

Lecture 10

Presentation of Results

[Data Visualization · 1-DAV-105](#)

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Acknowledgement: materials inspired by lectures from Martina Bátorová in 2021

Recall from L08: Data analysis project phases

- Obtaining data
- Data preprocessing, **checking**, cleaning
- **Exploratory** analysis
- Formation of **hypotheses**
- Testing hypotheses
- **Explanatory** visualizations for the final report / presentation

Details: Explanatory visualizations

- Obtaining data
- Data preprocessing, **checking**, cleaning
- **Exploratory** analysis
- Formation of **hypotheses**
- Testing hypotheses
- **Explanatory** visualizations for the final report / presentation
 - Formulate your conclusions
 - Support them with your analysis and visualizations
 - Do not include all exploratory analyses
(but do not hide data contradicting your conclusion)
 - Polish visualizations that you selected

Presentation of results

Presentation of results

- Understand **context**, audience, goals (more later)
- Tell a **story** (more later)
- Choose appropriate **visuals** (text / table / chart, appropriate type of graph, pre-attentive attributes, hierarchy of graph elements)
- Eliminate clutter, **focus attention** on the main points (pre-attentive attributes, such as color, size, spacing)
- Pay attention to **design** (accessibility due to font size and colors, aesthetics...)
- Get **feedback** and a lot of **practice**

See Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic: Storytelling with data ([youtube channel](#))

Understand the context of your presentation

Before writing any text or preparing any presentation try to find out:

- Who is your expected audience?
- What do they know and what do you need to explain?
- What might be interesting / new for them?
- What is the medium (live presentation, video, printed text, website)?
- What is the appropriate length (time, number of pages)?
- What do you want to achieve by the presentation?
(inform / entertain / inspire to take a specific action)

Examples

Try to list some examples of situations where data visualization might be presented: who are speakers and audiences, what are goals

Situations where data visualizations are presented

- A **company** presents to potential **consumers**, persuades them to **buy** their products
- A **charity** presents to general **public**, persuades them to **donate**
- A **nonprofit / government** present to general **public**, persuades them to take **action** (live healthily, protect environment, beware of fraud, ...)
- An **employee** presents to **colleagues**, persuades them to **change** processes
- A **politician** presents to general **public**, persuades them to **vote** for something
- A **journalist** writes for general **public**, informs them about important **issues**
- A **teacher** presents to **students**, teaches them a given **topic**
- A **student** presents to a **teacher**, demonstrates his / her **achievements** and skills
- A speaker talks to general **public**, **entertains / informs** about interesting topics
- A speaker talks to **experts**, informs about **new discoveries**, technologies etc.

Presentation of results

- Understand context
- **Tell a story**
- Choose appropriate visuals
- Eliminate clutter, focus attention on the main points
- Get feedback and a lot of practice

Storytelling

- We are easily captivated by a good story (book, movie, play)
 - We do not want to interrupt reading / watching
 - We can recall the plot afterwards
 - We want to achieve similar effects by your presentation
- Traditional stories structured as basic plot - twists - ending
- This roughly corresponds to introduction, actual content, conclusion
- Repetition useful in stories as well as in presentation
- Suspense and surprise

(see Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic: Storytelling with data)

Storytelling: structuring presentation

- One option is to describe your process of discovery roughly **chronologically** (omitting some dead ends): identifying question, getting data, analyzing data, coming to conclusion, recommending action
- Another option is to **lead with the ending**: starting with a call to action, backing it up with data

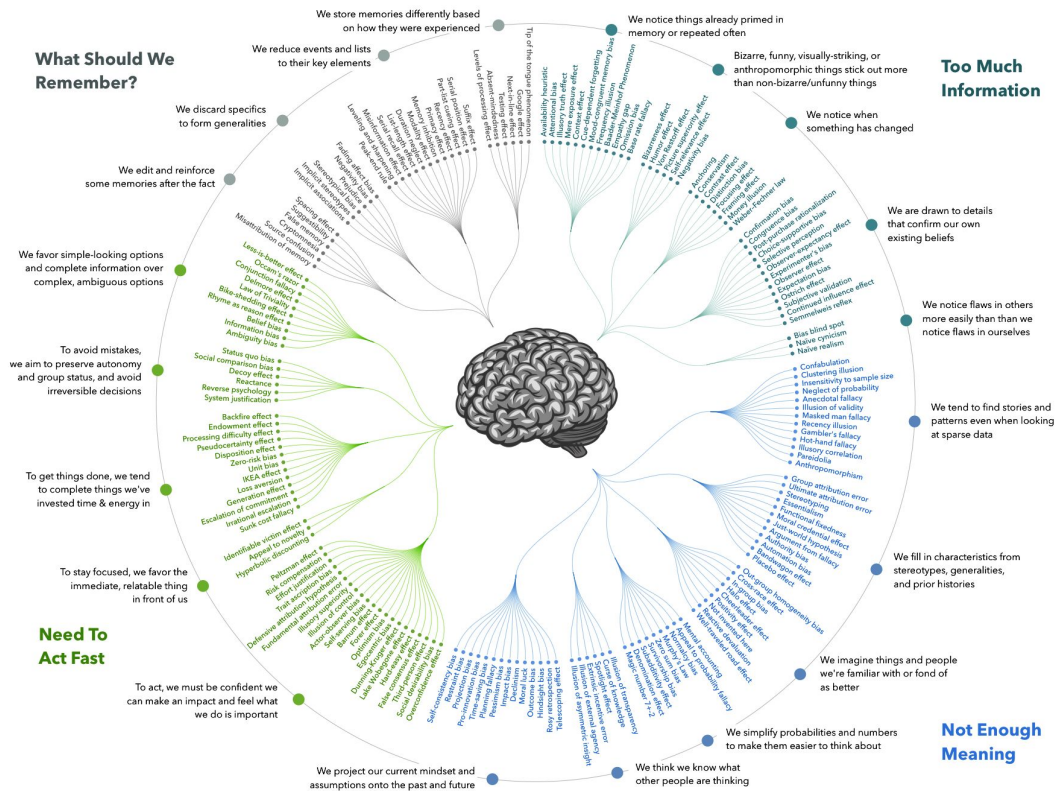
(see Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic: Storytelling with data)

Cognitive biases

Cognitive bias (kognitívne skreslenie)

- Term introduced by Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman in 1972
- Cognitive bias is a systematic deviation from rational judgement
- A brain mechanism to create shortcuts, allows fast reasoning

COGNITIVE BIAS CODEX



Researchers discovered many cognitive biases...



Three cognitive biases

- **Patternicity bias:** See non-existent patterns in data, even in [random noise](#) (related to seeing faces in the clouds)
- **Storytelling bias:** Invent "stories", explanations, cause-effect relationships for these patterns
- **Confirmation bias:** It is hard to discard our beliefs. We search for evidence that back our theories and interpret contradicting evidence the opposite way.

See Alberto Cairo: The Truthful Art

Cognitive biases in analysis and presentation

- Beware of biases in yourselves during analysis and in your audience during presentation
- *"The first principle is that you must not fool yourself---and you are the easiest person to fool"* Richard Feynman

Do not oversimplify

Story from Alberto Cairo: The Truthful Art

"Study finds that more than a quarter journalism grads wish they'd chosen a different career" Poynter Institute, 2013

Storytelling bias suggests:

- A change from printed to online media leads to worse job market for journalists
- Cairo as a journalism professor starts to worry about his future

Journalism grads (cont.)

"Study finds that more than a quarter journalism grads wish they'd chosen a different career" Poynter Institute, 2013

Actual value is 28%, as found by a survey

- This value by itself is presumably correct
- However it is not put into perspective, compared with other values

Results of Cairo's investigation

- The dissatisfaction among journalism students did not change much over the years
- Decreases in the number of news reporters and their low salaries
- Survey results imply sampling error which should be considered
- (Ideally compare to grads from other fields)

He suggests reformulating the message of the story:

"Even if jobs prospects for journalists have worsened substantially and they may worsen even further in the future, the percentage of grads who wish they'd chosen a different career hasn't changed at all in more than a decade."

Properties of good visualization

- **Truthful** (based on thorough and honest research, high quality data, appropriate analysis, correct math, no bugs in code)
- **Functional** (constitutes an accurate depiction of the data, allows meaningful comparisons)
- **Beautiful** (attractive, intriguing, aesthetically pleasing for target audience)
- **Insightful** (reveals evidence hard to see otherwise)
- **Enlightening** (changes our minds for the better)

Alberto Cairo: The Truthful Art (journalist's perspective)

Back to thoughts on good visualization

Last lecture

Pre-attentive attributes are quickly recognized by our brain (size, color, position,...)

Hierarchy of graph elements: not all attributes are good for accurate quantitative reasoning

Gestalt principles: how brain connects elements into larger patterns (proximity, similarity, connection, enclosure, closure, continuity)

Errors in visual processing lead to **illusions**

This informs our chart type choice (bars vs pies) and elimination of chart junk

Additional aspects of good plot choice

Basic setup: Selecting variables, choosing type of plot, assigning variables to x, y, color...

Data transformations: filtering (e.g. select data from one region), aggregating (e.g. summary per region) to avoid overplotting

Additional settings: sorting (e.g. bar graph columns), rescaling (log axis), re-expressing (e.g. absolute value vs relative change), zooming

Focus and explanation: highlighting, annotating (adding notes to plot)

Inspired by Stephen Few: Now you see it

Speed is not always everything

While there is a place for rapidly-understood graphs, it is too limiting to make speed a requirement in science and technology, where the use of graphs ranges from detailed in-depth data analysis to quick presentation. [...]

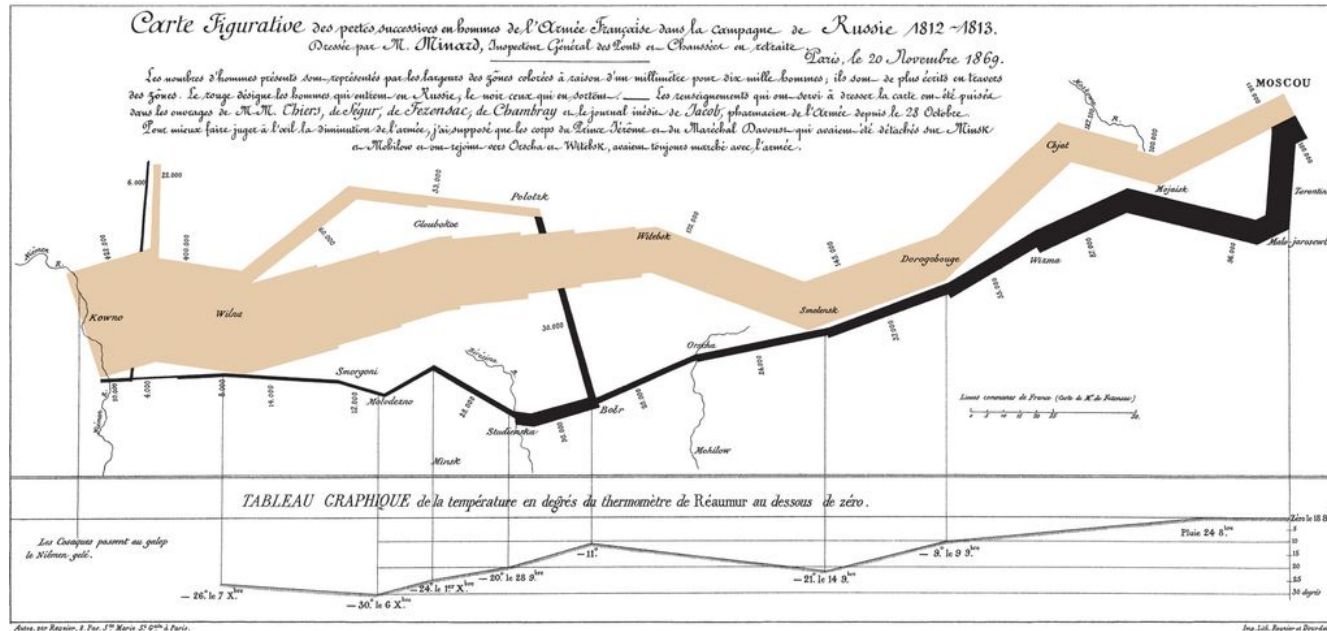
The important criterion for a graph is not simply how fast we can see a result; rather it is whether through the use of the graph we can see something that would have been harder to see otherwise or that could not have been seen at all.

William Cleveland, *The Elements of Graphing Data*, Chapter 2

Recall: exploratory vs. explanatory analysis, sometimes audience can explore too

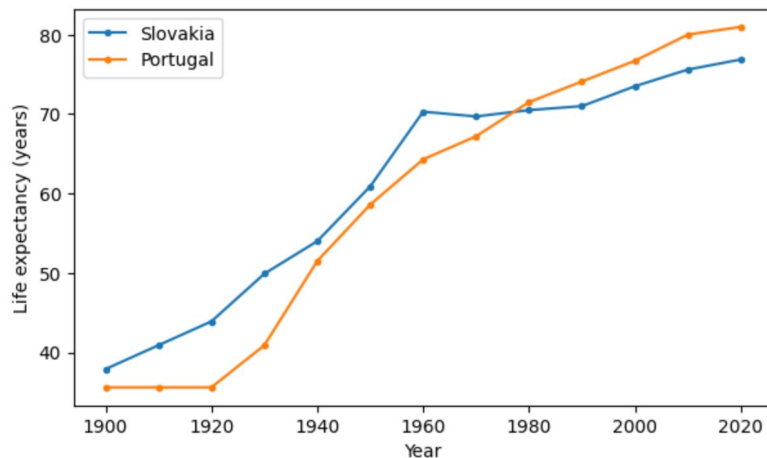
Recall Minard's plot of French army losses

Easy to see the big picture but also many minute details



Tables vs. graphs

When is it good to include a table instead of / in addition to a graph?



	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Slovakia	37.9	40.9	43.9	49.9	54.0	60.9	70.3	69.7	70.5	71.0	73.5	75.6	76.9
Portugal	35.6	35.6	35.6	40.9	51.5	58.6	64.3	67.2	71.5	74.1	76.7	80.0	81.0

Tables vs. graphs

Advantages of tables:

- **Very few numbers** typically better given directly than in a graph
- In a long table, each reader can **find items** of personal interest (e.g. results of a sport competition, statistics for all countries)
- A table gives **exact values**
- Readers can **re-analyze** the same data (table preferably machine-readable)
- Numbers at very **different scales** are sometimes difficult to display even with log axes

See also

<https://www.storytellingwithdata.com/blog/2011/11/visual-battle-table-vs-graph>

Examples of bad graphs and their improvements

- <http://www.perceptualedge.com/examples.php>
- <https://eagereyes.org/pie-charts>
- <https://viz.wtf/>

Interactivity

Interactivity

Interactive visualization engages audience, allows them to explore data in depth and according to their interest.

Examples

- [US cities with the same name](#) (also the animated explainer)
- [PhD gender gap](#)
- [Making it big](#) (more animated than interactive)

Techniques in interactivity visualization

Similar to decisions made in designing a static plot (Stephen Few)

- Selecting variables (x, y, color, ...)
- Filtering data (selecting table rows)
- Aggregating (display countries or region summaries)
- Zooming / panning
- Rescaling (log-scale) / reexpressing (e.g. % instead of counts)
- Sorting (e.g. bars in bargraphs)
- Highlighting points or groups
- Displaying details (tooltips)
- Annotating
- Bookmarking

Dashboard

A display consisting of multiple plots, summarizing the current state of important indicators (e.g. of a business, pandemics, ...)

- Inspired by dashboards in cars and planes
- Often interactive, but main features in default view

Two SARS-CoV-2 examples:

- [WHO](#)
- [Nextstrain](#) (selecting color, filtering, highlighting, aggregating, zooming and panning maps and tree, rescaling time vs divergence, tooltips, bookmarking)

Interactivity in Plotly Express

All Plotly plots by default have some interactivity:

- Filtering groups
- Zooming / panning
- [Details](#) (tooltips / hover label)
- [Spike lines](#)

See two examples in the notebook

We have also seen how to build more advanced interactive plots with Plotly Dash (adding selectors, sliders, buttons, ...)