



Reverse Engineering Chart Data with WebPlotDigitizer

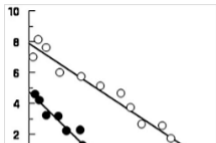
Ankit Rohatgi <ankitrohatgi@hotmail.com>

May 3, 2017

 <http://arohatgi.info/WebPlotDigitizer>

 <http://github.com/ankitrohatgi/WebPlotDigitizer>

Raw Data?



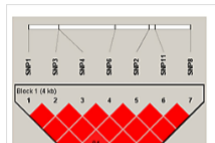
Representative Scatchard plot of HNECA saturation binding data

Laura Bazzichi ▾ 30/12/2011



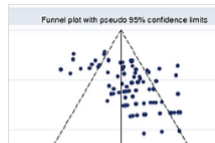
Forest plot of sensitivity

Steve Goodacre ▾ 30/12/2011



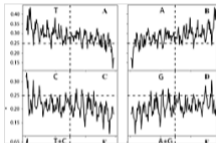
Linkage disequilibrium (D') plot of IPF1 gene in Caucasians

Mohammad A Karim ▾ 30/12/2011



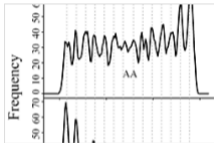
Funnel plot for sensitivity

Steve Goodacre ▾ 30/12/2011



Base composition plot in core region of mixture alignment

Ji-Ping Z. Wang ▾ 30/12/2011



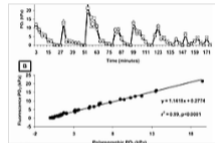
Frequency plot of TT and AA signals in the alignment presented in

Ji-Ping Z. Wang ▾ 30/12/2011



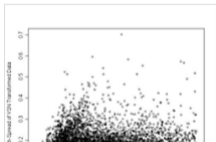
L'Abbe plot of risk of leak in single-layer vs

Satoru Shikata ▾ 30/12/2011

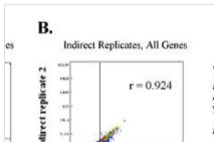


Plot of fluorescence, polarographic and predicted partial oxygen tensio...

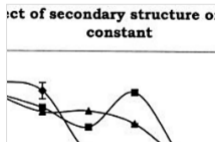
Andrew D Shaw ▾ 30/12/2011



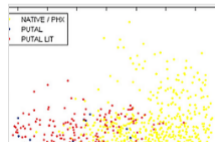
Plot of the rank of the median probe



(A) Scatter plot of direct labeling



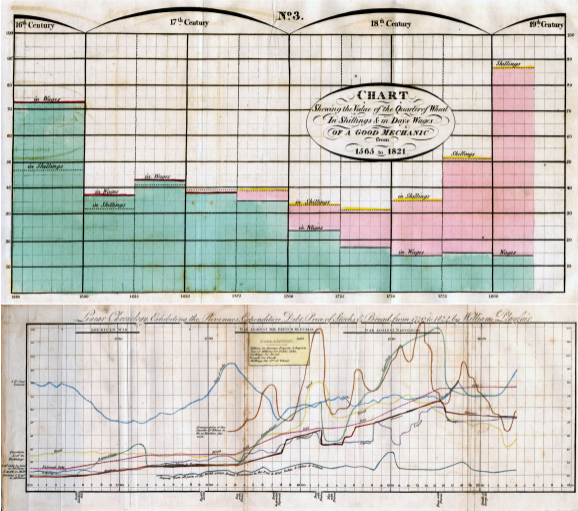
A plot of the second-order rate



Kernel-based scatter plot

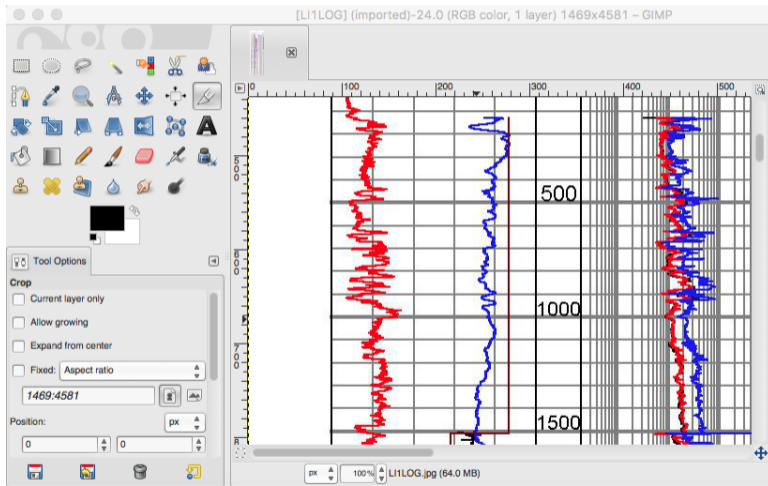
Fetching Raw Data

Contact Authors



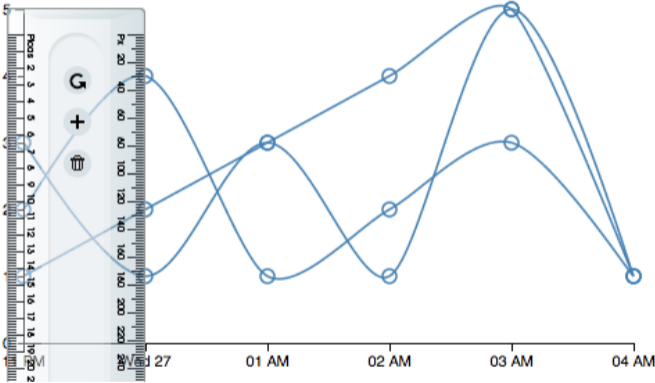
William Playfair, 1759-1823

Fetching Raw Data



Pixel Counting?

Fetching Raw Data



Geometry?

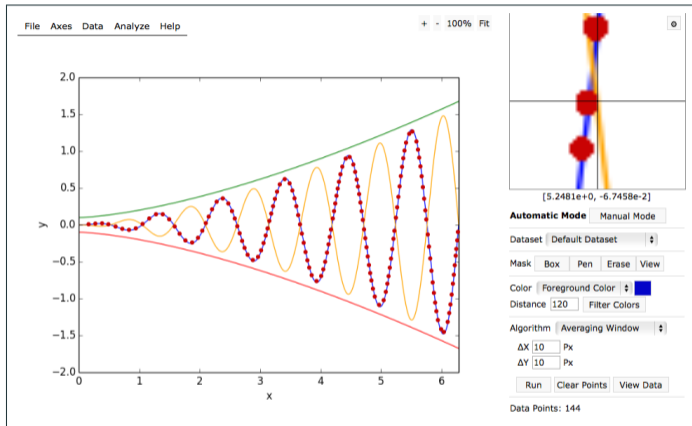
Existing tools

- 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

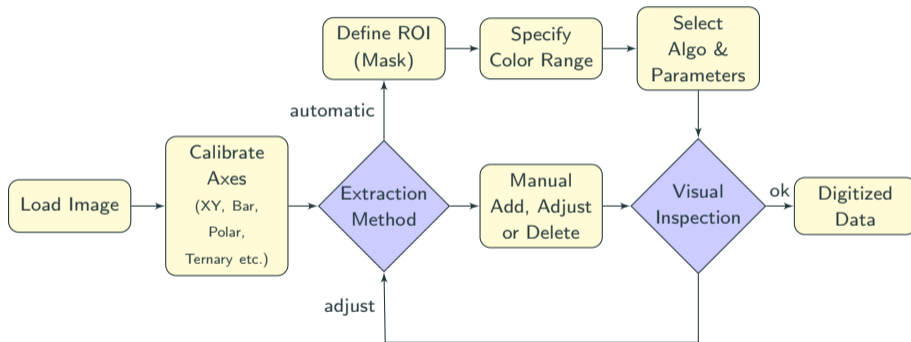


- Free, opensource, web based tool
- Works with a wide variety of charts
- Partial automation with sub-pixel resolution algorithms

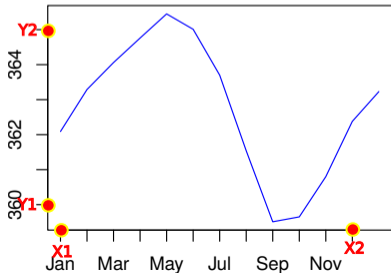
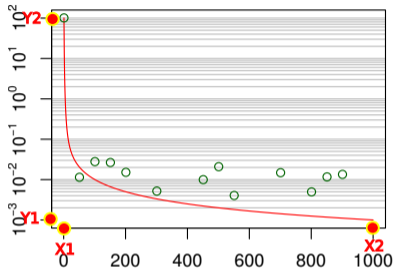
Demonstration

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

Workflow



XY Charts



Affine Transformation



X and Y Axes Calibration

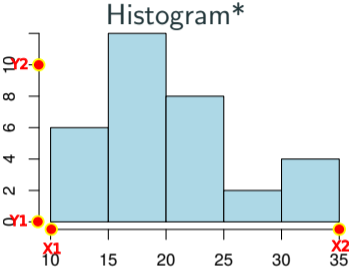
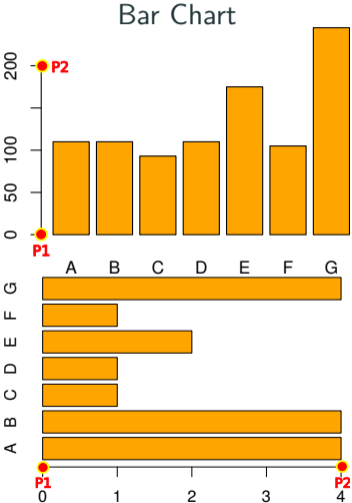
Enter X-values of the two points clicked on X-axis and Y-values of the two points clicked on Y-axis

	Point 1	Point 2	Log Scale
X-Axis:	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Y-Axis:	<input type="text" value="-2"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*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



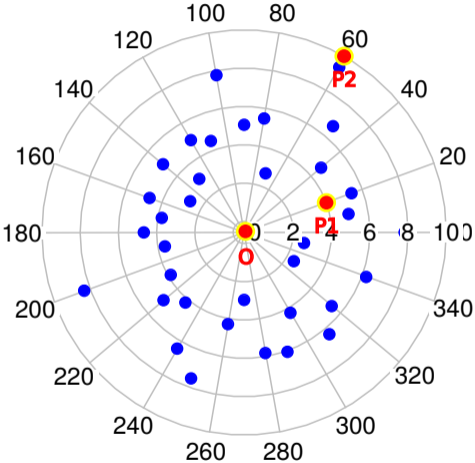
*Calibrate as a 2D XY plot

Bar Chart Calibration

Enter the values at the two points selected on the continuous axes along the bars

Point 1 Point 2 Log Scale

Polar Diagrams



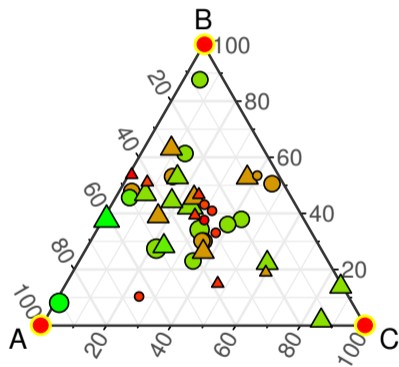
Align Polar Axes

	Point 1	Point 2	Log Scale
R:	10	100	<input type="checkbox"/>
θ:	10	30	

Degrees Radians

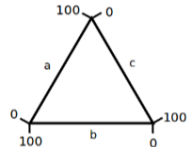
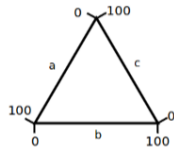
Clockwise

Ternary Diagrams



Select Range of Variables

Axes Orientation



Normal

Reverse

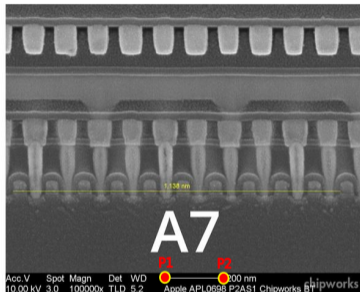
Range of Variables

0 to 1

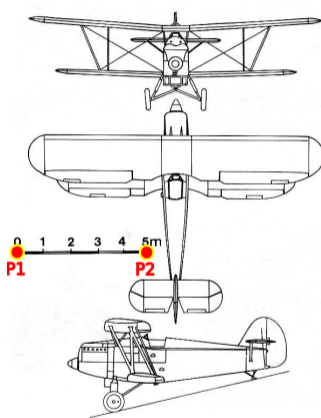
0 to 100

OK

Scaled Images (Maps, Microscope, etc.)



Apple A7 (ifixit.com)



Arado AR 65F (the-blueprints.com)

Measurement Tools

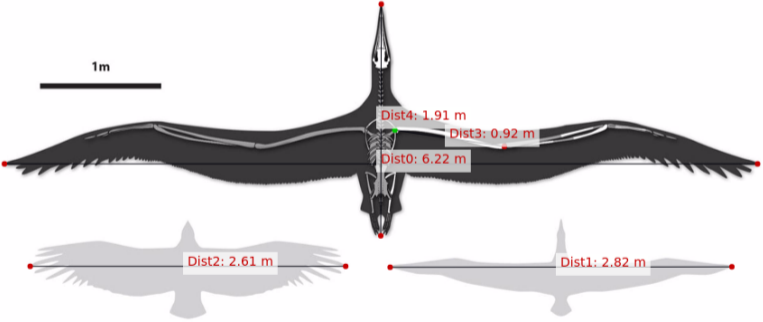
File Axes Data Measure Help

Distances

Angles

2.0

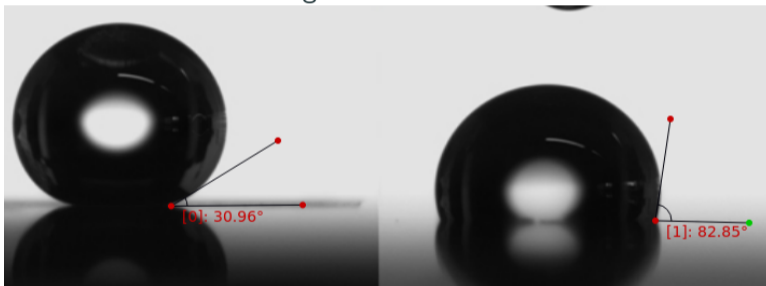
Distance Measurement



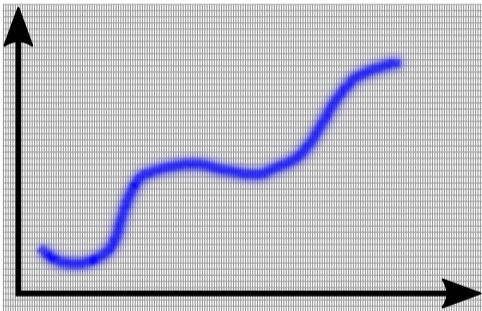
Pelagornis sandersi (National Geographic)

Measurement Tools

Angle Measurement



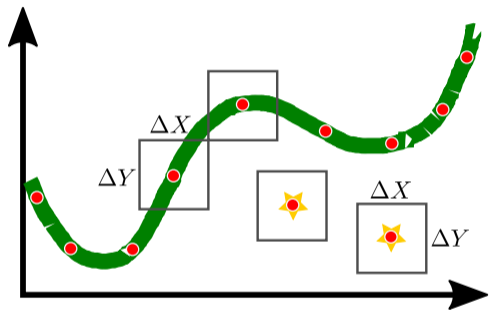
Auto-Extraction



Challenges:

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

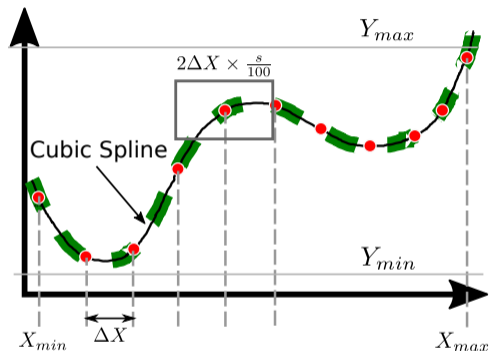
Averaging Window Algorithm



Algorithm	Averaging Window	⌵
ΔX	<input type="text" value="10"/>	Px
ΔY	<input type="text" value="10"/>	Px

Suited for continuous curves and data points

X Step with Interpolation Algorithm



Algorithm X Step w/ Interpolation ▾

X_min Units

ΔX Step Units

X_max Units

Y_min Units

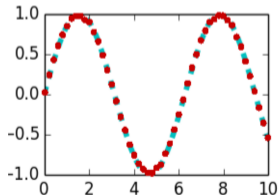
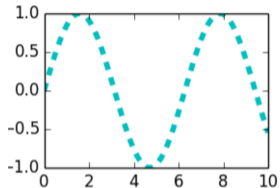
Y_max Units

Smoothing % of ΔX

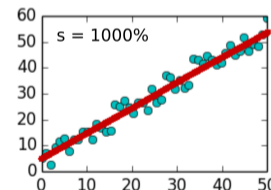
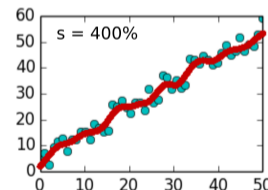
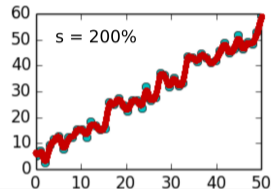
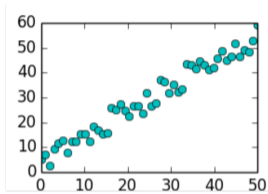
Suited for continuous or discontinuous curves, data points and noisy data

X Step with Interpolation Algorithm

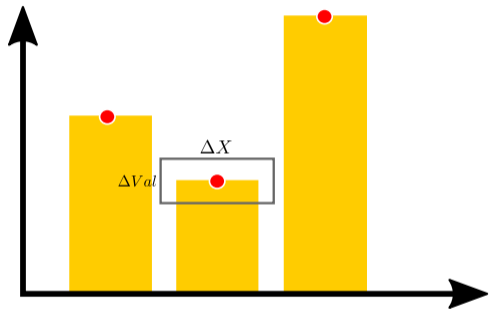
Dashed Lines



Noisy Data



Bar Charts and Histogram Algorithms



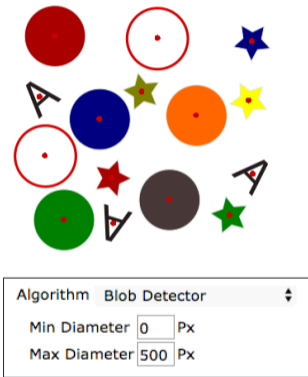
Algorithm **Bar Extraction** ⚡

ΔX Px

ΔVal Px

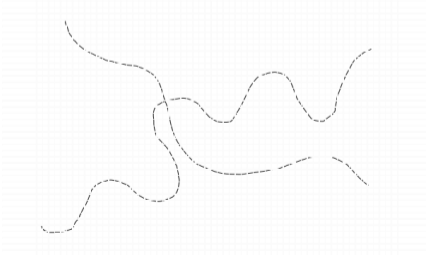
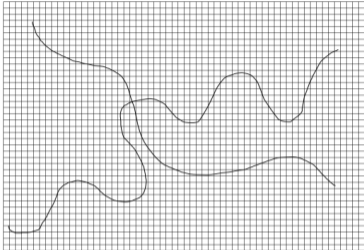
Suited for vertical or horizontal bar charts and histograms

Blob Extraction



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

Grid Removal



Detect Grid

Mask

Color

Background Mode

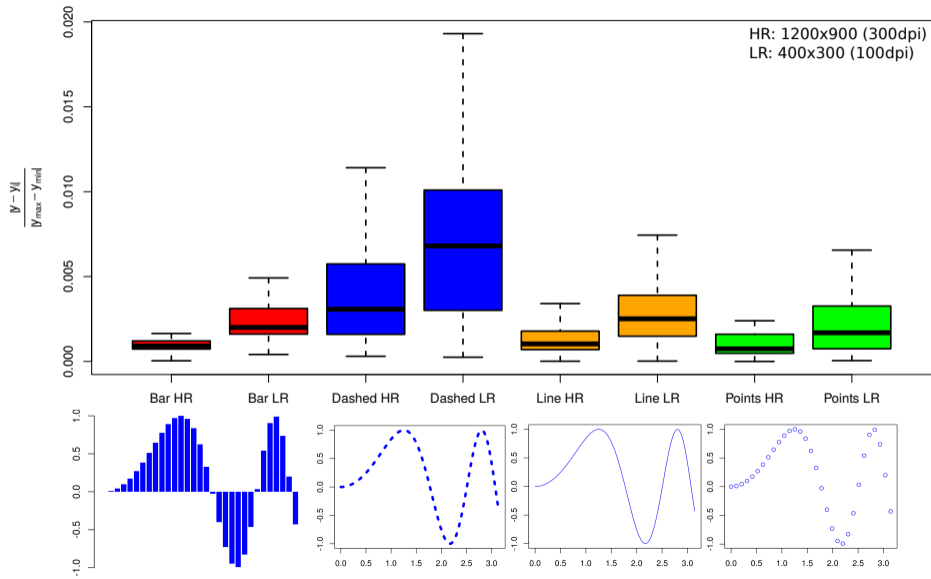
Horizontal

X%

Vertical

Y%

Accuracy: Summary



Accuracy: Independent Studies

DOI: 10.1002/psm.1233

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

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 publicly 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 30.15% 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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sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav
DOI: 10.1177/0145445516645763
bmo.sagepub.com

SAGE

Mariola Moeyaert^{1,2}, Daniel Maggin¹, and Jay Verkuilen²

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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sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav
DOI: 10.1177/0145445516673998
bmo.sagepub.com

SAGE

Daniel Drevon¹, Sophie R. Fursa¹, and Allura L. Malcolm¹

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

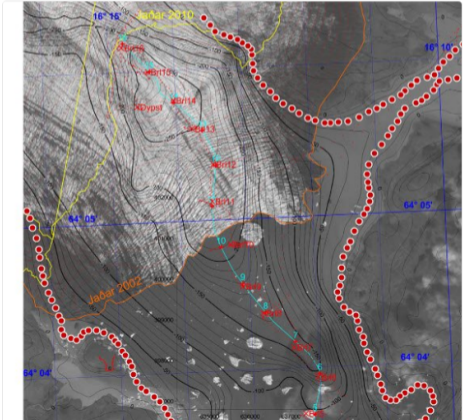


Mark Brandon ✓
@icey_mark

Follow

Said it before Web Plot Digitizer is the just the most amazingly useful tool for extracting data from papers

arohatgi.info/WebPlotDigitiz...



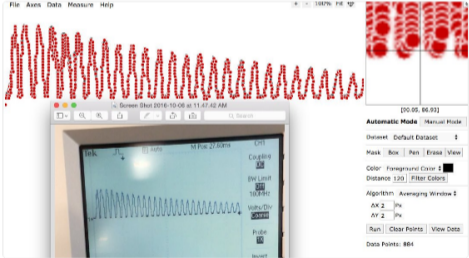
Interesting Use Cases



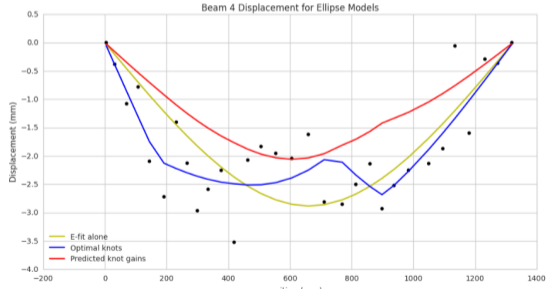
Cindy Harnett
@CindyHarnett

Follow

Liking webplotdigitizer for grabbing data from pics in #lab, thanks @CousinAmygdala for the tip.
arohatgi.info/WebPlotDigitiz...

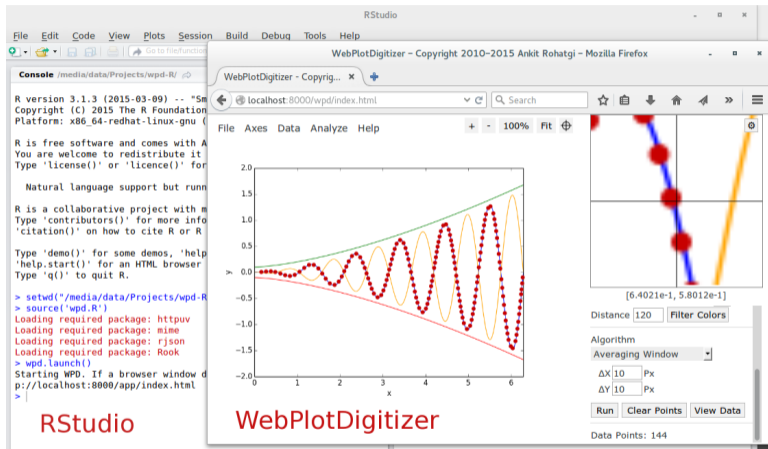


Interesting Use Cases



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

R Package (Under Development)



The screenshot displays the RStudio environment on the left and the WebPlotDigitizer application on the right. The RStudio console shows the following output:

```
R version 3.1.3 (2015-03-09) -- "Sm  
Copyright (C) 2015 The R Foundation  
Platform: x86_64-redhat-linux-gnu (
  
R is free software and comes with A  
You are welcome to redistribute it  
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for  

  
Natural language support but runn
  
R is a collaborative project with m  
Type 'contributors()' for more info  
'citation()' on how to cite R or R
  
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help  
'help.start()' for an HTML browser  
Type 'q()' to quit R.
  
> setwd("/media/data/Projects/wpd-R")  
> source('wpd.R')  
Loading required package: httpuv  
Loading required package: mime  
Loading required package: rjson  
Loading required package: Rook  
> wpd.launch()  
Starting WPD. If a browser window d  
p://localhost:8000/app/index.html  
>
```

The WebPlotDigitizer application window shows a plot with the following axes and data:

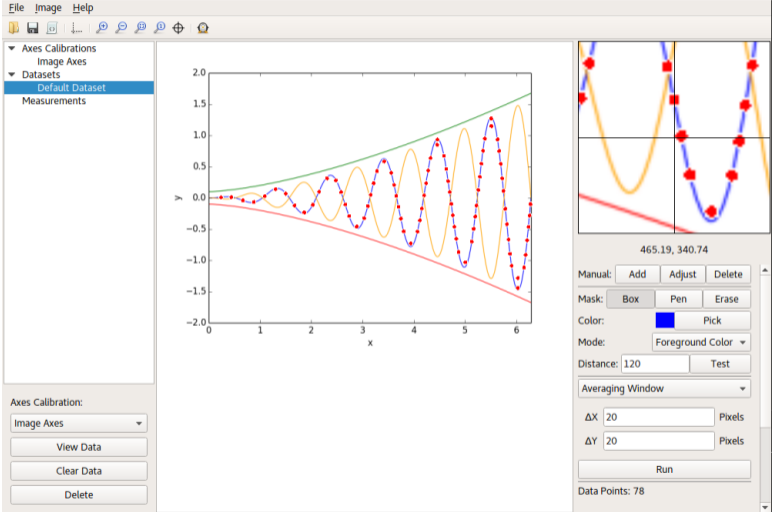
- X-axis: x (ranging from 0 to 6)
- Y-axis: y (ranging from -2.0 to 2.0)
- Data Points: 144 (indicated in the bottom right corner)
- Algorithm: Averaging Window
- Distance: 120
- Filter Colors: [6.4021e-1, 5.8012e-1]
- Buttons: Run, Clear Points, View Data

The plot shows a complex, oscillating data series (red dots) with a green trend line and a red boundary line. The WebPlotDigitizer interface includes a toolbar with 'File', 'Axes', 'Data', 'Analyze', and 'Help' options, and a zoom control set to 100%.

RStudio **WebPlotDigitizer**

<https://github.com/ankitrohatgi/digitizeR>

Native Desktop App (Under Development)



Qt/C++

Public Issue Tracker

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'ankitrohatgi / WebPlotDigitizer'. The top navigation bar includes 'Pull requests', 'Issues', and 'Gist'. The repository name and owner are displayed, along with statistics for 'Unwatch' (33), 'Unstar' (380), and 'Fork' (57). Below this, there are tabs for 'Code', 'Issues' (27), 'Pull requests', 'Projects', 'Wiki', 'Pulse', 'Graphs', and 'Settings'. A search bar contains the query 'is:issue is:open'. To the right of the search bar are 'Labels' and 'Milestones' buttons, and a green 'New issue' button. The main content area displays a list of 27 open issues. Each issue entry includes a checkbox, a status indicator (27 Open, 51 Closed), a title, a type label (e.g., 'type: enhancement' or 'type: bug'), and a comment count. The issues listed are:

- #80: Size of the digitizer points in the zommed window (type: enhancement, 2 comments)
- #79: Missing Data in interpolated data (type: bug, 1 comment)
- #74: Feature Request: Ranges as a single value on x- or y-axis (type: enhancement, 1 comment)
- #73: Feature Request: Warn on Unsaved Data (type: enhancement, 1 comment)
- #72: Feature Request: Dataset Summary (type: enhancement)
- #71: Feature Request: Multi-level DataSet Names (type: enhancement)
- #70: Feature Request: Make Dataset Show Full Dataset Name on MouseOver (type: enhancement, 1 comment)
- #69: Feature Request: Work with Region of an Image (type: enhancement, 1 comment)

 <http://arohatgi.info/WebPlotDigitizer>

 <http://www.github.com/ankitrohatgi/WebPlotDigitizer>

 ankitrohatgi@hotmail.com

 [ankit_rohatgi](https://twitter.com/ankit_rohatgi)

References

- [1] *PlotDigitizer*. URL: <http://plotdigitizer.sourceforge.net/>.
- [2] *Digitizelt*. URL: <http://www.digitizeit.de/>.
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- [4] *Engauge Digitizer*. URL: <http://markummittchell.github.io/engauge-digitizer/>.
- [5] Biosoft. *Ungraph*. URL: <http://www.biosoft.com/w/ungraph.htm>.
- [6] Geomatix. *XYit*. URL: <http://www.geomatix.net/xyit/>.
- [7] Gonzalo Gabriel Méndez, Miguel A. Nacenta, and Sebastien Vandenheste. “iVoLVER”. In: *Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - CHI 2016*. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), 2016. DOI: 10.1145/2858036.2858435.
- [8] Noah Siegel et al. “FigureSeer: Parsing Result-Figures in Research Papers”. In: *Computer Vision – ECCV 2016*. Springer Nature, 2016, pp. 664–680. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-46478-7_41.

References

- [9] Daekyoung Jung et al. “ChartSense: Interactive Data Extraction from Chart Images”. In: ACM, May 2017. URL: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/publication/chartsense-interactive-data-extraction-chart-images/>.
- [10] Sagnik Ray Choudhury and Clyde Lee Giles. “An Architecture for Information Extraction from Figures in Digital Libraries”. In: *Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on World Wide Web - WWW 2015 Companion*. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), 2015. DOI: 10.1145/2740908.2741712.
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