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CS-171 - Homework 1

2/7/2013

Who is the targeted audience?
After reviewing the visualization's comments, it seems that it is geared towards an average person interested immigration/emigration.

What tasks does the visualization enable?
This visualization allows a user to better understand the flow of migrants from country to country, specifically where immigrants come from and where emigrants go.

What data is represented in this visualization? Be specific.
- World population
- Migrants in the world
- Migrant destinations
- Emigration countries
- Migration corridors
- Individual county data
  - Population
  - Emigrant total
  - Top migrant detonations
  - Immigrant total
  - Top migrant native countries

How is each data type visually encoded? Do you think the encodings are appropriate?
- Migrant destinations are appropriately displayed using a flow chart using line thickness to symbolize number.
- Emigration countries are appropriately displayed using a flow chart using line thickness to symbolize number.
- Migration corridors are appropriately displayed using a flow chart using line thickness to symbolize number.
- Emigrant totals are appropriately displayed using height and color of country's bar in left column.
- Immigrant totals are appropriately displayed using height and color of country's bar in right column.

Does the visualization have graphical integrity? Why or why not?
This visualization has strong graphical identity. The thicker lines represent more migrants and appear to be proportional to their actual values. Values are additionally represented in the pop-up text that appears when an item is clicked.

What design principles are at work in this visualization? List as many as you can, and be specific.

The visualization shows good contrast and it is easy to separate the flows from the background. When additional data appears it is well aligned and appears in close proximity to the country of interest. There is very little chart junk and the page has a very nice style, vivid colors and is fun to interact with.

Do they support the tasks and enhance the meaning of the visualization?
The line thickness and color do a nice job of conveying the data. The additional popup data provides an alternate view of the same data.

Do you like or dislike the visualization?
I chose this visualization because it was the most interesting looking from the three choices. Overall I think that it does a good job of accomplishing its goals.

What would you do differently to better support understanding?
More clear documentation of which column represented emigrants and immigrants would have helped understanding at first glance. However, it makes sense that migrants would move from left to right, just as we read. It took me a few minutes of looking at the chart to realize that the colors of the countries were not random. This could have been aided by the addition of a color key. The same goes for the height of the country bars. It was not clear at first whether this pertained to the size of the county or the number of migrants.