

Task Level (Beginner):

Python Visualization Libraries Documentation Guide

Selected Libraries: Matplotlib and Plotly

1. Library Overview

Matplotlib

Matplotlib is one of the most widely used Python libraries for 2D plotting. It provides fine-grained control over every aspect of a figure and is ideal for producing static plots for publications.

Features:

- Customizable plots with axes, labels, legends, etc.
- Integration with NumPy and Pandas
- Suitable for static and publication-quality visualizations

Typical Use Cases:

- Exploratory data analysis
- Generating visualizations for reports or research
- Creating static, high-quality images for print

Plotly

Plotly is a high-level, interactive graphing library. It is especially useful for creating dashboards and webbased visualizations.

Features:

- Interactivity: Zoom, hover, and filter in real time
- Built-in support for web deployment
- Integration with Dash for dashboard creation

Typical Use Cases:

- Interactive dashboards

- Visual data storytelling
- Real-time monitoring and analytics

2. Graph Types

Matplotlib Graph Types

Multi-Line Plot with Grid

Description: Plots sine and cosine waves together with grid lines for easy comparison.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np

x = np.linspace(0, 10, 100)
y1 = np.sin(x)
y2 = np.cos(x)

plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
plt.plot(x, y1, label="Sine Wave", color="blue", linestyle="--")
plt.plot(x, y2, label="Cosine Wave", color="red", linewidth=2)
plt.grid(True, linestyle=":")
plt.title("Multi-Line Plot")
plt.xlabel("X-axis")
plt.ylabel("Y-axis")
plt.legend()
plt.show()
```

Horizontal Bar Chart

Description: Displays categorical values as horizontal bars for better label readability.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

categories = ["A", "B", "C", "D"]
values = [4, 7, 1, 8]

plt.barh(categories, values, color="skyblue")
plt.xlabel("Values")
plt.ylabel("Categories")
plt.title("Horizontal Bar Chart")
plt.show()
```

Interactive Scatter Plot

Description: Shows data points with hover info and color coding by category.

```
import plotly.express as px
import pandas as pd

df = pd.DataFrame({
    "X": [5, 7, 8, 7, 2, 17, 2, 9, 4, 11],
    "Y": [99, 86, 87, 88, 100, 86, 103, 87, 94, 78],
    "Category": ["A", "B", "B", "A", "B", "A", "A", "B", "B", "A"]
})

fig = px.scatter(df, x="X", y="Y", color="Category", title="Interactive Scatter Plot")
fig.show()
```

Interactive Histogram

Description: Visualizes frequency distribution with adjustable bins interactively.

```
import plotly.express as px
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd

data = np.random.randn(500)
df = pd.DataFrame({"Values": data})

fig = px.histogram(df, x="Values", nbins=20, title="Interactive Histogram")
fig.show()
```

Multiple Subplots

Description: Visualizes frequency distribution with adjustable bins interactively.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np

x = np.linspace(0, 10, 100)

fig, axs = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(10, 8))

axs[0, 0].plot(x, np.sin(x), color='blue')
axs[0, 0].set_title('Sine')

axs[0, 1].plot(x, np.cos(x), color='red')
axs[0, 1].set_title('Cosine')

axs[1, 0].plot(x, np.tan(x), color='green')
axs[1, 0].set_title('Tangent')

axs[1, 1].plot(x, np.exp(-x), color='purple')
axs[1, 1].set_title('Exponential Decay')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

3. Comparison

| Feature | Matplotlib | Plotly |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ease of Use | Moderate (steeper learning curve) | Easy (higher-level abstraction) |
| Customization | High (manual configuration) | Moderate (pre-configured styles) |
| Interactivity | None (static images) | High (zoom, pan, tooltips) |
| Performance | Good for small to medium datasets | Better for interactive dashboards |
| Ideal Use Cases | Research, Reports, Publications | Web dashboards, Data Exploration |