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2013-12-25

ECMAScript 6: the new array methods `find()` and `findIndex()`

Labels: [dev](#), [esnext](#), [javascript](#)

Update 2014-05-08. Newer version of this post: “[ECMAScript 6's new array methods](#)”

Two new Array methods (proposed by Rick Waldron) are in the latest ECMAScript 6 specification draft:

- [Array.prototype.find\(\)](#)
- [Array.prototype.findIndex\(\)](#)

This blog post describes them.

1. `Array.prototype.find(predicate, thisValue?)`

The signature of the callback `predicate()` is

```
predicate(element, index, array)
```

`find()` iterates over the array (while skipping holes) and calls `predicate` for each element. If `predicate` returns true, `find()` stops iterating and returns the current element (1). If the callback never returns true, `find()` returns `undefined` (2).

This method could be implemented as follows.

```
Array.prototype.find = function (predicate, thisValue) {
    var arr = Object(this);
    if (typeof predicate !== 'function') {
        throw new TypeError();
    }
    for(var i=0; i < arr.length; i++) {
        if (i in arr) { // skip holes
            var elem = arr[i];
            if (predicate.call(thisValue, elem, i, arr)) {
                return elem; // (1)
            }
        }
    }
    return undefined; // (2)
}
```

2. `Array.prototype.findIndex(predicate, thisValue?)`

This method works like `find()`, but returns `i` in line (1) and `-1` in line (2).

3. Finding NaN via `findIndex()`

It's a well-known limitation of `Array.prototype.indexOf()` that it can't find `Nan`, because it searches for elements via `===[1]`:

```
> ['a', Nan, 'b'].indexOf(Nan)
-1
```

With `findIndex()`, you can use `Object.is()` [2] and will have no such problem:

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```
> ['a', NaN, 'b'].findIndex(y => Object.is(NaN, y))
1

You can also adopt a more general approach, by creating a helper function elemIs:

> function elemIs(x) { return Object.is.bind(null, x) }
> ['a', NaN, 'b'].findIndex(elemIs(NaN))
1

4. Availability

As you can see in Kangax' ECMAScript 6 compatibility table, recent versions of Firefox and Chrome already support the Array.prototype.find*() methods.

Furthermore, Paul Millr's es6-shim has backported the methods to ECMAScript 5.

5. References

[1] NaN and Infinity in JavaScript
[2] Stricter equality in JavaScript
```

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