Sequence Surveyor

Leveraging Overview for Scalable Genomic Alignment Visualization

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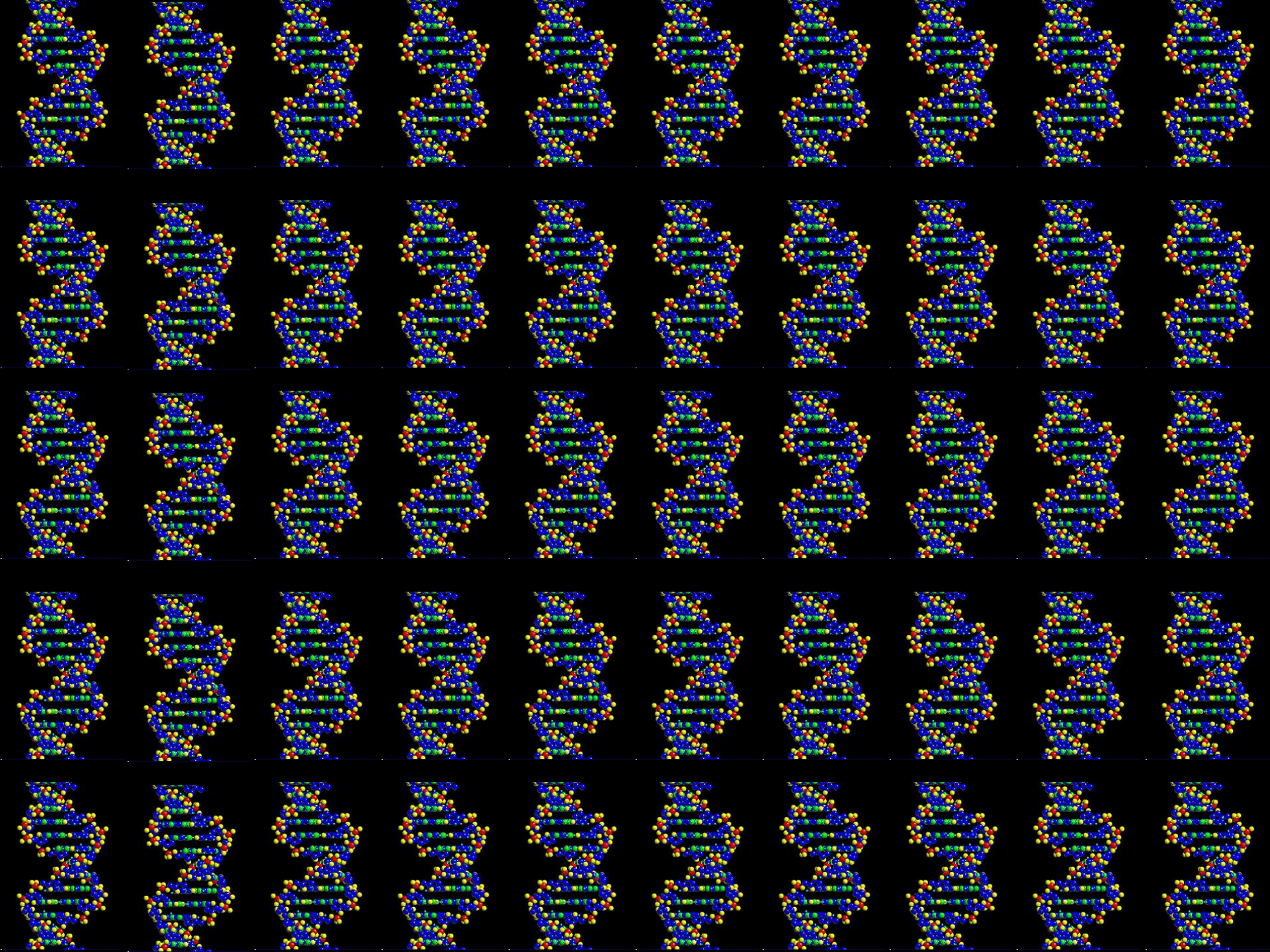
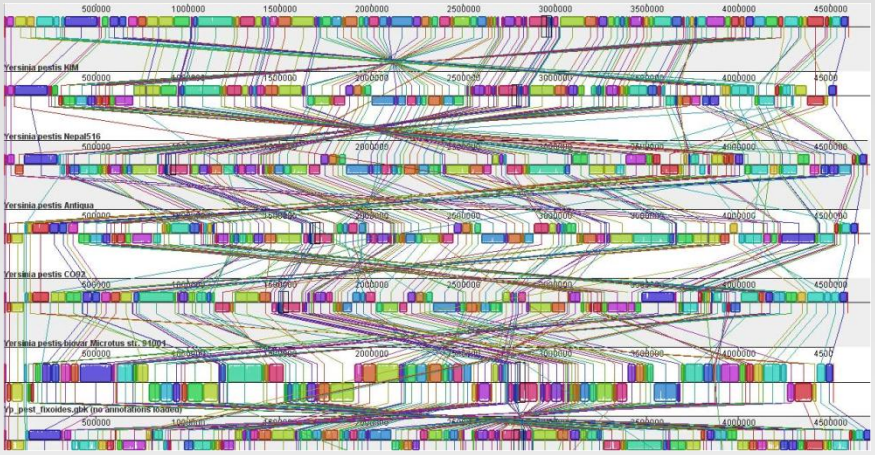
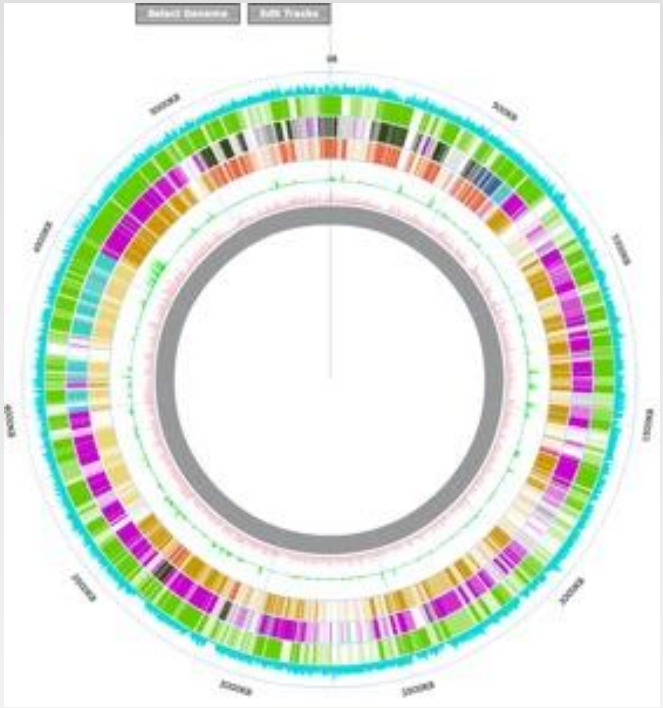
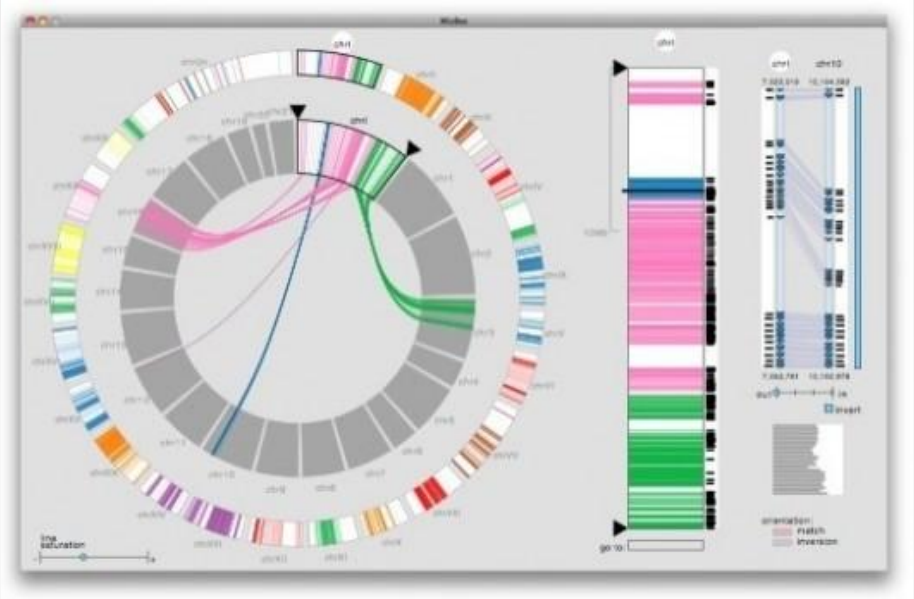
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Computer Sciences
IEEE VisWeek 2011

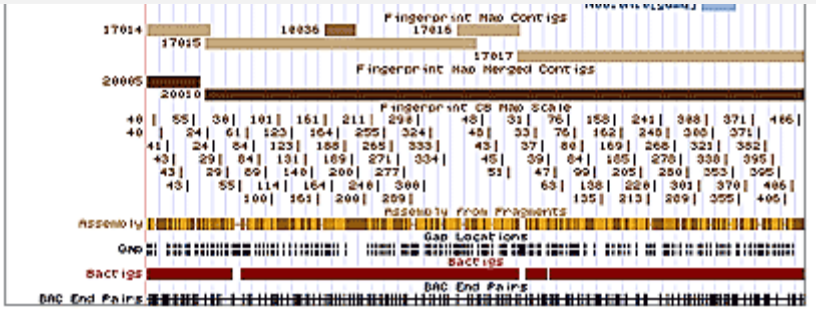


Viewing Genome Alignments









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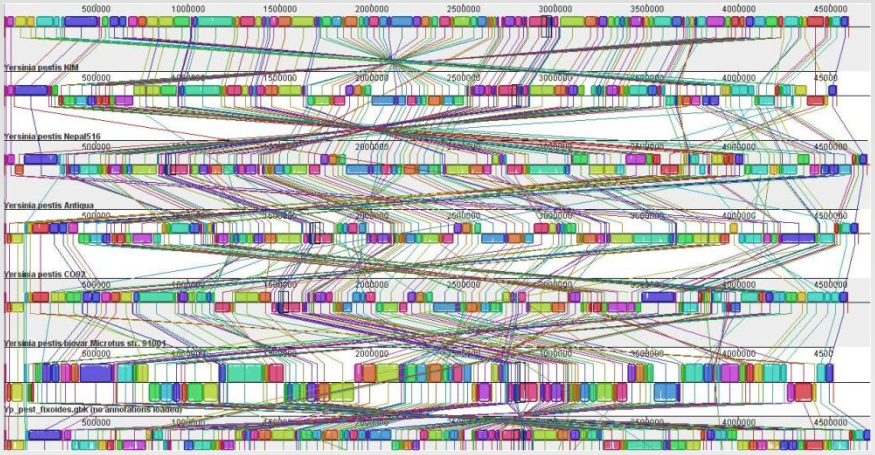
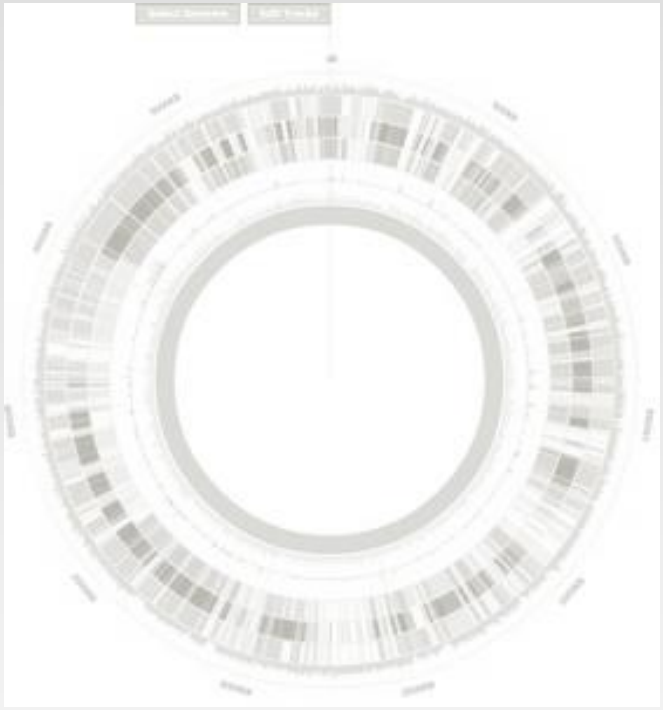
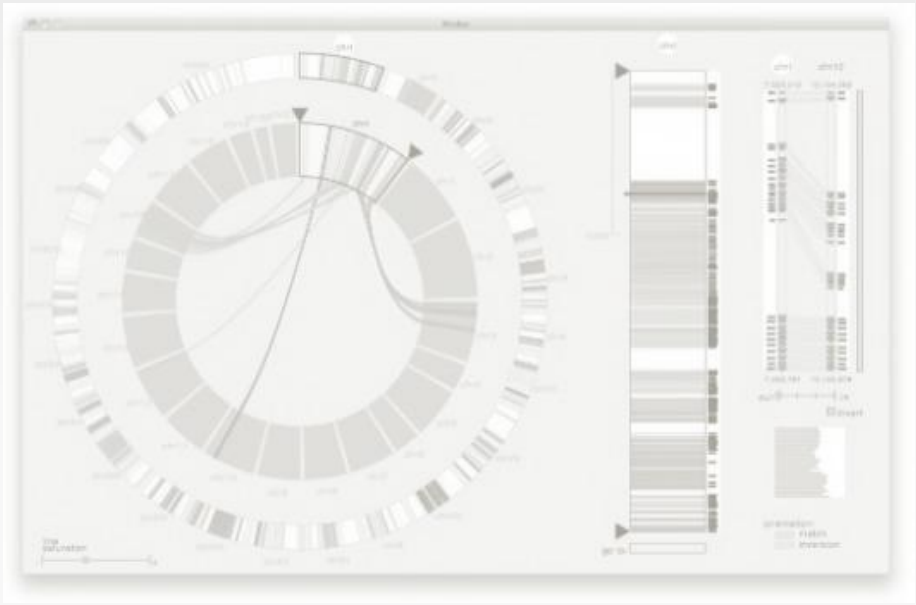
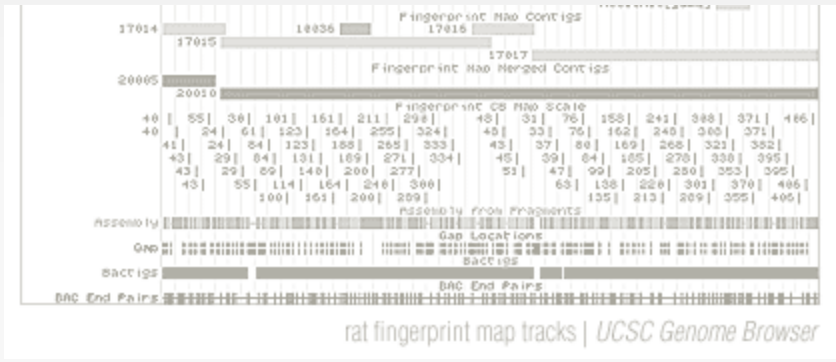
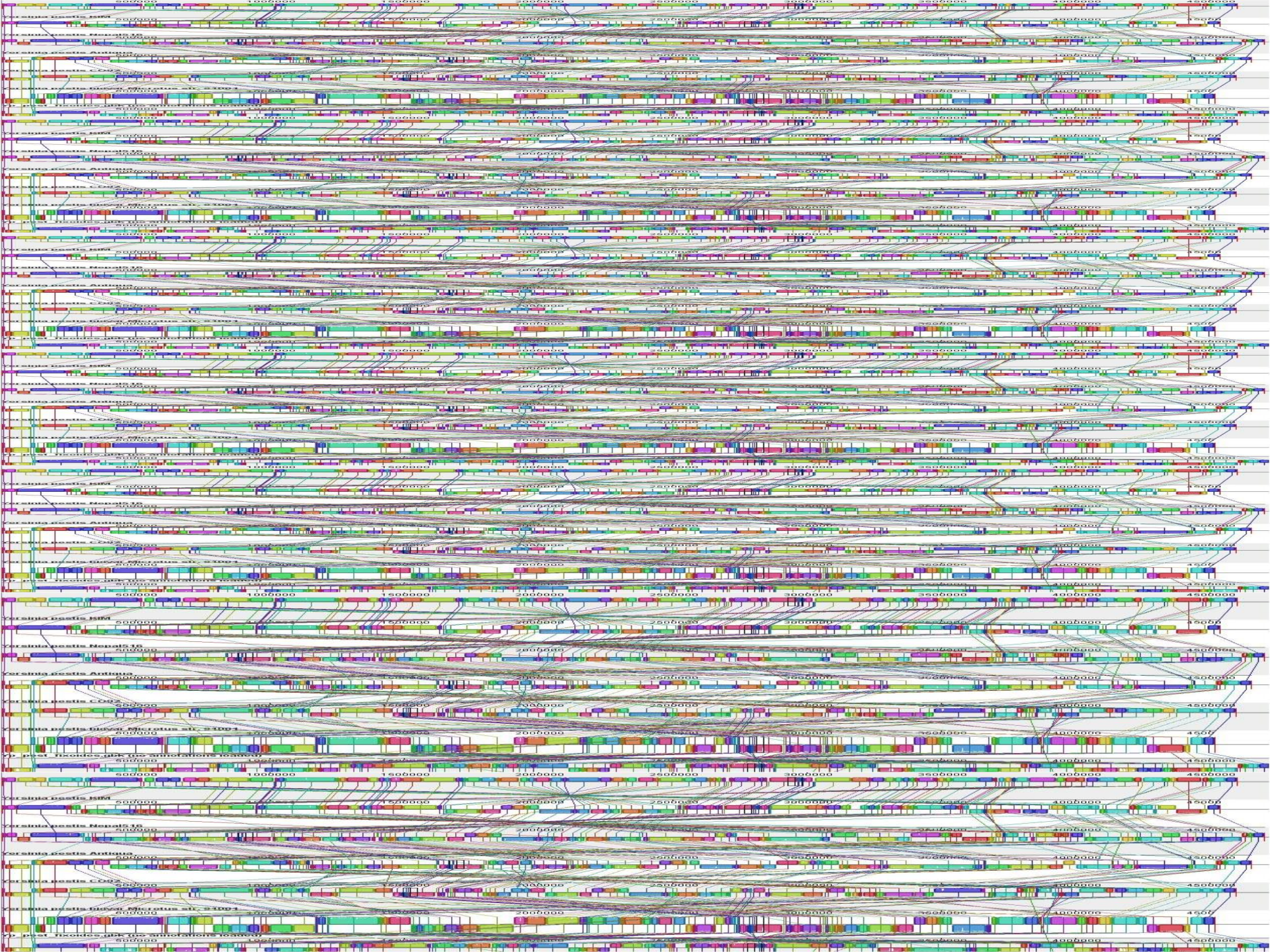




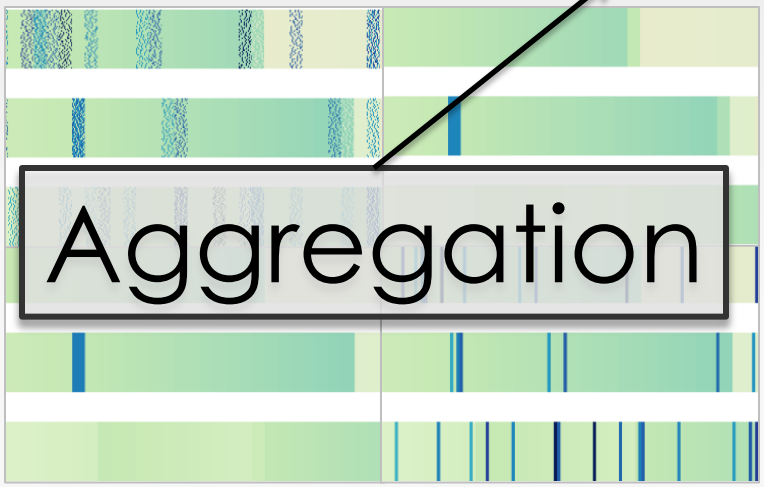




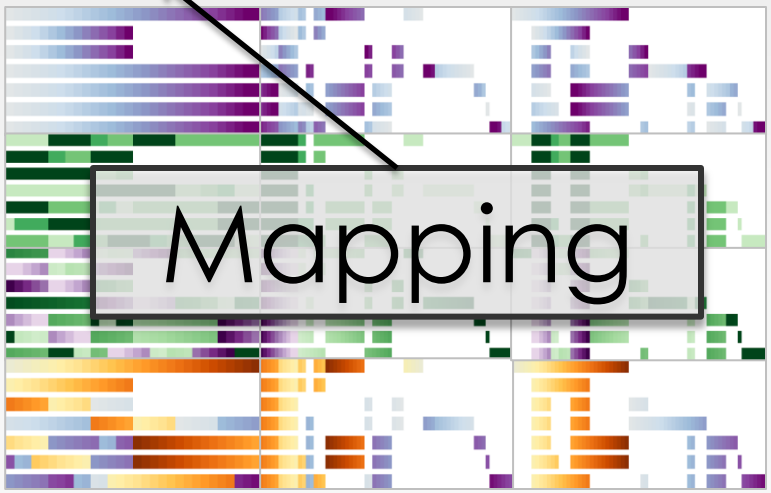

Yersinia pestis KIM
Yersinia pestis Nepal516
Yersinia pestis Antiqua
Yersinia pestis CO92
Yersinia pestis biovar Microtus str. 91001
Y. pest. fixoides gbk (no annotations loaded)

Perception

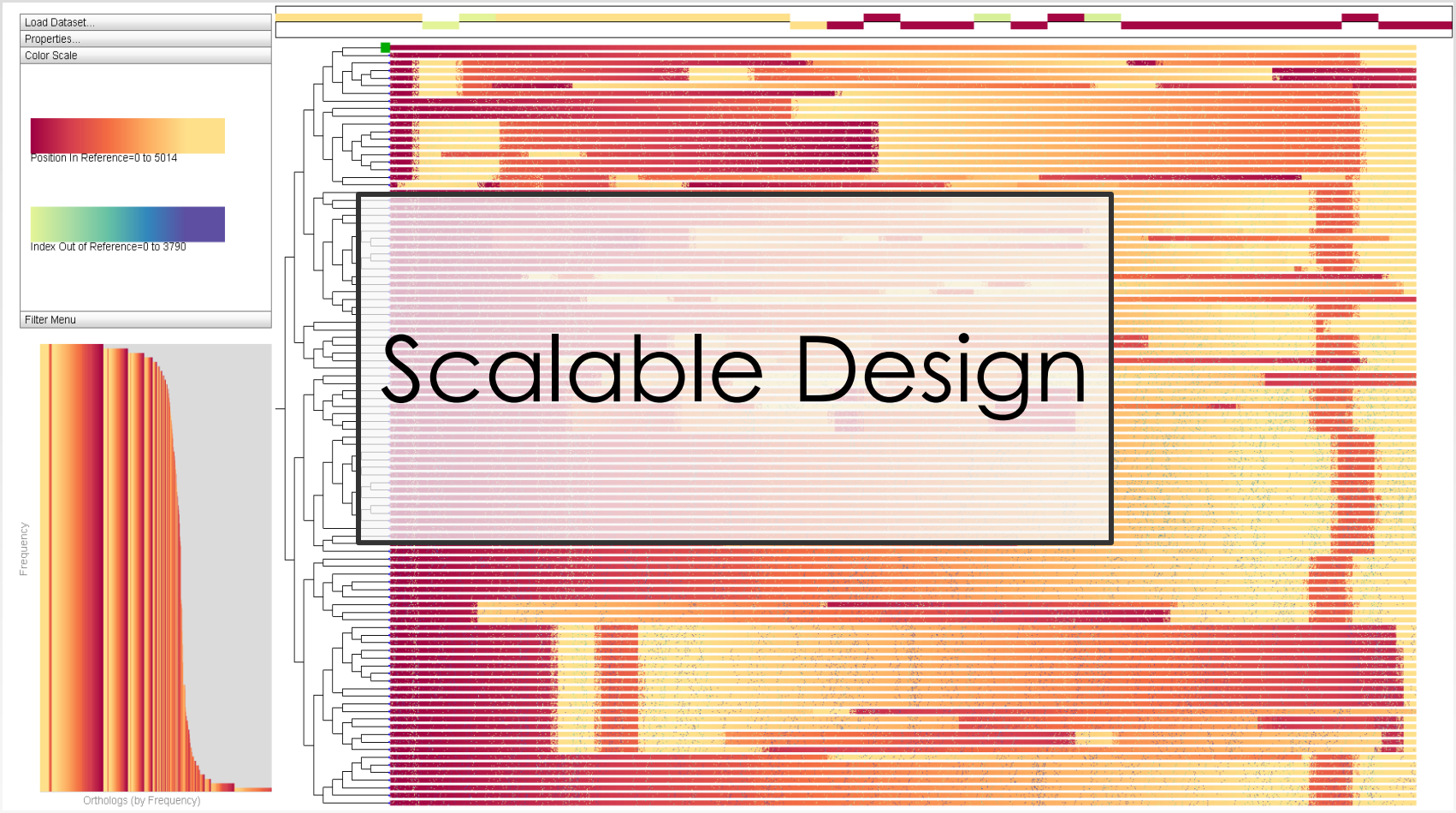
Scalable Design



Aggregation



Mapping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Index Out of Reference=0 to 3790
Filter Menu
Frequency
Orthologs (by Frequency)
Scalable Design

Outline

The Data Domain

Sequence Surveyor

Design in Theory

- Perception
- Mapping
- Aggregation

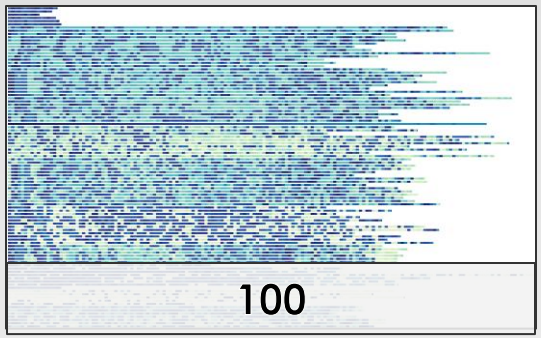
Design in Practice

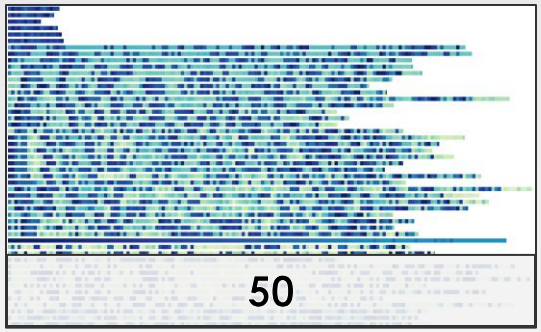
Whole Genome Alignment

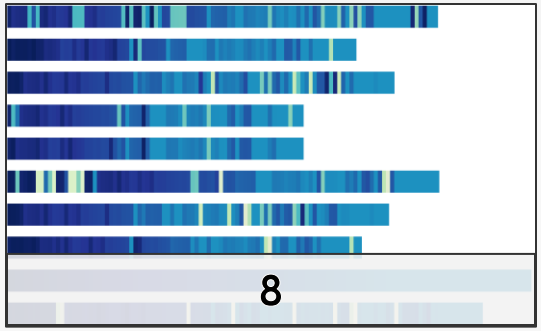
Identify related groups of genes appearing in a set of organisms

Defining Scale

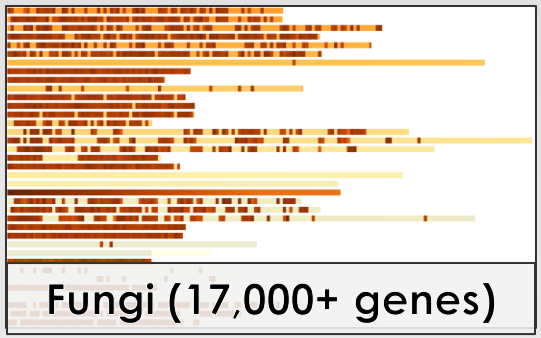
Number of Genomes

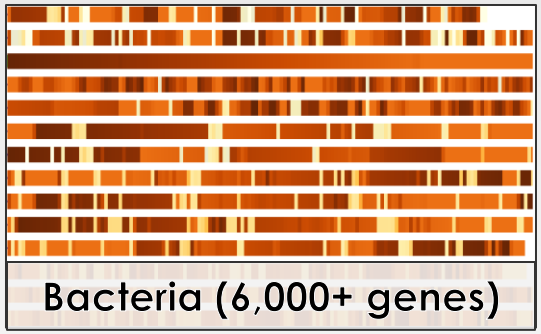


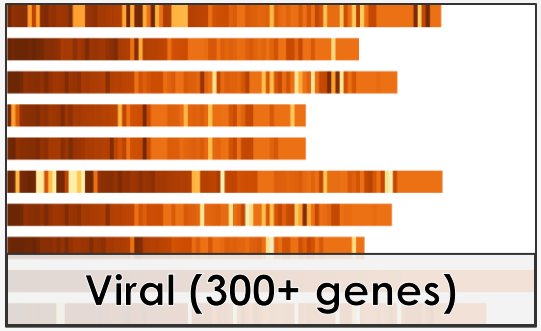




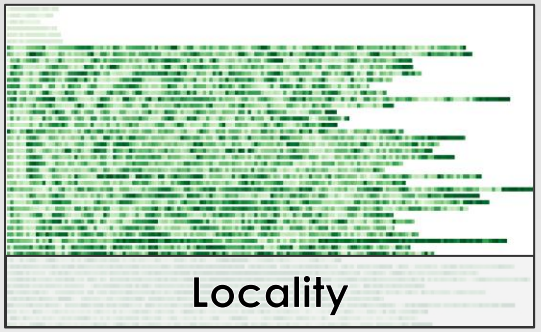
Length of Genomes

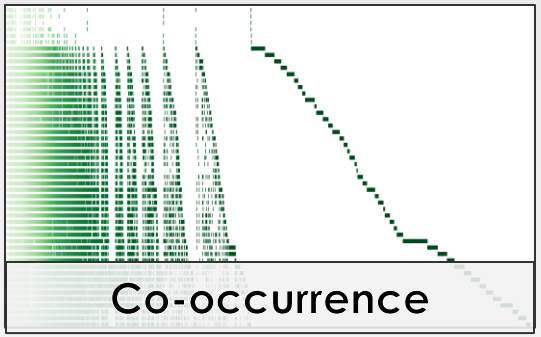


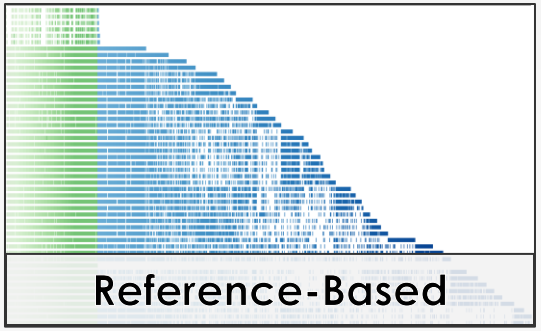




Types of Inquiry







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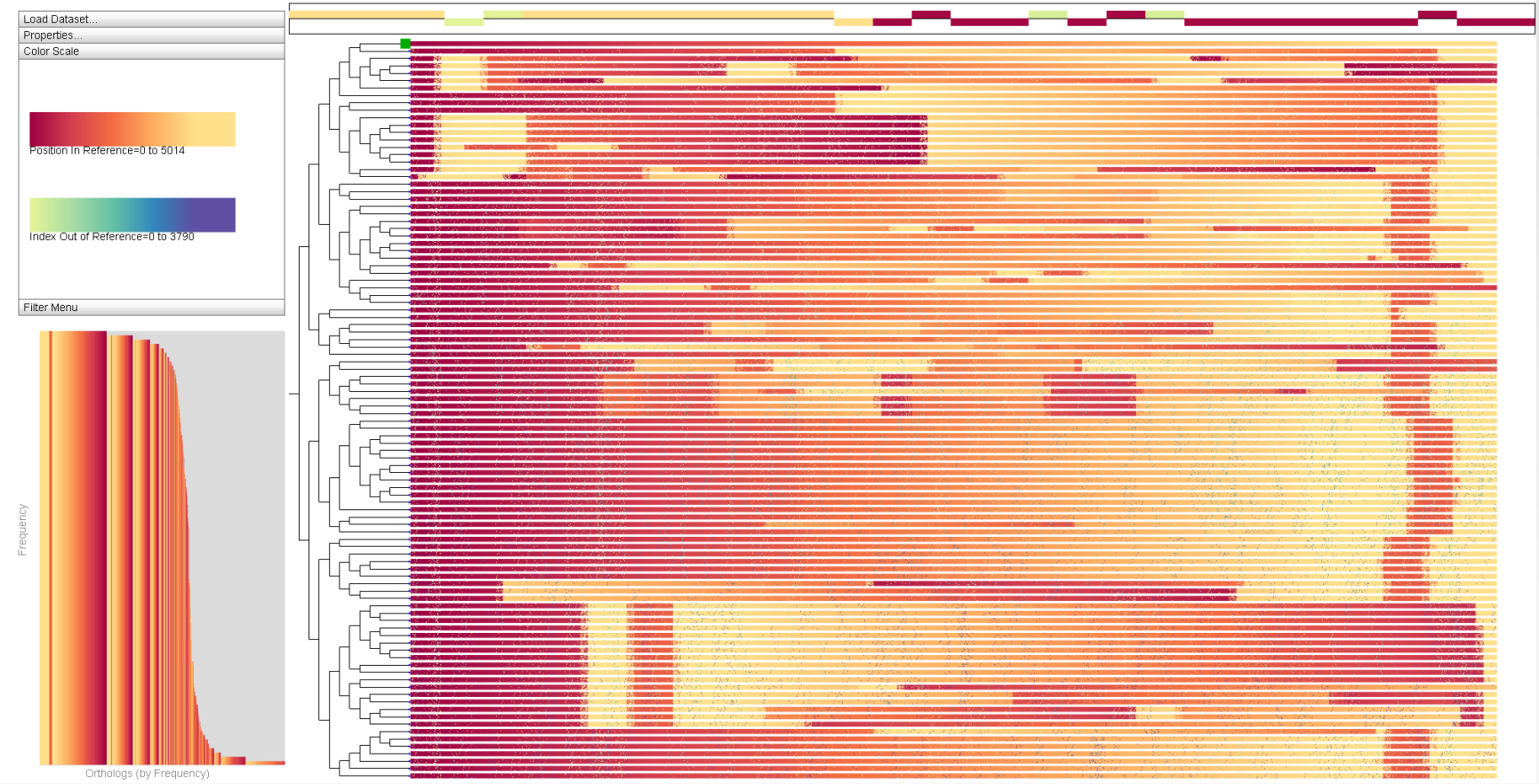
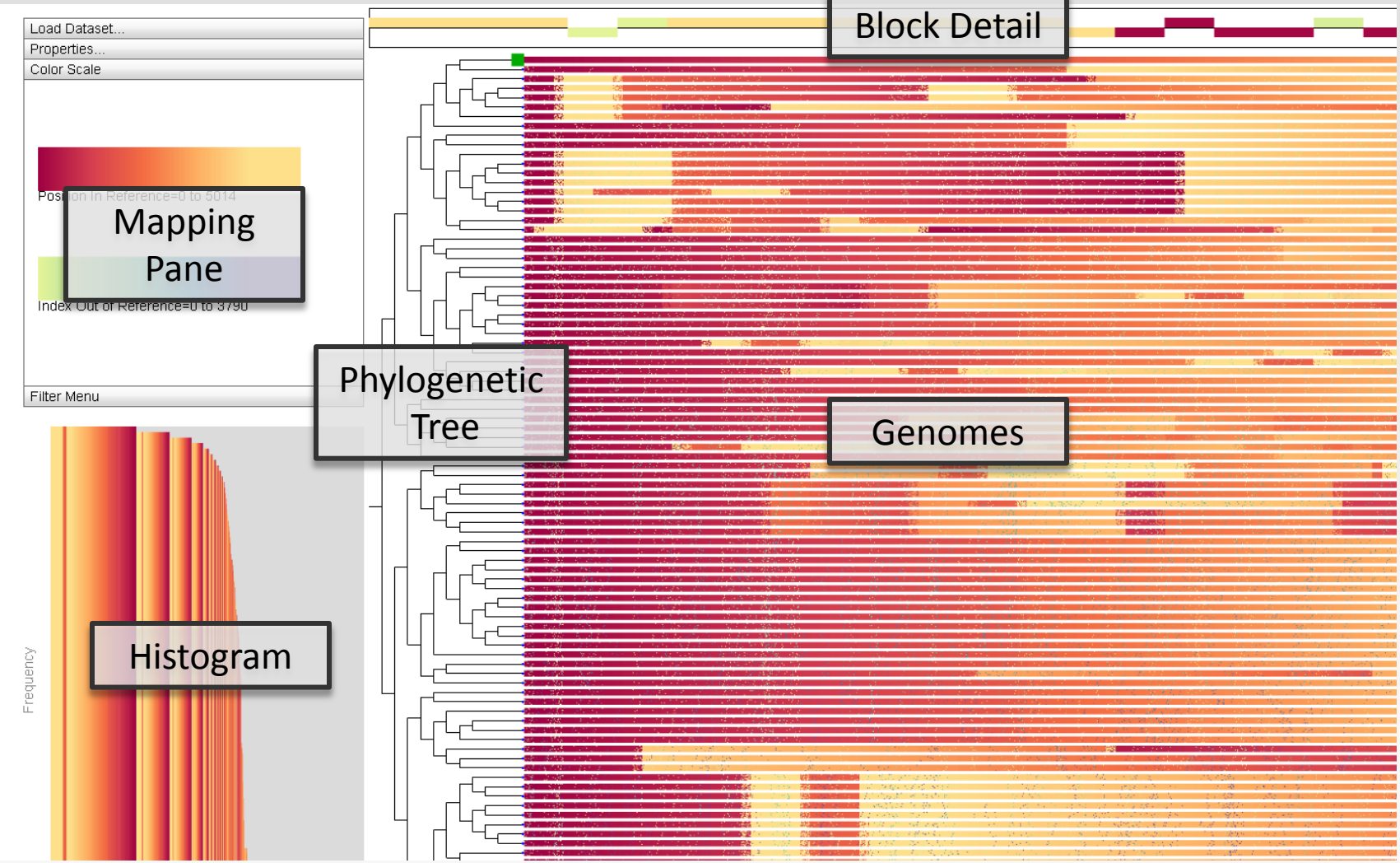
Design in Practice

Our Solution



Our Solution



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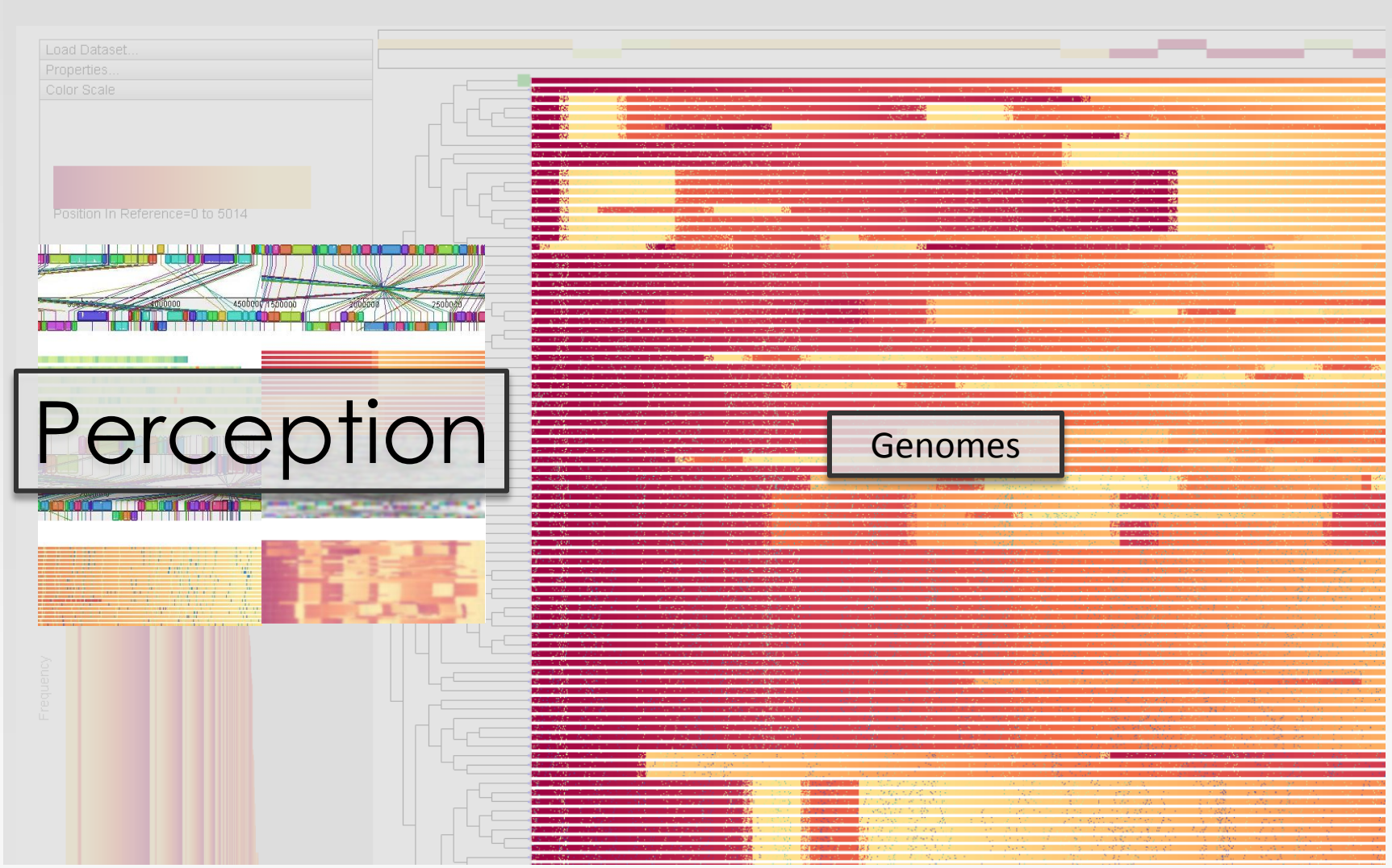
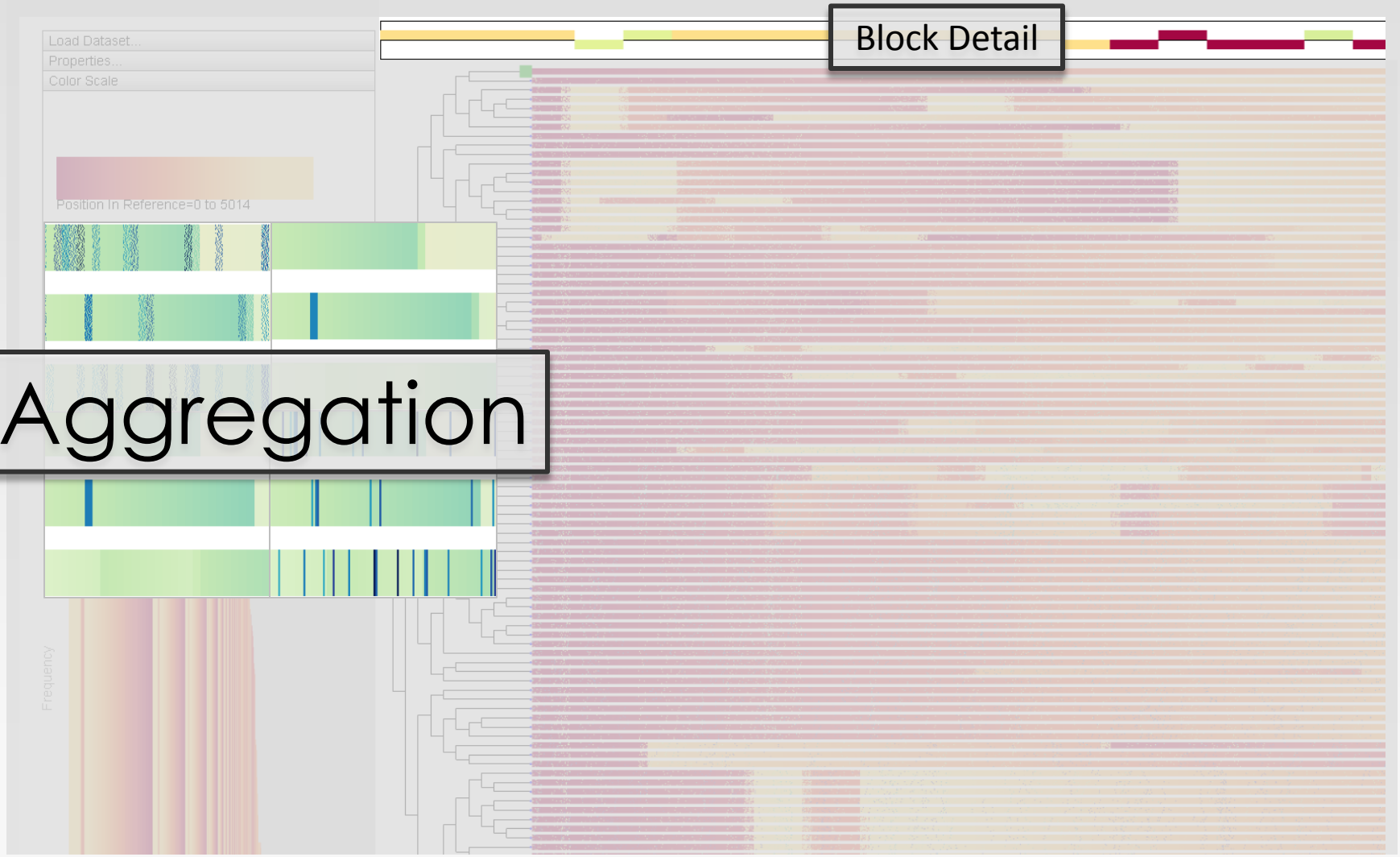


Our Solution



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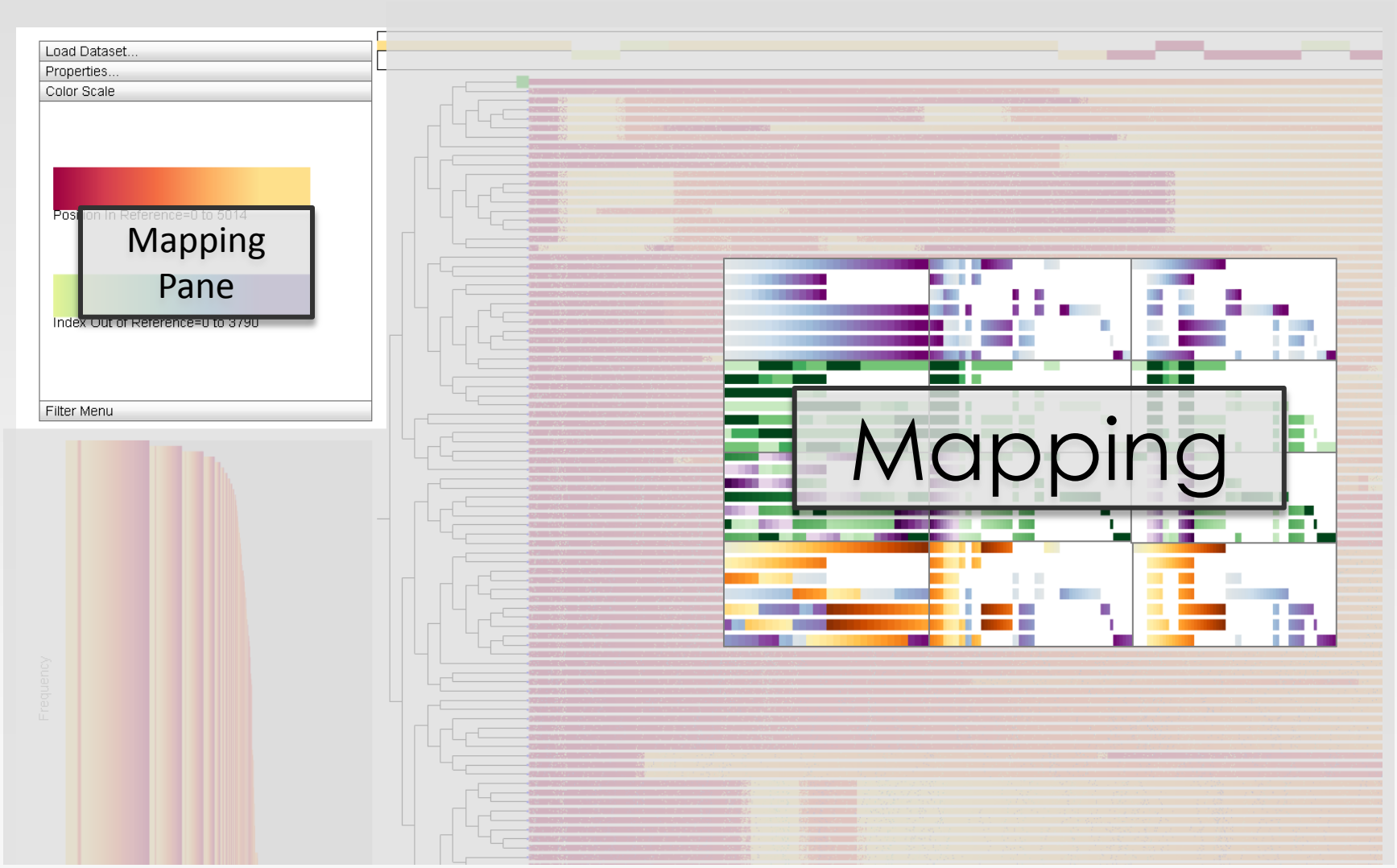

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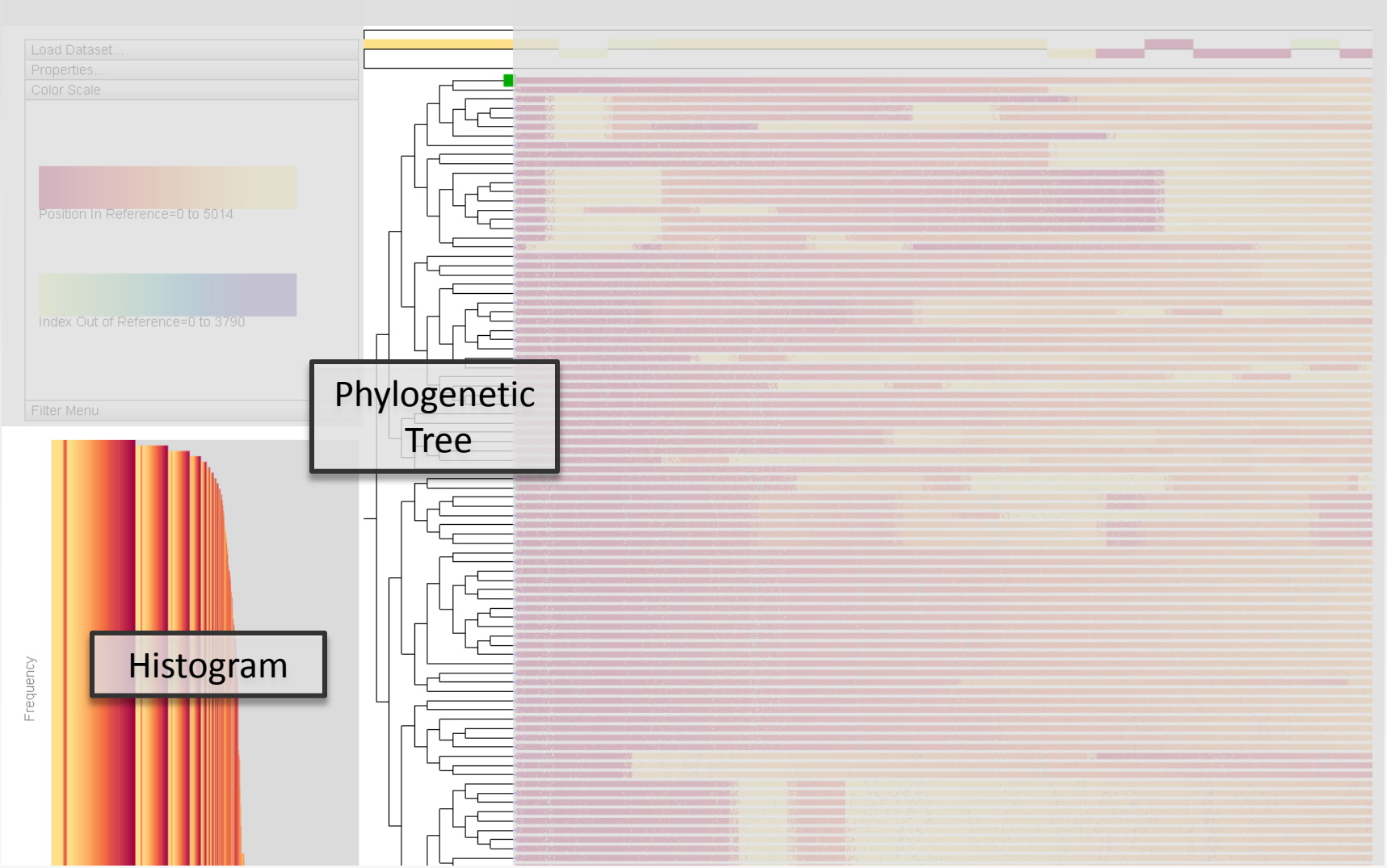

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Design in Practice

Perception

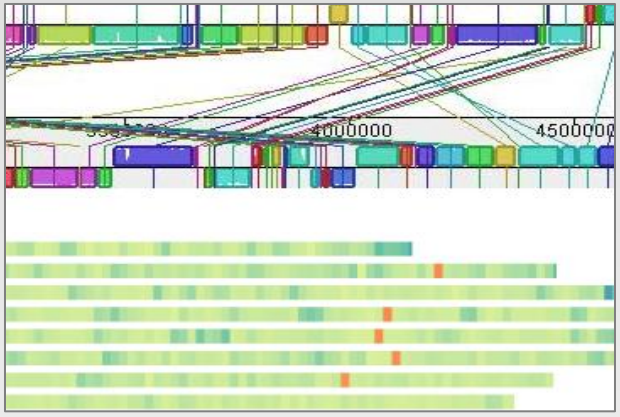
How the user processes dense data

Inform scalable design

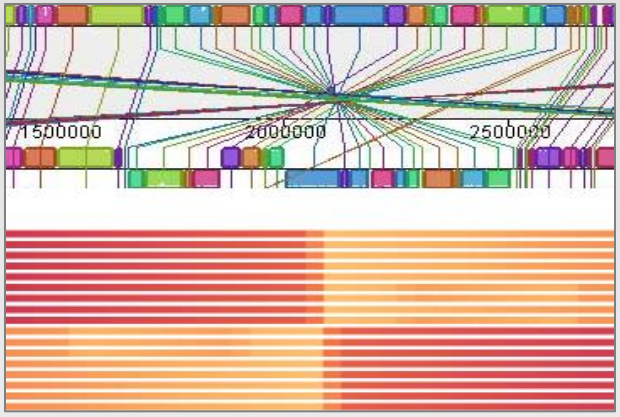
- Limitations of current designs
- Insight into future designs

Four principles

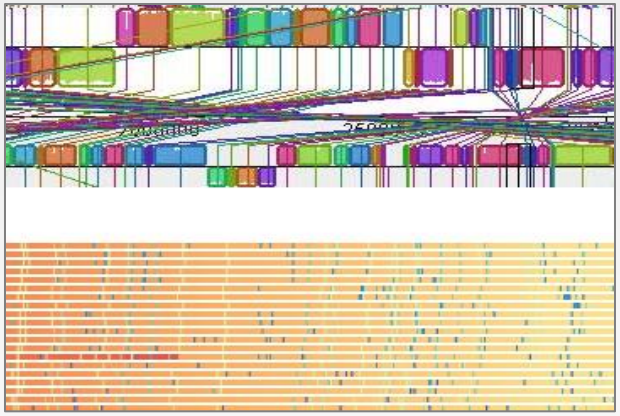
Perceptual Principles



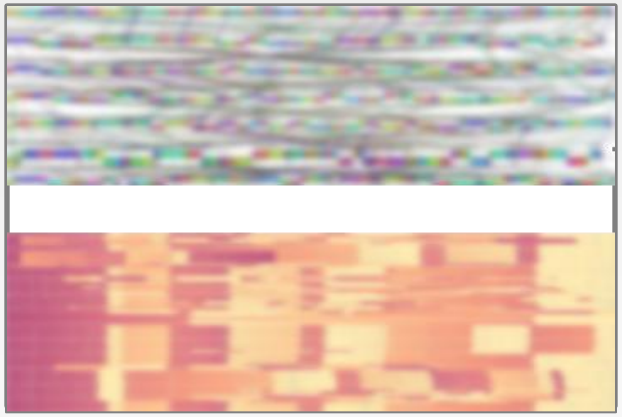
Pre-Attentive Phenomena



Visual Search

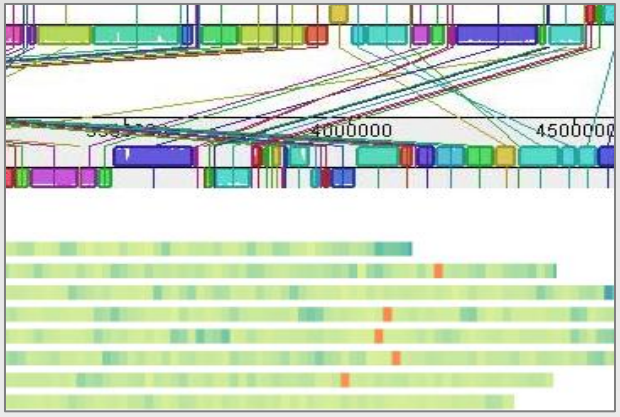


Visual Clutter



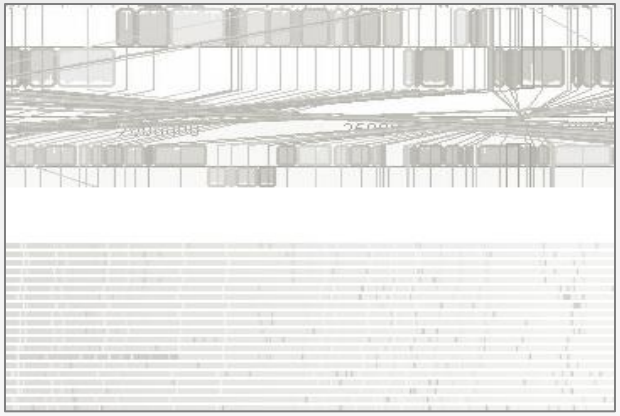
Summarization

Perceptual Principles



Pre-Attentive Phenomena

Visual Search



Visual Clutter

Summarization

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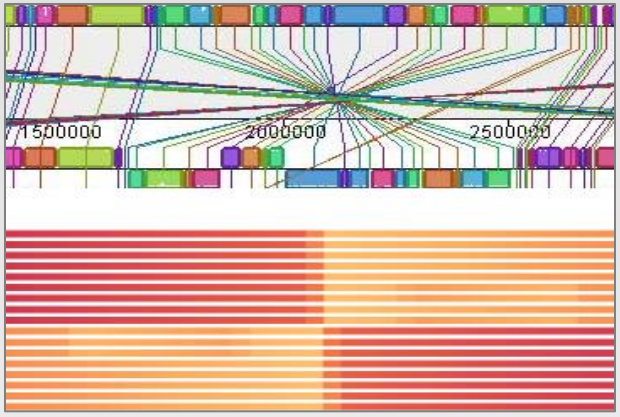

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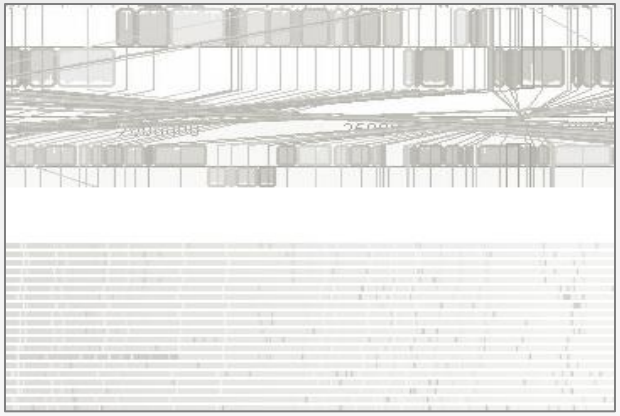

Visual Clutter

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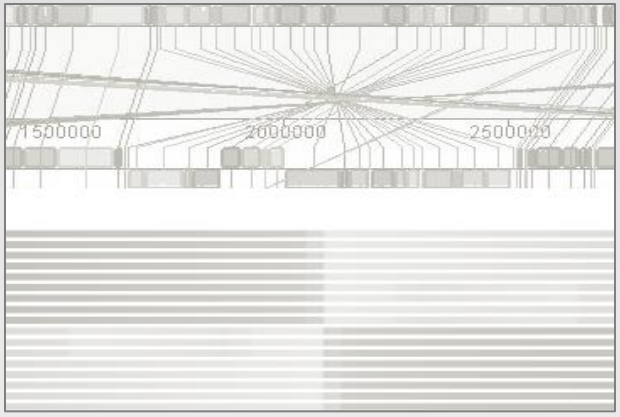
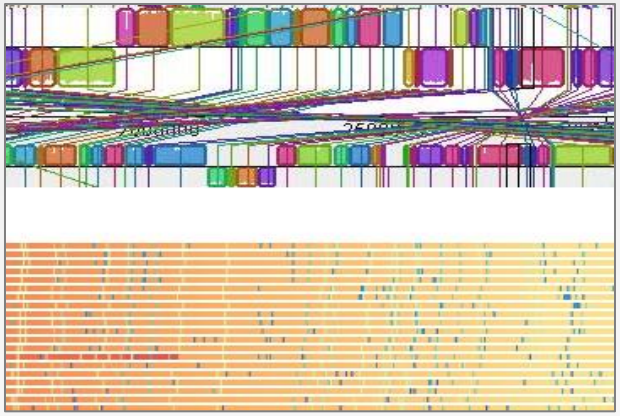


Visual Search

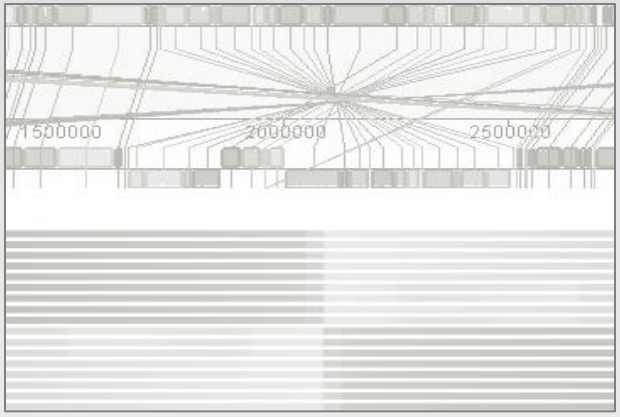


Visual Clutter

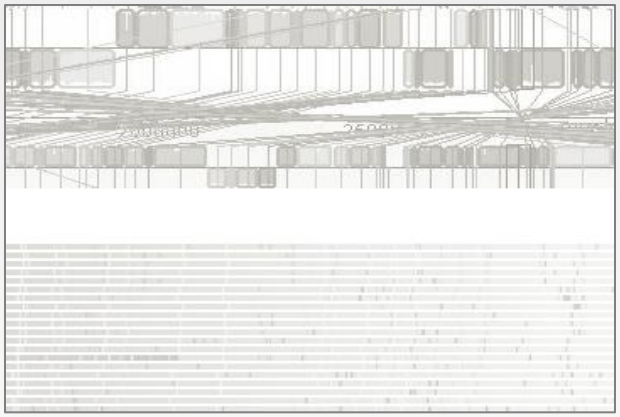
Summarization

Perceptual Principles

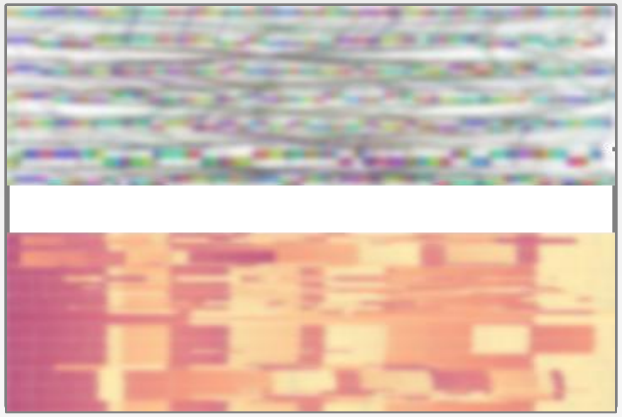
Pre-Attentive Phenomena



Visual Search



Visual Clutter



Summarization

Perception

Overview - Sacrifice detail for high-level comparison

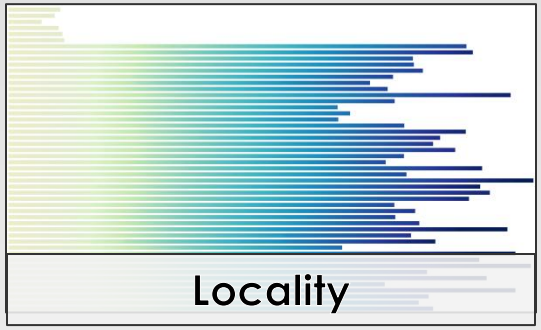
Colorfield - Emphasize visual structure

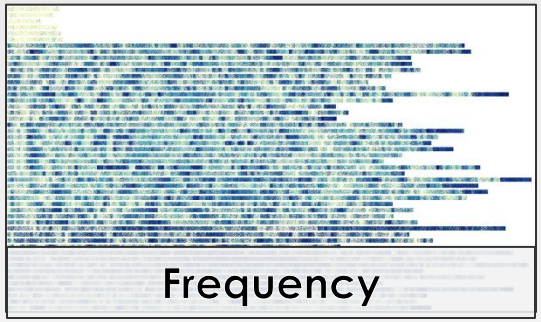
Mappings – Emphasize key details

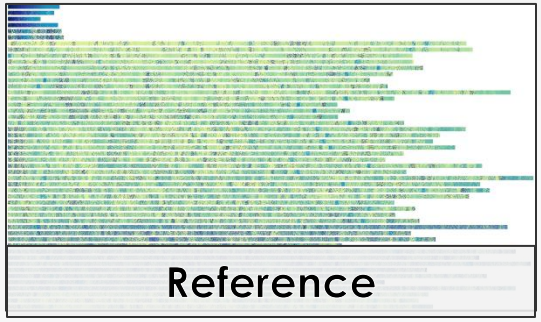
Aggregation – Do not overwhelm viewers

Mapping

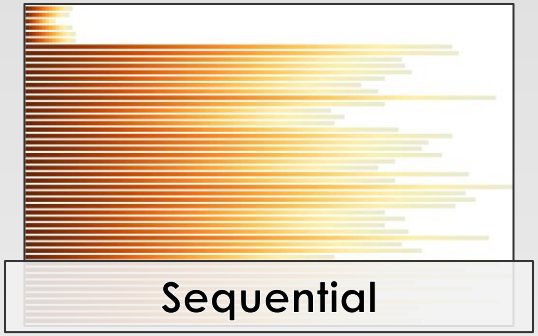
Color Mapping

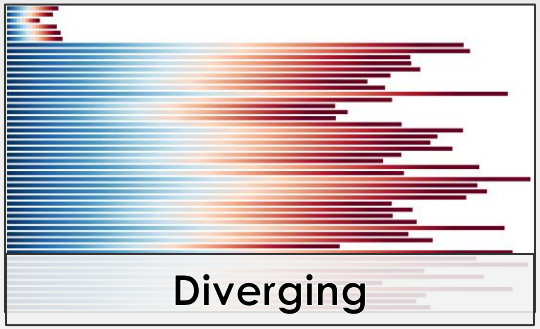


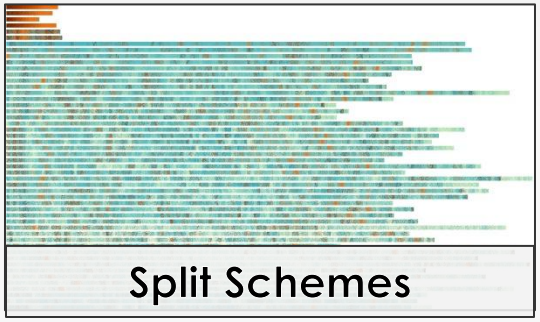




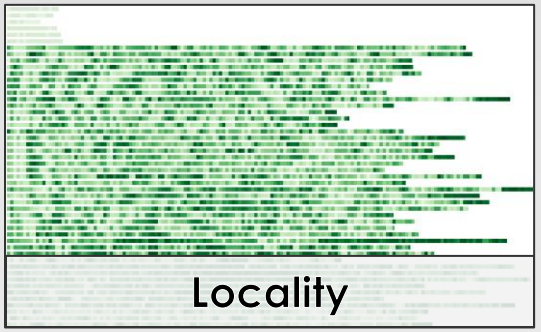
Color Schemes

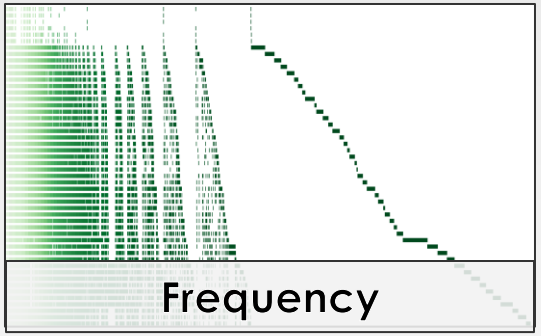


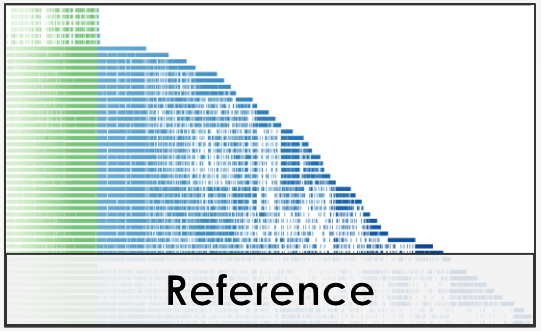




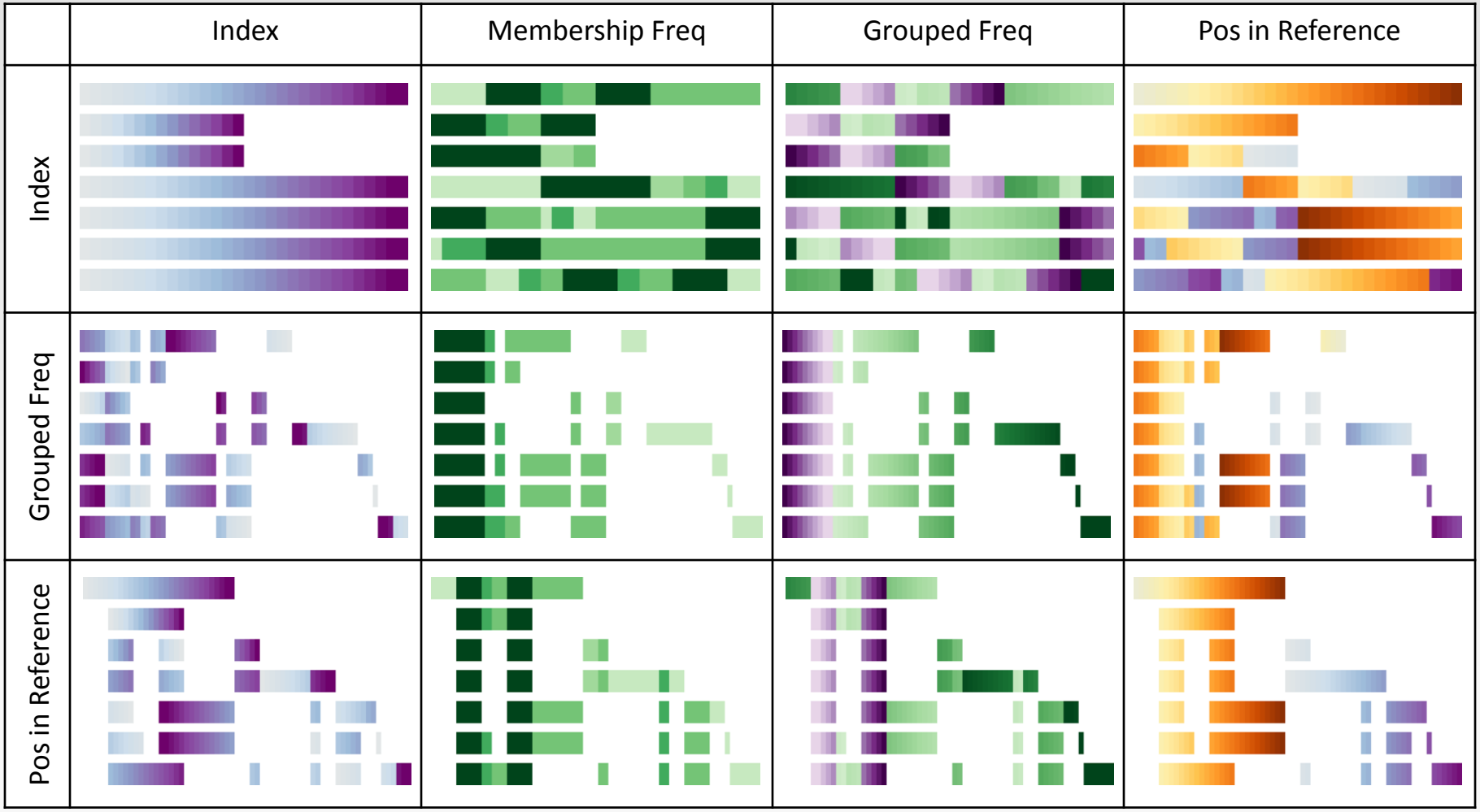
Position Mapping







Combinations of different color and position mappings reveal interesting trends in the data



Aggregation

Cannot show all the data at once

- Limited screen real estate
- Clutter

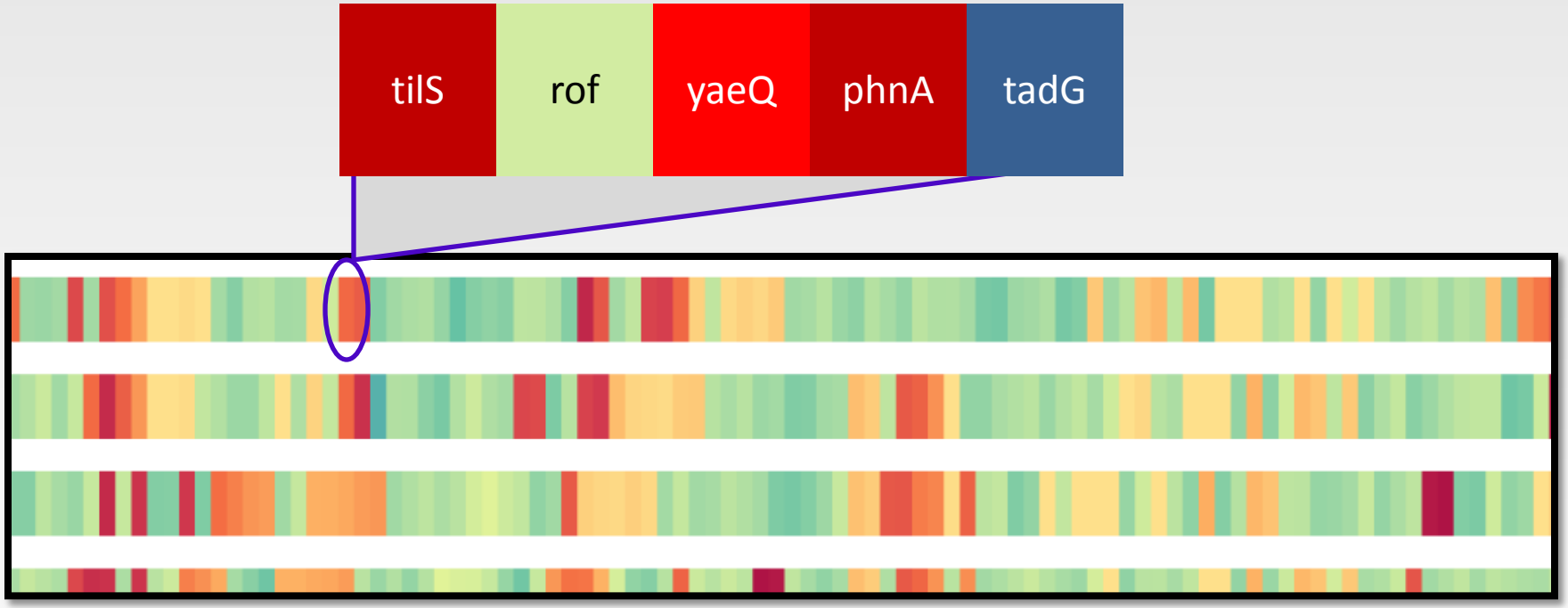
Blocking preserves local control

- Display gene neighborhoods as glyphs

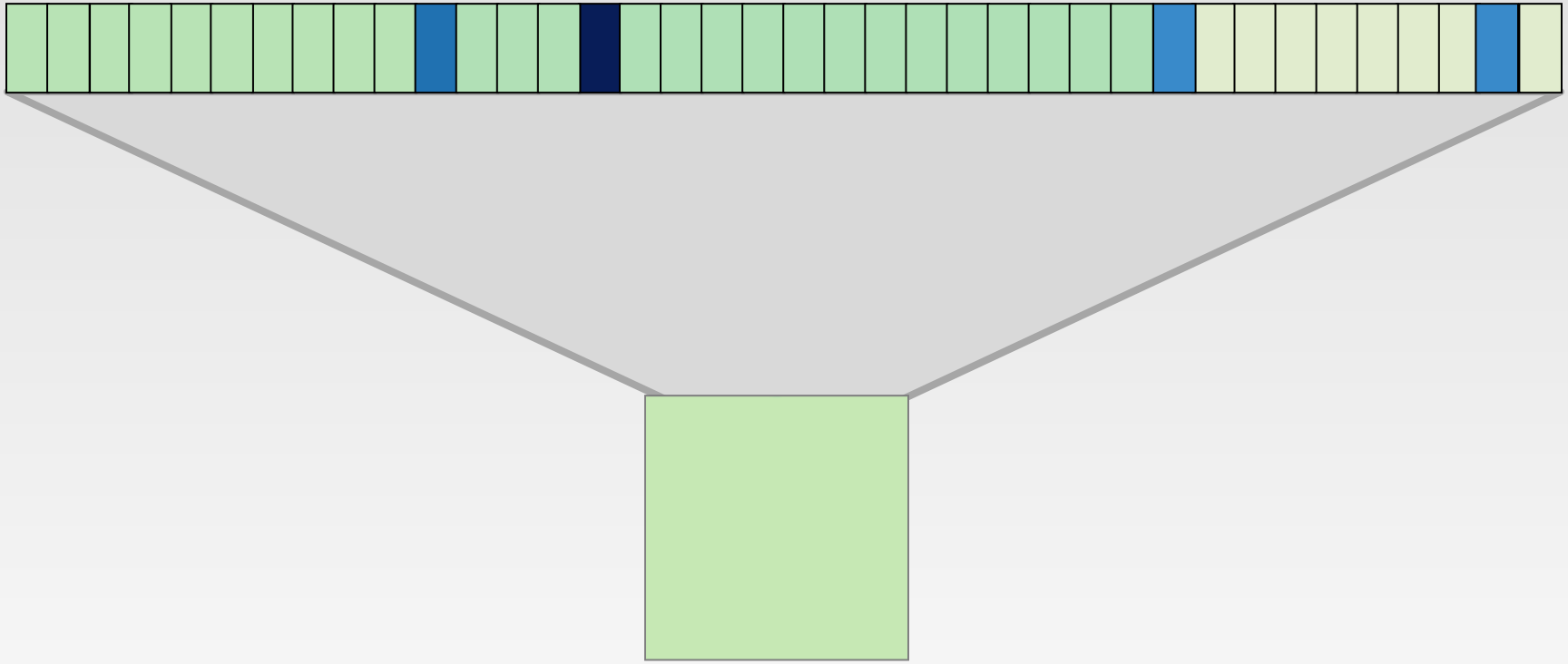
Four block encodings

Blocking

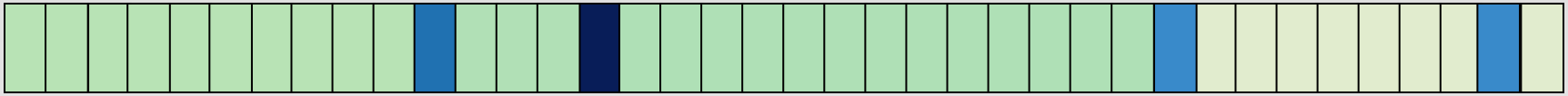
Group (relatively) continuous sets of neighboring genes into a single unit

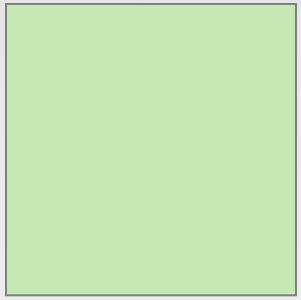


Aggregate Encodings

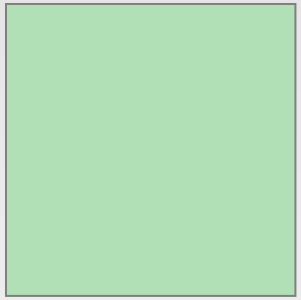


Aggregate Encodings

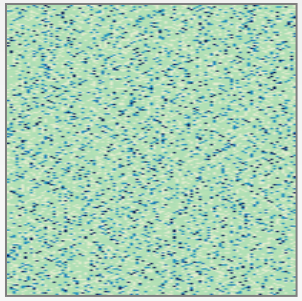




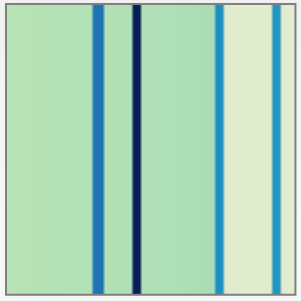
Average



Robust Average



Color Weaving



Event Striping

Interaction

Block Brushing: Highlight locations of block contents in overview, phylogeny, and histogram on mouse-over

Block Linking: Link locations of block contents in overview on click

Detail Notes: Details of genes in a block and matching genes of the set are presented in a separate window

Non-locality Zoom: Explore the contents of an aggregate block in the Block Detail Window on mouse-over

Zoom Lock: Fix the contents of a block in the zoom window to explore the distributions of specific genes

Zoomed Gene Brushing: Highlight locations of genes in overview, phylogeny, and histogram

Zoomed Gene Linking: Link locations of a set of matching genes in the overview

Manual Rearrangement: Drag-and-drop rearrangement of sequences and indicate branch crossings by opacity

Filtering: Highlight genes matching a set of names, id numbers, frequencies, genomes, or chromosomes

Load Filter: Load a filter set from a CSV

Save Filter: Save the current filter set to a CSV

Histogram Brushing: Highlight the locations of genes in a region of the frequency distribution in the overview and phylogenetic tree by mouse-over

Load Tree: Load different trees and arrangements from a tree file

Save Tree: Save the current tree structure and sequence arrangement to a tree file

Outline

The Data Domain

Sequence Surveyor

Design in Theory

- Perception
- Mapping
- Aggregation

Design in Practice

Use Cases

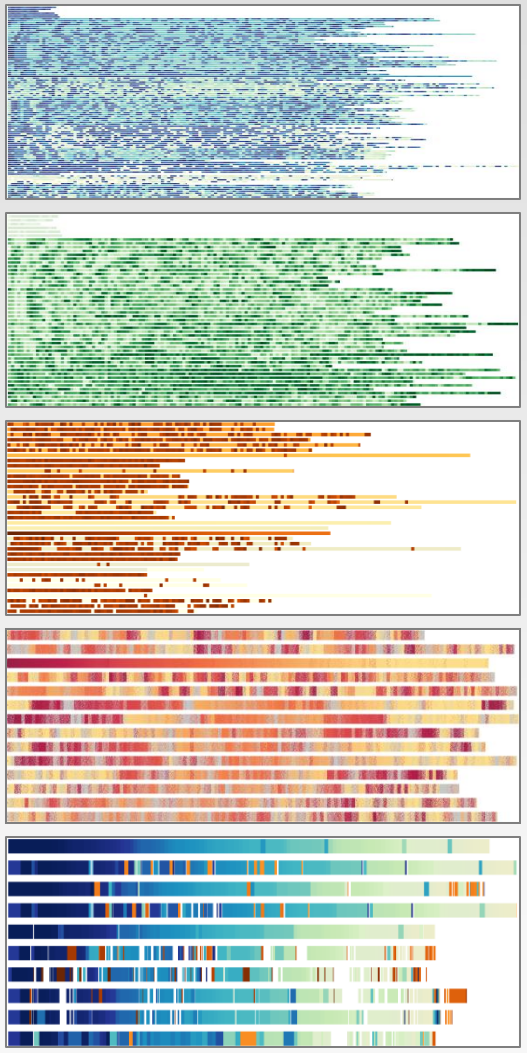
100 Bacteria
6,000 genes

50 Bacteria
5,000 genes

35 Fungi
17,000 genes

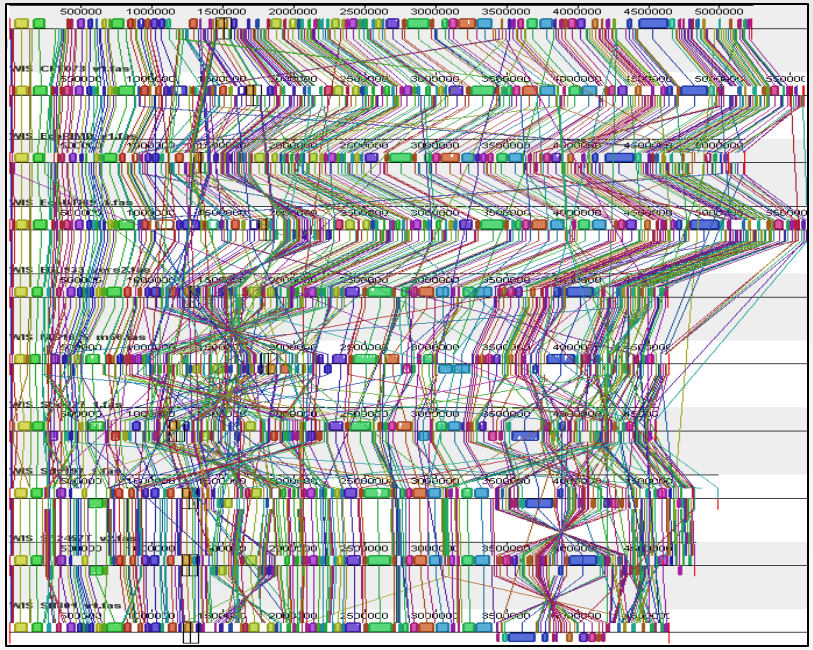
14 Pathogens
4,000 genes

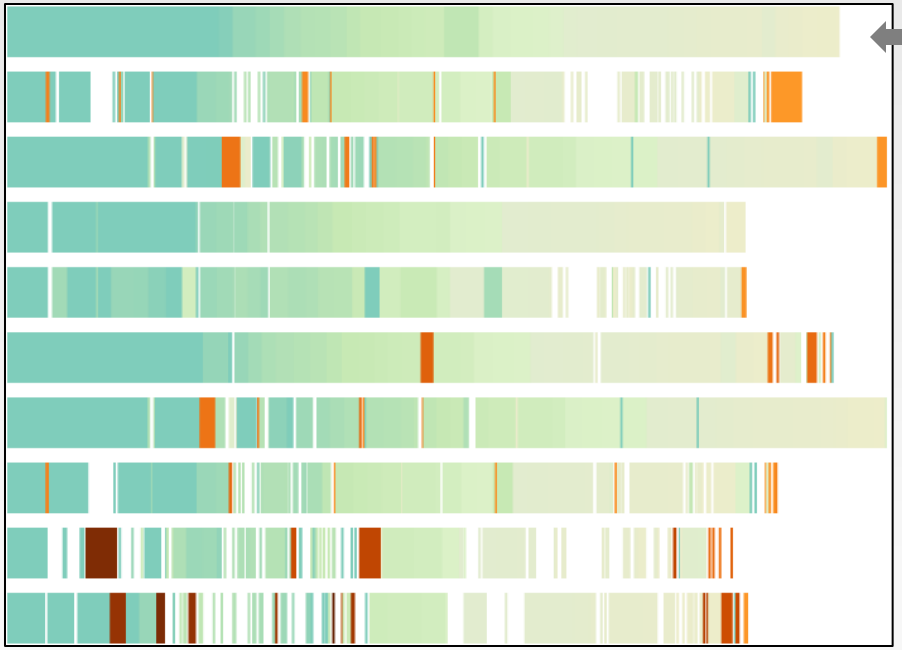
8 partial *E. coli* sequences
300 genes



Parallels

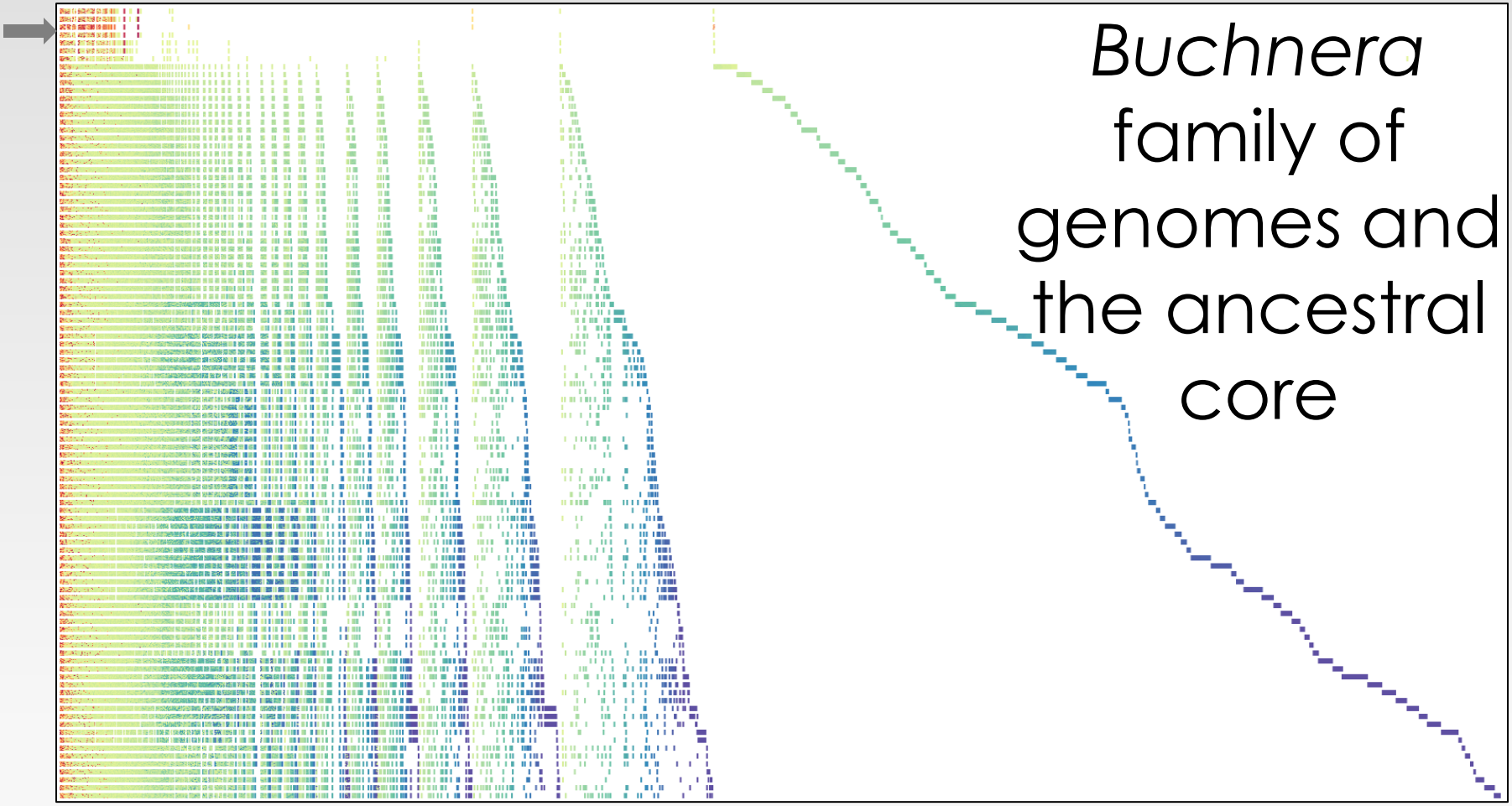
Can use Sequence Surveyor to obtain information presented in existing tools at scale.





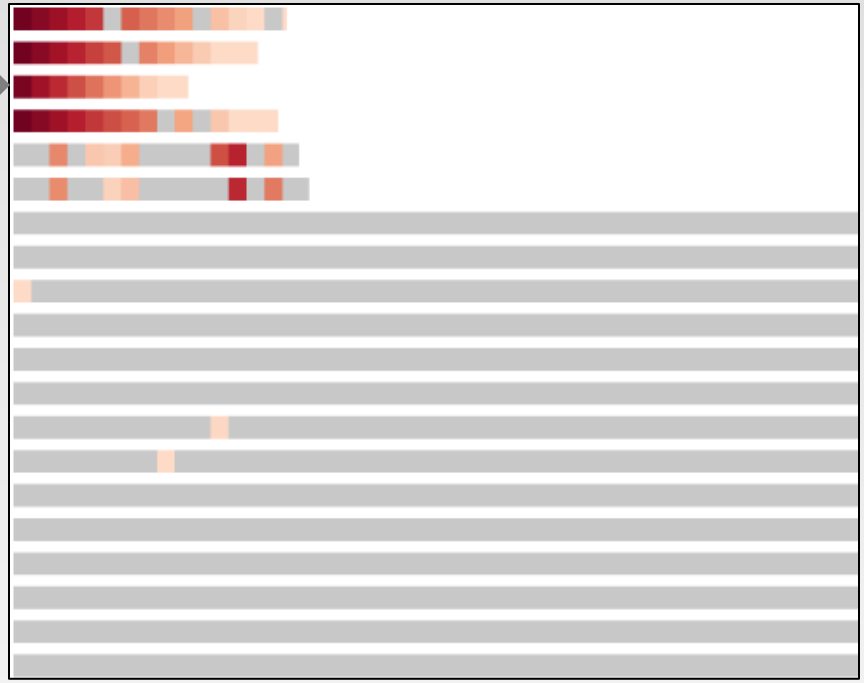
Mauve: Color by position in reference (arrow), order by start position

Anecdotes: *Buchnera*



Color by position in reference (arrow), order by set of genomes containing each gene

Anecdotes: *Buchnera*



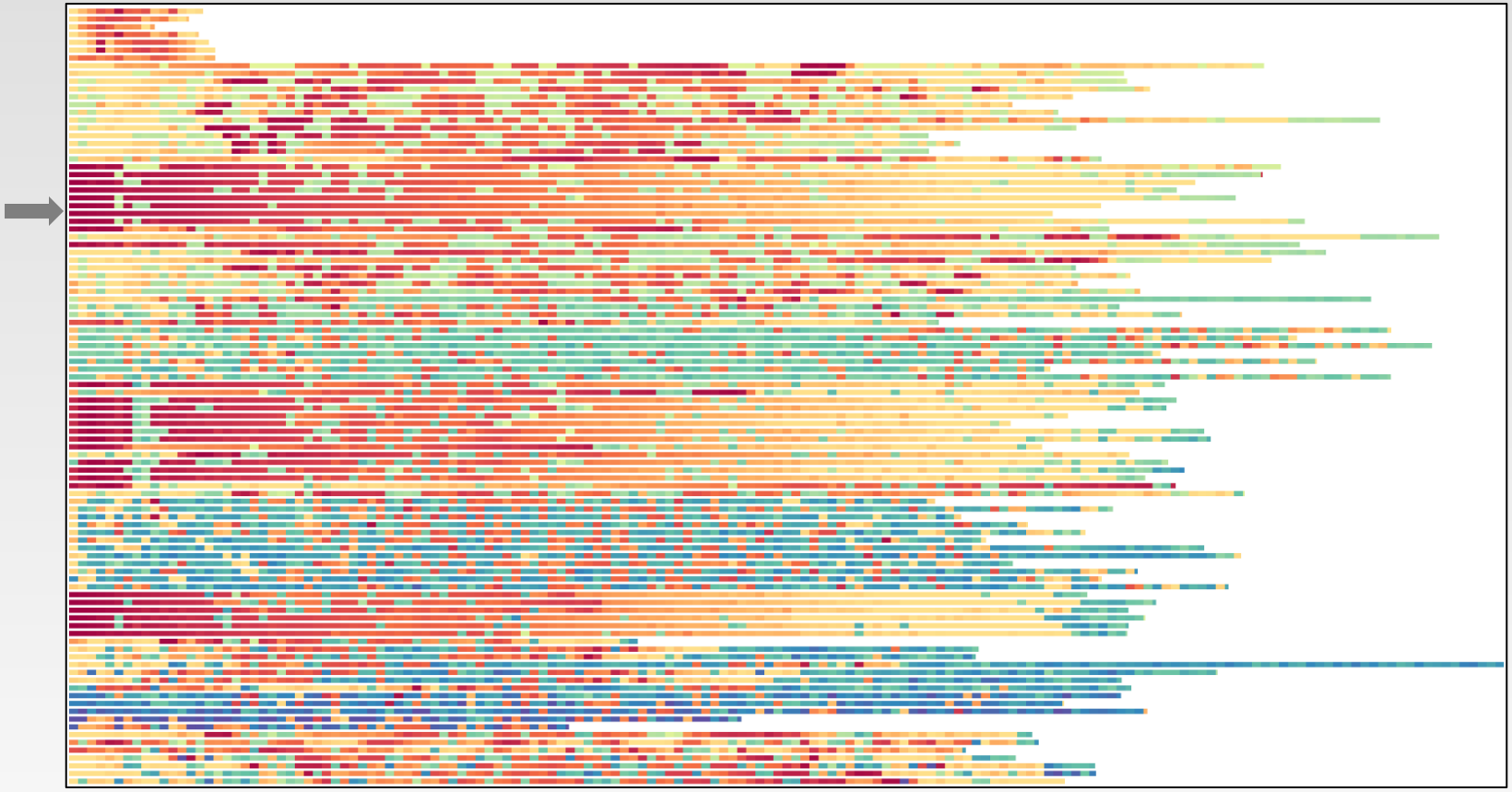
Averaging:

No significant trend

Color Weaving:

Overall distribution

Anecdotes: *E. Coli*



Conservation relationships between different families of genomes

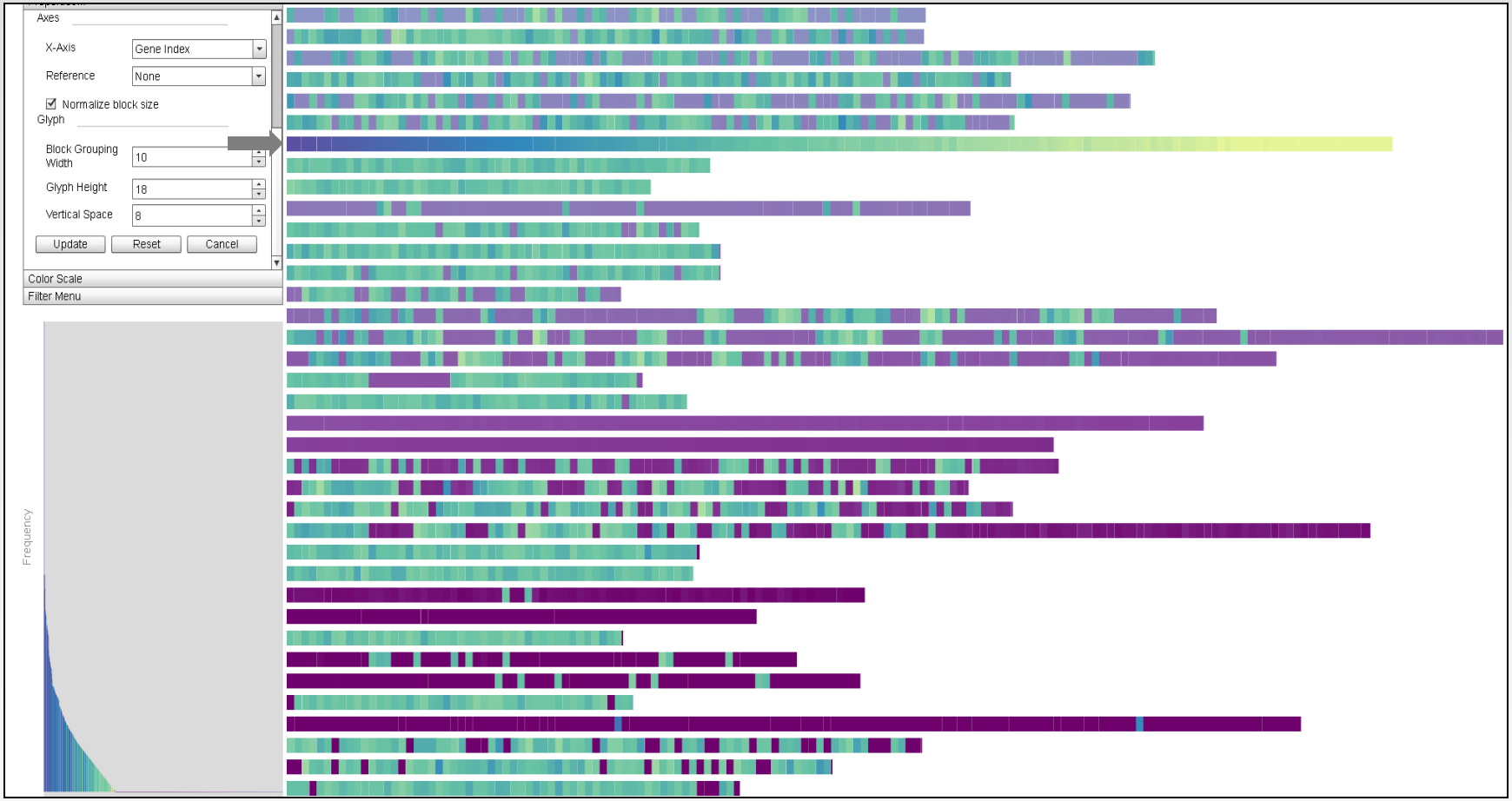
Color by position in reference (arrow), order by relative ordering

Anecdotes: Fungi

Bioinformatics applications allow users to test algorithms using visual checks

Color by overall frequency, order by relative ordering

Anecdotes: Fungi



Bioinformatics applications allow users to test algorithms using visual checks

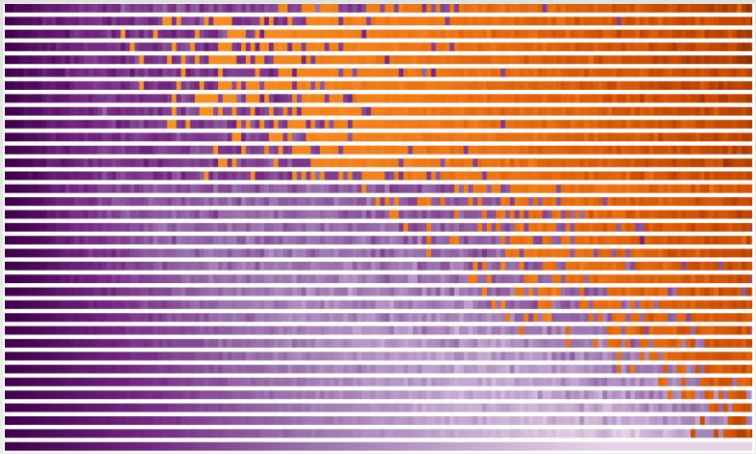
Color by position in a reference, order by relative ordering

Extensions

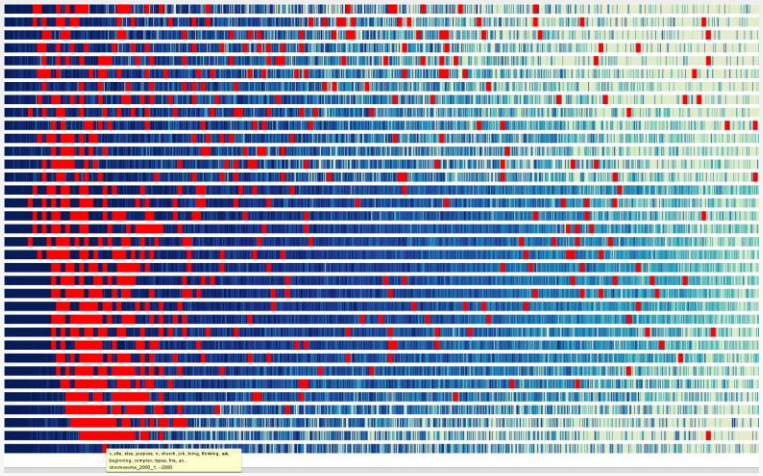
Proteins and nucleotide MSA

Any data with an orthology and ordered sets

Google N-Grams



Top 5,000 most popular words since 1660



Distribution of a word set in 2000 across time

Summary

Scalable whole genome alignment overview

Perception informs design

User-controlled mapping scales across queries

Aggregation filters data

Extends beyond the immediate biology

Acknowledgements

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Availability

Prototype and sample data package (coming soon):
http://graphics.cs.wisc.edu/Vis/SequenceSurveyor/

dalbers@cs.wisc.edu