Introduction to Python

Part 2: Scientific Computing and Plotting

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Important Tools for Scientific Computing with Python

- NumPy: N-dimensional array manipulation http://numpy.scipy.org/
- SciPy: numerical routines, data manipulation and analysis http://www.scipy.org/
- Matplotlib: 2D plotting http://matplotlib.sourceforge.net/
- MayaVi: 3D plotting and interactive scientific data visualisation http://code.enthought.com/projects/mayavi/
- HDF5/netCDF: self-describing and efficient storage of scientific data http://www.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/ http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/ http://code.google.com/p/h5py/ http://code.google.com/p/netcdf4-python/

NumPy

- NumPy: fundamental package for scientific computing with Python
- → contains a powerful N-dimensional array object (ndarray) and various derived objects (such as matrices) and an assortment of routines for fast operations on these arrays (mathematical, shape manipulation, sorting, selecting, I/O, ...)
- → defines universal functions for arrays (ufunc): allow to apply a function to each element of a ndarray in one call
- \rightarrow extensive capabilities for linear algebra, statistics, Fourier transforms, random simulations, ...
- \rightarrow it's fast: most routines are optimised, pre-compiled C code
 - don't forget to import the numpy module before using it:

```
>>> import numpy as np
```

NumPy: Arrays

- attributes of ndarray:
 - shape: tuple that gives the number of points in each dimension
 - ndim : number of dimensions
 - size : number of elements
 - dtype: data type (int64, float64, complex128, ..., structured data types)
- arithmetic operations of ndarray:
 - a + b : element-wise addition
 - a b : element-wise subtraction
 - a * b : element-wise multiplication
 - a / b : element-wise division
- important functions of ndarray:
 - dot(a): vector/matrix multiplication
 - max(): largest element
 - min(): smallest element
 - prod(): product of all elements
 - sum() : sum of all elements



• create a 1D array from a list:

```
>>> a = np.array([0, 1, 2, 3])
>>> a
array([0, 1, 2, 3])
>>> a.ndim
1
>>> a.shape
(4,)
```

create a 2D array from a list of two lists:

arrays with regularly incrementing values: arange([start,] stop[, step, dtype])

```
>>> np.arange(10)
array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
>>> np.arange(1, 9, 2)
array([1, 3, 5, 7])
```

 arrays with equally/logarithmic spaced elements between the specified beginning and end values:

```
linspace(start, stop[, num=50, endpoint=True])
logspace(start, stop[, num=50, endpoint=True, base=10.0])
```

• array filled with zeros: zeros(shape[, dtype])

array filled with ones: ones(shape[, dtype])

allocated but empty arrays: empty(shape[, dtype])

create arrays that look like another array (shape and type):
 zeros_like(a[, dtype])

```
>>> b = np.ones((2, 2), dtype=int)
>>> b
array([[1, 1],
    [1, 1]
>>> np.zeros_like(b)
array([[0, 0],
      [0, 0]
ones_like(a[, dtype])
>>> a = np.zeros((2, 2))
>>> a
array([[ 0., 0.],
   [ 0., 0.]])
>>> np.ones_like(a)
array([[ 1., 1.],
       [ 1., 1.]])
```

• identity matrix: eye(dim[, dtype=float, ...])

diagonal matrix: diag(vec)

- upper triangular matrix: triu(m, k=0)
- \rightarrow returns a copy of m with the elements below the k-th diagonal zeroed

• lower triangular matrix: tril(m, k=0)

NumPy: Importing and Exporting Text Files

population.txt

```
1900 30.0e3 4.0e3 51300
1901 47.2e3 6.1e3 48200
...
```

• reading data:

writing data:

```
>>> np.savetxt('population_out.txt', data)
```

population_out.txt

```
1.900000000000000000e+03 3.00000000000000000e+04 ...
1.901000000000000000e+03 4.7200000000000000e+04 ...
```

NumPy: Importing and Exporting Text Files

- fname: file object or filename to read
- dtype: data-type of the resulting array, in the case of a record type, the number of columns used must match the number of fields in the record
- comments: character used to indicate the start of a comment
- delimiter: string used to separate values (by default, this is any whitespace)
- converters: dictionary mapping column number to a function that will convert that column to a float (can also be used to provide a default value for missing data)
- skiprows: skip the first skiprows lines
- usecols: which columns to read, e.g. usecols = (1,4,5) will extract the 2nd, 5th and 6th columns, the default results in all columns being read

NumPy: Importing and Exporting Text Files

```
savetxt(fname, X, fmt='\%.18e', delimiter='', newline='\n', header='', footer='', comments='\#')
```

- fname: file object or filename to write to
- x: data to be saved to a text file.
- fmt: a single format (%10.5f), a sequence of formats (%d, %10.5f), or a multi-format string, e.g. 'Iteration %d - %10.5f'
- delimiter: character separating columns
- newline: string that marks a new line
- header: string that will be written at the beginning of the file
- footer: string that will be written at the end of the file
- comments: string that will be prepended to the header and footer strings, to mark them as comments

NumPy: Indexing Arrays

 items of an array can be accessed and assigned to the same way as other Python sequences

```
>>> a = np.arange(10)
>>> a
array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
>>> a[0], a[2], a[-1]
(0, 2, 9)
>>> a[3:7]
array([3, 4, 5, 6])
>>> a[::2]
array([0, 2, 4, 6, 8])
>>> a[5] = -1
>>> a[6:] = 0
>>> a
array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, -1, 0, 0, 0])
```

- \rightarrow in 2D, the first dimension corresponds to rows, the second to columns
- → for multidimensional a, a[0] is interpreted by taking all elements in the unspecified dimensions, e.g. in 3D, a[0] corresponds to a[0,:,:]

NumPy: Copies and Views of Arrays

- a slicing operation creates a view on the original array, which is just a
 way of accessing array data (the original array is not copied in memory)
- $\rightarrow\,$ when modifying the view, the original array is modified as well:

```
>>> a = np.arange(10); a
array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
>>> b = a[::2]; b
array([0, 2, 4, 6, 8])
>>> b[0] = 10
>>> b; a
array([10, 2, 4, 6, 8])
array([10, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
```

 \rightarrow if you want a copy of the data, you have to tell Python explicitly:

```
>>> a = np.arange(10)
>>> b = a[::2].copy()
>>> b[0] = 10
>>> b; a
array([10, 2, 4, 6, 8])
array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
```

NumPy: Advanced Indexing

masks:

indexing with an array of integers:

```
>>> a[[2, 4]]
array([2, 4])
>>> a[[2, 4]] = a[[4,2]]
>>> a
array([0, 1, 4, 3, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
```

• slice represents the set of indexes range(start, end, step):

```
>>> sl = slice(0,5,2)
>>> a[sl]
array([0, 2, 4])
```

NumPy: Array Shape Manipulation

• flattening: ndarray.ravel()

```
>>> a = np.array([[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6]])
>>> a
array([[1, 2, 3],
     [4, 5, 6]])
>>> a.ravel()
array([1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6])
>>> a.T
array([[1, 4],
     [2, 5],
      [3, 6]])
>>> a.T.ravel()
array([1, 4, 2, 5, 3, 6])
```

NumPy: Array Shape Manipulation

reshaping: ndarray.reshape(shape)

```
>>> b = a.ravel()
>>> b.reshape((2, 3))
array([[1, 2, 3],
     [4, 5, 6]])
>>> b.reshape((3, 2))
array([[1, 2],
     [3, 4],
      [5, 6]]
>>> np.arange(18).reshape((3,6))
array([[ 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5],
       [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11],
       [12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17]])
```

NumPy: Element-wise Operations

• with scalars:

```
>>> a = np.array([1, 2, 3, 4])
>>> a + 1
array([2, 3, 4, 5])
>>> a * 2
array([2, 4, 6, 8])
>>> 2**a
array([ 2, 4, 8, 16])
```

arithmetic:

```
>>> b = np.ones(4) + 1
>>> b
array([ 2.,  2.,  2.,  2.])
>>> a - b
array([-1.,  0.,  1.,  2.])
>>> a * b
array([ 2.,  4.,  6.,  8.])
>>> b**a
array([ 2.,  4.,  8.,  16.])
```

NumPy: Element-wise Operations

• comparisons:

```
>>> a = np.array([1, 2, 3, 4])
>>> b = np.array([4, 2, 2, 4])
>>> a == b
array([False, True, False, True], dtype=bool)
>>> a > b
array([False, False, True, False], dtype=bool)
```

logical:

```
>>> a = np.array([1, 1, 0, 0], dtype=bool)
>>> b = np.array([1, 0, 1, 0], dtype=bool)
>>> a | b
array([ True, True, True, False], dtype=bool)
>>> a & b
array([ True, False, False, False], dtype=bool)
```

NumPy: Basic Linear Algebra

matrix multiplication:

```
>>> a = np.triu(np.ones((3, 3)), 1)
>>> a
array([[ 0., 1., 1.],
     [ 0., 0., 1.],
      [0., 0., 0.]
>>> b = np.diag([1, 2, 3]);
>>> b
array([[1, 0, 0],
     [0, 2, 0],
     [0, 0, 3]])
>>> a.dot(b)
array([[ 0., 2., 3.],
     [ 0., 0., 3.],
      [ 0., 0., 0.]])
>>> np.dot(a,b)
array([[ 0., 2., 3.],
     [ 0., 0., 3.],
      [0., 0., 0.]
```

NumPy: Basic Linear Algebra

transpose:

• inverses:

NumPy: Basic Linear Algebra

trace:

```
>>> np.trace(A)
6.0
```

determinant:

```
>>> np.linalg.det(A)
6.0
```

eigenvalues:

```
>>> np.linalg.eigvals(A)
array([ 1., 2., 3.])
```

ullet linear equation systems: solve(A,b) solves the equation $A\cdot ec x=ec b$ for ec x

```
>>> x = np.linalg.solve(A, [1, 2, 3])
>>> x
array([-0.5, 0.5, 1.])
>>> A.dot(x)
array([ 1., 2., 3.])
```

NumPy: Composite Data Types

• a dtype can be composed of other data types:

```
>>> samples = np.zeros(6, dtype=[('sensor_code', 'S4'), \
                 ('position', float), ('value', float)] )
>>> samples.ndim
>>> samples.shape
(6.)
>>> samples.dtype.names
('sensor_code', 'position', 'value')
>>> samples[:] = [('ALFA', 1, 0.35), ('BETA', 1.0, 0.11),
                  ('TAU', 1, 0.39), ('ALFA', 1.5, 0.35),\
. . .
                  ('ALFA', 2, 0.11), ('TAU', 1.2, 0.39)]
. . .
>>> samples['sensor_code']
array(['ALFA', 'BETA', 'TAU', 'ALFA', 'ALFA', 'TAU'],
      dtype='|S4')
>>> samples['value']
array([ 0.35, 0.11, 0.39, 0.35, 0.11, 0.39])
>>> samples[0]
('ALFA', 1.0, 0.35)
>>> samples[0]['sensor_code']
'ALFA'
```

NumPy: Universal Functions

ufunc performs and element-wise operation on all elements of an array

```
>>> output = elementwise_function(input)
```

- → both output and input can be a single value or a ndarray of arbitrary size and dimension
- most of the functions in numpy are universal functions:
 - add, subtract, multiply, divide
 - absolute, exp, log, log2, log10, power, sqrt, square
 - conj, negative, sign
 - ceil, floor, rint, trunc
 - sin, cos, tan, arcsin, arccos, arctan, sinh, cosh, tanh
- the author of an ufunc only as to supply the element-wise operation,
 NumPy takes care of the rest
- → the operation needs to be implemented in C of Cython

SciPy

- the scipy package contains various toolboxes dedicated to common issues in scientific computing (similar to GSL)
- ullet scipy operates on numpy arrays (o numpy is required to run scipy)

```
fast Fourier transforms
fftpack
              integration routines (quadrature, Romberg, ODEs, ...)
integrate
              interpolation
interpolate
              data input and output (MatLab, ...)
io
              linear algebra routines (SVD, QR, LU, Cholesky, Schur, ...)
linalg
              n-dimensional image package (rotation, filtering, ...)
ndimage
              optimisation (minimisation, curve fitting, root finding)
optimize
              signal processing
signal
              sparse matrices
sparse
              special mathematical functions (Bessel, Gamma, Erf, ...)
special
              statistics, random processes
stats
```

Matplotlib

- provides a very quick way to visualise data
- allows generation of plots, histograms, power spectra, bar charts, error charts, scatte rplots, etc., with just a few lines of code
- full control of line styles, font properties, axes properties, etc., via an object oriented interface or via a set of functions similar to MATLAB
- works natively and transparently with numpy arrays
- the pyplot module provides high level plotting routines for scripting

```
>>> from matplotlib import pyplot
```

 the pylab module provides Matlab-like commands for convenient interactive usage

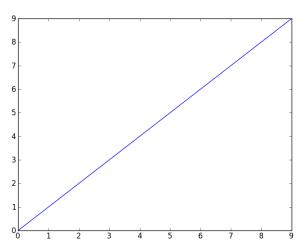
```
>>> from matplotlib import pylab
```

- for interactive plotting use ipython (enhanced, interactive Python shell)
 - > ipython -pylab



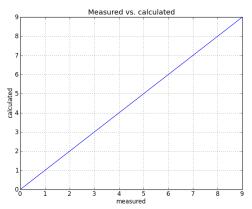
• plot the numbers from 0 to 9:

```
In [1]: plot(range(10))
```



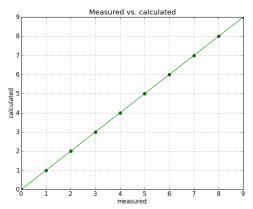
• interactively add features to the plot:

```
In [2]: xlabel('measured')
In [3]: ylabel('calculated')
In [4]: title('Measured vs. calculated')
In [5]: grid(True)
```



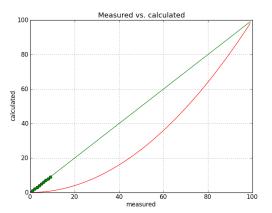
• with a reference to the plot an the line, we can set properties:

```
In [6]: my_plot = gca()
In [7]: line = my_plot.lines[0]
In [8]: line.set_marker('o')
In [9]: setp(line, color='g')
```



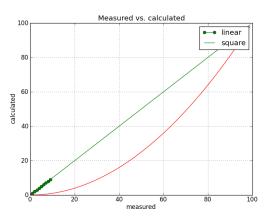
• add new lines to the plot:

```
In [11]: x = arange(100)
In [12]: linear = arange(100)
In [13]: square = [v * v for v in arange(0, 10, 0.1)]
In [14]: lines = plot(x, linear, x, square)
```



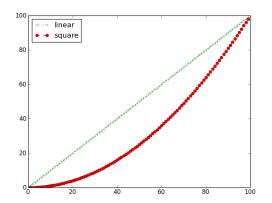
• add a legend:

```
In [15]: legend(('linear', 'square'))
```



• that doesn't look nice → start over:

```
In [16]: clf()
In [17]: lines = plot(x, linear, 'g:+', x, square, 'r--o')
In [18]: l = legend(('linear', 'square'), loc='upper left')
```



Matplotlib: Properties

- properties of lines can be set via
 - keyword arguments at creation time:

```
plot(x, linear, 'g:+', x, square, 'r--o')
• the function setp: setp(line, color='g')
• the set_something methods: line.set_marker('o')
```

lines have several properties:

```
alpha transparency on 0-1 scale
alpha
                  True or False - use antialised rendering
antialiased
color
                  matplotlib color arg
                  string optionally used for legend
label
                  one of - -- : -.
linestyle
                  float, the line width in points
linewidth
                  one of +, o.svx > <, etc.
marker
                  line width around the marker symbol
markeredgewidth
                  edge color if a marker is used
markeredgecolor
                  face color if a marker is used
markerfacecolor
                  size of the marker in points
markersize
                                              4 ロ ト 4 倒 ト 4 豆 ト 4 豆 ト 9 Q P
```

Matplotlib: Properties

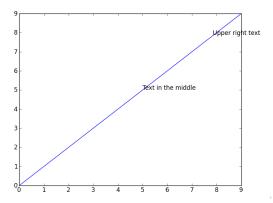
- colours can be given as
 - one-letter abbreviations
 - gray scale intensity from 0 to 1
 - RGB in hex and tuple format
 - any legal html color name
- the one-letter abbreviations are very handy for quick work:

| Abbreviation | Color |
|--------------|---------|
| b | blue |
| g | green |
| r | red |
| С | cyan |
| m | magenta |
| У | yellow |
| k | black |
| W | white |

Matplotlib: Text

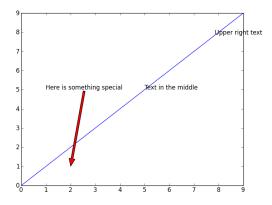
- add text at a defined position:
 - → text adds the text with data coordinates
 - $\,\rightarrow\,$ fixtext adds the text with figure coordinates from 0 to 1

```
In [1]: plot(arange(10))
In [2]: t1 = text(5, 5, 'Text in the middle')
In [3]: t2 = figtext(0.8, 0.8, 'Upper right text')
```



Matplotlib: Text

use arrows to highlight special details:



Matplotlib: Text Properties

alpha alpha transparency on 0-1 scale

color matplotlib color arg

family set the font family, e.g. sans-serif, cursive, fantasy

fontangle the font slant, one of normal, italic, oblique

horizontalalignment left, right Or center

multialignment left, right or center only for multiline strings

name font name, e.g. Sans, Courier, Helvetica

position x,y location

variant font variant, e.g. normal, small-caps rotation angle in degrees for rotated text size fontsize in points, e.g. 8, 10, 12

style font style, one of normal, italic, oblique

text set the text string itself verticalalignment top, bottom Or center

weight font weight, e.g. normal, bold, heavy, light

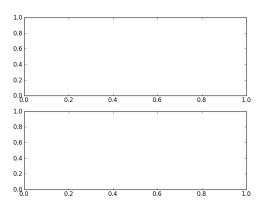
- a figure is the windows in the GUI that contains your plots
- ightarrow there are several parameters that determine how the figure looks like:

| Argument | Default | Description |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| num | 1 | number of figure |
| figsize | figure.figsize | figure size in in inches (width, height) |
| dpi | figure.dpi | resolution in dots per inch |
| facecolor | figure.facecolor | colour of the drawing background |
| edgecolor | figure.edgecolor | colour of edge around the drawing bg |
| frameon | True | draw figure frame or not |

- → the defaults can be specified in a config file
- \rightarrow if you have several figures, you have to select the right one before calling plot commands with figure(num)
- → you can close a figure by calling close(fig_num)

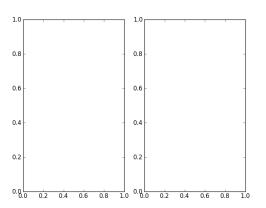
- arrange plots in a regular grid with subplot(nrows, ncols, nplot)
- \rightarrow a plot with two rows and one column is created with

```
In [1]: subplot(211)
In [2]: subplot(212)
```



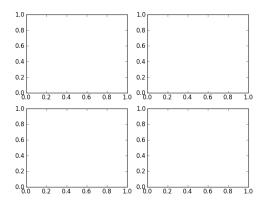
- arrange plots in a regular grid with subplot(nrows, ncols, nplot)
- \rightarrow a plot with one row and two columns is created with

```
In [1]: subplot(121)
In [2]: subplot(122)
```



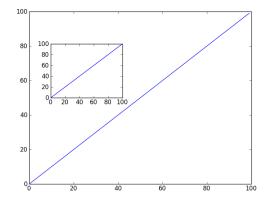
- arrange plots in a regular grid with subplot(nrows, ncols, nplot)
- $\,\rightarrow\,$ a two-by-two arrangement is created with

```
In [1]: subplot(221)
In [2]: subplot(222)
In [2]: subplot(223)
In [2]: subplot(224)
```



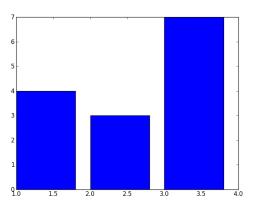
- axes allow placement of plots an any location in the figure
- \rightarrow you can put a smaller plot inside a bigger one:

```
In [1]: x = range(100)
In [2]: plot(x)
In [3]: a = axes([0.2, 0.5, 0.25, 0.25])
In [4]: plot(x)
```



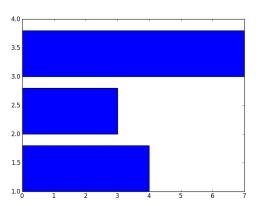
• bar charts:

```
In [1]: bar([1, 2, 3], [4, 3, 7])
```



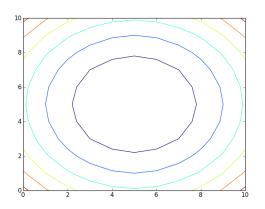
horizontal bar charts:

```
In [1]: barh([1, 2, 3], [4, 3, 7])
```



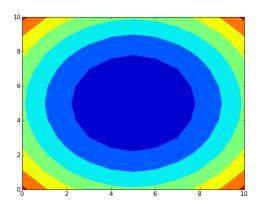
• contour plots:

```
In [1]: x, y = np.mgrid[-5:5:11j, -5:5:11j]
In [2]: z = x**2 + y**2
In [3]: contour(z)
```



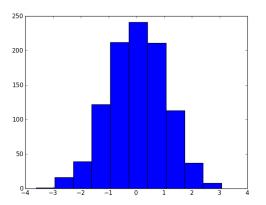
• contour plots:

```
In [1]: x, y = np.mgrid[-5:5:11j, -5:5:11j]
In [2]: z = x**2 + y**2
In [3]: contourf(z)
```



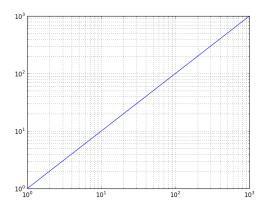
• histograms:

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
In [2]: rand_numbers = np.random.normal(size=1000)
In [3]: hist(rand_numbers)
```



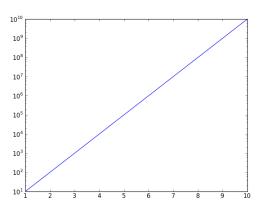
loglog plots:

```
In [1]: loglog(arange(1000))
In [2]: grid(True)
In [3]: grid(True, which='minor')
```



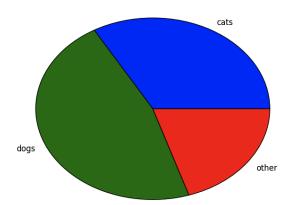
semilog plots:

```
In [1]: x = np.linspace(1,10)
In [2]: y = np.logspace(1,10)
In [3]: semilogy(x,y)
```



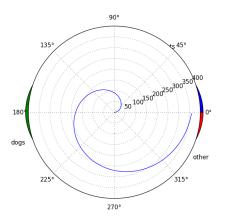
• pie charts:

```
In [1]: data = [500, 700, 300]
In [2]: labels = ['cats', 'dogs', 'other']
In [3]: pie(data, labels=labels)
```



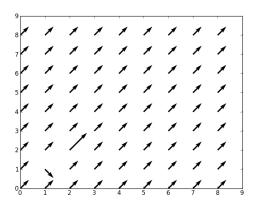
polar plots:

```
In [1]: r = arange(360)
In [2]: theta = r / (180/pi)
In [3]: polar(theta, r)
```



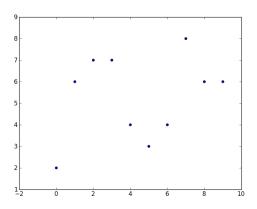
arrow plots:

```
In [1]: x = y = arange(10)
In [2]: u = v = ones((10, 10))
In [3]: u[2, 2] = 2; v[2, 2] = 2
In [4]: v[1, 1] = -1
In [5]: quiver(x, y, u, v)
```



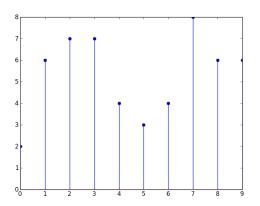
scatter plots:

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
In [2]: x = arange(10)
In [3]: y = np.random.randint(0,10,10)
In [4]: scatter(x,y)
```



• stem plots:

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
In [2]: x = arange(10)
In [3]: y = np.random.randint(0,10,10)
In [4]: stem(x,y)
```



MayaVi

- general purpose tool for 3D scientific data visualisation
- visualisation of scalar, vector and tensor data in 2D and 3D
- interactive use and easy scriptability
- works natively and transparently with NumPy arrays (just as matplotlib)
- don't forget to import the mayavi module

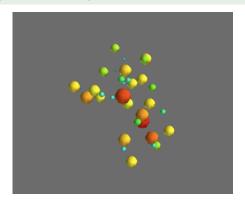
```
>>> import enthought.mayavi
```

ightarrow the mlab interface is very similar to matplotlib's pylab interface

```
>>> from enthought.mayavi import mlab
```

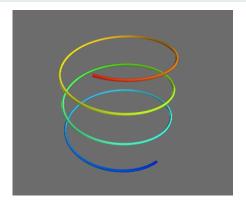
 plot points at positions x,y,z with size and colour depending on value (which can be a ndarray like (x,y,z) or a function of (x,y,z))

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
In [2]: from enthought.mayavi import mlab
In [3]: x, y, z, value = np.random.random((4, 40))
In [4]: mlab.points3d(x, y, z, value)
```



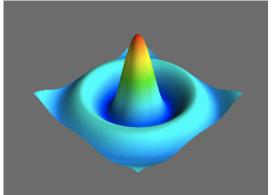
• plot lines between the points described by x,y,z which can be 1D NumPy arrays of the same length or a set of parametric functions

```
In [5]: mlab.clf()
In [6]: t = np.linspace(0, 20, 200)
In [7]: mlab.plot3d(np.sin(t), np.cos(t), 0.1*t, t)
```

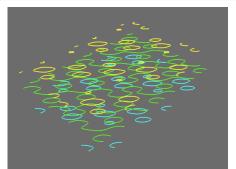


plot a surface using regularly-spaced elevation data from a 2D array

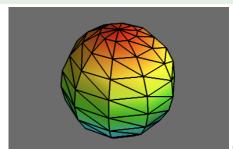
```
In [8]: mlab.clf()
In [9]: x, y = np.mgrid[-10:10:100j, -10:10:100j]
In [10]: r = np.sqrt(x**2 + y**2)
In [11]: z = np.sin(r)/r
In [12]: mlab.surf(z, warp_scale='auto')
```



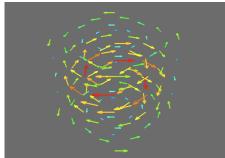
 plot the contours of a surface using grid-spaced elevation data from a 2D array (which in this case is supplied as a function)



- plot a surface described by three 2D arrays x,y,z giving the coordinates of the data points as a grid
- \rightarrow unlike surf(), the surface is defined by its x,y,z coordinates



• plot arrows to represent vectors with components u,v,w at points x,y,z



HDF5 and netCDF

- HDF5: data model, library, and file format for storing numerical data
 - supports an unlimited variety of datatypes (whatever dtype you create)
 - ullet designed for flexible and efficient I/O, high volume and complex data
 - no limit on the number or size of data objects in one file
 - supported by a lot of data analysis, math and visualisation tools (Mathematica, MatLab, Octave, Vislt, ParaView, IDL, HDFView, ...)
- netCDF: self-describing data format for array-oriented scientific data
 - from version 4, netCDF is implemented on top of HDF5
 - netCDF files include information about the data they contain (description, units, ...)
 - → netCDF files are self-describing (main difference/advantage over HDF5)
- common features:
 - portable/machine-independent: data looks the same on computers with different ways of storing integers, characters, and floating-point numbers
 - scalable: a small subset of a large dataset may be accessed efficiently
 - ullet libraries for C/C++, Fortran, Java, ..., and Python!

HDF5: h5py

- two kinds of objects are stored in HDF5 files:
 - datasets: homogeneous, regular arrays of data (just like NumPy arrays)
 - ightarrow scalar variables are 0D arrays
 - groups: containers that store datasets and other groups
- h5py is a simple Python interface to HDF5
- ightarrow interact with files, groups and datasets using Python and NumPy metaphors
 - → groups behave like dictionaries
 - → datasets have shape and dtype attributes
 - → they can be sliced and indexed just like NumPy arrays
- ightarrow you don't need to know anything about the HDF5 library to use h5py, apart from the basic metaphors of files, groups and datasets

netCDF: netCDF4

- an additional kind of object is available in netCDF files:
 - attributes: used to store data about the data (metadata)
- → besides, netCDF and HDF5 file access works very similar
- netCDF4 is the Python interface to netCDF
- netCDF4.Dataset is the main module that gives access to netCDF files
- → create and open a netCDF file: Dataset(filename, mode[, format])
- → close a netCDF file: Dataset.close()

```
>>> from netCDF4 import Dataset
>>> rootgrp = Dataset('test.nc', 'w', format='NETCDF4')
>>> rootgrp.close()
>>> rootgrp = Dataset('test.nc', 'a')
```

- \rightarrow the file modes follow standard Python syntax (w: create/overwrite, a: append, r: read, ...)
- ightarrow with the netCDF4.Dataset module, you may read and write any type of data including dimensions, groups, variables and attributes

netCDF: Groups

- data can be organised in hierarchical groups, which are analogous to directories in a filesystem
- $\rightarrow\,$ groups serve as containers for variables, dimensions and attributes, as well as other groups
- ightarrow netCDF4.Dataset defines a special group, called the *root group*, which is similar to the root directory in a unix filesystem
- → create Group instances: Dataset.createGroup(name)

```
>>> fcstgrp = rootgrp.createGroup('forecasts')
>>> analgrp = rootgrp.createGroup('analyses')
```

→ all of the Group instances are stored in the dictionary Dataset.groups:

netCDF: Dimensions

- netCDF defines the sizes of all variables in terms of dimensions
- → before a variable can be created the dimensions it uses must be created
- → special case: scalar variables (have no dimensions)
- → create a dimension (size=None means unlimited size, growing): Dataset.createDimension(name, size), Group.createDimension(name, size)

```
>>> level = rootgrp.createDimension('level', None)
>>> time = rootgrp.createDimension('time', None)
>>> lat = rootgrp.createDimension('lat', 73)
>>> lon = rootgrp.createDimension('lon', 144)
```

- $\rightarrow\,$ all of the Dimension instances are stored in the dictionary rootgrp.dimensions
- → len returns the current size of a given dimension:

```
>>> print(len(lon))
144
```

netCDF: Variables

- netCDF variables behave much like ndarray objects
- → create a netCDF variable:

```
Dataset.createVariable(name, dtype, dim),
Group.createVariable(name, dtype, dim)
```

→ dimensions themselves are also defined as variables

→ the variables in a Group are also stored in a dictionary:

```
>>> longitudes2 = rootgrp.variables['longitudes']
```

netCDF: Variables

write data to netCDF variables by assigning NumPy arrays:

```
>>> lats = np.arange(-90,91,2.5)
>>> lons = np.arange(-180,180,2.5)
>>> latitudes[:] = lats
>>> longitudes[:] = lons
```

retrieve data by accessing netCDF variables like NumPy arrays:

```
>>> print (latitudes[:])
[-90. -87.5 -85. -82.5 -80. -77.5 -75. -72.5 ...
-60. -57.5 -55. -52.5 -50. -47.5 -45. -42.5 ...
-30. -27.5 -25. -22.5 -20. -17.5 -15. -12.5 ...

>>> print(latitudes[::2])
[-90. -85. -80. -75. -70. -65. -60. -55. -50. ...
-15. -10. -5. 0. 5. 10. 15. 20. 25. ...
60. 65. 70. 75. 80. 85. 90.]
```

netCDF: Attributes

- two types of attributes: global and variables
- ightarrow global attributes provide information about the dataset or a group
- → set by assigning values to Dataset or Group instance variables:

```
>>> import time
>>> rootgrp.description = 'bogus example script'
>>> rootgrp.history = 'Created ' + time.ctime(time.time())
>>> rootgrp.source = 'netCDF4 python module tutorial'
```

- → variable attributes provide information about a single variable
- → set by assigning values to Variable instance variables:

```
>>> latitudes.units = 'degrees north'
>>> longitudes.units = 'degrees east'
>>> levels.units = 'hPa'
>>> temp.units = 'K'
>>> times.units = 'hours since 0001-01-01 00:00:00.0'
>>> times.calendar = 'gregorian'
```

netCDF: Attributes

retrieve the names of all the netCDF attributes:Dataset.ncattrs(), Group.ncattrs(), Variable.ncattrs()

```
>>> for name in rootgrp.ncattrs():
... print(name)
description
history
source
```

• retrieve the value of attributes: getattr(group, name)

Outlook: Advanced Topics

- calling and embedding C and Fortran code:
 - Cython: extension of the Python language providing static typed functions and variables, generating efficient C code for fast computations
 - Weave: embed C code within your .py files
 - ctypes: wrap C code
 - f2py: wraps and compiles Fortran routines to behave like Python modules
- parallelisation:
 - threading
 - multiprocessing
 - parallel python (PP)
 - Python Remote Objects (PYRO)
 - pyMPI
- GUI programming:
 - PyQt
 - Traits
- Symbolic Calculations with SymPy and Sage

