CS171, Spring 2016

David Wihl

Assigned Topic: Maps

Three visualizations most related to final project

Visualization 1 – Saul Steinberg – View of the World from 9th Ave

This distorted map is one of the most famous magazine covers of all time (ref). One of the challenges of our project is to clearly convey which schools have good chances of acceptance vs. a far stretch. A purposefully distorted map will make clear the "acceptance distance" of a given school.

Figure 1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Steinberg_New_Yorker_Cover.png

Visualization 2 – Cartogram

A cartogram would be similar to Visualization 1, although less artistic and less whimsical. It would easily provide an applicant to see chance of acceptance as a scaled distance.

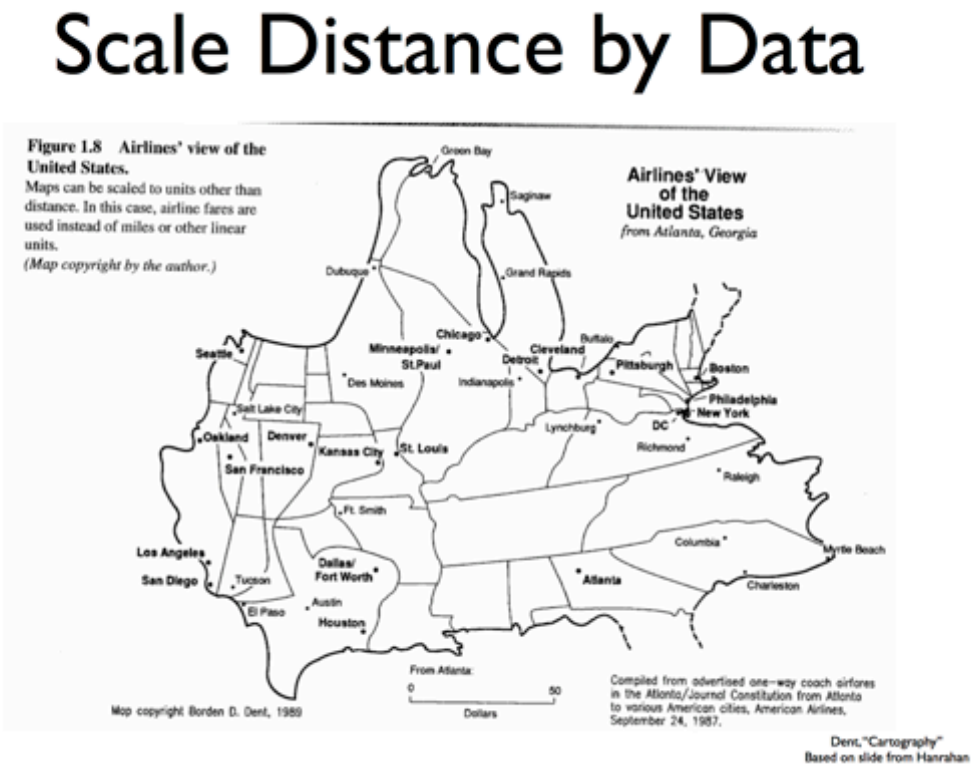


Figure 2 Slide 45 of Maps.pdf handout

Visualization 3

This visualization was the final slide in the Maps.pdf. I picked it because it provided a very clear high level categorization that is amusing, memorable, and reasonably accurate.

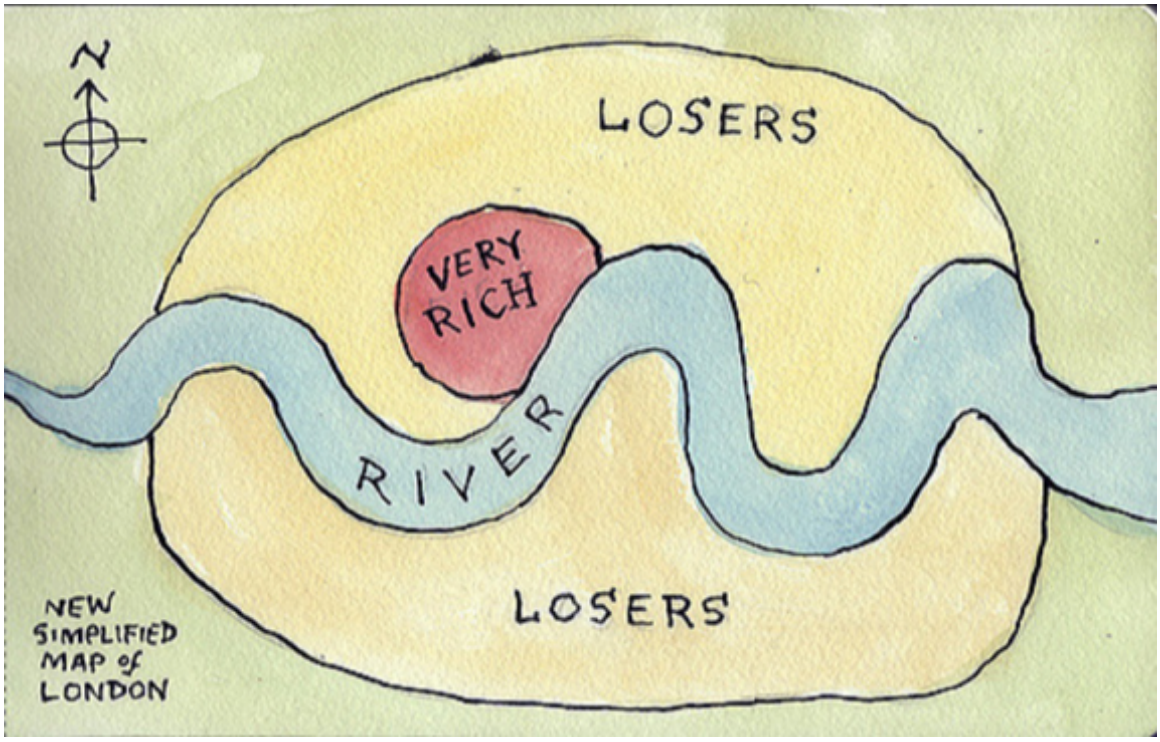


Figure 3 https://www.flickr.com/photos/nad/386051891/in/pool-46079190@N00/

Three Additional Visualizations

Most Established / Frequently Used

The choropleth map is very commonly. Unfortunately, by being geographically undistorted, it leads to distortions in the presented data.

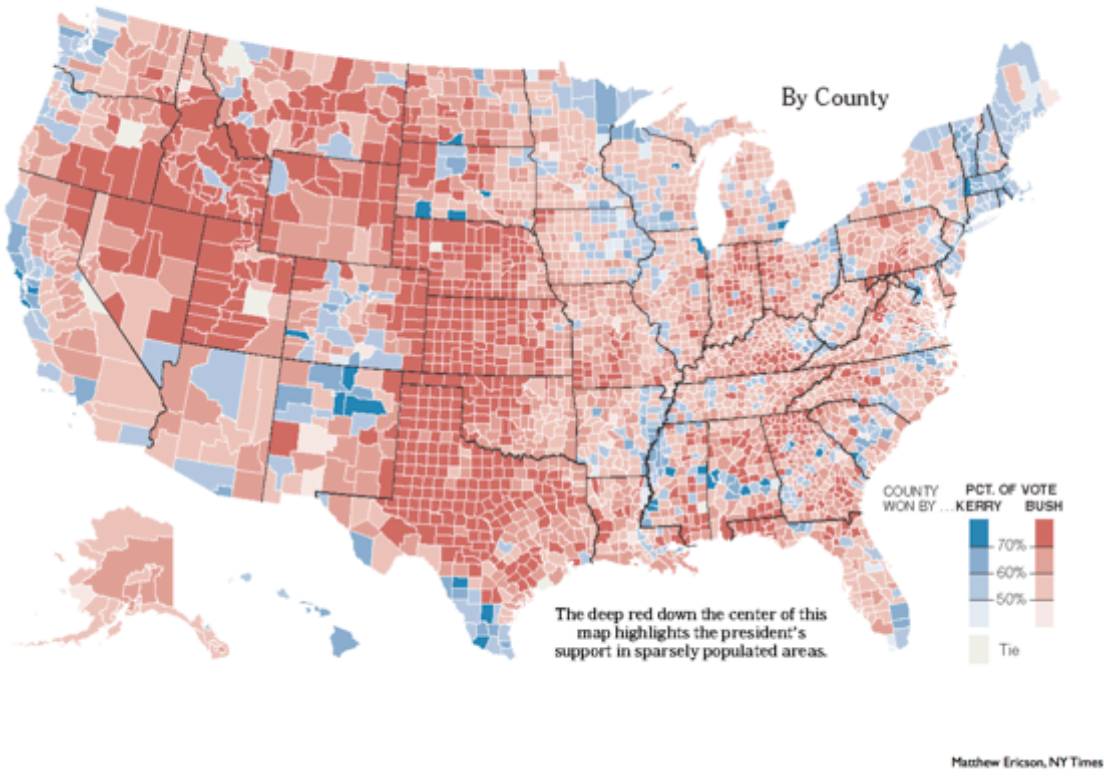
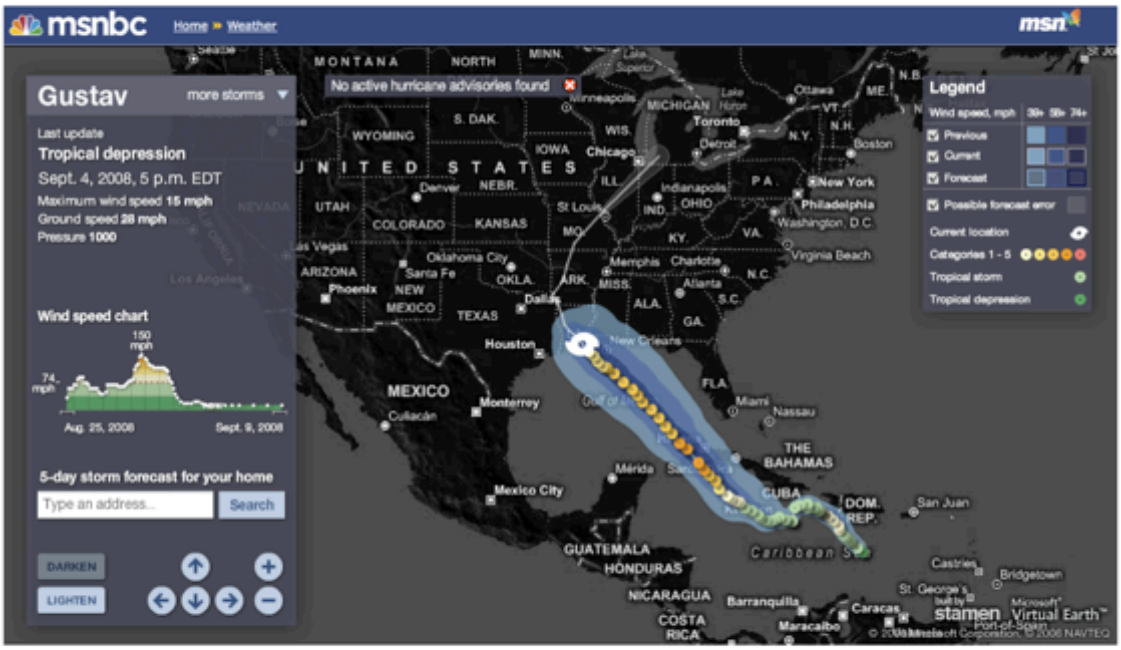


Figure 4 Slide 29 of Maps.pdf handout

Creative / Effective

This visualization of tropical storm may not be creative but it is very effective, which is critical when there is potential life or death situation. The channels of area, position and color all work together well. By placing the land and sea in subdued colors like black and gray, the storm becomes even more visible.



http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26295161/?preferredName=Gustav

Figure 5 Slide 43 of Maps.pdf handout

Favorite Visualization

As a private pilot, I've had to deal with many maps. In just the last few years, tremendous innovation has occurred in real-time mapping. The chart below seems very complex, but it is incredibly useful for a pilot who needs easy access to a lot of information in a high stress situation. This chart depicts the standard approach procedure overlaid in real time on the terrain map, where red depicts mountains tops that are already higher than the current elevation of the aircraft. Real time weather, such as lightning or storm cells can also be displayed. (source: https://www.foreflight.com/products/foreflight-mobile/)