

# SI649 Altair Demo

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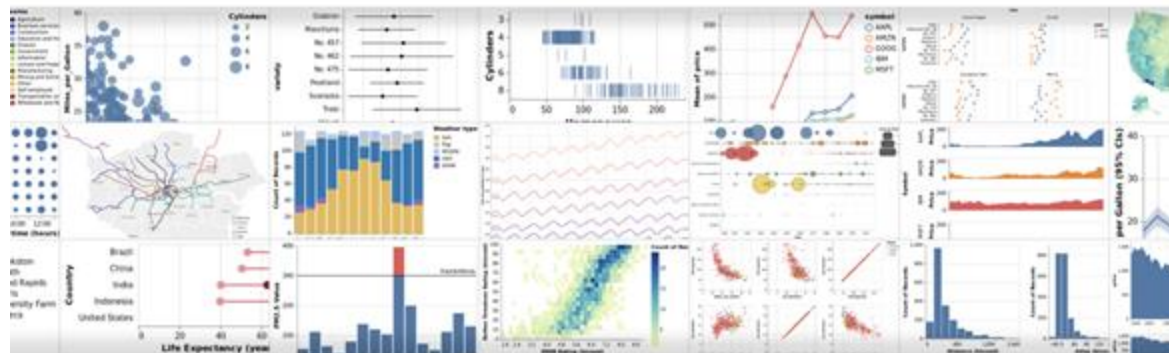
Originally Designed by Liang Sie



# What is Altair

- Altair is a Python API to [Vega-Lite](#)

## Vega-Lite – A Grammar of Interactive Graphics



**Vega-Lite** is a high-level grammar of interactive graphics. It provides a concise, declarative JSON syntax to create an expressive range of visualizations for data analysis and presentation.

# Section 1

## Scatterplot



# Encoding

Translates your code to the JSON format that Vega-Lite understands (and can render).

## Color

- Input

```
alt.Color('transmission', type='nominal')
```

- Output

```
Color({  
  shorthand: 'transmission',  
  type: 'nominal'  
})
```


- "encode the nominal transmission variable using color."

# Load Data

- Input

```
mtcars = pd.read_csv("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/.../mtcars.csv")
mtcars.sample(5)
```

- Output

	model	MPG	cylinders	displacement	HP	rear_axle_ratio	weight	qsec	vs	transmission	gears	carb	
29	Ferrari Dino	19.7	6	145.0	175	3.62	2.770	15.5	0	1	5	6	
25	Fiat X1-9	27.3	4	79.0	66	4.08	1.935	18.9	1	1	4	1	
28	Ford Pantera L	15.8	8	351.0	264	4.22	3.170	14.5	0	1	5	4	
27	Lotus Europa	30.4	4	95.1	113	3.77	1.513	16.9	1	1	5	2	
26	Porsche 914-2	26.0	4	120.3	91	4.43	2.140	16.7	0	1	5	2	

# Marks

Specify how exactly those attributes should be represented on the plot.

Altair provides a number of basic mark properties:

Mark Name	Method	Description	Example
arc	<code>mark_arc()</code>	A pie chart.	<a href="#">Pie Chart</a>
area	<code>mark_area()</code>	A filled area plot.	<a href="#">Simple Stacked Area Chart</a>
bar	<code>mark_bar()</code>	A bar plot.	<a href="#">Simple Bar Chart</a>
circle	<code>mark_circle()</code>	A scatter plot with filled circles.	<a href="#">One Dot Per Zipcode</a>
geoshape	<code>mark_geoshape()</code>	A geographic shape	<a href="#">Choropleth Map</a>
image	<code>mark_image()</code>	A scatter plot with image markers.	<a href="#">Image Mark</a>
line	<code>mark_line()</code>	A line plot.	<a href="#">Simple Line Chart</a>
point	<code>mark_point()</code>	A scatter plot with configurable point shapes.	<a href="#">Multi-panel Scatter Plot with Linked Brushing</a>
rect	<code>mark_rect()</code>	A filled rectangle, used for heatmaps	<a href="#">Simple Heatmap</a>
rule	<code>mark_rule()</code>	A vertical or horizontal line spanning the axis.	<a href="#">Candlestick Chart</a>
square	<code>mark_square()</code>	A scatter plot with filled squares.	N/A
text	<code>mark_text()</code>	A scatter plot with points represented by text.	<a href="#">Bar Chart with Labels</a>
tick	<code>mark_tick()</code>	A vertical or horizontal tick mark.	<a href="#">Simple Strip Plot</a>
trail	<code>mark_trail()</code>	A line with variable widths.	<a href="#">Line Chart with Varying Size</a>

# Scatterplot

- `alt.Chart(data).mark_point()` >> only gives you a single dot
- Data Encoding (Vega Lite Data Type)
  - `alt.X('MPG', type='quantitative')`  
OR
  - `alt.X('MPG:Q')`  
OR
  - `x='MPG'`
- `alt.Chart(data).mark_point().encode(  
 x='???' ,  
 y='???'  
)`

# Scatterplot

X-axis = MPG  
Y-axis = weight

- `alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_point()` >> only gives you a single dot
- `alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_point().encode(  
    x='MPG',  
    y='weight'  
)`



# Section 2

## Variation



# Scatterplot

Change color

Color = transmission

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_point().encode(  
    x='MPG',  
    y="weight",  
    color="transmission"  
)
```
- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_point().encode(  
    x='MPG',  
    y="weight",  
    color="transmission:N"  
)
```
- What's the difference? Why?

# Scatterplot

Fill the mark

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_point(filled=True).encode(  
    x='MPG',  
    y="weight",  
    color="transmission"  
)
```

# Scatterplot

## Practice

- Use the shape to display the transmission variable
- Change the size of points

# Scatterplot

## Answer

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_point(filled=True, size=100).encode(  
    x='MPG',  
    y="weight",  
    color="transmission:N",  
    shape="transmission:N"  
)
```

# Assignment Hint

- Axis title

```
x=alt.X('field', title='name')
```

- Color or Opacity Scale

```
scale=alt.Scale(domain=['value', 'value'], range=['color', 'color'])
```

- Opacity

```
opacity=alt.Opacity('field', scale=scale)
```

# Section 3

## Bars and Binning



# Marks

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# Bar Chart

X-axis = model

Y-axis = MPG

OR

X-axis = MPG

Y-axis = model

## Vertical

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars) .mark_bar().encode(  
    x='model',  
    y='MPG'  
)
```

## Horizontal


- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars) .mark_bar().encode(  
    y='model',  
    x='MPG'  
)
```

# Bins

Based on transmission

## Pandas

- `binned = mtcars.groupby("transmission").count().reset_index()`  
`[['transmission', 'model']]`
- `binned = binned.rename(columns={'model': 'count'})`

transmission count 		
0	0	19
1	1	13

## Altair

- `alt.Chart(binned).mark_bar().encode(  
    x='transmission:N',  
    y='count'  
)`

# Bins

Based on transmission

## Aggregate data

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
    x=alt.X('transmission:N',bin=True),  
    y=alt.Y('count()'), # tell altair how we aggregate the data  
)
```
- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
    x=alt.X('transmission:N',bin=True),  
    y=alt.Y('max(HP)') # see the max of horsepower  
)
```

# Bins

Based on weight

## Numeric variable as bins

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
  x=alt.X('weight', bin=True),  
  y=alt.Y('count()')  
)
```

## Modify bins

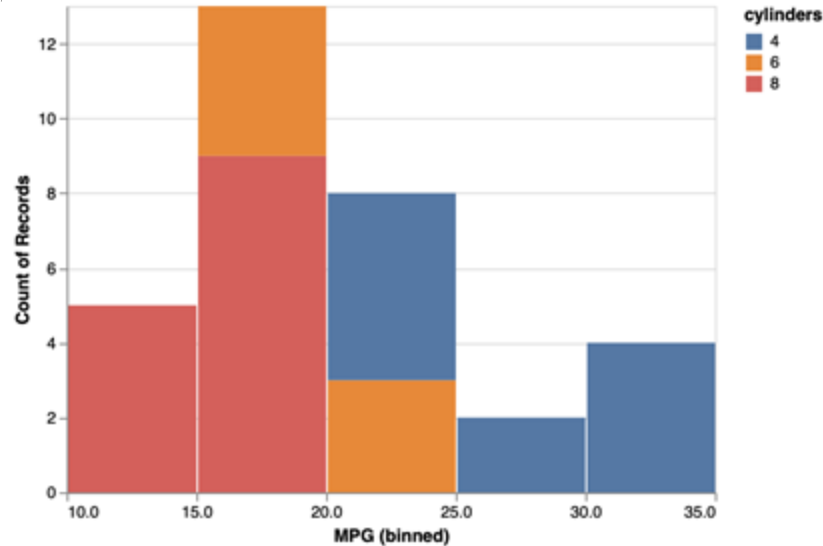
- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
  x=alt.X('weight', bin=alt.BinParams(maxbins=20)),  
  y=alt.Y('count()')  
)
```

# Bars and Bins

## Practice

Create a stacked bar chart

- For each MPG bins, how many cars are there? How many 2-cylinder, 4-cylinder, 6-cylinder cars are there in each bin?



# Bars and Bins

## Answer

Create a stacked bar chart

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
    alt.X('MPG', bin=True),  
    alt.Y('count()'),  
    alt.Color('cylinders:N')  
)
```

# Section 4

## Sorting



# Sorting

Sort by MPG

## EncodingSortField

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
  x='MPG',  
  y=alt.Y('model',  
    sort=alt.EncodingSortField(  
      field="MPG", # The field to use for the sort  
      order="descending" # The order to sort in  
    )  
  )  
)
```



# Section 5

## Other Marks



# Marks

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# Heatmap

X-axis = MPG

Y-axis = HP

## mark\_rect()

- ```
alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_rect().encode(  
    x=alt.X('MPG', bin=True), # Create bins for MPG  
    y=alt.Y('HP', bin=True), # Create bins for HP  
    color='count()' # tell altair how we aggregate the data  
)
```

|      |             |                                       |                                |
|------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| rect | mark_rect() | A filled rectangle, used for heatmaps | <a href="#">Simple Heatmap</a> |
|------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

# Section 6

## Compound Chart



# Compound

Side by side

Bar 1: Model vs. MPG

Bar 2: Model vs. HP

Use "|" operation to plot charts side by side

- ```
model_mpg= alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
    x=alt.X('MPG'),  
    y=alt.Y("model")  
)
```
- ```
model_hp= alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_bar().encode(  
    x=alt.X('HP'),  
    y=alt.Y("model")  
)
```
- ```
Model_mpg|model_hp
```

Use `alt.hconcat()` >> horizontal

- ```
alt.hconcat(model_mpg,model_hp)
```

# Compound

One above the other  
Bar 1: Model vs. MPG  
Bar 2: Model vs. HP

Use "&" operation to plot charts one above the other

- `model_mpg & model_hp`

Use `alt.vconcat()` [>> vertical](#)

- `alt.vconcat(model_mpg,model_hp)`

# Compound Practice

Share axis

Shared Y-axis

- `(model_mpg | model_hp) .resolve_scale(y="shared")`

How about X-axis in a one of above chart?

# Section 7

## Styling





# Styling

Change bar height

- ```
model_mpg= alt.Chart(mtcars,title="Mile Per  
Gallon").mark_bar(height=5).encode(  
    x=alt.X('MPG'),  
    y=alt.Y("model", sort=alt.EncodingSortField(  
        field="model", # The field to use for the sort  
        order="descending" # The order to sort in  
    ))  
)
```

# Styling

Change bar color

- ```
model_hp= alt.Chart(mtcars,title="Horse Power")
.mark_bar(color="pink").encode(
    x=alt.X('HP'),
    y=alt.Y("model", axis=None, sort=alt.EncodingSortField(
        field="model", # The field to use for the sort
        order="descending" # The order to sort in
    ))
)
```

# Styling

Plot charts side by side and  
add chart title

- ```
(model_mpg | model_hp) .resolve_scale(y='shared') .properties(  
  title="MPG and HP"  
)
```

# Assignment Hint

- Properties

```
.properties(  
    width=???,  
    height=???,  
    title=alt.TitleParams(  
        text='name',  
        subtitle="name",  
        subtitleFontSize = ??  
    )  
)
```

# Themes

Set the theme to  
'fivethirtyeight'

- `alt.themes.enable('fivethirtyeight')`    *# try vox, dark, etc.*
- `alt.Chart(mtcars).mark_point(filled=True).encode(  
    x='MPG',  
    y="weight",  
    color="transmission:N"  
)`

Information  
changes  
everything.

# Thank You

