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How We See Time – And how we don't?

Abstract

How do we visualize time? Time and temporal data do, unlike space, not offer an intrinsic visual representation. So what do their visualizations tell us about our human understanding of the concept of time?

Proposal

Time, much like space, has always influenced the human experience due to its ubiquity. Yet, how we have communicated temporal information graphically throughout our history is still inadequately studied. How has our image of time and temporal events evolved as the human world continuously transforms into a globally more and more synchronized community?

To answer these questions, we analysed visualizations of time and temporal data from a variety of sources connected to exploratory data analysis. We manually assigned codes and automatically clustered the visualizations based on their graphical properties. The result gives an overview of different visual structures apparent in graphic representations of time.

