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Developing a recommender system for suggesting alternative ways of data visualization

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Outline

- 1. Motivation and Introduction
- 2. Objectives
- 3. Background
- 4. Methodology
- 5. Validation
- 6. Prototype
- 7. Results
- 8. Conclusion

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<u>Data visualization</u> vs. Information visualization mentioning in academic publications 1990-2022



Source: www.webofscience.com • Created with Datawrapper

Absolute amount of publications mentioning data visualization and information visualization [Web of Science]

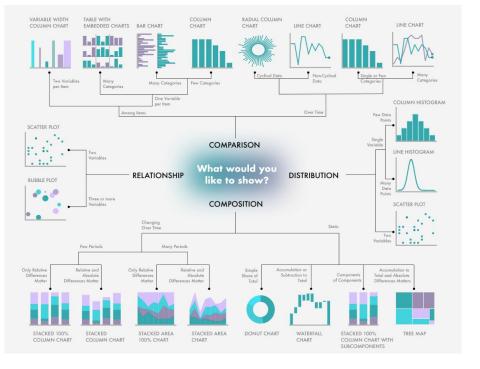


Chart Suggestion Guide

[Adedamola Ladipo]

Distribution

Show values in a dataset and how often they occur. The shape (or 'skew') of a distribution can be a memorable way of highlighting the lack of uniformity or equality in the data.

Example FT uses

Income distribution, population (age/sex) distribution, revealing inequality

Histogram



The standard way to show a statistical distribution - keep the gaps between columns small to highlight the 'shape' of the data.

Dot plot



Dot strip plot Good for showing individual values in a distribution, can be a problem when too many dots have the same value.

Change over Time

Give emphasis to changing trends. These can be short (intra-day) movements or extended series traversing decades or centuries: Choosing the correct time period is important to provide suitable context for the reader.

Example FT uses

Share price movements, economic time series, sectoral changes in a market

Line



The standard way to show a changing time series. If data are irregular, consider markers to represent data points.

Column



Columns work well for showing change over time - but usually best with only one series of data at a time.

Column + line timeline



A good way of showing the relationship over time hetween an amount (columns) and a rate

Visual Vocabulary [Financial Times]



Show Me

08 80

- -

100 100 100

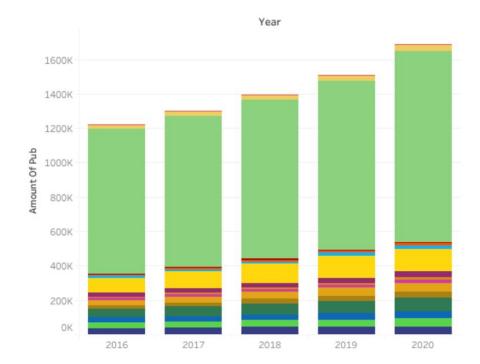
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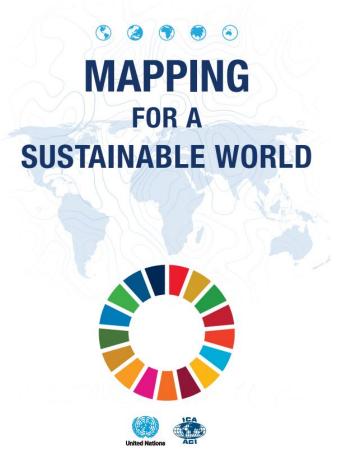
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in No. 154



Absolute amount of publications mentioning SDG-related topics (disaggregated by goal) for the period of 2016-2020 [Jayabalasingham et. al, 2020]



Mapping for a Sustainable World [Kraak, Roth, Ricker, Kagawa, Le Sourd, 2020]

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Main Research Objective

To implement a recommender system for suggesting multiple ways of data visualization (particularly for SDGs)

Research Sub-Objectives (RSOs)

- A. Investigate the conceptual basis behind the data visualization and SDGs
- **B.** Investigate the methodologies of data visualization recommender systems
- **C.** Conceptualize the recommender system
- **D.** Define software and interface requirements for a system and design the prototype

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Data visualization, recommender systems, SDGs

for SDGs with such a system?

What exactly are we going to recommend

What is data visualization?

Data visualization

Visual Representation

Visualization

Graphics

Data Graphics

Infographics

the process by which data are visualized, or presented, after the data cleaning process, and involves making choices about which data will be visualized, how data will be visualized, and what message will be shared with the target audience of the visualization

(Chiasson & Gregory, 2014).

a visible artifact on a more or less flat surface that was intentionally created to express an information

(Engelhardt, 2002).

any kind of visual representation of information designed to **enable communication**, analysis, discovery, exploration, etc

(Cairo, 2016).

translation of numbers in the form of a drawing, design or plan to explain or illustrate something (Lewi, 2008).

a display of measured quantities by means of the combined use of points, lines, coordinates systems, colors, symbols, words and shadings

(Tufte, 1987).

a field in communicative design which based on a graphical representation of information, connections, numeric datasets and knowledge (Laptev, 2012). It is important to see aspects that are connected to data visualization as a concept, to behold its holistic nature; by doing so, it becomes possible to see the scope of future recommender system

What data visualization deals with

Translation of

Data into

Correspond-(ence)-ingly

Appropriate-(ness) visual representation that might have a

Relevance to the users

These aspects deals with

Translation	Data	Correspondence	Appropriateness	Relevance
Software	Data representation	Chart / Diagram types	Typefaces	Audience
Mediums	Data transformation	Visualization types	Colors	Feedback
Tutorials	Metadata	Map types	Layout principles	Message
Technologies	Data analysis	Stories from data	Use environment	Topic
•••	•••	•••		

As a whole process

Optimization Effectiveness Resources Objectives

SDGs

 Aimed to bring down the global inequalities in social, political, economical and ecological aspect

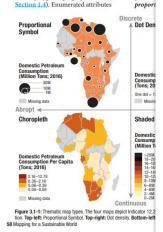
 Described through 17 goals and 231 indicators which are measured with respect to countries over time

 Research on the visualization, mapping and atlases of SDG is already here

3.1 Thematic Maps

A thematic map depicts the variation of one or sometimes several (see Section 3.7) geographic phenomena, mapping spatial and attribute information together. Meeting the SDGs requires thematic mapping of indicator data. Thematic maps enable geographic imagination and spatial thinking, and often represent abstract or statistical concepts that cannot be observed directly.

Thematic maps primarily depict attribute information that is enumerated within polygonal geographic units (see



numeric meratio 3.11 Univariate Diagrams

typically are manned at an ordinal or

South America (2015)

CO. Emissions in Millions of Metric Tons

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Each

A first category of diagrams depicts the distribution of a single attribute, described as univariate. For instance, a bar chart depicts the distribution of an attribute across different nominal categories, such as SDG regional groupings or individual countries. Accordingly, bar charts are useful for comparing a single indicator by geography to sort by high and low

similar to nominal merical d exhaustiv Histogran the data cator and their dist data values and clusters of similar values numerica

within this range. A bar chart is visually

300M South America (2015) CO. Emissions in Millions of Metric Tons Brazil Aco OM Argentina 191.4M Venezuela 136.8M

Chile 81.7M Colombia 72.3M Peru 49.2M Ecuador 38.7M Uruguay 18.3M Bolivia 6.4M Paraguay 5.7M Suriname 2.1M 78 Mapping for a Sustainable World

Mapping for a Sustainable World

Common Thematic Map Types Figure 3.1-2: Choosing a

3.4 Proportional Symbol Maps

A proportional symbol map is a thematic map that scales the sizes of point symbols by their attribute values (see Section 3.1). Proportional symbol maps represent quantitative, often unnormalized absolute values and can represent either individual-level data (e.g., cities) or enumerated data by placing the point symbol at the centroid of the polygon. They employ size as the visual variable, enabling numerical visual comparisons among symbols (see Section 2.9).

Proportional symbol maps are useful for mapping economic SDG indicators as they evoke a metaphor of discrete and abrupt phenomenon, such as sites of production and distribution. Because of the strength of the visual variable size, readers can quickly assess the distribution of absolute values among different countries without paying attention to the political borders themselves. Accordingly, proportional symbol maps overcome many of the issues with normalization, projection, and classification that afflict choropleth maps (see Section 3.3) and, therefore, may be useful beyond economic indicators as well. For instance, one major advantage over choropleth maps for mapping indicator datasets is that proportional symbols can exceed the boundaries of their enumeration units, keeping small countries and small island states visible on world maps (Figure 3,4-1). Notably, proportional symbol maps can be used with the Web Mercator projection without impacting map reading (Section 4.5).

Despite advantages, proportional symbol maps have several unique design 64 Mapping for a Sustainable World

and symbol overlap. Most charting software uses mathematical scaling, directly relating the area of the symbol to the attribute value. However, readers systematically underestimate proportional polygon (2D) symbols as they grow larger, with even more severe underestimation with proportional volume (3D) symbols (see Section 2.8). Therefore, mapping software often enables perceptual scaling to account for systematic underestimation, Proportional symbols can be classified to reduce visual complexity, a process described as range

challenges including symbol scaling

Total Number of Infant Deaths Under Age One (2016)

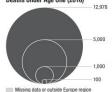
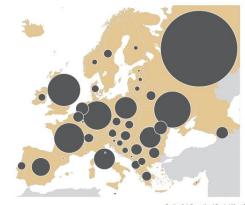


Figure 3.4-1 (Opposite side): Proportional symbol map, Indicator 3.2.1 (2016) on the total number of infant deaths under age one in the European region is depicted as a proportional symbol map using perceptual scaling for circular symbols. Because size is a numerically read visual variable, proportional symbol maps do not need to be classified. Symbol overlap is managed using a white symbol stroke with smaller symbols placed atop larger ones. Small countries by area such as Andorra. Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, and San Marino remain visible on the map because the proportional symbols are allowed to exceed their political boundaries, an advantage of proportional symbol maps.

grading for proportional symbols with the resulting map called a graduated symbol map. Range grading is a common option on world maps or bivariate maps, shading the proportional symbols by a second attribute value, to limit the total number of unique symbols in the map (see Section 3.6). The more complex the symbol shape, the more difficult the reading of relative proportions; thus, the shapes of proportional symbols typically are constrained to simple circles, squares (both 2D), or rectangular bars (1D),

integrated into nominal map legends and

Second, proportional symbols commonly exceed their enumeration unit boundaries and need to be re-symbolized or displaced to clarify their overlap (see Section 2.7). Two common strategies for managing overlap include the use of transparency or the use of an outer symbol stroke (the latter is used in Figure 3.4-1), with smaller symbols placed on top of larger ones; the two strategies should not be used together to maintain legibility. Alternatively, symbols can be displaced away from the centroid of the enumeration unit, with large displacements clarified with leader lines as with densely labeled regions.



Section 3.4: Proportional Symbol Maps 65 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this book do not imply official endi-

[Kraak, Roth, Ricker, Kagawa, Le Sourd, 2020]

Recommender systems methodologies

- Data-Driven
- Expert Knowledge-Based
- Hybrid

A survey on automatic infographics and visualization recommendations [Zhu et. al, 2020]

Data-driven methodologies:

using machine learning, artificial intelligence and natural language processing algorithms to generate data visualizations depending on the given prompts

APPROACH

STATEMENT

"More than 20% of smartphone users are social network users"



TECHNOLOGY

Natural language analysis

Visualization synthesis

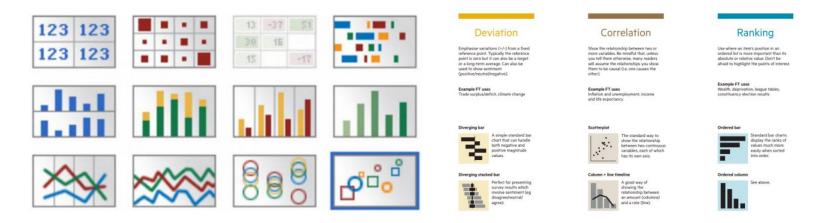
INFOGRAPHICS



Text-to-Viz automatic visualization schema explanation [Cui et al. (2019)]

Expert knowledge-based model:

using sets of defined rules and logical restrictions, forming a knowledge representation of the visual artifacts with corresponding characteristics

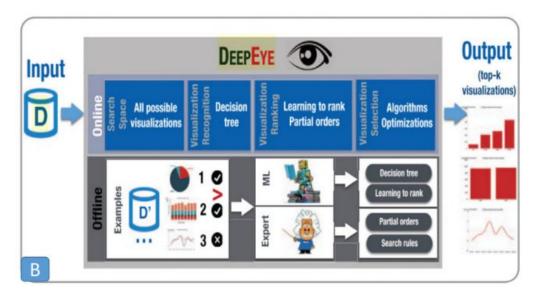


ShowMe from Tableau [Mackinlay et al. (2007)]

A snippet from FT visual vocabulary [Financial Times (2021)]

Hybrid model:

combine both data-driven model and expert knowledge-based approach



DeepEye methodological pipeline [Luo et al. (2018)]

Select expert knowledge-based approach

The rules and methodologies for SDGs are already here

 Data-driven approaches are "black-boxed", involving hard computational technologies and maintenance, time consuming to design the working algorithm

Hybrid model can be implemented in a future research

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Getting back to possible recommendations

Translation	Data	Correspondence	Appropriateness	Relevance
Software	Data representation	Chart / Diagram types	Typefaces	Audience
Mediums	Data transformation	Visualization types	Colors	Feedback
Tutorials	Metadata	Map types	Layout principles	Message
Technologies	Data analysis	Stories from data	Use environment	Topic

As a whole process

Optimization Effectiveness Resources Objectives

These are in the focus of the recommender system

Translation	Data	Correspondence	Appropriateness	Relevance
Software	Data representation	Chart / Diagram types	Typefaces	Audience
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As a whole process

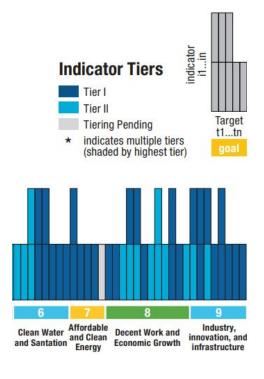
Optimization Effectiveness Resources Objectives

But why?

SDGs, Goals and Indicators

SUSTAINABLE GALS





Mapping for a Sustainable World [Kraak, Roth, Ricker, Kagawa and Le Sourd (2020)]

Attribute, Time and Location (ATL)

Attributes				Location			Time							
Goal	Target	Indicator	r SeriesCode	SeriesDescription	GeoArea	GeoAreaName	Location	Units	2000	2001	2002	2003		2017
6	6.1	6.1.1	SH_H2O_SAFE	Proportion of popu	112	Belarus	ALLAREA	PERCE	80.62	80.81	80.99	81.17		94.52
6	6.1	6.1.1	SH_H20_SAFE	Proportion of popu	100	Bulgaria	ALLAREA	PERCE	96.84	96.84	96.84	96.81		96.95
6	6.1	6.1.1	SH_H20_SAFE	Proportion of popu	203	Czechia	ALLAREA	PERCE	96.32	96.32	96.44	96.55		97.88
6	6.1	6.1.1	SH_H2O_SAFE	Proportion of popu	348	Hungary	ALLAREA	PERCE	50.51	50.51	50.51	50.51		89.57
6	6.1	6.1.1	SH_H20_SAFE	Proportion of popu	616	Poland	ALLAREA	PERCE						99.16
6	6.1	6.1.1	SH_H2O_SAFE	Proportion of popu	498	Republic of Mold	ALLAREA	PERCE	40.42	42.32	44.27	46.26		72.88
6	6.1	6.1.1	SH_H2O_SAFE	Proportion of popu	642	Romania	ALLAREA	PERCE	81.65	81.61	81.59	81.63		81.92

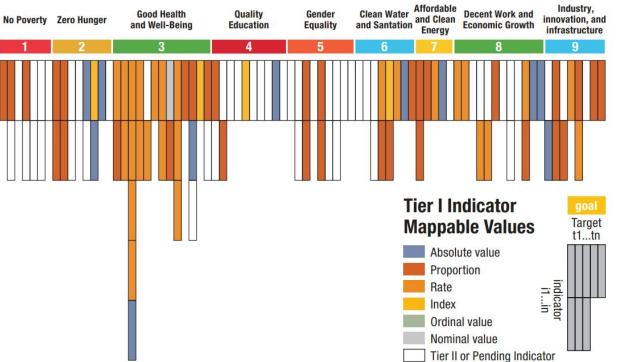
Mapping for a Sustainable World [Kraak, Roth, Ricker, Kagawa and Le Sourd (2020)]

Indicators & Levels of Measurement (LoM)

Level of Measurement	Absolute/ Relative	Attributes	Mappa	ble Values	Example	
	absolute (one value)	one attribute	absolute value		count X	
		one attribute	proportion	proportion of total population	% of total population	
			proportion	other proportion	% of X, other than population	
ratio	relative (calculated using two or more attributes)	two attributes		rate per capita	count X per capita/ population	
			rate	change rate (per time unit)	% change or count X per time	
				other rate	X per Y, other than population or time	
		many attributes	index (calculated)		formula	
	interval		interval value		not used for SDGs	
ordinal nominal			ordinal value		level or rank	
			nominal value		presence/ absense	

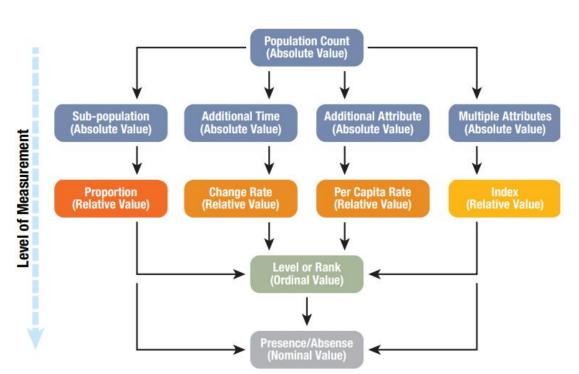
[Kraak, Roth,

Levels of Measurement



Sourd (2020). Гe Кадама апд Sustainable Ricker, 0 Roth, Mapping for [Kraak,

Data Transformation



Sourd (2020)] Гe Ricker, Kagawa and Sustainable World Mapping for a S [Kraak, Roth, R

General description

Thus, the recommender system should focus on the Attribute, Time and Location (ATL) parameters of the SDG indicator dataset.

Depending on the ATL configuration, different data visualization (and maps) types or methods can be recommended

Finally, the data transformation should be added in order to see more alternative dataviz options for the same indicator

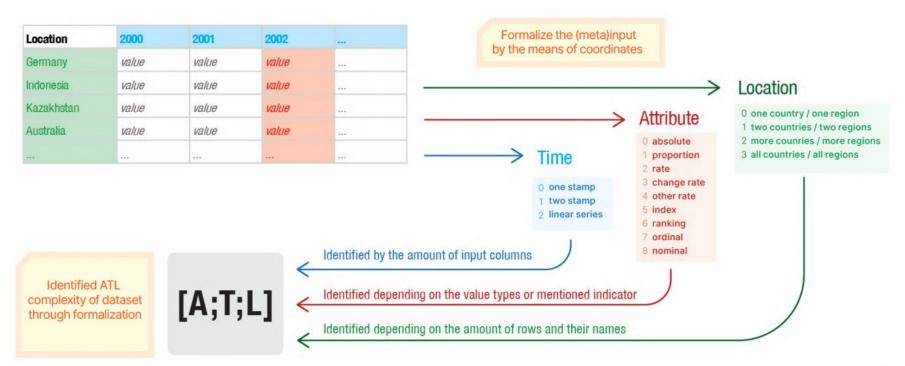
Classification of ATL parameters

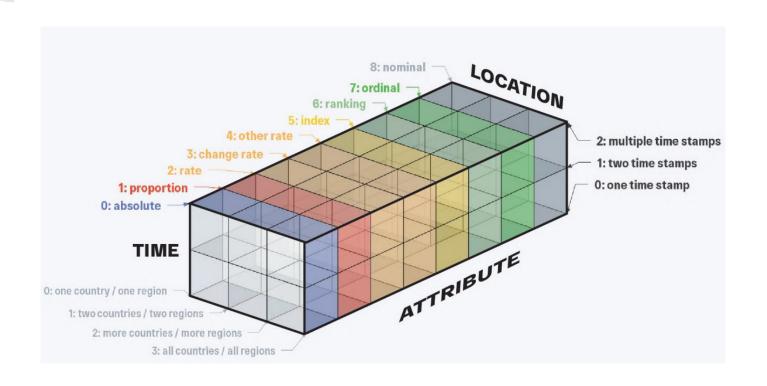
• **TIME:** one stamp, two stamps, time series

 LOCATION: one country, two countries, more countries, all countries (or regions)

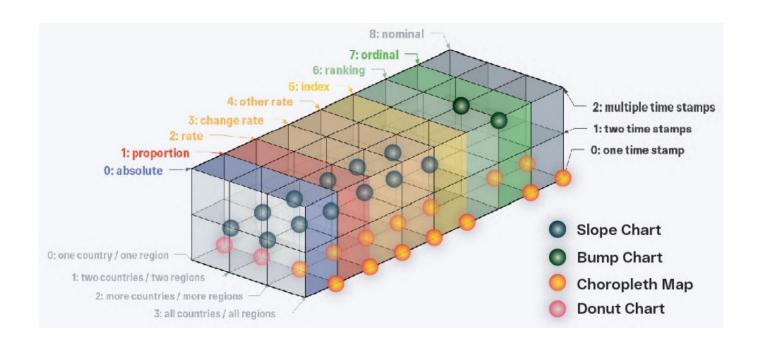
• ATTRIBUTE: absolute, proportion, rate, change rate, other rate, index, ranking, ordinal, nominal

Workflow of the recommender system

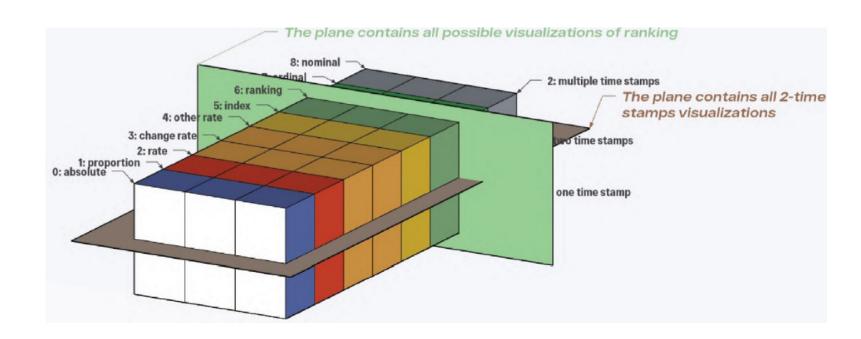




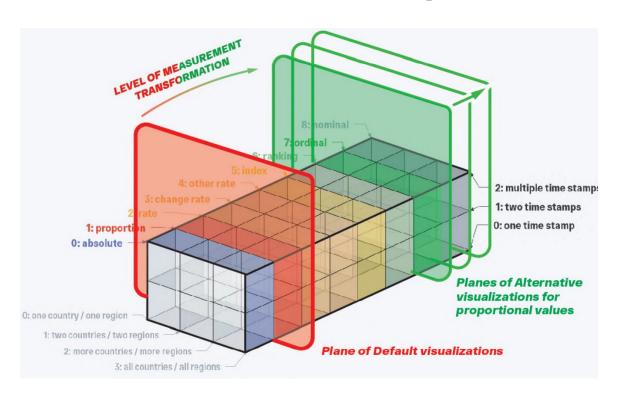
Following the recommendations from the data visualization textbooks, data visualization classification systems and also the reviewed chapters on diagrams and maps from *Mapping for a Sustainable World*, we can come up with a list of the data visualization types that can be located in the matrix



ATL Matrix' Planes



Data Transformation options in Matrix



Outline

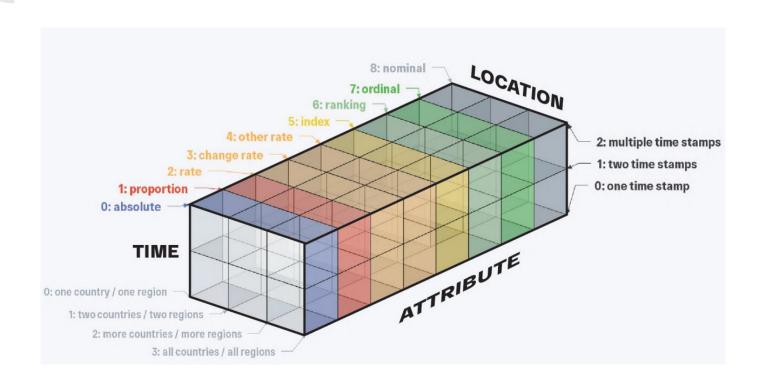
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Example 1: low level of ATL complexity

Germany and Poland with regards to their situation on indicator 5.5.2 (Proportion of women in senior and middle management positions) in 2018

Country	5.5.2_2018, %
Germany	28.58
Poland	39.52

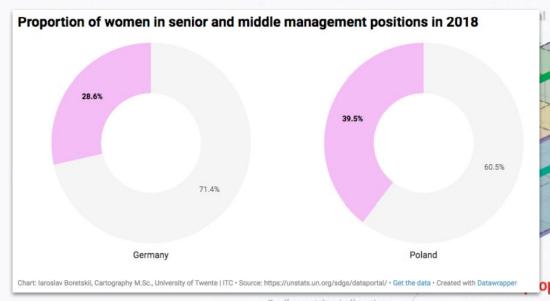
How to visualize this?





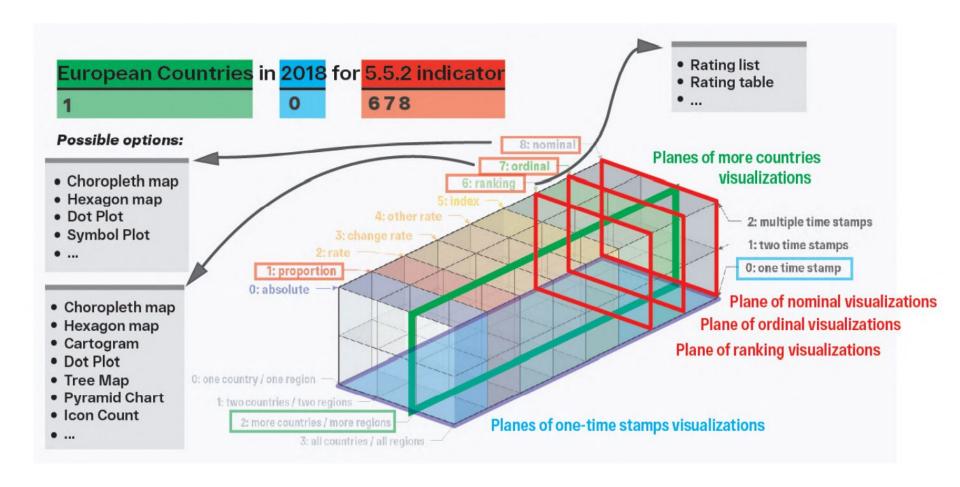
8: nominal Possible options: Planes of two countries 7: ordinal visualizations 6: ranking **Donut Chart** Pie Chart 4: other rate 2: multiple time stamps Pictorial Fraction Chart 3: change rate -**Progress Bar** 1: two time stamps 2: rate Waffle Chart 0: one time stamp 1: proportion Solid Gauge Chart 0: absolute O: one country / one region Planes of one-time stamps visualizations Plane of proportion visualizations 2: more countries / more regions 3: all countries / all regions

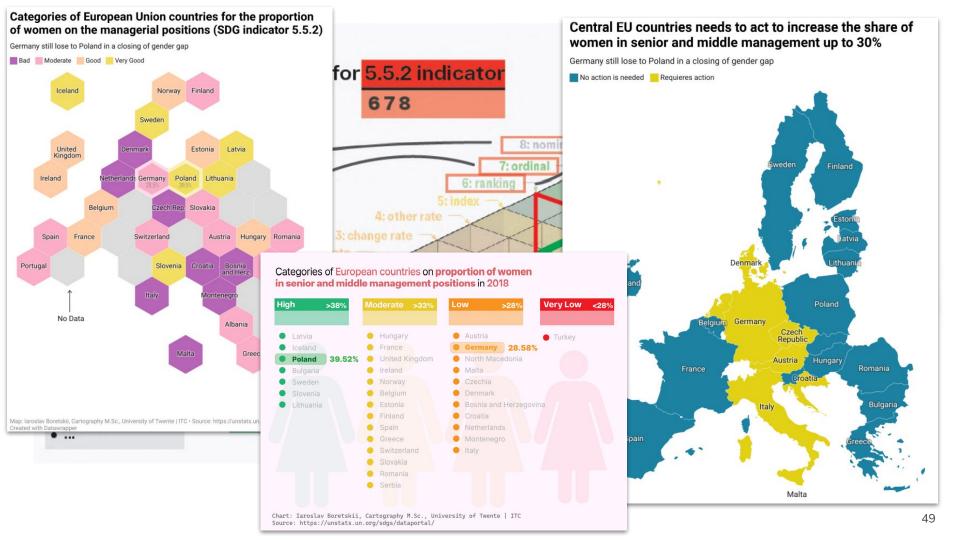






3: all countries / all regions



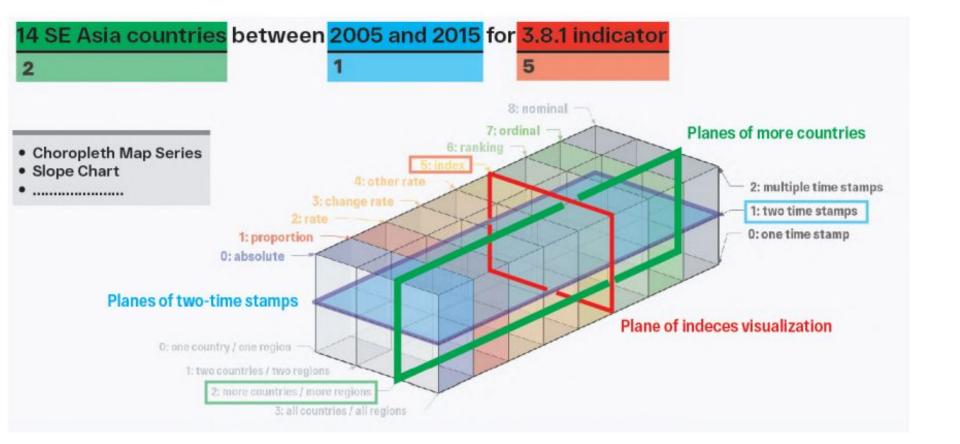


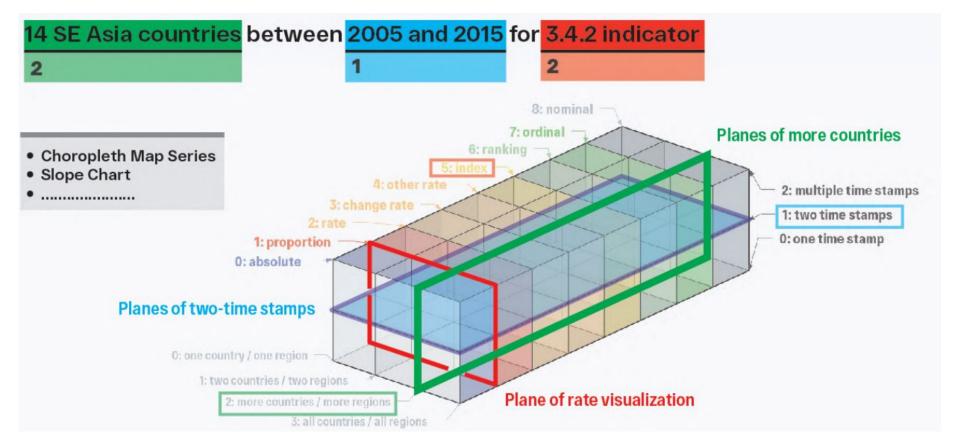
Example 2: higher level of ATL complexity

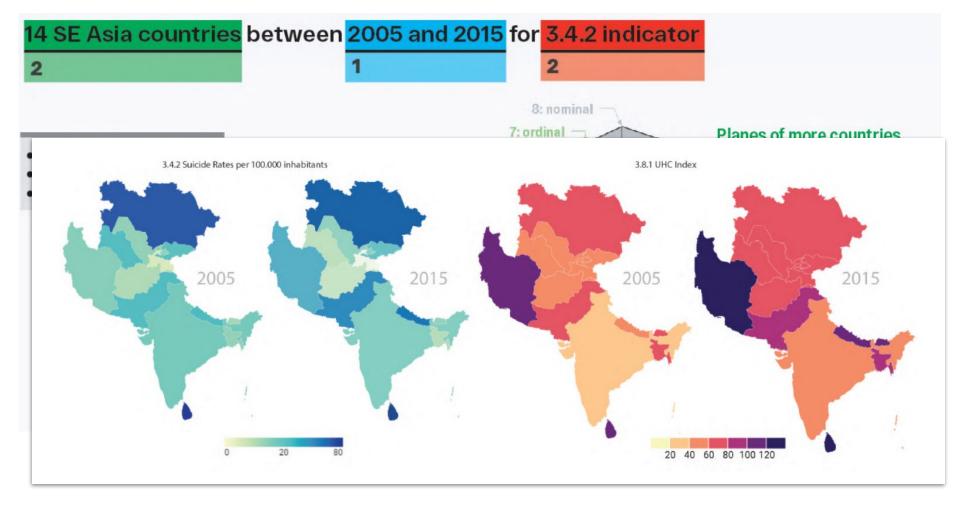
Progress between 2005 and 2015 for Central and Southern Asia countries for two Goal 3 indicators: 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate and 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services

How to visualize this?

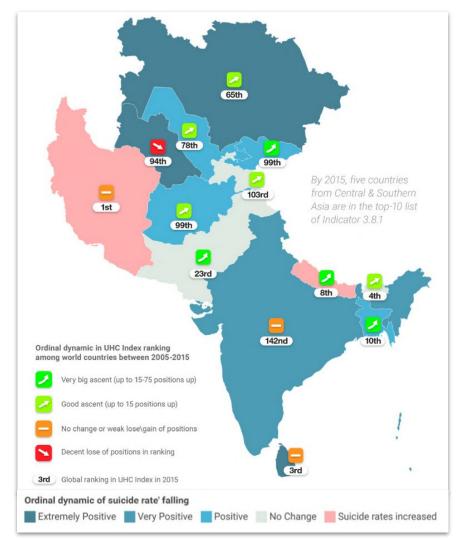
	3.4.2-2005,	3.4.2-2015,	3.8.1-2005,	3.8.1-2015,
Country	per 100.000	per 100.000	index,	index,
	inhabitants	inhabitants	0 to 140	0 to 140
Afghanistan	10.8	8.6	52	68
Bangladesh	13.8	10	60	92
Bhutan	11.8	12.4	78	118
India	17.1	13.7	35	52
Iran	15	18.6	108	140
Kazakhstan	68.2	39.3	60	74
Kyrgyzstan	21.7	16.1	53	68
Nepal	27	30.8	58	102
Pakistan	26	26.4	60	84
Sri Lanka	77.4	48.4	100	126
Tajikistan	5	5.4	46	67
Turkmenistan	25	9.4	59	69
Uzbekistan	13.9	12.7	56	72







Country	3.4.2-2005, ordinal estimation	3.4.2-2015, ordinal estimation	3.4.2, ordinal progress	3.8.1-2005, ranking global	3.8.1-2015, ranking global	3.8.1, delta ranking	3.8.1, delta ranking ordinal
Afghanistan	Moderate	Normal	Positive	110	99	11	Good ascent
Bangladesh	Moderate	Moderate	Positive	69	10	59	Great ascent
Bhutan	Moderate	Moderate	No Change	10	4	6	Good ascent
India	Moderate	Moderate	Positive	142	142	0	No change
Iran	Moderate	Moderate	Negative	1	1	0	No change
Kazakhstan	Extremely serious	Very serious	Very Positive	69	65	4	Good ascent
Kyrgyzstan	Serious	Moderate	Positive	107	99	8	Good ascent
Nepal	Serious	Very serious	Negative	80	8	72	Great ascent
Pakistan	Serious	Serious	No Change	69	23	46	Great ascent
Sri Lanka	Extremely serious	Very serious	Very Positive	2	3	-1	No change
Tajikistan	Normal	Normal	No Change	128	103	25	Good ascent
Turkmenistan	Serious	Normal	Very Positive	74	94	-20	Big drop
Uzbekistan	Moderate	Moderate	Positive	88	78	10	Good ascent



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Prototype

Link to the prototype:

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/iaroslav2247/viz/metadatavis-beta/MetaDataViz

Indicator	
121	

Time
(All)
0. One Stamp
1. Two Stamps
2. Multiple Stamps

	(All)
	0. One Country / Region
	1. Two Countries / Two Regions
0	2. More Countries / More Regions
	3. All Countries / All Regions

Select manually the Available Data Transformation:

0. Absolute: 1-8
1. Proportion – 5. Index: 6-8
6. Ranking: 7-8
7. Ordinal: 8

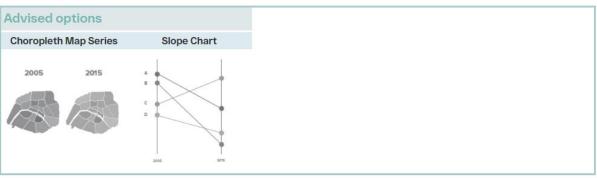
Alternative Attribute*

(Multiple values)

Location

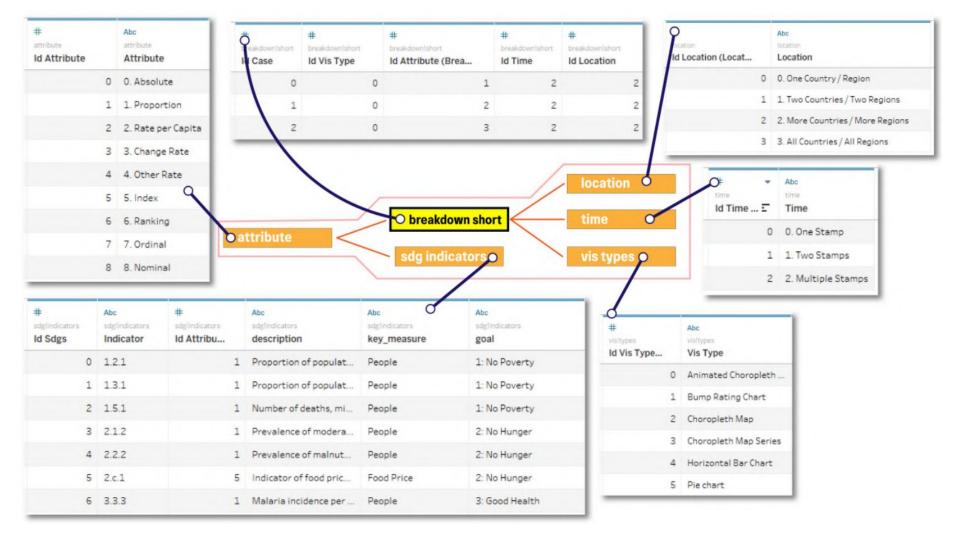






Alternative options 6. Ranking 7. Ordinal 8. Nominal Rating Position Gain Over... **Alluvial Diagram** Choropleth Map Series **Alluvial Diagram** Choropleth Map Se 1 Australia A +4 2005 2015 2005 2 Ukraine A +3 3 USA w -2 4 Jamaica v +11 v +15 5 Germany

Back-End



Interface



Indicator	
16.10.2	*
	_
Time	
(All)	
O. One Stamp	
1. Two Stamps	
2. Multiple Stamps	
Location	T
(All)	
O. One Country / Region	
 1. Two Countries / Two Regions 	
 2. More Countries / More Regions 	
3. All Countries / All Regions	

Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

SDG Goal

16: Peace, Justice & Institutions

Original Mappable Value

O. Absolute

Advised options

Line Plot Sorted Streamgraph

Here you can specify the complexity of your dataset to see the possible data visualization outputs





*

Time
(All)
0. One Stamp
1. Two Stamps

O (All) O One Country / Region I Two Countries / Two Regions O More Countries / More Regions A All Countries / All Penigns

Select manually the Available Data Transformation: 0. Absolute: 1-8 1. Proportion – 5. Index: 6-8 6. Ranking: 7-8 7. Ordinal: 8

Alternative Attribute

SDG Indicator

Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

SDG Goal

16: Peace, Justice & Institutions

Original Mappable Value

0. Absolute

Heremis the shortmentadata section for a selected SDG indicator



Alternative options



esigned by laroslav Boretskii for Developing a visualization suggestion system Master Thesis in Cartography M.Sc. Programme in 2022.

unsprised by Maroslav Boretskii for Developing a visualization suggestion system Master Thesis in Cartography M.Sc. Programme in 2022.

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SDG Indicator

Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

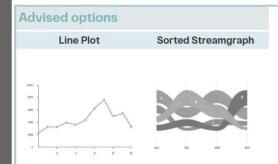
SDG Goal

16: Peace, Justice & Institutions

Original Mappable Value

0. Absolute





ocation

(All)

0. One Country / Region

1. Two Countries / Two Regions

2. More Countries / More Reg

3. All Countries / All Regions

Select manually the Available Data Transformation: 0. Absolute: 1-8

1. Proportion – 5. Index: 6-8

b. Ranking: 7-8

Alternative Attribute

(Multiple values)



65





Data Transformation:

0. Absolute: 1-8
1. Proportion – 5. Index: 6-8
6. Ranking: 7-8
7. Ordinal: 8

Alternative Attribute*

[Multiple values]

Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

SDG Goal

16: Peace, Justice & Institutions

Original Mappable Value

0. Absolute

Advised options

Line Plot Sorted Streamgraph

Here the alternative data visualization options are presented depending on your indicator and its original level of measurement

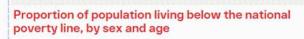




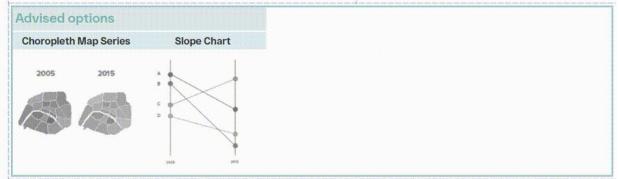
Select manually the Available Data Transformation:

- O. Absolute: 1-8
- 1. Proportion 5. Index: 6-8
- 6. Ranking: **7-8** 7. Ordinal: **8**
- Alternative Attribute*

(Multiple values)







Alternative options

SDG Indicator

6. Ranking	7. Ordinal		8. Nominal	
Rating Position Gain Over	Alluvial Diagram	Choropleth Map Series	Alluvial Diagram	Choropleth Map Se
1 Australia		2005 2015		2005

Outline

- 1. Motivation and Introduction
- 2. Objectives
- 3. Background
- 4. Methodology
- 5. Validation
- 6. Prototype
- 7. Results
- 8. Conclusion

Results

Data visualization and SDG concepts were theoretically reviewed

Maps and diagrams were provided to demonstrate the data transformation effect

The system' concept was designed with connection to SDGs

The demonstrative prototype is available through Tableau Public

Outline

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Conclusions

Data visualization: wide concept, multiple interconnections

Conceptualization: not so straightforward to approach

SDGs: level of measurement transformation respectively "transforms the message"

