

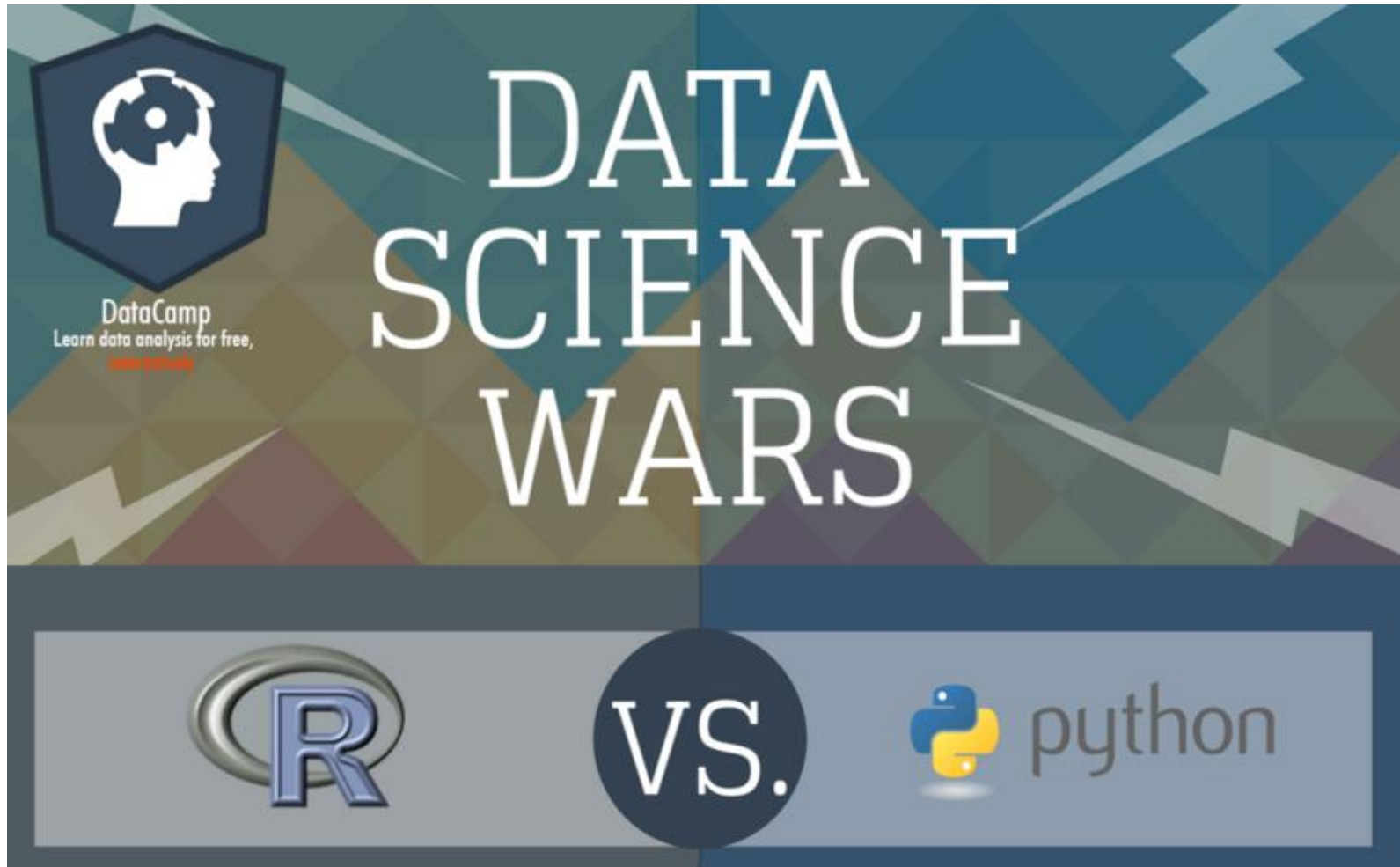
CSE 564  
VISUALIZATION & VISUAL ANALYTICS

R vs. PYTHON

**KLAUS MUELLER**

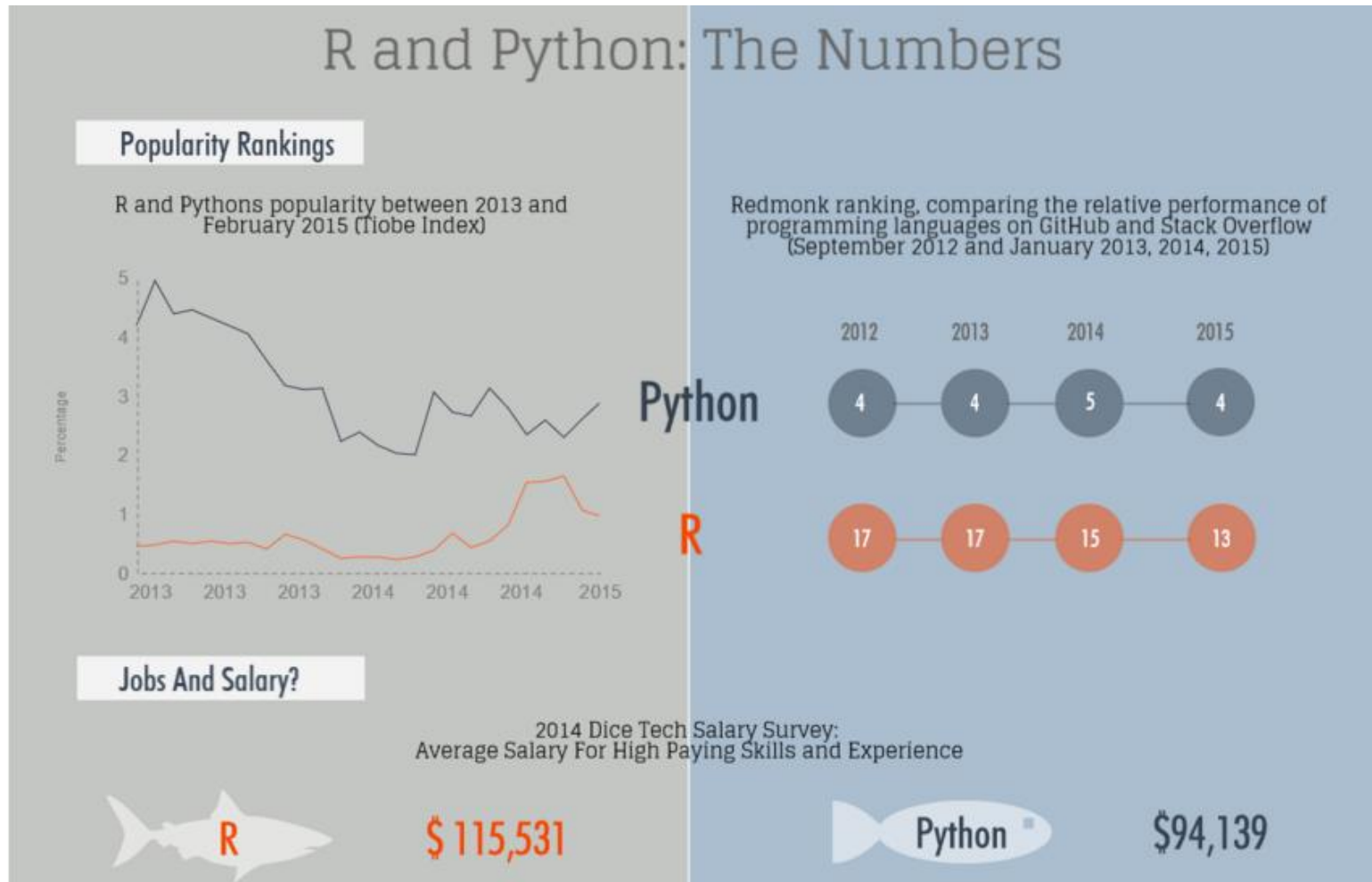
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# R vs. PYTHON



<https://www.datacamp.com/community/tutorials/r-or-python-for-data-analysis>

# R vs. PYTHON



# R vs. PYTHON

## IDE



## Popular Packages

- ✓ `dplyr`, `plyr` and `data.table` to easily manipulate data.
- ✓ `stringr` to manipulate strings.
- ✓ `zoo` to work with regular and irregular time series
- ✓ `ggvis`, `lattice` and `ggplot2` to visualize data.
- ✓ `caret` for machine learning.

Tip: check out **DataCamp**'s online interactive courses and tutorials!

## IDE

There are many Python IDEs to chose from. However, **Spyder** and **IPython Notebook** are most popular.

Tip: also look up **Rodeo**, the "data science IDE for Python"

## Popular Libraries

- ✓ `pandas` to easily manipulate data.
- ✓ `SciPy` / `NumPy` for scientific computing.
- ✓ `scikit-learn` to use machine learning methods.
- ✓ `matplotlib` to make graphics.
- ✓ `statsmodels` to explore data, estimate statistical models, and perform statistical tests and unit tests.

# R vs. PYTHON

## Purpose

R focuses on better, user friendly data analysis, statistics and graphical models.

Python emphasizes productivity and code readability.

## Used By?

R has been used primarily in academics and research. However, R is rapidly expanding into the enterprise market.

Python is used by programmers that want to delve into data analysis or apply statistical techniques, and by developers that turn to data science.

*"The closer you are to statistics, research and data science, the more you might prefer R."*

*"The closer you are to working in an engineering environment, the more you might prefer Python."*

## Miscellaneous

Use the rPython package to run Python code from R. Pass or get data from Python, call Python functions or methods.

Use the RPy2 library to run R code from within Python. It provides a low-level interface from Python to R.

# COUPLING D3 WITH PYTHON

See [this excellent page](#) for more detail

- uses MongoDB as a NoSQL database (non-relational SQL)

Step 1: Build a python server, say app.py

- use Flask as the web framework

```
from flask import Flask
from flask import render_template

app = Flask(__name__)

@app.route("/")
def index():
    return render_template("index.html")

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(host='0.0.0.0', port=5000, debug=True)
```

# COUPLING D3 WITH PYTHON

Step 2: Add all your processing code to app.py

- in this case it mainly involves storing data into the database

```
@app.route("/")
def index():
    return render_template("index.html")

@app.route("/donorschoose/projects")
def donorschoose_projects():
    connection = MongoClient(MONGODB_HOST, MONGODB_PORT)
    collection = connection[DBS_NAME][COLLECTION_NAME]
    projects = collection.find(projection=FIELDS)
    json_projects = []
    for project in projects:
        json_projects.append(project)
    json_projects = json.dumps(json_projects, default=json_util.default)
    connection.close()
    return json_projects

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(host='0.0.0.0', port=5000, debug=True)
```

# COUPLING D3 WITH PYTHON

## Step 3: Build the charts

- create a JavaScript file, say, graphs.js
- gets the data from the python URL and other provided JSON files
- calls function, here makeGraphs(), to do the d3 rendering

```
queue()  
  .defer(d3.json, "/donorschoose/projects")  
  .defer(d3.json, "static/geojson/us-states.json")  
  .await(makeGraphs);
```

```
function makeGraphs(error, projectsJson, statesJson) {  
  ...  
};
```



# INITIATING A NEW COMPUTATION

## Use Ajax

- part of the javaScript jQuery library
- update a web page without reloading the page
- request data from a server - after the page has loaded
- receive data from a server - after the page has loaded
- send data to a server - in the background

## Create a new route in the python server program

- serves an Ajax GET request
- possibly performs some computation on the data
- sends the results back as JSON in the usual way
- example in js `"/newComp?category=2&city=Boston"`
- couple with GET

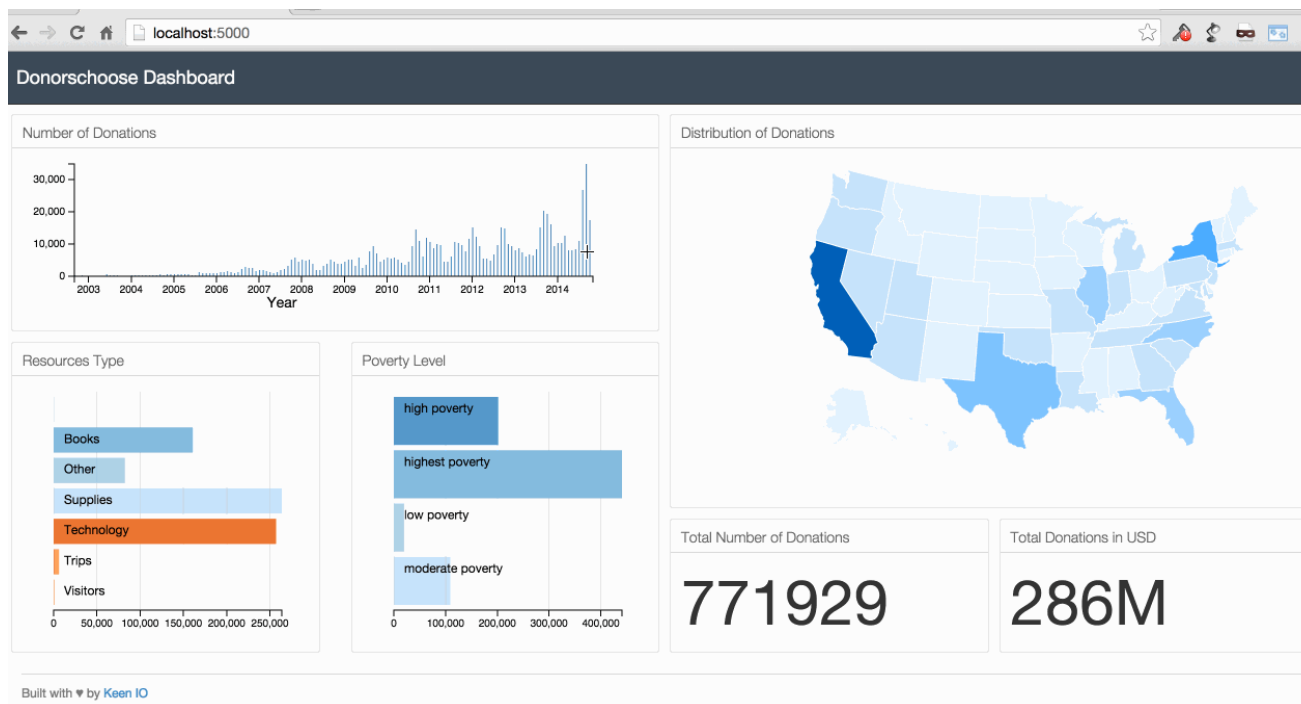
# COUPLING D3 WITH PYTHON

Start app.py web server

Add query to the index.html file

Call <http://localhost:5000/> to see the dashboard

```
<div id="us-chart"></div>
```

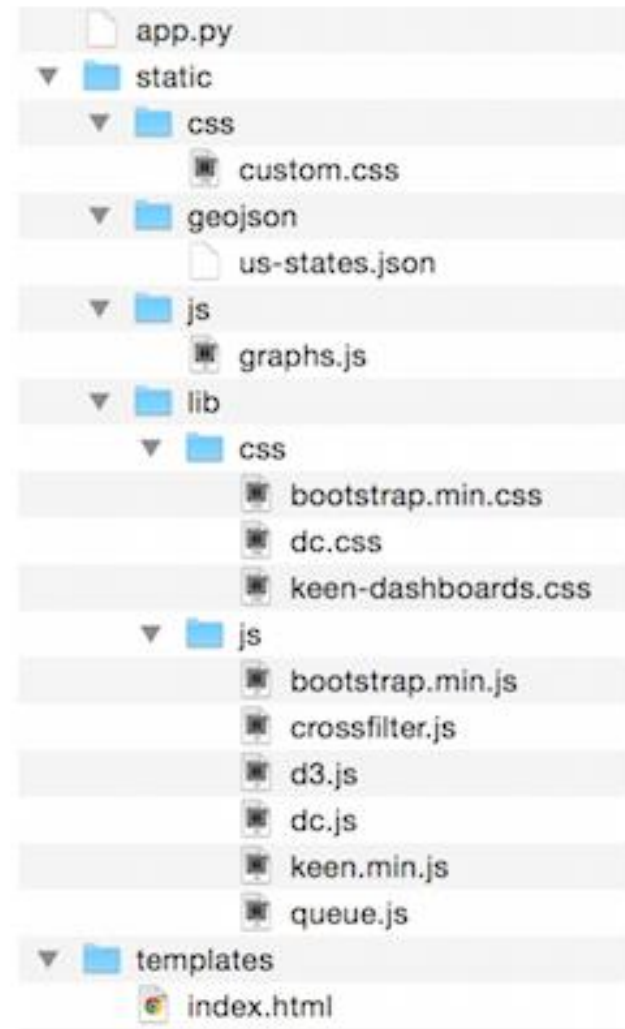
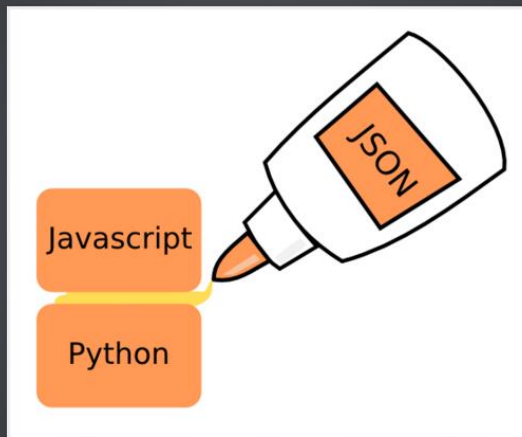


# FOLDER STRUCTURE

All files are available in a dedicated [github repository](#)

One more thing:

**JSON IS THE GLUE BETWEEN PYTHON AND JS**



# SOME USEFUL PAGES

<http://adilmoujahid.com/posts/2015/01/interactive-data-visualization-d3-dc-python-mongodb/>

- csv data gets stored in MongoDB (4<sup>th</sup> most popular database)

<https://realpython.com/blog/python/web-development-with-flask-fetching-data-with-requests/>

- data stays in a csv file

<http://kyrandale.com/static/talks/pydata-to-the-web/index.html#/>

There are other pages ... use google

# COUPLING D3 WITH R

## Solution 1:

- call R from within Python using the rpy2 package

## Solution 2:

- use [Shiny by RStudio](#)
- uses two files: ui.R and server.R (both written in R)
- using d3 requires a third file, render.js (written in JavaScript)
- ui.R has the UI code
- server.R has the server code
- render.js receives rendering requests from ui.R
- without render.js:
  - server.R passes an image to ui.R (not interactive, nor scalable)
  - server.R uses an R graphing package, such as plotly or ggplot2

# COUPLING D3 WITH R

## Shiny is a commercial package

- you will run your Shiny apps within the Shiny by RStudio IDE
- hides all the setup, easier than Python
- can focus on data processing and d3-visualization

## Deploy your Shiny app to a URL

- required for the mini and final project
- you will need Shiny Server
- however, only a version with limited capabilities is free
- single user without authentication
- might be enough for mini and final project

## What is the best solution – Python, R, or a combination?

- up to you

# MINI PROJECT #2

Practice some of the initial steps of data analytics

Data sources of mini project #1 or find new, data should be large!

Use R or python for processing, D3 for visualization

- note: shiny only works on windows currently, python might be better
- deliver a read-me report and URL that allows selection of all options

Data decimation (20 points)

- compare random sampling with adaptive sampling

Dimension reduction (use decimated data) (10 points)

- find the intrinsic dimensionality of the data using PCA

Visualization (use dimension reduced data) (40 points)

- compare PCA, MDS (Euclidian, cosine, correlation), and isomap

Extra credit: text visualization (30 points)

- stem, remove stop words, perform tf-idf, then LSA, and visualize

*due Thursday 3/10  
start early!!!*