Designing With: Icebreaking Plot

The Icebreaking Plot is a visual tool designed to capture participants' perspectives on the intersection of machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI), data visualisation (DV) and design. This dynamic tool can be updated throughout a workshop, allowing participants to reflect on their changing views over time.

1. How it works

At the beginning of the workshop, each participant receives a matrix plot and a set of rubber bands in different colours. Each colour represents a specific disciplinary field (such as machine learning, AI, data visualisation or design). Participants use the elastic bands to create visual connections on their Matrix Plot, demonstrating how they perceive the intersections between these fields.

Participants are encouraged to share their plots with others and explain their reasoning. This fosters a collaborative environment where different perspectives can be discussed and explored. It also makes it possible to track changes in understanding over the course of the workshop, providing a unique visual record of the collective learning journey.

1. Personal details: Start by adding your name, institution and role within the workshop;
2. Express your perspective: Use the rubber bands to represent your point of view on the matrix plot. Stretch the bands across the diagram to indicate where you think the different disciplines overlap. This exercise is meant to be exploratory, with no right or wrong answers. Be sure to discuss your thought process with the group as you work on your diagram;
3. Update as needed: Keep your matrix plot on the table throughout the workshop. As you gain new insights or participate in discussions, adjust the placement and size of your rubber bands to reflect your evolving perspective. It's encouraged to take pictures of your plot at different stages to document how your views change.

2. How to create the tool

You can either create a digital plot or a physical one. To use the digital version, copy the Figma file (bit.ly/DW_IcebreakingTool) and share it with the workshop participants. For the physical plot, you can choose your preferred material (e.g. plywood, mdf) and cut it with a laser cutting machine using the file attached on the next page. You can use wooden nails to fix the elastic bands.

Designing With: A New Educational Module to Integrate Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Visualization in Design Curricula

Didactic Guidelines - Icebreaking Plot
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The file is ready for laser cutting machines that follow these rules: Cut (RGB blue), engrave (RGB black) and skip (RGB green).

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Icebreaking Matrix Plot

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