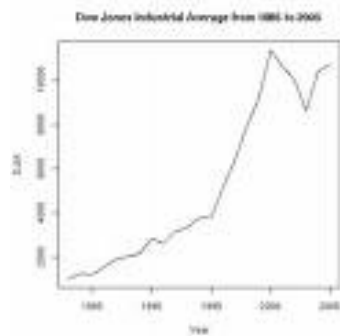


Plotting Data

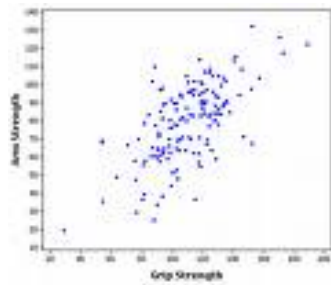
COMP 364 - Lecture 14
March 5, 2010
Derek Ruths

Why plot data programmatically?

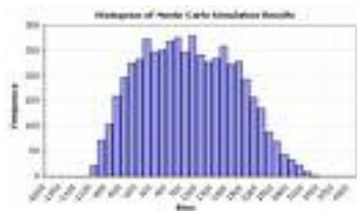
Different kinds of plots...



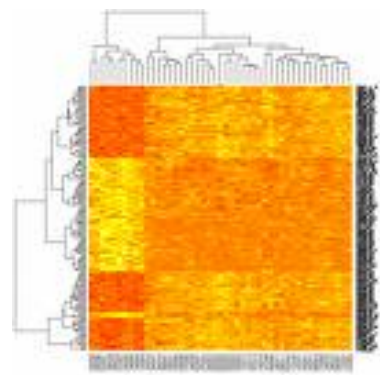
Line plot



Scatter plot



Histogram



Heatmap

Line and scatter plots

Major considerations for line/scatter plotting

- Data consists of numbers
- Each data point has an X and a Y value
 - Data is specified as two lists (X values and Y values)
- *Key issue: we read our data in as strings, but need it to be two lists of numbers.*

Manipulating lists

- `x.append(y)` - add the object `y` into list `x`
- `x.remove(y)` - remove the first occurrence of `y` in list `x`

Exercise: Consider a file containing x-y datapoints - each line has two numbers, separated by a space. Read these points from the file into two lists.

Line plots

- matplotlib (pylab) is a 3rd party python library that provides MANY plotting functions (<http://matplotlib.sourceforge.net>)
- `pylab.figure()` - creates a new blank figure
- `pylab.plot(X,Y)` - draws a line plot using data points X,Y on the current figure
- `pylab.show()` - displays the current figure on the screen

Exercise: extend our previous code to plot the data points in a line graph.

Stylizing our plot

- `pylab.plot(X,Y,fmt)` - `fmt` is a string that tells pylab how our points should be drawn and connected.
 - `plot(X,Y,'r')` - draw in red
 - `plot(X,Y,'b')` - draw in blue
 - `plot(X,Y,'--b')` - draw a dashed blue line
 - `plot(X,Y,'g.')` - draw a scatterplot with green points
- `pylab.hold(True)` - tells pylab to combine future plots onto the current plot (rather than replacing it)

Exercise: modify our previous script to draw a scatter plot. It also should take a threshold. All data points with a `y-value > threshold` should be drawn in green, otherwise blue.

Annotating a plot

- `pylab.title(s)` - set the title of the current plot to `s`
- `pylab.xlabel(s)` - set the label of the x axis to `s`
- `pylab.ylabel(s)` - set the label of the y axis to `s`
- `pylab.legend([c1,c2,...])` - draw a legend on the figure labeling each curve

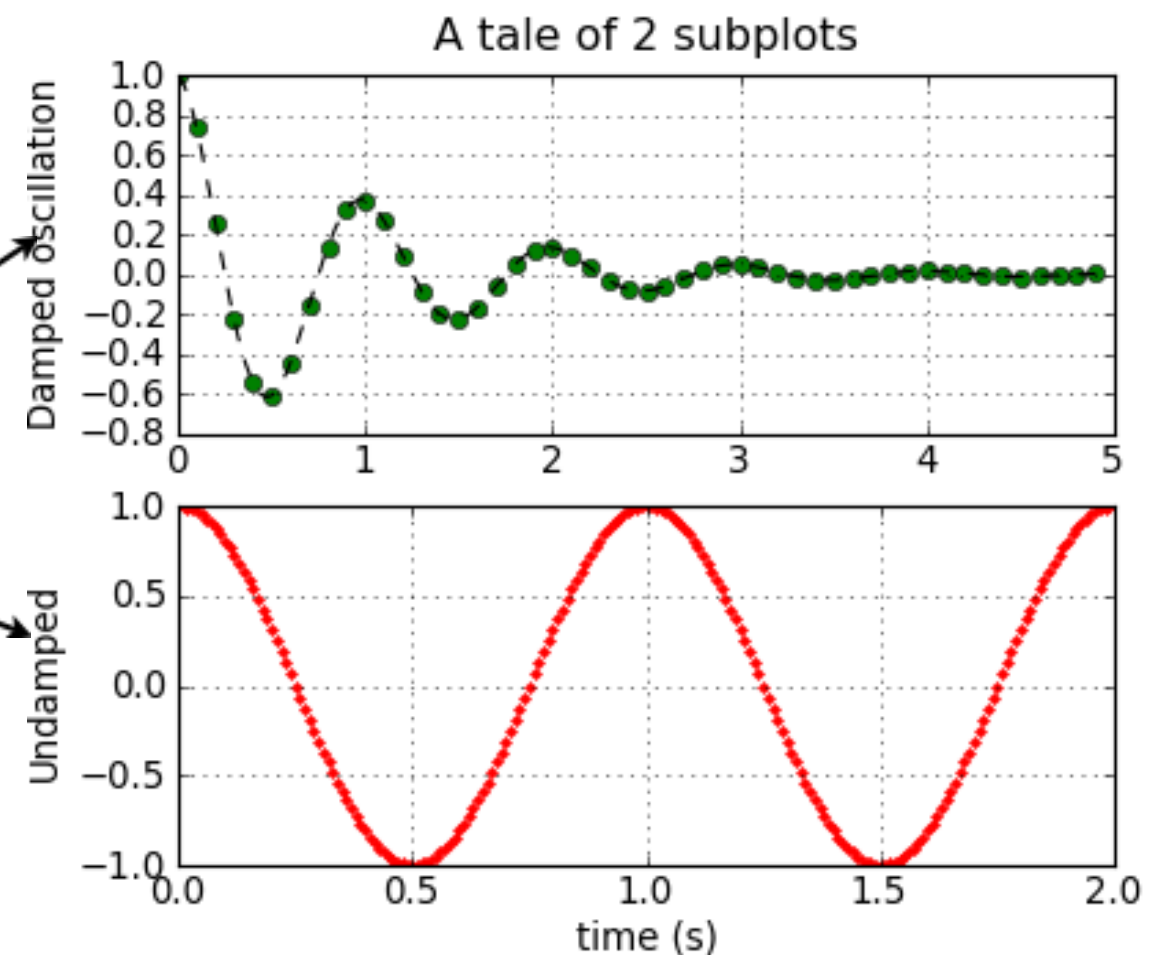
Exercise: make the title of our plot the name of the data file, make a legend for the two colors.

Sub plots

`pylab.subplot(# rows, # cols, plot #)`

`pylab.subplot(2,1,1)`

`pylab.subplot(2,1,2)`

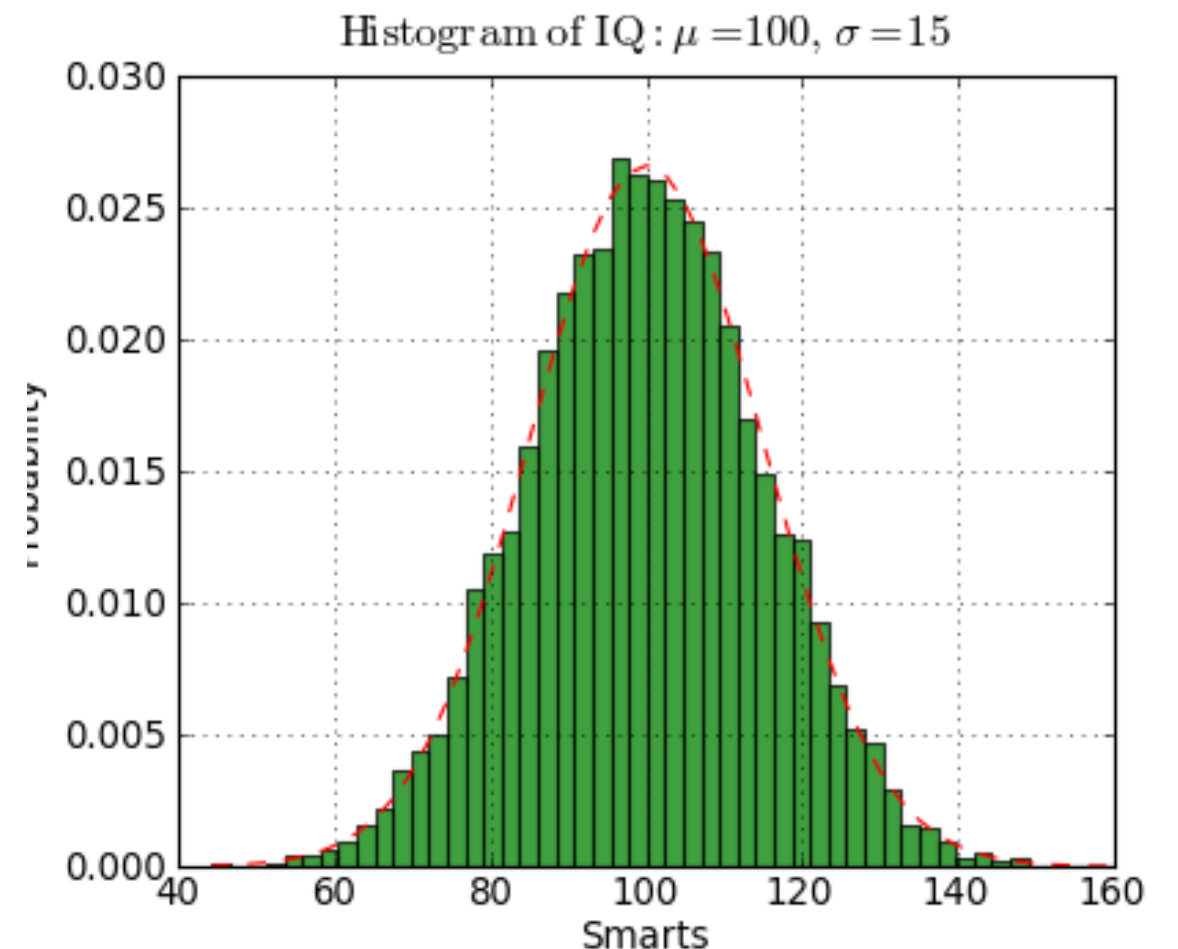


Exercise: write a script that makes a figure with 2 subplots:
one for sin, one for cos. (plot for $x = [0,6]$)

Histograms

hist(...)

hist(x, bins=10)



Exercise: plot the distribution of gene lengths in a genome file

Exercise: use subplot to plot (1) the distribution of gene lengths in a genome file and (2) the length of genes along the genome (in order)