

Passing Through the Trough of Disillusionment of Illustrative Visualization

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Abstract:

Efficient illustration craft is a vast source of inspiration for development of new visual abstractions in data visualization. Many new illustration-inspired techniques have emerged up to now, primarily arguing their validity with a statement like: “The illustrators have been using this technique for centuries and therefore we adapt their technique for interactive data display...”. Argumentation of such kind was stimulating in the initial phase of illustrative visualization research, but nowadays this reasoning is no longer satisfactory. It is becoming apparent that ad-hoc adaptation can have arbitrary outcome. A systematic adaptation requires a vivid dialog with illustrators and a well-founded reasoning by means of the vision and cognitive sciences. This talk will assess the efficiency of selected visual abstractions, adapted for interactive visualization, in terms of their consistency with established perceptual principles.



(illustration by Fritz Kahn)

