Caleydo Web: An Integrated Visual Analysis Platform for Biomedical Data

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In many scientific domains data analysis has replaced data acquisition, generation, and storage as the main challenge. This challenge stems not only from volume but also from complexity and heterogeneity of the data. Molecular biology is a prime example for this development trend. We identified six key requirements that a visual analysis platform for biological data needs to support. Here, we present Caleydo Web, an integrated visual analysis that is designed to address these needs. In this poster we describe its architecture and give an example of how it can be used to create StratomeX.js, a sophisticated visualization technique for cancer subtype characterization.







Data Scale and Heterogenity

The size, complexity, and heterogenity of datasets like clinical, gene expression, and whole genome sequencing data are challenging with regards to access, processing and interactive visualization.

Identifier Management

Different datasets are often using annotations with different identifiers (e.g., Entrez, Ensembl) for related entities. These identifiers have non-trivial relationships (e.g., 1:1, 1:n, n:m) and granularities (e.g., chromosome, gene), leading to complex mappings.

Multiple Coordinated Views

Integrated analysis of multiple interconnected datasets can lead to new insights. Visually linking entities across different visualizations, annotation

Provenance and Coordination

A study showed that is not possible to reproduce 90% of the findings in more than 50 cancer genomics studies [1]. Integrated provenance tracking will support the reproduction, interpretation, sharing, presentation, and communication of findings.

Adaptability

Environments change. New data types, storage backends, visualization techniques emerge and needs to be integrated. The creation of customized setups tailored to specific applications ensures efficiency and effectivity.

Integrated Data Analysis

Integration of algorithms, statistics, and machine learning is crucial. The interplay between algorithmic and visual analysis has to be efficient [3].

Architecture



Caleydo Web is an open-source framework under the BSD license

Example: Stratomex.js



StratomeX.js is a Caleydo Web-based reimplementation of Caleydo

and hosted on Github (https://github.com/Caleydo). The client runtime is written in TypeScript and JavaScript using HTML5. The server runtime is written in Python. Italic labels indicate work in progress. Grey boxes represent Caleydo Web's core, dark orange boxes major plugin types, and light orange boxes custom plugins.

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StratomeX [2], a cancer subtype visualization technique. Annotations indicate individual components provided by Caleydo Web.

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[3] T. Muhlbacher, H. Piringer, S. Gratzl, M. Sedlmair, and M. Streit. Opening the Black Box: Strategies for Increased User Involvement in Existing Algorithm Implementations. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (VAST '14), 20(12):1643–1652, 2014.

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