Plotly - Open Source Graphing Library for Python







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https://plotly.com/





Plotly: an overview

- Interactive, open-source library
- Supports over 40 unique chart types























ΙΤΥ

Plotly: an overview

- Interactivity: zooming, panning, hovering to display tooltips, and toggling visibility of specific data traces.
- Customization: colors, markers, lines, fonts, axis labels, annotations
- Output:
- Displayed in Jypiter Notebook
- Saved to static images (e.g., PNG, JPEG)
- Saved to HTML files
- Used in developing Python-build web applications using Dash



Plotly: an overview

- Built on top of the Plotly JavaScript library (plotly.js)
- Graphical figures are represented by data structures, which are commonly referred to as figures. Alternatively, figures can be represented as Python dictionaries.
- Plotly figures are serialized into JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format before being passed to the plotly.js library



Plotly: Displaying Figures in Python

fig = px.bar(x=pres_names, y=n_stud, labels={'x':'Presentation topic', 'y':'Number of Students
attending the presentation'})

- Output displayed Using The renderers Framework:
 - fig.show()
 - plotly.io.show(fig)
 - fig
- It is possible to specify renderer:
 - fig.show(renderer="png")
 - fig.show(renderer="pdf")

and even customize renderer:

import plotly.io as pio
png_renderer = pio.renderers["png"]
png_renderer.width = 500
png_renderer.height = 500
pio.renderers.default = "png"



Plotly: Export as a static file format

fig = px.bar(x=pres_names, y=n_stud, labels={'x':'Presentation topic', 'y':'Number of Students
attending the presentation'})

- Static Format (PNG, JPEG, SVG or PDF):
- fig.write_image("fig1.jpeg")
- fig.write_image("fig1.png",width=600, height=350)
- fig.write_image("fig1.pdf")
- Kaleido is default rendering engine being used by Plotly. Kaleido is a high-performance rendering engine developed by Plotly. It is designed to efficiently convert Plotly figures into various static image formats





Plotly: Export as an interactive HTML file

fig = px.bar(x=pres_names, y=n_stud, labels={'x':'Presentation topic', 'y':'Number of Students
attending the presentation'})

• HTML Format:

• fig.write_html("file.html")

- It can be uploaded to a web server, shared via email or other filesharing mechanisms.
- However, contains an inlined copy of the Plotly.js library required to make the figure interactive

Power Point:



Add-Ins: Power BI? Web viewer?



Plotly sub-modules

• Plotly Graph Objects: low level interface to figures, traces and layouts

• Plotly Exspress: high-level wrapper

Plotly Subplots

•Plotly IO for saving Plotly figures in different formats, displaying Plotly figures in different environments, configuring various settings related to plot rendering and display



Plotly sub-modules: Plotly Graph Objects

•Plotly Graph Objects provides a lower-level API that gives users more control and flexibility over the creation of plots.

•It allows users to create plots by explicitly defining traces, layouts, and other components of the plot.

•It offers fine-grained control over every aspect of the plot, allowing users to customize the plot to their exact specifications.

•It's suitable for more complex visualizations, customization, and advanced plotting requirements.



Plotly sub-modules: Plotly Graph Objects

•Plotly Express is a high-level API that provides a simpler interface for creating various types of plots quickly.

- •It offers a wide range of functions to create different types of plots (e.g., scatter plots, bar charts, line charts, etc.) with minimal code.
- •It automatically handles the creation of figure objects and layouts, making it easier for users to create plots without worrying about lowlevel details.
- •It's suitable for rapid prototyping, exploratory data analysis, and creating simple visualizations with ease.
- •Plotly Express is the recommended entry-point into the plotly package

Using plotly.graph_objects

#Import required packages
import plotly.graph_objects as go
import plotly.express as px
import numpy as np

#Creating data
np.random.seed(10)
x=np.arange(12)
y=np.random.randint(100, 1000, size=12)

#Creating figure with plotly.graph_objects
fig=go.Figure(data=go.Scatter(x=x,y=y))
fig.update_layout(title='Simple Line Plot', xaxis_title='Month', yaxis_title='Sales'))
fig.show()



Using plotly.express

#Import required packages
import plotly.graph_objects as go
import plotly.express as px
import numpy as np

#Creating data np.random.seed(10) x=np.arange(12)

y=np.random.randint(100, 1000, size=12)

#Creating figure with plotly.exspress
fig=px.line(x=x, y=y, title='Simple Line Plot', labels=dict(x='Month', y='Sales'))
fig.show()



Plotly: Customization

- Titles
- Legends
- Axis Range and Scaling
- Marker and Line Styles
- Hover Formatting
- Fonts and Text Styling
- Layout and Margins
- Colorbar
- ...



Plotly vs Matplotlib

- Plotly suits better for interactive plots, for web visualization, exploring datasets, fast creating good-looking figures just with few line of code
- Matplotlib suits better for professional scientific plots with a lot of features be customized in a more complex way



Practice

