# Integrating Interactive and Computational Analysis in Visualization

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## Helwig Hauser? Visualization?



- Background = computer science (CS)
  - Studied CS at Vienna Univ. of Techn., Austria;
     PhD on flow visualization (also there)
  - Ass.-prof. at TU Wien;
     key res. at VRVis.at, later sci.-dir. there;
     prof. in visualization (CS Dept.) at UiB.no since 2007
- What is visualization?
  - many different interpretations available...
  - here: computer-assisted means (usually interactive) to enable insight into data (imaged phenomena)
  - many different application areas, including
    - medicine (3D imaging data, patient records, etc.)
    - engineering (data from physical/chemical models, etc.)
    - business (databases, etc.)

## This Talk



- Addressing a hot research topic (visual analytics)
  - initiative started 2004 in the US (nat. security)
- Reporting from >1 decade of own research (interactive visual analysis, IVA)
  - started in 2000 with the new VRVis.at
  - several PhD proj.: H. Doleisch, J. Kehrer, Z. Konyha, ...
  - >20 "IVA" papers, many talks, keynotes, etc.
- Meeting HCI/CHI? (human time constants, etc.?)
  - drawing some cautious links
  - awaiting interesting questions! :-)

## The Data Analysis Challenge



- Today = emerging new information age
  - enormous development of (computer) technology
  - fascinating opportunities for data acquisition, incl.
    - through measurements, e.g., imaging
    - through computational simulation
- Increasing amount and complexity of data
  - more and more data (GB→TB→PB→EB→…)
  - heterogeneous data ("big data", etc.)
- Big Data = a chance & a challenge!
  - new opportunities (advancing knowledge, better ...)
  - difficult to master (getting more difficult quickly)

## The "Technical" Approach(es)



- Machine Learning, Statistics, Data Mining, ...
  - main idea: exploit computational means to extract information (knowledge) from data
  - lots of approaches available, incl.
    - advanced data summaries (e.g., statistics)

advanced feature extraction methods (often application-dependent)

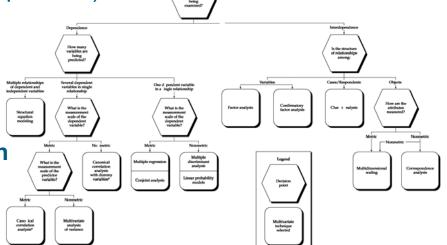
advancedembeddings(dimension reduction)



classification

etc.

Not really my field...



## The "Human" Approach



- Interactive visualization, visual analytics, IVA, ...
  - main idea: utilize perception & cognition to extract information (knowledge) from data
  - visualization = show the data to the user (seeing = understanding)
  - interaction allows for step-by-step analysis, incl.
    - classical information drill-down (from overview to detail) – cf. Shneiderman '91
    - iterative analysis (show features one-by-one)
    - comparative analysis (work out relations)
    - etc.
  - our visual sense = data highway to the brain!
  - a picture says more than 100 words

## **Matt Ward on Visualization**





- The perceptual and cognitive power of users should not be left unutilized!
- Matt Ward, 2010:

EuroVis Keynote 1. In the Beginning there were Mappings Data values control the visual variables of points, lines, areas, surfaces, and volumes. Position

- Size
- Shape
- Value
- Color
- Orientation
- Texture
- Motion

J. Bertin, Semiology of Graphics: Diagrams, Networks, Maps. University of Wisconsin Press

## **Matt Ward on Visualization**

(1/2)



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- Mat

EuroVis Keynote

Data lines.

1. Ir

- Position
- Size
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- Value
- Color
- Orient
- Texture
- Motio

J. Bertin

## **Dealing with Dimensions**

- Many categorizations of dimension organization (see below paper for an early one)
- My categories:
  - Subsetting (e.g., SPLOMs, dense pixels)
  - Reorganization (e.g., parallel coords, glyphs)
  - **Embedding** (dimensional stacking, stacked bar charts, trellis displays)
  - Reduction (PCA, MDS, RadViz)

P. Wong and R. D. Bergeron, ``30 years of multidimensional multivariate visualization." in Scientific Visualization: Overviews, Methodologies, and Techniques, edited by Nielson, Hagen, and Mueller (1994). pp. 3-33.

EuroVis 2010, Bordeaux, France

## **Matt Ward on Visualization**





Also from Matt Ward's talk:

EuroVis 2010 Keynote

Other Challenges in Mappings

Too many records

Non-numeric fields

Non-numeric fields

Non-numeric fields

Non-numeric fields

Non-numeric fields

Missing values

Streaming data

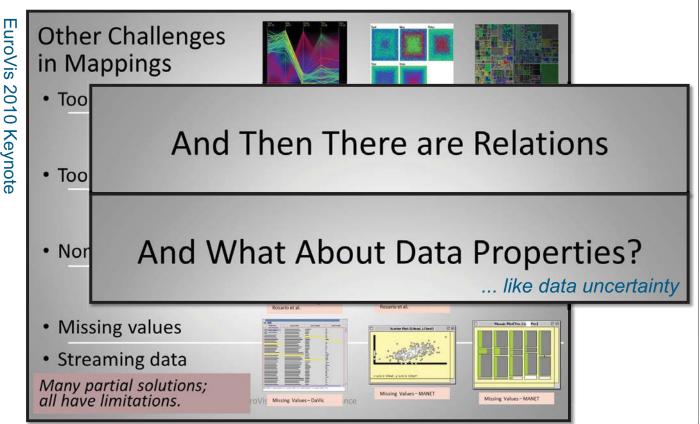
Many partial solutions; all have limitations.

## Matt Ward on Visualization

**(2**/2)



Also from Matt Ward's talk:



## **After Mapping Comes Interaction**

Visualization without interaction is like a sports car with no engine!

Nice to look at,
but not good for much!

EuroVis 2010, Bordeaux, France

## Categories of Interactions

- Select: mark something as interesting
- Explore: show me something else
- Reconfigure: show me a different arrangement
- Encode: show me a different representation
- Abstract/Elaborate: show me more or less detail
- Filter: show me something conditionally
- Connect: show me related items

Yi, JS, Kang, YA, Stasko, J, Jacko, J, Toward a deeper understanding of the role of interaction in information visualization. IEEE Trans Vis Comput Graph. 2007 Nov-Dec; 13(6):1224-31.

## The Vision of Integration

(1/2)



(I)VA is about the integration of interactive visual analysis means and computational analysis

#### **Humans and Computers**

"Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid; humans are incredibly slow, inaccurate, and brilliant; together they are powerful beyond imagination."



attributed to Albert Einstein

Keim, Dagstuhl Seminar Talk, 2012

## **(2**/2)

[Maniyar & Nabney;



MDM 20061

Levels of integration:

The Vision of Integration

**L0**: **no integration** – still the vast majority!

the visualization of results from some computational analysis ("for

the report", ...)

making computational analysis L1b:

(partially) interactive

tight integration - extremely rare, still! **L2**:

[Williams & Munzner; InfoVis 20041



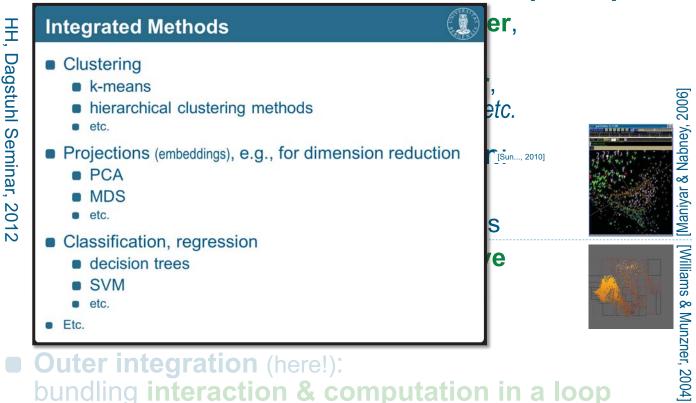
Several in visual analytics / IVA / ... aim currently at conquering L2!

HH, Dagstuhl Seminar, 2012

## **Integrating Interaction & Computation**

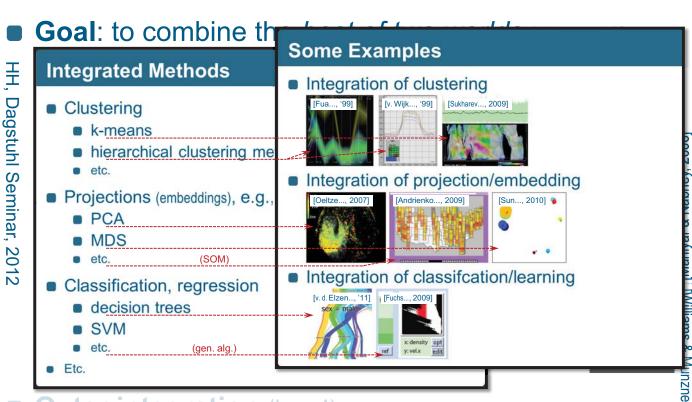


■ Goal: to combine the best of two worlds [Keim et al.]:



## **Integrating Interaction & Computation**





Outer integration (here!): bundling interaction & computation in a loop

## **Interactive Visual Analysis**



- Given data too much and/or too complex to be shown all at once:
- IVA is an interactive visualization methodology to facilitate
  - the exploration and/or analysis of data (not necessarily the presentation of data), including
    - hypothesis generation & evaluation, sense making,
    - knowledge crystallization, etc.
  - according to the user's interest/task, for ex., by interactive feature extraction,
  - navigating between overview and details, e.g.,
     to enable interactive information drill-down [Shneiderman]
- through an iterative & interactive visual dialog

### The Iterative Process of IVA



- Loop / bundling of two complementary parts:
  - visualization show to the user!

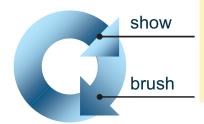
    Something new, or something due to interaction.
  - interaction tell the computer! What is interesting? What to show next?
- Basic example (show brush show ...), cooling jacket context:
  - 1. show a histogram of temperatures
  - 2. brush high temperatures (>90°[±2°])
  - 3. show focus+context vis. in 3D
  - 4. locate relevant feature(s)
- KISS-principle IVA:
  - linking & brushing, focus+context visualization, ...

#### **Show & Brush**

#### (basic IVA)

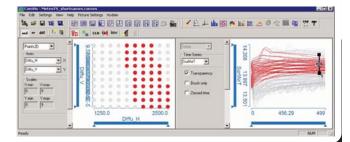


- Tightest IVA loop
  - show data (explicitly represented information)
  - one brush (on one view, can work on >1 dims.)



## A typical (start into an) IVA session of this kind:

- bring up multiple views
  - at least one for x, t
  - at least one for d<sub>i</sub>
- I see (something)!
- brush this "something"
- linked F+C visualization
- first insight!



## **Show & Brush**

#### (basic IVA)



### Tightest IVA loop

- show data (explicitly represented information)
- one brush (on one view, can work on >1 dims.)

#### Requires:

- multiple views (≥2)
- interactive brushing capabilities on views (brushes should be editable)
- focus+context visualization
- linking between views

# A typical (start into an) IVA session of this kind:

- bring up multiple views
  - at least one for **x**, *t*
  - at least one for d<sub>i</sub>
- I see (something)!
- brush this "something"
- linked F+C visualization
- first insight!

.. leads to...

degree of interest

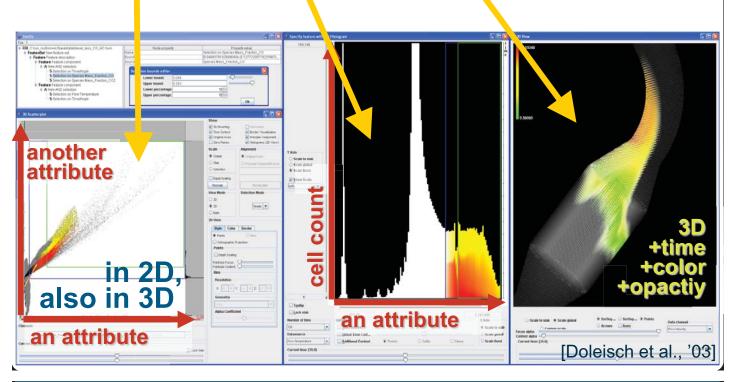
... is realized via ...

■ Allows for **different IVA patterns** (wrt. domain & range)

## **IVA: Multiple Views**

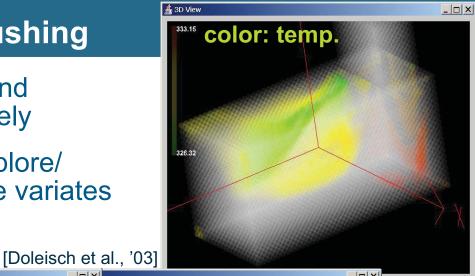


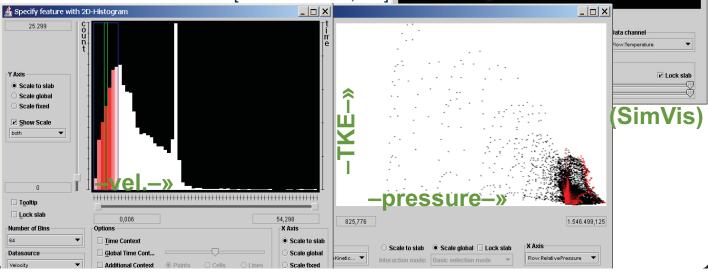
- One dataset, but multiple views
- Scatterplots, histogram, 3D(4D) view, etc.



## **Interactive Brushing**

- Move/alter/extend brush interactively
- Interactively explore/ analyze multiple variates





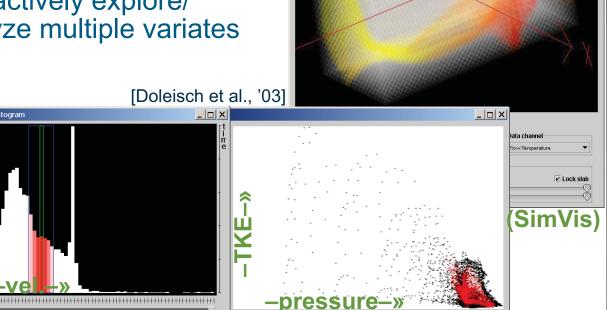
## **Interactive Brushing**

Move/alter/extend brush interactively

Scale global

Lock slab

Interactively explore/ analyze multiple variates



color: temp.

\_ | \_ | x |

color: temp.

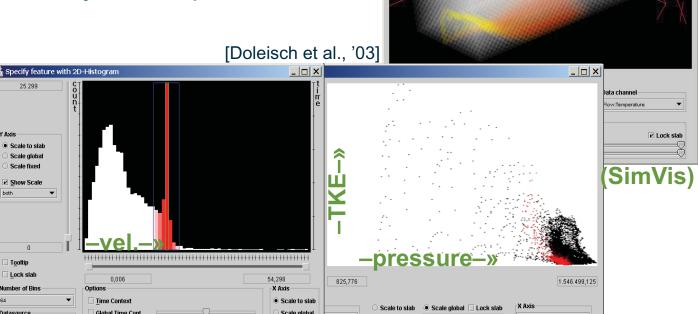
## **Interactive Brushing**

Move/alter/extend brush interactively

☐ Time Context

Global Time Cont...

Interactively explore/ analyze multiple variates



Scale to slab

Scale global

🟄 3D View

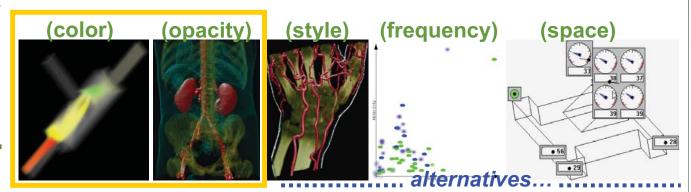
## **IVA: Focus+Context Visualization**



- Traditionally space distortion
  - more space for data of interest
  - rest as context for orientation
- Generalized F+C visualization
  - emphasize data in focus (color,opacity, ...)
  - differentiated use of visualization resources





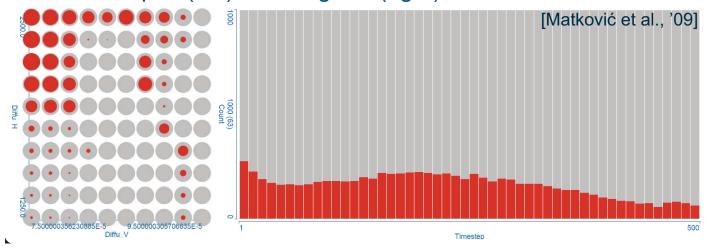


## F+C Visualization in IVA Views



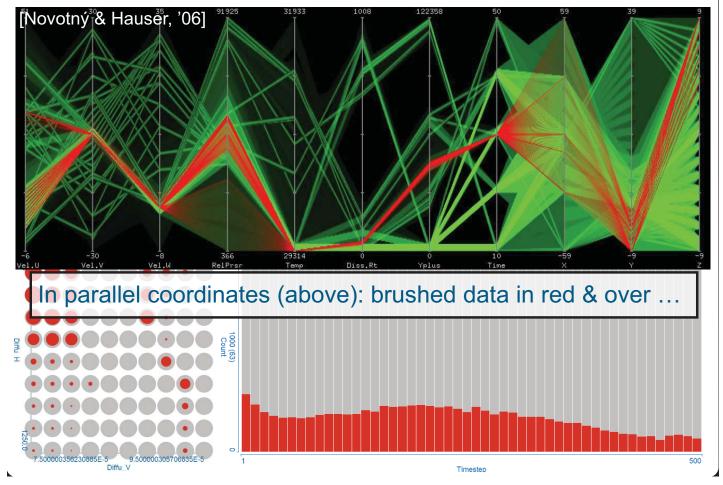
- Colored vs. gray-scale visualization
- Opaque vs. semi-transparent visualization

In a scatterplot (left) or histogram (right): brushed data in red...



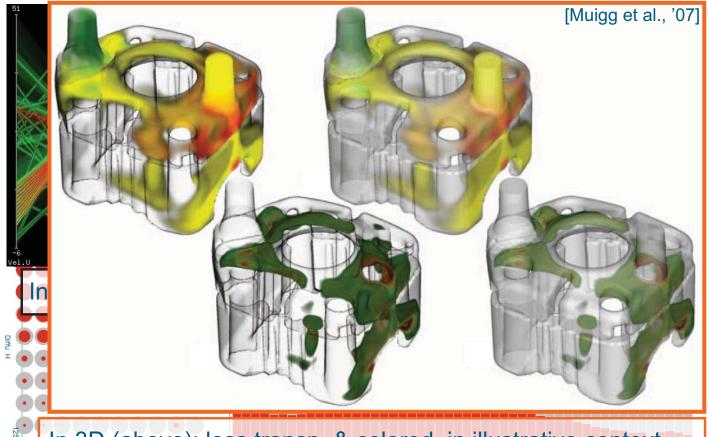
## F+C Visualization in IVA Views





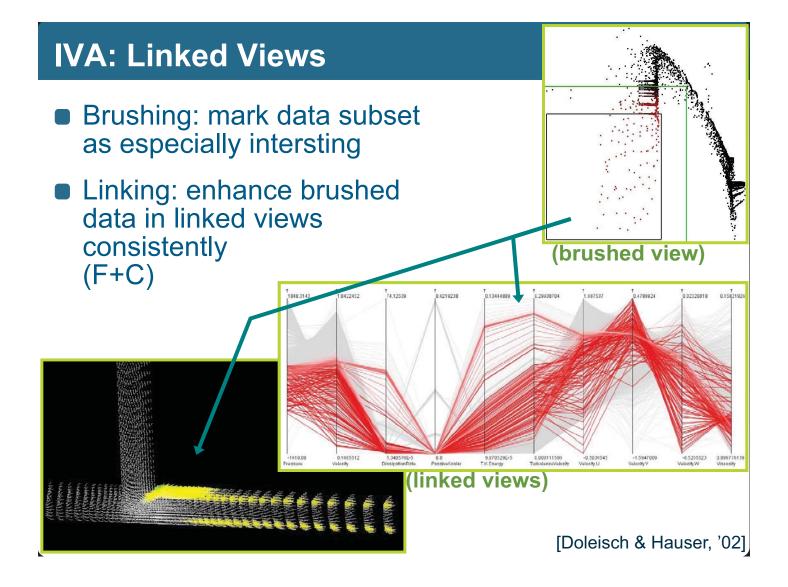
## F+C Visualization in IVA Views





In 3D (above): less transp. & colored, in illustrative context ...

ımestep



## IVA: Degree of Interest (DOI)



■ doi(.): data items  $tr_i$  (table rows)  $\rightarrow$  degree of interest  $doi(tr_i) \in [0,1]$ 

- $doi(tr_i) = 0 \Rightarrow tr_i$  not interesting  $(tr_i \in context)$
- $doi(tr_i) = 1 \Rightarrow tr_i \ 100\%$  interesting  $(tr_i \in focus)$
- Specification
  - explicit, e.g., through direct selection
  - implicit, e.g., through a range slider

		40	60			
min: 0,0000000000	=			max:	72,0000000000	÷

- Fractional DOI values: 0 ≤ doi(tr<sub>i</sub>) ≤ 1
  - several levels (0, low, med., ...)
  - a continuous measure of interest
  - a probabilistic definition of interest

x	у	d1	d2	doi
0	0	17,20	-0,22	0,00
1	0	12,10	0,10	0,00
2	0	7,70	0,45	0,00
3	0	2,10	0,90	0,00
0	1	24,10	0,02	0,00
1	1	21,90	0,36	0,00
2	1	15,50	0,87	0,74
3	1	11,10	1,20	1,00
0	2	27,20	0,12	0,00
1	2	24,10	0,66	0,18
2	2	17,30	1,35	1,00
3	2	12,10	2,20	0,60
0	3	35,50	0,67	0,00
1	3	30,90	1,30	0,00
2	3	24,50	2,10	0,10
3	3	20.80	2.90	0.00

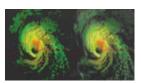
(cont'd on next slide)

## IVA: Smooth Brushing → Fractional DOI

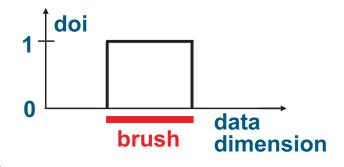


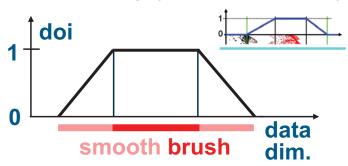
- Fractional DOI values esp. useful wrt. scientific data: (quasi-)continuous nature of data 

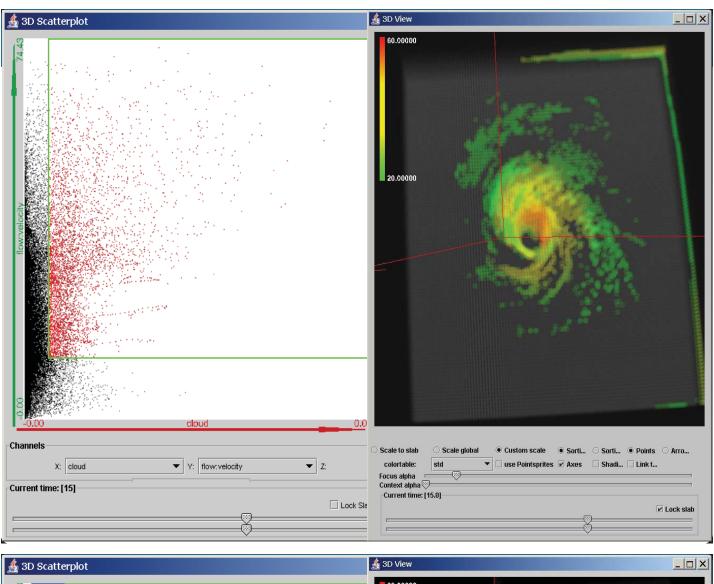
  smooth borders
- Goes well with gradual focus+context vis. techniques (coloring, semitransparency)

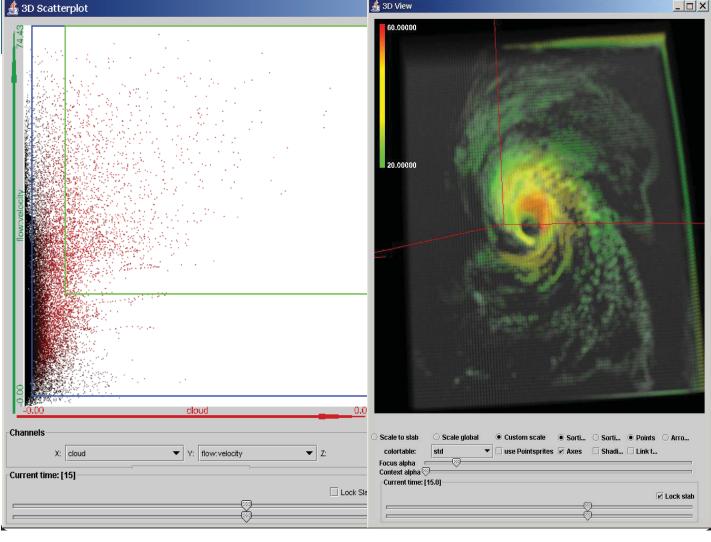


- Specification: smooth brushing [Doleisch & Hauser, 2002]
  - "inner" range: all 100% interesting (DOI values of 1)
  - between "inner" & "outer" range: fractional DOI values
  - outside "outer" range: not interesting (DOI values of 0)





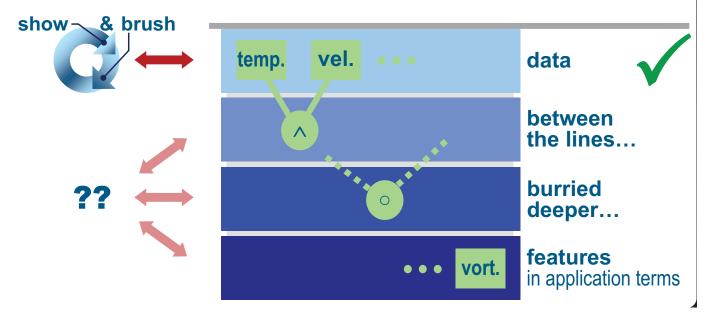








- A lot can be done with basic IVA, already! [pareto rule]
- We can consider a **layered information space**: from explicitly represented information (the data) to implicitly contained information, features, ...



## **IVA** – Levels of Complexity

(2/4)



A lot can be done with basic IVA, already! / [pare]



- For more advanced exploration/analysis tasks, we extend it (in seveal steps):
  - IVA, level 2: logical combinations of brushes, e.g., utilizing the feature definition language [Doleisch et al., 2003]
  - IVA, I. 3: attribute derivation; advanced brushing, with interactive formula editor; e.g., similarity brushing
  - IVA, I4: application-specific feature extraction, e.g., based on vortex extraction methods for flow analysis
- Level 2: like advanced verbal feature description
  - ex.: "hot flow, also slow, near boundary" (cooling j.)
  - brushes comb. with **logical operators** (AND, OR, SUB)
  - in a **tree**, or **iteratively** (((( $b_0 op_1 b_1) op_2 b_2$ )  $op_3 b_3$ ) ...)

**(2**/4)





ne with basic IVA, already! [

[pare

arity

nced exploration/analysis tasks, seveal steps):

- IVA, level 2: logical combinations of brushes, e.g., utilizing the feature definition language [Poloisch et al., 2003]
- IVA, I. 3: attribute derivation, adv with interactive formula editor; e.g
- IVA, I4: application-specific feature based on vortex extraction method ar now alysis
- Level 2: like advanced verberel wiews & sels.
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## **IVA** – Levels of Complexity

(3/4)



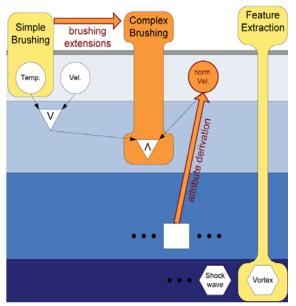
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- A lot can be done with basic IVA, already! [pare]
- For more advanced exploration/analysis tasks, we extend it (in seveal steps):
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  - IVA, I4: application-specific feature extraction, e.g., based on vortex extraction methods for flow analysis
- Level 3: using general info extraction mechanisms, two (partially complementary) approaches:
  - 1. derive additional attribute(s), then show & brush
  - 2. use an advanced brush to select "hidden" relations

(3/4)



- A lot can be done with basic I
- For more advanced explorat we extend it (in seveal steps):
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- Level 3: using general info extraction mechanisms, two (partially complementary) approaches:
  - 1. derive additional attribute(s), then show & brush
  - 2. use an advanced brush to select "hidden" relations

## IVA (level 3): Advanced Brushing



Std. brush: brush 1:1 what you see Adv. brush: executes additional function ("intelligent"?)

angular brushing [Hauser et al., 2002] similarity brushing [Muigg et al., 2008]

Tremp. Vel.

Temp. Vel.

Temp. Vel.

Temp. Vel.

Temp. Vel.

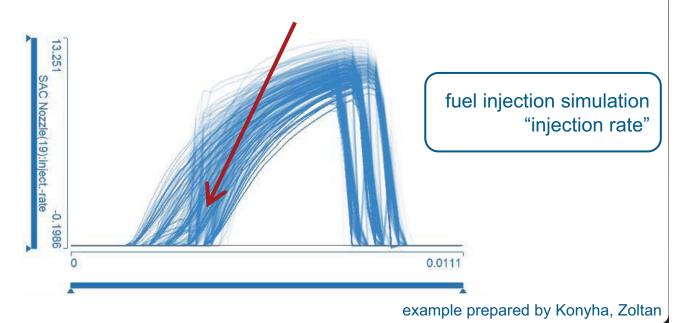
Temp. Vel.

Temp. Vel.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> level IVA, adv. brushing example



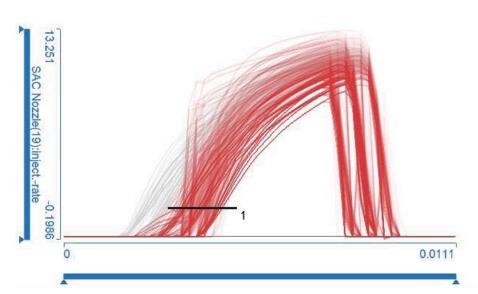
- Considering a visualization of a family of function graphs:
  - select the steeply rising graphs



## 3<sup>rd</sup> level IVA, adv. brushing example



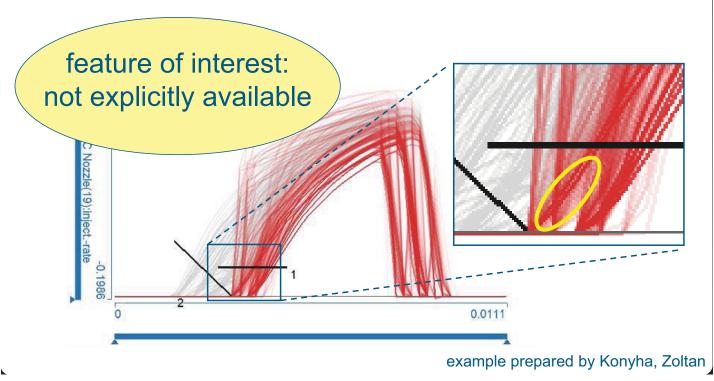
A simple line brush is not enough



## 3<sup>rd</sup> level IVA, adv. brushing example



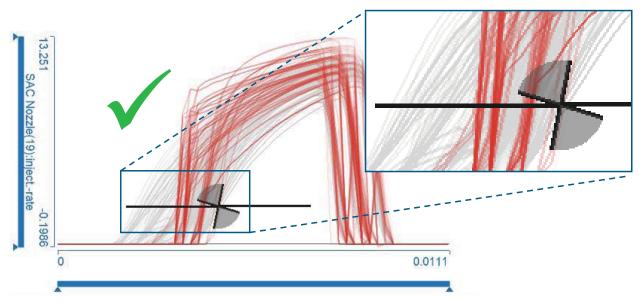
- A simple line brush is not enough
- Combining line brushes does not work, either



## 3<sup>rd</sup> level IVA, adv. brushing example



- The angular line brush (a specialized brush) selects the intended function graphs
  - that it intersects, and
  - the angle is in a given threshold



## IVA (level 3): Attribute Derivation

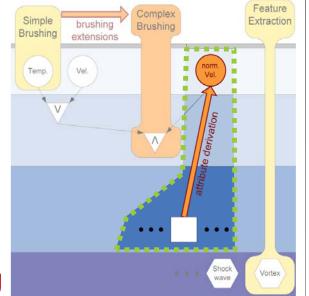


- **Principle** (in the context of iterative IVA):
  - **see** some data feature  $\Phi$  of interest in a visualization
  - identify a mechanism T to describe Ф

execute (interactively!) an attribute derivation step

to represent Φ explicitly (as new, synthetic attribute[s]  $d_{\omega}$ )

- **brush**  $d_{\omega}$  to get  $\Phi$
- **Tools** T to describe Φ from:
  - numerical mathematics
  - statistics, data mining
  - etc.
  - > scientific computing
- IVA w/ T ↔ visual computing



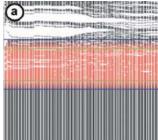
## **Attribute Derivation** ↔ **User Task** / example

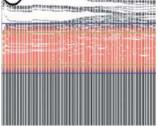


- The tools T, available in an IVA system, must reflect/match the analytical steps of the user:
- Example:
  - first vis
- ⇔ user wishes to select the "band" in the middle

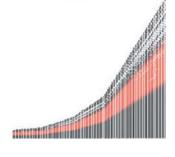
- so?
- an advanced brush? a lasso maybe?
- ah!

 $\rightarrow$  let's normalize  $\dot{y}$ and then brush (a)





leading to the wished selection:



## What user wishes to reflect?



- Many generic wishes users interest in:
  - something relative (instead of some absolute values), example: show me the top-15%
  - change (instead of current values), ex.: show me regions with increasing temperature
  - some non-local property, ex.: show me regions with high average temperature
  - statistical properties, ex.: show me *outliers*
  - ratios/differences, ex.: show me population per area, difference from trend
  - etc.
- Common characteristic here:
  - questions/tools generic, not application-dependent!

### How to reflect these user wishes?



- Many generic wishes users interest in:
  - something **relative** (instead of some absolute values), example: show me the *top-1* ⇒ **use**, e.g., **normalization**
  - change (instead of current values), ex.: show me regions with incr⇒derivative estimation
  - some non-local property, ex.: show me regions with hig ⇒ numerical integration
  - statistical properties, ex.: show me *outliers* ⇒ *descriptive statistics*
  - ratios/differences, ex.: show me population per area, difference ⇒ calculus
  - etc.
    ⇒ data mining (fast enough?)
- Common characteristic here:
  - questions/tools generic, not application-dependent!

## Some useful tools for 3rd-level IVA



- From analysis, calculus, num. math:
  - **linear filtering** (convolve the data with some linear filter on demand, e.g., to smooth, for derivative estimation, *etc.*)
  - **calculus** (use an interactive formula editor for computing simple relations between data attributes; +, -, ·, /, etc.)
  - gradient estimation, numerical integration (e.g., wrt. space and/or time) ⇒ example
  - fitting/resampling via interpolation/approximation
- From statistics, data mining:
  - descriptive statistics (compute the statistical moments, also robust, measures of outlyingness, detrending, etc.)
  - embedding (project into a lower-dim. space,
     e.g., with PCA for a subset of the attribs., etc.)

     ⇒ example
     ⇒ example
     ⇒ example
- Important: executed on demand, after prev. vis.

## 3<sup>rd</sup>-level IVA – Sample Iterations

The Iterative Process of 3rd-level IVA:

(1/2)

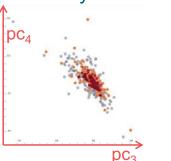
- Example 1:
  - you look at some temp. distribution over some region
  - you are interested in raising temperatures, but not temperature fluctuations
  - you use a **temporal derivate estimator**, for ex., central differences  $t_{\text{change}} = (t_{\text{future}} t_{\text{past}})$  / len(future-past)
  - you plot t<sub>change</sub>, e.g., in a histogram and brush whatever change you are interested in
  - maybe you see some frequency amplification due to derivation, so you go back and
  - use an appropriate smoothing filter to remove high frequencies from the temp. data, leading to a derived new  $\tau = t_{\text{smooth}}$  data attribute
  - lacktriangle selecting from a **histogram** of  $au_{\rm change}$  (computed like above) is then less sensitive to temperature fluctuations

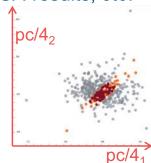
## 3<sup>rd</sup>-level IVA – Sample Iterations

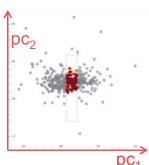




- The Iterative Process of 3<sup>rd</sup>-level IVA:
  - Example exploiting PCA:
    - you bring up a scatterplot of  $d_1$  vs.  $d_2$ : (from an ECG dataset [Frank, Asuncion; 2010])
    - obviously,  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are correlated, our interest: the **data center** wrt. the main trend
    - we ask for a (local) **PCA** of  $d_1$  and  $d_2$ :
    - then we brush the data center
    - we get the wished selection
    - from here further steps are possible..., incl. study of other PCA-results, etc.



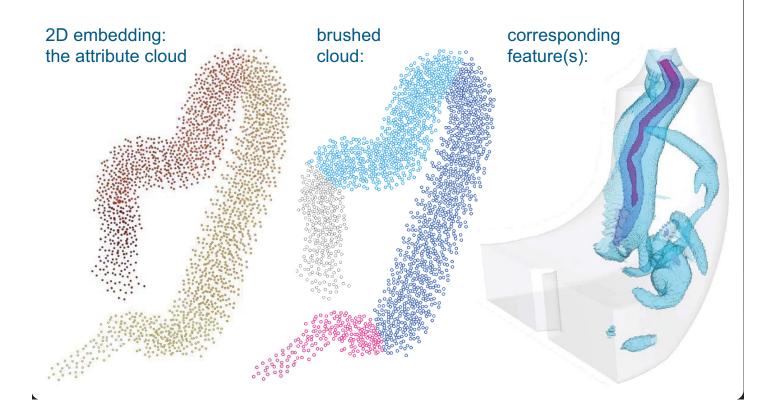




[IEEE Vis, 2008]

## Brushing of Attribute Clouds for the Visualization of Multivariate Data

Heike Jänicke, Michael Böttinger, and Gerik Scheuermann, Member, IEEE



(4/4)

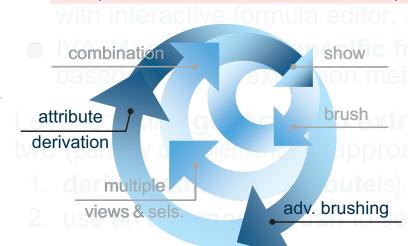


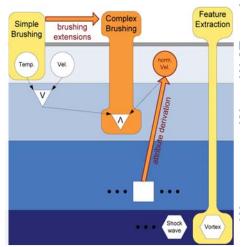
A *lot* can be done with basic IVA, already! [pare]

For more advanced exploration/analysis tasks, we extend it (in seveal steps):

■ IVA, level 2: logical combinations of brushes utilizing the feature definition language Deisch et ....

IVA, I. 3: attribute derivation; advanced brushing,





## **IVA** – Levels of Complexity

**(4**/4)



ruje

- A *lot* can be done with basic IVA, already! / [pare]
- For more advanced exploration/analysis tasks, we extend it (in seveal steps):
  - IVA, level 2: logical combinations of brushes utilizing the feature definition language (Deisch et Language)
  - IVA, I. 3: attribute derivation; advanced Frushing. with interactive formula editor; e.g., similarity
  - IVA, I4: application-specific feature extraction. based on vortex extraction methods for flow a aix.
- Level 4: application-specific procedures
  - tailored solutions (for a specific problem)
  - "deep" information drill-down
  - etc.

#### The Iterative Process of IVA...



- ...leads to an interactive & iterative workbench for visual data exploration & analysis (compare to visual computing, again)
- A really important question is: how fast is one such loop?
- Jean-Daniel Fekete, 2012:

## TABLE 3. HUMAN TIME CONSTANTS FOR TUNING COGNITIVE CO-PROCESSOR

TIME CONSTANT	VALUE	REFERENCES	_
Perceptual processing Immediate response	.1 s	[5] [21]	_
Unit task	10 s	[5,21]	1

#### THE INFORMATION VISUALIZER, AN INFORMATION WORKSPACE

Stuart K. Card, George G. Robertson, Jock D. Mackinlay

Xerox Palo Alto Research Center Palo Alto, California 94304 (415) 494-4362, Card.PARC@Xerox.COM

CHI '91

#### **Response Times**

- 0.1 sec animation, visual continuity, sliders
- 1 sec system response, conversation break
- 10 sec cognitive response

Stuart K. Card, George G. Robertson, Jock D. Mackinlay. The information visualizer, an information workspace. *Proc. CHI '91*, 181-186, 1991.

- Beyond 20 sec, users wait and loose attention
  - Forget their goals and plans
  - Progress bar needed!

## **Categories of Interaction Pace**



## Separate ► unit task ► immediate ► continuous

- separate: offline processing
- unit task [Card et al., '91]: ≈10s before attention breaks!
- immediate: ≈1s information has developed from the last or even in parallel with it.
  maintains an interplay, a conversation
- continuous: ≈0.1s smooth in the eye (perception)

The perceptual processing time constant. The Cognitive Co-processor is based on a continuously-running scheduler loop and double-buffered graphics. In order to maintain the illusion of animation in the world, the screen must be repainted at least every .1 sec [5]. The Cognitive Co-processor therefore has a Governor mechanism that monitors the basic cycle time. When the cycle time becomes too high, cooperating rendering processes reduce the quality of rendering (e.g., leaving off most of the text during motion) so that the cycle speed is increased.

The immediate response time constant. A person can make an unprepared response to some stimulus within about a second [21]. If there is more than a second, then either the listening party makes a backchannel response to indicate that he his listening (e.g., "uh-huh") or the speaking party makes a response (e.g., "uh...") to indicate he is still thinking of the next speech. These serve to keep the parties of the interaction informed that they are still engaged in an interaction. In the Cognitive Co-processor, we attempt to have agents provide status feedback at intervals no longer than this constant. Immediate response animations (e.g., swinging the branches of a 3D tree into view) are designed to take about a second. If the time were much shorter, then the user would lose object constancy and would have to reorient himself. If they were much longer, then the user would get bored waiting for the response.

The unit task time constant. Finally, we seek to make it possible for the user to complete some elementary task act within 10 sec (say, 5~30 sec) [5,21], about the pacing of a

point and click editor. Information agents may require considerable time to complete some complicated request,

but the user, in this paradigm, always stays active. He or she can begin the next request as soon as sufficient

Really important differences on the user side!

## The Iterative Process of IVA...



- ...leads to an **interactive** & **iterative** workbench for **visual data exploration** & **analysis** (compare to **visual computing**, again)
- Different levels of complexity (show & brush, logical combinations, advanced brushing & attribute derivation, etc.)...
- ...lead to according iteration frequencies:
  - on level 1: smooth interactions, many fps, for example during linking & brushing
  - on level 2: interleaved fast steps of brush ops., for example when choosing a logical op. to cont. with
  - on level 3: occasionally looking at a progress bar, for example when computing some PCA, etc.
- These frequencies limit the spectrum of usable tools
- New res. work will help to extend this spectrum!

#### The Iterative Process of IVA...



- ...is a very useful methodology for data exploration & analysis
- ...is **very general** and can be (has already been) applied to **many different application fields** (in this talk the focus was on scientific data)
- ...meets scientific computing as a complementary methodology (with the important difference that in IVA the user with his/her perception/cognition is in the loop at different frequencies, also many fps)
- ...is **not yet fully implemented** (we've done something, e.g., in the context of **SimVis**, **ComVis**, *etc*.) from here: different possible paths, incl. InteractiveVisualMatlab, IVR, *etc*.)

## **Acknowledgements**



#### ■ You!

- Krešimir Matković & Giuseppe Santucci!
- Helmut Doleisch, Raphael Fuchs, Johannes Kehrer, Çağatay Turkay, et al.!
- Collaboration partners (St. Oeltze, Fl. Ladstädter, G. Weber, et al.)
- All around SimVis and ComVis and ...
- Funding partners (FFG, AVL, EU, UiB, ...)