

Charting Complexity

How Different Chart Types Relate to Visual Complexity

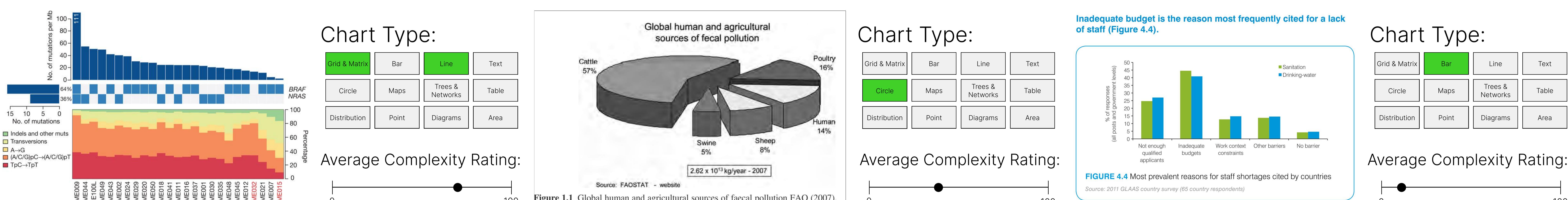
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
Motivation

Just as beauty lies in the eye of the beholder, individual differences significantly influence how complex a visualization appears. What one person might find intricate and overwhelming, another might see as simple and elegant. In our study, participants viewed visualizations and rated their complexity.

How we collected our complexity ratings and visualization labels:



Explore the variations in complexity ratings based on chart type:



Conclusion

People agree more on complexity ratings for Grid & Matrix, Bar, and Line charts, which tend to have lower variability in perceived complexity. Contrarily, we observed more individual differences with Text and Circle charts, which exhibited higher variability in perceived complexity across different viewers.



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