





Dash Python > HoloViews

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# HoloViews Overview

HoloViews is an ambitious project that aims to provide a flexible grammar of visualization types and plot interactions. HoloViews specifications can be displayed using a variety of technologies, including Plotly.js and

While HoloViews can be used to create a large variety of visualizations, for Dash users it is particularly helpful for two use cases: Automatically linking selections across multiple figures and displaying large data sets using

HoloViews also provides a uniform interface to a variety of data structures, making it easy to start out by visualizing small pandas DataFrames and then scale up to GPU accelerated RAPIDS cudf DataFrames, or larger than memory Dask DataFrames.

For more background information, see the main HoloViews documentation at https://holoviews.org/

#### **HoloViews Elements and Containers**

The visualization primitives in HoloViews are called elements. Elements in HoloViews are analogous to Plotly traces, and there are specific elements for Scatter, Area, Bars, Histogram, Heatmap, etc.

Elements can be grouped together into various containers including the Overlay container for overlaying multiple compatible elements on the same axes, and the Layout container for displaying multiple elements side by side as separate subplots. Additionally, HoloViews supports several more advanced "Dimensioned" containers to aid in the visualization of multi-dimensional datasets including the HoloMap, Gridspace, NdLayout, and Ndoverlay containers.

Finally, the DynamicMap is a special container than produces elements dynamically, often in response to user interaction events. This documentation page does not discuss the creation of general DynamicMap instances, but it's helpful to understand that the datashade and link\_selections transformations discussed below both produce either DynamicMap instances, or containers of DynamicMap instances.

#### **HoloViews Datasets**

While it's possible to build HoloViews elements directly from external data structures like numpy arrays and pandas DataFrames, HoloViews also provides a Dataset class that aims to serve as a universal interface to these data structures. The recommended workflow is to first wrap the original data structure (e.g., the pandas DataFrame) in a Dataset instance, and then construct elements using this Dataset.

This workflow has two main advantages:

- 1. It makes it easy to swap out data structures in the future. For example, you could develop a visualization using a small pandas DataFrame and then later switch to a GPU accelerated cuDF DataFrame or a largerthan-memory dask DataFrame.
- 2. It allows HoloViews to associate each visualization element with all of the dimensions (i.e. columns in the case of a DataFrame) in the original Dataset. This is what makes it possible for HoloViews to automate the process of linking selections across visualizations that do not all display the same dimensions. See the following sections for some examples of using the link\_selections function to accomplish this.

The examples in this documentation page use Dataset instances that wrap tabular data structures. But Datasets also support wrapping gridded datasets like numpy ndarray and xarray DataArray objects. See the Tabular Datasets documentation page for more information on wrapping tabular data structures, and see the Gridded Datasets documentation page for more information on wrapping gridded data structures.



# **Building Dash Components from HoloViews Objects**

HoloViews elements and containers can be converted into Dash components using the holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash.to\_dash] function. This function inputs a dash.Dash app instance and a list of HoloViews objects, and returns a named tuple with the following properties.

- o graphs: This is a list of converted Graph components with the same length as the input list of HoloViews objects. By default, these will have type dash\_core\_components.Graph, but an alternative graph component class (e.g. dash\_design\_kit.Graph) can be specified using the graph\_class argument to the to\_dash function.
- o resets: If the reset\_button=True argument is passed to to\_dash, the resets property will hold a length 1 list containing a Dash component that represents a reset button. When clicked, this button will reset the graphs to their initial state. This will reset both the figure viewports and other interactive states like the active selection produced by the link\_selection examples below. If reset\_button=False, the default, then this list will be empty.
- store: A Dash Store component that is used internally to maintain the joint interactive state of all of the converted Dash components.
- kdims: For Dimensioned HoloViews containers, the kdims property holds a dictionary from key-dimension
  names to Dash components that represent sliders for each key dimension. Dimensioned Containers are not
  discussed further here; see the **Dimensioned Containers** section in the HoloViews documentation for
  more information.
- children: This is a list that contains all of the components above. This can be assigned directly to the children property of an html.Div component if no additional layout structure is needed.

After calling to\_dash, each of the resulting components must be included somewhere in the app's layout. This can be done by *either*:

- including the children list as the children property of an html.Div component.
- including all of the components stored in graphs, resets, kdims, and store somewhere in the app's layout.

#### **Display Simple HoloViews Elements with Dash**

This example loads the iris dataset included in plotly.py and wraps it in a HoloViews <code>Dataset</code>. This <code>Dataset</code> is then used to construct a <code>Scatter</code> element and a <code>Histogram</code> element. The <code>Histogram</code> element is created using the <code>histogram</code> operation which is what executes the histogram binning algorithm.

These two elements are converted into two Dash Graph components using the to\_dash function, and are placed into a Div component along with the associated Store component.

```
from dash import Dash, html
from plotly.data import iris

import holoviews as hv
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash

# Load dataset
df = iris()
dataset = hv.Dataset(df)

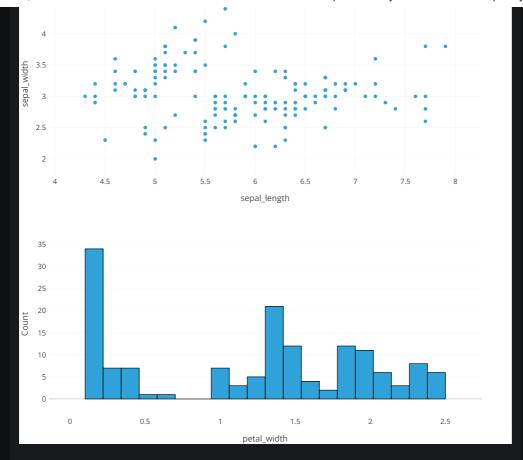
scatter = hv.Scatter(dataset, kdims=["sepal_length"], vdims=["sepal_width"])
hist = hv.operation.histogram(
    dataset, dimension="petal_width", normed=False
)

app = Dash()
components = to_dash(app, [scatter, hist])

app.layout = html.Div(components.children)

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(debug=True)
```





## **Styling Figures Produced by HoloViews**

There are two general approaches that can be used to customize the appearance of the Plotly figures produced by HoloViews.

#### **Options System**

The first is the HoloViews options system. This approach uses the syntax:

```
element.opts(option1=value1, option2=value2)
```

This is very analogous to the fig.update() syntax that is used to update Plotly plotly.graph\_object.Figure objects. The available options for a particular element type can be discovered from a Python or IPython REPL using the holoviews.help function. For example:

```
import holoviews as hv
hv.extension("plotly")
hv.help(hv.Scatter)
```

A slightly different syntax is used to style elements inside a container. Here is an example of how Scatter element options would be applied to a container that contains or produces Scatter elements:

```
from holoviews import opts
container.opts(opts.Scatter(option1=value1, option2=value2))
```

This makes it possible to target options to elements of specific types within a container. This is the approach that must be used to apply options to the <code>DynamicMap</code> instances produced by the <code>datashade</code> and <code>link\_selections</code> transformations discussed below.

The example below customizes the appearance of a Scatter element using the size and color options.

See the **Applying Customizations** section of the HoloViews documentation for more information on styling figures using the options system.



#### **Plot Hooks**

HoloViews aims to expose the most common plot options through the opts syntax above, but the coverage of possible plotly configuration options is not exhaustive. HoloViews provides a system called "plot hooks" to make it possible to apply arbitrary figure customizations. Every element has a special option named hooks that may be set to a list of functions that should be applied to the figure that HoloViews generates before it is displayed.

The example below uses a plot hook to change the default drag tool from zoom to pan.

See the **Plot hooks** section in the HoloViews documentation for more information.

```
from dash import Dash, html
from plotly.data import iris

import holoviews as hv
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash

# Load dataset
df = iris()
dataset = hv.Dataset(df)

scatter = hv.Scatter(dataset, kdims=["sepal_length"], vdims=["sepal_width"])

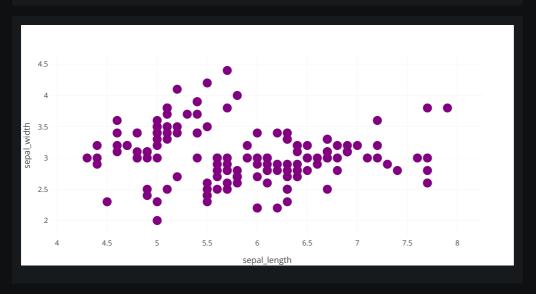
# Set scatter size and color using options system
scatter.opts(size=15, color="purple")

# Set default drag mode to pan using a plot hook
def hook(plot, element):
    fig = plot.state
    fig["layout"]["dragmode"] = "pan"
scatter.opts(hooks=[hook])

app = Dash()
components = to_dash(app, [scatter])

app.layout = html.Div(components.children)

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(debug=True)
```



#### **Linked Selections with HoloViews**

One HoloViews feature that is particularly convenient for Dash users is the ability to automatically link selections across figures without the need to manually define any callback functions.

This can be done by first creating a link\_selections instance (called selection\_linker in the examples below) using the link\_selections.instance() method, and then calling this object as a function with the elements or containers to be linked.

When these linked elements are passed to the to\_dash function, Dash callbacks to achieve this interactive linking behavior are automatically generated and registered with the provided dash. Dash app instance.



This example shows how the reset\_button=True argument to to\_dash can be used to create a Dash button component. When this button is clicked, the plot viewport and selection states are reset to their original values.

For more background on linked selections in Holoviews, see the Linked Brushing documentation section.

Try using the box-selection tool to select regions of space in each figure and notice how the selection of the corresponding data is displayed in both figures. Note that only box selection is supported right now. Lasso selection support is not yet implemented.

```
from dash import Dash, html
from plotly.data import iris

import holoviews as hv
from holoviews import opts
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash

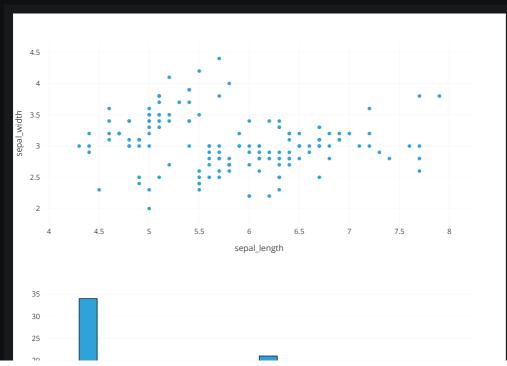
# Load dataset
df = iris()
dataset = hv.Dataset(df)

# Build selection linking object
selection_linker = hv.selection.link_selections.instance()
scatter = selection_linker(
    hv.Scatter(dataset, kdims=["sepal_length"], vdims=["sepal_width"])
)
hist = selection_linker(
    hv.operation.histogram(dataset, dimension="petal_width", normed=False)
)

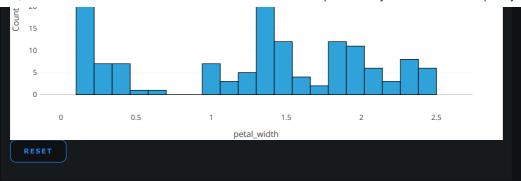
# Use plot hook to set the default drag mode to box selection
def set_dragmode(plot, element):
    fig = plot.state
    fig['layout']['dragmode'] = "select"
    if isinstance(element, hv.Histogram):
        # Constrain histogram selection direction to horizontal
        fig['layout']['selectdirection'] = "h"

scatter.opts(opts.Scatter(hooks=[set_dragmode]))
hist.opts(opts.Histogram(hooks=[set_dragmode]))
app = Dash()
components = to_dash(
    app, [scatter, hist], reset_button=True
)
app.layout = html.Div(components.children)

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(debug=True)
```



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#### Visualizing Large Datasets with Datashader

Another HoloViews feature that is particularly convenient for Dash users is the integration with **Datashader**.

Datashader is a Python library for quickly creating a variety of principled visualizations of large datasets.

While the Plotly scattergl trace can handle hundreds of thousands of points, Datashader can handle tens to hundreds of millions. The difference is that rather than passing the entire dataset from the Python server to the browser for rendering, Datashader rasterizes the dataset to a heatmap or image, and only this heatmap or image is transferred to the browser for rendering.

To effectively use Datashader in an interactive context, it's necessary to rerender the dataset each time the figure viewport changes. This can be accomplished in Dash by installing a callback function that listens for changes to the relayoutData prop. Because of how HoloViews packages data lazily (without rendering it immediately), replaying this pipeline of transformations can be accomplished without manually defining any callbacks, making Datashader much easier to use than if invoked without HoloViews.

This example loads the iris dataset included in plotly.py and then duplicates it many times with added noise to generate a DataFrame with 1.5 million rows. This large pandas DataFrame is wrapped in a HoloViews Dataset and then used to construct a Scatter element.

The datashade operation is used to transform the Scatter element into a datashaded scatter element that automatically updates in response to zoom / pan events. The to\_dash function is then used to build a single Dash Graph component and a reset button.

When zooming and panning on this figure, notice how the datashaded image is automatically updated. The reset button can be used to reset to the initial figure viewport.

For more information on using datashader through HoloViews, see the **Large Data** section of the HoloViews documentation

```
from dash import Dash, html
from plotly.data import iris

import holoviews as hv
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash
from holoviews.operation.datashader import datashade

import numpy as np
import pandas as pd

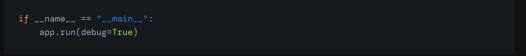
# Load iris dataset and replicate with noise to create large dataset
df_original = iris()[["sepal_length", "sepal_width", "petal_length", "petal_width"]]
df = pd.concat([
df_original + np.random.randn(*df_original.shape) * 0.1
for i in range(10000)
])
dataset = hv.Dataset(df)

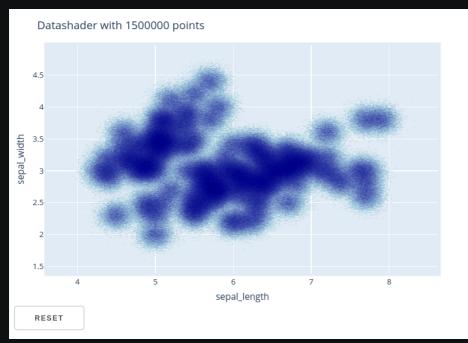
scatter = datashade(
hv.Scatter(dataset, kdims=["sepal_length"], vdims=["sepal_width"])
).opts(title="Datashader with %d points" % len(dataset))

app = Dash()
components = to_dash(
app, [scatter], reset_button=True
)

app.layout = html.Div(components.children)
```







## **Combining Datashader and Linked Selections**

This examples shows how the two previous examples can be combined to support linking selections across a histogram and a datashaded scatter plot of 1.5 million points.

When using the box-selection tool to select regions of space in each figure, notice how the selection of the corresponding data is displayed in both figures. Also, when zooming and panning on datashaded scatter figure, notice how the datashaded image is automatically updated. The reset button can be used to reset to the initial figure viewport and clear the current selection.

```
from dash import Dash, html
from plotly.data import iris

import holoviews as hv
from holoviews.import opts
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash
from holoviews.operation.datashader import datashade

import numpy as np
import pandas as pd

# Load iris dataset and replicate with noise to create large dataset
df_original = iris()[["sepal_length", "sepal_width", "petal_length", "petal_width"]]
df = pd.concat([
df_original + np.random.randn(*df_original.shape) * 0.1
for i in range(10000)
])
dataset = hv.Dataset(df)

# Build selection linking object
selection_linker = hv.selection.link_selections.instance()
scatter = selection_linker(
hv.operation.datashader.datashade(
    hv.Scatter(dataset, kdims=["sepal_length"], vdims=["sepal_width"])
)
.opts(title="Datashader with %d points" % len(dataset))
hist = selection_linker(
hv.operation.histogram(dataset, dimension="petal_width", normed=False)
)
# Use plot hook to set the default drag mode to vertical box selection
```



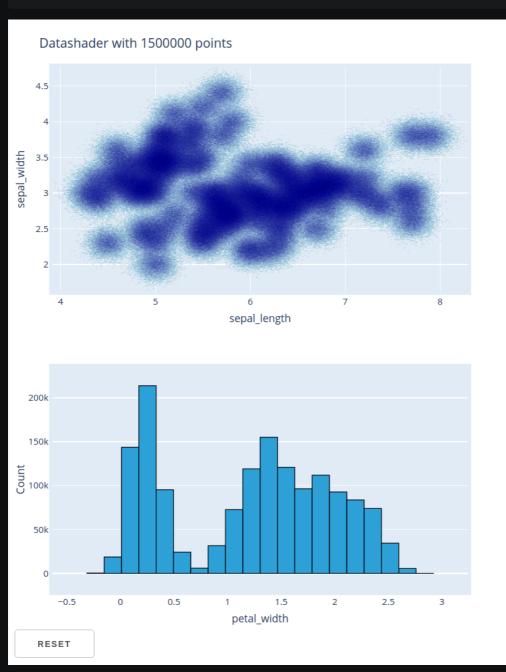
```
def set_hist_dragmode(plot, element):
    fig = plot.state
    fig['layout']['dragmode'] = "select"
    fig['layout']['selectdirection'] = "h"

hist.opts(opts.Histogram(hooks=[set_hist_dragmode]))

app = Dash()
    components = to_dash(
    app, [scatter, hist], reset_button=True
)

app.layout = html.Div(components.children)

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(debug=True)
```



## **Map Overlay**

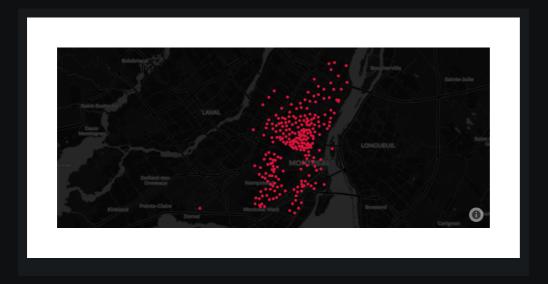
Most 2-dimensional HoloViews elements can be displayed on top of a map by overlaying them on top of a Tiles element. There are three approaches to configuring the map that is displayed by a Tiles element:



- 2. Construct a Tiles element with a predefined tile server url using a function from the holoviews.element.tiles.tile\_sources module.E.g. CartoDark()
- 3. Construct a holoviews.Tiles element no constructor argument, then use .opts to supply a mapbox token and style. E.g. Tiles().opts(mapboxstyle="light", accesstoken="pk...")

Coordinate Systems: Unlike the native plotly mapbox traces which accept geographic positions in longitude and latitude coordinates, HoloViews expects geographic positions to be supplied in Web Mercator coordinates (https://epsg.io/3857). Rather than "longitude" and "latitude", horizontal and vertical coordinates in Web Mercator are commonly called "easting" and "northing" respectively. HoloViews provides Tiles.lon\_lat\_to\_easting\_northing and Tiles.easting\_northing\_to\_lon\_lat) for converting between coordinate systems.

This example displays a scatter plot of the plotly.data.carshare dataset on top of the predefined StamenTerrain WMTS map.



#### Visualizing a Large Geographic Dataset with Datashader

This example demonstrates how to use datashader to display a large geographic scatter plot on top of a vector tiled Mapbox map. A large dataset is synthesized by repeating the carshare dataset and adding Gaussian noise to the positional coordinates.

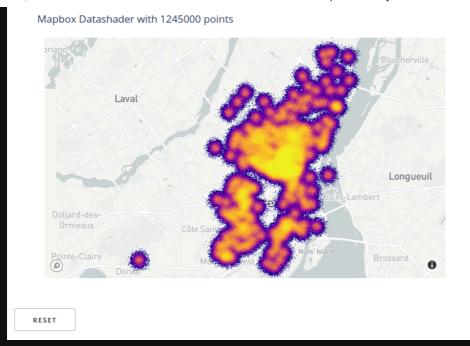
Using mapbox maps requires a free mapbox account and an associated access token.



This example assumes the mapbox access token is stored in a local file named <a href="mapbox\_token">...</a> To run this example yourself, either create a file with this name in your working directory that contains your token, or assign the <a href="mapbox\_token">...</a> was a string containing your token.

```
import holoviews as hv
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from plotly.data import carshare
from plotly.colors import sequential
mapbox_token = open(".mapbox_token").read()
df_original["easting"], df_original["northing"] = hv.Tiles.lon_lat_to_easting_northing(
df = pd.concat([df_original] * 5000)
df["northing"] = df["northing"] + np.random.randn(len(df)) * 400
df, ["easting", "northing"]
overlay = tiles * datashade(points, cmap=sequential.Plasma)
width=800,
height=500
components = to_dash(app, [overlay], reset_button=True)
    app.run(debug=True)
```

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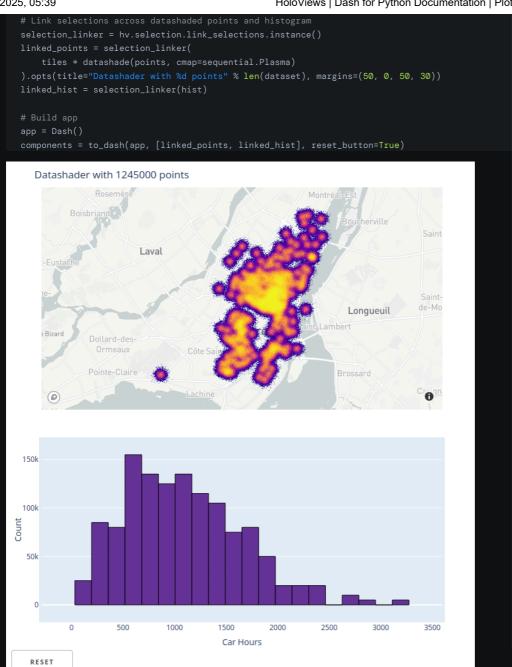


## Mapbox datashader and linked selections

This example demonstrates how the <code>link\_selections</code> transformation described above can be used with geographic scatter plots. Here, the scatter plot is also datashaded, but <code>link\_selections</code> will work with plain <code>Scatter</code> elements as well.

```
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from plotly.data import carshare
from plotly.colors import sequential
mapbox_token = open(".mapbox_token").read()
\label{lem:df_original} $$ df_original["northing"] = hv.Tiles.lon_lat_to_easting_northing( or the standard o
df = pd.concat([df_original] * 5000)
df["northing"] = df["northing"] + np.random.randn(len(df)) * 400
dataset = hv.Dataset(df).redim.label(car_hours="Car Hours")
overlay = tiles * datashade(points, cmap=sequential.Plasma).opts(width=800)
# Use plot hook to set the default drag mode to horizontal box selection
def set_hist_dragmode(plot, element):
              fig['layout']['dragmode'] = "select"
hist.opts(hooks=[set_hist_dragmode], color="rebeccapurple", margins=(50, 50, 50, 30))
```





## **GPU Accelerating Datashader and Linked Selections with RAPIDS**

Many HoloViews operations, including datashade and link\_selections, can be accelerated on modern NVIDIA GPUs using technologies from the **RAPIDS** ecosystem. All of the previous examples can be GPU accelerated simply by replacing the pandas DataFrame passed to the Dataset constructor with a cuDF



The cudf.from\_pandas function can be used to construct a cuDF DataFrame from a pandas DataFrame. So adding GPU acceleration to each of the prior examples can be done simply by replacing the dataset =



```
import cudf
dataset = hv.Dataset(cudf.from_pandas(df))
```

#### **Advanced HoloViews**

While motivated by Datashader and linked selections use cases, the to\_dash transformation supports arbitrary HoloViews objects and has full support for the elements and stream types supported by the HoloViews Plotly backend.

To demonstrate this, here are Dash ports of some of the interactive Plotly examples from the HoloViews documentation.

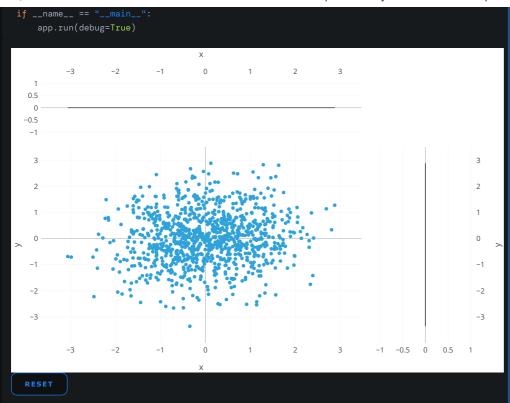
#### **Bounds & selection stream example**

Based on https://holoviews.org/reference/streams/plotly/Bounds.html#streams-plotly-gallery-bounds

```
A linked streams example demonstrating how to use Bounds and Selection streams together.
```

```
Ф
from dash import Dash, html
import numpy as np
from holoviews import streams
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash
# Declare distribution of Points
    \label{eq:np:random.multivariate_normal((0, 0), [[1, 0.1], [0.1, 1]], (1000,))} \\
sel = streams.Selection1D(source=points)
mean_sel = hv.DynamicMap(
    kdims=[], streams=[sel]
# Declare a Bounds stream and DynamicMap to get box_select geometry and draw it
box = streams.BoundsXY(source=points, bounds=(0,0,0,0))
bounds = hv.DynamicMap(lambda bounds: hv.Bounds(bounds), streams=[box])
                     streams=[box])
    dmap, bin_range=points.range('y'), dimension='y', dynamic=True, normed=False
xhist = hv.operation.histogram(
    dmap, bin_range=points.range('x'), dimension='x', dynamic=True, normed=False
app = Dash()
components = to_dash(
    app, [layout], reset_button=True, use_ranges=False,
```





## **BoundsX stream example**

 ${\it Based on \ https://holoviews.org/reference/streams/plotly/Bounds X.html \#streams-plotly-gallery-bounds x}$ 

A linked streams example demonstrating how to use BoundsX streams.

```
from dash import Dash, html

import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import holoviews as hv
from holoviews import streams
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash

n = 200

xs = np.linspace(0, 1, n)
ys = np.cumsum(np.random.randn(n))
df = pd.Dataframe('t'x': xs, 'y': ys})
curve = hv.Scatter(df)

def make_from_boundsx(boundsx):
    sub = df.set_index('x').loc[boundsx[0]:boundsx[1]]
    return hv.Table(sub.describe().reset_index().values, 'stat', 'value')

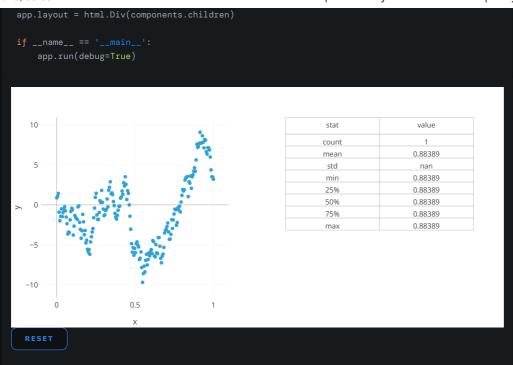
dmap = hv.DynamicMap(
    make_from_boundsx, streams=[streams.BoundsX(source=curve, boundsx=(0, 0))]
)

layout = curve + dmap

# Creste App
app = Dash()

# Dash display
components = to_dash(
    app, [layout], reset_button=True
)
```



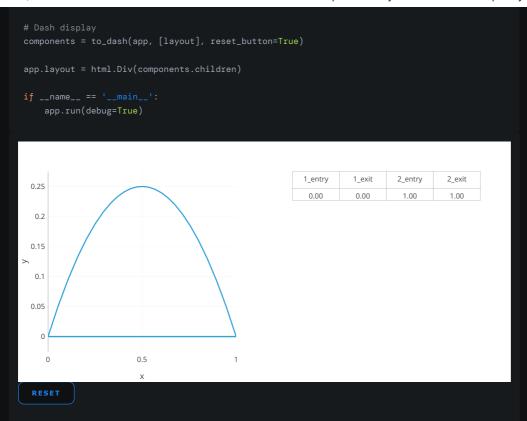


#### **BoundsY stream example**

Based on https://holoviews.org/reference/streams/plotly/BoundsY.html#streams-plotly-gallery-boundsy

```
A linked streams example demonstrating how to use BoundsY streams.
```





#### RangeXY stream example

Based on https://holoviews.org/reference/streams/plotly/RangeXY.html#streams-plotly-gallery-rangexy

A linked streams example demonstrating how to use multiple Selection1D streams on separate Points objects.

```
from dash import Dash, html

import numpy as np
import holoviews as hv
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash

# Define an image
Y, X = (np.mgrid[0:100, 0:100]-50.)/20.
img = hv.Image(np.sin(X**2+Y**2))

def selected_hist(x_range, y_range):
    # Apply current ranges
    obj = img.select(x=x_range, y=y_range) if x_range and y_range else img

    # Compute histogram
    return hv.operation.histogram(obj)

# Define a RangeXY stream linked to the image
rangexy = hv.streams.RangeXY(source=img)

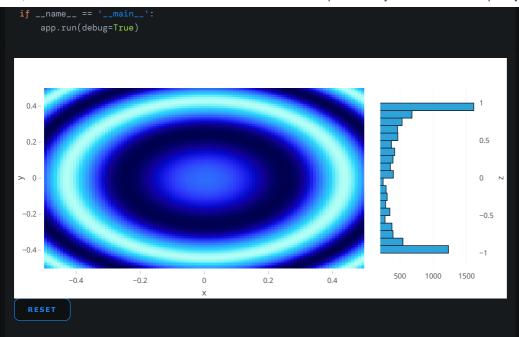
# Adjoin the dynamic histogram computed based on the current ranges
layout = img << hv.DynamicMap(selected_hist, streams=[rangexy])

# Create App
app = Dash()

# Dash display
components = to_dash(
    app, [layout], reset_button=True, use_ranges=False
)

app.layout = html.Div(components.children)</pre>
```





#### **Multiple selection streams example**

Based on https://holoviews.org/reference/streams/plotly/Selection1D\_paired.html#streams-plotly-gallery-selection1d-paired

A linked streams example demonstrating how to use multiple Selection1D streams on separate Points objects.





#### Point Selection1D stream example

Based on https://holoviews.org/reference/streams/plotly/Selection1D\_points.html#streams-plotly-gallery-selection1d-points

A linked streams example demonstrating how to use Selection1D to get currently selected points and dynamically compute statistics of selection.

```
import numpy as np
import numpy as np
import holoviews as hv
from holoviews import streams
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash

# Declare some points
points = hv.Points(np.random.randn(1000, 2))

# Declare points as source of selection stream
selection = streams.SelectionID(source=points)

# Write function that uses the selection indices to slice points and compute stats
def selected_info(index):
    selected = points.iloc[index]
    if index:
        label = 'Mean x, y: %.3f, %.3f' % tuple(selected.array().mean(axis=0))
else:
        label = 'No selection'
    return selected.relabel(label).opts(color='red')

# Combine points and DynamicMap
layout = points + hv.DynamicMap(selected_info, streams=[selection])

# Create App
app = Dash()

# Dash display
components = to_dash(app, [layout], reset_button=True)
app.layout = html.Div(components.children)
```





## **DynamicMap Container**

Based on https://holoviews.org/reference/containers/plotly/DynamicMap.html#containers-plotly-gallery-dynamicmap

A DynamicMap is an explorable multi-dimensional wrapper around a callable that returns HoloViews objects.

```
from dash import Dash, html

import numpy as np
import holoviews as hv
from holoviews.plotting.plotly.dash import to_dash

frequencies = [0.5, 0.75, 1.0, 1.25]

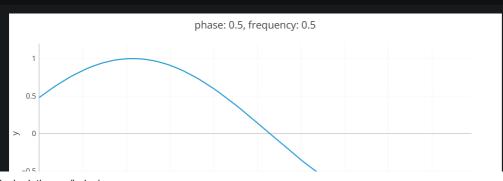
def sine_curve(phase, freq):
    xvals = [0.1 * i for i in range(100)]
    return hv.Curve((xvals, [np.sin(phase+freq*x) for x in xvals]))

# When run live, this cell's output should match the behavior of the GIF below dmap = hv.DynamicMap(sine_curve, kdims=['phase', 'frequency'])
dmap = dmap.redim.range(phase=(0.5, 1), frequency=(0.5, 1.25))

# Create App
app = Dash()

# Dash display
components = to_dash(app, [dmap])
app.layout = html.Div(components.children)

if __name__ = '__main__':
    app.run(debug=True)
```



(\*)

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