D3: The Crash Course

aka: D3: The Early Sticking Points

aka: D3: Only the Beginning



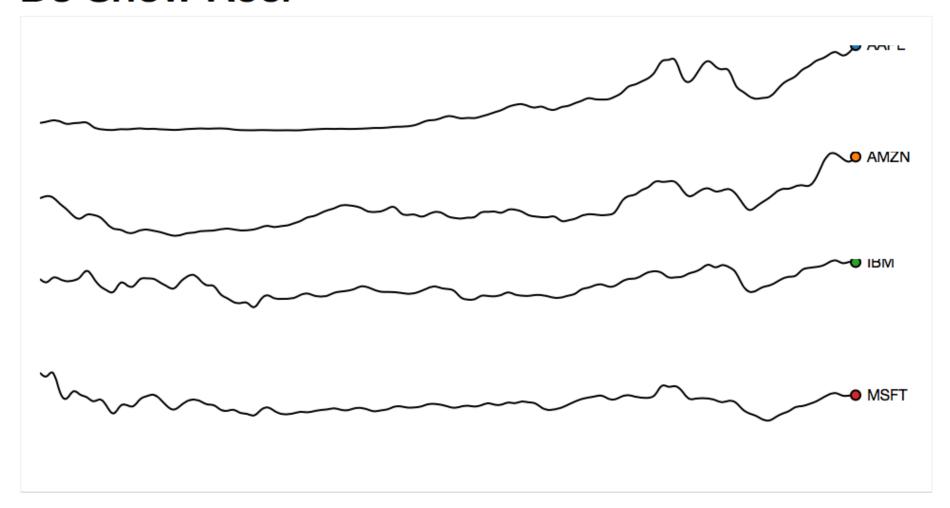
Chad Stolper Assistant Professor Southwestern University

(graduated from Georgia Tech CS PhD)



http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/1256572

D3 Show Reel



http://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-auto-sales/

Vehicle type



Pickup truck







50K

10K

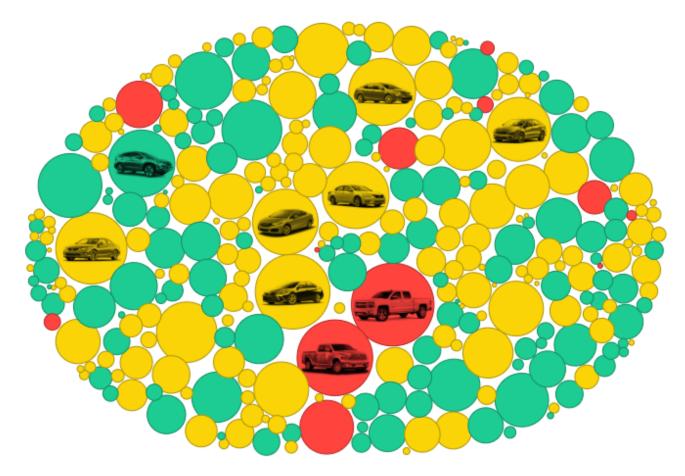
100K

250K

500K

Pickups are king of the road.

Automakers sold more than 16.5 million new vehicles in the U.S. last year, up 5.9 percent from 2013. The most popular model, by a huge stretch, was the Ford F-Series pickup. In 2014, Americans bought 754,000 of them, making it the top-selling vehicle for the 33rd year in a row.





Ford's F-Series: America's best-selling vehicle



BUT FIRST....



Why should you learn D3???



If you visualization/system/tool will benefit from interactivity.

Otherwise, use anything you want (e.g., tableau, excel, python:seaborn, R:ggplot2, etc.)

More online discussion: https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=11995332

D3 v4.0.0 released (github.com)

438 points by aw3c2 224 days ago | hide | past | web | 94 comments | favorite

▲ yoavm 224 days ago [-]

D3 has the reputation of being super-complicated because of all the libraries that are based on it, "simplifying" it so that everyone can use it. In the past year I wanted to create pretty unique type of data visualisation, so I dived into D3 and discovered it a makes a lot more sense than I though. Of course, if you only want a regular bar chart, you'll do better with things like C3, nvd3 etc'. But if you want anything a bit special, D3 itself is very powerful and the documentation in pretty good - there's no reason to avoid using it directly.

Definitely looking forward to try the new release.

▲ minimaxir 224 days ago [-]

To add to that, if you are a complete newbie to any data visualization, do not start with d3. If you want to make pretty charts programatically, using R/ggplot2 or Python/Seaborn is good enough. Even Excel is fine if you tweak the defaults.

D3 is good if your visualization benefits from interactivity, either with dynamic data adjustment or rich tooltips. But static visualizations are important too. (I recently restructured my workflow so I can output static images and interactive charts with the same code, which makes it the best of both worlds.)

▲ danso 224 days ago [-]

What is your static+interactive workflow now, if I can ask? Also, is it fairly easy to build a workflow that generates static visualizations via D3 (i.e. making savable SVGs)?

minimaxir 224 days ago [-]

I make charts with R/ggplot2. Standard workflow is to construct chart and save as static file. (PNG/SVG etc.) But with the plot.ly bridge, I can convert to an interactive chart w/ rich

This lectures and HW2 is about D3 ver.3

- Ver4 is the latest, but has "breaking" changes.
- Most D3 examples/tutorials are still using v3
- Ver4 vs ver3: https://iros.github.io/d3-v4-whats-new/#1
- Upgrading Ver3 code to ver4 code: https://keithpblog.wordpress.com/2016/07/31/upgrading-d3-from-v3-to-v4/

Chrome Inspector and Console



- Open the webpage
- Right-click on anything
- Click "inspect"
- Open the console too, so you can see the error messages

Starting a Local Web Server

https://github.com/d3/d3/wiki



Necessary for Chrome, not for Safari or Firefox (This is a security measure: to prevent reading from your file systems)

- Python 2.x
 - python -m SimpleHTTPServer 8000
- Python 3.x
 - python -m http.server 8000
- http://localhost:8000

If you're new to JavaScript...



prepare for a lot of...

confusion (wat??)

and hair pulling

I'm serious.

Chad Stolper





If you're new to Javascript...



https://www.destroyallsoftware.com/talks/wat

(starting 1:20)

Javascript 101



- All variables are global, unless declared using var
 - x = 300 (global)
 - var x = 300 (local)
- Semicolons are optional
- "text" is the same as 'text'
- JS arrays and objects are almost exactly the same syntax as python's lists [] and dicts {}
- object.key is the same as object['key']
- Print to the console using console.log()

Javascript 102: Functional Programming



- Javascript supports functional programming
 - Functions are themselves objects
 - Functions can be stored as variables
 - Functions can be passed as parameters
 - As in HW1: http://alignedleft.com/tutorials/d3/making-a-bar-chart
- D3 uses these abilities extensively!

Some people say javascript is a "multi-paradigm" programming language. http://stackoverflow.com/questions/3962604/is-javascript-a-functional-programming-language

What does that mean?



https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global Objects/Array/map

Examples

Mapping an array of numbers to an array of square roots

The following code takes an array of numbers and creates a new array containing the square roots of the numbers in the first array.

```
Passing Math.sqrt (a function) as a parameter
```

```
var numbers = [1, 4, 9];
var roots = numbers.map(Math.sqrt);
// roots is now [1, 2, 3], numbers is still [1, 4, 9]
```

Array.map()



- Used for applying a function to each element of an array
- The function provided (Math.sqrt) takes one value as input (e.g., 9) and output another value (e.g., 3).

Passing Math.sqrt (a function) as a parameter

```
as a parameter
var numbers = [1, 4, 9];
var roots = numbers.map(Math.sqrt);
// roots is now [1, 2, 3], numbers is still [1, 4, 9]
```

MDN – the BEST Javascript reference



Mozilla Developer Network

 https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference

(Easier: google "<command> mdn")

Method Chaining



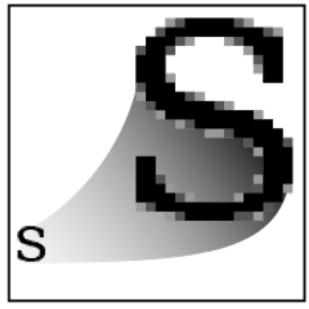
 "Syntactic Sugar" paradigm where each method returns the object that it was called on

```
.attr("x",5)
.attr("y",5); //returns group
is the same as
group.attr("x",5) //returns group
group.attr("y",5) //returns group
```

SVG BASICS



SVG = Scalable Vector Graphics

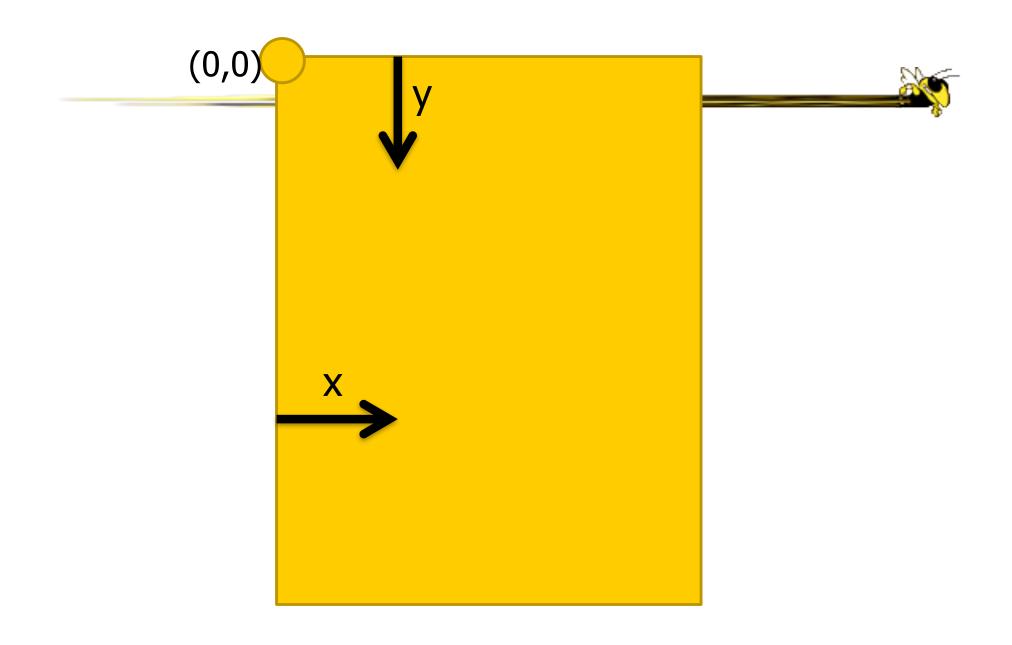


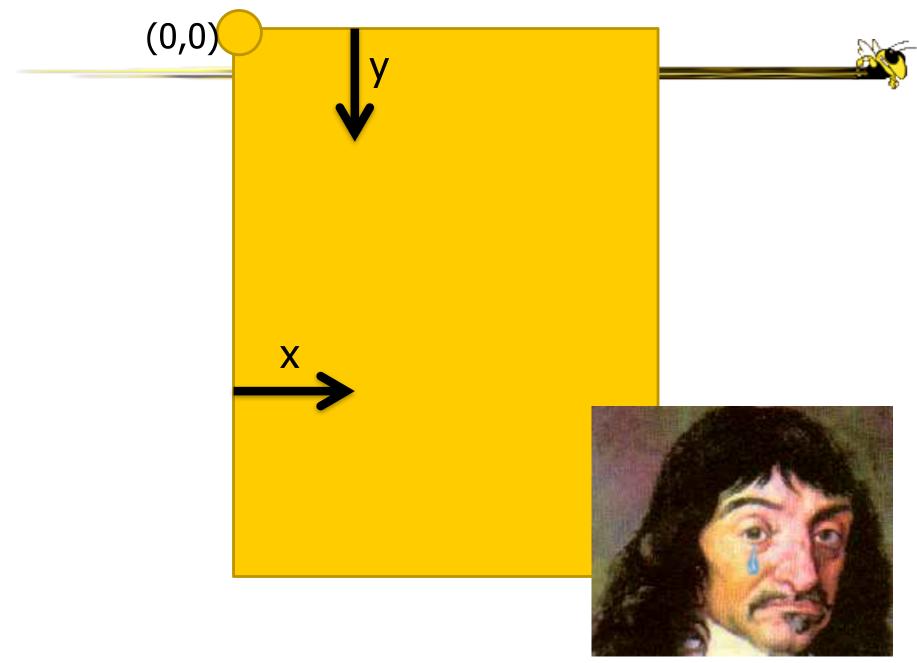






https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scalable_Vector_Graphics





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CSE 6242 Guest Lecture

http://smg.photobucket.com/user/Pavan209926 media/RvB/Descart-weeping.png.html



SVG -> XML Vector Graphics (Scalable Vector Graphics)



- XML Vector Graphics
 - Tags with Attributes
 - <circle r=5 fill="green"></circle>



- W3C Standard
 - http://www.w3.org/TR/SVG/
- Supported by all the major browsers



- <svg>
- <circle>
- < rect>
- < <path>
- <g>



- <svg>
- <circle>
- < <rect>
 - <path>
- <g>

<text> (after I've talked about D3)

<svg> element



Overarching drawing board

- (optional) Attributes:
 - width
 - height

Create with

- d3.select("#vis").append("svg")

<svg> element



Overarching canvas

- (optional) Attributes:
 - width
 - height

```
<body>
<div id="vis">
<svg></svg>
</div>
</body>
```

Create with

-d3.select("#vis").append("svg")

<circle> element



• Attributes:

- cx (relative to the LEFT of the container)
- cy (relative to the TOP of the container)
- r (radius)

(optional) Attributes:

- fill (color)
- stroke (the color of the stroke)
- stroke-width (the width of the stroke)

Create with

- .append("circle")

<rect> element



Attributes:

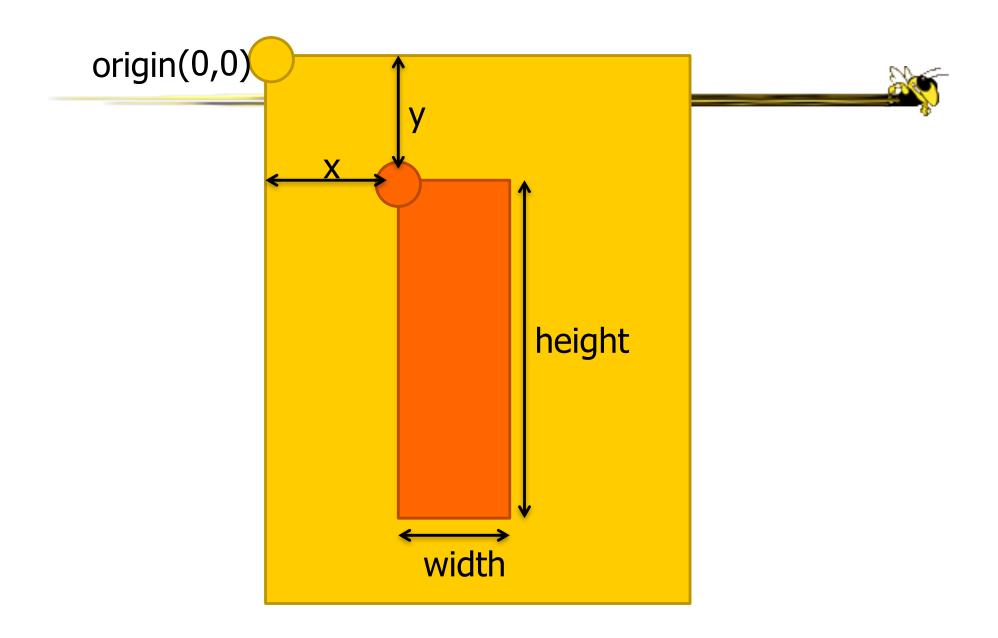
- x (relative to the LEFT of the container)
- y (relative to the TOP of the container)
- width (cannot be negative)
- height (cannot be negative)

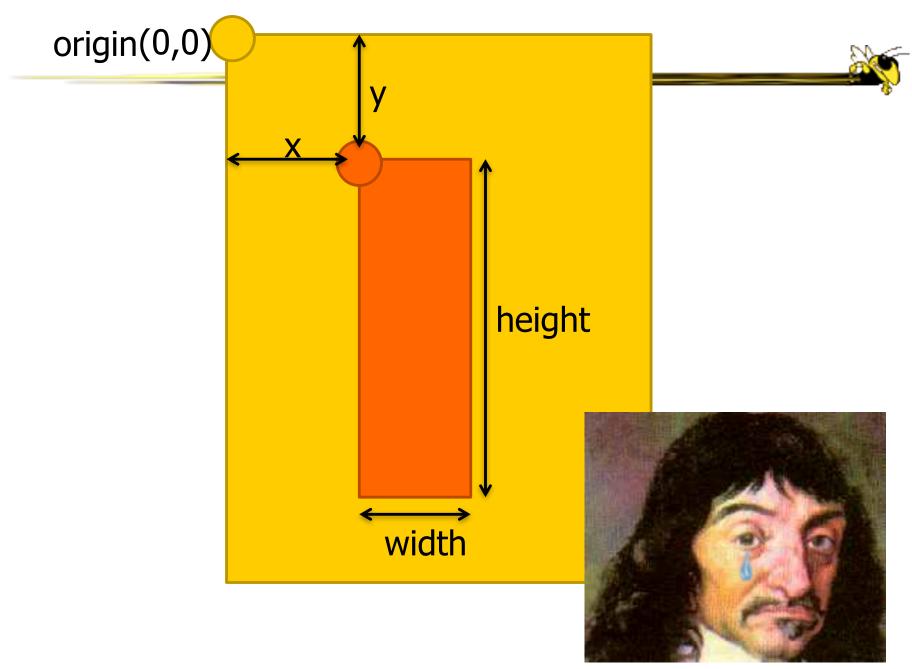
(optional) Attributes:

- fill (color)
- stroke (the color of the stroke)
- stroke-width (the width of the stroke)

Create with

- .append("rect")





CSE 6242 Guest Lecture

http://smg.photobucket.com/user/Pavan209936 media/RvB/Descart-weeping.png.html



Rather than positioning each element, what if we want to position (or style) a group of elements?

<g> element



- Generic container (Group) element
- Attributes
 - transform
 - (fill,stroke,etc.)
- Create with:
 - var group = vis.append("g")
- Add things to the group with:
 - group.append("circle")
 - group.append("rect")
 - group.append("text")

CSS Selectors Reference



- #vis → <tag id="vis">
- circle → <circle>
- .canary → <tag class="canary">
- [color="blue"] → <tag color="blue">
- And many more ways
 - http://www.w3schools.com/cssref/css_selectors.asp
- And any combinations...
 - AND
- circle.canary → <circle class="canary">
- OR
- − circle, .canary → <circle < circle class="canary"> <tag class="canary">



AND NOW D3...



Mike Bostock and Jeff Heer @ Stanford 2009- Protovis







Mike Bostock and Jeff Heer @ Stanford 2009- Protovis







Mike Bostock and Jeff Heer @ Stanford 2009- Protovis 2011- D3.js

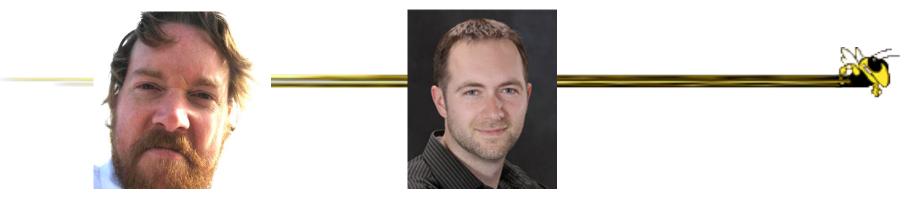






Univ. of Washington

Mike Bostock and Jeff Heer @ Stanford 2009- Protovis 2011- D3.js



New York Times Univ. of Washington

Mike Bostock and Jeff Heer @ Stanford 2009- Protovis 2011- D3.js

D3



- Grand Reductionist Statements
- Loading Data
- Enter-Update-Exit Paradigm
- Scales
- Axes
- Layouts
- Transitions and Interaction
- Where to go from here

D3.js in a Nutshell



D3 is a really powerful for-loop with a ton of useful helper functions

D3



Declarative, domain-specific specification language for manipulating the DOM







1252

1272



return x > 1? halfn : x < -1? -halfn : Math.asin(x);

<div

<body>

</body>

</html>

Chad Stolper

1253 d3.touches = function(container, touches) { if (arguments.length < 2) toy s = d3_eventSource().touches; 1255 return touches ? d3_array(to s).map(function(touch) { 1256 var point = d3_mousePoint cainer, touch); 1257 point.identifier = touch ntifier; 1258 return point; 1259 ····}) : []; 1260 $var \cdot \varepsilon = 1e-6$, $\varepsilon 2 = \varepsilon \cdot * \cdot \varepsilon$, $\pi = Math.PI$, $\tau = 2 \cdot * \cdot \pi$, $\tau \varepsilon = \tau - \varepsilon$, $half \pi = \pi \cdot / \cdot 2$, $d3_radians = \pi \cdot / \cdot 180$, $d3_radians = \pi \cdot / \cdot 180$ 1261 1262 function d3 sqn(x) { return x > 0 ? 1 : x < 0 ? -1 : 0;1263 1264 1265 function d3_cross2d(a, b, c) { return (b[0] -- a[0]) * (c[1] -- a[1]) -- (b[1] -- a[1]) * (c[0] -- a[0]); 1266 1267 1268 ··function·d3_acos(x)·{ 1269 return x > 1 ? 0 : x < -1 ? π : Math.acos(x); 1270 function d3_asin(x)6242 Guest Lecture 1271



Assigning the Canvas to a Variable



```
var vis = d3.select("#vis")
.append("svg")
```

Loading Data



- d3.csv(fileloc, callback)
- d3.tsv(fileloc, callback)
- d3.json(fileloc, callback)

- fileloc: string file location
 - "data/datafile.csv"
- callback: function(rawdata) { }

rawdata from a CSV file



```
'name': 'Adam',
  'school': 'GT',
  'age': '18'
},
  'name': 'Barbara',
  'school': 'Emory',
  'age': '22'
  'name': 'Calvin',
  `school': `GSU',
  'age': '30'
```

name	school	age
Adam	GT	18
Barbara	Emory	22
Calvin	GSU	30

Problem



```
'name': 'Adam',
  'school': 'GT',
  'age': '18'
},
  'name': 'Barbara',
  'school': 'Emory',
  'age': '22'
  'name': 'Calvin',
  'school': 'GSU',
  'age': '30'
```

- Ages are Strings!
- They should be ints!
- We can fix that:

```
for(var d: data) {
    d = data[d]
    d.age = +d.age
}
```

Problem



```
'name': 'Adam',
'school': 'GT',
'age': '18'
'name': 'Barbara',
'school': 'Emory',
'age': '22'
'name': 'Calvin',
'school': 'GSU',
'age': '30'
```

- Ages are Strings!
- They should be ints!
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```
for(var d: data){
    d = data[d]
    d.age = +d.age
}
```

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/24473733/importing-a-csv-into-d3-cant-convert-strings-to-numbers

rawdata from a CSV file



```
'name': 'Adam',
  'school': 'GT',
  'age': 18
},
  'name': 'Barbara',
  'school': 'Emory',
  'age': 22
  'name': 'Calvin',
  'school': 'GSU',
  'age': 30
```

		_
name	school	age
Adam	GT	18
Barbara	Emory	22
Calvin	GSU	30

rawdata from a CSV file



```
'name': 'Adam',
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'name': 'Barbara',
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'age': 22
'name': 'Calvin',
'school': 'GSU',
'age': 30
```

name	school	age
Adam	GT	18
Barbara	Emory	22
Calvin	GSU	30

Ok, so let's map this data to visual elements!



Declarative, domain-specific specification language for manipulating the DOM

Define a **template** for each element D3 draws one element for each data point

Enter-Update-Exit



The most critical facet of how D3 works

- If you remember nothing else from today, remember this...
- "Enter-Update-Exit"
- "Enter-Update-Exit"
- "Enter-Update-Exit"

Enter-Update-Exit



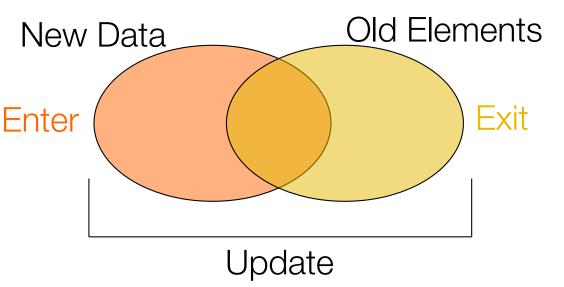
Pattern:

- Select a "group" of "elements" (e.g., circles)
- Assign data to the group
- Enter: Create new elements for data points not associated with any elements yet (and set constant or initial attribute values)
- Update: Set the attributes of all the elements based on the data
- Exit: Remove elements that don't have data anymore

.enter() and .exit()



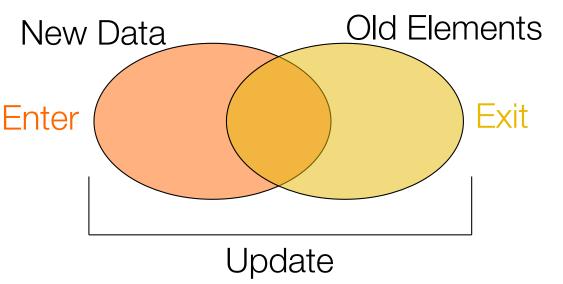
- .data([1,2,3,4])
 - Enter: [1,2,3,4]
 - Update: [1,2,3,4]
 - Exit: []
- .data ([1,2,3,4,5,6])
 - Enter: [5,6]
 - Update: [1,2,3,4,5,6]
 - Exit: []
- .data ([1,2,3])
 - Enter: []
 - Update: ???
 - Exit: [4,5,6]



.enter() and .exit()



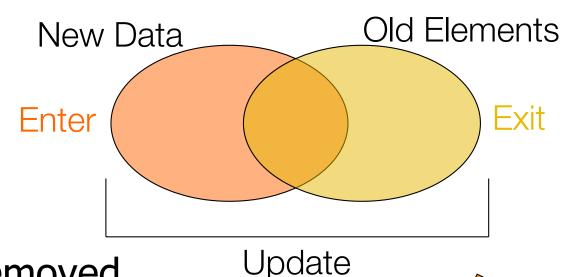
- .data([1,2,3,4])
 - Enter: [1,2,3,4]
 - Update: [1,2,3,4]
 - Exit: []
- .data ([1,2,3,4,5,6])
 - Enter: [5,6]
 - Update: [1,2,3,4,5,6]
 - Exit: []
- .data ([1,2,3])
 - Enter: []
 - Update: [1,2,3,4,5,6]
 - Exit: [4,5,6]



.enter() and .exit()



- .enter()
 - New data points



- .exit()
 - Elements to be removed

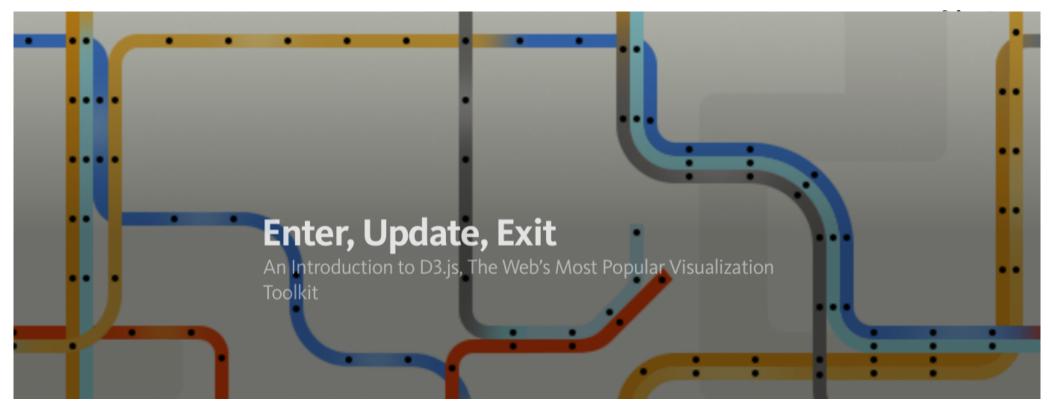
.enter() and .exit() only exist when .data()
has been called



Can be hard to grok: You can select groups of elements that DON'T EXIST YET

http://bost.ocks.org/mike/join/

Still confused?



Excellent interactive demo to explain enter-update-exit: http://niceone.org/examples/d3-selections/

Full tutorial:

https://medium.com/@c_behrens/enter-update-exit-6cafc6014c36#.dqwkermdb

Data Key Functions



- .data(rawdata) defaults to assuming that the index of the point is the key
- .data(rawdata, function(d,i){ }) allows you to set a key functions
- e.g.

```
- .data(rawdata, function(d,i) { return d.id; })
- .data(rawdata, function(d,i) { return d.name; })
```



```
var group = vis.selectAll("rect")
        .data(rawdata) //rawdata must be an array!
group.enter().append("rect") //ENTER!
        .attr()
        .style()
group //UPDATE!
        .attr()
        .style()
group.exit().remove() //EXIT!
```



WARNING!!!!







.attr()



- The Attribute Method
- Sets attributes such as x, y, width, height, and fill

Technical details:

- -group.attr("x", 5)
- < rect x= "5"></rect>

.attr() and Functional Programming



Input

```
[ {size: 10}, {size: 8}, {size: 12.2} ]
```

We want 3 rectangles:

<text> elements



- I'm going to apologize in advance here for the lousy job the W3C did with the <text> definition.
- You're going to have to just either memorize these things or keep referring back to

http://www.w3c.org/TR/SVG/text.html
(first Google hit for "svg text") like I do.

<text> elements



- Extra Method in D3
 - .text("Your Text Goes Here")
 - <tag>Your Text Goes Here</tag>
- Attributes
 - X
 - y
- Styles
 - text-anchor: start, middle, end
 - dominant-baseline: [nothing], hanging, middle

text-anchor style



Where is (0,0)?



start middle end

dominant-baseline style



Where is (0,0)?

This is my line of text.

<text> example



```
Start
Middle
End
```

```
<text x="50" y="20"
      style="text-anchor: start">
    Start
</text>
<text x="50" y="40"
      style="text-anchor: middle">
    Middle
</text>
<text x="50" y="60"
      style="text-anchor: end">
    End
</text>
```

http://tutorials.jenkov.com/svg/text-element.html

The .style() Function



Like attr, but for the style attribute

Inline CSS styling

```
.style("prop1","val1")
.style("prop2","val2")
.style("prop3", function(d,i){})
<ele style="prop1: val1; prop2: val2;">
```

<text> example



```
group.append("svg:text")
    .text(function(d) {return d.name})
    .attr("x", function(d,i) {return i*5})
    .attr("y", function(d,i) {return height;})
    .style("dominant-baseline", "hanging")
    .style("text-anchor", "middle")
```

Need to remember what to use .style and when to use .attr



What if you have two different types of circles?

Classing



- CSS Classes
 - Any number of classes per element
 - Select using ".classname"



Scales

(e.g., sizing a circle based on data value)



```
.attr("height", function(d) { return d; })
```

can blow up really quickly...

Scales



- D3 has many types of scales
- I am only going to cover two:
 - Linear Scales
 - Ordinal Scales

Linear Scales



```
var xscale = d3.scale.linear()
   .domain( [min, max] )
   .range( [minOut, maxOut] )

group.attr("x", function(d,i){
   return xscale(d.size);
})
```

Min and Max



But how do you figure out the min and max for the domain?



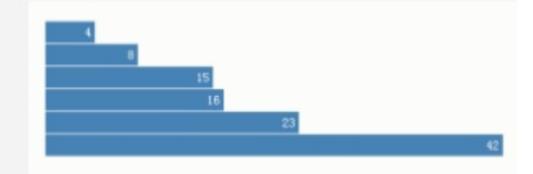
A really powerful for-loop with a ton of useful helper functions

Domain & Range



D3.js – scale (Domain and Range)

```
var data = [4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42];
```



http://image.slidesharecdn.com/d3-140708145630-phpapp02/95/d3-17-638.jpg?cb=1404831405

Min and Max



- d3.min([]) → number
- d3.max([]) \rightarrow number
- d3.extent([]) → [number,number]

Min and Max



- d3.min([]) → number
- d3.max([]) \rightarrow number
- d3.extent([]) → [number,number]



An optional *accessor* function may be specified, which is equivalent to calling *array.map(accessor)* before computing the maximum value.

```
d3.max(
    data.map( function(d) { return d.age; })
) // returns the maximum age
```

https://github.com/d3/d3-3.x-api-reference/blob/master/Arrays.md



```
var maxAge = d3.max(
   data.map( function(d) { return d.age; })
) // returns the maximum age

var yscale = d3.scale.linear()
   .domain([0, maxAge])
   .range([0, 100])
```

Ordinal Scales



- D3 has built-in color scales!
 - (And they're easy!)
- var colorscale = d3.scale.category10()
- Also available are:
 - category20()
 - category20b()
 - category20c()
 - (and even a few more)



- D3 has built-in color scales!
 - (And they're easy!)
- var colorscale = d3.scale.category10()



- Also available are:
 - category20()
 - category20b()
 - category20c()
 - (and even a few more)

Think carefully before using a rainbow palette for ordinal data!

http://www.mathworks.com/tagteam/81137_92 238v00_RainbowColorMap_57312.pdf



```
[ {type: 'Bird'}, {type: 'Rodent'}, {type: 'Bird'} ]
var colorscale = d3.scale.category10()
.attr("fill", function(d,i) {
    return colorscale(d.type)
}
```



```
[ {type: 'Bird'}, {type: 'Rodent'}, {type: 'Bird'} ]
var colorscale = d3.scale.category10()
.attr("fill", function(d,i) {
    return colorscale(d.type)
}
Bird Blue
```



```
[ {type: 'Bird'}, {type: 'Rodent'}, {type: 'Bird'} ]
var colorscale = d3.scale.category10()
.attr("fill", function(d,i) {
    return colorscale(d.type)
}
Bird Blue
- <rect fill="blue"></rect>
-
```







```
[ {type: 'Bird'}, {type: 'Rodent'}, {type: 'Bird'} ]
var colorscale = d3.scale.category10()
.attr("fill", function(d,i) {
    return colorscale(d.type)
}
Bird Blue
- <rect fill="blue"></rect> Rodent Orange
- <rect fill="orange"></rect>
- <rect fill="blue"></rect>
```



D3 also has visual helper-functions

Axes



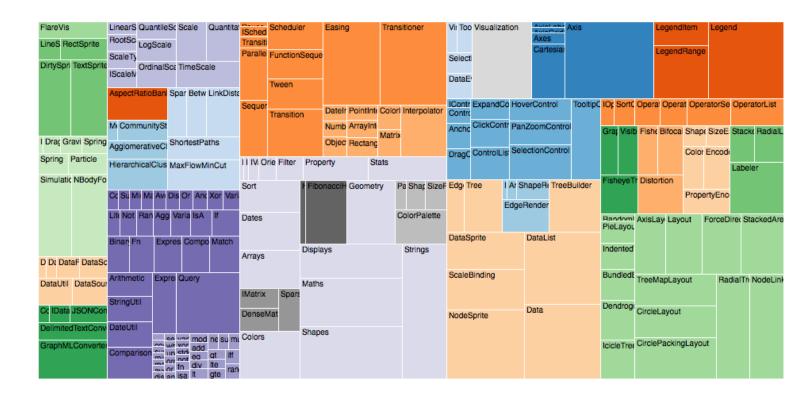
```
yaxisglyph = vis.append("g")

yaxis = d3.svg.axis()
   .scale( yscale ) //must be a numerical scale
   .orient( 'left' ) //or 'right', 'top', or 'bottom'
   .ticks( 6 ) //number of ticks, default is 10
yaxisglyph.call(yaxis)
```



D3 even has some entire techniques built in (e.g., treemap)...

http://bl.ocks.org/mbostock/4063582





What if the data is changing?

E-U-E Pattern Template



```
var group = vis.selectAll("rect")
        .data(rawdata) //rawdata must be an array!
group.enter().append("svg:rect") //ENTER!
        .attr()
        .attr()
group //UPDATE!
        .attr()
        .attr()
group.exit().remove() //EXIT!
```

E-U-E Pattern Template



```
function redraw(rawdata) {
  var group = vis.selectAll("rect")
     .data(rawdata) //rawdata must be an array!
  group.enter( ).append("svg:rect") //ENTER!
     .attr( )
     .attr()
  group //UPDATE!
     .attr( )
     .attr()
  group.exit().remove() //EXIT!
```

E-U-E Pattern Template



```
function redraw(rawdata) {
  var group = vis.selectAll("rect")
     .data(rawdata) //rawdata must be an array!
  group.enter( ).append("svg:rect") //ENTER!
     .attr()
     .attr( )
  group.transition() //UPDATE!
     .attr( )
     .attr( )
  group.exit( ).remove( ) //EXIT!
```

Transitions



- CSS3 transitions with D3 are magical!
- D3 interpolates values for you...

Transitions



```
rect.attr("height", 0)
rect.transition()
    .delay( 500 ) //can be a function of data
    .duration(200) //can be a function of data
    .attr("height", 5) //can be a function of data
    .style("fill", "green") //can be a function of data
```



So transitions allow a vis to be dynamic... But they're not really interactive...

Interaction



The on() Method

.on()



```
rect.on ("click", function(d) {
   d.color = "blue";
   redraw( rawdata )
})
```

HTML Events

- click
- mouseover
- mouseenter
- mouseout
- etc.

.on()



```
rect.on ("click", function(d) {
   d.color = "blue";
   redraw( rawdata )
})

d is the data point backing
   the element clicked on
```

HTML Events

- click
- mouseover
- mouseenter
- mouseout
- etc.

Where to get learn more...



- http://d3js.org/
 - Tons of examples and basics.
- https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/API-Reference
 - Official D3 documentation. Extremely well done.
- https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/Tutorials
 - List of seemingly ALL the tutorials online
- The Google/StackOverflow combination
 - (my personal favorite)

When You're Bored...



http://www.koalastothemax.com/



Thanks!

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Good Luck!

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Questions?

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