Exercise: Decoding Marks and Channels

Exercise Credit: Enrico Bertini, NYU Tandon

Learning Goal: Train yourself in decoding charts so that you can better understand how virtually every single visualization can be described using the language and rules of visual encoding and decomposed into low-level graphical components.

How do you know if you are on the right track? You can describe a chart in terms of its graphical components.

Instructions

Summary: For each of the 5 charts following, you will identify data items and the marks used to encode them, and data attributes and the channels used to encode them. For each chart, you’ll fill in

- Visual channels used?
  - Channel X encodes attrib Y
  - Channel X encodes attrib Y
  - ....

- Marks used?
  - Mark of type X encodes item Y
  - Mark of type X encodes item Y
  - ....
Chart 2

http://project-ukko.net/
http://polygraph.cool/redraft/
Click and drag to zoom

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/05/05/science/20080506_DISEASE.html
Chart 5

All Government Benefits

ACCOUNTS FOR
17.6%
OF PERSONAL INCOME IN 2008

Government payments to individuals in more than 50 benefit programs, from food stamps to Medicare.