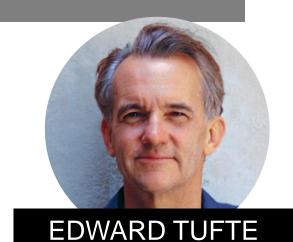
# VISUAL DESIGN & STORYTELLING

**Petra Isenberg** 



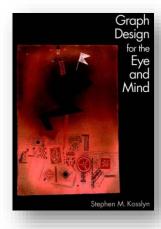
## RECAP

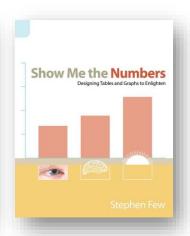
- MAXIMIZE THE DATA-INK RATIO
- AVOID CHART JUNK (SOMETIMES)
- LAYER INFORMATION
- MAXIMIZE THE DATA DENSITY
  - SHRINK THE GRAPHICS
  - MAXIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF DATA SHOWN (SOMETIMES)

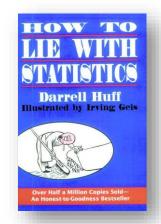


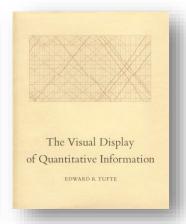
# DESIGN PRINCIPLES

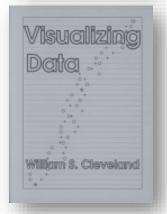
### MANY MORE EXIST...

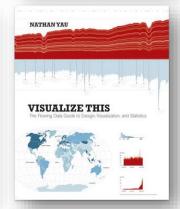












# LAYOUT

#### FEATURED

#### U.S. Says It May Not Need Apple's Help to Unlock iPhone



A court hearing set for Tuesday was canceled in the Justice Department's bid to gain access to phone data in the San Bernardino mass shooting inquiry.

- 404 Comments
- · Breaking Down Apple's iPhone Fight With the U.S. Government White Collar Watch: Apple May Be Willing to Risk Contempt Charge

#### MORE NEWS

#### Chip-Card Payment System Delays Frustrate Retailers

By RACHEL ABRAMS 3:53 PM ET

Many complications were widely predicted, but a lag in certifying payment terminals has added an unexpected wrinkle - and lots of finger-pointing.

#### Keeping Up With Android Security Patches

After a nasty Android bug surfaced last summer, Google has been sending out monthly updates for the software on its Nexus hardware.

#### Apple and Yahoo Each Struggle for Control of Their Futures

Apple is in a courtroom fight with the Justice Department, while Yahoo is contending with a sliding stock price and an activist hedge fund.

#### CrowdSignals Aims to Create a Marketplace for Smartphone Sensor Data

A new project seeks to collect, label and pay for mobile sensor data and encourage innovation in many fields

#### Andrew S. Grove, Intel Chief Who Spurred Semiconductor Revolution, Dies at 79

By JONATHAN KANDELL The semiconductor chip was a development as

momentous as hydrocarbon fuels, electricity and telephones were in



#### BITS

Insight and analysis on Silicon Valley and the technology industry.

Continue to Bits »

#### PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY

Change Your Feed, Personalizing It With an Algorithm By MIKE ISAAC

As our online networks of friends have grown and the social media companies have matured, feeds are evolving, too.

APP SMART Checklists and Tips to Help Streamline Spring Cleaning

By KIT EATOR It's time for spring cleaning again,

and some apps can help users stay organized while getting their homes in order.

TECH TIP

#### Speaking Your Mind to Google Docs

By J. D. BIERSDORFER

An external microphone can help you be better understood by Google's online word-processing program when you type by talking.

#### Marking Up a Mac's iBook Pages

By J. D. BIERSDORFER Apple's e-books program for OS X includes tools for making margin

notes, highlighting passages and sharing your favorite parts of the story.

TECH TIP

#### Recording Live Television in Windows 10

By J. D. BIERSDORFER If you miss the digital-video recording functions of Windows Media Center, you can find other ways to watch and record your favorite broadcast shows.

#### Getting the Weather Report From Windows

By J. D. BIERSDORFER Windows 10 offers several ways to get a forecast on your screen.

#### Mobile Games to

Here are some of the

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curated by our journalists. Staff Twitter List »

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- 7. Breaking Down Apple's iPhone Fight With the U.S.
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- 10. Tech Tip: Logging Into Windows 10 With a Favorite

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More Technology Videos »





#### The Terminator and the Washing Machine

What the legendary matches between supercomputer Deep Blue and chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov reveal about today's artificial intelligence and machine learning

Make Time Fly

best games to take the boredom out

# LIAR

# LIAR

Most of us like to think we can get ahead in life while keeping our noses clean. But, as Ian Leslie explains, we only got to the top of the evolutionary tree because we had a gift for misrepresentation

ou could call it humanity's dirty little secret. What helped to make us the most intelligent species on Earth was, to be honest, our talent for deception.

The human brain, possibly evolution's most impressive achievement, is also a bit of a mystery. We have much bigger brains, relative to our bodies, than any other mammal. Our hominid ancestors had brains about a third the size of ours. At some point between 2 and 1.5 million years ago, our ancestors' brains began to expand, and at quite a rate. Scientists have never been sure why.

For a long time, the nearest thing to an accepted explanation was that our intelligence resulted from our facility for making tools. But in the early 1980s, two young primatologists at the University of St Andrews began to wonder if it wasn't linked to something less flattering to our self-image: a capacity for deceit.

Richard Byrne and Andy Whiten had read descriptions of chimpanzee trickery in the works

in the Drakensberg mountains of South Africa they noticed baboons engaging in deceptive behaviour. For instance: a young baboon gets in trouble with several elders, including his mother, for attacking another member of the group. When he hears them coming for him, grunting aggressively, he stands and stares into the distance. The elders, thinking that a predator or rival troop must be approaching, stop and stare too. There is no threat. But the elders are distracted enough to forget what they came running over for.

Another example: an adult male baboon shoves a female off her feeding patch. Rather than protest or retreat, she flicks her gaze in a characteristic way from him to a younger male who is happily feeding nearby. The first male charges over to the younger one and chases him away. The female, meanwhile, returns to her patch and

the demands of such trickery.

tal capacity in our primate ancestors might help to explain the development of our own brains. This was an exciting thought. But initially, Byrne and Whiten found it hard to get any of their research evidence. Deception just was not a subject that many in their field took seriously.

of Jane Goodall, and during their own fieldwork

When Byrne and Whiten asked around, their colleagues regaled them with similar anecdotes. The two developed a hunch: that these stories represented something beyond aberrant aspects of primate behaviour, and that our closest relatives - chimps, gorillas and orang-utans - are practised, habitual deceivers. Byrne and Whiten also began to suspect that such behaviour might be linked to the development of primate intelligence: those animals with the mental sophistication to trick their way into getting more food, as our female baboon did, would have had a reproductive edge. Through the slow work of natural selection, the primate brain evolved to cope with

So a connection between deception and menpublished despite amassing a substantial body of

YELLOW BABOON Average group size Average group size Average neocortex size Average neocortex size (cubic centimetres) 61.4 143.3

VERVET

In 1982, however, they gained new impetus from a book that gave a gripping account of the shifting relationships within a colony of chimpanzees in a Dutch zoo. Franz de Waal's Chimpanzee Politics reads like the script of a soap opera or gangster movie. Alliances are formed, broken and re-formed, individuals are manipulated, violence is selectively employed, females are fought over and seduced. De Waal prefaced his book with quotes from Hobbes and Machiavelli, suggesting that this was a vision of human politics in the raw. Byrne and Whiten were fascinated, particularly by those episodes that showed deceptive behaviour, as when a chimp, presenting himself as a friend, would suddenly attack an unsuspecting rival.

In 1988 the two primatologists finally published their work in the form of a book, Machiavellian Intelligence. An unsettling read, it explored "the idea that intelligence began in social manipulation, deceit and cunning co-operation", showing that animals, far from living in a state of innocence, are as manipulative and underhand as the worst of our own species. It was persuasive too, making a big impact not only in primatology but in psychology, anthropology and medicine.

erne and Whiten believed that what they termed Machiavellian intelligence was linked to the size of the group an animal lived in: the bigger the group, the more complex the calculations individuals needed to make to survive. But there was little hard evidence for this until 1992, when Robin Dunbar, at the University of Liverpool, came up with a way to demonstrate a link between brain size and the complexity of an animal's social life.

Dunbar, too, had noticed that the size of a primate's brain appeared to be related to the size of the group it lived in. Baboons have big brains and live in big groups; vervets, who have smaller brains, live in smaller groups. He decided to investigate by looking at the neocortex. This is the part of the brain: the part that deals with abstraction, self-reflection and planning. It was also the part that showed such rapid expansion in primates - especially humans - two mil-

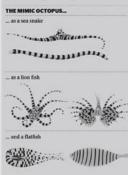
lion years ago.

Dambar plunged into the vast accumulation of primate data from around the world, looking for a orrelation between the size of an animal's neocortex and the size of its social groups. He found a link so strong that he was able to predict, with impressive accuracy, the group size of a species he hadn't looked at, just by knowing its brain size. He even came up with a prediction for human

#### **SEEING IS** DECEIVING

Many species, not just primates, practise deception as one of their survival strategies. The eastern hognose snake will, if threatened, fake its own death by rolling over on its back, emitting a foul stench and letting its tongue loll out of its mouth. The mimic octopus, found in the waters off Bali in Indonesia, can disguise itself as one of several other sea creatures, all the better to lure its prev.

Even plants deceive. The mirror orchid of North Africa produces small flowers to attract potential pollinators. The flowers have no nectar, but the orchids have a special ruse to seduce the wasps that pollinate them: they impersonate female wasps. The blue-violet centre of the flower resembles the wings of a female wasp at rest, while a thick set of long red hairs imitates the hairs on the insect's abdomen. It's bait - insect porn for horny male wasps.



#### BRAIN SIZE

(Homo habilis)

2.5-1.6 million years ago L8-1 million years ago (Homo erectus)







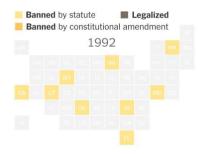


200,000 years ago (Homo saptens)



November 2009 | Eureka | THE TIMES | 27 26 | THE TIMES | Euroka | November 2009

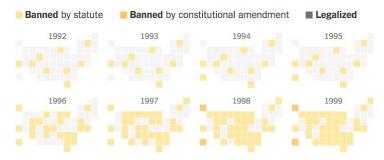




## Gay Marriage State by State: From a Few States to the Whole Nation

By HAEYOUN PARK

The Supreme Court in June said that same-sex couples had a constitutional right to marry, effectively requiring that the 13 states that prohibit such unions reverse those bans. Over the last two years, the number of states authorizing gay marriage had expanded rapidly because of legislative decisions, referendums or court orders.



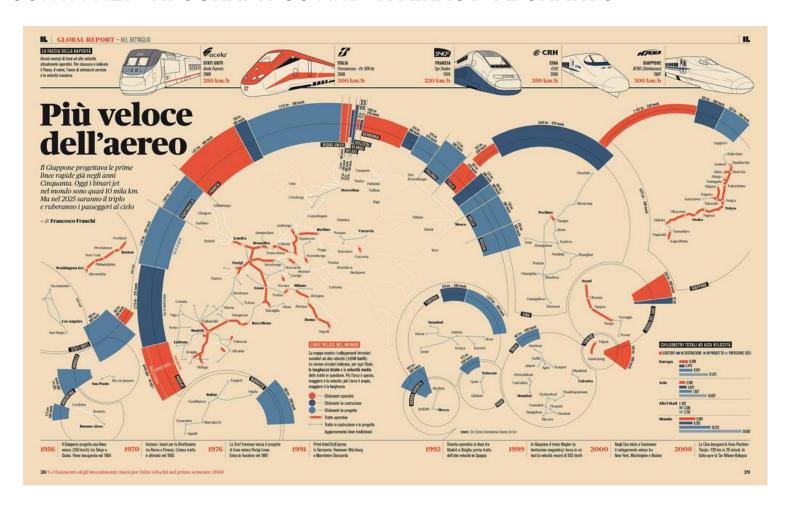
A ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court in 1993 allowing same-sex marriage, along with rising demands for marriage equality nationwide, prompted a backlash. A majority of states, including Hawaii, adopted laws or constitutional amendments that limited marriage to a man and a woman. In 1996, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, banning federal recognition of same-sex marriage.



# ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN INTEGRATING VISUALIZATIONS INTO SOMETHING BIGGER

A STORY, A BIGGER INTERACTIVE, ETC.

# BUT LAYOUT IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR INTRODUCING SELF-CONTAINED **INFOGRAPHICS** AND **INTERACTIVE CHARTS**

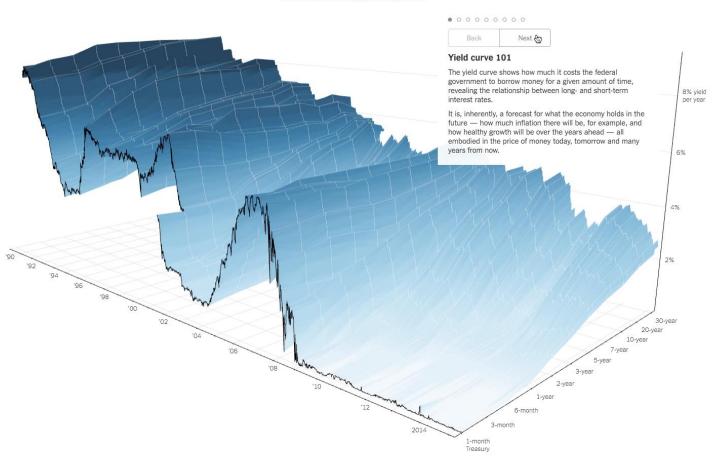






## A 3-D View of a Chart That Predicts The Economic Future: The Yield Curve

By GREGOR AISCH and AMANDA COX MARCH 18, 2015



# DIRECT

# DRAW ATTENTION TO ONE THING FIRST.

THEN USE COLOR, SIZE, SPACE, AND PLACEMENT TO DIRECT VIEWERS TO THE NEXT IMPORTANT POINT.

Walking Skyscrapers New York City Walking Tours NYU School of Architecture Continuing Education Program Fall 2004

Experience the history and variety of Manhattan's noteworthy architectural wonders—the skyscrapers that have given the city its signature skyline and inspired its residents for nearly one hundred years.

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Sign up now! Space is limited. \$125 per three-hour tour. Purchase the package of three for \$275

Call the office of Continuing Education at NYU: 212.555.2259 or visit us on the Web at www.nyu.edu/arch/walk.html
One academic credit
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noteworthy architectural wooders - the skylcrapers

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Explore the concrete carryons that rose up on the site of old New Amsterdam

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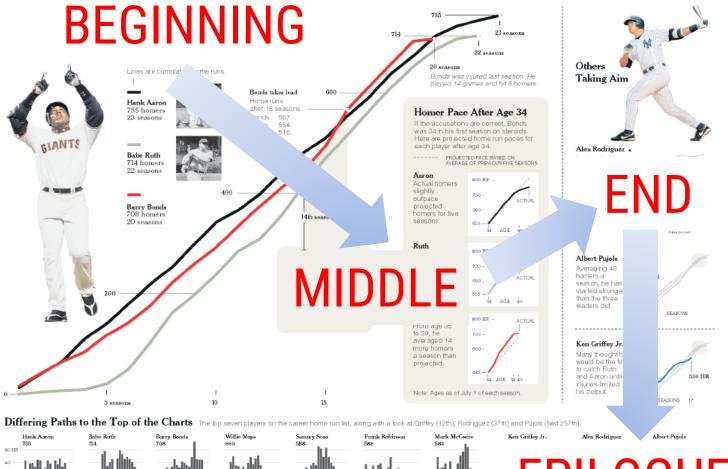
or will so on the deb www.nyu-edu/arch/walk.html

# WE TEND TO SCAN **TOP TO BOTTOM**THEN **LEFT TO RIGHT**

BUT...

# SIZE & COLOR

CAN PREEMPT THAT ORDER

















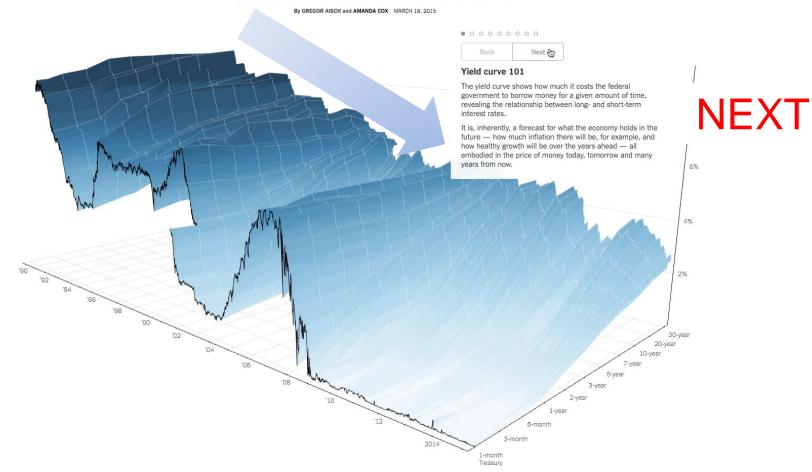
EPILOGUE





### BEGINNING

## A 3-D View of a Chart That Predicts The Economic Future: The Yield Curve



# THE STRUCTURE OF NEWS AND PRINT ARTICLES

# CAN ALSO BE USEFUL FOR VISUALIZATIONS

#### HEADLINE

Most of us like to think we can get ahead in life while keeping our noses clean. But, as Ian Leslie explains, we only got to the top of the evolutionary tree because we had a gift for misrepresentation

ou could call it humanity's dirty little secret. What helped to make us the most intelligent species on Earth was, to be honest, our talent for deception.

The human brain, possibly evolution's most impressive achievement, is also a bit of a mystery. We have much bigger brains, relative to our bodies, than any other mammal. Our hominid ancestors had brains about a third the size of ours. At some point between 2 and 1.5 million years ago, our ancestors' brains began to expand, and at quite a rate. Scientists have never been sure why.

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Richard Byrne and Andy Whiten had read descriptions of chimpanzee trickery in the works : many in their field took seriously.

#### DECK OR **STANDFIRST** (ARTICLE SUMMARY) INTRODUCE CONTENT/PROVIDE INSTRUCTION

threat. But the elders are distracted enough to forget what they came running over for

Another example: an adult male baboon shoves a female off her feeding patch. Rather than protest or retreat, she flicks her gaze in a characteristic way from him to a younger male who is happily feeding nearby. The first male charges over to the younger one and chases him away. The female, meanwhile, returns to her patch and

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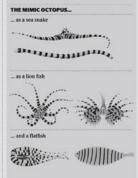
#### Average neocortex size Werage neocortex size (cubic centimetres) 61.4 143.3

SIDEBARS **USEFUL SPACES FOR** SUPPLEMENTAL VISUALIZATIONS, LEGENDS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS

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Many species, not just primates, practise deception as one of their survival strategies. The eastern hognose snake will, if threatened, fake its own death by rolling over on its back, emitting a foul stench and letting its tongue loll out of its mouth. The mimic octopus, found in the waters off Bali in Indonesia, can disguise itself as one of several other sea creatures, all the better to

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2.5-1.6 million years ago

L8-1 million years ago (Home habilis) (Homo erectus)







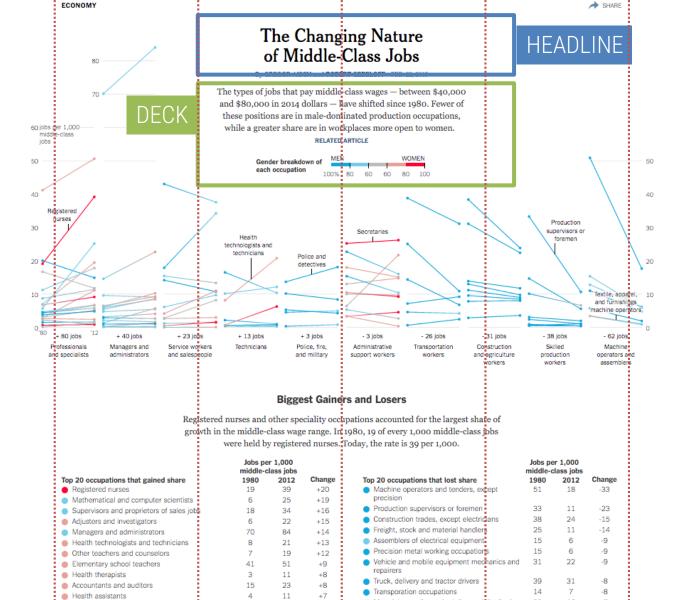




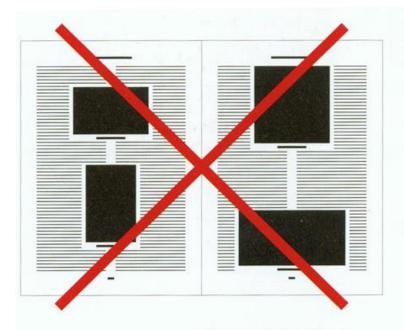


200,000 years ago

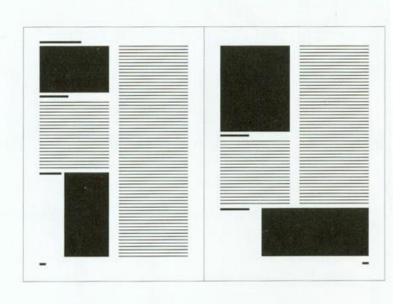
November 2009 | Eureka | THE TIMES | 27 26 | THE TIMES | Euroka | November 2009



# VISUALS



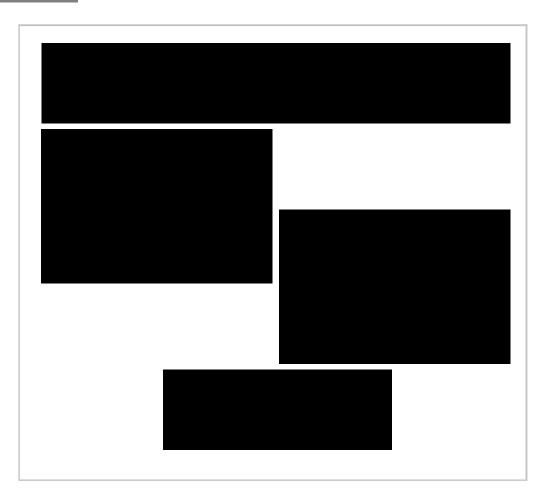
THE NEW TYPOGRAPHY Diagram, 1928 (redrawn) Designer and author: Jan Tschichold



Tschichold's diagram of good and bad magazine design advocates staggering images in relation to content instead of forcing text to wrap around blocks moored at the center of the page. Explaining this experiment, Tschichold wrote that his redesigned pages would be even more effective if the photographic halftones (called "blocks") were produced in fixed rather than arbitrary sizes.

# POSITIVE AND

YOU DON'T NEED TO USE ALL OF THE AVAILABLE SPACE



## NEGATIVE SPACE CAN ALSO GUIDE ATTENTION

#### KINNEAR CARELL COLLETTE DANO BRESLIN ARKIN

"THE FUNNIEST LAUGH-OUT-LOUD AUDIENCE PLEASER
AT THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL."

"THE ROAD IS TWISTED AND SO ARE THE LAUGHS.

THIS ONE IS A WINNER."

Telling Stone

"A HILARIOUS TALE ABOUT WINNING, LOSING AND THAT NETHER STATE IN BETWEEN WHERE MOST OF US MUST LEARN TO LIVE."

"A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE."







THE STATE OF THE S

IN THEATRES THIS SUMMER

# MINIMALISM

IF YOU CAN DO IT WITH LESS, DO IT!

TRY TO SHOW **ONLY WHAT'S NECESSARY**.

USE DESIGN TO **COMMUNICATE**, NOT DECORATE.

# **TYPOGRAPHY**

# ALMOST EVERY VISUALIZATION USES TEXT

...AND ALMOST EVERY VISUALIZATION CAN BENEFIT FROM GOOD USE OF TYPOGRAPHY

## THE BASICS

# Serif

# Sans Serif

# TYPE ON THE

USED TO BE VERY LIMITED

Arial **Arial Black** Comic Sans MS Courier New Georgia **Impact** Times New Roman Trebuchet MS Verdana

# NOW...LOTS OF GREAT OPTIONS

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Open Sans, 10 Styles by Steve Matteson

Roboto, 12 Styles by Christian Robertson

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Lato, 10 Styles by Łukasz Dziedzic

Slabo 27px, 1 Style by John Hudson

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Roboto Condensed, 6 Styles by Christian Robertson

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack

Noto Sans, 4 Styles by Google

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

PT Serif, 4 Styles by ParaType

Normal 400 Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Alegreya Sans, 14 Styles by Juan Pablo del Peral

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Titillium Web, 11 Styles by Multiple Designers

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Passion One, 3 Styles by Fontstage

Normal 400

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

Grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil Queen and Jack.

## NUMBERS

CHOOSE FONTS AND
WEIGHTS TO MAXIMIZE
LEGIBILITY AT THE SIZE
THEY'LL BE DISPLAYED

For Numbers...

Din

0123456789

Helvetica Neue

0123456789

Myriad

0123456789

Gills Sans

0123456789

Tahoma

0123456789

Azuro

1234567890

Lucida Sans

0123456789

# USE TWO TYPEFACES

(OFTEN EVEN ONE IS ENOUGH.)

YOU CAN ALSO USE:

WEIGHT

COLOR

*Italics* 

SIZE

# KEEP TYPE LARGE AND LEGIBLE

# 40-60pt (or Bigger) for Headlines

12-16 for body text, captions, and visualization text.

You should almost <u>never</u> use 10pt or smaller. (Even IN your visualizations.)

# TYPE AND CONTRAST

Be careful with small differences in luminosity.

What works on your display may not work in general.

# TYPE CAN SUGGEST





Web Images Video News Maps more » Google Search I'm Feeling Lucky

I'm Feeling Lucky

Google Search

Advertising Programs - Business Solutions - About Google

Make Google Your Homepage!

@2007 Google

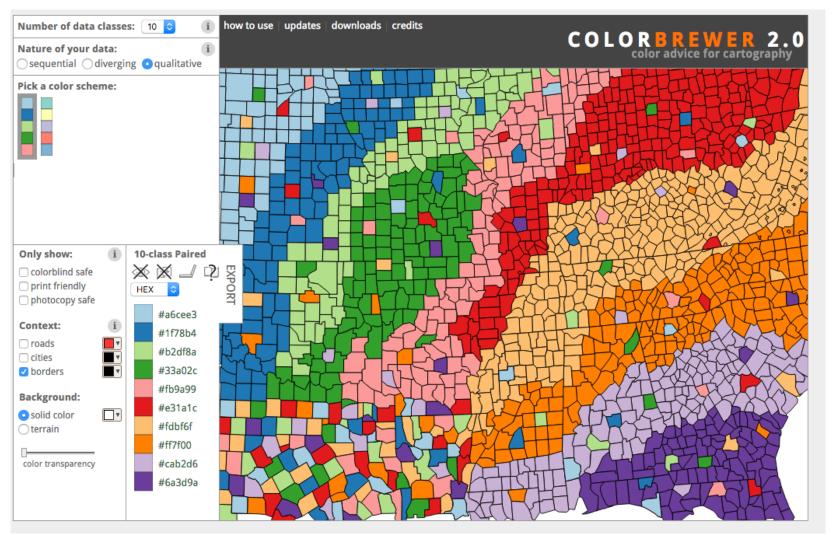
10 YFARS AGO

Google.ca offered in: Français

TODAY (CUES CAN BE SUBTLE)

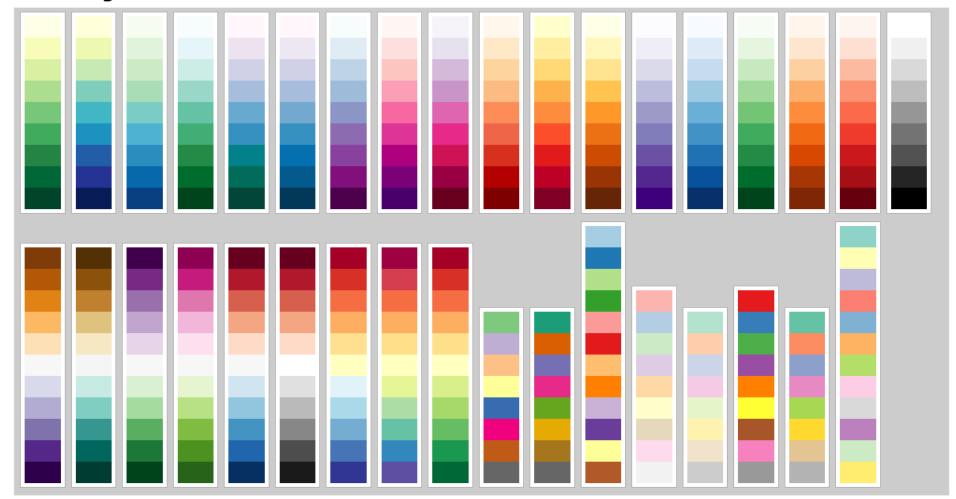
# **COLOR**

( WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.)



#### **USE COLORBREWER!**

## **Every ColorBrewer Scale**



# SYMBOLS AND ICONOGRAPHY

## SEMIOTICS (THE STUDY OF SIGNS)



SIGNIFIED
A THING OR IDEA



SIGNIFIER
A REPRESENTATION
OF THE THING OR IDEA
(A WORD, PICTURE, SOUND, ETC.)

warmth
heat
danger
etc.

SENSE
THE UNDERSTANDING A
VIEWER GETS FROM
SEEING THE SIGNIFIED
(OR THE SIGNIFIER!)

## TYPES OF SIGNS



ICON
PHYSICALLY
RESEMBLES
WHAT IT STANDS
FOR



INDEX
IMPLIES / POINTS TO
SOMETHING
(CORRELATION)



SYMBOL POINTS TO SOMETHING

RELATIONSHIP HAS
TO BE LEARNED

## USING SIGNS TO ILLUSTRATE AND PROMPT RECOGNITION

#### World's most contagious talsenoods

virulence of idea (google hits)





















Not a room Romans used for Bacchanalian binges, but the name for the entrance to a stadium.



#### Different tongue parts

There are no different sections for each taste: bitter, sour. salty, sweet & umami (savoury/meaty).



#### Electric fan @ night

Big myth in South Korea that this is deadly. Very unlikely to harm you. Unless you put the fan in the bed.



#### Steep Learning Curve

Actually means a skill that is easy and quick to learn. Think about it. The curve just goes up and up.



#### Sharks = no cancer

Oh yes they do get cancer. Particularly skin cancer.



#### Black holes

Not really 'holes' but hugely dense objects with massive gravitational pull.



#### Wake sleepwalkers?

They'll be really confused, but it's okay. They're more likely to hurt themselves if they're not awoken.



#### Chemical Imbalance

Simplistic. Thank pharma for the idea that major depression is caused by an imbalance of neurotransmitters like serotonin.





#### Napoleon was short

A tall tale. At 5'7", he was actually above average height for a Frenchman of the time.



#### The 5 Second Rule

Amount of bacteria transferred o fallen food depends on how contaminated the floor is, not how long the food stays there.



#### Bulls hate red

Bulls are colour-blind. They actually react to motions of the bull fighter's cloth as a perceived threat.



#### **Great Wall of China**

Not visible from space. Myth. Now stop saving it!



#### Missing persons reports

Police don't demand a 2/1-hour period before



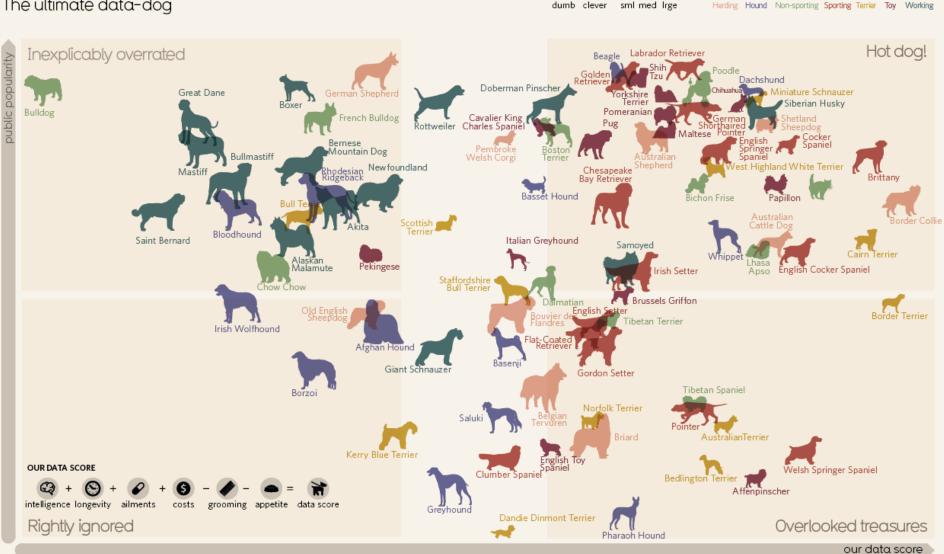
#### Bananas grow on trees Actually grow on massive horbs that recemble trees Ret



#### Oil stops stuck pasta Nope. But it can stop



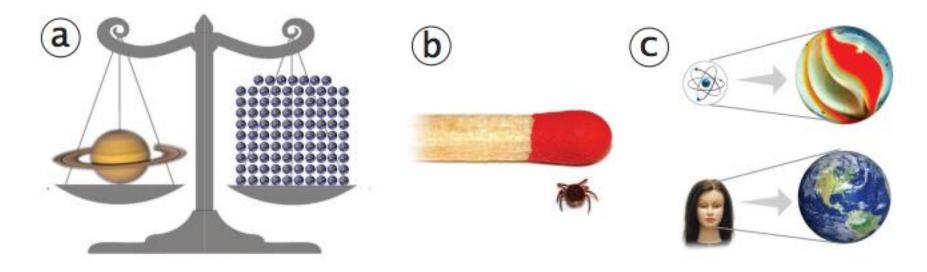
Best in Show The ultimate data-dog



INTELLIGENCE

TYPE

# USING SIGNS TO MAKE DATA RELATABLE



USING CONCRETE SCALES
CHEVALIER ET AL. 2013 LINK



#### Mainly in Finance and Energy



Finance 64 Majority in hedge funds, private equity or venture capital.



Energy and natural resources 17 Mostly oil and gas.



Real estate and construction 15



Media and entertainment 12

Hollywood moguls like Steven Spielberg, J.J. Abrams and Jeffrey Katzenberg.



Health 12

Woody Johnson, owner of the New York Jets, whose family founded Johnson & Johnson.



Technology 10



Transportation 9

Trucking, autos, cruise ships.



Retail and manufacturing 6



Food, beverage, agriculture 5

Includes citrus, poultry and sugar magnates.



Insurance 3



Other/unknown 5

MIDDLE EAST

#### DEATH IN SYRIA

By KAREN YOURISH, K.K. REBECCA LAI and DEREK WATKINS SEPT. 14, 2015

More than  $200,\!000$  people

have been killed in the four-and-a-half-year Syrian civil war.

#### The death toll in the Gaza-Israel conflict.

By Lazaro Gamio and Richard Johnson, Updated: Aug 7, 2014

Statistics on death tolls during active conflict are often difficult to track accurately. A note on our sourcing:

For death toll numbers from within Gaza, we receive daily or sometimes twice daily updates from the head of the Information Management Unit in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories field office in the West Bank. The field office gets updates from multiple sources within Gaza, including U.N. agencies and the Palestinian Medical Authorities. They then create and continually update a spreadsheet of all available data. These numbers are often not complete, but represent the best available data and do tend to clarify over time. Israel disputes the numbers provided by the United Nations, saying that a large number of those killed, particularly males over 18, were armed terrorists and not civilians.

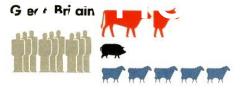
For death toll numbers of Israeli soldiers, we rely on Israel Defense Forces press releases and their Twitter account. For Israeli civilian deaths, we rely on news reports and our reporters in Israel and Gaza. These numbers are similarly tentative initially but clarify over time.

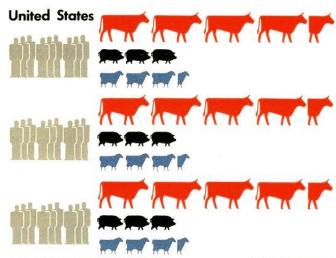
Related articles: Reporters grapple with politics, erratic sources in reporting Israeli/Gaza death toll (Washington Post) | Caution needed with Gaza casualty figures (BBC) | Civilian or Not? New Fight in Tallying the Dead From the Gaza Conflict (New York Times)



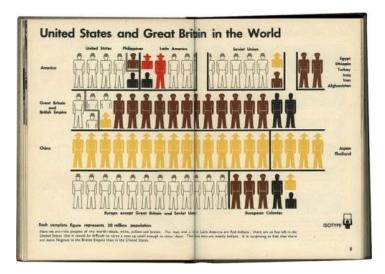
## ISOTYPE

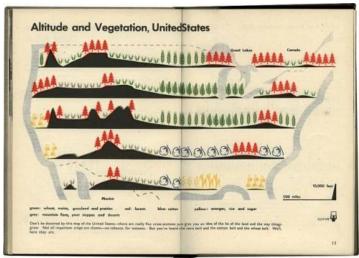
#### Population and Live Stock

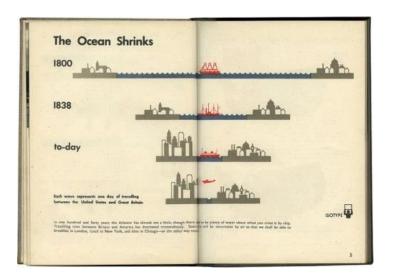


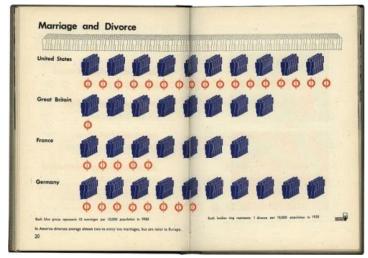


Each grey figure represents 5 million population Each complete red symbol represents 5 million cattle Each complete black symbol represents 5 million pigs Each complete blue symbol represents 5 million sheep Average for 1935 - 1939









OTTO & MARIE NEURATH 1948 MORE EXAMPLES

#### ISOTYPE Visualization – Working Memory, Performance, and Engagement with Pictographs

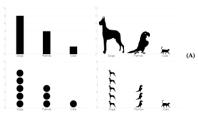
#### Steve Haroz

Northwestern University isotype@steveharoz.com

#### Robert Kosara Tableau Research rkosara@tableau.com

#### Steven L. Franconeri

Northwestern University franconeri@northwestern.edu



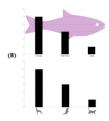


Fig. 1. Pictographic charts have been used for decades. (A) Which chart above most effectively conveys information? Which data is easiest to remember during a demanding task? Which is most engaging? (B) How integrated must a pictograph be to benefit the user? Do purely decorative background images offer the same benefits as simple axis labels? Or must they be used to convey data?

#### **ABSTRACT**

Although the infographic and design communities have used simple pictographic representations for decades, it is still unclear whether they can make visualizations more effective. Using simple charts, we tested how pictographic representations impact (1) memory for information jux viewed, as well as under the load of additional information, (2) speed of finding information, and (3) engagement and preference in seeking out these visualizations. We find that superfluous images can distract. But we find no user costs – and some intriguing benefits – when pictographs are used to represent the data.

#### **Author Keywords**

Visualization; Psychophysics; Working Memory; User Performance; Pictograph; Embellishment; ISOTYPE

#### INTRODUCTION

The International System Of TYpographic Picture Education (ISOTYPE) uses simple pictographic elements to convey many types of information, including numerical data. Otto and Marie Neurath defined the term in the 1920s [21], though this type of chart was first described by Willard Brinton in

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Crit 2015, April 18 - 23 2015, Seous, Republic of Korea Copyright is held by the owner/author(s). Publication rights licensed to ACM. ACM 978-1-4503-3145-6/15/04...\$15.00

http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/2702123.2702275

1914 [6]. Together with Gerd Arntz, the Neuraths created many ISOTYPE designs over several decades [1].

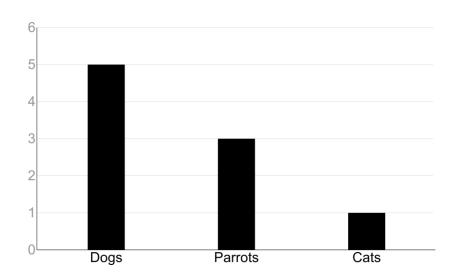
The goal was a universally understandable system for communicating quantities of commercial, social, or economic information (e.g., automobile production or number of children born per year). Symbols, each representing a fixed quantity, were stacked to provide an intuitive representation of a total amount (Fig. 2). Gerd Arntz's pictographs – simplified icons with minimal color – are highly recognizable and are still used in signs, traffic icons, and warning labels.

While the design community has largely embraced the simple style of ISOTYPE for pictographic embellishments [7, 17], the visualization and HCI communities tend to regard pictographs as 'chart 'junk' — a distraction from the data itself [24]. Here we examine how ISOTYPE-style embellishment affects viewer memory, speed, and engagement within simple visualizations.

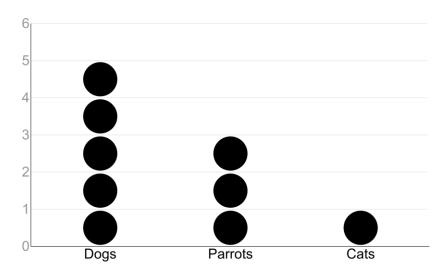
Recent work suggests that extraneous pictographic information can indeed improve the effectiveness of visualizations. Bateman et al. found that visualizations that integrate data with illustrations yielded better memory of the data compared to minimalistic outlines of bar charts [2]. Borkin et al. found a related result – that people can better recall having seen a visualization that includes pictures [4], though it is not clear if they would better recall the data, per se. When images and clip-art are embedded in the visualization's data representation, Borgo et al. found occasional impact to work-

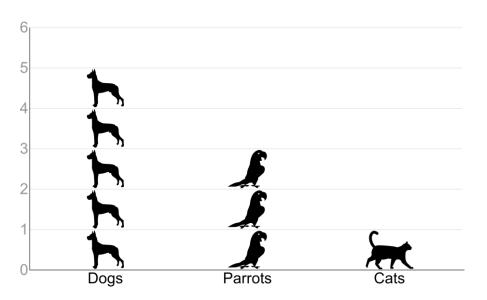
#### STACKED ICONS CAN:

HAROZ ET AL. 2015 LINK



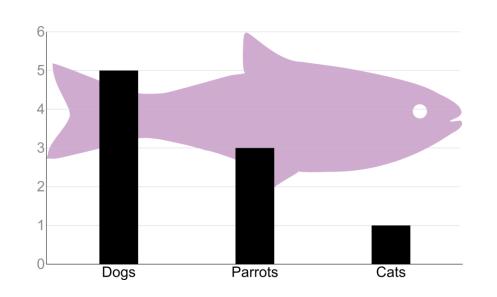
## STACKED ICONS CAN: ENCODE DATA AS BOTH LENGTH AND QUANTITY





## STACKED ICONS CAN: ENCODE DATA AS BOTH LENGTH AND QUANTITY

(WHERE THIS WORKS)
ICONS CAN SUPPORT
MEMORY & ENGAGEMENT



### STACKED ICONS CAN: ENCODE DATA AS BOTH LENGTH AND QUANTITY

(WHERE THIS WORKS)
ICONS SUPPORT MEMORY
& ENGAGEMENT

BUT! OTHER IMAGES ARE DISTRACTING

### HOW CAN YOU TELL STORIES WITH

## DATA?

AND HOW DOES WHAT WE LEARNED BEFORE, RELATE?



#### STORYTELLING

CHANGES WITH TECHNOLOGY

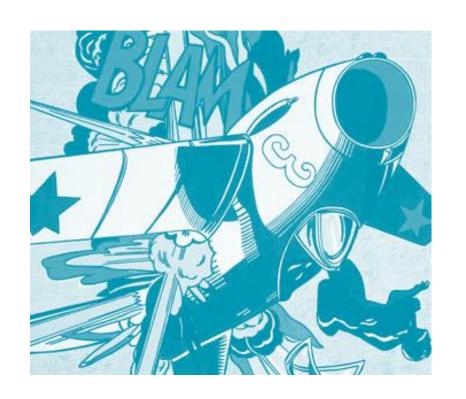
PEOPLE TELL STORIES

WORDS TELL STORIES

**IMAGES TELL STORIES** 

**COMICS TELL STORIES** 

**MOVIES TELL STORIES** 



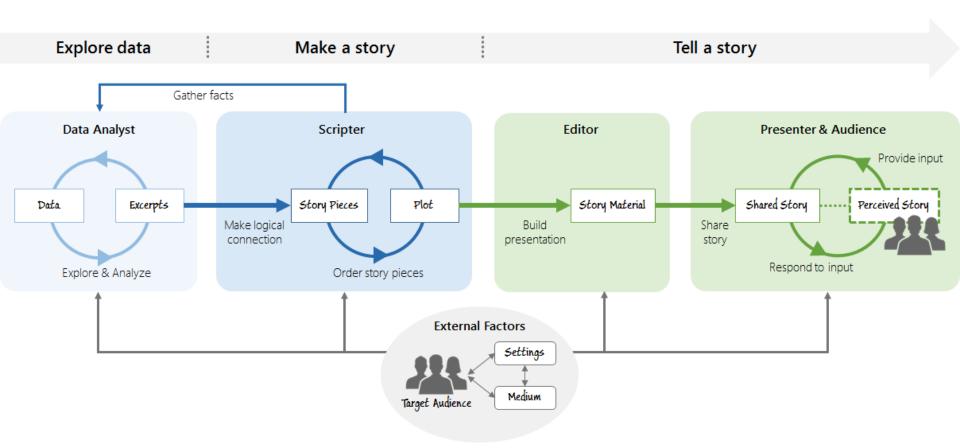
...AND EACH HAS STORYTELLING TECHNIQUES & PATTERNS

## NOW

USING VISUAL DESIGN,

MESSAGING, AND INTERACTIVITY

TO CREATE DATA-DRIVEN NARRATIVES



Lee et al. 2015

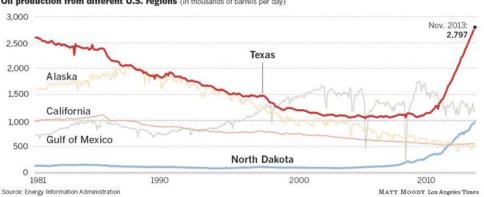
## STORYTELLING PATTERNS IN VISUALIZATION

#### Texas oil boom is visible from space

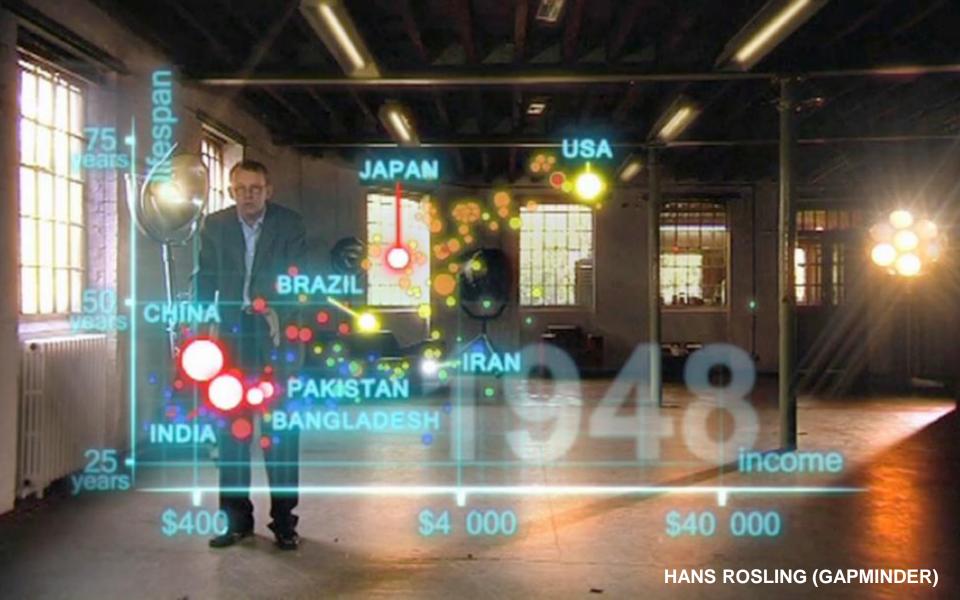
Lighting and natural gas flares from drilling on the 400-mile-long Eagle Ford shale formation can be seen from space in this image.



The new formation has helped make Texas the No. 1 oil-producing state in the nation. Oil production from different U.S. regions (in thousands of barrels per day)



LA Times 2014









#### JONATHAN HARRIS 2007

PHOTOS TAKEN PER 30 MIN

## HOW TO USE DATA TO TELL A STORY?

(THERE ARE MANY, MANY CHOICES TO MAKE.)

More articles about Britain are available to

economist.com/britain

The Economist February 6th 2010 61

Q

Also in this section

64 Bagehot: Electoral reform

Britain's "broken society"

#### Through a glass darkly

Crime, family break-up, drunks and drugs: the Conservatives-and apparently plenty of voters-think that Britain has a "broken society". Does the claim stand up?

TT IS hard to believe that such appalling ken society". The Edlington case was not I crimes could have been committed by anyone so young. Two boys in the north of England were subjected to a sadistic attack that caused parents across the country to shudder. The anguish of the children was their tormentor was also a child, not yet match the economic one, he reckons. even a teenager. The attacks had been carried out "solely for the pleasure and excitement" of it, the judge in the case said. What has society come to when such evil is found in those so young?

That was in 1968. Mary Bell, the daughter of a Tyneside prostitute and supposedly the victim of repeated abuse herself, became Britain's most famous child-killer when, just 11 years old, she was convicted of strangling two young boys. Now, a similar case is causing people to wonder again whether society has gone to the dogs. Two brothers from the South Yorkshire village ed on January 22nd of torturing and sexually abusing two younger boys in an ordeal that left one of them close to death.

The case was highlighted by David Cameron, the leader of the opposition, who on the day the boys were sentenced launched a chapter of his Conservative

"just some isolated incident of evil". Mr Cameron said. Connecting it to four other infamous examples of callous brutality, he declared that it raised "deep questions about what is going wrong in our society". awful enough. But in a grotesque twist, Britain is experiencing a social recession to

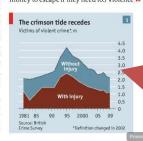
#### Those good old days in full

Was Mary Bell's Britain better than today's version? An increasing number of people seem to think so. Opinion pollsters around the world find that people are usually gloomy about the future, perhaps because it is inherently more uncertain than the past. But Britons are getting even more downbeat. When Labour came to power in 1997, 40% of the population thought the country was becoming a worse place to live in. By 2007 that had risen to 60%. A year on, and a year into Gordon Brown's of Edlington, aged ten and 11, were convict- spell as prime minister, the malcontents numbered 71%-and that was before the financial crash. There has been a "surge of nostalgia" for the good old days, says Ben Page, head of Insos-Mori, a polling firm.

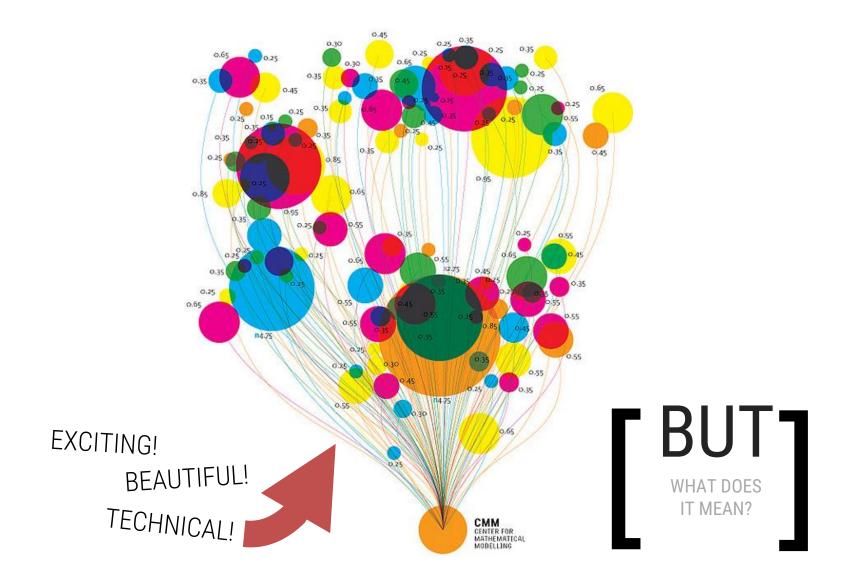
Chief among people's worries is their security. Under Labour, fear of crime climbed until by 2007 it had become the is-Party's election manifesto dedicated to sue that pollsters identified as the main dealing with what he calls Britain's "bro- complaint among voters. (Since then wor-

ries about the economy have eclipsed all else.) The heightened fears are a puzzle to criminologists, who point out that over the past 15 years Britain has experienced a steady, deep fall in crime. The statistics are notoriously hard to interpret, but according to the British Crime Survey, the Home Office's most reliable measure though still far from perfect, crime overall has dropped by 45% since its peak in 1995. A big chunk of that fall is owing to reductions in vehicle theft and domestic burglary, for which alarm manufacturers and increased householder vigilance probably deserve as much credit as the police. But violent crime has fallen too. It is now almost half what it was in 1995, and no higher than in 1981 (see chart 1).

Looking more carefully, the big fall in brutality has been in domestic violence. which has dropped by a staggering 70%. (No one is sure why; the best guess is that an improving economy has kept men out of the house and given women enough money to escape if they need to.) Violence >>

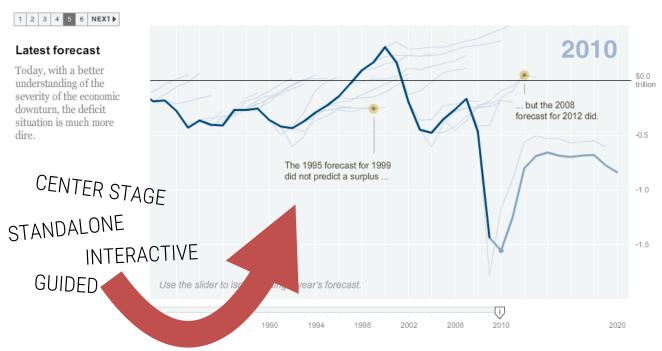


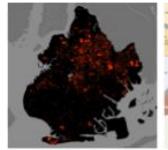
SMALL SUPPORT AFTERTHOUGHT BORING?



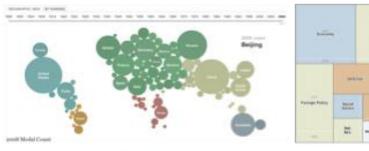
#### **Budget Forecasts, Compared With Reality**

Just two years ago, surpluses were predicted by 2012. How accurate have past White House budget forecasts been?

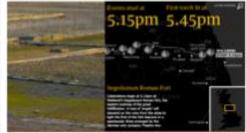
















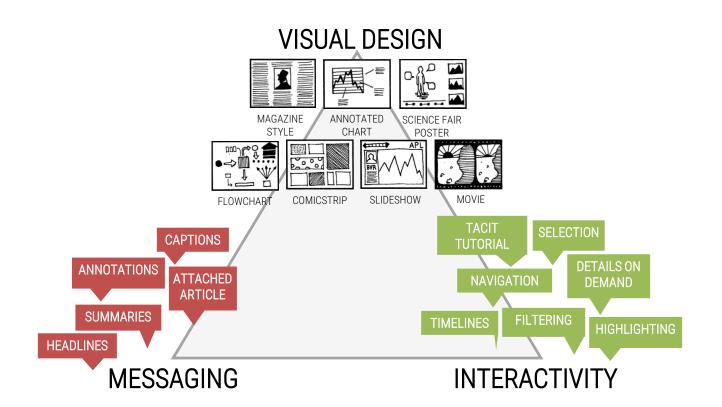


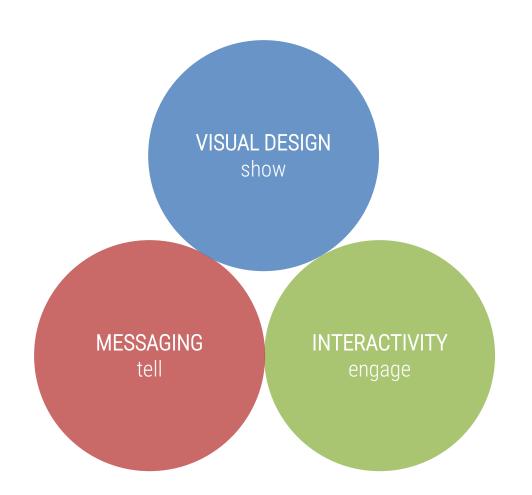
# 58 CASE STUDIES

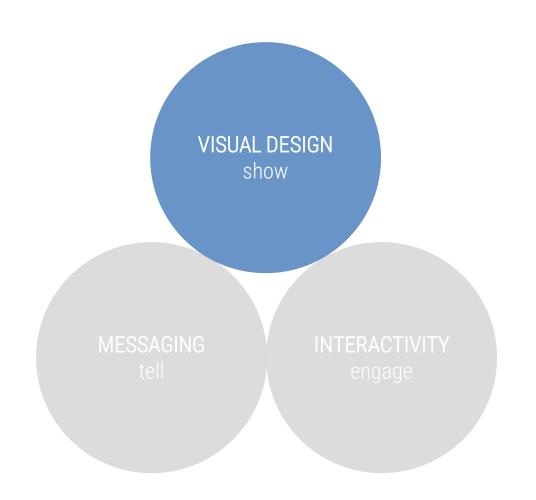
70% JOURNALISM 20% BUSINESS 10% RESEARCH

EDWARD SEGEL & JEFFREY HEER **2010** 











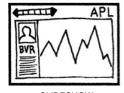


## THE MORE LINEAR, THE MORE LIKE A TRADITIONAL STORY.

WITH A BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND END.







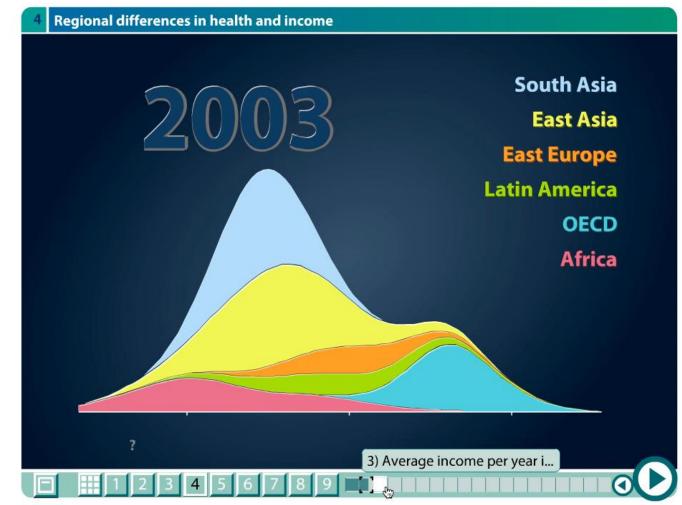
**FLOWCHART** 

COMICSTRIP

SLIDESHOW

USE STAGING AND ANIMATION FOR COMPLICATED TRANSITIONS

TO AVOID CONFUSING READERS



### USE ESTABLISHING SHOTS

SITUATE THE VIEWER BEFORE DIVING IN.















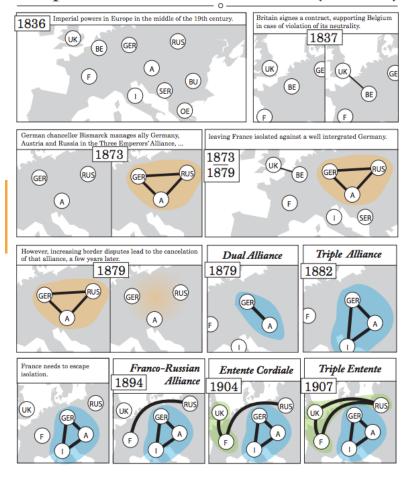


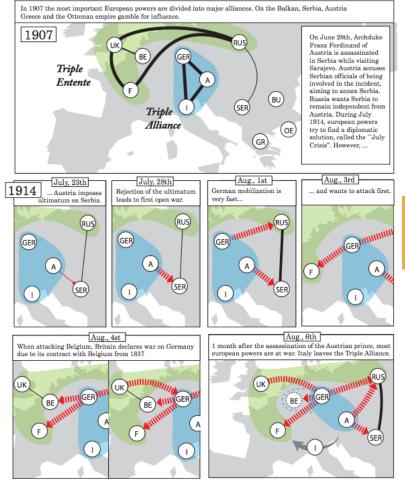


I MEAN LOOK AT THAT THING -- IT'S A SQUIGGLE FOR PETE'S SAKE! BUT YOU KNOW IT'S A TREE BASED ON THE PANELS BEFORE.



#### European Alliances before World War I (1836-1914)





#### Users find themselves

#### Your Olympic athlete body match

Olympic athletes come in all shapes and sizes, from the lithe limbs of Japan's Asuka Teramoto to the gargantuan frame of China's Zhaoxu Zhang. But how do you measure up in comparison? Try our app below and find out. Why not then share your results with your friends?



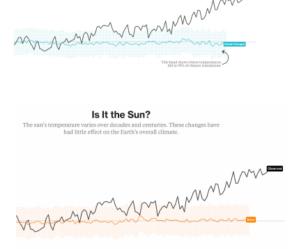
HELPS ANCHOR
VIEWER IN THE
PIECE.
MAKES DATA MORE
PERSONALLY
RELEVANT.

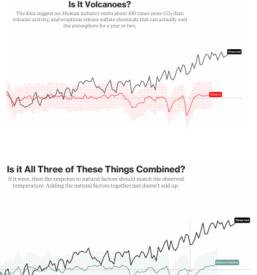
#### Again, and again...

Is It the Earth's Orbit?

The Earth wobbles on its axis, and its tilt and orbit change over many thousands

of years, pushing the climate into and out of ice ages. Yet the influence of orbital changes on the planet's temperature over 125 years has been negligible.





# SHOW SAME PHENOMENON OVER AND OVER, CHANGING ONLY ONE VARIABLE. RHYTHM STRENGTHENS THE NARRATIVE.

THE NARRATIVE.

REPEATED

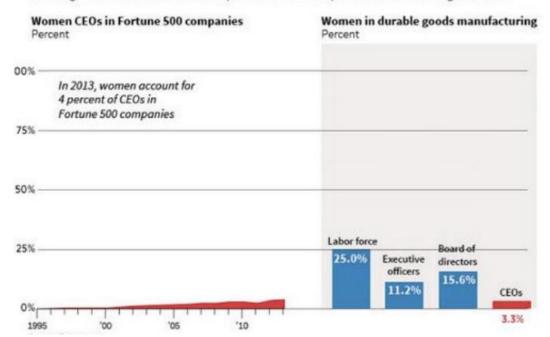
DISAPPOINTMENT SETS UP

THE FINAL REVEAL.

#### **Break conventions**

#### The glass ceiling persists

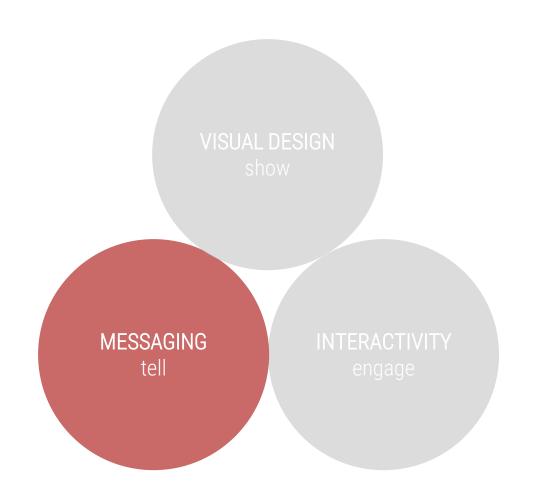
General Motors named Mary Barra as its next CEO, replacing Dan Akerson. Here's a look at how women are faring in their advancement to the top of Fortune 500 companies and the durable goods sector.

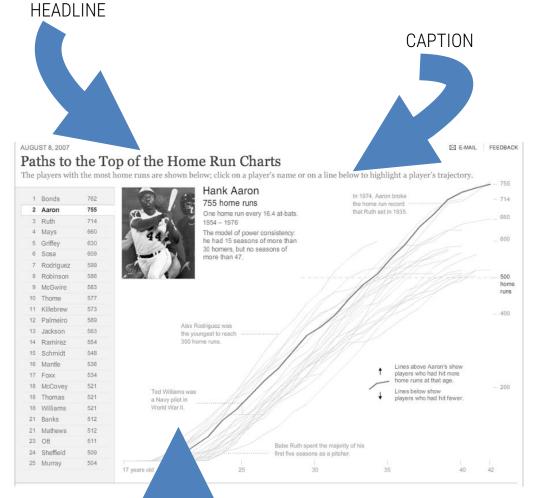


# PURPOSEFULLY BREAK CONVENTIONS OF CHART DESIGN.

BREAKING
EXPECTATIONS CAN
BE USED TO
UNDERLINE
PARTICULAR
INTERPRETATIONS.

2016 LYN BARTRAM, BENJAMIN BACH, JEREMY BOY, PAULO CIUCCARELLI, STEVEN DRUCKER, YURI ENGELHARDT, ULRIKE KOEPPEN, MORITZ STEFANER. BARBARA TVERSKY, & JO WOOD.

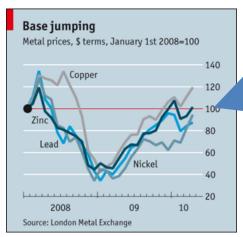




# USE HEADLINES, CAPTIONS, & ANNOTATIONS

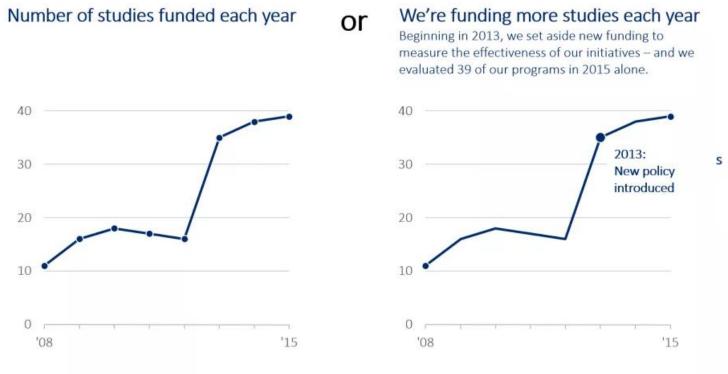
QUICKLY DRAW ATTENTION TO WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

MARK FOR EMPHASIS



#### DESCRIPTIVE TITLES AND ANNOTATIONS

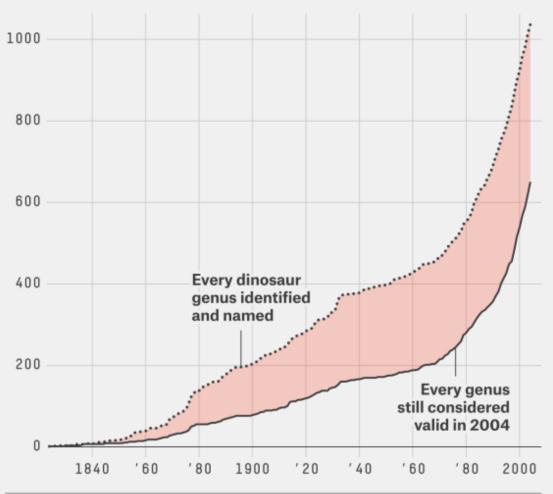
# CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHART AND A STORY



ANN K. EMERY 2016

#### Dinosaurs named, then unnamed

By 2004, about 37 percent of every dinosaur genus ever identified and named had had its genus status revoked



#### The Recovery The Big Apple Is Recovering Its Shine Job creation in New York City has been running at almost triple the national rate in 2010. The biggest gains June unemployment have been in the retail, health, and foodservice industries. Real estate is starting to rebound, though both commercial and residential sales are way off their 2007 peaks. -Matt Robinson Staten Island Industries with biggest job losses in 2010 Manhattan Residential Property Sales 100 - Units sold Manhattan Commercial Property Sales ■ Volume (in billions of dollars)

DATA: EASTERN CONSCUDATED, PROPERTYSHARK, COSTAR, NEW YORK CITY FINANCE DEPT.,
PRUDENTIAL DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REPORT PREPARED BY MILLER SAMUEL, NEW YORK LABOR DEPT.

## WEAVE TEXT INTO THE GRAPHIC, NOT JUST AT THE BEGINNING.

TEXT AND GRAPHICS WORK
BETTER TOGETHER THAN
APART.

### CONNECT THE TEXT TO RELEVANT GRAPHICS

"SEE FIG. 5"





#### **The Endorsement Primary**

In presidential primaries, endorsements have been among the best predictors of which candidates will succeed and which will fail. So we're keeping track.

By AARON BYCOFFE

UPDATED 11:27 A.M. EST | MAR 3

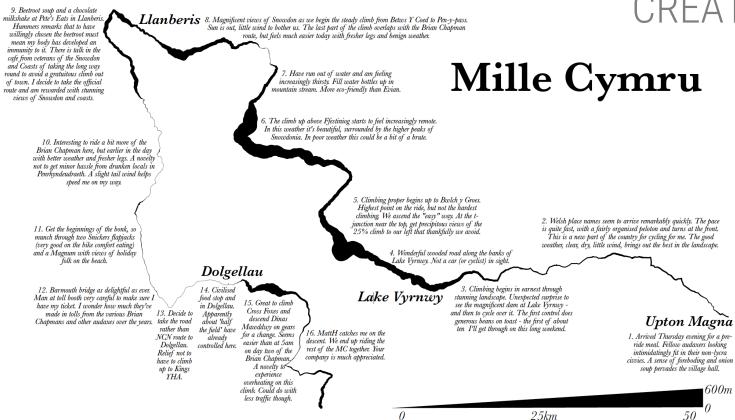


CANDIDATE	1 POINT EACH	SENATORS 5 POINTS EACH	GOVERNORS 10 POINTS EACH	TOTAL POINTS
Marco Rubio		•••••••	*****	<b>1</b> 68
Ted Cruz			•	• 34
John Kasich			•	• 31
Donald Trump	***	*	••	• 29
CANDIDATE	REPRESENTATIVES 1 POINT EACH	SENATORS 5 POINTS EACH	GOVERNORS 10 POINTS EACH	TOTAL POINTS
Hillary Clinton			**********	478
Bernie Sanders				. 5

 ${f B}$  efore any votes are cast, presidential candidates compete for the support of influential members of their party, especially elected officials like U.S. representatives, senators and governors. During the period

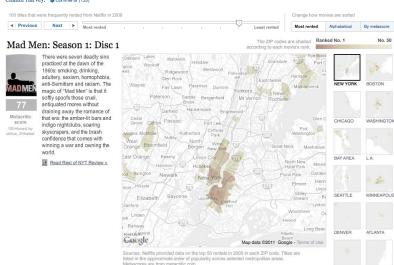
### REMOVE DETAIL TO CREATE SPACE

STORY.



#### A Peek Into Netflix Queues

Examine Netflix rental patterns, neighborhood by neighborhood, in a dozen cities. Some titles with distinct patterns are Mad Men, Obsessed and Last Chance Harvey. © Comments (135)



#### START WITH AN INTERESTING VIEW.

CURATE THE EXPERIENCE FROM THE BEGINNING.

#### Wetlands Destruction

### MAKE DATA RELATABLE & PUT NUMBERS AND FACTS IN CONTEXT.

260 THOUSAND SQUARE MILES? "IT'S THE SIZE OF FRANCE!"

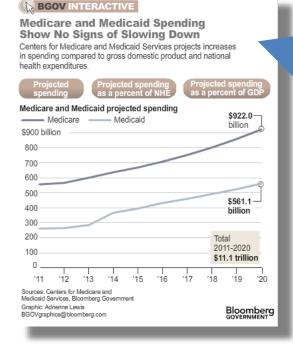


Coastal marshes absorb fertilizer runoff from farms and buffer civilization from Gulf storms. Losses in coastal watersheds, 1998 to 2004

Great Lakes	20,000	acres
Atlantic	110,000	acres

#### MIND YOUR PRECISION.

SIGNIFICANT DIGITS, TICK MARKS, AND LABELS SUGGEST WHAT DESERVES ATTENTION.

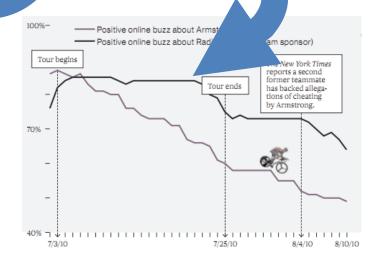


Representative	District	Fiscal 2010 contract spending	
Mike Coffman	Colo. 6	\$3.26 billion	
Doug Lamborn	Colo. 5	2.98 billion	
Rob Bishop	Utah 1	2.76 billion	
Kenny Marchant	Texas 24	2.58 billion	
Jeff Duncan	S.C. 3	2.40 billion	
Sandy Adams	Fla. 24	2.36 billion	
Lamar Smith	Texas 21	1.65 billion	
Steve Scalise	La. 1	1.49 billion	
Jeff Landry	La. 3	1.47 billion	
Roscoe Bartlett	Md. 6	1 billion	
John Carter	Texas 31	illion	

TOO PRECISE

**THOUGHTFUL** 



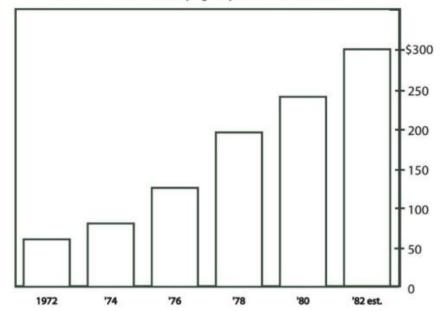


# USE EMBELLISHMENTS SPARINGLY & CAREFULLY.

STYLISED VISUALS CAN BE ENGAGING BUT ARE



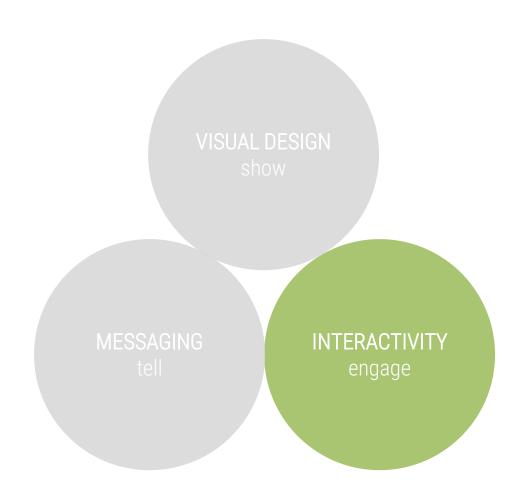
#### MONSTROUS COSTS Total House and Senate campaign expenditures, in millions



NIGEL HOLMES



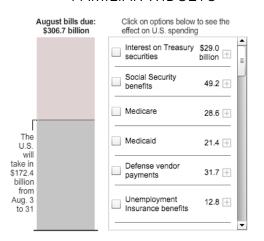
IT'S IMPORTANT TO REALLY UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF GOOD VISUAL COMMUNICATION BEFORE YOU TRY TO BREAK THEM.



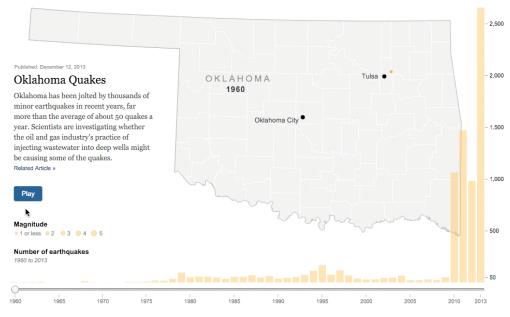
#### INTERACTIVE FEATURES SHOULD SUGGEST INTERACTIVITY.

#### AVOID A CLICK-AND-SEEK EXPERIENCE.

#### **FAMILIAR WIDGETS**



#### VISUAL FFFDBACK ON PAGE LOAD OR PLAY



By JONATHAN CORUM

#### INCLUDE EASY WAYS TO GO BACK / RESET

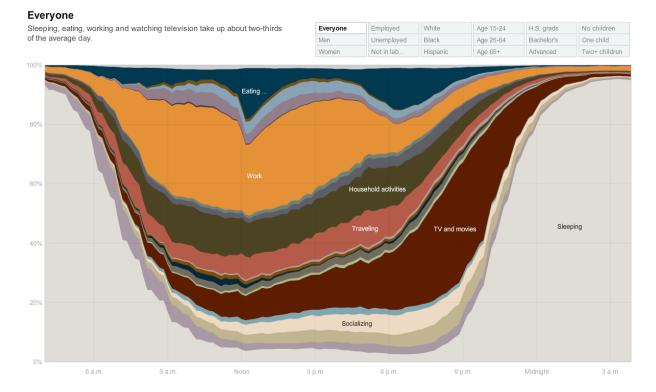
LINEAR NAVIGATION CAN SIMPLIFY THIS.

# RESTRICT INTERACTION TO KEY DIMENSIONS.

THE MORE INTERACTIVITY, THE LESS STORY.

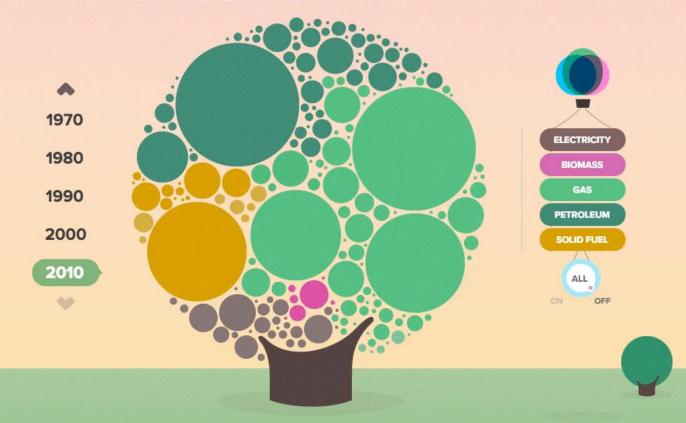
#### How Different Groups Spend Their Day

The American Time Use Survey asks thousands of American residents to recall every minute of a day. Here is how people over age 15 spent their time in 2008. Related article



# USE MOTION & OTHER CUES TO SUGGEST INTERACTION

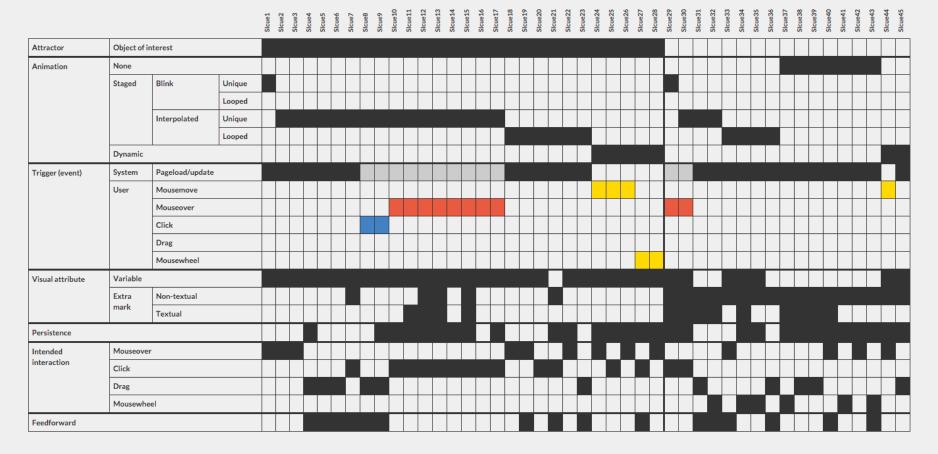
### TOTAL PRIMARY ENERGY BY FUEL



CONSUMPTION BY FUEL

Final energy is energy supplied that is available to the consumer to be converted into useful energy (e.g. electricity at the wall outlet).

### Suggested Interactivity



JEREMY BOY ET AL. 2015
LOTS OF INTERACTIVE EXAMPLES AT <a href="http://peopleviz.gforge.inria.fr/trunk/SI\_cues/">http://peopleviz.gforge.inria.fr/trunk/SI\_cues/</a>

#### "SCROLLJACKING"

HIJACKING IN-BROWSER SCROLLING TO ADVANCE A LINEAR NARRATIVE.

SMOOTH AND LINEAR
EASY FORWARD/BACK
MORE BROWSABLE THAN VIDEO
CROSS-PLATFORM
CAN BREAK THE SCROLLBAR

#### FINANCIAL TIMES

### Djokovic's 2015 was the greatest ever men's tennis season



John Burn-Murdoch • January 27, 2016



If Novak Djokovic wins the Australian Open title this weekend, he will in doing so extend the most impressive streak ever in men's tennis.

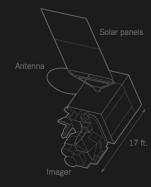
When the current world number one won the Qatar Open earlier this month, it marked the 16th consecutive tournament he had entered in which he reached the final -- a run stretching back exactly one year to a quarter-final defeat at the same event.

# CLICKING IS A DECISION SCROLLING IS A CONTINUATION

#### Japan's New Satellite Captures an Image of Earth Every 10 Minutes

By DEREK WATKINS JULY 10, 2015

A sense of perspective is unavoidable from 22,000 miles out. Looking down at Earth from that distance — almost three times farther than the diameter of the planet itself — allows a view of the globe as a massive organic system, pulsing with continuous movement. Below, images from the Himawari-8 weather satellite's first official day paint a living portrait of the western Pacific, with Typhoons Chan-hom and Nangka spinning slowly westward.





Hotter

+2°F -

1880-1910 Average

-2°F ☐

#### What's Really Warming the World?

By Eric Roston 💆 and Blacki Migliozzi 💆 | June 24, 2015

Skeptics of manmade climate change offer various natural causes to explain why the Earth has warmed 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1880. But can these account for the planet's rising temperature? Scroll down to see show how much different factors, both natural and industrial, contribute to global warming, based on findings from NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.



# Scroll Events

**Detecting The Scroll** 

"Data journalism is not graphics and visualizations. It's about telling the story in the best way possible. Sometimes that will be a visualization ...But sometimes it's a news story. Sometimes, just publishing the number is enough."

SIMON ROGERS, THE GUARDIAN // 2011

"I think people have begun to forget how powerful human stories are, exchanging their sense of empathy for a fetishistic fascination with data... The human stuff is the main stuff, and the data should enrich it."

JONATHAN HARRIS // 2008

### QUESTIONS?

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Slides were inspired and adapted from slides by

Wesley Willett (University of Calgary)