



# 13.2.2 An introduction to contour plots in Python

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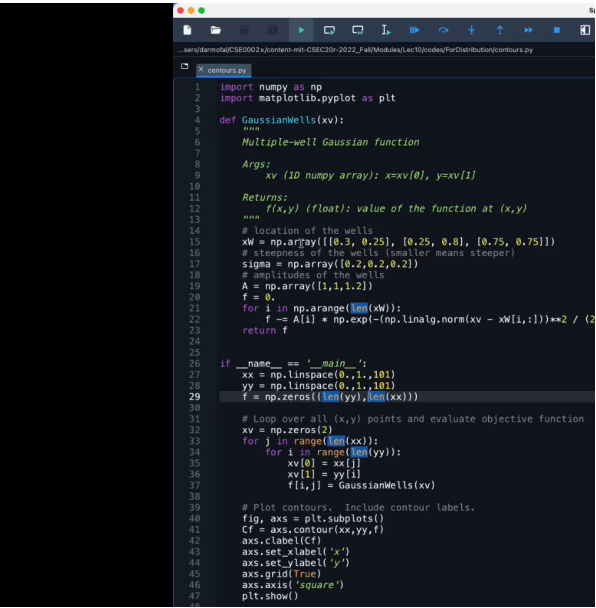
M02.1

Plotting contours of a function are frequently informative way to communicate results. In the context of optimization, contour plots of the objective function can lead to improved understanding of how the function behaves, as well as how optimization methods will work on the function.

We now describe some of the basics of contour plotting using Matplotlib. This short introduction cannot possibly cover all the details and functionality for contour plotting in Matplotlib. As a result, the documentation remains a key resource to become comfortable with using.

The following video demonstrates the basics of contour plotting. The Python code discussed in this video is available in the following [zip file](#).

## Video discussing contour plotting



PROFESSOR:  
We're going to demonstrate Matplotlib's ability to plot contours.  
I've got a simple function here called Gaussian wells.  
The function has three Gaussians

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