The Symmetry of My Life II

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Abstract

Last year I presented a poster showing the past 18 months of my life. I updated it.

1 Introduction and Conclusion

Last year tat the IEEE VIS conference, I presented a poster entitled *"The Symmetry of My Life"* that showed personal and work-related activities for the past 18 months of my life. A year has passed, and it is time to update the visualization.

I recognize there is not much to say research-wise. Instead of self-plagiarizing I will point to the poster that was exhibited last year [1] and that is also shown in Figure 1.

There are four paramount reasons why I send this updated version.

1. **Reason #1:** the poster triggered a lot of interest and discussions from the VIS attendees. I expect this second version to generate the same interest. Not that my life is particularly fascinating, but students and academics can easily reflect on these events and work-life patterns.

2. **Reason #2:** This poster aligns well with the VISAP theme this year on data and identities, where I will also (hopefully) present an annotated portfolio on the project (`http://visap.net/`). I believe both submissions will complement each other well.

3. **Reason #3:** It's a nice poster to hang on a wall.

4. **Reason #4:** Last but not least, I spent a lot of time and energy collecting my data for 12 more months, and I am not sure I can keep doing that for long without endangering my mental health.

A few minor things changed compared to last year's design. For example, I added "travel" as a new category that exists for both personal and work-related activities. In the previous version "travel" was associated to "vacation", which is definitely less accurate.

Perhaps the most interesting fact in this version is how little I have had a personal life since the beginning of September 2017. Except the period around Christmas during which I went on vacation, my life has been largely dominated by my work. The reason is quite simple: in September I started to work on my job applications, working first on my personal website, before working on my application package then my job talk, until the interviews took place in February and March. An that was on top of my regular job, with a lot of teaching happening during the winter and the inevitable March 31st deadline. It shows quite well that finding a job in academia is a long and demanding process, but also a unique opportunity that is quite enjoyable.

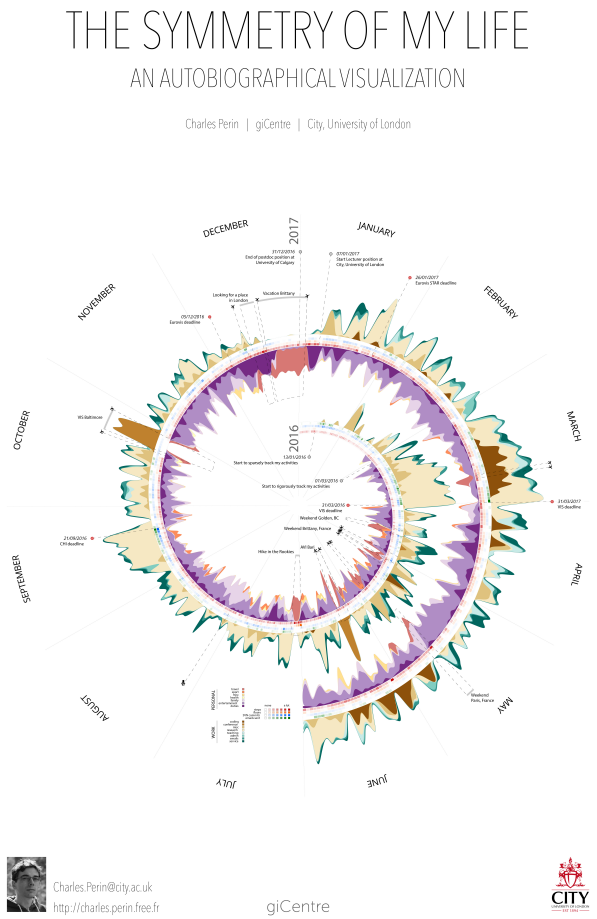


Figure 1: The poster presented last year at the IEEE VIS conference.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank the reviewers of this poster for being so enthusiastic about this work; I also want to thank Toggl (`https://toggl.com/`), for having built a simple and efficient logging tool; and of course my family for not complaining too much about this singular obsession.

References

[1] C. Perin. The Symmetry of My Life: An Autobiographical Visualization. In IEEE, editor, *IEEE VIS 2017 Electronic Conference Proceedings*, Phoenix, AZ, USA, Oct. 2017. IEEE.

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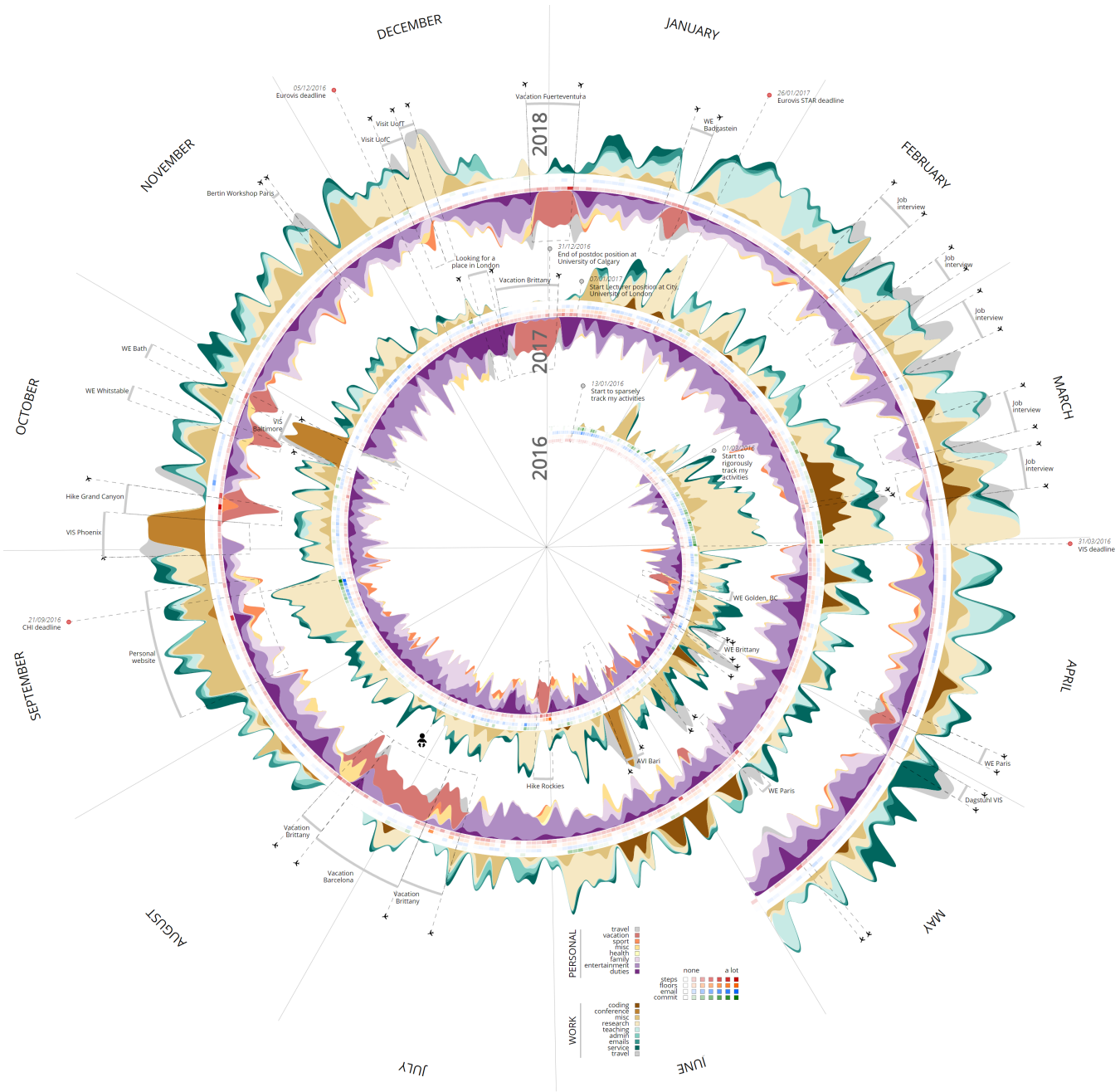


Figure 2: The updated visualization. Streamgraphs show work and personal daily activities on the two sides of a spiral timeline. Coloured squares shows daily steps, floors, emails and SVN commits. Annotations provide contextual information, such as travels, deadlines, and important events.