Post-Lecture-1 Task
(*Ack: Works of Tamara Munzner, UBC*)

Objectives
- Learn to understand dataset at hand.
- Learn how to formulate queries to seek answers from the dataset.

Submission Instruction
- Organise and submit your attempt as a 'Post' with your classmates under ==Teams channel – [L1] Post-Lecture Task==
- Gather different perspectives : Read and respond to the submissions by others.
- Your work will not be graded or marked by teaching team. Submit your attempt ==by Wednesday 24 Jan, 2pm== to gain class participation points.

Task:
You can find sample "Aid Data" dataset under ==Teams channel – [L1] Post-Lecture Task-Files==
Here is an excerpt from the dataset user's guide that summarises the dataset.

DATA USER'S GUIDE

FIELD DESCRIPTIONS

Records in the AidData main table and research releases contain over 100 fields, but many of these are tailored for specialized project reports or research questions. For a complete list of fields and descriptions, please see the AidData User's Guide. Most users will find the most useful information in the following fields:

Donor name: Name of the donor country or multilateral organization. For more detailed information, use Implementing Agency and/or Financing Agency.

Recipient name: Name of the recipient country or region. In some cases, Private Recipient, Beneficiary or Borrower may contain relevant information.

Year: Commitment year. Other date fields may also contain useful values, but Year is always populated.

Commitment Amount: Amount the donor has agreed to provide for the duration of the project, often disbursed over the following years. Note that there are actually several commitment amount fields:

Nominal/Current: As reported by the donor, in the reported currency. Current (USD): As reported by the donor, converted to nominal USD at the average exchange rate in effect in the commitment year. Constant (USD): The reported amount converted to USD and adjusted for inflation and exchange rate changes. Constant amounts are all presented in USD2009 (i.e. at 2009 prices and exchange rates). See the AidData User's Guide for conversion and deflation methods.

Title, Short Description, Long Description: These fields contain descriptive information as provided by the donor. Long descriptions range from only a few sentences to several paragraphs in length.

Purpose Code: AidData has developed a granular system of sector coding, which expands the OECD's purpose code scheme. However, coding is still underway. AidData researchers have coded projects from non-CRS sources and work is underway to add these codes to CRS-sourced data as well, but new codes have not yet been released for CRS projects. Therefore, CRS purpose codes for CRS-sourced records and AidData activity codes for non-CRS records should be used complementarily. See the AidData User's Guide for a full description of AidData's codes and how to use them.

1. **Examine data:**
   For example (but do not limit your data exploration to the list below)
   --number of fields/attributes/columns
   -- number of items/rows
   -- each of the attribute type
   -- cardinality/range /Any other characterization that seems potentially useful

2. **Explore Data (& Transform data if needed) and Formulate Queries**
   -- Write queries you would like to answer with this data set, from the point of view of an Aid worker reporting to the government of a country providing aid and/or

from the point of view of a Journalist reporting to the citizens of a country receiving aid.

For each query, think about:
--Do you need a chart in order to answer this query?
-- If none of your queries require a chart, try to think of queries that might benefit from a chart.
If you come up with one such query.
--Which fields/attributes do you need to use to answer the query?
-- Do you need to transform the data in order to answer the query? If yes, what transformations are needed?
-- Do attribute type change when you need to transform the data? If yes, how do they change?
-- Do you have all the data you need to answer this query, or would you need additional data fields that are not provided here?

3. **Reflect on your process:**

What did you learn in this Task?
How might this analysis be useful in visualization design?
Avoid writing an essay. Practice writing a short and meaningful piece. Academic writing should be clear, concise and precise. You should use no more words than necessary to convey your meaning clearly. In some cases, the more words you include, the harder it is for the reader to extract your meaning. Most of us use far more words than necessary in a first draft; achieving clear, concise and precise writing usually requires several revisions. While this can take time, it will give your writing more impact.