

Critique MetroViz

Dear Fan, Josh, Peter, Varun, and Yoav,

I reviewed your project *MetroViz: Visual Analysis of Public Transportation Data* and would like to offer some helpful criticism below.

I travel by public transportation a good amount, and I often find myself doing research online to estimate travel times. I like the MetroViz project because it is something that I would use, and I think that it would be a great tool for travelers as well as anyone trying to improve public transportation.

In terms of content, I think that the paper and the video are in good shape. I think that most of the work left to do at this point is improving the writing, which shouldn't be too painful. Specifically, certain sections could be clarified, the style could be made more consistent, and some awkward or weak sentences could be rewritten. I've listed my suggestions by theme below.

I. Style

In general, the paper has the appearance of having been assembled from parts written by different people. As a result, the tone is sometimes inconsistent, and sections often repeat information from earlier sections. This shouldn't be a hard fix, and just requires reading through from front to back a couple times.

I also think that the paper makes too much use of slashes and dashes, and that a more formal style of punctuation might be more appropriate for a conference-style paper.

II. Abstract and Introduction

The abstract seems a little jumbled. I don't think it's something I could read through and understand without first having read the paper.

You should define "ridership" and "adherence" early on. Although their meanings were clear to me by the middle of the paper, I think it would have been clearer to me if you had specifically stated them in the introduction.

You may also want to add specifics about how the users liked your system, rather than just saying that they were able to use it.

Lastly, you might add a short explanation of where the data comes from.

III. Related work

The related work sections lists and briefly summarizes a bunch of papers, but doesn't seem to connect them to each other or to your work. I would add a brief statement before listing the papers that clarifies this.

IV. Figures

I like the way the interface looks at the top. You might also want to add a figure to the system design section to illustrate MetroViz during use.

V. Grammar and phrasing

Some sentences are awkward, some have conflicts in tense, and in general I think you should try to avoid using the passive tense too much. Here are a few examples:

Sentence	Reason
“To the best of our knowledge, there is no existing visualization tool that could aid service providers to interactively explore those data” “The second challenge is how to design the interface”	Awkward sentence
“allow passengers to board and alight”	Word choice
“Kimpel et al. [3] discuss efforts of using the TriMet APC and AVL data to improve buses scheduling”	Possessive
“...and the line chart versions were universally disliked”	Passive

Good work and I hope this helps!

Isaac