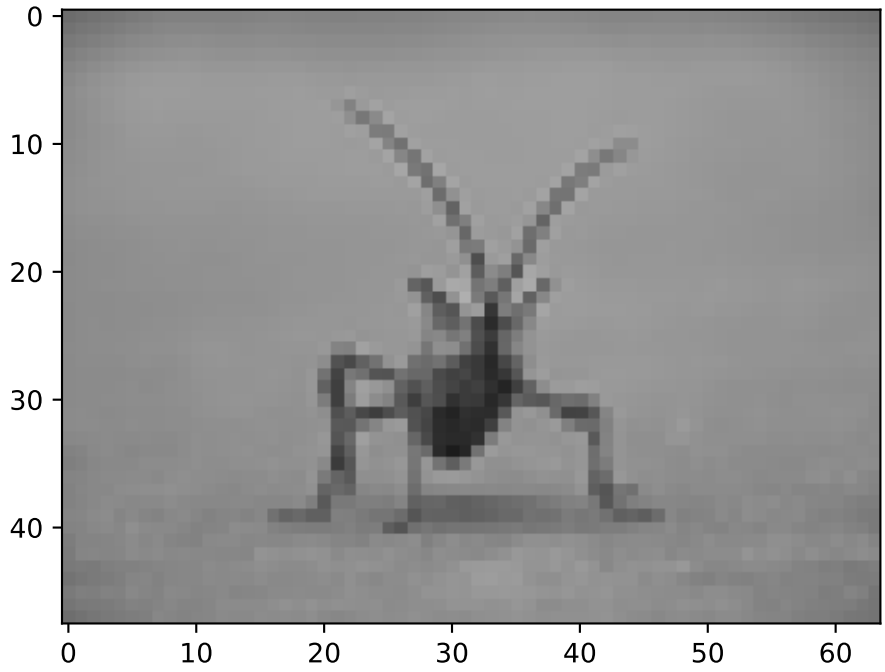
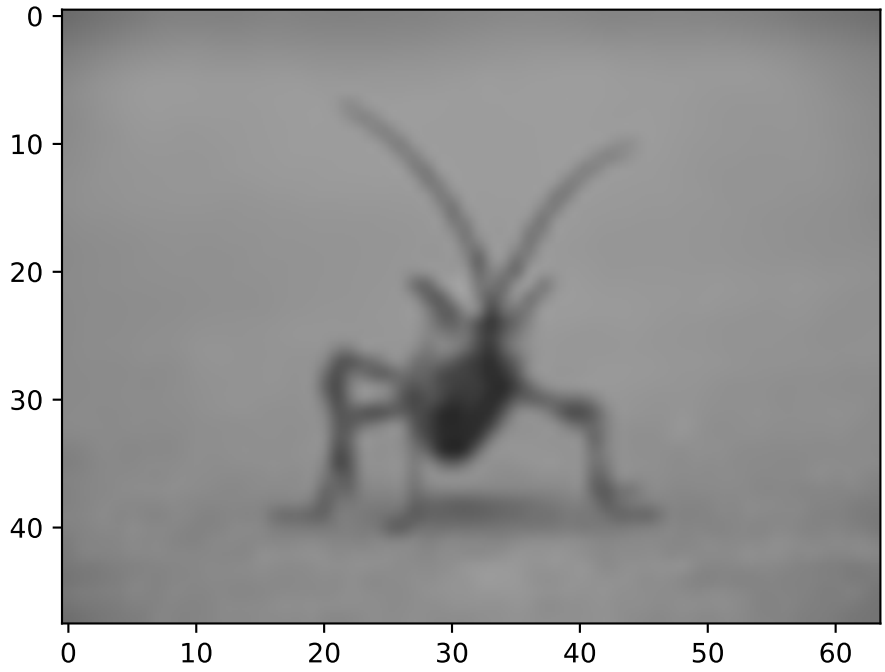



```
In [21]: imgplot = plt.imshow(img, interpolation="bicubic")
```




Bicubic interpolation is often used when blowing up photos - people tend to prefer blurry over pixelated.

### 3.1.3 Customizing Location of Subplot Using GridSpec

*GridSpec* specifies the geometry of the grid that a subplot will be placed. The number of rows and number of columns of the grid need to be set. Optionally, the subplot layout parameters (e.g., left, right, etc.) can be tuned.

*SubplotSpec* specifies the location of the subplot in the given *GridSpec*.

*subplot2grid()* a helper function that is similar to *subplot()* but uses 0-based indexing and let subplot to occupy multiple cells.

#### Basic Example of using subplot2grid

To use *subplot2grid()*, you provide geometry of the grid and the location of the subplot in the grid. For a simple single-cell subplot:

```
ax = plt.subplot2grid((2, 2), (0, 0))
```

is identical to

```
ax = plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
```

Note that, unlike Matplotlib's subplot, the index starts from 0 in GridSpec.

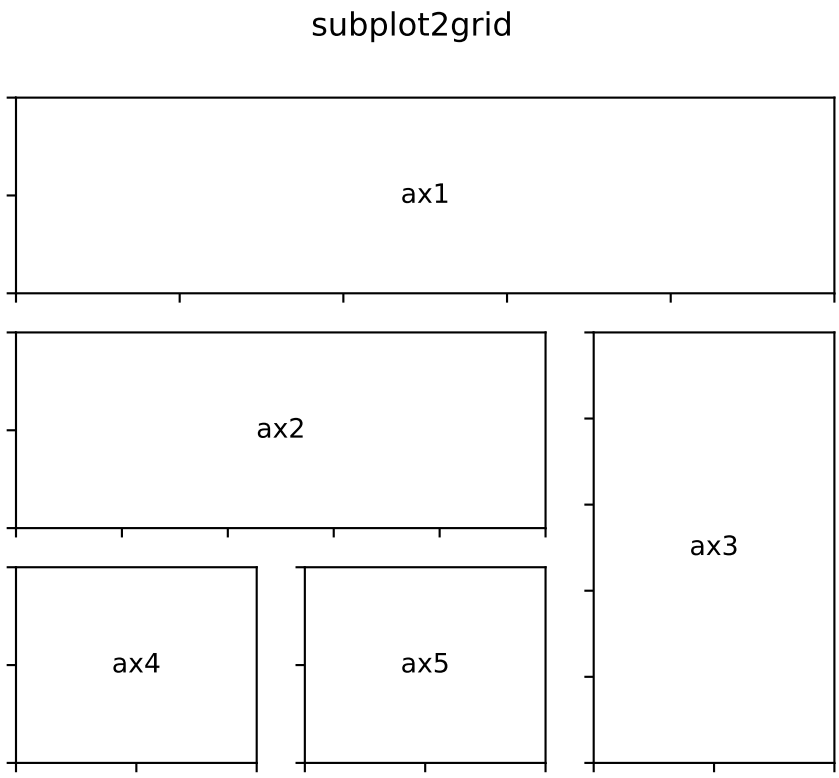
To create a subplot that spans multiple cells,

```
ax2 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (1, 0), colspan=2)
ax3 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (1, 2), rowspan=2)
```

For example, the following commands

```
ax1 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (0, 0), colspan=3)
ax2 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (1, 0), colspan=2)
ax3 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (1, 2), rowspan=2)
ax4 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (2, 0))
ax5 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (2, 1))
```

creates




### GridSpec and SubplotSpec

You can create *GridSpec* explicitly and use them to create a subplot.

For example,

```
ax = plt.subplot2grid((2, 2), (0, 0))
```

is equal to

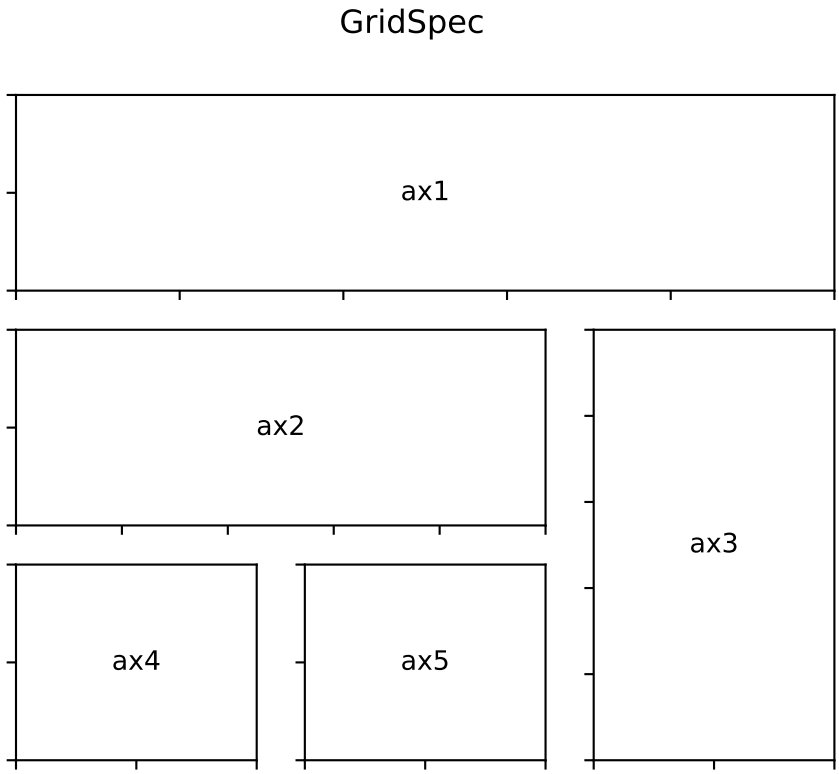
```
import matplotlib.gridspec as gridspec
gs = gridspec.GridSpec(2, 2)
ax = plt.subplot(gs[0, 0])
```

A GridSpec instance provides array-like (2d or 1d) indexing that returns the SubplotSpec instance. For a SubplotSpec that spans multiple cells, use slice.

```
ax2 = plt.subplot(gs[1, :-1])
ax3 = plt.subplot(gs[1:, -1])
```

The above example becomes

```
gs = gridspec.GridSpec(3, 3)
ax1 = plt.subplot(gs[0, :])
ax2 = plt.subplot(gs[1, :-1])
ax3 = plt.subplot(gs[1:, -1])
ax4 = plt.subplot(gs[-1, 0])
ax5 = plt.subplot(gs[-1, -2])
```



### Adjust GridSpec layout

When a GridSpec is explicitly used, you can adjust the layout parameters of subplots that are created from the GridSpec.

```
gs1 = gridspec.GridSpec(3, 3)
gs1.update(left=0.05, right=0.48, wspace=0.05)
```

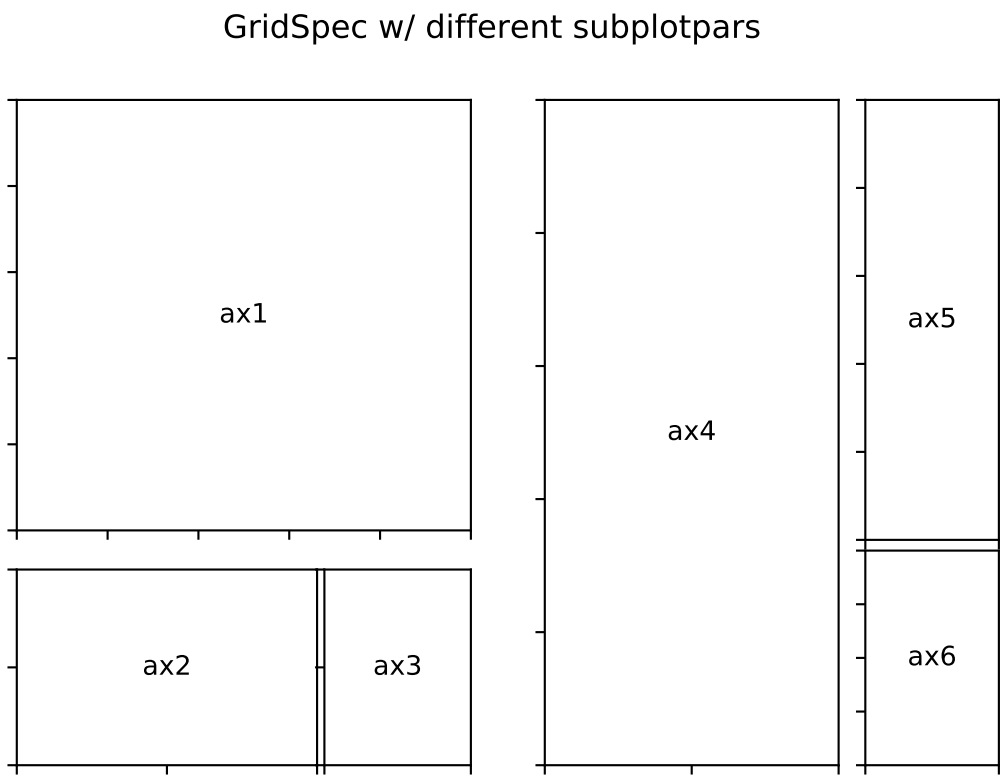
This is similar to *subplots_adjust()*, but it only affects the subplots that are created from the given GridSpec.

The code below

```
gs1 = gridspec.GridSpec(3, 3)
gs1.update(left=0.05, right=0.48, wspace=0.05)
ax1 = plt.subplot(gs1[:-1, :])
ax2 = plt.subplot(gs1[-1, :-1])
ax3 = plt.subplot(gs1[-1, -1])

gs2 = gridspec.GridSpec(3, 3)
gs2.update(left=0.55, right=0.98, hspace=0.05)
ax4 = plt.subplot(gs2[:, :-1])
ax5 = plt.subplot(gs2[:-1, -1])
ax6 = plt.subplot(gs2[-1, -1])
```

creates

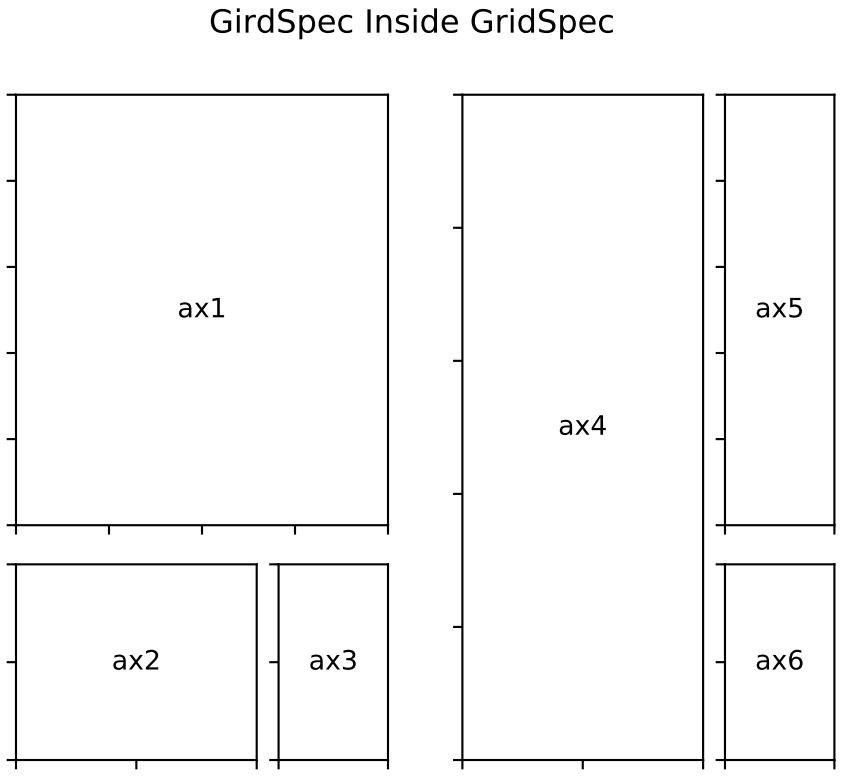


### GridSpec using SubplotSpec

You can create GridSpec from the *SubplotSpec*, in which case its layout parameters are set to that of the location of the given SubplotSpec.

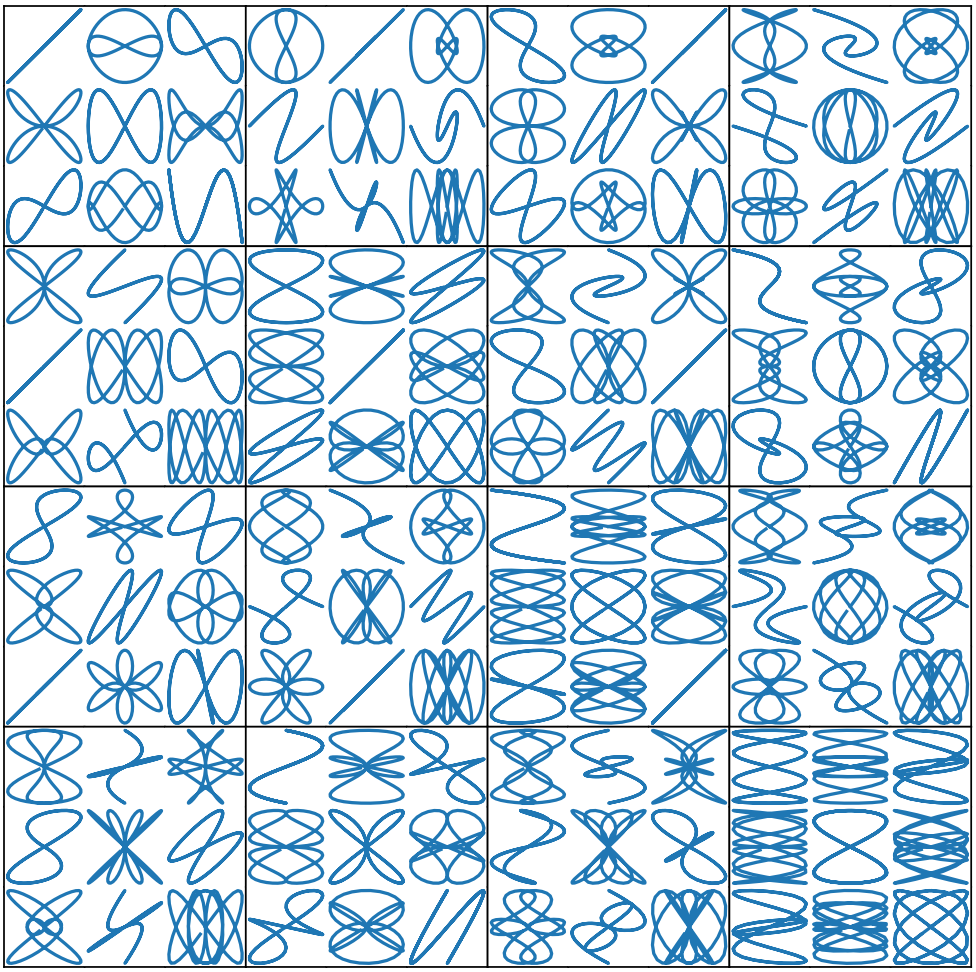
```
gs0 = gridspec.GridSpec(1, 2)

gs00 = gridspec.GridSpecFromSubplotSpec(3, 3, subplot_spec=gs0[0])
gs01 = gridspec.GridSpecFromSubplotSpec(3, 3, subplot_spec=gs0[1])
```




### A Complex Nested GridSpec using SubplotSpec

Here's a more sophisticated example of nested GridSpec where we put a box around each cell of the outer 4x4 grid, by hiding appropriate spines in each of the inner 3x3 grids.



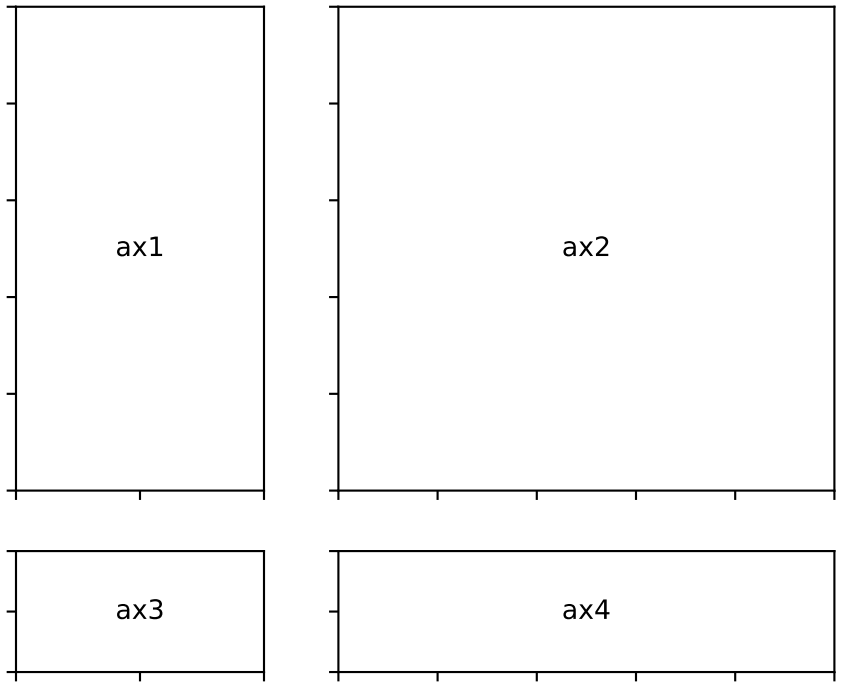
### GridSpec with Varying Cell Sizes

By default, GridSpec creates cells of equal sizes. You can adjust relative heights and widths of rows and columns. Note that absolute values are meaningless, only their relative ratios matter.

```
gs = gridspec.GridSpec(2, 2,
                       width_ratios=[1, 2],
                       height_ratios=[4, 1]
                       )

ax1 = plt.subplot(gs[0])
ax2 = plt.subplot(gs[1])
```

```
ax3 = plt.subplot(gs[2])
ax4 = plt.subplot(gs[3])
```




### 3.1.4 Tight Layout guide

*tight_layout* automatically adjusts subplot params so that the subplot(s) fits in to the figure area. This is an experimental feature and may not work for some cases. It only checks the extents of ticklabels, axis labels, and titles.

#### Simple Example

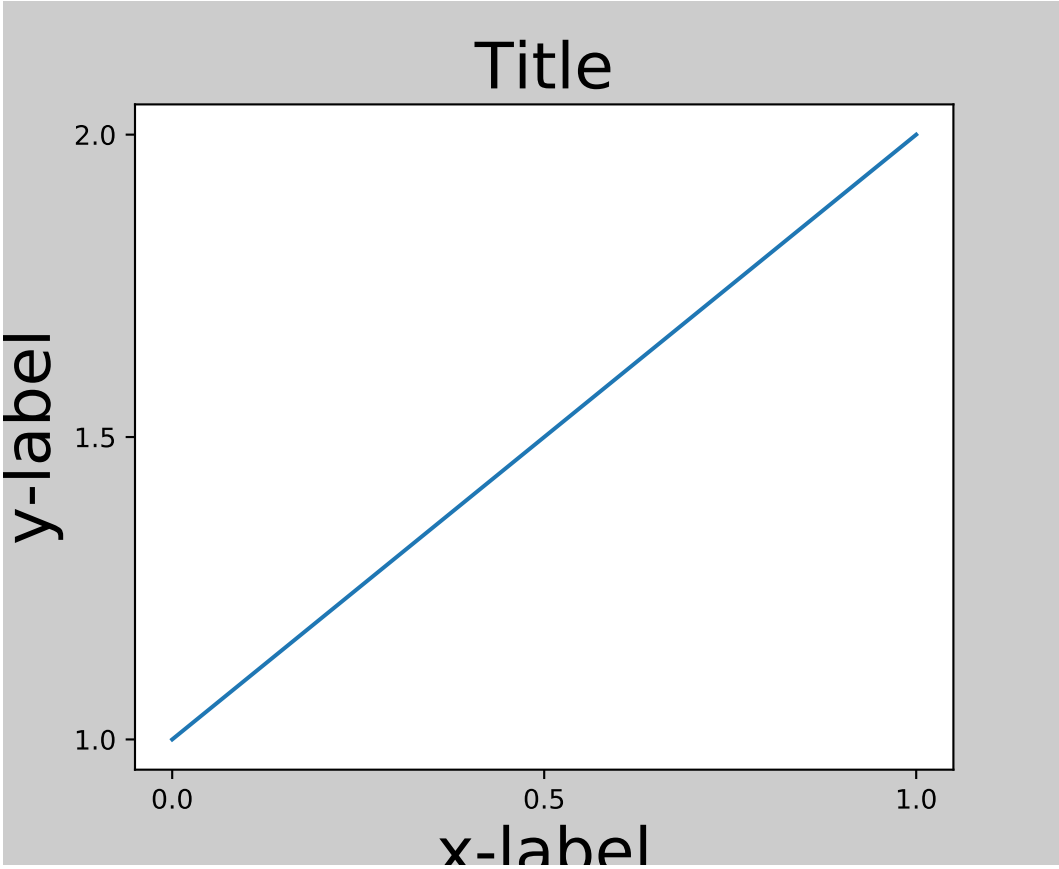
In matplotlib, the location of axes (including subplots) are specified in normalized figure coordinates. It can happen that your axis labels or titles (or sometimes even ticklabels) go outside the figure area, and are thus clipped.

```
plt.rcParams['savefig.facecolor'] = "0.8"

def example_plot(ax, fontsize=12):
    ax.plot([1, 2])
    ax.locator_params(nbins=3)
    ax.set_xlabel('x-label', fontsize=fontsize)
    ax.set_ylabel('y-label', fontsize=fontsize)
```

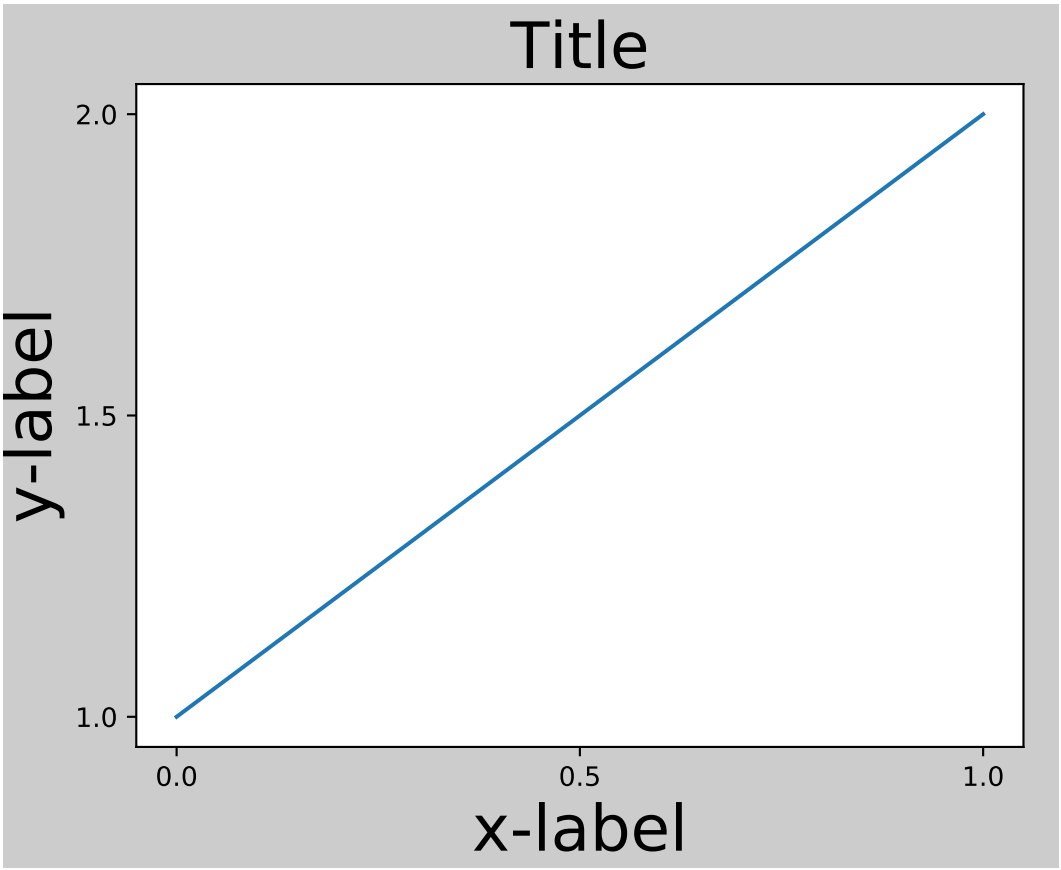
```
    ax.set_title('Title', fontsize=fontsize)

plt.close('all')
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
example_plot(ax, fontsize=24)
```



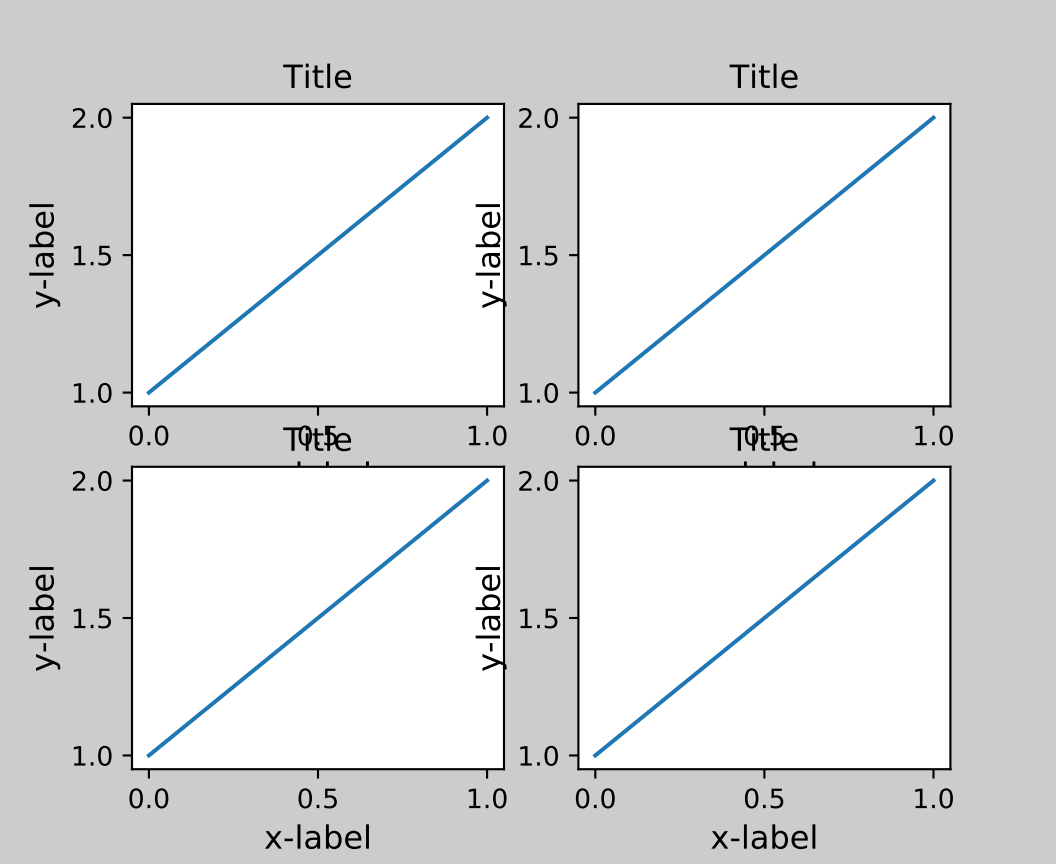

To prevent this, the location of axes needs to be adjusted. For subplots, this can be done by adjusting the subplot params (*Move the edge of an axes to make room for tick labels*). Matplotlib v1.1 introduces a new command `tight_layout()` that does this automatically for you.

```
plt.tight_layout()
```



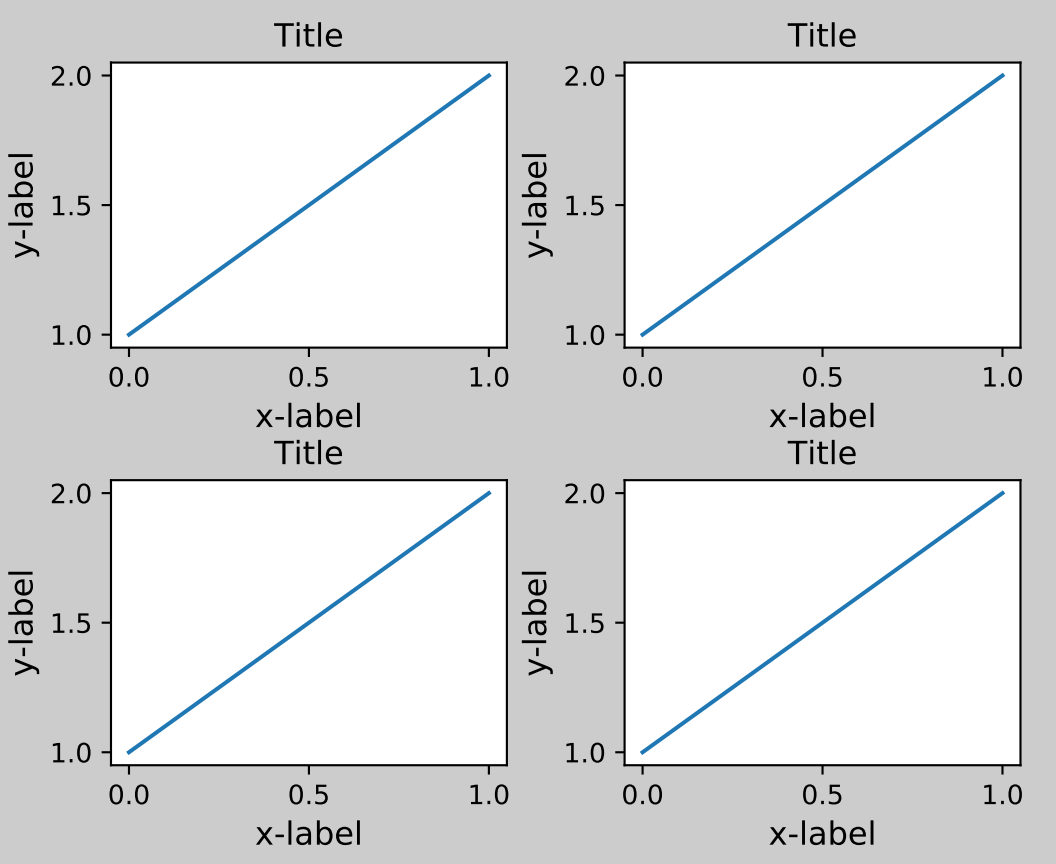

When you have multiple subplots, often you see labels of different axes overlapping each other.

```
plt.close('all')
fig, ((ax1, ax2), (ax3, ax4)) = plt.subplots(nrows=2, ncols=2)
example_plot(ax1)
example_plot(ax2)
example_plot(ax3)
example_plot(ax4)
```



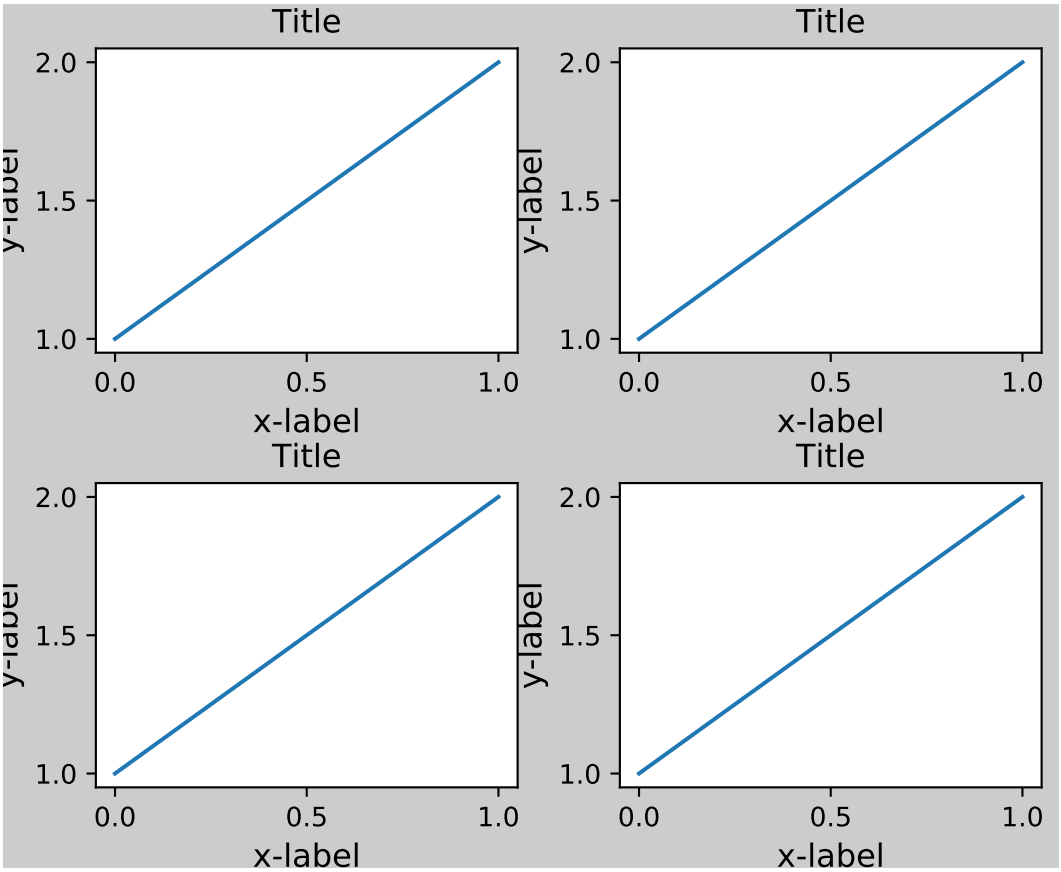

*tight_layout()* will also adjust spacing between subplots to minimize the overlaps.

```
plt.tight_layout()
```




*tight_layout()* can take keyword arguments of *pad*, *w_pad* and *h_pad*. These control the extra padding around the figure border and between subplots. The pads are specified in fraction of fontsize.

```
plt.tight_layout(pad=0.4, w_pad=0.5, h_pad=1.0)
```



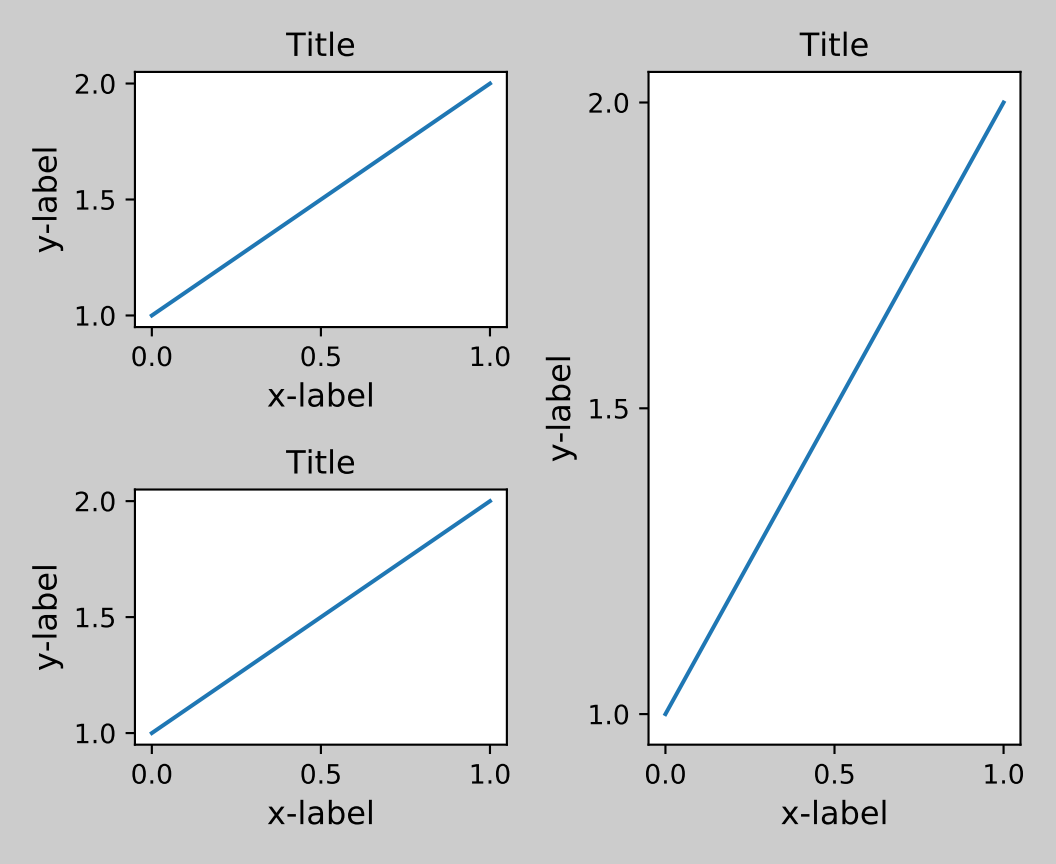

*tight_layout()* will work even if the sizes of subplots are different as far as their grid specification is compatible. In the example below, *ax1* and *ax2* are subplots of a 2x2 grid, while *ax3* is of a 1x2 grid.

```
plt.close('all')
fig = plt.figure()

ax1 = plt.subplot(221)
ax2 = plt.subplot(223)
ax3 = plt.subplot(122)

example_plot(ax1)
example_plot(ax2)
example_plot(ax3)

plt.tight_layout()
```



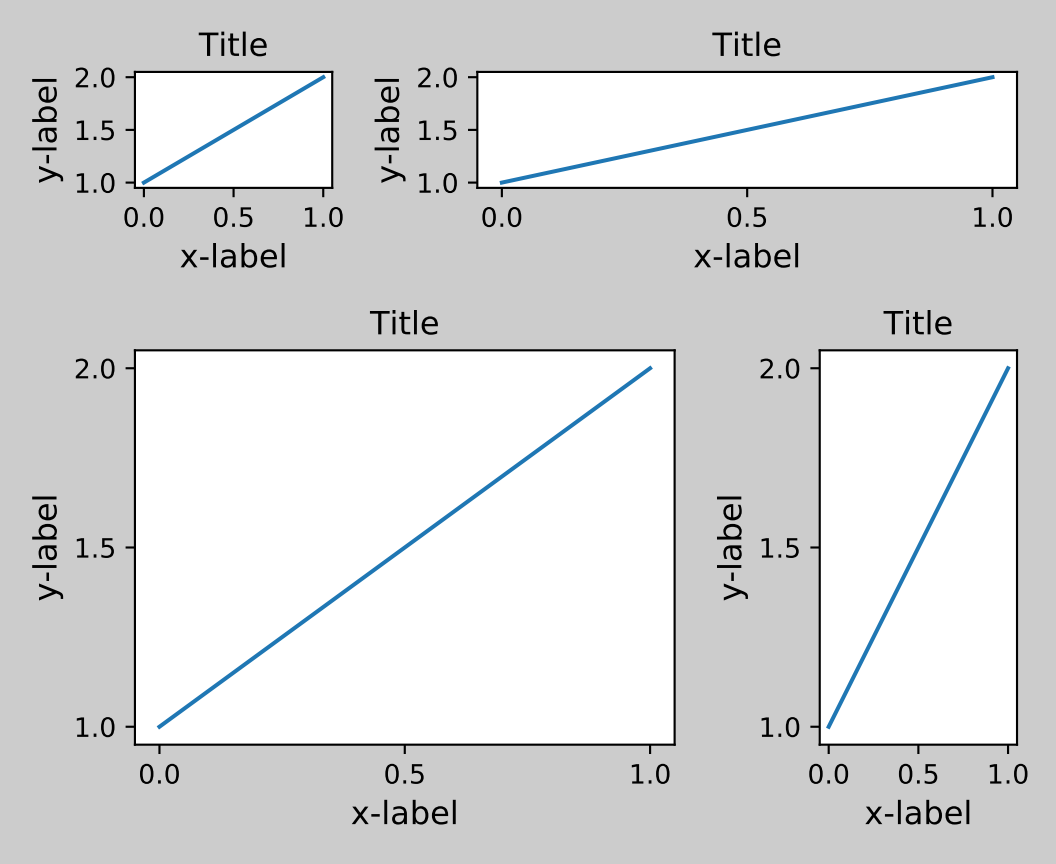

It works with subplots created with *subplot2grid()*. In general, subplots created from the gridspec (*Customizing Location of Subplot Using GridSpec*) will work.

```
plt.close('all')
fig = plt.figure()

ax1 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (0, 0))
ax2 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (0, 1), colspan=2)
ax3 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (1, 0), colspan=2, rowspan=2)
ax4 = plt.subplot2grid((3, 3), (1, 2), rowspan=2)

example_plot(ax1)
example_plot(ax2)
example_plot(ax3)
example_plot(ax4)

plt.tight_layout()
```



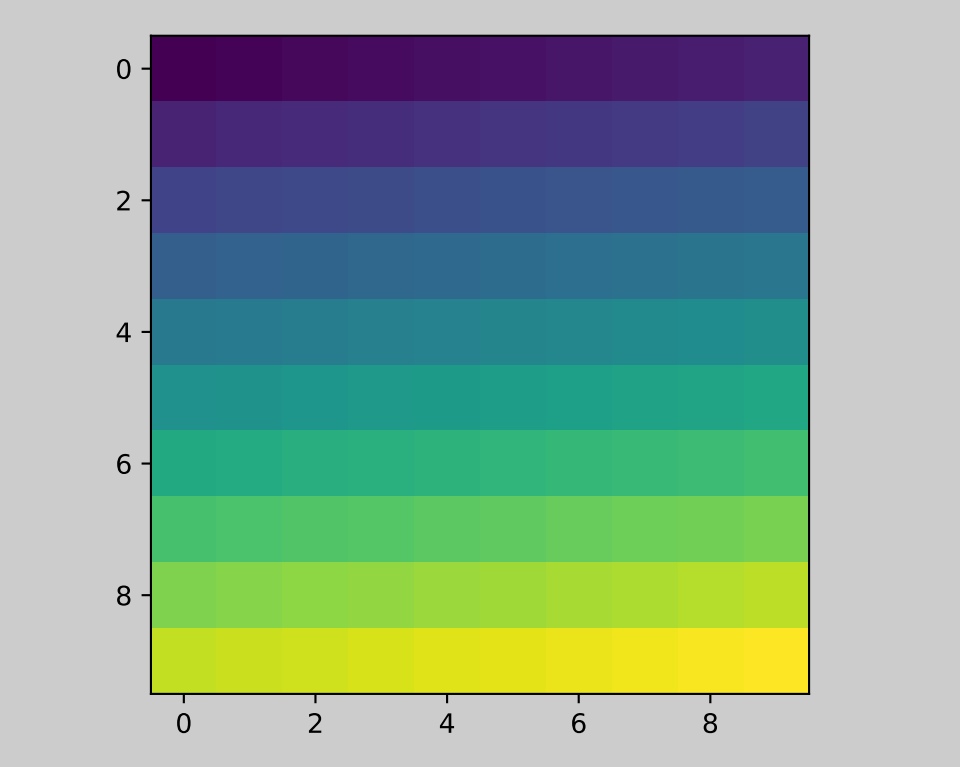

Although not thoroughly tested, it seems to work for subplots with aspect != "auto" (e.g., axes with images).

```
arr = np.arange(100).reshape((10,10))

plt.close('all')
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(5,4))

ax = plt.subplot(111)
im = ax.imshow(arr, interpolation="none")

plt.tight_layout()
```




### Caveats

- *tight_layout()* only considers ticklabels, axis labels, and titles. Thus, other artists may be clipped and also may overlap.
- It assumes that the extra space needed for ticklabels, axis labels, and titles is independent of original location of axes. This is often true, but there are rare cases where it is not.
- pad=0 clips some of the texts by a few pixels. This may be a bug or a limitation of the current algorithm and it is not clear why it happens. Meanwhile, use of pad at least larger than 0.3 is recommended.

### Use with GridSpec

GridSpec has its own *tight_layout()* method (the pyplot api *tight_layout()* also works).

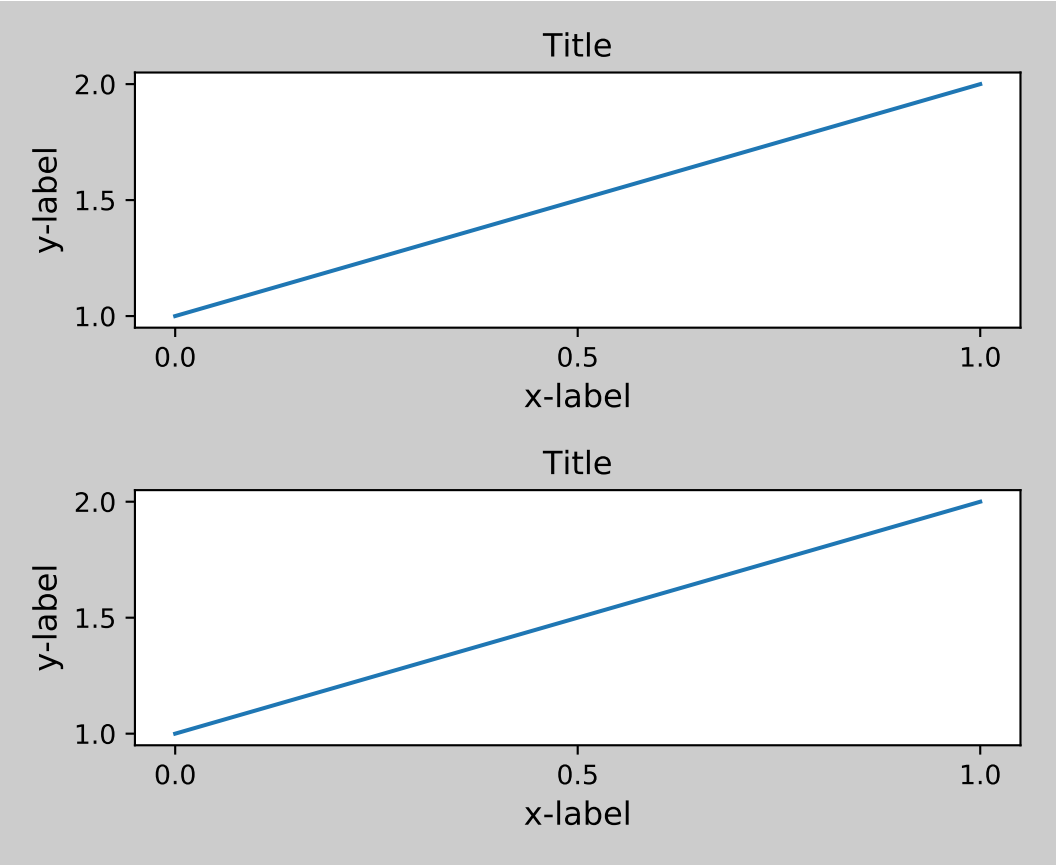
```
plt.close('all')
fig = plt.figure()

import matplotlib.gridspec as gridspec

gs1 = gridspec.GridSpec(2, 1)
ax1 = fig.add_subplot(gs1[0])
ax2 = fig.add_subplot(gs1[1])
```

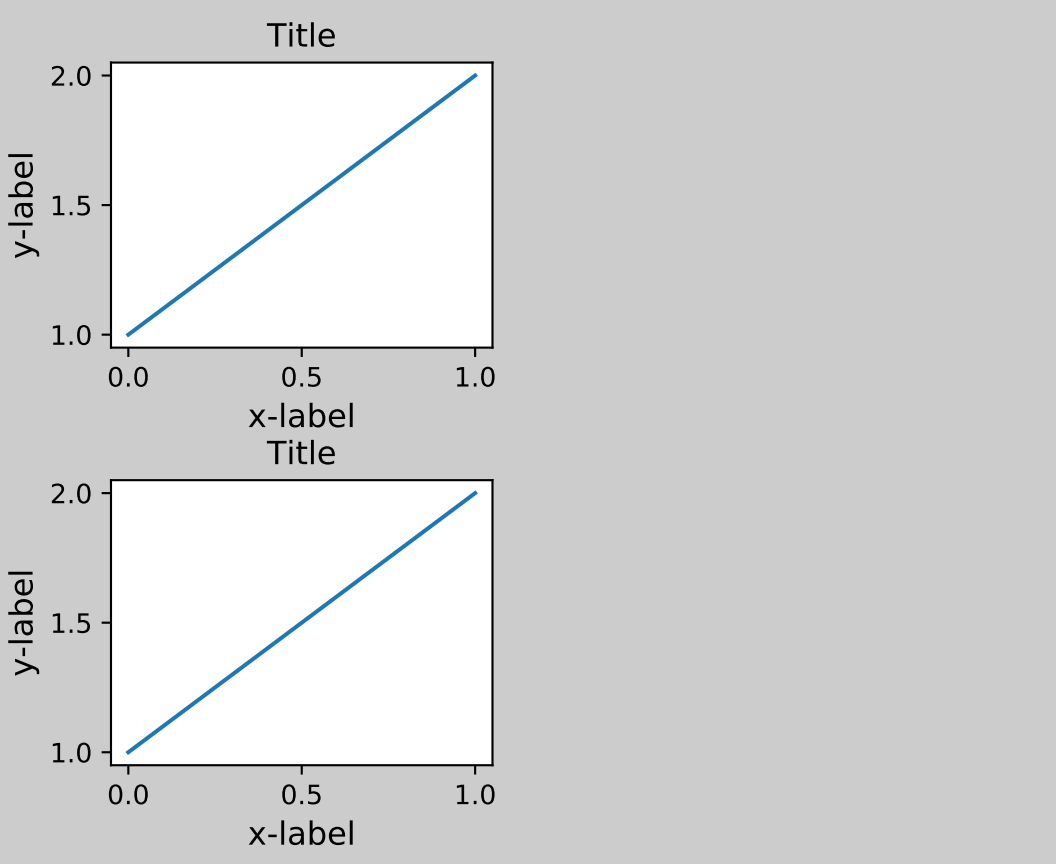
```
example_plot(ax1)
example_plot(ax2)

gs1.tight_layout(fig)
```




You may provide an optional *rect* parameter, which specifies the bounding box that the subplots will be fit inside. The coordinates must be in normalized figure coordinates and the default is (0, 0, 1, 1).

```
gs1.tight_layout(fig, rect=[0, 0, 0.5, 1])
```



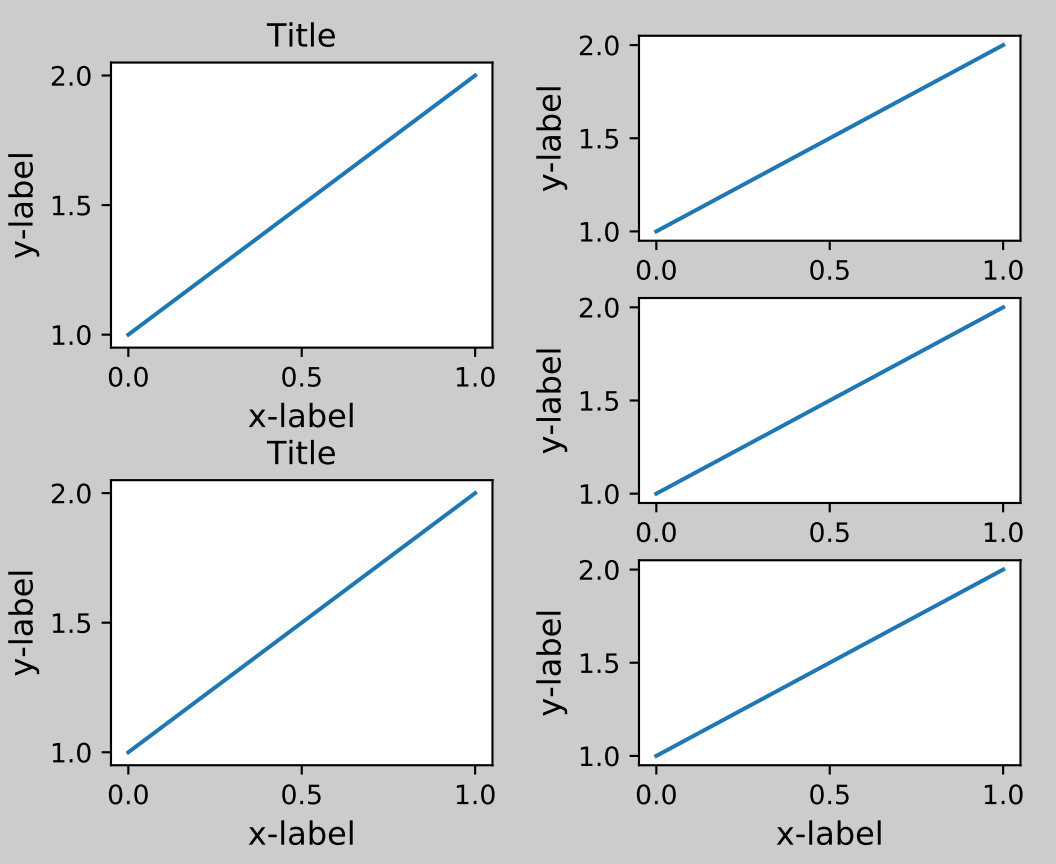

For example, this can be used for a figure with multiple gridspecs.

```
gs2 = gridspec.GridSpec(3, 1)

for ss in gs2:
    ax = fig.add_subplot(ss)
    example_plot(ax)
    ax.set_title("")
    ax.set_xlabel("")

ax.set_xlabel("x-label", fontsize=12)

gs2.tight_layout(fig, rect=[0.5, 0, 1, 1], h_pad=0.5)
```




We may try to match the top and bottom of two grids

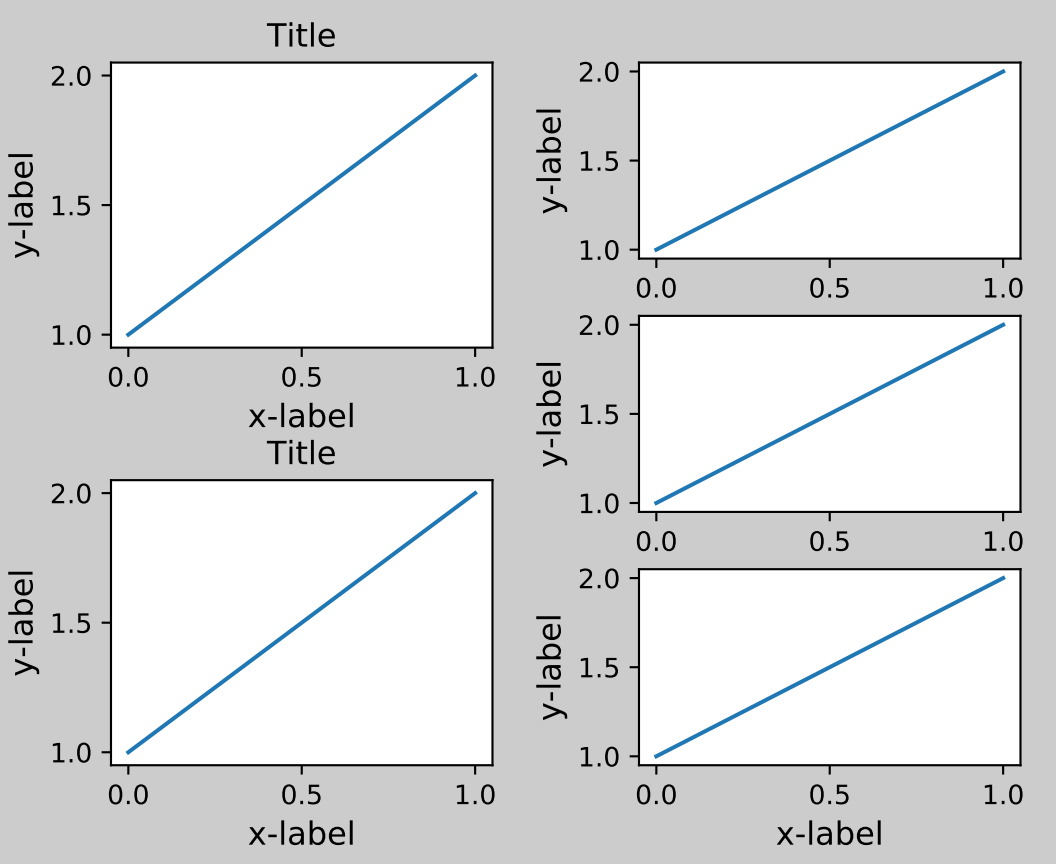
```
top = min(gs1.top, gs2.top)
bottom = max(gs1.bottom, gs2.bottom)

gs1.update(top=top, bottom=bottom)
gs2.update(top=top, bottom=bottom)
```

While this should be mostly good enough, adjusting top and bottom may require adjustment of hspace also. To update hspace & vspace, we call *tight_layout()* again with updated rect argument. Note that the rect argument specifies the area including the ticklabels, etc. Thus, we will increase the bottom (which is 0 for the normal case) by the difference between the *bottom* from above and the bottom of each gridspec. Same thing for the top.

```
top = min(gs1.top, gs2.top)
bottom = max(gs1.bottom, gs2.bottom)

gs1.tight_layout(fig, rect=[None, 0 + (bottom-gs1.bottom),
                            0.5, 1 - (gs1.top-top)])
gs2.tight_layout(fig, rect=[0.5, 0 + (bottom-gs2.bottom),
                            None, 1 - (gs2.top-top)],
                 h_pad=0.5)
```




### Use with AxesGrid1

While limited, the axes_grid1 toolkit is also supported.

```
plt.close('all')
fig = plt.figure()

from mpl_toolkits.axes_grid1 import Grid
grid = Grid(fig, rect=111, nrows_ncols=(2,2),
            axes_pad=0.25, label_mode='L',
            )

for ax in grid:
    example_plot(ax)
    ax.title.set_visible(False)

plt.tight_layout()
```