Alex Hamrick
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Feedback Group

Chess Visualization + How Americans get Books

How Americans get Books Members

Michael Gardone, Jessica Murdock

Notes

- Explain chess terms. Michael
- Who is the audience? Michael Jessica
    - “Pick your audience and stick with it.”
    - This applies specifically to the Gini Impurity visualization which is complicated and, in some ways, is very niche.
- Link the slider on the chess openings chart and the top players for the year sliders. Michael
- For the chess opening table, move the slider above the table Michael
- On the chess openings bar chart show the current years selected on the slider at the top of the visualization. Michael
    - For example show “1940 - 2010” below chess openings on a new line.
- The top three chess players could be hard to read because they are too close. To solve this we could have a legend where the top player name and elo changes but the colors remain the same based on their position. Michael

Analyzing Feedback

One of the big points of feedback that we got was related to the accessibility of our visualizations. Since they are all focused on chess, and we discuss things like openings, ratings (elo), and players, it would be very easy to isolate users who are not familiar with chess. Michael and Jessica rightfully pointed out that it would be useful for us to have a small blurb or section that describes the chess terms that we use and possibly provides some context for the project as a whole. Along with that, Jessica mentioned that we should decide who our intended audience is, especially since one of our visualizations uses a rather complicated metric (Gini

Impurity), and we will have to really explain this in a simple way if we want to avoid alienating less technical users. I think our goal is to make our visualizations very accessible, so we plan on taking this feedback and incorporating descriptive labels and comments in our visualization that will make clear what each visualization is measuring and any chess terms that get used. For the visualization using Gini Impurity our current plan is to simplify the naming of the visualization and then have a tooltip that explains what is technically being done. So for example the visualization might be renamed something to the effect of “Mixedness* of Player Openings” and then have text that explains what is going on when you hover over the word “mixedness”. We could also simplify the x-axis instead of going from 0 to 1 it goes from “Specialized Openings” to “Generalized Openings”.

We liked their storytelling aspect and considered an additional optional feature of including storytelling in our visualizations as well. We could explore the data and see if there are any particularly interesting observations. We could include something like when was the first time a computer beat the best chess player. Perhaps even include computer chess elo trends for storytelling.

The other major comments that Michael and Jessica gave were related to our visualization layouts. For our chess openings visualization, Michael recommended that we include the selected time range at the top of the visualization in order to make it more clear to the user what data they are selecting. This would also be important if we are listing a large number of openings, since users may have to scroll or look far down the list to see the selected years otherwise. Additionally, Michael recommended that we move the whole time range scale above the data table, and this would put a larger emphasis on time range aspect, which I think is good. We don’t want the time range to be some additional feature, but rather we want people to discover how opening frequency and success rates have changed over time, and putting the time range scale at the very top of the visualization will likely encourage users to use it.