Basics
of
Interactive Visual Analysis

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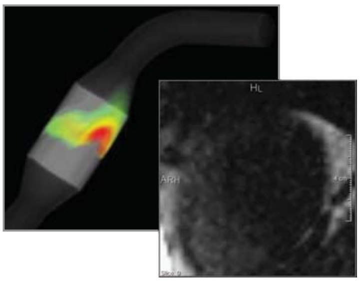
Interactive Visual Analysis

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

Interactive Visual Analysis ↔ Visual Analytics

- **IVA** (interactive visual analysis) **since 2000**
- **Tightly related** to visual analytics, of course, *e.g.*, *integrating computational & interactive data analysis*
- **Particular methodology** with specific components (*CMV*, *linking & brushing*, *F+C vis.*, *etc.*)
- General enough to work in **many application fields**, but not primarily the VA fields (national security, *etc.*), in particular "**scientific data**" **fields**…



Target Data Model: "Scientific Data"

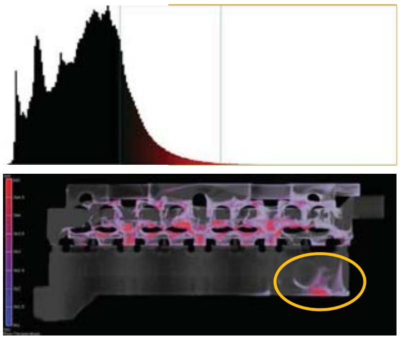
- **Characterized** by a combination of
  - **independent variables**, like **space** and/or **time** (cf. **domain**)
  - and **dependent variables**, like **pressure**, **temp.**, etc. (cf. **range**)
- So we can think of this type of data as **given as d(x)** with **x** ↔ **domain** and **d** ↔ **range** – examples:
  - **CT data** — $d(\mathbf{x})$ with $\mathbf{x}\in R^3$ and $d\in R$
  - **unstead 2D flow** — $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x},t)$ with $\mathbf{x}\in R^2$, $t\in R$, and $\mathbf{v}\in R^2$
  - **num. sim. result** — $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{x},t)$ with $\mathbf{x}\in R^3$, $t\in R$, and $\mathbf{d}\in R^n$
  - **system sim.** — $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{p})$ with $\mathbf{p}\in R^n$ and $\mathbf{q}\in R^m$
- **Common property**:
  - **d** is (at least to a certain degree) **continuous** wrt. **x**

Interactive Visual Analysis **of Scientific Data**

- **Interactive visual analysis** (as exemplified in this tutorial) **works really well with scientific data**, *e.g.*,
  - results from **numerical simulation** (spatiotemporal)
  - imaging / **measurements** (in particular multivariate)
  - sampled **models**
- When used to study scientific data, **IVA employs**
  - methods from **scientific visualization** (vol. rend., …)
  - methods from **statistical graphics** (scatterplots, …), **information visualization** (parallel coords., *etc.*)
  - **computational tools** (statistics, machine learning, …)
- Applications include
  - **engineering**, **medicine**, **meteorology/climatology**, **biology**, *etc.*

The Iterative Process of IVA

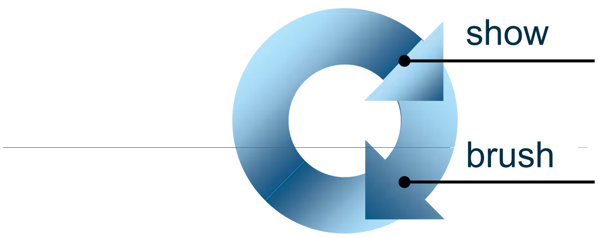
- Loop / bundling of *two complementary parts*:
  - **visualization** – show to the user!
    Something new, or something due to interaction.
  - **interaction** – tell the computer!
    What is interesting? What to show next?
- Basic example (**show – brush** – show – …), cooling jacket context:
  1. show a histogram of temperatures
  2. brush high temperatures (>90°[±2°])
  3. show focus+context vis. in 3D
  4. locate relevant feature(s)



- **KISS-principle IVA**:
  - linking & brushing, focus+context visualization, …

Show & Brush (IVA level 1)

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



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

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

Show & Brush (IVA level 1)

- **Tightest IVA loop**
  - **show data** (explicitly represented information)
  - **one brush** (on one view, can work on >1 dims.)
- **Requires**:
  - multiple views (≥2)
  - interactive brushing capabilities on views (brushes should be editable)
  - focus+context visualization
  - linking between views

… leads to … degree of interest *… requires …* *… is realized via …*

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

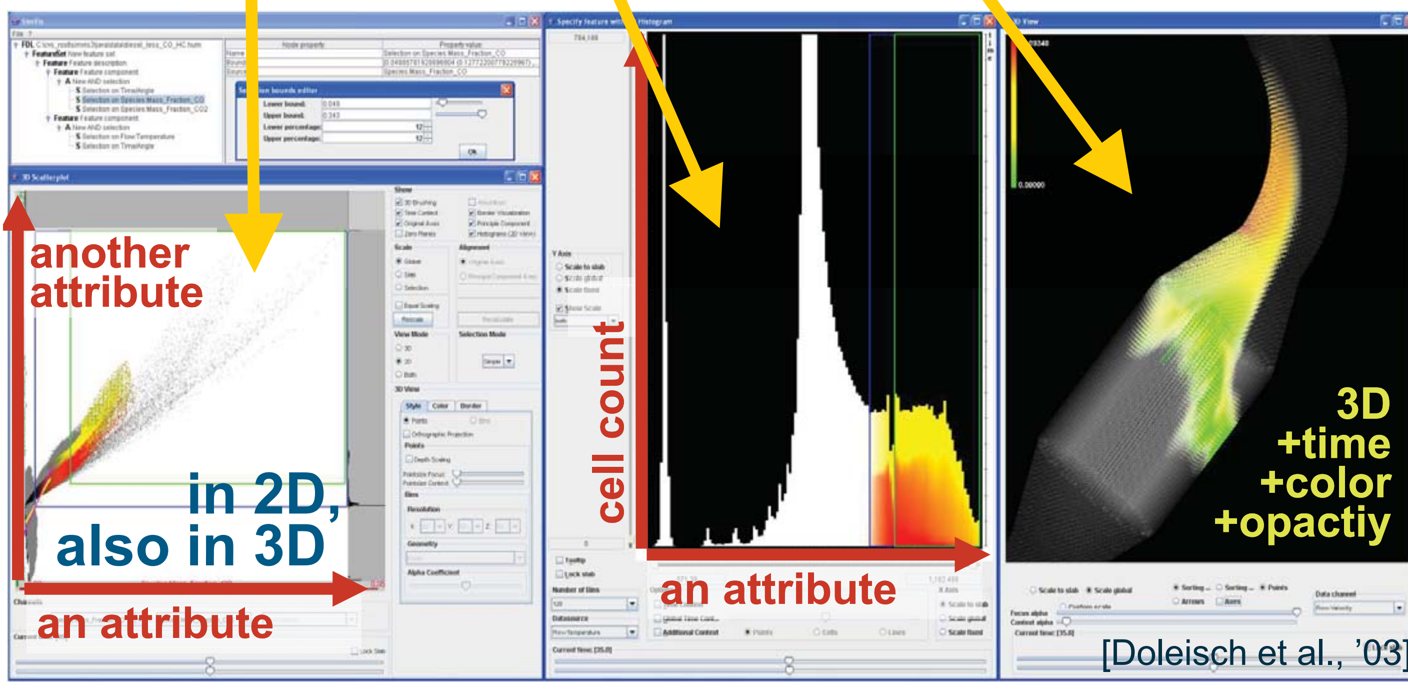
A typical (start into an) **IVA session** of this kind:

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

(next slide)

IVA: Multiple Views

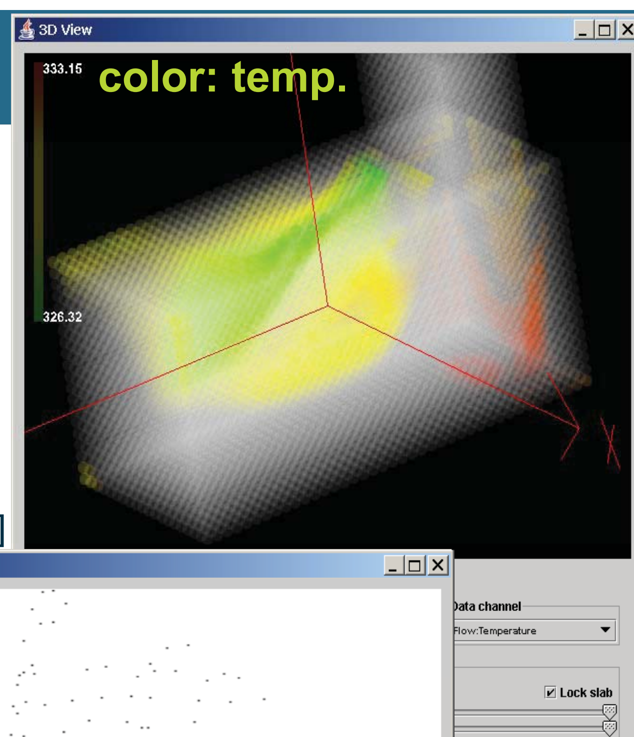
- One dataset, but multiple views
- Scatterplots, histogram, 3D(4D) view, etc.



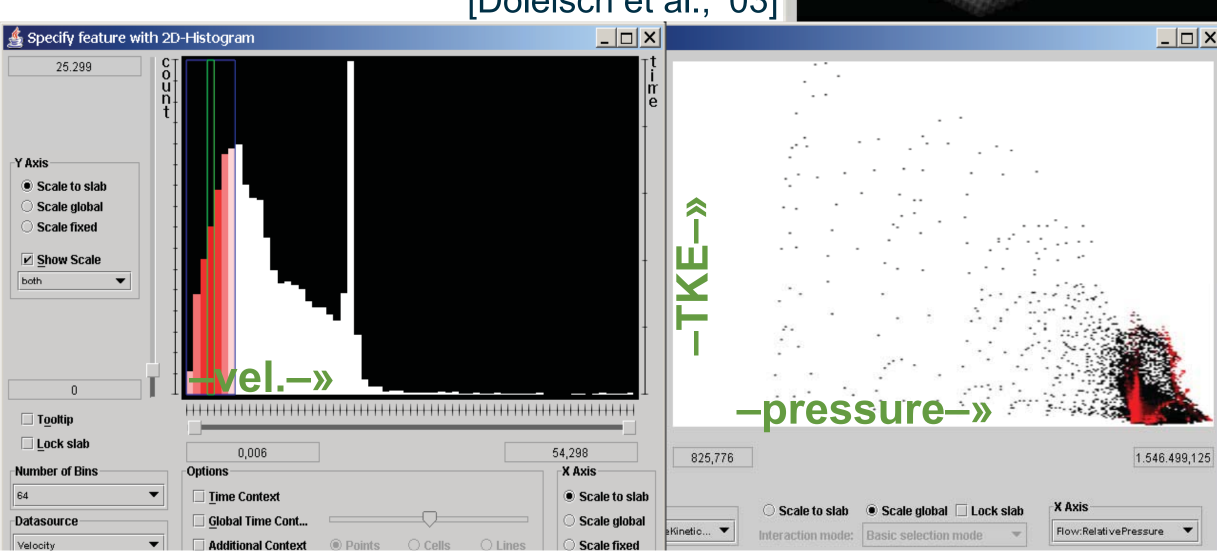
[Doleisch et al., '03]

IVA: Interactive Brushing

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



[Doleisch et al., '03]

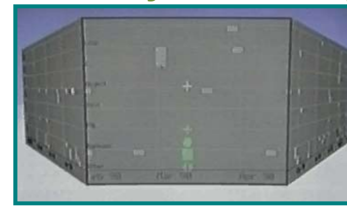


(SimVis)

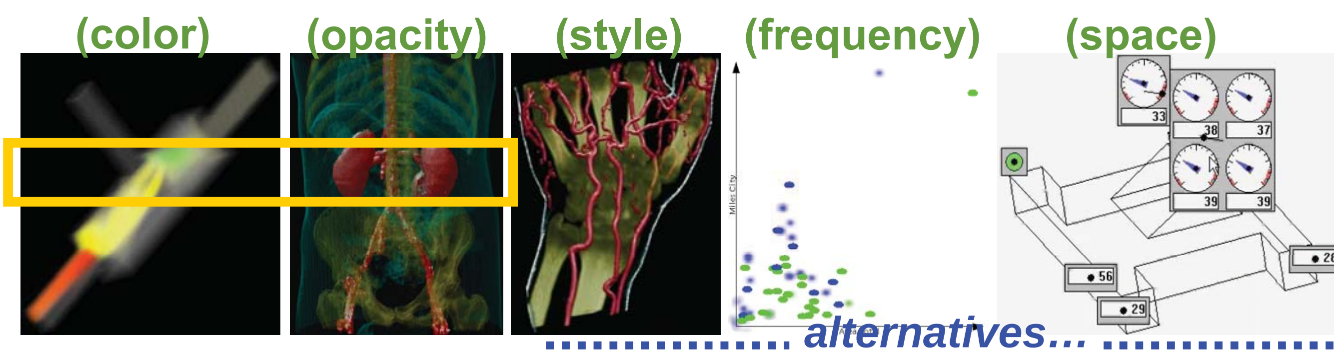
IVA: Focus+Context Visualization

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

[Mackinlay et al. 1991]

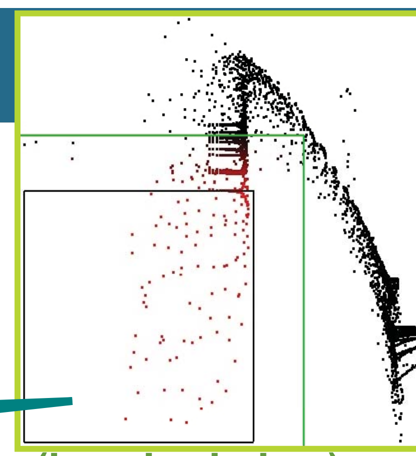


[Hauser… 2001, 2003]

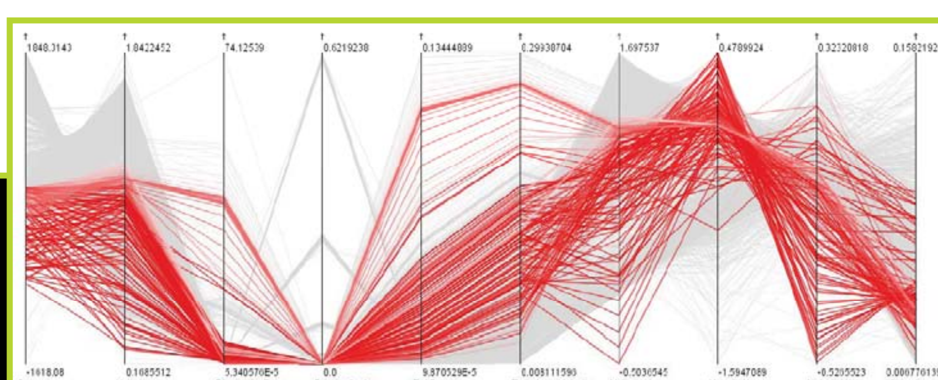


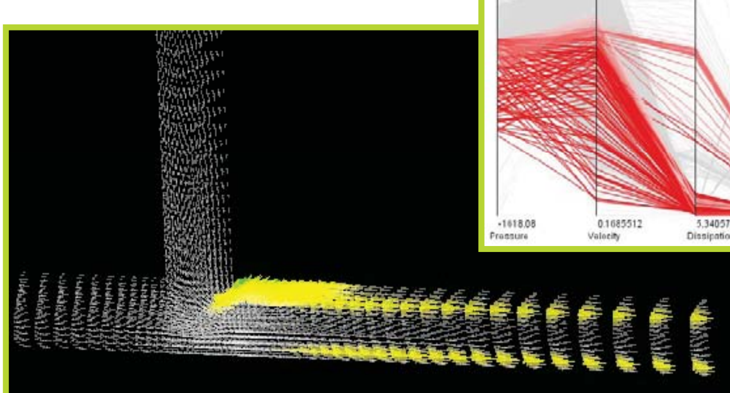
IVA: Linked Views

- Brushing: mark data subset as especially intersting
- Linking: enhance brushed data in linked views consistently (F+C)



(brushed view)



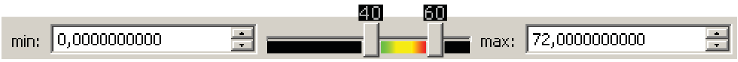


(linked views)

[Doleisch & Hauser, '02]

IVA: Degree of Interest (DOI)

- *doi*(.): data items tr_i (table rows) → degree of interest $doi(tr_i) \in [0,1]$
  - $doi(tr_i) = 0 \Rightarrow tr_i$ not interesting ($tr_i \in$ context)
  - $doi(tr_i) = 1 \Rightarrow tr_i$ 100% interesting ($tr_i \in$ focus)
- Specification
  - explicit, e.g., through direct selection
  - implicit, e.g., through a range slider



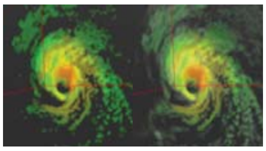
x	y	d1	d2	doi
0	0	17,20	-0,22	0,00
1	0	12,10	0,10	0,00
2	0	7,70	0,45	0,00
3	0	2,10	0,90	0,00
0	1	24,10	0,02	0,00
1	1	21,90	0,36	0,00
2	1	15,50	0,87	0,74
3	1	11,10	1,20	1,00
0	2	27,20	0,12	0,00
1	2	24,10	0,66	0,18
2	2	17,30	1,35	1,00
3	2	12,10	2,20	0,60
0	3	35,50	0,67	0,00
1	3	30,90	1,30	0,00
2	3	24,50	2,10	0,10
3	3	20,80	2,90	0,00

- Fractional DOI values: $0 \leq doi(tr_i) \leq 1$
  - several levels (0, low, med., …)
  - a continuous measure of interest
  - a probabilistic definition of interest

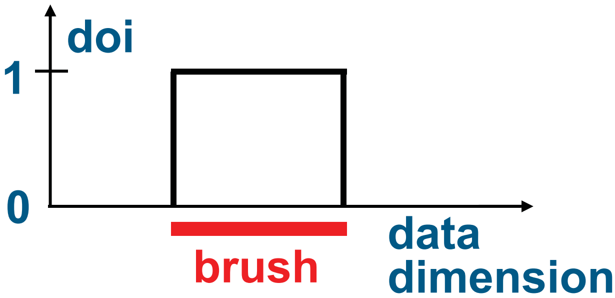
(cont'd on next slide)

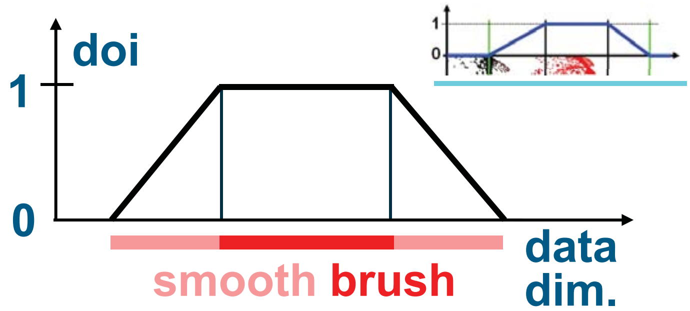
IVA: Smooth Brushing → Fractional DOI

- **Fractional DOI values** esp. useful wrt. **scientific data**: (quasi-)continuous nature of data ↔ smooth borders
- Goes well with gradual focus+context vis. techniques (coloring, semitransparency)



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

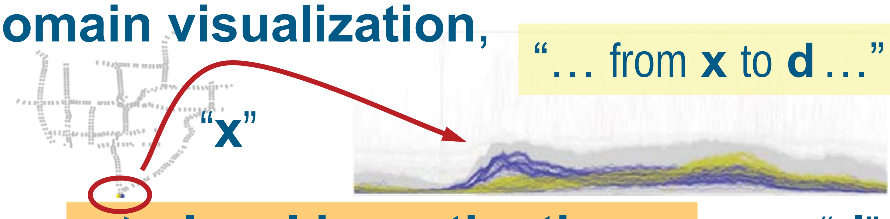




Three Patterns of SciData IVA

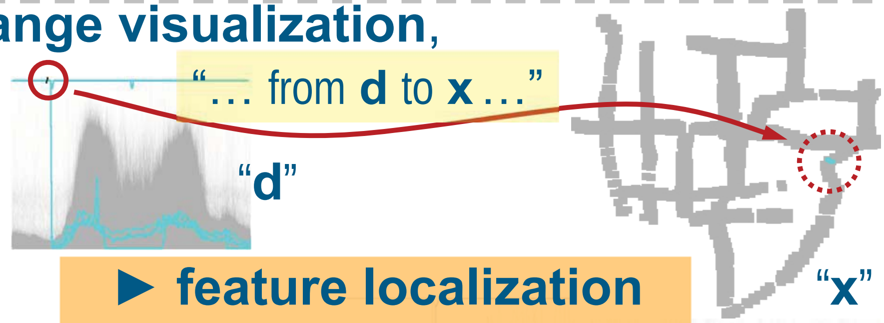
- Preliminary: domain **x** & range **d** visualized (≥2 views)

1. **brushing on domain visualization,** *e.g.*, brushing special locations in the map view



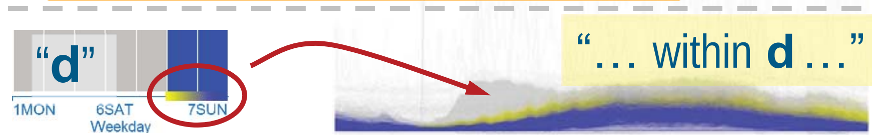
▶ **local investigation**

2. **brushing on range visualization,** *e.g.*, brushing outlier curves in a function graph view



▶ **feature localization**

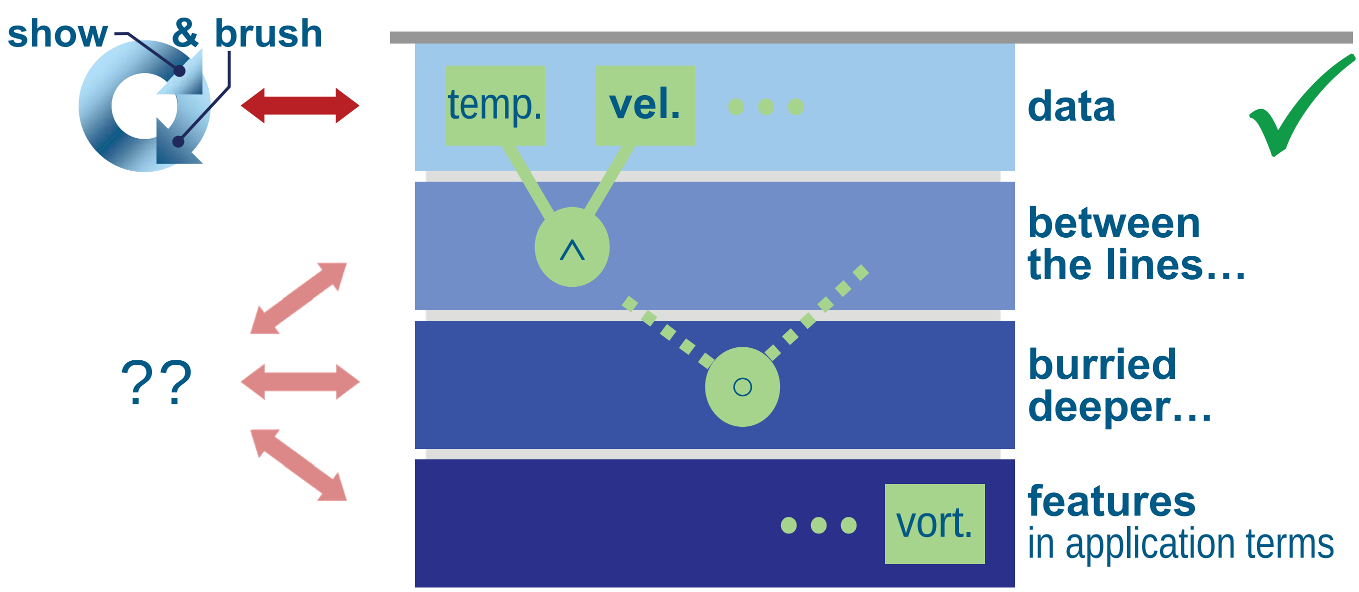
3. relating multiple range variates



▶ **multi-variate analysis**

IVA – Levels of Complexity (1/4)

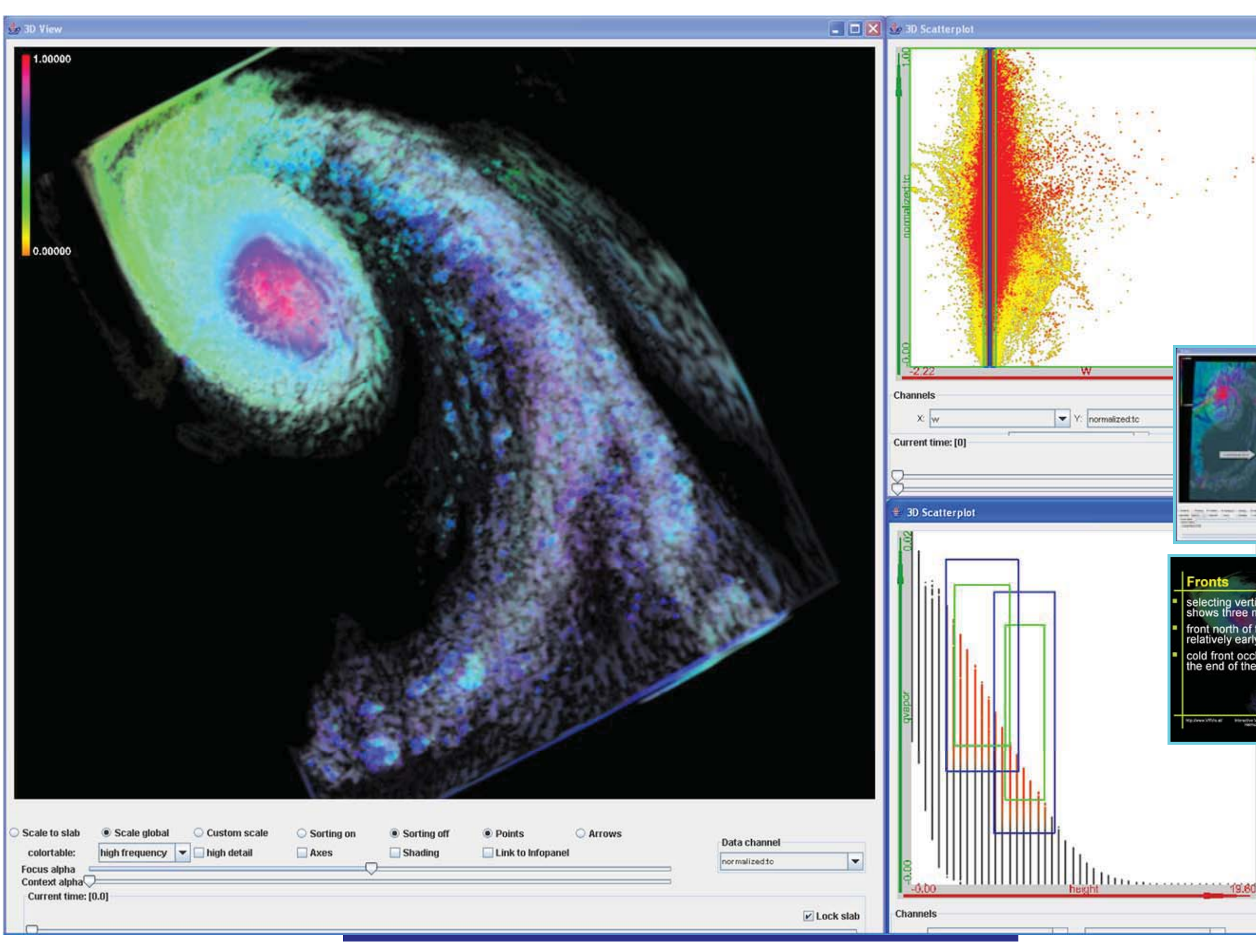
- A ***lot*** can be done with basic IVA, already! [pareto rule]
- We can consider a **layered information space**: from **explicitly** represented information (the **data**) to **implicitly** contained information, **features**, …



IVA – Levels of Complexity (2/4)

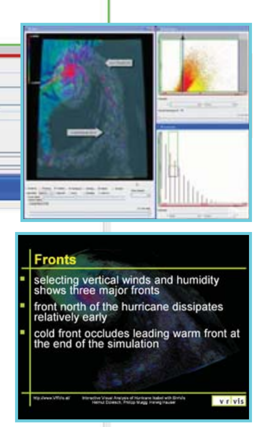
- A lot can be done with KISS-principle IVA! ✓ [pareto ule]
- **For more advanced** exploration/analysis **tasks**, we extend it (in seveal steps):
  - IVA, level 2: **logical combinations of brushes**, *e.g.*, utilizing the *feature definition language* [Doleisch et al., 2003]
  - IVA, l. 3: **attribute derivation**; **advanced brushing**, with interactive formula editor; *e.g.*, similarity brushing
  - IVA, l4: **application-specific feature extraction**, *e.g.*, based on vortex extraction methods for flow analysis
- Level 2: like **advanced verbal feature description**
  - ex.: "**hot** flow, also **slow**, near **boundary**" (cooling j.)
  - brushes comb. with **logical operators** (AND, OR, SUB)
  - in a **tree**, or **iteratively** (((b_0 op$_1$ b_1) op$_2$ b_2) op$_3$ b_3) …)

IVA (level 2) Example



tions

, 2003])



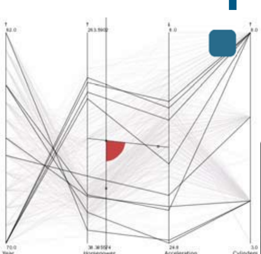
terms

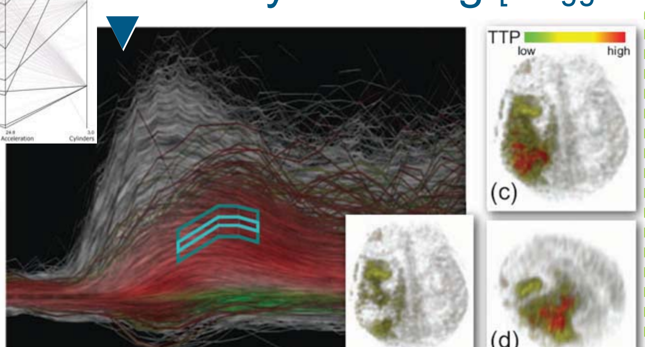
IVA – Levels of Complexity (3/4)

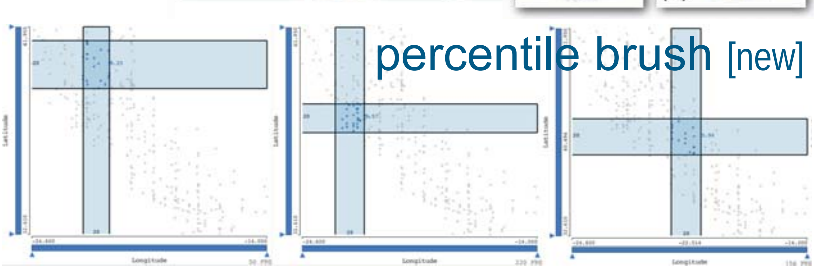
- A lot can be done with KISS-principle IVA! [pareto rule]
- **For more advanced** exploration/analysis **tasks**, we extend it (in seveal steps):
  - IVA, level 2: **logical combinations of brushes**, *e.g.* utilizing the *feature definition language* [Doleisch et al., 2003]
  - IVA, l. 3: **attribute derivation**; **advanced brushing**, with interactive formula editor; *e.g.*, similarity brushing
  - IVA, l4: **application-specific feature extraction**, *e.g.*, based on vortex extraction methods for flow analysis
- Level 3: using **general info extraction** mechanisms, two (partially complementary) approaches:
  1. **derive additional attribute**(s), then show & brush
  2. use an **advanced brush** to select “hidden” relations

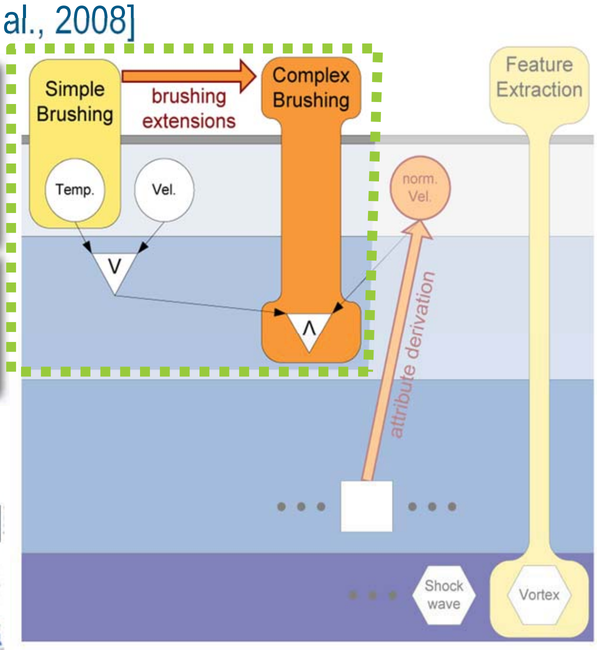
IVA (level 3): Advanced Brushing

- **Std. brush**: brush 1:1 what you see
  Adv. brush: executes additional function (“intelligent”?)
- **Examples**:
  - angular brushing [Hauser et al., 2002]
  - similarity brushing [Muigg et al., 2008]
  - percentile brush [new]



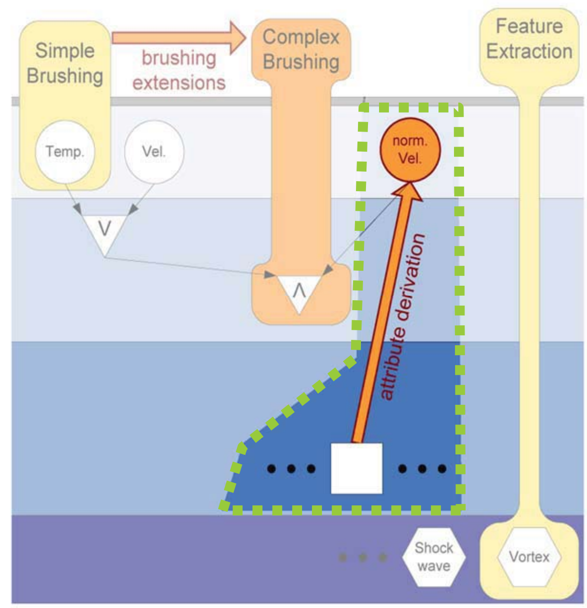




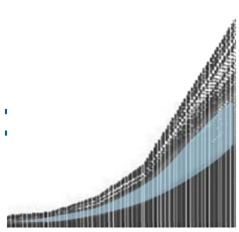


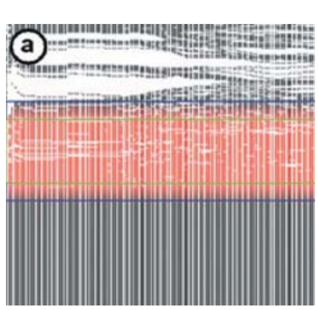
IVA (level 3): Attribute Derivation

- **Principle** (in the context of iterative IVA):
  - **see** some data feature Φ of interest in a visualization
  - **identify** a **mechanism** T **to describe** Φ
  - **execute** (interactively!) an **attribute derivation** step to represent Φ explicitly (as new, synthetic attribute[s] d_φ)
  - **brush** d_φ to get Φ
- **Tools** T to describe Φ from:
  - **numerical mathematics**
  - **statistics**, **data mining**
  - *etc*.
  - ➢ **scientific computing**
- **IVA** w/ **T** ↔ **visual computing**

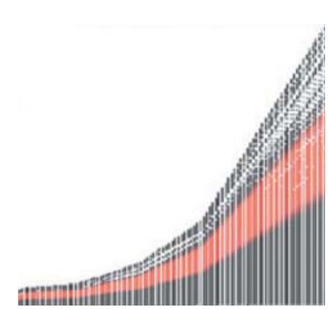


Attribute Derivation ↔ User Task / example

- The tools T, available in an IVA system, must reflect/match the **analytical steps of the user**:
- **Example**:
  - **first vis.**:  ↔ user wishes to select the "band"  in the middle
  - **so?** :–) an advanced brush? a lasso maybe?
  - **ah!** → let's normalize *y* and then brush (a)



  - **leading to the wished selection**:



What user wishes to reflect?

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

How to reflect these user wishes?

- Many **generic wishes** – users interest in:
  - something **relative** (instead of some absolute values), example: show me the *top-15%* ⇒ ***use**, e.g., **normalization***
  - **change** (instead of current values), ex.: show me *regions with increasing temperature* ⇒ ***derivative estimation***
  - some **non-local property**, ex.: show me regions with *high average temperature* ⇒ ***numerical integration***
  - **statistical properties**, ex.: show me *outliers* ⇒ ***descriptive statistics***
  - **ratios/differences**, ex.: show me population per area, difference from trend ⇒ ***calculus***
  - *etc.* ⇒ ***data mining*** (fast enough?)
- **Common characteristic** here:
  - **questions/tools generic**, not application-dependent!

Some useful tools for 3rd-level IVA

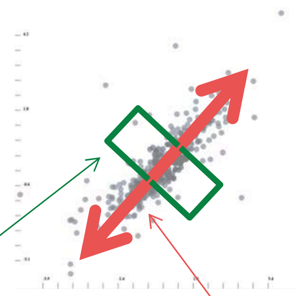
- From **analysis**, **calculus**, **num. math**:
  - **linear filtering** (convolve the data with some linear filter on demand, e.g., to smooth, for derivative estimation, *etc.*)
  - **calculus** (use an interactive formula editor for computing simple relations between data attributes; +, −, ·, ∕,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

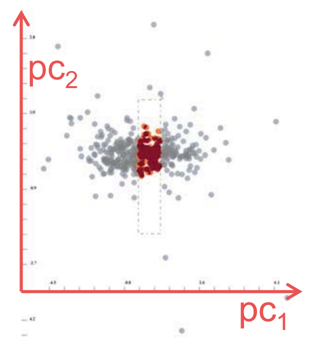
3rd-level IVA – Sample Iterations (1/2)

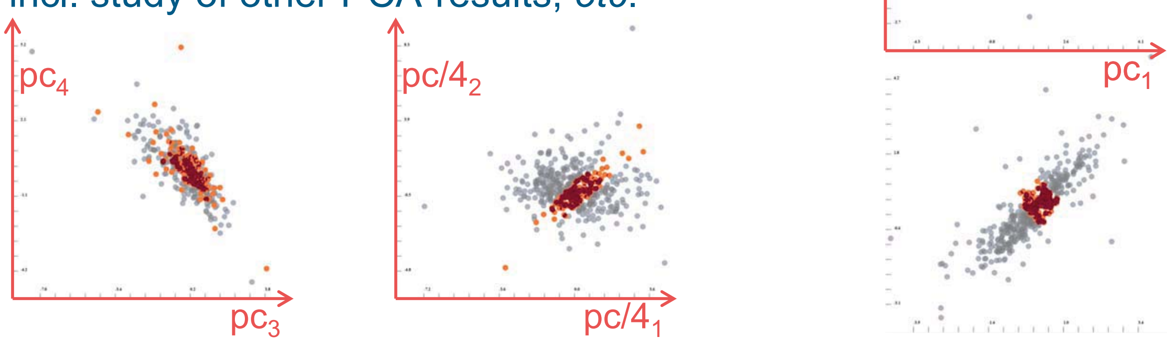
- The **Iterative Process of 3rd-level IVA**:
  - Example 1:
    - you look at some *temp. distribution over some region*
    - you are *interested raising temperatures*, ***but not temperature fluctuations***
    - you use a **temporal derivate estimator**, for ex., central differences $t_{change} = (t_{future} - t_{past})/\mathrm{len}(\mathrm{future} - \mathrm{past})$
    - you plot t_{change}, e.g., in a **histogram** and **brush** what ever change you are interested in
    - maybe you see that some frequency amplification due to derivation, so you go back and
    - **use an appropriate smoothing filter** to *remove high frequencies from the temp. data*, leading to a derived, new $\tau = t_{smooth}$ data attribute
    - selecting from a **histogram** of τ_{change} (computed like above) is then less sensitive to temperature fluctuations

3^{rd}-level IVA – Sample Iterations (2/2)

- The **Iterative Process of 3^{rd}-level IVA**:
  - Example 2:
    - you bring up a scatterplot of d_1 vs. d_2: (from an ECG dataset [Frank, Asuncion; 2010])
    - obviously, d_1 and d_2 are correlated, our interest: the **data center** *wrt. the main trend*
    - we ask for a (local) **PCA** of d_1 and d_2:
    - then we **brush the data center**
    - we get the wished selection
    - from here further steps are possible…, incl. study of other PCA-results, *etc.*



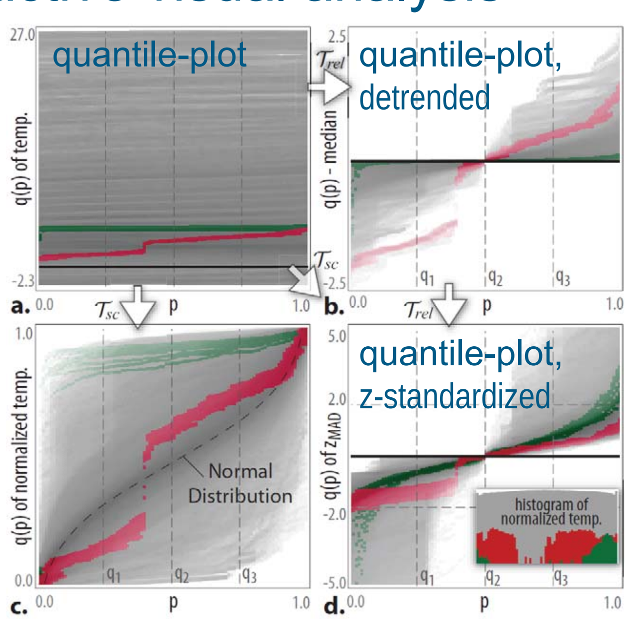


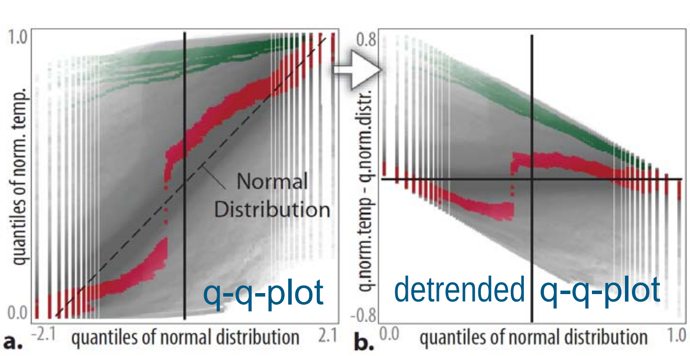


Visualizing / analyzing lots of statistics

[Kehrer et al., TVCG 2011]

- Useful statistical measures include:
  - **moments** (μ, σ, …), **robust versions** (median, IQR, …)
  - **quartiles**, **octiles**, and **quartiles** $q(p)$
- Useful views allow the interactive visual analysis
  - **quantile-plot** $q(p)$ vs. p, here for numerous **x**
  - **detrending** (*e.g.*, $-q_2$), **normalization** (*e.g.*, z)





[IEEE Vis, 2008]

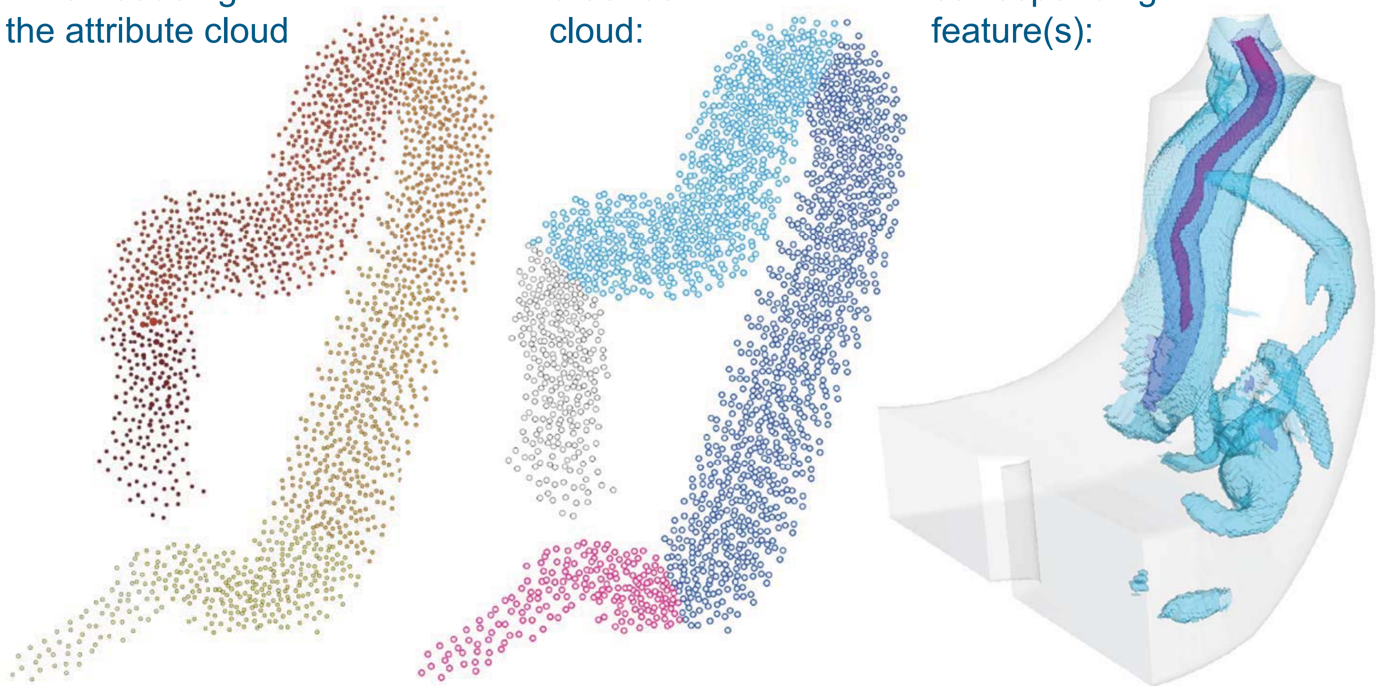
Brushing of Attribute Clouds for the Visualization of Multivariate Data

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

2D embedding: the attribute cloud

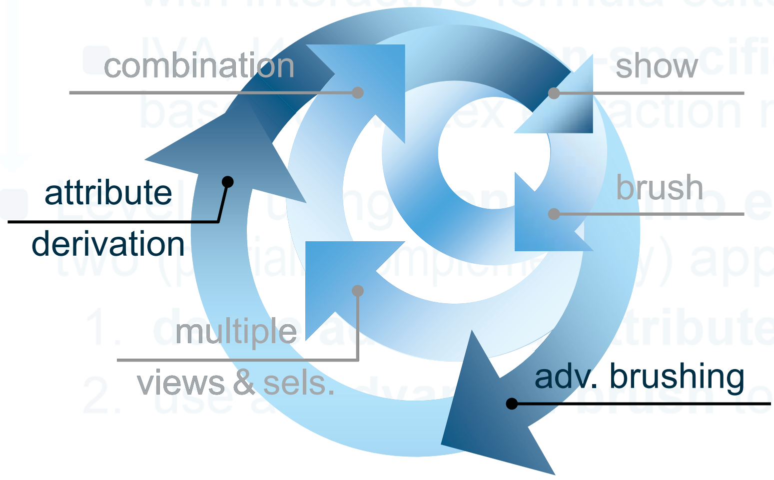
brushed cloud:

corresponding feature(s):



IVA – Levels of Complexity (4/4)

- A lot can be done with KISS-principle IVA! [pareto rule]
- **For more advanced** exploration/analysis **tasks**, we extend it (in seveal steps):
  - IVA, level 2: **logical combinations of brushes**, e.g., utilizing the *feature definition language* [Doleisch et al. 2003]
  - IVA, l. 3: **attribute derivation**; **advanced brushing**, with interactive formula editor; *e.g.*, similarity brushing
  - IVA, l. 4: application-specific **feature extraction**, *e.g.*, based on feature extraction methods for flow analysis
- Level 3 brushing and feature extraction mechanisms, two (partially complementary) approaches:
  1. derive additional attribute(s), then show & brush
  2. use advanced brushing to select "hidden" relations



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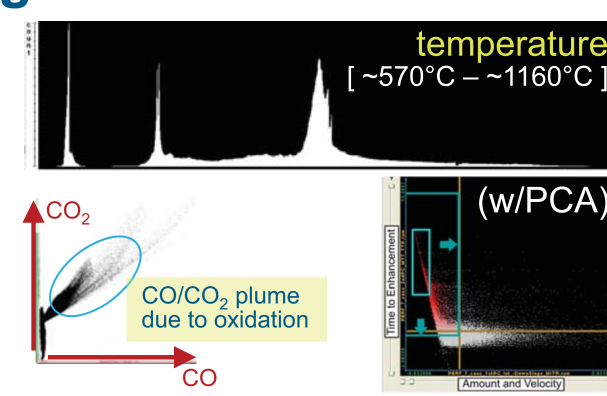
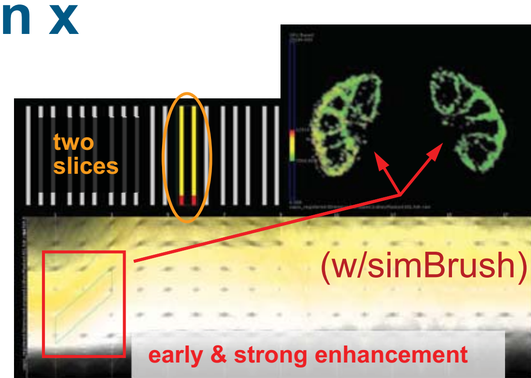
  - IVA, l4: **application-specific feature extraction**, *e.g.*, based on vortex extraction methods for flow analysis
- Level 4: **application-specific procedures**
  - tailored solutions (for a specific problem)
  - "deep" information drill-down
  - *etc.*

Interactive Visual Analysis – delivery

- Understanding data **wrt. range d**
  - which distribution has data attribute $\mathbf{d}_i$?
  - how do $\mathbf{d}_i$ and $\mathbf{d}_j$ relate to each other? (**multivariate analysis**)
  - which $\mathbf{d}_k$ discriminate data features?



- Understanding data **wrt. domain x**
  - **where** are relevant features? (**feature localization**)
  - **which** values at specific **x**? (**local analysis**)
  - how are they **related to parameters**?



The Iterative Process of IVA…

…leads to an **interactive** & **iterative** workbench for **visual data exploration & analysis** (compare to **visual computing**, again)

- Different **levels of complexity** (show & brush, logical combinations, advanced brushing & attribute derivation, *etc.*)…

…lead to according **iteration frequencies**:

comment on human time constants

  - on level 1: **smooth interactions, many fps,** for example during linking & brushing
  - on level 2: **interleaved fast steps of brush ops.,** for example when choosing a logical op. to cont. with
  - on level 3: **occasionally looking at a progress bar,** for example when computing some PCA, *etc*.

- These frequencies **limit the spectrum** of usable tools

➢ New res. work will help to **extend this spectrum**!

The Iterative Process of IVA…

…is a **very useful methodology** for **data exploration & analysis**

…is **very general** and can be (has already been) applied to **many different application fields** (in this talk the focus was on scientific data)

…**meets scientific computing** as a complementary methodology (with the **important difference** that in IVA the **user** with his/her **perception/cognition** is **in the loop** at **different frequencies**, also many fps)

…is **not yet fully implemented** (we've done something, e.g., in the context of **SimVis**, **ComVis**, *etc*.) – from here: different possible paths, incl. InteractiveVisualMatlab, IVR, *etc*.)

Acknowledgements

- **You!**
- **Krešimir Matković** & **Giuseppe Santucci**!
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- All around SimVis and ComVis and …
- Funding partners (FFG, AVL, EU, UiB, …)