Tim Vigers

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CV Design

*CV Design Discussion*

Explanation

For this design I was trying to choose between two similar idioms. Because a CV is a time series plot, the x axis was always going to be time, but I wasn’t sure what to encode on the y axis. My first thought was that the y axis would simply categorize the data attributes, and the length of time would be encoded by length along the x axis like a Gantt chart. However, I liked the idea of using the vertical axis to encode a continuous attribute in the form of a stream graph. I mostly made this decision because I think they are more eye catching than a Gantt chart, which is hugely important in a CV. The y axis of my plot is completely subjective, which could pose a bit of a problem, but I think that the stream graph better captures my changing interests over time (plus if I were really sending this CV out I would not draw it by hand and the lines would look much cleaner). Also, to me the stream graph allows for a nice separation between the skills and academic/professional portions of the CV, while still linking them in time and showing what I learned in each job.

Layered on top of the stream graphs are career and academic milestones (denoted by dotted lines intersecting with the time axis), to draw attention to certain accomplishments that I think employers will be looking for on a resume. This allowed me to include my list of publications and presentations in the stream graph, rather than as a separate section on the CV. Also, in addition to the core of the resume which shows my academic and professional life, I wanted to include something personal, which I think helps to humanize a CV and make it stand out. Music has always been the most important hobby to me, so I wanted to include it in my plot. Unfortunately, a stream graph would probably be my first choice to display this information, but I decided to use stacked bar charts instead to break up the visualization a bit. Plus, it’s harder to remember my music taste over continuous time, and I tend to group it in yearly phases anyway, which made it easier to make the charts.