Complex made simple:
Visualizing the business groups' database using Tom Sawyer

Diogo Silva, Tiago Pinho Pereira
Statistics Department
Banco de Portugal

ABSTRACT

The business groups' database of Banco de Portugal is the result of an algorithm that considers global group heads and relationships reported by Portuguese firms in *Informação Empresarial Simplificada* (Simplified Corporate Information, Portuguese acronym: IES). This database is used for developing business and external statistics, assessing credit risk, research and banking supervision purposes.

Nowadays, in a very complex and globalised world, searching this database implies looking at very extensive, interconnected and sophisticated datasets and tables, which is especially challenging for less experienced users and practitioners.

To take user efficiency to another level we have created an application based on Tom Sawyer software that allows users to visualize business group structures in a very straightforward way. This software is very flexible since it enables users to select the desired degree of complexity, to change the design and the architecture of the visualization scheme and to highlight anomalies and errors in the data reported by companies, easing the quality control processes.

In this session we will perform a simple demonstration on how a data visualization software like Tom Sawyer improves the quality control efficiency by helping users exploring and understanding the data.

Keywords: Data visualization, business groups, quality control, Tom Sawyer