Data visualization

COSC 480B

Reyan Ahmed

rahmed1@colgate.edu

Lecture 8

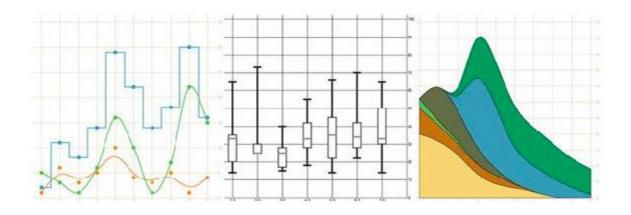
Chart components

Overview

- Creating and formatting axis components
- Creating legends
- Using line and area generators for charts
- Creating complex shapes consisting of multiple types of SVG elements

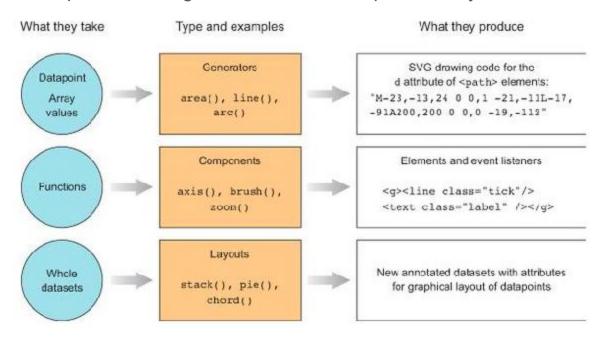
Overview

The charts we'll create in this chapter using D3 generators and components. From left to right: a line chart, a boxplot, and a streamgraph.



General charting principles

The three main types of functions found in D3 can be classified as generators, components, and layouts. You'll see components and generators in this chapter and layouts in the next chapter.



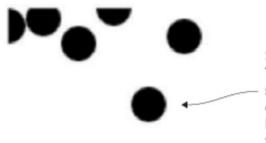
General charting principles

- Generators: draw shapes from data points
 - Area
 - Line
 - Arc
- Components: generators produces the attributes (d attribute), components create graphical objects like line, group etc
 - Axis
 - Brush
 - Zoom
- Layouts:
 - Pie chart
 - Force directed layouts

```
var scatterData = [{friends: 5, salary: 22000},
{friends: 3, salary: 18000}, {friends: 10, salary:
88000},
{friends: 0, salary: 180000}, {friends: 27, salary:
56000},
{friends: 8, salary: 74000}];
```

```
d3.select("svg").selectAll("circle")
.data(scatterData).enter()
.append("circle")
.attr("r", 5)
.attr("cx", (d,i) => i * 10)
.attr("cy", d => d.friends)
```

Circle positions indicate the number of friends and the array position of each datapoint.



Scatterplot positioning: This point is in array position 5 (or scatterData[4] because arrays begin counting at 0) and has 27 friends, the highest value, and so it's the closest to the bottom.

```
var xExtent = d3.extent(scatterData, d => d.salary)
var yExtent = d3.extent(scatterData, d => d.friends)
var xScale =
d3.scaleLinear().domain(xExtent).range([0,500]);
var yScale =
d3.scaleLinear().domain(yExtent).range([0,500]);
d3.select("svg").selectAll("circle")
   .data(scatterData).enter().append("circle")
   .attr("r", 5).attr("cx", d => xScale(d.salary))
   .attr("cy", d => yScale(d.friends));
```

Any point closer to the bottom has more friends, and any point closer to the right has a higher salary. But that's not clear at all without labels, which we're going to make.

While this is technically a data visualization, it's practically useless without labels or other ways to distinguish elements.

D3 provides different selections:

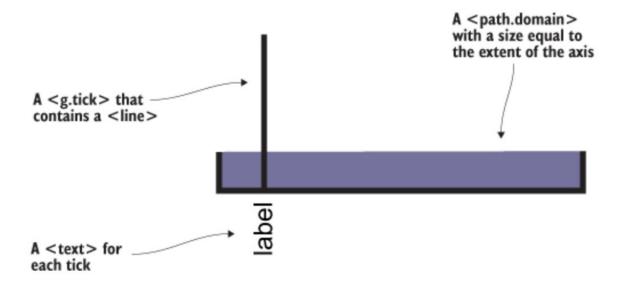
- d3.axisLeft()
- d3.axisRight()
- d3.axisBottom()
- d3.axisTop()

```
var yAxis = d3.axisRight().scale(yScale);
d3.select("svg").append("g").attr("id", "yAxisG").call(yAxis)
var xAxis = d3.axisBottom().scale(xScale)
d3.select("svg").append("g").attr("id", "xAxisG").call(xAxis)
```

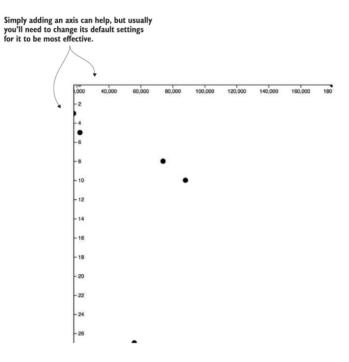
Notice that the .call() method of a selection invokes a function with the selection that's active in the method chain, and is the equivalent of writing

xAxis(d3.select("svg").append("g").attr("id", "xAxisG"))

Elements of an axis created from d3.axis are a <path.domain> with a size equal to the extent of the axis, a <g.tick > that contains a <line> and a <text> for each tick.



Default styles for an axis display the ticks and don't fill the domain area.



- You may need to adjust the default style a little bit
- To move our axes around, we need to adjust the .attr("translate") of their parent <g> elements, either when we draw them or later.

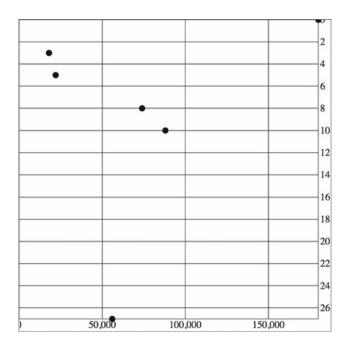
d3.selectAll("#xAxisG").attr("transform","translate(0,500)")

```
var scatterData = [{friends: 5, salary: 22000},
 {friends: 3, salary: 18000}, {friends: 10, salary: 88000},
  {friends: 0, salary: 180000}, {friends: 27, salary: 56000},
 {friends: 8, salary: 74000}];
var xScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([0,180000]).range([0,500])
var yScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([0,27]).range([0,500])
xAxis = d3.axisBottom().scale(xScale)
  .tickSize(500).ticks(4)
d3.select("svg").append("g").attr("id", "xAxisG").call(xAxis)
yAxis = d3.axisRight().scale(yScale)
  .ticks(16).tickSize(500)
d3.select("svg").append("g").attr("id", "yAxisG").call(yAxis)
                                                                   3
d3.select("svg").selectAll("circle")
  .data(scatterData).enter()
 .append("circle").attr("r", 5)
  .attr("cx", d => xScale(d.salary))
  .attr("cy", d => yScale(d.friends))
```

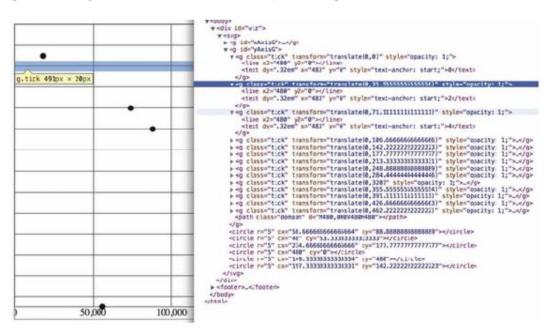
- 1 Creates a pair of scales to map the values in our dataset to the canvas 2 Uses method chaining to create
- 2 Uses method chaining to create an axis and explicitly set its orientation, tick size, and number of ticks
- 3 Appends a <g> element to the canvas, and calls the axis from that <g> to create the necessary graphics for the axis

With CSS settings corresponding to the tick <line> elements, we can draw a rather attractive grid

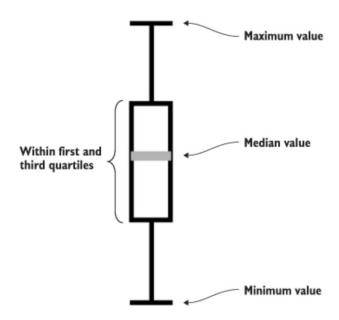
based on our two axes.



The DOM shows how tick elements are appended along with a <text> element for the label to one of a set of <g.tick.major> elements corresponding to the number of ticks.



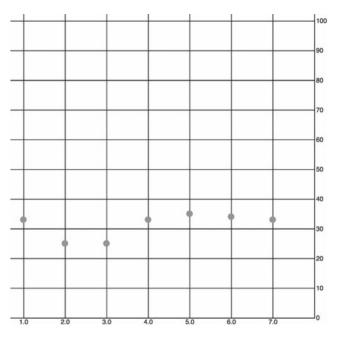
A box from a boxplot consists of five pieces of information encoded in a single shape: (1) the maximum value, (2) the high value of some distribution, such as the third quartile, (3) the median or mean value, (4) the corresponding low value of the distribution, such as the first quartile, and (5) the minimum value.



boxplots.csv

```
day,min,max,median,q1,q3,number 1,14,65,33,20,35,22 2,25,73,25,25,30,170 3,15,40,25,17,28,185 4,18,55,33,28,42,135 5,14,66,35,22,45,150 6,22,70,34,28,42,170 7,14,65,33,30,50,28
```

The median age of visitors (y-axis) by day of the week (x-axis) as represented by a scatterplot. It shows a slight dip in age on the second and third days.



Scatterplot of average age

```
d3.csv("boxplot.csv", scatterplot)
const tickSize = 470
function scatterplot(data) {
  const xScale =
d3.scaleLinear().domain([1,8]).range([20,tickSize])
  const yScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([0,100]).range([tickSize
+ 10,20]) 2
  const yAxis = d3.axisRight()
  .scale(yScale)
  .ticks(8)
  .tickSize(tickSize)
  d3.select("svg").append("g")
    .attr("transform", `translate(${tickSize},0)`)
    .attr("id", "yAxisG")
    .call(yAxis)
```

1 Any value that you use more than once should be stored in a constant, so that you only have to change it once later and so others can read your code
2 Scale is inverted, so higher values are drawn higher up and lower values toward the bottom
3 Offsets the <g> containing the axis

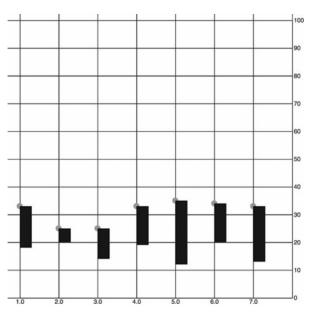
```
const xAxis = d3.axisBottom()
  .scale(xScale)
  .tickSize(-tickSize)
  .tickValues([1,2,3,4,5,6,7])
                                                          4
d3.select("svg").append("g")
  .attr("transform", `translate(0,${tickSize + 10})`)
  .attr("id", "xAxisG")
  .call(xAxis)
d3.select("svg").selectAll("circle.median")
  .data(data)
  .enter()
  .append("circle")
  .attr("class", "tweets")
  .attr("r", 5)
  .attr("cx", d => xScale(d.day))
  .attr("cy", d => yScale(d.median))
  .style("fill", "darkgray")
```

4 Specifies the exact tick values to correspond with the numbered days of the week

Initial boxplot drawing code

1 Your latest reminder that to get the this context you can't use arrow functions 2 Because we're inside the .each(), we can select(this) to append new child elements 3 The d and i variables are declared in the .each() anonymous function, so each time we access it, we get the data bound to the original element

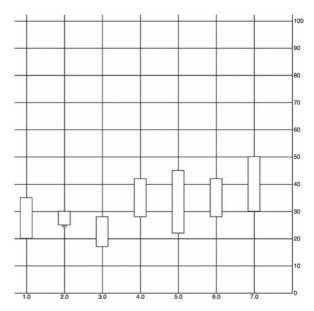
The <rect> elements represent the scaled range of the first and third quartiles of visitor age. They're placed on top of a gray <circle> in each <g> element, which is placed on the chart at the median age. The rectangles are drawn, as per SVG convention, from the <g> down and to the right.



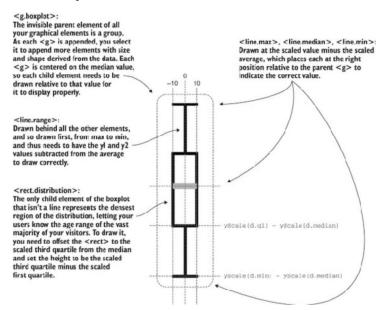
```
.each(function(d,i) {
  d3.select(this)
    .append("rect")
    .attr("width", 20)
    .attr("x", -10)
                                                         2
    .attr("y", yScale(d.q3) - yScale(d.median))
    .attr("height", yScale(d.q1) - yScale(d.q3))
    .style("fill", "white")
    .style("stroke", "black");
});
```

- 1 Sets a negative offset of half the width to center a rectangle horizontally
- 2 The height of the rectangle is equal to the difference between its q1 and q3 values, which means we need to offset the rectangle by the difference between the middle of the rectangle (the median) and the high end of the distribution—q3

The <rect> elements are now properly placed so that their top and bottom correspond with the visitor age between the first and third quartiles of visitors for each day. The circles are completely covered, except for the second rectangle where the first quartile value is the same as the median age, so we can see half the gray circle peeking out from underneath it.



How a boxplot can be drawn in D3. Pay particular attention to the relative positioning necessary to draw child elements of a <g>. The 0 positions for all elements are where the parent <g> has been placed, so that line.max>, <rect.distribution>, and line.range> all need to be drawn with an offset placing their top-left corner above this center, whereas line.min> is drawn below the center and line.median> has a 0 y-value, because our center is the median value.



```
.each(function(d,i) {
  d3.select(this)
    .append("line")
    .attr("class", "range")
    .attr("x1", 0)
    .attr("x2", 0)
    .attr("y1", yScale(d.max) - yScale(d.median))
    .attr("y2", yScale(d.min) - yScale(d.median))
    .style("stroke", "black")
    .style("stroke-width", "4px");
  d3.select(this)
    .append("line")
   .attr("class", "max")
    .attr("x1", -10)
   .attr("x2", 10)
    .attr("y1", yScale(d.max) - yScale(d.median))
    .attr("y2", yScale(d.max) - yScale(d.median))
    .style("stroke", "black")
    .style("stroke-width", "4px")
```

- 1 Draws the line from the max to the min value
- 2 The top bar of the min-max line

```
d3.select(this)
 .append("line")
 .attr("class", "min")
 .attr("x1", -10)
 .attr("x2", 10)
 .attr("y1", yScale(d.min) - yScale(d.median))
 .attr("y2", yScale(d.min) - yScale(d.median))
 .style("stroke", "black")
 .style("stroke-width", "4px")
d3.select(this)
 .append("rect")
 .attr("class", "range")
 .attr("width", 20)
 .attr("x", -10)
 .attr("y", yScale(d.q3) - yScale(d.median))
 .attr("height", yScale(d.q1) - yScale(d.q3))
 .style("fill", "white")
 .style("stroke", "black")
 .style("stroke-width", "2px")
```

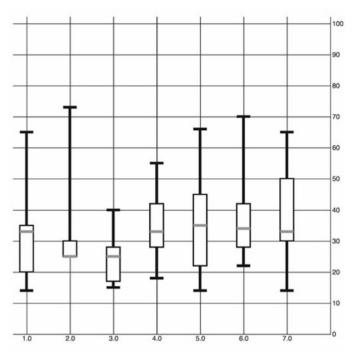
3 The bottom bar of the min-max line 4 The offset so that the rectangle is centered on the median value

5 Median line doesn't need to be moved, because the parent <g> is centered on the median value

Adding an axis using tickValues

1 A negative tickSize draws the lines above the axis, but we need to make sure to offset the axis by the same value 2 Setting specific tickValues forces the axis to only show the corresponding values, which is useful when we want to override the automatic ticks created by the axis 3 Offsets the axis to correspond with our negative tickSize 4 We can hide this, because it has extra ticks on the ends that distract our readers

Our final boxplot chart. Each day now shows not only the median age of visitors but also the range of visiting ages, allowing for a more extensive examination of the demographics of site visitorship.



Line charts and interpolations

Callback function to draw a scatterplot from tweetdata

```
d3.csv("../data/tweetdata.csv", lineChart);
function lineChart(data) {
 const blue = "#5eaec5", green = "#92c463", orange = "#fe9a22"
 xScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([1,10.5]).range([20,480])
 yScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([0,35]).range([480,20])
 xAxis = d3.axisBottom()
    .scale(xScale)
    .tickSize(480)
    .tickValues([1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10])
 d3.select("svg").append("g").attr("id", "xAxisG").call(xAxis)
 yAxis = d3.axisRight()
    .scale(yScale)
    .ticks(10)
   .tickSize(480)
 d3.select("svg").append("g").attr("id", "yAxisG").call(yAxis)
```

1 Our scales, as usual, have margins built in 2 Fixes the ticks of the x-axis to correspond to the days

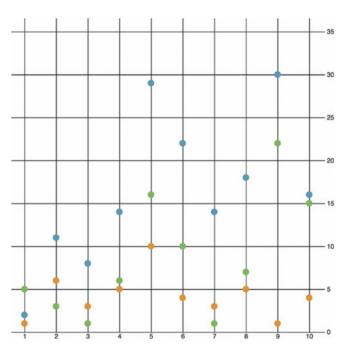
```
d3.select("svg").selectAll("circle.tweets")
                                                    3
    .data(data)
    .enter()
    .append("circle")
    .attr("class", "tweets")
    .attr("r", 5)
    .attr("cx", d => xScale(d.day))
                                                            3
    .attr("cy", d => yScale(d.tweets))
    .style("fill", blue)
  d3.select("svg").selectAll("circle.retweets")
    .data(data)
    .enter()
    .append("circle")
    .attr("class", "retweets")
    .attr("r", 5)
    .attr("cx", d => xScale(d.day))
    .attr("cy", d => yScale(d.retweets))
    .style("fill", green)
```

3 Each of these uses the same dataset but bases the y position on tweets, retweets, and favorites values, respectively

```
d3.select("svg").selectAll("circle.favorites")
.data(data) 3
.enter()
.append("circle")
.attr("class", "favorites")
.attr("r", 5)
.attr("cx", d => xScale(d.day))
.attr("cy", d => yScale(d.favorites)) 3
.style("fill", orange)
}
```

3 Each of these uses the same dataset but bases the y position on tweets, retweets, and favorites values, respectively

A scatterplot showing the datapoints for 10 days of activity on Twitter, with the number of tweets in blue, the number of retweets in green, and the number of favorites in orange.



If you have some gaps, you may consider drawing multipart lines. In that case you can use:

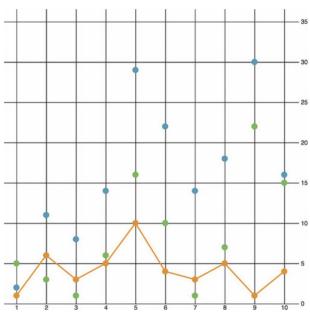
d3.line().defined(d => d.y !== null)

New line generator code inside the callback function

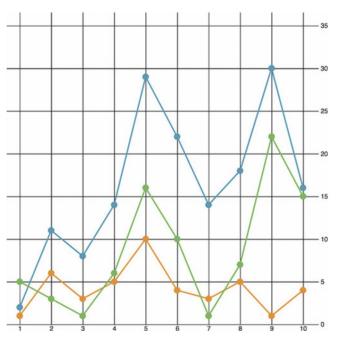
<pre>var tweetLine = d3.line() .x(d => xScale(d.day)) .y(d => yScale(d.tweets)) d3 calcat("avg")</pre>	1 2
d3.select("svg") .append("path")	
.attr("d", tweetLine(data)) .attr("fill", "none") .attr("stroke", "#fe9a22") .attr("stroke-width", 2)	3

- 1 Defines an accessor for data like ours—in this case we take the day attribute and pass it to xScale first
- 2 This accessor does the same for the number of tweets
- 3 The appended path is drawn according to the generator with the loaded tweetdata variable passed to it

The line generator takes the entire dataset and draws a line where the x,y position of every point on the canvas is based on its accessor. In this case, each point on the line corresponds to the day, and tweets are scaled to fit the x and y scales we created to display the data on the canvas.



The dataset is first used to draw a set of circles, which creates the scatterplot from the beginning of this section. The dataset is then used three more times to draw each line.



Line generators for each tweetdata

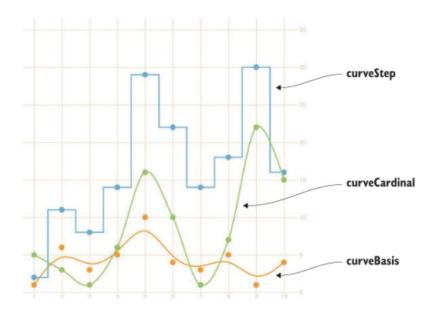
```
const lambdaXScale = d => xScale(d.day)
 var tweetLine = d3.line()
   .x(lambdaXScale)
   .y(d => yScale(d.tweets))
 var retweetLine = d3.line()
   .x(lambdaXScale)
   .y(d => yScale(d.retweets))
                                         3
 var favLine = d3.line()
   .x(lambdaXScale)
   .y(d => yScale(d.favorites))
```

- 1 Naming and reusing functions is also a good use of const.
- 2 A more efficient way to do this would be to define one line generator and then modify the .y() accessor on the fly as we call it for each line, but it's easier to see the functionality this way
- 3 Notice how only the y accessor is different between each line generator.

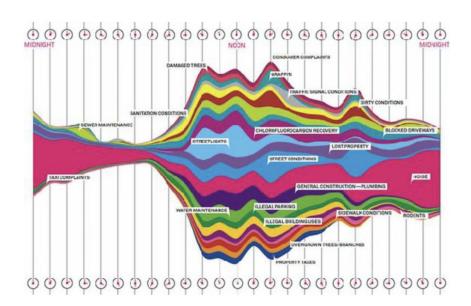
```
d3.select("svg")
                                         4
   .append("path")
   .attr("d", tweetLine(data))
   .attr("fill", "none")
   .attr("stroke", blue)
   .attr("stroke-width", 2)
  d3.select("svg")
   .append("path")
   .attr("d", retweetLine(data))
   .attr("fill", "none")
   .attr("stroke", green)
   .attr("stroke-width", 2)
  d3.select("svg")
   .append("path")
   .attr("d", favLine(data))
   .attr("fill", "none")
   .attr("stroke", orange)
   .attr("stroke-width", 2)
```

4 Each line generator needs to be called by a corresponding new <path> element.

Three common curve methods you'll see in charts. Orange is a "basis" interpolation that provides an organic curve averaged by the points (and therefore rarely touching them); a blue "step" interpolation changes the position of the line at right angles; and a green "cardinal" interpolation provides a curve that touches each sample point.



Behold the glory of the streamgraph. Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair! (Figure by Pitch Interactive from Wired, November 1, 2010, www.wired.com/2010/11/ff_311_new_york/all/1.) (Wesley Grubbs/WIRED © Condé Nast)



tweetLine.curve(d3.curveBasis) retweetLine.curve(d3.curveStep) favLine.curve(d3.curveCardinal)

1 We can add this code right after we create our line generators and before we call them to change the interpolate method, or we can set .curve() as we're defining the generator

movies.csv

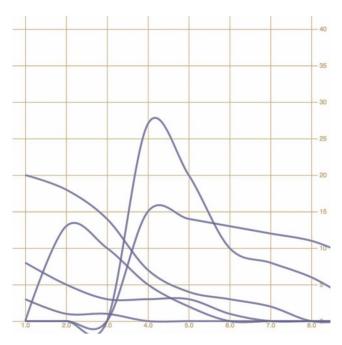
```
day,titanic,avatar,akira,frozen,deliverance,avengers 1,20,8,3,0,0,0 2,18,5,1,13,0,0 3,14,3,1,10,0,0 4,7,3,0,5,27,15 5,4,3,0,2,20,14 6,3,1,0,0,10,13 7,2,0,0,0,8,12 8,0,0,0,0,6,11 9,0,0,0,0,3,9 10,0,0,0,0,1,8
```

The callback function to draw movies.csv as a line chart

```
var xScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([ 1, 8 ]).range([ 20, 470 ]);
var yScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([ 0, 40 ]).range([ 480, 20 ]);
Object.keys(data[0]).forEach(key => {
  if (key != "day") {
   var movieArea = d3.line()
     .x(d => xScale(d.day))
     .y(d => yScale(d[key]))
     .curve(d3.curveCardinal);
   d3.select("svg")
     .append("path")
     .attr("id", key + "Area")
     .attr("d", movieArea(data))
     .style("fill", "none")
     .style("stroke", "#75739F")
     .style("opacity", .75)
 };
```

- 1 Iterates through our data attributes with forEach, where x is the name of each column from our data ("day", "movie1", "movie2", and so on), which allows us to dynamically create and call generators
- 2 Instantiates a line generator for each movie
- 3 Every line uses the day column for its x value
- 4 Dynamically sets the y-accessor function of our line generator to grab the data from the appropriate movie for our y variable

Each movie column is drawn as a separate line. Notice how the "cardinal" interpolation creates a graphical artifact, where it seems several movies made negative money.

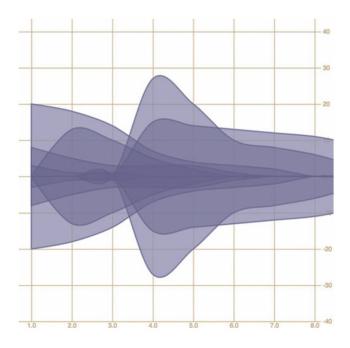


Area accessors

```
var xScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([ 1, 8 ]).range([ 20, 470 ]);
 var yScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([ -40, 40 ]).range([ 480, 20 ]);
 Object.keys(data[0]).forEach(key => {
   if (key != "day") {
     var movieArea = d3.area()
     .x(d => xScale(d.day))
     .y0(d \Rightarrow yScale(d[key]))
     .y1(d \Rightarrow yScale(-d[key]))
     .curve(d3.curveCardinal);
   d3.select("svg")
    .append("path")
    .style("id", key + "Area")
    .attr("d", movieArea(data))
     .attr("fill", "#75739F")
     .attr("stroke", "#75739F")
     .attr("stroke-width", 2)
    .style("stroke-opacity", .75)
    .style("fill-opacity", .5);
```

1 This new accessor provides the ability to define where the bottom of the path is—in this case, we start by making the bottom equal to the inverse of the top, which mirrors the shape

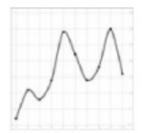
By using an area generator and defining the bottom of the area as the inverse of the top, we can mirror our lines to create an area chart. Here they're drawn with semitransparent fills, so that we can see how they overlap.



Closed path changes

```
d3.select("svg")
.append("path")
.attr("d",movieArea(data))
.attr("fill", "none")
.attr("stroke", "black")
.attr("stroke-width", 3);
```

```
d3.select("svg")
.append("path")
.attr("d", movieArea(data) + "Z")
.attr("fill", "none")
.attr("stroke", "black")
.attr("stroke-width", 3);
```





```
d3.select("svg")
.append("path")
.attr("d", movieArea(data))
.attr("fill", "none")
.attr("stroke", "black")
.attr("stroke-width", 3);
```

```
d3.select("svg")
.append("path")
.attr("d", movieArea(data) + "Z")
.attr("fill", "gray")
.attr("stroke", "black")
.attr("stroke-width", 3);
```

Callback function for drawing stacked areas

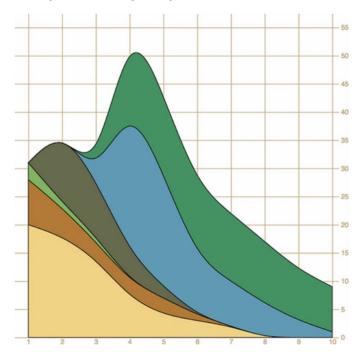
```
var fillScale = d3.scaleOrdinal()
.domain(["titanic", "avatar", "akira", "frozen", "deliverance", "avengers"])
.range(["#fcd88a", "#cf7c1c", "#93c464", "#75734F", "#5eafc6", "#41a368"]) 1
 var xScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([ 1, 10 ]).range([ 20, 470 ]);
 var vScale = d3.scaleLinear().domain([0, 55]).range([480, 20])
 Object.keys(data[0]).forEach(key => {
    if (key != "day") {
       var movieArea = d3.area()
         .x(d => xScale(d.day))
         .y0(d => yScale(simpleStacking(d, key) - d[key]))
         .y1(d => yScale(simpleStacking(d, key)))
          .curve(d3.curveBasis)
       d3.select("svg")
         .append("path")
          .style("id", key + "Area")
          .attr("d", movieArea(data))
          .attr("fill", fillScale(key))
         .attr("stroke", "black")
          .attr("stroke-width", 1)
```

- 1 Creates a color ramp that corresponds to the six different movies
- 2 We won't draw a line for the day value of each object, because this is what provides us with our x coordinate
- 3 A d3.area() generator for each iteration through the object that corresponds to one of our movies using the day value for the x coordinate, but iterating through the values for each movie for the y coordinates
- 4 Draws a path using the current constructor. We'll have one for each attribute not named "day". Give it a unique ID based on which attribute we're drawing an area for. Fill the area with a color based on the color ramp we built.

```
5
function simpleStacking(lineData, lineKey) {
   var newHeight = 0
   Object.keys(lineData).every(key => {
     if (key !== "day") {
      newHeight += parseInt(lineData[key]);
      if (key === lineKey) {
       return false
       return true
 })
 return newHeight
```

5 This function takes the incoming bound data and the name of the attribute and loops through the incoming data, adding each value until it reaches the current named attribute. As a result, it returns the total value for every movie during this day up to the movie we've sent.

Our stacked area code represents a movie by drawing an area, where the bottom of that area equals the total amount of money made by any movies drawn earlier for that day.



- We will use another piece of software
- Created by Susie Lu

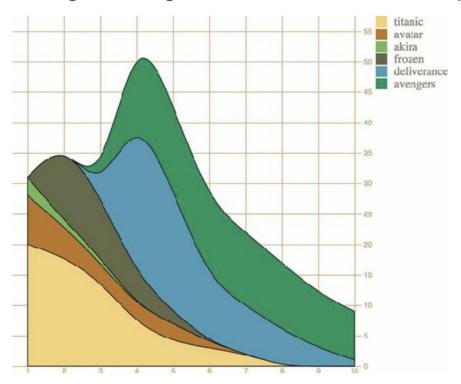
```
<script
src="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/d3-legend/2.21.0/d3-legend.min.js"></s
cript>
```

Adding a color legend

```
var legendA = d3.legendColor().scale(fillScale)
d3.select("svg")
    .style("width", "1000px")

d3.select("svg")
    .append("g")
    .attr("transform", "translate(500, 0)")
    .call(legendA)
```

Our stacked chart with a legend telling the reader which color corresponds to which movie



A horizontal oriented colorLegend from d3-svg-legend rendered with custom settings for shapePadding, shapeWidth, and shapeHeight.



Adjusted legend settings

legendA.orient("horizontal")
.shapePadding(60)
.shapeWidth(12)
.shapeHeight(30)