Data Visualization: Customizing Our Plots

\$ echo "Data Science Institute"

Overview of this slide deck, we will:

- Make more modifications to our plots using Matplotlib, including
 - Legends
 - Annotations (text, shapes, and labels)
 - Axis Labels
 - Styles

Legends

Set up

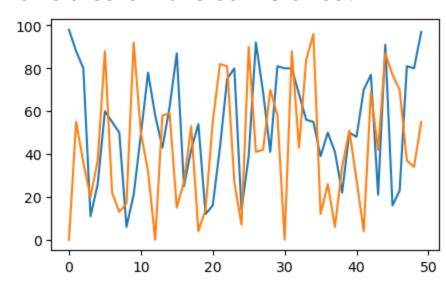
• Just like before, let's start by loading our libraries and making some sample data

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

np.random.seed(613)
x = np.arange(50)
y1 = np.random.randint(0, 100,50)
y2 = np.random.randint(0, 100,50)
```

Activity: Recall

• Using what we learned in lesson 1, can you make a line plot with both of our y variables on the same axes?



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```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.plot(x,y1)
ax.plot(x,y2)
fig.show()
```

Adding a legend

- To add a legend, we:
 - Add a 'label' argument to each plot object
 - Call 'legend' and specify our legend location

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.plot(x,y1, label = "Person 1" )
ax.plot(x,y2, label = "Person 2" )
ax.legend(loc='lower right')
fig.show()
```

Modifying our legend

 By adding arguments to our legend object, we can change different elements of our legend

Moving the legend outside of the plot area

- We can position the legend outside of our plot by
 - Specifying legend location as before
 - Specifying where we want to anchor that location on our figure using bbox_to_anchor

Text and Annotations

Annotations with the text() function

Let's start by putting our data into a scatter plot this time

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.scatter(x,y1, label = "Person 1")
ax.scatter(x,y2, label = "Person 2")
ax.legend(loc='lower right')
```

• Then use the text() function to specify coordinates and text

```
ax.text(10, 95, "This value is important!")
fig.show()
```

Modifying text annotations

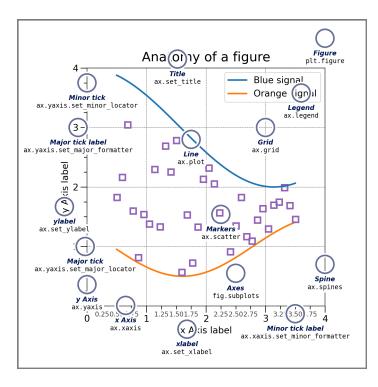
• Just like before, we can modify our text annotation by adding arguments

```
ax.text(10, 95, "This value is important!",
    ha='center', ##alignment of text
    color = 'red', ##modify font colour
    size = 20) ##modify font size

fig.show()
```

Positioning text annotations

- Just now, we located our text annotation using the coordinates of data points
- If we want our annotation linked to a fixed spot, we can locate it at a specific location on our *axes* or the *figure* itself (recall our matplotlib terminology)



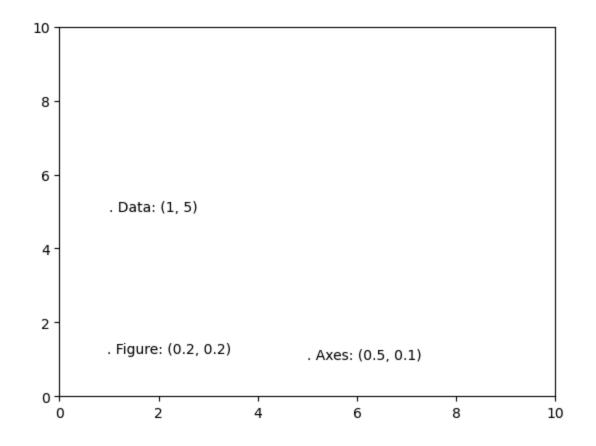
Positioning text annotations

- We can do this using transforms
- Start by making a simple, empty set of axes

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.axis([0, 10, 0, 10])
```

• Then we can position our annotation with reference to the data (like before), the axes, or the figure (referencing axis/figure dimensions)

Positioning text annotations



Annotating with arrows

- We can use the annotate() function to annotate with arrows and text (e.g. to focus at a specific point)
 - We have to specify the location to point at and the location where we want our text

Modifying arrows

- Use the arrowprops argument to adjust our arrow style and colour
 - Matplotlib documentation describes possible arrow styles (https://matplotlib.org/3.1.1/api/_as_gen/matplotlib.pyplot.annotate.html)

Axis Labels

Removing tick marks and labels

- We can remove tick marks or labels from our axis like so:
 - Use locator to remove ticks and labels
 - Use formatter to remove only labels

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.scatter(x,y1, label = "Person 1")
ax.scatter(x,y2, label = "Person 2")
ax.legend(loc='lower right')

ax.yaxis.set_major_locator(plt.NullLocator())
ax.xaxis.set_major_formatter(plt.NullFormatter())
```

Limiting tick marks

• We can also define a maximum number of ticks we want on our axis

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.scatter(x,y1, label = "Person 1")
ax.scatter(x,y2, label = "Person 2")
ax.legend(loc='lower right')
ax.xaxis.set_major_locator(plt.MaxNLocator(3))
```

Tick mark intervals

• We can set tick marks at a particular interval (in this case, 5) using MultipleLocator

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.scatter(x,y1, label = "Person 1")
ax.scatter(x,y2, label = "Person 2")
ax.legend(loc='lower right')
ax.xaxis.set_major_locator(plt.MultipleLocator(5))
```

Rotating axis labels

• To rotate axis labels and horizontal alignment, use xticks()

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.scatter(x,y1, label = "Person 1")
ax.scatter(x,y2, label = "Person 2")
ax.legend(loc='lower right')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
```

Try modifying fontsize and font as well

Activity: Modifying axis title fonts

- Can you use what we did in a previous lesson to modify our x axis title?
 - We want a serif font with indigo colour, and for the axis title to be "Shiny New X Axis!"
 - Use plt.xlabel()
 - HINT: Recall fontdict

Activity: Modifying axis title fonts

- Can you use what we did in a previous lesson to modify our x axis title?
 - We want a serif font with indigo colour, and for the axis title to be "Shiny New X Axis!"
 - Use plt.xlabel()
 - HINT: Recall fontdict

```
font1 = {' family':'serif','color':'indigo'}
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.scatter(x,y1, label = "Person 1")
ax.scatter(x,y2, label = "Person 2")
ax.legend(loc='lower right')
plt.xlabel('Shiny New X Axis!', fontsize = 18, fontdict = font1)
```

Styles

What are styles

- Styles are a convenient way to change many aesthetic dimensions of our plots at the same time
- To view available pre-made styles, use:

```
plt.style.available
```

• To use a style, just type the following before you make your figure:

```
plt.style.use('fivethirtyeight')
```

What are styles

```
plt.style.use('fivethirtyeight')

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x = np.arange(50)
y1 = np.random.randint(0, 100,50)
y2 = np.random.randint(0, 100,50)
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 3))
ax.plot(x,y1)
ax.plot(x,y2)
fig.show()
```

Try using different styles and see how they change your plot!

Feedback!

Next session:

- Subplots, multiple axes, and combining elements in matplotlib
- Accessible data visualization