Subject: Re: Frustrated by 2 Data Plotting problems
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 27 May 2011 18:45:58 GMT

David Fanning writes:

> I don't have any problem with scatterplots. I'm
> just saying that you can't realistically "see"
> 4 million points on a line plot unless your
> monitor is the size of, say, the Vietnam
> Memorial wall!
>
> I wonder how your visualization would differ
> if you randomly selected one percent of those
> points and plotted those. I would guess the
> plot would not look materially different,
> although the rendering speed might improve
> dramatically. :-)

Maybe you can tell this is one of my pet peeves. :-)

The people who want to display 4 million points on
a line plot are the same people who think a line
plot *is* their data. I would encourage them to
read and understand the central principle behind
Oliver Sack's essay The Man Who Mistook His Wife
For His Hat. We *visualize* or *represent* our
data to learn something about it. I would encourage
anyone who wants to plot 4 million points to use
a 3D printer to visualize it. Then maybe it would
actually mean something.

  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3D_printing

For a cheap 3D printer, consider the one mentioned
in this article:

  http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/14/technology/14print.html

Cheers,

David
--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")