Ediflow: data-intensive interactive workflows for visual analytics

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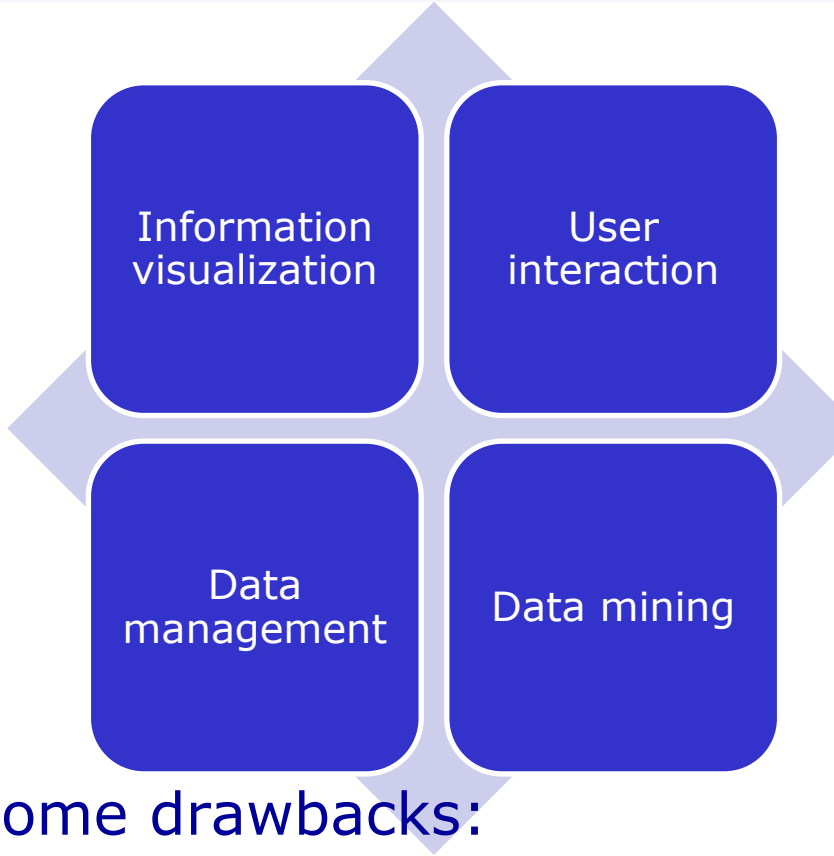
Outline

- Motivation
- Ediflow architecture
- Isolation management
- Use cases
- Robustness evaluation
- Conclusion and perspectives

Motivation – Visual analytics field

"Visual analytics is especially focused on situations where *the huge amount of data and the complexity of the problem make automatic reasoning impossible without human interaction"*



Current visual analytics tools have some drawbacks:

- Scalability issues
- No multi-user environment
- Data cannot be shared and reused

Scientific workflows vs. visual analytics

Scientific workflow systems share many characteristics with visual analytics

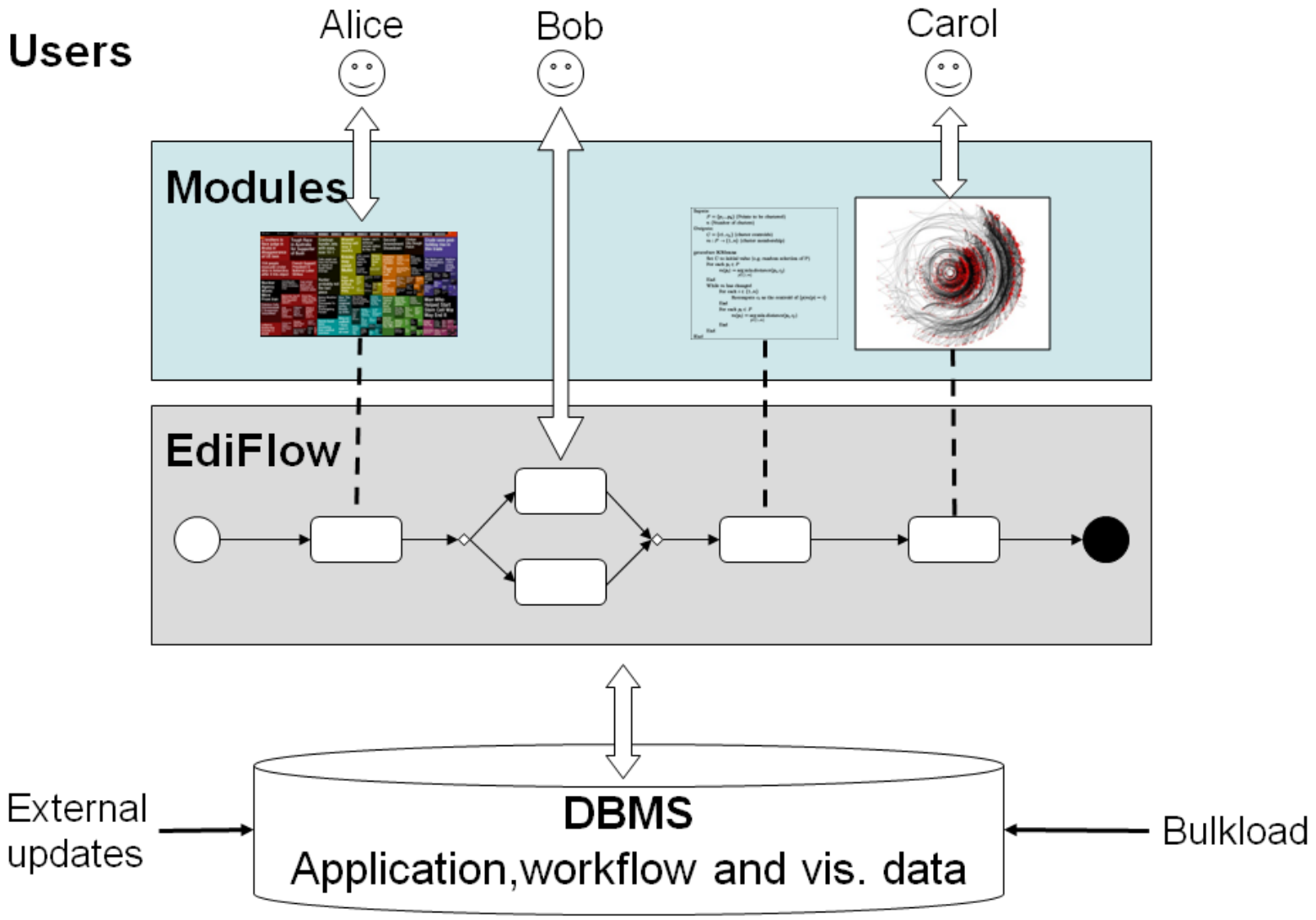
- Complex analysis tasks backed by persistent storage

Differently from visual analytics platforms, scientific workflows:

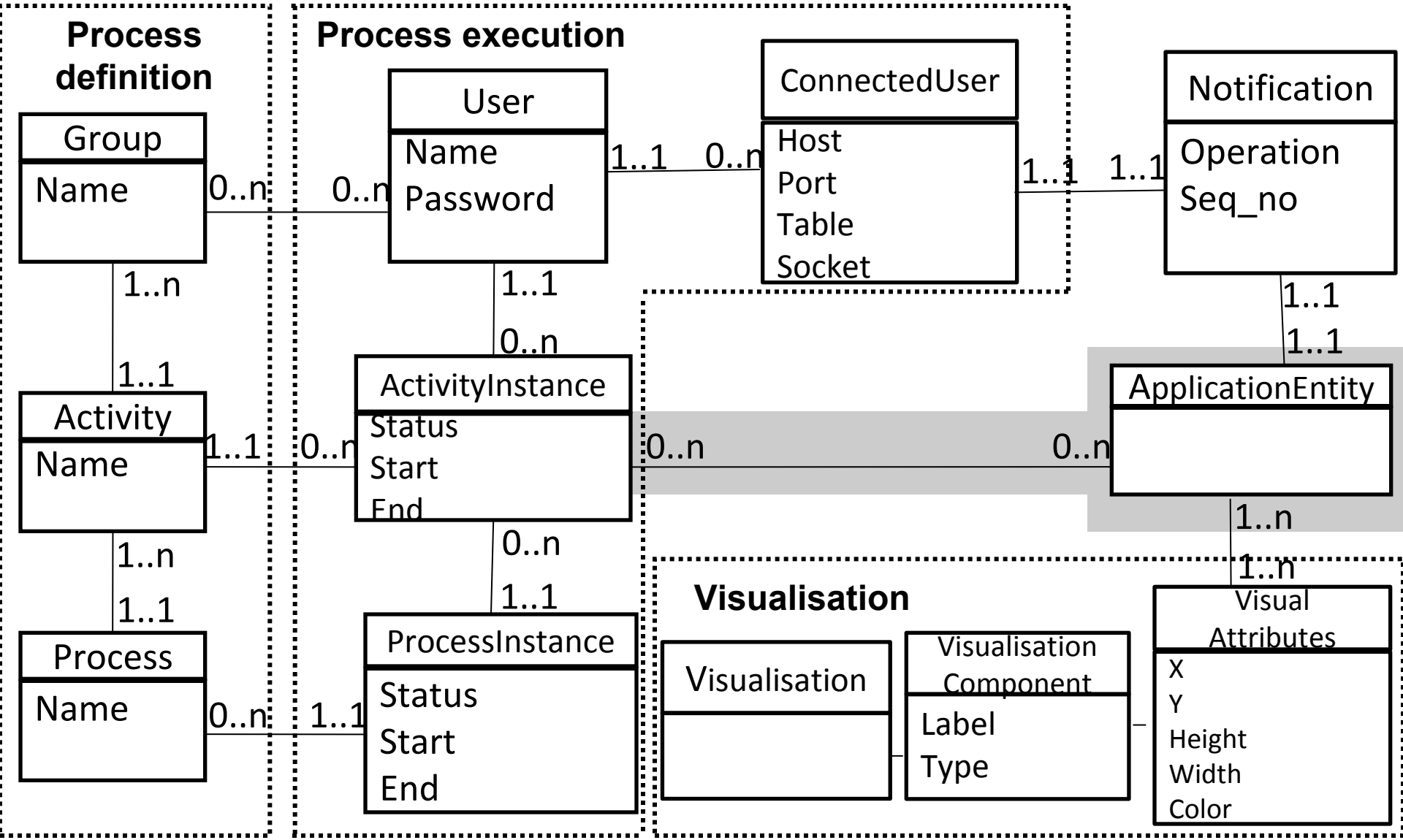
- are designed to carry automated analytical processes to completion
- do not manage dynamic data
- offer little or no visualization

Our goals:
1) Integrating scientific workflows with visual analytics
2) Managing dynamic data

Ediflow architecture



Data model


Process definition
Group
Name
Activity
Name
Process
Name
Process execution
User
Name
Password
ConnectedUser
Host
Port
Table
Socket
Notification
Operation
Seq_no
ActivityInstance
Status
Start
End
ProcessInstance
Status
Start
End
ApplicationEntity
Visualisation
Visualisation
Visualisation Component
Label
Type
Visual Attributes
X
Y
Height
Width
Color
0..n
1..1
1..n

Process model

Core process model:

- Structured processes
- Workflow management coalition model
  - Sequence
  - OR split, OR join
  - AND split, AND join
  - IF-THEN
  - Procedure

Extension: reactive processes

- Reactive: propagate changes between the database and the running workflow instances through the process

Process model zooms

Procedure

- Computation unit
- Black box developed outside the DB engine (Java, C++, Matlab etc.)
- E.g. clustering algorithms, statistical analysis tools

Delta handler

- Helper procedures used to reflect the impact of data changes on process execution
- Ediflow recuperates the result of handler invocation and injects it into the process
- The implementation of handlers is opaque to the process execution framework

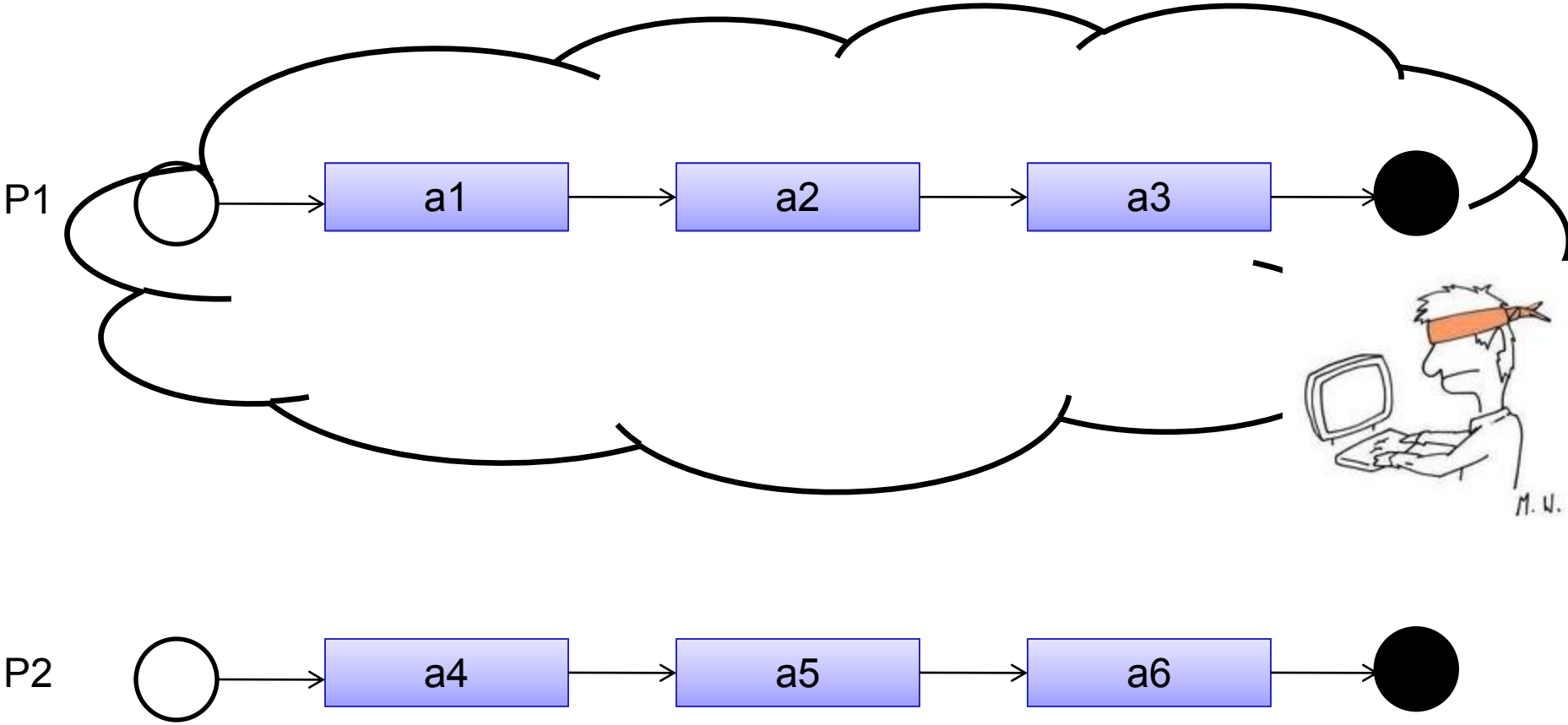
Reactive process model

Update propagation in reactive processes:

- Ignore ΔR for the execution of all processes which had started executing before $t_{\Delta R}$
- Ignore ΔR for the execution of all activities which had started executing before $t_{\Delta R}$
- ΔR are propagated to instances of all activities that are yet to be started in a running process
- Propagate the update ΔR to all the terminated instances of a given activity
- Propagate the update ΔR to all the running instances of a given activity, whether they had started before $t_{\Delta R}$ or not

Isolation management

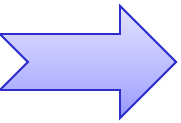
- Process- and activity-based isolation



Isolation management

Time-based isolation

- Data visible to a given activity or process instance may depend on the starting time of that instance



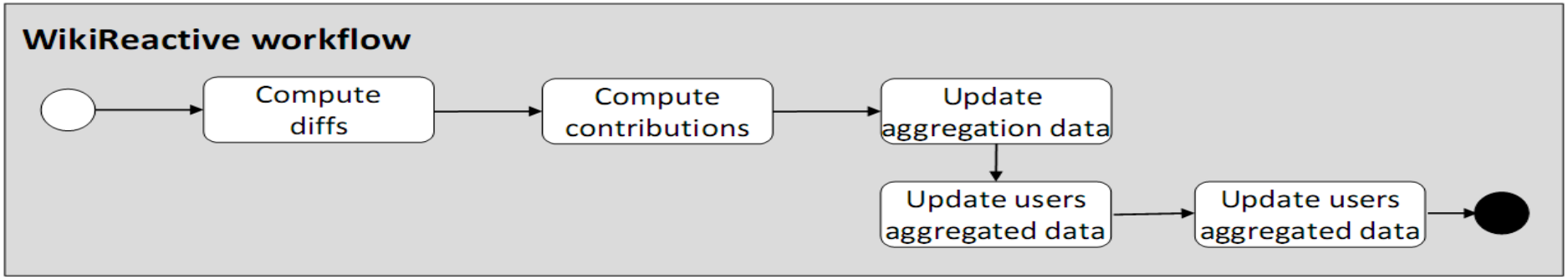
Associating to each application table R a creation timestamp

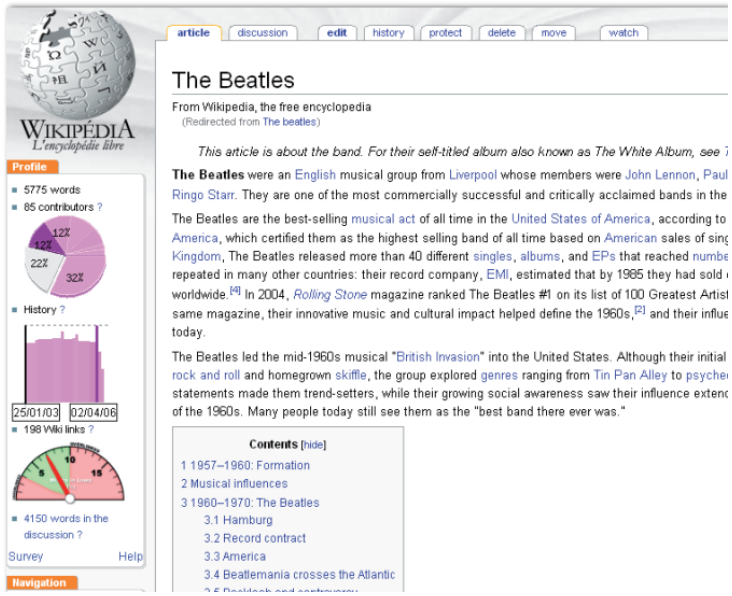
Problem with tuple deletion:

- Tuples are not actually deleted from R until the end of the process execution
- Tuples are added to a deletion table R (tid, tdel, pid, ___)
- Rewriting queries

Use case 1: WikiReactive scenario

Goal: Proposing to Wikipedia readers and contributors some measures of the history of an article





Compute the differences between successive versions of each article

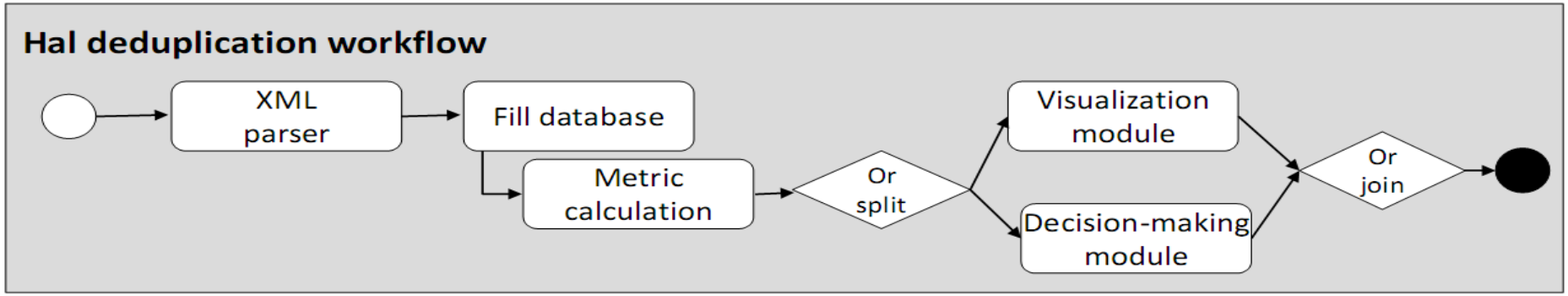
For each user, maintain the total number of characters added, deleted and moved

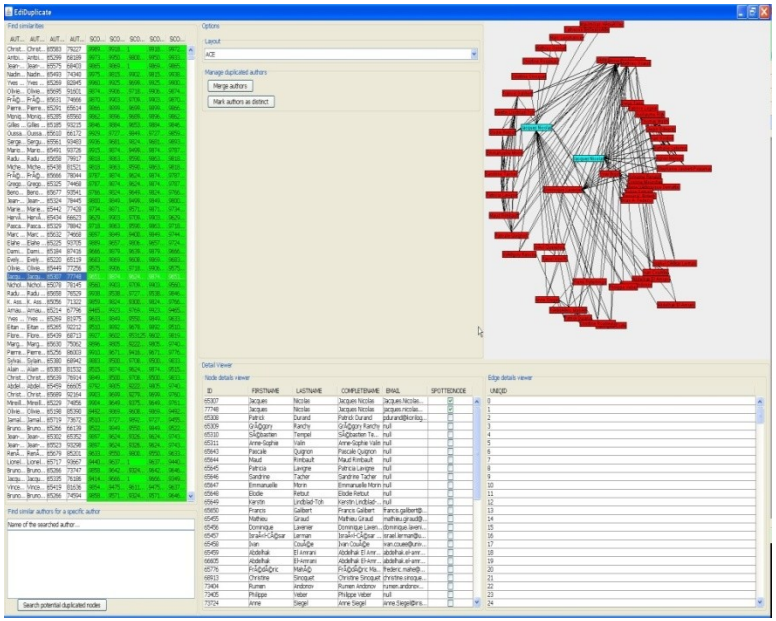
Compute the contribution table storing the identifier of the user who entered it

Compute the number of distinct contributors
Maintain the total number of characters

Use case 2: publication cleaning scenario

Goal: Detecting and helping remove duplicated author entries in a large database of publications.





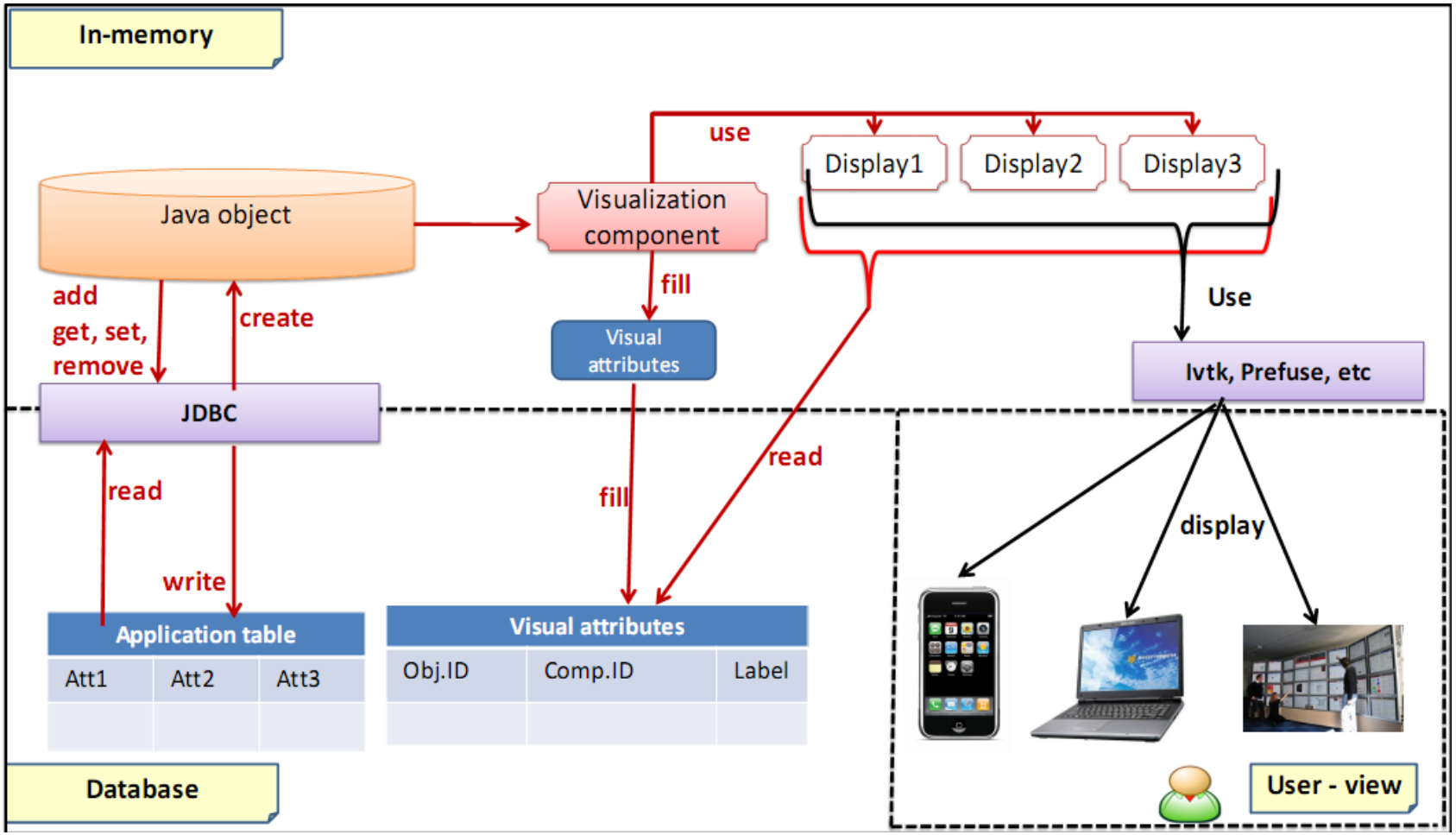
Compute the similarities between the inserted author and all the other already in the table

Show the results of similarities and co-publications graph of an author

Allow the user to decide whether two authors are identical or not

Visualization views management

- Ediflow can maintain several visualization views for one visualization



Visualization views management

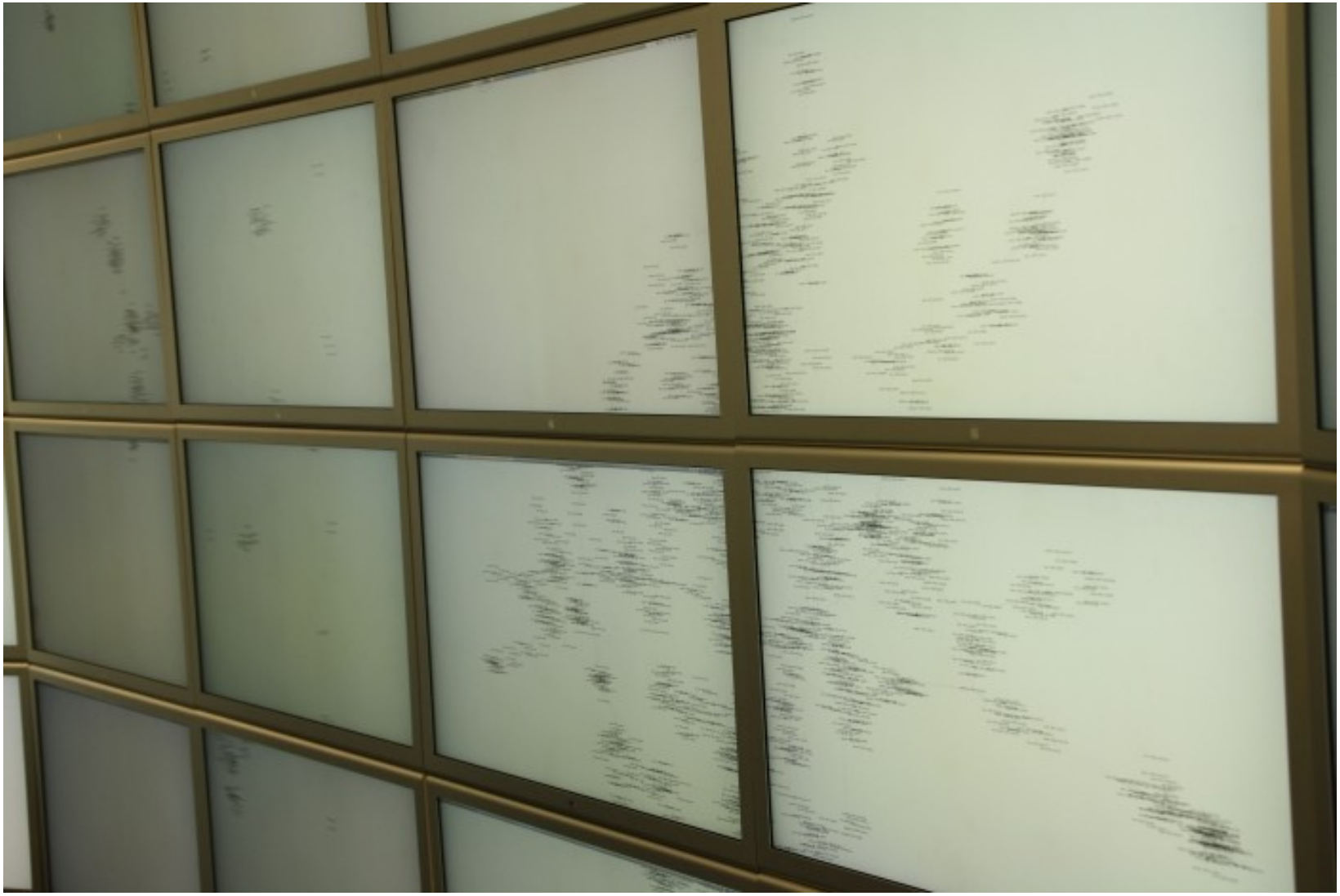
Benefits of this architecture:

- It allows sharing visual attributes by several views
- The computation of visual attributes is done only once
- In line with visual analytics recommended software architecture

Example of co-publications graph in the WILD:

- A cluster of 16 machines to display the graph over 32 screens
- Each machine controls two screens
- Each machine runs an Ediflow instance

Visualization views management



Ediflow tool implementation

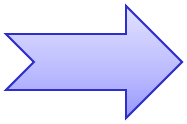
- Implemented in Java
- On top of Oracle 11g DBMS
- Procedures: Java modules in OSGi Service Platform
- A procedure instance is a concrete class implementing the Ediflow Process interface
- Ediflow process requires four methods:
  - initialize()
  - run(ProcessEnv env)
  - update(ProcessEnv env)
  - string getName()

Robustness evaluation

Goal: Study how the Ediflow event processing chain scales when confronted with changes in the data

The DBMS is connected via 100 MHz Ethernet connection to two Ediflow instances running on two machines

- The first Ediflow machine computes visual attributes (runs the layout procedures)
- The second machine extracts nodes from VisualAttributes table and displays the graph



Adding increasing numbers of tuples to the database

Robustness evaluation

Inserting tuples requires performing a sequence of steps:

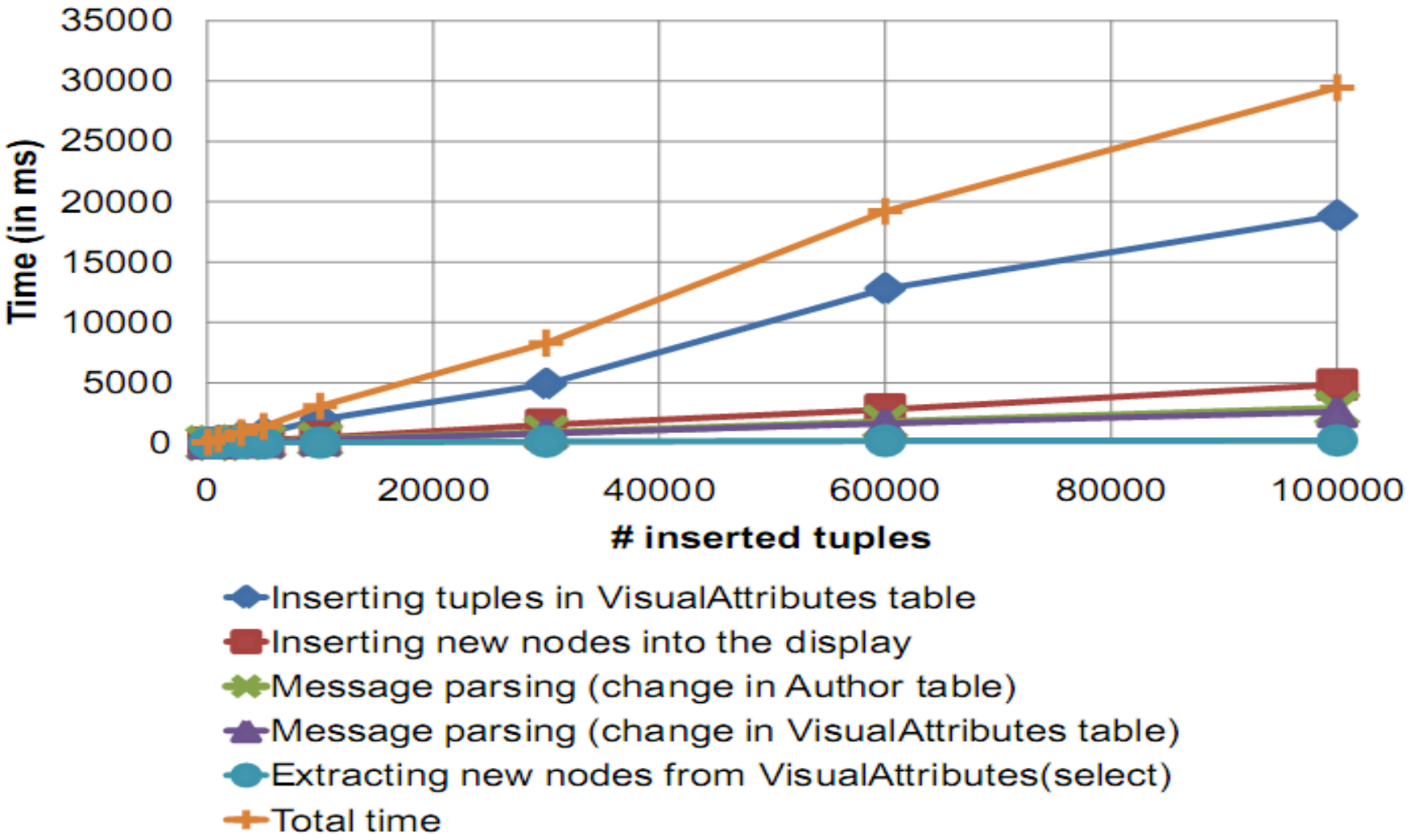
First machine

- Parse the message involved after insertion in nodes table
- Insert the resulting tuples in the VisualAttributes table

- Parse the message involved after the insertion in the VisualAttributes table
- Extract the visual attributes of the new nodes
- Insert new nodes into the display screen of the second machine

Second machine

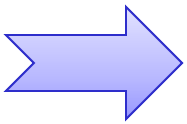
Robustness evaluation



Robustness evaluation

Results:

- The times are compatible with the requirements of interaction
- They grow linearly with the size of inserted tuples
- The dominating time is required to write in the VisualAttributes table



The price to pay for having these attributes stored in a persistent database

Summary

- Design and implementation of Ediflow
- Workflow platform supporting visual analytics
- Ediflow unifies the data model used by all its components
- Supports standard data manipulation through procedures
- Reflects changes in the data through update propagations
- Several options are offered to react to such changes

Perspectives

- Improve the visual table schema
- Specify a collaboration management mechanisms
- Integration with current scientific workflow systems (Vistrail, Kepler, etc)

Thank you.

References

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I. Altintas and C. Berkley and E.Jaeger and M. Jones and B. Ludascher and S. Mock. **Kepler : An Extensible System for Design and Execution of Scientic Workows**.
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The ORCHESTRA Collaborative Data Sharing System.
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The Kepler scientific workflow platform

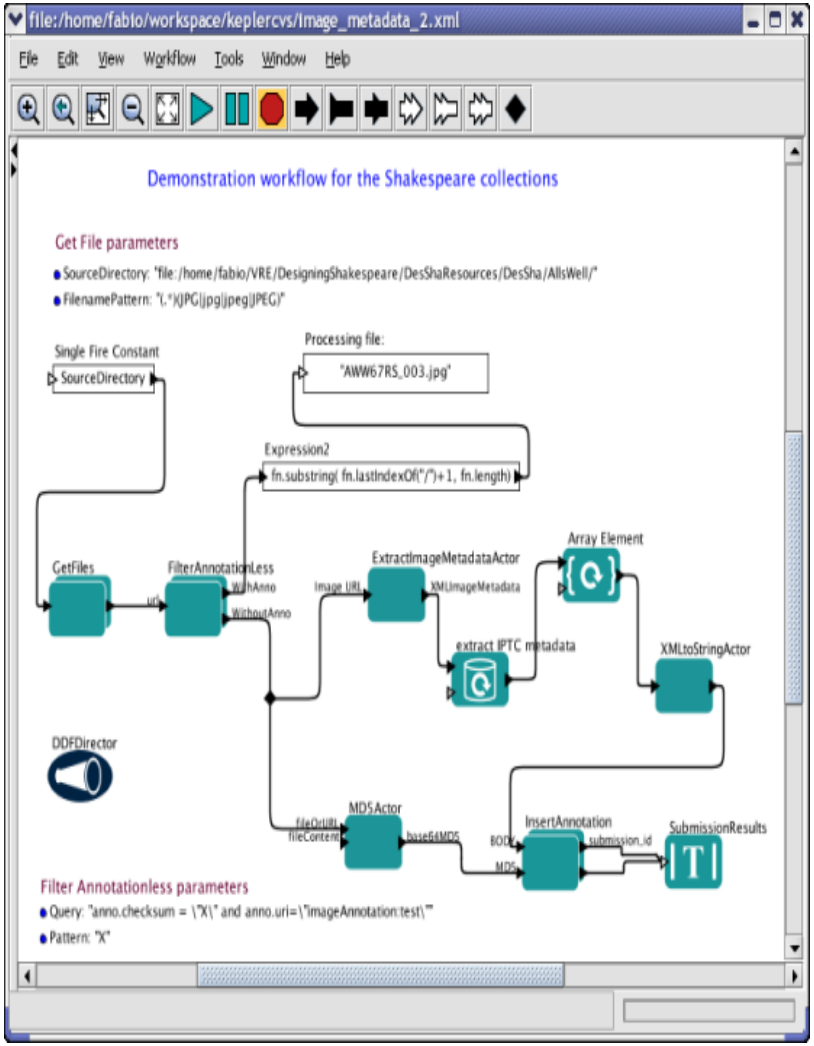
Recent and well-developed scientic workow project

Helps scientists and analysts to create, execute and share models

Provides a GUI to create scientic workow

No mechanism to handle dynamic data

Visualization remains external



The Orchestra platform

Data-centric P2P platform for scientific applications

Dedicated to bioinformatics

Focuses on data exchange mapping across different sources

Each peer's DB is updated to reflect updates in the other peers

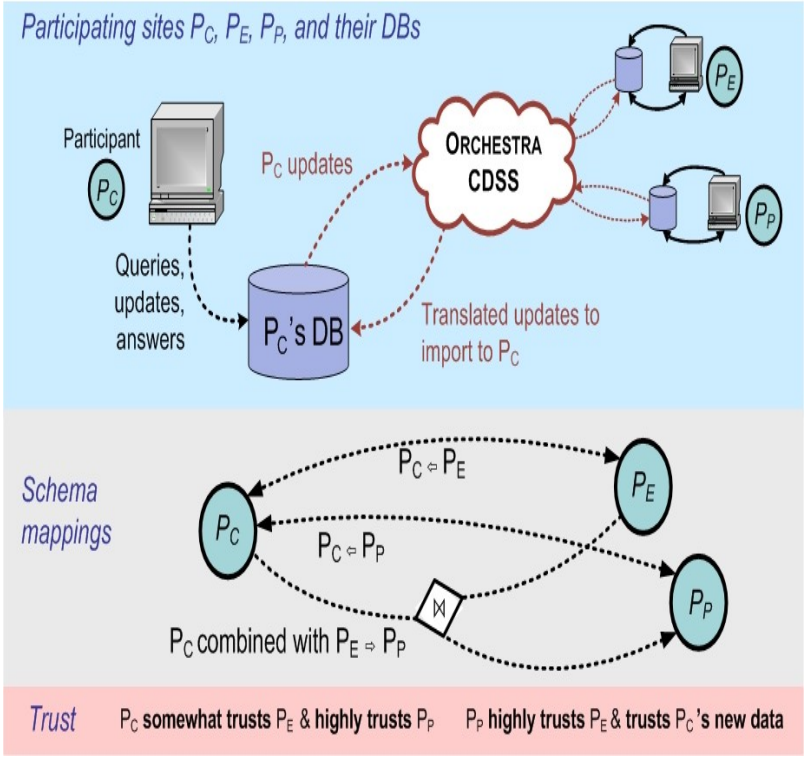
No visualization

No interactivity

Leaves out external computations

ORCHESTRA

*Propagates updates among autonomous participants' DBs, using **schema mappings** plus **trust** to give each participant **full control of what is imported***



The Vistrail platform

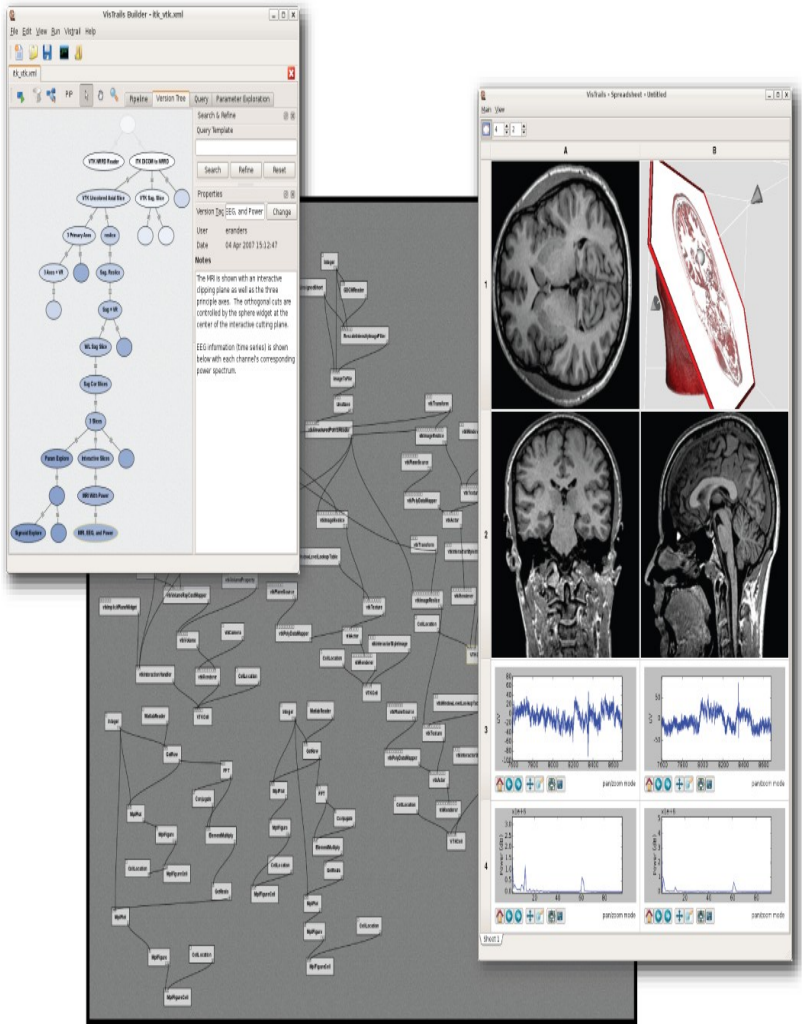
Combines features of workflow systems and visual analytics

Manages exploratory activities

Iteratively refines computational tasks

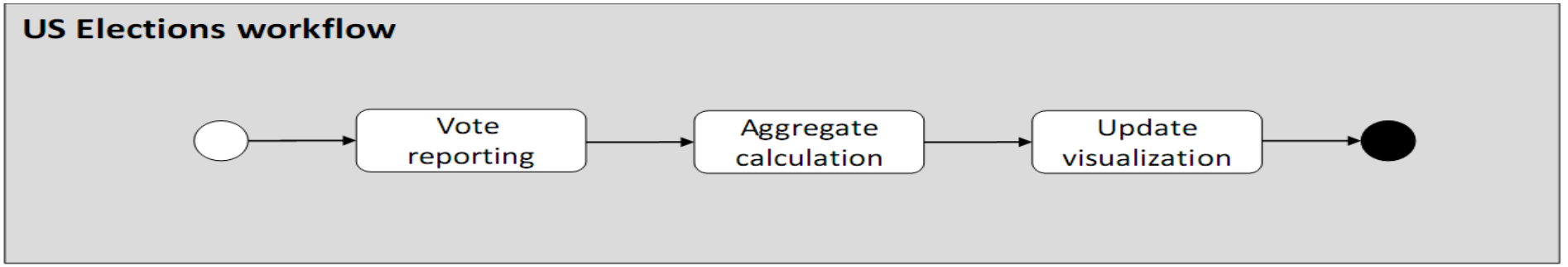
Maintains detailed provenance of the exploration process

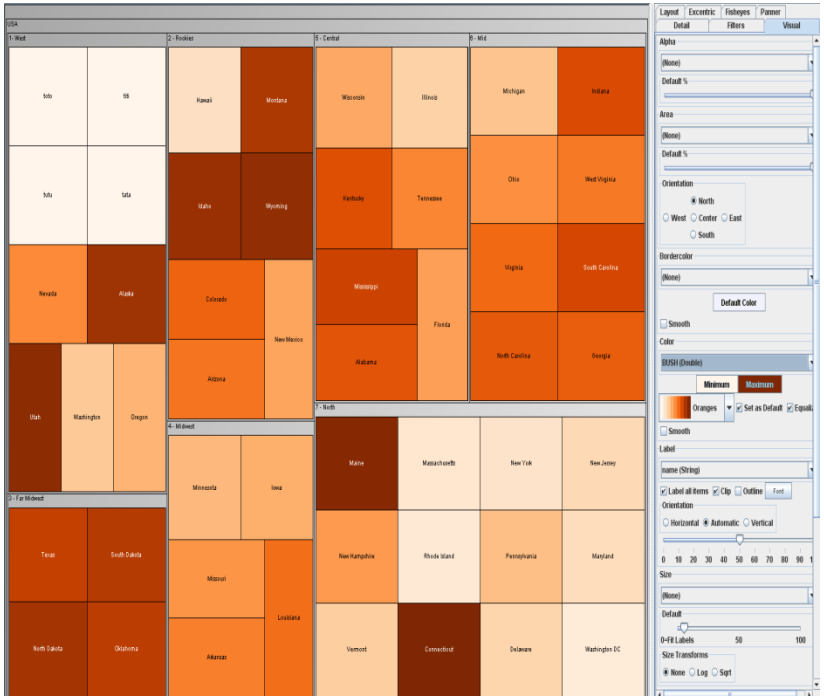
No support for data dynamicity



Use case 1: election scenario

Goal: Monitoring the results of the American presidential election





Retrieve the results of votes and update the database

Compute and store the number of votes of each party in each state in an aggregated table

Update the visualization and the view to reflect the new votes

Process model – Structured process

Process	: :=	Configuration Constant* Variable+ Relation+ Procedure* StructProcess
Configuration	: :=	DBdriver DBuri DBuser
Constant	: :=	name value name $\in N$, value $\in V$
Variable	: :=	name type name $\in N$, type $\in T$
Relation	: :=	name primaryKey RelType
RelationType	: :=	(attName attType)* attName $\in N$, attType $\in T$
Procedure	: :=	name classPath
StructuredProcess	: :=	Activity | Sequence | AndSplitJoin | OrSplitJoin | ConditionalProcess
Sequence	: :=	Activity , StructuredProcess
AndSplitJoin	: :=	**AND-split** (StructuredProcess)+ **AND-join**
OrSplitJoin	: :=	**OR-split** (StructuredProcess)+ **OR-join**
ConditionalProcess	: :=	**IF** Condition StructuredProcess
Activity	: :=	activityName Expression
Expression	: :=	askUser | callProcedure | runQuery