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This Tutorial uses the new **ScottPlot 5**

Plotting Data in Windows Forms

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

Contents

- Introduction
- Getting Started with ScottPlot
- Basic Scatter Plot
- <u>Real-Time Scatter Plot</u>
- <u>Signal Plot</u>
- Plotting Data from Database

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Introduction Plotting Data in Windows Forms

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Introduction

- Plotting Data in Windows Forms is something you often want to do
- The built-in Chart Control for Windows Forms is no longer supported by Microsoft in the latest .NET versions
- So, we need to find and use alternative solutions

Charting/Plotting in WinForms

- No built-in Charts in Visual Studio
 - System.Windows.Forms.DataVisualization no longer exist for .NET 6 or newer
- Many third-party Chart Tools exist
- Most of these are commercial and costs money while others are free
- This Tutorial will use **ScottPlot**, which is a free and open-source plotting library for .NET

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Getting Started with ScottPlot

ScottPlot is a free and open-source plotting library for .NET

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ScottPlot

- ScottPlot is a free and open-source plotting library for .NET
- You start using it by installing a NuGet Package directly from Visual Studio
- ScottPlot 5 is released! and not directly backward compatible with ScottPlot 4.x!!
- <u>https://scottplot.net/</u>

Getting Started with ScottPlot

Getting Started:

- Step 1: Install the **ScottPlot.WinForms** NuGet package
- Step 2: Drag a FormsPlot from the Toolbox onto your Form

Basic Code Example:

double[] dataX = new double[] {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}; double[] dataY = new double[] {1, 4, 9, 16, 25}; formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY); formsPlot1.Refresh();

Windows Forms App

Create a new project

Recent project templates

🗂 Windows Forms App	C#
🗂 Windows Forms App (.NET Framework)	C#
🖏 Python Application	Python
🕼 MSTest Test Project	C#
🗊 ASP.NET Core Web App (Razor Pages)	C#
🗊 NUnit Test Project	C#
🕼 Unit Test Project (.NET Framework)	C#
👪 .NET MAUI App	C#
	C#

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C#	- Windows - Desktop -
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C#	Windows Forms App (.NET Framework) A project for creating an application with a Windows Forms (WinForms) user interface
C#	C# Windows Desktop WPF Application
i and	A project for creating a .NET WPF Application C# Windows Desktop
C#	WPF Class Library A project for creating a class library that targets a .NET WPF Application
	C# Windows Desktop Library
	WPF Custom Control Library A project for creating a custom control library for .NET WPF Applications
	C# Windows Desktop Library
	WPF User Control Library A project for creating a user control library for .NET WPF Applications
	C# Windows Desktop Library

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ScottPlot NuGet Package



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Basic Example



Basic Example



```
using ScottPlot;
```

```
namespace WinFormsApp1
```

```
public partial class Form1 : Form
```

```
public Form1()
```

```
InitializeComponent();
```

```
}
```

```
private void Form1_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
```

```
double[] dataX = new double[] { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
double[] dataY = new double[] { 1, 4, 9, 16, 25 };
```

```
formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY);
formsPlot1.Refresh();
```

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Basic Scatter Plot

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Basic Scatter Plot

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	15 ~	private void CreateChart()	- 11	
	17	<pre>double[] dataX = new double[] { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };</pre>		
	18	<pre>double[] dataY = new double[] { 1, 4, 9, 16, 25 };</pre>		
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	20	<pre>formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY); formsPlot1_Refnech();</pre>		•
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Basic Scatter Plot



```
using ScottPlot;
namespace WinFormsApp1
    public partial class Form1 : Form
       public Form1()
            InitializeComponent();
        private void Form1 Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
            CreateChart();
       private void CreateChart()
            double[] dataX = new double[] { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
            double[] dataY = new double[] { 1, 4, 9, 16, 25 };
            formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY);
            formsPlot1.Refresh();
```

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Real-Time Scatter Plot

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Real-Time Scatter Plot



```
namespace RealTimePlot
```

public partial class Form1 : Form

```
double[] dataX = new double[] { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
double[] dataY = new double[] { 20, 22, 23, 24, 25 };
```

public Form1()

InitializeComponent();

private void Form1_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)

CreateChart();

timer1.Interval = 10000; //10 seconds
timer1.Start();

private void timer1_Tick(object sender, EventArgs e)

UpdateChart();

private void CreateChart()

formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY, ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("C43E1C")); formsPlot1.Refresh();

private void UpdateChart()

Random rand = new Random(); double newValue = rand.NextDouble() * 10 + 20; //Random Value between 20 and 30 int k = dataX.Length + 1; dataX = dataX.Append(k).ToArray(); dataY = dataY.Append(newValue).ToArray(); formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY, ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("C43E1C")); formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.AutoScale(); formsPlot1.Refresh();

```
using ScottPlot.WinForms;
```

namespace RealTimePlot

public partial class Form1 : Form

double[] dataX = new double[0]; double[] dataY = new double[0]; int k = 0;

public Form1()

InitializeComponent(); InitializeChart();

private void Form1_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)

timer1.Interval = 10000; //10 seconds
timer1.Start();

```
private void timer1_Tick(object sender, EventArgs e)
```

UpdateChart();

```
private void InitializeChart()
```

```
formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.SetLimits(0, 1, 20, 30);
```

private void UpdateChart()

k++;

Random rand = new Random(); double newValue = rand.NextDouble() * 10 + 20; //Random Value between 20 and 30 dataX = dataX.Append(k).ToArray(); dataY = dataY.Append(newValue).ToArray(); formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY, ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("C43E1C")); formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.AutoScale(); formsPlot1.Refresh();

Alternative Solution with no Initial Data Set

Customize

```
You can add Xlabel, Ylabel, Title, etc
```

```
private void InitializeChart()
```

...

. . .

```
formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.SetLimits(0, 1, 20, 30);
formsPlot1.Plot.XLabel("Time[s]");
formsPlot1.Plot.YLabel("Temperature[°C]");
formsPlot1.Plot.Title("TC-01 Temperature Sensor");
formsPlot1.Refresh();
```

Multi-Line Plot



using ScottPlot.WinForms;

namespace RealTimePlot

public partial class Form1 : Form

double[] dataX = new double[0]; double[] dataY1 = new double[0]; double[] dataY2 = new double[0]; int k = 0;

public Form1()

InitializeComponent(); InitializeChart();

private void Form1_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)

timer1.Interval = 10000; //10 seconds
timer1.Start();

private void timer1_Tick(object sender, EventArgs e)

UpdateChart();

private void InitializeChart()

formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.SetLimits(0, 1, 20, 30);

formsPlot1.Plot.XLabel("Time[s]"); formsPlot1.Plot.YLabel("Temperature[°C]"); formsPlot1.Plot.Title("Temperature Sensors");

formsPlot1.Refresh();

private void UpdateChart()

、 k++;

Random rand = new Random(); double newValue1 = rand.NextDouble() * 10 + 20; //Random Value between 20 and 30 double newValue2 = rand.NextDouble() * 10 + 20; //Random Value between 20 and 30

dataX = dataX.Append(k).ToArray(); dataY1 = dataY1.Append(newValue1).ToArray(); dataY2 = dataY2.Append(newValue2).ToArray();

formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY1, ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("C43E1C")); formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY2, ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("5D6B99"));

formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.AutoScale(); formsPlot1.Refresh();

Add Legend

```
...
private void InitializeChart()
    formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.SetLimits(0, 1, 20, 30);
    formsPlot1.Plot.XLabel("Time[s]");
    formsPlot1.Plot.YLabel("Temperature[°C]");
    formsPlot1.Plot.Title("Temperature Sensors");
    LegendItem item1 = new()
      LineColor = ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("C43E1C"),
      MarkerColor = ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("C43E1C"),
      Label = "Sensor1"
    };
    LegendItem item2 = new()
      LineColor = ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("5D6B99"),
      MarkerColor = ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("5D6B99"),
      Label = "Sensor?"
    };
    LegendItem[] items = {item1, item2};
    formsPlot1.Plot.ShowLegend(items);
    formsPlot1.Refresh();
```

Add Legend



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Signal Plot

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Signal Plot



Signal Plot

X



Signal Plot – Real Time Example



using ScottPlot.WinForms;

namespace RealTimePlot

public partial class Form1 : Form

double[] data = new double[0]; int sampleTime = 10; //[seconds]

public Form1()

InitializeComponent(); InitializeChart();

private void Form1_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)

timer1.Interval = sampleTime * 1000; timer1.Start();

private void timer1_Tick(object sender, EventArgs e)

UpdateChart();

private void InitializeChart()

formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.SetLimits(0, 1, 20, 30);

formsPlot1.Plot.XLabel("Time[s]"); formsPlot1.Plot.YLabel("Temperature[*C]"); formsPlot1.Plot.Title("TC-01 Temperature Sensor"); formsPlot1.Refresh();

private void UpdateChart()

Random rand = new Random(); double newValue = rand.NextDouble() * 10 + 20; //Random Value between 20 and 30 data = data.Append(newValue).ToArray();

formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Signal(data, sampleTime, ScottPlot.Color.FromHex("C43E1C"));

formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.AutoScale(); formsPlot1.Refresh();

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Plotting Data from Database using ScottPlot

ScottPlot is a free and open-source plotting library for .NET

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Plotting Data from Database

- Here we will demonstrate how to retrieve data from a Database
- We will use SQL Server
- We will Put the Data into a GridView
- We will plot the Data using ScottPlot

Plotting Data from Database



Database Table

```
CREATE TABLE [DATA]
(
    [DataId] int NOT NULL IDENTITY ( 1,1 ) Primary Key,
    [DataTimeStamp] datetime NOT NULL DEFAULT GETDATE(),
    [DataValue] float NOT NULL
)
```

go

SQL Server

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	5	2024-02-21 09:25:42 257	21.2						
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NuGet Packages

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The current data provider for SQL Server and Azure SQL databases. This has replaced System.Data.SqlClient. These classes provide access to SQ	Versions - 1	
ScottPlot.WinForms by Scott Harden 5.0.23 User controls for displaying interactive plots in Windows Forms	DatabaseChart 5.2.0 5.2.0	
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$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	<pre>inference void GetData() { List<sensordata> gensorDataList = new List<sensordata>(); SensorData sensorData = new SensorData(); sensorDataList = sensorData.GetSensorData(); //Convert Data from Database to Arrays used by ScottPlot double[] dataX = new double[sensorDataList.Count]; double[] dataY = new double[sensorDataList.Count]; double[] dataY = new double[sensorDataList.Count]; int i = 0; foreach (SensorData data in sensorDataList) { dataY[i] = data.DataId; dataY[i] = data.DataId; dataY[i] = data.DataValue; i++; } CreateChart(dataX, dataY); CreateGridView(sensorDataList); } ireference void CreateChart(double[] dataX, double[] dataY) { formsPlot1.Plot.XLabel("Time[s]"); formsPlot1.Plot.XLabel("Temperature Sensor"); } } </sensordata></sensordata></pre>		 Search Solution Explorer (C P) Solution 'DatabaseChart' (1 BohabaseChart #Dependencies # Packages Microsoft.Data.Sol(Classes Classes Casses Casses Casses Cr Form1.cs cr Form1.resx cr Program.cs
45 😵 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 55 55 55 56 57 58 59 60 61	<pre>formsPlot1.Plot.Add.Scatter(dataX, dataY); formsPlot1.Refresh(); } reference void CreateGridView(List<sensordata> sensorDataList) { dataGridView1.DataSource = sensorDataList; dataGridView1.Columns[0].HeaderText = "DataId"; dataGridView1.Columns[1].HeaderText = "TimeStamp"; dataGridView1.Columns[2].HeaderText = "Temperature Value[°C]"; dataGridView1.Columns[1].Width = 100; dataGridView1.Columns[1].Width = 190; }</sensordata></pre>		Properties • # × • • •

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Ln: 45 Ch: 55 SPC CRLF

using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;

namespace DatabaseChart.Classes

internal class SensorData

public int Datald { get; set; }
public string? DataTimeStamp { get; set; }
public double DataValue { get; set; }

public List<SensorData> GetSensorData()

{

string connectionString = "Data Source=xxx\\SQLEXPRESS;Initial Catalog=SENSORSYSTEM;Integrated Security=True; TrustServerCertificate=True";

List<SensorData> sensorDataList = new List<SensorData>(); SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);

string selectSQL = "SELECT Datald, FORMAT(DataTimeStamp, 'MM.dd HH:mm') AS DataTimeStamp, DataValue FROM DATA"; con.Open(); SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(selectSQL, con); SqlDataReader dr = cmd.ExecuteReader(); if (dr != null)
{
 while (dr.Read())
 {
 SensorData sensorData = new SensorData();
 sensorData.Datald = Convert.ToInt32(dr["Datald"]);
 sensorData.DataTimeStamp = dr["DataTimeStamp"].ToString();

sensorData.DataValue = Convert.ToDouble(dr["DataValue"]); sensorDataList.Add(sensorData);

return sensorDataList;

SensorData Class (Filename: SensorData.cs)

```
namespace DatabaseChart
  public partial class Form1 : Form
    public Form1()
      InitializeComponent();
    private void Form1_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
```

GetData();

Form1.cs

void GetData()

```
GetData() Method
```

```
List<SensorData> sensorDataList = new List<SensorData>();
SensorData sensorData = new SensorData();
sensorDataList = sensorData.GetSensorData();
```

//Convert Data from Database to Arrays used by ScottPlot
double[] dataX = new double[sensorDataList.Count];
double[] dataY = new double[sensorDataList.Count];

```
int i = 0;
foreach (SensorData data in sensorDataList)
{
    dataX[i] = data.DataId;
    dataY[i] = data.DataValue;
    i++;
}
```

CreateChart(dataX, dataY); CreateGridView(sensorDataList);

void CreateChart(dou	uble[] dataX, double[] dataY)	CreateChart() Method	
formsPlot1.Plot.XL	abel("Time[s]");		
formsPlot1.Plot.YL	abel("Temperature[°C]");		
formsPlot1.Plot.Tit	le("Temperature Sensor");		
formsPlot1.Plot.A	dd.Scatter(dataX, dataY);		
formsPlot1.Refresh }	ו();	CreateGrideView() Metho	d
	<pre>void CreateGridView(List<sensordata> sensorDataList) { dataGridView1.DataSource = sensorDataList; dataGridView1.Columns[0].HeaderText = "DataId"; dataGridView1.Columns[1].HeaderText = "TimeStam dataGridView1.Columns[2].HeaderText = "Temperat dataGridView1.Columns[0].Width = 100; dataGridView1.Columns[1].Width = 250; dataGridView1.Columns[2].Width = 190; }</sensordata></pre>	np [MM.dd HH:mm]"; ture Value[°C]";	

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Plotting DateTime Data

SQL Server + ScottPlot

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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DateTime



Temperature Sensor



using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;

namespace DatabaseChart.Classes

internal class SensorData

public int Datald { get; set; }
public DateTime DataTimeStamp { get; set; }
public double DataValue { get; set; }

public List<SensorData> GetSensorData()

{

string connectionString = "Data Source=xxx\\SQLEXPRESS;Initial Catalog=SENSORSYSTEM;Integrated Security=True; TrustServerCertificate=True";

List<SensorData> sensorDataList = new List<SensorData>(); SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);

string selectSQL = "SELECT DataId, FORMAT(DataTimeStamp, 'yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss') AS DataTimeStamp, DataValue FROM DATA"; con.Open(); SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(selectSQL, con); SqlDataReader dr = cmd.ExecuteReader(); if (dr != null)
{
 while (dr.Read())
 {
 SensorData sensorData = new SensorData();
 sensorData.DataId = Convert.ToInt32(dr["DataId"]);
 sensorData.DataId = Convert.ToDateTime(dr["DataTimeStamp"]);
 }
}

sensorData.DataValue = Convert.ToDouble(dr["DataValue"]);
sensorDataList.Add(sensorData);

return sensorDataList;

SensorData Class (Filename: SensorData.cs)

void GetData()

List<SensorData> sensorDataList = new List<SensorData>(); SensorData sensorData = new SensorData(); sensorDataList = sensorData.GetSensorData();

//Convert Data from Database to Arrays used by ScottPlot
double[] dataX = new double[sensorDataList.Count];
double[] dataY = new double[sensorDataList.Count];

```
int i = 0;
foreach (SensorData data in sensorDataList)
{
```

```
dataX[i] = data.DataTimeStamp.ToOADate();
dataY[i] = data.DataValue;
i++;
```

CreateChart(dataX, dataY); CreateGridView(sensorDataList);

void CreateChart(double[] dataX, double[] dataY)

{

formsPlot1.Plot.XLabel("Time[s]");
formsPlot1.Plot.YLabel("Temperature[°C]");
formsPlot1.Plot.Title("Temperature Sensor");

formsPlot1.Plot.AddScatter(dataX, dataY);
formsPlot1.Plot.Axes.DateTimeTicksBottom();
formsPlot1.Refresh();

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

University of South-Eastern Norway

www.usn.no

E-mail: hans.p.halvorsen@usn.no

Web: https://www.halvorsen.blog



