**CMSC 436 / 636: Data Visualization**

**Assignment 2: Analysis of two Data Visualization Examples**

**Instructor: Jian Chen**

**Student: Hao Chen**

# **Analysis of two Data Visualization Examples**

A Bad Example Of Data Visualization

There are many data visualization designs and techniques. One of the most important data visualization design rule is to show the real data features to the audiances. Here is a visualization example not following to rule and make misleading to the public.

Figure 1

<https://www.reddit.com/r/dataisugly/comments/1yb04c/gun_death_statistics_with_inverted_y_axis_for_no/> , the website is where the figure 1 came from. And people who saw this figure left some comments, such as “Just wait until we cross the zero and create gun births”, “Of course there is a reason, to make it look to the casual observer that gun deaths dropped as a result of the law”. We see that this visualization makes the y axis direction upside down to mislead the trend of gun deaths. Human eyes detected the fall of the line but actually it means the increase of data, which is gun deaths in Florida.

And also when the designer marked the region as red, viewers may be drew attention to the area instead of the numbers itself presented. For example, from 2005 to 2006, there was a huge increase of gun deaths, but because of the region marked in red, viewers will not realize how big the increase was within one year.

A Good Example Of Data Visualization

Here is the URL of the Wind Map, <http://hint.fm/wind/> . If you go to this website, it gives you an amination to show the wind. As we all know that wind cannot be seen but you can feel it. So people measure wind with seed and direction. If we visualize the wind speed and direction over time. That is what the website shows you. People can easily see the which direction the wind was going and how strong it is.

As mentioned on the website, “An invisible, ancient source of energy surrounds us—energy that powered the first explorations of the world, and that may be a key to the future. This map shows you the delicate tracery of wind flowing over the US.” The right data visualization not only gives people the feature of the data to help people explore and understand the data better, but also it is a kind of design of art.