

Chad Sanderson



I've worked as an Experimentation Product Manager at some of the world's biggest companies, both in and outside of technology.

- 2x Junior Olympian
- Co-produced a reality TV show
- Eppo Advisor!
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chad-sanderson/>



The logo consists of the word "CONVOY" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

CONVOY

Experimentation @ Scale

Convoy

Founded in 2015

World's first digital freight brokerage

\$400M Series D

~1000 employees

~50,000 active carriers per month

Experimentation is a core part of business - Founded by Amazon employees!

Conducted an evaluation of multiple 3rd party experimentation tools in 2018



*Existing Experimentation Platforms cater to a very specific type of customer:
Extremely high-traffic websites using exclusively clickstream events.*

~~How can we run A/B Tests?~~ **How can we measure important things?**

Experimentation Challenges

Use Cases

Convoy is a ML based B2B Marketplace with Small customer volume on both sides.

Problem:

Convoy wants to be able to measure changes inside and outside the product

What we needed:

The ability to assign various entities into the experiment and analyze impacts:

- *Modifications to pricing algorithm*
- *Randomizing on geographies*
- *Measuring Ops Efficiency*

Experimentation Challenges

Use Cases



Small sample size, two-sided B2B marketplace (~50K Carriers, ~1k shippers)

ML-centric. Many changes to pricing models targeting non-user based entities (Shipments)

Ops Efficiency is a major improvement vector. Requires offline analysis and manual intervention



Many product surfaces (Office, Bing, Teams, Xbox, Store) with huge sample size

ML-centric in some cases (Bing) Product in others (Xbox) and Marketing in others (Store). Wide variety of entity types

Safety was a core priority! Experimentation was used to determine if things were breaking



Small sample size online, massive sample size in brick-and-mortar locations

No Machine Learning at all. 100% driven by marketing use cases: promotions, upsells, and loyalty

The main focus was finding the most effective selling messaging for deals and optimizing in-store behavior

Experimentation Challenges

Metrics

Convoy is a ML based B2B Marketplace with Small customer volume on both sides.

Problem:

Convoy's primary success metrics are financial and growth based.

What we needed:

The ability to create metrics based on Data Warehouse queries:

- *Margin*
- *Variable Cost per Shipment*
- *Price relative to the market*

Experimentation Challenges

Metrics



Carrier Experience: Bid Intents, Batching Frequency, On Time Pick Up, On Time Delivery, Total Moving Minutes

Shipments: Total Margin, Variable Cost per shipment, Completed shipments, Layover time, Detention

Shipper Experience: Inbound Emails, Shipper Quotes, Inbound Calls, Escalations



Bing: Ads Clicked, Result Relevance, Ad Revenue Generated, Search Result Latency

Office: Documents Saved, Documents Created, Documented Continued, Application Crashes, Edit Frequency

Store: Number of Web Conversions, Website Registration, Purchase Volume



Marketing: App/Website Accounts Created, Revenue, Purchase Frequency, Loyalty Sign-Up

In-Store: Menu Mix per Store, Revenue by Region, Foot traffic, Variable cost per store

Experimentation Challenges

Organization

Convoy is a ML based B2B Marketplace with Small customer volume on both sides.

Problem:

Product Strategy and Career Growth depends on experiment outcomes, which necessitates high trustworthiness.

What we needed:

Self-serve experiment deployment and analysis at scale, which validated methods for all product and non-product teams.

- *Product Teams*
- *Ops Organizations*
- *Marketing and Sales*

Experimentation Challenges

Organization



Convoy has an extremely high data-specialist to software engineer ratio due to the analytical complexity of freight

Data scientists needed the tools to move quickly, independently, and uniformly to run experiments

Quarterly business results were driven by experimentation outcomes. This required trustworthy results



Microsoft has many product organizations at different stages of science maturity

A central experimentation team was required to educate, onboard, and serve as a customer-success division for less mature organizations

Some teams wholly adopted experimentation, but others saw it as a barrier to product development



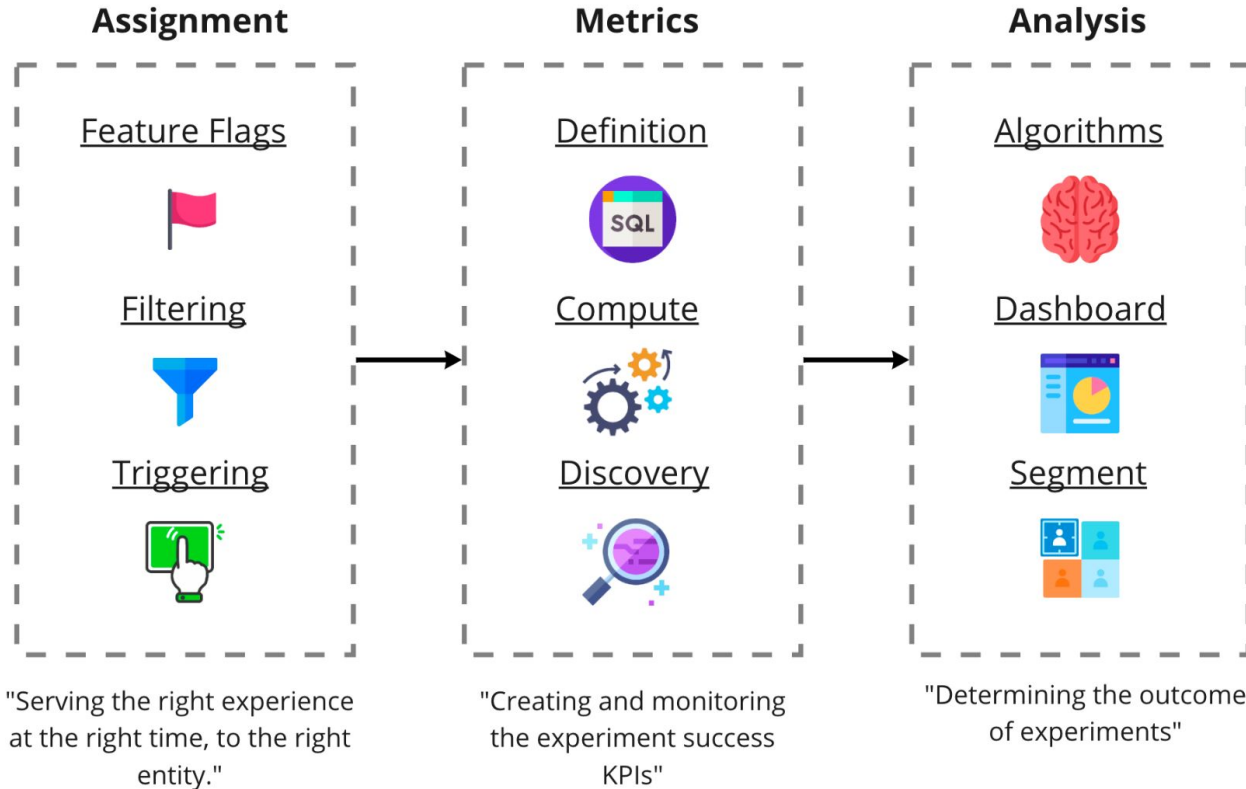
Experimentation was introduced to Subway as a marketing strategy and was highly leveraged by the web/app teams

Had almost no data scientists working in product, most concentrated on in-store analytics

A central CRO team designed, developed, and analyzed all experiments.

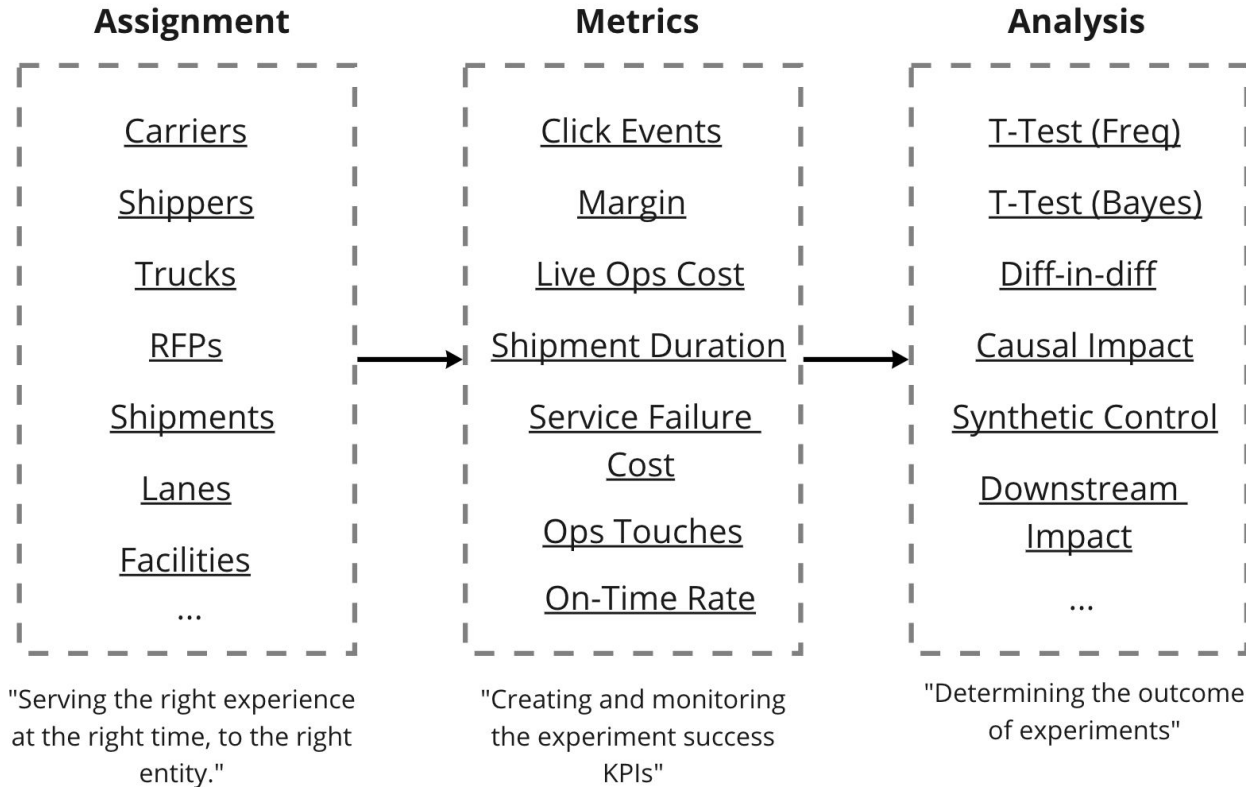
Product Needs

An Ideal Stack



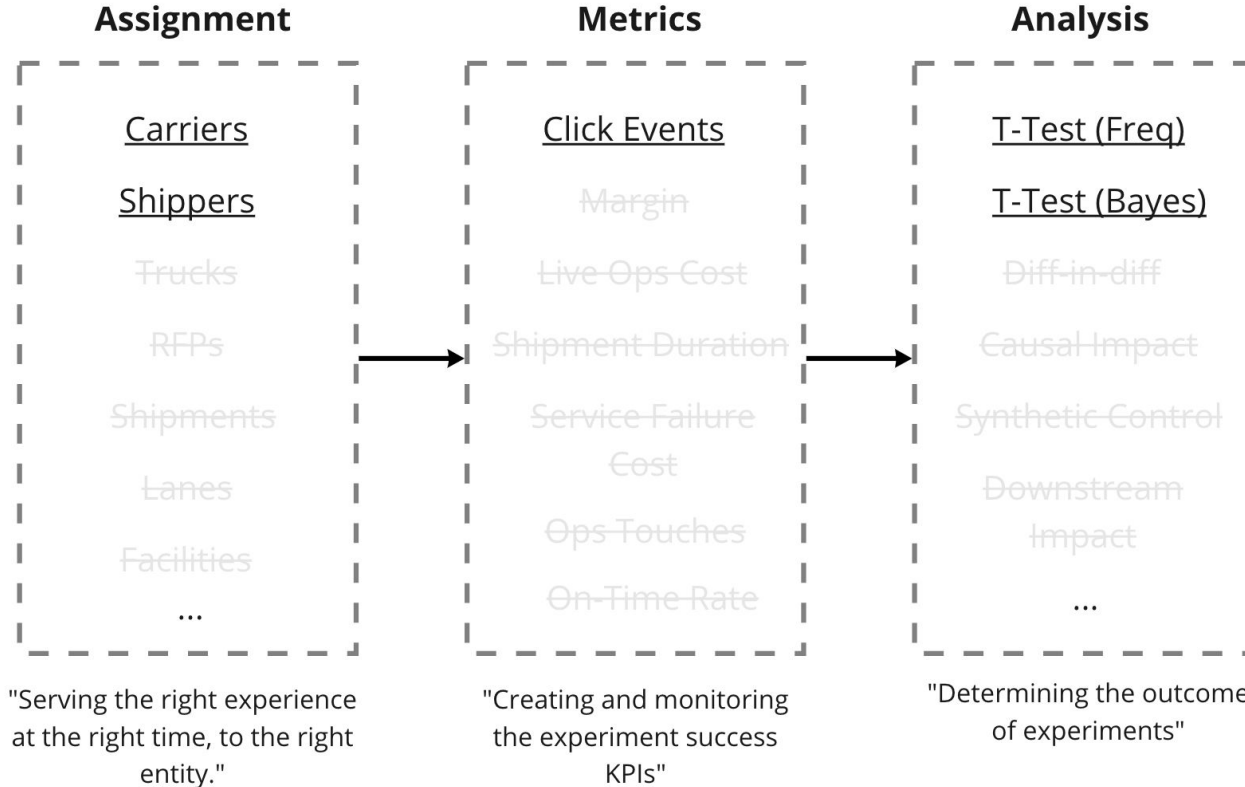
Product Needs

An Ideal Stack



Product Needs

What Current 3rd Party Tools Provide (Clickstream Events & User Randomization)





Problem:

What we observed was only the tip of the 'use case iceberg.' Existing platforms would not satisfy these requirements.

What we needed:

A flexible platform that let us randomize on any entity, use any query as a metric, and perform any analysis we wanted



The Solution

Time to build it! *(4 Engineers x Years of features and hard learnings)*

What we needed:

A flexible platform that let us randomize on any entity, use any query as a metric, and perform any analysis we wanted

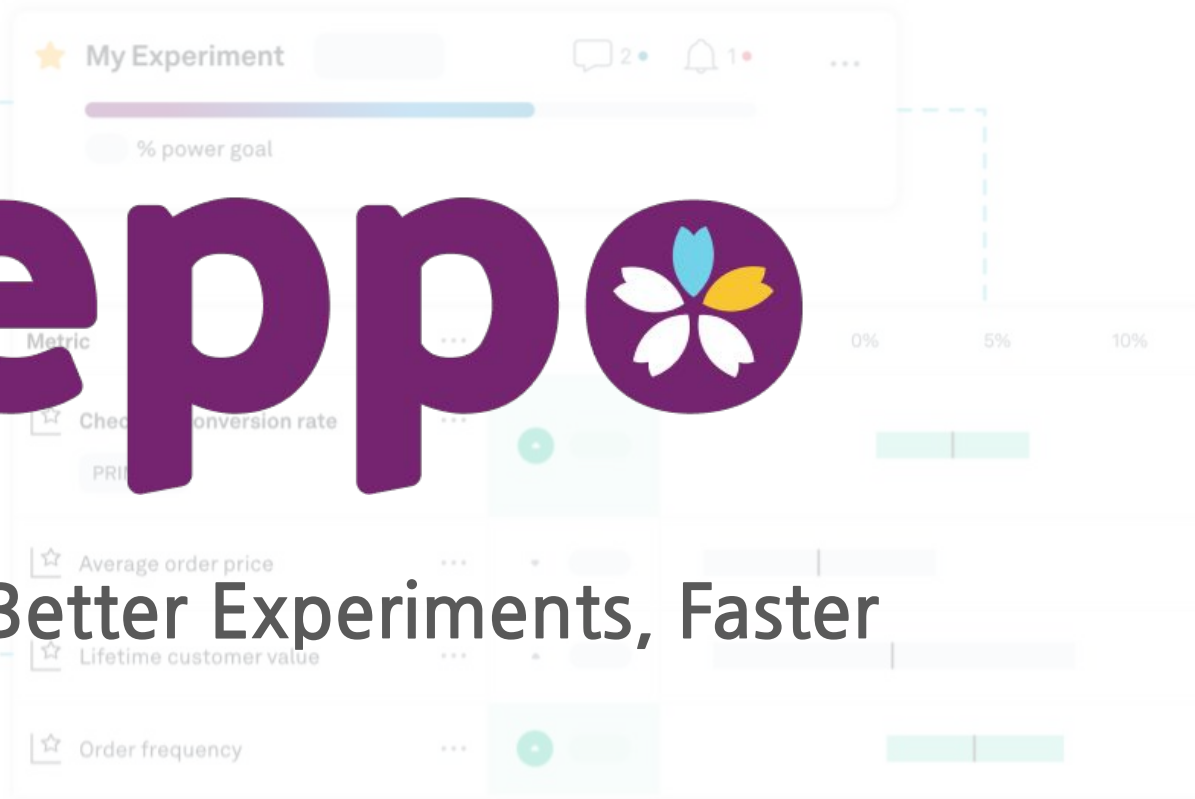
*Structure your experimentation system around **use cases and business needs**.*

Don't just follow the crowd! Limiting your use cases by selecting the wrong tool can severely impact the value and adoption of experimentation.

eppo

```
SELECT
  user_id
  ,timestamp
  ,cost
FROM orders
WHERE status = 'purchased'
```

Run Better Experiments, Faster



01

TEAM

Leadership

Chetan Sharma

Chief Executive Officer

- 4th data scientist at Airbnb
- Data scientist at Webflow, Next Trucking
- Consulted at many growth stage companies



Carlin Eng

Head of Data Engineering

- Sales Engineer at Snowflake
- Head of Data Engineering at Strava
- Stanford Alumnus (BA Economics; MS Statistics)



02 EXPERIMENTATION

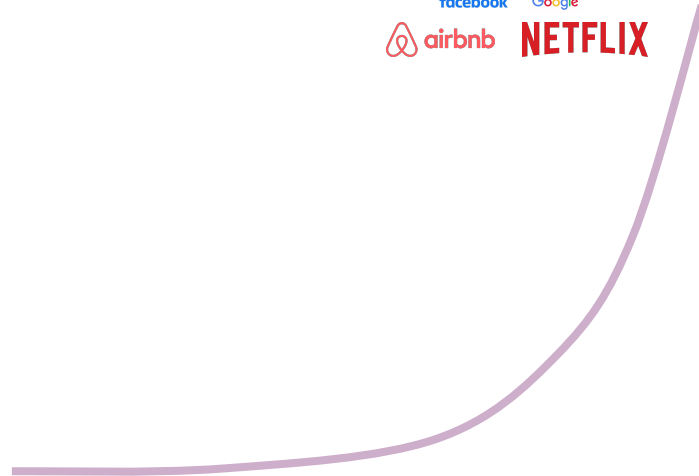
Then & Now

Experimentation used to be only at mega tech companies

Technology



Companies



02

EXPERIMENTATION

Then & Now

Now, companies run experiments early and often

Technology



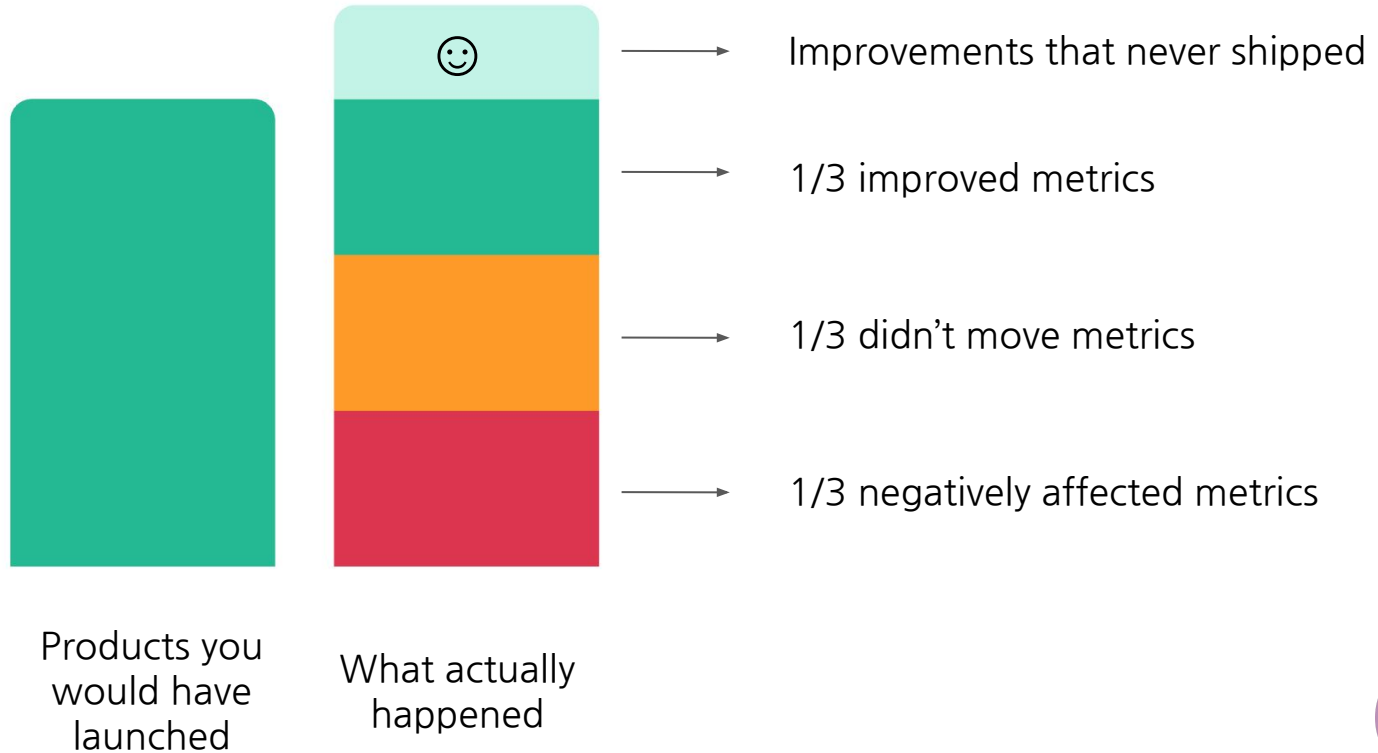
Companies



02

EXPERIMENTATION

Why Conduct Experiments?

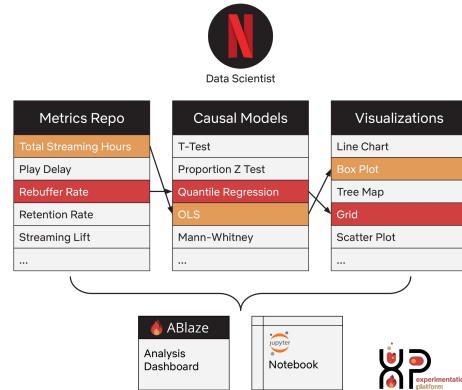
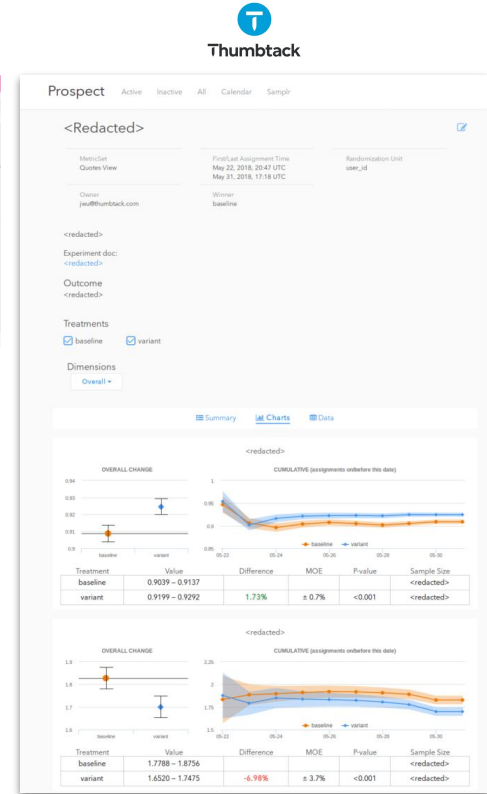
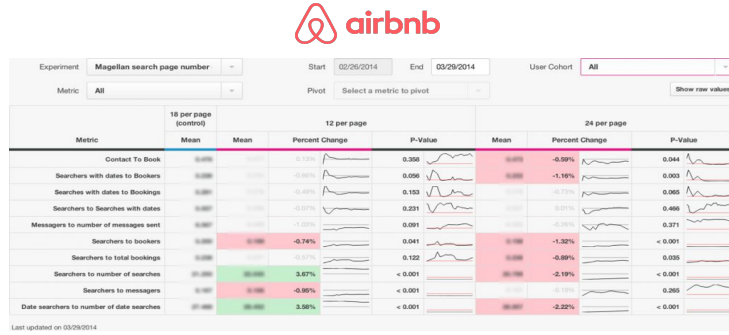


02

EXPERIMENTATION Experimentation Culture



Experiment culture requires dedicated applications.



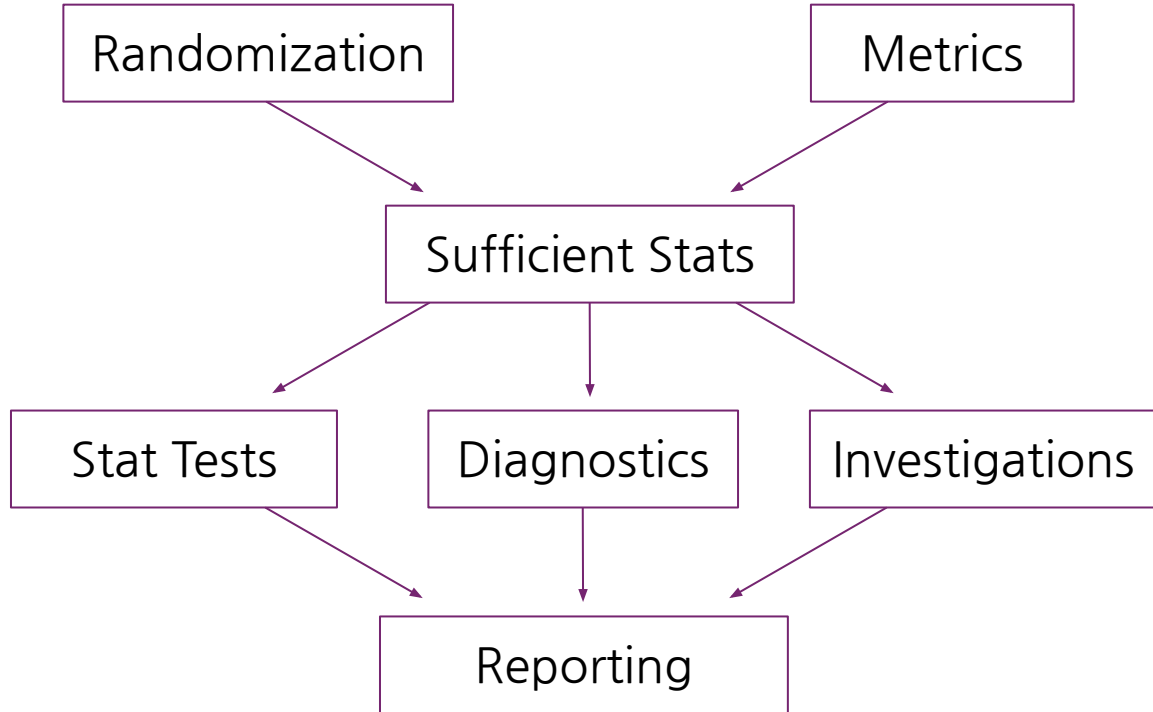
03

ARCHITECTURE

Building Blocks of Experimentation



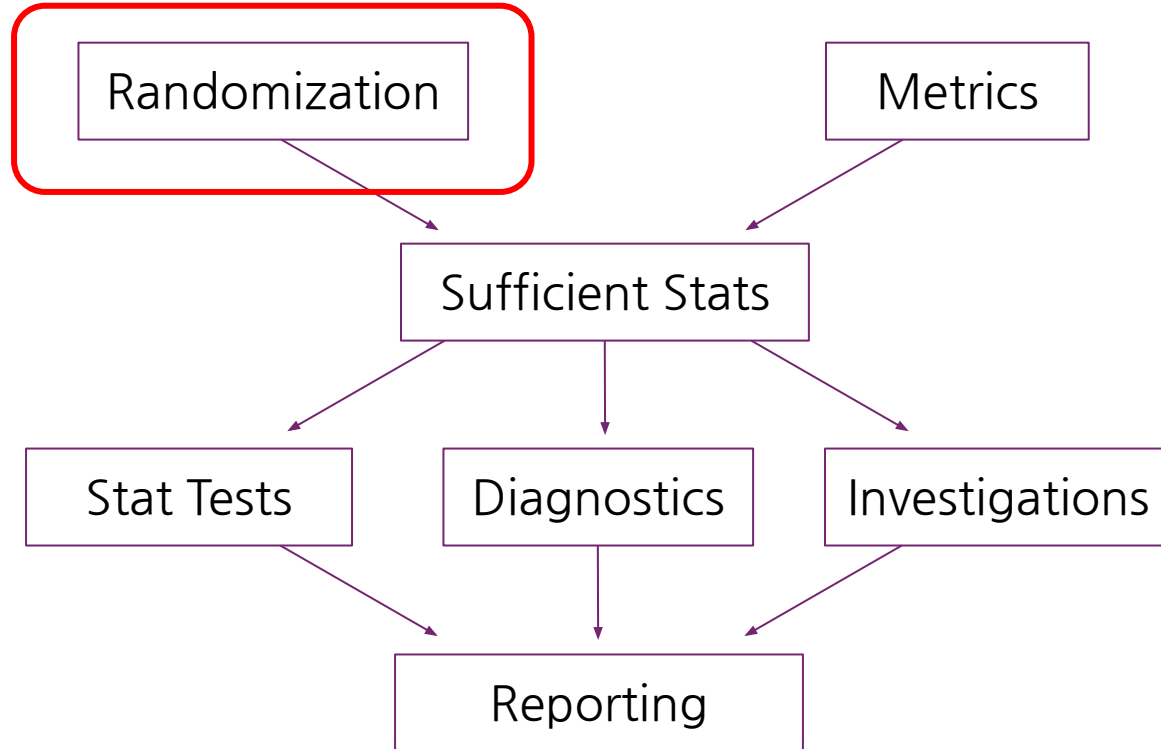
Every experimentation system has the same architecture.



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Randomization / Assignments



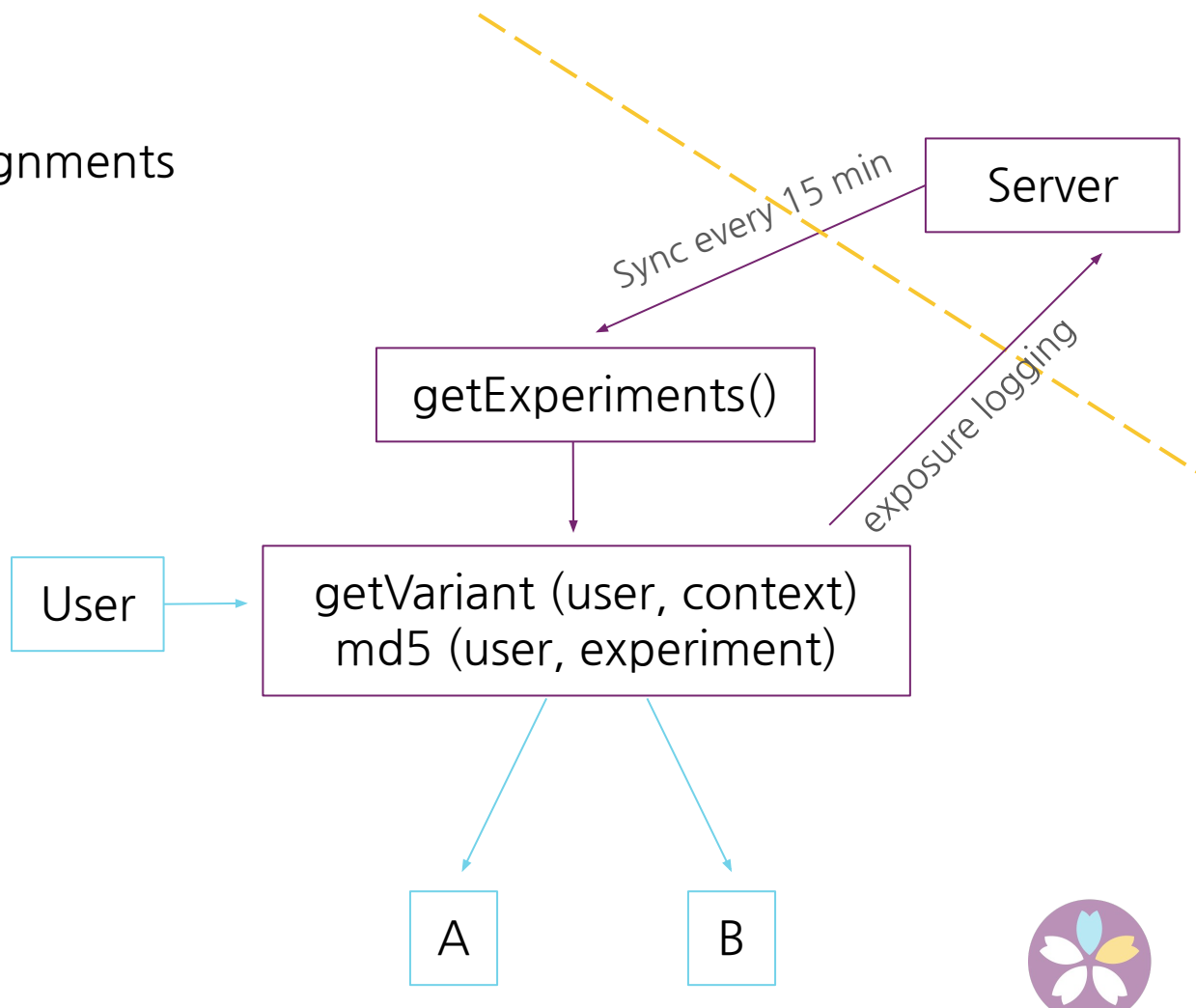
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ARCHITECTURE

Randomization / Assignments

Pro Tip #1:

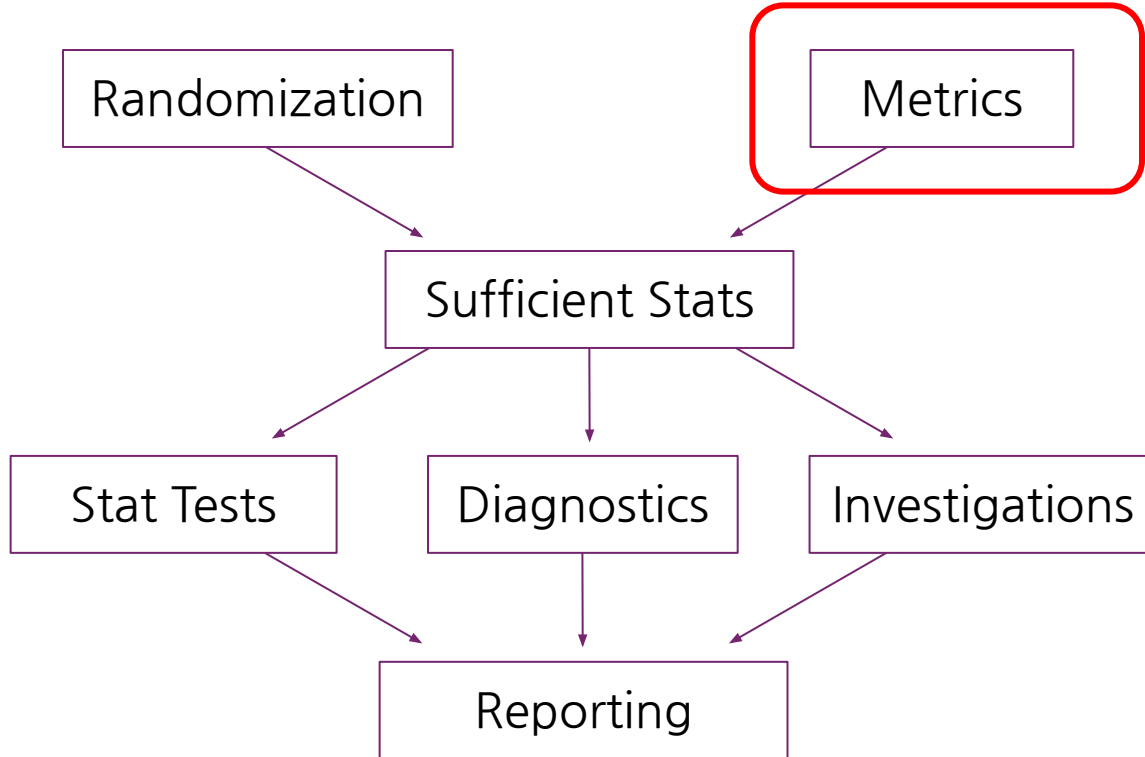
Use md5() hashes for assignment



03

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Metrics



03

ARCHITECTURE

Metrics



Use metrics that matter!

The biggest gap between Airbnb / Netflix/et al. and commercial tools is how easily you can use **business metrics**.

Business Metrics

- Revenue, Activation, Purchases
- What the CFO reads
- From databases, Stripe, multiple POS

Shallow Metrics

- Signups, “conversions”
- “Directionally accurate”
- From event streams

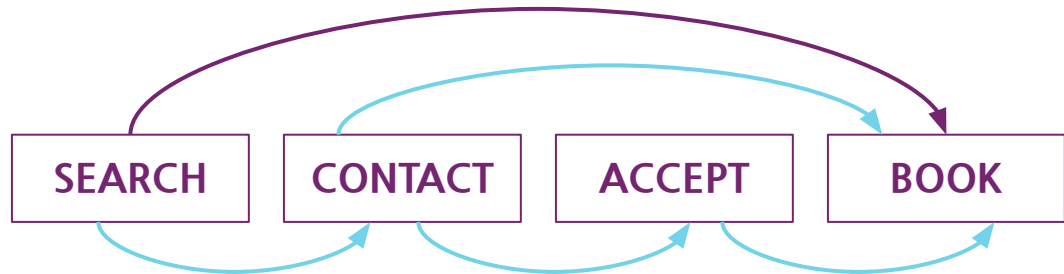
03

ARCHITECTURE Metrics



It's common to inflect one part of the funnel, move another down

Metric	Δ	p
Search to Book	-0.31%	0.37
Search to Contact	-1.29%	0.04
Contact to Book	0.99%	0.06
Contact to Accept	1.58%	0.00
Accept to Book	-0.58%	0.11



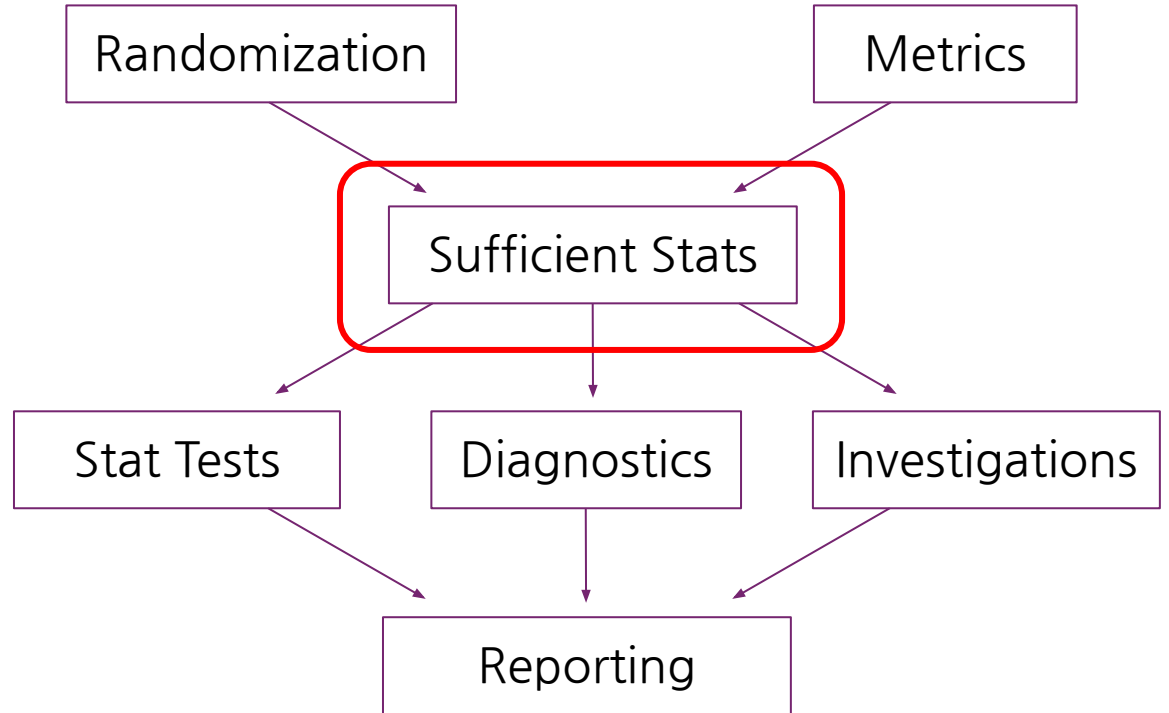
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ARCHITECTURE Sufficient Statistics



Sufficient Statistics

Aka the data aggregations that feed into the stats

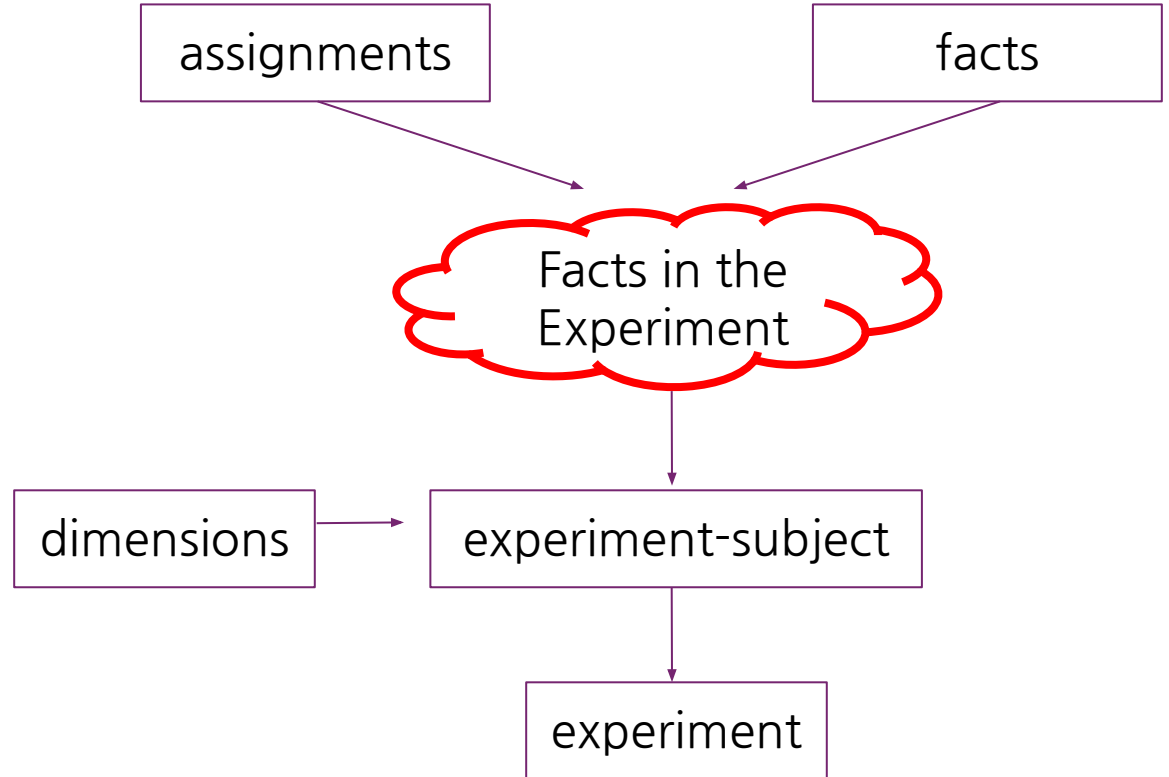


03

ARCHITECTURE Sufficient Statistics

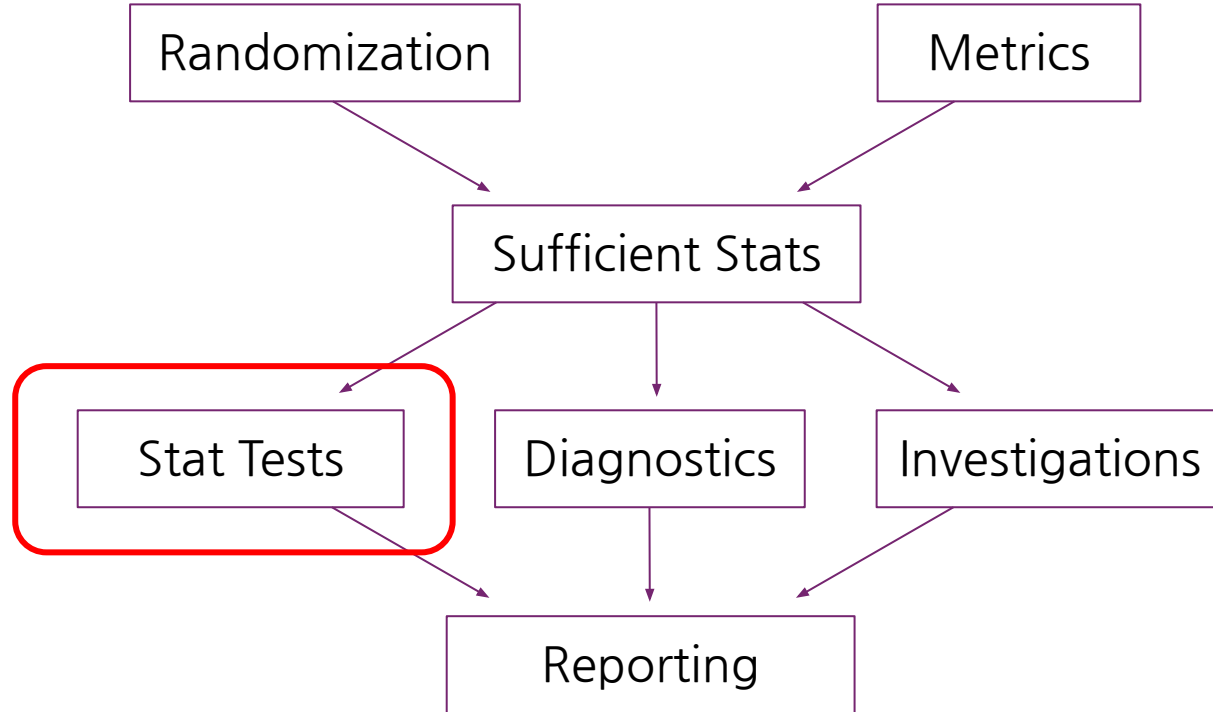


Experiment
Data Pipelines:
One big JOIN and
some GROUP BYs



03

ARCHITECTURE Statistical Tests



03

ARCHITECTURE

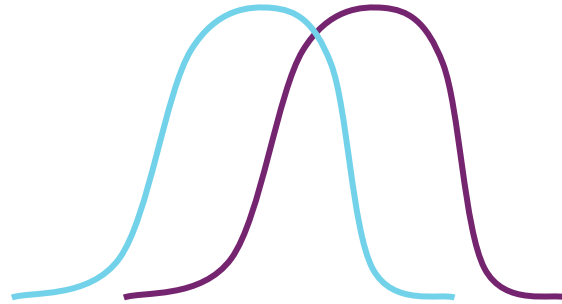
Statistical Tests



Just run a t- test,
.....right?



statistics



$$\frac{\hat{\mu}_1 - \hat{\mu}_2}{\sigma_{1,2}}$$






03

ARCHITECTURE Statistical Tests



Simple statistical tests stress the organization.

When using t-tests, you need to:

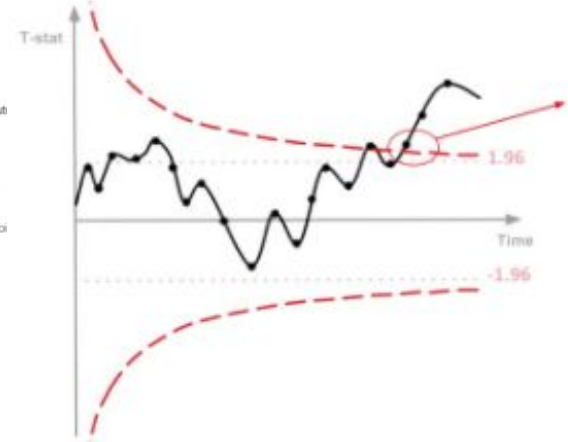
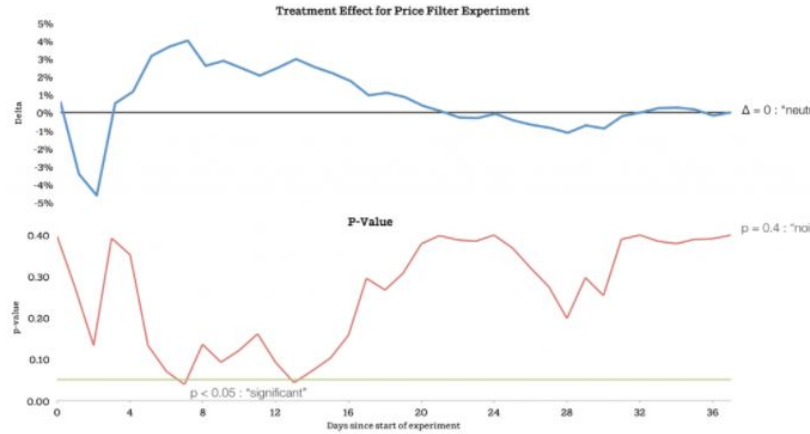
-  Not look at the results until it's done
-  Not test multiple variants without a statistical correction
-  Not have outliers / power laws
-  Only use `sum()`, `count()`
-  Not use ratios, `time_to()`

03

ARCHITECTURE Statistical Tests



Sequential testing prevents people from cheating



03

ARCHITECTURE Statistical Tests

CUPED
speeds up
experiments



Goal:

Improve # happy meals purchased

Insight:

We can predict whether someone will purchase a happy meal

...are they a family?

...have they purchased a happy meal recently?



03

ARCHITECTURE

Statistical Tests



CUPED is just
OLS, controlling
for prior history

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta X_i + \varepsilon_i$$

Y = # of happy meals in experiment window

Beta1 = # of children in group

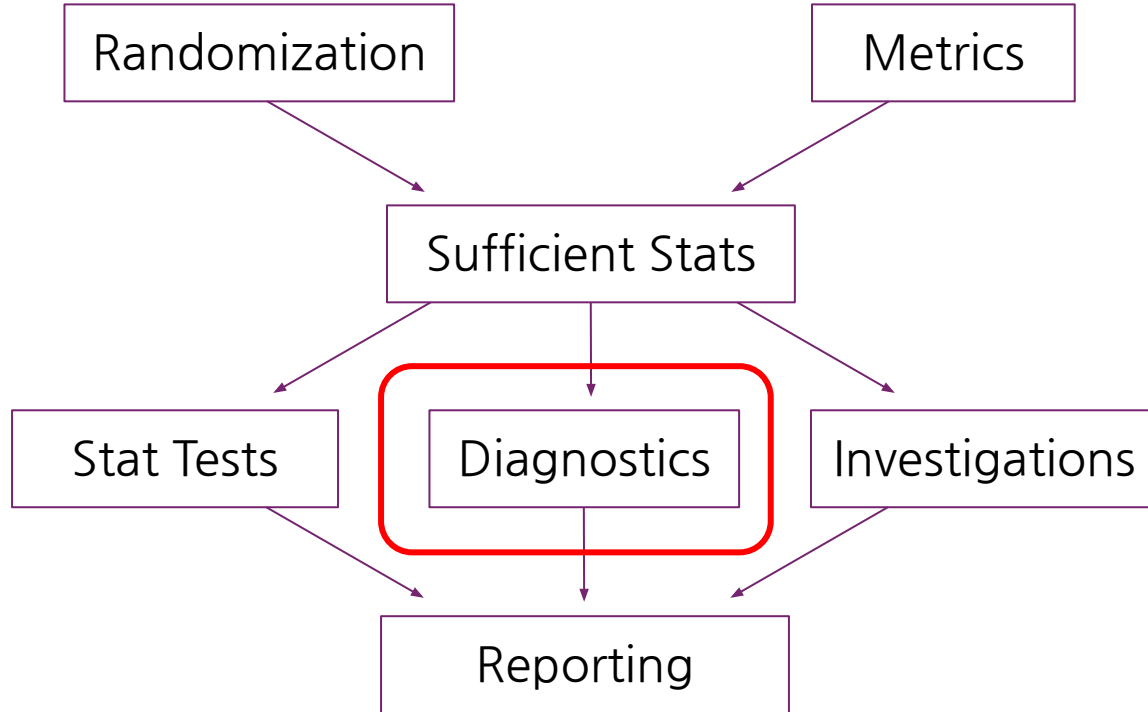
Beta2 = # of happy meals in 60 days prior to experiment

...

BetaN = Indicator for treatment group

03

ARCHITECTURE Diagnostics



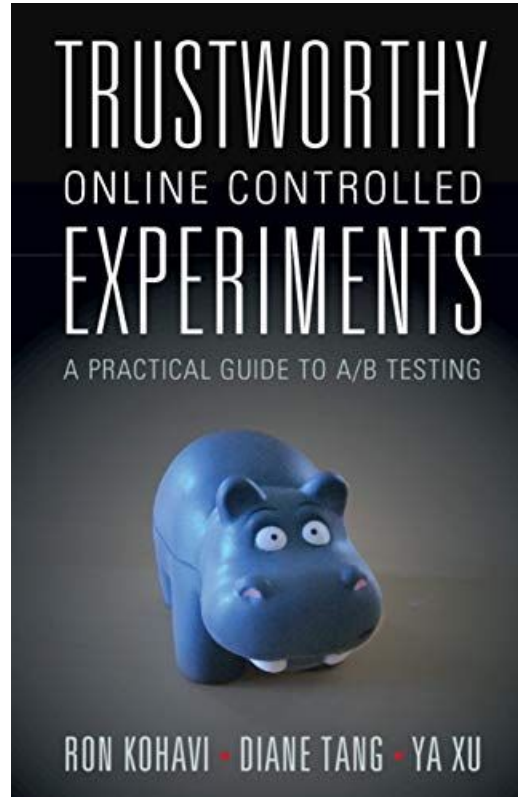
03

ARCHITECTURE

Diagnostics

The first principle of experimentation:

TRUST



03

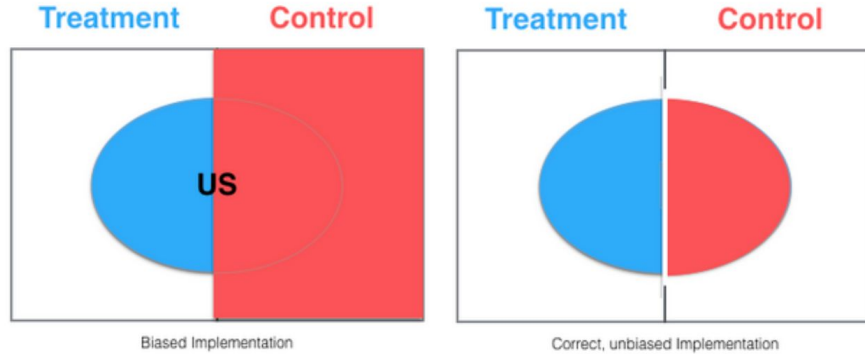
ARCHITECTURE Diagnostics



Make sure you have balanced groups!

These issues are usually due to:

- Latency of experiment delivery
- Bad implementation



Solution: Sample ratio mismatch test (SRM)

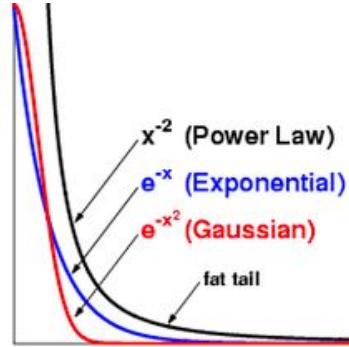
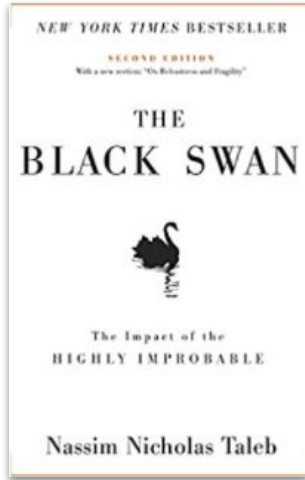
$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})^2}{\text{expected}}$$

03

ARCHITECTURE Diagnostics



Watch for
outliers!



Solutions:

- Winsorization: cap values at 99th percentile
- CUPED

03

ARCHITECTURE Diagnostics



Bad data
becomes
invisible

Experiments Find an experiment, insight or metric

New Checkout Flow RUNNING

16.5k of 20k subjects mm/dd/yy-mmdd

OWNER App Team

Avg Order Price Explore this metric

DESCRIPTION Ratio of Total Order value / # of Orders. We use this to see if people are buying cheaper/more expensive goods. Ratio of Total Order value / # of Orders. We use this to see people...

OWNER Chetan Sharma

LAST UPDATED 3 days ago

INSIGHTS Experiment is not complete

FEATURE FLAG exp_prod_123 www.launchdarkly.com/8B312...

Decision I

Metric

Average order price PRIMARY

Average order price 35% -4.5%

Lifetime customer value 66% -.5%

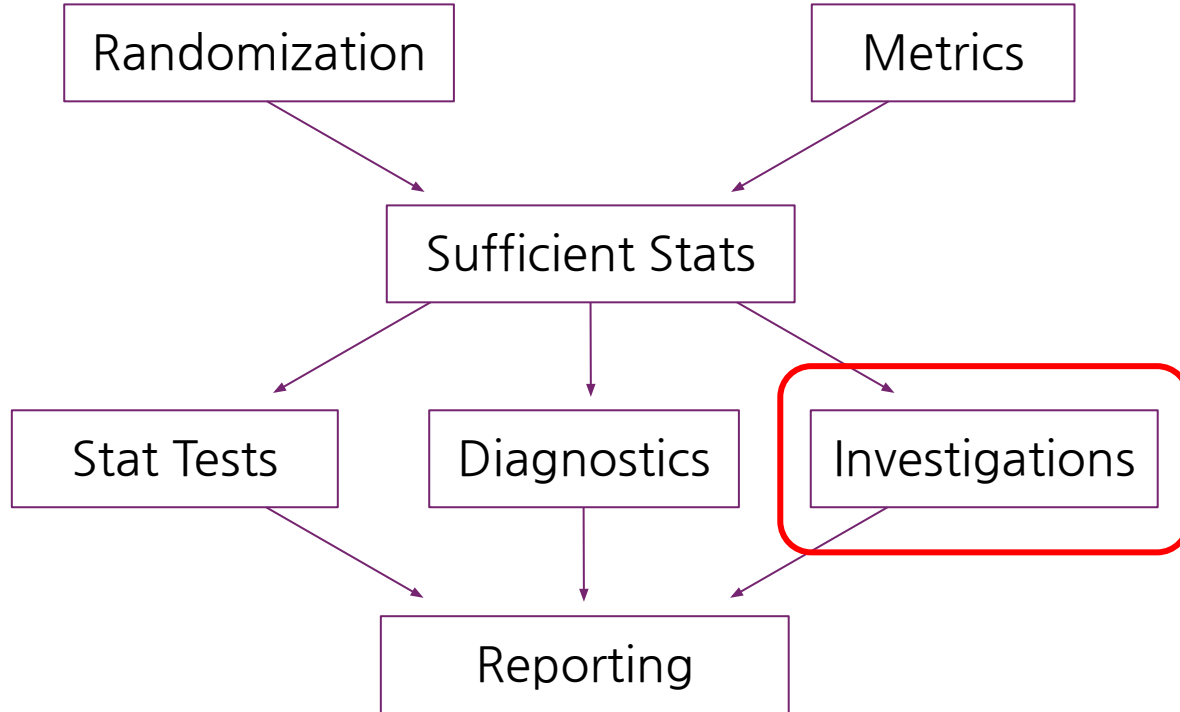
Order frequency 48% +5.5%

Require email before checkout

Optional email entry before checkout

03

ARCHITECTURE Investigations



03

ARCHITECTURE Investigations



Investigations
help you learn

“First you must learn to test.
Then you learn to learn.
Then you learn to win”

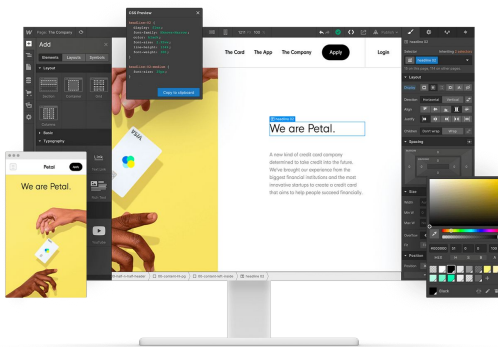
— *Elena Verna*
*Reforge EIR, previous SVP
Growth @ Survey Monkey*

03

ARCHITECTURE Investigations



Some users
might particularly
hate your
experiment



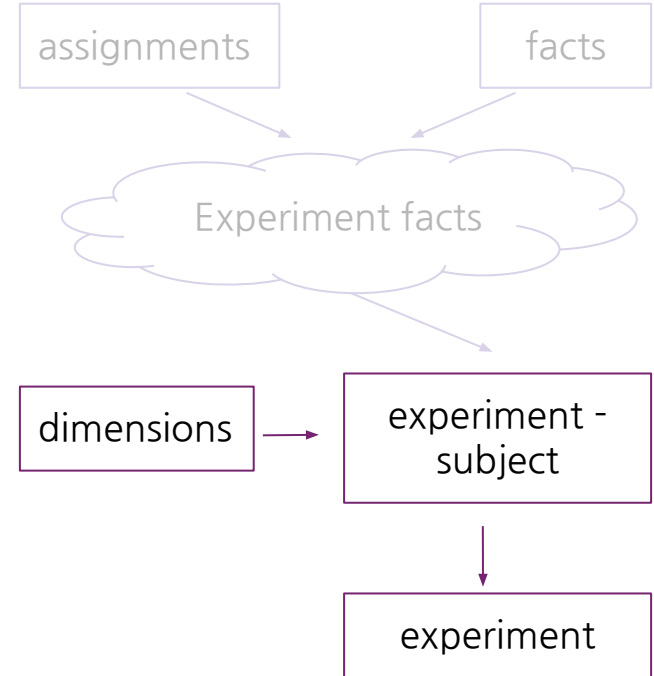
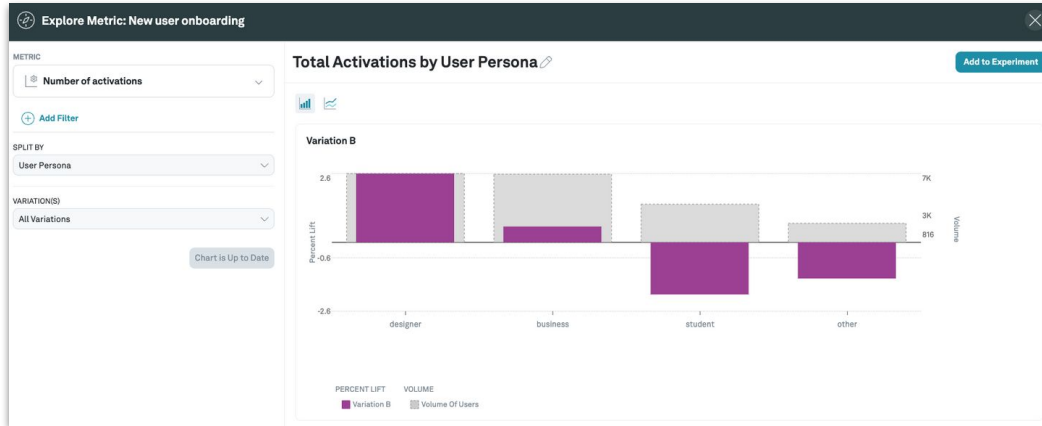
Browser	Δ	p
All	-0.27%	0.29
Chrome	2.07%	0.01
Firefox	2.81%	0.00
IE	-3.66%	0.00
Safari	0.86%	0.26
Rest	-0.74%	0.33

03

ARCHITECTURE Investigations



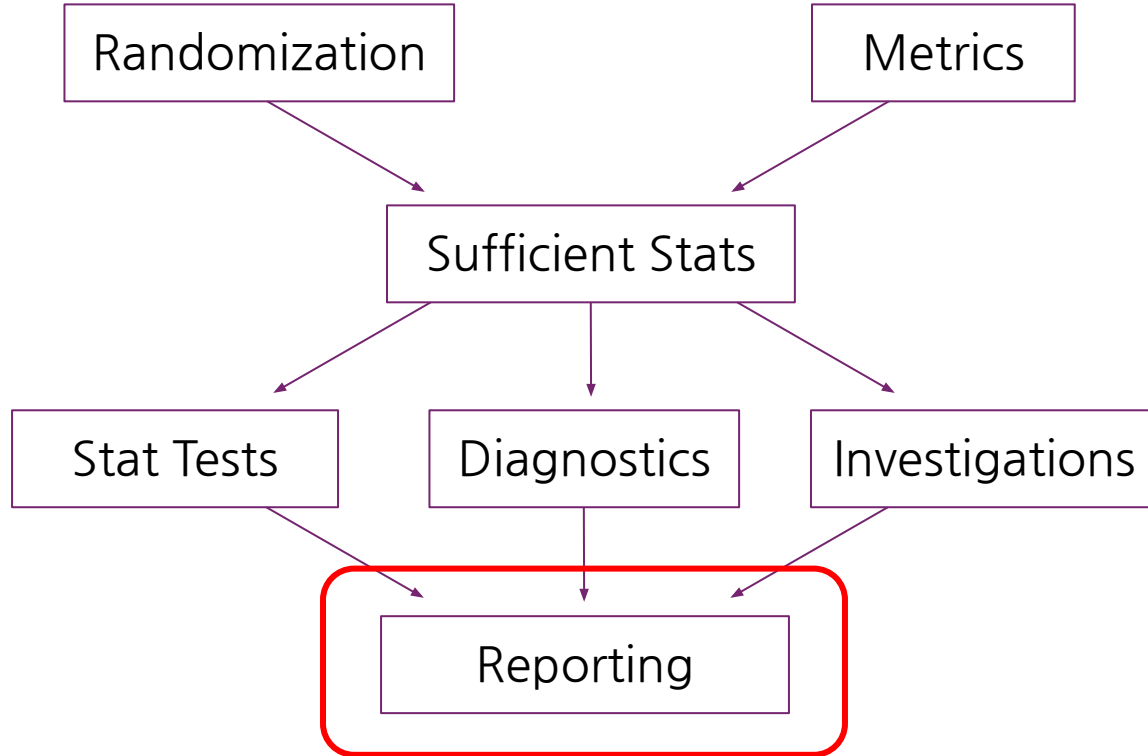
Make slice-dice investigations easy



03

ARCHITECTURE

Reporting



03

ARCHITECTURE Reporting



Bad reporting
will undo all of
your math,
engineering

SET UP: PRE TEST

Sample Size

Please note that specifying the sample size should have been done prior to running the test.

If you prefer to use a website to calculate the sample size, I would highly recommend this [one](#) (the numbers are going to be very very close to what you see below).

If you would like more details about each of the variables used in calculating the sample size and how they impact it, please see the original [A/B Testing Playbook](#) here.

- Set up Variables -

```
# Variables needed to determine the required sample size for test
baseline_probability = 0.18
beta = 0.2
alpha = 0.05
effectsize = 0.01

# Specify if you would like to run a one-sided test or two-sided test
one_sided = True
```

Based on the above metrics...

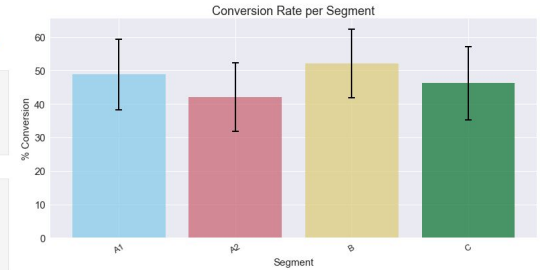
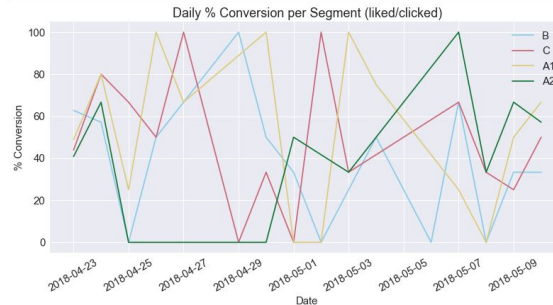
```
alpha_score = stats.norm.ppf(1-alpha*(1-0.5*(1-one_sided)))
beta_score = stats.norm.ppf(1-beta)

print('Baseline Conversion (pr) = ', baseline_probability*100, '%')
print('Confidence Level = ', (1-alpha)*100, '%')
print('Alpha Score (zα) = ', round(alpha_score,2))
print('Power = ', (1-beta)*100, '%')
print('Beta Score (zβ) = ', round(beta_score,2))
print('Effect Size (E) = ', effectsize*100, '%')
```

```
Baseline Conversion (pr) = 18.0 %
Confidence Level = 95.0 %
Alpha Score (zα) = 1.64
```

```
# Chart Labels and Font Size
plt.xlabel('Date', fontsize=15)
plt.ylabel('% Conversion', fontsize=15)
```

```
plt.xticks(fontsize=15, rotation=30)
plt.yticks(fontsize=15)
chart_title = 'Daily % Conversion per Segment ({} / {})'.format(conversion_label, traffic_label)
plt.title(chart_title, fontsize=18)
plt.legend(fontsize=15)
plt.show()
```



IMPORTANT: Please do not make any conclusions from the above graph alone. The formulas below call out segments that are statis

FILTERS Users A B Gender is "F"

VISUALIZATION

	DATA	TABLE	SQL	Calculations	Row Limit 500	Totals	
	Users Age Tier ^	Users Count A	Users Count B	Users Average Lifetime Orders A	Users Average Lifetime Orders B	Users T Score	Users Significance
1	{10,20}	398	395	2.59	2.25	2.13	(3) .025 sig. level
2	{20,30}	823	888	2.78	2.34	3.79	(7) .0005 sig. level
3	{30,40}	862	834	2.72	2.32	3.65	(7) .0005 sig. level
4	{40,50}	846	867	2.77	2.39	3.19	(6) .001 sig. level
5	{50,60}	820	808	2.67	2.24	3.93	(7) .0005 sig. level
6	{60,70}	604	601	2.63	2.24	2.90	(5) .005 sig. level
7	{70,80}	360	330	2.61	2.23	2.38	(4) .01 sig. level
8	{80,inf}	231	242	2.99	2.44	2.50	(4) .01 sig. level

03

ARCHITECTURE Reporting

Good reporting
assumes no
statistics,
infrastructure
knowledge

Experiments

Find an experiment, insight or metric



New Checkout Flow RUNNING

16.5k of 20k subjects mm/dd/yy-mmdd/yy (32d remaining)

AREAS

Checkout Marketing iOS Android Mobile Web

OWNER

App Team

QUICK LINKS

#checkout-flow Planning Document LIRA| Eppo-1785 3 more...

INSIGHTS

Experiment is not complete

FEATURE FLAG

exp_prod_123 www.launchdarkly.com/8B312...

Overview Variations Explore Traffic History Comments (12) Alerts (3)

Decision Metrics

Add...

▼ B Prompt for email after checkout

Metric	A Control	B	-5%	0%	5%	10%
Checkout conversion rate PRIMARY	24%	- 4%				
Average order price	35%	- 4.5%				
Lifetime customer value	66%	- .5%				
Order frequency	48%	- 5.5%				

> C Require email before checkout

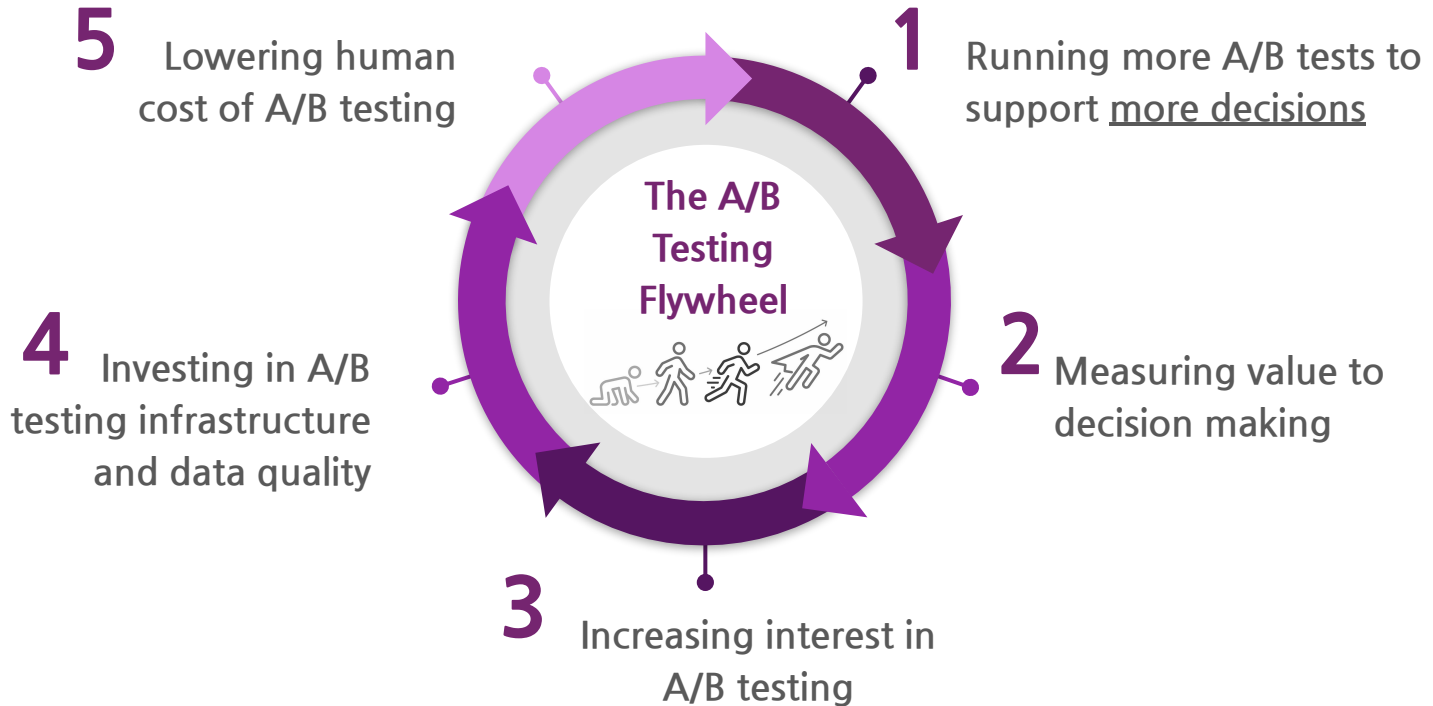
> D Optional email entry before checkout

- Don't try to teach p-values, stat tests
- Don't list 100 numbers without guidance
- Be opinionated, consistent with choice of numbers

04

A/B Testing Flywheel

Crawl, Walk, Run, Fly Progression



We'd love to hear from you!



Reach out to see how Eppo can help grow experimentation culture in your company.

WEBSITE

www.geteppo.com

EMAIL ADDRESS

che@geteppo.com

TWITTER

[@chesharma87](https://twitter.com/chesharma87)

Beyond Linearity



Building reactive notebooks for data

Caitlin Colgrove, CTO @ Hex



Poll: how do code notebooks make you *feel*?

- A. I use notebooks for everything! Analysis, text editing, email... all notebooks!
- B. They're useful sometimes but they have their drawbacks.
- C. I will literally quit my job if they make me use a notebook.
- D. You mean, like... to write in?

Historical background: literate programming

In 1984, Donald Knuth introduced the concept of "literate programming", a way of developing that mixes code, explanation, and outputs together in a way that's meant to be more interpretable by humans.

```
@ Here is a Perl program that simply
prints out |Hello, world!! the number of
times specified in the first argument.
```

```
<<*>=
#!/usr/bin/perl
  <<CheckArgs>>
  <<PrintHiWorld>>
```

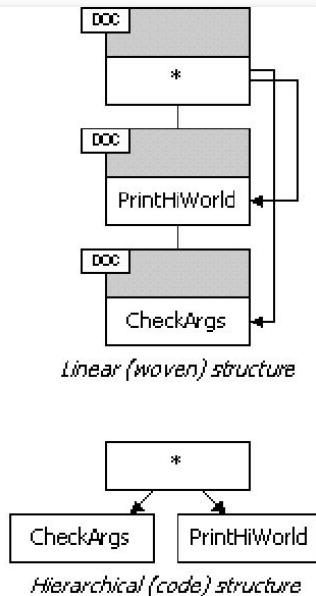
```
@ Printing involves a simple loop. Line
breaks are added for clarity.
```

```
<<PrintHiWorld>>=
for ($i = 0; $i < $ARGV[0]; $i++) {
    print "Hello, world!\n";
}
```

```
@ We \emph{must} make sure, however,
that an argument was specified.
```

```
<<CheckArgs>>=
if (@ARGV != 1) {
    die "No argument specified";
}
```

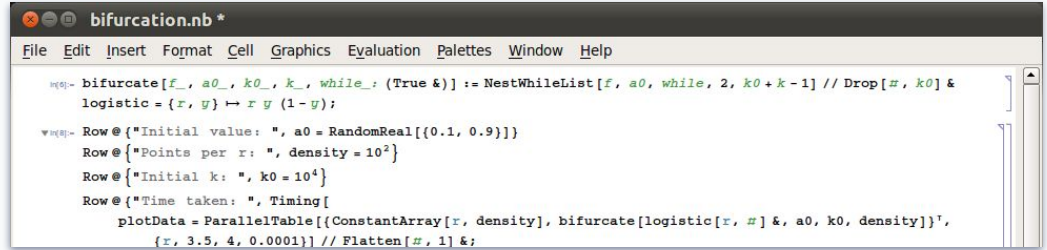
(a) Literate source.



(b) Linear and hierarchical views.

Fast forward to 2022

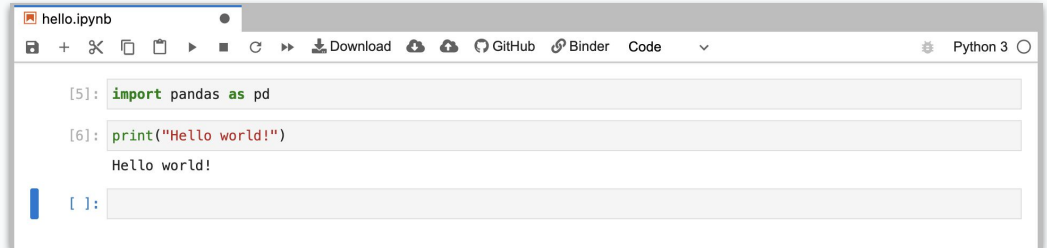
Notebooks are the most widely-used example of literate programming in practice.



```
bifurcation.nb *
File Edit Insert Format Cell Graphics Evaluation Palettes Window Help

(*- bifurcate[f_, a0_, k0_, k_, while_: (True &)] := NestWhileList[f, a0, while, 2, k0 + k - 1] // Drop[#, k0] &
   logistic = {x, y} -> {x y (1 - y)};

(*- Row@{"Initial value: ", a0 = RandomReal[{0.1, 0.9]}}
   Row@{"Points per x: ", density = 10^2}
   Row@{"Initial k: ", k0 = 10^4}
   Row@{"Time taken: ", Timing[
     plotData = ParallelTable[{ConstantArray[x, density], bifurcate[logistic[x, #] &, a0, k0, density]}],
     {x, 3.5, 4, 0.0001}] // Flatten[#, 1] &;
```

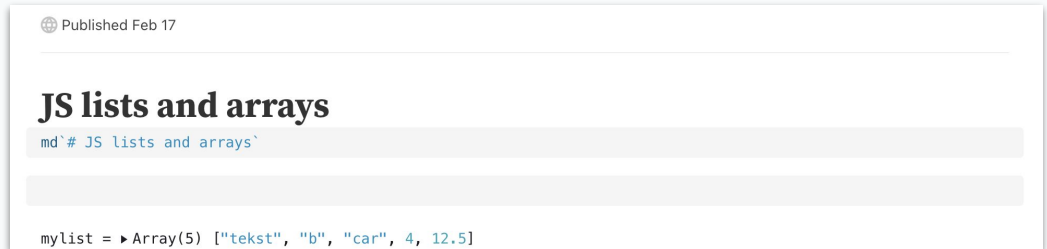


```
hello.ipynb
Download GitHub Binder Code Python 3

[5]: import pandas as pd

[6]: print("Hello world!")
Hello world!

[ ]:
```



```
Published Feb 17

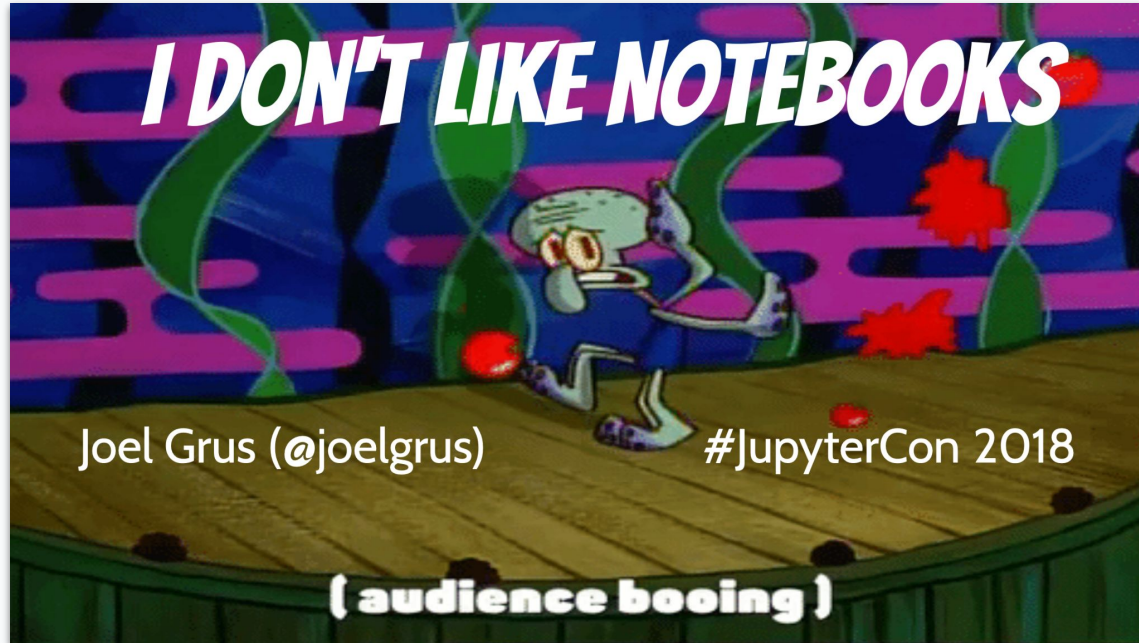
JS lists and arrays
md`# JS lists and arrays`

mylist = ▶ Array(5) ["tekst", "b", "car", 4, 12.5]
```

Why notebooks?

- Mix code and outputs together
- Great for iterating on smaller chunks of code; well-suited to exploration
- Linear, narrative layout that is great for storytelling

But notebooks have... issues



The State Problem

```
a = 1
```

```
a = 2
```

```
print(a)
```

What does this print?

imperative programming

a programming paradigm that uses statements that change a program's state.

Notebook state causes 3 major problems

1. Interpretability

It's hard to reason about what's happening in a notebook, especially someone else's.

2. Reproducibility

Out of order cells make it hard to reproduce work without frequent restart-and-run-alls.

3. Performance

Re-runs are wasteful and time-consuming... especially in Hex :(

Another barrier to entry



This is exactly the kind of thing that scares people off from analytics and data science, and gives code a bad name.

The state of state



DATA DEPARTMENT

**HAVE YOU TRIED RESTARTING
AND RUNNING FROM SCRATCH**

Re-thinking state

reactive programming

a programming paradigm oriented around data flows and the propagation of change.

In practice, this means that reactive objects maintain references to their dependencies and update automatically when their dependencies change.

Why reactive programming?

- State consistency
- Performance
- Nice abstractions for async and concurrent data flows

Imperative

```
>> a = 4
>> b = 10
>> c = a + b
>> c
14
>> a = 25
>> c
14
```

Reactive

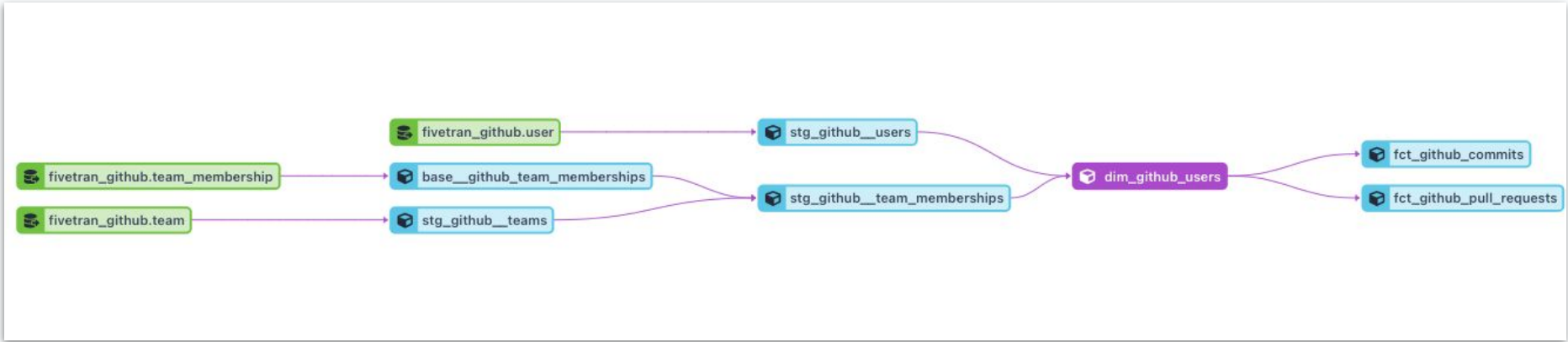
```
>> a = 4
>> b = 10
>> c = a + b
>> c
14
>> a = 25
>> c
35
```

Microsoft Excel ribbon showing the **FORMULAS** tab. The **Trace Precedents** button is highlighted in red. The formula bar shows the formula $=1:1048576$ in cell E5.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2	23									
3	40	0.88	95.04							
4	45									
5	50	2.4	108		0					
6										
7	100	230	456							
8		0.9								
9		291.111111								
10	111.11111		659.04							

Everyone's favorite reactive programming tool

DAGs!

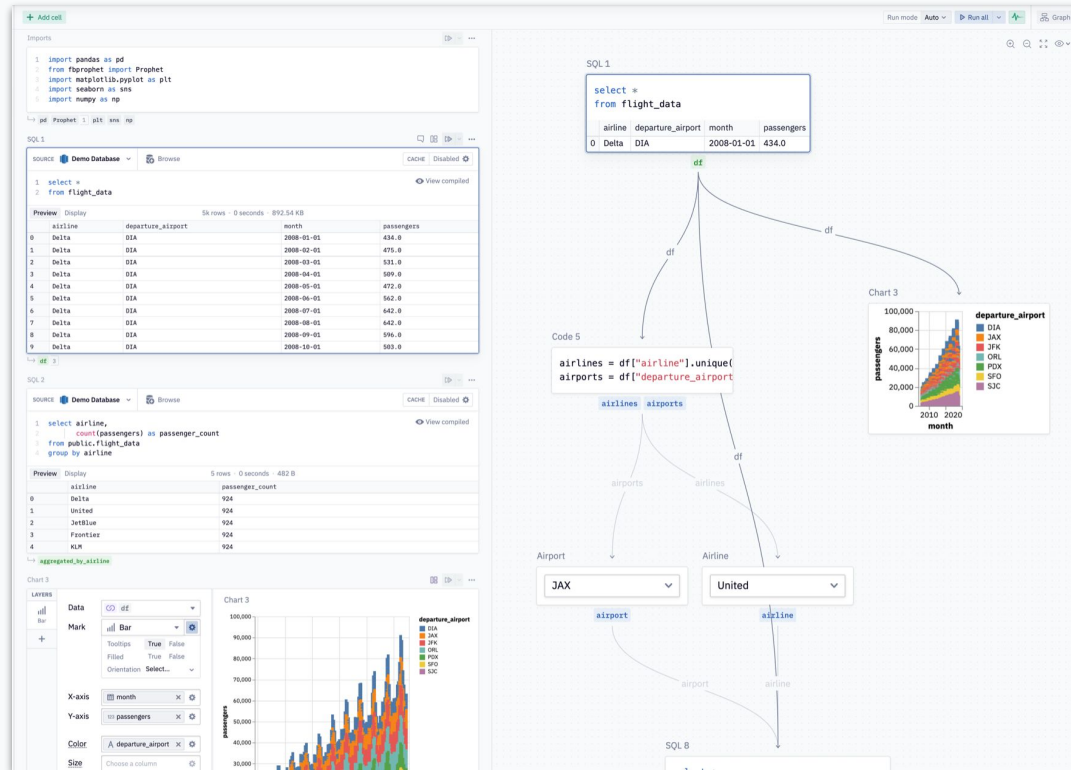


a DAG in dbt

Bringing reactivity and DAGs to notebooks

We introduced a **fully-reactive, DAG-based execution model** in Hex 2.0, which solves for all 3 problems we discussed earlier:

- Interpretability
- Reproducibility
- Performance



Demo

Flights Demo - Reactivity

app.hex.tech/hex/hex/95df1ec1-67c3-423b-8f8f-b41153b48cce/draft/logic

HEX Flights Demo - Reactivity

Logic App

Run mode Auto Run all

Caitlin Colgrove Hex

Production Demo Internal

Flights Demo - Reactivity

This forecast takes in historic flight volumes, and generates a prediction going forward some number of months into the future.

Imports

```
1 import pandas as pd
2 from fbprophet import Prophet
3 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
4 import seaborn as sns
5 import numpy as np
```

pd Prophet plt sns np

SQL 1

SOURCE Demo Database Browse

```
1 select *
2 from flight_data
```

CACHE Disabled

View compiled

Preview Display 5k rows · 0 seconds · 892.54 KB

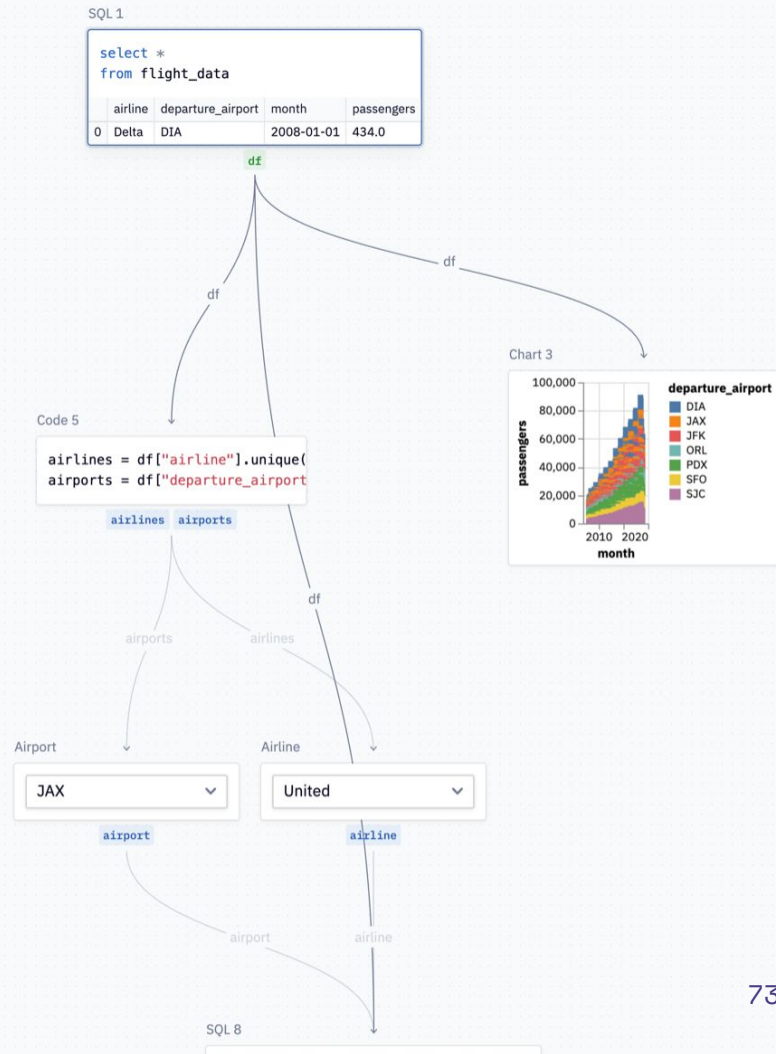
	airline	departure_airport	month	passengers
0	Delta	DIA	2008-01-01	434.0
1	Delta	DIA	2008-02-01	475.0
2	Delta	DIA	2008-03-01	531.0
3	Delta	DIA	2008-04-01	509.0

Under the hood: building the DAGs

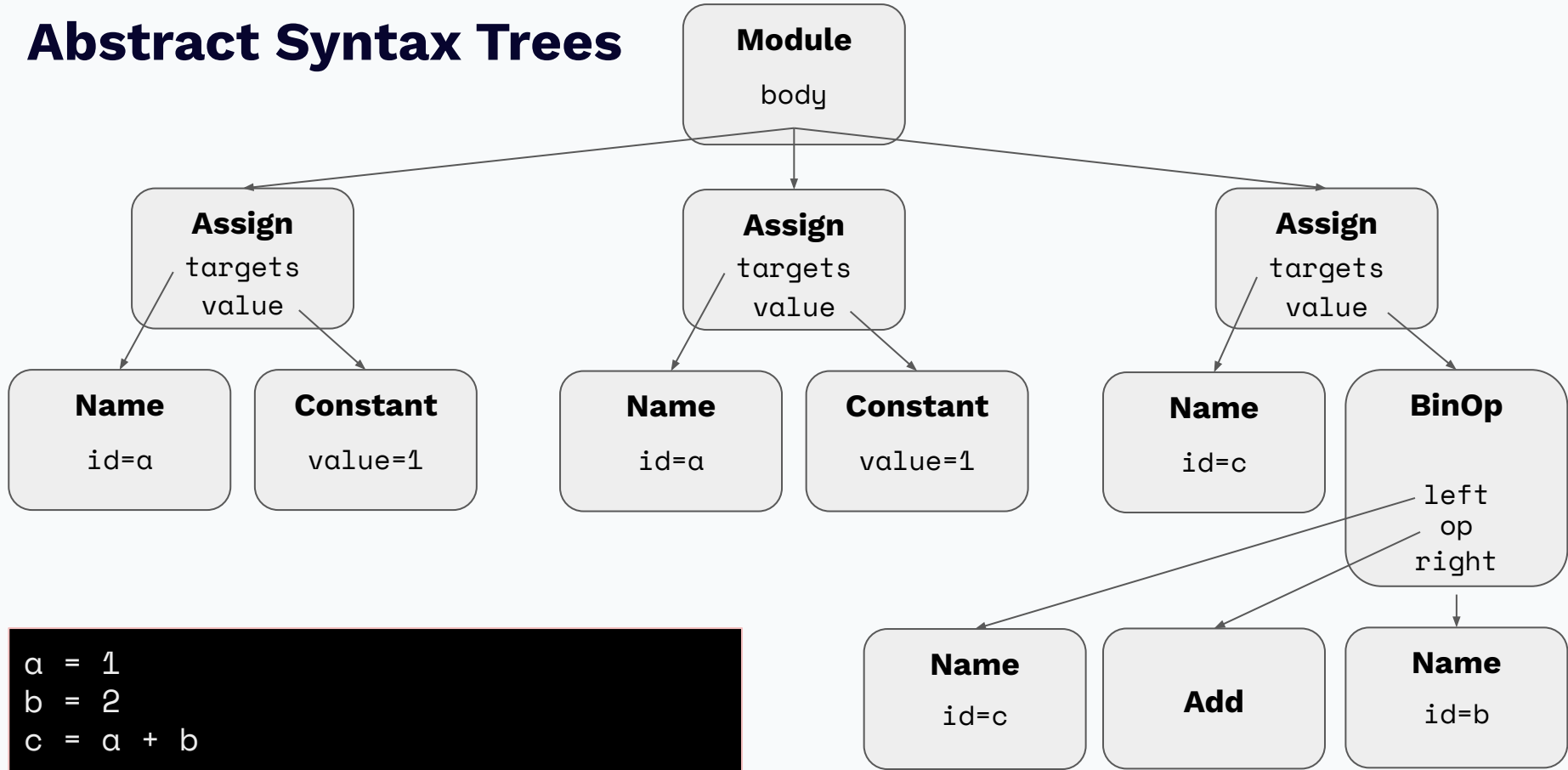
Graphs have **Nodes** and **Edges**:

- Nodes = Cells
- In edges: Variable references
- Out edges: Variable assignments

How do we determine relationships?



Abstract Syntax Trees



Issues with this approach

It's not actually a DAG!

```
a = 1
b = a + 1
```



```
b = 1
a = b + 1
```

The ordering is non-deterministic

```
a = 1
```

```
a = 2
```



```
print(a)
```

Solution: use notebook ordering

```
a = 1  
b = a + 1
```



```
a = 1  
b = a + 1
```

```
a = 1
```



```
a = 2
```



```
print(a)
```

Pulling it all together: bringing DAGs into Hex notebooks

Determining “staleness”

In order to know which cells to recompute, we track a condition called *staleness*.

A cell is *stale* if:

- It hasn't been run yet this kernel session
- An upstream cell has been **edited** and it hasn't been re-run
- An upstream cell has been **run** and it hasn't been re-run
- An upstream cell has **become stale**

Implementing Reactivity with iPython

On each edit:

- Run each cell through an AST parser to compute inputs and outputs
- Re-compute the cell DAG
- Traverse graph upstream **and** downstream to determine list of cells needed to be run
 - Upstream, filter out cells that are already “up to date”
 - Downstream, mark as “stale”
- Queue all remaining stale cells in notebook order into the kernel
 - Mark cell as “up to date” after successful run

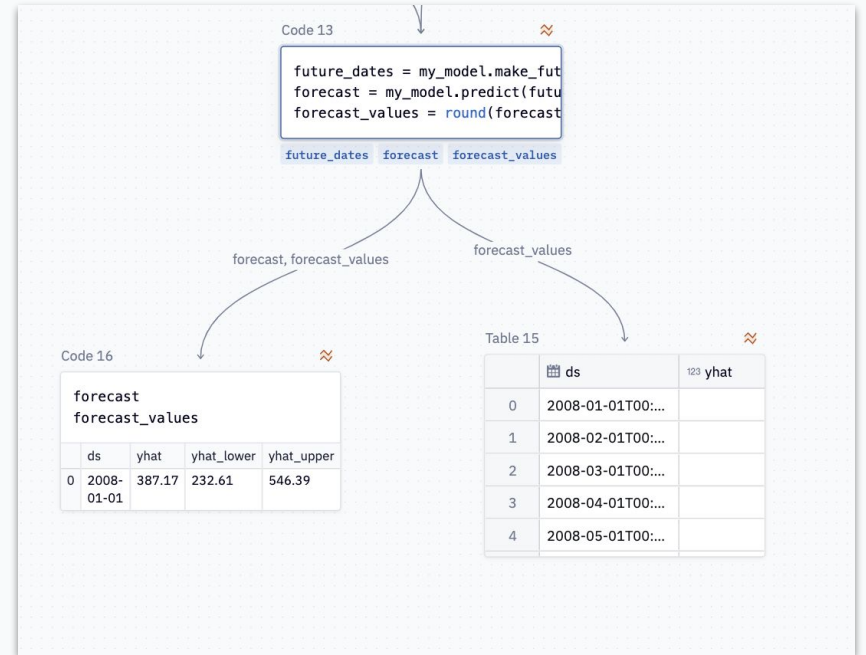
DAG usability cleanup

```
Code 0
1 import pandas as pd
2 from fbprophet import Prophet
3 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
4 import seaborn as sns
5 sns.set()
```

pd Prophet 1 plt 1 sns

```
Markdown 1
# Flight Traffic Forecast
```

Flight Traffic Forecast



Future exploration

Future exploration

- Lambdas / better isolation
- Cell caching
- Performance & parallelism



Adam Storr
Design Lead



Melissa Carlson
Engineering Lead



Glen Takahashi
Chief Architect

Interested?

Director, Platform Engineering
Backend Engineer
Cloud Engineer
Platform PM
Engineering Lead
... and many more

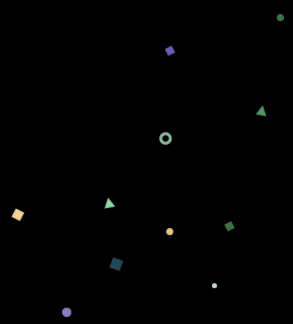
hex.tech/jobs

Questions?

The Return of the OLAP Cube

Benn Stancil

Chief analytics officer | Mode



M **MODE**

OLD MAN YELLS AT CLOUD



First paragraph of text, likely a news report or commentary related to the headline. The text is partially obscured by a yellow shape on the right side of the page.

benn.substack.com



The Return of the OLAP Cube

Benn Stancil, Chief Analytics Officer | Mode

ABOUT THE TALK

Fifteen years ago, OLAP cubes were a critical part of every analytics and BI stack. In a time when databases were slow and compute was expensive, cubes provided an elegant solution for standardizing multi-dimensional reporting. Over the last decade, however, they've fallen out of favor. As warehouses have gotten bigger, faster, and cheaper, cubes no seem longer necessary. Analysis and reporting is now done directly on top of raw data, no predefined or pre-aggregated cubes required.

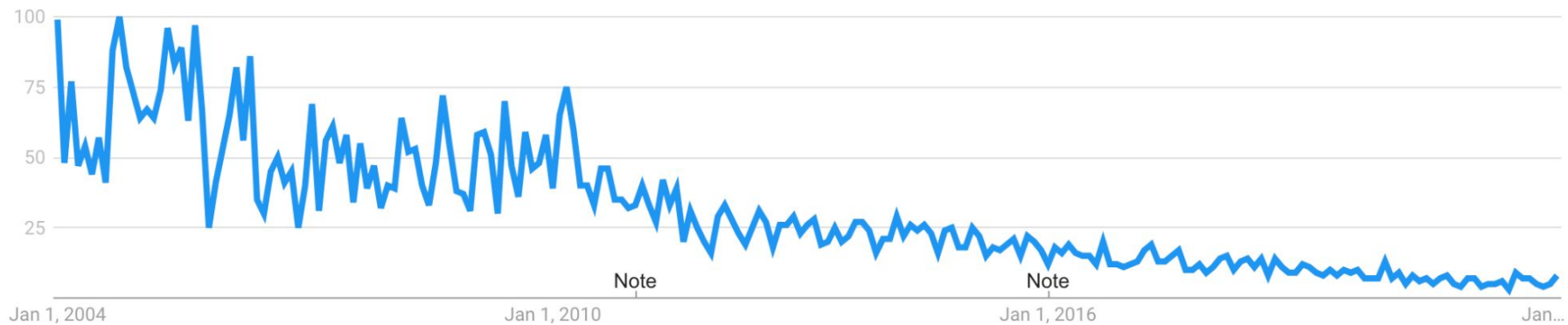
Or are they? OLAP cubes are reappearing in the modern data stack—just in a different form and under a different name. Instead of being separate data marts built for reporting and BI, cubes are now synthetic, generalized, and on-demand. In this talk, I'll walk through the history of OLAP cubes and their modern echoes. And I'll explain why this is actually a good thing—and why we should actually be excited about the return of the OLAP cube.



What's An OLAP Cube?

By Claire Carroll | August 18, 2021

● olap cube



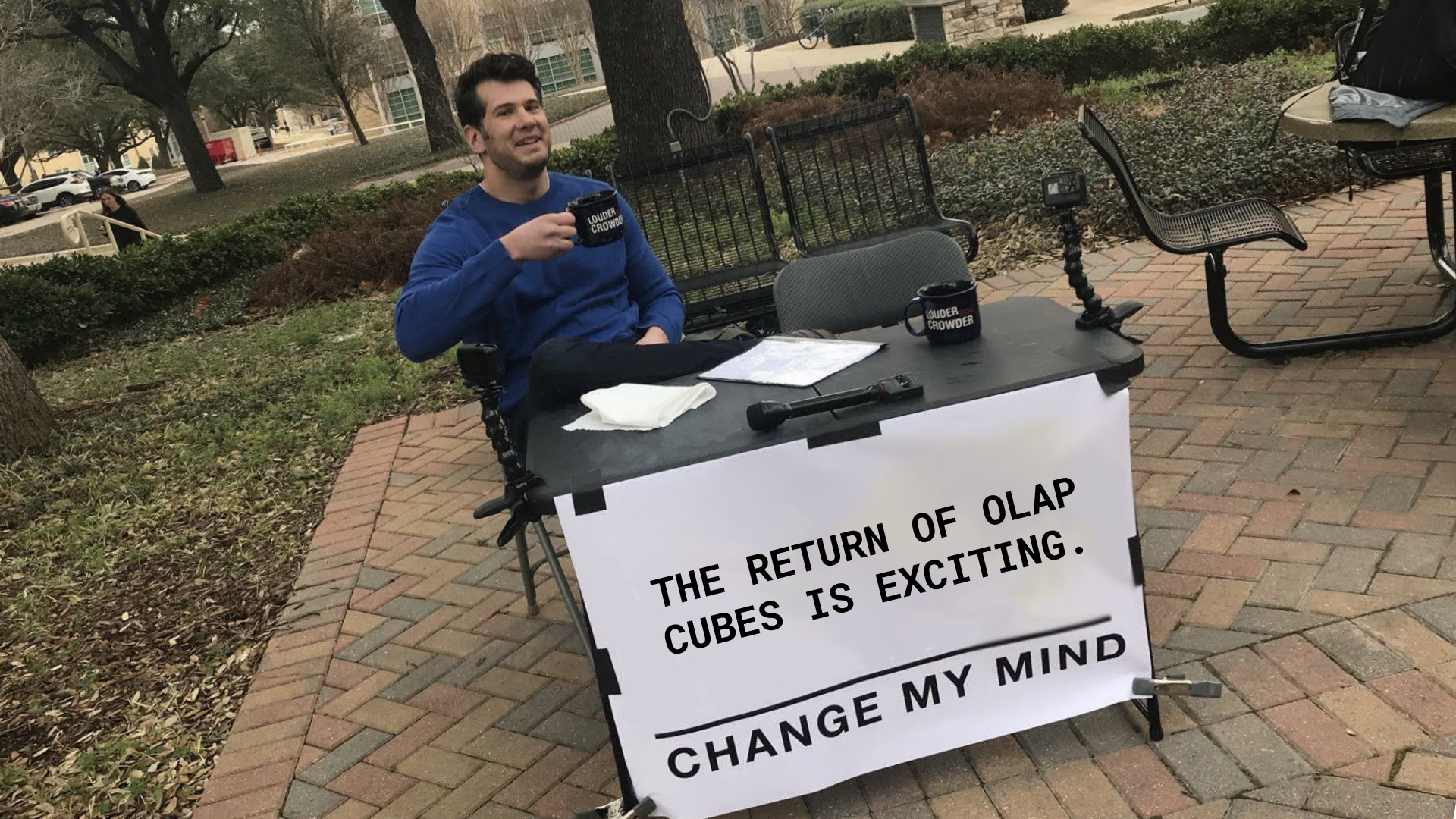
United States. 1/1/04 - 3/20/22. Web Search.



THE **WRAP**

Reviews Hail Robert Pattinson
Reboot as 'Best Bat-Movie Yet'





THE RETURN OF OLAP
CUBES IS EXCITING.

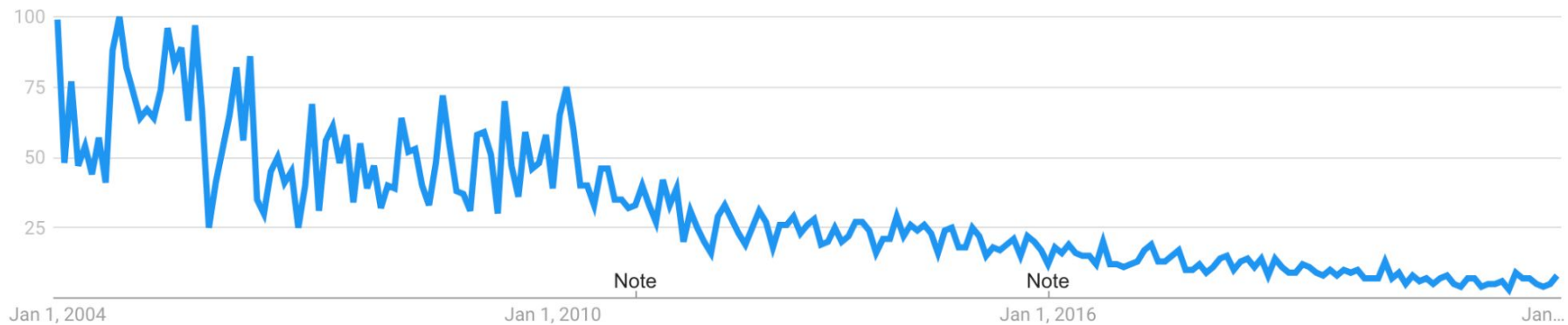
CHANGE MY MIND



What's An OLAP Cube?

By Claire Carroll | August 18, 2021

● olap cube



United States. 1/1/04 - 3/20/22. Web Search.





Tilt

***The Batman* is a Lifeless Reboot**



What's An OLAP Cube?

By Claire Carroll | August 18, 2021

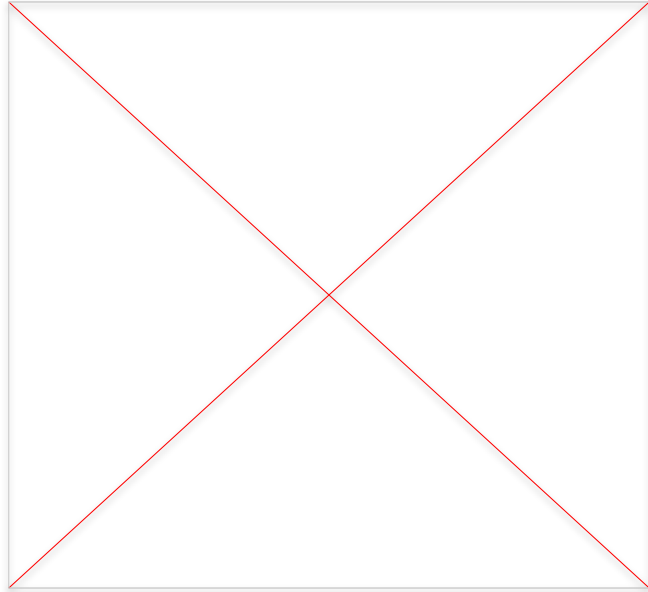
What's An OLAP Cube?

By Claire Carroll | August 18, 2021

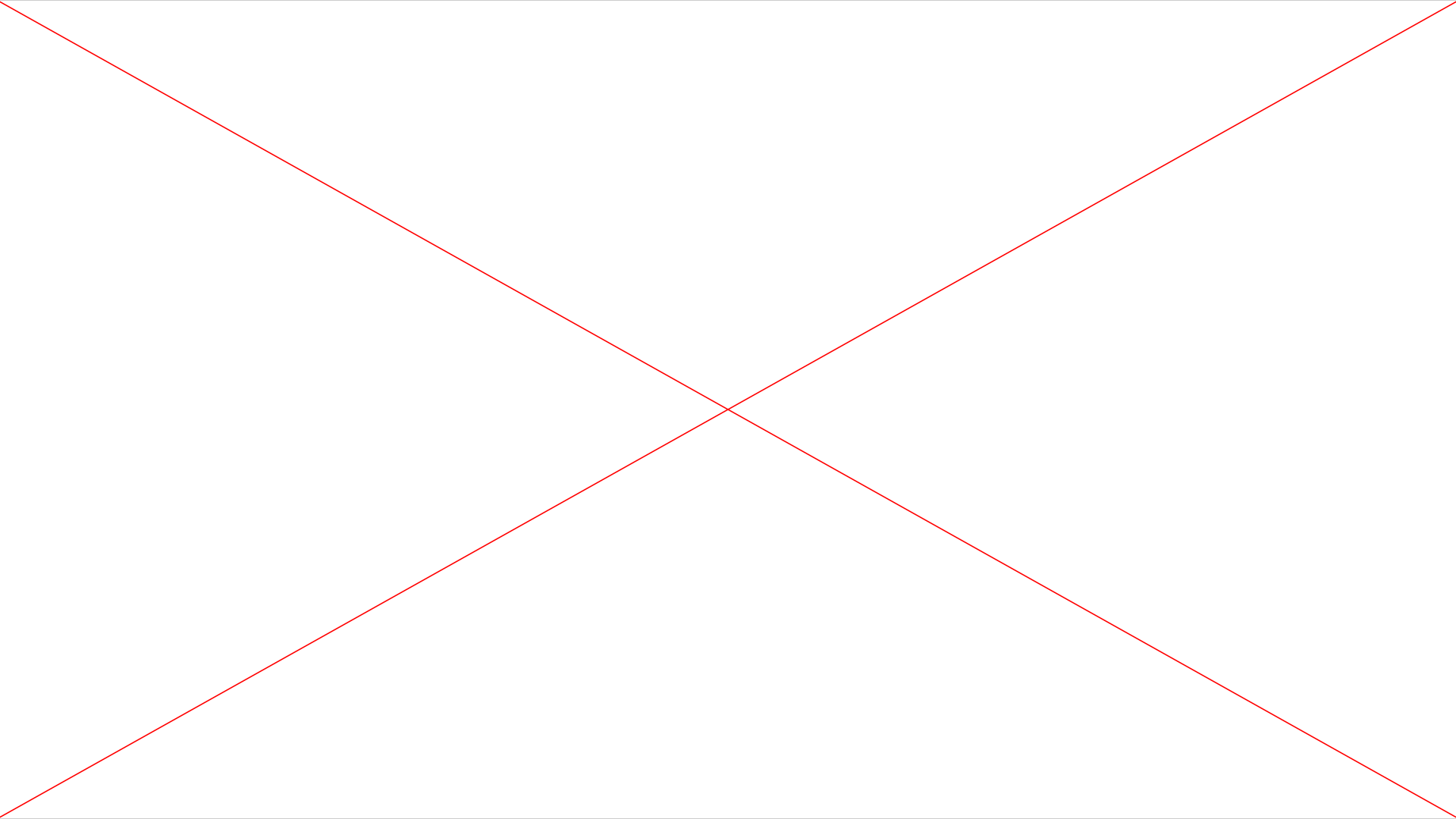
[Home](#) » [What's an OLAP cube?](#) 🗣️

👋 **Claire** here. I've been working with data for six years, and always in the context of a "Modern Data Stack" — the first data stack I used included Redshift, Fivetran and Looker! In contrast, many data modeling concepts were coined in an era when analysts used on-prem databases like Oracle and IBM.

As I got further into my career, I came across more terminology that didn't make sense to me, and I was



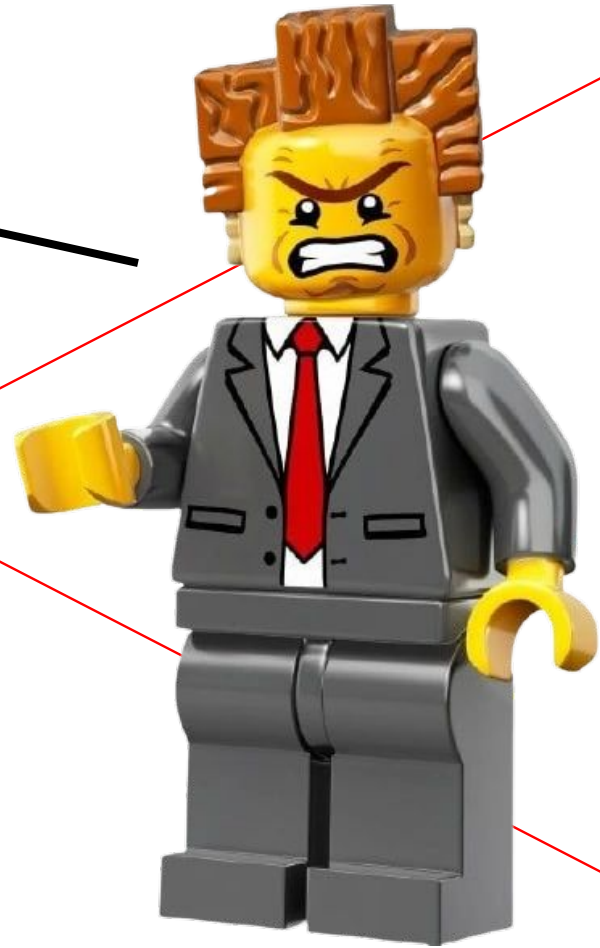








How much money
did we make in
California?

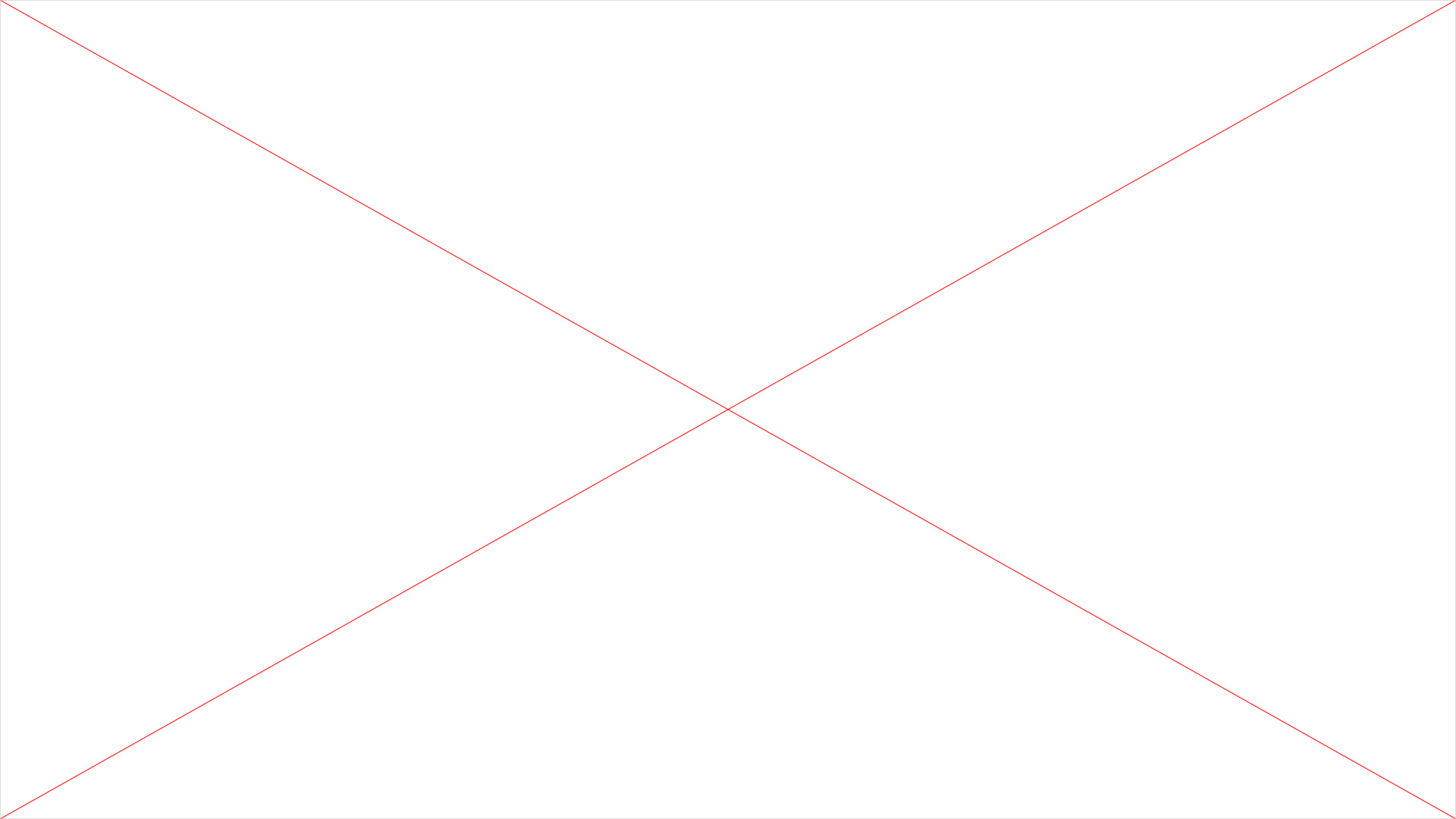


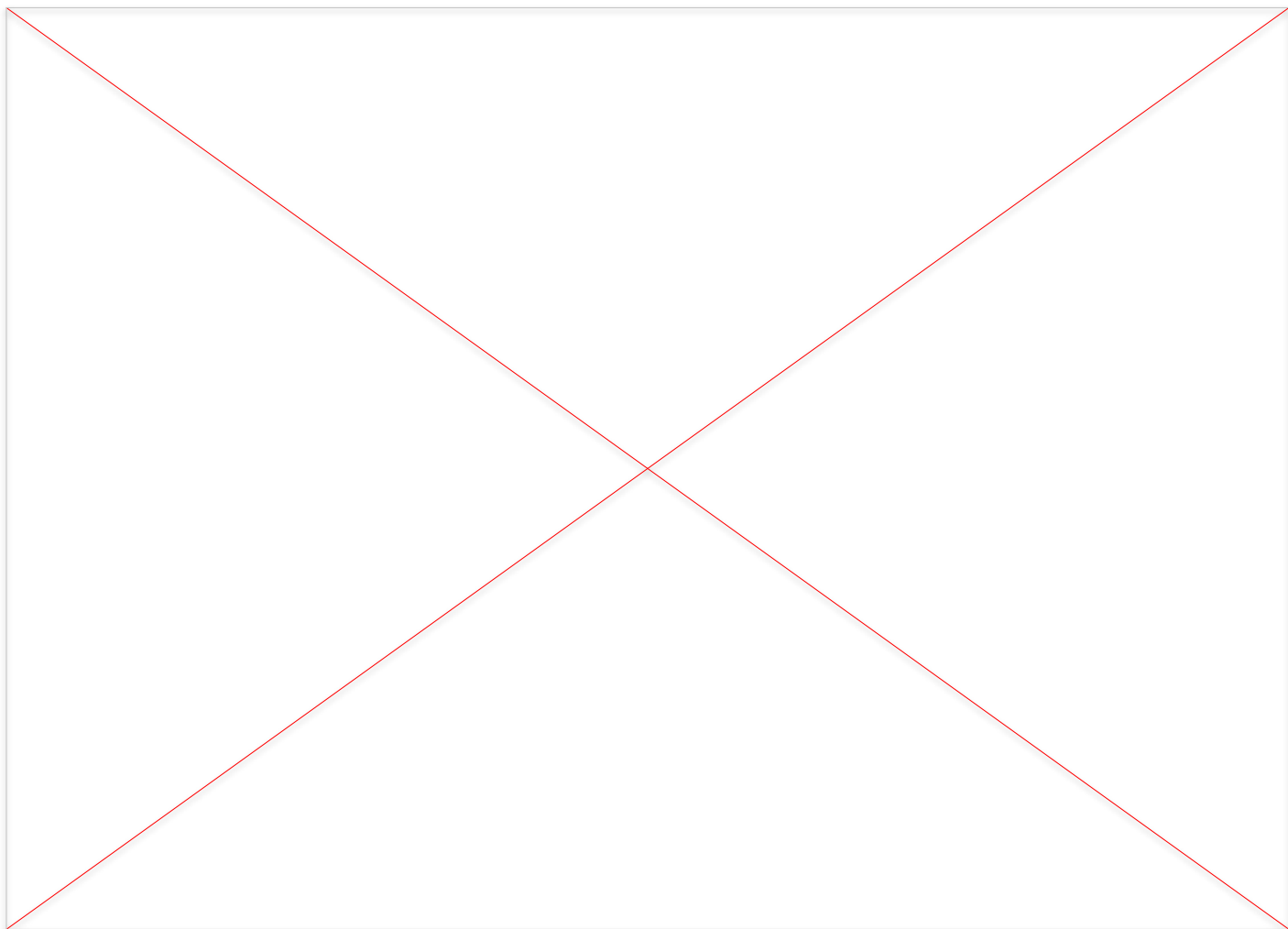
How much money
did we make in
Ohio?

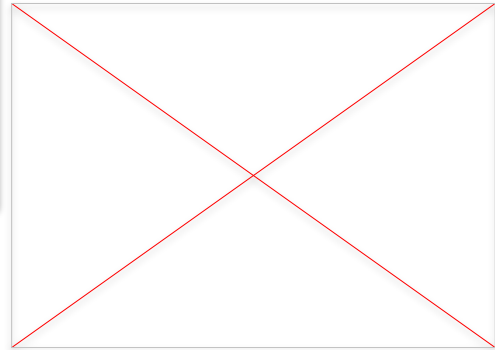
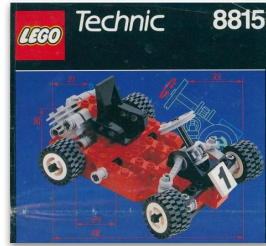
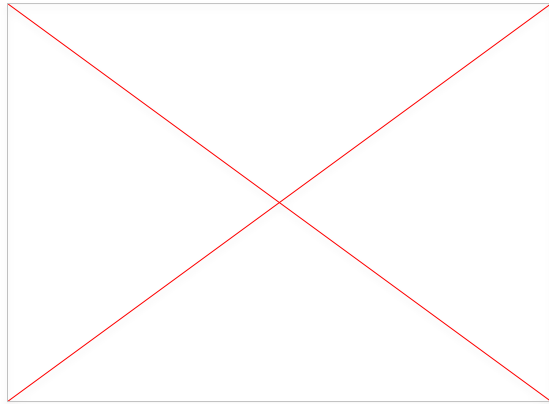
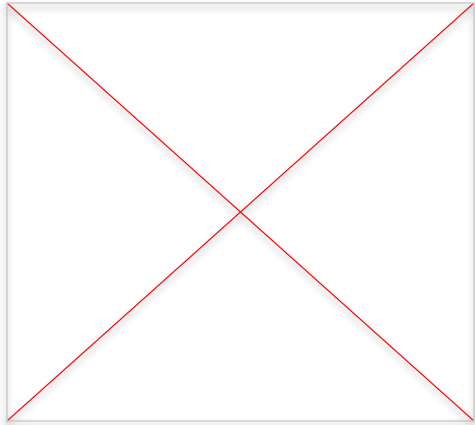
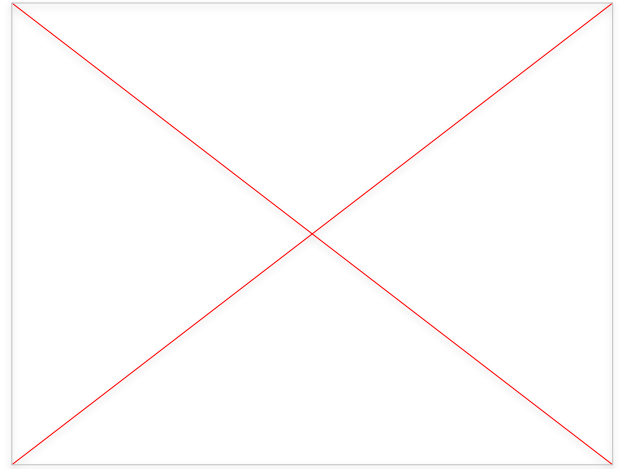
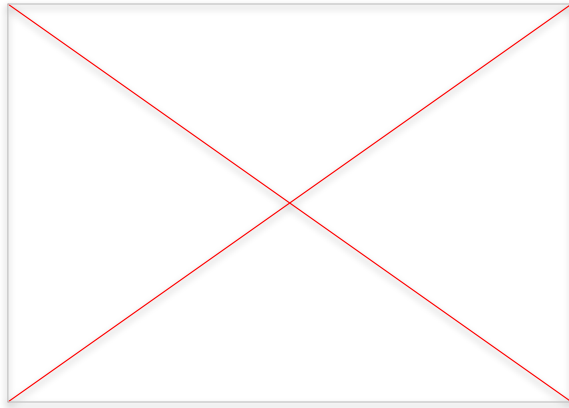
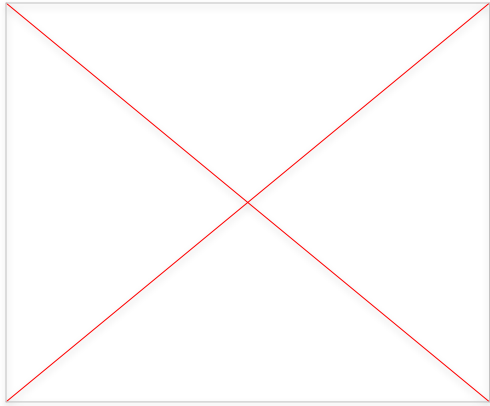


How much money
did we make in
Ohio in January?











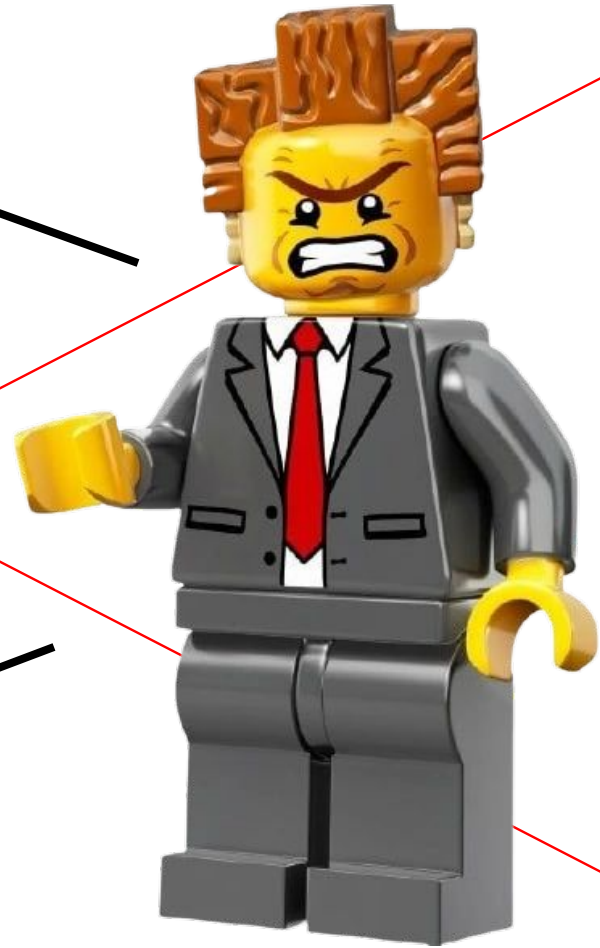
200,000,000

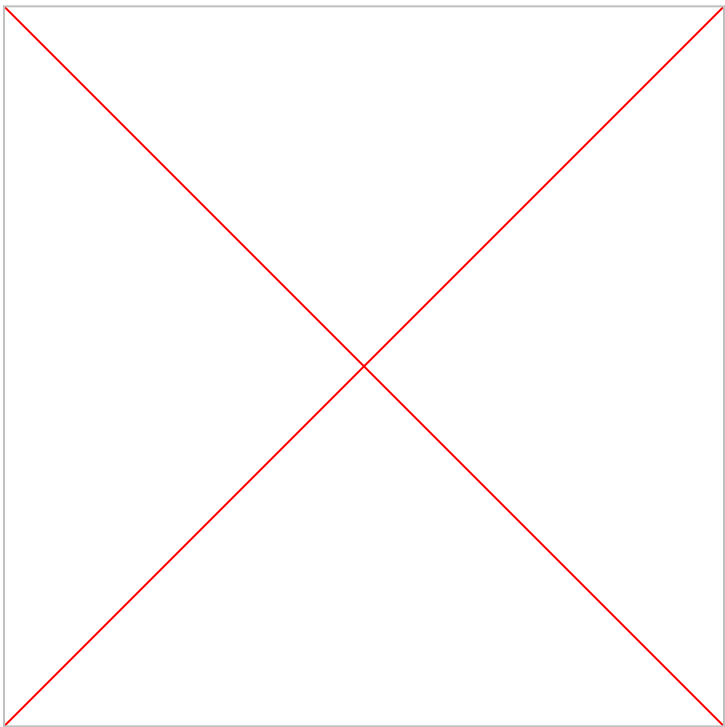
transactions a year

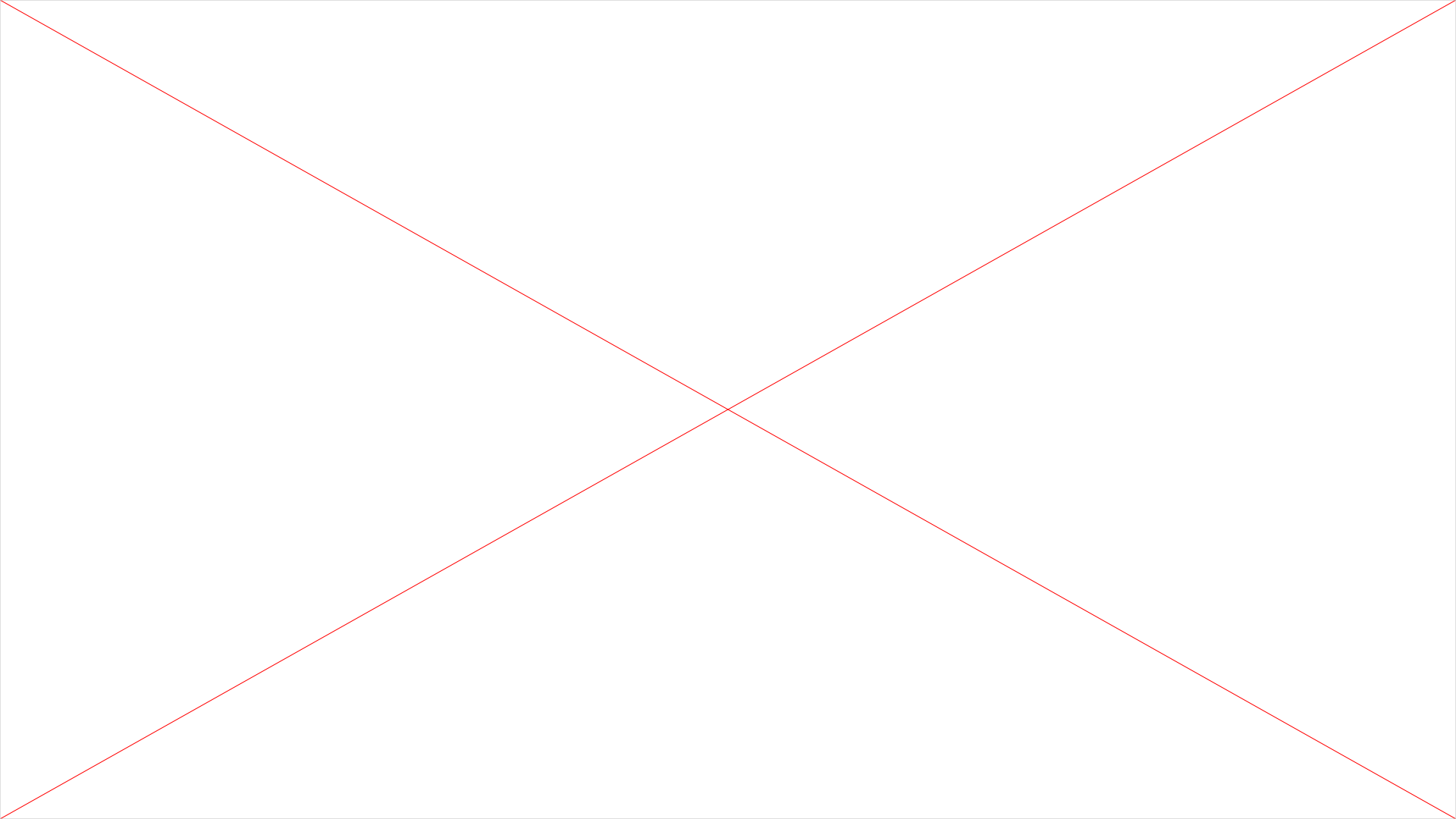
How much money
did we make in
California?

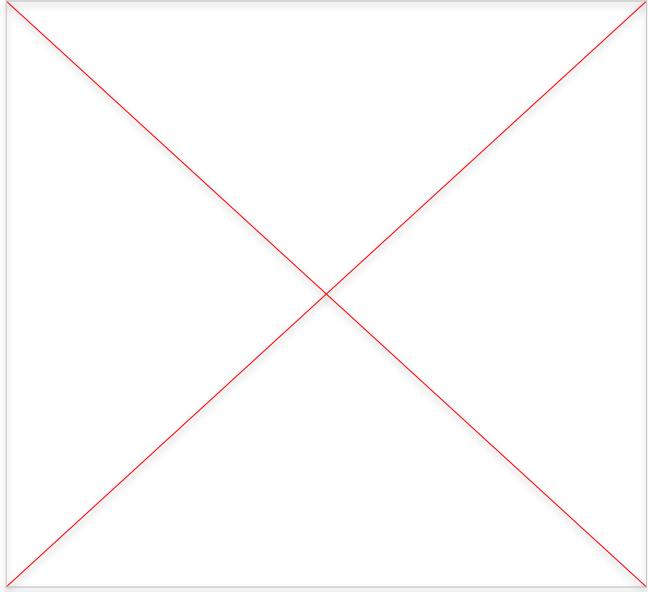
How much money
did we make in
Ohio?

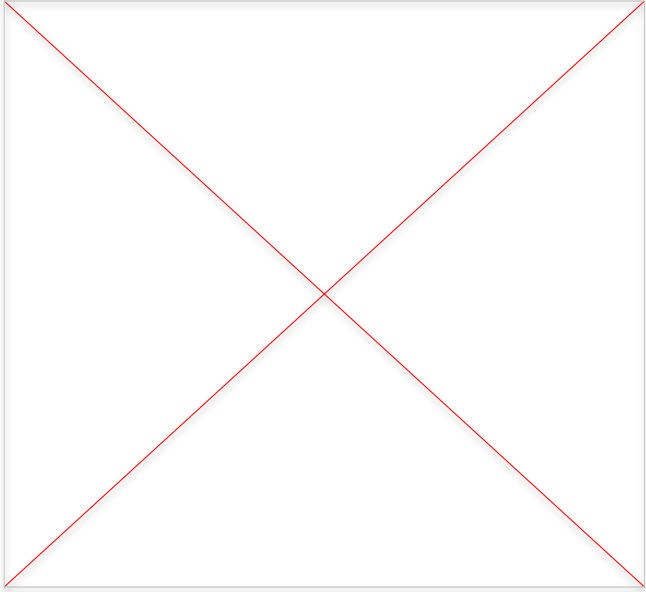
How much money
did we make in
Ohio in January?



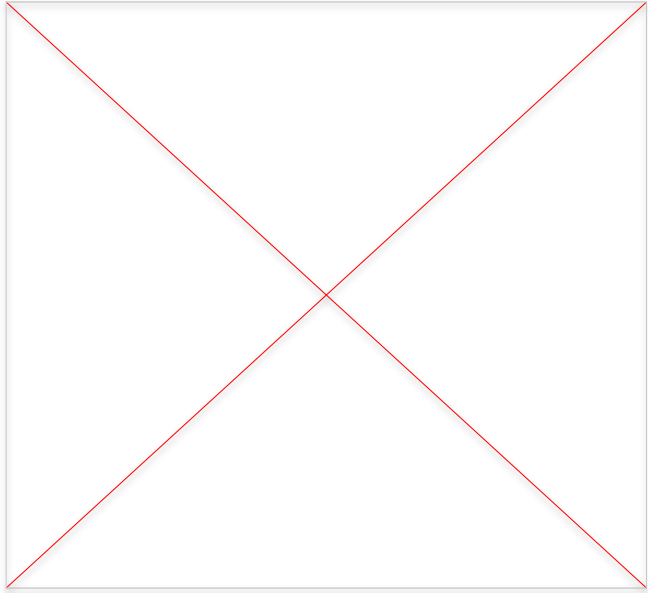






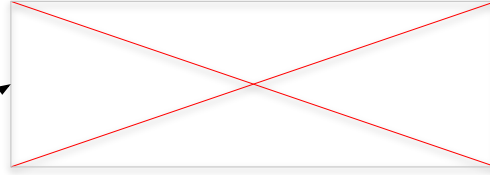
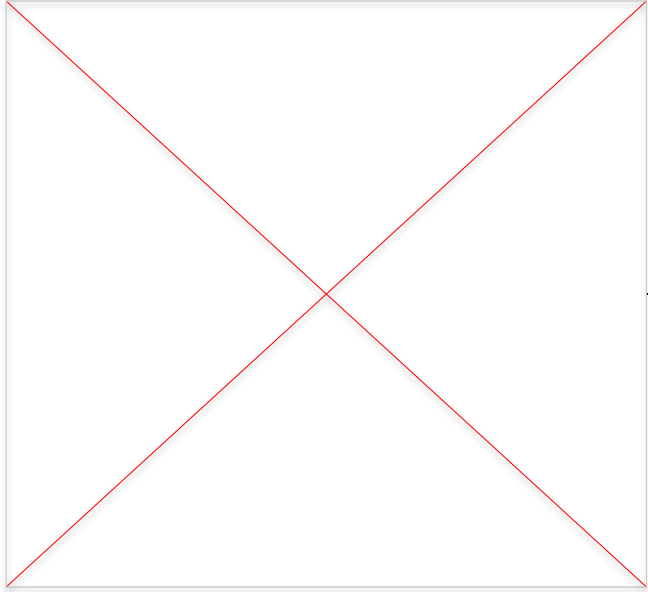


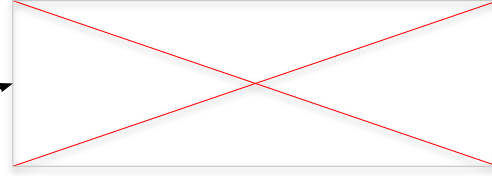
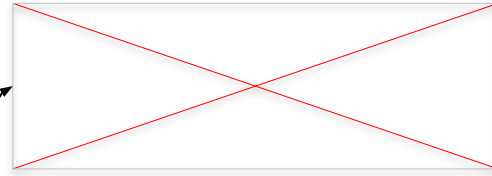
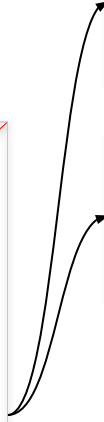
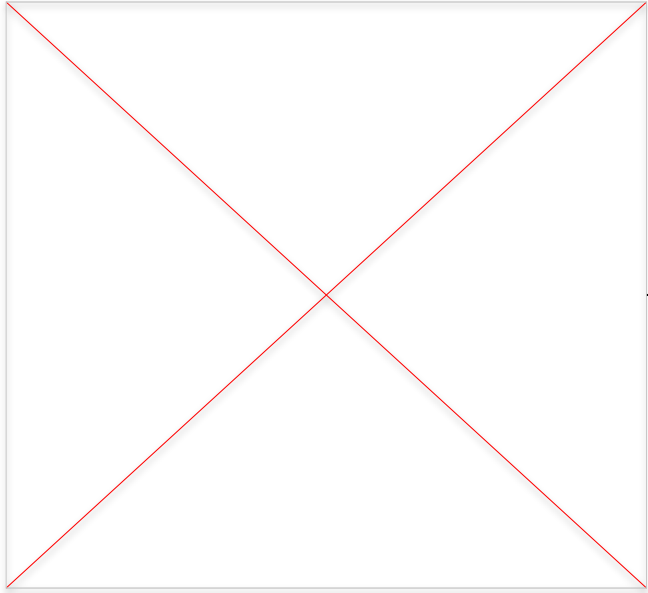
dimensions

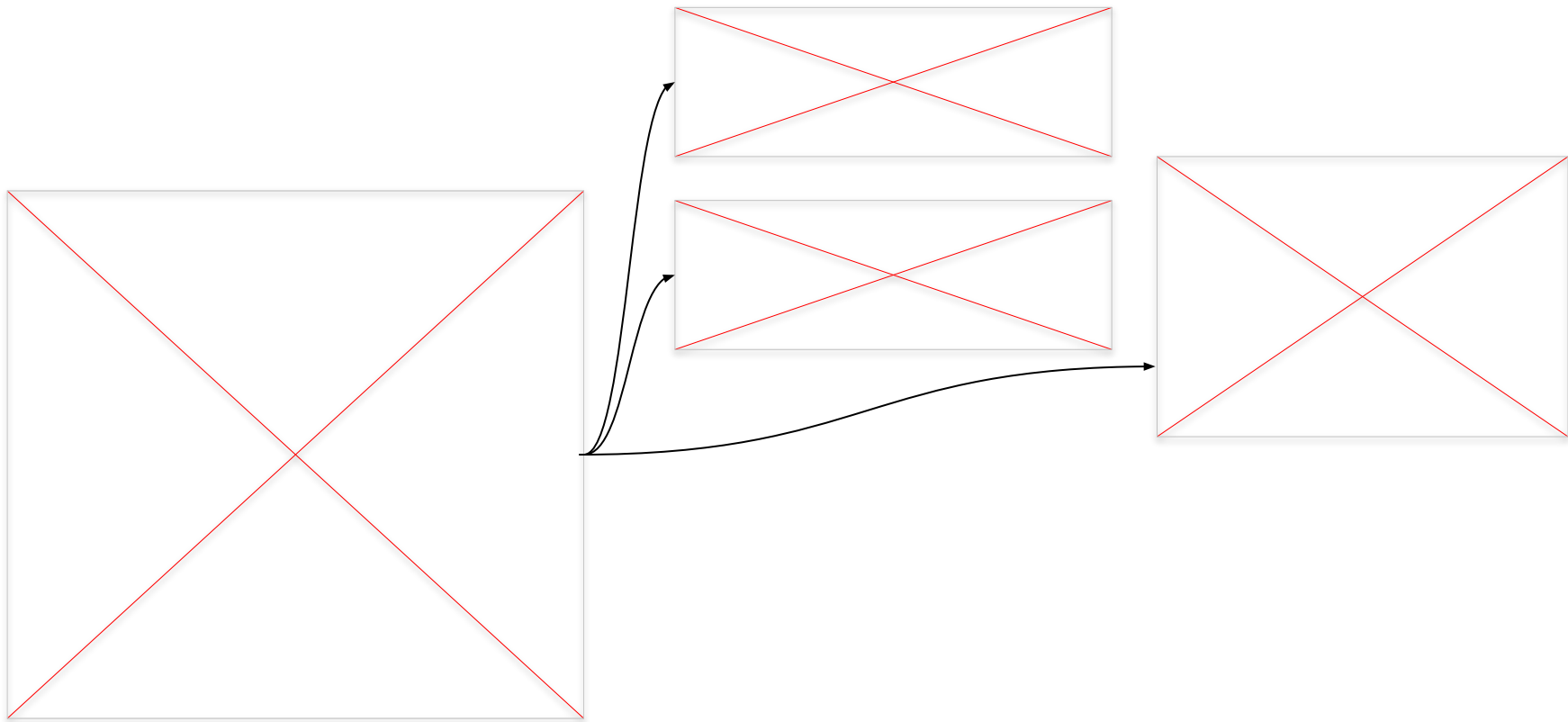


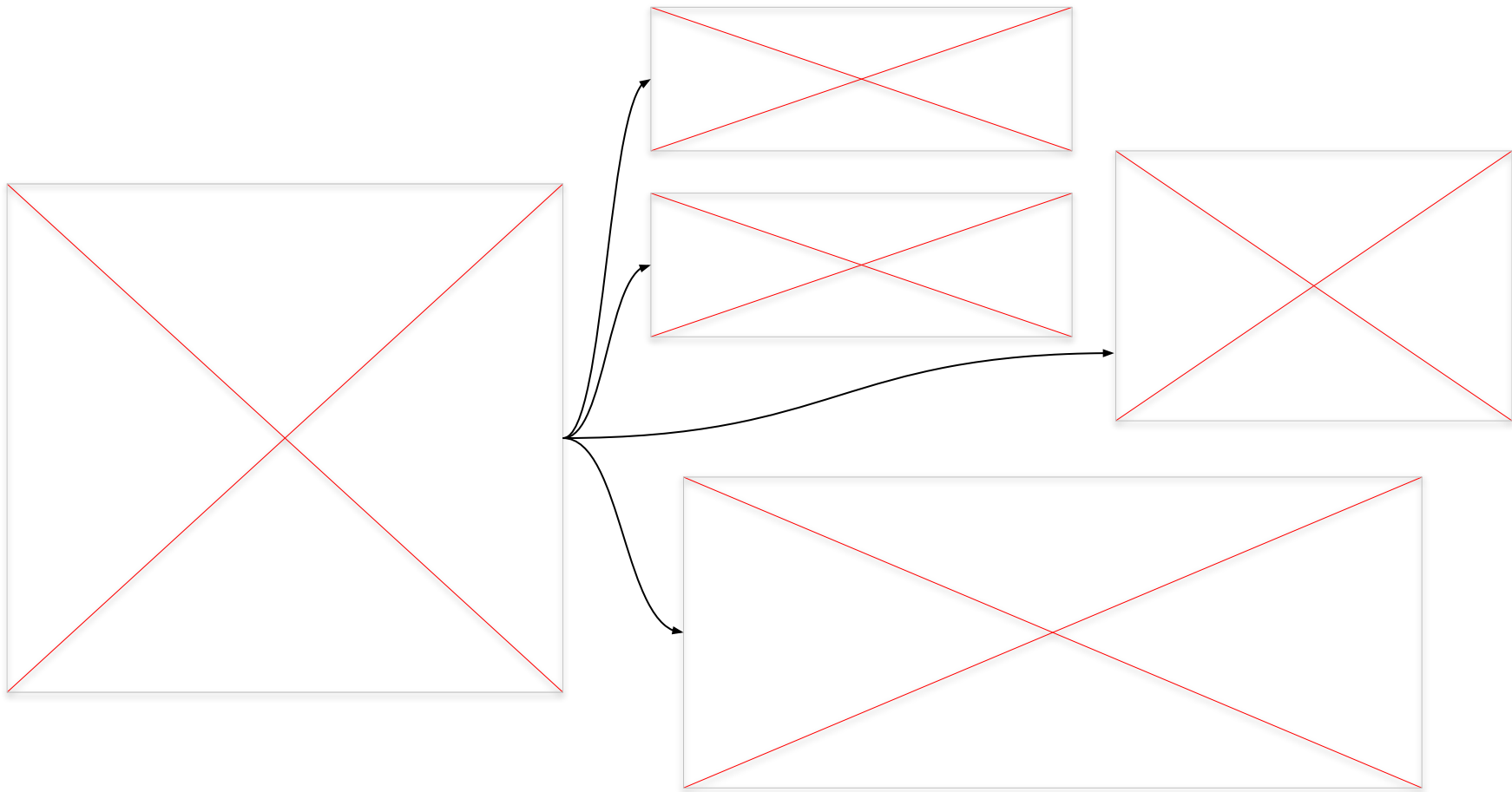
dimensions

measures

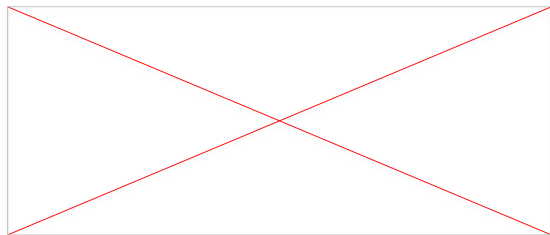




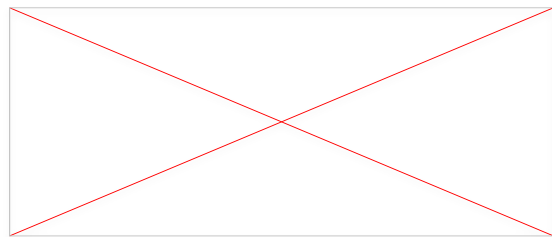




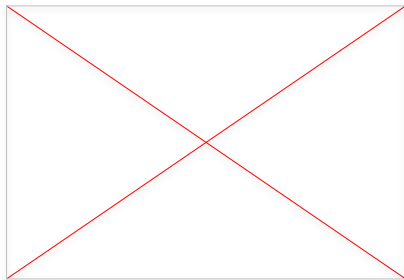
Raw data



Raw data

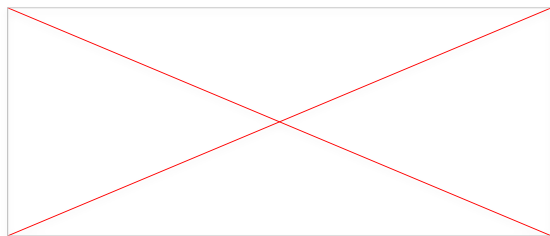


OLAP cube

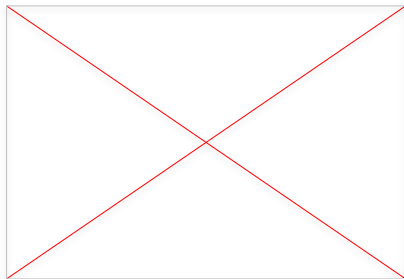


Pre-aggregate data an OLAP cube

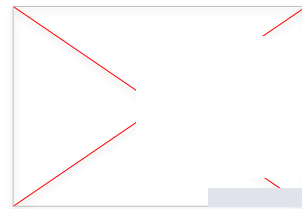
Raw data



OLAP cube

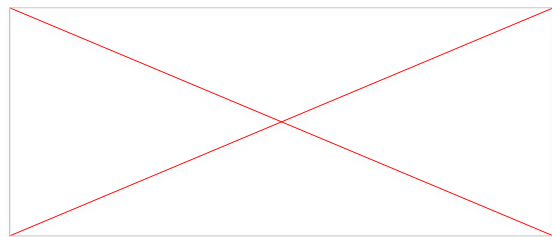


Reporting

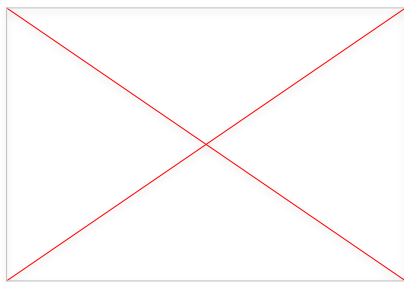


Aggregated again to create a report

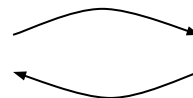
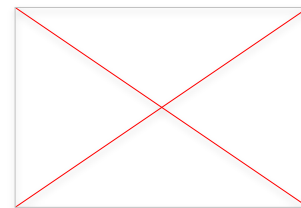
Raw data



OLAP cube

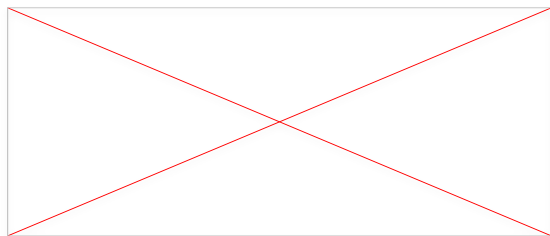


Reporting

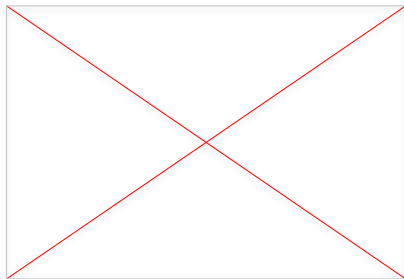


The cube does the computation

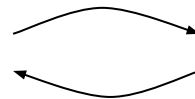
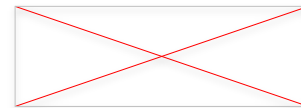
Raw data



OLAP cube

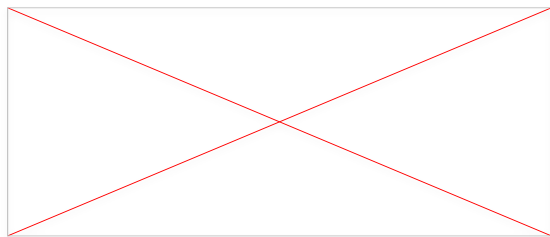


Reporting

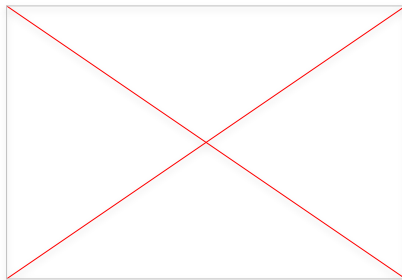


People can ask lots of questions quickly

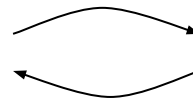
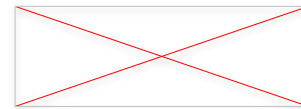
Raw data



OLAP cube

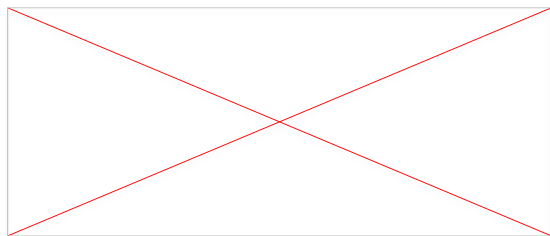


Reporting

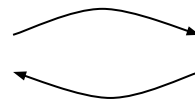
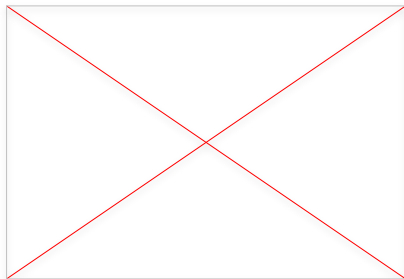


The metrics in the cube are calculated consistently

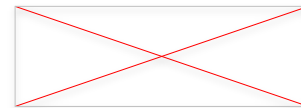
Raw data



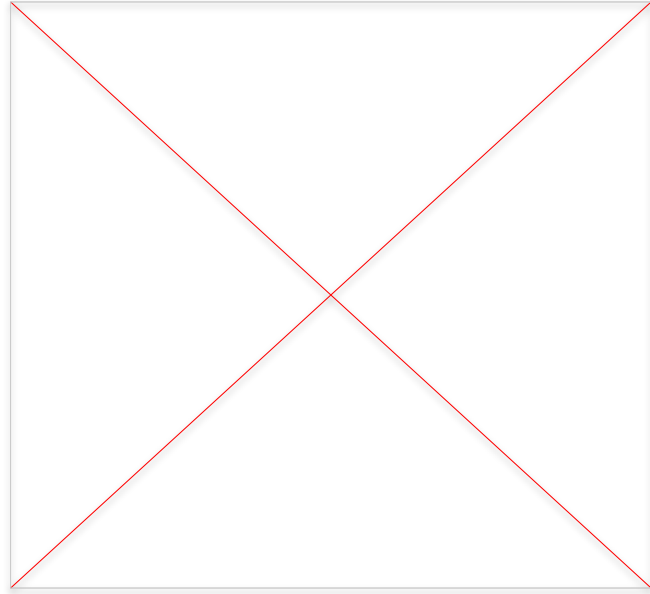
OLAP cube

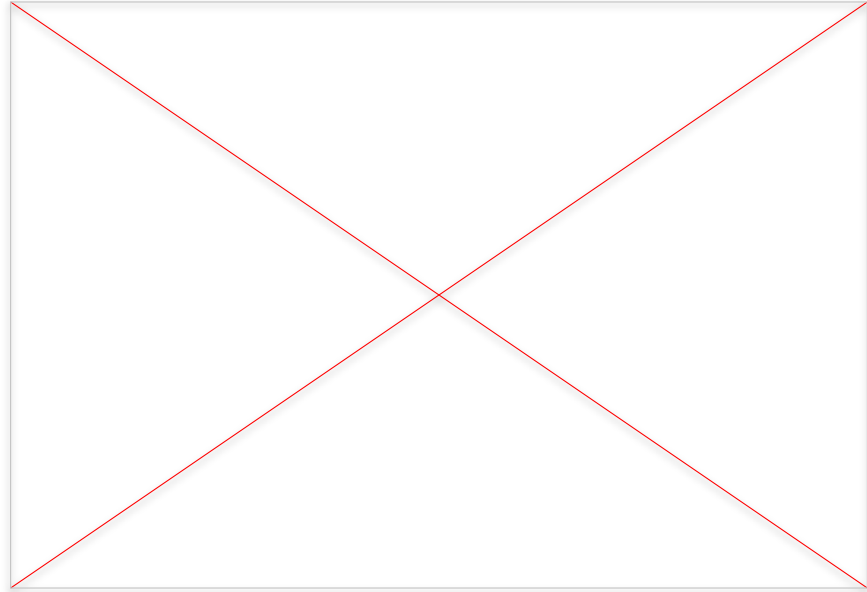


Reporting



 **Everything has to be pre-computed**





month	state	store	sales	items_sold
January	California	1	\$1,205	24
February	California	1	\$1,346	11
March	California	1	\$1,253	18
April	California	1	\$1,184	28
May	California	1	\$1,337	17
June	California	1	\$1,245	11
January	California	2	\$1,426	26
February	California	2	\$1,275	26
March	California	2	\$1,036	30
April	California	2	\$1,357	22
May	California	2	\$1,246	17
June	California	2	\$1,074	23
January	California	3	\$1,070	12
February	California	3	\$1,480	29
March	California	3	\$1,374	20
April	California	3	\$1,105	26
May	California	3	\$1,425	18
June	California	3	\$1,205	25
January	Ohio	52	\$390	8
February	Ohio	52	\$461	3
March	Ohio	52	\$428	7
April	Ohio	52	\$420	13
May	Ohio	52	\$425	14
June	Ohio	52	\$435	8
January	Ohio	84	\$381	3
February	Ohio	84	\$487	5
March	Ohio	84	\$421	5
April	Ohio	84	\$528	12

In 1999...

In 1999...

4,597

sets

In 1999...



4,597

sets

x

50

states

In 1999...

4,597

sets

x

50

states

x

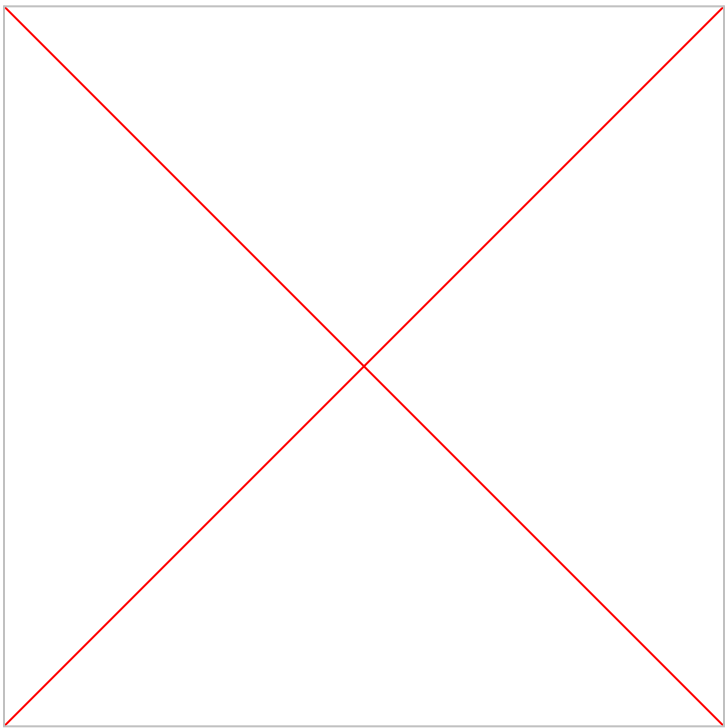
52

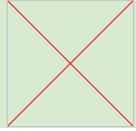
weeks

In 1999...

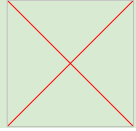
11,952,200

combinations

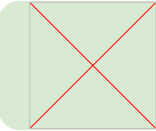




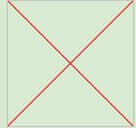
People can answer questions quickly



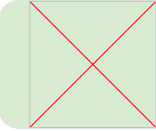
People can answer questions quickly



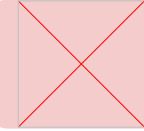
Metrics are computed consistently



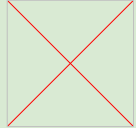
People can answer questions quickly



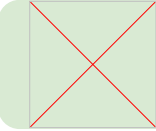
Metrics are computed consistently



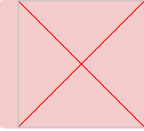
Everything has to be pre-computed



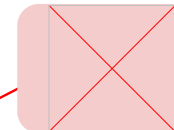
People can answer questions quickly



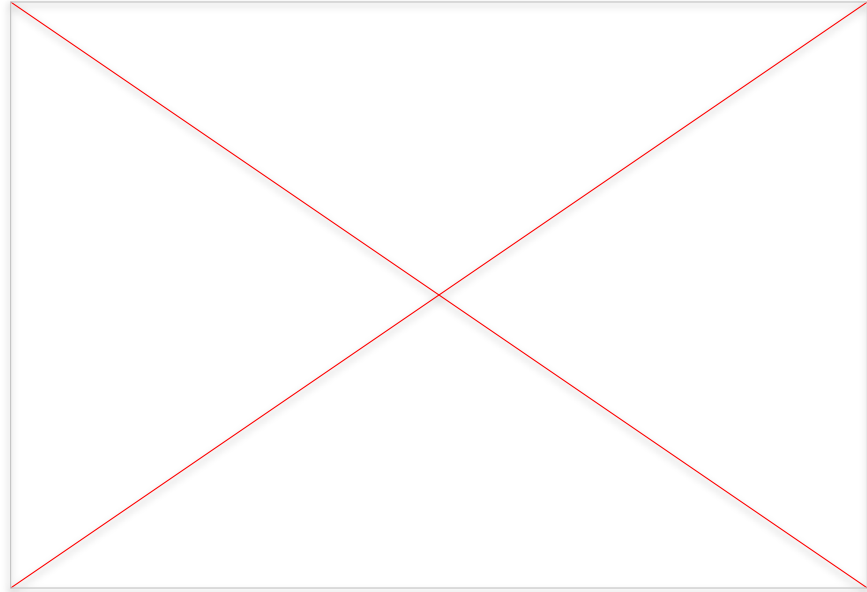
Metrics are computed consistently

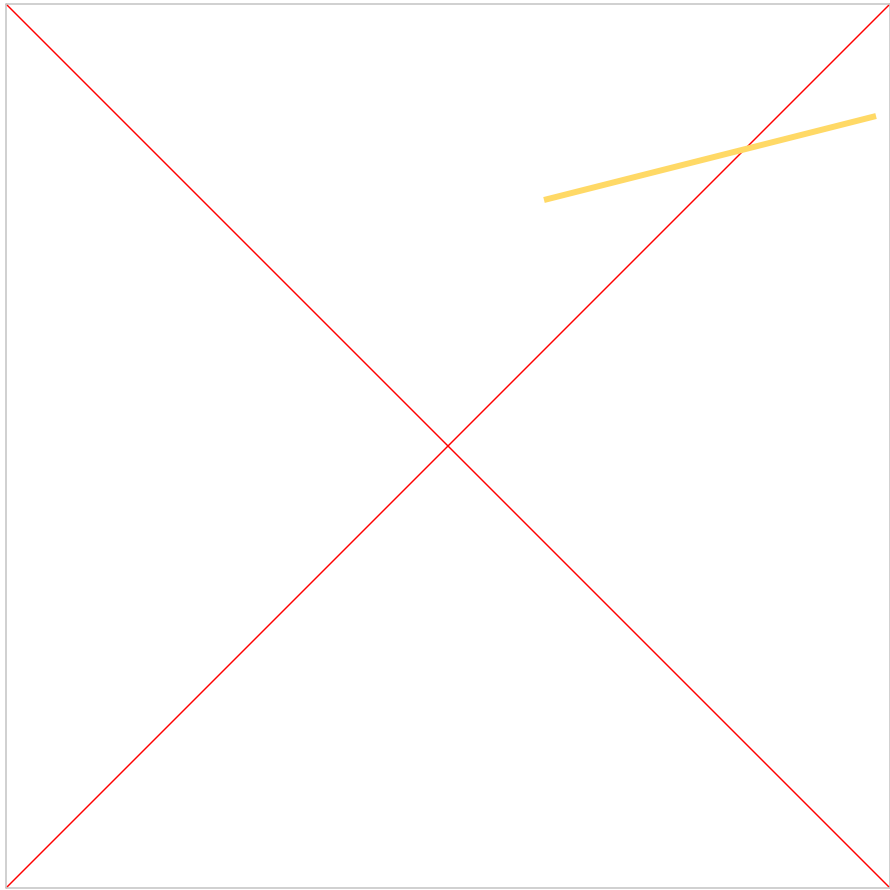


Everything has to be pre-computed

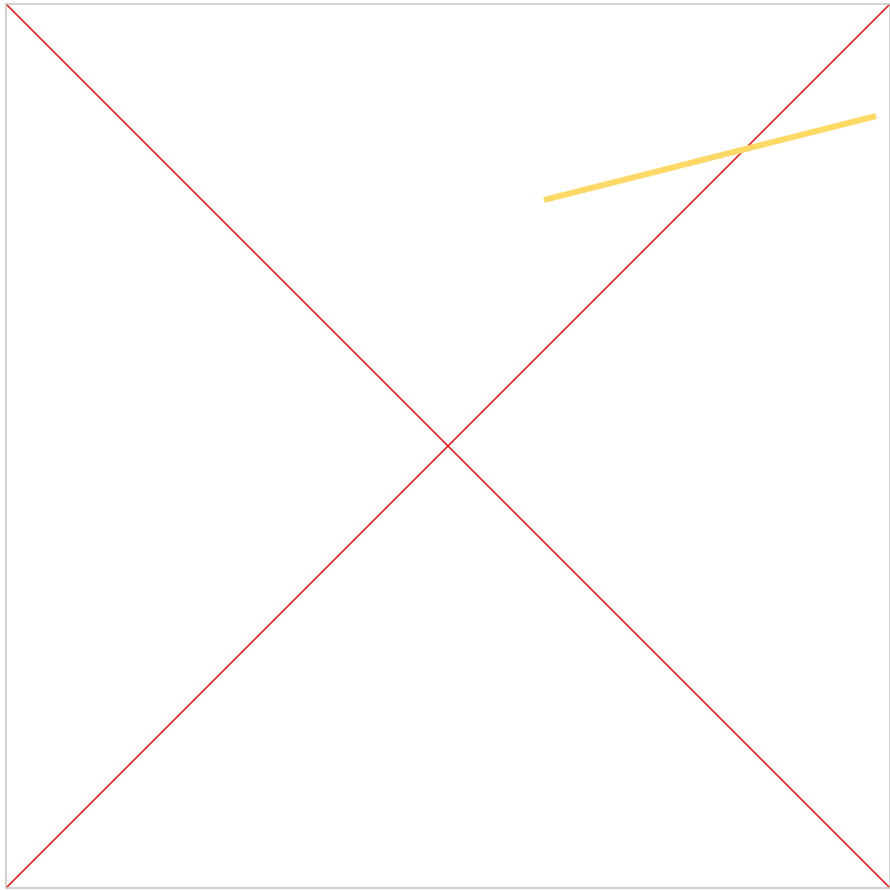


OLAP cubes are unintuitive to use

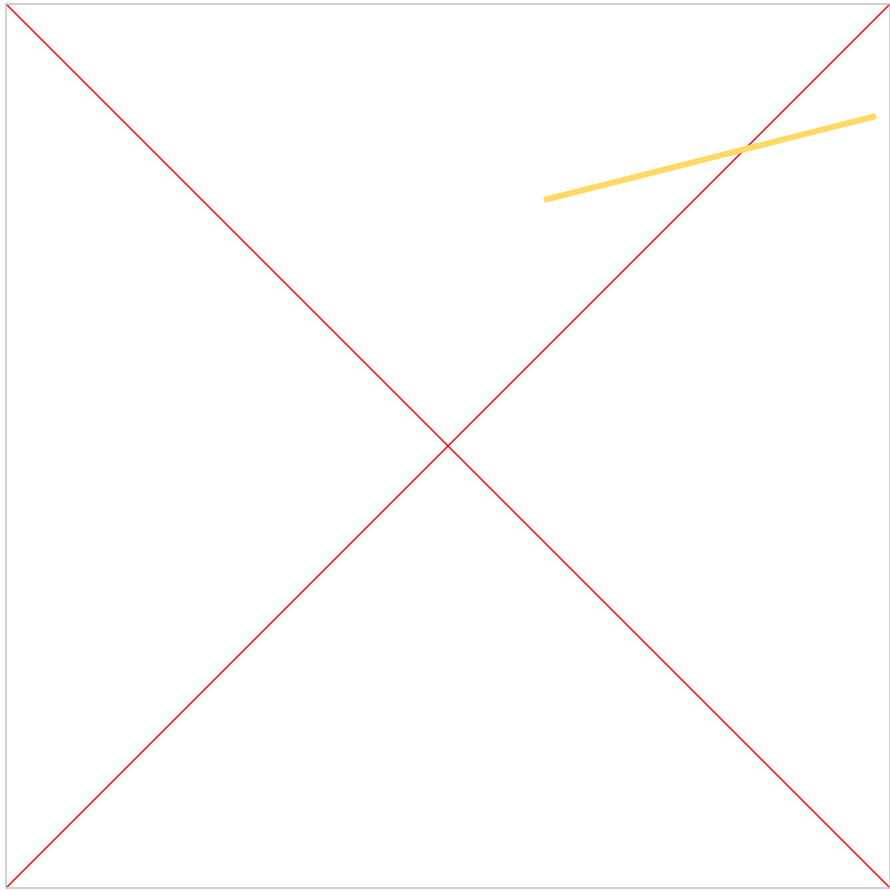




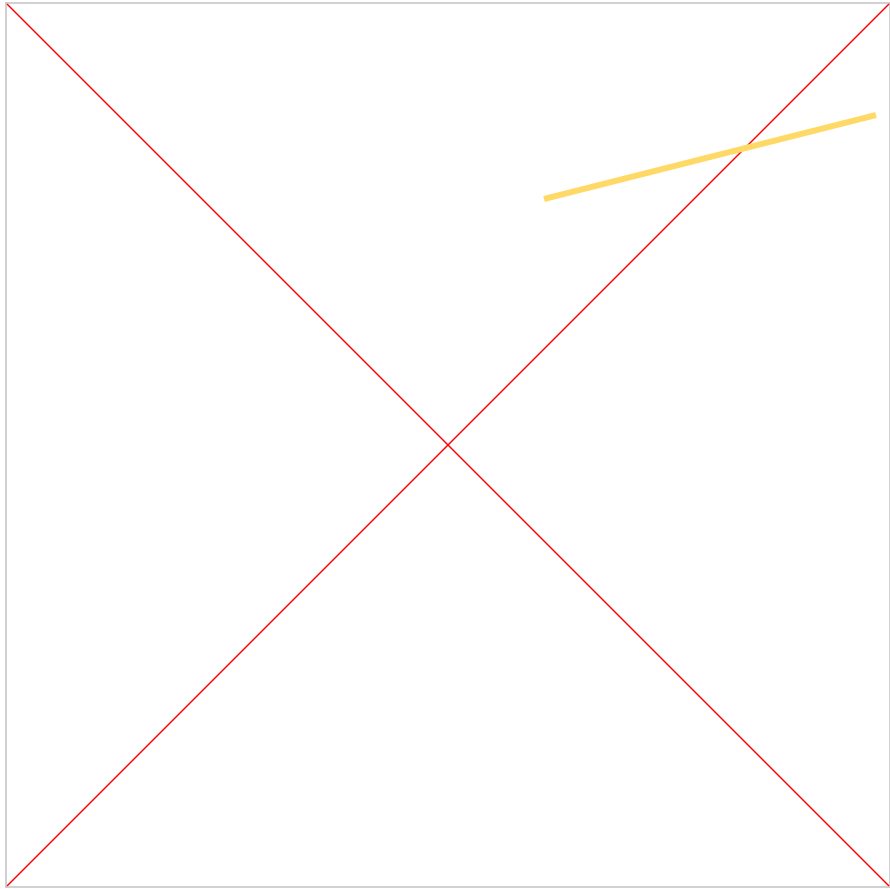
How many bricks did we sell?!?



What is our revenue?!?



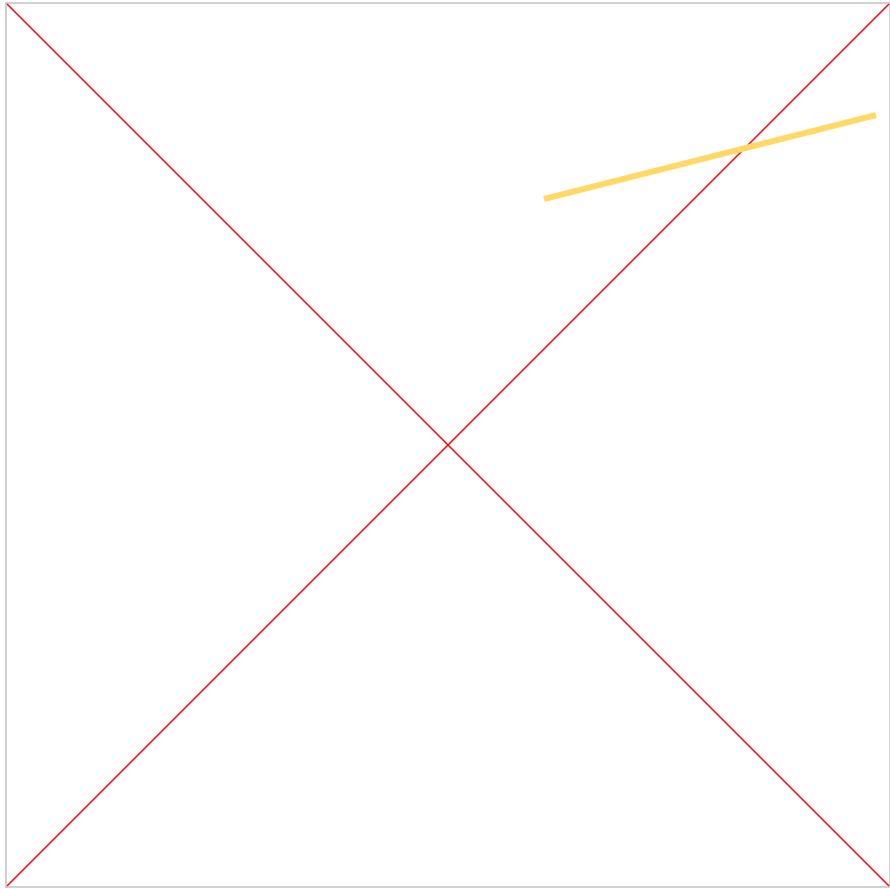
What is our revenue...
by week?!?



What is our revenue...

by week...

by set theme?!?

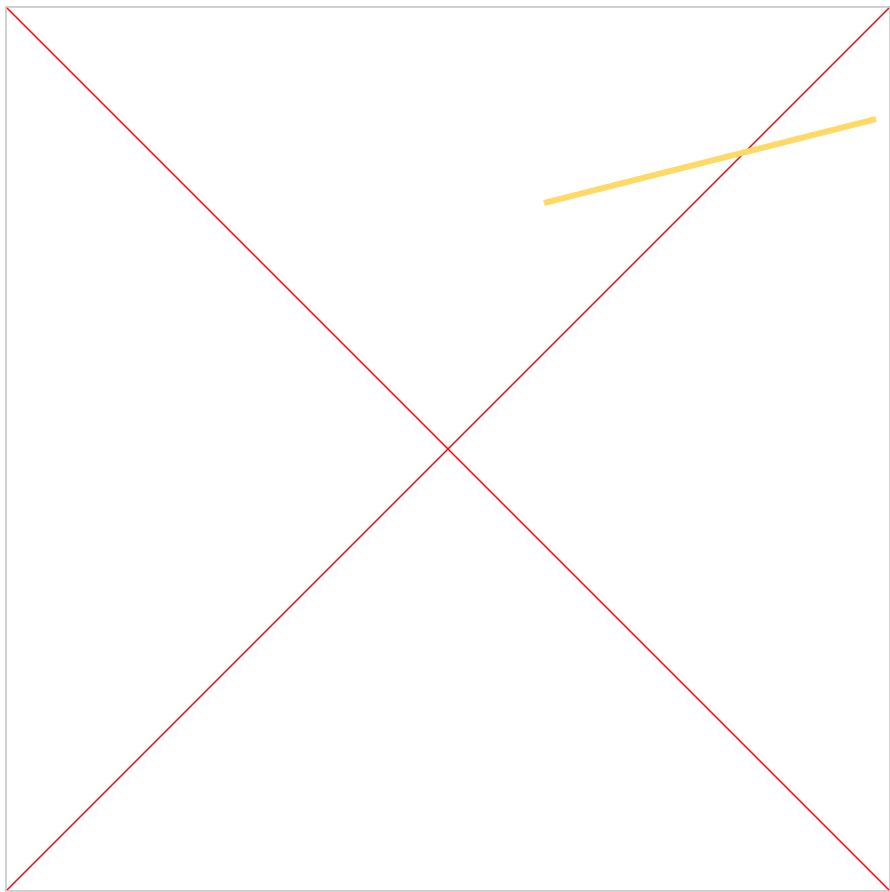


What is our revenue...

by week...

by set theme...

in Europe?!?



**Get me a
metric!!**

Revenue

```
graph TD; Revenue[Revenue]; Salesforce[Salesforce opportunity]; Stripe[Stripe logs]; Tax[Tax adjustment]; CSV[CSV from Janice in Accounting]; Return[Return policy]; Date[Date sales are recognized]; Revenue --- Salesforce; Revenue --- Stripe; Revenue --- Tax; Revenue --- CSV; Revenue --- Return; Revenue --- Date; style Revenue stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px; style Salesforce stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px; style Stripe stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px; style Tax stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px; style CSV stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px; style Return stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px; style Date stroke:#f00,stroke-width:2px;
```

**Salesforce
opportunity**

Stripe logs

Tax adjustment

**Date sales are
recognized**

**CSV from Janice
in Accounting**

Return policy

Get me a list of stores!



Get me a list of stores!

With details on their
location and hours!



Get me a list of stores!

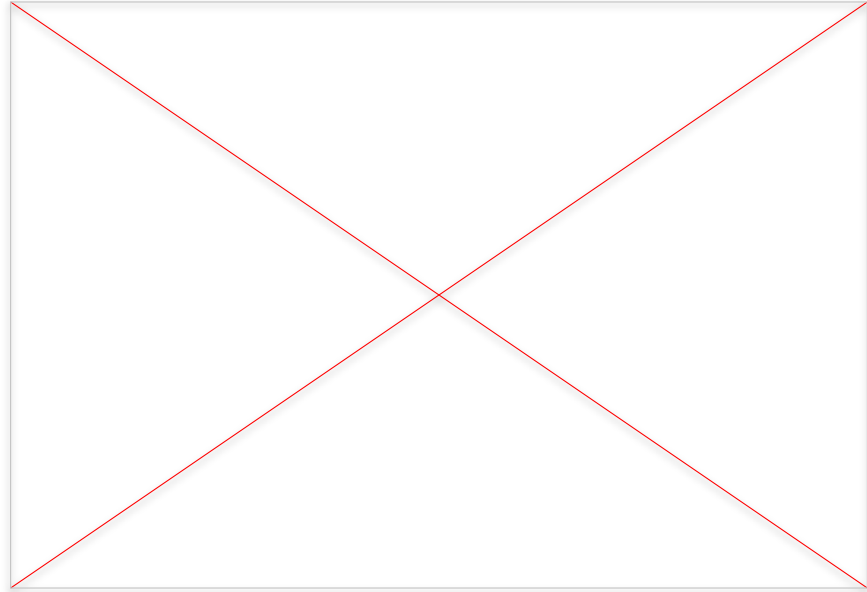
With details on their
location and hours!

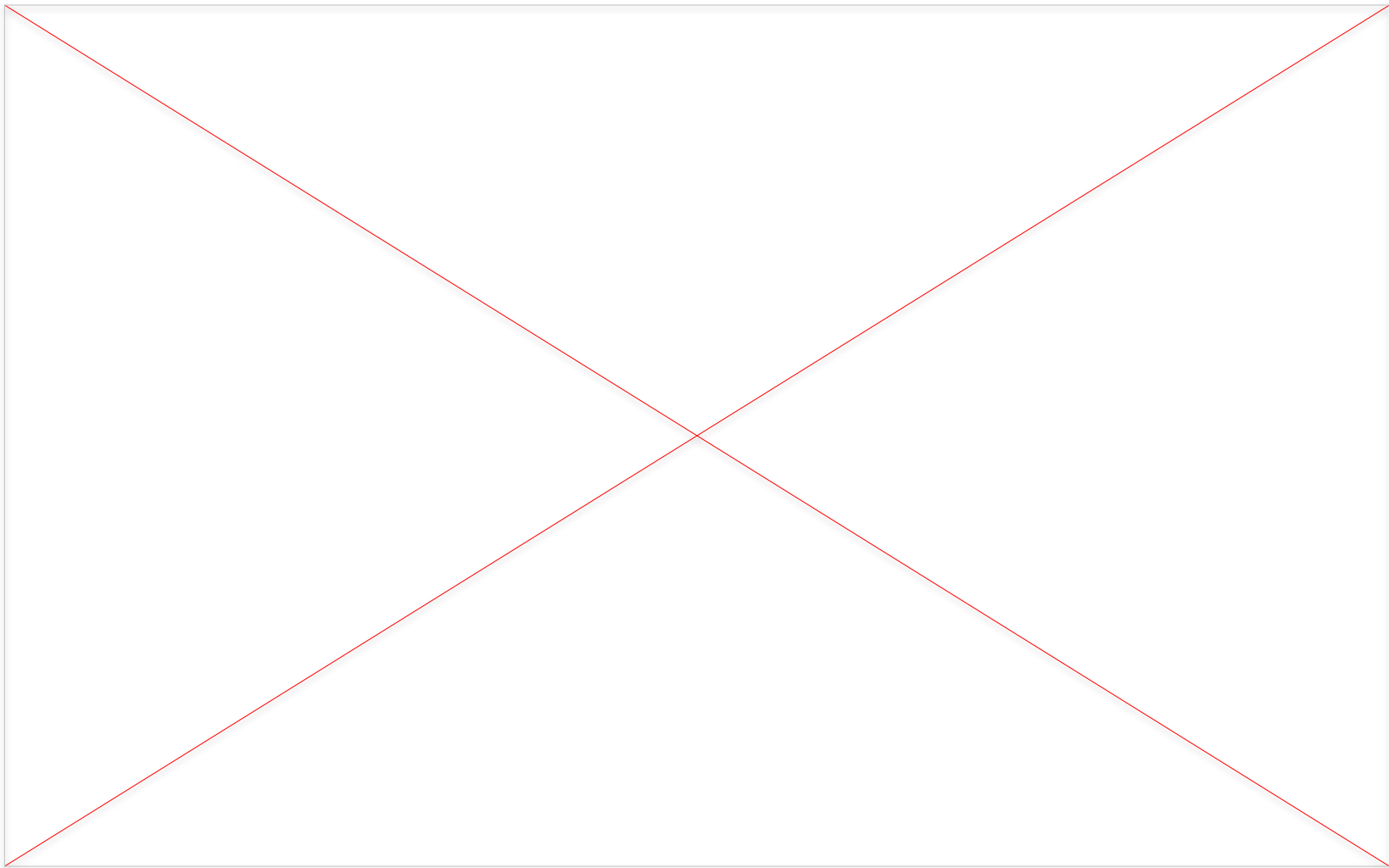
And data about sales
and operating costs!

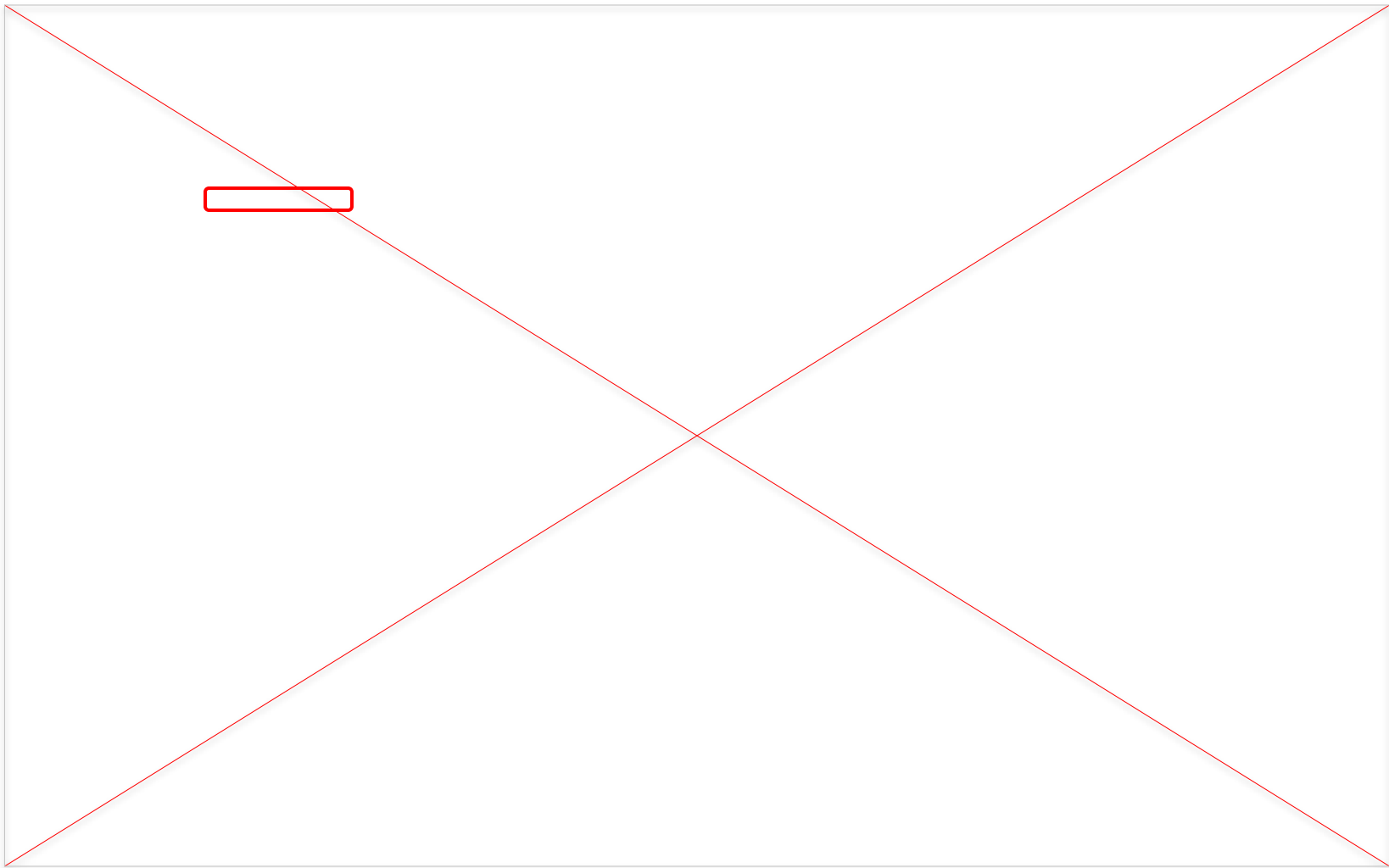


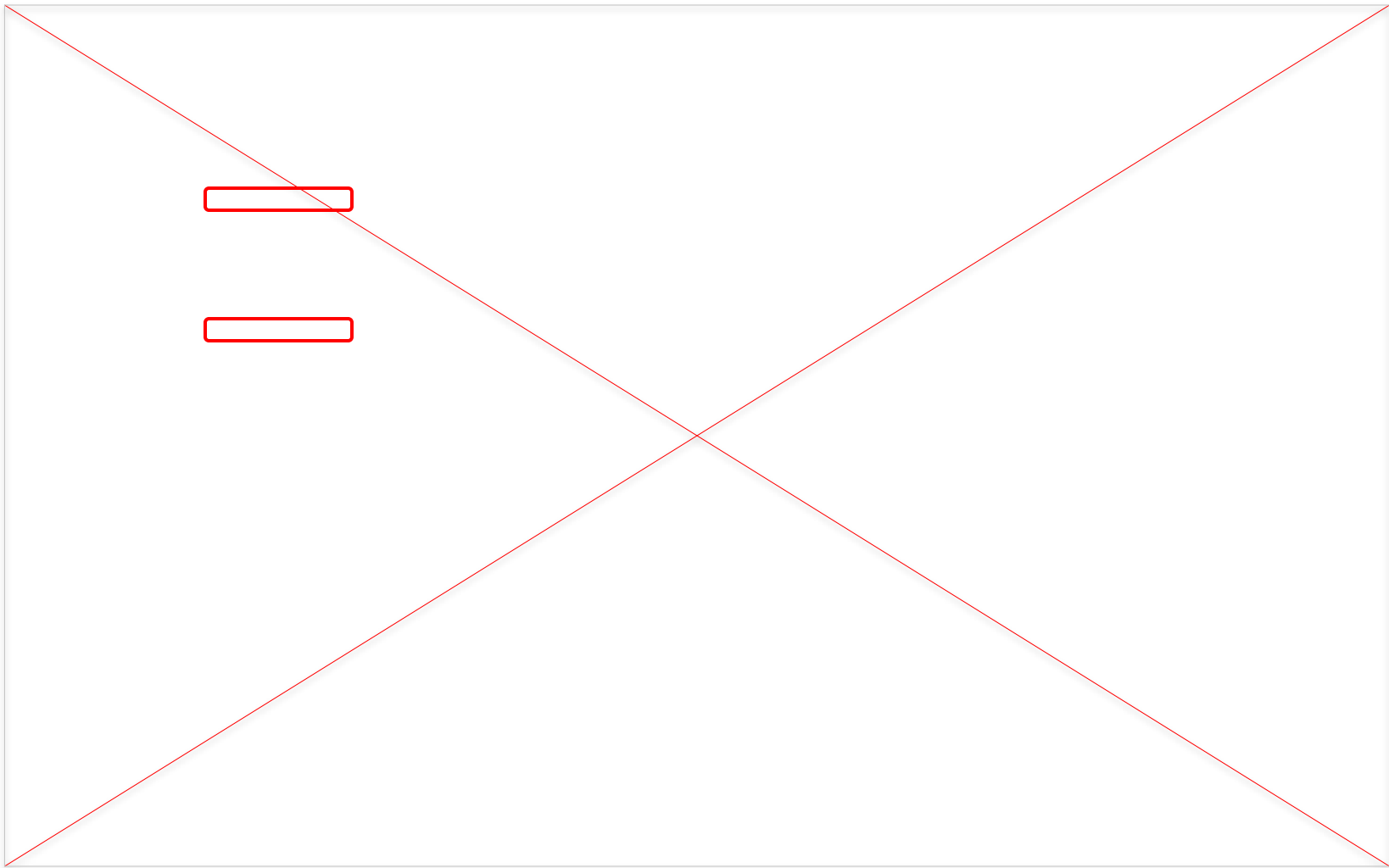
Get me
a list of
entities!!

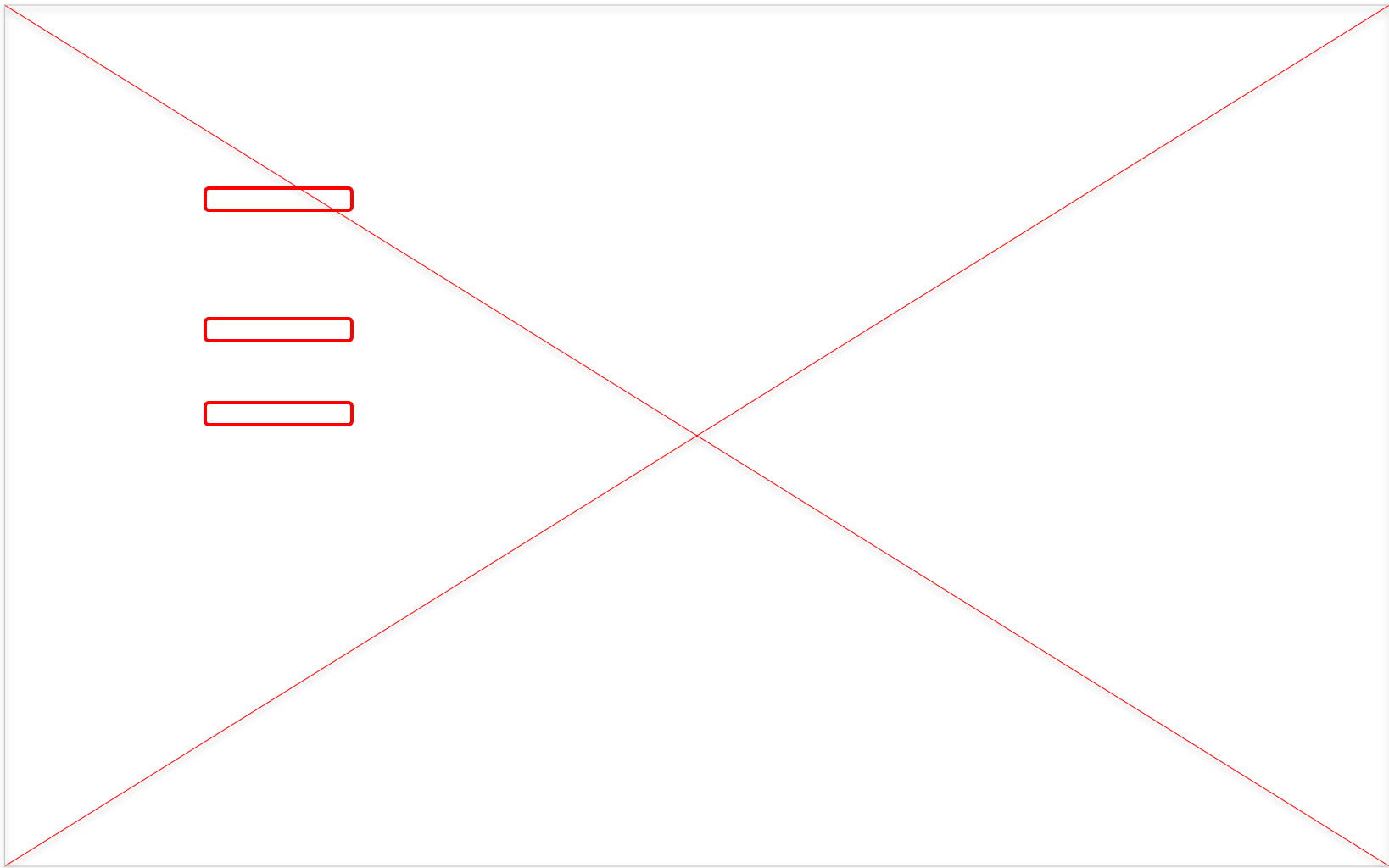


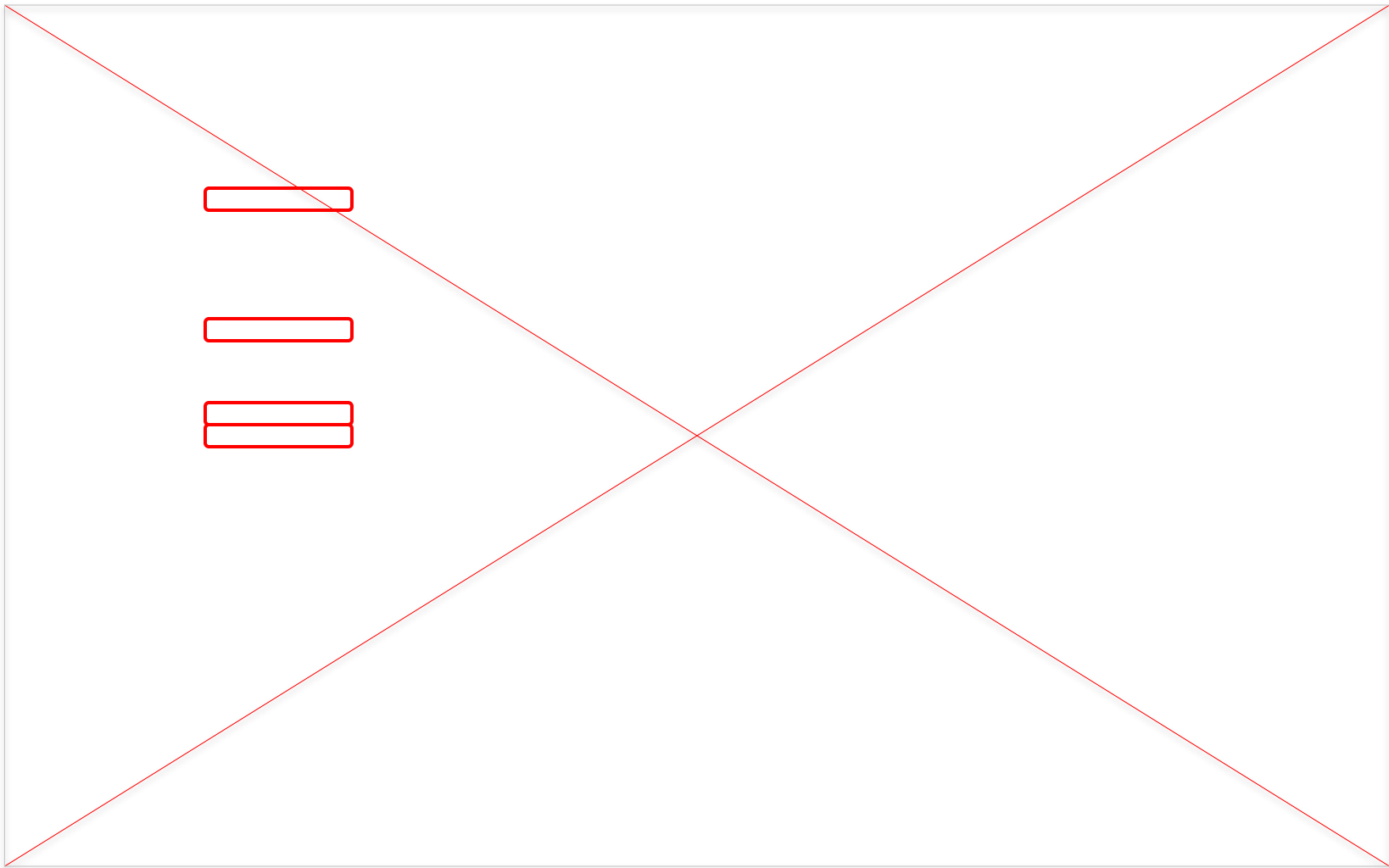


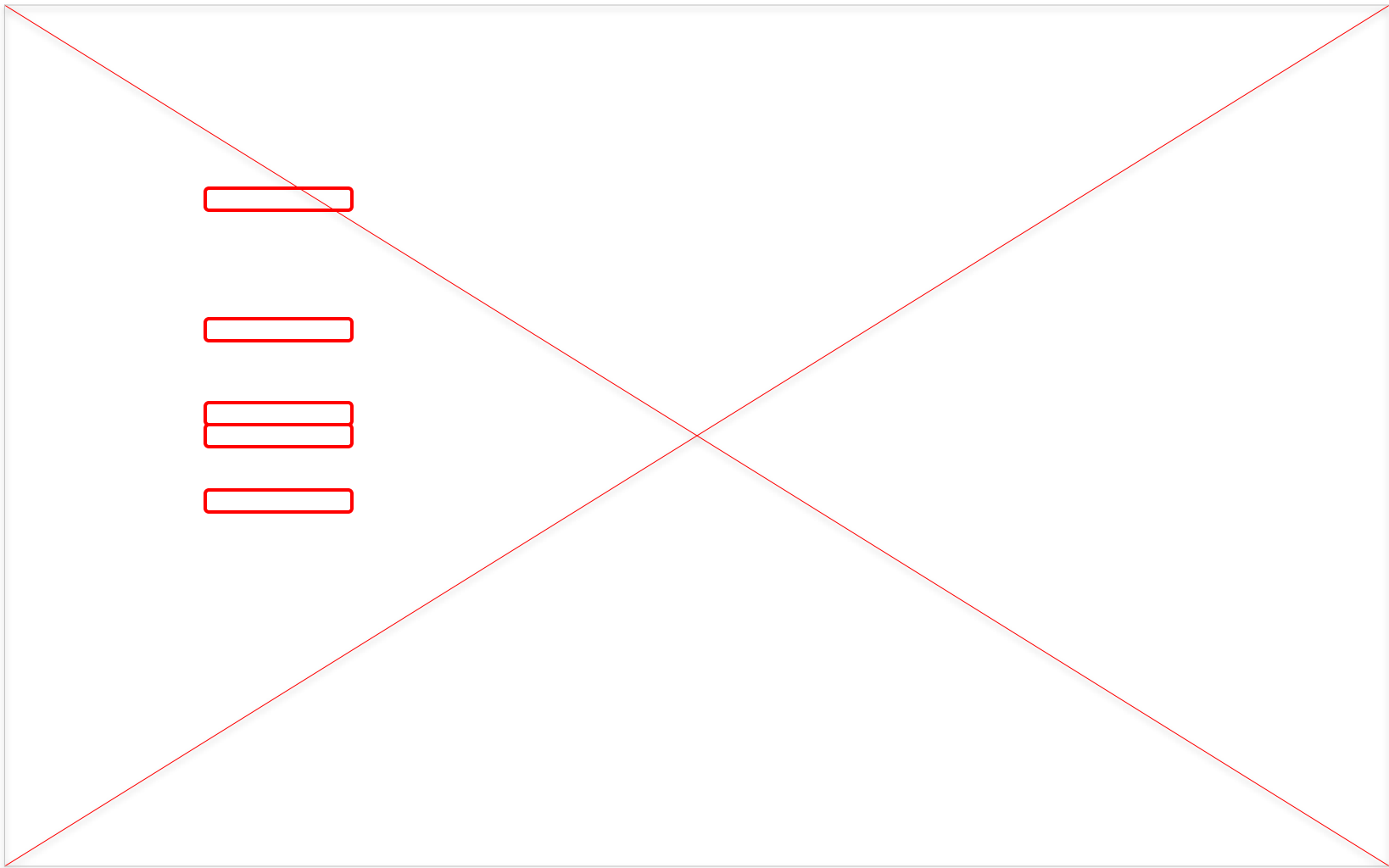


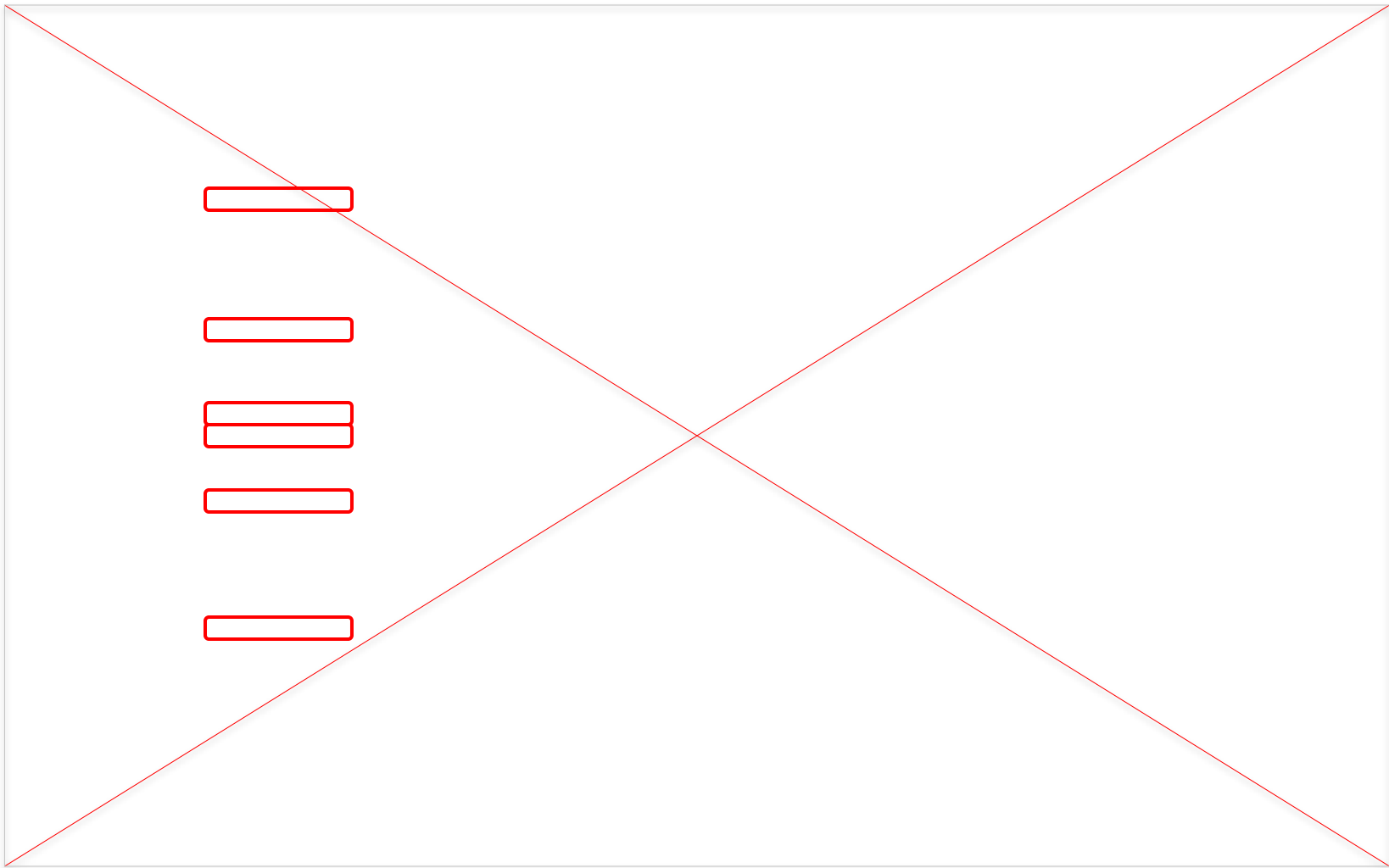


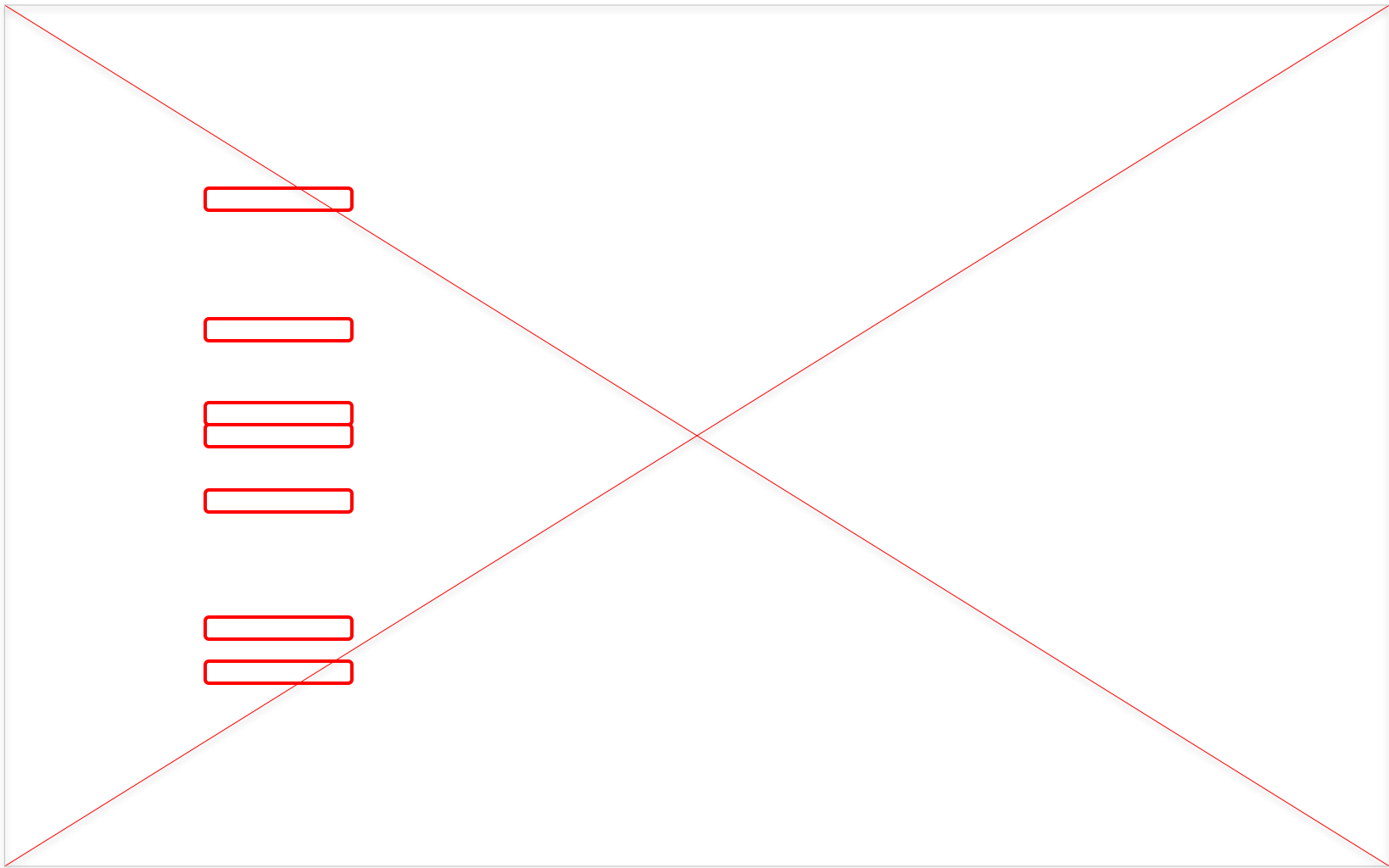


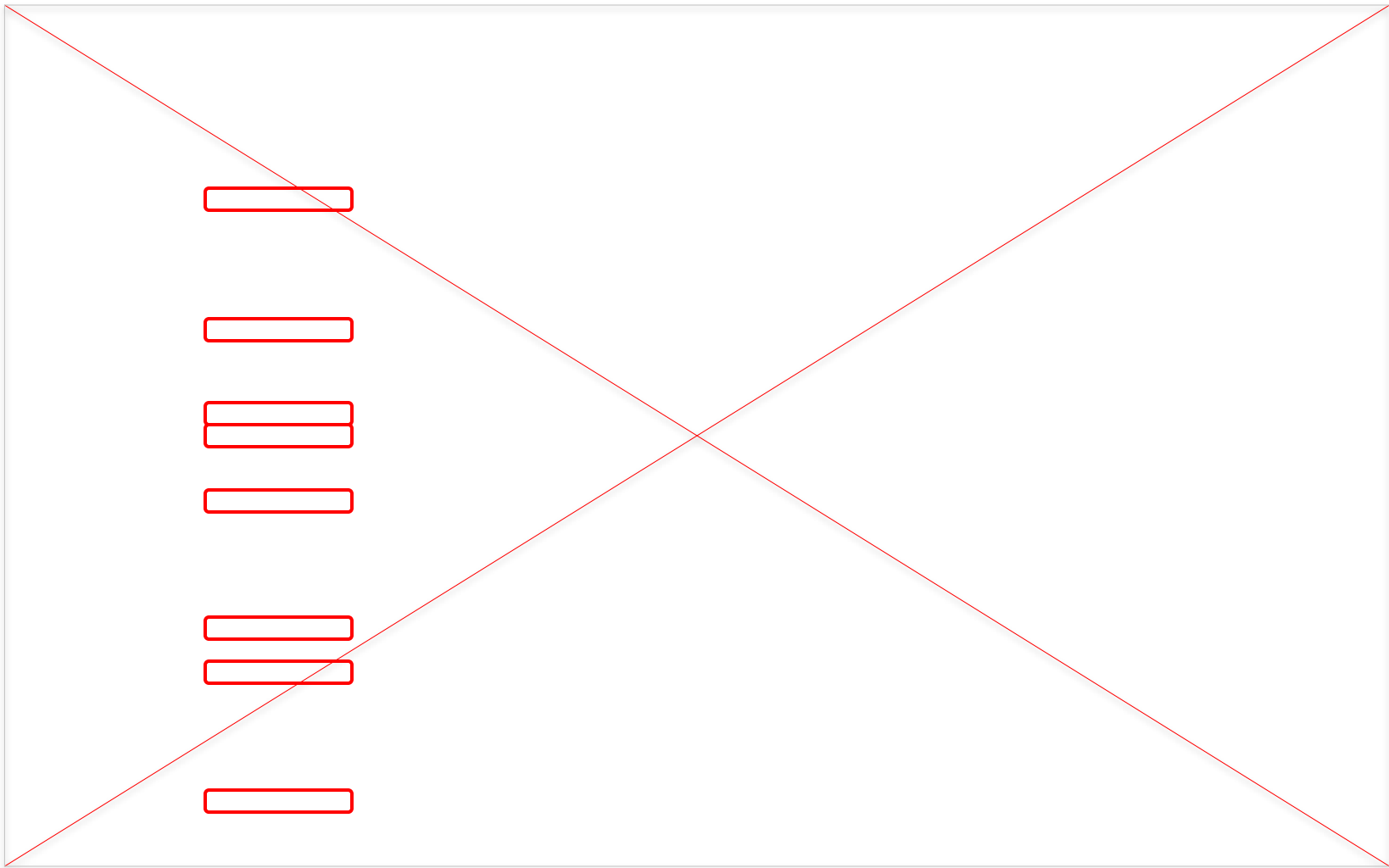




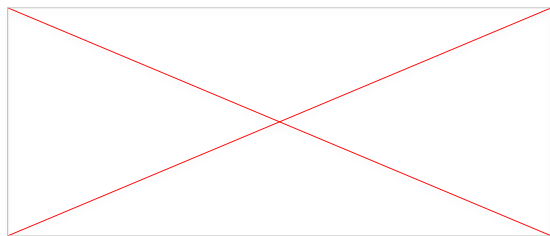




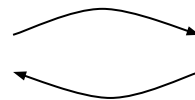
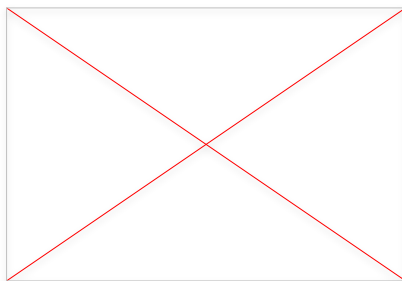




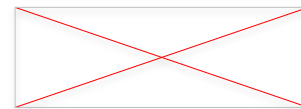
Raw data



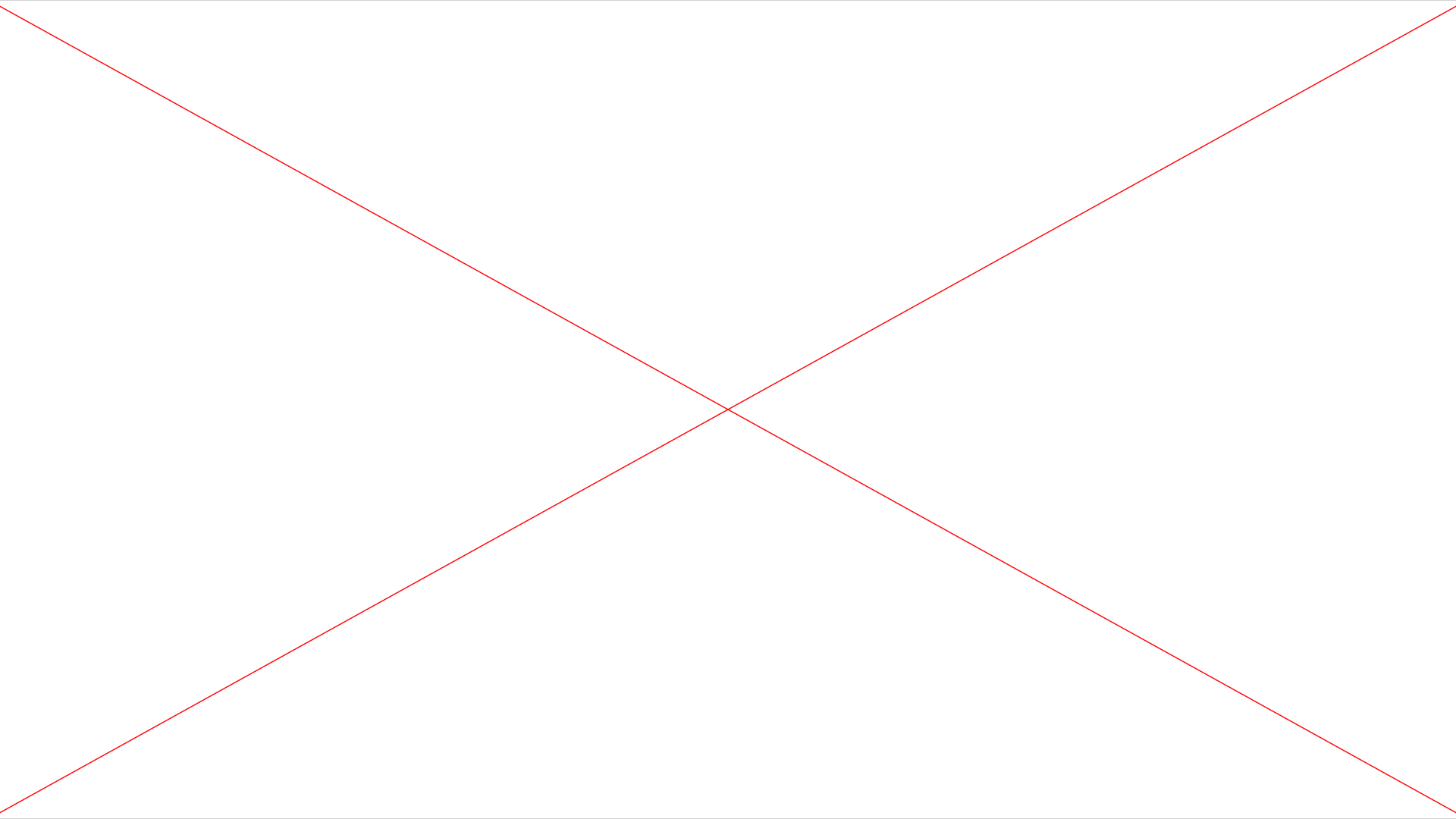
OLAP cube

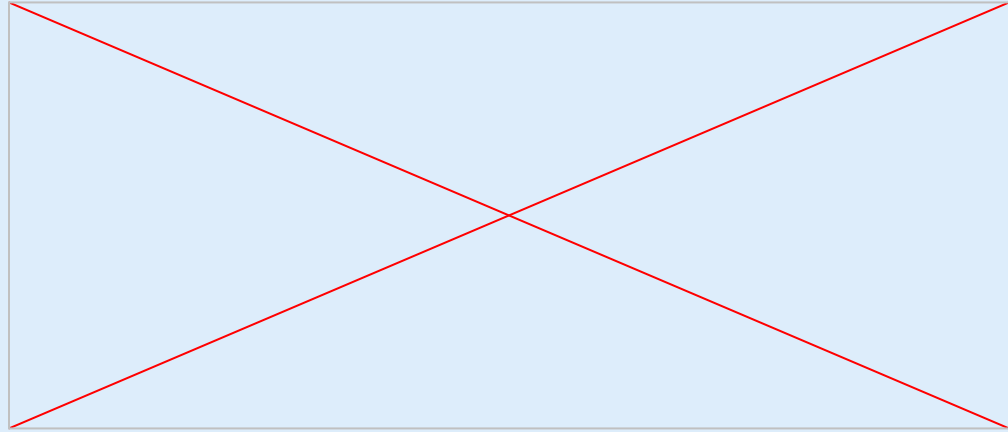


Reporting



OLAP cubes are hard to understand







Today...

11,952,200

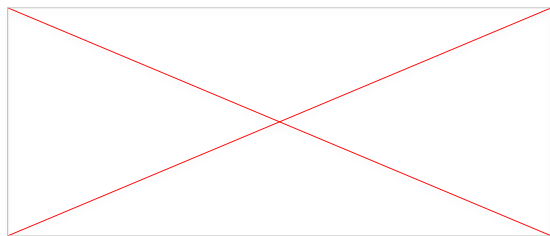
combinations

Today...

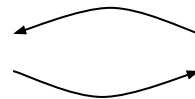
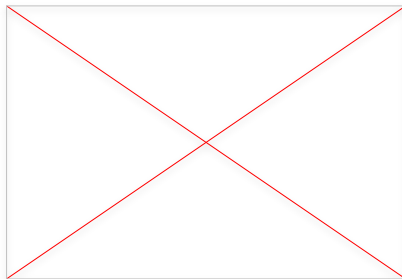
200,000,000

transactions

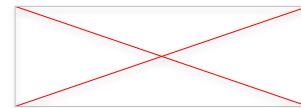
Raw data



OLAP cube

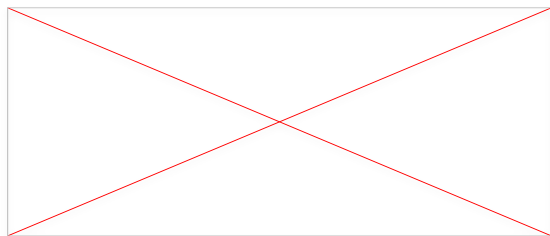


Reporting

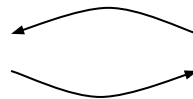
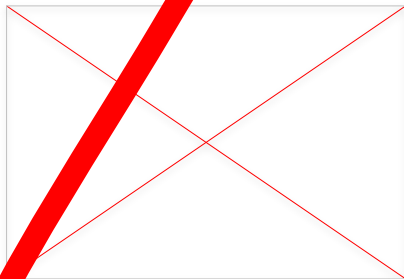
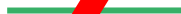


We don't need to precompute this anymore

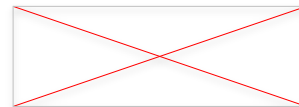
Raw data



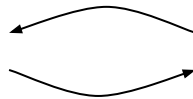
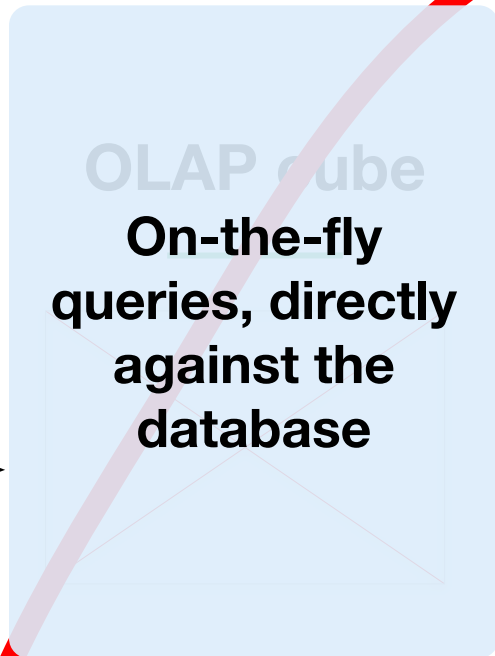
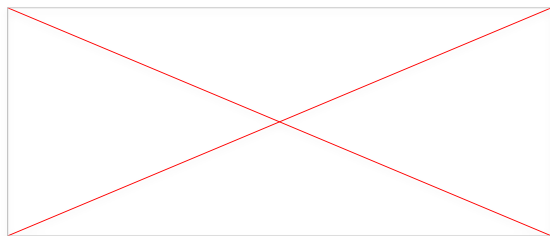
OLAP cube



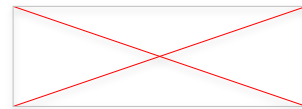
Reporting

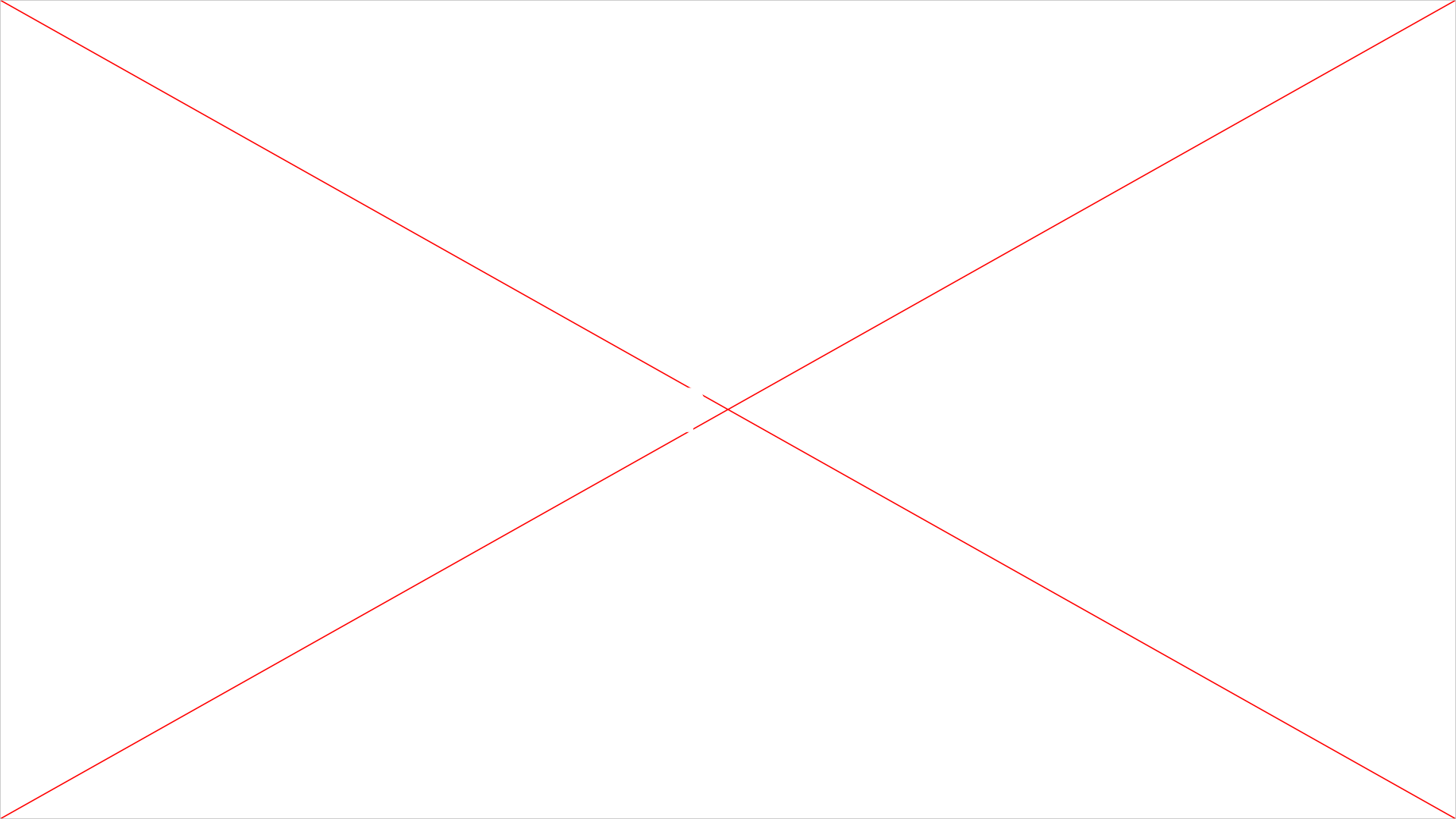


Raw data

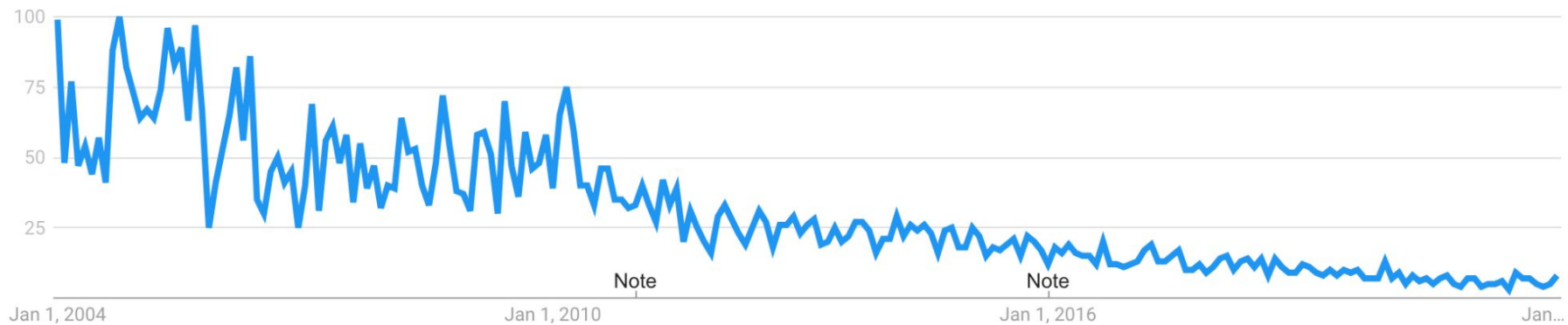


Reporting





● olap cube



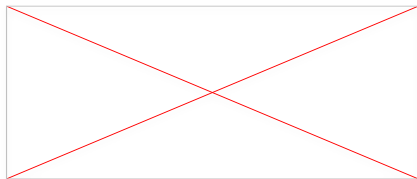
United States. 1/1/04 - 3/20/22. Web Search.



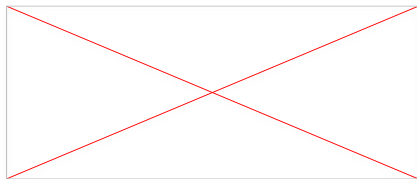
looker

The logo for 'looker' features the word 'looker' in a dark grey, sans-serif font. The two 'o's in 'loo' are replaced by a stylized molecular structure consisting of three purple circles of varying sizes connected by thin white lines. The largest circle is at the bottom, with a medium-sized circle above it, and a small circle to the right of the medium one. The 'k' and 'er' are in the same dark grey font as the 'l'.

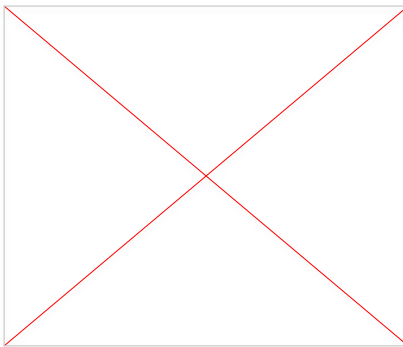
Raw data



Raw data

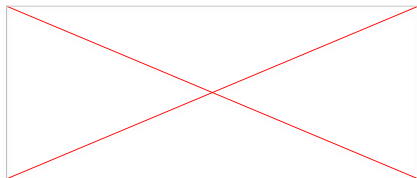


Data model

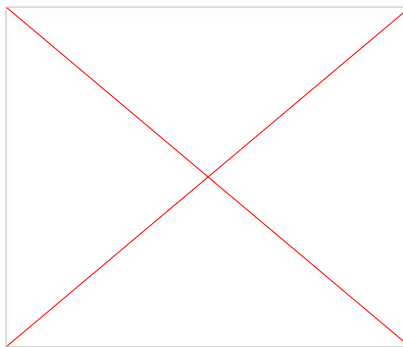


Configure relationships and metrics

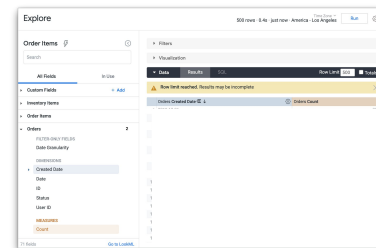
Raw data



Data model

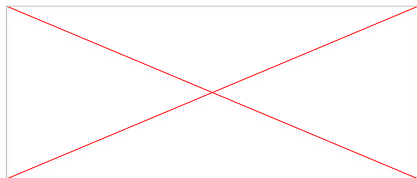


Reporting

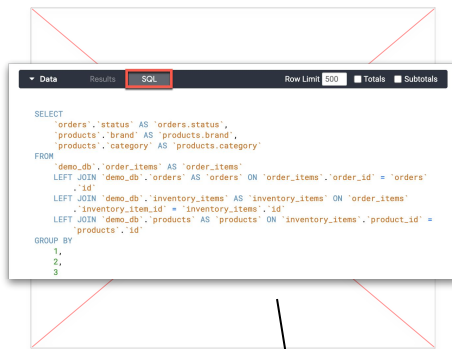


The model creates a UI that shows people what data they can use

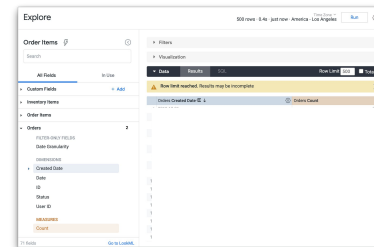
Raw data



Data model

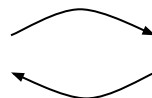
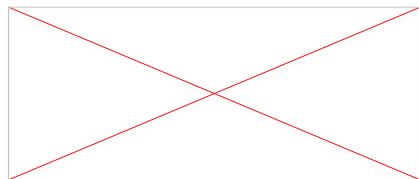


Reporting

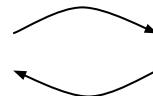


The model transforms requests into SQL queries

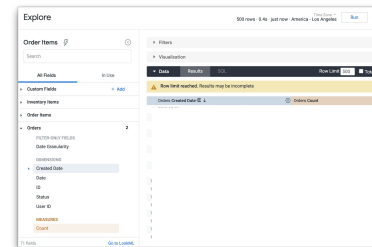
Raw data



Data model

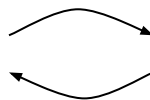
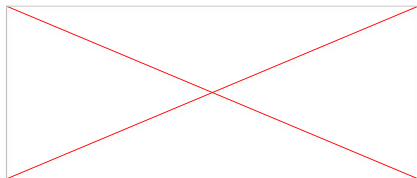


Reporting



The query runs against raw data

Raw data



Data model

```
SQL
```

```
SELECT
  orders.`status` AS `orders.status`,
  products.`brand` AS `products.brand`,
  products.`category` AS `products.category`
FROM
  `demo_db`.`order_items` AS `order_items`
LEFT JOIN `demo_db`.`orders` AS `orders` ON `order_items`.`order_id` = `orders`.`id`
LEFT JOIN `demo_db`.`inventory_items` AS `inventory_items` ON `order_items`.`inventory_item_id` = `inventory_items`.`id`
LEFT JOIN `demo_db`.`products` AS `products` ON `inventory_items`.`product_id` = `products`.`id`
GROUP BY
  1,
  2,
  3
```

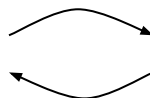
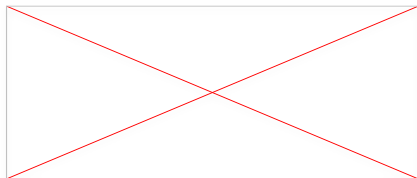


Reporting

Order Items	Date	Status
1	2019-10-20	OK
2	2019-10-20	OK
3	2019-10-19	OK
4	2019-10-19	OK
5	2019-10-17	OK
6	2019-10-16	OK
7	2019-10-15	OK
8	2019-10-14	OK
9	2019-10-13	OK
10	2019-10-12	OK
11	2019-10-11	OK
12	2019-10-11	OK
13	2019-10-09	OK
14	2019-10-08	OK
15	2019-10-07	OK
16	2019-10-06	OK
17	2019-10-06	OK

And results get returned

Raw data



Data model

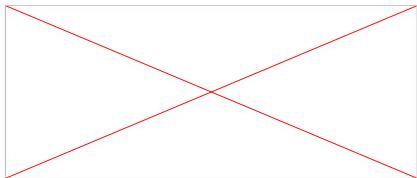
```
SQL
SELECT
  orders.`status` AS `orders.status`,
  products.`brand` AS `products.brand`,
  products.`category` AS `products.category`
FROM
  `demo_db`.`order_items` AS `order_items`
LEFT JOIN `demo_db`.`orders` AS `orders` ON `order_items`.`order_id` = `orders`.`id`
LEFT JOIN `demo_db`.`inventory_items` AS `inventory_items` ON `order_items`.`inventory_item_id` = `inventory_items`.`id`
LEFT JOIN `demo_db`.`products` AS `products` ON `inventory_items`.`product_id` = `products`.`id`
GROUP BY
  1,
  2,
  3
```



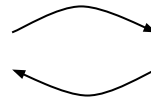
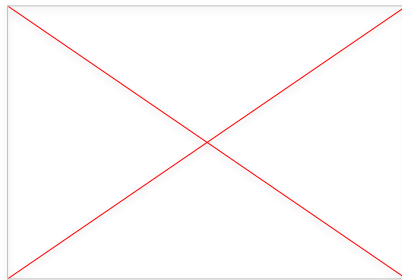
Reporting

Order Items	Date	Status	User ID
1	2019-10-20	OK	10
2	2019-10-20	OK	11
3	2019-10-11	OK	12
4	2019-10-11	OK	13
5	2019-10-17	OK	14
6	2019-10-11	OK	15
7	2019-10-11	OK	16
8	2019-10-11	OK	17
9	2019-10-11	OK	18
10	2019-10-11	OK	19
11	2019-10-11	OK	20
12	2019-10-11	OK	21
13	2019-10-09	OK	22
14	2019-10-09	OK	23
15	2019-10-07	OK	24
16	2019-10-09	OK	25
17	2019-10-09	OK	26

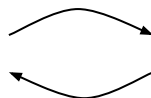
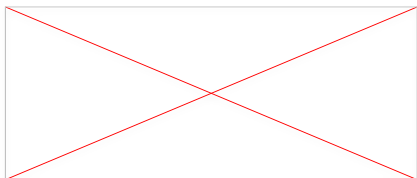
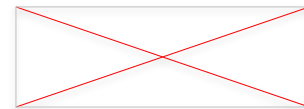
Raw data



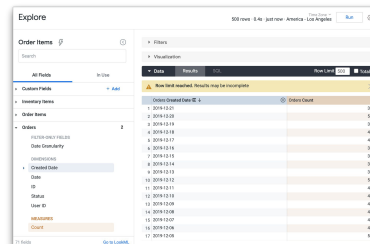
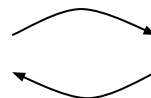
OLAP cube?

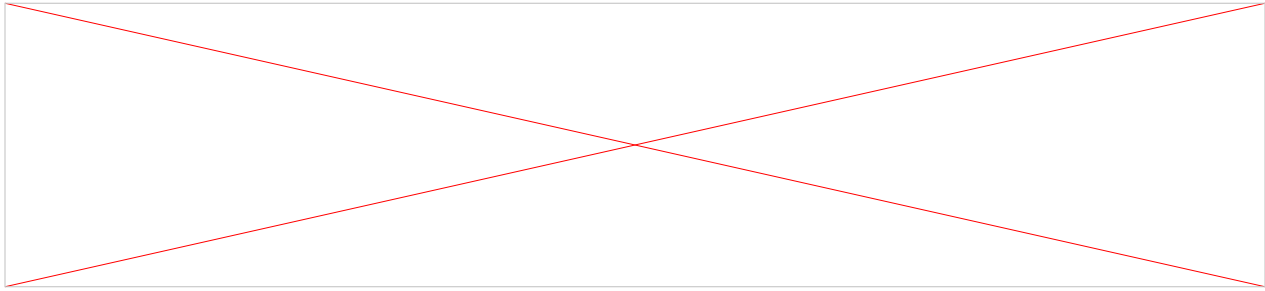


Reporting



```
SELECT
  'orders'.status AS 'orders.status',
  'products'.brand AS 'products.brand',
  'products'.category AS 'products.category'
FROM
  'demo_db'.order_items AS 'order_items'
LEFT JOIN 'demo_db'.orders AS 'orders' ON 'order_items'.order_id = 'orders'
  .id
LEFT JOIN 'demo_db'.inventory_items AS 'inventory_items' ON 'order_items'
  .inventory_item_id = 'inventory_items'.id
LEFT JOIN 'demo_db'.products AS 'products' ON 'inventory_items'.product_id =
  'products'.id
GROUP BY
  1,
  2,
  3
```





Employees+ (Employees DB) (2)

Connection


Live Extract


Filters


0 | Add




Join ✕


Inner


Left


Right


Full Outer

Data Source		Salaries
Employee ID	=	Employee ID (Salaries)

Add new join clause

Show aliases Show hidden fields 31 rows

#	Employees	Employees	Employees	Employees	Employees	#	Salaries	Salaries	Salaries
Employee ID	Birth Date	Last Name	First Name	Gender	Hire Date	Employee ID (Sala...	Salary	From Date	
1467	4/1/1983	Loui	Bondur	Female	4/1/2007	1467	6,231	4/1/2005	
1492	2/12/1980	Mary	Patterson	Female	2/12/2003	1492	6,177	2/12/2004	
1015	1/24/1987	Yoshimi	Kato	Female	1/24/2010	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	
1275	1/16/1990	Cindy	Smith	Female	1/16/2015	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	
1401	1/15/1982	Larry	Bott	Male	1/15/2005	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	
1237	3/29/1985	Foon Yue	Tseng	Male	3/29/2010	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	
1071	5/29/1986	William	Patterson	Male	5/29/2010	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	
1032	3/2/1981	Leslie	Thompson	Female	3/2/2004	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	

Data | Analytics <

Orders+ (Sample - EU Sup...)

Dimensions

- Orders
- Returns
- Country, State, City
- Product Hierarchy
- Measure Names

Measures

- Discount
- Profit
- Quantity
- Sales
- Unit Price
- Latitude (generated)
- Longitude (generated)
- Number of Records
- Measure Values

Pages

Order Date

Filters

Order Date

Marks

Automatic

Color Size Label

Detail Tooltip Shape

SUM(Profit)

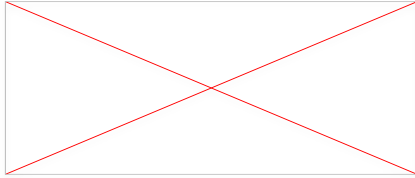
Product ID

Columns Segment SUM(Profit)

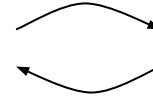
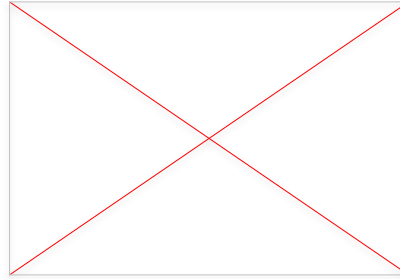
Rows SUM(Sales)



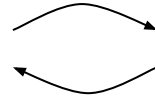
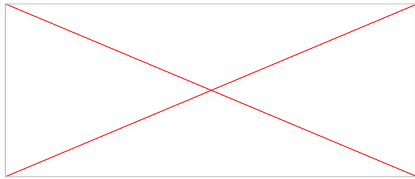
Raw data



OLAP cube?



Reporting



Employees+ (Employees DB) (2)

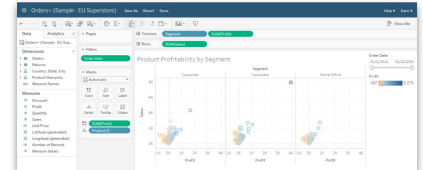
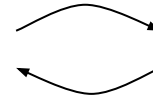
Connection: Live | Extract | Filters: All

Employees

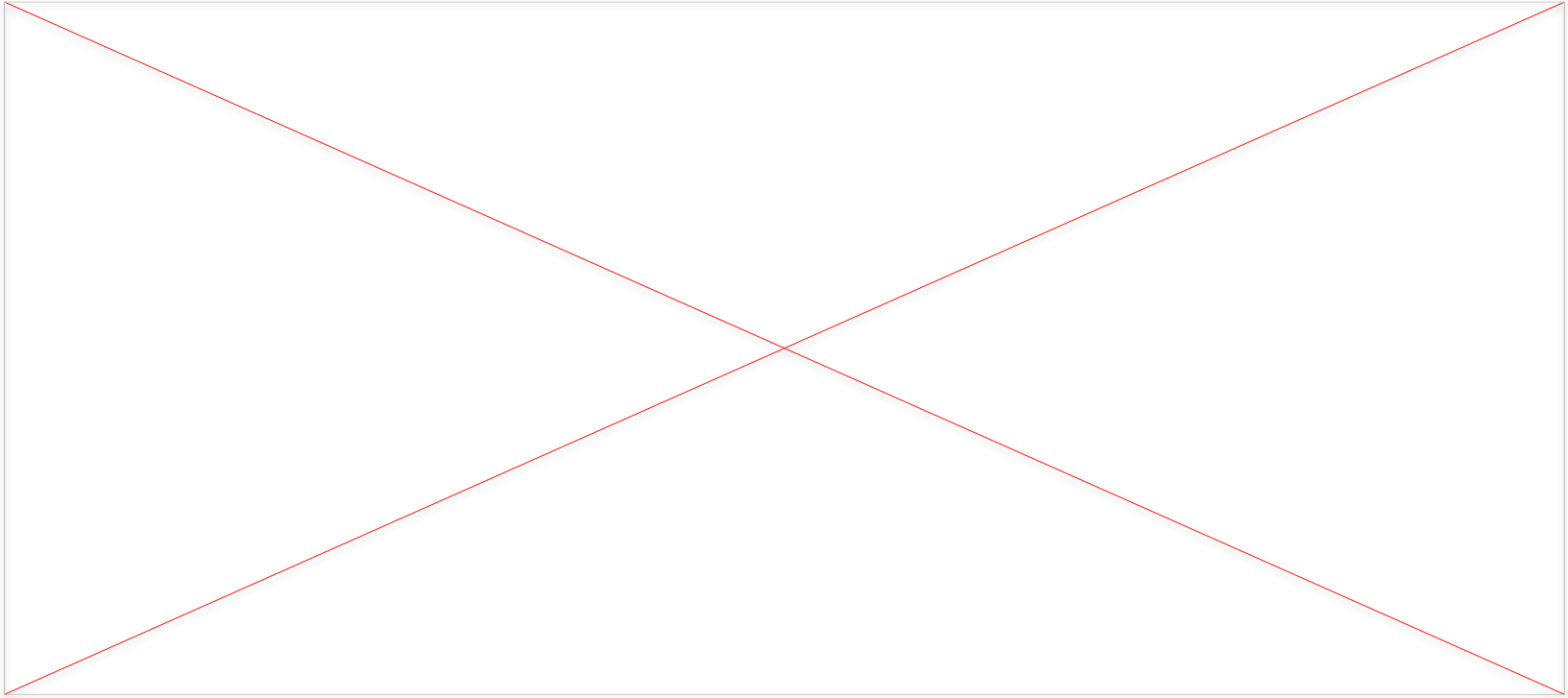
Salaries

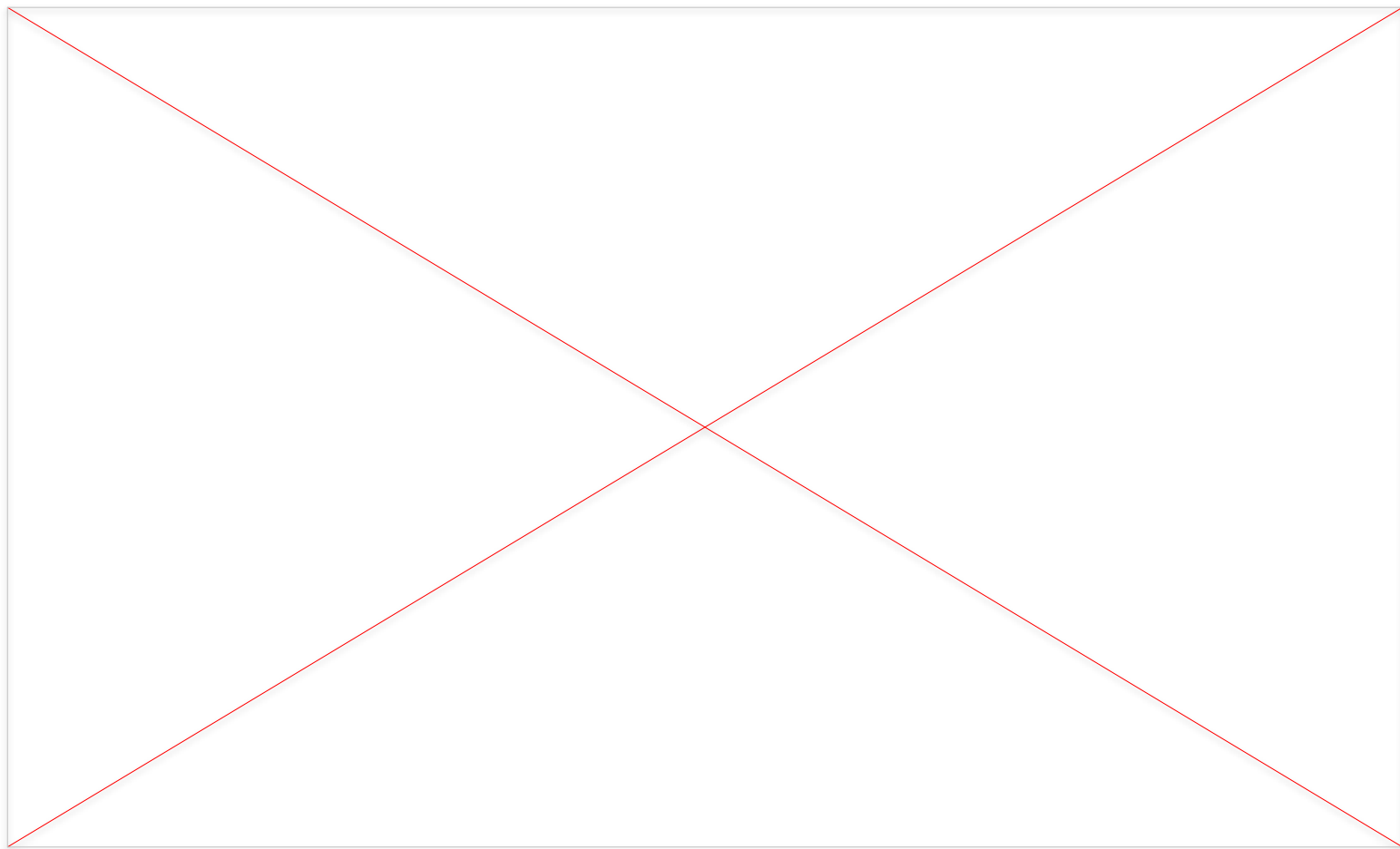
Employees DB (2)

Employee ID	Birth Date	Last Name	First Name	Gender	Hire Date	Employee ID (Salaries)	Salary	From Date
1467	4/02/1963	Luis	Balaguer	Female	4/02/2007	1467	6,321	4/02/2006
1492	2/24/1960	Mary	Patterson	Female	2/24/2003	1492	6,177	2/24/2004
1016	1/24/1987	Yvonne	Kato	Female	1/24/2012	null	null	null
1276	1/26/1990	Cindy	Smith	Female	1/26/2012	null	null	null
1491	1/15/1982	Larry	Batt	Male	1/15/2005	null	null	null
1237	3/25/1966	Popo Yue	Tsang	Male	3/25/2010	null	null	null
1071	6/29/1996	William	Patterson	Male	6/29/2010	null	null	null
2032	3/02/1992	Letitia	Thompson	Female	3/02/2004	null	null	null

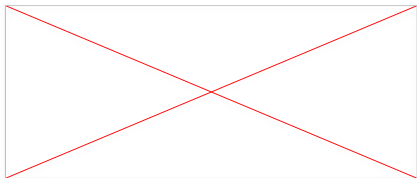


M **MODE**

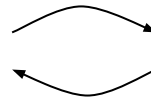
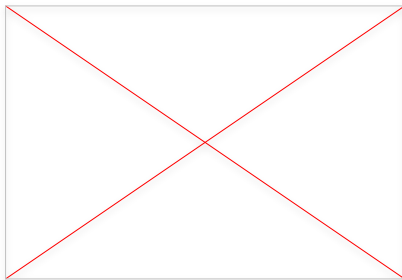




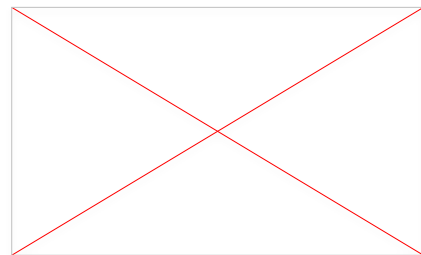
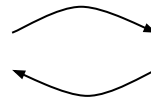
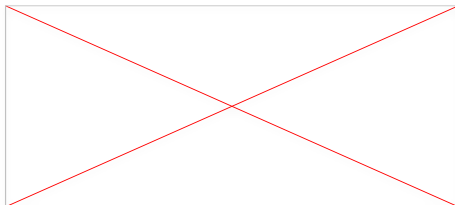
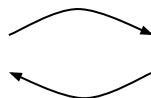
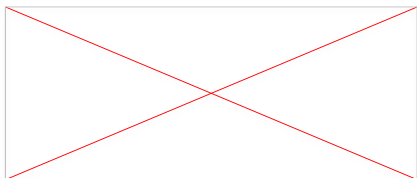
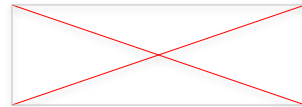
Raw data



OLAP cube?



Reporting



 **transform**

`name: organizations`

`description:` This datasource is sourced from the `demo.orgs` table. Each row in this table represents an organization. Each user is associated with an organization. A user can be active with paid or unpaid, has a billing and a usage country, has a role, and each organization can be work, social, or education.

`owners:`

- `support@transformdata.io`

`sql_table: demo.orgs`

`identifiers:`

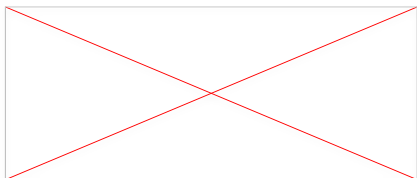
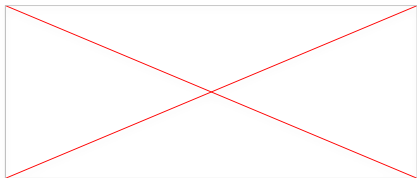
- `name: org`
 - `type: primary`
 - `expr: org_id`

```
import pandas
from transform import mql

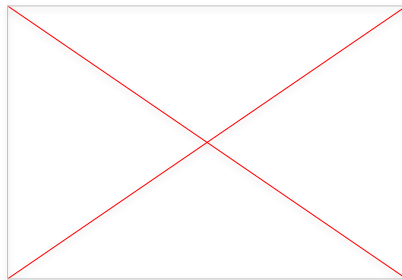
metrics: List[mql.Metric] = mql.list_metrics()

df: pandas.DataFrame = mql.create_query(
    metrics=["rainfall"],
    dimensions=["ds", "country"]
)
```

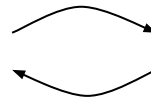
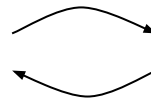
Raw data



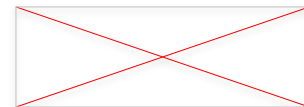
OLAP cube?



```
name: organizations
description: This datasource is sourced from the demo.orgs table. Each row in this table
represents an organization. Each user is associated with an organization. A user can
be active with paid or unpaid, has a billing and a usage country, is a member of an
organization, and each organization can be work, social, or education.
owners:
- support@transformdata.io
sql_table: demo.orgs
identifiers:
- name: org
  type: primary
  expr: org.id
```



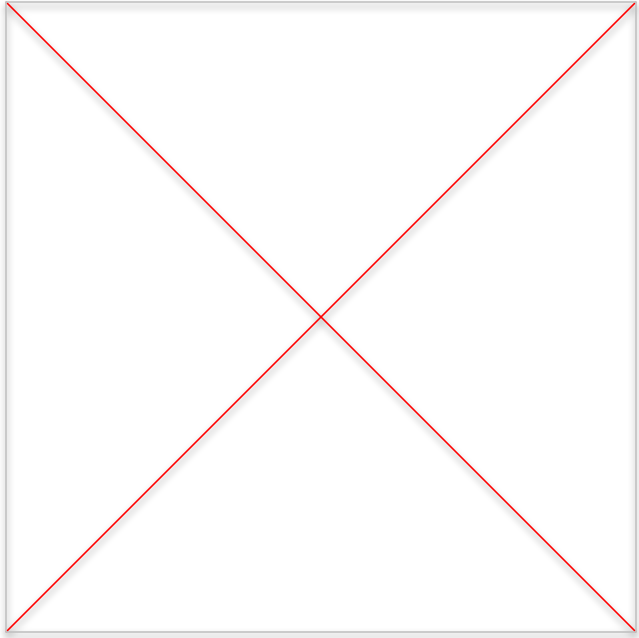
Reporting



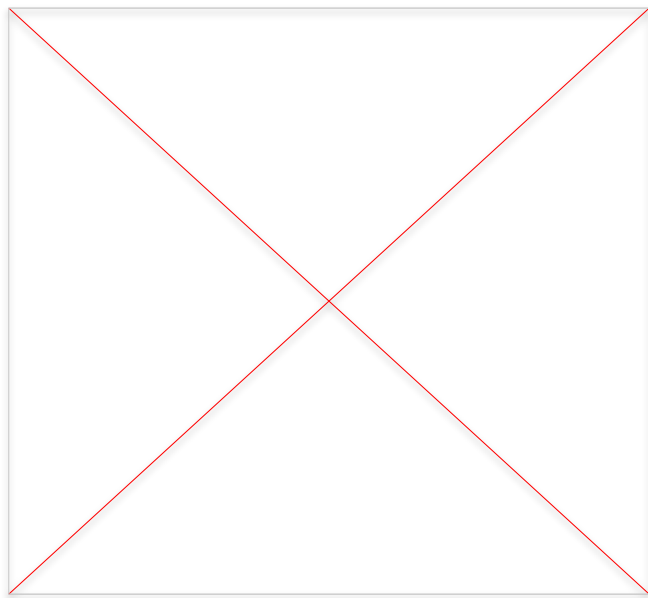
```
import pandas
from transform import mql

metrics: List[mql.Metric] = mql.list_metrics()

df: pandas.DataFrame = mql.create_query(
  metrics=["rainfall"],
  dimensions=["ds", "country"]
)
```



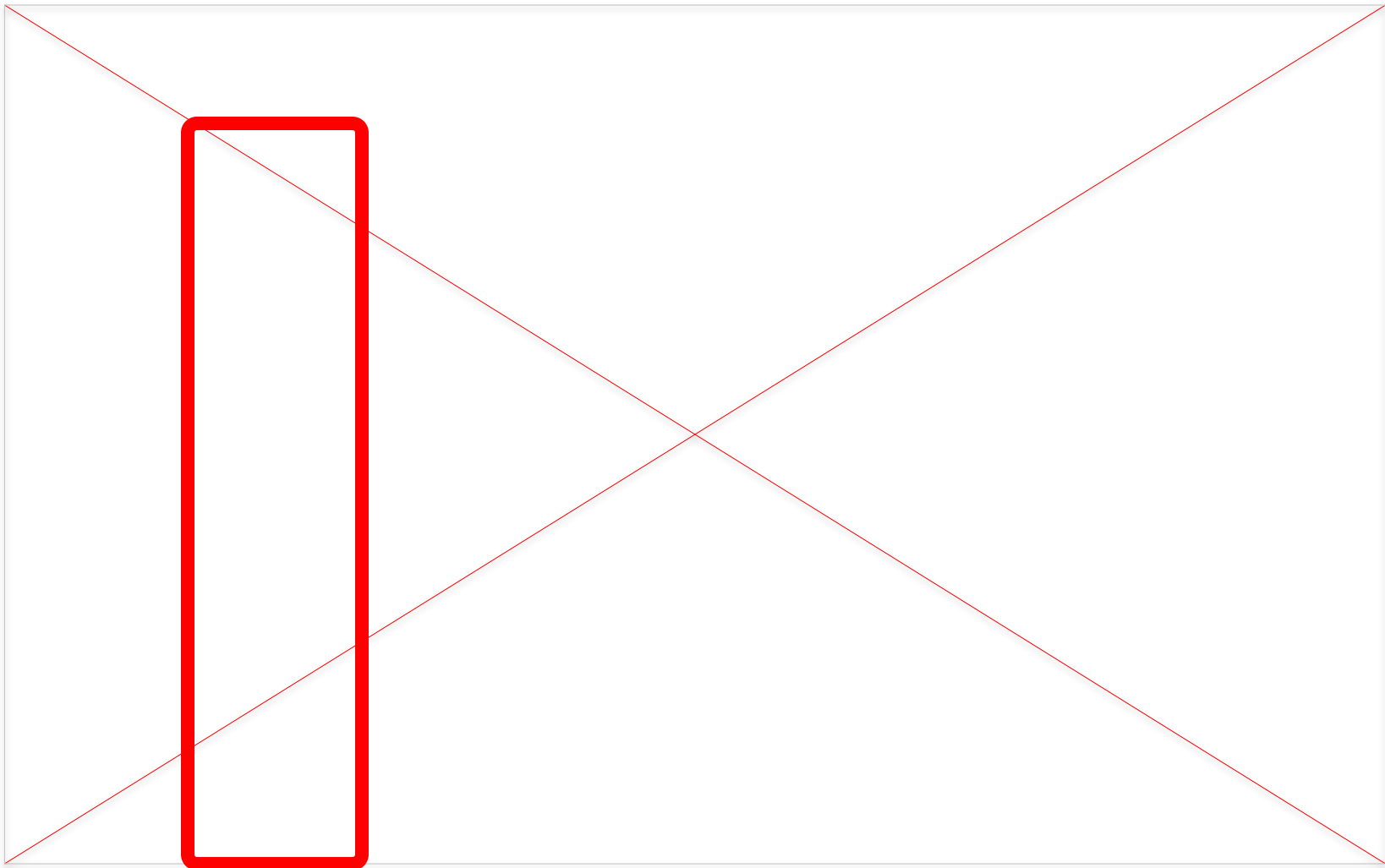
**You ship your
org chart.**



dimensions



measures



Explore

500 rows · 0.4s · just now · America - Los Angeles

Time Zone

Run



Order Items



Search

All Fields

In Use

Custom Fields

+ Add

Inventory Items

Order Items

Orders

2

FILTER-ONLY FIELDS

Date Granularity

DIMENSIONS

Created Date

Date

ID

Status

User ID

MEASURES

Count

Filters

Visualization

Data

Results

SQL

Row Limit

500

Totals

Row limit reached. Results may be incomplete

	Orders Created Date	Orders Count
1	2019-12-21	39
2	2019-12-20	51
3	2019-12-19	38
4	2019-12-18	49
5	2019-12-17	45
6	2019-12-16	39
7	2019-12-15	32
8	2019-12-14	38
9	2019-12-13	36
10	2019-12-12	50
11	2019-12-11	45
12	2019-12-10	48
13	2019-12-09	47
14	2019-12-08	48
15	2019-12-07	47
16	2019-12-06	45
17	2019-12-05	52

Data Analytics Pages

Dimensions

- Orders
- Returns
- Country, State, City
- Product Hierarchy
- Measure Names

Measures

- Discount
- Profit
- Quantity
- Sales
- Unit Price
- Latitude (generated)
- Longitude (generated)
- Number of Records
- Measure Values

Filters

- Order Date

Marks

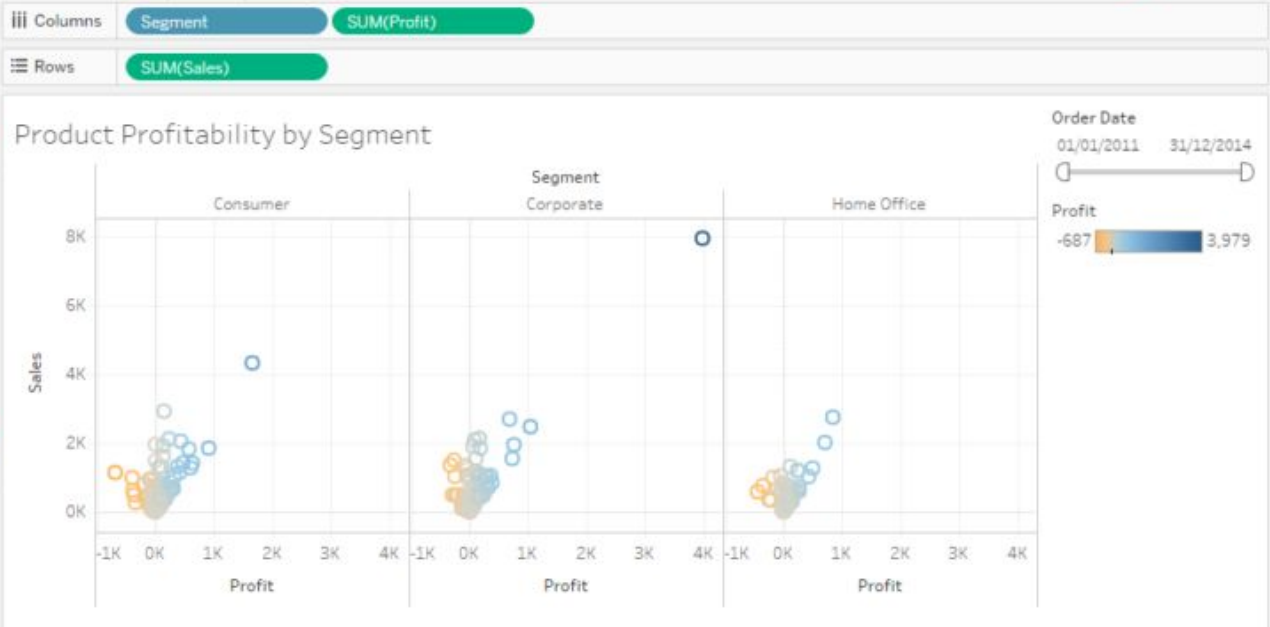
Automatic

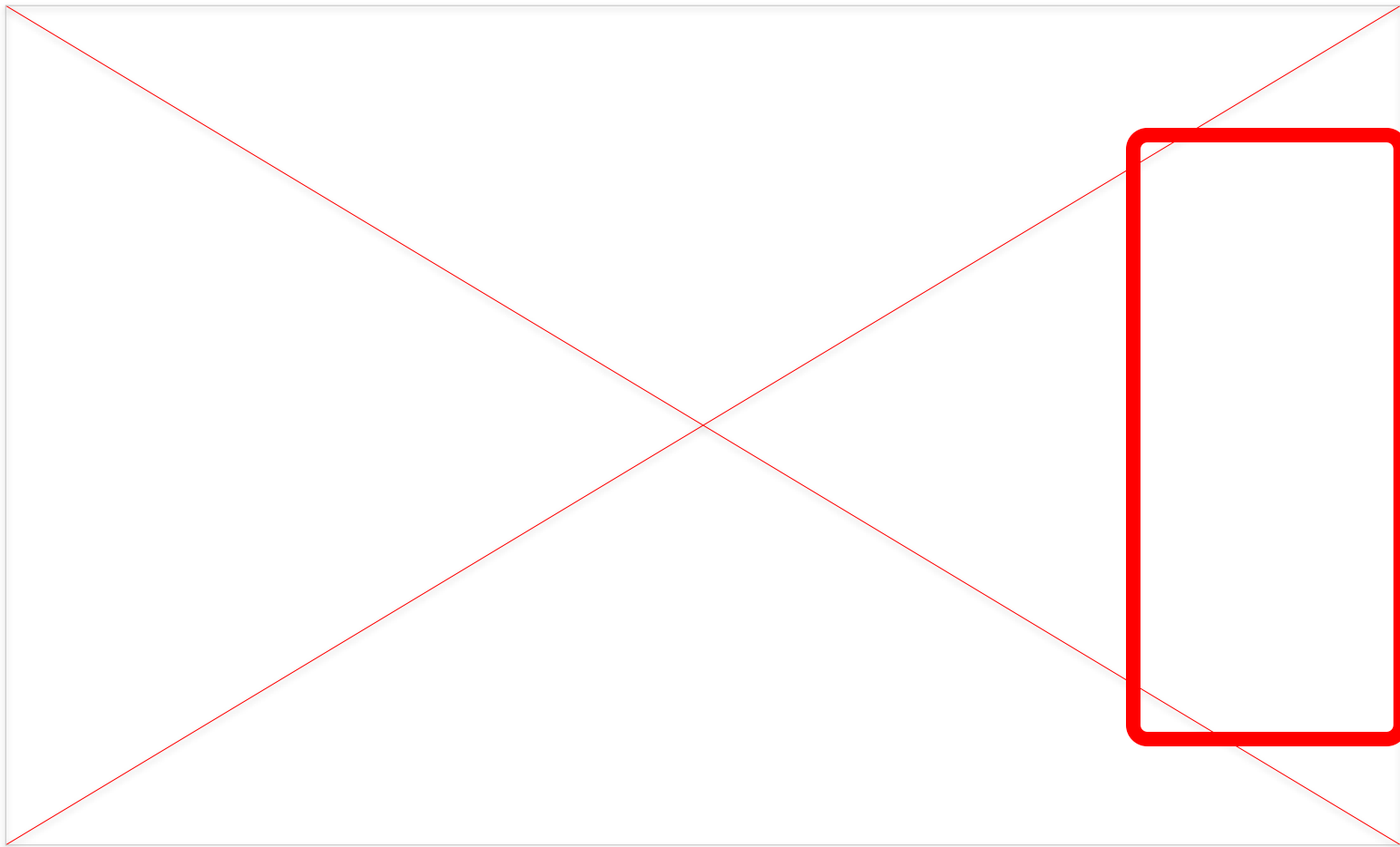
Color Size Label

Detail Tooltip Shape

SUM(Profit)

Product ID

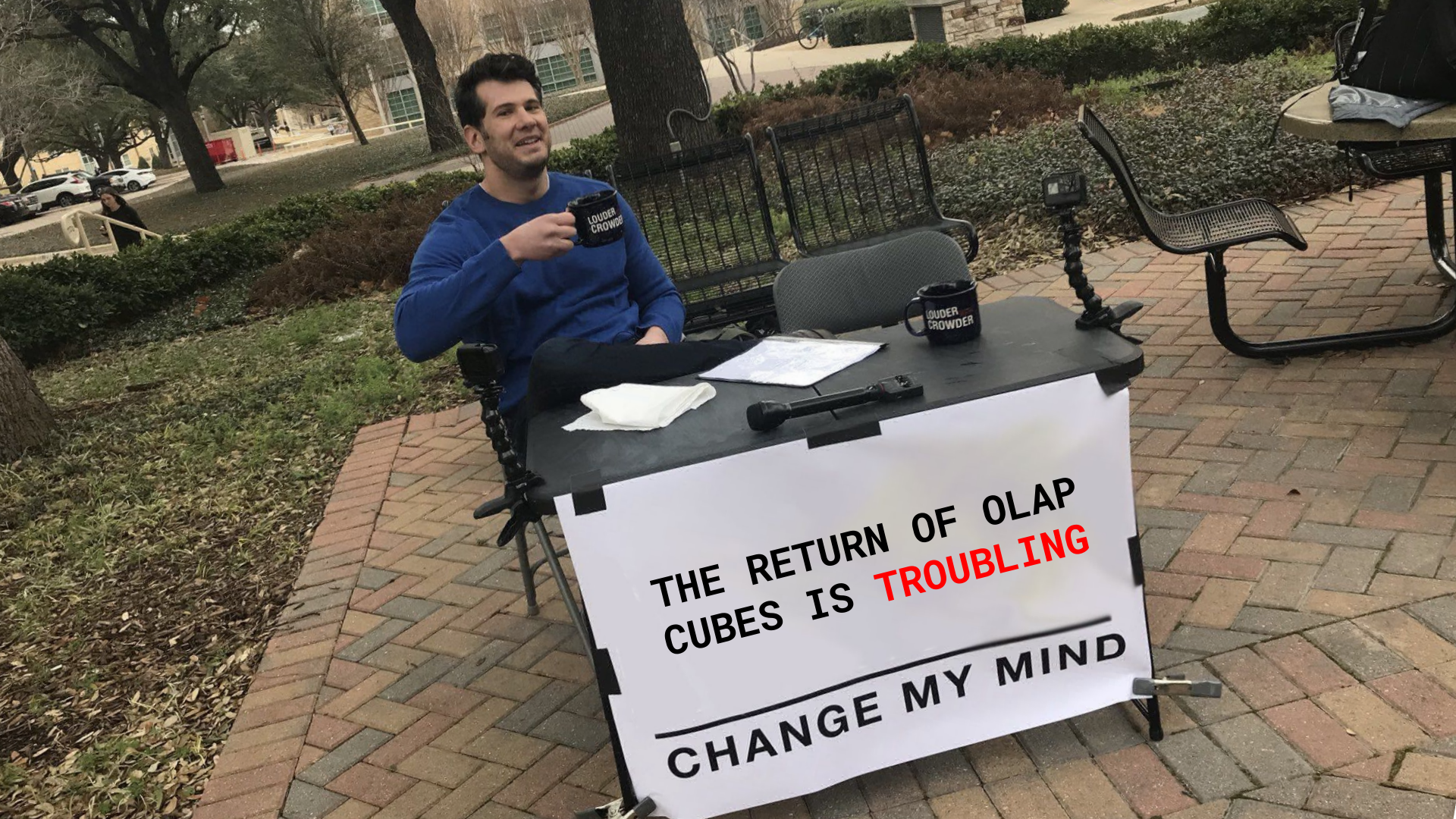




```
import pandas
from transform import mql
```

```
metrics: List[mql.Metric] = mql.list_metrics()
```

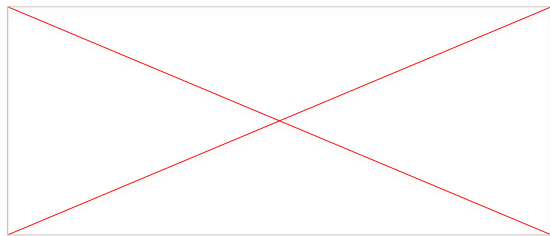
```
df: pandas.DataFrame = mql.create_query(
    metrics=["rainfall"],
    dimensions=["ds", "country"]
)
```



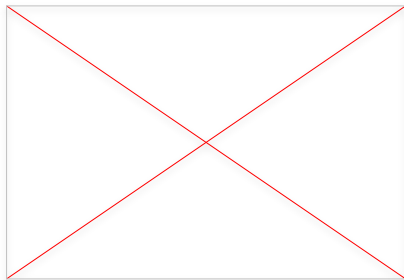
THE RETURN OF OLAP
CUBES IS TROUBLING

CHANGE MY MIND

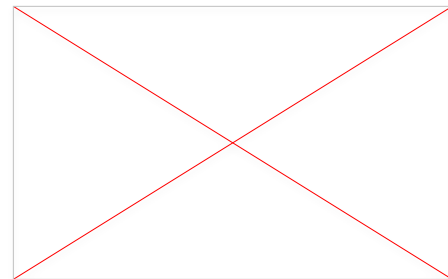
Raw data



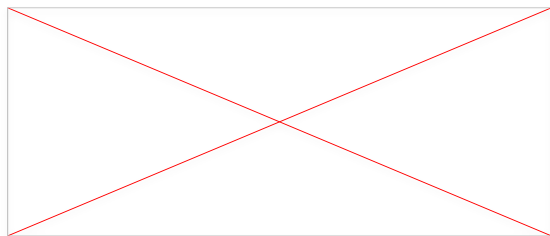
OLAP cube



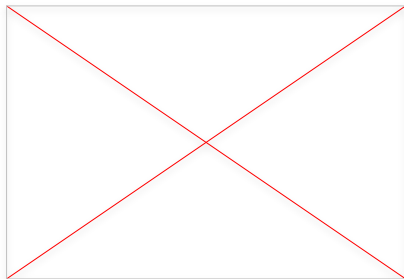
Reporting



Raw data



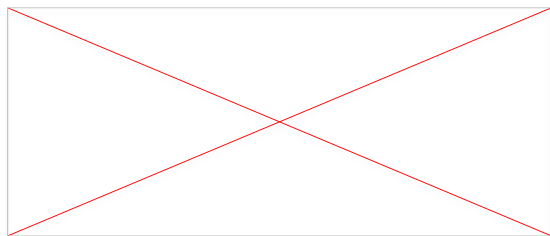
OLAP cube



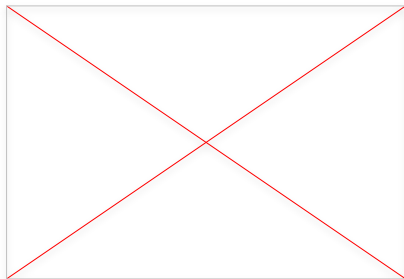
Reporting



Raw data



OLAP cube

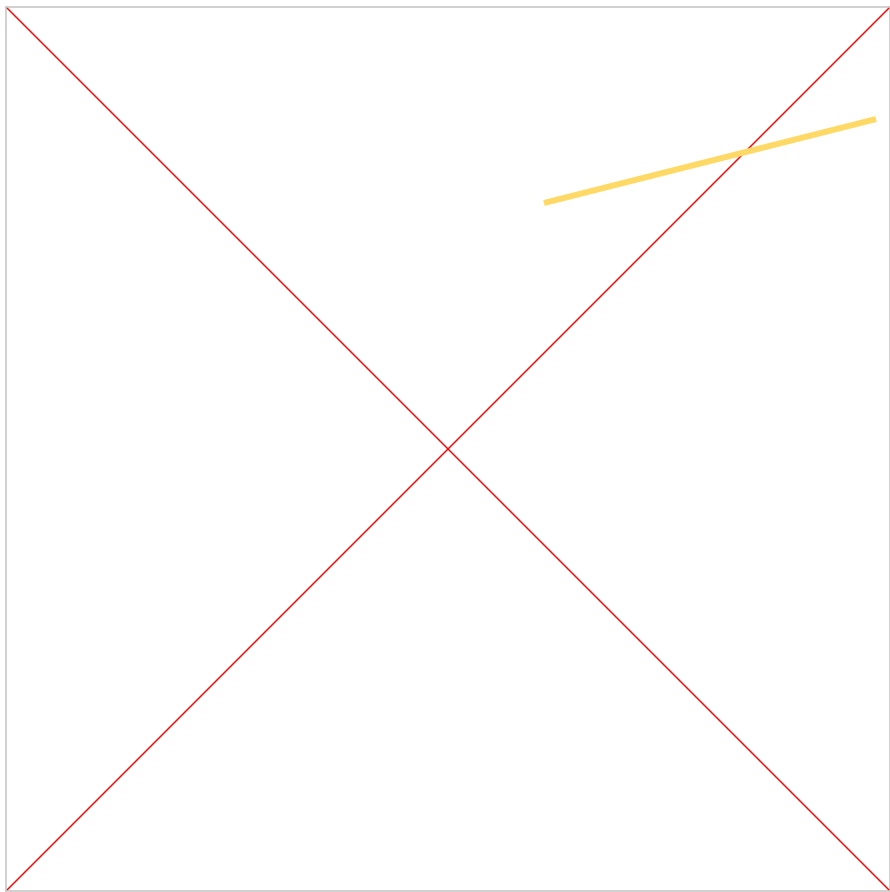


Reporting



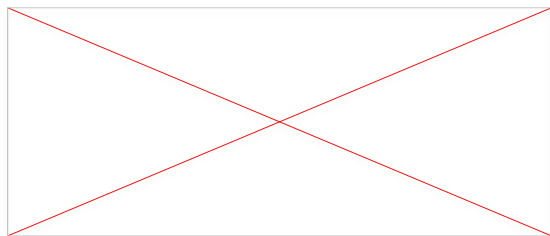
Get me
a list of
entities!!



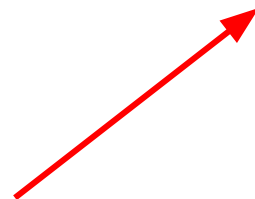
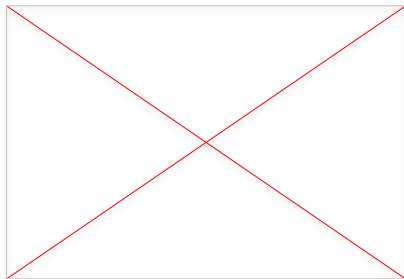


**Get me a
metric!!**

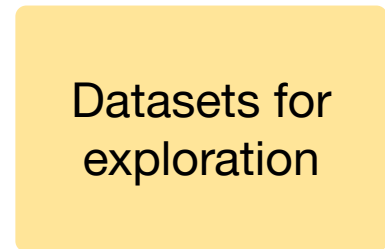
Raw data



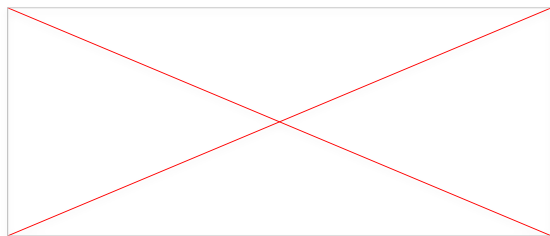
OLAP cube



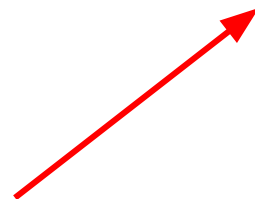
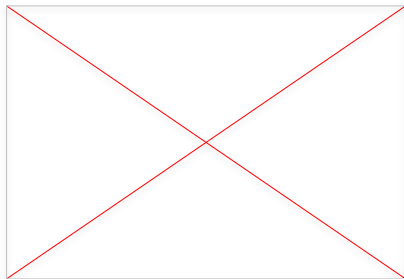
Datasets for
exploration



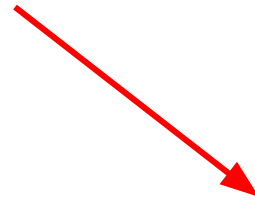
Raw data



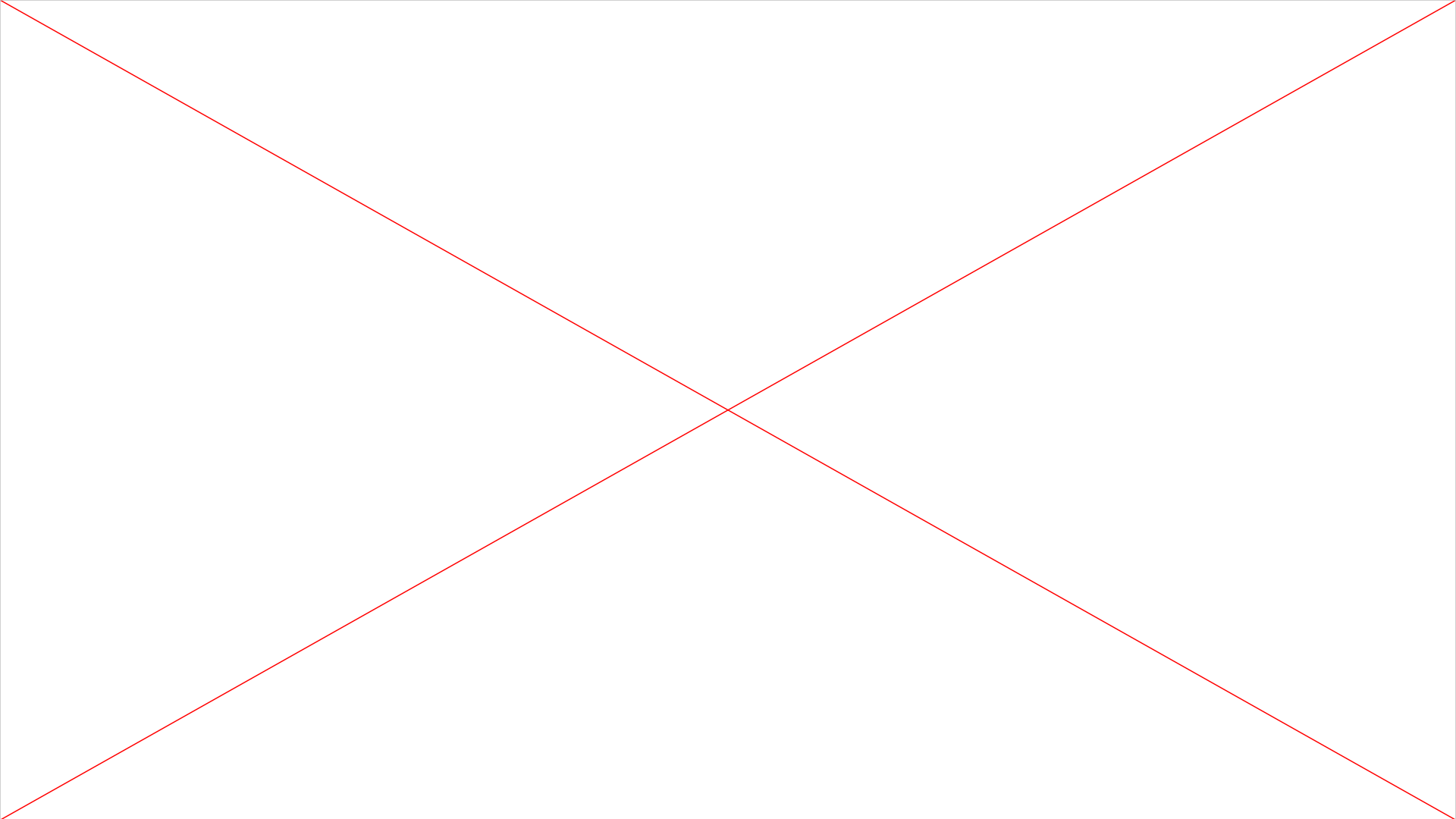
OLAP cube



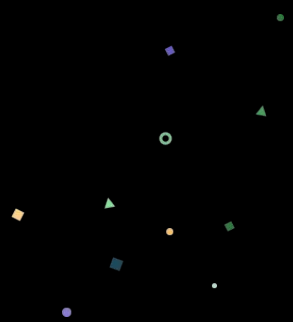
Datasets for exploration



Metrics for reporting



Backup





Welcome
Lane Open

U-Scan Genesis

Cash In

Change Out

25
COVER
OF
Hardb
Best

MAGIC
BONE

Are you
Winning all
of
ts?

\$1





data pulls

OLD MAN YELLS AT CLOUD



First paragraph of text, likely a news report or commentary related to the headline. The text is partially obscured by a yellow shape on the right side of the page.

benn.substack.com



Self-serve is a feeling

Lots of houses can be made a home.

Jul 9, 2021 11



Why is self-serve still a problem?

We're not going to solve it until we define it.

Apr 8, 2021 11 8



BI is dead

How an integration between Looker and Tableau

Exploration



Exploration



Reporting







1859

1909

Today



Get me a list of stores!



Get me a list of stores!

With details on their
location and hours!



Get me a list of stores!

With details on their
location and hours!

And data about sales
and operating costs!



Entity

Get me a list of stores!

With details on their
location and hours!

And data about sales
and operating costs!



Entity

Get me a list of stores!

Dimensions

With details on their location and hours!

And data about sales and operating costs!



Entity

Get me a list of stores!

Dimensions

With details on their location and hours!

Metrics

And data about sales and operating costs!



Entity

Get me a list of stores!

Dimensions

With details on their location and hours!

Metrics

And data about sales and operating costs!

Entity	Dimensions	Metrics
--------	------------	---------



Get me a
dataset!!

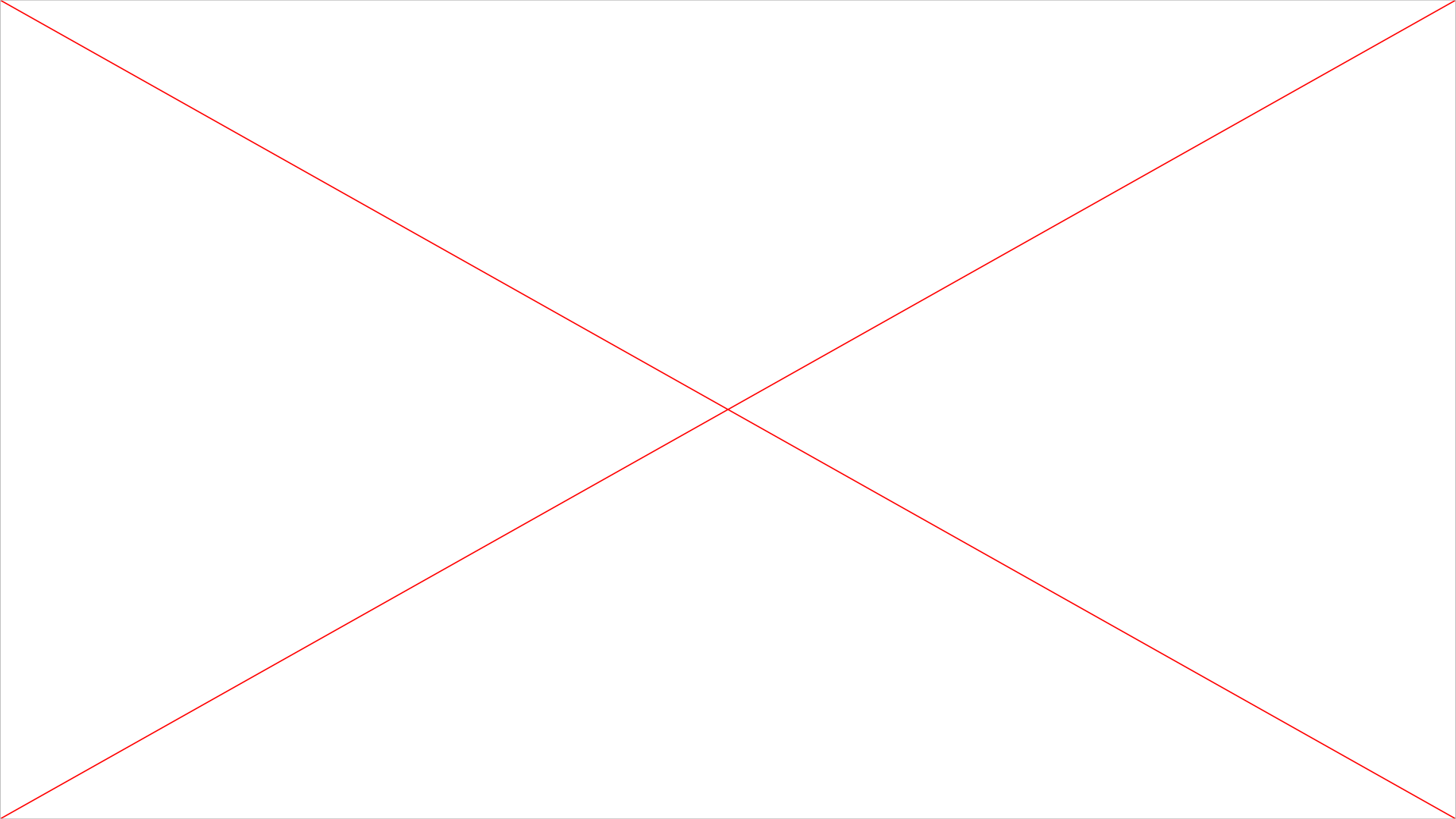


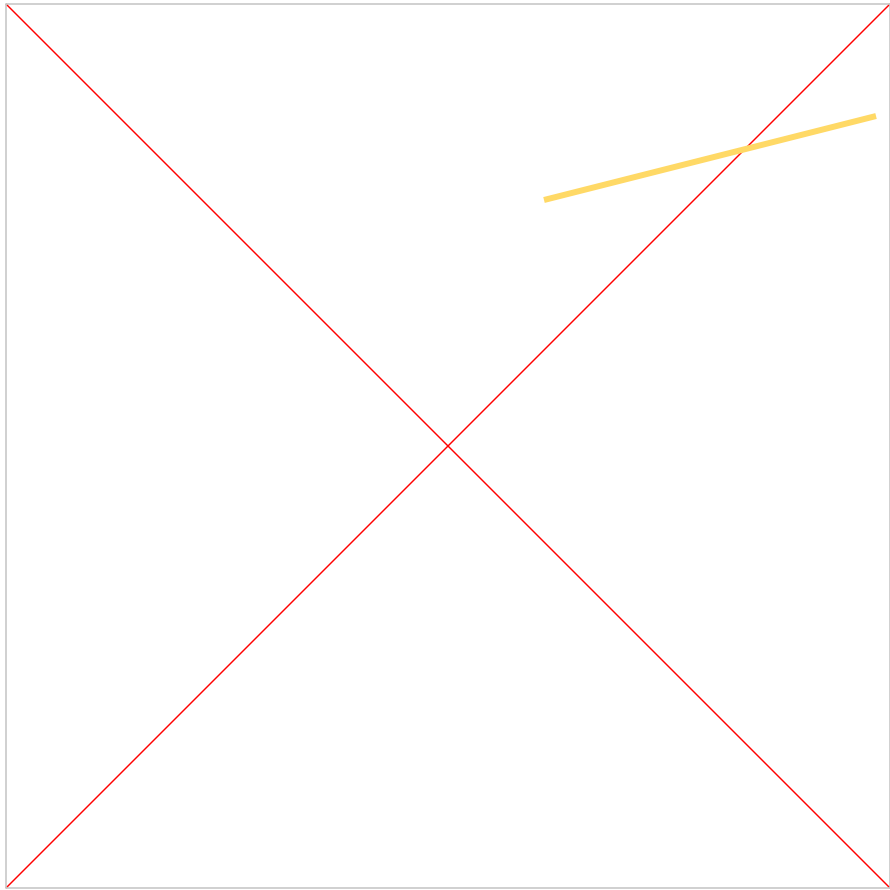
Exploration



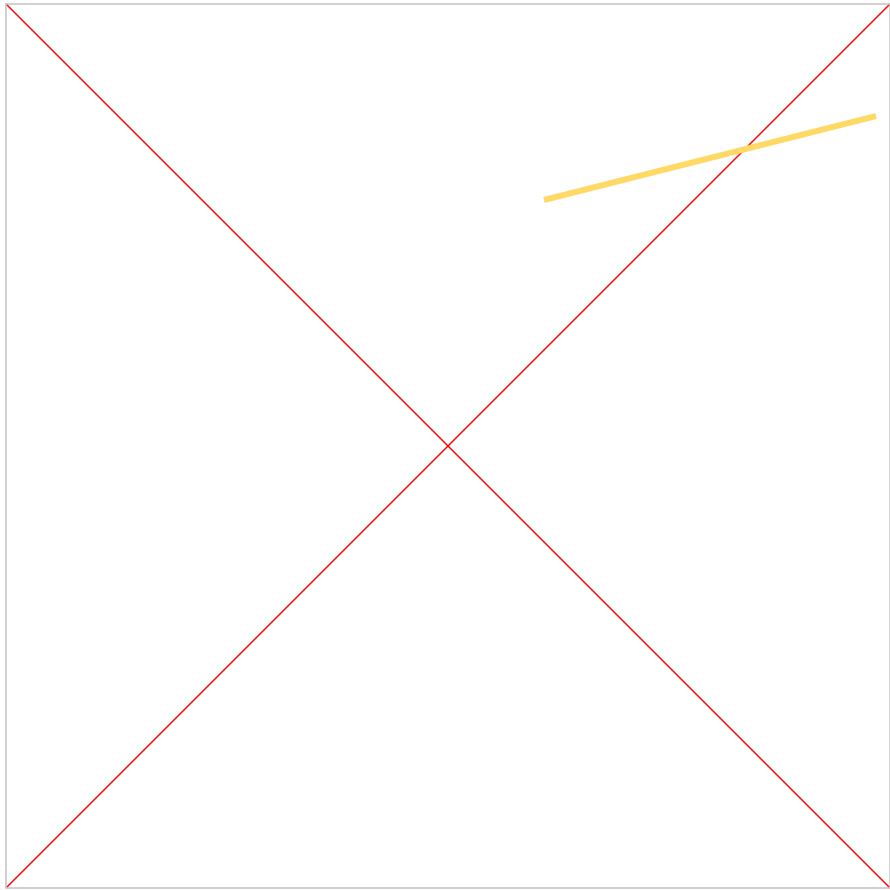
Reporting



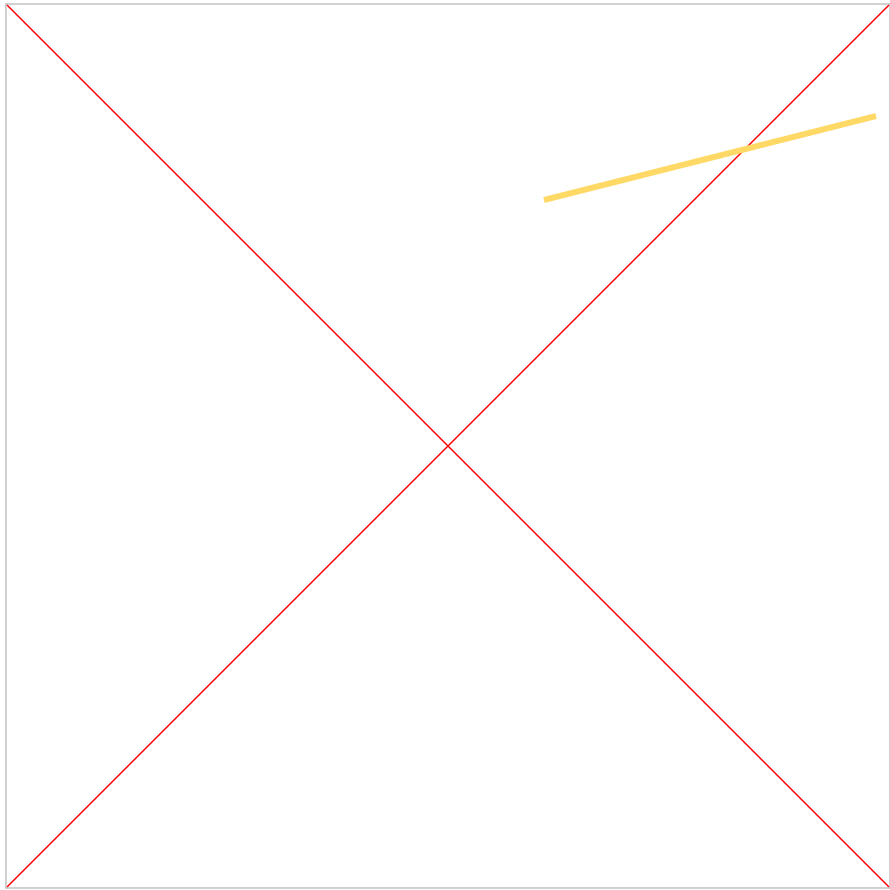




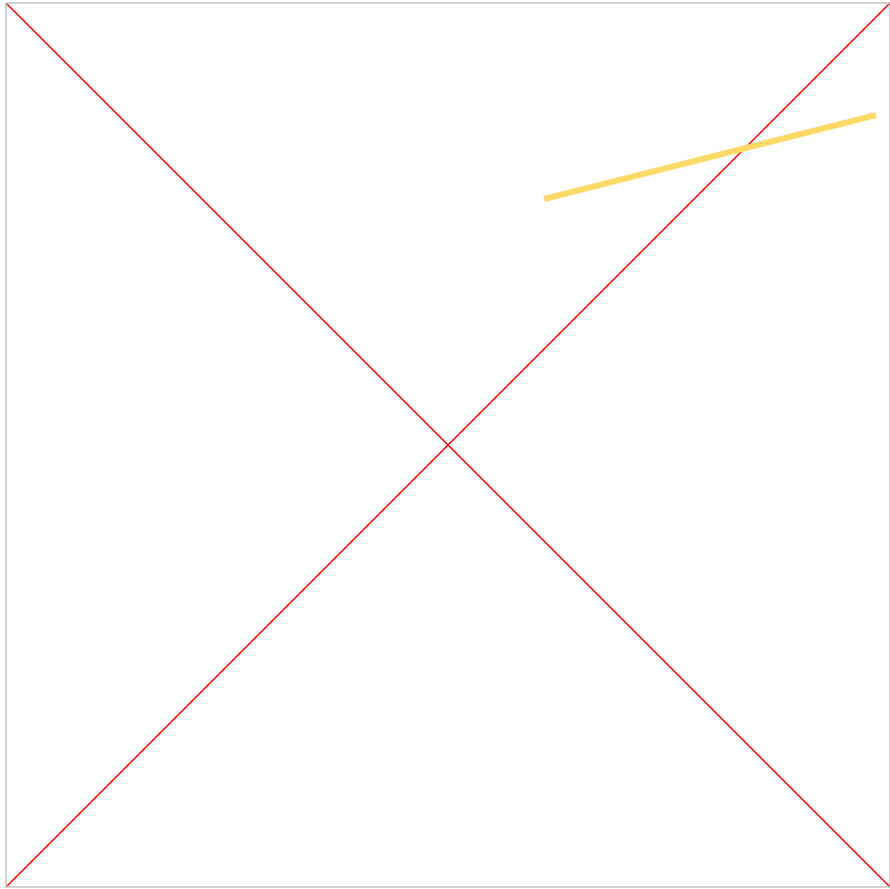
How many bricks did we sell?!?



What is our revenue?!?



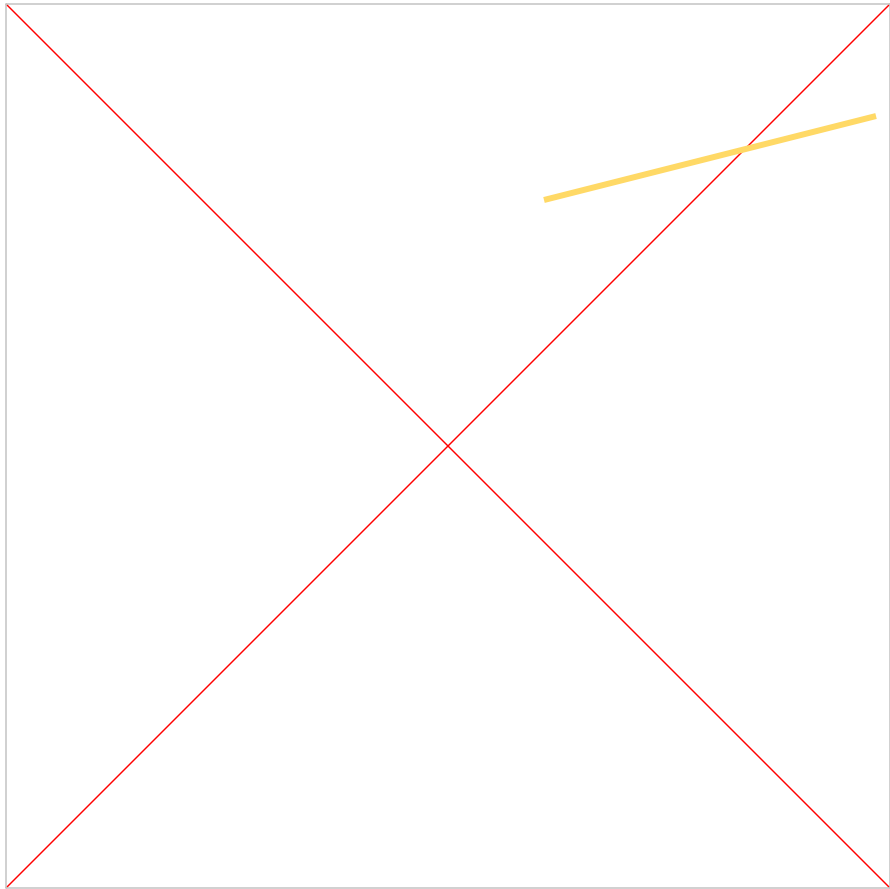
What is our revenue...
by week?!?



What is our revenue...

by week...

by set theme?!?

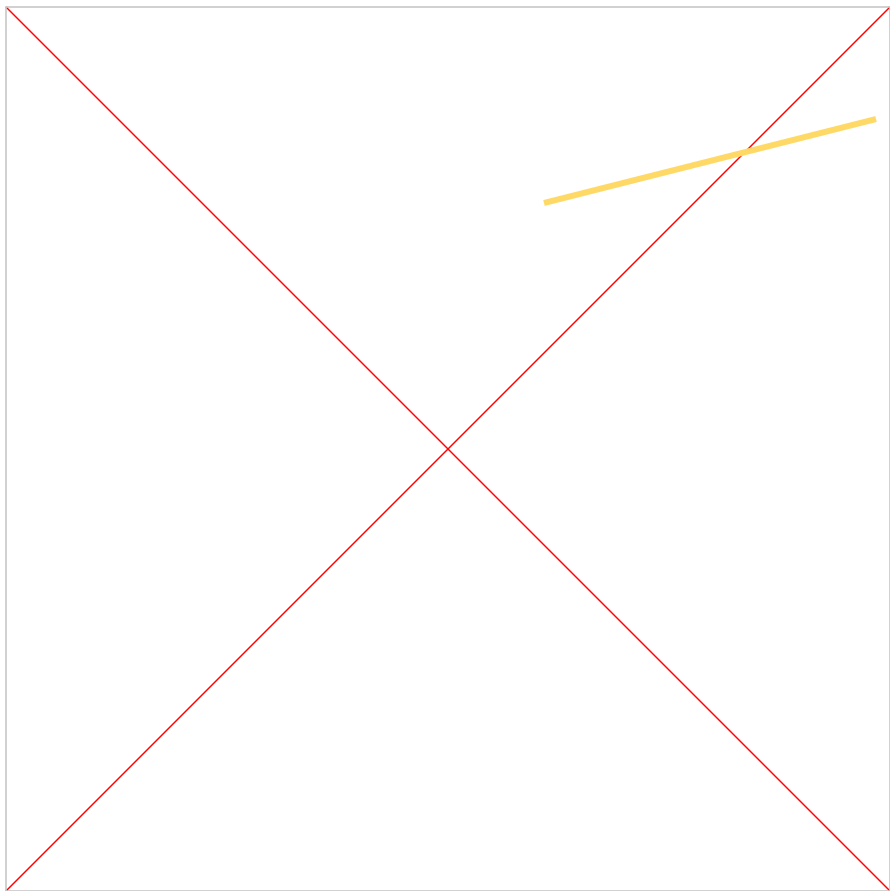


What is our revenue...

by week...

by set theme...

in Europe?!?



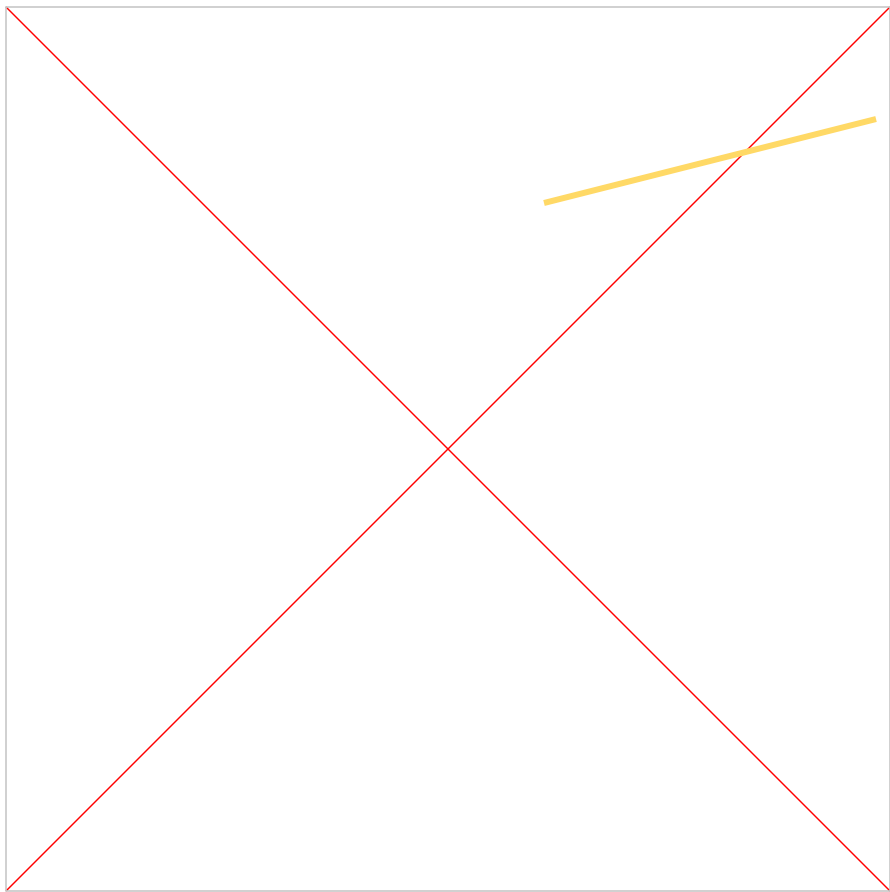
What is our revenue...

Metric

by week...

by set theme...

in Europe?!?



What is our revenue...

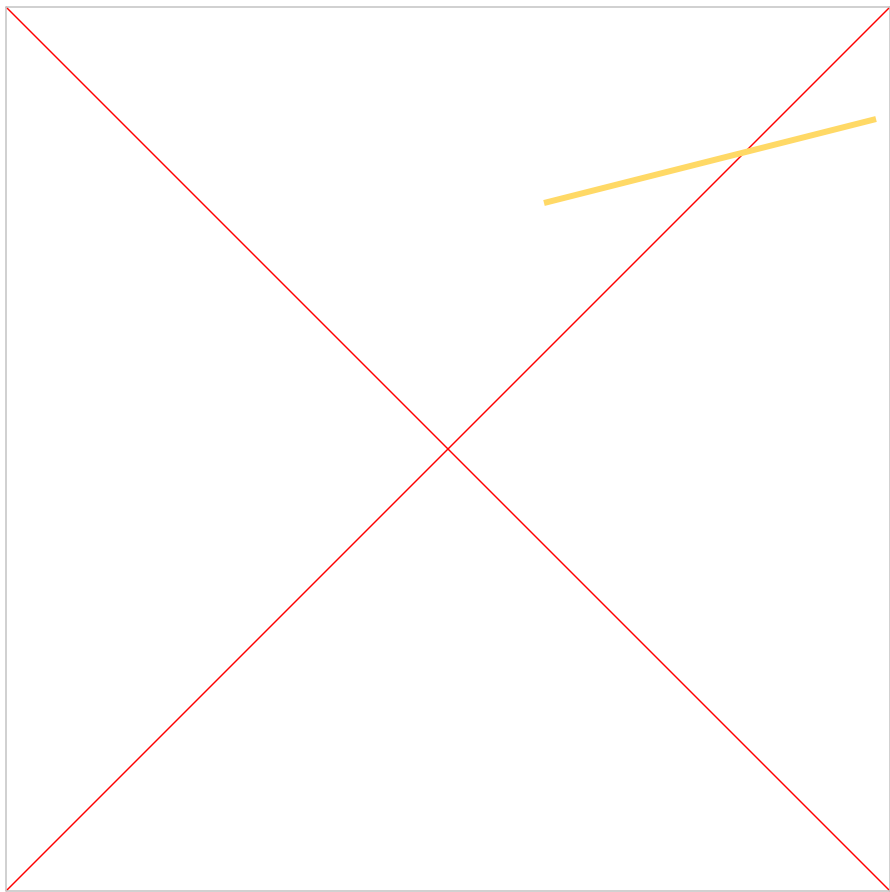
Metric

by week...

Time grain

by set theme...

in Europe?!?



What is our revenue...

Metric

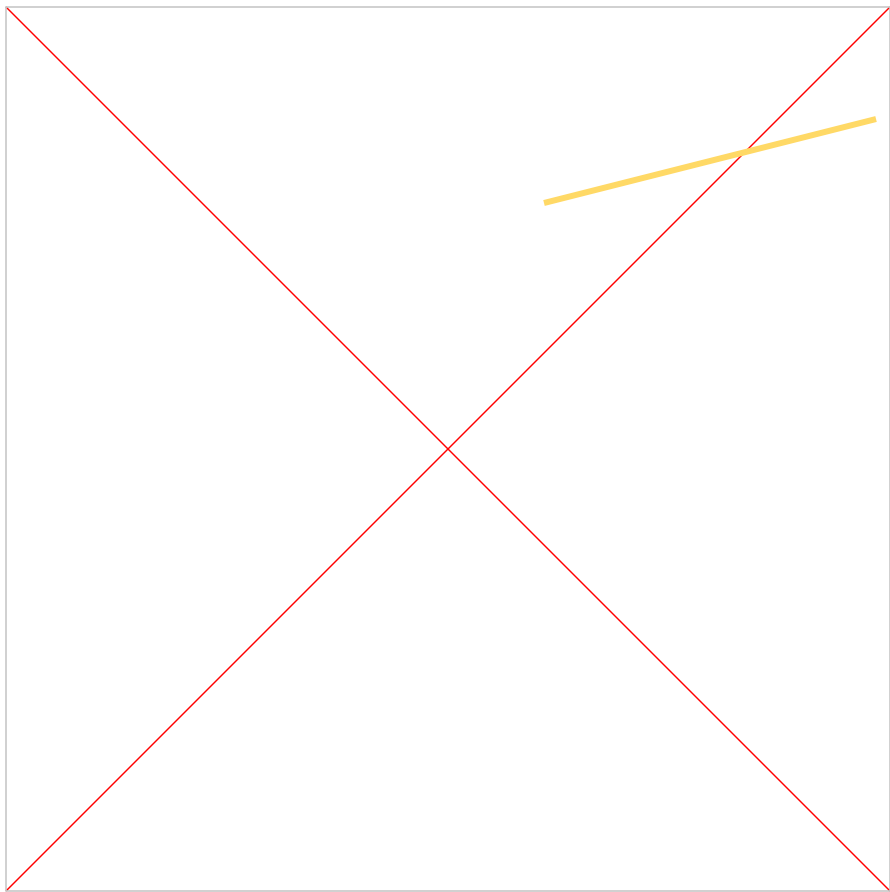
by week...

Time grain

by set theme...

Groupings

in Europe?!?



What is our revenue...

Metric

by week...

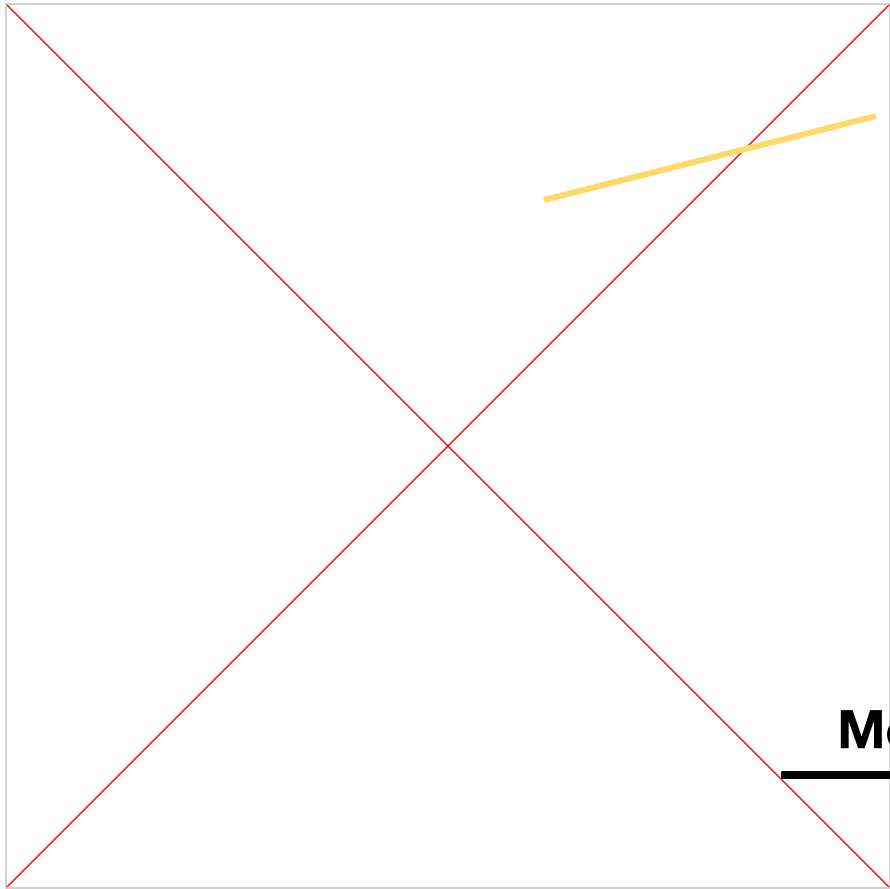
Time grain

by set theme...

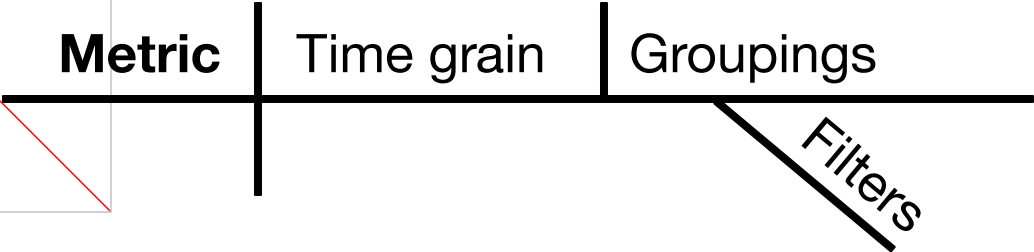
Groupings

in Europe?!?

Filters



What is our revenue... **Metric**
by week... **Time grain**
by set theme... **Groupings**
in Europe?!? **Filters**



Revenue



**Salesforce
opportunity**

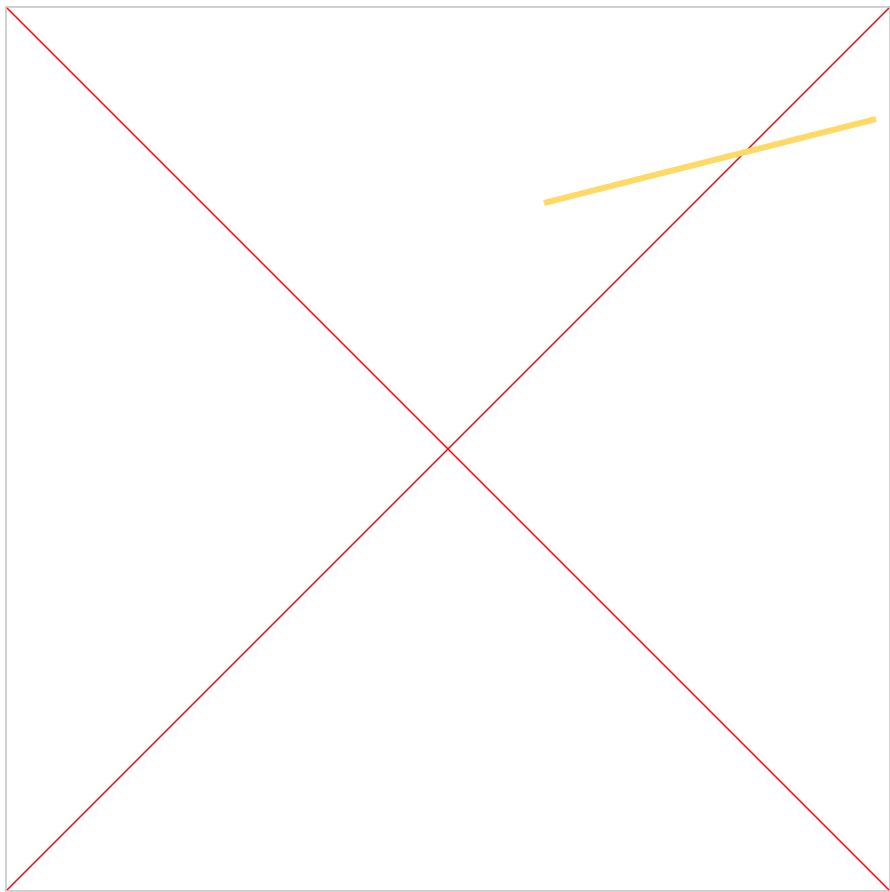
Stripe logs

Tax adjustment

**Date sales are
recognized**

**CSV from Janice
in Accounting**

Return policy



**Get me a
metric!!**



25
COVER
OF
Hardb
Best

MAGIC
BONE

U-Scan Genesis

Cash In

Welcome
Lane Open

Change Out

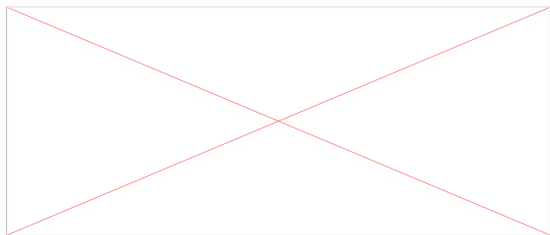
Are you
Winning all
of
ts?

\$1

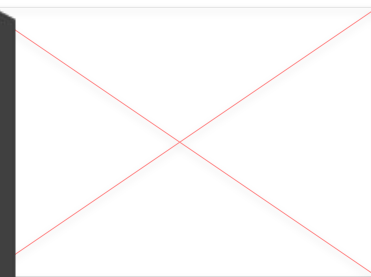
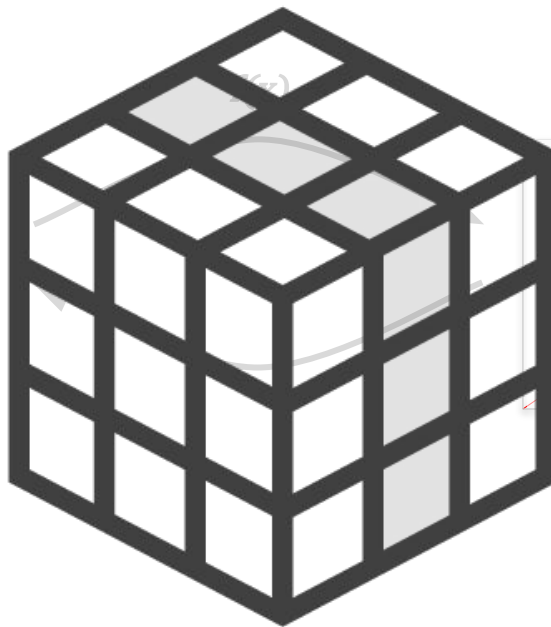
Neither? Both?

Exploration

Reporting

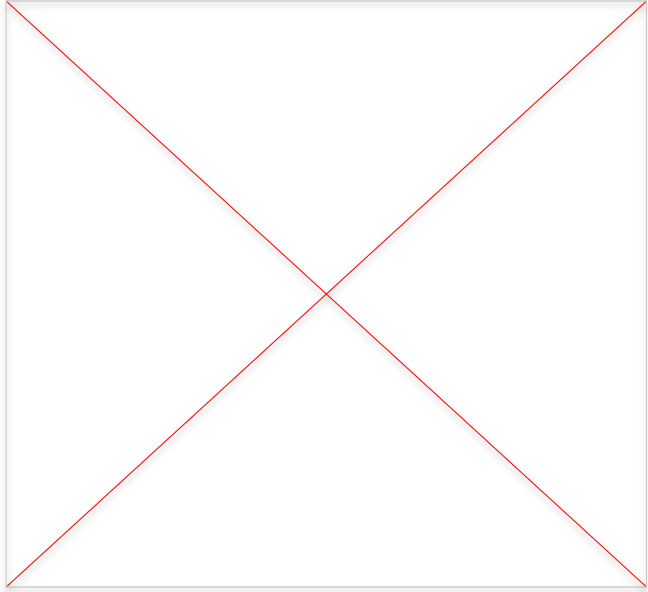


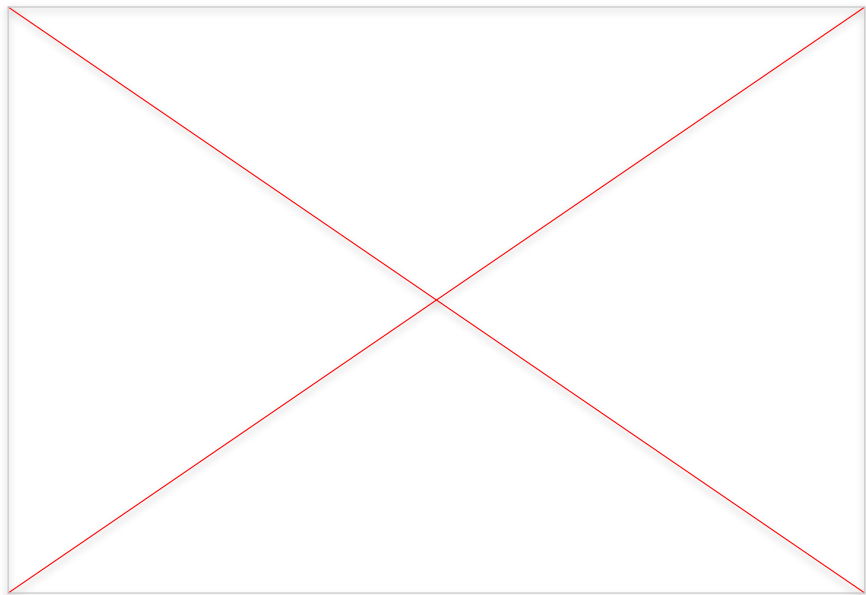
Datasets



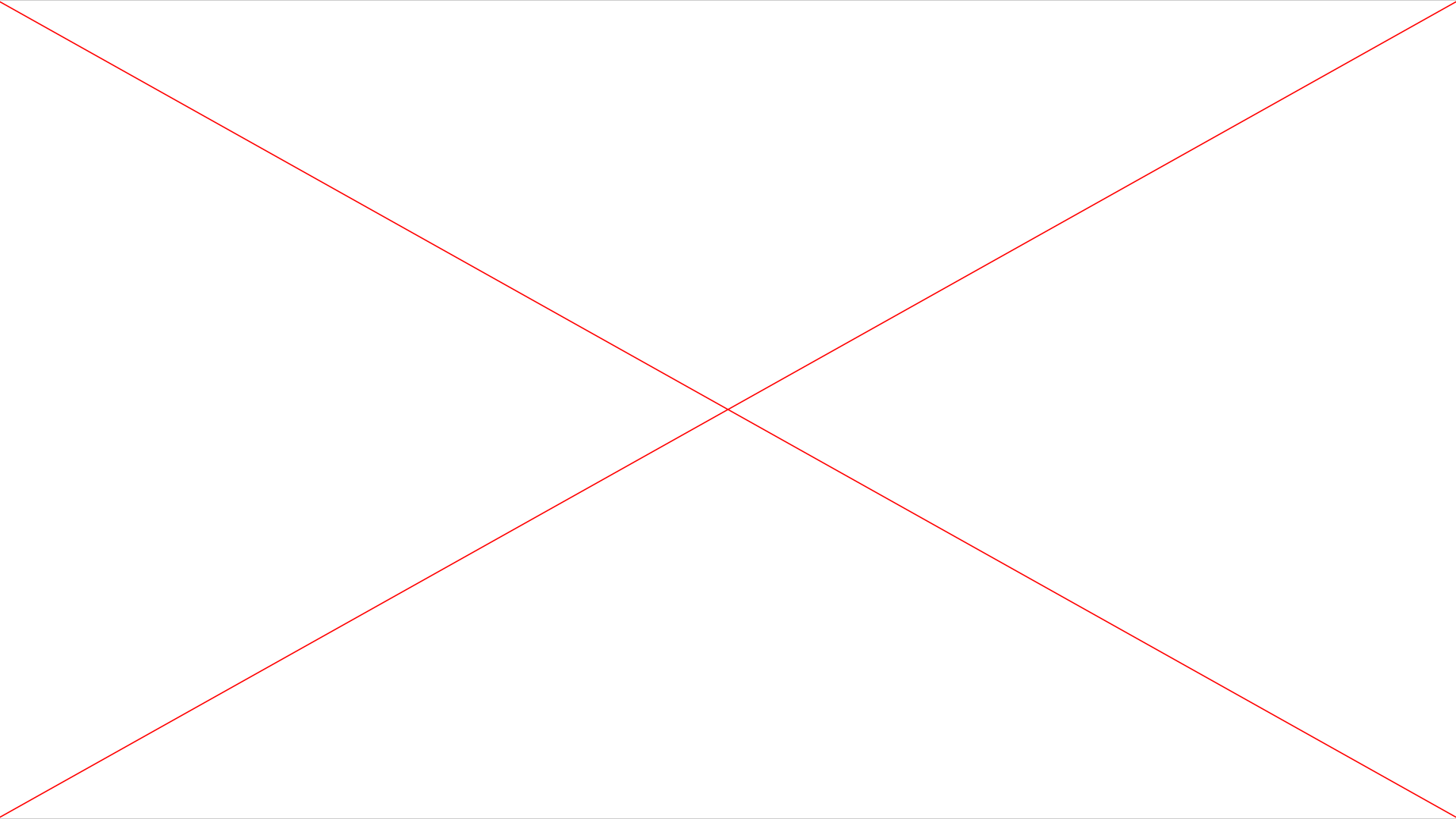
Metrics

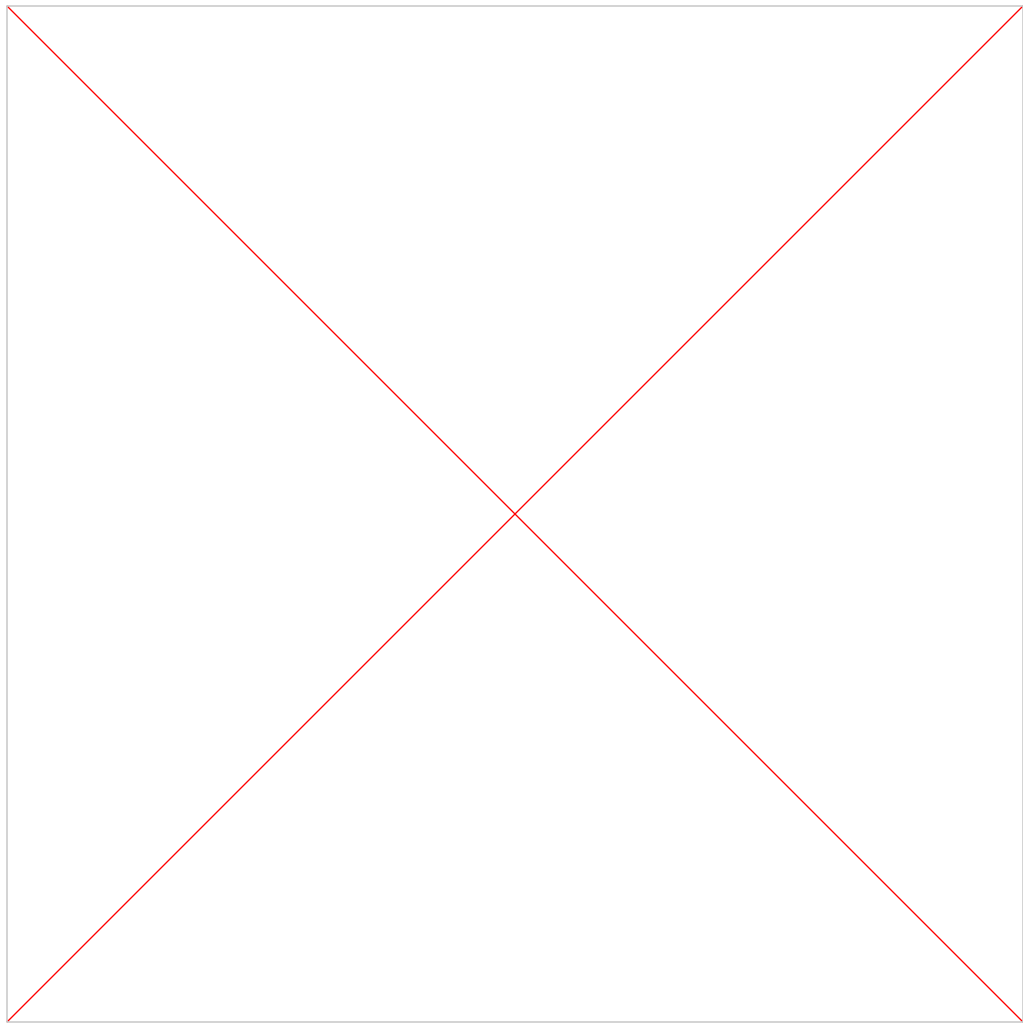
OLAP Cube





month	state	store	sales	items_sold
January	California	1	\$1,205	24
February	California	1	\$1,346	11
March	California	1	\$1,253	18
April	California	1	\$1,184	28
May	California	1	\$1,337	17
June	California	1	\$1,245	11
January	California	2	\$1,426	26
February	California	2	\$1,275	26
March	California	2	\$1,036	30
April	California	2	\$1,357	22
May	California	2	\$1,246	17
June	California	2	\$1,074	23
January	California	3	\$1,070	12
February	California	3	\$1,480	29
March	California	3	\$1,374	20
April	California	3	\$1,105	26
May	California	3	\$1,425	18
June	California	3	\$1,205	25
January	Ohio	52	\$390	8
February	Ohio	52	\$461	3
March	Ohio	52	\$428	7
April	Ohio	52	\$420	13
May	Ohio	52	\$425	14
June	Ohio	52	\$435	8
January	Ohio	84	\$381	3
February	Ohio	84	\$487	5
March	Ohio	84	\$421	5
April	Ohio	84	\$528	12





Simple OLAP

What is this?

**It's transactions,
but not really**

**And it's metrics,
but sorta weirdly
decomposed,
where you still
have to add it up**

**And that makes
them kinda hard
to use, because it
doesn't fit the
vocabulary**

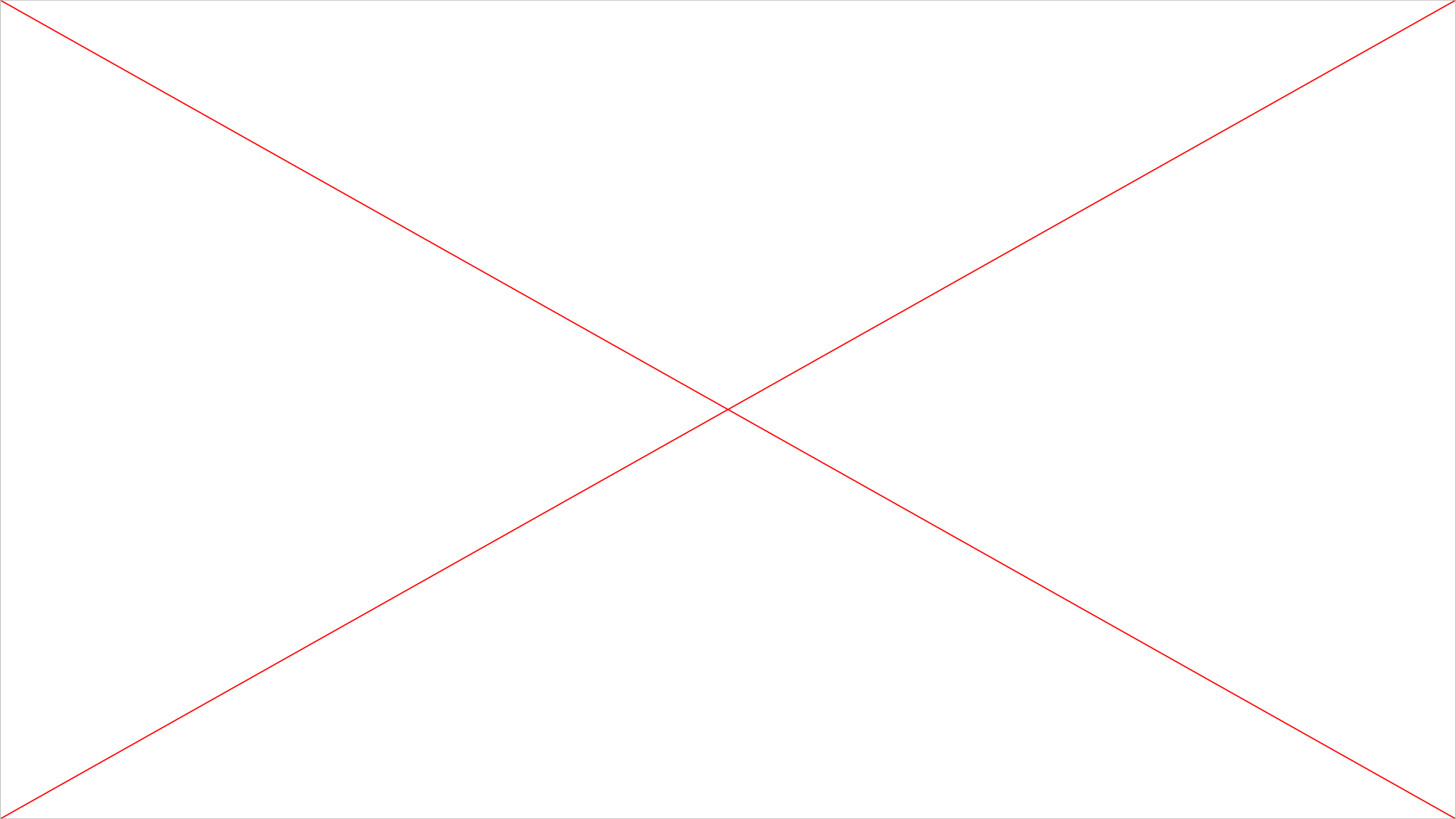


1859

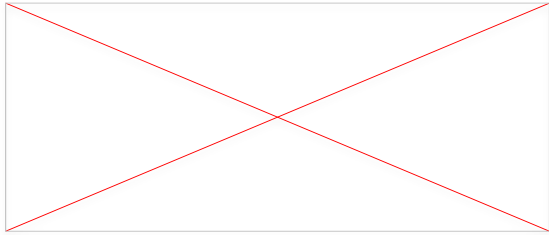
1909

Today



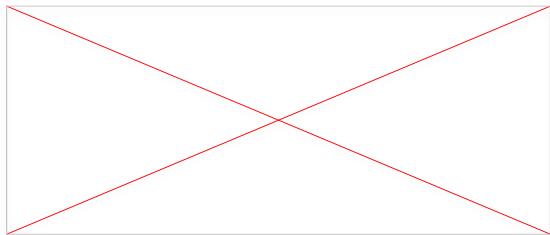


Exploration



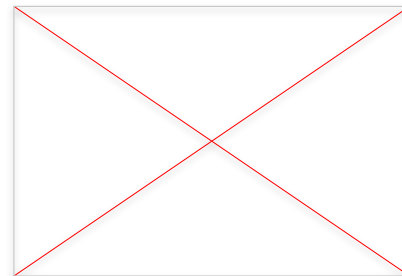
Datasets

Exploration



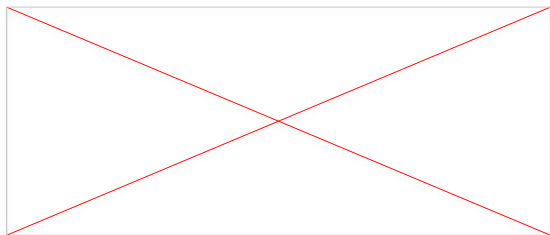
Datasets

Reporting



Metrics

Exploration

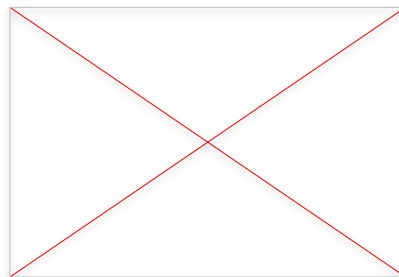


Datasets

$f(x)$

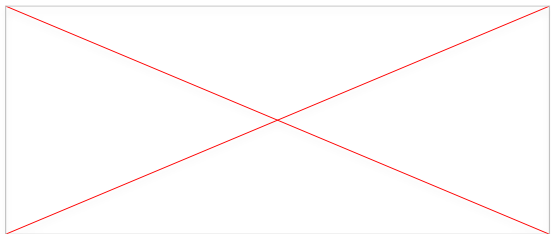


Reporting



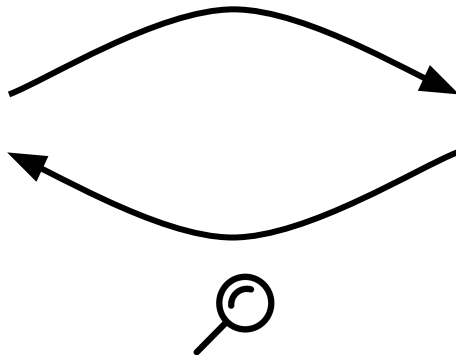
Metrics

Exploration

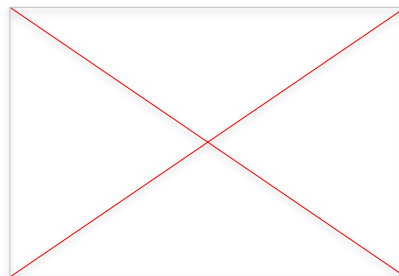


Datasets

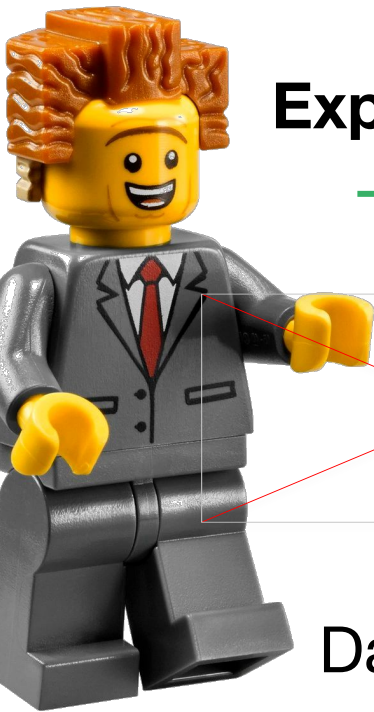
$f(x)$



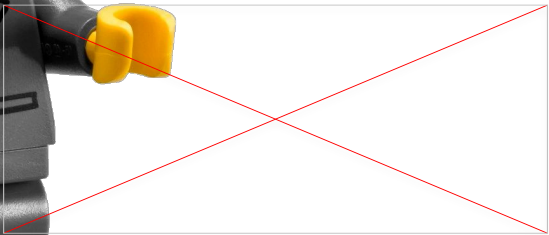
Reporting



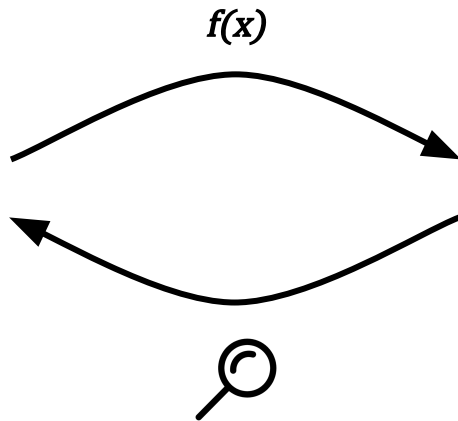
Metrics



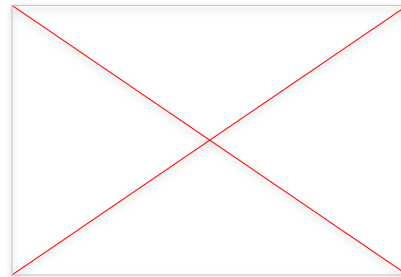
Exploration



Datasets



Reporting

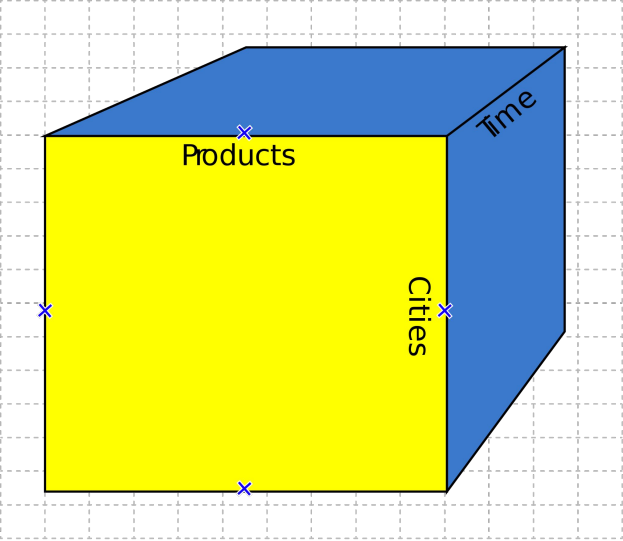


Metrics

OLAP cube

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

An **OLAP cube** is a [multi-dimensional array](#) of data.



Adapting to the evolving nature of data through governance

Julie Hollek

Summary

Data Products & Data Science

Consumer and Regulatory Concerns

Case Study: Revenue Data Access Initiative

Background + Acknowledgements

Senior DS + ML manager at Mozilla

- Metrics, Revenue, ML/Data Products, Subscription Services
- Previously: internet health, ad tech

Thank you to the Mozilla Revenue Data Group and Xuan Luo, Arkadiusz Komarzewski

We're hiring!

careers.mozilla.org

Product Thinking and Data

Data Product

“A product that facilitates an end goal through the use of data”

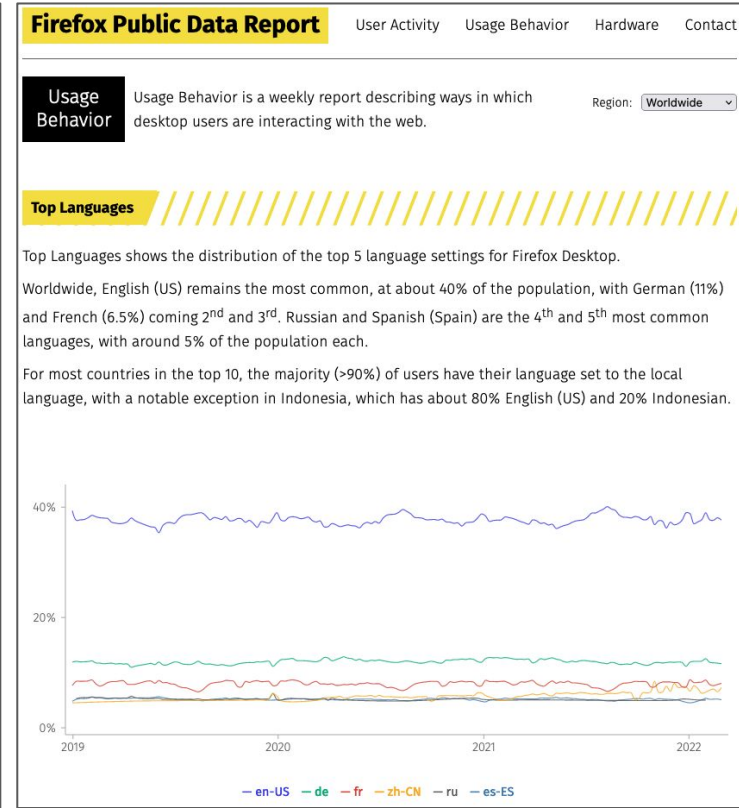
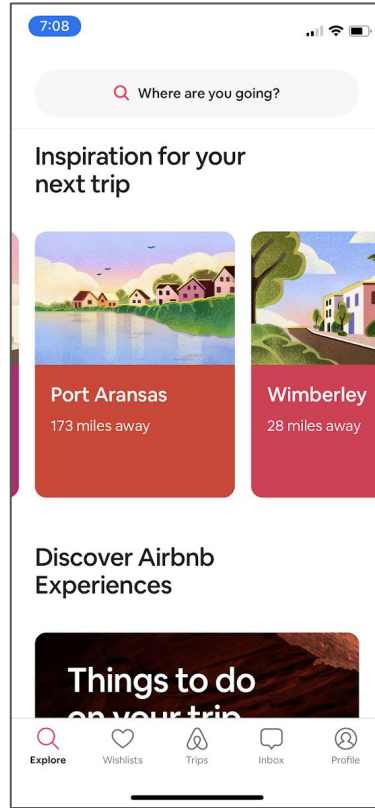
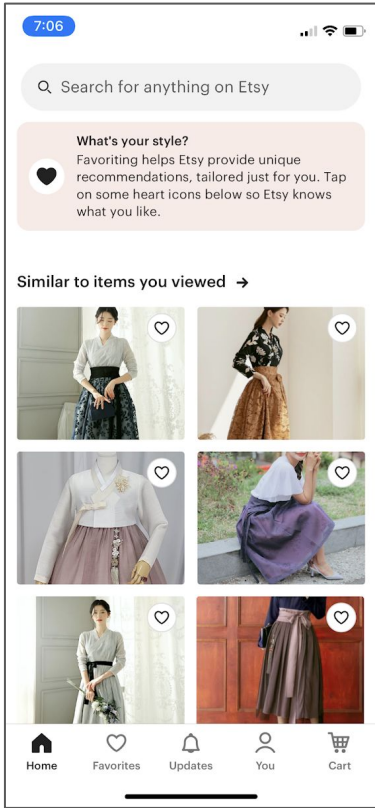
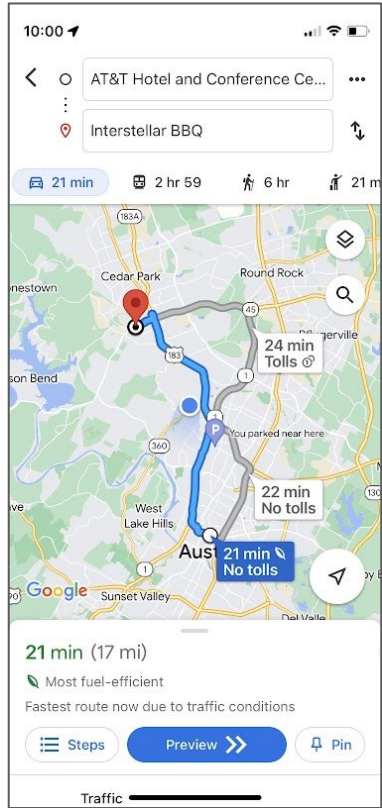
DJ Patil, Data Jujitsu: The Art of Turning Data into Product

Data as a Product

“...data teams must apply product thinking [...] to the datasets that they provide; considering their data assets as their products and the rest of the organization’s data scientists, ML and data engineers as their customers.”

Zhamak Dehghani, How to Move Beyond a Monolithic Data Lake to a Distributed Data Mesh

Data Products in the Wild



Data Science

So, what /do/ you do all day?

MODERN DATA SCIENTIST

Data Scientist, the second job of the 21st century, requires a mixture of interdisciplinary skills ranging from an understanding of mathematics, statistics, computer science, operations and software. Finding data is essential to the field. Finding people who understand what is data scientist is a search for. So here is a list of the hard stuff we will do.

MATH & STATISTICS

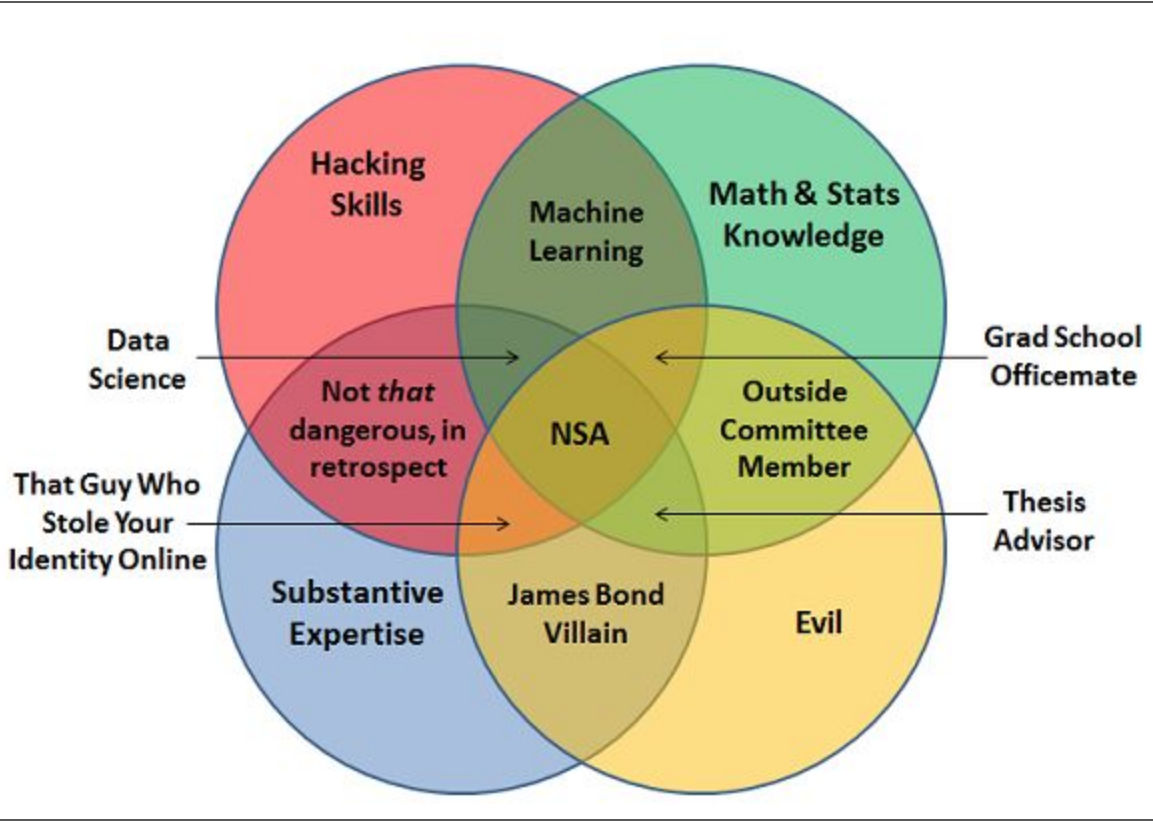
- Machine learning
- Statistical modeling
- Bayesian models
- Operational learning (decision trees, random forests, support vector machines)
- Deep learning (neural networks)
- Dimensionality reduction

DOMAIN KNOWLEDGE & SOFT SKILLS

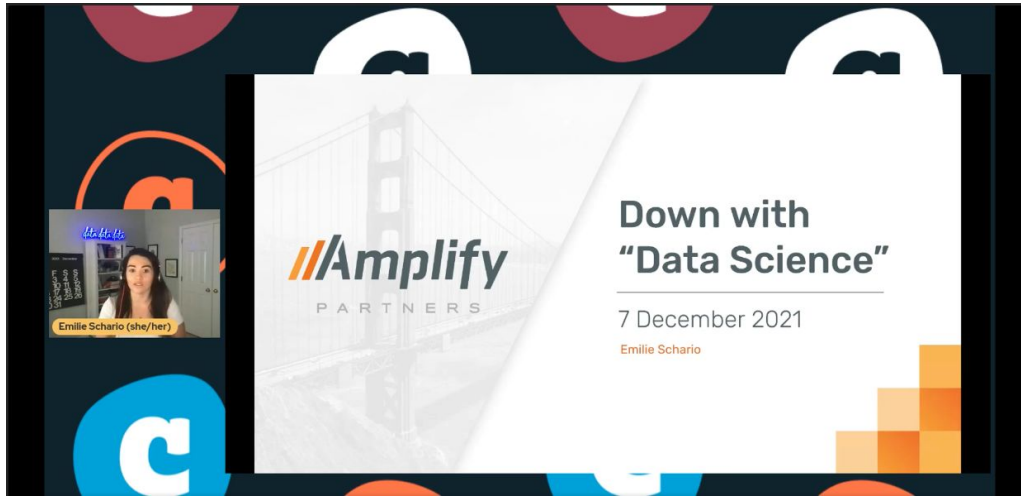
- Passion about the business
- Domain knowledge
- Interdisciplinary curiosity
- Team player
- Problem solver
- Ability to explain complex information
- Strong writing skills
- Curiosity and passion
- Knowledge of your field of interest
- Knowledge of your field of interest



Hacking



Beyond the Venn Diagram



- Data Engineers
- Analytics Engineers
- Data Analysts
- Machine Learning Engineers

Emilie Schario - [Down with "Data Science"](#)

Analytics

Insight as output

- Play the *objective* voice of your customers
- Metrics + measurements frame how your company views its health
- Looks like
 - Opportunity Sizing/Prototyping
 - Experimentation
 - Impact Analyses



What is the secret of ~~Soylent Green~~ analytics?

(data)



Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Affected 143 Million in the U.S.



By Tara Siegel Bernard, Tiffany Hsu, Nicole Perloth and Ron Lieber

Sept. 7, 2017

[Equifax](#), one of the three major consumer credit reporting agencies, said on Thursday that [hackers](#) had gained access to company data that potentially compromised sensitive information for 143 million American consumers, including Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers.

The attack on the company represents one of the largest risks to personally sensitive information in recent years, and is the third major cybersecurity threat for the agency since 2015.

Equifax, based in Atlanta, is a particularly tempting target for hackers. If identity thieves wanted to hit one place to grab all the data needed to do the most damage, they would go straight to one of the three major credit reporting agencies.

"This is about as bad as it gets," said Pamela Dixon, executive director of the World Privacy Forum, a nonprofit research group. "If you have a credit report, chances are you may be in this breach. The chances are much better than 50 percent."

Facebook appeal over Cambridge Analytica data rejected by Australian court as 'divorced from reality'

Full bench of the federal court confirms earlier ruling that tech giant collects personal information in Australia

● [Get our free news app; get our morning email briefing](#)



Facebook has been dealt a major blow in its legal fight with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner over the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Photograph: Artur Widak/NurPhoto/REX/Shutterstock

Facebook has lost a major battle with the Australian regulator over the [Cambridge Analytica](#) scandal, after a court dismissed the social media giant's claim that it neither conducts business nor collects personal information in the country.

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) is [suing Facebook](#), now Meta, for breaching the privacy of more than 300,000 Australian Facebook users in the Cambridge Analytica scandal, exposed more than four years ago [by the Guardian](#).

Throughout the 2010s, consulting firm Cambridge Analytica harvested the personal data of millions of [Facebook](#) users without their consent using a

Shortlisted for the FT/McKinsey
Business Book of the Year Award 2019

The International Bestseller

THE AGE OF SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

THE FIGHT FOR A
HUMAN FUTURE
AT THE NEW
FRONTIER OF POWER

SHOSHANA ZUBOFF

"The true prophet of the information age" *FT*

The **General Data Privacy Regulation** or GDPR is part of the privacy and human rights laws of the EU that set the standards of how companies collect, handle, and protect personal data for EU citizens.

- Users can know how their data are used, what data companies have about them, correct mistakes in the data, have their data deleted, and opt out
- Companies must pay fines for non-compliance such as data breaches or lack of user consent

This is the first of many regulatory standards worldwide. The **California Consumer Privacy Act** is another that is US-based.

Data governance is the set of roles, policies, processes, and technologies that empower an organization to consistently and appropriately handle its data.

Why is this important? It ensures compliance, security, privacy, quality, availability, and usability. It ultimately provides the foundation for an organization's data strategy.

Case Study: Revenue Data Access Initiative

How do we leverage sensitive data for
insight and understanding?

Revenue Data Threat Model

What are we making?

What threats are we concerned about?

What can we do to mitigate these threats?

Do these mitigations work?

Adapted from [Toreon](#) threat modeling materials

Revenue data are

- important to analyze because they will allow us to make better choices about our business
- sensitive because they contain confidential information that present risk to the business
 - Do not contain personal information
- in need of system designed to
 - grant access to only those who need access to it for processing, evaluation, or decision-making purposes
 - restrict access from the rest of the company

Monica Rogati's Hierarchy of Needs

THE DATA SCIENCE **HIERARCHY OF NEEDS**

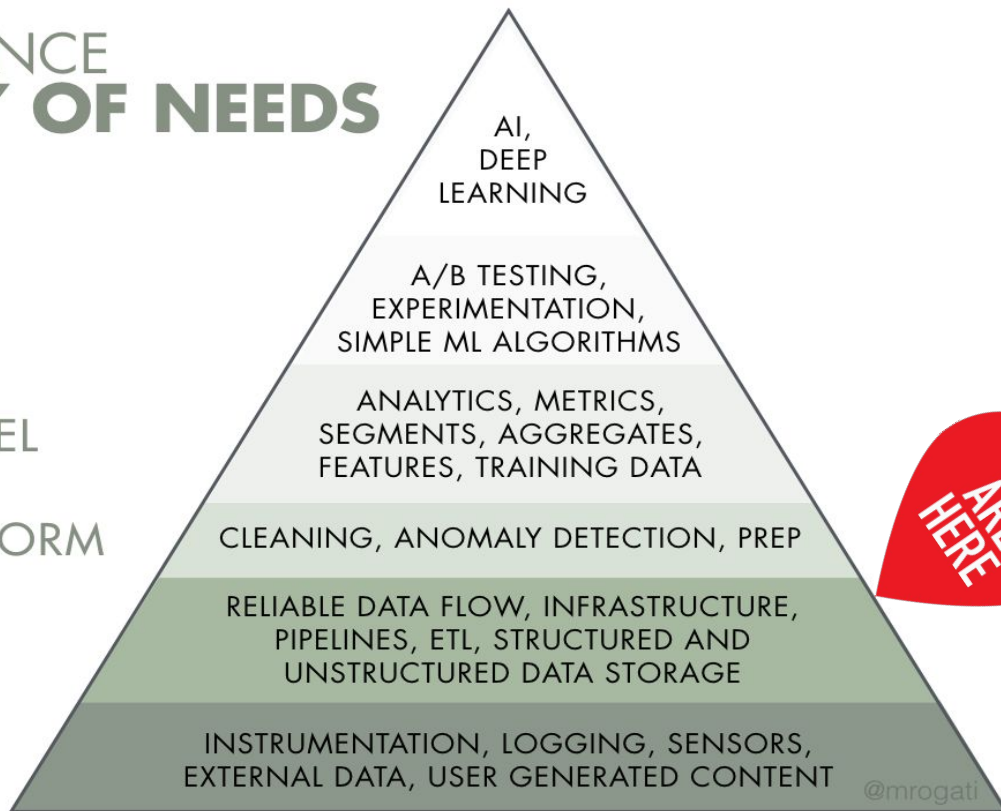
LEARN/OPTIMIZE

AGGREGATE/LABEL

EXPLORE/TRANSFORM

MOVE/STORE

COLLECT



Revenue Data

- PDFs and Spreadsheets and APIs, oh my!
- Sometimes hand-curated, from non-Mozillians, mostly maintained by hand by non-technologists
- *sensitive*
- All-or-nothing access, but difficult to use
- safeguarded by the CFO herself

Revenue Data Science @ Mozilla

Revenue Forecasting

Product Data Science for our monetizable surface areas

Data Help for Finance and Business Operations Analysts

- Methods
- Data

Given that this is what they do, what do Rev DS look like?

Data Scientist

- Tend to have advanced degrees (Ph.D, MS) in a STEM field
- Advanced skills in SQL and scripting language (usually Python or R)

Finance/Business Analyst

- Subject matter expert
- Simple SQL skills, proficient in Excel
- Straightforward domain-relevant modeling



Revenue Data Access Initiative

Framework

- Policy

- Process

Technical Infrastructure

- Differential Access Implementation

- Data Pipeline Migration & Improvements

Empowerment

- Visualization Layer

Policy

Principles-first approach to understand who should get access to sensitive data

Spell out why you need these particular principles

Categories of Data

1	Data that are sensitive but extremely difficult or impossible to calculate sensitive quantities
2	Data that allow someone to back-calculate sensitive quantities
3	Highly sensitive, restricted, and rarely shared data that must be kept confidential

Framework

Technical

Empowerment

Policy

Principles-first approach to understand who should get access to sensitive data

Role-based Access

- Permanent - you have a job at the company that requires you to deal with these data regularly
- Project - you're working on a project that requires these data but this is due to the project and not your position

Framework

Technical

Empowerment

Policy

Principles-first approach to understand who should get access to sensitive data

Compliance

People with access to these data must take a test to demonstrate that they have read and understood the sensitive information training and sign an acknowledgement that they will comply

Framework

Technical

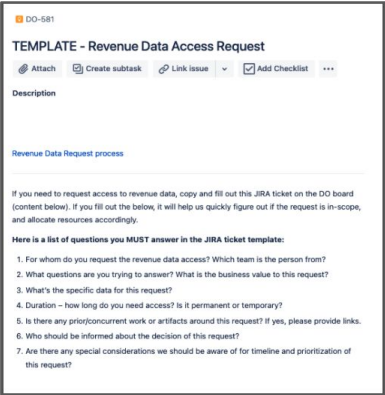
Empowerment

Process

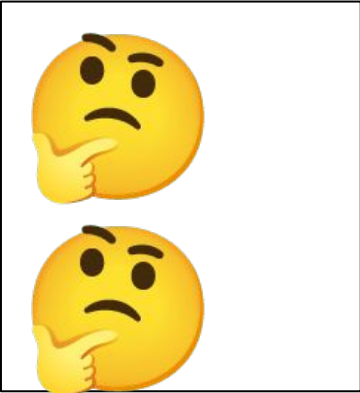
Practical, standardized workflow to apply our policy

Request and Evaluation Flow

Jira Software



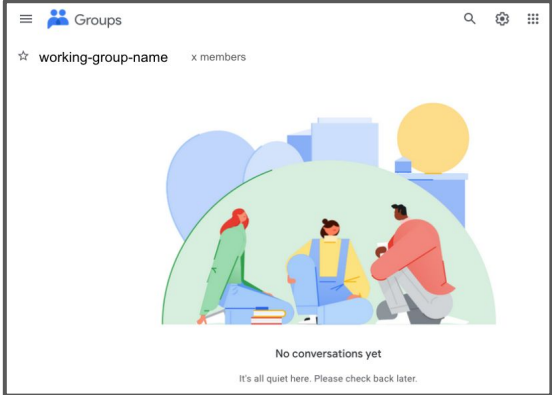
Data stewards



Technical

Framework

Google Groups



Empowerment

Process

Practical, standardized workflow to apply our policy

Auditing

- Quarterly audits on permanent access
 - Requires manager and access steward approval
- Extension evaluation for temporary access if needed for project
 - Request is evaluated by access stewards

Framework

Technical

Empowerment

Technical Infrastructure

Differential Access Implementation

give access to those who need it and restrict access from those who don't

- Leverages BigQuery's authorized views to create differential access based on revenue access policy specifications

Data Pipeline Migration & Improvement

contain all of the revenue data in one place to make easier access configuration, more robust datasets, SRE support

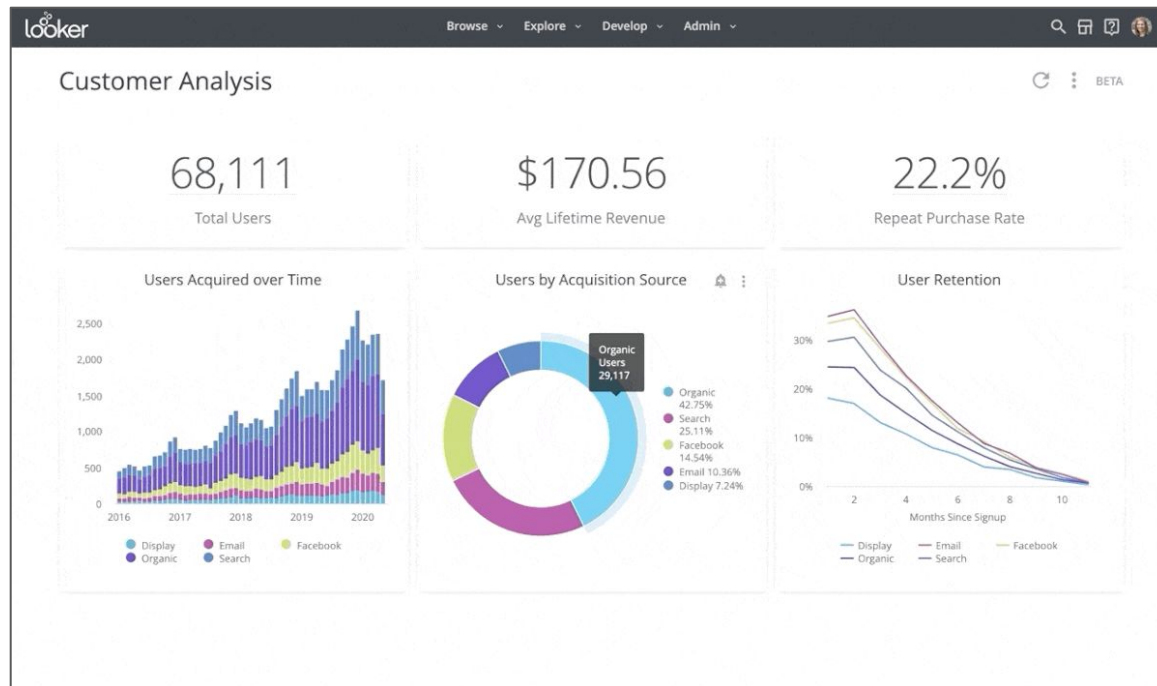
- Syndication of data, new ETL, new connectors that standardize and stabilize pipelines

Framework

Technical

Empowerment

Visualization Layer



Framework

Technical

Empowerment

Monica Rogati's Hierarchy of Needs

THE DATA SCIENCE **HIERARCHY OF NEEDS**

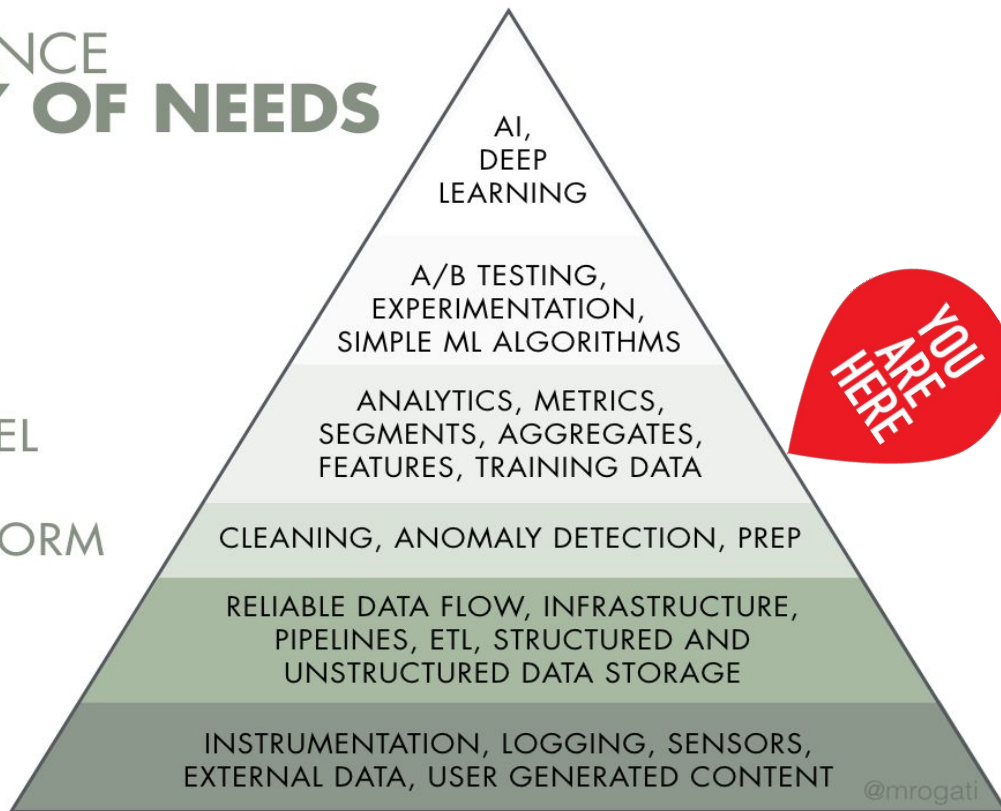
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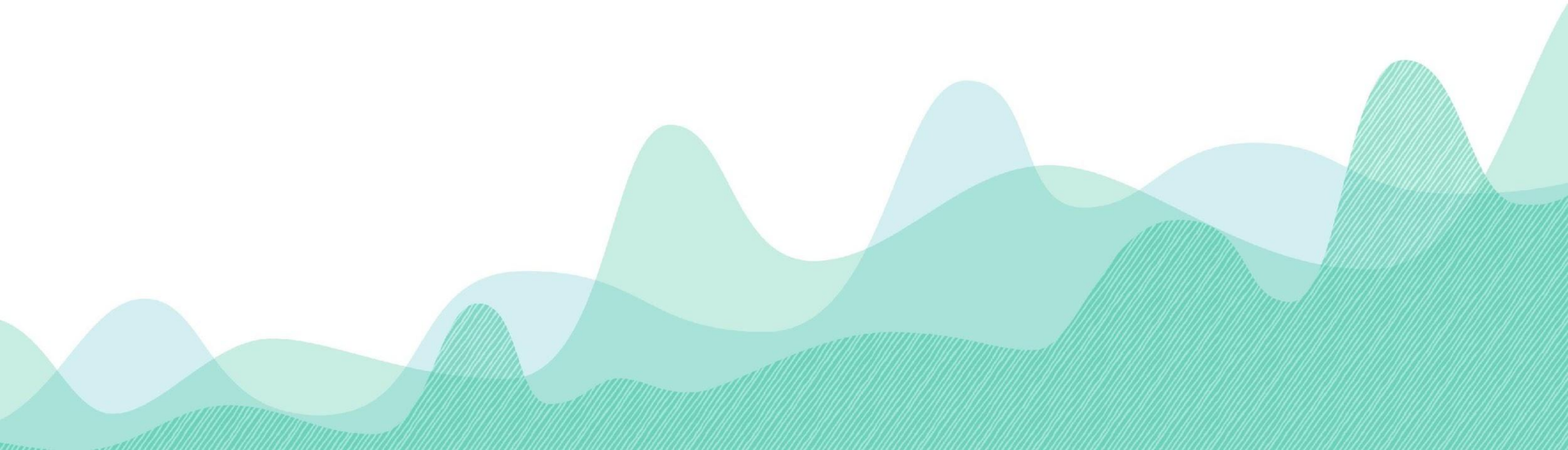


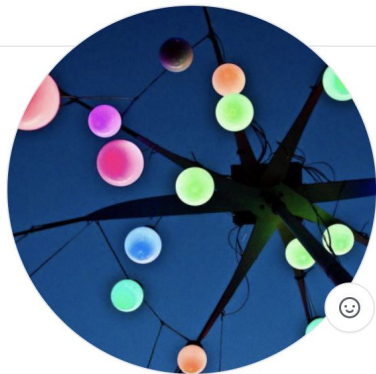
How does this tie back to data privacy?

Domain	Revenue Data	Personal Data
Framework	Policy based on business risk	Policy based on user privacy
Technical Infrastructure	Differential access, data warehouse	Differential access, data warehouse
Empowerment	Insights	Insights, user-facing data product



The Next Generation of Business Intelligence





Maxime Beauchemin

mistercrunch

creator of Apache Airflow and Apache Superset - founder at Preset

Edit profile

1k followers · 11 following · 139

preset-io






San Mateo, CA

maximebeauchemin@gmail.com

mistercrunch.blogspot.com

Organizations



- 20+ years swimming in data @      preset
- Started Apache **Airflow** at Airbnb in 2014
- Started Apache **Superset** at Airbnb in 2015
- Started **Preset** - The Apache Superset company in 2019



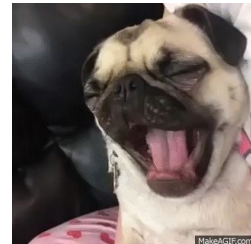
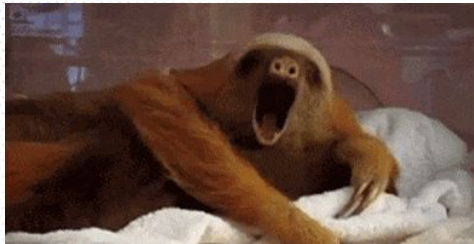


Agenda

- The [accelerated] story of BI
- Enabling analytics everywhere
- Delamination of stack
- Latency over freshness
- Open Source FTW
- Data models
- Still to come

“Business Intelligence” - defined

*Business intelligence (BI) comprises the strategies and technologies used by enterprises for the **data analysis** and management of business **information**.^[1] Common functions of business intelligence technologies include **reporting**, **online analytical processing**, **analytics**, **dashboard development**, **data mining**, **process mining**, **complex event processing**, **business performance management**, **benchmarking**, **text mining**, **predictive analytics**, and **prescriptive analytics**.*

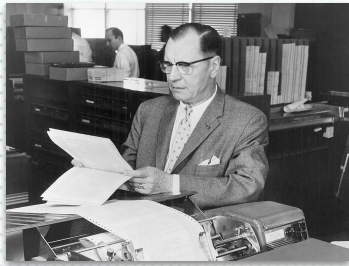


A collection of vintage navigational instruments including a telescope, a pocket watch, a compass, and a magnifying glass, all resting on an antique map. The map features various geographical labels and decorative elements. The instruments are rendered in a detailed, illustrative style with a warm, golden-brown color palette.

A brief history of BI...

So you thought BI was old...

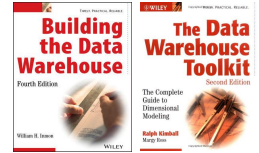
In **1865**, Richard Millar Devens presented the phrase “Business Intelligence” (BI) in the Cyclopædia of Commercial and Business Anecdotes. He was using it to describe how Sir Henry Furnese, a banker, profited from information by gathering and acting on it before his competition.



More recently, **in 1958**, an article was written by an IBM computer scientist named Hans Peter Luhn, describing the potential of gathering Business Intelligence (BI) through the use of technology.

The contemporary timeline

- 70s - IBM and Siebel enter the market
- 80s - emergence of the data warehouse
- 90s - early vendors appear - highly specialized tooling
- 2000s - self-service and large all-in-one platforms
- 2010s - big data + data goes mainstream
 - explosion of more specialized tools
 - democratization of data
- 2020s!?!?!?!?



Some statements about BI / analytics...



- BI tooling tries to be a solution for **EVERY type of data**, every **persona** and every **workflow**. Buyers have been trained to buy a single solution that **SOLVES IT ALL**. This is not realistic.
- Yet most companies have multiple BI tools
- BI is the original 20+Y before no-code **“NO-CODE”** solution!(!?)
- BI depends on “the analytics process” and is the last link in an extremely complex and brittle chain
- Yet. **People think data should be easy**, or that the right tool can make it easy. No.

Failed promises

- Solving data for all
- Self-service - making it simple enough for the masses

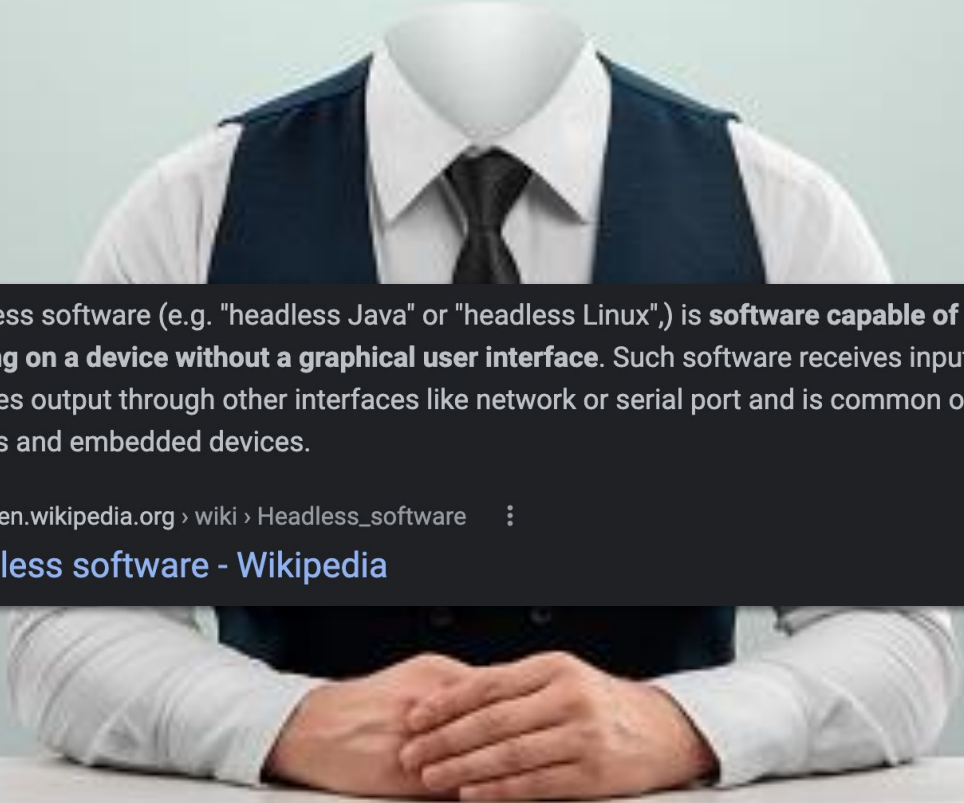


Analytics Everywhere!

Free analytics from the experts and their specialized tooling!

- In-context analytics > foreign dashboards
- The rise of data literacy = users asking for interactive visualizations
- Every app/SaaS to become a “data app”

[head optional]



Headless software (e.g. "headless Java" or "headless Linux",) is **software capable of working on a device without a graphical user interface**. Such software receives inputs and provides output through other interfaces like network or serial port and is common on servers and embedded devices.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Headless_software :

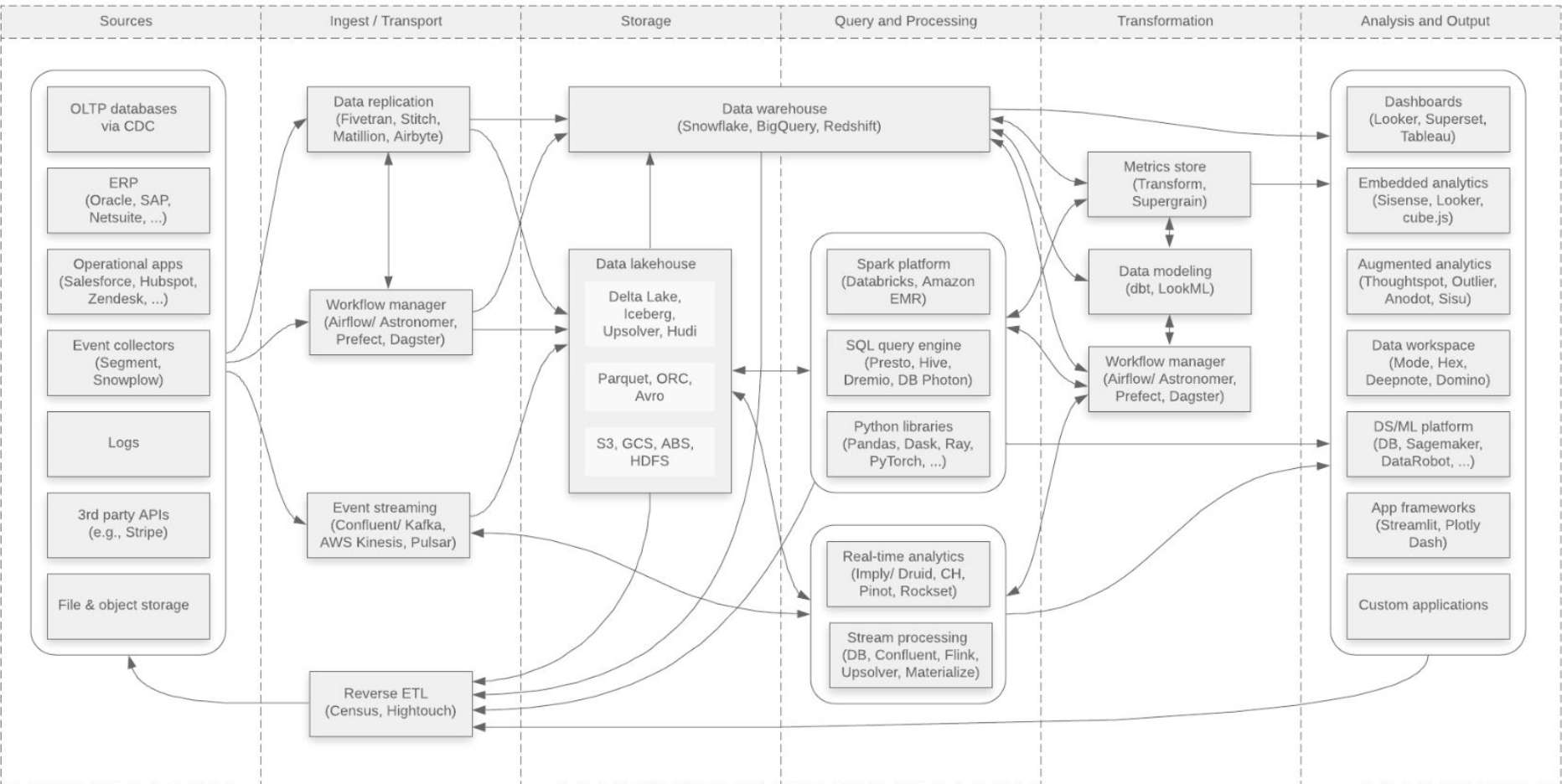
[Headless software - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Headless_software)

Delamination of the stack



Gartner's BI Magic Quadrant 2021



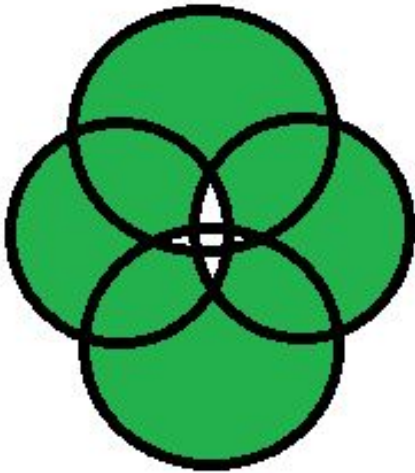


Data discovery
(Amundsen, DataHub, Atlan, Alation)

Data governance
(Collibra)

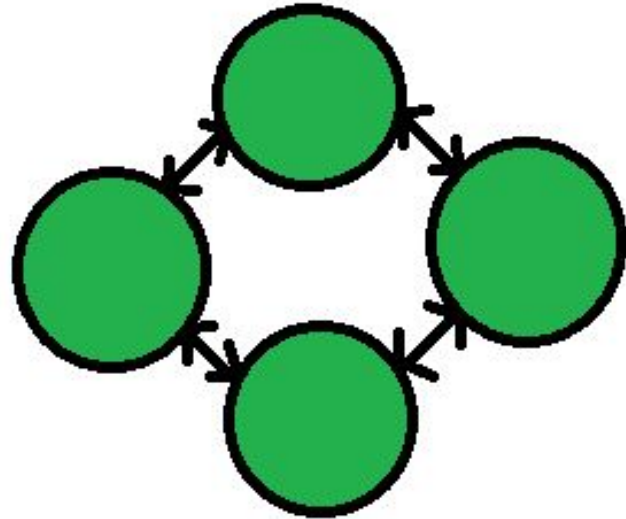
Data observability
(Monte Carlo, Bigeye, GE, AccelData)

Entitlements & security
(Privacera, Immuta)



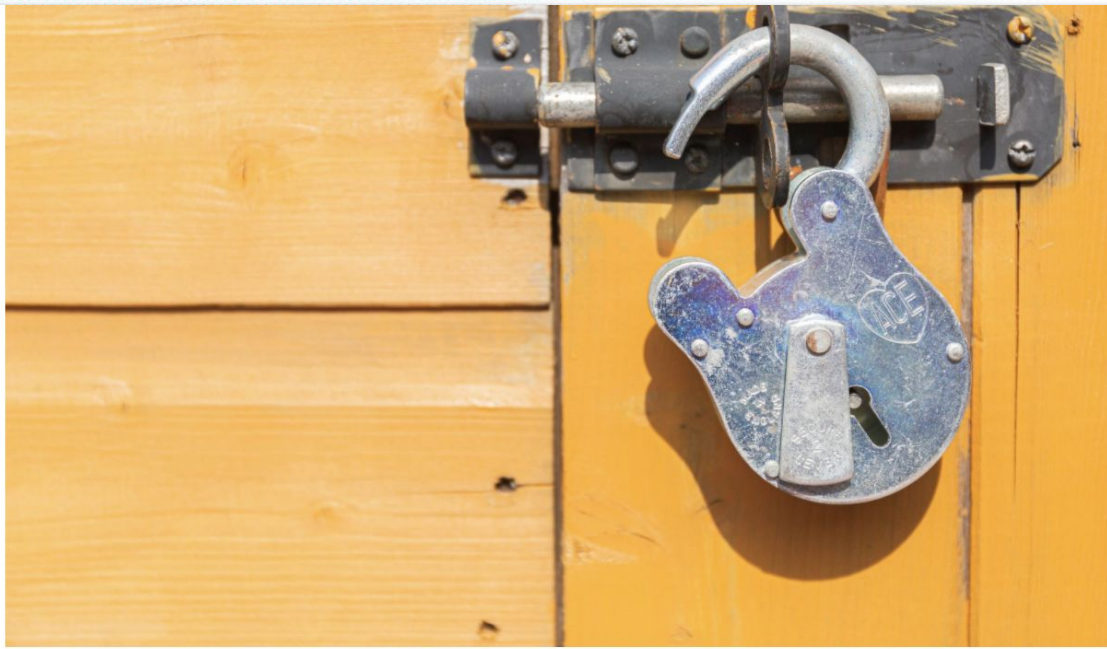
Tight coupling:

1. More Interdependency
2. More coordination
3. More information flow



Loose coupling:

1. Less Interdependency
2. Less coordination
3. Less information flow



COMMUNITY

The Future Of Business Intelligence Is Open Source | Preset

Maxime Beauchemin March 05, 2021



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AI Monitoring & Explainability: The Critical Hidden Connection

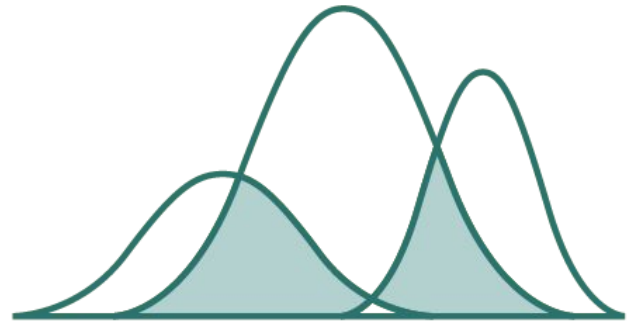
Anupam Datta

Co-Founder, President, Chief Scientist

TruEra

Confidential. Do not distribute.

truera



What people think ML Monitoring is like...

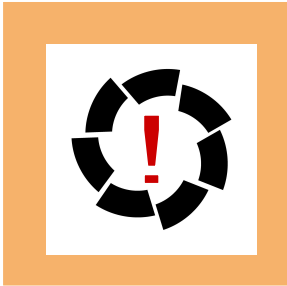
and what it's actually like.



A lot can go wrong.



Data Bugs



Unforeseen Changes



New, untrained use cases



Shifting concepts & behavior



Adversarial attacks

The harsh reality of ML.

The moment you put a model in production, it goes on a wild ride.

So monitoring is key.

Monitoring is not that easy today.

Data Science and ML Ops teams struggle to minimize ML risk.

There's a wild goose chase going on.

How can I better understand **how** my models are working?

How do I identify **real problems** with the model?

What is the problem's **root cause**?
How can I **debug** quickly?

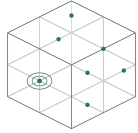
How can I make **monitoring work easily** in my environment?

Teams struggle with:

- Visibility and observability
- Diagnosis and actionability
- Complex environments and workflow (diverse models, diverse stakeholders)

Monitoring Requirements

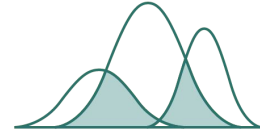
Fast, precise, and complete.



Broad coverage of model & data quality metrics



Fast, precise debugging

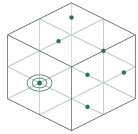


Easy to deploy and scale

**AI Monitoring & Explainability:
The Critical Hidden Connection**

Focus Today: Monitoring Requirements

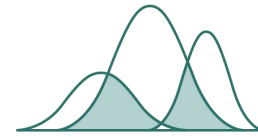
Fast, precise, and complete.



**Model Drift & Performance
Metrics**



**Fast, precise debugging with
root cause analysis**



Easy to deploy and scale

**AI Monitoring & Explainability:
The Critical Hidden Connection**

Outline

- Overview
 - Why does drift happen?
 - What are different kinds of drift?
 - What is consequential drift?
- How to identify drift?
 - Measures
 - Challenges
- How to mitigate drift?
- Monitoring



— Overview of Drift

Overview of Drift



Bikes used to look like this



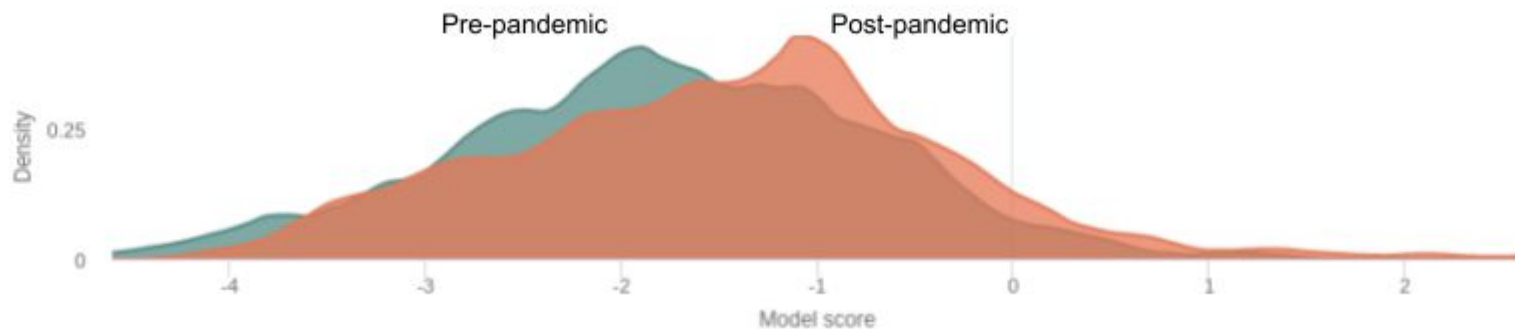
... now they look like this

Will an ML model trained on images like the left continue to work well?

Overview of Drift

This is similar to what happened to models with Covid.

Example: risk scoring model. Lower model score shows lower risk.



Will an ML model trained on pre-pandemic data continue to work well?

Overview:

Why does drift happen?

Data quality issues

Examples:

NaN

- Broken feature pipelines

The External World Has Changed

Examples:

- The pandemic
- Housing market fluctuations



Model Applied to a New Context

Example:

- Model trained on Wikipedia applied to news articles

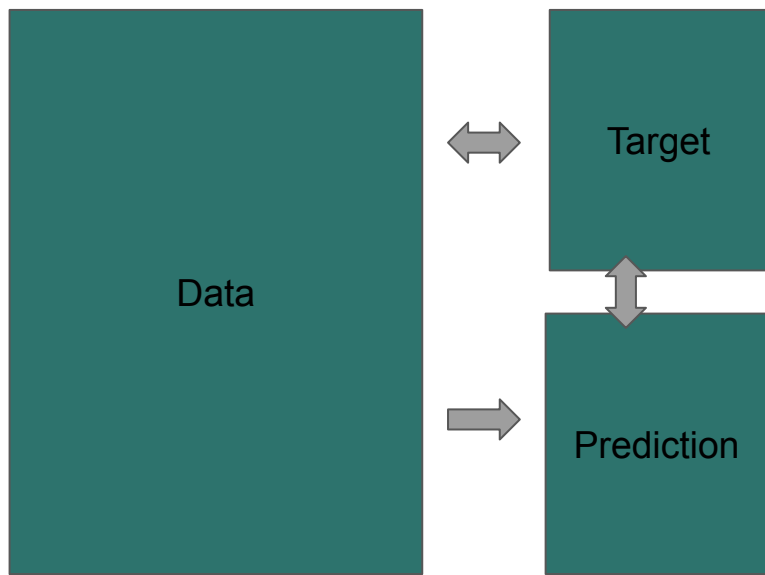
Collected Training Data Is Different

Example:

- For credit decisions, labels are only available for approved applicants
- Impact of your models on the data



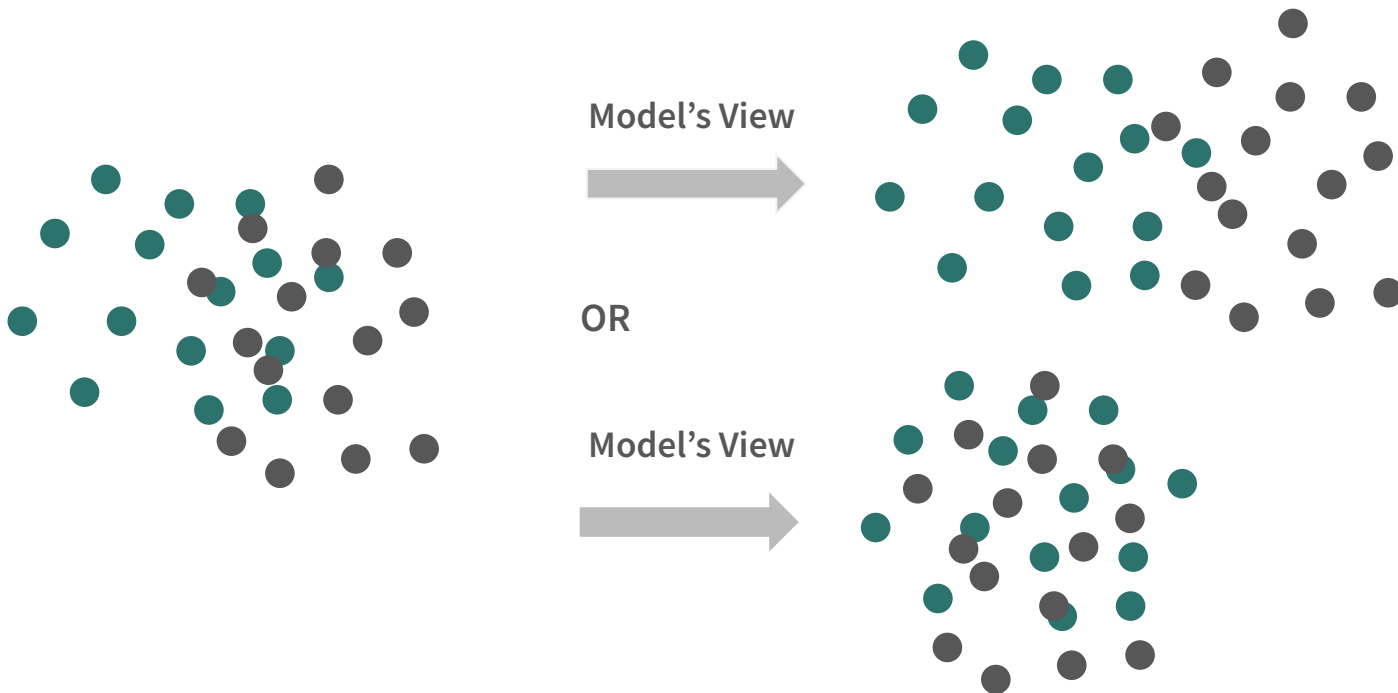
Overview: What are the Different Kinds of Drift?



1. Data drift
 - a. Covariate shift -- drift in input features
 - b. Concept drift -- drift in relationship between input and target
2. Model decay -- performance loss due to data drift
3. "Prediction shift" -- drift in model predictions

Overview: Which Drifts are Consequential and Why?

- Sept
- Nov



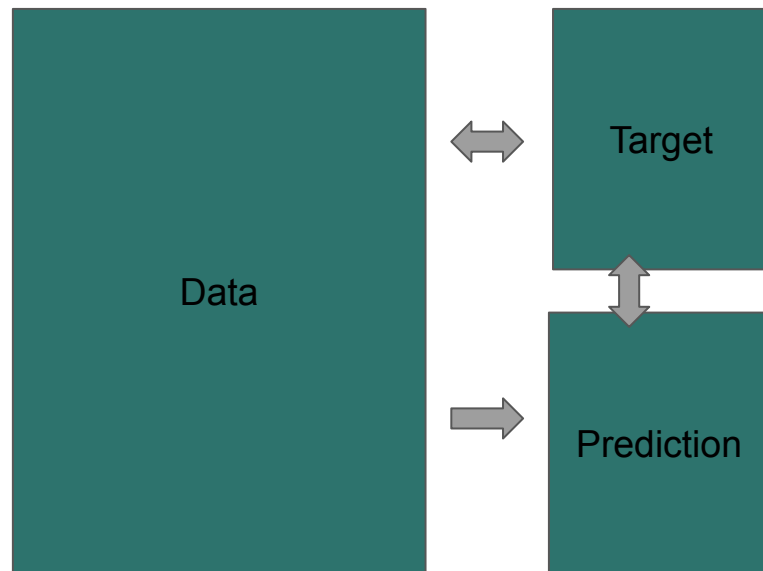
High-dimensional data always drifts
(curse of dimensionality)

... but not necessarily in
ways that affect the model

— How to identify drift?

Standard Approaches To Measuring Drift

- Measure model performance in deployment
- Compare distributions of
 - Ground Truth
 - Single input features
 - Prediction
 - Full data sets



Challenges with Standard Approaches

- Measure model performance in deployment

Don't have ground truth in many cases.



- Compare distributions of

- Ground Truth
- Single input features
- Prediction
- Full data sets

Does a 5% shift in feature 28 matter?



Why is the prediction shifting?



Curse of dimensionality



How to mitigate drift?

example scenarios

— Key Takeaway: How to mitigate drift?

Blind model retraining is often not the best answer to counter drift.

How to mitigate drift?

Step 1: Understand root causes of drift:

Where is it happening?

When is it happening?

How much is there?

What is causing it?

Monitoring & Explainability – The Critical Hidden Connection!

— How to mitigate drift?

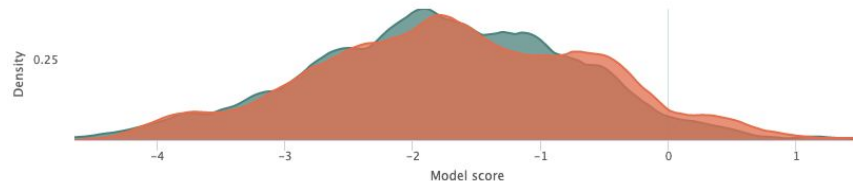
Step 2: Understanding the root cause of drift leads to targeted ways to address drift

How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift caused by an unstable feature?

- Identify and address cause (of prediction drift).
 - Remove a feature without retraining (i.e. replace with mean/mode).
 - Remove a feature and retrain with existing data.

Feature	Importance	Feature value drift ↓	Feature values distribution
annual_inc	1.95%	19156.559	
	2.14%		
revol_bal	2.65%	6702.749	
	2.95%		
total_bc_limit	3.68%	759.644	
	3.92%		



drift in input features





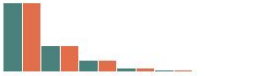
drift in model output

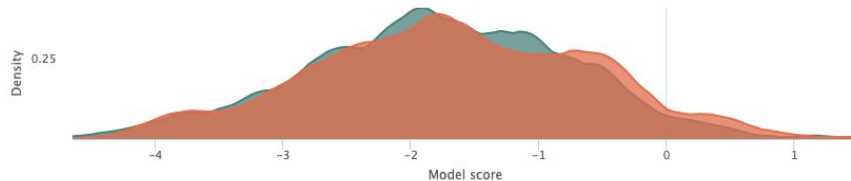
How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift caused by an unstable feature?

- Explainability technology under the hood
 - Feature importances based on Shapley Values, gradients & more



Feature	Importance	Feature value drift ↓	Feature values distribution
annual_inc	1.95%	19156.559	
	2.14%		
revol_bal	2.65%	6702.749	
	2.95%		
total_bc_limit	3.68%	759.644	
	3.92%		



drift in input features

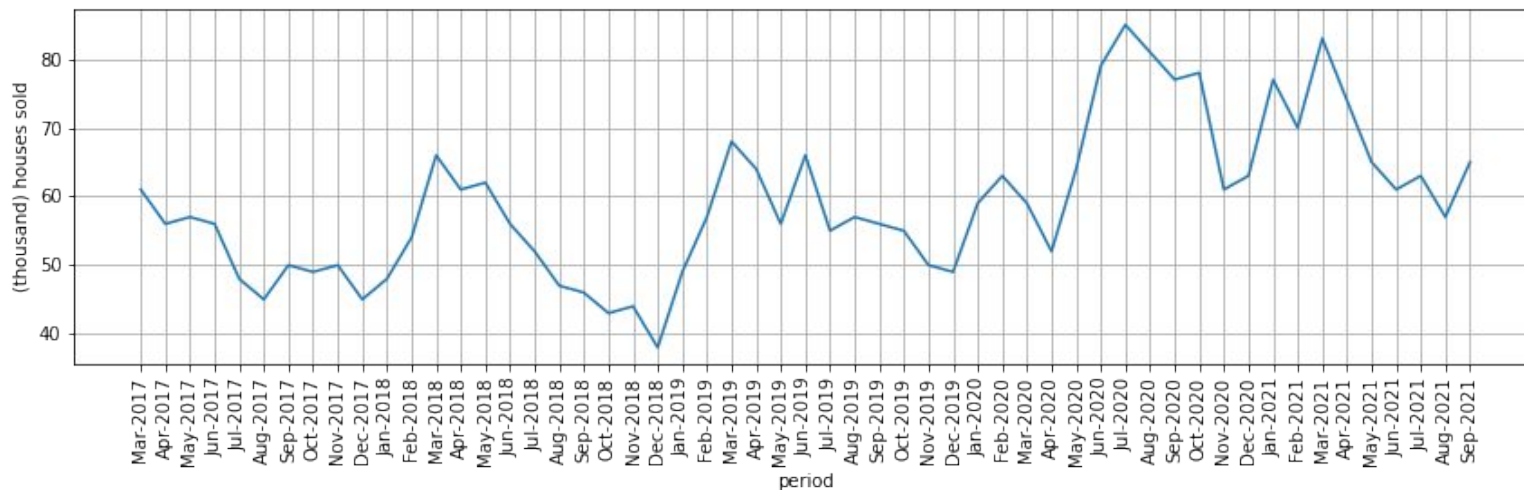


drift in model output

How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift periodic or learnable?

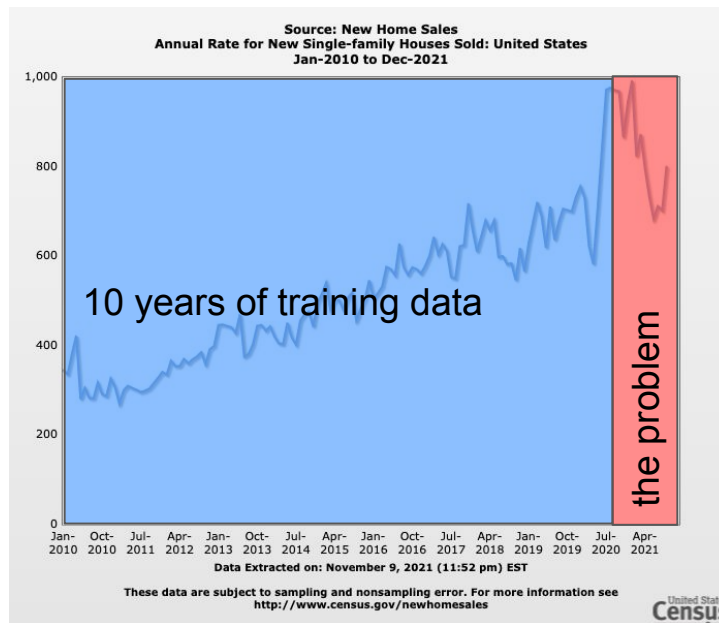
- Concept drift --> Covariate drift with feature engineering
 - Add features to learn periodic change over time.
 - Add indicators of effects of unexpected events ("is-covid" vs "unemployment-rate")
 - Might not need labeling additional data.



How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift sudden relative to training period?

- Drift period may be too insignificant for a retrained model to pick up on it.
- Options:
 - Upweight recent data.
 - Fine tune model with recent data.
 - Identify new features that can help generalize to newer data
 - Example: newer data might be characterized by lower interest rates which might not have been predictive before



What can we do about drift?

Is the drift periodic or learnable?

- Concept drift --> Covariate drift with feature engineering
 - Add features to learn periodic change over time.
 - Add indicators of effects of unexpected events ("is-covid" vs "unemployment-rate")
 - Might not need labeling additional data.



How to mitigate drift?

Is the drift significant enough? Is it affecting model outputs? Is it affecting performance?

- No action may be needed.
 - It might be the case that the model has shifted in a way that is still reasonable.
 - Also needs understanding the root cause of drift.

ML Monitoring

ML Monitoring involves computing drift on data or metrics over time

- Track drift over time
 - Basics: Feature Data, Predictions
 - If available: Ground truth, Accuracy
 - Consequences: Influences, MSI, etc
- Set alerts if drift above specific threshold
- Run automated root cause analysis
- Mitigate

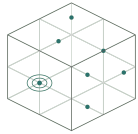
Takeaways

- Overview
 - Data drift can happen due to a variety of internal and external causes.
 - Not all drift impacts the model
 - Important to identify consequential drift
- How to identify drift?
 - Different classes of metrics to capture different types of drift: features, ground truth, model output, relationships
 - How to use TruEra to identify root causes of drift
- How to mitigate drift?
 - Not just retrain: Important to understand type and root cause of drift in order to mitigate
 - Retraining, adding features, feature engineering, fixing data quality, and more



Focus Today: Monitoring Requirements

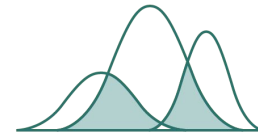
Fast, precise, and complete.



**Model Drift & Performance
Metrics**



**Fast, precise debugging with
root cause analysis**

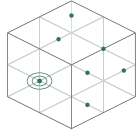


Easy to deploy and scale

**AI Monitoring & Explainability:
The Critical Hidden Connection**

Monitoring Requirements

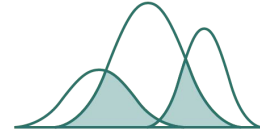
Fast, precise, and complete.



Broad coverage of model & data quality metrics



Fast, precise debugging



Easy to deploy and scale

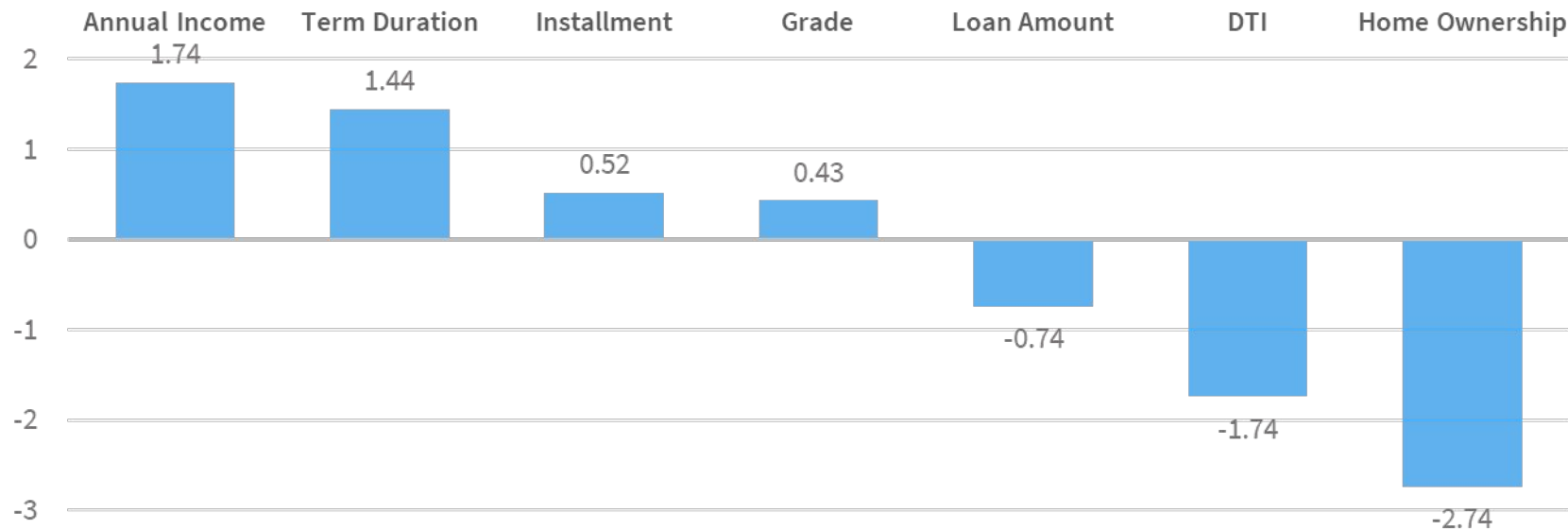
**AI Monitoring & Explainability:
The Critical Hidden Connection**

Thank you!


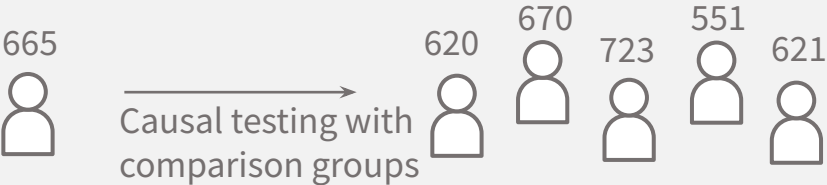
Q&A Time

Appendix: Explainability Methods

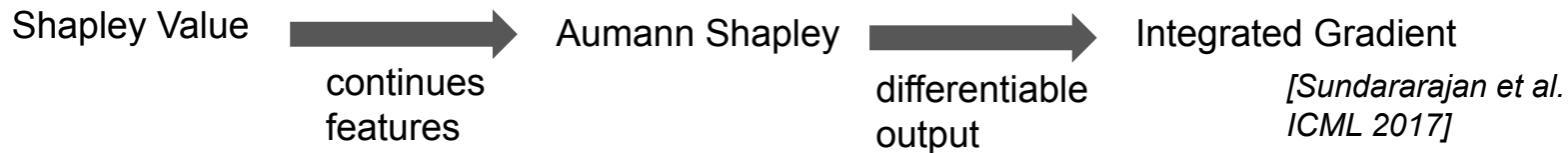
Input Feature Importance for a Tree Model



Elements of Explanation Methods

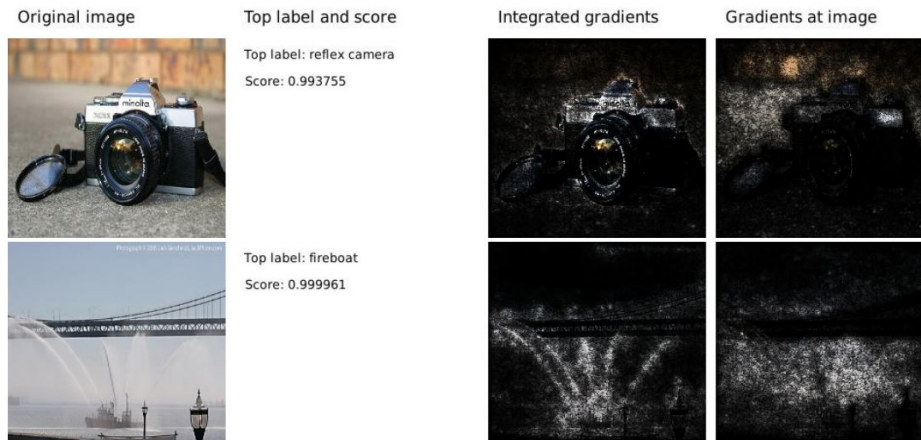
1	QUERY DEFINITION	Why does the model:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have a score of 665 for Jane• have disparate impact• deny Jane
2	OUTPUT COMPARISON	665 	Causal testing with comparison groups 
3	SUMMARIZATION	Of 665, 133 is accounted for by DTI, -45 by income, etc. (Aumann) Shapley accurate estimation	

Integrated Gradient



Integrated Gradient is the **only** path method that satisfies

- Symmetry
- Dummy
- Efficiency(Completeness)
- Additivity



What Makes Orlando Bloom Orlando Bloom?

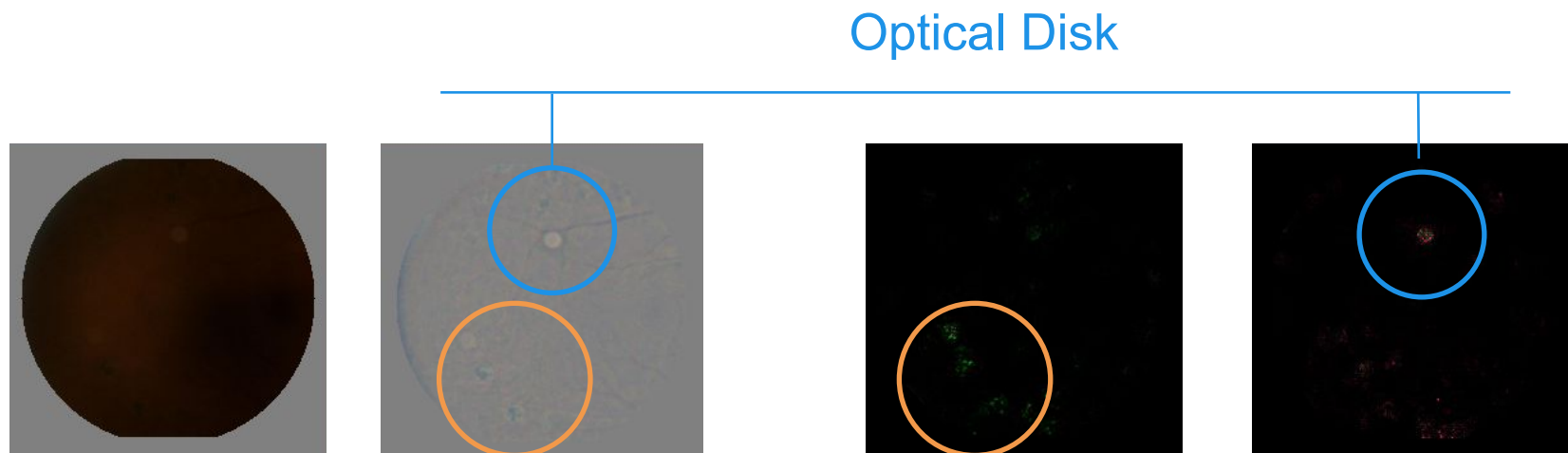


Internal explanation for a deep network

**Influence-Directed
Explanations**

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li, ITC '18

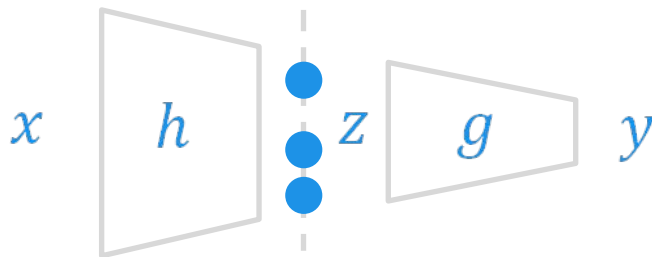
Detecting Diabetic Retinopathy Stage 5



**Influence-Directed
Explanations**

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li 2018

Requirements for “Good” Explanations



Causal

Identify features that are causing model predictions

Succinct

A “few” features explain model predictions

Distributional Faithfulness

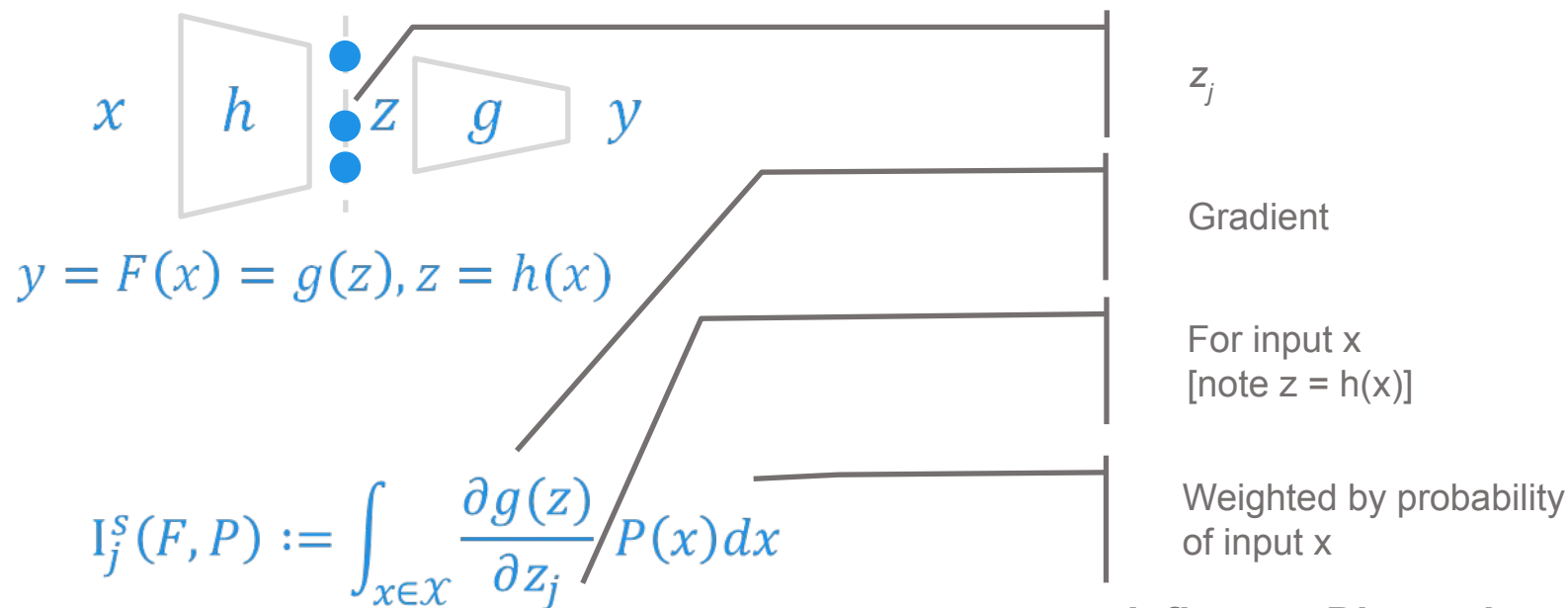
Model is fed “familiar” inputs

Influence-Directed Explanations

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li, ITC '18

Distributional Influence

Influence = average gradient over distribution of interest



Influence-Directed Explanations

Leino, Sen, Fredrikson, Datta, Li, ITC '18

Observability at the long tail: Why sampling production data doesn't work for rare events

Bernease Herman
Data Scientist, WhyLabs
Data Council Austin
March 23, 2022 in Austin, Texas





WHYLABS

On a mission to build the interface between human operators and AI applications

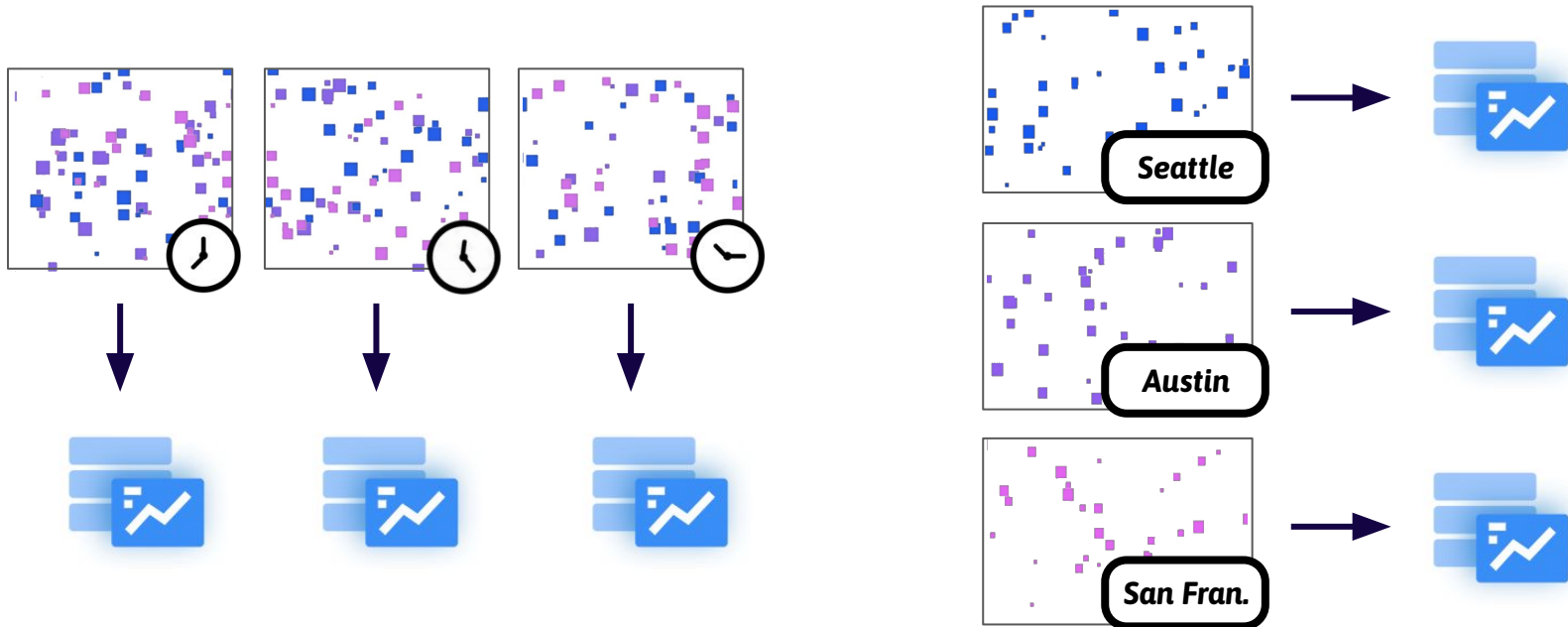


**Production ML data is often voluminous, dynamic,
and increasingly in the form of streaming data**



Complexities of (1) scale and (2) streaming data

Many practitioners try simple sampling techniques; others slice data into segments based on time and other characteristics before conducting analysis



Comparing static windowing, sampling, and profiling

Median and quantile calculation include the following popular approaches:

Static metrics on subsets of data

Predetermine important metrics and store only that information

Random sampling

Store a random sample of the data for further analysis

Data profiling for streaming data

Advanced data structures and algorithms for summarizing data and error

Capturing simple pre-selected metrics for ML data...

```
metrics: {  
  mean: 8.0,  
  standard_deviation: 1.24,  
  quantile_0.25: 5.2,  
  ...,  
  accuracy: 0.89,  
  precision: 0.75,  
  recall: 0.92,  
}
```

Static metrics approach

Pros:

- Fast access to key metrics
- Low storage size
- Actual metrics on single batch

Cons:

- Requires metric pre-selection
- Non-mergeable

... isn't enough for root causing production systems!

Using simple pre-selected metrics alone, you can not answer the following:

Est. value of new metric x on prior data?

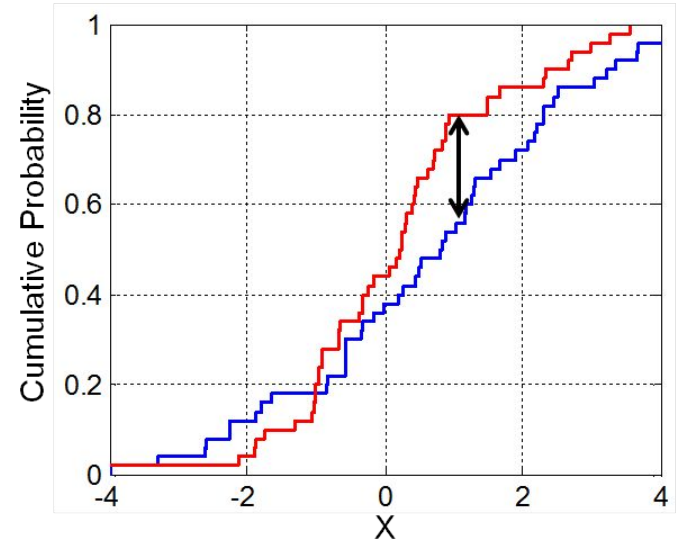
Est, overlap of data with set $\{a, b, c\}$?

Relative rank of value x on last year's data?

Distribution drift between two datasets?

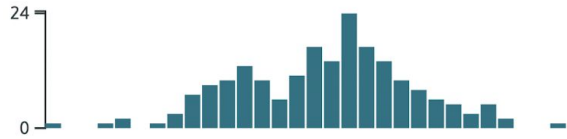
Error bounds of estimates over the last month of data?

...and many more.



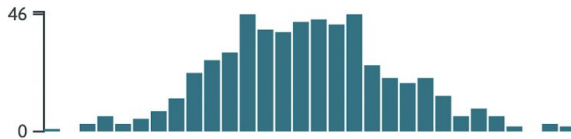
Data mergeability is critical for observing the long tail and rare events

total_eve_minutes



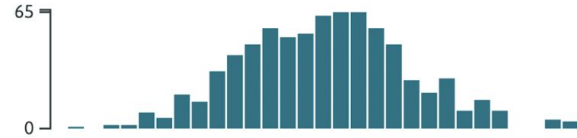
Profile 1
(~200 rows)

total_eve_minutes



Profile 2
(~500 rows)

total_eve_minutes



Merged Profile
(entire dataset)

Randomly sampling ML data has issues as well.

Sampled rows: 495K

Total rows: 198MM

*0 Transaction ID, Customer ID, Quantity, Item Price,
Total Tax, Total Amount, Store Type, Product
Category, Product Subcategory, Gender, City Code,
Age at Transaction Date, Transaction Type,
Transaction Week, Transaction Batch*

*1 T24951240379, C267987, 12, 19.1, 24.066000000000003,
1306.85256, e-Shop, Electronics, Personal
Appliances, M, 9.0, 24.0, Purchase, 0, 2*

*2 T54251889351, C267740, -3, 54.2, 17.073, -927.11268
00000001, MBR, Books, Non-Fiction, M, 2.0, 36.0, Cancel
lation, 0, 2*

...

Random sampling

Pros:

Same format as original data
High flexibility
Batch or streaming data
Mergeable

Cons:

Poor estimates on tail/outliers
Poor precision (based on %)
High storage size

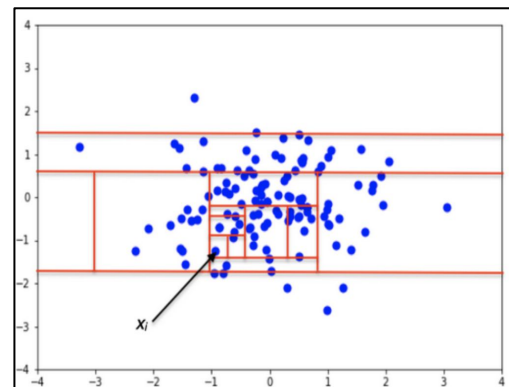
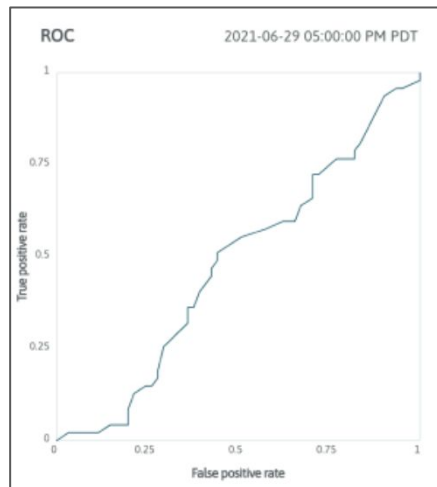
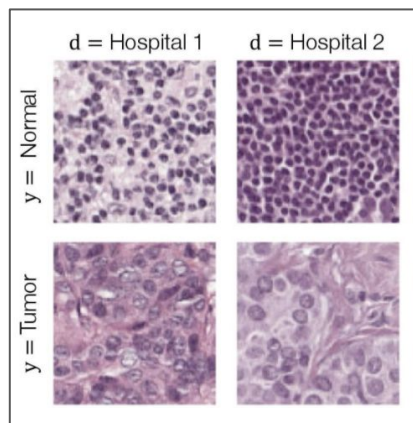
What is data profiling?

Data profiling is the act of reviewing and analyzing datasets to understand their structure and information. Data profiles can include the following:

- Collection of descriptive statistics
- Identify different data structures, types, and patterns
- Employ keywords, categorize datasets, and create descriptions
- Conduct data quality examinations
- ... and more.

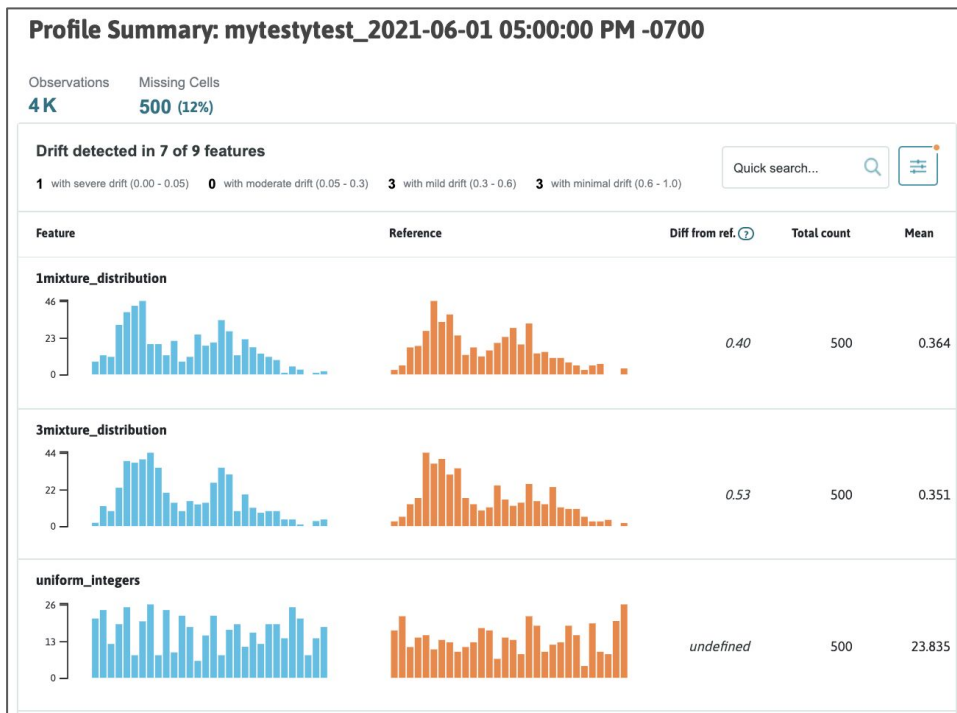
Source: Hanh Truong, "What is Data Profiling?"

Data profiling can include static metrics, but can also contain many more advanced tools needed for analysis



E.g., error bounds for estimates, feature importance, outlier detection, surrogate models.

Sketch-based data profiling for ML data



Data profiling approach

Pros:

- Fast access to key metrics
- High flexibility
- Low memory and storage size
- Mergeable
- Built on peer-reviewed algos

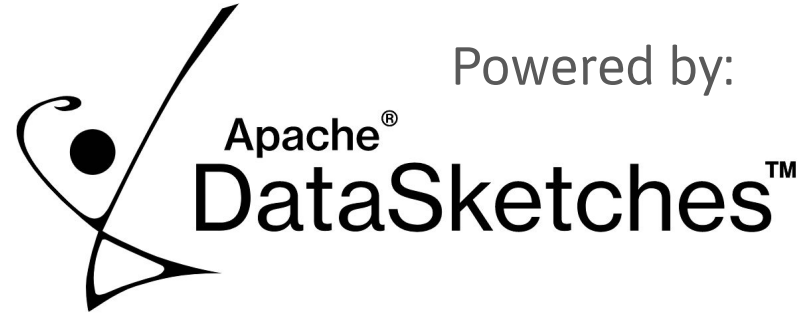
Cons:

- Requires some pre-selection
- Underlying algorithm complexity

Building a profiling standard for ML data

Properties of sketch-supported profiling for logging, analysis, and monitoring of ML systems:

- **Lightweight**
- **Configurable**
- **Mergeable**
- **Streaming**
- **Statistically sound**



How it works: Notation for median and quantiles

For a stream of numbers x_1, x_2, \dots
with current stream length N :

Rank, $rank(x)$

Number of elements $\leq x$

Relative rank, $r(x)$

Normalized rank, $\frac{rank(x)}{N}$

Quantile, $quantile(q)$

Value x s.t. $rank(x) = qN$ or equivalently, $r(x) = q$

Median example

Values: **5 4 1 5 6 2**

Sorted: **1 2 4 5 5 6**

In this example,

$$rank(4) = 3$$

$$r(4) = \frac{3}{6} = 0.5$$

$$quantile(0.5) = 4$$

Calculating quantiles in P passes over data

Exact calculations

Munro-Paterson proved that the lowest amount of space needed to calculate a quantile in P passes over the data is: $\Omega(N^{1/P})$

You'd need to store N data points to calculate the quantile exactly in streaming setting. Not acceptable!

Approximate calculations

Data sketching techniques allow us to calculate approximate quantiles much more efficiently and in one pass, if desired for streaming.

Numerous algorithms, but KLL (what we use in **whylogs**):

For a single quantile: $(1/\epsilon)\log\log^2(1/\epsilon\delta)$

For all quantiles: $(1/\epsilon)\log\log^2(1/\delta)$

A brief look at how quantile sketches (KLL) are made

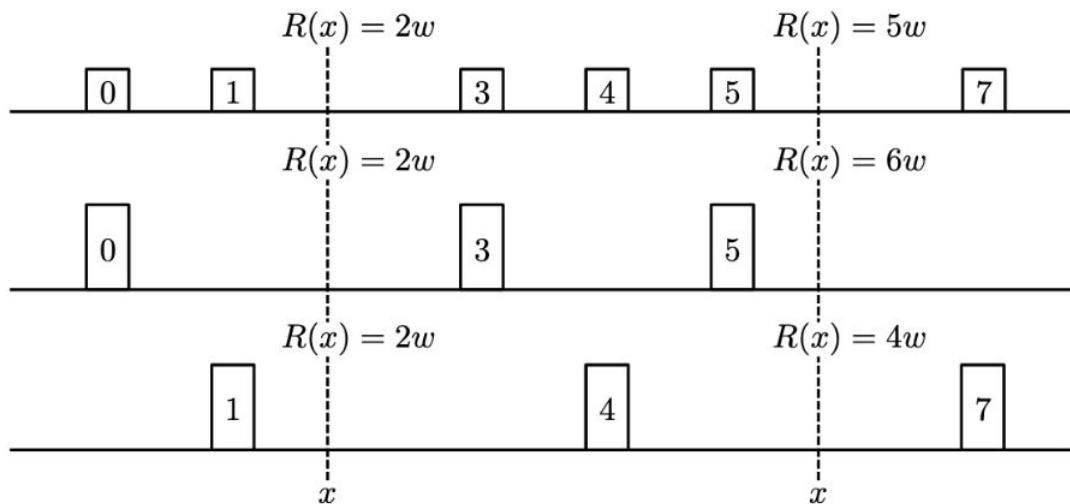


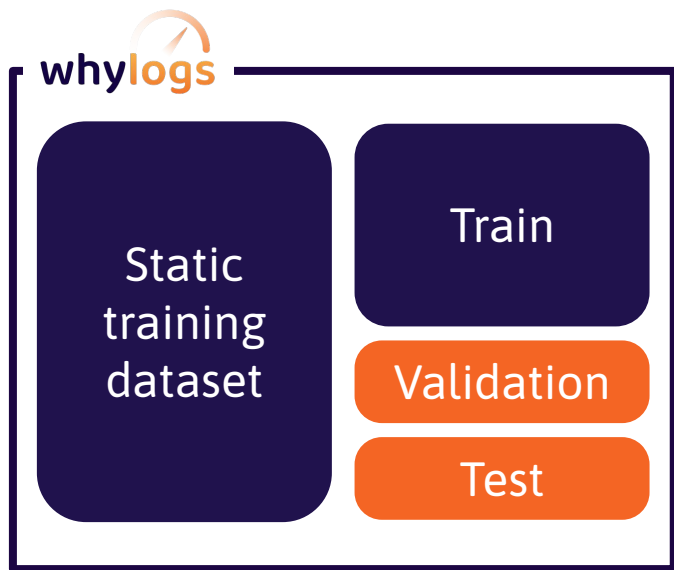
Figure 1: An illustration of a single compactor with 6 items performing a single compaction operation. The rank of a query remains unchanged if its rank within the compactor is even. If it is odd, its rank is increased or decreased by w with equal probability by the compaction operation.

Considerations for the whylogs library

Properties of profiling that make whylogs great for logging, analysis, and monitoring ML systems:

- **Lightweight**
- **Mergeable**
- **Configurable**
- **Streaming**
- **Statistically sound**

Profiling training data and other static datasets



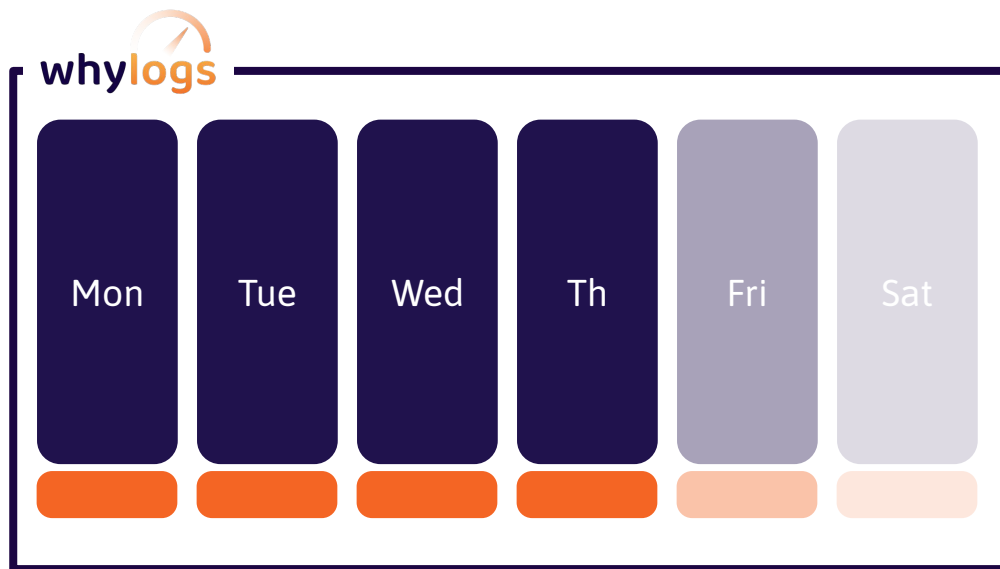
Profile static datasets such as training datasets to store, analyze, and use as a comparison for monitoring.

Uses the same calculations as other profiling, so emphasis on lightweight, speed, and common use cases.

Profiling ongoing production data

Most typical use case, profiling batch or streaming production data.

The underlying data (and perhaps actuals for performance metrics) gets logged regularly while you serve production traffic.



Single profile analysis, but added value for 2+ profiles

	Single profile	Two profiles	Three or more
Data documentation	✓	✓	✓
Exploratory data analysis	✓	✓	✓
Data unit testing	✓ NEW!	✓	✓
Ad-hoc comparison to Baseline		✓	✓
Continuous monitoring			✓

With multiple data profiles, powerful analyses like drift detection, event monitoring, and automated data unit testing become available.

Data sampling versus profiling experiments: Comparing error on common statistical distributions

Experimental procedure:

For each statistical distribution:

1. Randomly sample 10^5 records
2. Sample a subset of `n_sample` records such that the subset is as many bytes as the profile. This is to compare apples to apples.
3. Compare with exact value on sample
4. Repeat steps 2 through 4 for a total of 24 runs and average the results

Sampling isn't enough, profile your ML data instead

Production logging approaches for AI and data pipelines



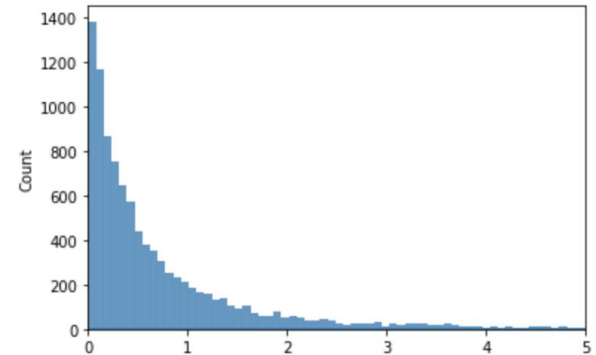
Isaac Backus Sep 22, 2020 · 8 min read ★

By Isaac Backus and Bernease Herman



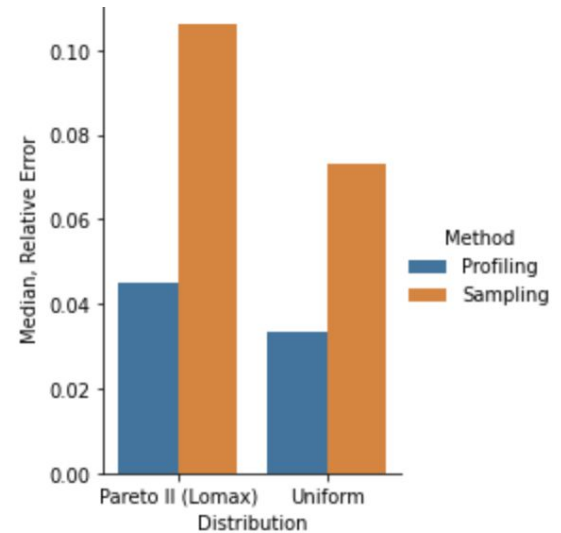
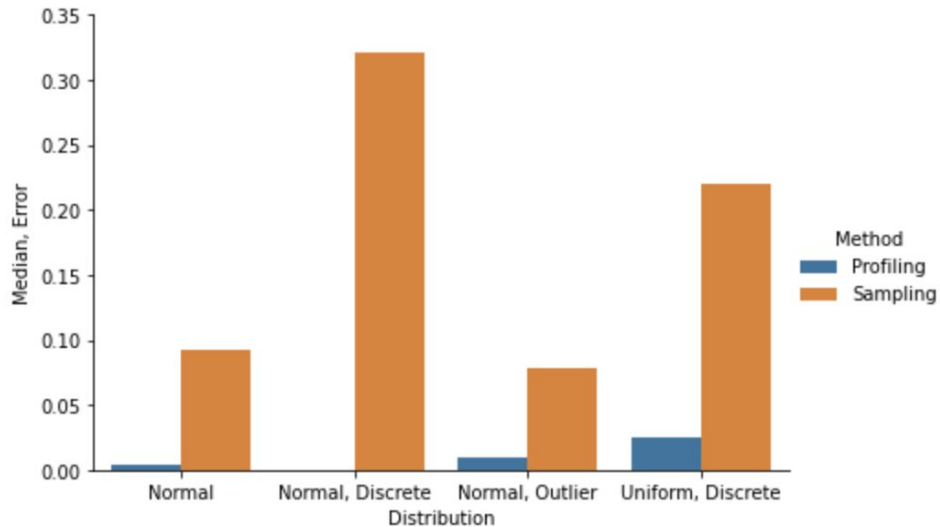
Data sampling versus profiling experiments: Statistical distributions chosen for experiments

Distribution	Parameters	Purpose
Normal	$\mu = 0$, std dev = 1	A broad class of data. Unskewed, has a tail but is peaked around the center
Uniform	min = 0, max = 1	Data without a tail that is evenly sampled across its domain.
Pareto (type II)	shape = 2, min = 0	A broad class of skewed data with a long tail/outliers.
Discretized normal	$\mu = 0$, std dev = 1 discretized into ~10 categories	Non-uniformly sampled categorical data, occasionally with outliers
Discretized pareto (type II)	shape = 2, min = 0 discretized into ~10 categories	Very non-uniformly sampled categories, with rare events/outliers.
Discrete Uniform	min = 0, max = 1 10 categories	Evenly sampled categorical data

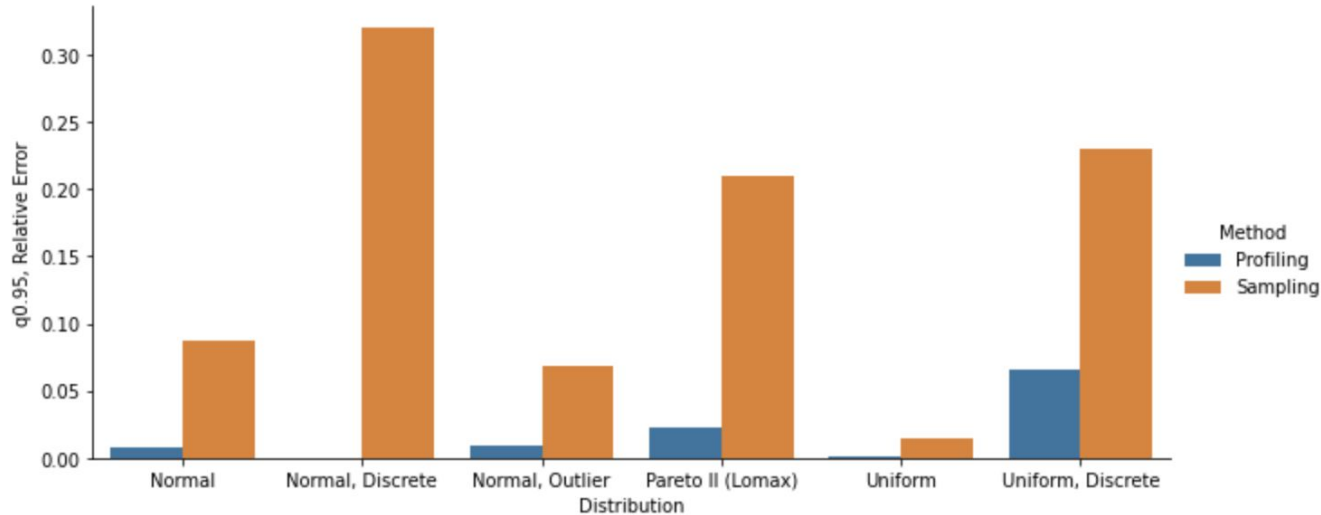


Pareto Type II, or Lomax distribution

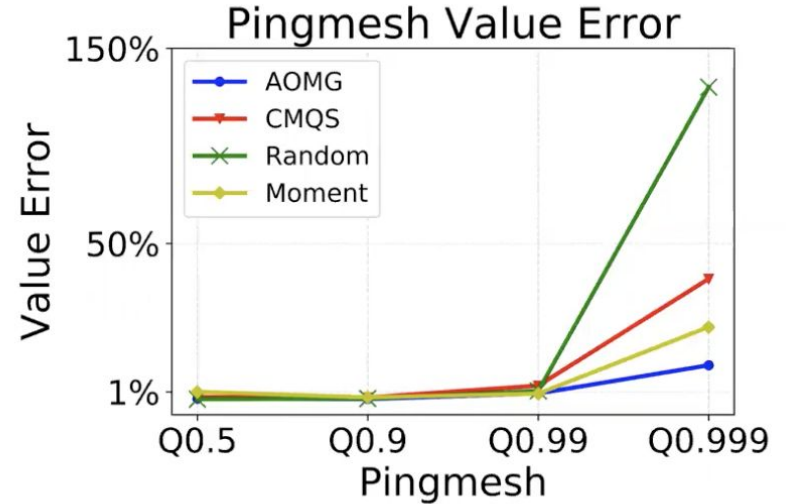
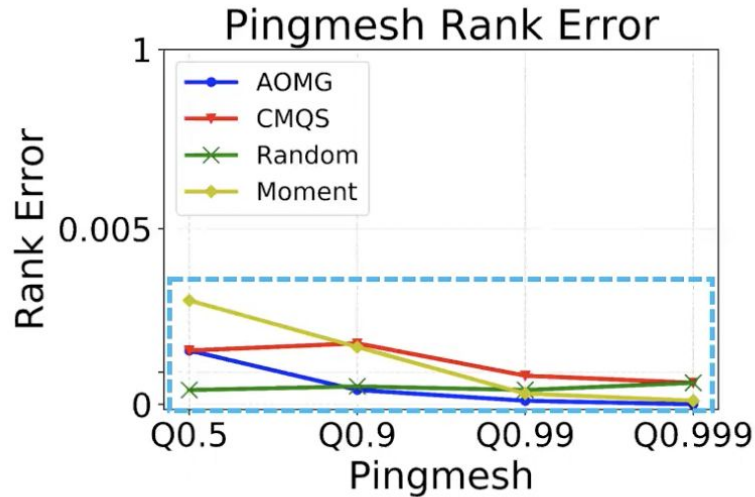
Data sampling versus profiling experiments: Comparing error on median across distributions



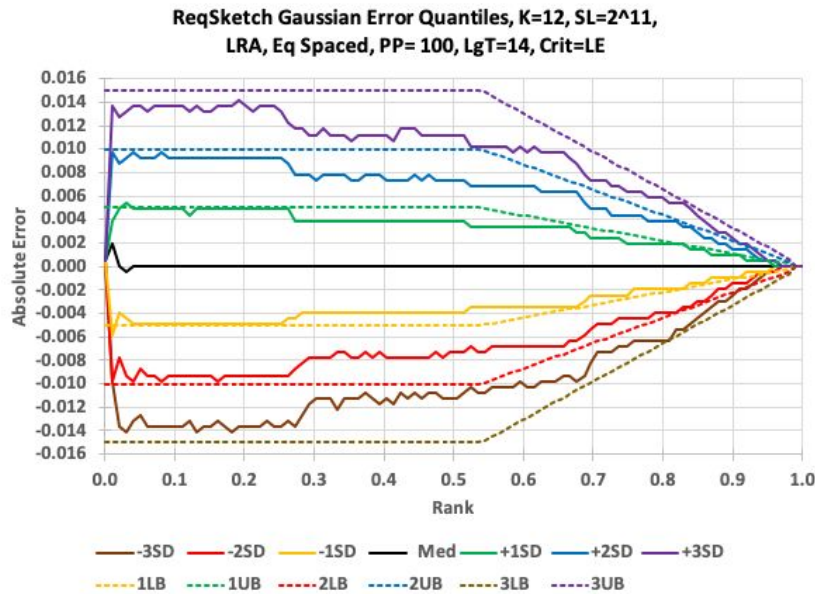
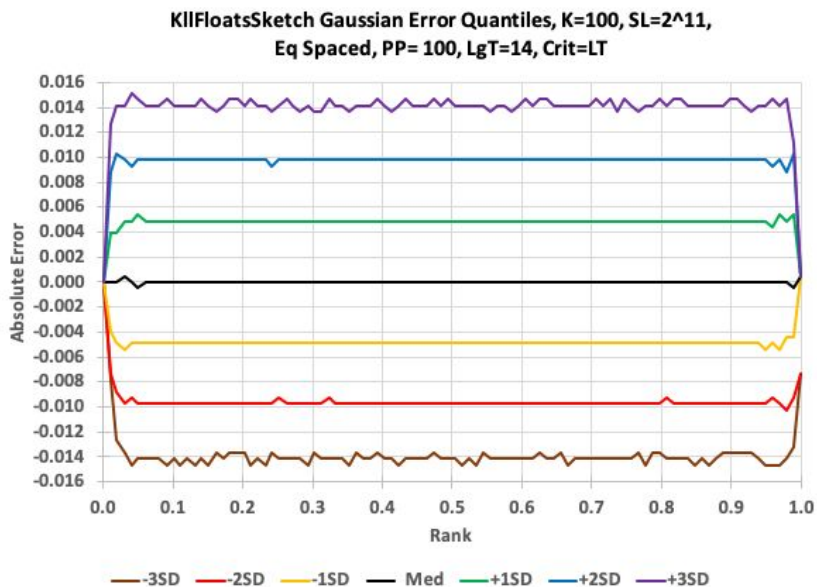
Data sampling versus profiling experiments: Comparing error of across q0.95 across distributions



But even low rank error can have a large effect on the tail of the distribution where values may be high

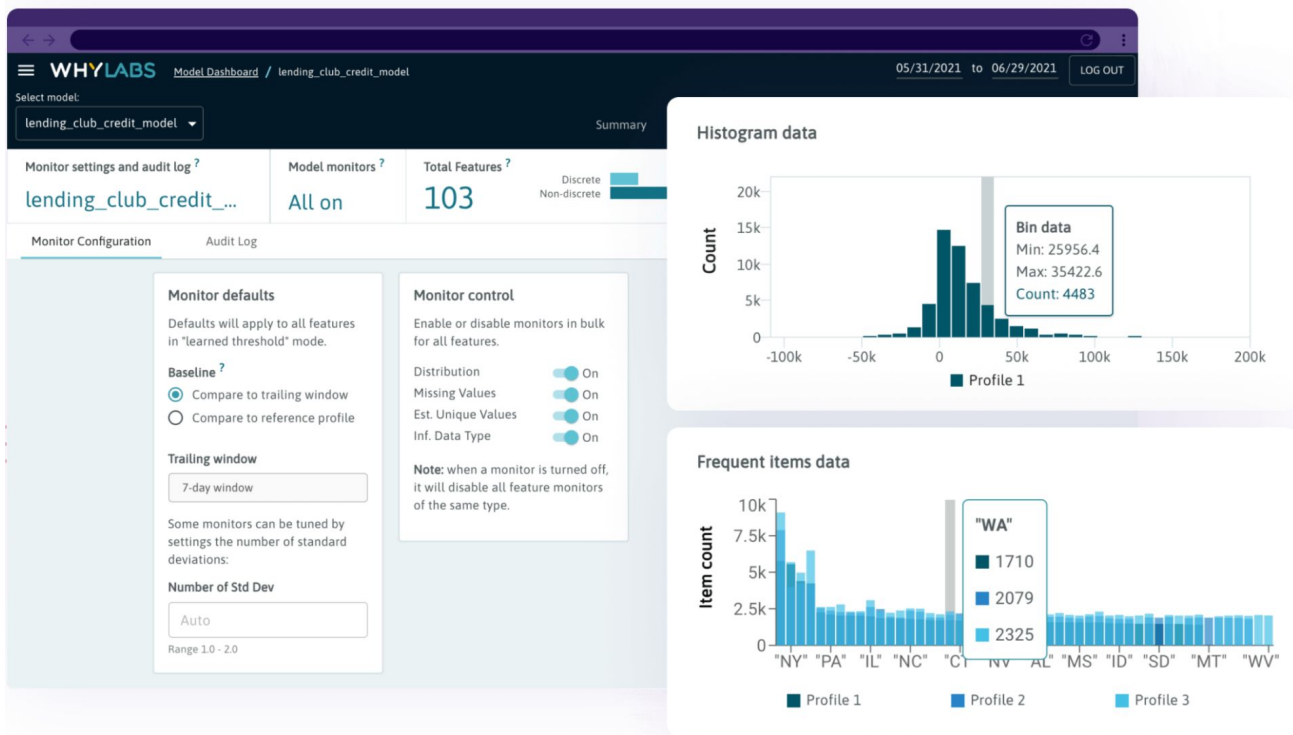


Current sketch treats error evenly across rank, but opportunities to prioritize left or right tail of data



Source: Apache DataSketches, Relative Error Quantiles (REQ)

Want to extend functionality beyond open-source whylogs profiles? Try the WhyLabs SaaS platform



Thank you! Questions?

Also, help build the open standard for data logging:

github.com/whylabs/whylogs

[join.slack.com/whylabs.ai](https://join.slack.com/join/whylabs.ai)

Contact me:

In-person at Data Council Austin

Email: bernease@whylabs.ai

Social media: [@bernease](https://twitter.com/bernease)

Instructions for getting WhyLabs swag:

- Star the **whylogs** project on Github
- Join our **Community Slack**
- Submit a **form** with relevant info at bit.ly/whylogsswag



A subset of ML issues encountered in production

- Experiment/production environment mismatch
- Wrong model version deployed
- Underprovisioned hardware
- Inappropriate hardware
- Latency/SLA issues
- Data permissions misconfigured
- Untracked changes broke prod
- Traffic sent to the wrong model
- Computational instability
- Customers gaming the model
- PII data exposed
- Expected accuracy doesn't materialize
- Pre-processing mismatch in experiments vs. production
- Retrained on faulty data
- Accuracy improves on one segment, regresses in others
- Outliers predicted incorrectly
- Bias identified
- Correlation with protected features
- Overfitting on training/test
- Surge in missing values
- Surge in duplicates
- Poor performance on outliers
- Data quality issues affect accuracy
- Production data doesn't match test/training
- Accuracy is decaying over time
- Data drift in inputs
- Concept drift in outputs
- Extreme predictions for out of distribution data
- Model not generalizing on new data / new segments
- Major consumer behavior shift

...or it simply doesn't work, and nobody knows why!

Most ML issues are observable from the data itself

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