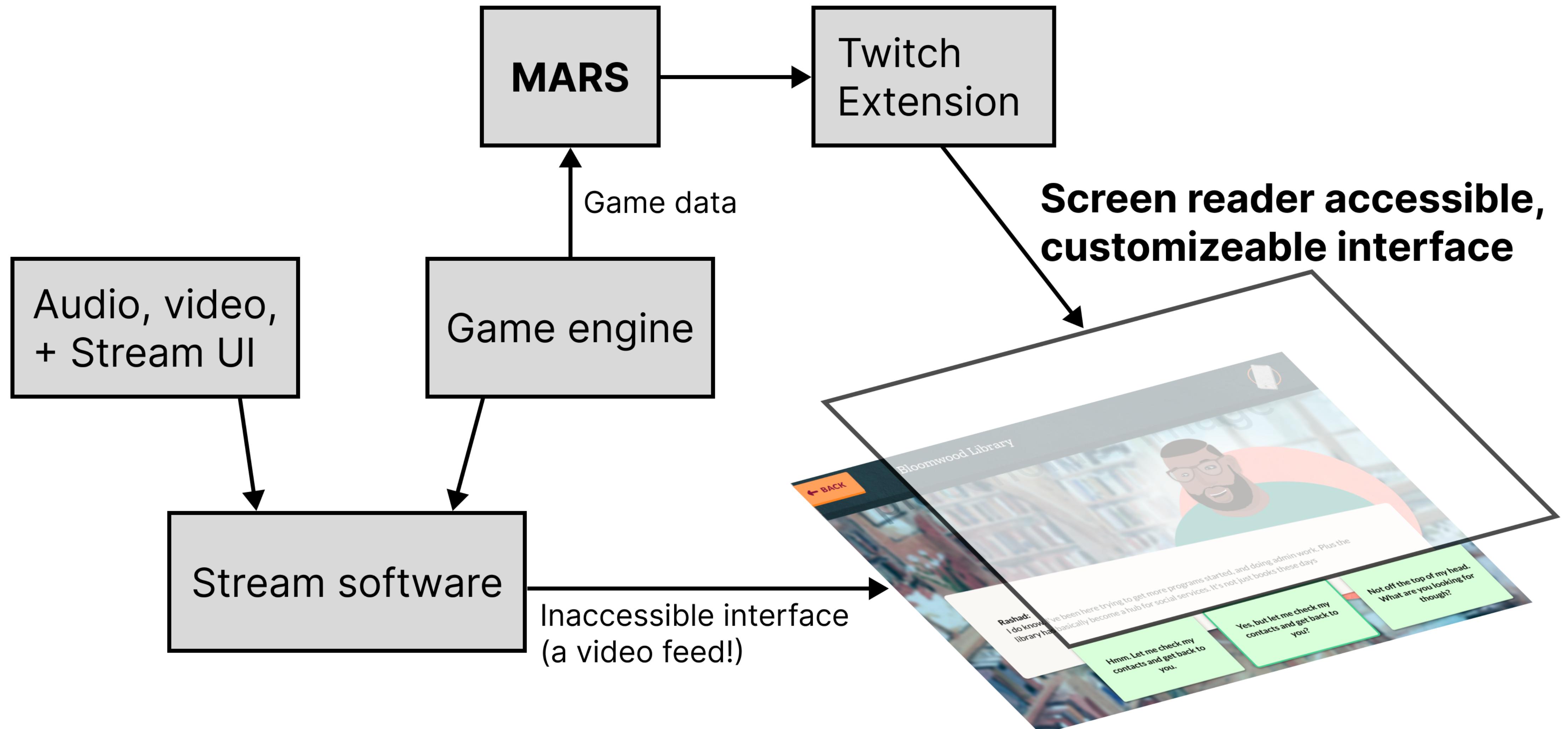
[Third demo link](#)

Example: Accessible Gapminder Chart

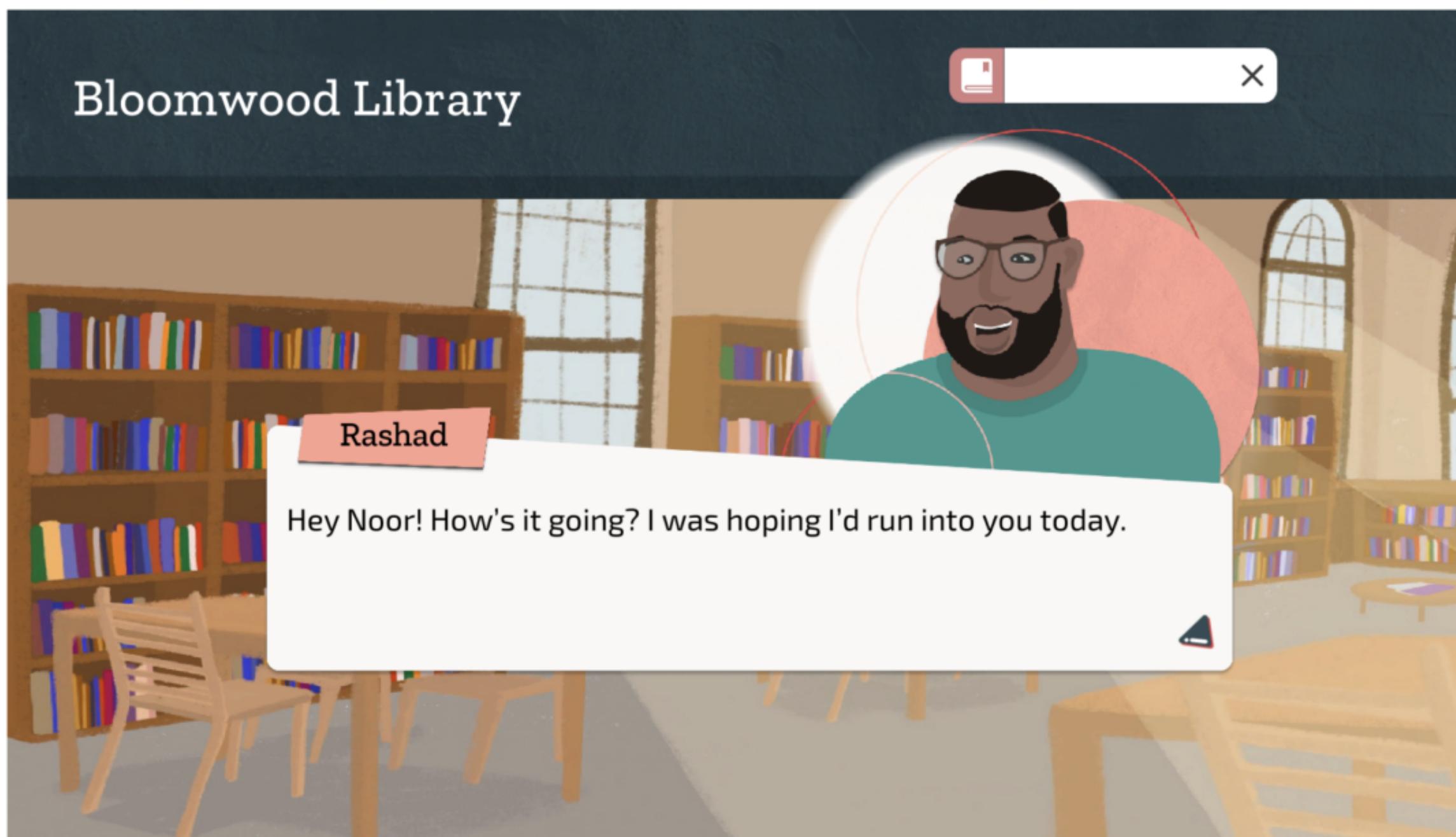
Below is a responsive, screen-reader-navigable version of the chart shown on the [homepage](#). Press **Navigate** to enter keyboard navigation. Or, change your “prefers reduced motion” system setting to see fade animations instead of motion.



Accessible Streaming Software Infrastructure



Game-aware interfaces for streaming



Gamer interface, to gamer



Stream interface, to viewers

**What are some “big-P” Problems
in accessibility and visualization?**

Problem 1: Centering research and development on screen readers (not blind people) limits what we can do

Screen readers processes 1 input at a time

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia article for "Cat". A red box highlights the search bar and the "Search" button. Another red box highlights the page title "Cat". A third red box highlights the sidebar menu on the left. A fourth red box highlights the "Cat" link in the disambiguation section. A fifth red box highlights the image gallery on the right.

**67 Nav points,
~32s**

This article is about the species commonly kept as a pet. For the cat family, see [Felidae](#). For other uses, see [Cat \(disambiguation\)](#) and [Cats \(disambiguation\)](#).

Cat is the only domesticated species in the feline family that has been [domesticated](#) by humans. It is a [house pet](#) that is valued by humans for its companionship and its ability to kill small animals, especially mice. Its night vision and sense of smell are well developed. It is a [social species](#), but a solitary hunter and a [crepuscular predator](#). Cat communication includes vocalizations like meowing, purring, trilling, hissing, growling, and grunting as well as [cat body language](#). It can hear sounds too faint or too high in [frequency](#) for [human ears](#), such as those made by [small mammals](#). It also secretes and perceives [pheromones](#).

Female domestic cats can have [kittens](#) from [spring](#) to late [autumn](#) in [temperate zones](#) and throughout the year in [equatorial regions](#), with [litter](#) sizes often ranging from two to five kittens. Domestic cats are bred and shown at events as registered [pedigreed cats](#), a hobby known as [cat fancy](#). Animal population control of cats may be achieved by [spaying](#) and [neutering](#), but their proliferation and the abandonment of pets has resulted in large numbers of [feral cats](#) worldwide, contributing to the extinction of [bird](#) and [mammal](#) species.

Cat
Temporal range: 9,500 years ago – present

Movement between tasks becomes cognitively expensive

The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article page for 'Cat'. A red box highlights the left sidebar, which contains 67 navigation points. A red circle highlights the search bar at the top. Another red circle highlights a link to 'Felidae' in the text. The main content area discusses the domestication of cats and their physical characteristics.

**67 Nav points,
~32s**

This article is about the species commonly kept as a pet. For the cat family, see [Felidae](#). For other uses, see [Cat \(disambiguation\)](#) and [Cats \(disambiguations\)](#).

Cat is the only domesticated species in the feline genus that has been kept by humans for thousands of years. It is valued by humans for its companionship and its ability to kill small pests, and its night vision and sense of smell are well developed. It is a social species, but a solitary hunter and a crepuscular predator. Cat communication includes vocalizations like meowing, purring, trilling, hissing, growling, and grunting as well as cat body language. It can hear sounds too faint or too high in frequency for human ears, such as those made by small mammals. It also secretes and perceives pheromones.

Female domestic cats can have kittens from spring to late autumn in temperate zones and throughout the year in equatorial regions, with litter sizes often ranging from two to five kittens. Domestic cats are bred and shown at events as registered pedigree cats, a hobby known as cat fancy. Animal population control of cats may be achieved by spaying and neutering, but their proliferation and the abandonment of pets has resulted in large numbers of feral cats worldwide, contributing to the extinction of bird, mammal, and insect populations.

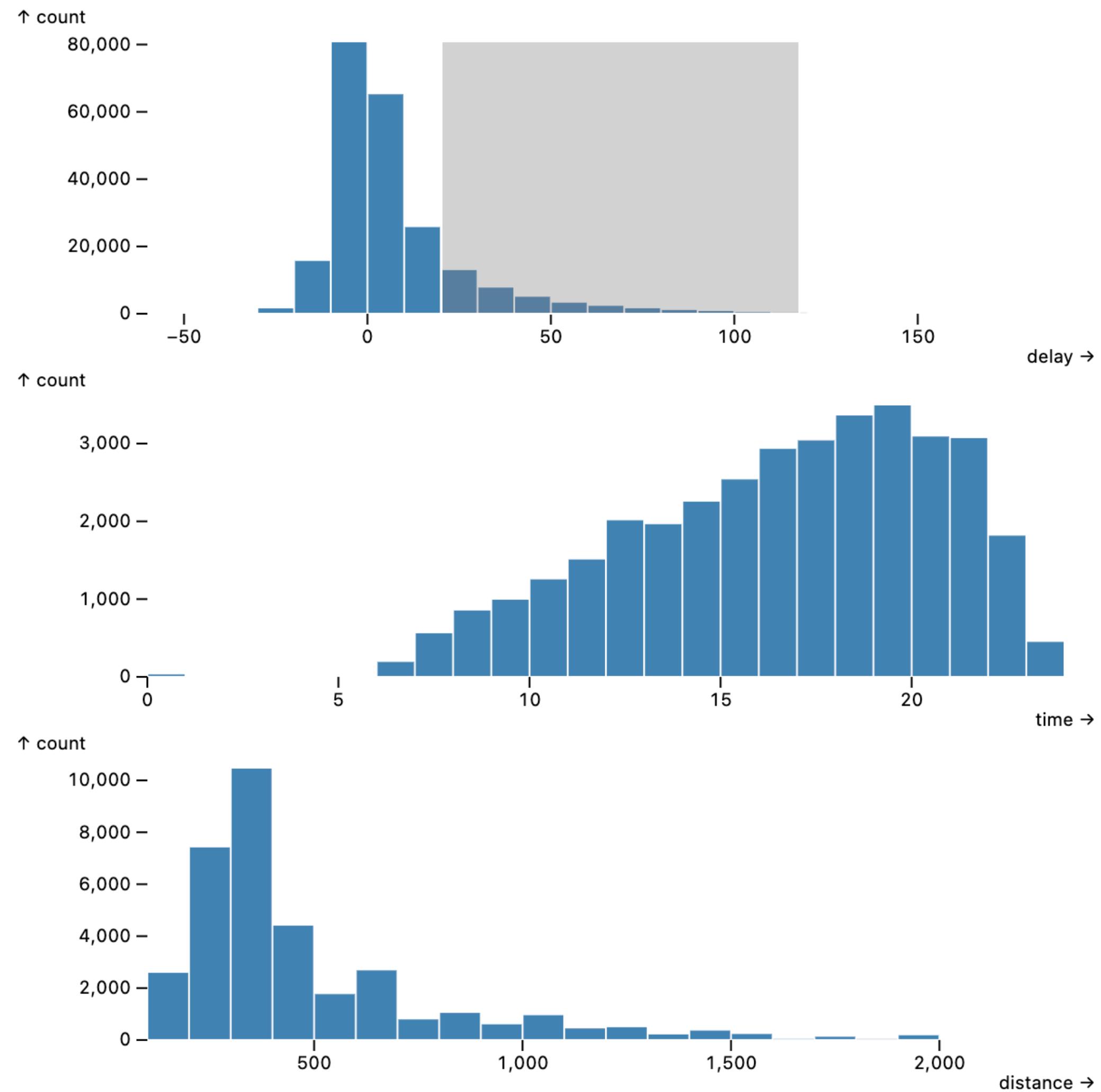
Auditory processing struggles with *dual-task* paradigms*

*Citation

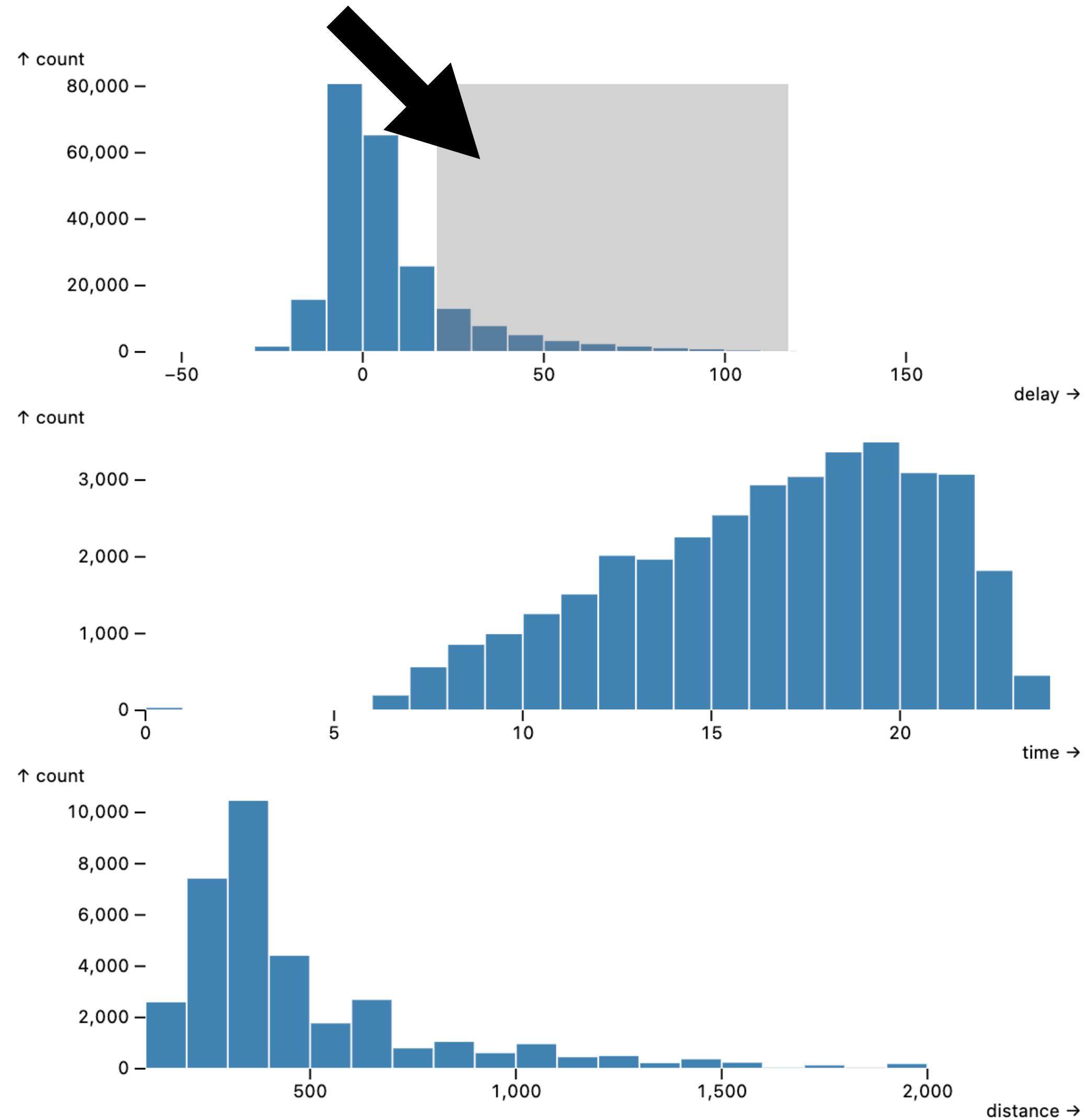
So what about cross-filtering?

[Interactive link](#)

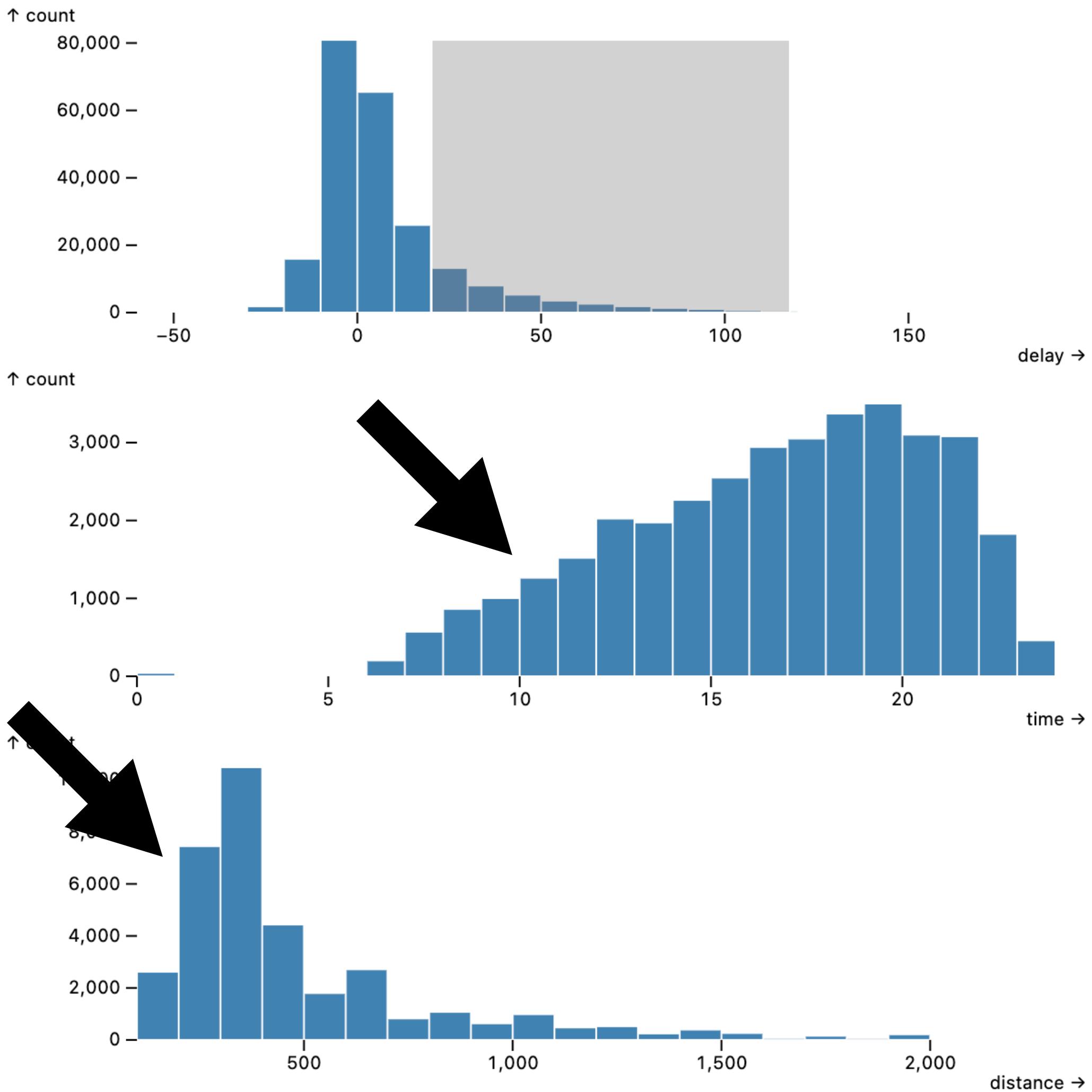
So what about cross-filtering?



Interaction in one space...



Produces simultaneous, coordinated change in another.



For blind users, descriptions, structural navigation, and sonifications will likely *not* solve this challenge.

Preliminary research question:

How do blind people interact with *multiple* tactile media simultaneously?

Observing: Embossed braille in a research context



[Image source](#)

Observation 1: Spatial memory storage

My friend didn't remember the details of a math equation exactly, but he knew *where* that equation was located in his stack of braille pages and *where* on the page the equation was.

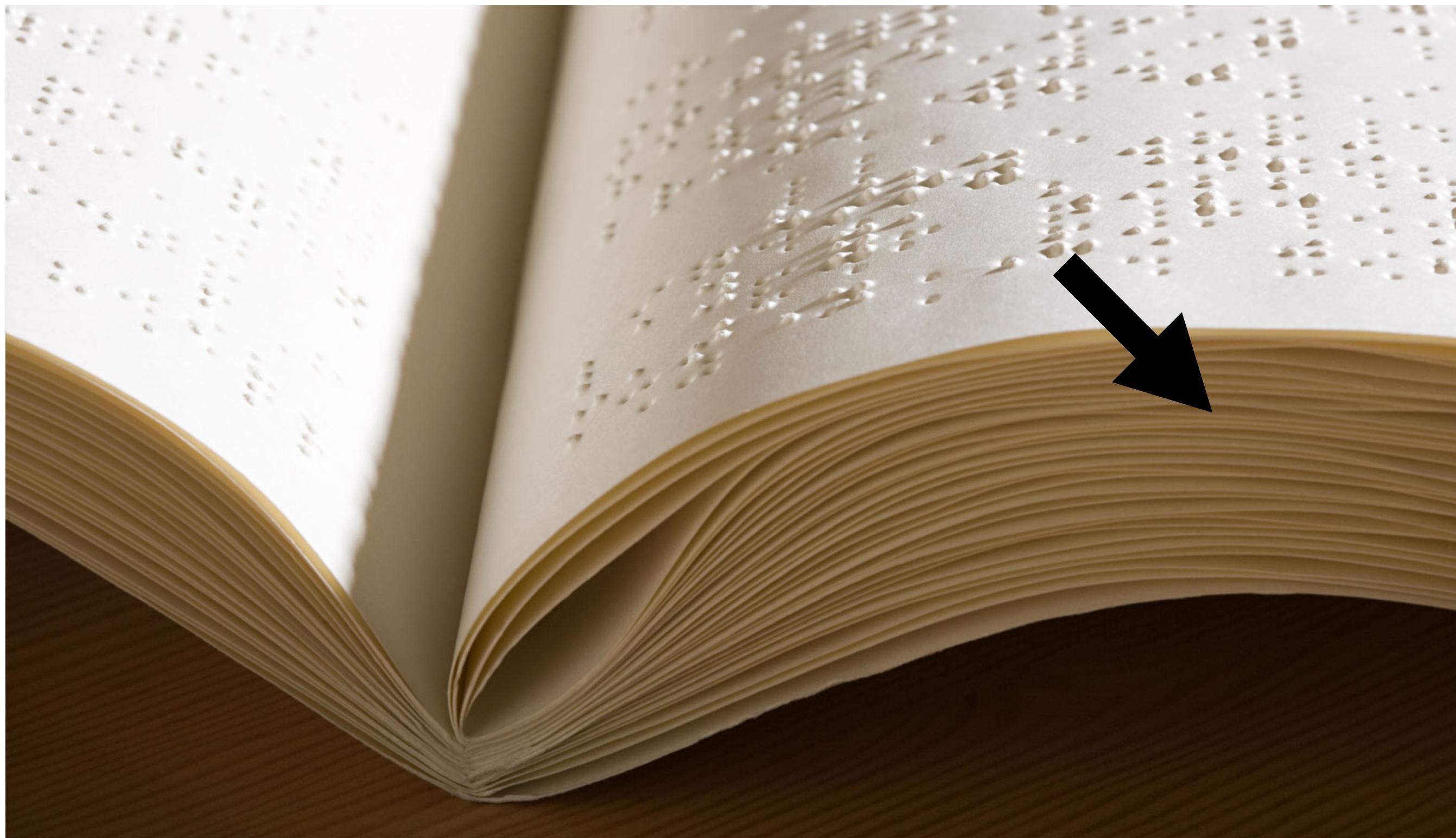
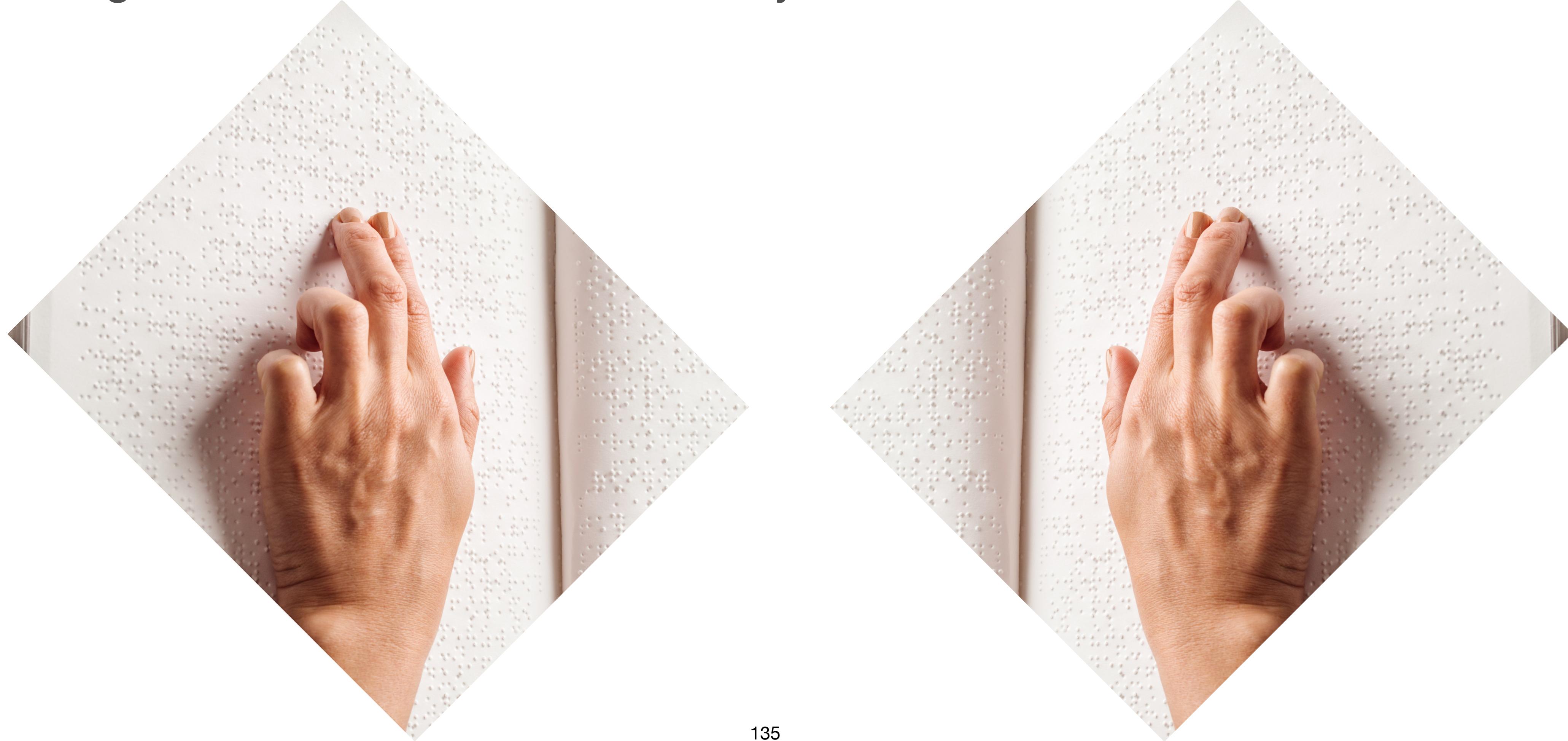


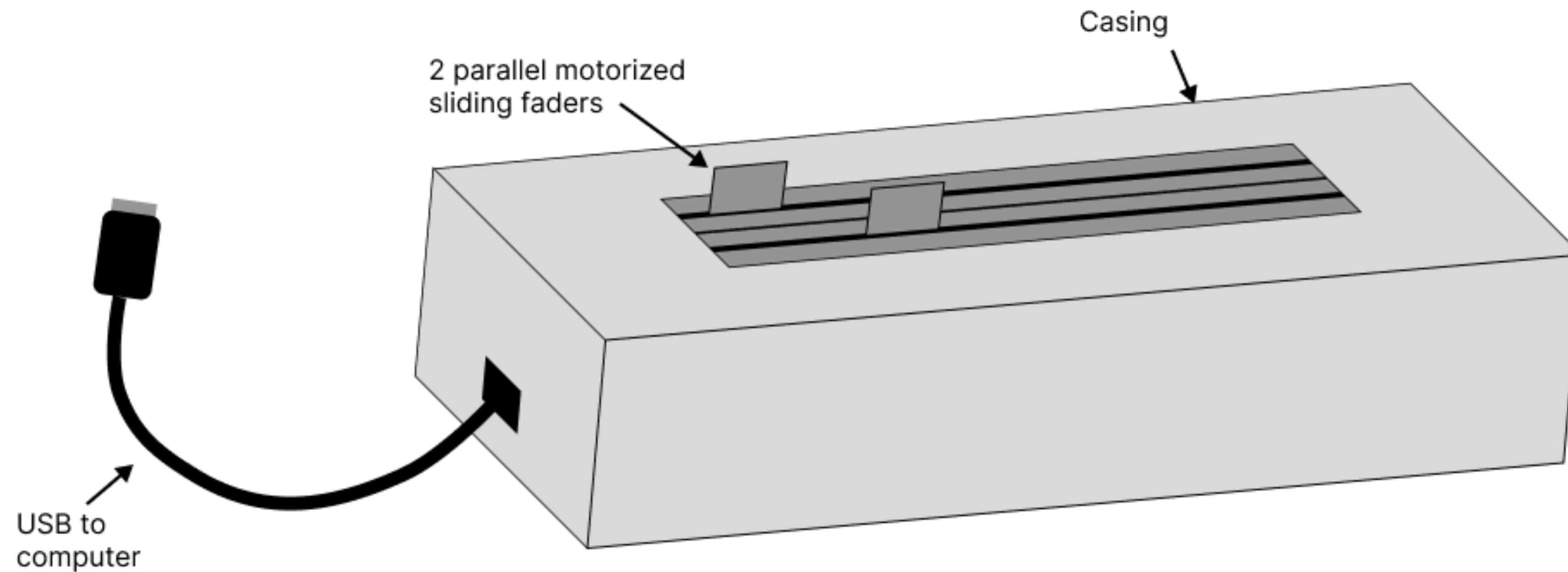
Image source

Observation 2: Coordinating perception and comparison

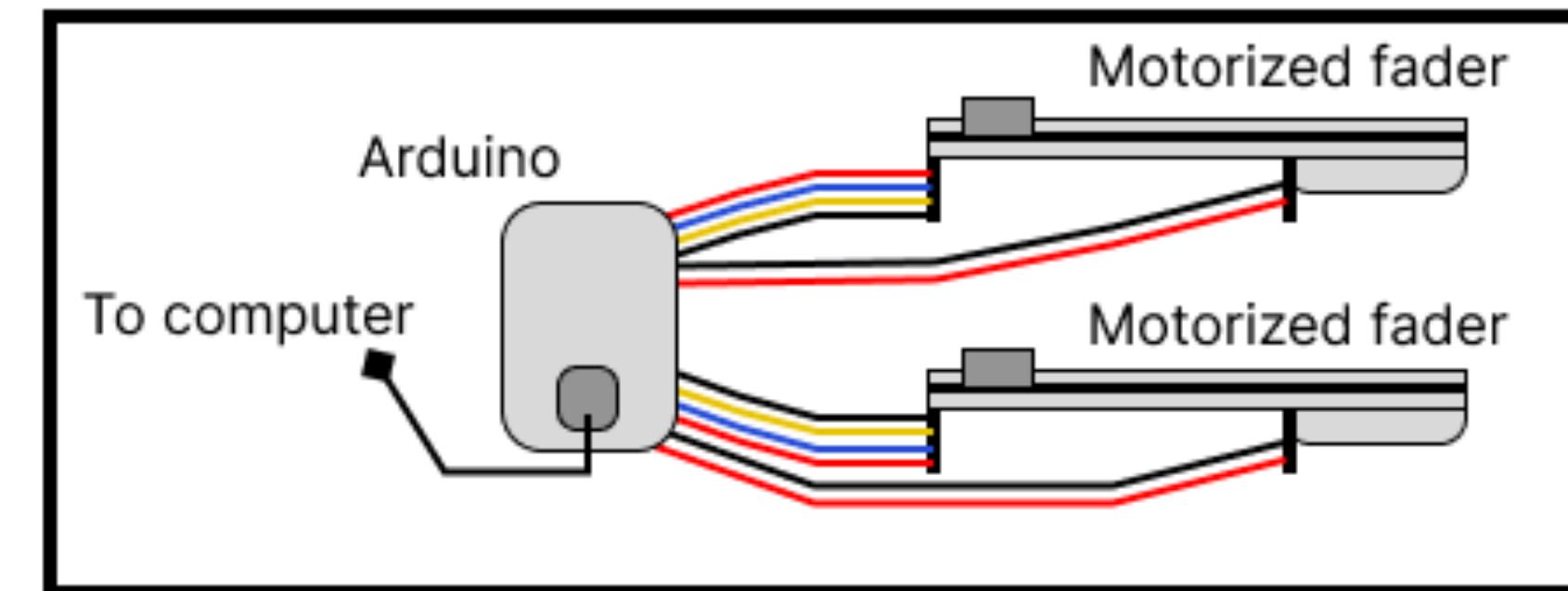
He then compared 2 equations at once. The details of each weren't important. He was *feeling* for differences simultaneously.



Prototype 2: the *cross-feeler*, 2 motorized faders



Schematic

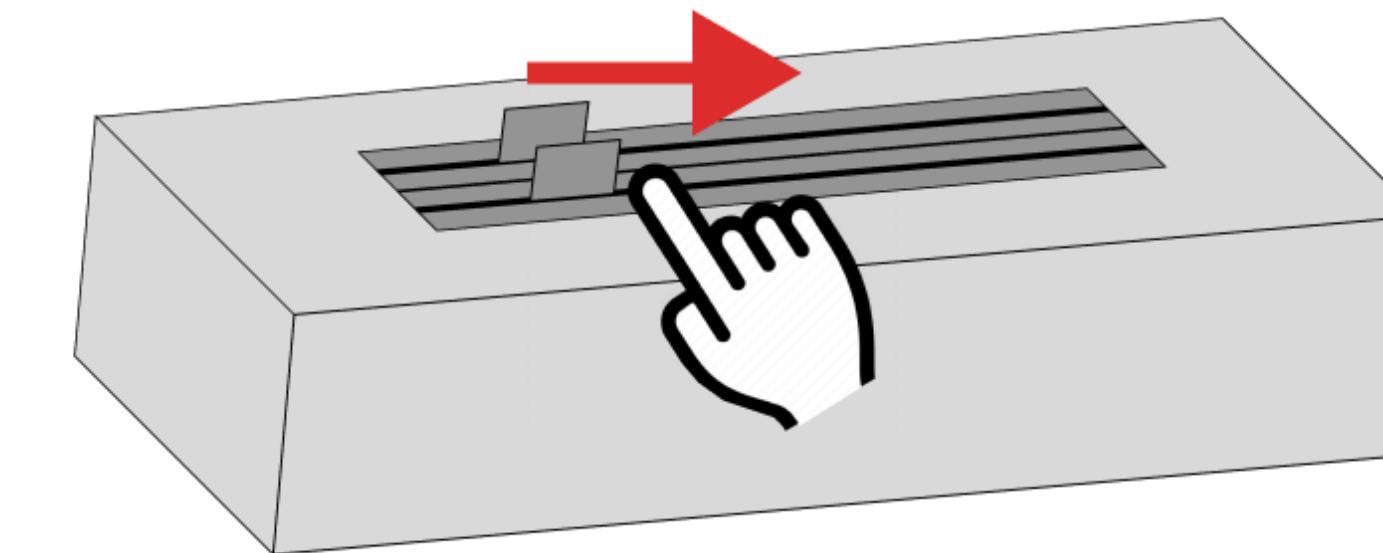


One slider can work with video

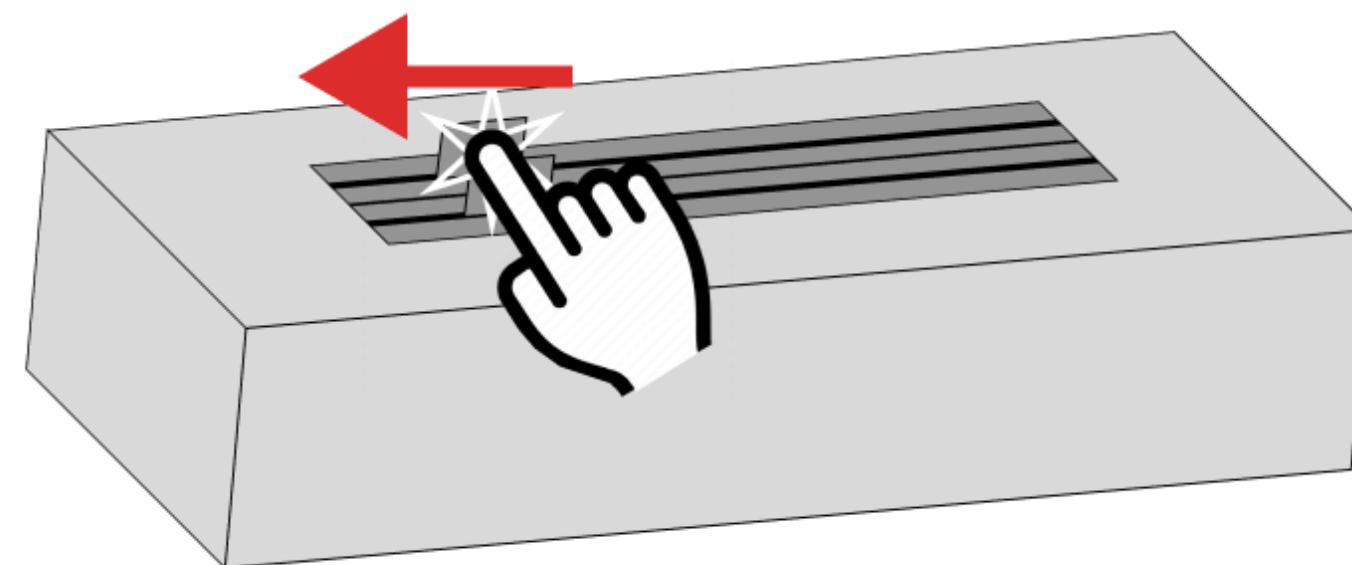
1. Video plays with progress slider moving



2. Slider follows, can be felt



3. User can move slider

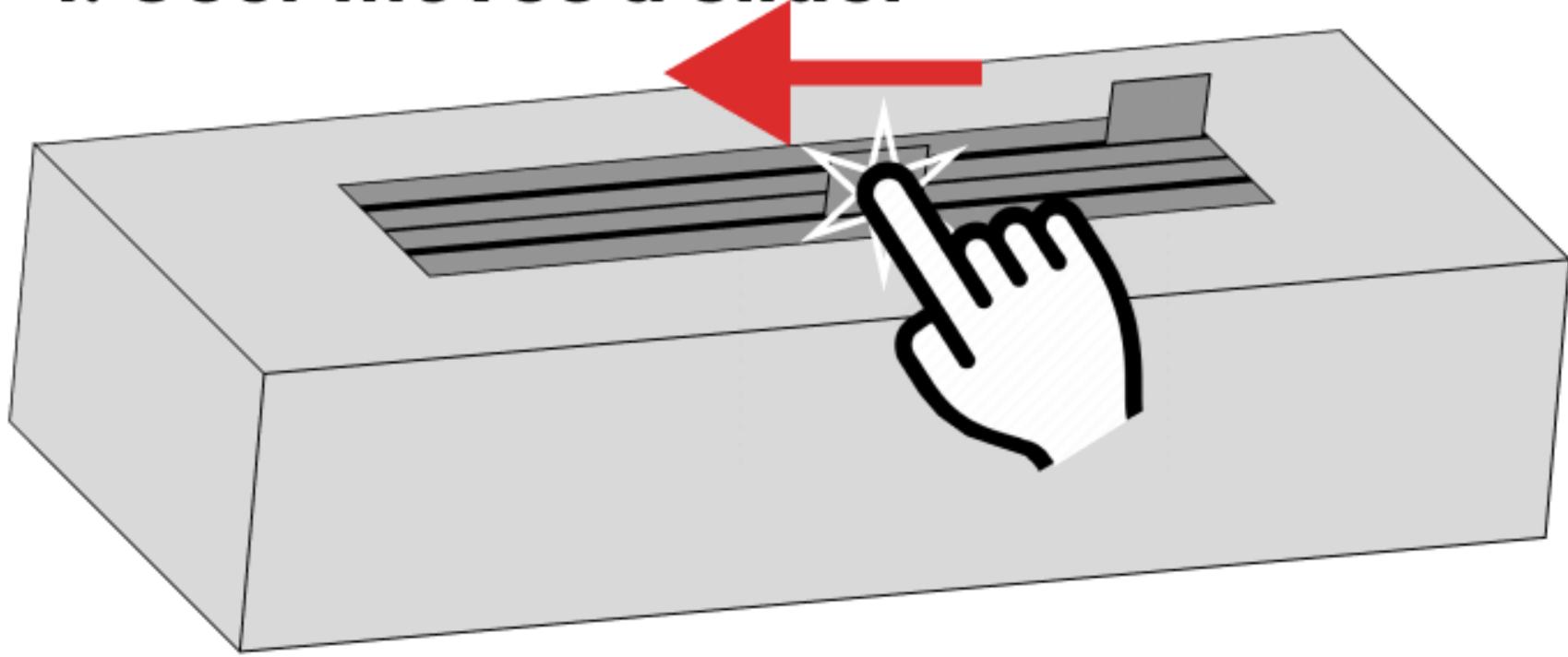


4. Video slider will move with slider change

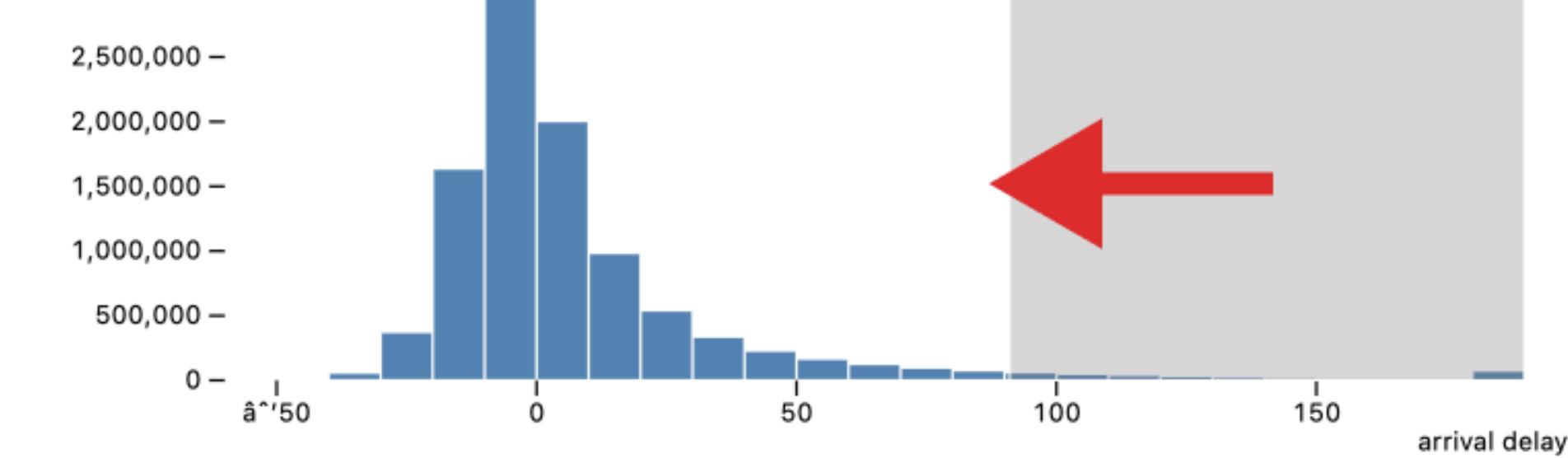


While 2 sliders works for cross-filtering

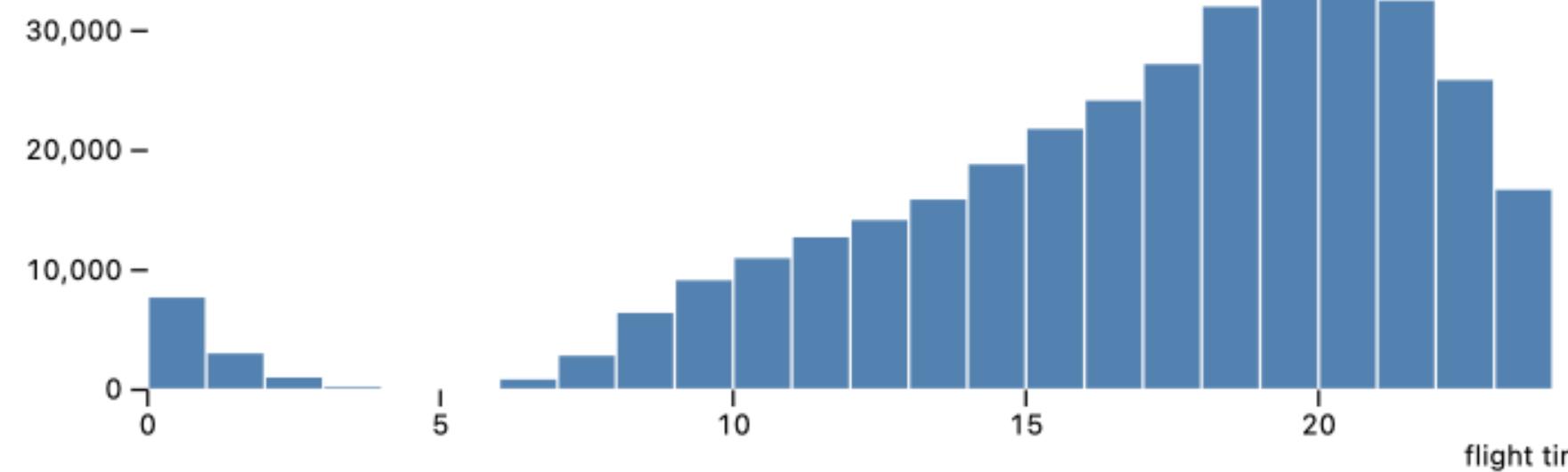
1. User moves a slider



2. Corresponding filter edge moves with

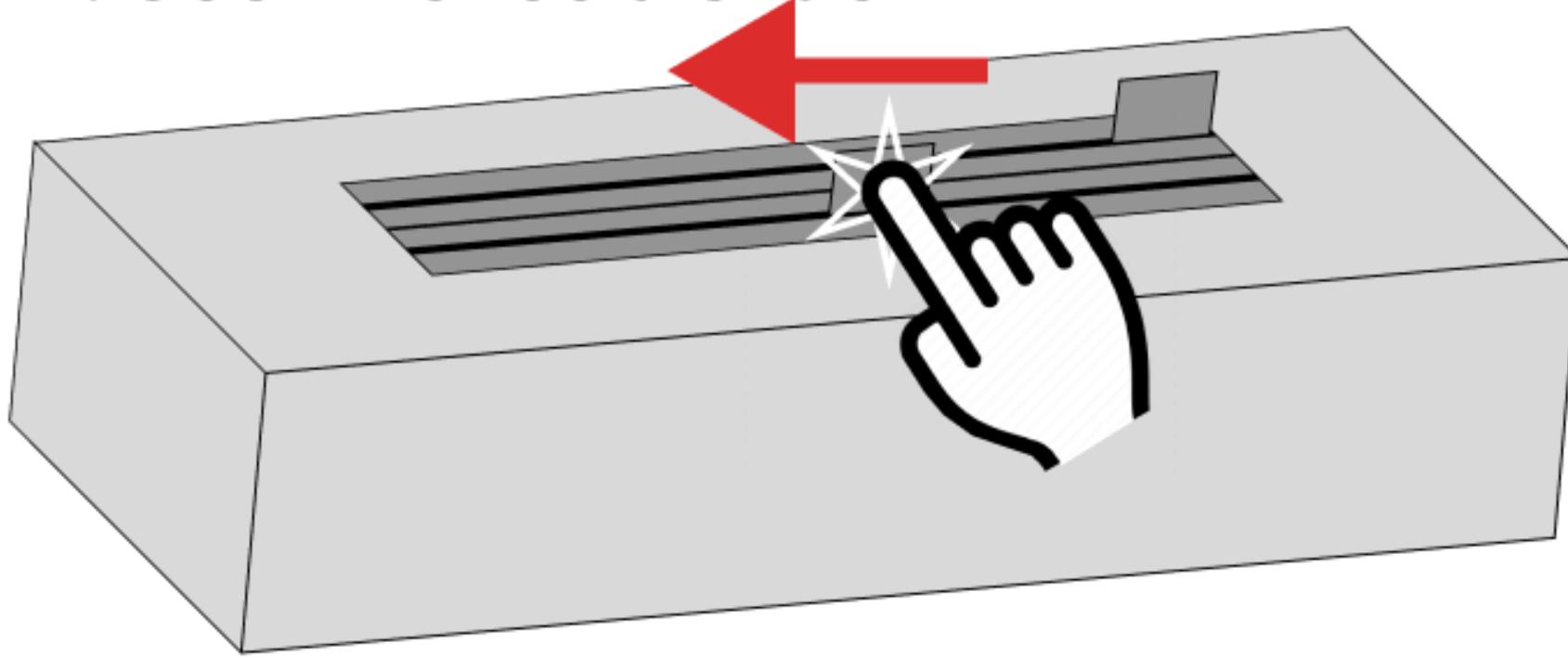


3. Secondary visualization updates

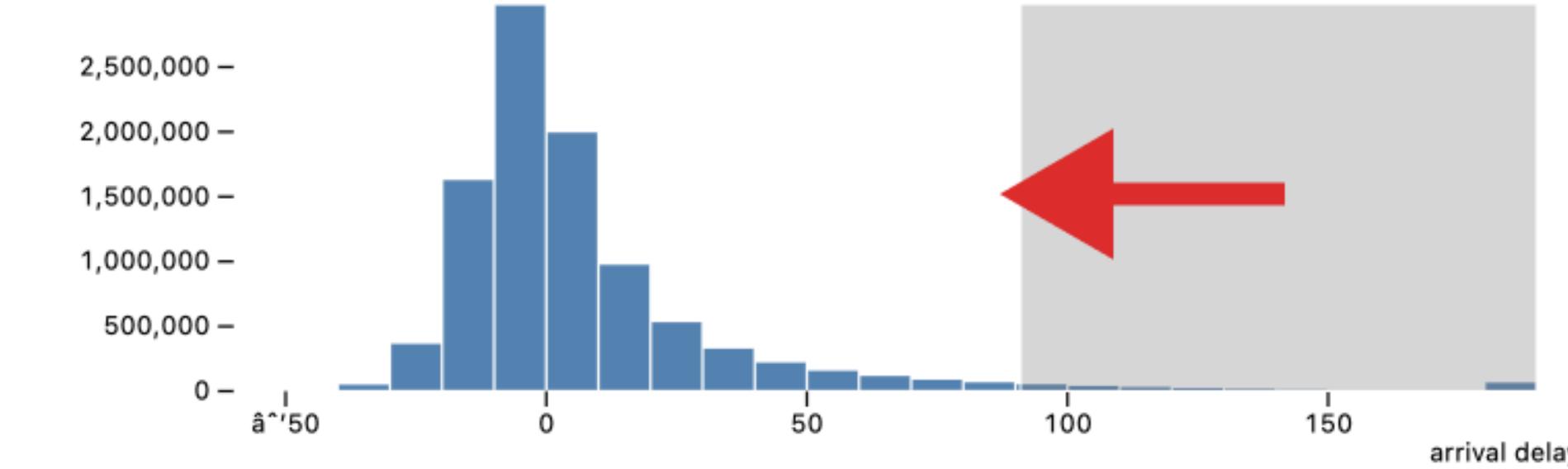


A tactile display can render the input or output chart

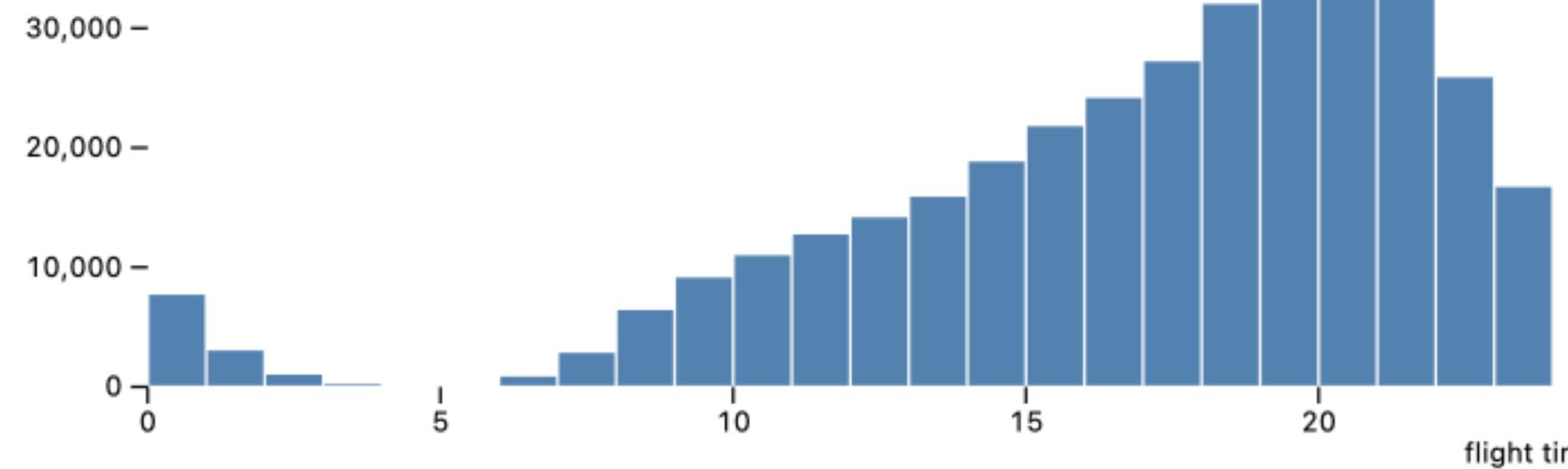
1. User moves a slider



2. Corresponding filter edge moves with



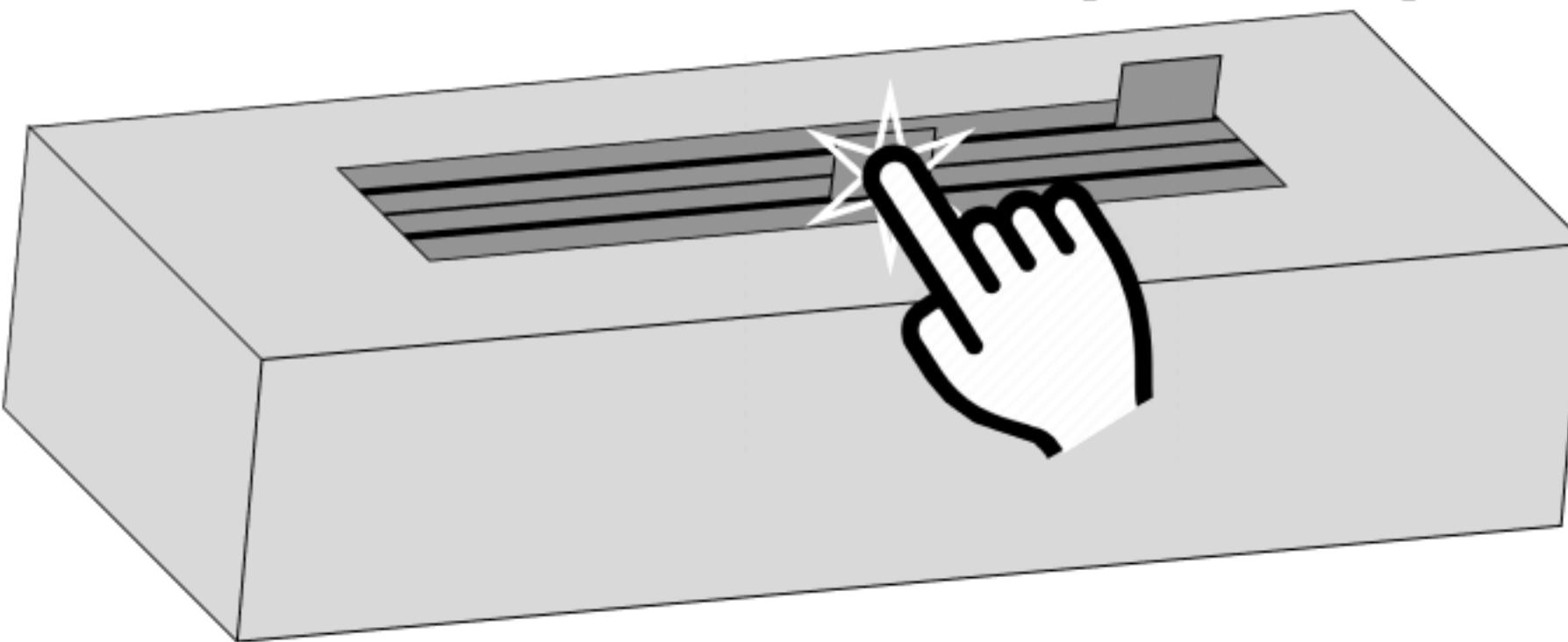
3. Secondary visualization updates



4. Tactile display renders



Cross-coordination! A tactile, dual-task paradigm.



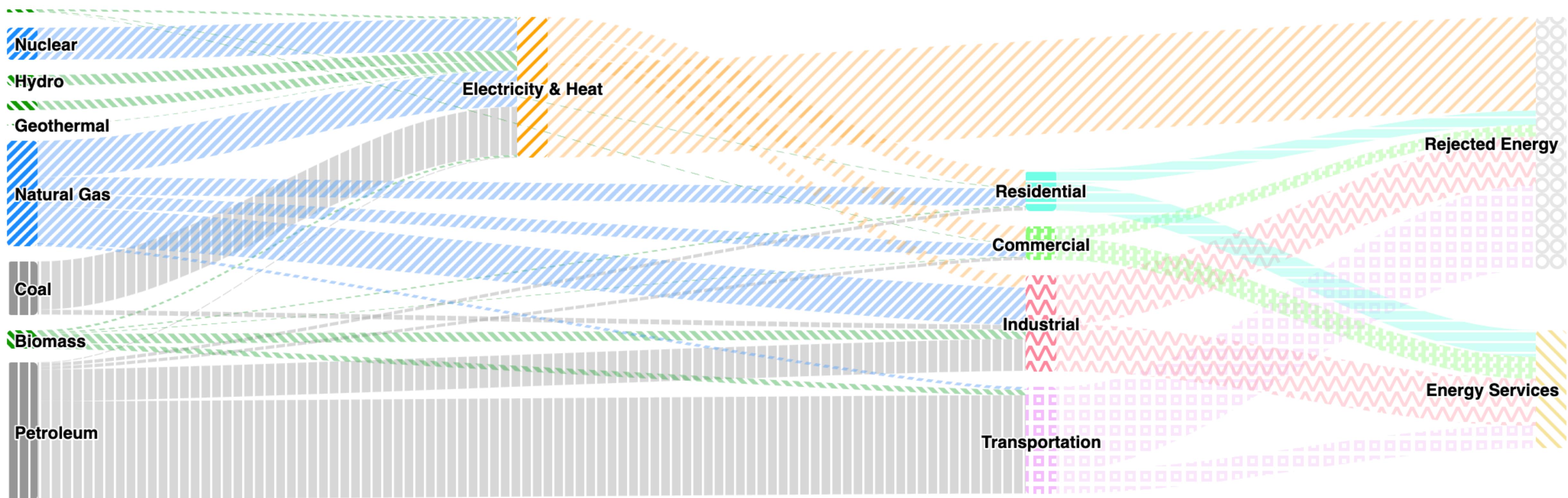
User can interact with a space separate from their current focus!

**Problem 2: Access Friction is
when accessibility for someone
produces a barrier for others**

What about this is accessible? Why?

Estimated US Energy Consumption in 2017

Source: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



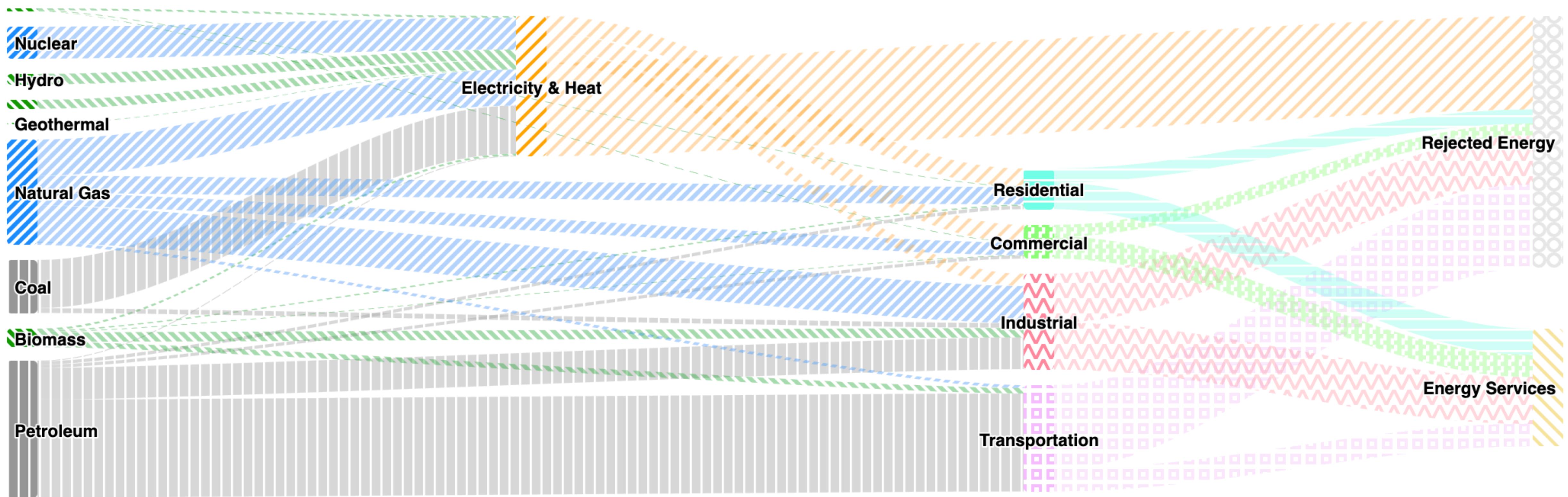
Highcharts.com

Sankey charts are used to visualize data flow and volume between nodes. The wider lines indicate larger volumes.

What about this might be a barrier? Why?

Estimated US Energy Consumption in 2017

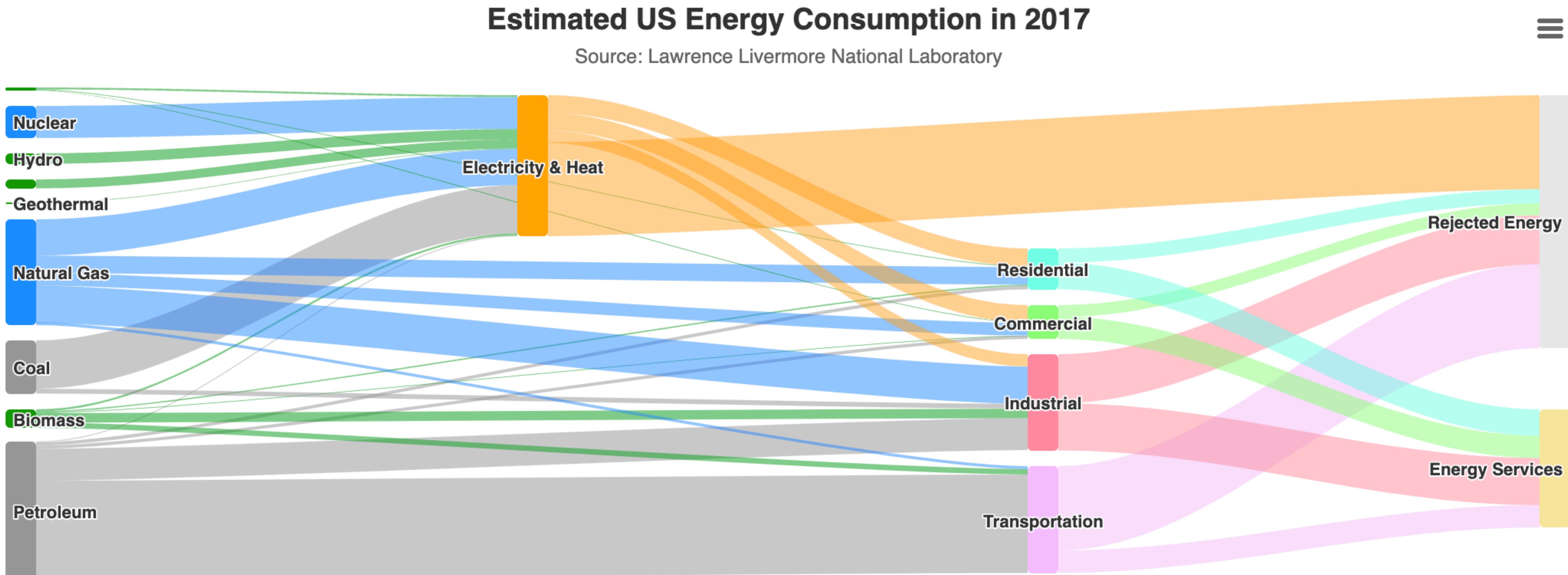
Source: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



Highcharts.com

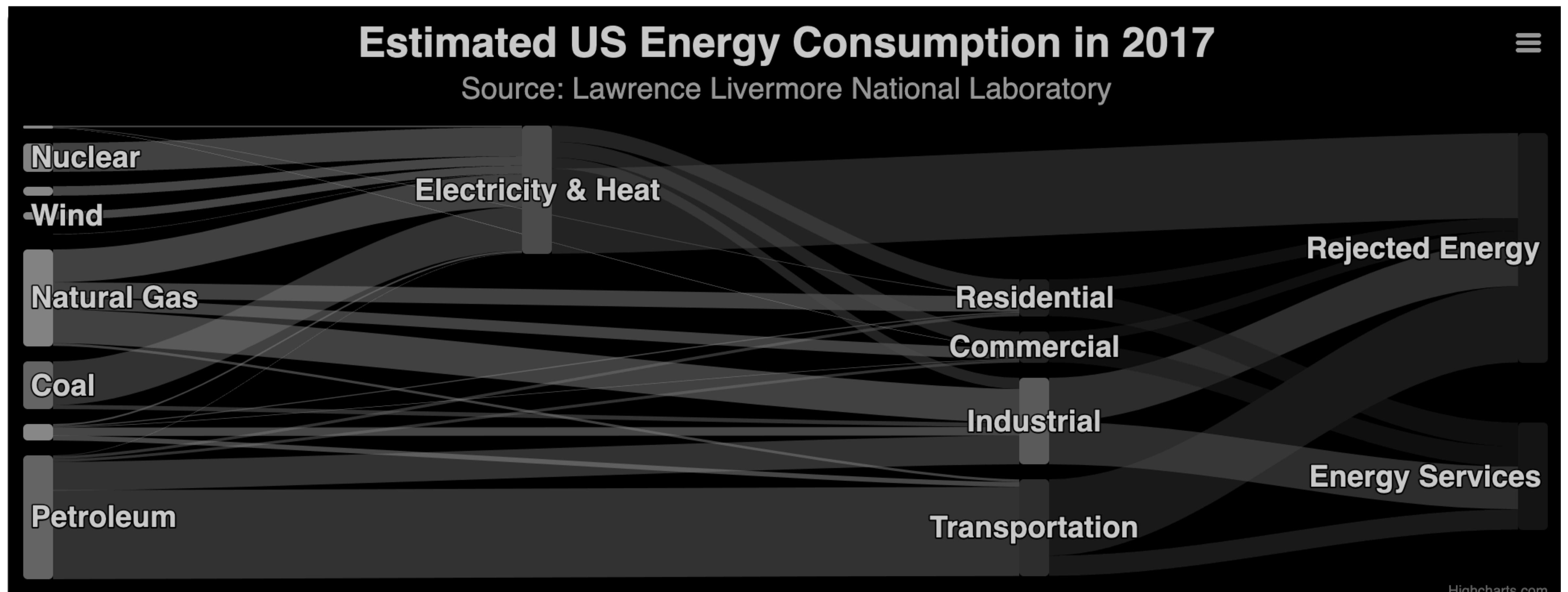
Sankey charts are used to visualize data flow and volume between nodes. The wider lines indicate larger volumes.

What about this now might be a barrier?



Sankey charts are used to visualize data flow and volume between nodes. The wider lines indicate larger volumes.

So some folks use tools to hack what they want



Sankey charts are used to visualize data flow and volume between nodes. The wider lines indicate larger volumes.

What if we *let* users hack the design?

Preferences

Hide unavailable options

▼ Comprehension

default moderate robust

Alt text appearance

default show high level show all

► Description verbosity

default disable minimal verbose

▼ Text

default minimalist moderate maximalist

▼ Font Size

default small medium large

Title

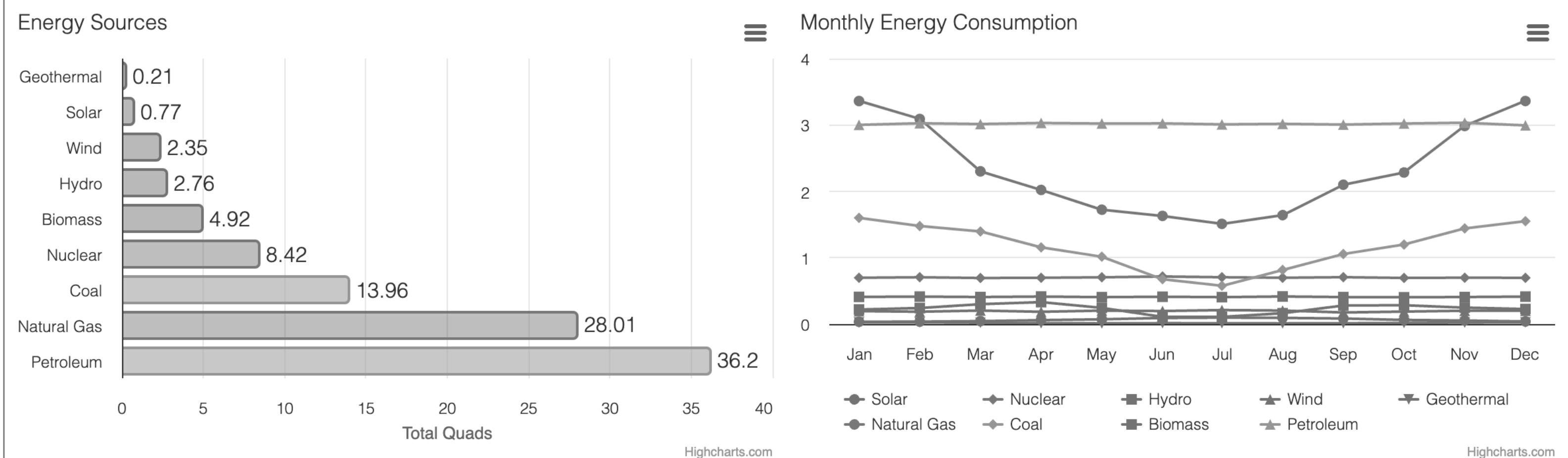
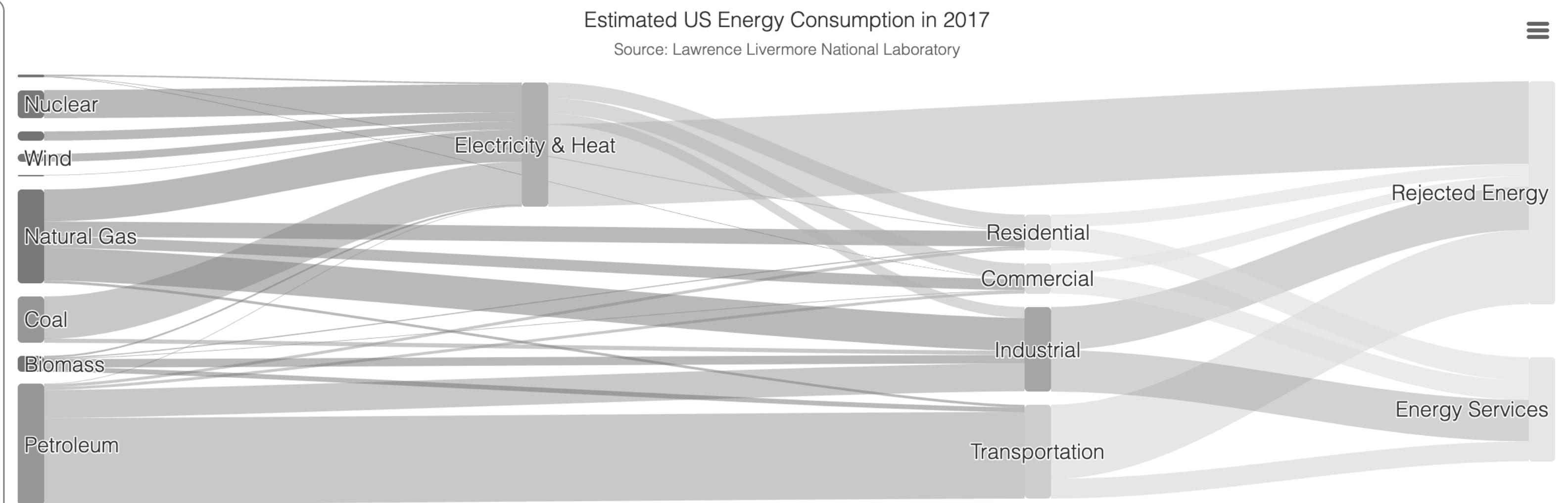
default small small+ medium medium+ large

Subtitle

default small small+ medium medium+ large

Series Labels

default small small+ medium medium+ large



[Interactive demo link](#)