

Cheatsheets / Data Visualization in Python

Introduction to Matplotlib

Pyplot functions

The Python library Matplotlib contains the pyplot module, which provides users with an interface for graphing data. Pyplot contains over 100 functions, from `acorr` to `yticks`. You must import the module, and `plt` is the standard variable name used.

```
from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
```

Here are some of the most common pyplot functions:

Function	Description
Plot	plots y versus x as lines and/or markers
Show	displays a figure
Axis	sets some axis properties
Xlabel	sets the label for the x-axis

Pyplot-axis

Matplotlib's `pyplot.axis` function takes one parameter, which must be a four-item array, and returns the current axes' limits. The four items should contain enough info to define an x axis and a y axis by minimum and maximum values. The array must order these values as follows: x-axis minimum, x-axis maximum, y-axis minimum, y-axis maximum.

<https://author.codecademy.com/learning-standards/5cc9c73faf246d6f7689df89>

```
x = range(12)
y = [2,8,20,40,70,300,930,7000,68000,500000,4000000, 2000000]
plt.plot(x, y)
```

```
#x-axis minimum is 0, x-axis maximum is 11; y-axis minimum is 300, y-axis maximum is
```

```
500000  
plt.axis([0,11,300,500000])  
plt.show()
```

Setting Linestyle, Color in Matplotlib

In Python's Matplotlib, the `pyplot.plot()` function can accept parameters to set the color(`color`), linestyle(`linestyle`) and marker(`marker`) for line graph. Color values can be HTML color names or HEX codes. Line styles can be dashed(`'--'`) or dotted(`'..'`). Markers can be circles(`'o'`), squares(`'s'`), stars(`'*'`), or other shapes.

```
pyplot.plot(days, money_spent, color='green', linestyle='--')  
pyplot.plot(days, money_spent_2, color='#AAAAAA', marker='o')
```

Adjusting Subplot Margins in Matplotlib

In Python's Matplotlib, subplots can overlap, either horizontally or vertically. The function `pyplot.subplots_adjust()` can set better spacing around each subplot in a figure. It can set values for left, right, bottom and top margins, plus the horizontal(`wspace`) and vertical(`hspace`) spaces between adjacent subplots.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
  
# Left Plot  
plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)  
plt.plot([-2, -1, 0, 1, 2], [4, 1, 0, 1, 4])  
  
# Right Plot  
plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)  
plt.plot([-2, -1, 0, 1, 2], [4, 1, 0, 1, 4])  
  
# Subplot Adjust  
plt.subplots_adjust(wspace=1.3)  
  
plt.show()
```

X-ticks and Y-ticks in Matplotlib

In Python's Matplotlib, the x-tick and y-tick marks of the plot can be changed using functions `ax.set_xticks()` and `ax.set_yticks()`. These functions accept an array of values representing tick mark positions.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

ax = plt.subplot()
plt.plot([0, 1, 2, 3, 4], [0, 1, 4, 9, 16])
plt.plot([0, 1, 2, 3, 4], [0, 1, 8, 27, 64])
ax.set_xticks([1, 2, 4])
```

Subplots in Matplotlib

In Python, the Matplotlib's `pyplot.subplot()` function can be used to create a figure with a grid of subplots. The function accepts number of rows, number of columns, and the current index as arguments.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Datasets
x = [1, 2, 3, 4]
y = [1, 2, 3, 4]

# First Subplot
plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.plot(x, y, color='green')
plt.title('First Subplot')

# Second Subplot
plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
plt.plot(x, y, color='blue')
plt.title('Second Subplot')

# Display both subplots
plt.show()
```

Figures in Matplotlib

In Python's Matplotlib, a figure is a container that holds plots. It can hold a single plot or

multiple plots. When a figure holds multiple separate plots, these are called subplots.

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