

# Evaluation and Review

---

**DSC 106: Data Visualization**

Sam Lau

UC San Diego

Join at  
**slido.com**  
**#5829**



# Announcements

Final Project video due this Friday.

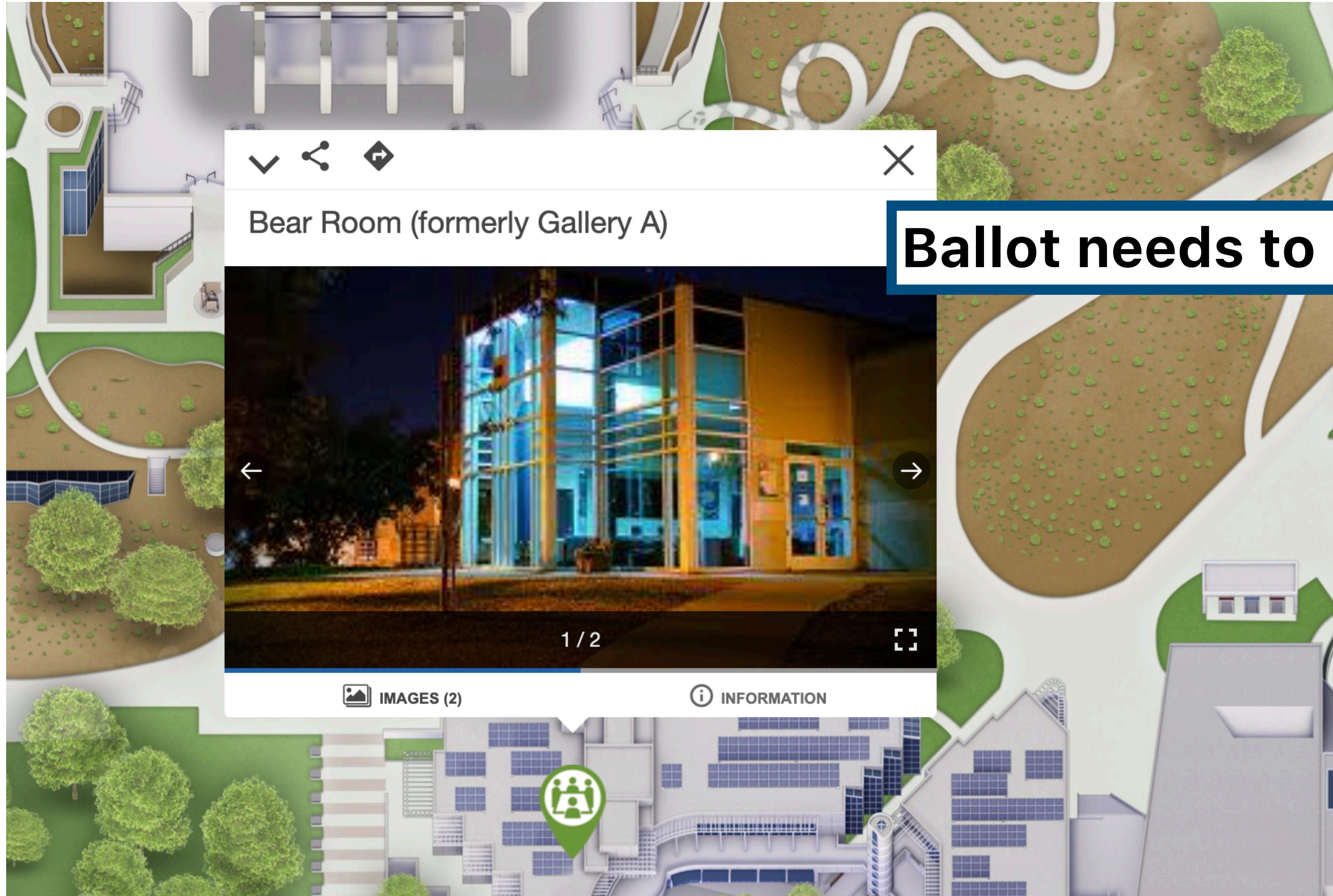
This is the last lecture (of content).

**Thu Mar 7:** Final Project feedback session 3:30pm-5:30pm

**Tue Mar 12:** Final Project video showcase

**Tue Mar 14:** Final Project feedback session 3:30pm-5:30pm

# Go Vote!



**Ballot needs to be in by 8pm today!**

# Cal Matters

★ 2024 ★  
**VOTER GUIDE** Prop 1 U.S. Senate U.S. House State Senate State Assembly Voting FAQ Election News

**KEY TOPICS**

Economy and inflation Criminal justice Immigration Labor Housing and homelessness  
Foreign policy Climate change

**i** While California and the rest of the nation hasn't sunk into recession, inflation remains stubbornly high, rising to an annual rate of 3.4% in December from 3.1%. And polls show that despite some job growth and wage gains, Californians are still anxious about their personal finances and pessimistic about what lies ahead in 2024.

■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ American Independent ■ Green ■ Libertarian ■ Peace and Freedom ■ No Party

**Name three concrete policies you support the federal government implementing to reduce inflation.**

■ **Adam Schiff:**  
First, we must attack the increased cost of goods in each sector of our economy by address...  
**Read More** ▾

■ **Steve Garvey:**  
As a U.S. senator, reducing inflation would be my primary focus as it helps the affordabil...  
**Read More** ▾

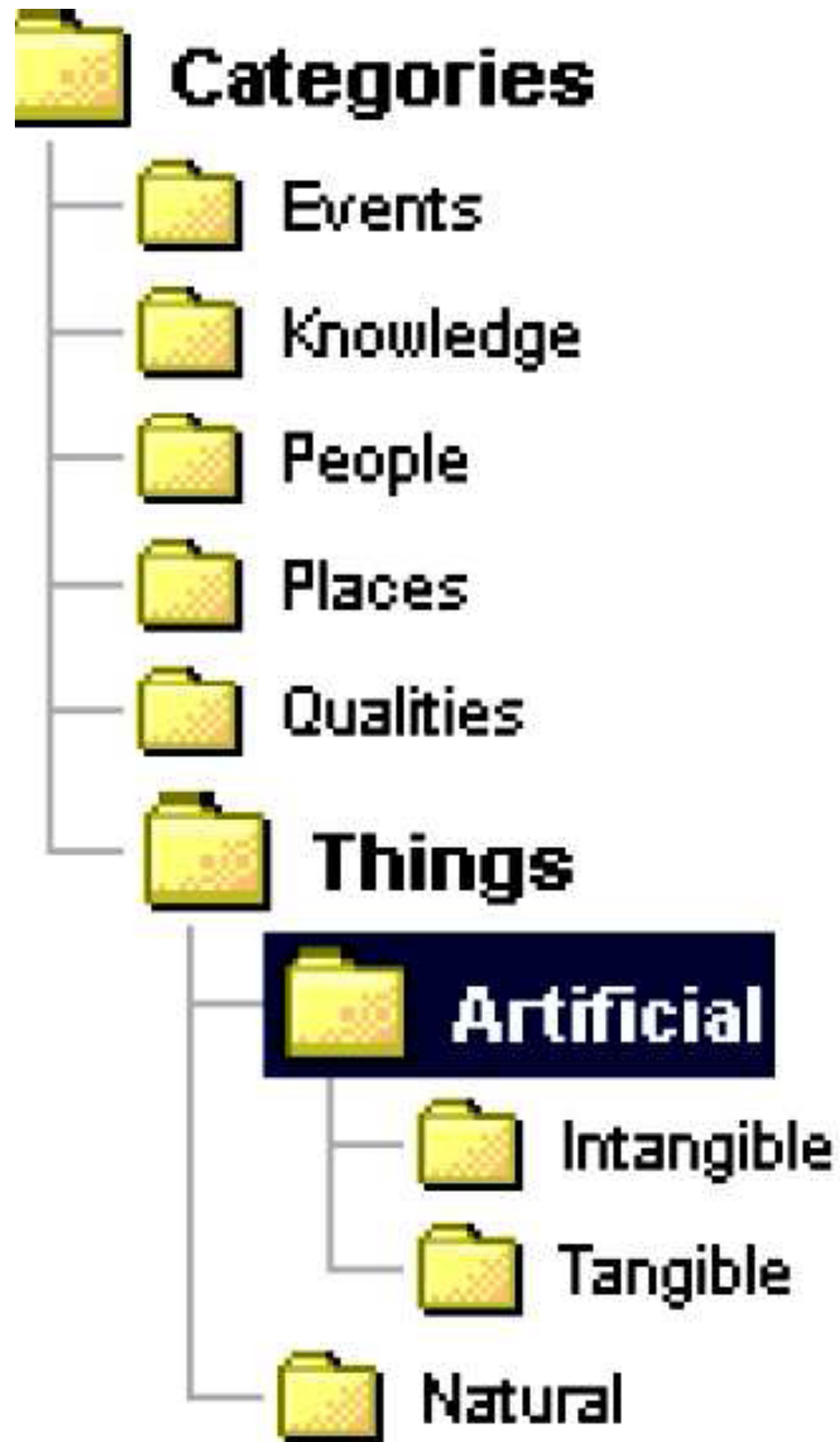
■ **Katie Porter:**  
Congress must crack down on price gouging. I'm proud a new law I wrote is finally penalizi...  
**Read More** ▾

■ **Barbara Lee:**  
My OLIGARCH Act will ensure that corporations and the 1% pay their fair share, while closi...  
**Read More** ▾

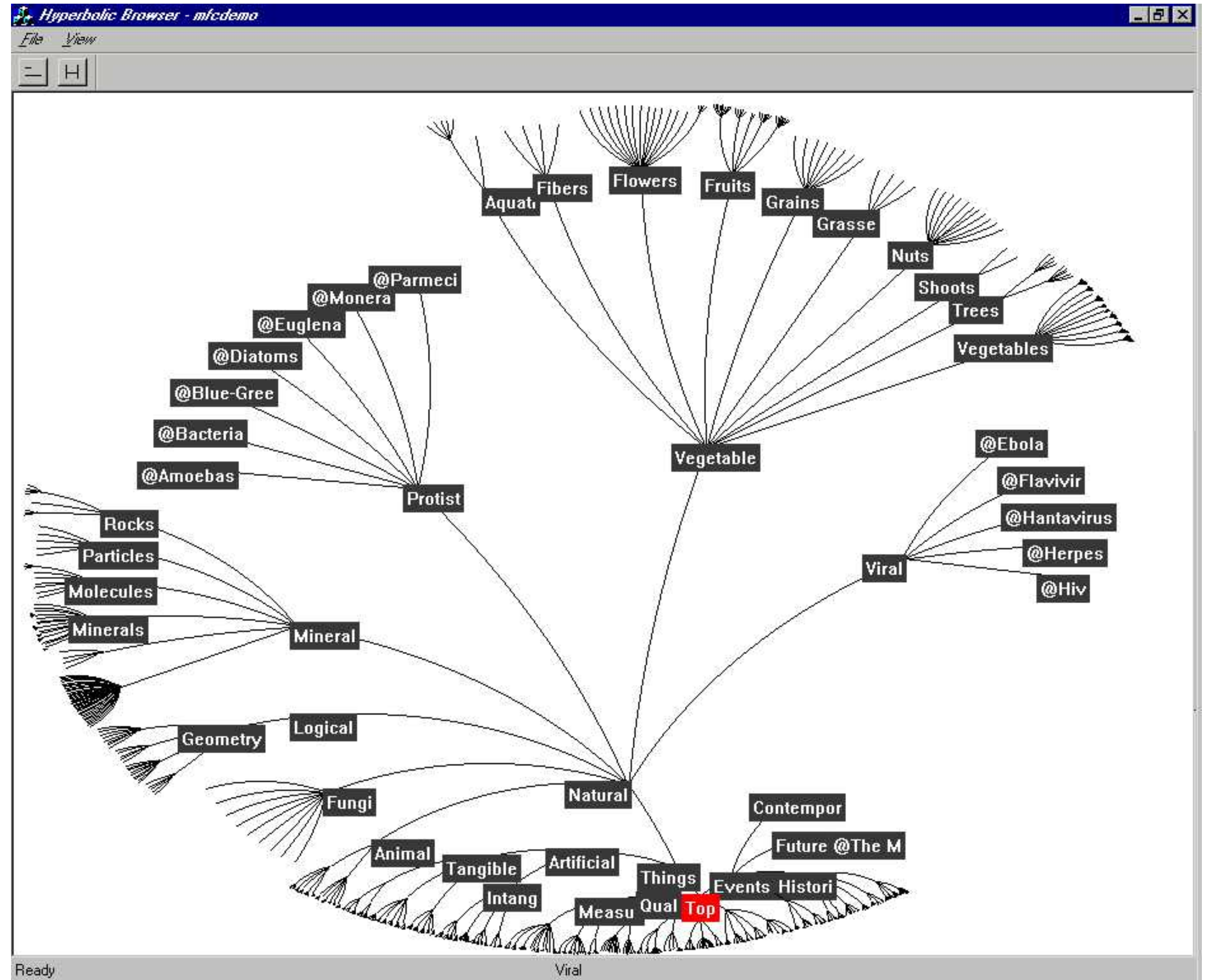
Non-partisan resource:

[https://  
calmatters.org/  
california-voter-  
guide-2024/](https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024/)

**How do we determine whether  
a visualization is *effective*?**



VS



# Evaluation Methods

## **Inspection or Principled Rationale**

Apply design heuristics, perceptual principles

## **Informal User Study**

Have people use visualization, observe results

## **Controlled Experiment**

Choose appropriate tasks / users to compare  
Choose metrics (time, error, what else?)

# Evaluation Methods

## **Field Deployment or Case Studies**

Observation and Interview

Document effects on work practices

## **Theoretical Analysis**

Algorithm time and space complexity

## **Benchmarks**

Performance (e.g., interactive frame rates)

Scalability to larger data sets



# Today

Evaluating Trees

Evaluating Spatial Navigation

Data Density of Time Series

Conclusion

# Today

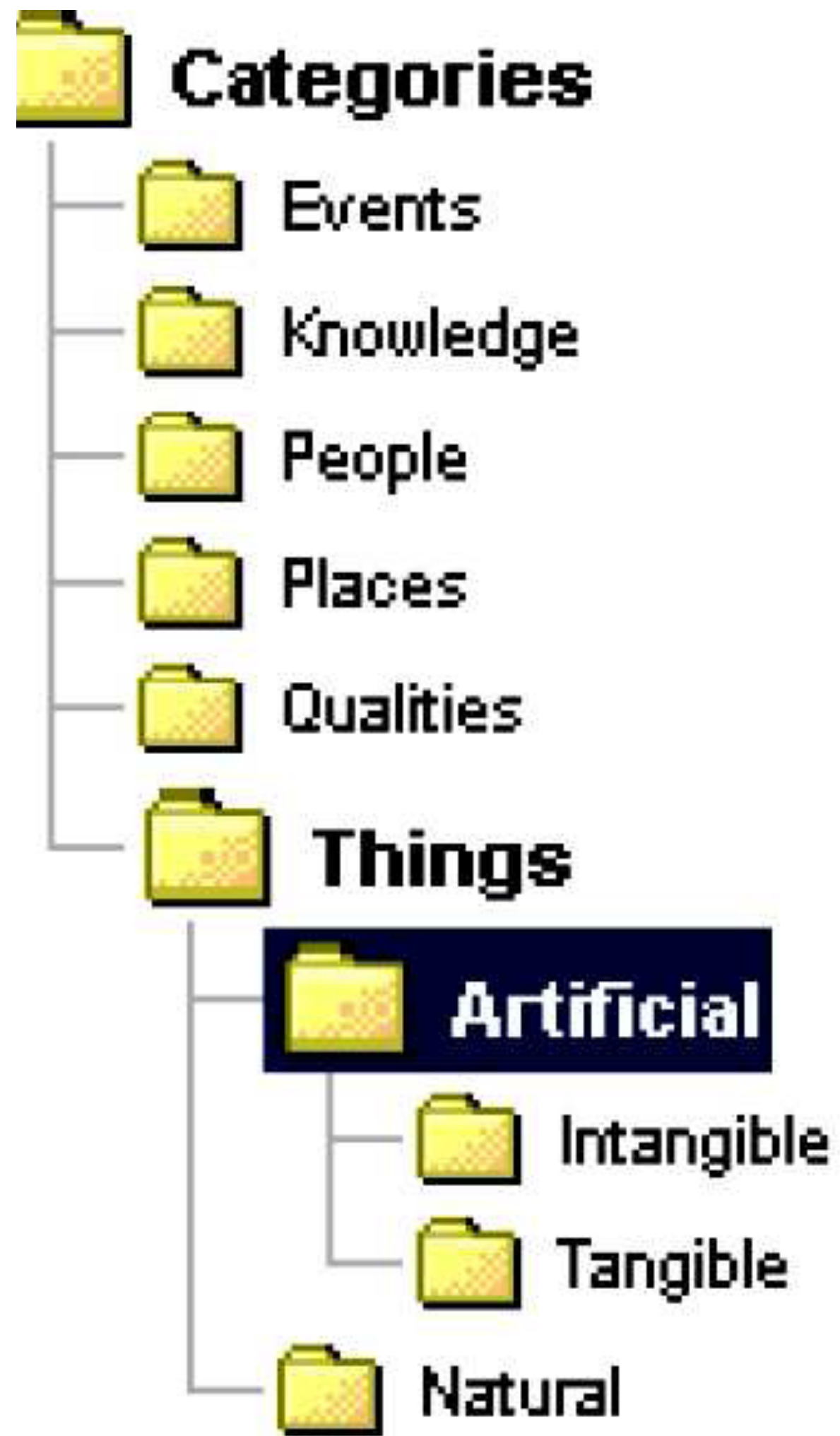
Evaluating Trees

Evaluating Spatial Navigation

Data Density of Time Series

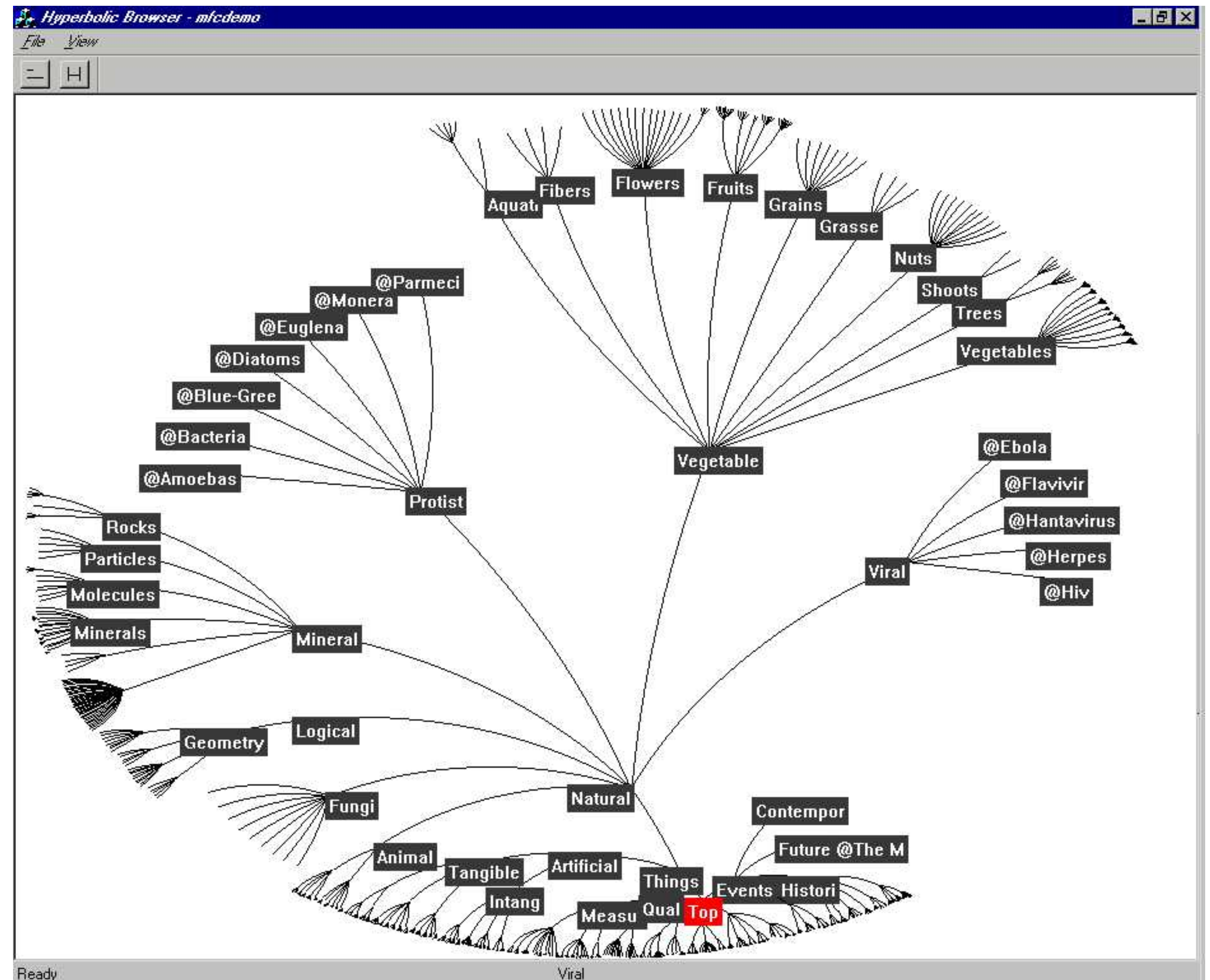
Conclusion

# The Great Browse-Off! [CHI 97]

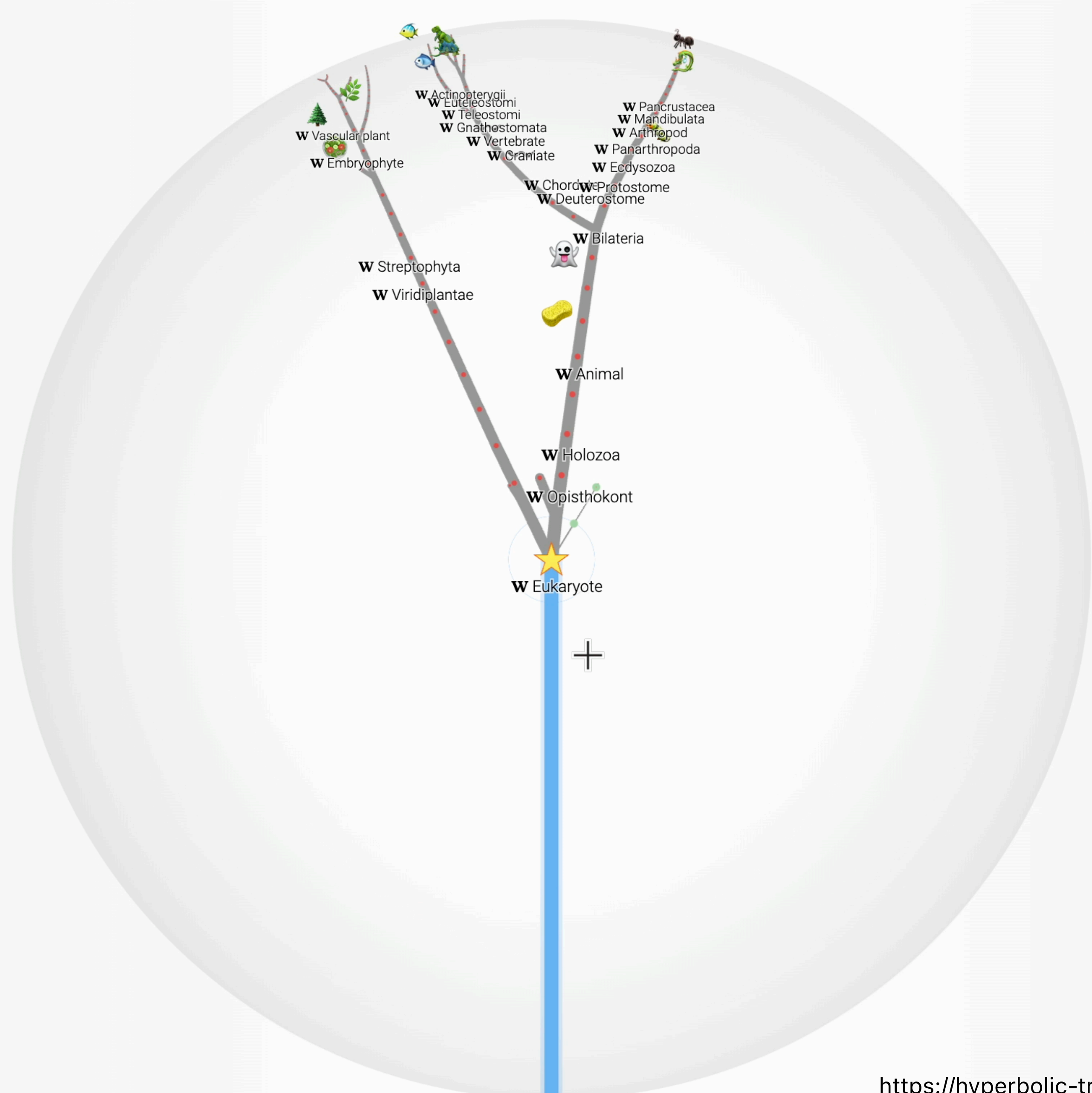
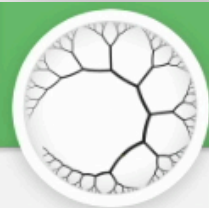


Microsoft File Explorer

VS



Xerox PARC Hyperbolic Tree



<https://hyperbolic-tree-of-life.github.io/>



Photograph your local culture, help Wikipedia and win!

# Eukaryote

Article Talk

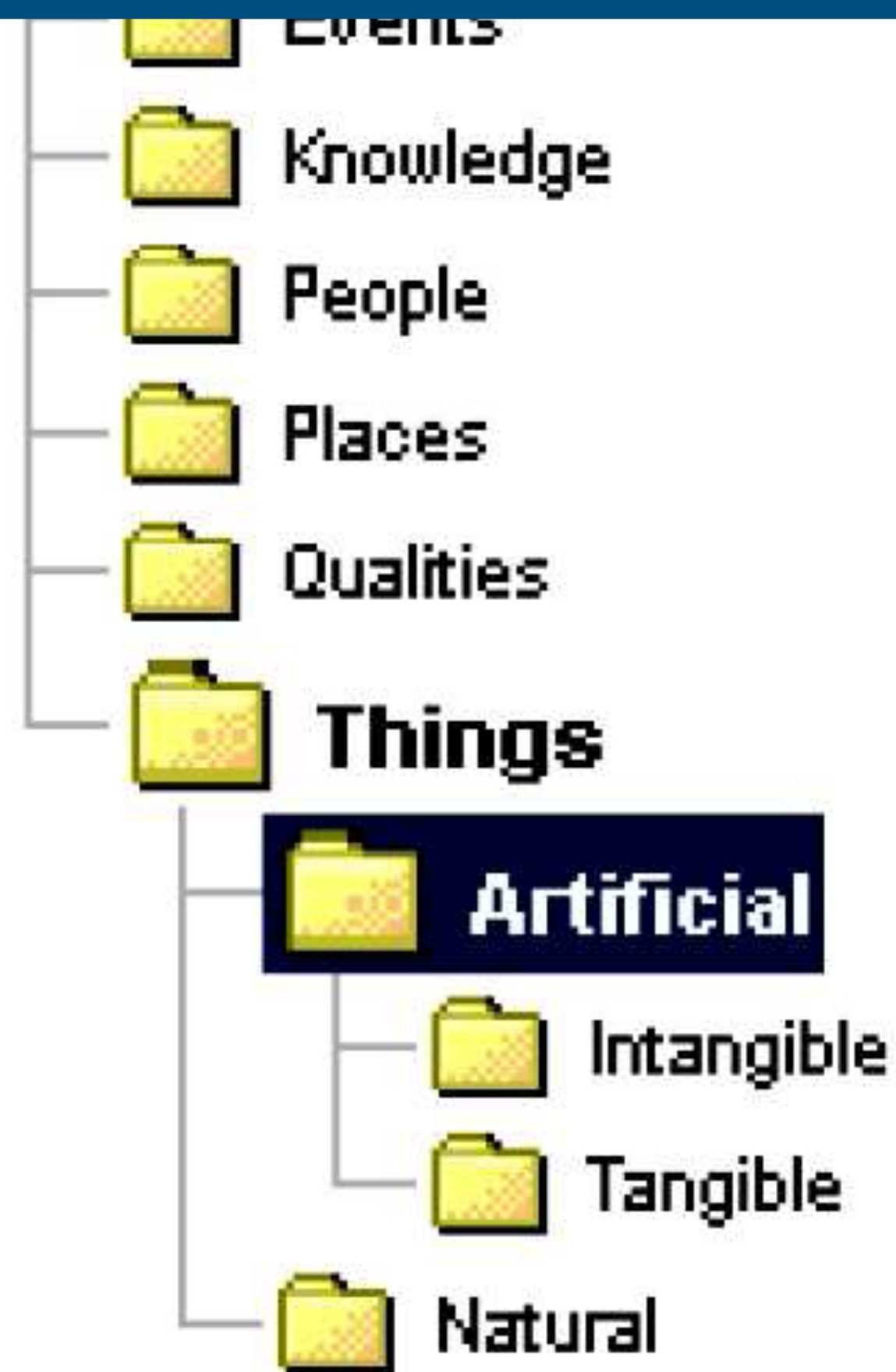
Language, download, star, and lock icons

"Eukaryotic cell" redirects here. For the journal, see [Eukaryotic Cell \(journal\)](#).

The **eukaryotes** (/ˈjuːˈkærioʊts, -əts/ *yoo-KARR-ee-ohts, -əts*) constitute the **domain of Eukarya**, organisms whose **cells** have a membrane-bound **nucleus**. All **animals**, **plants**, **fungi**, and many **unicellular organisms** are eukaryotes. They constitute a major group of **life forms** alongside the two groups of **prokaryotes**: the **Bacteria** and the **Archaea**. Eukaryotes represent a small minority of the number of organisms, but given their generally much larger size, their collective **global biomass** is much larger than that of prokaryotes.

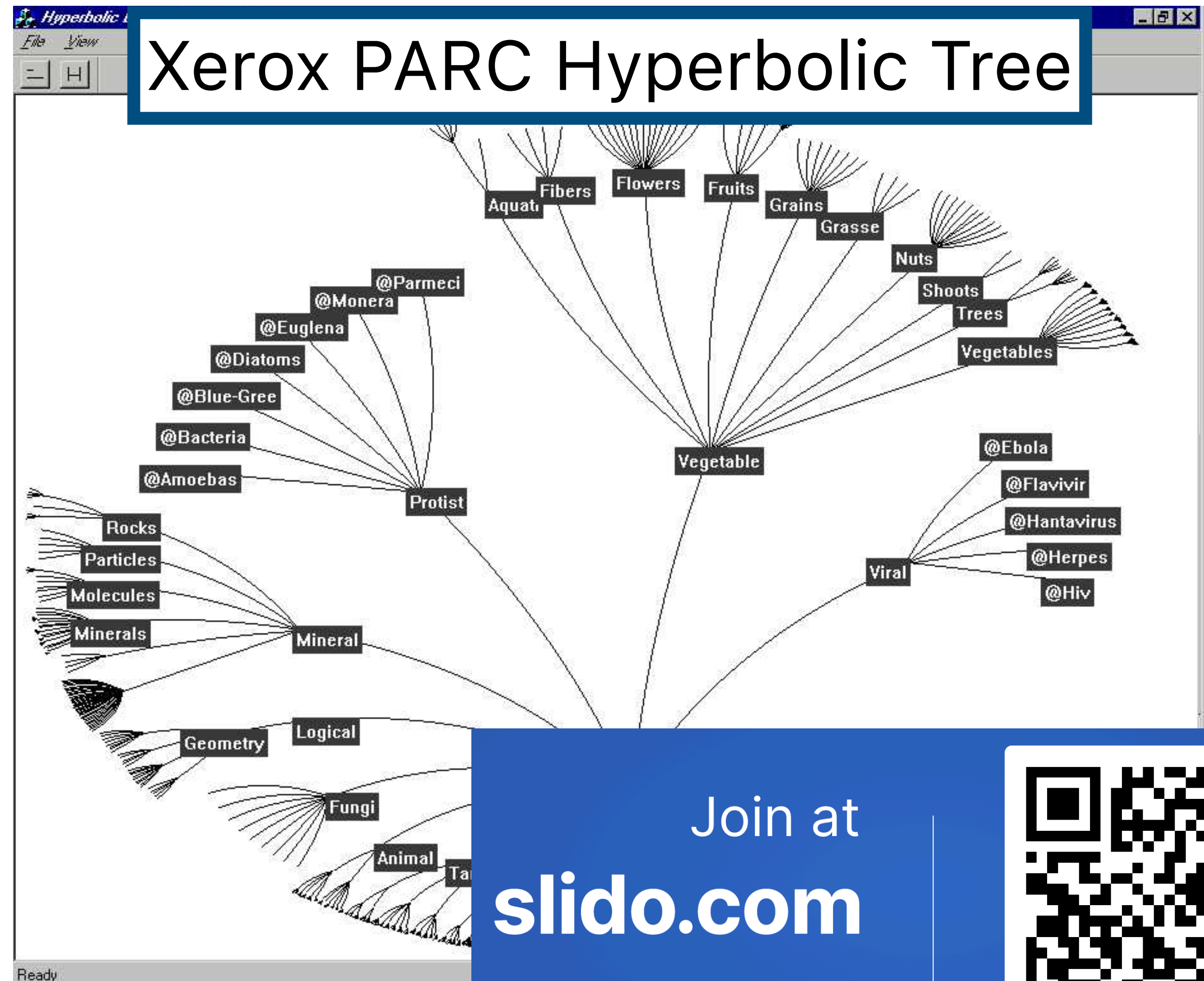
# How can we decide if one is better?

Microsoft File Explorer



VS

Xerox PARC Hyperbolic Tree



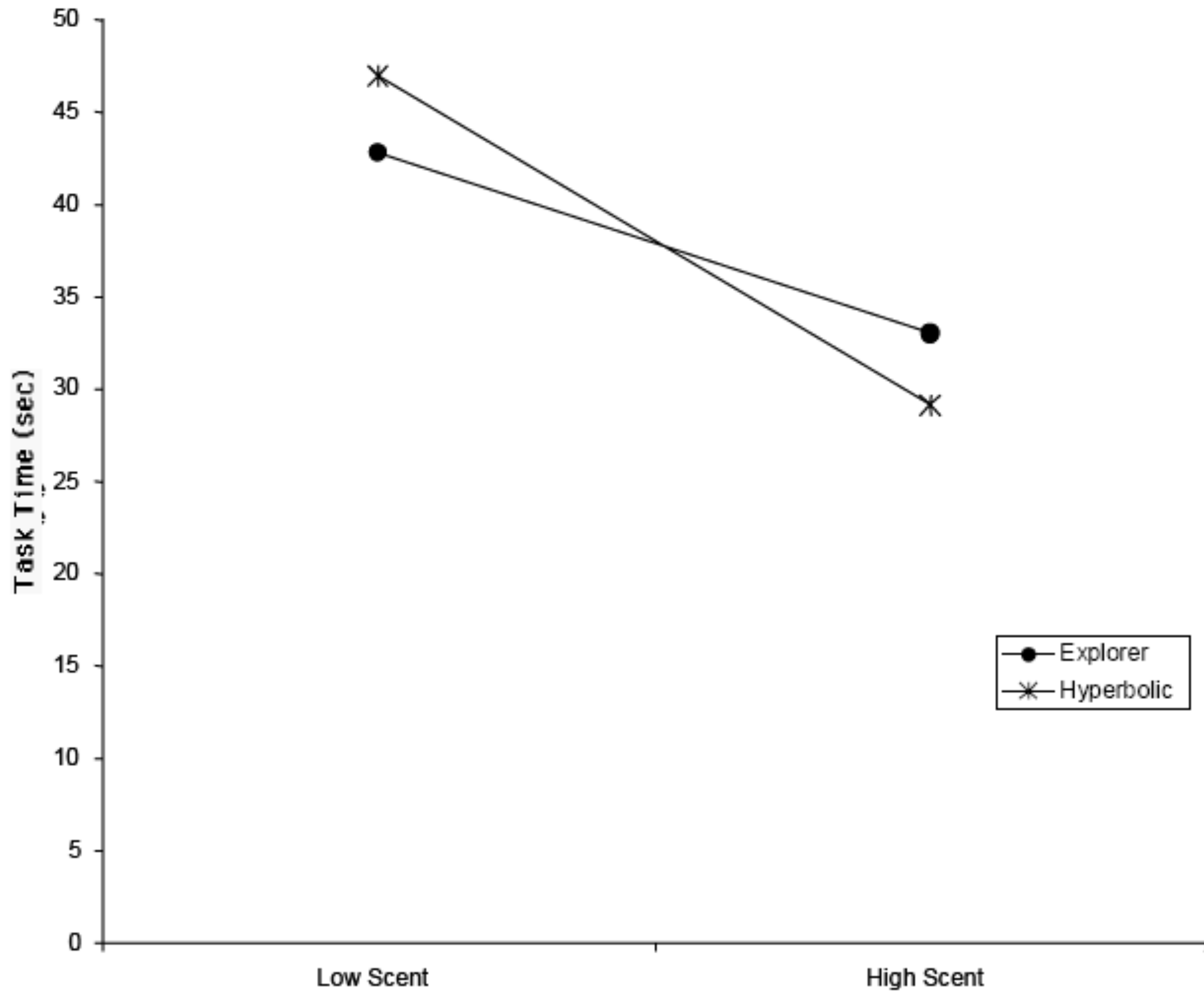
Join at  
[slido.com](https://www.slido.com)  
#5829

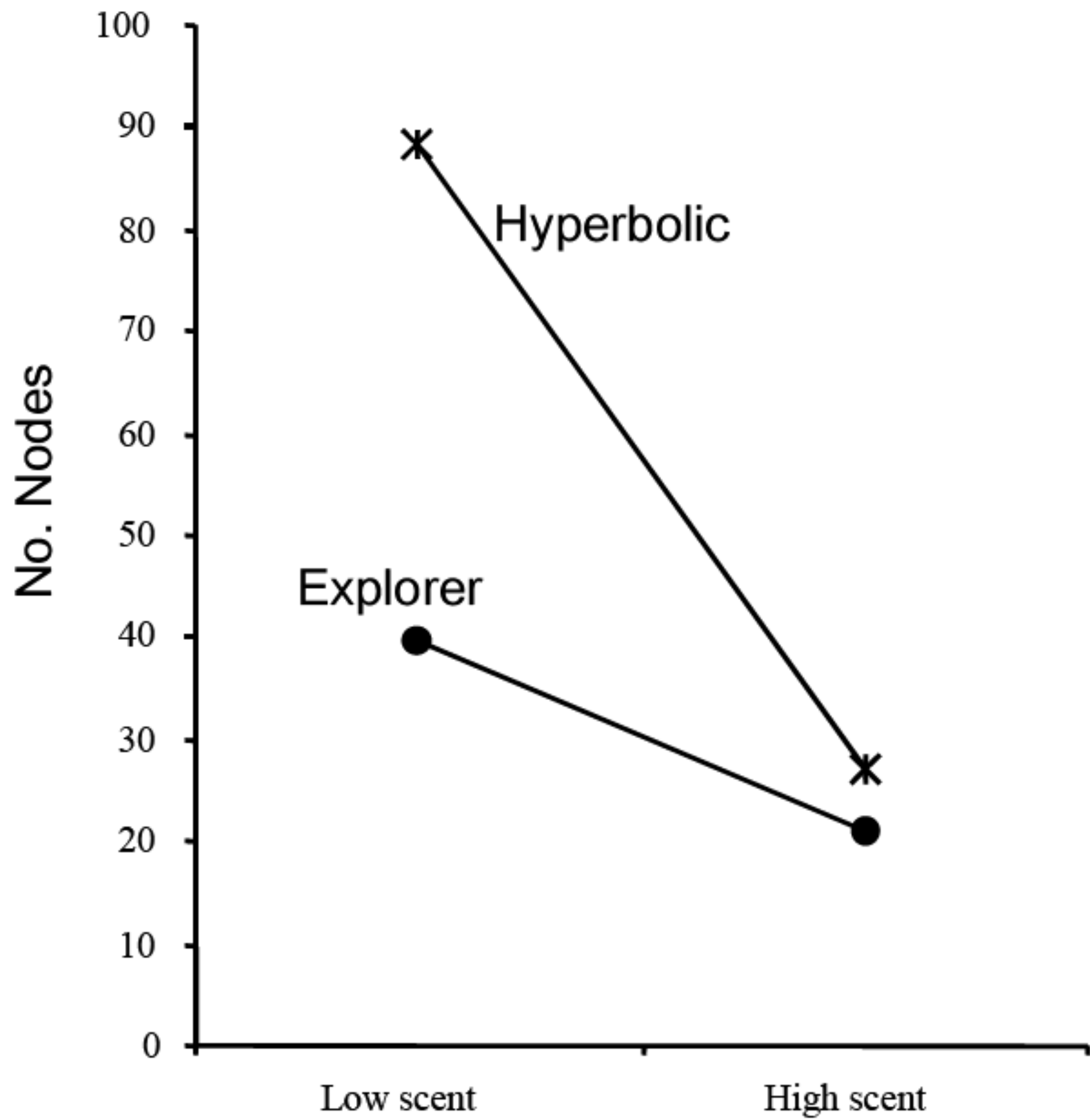


# How do users navigate the tree?

**Information Scent:** A user's (imperfect) perception of the value, cost, or access path of information sources obtained from proximal cues. [Pirolli & Card 99]

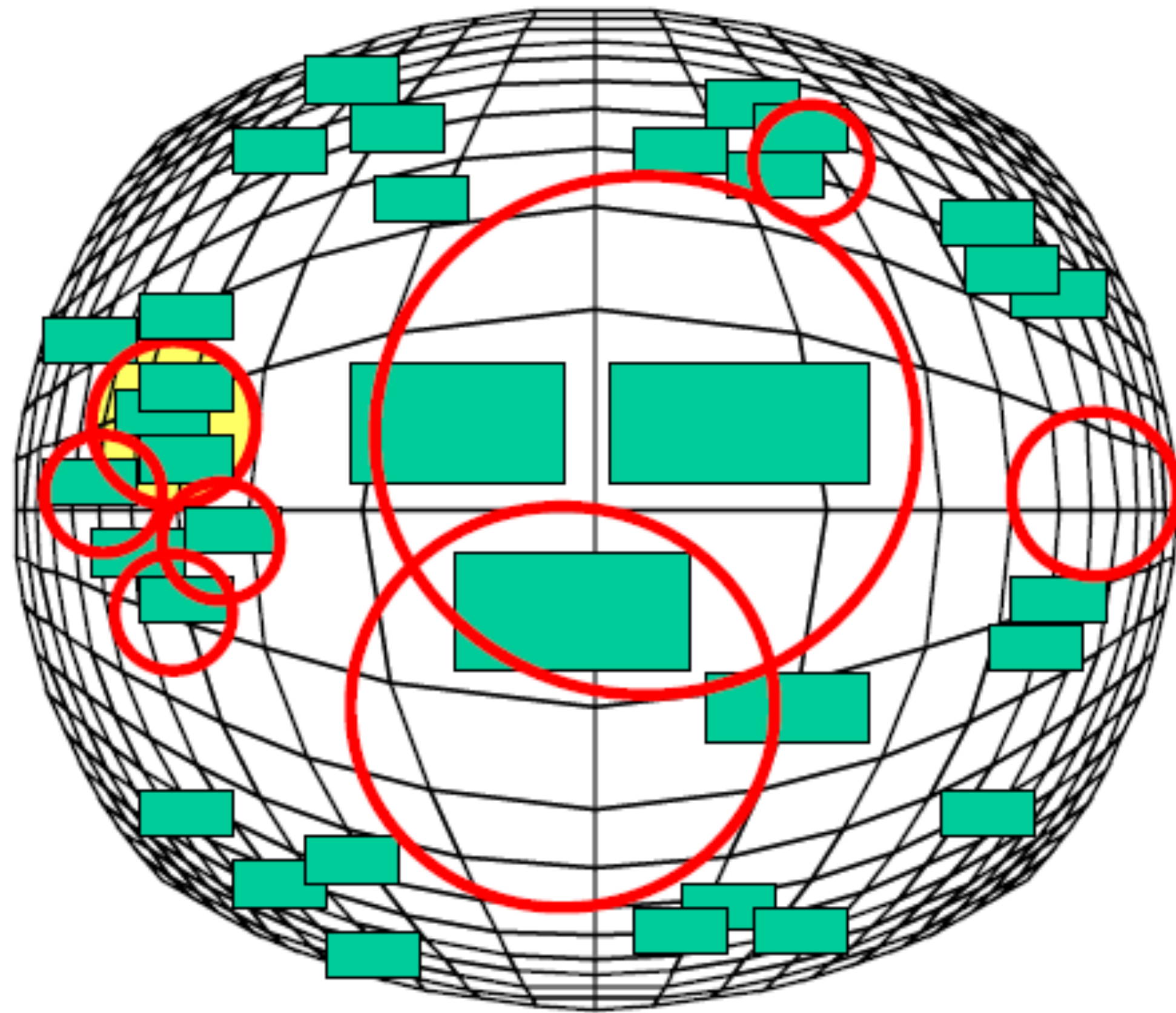
**Operationalize as:** the proportion of participants who correctly identified the location of the task answer from looking at upper branches in the tree.



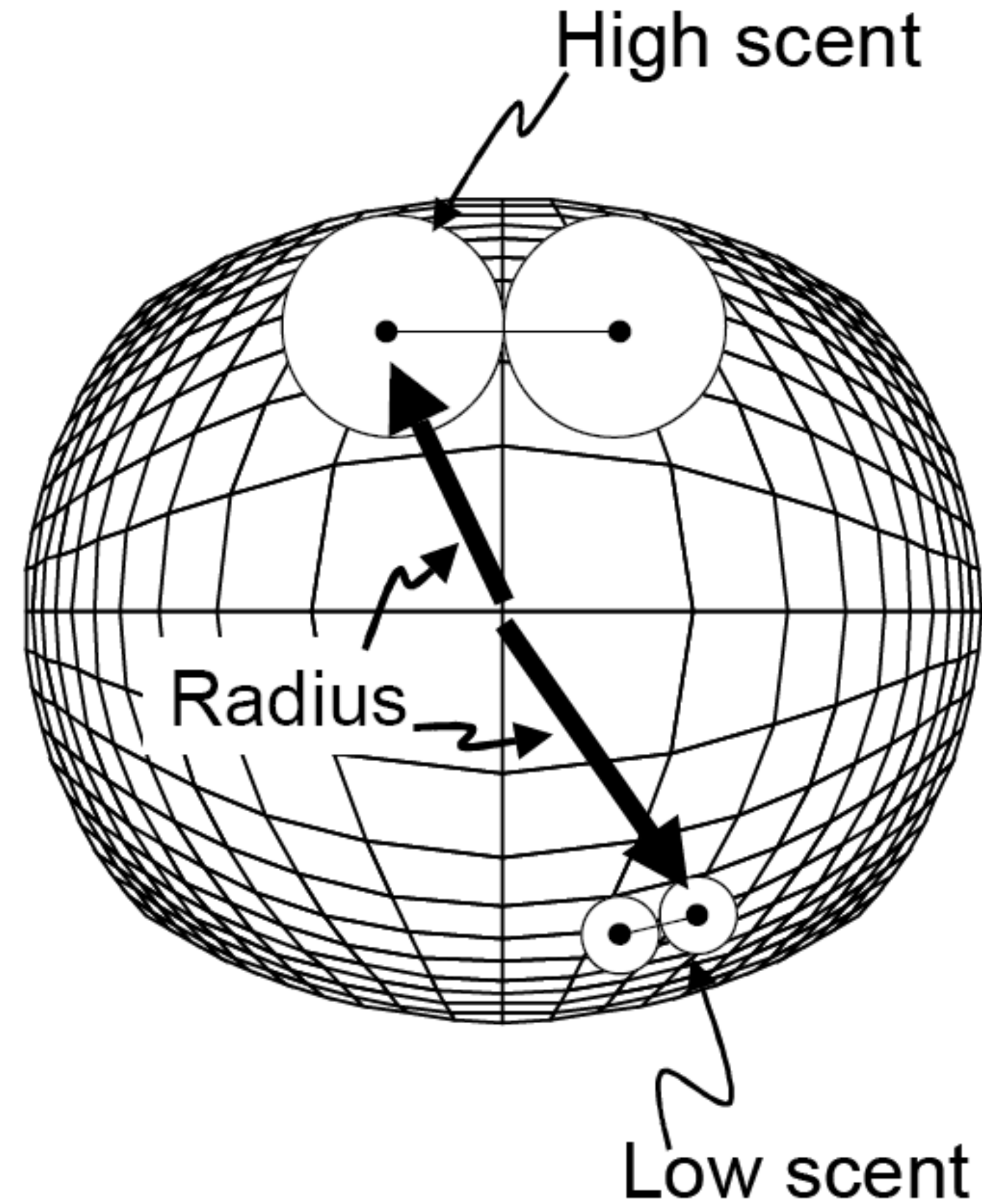


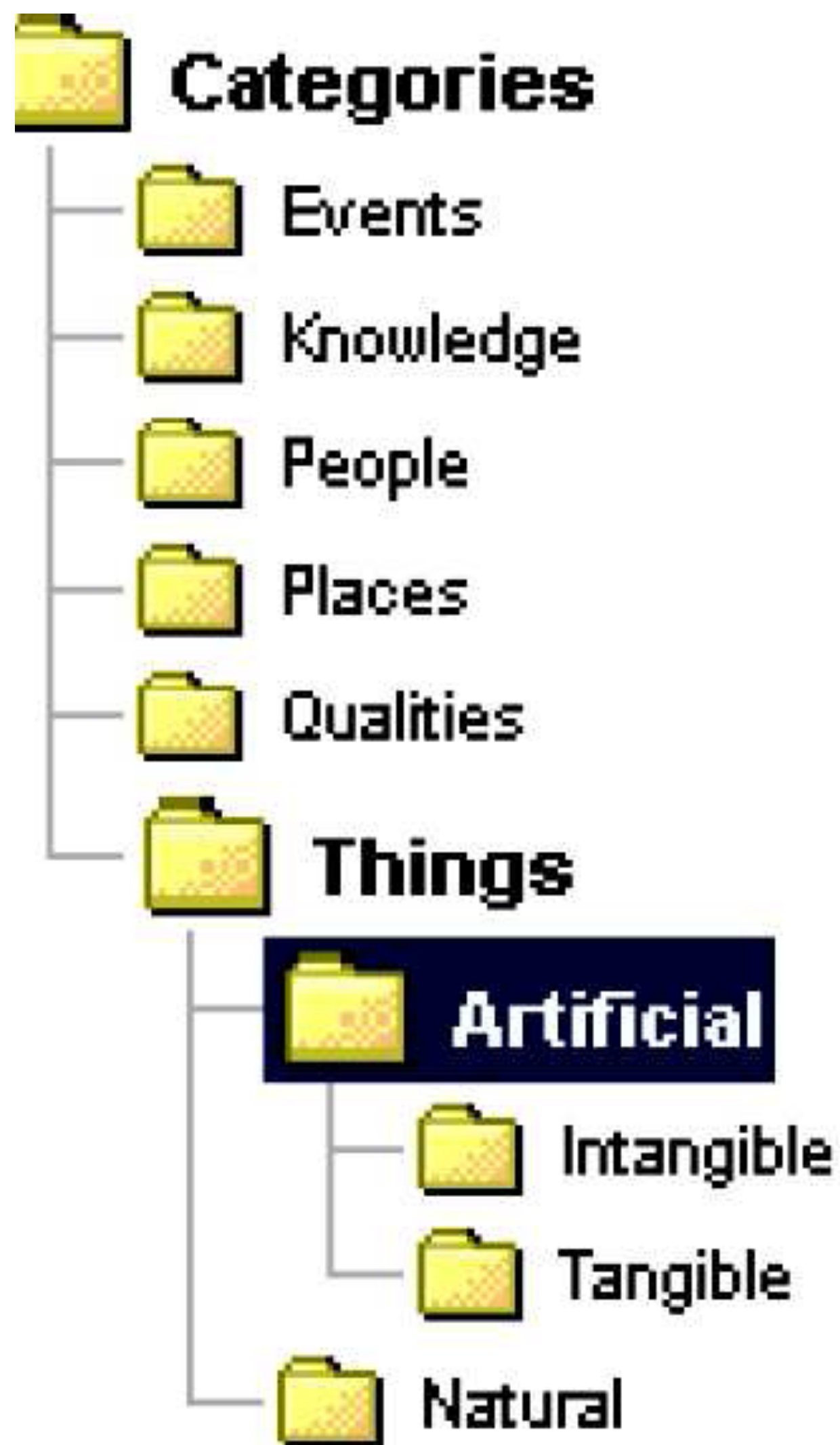


# An Adaptive Field of View?



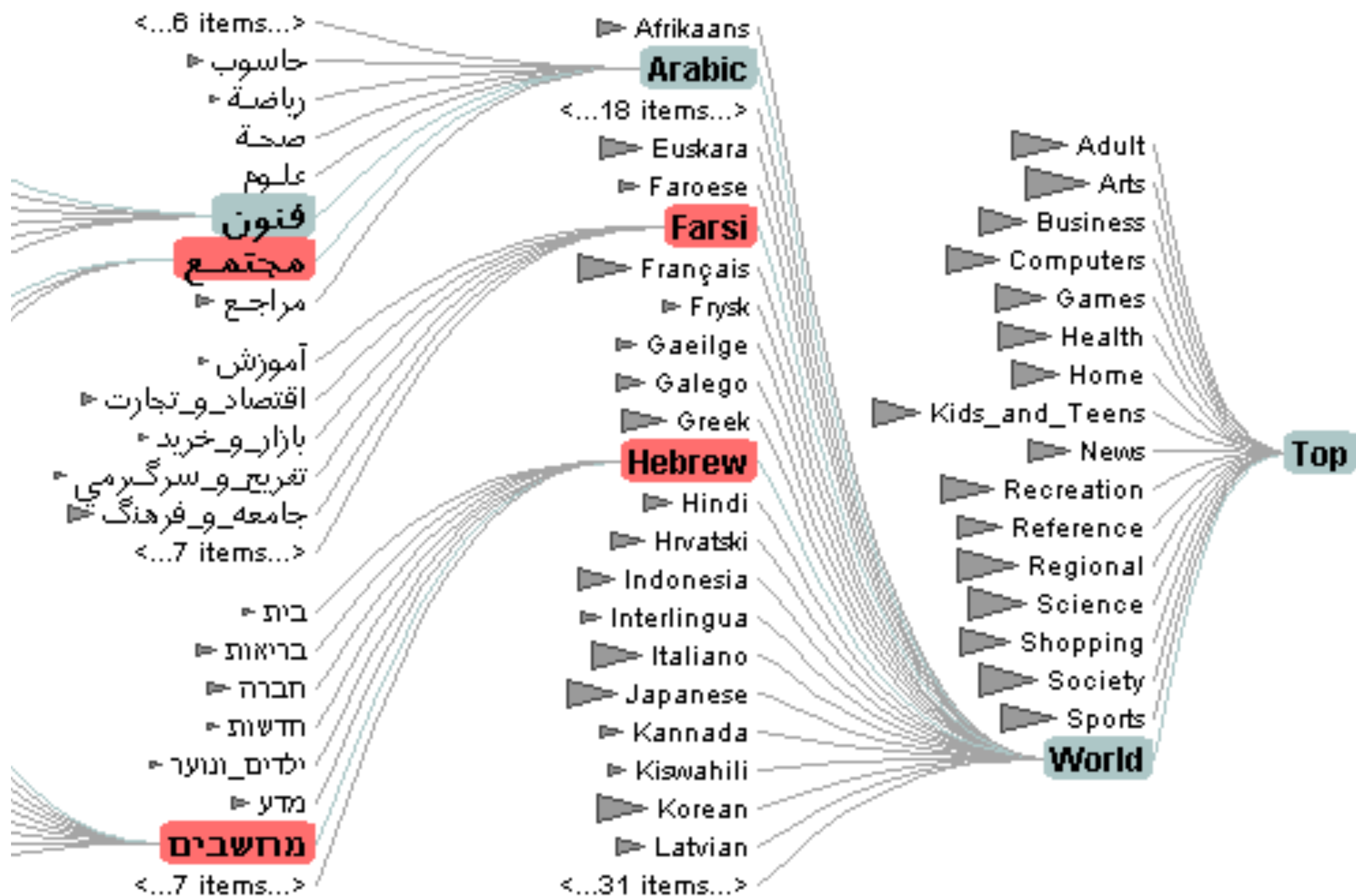
(c)





# Degree-of-interest Tree

VS



# Evaluation of DOI Trees

## DOITree vs. Windows Explorer [Budiu, AVI 06]

Nodes visited (avg)	DOI:83	Exp:53	p<.005
Revisitation (avg)	DOI:6.6	Exp:8.2	p<.005
Divergence (avg)	DOI:4.6	Exp:3.9	p<.001

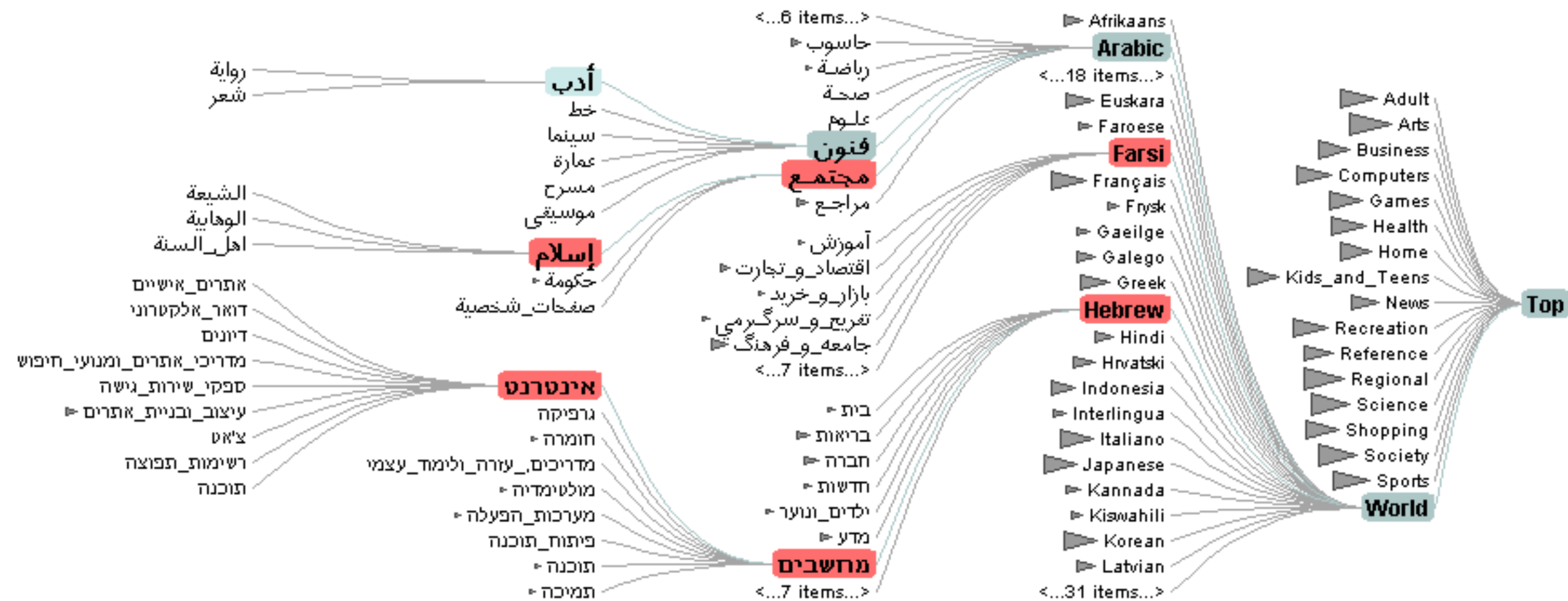
DOITree more forgiving to navigation errors  
**BUT** no significant difference in task time

## DOITree vs. Google Directory [Pirolli, CHI 06]

DOITree has superior task knowledge transfer

# Design Guidelines

Support rapid visual scanning  
Most people don't read in circles!



# Design Guidelines

## **Support rapid visual scanning**

Most people don't read in circles!

## **Showing more is not always better**

Distractors can decrease task performance  
Interaction with quality of information scent

## **Navigation cues critical to search**

Informative labels or landmarks needed  
Poor information scent undermines search

# Today

Evaluating Trees

Evaluating Spatial Navigation

Data Density of Time Series

Conclusion

# Today

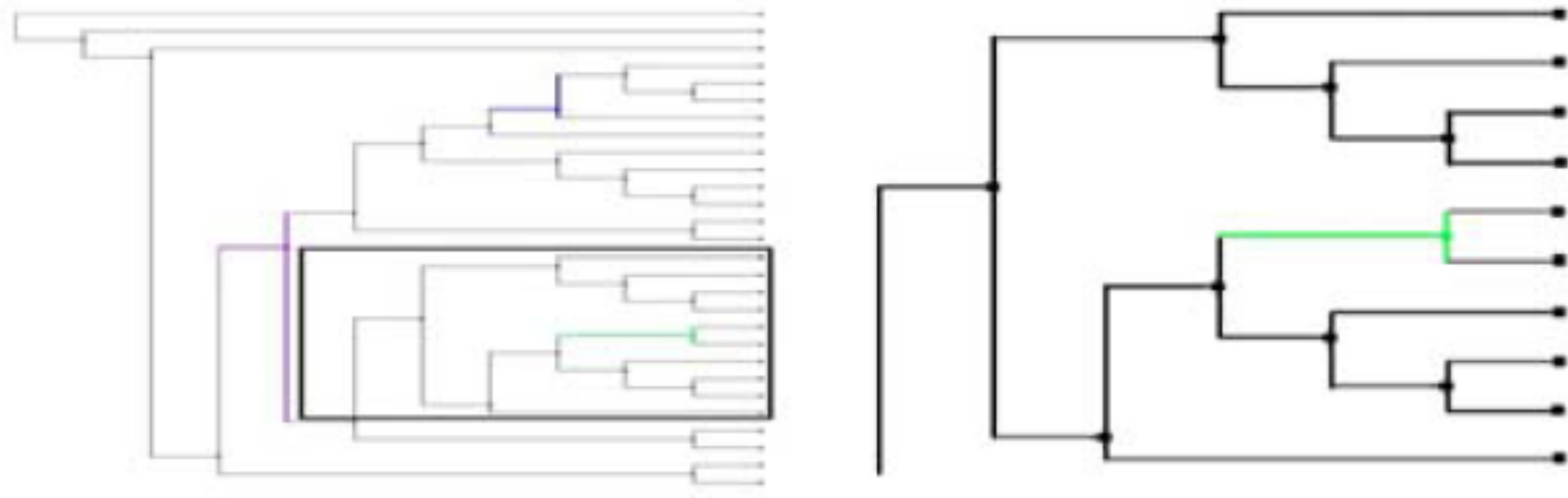
Evaluating Trees

**Evaluating Spatial Navigation**

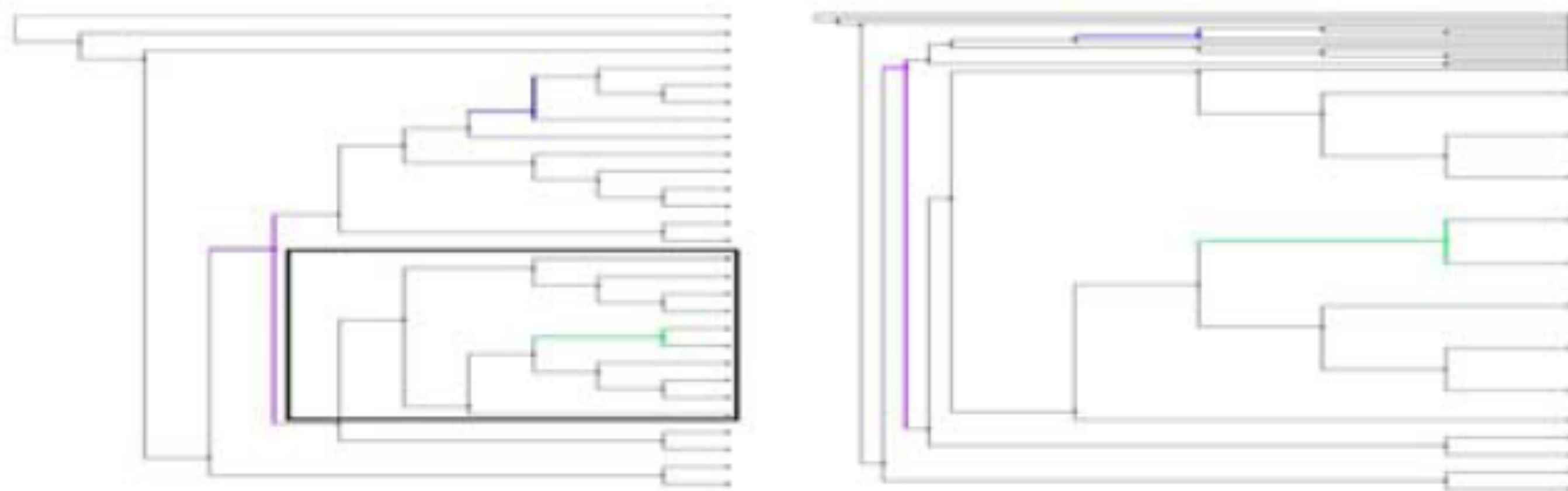
Data Density of Time Series

Conclusion

# Pan & Zoom vs. Rubber Sheet



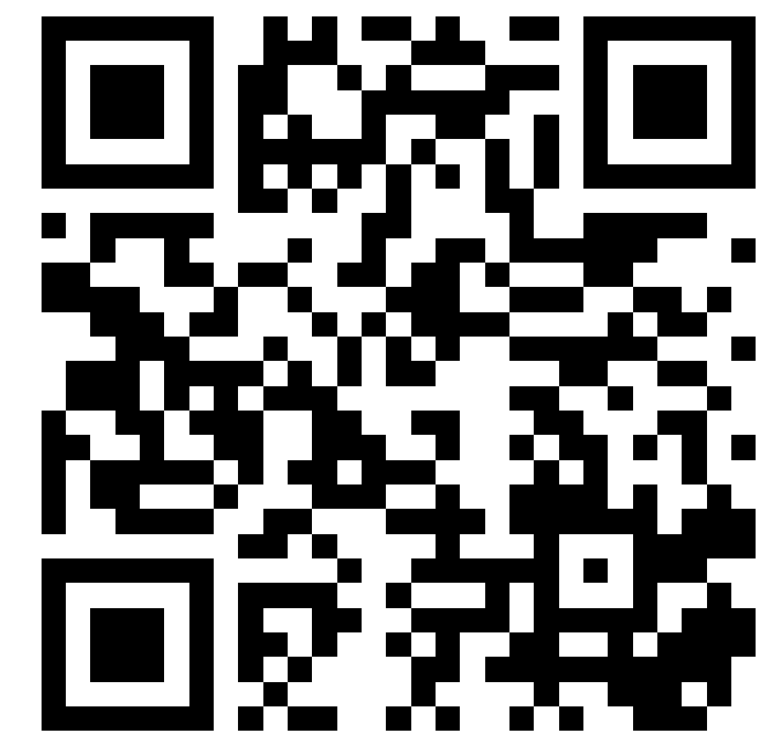
(i) PZN



(ii) RSN

How can we decide whether one is better?

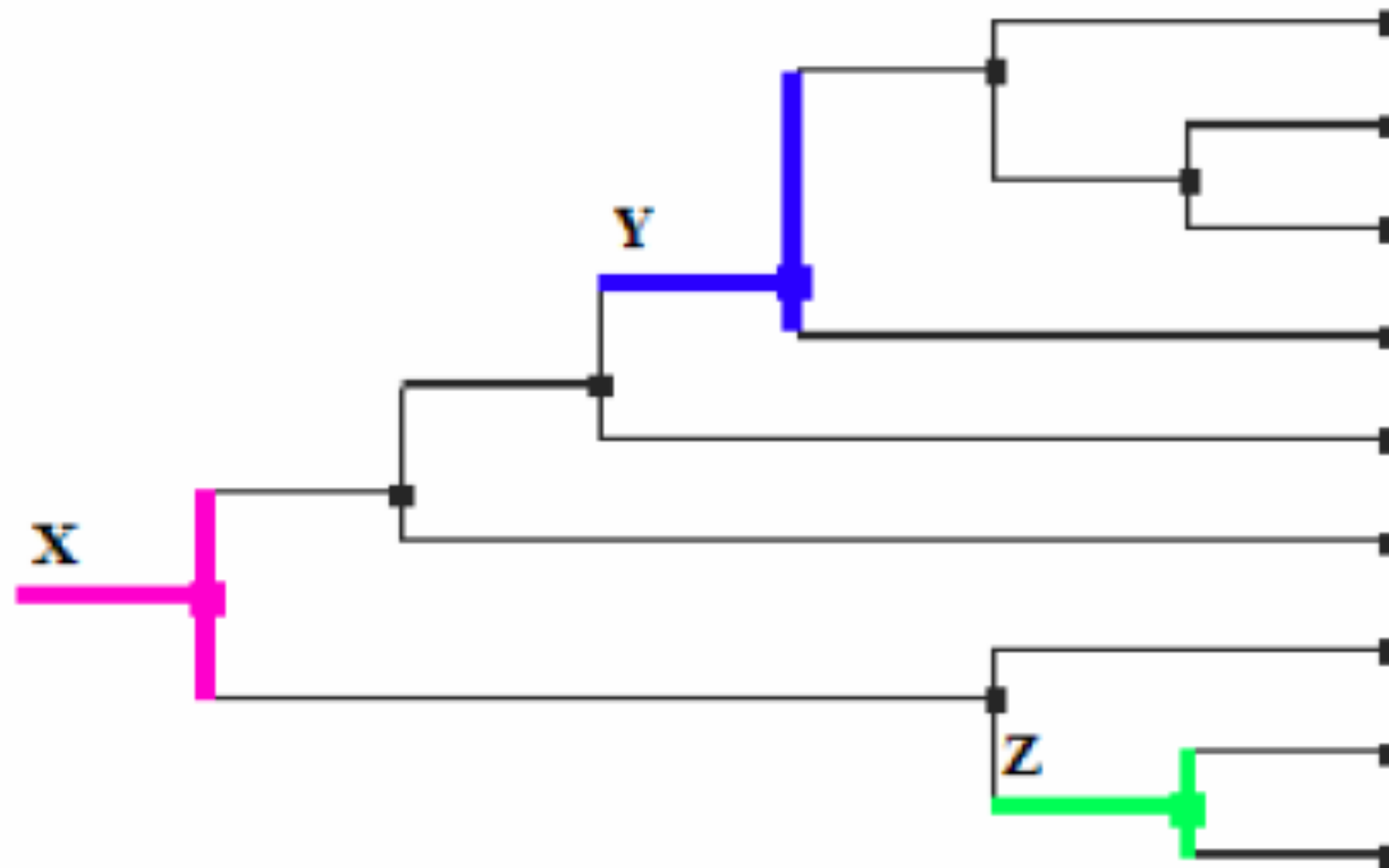
Join at  
**slido.com**  
**#5829**





# Experimental Task

Compare topological distance between nodes in a dendrogram.



# Experimental

Compare performance in 4 conditions:

1. Pan & Zoom (no overview)
2. Pan & Zoom (with overview)
3. Rubber Sheet (no overview)
4. Rubber Sheet (with overview)

40 subjects (24F/16M), between 18-39 years old.

Right-handed, normal vision.

Between-subjects design.

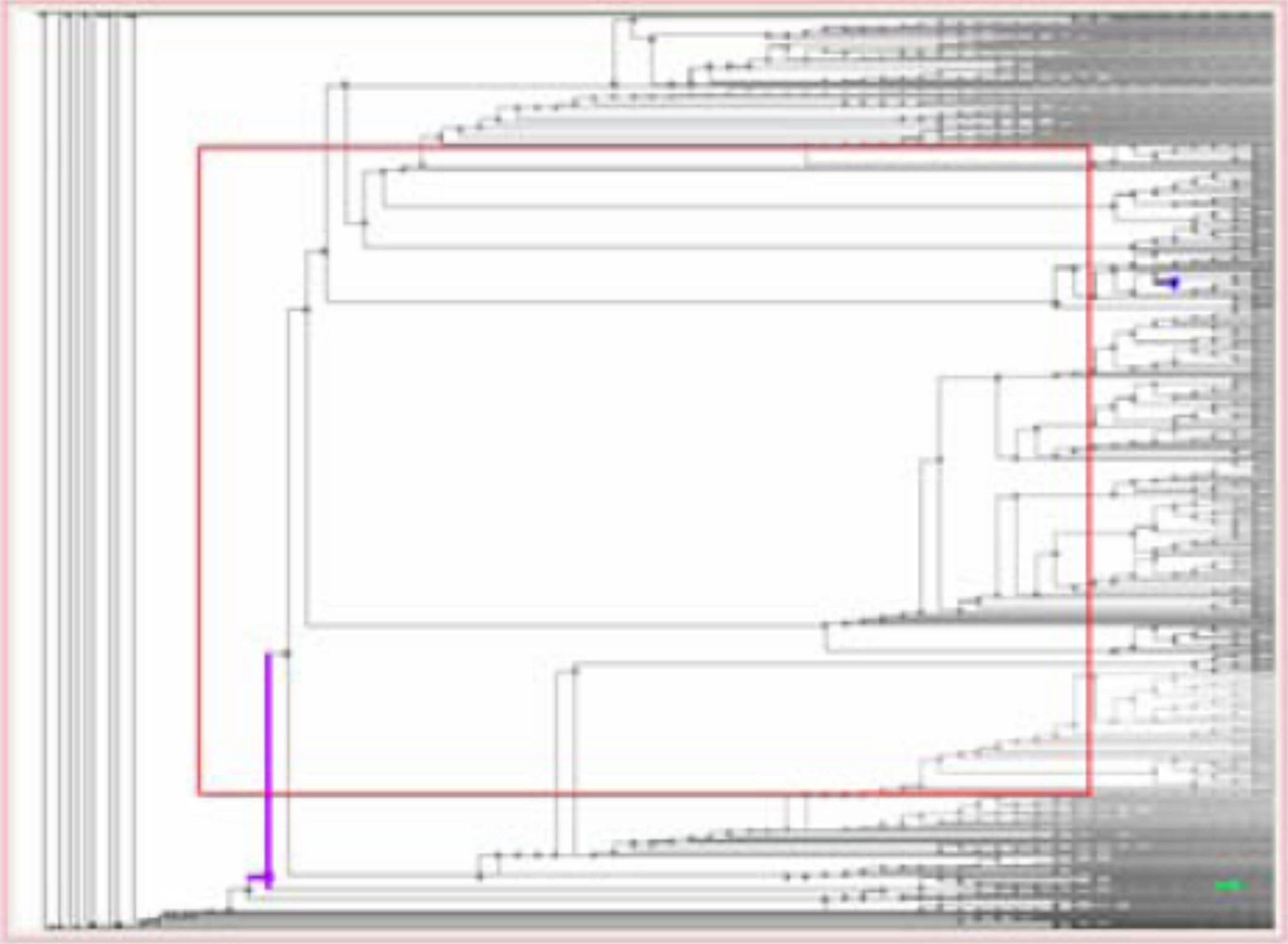
# 1. Rubber Sheet / No Overview

Evaluation73.gd, C1, level = 9  
File Edit Tools Help

Which node is the purple node closer to in terms of topological distance?

Blue  Green

Drag with LEFT mouse button to ZOOM IN  
Drag with RIGHT mouse button to PAN  
Press R to RESET the visualization  
Press ESCAPE to CLEAR the current mouse drag



The image shows a complex network graph visualization. The graph consists of numerous nodes and edges, forming a dense, interconnected structure. A red rectangular bounding box highlights a specific region of the graph, which is the focus of the question. Within this region, a purple node is visible, and a green node is also present. The graph is rendered in a light gray color against a white background. The interface includes a title bar, a menu bar, and a set of instructions on the left side.

# 2. Pan & Zoom / No Overview

Evaluation 1.3 pt, 12, level = 0

File Edit View Help

Which node is the purple node closer to in terms of topological distance?

Blue  Green

Drag with LEFT mouse button to ZOOM IN  
Drag with MIDDLE mouse button to ZOOM OUT  
Drag with RIGHT mouse button to PAN  
Press R to RESET the visualization  
Press ESCAPE to CLEAR the current mouse drag

# 3. Rubber Sheet / Overview

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Evaluation 1.1 p4, CS, level = 0". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, Tools, Help) and a main workspace. On the left, there is a small inset window showing a 3D perspective view of a staircase with a red rectangular box highlighting a specific step and a purple vertical line extending downwards from it. The main workspace displays a 2D top-down view of the same staircase, with a red rectangular box highlighting a larger area. A purple vertical line is also present in this view, extending from the bottom edge of the red box. In the center of the workspace, there is a text prompt: "Which node is the purple node closer to in terms of topological distance?" Below the prompt are two radio buttons labeled "Blue" and "Green", and a "Submit" button. On the left side of the main workspace, there are four lines of instructional text: "Drag with LEFT mouse button to ZOOM IN", "Drag with RIGHT mouse button to PAN", "Press R to RESET the visualization", and "Press ESCAPE to CLEAR the current mouse drag".

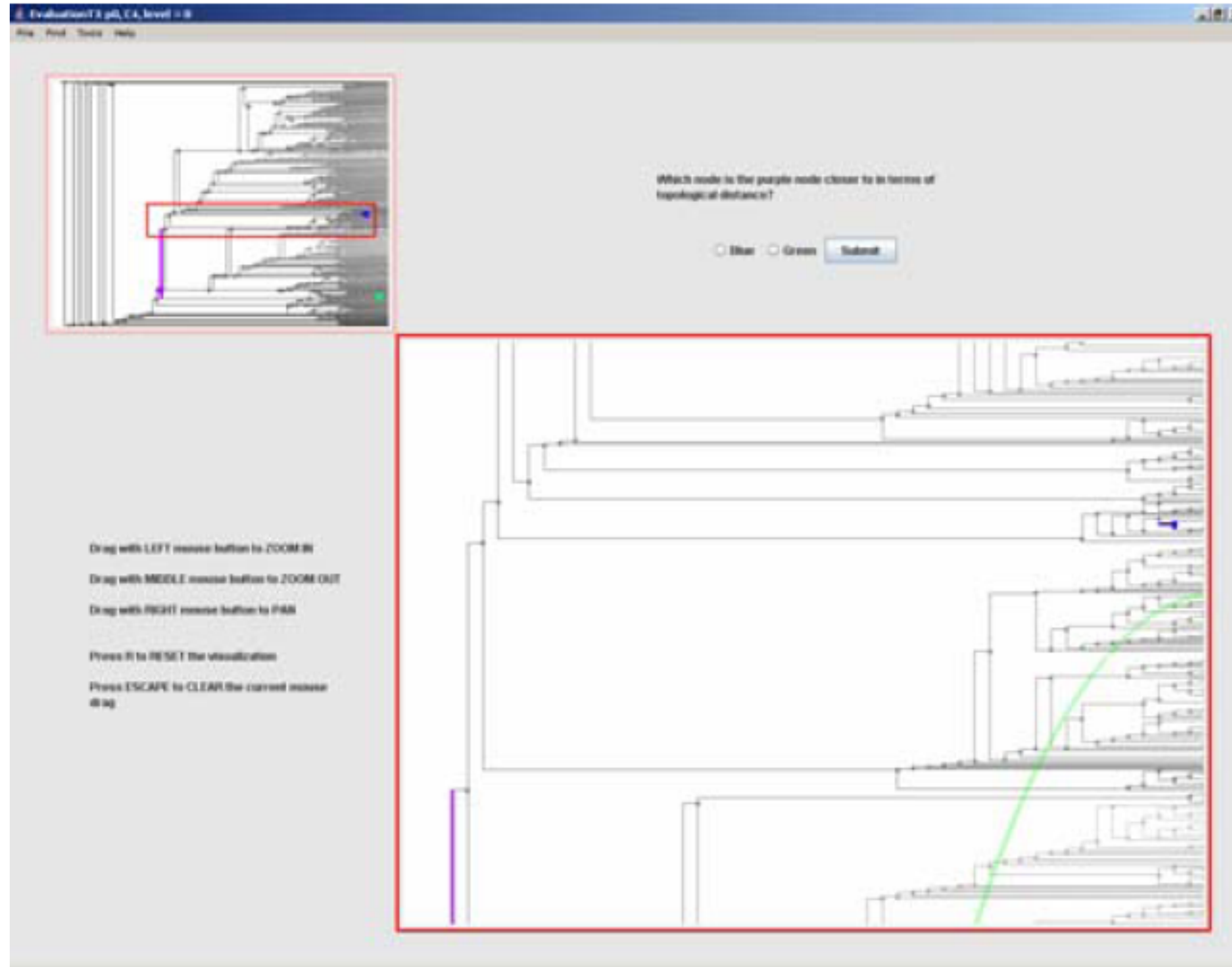
File Edit Tools Help

Which node is the purple node closer to in terms of topological distance?

Blue  Green

Drag with LEFT mouse button to ZOOM IN  
Drag with RIGHT mouse button to PAN  
Press R to RESET the visualization  
Press ESCAPE to CLEAR the current mouse drag

# 4. Pan & Zoom / Overview



Evolution 1.3.0, CA, level = 0  
File Edit Tools Help

Which node is the purple node closer to in terms of topological distance?

Blue  Green

Drag with LEFT mouse button to ZOOM IN  
Drag with MIDDLE mouse button to ZOOM OUT  
Drag with RIGHT mouse button to PAN  
Press R to RESET the visualization  
Press ESCAPE to CLEAR the current mouse drag

The screenshot shows a software interface for a problem involving topological distance. At the top left, there is a 3D perspective view of a staircase with a red rectangular box highlighting a specific section. A purple vertical line and a green diagonal line are drawn on the staircase. In the center, a question asks: "Which node is the purple node closer to in terms of topological distance?" with two radio button options: "Blue" and "Green", and a "Submit" button. Below the question, there is a 2D topological graph of the staircase, where nodes are represented by horizontal lines and vertical connections. A purple vertical line and a green diagonal line are also present in this graph, corresponding to the lines in the 3D view. On the bottom left, there are instructions for navigation: "Drag with LEFT mouse button to ZOOM IN", "Drag with MIDDLE mouse button to ZOOM OUT", "Drag with RIGHT mouse button to PAN", "Press R to RESET the visualization", and "Press ESCAPE to CLEAR the current mouse drag".

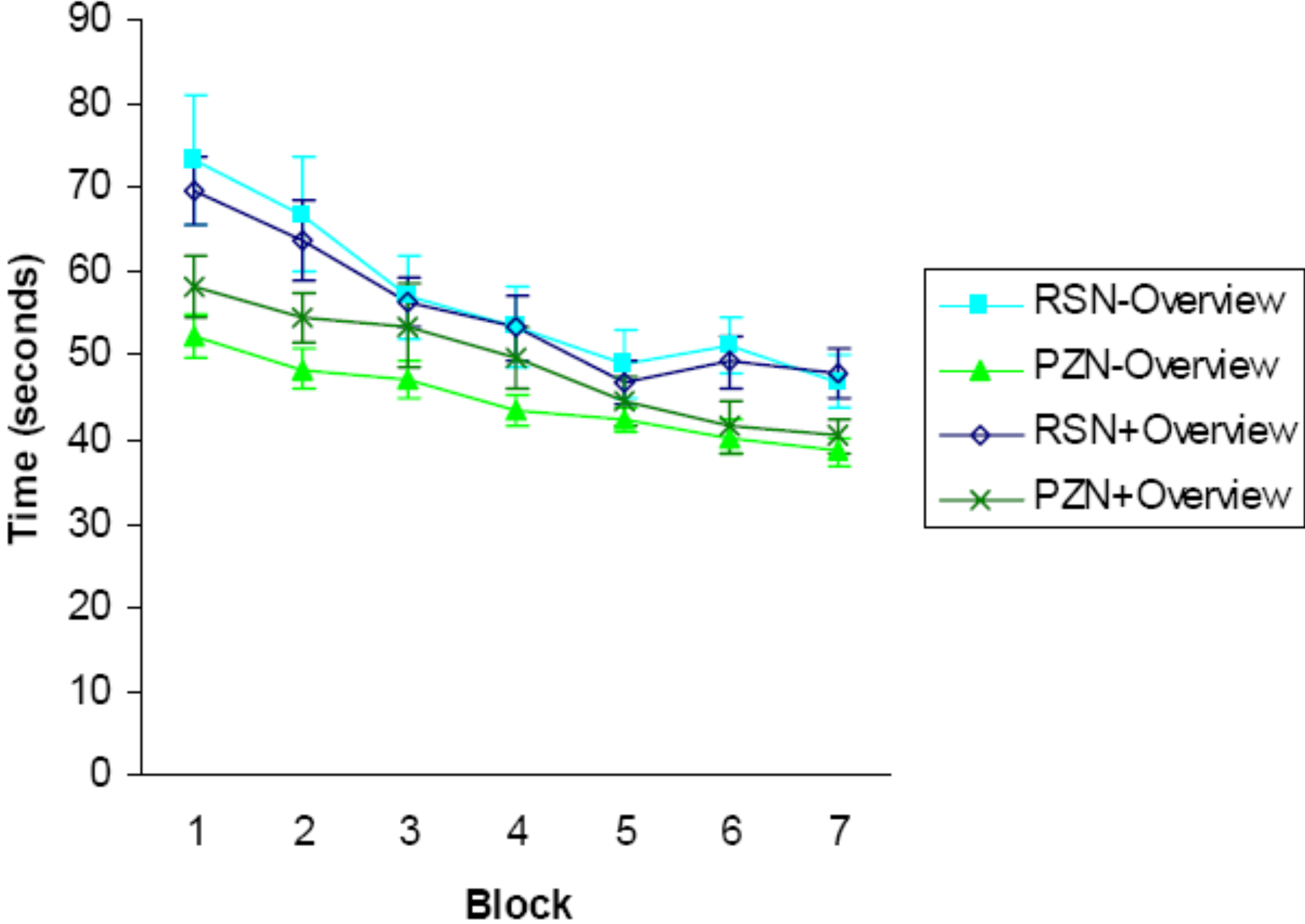
# Hypotheses

H1: RSN interfaces perform better than PZN interfaces independently of the presence or absence of an overview.

H2: For RSN, the presence of an overview does not result in better performance.

H3: For PZN, the presence of an overview results in better performance.

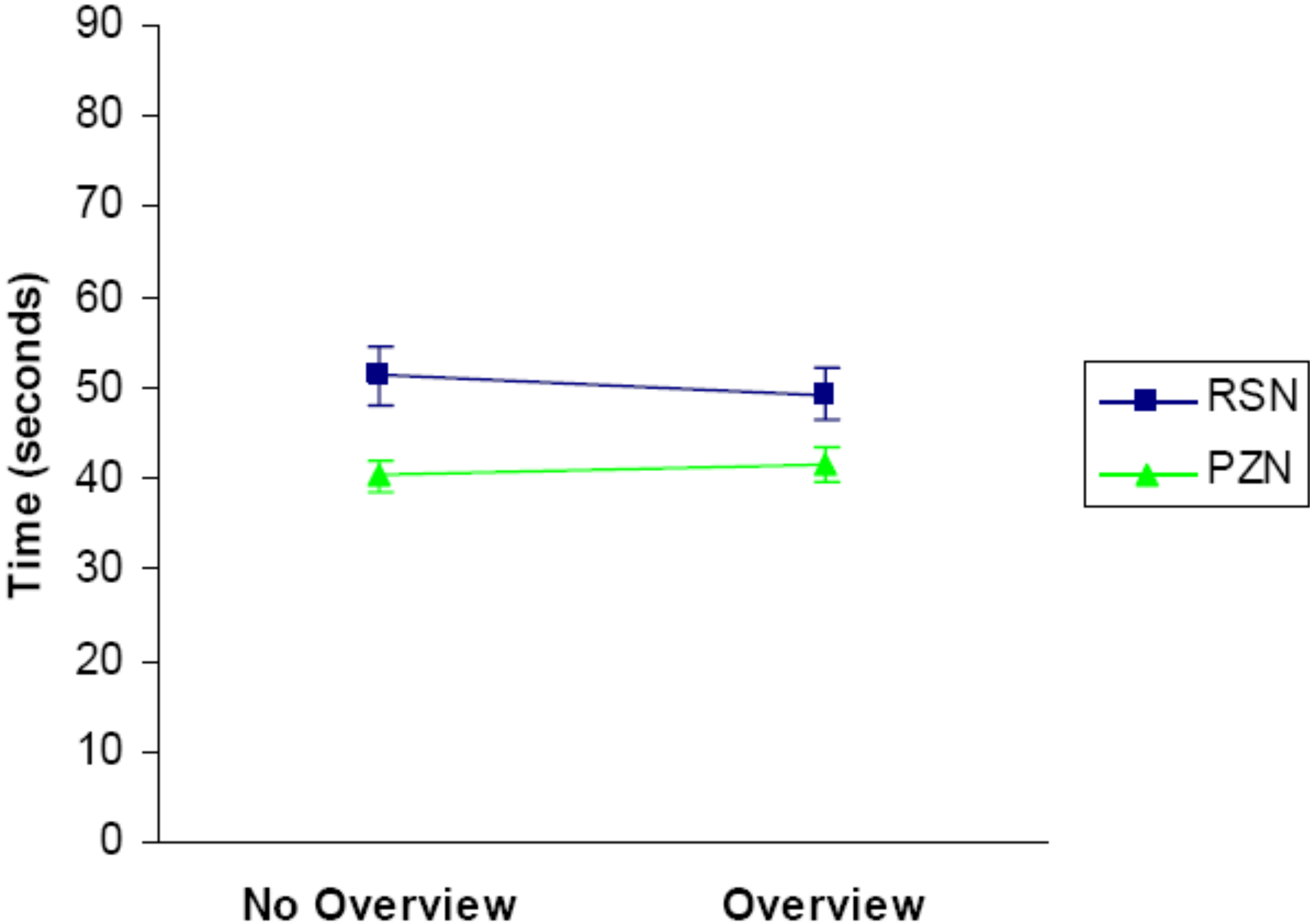
# Results: H1 False



**Figure 7: Mean completion times per trial for each interface by block in seconds (N=40).**



**Results: H2 True,  
H3 False**



**Figure 9: Block 7 mean per-trial completion times in seconds by navigation technique with and without an overview.**

# Results

R1. Pan & Zoom had lower completion times, navigation actions, resets, and reported mental demand.

R2. Overview has no significant impact on rubber sheet navigation, though it was reported to reduce physical demand.

R3. Overview has no significant impact on pan & zoom navigation, though it was reported to reduce physical demand.

# Today

Evaluating Trees

**Evaluating Spatial Navigation**

Data Density of Time Series

Conclusion

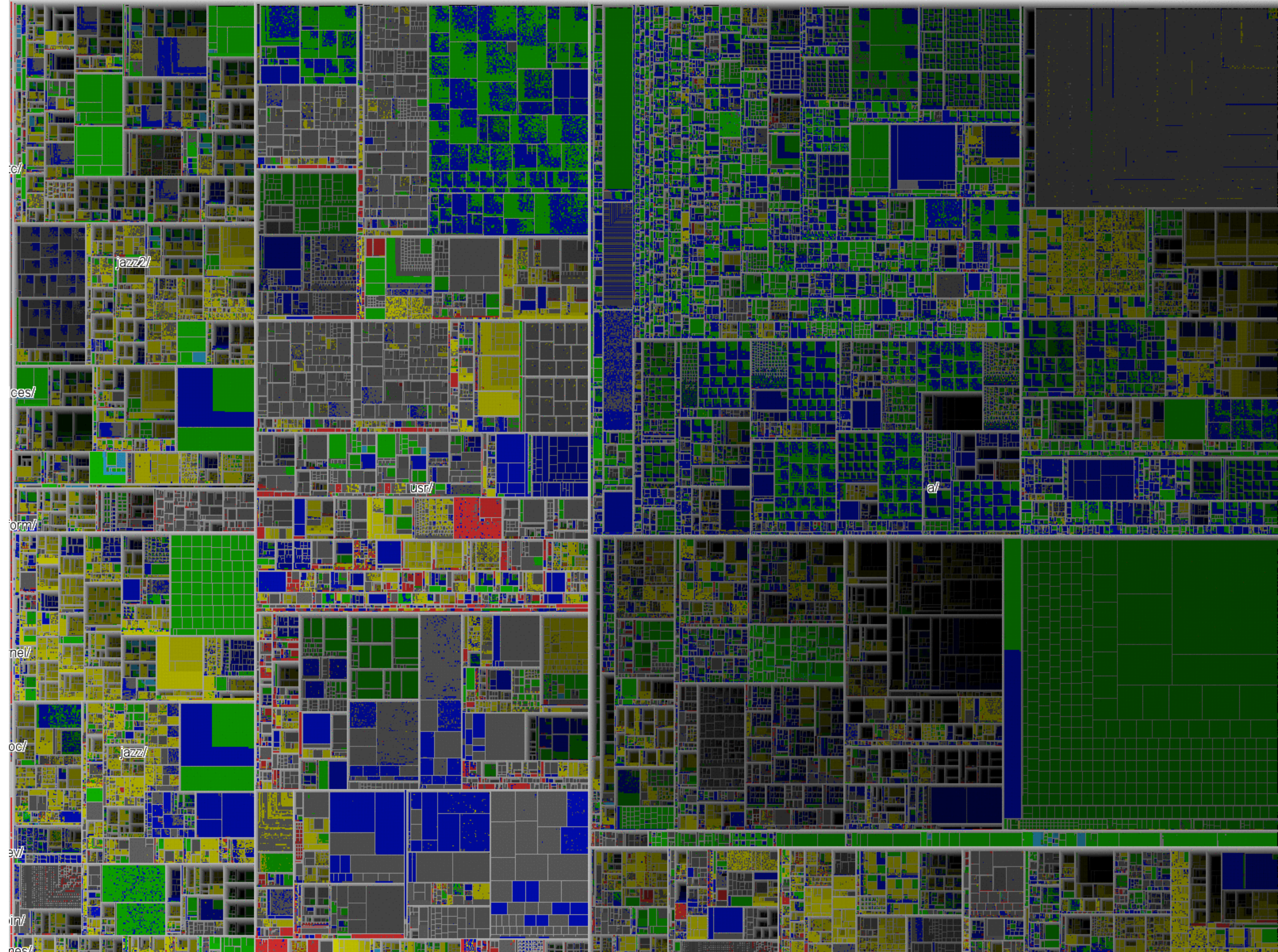
# Today

Evaluating Trees

Evaluating Spatial Navigation

**Data Density of Time Series**

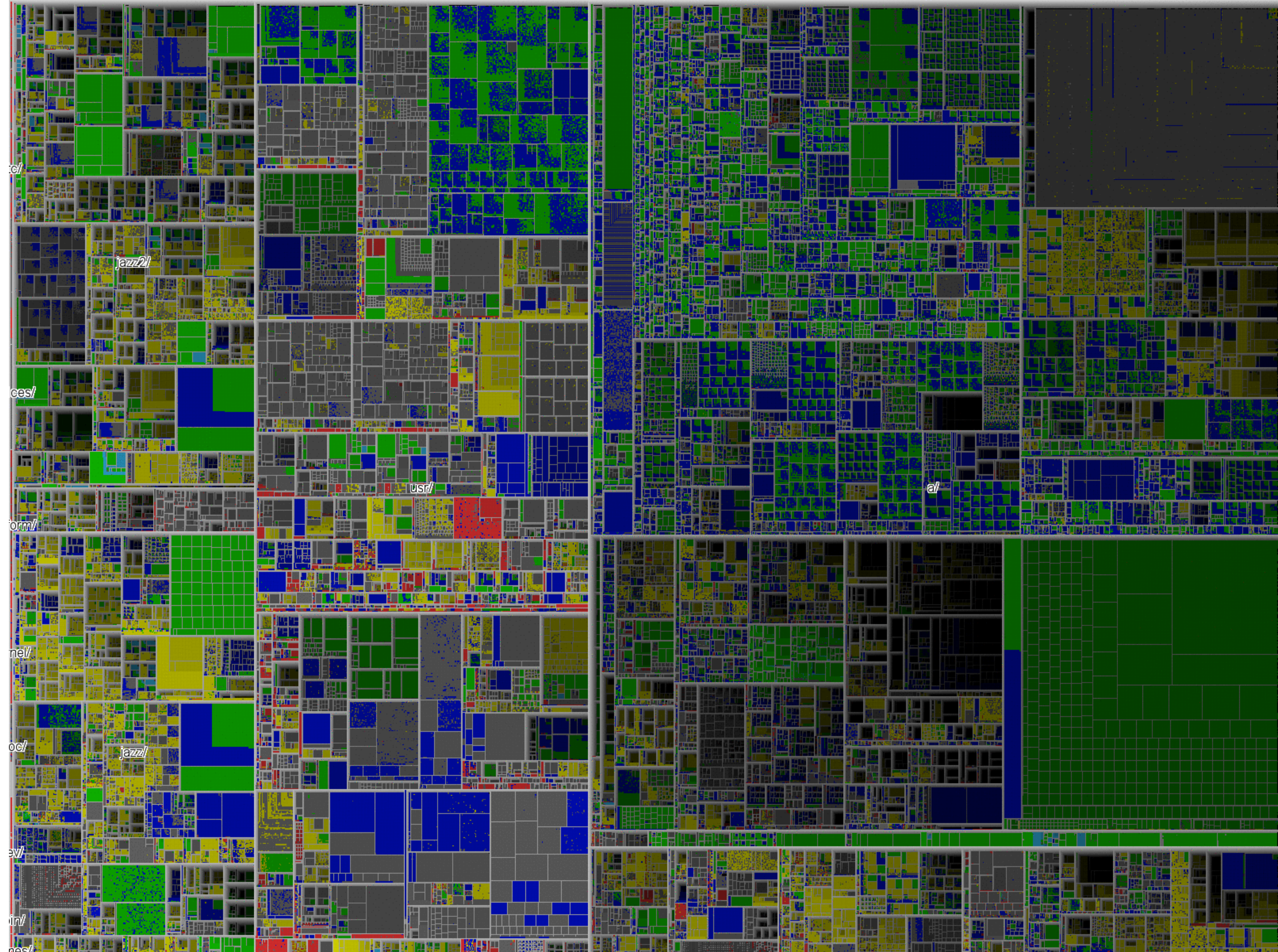
Conclusion

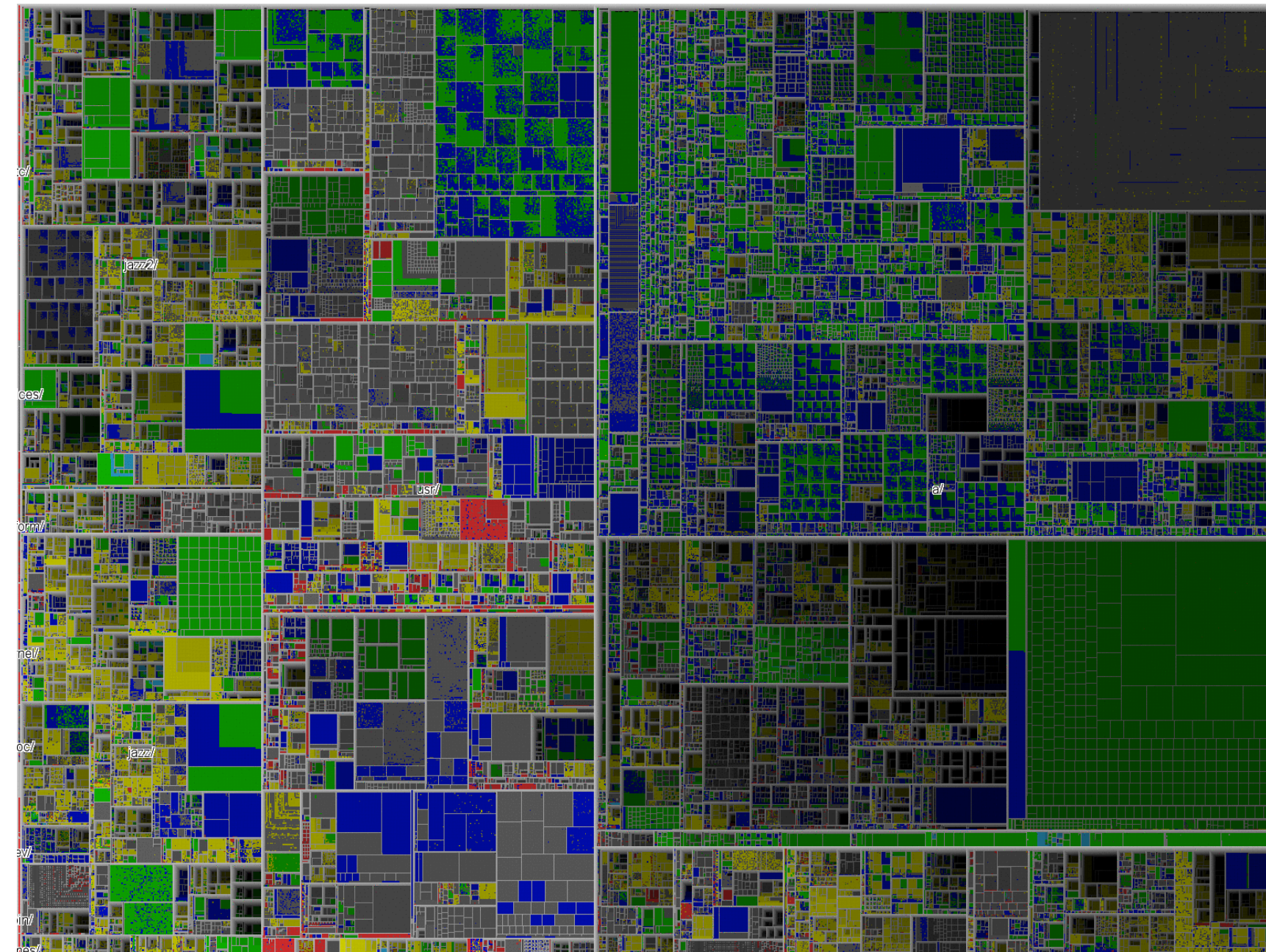


$$\text{Data Density} = \frac{(\# \text{ entries in data})}{(\text{area of graphic})}$$

"Graphical excellence... gives to the viewer the greatest number of ideas in the shortest time with the least ink in the smallest space"

[Tufte 83]



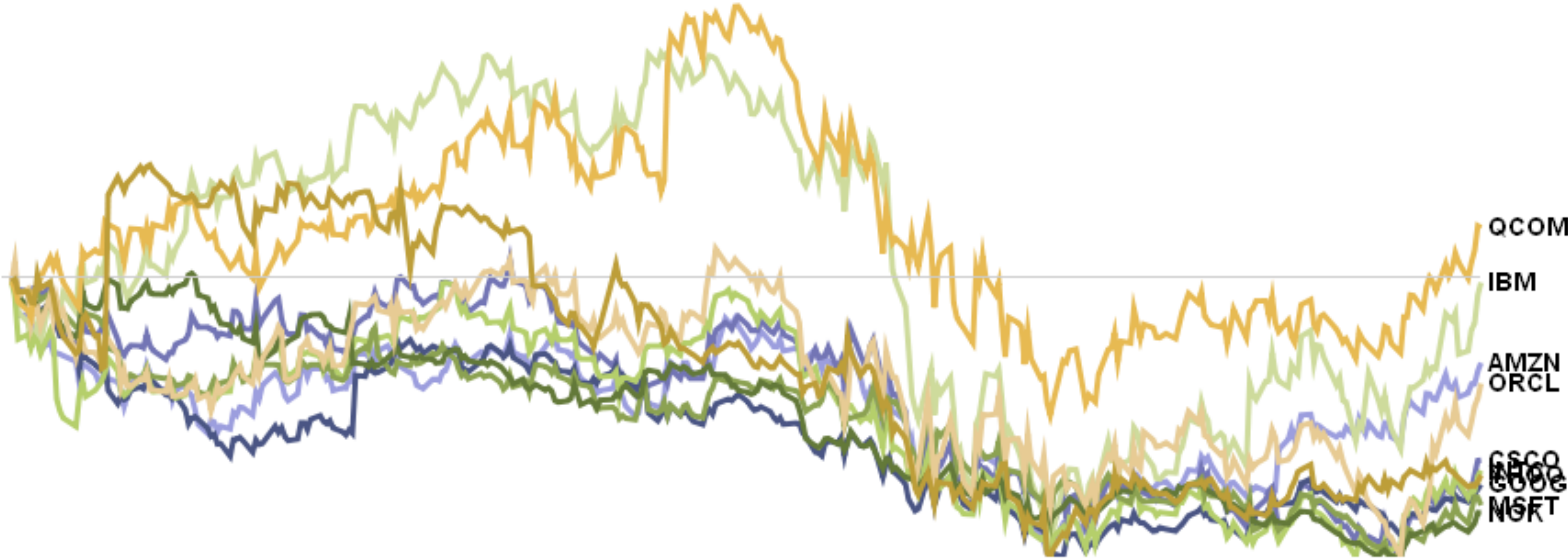




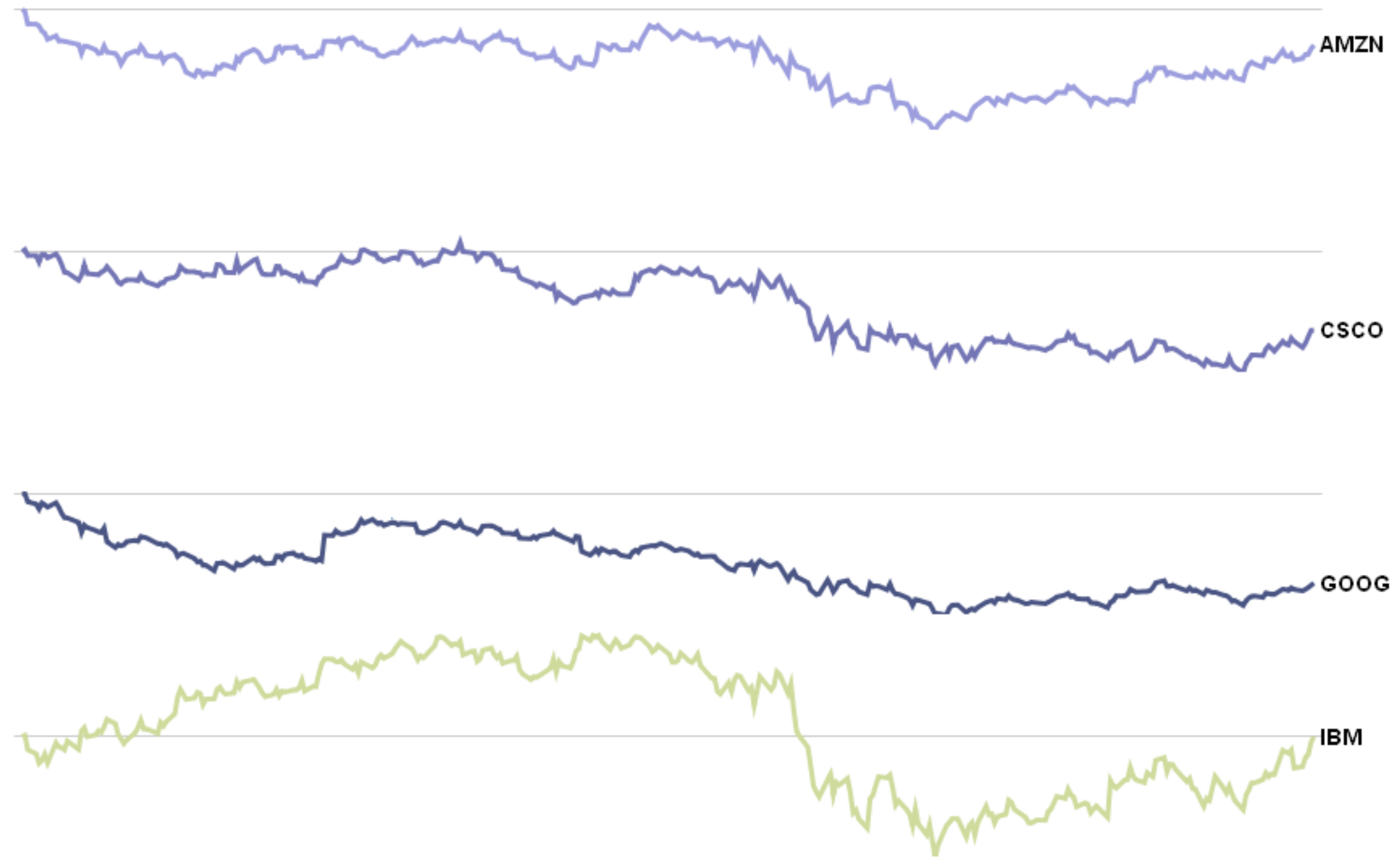
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



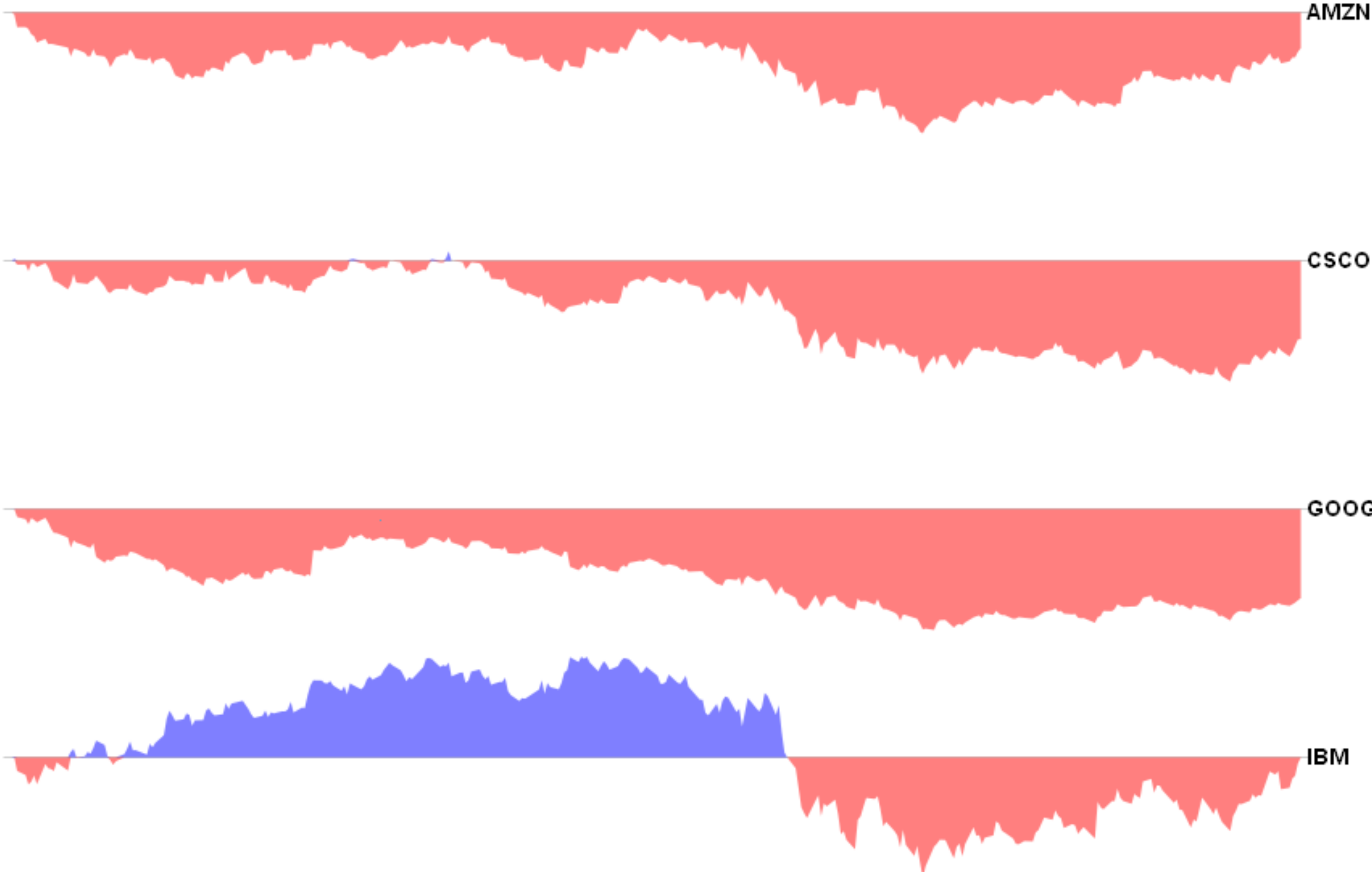
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



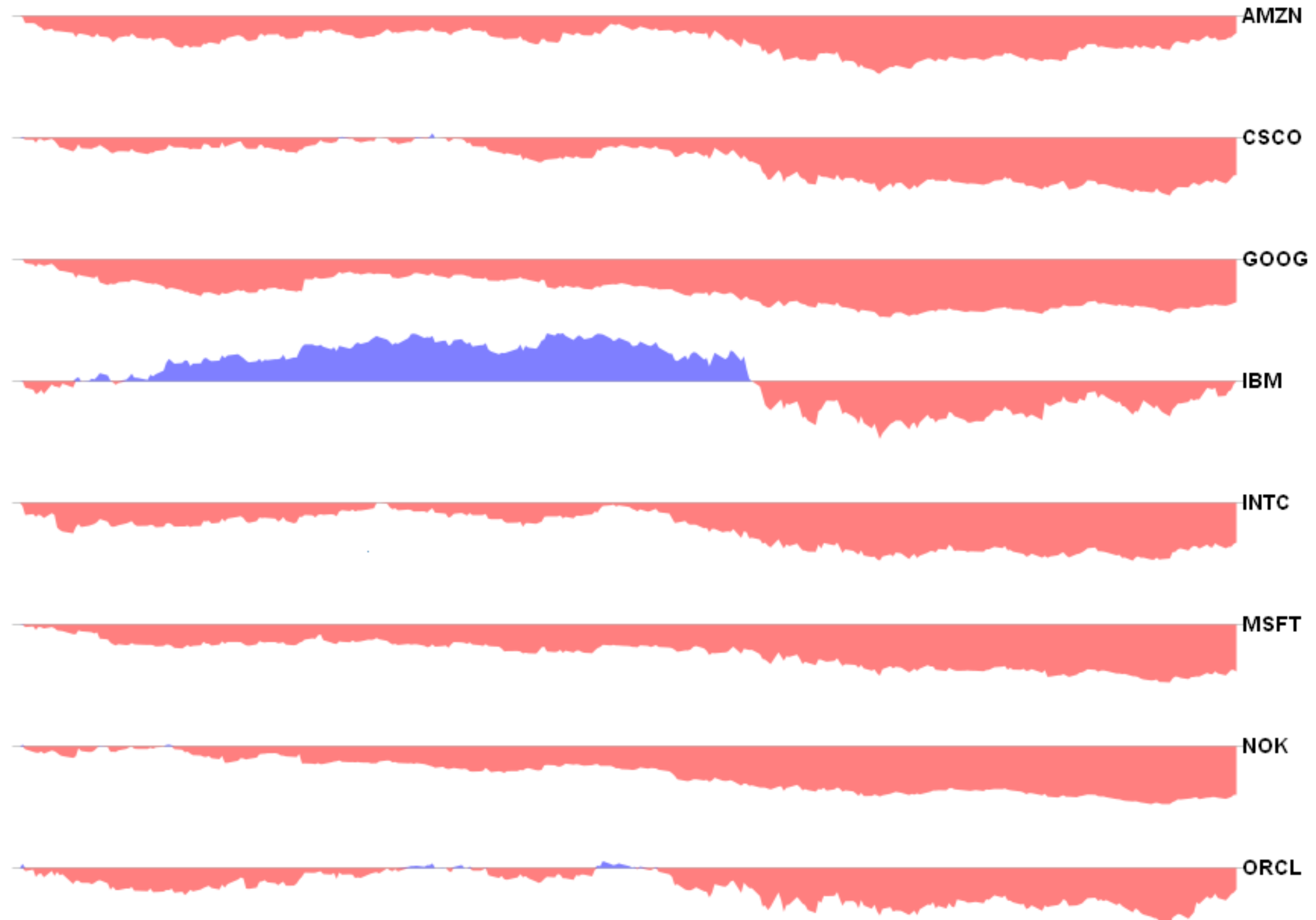
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



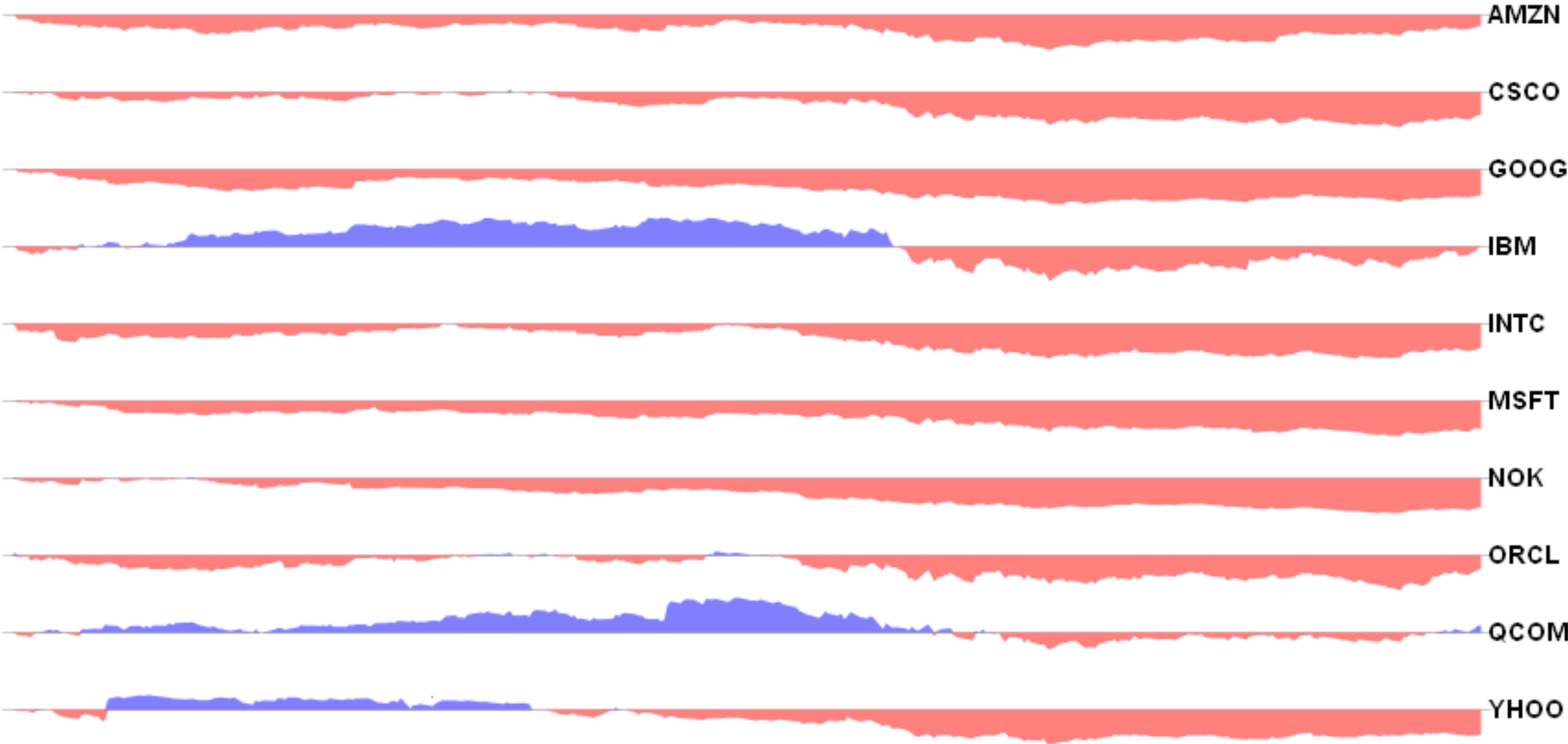
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



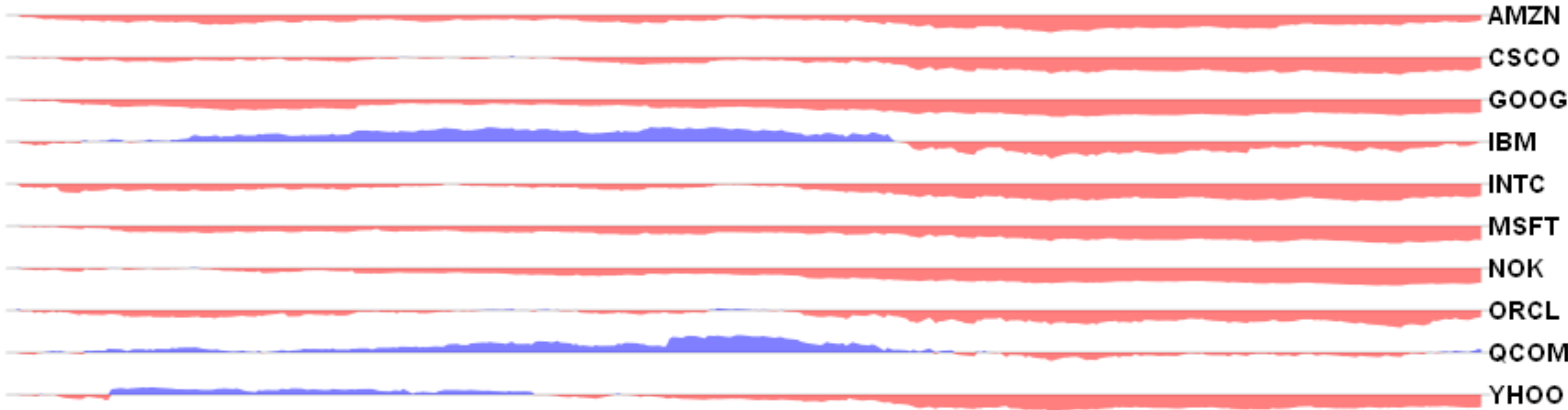
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



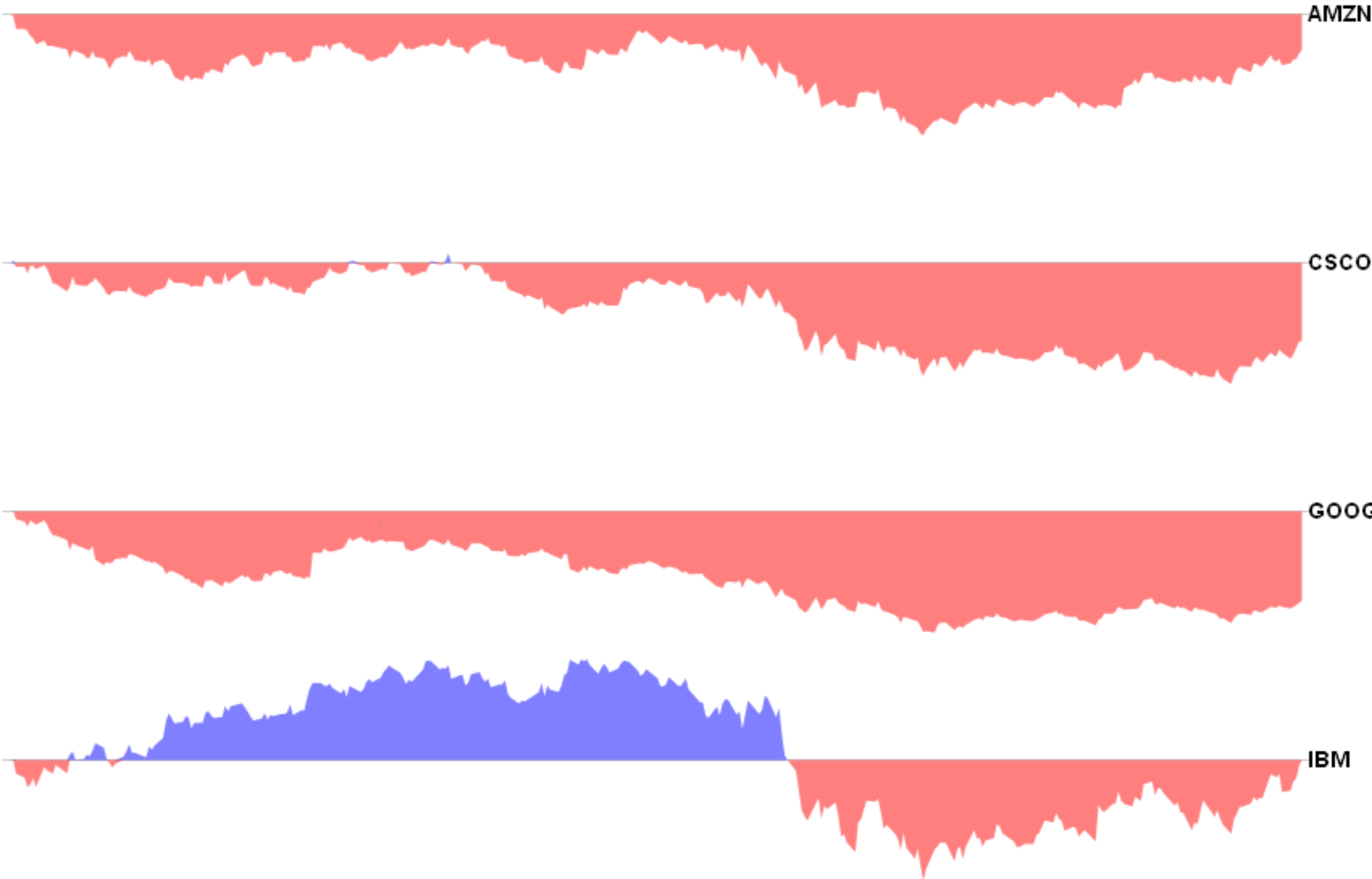
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present

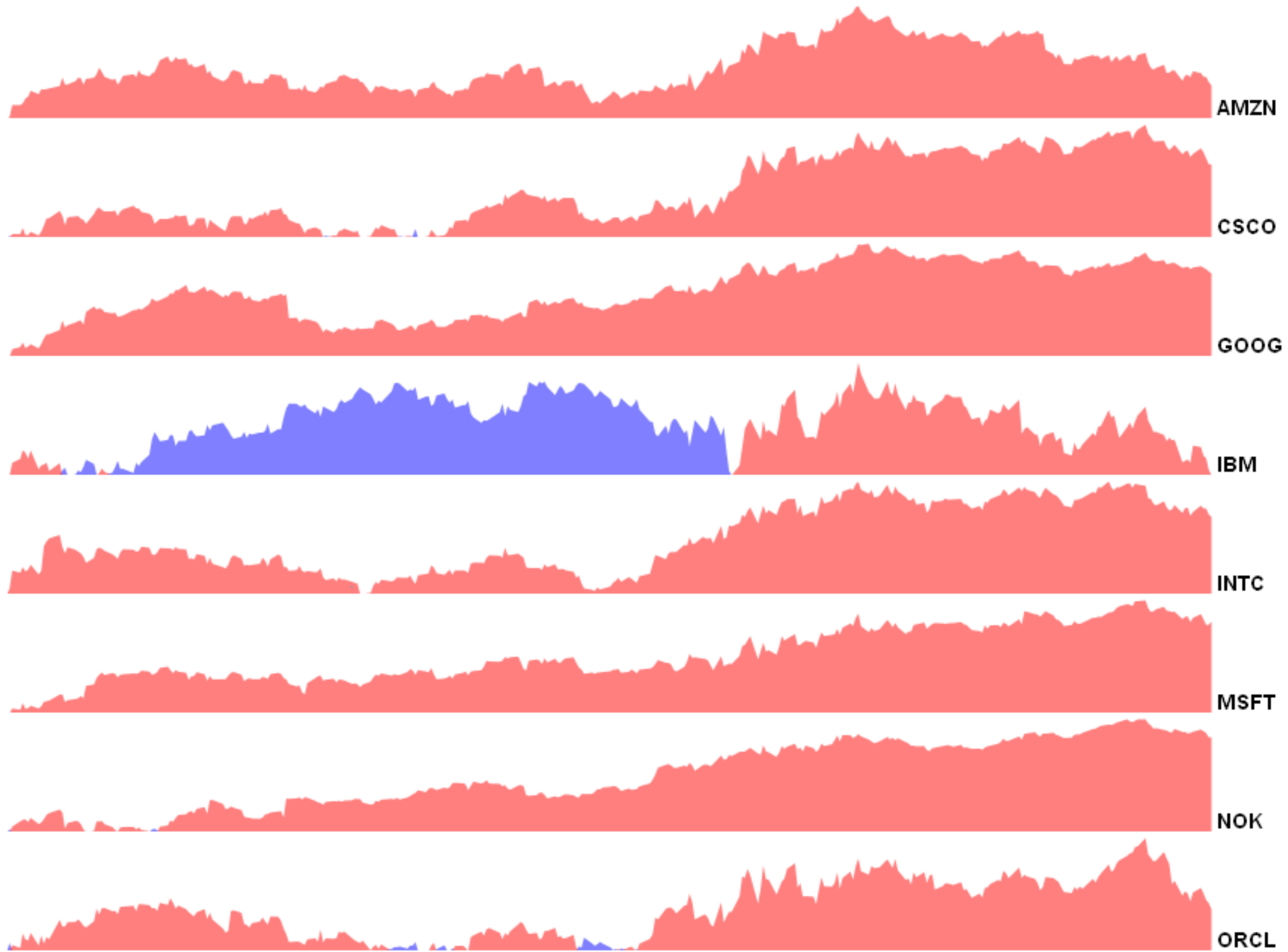


# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present

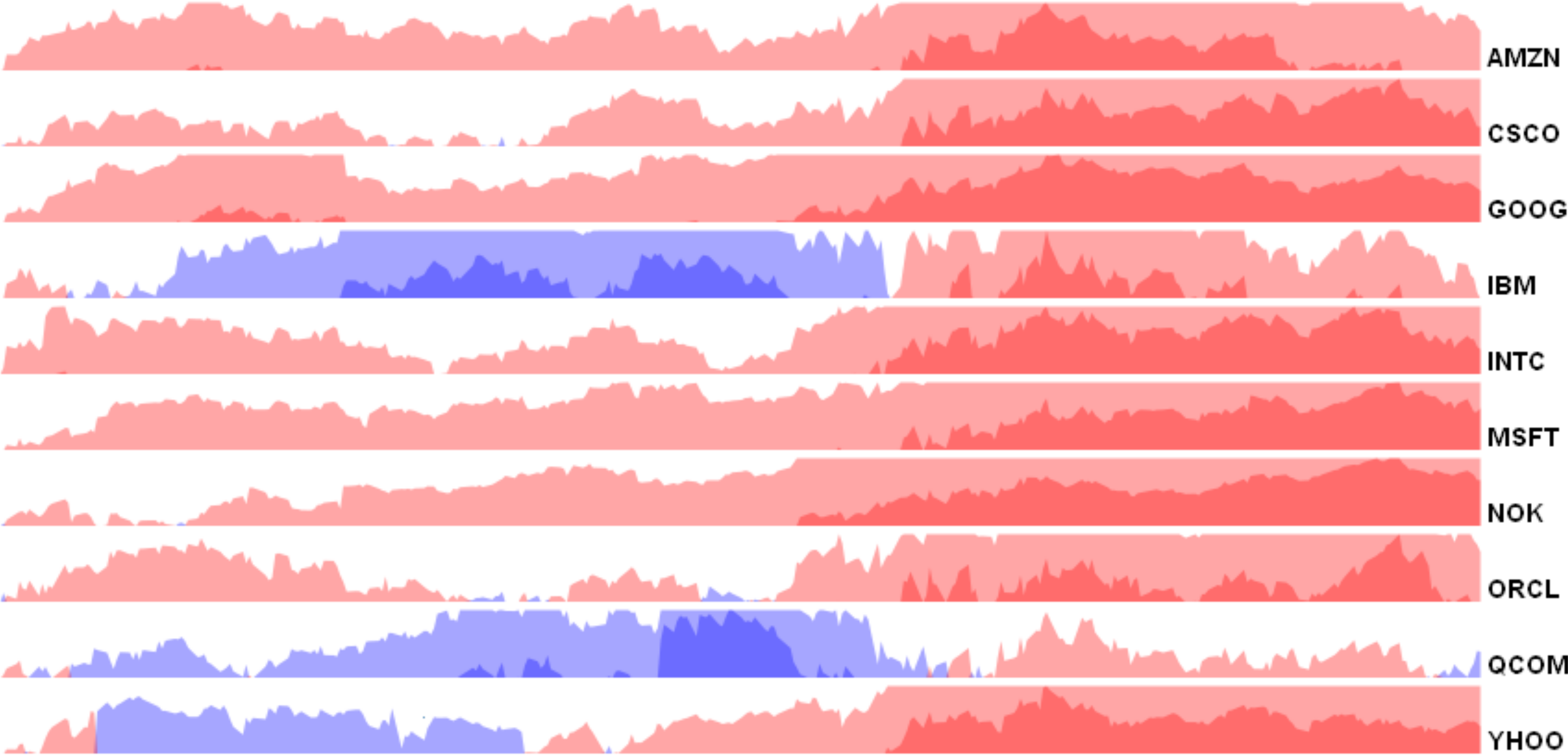




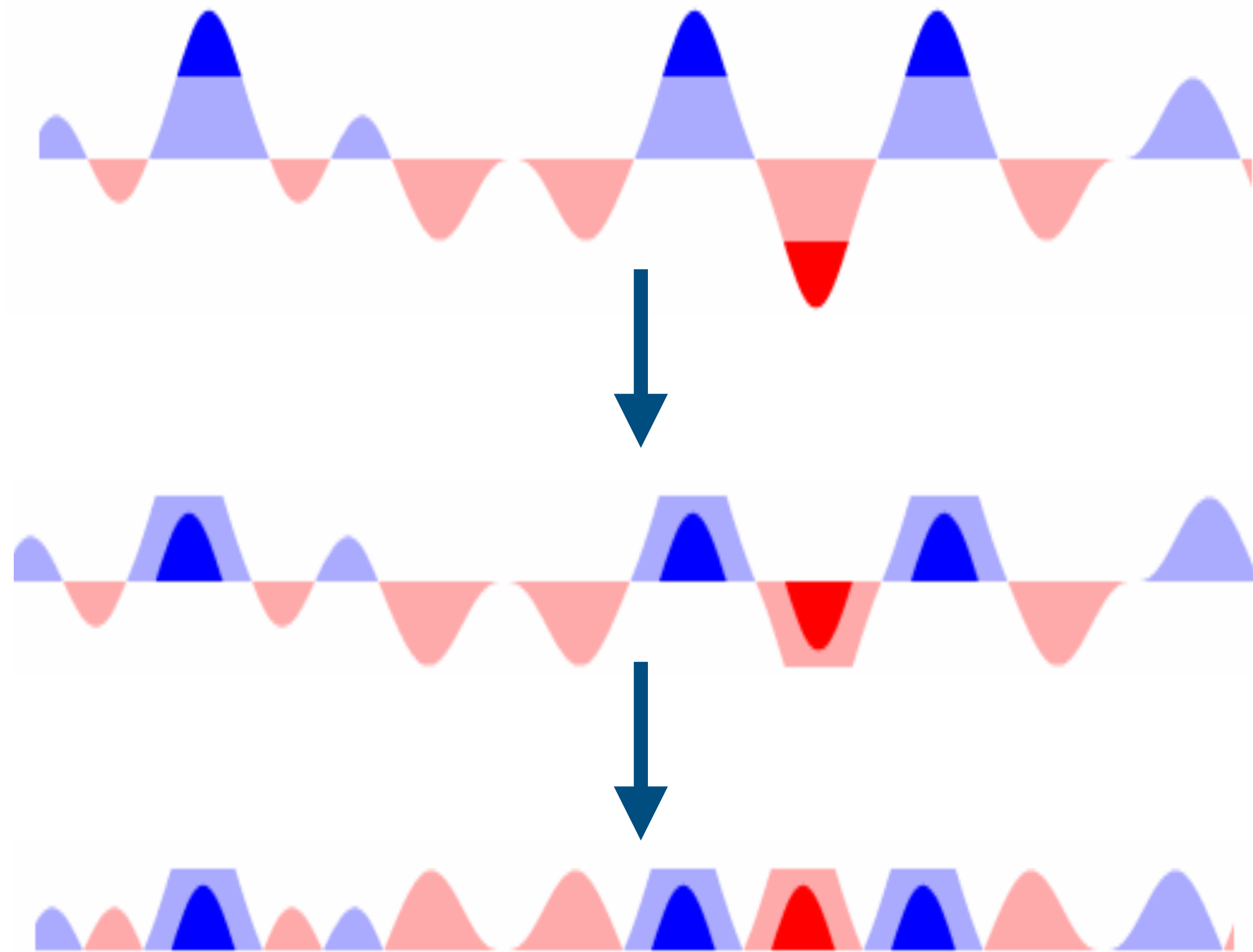
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



# Horizon graphs

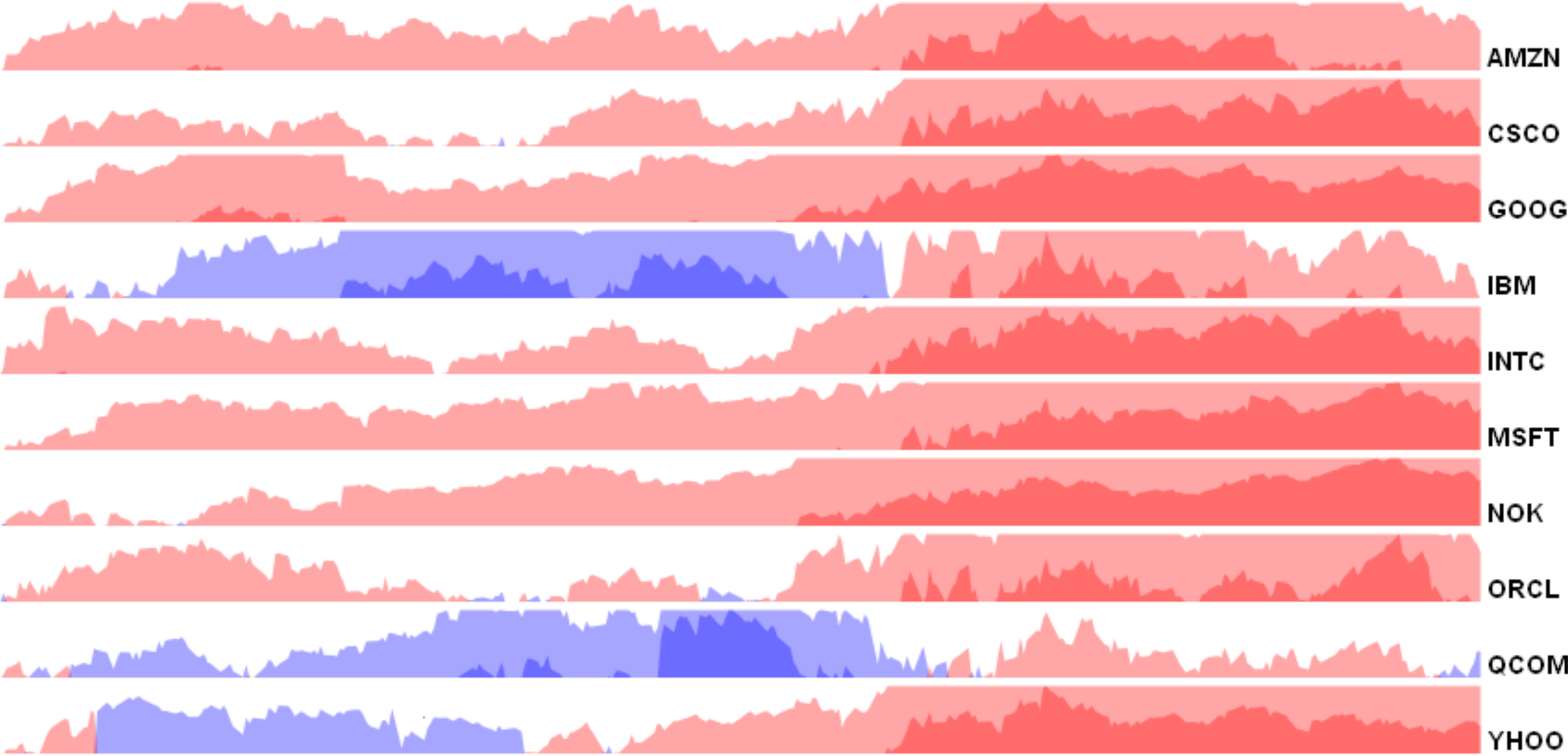


Segment Peaks

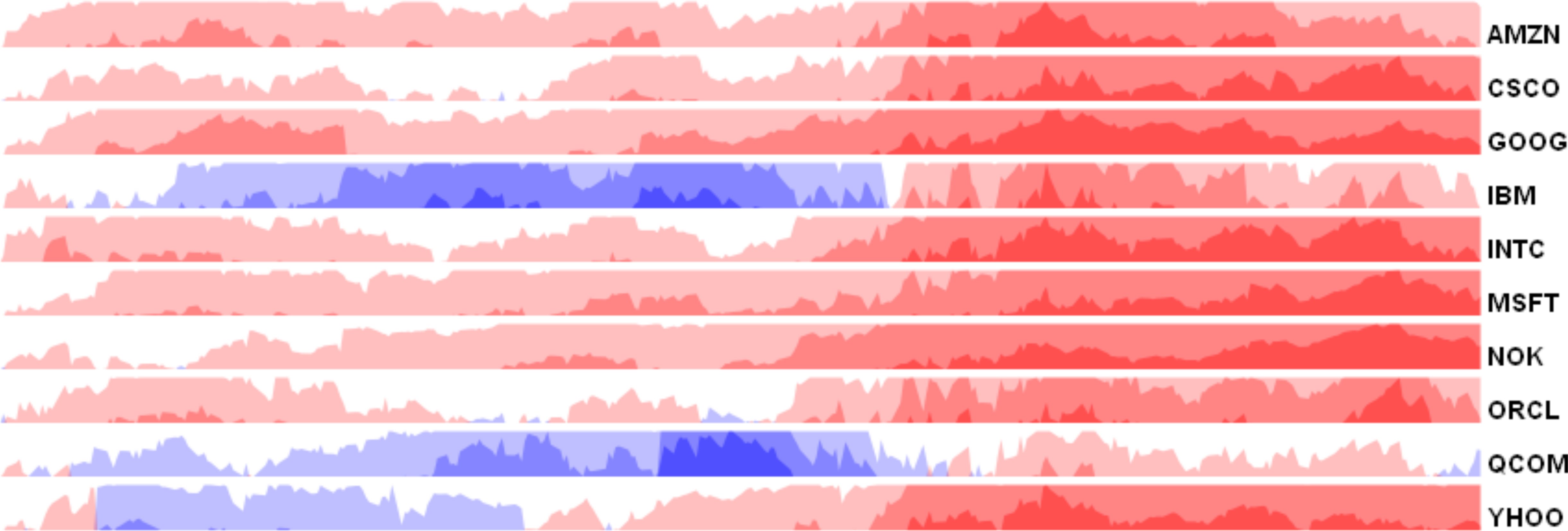
Layer segments

Mirror negative values

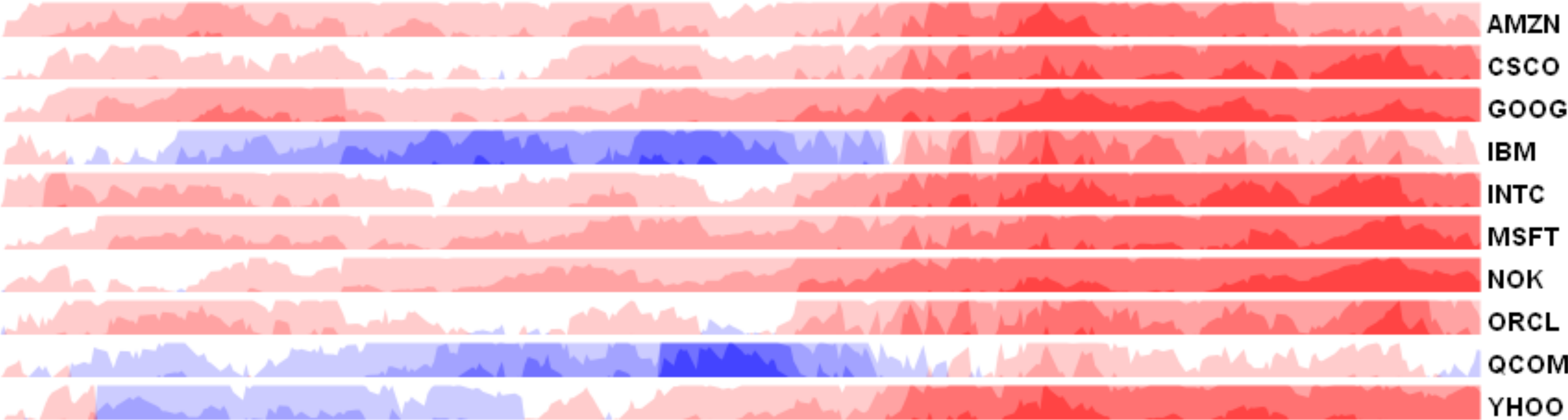
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



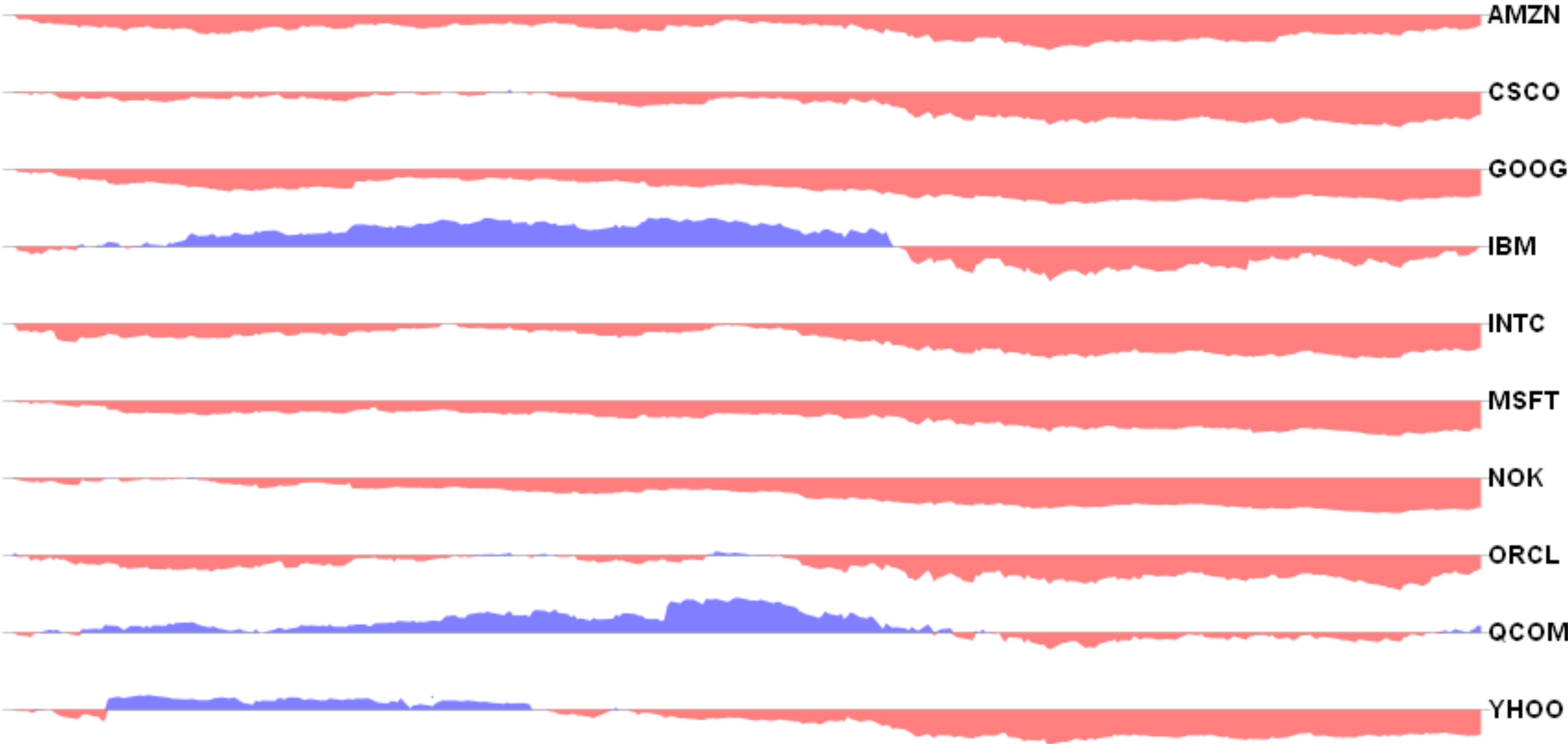
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



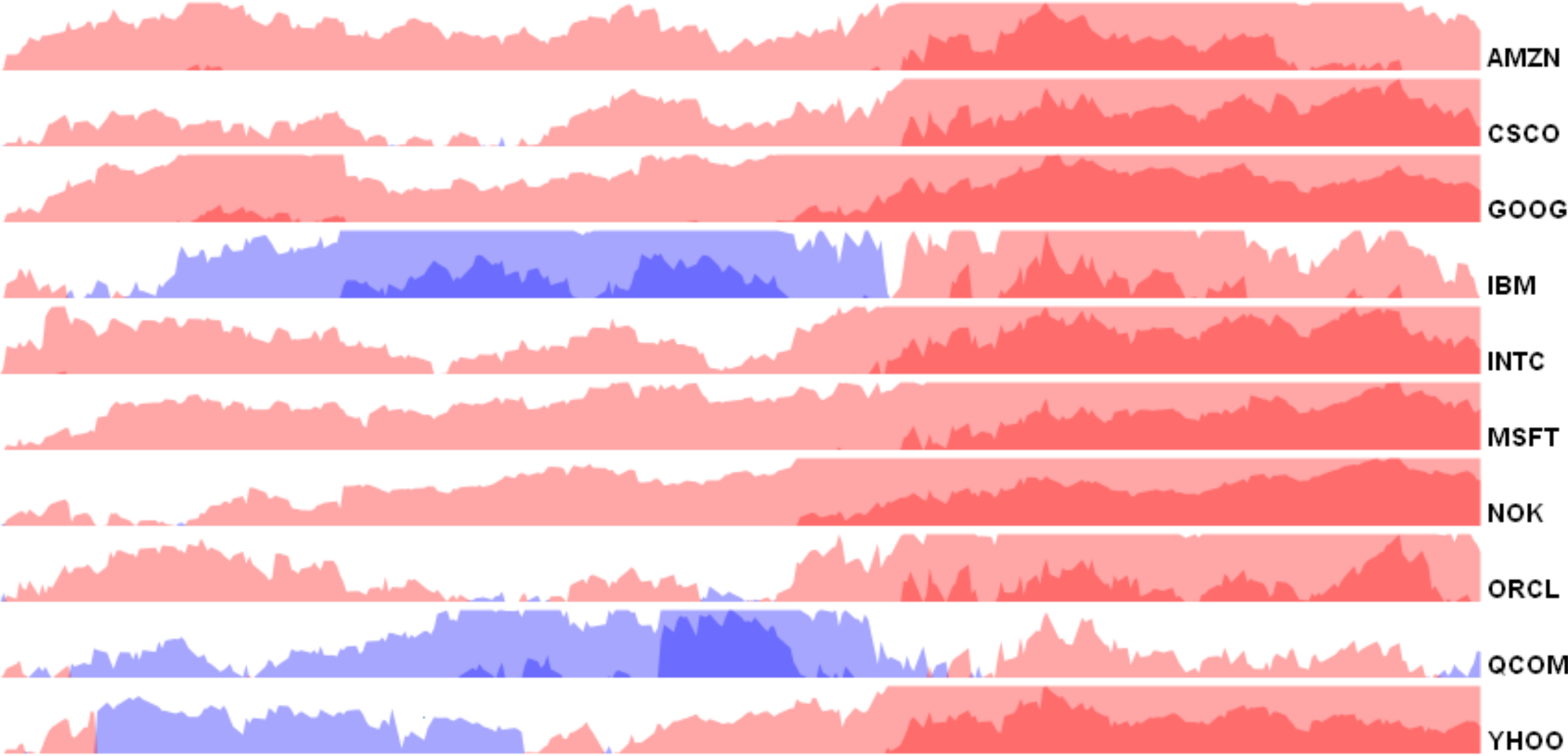
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



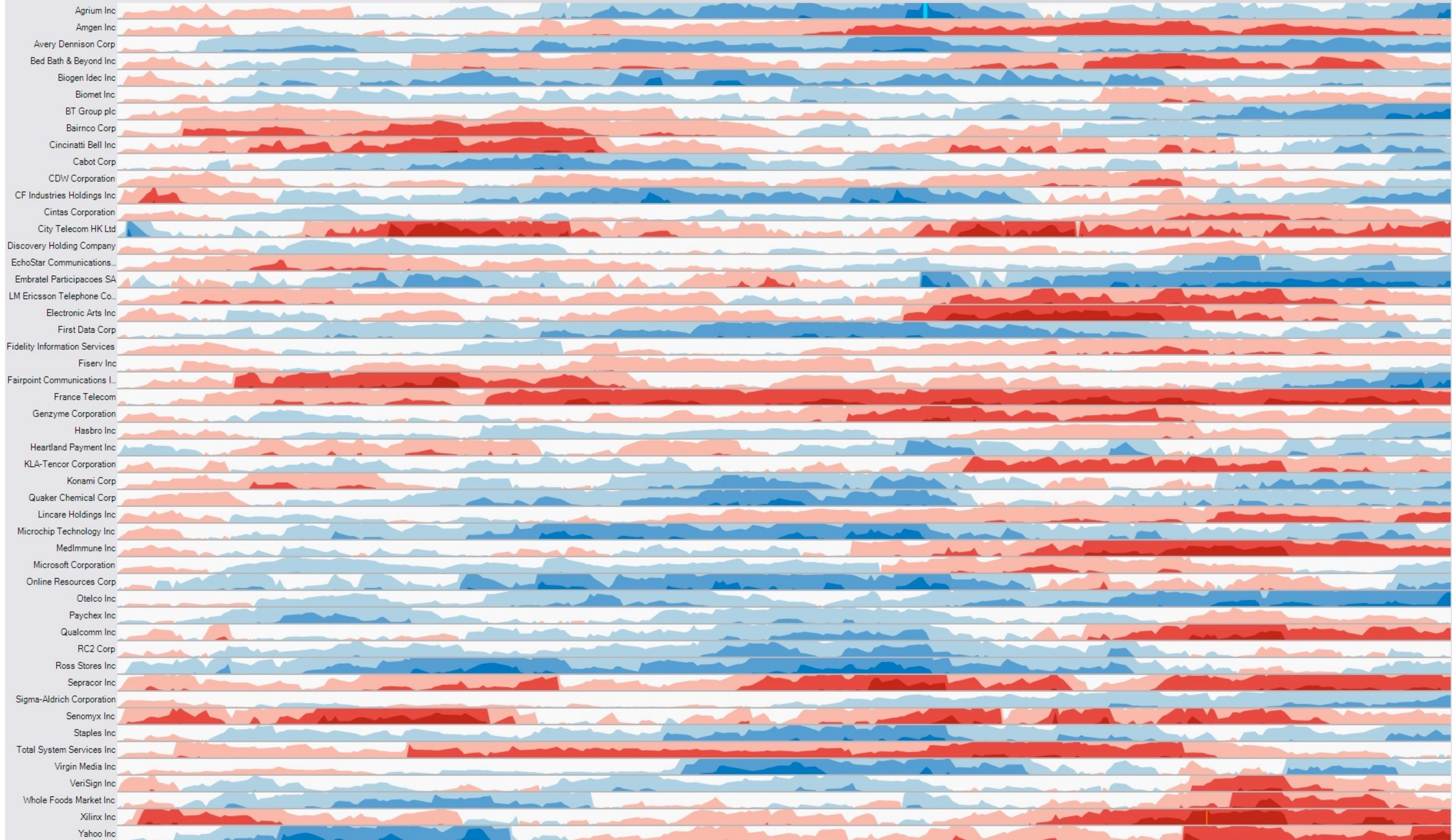
# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present



# Relative Technology Stock Performance: Jan 2008 - Present







10/03/2005

09/29/2006



What are some possible strengths / weaknesses of horizon graphs?

Join at  
**slido.com**  
**#5829**



# Experiment: Chart Type & Size

**Q1:** How do mirroring and layering affect estimation time and accuracy compared to line charts?

**Q2:** How does chart size affect estimation time and accuracy?

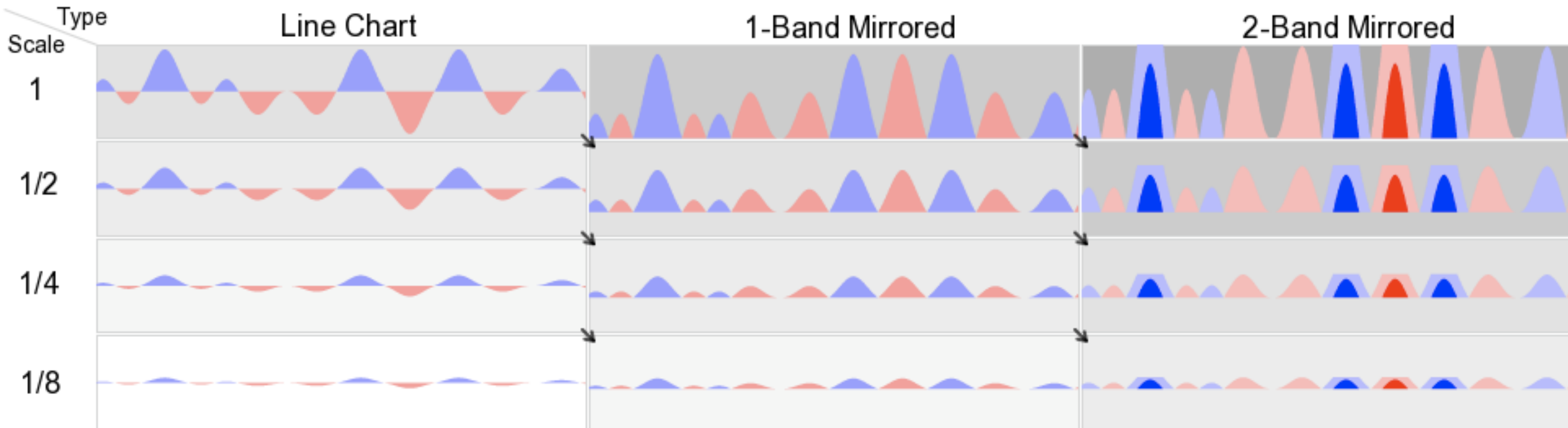
**T**



**B**

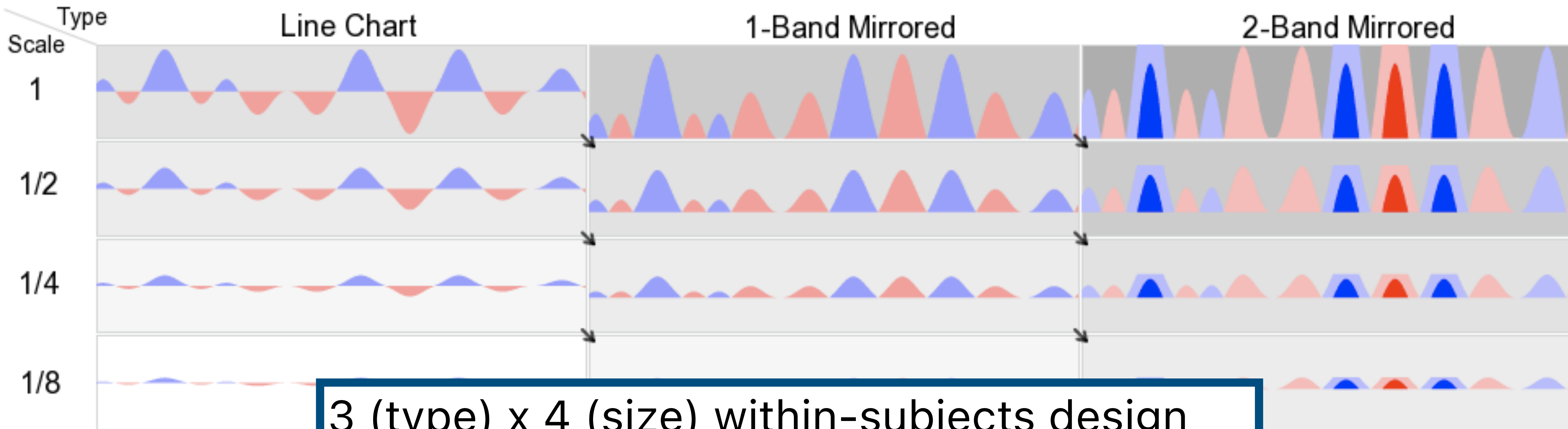
Estimate the difference between T and B (0-200) to within 5 values.

# Experiment Design



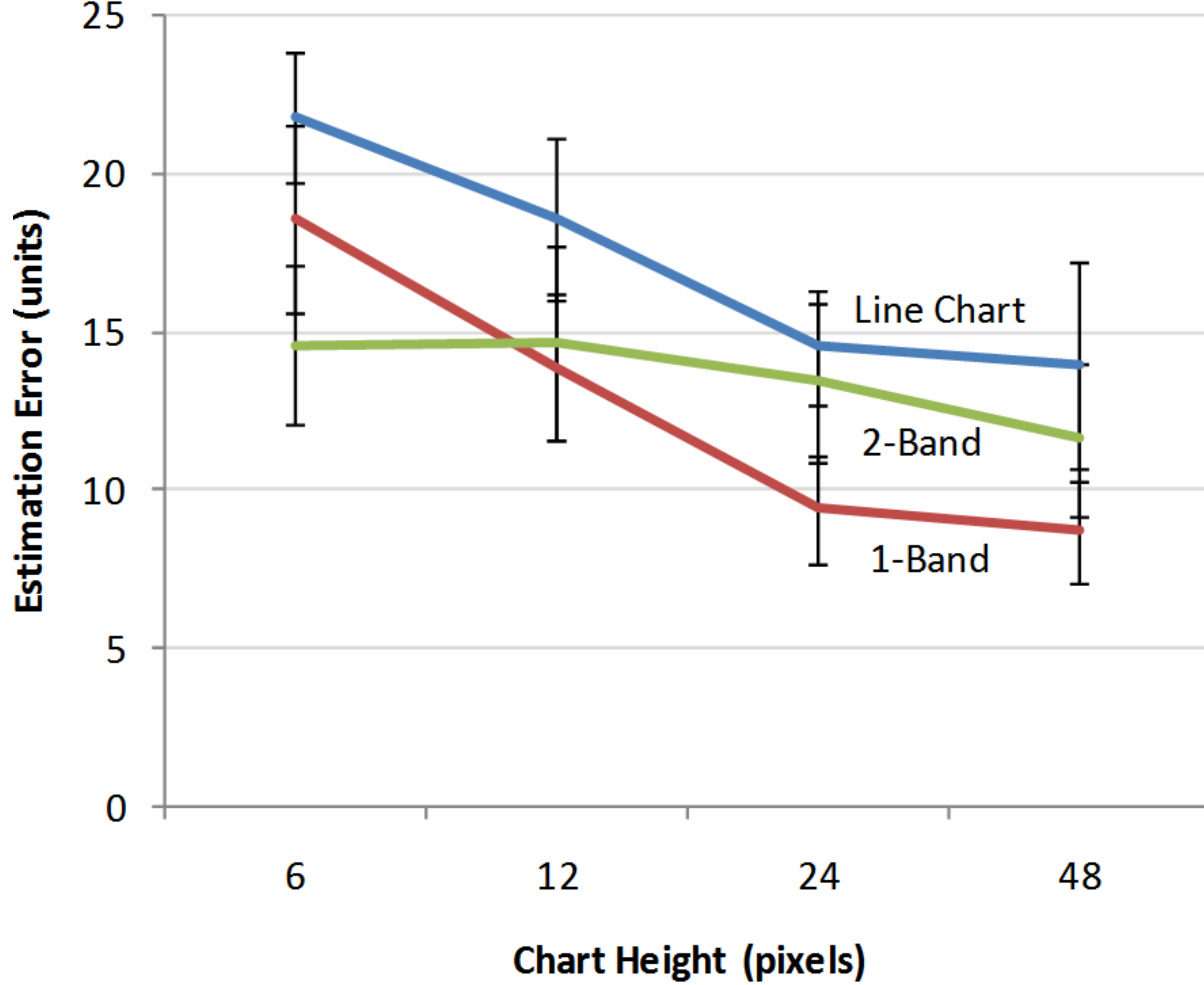
3 (chart type) x 4 (size) within-subjects design  
N = 30 (17 male, 13 female), undergrads  
14.1 inch LCD display, 1024 x 768 resolution  
At scale = 1, chart is 13.9 x 1.35 cm (48 px)

# Experiment Design



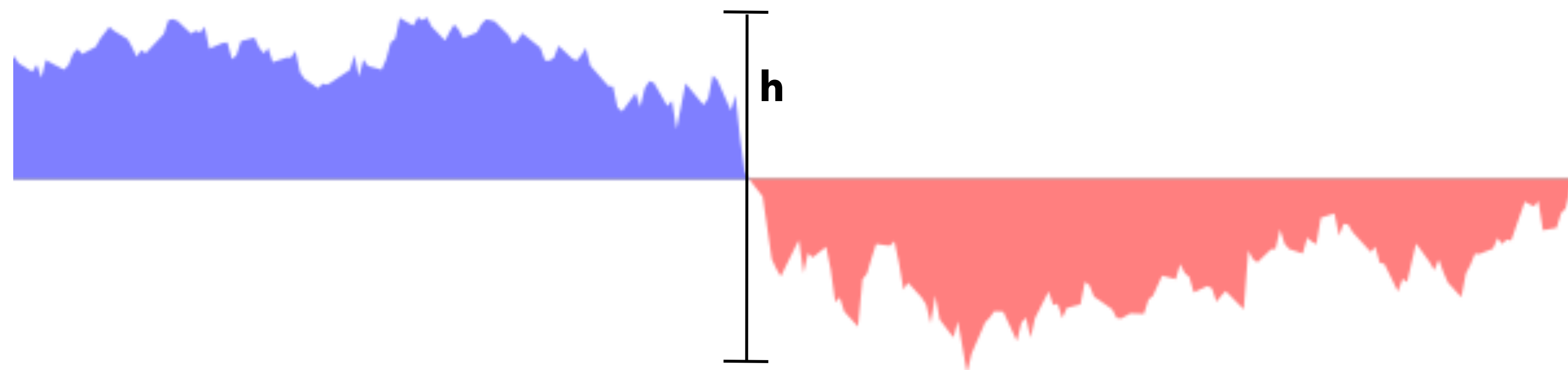
3 (type) x 4 (size) within-subjects design  
N = 30 (17 male, 13 female), undergrads

2 (type) x 3 (size: 1/8, 1/12, 1/24) follow-up  
N = 8 (6 male, 2 female), engineering grads

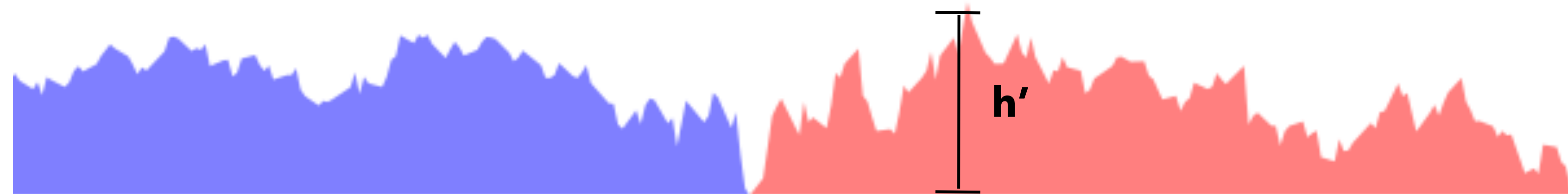


# Virtual Resolution (VR)

The un-mirrored, un-layered height of a chart



$$VR = h$$

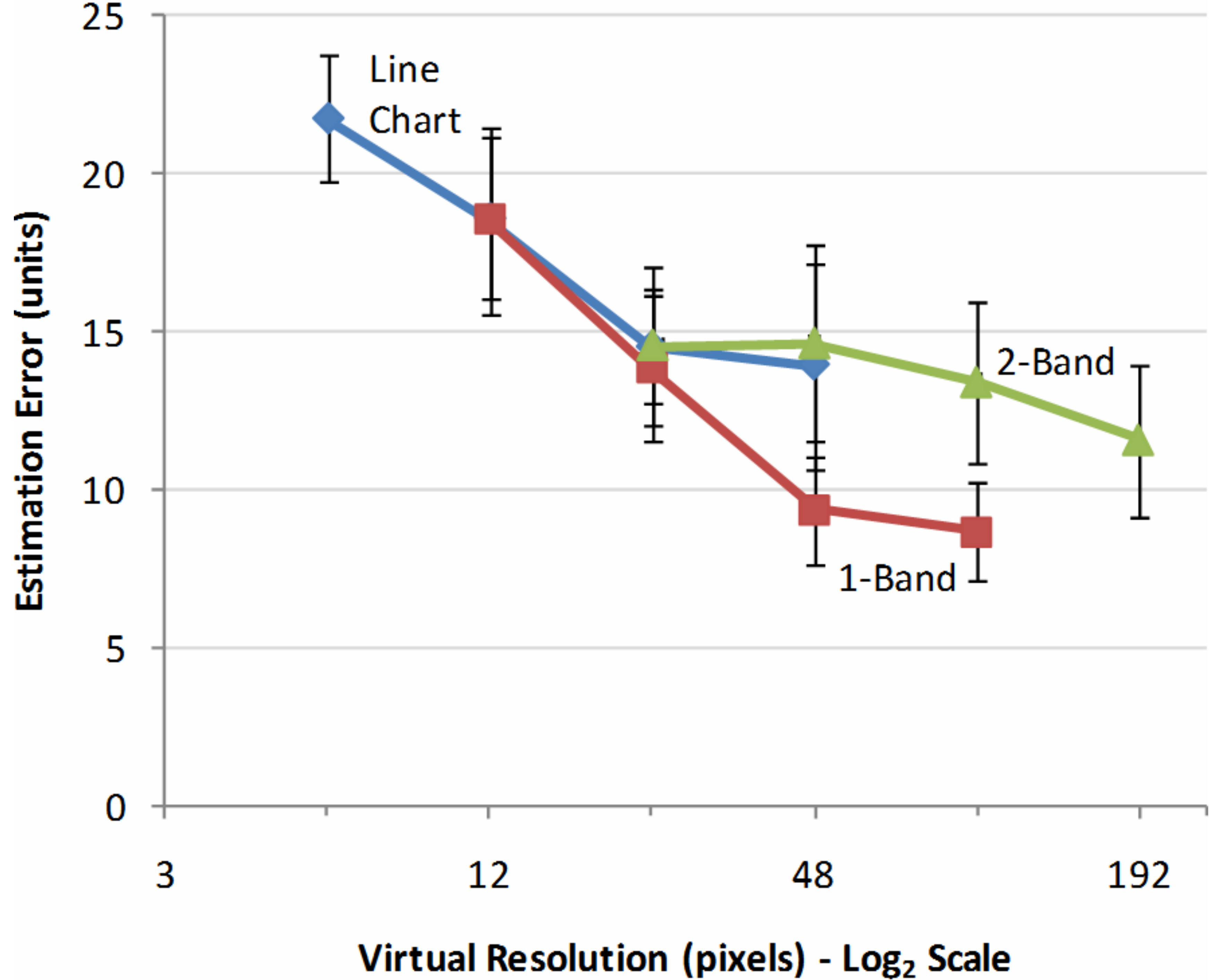


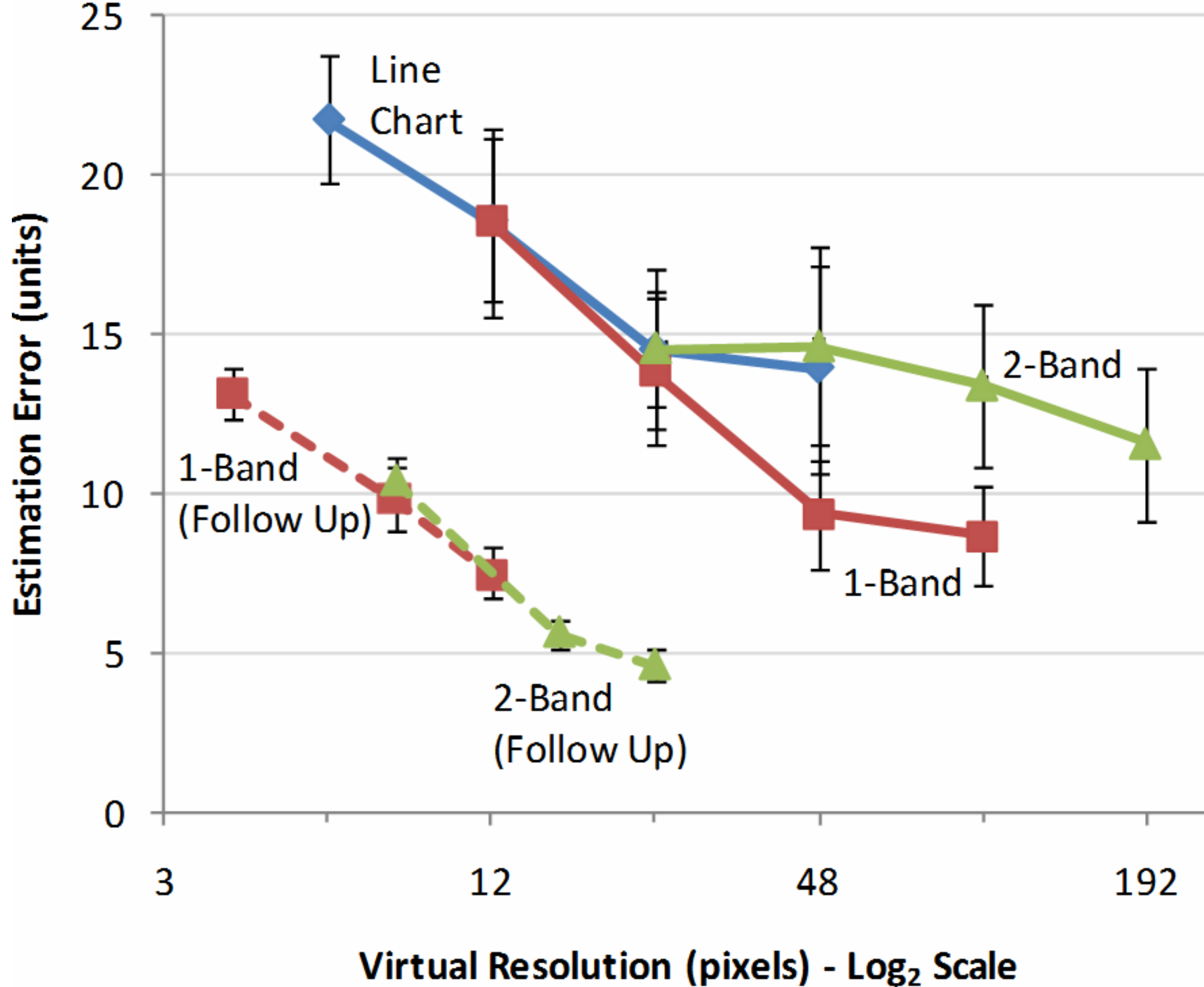
$$VR = 2h' = h$$

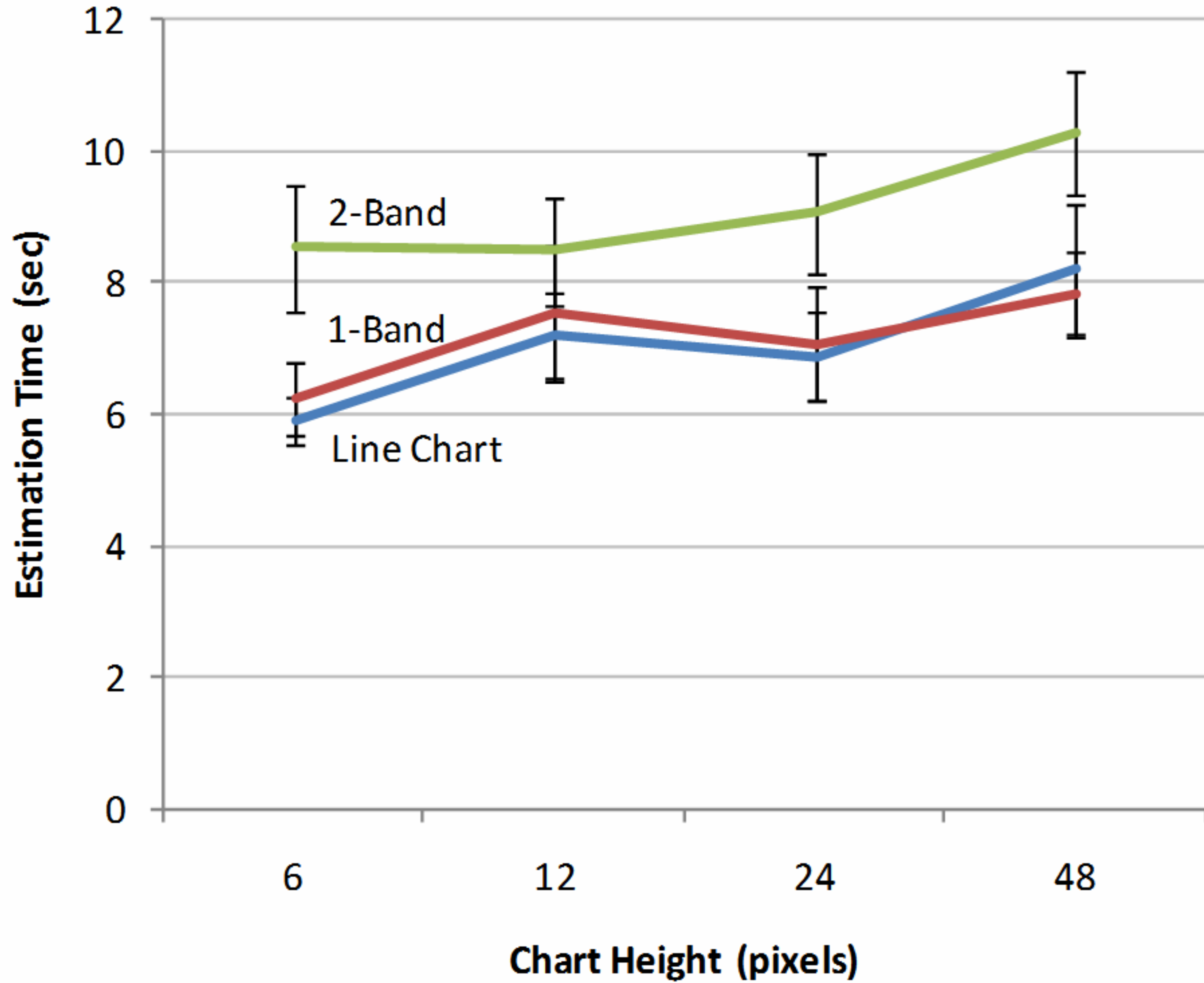


$$VR = 4h'' = h$$









# Results

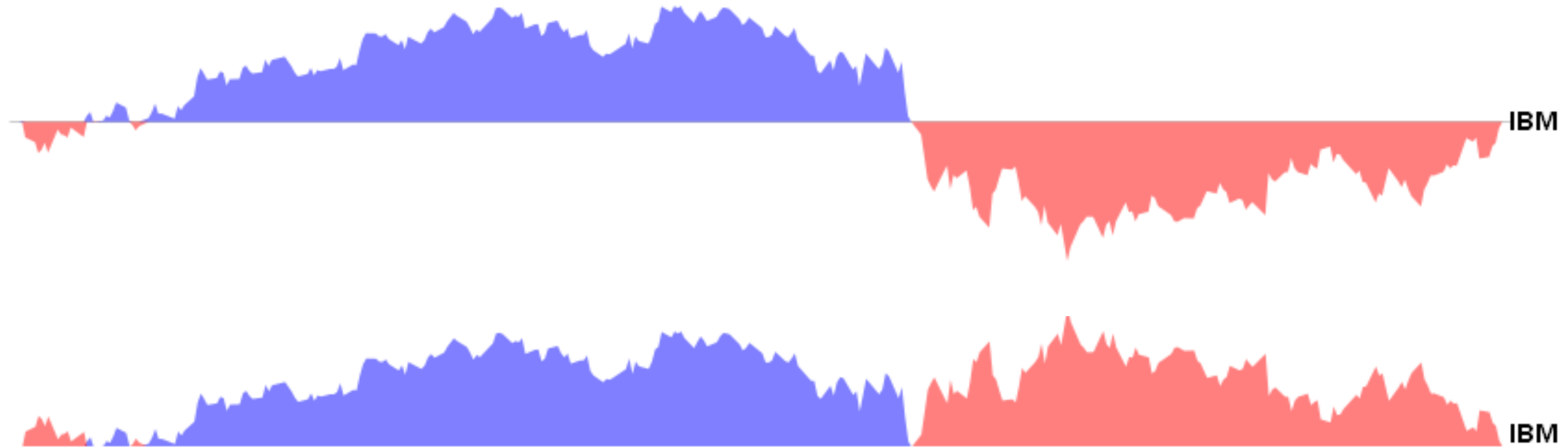
**Q1:** 2-band horizon graph (but not mirrored graph) has higher baseline estimation time and error.

**Q2:** Estimation error increases as the *virtual resolution* decreases.

Estimation time decreases as the *physical height* decreases.

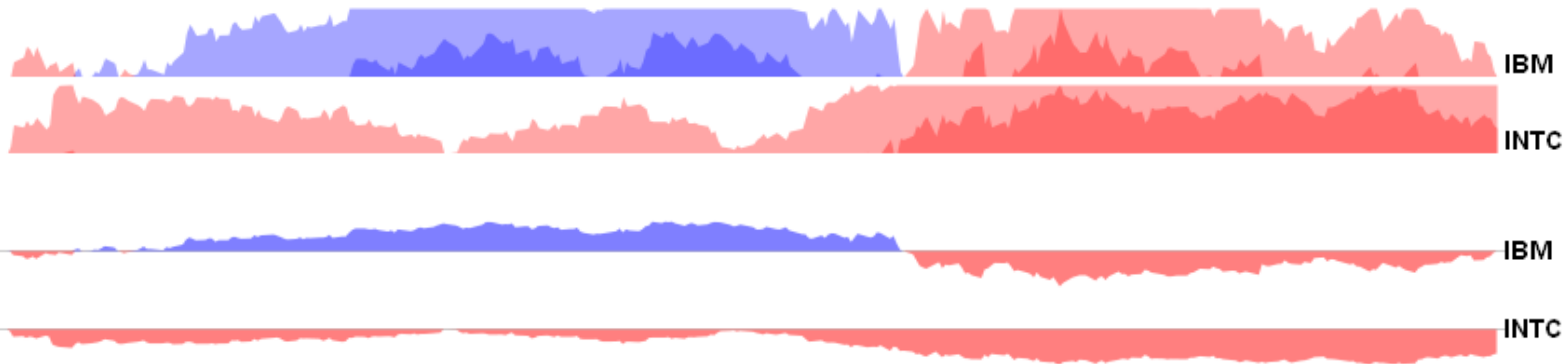
# Design Guidelines

Mirroring does not hamper perception



# Design Guidelines

Mirroring does not hamper perception  
Layered bands beneficial for smaller charts



# Design Guidelines

Mirroring does not hamper perception  
Layered bands beneficial for smaller charts  
Optimal chart sizing

Sweet spots in time/error curves  
6.8mm (24 px) for line chart & mirrored chart  
3.4mm (12 px) for 2-band horizon graph

# Today

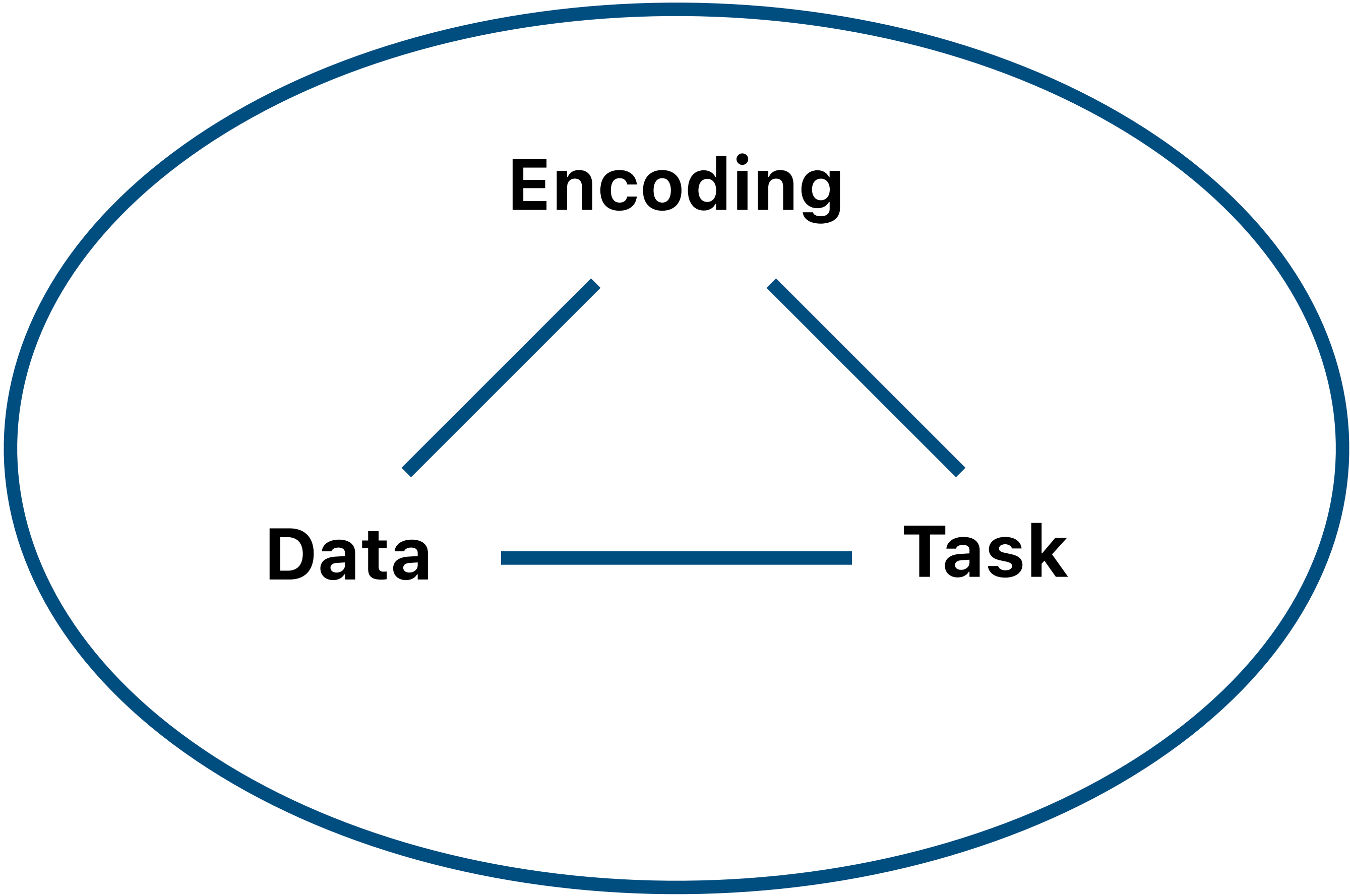
Evaluating Trees

Evaluating Spatial Navigation

**Data Density of Time Series**

Conclusion





**Users & Domain**

# Today

Evaluating Trees

Evaluating Spatial Navigation

Data Density of Time Series

**Conclusion**

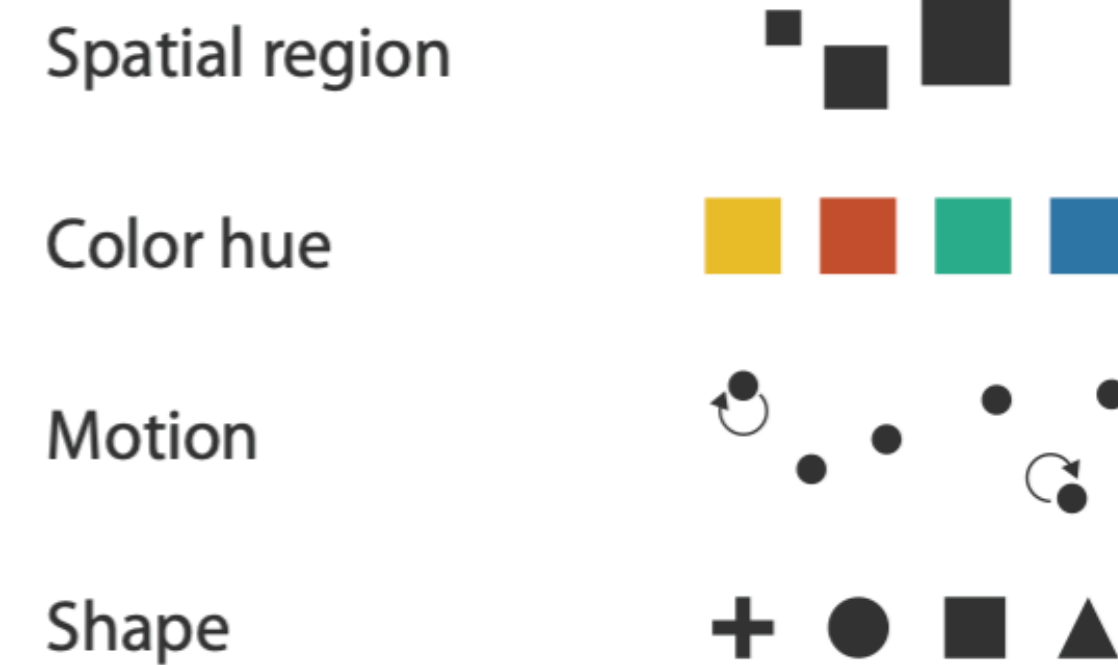
# Data and Image Models

## Channels: Expressiveness Types and Effectiveness Ranks

### ➔ Magnitude Channels: Ordered Attributes



### ➔ Identity Channels: Categorical Attributes



Tamara Munzner, *Visualization Analysis and Design* (2014).

# Visual Encoding and Dark Patterns

## Truncating the y-axis?

To emphasize Q-interval (vs. Q-ratio)  
If the zero value doesn't make much sense.  
If it is the norm (e.g., stock charts).

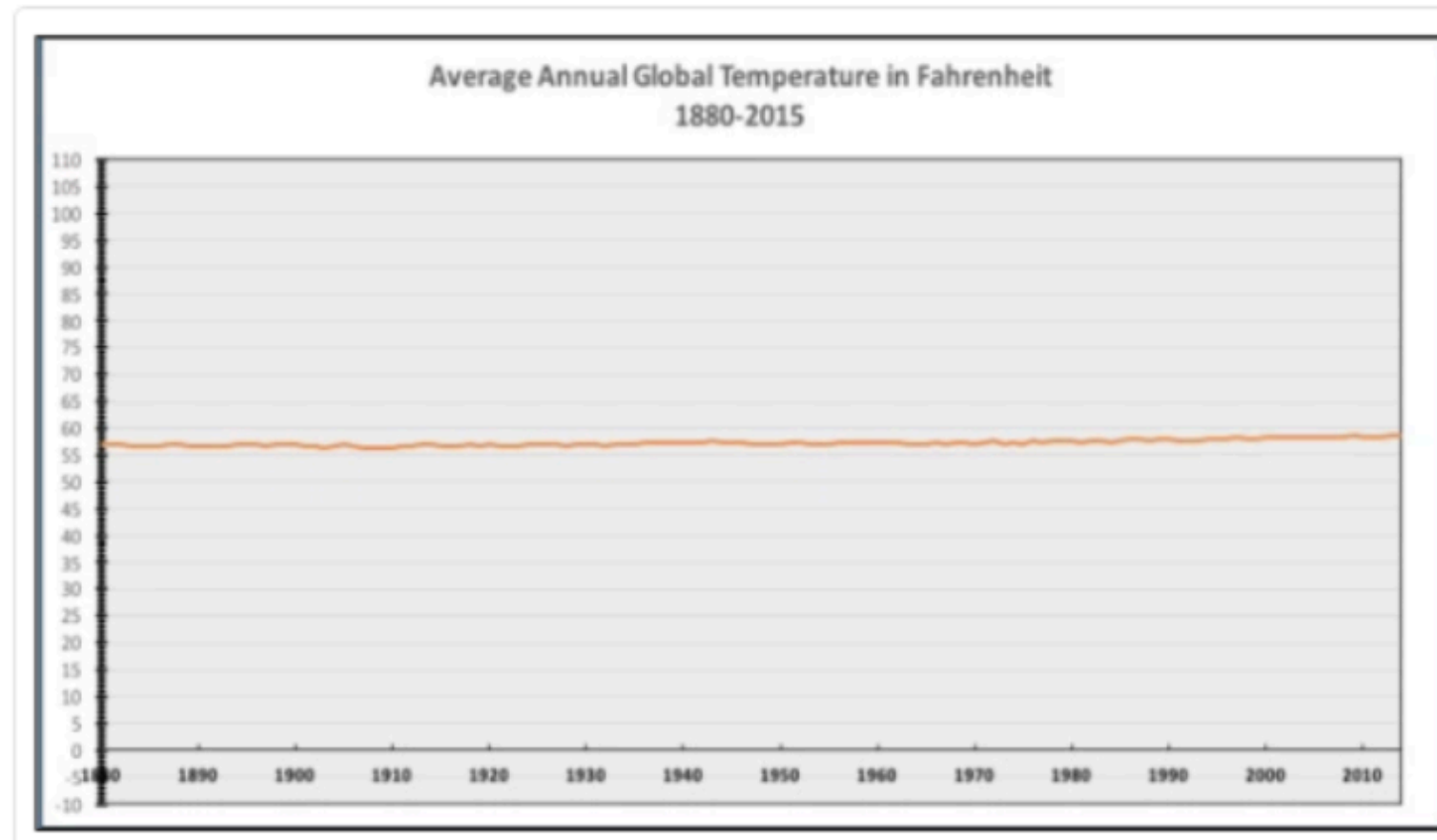


National Review  
@NRO

Follow

The only #climatechange chart you need to see. [natl.re/wPKpro](http://natl.re/wPKpro)

(h/t @powerlineUS)



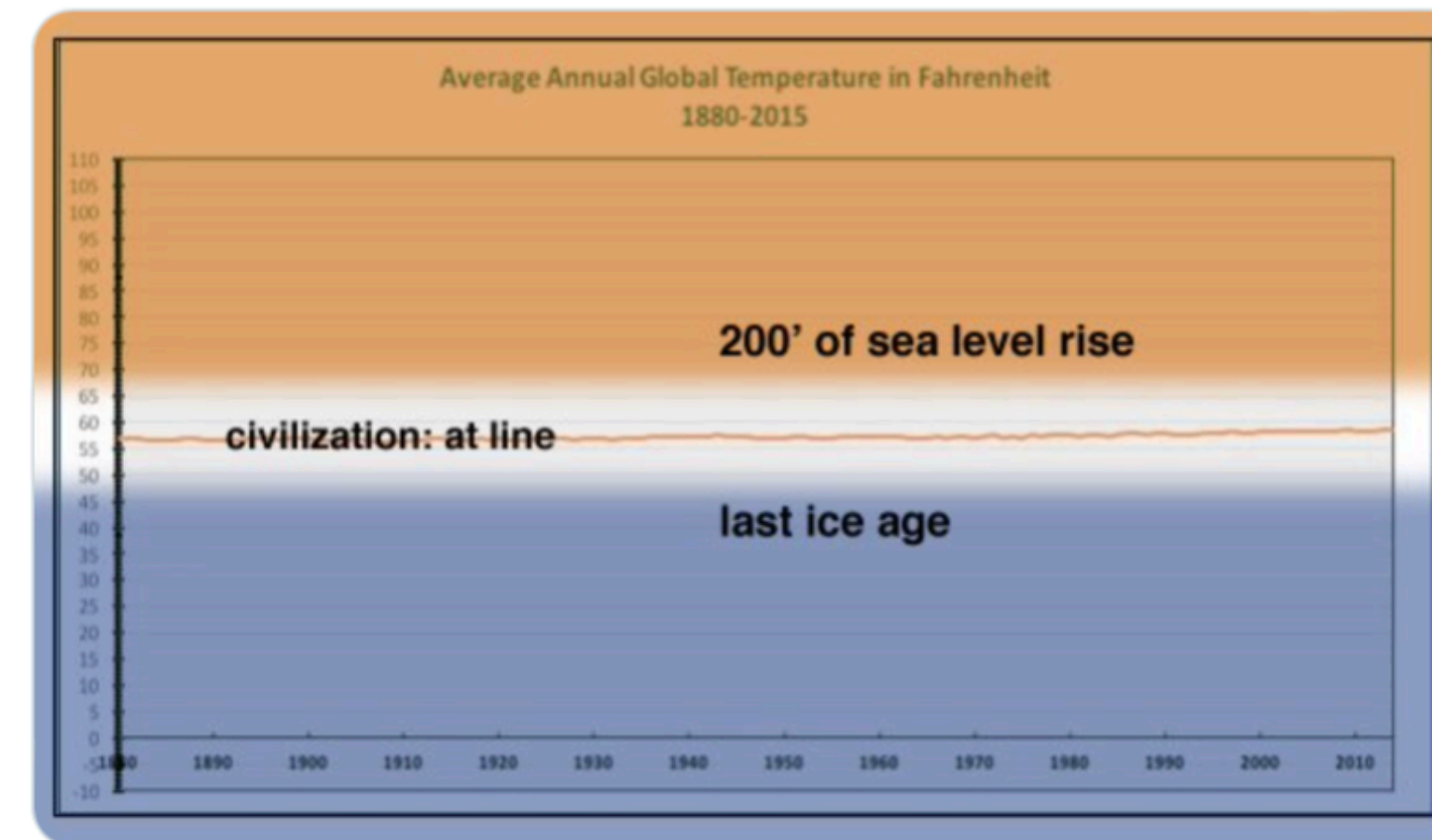
12:36 PM - 14 Dec 2015



City Atlas  
@cityatlas

Replying to @NRO

.@NRO @powerlineUS @bradplumer I'm sure someone else has fixed this for you, but here you go. Great idea, thx --



5:28 PM · Dec 14, 2015

78 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 208 Likes

39

# Perception

## Graphical Perception Studies

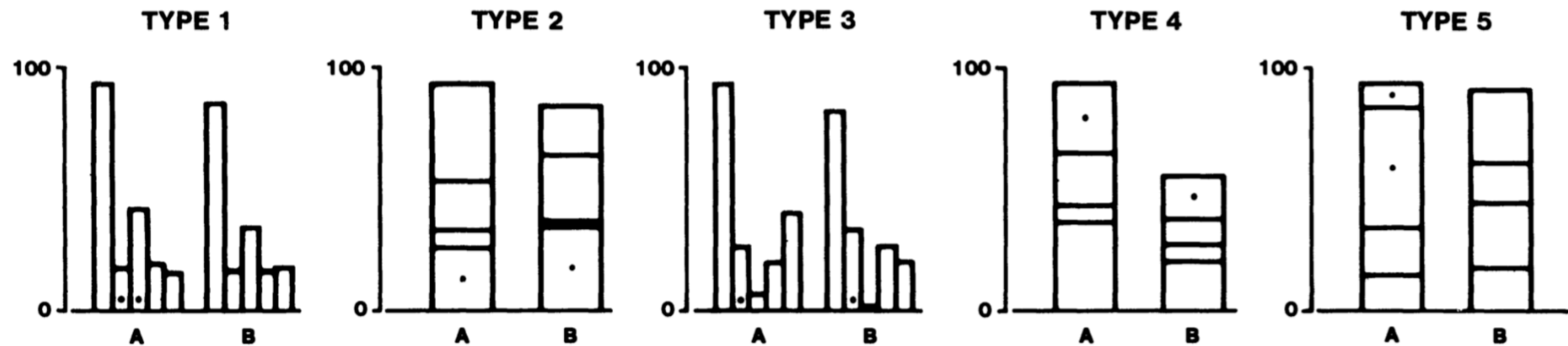


Figure 4. Graphs from position-length experiment.

What proportion is the smaller marked section of the larger?

# Color

## CIE XYZ Color Space

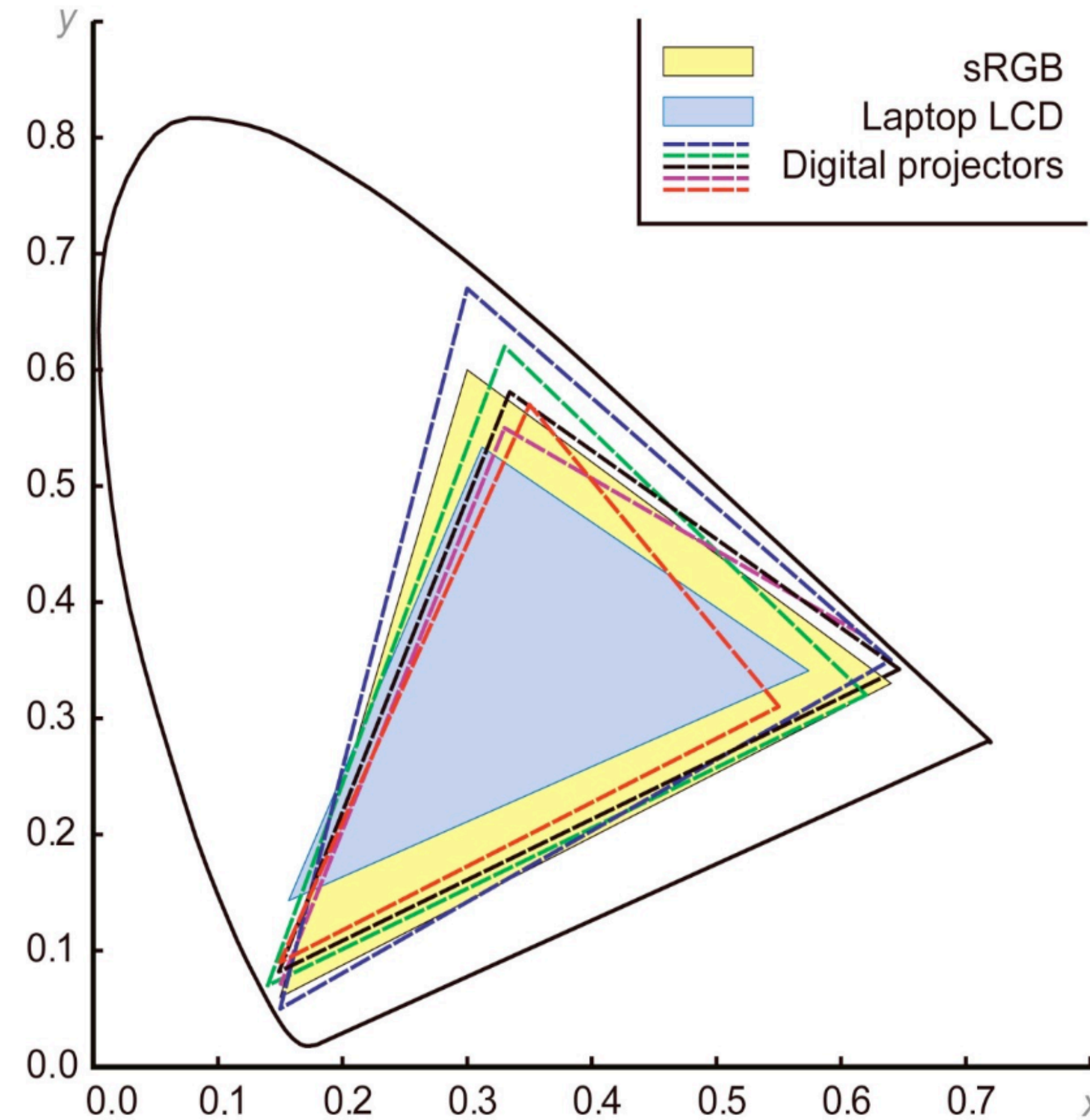
**Display gamut** = portion of the color space that can be reproduced by a display.



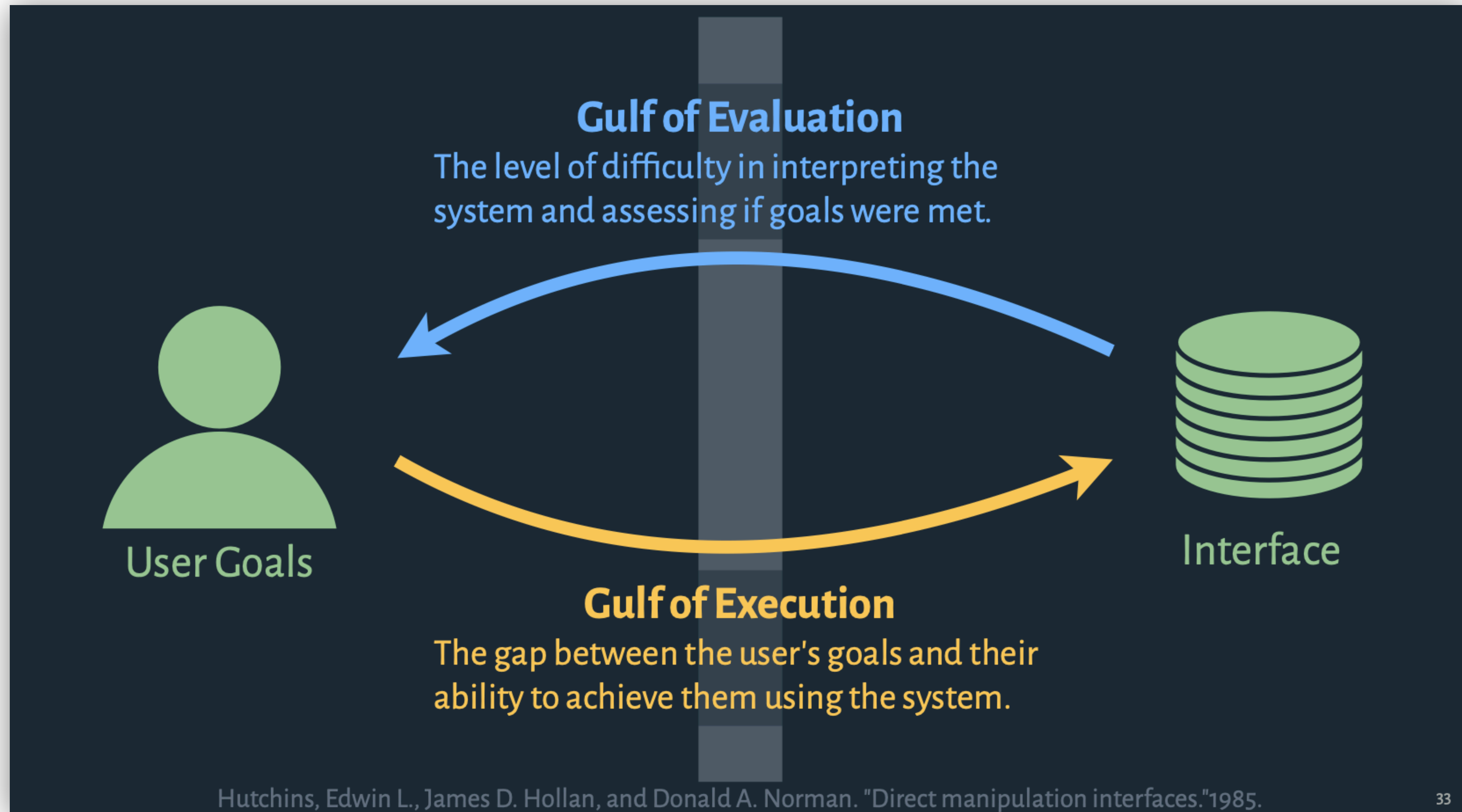
The angry rainbow in sRGB.



[Gregor Aisch How to Avoid Equidistant HSV Colors.1]

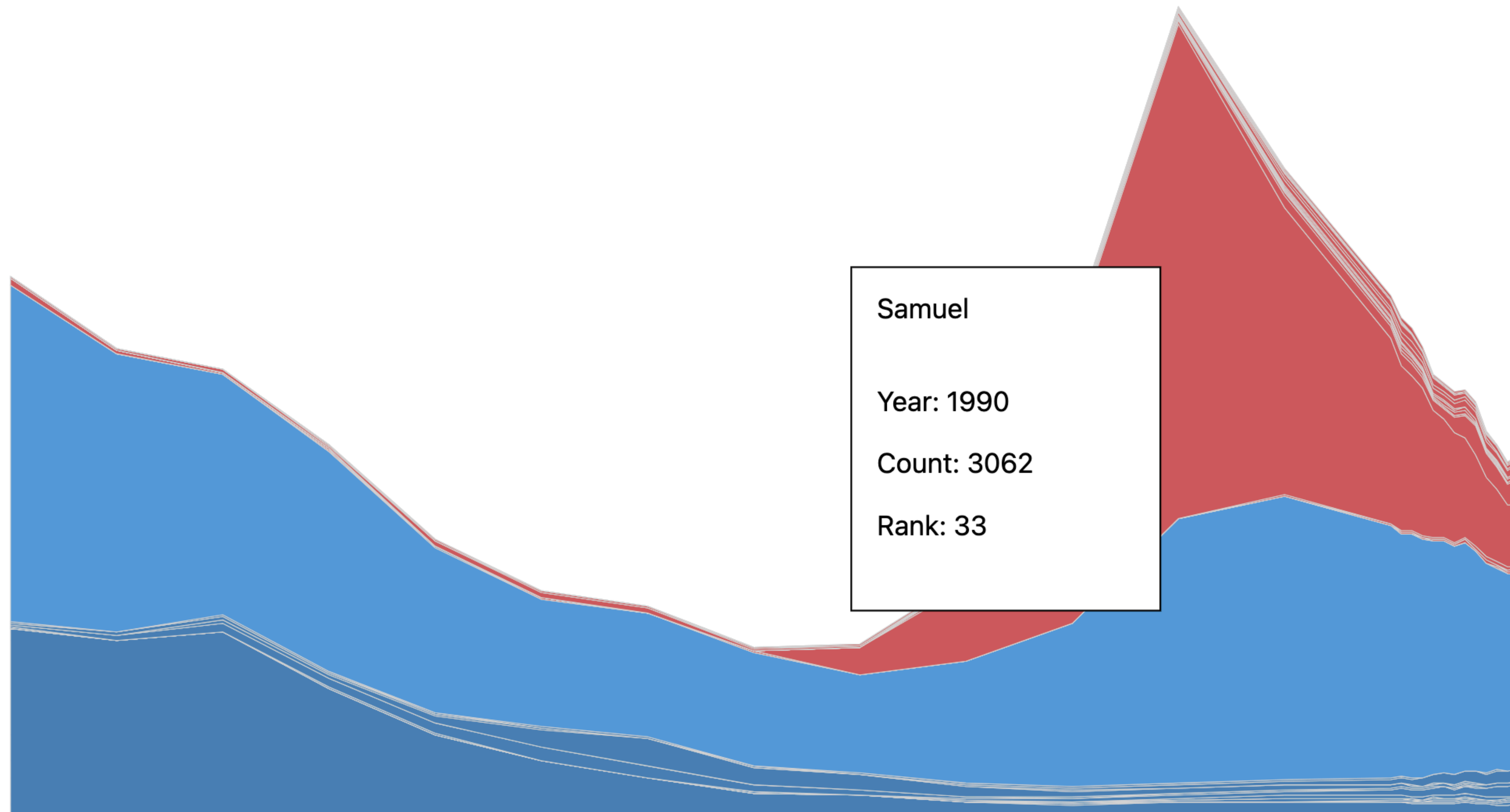


# Interaction



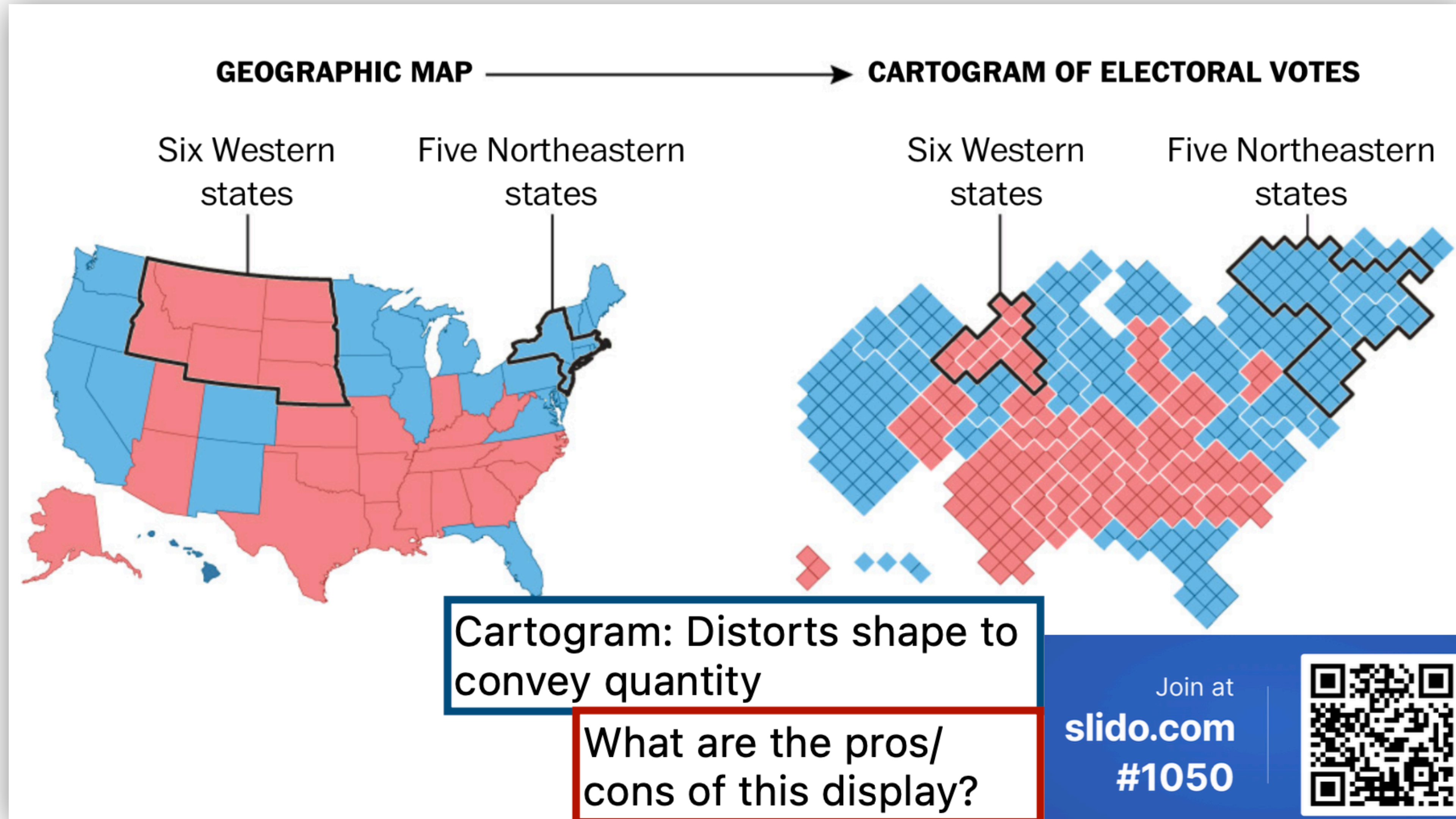
# JavaScript, Svelte, D3

## Name Grapher

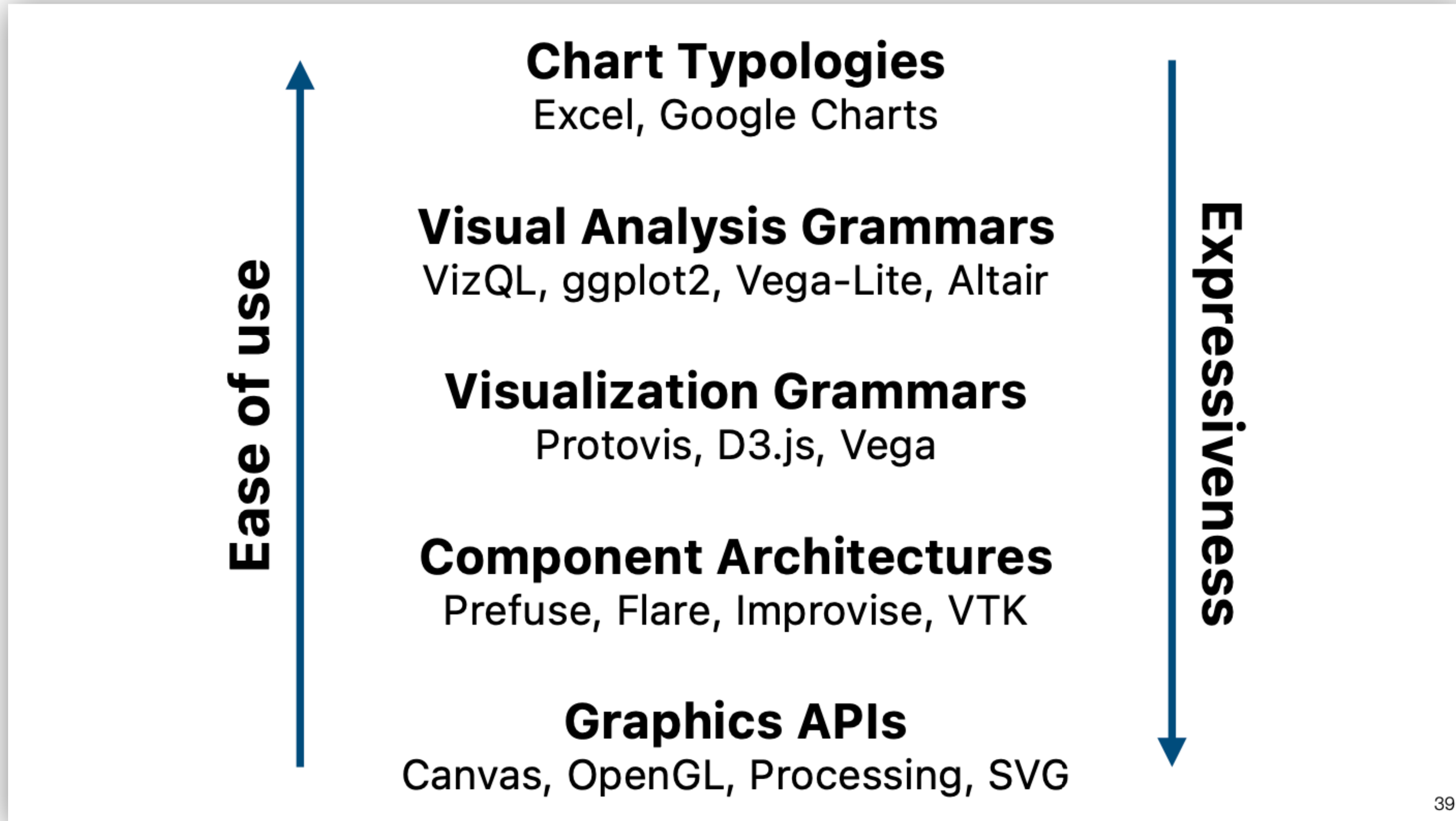




# Maps

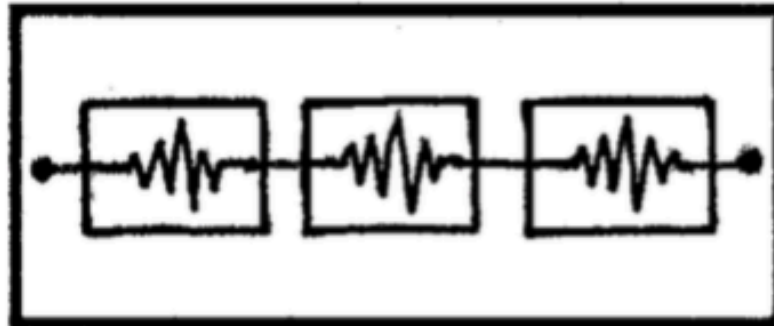


# Tools



# Narrative

## Interactive Slideshow



R2  
D3

## A visual introduction to machine learning

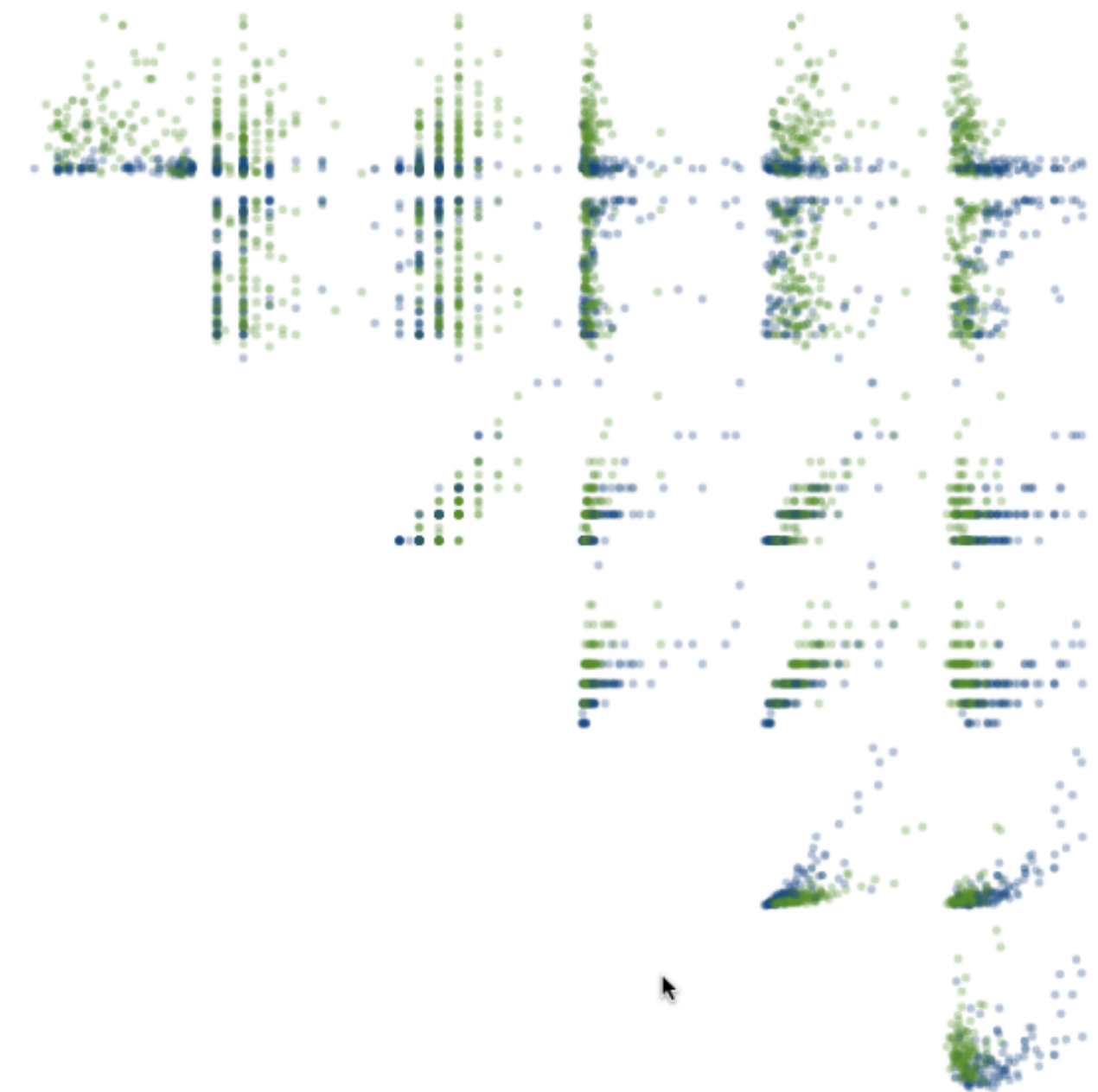
English

In machine learning, computers apply **statistical learning** techniques to automatically identify patterns in data. These techniques can be used to make highly accurate predictions.

*Keep scrolling.* Using a data set about homes, we will create a machine learning model to distinguish homes in New York from homes in San Francisco.

“Scrolly”-telling

SCROLL

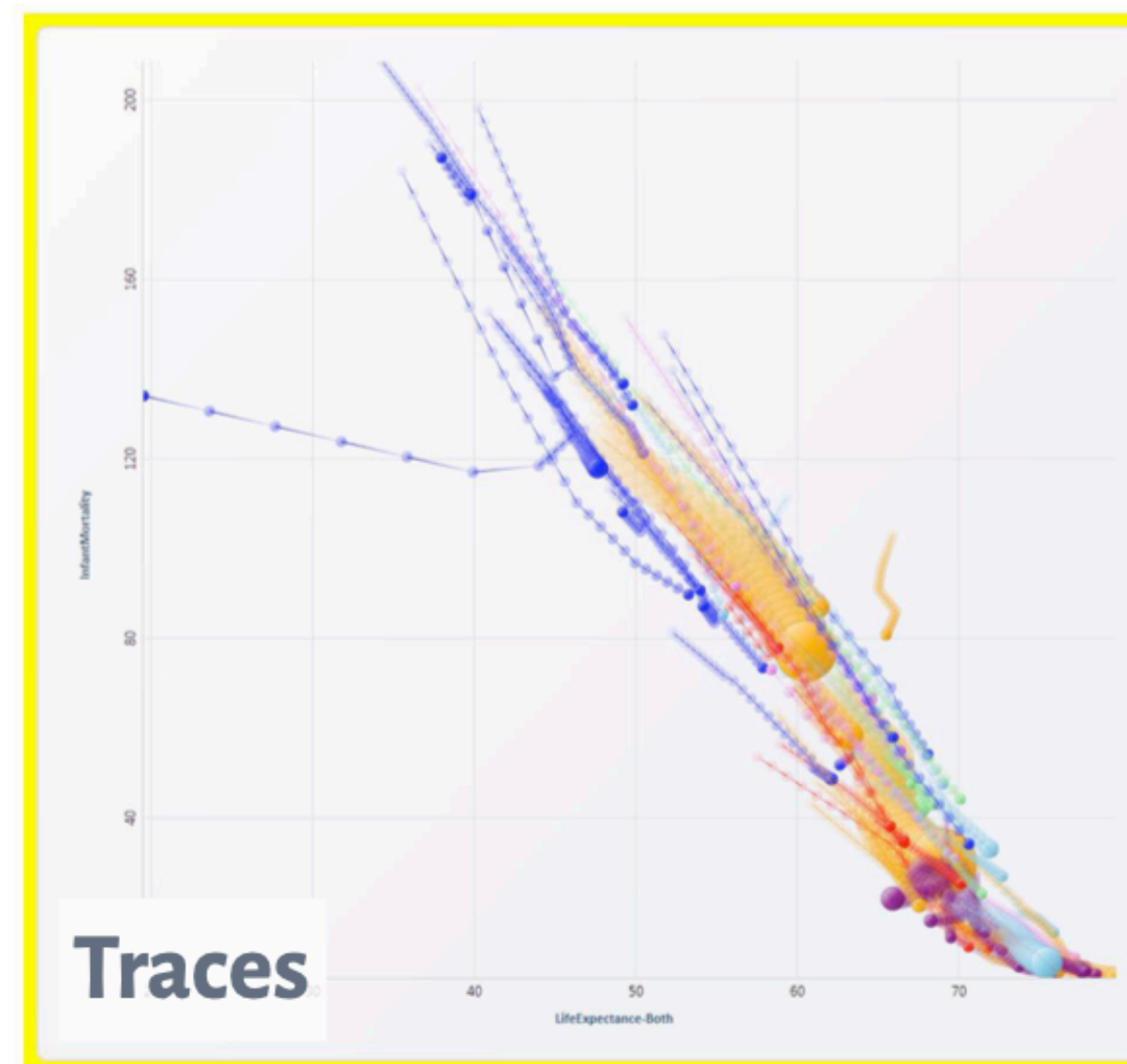
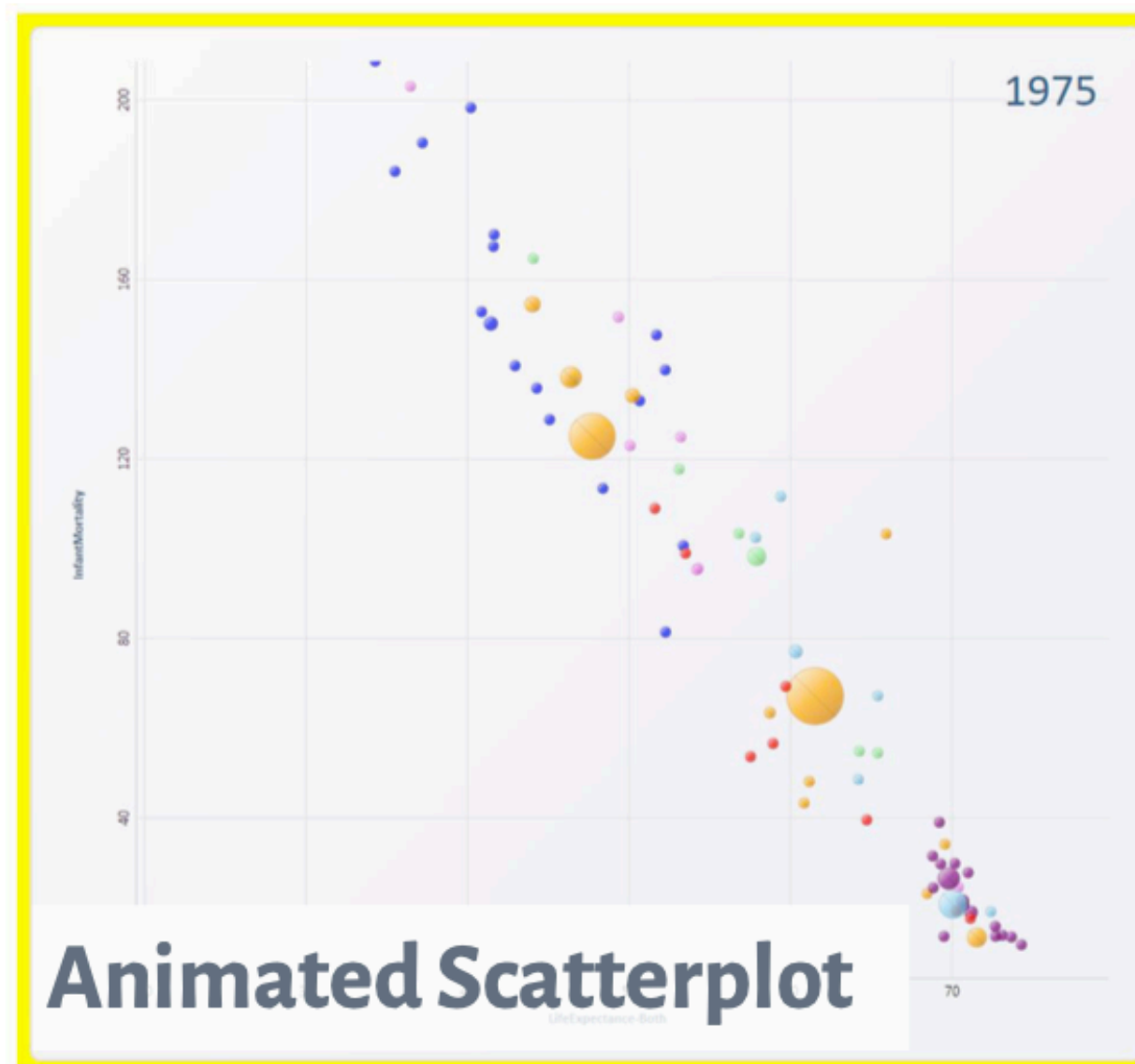


<http://www.r2d3.us/visual-intro-to-machine-learning-part-1/>

# Animation

## Study Conclusions

Analysis Task and Presentation Task.  
Presentation condition included narration.  
Subjects asked comprehension questions.



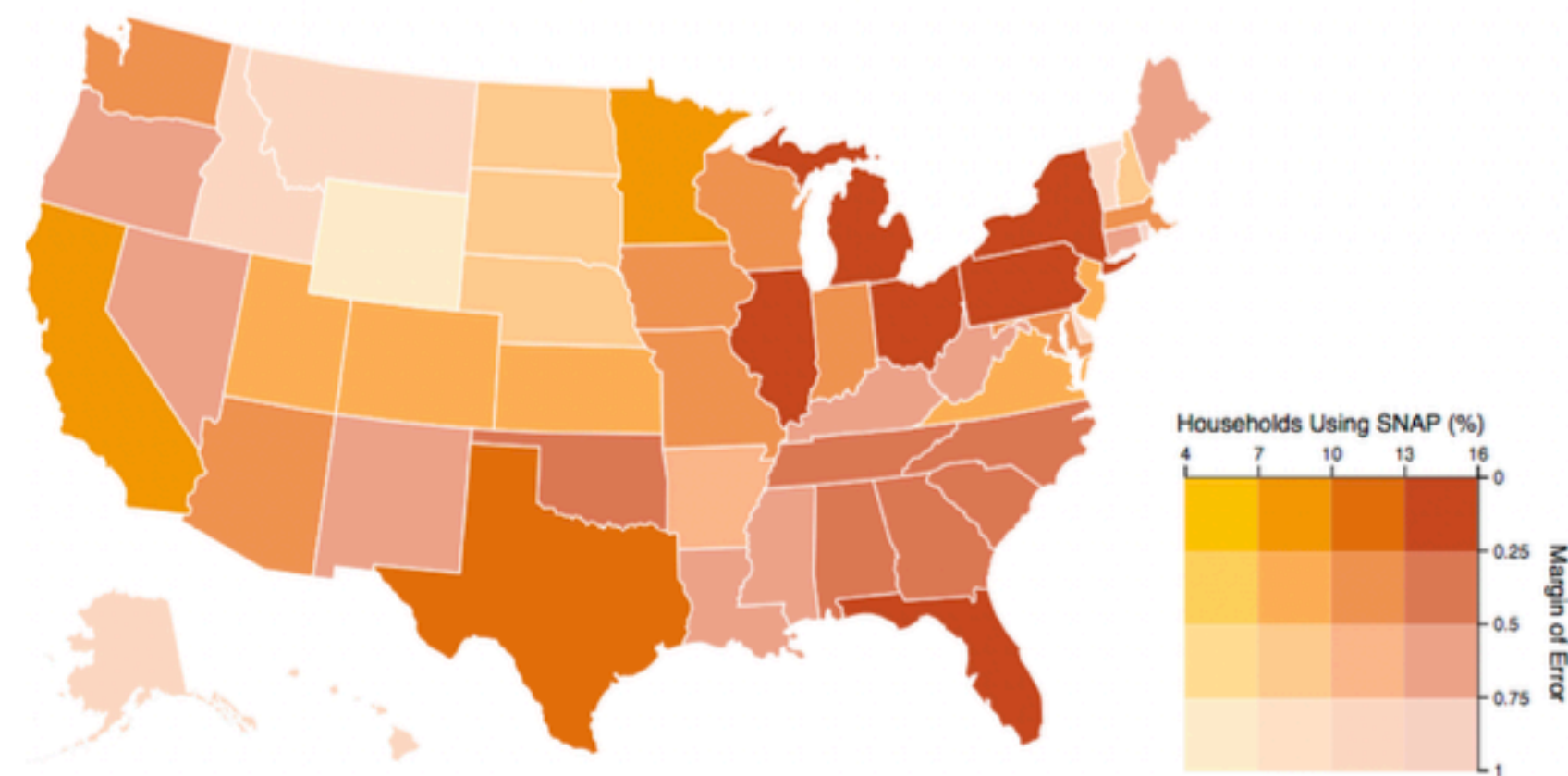
Which condition would participants:  
be more **accurate**, be **faster**, and **prefer**?

Join at  
[slido.com](https://www.slido.com)  
#4918

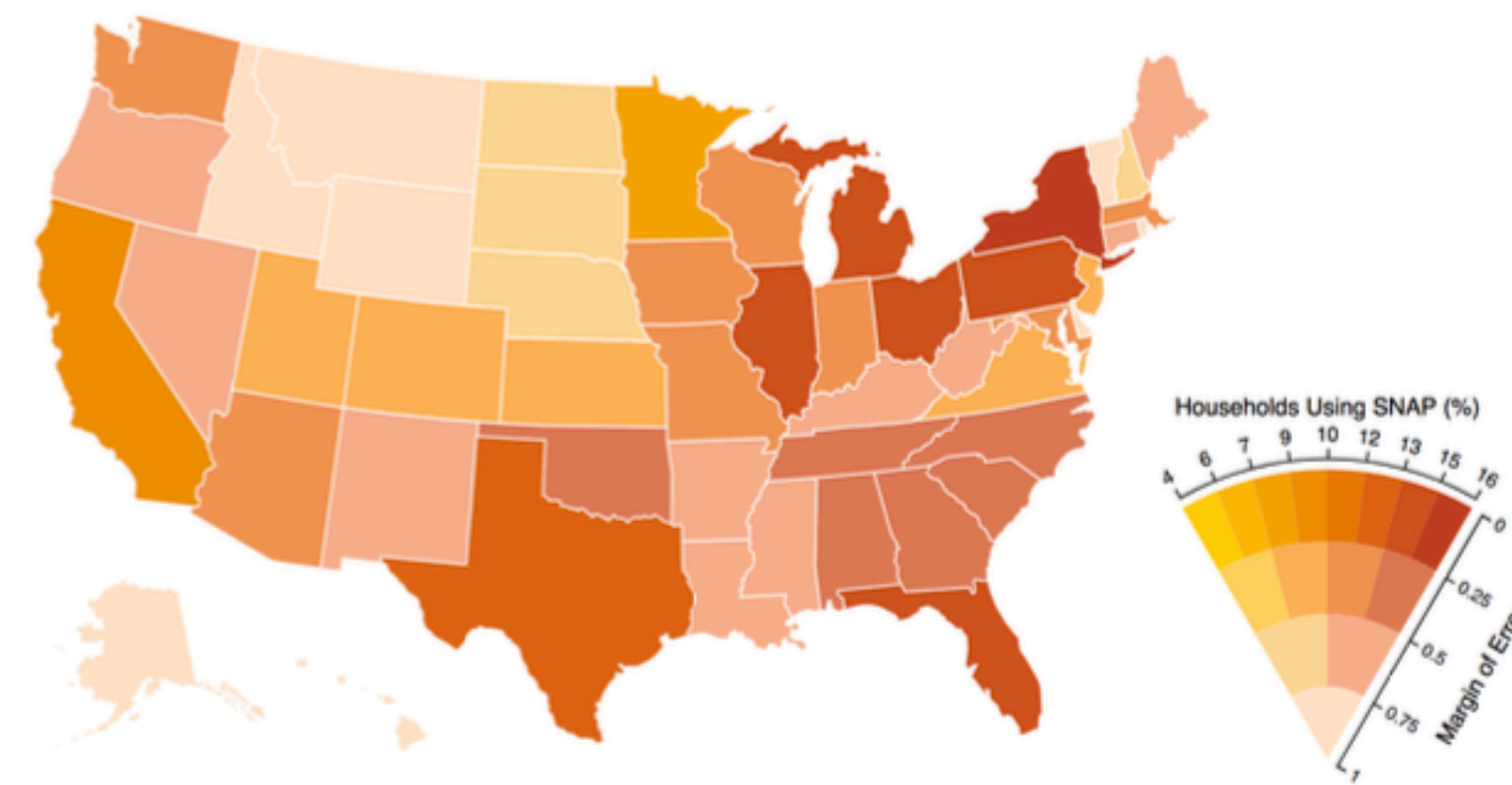


# Uncertainty

For uncertainty, use **visual variables** instead of visualizing point estimates



Bivariate Map (Data + Uncertainty)

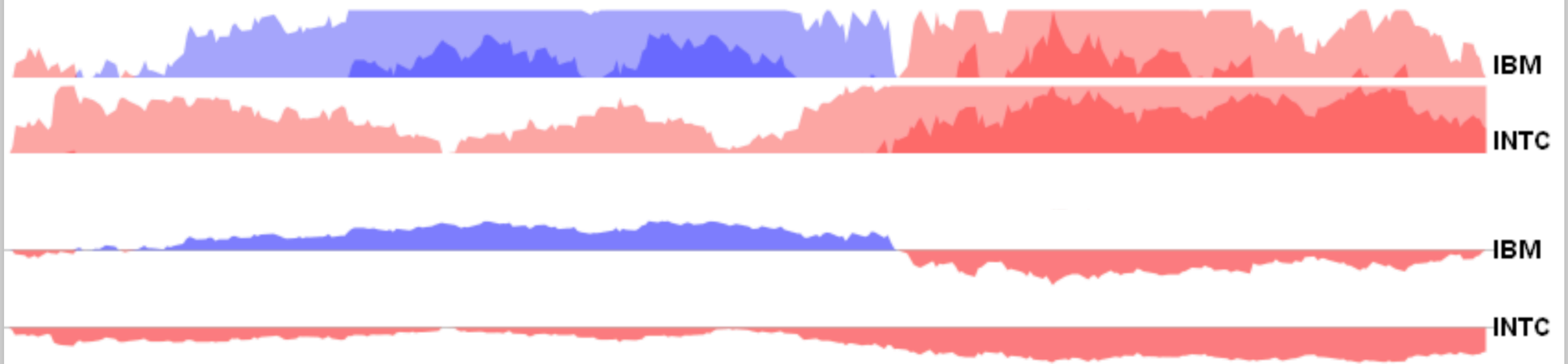


Value-Suppressing Uncertainty Map

# Evaluation

## Design Guidelines

Mirroring does not hamper perception  
Layered bands beneficial for smaller charts



**Thank You!**