

# How can I display gridlines on my matplotlib plots?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I display gridlines on my matplotlib plots?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=136897>

Gridlines are horizontal and vertical lines that are used as a visual aid in plotting graphs or charts. They help in providing a better understanding of the data and the overall structure of the plot. In order to display gridlines on matplotlib plots, one can use the "grid()" function which is provided by the matplotlib library. This function allows the user to specify the style and color of the gridlines, as well as the spacing between them. By using this function, the user can easily add gridlines to their matplotlib plots, making them more visually appealing and easier to interpret.

## Show Gridlines on Matplotlib Plots

**By default, Matplotlib does not display gridlines on plots. However, you can use the `matplotlib.pyplot.grid()` function to easily display and customize gridlines on a plot.**

**This tutorial shows an example of how to use this function in practice.**

### Basic Scatterplot in Matplotlib

**The following code shows how to create a simple scatterplot using Matplotlib:**

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

```
#create data
```

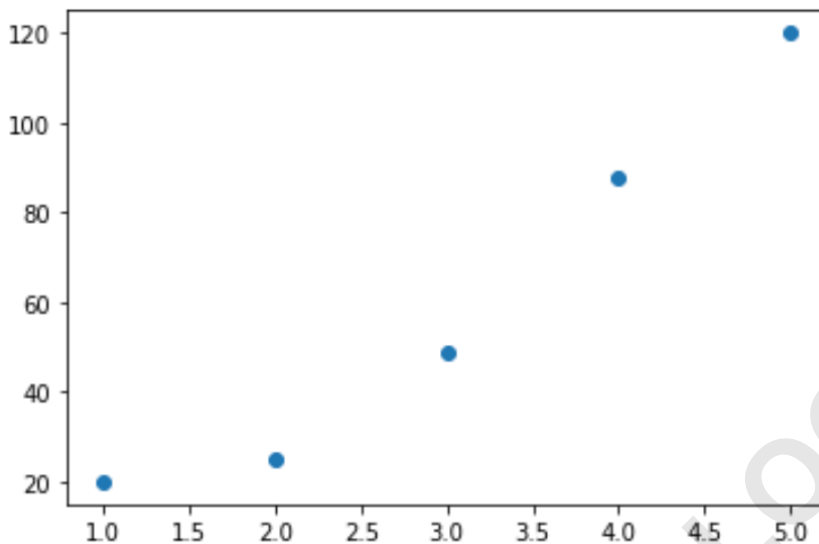
```
x =
```

```
y =
```

```
#create scatterplot of data
```

```
plt.scatter(x, y)
```

```
plt.show()
```



Add Gridlines to Both Axes

To add gridlines to the plot, we can simply use the `plt.grid(True)` command:

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

```
#create data
```

```
x =
```

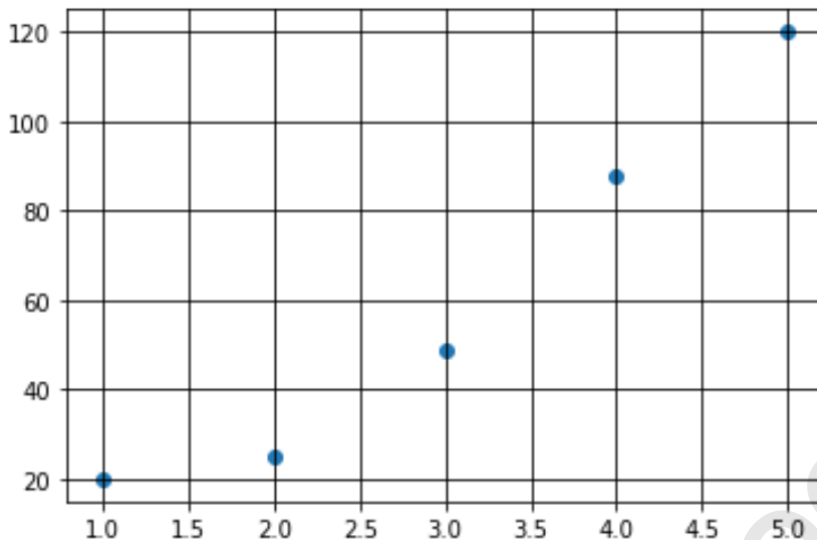
```
y =
```

```
#create scatterplot of data with gridlines
```

```
plt.scatter(x, y)
```

```
plt.grid(True)
```

## plt.show()



### Add Gridlines to Only One Axis

We can use the axis argument to only add gridlines to the x-axis:

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

```
#create data
```

```
x =
```

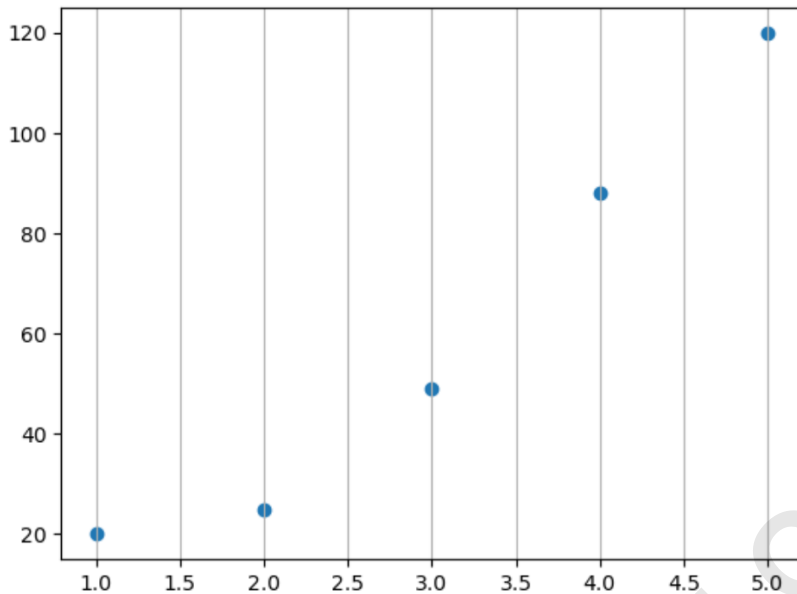
```
y =
```

```
#create scatterplot of data with gridlines
```

```
plt.scatter(x, y)
```

```
plt.grid(axis='x')
```

## plt.show()



Or only the y-axis:

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

```
#create data
```

```
x =
```

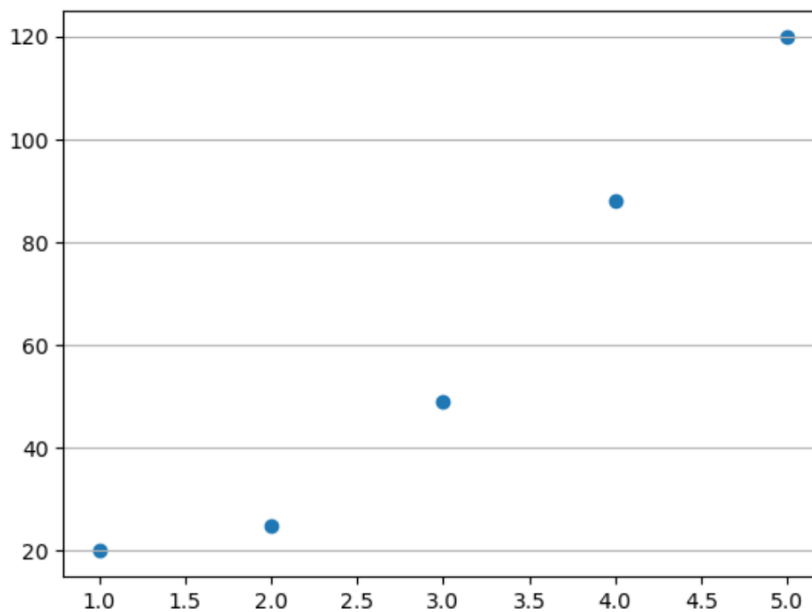
```
y =
```

```
#create scatterplot of data with gridlines
```

```
plt.scatter(x, y)
```

```
plt.grid(axis='y')
```

```
plt.show()
```



### Customize Gridlines

We can also customize the appearance of the gridlines using the `plt.rc()` function:

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

```
#create data
```

```
x =
```

```
y =
```

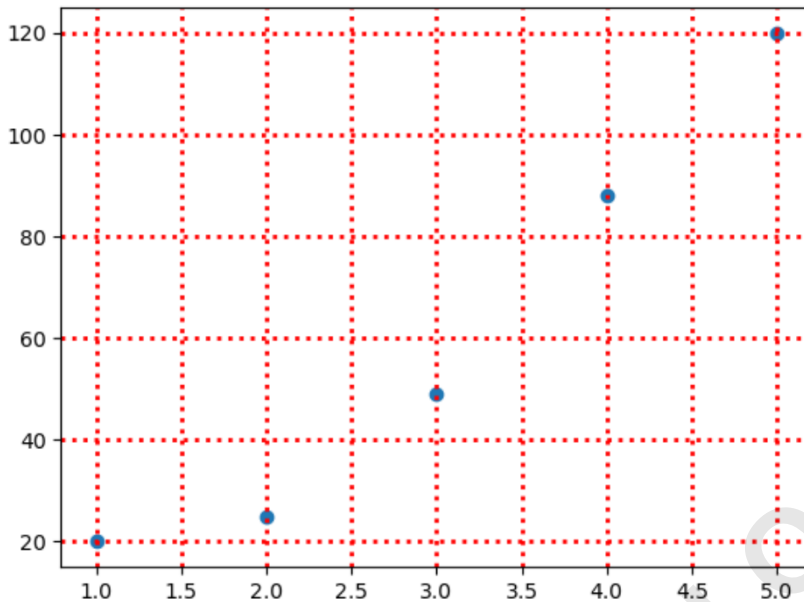
```
#create scatterplot of data with gridlines
```

```
plt.rc('grid', linestyle=':', color='red', linewidth=2)
```

```
plt.scatter(x, y)
```

```
plt.grid(True)
```

## plt.show()



You can find a complete list of ways to customize the gridlines in the [Matplotlib documentation](#).

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Matplotlib:

[How to Remove Ticks from Matplotlib Plots](#)

[How to Change Font Sizes on a Matplotlib Plot](#)