MODULE 1, PART 2

Sometimes, a map shouldn’t be a map
1. Problem: Lack of context
1. Solution: Population squares

The Voting Blocs of Arkansas

Each square represents a county and is scaled by the number of registered voters. Colors show the winning party and darker colors indicate a margin of victory greater than 20 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Candidate 1</th>
<th>Candidate 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Bush-Gore</td>
<td>Bush-Kerry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Bush-Kerry</td>
<td>Obama-McCain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Obama-McCain</td>
<td>Obama-Romney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Obama-Romney</td>
<td>Obama-McCain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northwest
Mostly white and reliably Republican.

Delta
Home to much of Arkansas’s black population.
2. Problem: Hidden information

City Council races: Runoffs and outright winners
- Wards that will be decided in a runoff
- Wards won in primary

[Map showing city council races with areas highlighted in blue for runoffs and other areas left uncolored or grayed for primary winners.]
## 2. Solution: List or table

### Election Results

**House Big Board**

- **Democrats**: 193
- **Republicans**: 242
- **Seats**: -63

**Show results for: All Districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democrats expected to win easily</th>
<th>Democrats expected to win narrowly</th>
<th>Tossup seats</th>
<th>Republicans expected to win narrowly</th>
<th>Republicans expected to win easily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ala. 7</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Ark. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariz. 4</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Calif. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 1</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Calif. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 5</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Calif. 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 6</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Colo. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 7</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Conn. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 8</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Conn. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 9</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Del. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 10</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Ga. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 12</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Iowa 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 13</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Iowa 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. 14</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Iowa 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seats**

- **Democrats needed for control**: 56
- **Republicans seats**: 242

**216 for majority, 255 Demo. before election**
The Keys to Victory

Some Democrats believe Ohio may no longer be crucial to a 2012 election victory. Instead, states like Colorado and Virginia, with more highly educated voters, may be the Democrats' must-win states.

If President Obama were to win all of the states above this line, he would need an additional 17 electoral votes from states below it in order to win in 2012.

Circles are sized according to the number of electoral votes in 2012.
3. Problem: Too much data
3. Solution: Small multiples

Germany
1,013 total miles

Portugal
2,826 total miles

USA
3,474 total miles

Ghana
1,312 total miles

Brazil

634 mi
123 hours between games

vs. Portugal
Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador

379 mi
117 hours

vs. Ghana
Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza

vs. USA
Arena Amazonia, Manaus

1,204 mi
90 hours

vs. Ghana
Estadio Nacional, Brasil

1,622 mi
150 hours between games

vs. Germany
Arena Fonte Nova, Salvador

1,720 mi
144 hours between games

vs. Ghana
Estadio das Dunas, Natal

1,754 mi
90 hours

vs. Portugal
Estadio Amazonia, Manaus

267 mi
117 hours

vs. USA
Estadio das Dunas, Natal

1,044 mi
117 hours

vs. Germany
Estadio Nacional, Brasil
4. Problem: National population map
4. Solution: Use other data points

292 guns

Shooters brought an average of four weapons to each shooting: the Las Vegas music festival shooter had 23. We don’t know how all the guns were acquired, but of the ones we know, 168 were obtained legally and 48 were obtained illegally.

Hover to learn more about each gun
5. Problem: Wrong data display

Reported deaths by prisons

Inmate deaths
Hover over a prison site for a summary of inmate mortalities and active death investigations since 2000. Click on a dot to view inmate details.

View prison list

Leaflet | Map tiles by Stamen Design, under CC BY 3.0. Data by OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.
5. Solution: Map as navigation, and put a face on it
6. Problem: Too many key categories
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.C.</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Adults can legally obtain and possess marijuana for personal use. Sales usually are regulated and taxed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Adults can legally obtain and possess marijuana for personal use. Sales usually are regulated and taxed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Adults can legally obtain and possess marijuana for personal use. Sales usually are regulated and taxed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Adults can legally obtain and possess marijuana for personal use. Sales usually are regulated and taxed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Decriminalized</td>
<td>No criminal penalty for possession of a small amount. There may be a civil fine or infraction penalty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Marijuana can be used to treat a variety of medical conditions, such as pain and nausea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Problem: Data isn’t geographic
7. Solution: Streamgraphs for each state

Where people living in Georgia were born:

- Born in Georgia: 91%
- Born in other states in the South: 5%
- Born in other states in the Midwest: 3%
- Born in other states in the Northeast: 2%
- Born in other states in the West: 1%
- Born outside the U.S.: 1%

Twenty years ago, the leading source of Georgia’s domestic migration was Alabama. Now, there are more New Yorkers, and Georgia’s growth is fueled by in-migration from numerous states.

Georgia used to export a significant share of its residents to other Southern states, but that has slowed. Nearly three-quarters of people born in Georgia now live in the state, the fourth-highest rate of retention in the nation.
Always ask:

Should this be a map?