Lab 2: Watson Studio Visualizations

In this lab we will cover several data visualization capabilities provided by IBM Watson Studio:

- Two IBM Watson Studio programatic visualization add-ons on top of the regular support provided by Jupyter Notebooks and its cohort of visualization librairies (matplotlib, seaborn, bokeh, ggplot,...):
 - Brunel
 - PixieDust

Note: Jupyter Notebook is a web-based interactive computational environment for creating documents which contain an ordered list of input/output cells which can contain code, text (using Markdown), mathematics, plots and rich media, usually ending with the ".ipynb" extension.

In this lab you will open and run several Notebooks written in Python (one of the several programming language available) and running on a pre-configured Python runtime environment.

Brunel Visualizations

Brunel is an IBM-contributed open source tool designed to generate powerful visualizations with no 'plumbing' or boilerplate code.

Brunel will allow to build complex displays from Pandas DataFrames with only a single declarative line describing the display.

Note: pandas is a software library written for the Python programming language for data manipulation and analysis. In particular, it offers data structures known as DataFrames and operations for manipulating numerical tables and time series.

Brunel has been integrated as an add-on to Jupyter Notebooks and is included in the Watson Studio environment setup.

If you are interested of understanding more about Brunel, feel free to explore the following resources:

- Brunel GitHub repo: https://github.com/Brunel-Visualization/Brunel
- Brunel documentation: https://brunel.mybluemix.net/docs/
- Brunel Visualization Tech Talks: https://developer.ibm.com/code/videos/brunelvisualization-tech-talk/

The hands-on will be driven by the Visualize_car_data_with_Brunel_cleared.ipynb notebook, using data from the cars.csv file.

Lab Setup

- From your WatStud_Workshop project's Assets tab, add the cars.csv file as Data Asset if not already part of your Assets
- Create a new Notebook from the file Visualize_car_data_with_Brunel.ipynb

Notebook file

Visualize_car_data_with_Brunel.ipynb

Import a notebook file (.ipynb) from your local device.

Select the default runtime environment which should be something like Default Python
 3.6 Free (1 vCPU and 4 GB of RAM):

Select runtime

Default Python 3.6 Free (1 vCPU and 4 GB RAM)

The selected runtime has 1 vCPU and 4 GB RAM and is free.

Learn more about capacity unit hours and Watson Studio pricing plans.

- Follow the instructions within the notebook and come back to this material once completed.
- Note the keyboard shortcuts needed to run Code Cells within a Notebook which can be viewed from the Help Menu > Keyboard Shortcuts inside the Notebook.

Keyboard shortcuts

Command Mode (press Esc to enable)

F: find and replace	ਪੈਂ ਹੋ: extend selected
← : enter edit mode	cells below
第合F: open the	A: insert cell above
command palette	B: insert cell below
黑企P: open the	X: cut selected
command palette	cells
P: open the	©: copy selected
command palette	cells
ि	ਾਂ : paste cells
below	above
^←]: run selected	□: paste cells
cells	below
∵←: run cell and	Z: undo cell
insert below	deletion
Y: change cell to	D, D: delete selected
code	cells
	Close

PixieDust Visualizations

What is PixieDust?

PixieDust is an IBM-initiated open source framework for interactively exploring data sets within Jupyter Notebooks.

Lab introduction

The notebook used in this hands-on lab makes use of PixieDust capabilities to handle a Spark dataset, such as direct downloading of dataset from source URL, and interactive visualization.

The notebook is about analyzing traffic incidents from the city of San Francisco, based on the Open Data set provided by the authorities.

- Create a new notebook from file, selecting <code>pixiedust-traffic-analysis_pandas.ipynb</code> as source, and selecting the same runtime as in the previous notebooks, e.g. <code>Default Python 3.6 Free</code>.
- Follow the instructions in the notebook. You will notice that the notebook uses the PixieDust display widget to guide you through interaction with the data, and therefore there is not a lot of actual code used in this notebook.