

Designing Transparent Overlays

Lyn Bartram

SCHOOL OF INTERACTIVE ARTS + TECHNOLOGY [SIAT] | WWW.SIAT.SFU.CA



The problem

- PROBLEM
 - APPROACH
 - QUESTIONS
- Visualizations for high-performance buildings
 - Operations
 - Management and planning
 - Energy use
 - Building occupancy patterns
 - Weather
 - Cost
 -
 - TIME

 - Exploring use of overlays to compare intervals (data layers)

Designing Transparent Overlays | 20.10.2008



The problem specifics

PROBLEM

APPROACH

QUESTIONS

- a way to visualize events/periods to be overlaid on top of another (area) plot
- need to be scalable, can communicate multiple overlapping events
- components:
 - start and end markers
 - Period
- scalability and canvas size requirement, not obstructive to underlying data
- assumption: use interaction like mouse over to help select/highlight

Designing Transparent Overlays | 20.10.2008



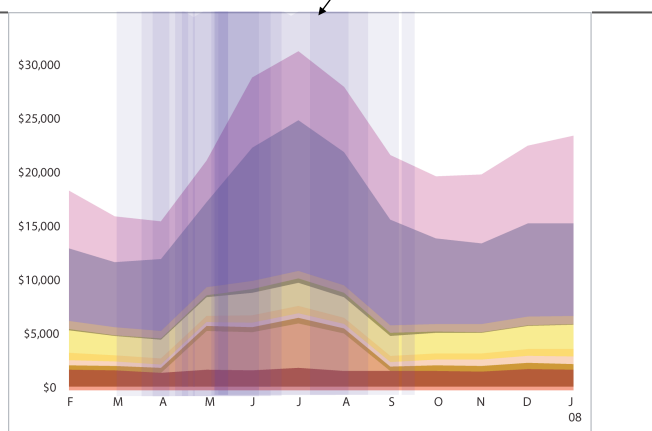
Transparent washes

banding effect

PROBLEM

APPROACH

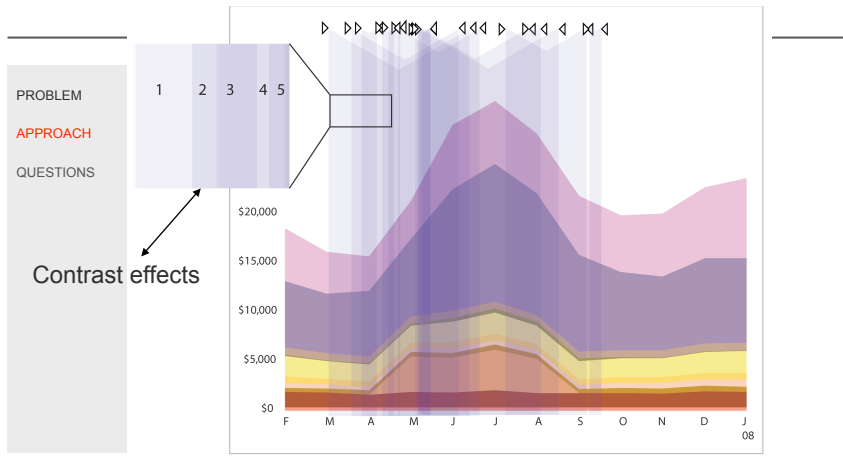
QUESTIONS



Designing Transparent Overlays | 20.10.2008



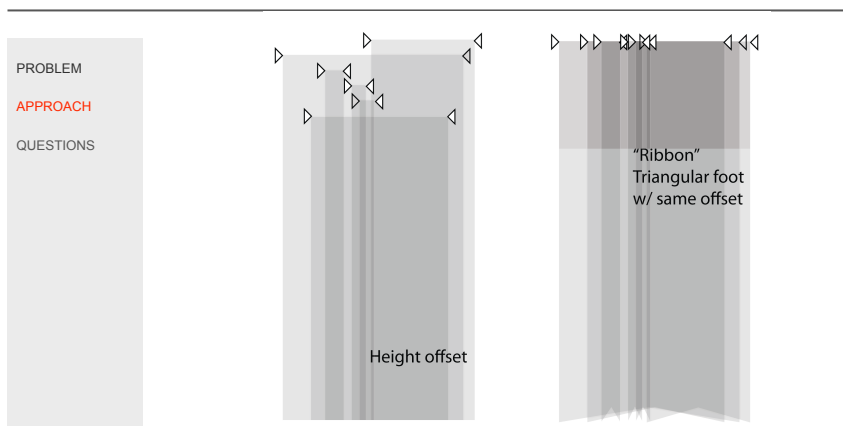
Transparent washes (2)



Designing Transparent Overlays | 20.10.2008



Spatial and contrast manipulations



Designing Transparent Overlays | 20.10.2008



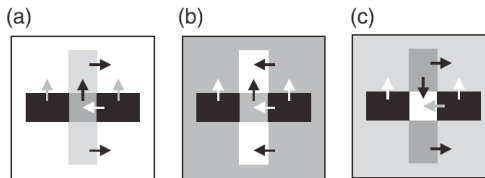
We clearly have more work to do

PROBLEM

APPROACH

QUESTIONS

- We don't understand all visual cues
- X-junctions are critical



- Can we discern layers and transparency without edges?

Designing Transparent Overlays | 20.10.2008

SIOU | SCHOOL OF INTERACTIVE
ARTS + TECHNOLOGY