### cse 512 - Data Visualization Evaluation



#### Leilani Battle University of Washington

How do we determine if a visualization is *effective*?

### Example: Tree Browsers





### **Evaluation Methods**

**Inspection or Principled Rationale** Apply design heuristics, perceptual principles

**Informal User Study** Have people use visualization, observe results

**Controlled Experiment** Choose appropriate tasks / users to compare Choose metrics (time, error, **what else?**)

### **Evaluation Methods**

**Field Deployment or Case Studies** Observation and Interview Document effects on work practices

**Theoretical Analysis** Algorithm time and space complexity

**Benchmarks** Performance (e.g., interactive frame rates) Scalability to larger data sets

### Topics

Focus+Context (Trees, Spatial Navigation) Data Density of Time Series Perceptual Organization of Graphs Discussion and Course Evaluation



### The Great Browse-Off! [CHI 97]



Microsoft File Explorer



Xerox PARC Hyperbolic Tree

Can we conclude that the hyperbolic tree is the better browser?

## Task Types

Simple retrieval tasks – "Find Lake Victoria"

*Complex retrieval tasks* – "Which army is led by a Generalissimo?"

Local relational tasks – "Which religion has the most holidays?"

*Complex relational tasks* – "Which Greek deity has the same name as a space mission?"

### Ambiguity and Information Scent Which tree branch would you follow to answer these questions?

"Find a hammer"

VS.

"What's the highest rank in the British Royal Air Force?"

### Initial Results: No Difference?

Question Type	Browser	
	Explorer (sec)	Hyperbolic (sec)
Retrieval Tasks		
Simple	35.55	34.37
Complex	41.55	42.02
All retrieval	38.55	38.20
Comparison Tasks		
Local	42.78	41.91
Global	71.07	73.19
All comparison	56.93	57.55
All questions	47.74	47.87

Xerox PARC researchers ran eye-tracking studies to investigate... [Pirolli et al 00]

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Subjects performed both retrieval and comparison tasks of varying complexity.

Xerox PARC researchers ran eye-tracking studies to investigate... [Pirolli et al 00]

Subjects performed both retrieval and comparison tasks of varying complexity.

No significant performance differences were found across task conditions.

### How do users navigate the tree?

### How do users navigate the tree? They read the labels!





**Microsoft File Explorer** 

#### Xerox PARC Hyperbolic Tree

### How do users navigate the tree?

**Information Scent:** A user's (imperfect) perception of the value, cost, or access path of information sources obtained from proximal cues. [Pirolli & Card 99]

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**Information Scent:** A user's (imperfect) perception of the value, cost, or access path of information sources obtained from proximal cues. [Pirolli & Card 99]

**Operationalize as:** the proportion of participants who correctly identified the location of the task answer from looking at upper branches in the tree.





#### Length of Eye Movements



Scent

### An Adaptive Field of View?





### **More Evaluations**





### **Evaluation of DOI Trees**

DOITree vs. Windows Explorer [Budiu, AVI 06]Nodes visited (avg)DOI:83Exp:53p < .005Revisitation (avg)DOI:6.6Exp:8.2p < .005

Divergence (avg) DOI:4.6 Exp:3.9 *p*<.001 DOITree more forgiving to navigation errors

**BUT** no significant difference in task time **DOITree vs. Google Directory** [Pirolli, CHI 06] DOITree has superior task knowledge transfer

#### Support rapid visual scanning Most people don't read in circles!



Degree of Interest Trees [Heer & Card 04]

People don't read in circles! Showing more is not always better Distractors can decrease task performance Interaction with quality of information scent

People don't read in circles! Showing more is not always better **Navigation cues critical to search Informative labels** or landmarks needed Poor **information scent** undermines search

### Lessons Learned

Both **task** and **data properties** (here, *information scent*) may interact with the visualization type in unexpected ways.

Equal **performance** in terms of accuracy or response time is **not the whole picture**. We often require more detailed study!

# **Spatial Navigation**

#### An Evaluation of Pan & Zoom and Rubber Sheet Navigation with and without an Overview

Dmitry Nekrasovski, Adam Bodnar, Joanna McGrenere, François Guimbretière, Tamara Munzner

### Pan & Zoom vs. Rubber Sheet



### **Experimental Task**

# Compare topological distance between nodes in a dendrogram.



### Experiment

Compare performance in 4 conditions:

- 1. Pan & Zoom (no overview)
- 2. Pan & Zoom (with overview)
- 3. Rubber Sheet (no overview)
- 4. Rubber Sheet (with overview)

40 subjects (24F/16M), between 18-39 years old. Right-handed, normal vision. Between-subjects design.
## 1. Rubber Sheet / No Overview



## 2. Pan & Zoom / No Overview



## 3. Rubber Sheet / Overview



### 4. Pan & Zoom / Overview



## Hypotheses

- 1. RSN interfaces perform better than PZN interfaces independently of the presence or absence of an overview.
- 2. For RSN, the presence of an overview does not result in better performance.
- 3. For PZN, the presence of an overview results in better performance.

### **Results: H1 False**



Figure 7: Mean completion times per trial for each interface by block in seconds (N=40).

## Results: H2 True, H3 False



Figure 9: Block 7 mean per-trial completion times in seconds by navigation technique with and without an overview.

## Results

R1. Pan & Zoom had lower completion times, navigation actions, resets, and reported mental demand.

R2. Overview has no significant impact on rubber sheet navigation, though it was reported to reduce physical demand.R3. Overview has no significant impact on pan & zoom navigation, though it was reported to reduce physical demand.

# Does this generalize for overview displays?





Data Density



# Data Density = $\frac{(# \text{ entries in data})}{(\text{area of graphic})}$

"Graphical excellence... gives to the viewer the greatest number of ideas in the shortest time with the least ink in the smallest space"

[Tufte 83]





AMZN



















## **Horizon Graphs**





Mirror Negative Values



#### Mirror Horizon Graph

**Offset** Horizon Graph













# Experiment 1 Horizon Graph Variants

# Exp 1: Mirror/Offset & Banding Q1: How does the choice of mirrored or offset horizon graph affect estimation time and accuracy?



Mirror Horizon Graph

**Offset** Horizon Graph

## Exp 1: Mirror/Offset & Banding Q1: How does the choice of mirrored or offset horizon graph affect estimation time and accuracy?

Q2: How does the number of bands in a horizon chart affect estimation time and accuracy?

## **Experiment 1 Design**



2 (type) x 3 (band count) within-subjects design

N = 18 (13 male, 5 female), UCB students

Deployed on the web as a Flash applet




## **Experiment 1 Results**

Q1:No significant difference between mirrored and offset horizon graphs.

**Q2**: Both estimation time and error increased with more bands.

 $\rightarrow$  Higher band counts led to

# Experiment 2 Chart Type and Size

### **Experiment: Chart Type & Size**

**Q1**: How do mirroring and layering affect estimation time and accuracy compared to line charts?

**Q2**: How does chart size affect estimation time and accuracy?



Estimate the difference between T and B (0-200) to within 5 values.

### **Experiment Design**



3 (chart type) x 4 (size) within-subjects design ■ N = 30 (17 male, 13 female), undergrads ■ 14.1 inch LCD display, 1024 x 768 resolution ■ At scale = 1, chart is 13.9 x 1.35 cm (48 px)

### **Experiment Design**



3 (type) x 4 (size) within-subjects design N = 30 (17 male, 13 female), undergrads 2 (type) x 3 (size:1/8, 1/12, 1/24) follow-up N = 8 (6 male, 2 female), engineering grads



## Virtual Resolution (VR)

The un-mirrored, un-layered height of a chart









### **Experiment Results**

**Q1**: 2-band horizon graph (but not mirrored graph) has higher baseline estimation time and error.

**Q2**: Estimation error increases as the *virtual resolution* decreases.

Estimation time decreases as the *physical height* decreases.

### **Design Guidelines**

### Mirroring does not hamper perception



### **Design Guidelines**

Mirroring does not hamper perception
Layered bands beneficial for smaller charts
2-band mirror charts more accurate for heights under 6.8mm (24 pixels @ 1024x768)
Predict benefits for 3 bands under 1.7mm (6 px)



## **Design Guidelines**

Mirroring does not hamper perception Layered bands beneficial for smaller charts **Optimal chart sizing** 

**Sweet spots** in time/error curves 6.8mm (24 px) for line chart & mirrored chart 3.4mm (12 px) for 2-band horizon graph

# FOLLOW-UP QUESTION: What other **tasks** and **performance measures** should one test?

# Perceptual Organization of Node-Link Diagrams

### **Perceptual Organization of Graphs**





Circular

#### Force-Directed

### **Experiment Design**

### Factors

Circular or Force-Directed Seed Layout # of Between-Cluster Edges ("masking")

All graphs had two primary clusters **Measures** # of Edge Crossings Average Edge Length Average Node Distance within or between clusters





Figure 4. Edge Crossings. Human observers produced graph layouts with fewer edge crossings than the force-directed graph algorithm.



Figure 5. Edge Length Distribution. Human observers did not focus on maintaining equal edge length as much as the force directed algorithm.



Figure 7. Cluster Extraction. For all levels of masking, the distance between nodes within a cluster is significantly smaller than the overall inter-node distance, demonstrating perceptual grouping. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals



Figure 9. Cluster Hulls. Two examples of user-generated layouts where cluster edges formed a hull enclosing the cluster, organizing it into a single perceptual group.

### Role of Environment [Reilly '07]











## Summary

Design and analyze visualization techniques in context of real-world use.

Time/error analyses can be insightful, but they don't provide a complete picture. Performance measures may be more suited to serious analysis than casual use?



### **Users & Domain**

# Administrivia

### **Final Project Schedule**

Proposal Milestone Poster

Wed, May 18 Fri, May 27 Wed, June 1\*

Deliverables Tue, June 7 Logistics <u>Final Project Showcase @ 10:30-11:45am</u> <u>Allen Center Atrium</u>

\* Submit posters by June 6 if printing yourself!

### **Course Evaluation**

### **Official course evaluation, due by 6/5** Your opinion is valued!

https://uw.iasystem.org/survey/258561

# **Course Summary**

## Data and Image Models



Sémiologie Graphique [Bertin 67]
# **Visualization Design**

Sales of SlicersDicers Compared to Sales of Other Products SlicerDicers' Sales Compared to Other Products July - December, 2011 vs. RoundTuits vs. NervousNellies 300% 300% \$650,000 250% 250% Monthly 200% AhNuts 200% \$600,000 150% 150% Slicers-\$550,000 100% Dicers 50% 50% NervousNellies \$500,000 0% 0% vs. Thingamagigs vs. Whatchamacallits \$450,000 300% 300% RingaDingies 250% 250% \$400,000 200% 200% п \$350,000 150% 150% RoundTuits 100% 100% \$300,000 50% 50% 036 056 \$250,000 SlicerDicers vs. AhNuts vs. WileyWidgets 300% 300% \$200,000 250% 250% SweetNuthins \$150,000 200% 200% 150% 150% \$100,000 100% 100% ThingamaGigs 50% 50% \$50,000 0% \$0 vs. RingaDingies vs. SweetNuthins August Whatchamacallits 300% 300% July October September November December 250% 250% 200% 200% WileyWidgets 150% 150% 100% 100% 50% 50% 0% 0%

Problematic design

Redesign

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

### **Deception & Ethics**

### Gun deaths in Florida

Number of murders committed using firearms



#### Top 5 Counties with the Greatest Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

The chart below represents the most impacted counties over the past 15 days represents the number of deaths and hospitalizations in each of those impacted



### **Exploratory Data Analysis**









Dymaxion Maps [Fuller 46]

### **Visualization Software**



### **D3**: Data-Driven Documents





Animated transitions in statistical data graphics [Heer & Robertson 07]

### Color

y n

diverging

-1 0 +1

-10+1

diverging

-1 0 +1

+10 -10

n

binary

1

diverging



# **Graphical Perception**



The psychophysics of sensory function [Stevens 61]





### Hierarchies



Degree-Of-Interest Trees [Heer & Card 04]

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File Options Tools



A northoge in arithm with or

~

# Scalability

+

Explore GAIA in Falcon with Ma X

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-100 -80

-60 -40

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20 40

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Powered by Falcon 0.13.0

Visualizations running in-browser.

#### Each box represents a state sized Recent elections have placed a heavy emphasis on "swing states" — Ohio, Florida and the other competitive states. Y A CALL AND A CA by number of electoral votes. Each curve shows how much it shifted left or right between elections MORE REPUBLICAN → ← MORE DEMOCRATIC Chart Chart Size of Lead Electoral Votes +30% +10% +10% +20% +30% ≥50% +40%+20%+40%≥50% Obama Romney Obama Re-elected 2012 The country voted about 5 percentage points more Republican in 2012 than in 2008. Obama lost North Carolina and Indiana, but won every tossup except Florida, McCain Obama which remains too close to call. 2008 Highlight Tossups Kerry Bush 2004 As Goes Ohio Ohio, which has voted for the

Gore

Bush

2000

Ohio, which has voted for the winner in every election since 1964, provided the decisive electoral votes in 2004, and it is the state likeliest to play that role again this year, according to the FiveThirtyEight model.

Highlight Ohio

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currently showing





### Model Interpretation







**MIXED3A** 

MIXED4A

#### **Individual Neurons**



#### Spatial Activations



#### MIXED4D

#### **Channel Activations**



### Looking Back, and Forward

What was most valuable and/or eye-opening for you to learn this quarter?

Where is more work required?

What emerging technologies and societal trends will impact visualization design? What did you find most difficult in creating visualizations and designing techniques?

# Thank You!