CS732/DS732: Data Visualization -- Course Evaluation Guide

Jaya Sreevalsan Nair
International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore
October 27, 2021[1]

Grading scheme, as announced on August 3, 2021:

- 15% of the final grade for each of 4 assignments (A1, A2, A3, A4)
    - Each of the assignments has a demo for 5%, submitted as a video
- 10% for reading-writing assignment (RWA)
- 10% for mid-term
- 10% for end-term
- 10% for class attendance

Submission instructions:

- Programming assignments and RWA: 70% of the final grade
    - It is compulsory to attempt all 4 assignments and the RWA.
    - The assessment of the programming assignment is based on deliverables, i.e. code+report+demo (video) for each assignment.
        - The report is where one can elaborate on the data used, hypothesis, analytical methodology, and inferences.
        - The code submissions must be source code in text format, say python code in .py text file format, and not as Jupyter notebooks.
        - The video must indicate how you have been able to demonstrate visualizations, interactions with the application, and other inferences that can be pointed out/highlighted/annotated.
    - All submissions must be done on LMS.
        - If your entire submission is larger than the permissible size for LMS submissions, upload your submission on Google Drive or Outlook OneDrive; and submit a document containing the URL to the submission.
        - It is the onus of the student to ensure the correct access permissions are provided in the repository, if the submission files reside outside of LMS, so that there is no difficulty in accessing the files for assessment. In such

[1] [An earlier versions of this document were published on August 16, September 06, October 09 -- all in 2021.]

cases, these repositories have to be accessible until the course grades are announced.

- The scheduling of assignments provides 3 weeks to complete each of the programming assignments [A1, A2, A3], 4 weeks for A4, and 6 weeks for RWA.
  - Assignment announced by Monday midnight IST.
  - All assignment submissions are to be done by Monday midnight IST, as per schedule.
  - Assignment announcement date and submission deadline:
    - A1: Aug 16, Sep 06;
    - A2: Sep 06, Oct 04 <excluding midterm week>;
    - A3: Oct 04, Nov 01;
    - A4: Oct 25, Nov 22;
    - RWA: Oct 04 (paper selection by Oct 16), Nov 29

- 2 written exams - 20% of the final grade
  - Possibly, proctored exams during mid-term and end-term weeks.
  - Open notes.
- 1 report-writing - 10% of the final grade
  - This can be based on a research paper or a theme. It will be allocated by first-come-first-serve.
    - The topics will be published on October 04, 2021.
    - The choice of topic/paper by the student must be communicated by October 16, 2021. If not received by the deadline, a randomly picked topic/paper by the instructor by October 18, 2021.
    - The report is due on November 29, 2021.
  - If it is based on a research paper, the report must say why the method is important, and its impact on the research community (using the papers that have cited the paper, a state-of-the-art paper that explains the value of the paper), etc.
  - The technical report is to be written in the IEEE conference paper format.
  - This also includes references to papers/articles/etc. by citing them appropriately in-place in the report. There will be negative points for not doing citation references within the article and bibliography properly.

A1:

Date of announcement: 11:59 pm IST, August 16, 2021 (Monday)
Date of submission: 11:59 pm IST, September 06, 2021 (Monday)
Summary: The assignment is on 2D scalar and vector field visualization.
Dataset: IEEE Visualization 2008 Design Contest dataset
(http://sciviscontest.ieeevis.org/2008/data.html)

The dataset description is given on the dataset website. The data files are available at https://cloud.sdsc.edu/v1/AUTH_sciviscontest/2008/data_files/

The scalar field datasets are multifield.xxxx.txt.gz and vector field as velocity.xxxx.txt.gz, where xxxx refers to the timestep. There are 200 timesteps.

Tasks:

1. Choose sufficient timesteps to visualize the progression of the simulation. Use the same time-steps for both multi-field and velocity files.
    - Write in the assignment report -- how did you arrive at the timesteps? Data-driven methods are encouraged.
2. For the files chosen, identify one 2D plane you will be studying. The 2D plane can be the x-y plane at a constant z value, the y-z plane at constant x, and the z-x plane at a constant y value.
    - Write in the assignment report -- how did you arrive at which plane you are going to explore?
3. For the multi-field files, choose 3-5 scalar fields you will be studying.
    - Write in the assignment report -- what is your rationale for the selection of variables?
4. For the vector field, use the curl as the vector field to visualize, as given in the data description webpage.
5. Outputs:
    - For scalar field visualization, use color mapping and contour mapping (or contour fill) for 5 contours; for vector field visualization, use quiver/arrow plots. Address the following in your report:
        - For contours, will you use the same contour values for all time steps?
        - For color-mapping, will you use the same min-max values to generate the color palette?
    - Experiment with different types of color palettes/spectrum (sequential, diverging, qualitative) using colorbrewer/matplotlib predefined palettes.
        - Write in the report - did any color palette outperform the others? How would you rationalize the performance?

- Experiment with combining 2 visualization techniques in a single view.
  - Did such a visualization enable you to make joint inferences of different fields?
- Generate demo videos of the animation of change in scalar and vector fields over time.
- Write in your report -- do your visualizations help you infer the shadow instability as shown in the image in the contest website (and Fig.1)? What in your choice of the data for visualization allowed you to see the moving front?

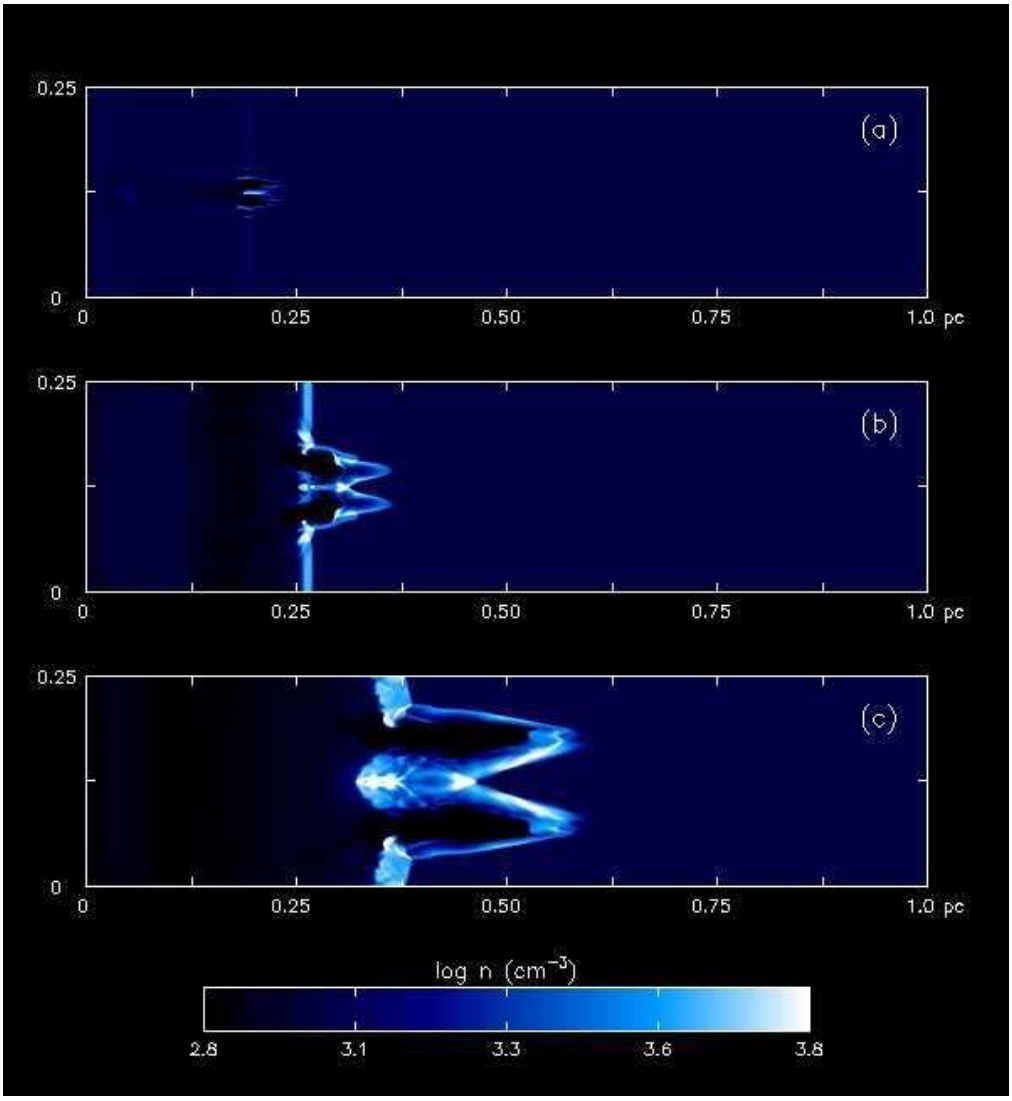

Figure 1: A shadow instability forming in one 2D slice through the data set over time (Source: http://sciviscontest.ieeevis.org/2008/)

A2:

Date of announcement: 11:59 pm IST, September 06, 2021 (Monday)
Date of submission: 11:59 pm IST, October 04, 2021 (Monday)
Summary: The assignment is on 3D scalar and 2D vector field visualization.
Dataset: IEEE Visualization 2008 Design Contest dataset
(http://sciviscontest.ieeevis.org/2008/data.html)

The dataset description is given on the dataset website. The data files are available at https://cloud.sdsc.edu/v1/AUTH_sciviscontest/2008/data_files/

The scalar field datasets are multifield.xxxx.txt.gz and vector field as velocity.xxxx.txt.gz, where xxxx refers to the timestep. There are 200 timesteps.

Tasks:

1. For the 2D vector field visualizations, generate streamline visualizations and compare the quiver plots generated in A1 with streamlines.
    - What are your inferences from the comparison of the visualizations with respect to the effectiveness of visualization?
2. From your experience in A1, identify a volumetric dataset at a specific timestep and for one of the scalar fields, select 5 isosurface values, and perform isosurface extraction.
    - Explain your choice of the volumetric dataset (time-step and the scalar field), and that of the isosurface values.
    - Experiment with transparencies for displaying the 5 isosurfaces simultaneously. What are your learnings? Did the use of transparency improve the visualization? Did the data have isosurfaces as layers that could exploit the use of transparency for improving visualization?
3. Using the volume and scalar field used in #2 in A2, perform oblique slicing. Your program should take 4 values for the plane equation as an input. The slicing plane must be able to move along its axis, i.e. its normal vector through any point on the plane. The visualization output can be presented as a 2D color-mapped image (Fig. 2, right), similar to the outputs in A1; or it could be the visualization of the slice in-situ in the 3D volume (Fig. 2, left).

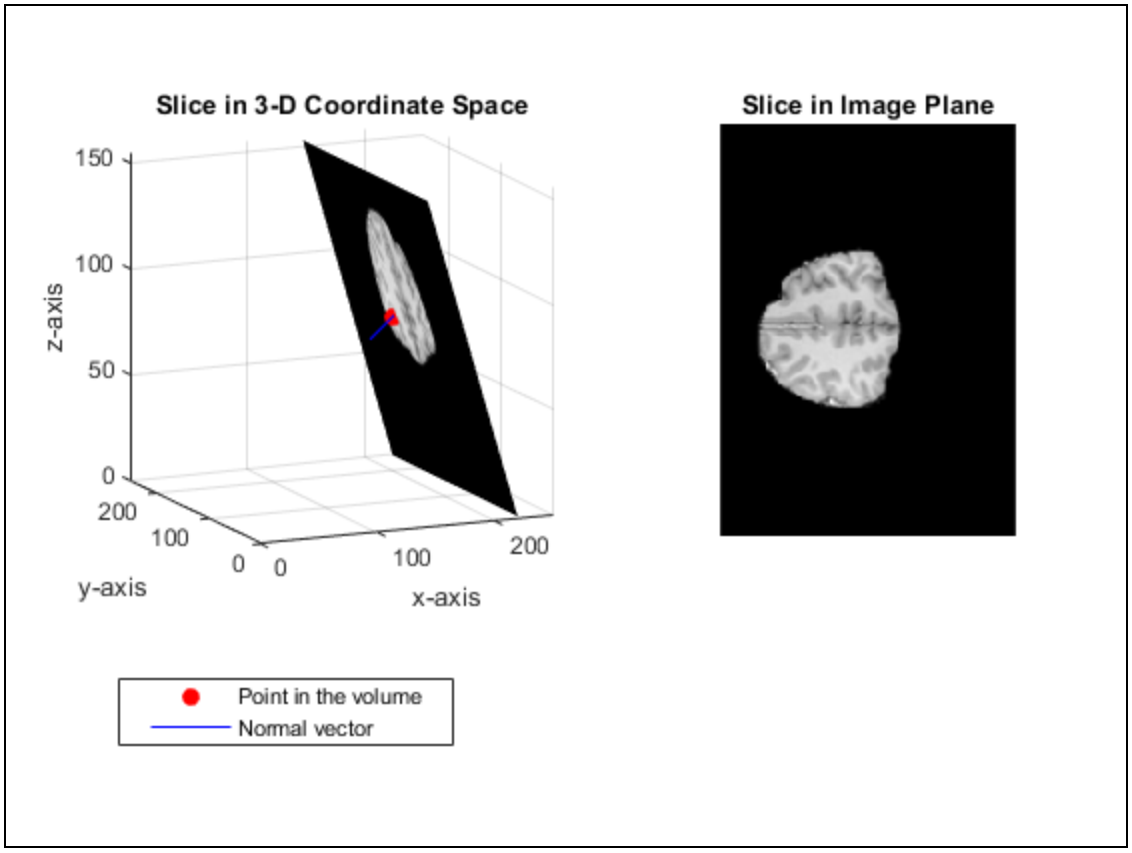

Figure 2: Outputs of oblique slicing in 3D volumes -- (left) in-situ in the 3D volume, and (right) color-mapped image of the cross-sectional view. (Source: Mathworks)

- What is the procedure you have used to make the slicing plane slide along its axis, i.e. the plane normal?
- How did you compute the intersection of the slice with the volume?
- How is the scalar value computed for the points in the volume, that are not on the grid, for generating the color of the cross-sectional surface?

A3:

Date of announcement: 5:00 pm IST, October 09, 2021 (Saturday)
Date of submission: 11:59 pm IST, November 01, 2021 (Monday)
Summary: The assignment is on browser-based visualizations of networks, trees, and multivariate data.

Libraries to be used: Plotly or D3.js
Diseases related datasets:
* Network data - diseasome: https://networkrepository.com/bio-diseasome.php
* Network data - : https://networkrepository.com/infect-dublin.php
* Multivariate data:
https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/ah-sickle-cell-disease-provisional-death-counts-2019-2020-3e71c
* Multivariate data: https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/u-s-chronic-disease-indicators-cdi

Visualizations to generate:

1. Node-link diagrams with two different layouts, namely, force-directed, circular, including node-labels
2. Matrix visualization of the node-link diagram generated in #1, including node-labels
3. Treemap
4. Parallel coordinates plot with axis swapping and brushing.

Tasks:

1. Pick at least one network and one multivariate dataset from the aforementioned list.
2. Decide how you would like to use the dataset for visualization -- directly or after remodeling.
3. Prepare datasets for generating visualizations in the aforementioned list, such that the prepared datasets include at least a network, a tree, and a table.
4. Implement the visualizations given in the aforementioned list.

Notes:

- The network dataset webpages in the networkrepository contain node-link diagram visualizations. These could be used as references for the visualizations you generate. Fig.3 is the reference visualization of bio-diseasome and Fig.4 is that of infect-dublin.

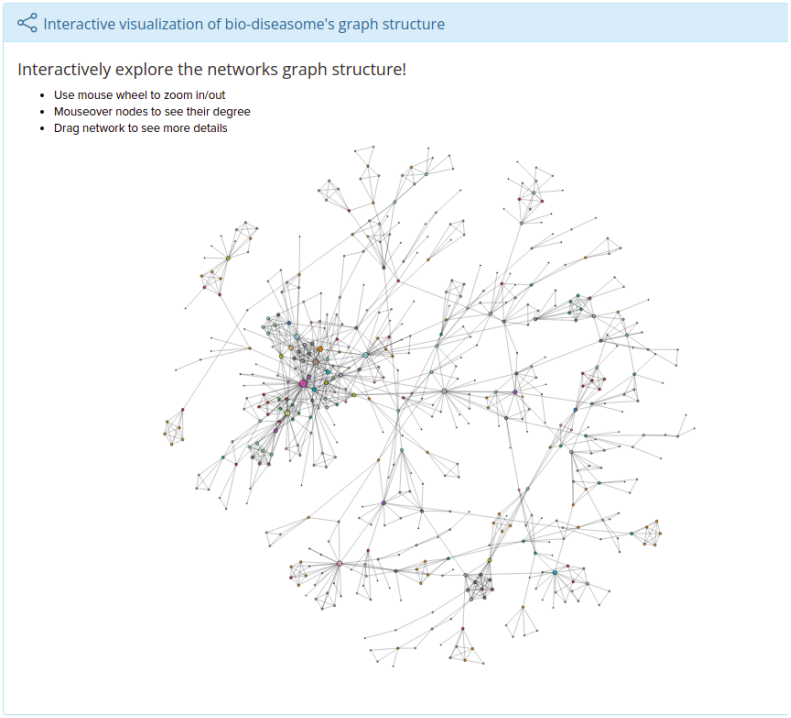

Figure 3: Reference node-link diagram of bio-diseasome (Source: NetworkRepository)

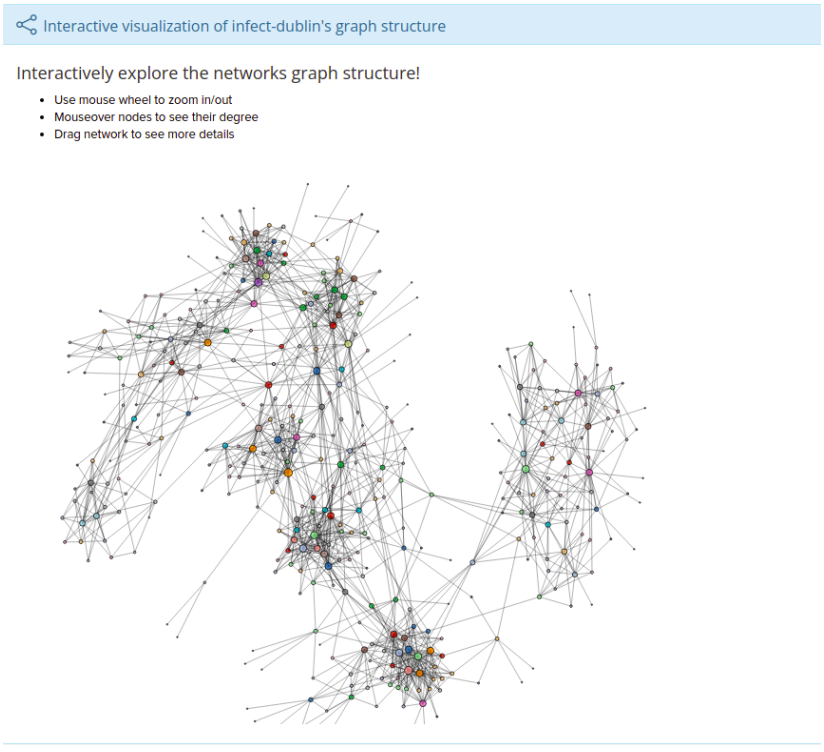

Figure 4: Reference node-link diagram of infect-dublin (Source: NetworkRepository)

- The network datasets are labeled using numerical indices. Hence, these indices may be used as-is for the visualization tasks.
- The tabular data for chronic diseases contain several irrelevant columns. Pick columns based on the semantics of the variable, and known data type (categorical or numerical), as not all the variables are needed to be plotted. The same applies to the tabular data on sickle cell anemia, too.
- For remodeling, other data mining methods such as distance matrix, similarity matrix, ordering for building hierarchy, etc. may be used.
- These datasets are considered small datasets. Hence, use all rows in the multivariate datasets, and all nodes and edges in the network datasets for visualizations, unless any of this is spurious data. This implies that subsampling these datasets for visualizations will not be entertained.
- The visualizations must be rendered on a browser, hence, appropriate libraries must be used to generate HTML pages for these visualizations.

A4:

Date of announcement: 11:59 pm IST, October 25, 2021 (Monday)
Date of submission: 11:59 pm IST, November 22, 2021 (Monday)
Summary: The assignment is on visual analytics.
Dataset: Published and team-wise selection through Google form (on October 23-25, 2021), where each team consists of 2-3 students (Team formation completed in late September).

This assignment is about implementing a visual analytics workflow. Hence, the idea here is that team members can own different visualizations of different aspects of the datasets, and all of them must be stitched together in the workflow.

Requirements:

- Since it is a visual analytics workflow, at least one instance of feedback loop is desirable, which means that the knowledge discovery from the dataset shall be used as a new dataset and a visualization/data mining cycle can be performed.
- The assignment implementation must start with a list of tasks you would like to perform on the dataset. Analytical tasks include tasks processing/analyzing dataset or its subsets, along with descriptive verbs such as "determine", "compare", "identify", etc., which a user should be able to do using your proposed solution. Your solution can then solve n tasks for an n-member team.
- The visualizations can be generated on independent tools or an integrated tool. The integrated tool can be a third-party one, e.g. Tableau, or one built by the team.
- The report is quite the same as for A1-A3, but here there must be a description of the analytical tasks you have tried, and eventually implemented, who did what in the team, etc. Specifically, mention the contributions of each member.
- This assignment requires an online demo on a VC to the instructor and one of the TAs so that you get a chance to articulate your work. This is in addition to the prerecorded video demo, which we include in case there are issues during the VC. This time the prerecorded demo can focus on the visualizations and the results alone, without having to do code walkthroughs. The team-wise schedule for the VC will be discussed and finalized in the week prior to the submission deadline.

This assignment will be evaluated based on the overall effort in the workflow design, interactive visualization generation, composite visualization design (as applicable), integration of team efforts, the report, and the video.

This assignment can be submitted by a team representative on behalf of all team members. For the team submission, the team representative can indicate the Project ID, as given in the dataset excel sheet (CD732-A4DatasetList.xlsx), and the names and roll numbers of the team

members in the “Submission Comments” text box in the LMS. In case of individual contributions over and above the team effort, the concerned student can submit the same, and write in the comments section in the LMS submission that this is an individual effort, and indicate the aforementioned Project ID. The individual effort will be evaluated over and above the team effort.

RWA:

Date of announcement: 11:59 pm IST, October 18, 2021 (Monday)
Date of submission: 11:59 pm IST, November 29, 2021 (Monday)
Summary: The assignment is reading a visualization research paper, understanding, and writing a report on the same.
Paper: As selected from a list published by the instructor (Completed on October 16, 2021)

Guidelines:

1. Read the allocated paper thoroughly.
2. Write a technical report using LaTeX (use overleaf to help your case) and IEEE conference proceeding 2-column format, with appropriate bibliography, citing references in-place and as required. Follow appropriate BibTeX to format the bibliography.
    a. a) Use the citations given in BibTeX format in Google scholar to have consistent referencing.
    b. b) Use the standard sectioning used in Computer Science papers: abstract, introduction, related work including the gaps addressed by the chosen paper, methodology in the paper, impact of the paper (use Google Scholar to find around 2-3 influential papers citing the chosen paper) including state-of-the-art, and conclusions.
    c. c) Refrain from using first-person narratives in the paper, refer to the authors of the paper. If there are up to two authors, refer to them by their last names, e.g., “Doe and Smith [21] have discussed ... “. In case there are 3+ authors, use the last name of the first author followed by the phrase “et al.”, e.g., “Doe et al. [42] have proposed ... “
    d. d) In the case of paper review, the title of the paper must be A Critical Review of “”. In the case of the exposition of a topic, the title of the paper must be The State-of-the-Art in “”. You could come up with variants of these titles.
3. Your report may contain figures and tables borrowed from other papers or created on your own. If borrowed, mention the source as “Image courtesy: [32]” in the figure caption, and likewise for tables. For Tables, Equations, etc., regenerate the same in your article and avoid including screenshots of the same from the original papers.
4. Figure caption goes below the figure, and table-caption goes above the table. All figures and tables must be referred to in your text content. e.g. “Figure 2 shows how ....” or “Table 2 gives a comprehensive analysis of ...”
5. The technical report writing exercise is purely a reading-writing exercise, and no coding is expected. That said, if you would like to run small experiments to improve your paper, you are welcome.
6. Run spelling and grammar-checking tools on your document before submission.

7. Do not copy more than 8 contiguous words from any source you are citing, so as to avoid being flagged as plagiarized material.
