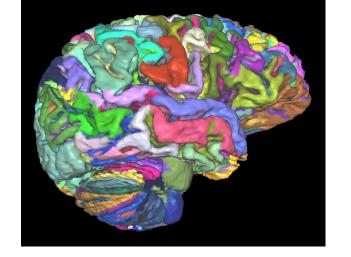


Knowledge Visualisation Introduction

Week 1 Lecture 1 IAT 814

Lyn Bartram









Introductions

Instructor

- Lyn Bartram
- lyn@sfu.ca



Research

- Information visualization
- Perception, attention and visual representations
- Visualization for sustainable living/Ambient visualization
- Motion and Animation visual techniques
- And generally interactive visual systems



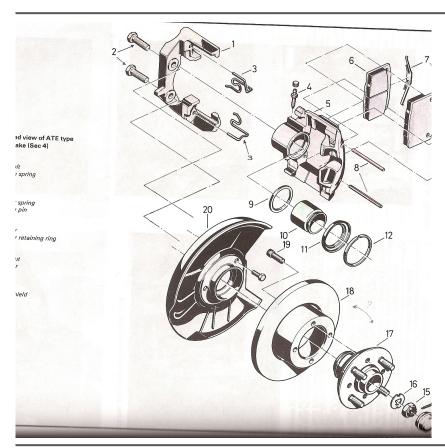
What is visualization?

Computer-based visualization systems provide visual representations of datasets designed to help people carry out tasks more effectively.

-- Tamara Munzner, 2014



What's the difference here?



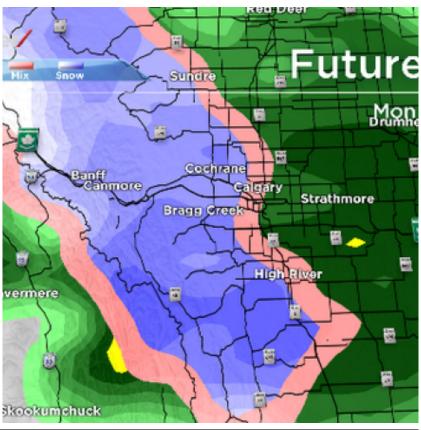




Illustration or visualization?

Illustration

 a visual representation (a picture or diagram) that is used to make some subject more pleasing or easier to understand

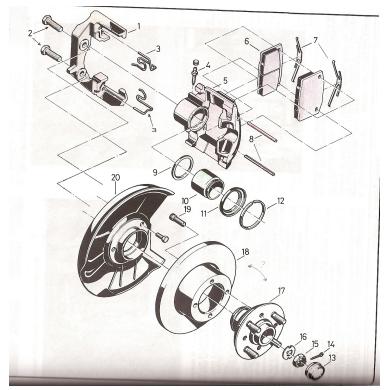


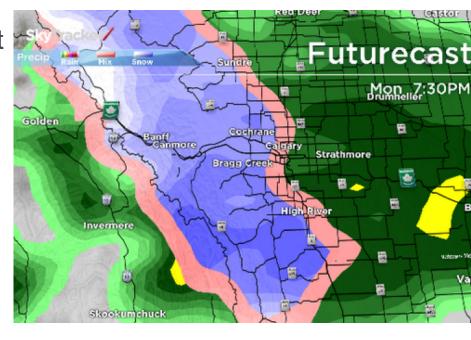
Illustration or visualization?

Visualization communicates data.

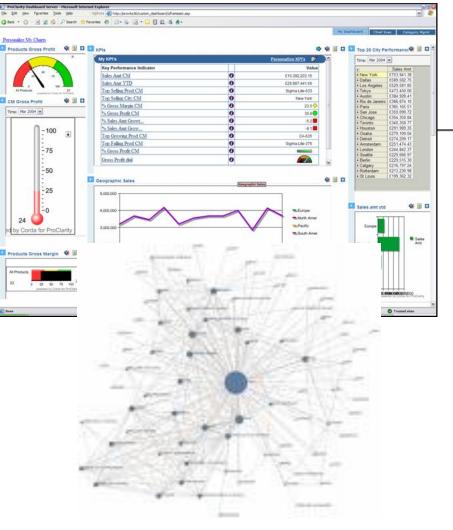
- from something that is abstract or at least not immediately visible (like the inside of the human body)....
- Visualization transforms from the invisible to the visible.

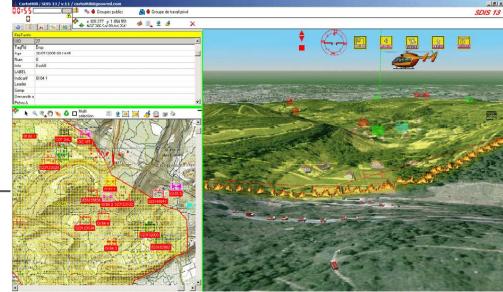
---- Robert Kosara

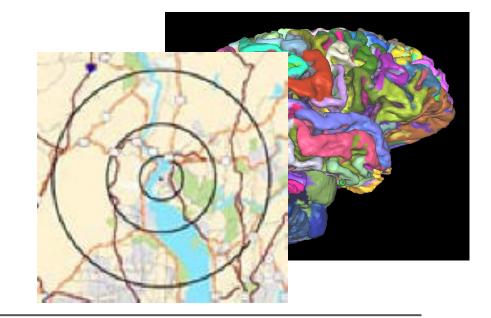
Visualization is about MAPPING.













What is visualisation?

- [geek] branches of computer graphics and UI design concerned with presenting data to users by means of images
 - A computational tool or method for generating images
- [psychologist] The formation of mental visual images
 - The act or process of interpreting in visual terms
- [designer] The process of putting into visual form
 - The craft of assigning representational "codes" and techniques to data attributes and conveying meaning
 - The practice of assembling images



Some of the things we will cover in this course

- How we see and "think visually"
- Contrast and colour
- PreAttentive :things that pop out
- Motion and Animation
- Visual Awareness and Attention
- space perception
- Interaction and Navigation
- Images, words and gesture

- Visualization in practice: scientific, information and affective
- 2D Visualization techniques
- Single and multiple views
- Interaction
- Transforming data and visualizing multidimensional data



Administrivia

- Course textbook:
 - Colin Ware. Visual Thinking for Design
- Course web site
 - www.sfu.ca/siatclass/IAT814/Fall2014
- Course management site
 - canvas.sfu.ca



Course Evaluation

- 3 components:
- 1. 2 Visualisation critiques (20%, 10% each)
 - Part 1. Find an example of practice, critique and present
 - Part 2. Discuss from perceptual perspective!
 - We will revisit these.
- 2. Research critique (20%) -
 - critical review of recent research, presentation and report
- 3. Final project (60%)
 - Research paper
 - Design proposal of technique or method to address a visualization challenge
 - Study of existing techniques applied to visualization/analytics problem



Policies and expectations

- Participation
 - Graduate classes are most effective when grad students engage.
- Academic honesty
 - SFU Code of Conduct
 - Plagiarism will result in automatic 0
- Publication. Students are often interested in publishing the results of their projects and I thoroughly encourage this effort
 - the work is reviewed with me and deemed appropriate and a venue selected;
 - the senior supervisor is consulted and gives explicit permission for the extra effort required in preparing work for publication;
 - the authorship includes the senior supervisor and myself unless either of us waives it.



Policies and expectations

- Project work across multiple courses.
 - In principle I have no problem with the same research project serving two different courses, but this means that the actual work is much bigger than required in either course, and that the applicability of the visualization component of the work suits the nature of this course. This must be cleared with me and the instructor of the other course before the project is approved. Failure to do so will result in the project being marked out of 50%.



Why do we care?





Why?

- We are in a new era of human history:
- Since 1994 we have witnessed an information explosion
 - Everyone can get all of the data that's out there
 - News, sports, financial, purchases, etc...
- What do we do with it?



Kegs of data

- Between 1 and 2 exabytes of unique data produced per year
 - 1000000000000000000 (10¹⁸) bytes
 - 800 meg for every person (2003)
 - Printed documents only .003% of total

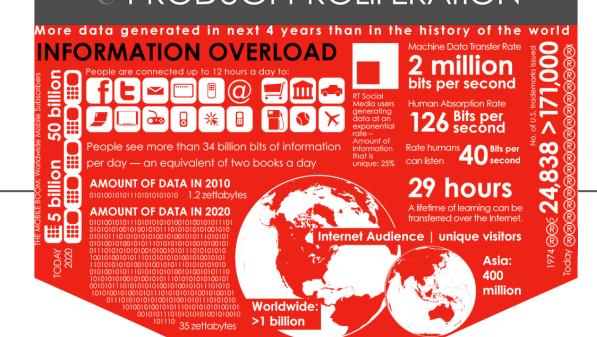
Lyman and Varian, 2000

Cal-Berkeley, Info Mgmt & Systems

www.sims.berkeley.edu/how-much-info

90 trillion emails sent on the Internet in 2009





LIMITED **INFORMATION** INTAKE

Time constraints: 24 hours a day = 1,441 minutes a day

> Average minutes spent shopping



Americans spend

< 3% of waking

hours actually

buying.



Today



Time people spend shopping online

Time spent shopping has not changed in 4 decades

©2010 Exponential Edge Inc. All Rights Reserved



- 6 million FedEx transactions per day http://www.fedex.com/us/about/today/companies/corporation/facts.html
- Average of 98 million Visa credit-card transactions per day in 2005 http://www.corporate.visa.com/md/nr/press278.jsp
- Average of 5.4 petabytes of data crosses AT&T's network per day http://att.sbc.com/gen/investor-relations?pid=5711
- Average of 610 to 1110 billion e-mails worldwide per year (based on estimates in 2000)
 - http://www2.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info/internet.html



SAP prediction

The data explosion - unwound

Time frame Data volume growth

In 2010 - 1200 exabytes of data

In 2011 - 1.8 zettabytes of data 9x since 2005

In 2020 – 35 zettabytes will exist 20x per year

I million terabytes = 1 exabyte 1000 exabytes = 1 zettabyte

Data from The 2011 Digital Universe Study: Extracting Value from Chaos, by IDC.



Unlike Before...

- Used to be (15 years ago), you had to go to a library
 - read the info, put it on some sort of storage device, take notes, run a specialized program
 - On a computer 1000 times slower than today
- Now:
 - How do we make sense of the data?
 - How do we harness this data in decision making processes?
 - How do we avoid being overwhelmed?



The only reasonable solution

- Computing + Human Vision
 - Highest bandwidth sense
 - Fast, parallel
 - Pattern recognition
 - Extends memory and cognitive capacity
 - Many People think visually



When do we need to visualize?

- Many other techniques for data analysis
 - Statistics, DB, data mining, machine learning
- Visualization most useful in exploratory data analysis
 - Don't know what you're looking for
 - Don't have a priori questions
- Want to know what questions to ask
 - "A graphic display has many purposes but it achieves its highest value when it forces us to see what we were not expecting." H. Wainer



EDA Example 1

Business

- Why did Toyota outpace Chrysler in the auto market?
- How did their business decisions differ?
- Have their cars changed in design? If so, in what major ways?



EDA 2

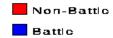
Airlines

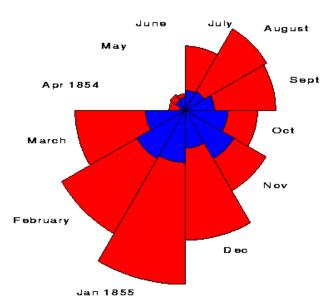
- What are the key factors causing flight delays in the US?
- Are delays worse in the summer or winter?
- Is the seasonal effect influenced by geographic location?
- How does competition at an airport affect flight delays?



Visualizations make data into information





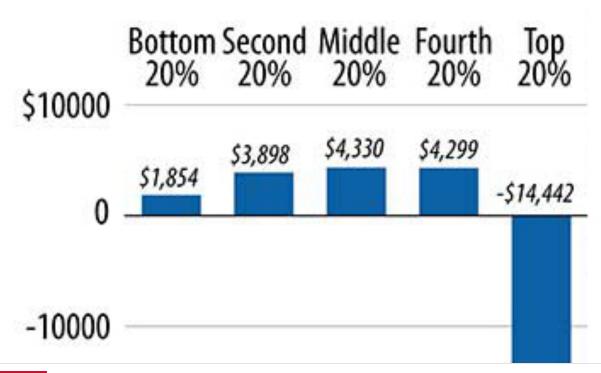


From: F. Nightingale, "Notes on Matters Attecting the Health, Etticiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army", 1858



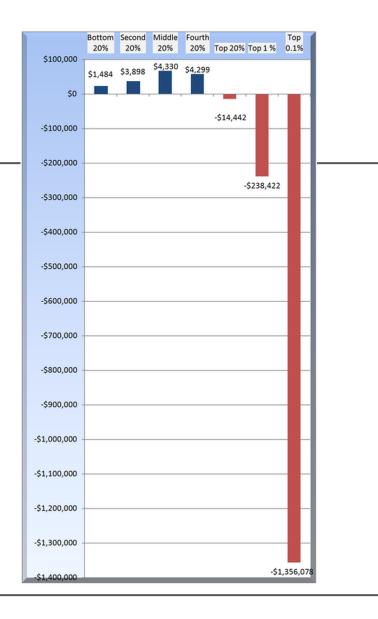
At first glance: the Cain 9-9-9 tax proposal

Relative to current tax policy, 2013





Not the whole story



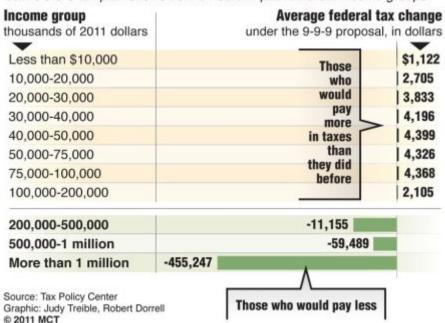


More is not necessarily better



A closer look at Cain's tax plan

A new independent analysis of Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain's 9-9-9 tax plan shows how it would impact different income groups:





Key benefits

- Facilitating awareness and understanding
- Helping to raise new questions and supply answers
- Generating insights and hypotheses
- Telling a story and making a point



Visualization goals

- depict and present constantly growing large data volumes of increasing dimensionality
- Support the revealing and discovery of patterns
- Display and reveal complex relationships and interrelationships
- Convey an impression, evoke an emotion -- affect



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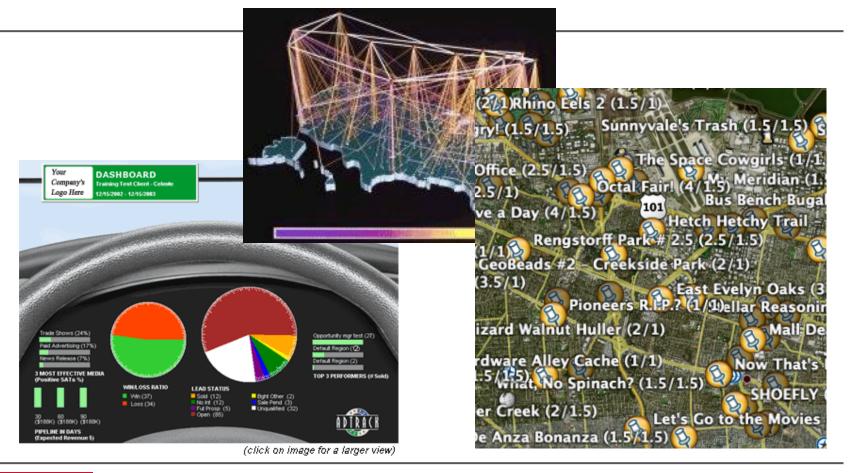


Using vision to think

- Comprehend huge amounts of data
- Emergent properties and relations
- Detect problems and nconsistencies in data
- Facilitates understanding of large- and small-scale features of the data
- Facilitates hypothesis formation: the forming of new questions and
- insights



Visualization goals: not quite there





So what is visualization again? (take 2)

Visual thinking involves:

- Constructing visual queries on displays
- Visual search strategies through eye movements and attention to relevant patterns
- Visual notification and attention "redirection" to new patterns and events
- Well structured balance of elements and tasks



Essential issues

- What mental models most effectively carry various kinds of information?
- Which definable and recognizable visual attributes of these models are most useful for conveying specific information either independently or in conjunction with other attributes?
- How can we most effectively induce chosen mental models in the mind of an observer?
- How can we provide guidance on choosing appropriate models and their attributes to a human or automated display designer?
 - ----- G. Robertson
- Progress in [scientific] visualization can be accelerated if workers could more readily find visualization techniques relevant to a given problem
- ---Wehrend and Lewis



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```
----- G. Robertson
```

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---Wehrend and Lewis



What makes/is a good visualisation?

- a model that captures the essence of a system
 - A model is an abstraction with the important things in and the unimportant out
- Different visualizations provide different levels of detail, show and hide different things; so support different abstractions
- useful to aid understanding, not just realistic representations (what color is a carbon atom?)
- map the important part of the tasks onto techniques that show the relevant characteristics best



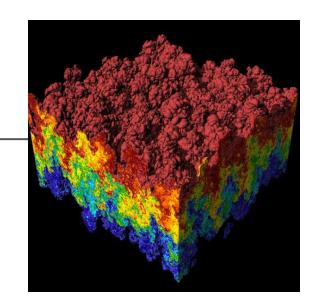
Key challenges

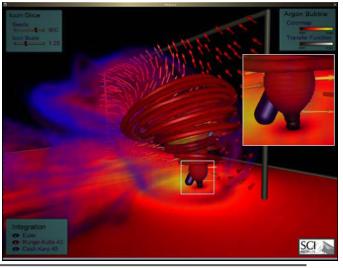
- Scale
 - Challenge often arises when data sets become large
- Diversity
 - Data of data types, forms, sizes
- Evaluation
 - How to measure and prove?
 - All those benefits are not easily quantifiable and measured
 - perhaps primary open research challenge for visualization



Scientific visualization

- the visual display of spatial data associated with scientific processes such as the bonding of molecules in computational chemistry
- deals with data that has a natural geometric structure (e.g. chemical data or wind flows)

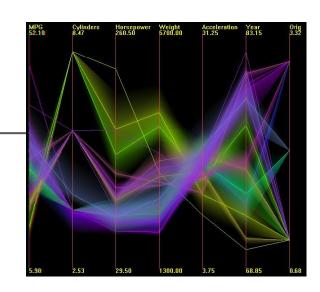






Information visualization

- visual metaphors for non-inherently spatial data such as the exploration of text-based document databases.
- More abstract
- Assign structure and position to information that has none

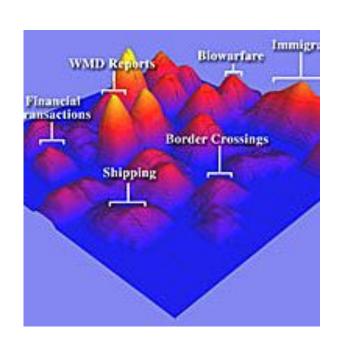






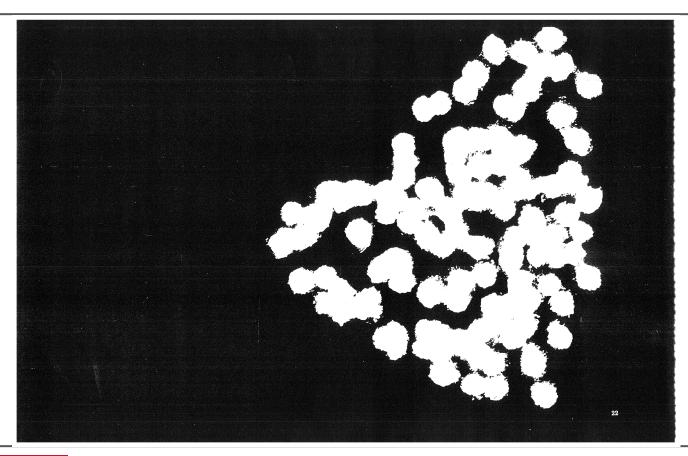
Visual analytics

- analytical reasoning supported by the interactive visual interface
- Intersection of visualization with data analysis
- Biology
- Business
- National security





Affective (experience) visualisation





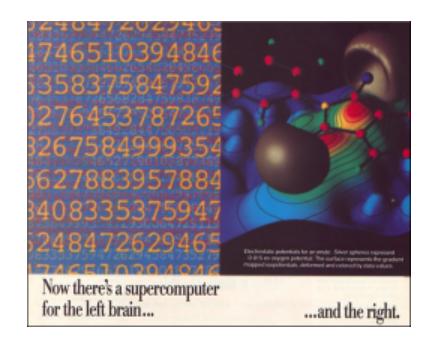
What is (Information) Visualization?

"Transformation of the symbolic into the geometric"

(McCormick et al., 1987)

"... finding the artificial memory that best supports our natural means of perception."

(Bertin, 1983)





Visual Aids for Thinking

- We build tools to amplify cognition.
- Example: multiplication (Card, Moran, & Shneiderman.)
 - In your head, multiply 35 x 95
 - Now do it on paper
 - People are 5 times faster with the visual aid

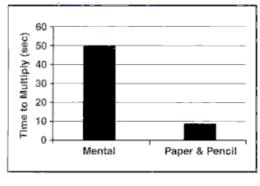
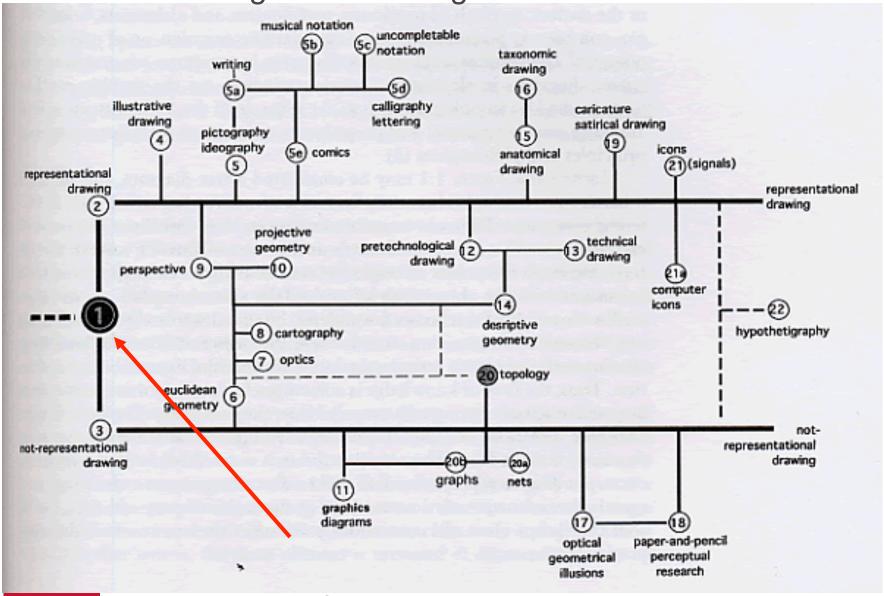


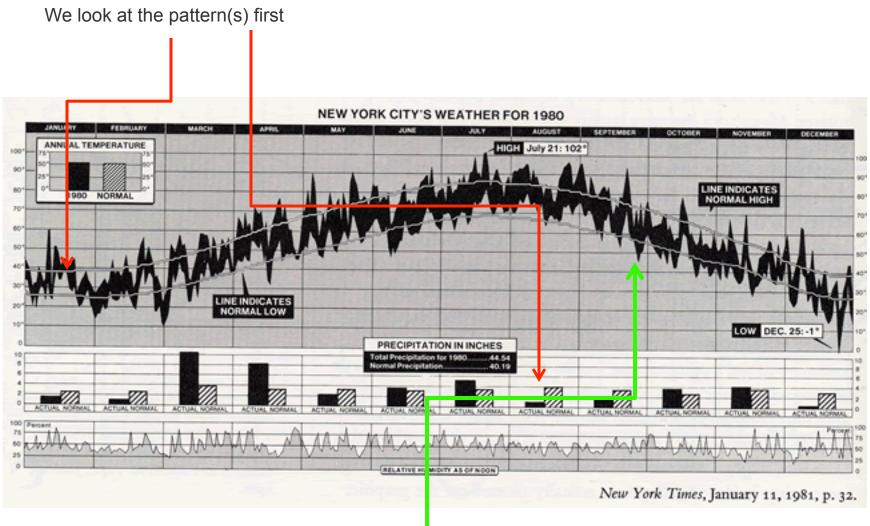
FIGURE 1.1

Use of external aids amplifies ability to do multiplication.

We've been doing this for a long time







Focus on individual numbers ... >2K data points!

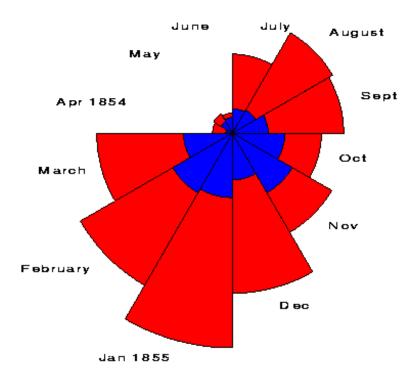




Nightingale's Coxcomb

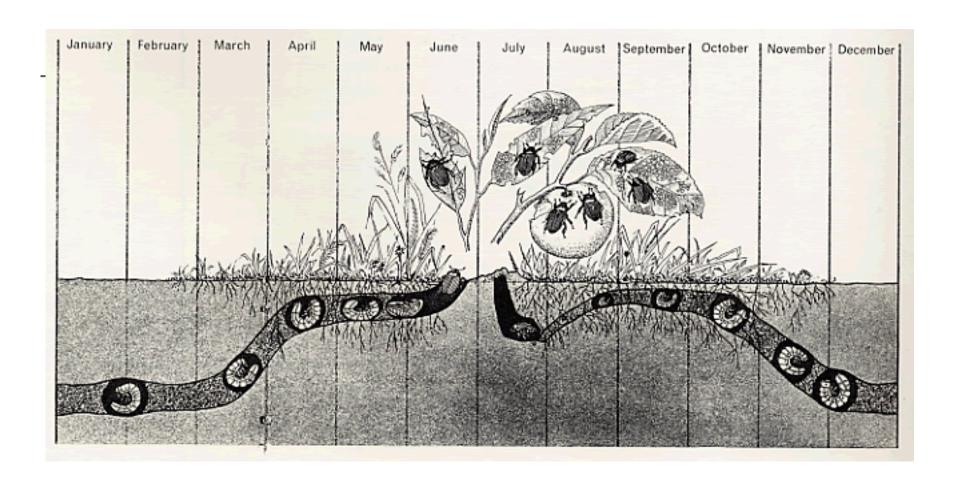
Causes of Mortality in the Army in the East April, 1854 to March 1855



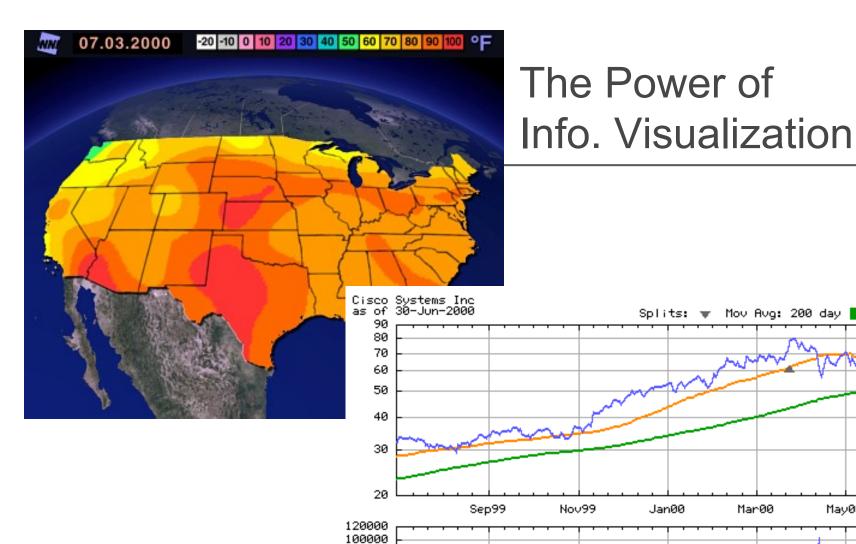


. From: F. Nightingale, "Notes on Matters Attecting the Health, . Etticiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army", 1858











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http://finance.yahoo.com/

Jul 00

May00

Volume (1000's)

Two key aspects

- Representation
- Interaction

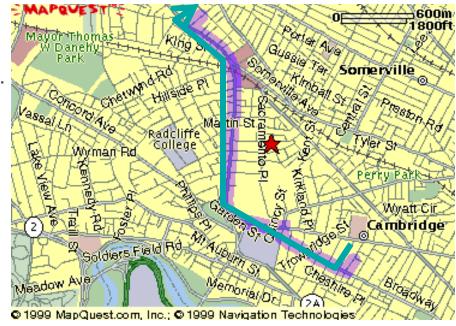
"The effectiveness of information visualization hinges on two things: its ability to clearly and accurately represent information and our ability to interact with it to figure out what the information means."

---S. Few, Now you see it



The Power of Visualization

- 1. Start out going Southwest on ELLSWORTH AVE Towards BROADWAY by turning right.
- 2: Turn RIGHT onto BROADWAY.
- 3. Turn RIGHT onto QUINCY ST.
- 4. Turn LEFT onto CAMBRIDGE ST.
- 5. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
- 6. Turn RIGHT onto RUSSELL ST.







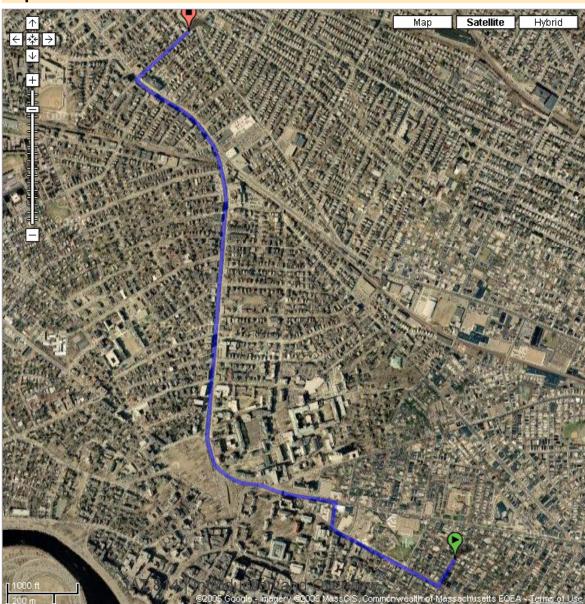
Maps Local Search Directions

17 Ellsworth Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139 ₹ 77 Russell St, Somerville, MA 02144 Start address End address

Search

Help

Maps



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Start address:	17 Ellsworth Ave Cambridge, MA 02139
End address:	77 Russell St Somerville, MA 02144
Distance:	2.2 mi (about 3 mins)

Reverse directions

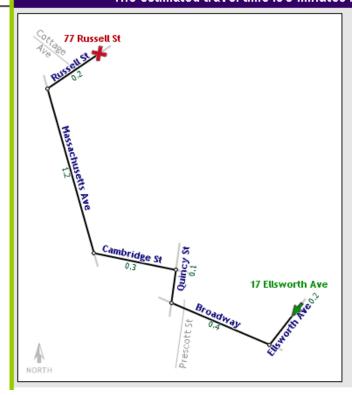
- 1. Head southwest from Ellsworth Ave go 0.1 mi
- 2. Turn right at Broadway go 0.3 mi
- Turn right at Prescott St go 0.1 mi
- 4. Turn left at Cambridge St go 0.3 mi
- 5. Bear right at Massachusetts Ave go 1.2 mi
- 6. Turn right at Russell St go 0.2 mi

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, or other events may cause road conditions to differ from the map results.

Map data ©2005 NAVTEQ™, Tele Atlas

The Power of Visualization

The estimated travel time is 5 minutes for 2.16 miles of travel, total of 6 steps.



	Directions	Elapsed Distance
1	Begin at 17 Elisworth Ave on Elisworth Ave and go Southwest for 500 feet	0.1
2	Turn right on Broadway and go Northwest for 0.4 miles	0.5
	Turn right on Quincy St and go North for 200 feet	0.5
4	Turn left on Cambridge St and go West for 0.3 miles	0.8
5	Bear right on Massachusetts Ave,Mass Ave,RT-2A and go North for 1.2 miles	2.0
6	Turn right on Russell St and go Northeast for 1000 feet to 77 Russell St	2.2

Line drawing tool by Maneesh Agrawala http://graphics.stanford.edu/~maneesh/



Visualization for Problem Solving

Mystery: what is causing a cholera epidemic in London in 1854?



Visualization for Problem Solving



Illustration of John Snow's deduction that a cholera epidemic was caused by a bad water pump, circa 1854.

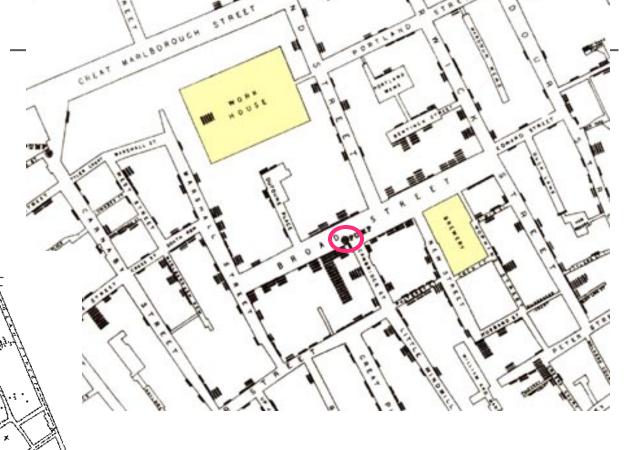
From Visual Explanations by Edward Tufte, Graphics Press, 1997

Visualization for Problem Solving

toduction and Overview

Illustration of John Snow's deduction that a cholera epidemic was caused by a bad water pump, circa 1854.

Horizontal lines indicate location of deaths.

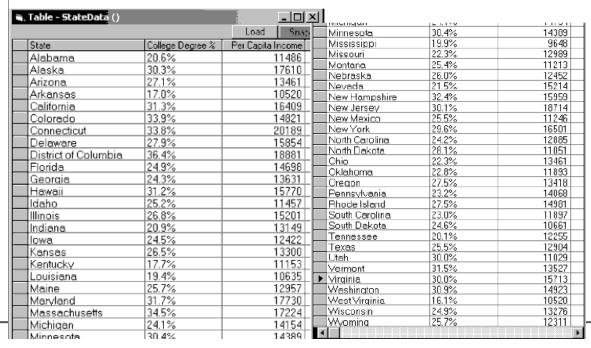


From Visual Explanations by Edward Tufte, Graphics Press, 1997

56

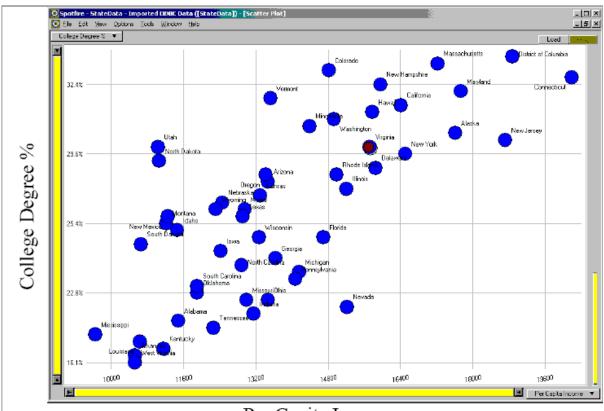
Visualization for Eliciting Knowledge from Data

- Which state has highest Income?
- Relationship between Income and Education?
- Outliers?

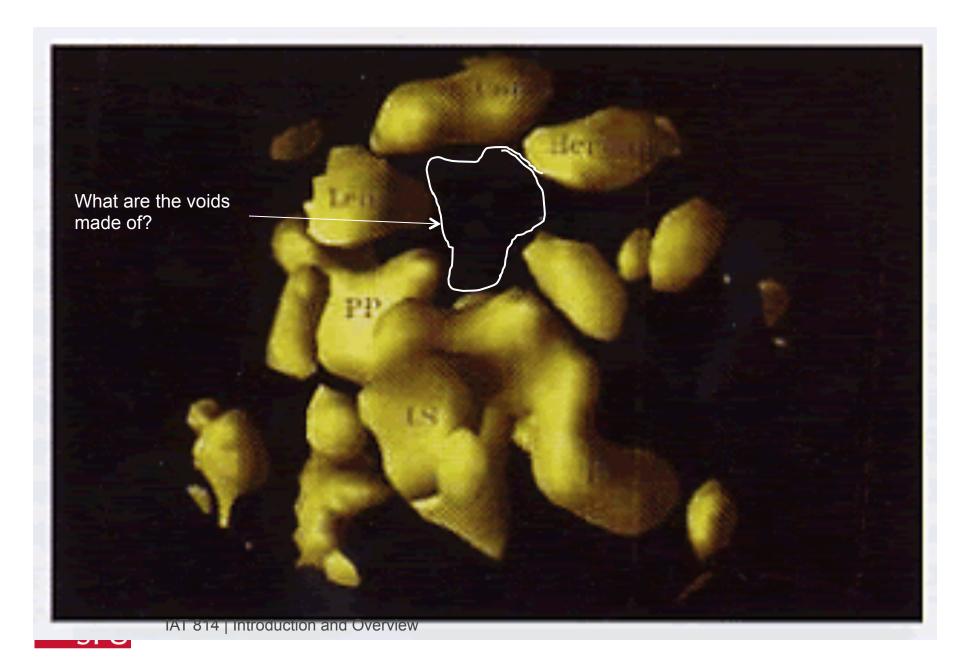




Visualization for Eliciting Knowledge from Data



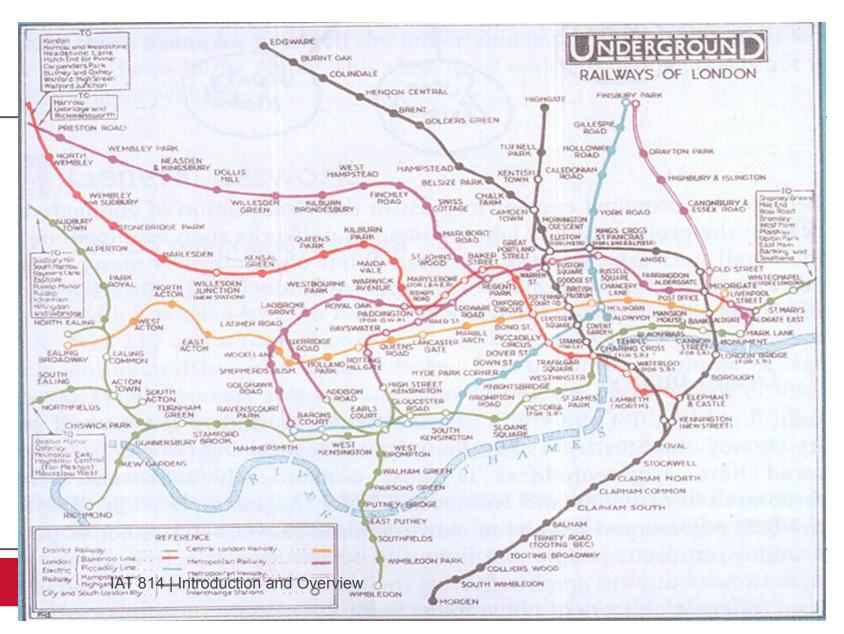




Visualization for Clarification

- London Subway Map Example
- Abstract away details for easier understanding
- Harry Beck's schematic

London Underground Map 1927

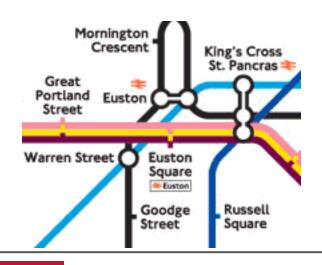


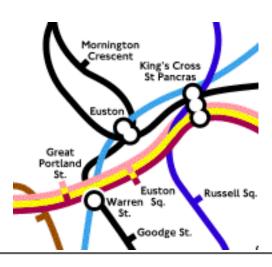
London Underground Map 1990s



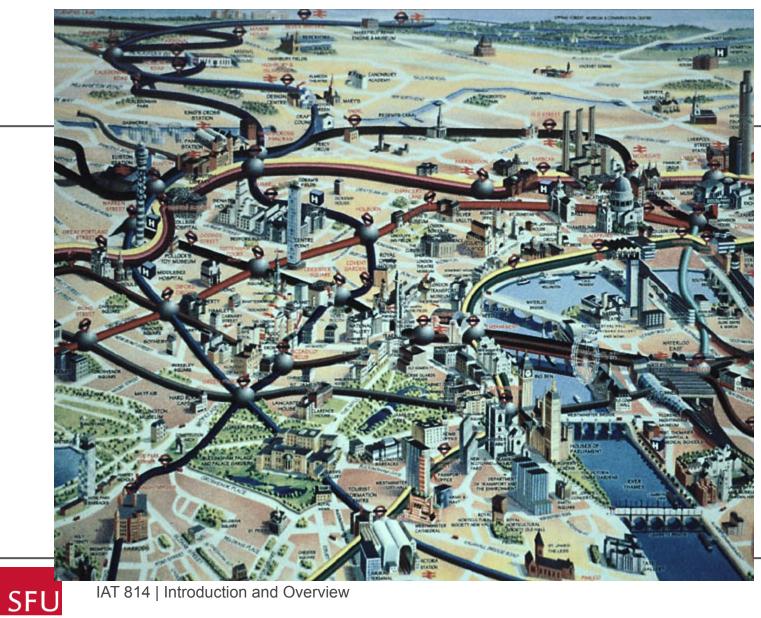
Visualization for Clarification

- Horizontal, vertical and 45° segments
- Key insight: topology and relative location of stations



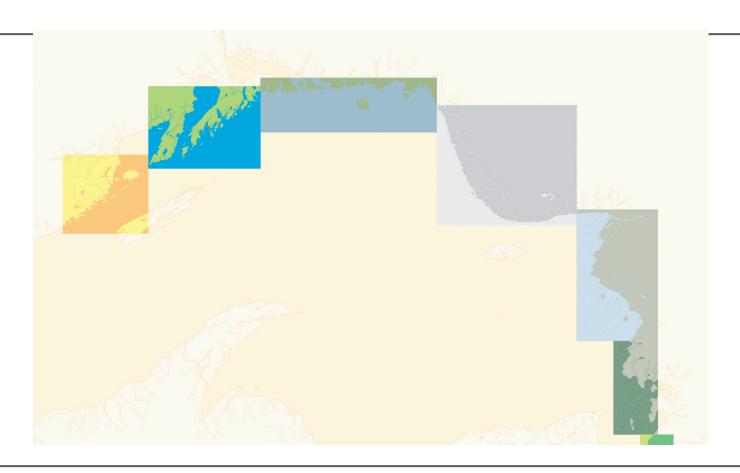






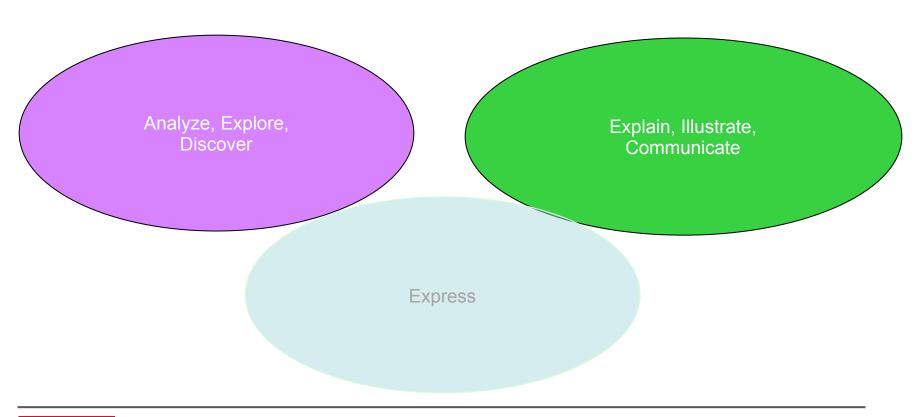
IAT 814 | Introduction and Overview

Visualization for telling a story



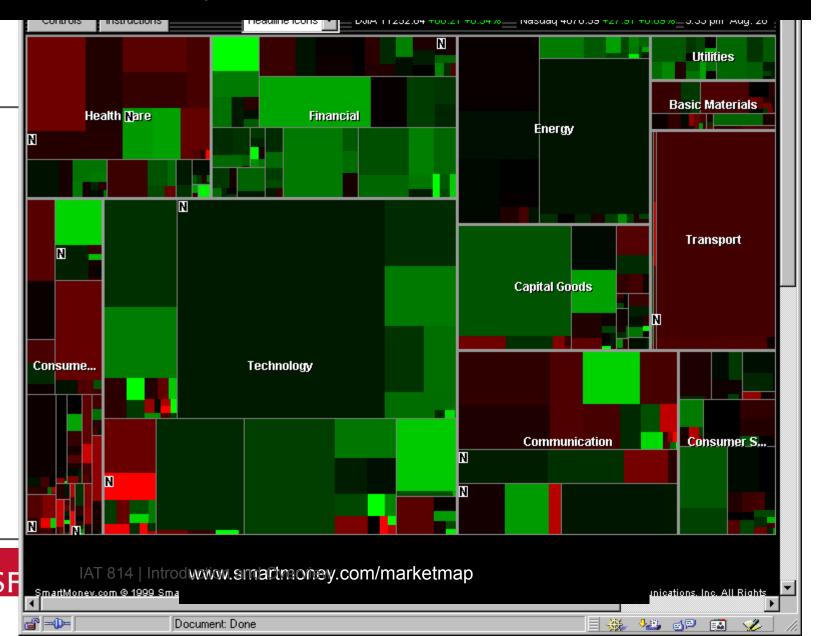


Visualization: Two Primary Goals

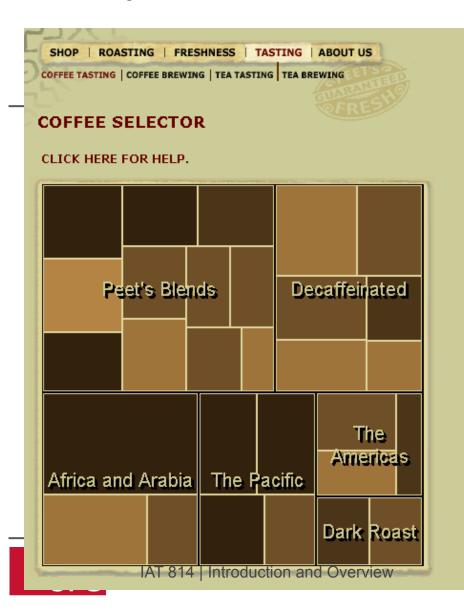


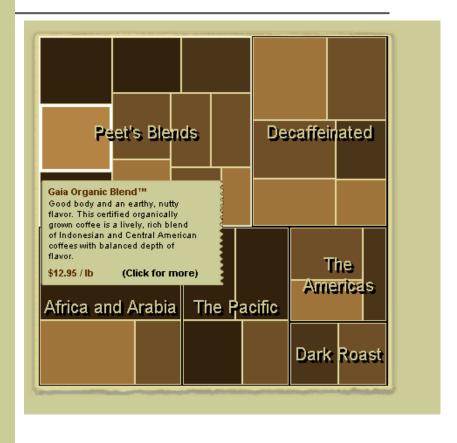


A Good Use of TreeMaps and Interactivity www.smartmoney.com/marketmap



Treemaps in Peets site





Analysis vs. Communication

- MarketMap's use of TreeMaps allows for sophisticated analysis
- Peets' use of TreeMaps is more for presentation and communication
- This is a key contrast



Visualizations: Fuel Economy Treemap

Can't see the visualization? Download the latest Java plugin here. On Macs: best viewed in Safari.

Created by: Martin Wattenberg explore visualizations

Created on: Wednesday January 10, 10:33 AM

create visualization

learn more quick start visualization types data format & style about Many Eyes FAQ blog

contact contact us report a bug

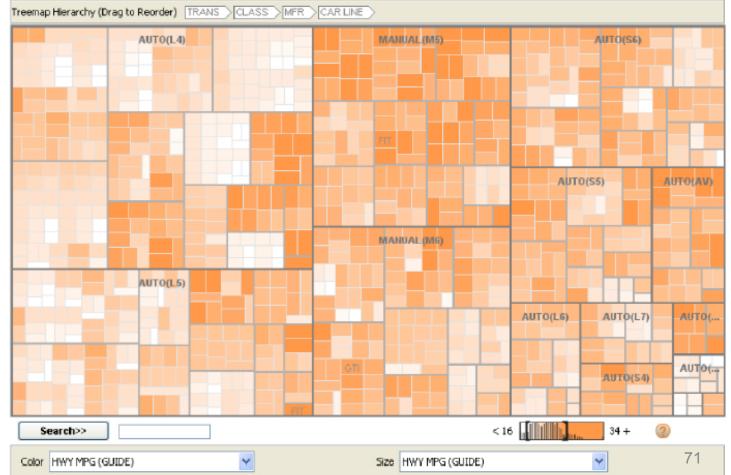
data sets comments

topic hubs

participate register

upload data set create topic hub

legal terms of use



Truck Sales Slip, Tripping Up Chrysler

Over the past few years, Chrysler executives said they were following the lead of Toyota and Honda, focusing on vehicles that met the needs of their customers. But as American consumers turned away from large trucks and S.U.V.'s in 2006, Chrysler continued to churn out big vehicles, which are now sitting unsold at dealerships across the country.

READING THE CHART Change in sales from 2005 to 2006 Below Above industry average according to 25,000

100.000

-10% -2.6

-2.6 0 +10 +100 Many of these vehicles were introduced in 2005.

Toyota

Honda

Cars

BMW

SALES CHANGE 105 TO 106 -7.0%

 Chrysler Group
 -7.0%

 Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s
 1.6 million

 Cars
 0.5 million

Pickups, minivans and S.U.V.'s made up 76 percent of Chrysler's sales, which left it vulnerable when consumers shifted to cars.



◆TRUCKS, VANS, S.U.V.'S CARS ►



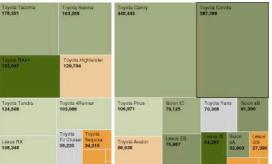
 ITRUCKS, VANS, S.U.V.'S
 CARS ►

 Tacoma
 Toyota Senna

 Toyota Care

number of cars

sold in 2006



Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 1.1 million

Cars 1.5 million

Toyota rolled out a new version
of the Camry, and once again it
was the country's best-selling

No 2005

sales

+12.5%

+3.2%

+2.1%

0.8 million

car. Toyota Corolla

Corolla sales also jumped, along with gas prices. Toyota could not escape the decline in sales of supersized S.U.V.'s like its Sequoia.

Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 0.7 million

Like the Corolla, the small

Accord stalled. Buyers, it

Honda Civic did well. But the

seems, are waiting for the new

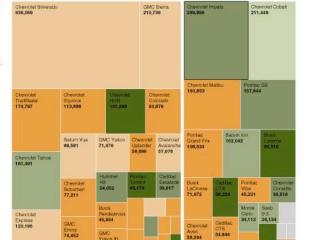
General Motors -8.7%

Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 2.5 million Cars 1.6 million

G.M. introduced new versions of its large S.U.V's in late 2005, hoping they would bolster sales. Instead, sales of big vehicles were hurt when gas prices climbed. One of the few standouts was the Chevrolet HHR, new in 2005.



The Chevrolet Impala, with or without flashing lights, did well in 2006, when a redesign came out.



Honda Cd-yssey
177,919
Honda Cd-Y
177,919
Honda Cd-Y
170,028
Honda Figure
50,193
Honda Figure
50,193
Honda Figure
50,193
Honda Figure
50,193

232,457

69,763

60,745

Nissan Tita 72,192

31,905

Armoda 32,864

Intnn FX 22,656

Pathinder 73,124

Xterra 82,325

Passat 54.208

Murano 81,362

Nissan Frontier 77,519



version to be released this year.

Honda
Accord

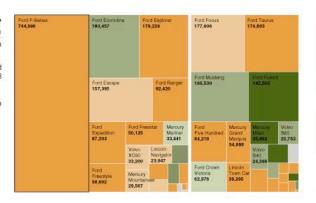
Nissan -5.3% Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 0.5 million Cars 0.6 million

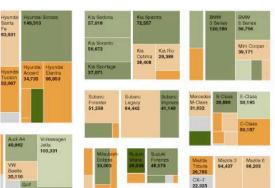
Ford -8.3%

Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 1.8 million Cars 1.1 million

Even the country's best-selling vehicles, the F-Series, slumped in 2006, with sales dropping 13 percent. One of Ford's bright spots was the new Fusion sedan, which made its debut in late 2005 and sold well in its first full year.







Cars 0.3 million

Mercedes-Benz +10.3%

Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 0.1 million

Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 0.1 million

Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 0.1 million
Cars 0.2 million

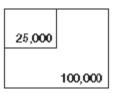
Mercedes-Benz, owned by DaimlerChrysler, had a comeback in 2006, thanks to a new version of its flagship S-Class. BMW sales were helped by a new version of its 3 Series sport sedan.

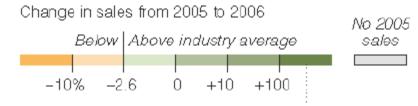
Sources: Ward's AutoInfoBank; Edmunds

Amanda Cox and Hannah Fairfield/ The New York Times lead of Toyota at as American continued to the country.

READING THE CHART

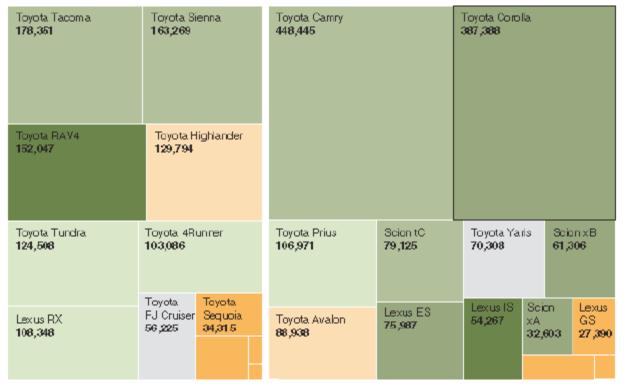
Roxes are scaled proportionally according to number of cars sold in 2006





Many of these vehicles were introduced in 2005.

◆TRUCKS, VANS, S.U.V.'S | CARS▶



Toyota

+12.5%

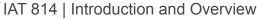
Trucks/vans/S.U.V.'s 1.1 million
Cars 1.5 million

Toyota rolled out a new version of the Camry, and once again it was the country's best-selling car.

Toyota



Corolla sales also jumped, along with gas prices. Toyota could not escape the decline in sales of supersized S.U.V.'s like its Sequoia.





Other Taxonomies of Goals

- Others:
 - Analysis
 - Monitoring
 - Planning
 - Communication
- Tufte:
 - Description
 - Exploration
 - Tabulation
 - Decoration

- Others:
 - Aid to thinking
 - Problem solving/Decision making
 - Insight
 - Clarifying
 - Entertainment / Art



New twists

- Implicit vs explicit
- Pragmatic vs artistic
- Ambient vs focused
- Casual vs expert ...



Another way to think about it

- Answer this question: Do you know the answer?
 - If yes,
 - Presentation, communication, education
 - If no,
 - Exploration, analysis
 - Problem solving, planning,
 - Aid to thinking, reasoning
- Answer this question: Are you the creator or the viewer of the information?
 - Often there is a loop between analysis and presentation



Open Issues

- Does visualization help?
 - The jury is still out
 - Still supplemental at best for text collections
 - A correlation with spatial ability
 - Learning effects: with practice ability on visual display begins to equal that of text
- Does visualization sell?
 - Value of vis tools has exploded
 - Data become more ubiquitous
- Evaluation of GOOD visualizations critical



Utility

- Have we made advances in communication with computer assisted visualization?
 - Two of my favourite examples







11/19/1863

Presentation in the extreme

Joh <u>Cleese uses infovis to explain an issue of language</u>



Assignment 1: Vis critiques

- Find two examples of visualization used in practice
 - One good, one bad
 - Example sources
 - Journal (Journal of Applied Optics, ...)
 - Science magazine (Nature, Science, Scientific American, ...)
 - News Magazine or newspaper (Newsweek, The Economist, NY Times, USA Today, ...
 - Not from a vis paper, design textbook, design blog etc.
- Make a Canvas submission with with critique
- 5-8 min presentation

