

Assignment on Graph Decoding, Critique and Re-design

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NOTE: comments and instructions are in yellow. Substitute them with your text (including this one).

Graph Decoding

The data items represent: <add info on what they represent> **Amount of money in billions spent on different categories.**

The marks used for the data items are: <add info on what marks are used>
Area

The data attributes are: <make a list of data attributes names and their type>

The visual channels used are: <make a list of visual channels used>
Color, Size

Encoding strategy: <add a list of encoding rules stated as follows>

- <attribute name> is encoded with <channel name>

amount of money is encoded with area

category is encoded with color

sub-categories are represented by labels

Graph Critique

<Add information about issues you found with the graph>

<For each issue explain why it affects the effectiveness of the graph>

1) The graph does not use position to visualize the data.

Without the use of position it is difficult to compare the relationship of spending between the different categories.

2) Small areas do not have labels

Without a label it's nearly impossible to know what the area is representing.

3) Coloring of sub-sections of the areas is hard to understand.

There seems to be an inconsistent use of color compared to the legend.

4) Some areas are labeled with a year date while others are not.

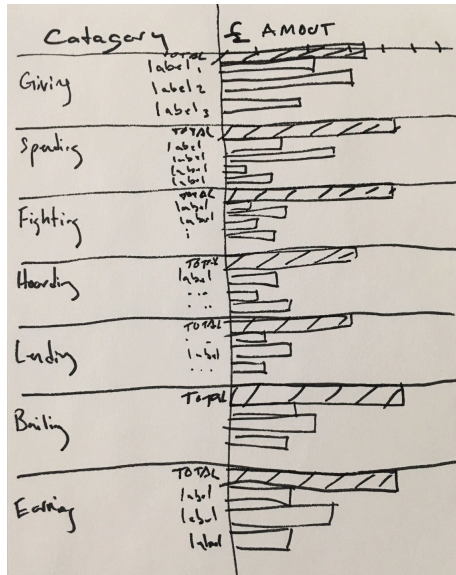
In the case of mortgage lending there are two areas with one labeled 2007 the other 2008. There is no explanation of the label. Making it hard to understand.

Graph Redesign

<Add an image of your sketch here first>

<Explain how to read your sketch>

<Explain why you think your design is an improvement over the original design>



This sketch represents showing each category with a horizontal bar chart for each sub-category. Additionally the total of the category is shown first allowing comparison between the main category and also the sub-categories.

This is an improvement as it uses position, which is one of the best ways to represent quantitative data. Also it allows room for the labeling.