The Value of Visualization for Understanding Data and Making Decisions

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Many Data Analysis Approaches

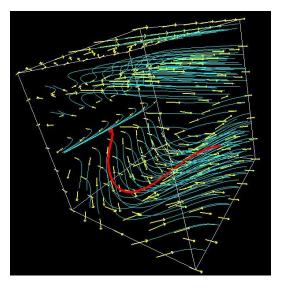
Statistics
Database & information retrieval
Data mining
Machine learning

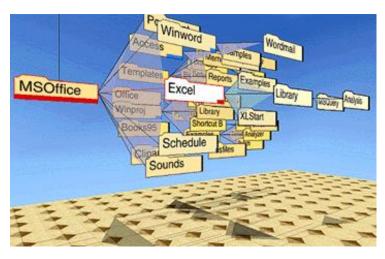


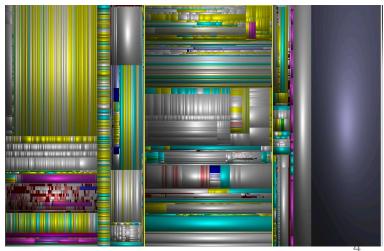


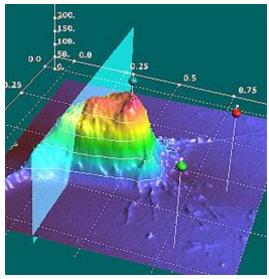
Data Visualization

Making pretty pictures?









Data Visualization

A cognitive process

Gain an understanding

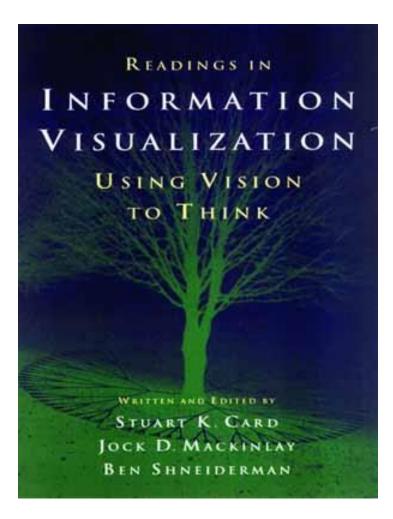


Data Visualization

A cognitive process

Gain an understanding





Visualization

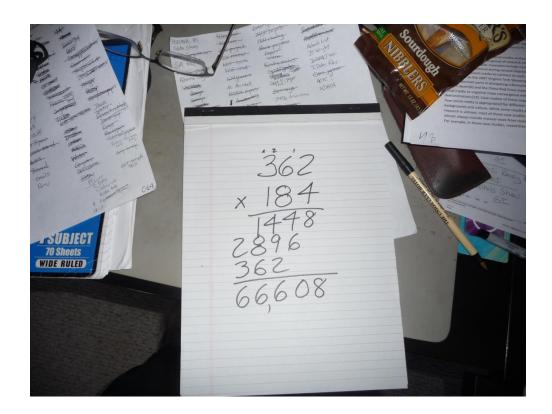
"The use of computer-supported, interactive visual representations of data to amplify cognition"

Visuals help us think

Provide a frame of reference, temporary storage area

Cognition → Perception

Pattern matching

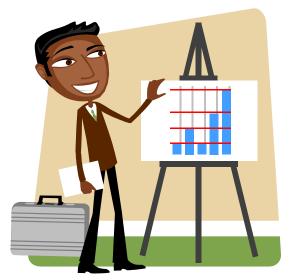


Applications of Visualization

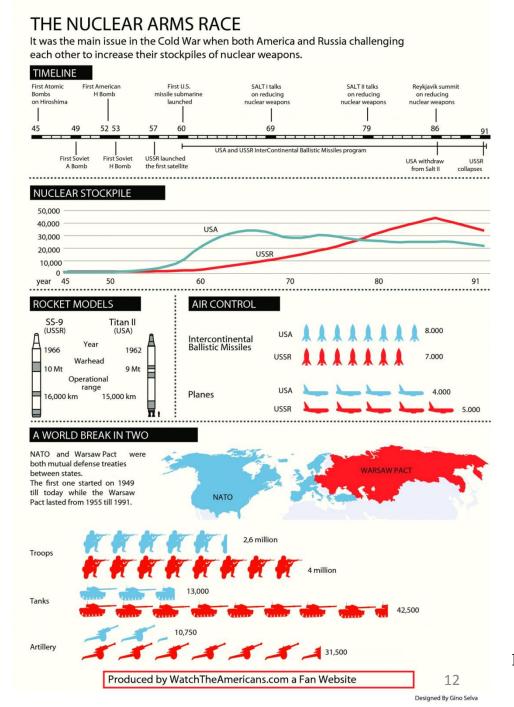
Presentation Analysis

1. Presentation

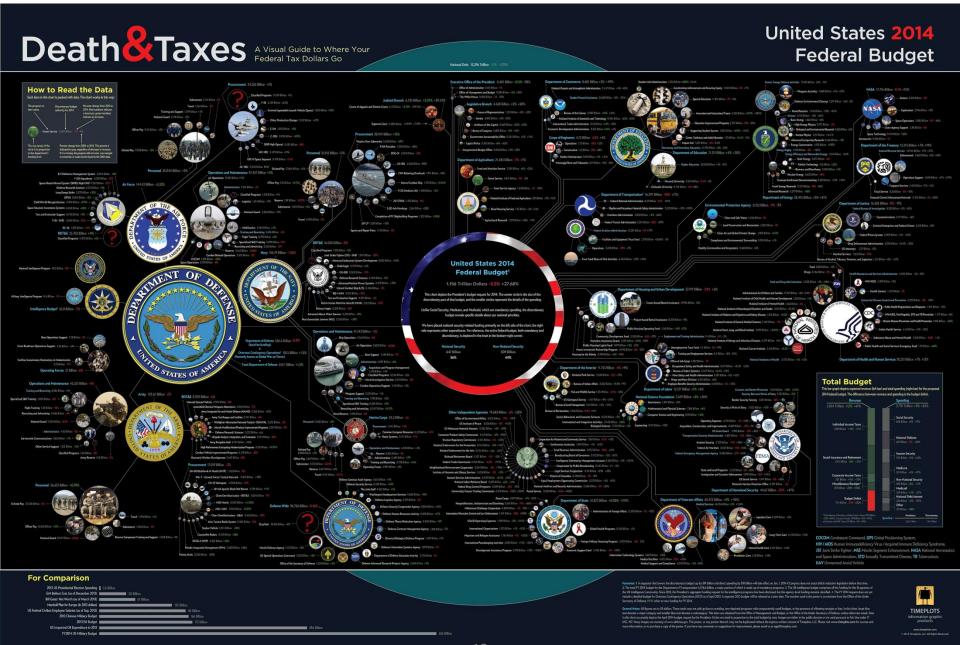
Communicate data and ideas
Explain and inform
Influence and persuade
Provide evidence and support

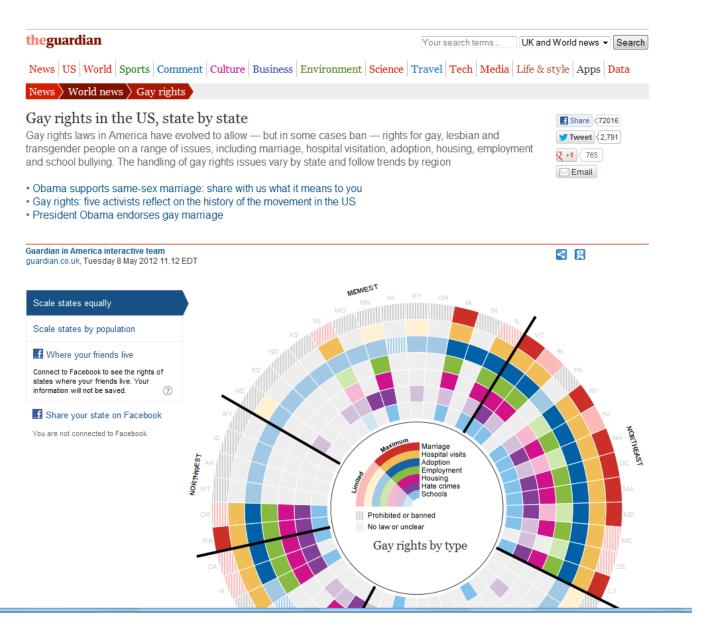


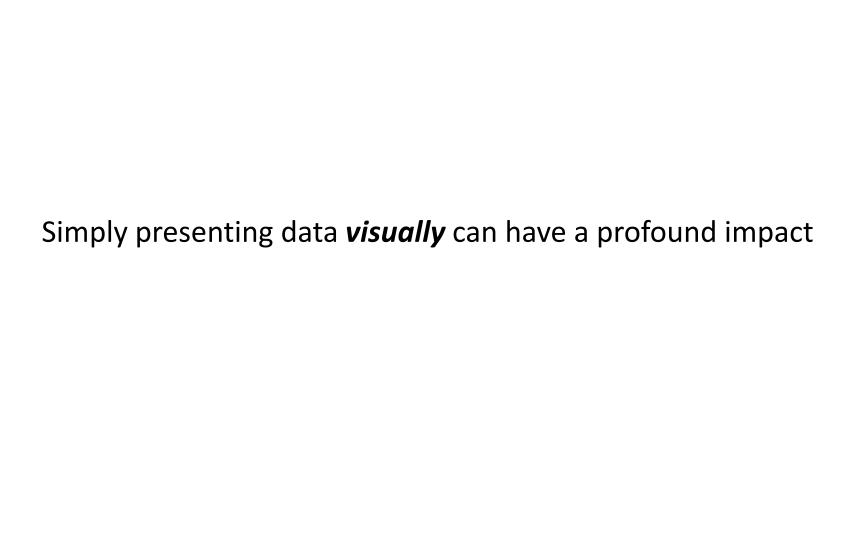
Infographics

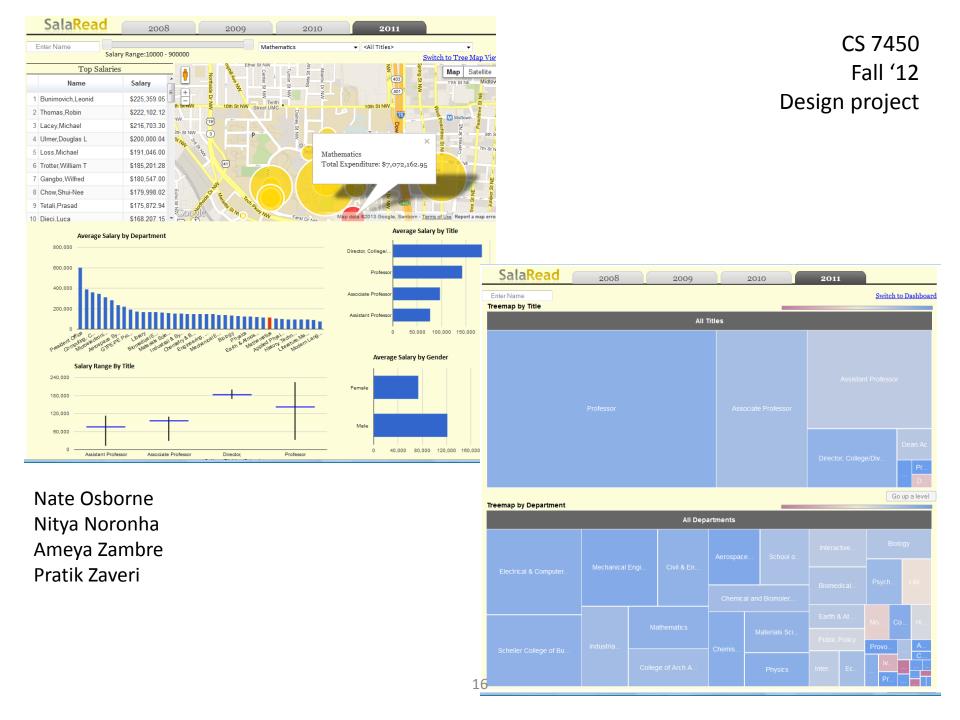


http://visual.ly/nuclear-arms-race

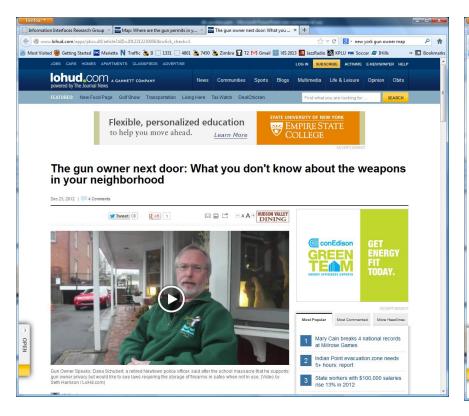


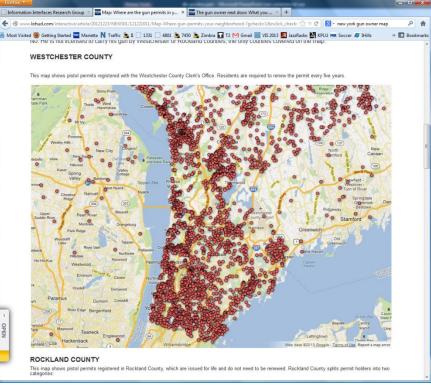






Gun ownership in New York counties





http://www.lohud.com/interactive/article/20121223/NEWS01/121221011/ Map-Where-gun-permits-your-neighborhood-?gcheck=1&nclick_check=1

Frequent presentation goals

Clarify

Focus

Highlight

Simplify

May just show a few variables and/or a subset of the data cases

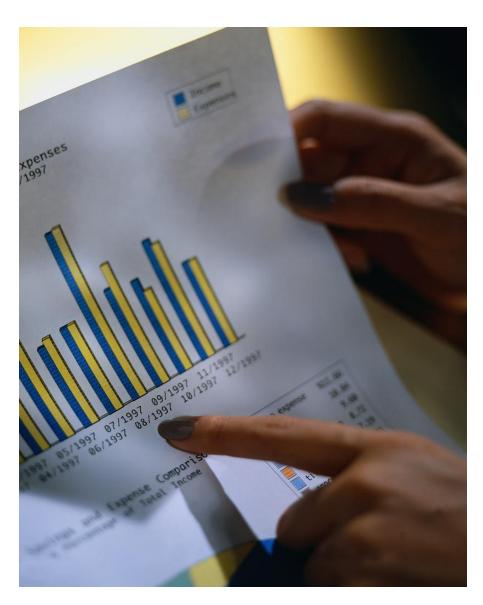


2. Analysis Explore the data Assess a situation Determine how to proceed Decide what to do

Many Data Analysis Approaches

Statistics
Database & information retrieval
Data mining
Machine learning





"Contained within the data of any investigation is information that can yield conclusions to questions not even originally asked. That is, there can be surprises in the data...To regularly miss surprises by failing to probe thoroughly with visualization tools is terribly inefficient because the cost of intensive data analysis is typically very small compared with the cost of data collection."

W. Cleveland
The Elements of Graphing Data

Frequent analysis goals

Show many variables
Illustrate overview and detail
Facilitate comparison

Display may not be easy to interpret at first

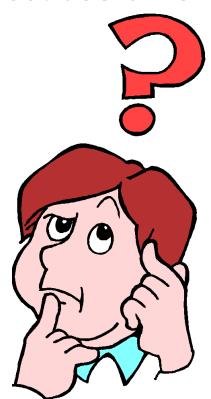
Preconceptions about Visualization Utility

Answering specific questions and accomplishing specific analytic tasks Generating unexpected, serendipitous discoveries and insights "Finding a needle in a haystack"



Yes, but not what it's best for

So what is visualization most useful for?

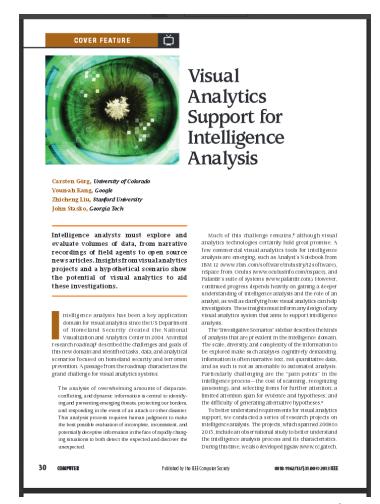


1. Visualization is more than just answering specific questions about data (as is often the case for automated analysis methods); it also facilitates the investigative analysis process, which supports analysts in developing awareness of, learning about, and generating trust in their data, its domain, and its context.

Learning, awareness, trust, context



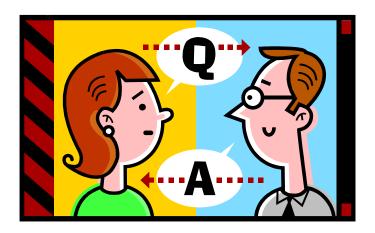
Investigative analysis



Görg, Kang, Kiu, Stasko *IEEE Computer* '13

2. Visualization, primarily through its interactive capabilities, promotes a dialog of inquiry between analysts and their data by allowing a diverse and flexible set of questions to be asked and answered about a data collection and by spurring the generation of new questions.

Q & A dialog through interaction



Engage in a dialog with your data

- 1. Select
- 2. Explore
- 3. Reconfigure
- 4. Encode
- 5. Abstract/Elaborate
- 6. Filter
- 7. Connect

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VISUALIZATION AND COMPUTER GRAPHICS, VOL. 13, NO. 6, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

Toward a Deeper Understanding of the Role of Interaction in Information Visualization

Ji Soo Yi, Youn ah Kang, John T. Stasko, Member, IEEE, and Julie A. Jacko

Abstract—Even though interaction is an important part of information visualization (Infovis), it has gamered a relatively low level of attention from the Infovis community. A few frameworks and taxonomies of Infovis interaction techniques exist, but they typically focus on low-level operations and do not address the variety of benefits interaction provides. After conducting an extensive review of Infovis systems and their interactive capabilities, we propose seven general categories of interaction techniques widely used in Infovis: 1) Select, 2) Explore, 3) Reconfigure, 4) Encode, 5) Abstract/Elaborate, 6) Filter, and 7) Connect. These categories are organized around a user's intent while interacting with a system rather than the low-level interaction techniques provided by a system. The categories can act as a framework to help discuss and evaluate interaction lechniques and hopefully lay an initial foundation toward a deeper understanding and a science of interaction

Index Terms-Information visualization, interaction, interaction techniques, taxonomy, visual analytics

Information visualization (inferiod systems, at their core, appear to and jetting down notes on the poster). Specie even suggests the have two main components: spresentation and intention. The normal representation component, whose roces lie in the field of computer model on the data set is changed or enhanced [83] Finally, through graphics, concerns the mapping from data to representation and how intention, some limits of a representation can be overcomed, and the that representation is rendered on the display. The interaction component involves the dialog between the user and the system as the user explores the data set to uncover insights. The interaction use user expiores ine data set to uncover insights. The interaction component's roots lie in the area of human-computer interaction (HCI). Although discussed as two separate components, representation and interaction clearly are not mutually exclusive. For instance, interaction with a system may activate a change in representation. Nonetheless, the two components seem to compose the two fundamental aspects of Infovis systems, and it seems reasonable to consider what each contributes to an end-user's

We argue that the representation component has received the vast majority of attention in Infovis research. A cursory scan of a recent conference proceedings or journal issues in the area will uncover many articles about new representations of data sets, but interaction is often relegated to a secondary role in these articles. Interaction rarely is the main focus of research efforts in the field, essentially making it the "little brother" of Infovis. In other words, it is overshadowed by the more noteworthy representation aspects. A few papers have mainly focused on the interactive aspects of Infovis (e.g., [10, 15, 25, 47]), but these are relatively uncommon when compared

to papers introducing new data representations.

Interaction is an essential part of Infovis, however. Without interaction, an Infovis technique or system becomes a static image or autonomously animated images (e.g., InfoCanvas [28]). While static images clearly have analytic and expressive value (e.g., [8, 29, 46]), their usefulness becomes more limited as the data set that they represent grows larger with more variables. Actually, even with a static image such as a poster, a user (or a reader) will often perform everal interactions (e.g., rotating the poster, looking closer/further,

- Ji Soo Yi is with Health Systems Institute & H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, E-
- industria and System Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, E-Madit Face Visitem Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, E-Madit Face Ang and John Spatiate of Technology, E-Madit Vising-Spatial gasch edu and statelogie; E-Madit Vising-Spatial Paris Andrews and Statelogie; E-Madit Vising-Spatial Gascopia Department of Biomedical Engineering (Georgia Institute of Technology & Ermon Uthers); E-Madit (Leshoffel) gasch edu

Manuscript received 31 March 2007; accepted 1 August 2007; posted online 27 October 2007. Published 14 September 2007. For information on obtaining reprints of this article, please send e-mail to:

cognition of a user can be further amplified (e.g., [15, 29]).

The importance of interaction and the need for its further study seem undisputed. For example, the recent book Illuminating the Path: The Research and Development Agenda for Visual Analytics calls for further research on interaction

"Recommendation 3.3: Create a new science of interaction to support visual analytics. The grand challenge of interaction is to develop a taxonomy to describe the design space of interaction techniques that supports the science of analytic reasoning. We must characterize this design space and identify under-explored areas that are relevant to visual analytics. Then, R&D should be focused on expanding the repertoire of interaction techniques that can fill those gaps in the design space." ([45], p. 76)

equivalent to Infovis, but the two clearly share much in common and the motivation for this call can equally be applied to Infovis.

While we believe that few would argue with the ments of the goals in the recommendation, precisely defining what is being called goas in de recominante, presante presenta des se tengamente for is not so easy. What does it mean to create a "science of interaction" in visual analytics and flowird? The recommendation speaks of developing a taxonomy of interaction techniques and identifying under-expired areas for future research. These are noble efforts, but we believe that a science of interaction also should involve gaining a deeper understanding of the utility and value of interaction in these fields. What does interaction contribute to the

For that matter, we might raise questions about the nature of interaction itself. In the context of Infovis, what is interaction and interactive behavior? Operations such as moving a dynamic query slider [3] to narrow the set of data points being shown or selecting an alternate point in a fisheye view [19] to change the focus seem like clear examples of interactive behavior. But consider a system where the user selects a menu operation to change from a scatter plot to a parallel coordinates of the data. Is that interaction?

The purpose of this article relates to the recommendation from Illuminating the Path that was discussed above. Defining a science of interaction is a lofty goal and we do not purport to do so here, but we do seek to take some initial steps toward that goal. Our objective is to further current understandings of the role that interaction plays

Yi, Kang, Stasko, Jacko TVCG (InfoVis) '07 **3. Visualization** rapidly and efficiently facilitates flexible exploration of data to foster both a broad and deep understanding of the information contained therein.

Broad and deep understanding quickly

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

Visualization of different data types

- Text & documents
- Statistics
- Financial/business data
- Internet information
- Software
- ...

Visualization of different data types

- Text & documents
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- ...

Why Visualize Text & Documents?

For what purpose(s)?
Accomplish what tasks?
Help with which problems?

Example Tasks and Goals

- Which documents contain text on topic XYZ?
- Which documents are of interest to me?
- Are there other documents that are similar to this one (so they are worthwhile)?
- How are different words used in a document or a document collection?
- What are the main themes and ideas in a document or a collection?
- Which documents have an angry tone?
- How are certain words or themes distributed through a document?
- Identify "hidden" messages or stories in this document collection.
- Quickly gain an understanding of a document or collection in order to subsequently do XYZ.
- Find connections between documents.

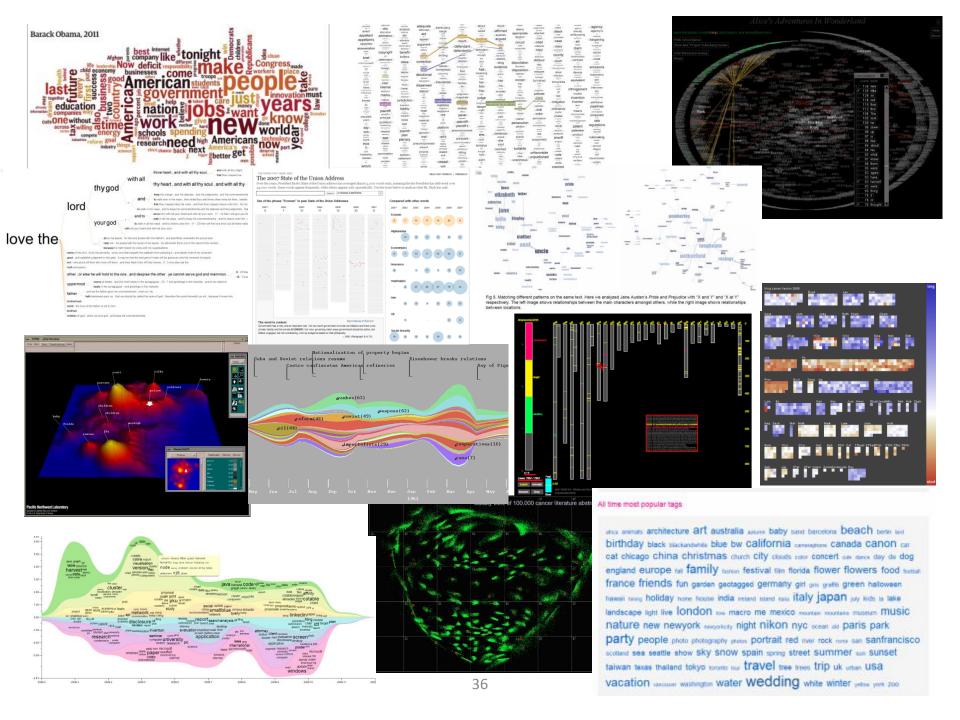
The Challenge

Text is nominal data

Does not seem to map to geometric/graphical

presentations as easily as ordinal and quantitative data

- Bar charts, line charts, scatterplots, etc.



"Putting the pieces together"

Jigsaw

Computational analysis of documents' text

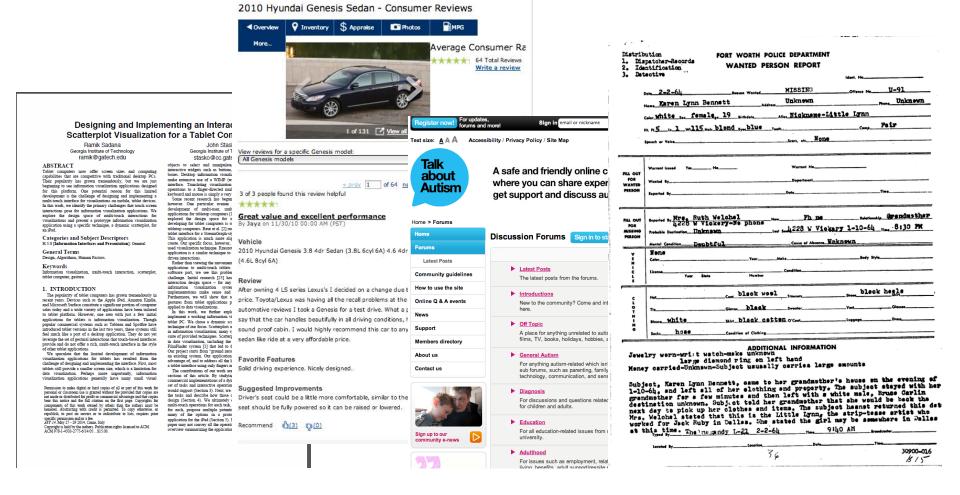
Entity identification, document similarity, clustering, summarization, sentiment Multiple visualizations of documents, analysis results, entities, and their connections Views are highly coordinated



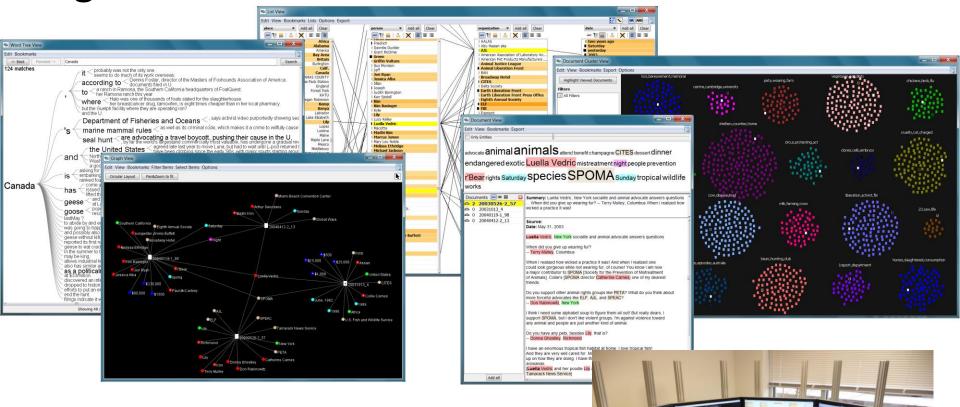
Help "investigators" explore, analyze and understand large document collections

Academic Papers Product Reviews

Health Forums Police Reports



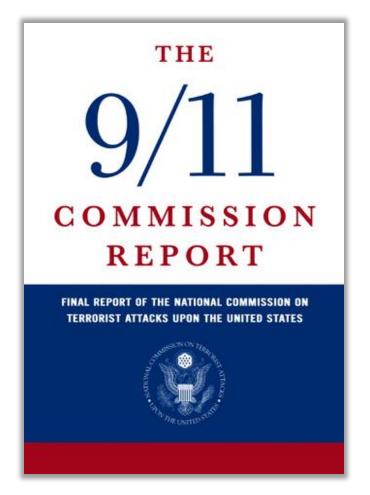
Jigsaw



Visual analytics of large text document collections

Görg, Liu, Kihm, Choo, Park, & Stasko *TVCG* '13

Example

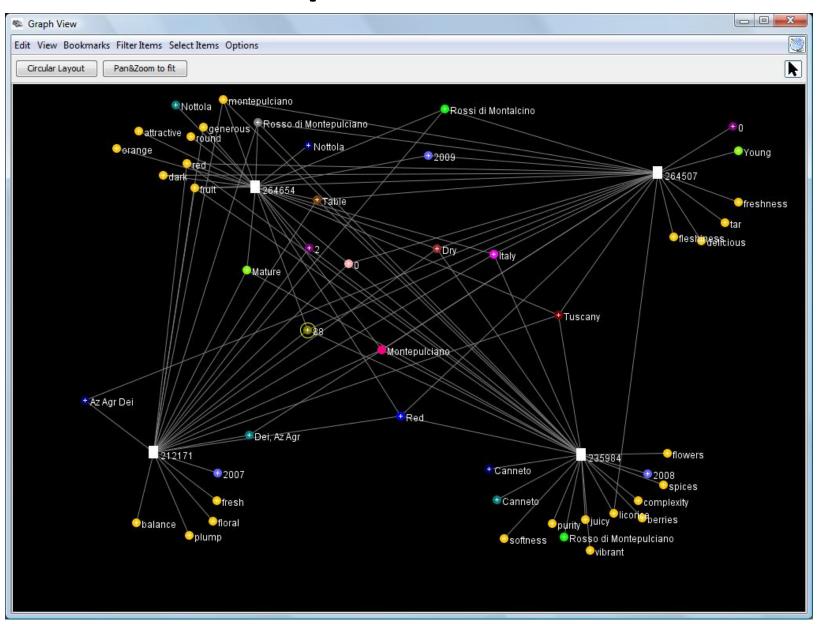


Made each page into a separate "document" 585 in total

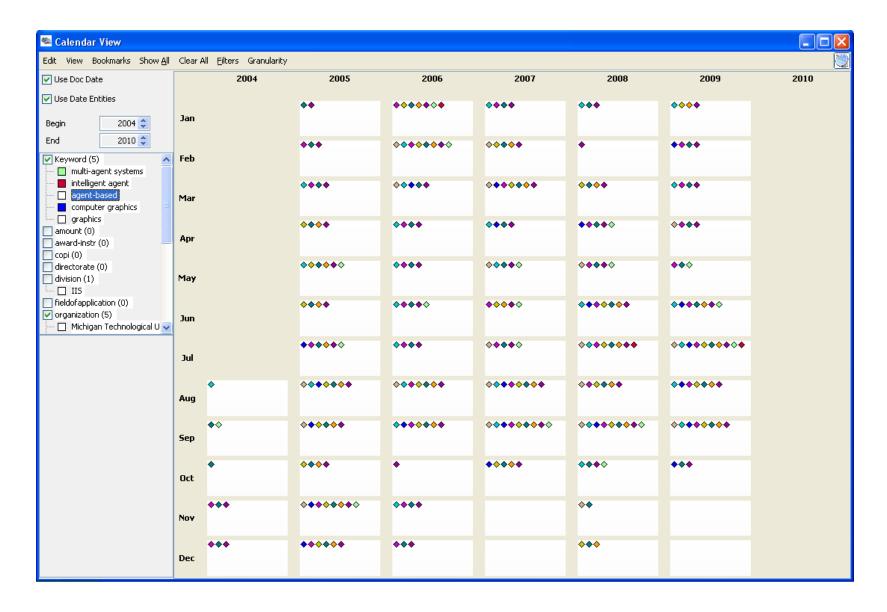
Entities: Person, Location, Organization, Date, Money

Demo

Graph View

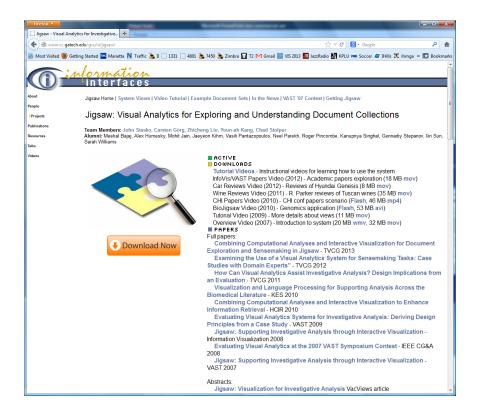


Calendar View



Download for free

http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/ii/jigsaw





Applications

- Intelligence & law enforcement
 - Police cases
 - Won 2007 VAST Contest
 - Stasko et al, InformationVisualization '08
- Academic papers, PubMed
 - All InfoVis & VAST papers
 - CHI papers
 - Görg et al, KES '10
- Investigative reporting
- Fraud
 - Finance, accounting, banking
- Grants
 - NSF CISE awards from 2000

- Topics on the web (medical condition)
 - Autism
- Consumer reviews
 - Amazon product reviews,
 edmunds.com, wine reviews
 - Görg et al, HCIR '10
- Business Intelligence
 - Patents, press releases,
 corporate agreements, ...
- Emails
 - White House logs
- Software
 - Source code repositories
 - Ruan et al, SoftVis '10

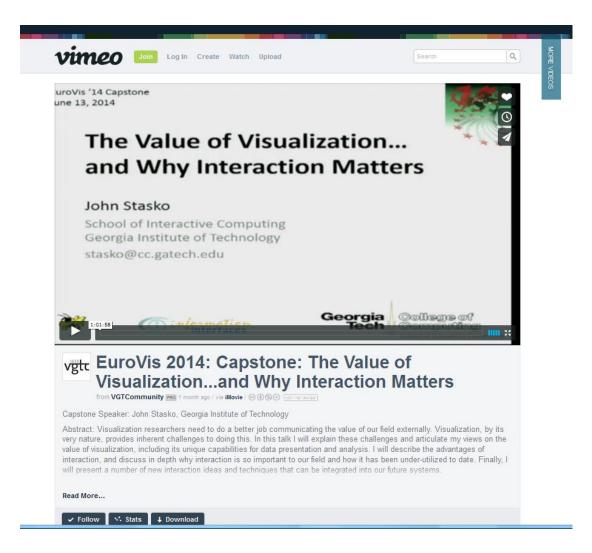
Further benefits of visualization

Ease of specifying queries

Opportunistic discovery of relevant data

Spurs the generation of new questions

EuroVis '14 Capstone Talk





Take Aways

Presentation & analysis

Interaction provides the power

Exploring & developing questions

Acknowledgments

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My Research

http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/ii

