

Lecture 1: A brief history of data visualization

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Earliest graphics

Began with geographic maps: colors on clay tablets (5000 years ago)

11th century China: Map of the Tracks of Yu The Great

- ▶ outline very accurate
- ▶ high precision of rivers
- ▶ scale is almost exact
- ▶ carved into 3-ft wide stone tablet

Tracks of Yu the Great

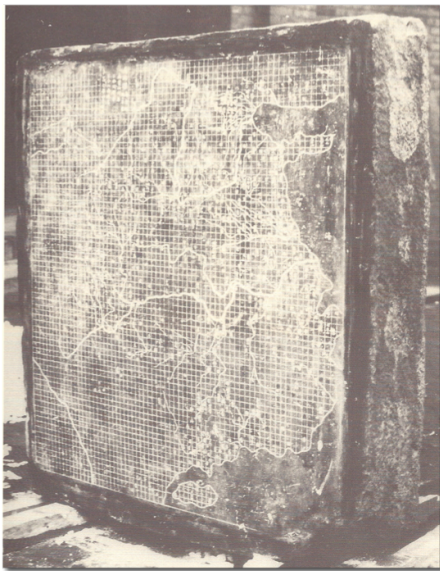


Figure 1: What do we see?

Tracks of Yu the Great

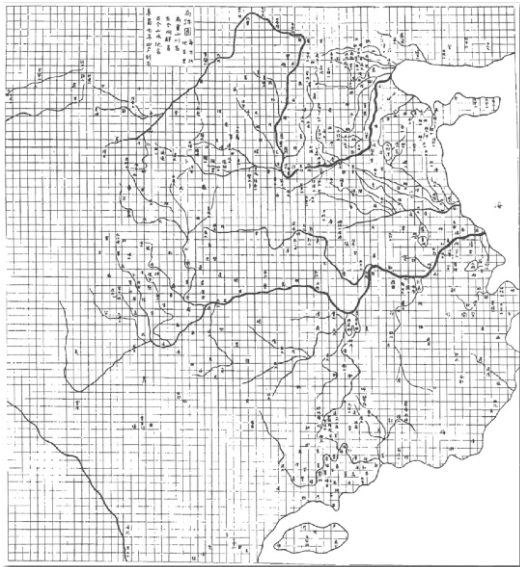


Figure 2: What do we see?