



Matplotlib Subplots

Matplotlib subplots refer to multiple plots or graphs arranged within a single **figure**. Each individual plot is created within its own **axes** (plotting area), and multiple axes can coexist in one figure—this layout is referred to as a subplot grid.

Why Use Subplots?

Subplots are useful when you want to:

- Compare multiple datasets side by side.
- Show different views of the same data.
- Present related data compactly in one visual frame.

Key Concepts

1. Figure vs Axes

- A **figure** is the whole window or page.
- An **axes** is a single plot inside the figure.
- A figure can contain **one or many axes (subplots)**.

2. Layout in Rows and Columns

Subplots are usually arranged using a grid system defined by rows and columns (e.g., 2 rows and 2 columns for four subplots).

3. Independent Control

Each subplot (or axes) can have its own title, labels, limits, and style. This gives you fine-grained control over each visualization.

4. Automatic Spacing

When using subplots, spacing between plots may need to be adjusted to avoid overlap of titles, labels, or legends.

Use Cases

- Visualizing time series data across multiple variables.
- Showing original data and transformations (like raw vs normalized).
- Displaying different chart types (bar, line, scatter) side by side for the same dataset.

In summary, **Matplotlib subplots** let you organize multiple plots in one figure, offering a powerful way to build comparative or multi-faceted visualizations efficiently.



To begin with the Lab

1. We start by importing Matplotlib library in our Jupyter notebook.

```
[2]: # COMMON MISTAKE!
# DON'T FORGET THE .PYPLOT part

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

2. This code uses NumPy to create numerical arrays and perform element-wise operations.
3. First, `a = np.linspace(0,10,11)` creates an array of 11 evenly spaced numbers between 0 and 10.
4. Then `b = a ** 4` raises each element of `a` to the power of 4.
5. Separately, `x = np.arange(0,10)` creates an array from 0 to 9, and `y = 2 * x` multiplies each element in `x` by 2.
6. These arrays (`a`, `b`, `x`, and `y`) can be used for further analysis or visualization like plotting.

```
[4]: import numpy as np

[6]: a = np.linspace(0,10,11)
      b = a ** 4

[8]: a
[8]: array([ 0.,  1.,  2.,  3.,  4.,  5.,  6.,  7.,  8.,  9., 10.])

[10]: b
[10]: array([0.000e+00, 1.000e+00, 1.600e+01, 8.100e+01, 2.560e+02, 6.250e+02,
       1.296e+03, 2.401e+03, 4.096e+03, 6.561e+03, 1.000e+04])

[12]: x = np.arange(0,10)
      y = 2 * x

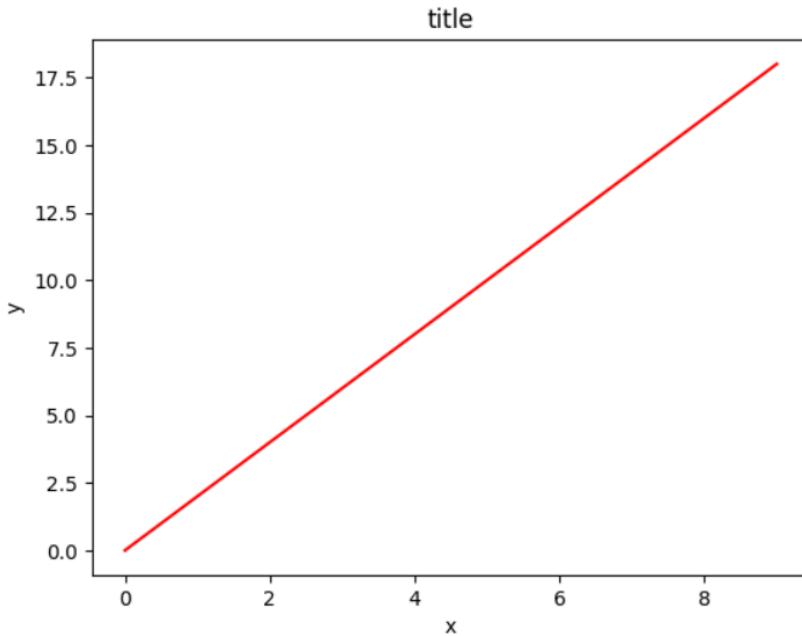
[14]: x
[14]: array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])

[16]: y
[16]: array([ 0,  2,  4,  6,  8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18])
```

7. This code uses `plt.subplots()` to create a figure (`fig`) and a single subplot (`axes`) using tuple unpacking.
8. It plots the data `x` and `y` with a red line ('r') on the axes, then sets labels for the x-axis and y-axis using `set_xlabel()` and `set_ylabel()`.
9. Finally, it adds a title to the plot using `set_title('title')`. The semicolon at the end prevents the plot object from displaying as output in environments like Jupyter Notebook.
10. This method is a cleaner and more scalable way to create plots, especially when dealing with multiple subplots.

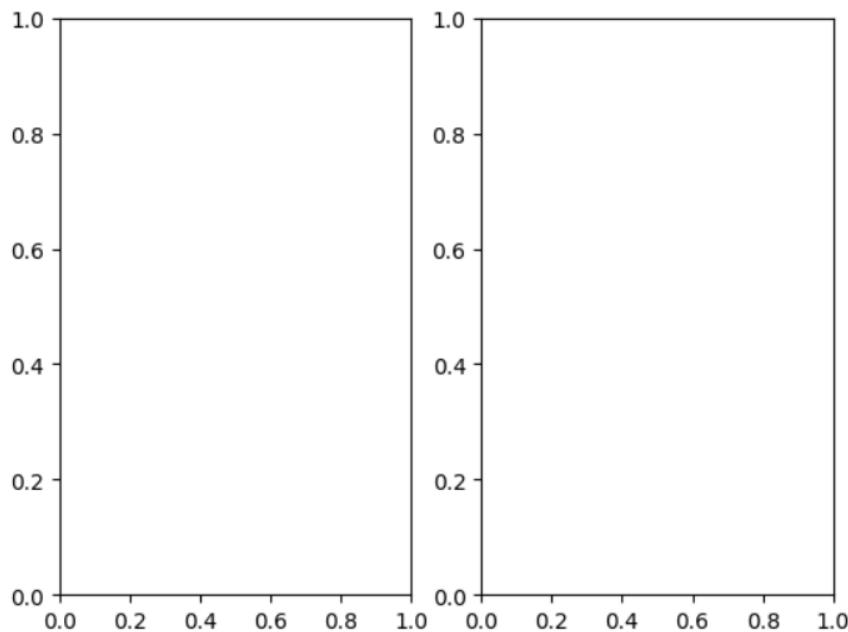
```
[19]: # Use similar to plt.figure() except use tuple unpacking to grab fig and axes
fig, axes = plt.subplots()

# Now use the axes object to add stuff to plot
axes.plot(x, y, 'r')
axes.set_xlabel('x')
axes.set_ylabel('y')
axes.set_title('title'); #; hides Out[]
```



11. This code uses `plt.subplots()` to create multi-panel plots. The first call creates a figure with 1 row and 2 columns of subplots, resulting in an array of 2 axes.
12. The second call creates a 2x2 grid of subplots, giving a 2D NumPy array of 4 axes (`(2, 2)`).
13. The `axes` object holds references to each subplot, allowing individual plotting on each.
14. This layout is useful for comparing multiple plots side by side or in grid formats.
15. The `.shape` attribute helps confirm the structure of the subplot array.

```
[22]: # Empty canvas of 1 by 2 subplots
fig, axes = plt.subplots(nrows=1, ncols=2)
```



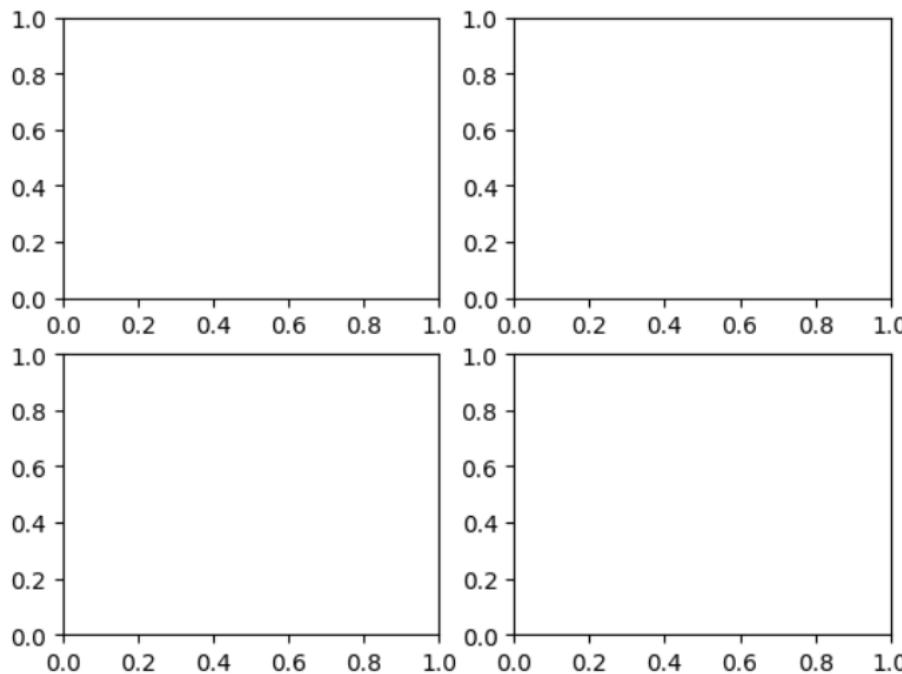
```
[24]: # Axes is an array of axes to plot on
axes
```

```
[24]: array([<Axes: >, <Axes: >], dtype=object)
```

```
[26]: axes.shape
```

```
[26]: (2,)
```

```
[28]: # Empty canvas of 2 by 2 subplots
fig, axes = plt.subplots(nrows=2, ncols=2)
```



```
[30]: axes
```

```
[30]: array([ [
```

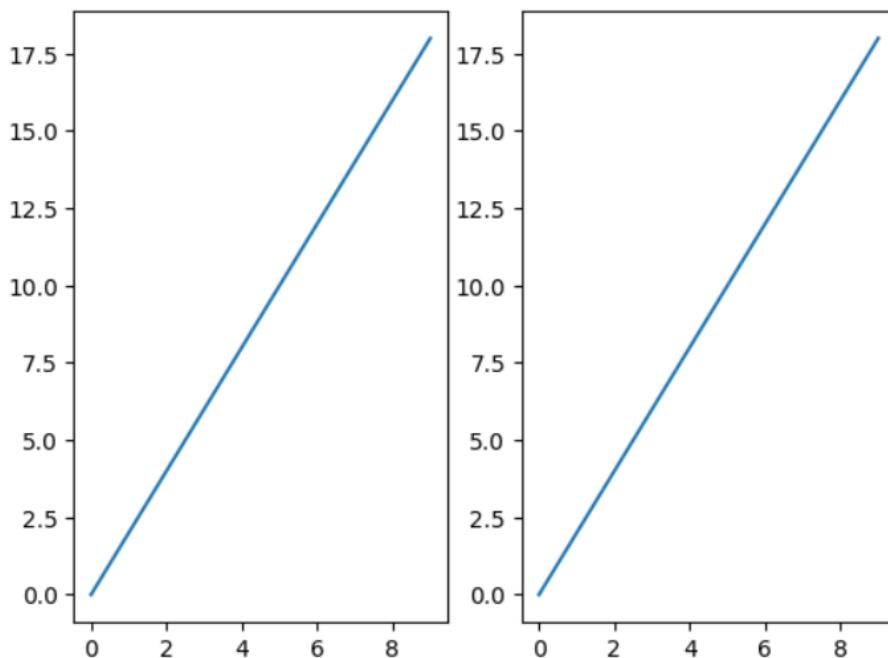
```
[32]: axes.shape
```

```
[32]: (2, 2)
```

16. This code creates a single-row, two-column subplot layout using `plt.subplots(nrows=1, ncols=2)`, producing two subplot axes.
17. A for loop then iterates over these axes and plots the same x and y data on each subplot using `axe.plot(x, y)`.
18. This approach allows you to easily apply the same or similar plots to multiple subplots in one figure.

```
[35]: fig,axes = plt.subplots(nrows=1,ncols=2)

for axe in axes:
    axe.plot(x,y)
```

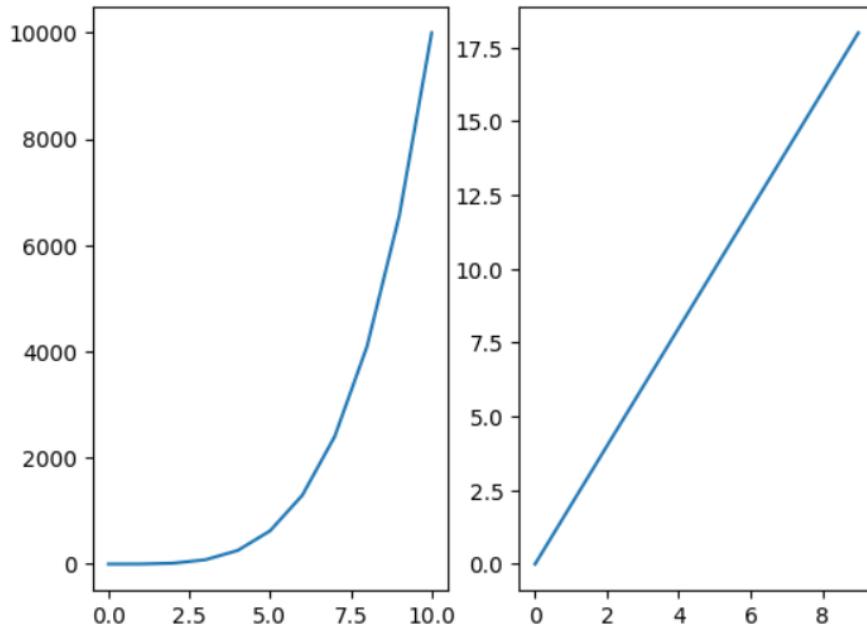


19. This code creates a figure with two subplots arranged in one row using `plt.subplots(nrows=1, ncols=2)`.
20. It then plots different data on each subplot: the first subplot (`axes[0]`) plots a vs. b, and the second subplot (`axes[1]`) plots x vs. y.
21. This is useful for displaying multiple related plots side by side for comparison.

```
[37]: fig,axes = plt.subplots(nrows=1,ncols=2)

axes[0].plot(a,b)
axes[1].plot(x,y)
```

```
[37]: [<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x20c44c8c290>]
```

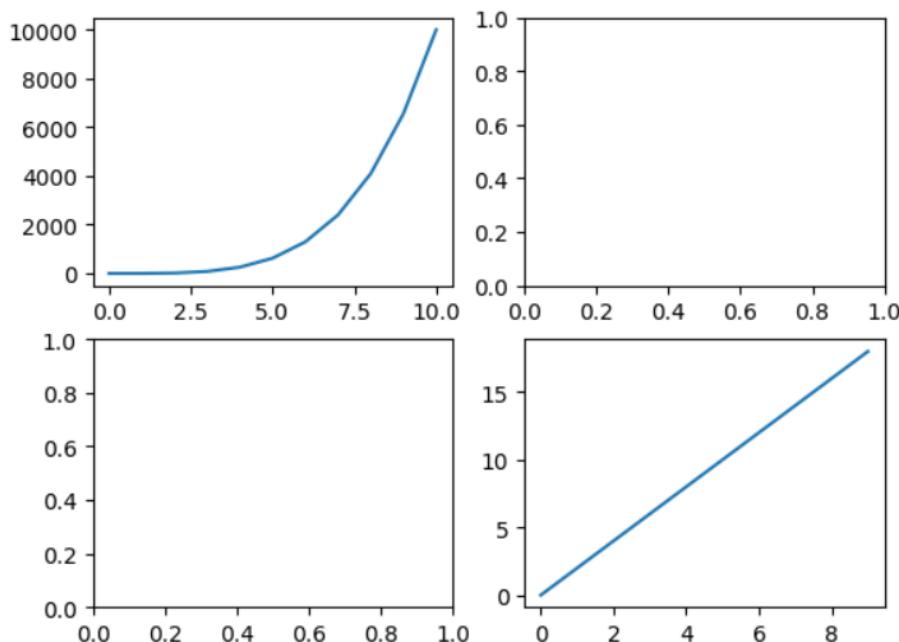


22. This code creates a 2×2 grid of subplots using `plt.subplots(nrows=2, ncols=2)`, which returns a 2D array of axes.
23. It then plots a vs. b in the top-left subplot (`axes[0][0]`) and x vs. y in the bottom-right subplot (`axes[1][1]`).
24. This structure helps organize multiple plots neatly within one figure.

```
[39]: # NOTE! This returns 2 dimensional array
fig,axes = plt.subplots(nrows=2,ncols=2)

axes[0][0].plot(a,b)
axes[1][1].plot(x,y)
```

```
[39]: [<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x20c44bf22d0>]
```

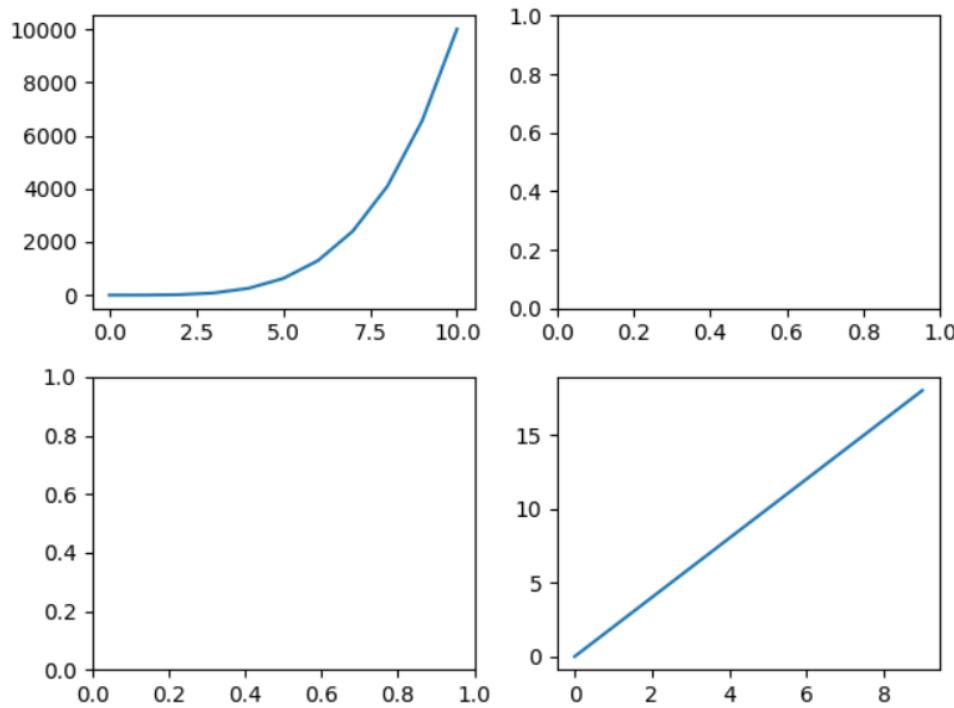


25. This code creates a 2×2 grid of subplots using `plt.subplots`, which returns a 2D NumPy array of axes.
26. It plots `a` vs. `b` in the top-left subplot (`axes[0][0]`) and `x` vs. `y` in the bottom-right subplot (`axes[1][1]`).
27. The call to `plt.tight_layout()` adjusts the spacing between subplots to prevent overlapping elements, improving the overall layout and readability of the figure.

```
[42]: # NOTE! This returns 2 dimensional array
fig,axes = plt.subplots(nrows=2,ncols=2)

axes[0][0].plot(a,b)
axes[1][1].plot(x,y)

plt.tight_layout()
```



28. This code creates a 2×2 grid of subplots with a specified figure size of 12×8 inches.
29. Each subplot (`axes[row][col]`) is customized individually: data is plotted, and titles or axis labels are set where needed.
30. For example, the top-left plot has a title, and the bottom-right has both a title and X-axis label.
31. The entire figure is given a main title (`suptitle`). This distinction between subplot-level and figure-level customization helps organize complex visualizations clearly

```
[45]: fig,axes = plt.subplots(nrows=2,ncols=2,figsize=(12,8))

# SET YOUR AXES PARAMETERS FIRST

# Parameters at the axes level
axes[0][0].plot(a,b)
axes[0][0].set_title('0 0 Title')

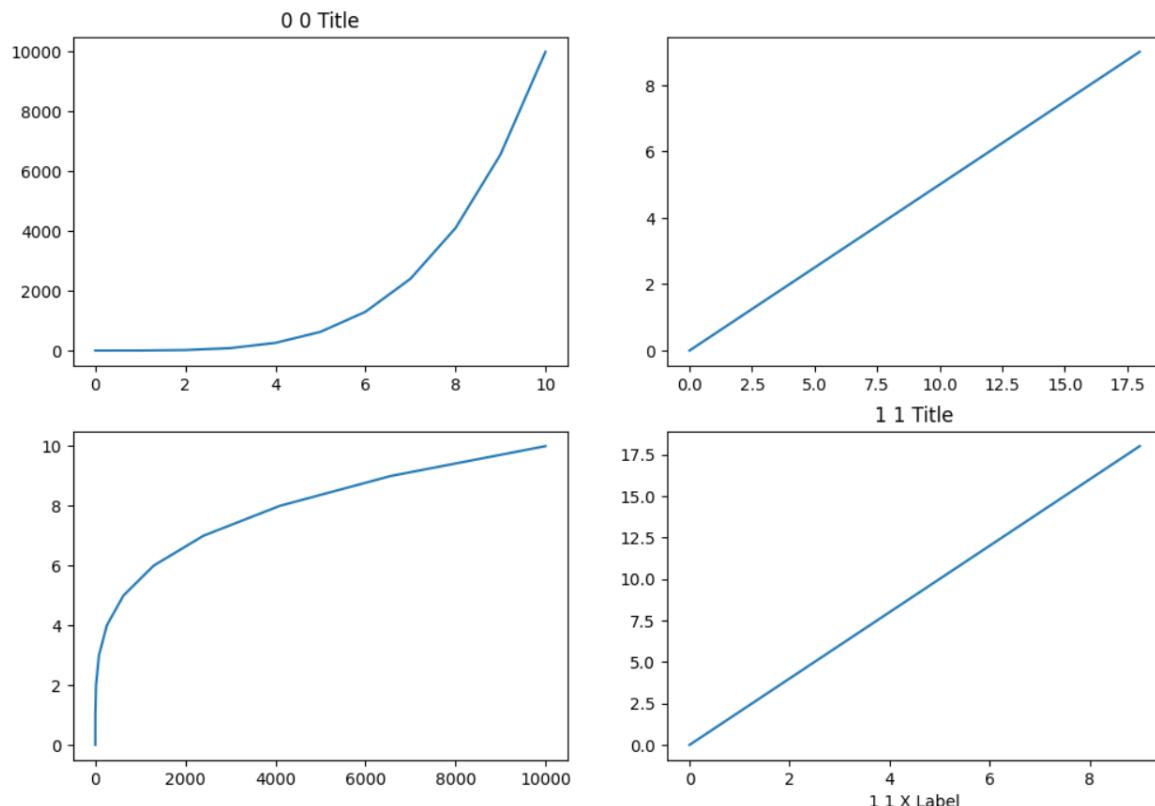
axes[1][1].plot(x,y)
axes[1][1].set_title('1 1 Title')
axes[1][1].set_xlabel('1 1 X Label')

axes[0][1].plot(y,x)
axes[1][0].plot(b,a)

# THEN SET OVERALL FIGURE PARAMETERS

# Parameters at the Figure Level
fig.suptitle("Figure Level",fontsize=16)

plt.show()
```



32. This code creates a 2×2 grid of subplots using `plt.subplots()` and customizes their layout using `fig.subplots_adjust()`.
33. Each subplot is filled with a different plot of the variables `a`, `b`, `x`, and `y`. The `wspace=0.9` argument increases the horizontal space between the subplots, while `hspace=0.1` reduces the vertical space between them.
34. The other layout parameters (`left`, `right`, `top`, `bottom`) are left as default (`None`).

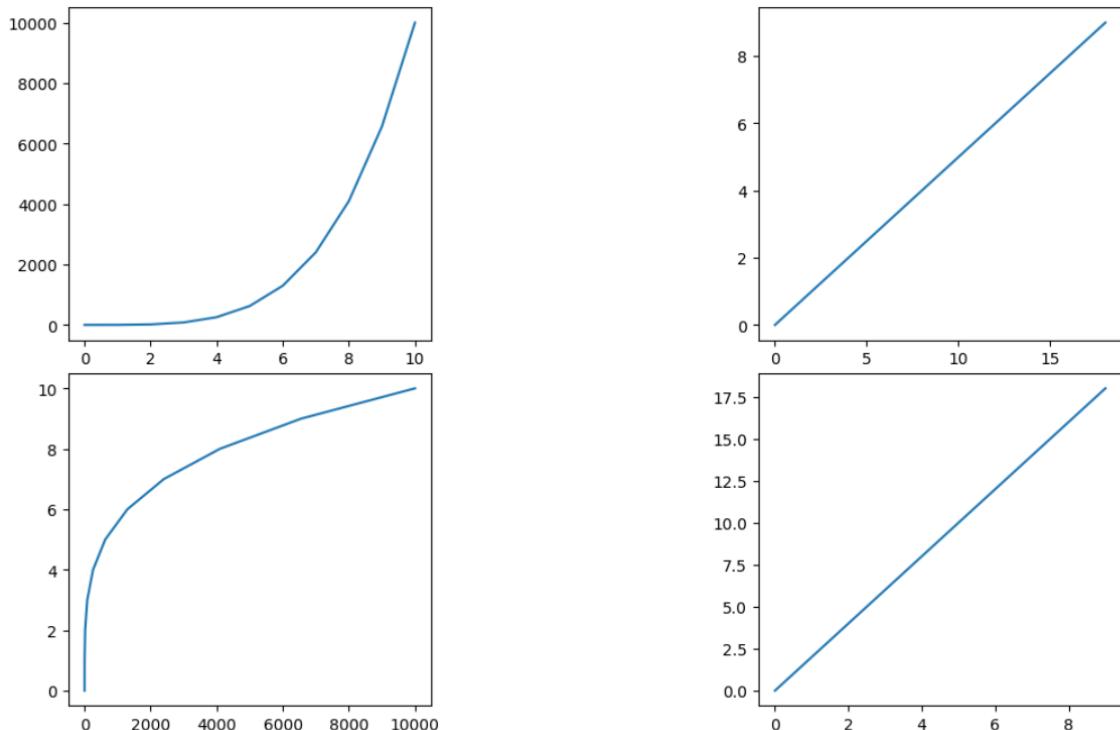
35. This allows fine-tuning of subplot spacing within the overall figure for better readability or aesthetic purposes.

```
[48]: fig,axes = plt.subplots(nrows=2,ncols=2,figsize=(12,8))

# Parameters at the axes level
axes[0][0].plot(a,b)
axes[1][1].plot(x,y)
axes[0][1].plot(y,x)
axes[1][0].plot(b,a)

# Use left,right,top, bottom to stretch subplots
# Use wspace,hspace to add spacing between subplots
fig.subplots_adjust(left=None,
    bottom=None,
    right=None,
    top=None,
    wspace=0.9,
    hspace=0.1,)

plt.show()
```



36. This code creates a 2×2 grid of subplots using plt.subplots() with a figure size of 12 by 8 inches.
37. Each subplot is populated with different plots using the plot() function on specific axes.
38. The resulting figure is saved as an image file named 'subplots.png', and bbox_inches='tight' ensures the saved image trims unnecessary whitespace.
39. Finally, plt.show() displays the figure. This approach is useful for organizing multiple plots in one figure and exporting it cleanly.

```
[51]: # NOTE! This returns 2 dimensional array
fig,axes = plt.subplots(nrows=2,ncols=2,figsize=(12,8))

axes[0][0].plot(a,b)
axes[1][1].plot(x,y)
axes[0][1].plot(y,x)
axes[1][0].plot(b,a)

fig.savefig('subplots.png',bbox_inches='tight')

plt.show()
```

