Visualizations are ambiguous figures



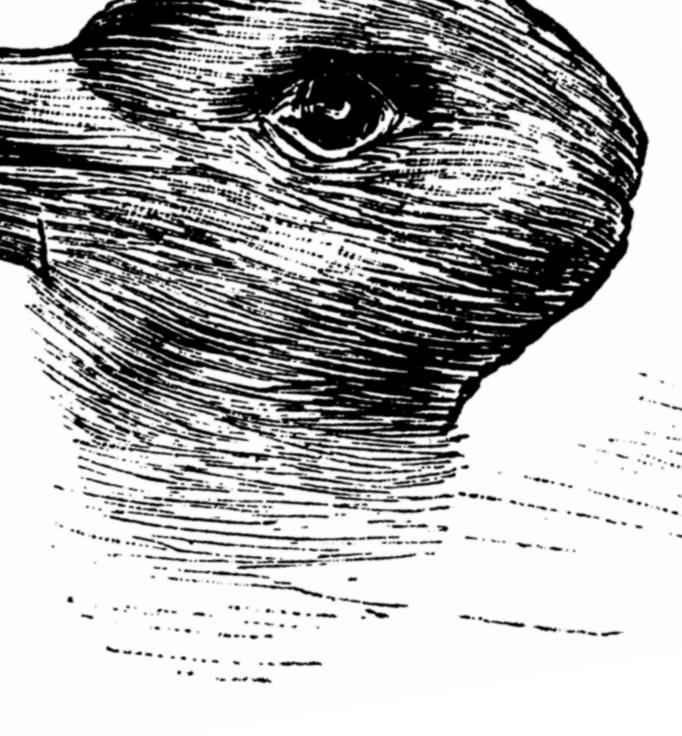
Steve Franconeri Psychology, Kellogg, & Design/Engineering Northwestern University

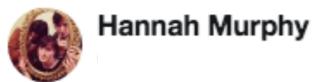




Ambiguous figures

Rarely happen in the 'real' world





my mother was giggling at this and told me to "take a look at that adorable dachshund, he's sleeping", she was looking at a purse:



8:15 AM - 30 Jul 2017

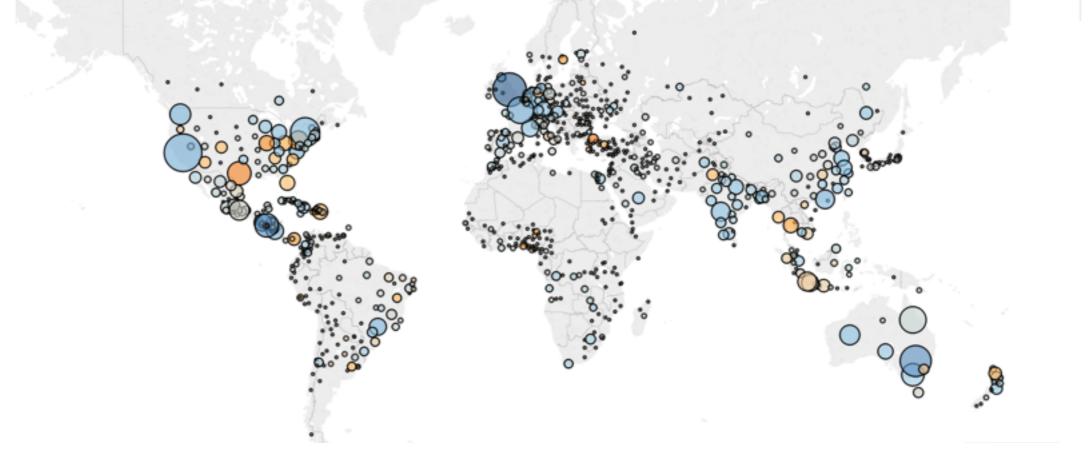
45,323 Retweets 132,891 Likes



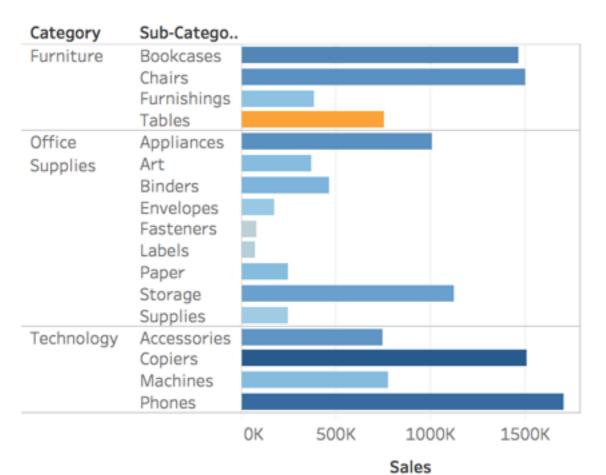
But in visualizations, multi-stable interpretation is **ubiquitous**

Visualizations are ambiguous figures

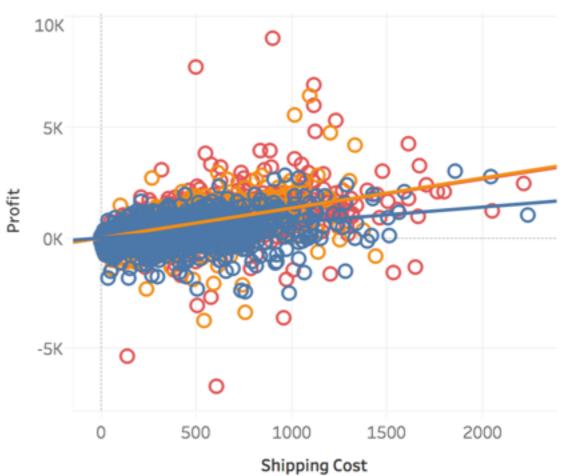
Three visual tools for seeing differently



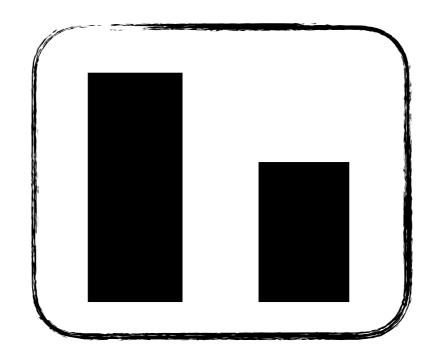
Sales By Category

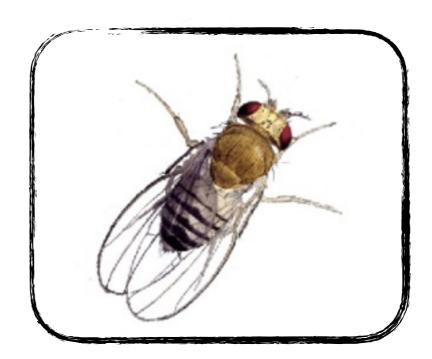


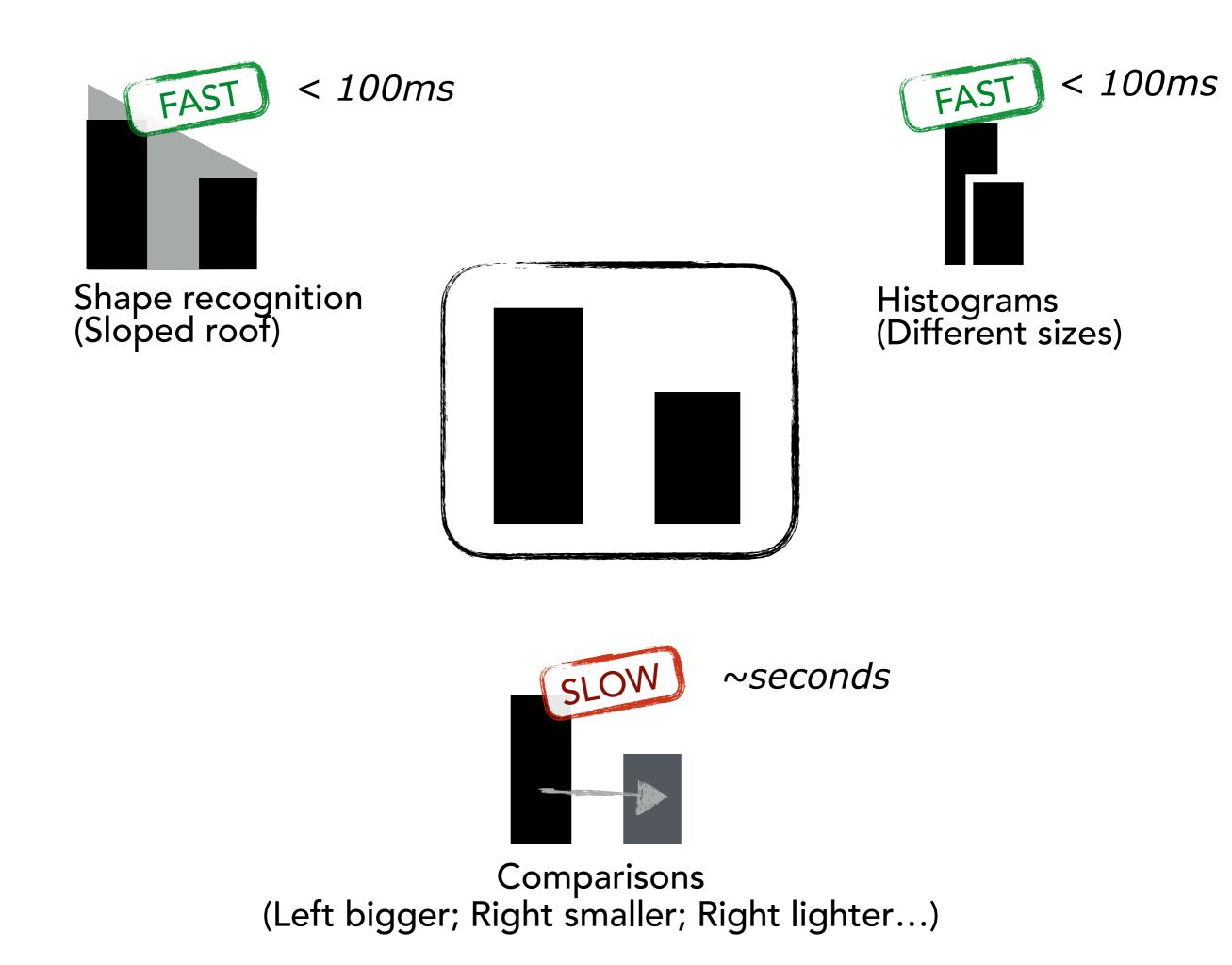
Customer Breakdown

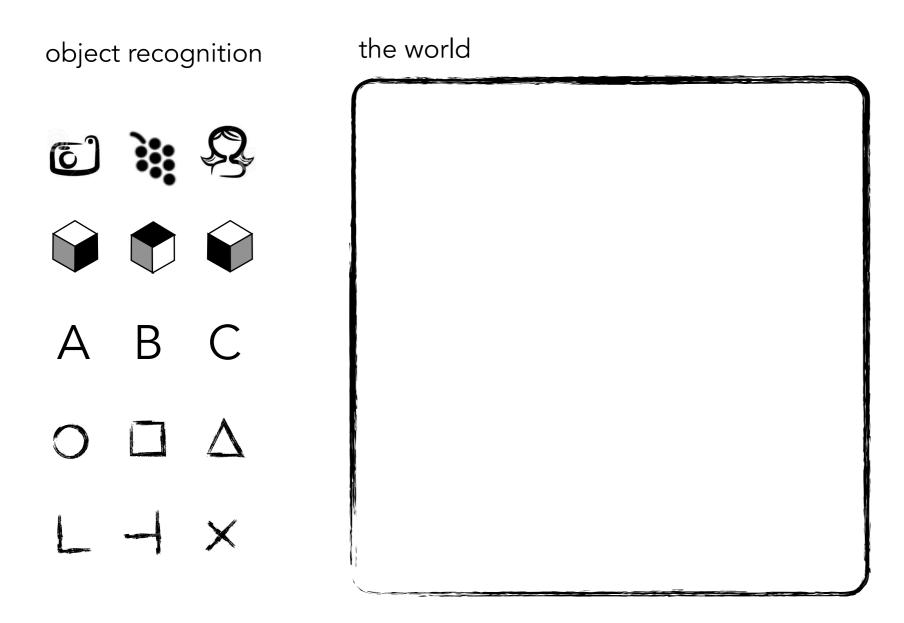


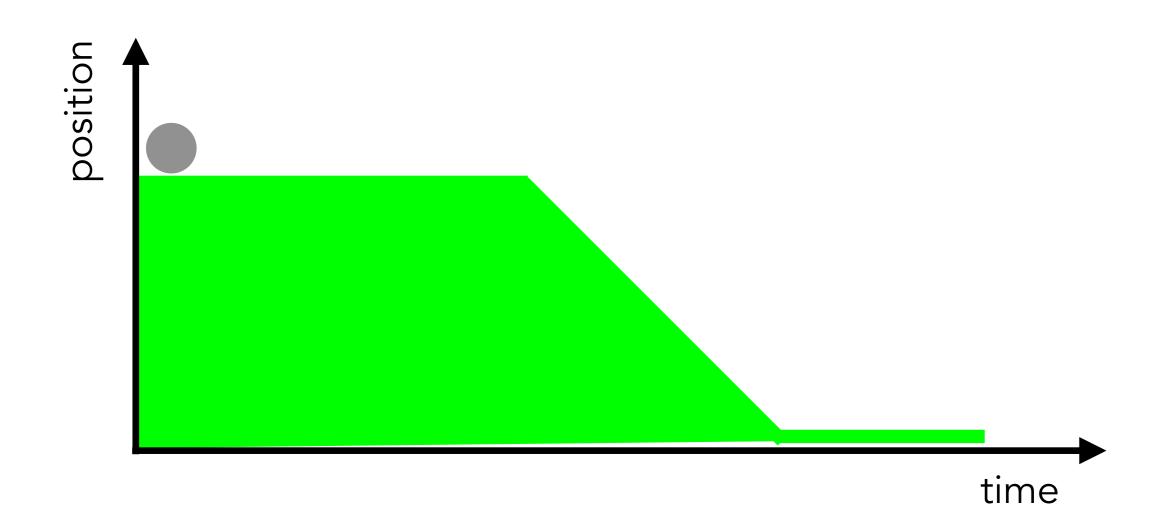


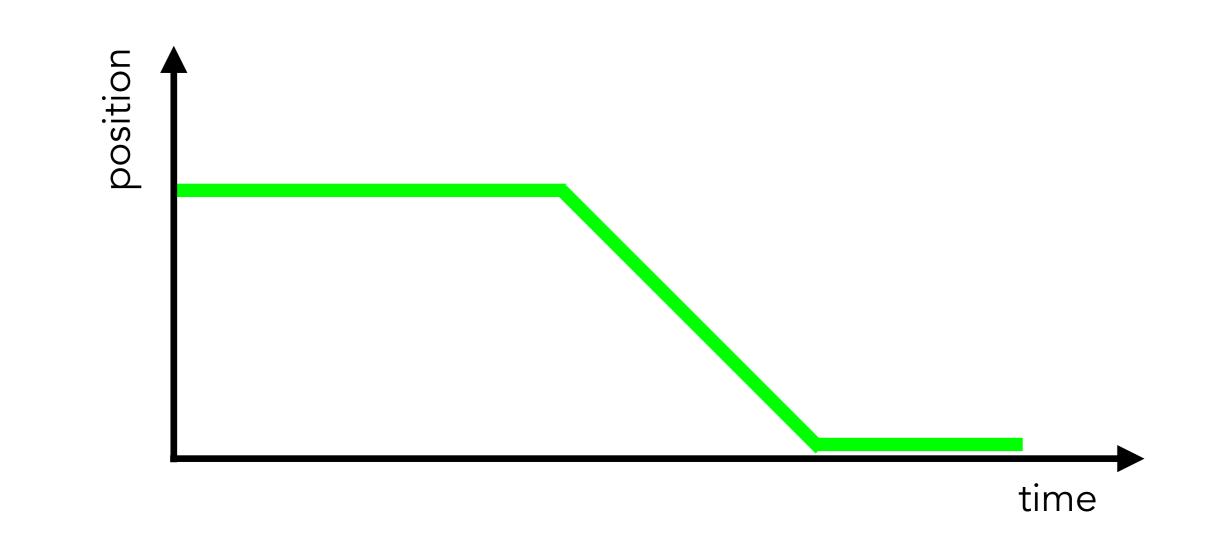


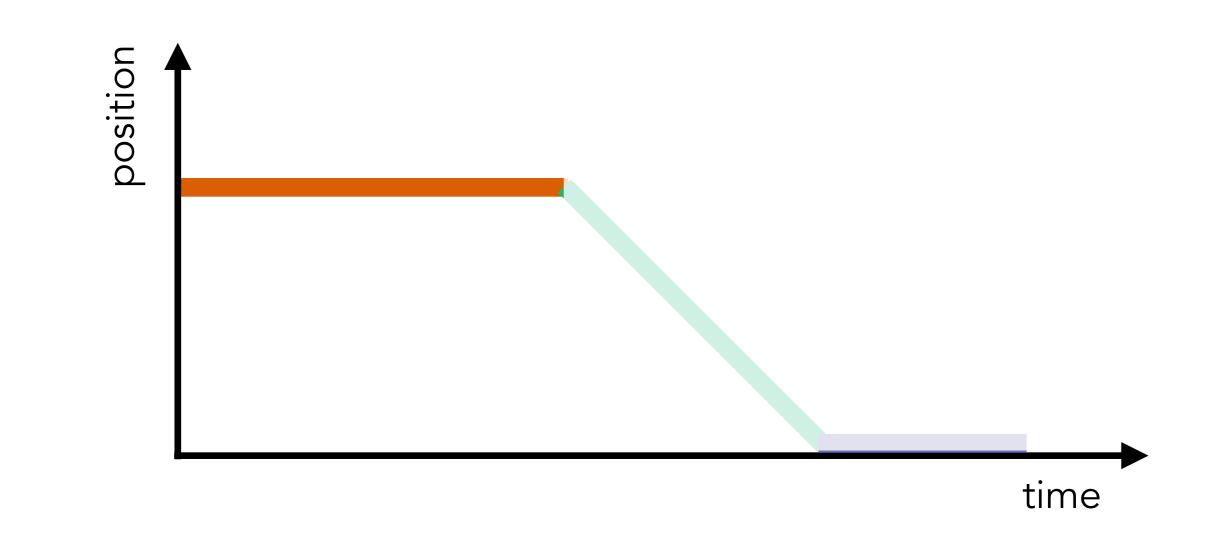


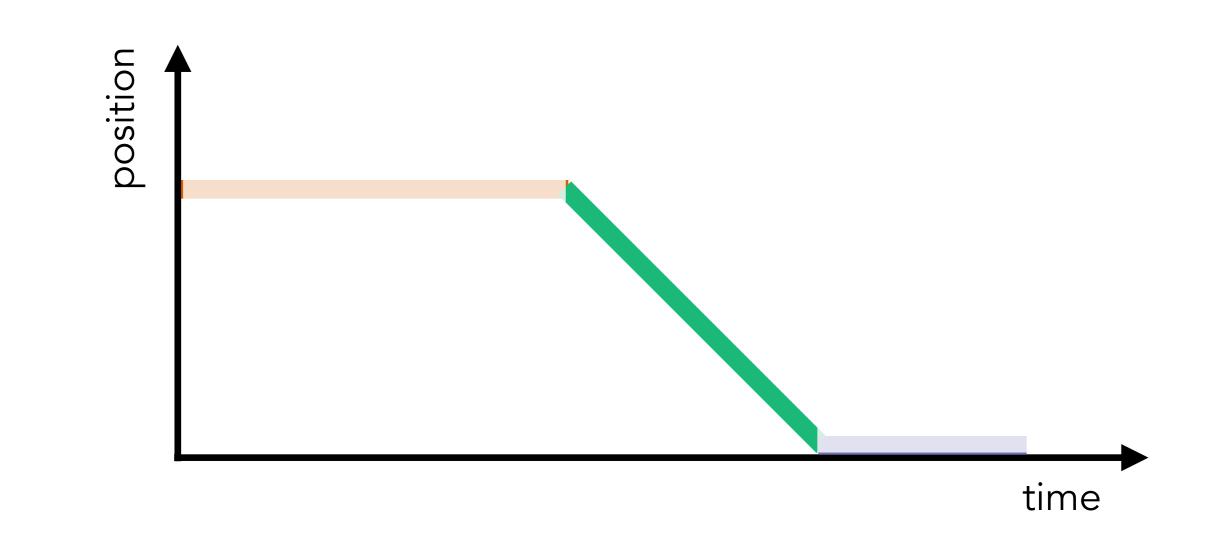


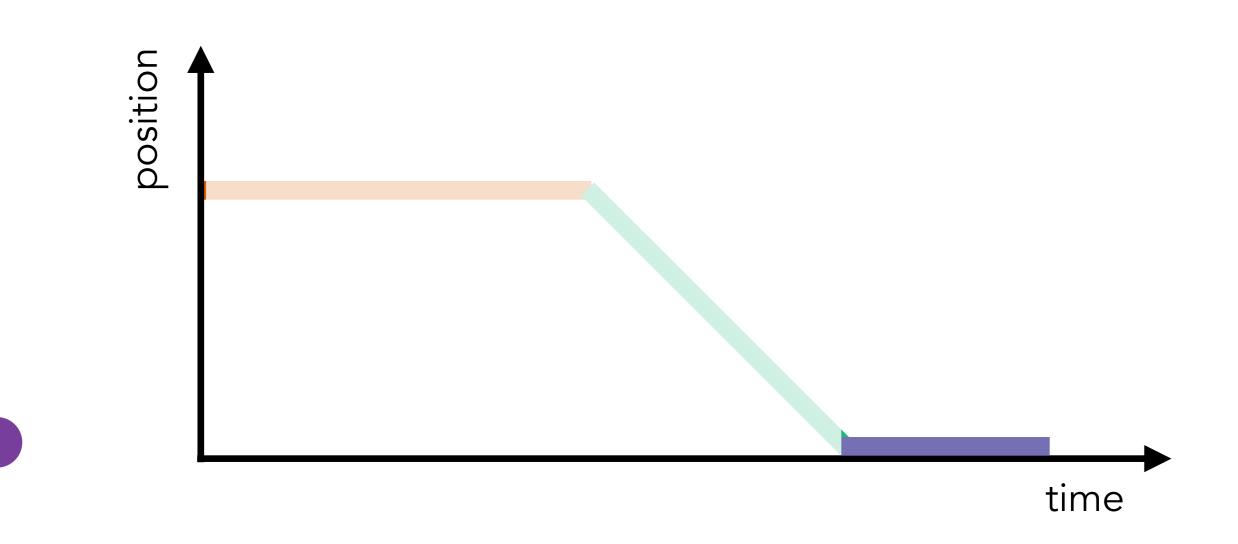


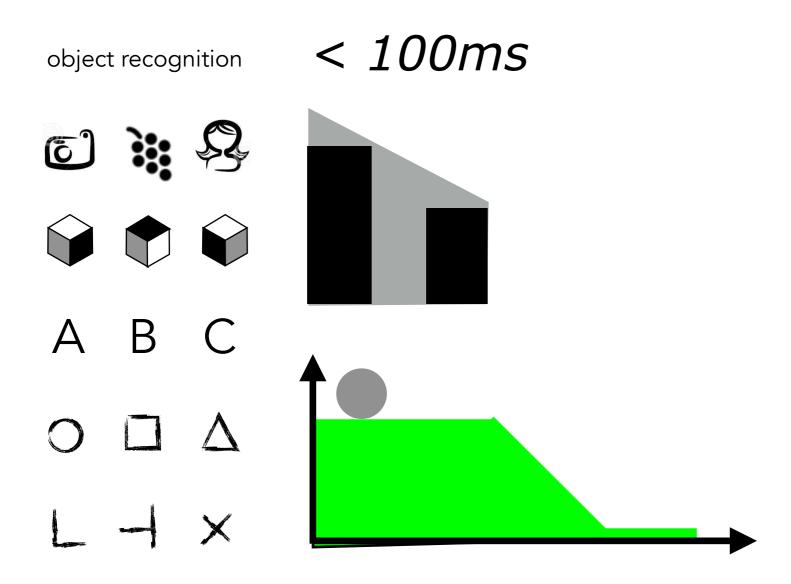


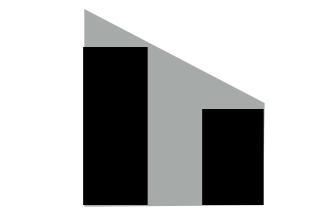






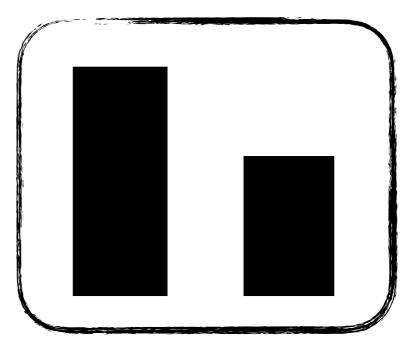


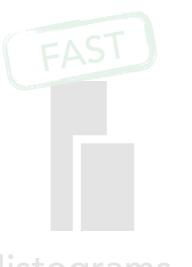






Shape recognition (Sloped roof)

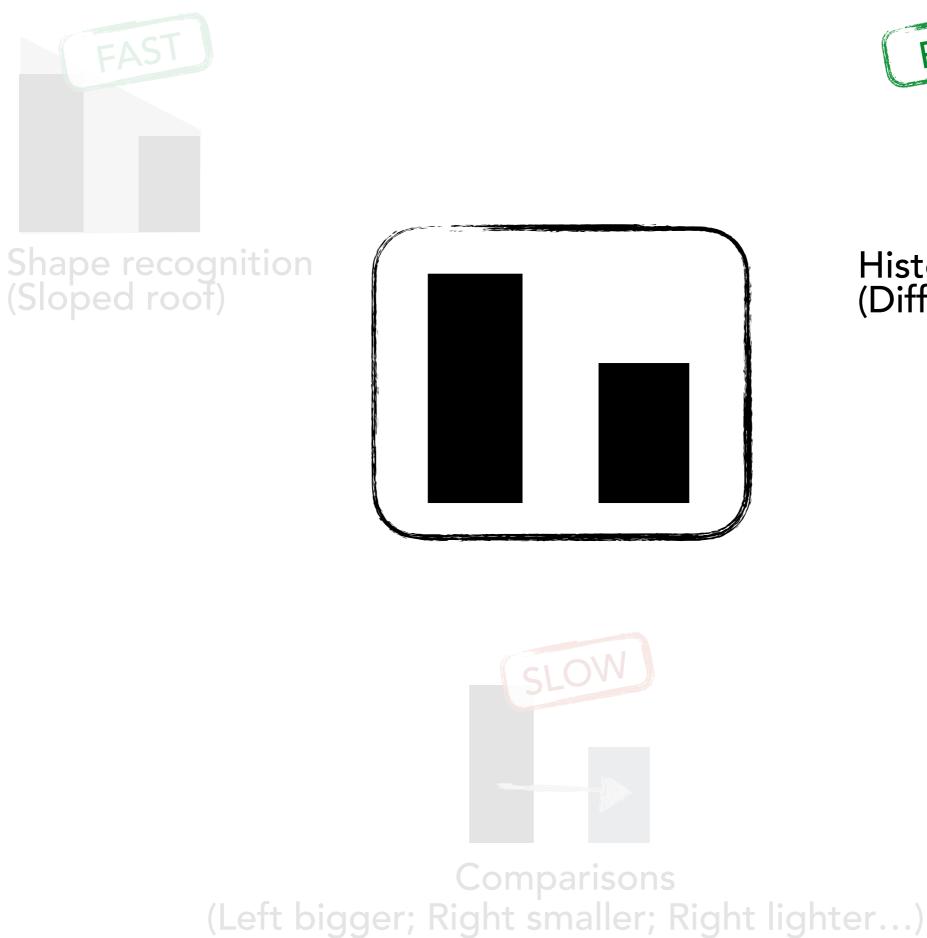




Histograms (Different sizes)

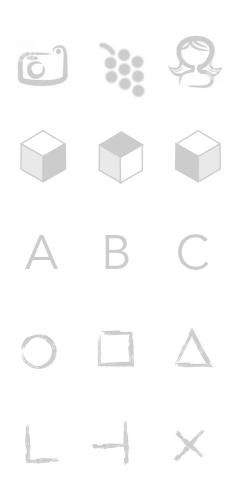


Comparisons (Left bigger; Right smaller; Right lighter...)



Histograms (Different sizes)

FAST







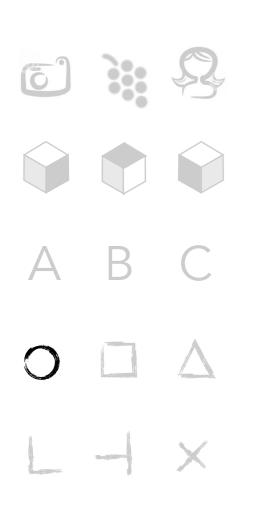
Α

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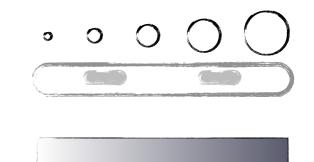
Beach

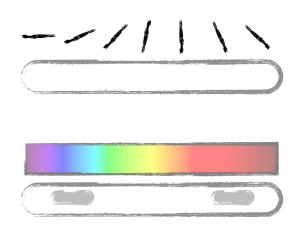
Oliva & Torralba, 2001; Alvarez, 2011; Whitney, Haberman, & Sweeny, 2014



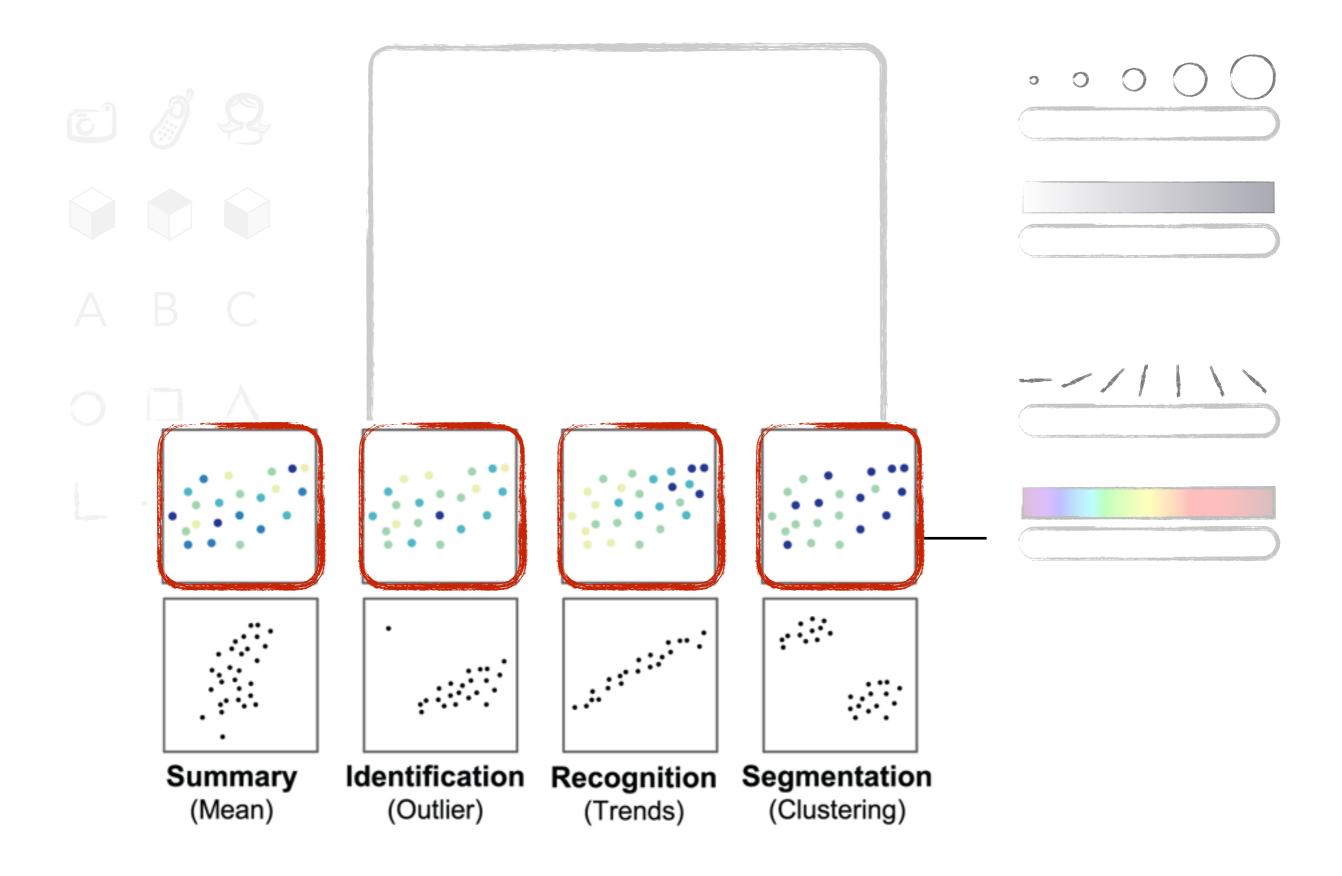


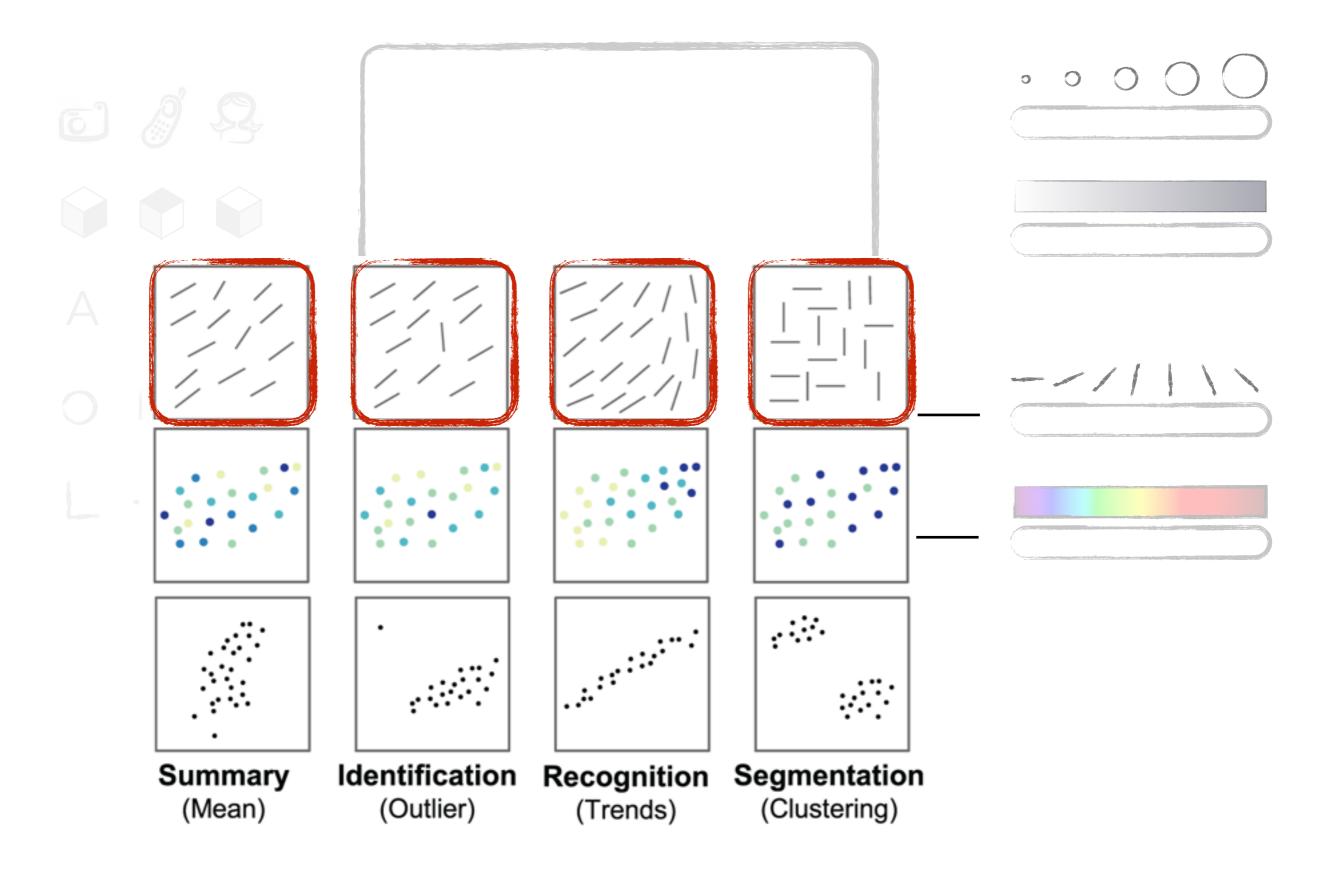


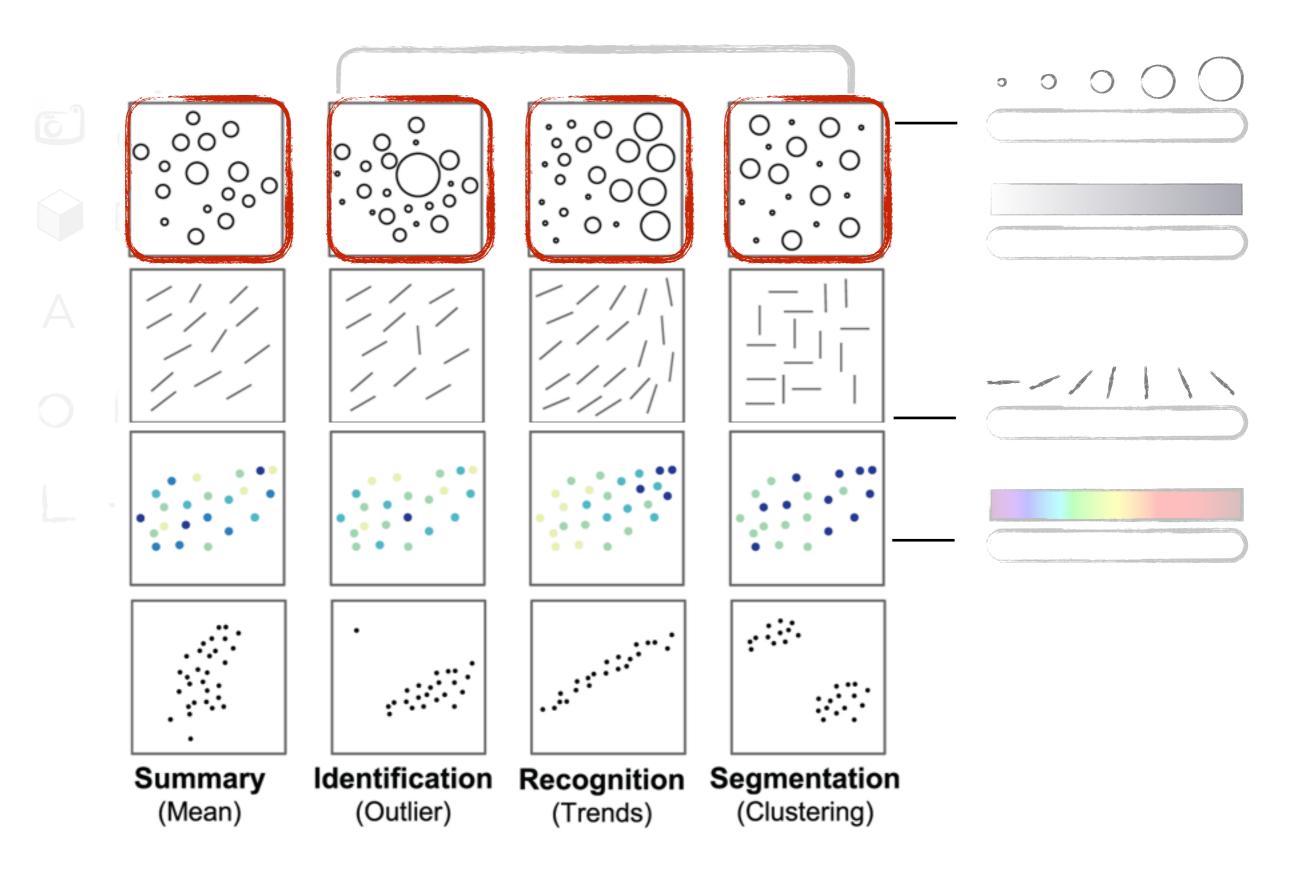


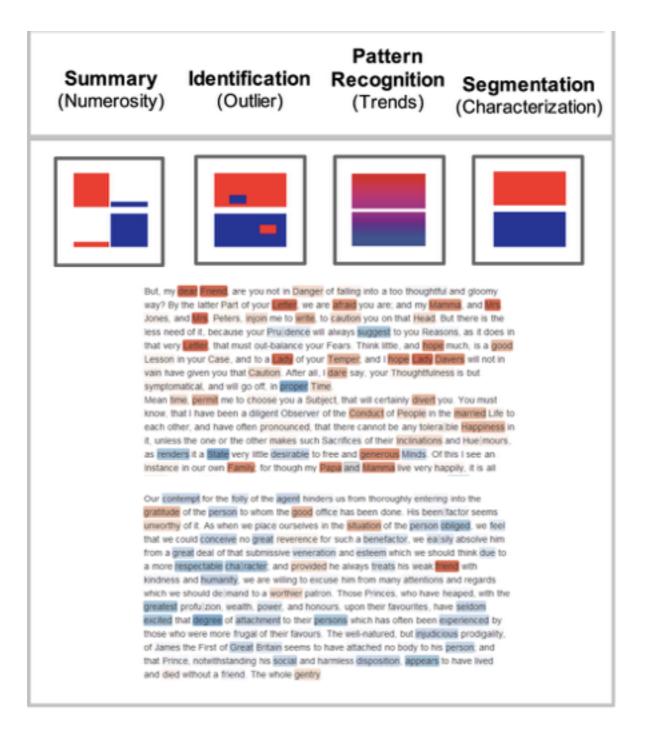


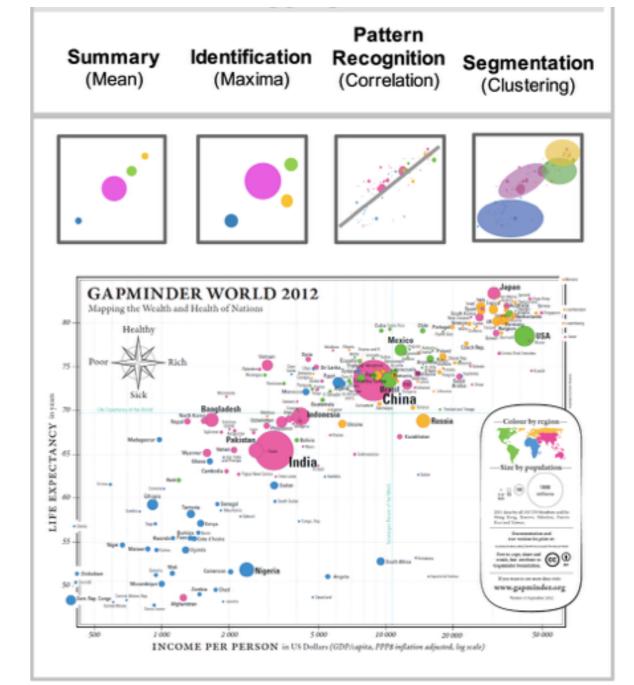


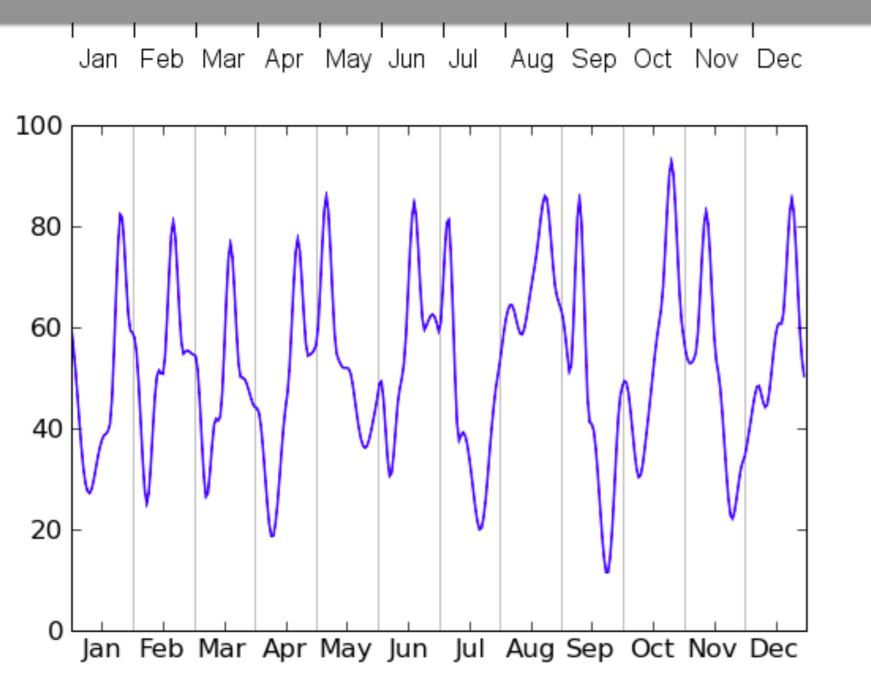


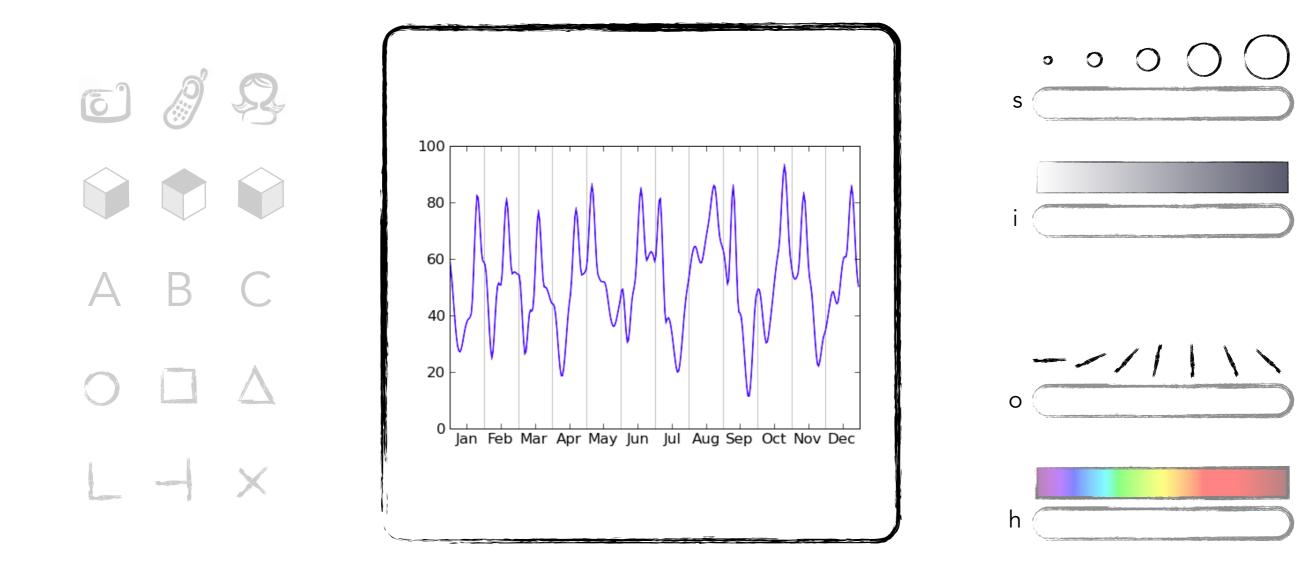


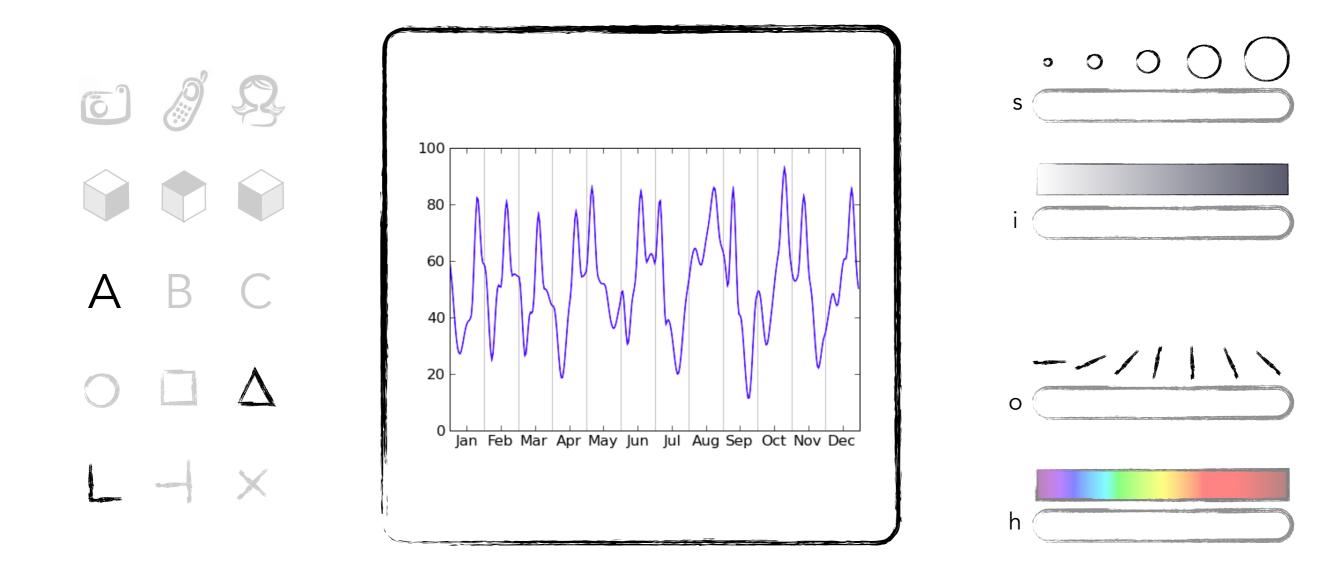


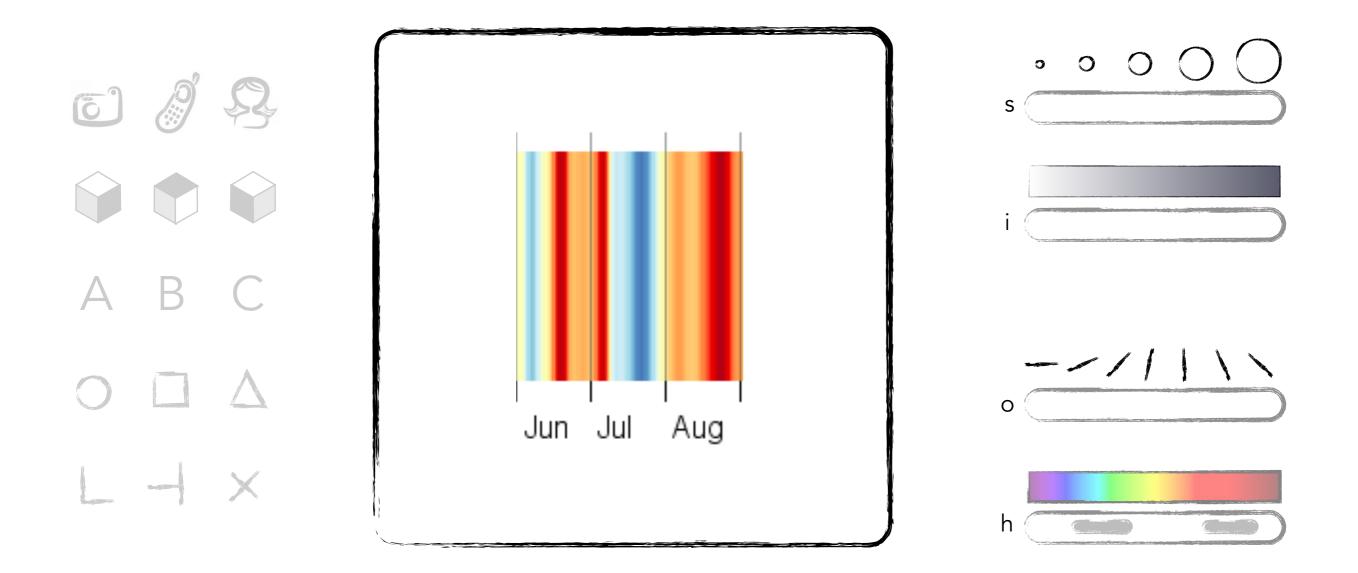


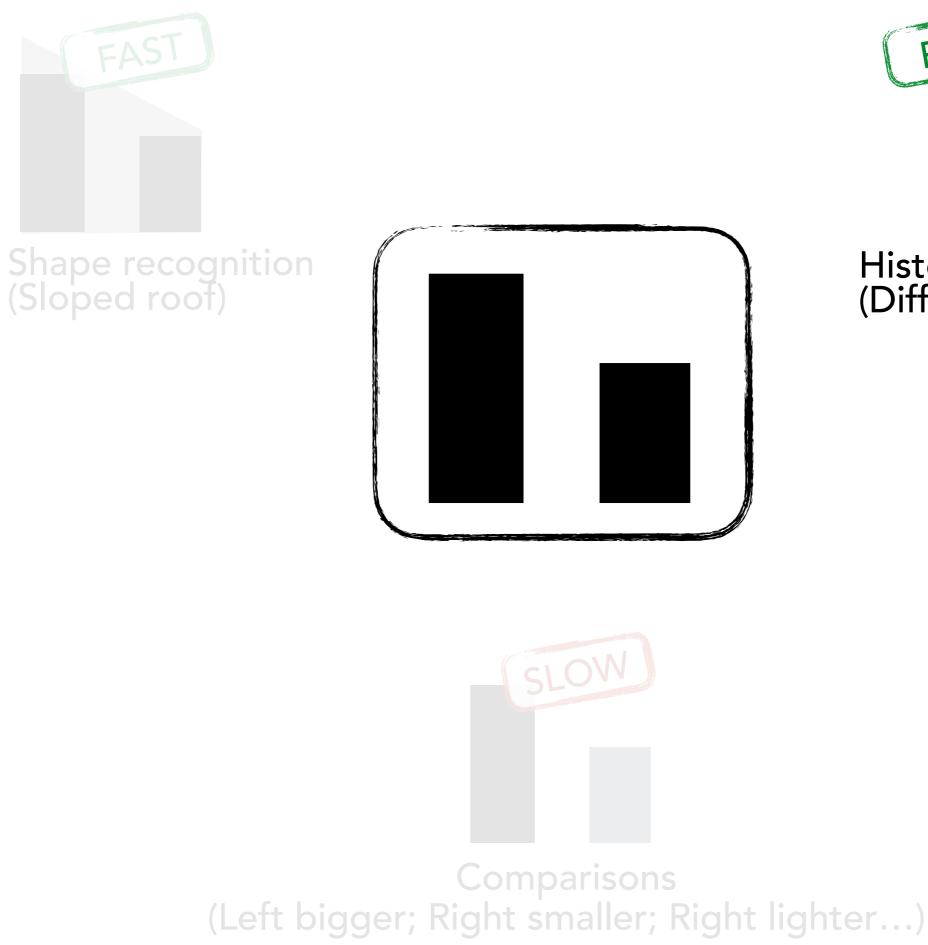






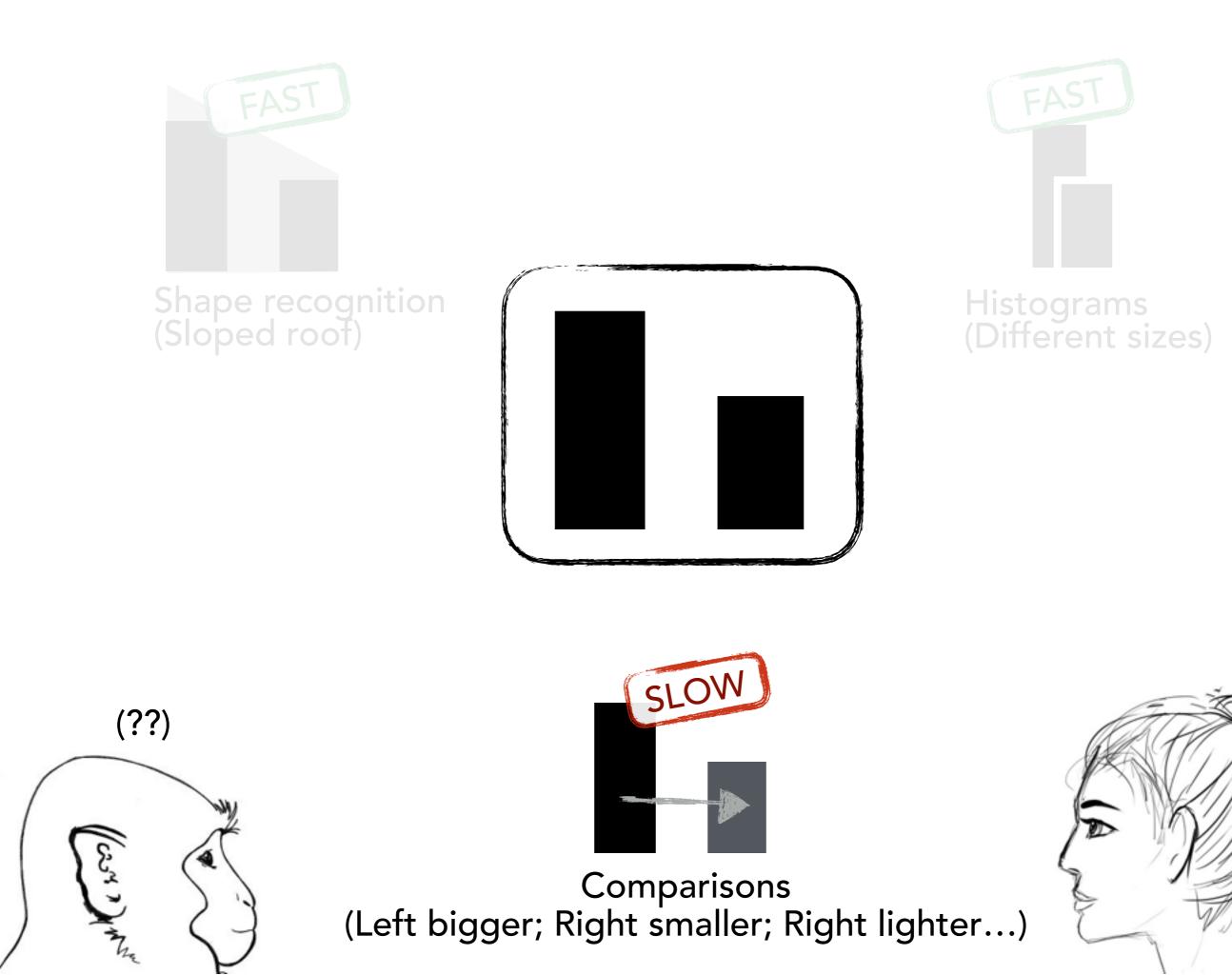


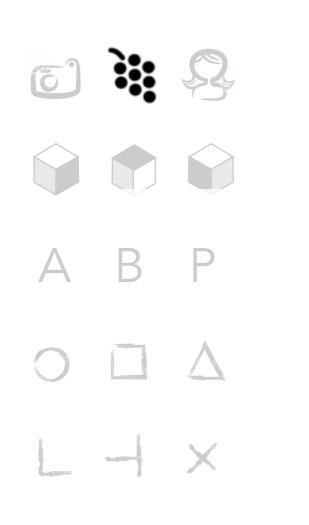




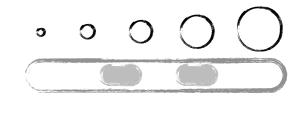
Histograms (Different sizes)

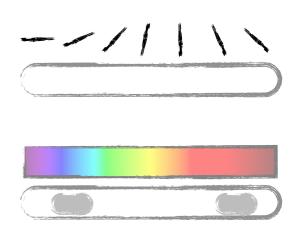
FAST



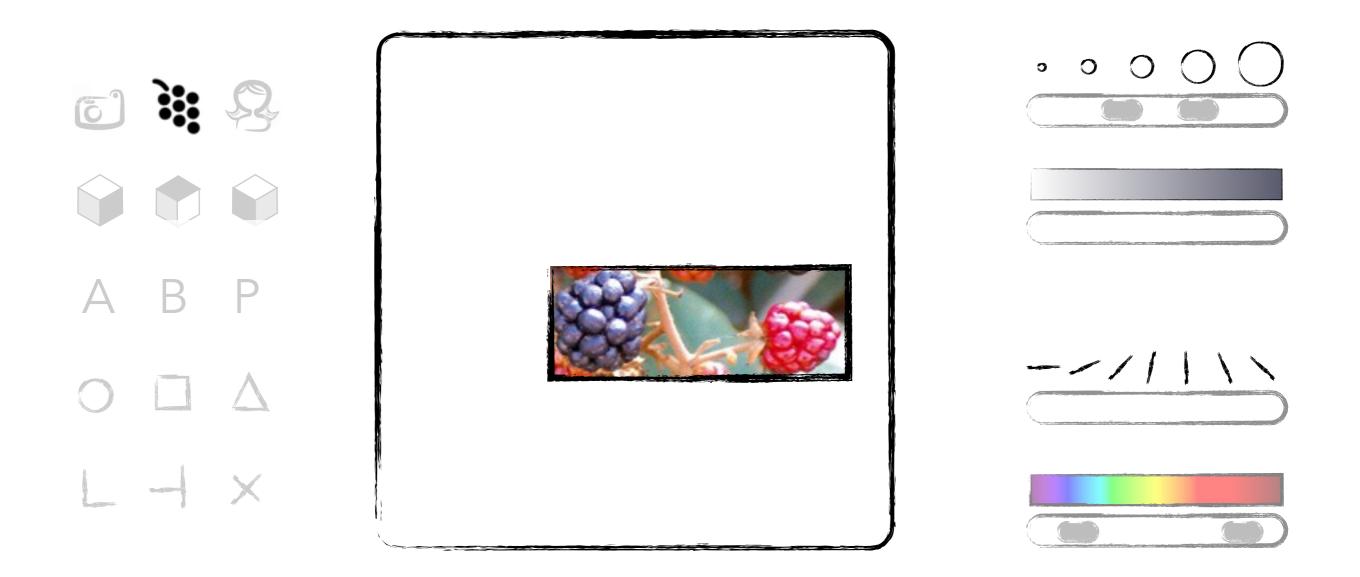


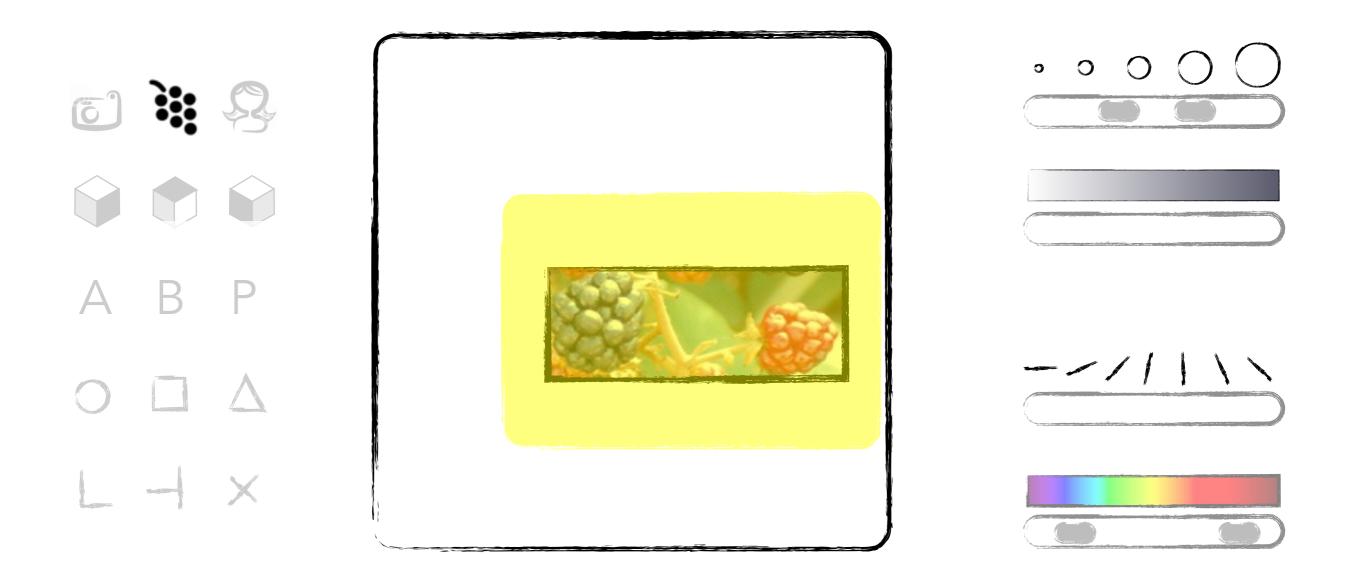


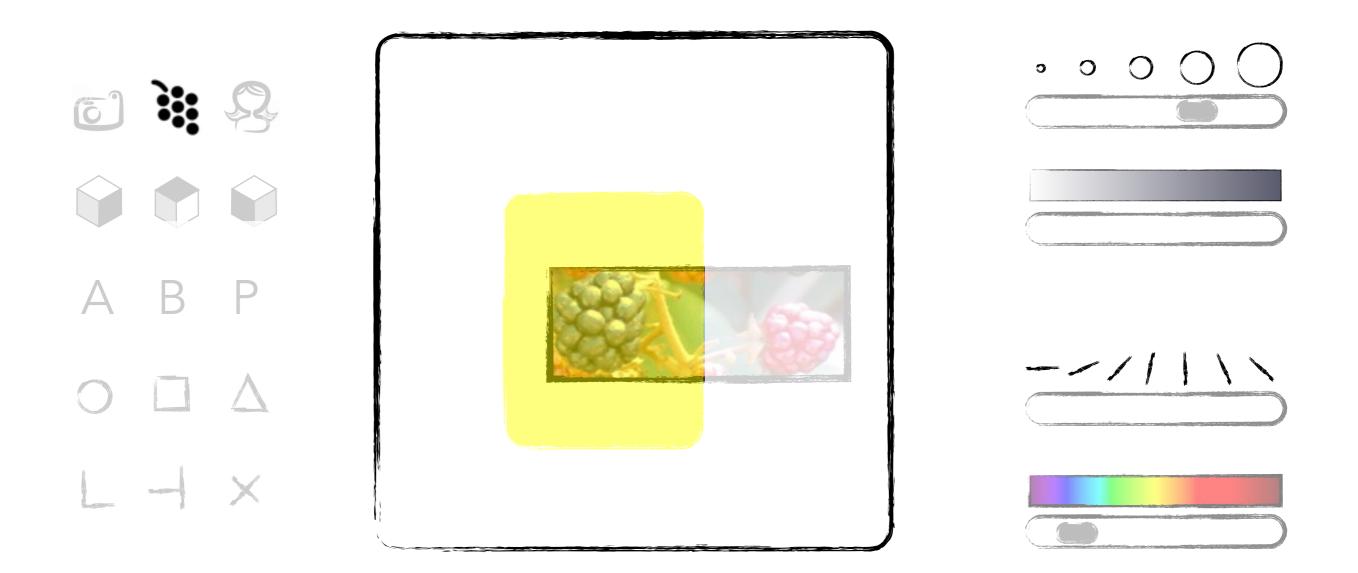


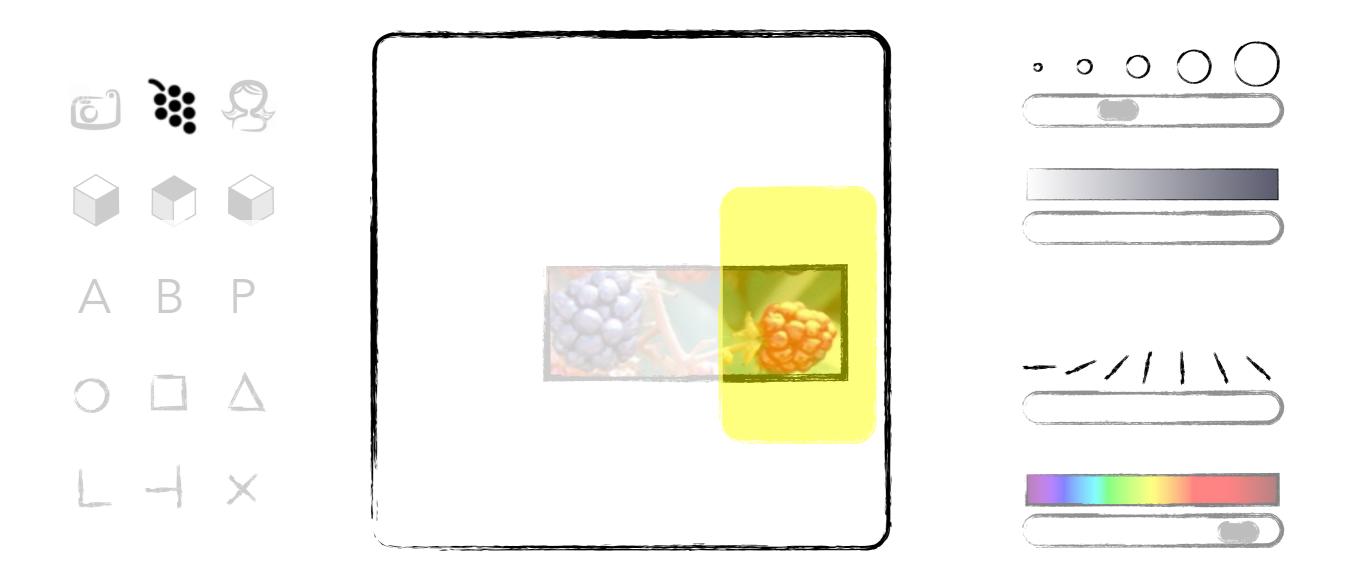


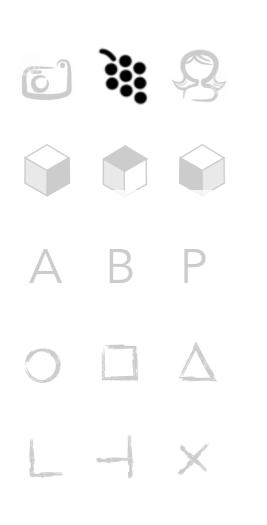
Hummel & Biederman, 1992, Psych Review Holcombe, 2009, *TICS* Hummel, 2011, *Connection Science* Franconeri, et al., 2012, *Cognition*

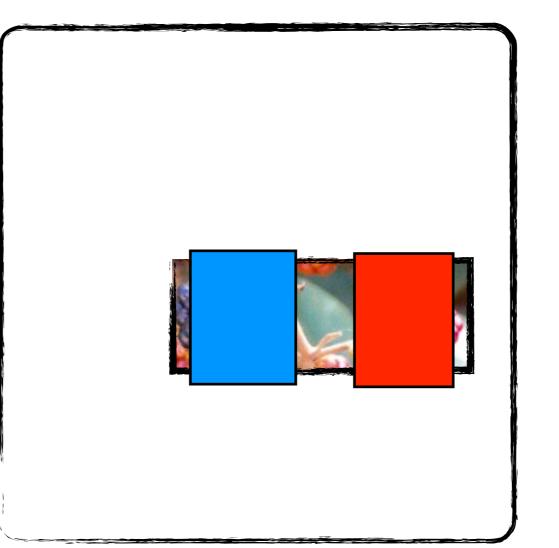


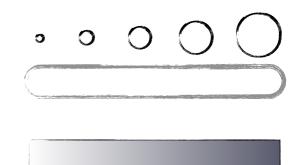


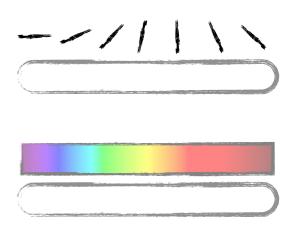


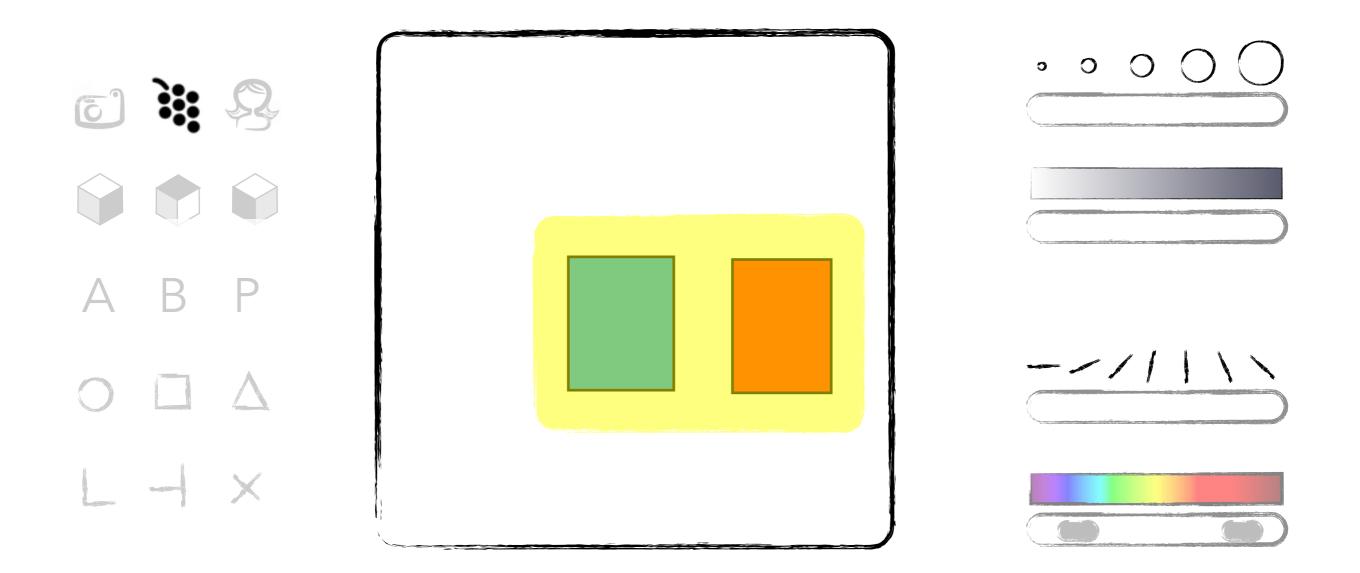


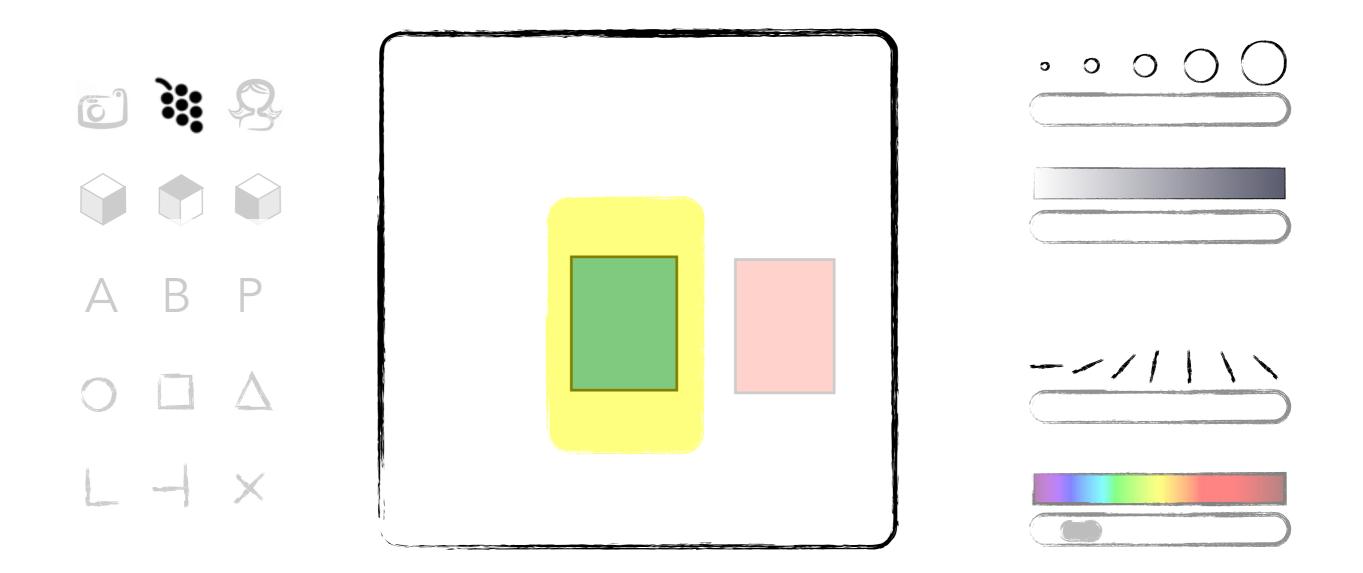


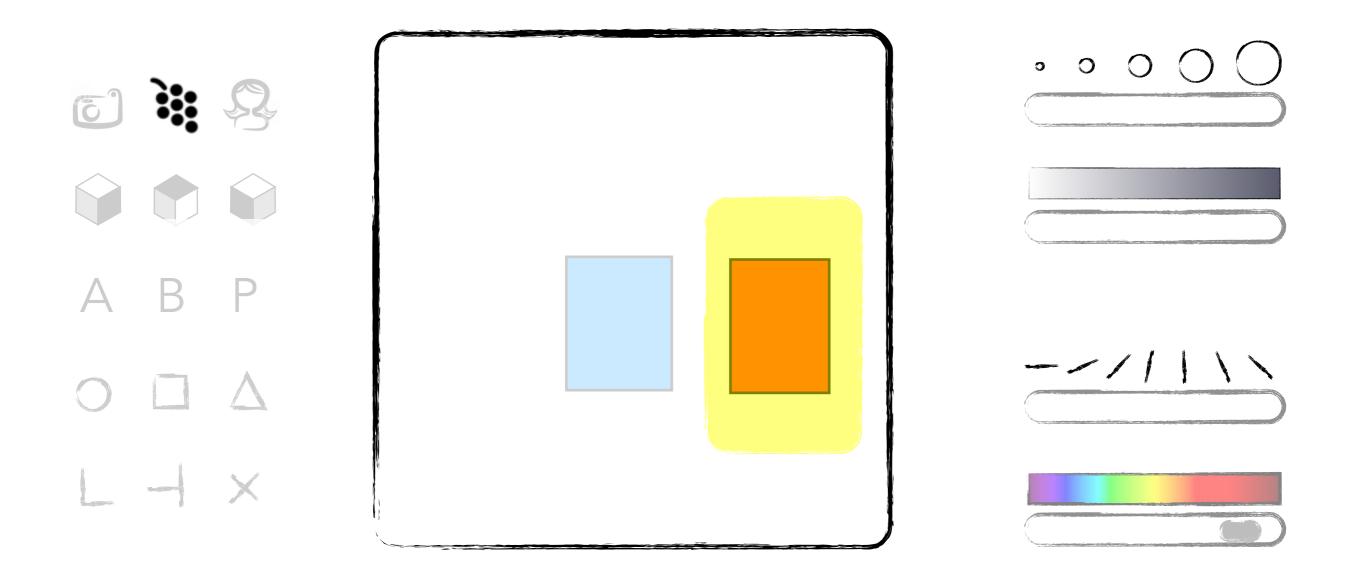


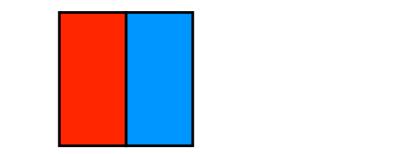


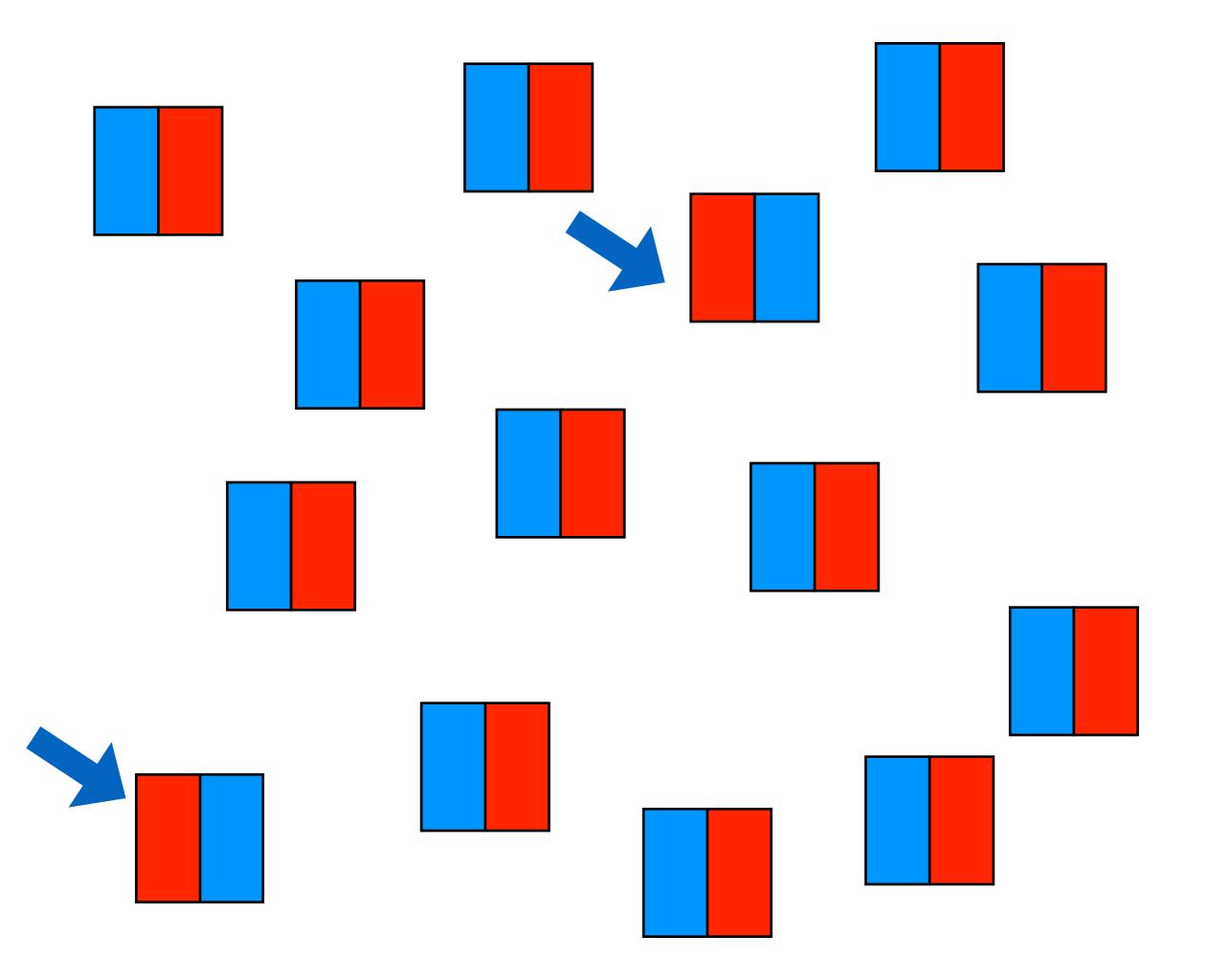


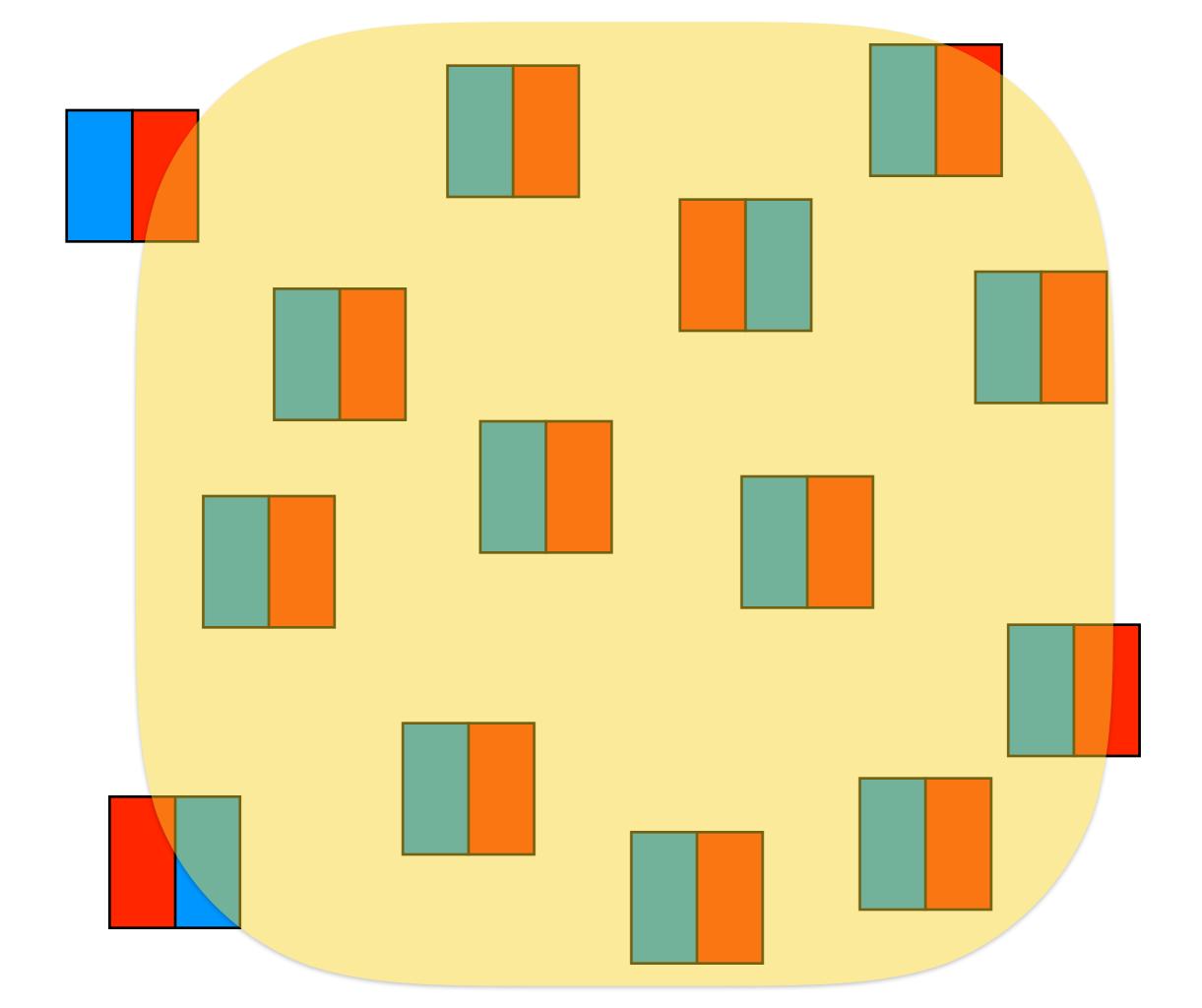


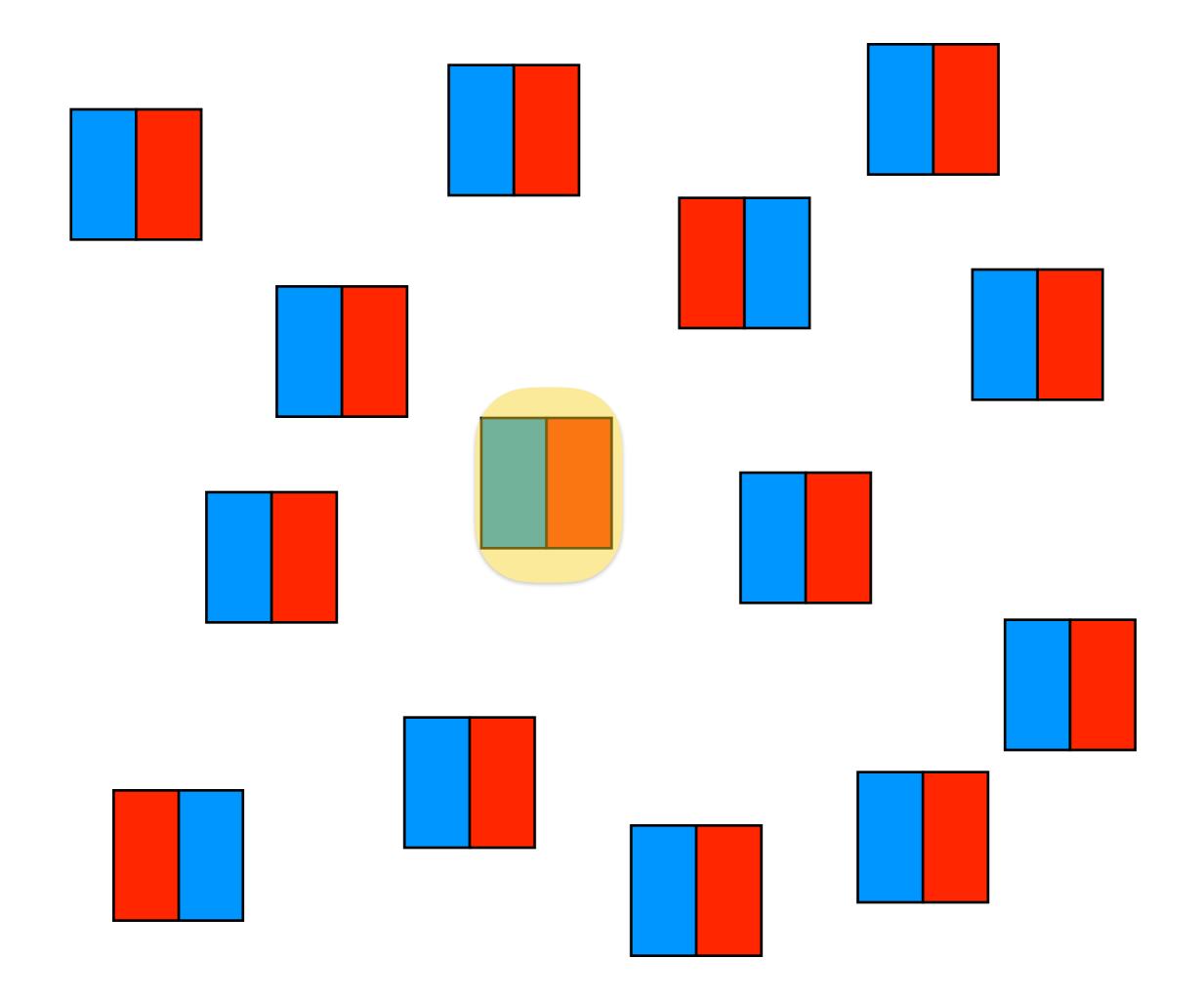


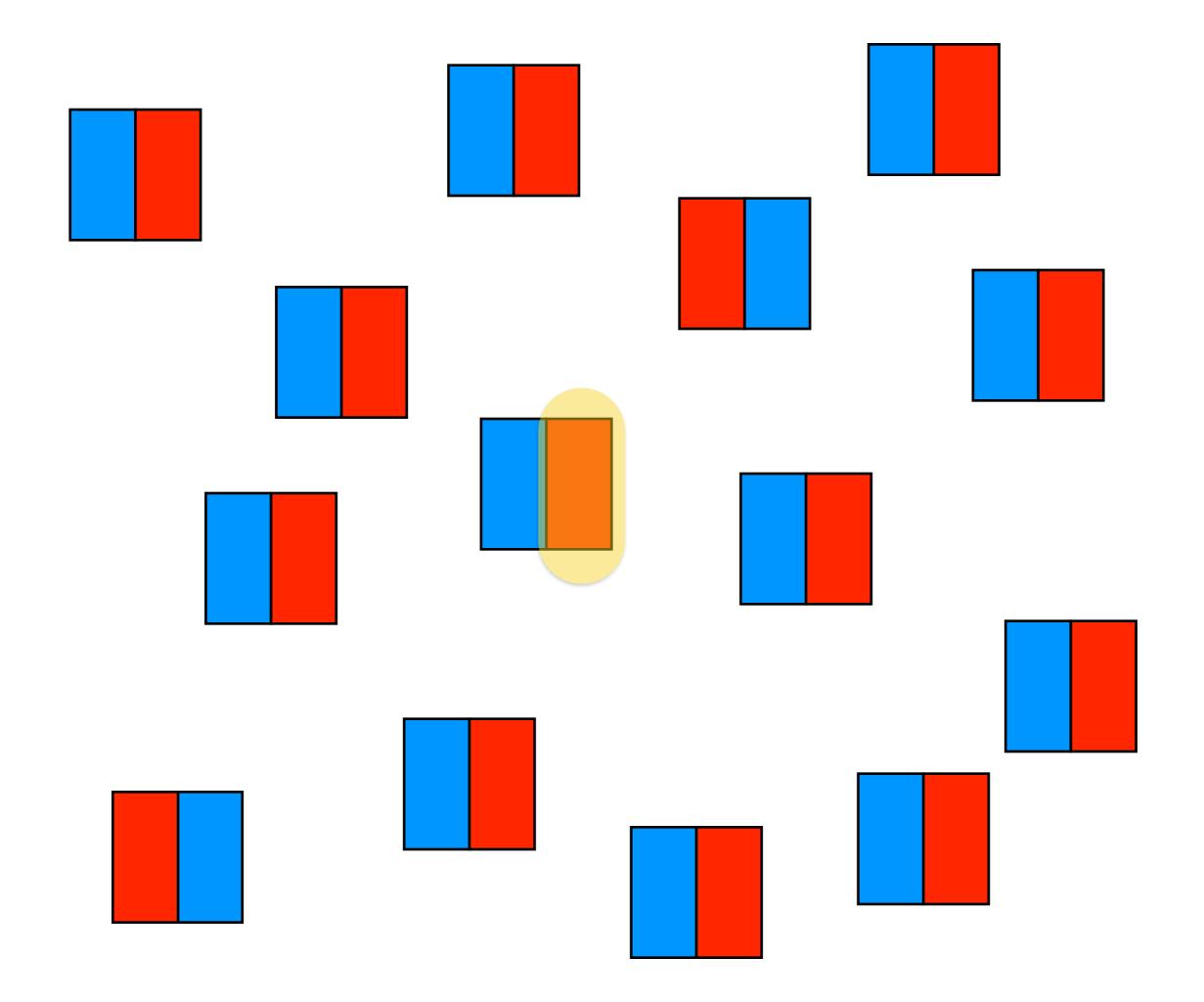


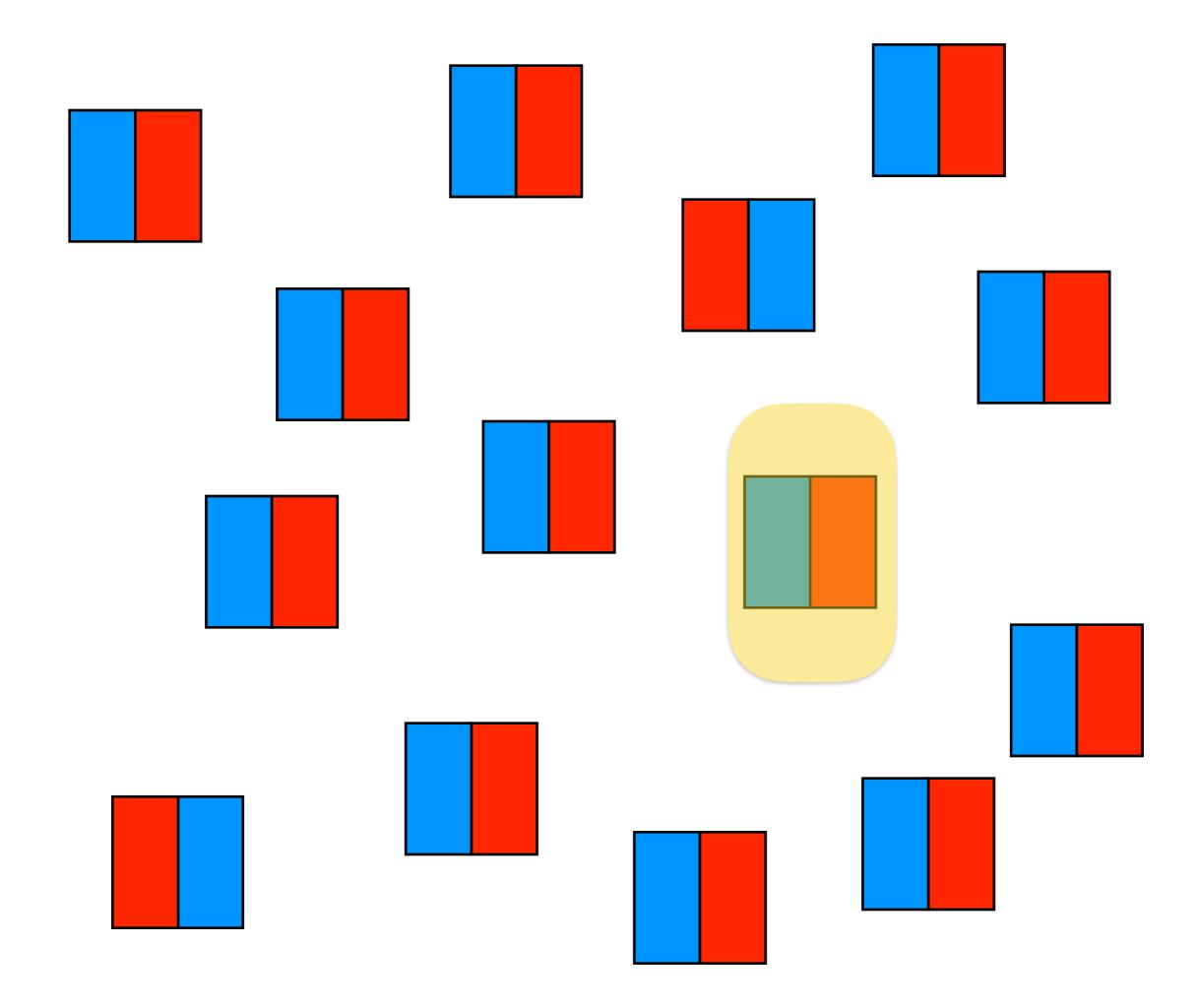


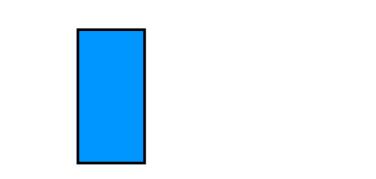


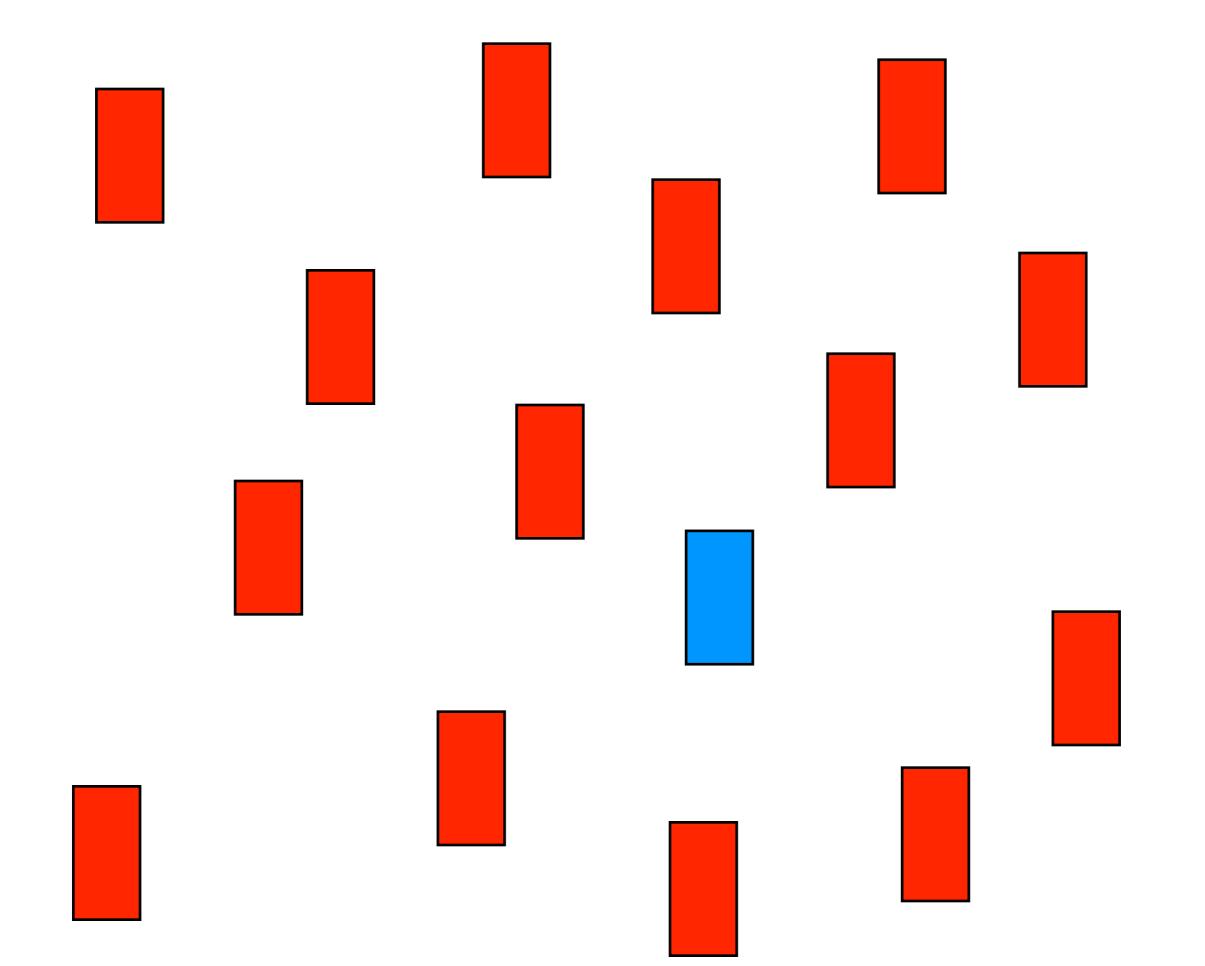


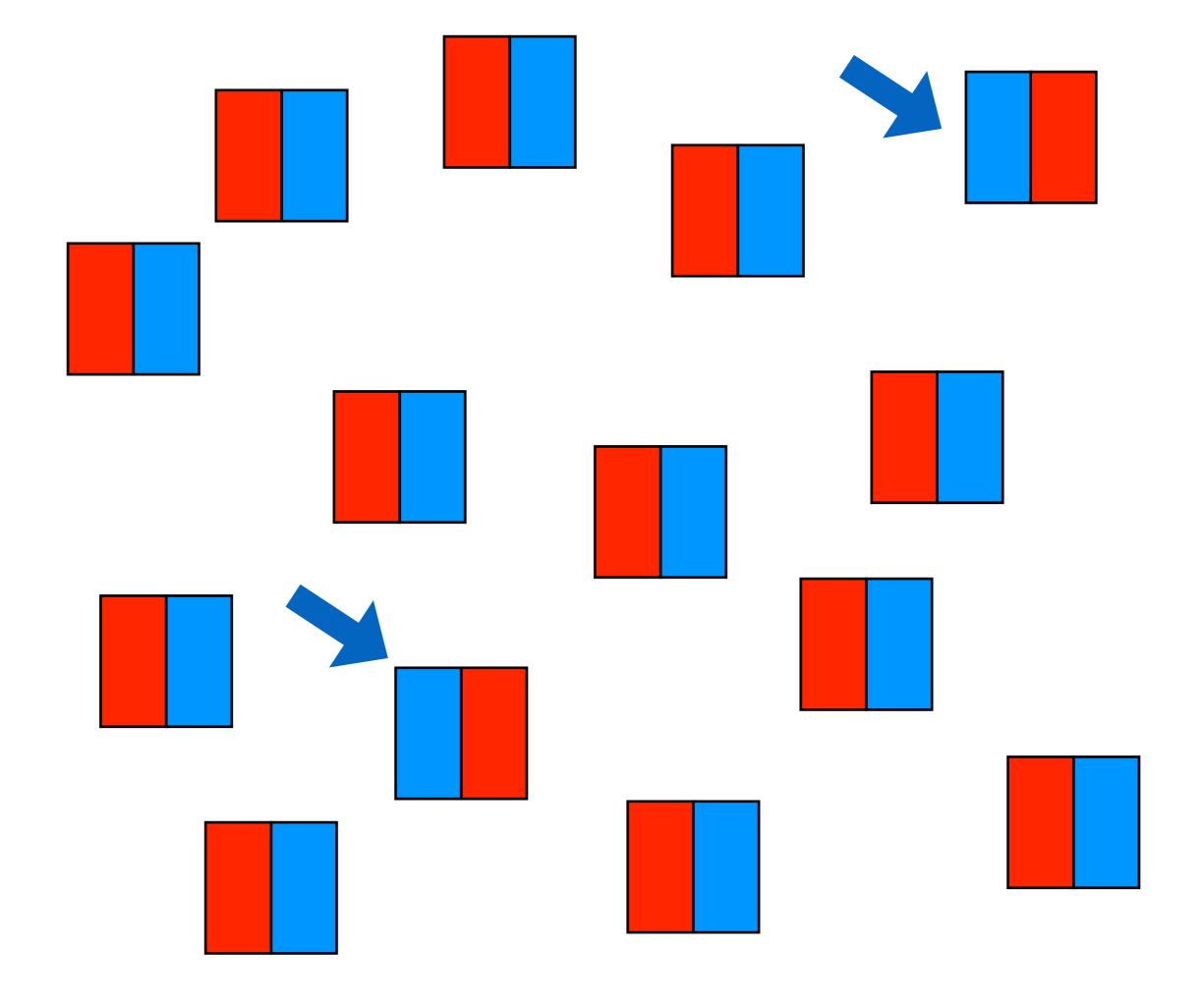


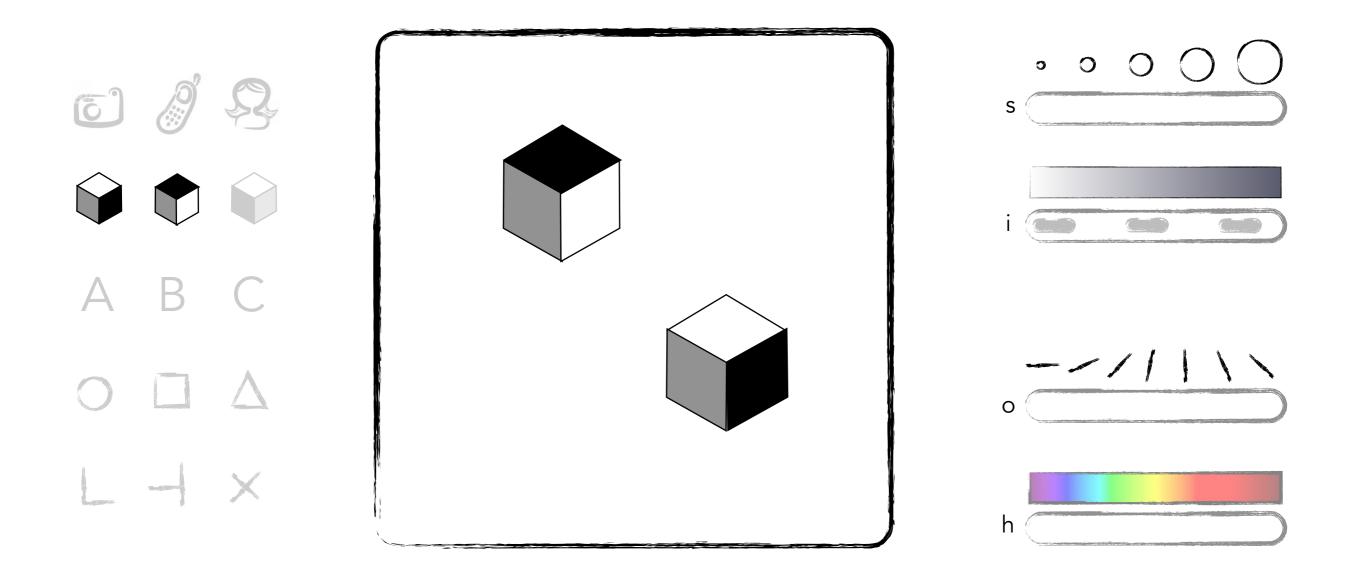


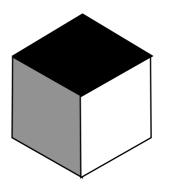




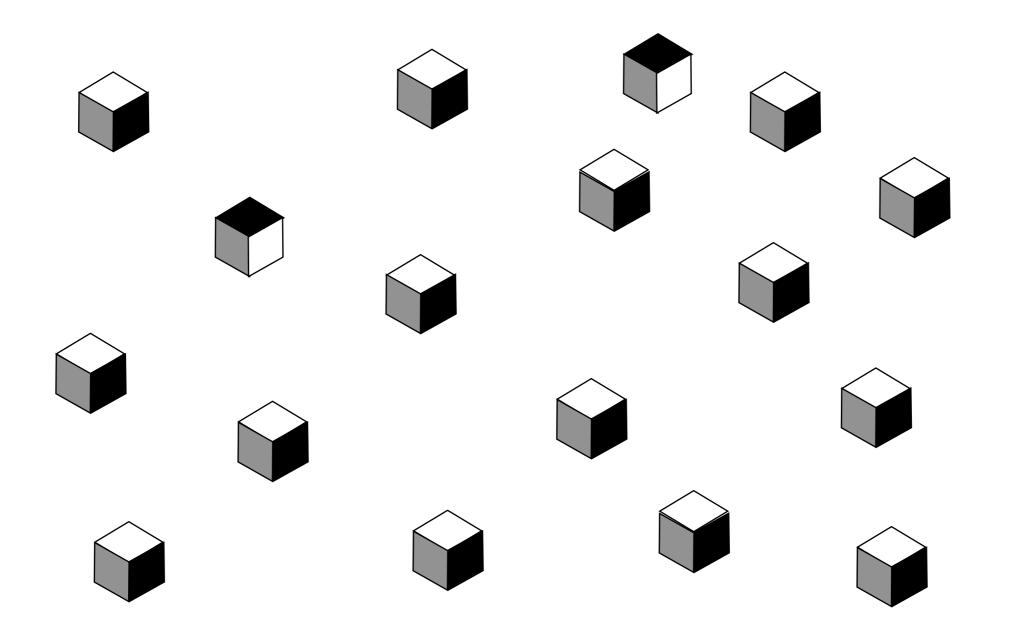


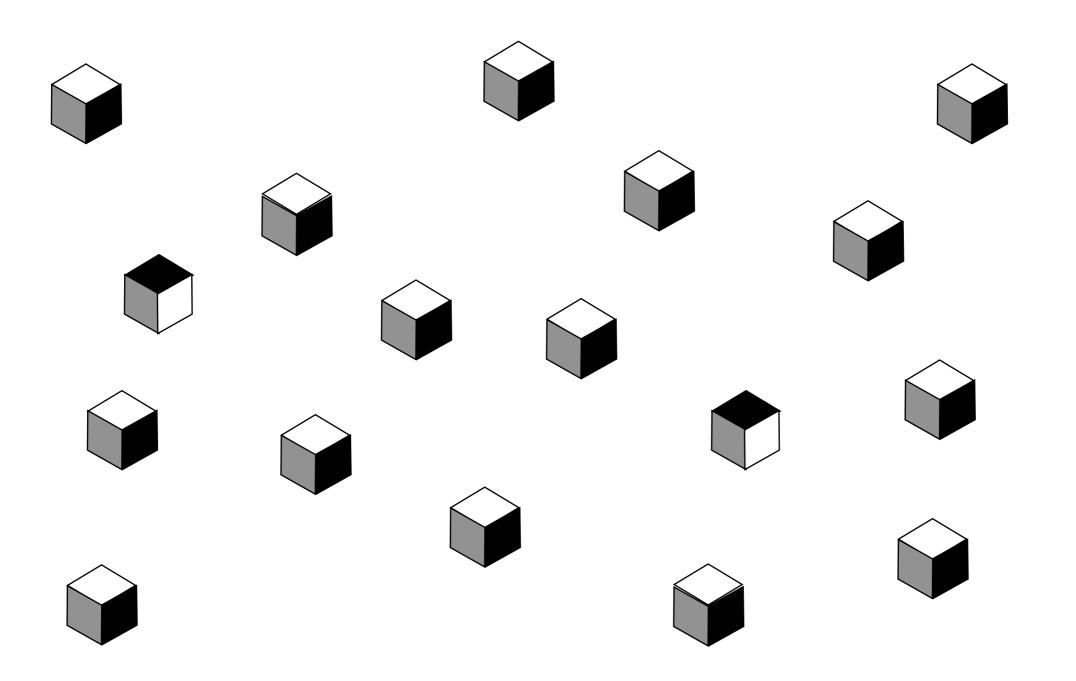






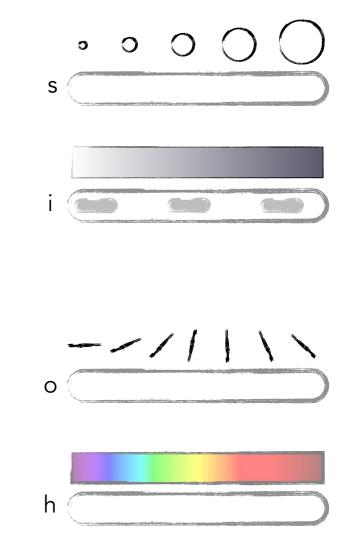
Find this

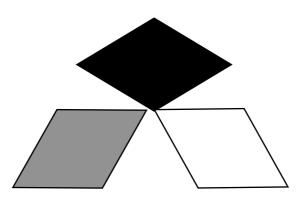




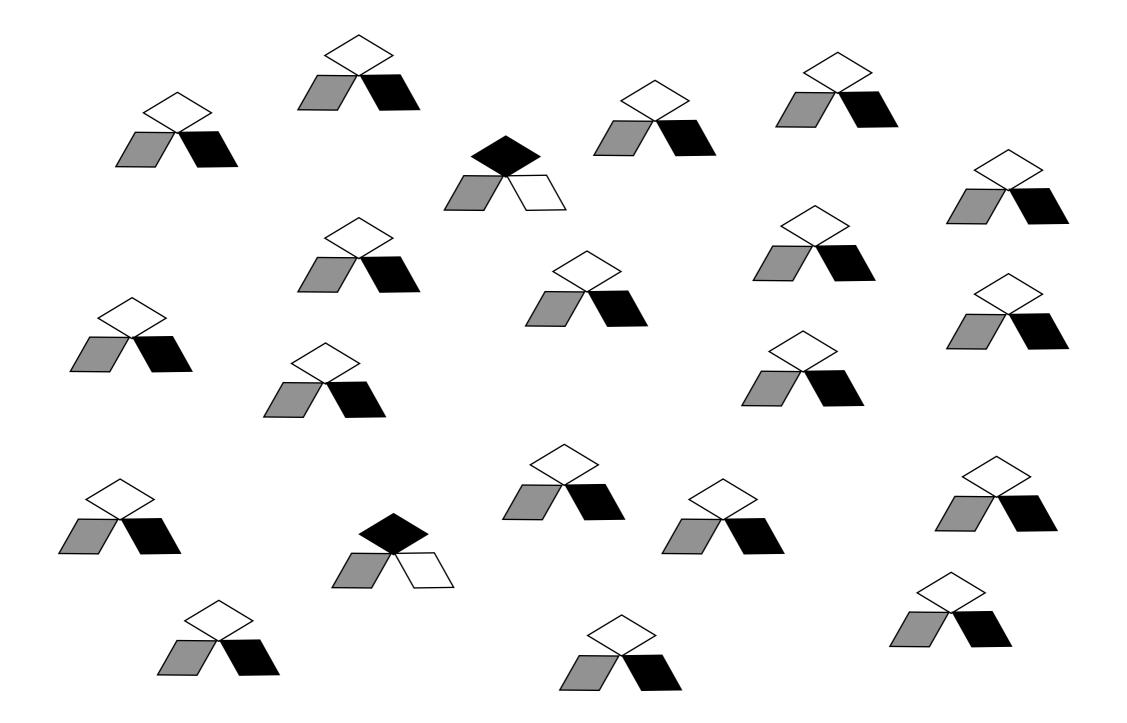
Enns & Rensink, 1990

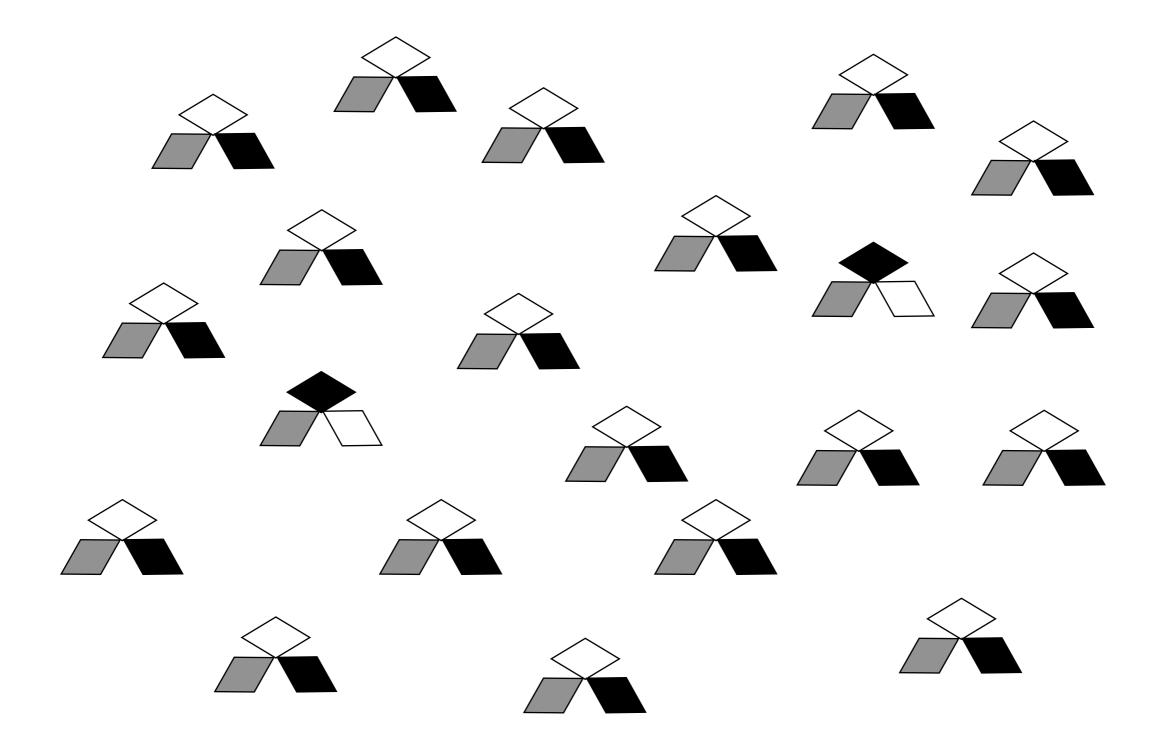




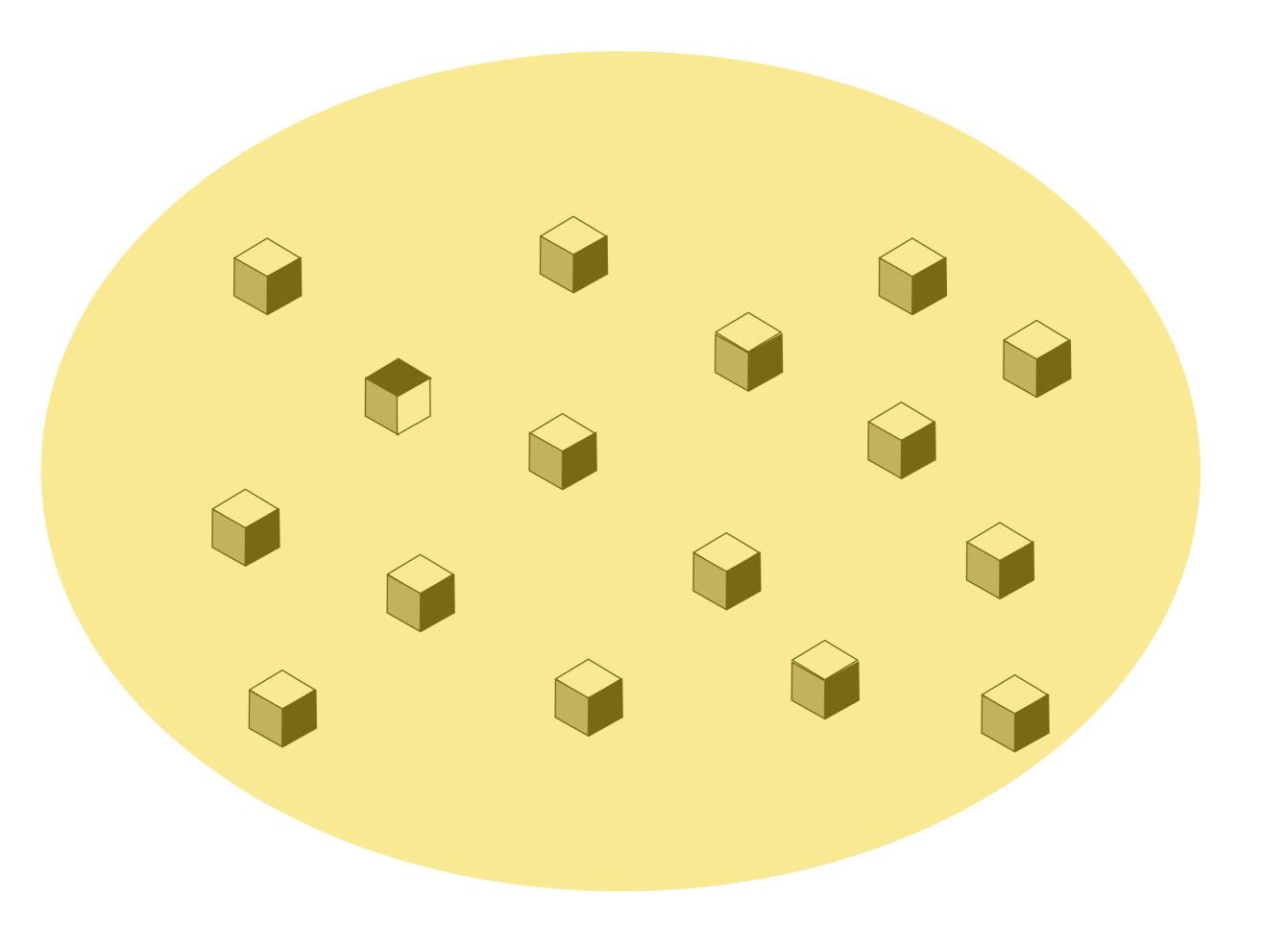


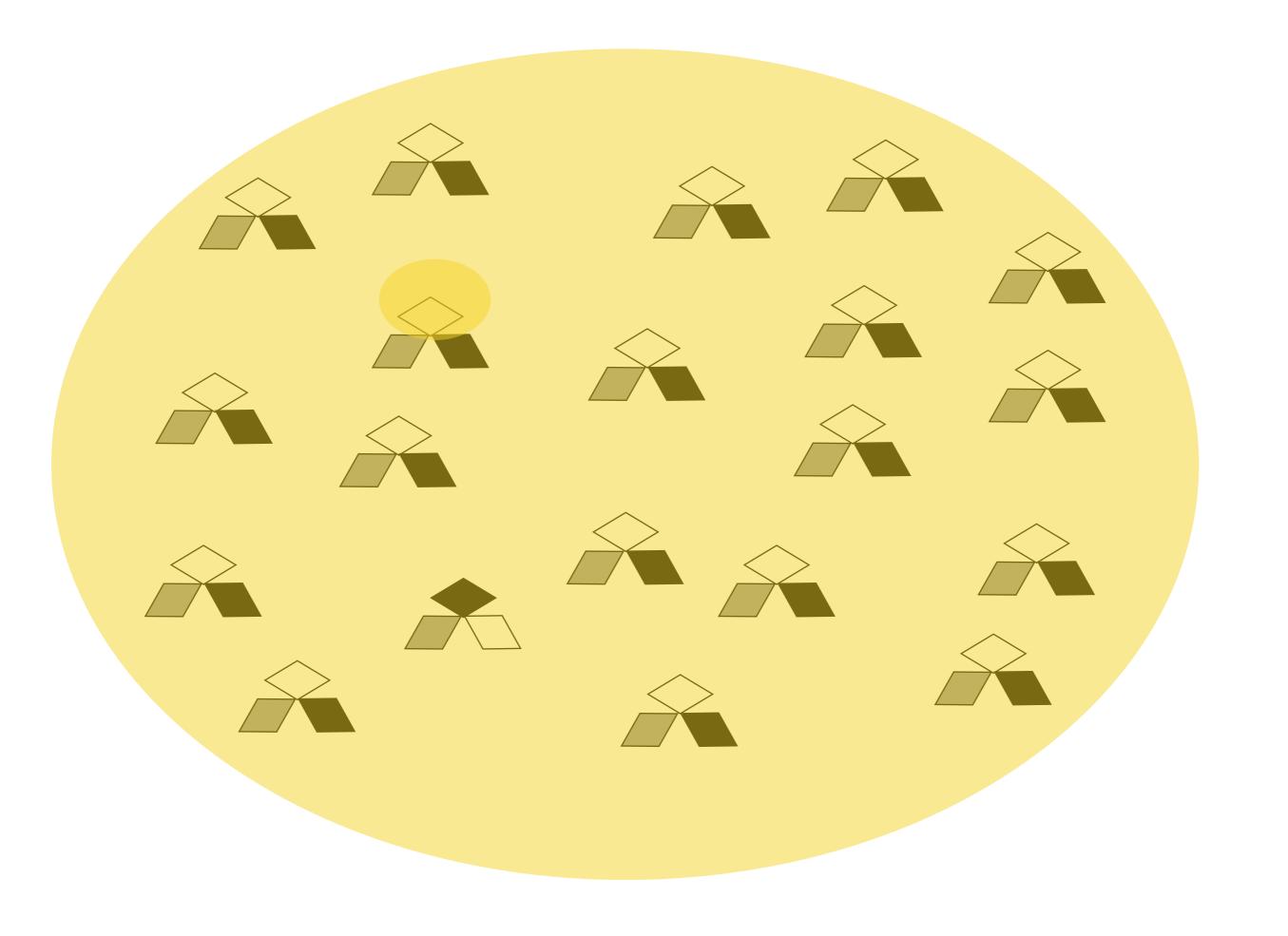
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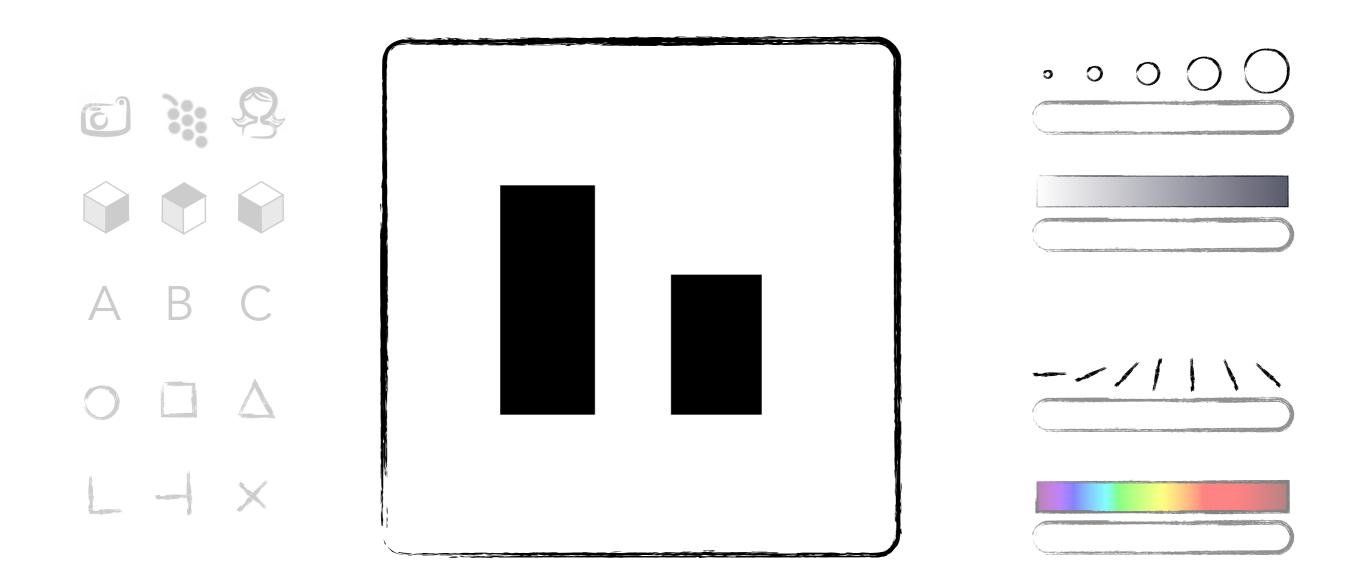


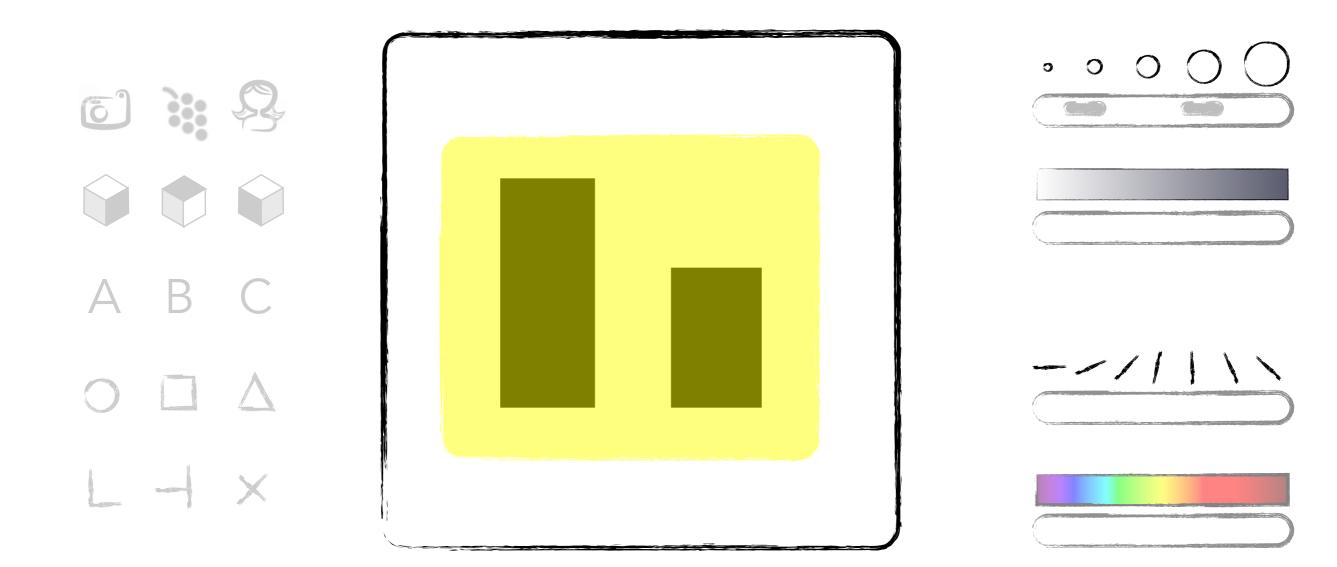
Enns & Rensink, 1990 (see also Wolfe, 1998)

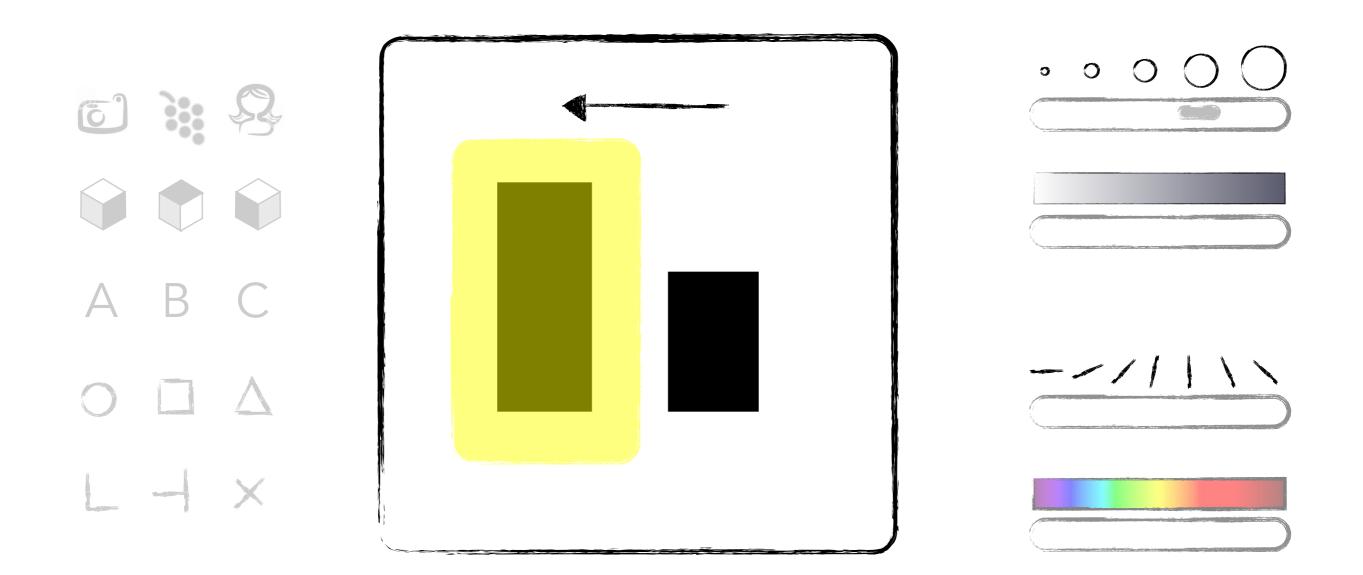


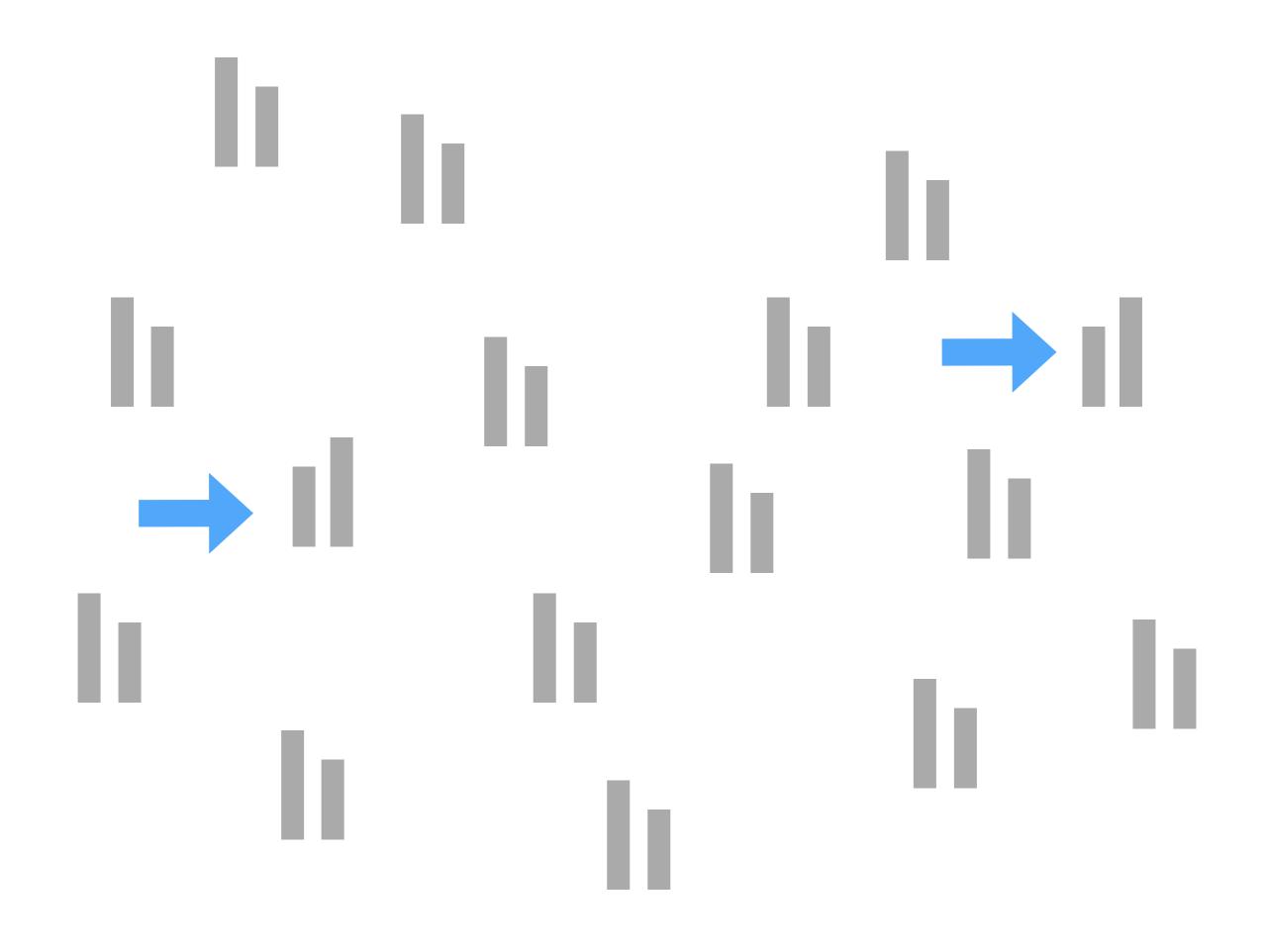


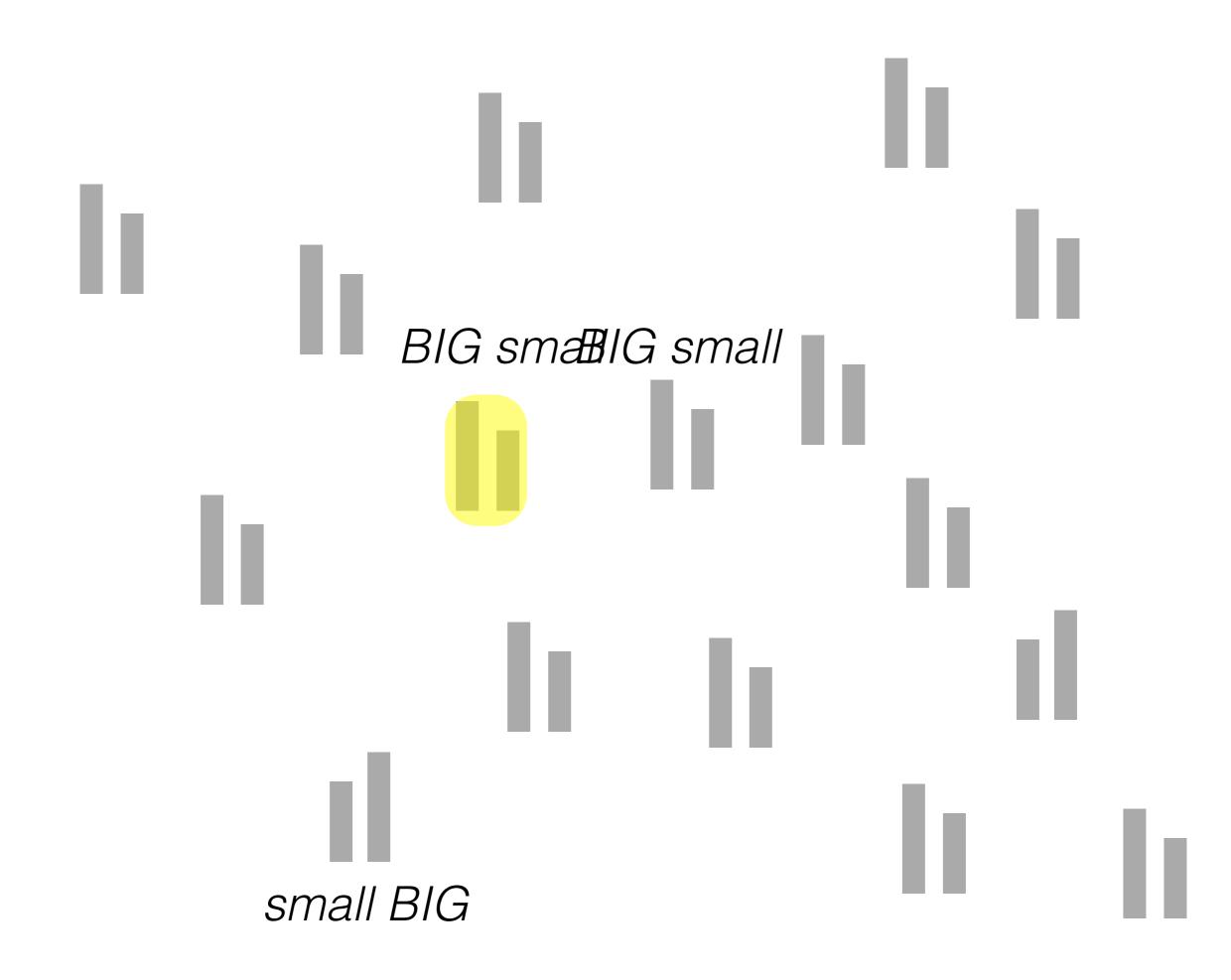


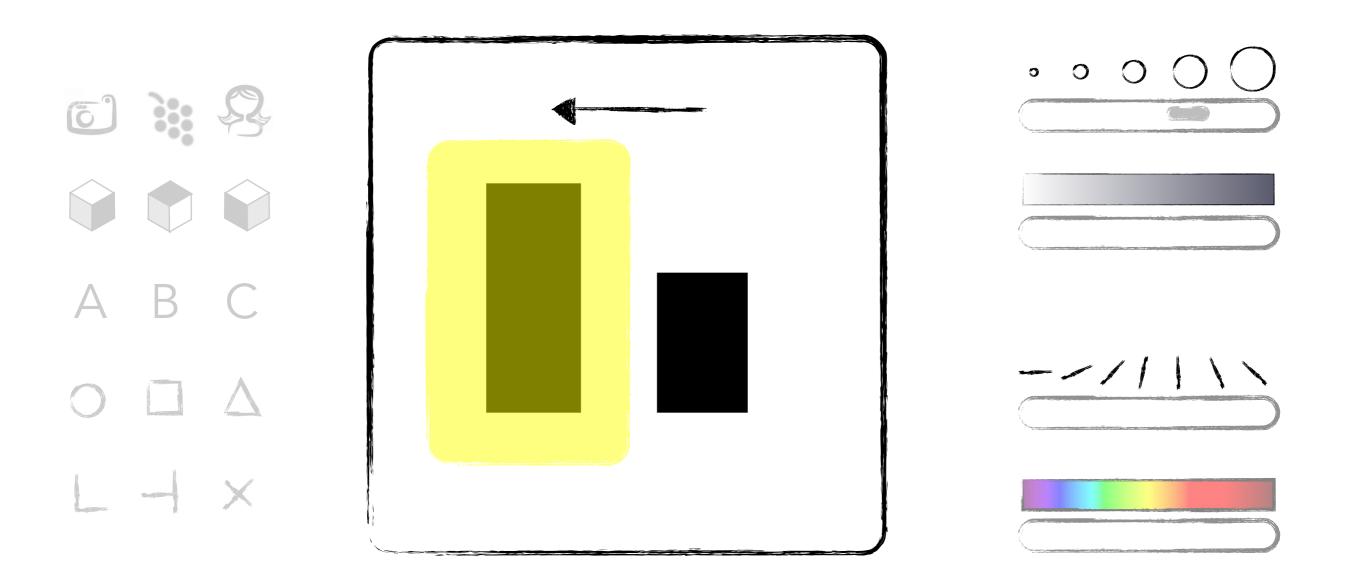




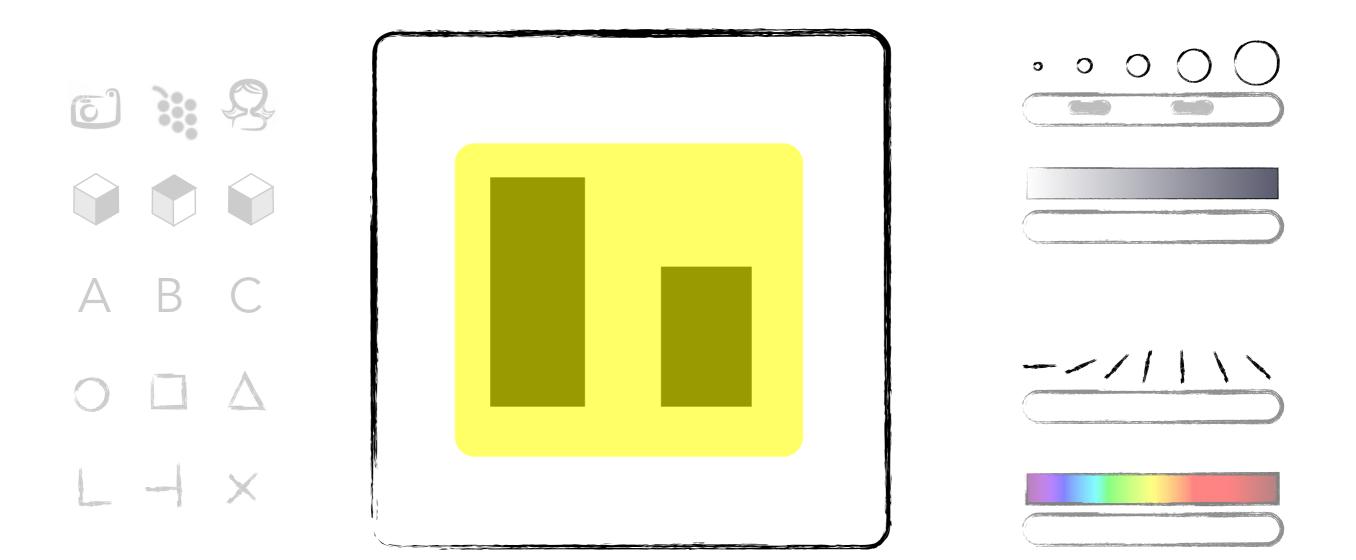




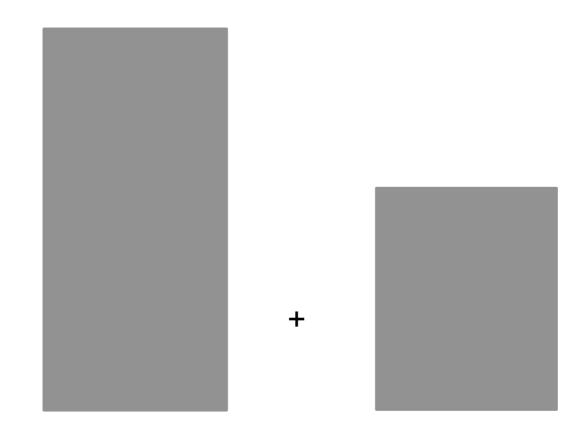




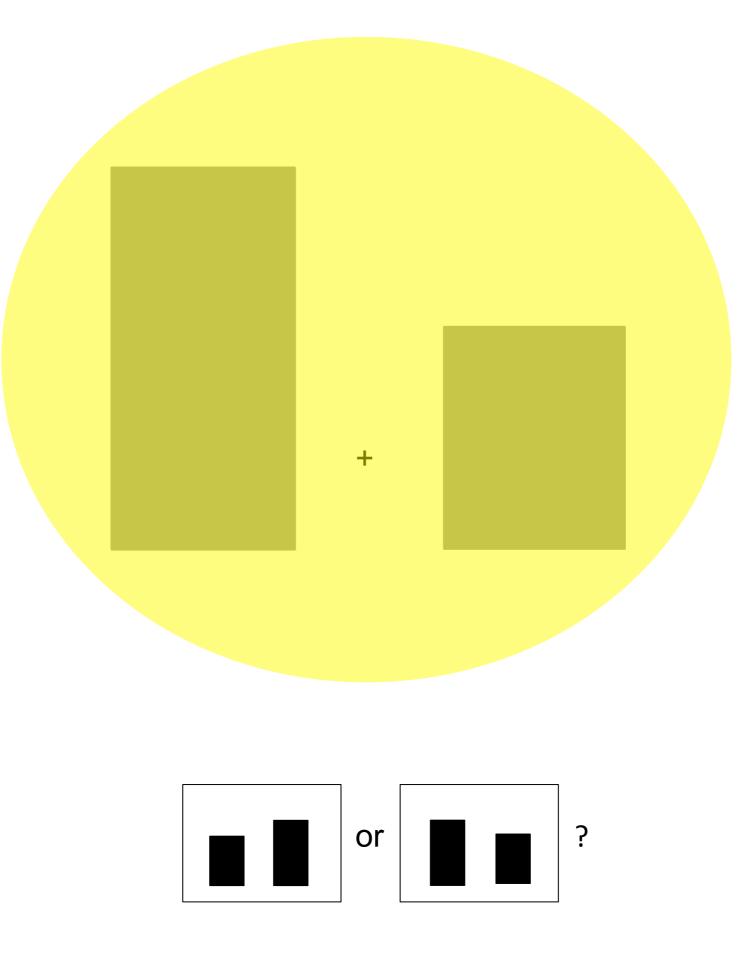
You should need to shift to judge BIGsmall vs. smallBIG

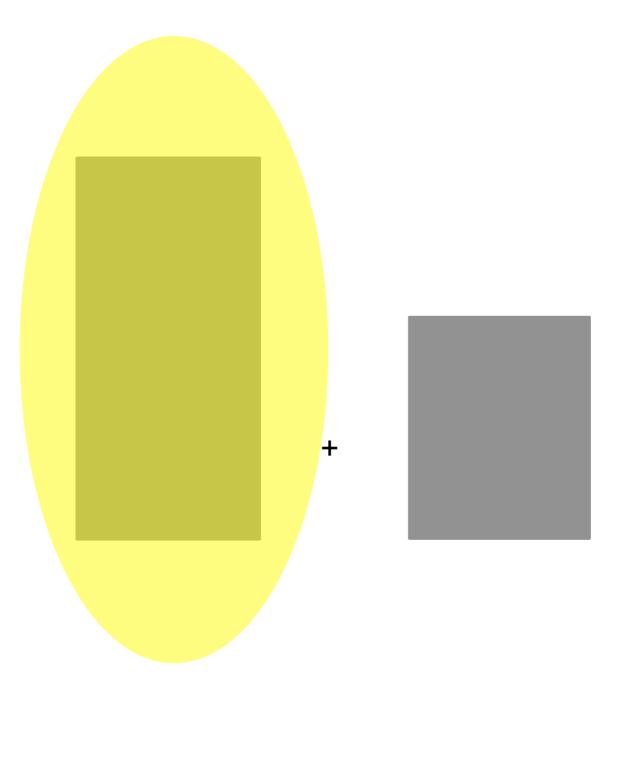


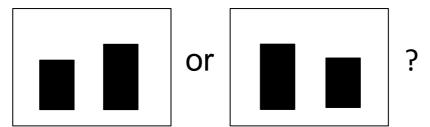
You should need to shift to judge BIGsmall vs. smallBIG But not same-different!

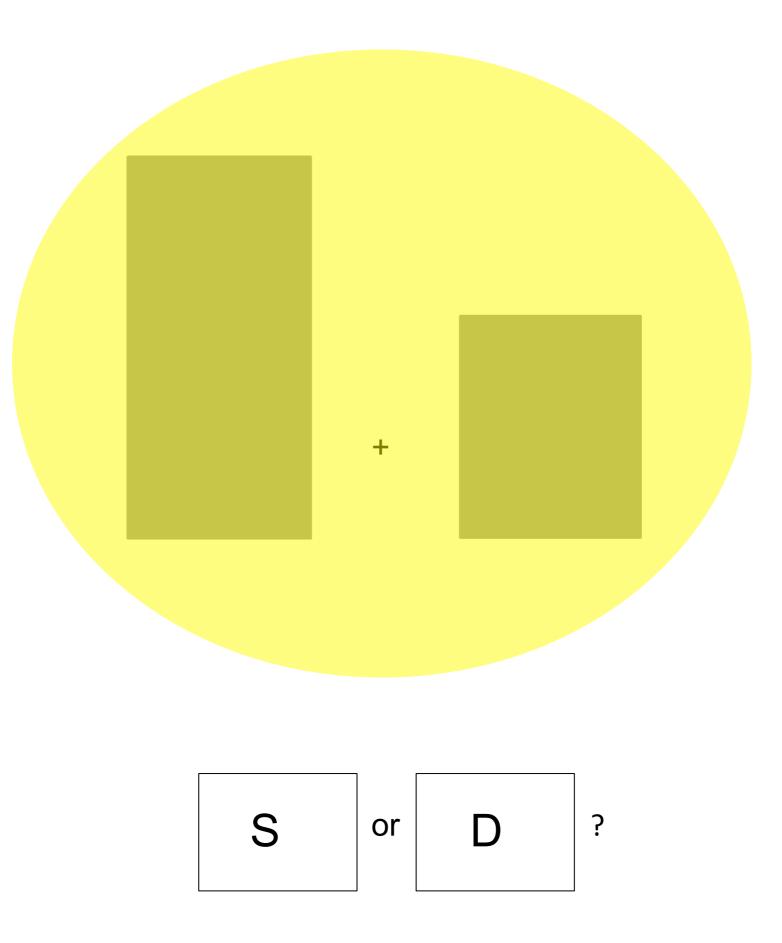


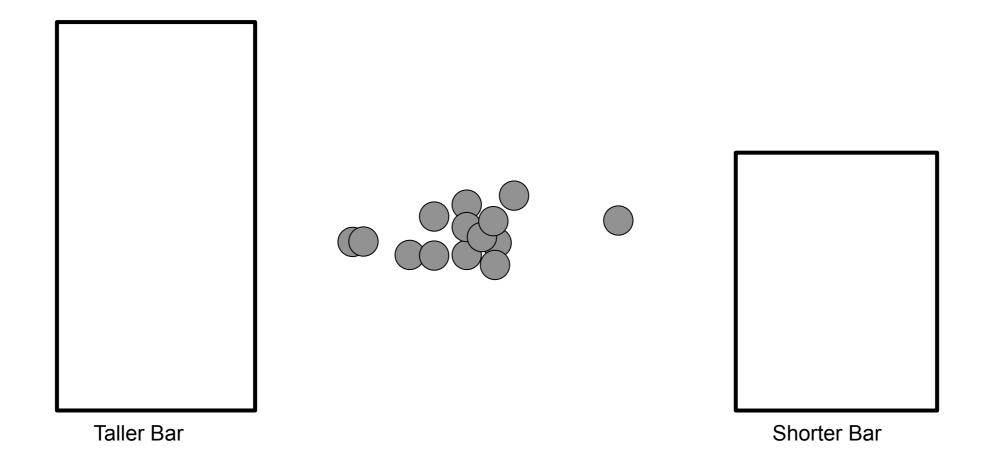
Michal, Uttal, Shah, & Franconeri (2016). *Psychological Bulletin & Review.* Michal & Franconeri (2017). *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*

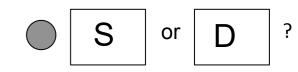


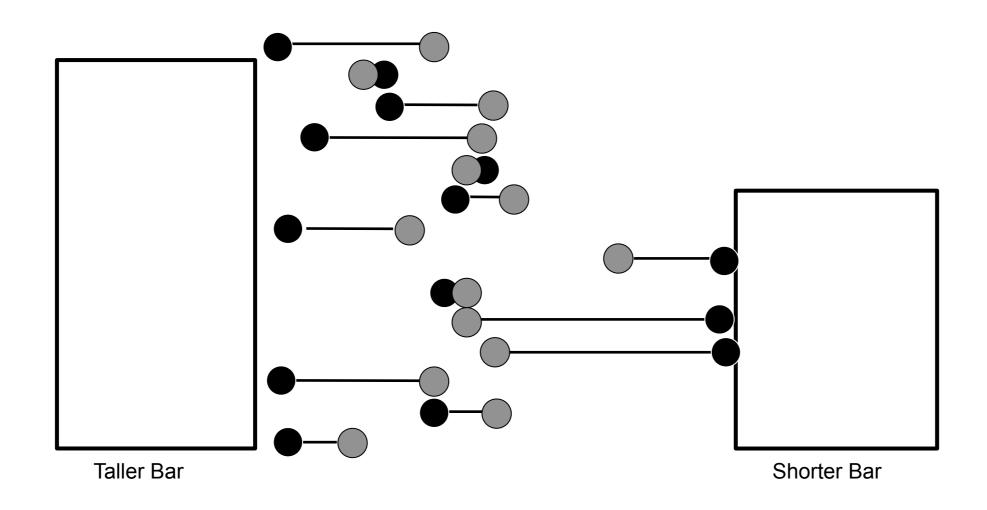


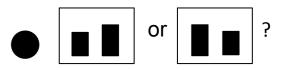


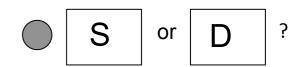


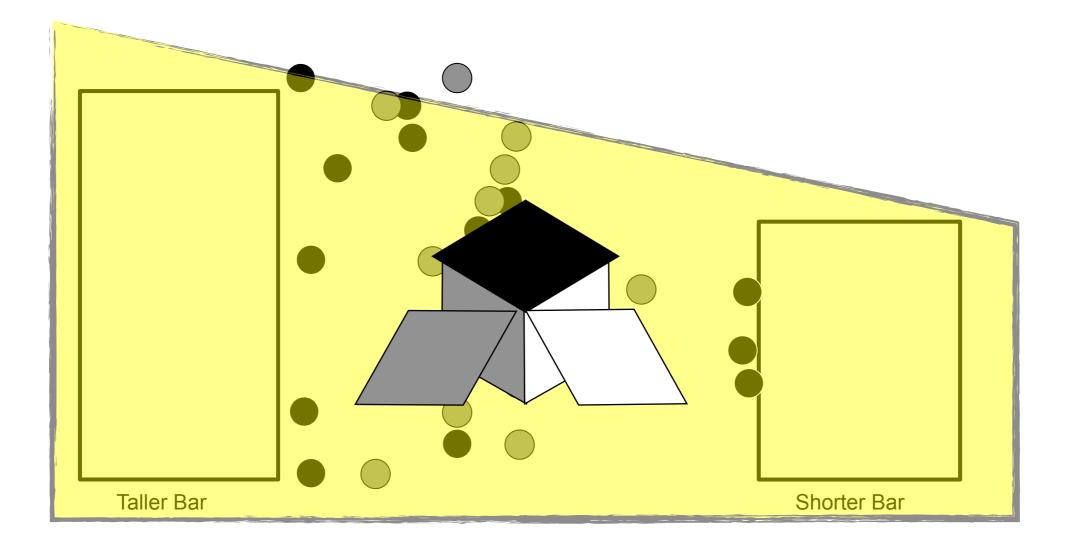




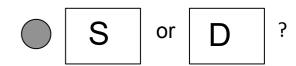






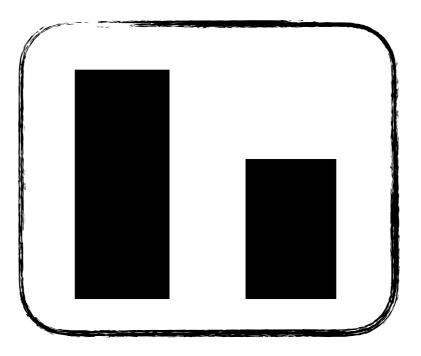






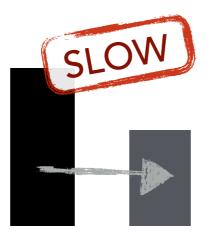


Shape recognition (Sloped roof)





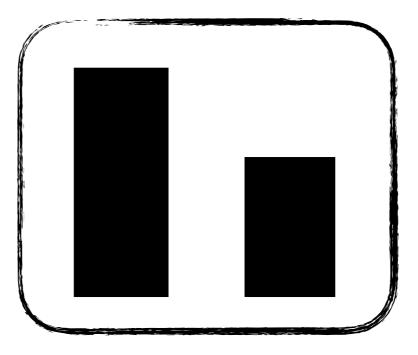
Histograms (Different sizes)



Comparisons (Left bigger; Right smaller; Right lighter...)



Shape recognition (Sloped roof)





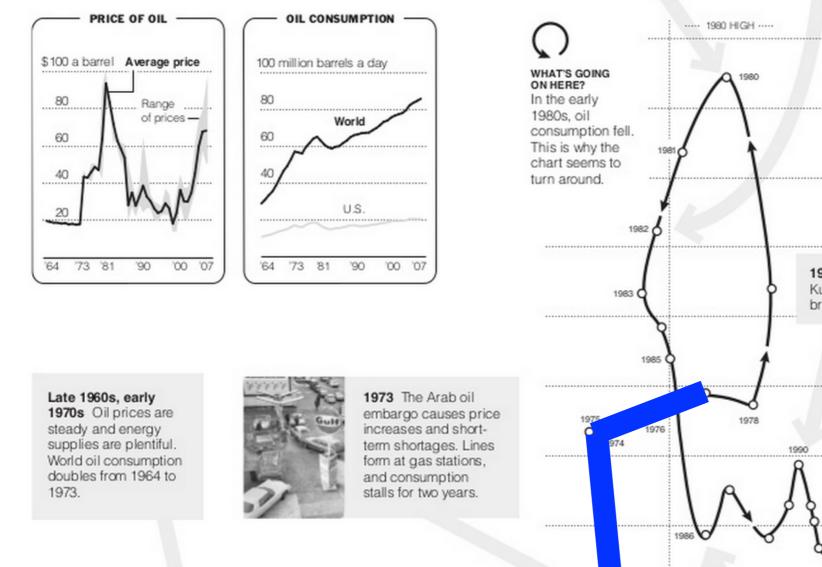
Histograms (Different sizes)

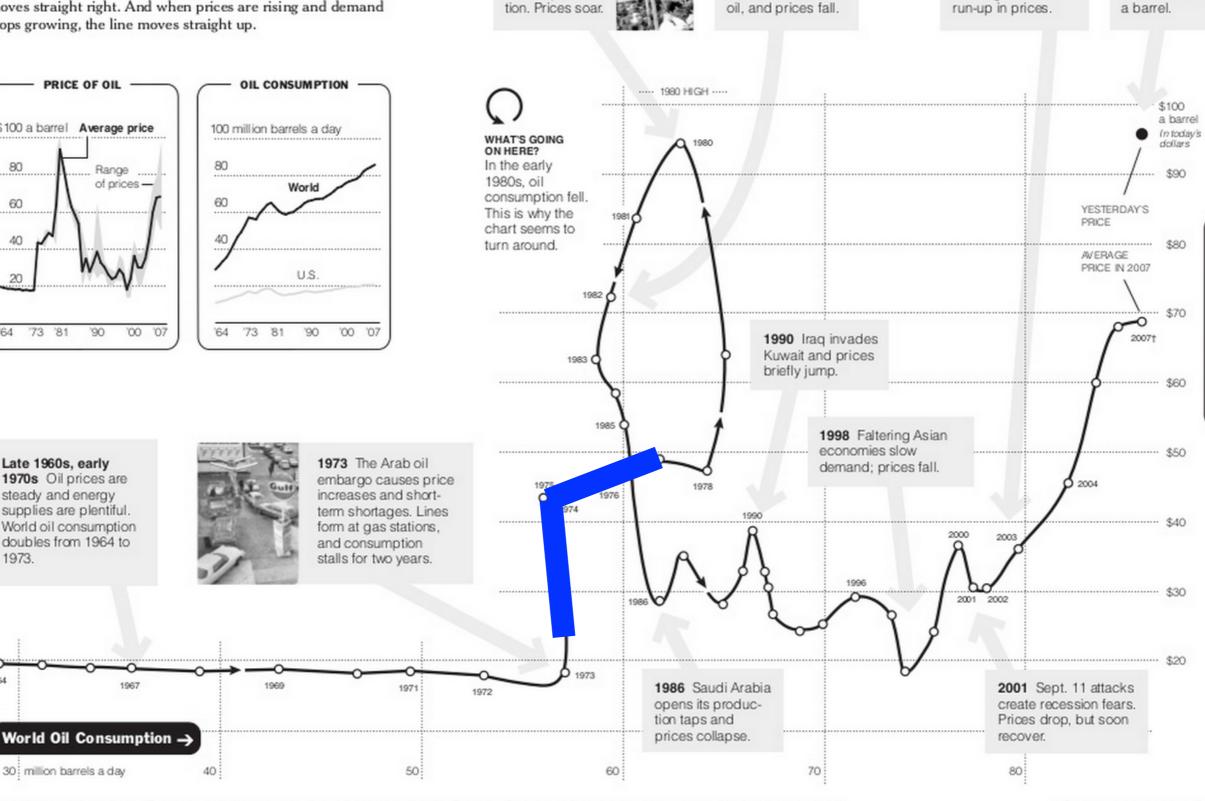


Comparisons (Left bigger; Right smaller; Right lighter...)

Oil's Roller Coaster Ride

This chart tracks the relationship between oil prices and oil consumption since 1964. Global oil consumption is shown on the horizontal axis and oil prices are shown on the vertical axis. So, when consumption is increasing and prices are flat, the line moves straight right. And when prices are rising and demand stops growing, the line moves straight up.





1979 and 1980

revolution and

the outbreak of

the Iran-Iraq war

reduce produc-

The Iranian

1982 Recessions

in industrialized

countries across

the world damp

demand, Smaller

cars also conserve

Early 2000s

Record demand in

Asia and the United

in Iraq, Venezuela

and Nigeria fuel a

States and instability

2007 Low

weak dollar

and bullish

trading push

oil near \$100

of oil*

Price

inventories, a

* Average annual price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. Posted prices (not spot prices) are shown before 1983.

† Consumption forecast as of Nov. 6

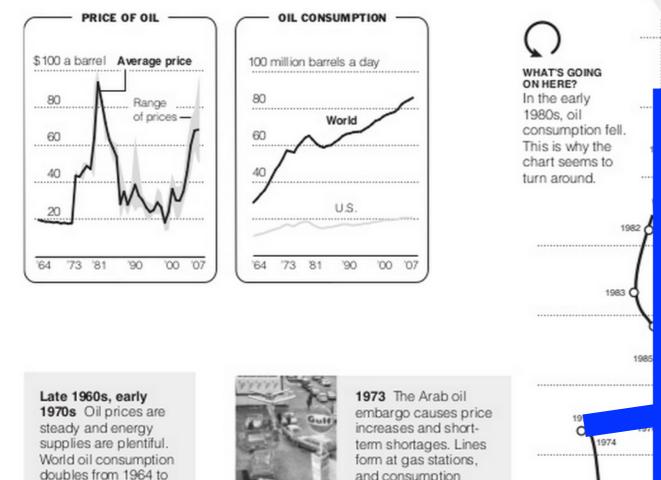
1964

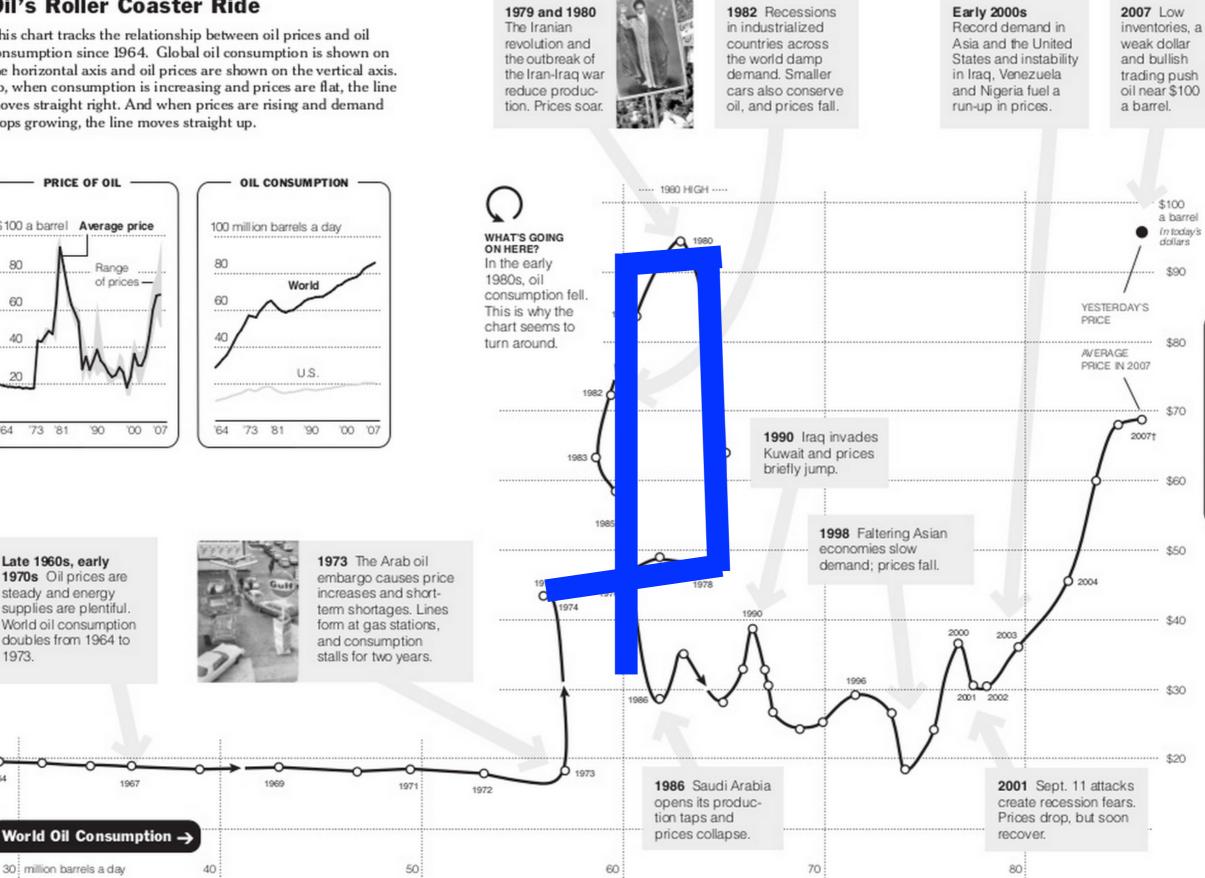
Oil's Roller Coaster Ride

1973.

1964

This chart tracks the relationship between oil prices and oil consumption since 1964. Global oil consumption is shown on the horizontal axis and oil prices are shown on the vertical axis. So, when consumption is increasing and prices are flat, the line moves straight right. And when prices are rising and demand stops growing, the line moves straight up.





* Average annual price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. Posted prices (not spot prices) are shown before 1983.

† Consumption forecast as of Nov. 6

of oil*

Price

SteveHaroz.com

The Connected Scatterplot for Presenting Paired Time Series

Collaborators

Steve Haroz - Psychology, Northwestern University

Robert Kosara - Tableau Research

Steven Franconeri - Psychology, Northwestern University



Hannah Fairfield, The New York Times, 2012

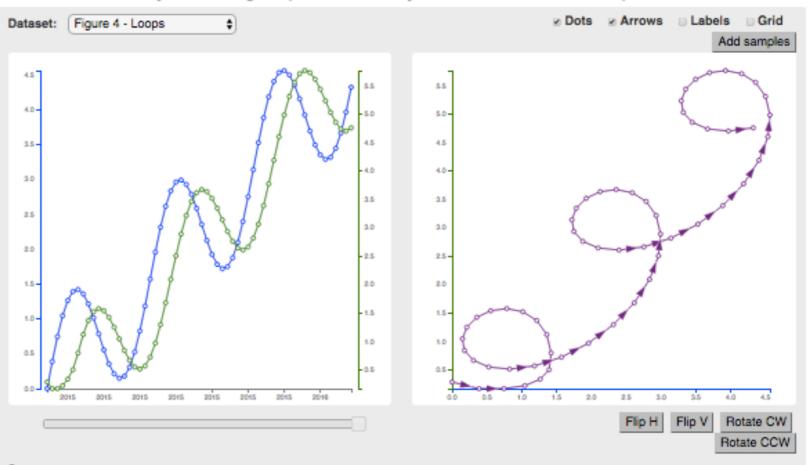
An effective tool for journalists?

As far back as the 1790s, the connected scatterplot was used to visualize the cycle of a steam piston. Economists have since used it to depict data about unemployment and job openings over time.

Recently, journalists have begun using the technique to convey information to readers. But how well do those readers understand this unfamiliar format?

We tested how well viewers understand what the chart depicts, whether they can translate back & forth to more traditional formats, and whether they are more likely to engage with this new chart.

Try it out: Drag the points to make your own connected scatterplot



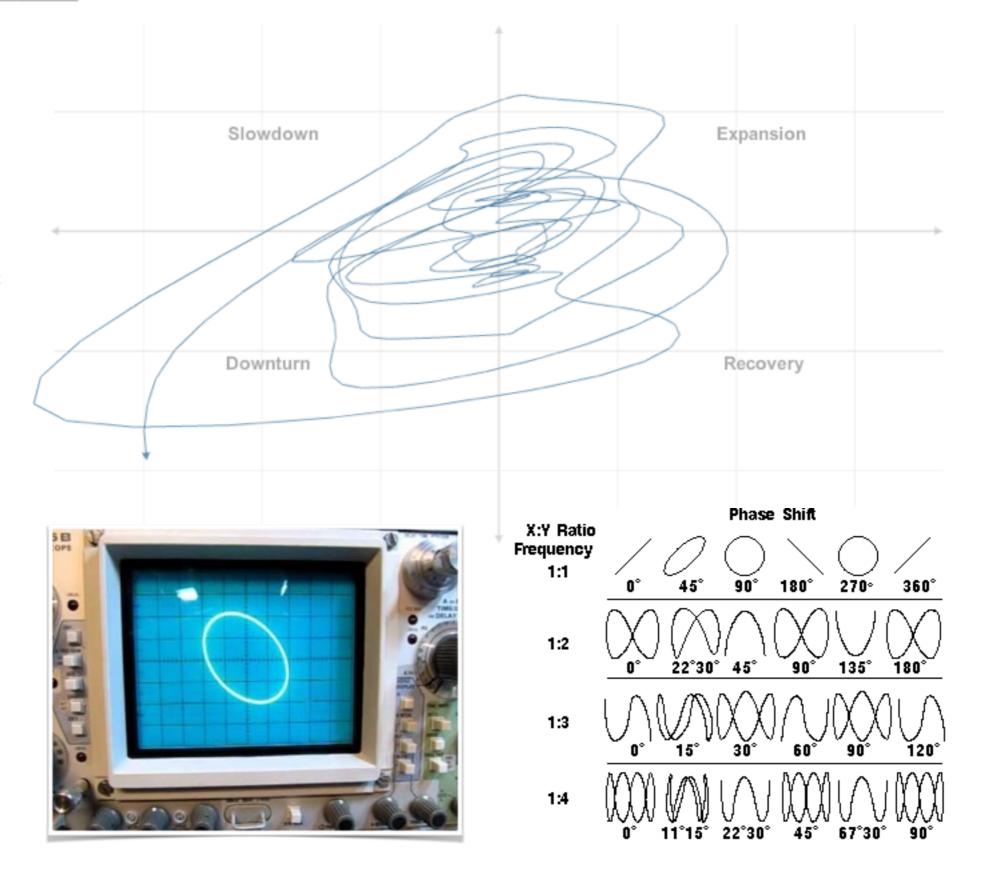
Turning a Corner?

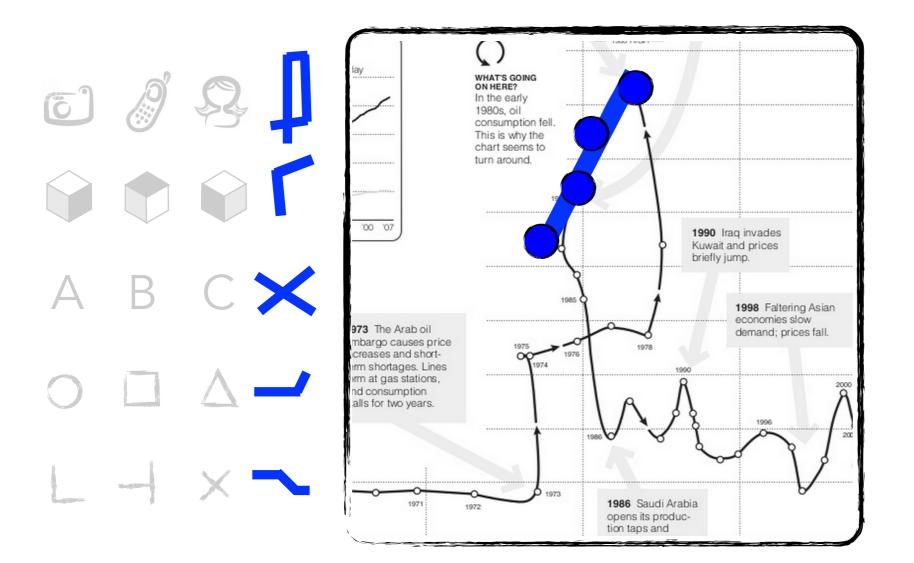
A chart of industrial production — the output of manufacturers, miners and utility companies — suggests that the economy is poised to turn around, but that the climb out of the current downturn will be a long one.

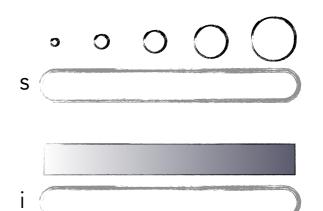
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 NEXT▶

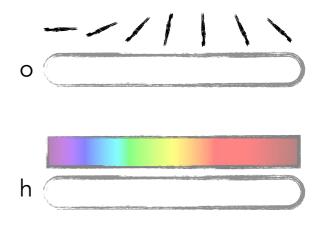
Looking for turning points

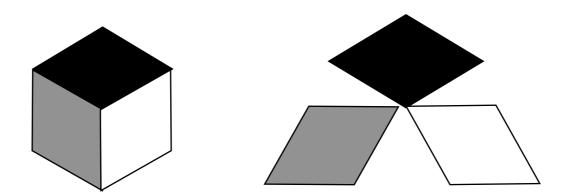
Economic turning points are notoriously hard to identify, especially when a parade of data can seem to contradict itself. To get a feeling for how cycles are evolving, economists at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have been watching a chart that illustrates the business cycle.



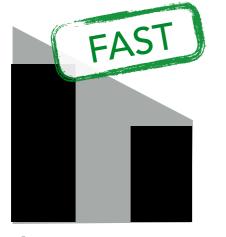








Haroz, Kosara, & Franconeri (2016)

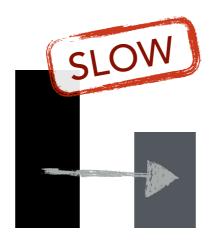


Shape recognition (Sloped roof)



(Different sizes)

Students need to learn which to use, when



Comparisons (Left bigger; Right smaller; Right lighter...)



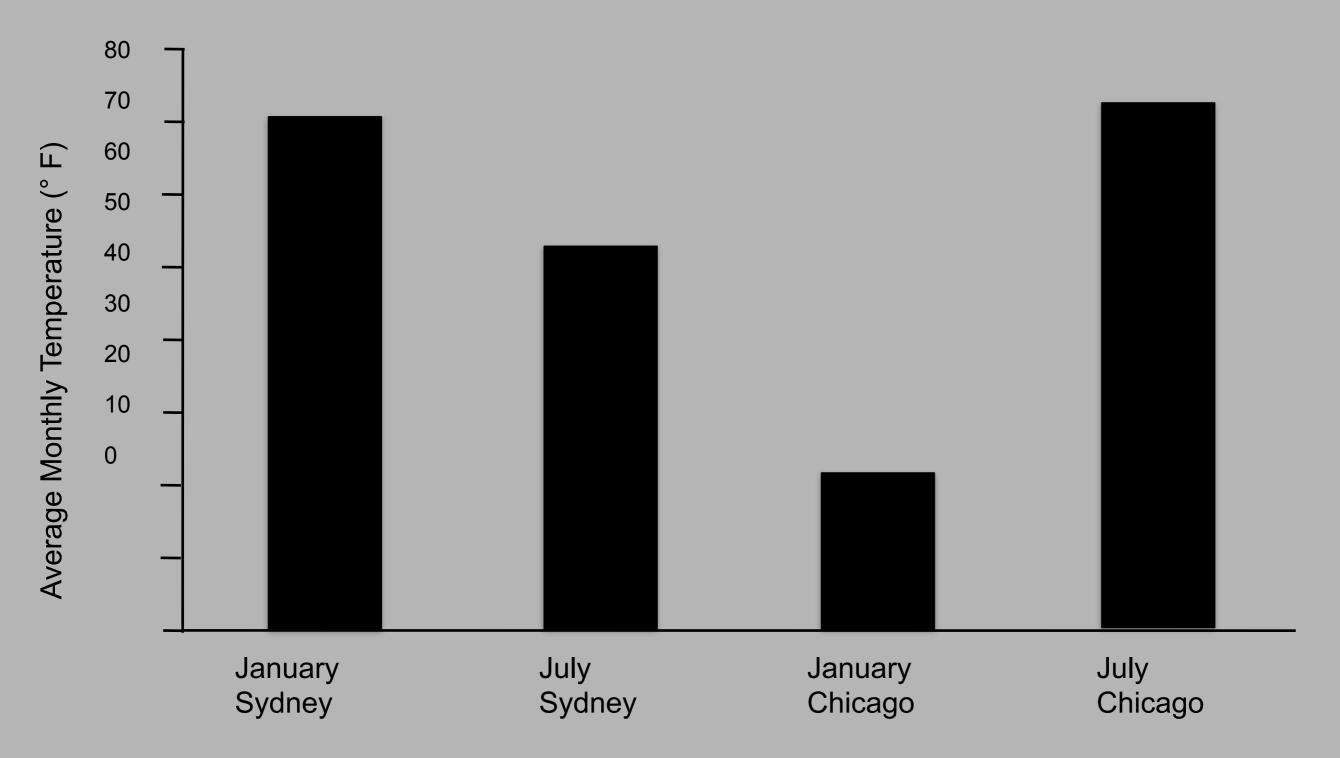
70

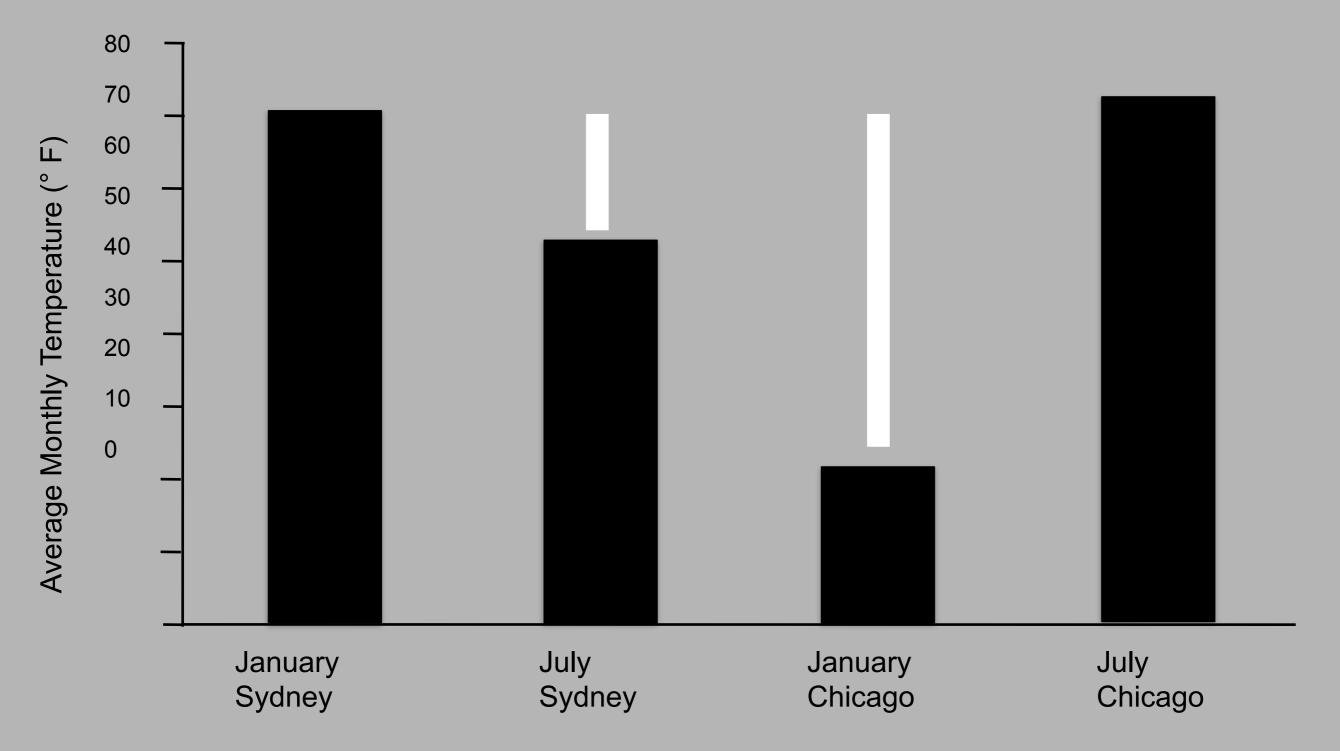
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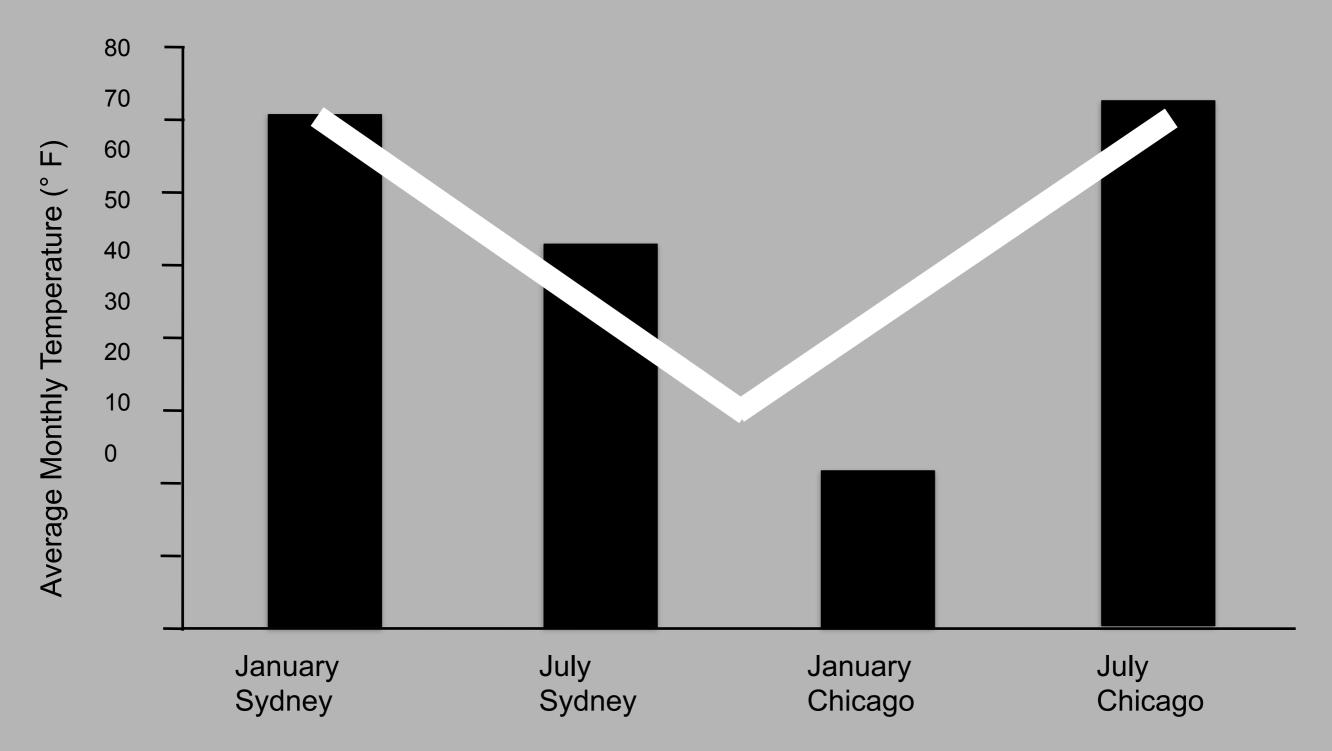
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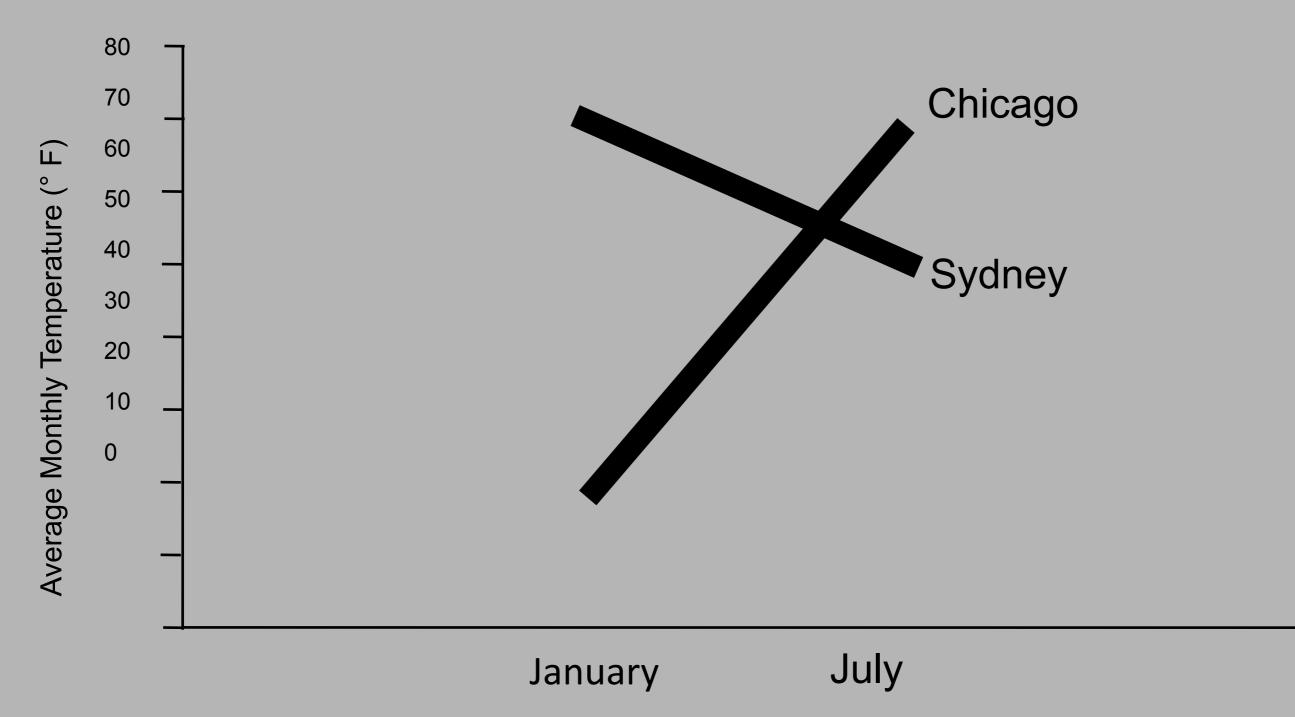
January Sydney

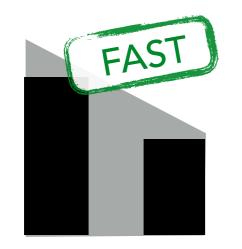
July Sydney January Chicago July Chicago



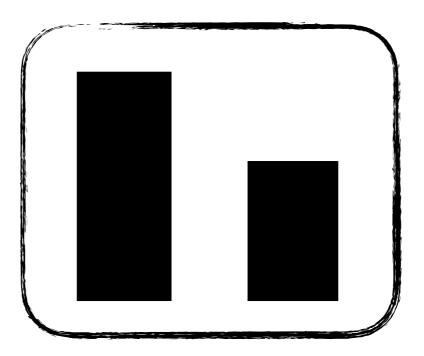






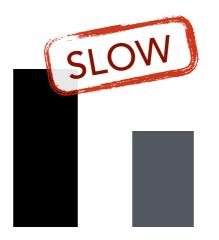


Shape Recognition

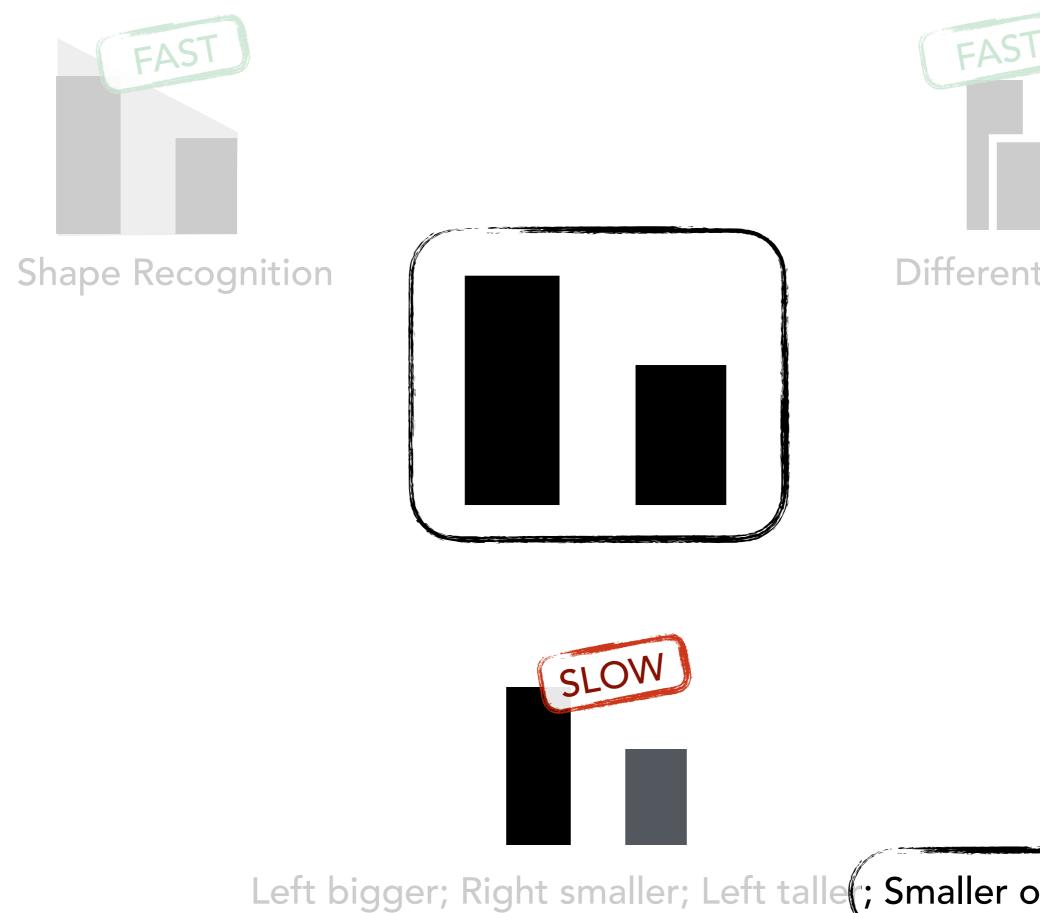




Different sizes



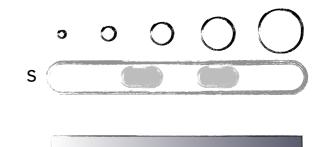
Left bigger; Right smaller; Left taller; Smaller on the right...



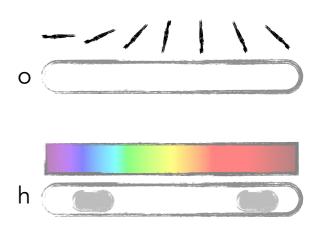
Different sizes

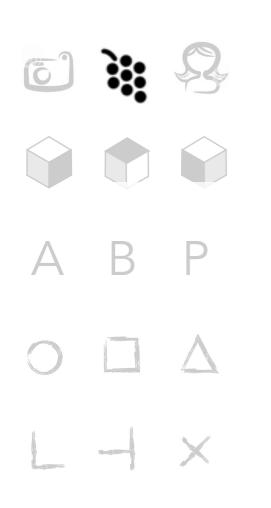
Left bigger; Right smaller; Left taller; Smaller on the right.

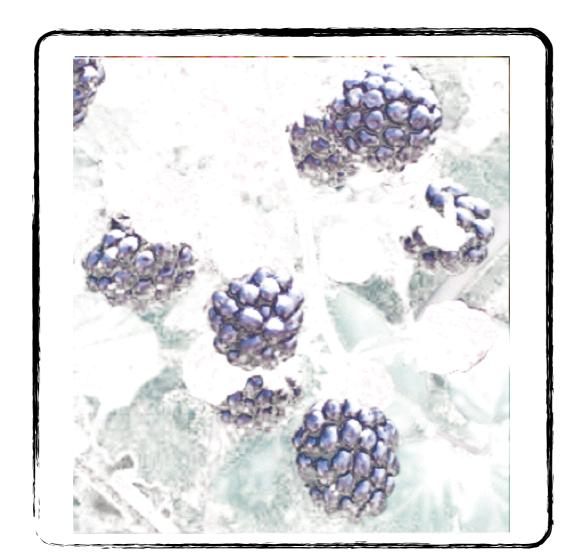


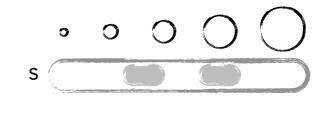


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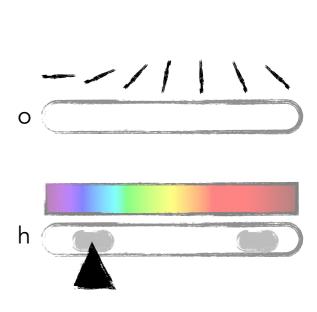




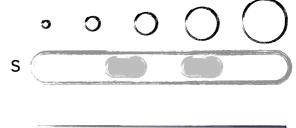


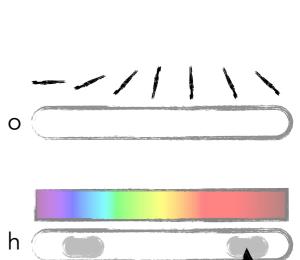


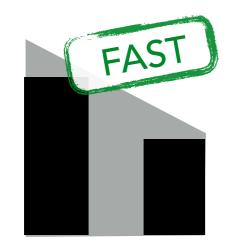
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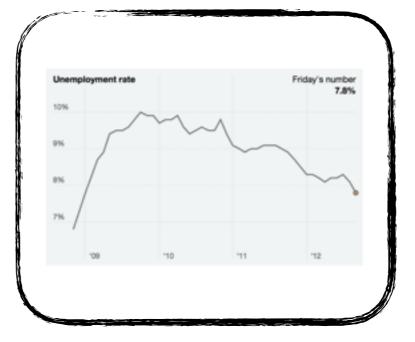






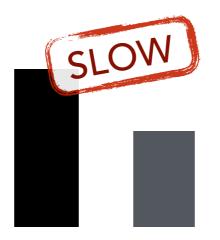


Shape Recognition

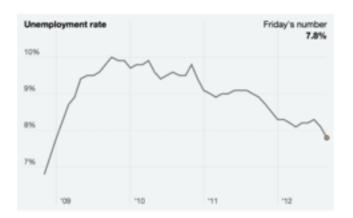


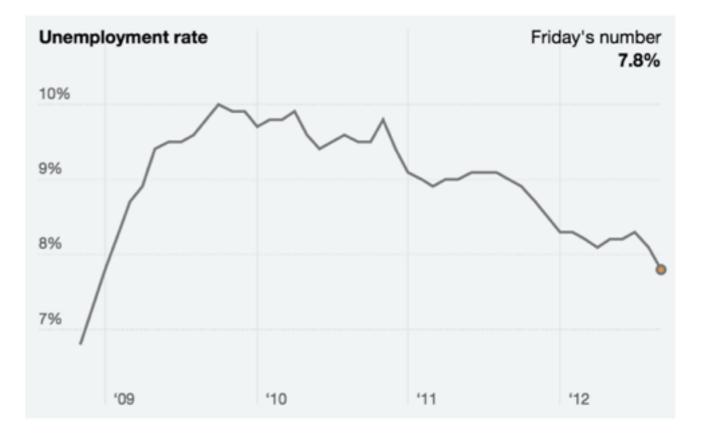


Different sizes



Left bigger; Right smaller; Left taller; Smaller on the right...





🚦 FACEBOOK 🛛 🛒 TWITTER 🛛 👯 GOOGLE+ 🖂 EMAIL 🕢 SHARE

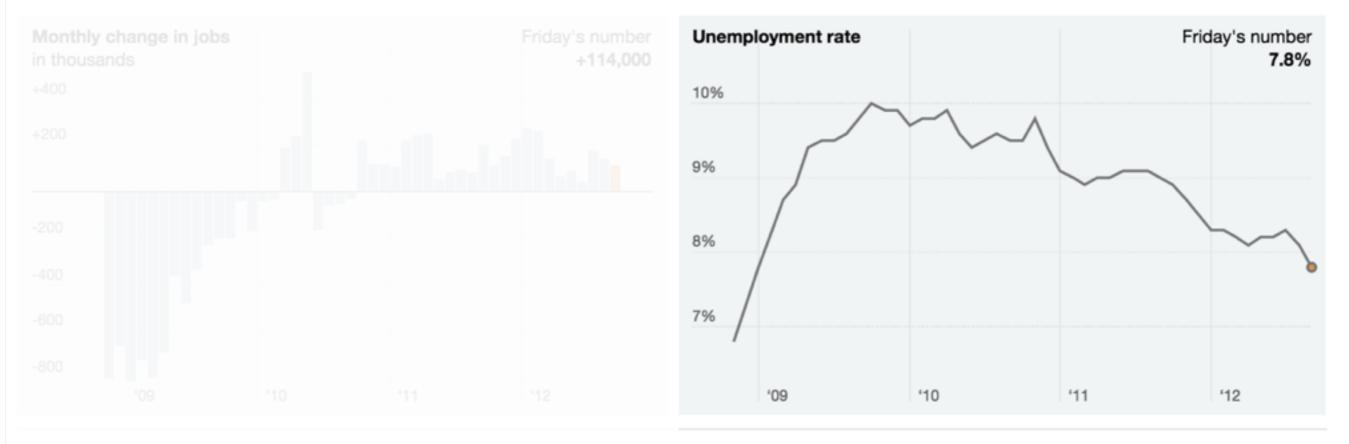
One Report, Diverging Perspectives

Friday's jobs report is the second-to-last of the presidential campaign. Each party will interpret the numbers in a way to convince voters that its policies will help economic growth. Related Article »



The U.S. economy added 114,000 jobs in September.





By MIKE BOSTOCK, SHAN CARTER, AMANDA COX and KEVIN QUEALY | Send Feedback

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

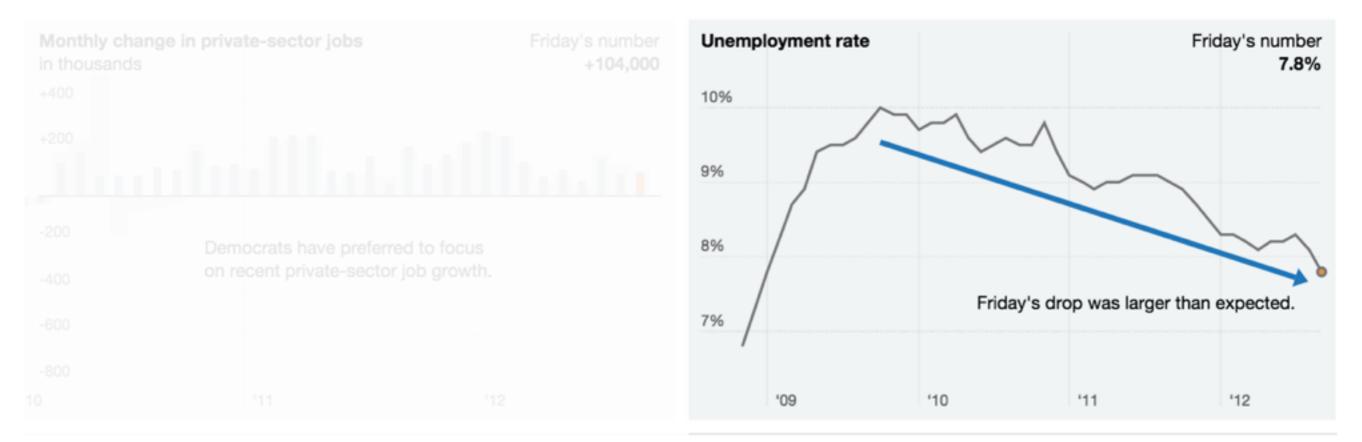
http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/10/05/business/economy/one-report-diverging-perspectives.html

One Report, Diverging Perspectives

Friday's jobs report is the second-to-last of the presidential campaign. Each party will interpret the numbers in a way to convince voters that its policies will help economic growth. Related Article »



There have been 31 consecutive months of job growth.



By MIKE BOSTOCK, SHAN CARTER, AMANDA COX and KEVIN QUEALY | Send Feedback

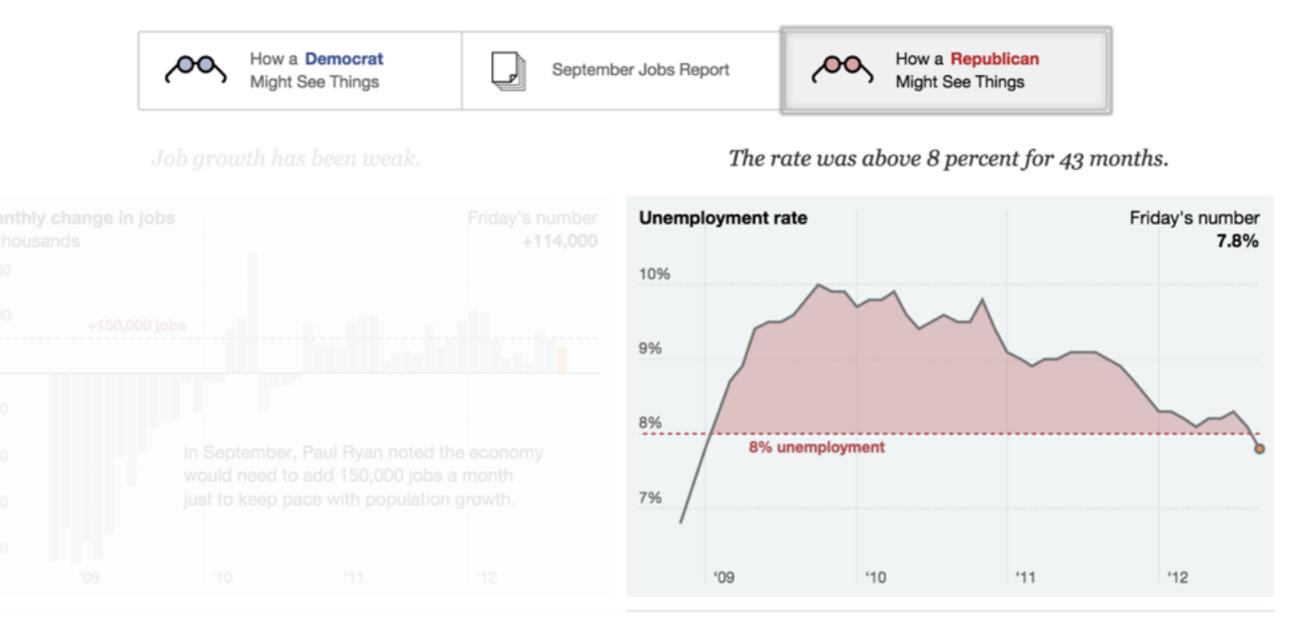
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/10/05/business/economy/one-report-diverging-perspectives.html

The rate has fallen more than 2 points since its recent peak.

One Report, Diverging Perspectives

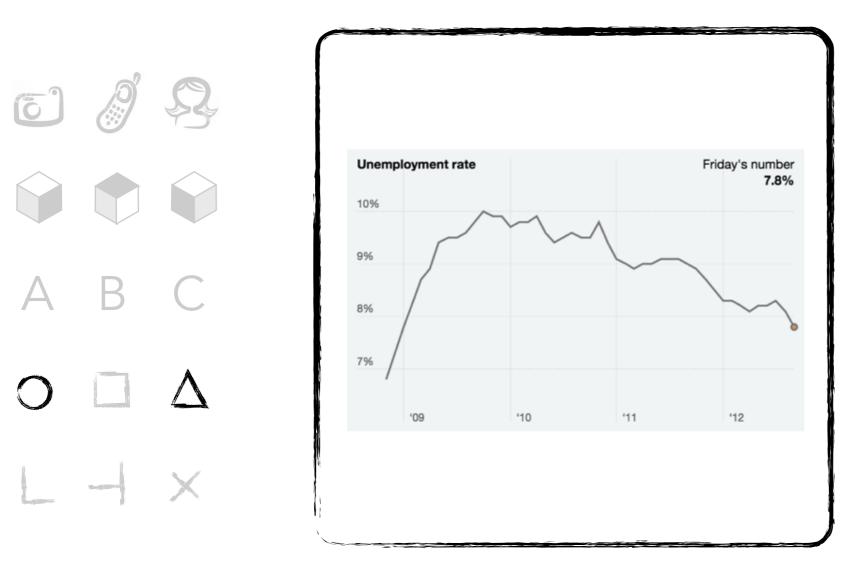
Friday's jobs report is the second-to-last of the presidential campaign. Each party will interpret the numbers in a way to convince voters that its policies will help economic growth. Related Article »



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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/10/05/business/economy/one-report-diverging-perspectives.html

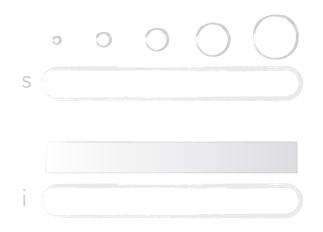


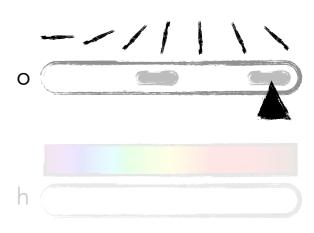
A

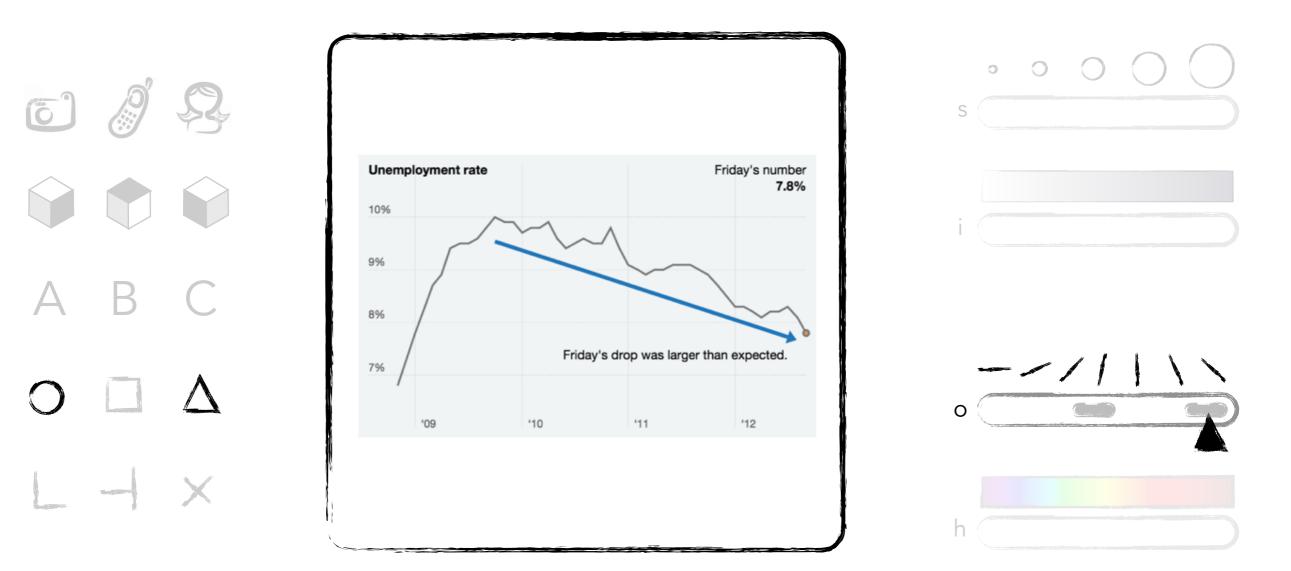
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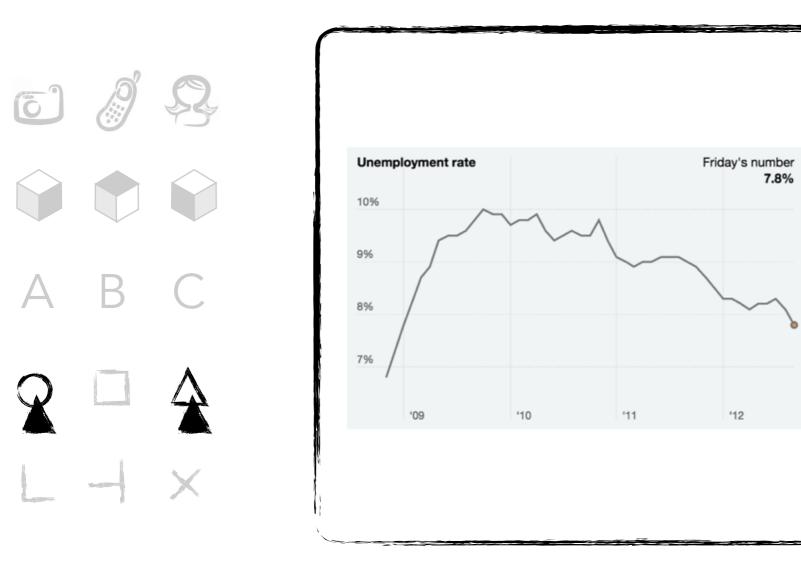
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B



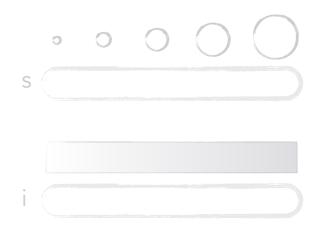


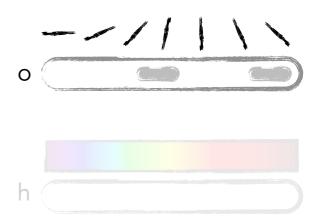


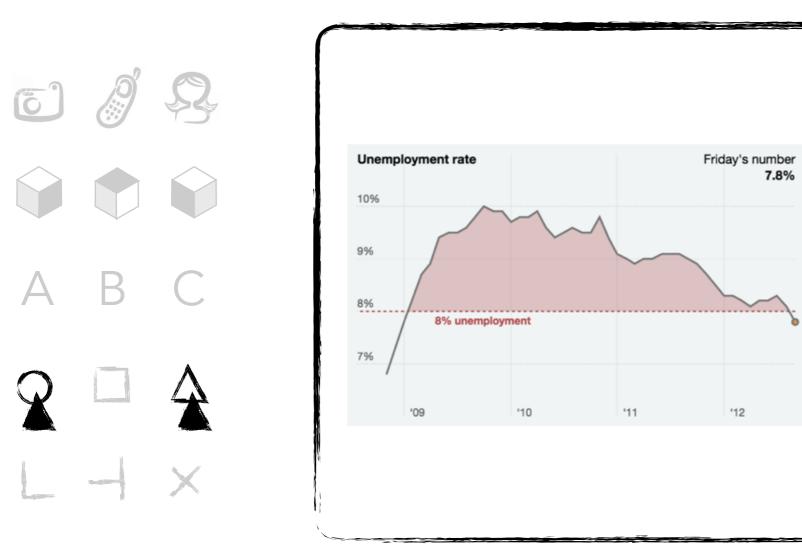


A

B



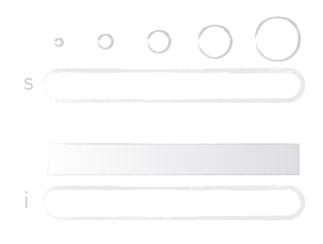


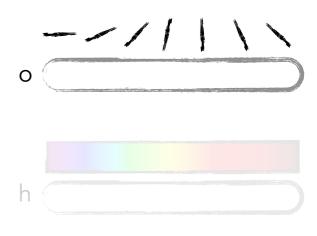


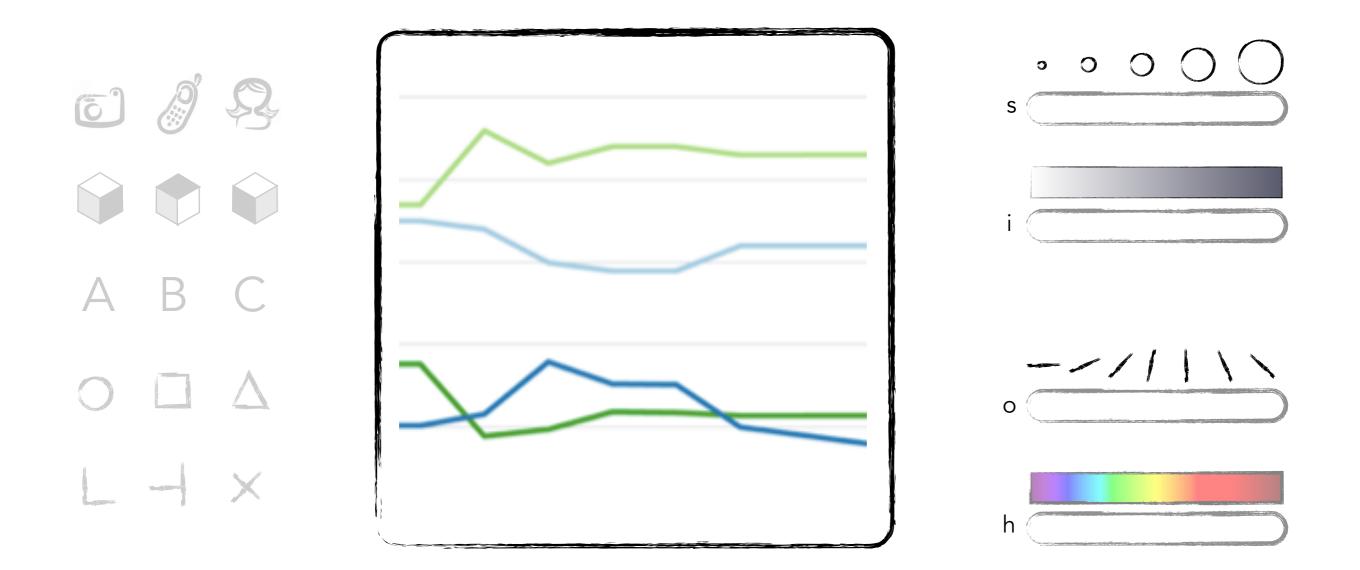
'12

A

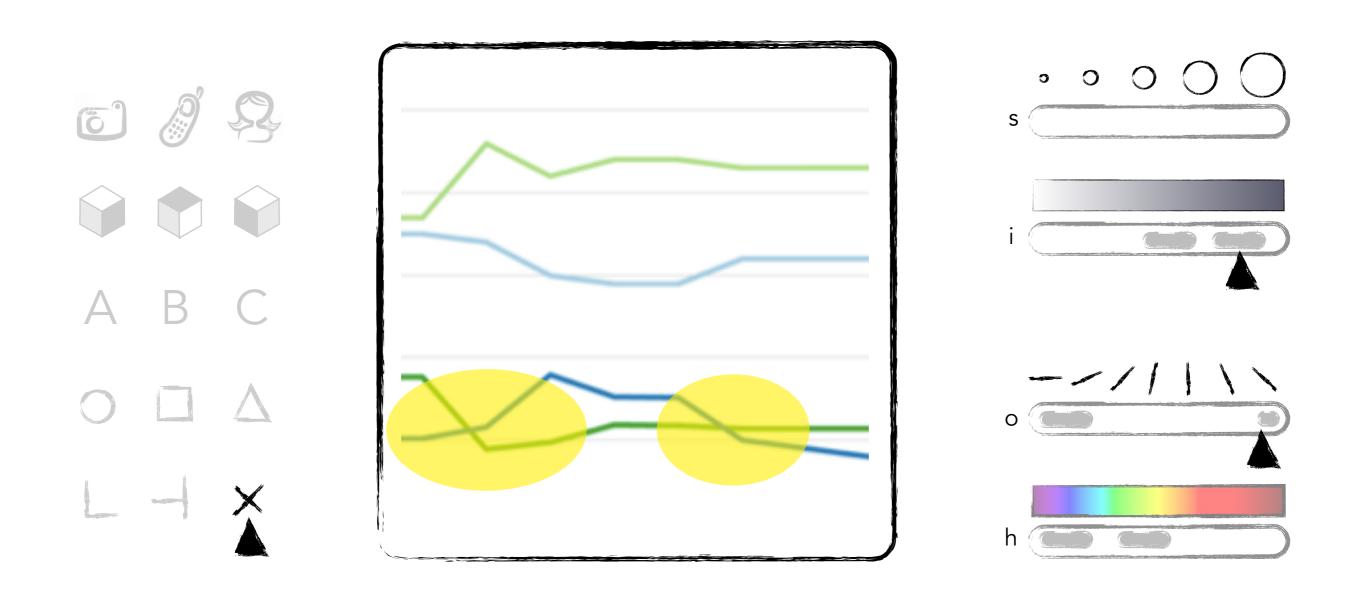
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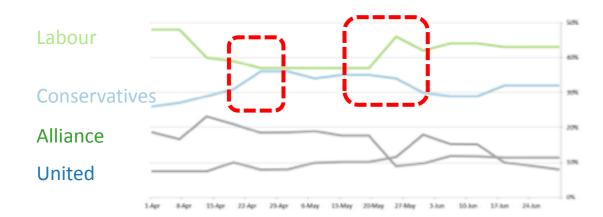


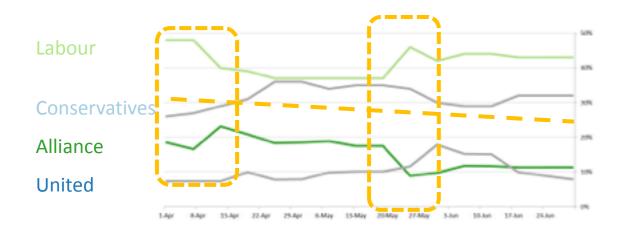


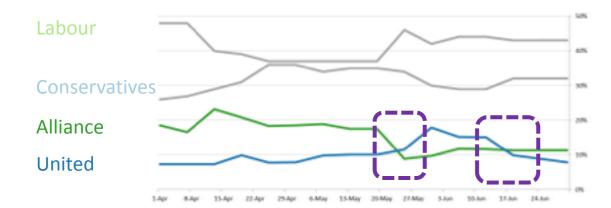


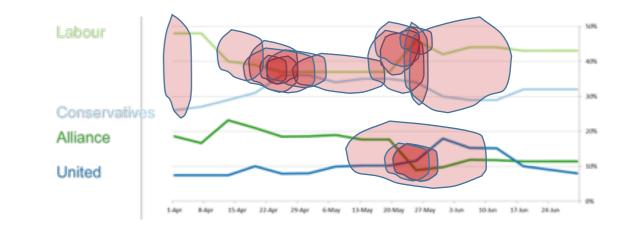
Knowledge + Expertise changes what you see

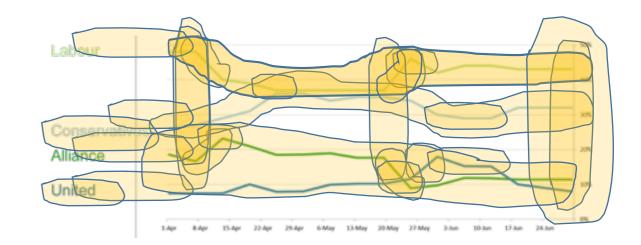


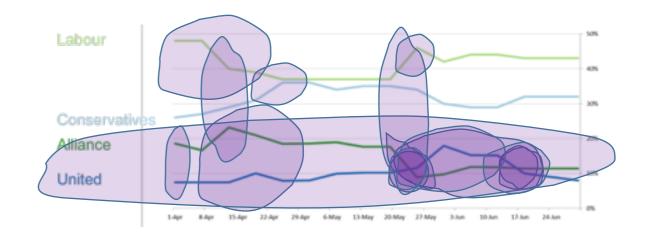








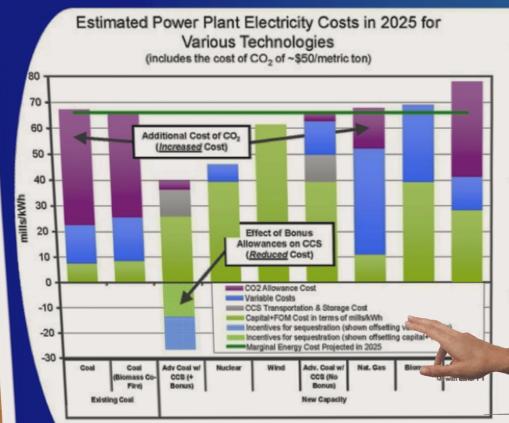




Xiong, van Weelden, & Franconeri (DECISIVe 2017)



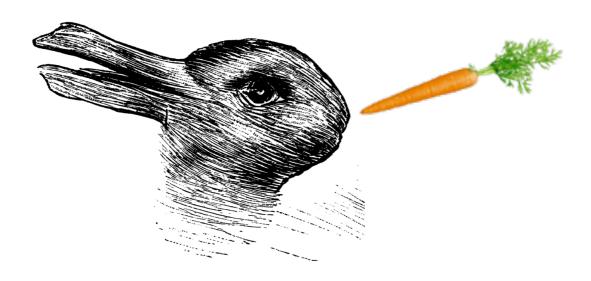
Near-Term Power Plant Economics with CO₂ Allowance Costs



- To illustrate the economics of operating existing and new power technologies, the chart shows the cost of various technologies when the projected CO₂ allowance prices are included.
- Projected CO₂ allowance prices of roughly \$50/ton in 2025 increase variable costs of existing plants powered by fossil fuels to the point where many are likely to shut down.
- However, S. 2191 provides signific incentives for CCS technology plants in the form of bonus
 soulting in earlier per

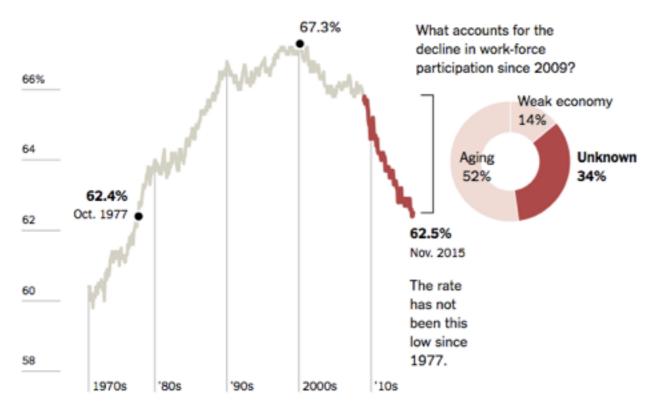
Notes: For the case with bonus allowances, the variable, capital, and fixed Q&M costs are actually an aggregate of the solid part and the hashed part but the net cost is only the solid part. For this illustrative calculation, EPA, conservative efficiency matrix for existing coal plants (10,500 BlaukVh), which most plants currently meet or exceed. The marginal energy cost is defined as the cost of production of the most expensive unit operating in that it the cost of fuel, variable Q&M costs and the cost of environmental allowances. The capital costs used here are from IPM v3.01, which relies upon EIA capital cost data from AEO 2006. More recently, capital costs have increas in interactional demand for raw materials. It is not clear how the market will respond to these price increases and whether these increased costs will be sustained over the period of the analysis.

EPA Analysis of S. 2191



More Are Dropping Out of Work Force

The percent of workers who have jobs or are looking for them is falling.

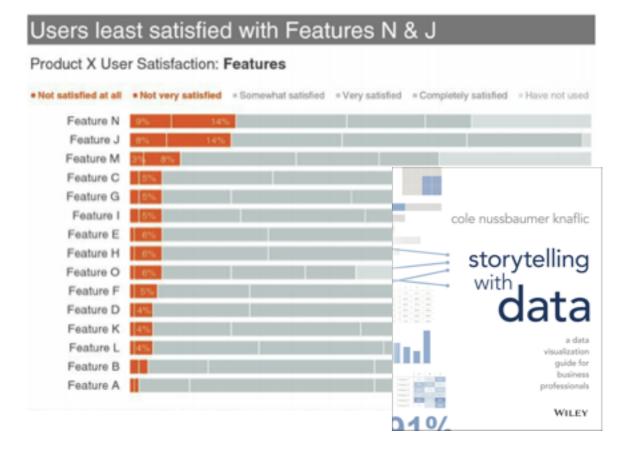


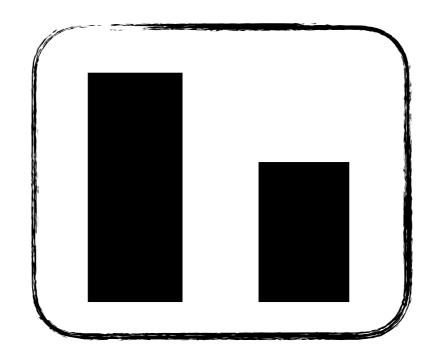
Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; White House Council of Economic Advisers

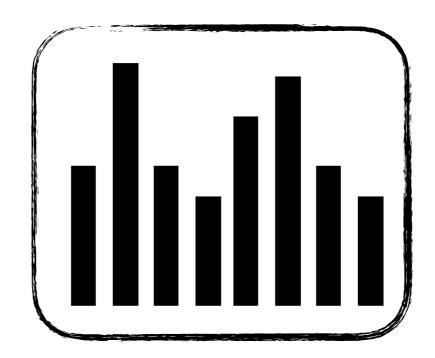
http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/28/ opinion/rattner-2015-year-in-charts.html

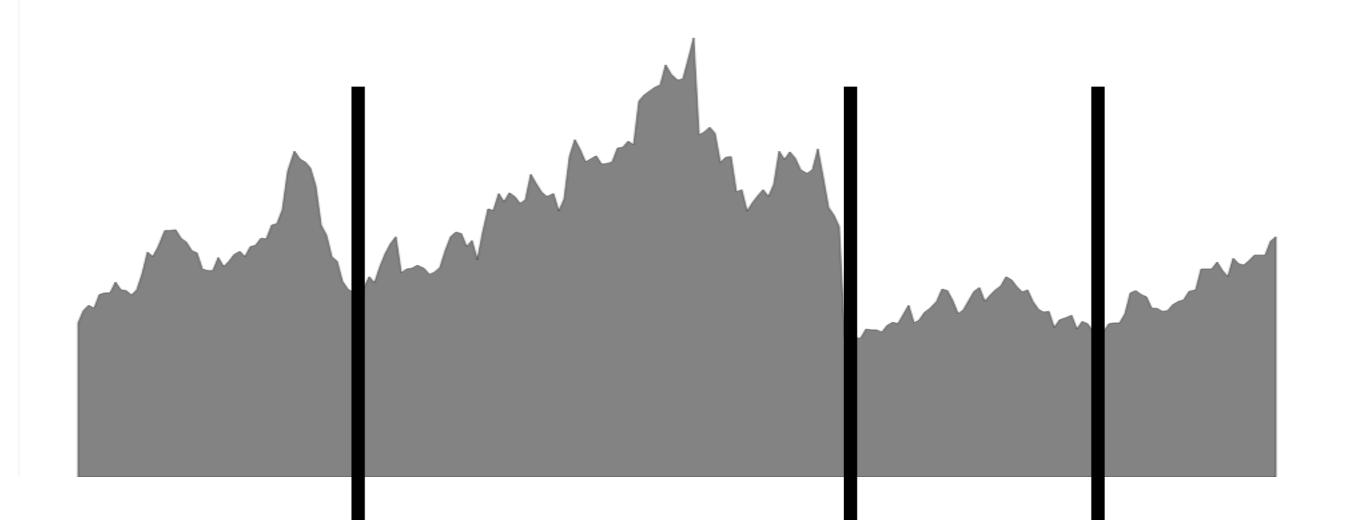


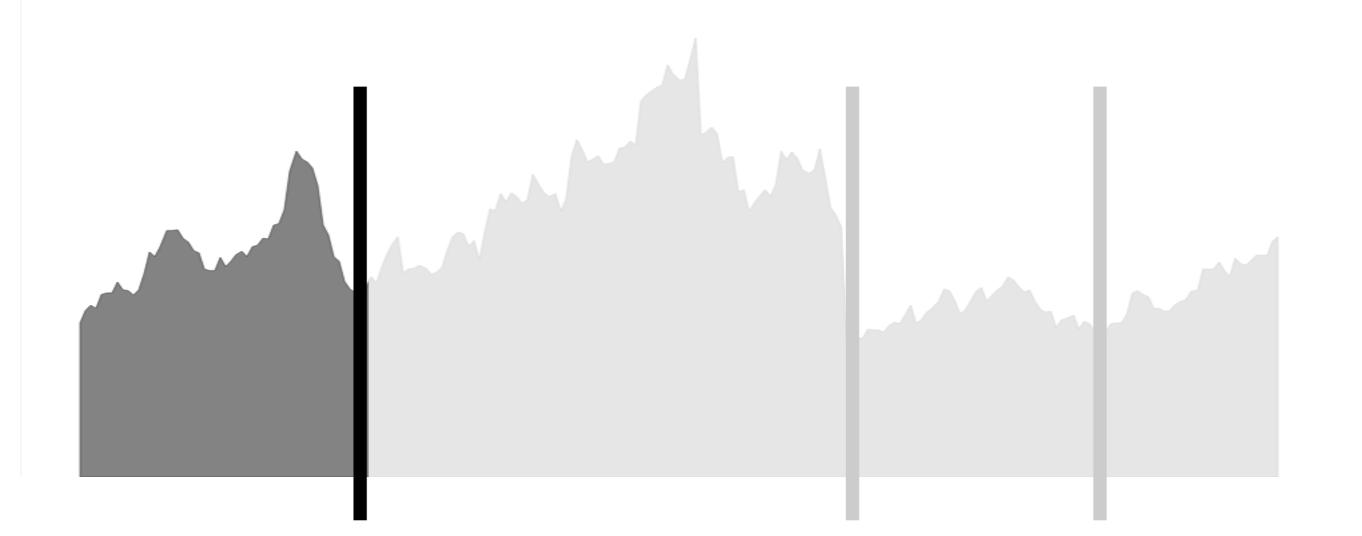
https://www.ted.com/talks/ hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen



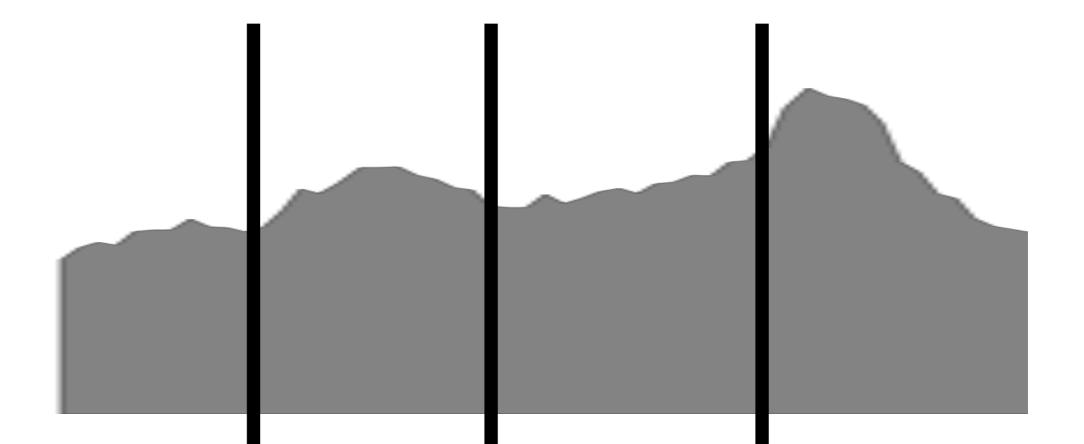


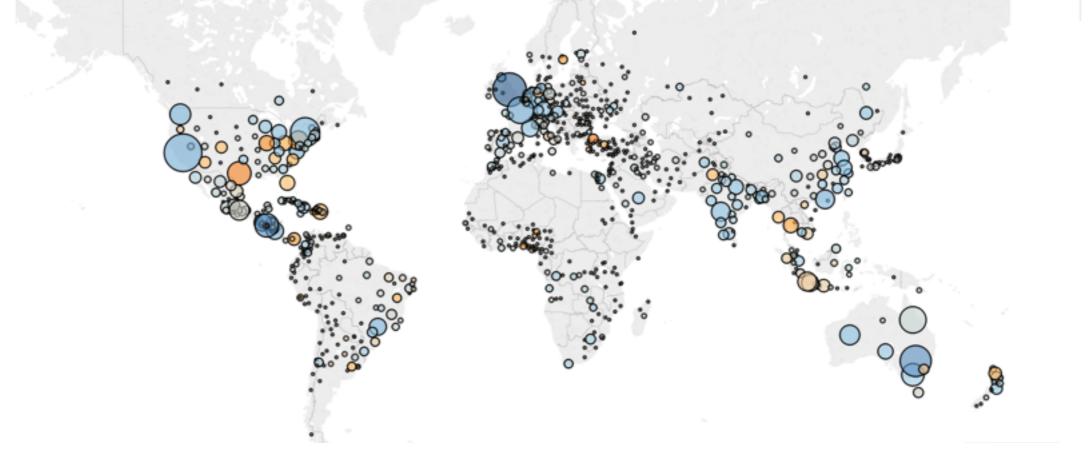




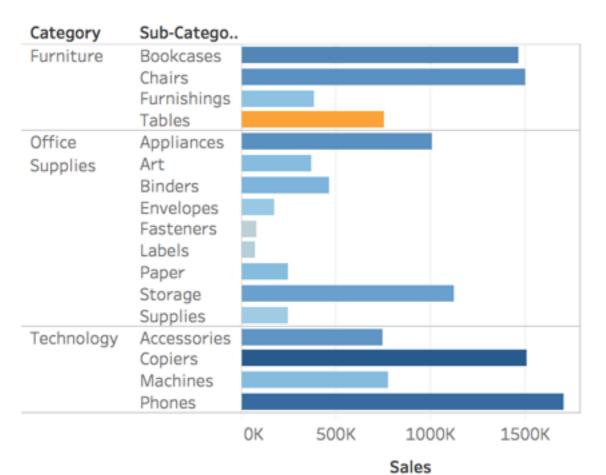




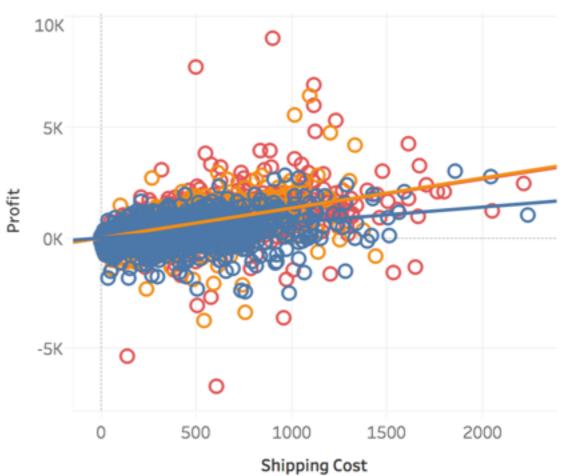


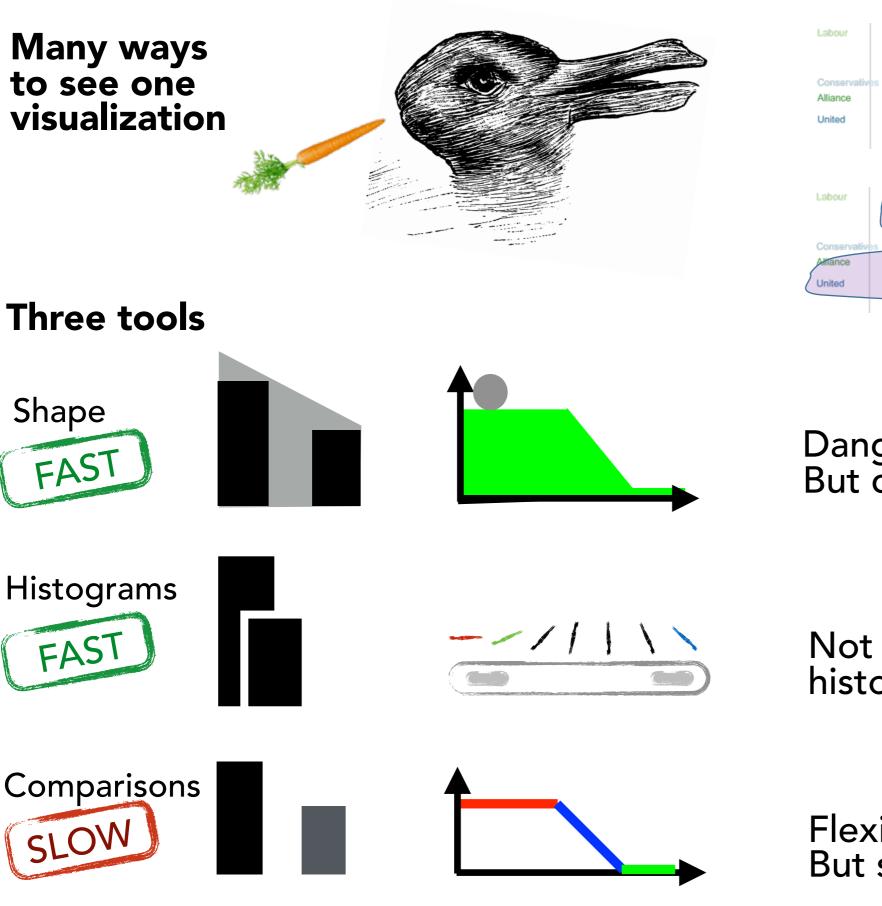


Sales By Category



Customer Breakdown





Conservatives Attance United 14e 84e 154e 224e 254e 6Meg 13Meg 22Meg 22Meg 34e 104e 124e 244e

Dangerous for novices But critical for experts

Not just 'popout', histogram info for features

Flexible, uniquely human But slow & limited







BCS-1056730 CAREER IIS-1162067 DRL-1661264 SBE-0541957



The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of the National Science Foundation or the the U.S. Department of Education.

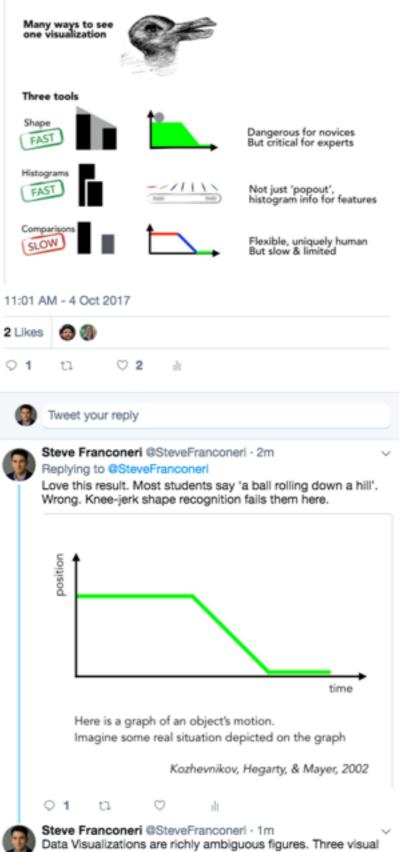




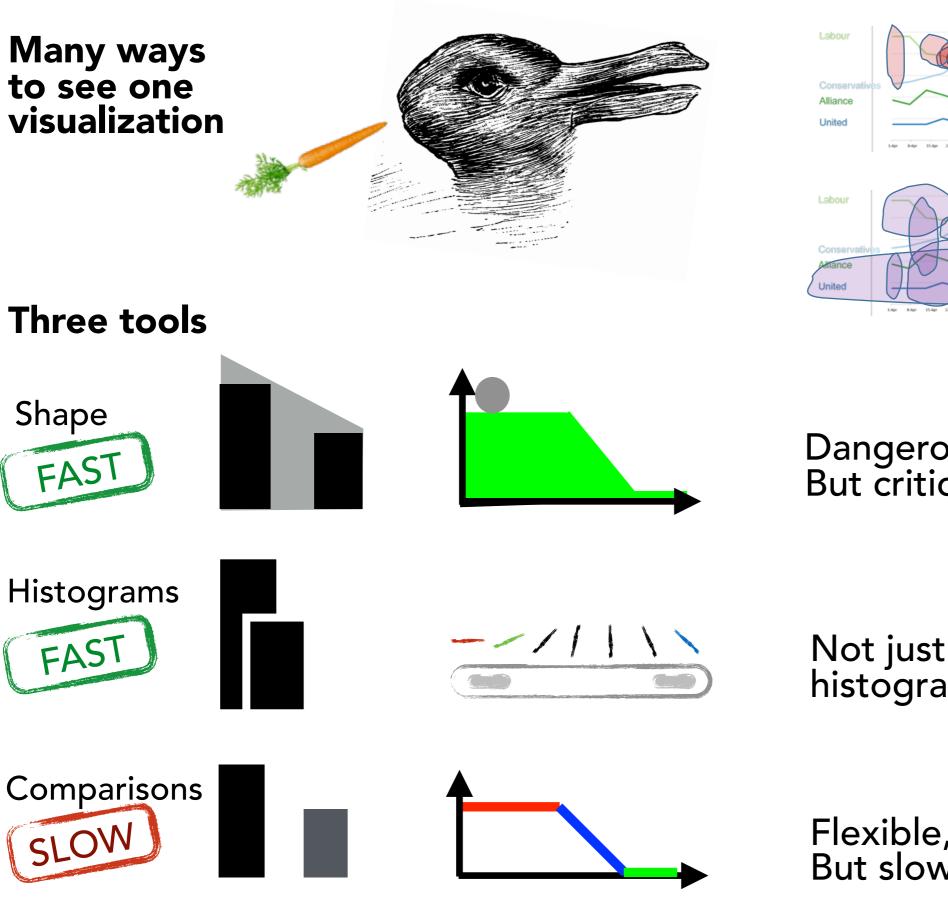
Data Visualizations are Ambiguous Figures. Summary of my panel talk for #ieeevis InfoVis panel on Perception

~

visxvision.com/vis-2017/ (1/8)



tools for seeing differently, even the simplest 2-bar graph.



Dangerous for novices But critical for experts

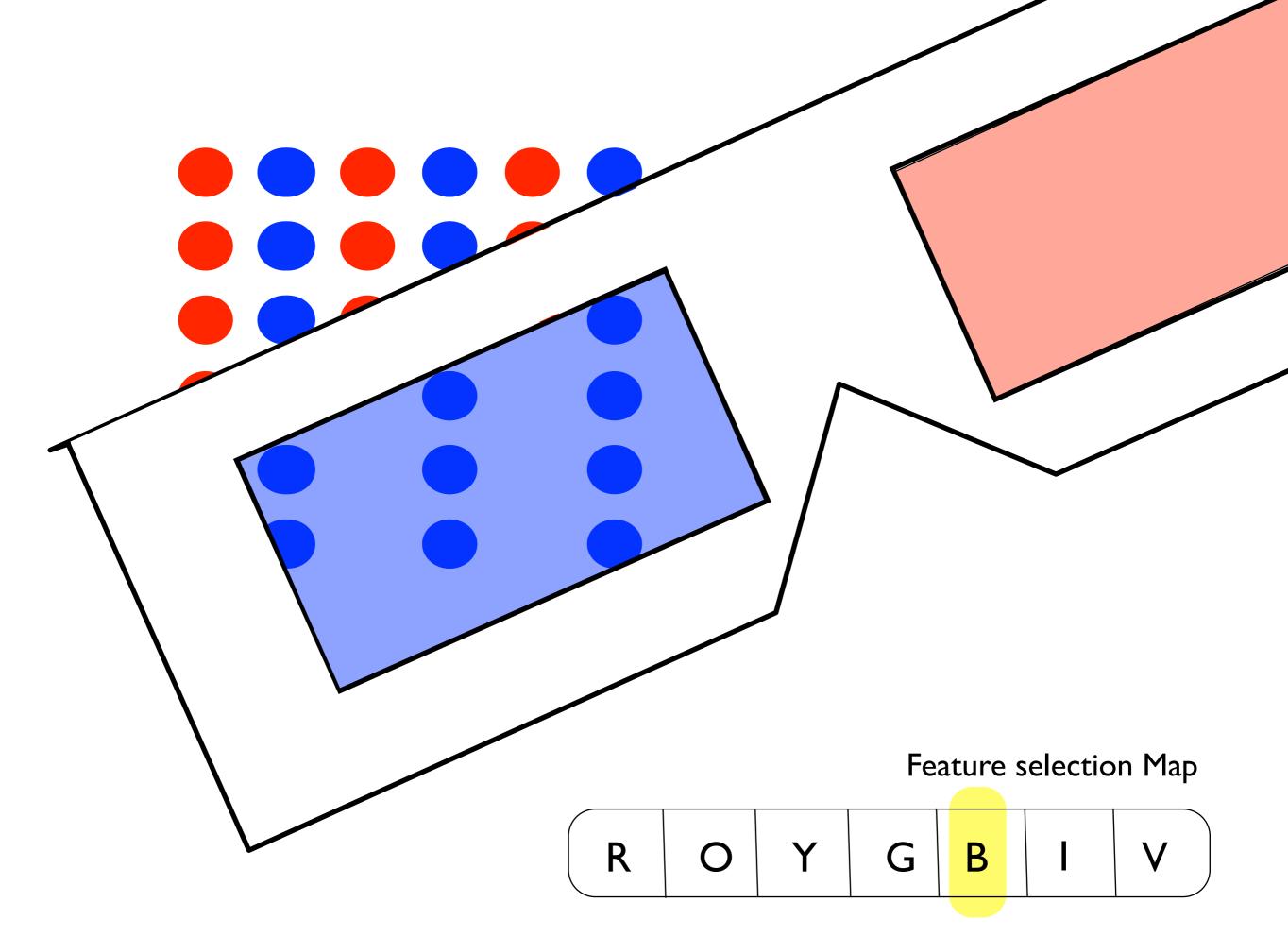
Not just 'popout', histogram info for features

Flexible, uniquely human But slow & limited



fin

extras

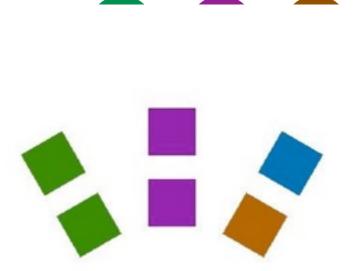


Related account: Huang & Pashler, 2007, Psych Rev.

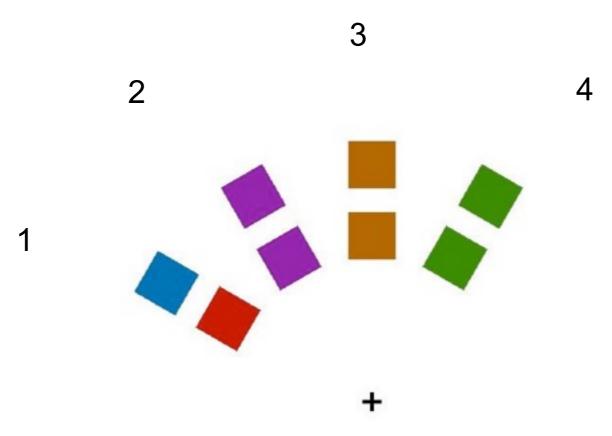
The illusion of detail

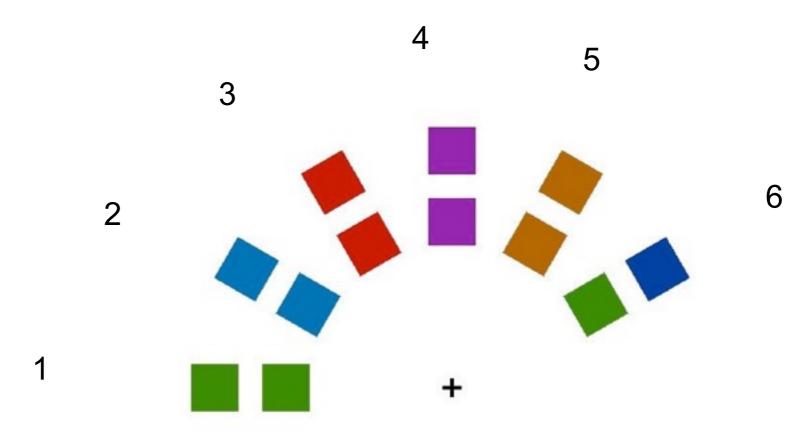


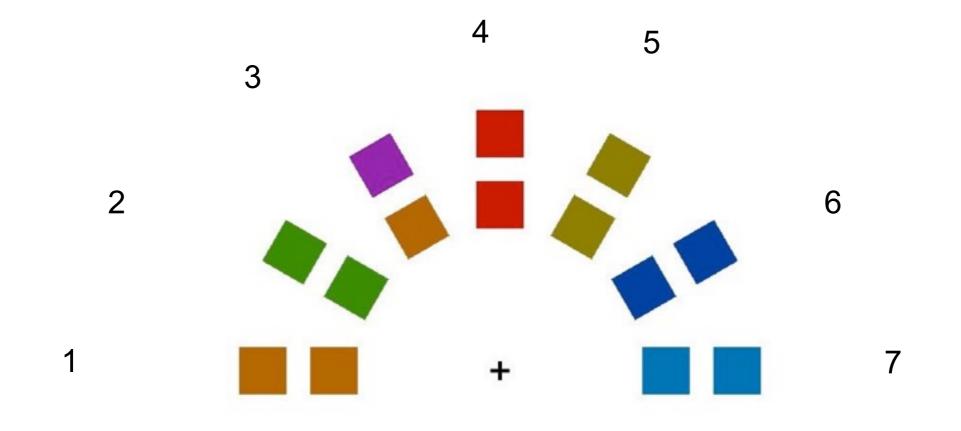
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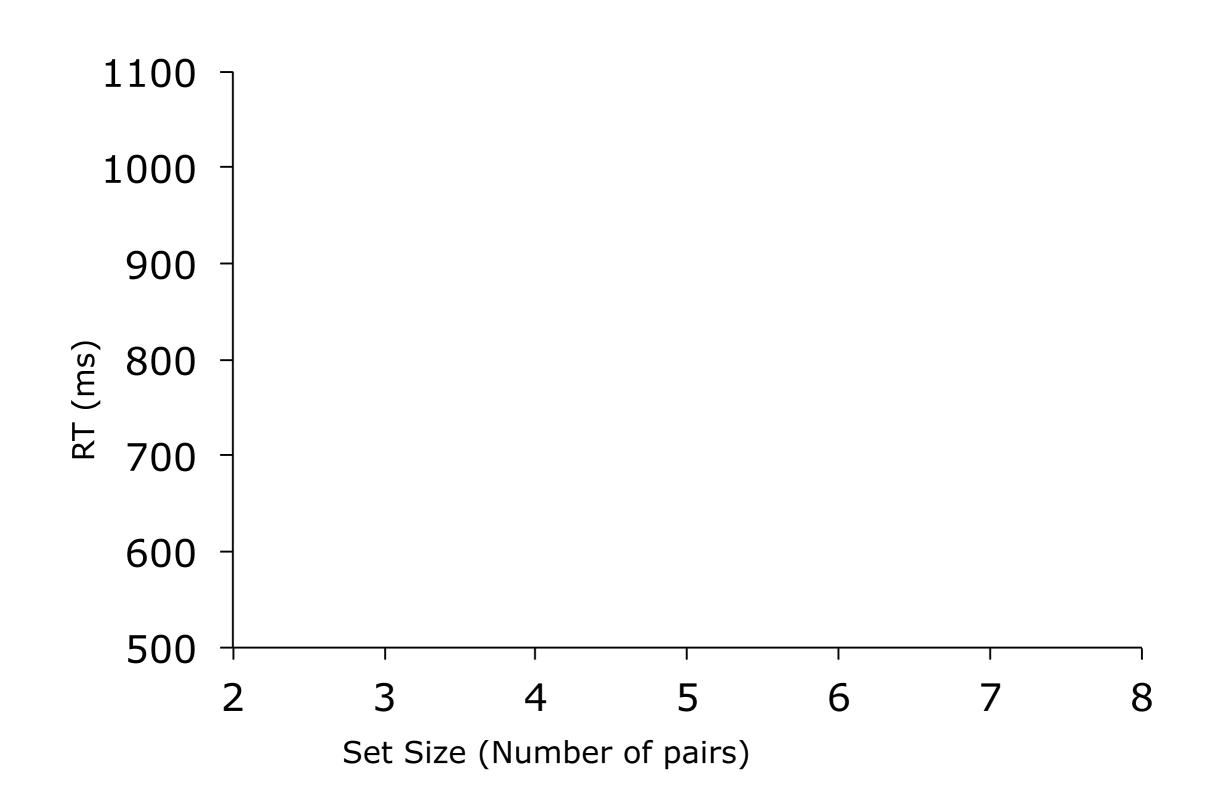


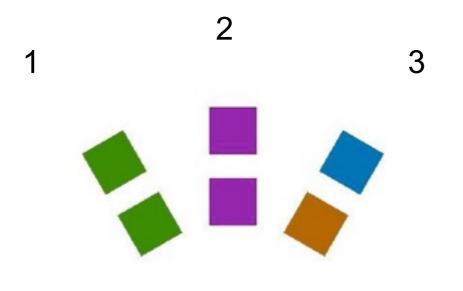
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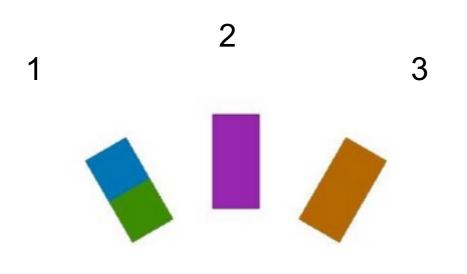




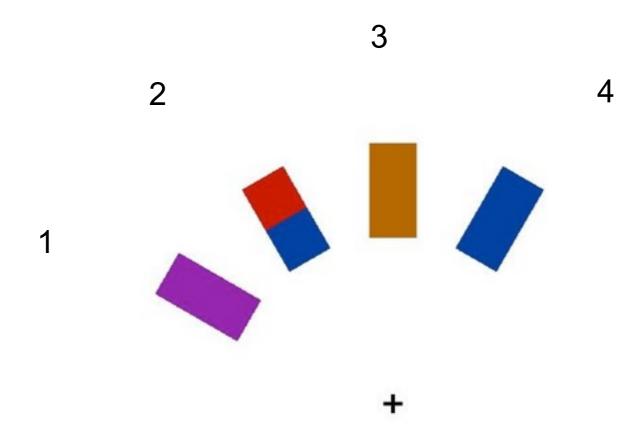


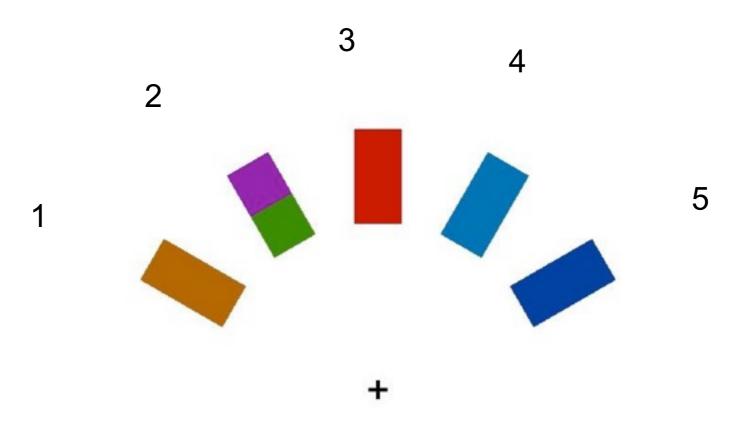


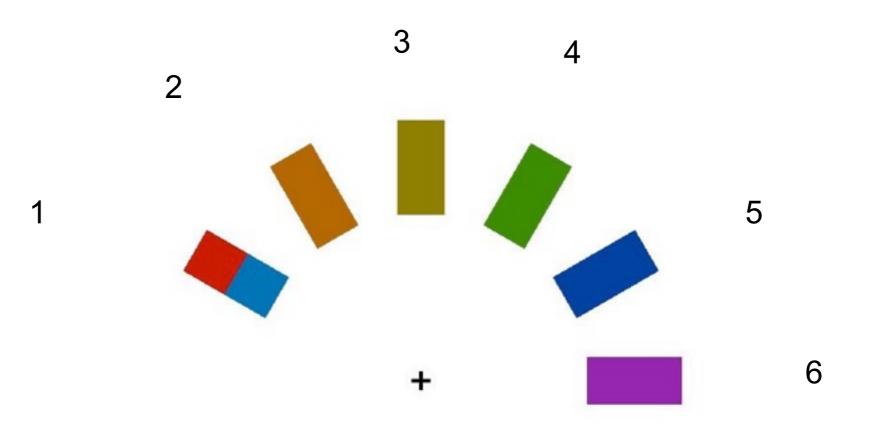
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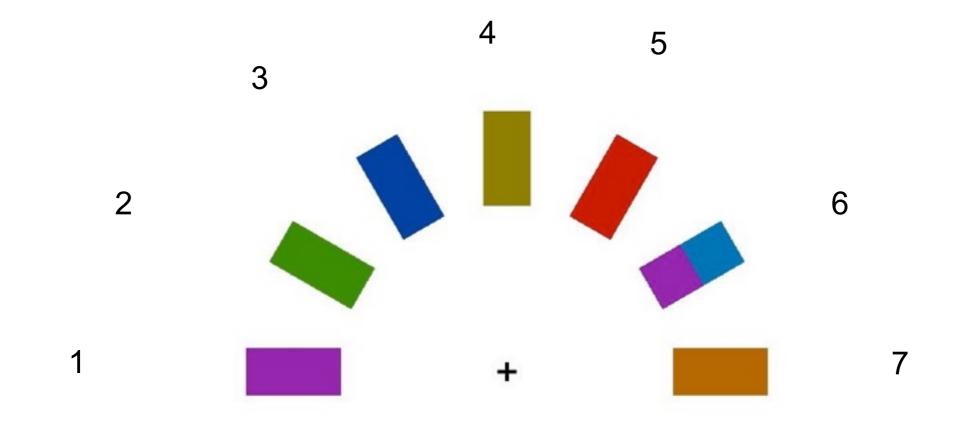


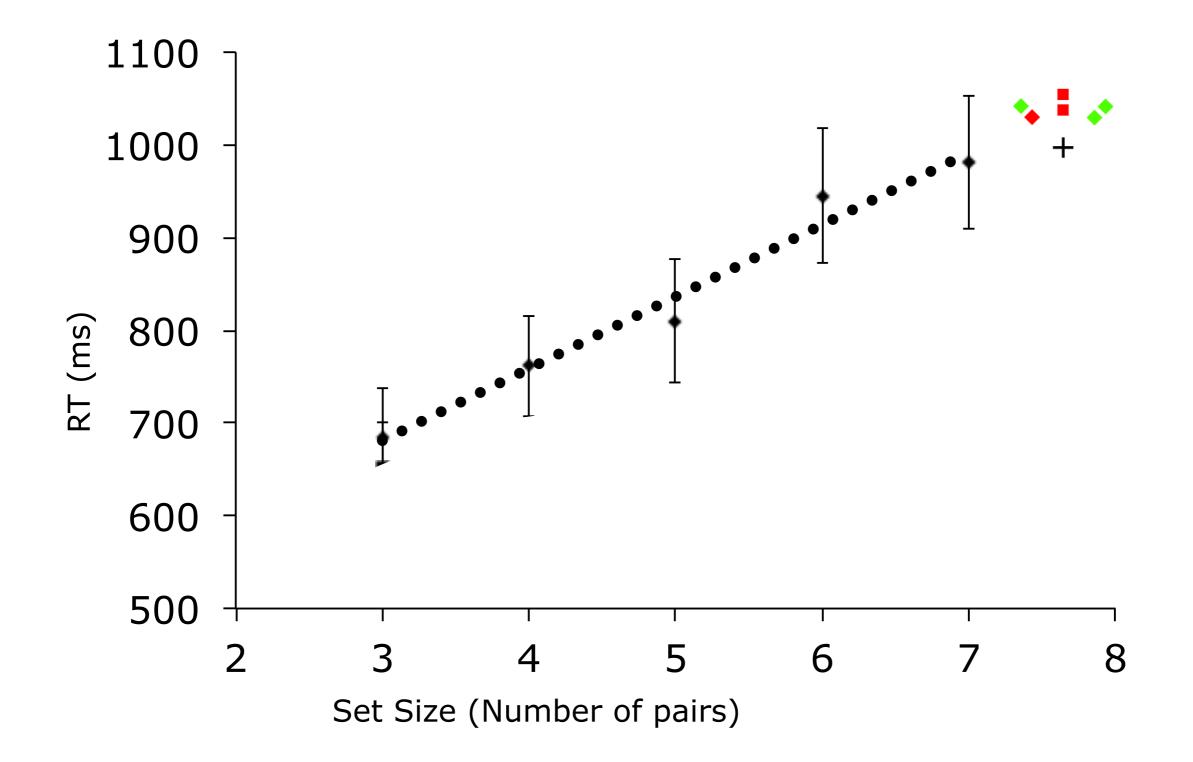






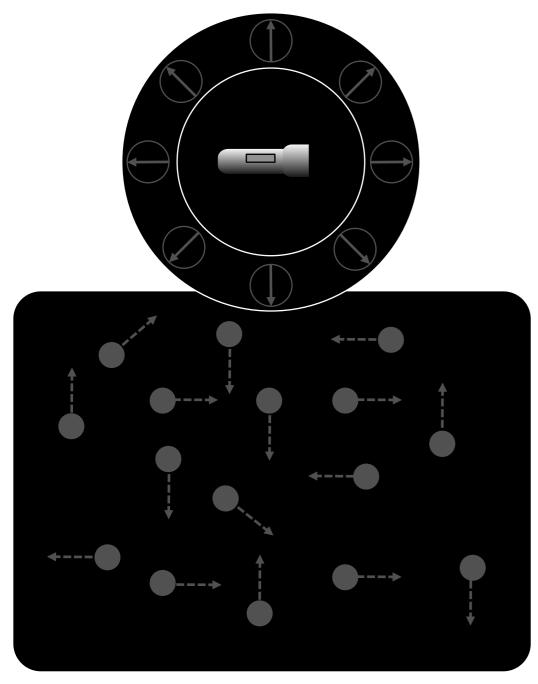




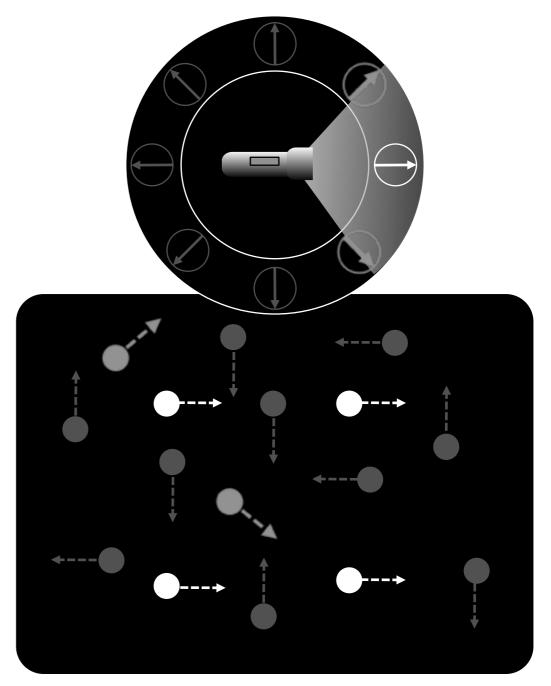


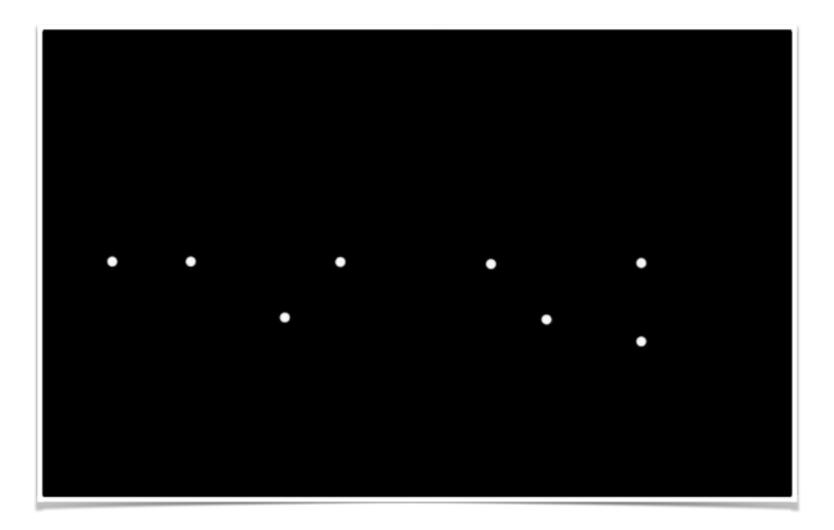
Yu, Tam, Levinthal, & Franconeri (submitted)

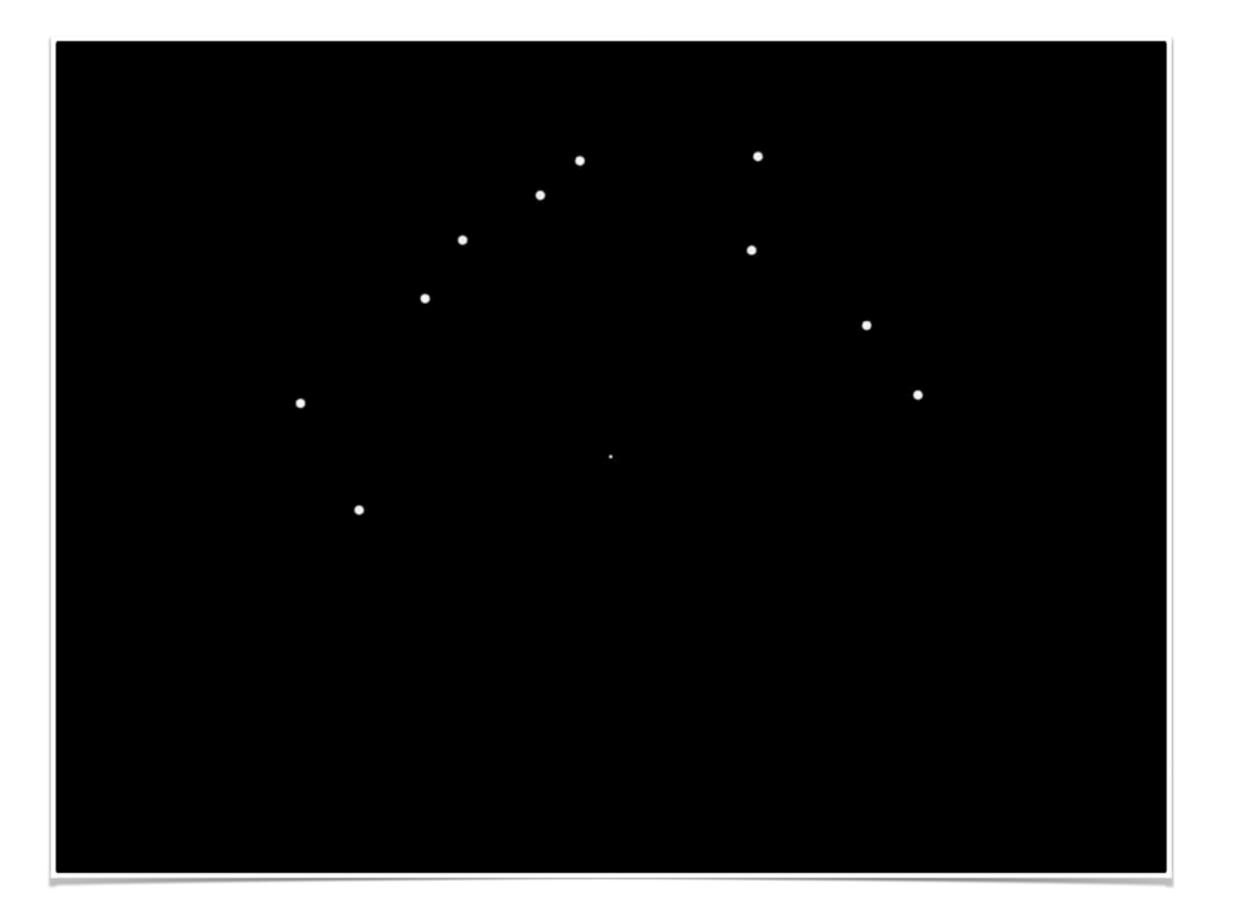
No Motion Direction Selection



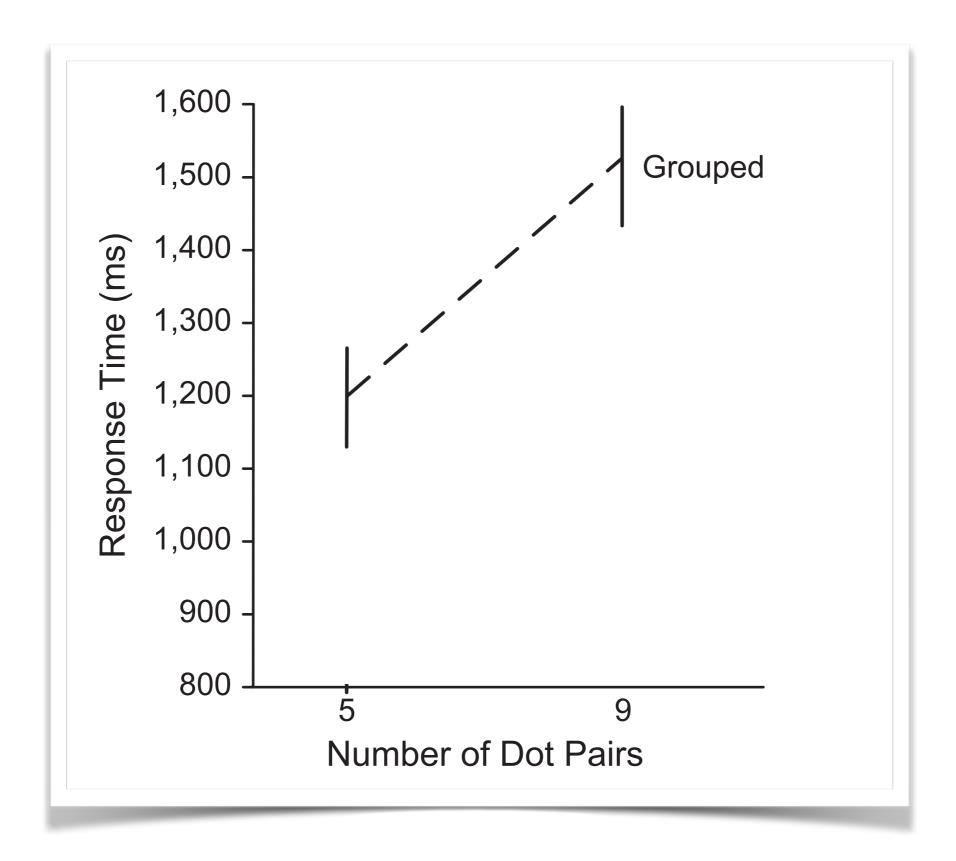
Motion Direction Selection

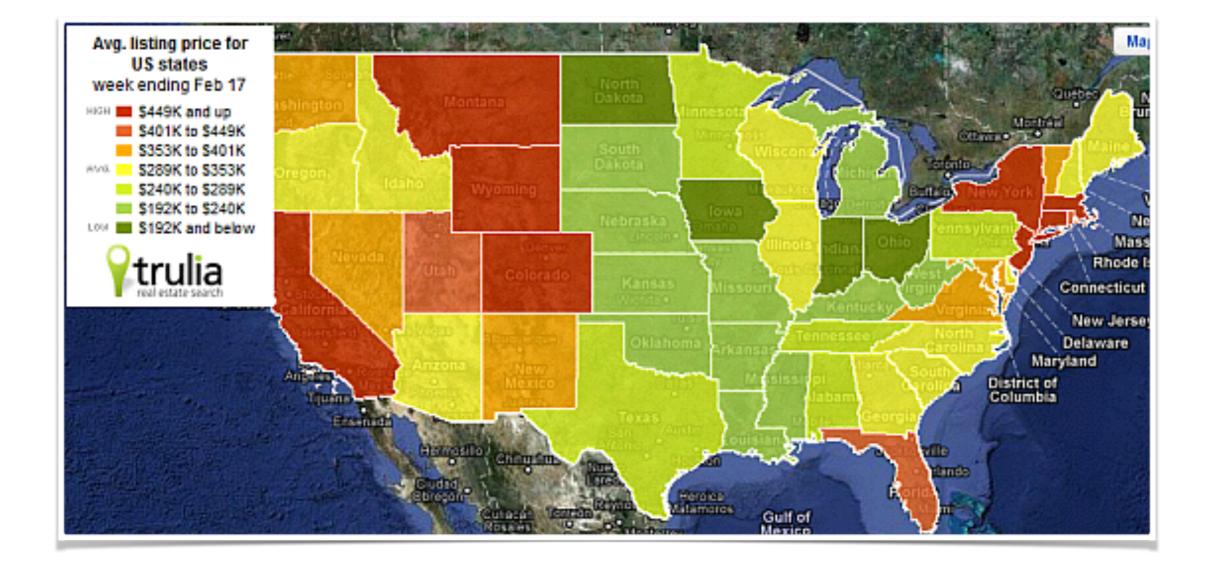


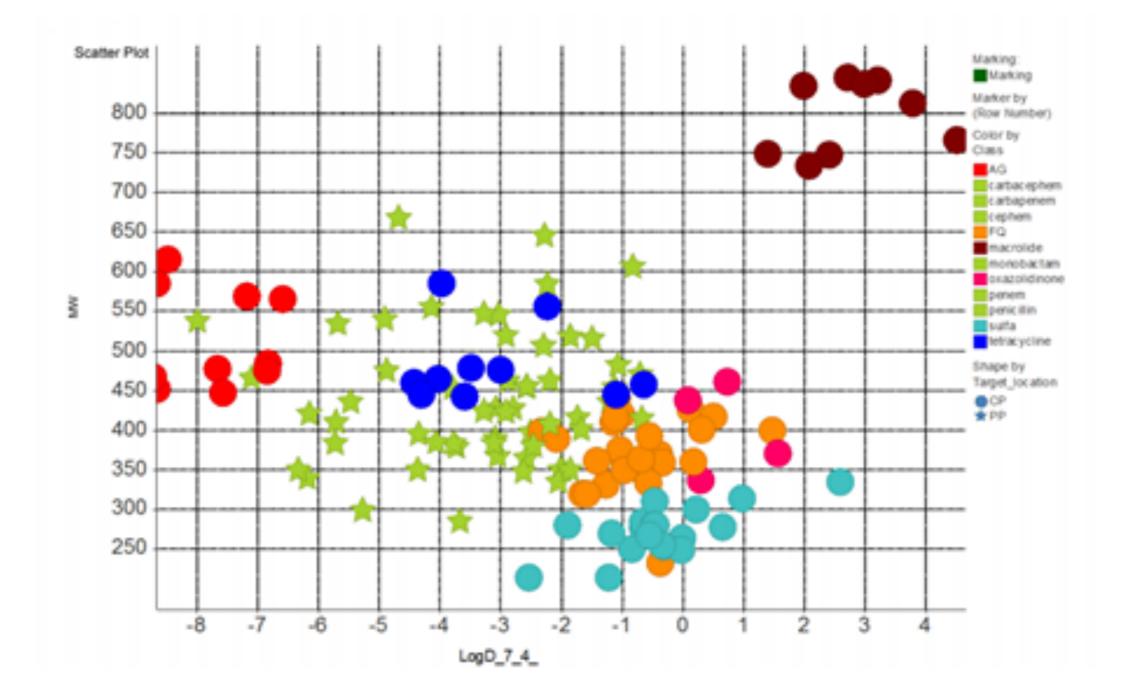




Levinthal & Franconeri (2010), Psychological Science

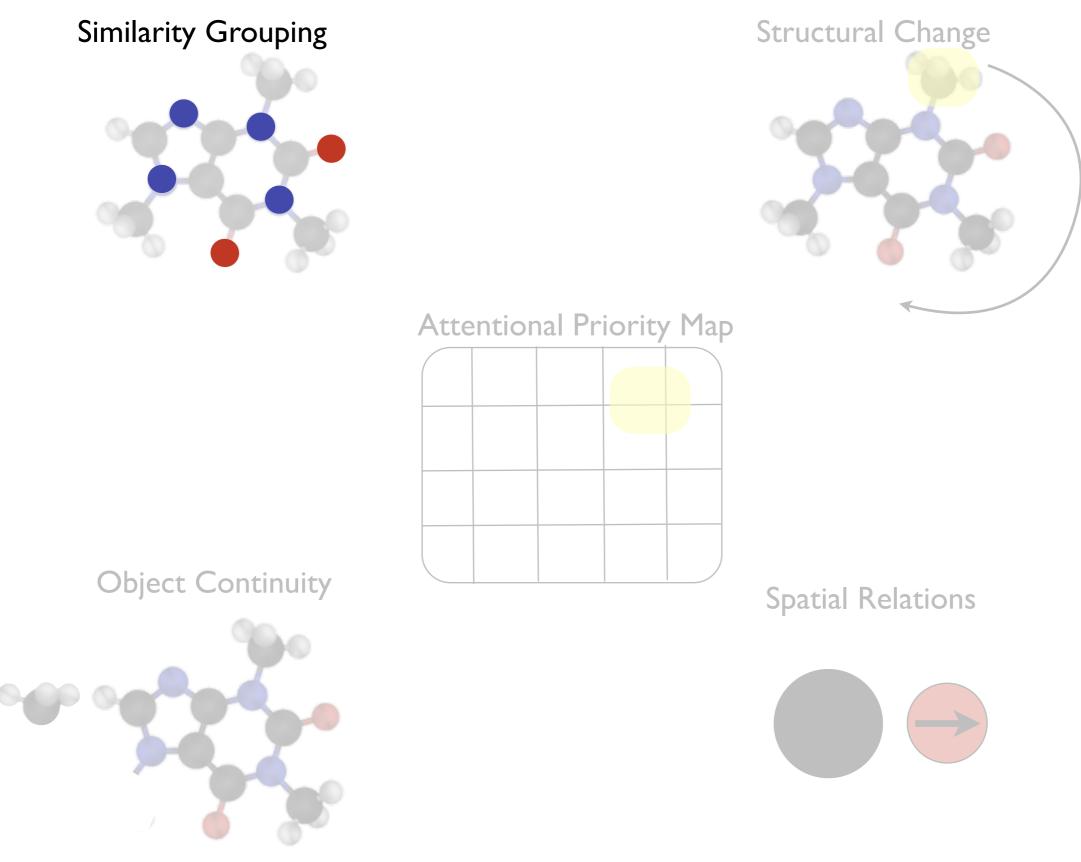


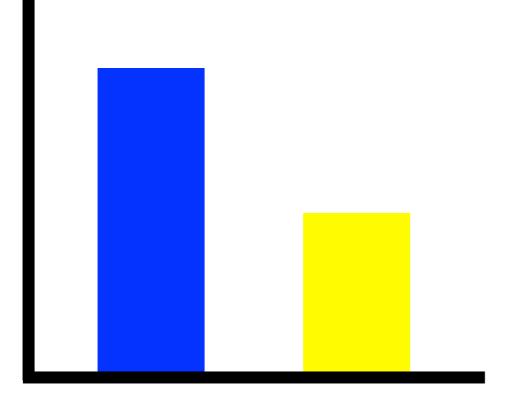






Collins, Penn, & Carpendale, 2009

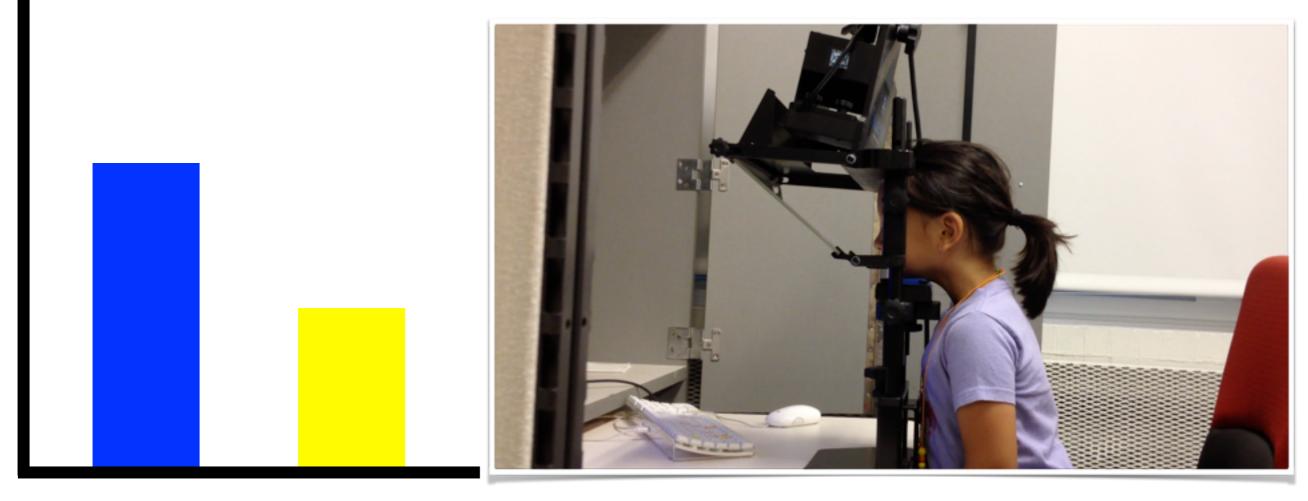




12 pairwise relations

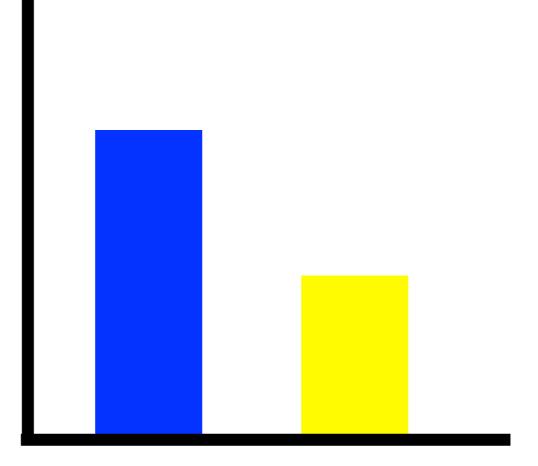
The smaller bar is yellow The larger bar is blue The left bar is blue The right bar is yellow The yellow bar is smaller The blue bar is larger The left bar is larger The right bar is smaller The blue bar is on the left The yellow bar is on the right The smaller bar is on the right The larger bar is on the left

Reading a graph can be like reading a paragraph *Carpenter & Shah, 1998*

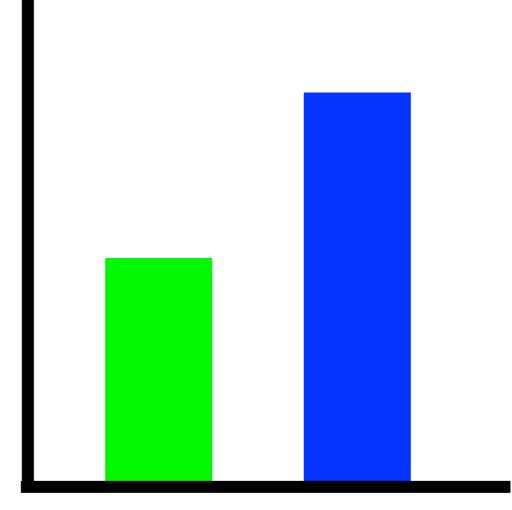


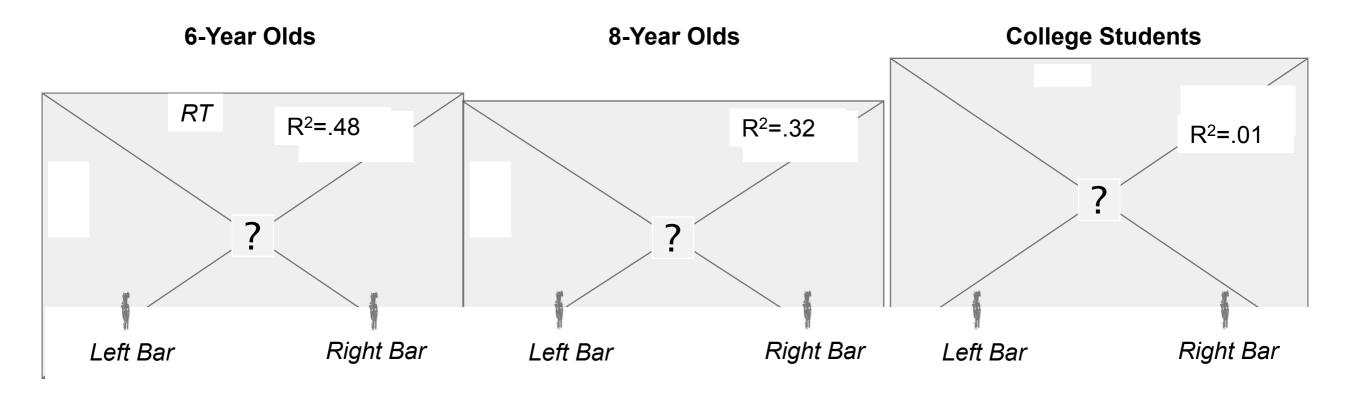
Perceptual Routines

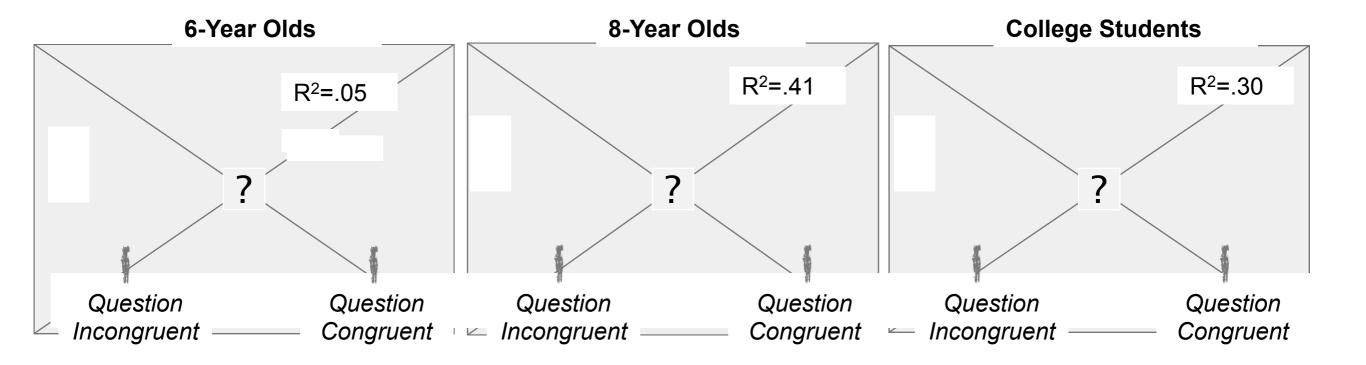
Are there fewer pears than blueberries?



Are there more limes than blueberries?







Michal, Uttal, Shah, & Franconeri (2016). PB&R.

Are there more blueberries than oranges?

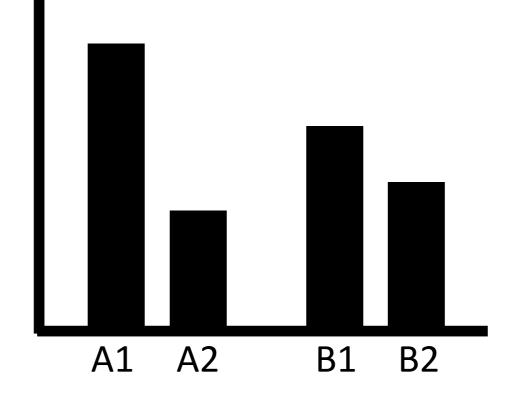
Slower RT 8 year-old

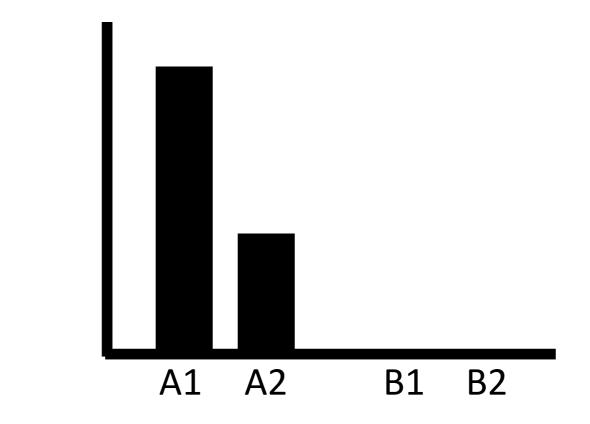
Left to right perceptual order, regardless of question

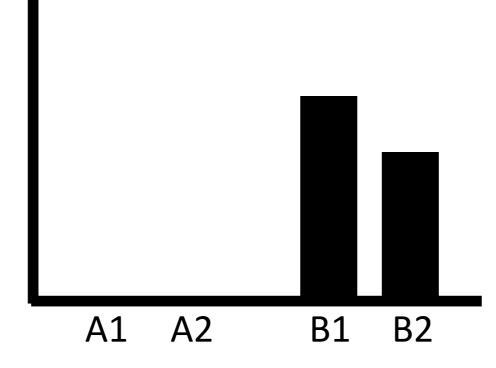
Are there more oranges than blueberries?

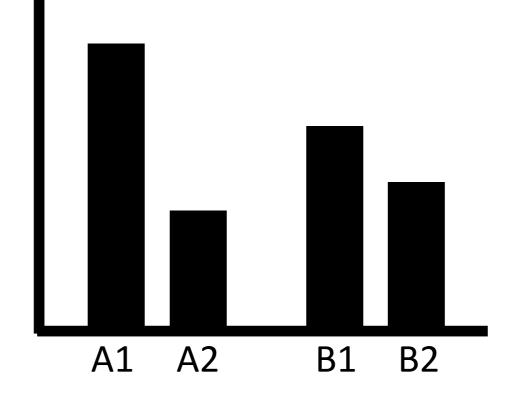
Faster RT 8 year-old

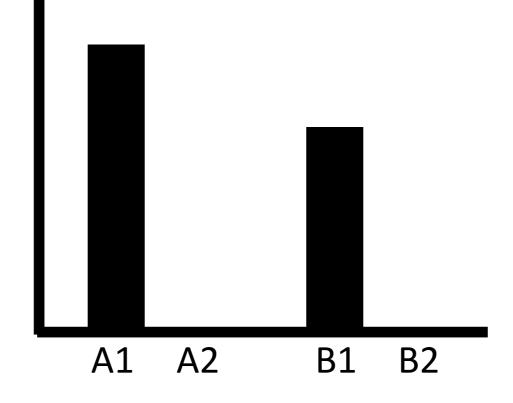
Fixation order congruent with question

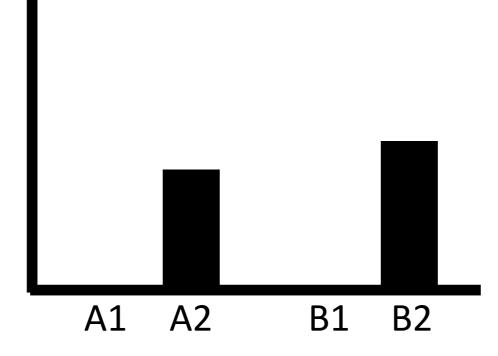


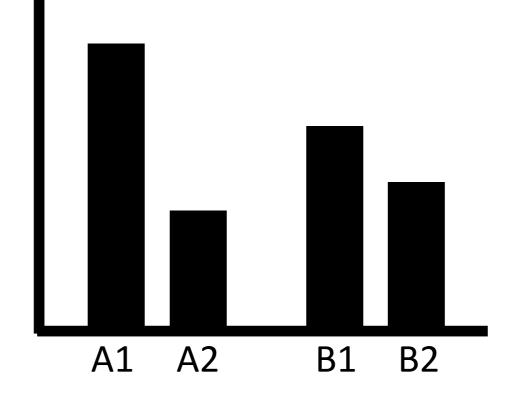


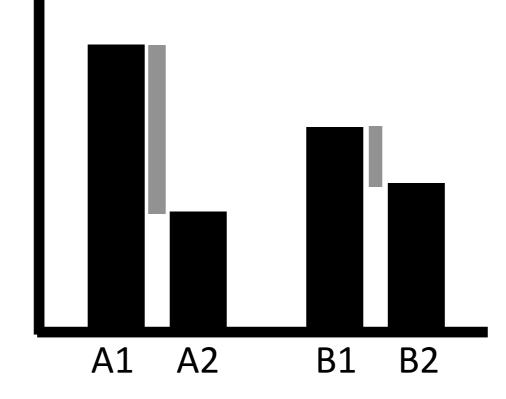


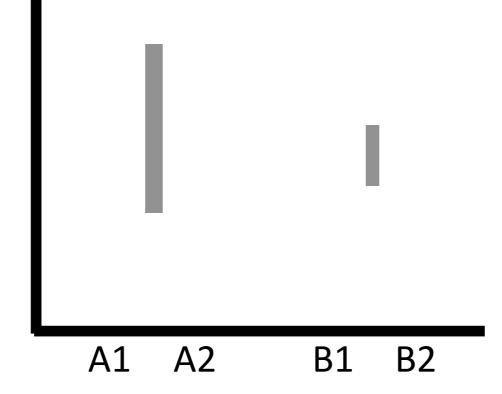


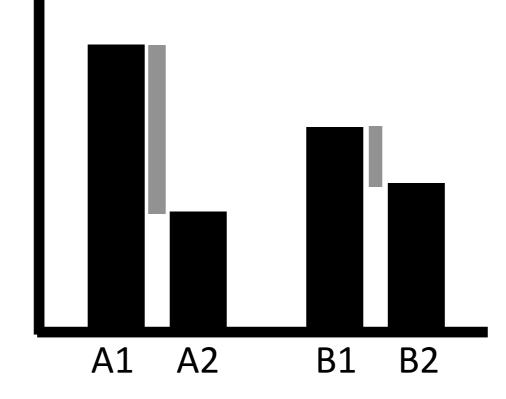


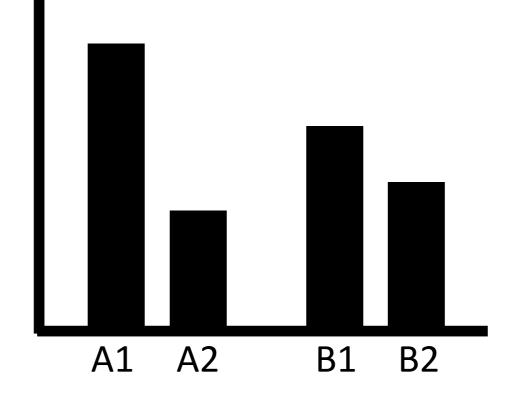


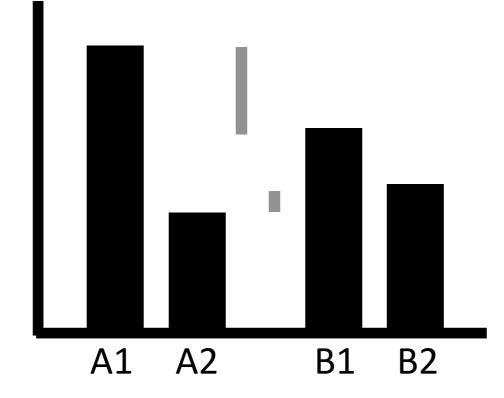


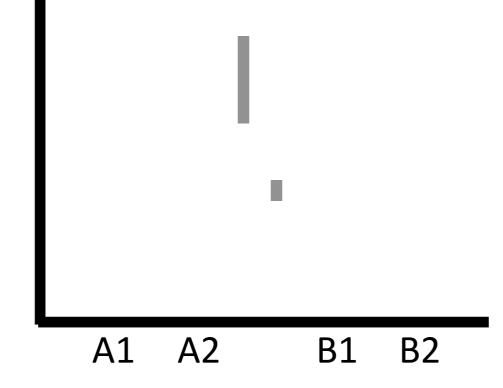


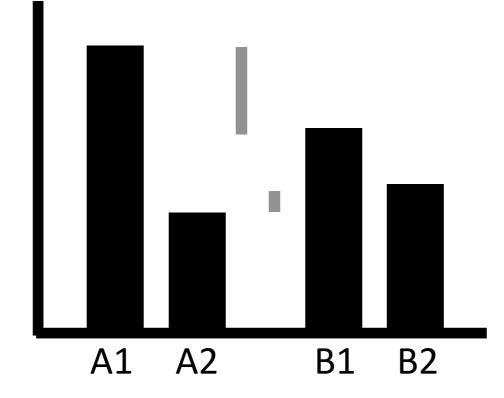


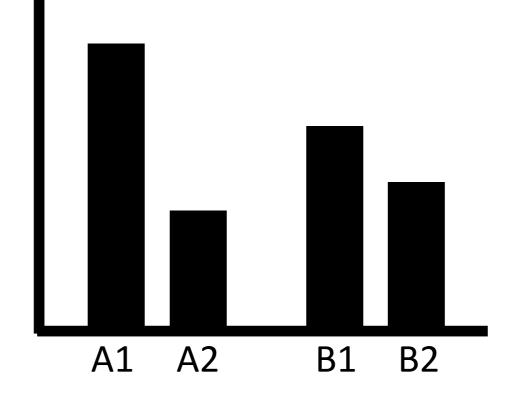


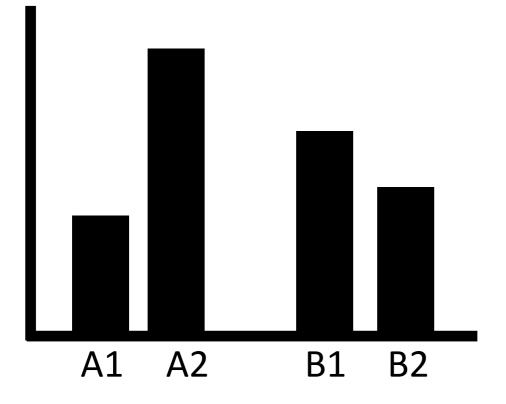


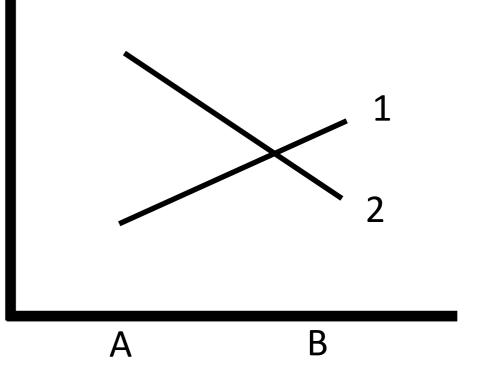


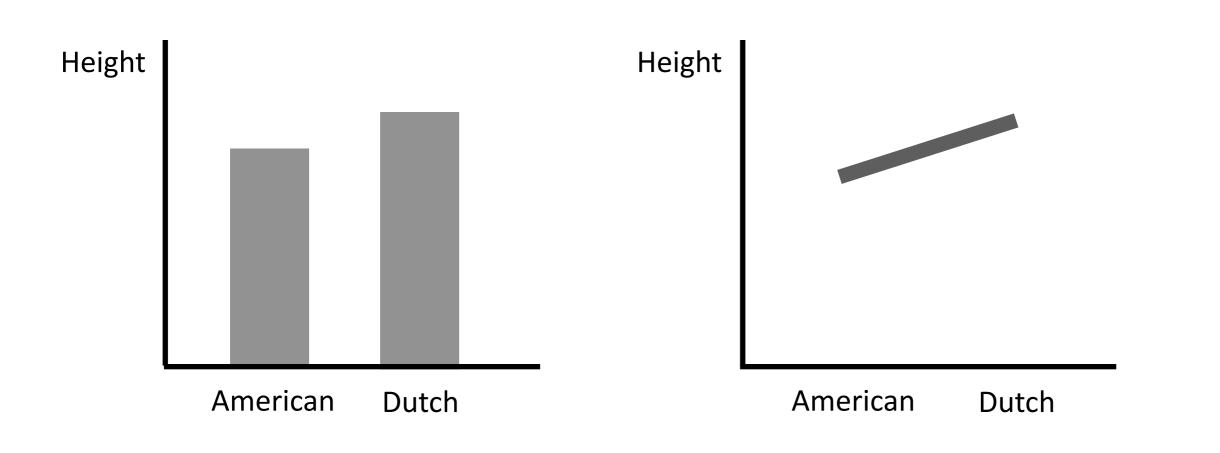






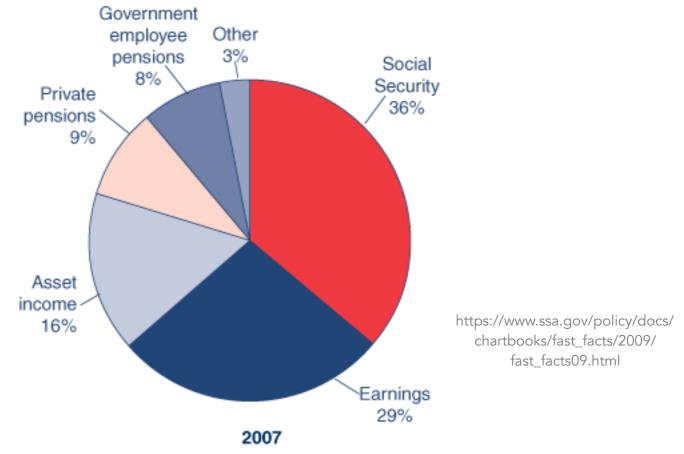






"On average, Dutch people are taller than Americans" "On average, people become taller as they become more Dutch"

Aggregate income, by source



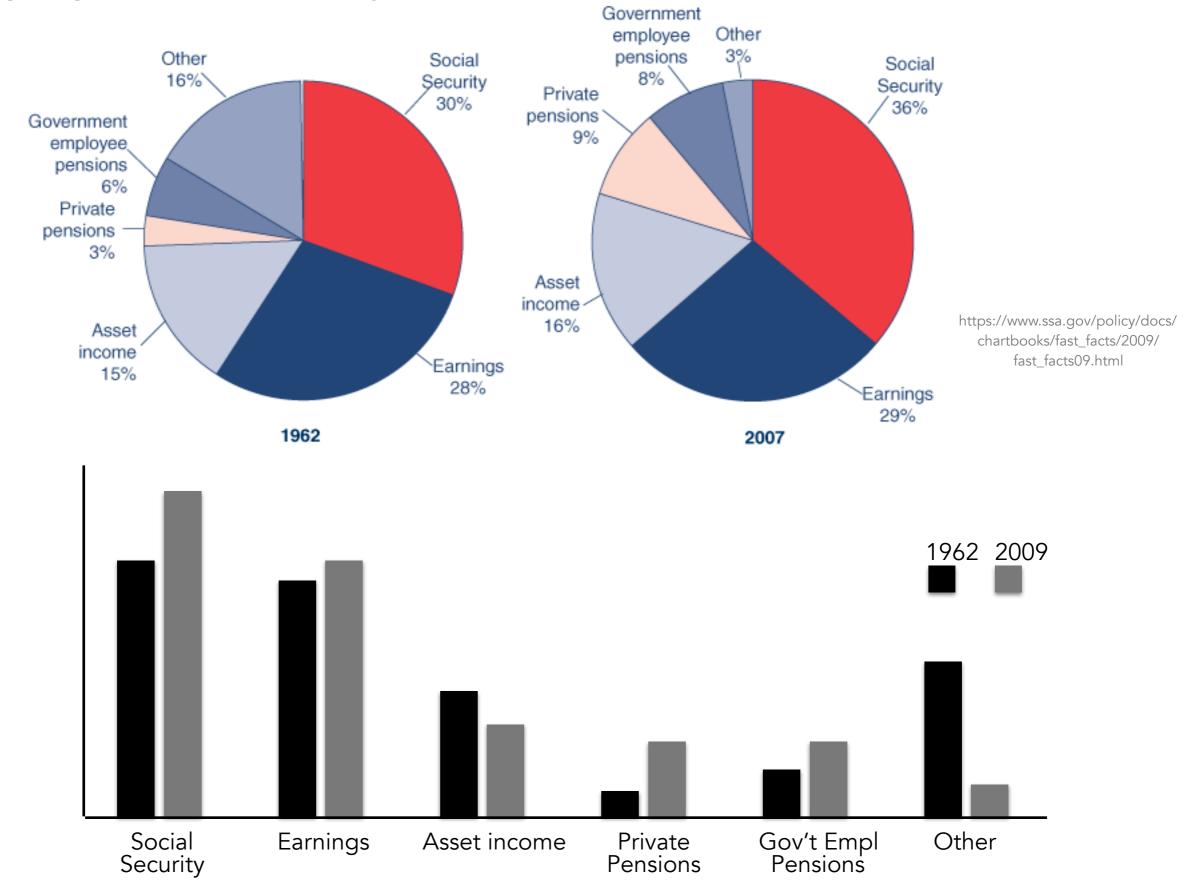




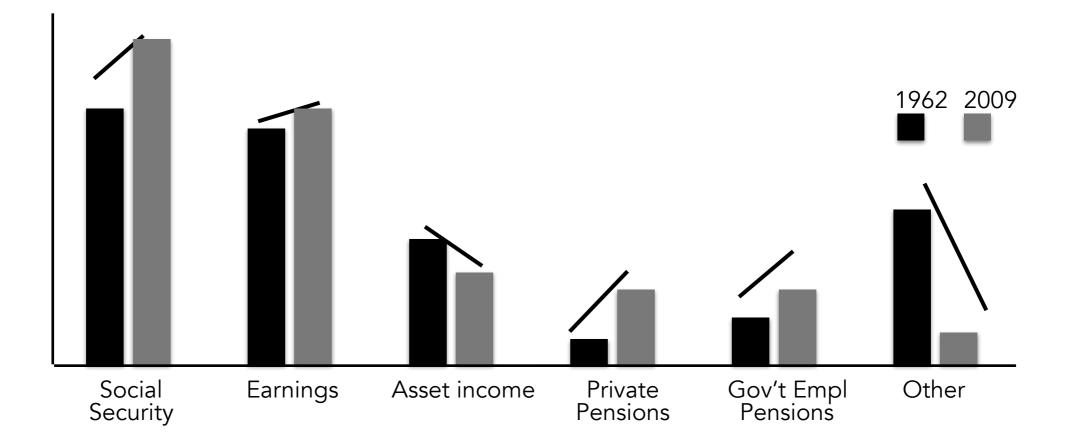
Move past the limits of spreadsheets and canned BI reports. **#GartnerBI #dataviz** 2.sas.com/6011BeY3c



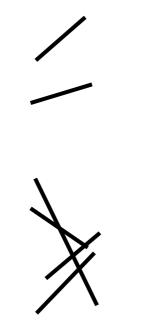
Aggregate income, by source

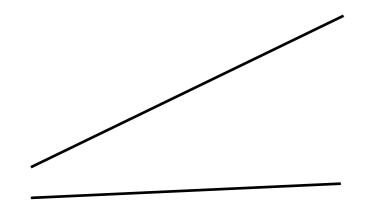


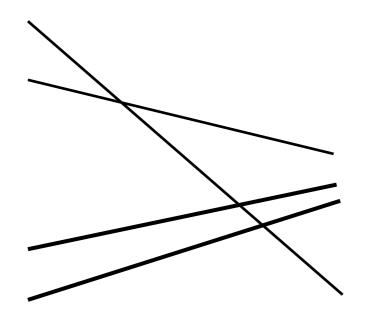
Jon Schwabish

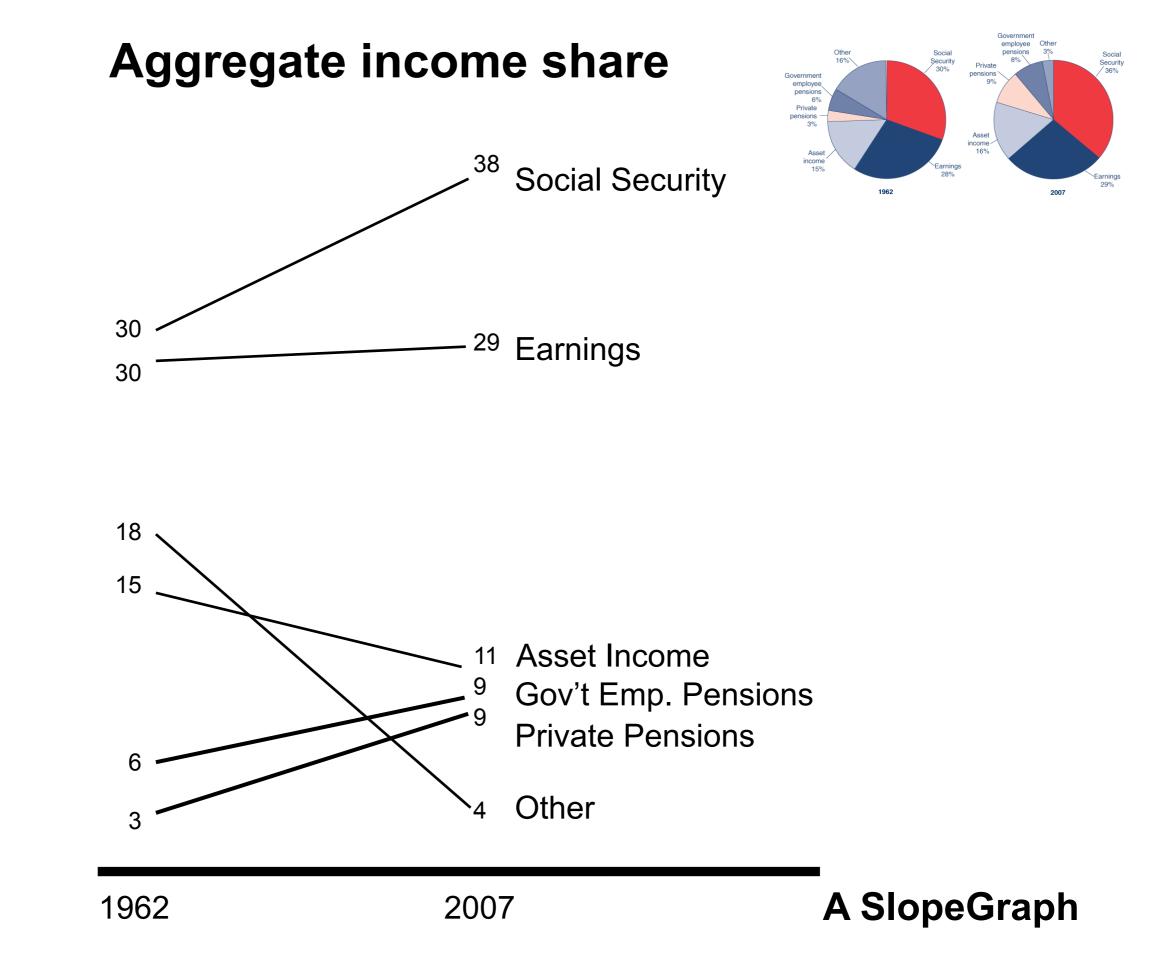


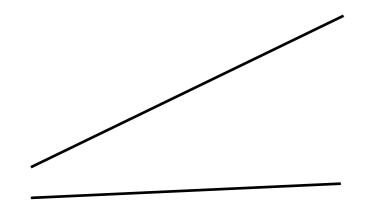
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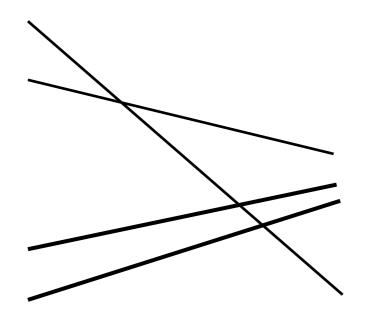


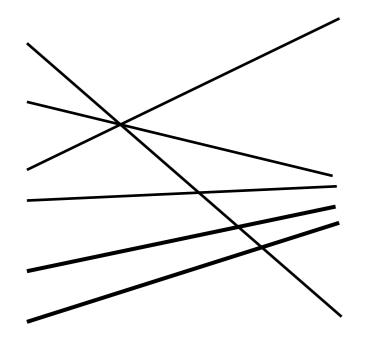


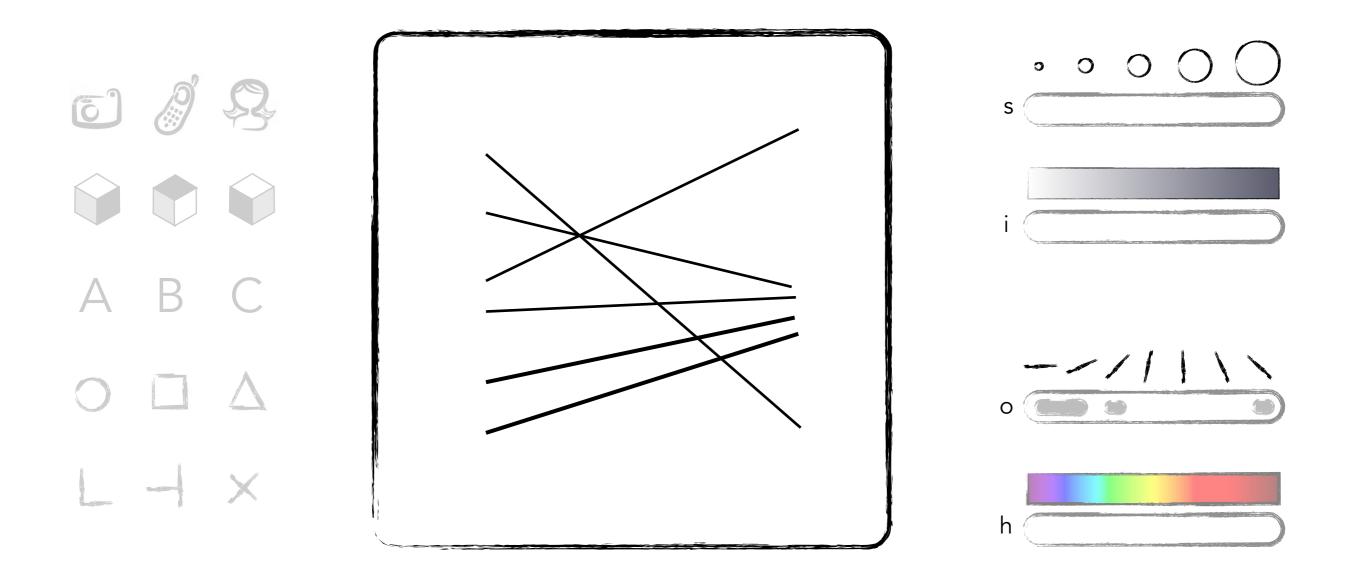


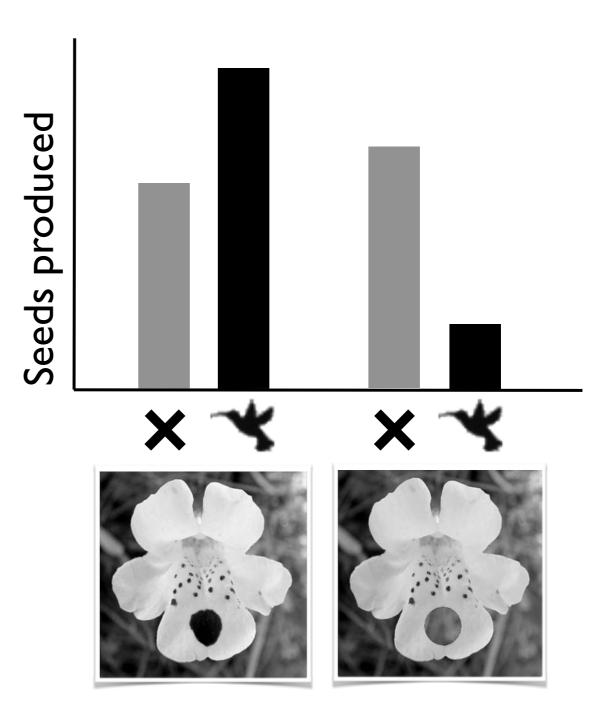








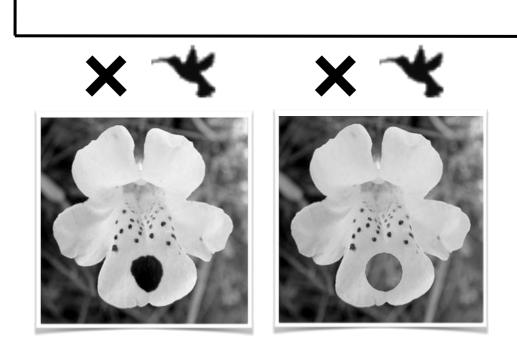




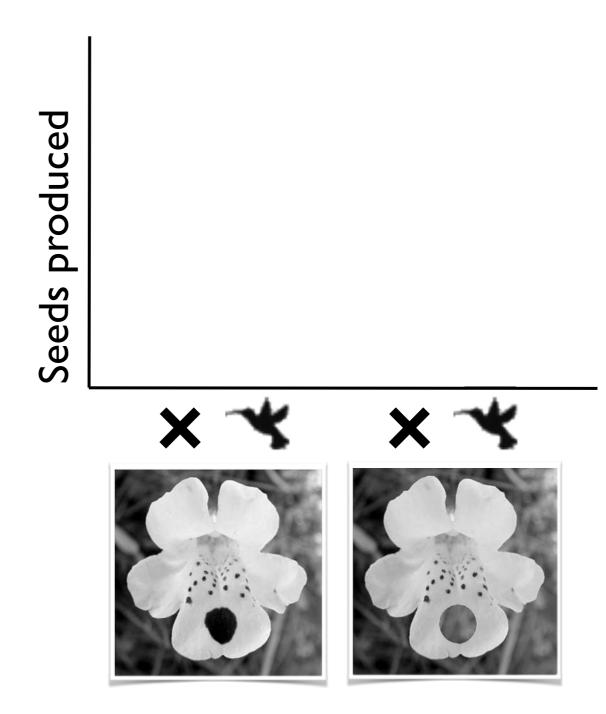
Nélida Pohl · Gastón Carvallo · Carezza Botto-Mahan · Rodrigo Medel

• Main effect of damage

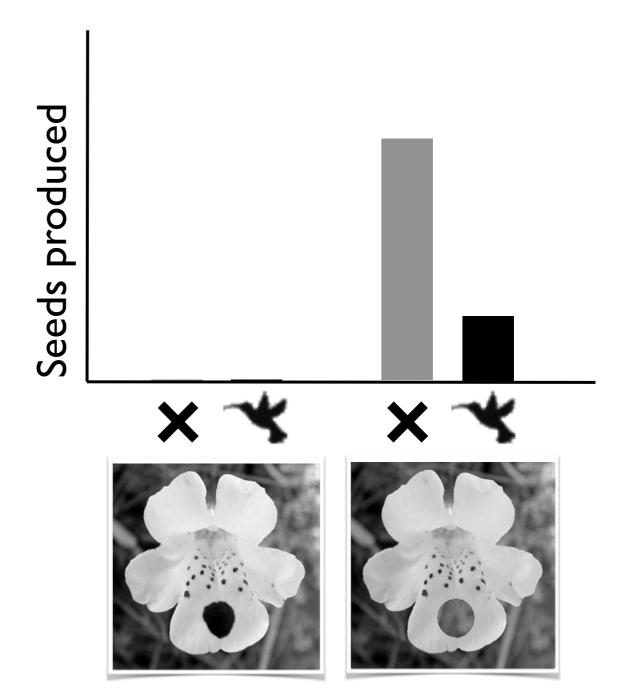
Seeds produced



- Main effect of damage
- But not whole story seed impact not from damage per se.
 - Hummingbirds show a big impact
 - No hummingbirds = no impact



- Main effect of damage
- But not whole story seed impact not from damage per se.
 - Hummingbirds show a big impact
 - No hummingbirds = no impact
- But why are *damaged* flowers better off with no hummingbirds around?



- Main effect of damage
- But not whole story seed impact not from damage per se.
 - Hummingbirds show a big impact
 - No hummingbirds = no impact
- But why are *damaged* flowers better off with no hummingbirds around?

