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Critical VIS+HCI

CS6967

Prof. Andrew McNutt
School of Computing / Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute

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Agenda

Stakes and domain setting

Course structure

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Course format:
seminar with a twist

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Some discussion

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What is data?

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What is data?

Labor

Relationships

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What is a visualization?

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What is a visualization?

“Transformation of the symbolic into the geometric”
[McCormick et al. 1987]

“... finding the artificial memory that best supports our natural means of perception.”
[Bertin 1967]

“The use of computer-generated, interactive, visual representations of data to amplify cognition.”
[Card, Mackinlay, & Shneiderman 1999]

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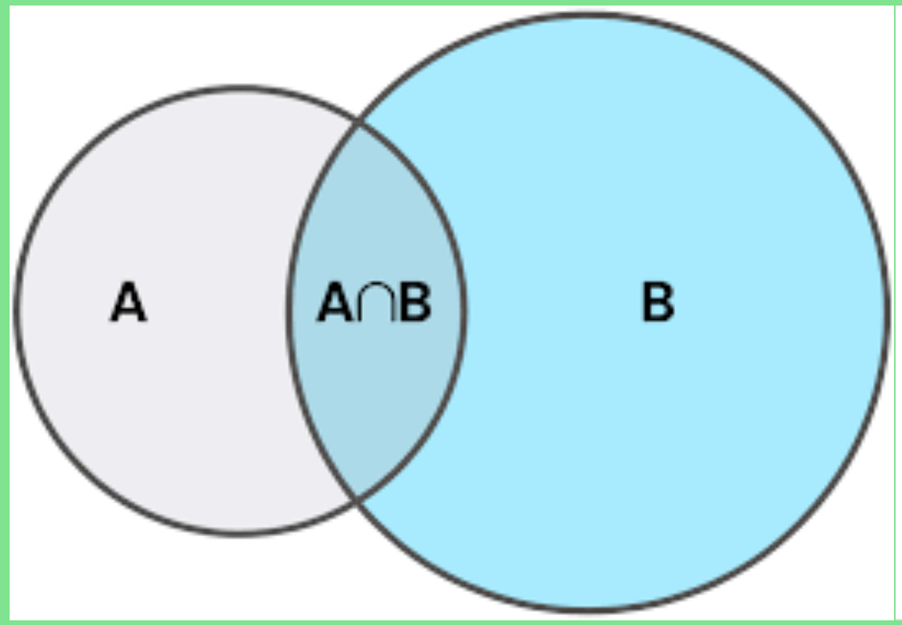
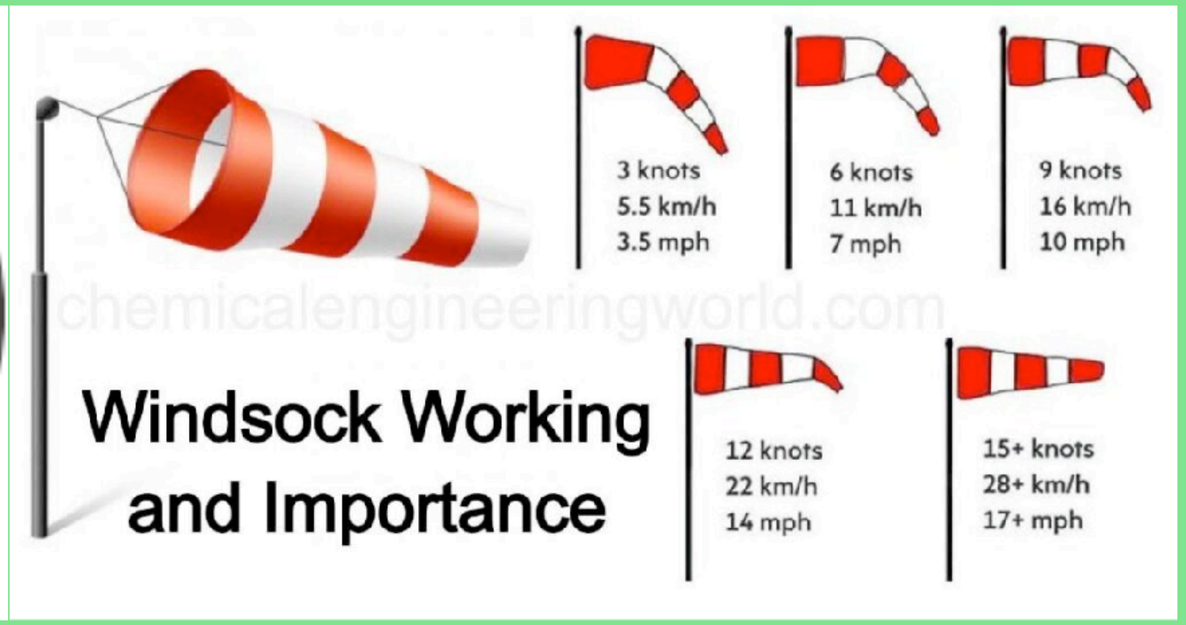
What is a visualization?





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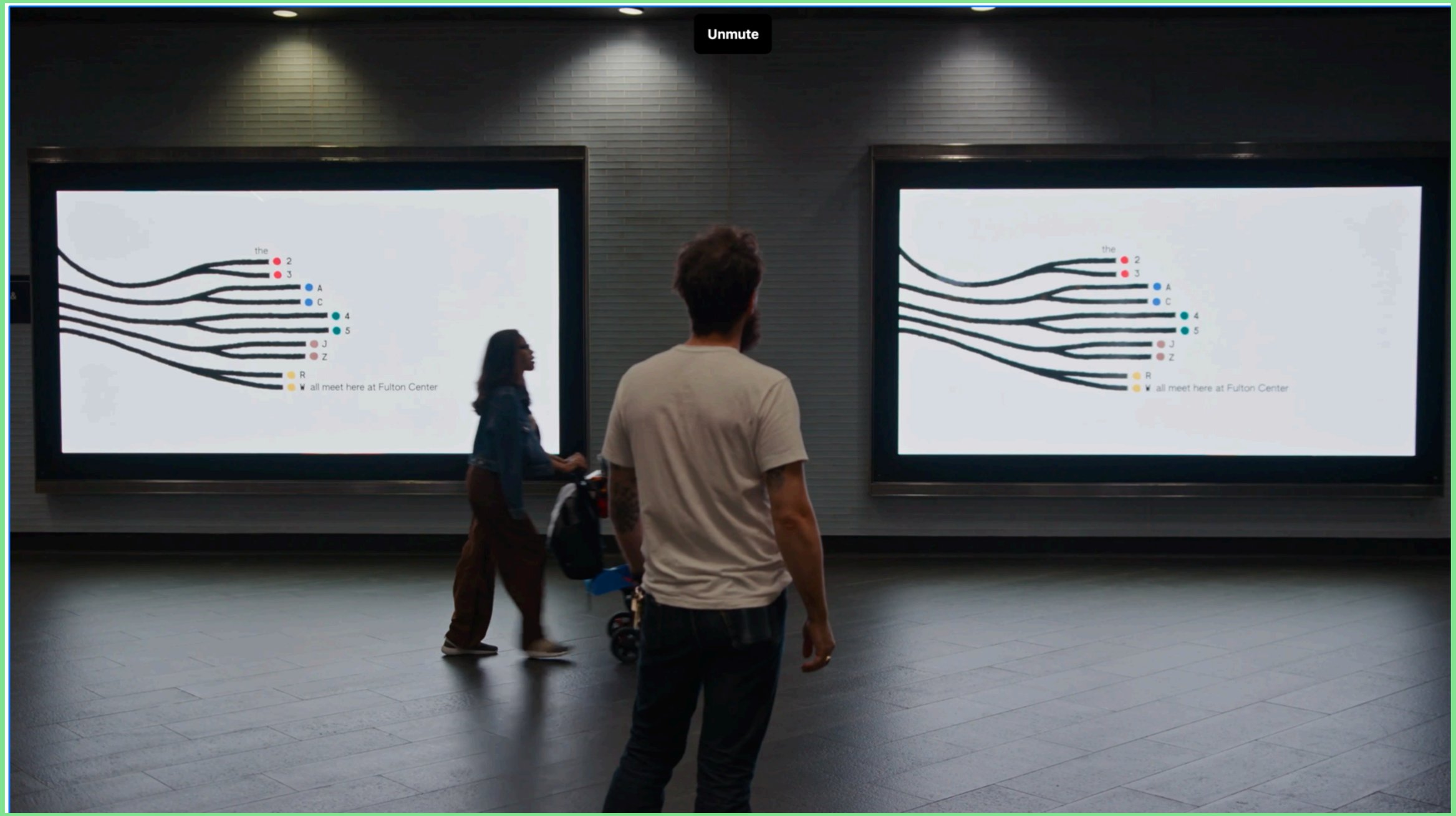

https://www.pentagram.com/work/a-data-love-letter-to-the-subway

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What is a theory in HCI/VIS?

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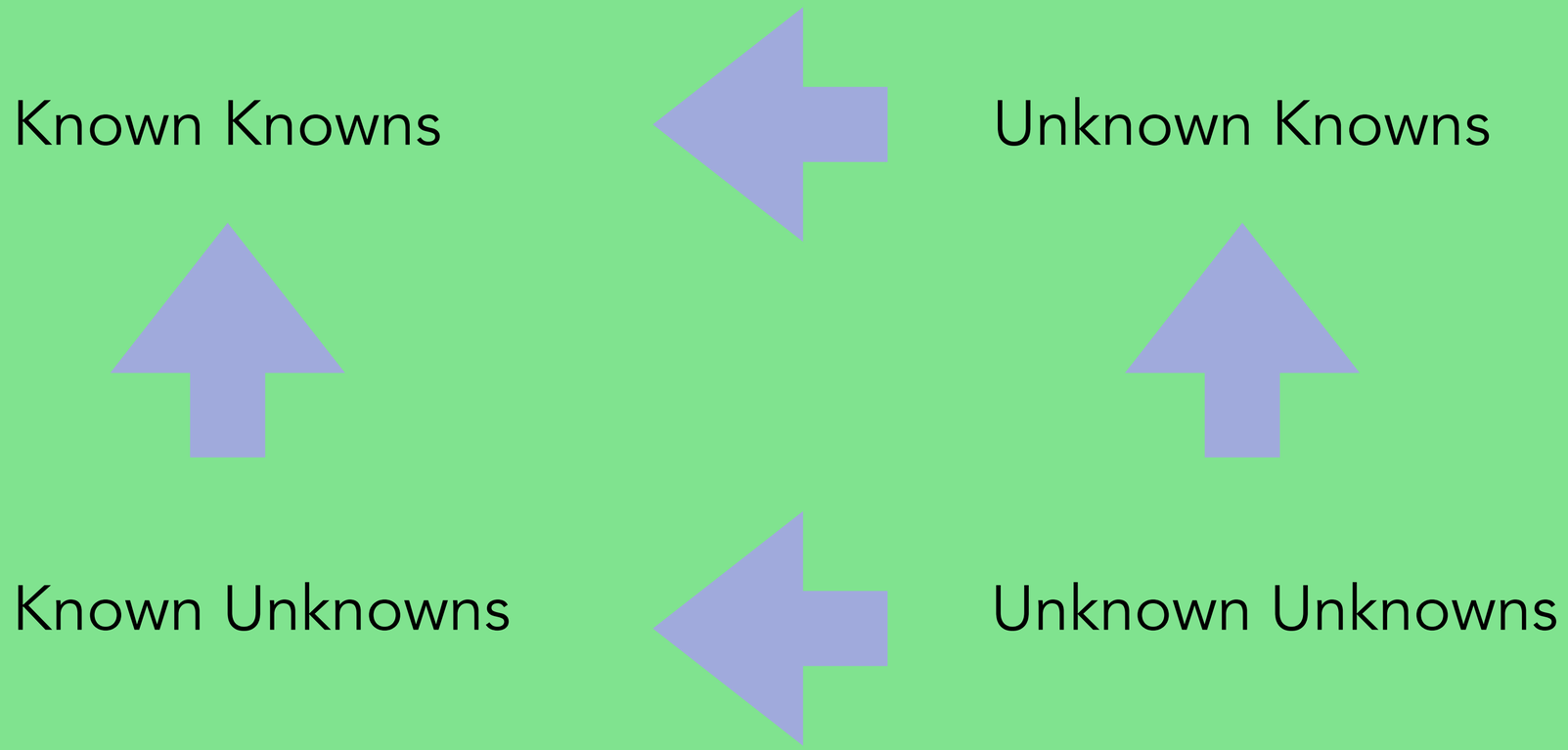

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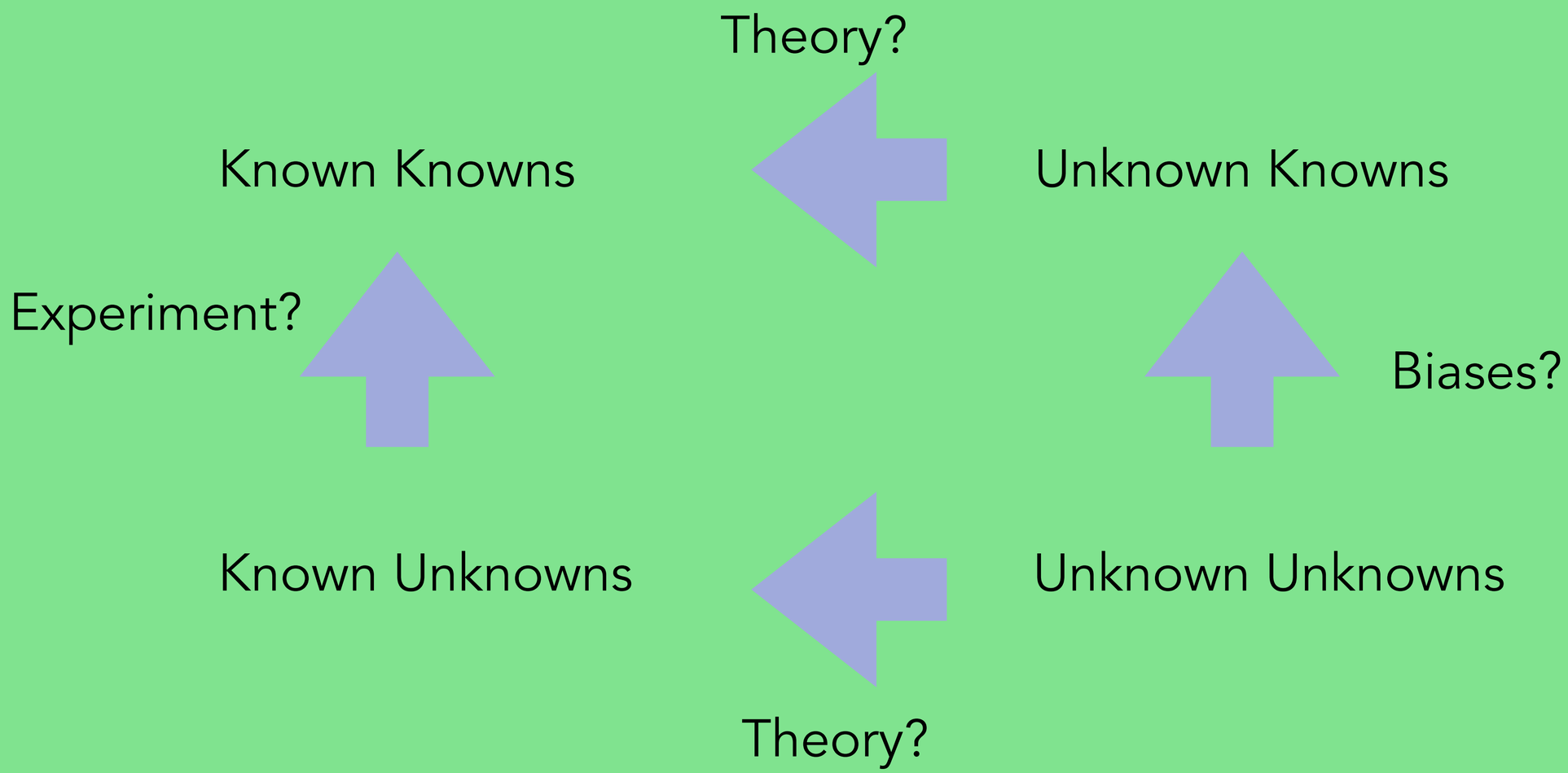

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What is a theory in HCI/VIS?

A PhD is the process of figuring out what theory means in your field

- paraphrase of Will Crichton

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What is a theory in HCI/VIS?

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What is the meaning of criticality here?

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What is the meaning of criticality here?

I make it a rule never to criticize something unless I can offer a solution. - Norman

A machine that takes in external media and uses it for an effect

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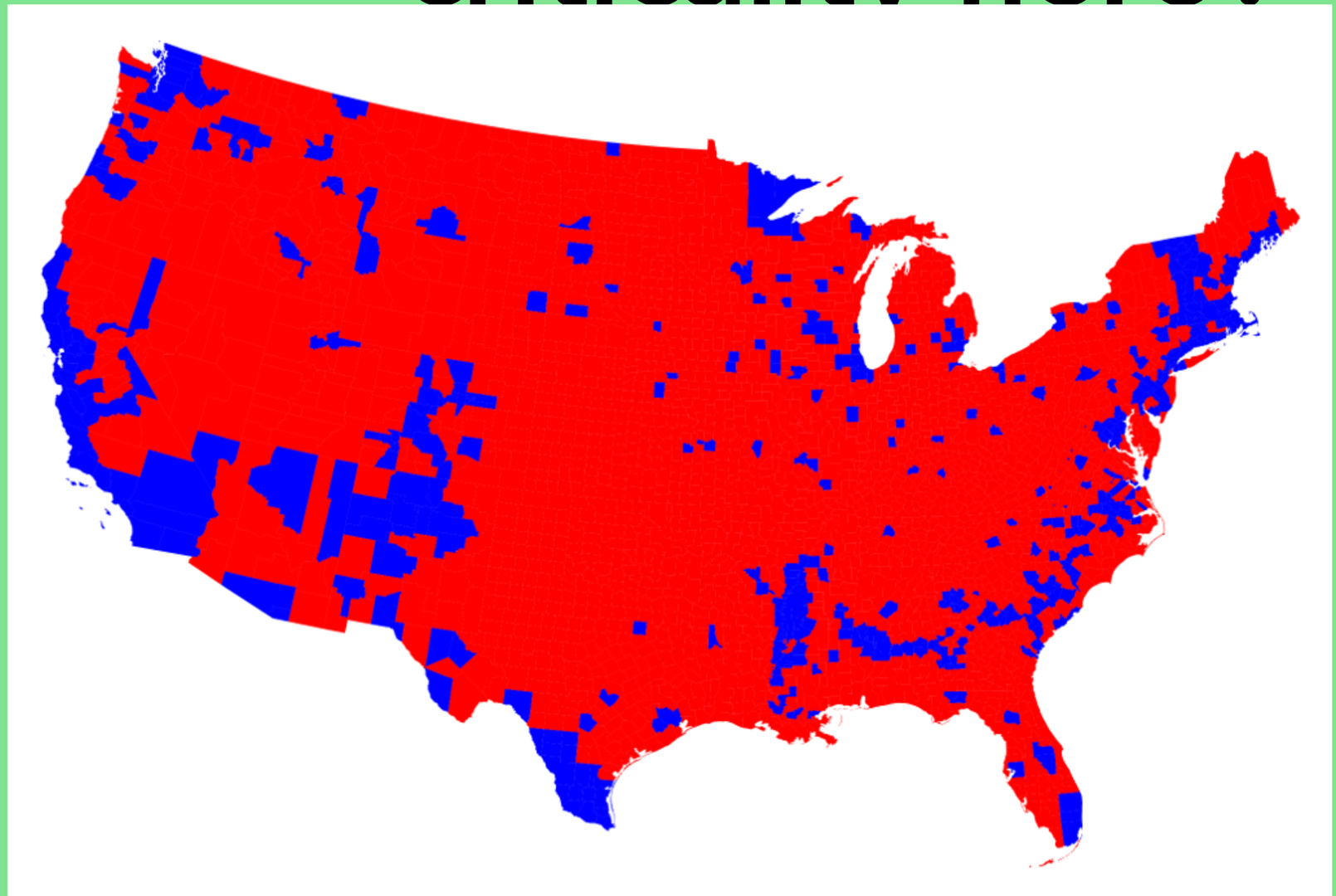

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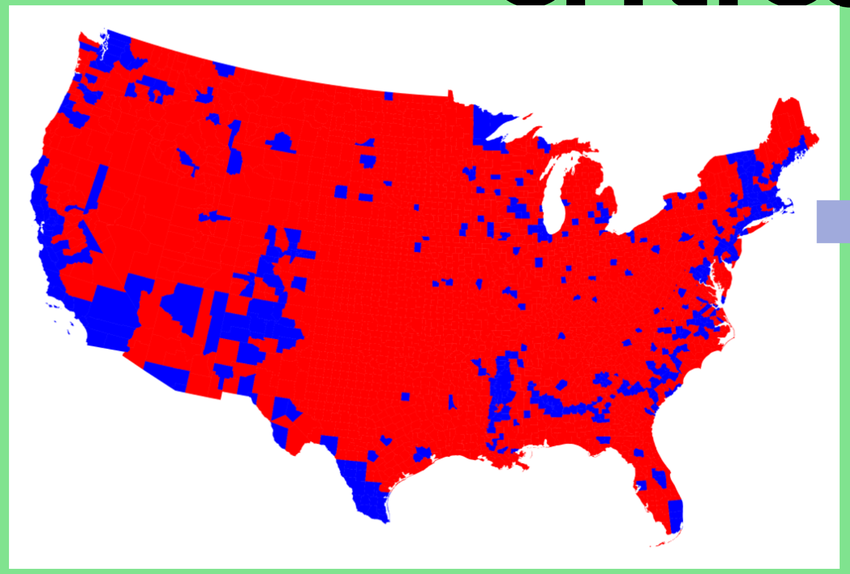

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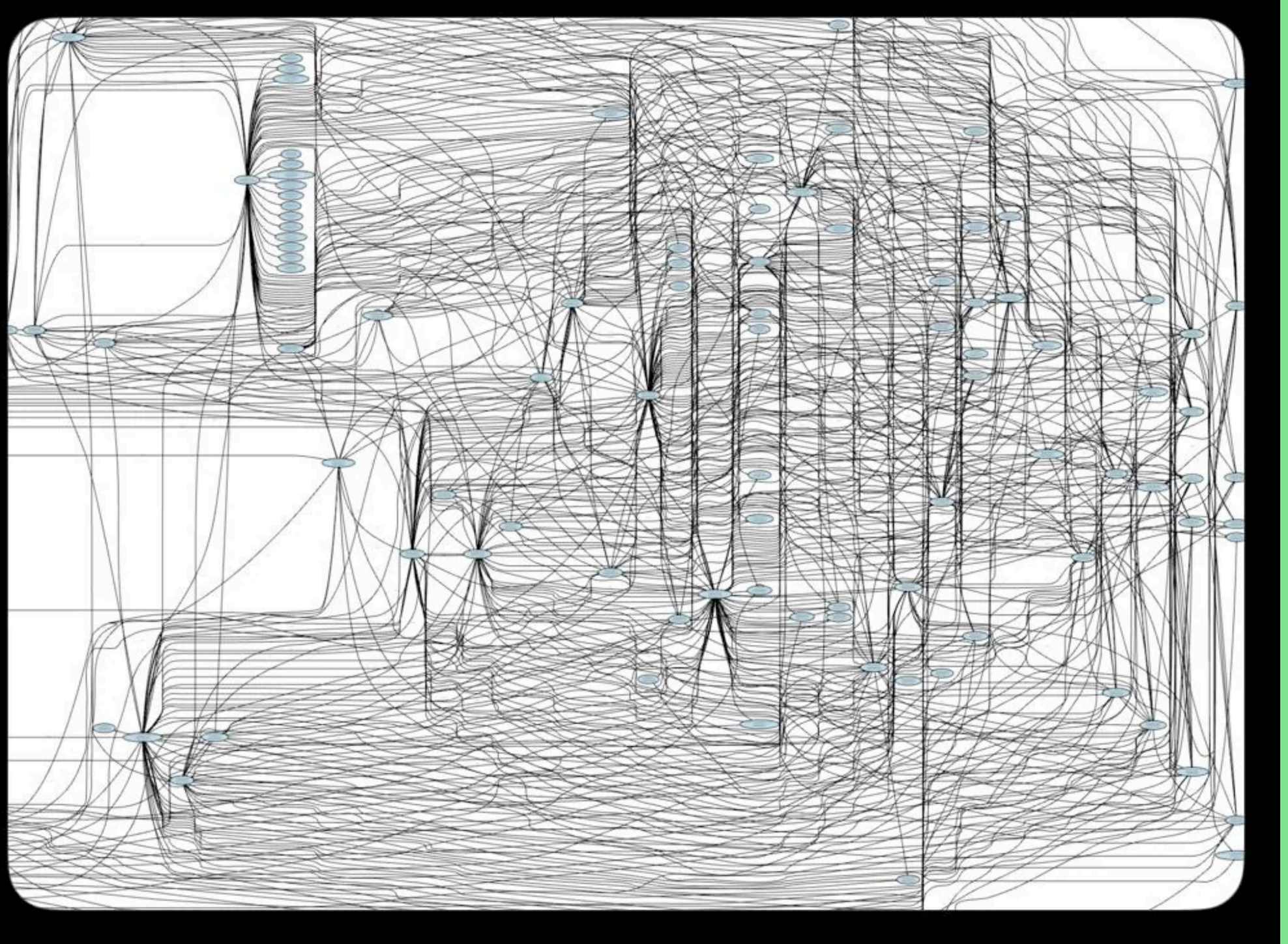

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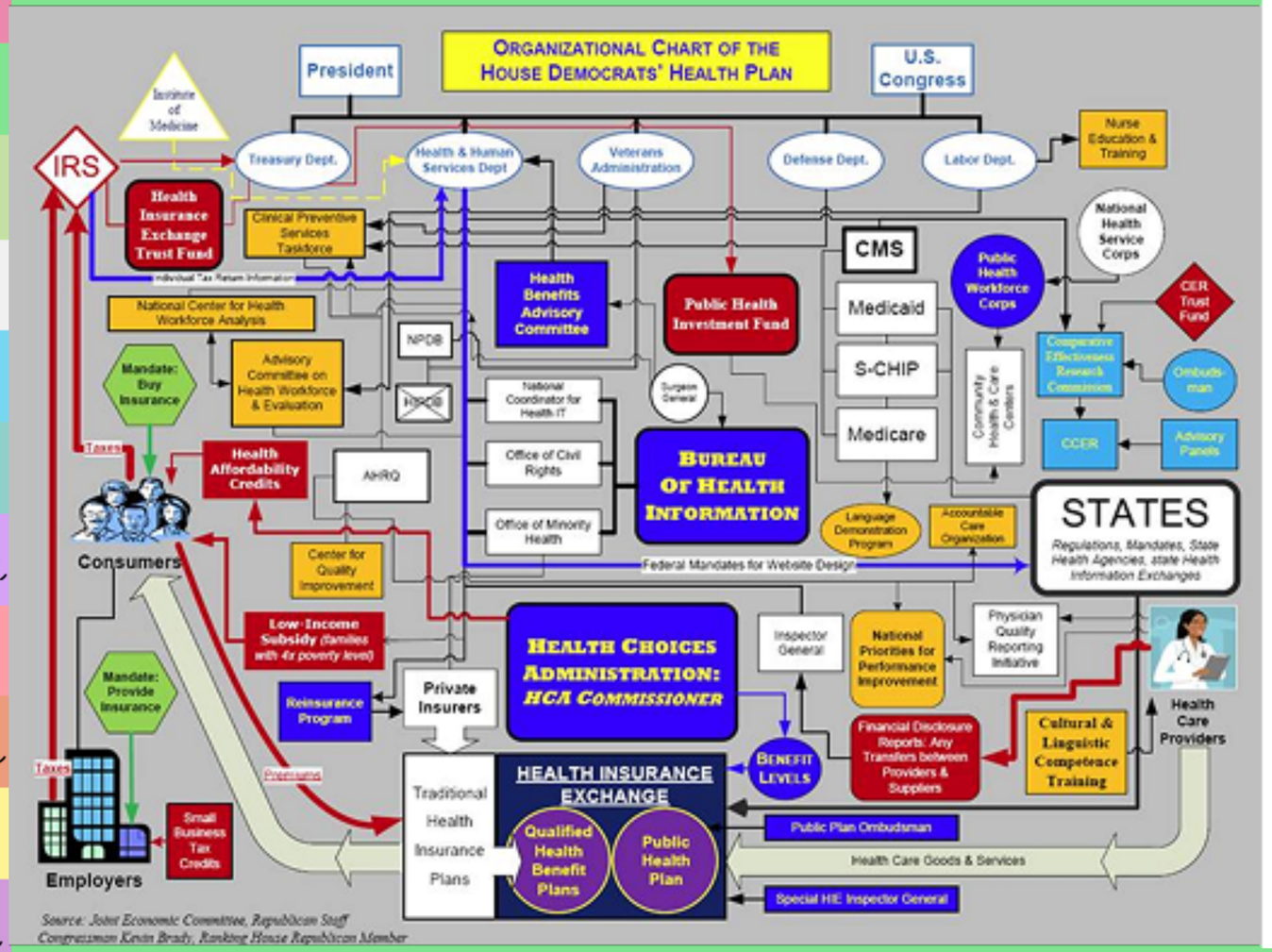

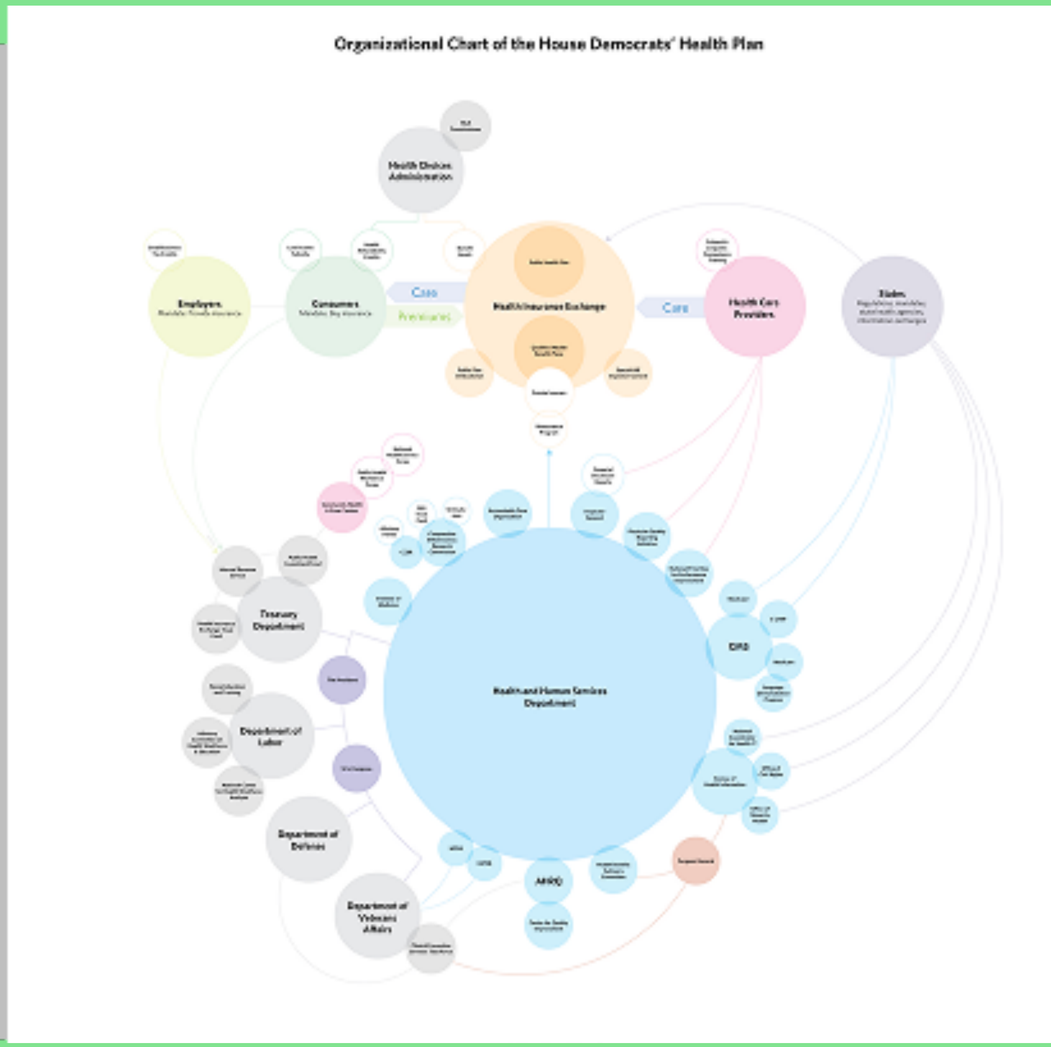

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		Central		East		South		West	
		Total Sales	Total Profit	Total Sales	Total Profit	Total Sales	Total Profit	Total Sales	Total Profit
Coffee	Amaretto	$14,011	$5,105	$2,993	$1,009			$9,265	$-1,225
	Columbian	$28,913	$8,528	$47,386	$27,253	$21,664	$8,767	$30,357	$11,253
	Decaf Irish Cream	$26,155	$9,632	$6,261	$2,727	$21,664	$8,767	$18,235	$-1,305
Espresso	Caffe Latte				$15,442	$11,592	$2,933	$7,502	
	Caffe Mocha	$35,218	$14,640	$16,646	$-6,230	$3,872	$20,458	$18,876	$4,064
	Decaf Espresso	$24,485	$88,60	$7,722	$2,410	$14,163	$5,201		
	Regular Espresso				$24,036	$15,384	$5,930	$30,578	$12,302
Herbal Tea	Chamomile	$36,570	$14,434	$2,194	$765	$10,062		$25,632	$8,852
	Lemon	$21,978	$6,251	$27,176	$7,901	$11,186	$3,180	$32,274	$13,120
	Mint	$9,337	$4,069	$11,992	$-2,242	$14,497	$2,593	$14,380	$4,330
Tea	Darjeeling	$30,289	$10,772	$14,096	$6,497			$28,769	$11,780
	Earl Grey	$32,881	$10,331	$6,505	$3,405			$27,387	$10,425
	Green Tea	$5,211	$1,227	$11,571	$5,654			$16,063	$-7,109

What product in what region sold the most?

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	Green Tea	$5,211	$1,227	$11,571	$5,654			$16,063	$-7,109

How much mint tea was sold in the west?

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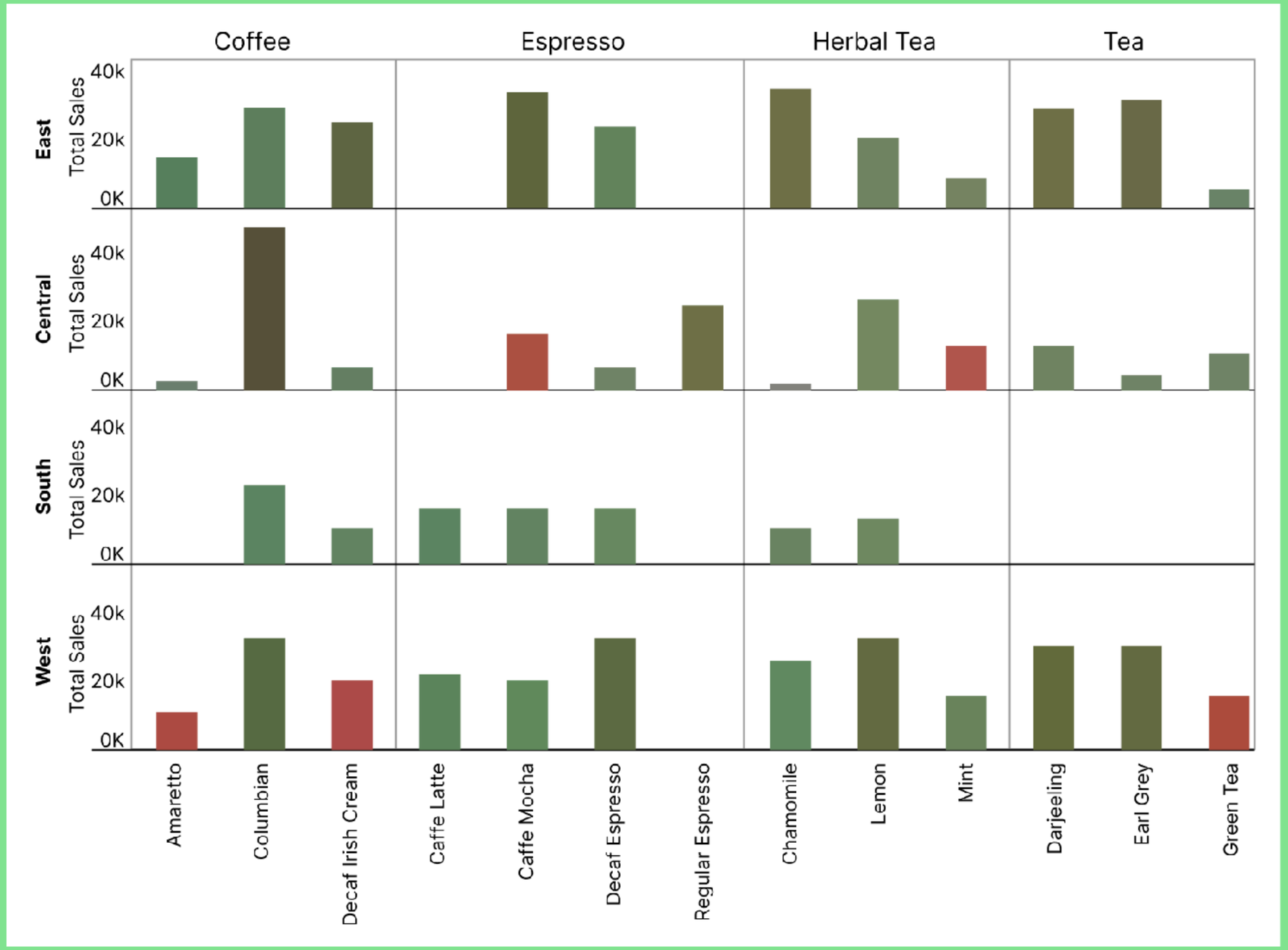

How much mint tea was sold in the west?

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Summary of Financial Performance

		Central		East		South		West	
		Total Sales	Total Profit	Total Sales	Total Profit	Total Sales	Total Profit	Total Sales	Total Profit
Coffee	Amaretto	$14,011	5,105	$2,993	1,009			$9,265	-1,225
	Columbian	$28,913	8,528	$47,386	27,253	$21,664	8,767	$30,357	11,253
	Decaf Irish Cream	$26,155	9,632	$6,261	2,727	$11,592	2,933	$18,235	-1,305
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	RegularEspresso			$24,036	10,062				
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	Green Tea	$5,211	1,227	$11,571	5,654			$16,063	-7,109

What product in what region sold th

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Learning Objectives

Critical thinking
Communication
Knowledge of Relevant Theories

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Andrew McNutt

Now

SCI
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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KAHLERT SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

Human And Visualization Oriented Computing Lab

Recently

Long ago/ tangentially

Interests

- Visualization
- HCI
- Programming Interfaces

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Activity: Background and Aim

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Course structure

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mcnutt.in/critical-hci-vis-class/

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Choose your own adventure

Attendance
Reading summaries

Big (8): Project, Test

Medium (4): Essay, Talk

Small (1): Post card, Help the course

Other activities can be proposed!

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20 Points

5 Points

Choose your own adventure

Attendance

Reading summaries

Random recitation

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Choose your own adventure

Attendance
Reading summaries

- A summary
- things you liked
- Things you didn’t like
- Things you learned
- >= 3 questions for class

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Project?

- Build something based on a critique; for example, *LLM "understanding" of different cultures notions of color*
- Explore the use of theory in context; for example how do people in VIS use CDN?
- Build a theory of some form/apply a theory in a new or novel way
- "viz as will and representation"

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Essay?

- A reflection on a topic relevant to your domain knowledge or research
- a synthesis related to course readings (although you should anticipate bringing in outside sources as well)
- a critique of a system or interface using one of our tools
- Critiquing LaTeX from a Feminist Perspective

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Talk?

- a discussion of a paper we did not read during class
- an analysis of a system
- an argument synthesizing multiple different perspectives we've considered
- “Talk on Vanguardism and Data Feminism”
- “Iris Young vs Nancy Frazer”

File a PR to schedule!

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Schedule:

For each class, there will be some assigned reading that you should do before class. Classes will involve discussions of the readings, so it is important that you do the readings.

Week 1: Introduction

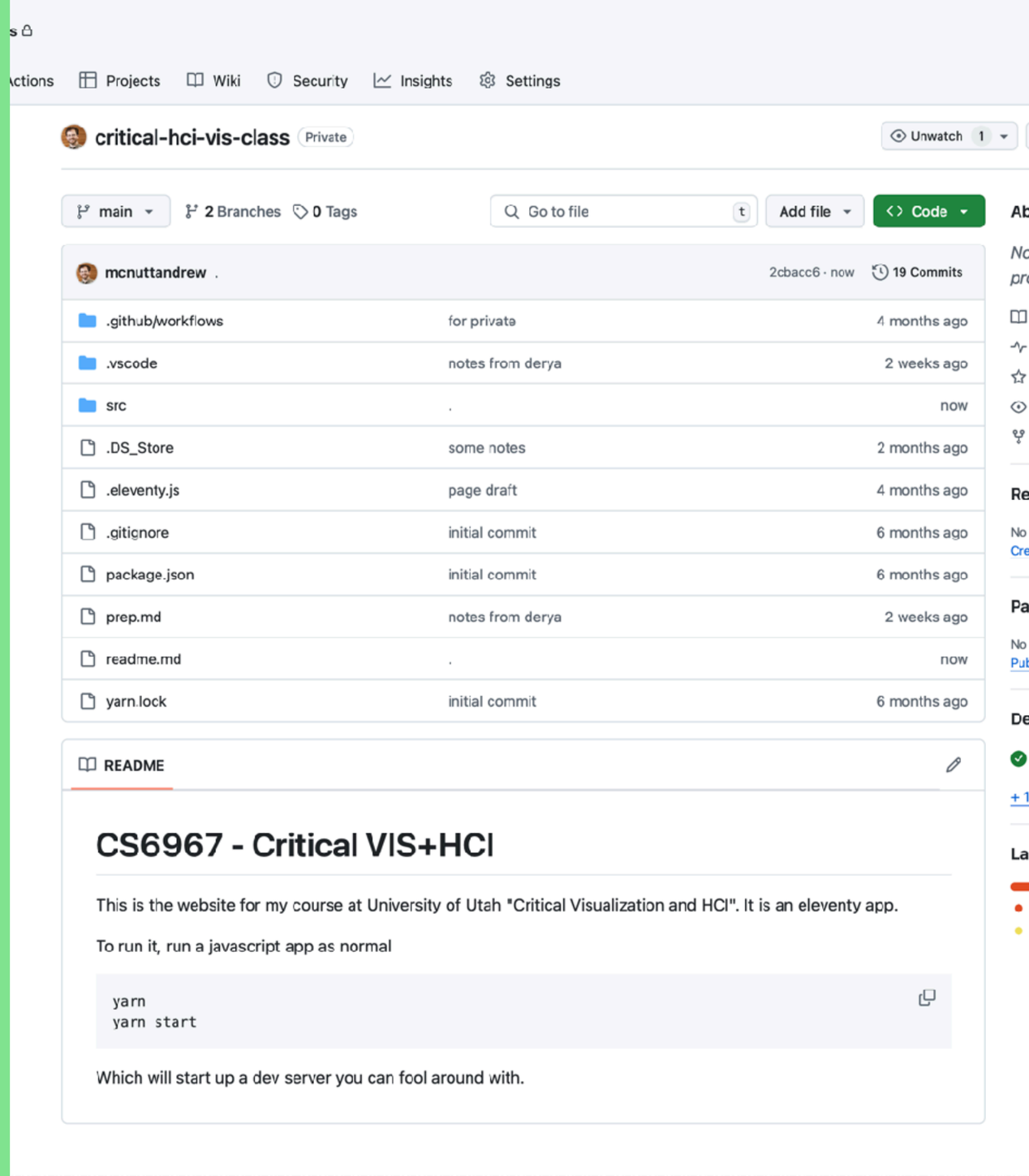
Tuesday (1/6): Syllabus day, introductory discussions and stakes setting. Slide

Thursday (1/8): Raw Data is an Oxymoron, Gitelman: Introduction. When the Body Became Data: Historical Data Cultures and Anatomical Illustration, Correll and Garrison

Mechanics

This course is populated by a collection of optional assignments. Each assignment is worth some number of points. To get additional details about different activities you might do, see below. Note that this means there is not a notion of late work in this course. **All coursework must be turned in by the last day of class before finals.**

Depending on how everyone does there may be a curve. The course staff will not know what the curve is until the end of the semester.



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Comments

- Do not turn in things all at the end
- Don’t be a bad citizen, there is a penalty
- Resubmissions are allowed
- **General grading policy**: don’t be disappointing
- Some policies subject to change

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don’t be disappointing

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Activity: Make a course plan (and submit it)

<Activity>, <POINTS>, <Target Submission date>

Talk, 6, Feb 1…..

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See you Thursday