

# Matplotlib

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# The Dongle Problem

# MATLAB Graphics API

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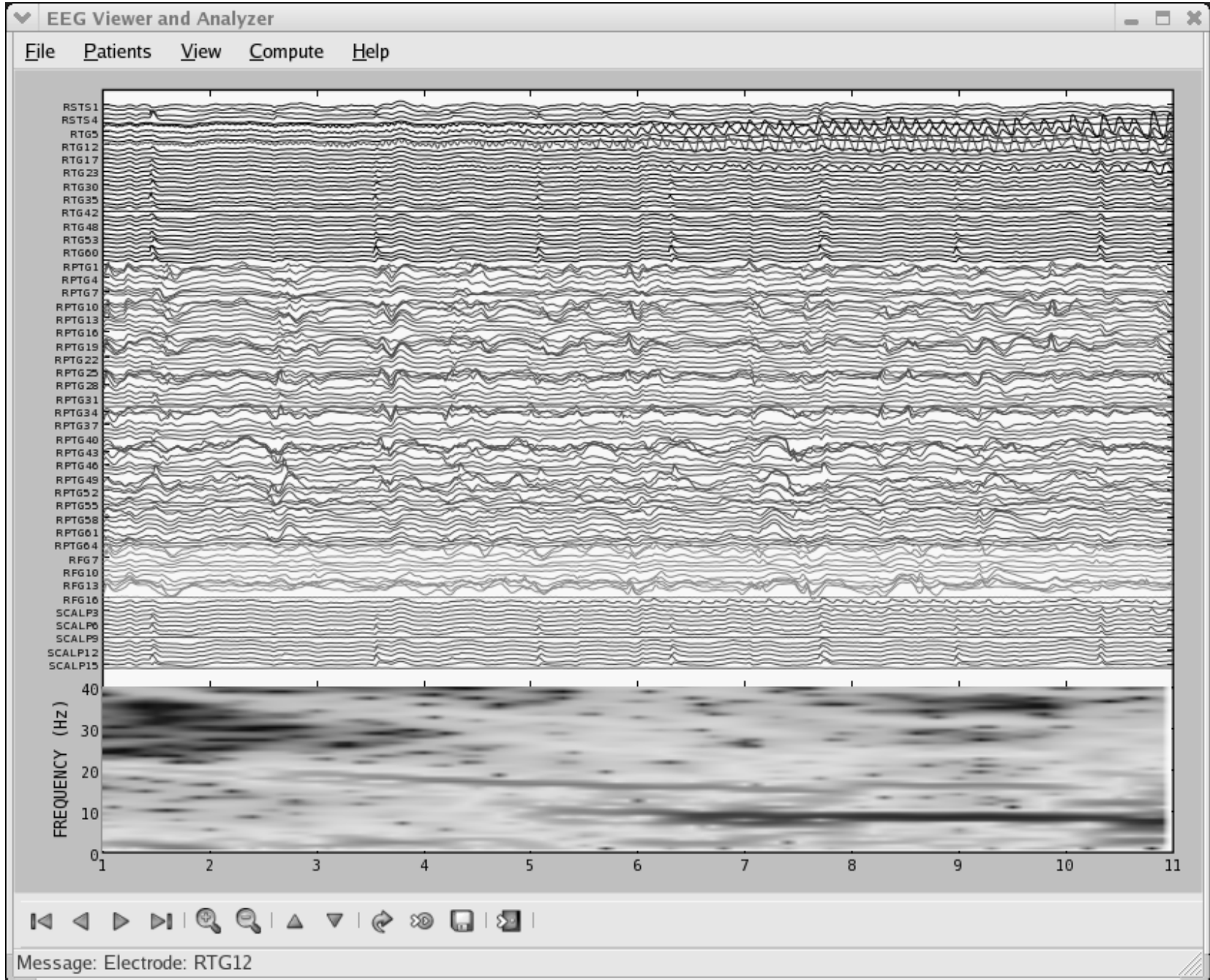
Simple, convenient plot commands: `plot ( )`

Arguments for simple customization: `'r--'`

Rich, structured API to access lower-level functionality (axes, tick generators, etc.)

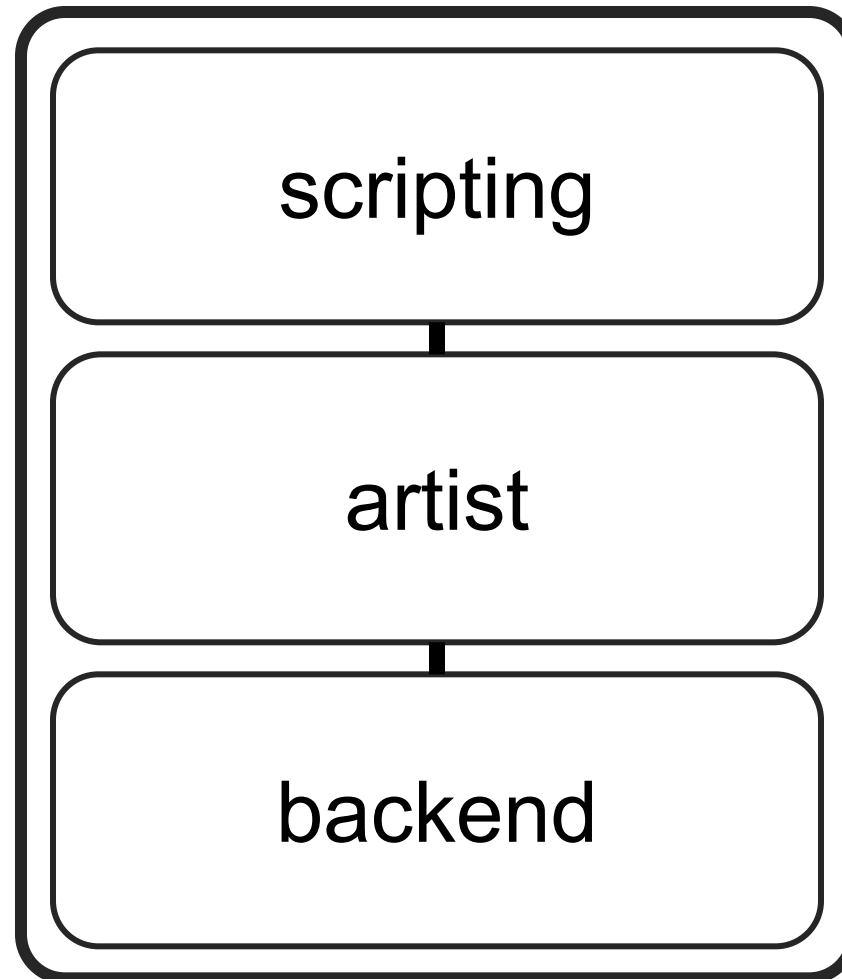
Great!

MATrix LABoratory for large applications...



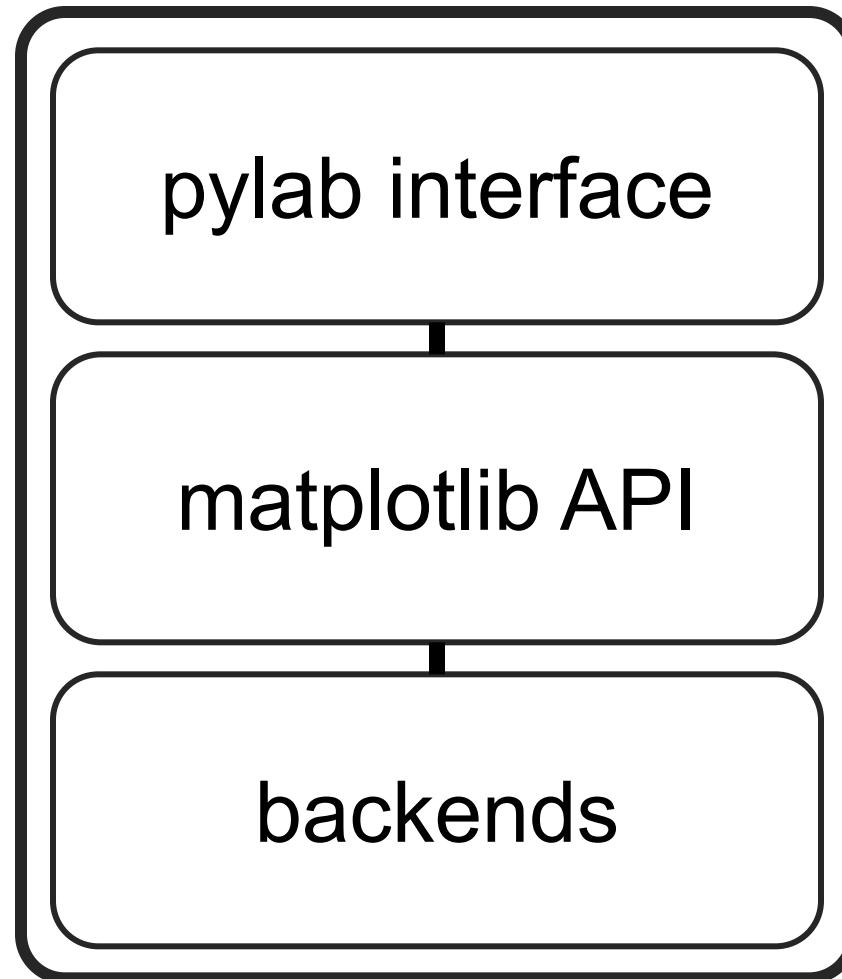
# Matplotlib: Today

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# Backends

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PS

SVG

AGG

GTK

GTKAgg

PDF

wxWidgets

...etc.



# Selecting a Backend

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Depends on your OS...  
(Default: AGG)

In [1]:

```
import matplotlib
matplotlib.use('PDF')
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
```

\* Select before loading pyplot to have effect

# Inside Jupyter...

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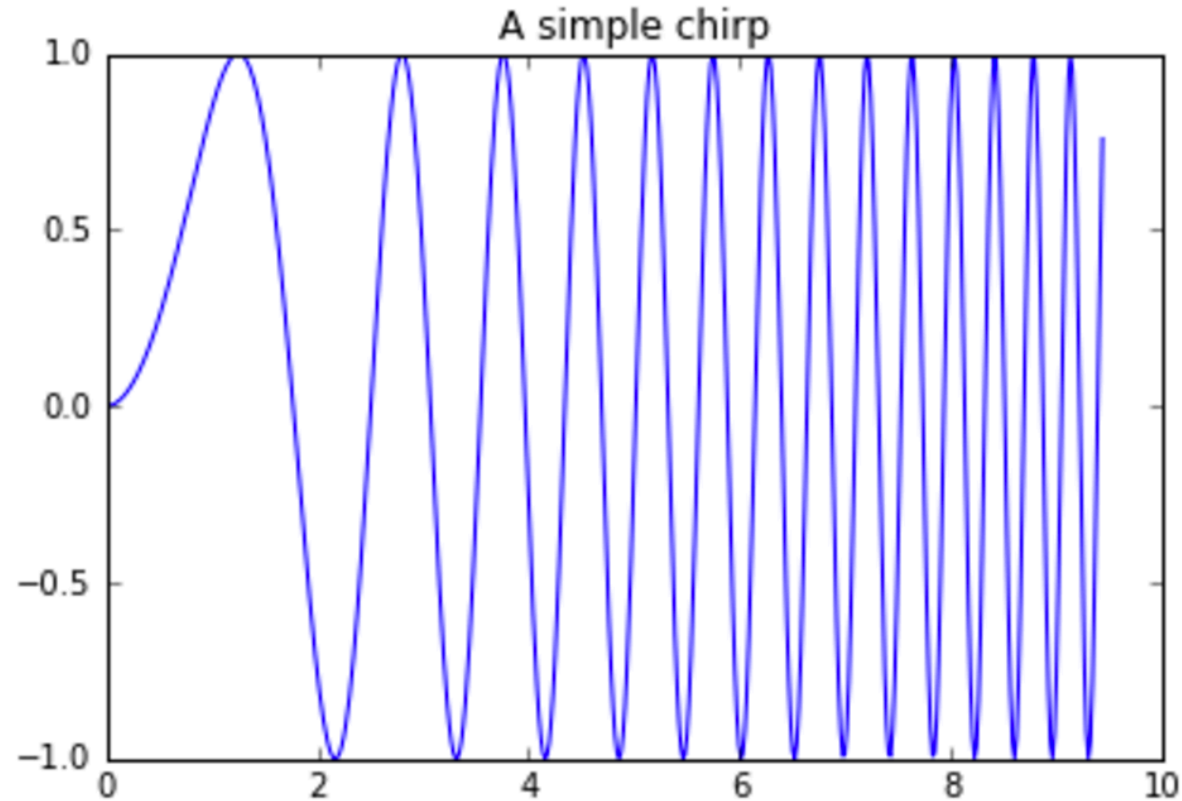
There's a twist:

In [1]:

```
import matplotlib
# choose one or the other
%matplotlib inline
%matplotlib notebook
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
```

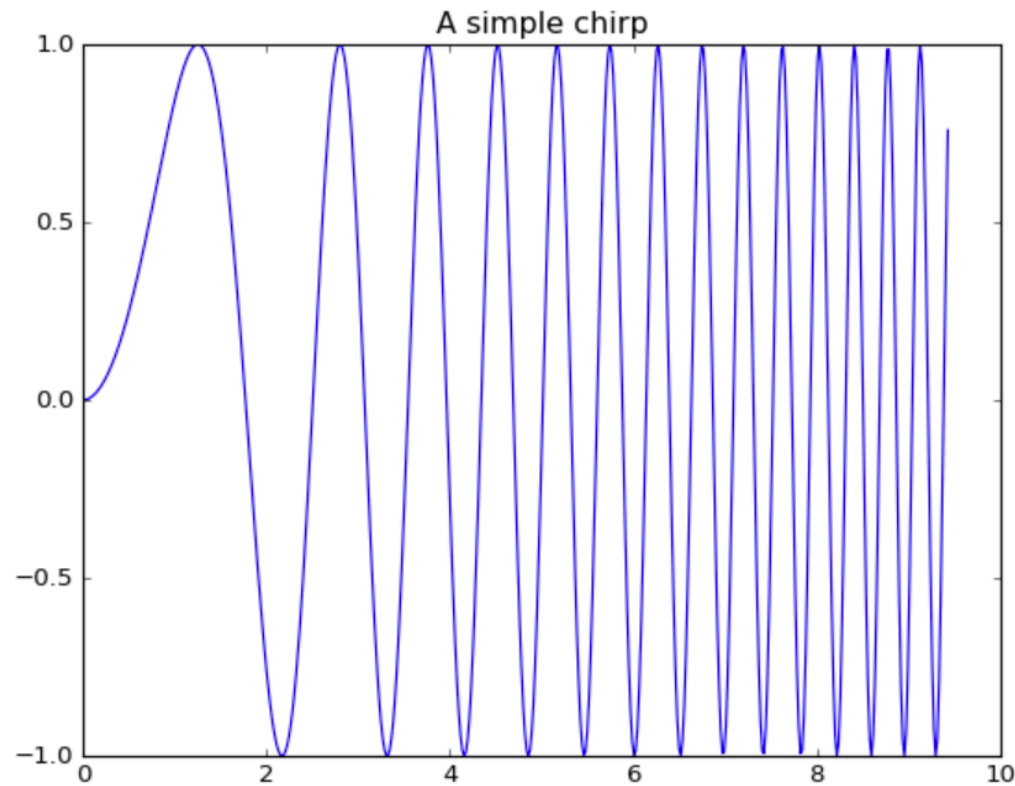
# Inline

```
In [3]: x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)  
line = plt.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))  
title = plt.title('A simple chirp')
```



```
In [2]: x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
plt.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
plt.title('A simple chirp')
```

Figure 1



\* Works only if notebook run locally, uses Qt

# Wrapping It Back to Jupyter

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# Matplotlib API (Artist)

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Three pieces!

# Matplotlib API (Artist)

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`matplotlib.backend_bases.FigureCanvas`  
area onto which the figure is drawn

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`matplotlib.backend_bases.Renderer`  
knows how to draw on the FigureCanvas



# Matplotlib API (Artist)

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`matplotlib.backend_bases.FigureCanvas`  
area onto which the figure is drawn



`matplotlib.backend_bases.Renderer`  
knows how to draw on the FigureCanvas



`matplotlib.artist.Artist`  
knows how to use a renderer to paint onto the  
canvas

# Matplotlib API (Artist)

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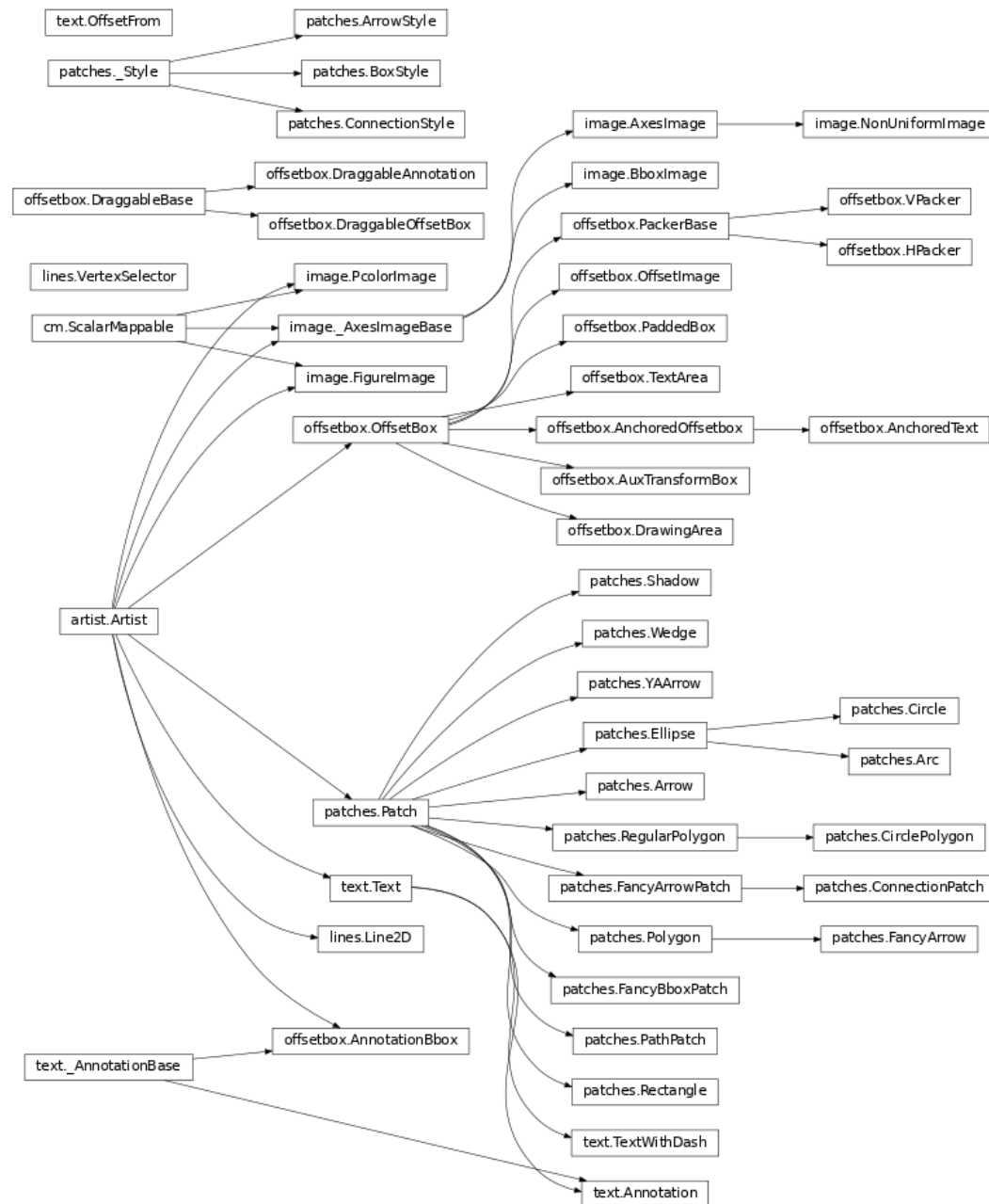
`matplotlib.backend_bases.FigureCanvas`  
area onto which the figure is drawn

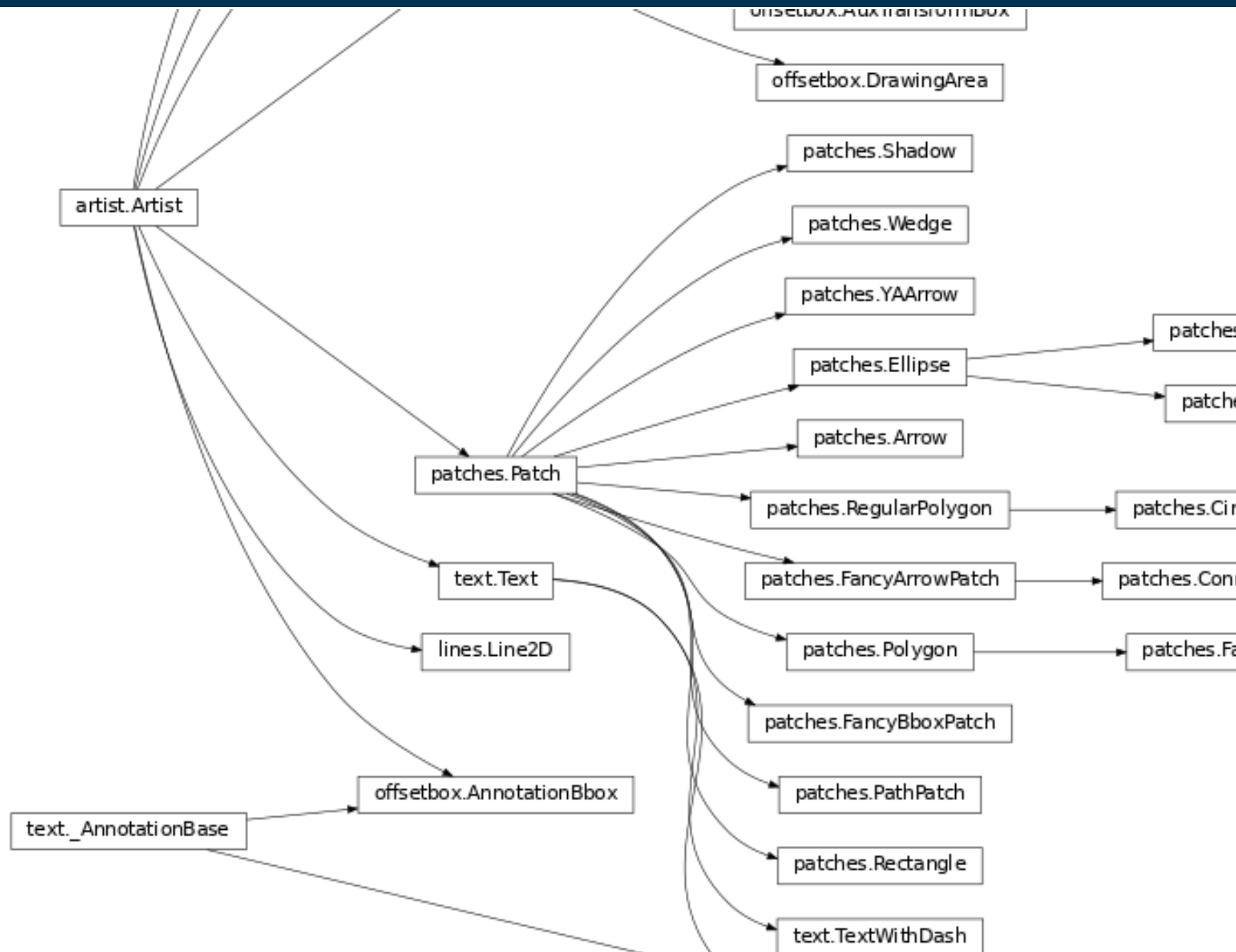


`matplotlib.backend_bases.Renderer`  
knows how to draw on the FigureCanvas



`matplotlib.artist.Artist`  
knows how to use a renderer to paint onto the  
canvas





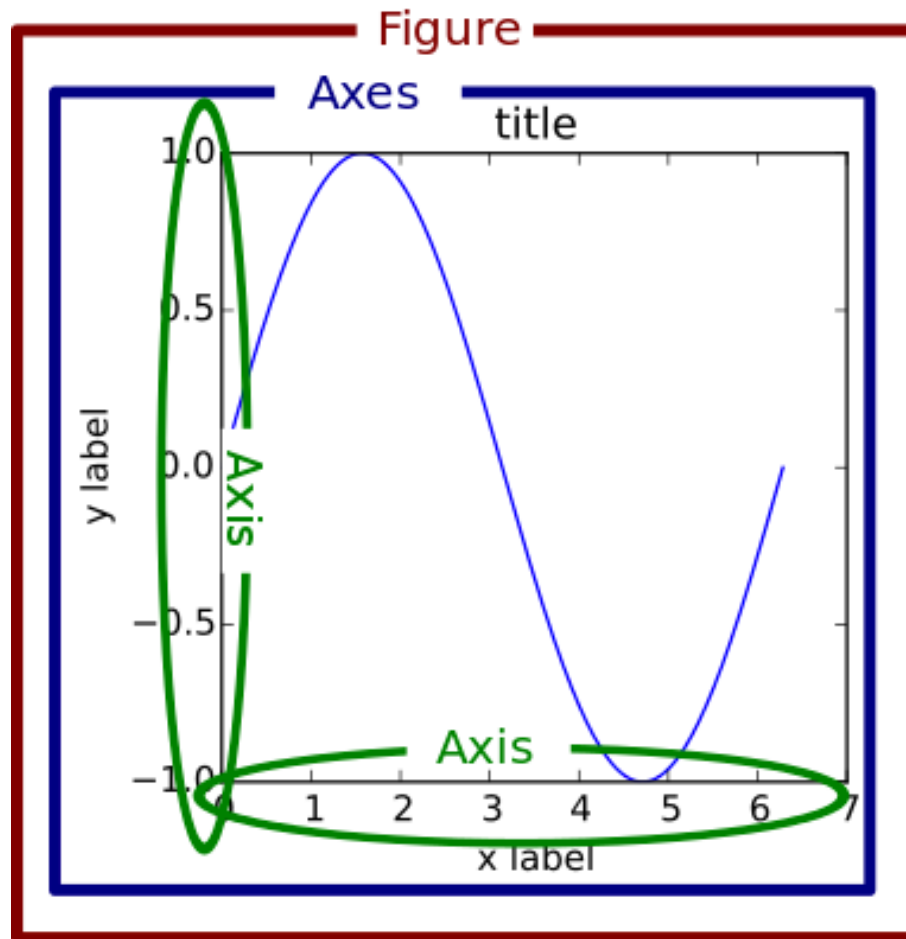
# Interacting With the Artist

---

This is up at the scripting (pyplot) level:

```
x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
plt.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
plt.title('A simple chirp')
```

# Where the Artists Live



# Where the Artists Live

---

```
x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
line = plt.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
title = plt.title('A simple chirp')
```

# Where the Artists Live

---

```
x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
line = plt.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
title = plt.title('A simple chirp')
```

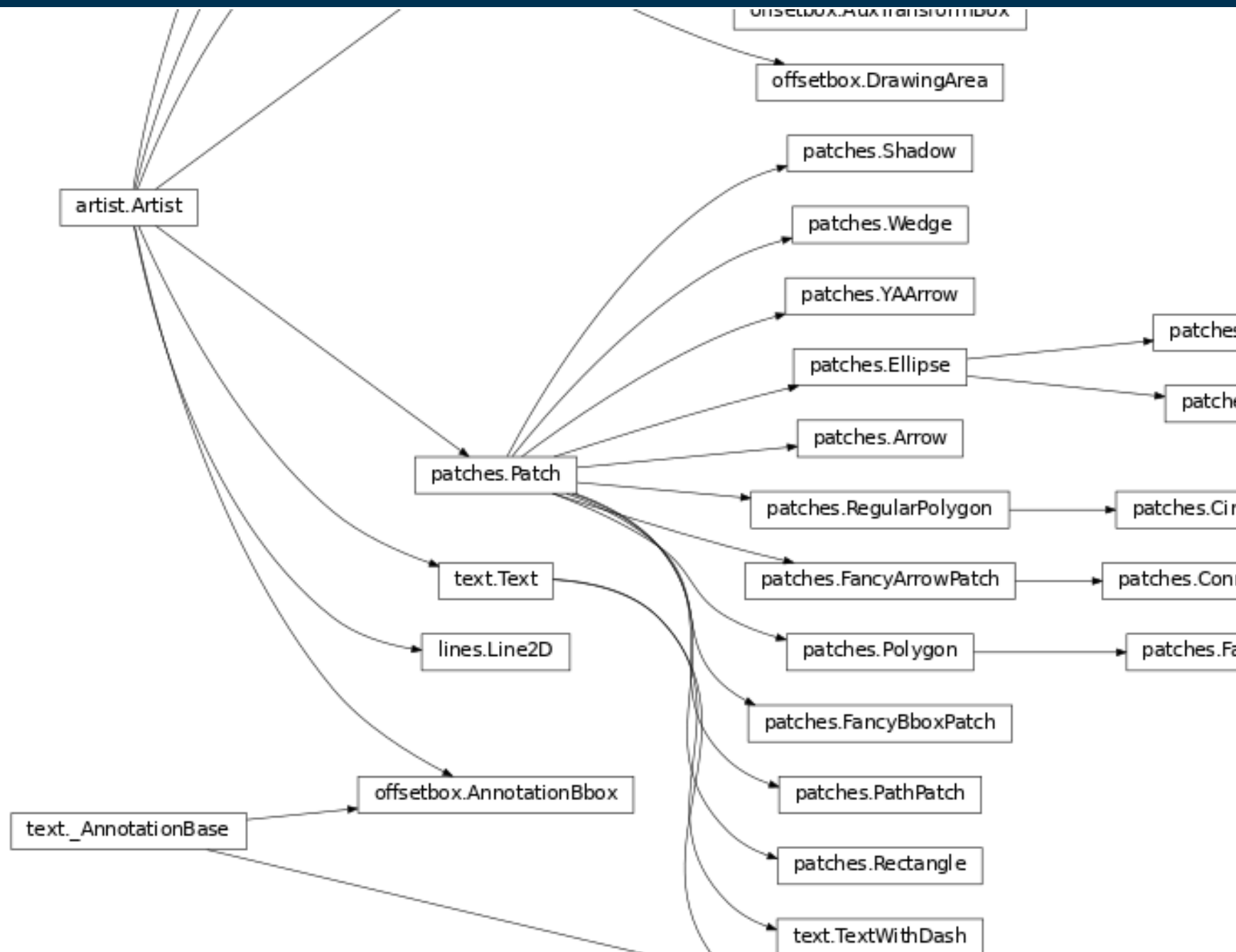
In [5]:

```
title
```

Out[5]:

```
<matplotlib.text.Text at 0x
110650eb8>
```





# How to Check?

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In [11]:

```
type(title).__bases__
```

Out[11]:

```
(matplotlib.artist.Artist,)
```

# What About the Figure, Axes?

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```
x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
line = plt.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
title = plt.title('A simple chirp')
fig = plt.gcf()
ax = plt.gca()
```

# Not in Reverse...

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```
x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
fig = plt.figure()
# choose one... (default is the first)
ax = fig.add_subplot(1,1,1)
ax = fig.add_axes([.2,.2,.7,.7])
line = ax.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
title = ax.set_title('A simple chirp')
```

# Now We Can Get More Specific

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```
x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
ax = fig.add_axes([.2,.2,.7,.7])
line = ax.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
title = ax.set_title('A simple chirp')
ax.set_ylim([-1.1,1.1])
```

# Every Artist Inherits These

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

# Why Axes?

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“The [matplotlib.axes.Axes](#) is the center of the matplotlib universe”  
—The Docs

# Tips

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Use `figsize` wisely: always work at final size.

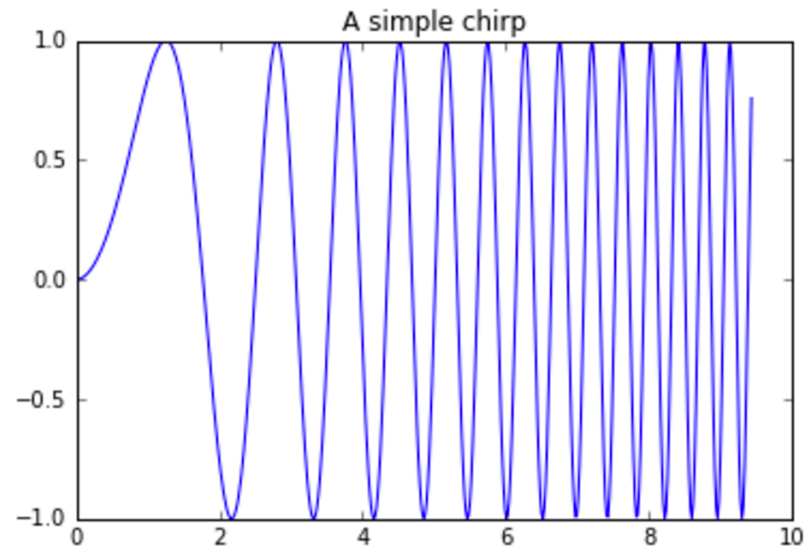


# Tips

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Use `figsize` wisely: always work at final size.

```
In [3]: x = np.linspace(0, 3*np.pi, 500)
line = plt.plot(x, np.sin(x**2))
title = plt.title('A simple chirp')
```



# Tips

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Use `figsize` wisely: always work at final size.

Work with `axes` objects to build custom plots.

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Work with `axes` objects to build custom plots.

Keep track of styles in a stylesheet.

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INFORMATION