

Exploring potential causes, consequences and visualizing evolution of major air pollutant emissions over EU28

Jules Sauvinet, Marine Ruiz

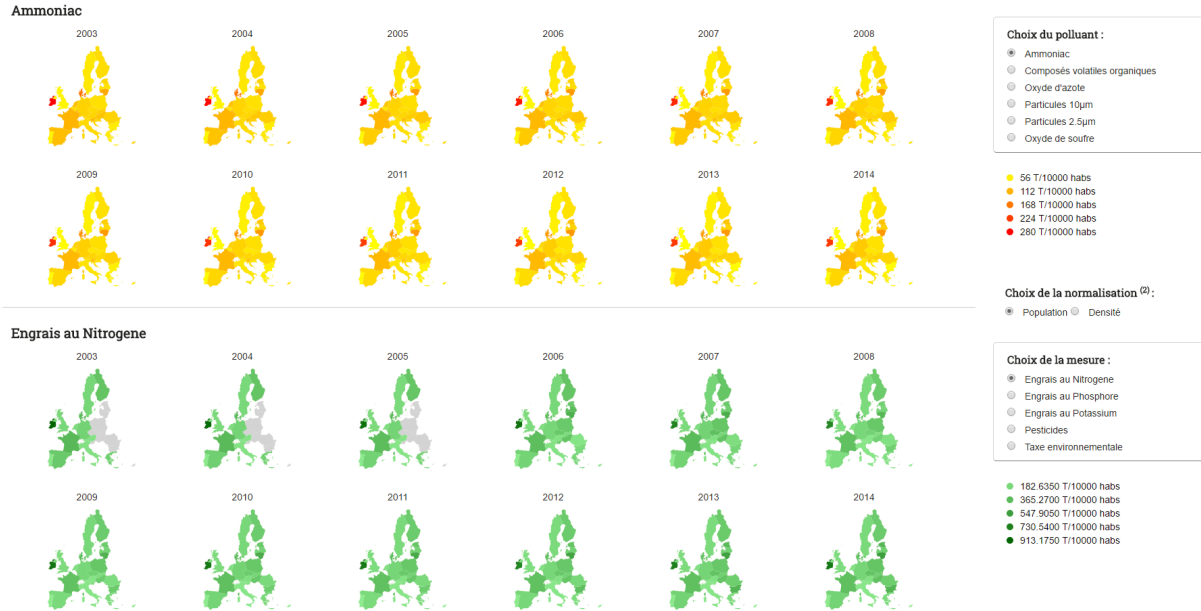


Fig. 1. Main view of the visualization: 12 small maps of EU28 colored according to ammoniac emissions on the top and 12 small maps of EU28 showing quantity used of Nitrogen fertilizers from 2003 to 2014.

Abstract— From now on, the media talks about environmental issues on a daily basis. Pollution peaks have become commonplace in large metropolises and air pollution is becoming a subject that is increasingly affecting citizens. As pollution is not only a visual or olfactory discomfort, it is now the main environmental health risk in the world. On average, it causes the premature death of 7 million people worldwide, including 600 000 in Europe and more than 50 000 in France, according to the World Health Organization, the Ministry of the Environment and the Environment. European Environment Agency. We propose here a model which allows to visualize the evolution of the emissions of the main harmful pollutants during 12 years and to explore the potential causes and consequences. For instance, does it seems to be an obvious correlation between the fines particles emissions and pulmonary diseases?

Index Terms—Air pollution, Pollutant, Ammoniac, Sulphur oxides, Non-methane volatil organic compounds, Nitrogen oxides, Particule matters, EU28, Ecology, Health.

1 INTRODUCTION(1P)

The emissions of most harmful air pollutants has globally decreased over the past 25 years in European Union (see the figure 2 below). Nevertheless, emissions remain very high, particularly in some countries whose economy depends on sectors responsible for the discharge of certain pollutants. While some countries have taken stock of the issue and taken steps to reduce their emissions, others are struggling to keep pace with economic and political conflicts. As a result, there are regularly many pollution peaks in major European cities, posing serious problems for the environment and health.

The model we are proposing has two parts.

The first is to be able to visualize the evolution of pollution in the European Union countries for 6 pollutants identified by Eurostats as among the most dangerous for the environment and health: Ammonia

(NH₃), Sulfur Oxides (SO_x) Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), Fine Particles less than 2.5µm (PM2.5), and Fines Particles less than 10µm (PM10).

In order to be able to visualize the evolution of the emission of these pollutants, we have developed an interface composed of 12 small maps from the European Union countries to 28 concerning 12 recent years (the data we have of the pollutants range from 1990 to 2014, and these are more complete the longer the time). The user chooses the pollutant from which he wishes to consult changes in the list of 6 specified earlier. Then, each small map (see the figure 3 below) is colored according to a scale of color more or less intensely depending on the amount of pollution rejected per inhabitant. The countries whose data we do not have are colored gray. The color scale is constructed from two minimum and maximum values which are the minimum and maximum rejected pollution values by a country during the 12 years considered. Ainsi, l'utilisateur peut observer l'évolution de la pollution pour comparer les pays entre deux pays ou bien pour un même pays pour deux années différentes. Les small maps lui donne une vue d'ensemble lui indiquant la tendance gnrale de l'évolution de la pollution pour les 12

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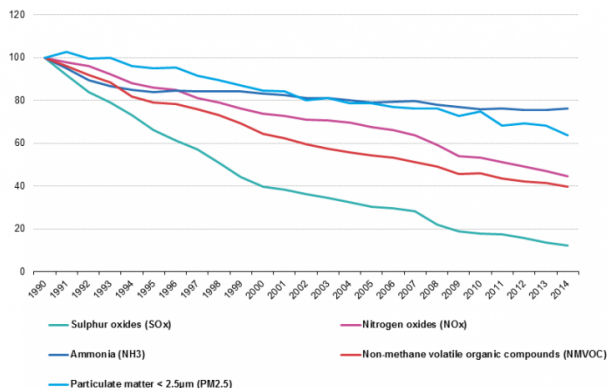


Fig. 2. A visualization of the data from ???. The image is from [1] and is in the public domain.



Fig. 3. A visualization of a small map. The image is from our visualisation.

annes et le polluant considr. De plus l'chelle de couleur permet d'isoler nettement les pays qui ont une mission bien plus leve que les autres (e.g. l'Irlande sur la figure 3).

The second part of our model is the exploration of the potential causes and consequences of pollution among those that we propose. Once the pollutant has been chosen, the user can choose from a list what we will call a comparison measure. For example, for ammonia, the user can choose from the "Nitrogen Fertilizer" measure. A second set of 12 small maps is then made showing this time the evolution of the measure considered for the maximum 12 years common with those of the pollutants whose data are available.

Thus, by comparing the intensity of the coloration of the two series of small maps, the user can identify if there is a potential link between the pollutant and the measure considered. First, it is possible to observe if over a year the color nuances correspond and potentially indicates a correlation for the target year. Secondly, it is possible to observe whether the evolution trends (growth, decay, stagnation) are connected (similar, or opposite). The goal is to invite the user to wonder but obviously does not affirm the observed link.

2 RELATED WORK (1P)

- Note that each author needs to have a separate entry in author footer on the bottom-left corner of the first page, merging two people (even if from the same institution) is not permitted.
- The style uses the hyperref package, thus turns references into internal links. We thus recommend to make use of the `"\autoref{reference}"` call (instead of `"Figure~\ref{reference}"` or similar) since `"\autoref{reference}"` turns the entire reference into an internal link, not just the number. Examples: ?? and ??.
- The style automatically looks for image files with the correct extension (eps for regular L^AT_EX; pdf, png, and jpg for pdfL^AT_EX), in a set of given subfolders (figures/, pictures/, images/). It is thus sufficient to use `"\includegraphics{CypressView}"` (instead of `"\includegraphics{pictures/CypressView.jpg}"`).
- For adding hyperlinks and DOIs to the list of references, you can use `"\bibliographystyle{abbrv-doi-hyperref-narrow}"` (instead of `"\bibliographystyle{abbrv}"`). It uses the doi and url fields in a bib_TE_X entry and turns the entire reference into a link, giving priority to the doi. The doi can be entered with or without the `"http://dx.doi.org/"` url part. See the examples in the bib_TE_X file and the bibliography at the end of this template.

Note 1: occasionally (for some L^AT_EX distributions) this hyper-linked bib_TE_X style may lead to **compilation errors** (`"pdfendlink ended up in different nesting level ..."`) if a reference entry is broken across two pages (due to a bug in hyperref). In this case make sure you have the latest version of the hyperref package (i.e., update your L^AT_EX installation/packages) or, alternatively, revert back to `"\bibliographystyle{abbrv-doi-narrow}"` (at the expense of removing hyperlinks from the bibliography) and try `"\bibliographystyle{abbrv-doi-hyperref-narrow}"` again after some more editing.

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3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION (2P)

3.1 Visualization description

- Les 12 maps polluants avec la legende
 - Si on choisit un autre polluant dans la liste, les maps se mettent jour
 - Permet le dynamisme de la vizu des polluants.
- Les 12 maps de mesure avec la legende
 - Si on choisit une autre mesure dans la liste, les maps se mettent jour et on affiche les maps uniquement avec les annes sur lesquelles nous avons des donnees et polluant et mesure selectionnes dans la limite de 12 annes
 - Permet le dynamisme de la vizu des mesures.
 - permet de maximiser linformation grce aux annes dynamique, on sadapte aux donnees et non linverse, on naffiche jamais de map toute grise
 - Si on choisit un autre polluant, la liste des mesures est modifi pour proposer des mesures interessantes comparer avec le polluant
 - Permet de maximiser les comparaisons, on enleve ce qui nest pas pertinent pour que lutilisateur ne perde pas de temps inutilement
- la normalisation des donnees
 - Si on change la normalisation des donnees, les 24 maps et la legende se mettent jour
 - Les pays les plus peupl pollue plus, il faut faire un pourcentage
- laffichage des valeurs
 - Quand on passe la souris sur un pays de nimporte quelle map, polluant comme mesure, le nom du pays apparat et les annes sont remplaces par la valeur sur les 24 maps (les annes o il ny pas de donnees pour le pays, rien ne saffiche)
 - Lagencement de la vizu permet ds le premier regard de se faire une ide de la corrlation mais afficher les valeurs sur les 24 maps permet de faire un ide rapide de lvolution de la donnee. On peut aussi comparer son volution avec lautre donnee (corrlation, anti-corrlation, rien)
 - on a une liste de tous les pays qui sont pris en compte
 - on peut cocher ou dcocher tous les pays de la liste suivant si lon veut les visualiser ou non.
 - La legende se met jour si cela est ncessaire. Le pays devient gris sur toutes les maps, et passer la souris dessus ne change rien la Viz.
 - certains pays biaisent la legende en ayant des valeurs extremes. On peut donc choisir de ne pas prendre en compte ce pays et ainsi obtenir une chelle plus raffine. On peut de ce fait faire une coloration de seulement quelques pays si on le souhaite

3.2 Choice of the measures

We chose 18 measures that we considered relevant regarding the pollutants we selected :

- Cancer death (Morts de cancers)
- Pesticides (Pesticides)
- Nitrogen fertilizers
- Potassium fertilizers

5.2 Getting more visual clue

In addition, we thought about being able to display graphs of changes in pollution values and the chosen measure of a country for all the years of which we have data available. When the user clicks on a country on a small map, a graphic would appear in a container at the bottom of the visualization, giving an extra visual key to observe the correlation and evolution of the data.

Moreover, we thought of giving an additional visual key to compare values across all countries, bidding on the information provided by the color scales. When the user clicks on a country, two value tables for all other countries for the current year are displayed for the pollution values and the current measure. Not all users have clear interpretations of the differences between colors, which would have allowed some users to more accurately visualize the targeted country according to the others and thus reach a wider audience. Nevertheless, since the visualization is already rich in the number of visual elements, the added information could also overload the information and obscure the view of the user

5.3 Getting more information

Moreover, we have imagined that we can integrate the notion of respect for ecological norms to highlight countries that do not respect it and thus highlight the relevance of European environmental policy. Non-compliant countries could have an additional visual code such as being covered by hatching or dotted lines.

We also thought we could add more pollutants. To do this, we would have had to extend our knowledge of the field of air pollution in order to choose those with relevance for comparison with our measurement data. Similarly, we wanted to add further measurement data (particularly in the field of health), including data moving away from commonly established correlations (eg diesel cars and fine particle rejection), thus showing the consequences of probably less well-known pollution. However, the available data are often not available and not always easily interpretable for non-specialists in the field of pollution.

Another idea was to be able to navigate through all the common years available for the polluting / measuring combination with a 12-year sliding beach slider. That would have enabled us to make full use of our data. In addition to this idea of enriching the temporal dimension, we would have liked to be able to propose a monthly time scale in addition to the annual scale to observe with more refinement the peaks of pollution. Unfortunately, no asser data is available today with such a fine time dimension.

Finally, one possibility would have been to use a finer geographical breakdown, such as that proposed by the NUTS2 regional division format) or the NUTS3 format (departmental format). However, the scale of small maps is no longer suitable for reading a visualization with depictions of such fine geographical areas. It would have been necessary to reduce the number of small maps by removing years. It is a compromise to find, providing maximum information without drowning the user, while maintaining legibility and complexity allowing the visualization to remain fast and dynamic for a comfort of use.

6 CONCLUSION

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