Matplotlib Cheat Sheet

(Version 1)

Importing Matplotlib Packages

Common magic commands for Jupyter:

```
# Enable inline backend (plots within notebooks).
%matplotlib inline
# Enable interactive inline backend.
%matplotlib notebook
```

Common import statements:

```
# Package used for state-machine usage of Matplotlib
from matplotloib import pyplot as plt
# Reading images.
import matplotlib.image
# Plotting 3D plots.
import mpl_toolkits.mplot3d
```

Plotting Lines Pipeline

Preparing the data:

```
x = np.linspace(-2.0 * np.pi, 2.0 * np.pi, 1000)
y = np.sin(x)
```

Limiting displayed axes ranges:

```
plt.xlim([-3.0, 3.0]) # [from, to]
plt.ylim([-1.5, 1.5])
```

Adding title, axes labels, grid:

```
plt.title('My wonderful plot')
plt.xlabel('T')
plt.ylabel('amplitude')
plt.grid()
```

Plotting:

```
plt.plot(x, y, label='sine wave') # Linear axes.
plt.semilogx(x, y) # Logarithmic X axis.
plt.semilogy(x, y) # Logarithmic Y axis.
plt.loglog(x, y) # # Logarithmic both axes.
```

Legends:

```
# Legend uses labels set in plotting statements.
plt.legend(loc='lower right')
# loc={'best', 'upper center', ...}
```

Saving plotted image to file:

```
# File format inferred from extension (.pdf,.png, ...).
plt.savefig('file.png', dpi=200)
# 'dpi' can be used to set custom resolution.
```

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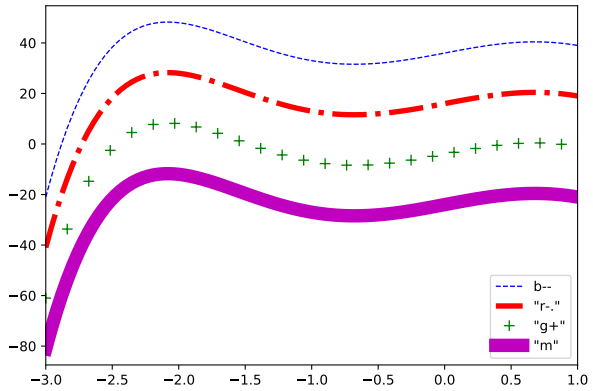
Line Styles

Using (optional) plotting parameters:
`linestyle`, `linewidth`, `color`, `marker`, `markersize`, `label`

```
plt.plot(x, y, color='b', linewidth=1, linestyle='--',
         label='b--')
plt.plot(x, y, color='r', linewidth=4, linestyle='-.',
         label='r-.')
plt.plot(x, y, color='g', linestyle='', marker='+',
         markersize=8, label='g+')
plt.plot(x, y, color='m', linewidth=10, label='m')
```



Histograms

Draw the histogram of an array `x` :

```
plt.hist(x)
```

Returns three arrays of..

`n`	histogram values
`bins`	x-positions of bin edges
`patches`	patches/rectangle objects drawn in the figure

Common optional parameters:

`bins`	number of bins to use
`normed`	if True, mimics a *probability density*. (The histogram will integrate to 1.)
`cumulative`	if True, mimics a *cumulative distribution*.
`orientation`	{'vertical', 'horizontal'}
`color`	specifies color to be used for bars.
`log`	if True, histogram axis is set to log scale.

Images

Read image from disk:

```
img = matplotlib.image.imread('path/to/image.png')
```

Plot the image:

```
plt.imshow(img)
```

Optionally show colorbar:

```
plt.colorbar()
```

Common optional parameters:

`cmap`	colormap used for grayscale images. {'gray', 'hot', 'plasma', ...}
`interpolation`	{'nearest', 'bilinear', ...}

3D Plots

Create 3D figure:

```
fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.gca(projection='3d')
```

Preparing the data:

```
X = np.arange(-5, 5, 0.25)
Y = np.arange(-5, 5, 0.25)
X, Y = np.meshgrid(X, Y)
Z = np.sin(np.sqrt(X**2 + Y**2))))
```

Plotting the surface:

```
ax.plot_surface(X, Y, Z)
```

Other common plot styles:

`ax.plot(..)`	3D Line plot
`ax.scatter(..)`	3D Scatter plot
`ax.plot_trisurf(..)`	Triangulated mesh data

Interactivity

Easily add interactivity with sliders in Jupyter notebooks:

```
from ipywidgets import interact

@interact(omega=(0, 10, 1)) # min, max, step
def plotSin(omega = 1):
    x = np.linspace(0.0, 2*np.pi, 1000)
    y = np.sin(omega * x)
    plt.plot(x, y)
```