

Machine Learning: Libraries: Matplotlib

**CPSC 501: Advanced Programming Techniques
Winter 2025**

Jonathan Hudson, Ph.D
Assistant Professor (Teaching)
Department of Computer Science
University of Calgary

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Copyright © 2025



matplotlib

- **matplotlib** (2003) OG chart making inspired by MATLAB
- It received an early boost when it was adopted as the plotting package of choice of the Space Telescope Science Institute (the folks behind the Hubble Telescope), which financially supported Matplotlib's development and greatly expanded its capabilities.
- Big benefit (script chart making)
- Larger base has used it
- Style and usage is dated (one big reason why R and ggplot is popular) is that they are simpler (especially for non-programmers)
- Seaborn often used to look better, but others like ggpy, Holoviews, Altair exist

seaborn

- seaborn improvement on top of matplotlib
- Hides a lot of boilerplate
- Uses pandas dataframes which came post matplotlib
- Good defaults and bunch of presets (like ggplot in R)
- 2.0 matplotlib is response to try and integrate seaborn ideas

Quick matplotlib

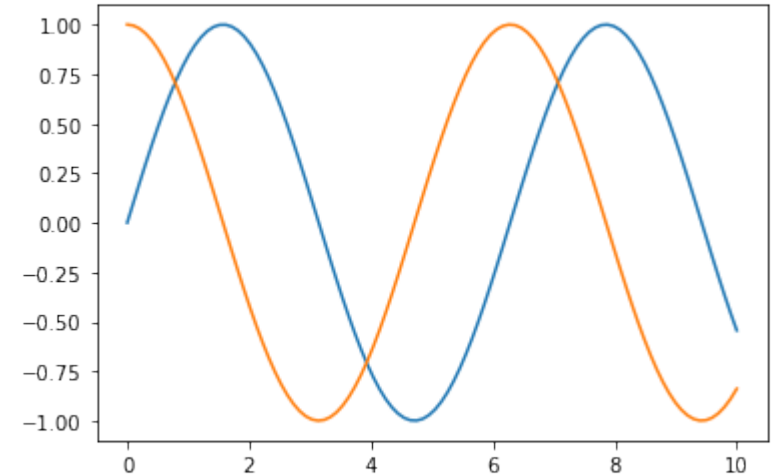
```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
```

```
x = np.linspace(0, 10, 100)
```

```
plt.plot(x, np.sin(x))
```

```
plt.plot(x, np.cos(x))
```

```
plt.show()
```



The `plt.show()` command does a lot under the hood, as it must interact with your system's interactive graphical backend.

Quick seaborn

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
import numpy as np
```

```
import seaborn as sns
```

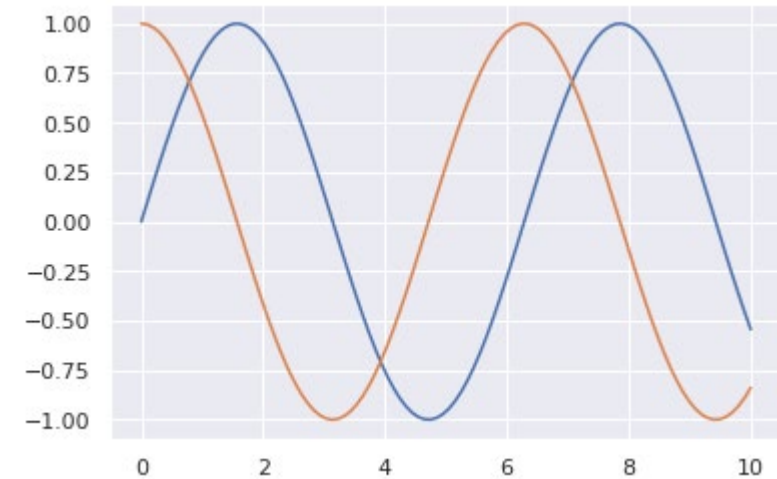
```
sns.set()
```

```
x = np.linspace(0, 10, 100)
```

```
plt.plot(x, np.sin(x))
```

```
plt.plot(x, np.cos(x))
```

```
plt.show()
```









The `plt.show()` command does a lot under the hood, as it must interact with your system's interactive graphical backend.

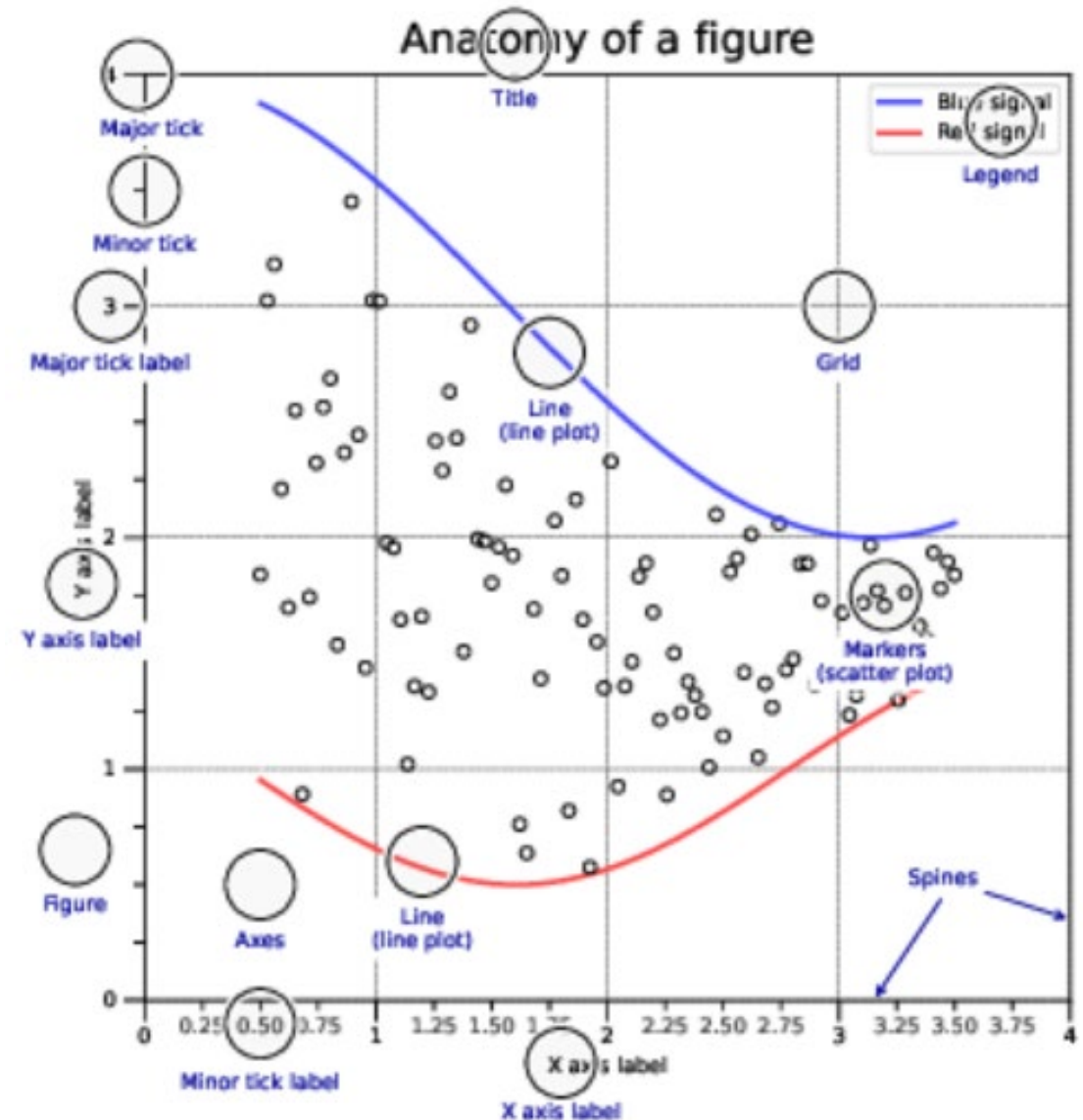
Matplotlib parts

- Matplotlib parts are sensibly named
- Is support for layouts but not near as natural as R

Subplots layout API

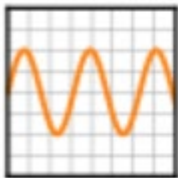
| | |
|---|---|
|  | <code>subplot[s](rows,cols,...)</code> API |
|  | <code>fig, axs = plt.subplots(3, 3)</code> API |
|  | <code>G = gridspec(rows,cols,...)</code> API |
|  | <code>ax.inset_axes(extent)</code> API |
|  | <code>d=make_axes_locatable(ax)</code> API |
|  | <code>ax = d.new_horizontal('10%')</code> API |

Anatomy of a figure



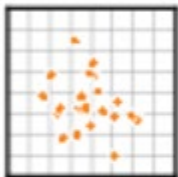
Matplotlib plot types

Basic plots



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

API



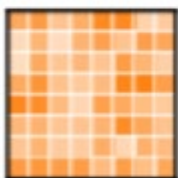
`scatter(X, Y, ...)`
X, Y, [s]izes, [c]olors, marker, cmap

API



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

API



`imshow(Z, ...)`
Z, cmap, interpolation, extent, origin

API



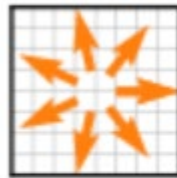
`contour[f]([X], [Y], Z, ...)`
X, Y, Z, levels, colors, extent, origin

API



`pcolormesh([X], [Y], Z, ...)`
X, Y, Z, vmin, vmax, cmap

API



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

API



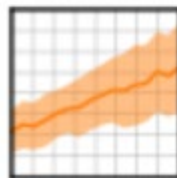
`pie(X, ...)`
Z, explode, labels, colors, radius

API



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

API



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

API

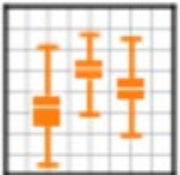
Matplotlib plot types

Advanced plots



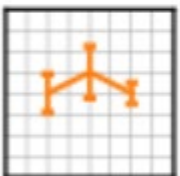
`step(X, Y, [fmt], ...)`
X, Y, fmt, color, marker, where

API



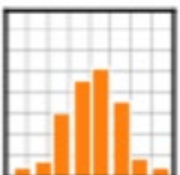
`boxplot(X, ...)`
X, notch, sym, bootstrap, widths

API



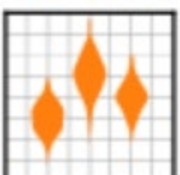
`errorbar(X, Y, xerr, yerr, ...)`
X, Y, xerr, yerr, fmt

API



`hist(X, bins, ...)`
X, bins, range, density, weights

API



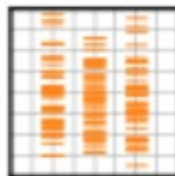
`violinplot(D, ...)`
D, positions, widths, vert

API



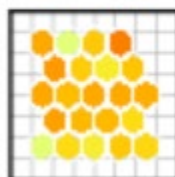
`barbs([X], [Y], U, V, ...)`
X, Y, U, V, C, length, pivot, sizes

API



`eventplot(positions, ...)`
positions, orientation, lineoffsets

API



`hexbin(X, Y, C, ...)`
X, Y, C, gridsize, bins

API

Matplotlib other

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
import numpy as np
```

```
import seaborn as sns
```

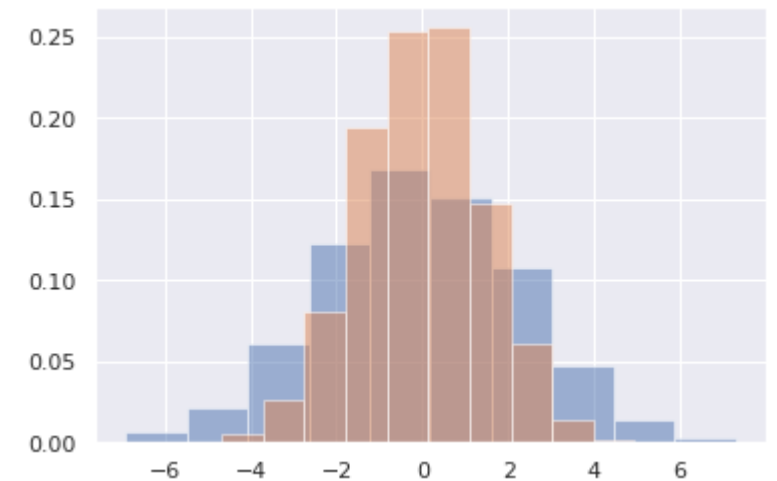
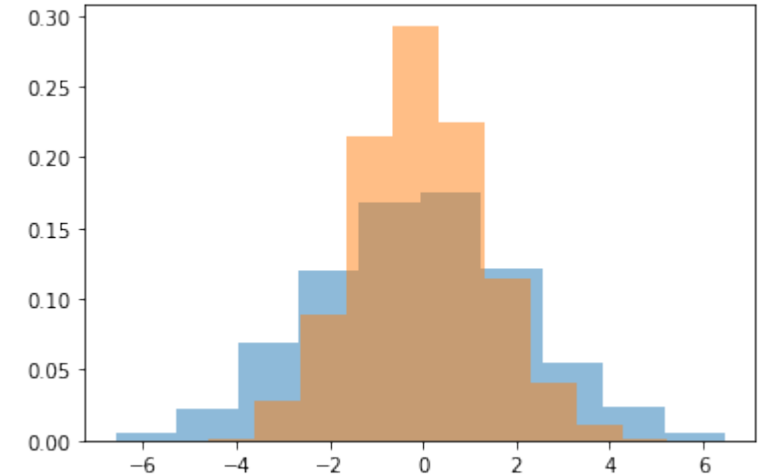
```
import pandas as pd
```

```
data = np.random.multivariate_normal([0, 0], [[5, 2], [2, 2]], size=2000)
```

```
data = pd.DataFrame(data, columns=['x', 'y'])
```

```
for col in 'xy':
```

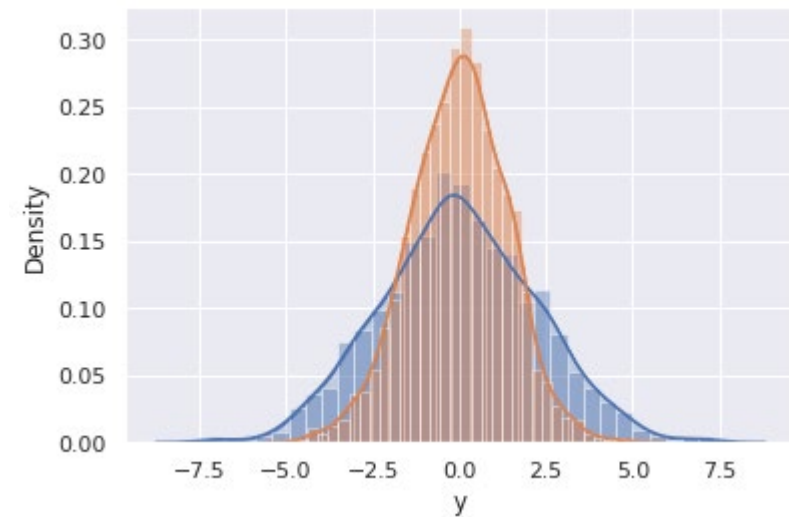
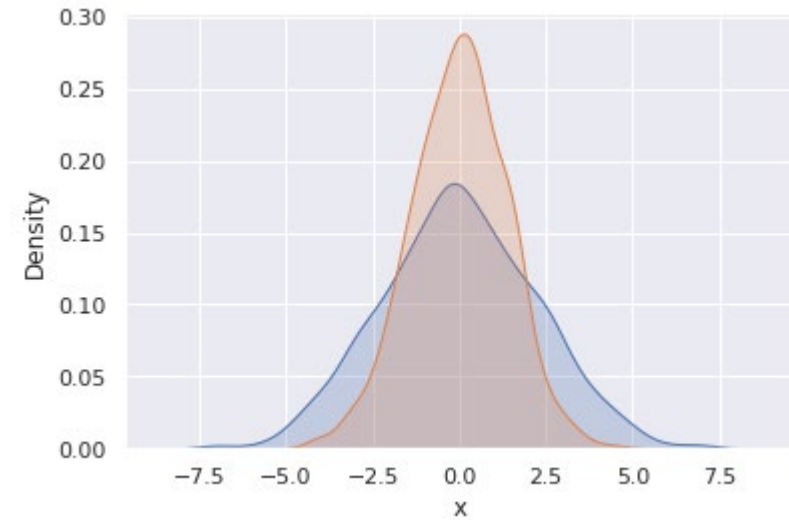
```
    plt.hist(data[col], density=True, alpha=0.5)
```



Seaborn

```
for col in 'xy':  
    sns.kdeplot(data[col], shade=True)
```

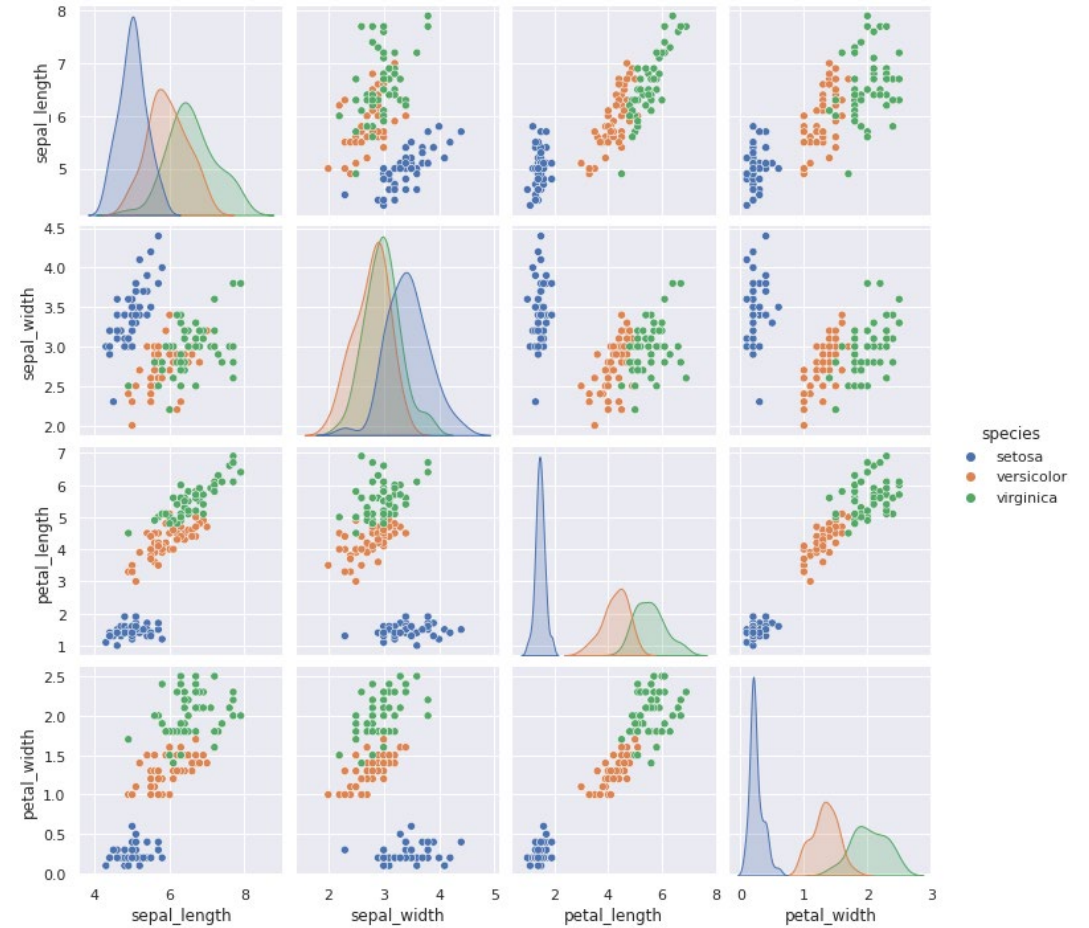
```
#Add in  
sns.distplot(data['x'])  
sns.distplot(data['y']);
```



Seaborn pair plots

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import seaborn as sns
```

```
iris = sns.load_dataset("iris")
sns.pairplot(iris, hue='species', height=2.5);
```



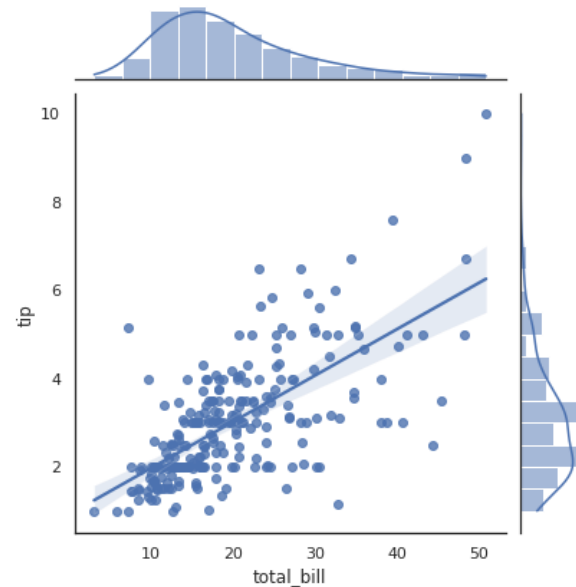
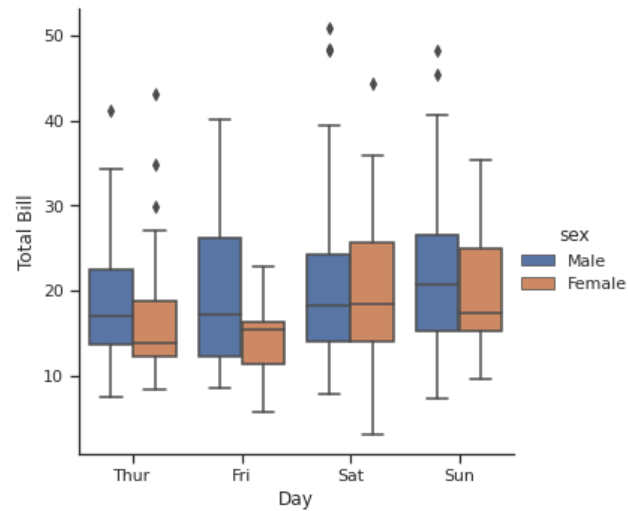
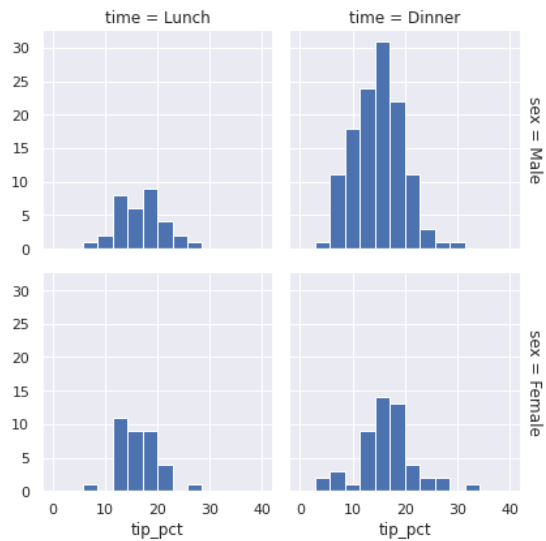
Seaborn others

Faceted histograms, `sns.FacetGrid`

Factor (Category plots) `sns.catplot`

Joint Distributions `sns.jointplot`

So much easier (like in R)



Onward to ... Artificial Intelligence

Jonathan Hudson
jwhudson@ucalgary.ca
<https://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~jwhudson/>

