



Macroprudential oversight, risk communication and visualizations: The case of mapping techniques

Peter Sarlin

11th Simulator Seminar, Bank of Finland August 30, 2013



Motivation

Macroprudential oversight

- Surveillance and supervision of the financial system as a whole
- Surveillance tools: risk identification & assessment
- Mandate: issue warnings and recommendations & to follow-up
- Surveillance tools: no explicit focus on risk communication
- Risk communication: disseminate info internally and externally
- Is there potential in visualization methods?
 - Tap into policymakers' domain intelligence and experience
 - Intuitive representations for the general public



This talk

- 1. Macroprudential oversight and risk communication
- 2. Information visualization and visual analytics
- 3. Visualizations in macroprudential oversight
- 4. The case of mapping techniques



1. Macroprudential oversight

 Three types of systemic risks (adapted from ECB 2010):



- Three types of tools for surveillance
 - early-warning models
 - macro stress-testing models
 - contagion and spillover models



1. Macroprudential oversight

Macroprudential oversight process (adapted from ECB 2010)





2. Visualization

Information Visualization

- Human perception & cognition (Ware 2004, Card et al. 1999)
- Data graphics design (Bertin 1983, Tufte 1983)
- Visualization & interaction methods (Zhang et al. 2012, Keim and Kriegel 1996)
- Visual information seeking mantra (Shneiderman 1996): "Overview first, zoom and filter, then details-on-demand".
 - have a high-level overview of the entire collection
 - ▶ to *zoom* in on a portion of items that are of particular interest
 - to *filter* out or to eliminate uninteresting and unwanted items
 - ▶ to select an item/group of items for further *details-on-demand*



2. Visualization

- Visual analytics (Thomas and Cook 2005): "the science of analytical reasoning facilitated by interactive visual interfaces".
- Visual analytics mantra (Keim et al. 2006): "Analyze first, show the important, zoom, filter and analyze further, details on demand".



Feedback loop



3. Visualizations in macroprudential oversight

- Within the framework for macroprudential oversight, visualizations are used for two purposes:
 - 1. Internal communication: Decision support for analysts and policymakers overall
 - Visual Analytics, but also IV
 - 2. External communication: Means for disseminating information to the public
 - Information Visualization, but also VA



3. Visualizations in macroprudential oversight

Visual means to support three surveillance tasks:

- early warning of build-ups of widespread imbalances
- stress-testing resilience to exogenous aggregate shocks
- modeling contagion to test resilience to cross-sectional shocks
- Systemic risk along two dimensions (Borio 2009):
 - Time: risk builds-up in tranquil times and abruptly unravels in times of crisis
 - Cross-sectional: risk at a given point in time can be transmitted through various channels



3. Visualizations in macroprudential oversight





4. The case of mapping techniques

- 1. A map to visualize country-specific risks (external)
 - Build-up of imbalances over time OR across countries
- 2. A map to visualize how risks evolve in the system (internal)
 - Build-up of imbalances over time AND across countries



4. The case of mapping techniques

- Also called dimension reduction, projection, manifold learning, embedding, etc. (see Lee and Verleysen 2007)
- Facilitate the visualization of high-dimensional data
 - represent data in two dimensions such that similar high-dimensional data are nearby and dissimilar distant
- Examples of mapping techniques
 - Principal Component Analysis
 - Force-directed graphs
 - Multidimensional scaling
 - Self-Organizing Maps



4.1 Self-Organizing Financial Stability Map

Self-Organizing Map

Reduce large amounts of high-D data to fewer mean profiles

Provide a low-D representation of the high-D mean profiles





4.1 Self-Organizing Financial Stability Map

The Self-Organizing Financial Stability Map based upon 14 macro-financial indicators for 28 economies from 1990–2005





4.1 Self-Organizing Financial Stability Map

 Evolution of macro-financial conditions (14 indicators) for the United States and the euro area (2002–11, first quarter)





4.2 Self-Organizing Time Map

- Self-Organizing Time Map
 - Focus on individual cross-sections





4.2 Self-Organizing Time Map

Self-Organizing Time Map

> One more step: Illustrate how mean profiles change over time





4.2 Self-Organizing Time Map

 Evolution of macro-financial conditions (14 indicators) in the cross-section (2005Q2–2010Q2, 28 economies)
The Global Financial Crisis of 2007-2009



Sarlin (2013)



Conclusions

- A key task in macroprudential oversight is communication
- Why not integrate visual means into surveillance tools?
- Visualizations provide means for
 - Risk communication: disseminate info internally and externally
 - ► Tap into policymakers' domain intelligence and experience
- The future of visual representations
 - Network data are seldom static, so how do they evolve?
 - Can we better look into emergence in agent-based models?
 - How do we illustrate the process of shock absorption in risk assessment tools?
 - How interactive are visuals in macropru?



Thanks for your attention!

Comments? Questions? Discussion?



References I

- Bertin, J.: 1983, Semiology of Graphics, The University of Wisconsin Press, WI.
- Borio: 2009, Implementing the macroprudential approach to financial regulation and supervision., Banque de France Financial Stability Review No. 13 (December 2009).
- Card, S., Mackinlay, J. and Schneidermann, B.: 1999, *Readings in information visualization, Using Vision to Think*, Academic Press Inc., San Diego, CA.
- ECB: 2010, Analytical models and tools for the identification and assessment of systemic risks, *Financial Stability Review (June 2010)*, European Central Bank, Frankfurt, Germany.
- Keim, D. and Kriegel, H.-P.: 1996, Visualization techniques for mining large databases: A comparison, IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering 8(6), 923–938.
- Keim, D., Mansmann, F., Schneidewind, J. and Ziegler, H.: 2006, Challenges in visual data analysis, *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Information Visualization (iV 13)*, IEEE Computer Society, London, UK, pp. 9–16.
- Lee, J. and Verleysen, M.: 2007, Nonlinear dimensionality reduction, Springer-Verlag, Information Science and Statistics Series., Heidelberg, Germany.
- Sarlin, P.: 2013, Decomposing the global financial crisis: A self-organizing time map, *Pattern Recognition Letters* **34**, 1701–1709.
- Sarlin, P. and Peltonen, T.: 2013, Mapping the state of financial stability, *Journal of International Financial Markets*, *Institutions & Money* **26**, 46–76.



References II

- Shneiderman, B.: 1996, The eyes have it: A task by data type taxonomy for information visualizations, *Proceedings of the IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages*, Boulder, CO, pp. 336–343.
- Thomas, J. and Cook, K.: 2005, Illuminating the Path: Research and Development Agenda for Visual Analytics, IEEE Press.
- Tufte, E.: 1983, The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, Graphics Press, Cheshire, CT.
- Ware, C.: 2004, Information Visualization: Perception for Design., Morgan Kaufman, San Francisco, CA.
- Zhang, L., Stoffel, A., Behrisch, M., Mittelstädt, S., Schreck, T. Pompl, R., Weber, S., Last, H. and Keim, D.: 2012, Visual analytics for the big data era – a comparative review of state-of-the-art commercial systems, *Proceedings of the IEEE Conference* on Visual Analytics Science and Technology (VAST), Seattle, WA, pp. 173–182.