Small Multiples with Gaps

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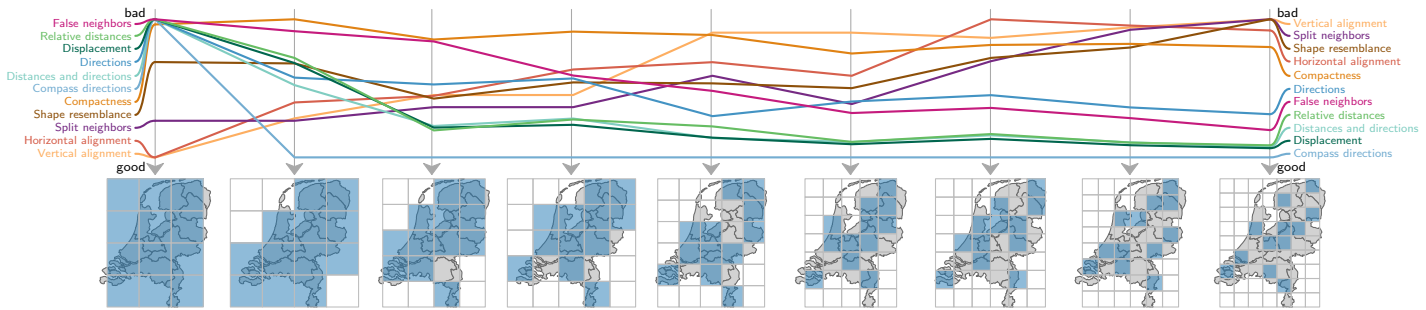

Fig. 1: The effects of adding gaps (whitespace) to a small-multiples layout (blue squares) representing the 12 provinces of the Netherlands, measured via our suite of metrics. Each metric is represented by a colored line in the chart, indicating at each axis how well the layout below performs in the metric. The layout algorithm here optimizes for the *displacement* metric—which aims to preserve the spatial (geographic) distribution—as whitespace is increased from left to right. Although some metrics show improvement as gaps are added, others reflect the resulting smaller and more dispersed distribution, which may hinder comparison.