



Visualization @ IEETA/DETI: some past and recent work

Beatriz Sousa Santos, colleagues & students
DETI/IEETA University of Aveiro, Portugal

University of Aveiro

Created in 1973

In a small well localized and connected city

Devoted mostly to science/technology

~15 000 students



Modern award winning Campus

Overseeing the lagoon





deti

departamento de electrónica,
telecomunicações e informática



ieeta

- DETI is a broad spectrum ECE Department offering programs at BSc, MSc, and PhD level in the fields of Electronics, Telecommunications, Computer and Informatics Engineering
- Two Research Institutes:
 - Electronics and Informatics
 - Telecommunications





- Our MSc students should be prepared to design, implement and evaluate new computing systems and methods (S/W and H/W) having an introduction to research in several areas
- Informatics Eng., Computer Eng., Electrical Eng.
- Cybersecurity , Robotics, Data Science, Digital games
- With other Departments ...

- PhD Programs: 2 local + 2 with Un. Porto + Un. Minho

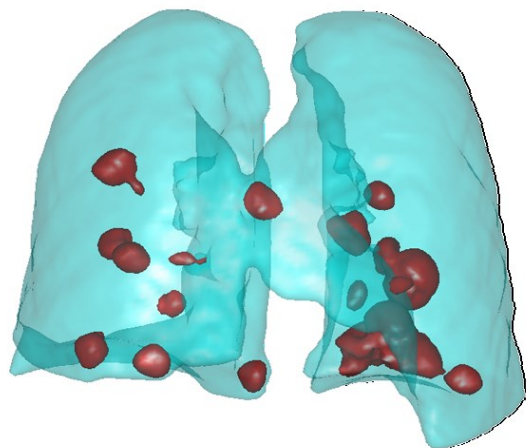
Information Visualization course

- Mandatory for the Informatics Engineering MSc
- Elective for other programs
- 3h/week x 15 weeks
- ~ 40 students

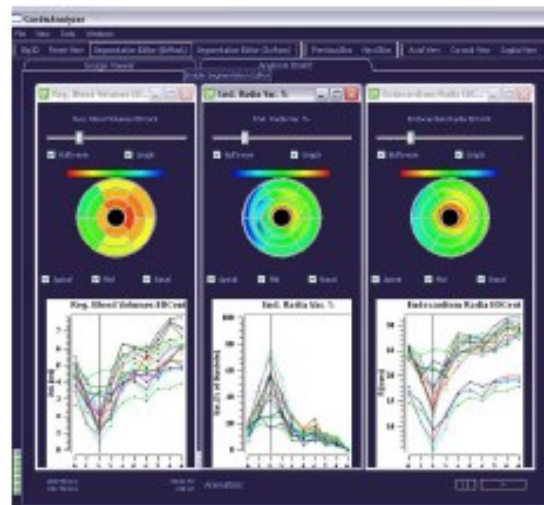
- My Research:
- Two sub-fields of Computer Engineering:
 - Mixed Reality
 - Visualization 
- Interactive/visual systems and methods:
 - Useful
 - Usable Human-centered!
 - Affordable

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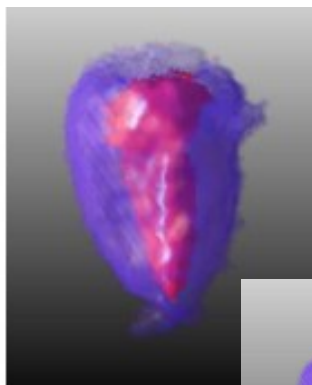
Medical Data Visualization



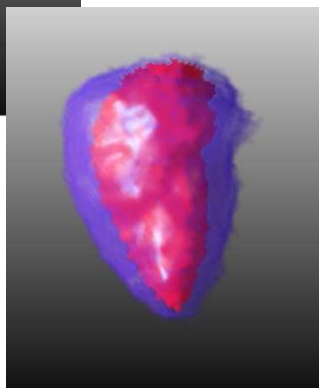
Tomography
(2004)



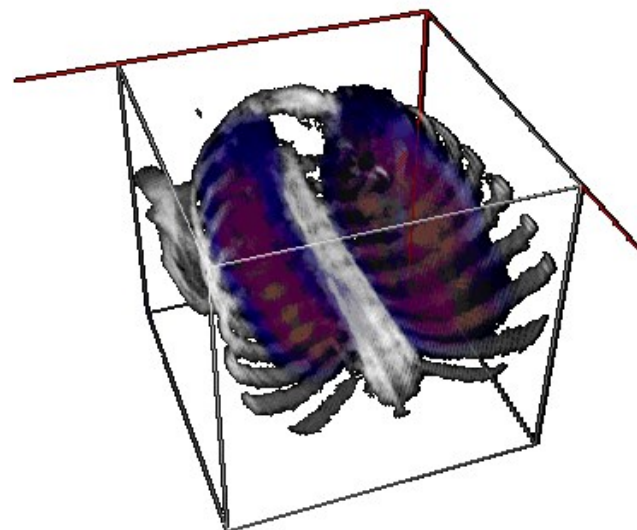
Tomography (2011)



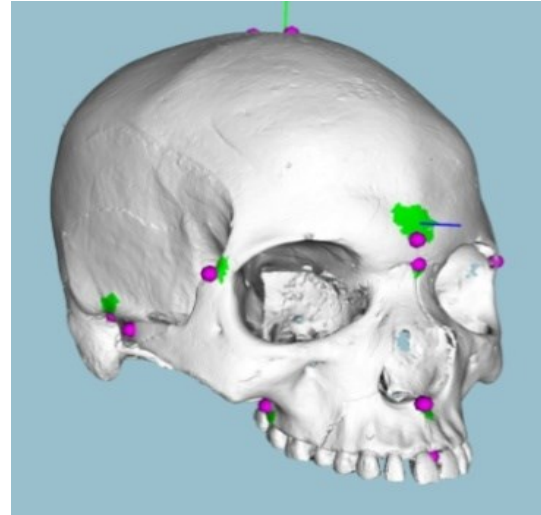
MD Tomography
(2008)



Tomography and SPECT
(1996)

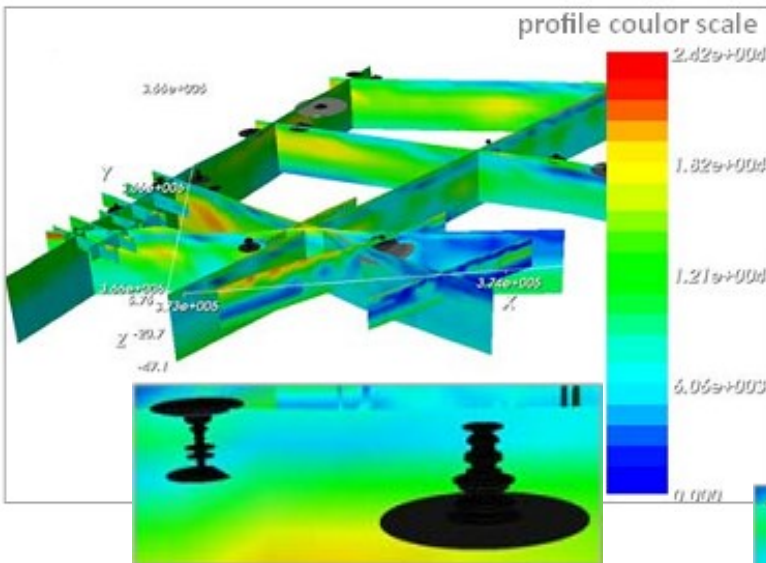
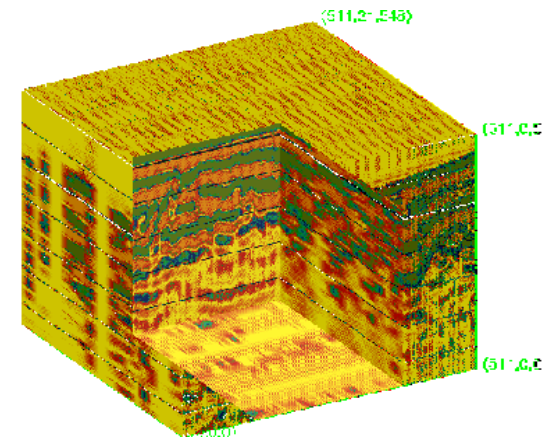


Scientific Data Visualization



**Anthropology
(Laser scanner) (2015)**

**Ground
Penetrating Radar (1999)**



**Geophysics
Electrical and mechanical
ground resistivity (2014)**

Some recent works

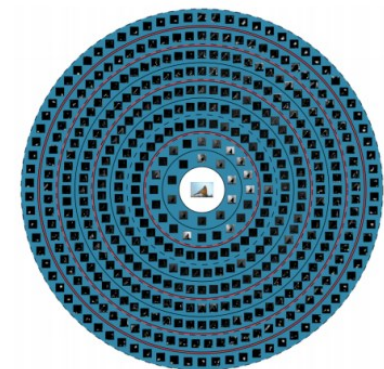
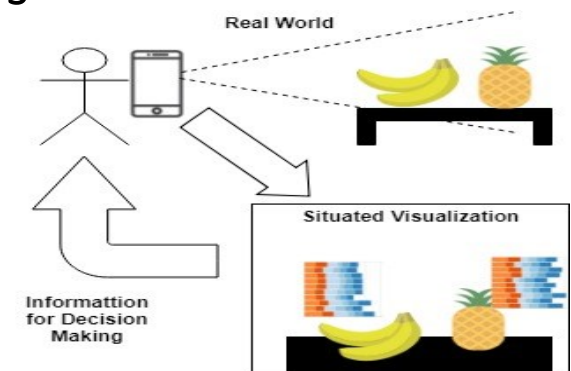
- Different “threads”:

- “Utilitarian” – FICAVis

visualizing UA academic data for program and Department Directors

- Merging with other interests (AR):
Situated Visualization

- New interest: using Visualization in XAI





Fábio Ferreira et al.
“FICAvis: Data Visualization to Prevent University Dropout”, *24th Int. Conf. Information Visualisation, IV 2020*, Vienna, 2020



The Problem:

~30% of the students dropped out of Portuguese Higher education
(DGEEC, 2018)

UA launched the FICA project to overcome

- Difficulty in monitoring and follow-up of students
- Poorly structured academic data

- Objectives:
 - Foster academic success
 - Prevent dropout
 - Identify failure risk indicators

- Stakeholders:
 - Program Directors
 - Department Directors
 - Rectory staff



FICA@UA – integração e monitorização dos estudantes do 1.º ano

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Palavras-chave
Integração; Sucesso académico; Abandono.

Introdução
Atenta ao desafio que comporta a transição dos estudantes do ensino secundário para o ensino superior e, ciente da importância que tem para o sucesso dos seus estudantes uma boa integração, a Universidade de Aveiro (UA) tem apostado na consolidação e no desenvolvimento de atividades e mecanismos que visam contribuir para a adaptação, pessoal e social, do estudante à realidade do ensino superior e para o seu sucesso académico. Essas iniciativas agrupam-se num só projeto designado por FICA - Ferramentas de Identificação e Combate ao Abandono (Figura 1).

As quatro ações do FICA são:

- **Programa de Acolhimento** (Figura 2) - acolhimento dos estudantes na UA e suas cidades;
- **Observatório do Percorso dos Estudantes** - permite identificar situações de risco de insucesso e de abandono à instituição;
- **Programa de Apoio e Formação para Docentes** - integrando workshops e sessões de partilha de práticas;
- **Programa de Tutoria** (Figura 3) - promove a inserção plena dos estudantes na academia, contribuindo para o seu bem-estar e sucesso académico, pessoal e social;



Figura 2 - Programa de Acolhimento



Figura 3 - Programa de Tutoria

Objetivos
Pretende-se apresentar o projeto FICA e as suas quatro ações, bem como alguns dos resultados obtidos, com particular atenção para a identificação de indicadores de risco e fatores de insucesso dos estudantes do 1.º ano no ensino superior.

Metodologia
O projeto desenvolveu-se através da implementação de quatro ações integradas (Figura 1), passando de uma lógica de iniciativas discretas para uma lógica de articulação, consolidação e expansão. Neste processo, destaca-se o desenvolvimento de um Observatório do Percorso dos Estudantes, que permitiu a disponibilização mensal, aos Diretores de Curso, de informação sobre os estudantes do 1.º ano.

Resultados

Os resultados globais do Observatório (FICA 2015'16) revelam que:

- cerca de 70% dos estudantes inscritos no 1.º ano na UA realizaram >=50% dos ECTS;
- destes, mais de 30% totalizaram 100% dos ECTS;
- cerca de 30% deste público realizou <50% dos ECTS (Figura 4). Estes resultados foram objeto de análise posterior.

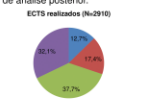


Figura 4 - Sucesso/insucesso no 1.º ano - global

Neste contexto, a implementação do projeto FICA ao longo do ano letivo de 2015/16 suscitou uma reflexão sobre o melhoramento da capacidade de detetar situações de risco e de agir atempadamente na prevenção do insucesso e/ou abandono. Verificou-se que o Programa de Tutoria poderia ser uma 'ferramenta' relevante neste âmbito.

Por fim, identificaram-se ações de melhoria a implementar na procura de cada vez mais sucesso académico dos estudantes, na transição para o ensino superior.

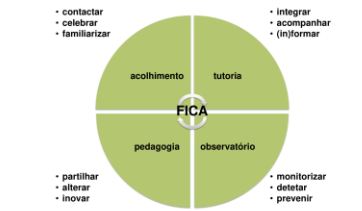


Figura 1 - Diagrama síntese do projeto FICA

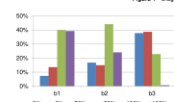


Figura 5 - Sucesso/insucesso no 1.º ano - por subgrupos

Esta análise permitiu, assim, a identificação de alguns públicos vulneráveis e com maior risco de insucesso e/ou abandono, nomeadamente, os estudantes que:

- possuem mais de 50% dos ECTS em atraso do 1.º ano;
- frequentam cursos MI ou TESP;
- frequentam cursos nas áreas CNAEF: Ciências, Matemática e Informática / Engenharia, Indústrias Transformadoras e Construção / Serviços;
- têm baixo índice de assiduidade;
- têm prögramas em atraso;
- ingressaram na CNA;
- em 5.ª e 6.ª opções;
- na 2.ª e na 3.ª fases;
- com classificação inferior a 120 pontos;
- ingressaram noutro tipo de acesso, para além do regime geral.

Conclusões
O FICA permitiu monitorizar e caracterizar o sucesso/insucesso dos estudantes do 1.º ano, na globalidade e por diversos fatores identificados, potenciando o papel do Diretor de Curso como central na prevenção do insucesso e do eventual abandono. Neste sentido, salienta-se a importância da disponibilização regular de informação aos Diretores de Curso, apoiando a capacidade de monitorizar, detetar e agir em situações de eventual risco. Evidencia-se, ainda, a relevância institucional da identificação fundamentada de grupos de risco para o desenho de ações de melhoria de sucesso académico, direcionadas e eficazes no âmbito das dimensões trabalhadas: acolhimento, acompanhamento, monitorização e pedagogia. Sublinha-se, por último, a integração das medidas tomadas em torno da finalidade comum, reconhecendo-se que, para se tornarem bem-sucedidas, têm que ser intencionais e estruturadas (Tinto, 2009).

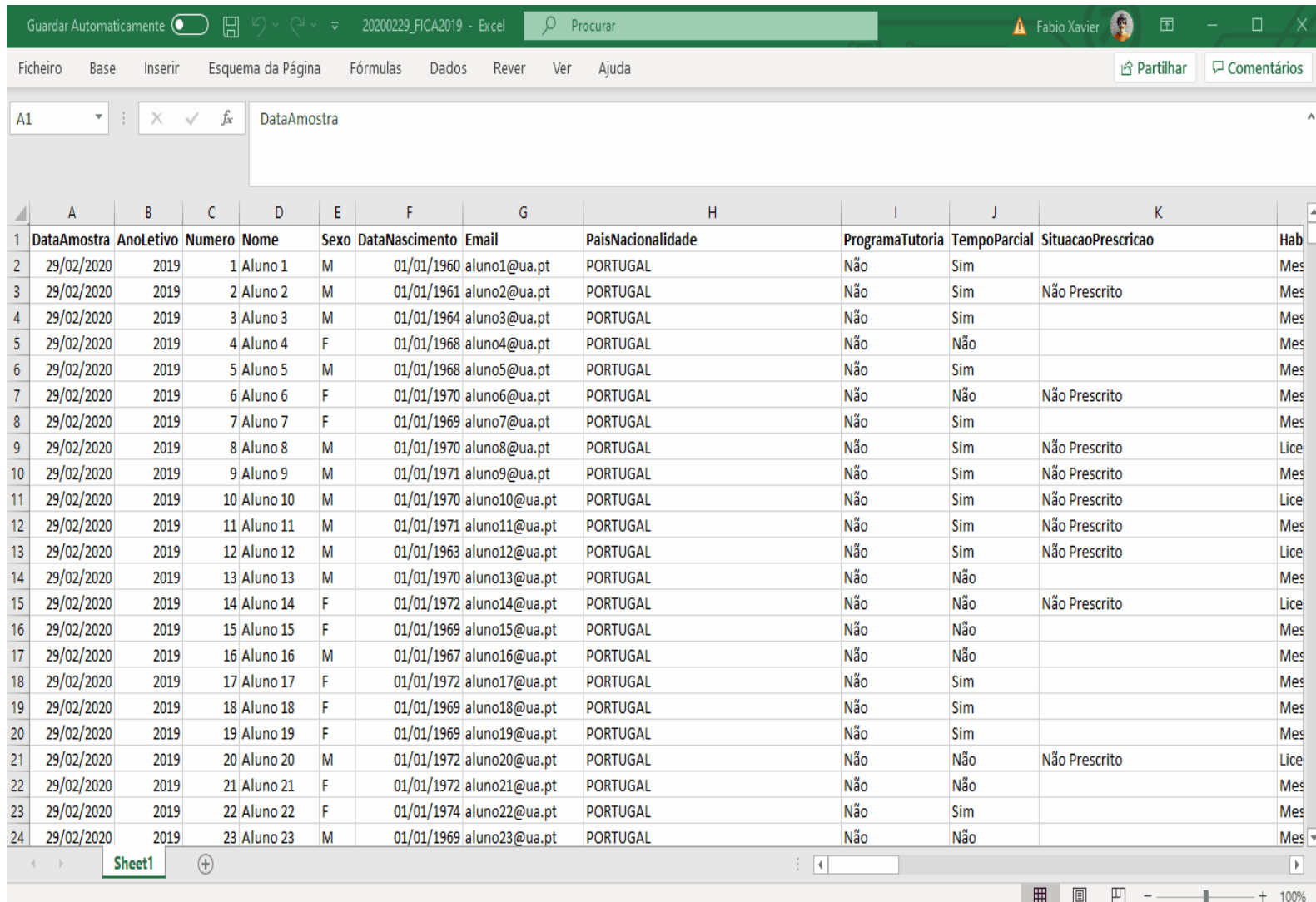
Referências
Moreira, G., Ferreira da Silva, E. e Rafael, J. A. (2015). Desafios identificados e práticas adotadas na promoção do sucesso escolar. *Seminário Sucesso Académico*. Lisboa, Teatro Thalia, DGEEC.

Tinto, V. (2009). Taking Student Retention Seriously: Rethinking the First Year of University. *Keynote speech delivered at the ALTC FYE Curriculum Design Symposium*, Queensland, University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, February 5, 2009. Available at www.fyec2009.qld.edu.au/resources/SPE_VincentTinto_5Feb09.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2017.

Indicators associated with risk situations

- Achievement: academic success rate below 50%
- Fees: late tuition fees
- Scholarship: requested a scholarship and did not obtain
- Entry grade: Entry score below 120/200 points
- Attendance: at least one course with attendance <50%
- SWLS Scale: low life satisfaction level
- SPANE Scale: negative experience

The Data: collected by the Academic Services



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
1	DataAmostra	AnoLetivo	Numero	Nome	Sexo	DataNascimento	Email	PaisNacionalidade	ProgramaTutoria	TempoParcial	SituacaoPrescricao	Hab
2	29/02/2020	2019	1	Aluno 1	M	01/01/1960	aluno1@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
3	29/02/2020	2019	2	Aluno 2	M	01/01/1961	aluno2@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim	Não Prescrito	Mes
4	29/02/2020	2019	3	Aluno 3	M	01/01/1964	aluno3@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
5	29/02/2020	2019	4	Aluno 4	F	01/01/1968	aluno4@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não		Mes
6	29/02/2020	2019	5	Aluno 5	M	01/01/1968	aluno5@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
7	29/02/2020	2019	6	Aluno 6	F	01/01/1970	aluno6@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não	Não Prescrito	Mes
8	29/02/2020	2019	7	Aluno 7	F	01/01/1969	aluno7@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
9	29/02/2020	2019	8	Aluno 8	M	01/01/1970	aluno8@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim	Não Prescrito	Lice
10	29/02/2020	2019	9	Aluno 9	M	01/01/1971	aluno9@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim	Não Prescrito	Mes
11	29/02/2020	2019	10	Aluno 10	M	01/01/1970	aluno10@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim	Não Prescrito	Lice
12	29/02/2020	2019	11	Aluno 11	M	01/01/1971	aluno11@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim	Não Prescrito	Mes
13	29/02/2020	2019	12	Aluno 12	M	01/01/1963	aluno12@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim	Não Prescrito	Lice
14	29/02/2020	2019	13	Aluno 13	M	01/01/1970	aluno13@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não		Mes
15	29/02/2020	2019	14	Aluno 14	F	01/01/1972	aluno14@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não	Não Prescrito	Lice
16	29/02/2020	2019	15	Aluno 15	F	01/01/1969	aluno15@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não		Mes
17	29/02/2020	2019	16	Aluno 16	M	01/01/1967	aluno16@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não		Mes
18	29/02/2020	2019	17	Aluno 17	F	01/01/1972	aluno17@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
19	29/02/2020	2019	18	Aluno 18	F	01/01/1969	aluno18@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
20	29/02/2020	2019	19	Aluno 19	F	01/01/1969	aluno19@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
21	29/02/2020	2019	20	Aluno 20	M	01/01/1972	aluno20@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não	Não Prescrito	Lice
22	29/02/2020	2019	21	Aluno 21	F	01/01/1972	aluno21@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não		Mes
23	29/02/2020	2019	22	Aluno 22	F	01/01/1974	aluno22@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Sim		Mes
24	29/02/2020	2019	23	Aluno 23	M	01/01/1969	aluno23@ua.pt	PORTUGAL	Não	Não		Mes

Provided to the users in a not usable format!

FICAVIS:

Visual data exploration application
integrated with the University systems

User-centered design:

- Starting from the users' needs and motivations
- Involving several iterations
- Including UX evaluation in each iteration

Participatory design:

involving target users
along the design process



Understanding the problem:



- two focus group sessions:
 - Two program directors
 - vice-director of different engineering programs
 - professor of a large first year course with a significant failure rate
- videoconference interviews
 - with an advisor to the rectory concerning the FICA project

The questions:

- What was the average grade of the students in the program?
- What was the distribution of student achievement in the program?
- Is there any difference between success at the end of both semesters?
- How was a particular students' path throughout the academic year?
- Which students do not satisfy a specific indicator?
- How does a specific attribute influence the performance of students?
- How many students have suspended enrolment in a given month?

FICAVIS: the solution

- PowerBI report for each user profile:
 - Program Director
 - Department Director
 - Rectory staff
- Multi-coordinated views into the dataset through several visualizations
- To answer the questions



<https://info.microsoft.com/ww-landing-2020-gartner-magic-quadrant-for-analytics-and-business-intelligence.html>

Data preprocessing



Query editor



Relation Model



Visualizations

- Combine all FICA files in a logic table
- Filtering not relevant data
- Change some attribute data type C
- Create the final Data table

```
Data =  
VAR BaseCalendar = CALENDARAUTO()  
RETURN  
GENERATE (  
  BaseCalendar,  
  VAR BaseDate = [Date]  
  VAR YearDate = YEAR ( BaseDate )  
  VAR MonthNumber = MONTH ( BaseDate )  
  VAR MonthName = FORMAT ( BaseDate, "mmm" )  
  VAR MonthShort = FORMAT ( BaseDate, "MMM" )  
  VAR YearMonthName = FORMAT ( BaseDate, "MMM yyyy" )  
  RETURN ROW (  
    "Dia", BaseDate,  
    "Ano", YearDate,  
    "Mês Número", MonthNumber,  
    "Mês", MonthName,  
    "Mês Short", MonthShort,  
    "Ano Mês", YearMonthName  
  )  
)
```

- Data transformation

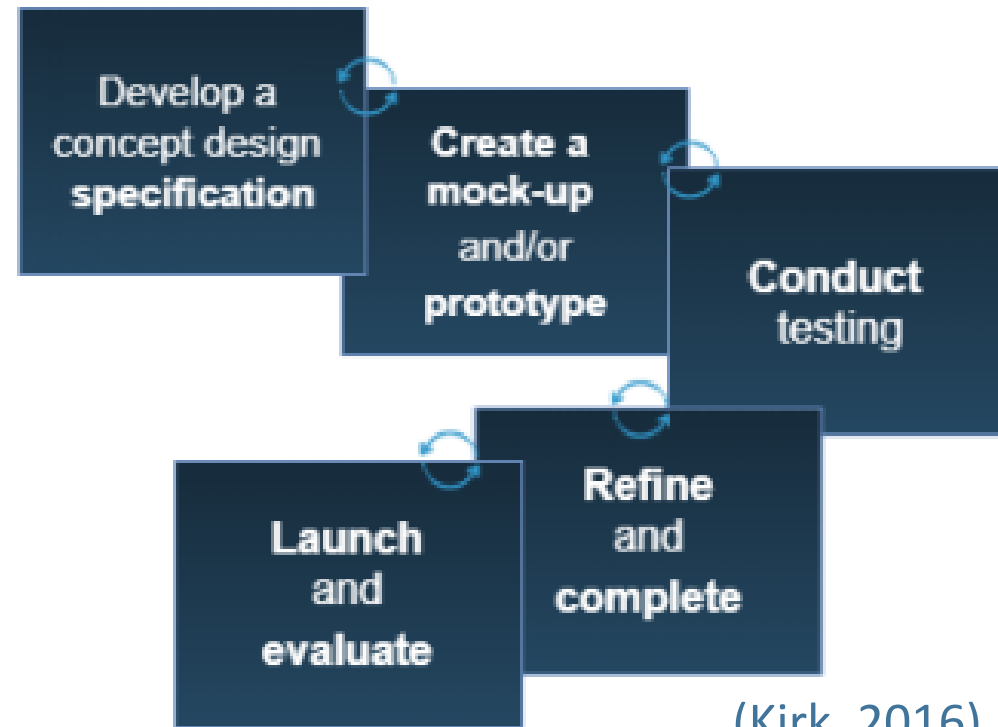
- Visual encoding

- Presentation in coordinated dashboards



- Two prototypes

- Two evaluation methods:
 - Heuristic evaluation
 - Expert review/testing



(Kirk, 2016)

Take away:

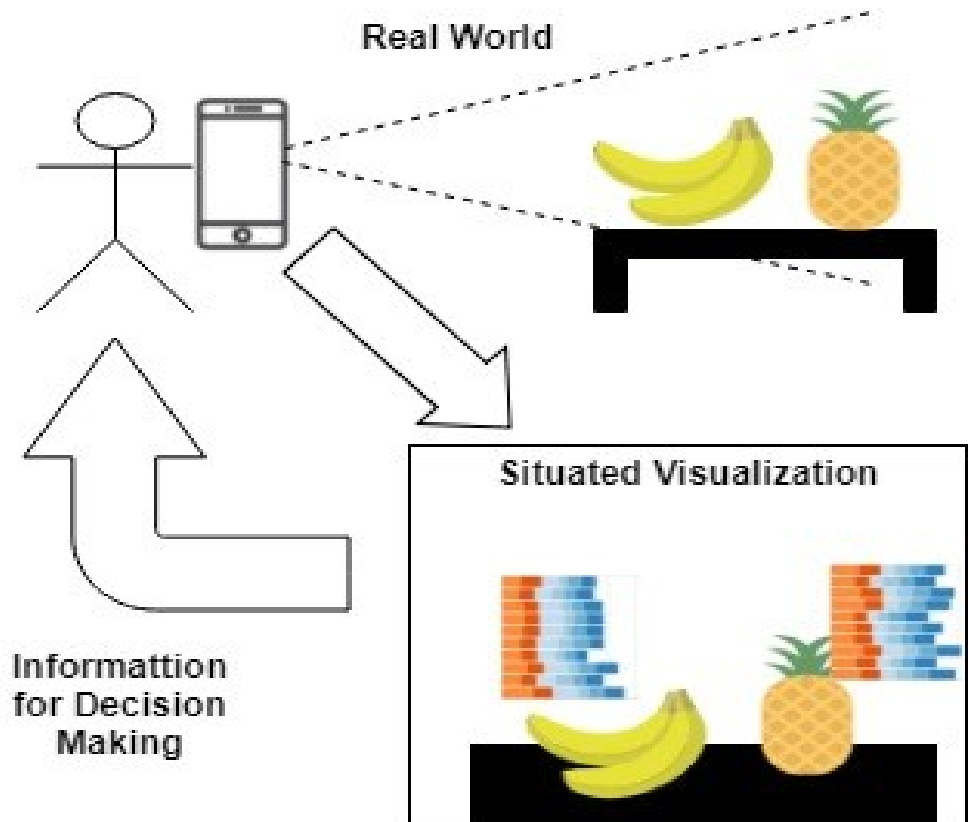
- It was essential to:
 - Devote much time to understand the problem
 - Have the participation of domain experts along the process

Current status and future work:

- Integrate with the University systems (security layer)
- Consider different Director profiles (e.g humanities, arts...)
- Deploy a beta version



Bernardo Marques, Beatriz Sousa Santos, Tiago Araújo, Nuno C. Martins, João B. Alves, Paulo Dias, “Situated Visualization in the decision process through Augmented Reality”, *23rd Int. Conf on Information Visualization, IV2019, Paris, 2019*



The problem

- Decision-making has always been immanent to human nature
- Visualizing data in context may foster better decisions
- Helping in numerous scenarios (e.g. in smart shop-floors)



Motivation

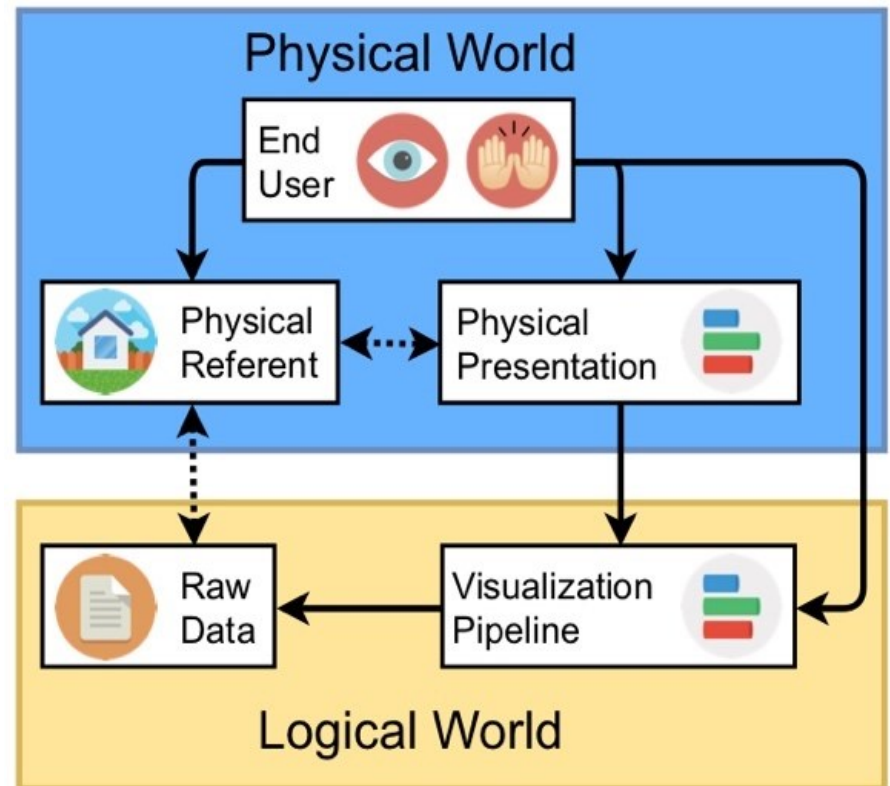
- Situated Visualization (SV) allows present data in context
- Using Augmented Reality (AR) as a tool for SV in decision has become feasible, since AR is now more mature, and affordable
- **Understand current contributions provided by SV using AR in the decision-making process**

Situated Visualization

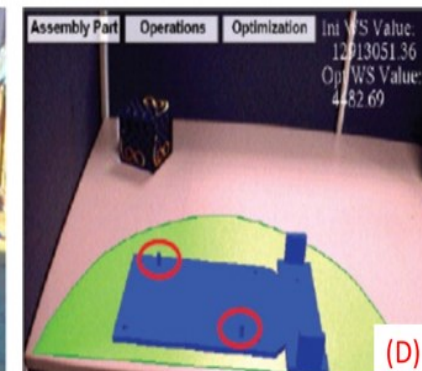
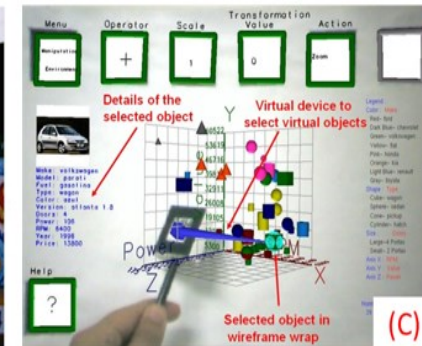
“A visualization **related to its environment**, gaining meaning through the relationship between the visualization and the environment”:

Note that:

- using AR technology to display visualizations does not imply that that visualizations are situated
- SV is agnostic to the type of data (abstract or physically-based)



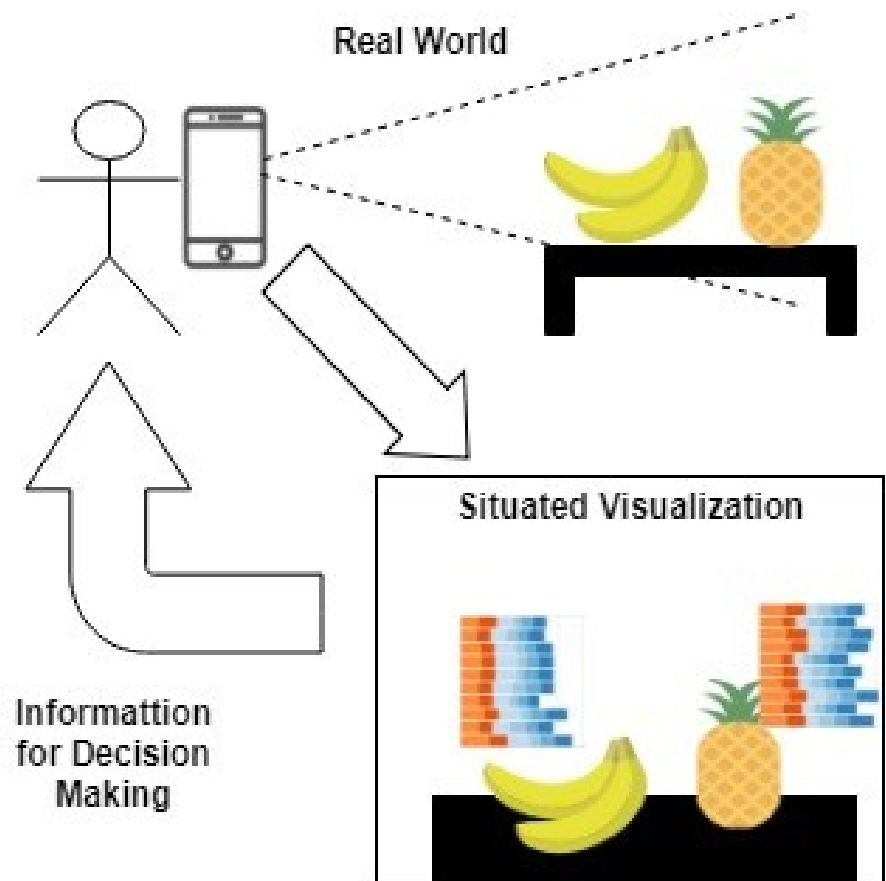
- Spatial “situatedness” may be on a continuum
- It is possible to define Time and Perceptual situatedness
- SV has several potential benefits and new challenges when compared to traditional AR-based visualizations



SV and Decision-making

SV may extend DSS applicability beyond the desktop through AR

providing support to decision-makers “anytime, anywhere”

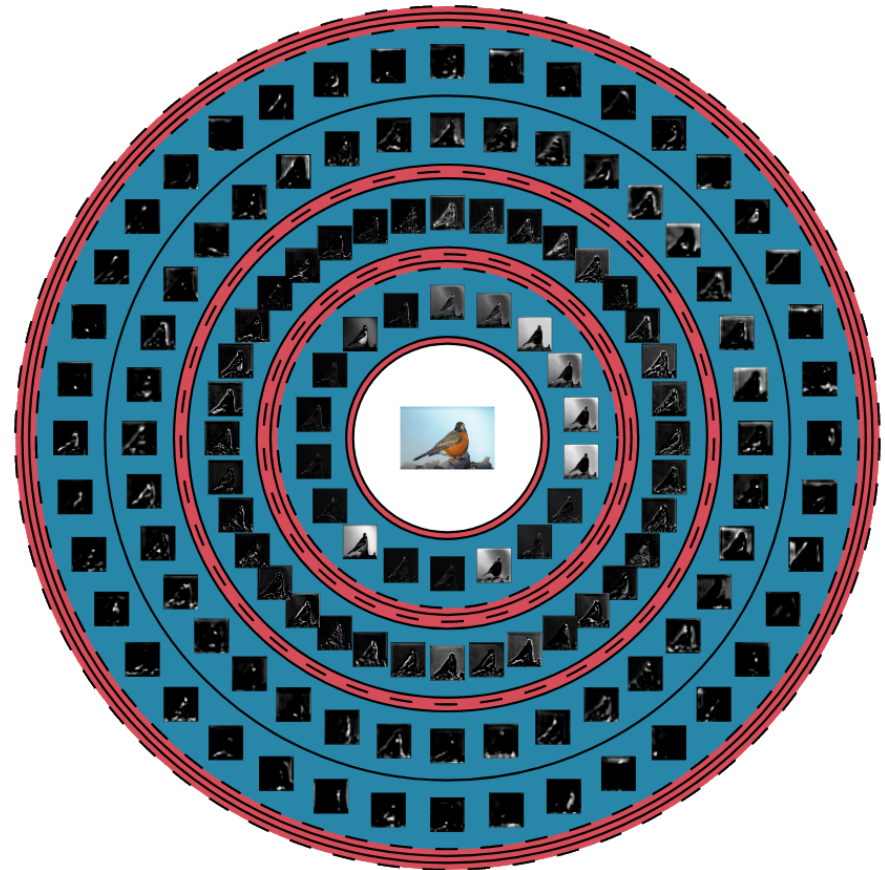


SV in Decision Making – Current usages

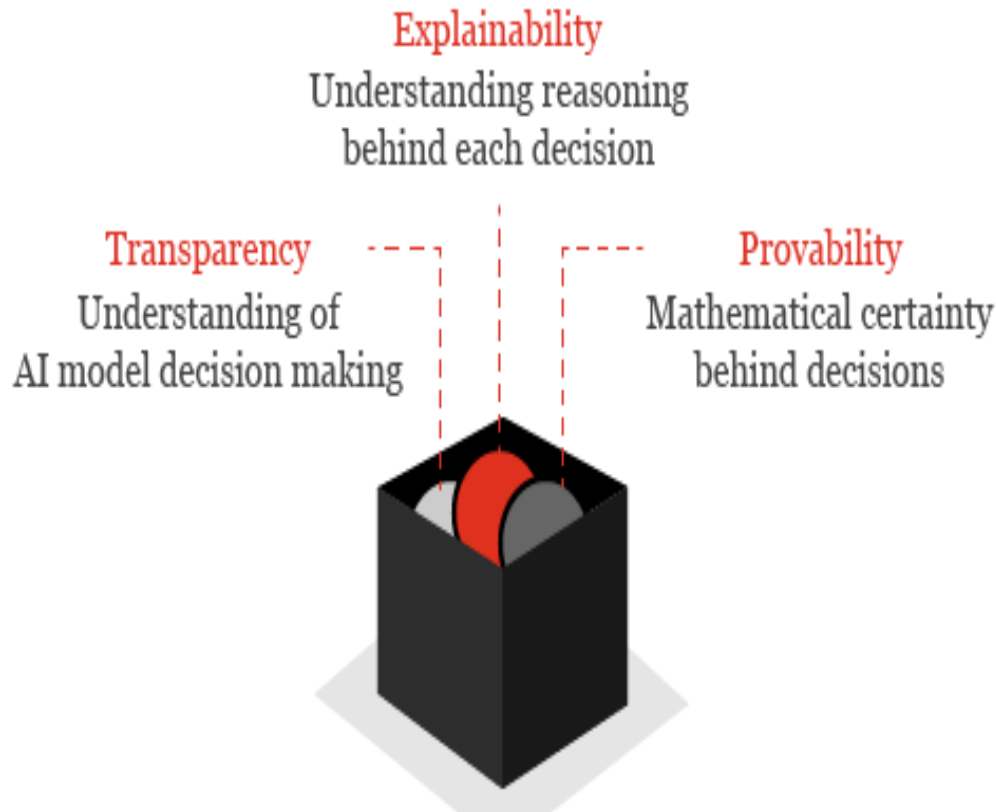
- A reduced number of applications using AR with DSS
- Exploratory examples:
 - Interior design;
 - Architectural design;
 - Construction;
 - Industrial maintenance;
 - Training;
 - Safety management,
 - ...
- It has potential to improve tools to assist in many application areas
Research should continue!



João B. Alves, Tiago Araújo,
et al., “DeepRings: A
Concentric-Ring Based
Visualization to Understand
Deep Learning Models”,
*24th Int. Conference
Information Visualisation,
IV2020, Vienna, 2020*



The problem



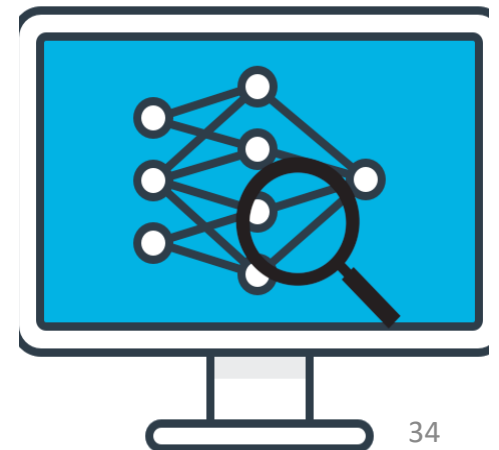
- Lack of machines' behavior validation limits a broader adoption of AI technology
- GDPR seeks to provide users with meaningful information about algorithmic decisions

Motivation

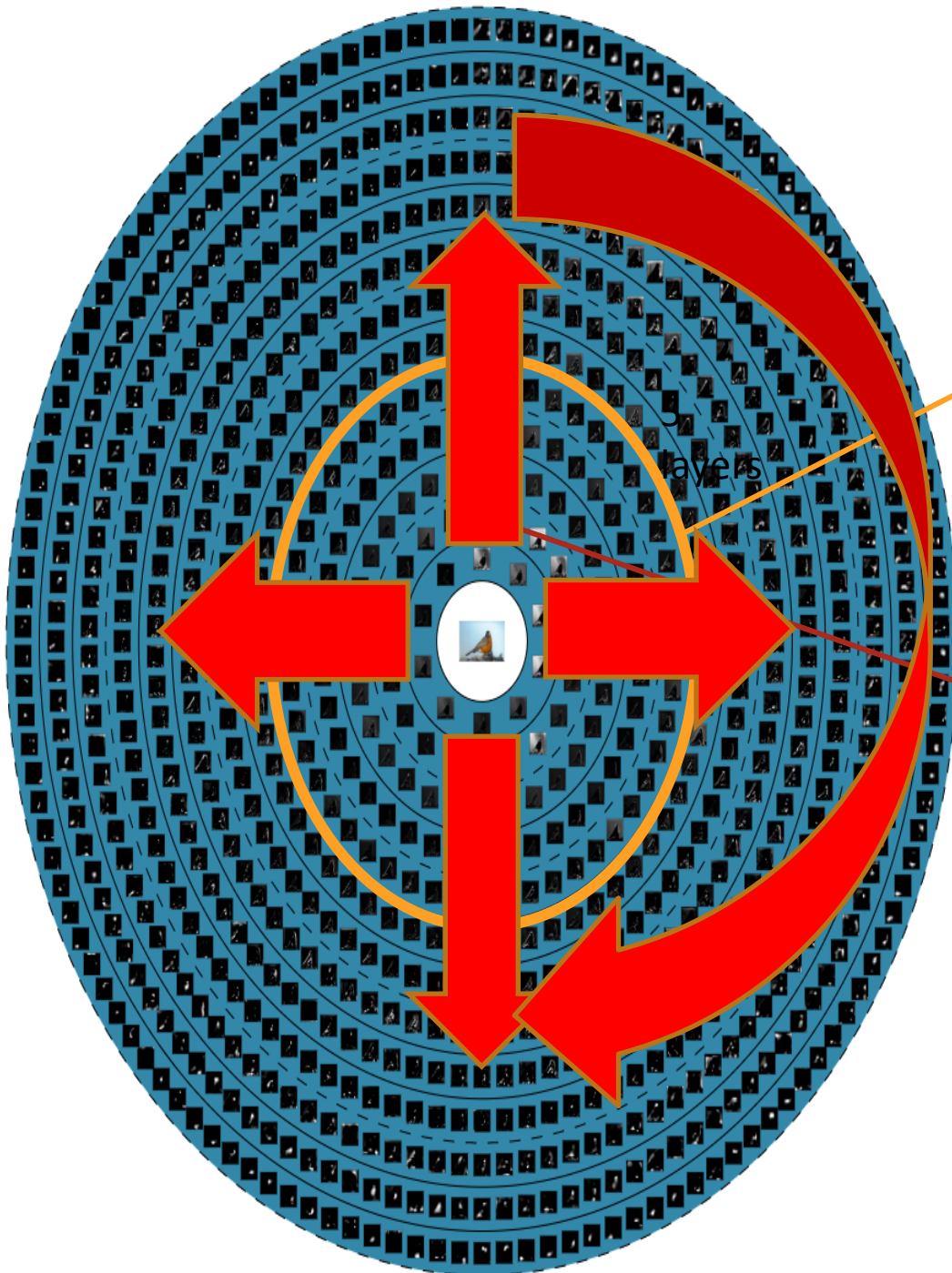
- Currently, largescale model predictions are often computed from a consecutive number of layers
- Not presenting a global perspective first can lead the user to miss the bigger picture
- Common visualization solutions do not comprise the features of a DNN representation

Objectives

- Provide a representation that considers the DNN structure
- Develop a visualization to:
 - Present feature maps from several convolutional layers at once
 - Convey their hierarchical structure



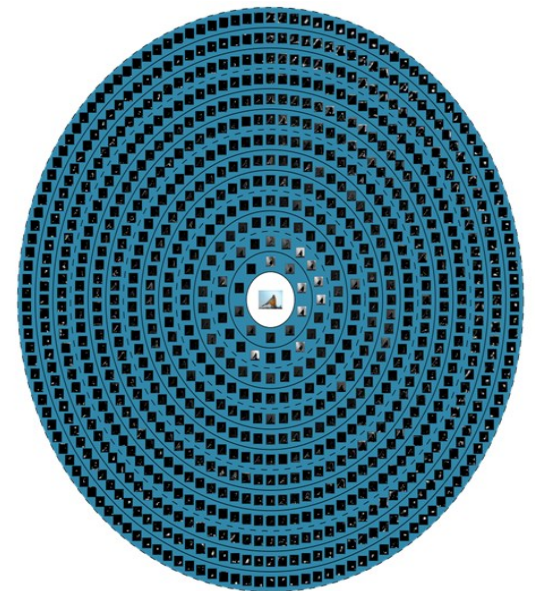
Concentric Ring Design:



- Number of rings = number of convolutional layers of the model
- Each ring has several image placeholders
- Number of feature maps increases towards deeper layers
- The most relevant feature maps are directly above the visualization center decreasing importance clockwise

Interactive visualization

- Possibility to define number of layers to visualize
- Activation metric to define how and which feature maps are displayed
- Detailed version of each feature map (hovering)



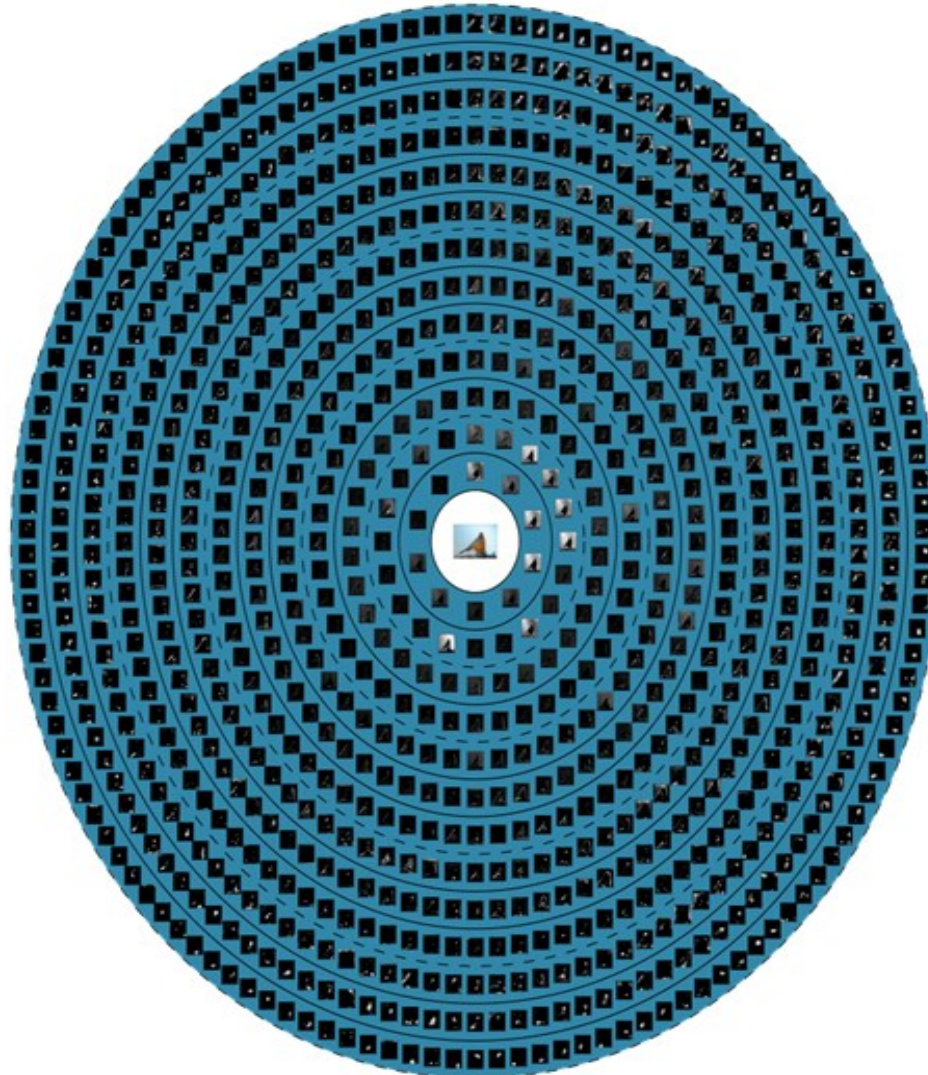
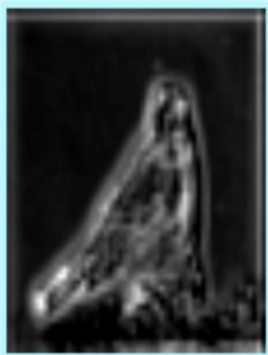
VGG16 Model

Options

Filter Type

- N. of activations
- Activation values

Feature Map detail

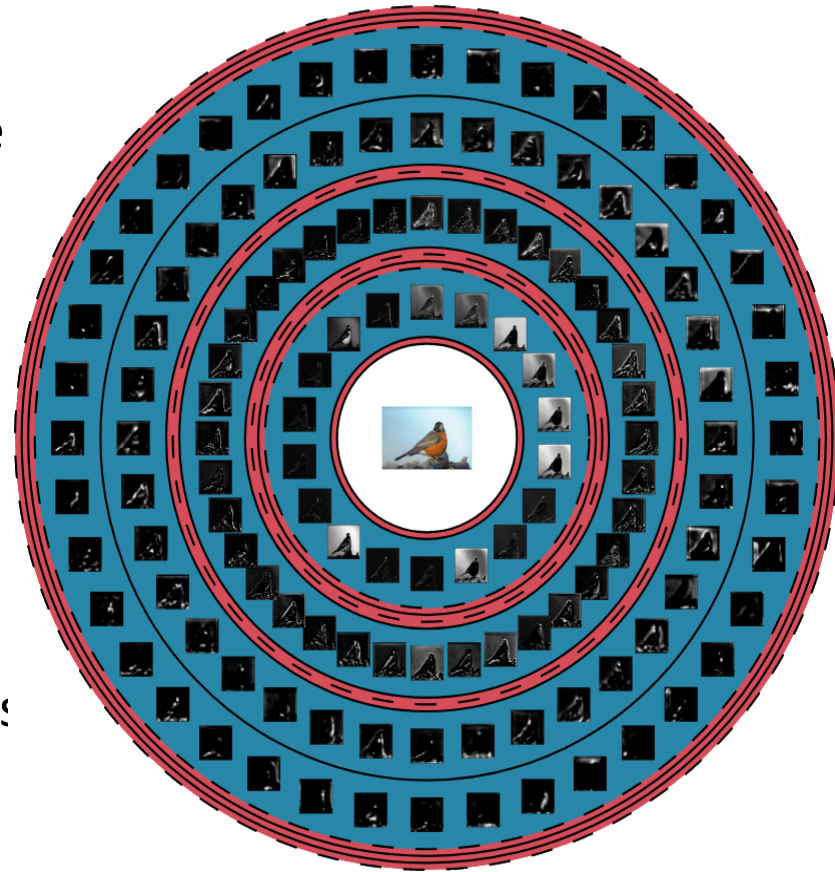


List of active layers

- Layer 1
- Layer 2
- Layer 3
- Layer 4
- Layer 5
- Layer 6
- Layer 7
- Layer 8
- Layer 9
- Layer 10
- Layer 11
- Layer 12
- Layer 13

Visualization features exploration

- Bird body parts and contours activate in several layers of the network
- Feature maps get more specific deeper in the network
- Activation of several feature maps in the last layer are very similar
- Does not scale to very deep networks



Exploratory User Study

- Three Domain experts

Main Results

- Filtering by the best on a specific criteria helps the user find patterns
- Overview presentation is considered useful showing also the hierarchical structure.
- Spot errors during training as it allows the user to quickly perceive possible erroneous feature maps in the training process

Conclusions

- Interactive visualization to provide a global perspective over the feature maps of a CNN
- Supports the knowledge regarding hierarchical feature learning
- Reveals the existence of redundant filters and confirms sparsity representation in CNN models

Future Work

- Dynamically adjust the model architecture and number of feature maps per layer
- Custom user metrics for feature maps
- Include other representation types as saliency maps
- Larger user study



Summary and announcements

- We are interested in pursuing topics in:
 - Mixed Reality
 - Visualization
- National Visualization Center
(Advanced Computing initiative)
- Projects with Industrial partners
(Bosch and other companies)

We will have grants for MSc and PhD holders !



Boas Festas

Happy Holidays



Acknowledgments

To all colleagues and students that have contributed in any way ...

Some Papers

- Fábio Ferreira, Bernardo Marques, Paulo Dias, Beatriz Sousa Santos, “FICAVIS: Data Visualization to Prevent University Dropout”, *24th Int. Conference Information Visualisation, IV 2020*, Vienna, 2020
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