Tree Colors

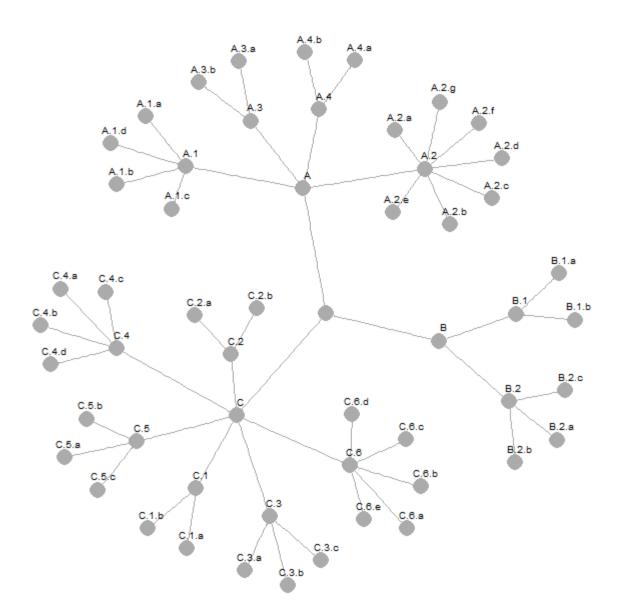
Color Schemes for Tree-Structured Data

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Edwin de Jonge: e.dejonge@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands

Tree-structured data



Applications within Official Statistics:

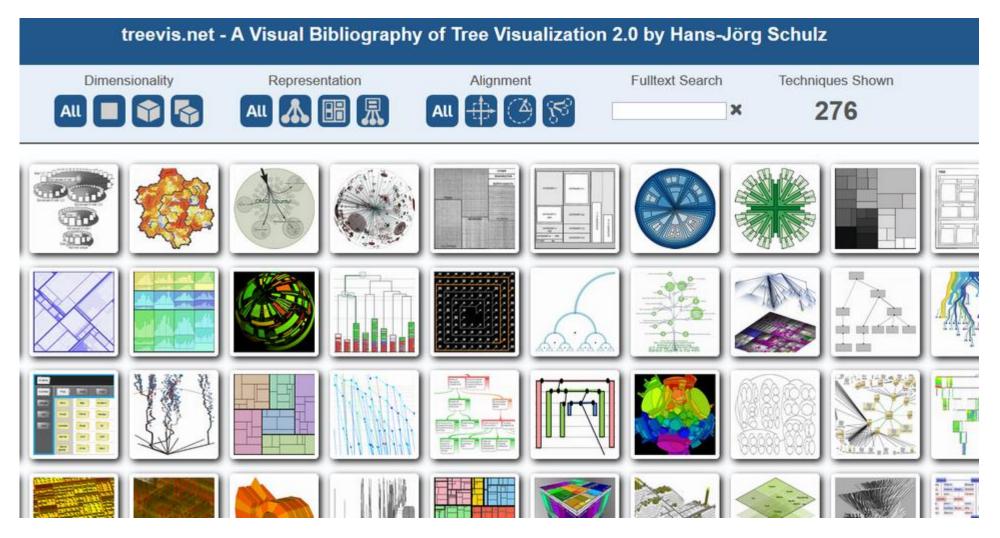
- Economic activity
- Goods
- Jobs
- Regions

Need for color schemes that reflect tree structures

Why?

- To support visual analysis
- To relax the tree layout for node-link diagrams
- To improve visual appeal of tree visualizations

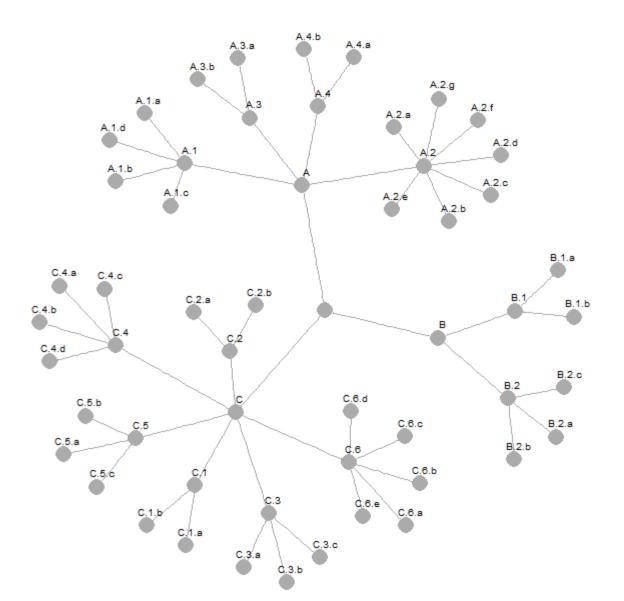
Related work



Related work



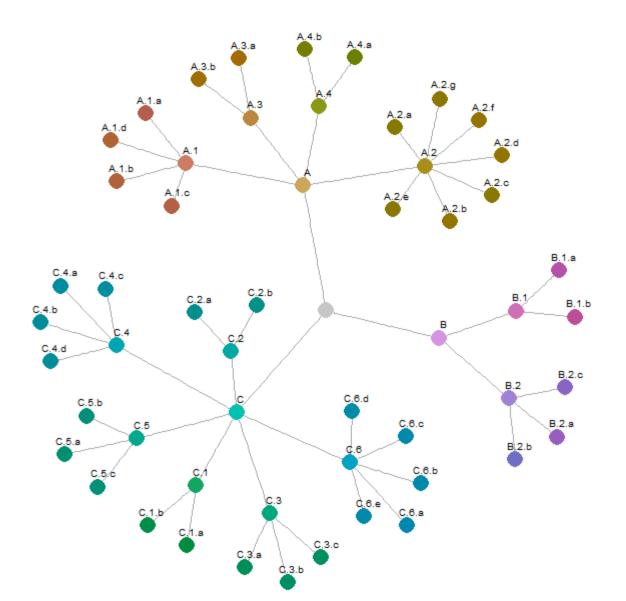
Tree Colors



Desired properties:

- Unique colors
- No perceived order of siblings
- Parent-child relations encoded
- Node depths encoded

Tree Colors



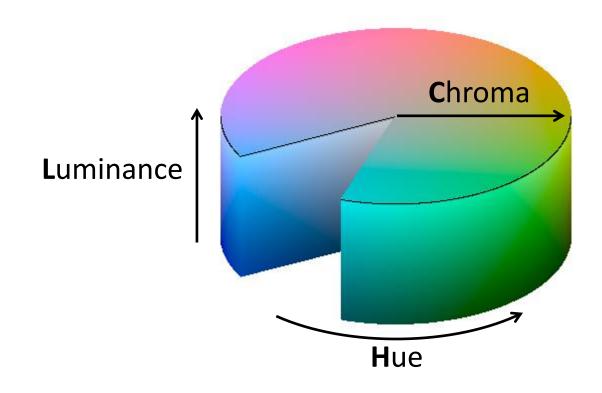
Desired properties:

- Unique colors
- No perceived order of siblings
- Parent-child relations encoded
- Node depths encoded

Approach

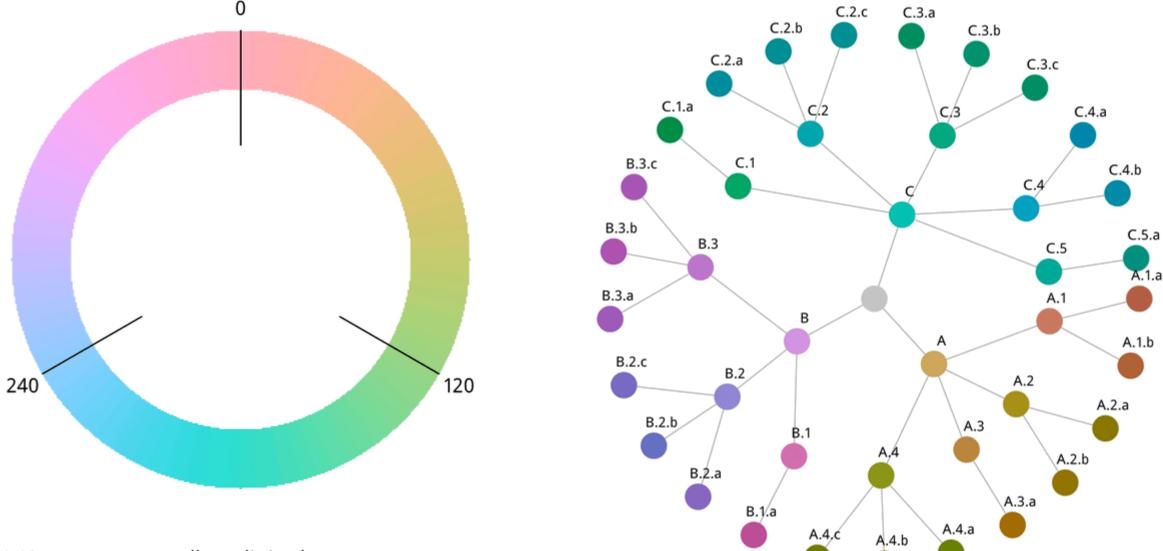
- Hue resembles branches
- Chroma and luminance discriminate hierarchical levels

HCL color space



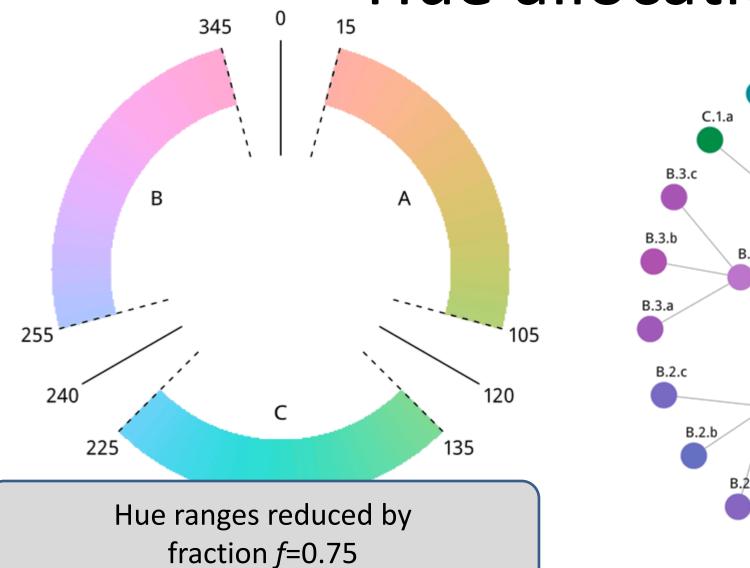
✓ Well-balanced perceptual properties

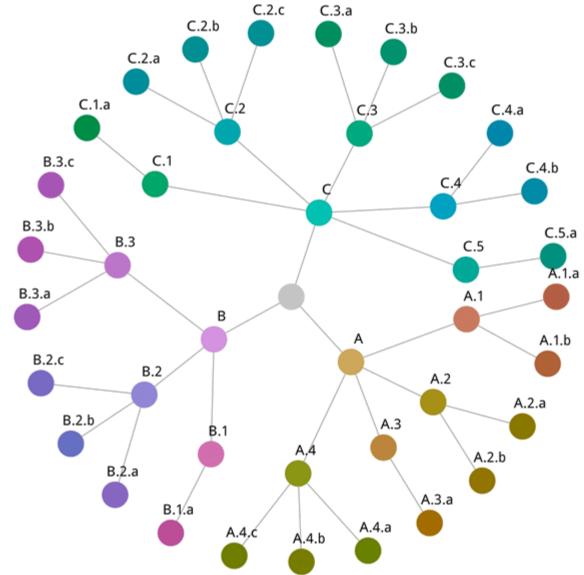
Hue allocation



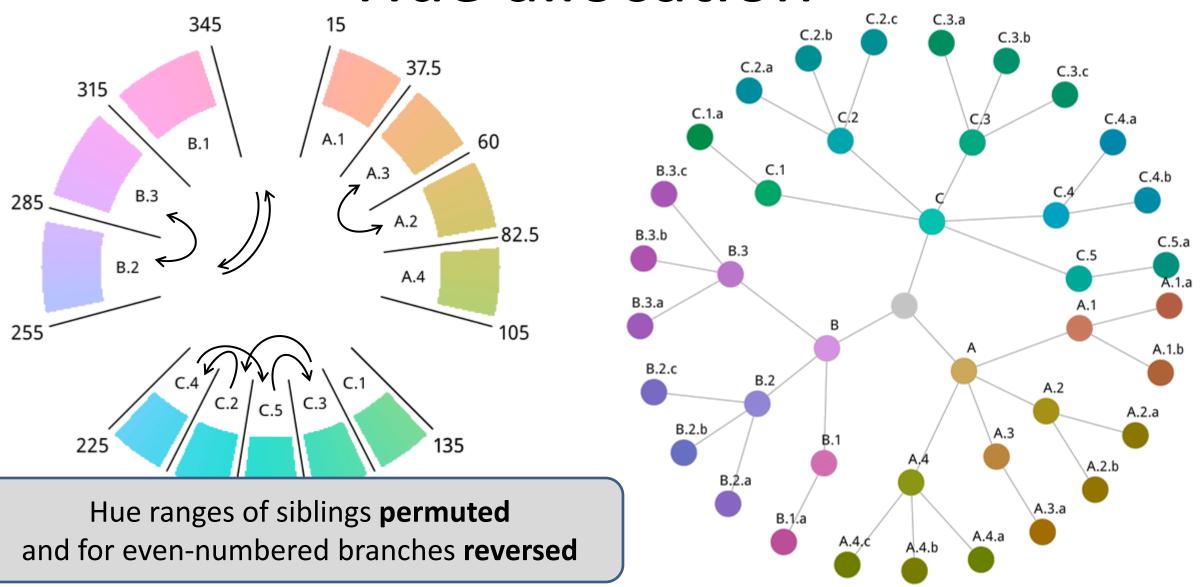
(a) Hue range equally split in three

Hue allocation





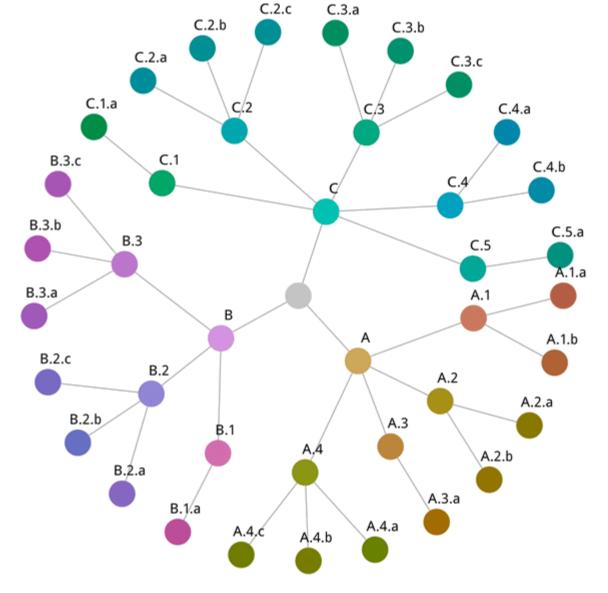
Hue allocation



Depth

Default method

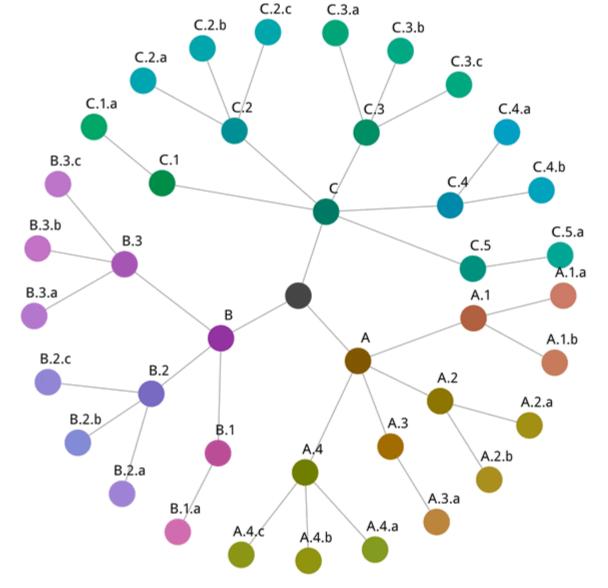
Luminance decreases with depth Chroma increases with depth



Depth

Alternative method

Luminance increases with depth Chroma decreases with depth

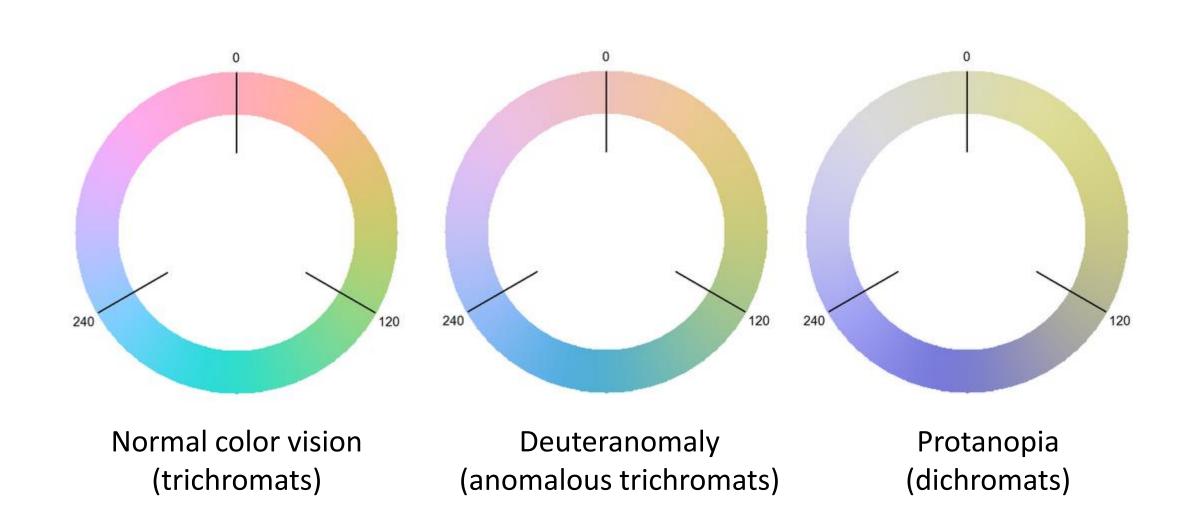


Software

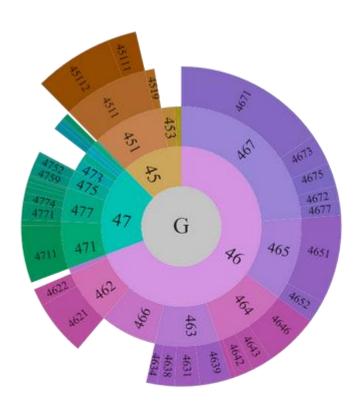
- Near future: implementation as Javascript library
- Tree Colors implemented in R-package treemap

library(treemap)
treecolors()

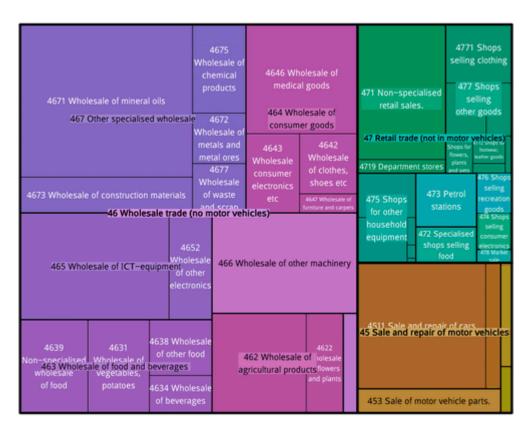
Color vision deficiency



Applications (1)



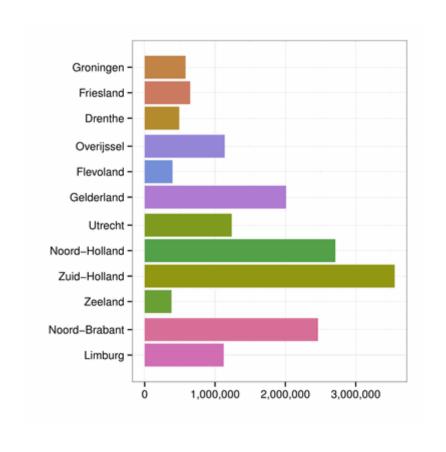
(a) Sunburst diagram



(b) Treemap

Net turnover for economic activity sector G, Wholesale and retail trade

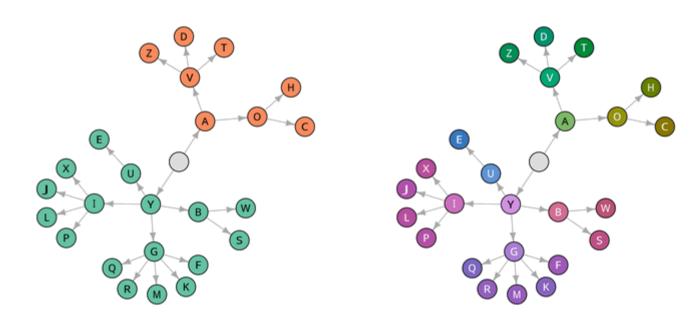
Applications (2)



Dutch population per province

User study: setup

- 98 participants with normal color vision
- 10 participants with color vision deviciency



Main Branch Colors

Tree Colors

Reading questions:

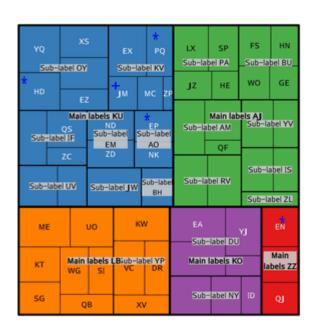
- Relations
- Offspring

Evaluation questions:

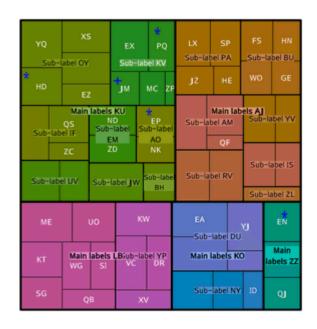
- Prettiness
- Interpretation
- Overview

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Main Branch Colors



Tree Colors

Reading questions:

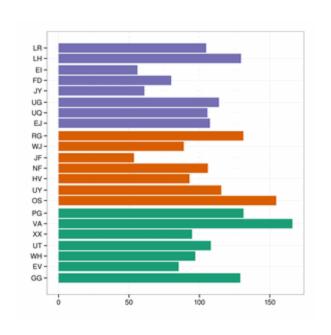
- Relations
- Offspring

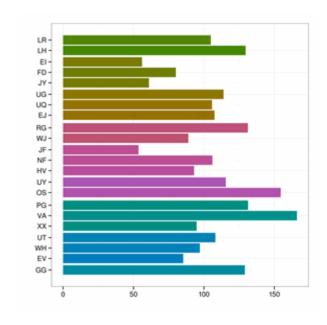
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Main Branch Colors

Tree Colors

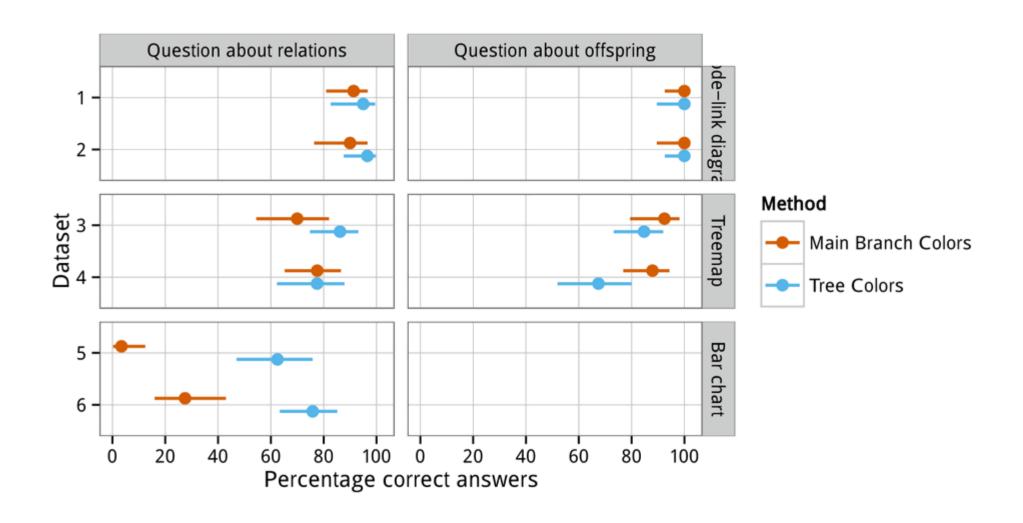
Reading questions:

- Relations
- Offspring

Evaluation questions:

- Prettiness
- Interpretation
- Overview

User study: results



Final remarks

- Tree Colors can improve visualizations of tree-structured data.
- Designed for linearly or radially ordered siblings.
 More research needed on 2d visualizations (e.g. treemap).
- Not suited for people with color vision deficiency.
- Tree Colors can be applied to large hierarchical datasets.
 However, the effectiveness is unknown.