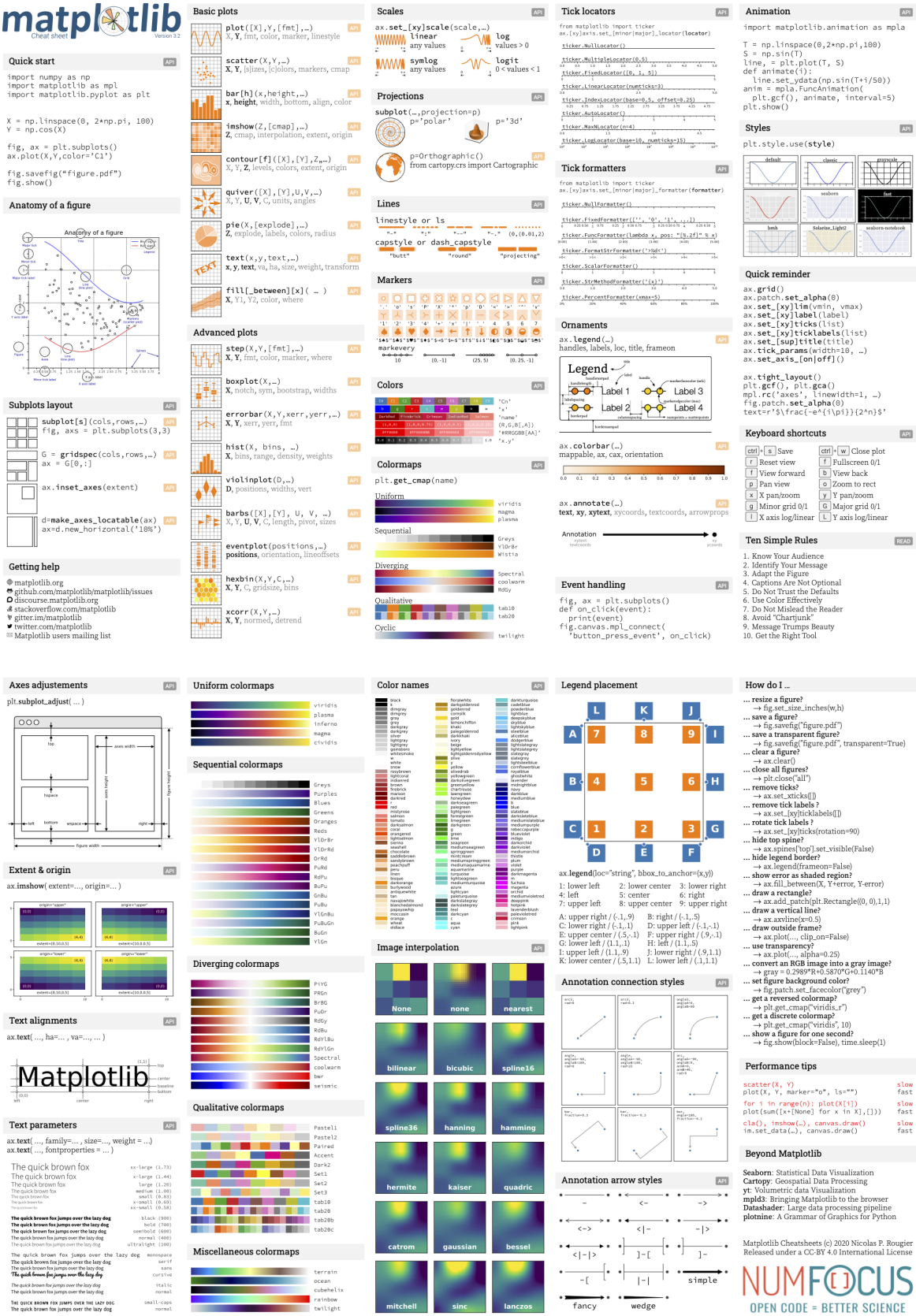
Brand new cheatsheets and handouts

Sources now at https://github.com/matplotlib/cheatsheets

Book at https://github.com/rougier/scientific-visualization-book



Matplotlib for beginners

Matplotlib is a library for making 2D plots in Python. It is designed with the philosophy that you should be able to create simple plots with just a few commands:

1 Initialize

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

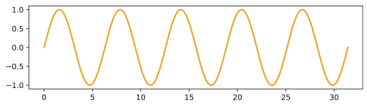
2 Prepare

```
X = np.linspace(0, 4*np.pi, 1000)
Y = np.sin(X)
```

3 Render

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.plot(X, Y)
fig.show()
```

4 Observe



Choose

Matplotlib offers several kind of plots (see Gallery):

```
X = np.random.uniform(0, 1, 100)
Y = np.random.uniform(0, 1, 100)
ax.scatter(X, Y)
```

```
X = np.arange(10)
Y = np.random.uniform(1, 10, 10)
ax.bar(X, Y)
```

```
Z = np.random.uniform(0, 1, (8,8)

ax.imshow(Z)
```

```
Z = np.random.uniform(0, 1, (8,8)

ax.contourf(Z)
```

```
Z = np.random.uniform(0, 1, 4)

ax.pie(Z)
```

```
Z = np.random.normal(0, 1, 100)

ax.hist(Z)
```

```
X = np.arange(5)
Y = np.random.uniform(0,1,5)
ax.errorbar(X, Y, Y/4)
```

```
Z = np.random.normal(0,1,(100,3))

ax.boxplot(Z)
```

Tweak

You can modify pretty much anything in a plot, including limits, colors, markers, line width and styles, ticks and ticks labels, titles, etc.

```
X = np.linspace(0,10,100)
Y = np.sin(X)
ax.plot(X, Y, color="black")
```

```
X = np.linspace(0,10,100)
Y = np.sin(X)
ax.plot(X, Y, linestyle="--")
```

```
X = np.linspace(0,10,100)
Y = np.sin(X)
ax.plot(X, Y, linewidth=5)
```

```
X = np.linspace(0,10,100)
Y = np.sin(X)
ax.plot(X, Y, marker="o")
```

Organize

You can plot several data on the the same figure but you can also split a figure in several subplots (named *Axes*):

```
X = np.linspace(0,10,100)
Y1, Y1 = np.sin(X), np.cos(X)
ax.plot(X, Y1, Y2)
```

```
fig, (ax1, ax2) = plt.subplots((2,1))
ax1.plot(X, Y1, color="C1")
ax2.plot(X, Y2, color="C0")
```

```
fig, (ax1, ax2) = plt.subplots((1,2))
ax1.plot(Y1, X, color="C1")
ax2.plot(Y2, X, color="C0")
```

Label (everything)

```
ax.plot(X, Y)
fig.suptitle(None)
ax.set_title("A Sine wave")
```


```
ax.plot(X, Y)
ax.set_ylabel(None)
ax.set_xlabel("Time")
```

Explore

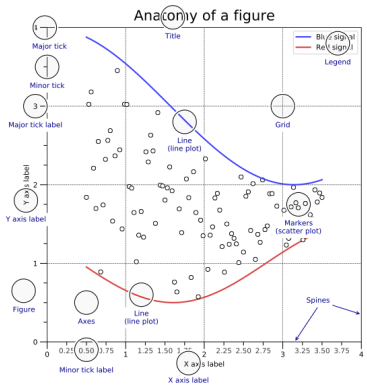
Figures are shown with a graphical user interface that allows to zoom and pan the figure, to navigate between the different views and to show the value under the mouse.

Save (bitmap or vector format)

```
fig.savefig("my-first-figure.png", dpi=300)
fig.savefig("my-first-figure.pdf")
```


Matplotlib for intermediate users

A matplotlib figure is composed of a hierarchy of elements that forms the actual figure. Each element can be modified.



Figure, axes & spines

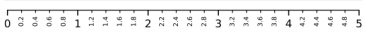
```
fig, axs = plt.subplots((3,3))
axs[0,0].set_facecolor("#dddddff")
axs[2,2].set_facecolor("#ffffdd")
```

```
gs = fig.add_gridspec(3, 3)
ax = fig.add_subplot(gs[0, :])
ax.set_facecolor("#dddddff")
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.spines["top"].set_color("None")
ax.spines["right"].set_color("None")
```

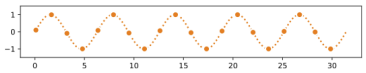
Ticks & labels

```
from mpl.ticker import MultipleLocator as ML
from mpl.ticker import ScalarFormatter as SF
ax.xaxis.set_minor_locator(ML(0.2))
ax.xaxis.set_minor_formatter(SF())
ax.tick_params(axis='x',which='minor',rotation=90)
```



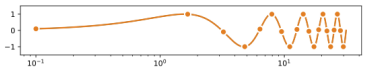
Lines & markers

```
X = np.linspace(0.1, 10*np.pi, 1000)
Y = np.sin(X)
ax.plot(X, Y, "C1o:", markevery=25, mec="1.0")
```



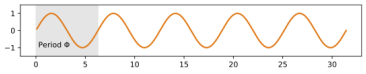
Scales & Projections

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.set_xscale("log")
ax.plot(X, Y, "C1o-", markevery=25, mec="1.0")
```



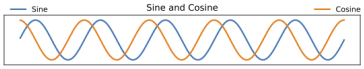
Text & Ornaments

```
ax.fill_betweenx([-1,1],[0],[2*np.pi])
ax.text(0, -1, r" Period $\Phi$")
```



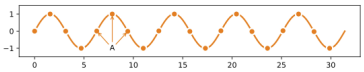
Legend

```
ax.plot(X, np.sin(X), "C0", label="Sine")
ax.plot(X, np.cos(X), "C1", label="Cosine")
ax.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(0,1,1,.1),ncol=2,
          mode="expand",  loc="lower left")
```



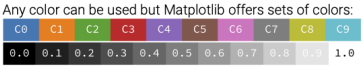
Annotation

```
ax.annotate("A", (X[250],Y[250]),(X[250],-1),
  ha="center", va="center",arrowprops =
  {"arrowstyle" : "->", "color": "C1"})
```



Colors

Any color can be used but Matplotlib offers sets of colors:



Size & DPI

Consider a square figure to be included in a two-columns A4 paper with 2cm margins on each side and a column separation of 1cm. The width of a figure is (21 - 2*2 - 1)/2 = 8cm. One inch being 2.54cm, figure size should be 3.15×3.15 in.

```
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(3.15,3.15), dpi=50)
plt.savefig("figure.pdf", dpi=600)
```

Matplotlib tips & tricks

Transparency

Scatter plots can be enhanced by using transparency (alpha) in order to show area with higher density and multiple scatter plots can be used to delineate a frontier.

```
X = np.random.normal(-1,1,500)
Y = np.random.normal(-1,1,500)
ax.scatter(X, Y, 50, "0.0", lw=2) # optional
ax.scatter(X, Y, 50, "1.0", lw=0) # optional
ax.scatter(X, Y, 40, "C1",  lw=0, alpha=0.1)
```

Rasterization

If your figure is made of a lot graphical elements such as a huge scatter, you can rasterize them to save memory and keep other elements in vector format.

```
X = np.random.normal(-1, 1, 10_000)
Y = np.random.normal(-1, 1, 10_000)
ax.scatter(X, Y, rasterized=True)
fig.savefig("rasterized-figure.pdf", dpi=600)
```

Offline rendering

Use the Agg backend to render a figure directly in an array.

```
from matplotlib.backends.backend_agg import FigureCanvas
canvas = FigureCanvas(Figure())
... # draw som stuff
canvas.draw()
Z = np.array(canvas.renderer.buffer_rgba())
```

Range of continuous colors

You can use colormap to pick a range of continuous colors.

```
X = np.random.randn(1000, 4)
cmap = plt.get_cmap("Blues")
colors = [cmap(i) for in in [.2,.4,.6,.8]]

ax.hist(X, 2, histtype='bar', color=colors)
```

Text outline

Use text outline to make text more visible.

```
import matplotlib.patheffects as fx
text = ax.text(0.5, 0.1, "Label")
text.set_path_effects([
  fx.Stroke(linewidth=3, foreground='1.0'),
  fx.Normal()])
```

Multiline plot

You can plot several lines at once using None as separator.

```
X,Y = [], []
for x in np.linspace(0, 10*np.pi, 100):
  X.extend([x, x, None]), Y.extend([0, sin(x), None])
ax.plot(X, Y, "black")
```

Dotted lines

To have rounded dotted lines, use a custom `linestyle` and modify `dash_capstyle`.

```
ax.plot([0,1], [0,0], "C1",
        linestyle = (0, (0.01, 1)), dash_capstyle="round")
ax.plot([0,1], [1,1], "C1",
        linestyle = (0, (0.01, 2)), dash_capstyle="round")
```

Combining axes

You can use overlaid axes with different projections.

```
ax1 = fig.add_axes([0,0,1,1],
                   label="cartesian")
ax2 = fig.add_axes([0,0,1,1],
                   label="polar",
                   projection="polar")
```

Colorbar adjustment

You can adjust colorbar aspect when adding it.

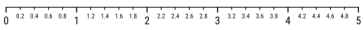
```
im = ax.imshow(Z)

cb = plt.colorbar(im,
        fraction=0.046, pad=0.04)
cb.set_ticks([])
```

Taking advantage of typography

You can use a condensed face such as Roboto Condensed to save space on tick labels.

```
for tick in ax.get_xticklabels(which='both'):
    tick.set_fontname("Roboto Condensed")
```



Getting rid of margins

Once your figure is finished, you can call `tight_layout()` to remove white margins. If there are remaining margins, you can use the `pdfcrop` utility (comes with TeX live).

Hatching

You can achieve nice visual effect with thick hatch patterns.

```
cmap = plt.get_cmap("Oranges")
plt.rcParams['hatch.color'] = cmap(0.2)
plt.rcParams['hatch.linewidth'] = 8
ax.bar(X, Y, color=cmap(0.6), hatch="/" )
```

Read the documentation

Matplotlib comes with an extensive documenation explaining every detals of each command and is generally accompanied by examples with. Together with the huge online gallery, this documenation is a gold-mine.