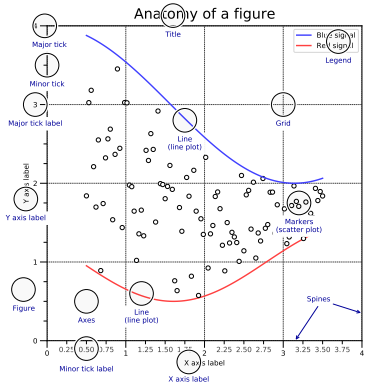
matplotlib

Cheat sheet — Version 3.2

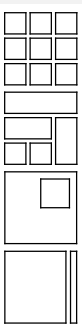
Quick start

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib as mpl
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt


X = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 100)
Y = np.cos(X)

fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.plot(X,Y,color='C1')

fig.savefig("figure.pdf")
fig.show()
```

Anatomy of a figure



Subplots layout



```
subplot[s](rows,cols,…)
fig, axs = plt.subplots(3,3)

G = gridspec(rows,cols,…)
ax = G[0,:]

ax.inset_axes(extent)

d=make_axes_locatable(ax)
ax=d.new_horizontal('10%')
```

Getting help

- matplotlib.org
- github.com/matplotlib/matplotlib/issues
- discourse.matplotlib.org
- stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/matplotlib
- gitter.im/matplotlib
- twitter.com/matplotlib
- Matplotlib users mailing list

Basic plots

`plot([X],Y,[fmt],…)` API
X, Y, fmt, color, marker, linestyle

`scatter(X,Y,…)` API
X, Y, [s]izes, [c]olors, marker, cmap

`bar[h](x,height,…)` API
x, height, width, bottom, align, color

`imshow(Z,[cmap],…)` API
Z, cmap, interpolation, extent, origin

`contour[f]([X],[Y],Z,…)` API
X, Y, Z, levels, colors, extent, origin

`quiver([X],[Y],U,V,…)` API
X, Y, U, V, C, units, angles

`pie(X,[explode],…)` API
Z, explode, labels, colors, radius

`text(x,y,text,…)` API
x, y, text, va, ha, size, weight, transform

`fill[_between][x](…)` API
X, Y1, Y2, color, where

Advanced plots

`step(X,Y,[fmt],…)` API
X, Y, fmt, color, marker, where

`boxplot(X,…)` API
X, notch, sym, bootstrap, widths

`errorbar(X,Y,xerr,yerr,…)` API
X, Y, xerr, yerr, fmt

`hist(X, bins, …)` API
X, bins, range, density, weights

`violinplot(D,…)` API
D, positions, widths, vert

`barbs([X],[Y], U, V, …)` API
X, Y, U, V, C, length, pivot, sizes

`eventplot(positions,…)` API
positions, orientation, lineoffsets

`hexbin(X,Y,C,…)` API
X, Y, C, gridsize, bins

`xcorr(X,Y,…)` API
X, Y, normed, detrend

Scales

API

```
ax.set_[xy]scale(scale,…)
```

linear
any values

log
values > 0

symlog
any values

logit
0 < values < 1

Projections

API

```
subplot(…,projection=p)
```

p='polar'

p='3d'

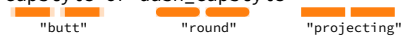
p=Orthographic() API
from cartopy.crs import Cartographic

Lines

API

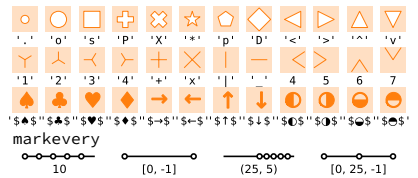
linestyle or ls

capstyle or dash_capstyle



Markers

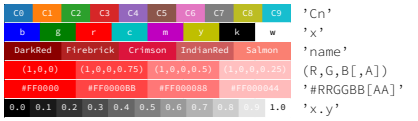
API



markevery

Colors

API

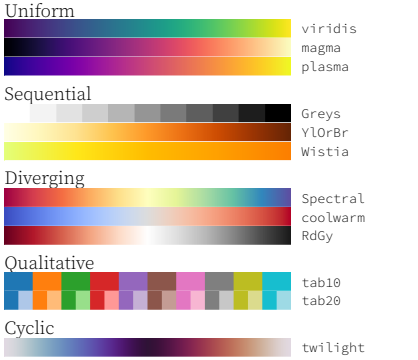


'Cn'
'x'
'name'
(R,G,B[,A])
'#RRGGBB[AA]'
'x,y'

Colormaps

API

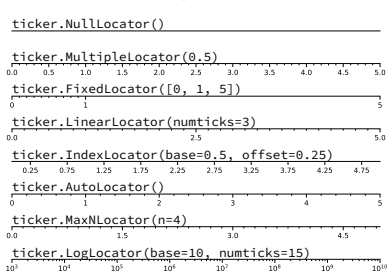
```
plt.get_cmap(name)
```



Tick locators

API

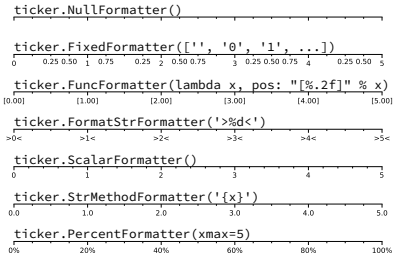
```
from matplotlib import ticker
ax.[xy]axis.set_[minor|major]_locator(locator)
```



Tick formatters

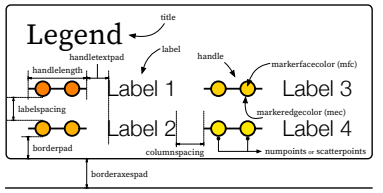
API

```
from matplotlib import ticker
ax.[xy]axis.set_[minor|major]_formatter(formatter)
```

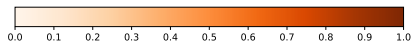


Ornaments

`ax.legend(…)` API
handles, labels, loc, title, frameon



`ax.colorbar(…)` API
mappable, ax, cax, orientation



`ax.annotate(…)` API
text, xy, xytext, xycoords, textcoords, arrowprops

Event handling

API

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
def on_click(event):
  print(event)
fig.canvas.mpl_connect(
  'button_press_event', on_click)
```

Animation

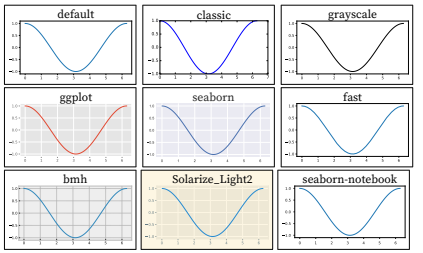
API

```
import matplotlib.animation as mpla

T = np.linspace(0,2*np.pi,100)
S = np.sin(T)
line, = plt.plot(T, S)
def animate(i):
  line.set_ydata(np.sin(T+i/50))
anim = mpla.FuncAnimation(
  plt.gcf(), animate, interval=5)
plt.show()
```

Styles

API

```
plt.style.use(style)
```



Quick reminder

```
ax.grid()
ax.patch.set_alpha(0)
ax.set_[xy]lim(vmin, vmax)
ax.set_[xy]label(label)
ax.set_[xy]ticks(list)
ax.set_[xy]ticklabels(list)
ax.set_[sup]title(title)
ax.tick_params(width=10, …)
ax.set_axis_[on|off]()

ax.tight_layout()
plt.gcf(), plt.gca()
mpl.rc('axes', linewidth=1, …)
fig.patch.set_alpha(0)
text=r'$\frac{-e^{i\pi}}{2^n}$'
```

Keyboard shortcuts

API

ctrl + s	Save	ctrl + w	Close plot
r	Reset view	f	Fullscreen 0/1
f	View forward	b	View back
p	Pan view	o	Zoom to rect
x	X pan/zoom	y	Y pan/zoom
g	Minor grid 0/1	G	Major grid 0/1
l	X axis log/linear	L	Y axis log/linear

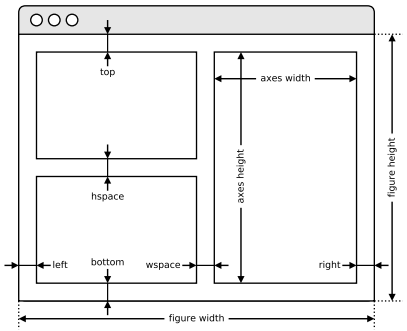
Ten simple rules

READ

1. Know Your Audience
2. Identify Your Message
3. Adapt the Figure
4. Captions Are Not Optional
5. Do Not Trust the Defaults
6. Use Color Effectively
7. Do Not Mislead the Reader
8. Avoid "Chartjunk"
9. Message Trumps Beauty
10. Get the Right Tool

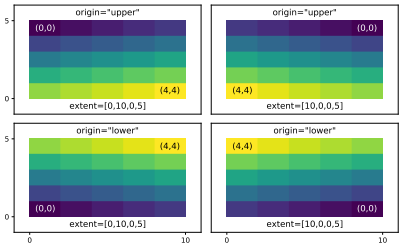
Axes adjustments API

plt.**subplot_adjust**(...)



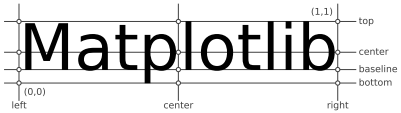
Extent & origin API

ax.**imshow**(extent=..., origin=...)



Text alignments API

ax.**text**(..., ha=... , va=..., ...)



Text parameters API

ax.**text**(..., family=... , size=..., weight = ...)
ax.**text**(..., fontproperties = ...)

The quick brown fox — xx-large (1.73)
The quick brown fox — x-large (1.44)
The quick brown fox — large (1.20)
The quick brown fox — medium (1.00)
The quick brown fox — small (0.83)
The quick brown fox — x-small (0.69)
The quick brown fox — xx-small (0.58)

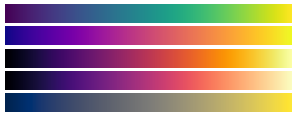
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — black (900)
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — bold (700)
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — semibold (600)
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — normal (400)
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — ultralight (100)

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — monospace
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — serif
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — sans
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — cursive

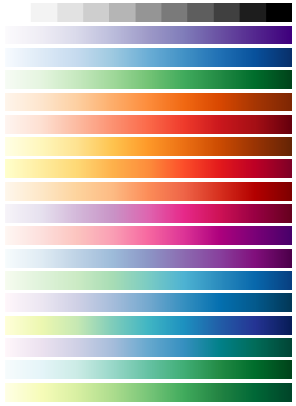
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — italic
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — normal

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG — small-caps
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog — normal

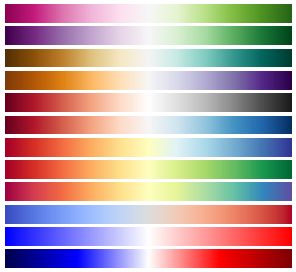
Uniform colormaps



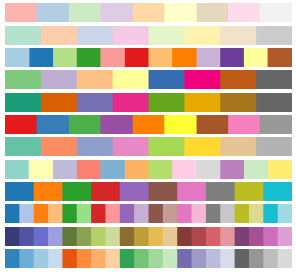
Sequential colormaps



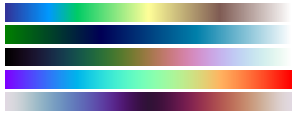
Diverging colormaps



Qualitative colormaps

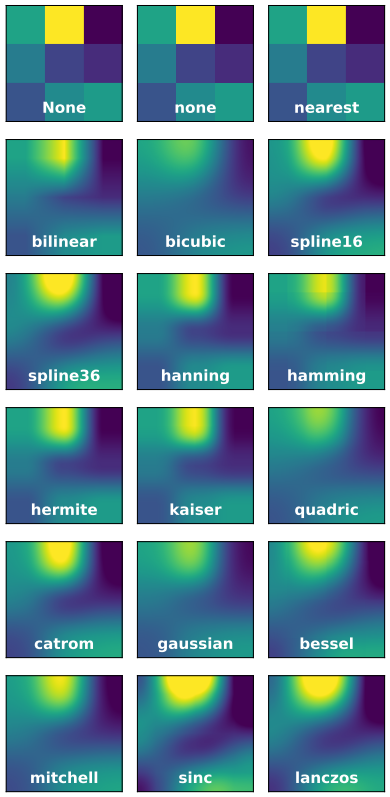


Miscellaneous colormaps

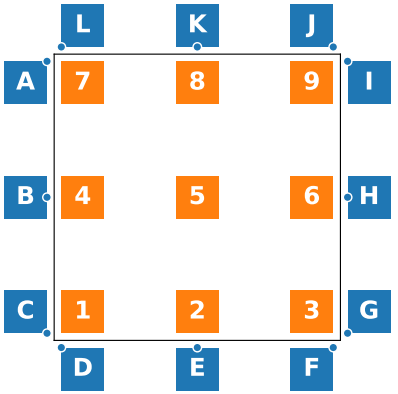


Color names API

Image interpolation API



Legend placement

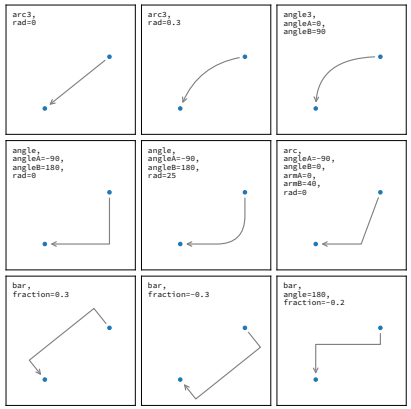


ax.**legend**(loc="string", bbox_to_anchor=(x,y))

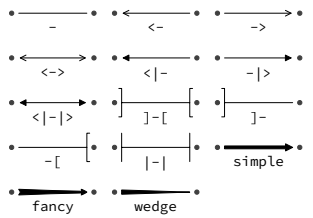
1: lower left — 2: lower center — 3: lower right
4: center left — 5: center — 6: center right
7: upper left — 8: upper center — 9: upper right

A: upper right / B: center right / (-.1,.9) (-.1,.5)
C: lower right / D: upper left / (.1,-.1) (-.1,.1)
E: upper center / F: upper right / (.5,-.1) (.9,-.1)
G: lower left / (1.1,.1) H: center left / (1.1,.5)
I: upper left / (1.1,.9) J: lower right / (.9,1.1)
K: lower center / L: lower left / (.1,1.1) (.5,1.1)

Annotation connection styles API



Annotation arrow styles API



How do I ...

... **resize a figure?**
→ fig.set_size_inches(w,h)
... **save a figure?**
→ fig.savefig("figure.pdf")
... **save a transparent figure?**
→ fig.savefig("figure.pdf", transparent=True)
... **clear a figure?**
→ ax.clear()
... **close all figures?**
→ plt.close("all")
... **remove ticks?**
→ ax.set_xticks([])
... **remove tick labels ?**
→ ax.set_[xy]ticklabels([])
... **rotate tick labels ?**
→ ax.set_[xy]ticks(rotation=90)
... **hide top spine?**
→ ax.spines['top'].set_visible(False)
... **hide legend border?**
→ ax.legend(frameon=False)
... **show error as shaded region?**
→ ax.fill_between(X, Y+error, Y-error)
... **draw a rectangle?**
→ ax.add_patch(plt.Rectangle((0, 0),1,1)
... **draw a vertical line?**
→ ax.axvline(x=0.5)
... **draw outside frame?**
→ ax.plot(..., clip_on=False)
... **use transparency?**
→ ax.plot(..., alpha=0.25)
... **convert an RGB image into a gray image?**
→ gray = 0.2989*R+0.5870*G+0.1140*B
... **set figure background color?**
→ fig.patch.set_facecolor("grey")
... **get a reversed colormap?**
→ plt.get_cmap("viridis_r")
... **get a discrete colormap?**
→ plt.get_cmap("viridis", 10)
... **show a figure for one second?**
→ fig.show(block=False), time.sleep(1)

Performance tips

```
scatter(X, Y)                                  slow
plot(X, Y, marker="o", ls="")                  fast

for i in range(n): plot(X[i])                  slow
plot(sum([x+[None] for x in X],[]))            fast

cla(), imshow(…), canvas.draw()                slow
im.set_data(…), canvas.draw()                  fast
```