

designing effective visualizations in the biological sciences BIOINFORMATICS SEMINAR

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GENOME SCIENCES CENTER

BC Cancer Research Center 26 Aug 2011





design: effective visual communication

OBJECTIVE

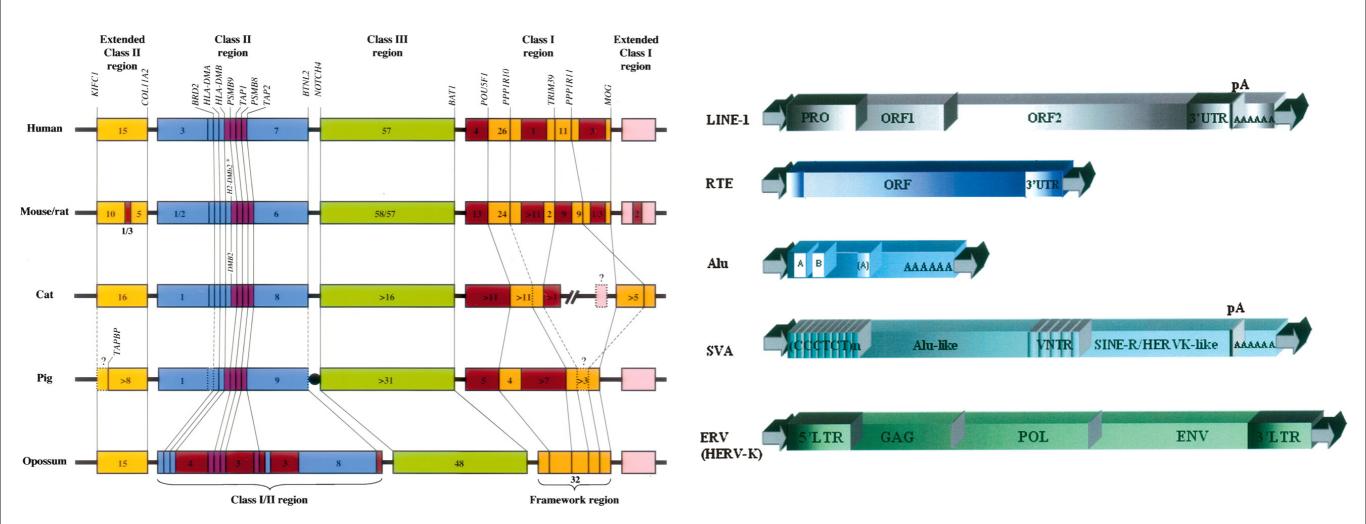
FOLLOWING GUIDELINES

SUBJECTIVE

BREAKING GUIDELINES PURPOSEFULLY



OBJECTIVE ASPECTS OF CLEAR COMMUNICATION



Excellent organization and consistency. Clear use of color. Vertical lines cue continuity.

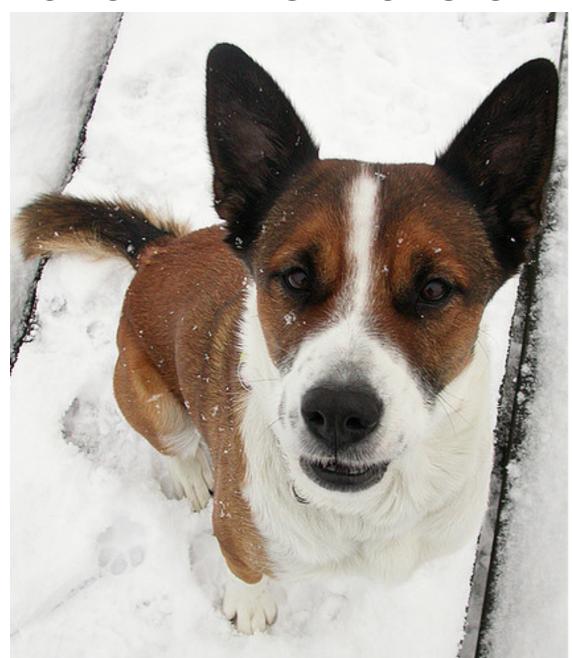
Samollow, P.B., The opossum genome: insights and opportunities from an alternative mammal. Genome Res, 2008. 18(8): p. 1199-215.

Overly ornamental. Illegible and inconsistently formatted text. Redundant elements.

Gentles, A.J., et al., Evolutionary dynamics of transposable elements in the short-tailed opossum Monodelphis domestica. Genome Res, 2007. 17(7): p. 992-1004.



OBJECTIVE ASPECTS OF ATTRACTION



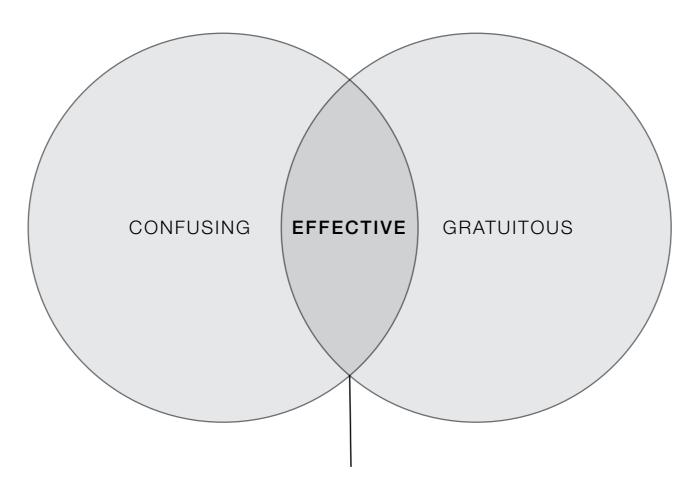
Healthy coat. Pleasant colour scheme. Vigorously adorable proportions. Attentive gaze. Sympathetic eyes.



Where do I start?

WHAT IS AN EFFECTIVE VISUALIZATION?

INFORMATION-RICH INFORMATIVE

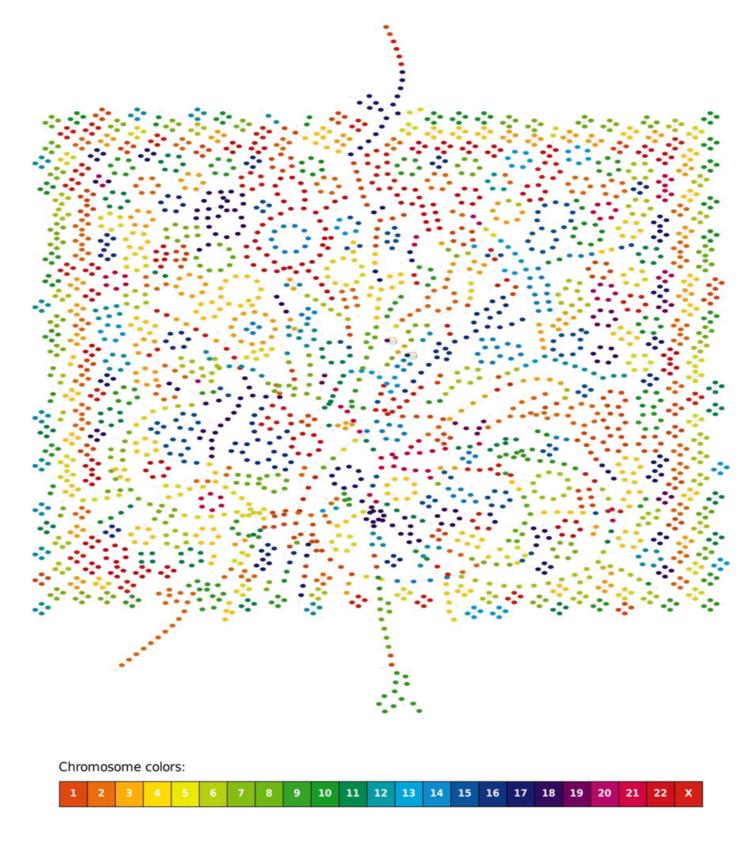


CLEAR MESSAGE

HIGH DATA-TO-INK RATIO

ACCESSIBLE COMPLEXITY

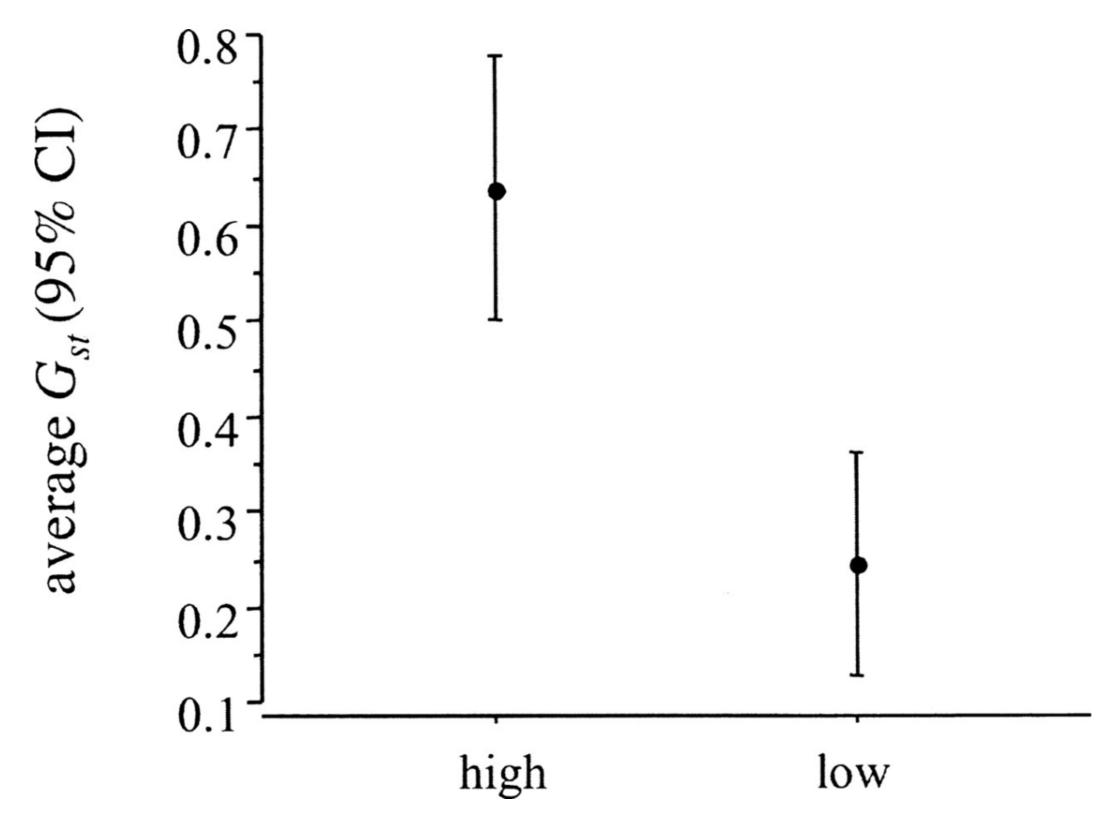
INFORMATION-RICH, NOT INFORMATIVE



The breakspoint graph G(M,R,D,Q,H,C) (obverse edges are not shown) of six mammalian genomes. Alekseyev, M.A. and P.A. Pevzner, Breakpoint graphs and ancestral genome reconstructions. Genome Res, 2009. 19(5): p. 943-57.



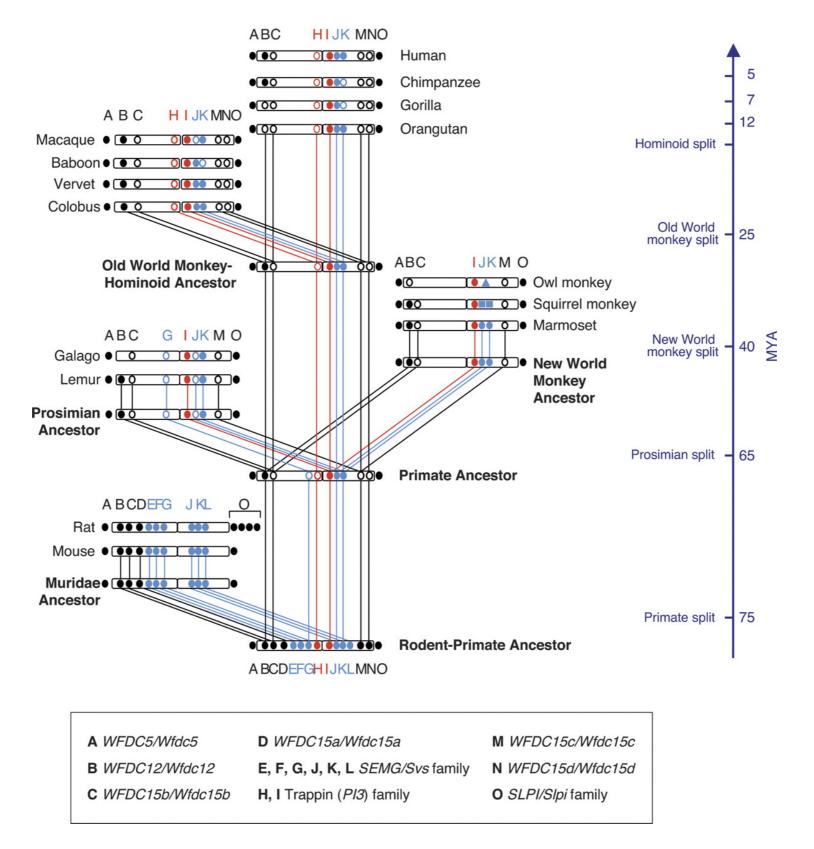
INFORMATIVE, NOT INFORMATION-RICH



Mean and 95% confidence interval of average Gst based on direct sequencing of fragments within high (N = 8) and low (N = 6) differentiation regions in natural population of house mice. Harr, B., Genomic islands of differentiation between house mouse subspecies. Genome Res, 2006. 16(6): p. 730-7.



INFORMATION-RICH AND INFORMATIVE



Evolutionary history of the centromeric WFDC sublocus. Hurle, B., W. Swanson, and E.D. Green, Comparative sequence analyses reveal rapid and divergent evolutionary changes of the WFDC locus in the primate lineage. Genome Res, 2007. 17(3): p. 276-86.

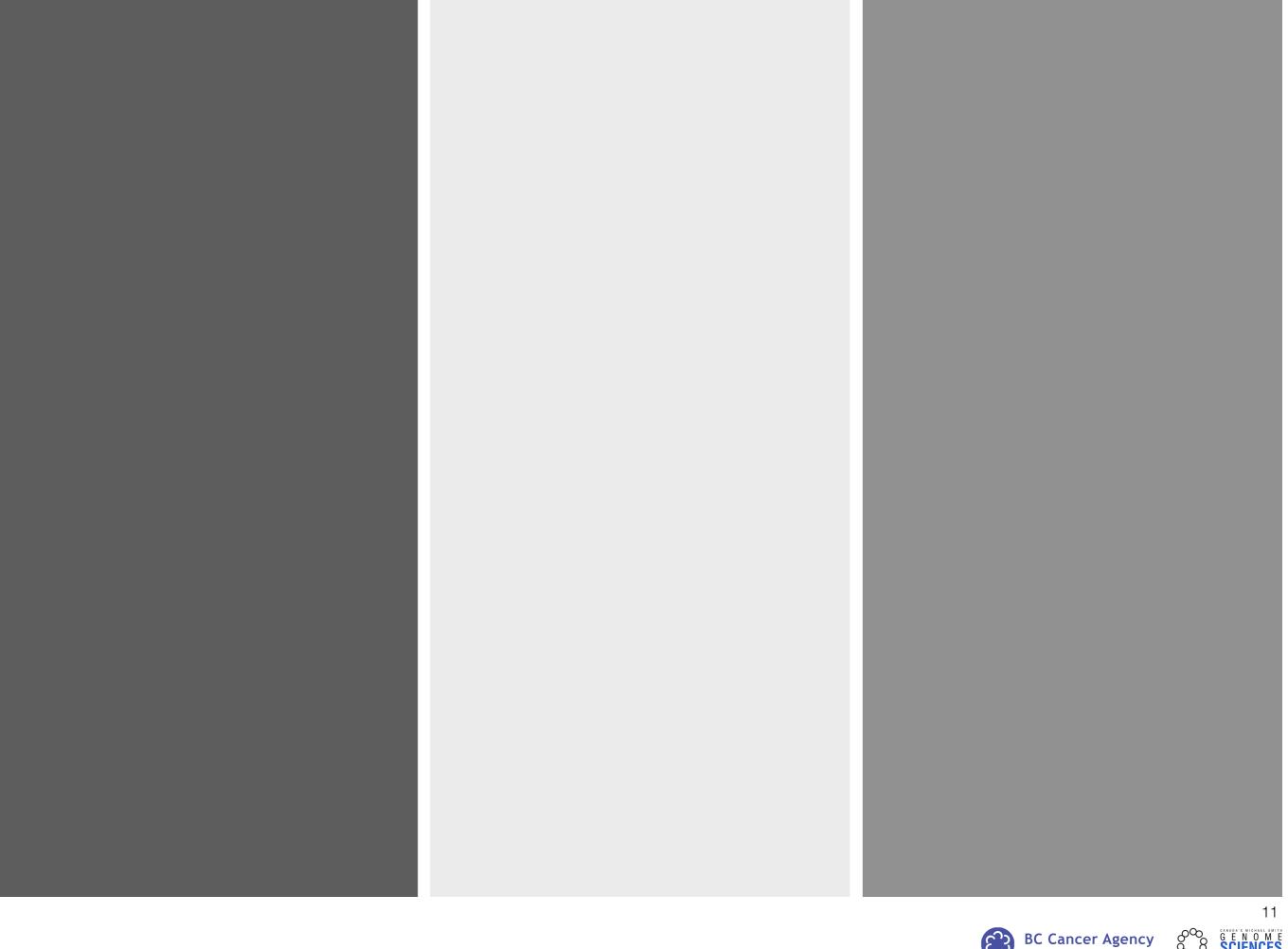


requirements for effective visual communication

LEGIBILITY CLARITY AND OPTIONALLY, **ATTRACTIVENESS**









are all elements discernable?

does text contrast well with background?

is there simultaneous contrast?

RESOLUTION PARSABILITY COLOR





are all elements discernable?

does text contrast well with background?

is there simultaneous contrast?

RESOLUTION PARSABILITY COLOR

CLEAR

does the reader see the noise or trends?

message delivered?

are there redundant or ornamental elements?

STRONG MESSAGE
REDUNDANCY
REPRESENTATION
CONSISTENCY
EXCESS INK
GLYPHS







are all elements discernable?

does text contrast well with background?

is there simultaneous contrast?

RESOLUTION PARSABILITY COLOR

CLEAR

does the reader see the noise or trends?

message delivered?

are there redundant or ornamental elements?

STRONG MESSAGE
REDUNDANCY
REPRESENTATION
CONSISTENCY
EXCESS INK
GLYPHS

ATTRACTIVE

are spacing and orientation of visual cues consistent?

GRID LAYOUT





are all elements discernable?

does text contrast well with background?

is there simultaneous contrast?

CLEAR

does the reader see the noise or trends?

message delivered?

are there redundant or ornamental elements?

ATTRACTIVE

are spacing and orientation of visual cues consistent?

DO I HAVE A MESSAGE? HAVE I COMMUNICATED IT?

RESOLUTION PARSABILITY COLOR STRONG MESSAGE
REDUNDANCY
REPRESENTATION
CONSISTENCY
EXCESS INK
GLYPHS

GRID LAYOUT





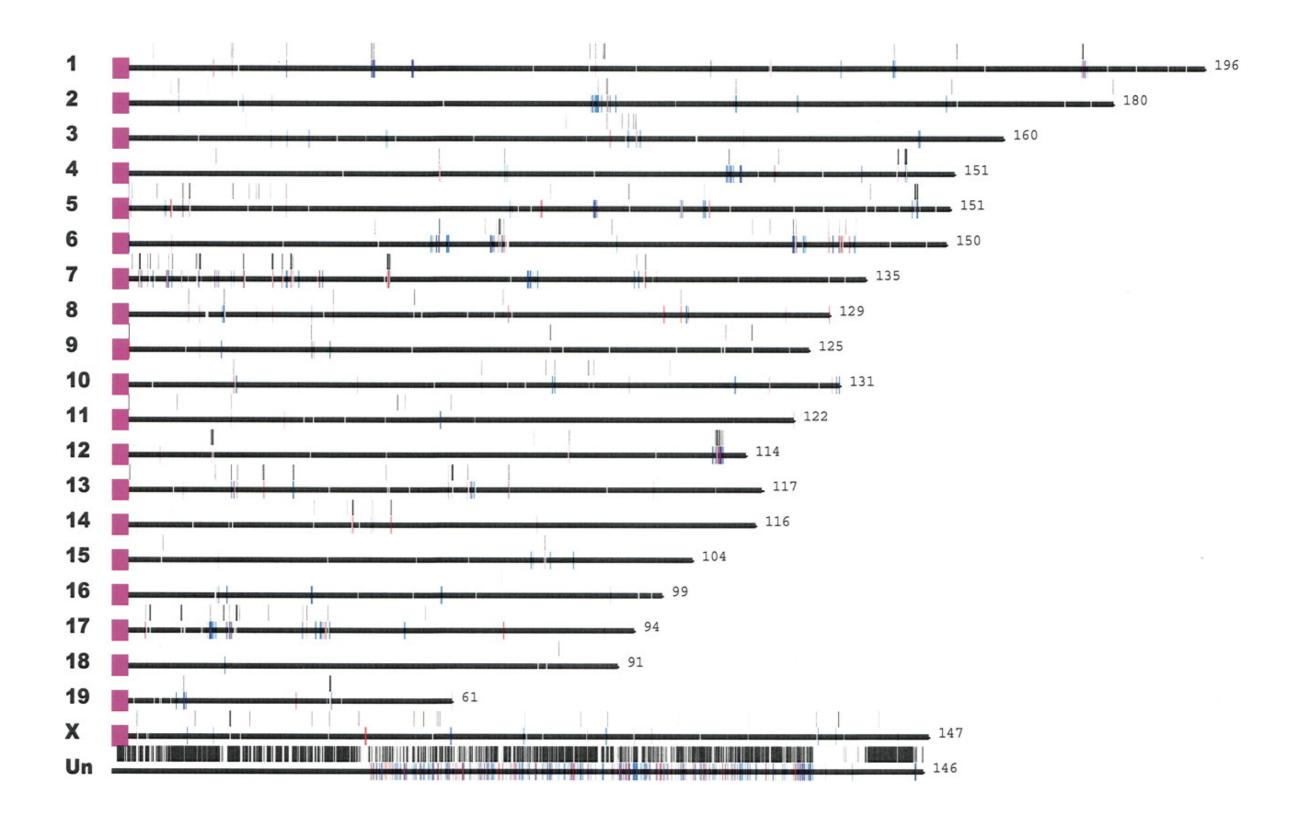
legibilityclarityattractiveness

RESOLUTION **PARSABILITY COLOR**





RESOLUTION & ACUITY LIMITS

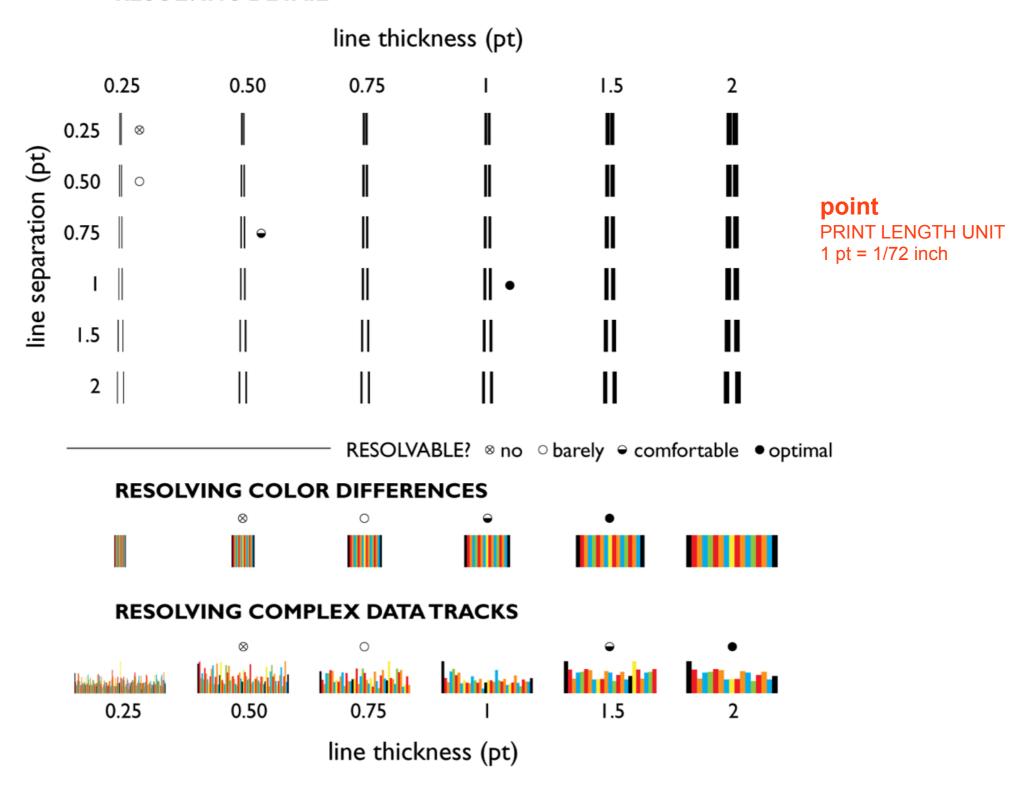


Mouse segmental duplications. J. A. Bailey, D. M. Church, M. Ventura, M. Rocchi, E. E. Eichler, Genome Res 14, 789 (May, 2004).



RESOLUTION & ACUITY LIMITS

RESOLVING DETAIL

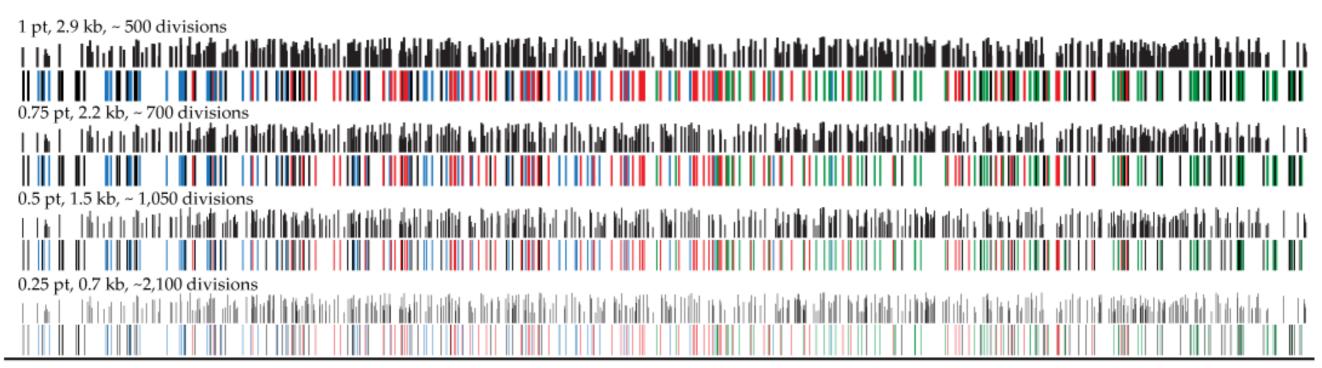


The resolving power of the eye is approximately 50 cycles per degree. This limits us from distinguishing features smaller than 0.1 mm at a reading distance of 30 cm. Larger features must be used to maintain legibility and comprehension. 1 point = 1/72 inch = 0.0353 cm



RESOLUTION & ACUITY LIMITS

DO NOT DIVIDE YOUR SCALE INTO MORE THAN 500 INTERVALS



scale length 183 mm, 7.2 in, 519 pt scale resolution 8.4 kb/mm, 213 kb/in, 2.9 kb/pt S. cerevisiae chrIV, 1,531 kb

As a rule of thumb, you should not divide your scale into more than 500 intervals per 8.5 inch (216mm, US letter size). This corresponds to 1 pt on a 183 mm figure, 4 pixels on a 1920 horizontal resolution display, or 2 pixels on a typical LCD projector.

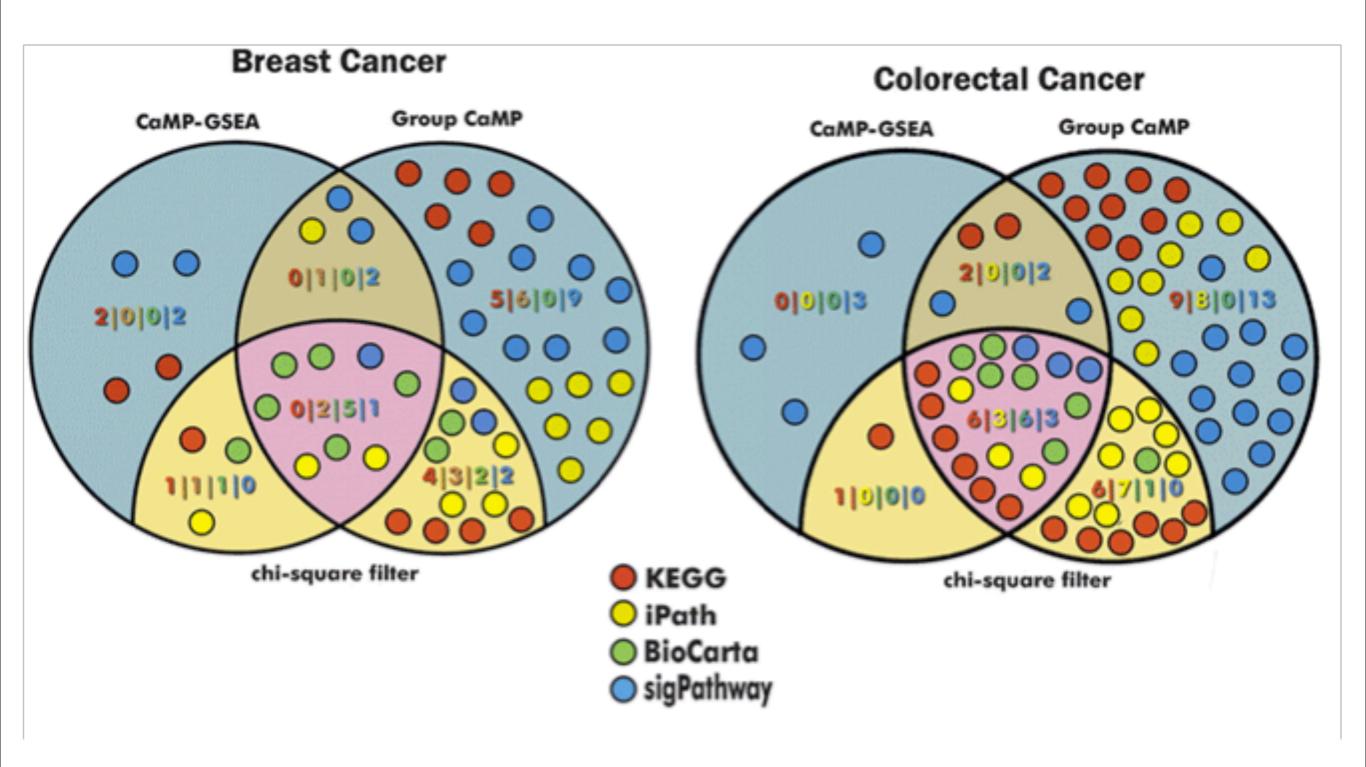
PARSABILITY LIMITS



The specific domains and combinations in the domain graph. Ye, Y. and A. Godzik, Comparative analysis of protein domain organization. Genome Res, 2004. 14(3): p. 343-53.



PARSABILITY LIMITS

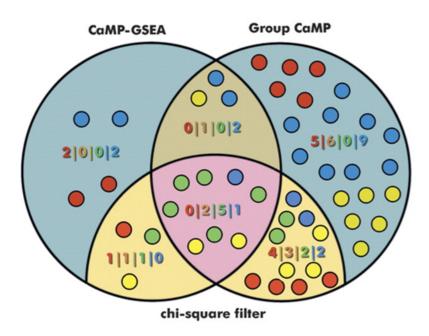


Comparison of mutation enrichment in cellular pathways using complementary statistical approaches. Lin, J., et al., A multidimensional analysis of genes mutated in breast and colorectal cancers. Genome Res, 2007. 17(9): p. 1304-18.

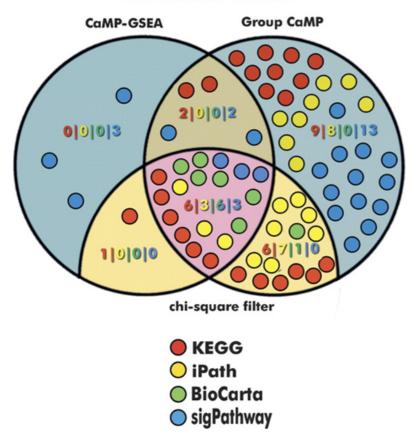


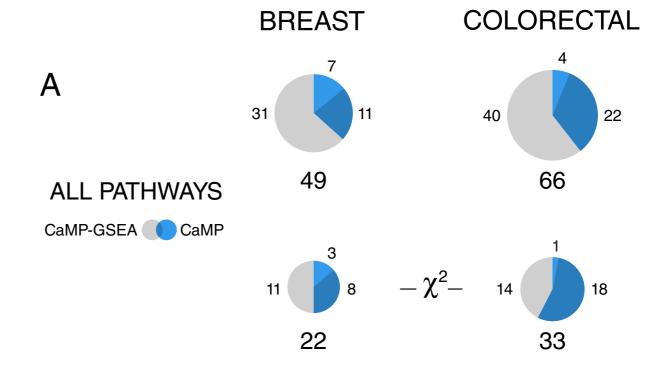
REFACTORING COMPLEXITY

Breast Cancer









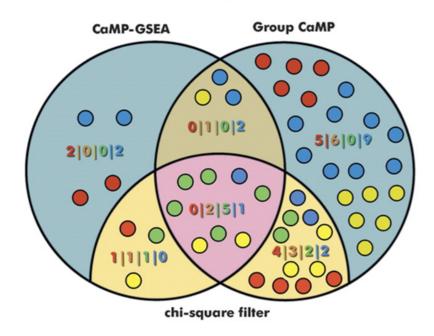
Comparison of mutation enrichment in cellular pathways using complementary statistical approaches. Lin, J., et al., A multidimensional analysis of genes mutated in breast and colorectal cancers. Genome Res, 2007. 17(9): p. 1304-18.



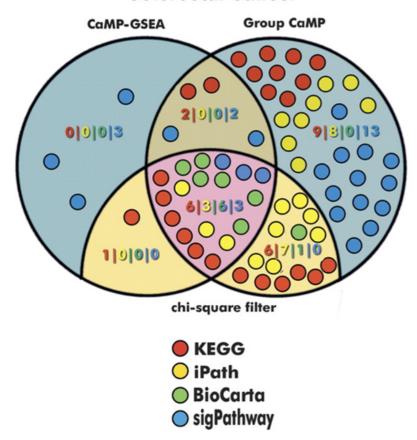


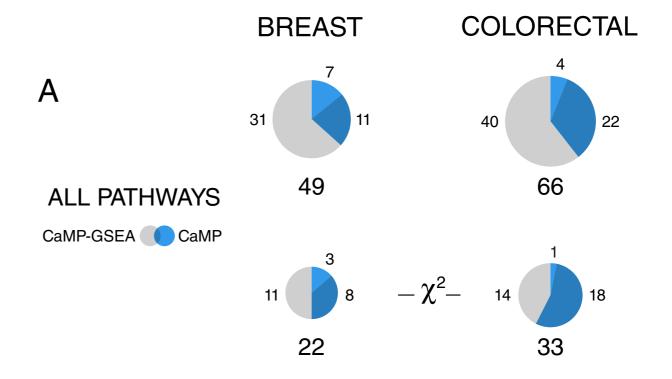
REFACTORING COMPLEXITY

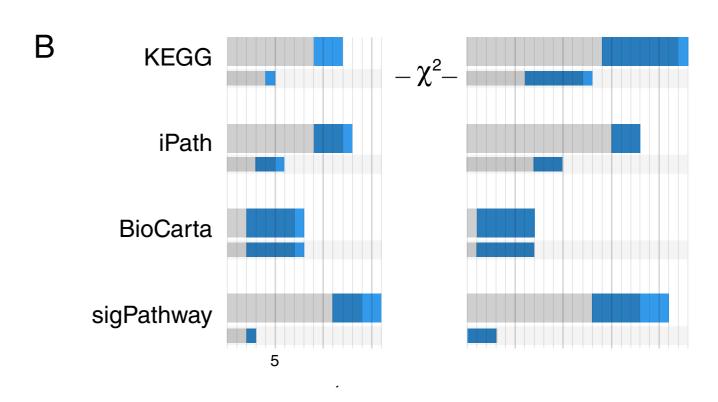
Breast Cancer



Colorectal Cancer



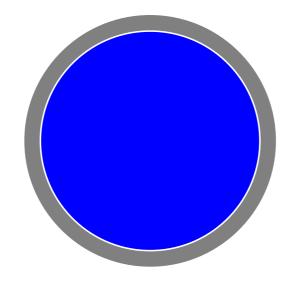


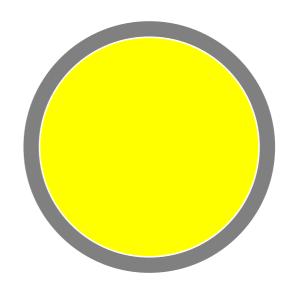


Comparison of mutation enrichment in cellular pathways using complementary statistical approaches. Lin, J., et al., A multidimensional analysis of genes mutated in breast and colorectal cancers. Genome Res, 2007. 17(9): p. 1304-18.

19

COLOR PERCEPTION





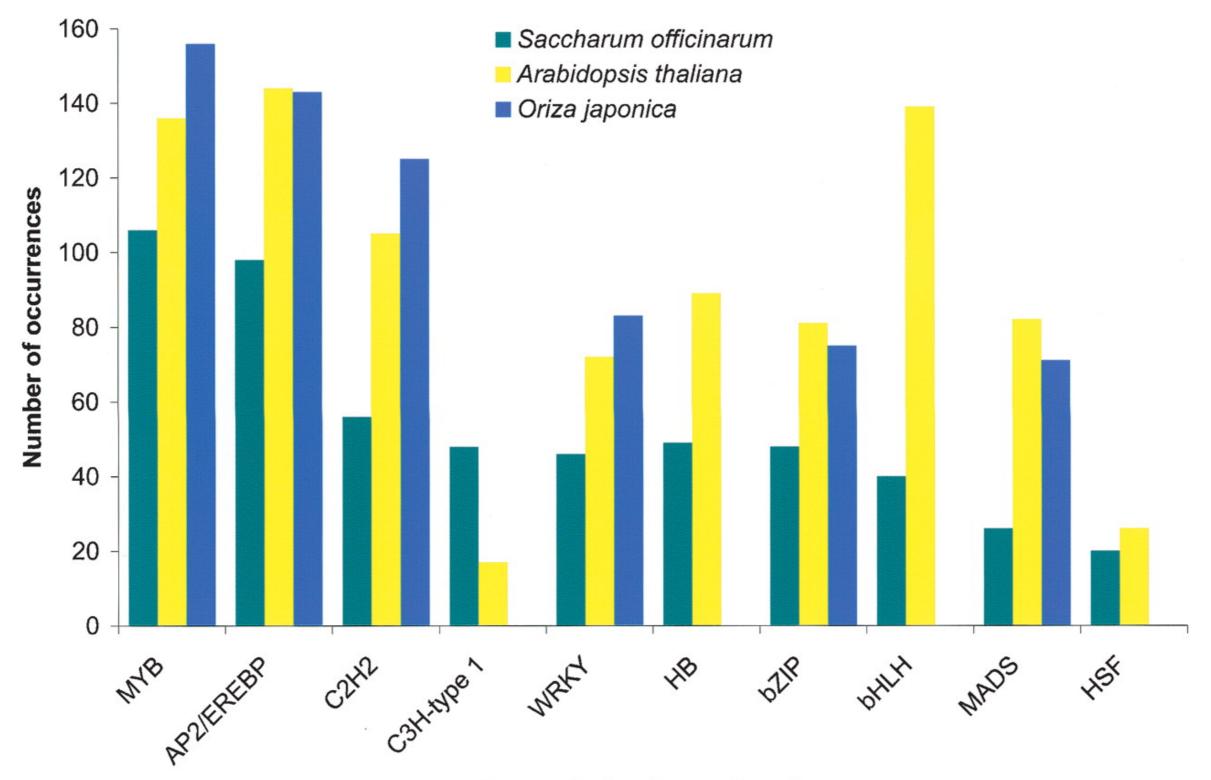
HSB COLOR SPACE

HUE	240	60
SATURATION	1	1
BRIGHTNESS	1	1

LCH COLOR SPACE

HUE	266	86
CHROMA	130	107
LIGHTNESS	0.32	0.97

COLOR PERCEPTION

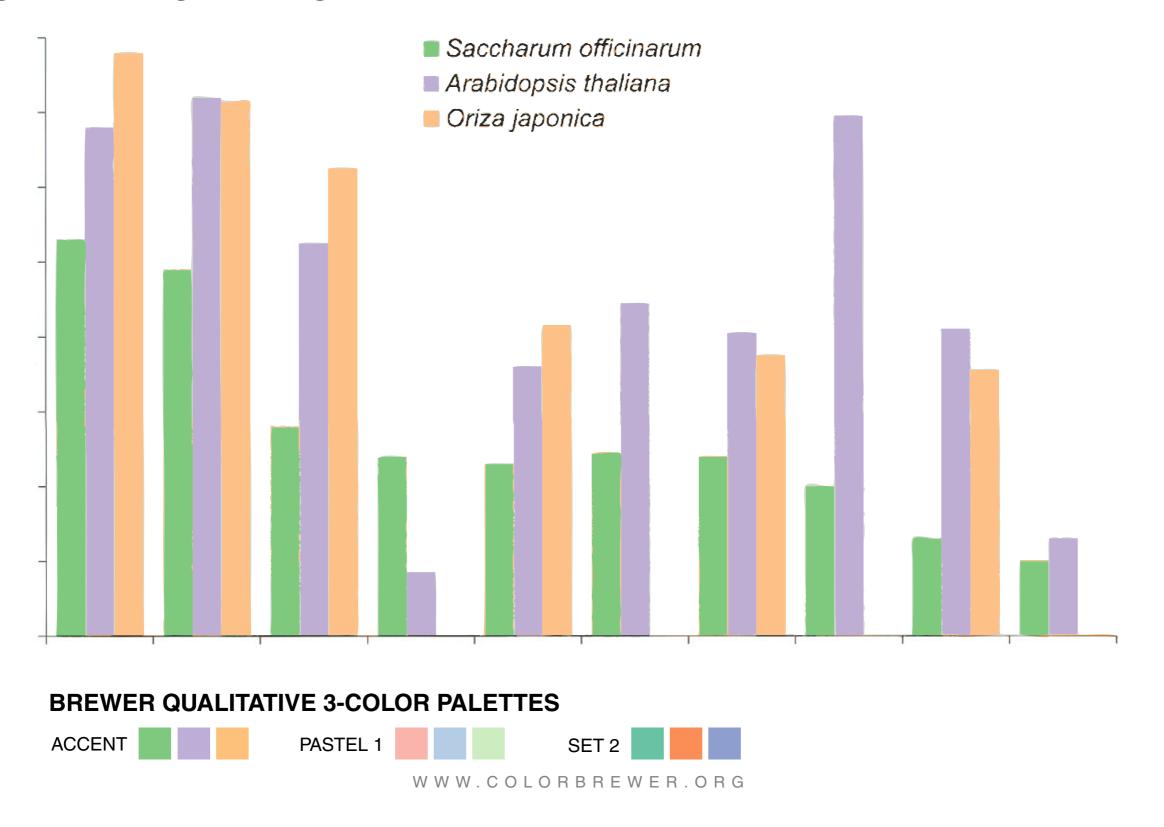


Transcription factor domains

The 10 most common transcription factor Pfam domains in SAS proteins. Vettore, A.L., et al., Analysis and functional annotation of an expressed sequence tag collection for tropical crop sugarcane. Genome Res, 2003. 13(12): p. 2725-35.



COLOR PERCEPTION

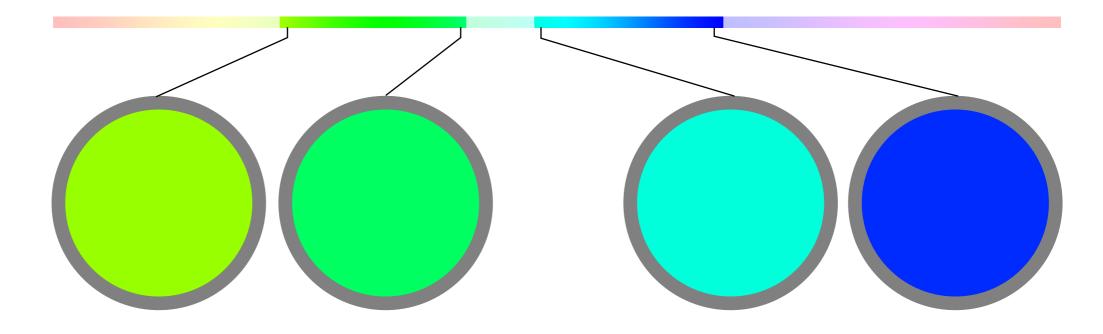


In a qualitative palette, colors have no perceived order or importance.

Friday, September 2, 2011



PERCEPTUAL UNIFORMITY



HSB	COL	_OR	SPA	CE
		- 🗸 : : :	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathbf{I}}$	

HUE	83	143
SATURATION	1	1
BRIGHTNESS	1	1

 $\Delta H = 60$

 $\Delta \mathbf{E}_{\mathsf{ab}} = \mathbf{35}$

	CO
\ □	nu
71 1	

171	23-
1	1
1	1

L	91	88
а	-59	-81
b	87	60

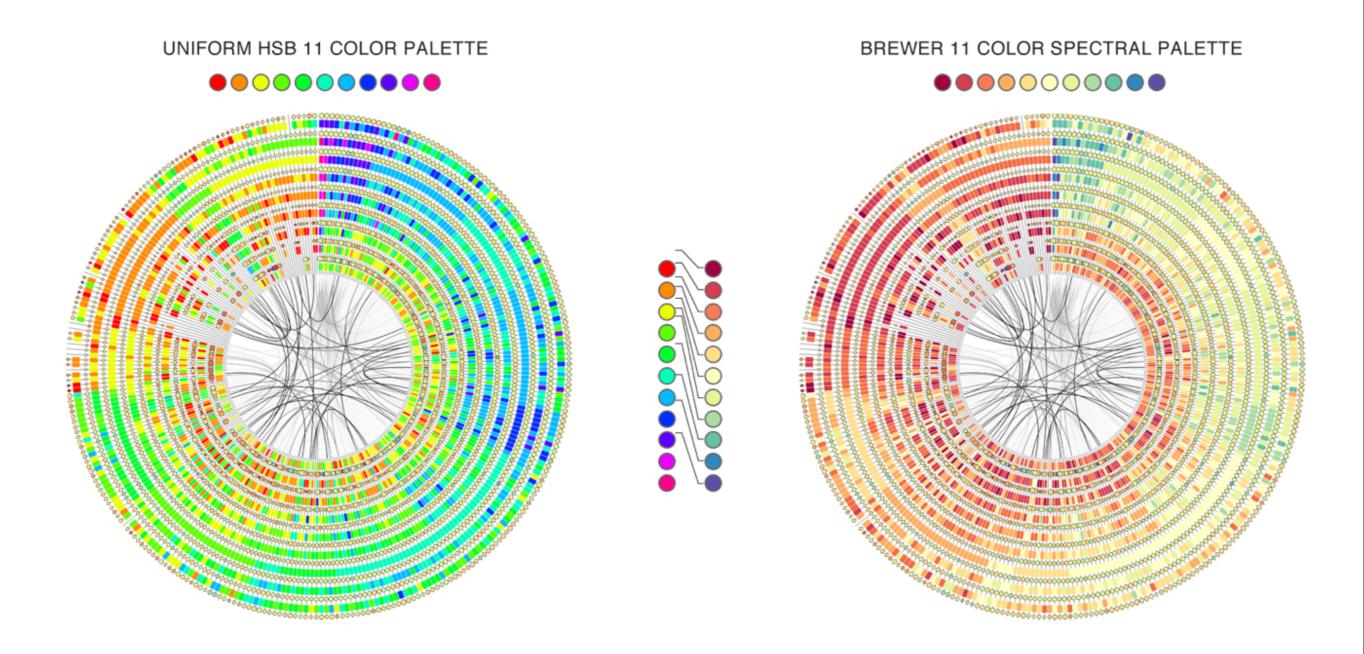
$$\Delta E_{ab} = 176$$

	ab	
90		35
-58		70
4		-102

BC Cancer Agency
CARE + RESEARCH



DIVERGING BREWER PALETTES



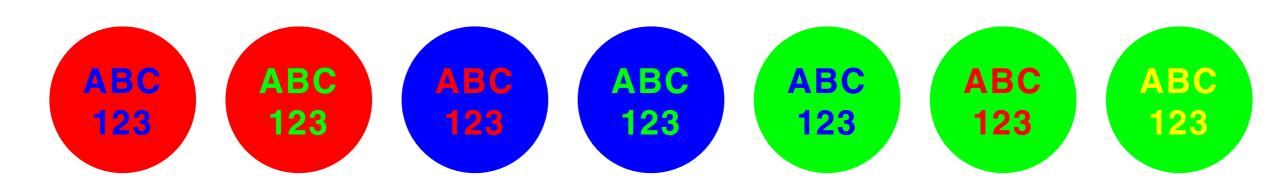
last.fm music listening habits by age. http://mkweb.bcgsc.ca/spl/circos-lastfm-legend.png



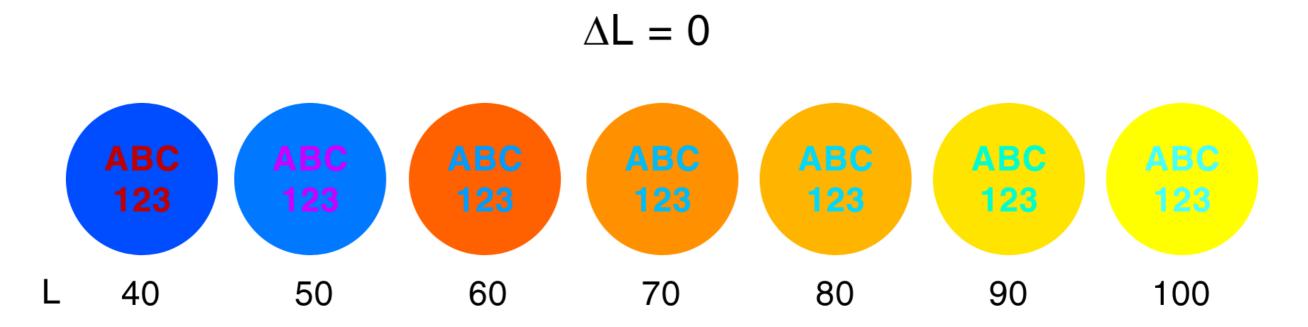


CONTRAST

AVOID ADJACENT PURE COLORS



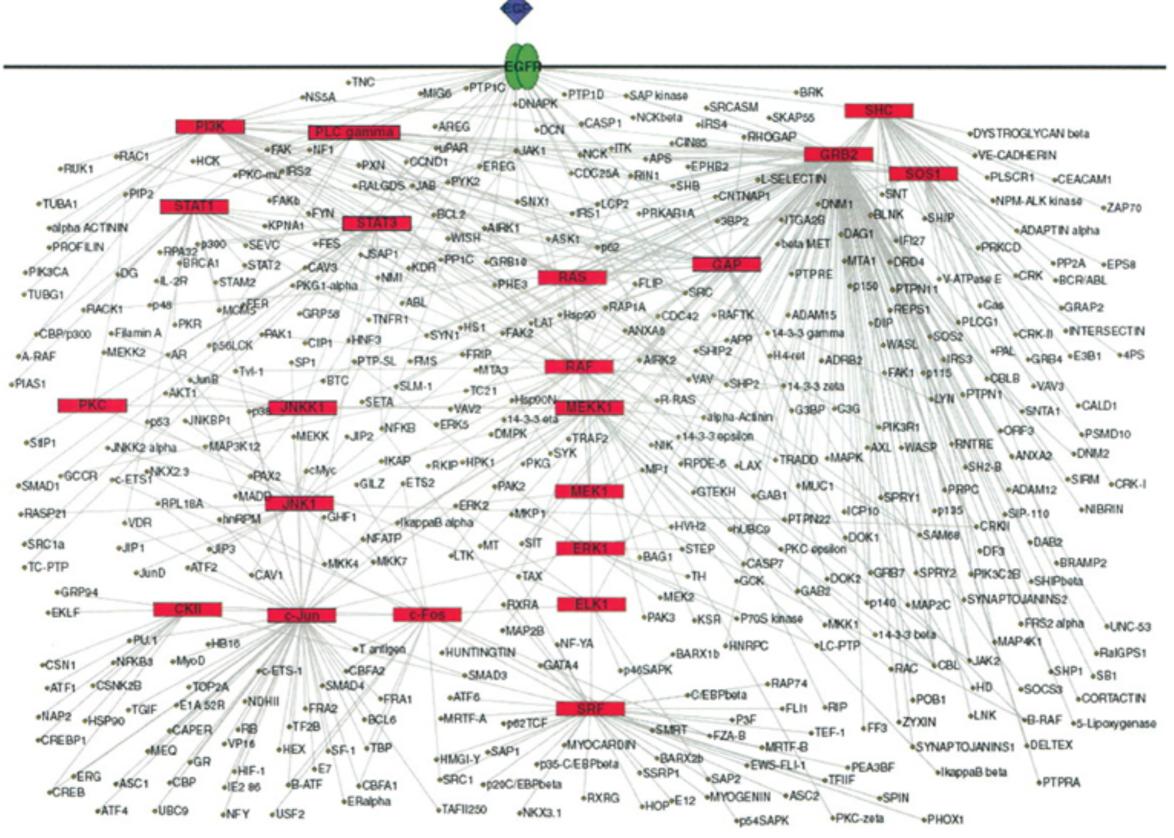
AVOID ADJACENT COLORS WITH SIMILAR LUMINANCE



Simultaneous contrast occurs when two pure colors are adjacent. Poor contrast occurs when two colors have similar luminance (perceived brightness).



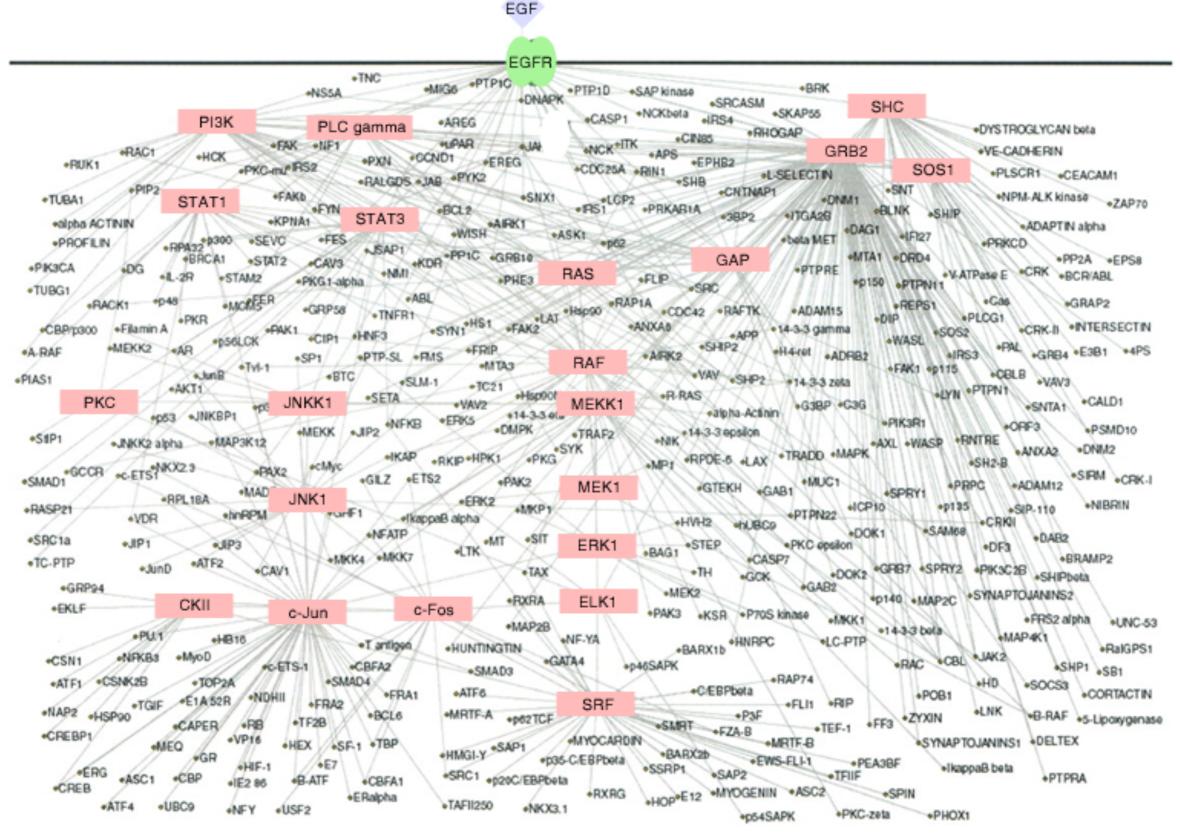
CONTRAST



Black text on dark colors is illegible due to insufficient luminosity contrast.



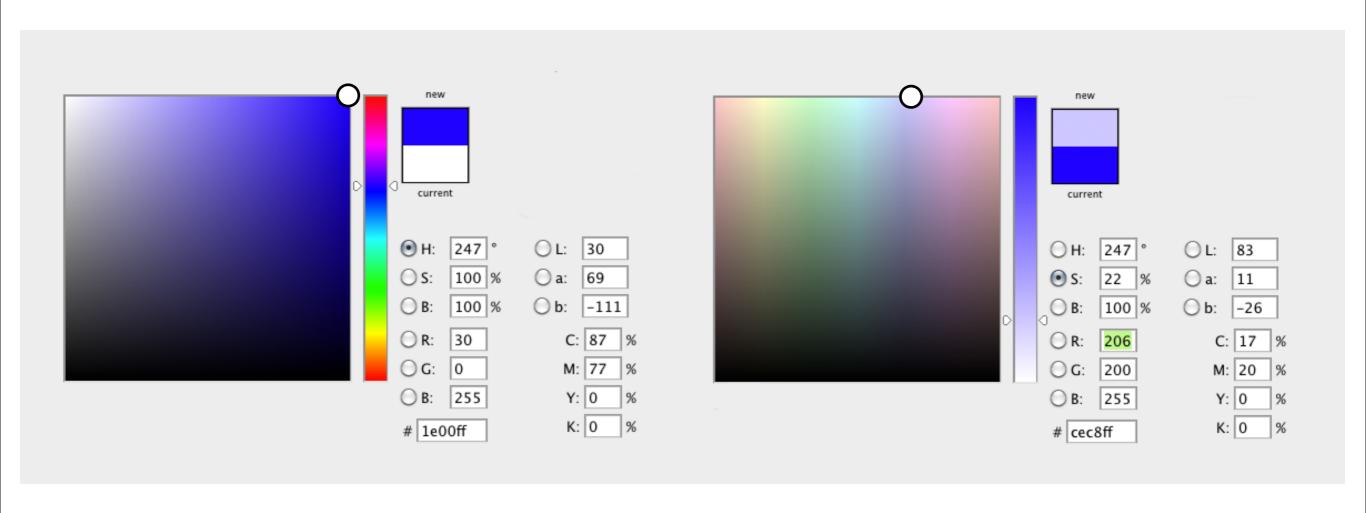
GOOD CONTRAST



Decreasing the saturation of the background colors improves contrast.



USING COLOR PICKERS



Photoshop shows a color's coordinates in several color spaces. Decrease saturation to make a color appear lighter. Use the "L" channel of the Lab space to determine a color's perceived brightness (luminance).



legibilityclarityattractiveness

STRONG MESSAGE REDUNDANCY REPRESENTATION CONSISTENCY **EXCESS INK GLYPHS**





IMPORTANCE OF CLARITY



This is fairly clear. Either

- (a) do not poop near the tiny trees, or
- (b) no pooping for giants



This is less clear. Perhaps

- (a) no talking
- (b) did you remember your black glove?
- (c) stop and wait





IS YOUR MESSAGE NECESSARY?



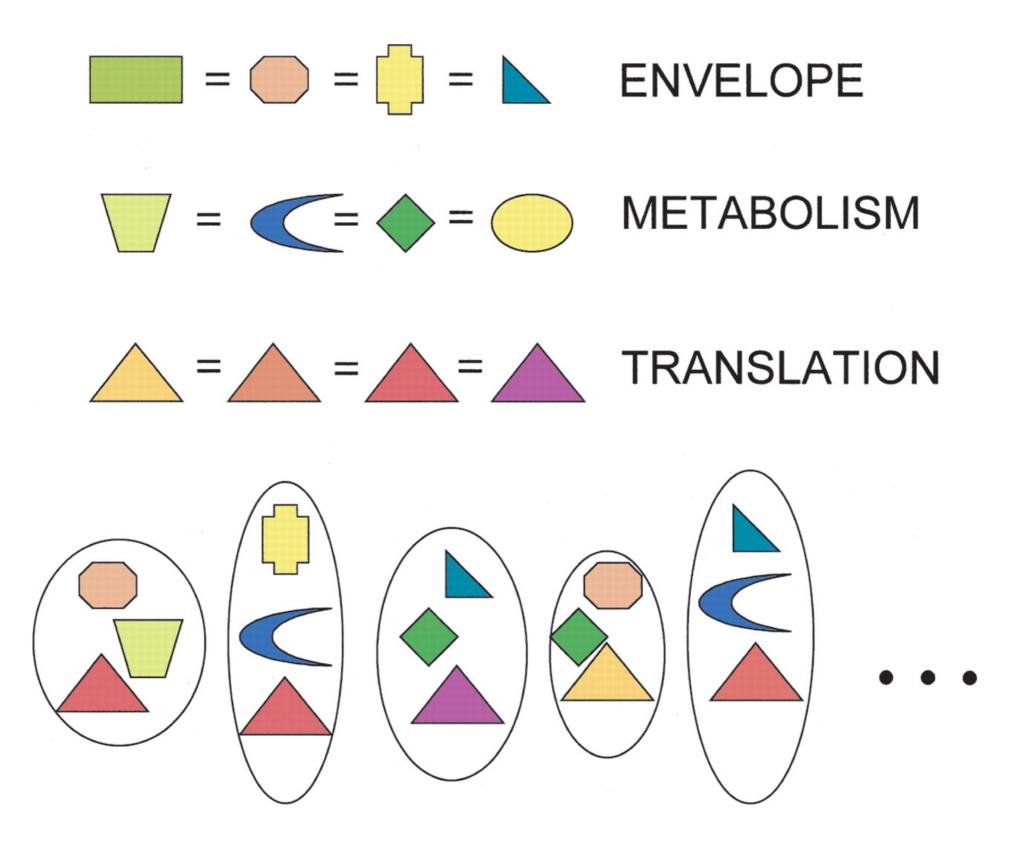


http://lushlush.livejournal.com/190093.html





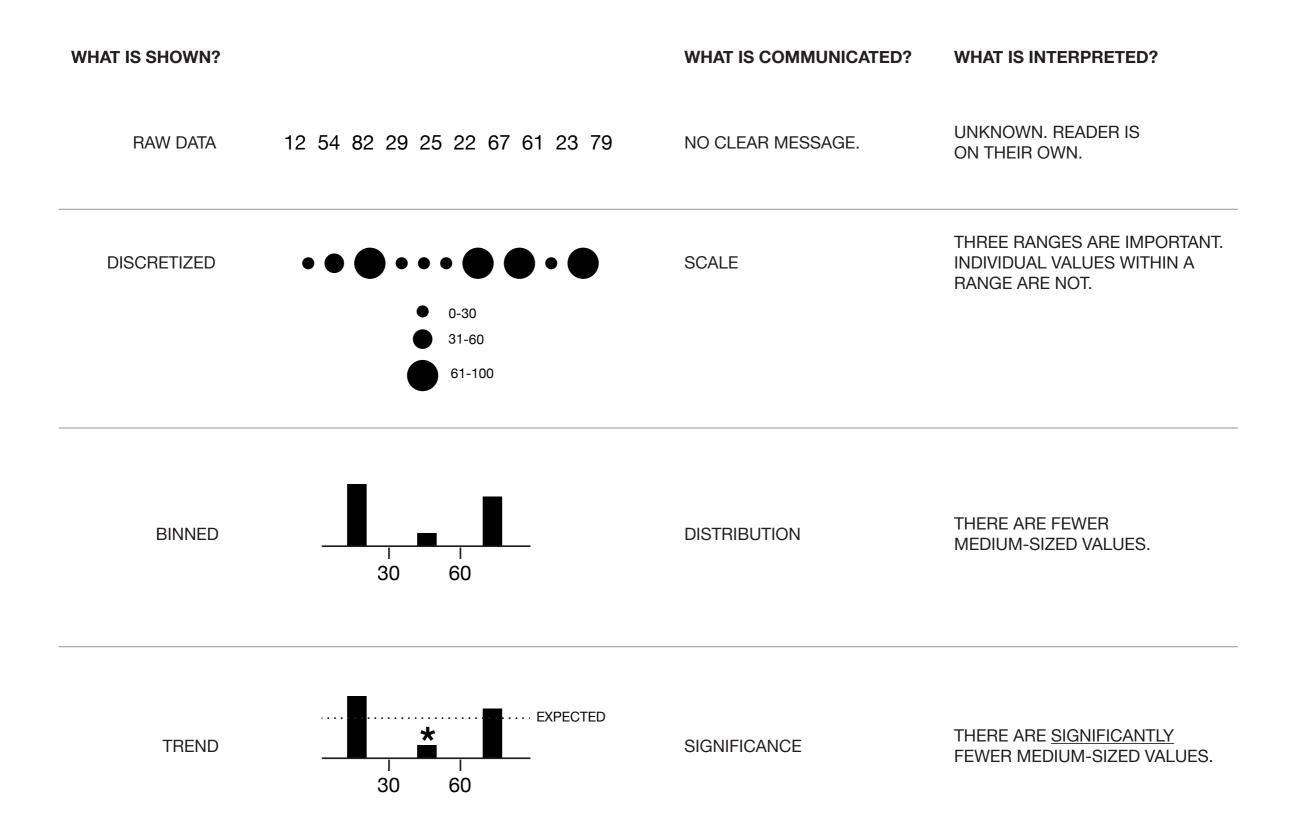
ACADEMIC FIGURE OR MENSA TEST?

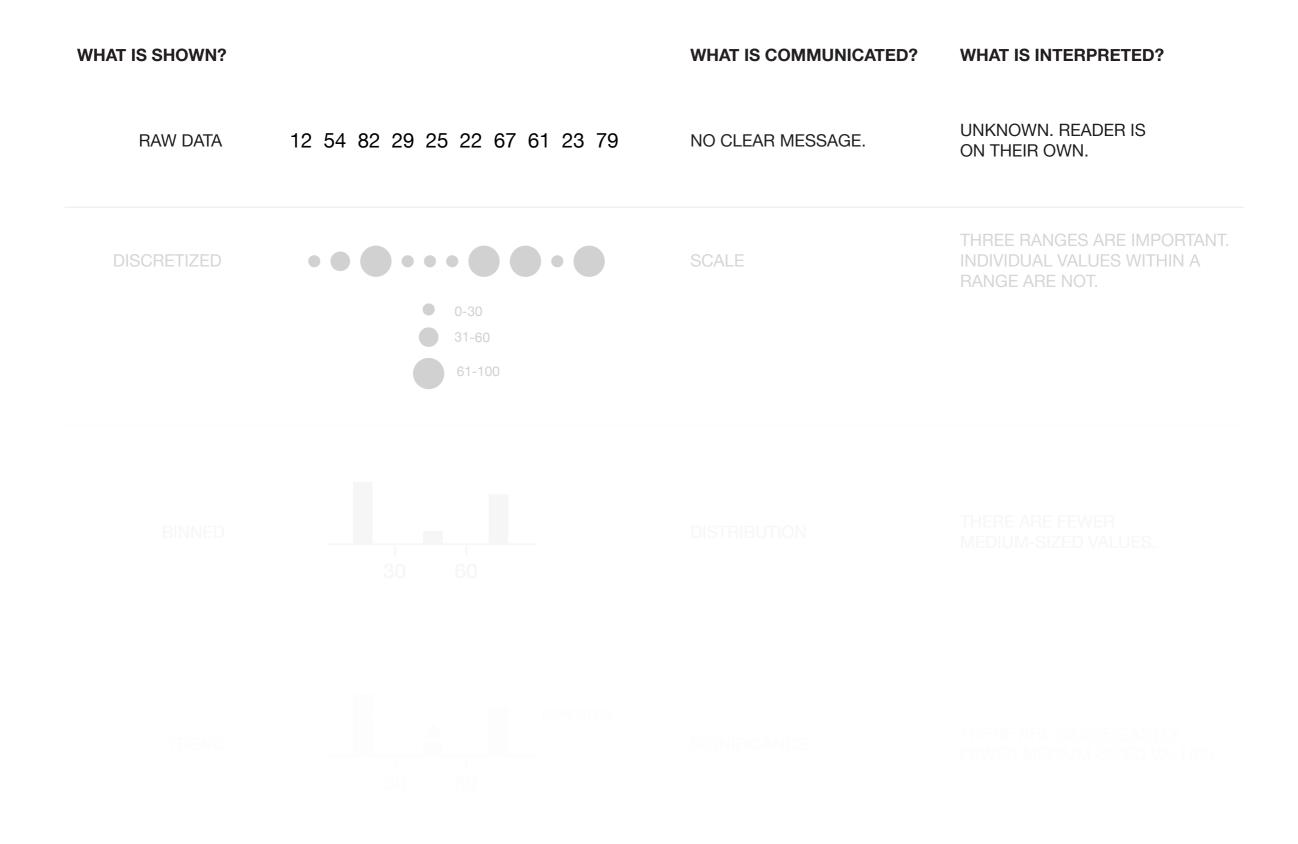


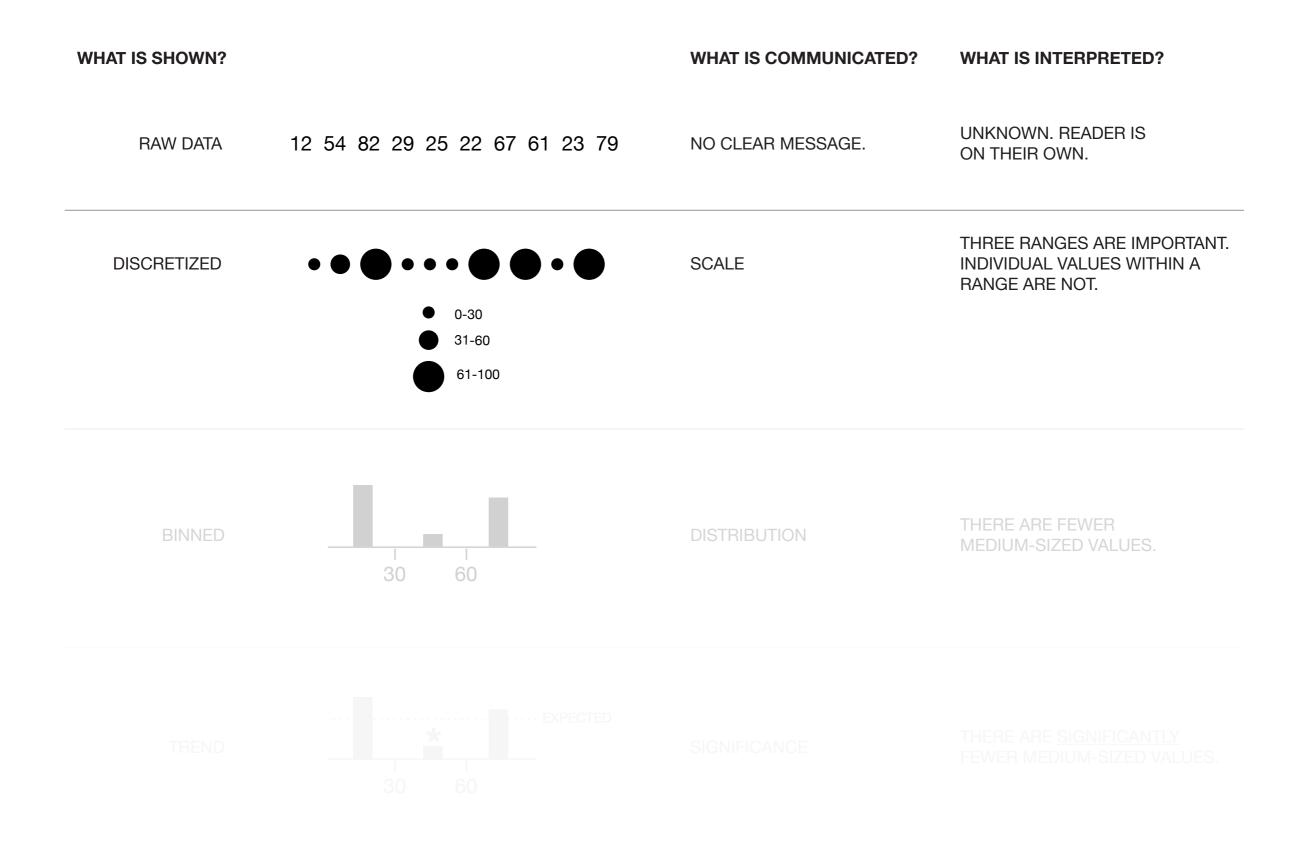
A mix-and-match model for prokaryotic genome evolution. Charlebois, R.L. and W.F. Doolittle, Computing prokaryotic gene ubiquity: rescuing the core from extinction. Genome Res, 2004. 14(12): p. 2469-77.

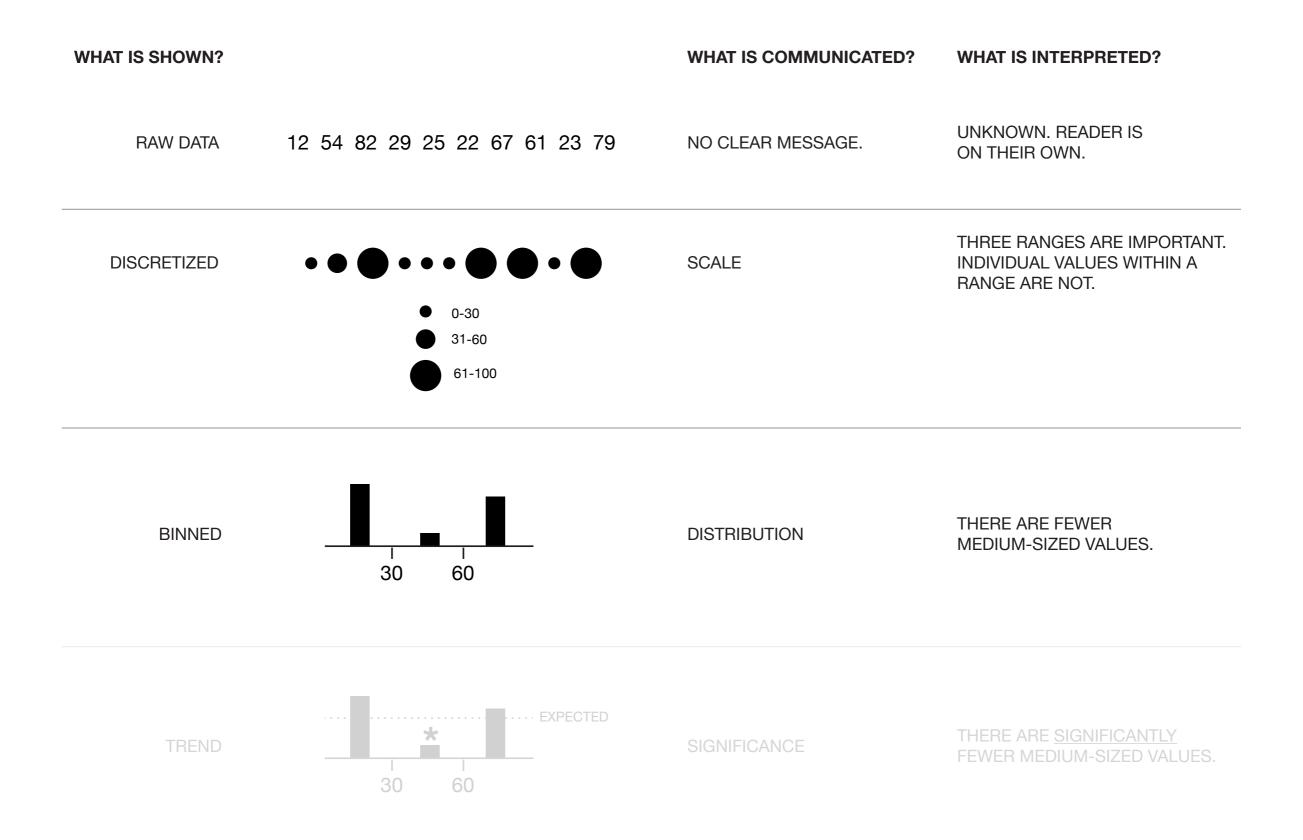


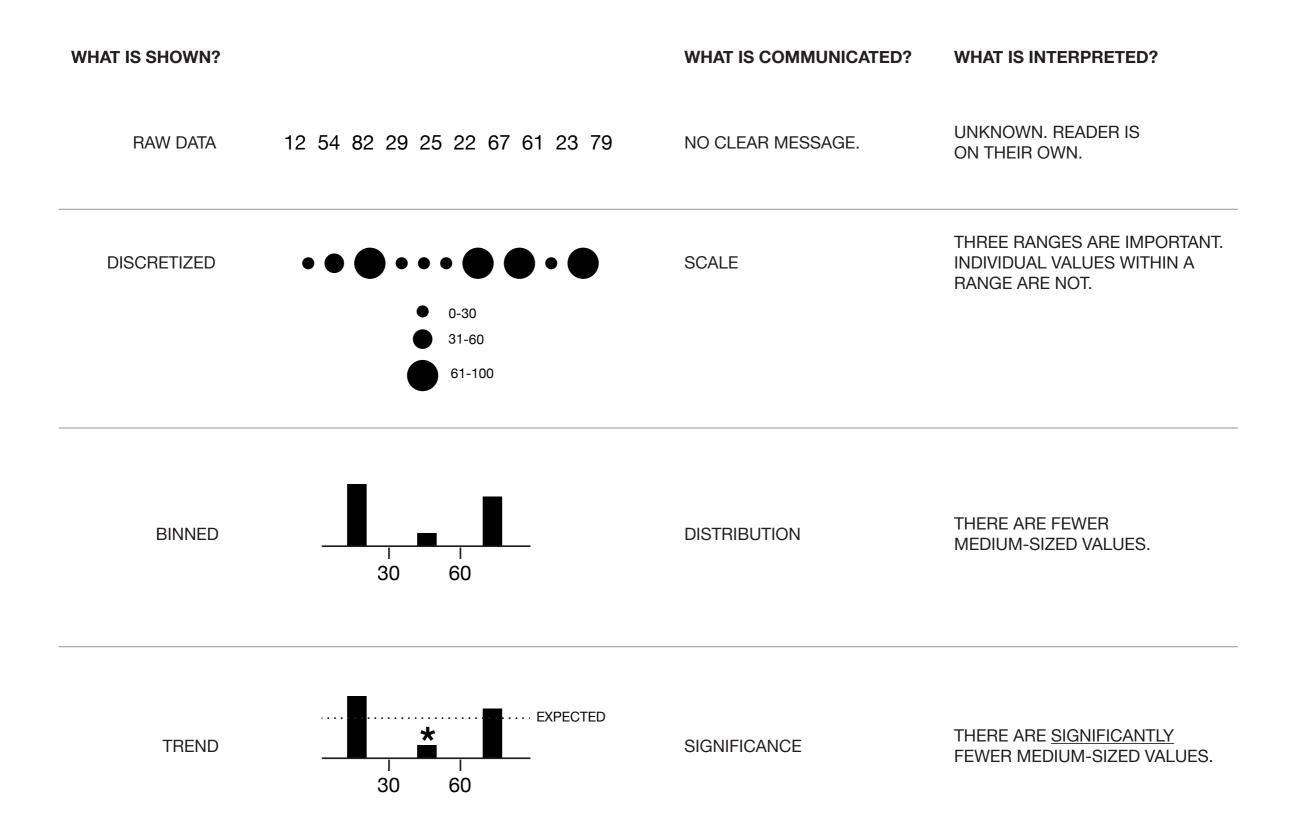
Friday, September 2, 2011

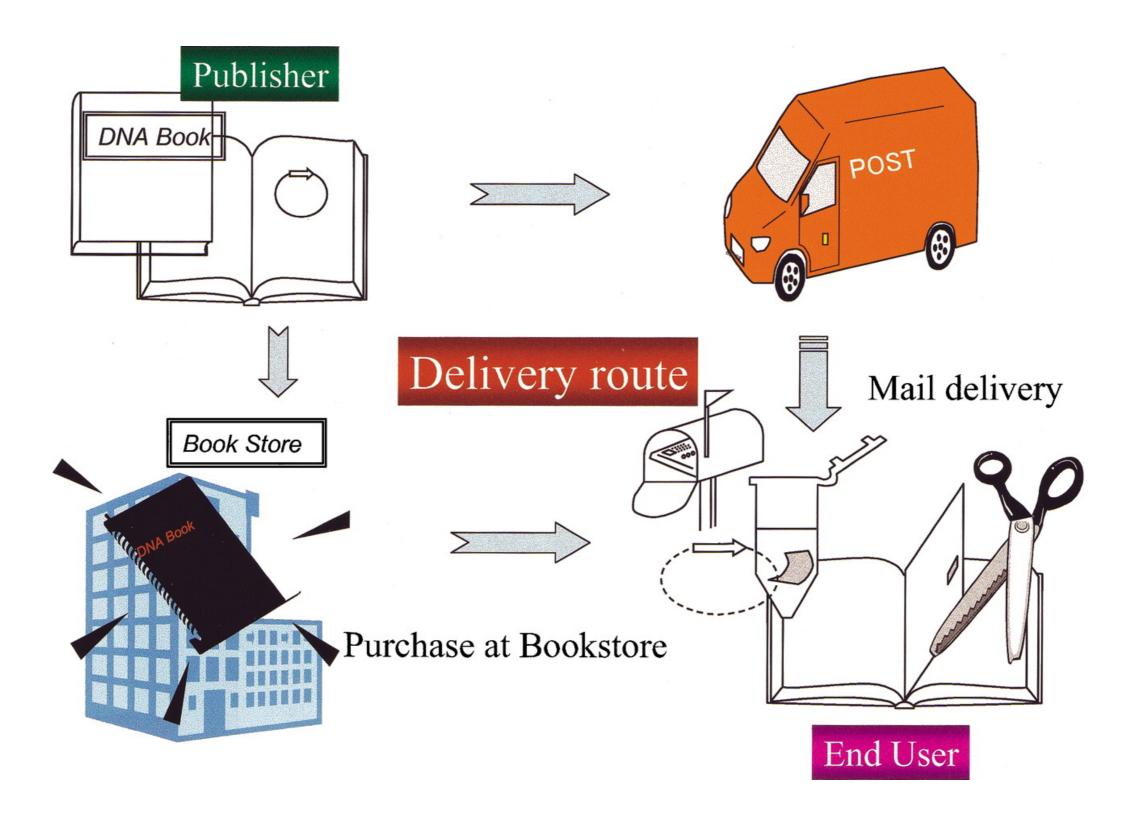




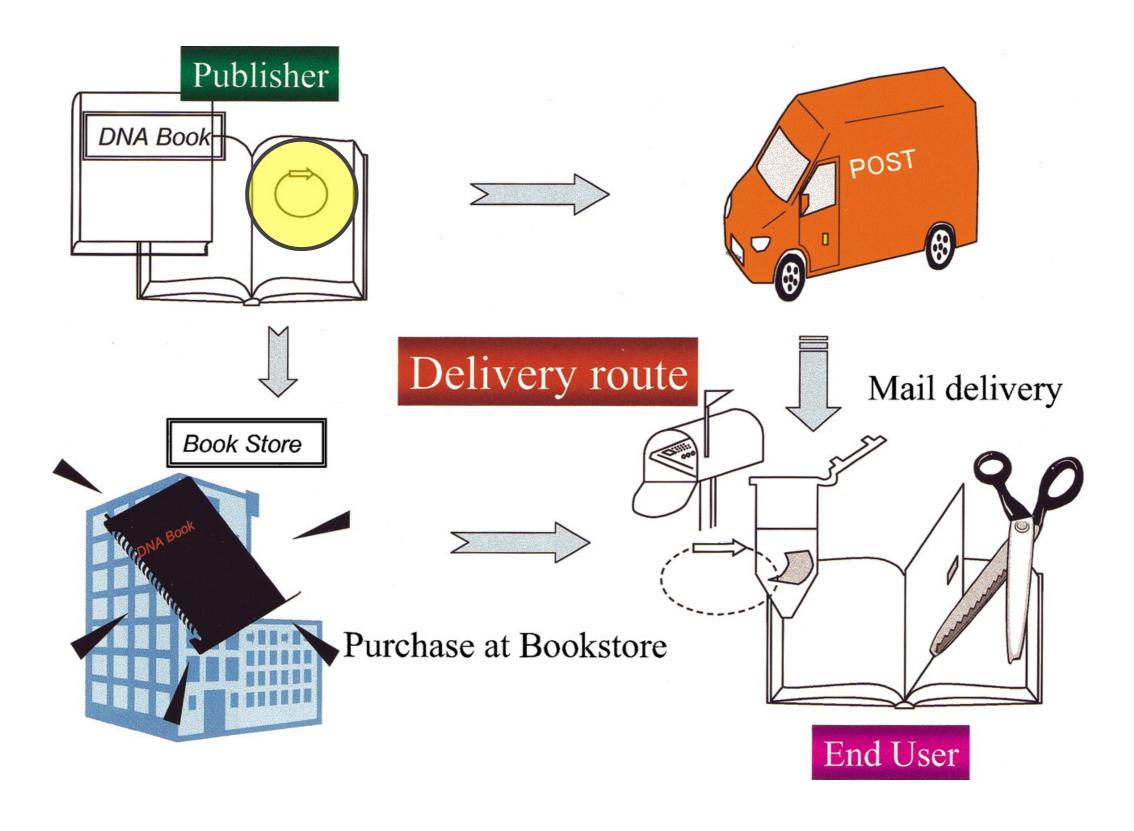




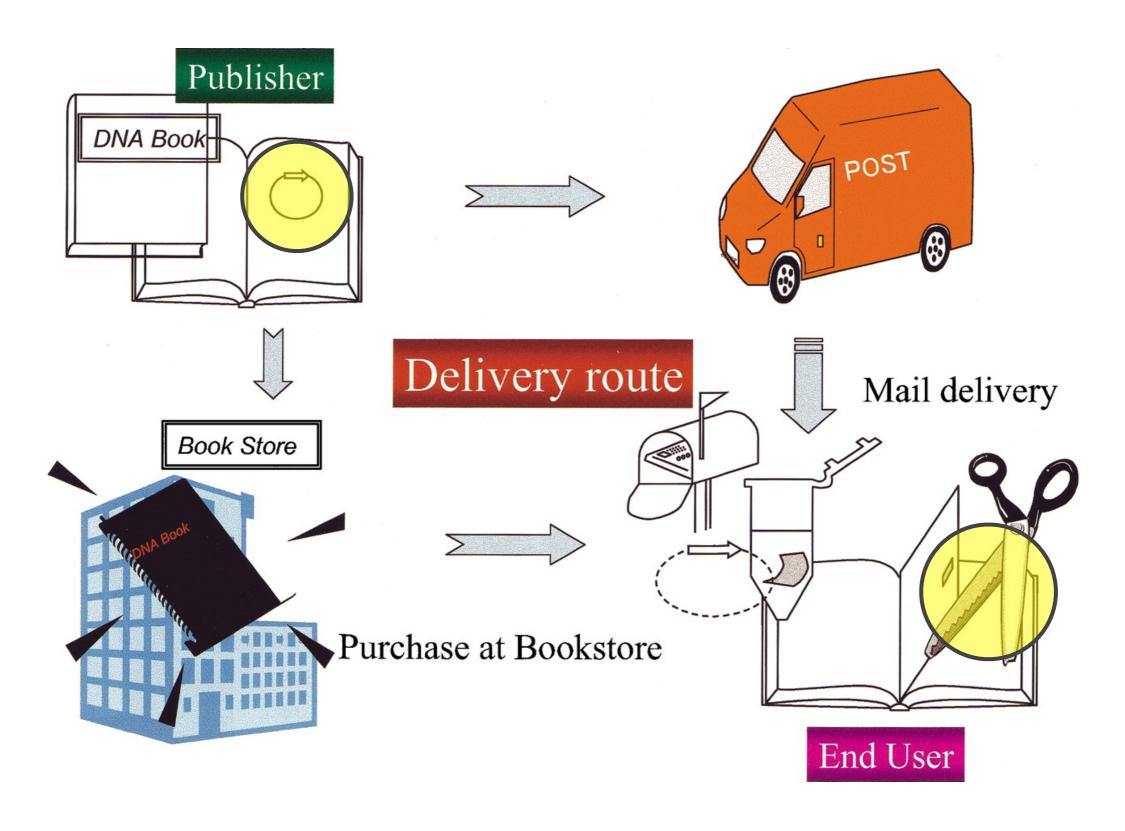




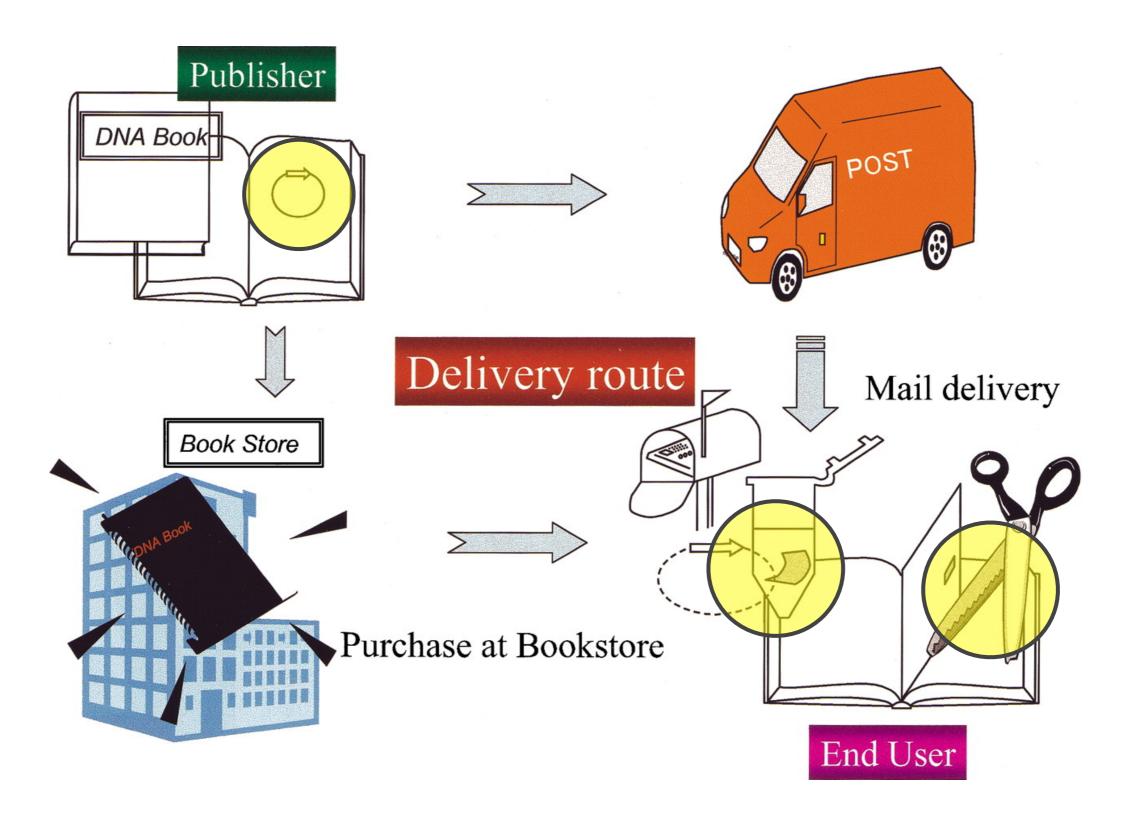




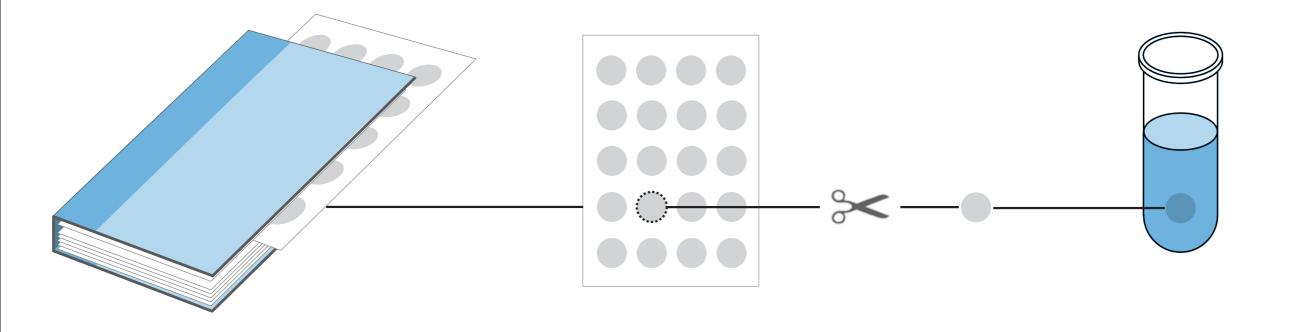




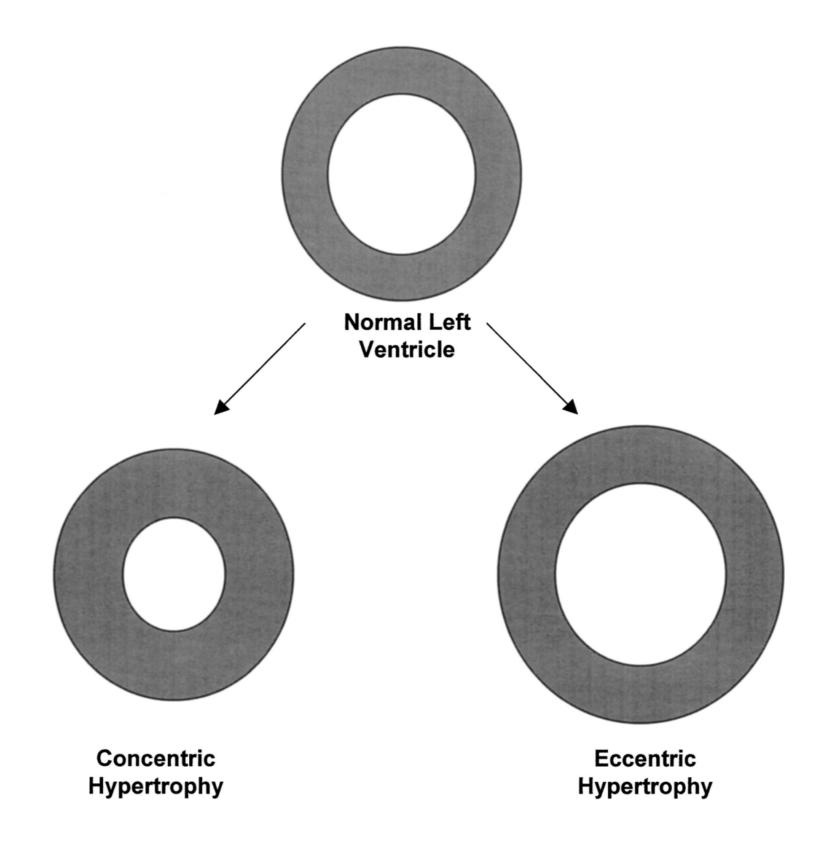




EXTRACTING THE CORE MESSAGE



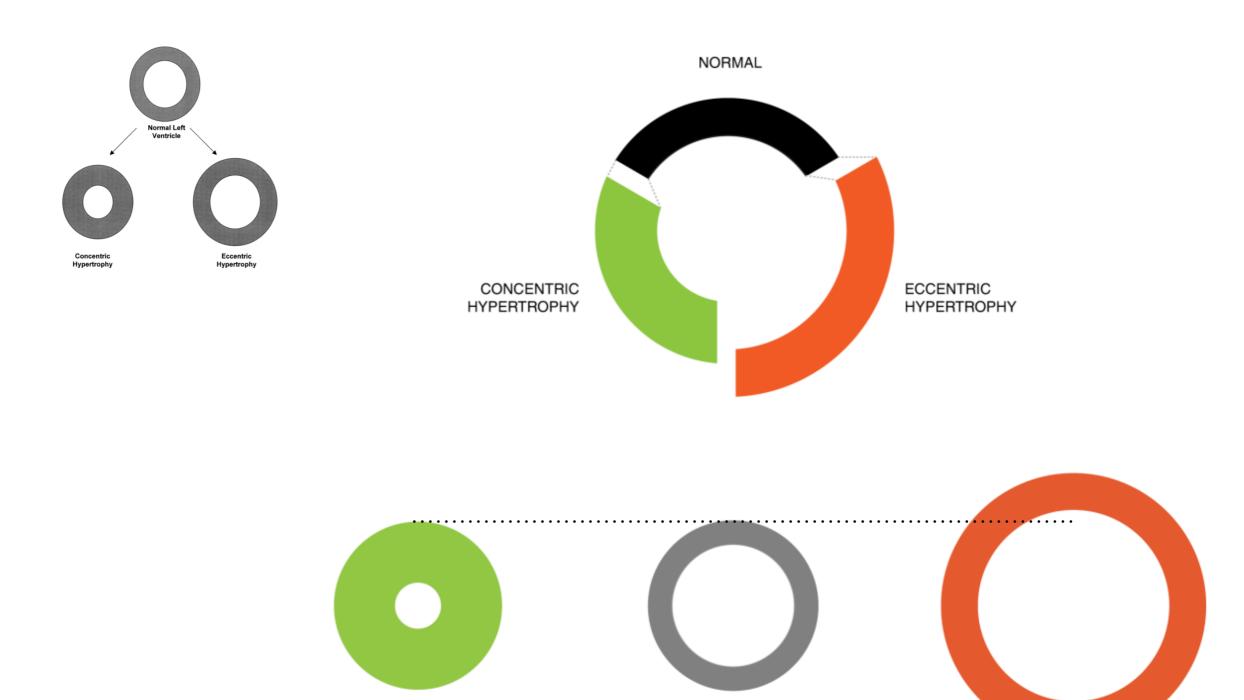
AMBIGUOUS PROPORTIONS



Nadeau, J.H., et al., Pleiotropy, homeostasis, and functional networks based on assays of cardiovascular traits in genetically randomized populations. Genome Res, 2003. 13(9): p. 2082-91.



CLEAR PROPORTIONS



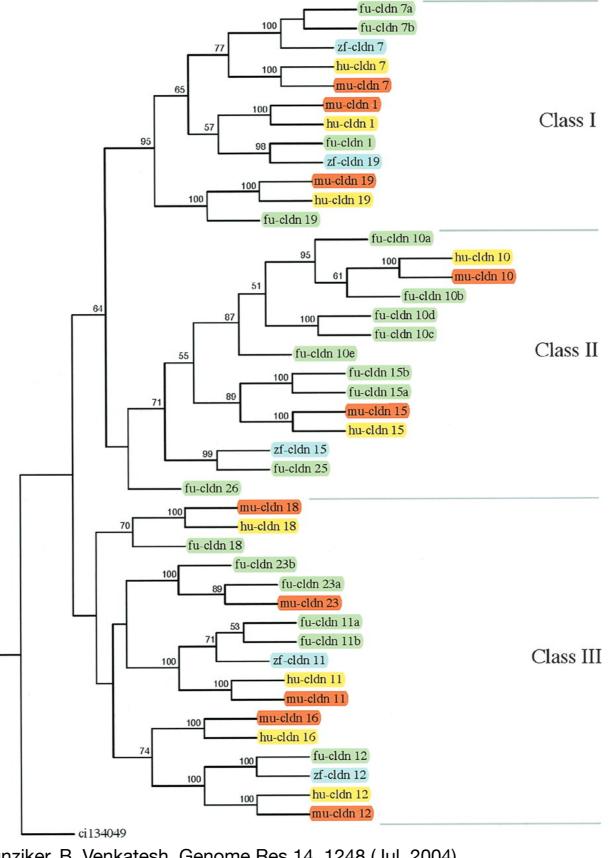
CONCENTRIC HYPERTROPHY

NORMAL

ECCENTRIC HYPERTROPHY



REDUNDANCY



All labels are of the form

fu-cldn 7a fu-cldn 7b zf-cldn 7 mu-cldn 19 hu-cldn 15

Instead, consider

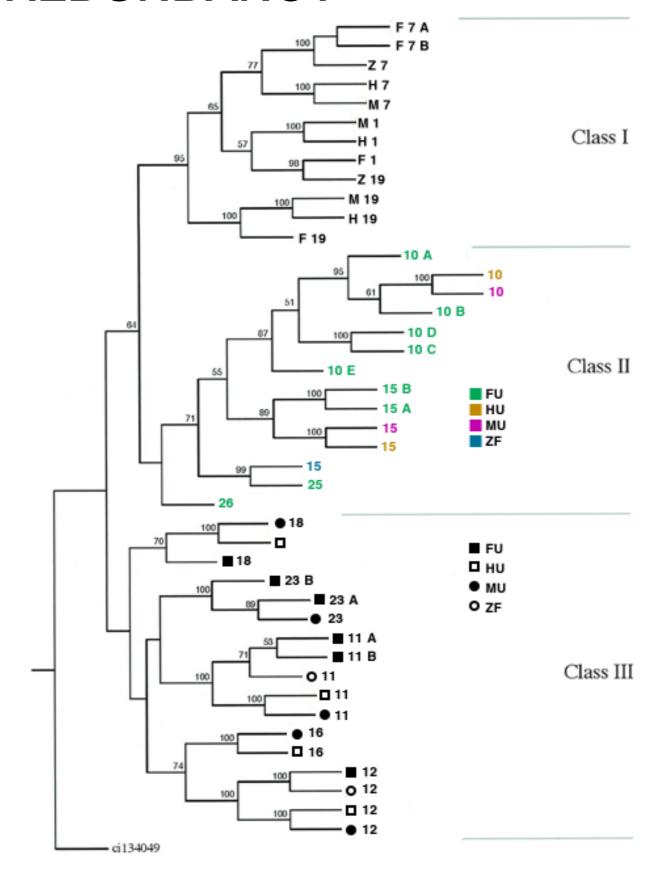
F7a F7b **Z7** M19 H15 . . .

Y. H. Loh, A. Christoffels, S. Brenner, W. Hunziker, B. Venkatesh, Genome Res 14, 1248 (Jul, 2004).



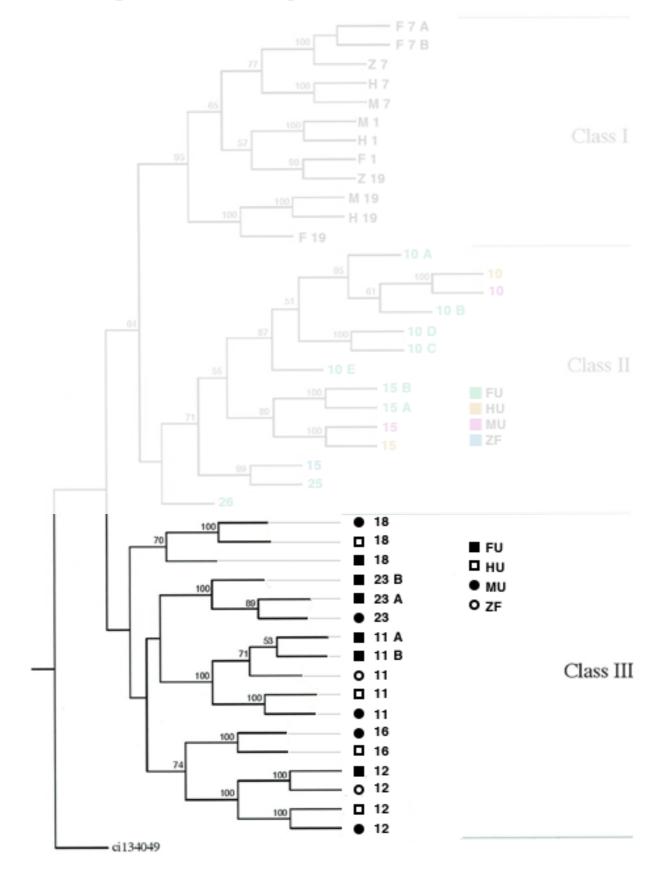


REFACTORED REDUNDANCY



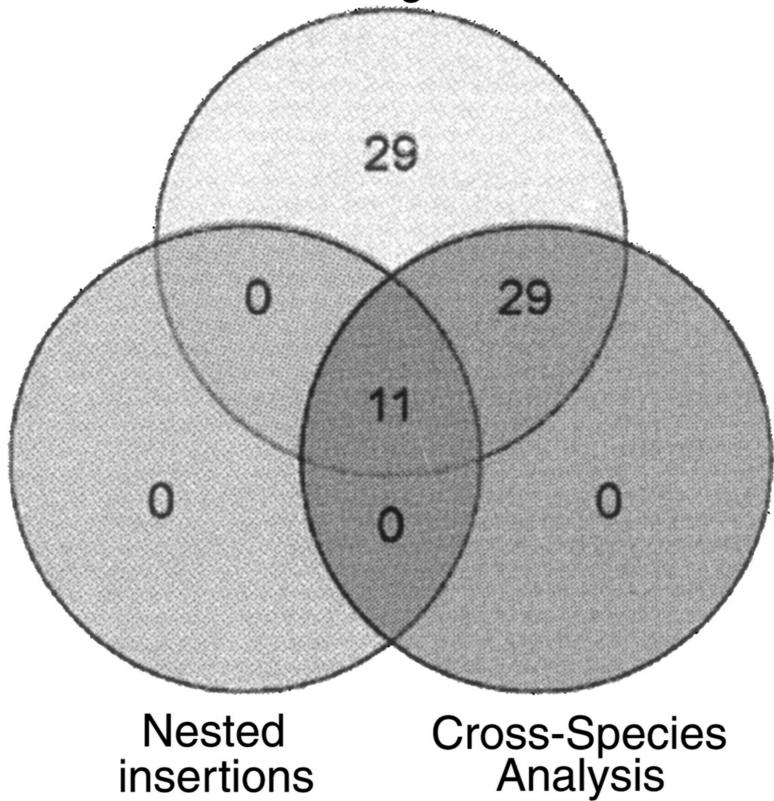


REFACTORED REDUNDANCY



INAPPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION

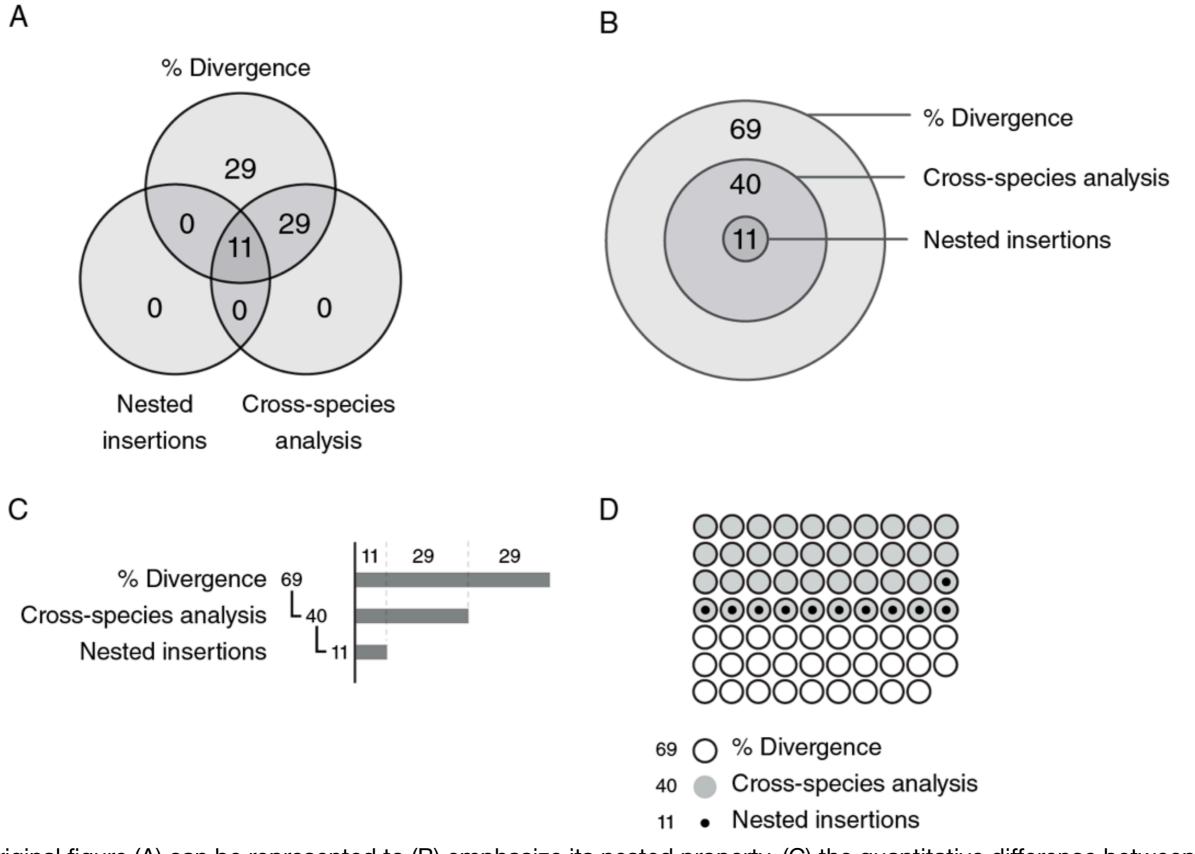
% Divergence



The traditional Venn diagram representation is too complex for this data set. It is not obvious that the data are nested. Pace, J.K., 2nd and C. Feschotte, The evolutionary history of human DNA transposons: evidence for intense activity in the primate lineage. Genome Res, 2007. 17(4): p. 422-32.



CHOOSE A REPRESENTATION FOR THE TASK



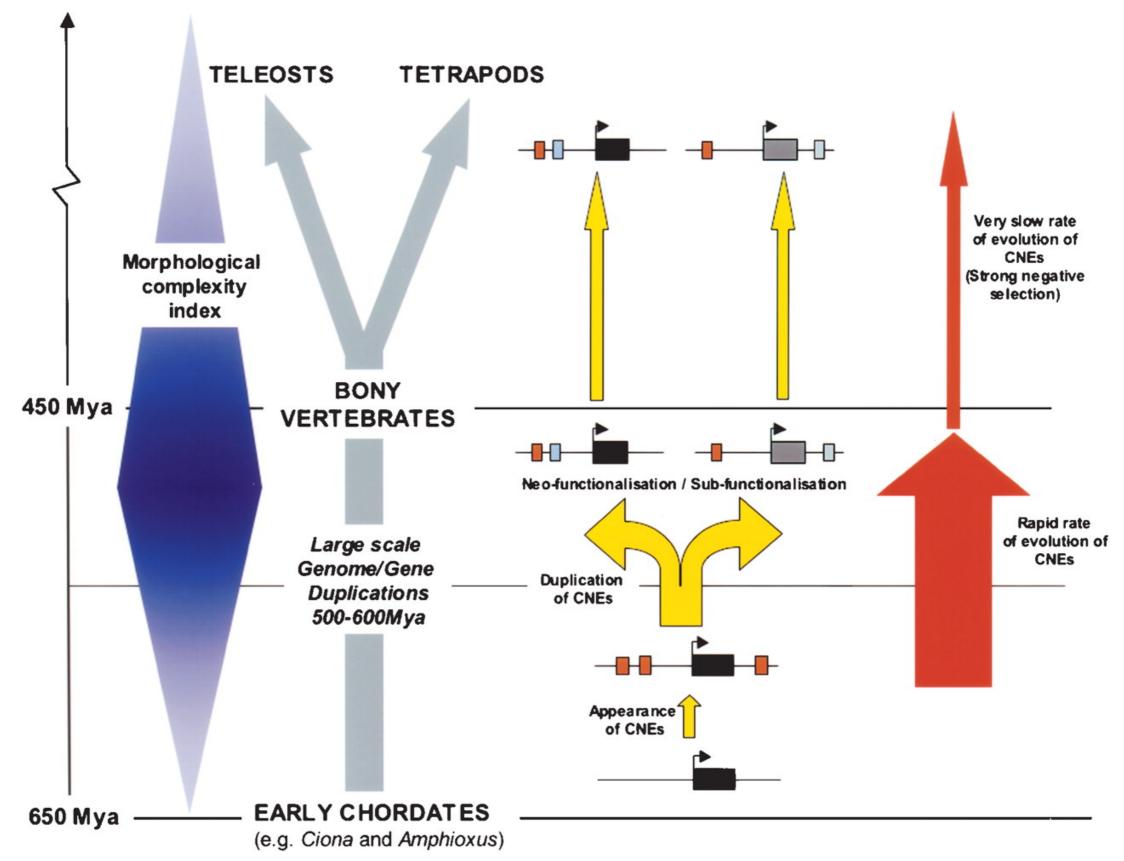
The original figure (A) can be represented to (B) emphasize its nested property, (C) the quantitative difference between values and (D) the qualitative difference between values.

BC Cancer Agency





CONSISTENCY BURDENS THE BRAIN

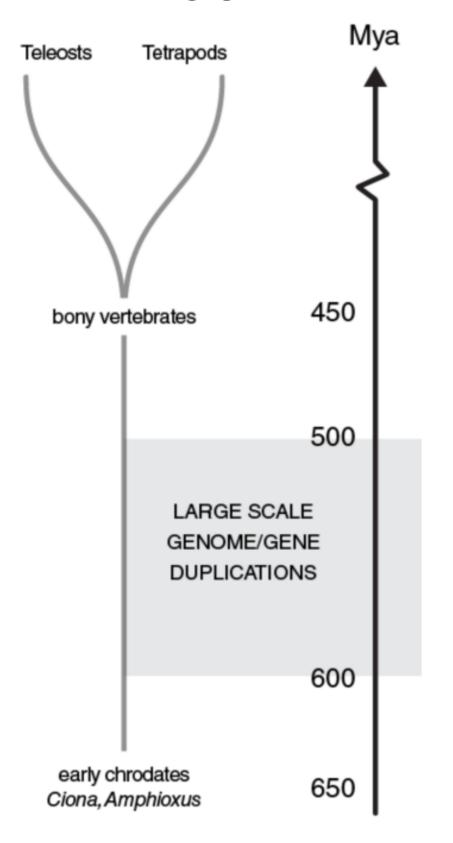


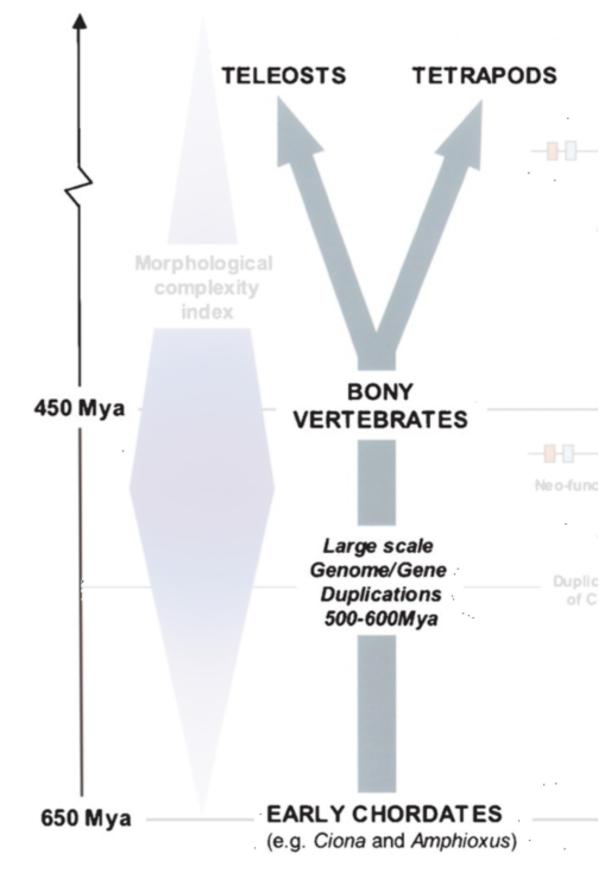
When a figure uses different visual elements to indicate the same type of relationship, process or callout, the reader is left to reduce the complexity while parsing the figure. This imposes a large cognitive burden and interferes with assimilating the information.

McEwen, G.K., et al., Ancient duplicated conserved noncoding elements in vertebrates: a genomic and functional analysis. Genome Res, 2006. 16(4): p. 451-65.



SEPARATE CONTEXT FROM DATA

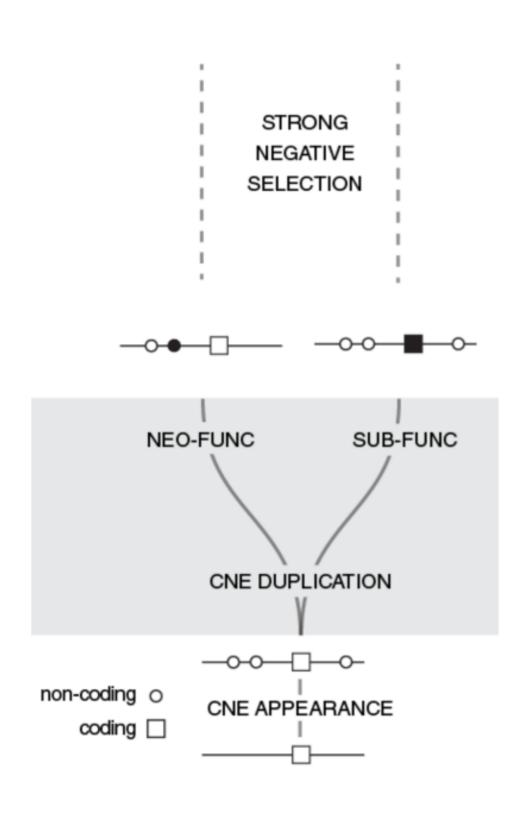


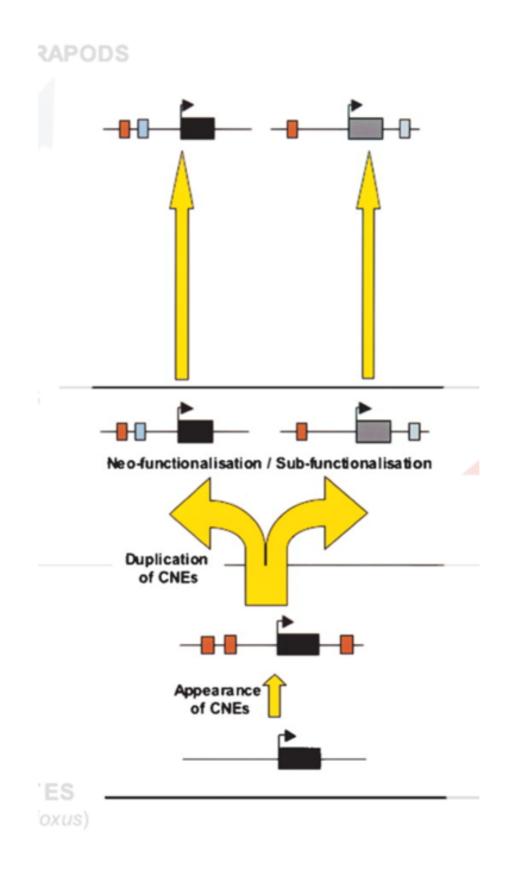




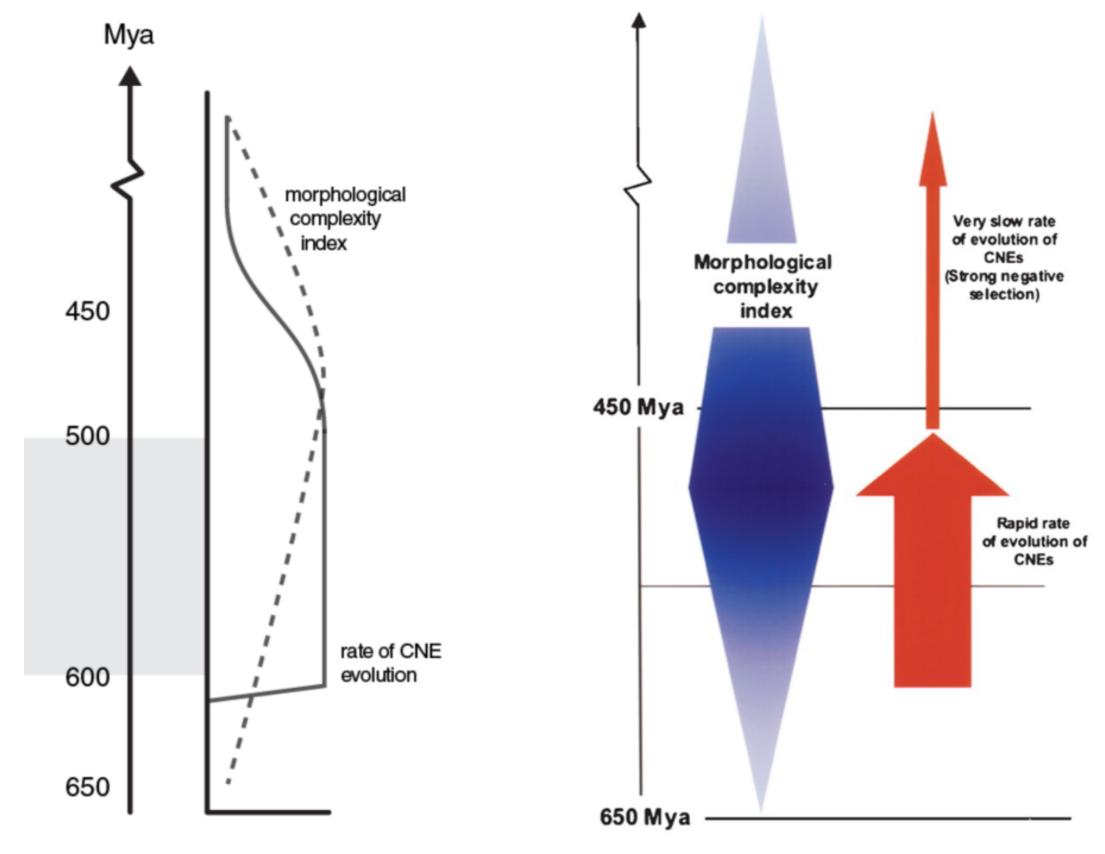


SIMPLIFY VOCABULARY - NO SYNONYMS!





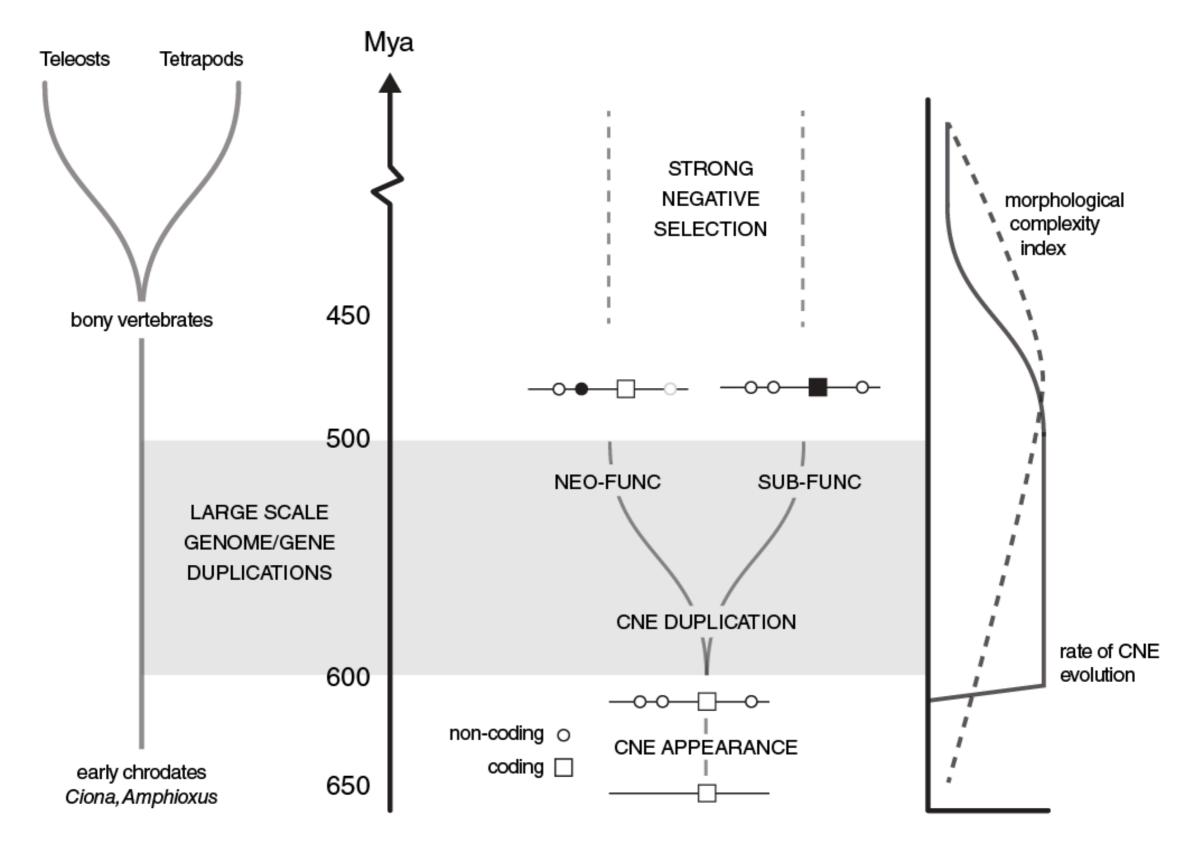
SAME DATA TYPE - SAME REPRESENTATION

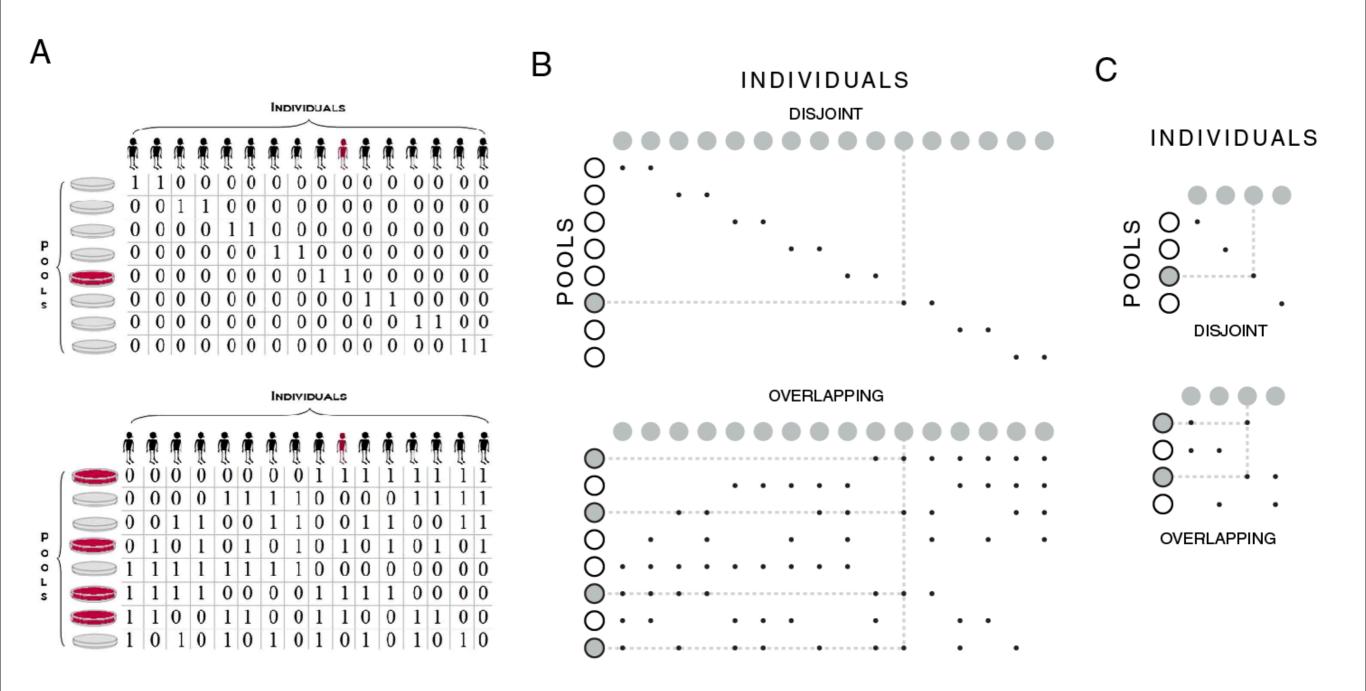






REFACTORED INCONSISTENCY



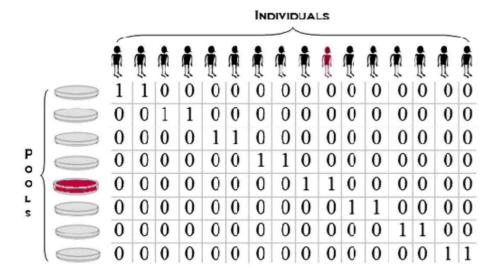


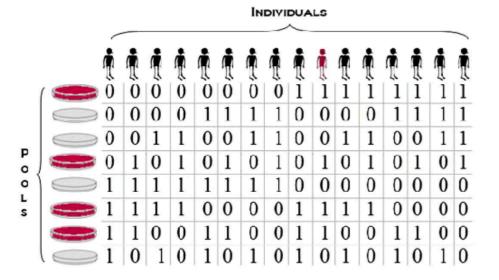
Limit the amount of ink to show data. Use the bare minimum to keep the message clear and figure uncluttered. Make use of space to indicate missing (or in this case zero) data.





Α



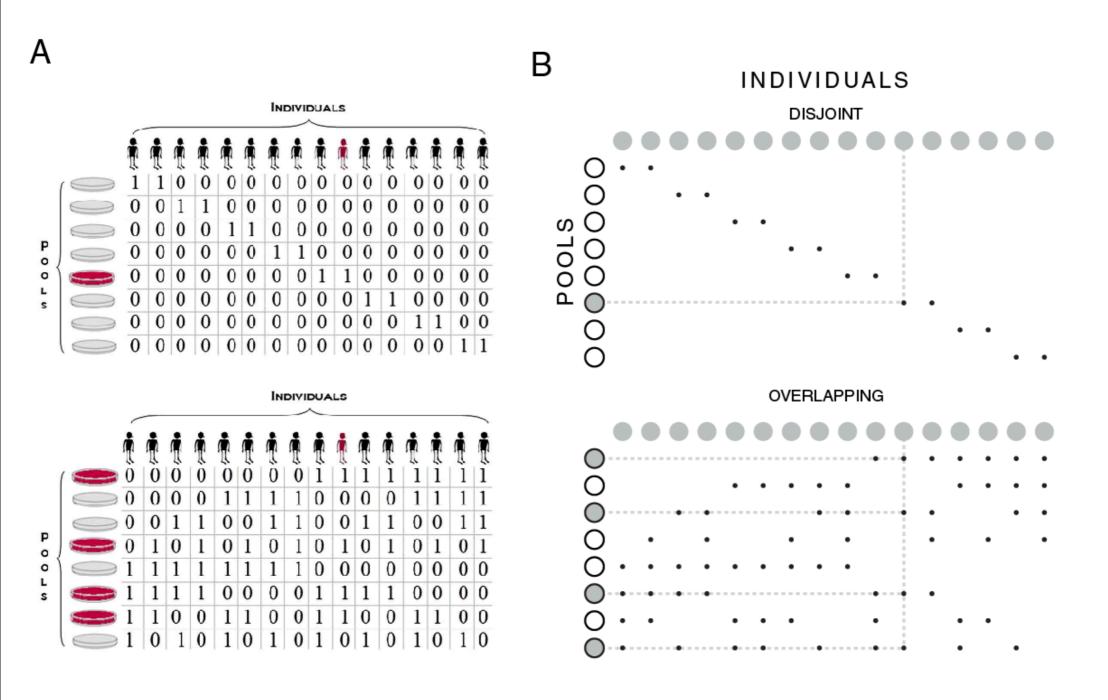


Limit the amount of ink to show data. Use the bare minimum to keep the message clear and figure uncluttered. Make use of space to indicate missing (or in this case zero) data.





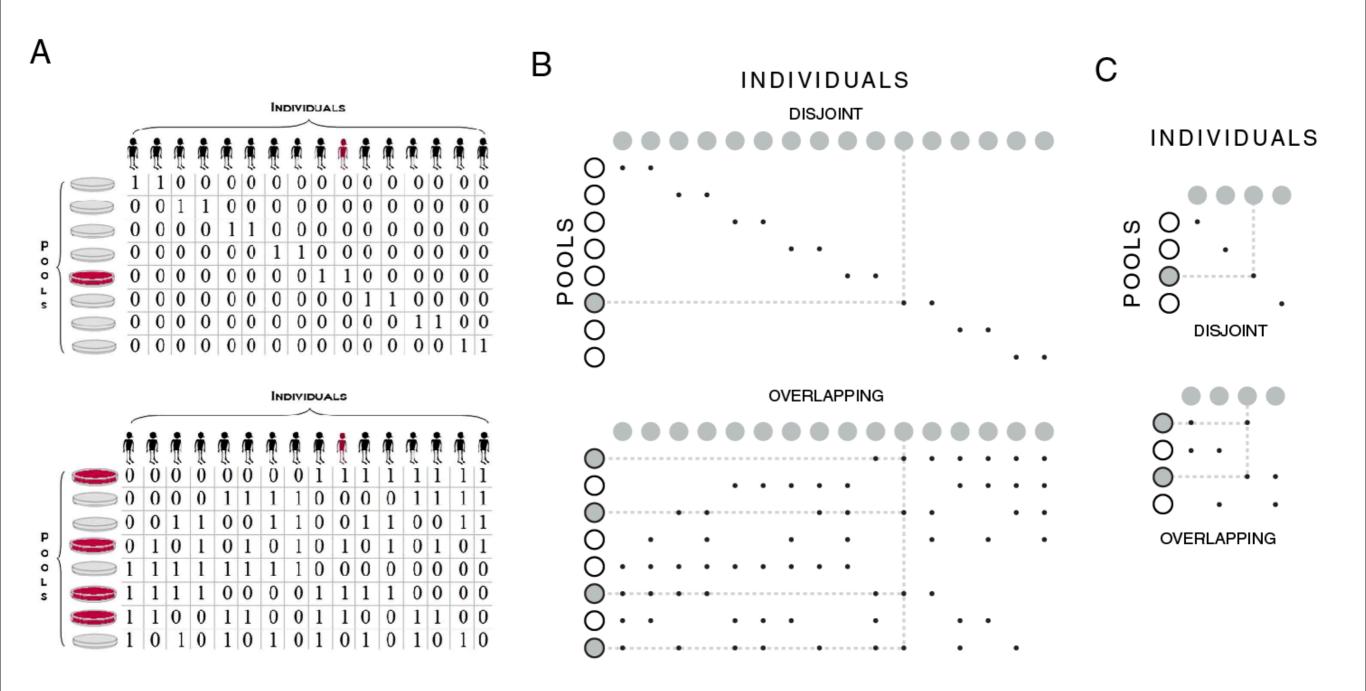




Limit the amount of ink to show data. Use the bare minimum to keep the message clear and figure uncluttered. Make use of space to indicate missing (or in this case zero) data.



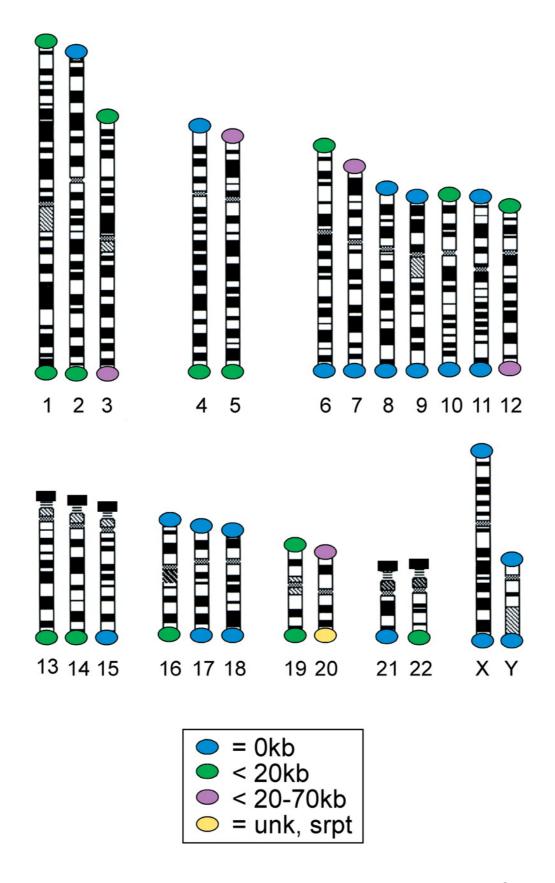




Limit the amount of ink to show data. Use the bare minimum to keep the message clear and figure uncluttered. Make use of space to indicate missing (or in this case zero) data.







Telomere sequence gaps. Riethman, H., et al., Mapping and initial analysis of human subtelomeric sequence assemblies. Genome Res, 2004. 14(1): p. 18-28.



REMOVING EXCESS INK

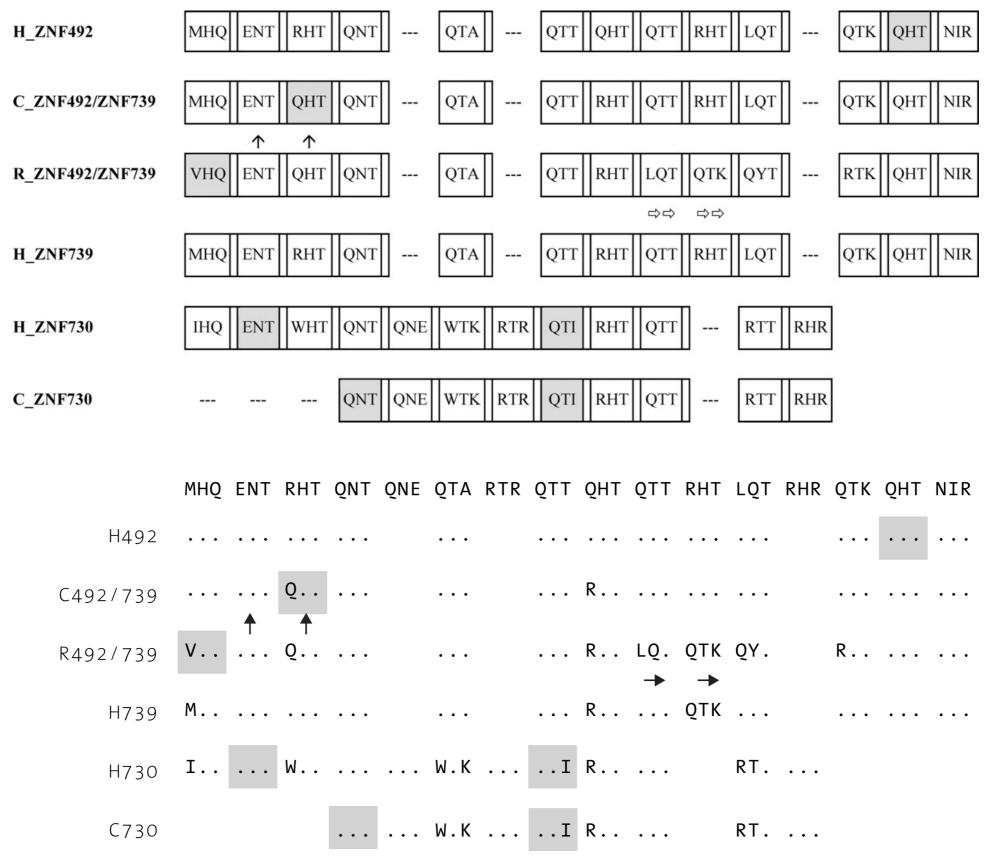
OPTION 1





OPTION 2

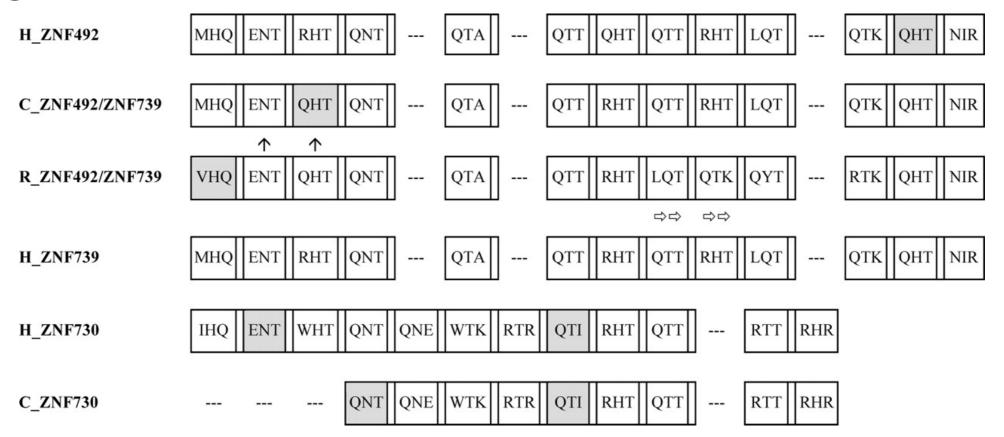




Zinc finger exon analysis for ZNF493 and ZNF738, two divergent genes from the ZNF431 clade. Hamilton, A.T., et al., Evolutionary expansion and divergence in the ZNF91 subfamily of primate-specific zinc finger genes. Genome Res, 2006. 16(5): p. 584-94.



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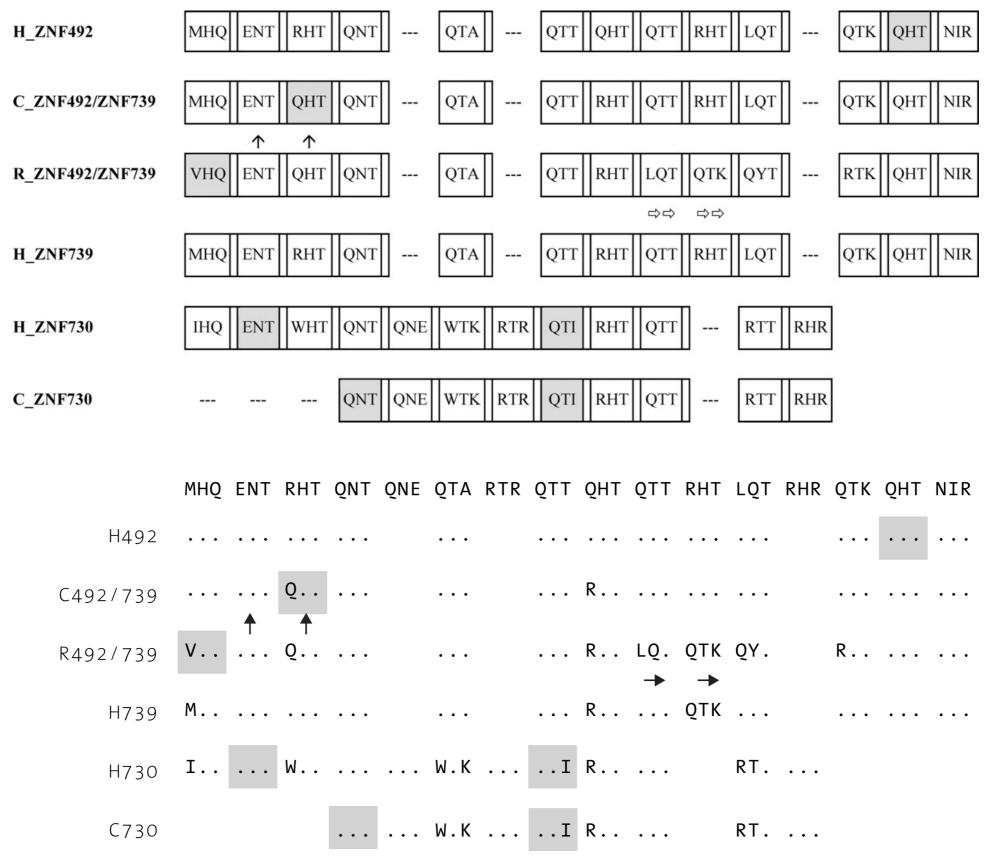


Zinc finger exon analysis for ZNF493 and ZNF738, two divergent genes from the ZNF431 clade. Hamilton, A.T., et al., Evolutionary expansion and divergence in the ZNF91 subfamily of primate-specific zinc finger genes. Genome Res, 2006. 16(5): p. 584-94.





51



Zinc finger exon analysis for ZNF493 and ZNF738, two divergent genes from the ZNF431 clade. Hamilton, A.T., et al., Evolutionary expansion and divergence in the ZNF91 subfamily of primate-specific zinc finger genes. Genome Res, 2006. 16(5): p. 584-94.



51

THE LEGEND IS THE MAP

- all genes
- specific in situ result
- selective in situ result
- nonselective in situ result
- specific in litterature
- x nonspecific in litterature

ISH results in relation to profile similarity to SM-MHC (Y-axis) and to expression level (X-axis). Nelander, S., P. Mostad, and P. Lindahl, Prediction of cell type-specific gene modules: identification and initial characterization of a core set of smooth muscle-specific genes. Genome Res, 2003. 13(8): p. 1838-54.





THE LEGEND IS THE MAP

- all genes
- specific in situ result
- selective in situ result
- nonselective in situ result
- specific in litterature
- nonspecific in litterature

GENE

IN SITU

SPECIFIC





SELECTIVE



NON-SELECTIVE



NON-SPECIFIC

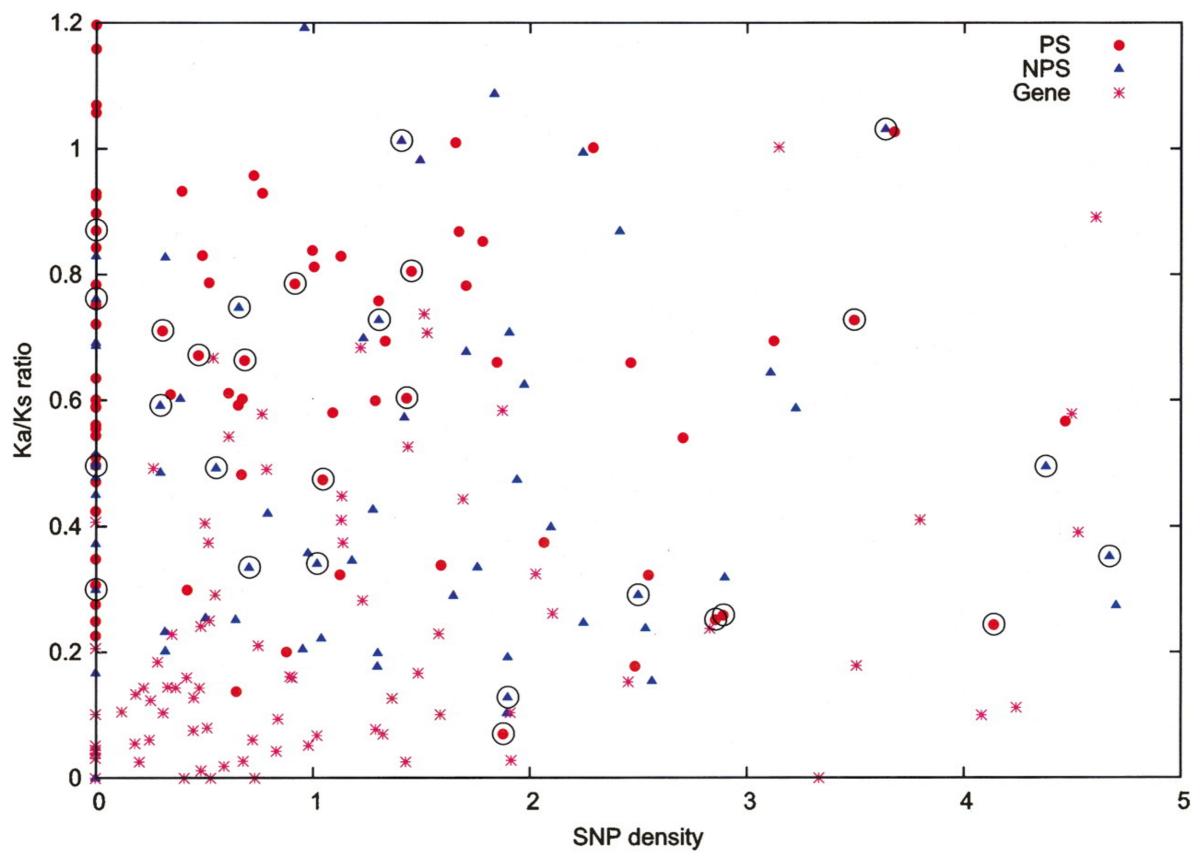


ISH results in relation to profile similarity to SM-MHC (Y-axis) and to expression level (X-axis). Nelander, S., P. Mostad, and P. Lindahl, Prediction of cell type-specific gene modules: identification and initial characterization of a core set of smooth muscle-specific genes. Genome Res, 2003. 13(8): p. 1838-54.





THE GLYPHS ARE CUES

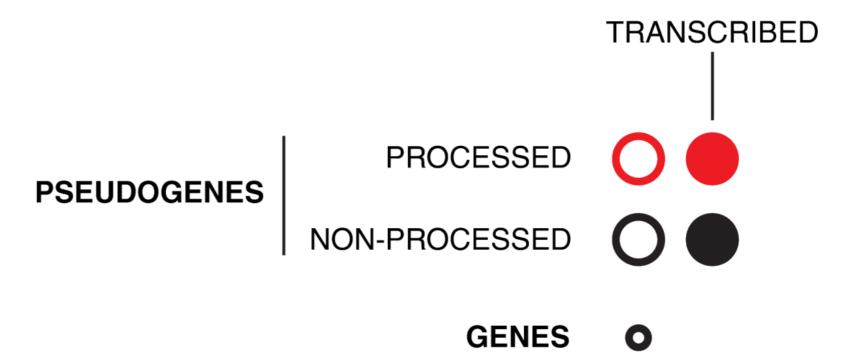


Comparison of Ka/Ks ratio and SNP density for genes and pseudogenes. Zheng, D., et al., Pseudogenes in the ENCODE regions: consensus annotation, analysis of transcription, and evolution. Genome Res, 2007. 17(6): p. 839-51.

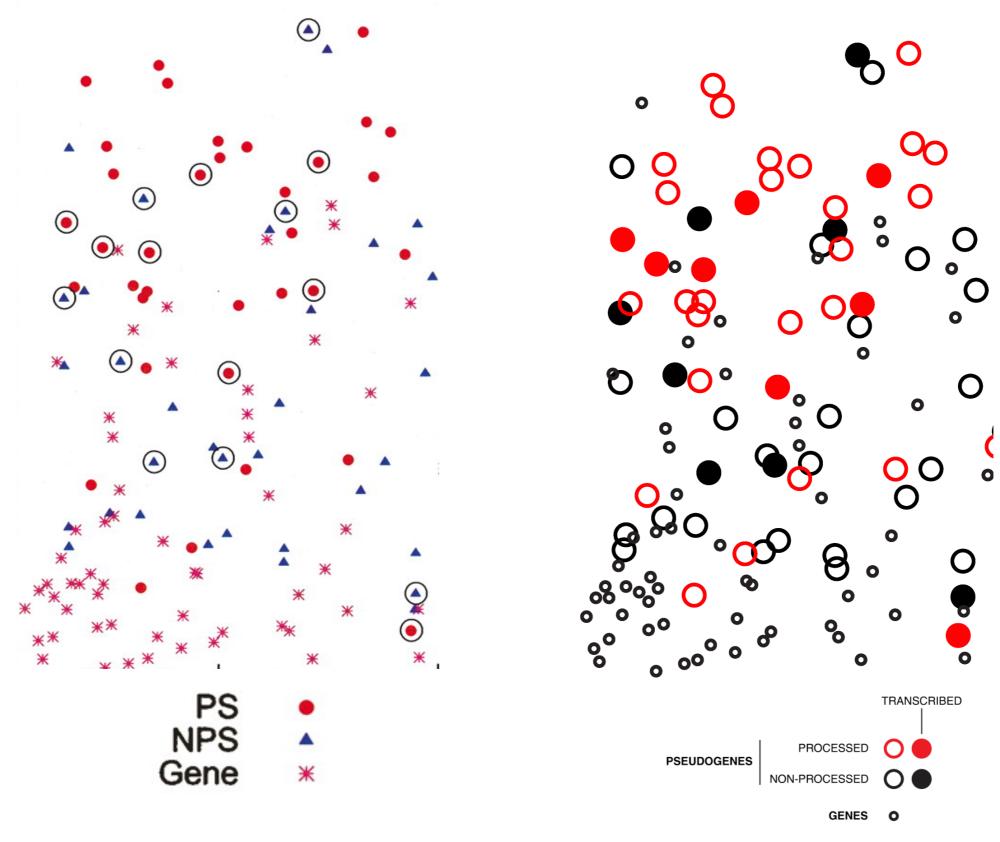


HIERARCHICAL GLYPHS





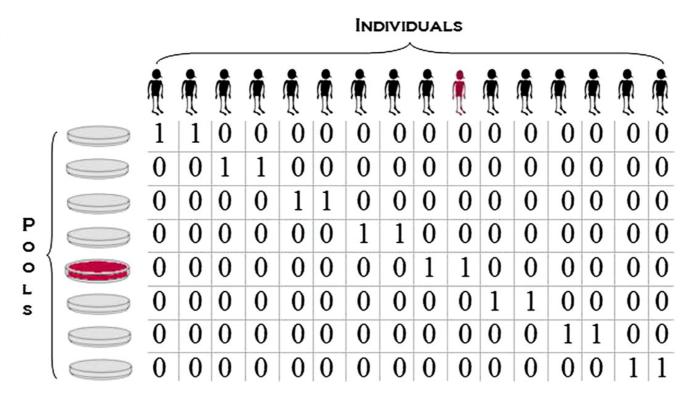
HIERARCHICAL GLYPHS



Panel (A) from Comparison of Ka/Ks ratio and SNP density for genes and pseudogenes. Zheng, D., et al., Pseudogenes in the ENCODE regions: consensus annotation, analysis of transcription, and evolution. Genome Res, 2007. 17(6): p. 839-51.



EXCESS INK COMPETES WITH MESSAGE

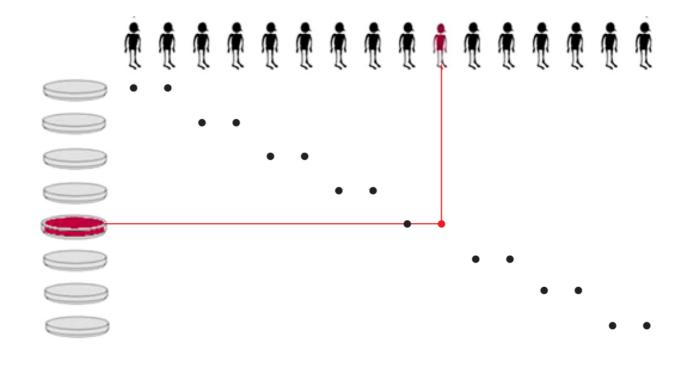


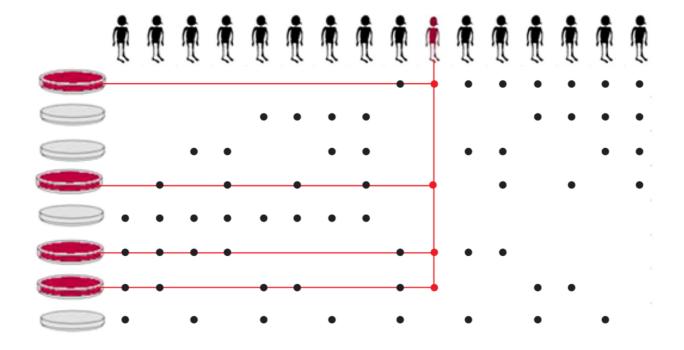
		INDIVIDUALS														
P O O L s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Resequencing with naïve and log pool designs. Prabhu, S. and I. Pe'er, Overlapping pools for high-throughput targeted resequencing. Genome Res, 2009. 19 (7): p. 1254-61.



REMOVING EXCESS INK

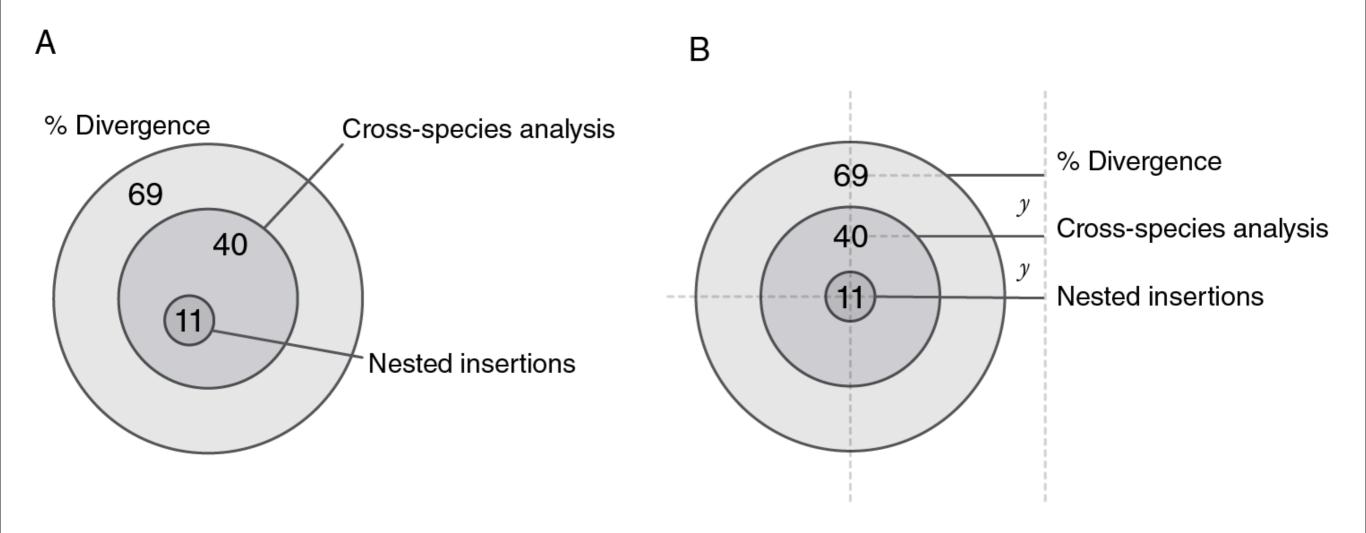


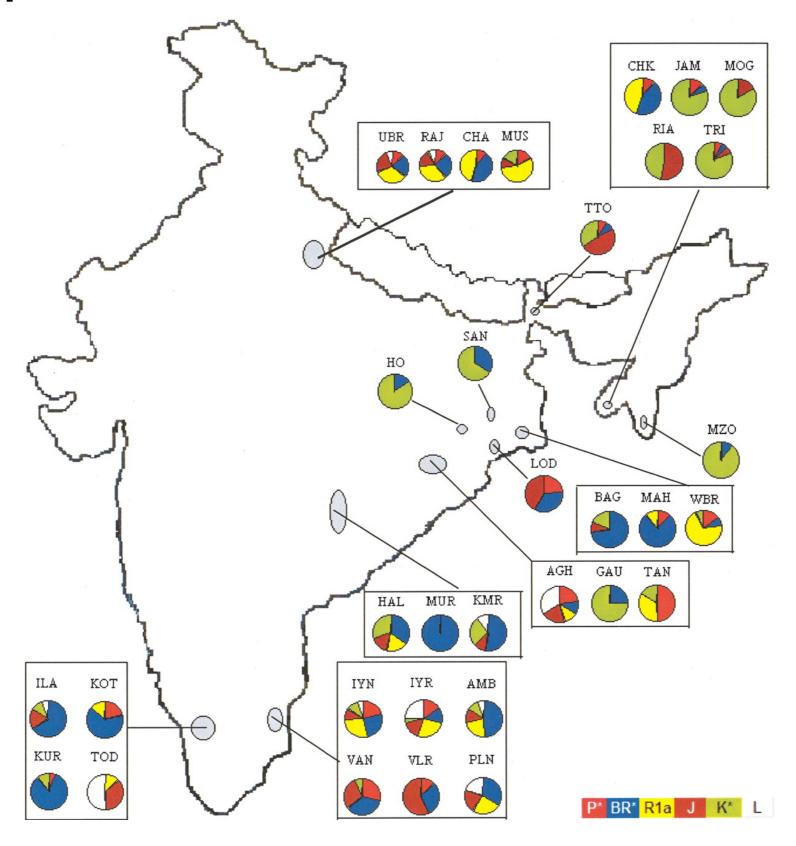


legibilityclarityattractiveness



TITLE





Frequencies (%) of Y-chromosomal haplogroups among ethnic populations. Basu, A., et al., Ethnic India: a genomic view, with special reference to peopling and structure. Genome Res, 2003. 13(10): p. 2277-90.



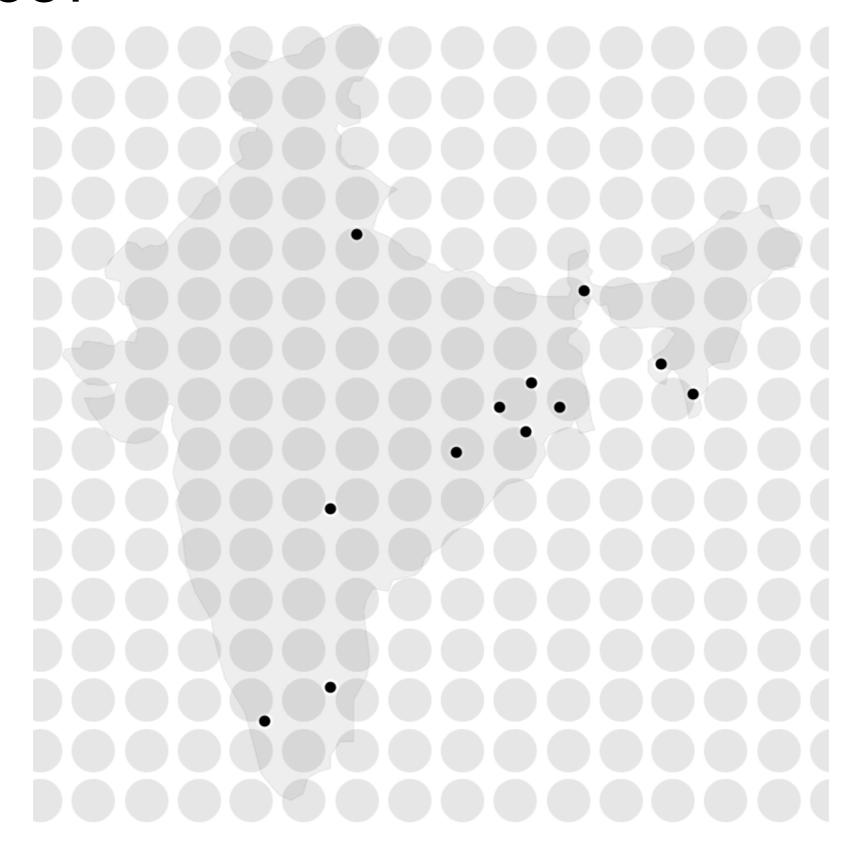


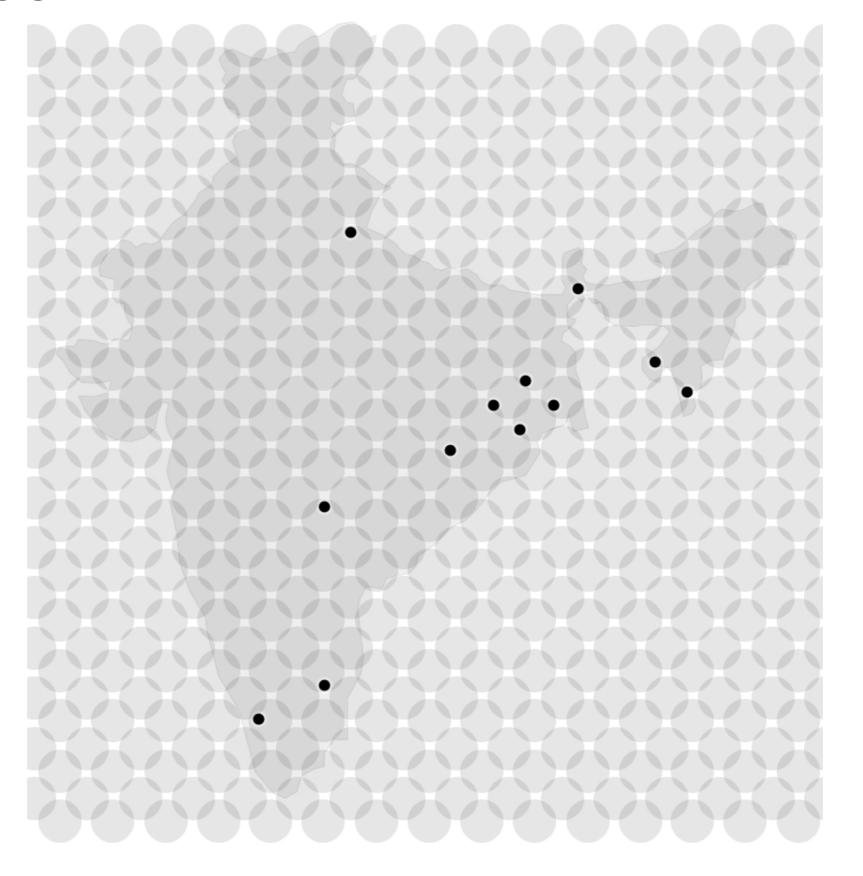
Be careful when using very light colors. They frequently do not render well on LCD projectors and appear washed out.

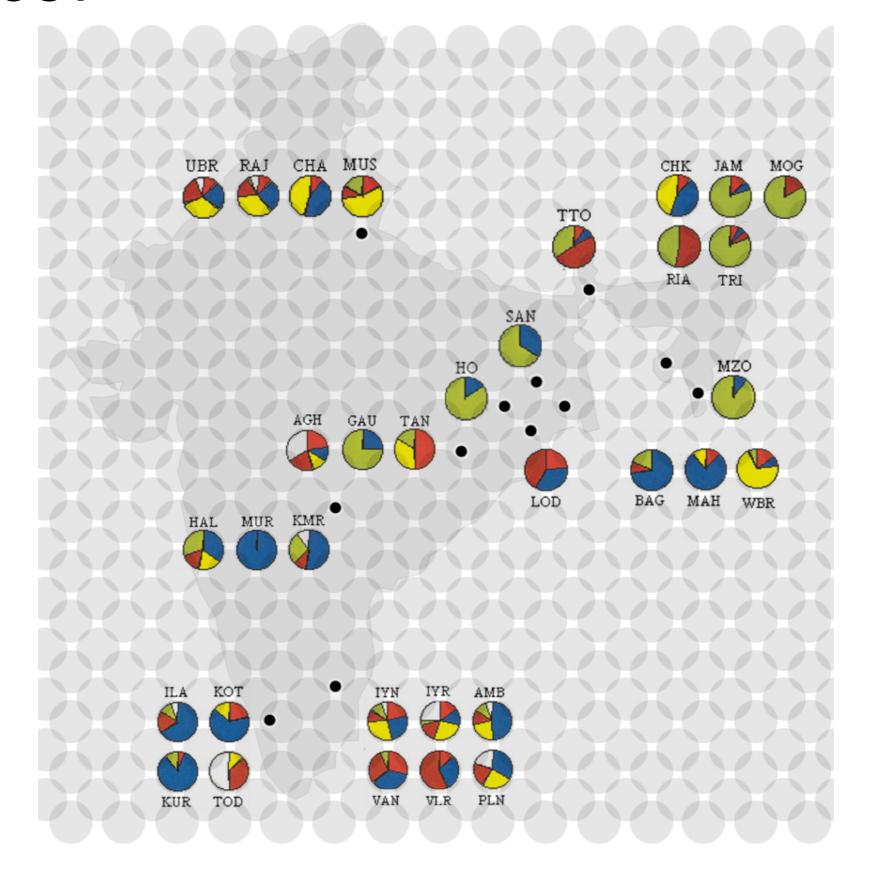


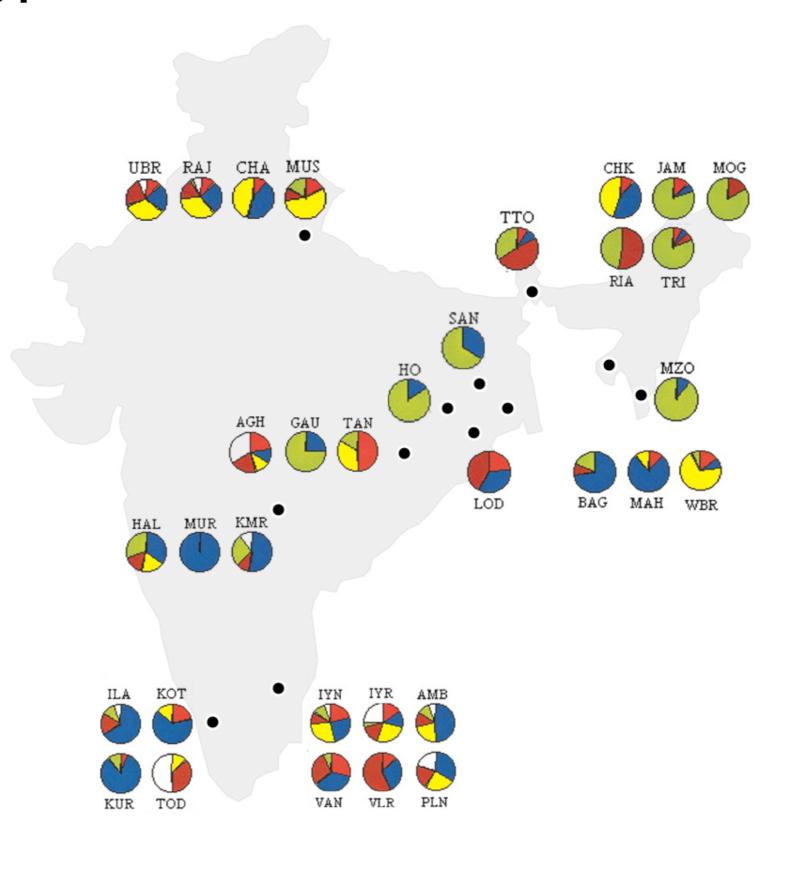
Friday, September 2, 2011

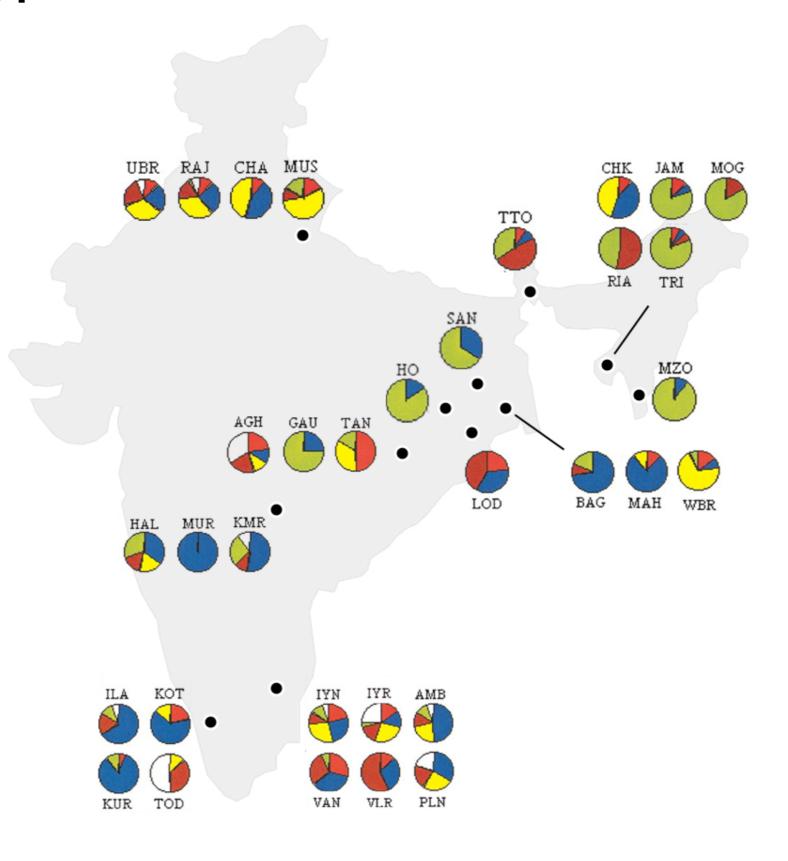


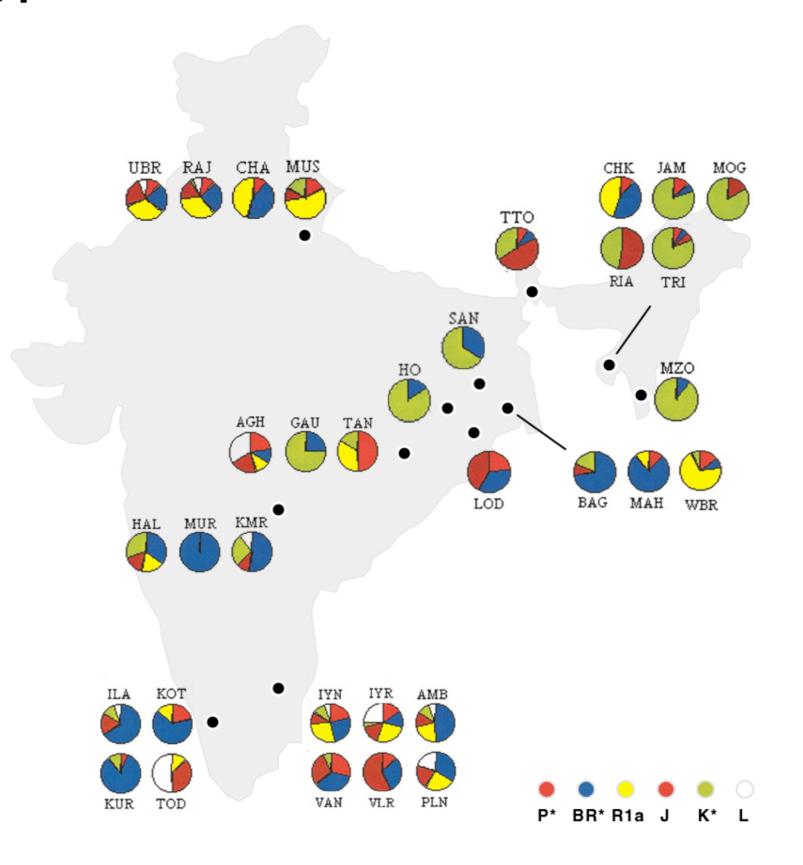


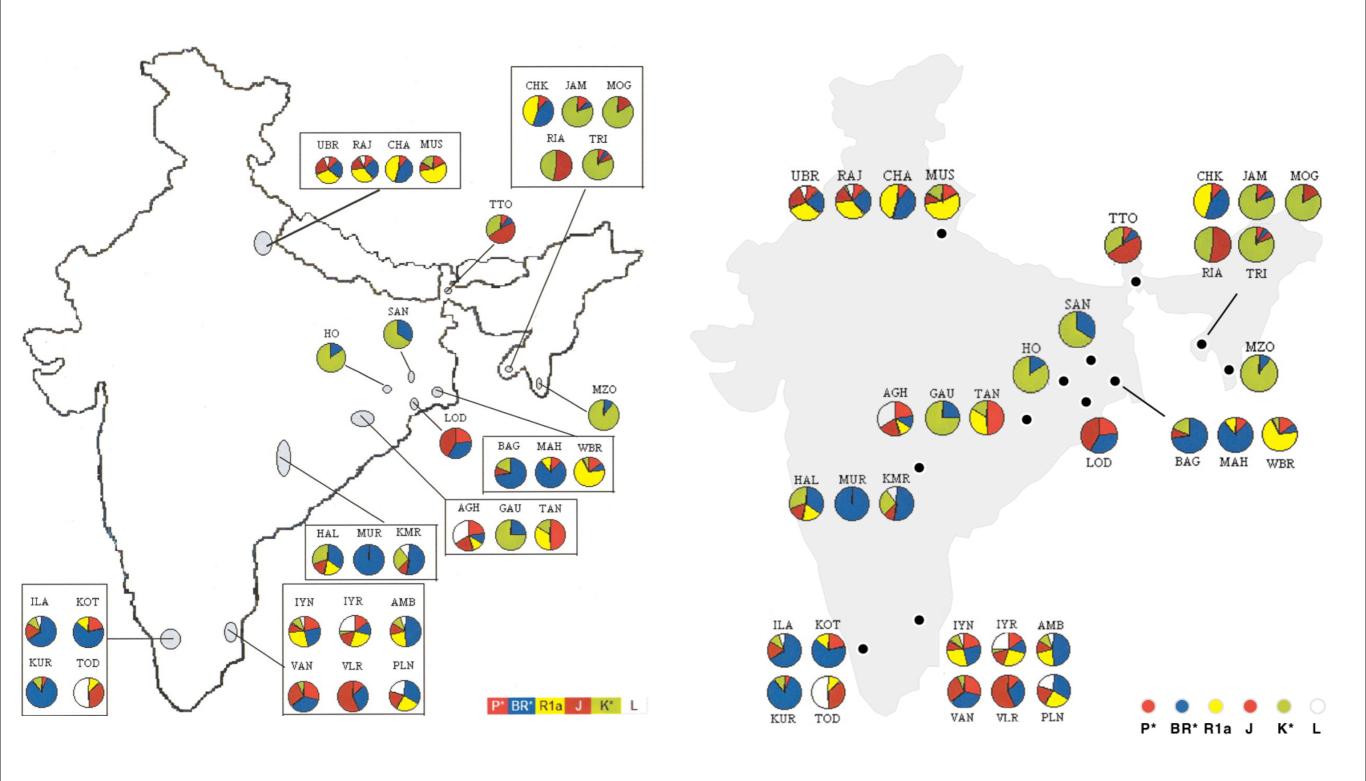












Left panel from Frequencies (%) of Y-chromosomal haplogroups among ethnic populations. Basu, A., et al., Ethnic India: a genomic view, with special reference to peopling and structure. Genome Res, 2003. 13(10): p. 2277-90.



REQUIRED READING

