Reverse Engineering Chart Data with WebPlotDigitizer

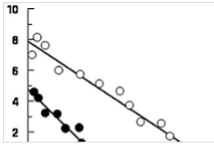
Ankit Rohatgi <ankitrohatgi@hotmail.com>

May 3, 2017

http://arohatgi.info/WebPlotDigitizer

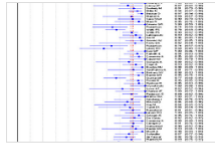
http://github.com/ankitrohatgi/WebPlotDigitizer

Raw Data?



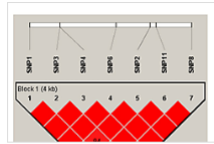
Representative Scatchard plot of HNECA saturation binding data

Laura Bazzichi 30/12/2011



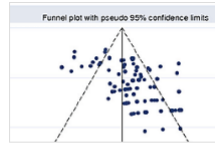
Forest plot of sensitivity

Steve Goodacre 30/12/2011



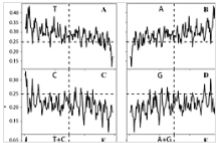
Linkage disequilibrium (D') plot of IPF1 gene in Caucasians

Mohammad A Karim 30/12/2011



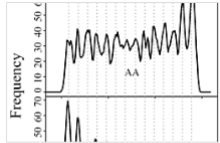
Funnel plot for sensitivity

Steve Goodacre 30/12/2011



Base composition plot in core region of mixture alignment

Ji-Ping Z. Wang 30/12/2011

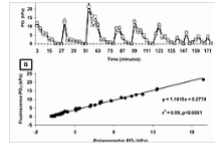


Frequency plot of TT and AA signals in the alignment presented in

Ji-Ping Z. Wang 30/12/2011

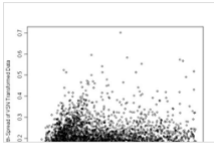
L'Abbe plot of risk of leak in single-layer vs

Satoru Shikata 30/12/2011

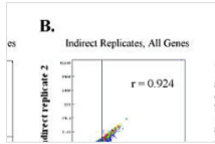


Plot of fluorescence, polarographic and predicted partial oxygen tensio...

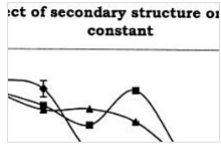
Andrew D Shaw 30/12/2011



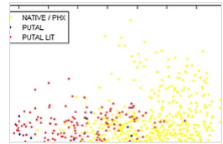
Plot of the rank of the median probe



(A) Scatter plot of direct labeling



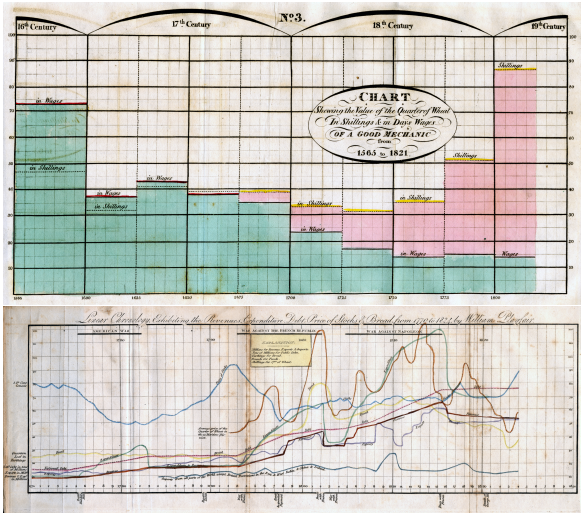
A plot of the second-order rate



Kernel-based scatter plot

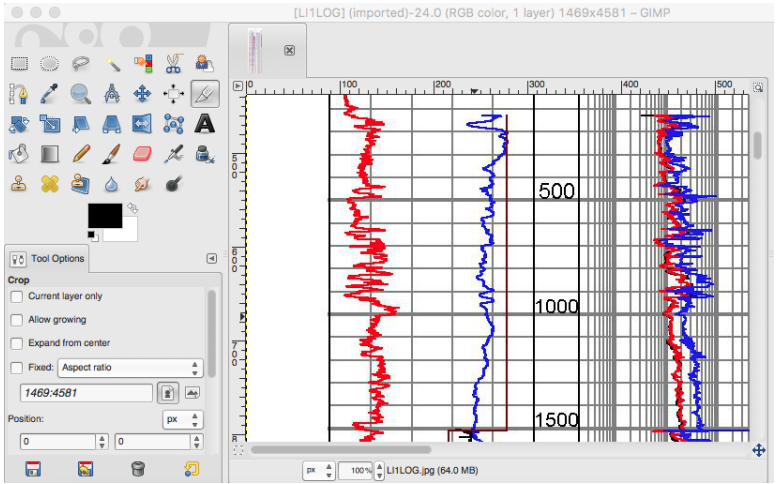
Fetching Raw Data

Contact Authors



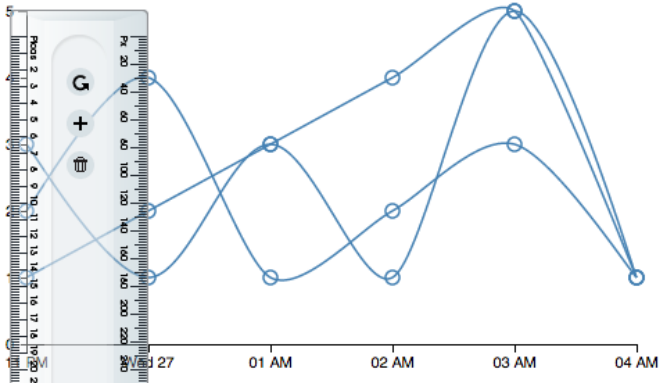
William Playfair, 1759-1823

Fetching Raw Data



Pixel Counting?

Fetching Raw Data



Geometry?

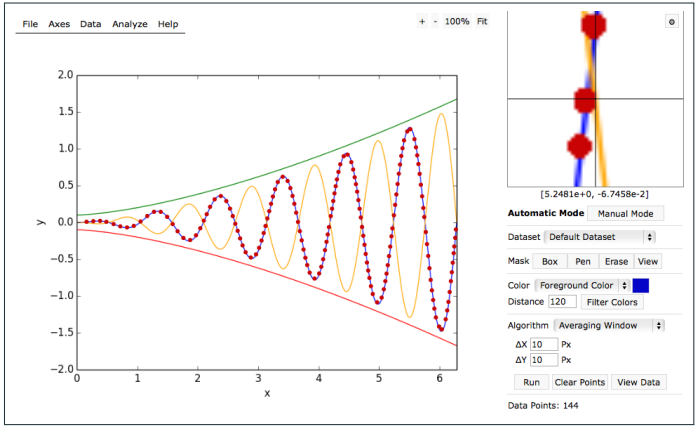
Existing tools

- A few tools are available[1–6], but with many issues:
  - Difficult to access or incompatible with the operating system
  - Support only XY charts
  - Complicated interface
  - Accuracy concerns
  - Some are expensive, but not significantly better
  - Minimal automation

Existing tools

- A few tools are available[1–6], but with many issues:
  - Difficult to access or incompatible with the operating system
  - Support only XY charts
  - Complicated interface
  - Accuracy concerns
  - Some are expensive, but not significantly better
  - Minimal automation
- Complete automation is still an area of active research[7–10].

WebPlotDigitizer

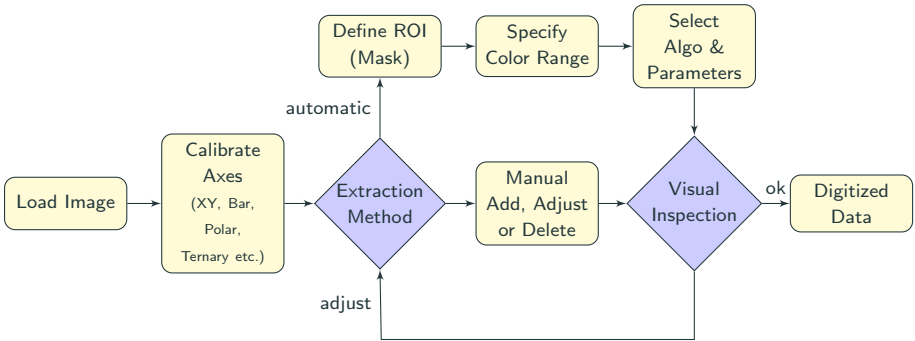


- Free, opensource, web based tool
- Works with a wide variety of charts
- Partial automation with sub-pixel resolution algorithms

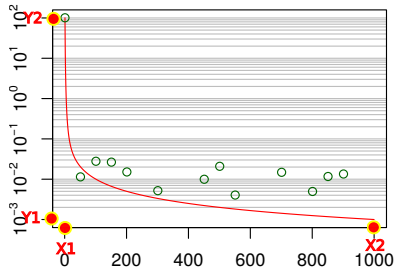
Demonstration

Also available on http://arohatgi.info/WebPlotDigitizer

Workflow


Load Image
Calibrate Axes (XY, Bar, Polar, Ternary etc.)
Extraction Method
automatic
Define ROI (Mask)
Specify Color Range
Select Algo & Parameters
adjust
Manual Add, Adjust or Delete
Visual Inspection
ok
Digitized Data

XY Charts


Y2
Y1
X1
X2
10^2
10^1
10^0
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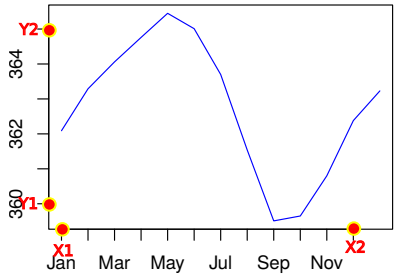
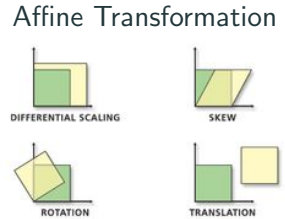
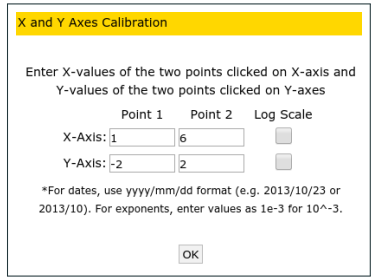
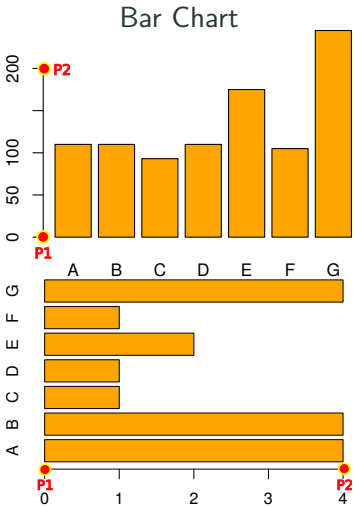
10^{-2}
10^{-3}
0
200
400
600
800
1000

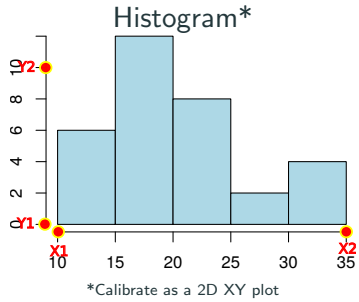

Y2
Y1
X1
X2
364
362
360
Jan
Mar
May
Jul
Sep
Nov

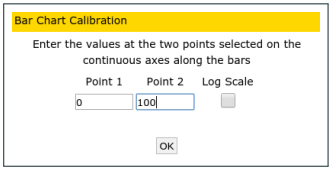

Affine Transformation
DIFFERENTIAL SCALING
SKEW
ROTATION
TRANSLATION


X and Y Axes Calibration
Enter X-values of the two points clicked on X-axis and Y-values of the two points clicked on Y-axes
Point 1
Point 2
Log Scale
X-Axis:
1
6
Y-Axis:
-2
2
*For dates, use yyyy/mm/dd format (e.g. 2013/10/23 or 2013/10). For exponents, enter values as 1e-3 for 10^-3.
OK

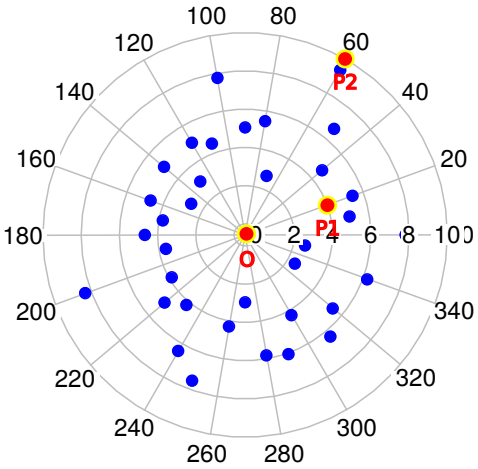
Bar Charts and Histograms

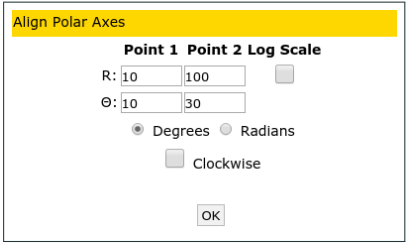




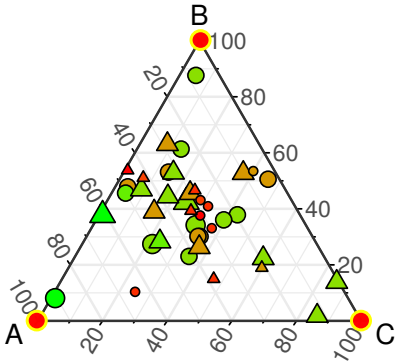


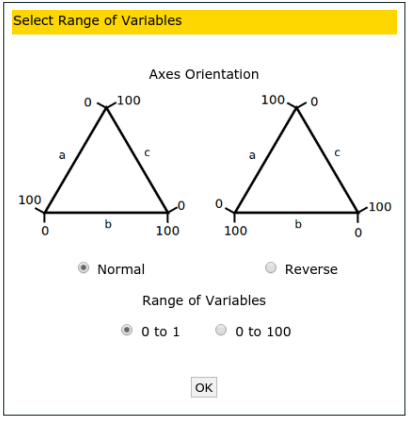
Polar Diagrams



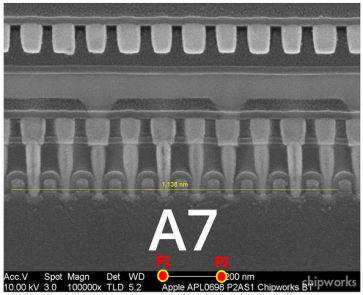


Ternary Diagrams

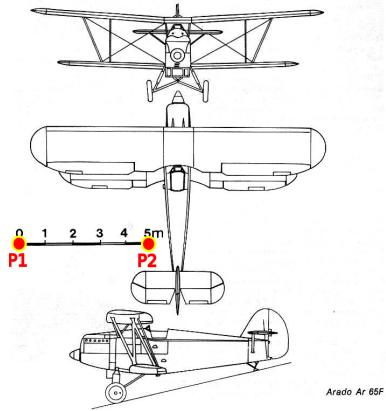




Scaled Images (Maps, Microscope, etc.)

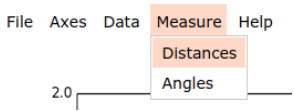


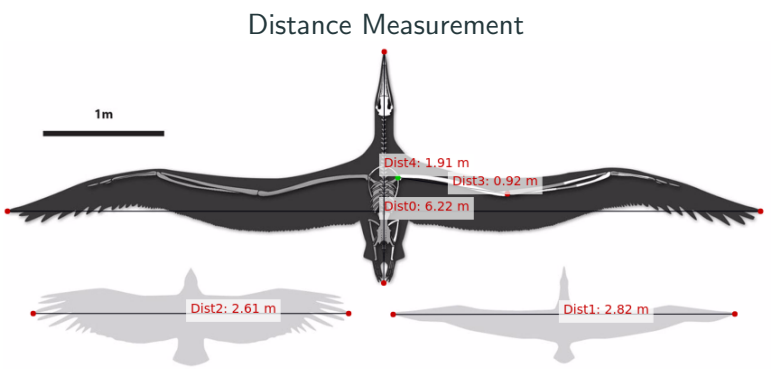
Apple A7 (ifixit.com)



Arado AR 65F (the-blueprints.com)

Measurement Tools

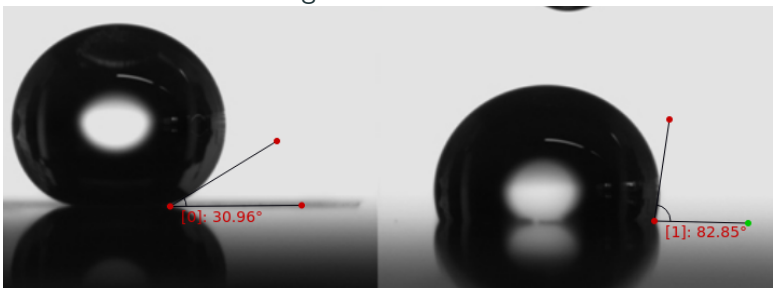




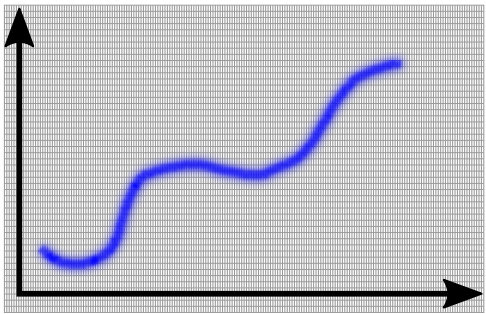
Pelagornis sandersi (National Geographic)

Measurement Tools

Angle Measurement



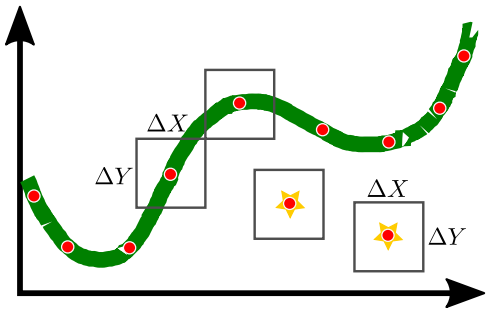
Auto-Extraction

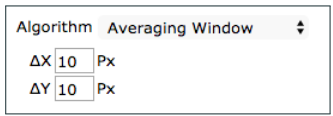


Challenges:

- Color and shape based image segmentation
- Region of interest identification
- Sub-pixel thinning, centroid estimation

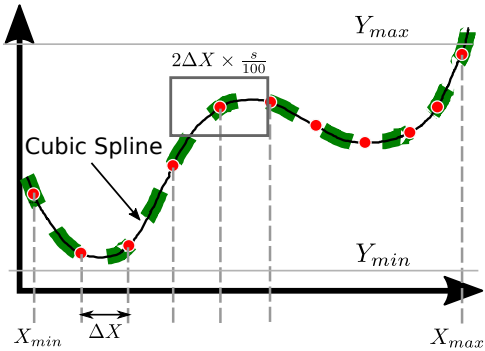
Averaging Window Algorithm





Suited for continuous curves and data points

X Step with Interpolation Algorithm

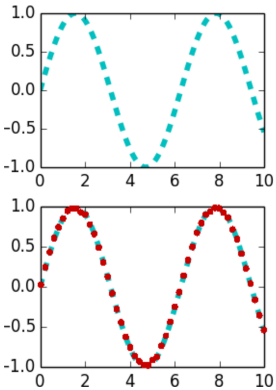


Algorithm	X Step w/ Interpolation	
X_min	0	Units
ΔX Step	2	Units
X_max	100	Units
Y_min	0.00	Units
Y_max	100(	Units
Smoothing	0	% of ΔX

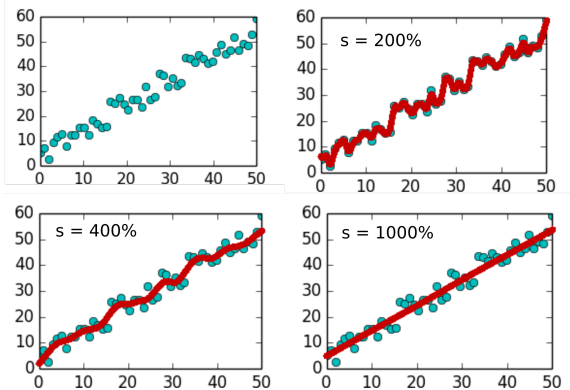
Suited for continuous or discontinuous curves, data points and noisy data

X Step with Interpolation Algorithm

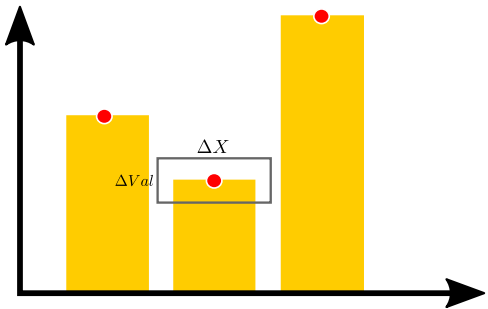
Dashed Lines



Noisy Data



Bar Charts and Histogram Algorithms



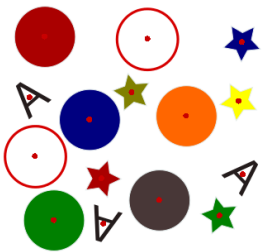
Algorithm Bar Extraction

ΔX 30 Px

ΔVal 10 Px

Suited for vertical or horizontal bar charts and histograms

Blob Extraction



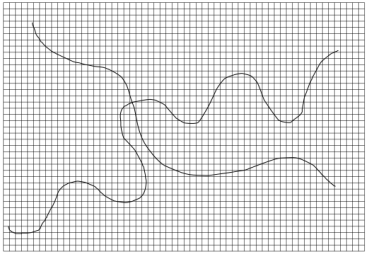
Algorithm Blob Detector

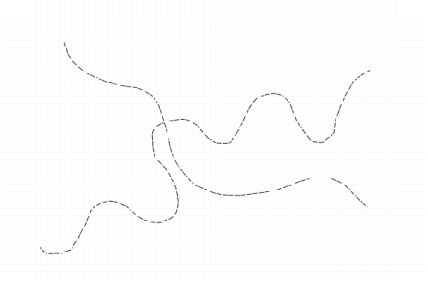
Min Diameter 0 Px

Max Diameter 500 Px

- Connected component labeling
- Computes:
  - Centroid
  - Area
  - Moment Invariant
- Shape based extraction

Grid Removal





Detect Grid

Mask [Box] [Clear] [View]

Color [Pick] [10] [Test]

☑ Background Mode

Horizontal ☑

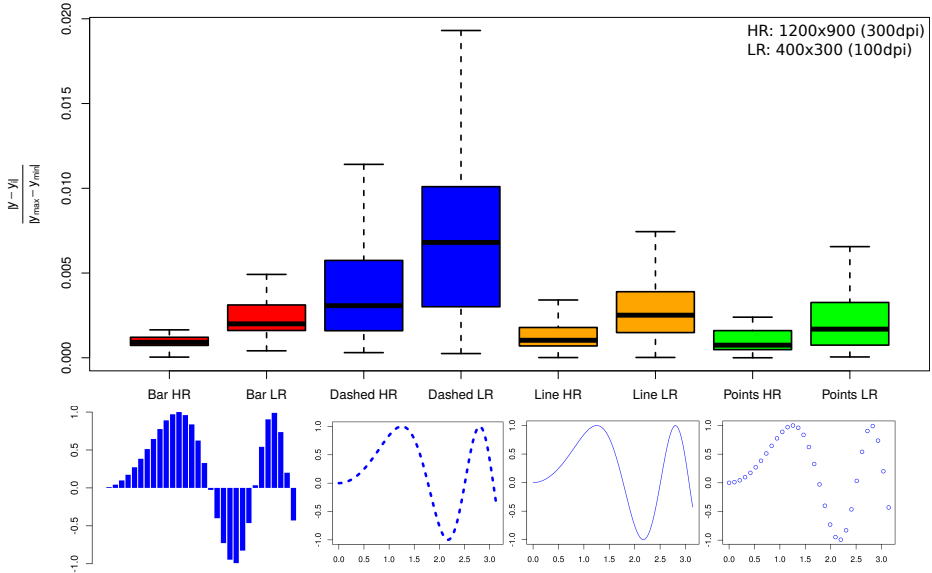
X% [80]

Vertical ☑

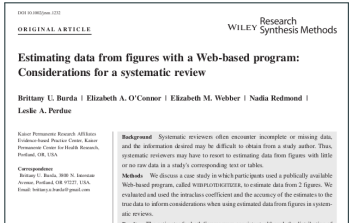
Y% [80]

[Detect] [Reset]

Accuracy: Summary



Accuracy: Independent Studies



DOI: 10.1002/jrsm.1232

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

WILEY Research Synthesis Methods

Estimating data from figures with a Web-based program: Considerations for a systematic review

Brittany U. Burda | Elizabeth A. O'Connor | Elizabeth M. Webber | Nadia Redmond | Leslie A. Perdue

Kaiser Permanente Research Affiliates Evidence-based Practice Center, Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, Portland, OR, USA

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Email: brittany.a.burda@gmail.com

Background Systematic reviewers often encounter incomplete or missing data, and the information desired may be difficult to obtain from a study author. Thus, systematic reviewers may have to resort to estimating data from figures with little or no raw data in a study's corresponding text or tables.

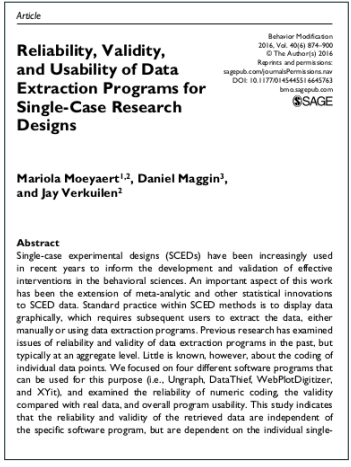
Methods We discuss a case study in which participants used a publically available Web-based program, called WebPlotDigitizer, to estimate data from 2 figures. We evaluated and used the intraclass coefficient and the accuracy of the estimates to the true data to inform considerations when using estimated data from figures in systematic reviews.

Results The estimates for both figures were consistent, although the distribution of estimates in the figure of a continuous outcome was slightly higher. For the continuous outcome, the percent difference ranged from 0.23% to 30.35% while the percent difference of the event rate ranged from 0.22% to 8.92%. For both figures, the intraclass coefficient was excellent (>0.95).

Conclusions Systematic reviewers should consider and be transparent when estimating data from figures when the information cannot be obtained from study authors and perform sensitivity analyses of pooled results to reduce bias.

KEYWORDS
data extraction, meta-analysis, reporting bias, systematic review

[11]



Article

Reliability, Validity, and Usability of Data Extraction Programs for Single-Case Research Designs

Behavior Modification
2016, Vol. 40(6) 874–900
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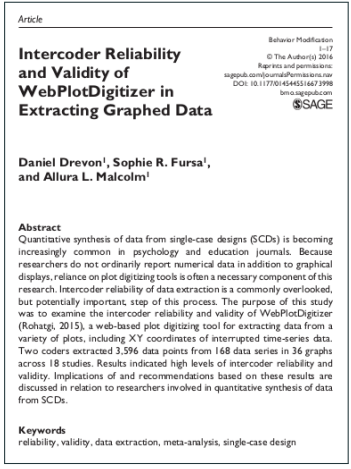
DOI: 10.1177/0145445516645763
bmo.sagepub.com
SAGE

Mariola Moeyaert[1,2], Daniel Maggin[3], and Jay Verkuilen[2]

Abstract

Single-case experimental designs (SCEDs) have been increasingly used in recent years to inform the development and validation of effective interventions in the behavioral sciences. An important aspect of this work has been the extension of meta-analytic and other statistical innovations to SCED data. Standard practice within SCED methods is to display data graphically, which requires subsequent users to extract the data, either manually or using data extraction programs. Previous research has examined issues of reliability and validity of data extraction programs in the past, but typically at an aggregate level. Little is known, however, about the coding of individual data points. We focused on four different software programs that can be used for this purpose (i.e., Ungraph, DataThief, WebPlotDigitizer, and XYit), and examined the reliability of numeric coding, the validity compared with real data, and overall program usability. This study indicates that the reliability and validity of the retrieved data are independent of the specific software program, but are dependent on the individual single-

[12]



Article

Intercoder Reliability and Validity of WebPlotDigitizer in Extracting Graphed Data

Behavior Modification
1–17
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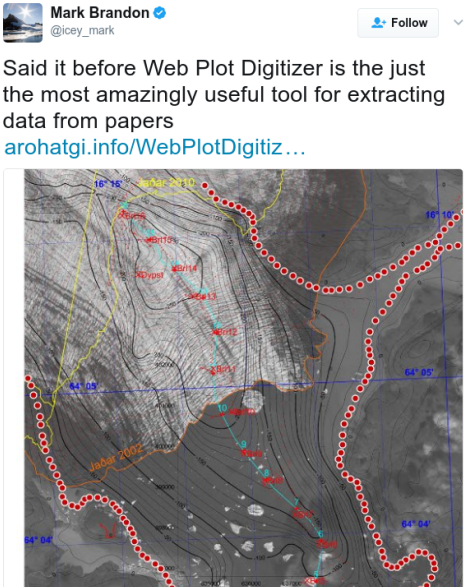
Abstract

Quantitative synthesis of data from single-case designs (SCDs) is becoming increasingly common in psychology and education journals. Because researchers do not ordinarily report numerical data in addition to graphical displays, reliance on plot digitizing tools is often a necessary component of this research. Intercoder reliability of data extraction is a commonly overlooked, but potentially important, step of this process. The purpose of this study was to examine the intercoder reliability and validity of WebPlotDigitizer (Rohatgi, 2015), a web-based plot digitizing tool for extracting data from a variety of plots, including XY coordinates of interrupted time-series data. Two coders extracted 3,596 data points from 168 data series in 36 graphs across 18 studies. Results indicated high levels of intercoder reliability and validity. Implications of and recommendations based on these results are discussed in relation to researchers involved in quantitative synthesis of data from SCDs.

Keywords
reliability, validity, data extraction, meta-analysis, single-case design

[13]

Interesting Use Cases



Interesting Use Cases

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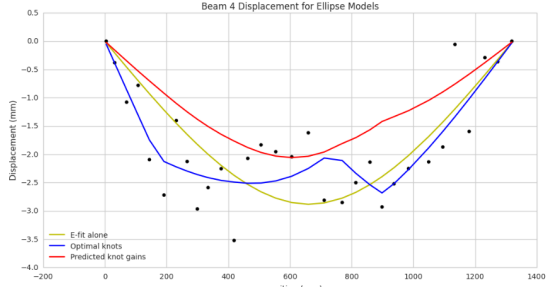
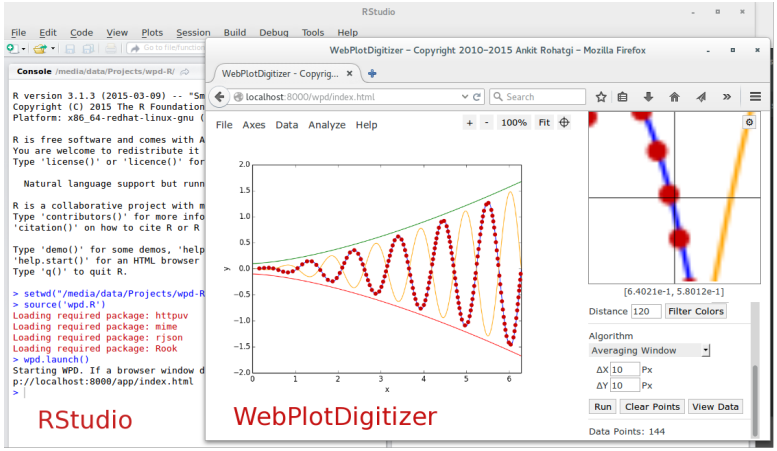


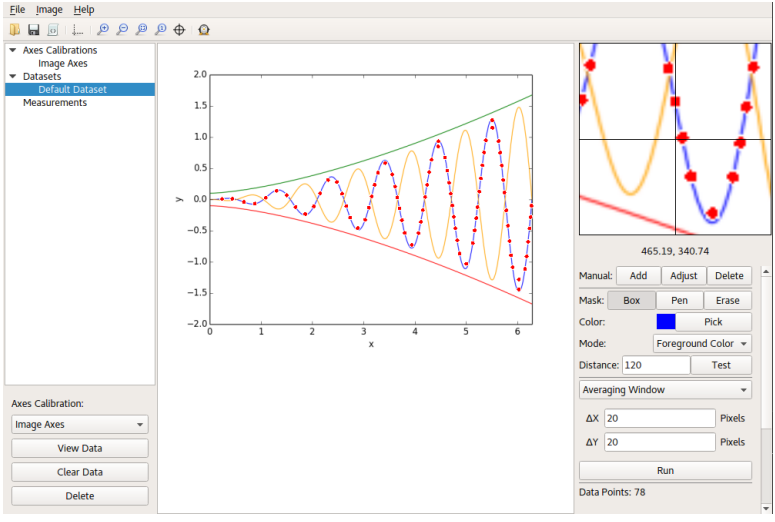
Thurston Sexton. "Optimal Modeling of Knots in Wood". Arizona State University, 2015

R Package (Under Development)



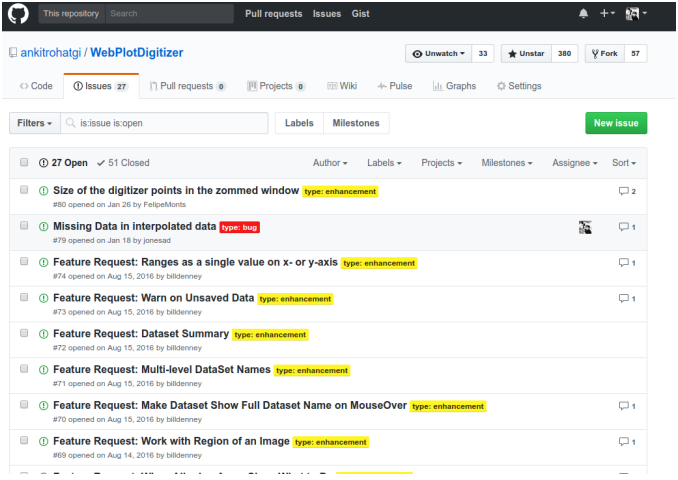
https://github.com/ankitrohatgi/digitizeR

Native Desktop App (Under Development)



Qt/C++

Public Issue Tracker



http://arohatgi.info/WebPlotDigitizer
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