Module #2: Introduction to Visualization Techniques

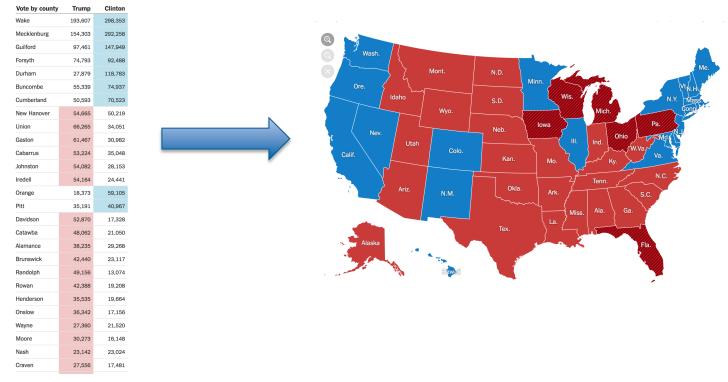


Objectives

- Describe the basic data types
- Describe the pros/cons of some of the basic visualization techniques
- Discuss how basic visualization techniques can be extended to incorporated multiple variables

What is Data Visualization?

A mapping of data attributes to visual attributes



What are data attributes?

What are visual attributes?

Visualization Process

task

questions, goals assumptions

data

physical data type conceptual data type

domain

metadata semantics conventions processing algorithms

mapping visual encoding

image

visual channel graphical marks

Visualization Process



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Data Definition

- A typical dataset in visualization consists of n records
 - $(r_1, r_2, r_3, ..., r_n)$
- Each record r_i consists of m (m >=1) observations or variables
 - $(V_1, V_2, V_3, ..., V_m)$
- A variable may be either independent or dependent
 - An *independent variable* is the variable that is changed or controlled in a scientific experiment to test the effects on the dependent variable.
 - Not affected by another variable
 - Ex. Time in a time-series dataset
 - A dependent variable is the variable being tested and measured in a scientific experiment
 - Affected by variation in one or more associated independent variables
 - Ex. Temperature of a region

Taxonomy of Data Types

- 1. 1D/Linear
 - lists of data items, organized by a single feature (e.g., alphabetical order)
- 2. 2D/Planar (incl. Geospatial)
 - maps
- 3. 3D/Volumetric
 - medical imaging
- 4. Temporal
 - T=time series
- 5. nD/Multidimensional
 - category proportions
- 6. Tree/Hierarchical
 - Computer file structure
- 7. Network
 - internet

Basic Data Types

- 1. Nominal
- Ordinal
- 3. Quantitative
 - 1. Interval
 - 2. ratio

Basic Data Types

Nominal

2. Ordinal

- Quantitative
 - 1. Interval
 - 2. ratio

Nominal data: A set of not-ordered and non-numeric values

For example:

- Categorical (finite) data
 - Fruit: {apple, orange, pear}
 - Color: {red, green, blue}
- Arbitrary (infinite) data
 - Address:

```
{"12 Main St. Boston MA", "45 Wall St. New York NY", ...}
```

• Staff:

```
{"John Smith",

"Jane Doe",
...}
```

Basic Data Types

Nominal

2. Ordinal

3. Quantitative

- 1. Interval
- 2. ratio

Ordinal Data: an ordered set

For example:

- 1. Numeric <2, 4, 6, 8>
- 2. Binary <0, 1>
- 3. Non-numeric <G, PG, PG-13, R>

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Basic Data Types

Quantitative

- Interval
- 2. ratio

Quantitative Data: A numeric range

Interval

- Ordered numeric elements on a scale that can be mathematically manipulated, but cannot be compared as ratios
- For example: date, current time (Sept 14, 2010 cannot be described as a ratio of Jan 1, 2011)

Ratio

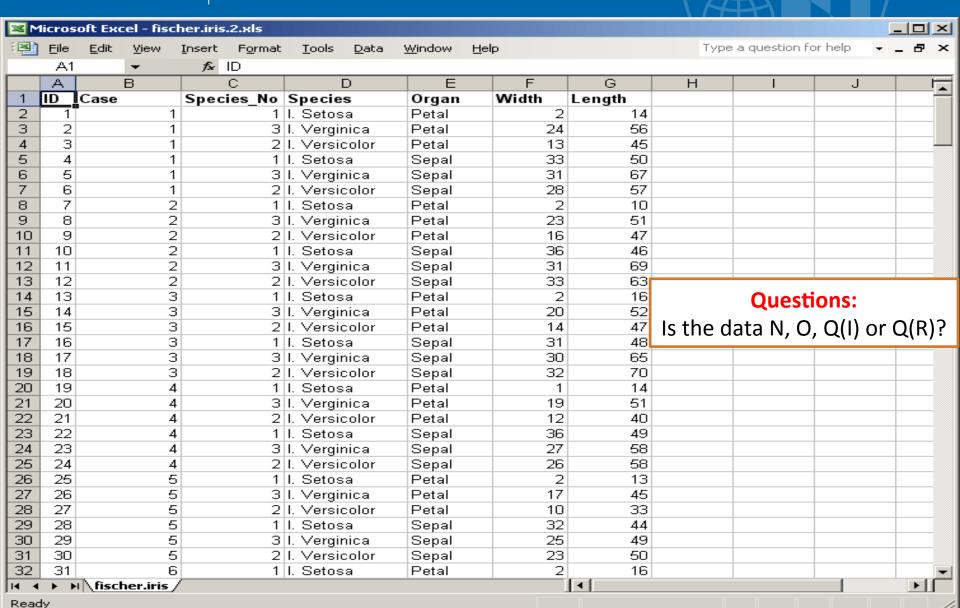
- where there exists an "absolute zero"
- For example: height, weight



- N Nominal (labels or categories)
 - Operations: =, ≠
- O Ordinal
 - Operations: =, ≠, <, >
- Q Interval
 - Operations: =, ≠, <, >, -
 - Can measure distances or spans
- Q Ratio
 - Operations: =, ≠, <, >, -, %
 - Can measure ratios or proportions

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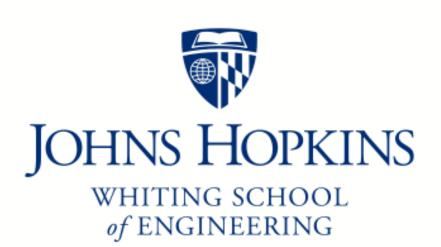
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