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# pltEditorTool Usage Guide

## Calling the Plot Editor Tool

The Plot Editor Tool can be installed by running `pip install pltEditorTool`. After installation, using the tool requires only a single import. The code snippet below is the minimum required to call the tool in order to create a single plot.

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```
# Import the plot editor
from pltEditorTool import plotEditor
# Define the data
x_data = [[1,2,3,4,5]]
y_data = [[10,9,8,7,6]]
label_data = ['test1']
# Call the editor, it will open in a separate window
plotEditor(x=x_data, y=y_data, labels=label_data)
```

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While the code above is the minimum required for plotting the full list of inputs are as follows:

**x:** The x-data is a required input and must be provided for every plot.

**y:** The y-data is a required input and must be provided for every plot.

**x\_err:** The x-error data can be used to plot errorbars relative to the x-axis of the plot.

**y\_err:** The The y-error data can be used to plot errorbars relative to the y-axis of the plot.

**fill:** The fill data can be used to plot a symmetrical fill region around the y-value of the data, in other words, the filled region will cover the area of  $y+fill$  to  $y-fill$  at each x position.

**fill\_alt:** The fill-alternate data can be used to plot an asymmetrical fill region around the y-value of the data, in other words, the filled region will cover the area of  $y+fill$  to  $y-fill\_alt$  at each x position.

**labels:** The label data is required. Unique labels are required for each set of data or else data sets will be overwritten.

The data is provided to the tool as lists, with each plot being one entry in each of the input lists. As such, if only one plot requires one of the inputs, empty arrays for that input must be provided for the other plots. For example, the following code snippet shows how to add three plots with only the third plot having fill data. This manner of formatting the data was to allow for vectors of different lengths to be added to the plot editor without needing to worry about any length compatibility issues. Error checking is done on the inputs and if one of the inputs has an incorrect length a message will be shown that will give the index of the plot that has an issue.

---

```

# Import the plot editor
from pltEditorTool import plotEditor
# Define the data
x_data = [[1, 2, 3, 4, 5],
          [1, 2, 3, 4, 5],
          [1, 3, 5]]
y_data = [[10, 9, 8, 7, 6],
          [5, 6, 7, 6, 5],
          [4, 2, 8]]
fill_data = [[],
             [],
             [0.5, 0.6, 0.7]]
label_data = ['test1', 'test2', 'test-fill']
# Call the editor, it will open in a separate window
plotEditor(x=x_data, y=y_data, fill=fill_data, labels=label_data)

```

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When either of the above two codes are run, a window like that shown in Figure 1 will appear.

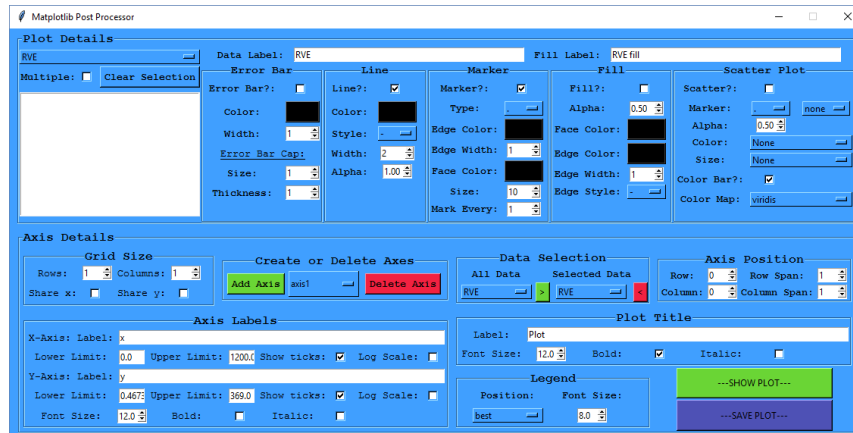


Figure 1: Plot Editor Tool Window

## Components of the Plot Editor Window

The plot editor window consists of two main sections, the plot details section and the axis details section.

### Plot Details:

**Plot Selection** The plot selection frame is shown in Figure 2. The menus in this frame are used to select which plot is to be edited in the Plot Details section.

- The drop-down menu at the very top of the frame is used to select the plot that is to be edited. This menu will contain a list with all the labels that were input in the `labels` list when calling the tool.
- The check-box is used in order to select multiple plots at the same time. This is used if it is necessary to have multiple plots with identical settings. Activating the check-box will allow selection of multiple plots from the drop-down menu. Deselecting the check-box will update all the selected plots with the parameters displayed in the Plot Details section. The only exception to this is that all the plots will retain their individual label data.



Figure 2: Plot Selection

- The Clear Selection button can be used to remove plots from the selection pane should a plot be added incorrectly. Multiple plots can be selected at once by clicking on each in order. Using this button will remove the plot from the list without updating any parameters.

**Errorbar Settings** If error bar data is provided for any of the plots submitted to the tool, the error bar settings frame (Figure 3) can be used to modify the error bars.

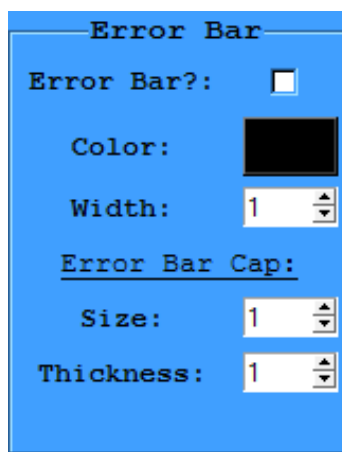


Figure 3: Errorbar Settings

- The checkbox at the top of the frame allows for easy toggling of errorbars in the plot. If error bar data is provided and the box is checked the error bars will be shown. If the box is not checked, the error bars will not be shown.
- Clicking the color option button will provide a color selection window where the color of the error bars can be specified. This can be done by selecting the color from either preset values, a color map, or by providing RGB or hexadecimal color parameters.
- The width option adjusts the width of the error bar.
- The cap size option adjusts the width of the error bar cap. This is the length of the perpendicular bar at either end of error bar.
- The cap thickness adjusts the thickness of the cap in the direction of the error bar.

**Line Settings** Since the x and y values are required for every plot, the line settings will always be active when starting the editor tool. These settings can be adjusted using the line settings frame (Figure 4).

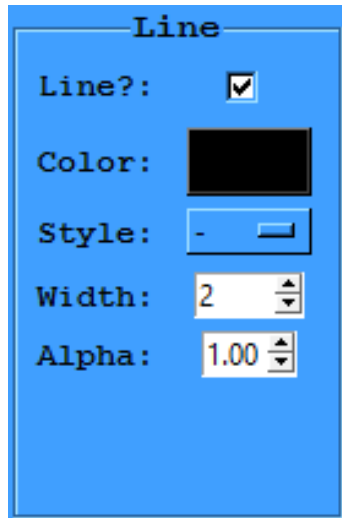


Figure 4: Line Settings

- The line checkbox is automatically ticked when creating the tool. To disable the plotting of the line uncheck the box at the top of the frame.
- The color of the line can be adjusted using the color button. This button will display the same color selection window as other color buttons.
- The line style determines the style of the line. Currently there are four styles, solid line, dashed, dash and dot, and dots. Selecting the blank style has the same effect as unchecking the line checkbox.
- The width of the line can be modified using the width selection.
- The alpha value determines the transparency of the line. A value of 1 is opaque while a value of 0 is completely transparent.

**Marker Settings** The marker settings checkbox is also automatically activated for all plots when the tool is started. The other settings in the marker frame (Figure 5) can be used to adjust the appearance of the markers. Certain marker settings also affect the appearance of errorbars and or the scatter plot markers.



Figure 5: Marker Settings

- The marker checkbox can be used to easily toggle the display of markers for the plot.
- The marker type can be chosen from a large selection of possible marker types.
- The edge color determines the color of the border of the marker. Use the button to display the color selection window.
- The edge width determines how thick the edge of the marker is. Set this to zero to remove the edge on the marker.
- The face color determines the color of the face of the marker. Use the button to display the color selection window.
- The marker size can be adjusted using the size option. This option will also affect the size of the markers if the scatter plot option is selected.
- A choice to leave spaces between the points that are marked can be made using the "Mark Every" option. Leaving this value at 1 will create a marker for every data point. This value will also affect how frequently error bars are plotted.

**Fill settings** For plots that have fill data provided, the fill frame (Figure 6) can be used to modify the parameters of the fill.



Figure 6: Fill Settings

- The fill checkbox can be used to toggle the fill plot.
- The alpha value determines the transparency of the face of the fill area.
- The face color button can be used to change the color of the filled region.
- The edge color button can be used to change the color of the line plotted on the boundary of the filled region.
- The edge width option varies the thickness of the line plotted on the boundary of the filled region.
- The edge style changes the style of the line plotted on the boundary of the fill region.

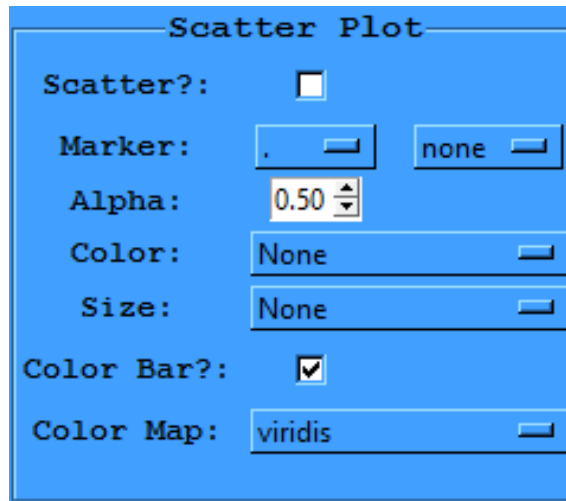


Figure 7: Scatter Plot Settings

**Scatter Plot Settings** Selecting the scatter plot checkbox (Figure 7) will deactivate the error bar, line, marker and fill checkboxes, and will change the plot to a scatter plot. The scatter plot can have both the color and size determined by a vector of values. All possible vectors for doing this are automatically added when the tool is created.

- As already mentioned, the scatter checkbox will deactivate all other plot functions when selected. Selecting any other plot functions after that will deactivate the scatter plot selection.
- The marker options allow for changing the marker type as well as a limited selection of marker edge colors.
- The alpha value determines the transparency of the marker face color.
- The color vector can be chosen from the drop down list. As already mentioned, all possible vectors (i.e. all vectors with the same length as the x-vector of the current plot) have been added to this list.
- The size vector can be chosen from the size drop down list. Again, all vectors are automatically added. The size of the markers in the scatter plot can be manipulated by changing the marker size in the marker frame (Figure 5), this is true even when a size vector has been selected.
- The color bar check box toggles the plotting of a color bar.
- The color map of the scatter plot can be selected from a wide selection of possible color maps.

### Axis Details:

The final figure is created using the subplot and grid functions of the Matplotlib package. In terms of terminology, each axis in the tool is a single subplot in the figure. As such, each of the plots defined in the previous section can be added to the axes and these axes can be arranged using the grid functions.

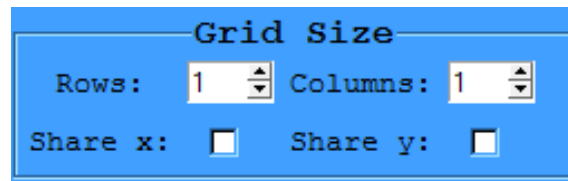


Figure 8: Plot Grid Size Settings

The first section of the axis details determines the total size of the grid.

- The number of rows and columns in the grid can be changed using the respective options. Care should be taken since all grid spots do need to be filled in the final figure.
- The share x and share y options will determine whether the axes share x and or y values. Selecting these options requires the subplots to be arranged in a square grid with all subplots having equal length and height. The values of the left column and bottom row are used for the x and y axis limits.

**Creating and Deleting Axes** The first axis is automatically created when the tool is set up and this axis can never be deleted.

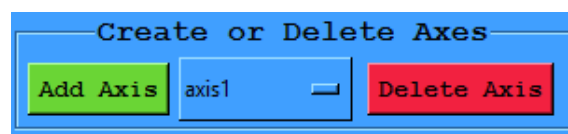


Figure 9: Axis Creation and Deletion

- The add axis button adds a new axis to the list.
- The delete axis button deletes the currently selected axis from the list.

**Data Selection** This section is used to add plot data to the axes. And changes here affect the currently selected axis in the Create of Delete Axes section.

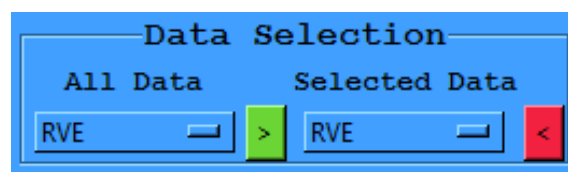


Figure 10: Axis Data Selection

- The left drop down menu contains all the plot labels
- Pressing the green arrow will add the currently selected plot to the axis as long as it does not exist on that axis already.
- The right drop down menu contains the list of currently selected plots for the current axis.
- Clicking the red arrow will remove the currently displayed plot in the Selected Data drop down menu from the axis.

**Axis Position** Axes can be give a position that consists of the row and column position as well as how many rows and columns the plot spans.

Figure 11: Axis Position Settings

- Row and column positions are determined by the Row and Column selections. The positions are zero indexed, so Row 0 is the first row, and column 0 is the first column.
- The row and column span options can be used to make the subplot span more than one row or column in the grid specified in the first section of the Axis Options.

**Axis Labels** This sections allows for manipulation of the axis labels as well as the axis limits in these labels it is possible to use latex notation (e.g. " $\sigma$ ") to obtain special symbols. Deleting all text will remove the label from the plot.

Figure 12: Axis Label Settings

- The first two lines control the x-axis label, the x-axis limits, and whether the x-axis ticks are shown. The final option changes the x-axis to log-scale.
- The second two lines provide the same features for the y-axis.
- The final line adjusts the font size of the labels and whether the label text is bold or italic. To ensure that the ticks also increase when the label size is increased, the tick font size is automatically set 3 points below the label font size.

**Plot Title** Each subplot has its own title and this can be modified in the Plot Title Frame (Figure 13). As with the axis labels, leaving the title field blank will remove the title from the subplot.

Figure 13: Plot Title Settings

- The label field sets the value of the plot title. Using " $\backslash n$ " in the label will create multiple lines in the title.
- The font size, and whether the text is bold (automatically selected) and italic can be modified.



**Legend Settings** All the plot labels will be included in the legend the Legend frame Figure 14 can be used to modify the text size and position of the legend.

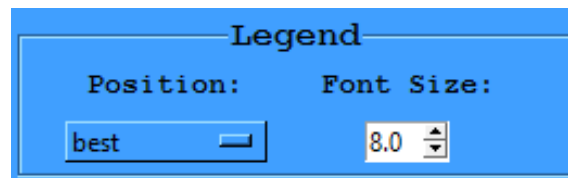


Figure 14: Legend Settings

- The position drop down provides all the standard options for positioning of the legend.
- The font size of the legend can be modified using the Font Size option.

**Show and Save Plot** The tool provides two methods for viewing the plot (Figure 15). The first is to use the show plot, and the second is to save the plot.

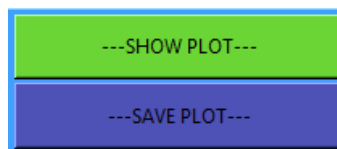


Figure 15: Show and Save Plot Buttons

- The show plot option will display the plot in a separate window. On each subsequent click the plot is deleted and redrawn. This figure uses 150 dpi.
- The save plot option will trigger a save dialog box where the location and filename can be set. The tool will save three files. First is the figure at 600 dpi, the second is a ".npy" file with a dictionary of all the data that was used to generate the figure, and a python code file with the code that can regenerate the plot. This allows for further manipulation of the data if required.

## Final Notes

The code attempts to catch as many errors as possible, however, most of the remaining errors will not result in the plot editor tool crashing.

To report any problems or suggest improvements please submit an issue on the project's Github page:

<https://github.com/RichardCouperthwaite/plt-editor-tool>