Chapter 9: Plotting and Visualization

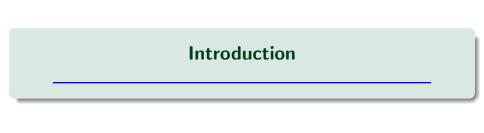
Dinh Viet Hoang

Department of Computer Science Faculty of Information Technology DATCOM Lab

June 17, 2024

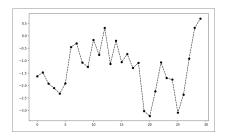
Outline

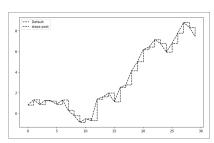
- Introduction
- Essential concept



Introduction

Making informative visualizations (sometimes called plots) is one of the most important tasks in data analysis. Python has many add-on libraries for making static or dynamic visualizations, but we will be mainly focused on matplotlib and libraries that build on top of it.







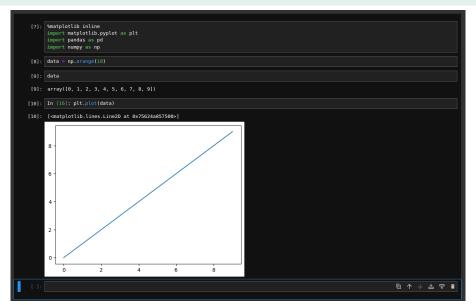
9.1 A Brief matplotlib API Primer

With matplotlib, we use the following import convention:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

After running %matplotlib notebook in Jupyter (or simply %matplotlib in IPython), we can try creating a simple plot.

9.1 A Brief matplotlib API Primer

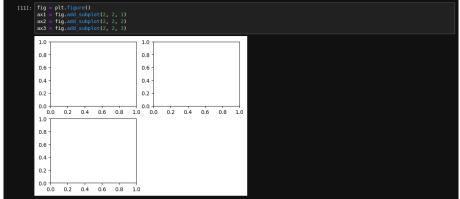


Plots in matplotlib reside within a Figure object. You can create a new figure with plt.figure:

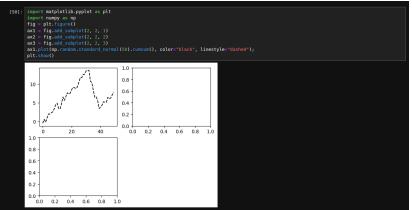
plt.figure has a number of options; notably, figsize will guarantee the figure has a certain size and aspect ratio if saved to disk. You can't make a plot with a blank figure. You have to create one or more subplots using add_subplot:

This means that the figure should be 2×2 (so up to four plots in total), and we are selecting the first of four subplots (numbered from 1),(third argument).

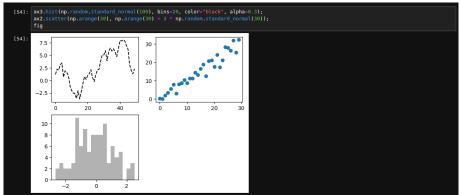
Here we run all of these commands in the same cell:



These plot axis objects have various methods that create different types of plots, and it is preferred to use the axis methods over the top-level plotting functions like polt.plot. For example, we could make a line plot with the plot method:



The additional options instruct matplotlib to plot a black dashed line. The objects returned by fig.add_subplot here are AxesSubplot objects, on which you can directly plot on the other empty subplots by calling each one's instance method:



To make creating a grid of subplots more convenient, matplotlib includes a plt.sub plots method that creates a new figure and returns a NumPy array containing the created subplot objects:

The axes array can then be indexed like a two-dimensional array; for example, axes[0, 1] refers to the subplot in the top row at the center. You can also indicate that subplots should have the same x- or y-axis using sharex and sharey, respectively. This can be useful when you're comparing data on the same scale; otherwise, matplotlib autoscales plot limits independently.

See Table 9-1 for more on this method.

Table 9-1. matplotlib.pyplot.subplots options

| Argument | Description |
|------------|---|
| nrows | Number of rows of subplots |
| ncols | Number of columns of subplots |
| sharex | All subplots should use the same x-axis ticks (adjusting the xlim will affect all subplots) |
| sharey | All subplots should use the same y-axis ticks (adjusting the ylim will affect all subplots) |
| subplot_kw | Dictionary of keywords passed to add_subplot call used to create each subplot |
| **fig_kw | $Additional \ keywords \ to \ subplots \ are \ used \ when \ creating \ the \ figure, such \ as \ plt.subplots (2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3,$ |
| | figsize=(8, 6)) |

Adjusting the spacing around subplots

By default, matplotlib leaves a certain amount of padding around the outside of the subplots and in spacing between subplots. This spacing is all specified relative to the height and width of the plot, so that if you resize the plot either programmatically or manually using the GUI window, the plot will dynamically adjust itself. You can change the spacing using the subplots_adjust method on Figure objects:

```
subplots_adjust(left=None, bottom=None,
    right=None, top=None, wspace=None,
    hspace=None)
```

wspace and hspace control the percent of the figure width and figure height, respectively, to use as spacing between subplots.

There is an example:

```
[59]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 2, sharex=True, sharey=True)
      fig.subplots adjust(wspace=0, hspace=0)
       30
       20
       10
       20
       10
                                                        0
```

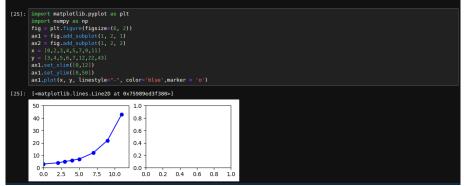
9.1.2 Colors, Markers, and Line Styles

matplotlib's line plot function accepts arrays of x and y coordinates and optional color styling options. For example, to plot x versus y with green dashes, you would execute:

A number of color names are provided for commonly used colors, but you can use any color on the spectrum by specifying its hex code (e.g., "#CECECE"). You can see some of the supported line styles by looking at the docstring for plt.plot (use plt.plot? in IPython or Jupyter). A more comprehensive reference is available in the online documentation.

9.1.2 Colors, Markers, and Line Styles

Line plots can additionally have markers to highlight the actual data points. Since matplotlib's plot function creates a continuous line plot, interpolating between points, it can occasionally be unclear where the points lie. The marker can be supplied as an additional styling option:



9.1.2 Colors, Markers, and Line Styles

For line plots, you will notice that subsequent points are linearly interpolated by default. This can be altered with the drawstyle option:

```
[30]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
      import numpy as np
            plt.figure(figsize = (6,3))
      ax = fig.add subplot()
      data = np.random.standard normal(30).cumsum()
      ax.plot(data, color="black", linestyle="dashed", label="Default");
      ax.plot(data, color="black", linestyle="dashed", drawstyle="steps-post", label="steps-post");
      ax.legend()
[30]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x75989fcc41d0>
                                                           Default
                                                            steps-post
                               10
                                                           25
```

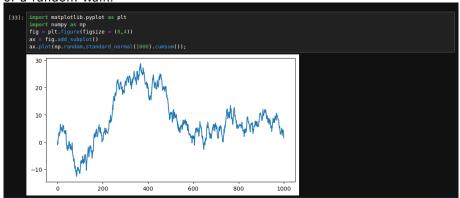
Most kinds of plot decorations can be accessed through methods on matplotlib axes objects. This includes methods like xlim, xticks, and xticklabels. These control the plot range, tick locations, and tick labels, respectively. They can be used in two ways:

- Called with no arguments returns the current parameter value (e.g., ax.xlim() returns the current xaxis plotting range)
- Called with parameters sets the parameter value (e.g., ax.xlim([0, 10]) sets the xaxis range to 0 to 10)

All such methods act on the active or most recently created AxesSubplot. Each corresponds to two methods on the subplot object itself; in the case of xlim, these are ax.get_xlim and ax.set_xlim.

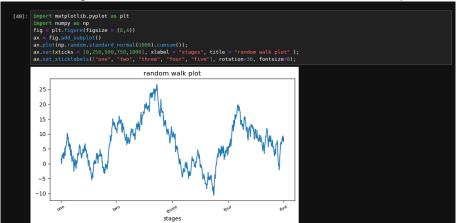
Setting the title, axis labels, ticks, and tick labels

To illustrate customizing the axes, we will create a simple figure and plot of a random walk:



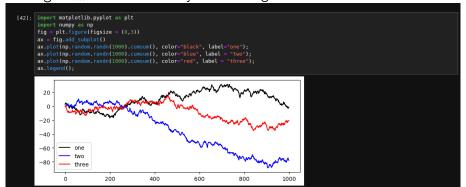
To change the x-axis ticks, it's easiest to use set_xticks and set_xticklabels. The former instructs matplotlib where to place the ticks along the data range; by default these locations will also be the labels. But we can set any other values as the labels using set_xticklabels:

The rotation option sets the x tick labels at a 30-degree rotation. Lastly, set_xlabel gives a name to the x-axis, and set_title is the subplot title:



Adding legends

Legends are another critical element for identifying plot elements. There are a couple of ways to add one. The easiest is to pass the label argument when adding each piece of the plot. Once you have done this, you can call ax.legend() to automatically create a legend:



The legend method has several other choices for the location loc argument. See the docstring (with ax.legend?) for more information.

The loc legend option tells matplotlib where to place the plot. The default is "best", which tries to choose a location that is most out of the way. To exclude one or more elements from the legend, pass no label or label= "_nolegend_".

9.1.4 Annotations and Drawing on a Subplot

In addition to the standard plot types, you may wish to draw your own plot annotations, which could consist of text, arrows, or other shapes. You can add annotations and text using the text, arrow, and annotate functions. text draws text at given coordinates (x, y) on the plot with optional custom styling:

```
ax.text(x, y, "Hello world!",
  family="monospace", fontsize=10)
```

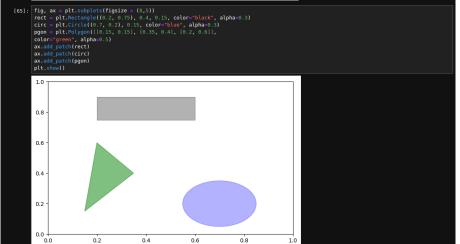
Annotations can draw both text and arrows arranged appropriately. Let's see an example:

9.1.4 Annotations and Drawing on a Subplot

```
import pandas as pd
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize = (8,5))
data.plot(ax=ax, color="black")
annot = [ (1, "first annotation"), (10, "second annotation"), (20, "third annotation")]
for i, label in annot :
    ax.annotate(label, xy = (i, data[i] + 5), xytext = (i, data[i] + 15), arrowprops=dict(facecolor="red", headwidth=3, width=1.5,
headlength=3, shrink = 0), horizontalalignment="left", verticalalignment="top")
plt.show();
                                 Annotation example
70
                               second annotation
      first annotation
                                                         third annotation
50
                5
                             10
                                           15
                                                         20
                                                                      25
```

9.1.4 Annotations and Drawing on a Subplot

To add a shape to a plot, you create the patch object and add it to a subplot ax by passing the patch to ax.add_patch



9.1.5 Saving Plots to File

You can save the active figure to file using the figure object's savefig instance method. For example, to save an SVG version of a figure, you need only type:

```
fig.savefig("figpath.svg")
```

The file type is inferred from the file extension. So if you used .pdf instead, you would get a PDF. One important option that I use frequently for publishing graphics is dpi, which controls the dots-per-inch resolution. To get the same plot as a PNG at 400 DPI, you would do:

```
fig.savefig("figpath.png", dpi=400)
```

9.1.5 Saving Plots to File

See Table 9-2 for a list of some other options for savefig. For a comprehensive listing, refer to the docstring in IPython or Jupyter.

Table 9-2. Some fig. savefig options

| zuele y zveelle j igreatej ig ep nene | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Argument | Description | |
| fname | String containing a filepath or a Python file-like object. The figure format is inferred from the file extension (e.g., .pdf for PDF or .png for PNG). | |
| dpi | The figure resolution in dots per inch; defaults to 100 in IPython or 72 in Jupyter out of the box but can be configured. | |
| facecolor, edgecolor | The color of the figure background outside of the subplots; "w" (white), by default. | |
| format | The explicit file format to use ("png", "pdf", "svg", "ps", "eps",). | |

9.1.6 matplotlib Configuration

matplotlib comes configured with color schemes and defaults that are geared primar- ily toward preparing figures for publication. Fortunately, nearly all of the default behavior can be customized via global parameters governing figure size, subplot spacing, colors, font sizes, grid styles, and so on. One way to modify the configuration programmatically from Python is to use the rc method; for example, to set the global default figure size to be 10×10 , you could enter:

All of the current configuration settings are found in the plt.rcParams dictionary, and they can be restored to their default values by calling the plt.rcdefaults() function.

9.1.6 matplotlib Configuration

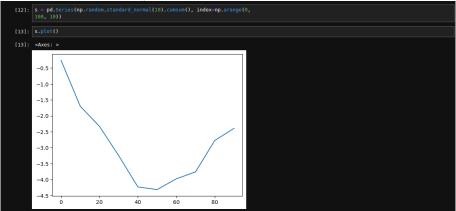
The first argument to rc is the component you wish to customize, such as "figure", "axes", "xtick", "ytick", "grid", "legend", or many others. After that can follow a sequence of keyword arguments indicating the new parameters. A convenient way to write down the options in your program is as a dictionary:

```
plt.rc("font", family="monospace",
  weight="bold", size=8)
```

9.2 Plotting with pandas and seaborn

matplotlib can be a fairly low-level tool. You assemble a plot from its base components: the data display (i.e., the type of plot: line, bar, box, scatter, contour, etc.), legend, title, tick labels, and other annotations. In pandas, we may have multiple columns of data, along with row and column labels. pandas itself has built-in methods that simplify creating visualizations from DataFrame and Series objects. Another library is seaborn, a high-level statistical graphics library built on matplotlib. seaborn simplifies creating many common visualization types.

Series and DataFrame have a plot attribute for making some basic plot types. By default, plot() makes line plots:

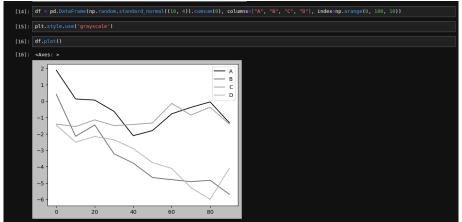


The Series object's index is passed to matplotlib for plotting on the x-axis, though you can disable this by passing use_index = False. The x-axis ticks and limits can be adjusted with the textttxticks and xlim options, and the y-axis respectively with yticks and ylim.See Table 9-3 for a partial listing of plot options.

Table 9-3. Series.plot method arguments

| Argument | Description |
|-----------|--|
| label | Label for plot legend |
| ax | matplotlib subplot object to plot on; if nothing passed, uses active matplotlib subplot |
| style | Style string, like "ko", to be passed to matplotlib |
| alpha | The plot fill opacity (from 0 to 1) |
| kind | Can be "area", "bar", "barh", "density", "hist", "kde", "line", or "pie"; defaults to "line" |
| figsize | Size of the figure object to create |
| logx | Pass True for logarithmic scaling on the x axis; pass "sym" for symmetric logarithm that permits negative values |
| logy | Pass True for logarithmic scaling on the y axis; pass " sym " for symmetric logarithm that permits negative values |
| title | Title to use for the plot |
| use_index | Use the object index for tick labels |
| rot | Rotation of tick labels (0 through 360) |
| xticks | Values to use for x-axis ticks |
| yticks | Values to use for y-axis ticks |
| xlim | x-axis limits (e.g., [0, 10]) |
| ylim | y-axis limits |
| grid | Display axis grid (off by default) |

DataFrame's plot method plots each of its columns as a different line on the same subplot, creating a legend automatically:



9.2.1 Line Plots

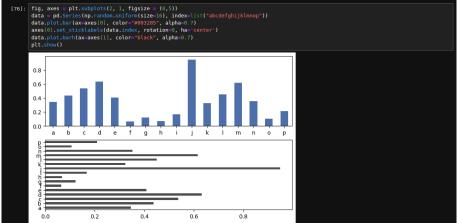
The plot attribute contains a "family" of methods for different plot types. For example, df.plot() is equivalent to df.plot.line().

DataFrame has a number of options allowing some flexibility for how the columns are handled, for example, whether to plot them all on the same subplot or to create separate subplots. See Table 9-4 for more on these.

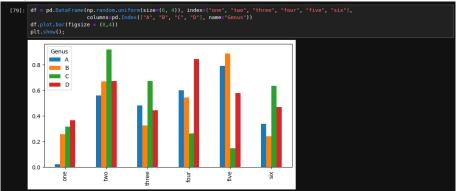
Table 9-4. DataFrame-specific plot arguments

| Argument | Description |
|--------------|---|
| subplots | Plot each DataFrame column in a separate subplot |
| layouts | 2-tuple (rows, columns) providing layout of subplots |
| sharex | If subplots=True, share the same x-axis, linking ticks and limits |
| sharey | If subplots=True, share the same y-axis |
| legend | Add a subplot legend (True by default) |
| sort_columns | Plot columns in alphabetical order; by default uses existing column order |

The plot.bar() and plot.barh() make vertical and horizontal bar plots, respectively. In this case, the Series or DataFrame index will be used as the \times (bar) or y (barh) ticks:



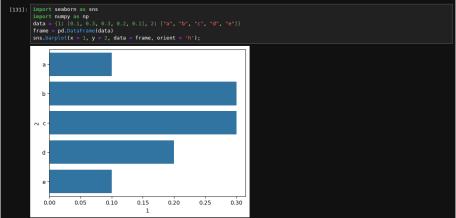
With a DataFrame, bar plots group the values in each row in bars, side by side, for each value:



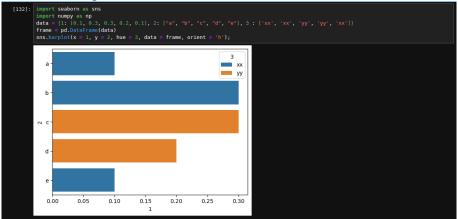
We create stacked bar plots from a DataFrame by passing stacked=True, resulting in the value in each row being stacked together horizontally:



With data that requires aggregation or summarization before making a plot, using the seaborn package can make things much simpler:



seaborn.barplot has a hue option that enables us to split by an additional categorical value:



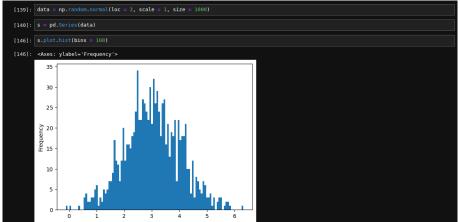
Notice that seaborn has automatically changed the aesthetics of plots: the default color palette, plot background, and grid line colors. You can switch between different plot appearances using seaborn.set_style:

```
sns.set_style("whitegrid")
```

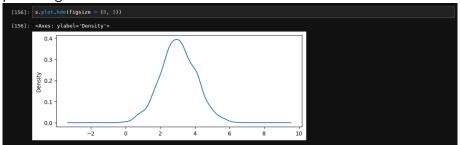
When producing plots for black-and-white print medium, you may find it useful to set a greyscale color palette, like so:

```
sns.set_palette("Greys_r")
```

A histogram is a kind of bar plot that gives a discretized display of value frequency. The data points are split into discrete, evenly spaced bins, and the number of data points in each bin is plotted. Let's see an example:



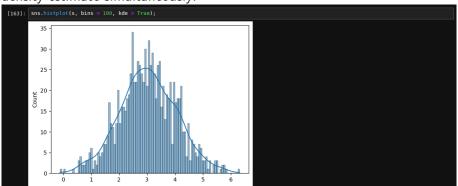
A related plot type is a density plot, which is formed by computing an estimate of a continuous probability distribution that might have generated the observed data. The usual procedure is to approximate this distribution as a mixture of "kernels"-that is, simpler distributions like the normal distribution. Thus, density plots are also known as kernel density estimate (KDE) plots. Using plot.density/plot.kde makes a density plot using the conventional mixture-of-normals estimate:



This kind of plot requires SciPy, so if you do not have it installed already, you can pause and do that now (if you are using conda):

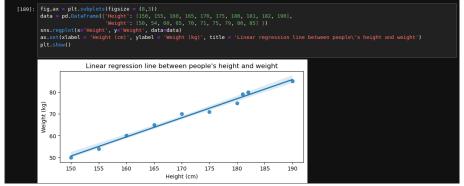
conda install scipy

seaborn makes histograms and density plots even easier through its histplot method, which can plot both a histogram and a continuous density estimate simultaneously:



9.2.4 Scatter or Point Plots

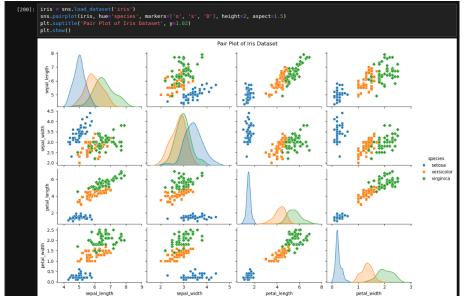
Point plots or scatter plots can be a useful way of examining the relationship between two one-dimensional data series. For example, if we have some data about height and weight of a group of people, we can then use seaborn's regplot method, which makes a scatter plot and fits a linear regression line between height and weight:



9.2.4 Scatter or Point Plots

In exploratory data analysis, it's helpful to be able to look at all the scatter plots among a group of variables; this is known as a pairs plot or scatter plot matrix. Making such a plot from scratch is a bit of work, so seaborn has a convenient pairplot function that supports placing histograms or density estimates of each variable along the diagonal:

9.2.4 Scatter or Point Plots



What about datasets where we have additional grouping dimensions? One way to visualize data with many categorical variables is to use a facet grid, which is a two-dimensional layout of plots where the data is split across the plots on each axis based on the distinct values of a certain variable. seaborn has a useful built-in function catplot that simplifies making many kinds of faceted plots split by ategorical variables:

```
import seaborn as sns
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import pandas as pd
df = pd.DataFrame(data)
   data=df,
   hue='Region', col='Quarter',
   kind='bar',
   height=4, aspect=0.7
                            Doanh số bán hàng theo Sản phẩm. Khu vực và Quý
                Ouarter = O1
                                                 Quarter = Q2
                                                                                 Ouarter = O3
  200
  175
   150
                                                                                                          Region
                                                                                                            North
  125
S 125
                                                                                                            South
                                                                                                            West
                                                                                                          East
    75
   50
   25
                                ċ
                   Product
                                                   Product
                                                                                    Product
```

catplot supports other plot types that may be useful depending on what you are trying to display. See seaborn/catplot documentation for more.

You can create your own facet grid plots using the more general seaborn. FacetGrid class. See the seaborn documentation for more.

9.3 Other Python Visualization Tools

As is common with open source, there many options for creating graphics in Python (too many to list). Since 2010, much development effort has been focused on creating interactive graphics for publication on the web. With tools like Altair, Bokeh, and Plotly, it's now possible to specify dynamic, interactive graphics in Python that are intended for use with web browsers.

For creating static graphics for print or web, I recommend using matplotlib and libraries that build on matplotlib, like pandas and seaborn, for your needs. For other data visualization requirements, it may be useful to learn how to use one of the other available tools. I encourage you to explore the ecosystem as it continues to evolve and innovate into the future.

Conclusion

The goal of this chapter was to get your feet wet with some basic data visualization using pandas, matplotlib, and seaborn. If visually communicating the results of data analysis is important in your work, I encourage you to seek out resources to learn more about effective data visualization. It is an active field of research, and you can practice with many excellent learning resources available online.

