

# Data Visualization: Introduction and Overview

```
$ echo "Data Sciences Institute"
```

# Prerequisites

You have installed the numpy, matplotlib, pandas, scipy, PIL, and requests libraries in Python

# Overview of this slide deck, we will:

- Learn about matplotlib
- Produce our first data viz in Python
- Begin to modify elements of our data viz, including
  - Colour
  - Line type
  - Marker size

# matplotlib

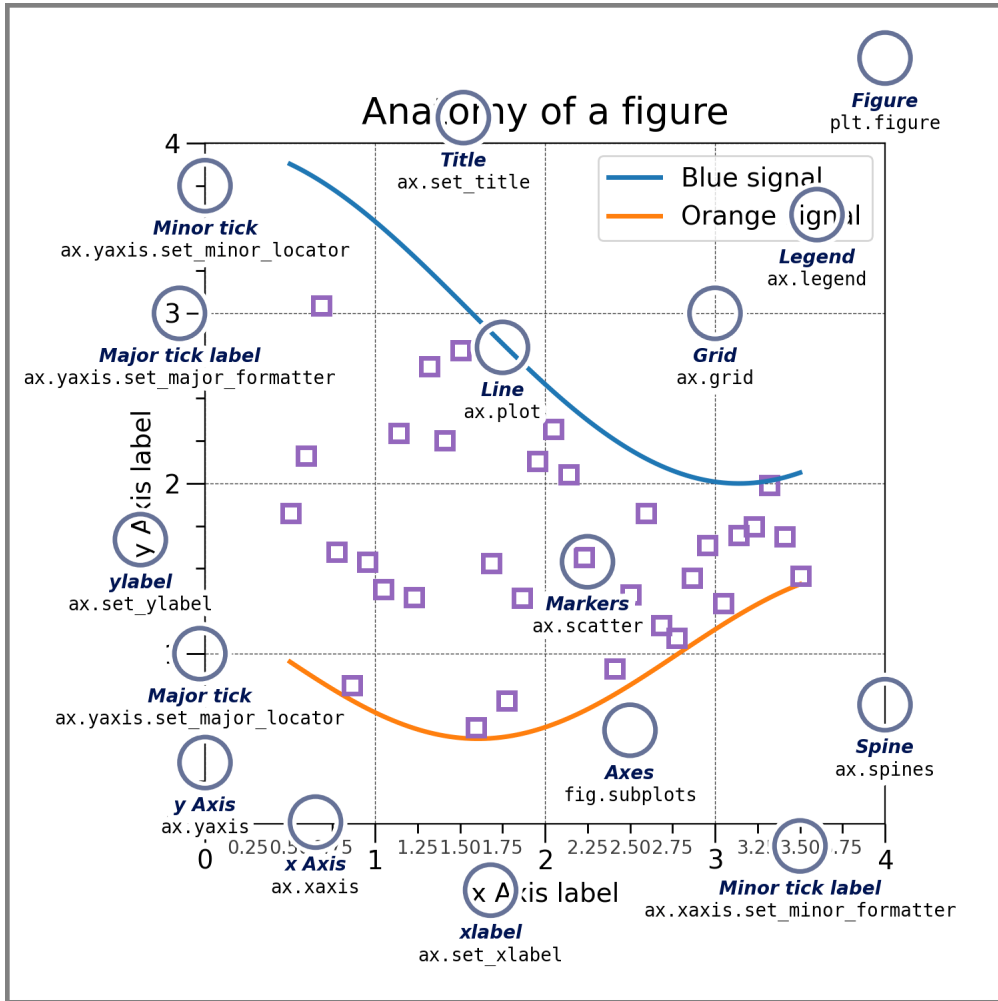
# What is matplotlib?

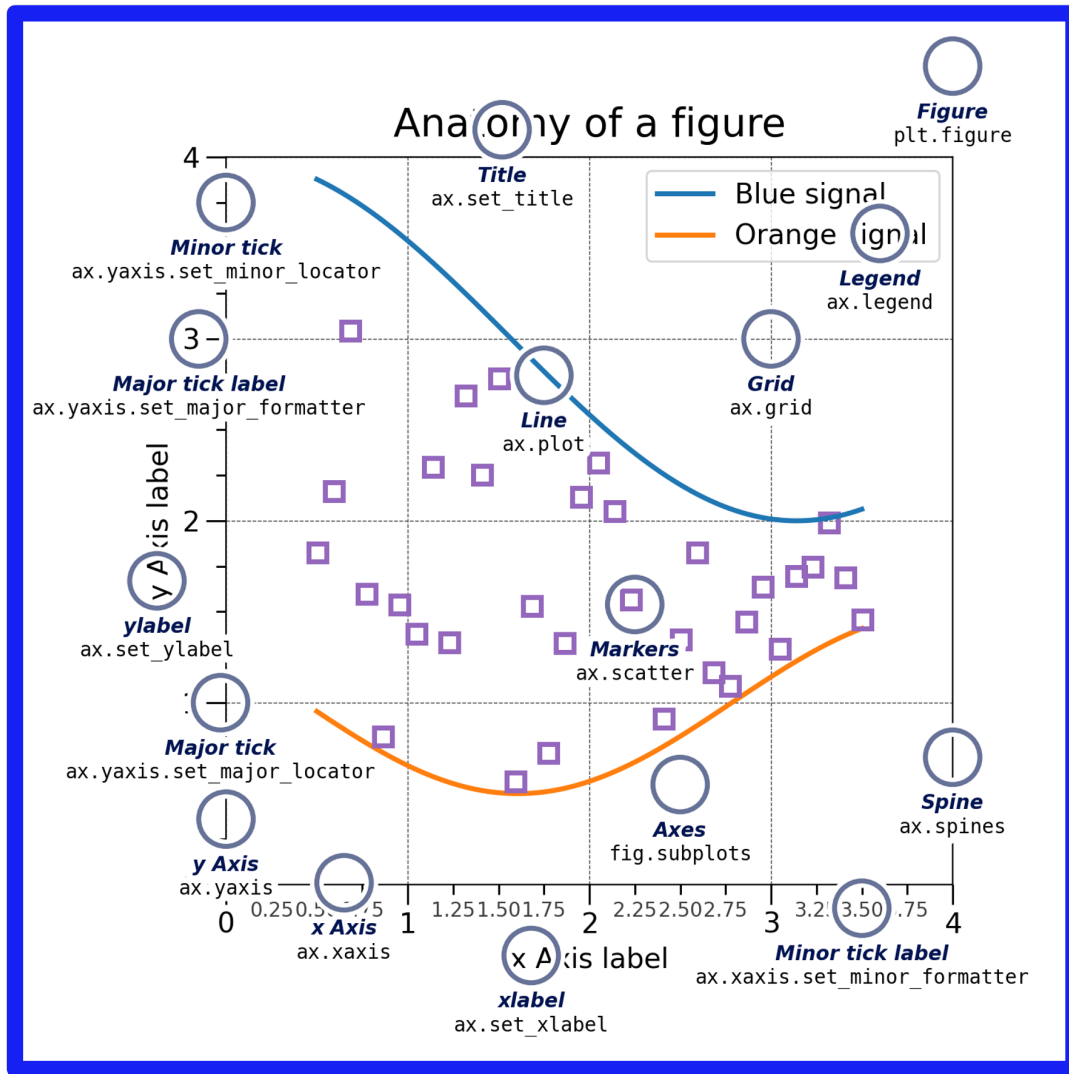
- An open source package for data visualization in Python
- Developed in 2003 to emulate Matlab software
- One package, **a LOT** of different types of data visualizations



# How does matplotlib work?

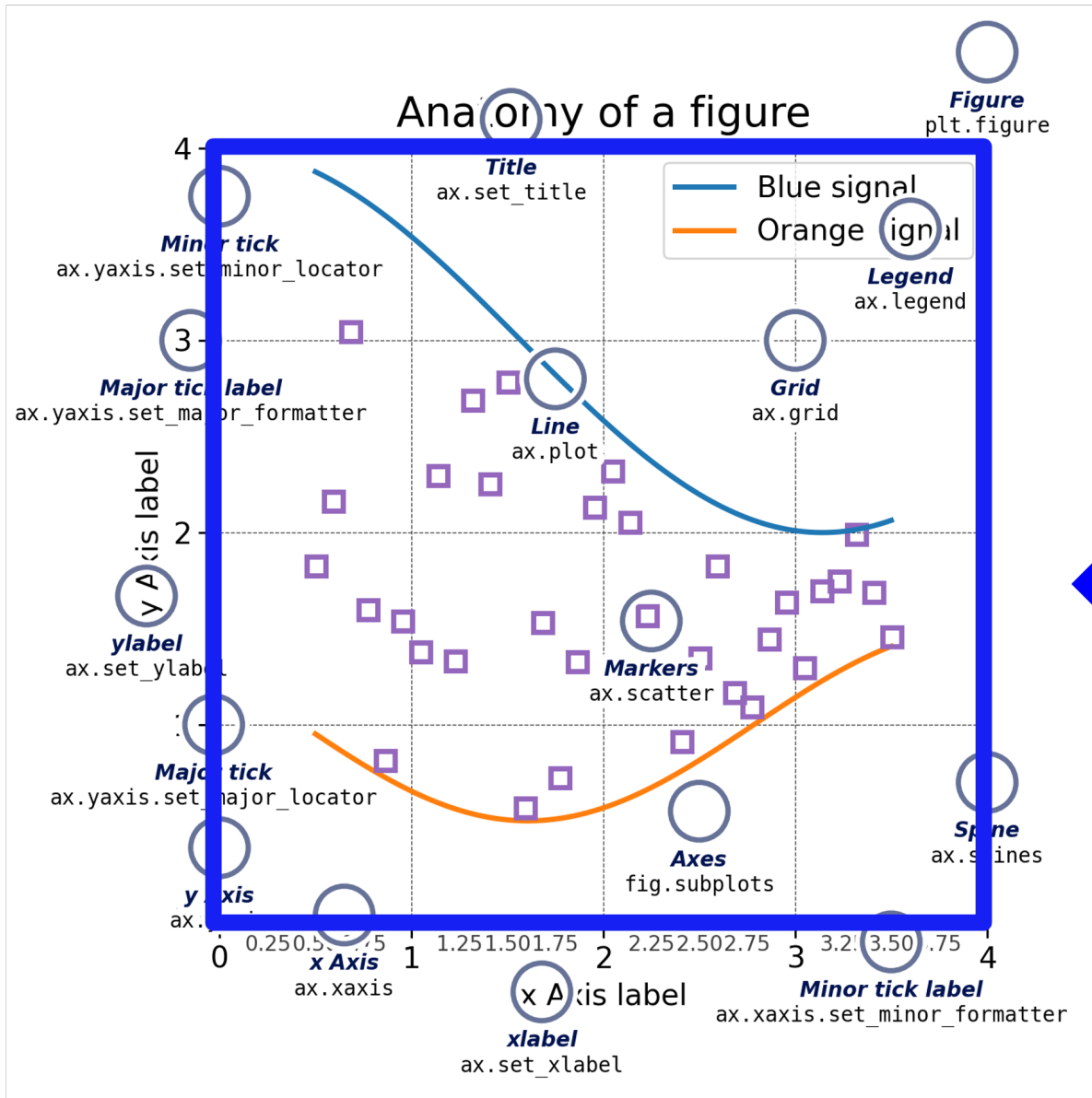
- A **figure** is like a container that holds a set of **axes**
- The axes is our actual plot or graph
- A figure can hold multiple axes (like subplots)
- Every visual element of our plots – colour, legends, axis titles and scales, text – is called an **artist** and belongs to an axes (not to a figure)





← This entire thing is a figure





**The plot is called  
our axes\***

**\*NOT the same  
thing as the x and y  
axes on our graph**

# Making a figure with matplotlib

# Making a basic figure with matplotlib

- First, let's load our libraries

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import pandas as pd
import scipy
import PIL
import requests
```

# Making a basic figure with matplotlib

- Next, make some sample data so that we have something to plot!

```
np.random.seed(613)
x = np.arange(50)
y = np.random.randint(0, 100, 50)
```

- Then make our basic scatterplot (we'll break it down after!)

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.scatter(x, y)
```

# Making a basic figure with matplotlib

- Let's try modifying our graph
  - We want to keep our figure and axis definition the same
  - So we only edit our axis object

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))  
ax.bar(x,y)
```

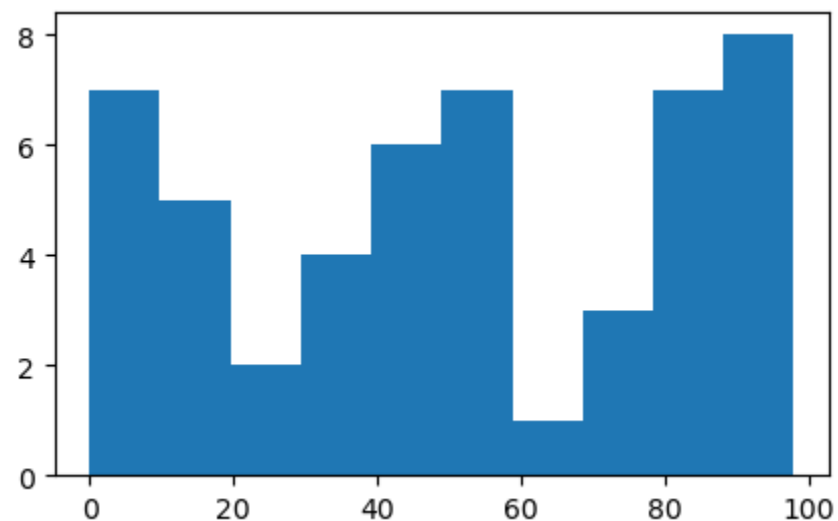
# Making a basic figure with matplotlib

- We can also make a line plot

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))  
ax.plot(x,y)
```

# Activity: Try it out

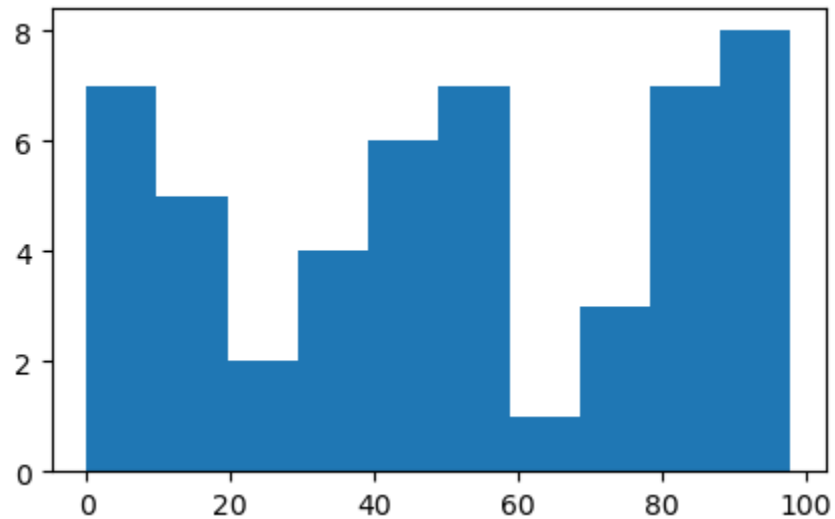
Can you modify our existing code to produce a histogram?



Hint: try 'hist' for our axis type

# Activity: Try it out

Let's try modifying our graph



```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))  
ax.hist(y)
```



# Plot Labels

# Adding axis labels and titles

- Let's add to the last plot we made

```
ax.set_title('Total growth over time')  
ax.set_ylabel('Total growth')  
ax.set_xlabel('Years since start')
```

# Modifying labels and titles

- We can modify our labels and titles' appearance by using font dictionaries ('fontdict')
- First, make a dictionary with the properties we want for our labels

```
font1 = {'family': 'sans-serif', 'color': 'blue', 'size': 20}  
font2 = {'family': 'monospace', 'color': 'green', 'size': 14}
```

# Modifying labels and titles

- Then we'll add fontdict arguments to our previous lineplot

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.plot(x,y)
ax.set_title('Total growth over time', fontdict = font1)
ax.set_ylabel('Total growth', fontdict = font2)
ax.set_xlabel('Years since start', fontdict = font2)
```

# Moving labels and titles

- We can move our labels with the loc argument

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.plot(x,y)
ax.set_title('Total growth over time', fontdict = font1, loc = 'left')
ax.set_ylabel('Total growth', fontdict = font2)
ax.set_xlabel('Years since start', fontdict = font2)
```

# Customizing plot appearance

# Modifying data points

- Remake our basic scatterplot, but this time add color and marker arguments ( NOTE: American spelling)

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))  
  
ax.scatter( x,  
            y,  
            marker='*',          # NEW ADDITIONS  
            color = "indigo")    # NEW ADDITIONS  
  
fig.show()
```

# Modifying data points

We can also adjust the style and width of the line connecting our points

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))

ax.plot(x,
        y,
        marker='*',
        color = 'indigo',
        linestyle = '--',    # NEW ADDITIONS
        linewidth = 2)      # NEW ADDITIONS

fig.show()
```



# Modifying data points: Colour

- We can modify colour using named colors
  - [https://matplotlib.org/stable/gallery/color/named\\_colors.html#sphx-glr-gallery-color-named-colors-py](https://matplotlib.org/stable/gallery/color/named_colors.html#sphx-glr-gallery-color-named-colors-py)
- Or we can use hex codes

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))  
  
# color being the new addition  
ax.plot(x,y,marker='*', color = '#7425b9', linestyle = '--', linewidth = 2)  
fig.show()
```

# Modifying data points

Let's customize our plot further

```
ax.plot(x,y,marker='*',  
        markersize = 12,           # NEW ADDITIONS  
        color = '#7425b9',  
        linestyle = '--',  
        linewidth = 2,  
        markeredgecolor = '#fa9359', # NEW ADDITIONS  
        markerfacecolor = '#fa9359' ) # NEW ADDITIONS
```

# Grid lines

- We can add grid lines to our axis object using `.grid()`

```
ax.grid(axis = 'y')
```

- Activity: Can you modify the appearance (colour, width, linestyle) of our grid lines using what we learned before?

# Grid lines

- We can add grid lines to our axis object using `.grid()`

```
ax.grid(axis = 'y')
```

- Activity: Can you modify the appearance (colour, width, linestyle) of our grid lines using what we learned before?

```
ax.grid(axis = 'y')
```

```
ax.grid(axis = 'y', color = "blue", linewidth = 2, linestyle = '-.')
```

# Resources: Matplotlib Cheatsheets

- [https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.datacamp.com/blog\\_assets/Python\\_Matplotlib\\_Cheat\\_Sheet.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.datacamp.com/blog_assets/Python_Matplotlib_Cheat_Sheet.pdf)
- <https://github.com/matplotlib/cheatsheets> (with beginner, intermediate, and general tips versions)

**We haven't covered most of what's on the cheatsheets yet, but keep them for your reference!**

# Activity: Exploring matplotlib

# Activity

- Visit the Python Graph Gallery at <https://python-graph-gallery.com/all-charts/>
- Select one of the visualization types that you find most interesting
- For your visualization of choice:
  - i. Copy the provided code and attempt to replicate the output in Python. NOTE: You may have to install packages.
  - ii. Recall the **aesthetic** , **substantive** , and **perceptual** qualities of data visualizations. Does your visualization of choice succeed in each area?

## In the next session, we'll continue with...

- How do we choose the right data visualization for a given situation?
- What does it mean for data visualization to be 'objective'?
- Perceptual qualities of data viz