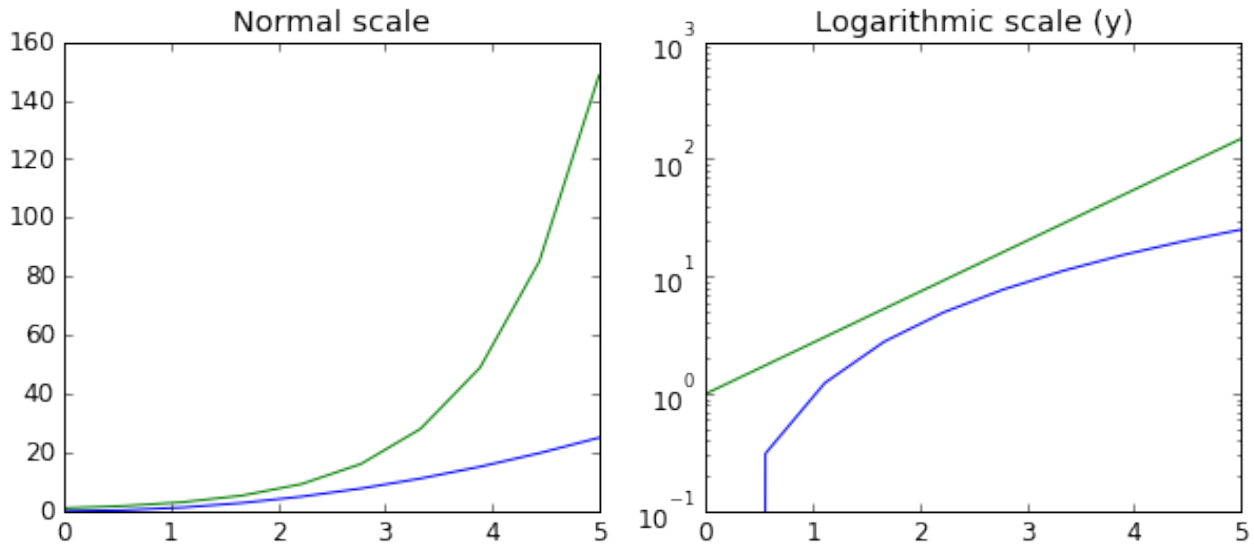
Advanced Matplotlib Concepts Lecture

In this lecture we cover some more advanced topics which you won't usually use as often. You can always reference the documentation for more resources!

Logarithmic scale

It is also possible to set a logarithmic scale for one or both axes. This functionality is in fact only one application of a more general transformation system in Matplotlib. Each of the axes' scales are set seperately using `set_xscale` and `set_yscale` methods which accept one parameter (with the value "log" in this case):

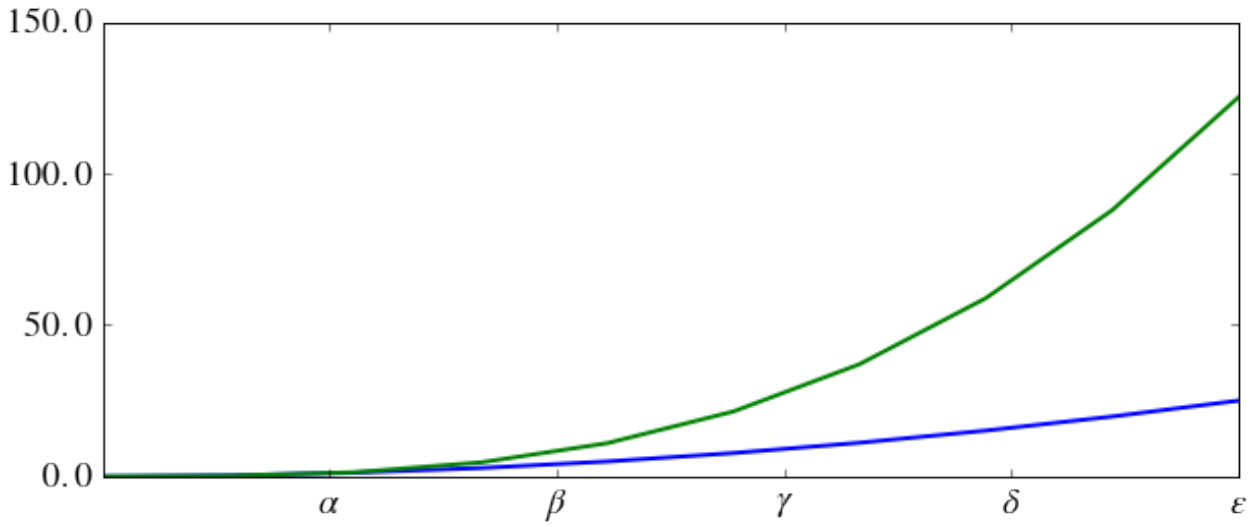
In [94]:
```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(10,4))

axes[0].plot(x, x**2, x, np.exp(x))
axes[0].set_title("Normal scale")

axes[1].plot(x, x**2, x, np.exp(x))
axes[1].set_yscale("log")
axes[1].set_title("Logarithmic scale (y)");
```



Placement of ticks and custom tick labels

We can explicitly determine where we want the axis ticks with `set_xticks` and `set_yticks`, which both take a list of values for where on the axis the ticks are to be placed. We can also use the `set_xticklabels` and `set_yticklabels` methods to provide a list of custom text labels for each tick location:

In [95]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 4))

ax.plot(x, x**2, x, x**3, lw=2)

ax.set_xticks([1, 2, 3, 4, 5])
ax.set_xticklabels([r'$\alpha$', r'$\beta$', r'$\gamma$', r'$\delta$', r

yticks = [0, 50, 100, 150]
ax.set_yticks(yticks)
ax.set_yticklabels(["$%.1f$" % y for y in yticks], fontsize=18); # use L
```

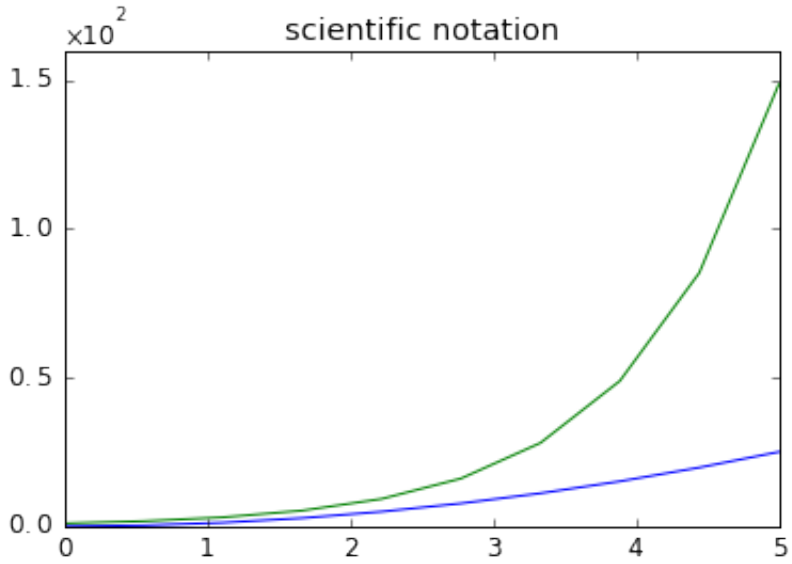


There are a number of more advanced methods for controlling major and minor tick placement in matplotlib figures, such as automatic placement according to different policies. See http://matplotlib.org/api/ticker_api.html (http://matplotlib.org/api/ticker_api.html) for details.

Scientific notation

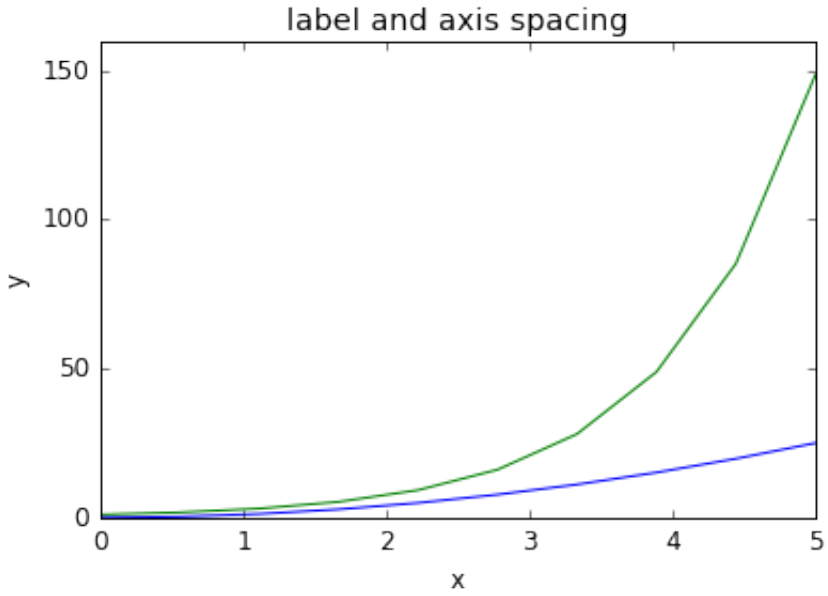
With large numbers on axes, it is often better use scientific notation:

In [96]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1)

ax.plot(x, x**2, x, np.exp(x))
ax.set_title("scientific notation")

ax.set_yticks([0, 50, 100, 150])

from matplotlib import ticker
formatter = ticker.ScalarFormatter(useMathText=True)
formatter.set_scientific(True)
formatter.set_powerlimits((-1,1))
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(formatter)
```



Axis number and axis label spacing

In [97]:
```
# distance between x and y axis and the numbers on the axes
matplotlib.rcParams['xtick.major.pad'] = 5
matplotlib.rcParams['ytick.major.pad'] = 5

fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1)

ax.plot(x, x**2, x, np.exp(x))
ax.set_yticks([0, 50, 100, 150])

ax.set_title("label and axis spacing")

# padding between axis label and axis numbers
ax.xaxis.labelpad = 5
ax.yaxis.labelpad = 5

ax.set_xlabel("x")
ax.set_ylabel("y");
```

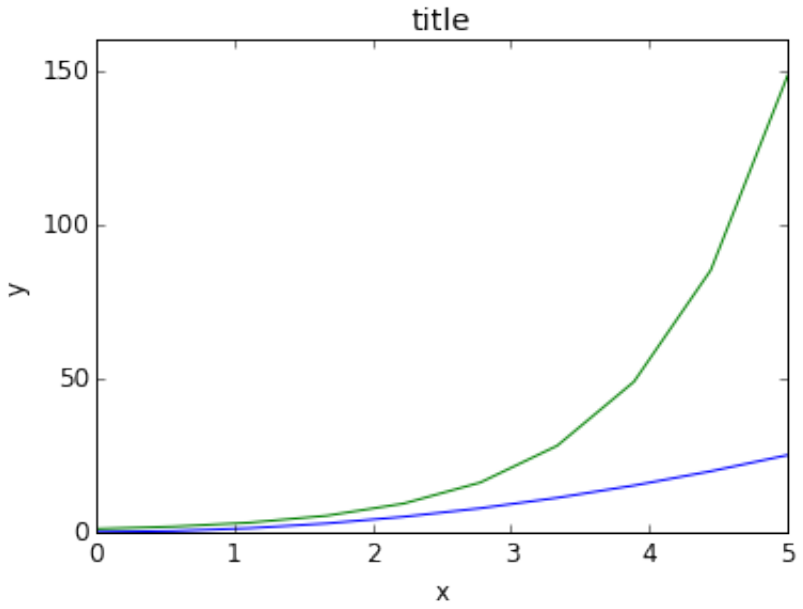


In [98]:
```
# restore defaults
matplotlib.rcParams['xtick.major.pad'] = 3
matplotlib.rcParams['ytick.major.pad'] = 3
```

Axis position adjustments

Unfortunately, when saving figures the labels are sometimes clipped, and it can be necessary to adjust the positions of axes a little bit. This can be done using `subplots_adjust`:

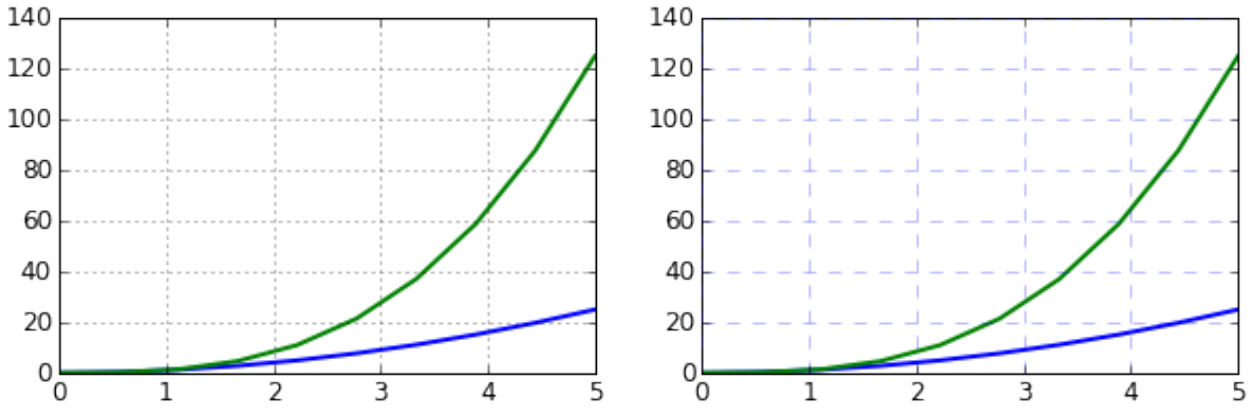
In [99]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1)

ax.plot(x, x**2, x, np.exp(x))
ax.set_yticks([0, 50, 100, 150])

ax.set_title("title")
ax.set_xlabel("x")
ax.set_ylabel("y")

fig.subplots_adjust(left=0.15, right=.9, bottom=0.1, top=0.9);
```



Axis grid

With the `grid` method in the axis object, we can turn on and off grid lines. We can also customize the appearance of the grid lines using the same keyword arguments as the `plot` function:

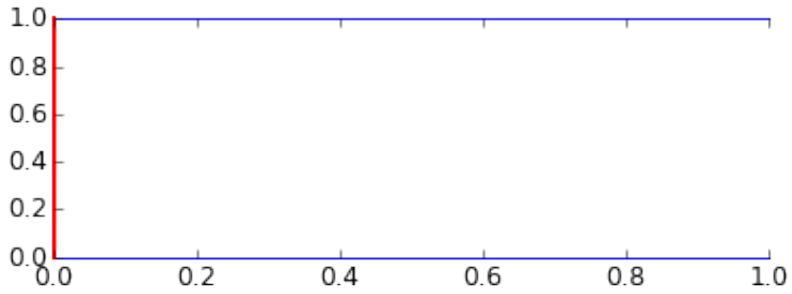
In [100]:
```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(10,3))

# default grid appearance
axes[0].plot(x, x**2, x, x**3, lw=2)
axes[0].grid(True)

# custom grid appearance
axes[1].plot(x, x**2, x, x**3, lw=2)
axes[1].grid(color='b', alpha=0.5, linestyle='dashed', linewidth=0.5)
```



Axis spines

We can also change the properties of axis spines:

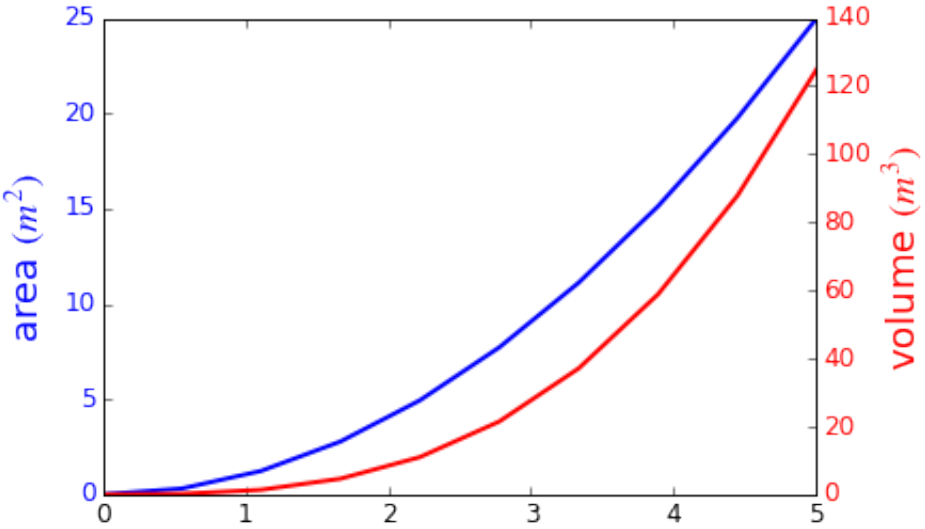
In [101]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(6,2))

ax.spines['bottom'].set_color('blue')
ax.spines['top'].set_color('blue')

ax.spines['left'].set_color('red')
ax.spines['left'].set_linewidth(2)

# turn off axis spine to the right
ax.spines['right'].set_color("none")
ax.yaxis.tick_left() # only ticks on the left side
```



Twin axes

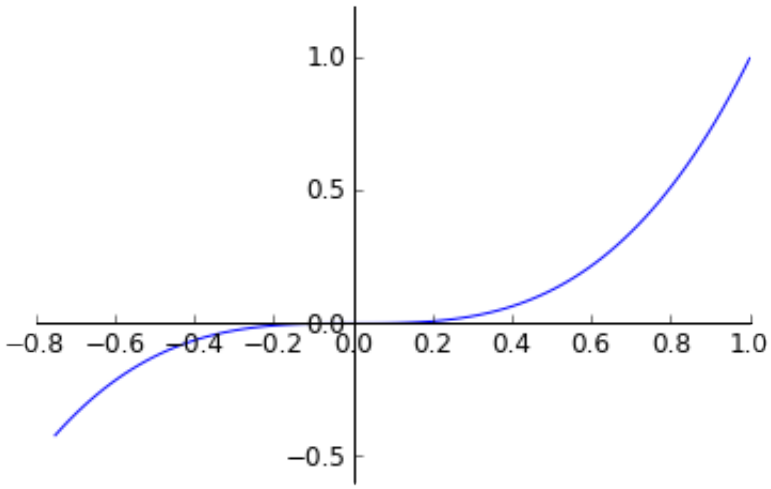
Sometimes it is useful to have dual x or y axes in a figure; for example, when plotting curves with different units together. Matplotlib supports this with the `twinx` and `twiny` functions:

In [102]:
```
fig, ax1 = plt.subplots()

ax1.plot(x, x**2, lw=2, color="blue")
ax1.set_ylabel(r"area $(m^2)$", fontsize=18, color="blue")
for label in ax1.get_yticklabels():
    label.set_color("blue")

ax2 = ax1.twinx()
ax2.plot(x, x**3, lw=2, color="red")
ax2.set_ylabel(r"volume $(m^3)$", fontsize=18, color="red")
for label in ax2.get_yticklabels():
    label.set_color("red")
```



Axes where x and y is zero

In [103]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

ax.spines['right'].set_color('none')
ax.spines['top'].set_color('none')

ax.xaxis.set_ticks_position('bottom')
ax.spines['bottom'].set_position(('data',0)) # set position of x spine t

ax.yaxis.set_ticks_position('left')
ax.spines['left'].set_position(('data',0))   # set position of y spine t

xx = np.linspace(-0.75, 1., 100)
ax.plot(xx, xx**3);
```

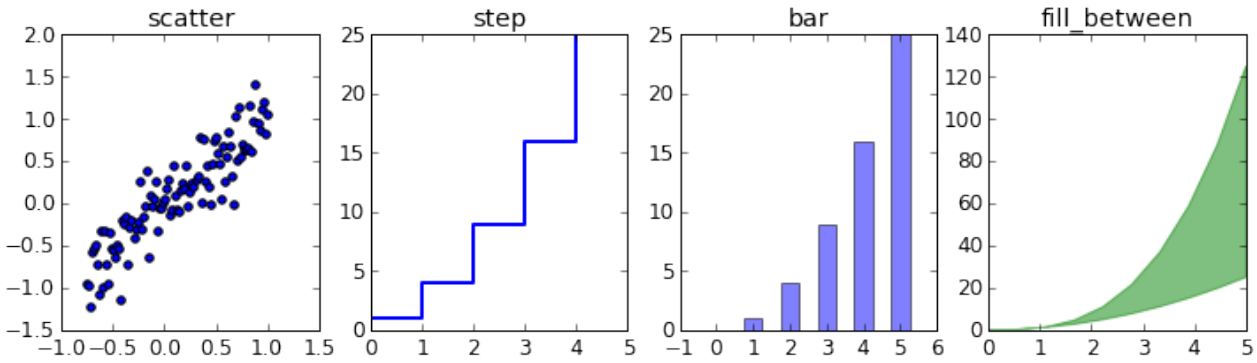


Other 2D plot styles

In addition to the regular `plot` method, there are a number of other functions for generating different kind of plots. See the matplotlib plot gallery for a complete list of available plot types: http://matplotlib.org/gallery.html (http://matplotlib.org/gallery.html). Some of the more useful ones are show below:

In [104]:
```
n = np.array([0,1,2,3,4,5])
```

In [105]:
```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 4, figsize=(12,3))

axes[0].scatter(xx, xx + 0.25*np.random.randn(len(xx)))
axes[0].set_title("scatter")

axes[1].step(n, n**2, lw=2)
axes[1].set_title("step")

axes[2].bar(n, n**2, align="center", width=0.5, alpha=0.5)
axes[2].set_title("bar")

axes[3].fill_between(x, x**2, x**3, color="green", alpha=0.5);
axes[3].set_title("fill_between");
```



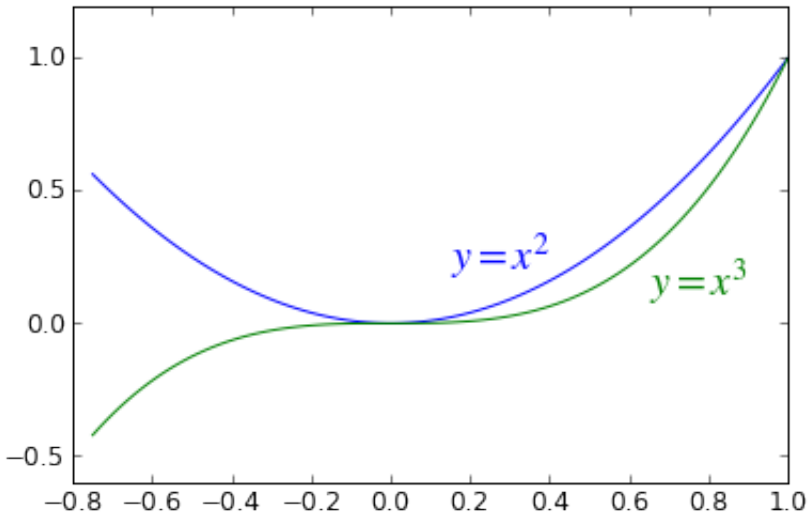
In [ ]:

In [ ]:

Text annotation

Annotating text in matplotlib figures can be done using the `text` function. It supports LaTeX formatting just like axis label texts and titles:

In [108]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

ax.plot(xx, xx**2, xx, xx**3)

ax.text(0.15, 0.2, r"$y=x^2$", fontsize=20, color="blue")
ax.text(0.65, 0.1, r"$y=x^3$", fontsize=20, color="green");
```

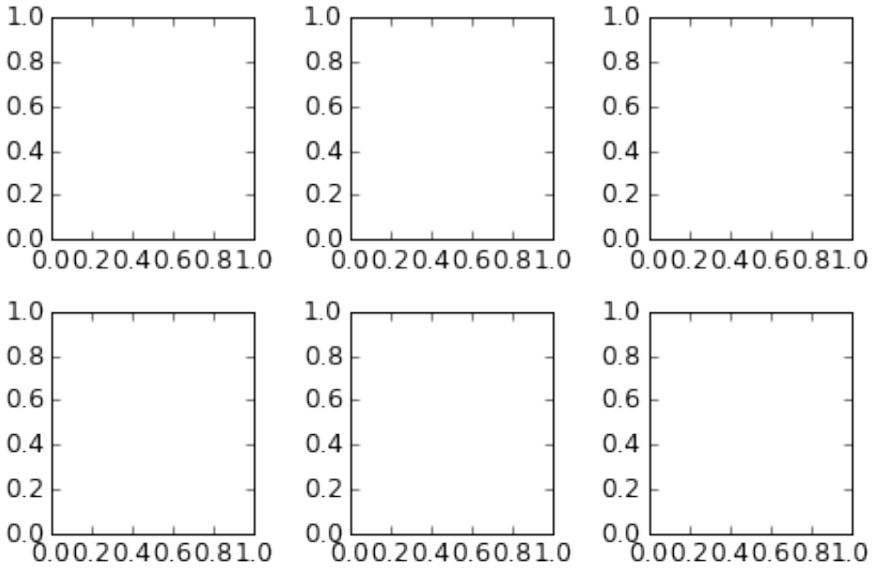


Figures with multiple subplots and insets

Axes can be added to a matplotlib Figure canvas manually using `fig.add_axes` or using a sub-figure layout manager such as `subplots`, `subplot2grid`, or `gridspec`:

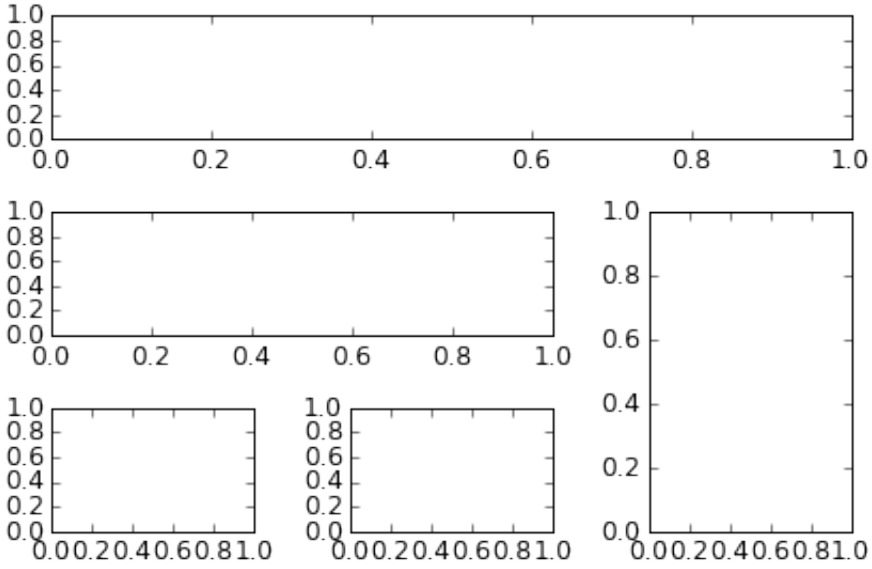
subplots

In [109]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(2, 3)
fig.tight_layout()
```



subplot2grid

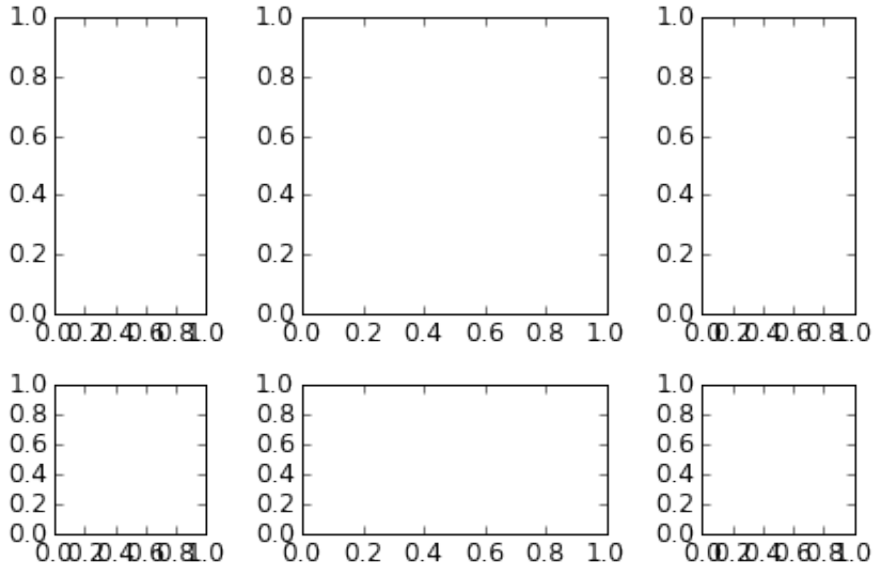
In [110]:
```
fig = plt.figure()
ax1 = plt.subplot2grid((3,3), (0,0), colspan=3)
ax2 = plt.subplot2grid((3,3), (1,0), colspan=2)
ax3 = plt.subplot2grid((3,3), (1,2), rowspan=2)
ax4 = plt.subplot2grid((3,3), (2,0))
ax5 = plt.subplot2grid((3,3), (2,1))
fig.tight_layout()
```



gridspec

In [111]:
```
import matplotlib.gridspec as gridspec
```

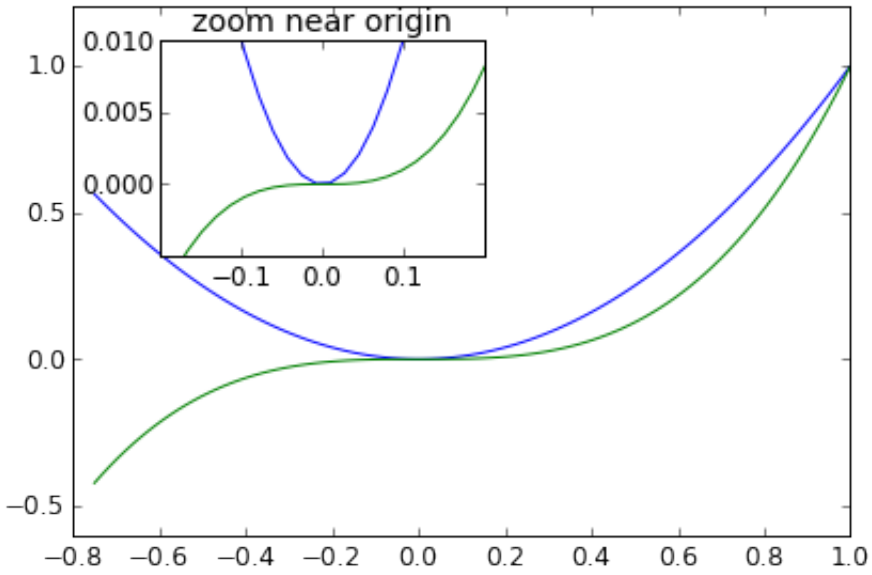
In [112]:
```
fig = plt.figure()

gs = gridspec.GridSpec(2, 3, height_ratios=[2,1], width_ratios=[1,2,1])
for g in gs:
    ax = fig.add_subplot(g)

fig.tight_layout()
```



add_axes

Manually adding axes with `add_axes` is useful for adding insets to figures:

In [113]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

ax.plot(xx, xx**2, xx, xx**3)
fig.tight_layout()

# inset
inset_ax = fig.add_axes([0.2, 0.55, 0.35, 0.35]) # X, Y, width, height

inset_ax.plot(xx, xx**2, xx, xx**3)
inset_ax.set_title('zoom near origin')

# set axis range
inset_ax.set_xlim(-.2, .2)
inset_ax.set_ylim(-.005, .01)

# set axis tick locations
inset_ax.set_yticks([0, 0.005, 0.01])
inset_ax.set_xticks([-0.1,0,.1]);
```



Colormap and contour figures

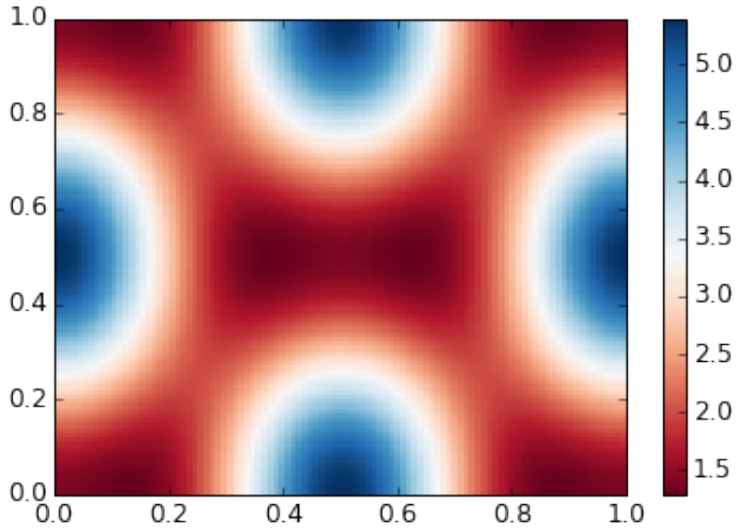
Colormaps and contour figures are useful for plotting functions of two variables. In most of these functions we will use a colormap to encode one dimension of the data. There are a number of predefined colormaps. It is relatively straightforward to define custom colormaps. For a list of pre-defined colormaps, see:
http://www.scipy.org/Cookbook/Matplotlib/Show_colormaps
(http://www.scipy.org/Cookbook/Matplotlib/Show_colormaps)

In [114]:
```
alpha = 0.7
phi_ext = 2 * np.pi * 0.5

def flux_qubit_potential(phi_m, phi_p):
    return 2 + alpha - 2 * np.cos(phi_p) * np.cos(phi_m) - alpha * np.co
```

In [115]:
```
phi_m = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 100)
phi_p = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 100)
X,Y = np.meshgrid(phi_p, phi_m)
Z = flux_qubit_potential(X, Y).T
```

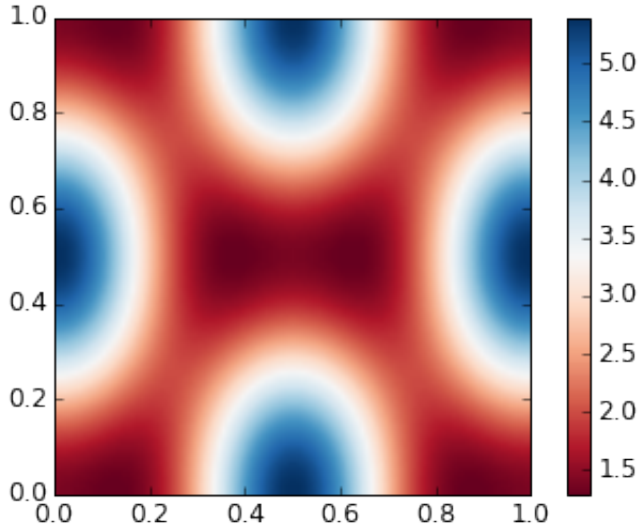
pcolor

In [116]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

p = ax.pcolor(X/(2*np.pi), Y/(2*np.pi), Z, cmap=matplotlib.cm.RdBu, vmin
cb = fig.colorbar(p, ax=ax)
```



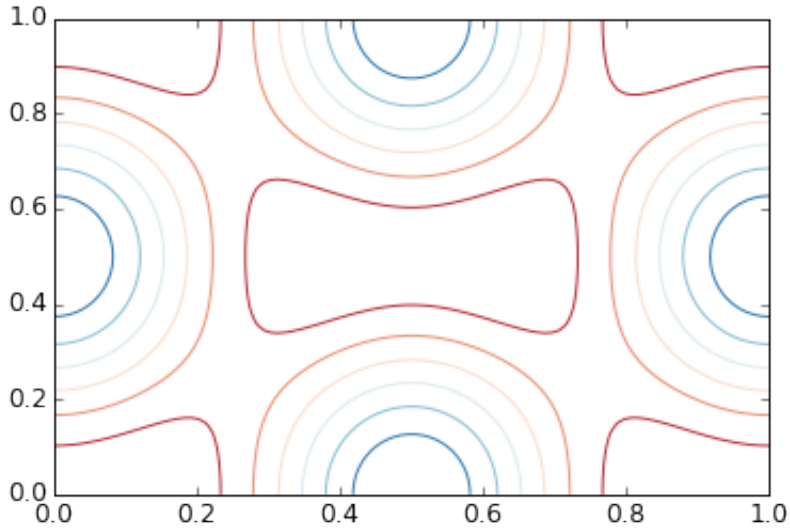
imshow

In [117]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

im = ax.imshow(Z, cmap=matplotlib.cm.RdBu, vmin=abs(Z).min(), vmax=abs(Z
im.set_interpolation('bilinear')

cb = fig.colorbar(im, ax=ax)
```



contour

In [118]:
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

cnt = ax.contour(Z, cmap=matplotlib.cm.RdBu, vmin=abs(Z).min(), vmax=abs
```



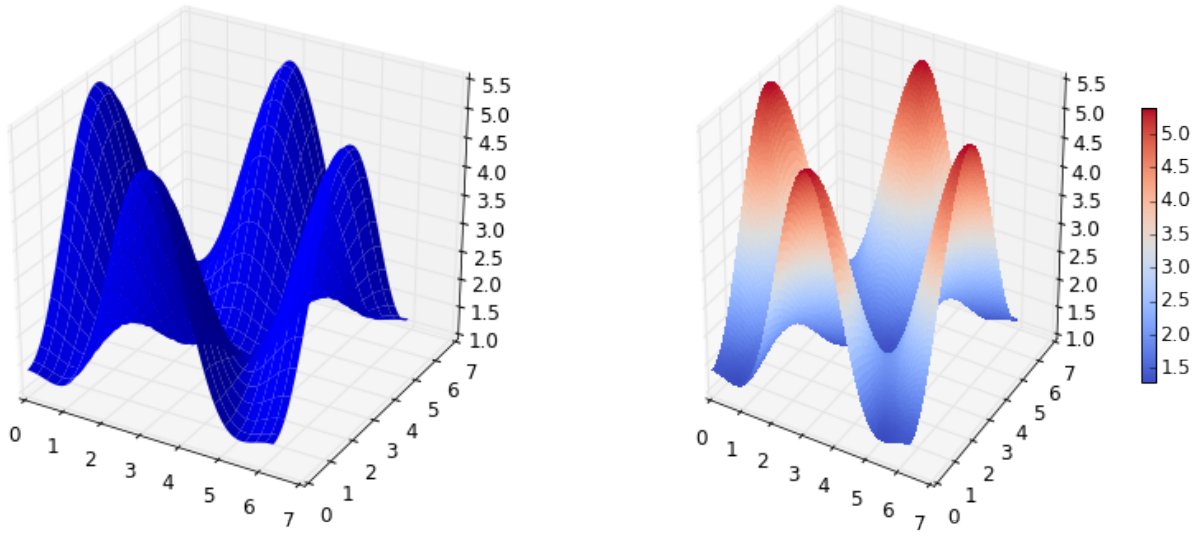
3D figures

To use 3D graphics in matplotlib, we first need to create an instance of the `Axes3D` class. 3D axes can be added to a matplotlib figure canvas in exactly the same way as 2D axes; or, more conveniently, by passing a `projection='3d'` keyword argument to the `add_axes` or `add_subplot` methods.

In [119]:
```
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d.axes3d import Axes3D
```

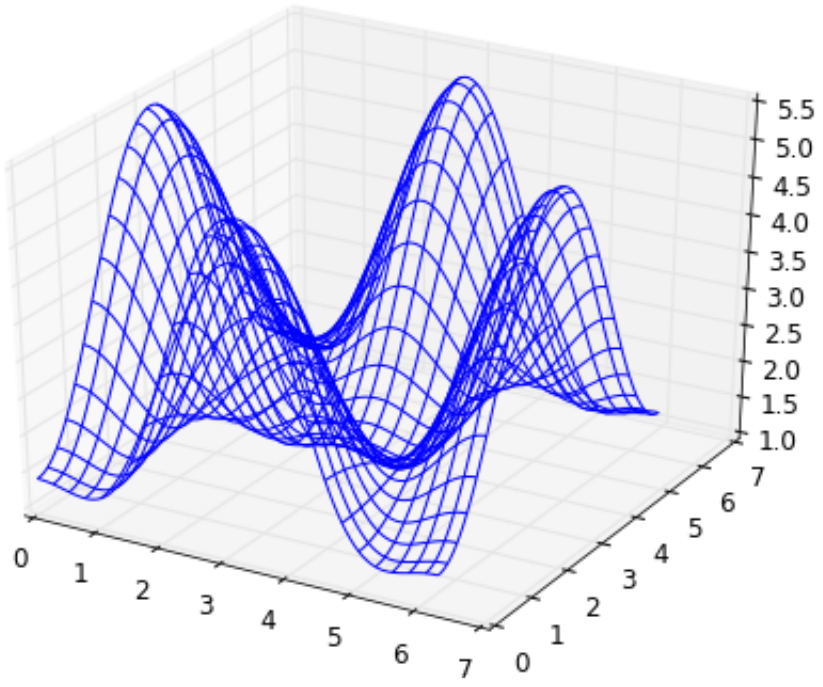
Surface plots

In [121]:
```
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(14,6))

# `ax` is a 3D-aware axis instance because of the projection='3d' keywor
ax = fig.add_subplot(1, 2, 1, projection='3d')

p = ax.plot_surface(X, Y, Z, rstride=4, cstride=4, linewidth=0)

# surface_plot with color grading and color bar
ax = fig.add_subplot(1, 2, 2, projection='3d')
p = ax.plot_surface(X, Y, Z, rstride=1, cstride=1, cmap=matplotlib.cm.co
cb = fig.colorbar(p, shrink=0.5)
```



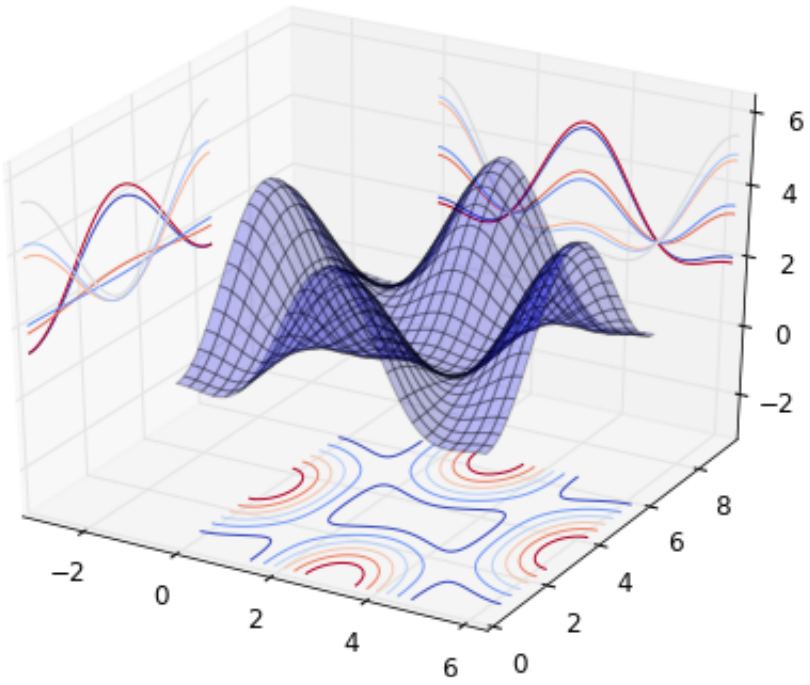
Wire-frame plot

In [122]:
```
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(8,6))

ax = fig.add_subplot(1, 1, 1, projection='3d')

p = ax.plot_wireframe(X, Y, Z, rstride=4, cstride=4)
```



Coutour plots with projections

In [123]:
```
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(8,6))

ax = fig.add_subplot(1,1,1, projection='3d')

ax.plot_surface(X, Y, Z, rstride=4, cstride=4, alpha=0.25)
cset = ax.contour(X, Y, Z, zdir='z', offset=-np.pi, cmap=matplotlib.cm.c
cset = ax.contour(X, Y, Z, zdir='x', offset=-np.pi, cmap=matplotlib.cm.c
cset = ax.contour(X, Y, Z, zdir='y', offset=3*np.pi, cmap=matplotlib.cm.

ax.set_xlim3d(-np.pi, 2*np.pi);
ax.set_ylim3d(0, 3*np.pi);
ax.set_zlim3d(-np.pi, 2*np.pi);
```



Further reading

- http://www.matplotlib.org (http://www.matplotlib.org) - The project web page for matplotlib.
- https://github.com/matplotlib/matplotlib (https://github.com/matplotlib/matplotlib) - The source code for matplotlib.
- http://matplotlib.org/gallery.html (http://matplotlib.org/gallery.html) - A large gallery showcaseing various types of plots matplotlib can create. Highly recommended!
- http://www.loria.fr/~rougier/teaching/matplotlib (http://www.loria.fr/~rougier/teaching/matplotlib) - A good matplotlib tutorial.
- http://scipy-lectures.github.io/matplotlib/matplotlib.html (http://scipy-lectures.github.io/matplotlib/matplotlib.html) - Another good matplotlib reference.