THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Department of Computer Science 2004

COMPSCI 732 Software Tools

CLASS EXERCISE: Visual Language Evaluation

1. Introduction

The aim of this exercise is to give you experience in evaluating a visual language (as described in a research paper), work in a group, and communicate your conclusions to the class. The exercise is to be done in the same groups as for Jill's class presentation exercise. There are no marks awarded for this exercise but the experience will be valuable for potential final examination questions.

2. Requirements

Each group will be assigned a research paper describing a visual language of some sort. These papers have generally been sourced from past IEEE Visual Languages Symposium proceedings. Each group member must read the research paper and make their own evaluation (using tools such as the Cognitive Dimensions framework) of strengths and weaknesses of the language for the particular domain of application. You may wish to follow up literature (using Learn) to see if other papers have been written about the language or referencing it. Members must then meet to discuss their evaluations and develop a consensus evaluation and a group presentation (see below). Each group must elect a presenter to present the results. This should be someone different from the presenter in Jill's exercise (note the aim is to spread around experience at doing a technical presentation).

3. Presentation

The presentation should be in Powerpoint, and should be **3-4 slides maximum** and **last no more than 4 minutes**. Emphasise key points such as: the domain the language has been developed for, the type of user expected to use it, the metaphor or metaphors used, and your evaluation of the effectiveness of those metaphors (eg in the form of cognitive dimension tradeoffs). Use figures (culled from the papers) to get across the visual aspects. My lecture on Domain Specific Visual Languages should give you an idea of format. Presentations will be given in the 732 lecture on Thursday 14th April. Each group must email me their presentation prior to 12 noon on that day with their presentation (label it with your group number). These will be made available after the lecture on the 732 website.

4. Research papers and groups

The research papers are in
http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/compsci732s1c/lectures/vlpapers.

This folder is password protected (as papers have been sourced via Learn and hence only available to the University of Auckland community). I will email you with password details in a class email.

Group composition and research paper assignments are as follows:

Group 1: AgentSheets
AgentsheetsVL93.pdf
cliu052 Chang Liu
snah008 Sang Ho Nah
twan065 Tao Wang
ylee089 Yun Hee Lee

Group 2: ChemTrains
ChemTrainsVL93.pdf
dlee064 DongJin Lee
fzha007 Fan Zhang
hyan052 Hongyu Yang
ylee088 Yun-young Lee

Group 3: Regatta
SwensonVL93.pdf
hguo006 Haoqing Guo
skim093 Ron Kim
stam020 Suet Ying Tam
yxia013 Max Xiang

Group 4: Visco
VISCOVL97.pdf
clin123 Cho Hong Ling
nli030 Nan Li
qgao005 Gao Qian

Group 5: Architectural generator
Rau-ChaplinVL97.pdf
araw012 Anil Rawat
cche211 Chen Chang
cyu024 Cheung Ling Kelly Yu
sgua007 Guan Shushi
wpan008 Wei Pan

Group 6: PUIST
PUISTVL97.pdf
hzha123 Zhang Hang
sols012 Stine Lill Notto Olsen
spak007 Satish kumar reddy Pakkireddygari
vtsa001 Vanessa Wan Sze Tsang
zzho037 Zhen Zhou

Group 7: SAM
SAMVL98.pdf
awan015 Allen Wang
csia005 Chu Wei Sia
hzha113 Hui Zhang
lli057 Li Li

Group 8: Mosaic Query Lang
MosaicQueryVL00.pdf
cric040 Christian Richter
gsun011 Glenn Sunkel
hhua058 Haisheng Huang
jche117 Jason Chen

Group 9: OCON
OCONVL99.pdf
cmos024 Christian Mosveen
sbal035 Sweta Reddy
zliu025 Zheng Liu
zyu007 Zheng Yu

Group 10: Vitabal
VitabalVL95.pdf
glu009 Guoqiang Lu
ntra007 Nola Traymany
rpri032 Richard Priest
slou014 Sebastien Louis

Group 11: VISIOME
VisiomeHCC01.pdf
bkot002 Blazej Kot
wcon006 Cong Wang
ywan160 Yang Wang
yzhu017 Ying ZHU