



Visualisation in python (with Matplotlib)

Thanks to all contributors:

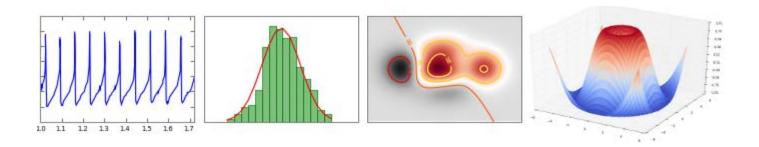
Ag Stephens, Stephen Pascoe.





Introducing Matplotlib

Matplotlib is a python **2D plotting library** which produces publication quality figures in a variety of hardcopy formats and interactive environments across platforms. Matplotlib can be used in python scripts, the python shell, web application servers, and six graphical user interface toolkits.







Introducing Matplotlib

Matplotlib enables you to generate **plots**, **histograms**, **power spectra**, **bar charts**, **error charts**, **scatterplots**, etc, with just a few lines of code.

For simple plotting the pyplot interface provides a **MATLAB-like interface**.

You also have full control of *line styles, font properties,* axes properties, etc, via an **object oriented interface** or via a set of functions familiar to MATLAB users.





Recommending Matplotlib

As with all open source Python tools there are other options and approaches available.

However, Matplotlib, like NumPy, has become the **clear leader** in its particular niche.

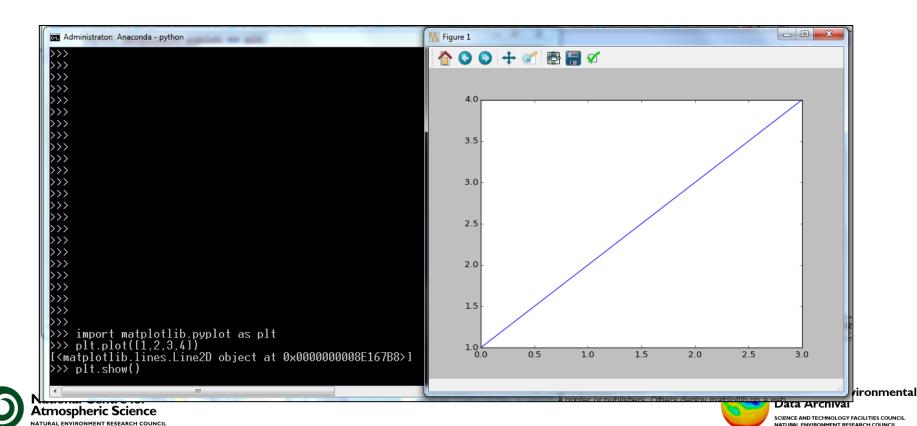
If you want to do (high quality) visualisation in Python – use Matplotlib!





Using Matplotlib Interactively

 Matplotlib has it's own interactive plotting window:



Using Matplotlib Interactively



The buttons allow you to:

- Re-set the image
- Move between different plots in this session
- Scroll around the current plot
- Zoom in to specified region
- View whole plot
- Save the plot
- Modify plot contents (such as axes and curves)



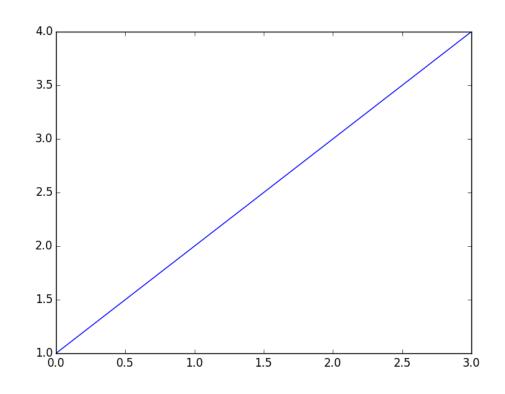


The first plot: A simple line graph

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

```
plt.plot([1,2,3,4])
plt.show()
```

Defaults are used for things you do not specify (such as the x-axis values).







Two lines

```
plt.plot([0,0.5,1,1.2])
plt.plot([1,2,3,4])
plt.show()
                             4.0
                             3.5
                             3.0
                             2.5
                             2.0
                             1.5
Assume we have always run:
```

1.0

1.5

2.0



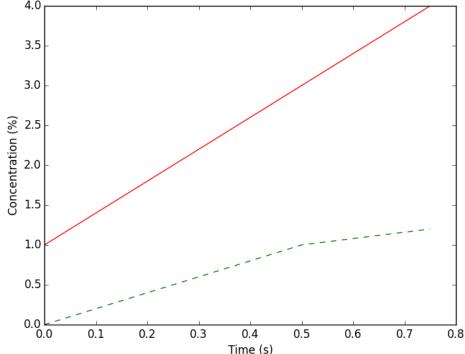
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt



3.0

2.5

Two lines formatted – with axes





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Add a title

```
times = [0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75]
plt.plot(times, [0,0.5,1,1.2], 'g--',
           times, [1, 2, 3, 4], 'r')
plt.title('Concentration of Chlorine vs Time')
plt.ylabel('Concentration (%)')
plt.xlabel('Time (s)')
                                             Concentration of Chlorine vs Time
plt.show()
                                    4.0
                                    3.5
                                    3.0
                                  Concentration (%)
                                    2.5
                                    2.0
                                    1.5
```

1.0

0.5

0.0

0.0

0.1

0.3

0.4

Time (s)

0.5

0.6

0.7

0.8

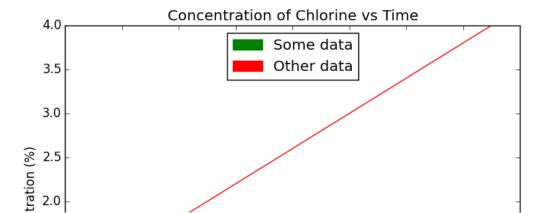
0.2



Add a legend

```
import matplotlib.patches as mpatches
```

plt.show()





Saving an image: savefig

To save an image use:

```
plt.savefig("myplot.png")
```

- Options include:
 - dpi: resolution
 - orientation: "portrait" or "landscape"
 - format: "png", "pdf", "ps", "eps" or "svg"
 - And more...





plt.figure – To change **size** and plot **multiple figures**

To draw multiple plots:

```
plt.figure()
plt.plot(range(5))
plt.figure(figsize = (10, 10)) # in inches
plt.plot(range(100))
plt.show() # shows both figures
```

 plt.figure: returns a new figure so you can interact with them independently, e.g.:

```
f1 = plt.figure()
f2 = plt.figure()
```









Histogram – prepare the data

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

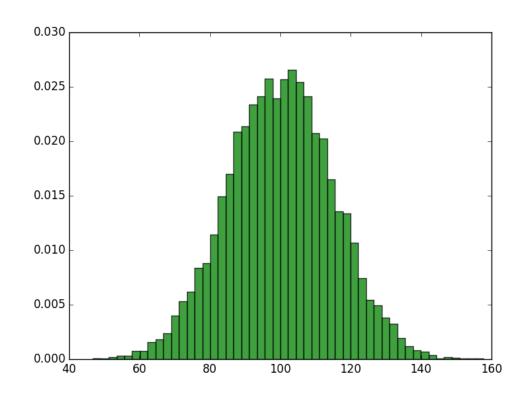
mu, sigma = 100, 15
x = mu + sigma * np.random.randn(10000)
```

The above code will be assumed for all the following histogram examples.



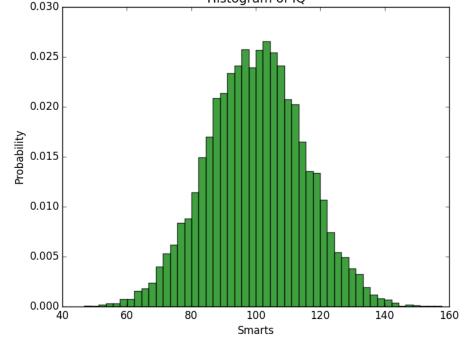


Histogram - basic





Histogram – annotated





Multiple plots – prepare data

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

x1 = np.linspace(0.0, 5.0)
x2 = np.linspace(0.0, 2.0)

y1 = np.cos(2 * np.pi * x1) * np.exp(-x1)
y2 = np.cos(2 * np.pi * x2)
```

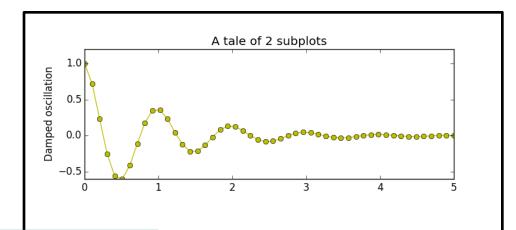
The above code will be assumed for all the following multiple plot examples.





Multiple plots (using subplot)

```
plt.subplot(2, 1, 1)
plt.plot(x1, y1, 'yo-')
plt.title('A tale of 2 subplots')
plt.ylabel('Damped oscillation')
```



The "subplot" function is defined as:

subplot(nrows, ncols, plot_number)

Here we define: 2 rows, 1 column and we add the first plot.

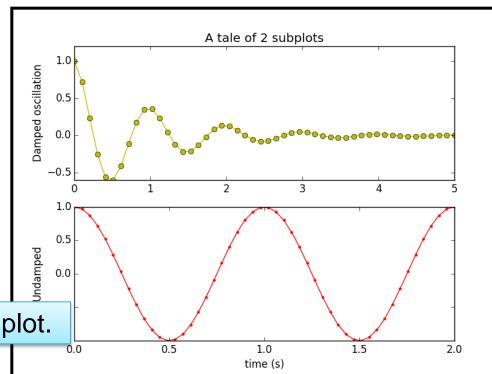




Multiple plots (using subplot)

```
plt.subplot(2, 1, 1)
plt.plot(x1, y1, 'yo-')
plt.title('A tale of 2 subplots')
plt.ylabel('Damped oscillation')
```

```
plt.subplot(2, 1, 2)
plt.plot(x2, y2, 'r.-')
plt.xlabel('time (s)')
plt.ylabel('Undamped')
plt.show()
```



Now we have added the second plot.



Multiple axes on one plot (1)

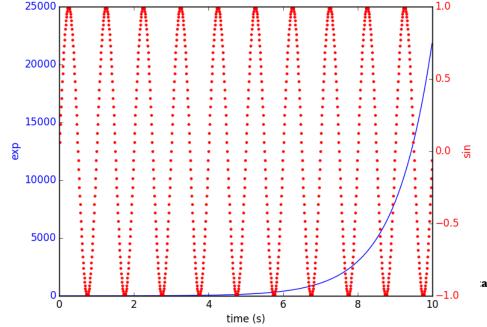
```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
fig, ax1 = plt.subplots()
t = np.arange(0.01, 10.0, 0.01)
s1 = np.exp(t)
ax1.plot(t, s1, 'b-')
ax1.set xlabel('time (s)')
# Make the y-axis label and tick labels match the line color.
ax1.set_ylabel('exp', color='b')
for tl in ax1.get_yticklabels():
    tl.set color('b')
```

. . .





Multiple axes on one plot (2)









Contour plot – prepare data

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

Assume this code applies to all contour examples.

```
matplotlib.rcParams['xtick.direction'] = 'out'
matplotlib.rcParams['ytick.direction'] = 'out'

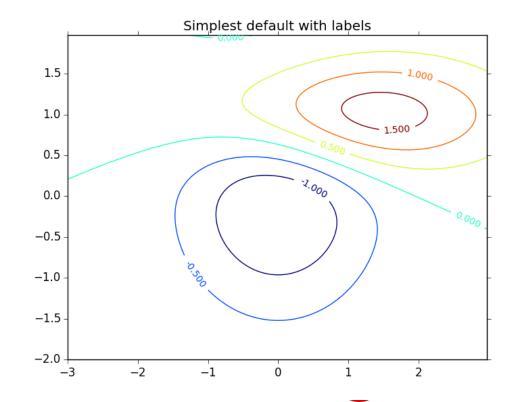
delta = 0.025
x = np.arange(-3.0, 3.0, delta)
y = np.arange(-2.0, 2.0, delta)
X, Y = np.meshgrid(x, y)
Z1 = mlab.bivariate_normal(X, Y, 1.0, 1.0, 0.0, 0.0)
Z2 = mlab.bivariate_normal(X, Y, 1.5, 0.5, 1, 1)
# difference of Gaussians
Z = 10.0 * (Z2 - Z1)
```





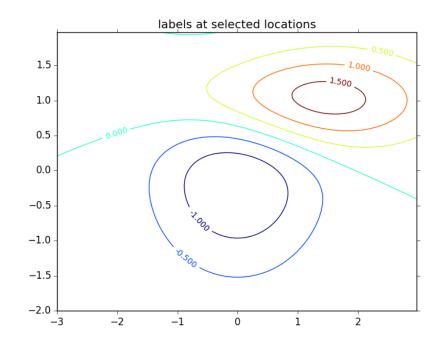
Contour plot – default colours

```
CS = plt.contour(X, Y, Z)
plt.clabel(CS, inline=1, fontsize=10)
plt.title('Simplest default with labels')
plt.show()
```





Contour plot – control labels

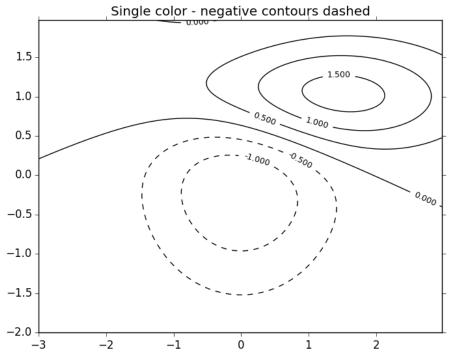




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Contour plot – with negative values

```
# This time negative contours will be dashed by default
CS = plt.contour(X, Y, Z, 6, colors='k')
plt.clabel(CS, fontsize=9, inline=1)
plt.title('Single color - negative contours dashed')
plt.show()
```

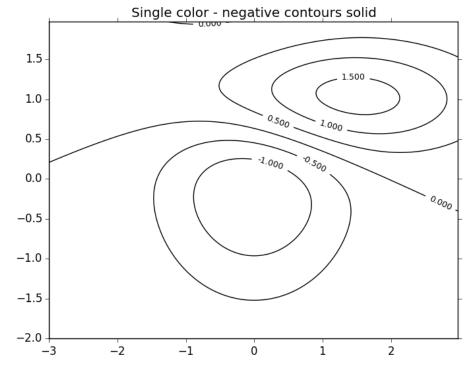




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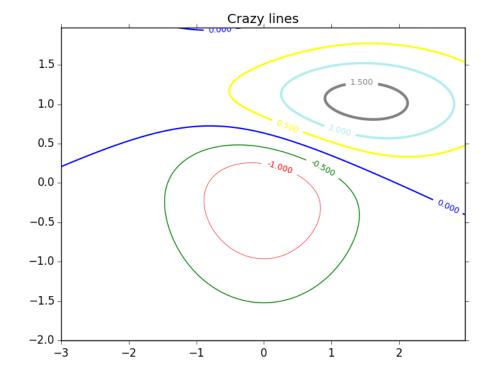
Contour plot -

```
# Override negative contours - use solid lines
matplotlib.rcParams['contour.negative_linestyle'] = 'solid'
CS = plt.contour(X, Y, Z, 6, colors='k')
plt.clabel(CS, fontsize=9, inline=1)
plt.title('Single color - negative contours solid')
plt.show()
```





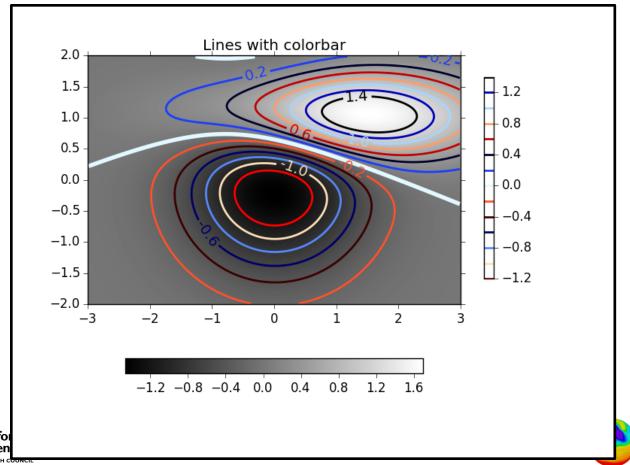
Contour plot – specify colours





Contour plot - smart

And you can keep going...





Centre for Environmental Data Archival

Introducing Basemap

- The matplotlib basemap toolkit is a library for plotting 2D data on maps in Python.
- It is similar in functionality to the *MATLAB mapping toolbox*.
- Basemap does not do any plotting on its own, but provides the facilities to transform coordinates to one of 25 different map projections.
- Matplotlib is then used to plot contours, images, vectors, lines or points in the transformed coordinates.
 Shoreline, river and political boundary datasets are provided, along with methods for plotting them.





Plotting maps – using Basemap

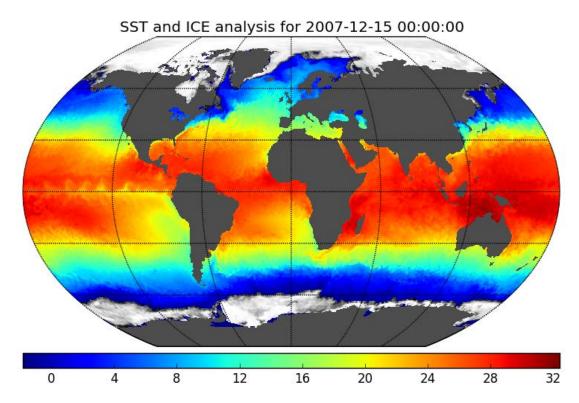
```
from mpl_toolkits.basemap import Basemap
  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
  m = Basemap(width=12000000, height=9000000, projection='lcc',
       resolution=None, lat_1=45., lat_2=55, lat_0=50, lon_0=-107.)
  m.shadedrelief()
  plt.text(0.2, 0.2, "What a lovely map!", color="white",
            weight="bold")
  plt.show()
http://matplotlib.org/basemap/users/geography.html
  National Centre for
```

What a lovely map!

Atmospheric Science

Plotting maps – and data

With about 30 lines of code you can extract Sea Surface Temperature and Ice from a file and plot on a required projection:



http://matplotlib.org/basemap/users/examples.html





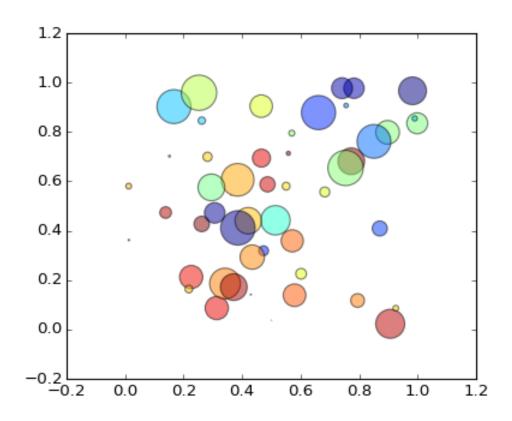
Useful features: Markers

http://matplotlib.org/examples/lines bars and markers/marker reference.html



Useful features: Scatter plots

http://matplotlib.org/examples/shapes and collections/scatter demo.html

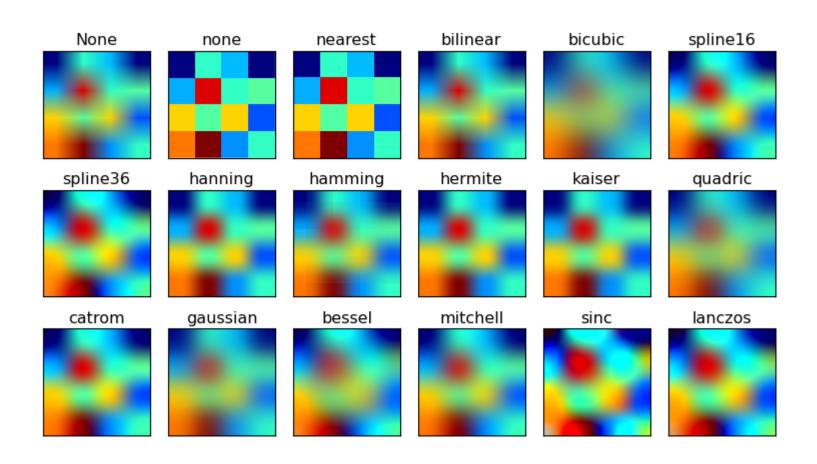






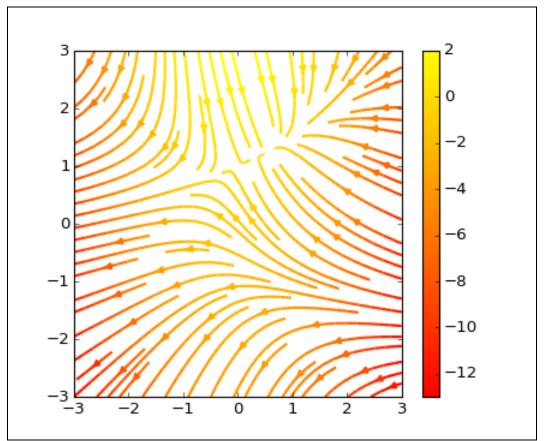
Useful features: Interpolation

http://matplotlib.org/examples/images contours and fields/interpolation methods.html



Useful features: Stream plot

http://matplotlib.org/examples/images contours and fields/streamplot demo features.html

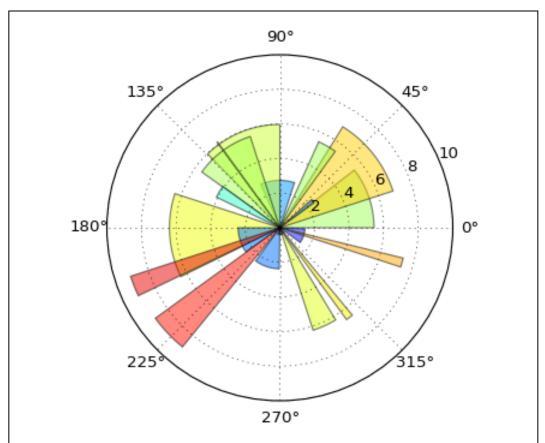






Useful features: Markers

http://matplotlib.org/examples/pie and polar charts/polar bar demo.html







One last word: the OOP interface

We have demonstrated Matplotlib using the "pylab" interface (which aims to mimic that of MATLAB).

You can interact with Matplotlib using its OOP interface (known as the *Matplotlib API*). This is a different interface to the same functionality.

Over time you may wish to use the OOP interface for complex plotting applications.





More info

- Matplotlib:
 - http://matplotlib.org
- Matplotlib gallery:
 - http://matplotlib.org/gallery.html
- Pyplot reference:
 - http://matplotlib.org/api/pyplot_summary.html
- Basemap toolkit (for map plotting):
 - http://matplotlib.org/basemap/
- Books, videos and tutorials:
 - http://matplotlib.org/1.4.3/resources/



