

Bob Wong and Ryan Saunders gave very good feedback on our design, we really appreciated that. They pointed out some drawbacks of our design.

1. In our visualizer which uses circles of different sizes to show different countries' import and export, it is highly possible that almost all the circles are going to be on a straight line, with bigger circles on the top and smaller circles to the bottom. This is not going to look good, even though it does reveal the true data.
2. International trades are dominated by some big countries. If we show all the countries in the same visualizer and use size to encode its import&export, some countries will be too small to be seen.
3. Though this visualizer changes when we change the selected year, we only have full data for the recent 10 years, in which case the visualizer might not look very different. Our hope is to see a significant change in the visualizer (for example, some countries rise, becoming a bigger and bigger trader). However, we might not be able to see such change.
4. Showing hundreds of detailed data for different goods is not feasible. We need to do some aggregation.

Based on their feedback and our concerns, we actually re-designed our visualizer. Instead of showing data for all countries, we focused on some big partners. Also, we will categorize the data so that we only show some main categories. These are going to be discussed in detail in the process book