Visualization

UW CSE 140

Winter 2013

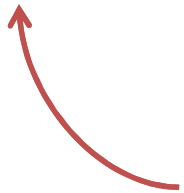
matplotlib

- Strives to emulate MATLAB
  - Pro: familiar to MATLAB users
  - Pro: powerful
  - Con: not the best design for a plotting library
- One important function for HW6:

```
plot(xvalues, yvalues)
```

Plot

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

xs = [1,2,3,4,5]
# ys = [x**2 for x in xs]
ys = []
for x in xs:
  ys.append(x**2)

plt.plot(xs, ys)
```



no return value?

Has a side effect on the figure (like “print” statement)

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

xs = range(-100,100,10)
x2 = [x**2 for x in xs]
negx2 = [-x**2 for x in xs]

plt.plot(xs, x2)
plt.plot(xs, negx2)
plt.xlabel("x")
plt.ylabel("y")
plt.ylim(-2000, 2000)
plt.axhline(0) # horiz line
plt.axvline(0) # vert line
plt.savefig("quad.png")
plt.show()
```

Incrementally modify the figure.

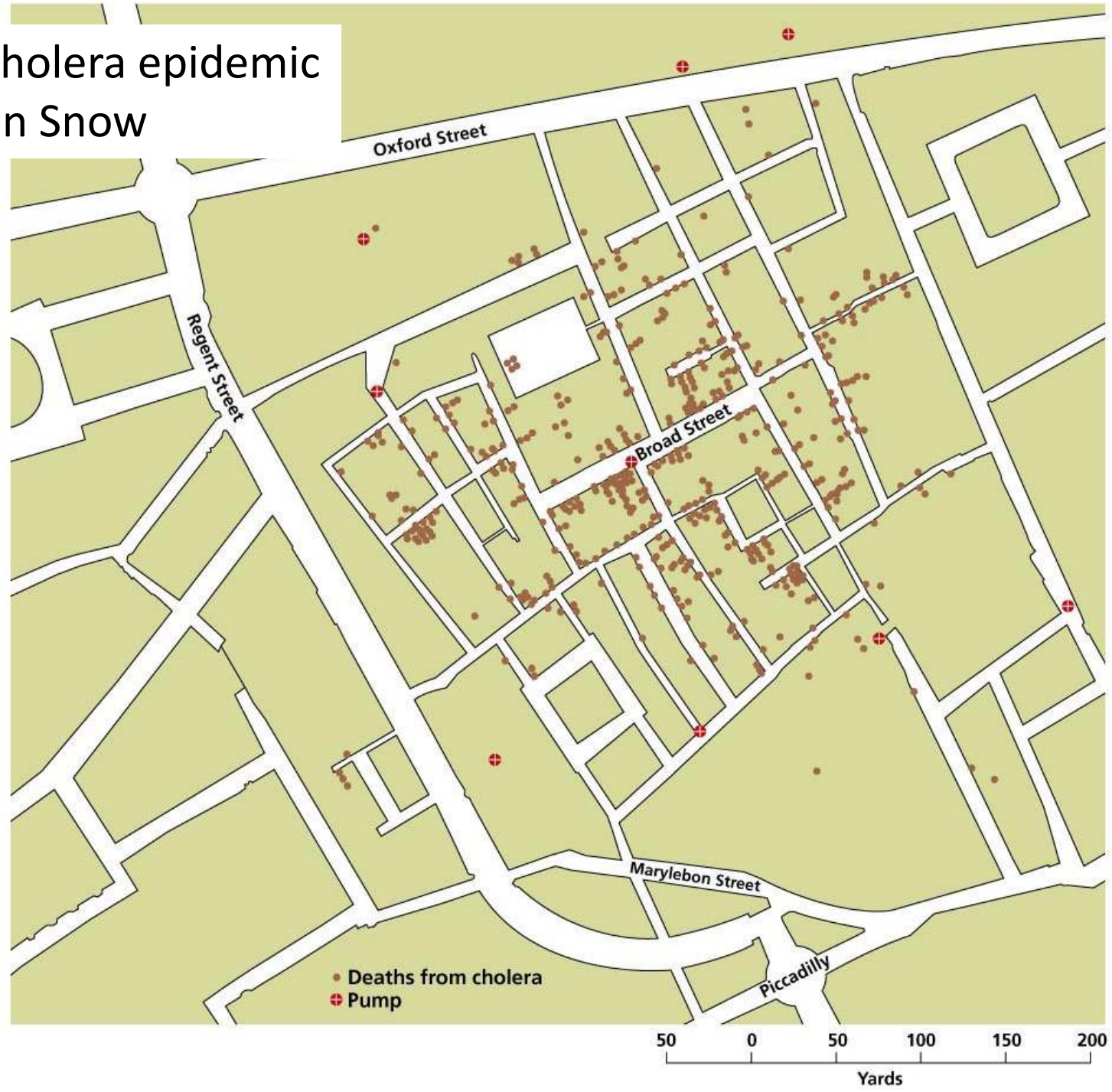
Save your figure to a file

Show it on the screen

```
def myplot(xs, ys, description):
  plt.plot(xs, ys, linewidth=2, color='green', linestyle='-', marker='s', label=description)

def setup_plot():
  plt.xlabel("x")
  plt.ylabel("y")
  plt.axhline(0,linestyle=':',color='red')
  plt.axvline(0,linestyle=':',color='red')

def finish_plot():
  plt.legend()
  plt.show()

setup_plot()
myplot(xs,x2,"x**2")
finish_plot()

setup_plot()
myplot(xs,negx2,"-x**2")
finish_plot()
```

We can group these options into functions as usual, but remember that they are operating on a global, hidden variable (the figure)

1854 London cholera epidemic
Map by Dr. John Snow



Napoleon's Russian Campaign of 1812

Graphic by Charles Joseph Minard