

matplotlib.pyplot Cheat Sheet

Key functions

plt.gca().invert_

by gabriellerab via cheatography.com/61175/cs/16431/

Importing the library

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

Plots and key arguments			
Line graph	plt.plot()	(x_data, y_data)	
Scatter plot	plt.scatt er()	(x_data, y_data)	
Bar chart	plt.bar()	(x_locs, bar_heights, width = int)	
Histogram	plt.hist()	(data, bins = int)	
Pie chart	plt.pie()	(data, labels = list)	

Optional arguments		
color ="color"	Change plot color	
marker = "symbol"	Change marker for line or scatter plot (".", "x", " ", "o")	
markersize = int	Change marker size	
linewidth = int	Change line width for line graph	
cmap = colormap	Color plot according to a colormap	

plt.clf()	Clear figure
plt.savefig("filena me")	Save figure (call before plt.show())
plt.show()	Show figure
Axis functions	
plt.xlim(xmin, xmax)	Set the limits for the x axis
plt.ylim(ymin, ymax)	Set the limits for the y axis
plt.xscale("scale type")	Set scale for the x axis (ex. "log")
plt.yscale("scale type")	Set scale for the y axis (ex. "log")
plt.twinx()	Add a second y axis
plt.axis("off")	Do not show the axes
plt.gca().invert_ xaxis()	Invert the x axis

Labeling functions	
plt.title("title")	Add a title
plt.xlabel("x axis label")	Add a label to the x axis
plt.ylabel("y axis label")	Add a label to the y axis
plt.legend(loc = int)	Add a legend
plt.xticks(range(min, max, interval)	Modify the x axis tick marks

Invert the y axis

Multiple plots

plt.plot(x_data1, y_data1)
plt.plot(x_data2, y_data2)
plt.plot(x_data3, y_data3)
plt.show()

You can put multiple plots in one figure by defining each one before plt.show() or plt.savefig()

Using colormaps

Choose a colormap and assign to
a variable
cm = plt.cm.get_cmap("RdYlBu")
Set the color map in a plot
plt.scatter(x_data, y_data,
cmap=cm)

See all colormaps here:

https://matplotlib.org/users/colormaps.html