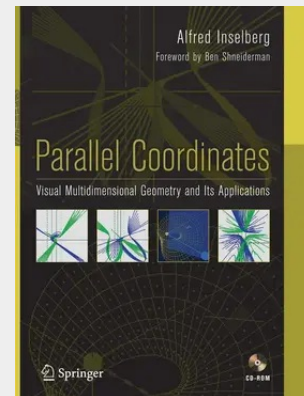


Parallel Coordinates

Parallel coordinates has emerged as the leading methodology for multidimensional visualization. Starting from the geometrical foundations, here is a systematic and rigorous exposition of the methodology's mathematical and algorithmic components. Exercises range from the basics to advanced project topics and open research questions. This book provides the only text to build theory from the foundations of projective geometry, giving readers a deeper understanding of the material.

The breakthrough idea of parallel coordinates has enchanted many people with its cleverness and power. Al Inselberg, the source of that cleverness and power, finally shares the depth and breadth of his invention in this historically important book. I've been waiting impatiently for this exposition since I was captivated by Inselberg's lecture at the University of Maryland in 1979. He had already understood the potential parallel coordinates has for generating insights into high-dimensional analysis and information visualization. In the following decades he polished the arguments, built effective software, and demonstrated value in important applications. Now a broad community of readers can benefit from his insights and effective presentation. I believe that Inselberg's parallel coordinates is a transformational ideal that matches the importance of Rene Descartes' (1596-1650) invention of Cartesian coordinates. Just as Cartesian coordinates help us understand 2D and 3D geometry, parallel coordinates offer fresh ways of thinking about and proving theorems in higher-dimensional geometries. At the same time they will lead to more powerful tools for solving practical problems in a wide variety of applications. It is rare to encounter such a mind-shattering idea with such historic importance. While Inselberg's insight and exposition opens the door to many discoveries, there is much work to be done for generations of mathematicians, computer scientists, programmers, and domain experts who will need to build on these innovative ideas.



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