

# On Proportional Symbol Maps - An applied perspective

---

David Göckede, Philip Mayer, Roland Siegbert

October 14, 2020

Geometry Lab SS 2020

Introduction

Algorithms

Experimental results

Exploration in App

Conclusion and Outlook

# Introduction

---

## Motivation (1/2)

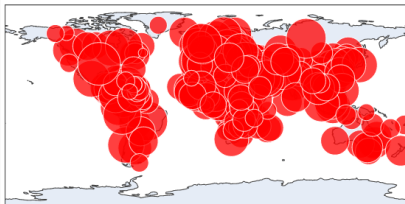


(a) 2020.02.23

## Motivation (2/2)



(a) 2020.02.23



(b) 2020.05.11

Open Access | Published: 12 February 2009

## Algorithmic Aspects of Proportional Symbol Maps

[Sergio Cabello](#), [Herman Haverkort](#), [Marc van Kreveld](#) & [Bettina Speckmann](#) 

[Algorithmica](#) **58**, 543–565(2010) | [Cite this article](#)

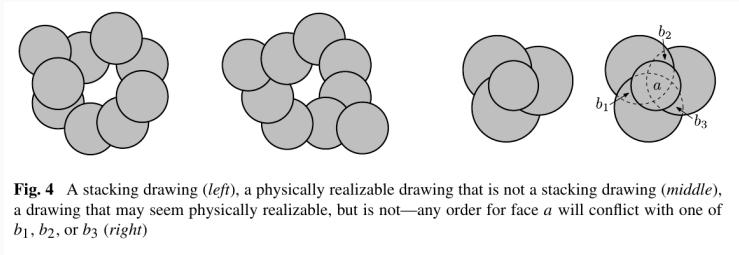
678 Accesses | 17 Citations | 6 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

### Abstract

Proportional symbol maps visualize numerical data associated with point locations by placing a scaled symbol—typically an opaque disk or square—at the corresponding point on a map. The area of each symbol is proportional to the numerical value associated with its location. Every visually meaningful proportional symbol map will contain at least some overlapping symbols. These need to be drawn in such a way that the user can still judge their relative sizes accurately.

### Figure 3: Algorithmic Aspects of Proportional Symbol Maps

# Physically realizable drawings



**Figure 4:** Physically realizable vs. stacking drawings vs. impossible

$$\lambda_{min}(D) = \min_{i \in [n]} |U_i^{vis}|$$

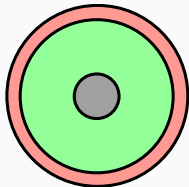
$$\lambda_{sum}(D) = \sum_{i=1}^n |U_i^{vis}|$$



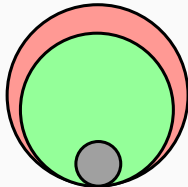
# Why this lab?

$$\phi : \{1, \dots, n\} \mapsto D$$

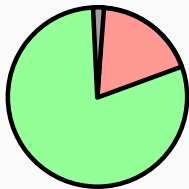
# Maps and Glyphs



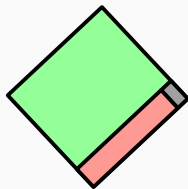
(a) centered nested disks



(b) arbitrary nested disks



(c) pie charts



(d) squares

# Algorithms

---

# The visibility score of a drawing

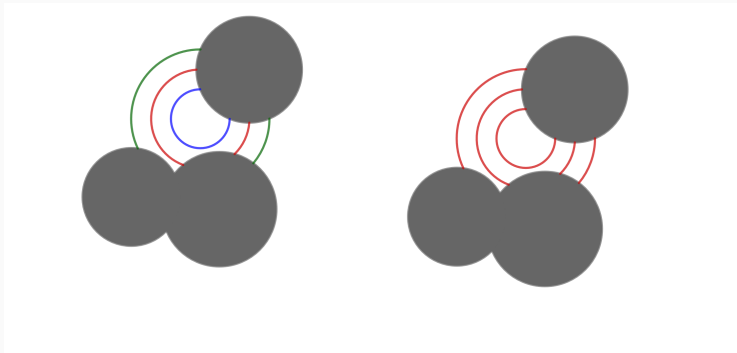
1. assign local utility to each glyph
2. utility of the drawing (global utility) is the minimum (or sum) of the local utilities for each glyph

**Theorem:** Given as finite set  $D$  of  $n$  glyphs, a local utility function  $\Gamma(d, S) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  for  $d \in D$  and  $S \subseteq D$ , which is anti-monotonous in  $S$  and a global utility function  $\lambda$  as the minimum of the local utilities, then the GreedyStacking algorithm computes an optimal stacking order.

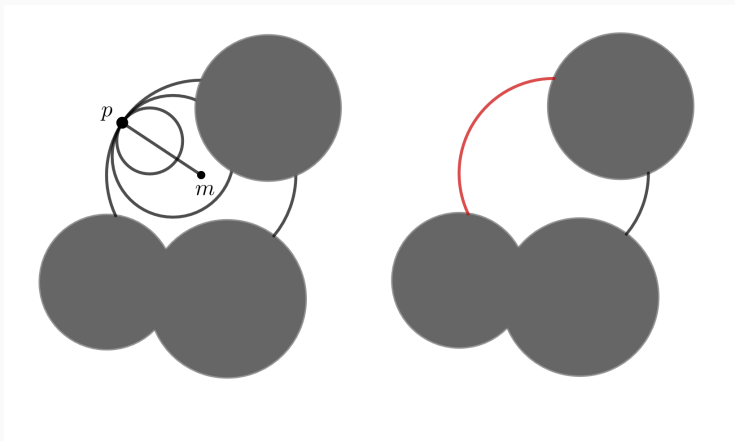
**Theorem:** Given as finite set  $D$  of  $n$  glyphs, a local utility function  $\Gamma(d, S) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  for  $d \in D$  and  $S \subseteq D$ , which is anti-monotonous in  $S$  and a global utility function  $\lambda$  as the minimum of the local utilities, then the GreedyStacking algorithm computes an optimal stacking order.

## GreedyStacking(D)

```
while( $D \neq \emptyset$ ) {  
     $x = \operatorname{argmin}_{d \in D} \Gamma(d, D \setminus d)$   
    print  $x$   
     $D := D \setminus x$   
}
```

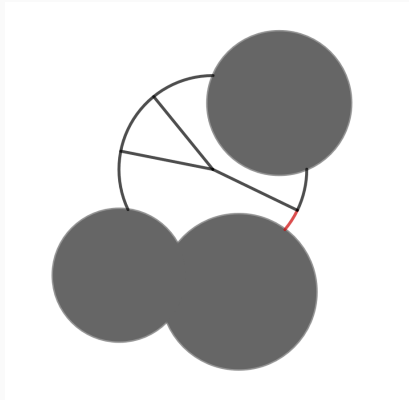


**Figure 6:** Minimum or sum of visible boundary



**Figure 7:** Attachment point for the Hawaiian Glyph





**Figure 8:** Covered Piechart with relevant segment marked in red

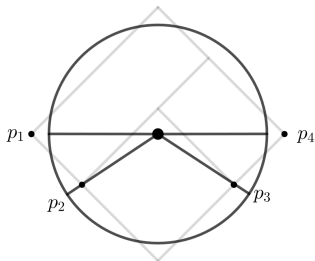
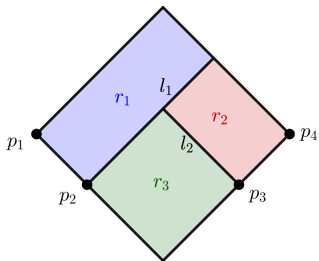


**Theorem:** It is NP-hard to decide whether for a given set of pie glyphs there is a physically realizable drawing with global utility greater or equal to some value  $k$ .

**Corollary:** If we find an algorithm that computes an optimal physically realizable drawing in polynomial time, then  $P = NP$ .

**Proof:** Reduction from *planar-3SAT*.

# Squares



**Figure 9:** mosaic square and associated pie glyph

## Experimental results

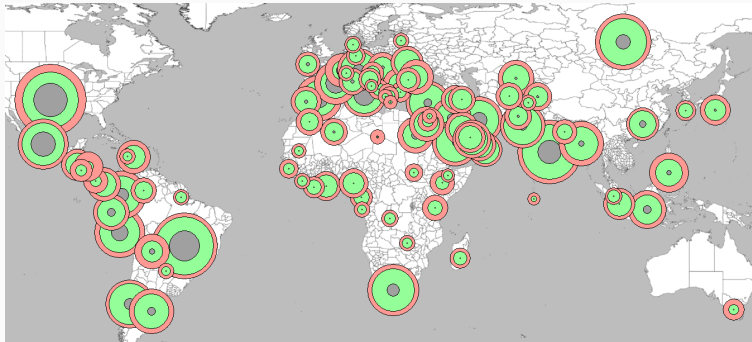
---

## Experimental Setup

- We use the John Hopkins University Covid-19 data
- recovered are coloured green, deceased are coloured black and the infected are coloured red
- logarithmic scaling dependent on two parameters:

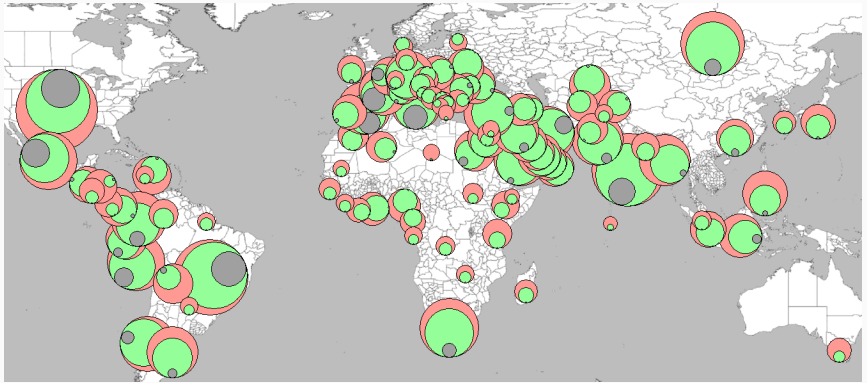
$$r = M * \log \left( \frac{c_i S}{c_{max}} + 1 \right)$$

$M$  is the maximum size of a glyph,  $S$  is a scaling factor and  $c_{max}$  is the maximum number of cases



algorithm	covered	minVis (rel)	minVis (abs)	min one glyph	average rel vis	absolute perc
random	44	0.011 (0)	0.995 (0)	0	0.658	0.677
LeftToRight	42	0.053 (0)	2.189 (0)	0	0.641	0.678
RightToLeft	43	0.053 (0)	0.995 (0)	0	0.656	0.693
Painter	16	0.064 (0)	6.283 (0)	34.991	0.761	0.718
MinMinStacking (abs)	16	0.075 (0)	2.189 (0)	44.467	0.757	0.724
MinMinStacking (rel)	18	0.11 (0)	2.189 (0)	37.327	0.748	0.725
MinSumStacking (abs)	18	0.111 (0)	3.974 (0)	44.467	0.75	0.721
MinSumStacking (rel)	18	0.111 (0)	2.189 (0)	37.327	0.744	0.723

**Table 1:** Date: 02.08.2020,  $n_{records}$  : 78, parameters:  $M = 50$ ,  $S = 500$  and minimum number of cases = 5000



algorithm	covered	minVis (rel)	minVis (abs)	min one Glyph	average rel vis	absolute perc
random	21	0.0001 (0)	0.589 (0)	0	0.765	0.714
LeftToRight	12	0.15 (0)	2.743 (0)	0	0.775	0.725
RightToLeft	13	0.106 (0)	2.89 (0)	0	0.783	0.735
Painter	0	0.093	6.283	47.758	0.857	0.759
our Stacking	0	0.373	6.283	75.034	0.859	0.77

**Table 2:** date: 02.08.2020 ,  $M = 50$ ,  $S = 500$  and  $MnC = 5000$

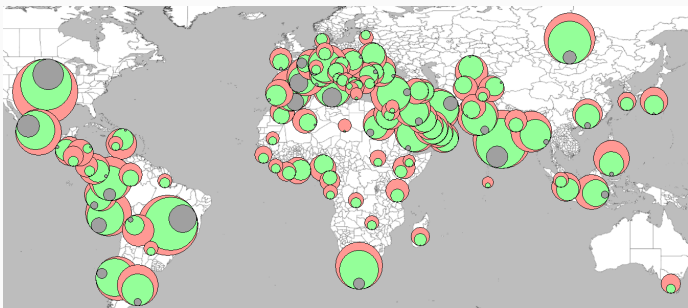
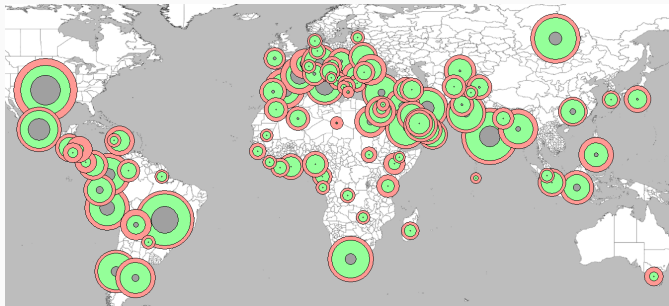
algorithm	covered	minVis (rel)	minVis (abs)	min one glyph	average rel vis	absolute perc
random	44	0.011 (0)	0.995 (0)	0	0.658	0.677
LeftToRight	42	0.053 (0)	2.189 (0)	0	0.641	0.678
RightToLeft	43	0.053 (0)	0.995 (0)	0	0.656	0.693
Painter	16	0.064 (0)	6.283 (0)	34.991	0.761	0.718
MinMinStacking (abs)	16	0.075 (0)	2.189 (0)	44.467	0.757	0.724
MinMinStacking (rel)	18	0.11 (0)	2.189 (0)	37.327	0.748	0.725
MinSumStacking (abs)	18	0.111 (0)	3.974 (0)	44.467	0.75	0.721
MinSumStacking (rel)	18	0.111 (0)	2.189 (0)	37.327	0.744	0.723

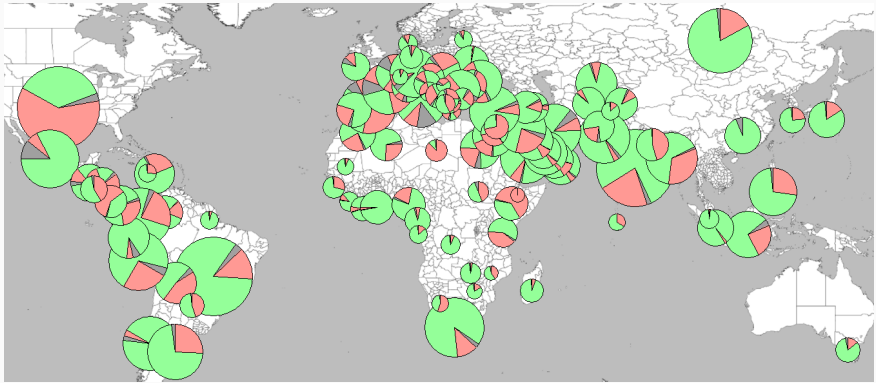
**Table 3:** centered disks

algorithm	covered	minVis (rel)	minVis (abs)	min one Glyph	average rel vis	absolute perc
random	21	0.0001(0)	0.589 (0)	0	0.765	0.714
LeftToRight	12	0.15 (0)	2.743 (0)	0	0.775	0.725
RightToLeft	13	0.106 (0)	2.89 (0)	0	0.783	0.735
Painter	0	0.093	6.283	47.758	0.857	0.759
our Stacking	0	0.373	6.283	75.034	0.859	0.77

**Table 4:** date: 02.08.2020 ,  $M = 50$ ,  $S = 500$  and  $MnC = 5000$

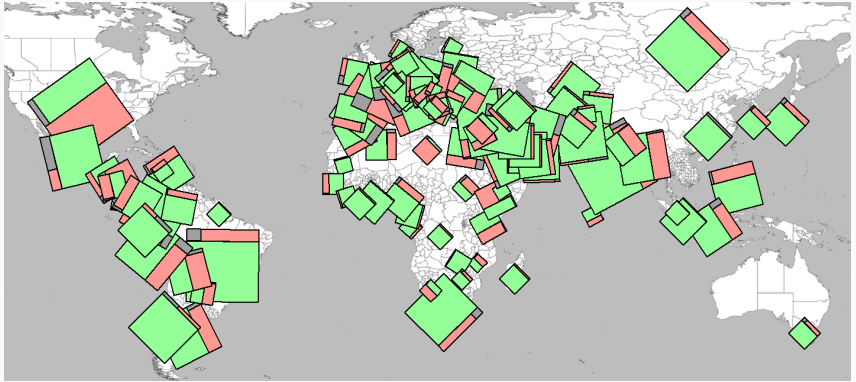






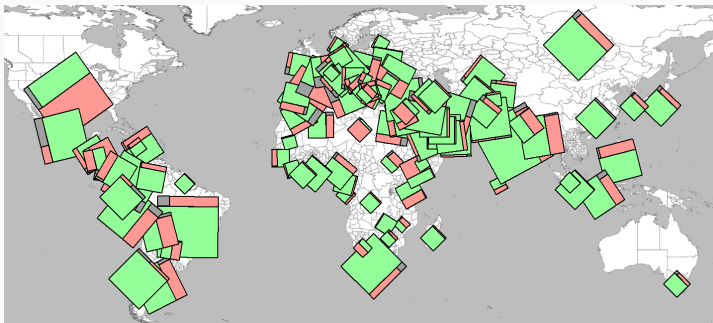
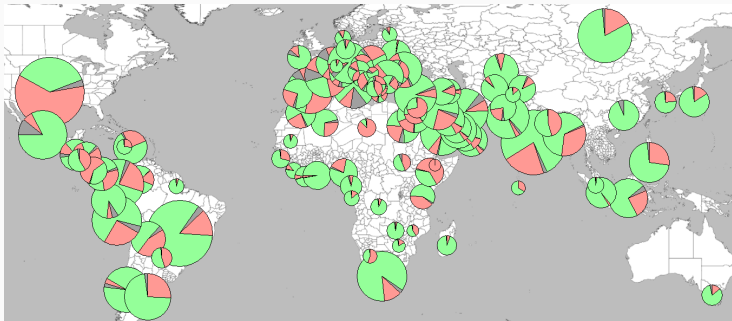
algorithm	covered	minDist (rel)	minDistAvg (rel)	minDistAvg (abs)
Painter+random	80	0.0 (0)	1.01	24.266
random+heuristic	29	0.0 (0)	1.587	42.946
RightToLeft	18	0.017 (0)	1.621	43.407
Painter+ heuristic	5	0.022 (0)	1.706	41.719
our Stacking	0	0.271	1.765	44.452

**Table 5:** date: 22.08.2020,  $M = 50$ ,  $S = 500$  and  $MnC = 5000$



algorithm	covered	minDist
random Stacking+random rotations	87	0.235 (0)
Painter+random rotations	41	0.58 (0)
random Stacking+heuristic rotations	56	0.027 (0)
Painter+heuristic	19	0.052 (0)
our Stacking	13	0.052 (0)

**Table 6:** date: 22.08.2020 ,  $M = 50$ ,  $S = 500$  and  $MnC = 5000$



## Exploration in App

---

[Switch to app and play!]

## Conclusion and Outlook

---

# Summary

- Four glyphs were shown, with two new approaches.
- NP-hardness of new approaches was outlined.
- Heuristics and greedy approach usually are good choices.
- Square/pie approach can be interpreted as discrete version of the relative visibility.
- All of this was verified on the most recent COVID-19 data,
- and experimentally demonstrated.