A typology of abstract visualization tasks, describing why a visualization task is undertaken, what the input and output constraints are, and how the task is supported.

**Thesis research question:** can this approach to task abstraction facilitate visualization analysis, design, and evaluation?

**Field Study**
- Use of the task typology to evaluate **Overview**, a web-based visual document mining tool for investigative journalists.
- Characterization of two tasks based on six case studies:
  - **Task 1**: four case studies
    - Document discovery
    - Document monitoring
    - Item visualization
    - Document collection
  - **Task 2**: two case studies
    - Document clustering
    - Document navigation

**Interview Study**
- Use of the task typology to analyze why data analysts visualize dimensionally-reduced data.
- Interviews with ten data analysts working in six application domains.

**Design Study**
- Use of the task typology to design and gather requirements for visualizations in the domain of large-scale commercial energy consumption analysis.
- **Task**: absolute and relative comparisons of individual and grouped buildings over time.

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