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 groups of 4 or 5. 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.

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. Our lecture on Domain Specific Visual Languages should give you an idea of format. Presentations will be given in the 732 lecture on Tuesday 21st March. Each group must email their presentation to John Grundy 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). The password will have earlier been provided to you..

Group composition and research paper assignments are as follows:

Group 1	AgentSheets	AgentsheetsVL93.pdf
dtro004	Darren	Troy
twan029	Tao	Wang
xliu067	Xie	Liu
spat204	Sejal	Patel

Group 2	ChemTrains	ChemTrainsVL93.pdf
yjia027	Yingnan	Jiang
kwan047	Kai	Wang
mngu012	Hoang	Nguyen
zche049	Zhuo	Chen

Group 3	Regatta	SwensonVL93.pdf
tkal006	Ka	Tso
whua033	Weijie	Huang
fliu032	Fei	Liu
ados001	Anish	Doshi

Group 4	Visco	VISCOVL97.pdf
emoo015	Erica	Moore
sduk004	Srdan	Dukic
xguo019	Xuan	Guo
dsun022	Di	Sun

Group 5	Arch generator	Rau-ChaplinVL97.pdf
hxue003	Hao	Xue
qyua006	Qian	Yuan
gpau011	Paul	Grimmer
kvo001	Kiet	Vo

Group 6	PUIST	PUISTVL97.pdf
jleu019	Jacky	Leung
dkan018	Daniel	Kane
hzhu028	Haoxiang	Zhu
gche059	Geoffrey	Cheung

Group 7	SAM	SAMVL98.pdf
dwon047	David	Wong
spar230	Srikanthan	Parameshwaran
mshe091	Martin	Shergold
vkun004	Venkataramana	Kunta

Group 8	Mosaic Query	MosaicQueryVL00.pdf
xyou002	Xin	You
hpha013	Hin	Phan
chir008	Christian	Hirsch
mkha130	Maxim	Kharlamov

Group 9	OCON	OCONVL99.pdf
zma015	Zhongxia	Ma
ysun104	Yi	Sun
shhn001	Sebastian	Höhna
gdot002	Georg	Dotzler

Group 10	Vitabal	VitabalVL95.pdf
swen011	Stefan	Wender
hzha192	Hong	Zhang
thuy004	Tan	Huynh
yche178	Yu	Cheung

Group 11	VISIOME	VisiomeHCC01.pdf
zbao002	Zhiyu	Bao
jyi004	Jun	Yi
jlee188	Sangyup	Lee
twu027	Tao	Wu
lzha060	Lu	Zhang