## Color

Maneesh Agrawala

CS 448B: Visualization Fall 2017

## Last Time: Deconstructing Visualizations




## Example 1: Pew Research

Are People Better Off in Free
Market Economy?

|  | Disagree | Agree |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Brazil | 22 | 75 |
| China | 19 | 74 |
| Germany | 29 | 69 |
| u.s. | 24 | 67 |
| Lebanon | 34 | 62 |
| India | 25 | 61 |
| Britain | 32 | 61 |
| France | 43 | 58 |
| Turkey | 21 | 55 |
| Poland | 37 | 53 |
| Italy | 30 | 50 |
| Egypt | 45 | 50 |
| Czech Rep. | 46 | 50 |
| Pakistan | 36 | 48 |
| Russia | 40 | 47 |
| Spain | 52 | 47 |
| Greece | 50 | 44 |
| Jordan | 54 | 43 |
| Tunisia | 37 | 42 |
| Japan | 60 | 38 |
| Mexico | 60 | 34 |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q26. |  |  |

Skepticism for capitalism is lowest in Brazil (22\%), China (19\%), Germany (29\%) (although East Germans are less supportive than West Germans) and the U.S. (24\%). Skepticism for free markets is highest in Mexico (60\%) and Japan (60\%).

## Example 1: Pew Research

Are People Better Off in Free
Market Economy?

ew research center q26


## Final project

New visualization research or data analysis

- Pose problem, Implement creative solution
- Design studies/evaluations

Deliverables

- Implementation of solution
- 6-8 page paper in format of conference paper submission
- Project progress presentations


## Schedule

- Project proposal: Mon 11/5
- Project progress presentation: $11 / 12$ and $11 / 14$ in class ( $3-4 \mathrm{~min}$ )
- Final poster presentation: 12/5 Location: Lathrop 282
- Final paper: 12/9 11:59pm


## Grading

- Groups of up to 3 people, graded individually
- Clearly report responsibilities of each member


## Color

## Color in Visualization

Identify, Group, Layer, Highlight


## Purpose of Color

To label
To measure
To represent and imitate
To enliven and decorate
"Above all, do no harm."

- Edward Tufte


## Topics

Color Perception
Color Naming
Using Color in Visualization

## Color Perception

Physical World, Visual System, Mental Models

## Physical World

Light is radiation in range of wavelengths


Light of single wavelength is monochromatic

## Retina



## Cone Response

Integrate cone response with input


## Computing Cone Response

## Integrate cone response with input



## Opponent processing

LMS are linearly combined to create:
Lightness
Red-green contrast
Yellow-blue contrast


Fairchild

## Opponent processing

LMS are combined to create:
Lightness
Red-green contrast
Yellow-blue contrast

Experiments:
No reddish green, no bluish yellow Color after images


## CIE LUV and LAB color spaces

Standardized in 1976 to mathematically represent opponent processing theory


## Axes of CIE LAB

Correspond to opponent signals
L* = Luminance
$\mathbf{a}^{*}=$ Red-green contrast
b* = Yellow-blue contrast
Scaling of axes to represent "color distance" JND = Just noticeable difference ( 2.3 units)

## Pseudo-Percepłual Color Spaces

Lightness


## Hue, Value, Chroma



## Psuedo-Percepłual Models

HLS, HSV, HSB
NOT percepłual models
Simple re-notation of RGB
$\square$ View along gray axis

- See a hue hexagon

- L or $\mathbf{V}$ is grayscale pixel value

Cannot predicł perceived lightness


## Percepłual brightness

Color palette


HSL Lightness
(Photoshop)


## Percepłual brightness



## Simultaneous Contrast

The inner and outer thin rings are the physical purple


## Simultaneous Contrast



## Simultaneous Contrast



## Color Appearance

More than a single color

- Adjacent colors (background)
- Viewing environment (surround)

Appearance effects
$\square$ Adaptation
$\square$ Simultaneous contrast

- Spatial effects Color in context

Color Appearance Models
surround

Mark Fairchild

## Bezold Effect



## Crispening

Perceived difference depends on background


From Fairchild, Color Appearance Models

## Spreading

Adjacent colors blend

Spatial frequency

- The paint chip problem
- Small text, lines, glyphs
$\square$ Image colors


Redrawn from Foundations of Vision © Brian Wandell, Stanford University

## Color Naming

## What color is this?

## What color is this?


"Yellow"

## What color is this?



## What color is this?


"Blue"

## What color is this?



## What color is this?


"Teal" ?

## Colors according to XKCD...



## Basic color terms

Chance discovery by Brent Berlin and Paul Kay


## Basic color terms

Chance discovery by Brent Berlin and Paul Kay


## Basic Color Terms

Chance discovery by Brent Berlin and Paul Kay Initial study in 1969 Surveyed speakers from 20 languages Literafure from 69 languages

## World color survey



## World color survey



## World color survey



Naming information from 2616 speakers from 110 languages on 330 Munsell color chips


## Results from WCS (Mexico)



Language \#98 (Tlapaneco)
Mutual info $=0.942 /$ Contribution $=0.524$


## Results from WCS (South Pacific)

Mutual info $=0.939 /$ Contribution $=0.487$


Language 24 (Chavacano)
Mutual info $=0.939 /$ Contribution $=0.513$


## Universal (?) Basic Color Terms

Basic color terms recur across languages
$\square$ White $\square$ Red $\quad \square$ Pink
$\square$ Grey $\square$ Yellow $\square$ Brown
$\square$ Black $\square$ Green $\square$ Orange

$\square$ Blue $\quad \square$ Purple

## Evolution of Basic Color Terms

Proposed universal evolution across languages


Earliest $\qquad$ Evolution of color names

## Rainbow color ramp

We associate and group colors together, often using the name we assign to the colors

## Rainbow color ramp

We associate and group colors together, often using the name we assign to the colors


## Rainbow color ramp

We associate and group colors together, often using the name we assign to the colors


## Naming affects color perception

Color name boundaries


## Color naming models

[Heer \& Stone]
Model 3 million responses from XKCD survey
Bins in LAB space sized by saliency:
How much do people agree on color name?

Modeled by entropy of p(name / color)


## Icicle tree with colors



## Using Color in Visualization

## Gray's Anatomy



Superficial dissection of the right side of the neck, showing the carotid and subclavian arteries http://www.bartleby.com/107/illus520.html

## Molecular Models



Organic Chemistry Molecular Model Set https//www.indigo.com/models/gphmodel/62003.html

## Product Categories



Created by Tableau - Visual Analysis for Databases ${ }^{\text {TM }}$

## Grouping, Highlighting

|  | X | Y | Z | X | Y | Z | X | Y | Z | X | Y | Z |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| red | 25.37 | 13.70 | 0.05 | 26.27 | 14.13 | 0.04 | 18.41 | 10.16 | 0.05 | 17.43 | 9.30 | 0.00 |
| green | 22.14 | 51.24 | 0.35 | 20.68 | 49.17 | 0.44 | 21.11 | 46.00 | 0.20 | 16.36 | 37.95 | 0.12 |
| blue | 13.17 | 3.71 | 74.89 | 15.38 | 5.20 | 86.83 | 11.55 | 3.37 | 65.53 | 9.96 | 3.44 | 56.14 |
| gray | 63.46 | 73.30 | 78.05 | 64.66 | 71.99 | 90.08 | 52.96 | 62.49 | 67.99 | 45.54 | 53.65 | 58.14 |
| black | 0.66 | 0.70 | 0.77 | 0.63 | 0.66 | 1.09 | 0.47 | 0.58 | 0.70 | 0.44 | 0.54 | 0.71 |
|  | X | Y | Z | X | Y | Z | X | Y | Z | X | Y | Z |
| red | 25.37 | 13.70 | 0.05 | 26.27 | 14.13 | 0.04 | 18.41 | 10.16 | 0.05 | 17.43 | 9.30 | 0.00 |
| green | 22.14 | 51.24 | 0.35 | 20.68 | 49.17 | 0.44 | 21.11 | 46.00 | 0.20 | 16.36 | 37.95 | 0.12 |
| blue | 13.17 | 3.71 | 74.89 | 15.38 | 5.20 | 86.83 | 11.55 | 3.37 | 65.53 | 9.96 | 3.44 | 56.14 |
| gray | 63.46 | 73.30 | 78.05 | 64.66 | 71.99 | 90.08 | 52.96 | 62.49 | 67.99 | 45.54 | 53.65 | 58.14 |
| black | 0.66 | 0.70 | 0.77 | 0.63 | 0.66 | 1.09 | 0.47 | 0.58 | 0.70 | 0.44 | 0.54 | 0.71 |

## Palette Design + Color Names

Minimize overlap and ambiguity of color names

Color Name Distance


Tableau-10

|  |  |  |  |  | Salience |  | Name |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| .00 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.20 | .47 | blue $62.9 \%$ |
| .97 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.96 | 1.00 | .90 | orange $93.9 \%$ |
| .00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.90 | 0.99 | .67 | green $79.8 \%$ |
| .00 | 1.00 | 0.95 | 0.99 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | .66 | red $80.4 \%$ |
| .00 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0}$ | 0.96 | 0.91 | 0.97 | 1.00 | 0.99 | .47 | purple $51.4 \%$ |
| .95 | 0.96 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0}$ | 0.97 | 0.93 | 0.98 | 1.00 | .37 | brown $54.0 \%$ |
| .99 | 0.91 | 0.97 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0}$ | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | .58 | pink $71.7 \%$ |
| .00 | 0.97 | 0.93 | 1.00 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0}$ | 1.00 | 1.00 | .67 | grey $79.4 \%$ |
| .00 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 1.00 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0}$ | 1.00 | .18 | yellow $31.2 \%$ |
| .00 | 0.99 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0}$ | .25 | blue $25.4 \%$ |

http://vis.stanford.edu/color-names

## Palette Design + Color Names

Minimize overlap and ambiguity of color names


## Mapping Data to Color (Rainbows)



## Avoid rainbow color maps!



1. People segment colors into classes
2. Hues are not naturally ordered
3. Different lightness emphasizes certain scalar values
4. Low luminance colors (blue) hide high frequencies

## Rainbow vs. Diverging Color Scale


[Borkin 11]

## Rainbow vs. Diverging Color Scale



Fig. 7. Average percent of low ESS regions identified broken down by 2D and 3D representation, and color. Error bars correspond to the standard error and the asterisks indicate results of statistical sig nificance. Participants were more accurate in 2D and when using the diverging color map.

## Phase Diagrams (hue scale)

Singularities occur where all colors meet


The optical singularities of bianisotropic crystals, by M. V. Berry

## Phases of the Tides



Figure 1.9. Cotidal chart. Tide phases relative to Greenwich are plotted for all the world' s oceans. Phase progresses from red to orange to yellow to green to blue to purple. The lines converge on anphidromic points, singularities on the earth's surface where there is no defined tide. [Winfree, 1987 \#1195 , p. 17].

## Quantitative color encoding

Sequential color scale
Constrain hue, vary luminance/saturation
Map higher values to darker colors


## Diverging color scale

Useful when data has a meaningful "midpoint"
Use neutral color (e.g., grey) for midpoint
Use saturated colors for endpoints
Limit number of steps in color to 3-9


## Color Brewer



## Sequential color scheme



## Sequential color scheme



## Design of sequential color scales

Hue-Lightness (Recommended)
Higher values mapped to darker colors
ColorBrewer schemes have 3-9 steps
Hue Transition
Two hues
Neighboring hues interpolate better
Couple with change in lightness

## Diverging color scheme



## Diverging color scheme



## Diverging color scheme

## Hue Transition

Carefully handle midpoint

- Critical class

Low, Average, High
'Average' should be gray

- Critical breakpoint

Defining value e.g. 0
Positive $\&$ negative should use different hues
Extremes saturated, middle desaturated


## Classing quantitative data




Age-adjusted mortality rates for the United States

## Hints for the colorist

Use only a few colors (~6 ideal)
Colors should be distinctive and namable Get it right in black and white Respect the color blind

