

Run `git pull` in the main branch to follow along today.

D3.js (Part 3)

DSC 106: Data Visualization

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UC San Diego

Announcements

Lab 6 due Friday.

Project 3 due next week Tuesday.

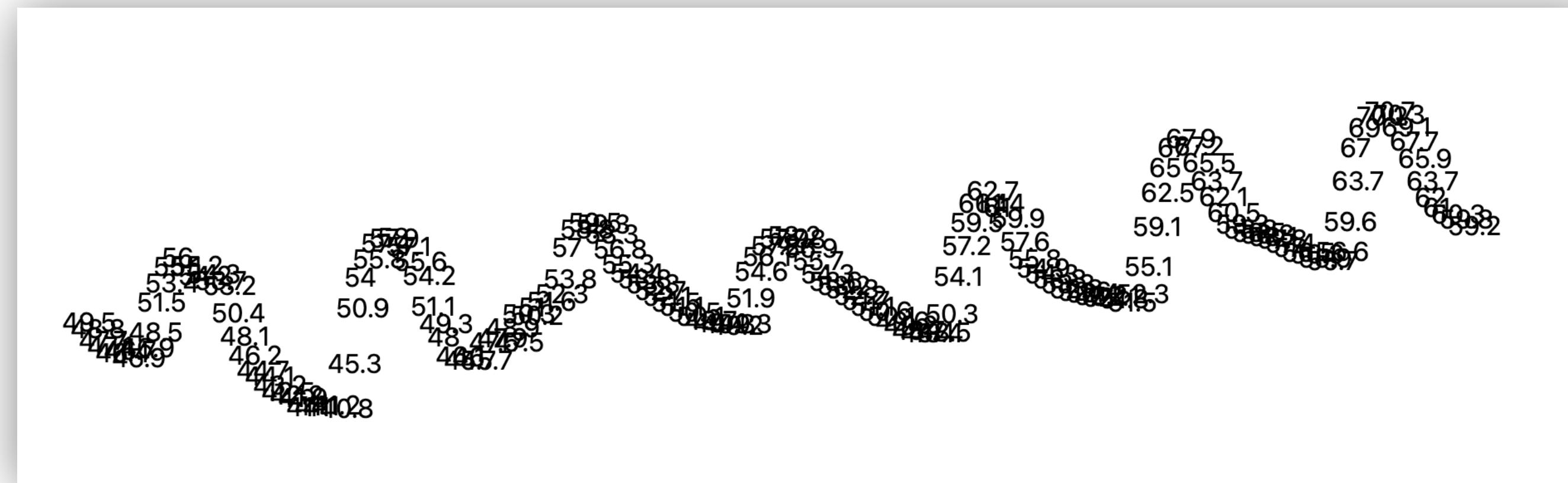
Project 2 peer grading coming out this week.

FAQs:

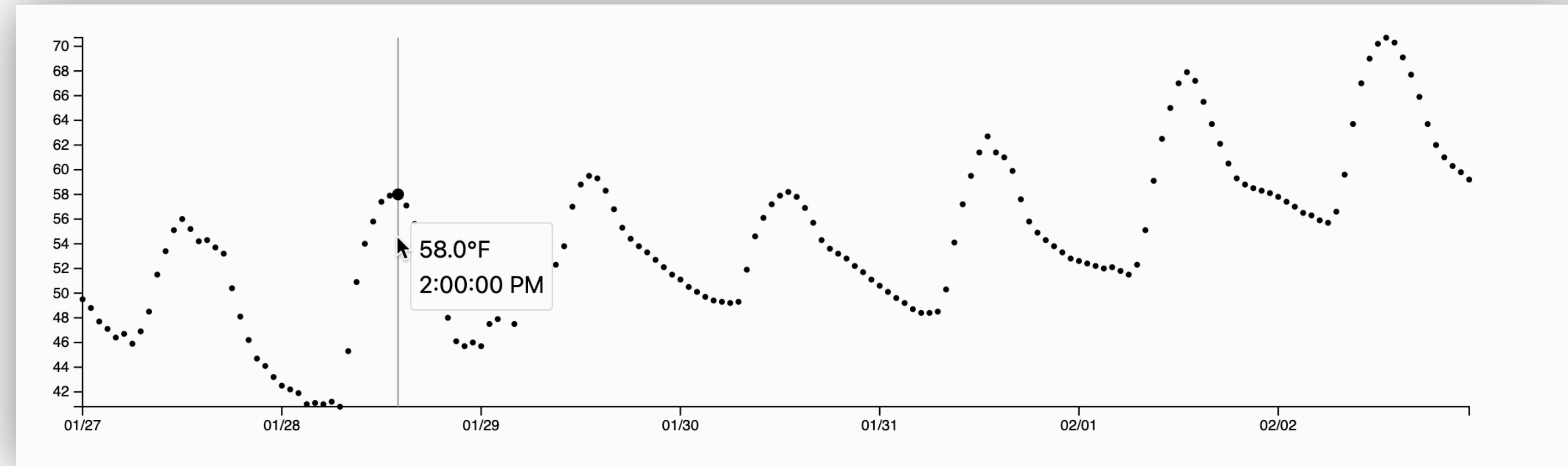
1.

Today: Making an interactive scatterplot

Before:

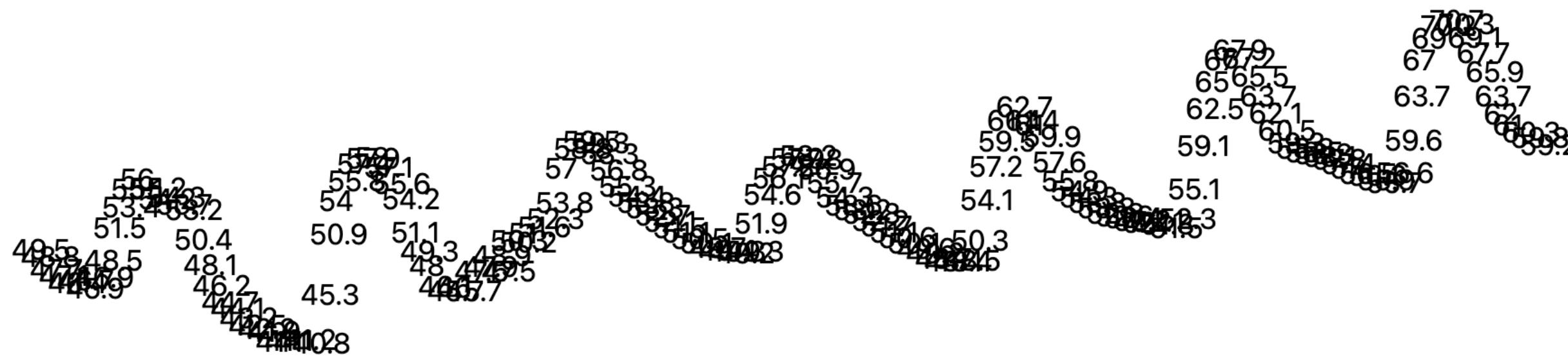


After:

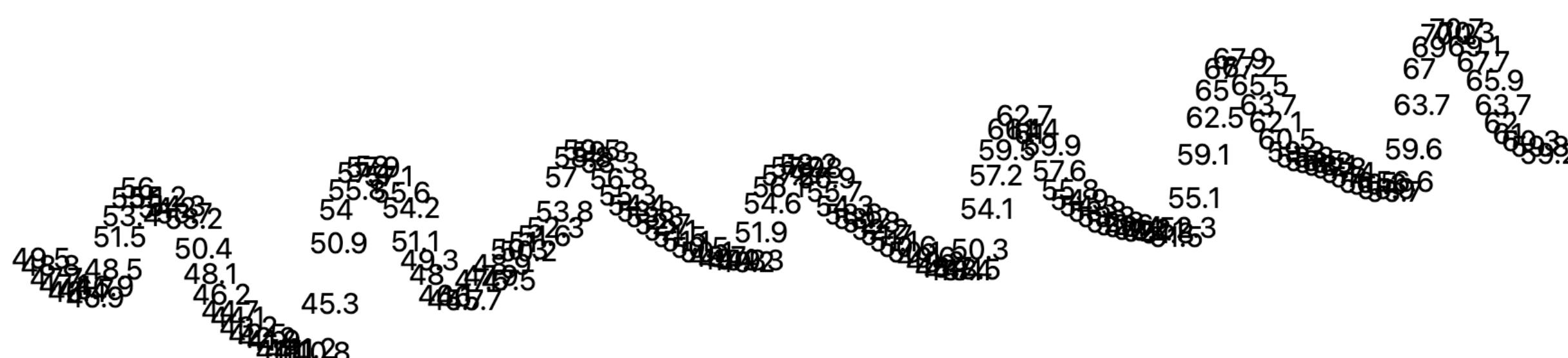


Step 1: Using D3 instead of plain JS

Before:



After:



But in D3!

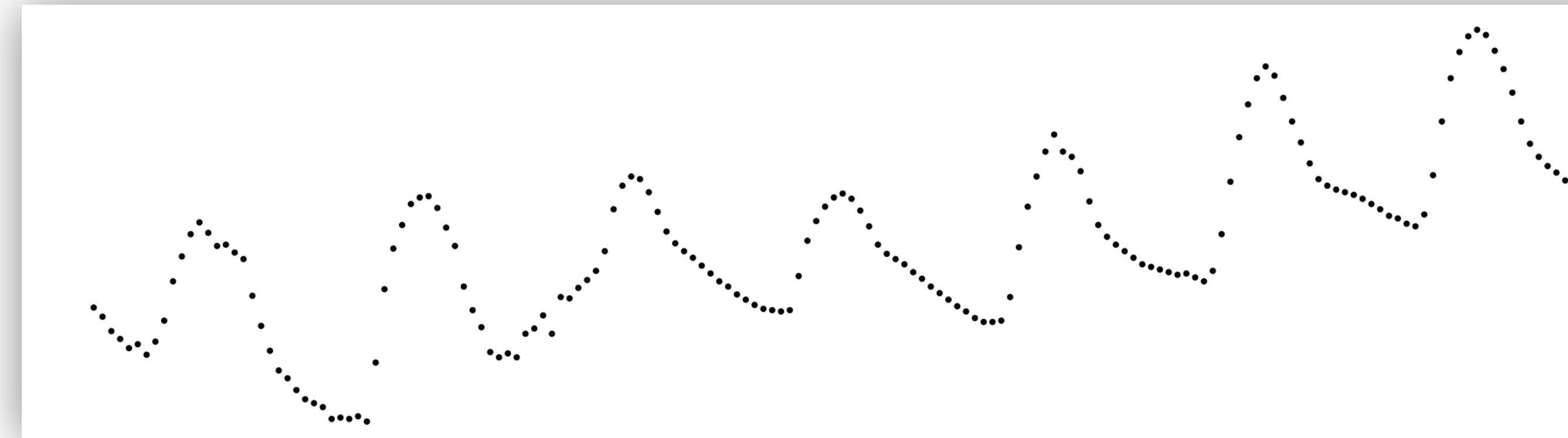
Demo: [d3-lecture/weather01](#)

Step 2: Making circles and using d3 scales

Before:



After:



Demo: [d3-lecture/weather02](#)

Making circles

Before:

```
svg
  .selectAll('text')
  .data(weatherData.hourly.temperature_2m)
  .join('text')
  .attr('x', (d, i) => i * 5)
  .attr('y', (d) => 500 - d * 6)
  .text((d) => d);
```

After:

```
svg
  .selectAll('circle')
  .data(weatherData.hourly.temperature_2m)
  .join('circle')
  .attr('cx', (d, i) => xScale(i))
  .attr('cy', (d) => yScale(d))
  .attr('r', 2);
```

Just needed to swap out text with circle + set the right attributes.

Circles only have cx and cy, not x and y

Scales

Before:

```
.attr('cx', (d, i) => i * 5)  
.attr('cy', (d) => 500 - d * 6)
```

Magic numbers!

After:

```
.attr('cx', (d, i) => xScale(i))  
.attr('cy', (d) => yScale(d))
```

D3 scales

```
const xScale = d3  
    .scaleLinear()  
    .domain([0, weatherData.hourly.temperature_2m.length - 1])  
    .range([margin.left, width - margin.right]);
```

Domain = possible inputs

Range = possible outputs

D3 scales will automatically make plot fit the space.

Scales

Let's work out how a scale works by hand.

	time	temperature_2m
0	2025-04-24T00:00	55.6
1	2025-04-24T01:00	55.6
2	2025-04-24T02:00	55.2
3	2025-04-24T03:00	55.9
4	2025-04-24T04:00	56.7
...
163	2025-04-30T19:00	63.4
164	2025-04-30T20:00	61.8
165	2025-04-30T21:00	61.0
166	2025-04-30T22:00	60.9
167	2025-04-30T23:00	60.7



1000px wide

Scales

Let's work out how a scale works by hand.

	time	temperature_2m
0	2025-04-24T00:00	55.6
1	2025-04-24T01:00	55.6
2	2025-04-24T02:00	55.2
3	2025-04-24T03:00	55.9
4	2025-04-24T04:00	56.7
...
163	2025-04-30T19:00	63.4
164	2025-04-30T20:00	61.8
165	2025-04-30T21:00	61.0
166	2025-04-30T22:00	60.9
167	2025-04-30T23:00	60.7



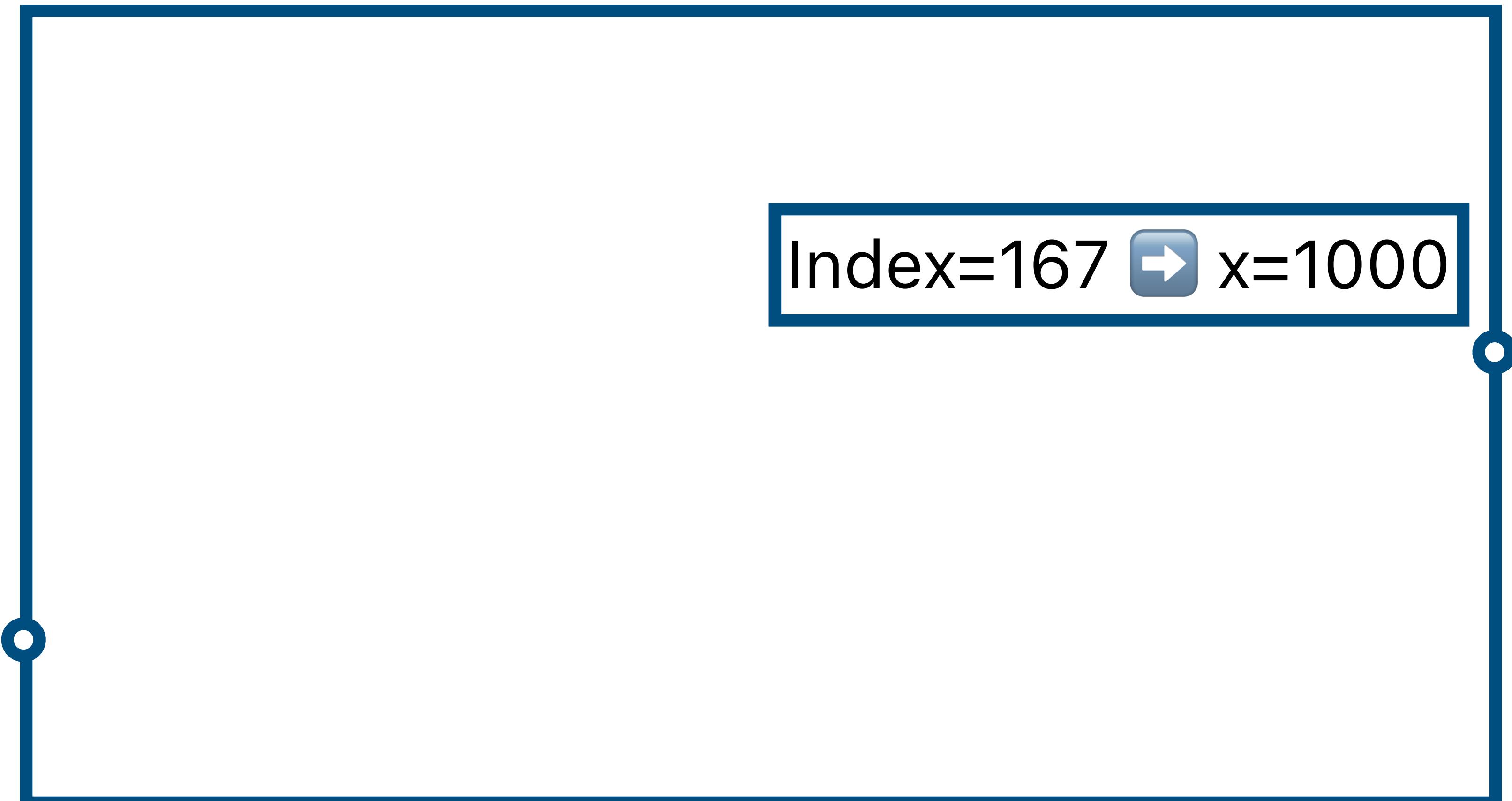
Index=0 → x=0

1000px wide

Scales

Let's work out how a scale works by hand.

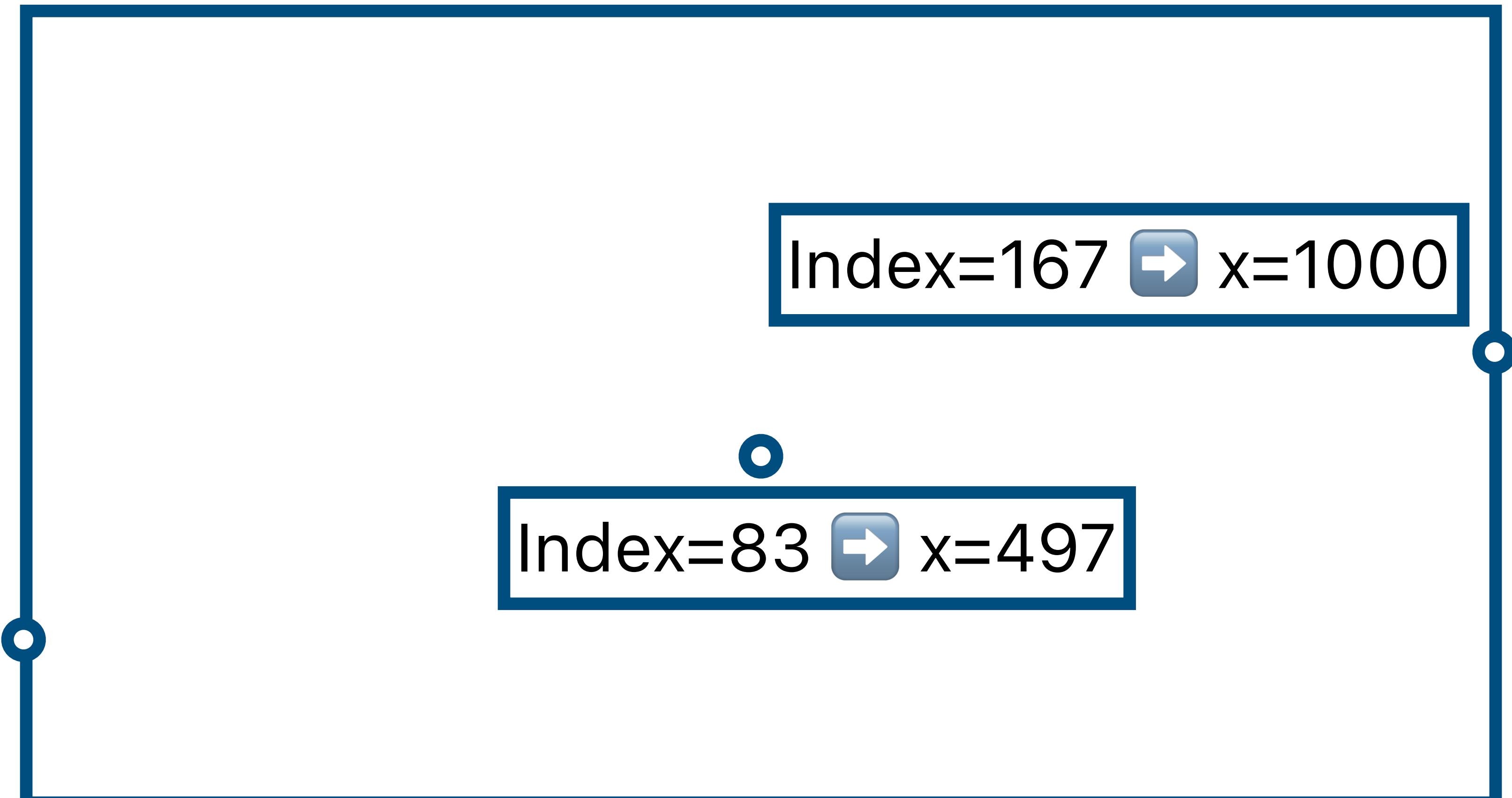
	time	temperature_2m
0	2025-04-24T00:00	55.6
1	2025-04-24T01:00	55.6
2	2025-04-24T02:00	55.2
3	2025-04-24T03:00	55.9
4	2025-04-24T04:00	56.7
...
163	2025-04-30T19:00	63.4
164	2025-04-30T20:00	61.8
165	2025-04-30T21:00	61.0
166	2025-04-30T22:00	60.9
167	2025-04-30T23:00	60.7



Scales

Let's work out how a scale works by hand.

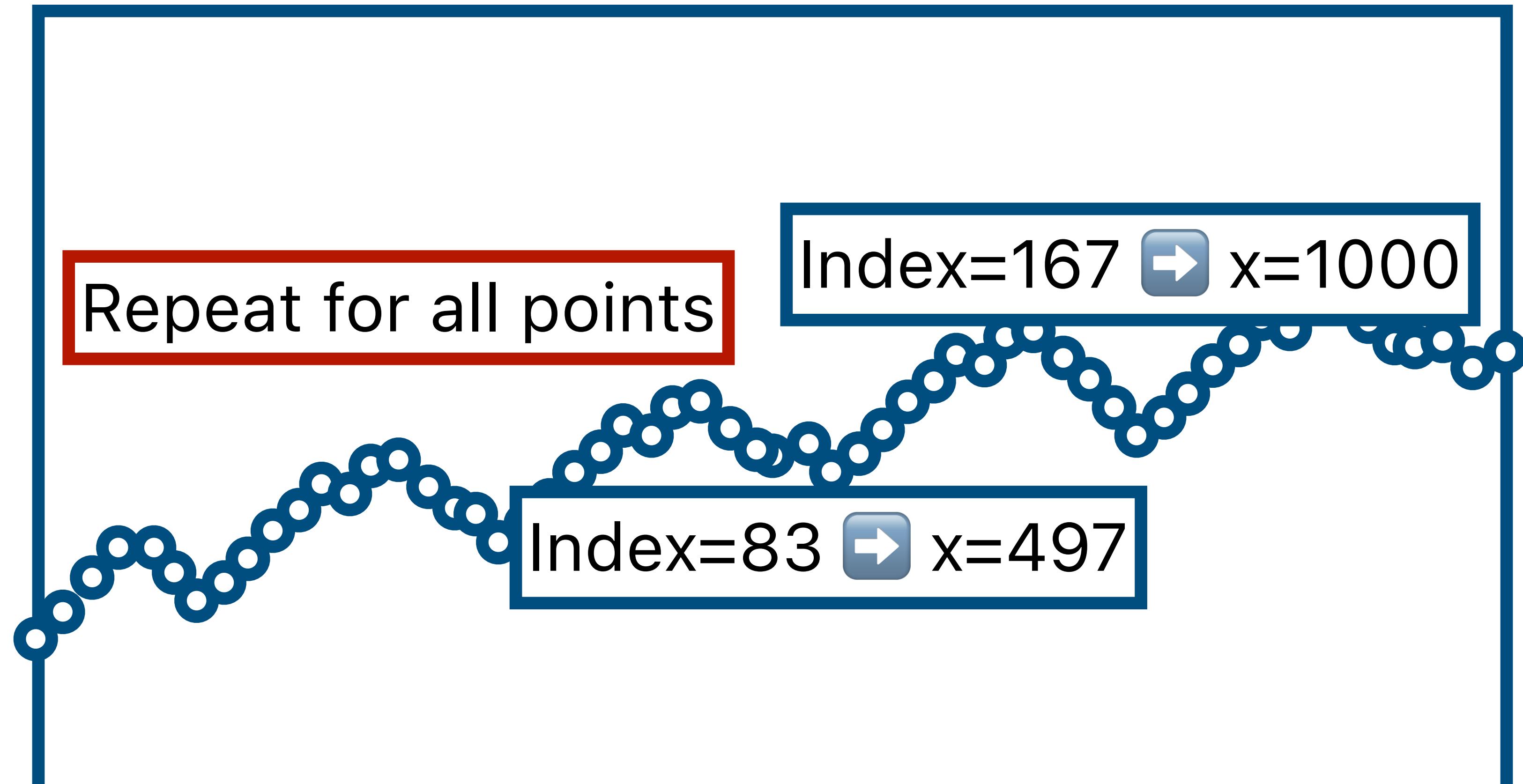
	time	temperature_2m
0	2025-04-24T00:00	55.6
1	2025-04-24T01:00	55.6
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3	2025-04-24T03:00	55.9
4	2025-04-24T04:00	56.7
...
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164	2025-04-30T20:00	61.8
165	2025-04-30T21:00	61.0
166	2025-04-30T22:00	60.9
167	2025-04-30T23:00	60.7



Scales

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167	2025-04-30T23:00	60.7



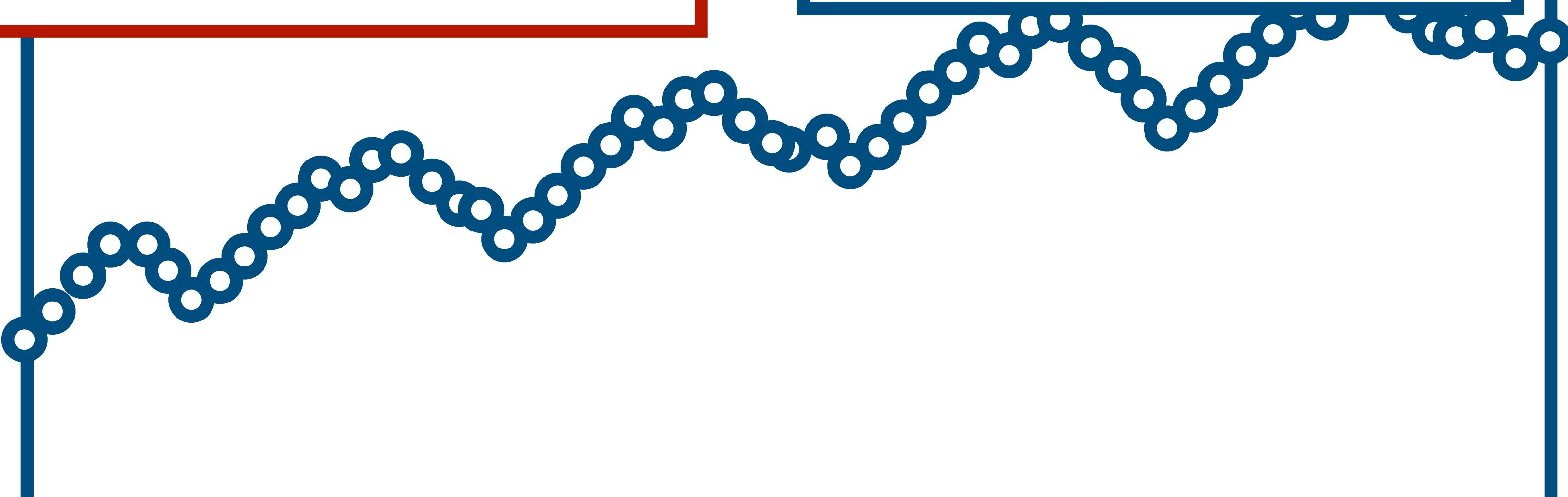
Scales

Let's work out how a scale works by hand.

Want a function that converts between:

Input: index → Output: x-coordinate

Index=167 → x=1000



Index=0 → x=0

1000px wide

Scales

Let's work out how a scale works by hand.

Want a function that converts between:

Input: index → Output: x-coordinate

Index=167 → x=1000

```
const xScale = d3  
    .scaleLinear()  
    .domain([0, weatherData.hourly.temperature_2m.length - 1])  
    .range([margin.left, width - margin.right]);
```

Domain = possible inputs

Range = possible outputs

Include margin for axes

Index=0 → x=0

1000px wide

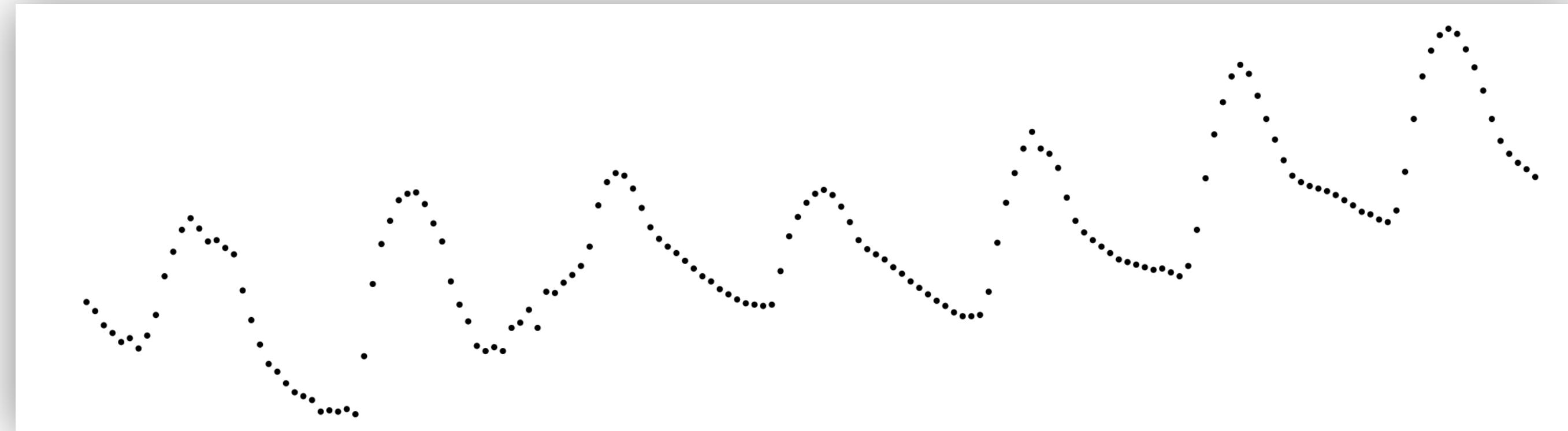
Submit a question about Step 2

tryclassbuzz.com

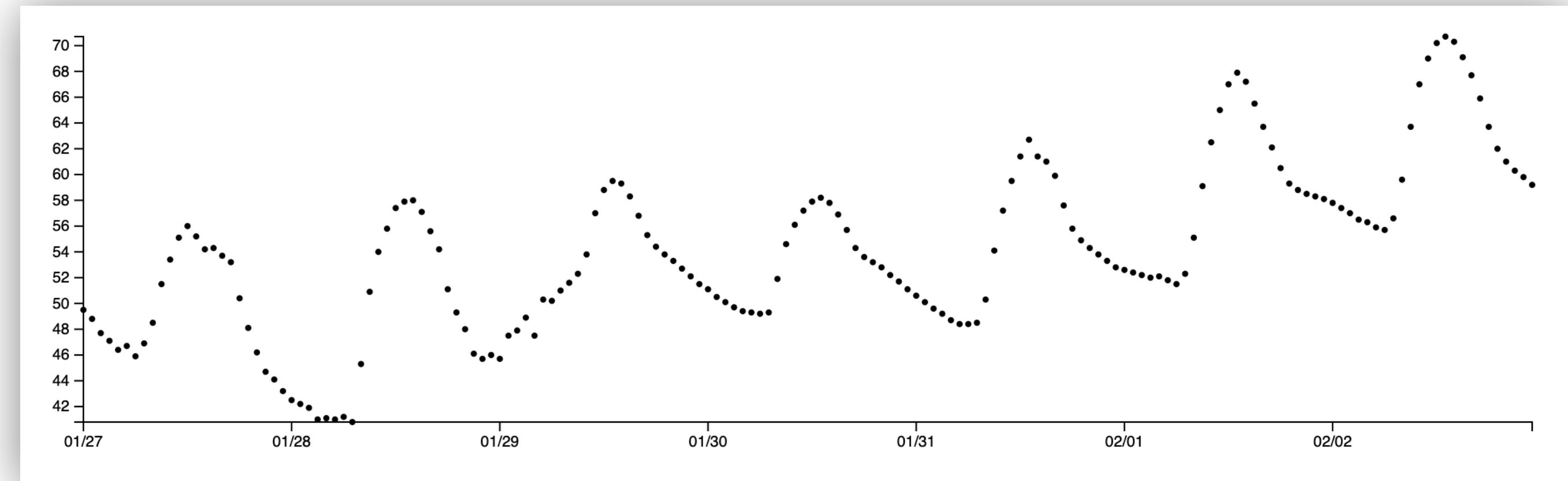
Code: **d3-2**

Step 3: Adding axes

Before:



After:



Demo: [d3-lecture/weather03](#)

Using a Time Scale

Old:

```
const xScale = d3
    .scaleLinear()
    .domain([0, weatherData.hourly.temperature_2m.length - 1])
    .range([margin.left, width - margin.right]);
```

scaleLinear: number input

New:

```
const xScale = d3
    .scaleTime()
    .domain([
        new Date(weatherData.hourly.time[0]),
        new Date(weatherData.hourly.time[weatherData.hourly.time.length - 1]),
    ])
    .range([margin.left, width - margin.right]);
```

scaleTime: Date() input

Using a scaleTime lets us get date labels on the x-axis for free!

Axes

```
const yAxis = d3.axisLeft(yScale);
```

Creates a D3 axis object

```
svg
  .append('g')
  .attr('class', 'y axis')
  .attr('transform', `translate(${margin.left}, 0)`)
  .call(yAxis);
```

Creates an SVG <g> object, then draws axis into it

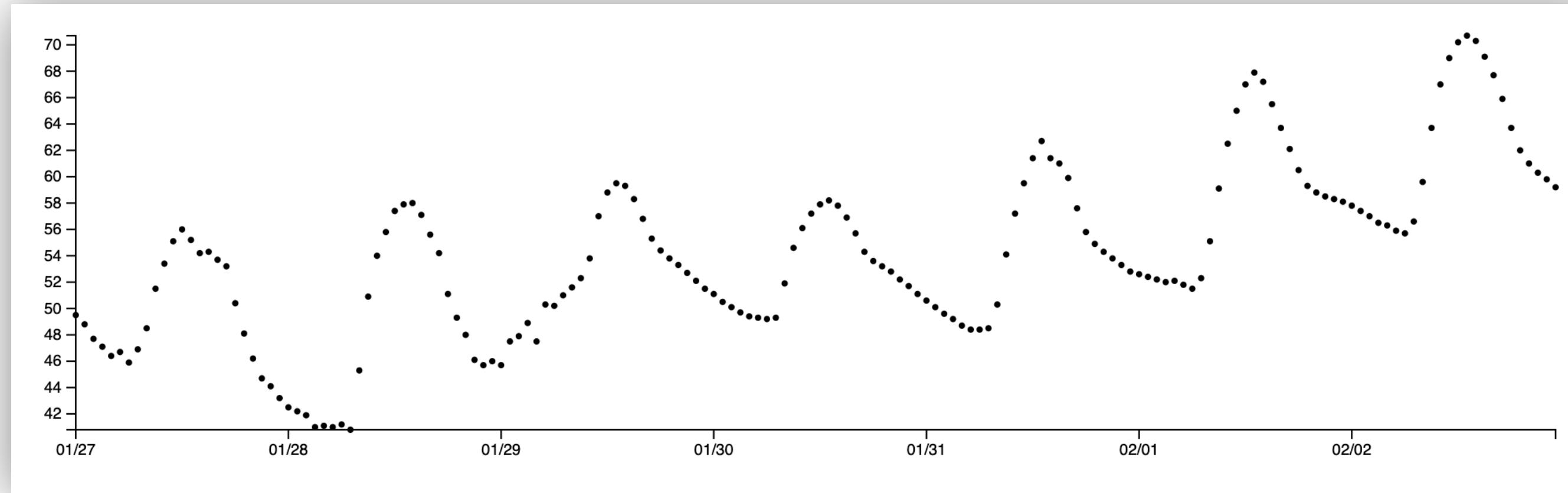
Submit a question about Step 3

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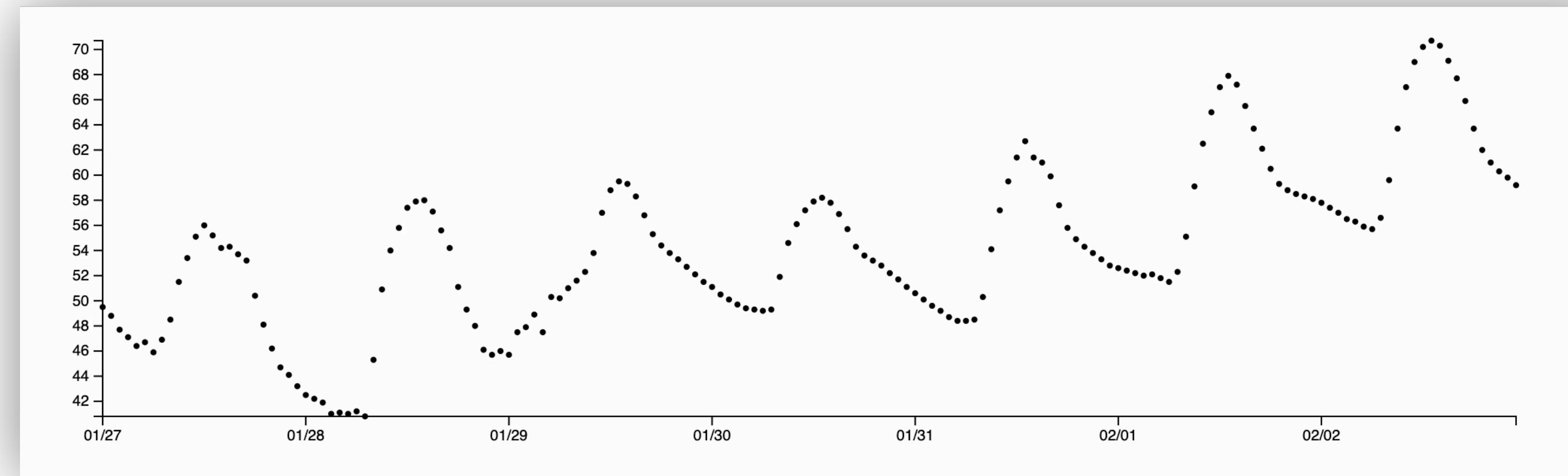
Code: **d3-3**

Step 4: Adding a basic tooltip

Before:



After:



Demo: d3-lecture/weather04

Making a tooltip

```
const tooltip = d3  
  .select('body')  
  .append('div')  
  .attr('class', 'tooltip')  
  .style('position', 'absolute')  
  .style('visibility', 'hidden')  
  .style('background-color', 'white')  
  .style('border', '1px solid #ddd')  
  .style('padding', '5px')  
  .style('border-radius', '3px');
```

Creates a <div>, styles it, and hides it so that it'll only show up with interaction

Adding interaction

```
.on('mouseover', function (event, d) {  
    d3.select(this).attr('r', 4); // Increase circle size on hover  
  
    tooltip.style('visibility', 'visible').text(`${d.toFixed(1)}°F`);  
})
```

D3 version of event listener + handler

Adding interaction

```
.on('mouseover', function (event, d) {  
    When a circle is moused over...  
    tooltip.style('visibility', 'visible').text(`${d.toFixed(1)}°F`);  
})
```

circle size on hover

D3 version of event listener + handler

Adding interaction

```
.on('mouseover', function (event, d) {  
  d3.select(this).attr('r', 4); // Increase circle size on hover  
  Make the circle's radius larger  
  d3.select(this).attr('cx', event.pageX +  
    (d.r * Math.cos(d.theta)))  
  .attr('cy', event.pageY +  
    (d.r * Math.sin(d.theta)));  
})
```

D3 version of event listener + handler

Adding interaction

```
.on('mouseover', function (event, d) {  
    d3.select(this).attr('r', 4); // Increase circle size on hover  
  
    tooltip.style('visibility', 'visible').text(`${d.toFixed(1)}°F`);  
})
```

Make tooltip visible and set its text

D3 version of event listener + handler

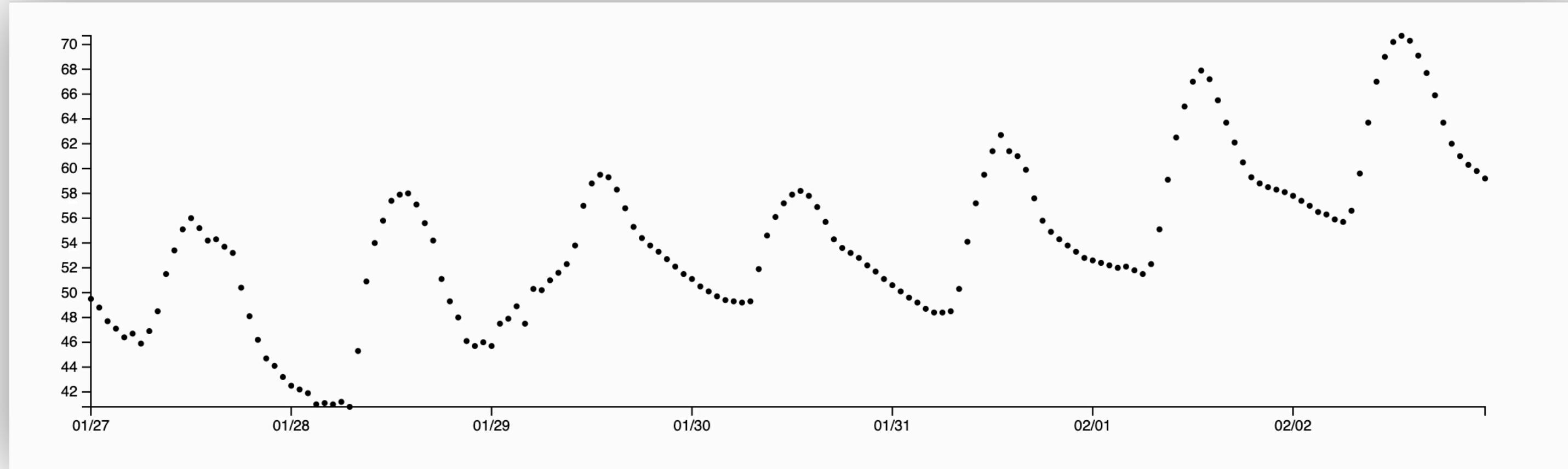
Submit a question about Step 4

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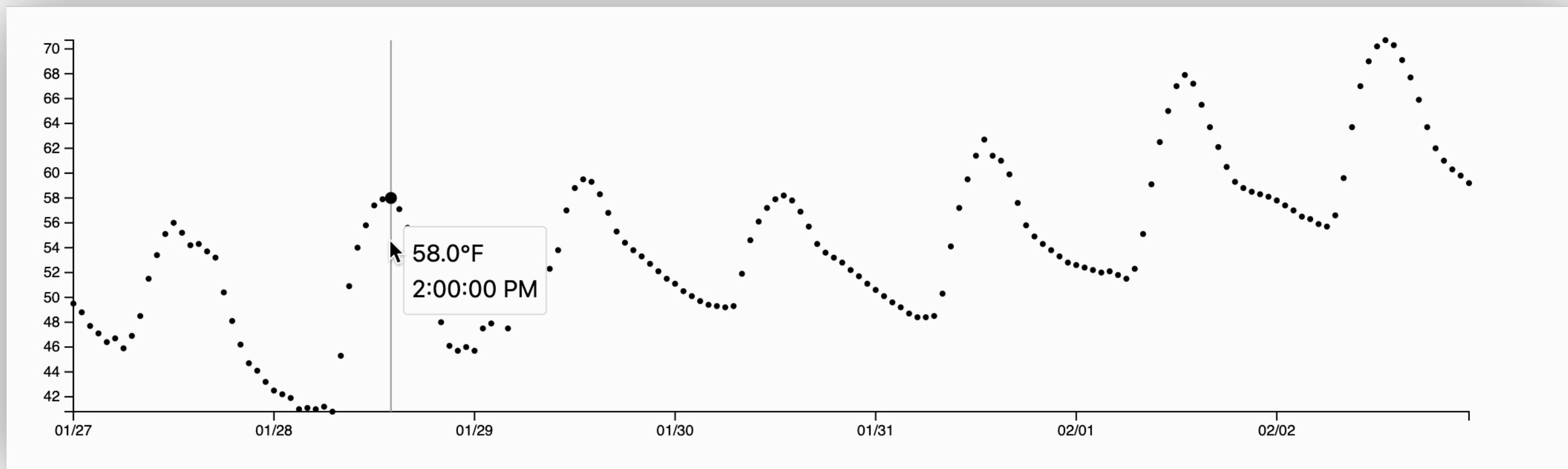
Code: **d3-4**

Step 5: Improving our tooltip

Before:



After:



Demo: [d3-lecture/weather05](#)

Interacting with the plot, not just points

```
// Create a rect overlay for mouse tracking
const overlay = svg
  .append('rect')
  .attr('class', 'overlay')
  .attr('x', margin.left)
  .attr('y', margin.top)
  .attr('width', width - margin.left - margin.right)
  .attr('height', height - margin.top - margin.bottom)
  .style('fill', 'none')
  .style('pointer-events', 'all');
```

Interaction trick:
Add an invisible rectangle just
to capture mouse events

Listening for mouse events on
the parent <svg> tag also ok

Improving interaction

```
.on('mousemove', function (event) {  
  const mouseX = d3.pointer(event)[0];  
  const xDate = xScale.invert(mouseX);  
  
  // Find the closest data point  
  const bisect = d3.bisector((d) => new Date(d)).left;  
  const index = bisect(weatherData.hourly.time, xDate);  
  const temp = weatherData.hourly.temperature_2m[index];  
  const time = new Date(weatherData.hourly.time[index]);
```

Challenge: since we're not hovering directly over points, we have to use the mouse position to find nearest point

Submit a question about Step 5

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Code: **d3-5**

You Try: Explain D3 code

<https://observablehq.com/@d3/gallery>

The screenshot shows the D3 gallery on ObservableHQ. At the top, there's a header with the D3 logo and the tagline "Bring your data to life." Below it, it says "Public" and "2 collections" by Mike Bostock, edited Nov 23, paused, ISC, 203 forks, importers, and 951 stars. The main section is titled "D3 gallery" and says "Looking for a good D3 example? Here's a few (okay, 173...) to peruse." It features a grid of 173 visualization examples, each with a thumbnail and a title. Some visible titles include "Animated treemap", "Temporal force-directed graph", "Connected scatterplot", "The wealth & health of nations", "Scatterplot tour", "Bar chart race", "Stacked-to-grouped bars", "Streamgraph transitions", "Smooth zooming", "Zoom to bounding box", "Orthographic to equirectangu...", and "World tour".

Pick a simple visualization (scatter plot, line plot, bar chart). Explain the code to your neighbor, then write a question about the code using this format:

URL: ...

Question: ...

tryclassbuzz.com
Code: explain-d3