

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

# JS (Part 2), D3.js

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**DSC 106: Data Visualization**

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# Announcements

Lab 4 due today.

Project 2 due on Tuesday.

## FAQs:

1. I'm getting 404 errors when working on the lab! Check that you're using relative URLs and they match your folder structure.

# **How to use GenAI in this course**

# Philosophy



ChatGPT



Whoa, you're not learning "real" programming!

```
...  
print('hello world')
```



Whoa, you're not learning "real" programming!

```
...  
  
#include <stdio.h>  
  
int main() {  
    printf("Hello, World!\n");  
    return 0;  
}
```

Sometimes details matter (e.g. high-perf computing, kernel drivers). But not always!

# What you should know

Visual encodings

Perception, color

How to design a good plot!

JS syntax, functions, objects

The document object model

Event handlers/listeners

D3 core abstractions

# What to use GenAI for

Brainstorming plot ideas,  
generating options to  
choose from.

Writing simple functions

document API and functions

Event names

Creating initial plot prototypes

# You Try: Your favorite website interaction

Go to your favorite website, pick an interactive element, describe event listener and event handler.

[tryclassbuzz.com](#)

Code: **interaction**

# **JS (Part 2)**

# Async / await

js-lecture/weather01/

(demo)

```
<head>
  <title>Temperature Converter</title>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="main.css" />
  <script src="main.js" type="module"></script>
```

If main.js code is slow, then page will freeze (!)  
while waiting for JS to finish

What if the dataset just takes a while to download?

Idea: Allow functions to run in the background  
(asynchronously) so that page doesn't freeze

```
async function loadWeatherData() {  
  try {  
    const response = await fetch('./weather-data.json');  
    const weatherData = await response.json();  
    return weatherData;  
  } catch (error) {  
    console.error('Error loading weather data:', error);  
  }  
}
```

async = this function uses other async functions

```
async function loadWeatherData() {  
  try {  
    const response = await fetch('./weather-data.json');  
    const weatherData = await response.json();  
    return weatherData;  
  } catch (error) {  
    console.error('Error loading weather data:', error);  
  }  
}
```

async = this function uses other async functions

await = this function might take a while, so let the browser do other stuff while we wait

```
function loadStory() {
  returngetJSON('story.json')
    .then(function(story) {
      addHtmlToPage(story.heading);

      return story.chapterURLs
        .map(getJSON)
        .reduce(function(chain, chapterPromise) {
          return chain
            .then(function() {
              return chapterPromise;
            })
            .then(function(chapter) {
              addHtmlToPage(chapter.html);
            });
        }, Promise.resolve());
    })
    .then(function() {
      addTextToPage('All done');
    })
    .catch(function(err) {
      addTextToPage('Argh, broken: ' + err.message);
    })
    .then(function() {
      document.querySelector('.spinner').style.display = 'none';
    });
}
```

Back in the day, we had to use JS Promises that had a `.then()` and `.catch()` syntax.

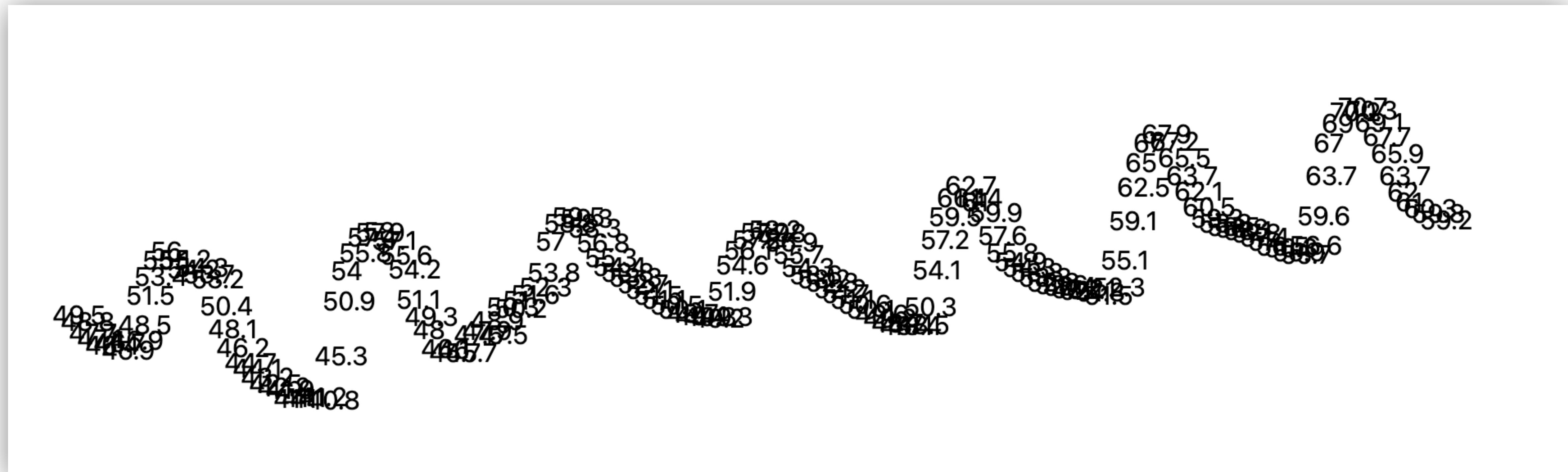
async/await is the modern version that makes writing this code a LOT easier

<https://jakearchibald.com/2014/es7-async-functions/>

```
async function loadStory() {
  try {
    let story = await getJSON('story.json');
    addHtmlToPage(story.heading);
    for (let chapter of story.chapterURLs.map(getJSON)) {
      addHtmlToPage(await chapter.html);
    }
    addTextToPage('All done');
  } catch (err) {
    addTextToPage('Argh, broken: ' + err.message);
  }
  document.querySelector('.spinner').style.display = 'none';
}
```

Half the code!

Now, let's make our very first data visualization in JS:

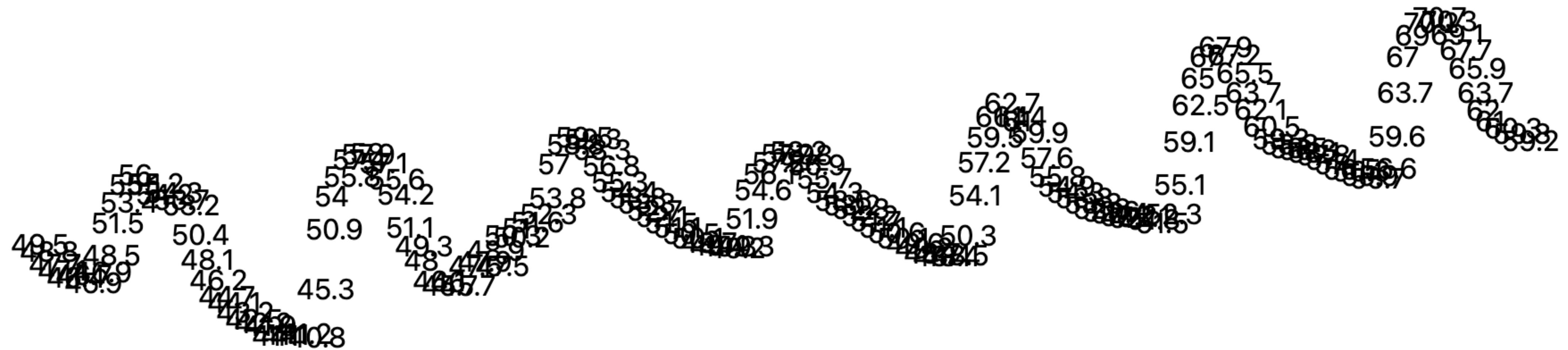


[js-lecture/weather02/](#)

(demo)

[js-lecture/weather03/](#)

(demo)



How would you add an x-axis and y-axis? Gridlines?

[tryclassbuzz.com](http://tryclassbuzz.com)

Code: **axes**

**D3**



<https://d3js.org/>



<https://d3js.org/>

Bespoke = fully custom

A screenshot of a web browser window showing the ObservableHQ platform. The URL bar says observablehq.com. The top navigation bar includes links for Platform, Solutions, Resources, Pricing, Sign in, and Sign up. Below the navigation is a section titled "Domain and range".

**Domain and range**

A scale has to know from whence this observation comes — and this is called its *domain*; and to what it converts these values — its *range*. For example, if we are observing sales of cheese on a certain day on an Indian market (a number expressed in rupees), and want to display them as bars of a certain length (in pixels), we'll define the scale this way:

```
barLength = f(n)  
barLength = d3.scaleLinear()  
.domain([0, 100000])  
.range([0, 400])
```

If we use this scale to draw our chart, sales of 1 *lakh* rupees (₹100,000) will be represented by a rectangle 400 pixels-long.

In this case, the domain is mapped to the range in a linear fashion — and one could write this as a simple function:

```
function barLength(income) {  
  return income / 100000 * 4000;  
}
```

D3 scales, however, convey more information than just “converting a quantity to a pixel value.” First, their range and domain can be queried, for example allowing charts to “discover” the beginning and end of an axis by reading these values:

```
barLength.domain()  
barLength.range()
```

Complete and accurate legends, a notoriously labor-intensive part of data visualization, can even be created automatically from scales, for example with Susie Lu's [D3-legend](#) module.

Most scales also offer an inverse method — going from visual variable to the original dimension. This allows interactivity in which the user can, for example, point on a specific point (in screen coordinates), and the application responds with a pop-up window showing a value in rupees:

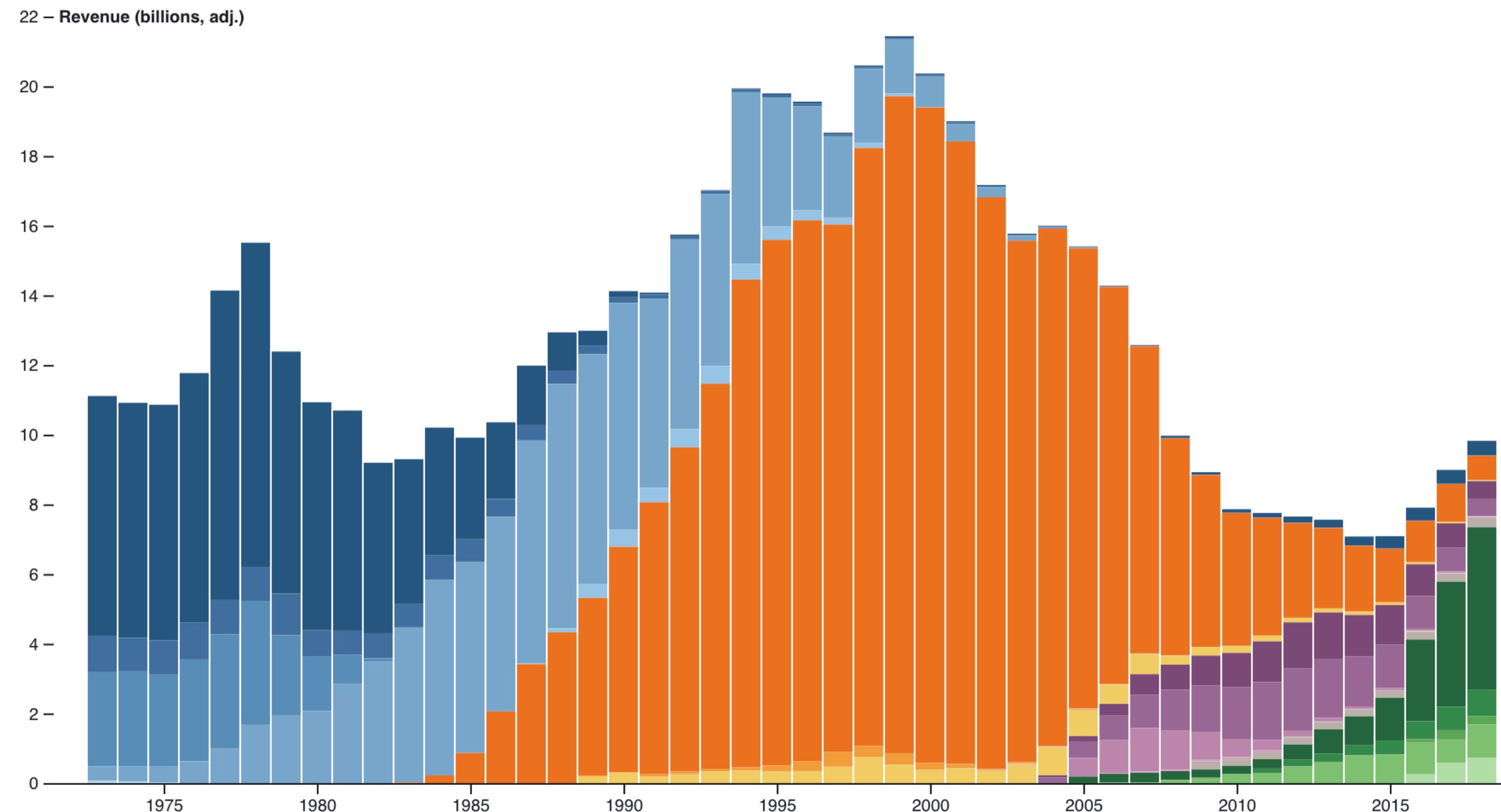
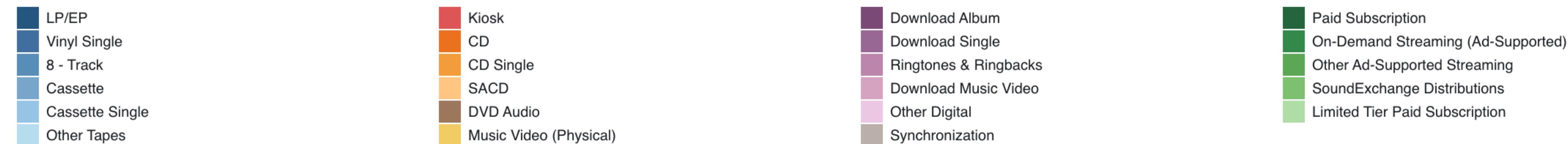
D3 has a parent company called Observable...

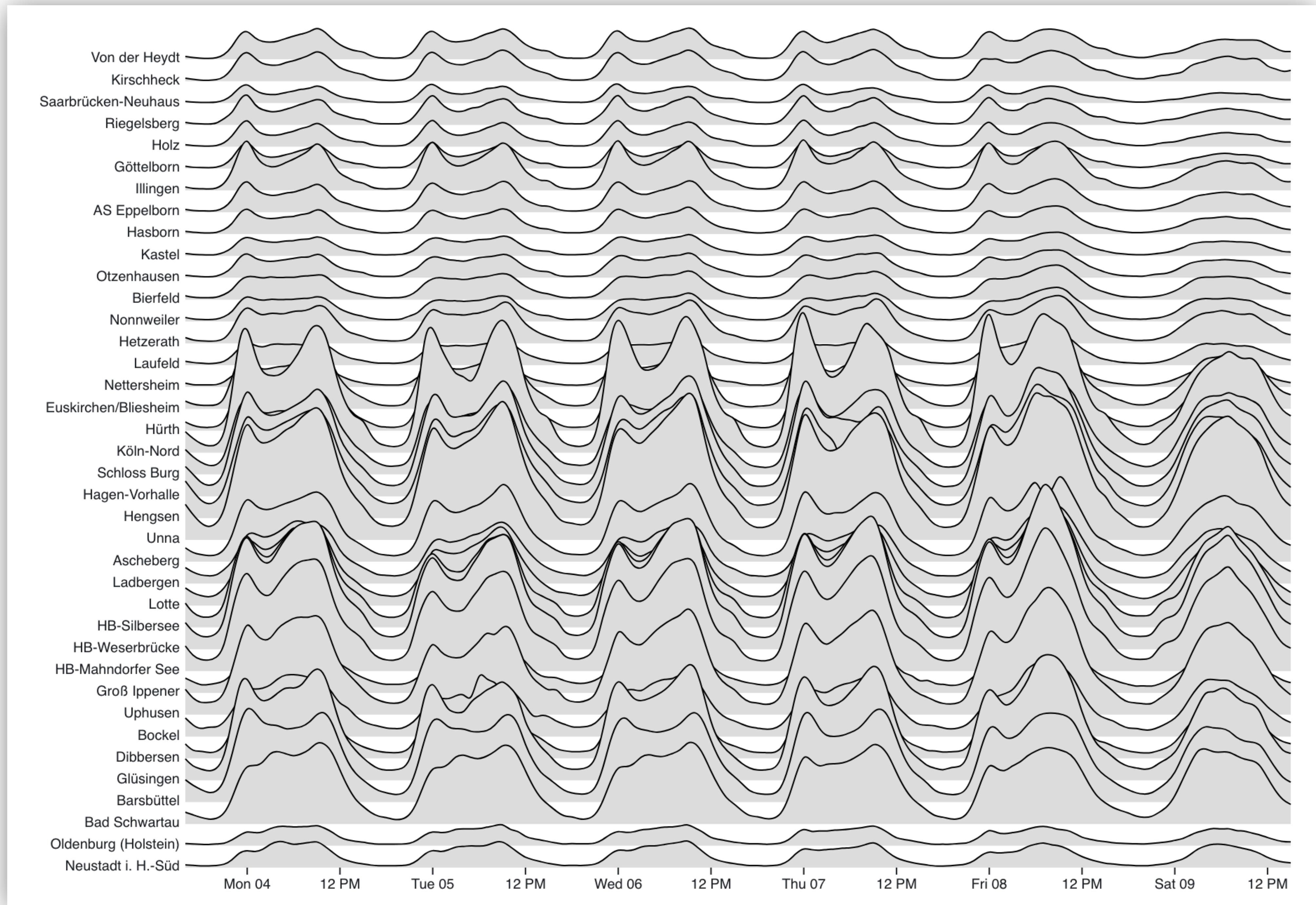
...which has a modified JS language!

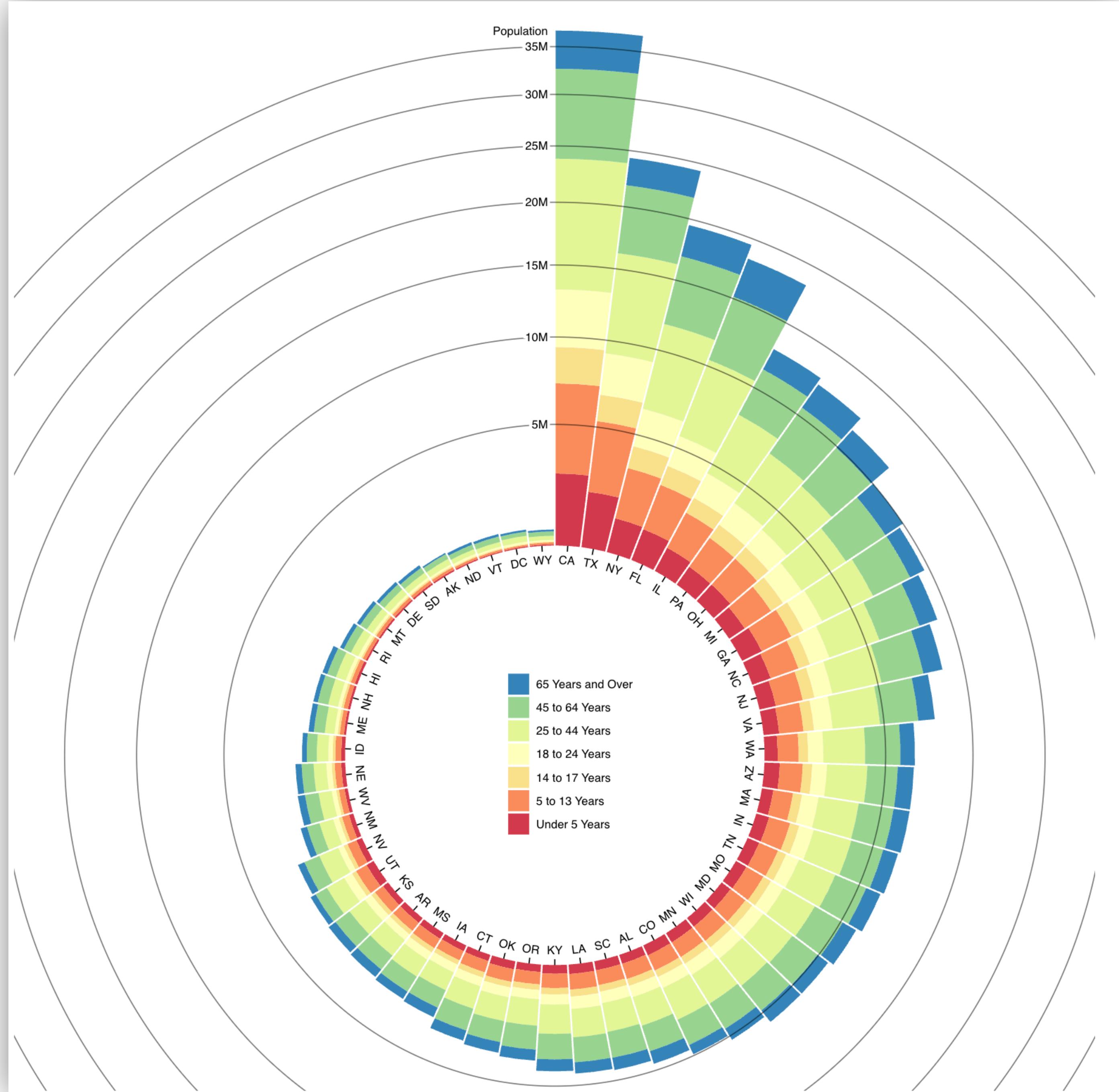
We won't use Observable for this class, but keep that in mind

# Revenue by music format, 1973–2018

Data: [RIAA](#)

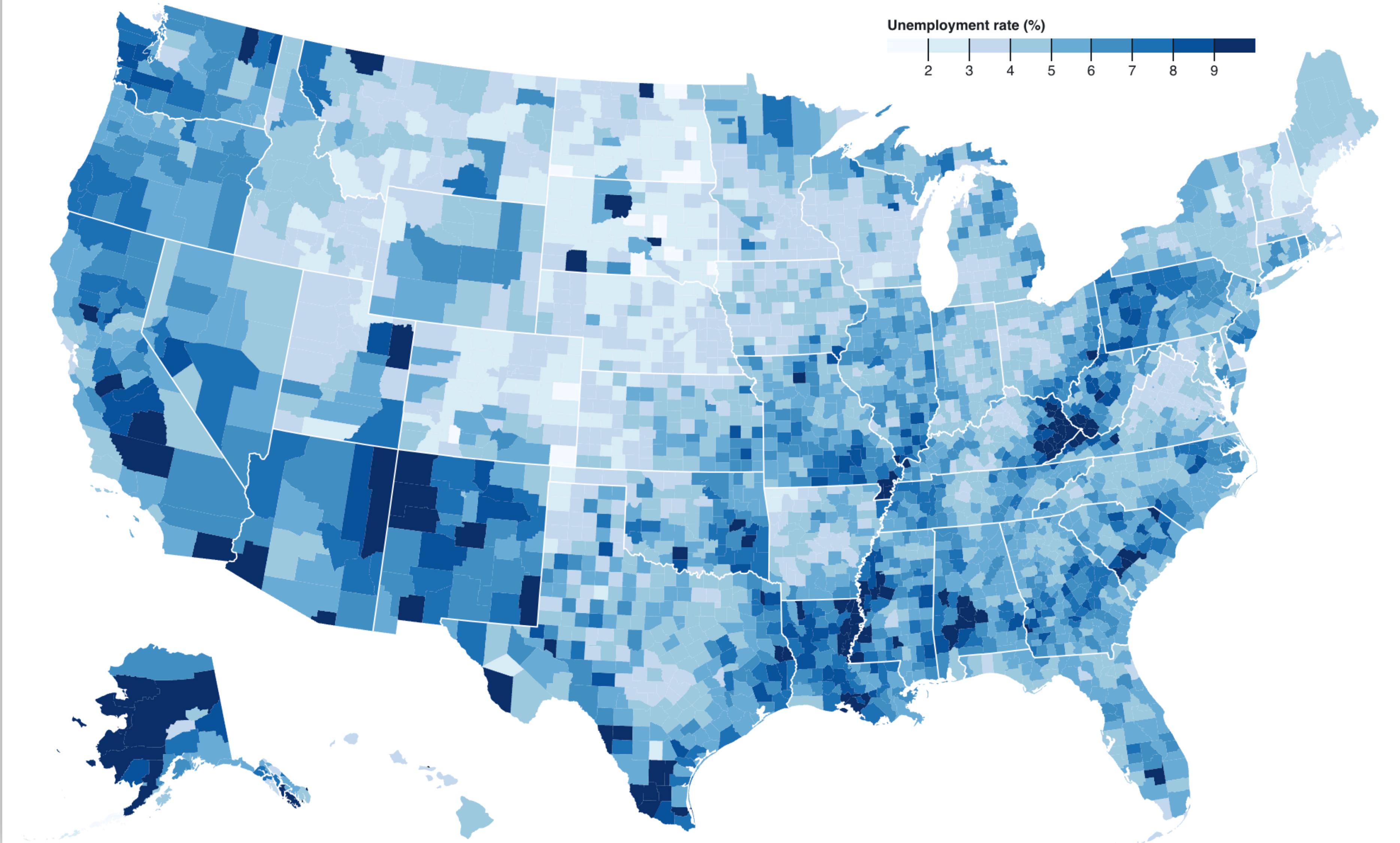






# Choropleth

Unemployment rate by U.S. county, August 2016. Data: [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

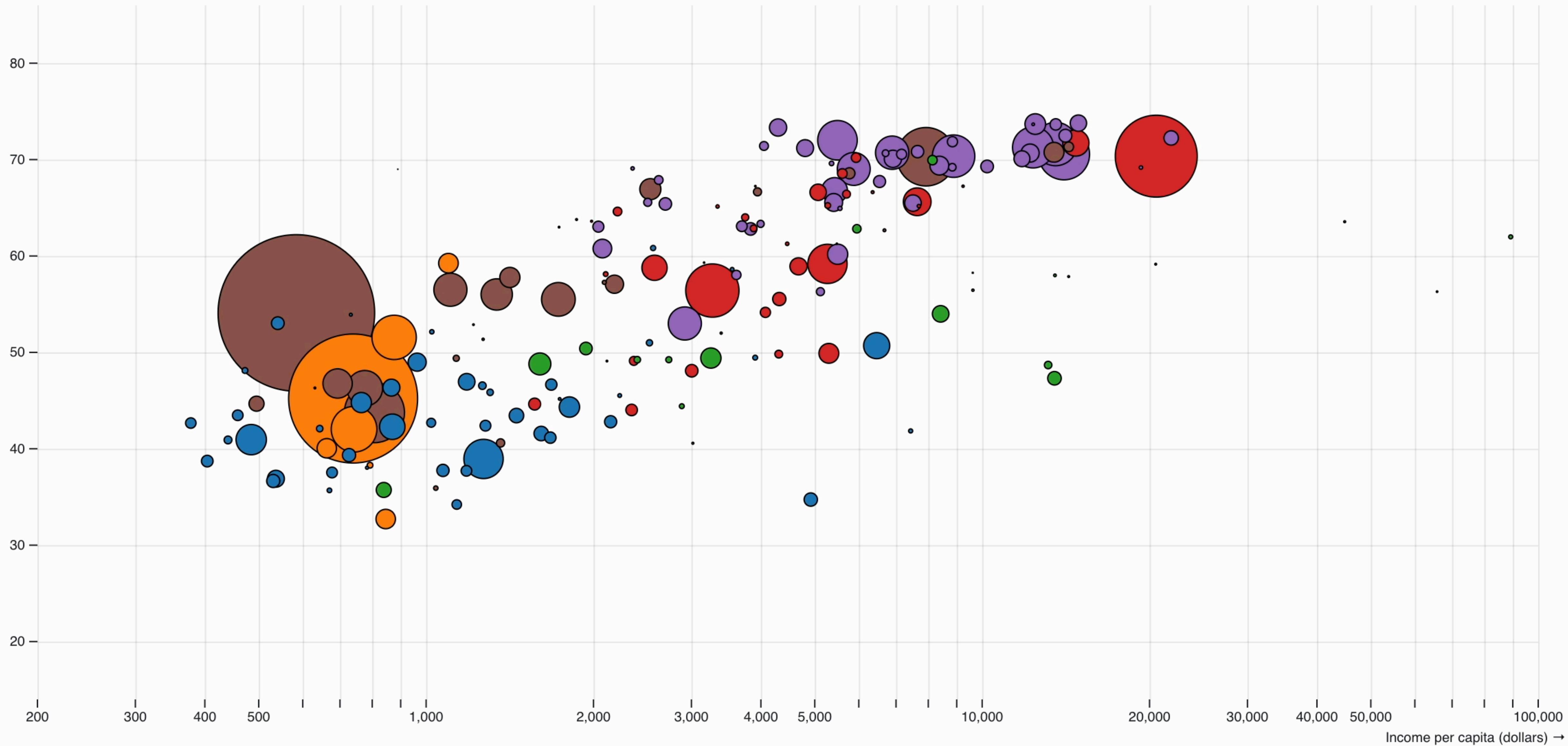


Pause

1964

Sub-Saharan Africa   South Asia   Middle East & North Africa   America   Europe & Central Asia   East Asia & Pacific

↑ Life expectancy (years)

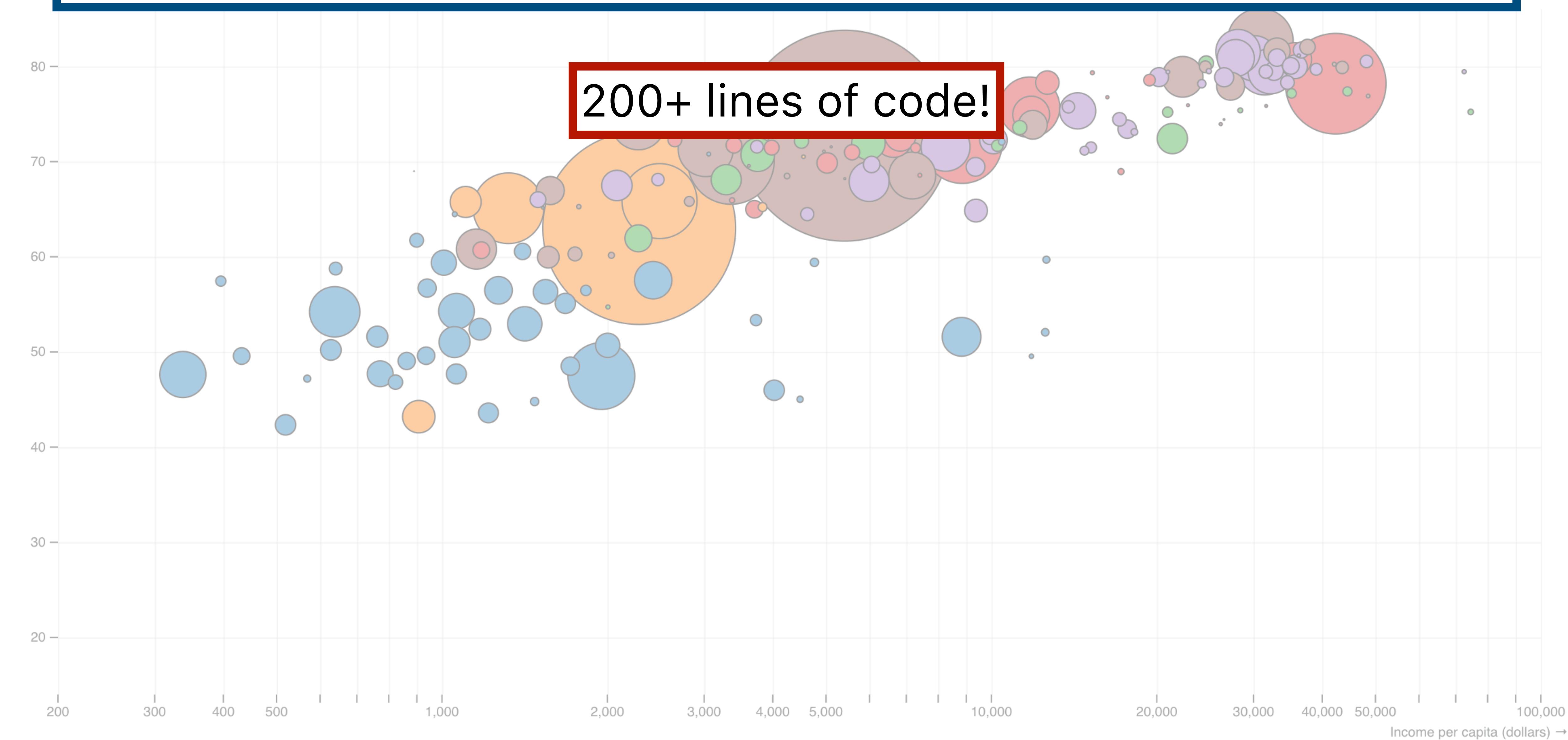


Play

• 2005

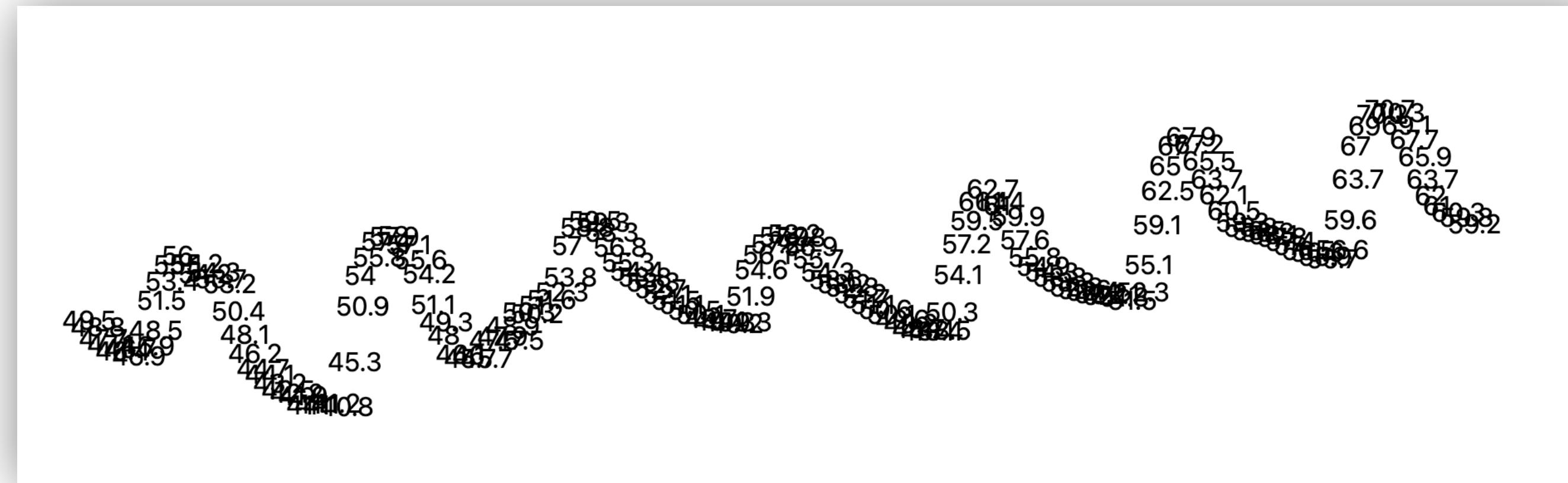
 Sub-Saharan Africa  South Asia  Middle East & North Africa  Americas  Europe & Central Asia  East Asia & Pacific

<https://observablehq.com/@mbostock/the-wealth-health-of-nations>

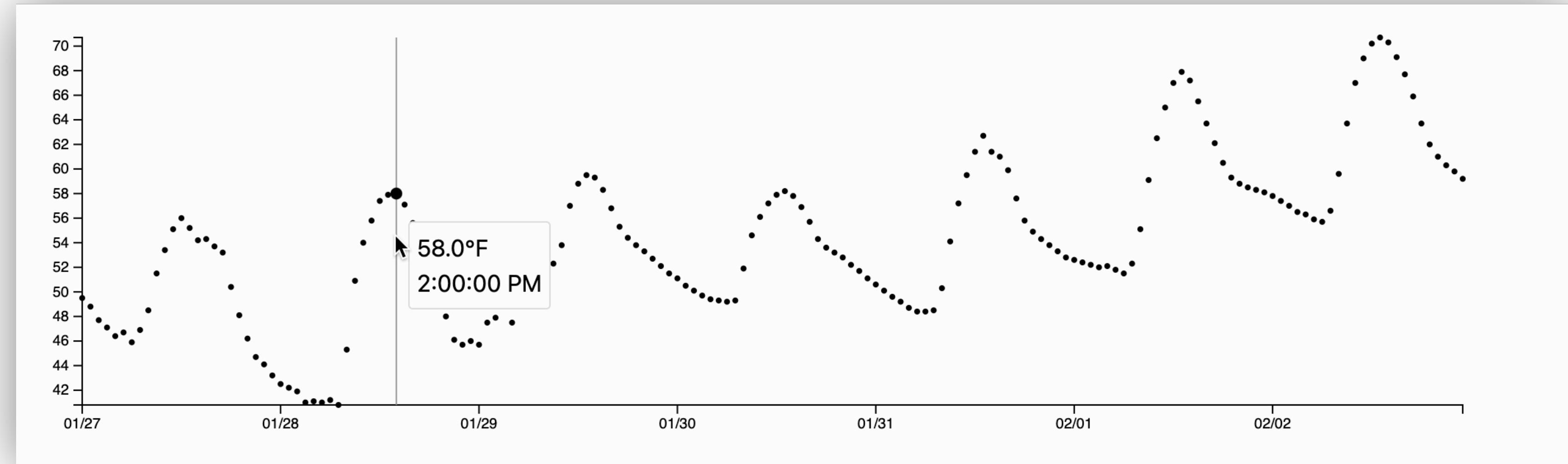


# Goal: Making an interactive scatterplot

Before:



After:



The screenshot shows the d3js.org API index page. At the top, there's a header with the d3 logo, a search bar, and navigation links. Below the header, the page title is "API index". A sub-header states: "D3 is a collection of modules that are designed to work together; you can use the modules independently, or you can use them together as part of the default build." The main content is organized into sections:

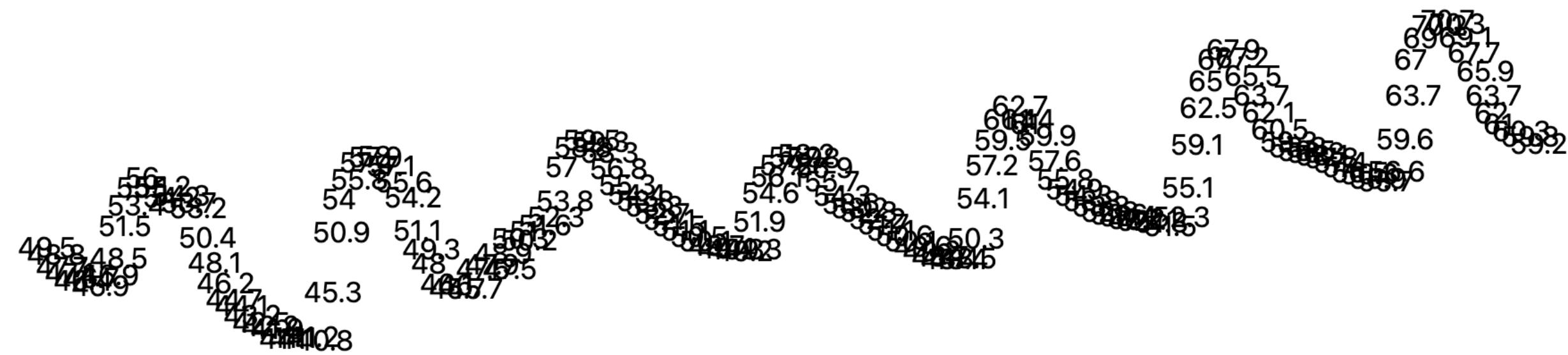
- d3-array**: Described as "Array manipulation, ordering, searching, summarizing, etc." It includes a "# Add" section with a list of methods:
  - [new Adder](#) - create a full precision adder.
  - [adder.add](#) - add a value to an adder.
  - [adder.valueOf](#) - get the double-precision representation of an adder's value.
  - [fcumsum](#) - compute a full precision cumulative summation of numbers.
  - [fsum](#) - compute a full precision summation of an iterable of numbers.
- Bin**: Described as "Bin discrete samples into continuous, non-overlapping intervals." It includes a list of methods:
  - [bin](#) - create a new bin generator.
  - [bin](#) - bins a given array of samples.
  - [bin.value](#) - specify a value accessor for each sample.
  - [bin.domain](#) - specify the interval of observable values.
  - [bin.thresholds](#) - specify how values are divided into bins.
  - [thresholdFreedmanDiaconis](#) - the Freedman–Diaconis binning rule.
  - [thresholdScott](#) - Scott's normal reference binning rule.

d3 is a huge library, 30 submodules, >1k methods!

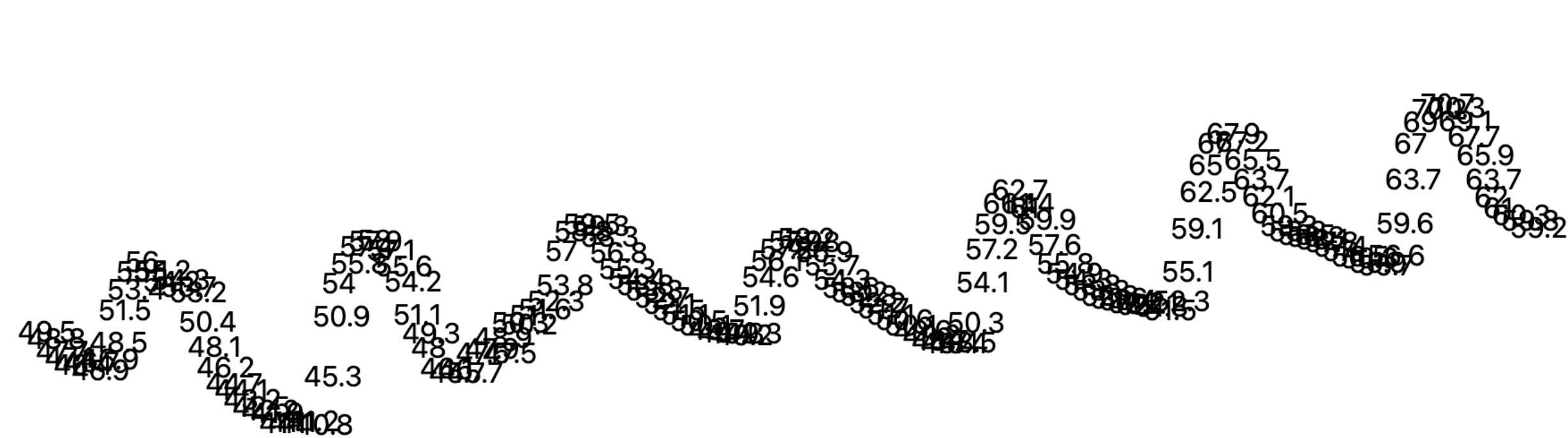
**80/20 rule:** Learn 20% and you'll be able to do 80% of what d3 is capable of.

# Step 1: Using D3 instead of plain JS

Before:



After:



But in D3!

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

# D3 Selections

Before:

```
const svg = document.querySelector('#weather-plot');
```

After:

```
const svg = d3.select('#weather-plot');
```

This is a D3 selection object, so it has D3 methods (not HTML methods!)

# D3 Selections

Before:

```
const svg = document.querySelector('#weather-plot');
```

```
svg.setAttribute('width', 1000);  
svg.setAttribute('height', 500);
```

HTML element method

After:

```
const svg = d3.select('#weather-plot');
```

```
svg.attr('width', 1000);  
svg.attr('height', 500);
```

D3 equivalent

Don't memorize method names,  
just use Copilot / ChatGPT

# Data Joins

Before:

```
weatherData.hourly.temperature_2m.forEach((temp, index) => {
  const text = document.createElementNS('http://www.w3.org/2000/svg', 'text');
  text.setAttribute('x', index * 5);
  text.setAttribute('y', 500 - temp * 6);

  text.textContent = temp;
  svg.appendChild(text);
});
```

HTML methods

After:

```
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);
```

The D3 way

# Data Joins

```
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);
```

Match data with text elements

# Data Joins

```
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);
```

Create one new text element  
for each datum

# Data Joins

```
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);
```

Set the x, y, and text content  
of each text element

# Data Joins

```
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);
```

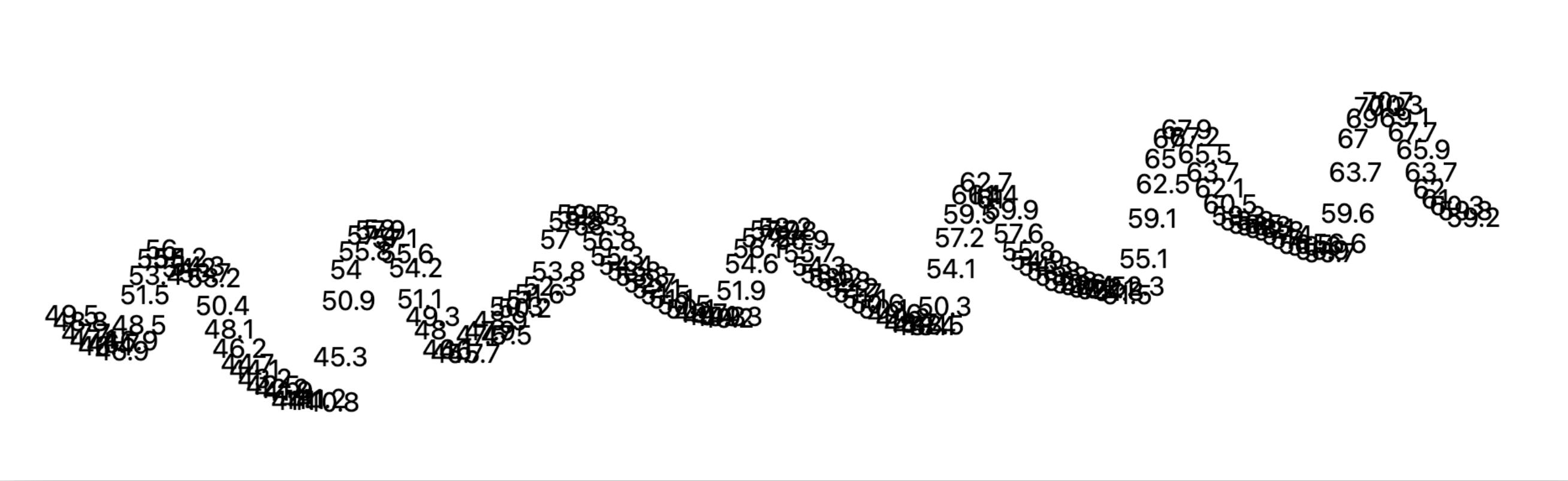
Set the x, y, and text content  
of each text element

What do the numbers 5, 6,  
and 500 mean?

Nothing really, why not do that  
automatically?

# Step 2: Making circles and using d3 scales

Before:



# 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);
```

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

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);
```

# 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

Input type	Output type	Example scales
Number	Number	<pre>d3.scaleLinear([10, 130], [0, 960]) d3.scaleLog([1, 10], [0, 960])</pre>
Datetime	Number	<pre>d3.scaleUtc([   new Date("2000-01-01"), new Date("2000-01-02"), ], [0, 960]);</pre>
Category	Category	<pre>d3.scaleOrdinal(["a", "b", "c"],   ["red", "green", "blue"])</pre>
Number	Color	<pre>d3.scaleSequential([0, 100], d3.interpolateBlues) d3.scaleDiverging([-1, 0, 1], d3.interpolateRdBu)</pre>
Number	Quantized color	<pre>d3.scaleQuantize([0, 100], d3.schemeBlues[9])</pre>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [observablehq.com](https://observablehq.com) in the address bar. The page displays a notebook titled "Introduction to D3's scales". The notebook content includes:

- A header section with the D3 logo and the tagline "Bring your data to life."
- Metadata: "Public", "d3-scale", "By Fil", "Edited Oct 24, 2023", "ISC", "4 forks", "31 stars".
- A main heading: "Introduction to D3's scales".
- A text block: "When, on a print map, 1 cm figures a real distance of 1 km on the terrain, we say that the map has a 1:100,000 scale."
- A text block: "But scales are not limited to a proportional ratio (or rule of three) between an actual distance and a length on paper. More generally, they describe how an actual dimension of the original data is to be represented as a visual variable. In this sense, scales are one of the most fundamental abstractions of data visualization."
- A text block: "Scales from the `d3-scale` module are functions that take as input the actual value of a measurement or property. Their output can in turn be used to encode a relevant representation."
- A code snippet: 

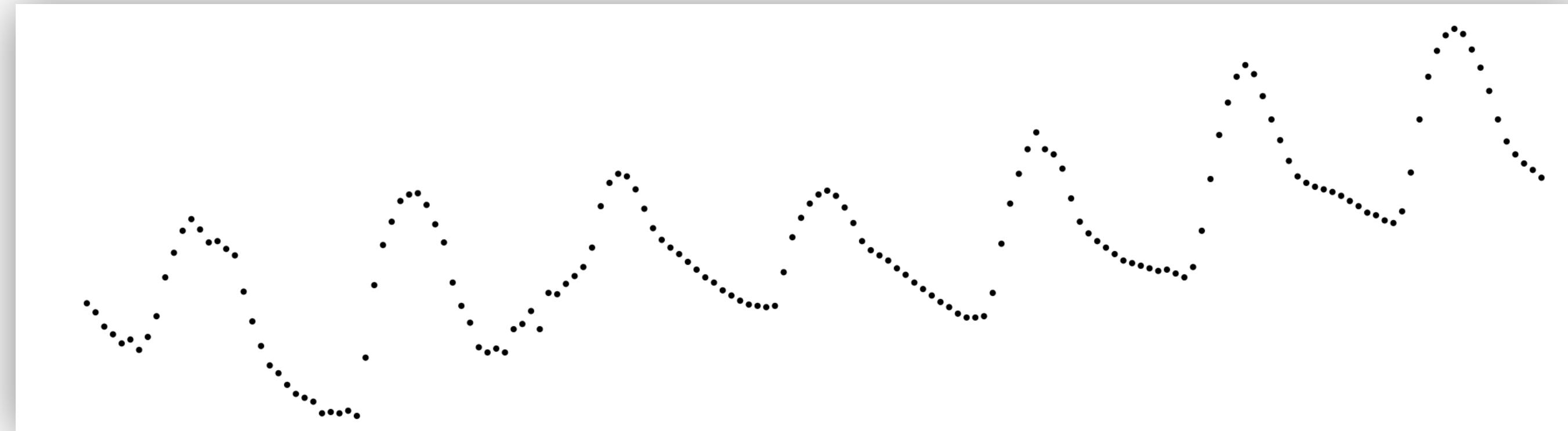
```
f(n)
d3.scaleLinear()
```
- A text block: "A scale thus maps a physical quantity (or, more generally, an observation), which might be expressed in meters, kilograms, years or seconds, number of horses in a field... to a length or a radius (in screen pixels or print centimeters), a `color` (in CSS representation), a `shape`...".
- A section heading: "Domain and range".
- A text block: "A scale has to know from whence this observation comes — and this is called its *domain*; and to what it converts these values — its *range*. For example, if we are observing sales of cheese on a certain day on an Indian market (a number expressed in rupees), and want to display them as bars of a certain length (in pixels), we'll define the scale this way:
- A code snippet: 

```
barLength = f(n)
barLength = d3.scaleLinear()
.domain([0, 10000])
.range([0, 400])
```

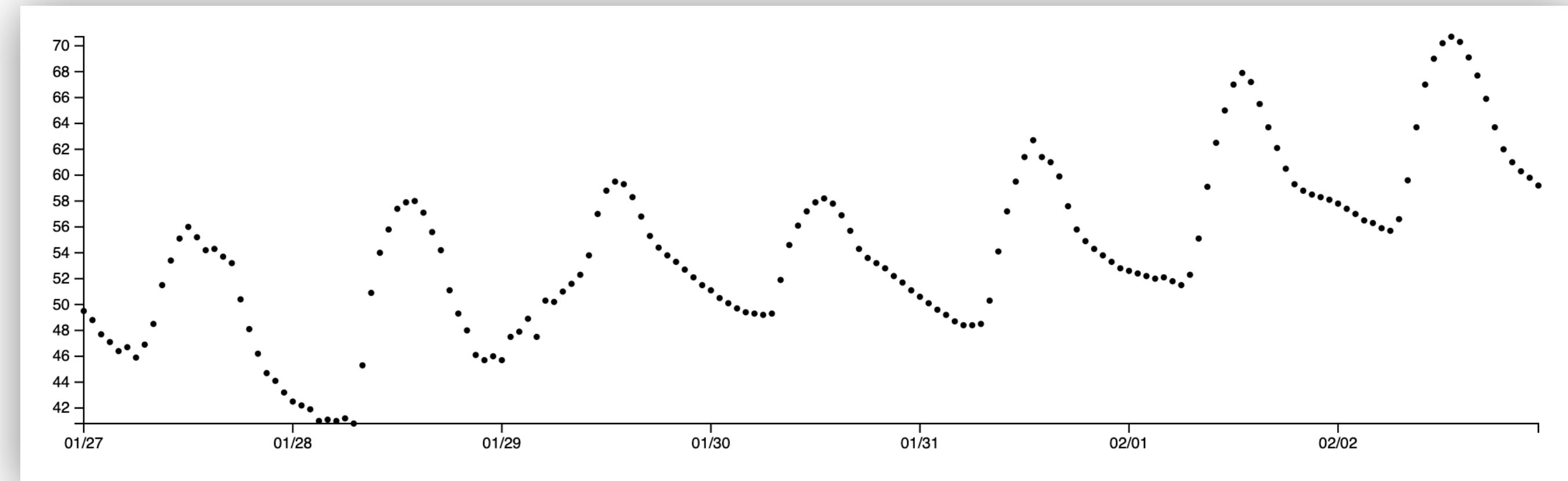
<https://observablehq.com/@d3/introduction-to-d3s-scales?collection=@d3/d3-scale>

# Step 3: Adding axes

Before:



After:



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

# Axes

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

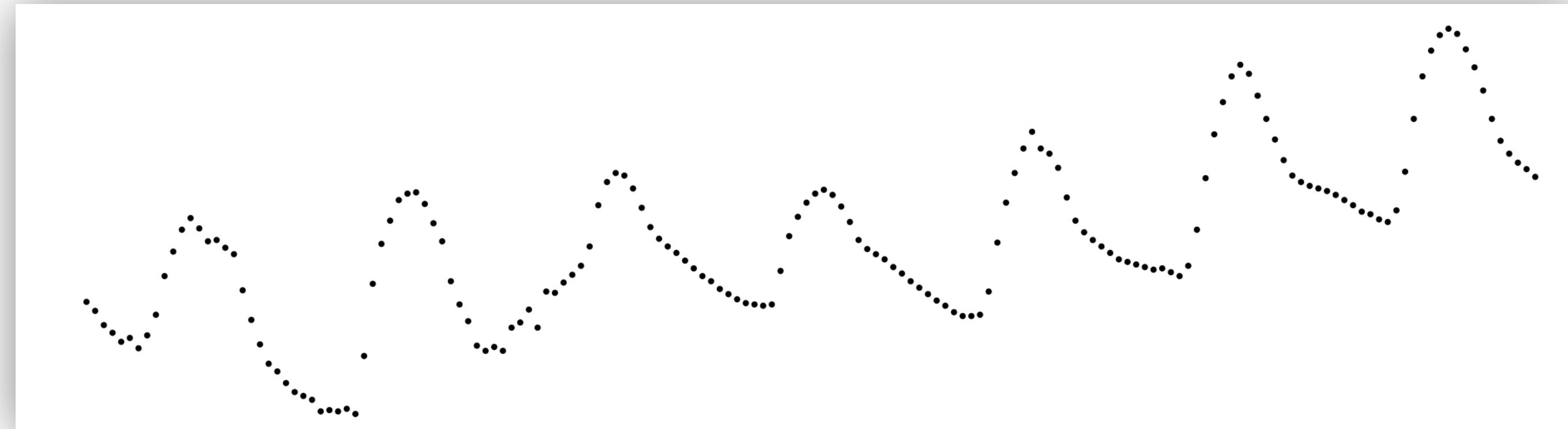
Creates a D3 axis object

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

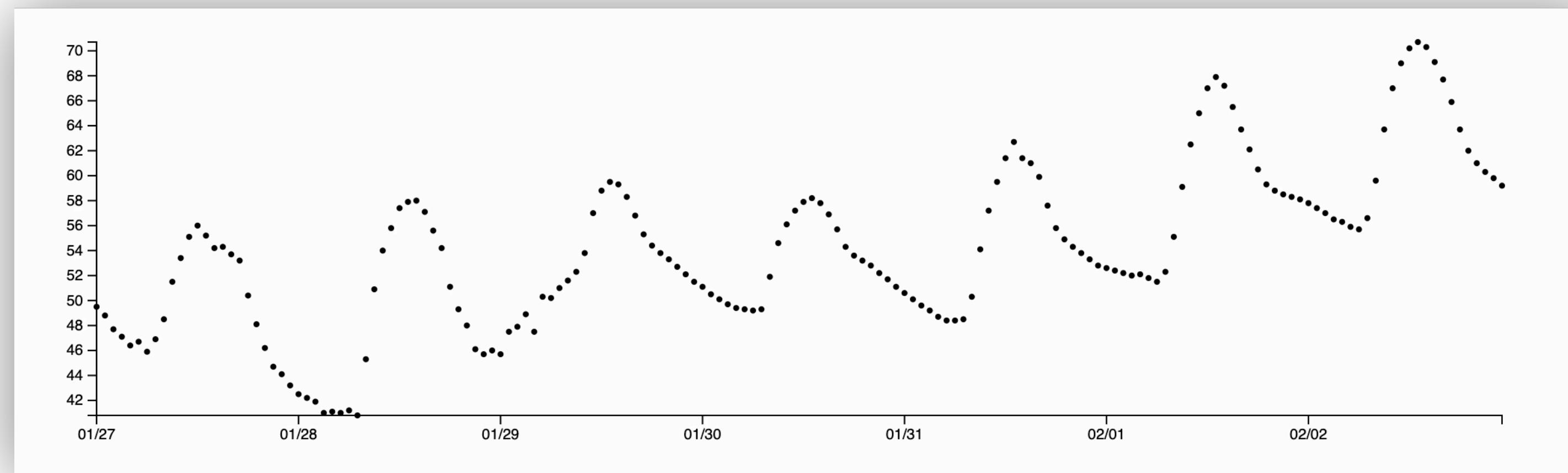
Creates an SVG <g> object, then draws axis into it

# 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`);  
})
```

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
})${d.toFixed(1)}°F`);
```

# D3 version of event listener + handler

# Adding interaction

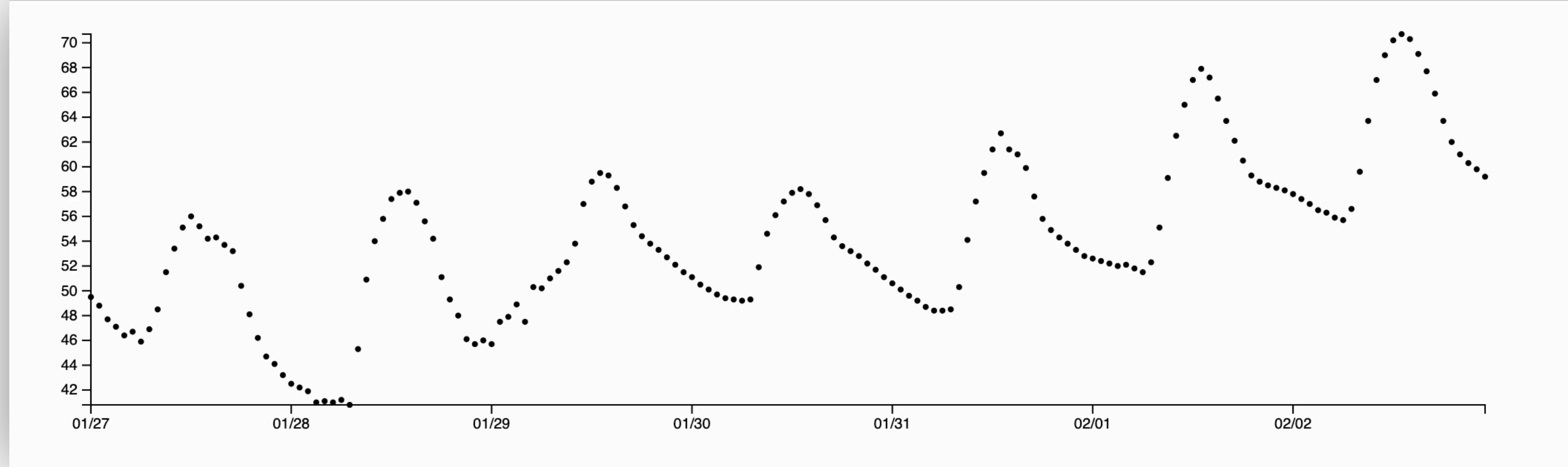
```
.on('mouseover', function (event, d) {  
    d3.select(this).attr('r', 4); // Increase circle size on hover  
  
    tooltip.style('visibility', 'visible').text(`${d.toFixed(1)}°F`);  
})
```

Make tooltip visible and set its text

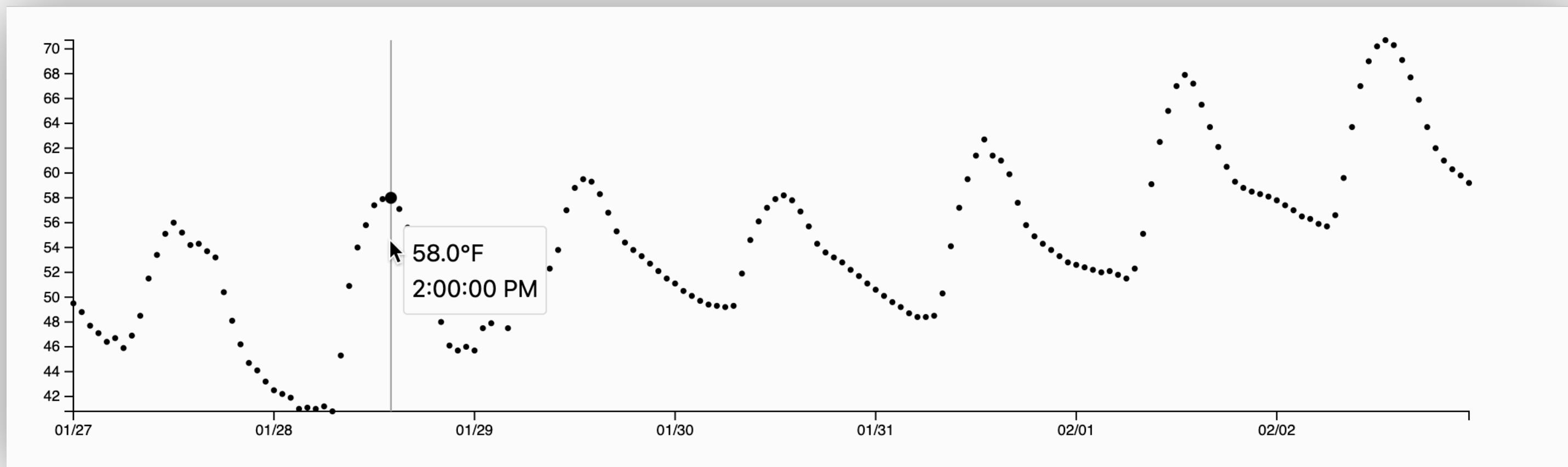
D3 version of event listener + handler

# 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

# 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, the page is public, created by Mike Bostock, edited on Nov 23, and has 203 forks. The main section is titled "D3 gallery" and contains a brief description: "Looking for a good D3 example? Here's a few (okay, 173...) to peruse." A section titled "Animation" explains that D3's data join, interpolators, and easings enable flexible animated transitions between views while preserving object constancy. Below this, there are several thumbnail previews of different visualizations, each with a title: "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](http://tryclassbuzz.com)  
Code: explain-d3