# ipywidgets Documentation

Release 6.0.0.dev

https://jupyter.org

### User Guide

1 Contents		
	1.1	Installation
	1.2	Using Interact
	1.3	Simple Widget Introduction
	1.4	Widget List
	1.5	Widget Events
	1.6	Layout and Styling of Jupyter widgets
	1.7	Building a Custom Widget - Hello World
	1.8	Building a Custom Widget - Date Picker
	1.9	Building a Custom Widget - A More Advanced Date Picker
	1.10	Low Level Widget Tutorial
	1.11	Contributing
	1.12	ipywidgets changelog
	1.13	Developer Install
	1.14	Testing
	1.15	Building the Documentation
	1.16	Developer Release Procedure

# **Contents**

### 1.1 Installation

Users can install the current version of **ipywidgets** with pip or conda.

### 1.1.1 With pip

```
pip install ipywidgets
jupyter nbextension enable --py widgetsnbextension
```

When using virtualenv and working in an activated virtual environment, the --sys-prefix option may be required to enable the extension and keep the environment isolated (i.e. jupyter nbextension enable --py widgetsnbextension --sys-prefix).

#### 1.1.2 With conda

```
conda install -c conda-forge ipywidgets
```

Installing ipywidgets with conda will also enable the extension for you.

# 1.2 Using Interact

The interact function (ipywidgets.interact) automatically creates user interface (UI) controls for exploring code and data interactively. It is the easiest way to get started using IPython's widgets.

As of ipywidgets 5.0, only static images of the widgets in this notebook will show on http://nbviewer.ipython.org. To view the live widgets and interact with them, you will need to download this notebook and run it with a Jupyter Notebook server.

### 1.2.1 Basic interact

At the most basic level, interact autogenerates UI controls for function arguments, and then calls the function with those arguments when you manipulate the controls interactively. To use interact, you need to define a function that you want to explore. Here is a function that prints its only argument x.

```
In [2]: def f(x):
    return x
```

When you pass this function as the first argument to interact along with an integer keyword argument (x=10), a slider is generated and bound to the function parameter.

```
In [3]: interact(f, x=10);

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_8_0.png
```

10

When you move the slider, the function is called, which prints the current value of x.

If you pass True or False, interact will generate a checkbox:

```
In [4]: interact(f, x=True);

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_10_0.png
```

True

If you pass a string, interact will generate a text area.

```
In [5]: interact(f, x='Hi there!');
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_12_0.png
```

'Hi there!'

interact can also be used as a decorator. This allows you to define a function and interact with it in a single shot. As this example shows, interact also works with functions that have multiple arguments.

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_14_0.png

(True, 1.0)
```

### 1.2.2 Fixing arguments using fixed

There are times when you may want to explore a function using interact, but fix one or more of its arguments to specific values. This can be accomplished by wrapping values with the fixed function.

When we call interact, we pass fixed (20) for q to hold it fixed at a value of 20.

```
In [8]: interact(h, p=5, q=fixed(20));
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_19_0.png
```

(5, 20)

Notice that a slider is only produced for p as the value of q is fixed.

### 1.2.3 Widget abbreviations

When you pass an integer-valued keyword argument of 10 (x=10) to interact, it generates an integer-valued slider control with a range of  $[-10, +3 \times 10]$ . In this case, 10 is an *abbreviation* for an actual slider widget:

```
IntSlider(min=-10, max=30, step=1, value=10)
```

In fact, we can get the same result if we pass this IntSlider as the keyword argument for x:

```
In [9]: interact(f, x=widgets.IntSlider(min=-10, max=30, step=1, value=10));
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_23_0.png
```

10

This examples clarifies how interact proceses its keyword arguments:

- 1. If the keyword argument is a Widget instance with a value attribute, that widget is used. Any widget with a value attribute can be used, even custom ones.
- 2. Otherwise, the value is treated as a widget abbreviation that is converted to a widget before it is used.

1.2. Using Interact 3

The following table gives an overview of different widget abbreviations:

#### Keyword argument

### Widget

True or False

#### Checkbox

```
'Hi there'
```

#### Text

value or (min, max) or (min, max, step) if integers are passed

#### IntSlider

value or (min, max) or (min, max, step) if floats are passed

#### FloatSlider

```
('orange', 'apple') or {'one':1, 'two':2}
```

#### Dropdown

You have seen how the checkbox and textarea widgets work above. Here, more details about the different abbreviations for sliders and dropdowns are given.

If a 2-tuple of integers is passed (min, max), an integer-valued slider is produced with those minimum and maximum values (inclusively). In this case, the default step size of 1 is used.

```
In [10]: interact(f, x=(0,4));
```

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_26_0.png
```

2

If a 3-tuple of integers is passed (min, max, step), the step size can also be set.

```
In [11]: interact(f, x=(0,8,2));
```

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_28_0.png
```

4

A float-valued slider is produced if the elements of the tuples are floats. Here the minimum is 0.0, the maximum is 10.0 and step size is 0.1 (the default).

```
In [12]: interact(f, x=(0.0,10.0));
```

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_30_0.png
```

5.0

The step size can be changed by passing a third element in the tuple.

```
In [13]: interact(f, x=(0.0,10.0,0.01));

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_32_0.png
```

4.99

For both integer and float-valued sliders, you can pick the initial value of the widget by passing a default keyword argument to the underlying Python function. Here we set the initial value of a float slider to 5.5.

```
In [14]: @interact(x=(0.0,20.0,0.5))
    def h(x=5.5):
        return x

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_34_0.png
```

5.5

Dropdown menus are constructed by passing a tuple of strings. In this case, the strings are both used as the names in the dropdown menu UI and passed to the underlying Python function.

```
In [15]: interact(f, x=('apples','oranges'));
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_36_0.png
```

'apples'

If you want a dropdown menu that passes non-string values to the Python function, you can pass a dictionary. The keys in the dictionary are used for the names in the dropdown menu UI and the values are the arguments that are passed to the underlying Python function.

```
In [16]: interact(f, x=\{'one': 10, 'two': 20\});
```

1.2. Using Interact 5

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_38_0.png
```

20

### 1.2.4 Using function annotations with interact

If you are using Python 3, you can also specify widget abbreviations using function annotations.

Define a function with a checkbox widget abbreviation for the argument x.

Then, because the widget abbreviation has already been defined, you can call interact with a single argument.

```
In [23]: interact(f);

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_43_0.png
```

True

If you are running Python 2, function annotations can be defined using the @annotate function.

True

#### 1.2.5 interactive

In addition to interact, IPython provides another function, interactive, that is useful when you want to reuse the widgets that are produced or access the data that is bound to the UI controls.

Here is a function that returns the sum of its two arguments.

```
In [27]: def f(a, b):
    return a+b
```

Unlike interact, interactive returns a Widget instance rather than immediately displaying the widget.

```
In [28]: w = interactive(f, a=10, b=20)
```

The widget is a Box, which is a container for other widgets.

```
In [29]: type(w)
Out[29]: ipywidgets.widgets.widget_box.Box
```

The children of the Box are two integer-valued sliders produced by the widget abbreviations above.

To actually display the widgets, you can use IPython's display function.

30

At this point, the UI controls work just like they would if interact had been used. You can manipulate them interactively and the function will be called. However, the widget instance returned by interactive also give you access to the current keyword arguments and return value of the underlying Python function.

Here are the current keyword arguments. If you rerun this cell after manipulating the sliders, the values will have changed.

```
In [32]: w.kwargs
Out[32]: {'a': 10, 'b': 20}
```

Here is the current return value of the function.

```
In [33]: w.result
Out[33]: 30
```

### 1.2.6 Disabling continuous updates

When interacting with long running functions, realtime feedback is a burden instead of being helpful. See the following example:

1.2. Using Interact 7

```
1000000 [0, 1, 2, 3, 11, 22, 101, 111, 121, 202, 212, 1001, 1111, 2002, 10001, 10101, 1020] CPU times: user 1.08 s, sys: 0 ns, total: 1.08 s
Wall time: 1.08 s
```

Notice that the output is updated even while dragging the mouse on the slider. This is not useful for long running functions due to lagging:

```
100000 [0, 1, 2, 3, 11, 22, 101, 111, 121, 202, 212, 1001, 1111, 2002, 10001, 10101, 10201]
Out[36]: <function __main__.slow_function>
```

There are two ways to mitigate this. You can either only execute on demand, or restrict execution to mouse release events.

#### manual

The \_\_manual kwarg of interact allows you to restrict execution so it is only done on demand. A button is added to the interact controls that allows you to trigger an execute event.

```
In [37]: interact(slow_function,i=FloatSlider(min=1e5, max=1e7, step=1e5),__manual=True)
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_73_0.png
```

```
Out[37]: <function __main__.slow_function>
```

#### continuous\_update

8

If you are using slider widgets, you can set the continuous\_update kwarg to False. continuous\_update is a kwarg of slider widgets that restricts executions to mouse release events.

```
In [38]: interact(slow_function,i=FloatSlider(min=1e5, max=1e7, step=1e5,continuous_update=
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_UsingInteract_76_0.png
```

```
100000 [0, 1, 2, 3, 11, 22, 101, 111, 121, 202, 212, 1001, 1111, 2002, 10001, 10101, 10201 Out[38]: <function __main__.slow_function>
```

### 1.2.7 Arguments that are dependent of each other

Arguments that are dependent of each other can be expressed manually using observe. See the following example, where one variable is used to describe the bounds of another. For more information, please see the widget events example notebook.

# 1.3 Simple Widget Introduction

## 1.3.1 What are widgets?

Widgets are eventful python objects that have a representation in the browser, often as a control like a slider, textbox, etc.

### 1.3.2 What can they be used for?

You can use widgets to build interactive GUIs for your notebooks.

You can also use widgets to \*\*synchronize stateful and stateless

information\*\* between Python and JavaScript.

### 1.3.3 Using widgets

To use the widget framework, you need to import ipywidgets.

```
In [1]: from ipywidgets import *
```

#### repr

Widgets have their own display repr which allows them to be displayed using IPython's display framework. Constructing and returning an IntSlider automatically displays the widget (as seen below). Widgets are displayed inside the widget area, which sits between the code cell and output. You can hide all of the widgets in the widget area by clicking the grey x in the margin.

```
In [2]: IntSlider()

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetBasics_11_0.png
```

### display()

You can also explicitly display the widget using display (...).

```
In [3]: from IPython.display import display
    w = IntSlider()
    display(w)
```

### Multiple display() calls

If you display the same widget twice, the displayed instances in the front-end will remain in sync with each other. Try dragging the slider below and watch the slider above.

```
In [4]: display(w)
```

### 1.3.4 Why does displaying the same widget twice work?

Widgets are represented in the back-end by a single object. Each time a widget is displayed, a new representation of that same object is created in the front-end. These representations are called views.

### **Closing widgets**

You can close a widget by calling its close () method.

```
In [5]: display(w)
In [6]: w.close()
```

# 1.3.5 Widget properties

All of the IPython widgets share a similar naming scheme. To read the value of a widget, you can query its value property.

10

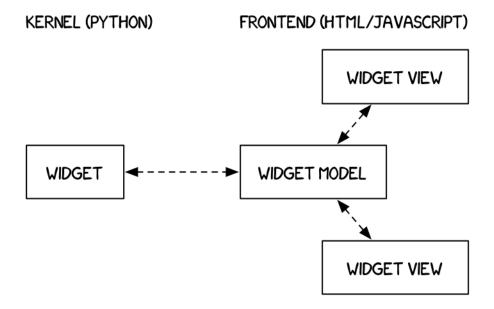


Fig. 1.1: Kernel & front-end diagram

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetBasics_26_0.png

In [8]: w.value

Out[8]: 0

Similarly, to set a widget's value, you can set its value property.
```

### **Keys**

In addition to value, most widgets share keys, description, disabled, and visible. To see the entire list of synchronized, stateful properties of any specific widget, you can query the keys property.

In [9]: w.value = 100

```
'_dom_classes',
'_view_name',
' model name',
'margin',
'color',
'border_color',
'continuous_update',
'_model_module',
'value',
'description',
'padding',
'orientation',
'border_width',
'width',
'step',
'height',
'border_style',
'min',
'visible',
'_range',
'msg_throttle',
'font_weight']
```

### Shorthand for setting the initial values of widget properties

While creating a widget, you can set some or all of the initial values of that widget by defining them as keyword arguments in the widget's constructor (as seen below).

```
In [11]: Text(value='Hello World!', disabled=True)

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetBasics_35_0.png
```

### 1.3.6 Linking two similar widgets

If you need to display the same value two different ways, you'll have to use two different widgets. Instead of attempting to manually synchronize the values of the two widgets, you can use the traitlet link function to link two properties together. Below, the values of two widgets are linked together.

```
In [12]: from traitlets import link
    a = FloatText()
    b = FloatSlider()
    display(a,b)

mylink = link((a, 'value'), (b, 'value'))
```

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetBasics_38_0.png
```

### **Unlinking widgets**

Unlinking the widgets is simple. All you have to do is call .unlink on the link object. Try changing one of the widgets above after unlinking to see that they can be independently changed.

```
In [13]: mylink.unlink()
Index - Next
Index - Back - Next
```

# 1.4 Widget List

### 1.4.1 Complete list

For a complete list of the GUI widgets available to you, you can list the registered widget types. Widget and DOMWidget, not listed below, are base classes.

```
In [1]: import ipywidgets as widgets
        widgets.Widget.widget_types.values()
Out[1]: [ipywidgets.widgets.widget_int.IntRangeSlider,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_selection.RadioButtons,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_int.Play,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget controller.Axis,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_float.FloatSlider,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_int.IntSlider,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_image.Image,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget selection.SelectMultiple,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_string.HTML,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_box.Box,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_selectioncontainer.Accordion,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_button.Button,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_bool.Valid,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_selection.Dropdown,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_selection.SelectionSlider,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_box.Proxy,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_string.Text,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_selection.ToggleButtons,
         ipywidgets.widget_float.FloatRangeSlider,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_color.ColorPicker,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget bool.Checkbox,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_string.Label,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_controller.Controller,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_box.PlaceProxy,
         ipywidgets.widget float.FloatText,
         ipywidgets.widgets.widget_float.BoundedFloatText,
```

1.4. Widget List

```
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_link.DirectionalLink,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_bool.ToggleButton,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_selection.Select,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_int.IntProgress,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_string.Textarea,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_selectioncontainer.Tab,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_int.IntText,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_float.FloatProgress,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_int.BoundedIntText,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_link.Link,
ipywidgets.widgets.widget_controller.Button]
```

### 1.4.2 Numeric widgets

There are 8 widgets distributed with IPython that are designed to display numeric values. Widgets exist for displaying integers and floats, both bounded and unbounded. The integer widgets share a similar naming scheme to their floating point counterparts. By replacing Float with Int in the widget name, you can find the Integer equivalent.

#### **FloatSlider**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

Sliders can also be displayed vertically.

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetList_10_0.png
```

### **FloatProgress**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

#### **BoundedFloatText**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

1.4. Widget List 15

### **FloatText**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### 1.4.3 Boolean widgets

There are three widgets that are designed to display a boolean value.

### **ToggleButton**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### Checkbox

#### **Valid**

The valid widget provides a read-only indicator.

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### 1.4.4 Selection widgets

There are four widgets that can be used to display single selection lists, and one that can be used to display multiple selection lists. All inherit from the same base class. You can specify the **enumeration of selectable options by passing a list**. You can **also specify the enumeration as a dictionary**, in which case the **keys will be used as the item displayed** in the list and the corresponding **value will be returned** when an item is selected.

### **Dropdown**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

```
In [11]: w.value
Out[11]: '2'
```

The following is also valid:

1.4. Widget List

```
In [13]: w.value
Out[13]: 2
```

In [15]: w.value

display(w)

Furthermore, if a dropdown contains too man items, a scrollbar is automatically added.

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetList_37_0.png
```

```
In [17]: w.value
Out[17]: 2
```

#### **RadioButtons**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

#### Select

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

#### SelectionSlider

1.4. Widget List

```
options=['scrambled', 'sunny side up', 'poached', 'over easy'],
)
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetList_44_0.png
```

### **ToggleButtons**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### SelectMultiple

Multiple values can be selected with shift and/or ctrl (or command) pressed and mouse clicks or arrow keys.

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

```
In [23]: w.value
Out[23]: ()
```

### 1.4.5 String widgets

There are 4 widgets that can be used to display a string value. Of those, the Text and Textarea widgets accept input. The Label and HTML widgets display the string as either Label or HTML respectively, but do not accept input.

#### **Text**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

#### **Textarea**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

#### Label

1.4. Widget List

#### **HTML**

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### **1.4.6 Button**

```
In [28]: widgets.Button(description='Click me')
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetList_61_0.png
```

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### 1.4.7 Animation widget

The Play widget is useful to perform animations by iterating on a sequence of integers with a certain speed.

```
Index - Back - Next
Index - Back - Next
```

# 1.5 Widget Events

### 1.5.1 Special events

```
In [1]: from __future__ import print_function
```

The Button is not used to represent a data type. Instead the button widget is used to handle mouse clicks. The on\_click method of the Button can be used to register function to be called when the button is clicked. The doc string of the on\_click can be seen below.

```
In [2]: import ipywidgets as widgets
    print (widgets.Button.on_click.__doc__)

Register a callback to execute when the button is clicked.

The callback will be called with one argument, the clicked button widget instance.

Parameters
-----
remove: bool (optional)
Set to true to remove the callback from the list of callbacks.
```

### **Example**

Since button clicks are stateless, they are transmitted from the front-end to the back-end using custom messages. By using the on\_click method, a button that prints a message when it has been clicked is shown below.

```
In [3]: from IPython.display import display
    button = widgets.Button(description="Click Me!")
    display(button)

def on_button_clicked(b):
    print("Button clicked.")

button.on_click(on_button_clicked)

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetEvents_8_0.png
```

1.5. Widget Events

#### on submit

```
The Text widget also has a special on_submit event. The on_submit event fires when the user hits return.
```

### 1.5.2 Traitlet events

Widget properties are IPython traitlets and traitlets are eventful. To handle changes, the observe method of the widget can be used to register a callback. The doc string for observe can be seen below.

```
In [5]: print(widgets.Widget.observe.__doc__)
Setup a handler to be called when a trait changes.
        This is used to setup dynamic notifications of trait changes.
        Parameters
        handler : callable
            A callable that is called when a trait changes. Its
            signature should be ``handler(change)``, where ``change```is a
            dictionary. The change dictionary at least holds a 'type' key.
            * ``type``: the type of notification.
            Other keys may be passed depending on the value of 'type'. In the
            case where type is 'change', we also have the following keys:
            * ``owner`` : the HasTraits instance
            * ``old`` : the old value of the modified trait attribute
            \star ``new`` : the new value of the modified trait attribute
            * ``name`` : the name of the modified trait attribute.
        names : list, str, All
            If names is All, the handler will apply to all traits. If a list
            of str, handler will apply to all names in the list. If a
            str, the handler will apply just to that name.
        type : str, All (default: 'change')
            The type of notification to filter by. If equal to All, then all
            notifications are passed to the observe handler.
```

### **Signatures**

Mentioned in the doc string, the callback registered must have the signature handler (change) where change is a dictionary holding the information about the change.

Using this method, an example of how to output an IntSlider's value as it is changed can be seen below.

### 1.5.3 Linking Widgets

In [7]: import traitlets

Often, you may want to simply link widget attributes together. Synchronization of attributes can be done in a simpler way than by using bare traitlets events.

#### Linking traitlets attributes from the server side

The first method is to use the link and dlink functions from the traitlets module.

1.5. Widget Events 25

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetEvents_23_0.png
```

Function traitlets.link and traitlets.dlink return a Link or DLink object. The link can be broken by calling the unlink method.

### Linking widgets attributes from the client side

When synchronizing traitlets attributes, you may experience a lag because of the latency due to the roundtrip to the server side. You can also directly link widget attributes in the browser using the link widgets, in either a unidirectional or a bidirectional fashion.

Index - Back - Next

# 1.6 Layout and Styling of Jupyter widgets

This notebook presents how to layout and style Jupyter interactive widgets to build rich and *reactive* widget-based applications.

### 1.6.1 The layout attribute.

Every Jupyter interactive widget has a layout attribute exposing a number of css properties that impact how widgets are laid out.

### **Exposed css properties**

The following properties map to the values of the css properties of the same name (underscores being replaced with dashes), applied to the top DOM elements of the corresponding widget.

```
** Sizes ** - height - width - max_height - max_width - min_height - min_width

** Display **

• visibility

• display

• overflow

• overflow_x

• overflow_y

** Box model ** - border - margin - padding

** Positioning ** - top - left - bottom - right

** Flexbox ** - order - flex_flow - align_items - flex - align_self - align_content - justify_content
```

#### **Shorthand css properties**

You may have noticed that certain css properties such as margin-[top/right/bottom/left] seem to be missing. The same holds for padding-[top/right/bottom/left] etc.

In fact, you can atomically specify [top/right/bottom/left] margins via the margin attribute alone by passing the string

```
margin: 100px 150px 100px 80px;
```

for a respectively top, right, bottom and left margins of 100, 150, 100 and 80 pixels.

Similarly, the flex attribute can hold values for flex-grow, flex-shrink and flex-basis. The border attribute is a shorthand property for border-width, border-style (required), and border-color.

#### Simple examples

The following example shows how to resize a Button so that its views have a height of 80px and a width of 50% of the available space:

```
In [1]: from ipywidgets import *
```

Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge

The layout property can be shared amongst multiple widgets and assigned directly.

```
In [3]: i = Button(description='Another button with the same layout', layout=s.layout)
i
```

Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge

### **Description**

You may have noticed that the widget's length is shorter in presence of a description. This because the description is added *inside* of the widget's total length. You **cannot** change the width of the internal description field. If you need more flexibility to layout widgets and captions, you should use a combination with the Label widgets arranged in a layout.

```
In [4]: HBox([Label('A too long description'), IntSlider()])
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
```

### More Styling (colors, inner-widget details)

The layout attribute only exposes layout-related css properties for the top-level DOM element of widgets. Individual widgets may expose more styling-related properties, or none. For example, the Button widget has a button\_style attribute that may take 5 different values:

- 'primary'
- 'success'
- 'info'
- 'warning'
- 'danger'

besides the default empty string ".

```
In [5]: Button(description='Danger Button', button_style='danger')
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
```

#### Natural sizes, and arangements using HBox and VBox

Most of the core-widgets have - a natural width that is a multiple of 148 pixels - a natural height of 32 pixels or a multiple of that number. - a default margin of 2 pixels

which will be the ones used when it is not specified in the layout attribute.

This allows simple layouts based on the HBox and VBox helper functions to align naturally:

```
HBox([VBox([items[0], items[1]]), VBox([items[2], items[3]])])
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
```

#### Latex

Widgets such as sliders and text inputs have a description attribute that can render Latex Equations. The Label widget also renders Latex equations.

```
In [7]: IntSlider(description='$\int_0^t f$')
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
In [8]: Label(value='$e=mc^2$')
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
```

### **Number formatting**

Sliders have a readout field which can be formatted using Python's *Format Specification Mini-Language*: https://docs.python.org/3/library/string.html#format-specification-mini-language. If the space available for the readout is too narrow for the string representation of the slider value, a different styling is applied to show that not all digits are visible.

### 1.6.2 The Flexbox layout

In fact, the HBox and VBox helpers used above are functions returning instances of the Box widget with specific options.

The Box widgets enables the entire CSS Flexbox spec, enabling rich reactive layouts in the Jupyter notebook. It aims at providing an efficient way to lay out, align and distribute space among items in a container.

Again, the whole Flexbox spec is exposed via the layout attribute of the container widget (Box) and the contained items. One may share the same layout attribute among all the contained items.

### Aknowledgement

The following tutorial on the Flexbox layout follows the lines of the article *A Complete Guide to Flexbox* by Chris Coyier available here: https://css-tricks.com/snippets/css/a-guide-to-flexbox/

### **Basics and terminology**

Since flexbox is a whole module and not a single property, it involves a lot of things including its whole set of properties. Some of them are meant to be set on the container (parent element, known as "flex container") whereas the others are meant to be set on the children (said "flex items").

If regular layout is based on both block and inline flow directions, the flex layout is based on "flex-flow directions". Please have a look at this figure from the specification, explaining the main idea behind the flex layout.

Basically, items will be laid out following either the main axis (from main-start to main-end) or the cross axis (from cross-start to cross-end).

• main axis - The main axis of a flex container is the primary axis along which flex items are laid out. Beware, it is not necessarily horizontal; it depends on the flex-direction property (see below).

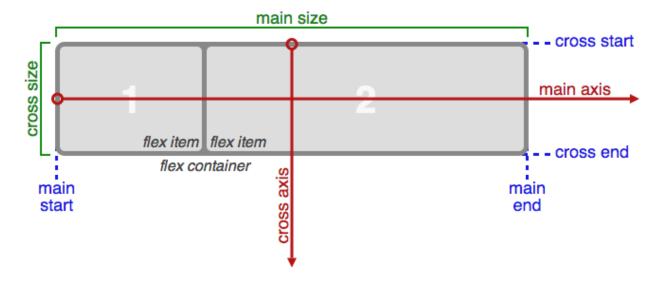


Fig. 1.2: Flexbox

- main-start | main-end The flex items are placed within the container starting from main-start and going to main-end.
- main size A flex item's width or height, whichever is in the main dimension, is the item's main size. The flex item's main size property is either the 'width' or 'height' property, whichever is in the main dimension. cross axis The axis perpendicular to the main axis is called the cross axis. Its direction depends on the main axis direction.
- cross-start | cross-end Flex lines are filled with items and placed into the container starting on the cross-start side of the flex container and going toward the cross-end side.
- cross size The width or height of a flex item, whichever is in the cross dimension, is the item's cross size. The cross size property is whichever of 'width' or 'height' that is in the cross dimension.

### Properties of the parent

30

Fig. 1.3: Container

• display (must be equal to 'flex' or 'inline-flex')

This defines a flex container (inline or block). - flex-flow (shorthand for two properties)

This is a shorthand flex-direction and flex-wrap properties, which together define the flex container's main and cross axes. Default is row nowrap.

```
- `flex-direction` (row | row-reverse | column | column-reverse)

This establishes the main-axis, thus defining the direction flex items are placed_
in the flex container. Flexbox is (aside from optional wrapping) a single-direction_
illustrates as primarily laying out either in horizontal_
rows or vertical columns.
![Direction](./images/flex-direction1.svg)

- `flex-wrap` (nowrap | wrap | wrap-reverse)
```

By default, flex items will all try to fit onto one line. You can change that and →allow the items to wrap as needed with this property. Direction also plays a role →here, determining the direction new lines are stacked in.
![Wrap](./images/flex-wrap.svg)

• justify-content (flex-start | flex-end | center | space-between | space-around)

This defines the alignment along the main axis. It helps distribute extra free space left over when either all the flex items on a line are inflexible, or are flexible but have reached their maximum size. It also exerts some control over the alignment of items when they overflow the line.

• align-items (flex-start | flex-end | center | baseline | stretch)

This defines the default behaviour for how flex items are laid out along the cross axis on the current line. Think of it as the justify-content version for the cross-axis (perpendicular to the main-axis).

• align-content (flex-start | flex-end | center | baseline | stretch)

This aligns a flex container's lines within when there is extra space in the cross-axis, similar to how justify-content aligns individual items within the main-axis.

**Note**: this property has no effect when there is only one line of flex items.

### Properties of the items

Fig. 1.4: Item

The flexbox-related css properties of the items have no impact if the parent element is not a flexbox container (i.e. has a display attribute equal to flex or inline-flex).

• order

By default, flex items are laid out in the source order. However, the order property controls the order in which they appear in the flex container.

- flex (shorthand for three properties) This is the shorthand for flex-grow, flex-shrink and flex-basis combined. The second and third parameters (flex-shrink and flex-basis) are optional. Default is 0 1 auto.
  - flex-grow

This defines the ability for a flex item to grow if necessary. It accepts a unitless value that serves as a proportion. It dictates what amount of the available space inside the flex container the item should take up.

If all items have flex-grow set to 1, the remaining space in the container will be distributed equally to all children. If one of the children a value of 2, the remaining space would take up twice as much space as the others (or it will try to, at least).

- flex-shrink

This defines the ability for a flex item to shrink if necessary.

- flex-basis

This defines the default size of an element before the remaining space is distributed. It can be a length (e.g. 20%, 5rem, etc.) or a keyword. The auto keyword means "look at my width or height property".

• align-self

This allows the default alignment (or the one specified by align-items) to be overridden for individual flex items.

Fig. 1.5: Align

### The VBox and HBox helpers

The VBox and HBox helper provide simple defaults to arrange child widgets in Vertical and Horizontal boxes.

```
def VBox(*pargs, **kwargs):
    """Displays multiple widgets vertically using the flexible box model."""
    box = Box(*pargs, **kwargs)
    box.layout.display = 'flex'
    box.layout.flex_flow = 'column'
    box.layout.align_items = 'stretch'
    return box

def HBox(*pargs, **kwargs):
    """Displays multiple widgets horizontally using the flexible box model."""
    box = Box(*pargs, **kwargs)
    box.layout.display = 'flex'
    box.layout.align_items = 'stretch'
    return box
```

### **Examples**

Four buttons in a "VBox". Items stretch to the maximum width, in a vertical box taking "50%" of the available space.

Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge

Three buttons in an HBox. Items flex proportionaly to their weight.

```
border='solid',
                              width='50%')
         box = Box(children=items, layout=box_layout)
         box
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
A more advanced example: a reactive form.
The form is a VBox of width '50%'. Each row in the VBox is an HBox, that justifies the content with space between...
In [11]: label_layout = Layout()
         form_item_layout = Layout(
             display='flex',
             flex_flow='row',
             justify_content='space-between'
         )
         form items = [
             Box([Label(value='Age of the captain'), IntSlider(min=40, max=60)], layout=for
             Box([Label(value='Egg style'),
                   Dropdown(options=['Scrambled', 'Sunny side up', 'Over easy'])], layout=fo
             Box([Label(value='Ship size'),
                   FloatText()], layout=form_item_layout),
             Box([Label(value='Information'),
                   Textarea()], layout=form_item_layout)
         1
         form = Box(form_items, layout=Layout(
             display='flex',
             flex_flow='column',
             border='solid 2px',
             align_items='stretch',
             width='50%'
         ))
         form
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
A more advanced example: a carousel.
In [12]: item_layout = Layout(height='100px')
         items = [Button(layout=item layout, button style='warning') for i in range(40)]
         box_layout = Layout(overflow_x='scroll',
                              border='3px solid black',
                              width='500px',
                              height='',
                              flex_direction='row',
                              display='flex')
         HBox(children=items, layout=box_layout)
Widget Javascript not detected. It may not be installed properly. Did you enable the widge
Index - Back
```

In [1]: from \_\_future\_\_ import print\_function

# 1.7 Building a Custom Widget - Hello World

The widget framework is built on top of the Comm framework (short for communication). The Comm framework is a framework that allows the kernel to send/receive JSON messages to/from the front end (as seen below).

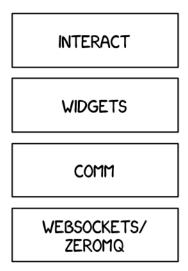


Fig. 1.6: Widget layer

To create a custom widget, you need to define the widget both in the browser and in the python kernel.

## 1.7.1 Building a Custom Widget

To get started, you'll create a simple hello world widget. Later you'll build on this foundation to make more complex widgets.

## 1.7.2 Python Kernel

### **DOMWidget and Widget**

To define a widget, you must inherit from the Widget or DOMWidget base class. If you intend for your widget to be displayed in the Jupyter notebook, you'll want to inherit from the DOMWidget. The DOMWidget class itself inherits from the Widget class. The Widget class is useful for cases in which the Widget is not meant to be displayed directly in the notebook, but instead as a child of another rendering environment. For example, if you wanted to create a three.js widget (a popular WebGL library), you would implement the rendering window as a DOMWidget and any 3D objects or lights meant to be rendered in that window as Widgets.

#### *view*name

Inheriting from the DOMWidget does not tell the widget framework what front end widget to associate with your back end widget.

Instead, you must tell it yourself by defining specially named trait attributes, \_view\_name and \_view\_module (as seen below) and optionally \_model\_name and \_model\_module.

### sync=True traitlets

Traitlets is an IPython library for defining type-safe properties on configurable objects. For this tutorial you do not need to worry about the *configurable* piece of the traitlets machinery. The sync=True keyword argument tells the widget framework to handle synchronizing that value to the browser. Without sync=True, the browser would have no knowledge of \_view\_name or \_view\_module.

### Other traitlet types

Unicode, used for viewname, is not the only Traitlet type, there are many more some of which are listed below:

- Any
- Bool
- Bytes
- CBool
- CBytes
- CComplex
- CFloat
- CInt
- CLong
- CRegExp
- CUnicode
- CaselessStrEnum
- Complex
- Dict
- DottedObjectName
- Enum
- Float
- FunctionType
- Instance
- InstanceType
- Int
- List
- Long

- Set
- TCPAddress
- Tuple
- Type
- Unicode
- Union

Not all of these traitlets can be synchronized across the network, only the JSON-able traits and Widget instances will be synchronized.

## 1.7.3 Front end (JavaScript)

#### Models and views

The IPython widget framework front end relies heavily on Backbone.js. Backbone.js is an MVC (model view controller) framework. Widgets defined in the back end are automatically synchronized with generic Backbone.js models in the front end. The traitlets are added to the front end instance automatically on first state push. The \_view\_name trait that you defined earlier is used by the widget framework to create the corresponding Backbone.js view and link that view to the model.

### Import jupyter-js-widgets

You first need to import the jupyter-js-widgets module. To import modules, use the define method of require.js (as seen below).

#### Define the view

Next define your widget view class. Inherit from the DOMWidgetView by using the .extend method.

```
In [4]: %%javascript
    require.undef('hello');

    define('hello', ["jupyter-js-widgets"], function(widgets) {
        // Define the HelloView
        var HelloView = widgets.DOMWidgetView.extend({
        });

        return {
             HelloView: HelloView
        }
     });

<IPython.core.display.Javascript object>
```

### Render method

Lastly, override the base render method of the view to define custom rendering logic. A handle to the widget's default DOM element can be acquired via this.el. The el property is the DOM element associated with the view.

### 1.7.4 Test

You should be able to display your widget just like any other widget now.

```
In [6]: HelloWidget()

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetCustom_30_0.png
```

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

## 1.7.5 Making the widget stateful

There is not much that you can do with the above example that you can't do with the IPython display framework. To change this, you will make the widget stateful. Instead of displaying a static "hello world" message, it will display a string set by the back end. First you need to add a traitlet in the back end. Use the name of value to stay consistent with the rest of the widget framework and to allow your widget to be used with interact.

```
In [7]: class HelloWidget(widgets.DOMWidget):
    __view_name = Unicode('HelloView').tag(sync=True)
    __view_module = Unicode('hello').tag(sync=True)
    value = Unicode('Hello World!').tag(sync=True)
```

### Accessing the model from the view

To access the model associate with a view instance, use the model property of the view. get and set methods are used to interact with the Backbone model. get is trivial, however you have to be careful when using set. After calling the model set you need call the view's touch method. This associates the set operation with a particular view so output will be routed to the correct cell. The model also has an on method which allows you to listen to events triggered by the model (like value changes).

### Rendering model contents

By replacing the string literal with a call to model.get, the view will now display the value of the back end upon display. However, it will not update itself to a new value when the value changes.

### **Dynamic updates**

To get the view to update itself dynamically, register a function to update the view's value when the model's value property changes. This can be done using the model. on method. The on method takes three parameters, an event name, callback handle, and callback context. The Backbone event named change will fire whenever the model changes. By appending :value to it, you tell Backbone to only listen to the change event of the value property (as seen below).

```
In [9]: %%javascript
    require.undef('hello');

define('hello', ["jupyter-js-widgets"], function(widgets) {
    var HelloView = widgets.DOMWidgetView.extend({
        render: function() {
            this.value_changed();
            this.model.on('change:value', this.value_changed, this);
      },

    value_changed: function() {
        this.el.textContent = this.model.get('value');
```

## 1.7.6 Test

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

```
In [11]: w.value = 'test'
```

#### 1.7.7 Conclusion

The example above dumps the value directly into the DOM. There is no way for you to interact with this dumped data in the front end. To create an example that accepts input, you will have to do something more than blindly dumping the contents of value into the DOM.

In the next section of the tutorial, you will build a date picker to display and accept input in the front end.

# 1.8 Building a Custom Widget - Date Picker

In the last section we created a simple widget that displayed *Hello World!* To make an actual date widget, we need to add a property that will be synced between the Python model and the JavaScript model. The new attribute must be a traitlet, so the widget machinery can handle it. The traitlet must be constructed with a sync=True keyword argument, to tell the widget machinery knows to synchronize it with the front-end. Adding this to the code from the last section:

```
In [12]: class DateWidget(widgets.DOMWidget):
    __view_name = Unicode('DatePickerView').tag(sync=True)
    __view_module = Unicode('datepicker').tag(sync=True)
    value = Unicode().tag(sync=True)
```

## 1.8.1 JavaScript

In the JavaScript, there is no need to define counterparts to the traitlets. When the JavaScript model is created for the first time, it copies all of the traitlet sync=True attributes from the Python model. We need to replace *Hello World!* 

with an actual HTML date picker widget.

In order to get the HTML date picker to update itself with the value set in the back-end, we need to implement an update () method.

```
In [14]: %%javascript
         requirejs.undef('datepicker');
         define('datepicker', ["jupyter-js-widgets"], function(widgets) {
             var DatePickerView = widgets.DOMWidgetView.extend({
                 render: function() {
                     this.date = documentElement('input');
                     this.date.setAttribute('type', 'date');
                     this.el.appendChild(this.date);
                     this.update();
                 },
                 update: function() {
                     // Set the value of the date control and then call base.
                     // ISO format "YYYY-MM-DDTHH:mm:ss.sssZ" is required
                     this.date.value = this.model.get('value');
                     return DatePickerView. super .update.apply(this);
                 },
             });
             return {
                 DatePickerView: DatePickerView
             };
         });
<IPython.core.display.Javascript object>
```

To get the changed value from the frontend to publish itself to the backend, we need to listen to the change event triggered by the HTM date control and set the value in the model. After the date change event fires and the new value is set in the model, it is very important that we call this.touch() to let the widget machinery know which view changed the model. This is important because the widget machinery needs to know which cell to route the message

callbacks to.

### Final JavaScript code below:

```
In [15]: %%javascript
         requirejs.undef('datepicker');
         define('datepicker', ["jupyter-js-widgets"], function(widgets) {
             var DatePickerView = widgets.DOMWidgetView.extend({
                 render: function() {
                     this.date = document.createElement('input');
                     this.date.setAttribute('type', 'date');
                     this.el.appendChild(this.date);
                     this.update();
                 },
                 update: function() {
                     // Set the value of the date control and then call base.
                     // ISO format "YYYY-MM-DDTHH:mm:ss.sssZ" is required
                     this.date.value = this.model.get('value');
                     return DatePickerView.__super__.update.apply(this);
                 },
                 // Tell Backbone to listen to the change event of input controls (which the
                 events: {
                     "change": "handle_date_change"
                 // Callback for when the date is changed.
                 handle_date_change: function(event) {
                     this.model.set('value', this.date.value);
                     this.touch();
                 },
             });
             return {
                 DatePickerView: DatePickerView
             };
         });
<IPython.core.display.Javascript object>
```

### 1.8.2 Test

To test, create the widget the same way that the other widgets are created.

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetCustom_55_0.png
```

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

Display the widget again to make sure that both views remain in sync.

```
In [17]: my_widget

examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetCustom_57_0.png
```

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

Read the date from Python

```
In [18]: my_widget.value
Out[18]: ''
Set the date from Python
In [19]: my_widget.value = "1998-12-01" # December 1st, 1998
```

# 1.9 Building a Custom Widget - A More Advanced Date Picker

The 3rd party dateutil library is required to continue. https://pypi.python.org/pypi/python-dateutil

# 1.9.1 Import the dateutil library to parse date strings.

```
In [20]: from dateutil import parser
```

In the last section we created a fully working date picker widget. Now we will add custom validation and support for labels. So far, only the ISO date format "YYYY-MM-DD" is supported. Now, we will add support for all of the date formats recognized by the Python dateutil library.

# 1.9.2 Python

The standard property name used for widget labels is description. In the code block below, description has been added to the Python widget.

```
In [21]: class DateWidget(widgets.DOMWidget):
    __view_name = Unicode('DatePickerView').tag(sync=True)
```

```
_view_module = Unicode('datepicker').tag(sync=True)
             value = Unicode().tag(sync=True)
             description = Unicode().tag(sync=True)
Adding a custom validator for value
In [22]: class DateWidget(widgets.DOMWidget):
             view name = Unicode('DatePickerView').tag(sync=True)
             _view_module = Unicode('datepicker').tag(sync=True)
             value = Unicode().tag(sync=True)
             description = Unicode().tag(sync=True)
             @validate('value')
             def _validate_value(self, proposal):
                 value = proposal['value']
                 try:
                     parsed_date = parser.parse(value)
                     parsed_date_string = parsed_date.strftime("%Y-%m-%d")
                 except:
                     parsed_date_string = ''
                 return parsed_date_string
```

## 1.9.3 JavaScript

Using the Javascript code from the last section, we add a label to the date time object. The label is a div with the widget-hlabel class applied to it. widget-hlabel is a class provided by the widget framework that applies special styling to a div to make it look like the rest of the horizontal labels used with the built-in widgets. Similar to the widget-hlabel class is the widget-hbox-single class. The widget-hbox-single class applies special styling to widget containers that store a single line horizontal widget.

We hide the label if the description value is blank.

```
In [23]: %%javascript
         requirejs.undef('datepicker');
         define('datepicker', ["jupyter-js-widgets"], function(widgets) {
             // Define the DatePickerView
             var DatePickerView = widgets.DOMWidgetView.extend({
                 render: function() {
                     // apply the standard widget classes so the css styles are consistent
                     this.el.className = 'widget-hbox jupyter-widgets widget-width';
                     this.label = document.createElement('div')
                     this.label.className = 'widget-label';
                     this.label.style.display = 'none';
                     this.date = document.createElement('input');
                     this.date.className = "form-control";
                     this.date.setAttribute('type', 'date');
                     this.el.appendChild(this.label);
                     this.el.appendChild(this.date);
                     this.update();
```

```
},
                 update: function() {
                     // Set the value of the date control and then call base.
                     // ISO format "YYYY-MM-DDTHH:mm:ss.sssZ" is required
                     this.date.value = this.model.get('value');
                     // Hide or show the label depending on the existance of a description
                     var description = this.model.get('description');
                     if (description == undefined || description == '') {
                         this.label.style.display = 'none';
                     } else {
                         this.label.innerText = description;
                         this.label.style.display = '';
                     return DatePickerView.__super__.update.apply(this);
                 },
                 // Tell Backbone to listen to the change event of input controls (which the
                 events: {
                     "change": "handle_date_change"
                 },
                 // Callback for when the date is changed.
                 handle_date_change: function(event) {
                     this.model.set('value', this.date.value);
                     this.touch();
                 },
             });
             return {
                 DatePickerView: DatePickerView
             };
         });
<IPython.core.display.Javascript object>
```

### 1.9.4 Test

To test the drawing of the label we create the widget like normal but supply the additional description property a value.

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetCustom_76_0.png
```

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### 1.9.5 More advanced uses: Packaging and distributing Jupyter widgets

A template project is available in the form of a cookie cutter: https://github.com/jupyter/widget-cookiecutter

This project is meant to help custom widget authors get started with the packaging and the distribution of Jupyter interactive widgets.

It produces a project for a Jupyter interactive widget library following the current best practices for using interactive widgets. An implementation for a placeholder "Hello World" widget is provided.

```
Index - Back
In [1]: from ipywidgets import *
1. VBox (HBox)
In [2]: VBox([HBox([VBox([Dropdown(description='Choice', options=['foo', 'bar']),
                          ColorPicker(description='Color'),
                          HBox([Button(), Button()])]),
                    Textarea(value="Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing eli-
        "sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. "
        "Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris "
        "nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in "
        "reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla "
        "pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa "
        "qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.")]),
              HBox([Text(), Checkbox(description='Check box')]),
              IntSlider(),
              Controller()], background_color='#EEE')
examples/../ build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples WidgetAlignment 2 0.png
```

```
2. HBox (VBox)
```

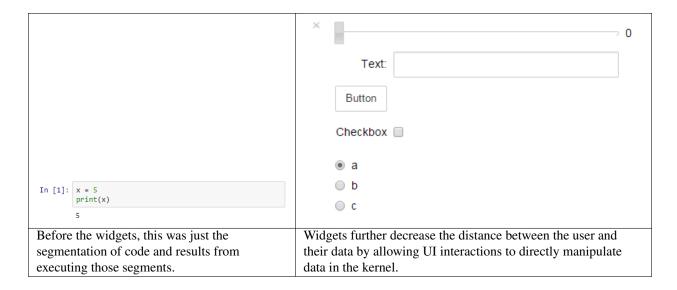
```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetAlignment_4_0.png
3. VBox (HBox) width sliders, range sliders and progress bars
In [4]: VBox([HBox([Button(), FloatRangeSlider(), Text(), Button()]),
              HBox([Button(), FloatText(), Button(description='Button'),
                     FloatProgress(value=40), Checkbox(description='Check')]),
              HBox([ToggleButton(), IntSlider(description='Foobar'),
                     Dropdown(options=['foo', 'bar']), Valid()]),
             ])
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetAlignment_6_0.png
4. Dropdown resize
In [5]: dd = Dropdown(description='Foobar')
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetAlignment_8_0.png
In [6]: dd.height = '50px'
        dd.width = '148px'
In [7]: cp = ColorPicker(description='foobar')
5. Colorpicker alignment, concise and long version
In [8]: VBox([HBox([Dropdown(width='148px'), Button(description='Button')]), cp, HBox([But-
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetAlignment_12_0.png
In [9]: cp.concise = True
In [10]: cp.concise = False
In [11]: cp2 = ColorPicker()
In [12]: VBox([HBox([Button(), Button()]), cp2])
```

```
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetAlignment_16_0.png
In [13]: cp2.concise = True
In [14]: cp2.concise = False
6. Vertical slider and progress bar alignment and resize
In [15]: HBox([IntSlider(description='Slider', orientation='vertical', height='200px'),
               FloatProgress(description='Progress', value=50, orientation='vertical', height
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetAlignment_20_0.png
In [16]: HBox([IntSlider(description='Slider', orientation='vertical'),
               FloatProgress(description='Progress', value=50, orientation='vertical')])
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetAlignment_21_0.png
7. Tabs
In [ ]: t = Tab(children=[FloatText(), IntSlider()], _titles={0: 'Text', 1: 'Slider'})
In [ ]: t.selected_index = 1
In [ ]:
```

# 1.10 Low Level Widget Tutorial

### 1.10.1 How do they fit into the picture?

One of the goals of the Jupyter Notebook is to minimize the "distance" the user is from their data. This means allowing the user to quickly view and manipulate the data.



### 1.10.2 How?

Jupyter interactive widgets are interactive elements, think sliders, textboxes, buttons, that have representations both in the kernel (place where code is executed) and the front-end (the Notebook web interface). To do this, a clean, well abstracted communication layer must exist.

### 1.10.3 Comms

This is where Jupyter notebook "comms" come into play. The comm API is a symmetric, asynchronous, fire and forget style messaging API. It allows the programmer to send JSON-able blobs between the front-end and the back-end. The comm API hides the complexity of the webserver, ZMQ, and websockets.

### 1.10.4 Synchronized state

Using comms, the widget base layer is designed to keep state in sync. In the kernel, a Widget instance exists. This Widget instance has a corresponding WidgetModel instance in the front-end. The Widget and WidgetModel store the same state. The widget framework ensures both models are kept in sync with eachother. If the WidgetModel is changed in the front-end, the Widget receives the same change in the kernel. Vise versa, if the Widget in the kernel is changed, the WidgetModel in the front-end receives the same change. There is no single source of truth, both models have the same precedence. Although a notebook has the notion of cells, neither Widget or WidgetModel are bound to any single cell.

### 1.10.5 Models and Views

In order for the user to interact with widgets on a cell by cell basis, the WidgetModels are represented by WidgetViews. Any single WidgetView is bound to a single cell. Multiple WidgetViews can be linked to a single WidgetModel. This is how you can redisplay the same Widget multiple times and it still works. To accomplish this, the widget framework uses Backbone.js. In a traditional MVC framework, the WidgetModel is the (M)odel, and the WidgetView is both the (V)iew and (C)ontroller. Meaning that, the views both display the state of the model and manipulate it. Think about a slider control, it both displays the value and allows the user to change the value by dragging the slide handle.

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

```
In [2]: display(w)
examples/../_build/doctrees/nbsphinx/examples_WidgetLowLevel_15_0.png
```

Data type cannot be displayed: application/vnd.jupyter.widget

### 1.10.6 Code execution

The user code required to display a simple FloatSlider widget is:

```
from ipywidgets import FloatSlider
from IPython.display import display
slider = FloatSlider()
display(slider)
```

In order to understand how a widget is displayed, one must understand how code is executed in the Notebook. Execution begins in the code cell. A user event triggers the code cell to send an evaluate code message to the kernel, containing all of the code in the code cell. This message is given a GUID, which the front-end associates to the code cell, and remembers it (**important**).

Once that message is received by the kernel, the kernel immediately sends the front-end an "I'm busy" status message. The kernel then proceeds to execute the code.

### 1.10.7 Model construction

When a Widget is constructed in the kernel, the first thing that happens is that a comm is constructed and associated with the widget. When the comm is constructed, it is given a GUID (globally unique identifier). A comm-open message is sent to the front-end, with metadata stating that the comm is a widget comm and what the corresponding WidgetModel class is.

The WidgetModel class is specified my module and name. Require.js is then used to asynchronously load the Widget-Model class. The message triggers a comm to be created in the front-end with same GUID as the back-end. Then, the new comm gets passed into the WidgetManager in the front-end, which creates an instance of the WidgetModel class, linked to the comm. Both the Widget and WidgetModel repurpose the comm GUID as their own.

Asynchronously, the kernel sends an initial state push, containing all of the initial state of the Widget, to the frontend, immediately after the comm-open message. This state message may or may not be received by the time the WidgetModel is constructed. Regardless, the message is cached and gets processed once the WidgetModel has been constructed. The initial state push is what causes the WidgetModel in the front-end to become in sync with the Widget in the kernel.

### 1.10.8 Displaying a view

After the Widget has been constructed, it can be displayed. Calling display (widgetinstance) causes a specially named repr method in the widget to run. This method sends a message to the front-end that tells the front-end to construct and display a widget view. The message is in response to the original code execution message, and the original message's GUID is stored in the new message's header. When the front-end receives the message, it uses the original messsage's GUID to determine what cell the new view should belong to. Then, the view is created, using the WidgetView class specified in the WidgetModel's state. The same require is method is used to load the view class. Once the class is loaded, an instance of it is constructed, displayed in the right cell, and registers listeners for changes of the model.

### 1.10.9 Widget skeleton

Since widgets exist in both the front-end and kernel, they consist of both Python (if the kernel is IPython) and Javascript code. A boilerplate widget can be seen below:

Python:

```
from ipywidgets import DOMWidget
from traitlets import Unicode, Int

class MyWidget(DOMWidget):
    _view_module = Unicode('nbextensions/mywidget/mywidget').tag(sync=True)
    _view_name = Unicode('MyWidgetView').tag(sync=True)
    count = Int().tag(sync=True)
```

#### JavaScript:

```
define(['jupyter-js-widgets'], function(widgets) {
   var MyWidgetView = widgets.DOMWidgetView.extend({
       render: function() {
           MyWidgetView.__super__.render.apply(this, arguments);
            this._count_changed();
            this.listenTo(this.model, 'change:count', this._count_changed, this);
       },
       _count_changed: function() {
           var old_value = this.model.previous('count');
           var new_value = this.model.get('count');
           this.el.textContent = String(old_value) + ' -> ' + String(new_value);
        }
   });
   return {
       MyWidgetView: MyWidgetView
});
```

#### Describing the Python:

The base widget classes are DOMWidget and Widget.

\_view\_module and \_view\_name are how the front-end knows what view class to construct for the model.

sync=True is what makes the traitlets behave like state.

A similarly named \_model\_module and \_model\_name can be used to specify the corresponding WidgetModel. count is an example of a custom piece of state.

### Describing the JavaScript:

The define call asynchronously loads the specified dependencies, and then passes them in as arguments into the callback. Here, the only dependency is the base widget module are loaded.

Custom views inherit from either DOMWidgetView or WidgetView.

Likewise, custom models inherit from WidgetModel.

The render method is what is called to render the view's contents. If the view is a DOMWidgetView, the .el attribute contains the DOM element that will be displayed on the page.

.listenTo allows the view to listen to properties of the model for changes.

\_count\_changed is an example of a method that could be used to handle model changes.

this.model is how the corresponding model can be accessed.

this.model.previous will get the previous value of the trait.

this.model.get will get the current value of the trait.

this.model.set followed by this.save\_changes(); changes the model. The view method save\_changes is needed to associate the changes with the current view, thus associating any response messages with the view's cell.

The dictionary returned is the public members of the module.

### 1.10.10 Installation

Because the API of any given widget **must exist in the kernel**, the kernel is the natural place for widgets to be installed. However, **kernels**, **as of now, don't host static assets**. Instead, static assets are hosted by the webserver, which is the entity that sits between the kernel and the front-end. This is a problem, because it means widgets have components that need to be **installed both in the webserver and the kernel**. The kernel components are easy to install, because you can rely on the language's built in tools. The static assets for the webserver complicate things, because an extra step is required to let the webserver know where the assets are.

### 1.10.11 Static assets

Static assets can be made available to the Jupyter notebook webserver a few ways: 1. Custom.js: By placing your static assets inside the custom directory, alongside custom.js, you can load them within custom.js. The problem with deployment utilizing this method is that the users will have to manually edit their custom.js file. 2. Server extension: You can write a server extension which adds a new handler to the server that hosts your static content. However, the server extension needs to be registered using a config file, which means the user needs to edit it by hand. Also, code needs to be written in custom.js to load the static content. 3. Notebook extension: By placing your static assets inside the nbextensions directory, they are made available by the nbextensions/ handler. Nbextensions also have a mechanism for running your code on page load. This can be set using the install-nbextension command.

Notebook extensions are the best solution, for now, because they can be used without manual user intervention.

### 1.10.12 Distribution

Integrating the static assets with the kernel code is tricky. Ideally, the user would be able to execute a single command to install the package, kernel and static assets included.

A template project is available in the form of a cookie cutter: https://github.com/jupyter/widget-cookiecutter

This project is meant to help custom widget authors get started with the packaging and the distribution of Jupyter interactive widgets.

It produces a project for a Jupyter interactive widget library following the current best practices for using interactive widgets. An implementation for a placeholder "Hello World" widget is provided.

# 1.11 Contributing

We appreciate contributions from the community.

We follow the IPython Contributing Guide and Jupyter Contributing Guides.

# 1.12 ipywidgets changelog

A summary of changes in ipywidgets. For more detailed information, see GitHub.

### 1.12.1 4.1.x

4.1.1

4.1.0

### 1.12.2 4.0.x

4.0.3

Bump version with miscellaneous bug fixes.

### 4.0.2

Add README.rst documentation.

### 4.0.1

Remove ipynb checkpoints.

### 4.0.0

First release of **ipywidgets** as a standalone package.

# 1.13 Developer Install

## 1.13.1 Prerequisites

To install ipywidgets from git, you will need:

- npm version 3.x or later
  - Check your version by running npm -v from a terminal.
  - Note: If you install using sudo, you need to make sure that npm is also available in the PATH used with sudo.
- the latest Jupyter notebook development release
  - Everything in the ipywidgets repository is developed using Jupyter notebook's master branch.
  - If you want to have a copy of ipywidgets that works against a stable version of the notebook, checkout the appropriate tag.
  - See the Compatibility table.

### 1.13.2 Steps

1. Clone the repo:

git clone https://github.com/ipython/ipywidgets

2. Navigate into the cloned repo and install:

```
cd ipywidgets
bash dev-install.sh --sys-prefix
```

### 1.13.3 Rebuild after making changes

After you've made changes to jupyter-js-widgets if you want to test those changes, run the following commands, empty your browser's cache, and refresh the page:

```
cd widgetsnbextension
npm run update
cd ..
```

# 1.13.4 Tips and troubleshooting

- If you have any problems with the above install procedure, make sure that permissions on npm and pip related install directories are correct.
- Sometimes, it helps to clear cached files too by running git clean -dfx from the root of the cloned repository.
- When you make changes to the Javascript and you're not seeing the changes, it could be your browser is caching
  aggressively. Try clearing the browser's cache. Try also using "incognito" or "private" browsing tabs to avoid
  caching.
- If troubleshooting an upgrade and its build, you may need to do the following process:
  - Deep clean of the cloned repository:

```
git clean -dfx .
```

- Remove anything with widgetsnbextension in the name of files within the conda directory
- Try reinstalling ipywidgets

### 1.13.5 Releasing new versions

See dev\_release.md for a details on how to release new versions of ipywidgets to PyPI and jupyter-js-widgets on npm.

### **1.13.6 Testing**

See dev\_testing.md for a details on how to run Python and Javascript tests.

### 1.13.7 Building documentation

See dev\_docs.md for a details on how to build the docs.

# 1.14 Testing

To run the Python tests:

```
nosetests --with-coverage --cover-package=ipywidgets ipywidgets
```

To run the Javascript tests:

```
cd jupyter-js-widgets; npm run test
```

This will run the test suite using karma with 'debug' level logging.

# 1.15 Building the Documentation

To build the documentation you'll need Sphinx, pandoc and a few other packages.

To install (and activate) a conda environment named notebook\_docs containing all the necessary packages (except pandoc), use:

```
conda env create -f docs/environment.yml source activate ipywidget_docs # Linux and OS X activate ipywidget_docs # Windows
```

If you want to install the necessary packages with pip instead, use (omitting –user if working in a virtual environment):

```
pip install -r docs/requirements.txt --user
```

Once you have installed the required packages, you can build the docs with:

```
cd docs
make clean
make html
```

After that, the generated HTML files will be available at build/html/index.html. You may view the docs in your browser.

You can automatically check if all hyperlinks are still valid:

```
make linkcheck
```

Windows users can find make.bat in the docs folder.

You should also have a look at the Project Jupyter Documentation Guide.

# 1.16 Developer Release Procedure

To release a new version of the widgets on PyPI and npm, first checkout master and cd into the repo root. Make sure the version in widget.py matches the JS frontend version. Also check that the frontend version specified in manager-base.js (version) is correct.

1.14. Testing 55

## 1.16.1 Publish jupyter-js-widgets

```
# nuke the `dist` and `node_modules`
git clean -fdx
edit manager-base.py to point "version" to next release of ipywidgets
npm version [patch/minor/major]
npm install
npm publish
```

### 1.16.2 Prepare widgetsnbextension npm module

· npm module

```
edit package.json to point to new jupyter-js-widgets version npm version [patch/minor/major]
```

## 1.16.3 Here we commit our changes to the two package.json files

· python module

```
edit widgetsnbextension/_version.py (Remove dev from the version. If it's the first__
_beta, use b1, etc...)
python setup.py sdist upload && python setup.py bdist_wheel upload

edit ipywidgets/_version.py (remove dev from the version and update the frontend_
_version requirement to match the one of jupyter-js-widgets)

Change install_requires to point to new widgetsnbextension version
python setup.py sdist upload && python setup.py bdist_wheel upload
commit and tag (ipywidgets) release
```

### 1.16.4 Back to dev

```
edit ipywidgets/_version.py (increase version and add dev tag)
edit widgetsnbextension/widgetsnbextension/_version.py (increase version and add dev__

tag)
git add ipywidgets/_version.py
git add widgetsnbextension/widgetsnbextension/_version.py
git commit -m "Back to dev"
git push [upstream master]
git push [upstream] --tags
```

#### On GitHub

- 1. Go to https://github.com/ipython/ipywidgets/milestones and click "Close" for the released version.
- 2. Make sure patch, minor, and/or major milestones exist as appropriate.