



Exploratory Data Analysis: from *insights* to *storytelling*

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LIFAT - University of Tours — France

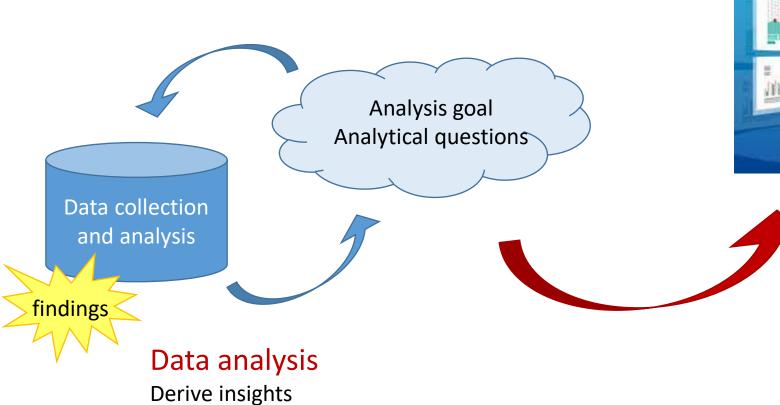
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Part 2 - Storytelling



From insights to storytelling





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Data storytelling

Present and communicate insights

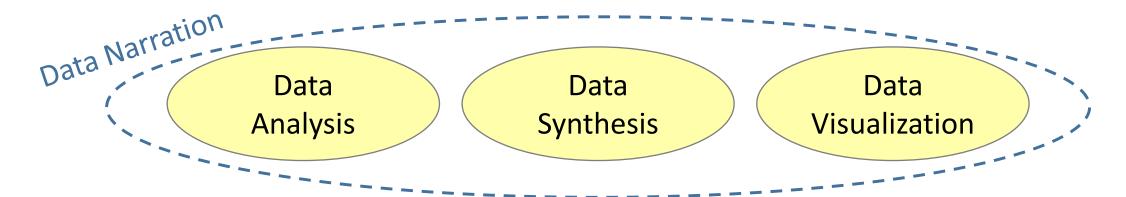
Outline

- □ Part 1: Insights
- □ Part 2: Storytelling
 - What is a data narrative?
 - □ Definition and examples
 - Conceptual model
 - Crafting process
 - □ Focus on storytelling activities
 - Automation
- Perspectives



Data narration = Narrating with data visualization

 The activity of producing narratives supported by facts extracted from data analysis, using interactive visualizations



S. Carpendale, N. Diakopoulos, N. Riche, C. Hurter: "Data-Driven Storytelling", Dagstuhl Reports 6:2, 2016.



J. Hullman, S. Drucker, N. Riche, B. Lee, D. Fisher, E. Adar: "A Deeper Understanding of Sequence in Narrative Visualization", TVCG 19:12, 2013.

Data narratives

A data narrative is a structured composition of messages that

- (a) convey findings over the data, and,
- (b) are typically delivered via visual means in order to facilitate their reception by an intended audience.

Based on definitions of narrative and storytelling:

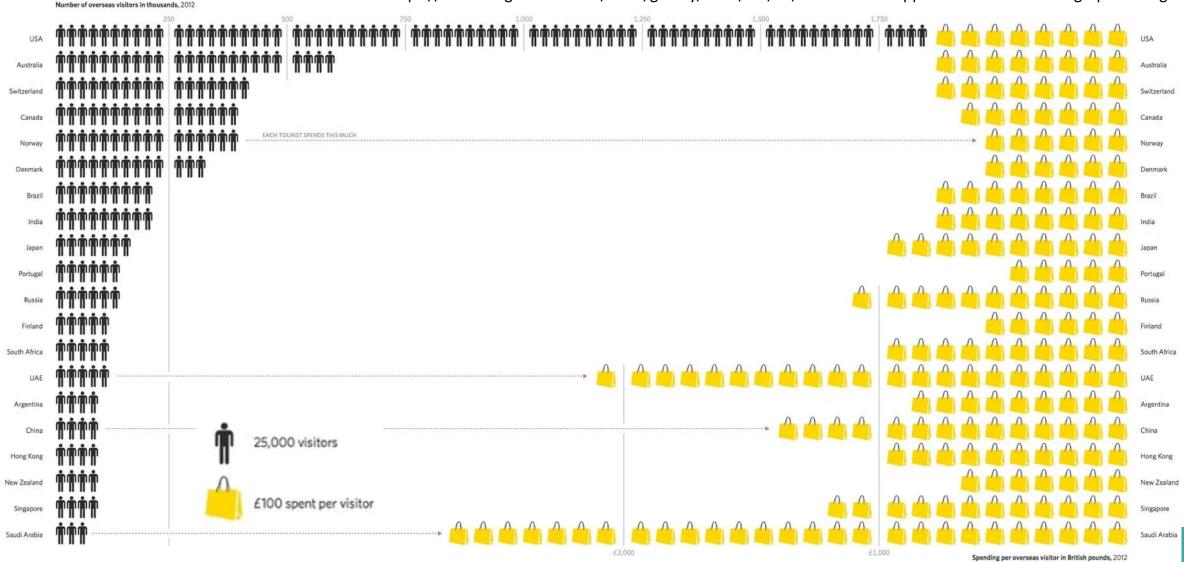
- D. Elson: "Modeling narrative discourse", Ph.D. thesis, Columbia University, 2012.
- S. Chatman: "Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film", Cornell paperbacks, 1980.
- S. Chen, J. Li, G. Andrienko, N. Andrienko, Y. Wang, P. Nguyen, C. Turkay: "Supporting Story Synthesis: Bridging the Gap between Visual Analytics and Storytelling", TVCG 2018.
- 🚇 F. El Outa, M. Francia, P. Marcel, V. Peralta, P. Vassiliadis: "A conceptual model of data narrative for exploratory data analysis", ER 2020.



Top 20 nations by spending by visitor to London in 2012

Source: The Guardian

URL: https://www.theguardian.com/cities/gallery/2014/oct/28/london-life-mapped-data-visualisation-graphics#img-6



Covid-19 situation update worldwide

Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

URL: https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases



European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

An agency of the European Union



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COVID-19 situation update worldwide, as of 28 une 2020

Epidemiological update











The data presented on this page has been collected between 6:00 and 10:00 CET

Disclaimer: National updates are published at different times and in different time zones. This, and the time ECDC needs to process these data, may lead to discrepancies between the national numbers and the numbers published by ECDC. Users are advised to use all data with caution and awareness of their limitations. Data are subject to retrospective corrections; corrected datasets are released as soon as processing of updated national data has been completed.

Download today's data

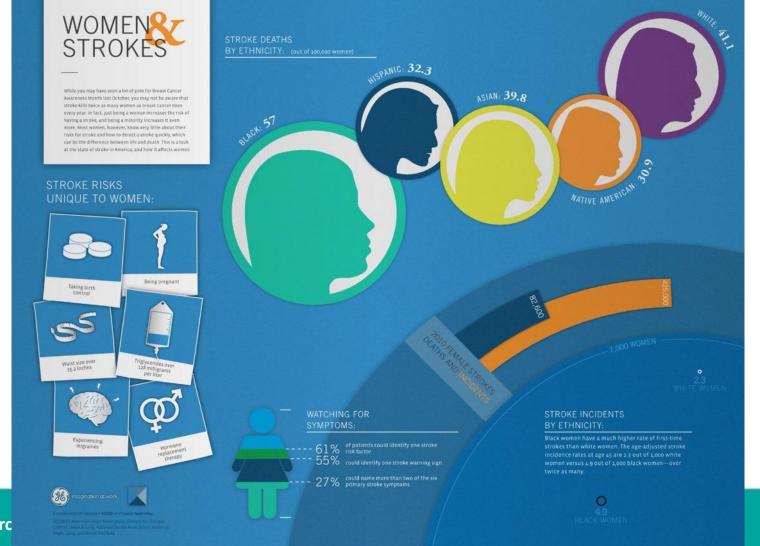
How is the data collected?



Stroke, a Silent Killer of Women, Facts About Women and Strokes

Source: GOOD

URL: https://www.good.is/infographics/facts-about-women-and-strokes

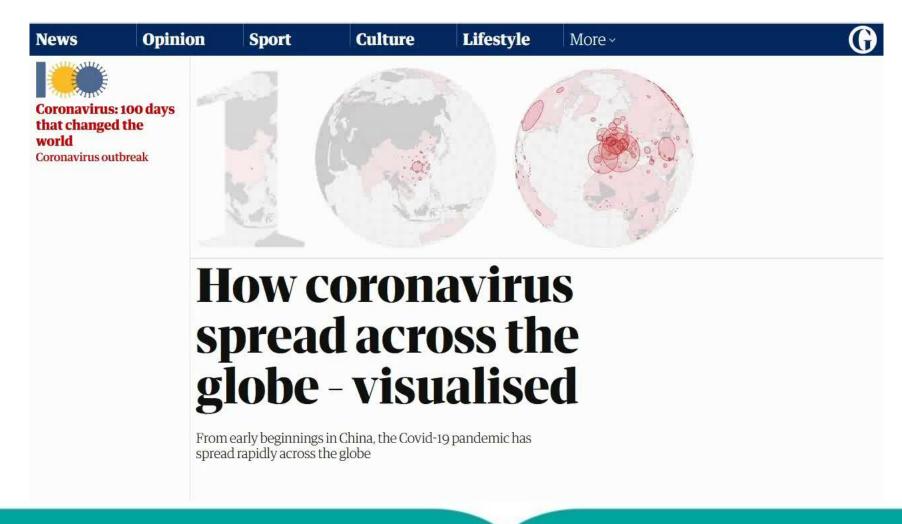




Coronavirus: 100 days that changed the world

Source: The Guardian

URL: https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/apr/09/how-coronavirus-spread-across-the-globe-visualised





How BuzzFeed News Used Betting Data To Investigate Match-Fixing In Tennis

Source: BuzzFeed News

URL: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/johntemplon/how-we-used-data-to-investigate-match-fixing-in-tennis#.vvKWjpWkn

The Tennis Racket

tennis authorities have kept secret for





Posted on January 17, 2016, at 4:58 p.m. E







Secret files exposing evidence of w of world tennis can today be reveale

The sport's governing bodies have b players - all of whom have ranked in and more than half of them will beg

including Wimbledon following a la fixing matches. allowed to continue playing.

Betting worth billions. Elite players. Vi How BuzzFeed News Used Betting And suspicious matches at Wimbledon How BuzzFeed News Used Betting Data To Investigate Match-Fixing In Tennis

With GIFs.



John Templon BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on January 17, 2016, at 5:02 p.m. ET





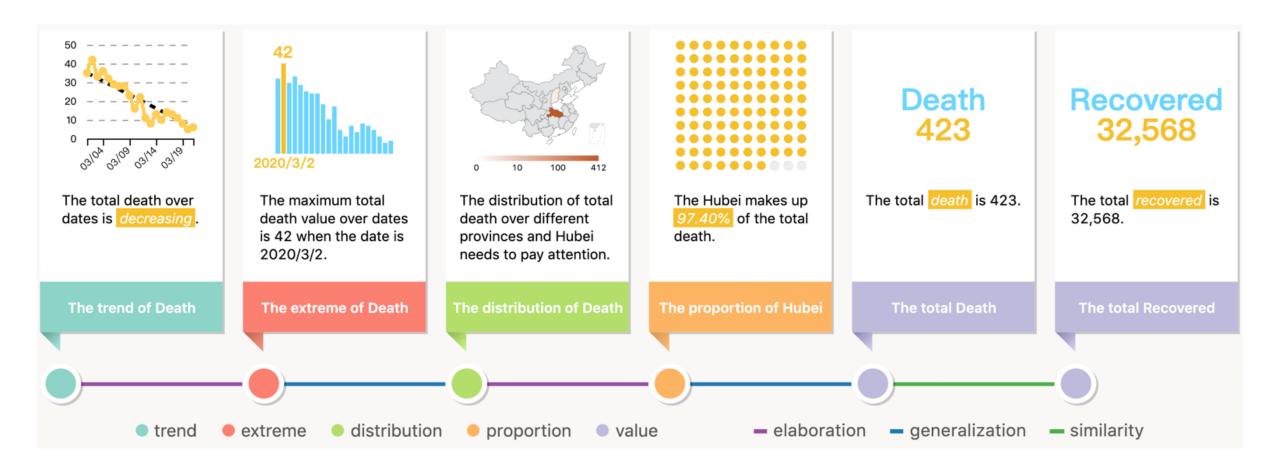


I'm John Templon, an investigative data reporter for It has been seven years since world t BuzzFeed News. I spent the past 15 months analyzing tennis evidence about a network of players betting data to see if I could figure out whether players were

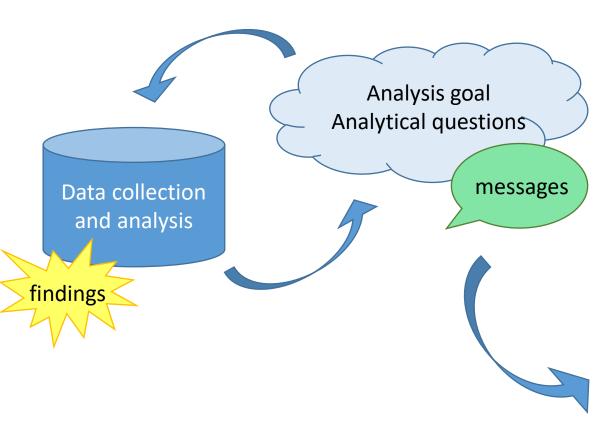


COVID-19 virus propagation in March 2020 in China

D. Shi, X. Xu, F. Sun, Y. Shi, N. Cao: Calliope: "Automatic visual data story generation from a spreadsheet", TVCG 27:2, 2021.



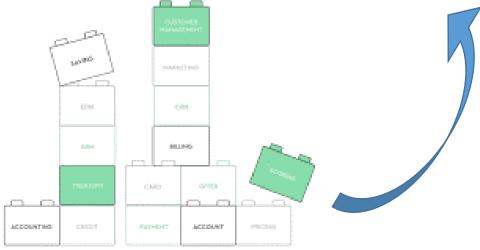
Towards modeling data narratives





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Structuring

A model in 4 layers

- S. Chatman: "Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film", Cornell paperbacks, 1980.
- F. El Outa, M. Francia, P. Marcel, V. Peralta, P. Vassiliadis: "A conceptual model of data narrative for exploratory data analysis", ER 2020.

Factual

Collecting
relevant
findings
via
interactive data
exploration

Intentional

Formulating messages, based on findings, according to an analysis goal, and identifying characters and measures

Story

What is told

Structural

Organizing
messages
and structuring
the discourse in
units (episodes,
acts)

Presentational

Providing presentational means to the structured discourse

Discourse

How is it told



A model in 4 layers

—— Story ——

Factual

Collecting
relevant
findings
via
interactive data
exploration

Intentional

Formulating
messages,
based on
findings,
according to an
analysis goal,
and identifying
characters and
measures

— Discourse

Structural

Organizing
messages
and structuring
the discourse in
units (episodes,
acts)

Presentational

Providing presentational means to the structured discourse



The model in practice



Analytical Question: Relation between ethnicity and stroke deaths

Implemented by Collector Select ethnicity, sum(stroke)/100000 from stroke_deaths group by ethnicity fetches **Finding** Black:57,White:41, Asian:39.8, Hispanic:32, Native American: 30.9 produces Message: Uneven distribution of

stroke death by ethnicity

brings out

Dashboard component renders **Episode** Stroke death by ethnicity: uneven distribution Black 57; White:41; Asian:39.8; Hispanic: 32; Native America 30.9 played by refers to

Black:57



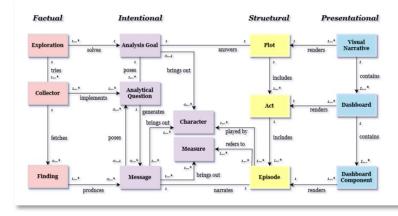
ethnicity

Crafting process

Focus on storytelling activities



Crafting process in the literature



Analyzing

Structuring

Presenting

Devising a story

Exploring data and retrieving insights

Organizing the plot

Selecting, managing and organizing insights

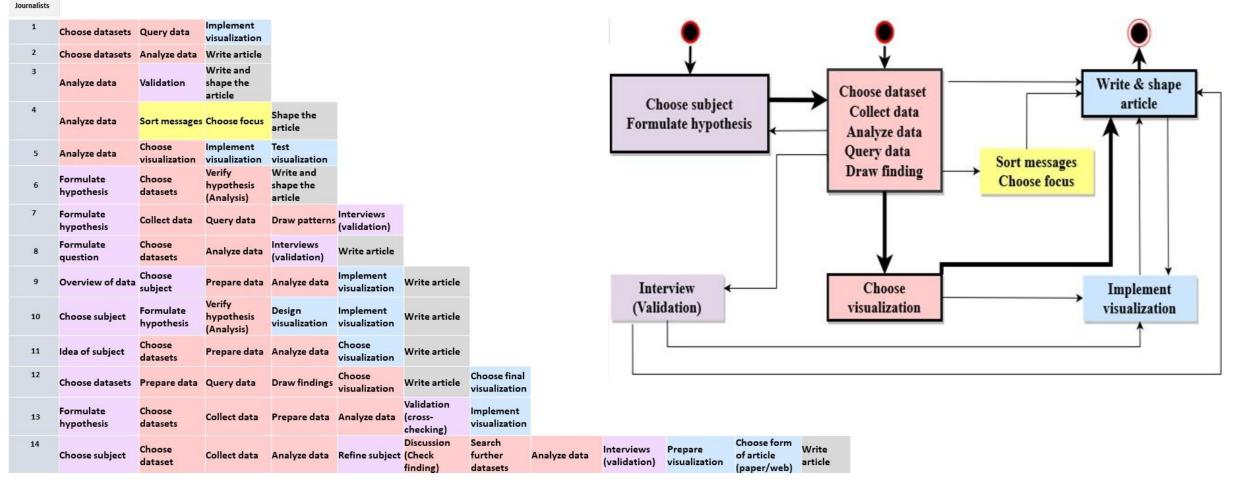
Storytelling

Presenting and communicating insights

- No distinction between factual and intentional aspects
- □ Few covering of intentional aspects: analytical questions, messages...
- S. Chen, J. Li, G. Andrienko, N. Andrienko, Y. Wang, P. Nguyen, C. Turkay: "Supporting Story Synthesis: Bridging the Gap between Visual Analytics and Storytelling", TVCG 2018.
- B. Lee, N.H. Riche, P. Isenberg, S. Carpendale: "More than telling a story: Transforming data into visually shared stories", IEEE Comp. Graph. Appl. 35:5, 2015.



Crafting process of data journalists — A survey



🗎 M. Chagnoux: "La datavisualisation, double point d'entrée du datajournalisme dans la PQR" (in french), Interfaces numériques 9:3, 2020.



F. El Outa, P. Marcel, V. Peralta, R. da Silva, M. Chagnoux, P. Vassiliadis: "Data narrative crafting via a comprehensive and well-founded process", ADBIS 2022.

Concerning activities

	Anal	yzing	Structuring	Presenting	
Dataset collection		Goal and question formulation	Determine audience	Visual narrative setting	
Data preparation [6], preprocessing [5]		Idea precede data search [1,19]	Conceptualize targeted audience [6]	Visualization design [6]	
Collect information/data [6,8,13,15]		Question precede data search [19]		Tell story [9]	
Collect data	Choose datasets	Overview data	Select messages	Visualize data story [14]	
Search further data	asets Prepare data	Refine subject	Choose facts [14]	Presentation synthesis [17]	
Collector trial		Choose subject	Sort messages	Realize storyboard [13]	
Explore data [4,7,8,9]		Formulate question		Refining presentation [15]	
See aspects of complex data [5]		Formulate hypothesis	Choose narrative structure	Choose form of article	
Analyze data	Verify hypothesis		Realization [6]	Shape article	
		Message formulation	Tie fact into story [8]		
Visualization trial		Convey interesting information [5]	Make story [9]	Interactivity choice	
Choose data visualization [13]		Draw conclusion	Construct storyline [13]	Set up interactivity [19]	
Make data visible [19]			Choose focus	Dashboard implementation	
Choose visualization		Message validation			
Finding formulation		Cross-checking	Message mapping	Visualization development [6] Convey message through visualization [19], Convey clear message [14] Visual encoding [15]	
Fact extraction [17], Choose fact [13]		Validation	Organize information pieces [5]		
Explore interrelationship [5,8]		Interviews	Organize facts [14]		
Draw finding	Draw pattern		Fact composition [17]	Implement visualization	
Findings validation	1		Organize information pieces [15]	Test visualization	
Discussion				Choose final visualization	

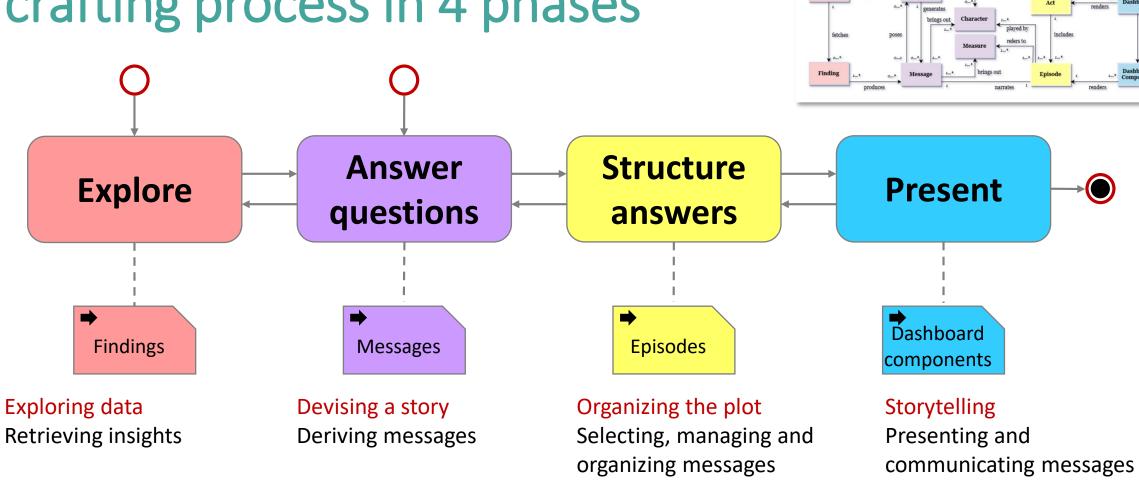
Requirements for a crafting process

- □ A comprehensive process should satisfy the following requirements:
 - (R1) cover the activities and the paths identified by the survey with data journalists
 - (R2) cover the activities of the three phases identified from the literature,
 - (R3) allow the free back and forth transition between phases,
 - (R4) clearly delineate the different layers of the conceptual model within its activities.

F. El Outa, P. Marcel, V. Peralta, R. da Silva, M. Chagnoux, P. Vassiliadis: "Data narrative crafting via a comprehensive and well-founded process", ADBIS 2022.



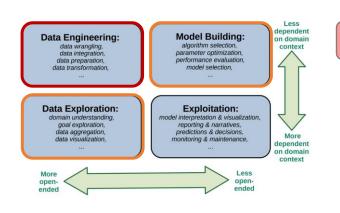
A crafting process in 4 phases



F. El Outa, P. Marcel, V. Peralta, R. da Silva, M. Chagnoux, P. Vassiliadis: "Data narrative crafting via a comprehensive and well-founded process", ADBIS 2022.



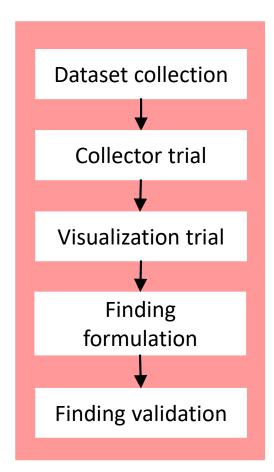
Explore



Concerns many tasks:

- Choice of data sets: source selection, data extraction, integration, preprocessing... (Data Engineering)
- Try (and reuse) of collectors: data querying, profiling and mining...
 (Data Exploration and Model Building)
- Try of visualizations: crosstabs, graphics, clusters, statistical tests...
- Formulation of findings (and relationships)
- Validation of findings: crosschecking, statistical tests

□ It's time-consuming (measured in days or even months)



Structure

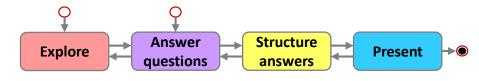
answers

Present

Answer

auestions

Explore



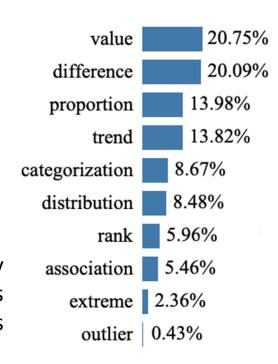
Explore

Typical types of insights

Fact type	Analysis task		
Value	Retrieve value		
Categorization	Filter		
Aggregation	Compute derived value		
Extreme	Find extreme		
Rank	Sort		
Proportion	-		
Difference	Compare		
Outlier	Find anomalies		
Association	Correlate		

Survey of 245 examples of fact sheet design

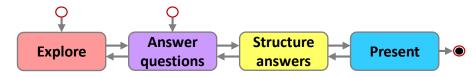
Survey of 230 high-quality animated/motion infographics and data videos



- Y. Wang, Z. Sun, H. Zhang, W. Cui, K. Xu, X. Ma, D. Zhang: "DataShot: Automatic Generation of Fact Sheets from Tabular Data", TVCG 26:1, 2020.
- D. Shi, X. Xu, F. Sun, Y. Shi, N. Cao: Calliope: "Automatic visual data story generation from a spreadsheet", TVCG 27:2, 2021.



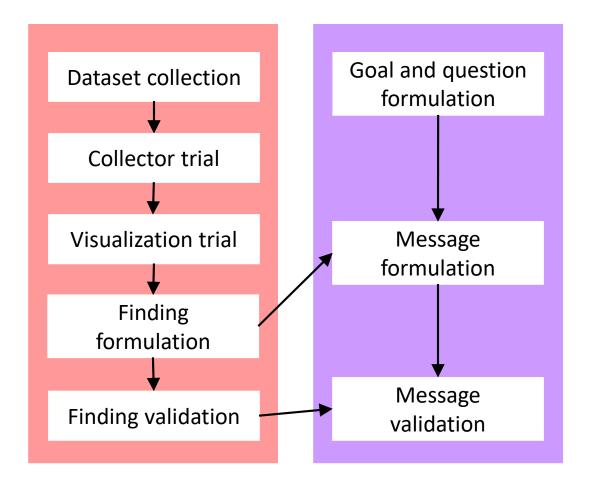
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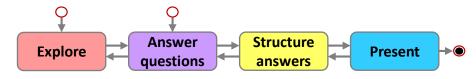


Answer questions

Concerns:

- Formulation of story goal and analytical questions
- Formulation of messages and identification of characters and measures
- Validation of messages

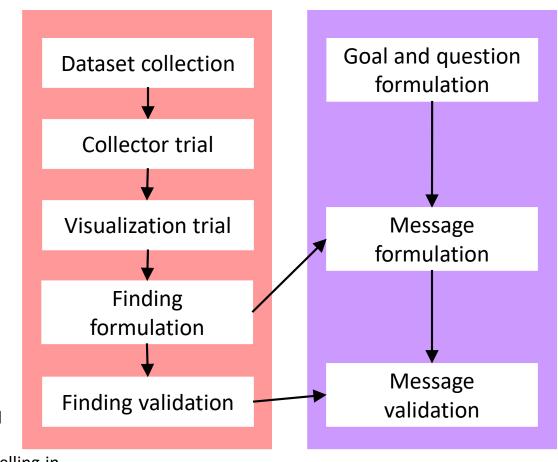




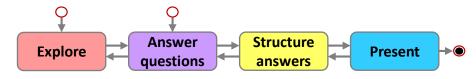
Answer questions

□ Three ways to start a data narrative:

- 1. having a precise idea on mind
 - Formulate a precise goal and list of questions
- 2. having a vague idea refined during exploration
 - Formulate a vague goal and a first question
 - Refine them during data exploration
- 3. having no idea before exploring the data
 - Start by exploring data
- L. Battle, J. Heer: "Characterizing exploratory visual analysis: A literature review and evaluation of analytic provenance in tableau", Comput. Graph. Forum 38:3, 2019.
- W. Weber, M. Engebretsen, H. Kennedy: "Data stories: Rethinking journalistic storytelling in the context of data journalism", Studies in Communication Sciences 18, 2018.



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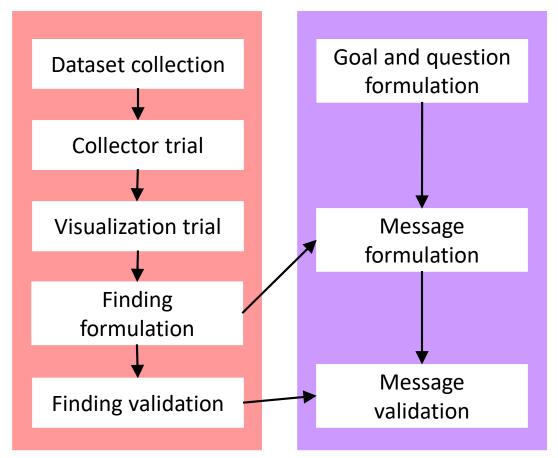
Answer questions

Findings may lead to:

- Formulate messages for the audience: summarizing and pointing findings
- Identify characters and measures: highlight important information
- Formulate new analytical questions

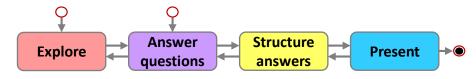
□ Two types of validation:

- For findings: crosschecking, statistical tests
- For messages: comparison with previous works and experts' advice



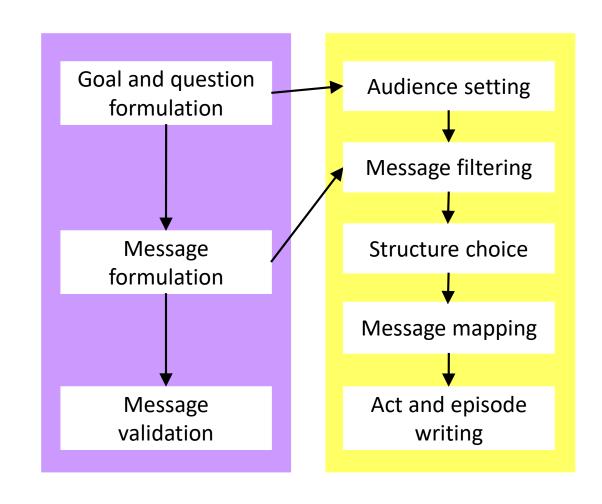
- M. Chagnoux: "La datavisualisation, double point d'entrée du datajournalisme dans la PQR" (in french), Interfaces numériques 9:3, 2020.
- 🚇 R. Ondzigue, V. Peralta, T. Devogele, F. El Outa, S. Maghendji, E. Ngounou: "A data narrative about tuberculosis pandemics in Gabon", DARLI-AP 2022.

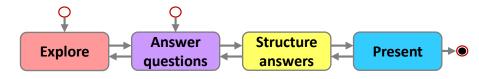




Concerns:

- Determination of the audience
- Selection of messages
- Choice of narrative structure
- Mapping of messages to acts
 - Arrangement of narrator's thoughts into different layers (acts and episodes)
- Writing of acts and episodes
 - □ Content, structure, transitions...





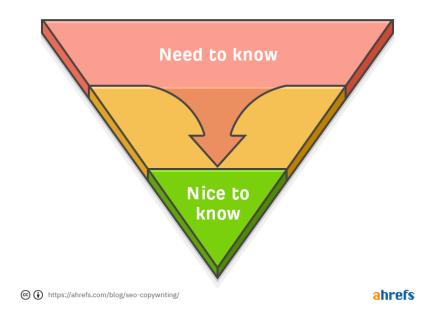
Many types of structures:

- Sequencing (transitions): hierarchical, parallel
- Ordering (timelines): visual metaphor, scale, layout

Ex. Inverted Pyramid

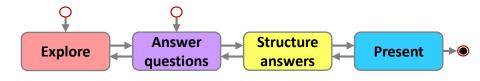
- Striking messages first
- Details for interests readers

The Inverted Pyramid Method



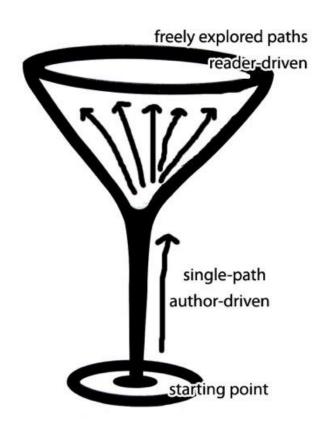
- R. Kosara: "An argument structure for data stories", EuroVis 2017.
- J. Hullman, R. Kosara, H. Lam: "Finding a clear path: Structuring strategies for visualization sequences", Comput. Graph. Forum 36:3, 2017.
- M. Brehmer, B. Lee, B. Bach, N.H. Riche, T. Munzner: "Timelines revisited: A design space and considerations for expressive storytelling", TVCG 23:9, 2017.

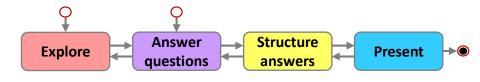




□ Level of interactivity:

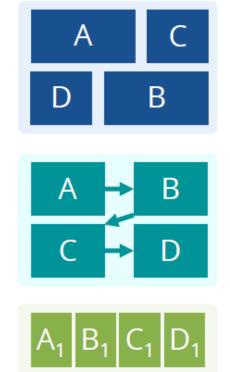
- Author-driven: linear pass, explanations, no interactivity
 - □ Ex. structure : Inverted Pyramid (largely used by data journalists)
 - □ Ex. visual narrative : Infographics, slideshows, data videos...
- Reader-driven: no ordering, no explanations
 - □ Ex. structure : Hierarchical structure with links (largely used in BI)
 - □ Ex. visual narrative : Portfolios, querying interfaces
- Hybrid
 - □ Ex. structure : Martini glass
 - □ Ex. visual narrative : eBooks, web pages
- E. Segel, J. Heer: "Narrative visualization: Telling stories with data", TVCG 16(6), 2010.
- W. Weber, M. Engebretsen, H. Kennedy: "Data stories: Rethinking journalistic storytelling in the context of data journalism", Studies in Communication Sciences 18, 2018.





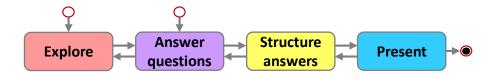
Content structures

- How acts (and latterly dashboards) are typically structured
 - □ Random order (52%)
 - □ Sequential order (26%)
 - □ Multiple series (22%)

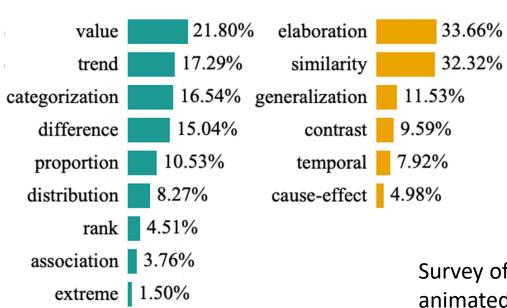


Survey of 245 examples of fact sheet design

Y. Wang, Z. Sun, H. Zhang, W. Cui, K. Xu, X. Ma, D. Zhang: "DataShot: Automatic Generation of Fact Sheets from Tabular Data", TVCG 26:1, 2020.



Starting points and transitions



Fact Types	r_s	r_t	r_c	r_a	r_e	r_g
Value	45.6	8.9	0.0	4.2	26.8	14.5
Difference	41.6	6.7	0.0	5.8	31.1	14.8
Proportion	52.1	7.3	0.0	5.2	22.4	13.0
Trend	34.7	9.4	8.2	7.1	28.2	12.4
Categorization	37.7	3.4	0.0	3.4	47.5	7.8
Distribution	49.0	12.1	0.0	4.4	22.3	12.1
Rank	43.8	11.7	0.0	6.6	34.3	3.6
Association	31.0	5.6	15.1	7.1	26.2	15.1
Extreme	51.8	5.6	0.0	3.7	25.9	13.0
Outlier	20.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	40.0	20.0

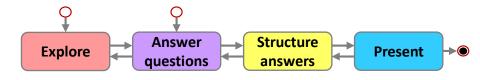
Survey of 230 high-quality animated/motion infographics and data videos, manually segmented into 4186 episodes.

D. Shi, X. Xu, F. Sun, Y. Shi, N. Cao: Calliope: "Automatic visual data story generation from a spreadsheet", TVCG 27:2, 2021.



outlier 0.75%

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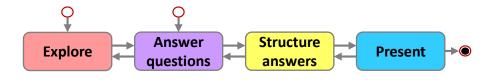
Cognitive cost of transition types

Temporal > (Dimension | Measure) > Granularity

Representation	Relevant Transition Types	Relevant Interactions	
Dependent variable	Comparative – Measure walk	Sort, Derive, Navigate (Distortion), Coddinate (small multiples)	
Independent variable	Comparative – Dimension walk	Filter (independent variable, such as with query widget), Navigate (scroll, pan), Coordinate (small multiples)	
Time	Temporal	Filter (direct selection, slider), Coordinate (small multiples)	
Hierarchical relation	Granularity	Filter (direct selection, query widget, slider), Navigate (overview & detail, zoom, semantic zoom), Derive (aggregate)	

J. Hullman, S. Drucker, N. Riche, B. Lee, D. Fisher, E. Adar: "A Deeper Understanding of Sequence in Narrative Visualization", TVCG 19:12, 2013.

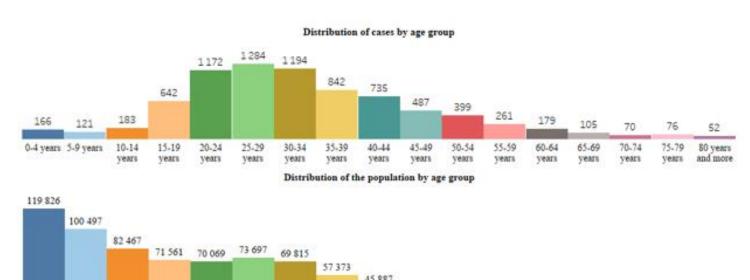




Example:

 Analysis of tuberculosis cases per age group

R. Ondzigue, V. Peralta, T. Devogele, F. El Outa, S. Maghendji, E. Ngounou: "A data narrative about tuberculosis pandemics in Gabon", DARLI-AP 2022.



Prevalence of tuberculosis per 1000 population by age group

vears

36 541

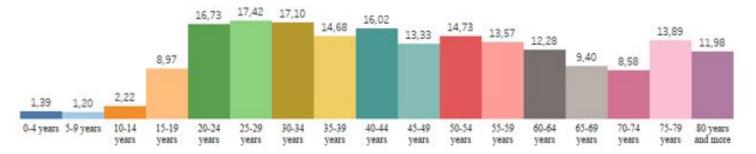
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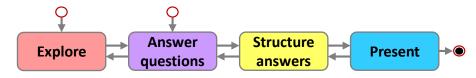
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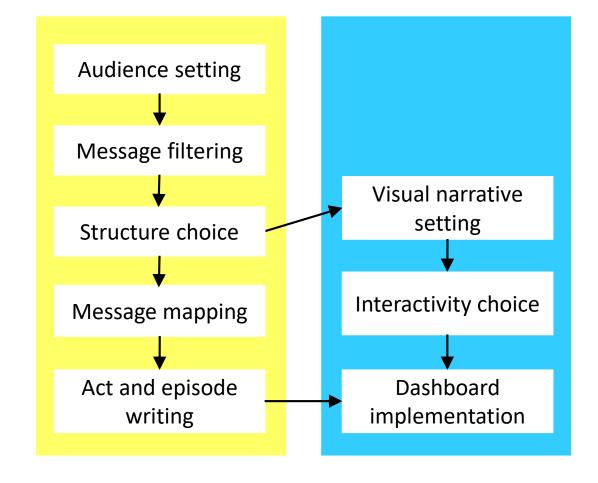
0-4 years 5-9 years

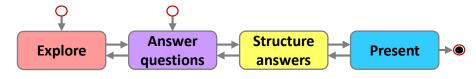


Present

□ Concerns:

- Setting of visual narrative
- Choice of interactivity implementation
- Dashboard implementation





36

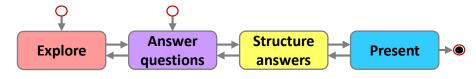
Present

Many visual narrative styles:

- magazine-style (images embedded in a page of text),
- comic strip (multiple images organized as a linear path),
- partitioned poster (multiple images organized in a loose order),
- flow chart (a diagram that depicts a process, system or algorithm),
- slide show (a series of still images in a prearranged sequence),
- video/animation

E. Segel, J. Heer: "Narrative visualization: Telling stories with data", TVCG 16(6), 2010.



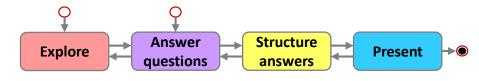


Present

Implementation of dashboards and components

- Choice of the right components (e.g. position, size, shape, color)
- Manual organization (specific cognitive tasks) vs. automatic derivation (according to the nature of data)
- Learning most adapted visualizations per insight type

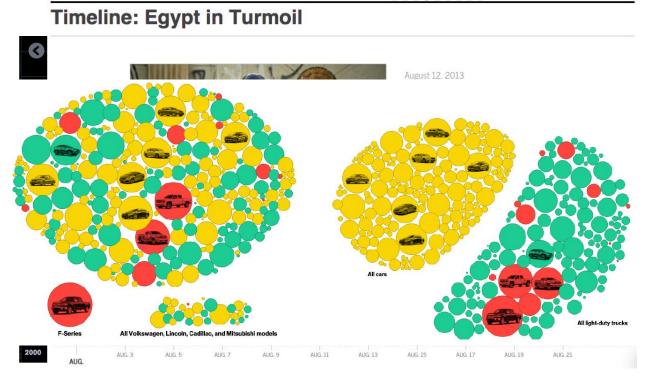
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- R. Brath, M. Peters: "Dashboard design: Why design is important", DM Direct 2004.
- 🕮 T. Blount, L. Koesten, Y. Zhao, E. Simperl: "Understanding the use of narrative patterns by novice data storytellers", CHIRA 2020.
- M. Golfarelli, S. Rizzi: "A model-driven approach to automate data visualization in big data analytics", Inf. Vis. 19:1, 2020.
- Y. Wang, Z. Sun, H. Zhang, W. Cui, K. Xu, X. Ma, D. Zhang: "DataShot: Automatic Generation of Fact Sheets from Tabular Data", TVCG 26:1, 2020.



Present

Techniques for communicating in a creative way

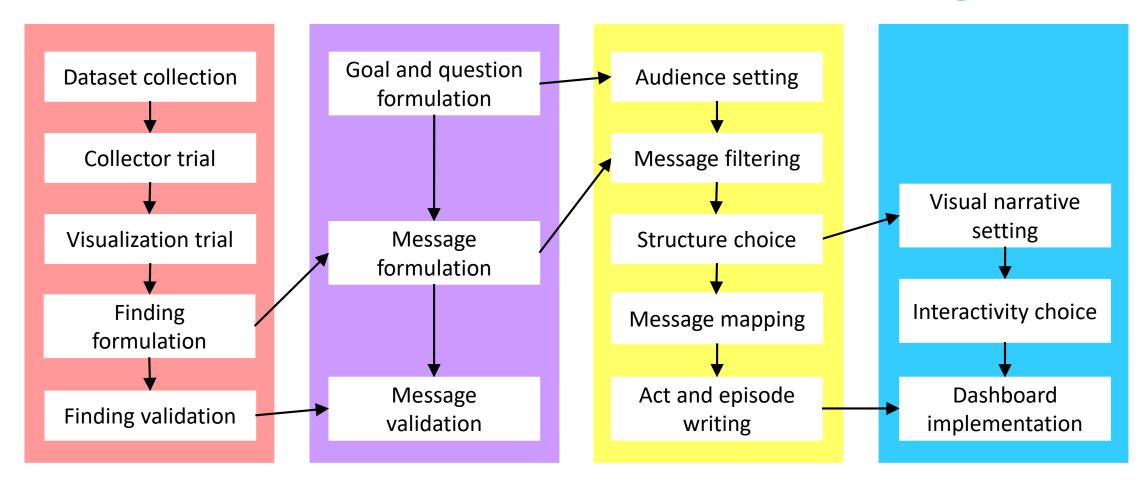
- Communicating narrative and explaining data
- Linking separated story elements
- Enhancing structure and navigation
- Providing controlled exploration



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Overall activities for data narrative crafting



F. El Outa, P. Marcel, V. Peralta, R. da Silva, M. Chagnoux, P. Vassiliadis: "Data narrative crafting via a comprehensive and well-founded process", ADBIS 2022.



Automation

and tools



Automatic generation of data narratives

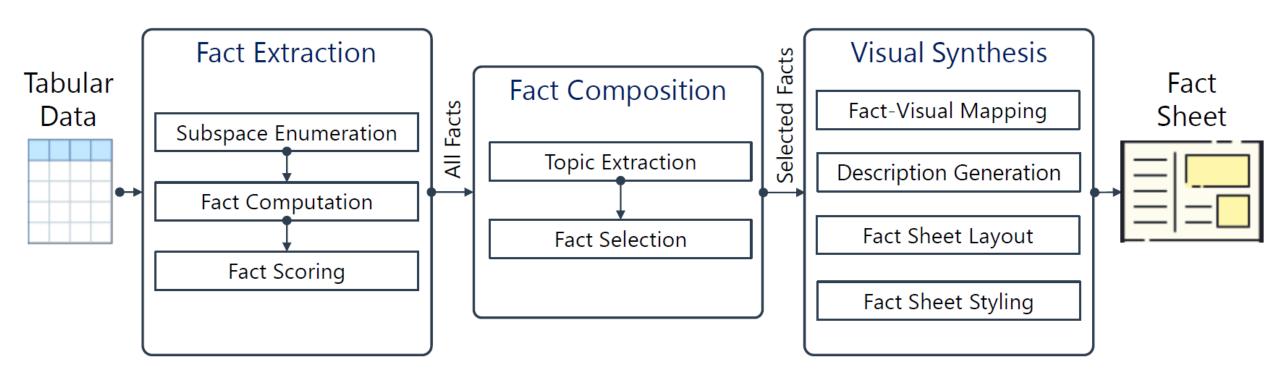
Some tools:

- DataShot: Generation of a fact sheet from tabular data
- Calliope: Generation of a sequence of fact sheets from a spreadsheet
- AutoClips: Generation of a video from data facts
- Cinecubes: Generation of a slideshow from an OLAP query

- Y. Wang, Z. Sun, H. Zhang, W. Cui, K. Xu, X. Ma, D. Zhang: "DataShot: Automatic Generation of Fact Sheets from Tabular Data", TVCG 26:1, 2020.
- D. Shi, X. Xu, F. Sun, Y. Shi, N. Cao: Calliope: "Automatic visual data story generation from a spreadsheet", TVCG 27:2, 2021.
- D. Shi, F. Sun, X. Xu, X. Lan, D. Gotz, and N. Cao: "AutoClips: An Automatic Approach to Video Generation from Data Facts", Comput. Graph. Forum 40:3, 2021.
- D. Gkesoulis, P. Vassiliadis, P. Manousis: "Cinecubes: Aiding data workers gain insights from OLAP queries", Inf. Syst. 53, 2015.



DataShot pipeline



Y. Wang, Z. Sun, H. Zhang, W. Cui, K. Xu, X. Ma, D. Zhang: "DataShot: Automatic Generation of Fact Sheets from Tabular Data", TVCG 26:1, 2020.



DataShot: Fact extraction

```
fact := {type, parameters, measures, subject, score}
    subject := {context, breakdowns, focus}
```

Subspace Enumeration:

BUC algorithm to explore the data and enumerate the subspaces in a top-down order.

□ Fact composition:

Search for different types of facts (value and aggregation facts for each measure)

□ Fact scoring:

- Importance score based on its impact and relevance
 - □ Significance score: importance w.r.t. statistical significance (ex: a sharp increase or decrease)
 - □ Impact score: how general the data fact sheet is (ratio of records in the subspace/focus)



DataShot: Fact composition

- Topic extraction
 - All the facts with the same filters for context or focus
- Fact selection
 - Density-based top-k algorithm, balancing fact diversity and fact importance

DataShot: Visual synthesis

Fact-Visual Mapping:

- Use of a decision tree model (learned from 793 exemplary infographic elements)
- Input: fact types and data types; output: visualization type and options

Description Generation:

 Templates including subjects, measurements, dimensions, and fact details with additional statistical indicators for each fact type

Fact sheet layout:

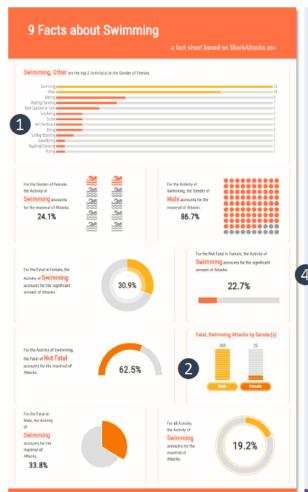
- Tiled layout to arrange data facts
- Fixed height, adjusted width

□ Fact sheet styling:

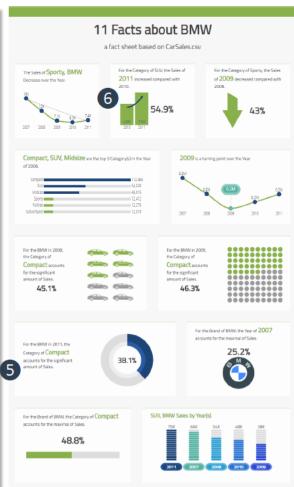
 Supports three styles, including font, title, and embellishments, to diversify the fact sheet presentation

eBISS 2022

DataShot: Examples of generated fact sheets



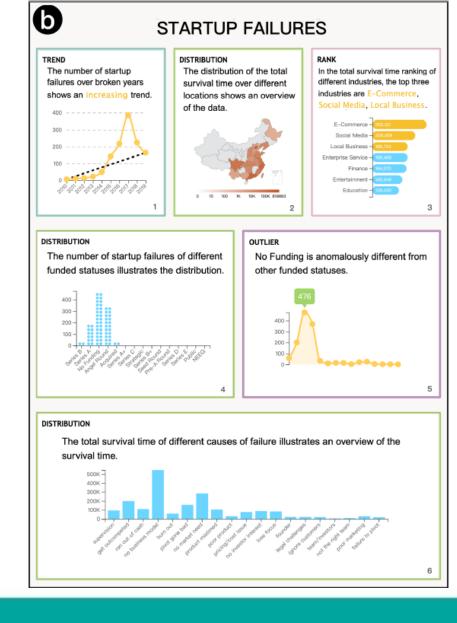




Y. Wang, Z. Sun, H. Zhang, W. Cui, K. Xu, X. Ma, D. Zhang: "DataShot: Automatic Generation of Fact Sheets from Tabular Data", TVCG 26:1, 2020.



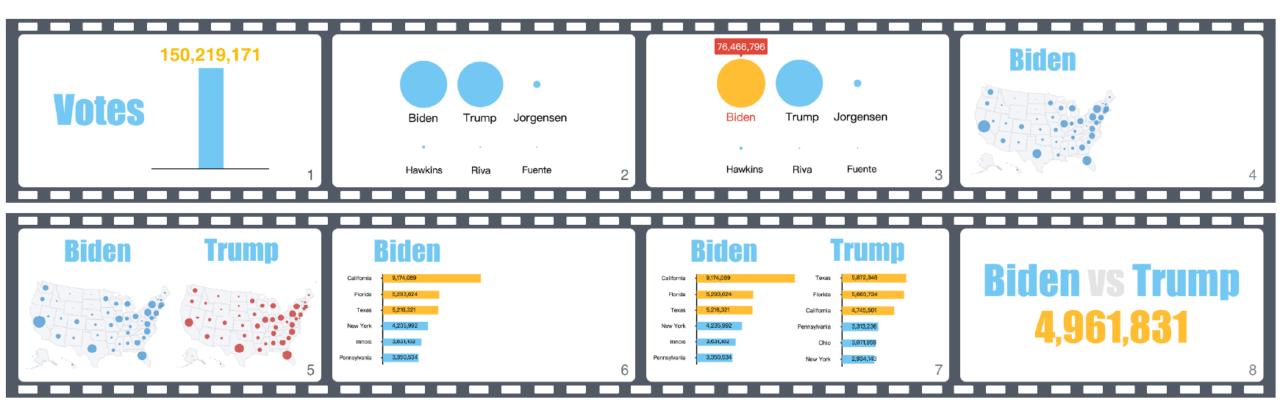
Calliope: Example of data story



D. Shi, X. Xu, F. Sun, Y. Shi, N. Cao: Calliope: "Automatic visual data story generation from a spreadsheet", TVCG 27:2, 2021.



AutoClips: Example of video story



D. Shi, F. Sun, X. Xu, X. Lan, D. Gotz, and N. Cao: "AutoClips: An Automatic Approach to Video Generation from Data Facts", Comput. Graph. Forum 40:3, 2021.



Structure challenge

All automatic generation tools use linear structure

- **□** There is place for
 - Interactivity (e.g. Martini glass)
 - Including the audience in the loop

Perspectives



In summary

- □ Some answers were brought to the 2015 tutorial's perspectives
- In terms of:
 - Automation
 - Interestingness
 - Languages
 - In-DB engine support

Next hot topics in EDA and data narration

Integrated approaches to

- Explore and analyze datasets
- And then craft, share, query, reuse data narratives

Explanability

- Explanations of insights
- Data narratives as explanations

Personalization

- Leveraging user's preferences, background knowledge, intentions
- Monitoring their learning curves
- Personalization of data narratives



With a little help from...



Marie Chagnoux



Thomas Devogele



Matteo Golfarelli



Nicolas Labroche



Stefano Rizzi



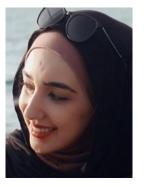
Raphaël da Silva



Panos Vassiliadis



Alexandre Chanson



Faten El Outa



Matteo Francia



Lucile Jacquemart



Raymond Ondzigue Mbenga

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