EasyTimeline
(up till soon)

Unified Timeline of Human History
(beyond soon)

Erik Zachte

Wikimania 2005
One year EasyTimeline

+/- 300 original charts
+/- 200 translations

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wikistats/EN/TimelinesIndex.htm
Why timelines?

Concise

Good introduction

Good recapitulation

Give a sense of proportion / scale

Show synchronicity
Scope varies from the life story of a blues musician...

- 8. Mai 1911 Robert Johnson wird geboren
- 1914 Umzug nach Memphis (Tennessee)
- 1918 Umzug nach Robinsonville
- 1929 Begegnung mit Son House, Hochzeit
- 1930 Virginia stirbt
- 1931 Hochzeit mit Calletta Craft
- 1934 Auftritt in Helena (Arkansas)
- 1936 1. Plattenaufnahme
- 1937 2. Plattenaufnahme
- 18. August 1938 Robert Johnson stirbt
- 1941 Revival der Songs durch Robert Lockwood
- 1945

de:Robert Johnson
... to human evolution

Sahelanthropus tchadensis (7-6 Ma)
(human ancestry undetermined)
Age based on fossil evidence found in Chad

6 Ma - Age of Orrorin tugenensis bones found in Kenya
(human ancestry undetermined)

Genus Ardipithecus (5.8-4.4 Ma)

Ar. kadabba (5.8-5.2 Ma)
Many charts are one-dimensional

Tour de France Winners

- 2005: USA Lance Armstrong 6x
- 2000: USA Lance Armstrong
- 1995: Sp Miguel Induráin 5x
- 1990: USA Greg LeMond 3x
- 1985: Fr Bernard Hinault 5x
- 1980: NI Joop Zoetemelk
Yet quite a few need one dimension extra
Not all charts are timelines

Vocal and instrumental pitch ranges

100  150  200  300  440  700  1000  1500  2000  3000  4000 Hz

c  c1  c2  c3  c4  c5
human voice
bass
tenor
contralto
mezzo-soprano
soprano
string instrument
ele bass
cello
viola
violin
string instrument
harp
harpsichord
guitar
mandolin
instruments where the strings are usually bowed
grand piano
piano
soprano saxophone
double bass
cello
string instrument
clarinet
cor anglais
soprano saxophone
oboe
flute
flute
brass instrument
tuba
baritone sax
trombone
horn
dulcimer
organ
harmonium
soprano saxophone
membranophone
impani
membranophone
tuba
baritone sax
bass clarinet
baritone sax
Not all charts are timelines (2)

Theben (Ägypten)
Relative elevations, average depths, maximum depths, and volumes of the Great Lakes

- Superior: 1332 ft (406 m) surface elevation, 925 ft (282 m) average depth, 577 ft (176 m) maximum depth
- Michigan: 600 ft (183 m) surface elevation, 279 ft (85 m) average depth, 577 ft (176 m) maximum depth
- Huron: 483 ft (147 m) surface elevation, 195 ft (59 m) average depth, 577 ft (176 m) maximum depth
- Erie: 569 ft (173 m) surface elevation, 210 ft (64 m) average depth, 62 ft (19 m) maximum depth
- Ontario: 243 ft (74 m) surface elevation, 283 ft (86 m) average depth, 802 ft (244 m) maximum depth

Not all charts are timelines
Basic procedure

mediawiki

on article
save / preview

mediawiki

on article view

easytimeline

ploticus

ImageSize = width:600 height:100
PlotArea = left:20 right:10 top:10 bottom:25
TimeAxis = orientation:horizontal
Period = from:1890 till:2005
ScaleMajor = unit:year increment:20 start:1900
ScaleMinor = unit:year increment:10 start:1890

#proc legendentry
sampletype: color
details: gray(0.999)
tag: white

#proc getdata
delim: comma
data:
11,33,67,pa,,,
10,67,79,pa,,,

<timeline>
.. script ..
</timeline>
Basic procedure (2)

15 commands, +/- 30 attributes, but most are optional!

**basic layout**
- image size, plot area, orientation, time frame

**symbolic names**
- colors, bars, code snippets

**historic data**
- periods, events

**meta data**
- legend, free floating lines and texts
Example

PlotArea = left:20 right:10 top:10 bottom:25
TimeAxis = orientation:horizontal

Period = from:1890 till:2005
ScaleMajor = unit:year increment:20 start:1900
ScaleMinor = unit:year increment:10 start:1890

PlotData =
  bar:X color:red align:center
  from:start till:1910 text:"Period 1"
  from:1920 till:1940 text:"Period 2" color:green
  from:1950 till:end text:"Period 3"

  bar:Y color:blue
  from:start till:1930 text:"Period 1" textcolor:white
  from:1960 till:end text:"Period 2"

LineData =
  at:1935 color:black layer:back
  at:2000 color:yellow layer:front
How to start?

Clone existing timeline

Use Wen Chen's form

http://en.wikipedia.org/wikistats/EN/TimelinesIndex.htm

http://newped2.auckland.ac.nz/exe/exe/timeline/form.html
Yes, promised a year ago....

Finally coming soon to a wikimedia server near you!

Major hurdle:
Ploticus needed to be patched as well, to provide FreeType font metrics

Cygwin version is now operational
Who can help prepare a Linux version (compilation only) ?

Works with any TrueType font

No proper support yet for RTL languages, like Hebrew and Arabic
**External fonts and unicode support**

Rendered with James Kass' font **code2000** (shareware) which supports almost the full unicode character set.
We interrupt the program for a short message

not sponsored by
Andreas Nothiger

author of the
excellent

World History Chart

don't go away
'As you may already know, your Web site has been selected for inclusion in the Britannica Internet Guide. That's really something to crow about.'

Dave Schabes, Editorial Director
Britannica Internet Guide
Grand Unified Timeline of Human History

Mission: This project aims to produce a set of graphical timelines in a consistent and simple format, that together offer a coherent and grand perspective on the whole of human history in all its aspects.

Ambition level: High

Target date: Beyond soon

Organisation: Standard (= not much)

Team: Join!

Status: Definition phase
A layered approach

Scope

Earth

Hominids

Homo sapiens

The rise of civilizations worldwide

Early civilizations around the Mediterranean and in the Near-East

Roman state

Roman empire

Life of Augustus

4.57 x 10^9

7,000,000

500,000

10,000

3500

500 BC

 +/- 753 BC

AD 476

63 BC

44 BC

509 BC

44 BC

AD 14

Chinese

Andean

Indian

Greek

Egyptian

Sumeric

Republic

Monarchy

Life of Augustus

Scope

4.57 x 10^9

7,000,000

500,000

10,000

3500

500 BC

 +/- 753 BC

AD 476

63 BC

44 BC

509 BC

44 BC

AD 14
All aspects of human endeavour
Is it feasible?

This project is **ambitious** because

- We need to build at least a hundred charts
- Charts need to be translated
- The editing process is time consuming

This project is **not overambitious** because

- Time is on our side
- Wikipedia itself proves time and again we need to think big
- Much of the raw data is already available in articles & tables
- Tasks can be divided between content editors and script editors
- Many wikipedians already embraced EasyTimeline
- Some existing charts fit right into the scheme: ....
Existing charts that fit into the scheme (1)

### Timeline of the Migrations Period

- **300**
- **410 Visigoths sack Rome**
- **410 Rome leaves Britain**
- **439 Vandals at Carthage**
- **451 Battle of Chalons**
- **454 Battle of Nedao**
- **455 Vandals sack Rome**
- **470 last Western Emperor**
- **480 Rome leaves Gaul**
- **626 Avars raid Constantinople**
- **681 Khan Asparuh recognized by Byzantium**
- **805 Franks destroy Avars**
- **955 Battle of Lechfeld**

**Key Events**

- **Gothic migration**
- **Tetrarchy**
- **Valentinian III**
- **Theodosius**
- **Merovingians**
- **Carolingians**
- **Attilla**
- **Gregory I**
- **Bede**
- **Charlemagne**
- **Muhammad**
- **Exarchate of Ravenna**
- **Lombards**
- **Visigothic Iberia**
- **Al-Andalus**
- **Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain**
- **Viking raids**
- **Huns**
- **Avars**
- **Onogur**
- **Bulgaria**
- **Samo's realm**
- **Moravia/Nitria (s. 833 Great Moravia)**
- **Medieval Croatian state**
- **Magyars**

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**Legend**

- **Red**: Events involving the Western Roman Empire
- **Green**: Events involving the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine)
- **Yellow**: Events involving Germanic tribes
- **Blue**: Events involving Islamic conquests
Existing charts that fit into the scheme (2)

Tableau Histoire Hominidés
Five variations on a theme: human evolution

- Split between humans and apes using molecular clock, about 5 Ma
- Sahelanthropus tchadensis, Age of Orrorin tugenensis bones found in Kenya, about 6 Ma
- Genus Paranthropus: P. robustus, P. aethiopicus
- Genus Australopithecus: A. afarensis, A. anamensis, A. aethiopicus
- Genus Homo: H. habilis, H. georgicus, H. sapiens

Time scale: 0 Years, 1e+06, 2e+06, 3e+06, 4e+06, 5e+06, 6e+06, 7e+06
Guidelines

Charts need to fit into a predefined broad supported conceptual framework

Charts aims to be regionally and culturally unbiased

Charts use a uniform and intuitive navigation system, e.g. specially marked crosslinks

Charts use (to a degree) a uniform presentation
    Think of color coding of events, font settings, general layout, size, etc

Charts are show a consistent level of detail on a certain level in the chart hierarchy
Modelling a standard layout (1)
Modelling a standard layout (2)
All wikipedians who
created, extended, corrected or translated
these charts:

Thank You!

Especially

Roman Empire, by Dschwen
Robert Johnson, by Necrophorus
Graphical timeline of human evolution, by Moverton
Vocal and instrumental pitch ranges, by Lzur
Theben (Ägypten), by Schuppi
Great Lakes, by Moverton
Timeline of the Migrations Period, by DBachmann
Tableau Histoire Hominidés, by Saxon / Gemme / Marcoo