GRID MAP

ALSO KNOWN AS Cartogram, bin map, equal-area cartogram, hexagon bin map

C H R T S

DISTORTIONS

REPRESENTATION DESCRIPTION

A grid map displays the quantitative values associated with distinct, definable spatial regions on a map. Each geographic region (or a statistically consistent interval of space, known as a 'bin') is represented by a fixed-size uniform shape, sometimes termed a **tile**. The marks used tend to be squares or hexagons, though any tessellating shape might help to arrange all regional tiles into a collective shape that roughly fits the real-world geographic adjacency. Attributes of colour are applied to each regional tile either to represent a quantitative measurement or to associate the region with a categorical classification.

EXAMPLE Showing the percentage of people voting to leave and remain across the UK electoral seats during the EU referendum in 2016.

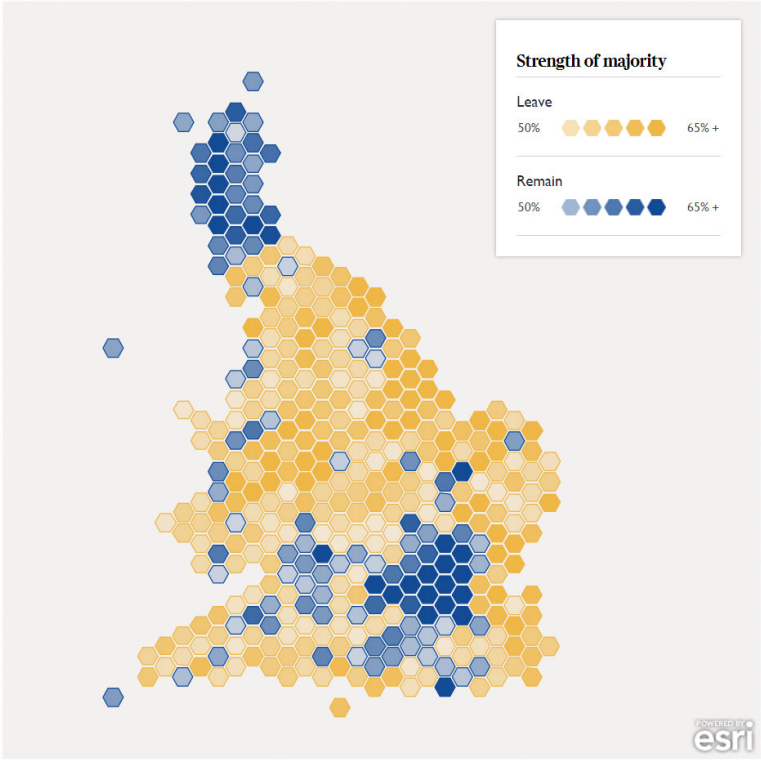

Figure 6.52 Share of People Voting to Leave and Remain During the EU Referendum in 2016, by Ben Flanagan

VARIATIONS & ALTERNATIVES

'Hexagon bin maps' are specific deployments of the grid map that offer a layout formed by a high resolution of smaller hexagons to preserve localised details.

PRESENTATION TIPS

INTERACTIVITY: Interactivity may be helpful to offer selectable tooltips to view quantitative values and category or location labels for any region on the display.

ANNOTATION: Directly labelling the shapes with geographic details is usually impractical due to the small size of each point mark, unless short abbreviated values can suitably represent the location label. Legends explaining the colour associations must be included.

COMPOSITION: The main composition challenge is to determine the right geographic level for each constituent tile to be representative of, and to optimise, the best-fit collective layout that preserves as many neighbouring relationships as possible.