

Visualization

What's the point at all?



Graphical systems, visualization and multimedia

What is visualization?



Ordinary" computer graphics

- Show things we know
- Most realistic way

Visualization

- Show things we don't know (yet)
- Most understandable way

Also called visualization

- Rendering of architectural models
- Not our topic today



So what is visualization?

- Giving to data a graphical form that is different from their original form.
- Often the data has no geometry / graphical form itself
- Sometimes it does and we want a different form

That is visualization

Success story

Dr. John Snow (1813-1858)





Success story



Benefits of visualization



John Snow Pub (near former Broad Street)

Failure story



Challenger space shuttle (28/01/1986)



O-Ring failure probability



Business graphics

Challenger crash



Purposes of visualization

- Exploration
 - "Discover the unexpected"
- Confirmation
 - "Detect the expected"
- Presentation
 - Communicate knowledge



Purposes of visualization



Business graphics

Types of visualization

Medical visualization

surface runofi

- Scientific visualization
- Information visualization
- Info graphics

around water

evaporation



60000







Some basic visual attributes

- Length
- Area, Volume
- Color
- Angle
- Connectivity
- Hierarchy

Length

- Can't perceive absolute value
 – only relative
- Compare to seen items
- Compare to scale



What I Remember

GraphJam.com

Area, volume

 Perceived as quadratic (x²) - area cubic (x³) – volume

 Advantage when displaying very wide range of values (e.g. 1:100:10000)



Color in visualization

- Visible light = infinite number of colors
- Monitor = ~millions of colors
- Our perception = ?



Colors for categories

- Category distinction
 - Limited number (<10 preattentively)



Minority group with highest percent of state population Excludes White, not Hispanic



Colors for sequential values

Categorical colors



Sequential colors



Sequential vs. diverging

Ordinal rather than categorical values



sequential

diverging

Only few distinct levels.
 Continuous values will not be read properly.

Color scales

- For categories
 - Qualitative color schemes
- For ordinal values
 - Sequential color schemes
 - Diverging color schemes
- For small number of values

 Can be increased e.g. by using texture



Connectivity, orientation

- Glaws (connectivity)
- Orientation (arrows, gravity)



Angles

Our angle p



Hierarchy, insetting



http://www.smartmoney.com/marketmap/

Business graphics

Hierarchy, insetting



http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/05/03/business/20080403_SPENDING_GRAPHIC.html

Business graphics

Hierarchy, insetting





Examples (good and bad)

Baby Name Voyager



Browser Market Share



Business graphics

U.S. federal spending



Lying/errors in visualization

 100m record evolution

1940

1960



Business graphics

1900

9.6

9.7

9,8

9.9

10

10.1

10,2

10,3

10,4

10.5

10.6

10,7

Lying/errors in visualization

INFLÁCIA NA SLOVENSKU



Deadliest drugs (are they?) source: Guardian Datastore, Office Df National Statistics, Google News Timeline, DailyMail.co.uk * Cannabis fatality figures highly questionnable % OF DEATHS REPORTED 106% 484% 126% 13% 66% 83% UK drug poisoning deaths 2008 vs. popular press coverage %6 2% 5% 2% 7% informationisbeautiful.net PRESS REPORTS 157 83 • e 92 0 8 e 47 8 e David McCandless NO. OF DEATHS 685 897 378 381 116 260 235 \$ e A aspirin DRUG antialcohol depressants methadone paracetamol cocaine SSRI (Prozac-like) antidepressants ecstasy cannabis solvents heroin & morphine

How to lie with visualization



Perspective/3D is risky





Bar chart gone wild



Benefits of visualization

- Image is perceived faster than text
- Language independence
- Better perception of data
- (psssst.... A way to lie improve reality)
- Find errors in data
- Gain new insights into the data

Detect the expected, discover the unexpected