

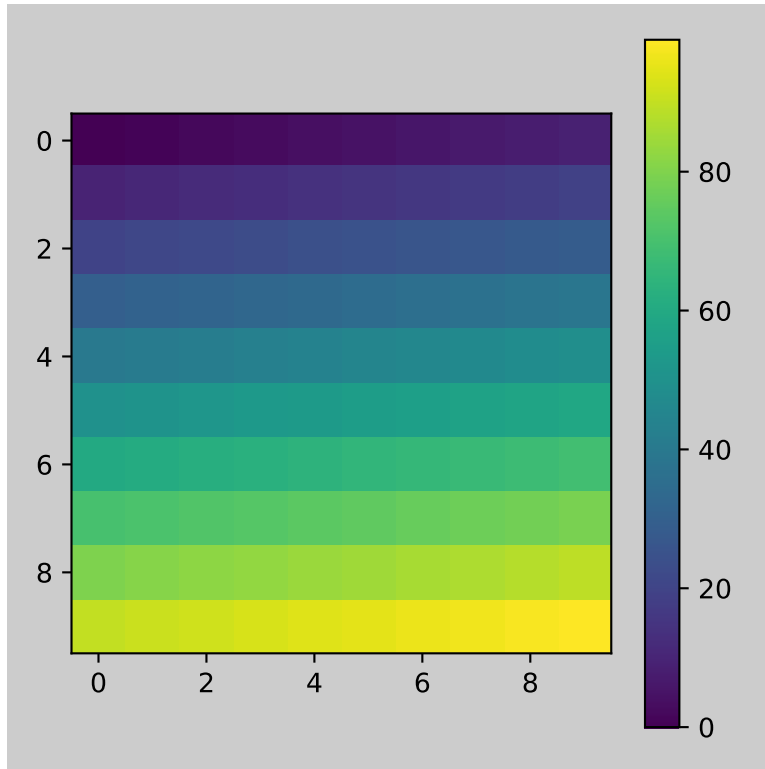
Colorbar

If you create a colorbar with the `colorbar()` command, the created colorbar is an instance of `Axes`, *not* `Subplot`, so `tight_layout` does not work. With Matplotlib v1.1, you may create a colorbar as a subplot using the `gridspec`.

```
plt.close('all')
arr = np.arange(100).reshape((10,10))
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(4, 4))
im = plt.imshow(arr, interpolation="none")

plt.colorbar(im, use_gridspec=True)

plt.tight_layout()
```

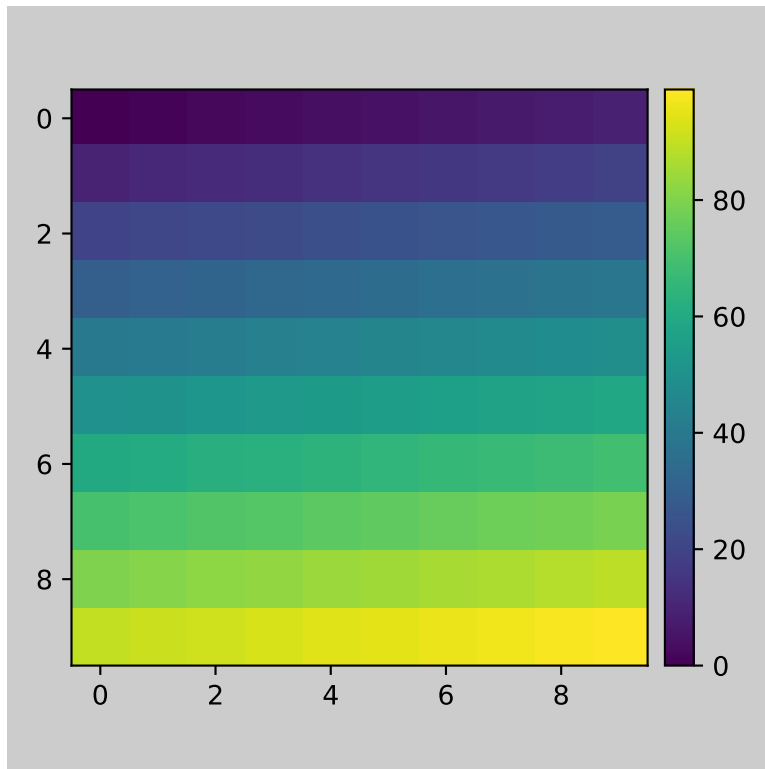


Another option is to use AxesGrid1 toolkit to explicitly create an axes for colorbar.

```
plt.close('all')
arr = np.arange(100).reshape((10,10))
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(4, 4))
im = plt.imshow(arr, interpolation="none")

from mpl_toolkits.axes_grid1 import make_axes_locatable
divider = make_axes_locatable(plt.gca())
cax = divider.append_axes("right", "5%", pad="3%")
plt.colorbar(im, cax=cax)

plt.tight_layout()
```



3.2 Intermediate

3.2.1 Artist tutorial

There are three layers to the matplotlib API. The `matplotlib.backend_bases.FigureCanvas` is the area onto which the figure is drawn, the `matplotlib.backend_bases.Renderer` is the object which knows how to draw on the `FigureCanvas`, and the `matplotlib.artist.Artist` is the object that knows how to use a renderer to paint onto the canvas. The `FigureCanvas` and `Renderer` handle all the details of talking to user interface toolkits like `wxPython` or drawing languages like PostScript®, and the `Artist` handles all the high level constructs like representing and laying out the figure, text, and lines. The typical user will spend 95% of their time working with the `Artists`.

There are two types of `Artists`: primitives and containers. The primitives represent the standard graphical objects we want to paint onto our canvas: `Line2D`, `Rectangle`, `Text`, `AxesImage`, etc., and the containers are places to put them (`Axis`, `Axes` and `Figure`). The standard use is to create a `Figure` instance, use the `Figure` to create one or more `Axis` or `Subplot` instances, and use the `Axis` instance helper methods to create the primitives. In the example below, we create a `Figure` instance using `matplotlib.pyplot.figure()`, which is a convenience method for instantiating `Figure` instances and connecting them with your user interface or drawing toolkit `FigureCanvas`. As we will discuss below, this is not necessary – you can work directly with PostScript, PDF Gtk+, or `wxPython` `FigureCanvas` instances, instantiate your `Figures` directly and connect them yourselves – but since we are focusing here on the `Artist` API we'll let `pyplot` handle some of those details for us:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.add_subplot(2,1,1) # two rows, one column, first plot
```

The `Axes` is probably the most important class in the matplotlib API, and the one you will be working with most of the time. This is because the `Axes` is the plotting area into which most of the objects go, and the `Axes` has many special helper methods (`plot()`, `text()`, `hist()`, `imshow()`) to create the most common graphics primitives (`Line2D`, `Text`, `Rectangle`, `Image`, respectively). These helper methods will take your data (e.g., numpy arrays and strings) and create primitive `Artist` instances as needed (e.g., `Line2D`), add them to the relevant containers, and draw them when requested. Most of you are probably familiar with the `Subplot`, which is just a special case of an `Axes` that lives on a regular rows by columns grid of `Subplot` instances. If you want to create an `Axes` at an arbitrary location, simply use the `add_axes()` method which takes a list of [left, bottom, width, height] values in 0-1 relative figure coordinates:

```
fig2 = plt.figure()
ax2 = fig2.add_axes([0.15, 0.1, 0.7, 0.3])
```

Continuing with our example:

```
import numpy as np
t = np.arange(0.0, 1.0, 0.01)
s = np.sin(2*np.pi*t)
line, = ax.plot(t, s, color='blue', lw=2)
```

In this example, `ax` is the `Axes` instance created by the `fig.add_subplot` call above (remember `Subplot` is just a subclass of `Axes`) and when you call `ax.plot`, it creates a `Line2D` instance and adds it to the `Axes.lines` list. In the interactive `ipython` session below, you can see that the `Axes.lines` list is length one and contains the same line that was returned by the `line, = ax.plot...` call:

```
In [101]: ax.lines[0]
Out[101]: <matplotlib.lines.Line2D instance at 0x19a95710>

In [102]: line
Out[102]: <matplotlib.lines.Line2D instance at 0x19a95710>
```

If you make subsequent calls to `ax.plot` (and the hold state is “on” which is the default) then additional lines will be added to the list. You can remove lines later simply by calling the list methods; either of these will work:

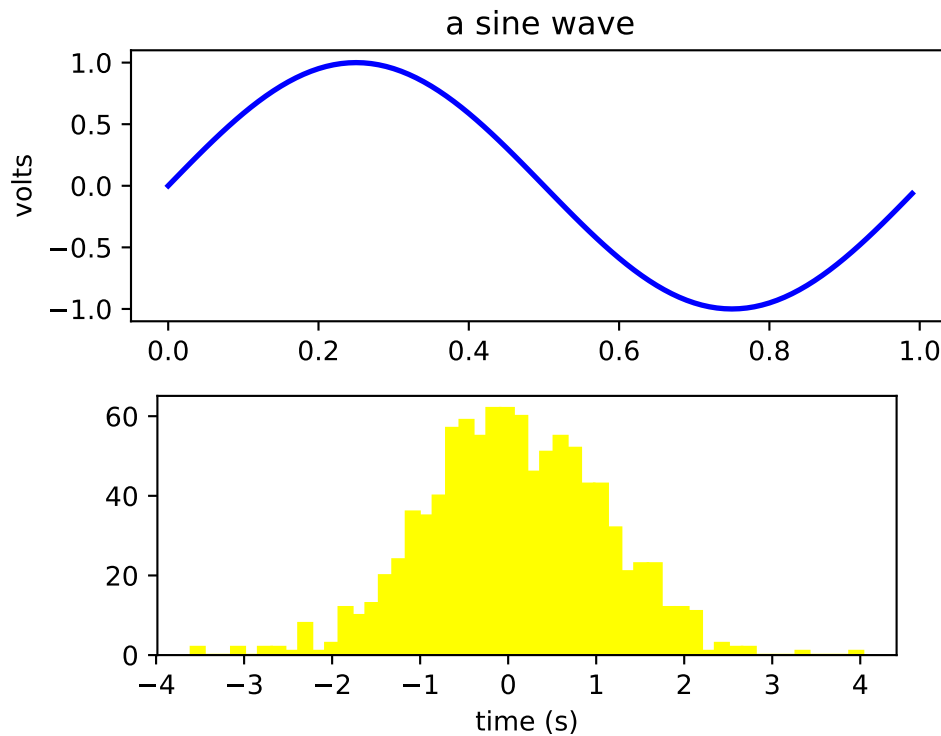
```
del ax.lines[0]
ax.lines.remove(line) # one or the other, not both!
```

The `Axes` also has helper methods to configure and decorate the x-axis and y-axis tick, tick labels and axis labels:

```
xtext = ax.set_xlabel('my xdata') # returns a Text instance
ytext = ax.set_ylabel('my ydata')
```

When you call `ax.set_xlabel`, it passes the information on the `Text` instance of the `XAxis`. Each `Axes` instance contains an `XAxis` and a `YAxis` instance, which handle the layout and drawing of the ticks, tick labels and axis labels.

Try creating the figure below.



Customizing your objects

Every element in the figure is represented by a matplotlib [Artist](#), and each has an extensive list of properties to configure its appearance. The figure itself contains a [Rectangle](#) exactly the size of the figure, which you can use to set the background color and transparency of the figures. Likewise, each [Axes](#) bounding box (the standard white box with black edges in the typical matplotlib plot, has a [Rectangle](#) instance that determines the color, transparency, and other properties of the Axes. These instances are stored as member variables `Figure.patch` and `Axes.patch` ("Patch" is a name inherited from MATLAB, and is a 2D "patch" of color on the figure, e.g., rectangles, circles and polygons). Every matplotlib Artist has the following properties

Property	Description
alpha	The transparency - a scalar from 0-1
animated	A boolean that is used to facilitate animated drawing
axes	The axes that the Artist lives in, possibly None
clip_box	The bounding box that clips the Artist
clip_on	Whether clipping is enabled
clip_path	The path the artist is clipped to
contains	A picking function to test whether the artist contains the pick point
figure	The figure instance the artist lives in, possibly None
label	A text label (e.g., for auto-labeling)
picker	A python object that controls object picking
transform	The transformation
visible	A boolean whether the artist should be drawn
zorder	A number which determines the drawing order
rasterized	Boolean; Turns vectors into rastergraphics: (for compression & eps transparency)

Each of the properties is accessed with an old-fashioned setter or getter (yes we know this irritates Pythonistas and we plan to support direct access via properties or traits but it hasn't been done yet). For example, to multiply the current alpha by a half:

```
a = o.get_alpha()
o.set_alpha(0.5*a)
```

If you want to set a number of properties at once, you can also use the `set` method with keyword arguments. For example:

```
o.set(alpha=0.5, zorder=2)
```

If you are working interactively at the python shell, a handy way to inspect the `Artist` properties is to use the `matplotlib.artist.getp()` function (simply `getp()` in pylab), which lists the properties and their values. This works for classes derived from `Artist` as well, e.g., `Figure` and `Rectangle`. Here are the `Figure` rectangle properties mentioned above:

```
In [149]: matplotlib.artist.getp(fig.patch)
alpha = 1.0
animated = False
antialiased or aa = True
axes = None
clip_box = None
clip_on = False
clip_path = None
contains = None
edgecolor or ec = w
facecolor or fc = 0.75
figure = Figure(8.125x6.125)
fill = 1
hatch = None
height = 1
label =
linewidth or lw = 1.0
picker = None
```

```

transform = <Affine object at 0x134cca84>
verts = ((0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1), (1, 0))
visible = True
width = 1
window_extent = <Bbox object at 0x134acbcc>
x = 0
y = 0
zorder = 1

```

The docstrings for all of the classes also contain the `Artist` properties, so you can consult the interactive “help” or the *artist Module* for a listing of properties for a given object.

Object containers

Now that we know how to inspect and set the properties of a given object we want to configure, we need to know how to get at that object. As mentioned in the introduction, there are two kinds of objects: primitives and containers. The primitives are usually the things you want to configure (the font of a *Text* instance, the width of a *Line2D*) although the containers also have some properties as well – for example the *Axes Artist* is a container that contains many of the primitives in your plot, but it also has properties like the `xscale` to control whether the xaxis is ‘linear’ or ‘log’. In this section we’ll review where the various container objects store the *Artists* that you want to get at.

Figure container

The top level container *Artist* is the *matplotlib.figure.Figure*, and it contains everything in the figure. The background of the figure is a *Rectangle* which is stored in `Figure.patch`. As you add subplots (`add_subplot()`) and axes (`add_axes()`) to the figure these will be appended to the *Figure.axes*. These are also returned by the methods that create them:

```

In [156]: fig = plt.figure()

In [157]: ax1 = fig.add_subplot(211)

In [158]: ax2 = fig.add_axes([0.1, 0.1, 0.7, 0.3])

In [159]: ax1
Out[159]: <matplotlib.axes.Subplot instance at 0xd54b26c>

In [160]: print fig.axes
[<matplotlib.axes.Subplot instance at 0xd54b26c>, <matplotlib.axes.Axes instance at 0xd3f0b2c>]

```

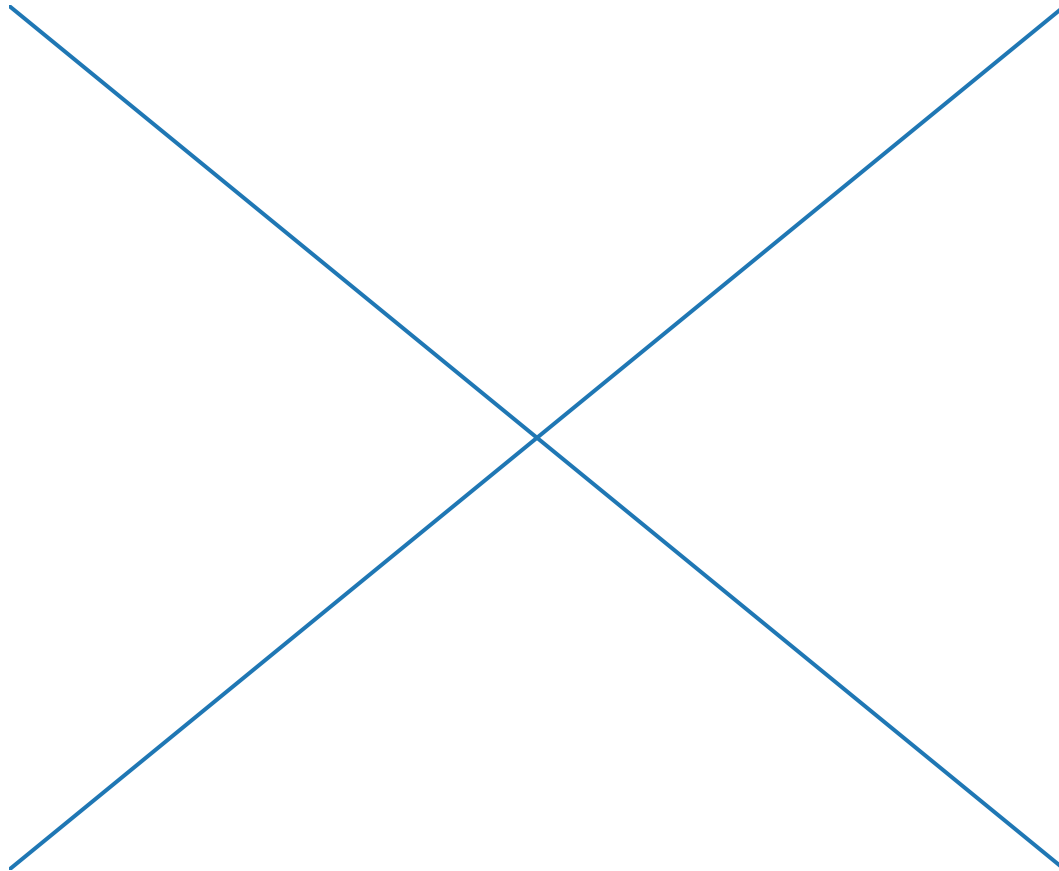
Because the figure maintains the concept of the “current axes” (see *Figure.gca* and *Figure.sca*) to support the pylab/pyplot state machine, you should not insert or remove axes directly from the axes list, but rather use the `add_subplot()` and `add_axes()` methods to insert, and the `delaxes()` method to delete. You are free however, to iterate over the list of axes or index into it to get access to *Axes* instances you want to customize. Here is an example which turns all the axes grids on:

```
for ax in fig.axes:  
    ax.grid(True)
```

The figure also has its own text, lines, patches and images, which you can use to add primitives directly. The default coordinate system for the Figure will simply be in pixels (which is not usually what you want) but you can control this by setting the transform property of the Artist you are adding to the figure.

More useful is “figure coordinates” where (0, 0) is the bottom-left of the figure and (1, 1) is the top-right of the figure which you can obtain by setting the Artist transform to `fig.transFigure`:

```
In [191]: fig = plt.figure()  
  
In [192]: l1 = matplotlib.lines.Line2D([0, 1], [0, 1],  
    transform=fig.transFigure, figure=fig)  
  
In [193]: l2 = matplotlib.lines.Line2D([0, 1], [1, 0],  
    transform=fig.transFigure, figure=fig)  
  
In [194]: fig.lines.extend([l1, l2])  
  
In [195]: fig.canvas.draw()
```



Here is a summary of the Artists the figure contains

Figure attribute	Description
axes	A list of Axes instances (includes Subplot)
patch	The Rectangle background
images	A list of FigureImages patches - useful for raw pixel display
legends	A list of Figure Legend instances (different from Axes.legends)
lines	A list of Figure Line2D instances (rarely used, see Axes.lines)
patches	A list of Figure patches (rarely used, see Axes.patches)
texts	A list Figure Text instances

Axes container

The `matplotlib.axes.Axes` is the center of the matplotlib universe – it contains the vast majority of all the `Artists` used in a figure with many helper methods to create and add these `Artists` to itself, as well as helper methods to access and customize the `Artists` it contains. Like the `Figure`, it contains a `Patch` patch which is a `Rectangle` for Cartesian coordinates and a `Circle` for polar coordinates; this patch determines the shape, background and border of the plotting region:

```
ax = fig.add_subplot(111)
rect = ax.patch # a Rectangle instance
rect.set_facecolor('green')
```

When you call a plotting method, e.g., the canonical `plot()` and pass in arrays or lists of values, the method will create a `matplotlib.lines.Line2D()` instance, update the line with all the `Line2D` properties passed as keyword arguments, add the line to the `Axes.lines` container, and returns it to you:

```
In [213]: x, y = np.random.rand(2, 100)
In [214]: line, = ax.plot(x, y, '-', color='blue', linewidth=2)
```

`plot` returns a list of lines because you can pass in multiple x, y pairs to plot, and we are unpacking the first element of the length one list into the line variable. The line has been added to the `Axes.lines` list:

```
In [229]: print ax.lines
[<matplotlib.lines.Line2D instance at 0xd378b0c>]
```

Similarly, methods that create patches, like `bar()` creates a list of rectangles, will add the patches to the `Axes.patches` list:

```
In [233]: n, bins, rectangles = ax.hist(np.random.randn(1000), 50, facecolor='yellow')
In [234]: rectangles
Out[234]: <a list of 50 Patch objects>
In [235]: print len(ax.patches)
```

You should not add objects directly to the `Axes.lines` or `Axes.patches` lists unless you know exactly what you are doing, because the `Axes` needs to do a few things when it creates and adds an object. It sets the figure and axes property of the `Artist`, as well as the default `Axes` transformation (unless a transformation is set). It also inspects the data contained in the `Artist` to update the data structures controlling auto-scaling,

so that the view limits can be adjusted to contain the plotted data. You can, nonetheless, create objects yourself and add them directly to the Axes using helper methods like `add_line()` and `add_patch()`. Here is an annotated interactive session illustrating what is going on:

```
In [261]: fig = plt.figure()

In [262]: ax = fig.add_subplot(111)

# create a rectangle instance
In [263]: rect = matplotlib.patches.Rectangle( (1,1), width=5, height=12)

# by default the axes instance is None
In [264]: print rect.get_axes()
None

# and the transformation instance is set to the "identity transform"
In [265]: print rect.get_transform()
<Affine object at 0x13695544>

# now we add the Rectangle to the Axes
In [266]: ax.add_patch(rect)

# and notice that the ax.add_patch method has set the axes
# instance
In [267]: print rect.get_axes()
Axes(0.125,0.1;0.775x0.8)

# and the transformation has been set too
In [268]: print rect.get_transform()
<Affine object at 0x15009ca4>

# the default axes transformation is ax.transData
In [269]: print ax.transData
<Affine object at 0x15009ca4>

# notice that the xlims of the Axes have not been changed
In [270]: print ax.get_xlim()
(0.0, 1.0)

# but the data limits have been updated to encompass the rectangle
In [271]: print ax.dataLim.bounds
(1.0, 1.0, 5.0, 12.0)

# we can manually invoke the auto-scaling machinery
In [272]: ax.autoscale_view()

# and now the xlim are updated to encompass the rectangle
In [273]: print ax.get_xlim()
(1.0, 6.0)

# we have to manually force a figure draw
In [274]: ax.figure.canvas.draw()
```

There are many, many **Axis** helper methods for creating primitive **Artist**s and adding them to their respective containers. The table below summarizes a small sampling of them, the kinds of **Artist** they create, and where they store them

Helper method	Artist	Container
ax.annotate - text annotations	Annotate	ax.texts
ax.bar - bar charts	Rectangle	ax.patches
ax.errorbar - error bar plots	Line2D and Rectangle	ax.lines and ax.patches
ax.fill - shared area	Polygon	ax.patches
ax.hist - histograms	Rectangle	ax.patches
ax.imshow - image data	AxesImage	ax.images
ax.legend - axes legends	Legend	ax.legend
ax.plot - xy plots	Line2D	ax.lines
ax.scatter - scatter charts	PolygonCollection	ax.collections
ax.text - text	Text	ax.texts

In addition to all of these **Artists**, the **Axis** contains two important **Artist** containers: the **XAxis** and **YAxis**, which handle the drawing of the ticks and labels. These are stored as instance variables `xaxis` and `yaxis`. The **XAxis** and **YAxis** containers will be detailed below, but note that the **Axis** contains many helper methods which forward calls on to the **Axis** instances so you often do not need to work with them directly unless you want to. For example, you can set the font color of the **XAxis** ticklabels using the **Axis** helper method:

```
for label in ax.get_xticklabels():
    label.set_color('orange')
```

Below is a summary of the **Artists** that the **Axis** contains

Axis attribute	Description
artists	A list of Artist instances
patch	Rectangle instance for Axis background
collections	A list of Collection instances
images	A list of AxesImage
legends	A list of Legend instances
lines	A list of Line2D instances
patches	A list of Patch instances
texts	A list of Text instances
xaxis	matplotlib.axis.XAxis instance
yaxis	matplotlib.axis.YAxis instance

Axis containers

The `matplotlib.axis.Axis` instances handle the drawing of the tick lines, the grid lines, the tick labels and the axis label. You can configure the left and right ticks separately for the y-axis, and the upper and lower ticks separately for the x-axis. The **Axis** also stores the data and view intervals used in auto-scaling, panning and zooming, as well as the **Locator** and **Formatter** instances which control where the ticks are placed and how they are represented as strings.

Each **Axis** object contains a `label` attribute (this is what `pylab` modifies in calls to `xlabel()` and

ylabel()) as well as a list of major and minor ticks. The ticks are *XTick* and *YTick* instances, which contain the actual line and text primitives that render the ticks and ticklabels. Because the ticks are dynamically created as needed (e.g., when panning and zooming), you should access the lists of major and minor ticks through their accessor methods `get_major_ticks()` and `get_minor_ticks()`. Although the ticks contain all the primitives and will be covered below, *Axis* instances have accessor methods that return the tick lines, tick labels, tick locations etc.:

```
In [285]: axis = ax.xaxis

In [286]: axis.get_ticklocs()
Out[286]: array([ 0.,  1.,  2.,  3.,  4.,  5.,  6.,  7.,  8.,  9.])

In [287]: axis.get_ticklabels()
Out[287]: <a list of 10 Text major ticklabel objects>

# note there are twice as many ticklines as labels because by
# default there are tick lines at the top and bottom but only tick
# labels below the xaxis; this can be customized
In [288]: axis.get_ticklines()
Out[288]: <a list of 20 Line2D ticklines objects>

# by default you get the major ticks back
In [291]: axis.get_ticklines()
Out[291]: <a list of 20 Line2D ticklines objects>

# but you can also ask for the minor ticks
In [292]: axis.get_ticklines(minor=True)
Out[292]: <a list of 0 Line2D ticklines objects>
```

Here is a summary of some of the useful accessor methods of the *Axis* (these have corresponding setters where useful, such as `set_major_formatter`)

Accessor method	Description
<code>get_scale</code>	The scale of the axis, e.g., 'log' or 'linear'
<code>get_view_interval</code>	The interval instance of the axis view limits
<code>get_data_interval</code>	The interval instance of the axis data limits
<code>get_gridlines</code>	A list of grid lines for the Axis
<code>get_label</code>	The axis label - a Text instance
<code>get_ticklabels</code>	A list of Text instances - keyword <code>minor=True False</code>
<code>get_ticklines</code>	A list of Line2D instances - keyword <code>minor=True False</code>
<code>get_ticklocs</code>	A list of Tick locations - keyword <code>minor=True False</code>
<code>get_major_locator</code>	The <code>matplotlib.ticker.Locator</code> instance for major ticks
<code>get_major_formatter</code>	The <code>matplotlib.ticker.Formatter</code> instance for major ticks
<code>get_minor_locator</code>	The <code>matplotlib.ticker.Locator</code> instance for minor ticks
<code>get_minor_formatter</code>	The <code>matplotlib.ticker.Formatter</code> instance for minor ticks
<code>get_major_ticks</code>	A list of Tick instances for major ticks
<code>get_minor_ticks</code>	A list of Tick instances for minor ticks
<code>grid</code>	Turn the grid on or off for the major or minor ticks

Here is an example, not recommended for its beauty, which customizes the axes and tick properties

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

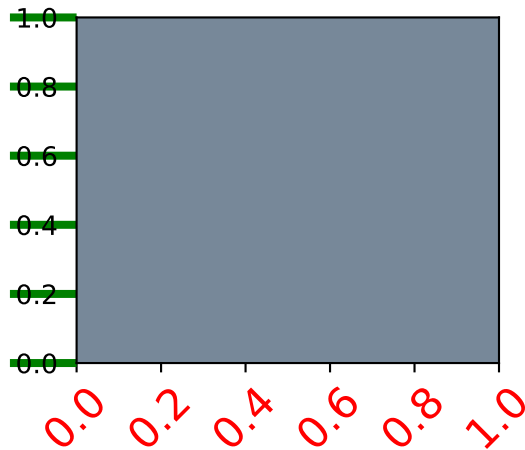
# plt.figure creates a matplotlib.figure.Figure instance
fig = plt.figure()
rect = fig.patch # a rectangle instance
rect.set_facecolor('lightgoldenrodyellow')

ax1 = fig.add_axes([0.1, 0.3, 0.4, 0.4])
rect = ax1.patch
rect.set_facecolor('lightslategray')

for label in ax1.xaxis.get_ticklabels():
    # label is a Text instance
    label.set_color('red')
    label.set_rotation(45)
    label.set_fontsize(16)

for line in ax1.yaxis.get_ticklines():
    # line is a Line2D instance
    line.set_color('green')
    line.set_markersize(25)
    line.set_markeredgewidth(3)

plt.show()
```



Tick containers

The `matplotlib.axis.Tick` is the final container object in our descent from the *Figure* to the *Axes* to the *Axis* to the *Tick*. The *Tick* contains the tick and grid line instances, as well as the label instances for the upper and lower ticks. Each of these is accessible directly as an attribute of the *Tick*. In addition, there are boolean variables that determine whether the upper labels and ticks are on for the x-axis and whether the right labels and ticks are on for the y-axis.

Tick attribute	Description
tick1line	Line2D instance
tick2line	Line2D instance
gridline	Line2D instance
label1	Text instance
label2	Text instance
gridOn	boolean which determines whether to draw the gridline
tick1On	boolean which determines whether to draw the 1st tickline
tick2On	boolean which determines whether to draw the 2nd tickline
label1On	boolean which determines whether to draw the 1st tick label
label2On	boolean which determines whether to draw the 2nd tick label

Here is an example which sets the formatter for the right side ticks with dollar signs and colors them green on the right side of the yaxis

```

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

# Fixing random state for reproducibility
np.random.seed(19680801)

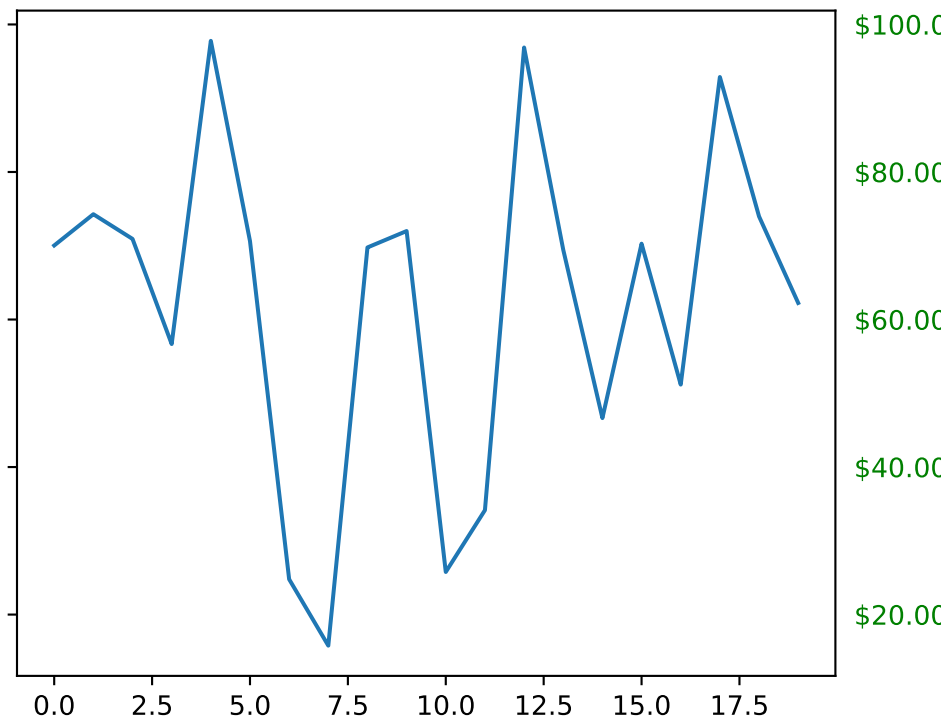
fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.add_subplot(111)
ax.plot(100*np.random.rand(20))

formatter = ticker.FormatStrFormatter('$_{1.2f}')
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(formatter)

for tick in ax.yaxis.get_major_ticks():
    tick.label10n = False
    tick.label20n = True
    tick.label2.set_color('green')

plt.show()

```



3.2.2 Legend guide

This legend guide is an extension of the documentation available at [legend\(\)](#) - please ensure you are familiar with contents of that documentation before proceeding with this guide.

This guide makes use of some common terms, which are documented here for clarity:

legend entry A legend is made up of one or more legend entries. An entry is made up of exactly one key and one label.

legend key The colored/patterned marker to the left of each legend label.

legend label The text which describes the handle represented by the key.

legend handle The original object which is used to generate an appropriate entry in the legend.

Controlling the legend entries

Calling [legend\(\)](#) with no arguments automatically fetches the legend handles and their associated labels. This functionality is equivalent to:

```
handles, labels = ax.get_legend_handles_labels()
ax.legend(handles, labels)
```

The [get_legend_handles_labels\(\)](#) function returns a list of handles/artists which exist on the Axes which can be used to generate entries for the resulting legend - it is worth noting however that not all artists can be added to a legend, at which point a “proxy” will have to be created (see [Creating artists specifically for adding to the legend \(aka. Proxy artists\)](#) for further details).

For full control of what is being added to the legend, it is common to pass the appropriate handles directly to [legend\(\)](#):

```
line_up, = plt.plot([1,2,3], label='Line 2')
line_down, = plt.plot([3,2,1], label='Line 1')
plt.legend(handles=[line_up, line_down])
```

In some cases, it is not possible to set the label of the handle, so it is possible to pass through the list of labels to [legend\(\)](#):

```
line_up, = plt.plot([1,2,3], label='Line 2')
line_down, = plt.plot([3,2,1], label='Line 1')
plt.legend([line_up, line_down], ['Line Up', 'Line Down'])
```

Creating artists specifically for adding to the legend (aka. Proxy artists)

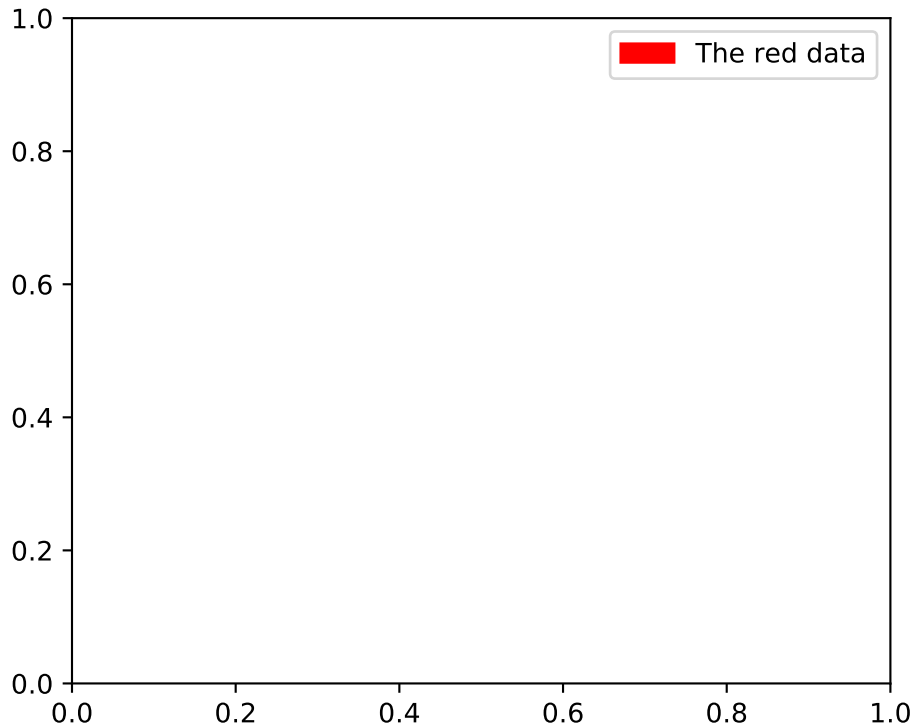
Not all handles can be turned into legend entries automatically, so it is often necessary to create an artist which *can*. Legend handles don’t have to exist on the Figure or Axes in order to be used.

Suppose we wanted to create a legend which has an entry for some data which is represented by a red color:


```
import matplotlib.patches as mpatches
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

red_patch = mpatches.Patch(color='red', label='The red data')
plt.legend(handles=[red_patch])

plt.show()
```

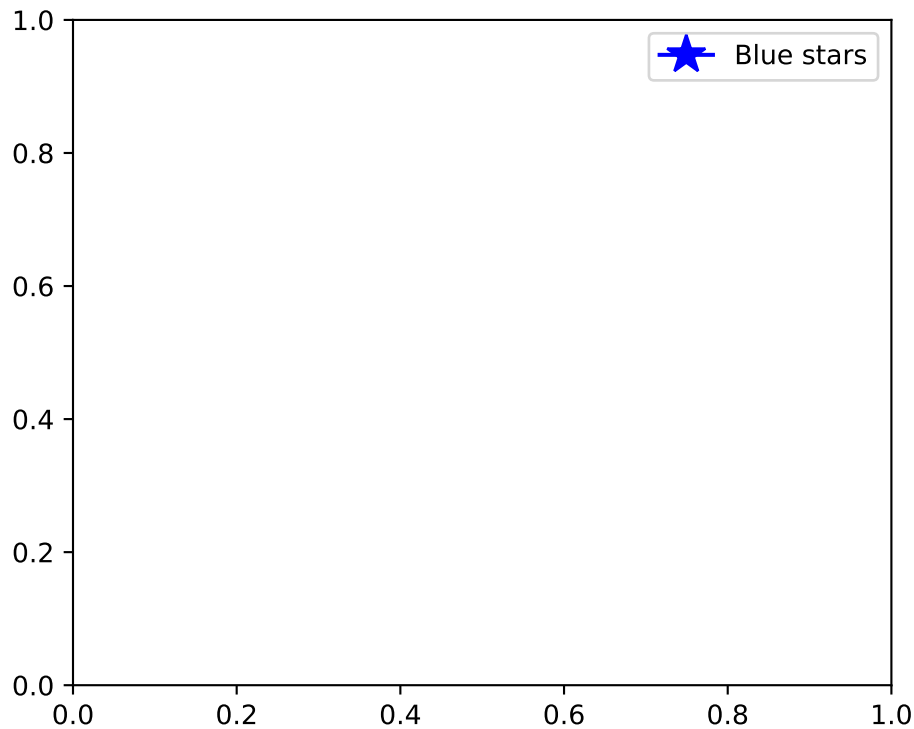


There are many supported legend handles, instead of creating a patch of color we could have created a line with a marker:

```
import matplotlib.lines as mlines
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

blue_line = mlines.Line2D([], [], color='blue', marker='*',
                           markersize=15, label='Blue stars')
plt.legend(handles=[blue_line])

plt.show()
```



Legend location

The location of the legend can be specified by the keyword argument *loc*. Please see the documentation at [legend\(\)](#) for more details.

The `bbox_to_anchor` keyword gives a great degree of control for manual legend placement. For example, if you want your axes legend located at the figure's top right-hand corner instead of the axes' corner, simply specify the corner's location, and the coordinate system of that location:

```
plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(1, 1),
           bbox_transform=plt.gcf().transFigure)
```

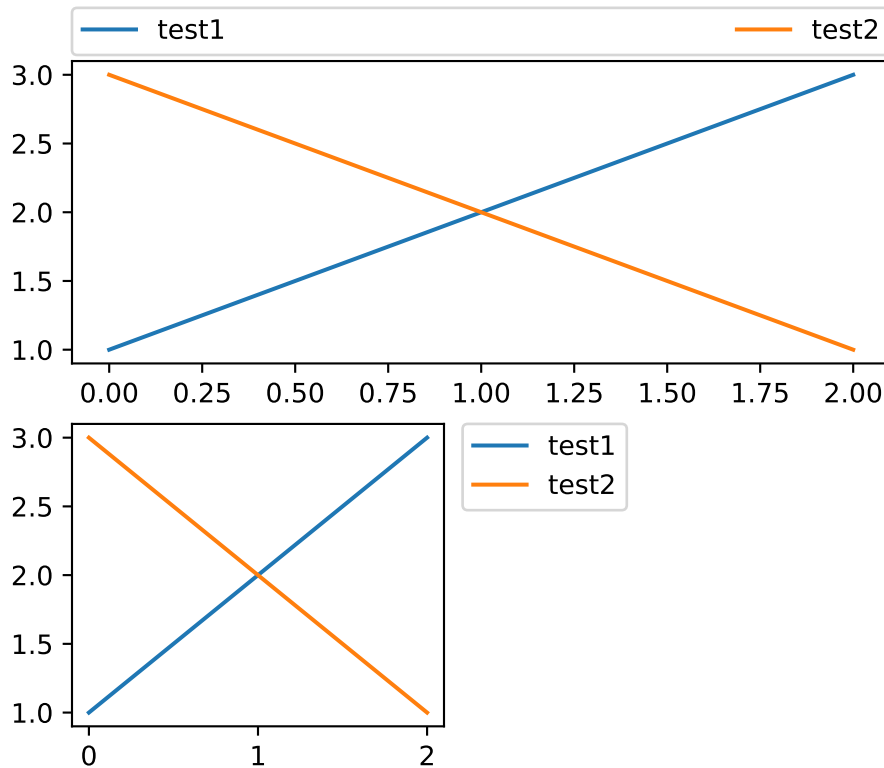
More examples of custom legend placement:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

plt.subplot(211)
plt.plot([1,2,3], label="test1")
plt.plot([3,2,1], label="test2")
# Place a legend above this subplot, expanding itself to
# fully use the given bounding box.
plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(0., 1.02, 1., .102), loc=3,
           ncol=2, mode="expand", borderaxespad=0.)
```

```
plt.subplot(223)
plt.plot([1,2,3], label="test1")
plt.plot([3,2,1], label="test2")
# Place a legend to the right of this smaller subplot.
plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(1.05, 1), loc=2, borderaxespad=0.)

plt.show()
```



Multiple legends on the same Axes

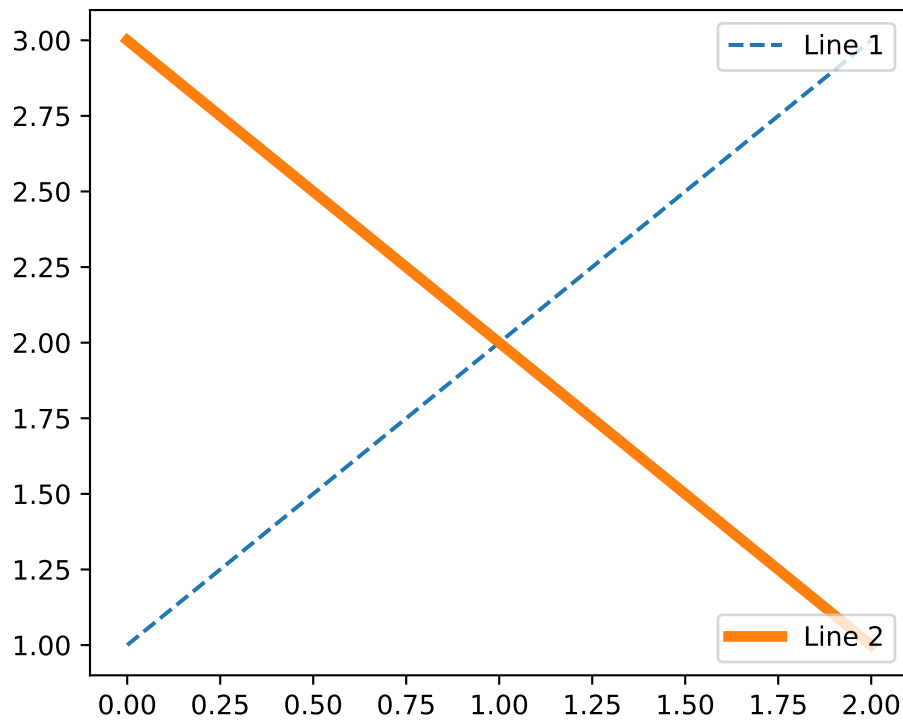
Sometimes it is more clear to split legend entries across multiple legends. Whilst the instinctive approach to doing this might be to call the `legend()` function multiple times, you will find that only one legend ever exists on the Axes. This has been done so that it is possible to call `legend()` repeatedly to update the legend to the latest handles on the Axes, so to persist old legend instances, we must add them manually to the Axes:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

line1, = plt.plot([1,2,3], label="Line 1", linestyle='--')
line2, = plt.plot([3,2,1], label="Line 2", linewidth=4)

# Create a legend for the first line.
first_legend = plt.legend(handles=[line1], loc=1)
```

```
# Add the legend manually to the current Axes.  
ax = plt.gca().add_artist(first_legend)  
  
# Create another legend for the second line.  
plt.legend(handles=[line2], loc=4)  
  
plt.show()
```



Legend Handlers

In order to create legend entries, handles are given as an argument to an appropriate *HandlerBase* subclass. The choice of handler subclass is determined by the following rules:

1. Update `get_legend_handler_map()` with the value in the `handler_map` keyword.
2. Check if the `handle` is in the newly created `handler_map`.
3. Check if the type of `handle` is in the newly created `handler_map`.
4. Check if any of the types in the `handle`'s mro is in the newly created `handler_map`.

For completeness, this logic is mostly implemented in `get_legend_handler()`.