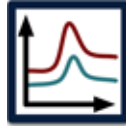


# Plot



version 0.6.6

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[plot.micw.de](http://plot.micw.de)

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# Plot Introduction

This documentation is valid for *Plot* version 0.6.6

*Plot* is a scientific 2D plotting program for Mac OS X.

*Plot* is designed for everyday plotting, it is easy to use, it creates high quality plots, and it allows easy and powerful manipulations and calculations of data.

Basically *Plot* allows to work with multiple documents. Each document consists of one or more XY data buffer. Unlike some other programs each XY data buffer is independent (without are shared X axis or so). In addition it is also possible to save individual X and Y error values for each data point.

Data can be imported via the builtin import filter, via direct MySQL import or with a custom import filter. It is also possible to insert data buffers by using copy and paste from other programs (e.g. Excel)

*Plot* supports many plotting styles like lines, symbols, grids, bars, filled areas,errorbars etc.

The data buffers are managed by the Data Inspector.

To make plotting easy many attributes (e.g. axis ranges, axis labels) will be generated automatically but it is possible to change most graphic attribute by hand.

The main tool in *Plot* is the Inspector which controls all attributes of your document, show measured values and allow the mouse mode selection. The Inspector also controls the graphic attributes of the data buffers.

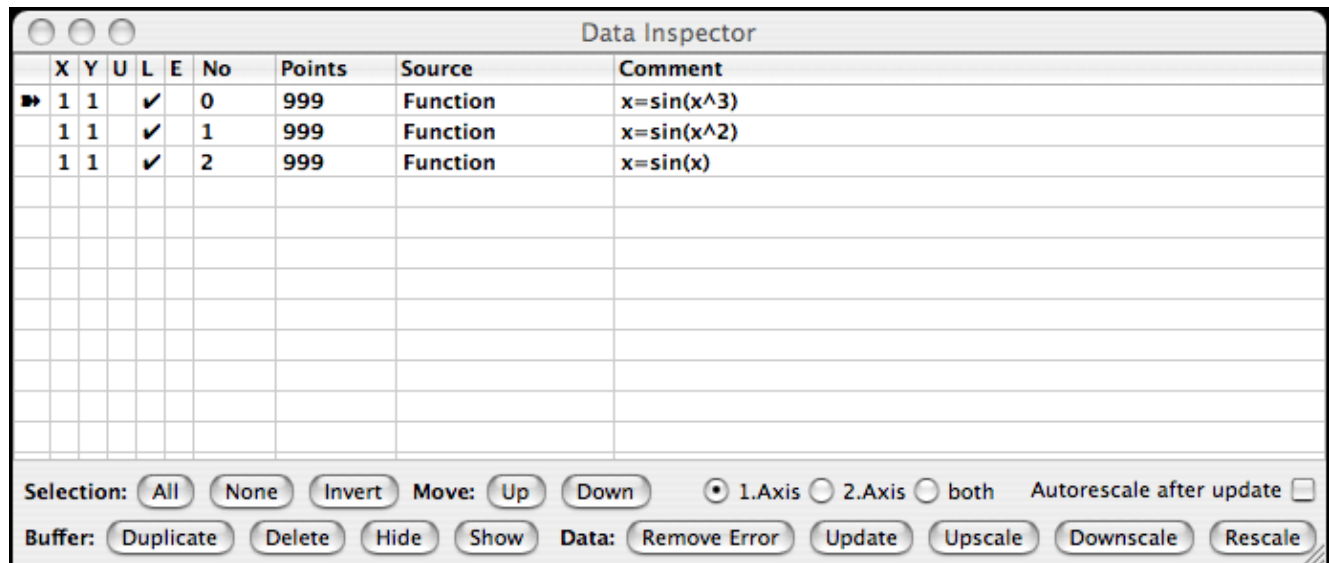
There is also a tool called Data View which allows direct manipulation of data points in a spreadsheet like table.

Last not least there is a Calculator for instant calculations.

Of course there are also several menu items which allow many operations.

## Data Inspector

The *Data inspector* mainly controls the data buffer in your document. Each line represents a set of XY data. It is possible to select some buffers and transfer them via copy and paste to another *Plot* document.



### Data Inspector

The columns in the *Data Inspector* show all important data about the buffer and allow some changes:

**1. column:** In this column appears an arrow which indicates the *working buffer*, e.g. if you select the *Data Style Tab* in the *Inspector* it show the attributes of the buffer with the arrow in front. Changing the working buffer is done by double clicking in this column.

**X column:** Shows if the buffer belongs to the first (left) X axis or to the second (right) X axis of the plot. Can be changed by double clicking the column.

**Y column:** Shows if the buffer belongs to the first (bottom) Y axis or to the second (top) Y axis of the plot. Can be changed by double clicking the column.

**U column:** Indicates if the buffer should automatically update from dynamic data sources like MySQL. You can change the state by double clicking the column.

**L column:** If checked the buffers comment will be shown in the automatically generated legend. You can change the state by double clicking the column.

**E column:** This column indicates that the buffer contains error values.

**No column:** The number of the buffer.

**Points column:** Number of data points in the buffer.

**Source column:** The source of the data. This column is editable.

**Comment column:** As the name says. This column is editable.

## Selection

**All, None, Invert** allows to change buffer selection. Only selected Buffer will be processed by most of the manipulation operations.

## Move

**Up, Down** with this buttons you can move the current working buffer up and down. The order in the *Data inspector* is also the order in which the buffer will be plotted.

The **1.Axis, 2.Axis, both** radio button defines if operations like rescale take effect on both axis or only on one of them.

If **Autorescale after update** is selected the document will be rescaled after data update from dynamic sources like MySQL.

## Buffer

**Duplicate** duplicates all selected buffers

**Delete** delete all selected buffers

**Hide** and **Show** hides or shows all selected buffers. Hidden buffers will not displayed but the data is still available for later use. The hide/show state of a buffer can also be changed by double clicking the **Points** or **No** column.

## Data

**Remove Error:** This function removes error values from all selected buffer. For large buffers this can reduce the file size.

**Update:** Buffers with dynamic data sources like MySQL will be updated.

**Upscale** and **Downscale** increase or lowers the range of the plot.

**Rescale** rescales the plot so that every datapoint is just visible.

# Inspector

with the *Inspector* you can control every attribute of your document. The *Inspector* is divided into three parts. The upper area is the main part with different tabs. The middle part show values e.g measured with the crosshair mouse mode. In the lower part of the *Inspector* you can select the mouse mode which controls the behavior of the mouse in your document.

The following *Inspectors* are available:

General Inspector

Data Style Inspector

Axis Inspector

Axis Format Inspector

Legend Inspector

Calculations Inspector

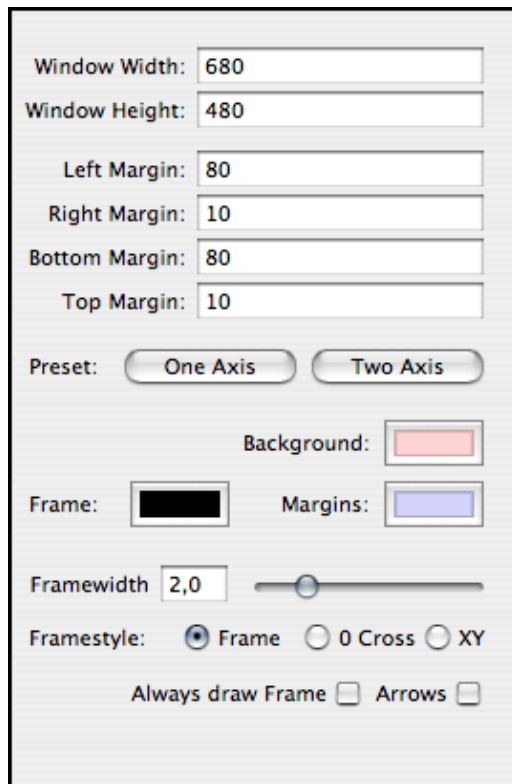
Normalize Inspector




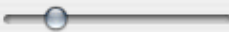
Fit Inspector

Text Inspector

Graphic Inspector

# General Inspector



Window Width: 680  
Window Height: 480  
Left Margin: 80  
Right Margin: 10  
Bottom Margin: 80  
Top Margin: 10  
Preset: One Axis Two Axis  
Background:   
Frame:  Margins:   
Framewidth 2,0   
Framestyle: ☒ Frame ☐ 0 Cross ☐ XY  
Always draw Frame ☐ Arrows ☐

*General Inspector*

The *General Inspector* controls some general attributes of your document.

**Window Size:** The size of the window in pixel. Useful to generate two documents with the same size.

**Left Margin, Right Margin, Bottom Margin, Top Margin:** The margins between window and plot frame. You can use the mouse to control the framesize if you choose the select tool mouse mode.

**Preset:** Allows easy selection of margin preset for plot with one or two axis.

**Background:** Defines the background color inside the plot frame.

**Margin:** Defines the background color on the margins.

**Frame** Defines the color of the plot frame.

**Framewidth:** Defines the width of the frame.

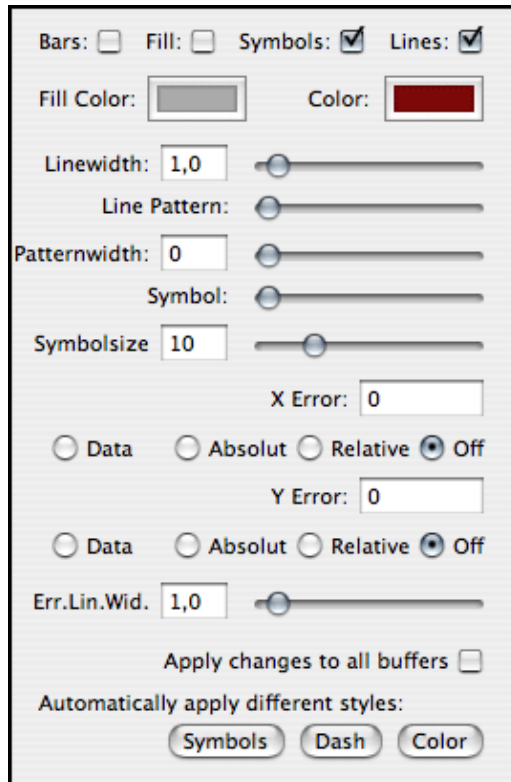
**Framestyle:** Allows to select different framestyles. If *Frame* is selected a full frame will be plotted, *XY* style plots only a line on the X and Y axis, *0 Cross* draws a XY cross at the null position.

**Always draw frame:** Forces to plot a full frame.

**Arrows:** Draw arrows and the line ends for framestyle *0 Cross* and *XY*.



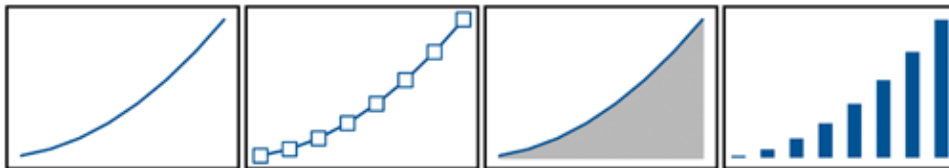
# Data Style Inspector



*Data Style Inspector*

The *Data Style Inspector* controls the graphic attributes of each data buffer. If *Apply changes to all Buffer* is selected changes will be provided to every data buffer otherwise only to the working buffer (the buffer with the arrow in the first column of the *Data Inspector*).

**Lines, Symbols, Fill, Bars:** Defines in which style a buffer should be drawn. All Styles can be combined.



*Lines, Symbols, Fill, Bars*

**Fill Color:** Defines the color for the fill style.

**Color:** Defines the color for the data buffer.

**Linewidth:** Defines the width of lines.

**Line Pattern:** Defines the dash pattern for the line style. 16 patterns are available.

**Patternwidth:** Allows to stretch the dash patterns.

**Symbol:** Defines the symbol which will be used for symbol style. 16 symbols are available.

**Symbolsize:** Defines the size of the selected symbol.

**X Error, Y Error:** Defines a value for errorbars. The radio button allows to switch between absolute, relative and individual data based error bars.

**Err.Lin.Wid.** Defines the linewidth for error bars.

**Automatically apply different styles:** This is a comfortable way to assign different styles automatically to all buffers, available for symbols, dash pattern and colors.

# Axis Inspector

1. X Axis 1. Y Axis 2. X Axis 2. Y Axis

Leave fields empty for automatic settings

Min: 0

Max: 100

Scaling Start:

Scaling End:

Tick Distance:

Minor Steps:

Time Format:

Scaling Expr.: v/1000

Exp.Offset: 5

Axis Format: ☒ Linear ☐ Log ☐ Time

Axis Text:

Enable: 1.X: ☒ 1.Y: ☒ 2.X: ☐ 2.Y: ☐

*Axis Inspector*

The *Axis Inspector* allow settings depending to the 4 available axis. The button at the top of the inspector selects on which axis the attributes below apply to.

**Min, Max:** Controls the range of the axis. The range can also be changed with different mouse modes. Dependent on the number format you have to enter a number or a time value.

**Scaling Start, Scaling End:** Defines values where the scaling of the axis should start and stop. Dependent on the number format you have to enter a number or a time value.

**Tick Distance:** Defines the distance between two major ticks. If your axis is a time axis you have to enter *days:hours:minutes:seconds* or *w* (1 week) or *m* (1 month) or *y* (1 year).

**Minor Steps:** Defines the number of minor ticks between two major ticks.

*Scaling Start, Scaling End, Tick Width, Minor Steps* are optional values. If you leave the fields empty *Plot* calculates an optimal value automatically.

**Time Format:** Defines the format used for the displaying time values on time axis (time format tokens).

**Scaling Expr.:** This allows scaling of axis numbers without changing the data itself. For example to display seconds instead of milliseconds enter **v/1000** in this field. *v* is the variable which represents the axis number.

**Exp.Offset:** Allows you to define the limit, above which numbers are plotted in exponential notation. The number you define with the slider is the exponent of the limit.

**Axis Format:** Here you can select between linear axis, logarithmic axis and time axis.

**Axis Text:** The major label for the axis.

**Enable:** Allows to enable or disable an axis completely.

# Axis Format Inspector

*Axis Format Inspector*

The *Axis Format Inspector* controls the graphic attributes of the 4 available axis. The button at the top of the inspector selects on which axis the attributes below apply to.

If *Apply changes to all Buffer* is selected the changes will be provided to all 4 axis.

**Text Font:** The font for the axis label.

**Text Offset:** The distance between text label and frame.

**Number Font:** The font for the axis numbers.

**Text Offset:** The distance between numbers and frame.

**Text, Numbers:** Enables or disables axis text and numbers. The color field defines the color for axis text and numbers.

**Zero Line:** If this option is checked a line at the value zero in the given color will be drawn.

**Tick Length:** Defines the length of the axis major and minor ticks.

**Tick Width:** Defines the width of the axis major and minor ticks.

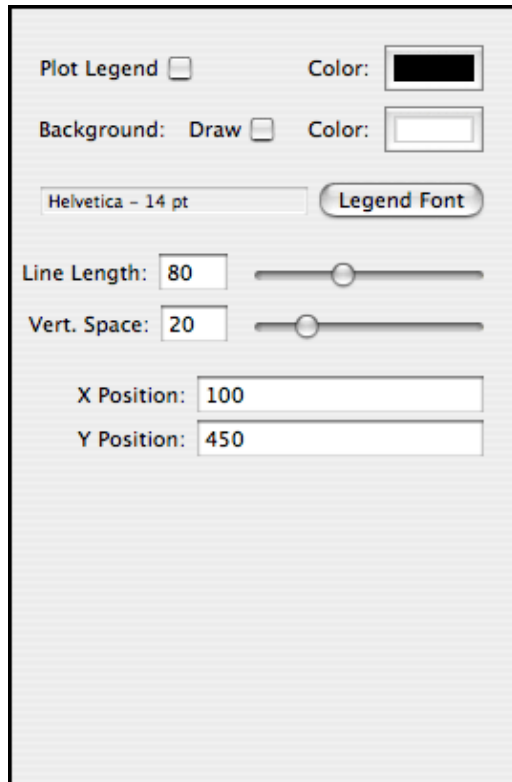
**Ticks, Minor Ticks:** Enables or disables ticks. The color field defines the tick color.

**Tick Style:** Allows to control on which side of the frame the ticks will be drawn.

**Grid Width:** Defines the linewidth of the grid.

**Grid, Minor Minor:** Enables or disables the grid. The color field defines the grid color.

# Legend Inspector



The Legend Inspector dialog box contains the following controls:

- Plot Legend:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- Color:** A color selection field showing black.
- Background:** A label followed by a checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- Color:** A color selection field showing white.
- Font:** A text field showing "Helvetica - 14 pt" and a "Legend Font" button.
- Line Length:** A text field showing "80" and a horizontal slider.
- Vert. Space:** A text field showing "20" and a horizontal slider.
- X Position:** A text field showing "100".
- Y Position:** A text field showing "450".

*Legend Inspector*

The *Legend Inspector* sets the attributes for the automatically generated legend. Only buffers with a checked *L* column in the *Data Inspector* appears in the legend.

**Plot Legend:** Enables or disables the legend. The color field defines the color of the legend text.

**Background:** Enables or disables drawing of legend background. The color field defines the background color.

**Legend Font:** The font for the legend.

**Line Length:** The length of lines in the legend.

**Vert. Space:** The vertical space between two legend entries.

**X Position, Y Position:** The position of the legend. It is also possible to control the legend position with the mouse mode *Move Legend*.

# Calculations Inspector

Function Generator

☒ Y ☐ X

=

gau(x;50;20;20)

Min:  Steps:

Max:  Increment:

Generate Buffer

Buffer Calculations

☐ X Value ☒ Y Value ☐ X Error ☐ Y Error

=

y\*2

Perform Calculation

*Calculations Inspector*

This inspector contains the function generator and the calculator which allows buffer calculations.

## Function Generator

As the name implies the *Function Generator* allows to generate function plots from arbitrary expressions.

**X, Y:** Select the target and enter the expression in the field below.

**Min, Max:** The range in which the expression should be calculated.

**Steps, Increment:** The number of steps which should be calculated. These two fields depends on each other; if you enter one the other one will be calculated automatically. The number of steps is limited to 1000000.

**Generate Buffer:** Runs the function generator and generate a new buffer.

## Buffer Calculations

The *Buffer Calculation* function allows to perform an arbitrary calculation on all selected buffers.

**X Value, Y Value, X Error, Y Error:** Select the target and enter the expression in the field below.

**Perform Calculation:** Execute the calculation.

*Buffer Calculations* allow the use of some special variables:



x	x value
y	y value
ex	x error value
ey	x error value
bn	buffer number
np	number of buffers
np	number of datapoints

# Normalize Inspector

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Normalize & Cut Data". It contains several input fields and buttons. At the top, there are four input fields: "1. Ref. Value:" with the value "15", "2. Ref. Value:" with the value "65", "1. New Value:" with the value "0", and "2. New Value:" with the value "1". Below these is an "Axis:" section with two radio buttons, "X" and "Y", where "Y" is selected. Underneath are four groups of buttons: "Normalize:" with "Move" and "Normalize" buttons; "Cut data:" with "Cut Outside" and "Cut Inside" buttons; "Calculate:" with an "Integrate" button; and "Regression:" with "Linear", "Logarithmic", and "Exponential" buttons.

*Normalize Inspector*

With this inspector some manipulation of data like moving can be done.

**1. Ref. Value, 2. Ref. Value:** Defines two values from either the x or the y axis. These values can also defined with the normalize mouse modes.

**1. New Value, 2. New Value:** These values will only be used for the *Normalize* function.

**Move:** This function moves the selected buffers in the specified direction (selected with the *Axis* radio button) from the reference to the new value.

**Normalize:** This function manipulates the buffers by stretching or shrinking along the specified axis. The specified reference points in the data are changed in such a way that the first old value becomes the first new value and the second old value becomes the second new value.

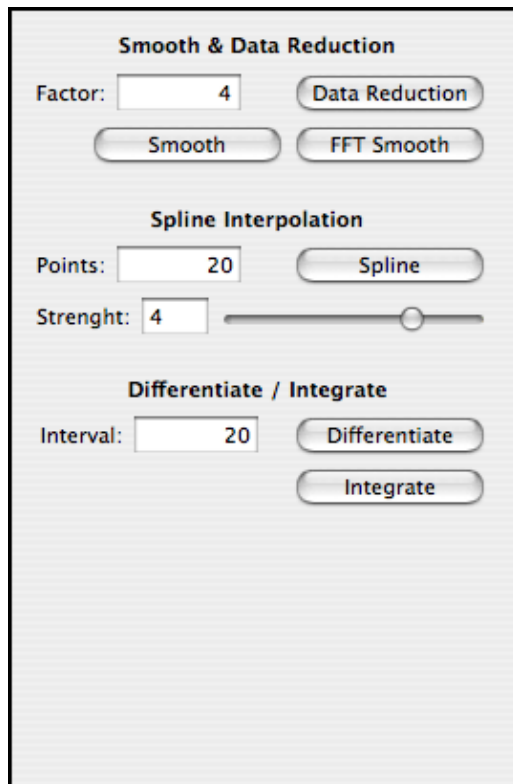
**Cut Outside:** These function deletes all data points in all selected buffers which are not in the range between *1. Ref. Values* and *2. Ref. Value*".

**Cut Inside:** These function deletes all data points in all selected buffers which are in the range between *1. Ref. Values* and *2. Ref. Value*".

**Integrate:** This function calculates the integral between X min (*1. Ref. Value*) and X max (*2. Ref Value*) and writes the result to the comment fields in the Data Inspector.

**Regression:** This function calculates the linear, logarithmic, or exponential regression between the X min (*1. Ref. Value*) and X max (*2. Ref. Value*) and generates a new buffer with the result.

# Fit Inspector



*Fit Inspector*

With this inspector some manipulation of data can be done.

## Smooth & Data reduction

**Data Reduction:** Sometimes it is useful to reduce a large number of data points which consist mainly of noise to a more practical amount of points. This function takes  $n$  points ( $n$  is specified in the *Factor* field), builds the average, and replaces the  $n$  points with the new one.

**Smooth:** This functions uses a effective smooth width the value from the *Factor* field and performs a least square smooth to reduce the noise on the buffer.

**FFT Smooth:** This functions uses a effective smooth width the value from the *Factor* field and performs a FFT based smooth to reduce the noise on the buffer (see [sources](#)).

## Spline Interpolation

This function calculates a nonparametric cubic spline interpolation (see [sources](#)) for all selected buffers.

**Points:** Defines the number of points which should be calculated for each interval.

**Strength:** Defines the *strength* of the interpolation. 2 is in most cases a god choice.

## Differentiate & Integrate

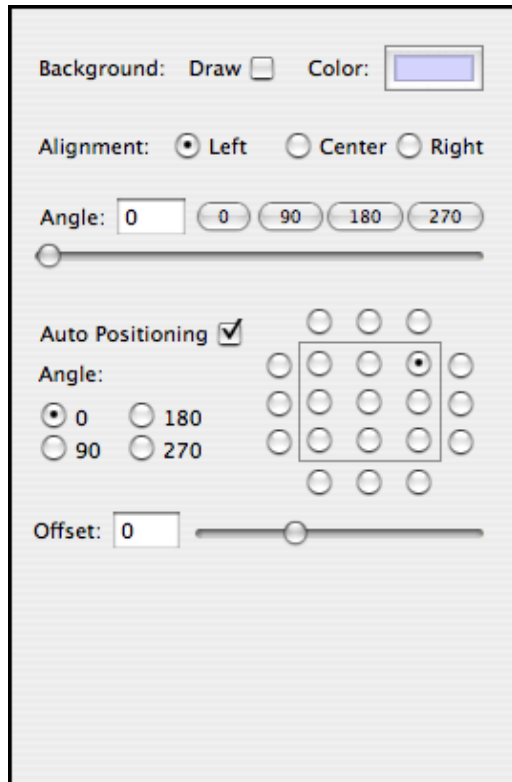
This function allow to differentiate and integrate buffers (see [sources](#)).

**Differentiate:** Differentiate all selected buffer and generate new buffers with the result data.

**Interval:** This the effective interval which will be used to calculate the differentiation.

**Integrate:** Integrates all selected buffer and generate new buffers with the result data. The integrate function does not need the interval.

# Text Inspector

The image shows a 'Text Inspector' dialog box with various controls for text formatting. At the top, there is a 'Background' section with a 'Draw' checkbox and a 'Color' color picker showing a light blue swatch. Below this is an 'Alignment' section with radio buttons for 'Left' (selected), 'Center', and 'Right'. The 'Angle' section features a numeric input set to '0' and four buttons for '0', '90', '180', and '270' degrees, with a slider below. The 'Auto Positioning' section has a checked checkbox and a 5x5 grid of buttons for selecting text positions; the center button is selected. Below the grid is an 'Auto Positioning Angle' section with radio buttons for '0', '90', '180', and '270' degrees. At the bottom, the 'Offset' section includes a numeric input set to '0' and a horizontal slider.

*Text Inspector*

This inspector controls the graphical attributes of text objects.

**Background:** Enables or disables background drawing for text objects.

**Color:** The color the the text backgrounds.

**Alignment:** Defines the text alignment of a text label.

**Angle:** The angle of text objects. The four buttons allow easy selection of the usual angles.

**Auto Positioning:** This option allow to give a text a fixed position inside your plot. The button matrix on the right selects the position relative to the plot frame.

**Auto Positioning Angle:** The angle of auto positioning text objects.

**Auto Positioning Offset:** The offset between plot frame and auto positioning text.

# Graphic Inspector

Type: ☐ Rectangle ☐ Circle ☒ Line

1. X Position:

1. Y Position:

2. X Position:

2. Y Position:

Width:

Height:

Coord.Sys.: ☒ Pixel ☐ 1.Axis ☐ 2.Axis

Linewidth:

Line Pattern:

Display: ☐ On Background ☒ In Front

Fill: ☒  Color:

Arrow at Linestart: ☐ Arrow at Lineend: ☐

Arrow Size:

Arrow Type: ☒ Open ☐ Closed  
☐ Triangle ☐ Double

*Graphic Inspector*

This inspector controls the graphical attributes of graphic objects. Currently lines, arrows, rectangle, and circles are supported.

**Type:** Selects the graphic type.

**Background:** Enables or disables background drawing for rectangles and circles.

**1. X, 1. Y, 2. X, 2. Y:** Position of the graphic object.

**Width, Height:** Size of the graphic object.

**Pixel, 1.Axis, 2.Axis:** Defines the coordinate system to which the graphic object belongs. This allows graphics with a fixed position in the window and also graphics which floats with the data.

**Linewidth:** Defines the width of lines.

**Line Pattern:** Defines the dash pattern for the line style. 16 pattern are available.

**Display:** Display the graphic object on the background or in front.

**Fill:** Enables filling of rectangles and circles. The color field defines the fill color.

**Color:** The line color of the graphic object.

**Arrow at linestart, Arrow at lineend:** Switch arrows on or off.

**Arrow Size:** The size of arrows.

**Arrow Type:** The style of the arrows.

# Mouse Modes

The lower part of the *Inspector* allows to select different mouse modes. Mouse modes defines the behaviour of the mouse in your document.

---

## Measure



The crosshair allow to measure points and the distance between two points. The result will be shown in the middle part of the *Inspector*. The values will be displayed for both axis and depending on the axis mode as time value or as number.

Keyboard shortcut: m

---

## Zoom



Zooming, the plot will be rescaled to the selected rectangle.

Keyboard shortcut: z

---

## Normalize X



With this mouse mode two reference values on the X axis can be selected. The values will be used by the *Calculations Inspector*.

Keyboard shortcut: n

---

## Normalize Y



With this mouse mode two reference values on the Y axis can be selected. The values will be used by the *Calculations Inspector*.

Keyboard shortcut: b

---

## Downscale



If you click with this mouse mode inside your plot the clicked point will be centered and the range of the plot will be increased.



## Upscale



If you click with this mouse mode inside your plot the clicked point will be centered and the range of the plot will be lowered.

Keyboard shortcut: u

---

## Range



This is for easy navigating through your data. Clicking and moving in the plot changes the range accordingly. If you have a mouse wheel you can also zoom in and out.

Keyboard shortcut: r

---

## Select Tool



This mouse mode allows different manipulations on your plot. You can resize the frame of your plot; move and edit texts; select data points which will then highlighted in the [data view](#); change the current working buffer; and select axis. After selection the appropriate inspector appears.

Keyboard shortcut: s

---

## Move X



This mouse mode allows moving of data from all selected buffers in X direction. This operation changes the data itself and not just the range of the plot.

Keyboard shortcut: x

---

## Move Y



This mouse mode allows moving of data from all selected buffers in Y direction. This operation changes the data itself and not just the range of the plot.

Keyboard shortcut: y

---

## Move XY



This mouse mode allows moving of data from all selected buffers in X and Y direction. This operation changes the data itself and not just the range of the plot.

Keyboard shortcut: q

---

## Move Ppoints



With this mouse mode you can select and move a single data point. This operation changes the data itself and not just the range of the plot.

Keyboard shortcut: p

---

## Legend Moving



With this mouse mode the automatically generated legend can be moved.

Keyboard shortcut: l

---

## Text



This mouse mode allows to add and edit texts in your plot.

Keyboard shortcut: t

---

## Graphic



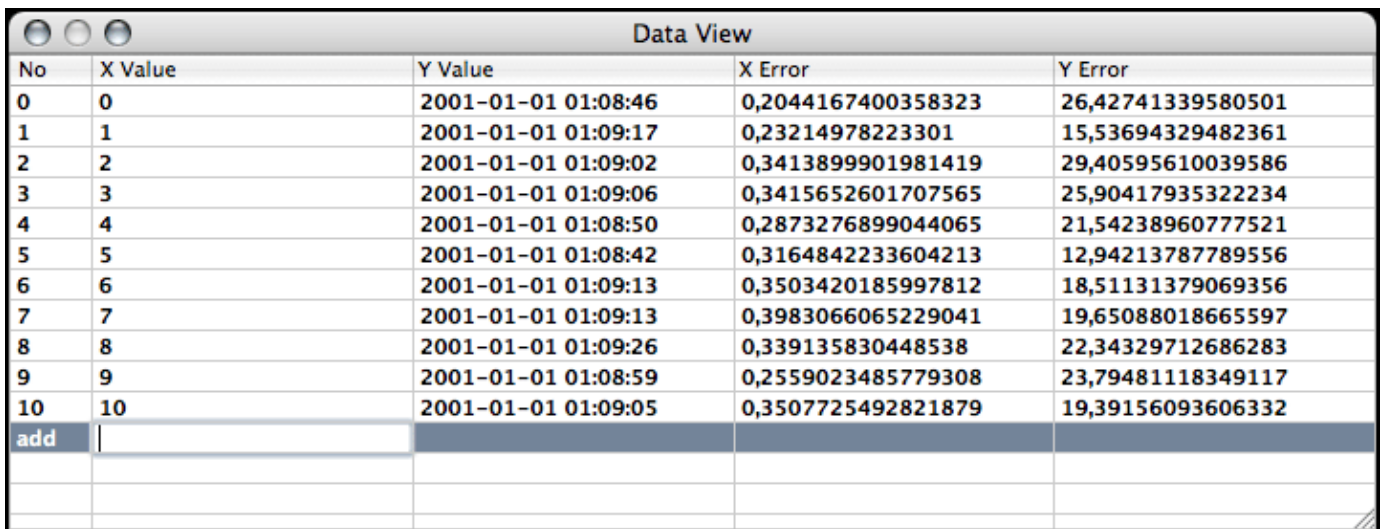
With this mouse mode graphic objects can be created, sized and moved.

Keyboard shortcut: g

---

# DataView

The *Data View* is a spreadsheet like editor for your data. It show the data of the working buffer.



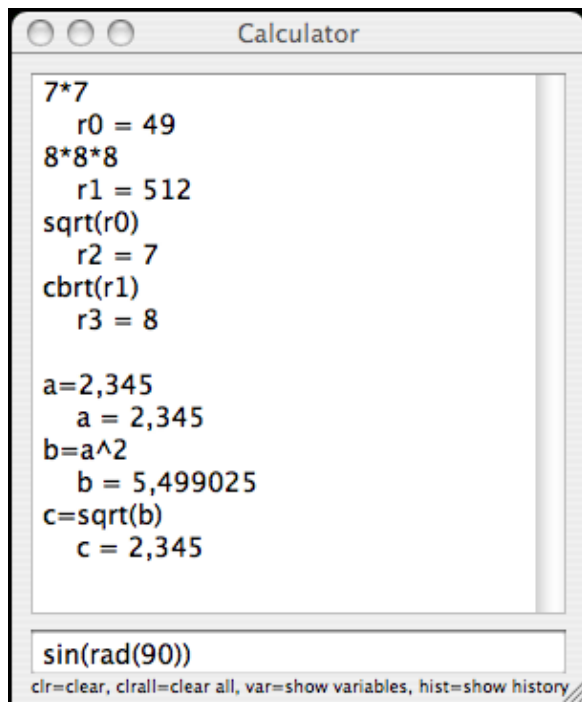
No	X Value	Y Value	X Error	Y Error
0	0	2001-01-01 01:08:46	0,2044167400358323	26,42741339580501
1	1	2001-01-01 01:09:17	0,23214978223301	15,53694329482361
2	2	2001-01-01 01:09:02	0,3413899901981419	29,40595610039586
3	3	2001-01-01 01:09:06	0,3415652601707565	25,90417935322234
4	4	2001-01-01 01:08:50	0,2873276899044065	21,54238960777521
5	5	2001-01-01 01:08:42	0,3164842233604213	12,94213787789556
6	6	2001-01-01 01:09:13	0,3503420185997812	18,51131379069356
7	7	2001-01-01 01:09:13	0,3983066065229041	19,65088018665597
8	8	2001-01-01 01:09:26	0,339135830448538	22,34329712686283
9	9	2001-01-01 01:08:59	0,2559023485779308	23,79481118349117
10	10	2001-01-01 01:09:05	0,3507725492821879	19,39156093606332
add				

*Data View*

Double clicking on the *X Value* or *Y Value* column header switches the display format between number and time values.

The *X Error* and *Y Error* column stores individual error values for each data point.

If you select points in the *Data View* the points will be highlighted in your document.



*Calculator*

# Calculator

This is a simple builtin calculator for instant calculations. The *Calculator* supports the common math expressions of *Plot*. Just enter your calculation in the lower text field and hit return to get the result in the upper textfield. The result of every calculation is stored in a variable ( $r0 \dots r<n>$ ). These variables can be used in later calculation and also in all other functions where *Plot* allow expressions (e.g. in the function generator).

There are three special commands in the calculator:

<i>clr</i>	reset the calculator and deletes all variables and the history.
<i>vars</i>	show a list of available variables
<i>hist</i>	show the calculator history

It is also possible to define user specific variables. Just enter:

`<name>=<value>`

User variables can also be used in all other functions where *Plot* allow expressions.

# Expressions

Plot functions which allow entering of mathematical expressions supports the following functions:

+, -, *, /	arithmetic operations
%, mod	modulo
( )	grouping
^, **	power
rad(x), deg(x)	conversion between radians and degrees
sin(x), cos(x), tan(x)	trigonometric functions
asin(x), acos(x), atan(x)	inverse trigonometric functions
sinh(x), cosh(x), tanh(x)	hyperbolic functions
rnd(h)	random number (h = height)
ln(x), log(x)	natural and logarithm to base 10
sqrt(x)	square root
cbrt(x)	cubic root
frac(x)	returns the fraction of x
int(x)	returns the integer of x
round(x;n)	round up and down to the nth place on the right of the decimal point
gau(x;x0;a;w)	Gauss (x0 = position, a = amplitude, w = width)
lor(x;x0;a;w)	Lorentz (x0 = position, a = amplitude, w = width)
galo(x;x0;a;w;r)	Gauss-Lorentz (x0 = position, a = amplitude, w = width, r=Gauss-Lorentz ratio (1.0=pure Gauss, 0.0 = pure Lorentz))
tail(x;x0;a;w;r;t)	Gauss-Lorentz with exponential Tail (x0 = position, a = amplitude, w = width, r = Gauss-Lorentz ratio (1.0=pure Gauss, 0.0 = pure Lorentz)), t = tail exponent factor
j0(x), j1(x), jn(x,n)	bessel functions
y0(x), y1(x), yn(x,n)	bessel functions
pi	3.14159265359
e	2.71828182846
xval(b;i)	x value of point <i>i</i> in buffer <i>b</i>
yval(b;i)	y value of point <i>i</i> in buffer <i>b</i>
xerr(b;i)	x error value of point <i>i</i> in buffer <i>b</i>
yerr(b;i)	y error value of point <i>i</i> in buffer <i>b</i>
xmin(b)	minimum x value in buffer <i>b</i>
xmax(b)	maximum x value in buffer <i>b</i>
xymin(b)	minimum y value in buffer <i>b</i>
ymax(b)	maximum y value in buffer <i>b</i>
points(b)	number of points in buffer <i>b</i>

# Time Format

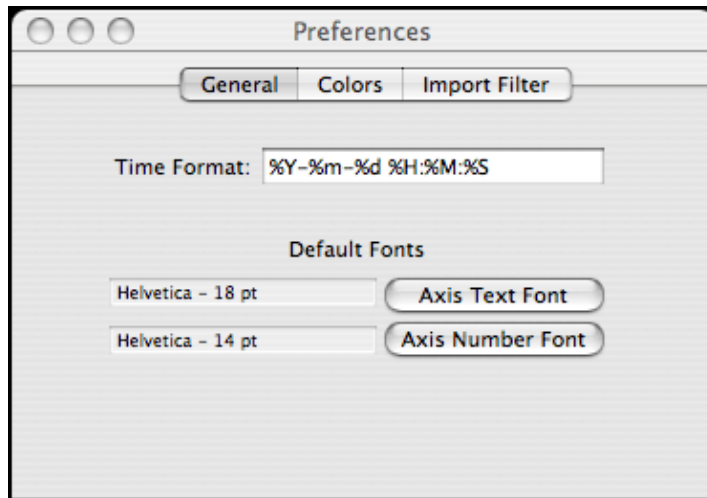
This list describes the tokens which can be use in *Plot*

- %a Abbreviated weekday name
- %A Full weekday name
- %b Abbreviated month name
- %B Full month name
- %c Shorthand for x", the locale format for date and time
- %d Day of the month as a decimal number (01-31)
- %e Same as %d but does not print the leading 0 for days 1 through 9 (unlike strftime(), does not print a leading space)
- %F Milliseconds as a decimal number (000-999)
- %H Hour based on a 24-hour clock as a decimal number (00-23)
- %I Hour based on a 12-hour clock as a decimal number (01-12)
- %j Day of the year as a decimal number (001-366)
- %m Month as a decimal number (01-12)
- %M Minute as a decimal number (00-59)
- %p AM/PM designation for the locale
- %S Second as a decimal number (00-59)
- %w Weekday as a decimal number (0-6), where Sunday is 0
- %x Date using the date representation for the locale, including the time zone (produces different results from strftime())
- %X Time using the time representation for the locale (produces different results from strftime())
- %y Year without century (00-99)
- %Y Year with century (such as 1990)
- %Z Time zone name (such as Pacific Daylight Time; produces different results from strftime())
- %z Time zone offset in hours and minutes from GMT (HHMM)

# Preferences

The *Preferences Panel* allow to change some global setting in *Plot*

---



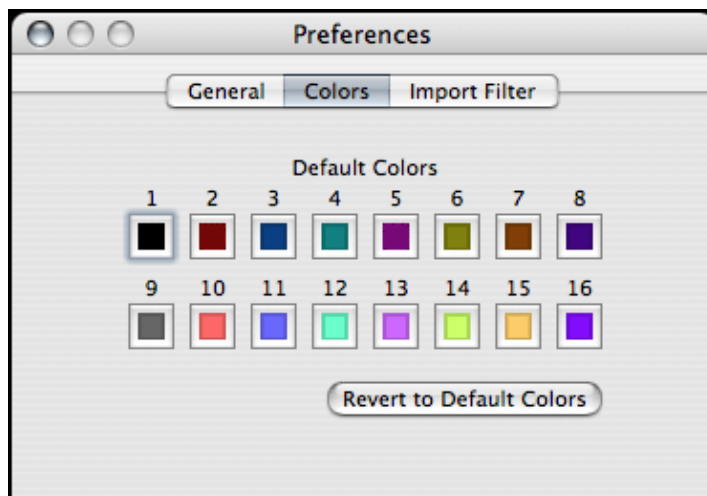
*General*

## General

**Time Format:** Defines the format for time values used in *Plot*.

**Default Font:** Allow to define default fonts for axis labels and axis numbers.

---

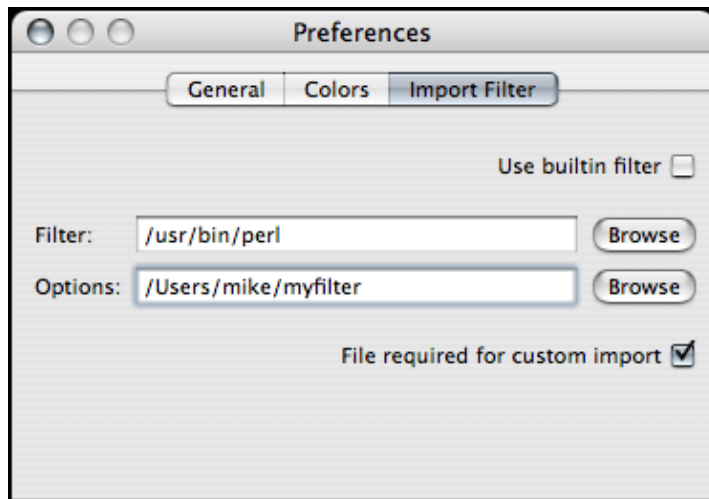


*Colors*

## Colors

Here you can define the default colors used by *Plot*. It is also possible to restore the default colors.

---



*Import Filter*

## Import Filter

Besides the builtin import filter for ASCII data you can use your own custom filter to import data.

**Use builtin filter:** Enables or disables the builtin import filter.

**Filter:** Defines the custom filter. This has to be an executable file.

**Options:** Defines additional option for the import filter.

**File required for custom import filter:** If enabled you will be asked for a file to import. If disabled your filter needs to know by itself where to find the data.

Information how to make an import filter can be found in the [import filter section](#).



# Menu Item

Apart from the usual Apple menu items *Plot* has some more which will be described here:

## **File Import**

Using this item brings up a open panel in which you can select a file for importing.

## **File MySQL Import**

This items brings up the MySQL Import dialog which allows direct data import from a MySQL database.

## **File New Empty Buffer**

Generates a new empty buffer in the current document. You can fill it with data by using the Data View.

## **File Load Layout**

## **File Load Data**

## **File Load Range**

## **File Load Colors**

## **File Load Fonts**

These item allow partial load of *Plot* files. This is handy to give different documents the same graphical attributes.

## **File Save As PDF**

## **File Save As EPS**

## **File Save As PNG**

## **File Save As JPG**

Saves your document in one of the given formats as graphic file.

## **File Export ASCII**

This exports all selected buffers of the current document as ASCII data. A new file for every buffer will be generated with the given name and the appended buffer number.

## **File Inspector**

Brings up the Inspector

## **File Data View**

Brings up the Data View

## **File Data Inspector**

Brings up the Data Inspector

## **File Calculator**

Brings up the Calculator

# Import Filter

## Import

General the import filter accepts file with UNIX, Mac and Windows line end characters. Each line should contain at least one number. Numbers in the line will be separated by any character which could not be part of a number.

The import dialog allows to select between two modes of importing ASCII data.

**Multicolumn:** The builtin import filter expects an ASCII file with one or more columns.

If your file has only one column the values will be treated as Y values, the X value will be generated as sequence number.

If you have more than one column the first will be treated as X value and every other column as Y value.

**Error Values:** This mode expects up to 4 columns of data. The 1. and 2. will be treated as X and Y values. The 3. and 4. as X error values and Y error values. If only three column are available the 3. will used as Y error values.

## Custom Import Filter

For using a custom filter you need to know what *Plot* expects from the filter. Right now this is really easy to implement.

*Plot* calls the filter with some arguments where the last is always the filename.

If you want to use a perl script to import some data your have to set the *Filter* field in the preferences panel with `/usr/bin/perl` and in the *Options* field with the path to your script (e.g. `/Users/mike/myscript`). *Plot* will now run the following command line to call the filter:

```
/usr/bin/perl /Users/mike/myscript <file>
```

Now your script has to parse the file and write to standard output a stream the *Plot* understands. The stream *Plot* expects is just a sequence of numbers seperated by colons (:). The first number in the sequence must be the number of columns in your data set.

e.g. if you want to import this date:

```
1 1
2 4
3 9
4 16
```

your script have to write this data stream:

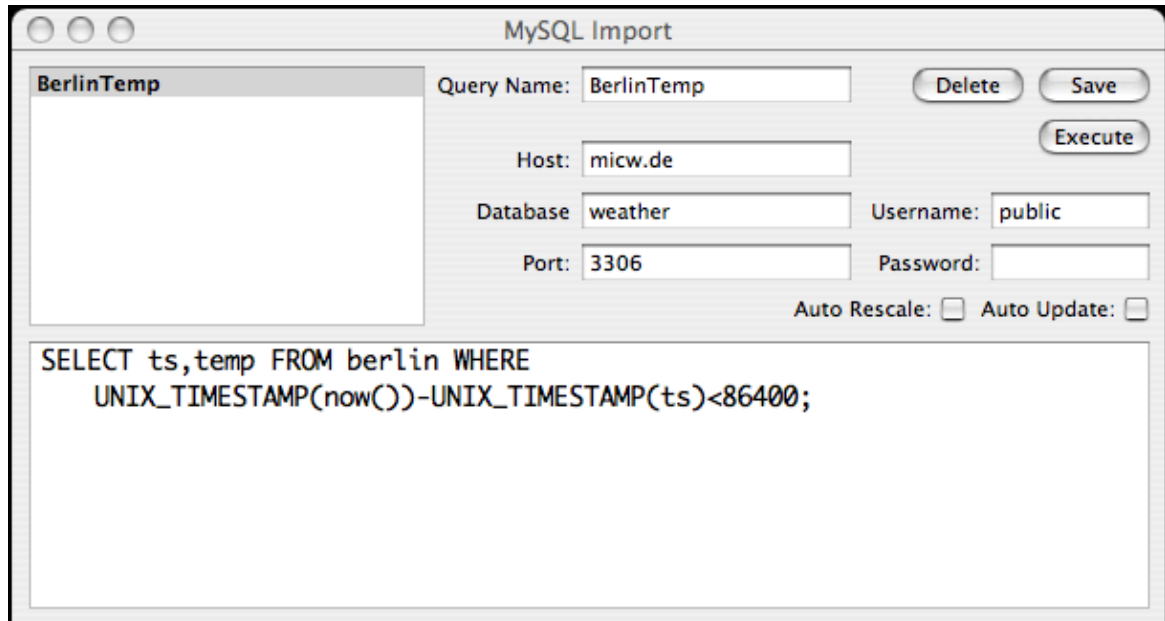
```
2:1:1:2:4:3:9:4:16
```

You have to provide at least 2 columns of data.

# MySQL Import

This function allow directly to import data from your MySQL database. In the upper field of the panel you have to define the database parameters and in the lower part you can enter an SQL query; typically in the form:

```
SELECT <x column>,<y column> FROM <table> WHERE ...
```

The image shows a software window titled "MySQL Import". On the left, there is a list box containing the name "BerlinTemp". To the right of this list box are several input fields: "Query Name:" with the value "BerlinTemp", "Host:" with "micw.de", "Database:" with "weather", "Port:" with "3306", "Username:" with "public", and a "Password:" field which is empty. There are three buttons: "Delete", "Save", and "Execute". Below these fields are two checkboxes: "Auto Rescale:" and "Auto Update:", both of which are unchecked. At the bottom of the window is a large text area containing the SQL query: "SELECT ts,temp FROM berlin WHERE UNIX\_TIMESTAMP(now())-UNIX\_TIMESTAMP(ts)<86400;".

*MySQL Import Panel*

**Query Name:** A custom name for your SQL query.

**Save, Delete:** Save or delete your custom query.

**Host:** The host where your database resides.

**Database:** The database name.

**Port:** The TCP port of your database (usually 3306).

**Username, Password:** MySQL login informations.

**Auto Update:** If checked the data will automatically updated e.g. if you open the document.

**Auto Rescale:** If checked your docment will be rescaled after an data update.

# About Plot

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## History

A long time ago in the last millennium I wrote a program called SciPlot for the fantastic NeXT computers (the older ones of you maybe remember).

After the NeXT period I had the idea to make a similar program for windows computers. After some work on this I did not find any fun in programming for Windows computers and so I stopped the development of SciPlot for Windows.

Now we have Mac OS X and I started the Plot project which takes some of the ideas of SciPlot but is a completely rewritten program with a different focus than SciPlot (and right now with less features).

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## Sources

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## About the author

Nothing to say about me but you are invited to send [email](#) and also to visit also my [pets page](#).