



## Cartopy map gridlines and tick labels

The `Gridliner` instance, often created by calling the `cartopy.mpl.geoaxes.GeoAxes.gridlines()` method on a `cartopy.mpl.geoaxes.GeoAxes` instance, has a variety of attributes which can be used to determine draw time behaviour of the gridlines and labels.

### Important

The current `Gridliner` interface is likely to undergo a significant change in the versions following v0.6 in order to fix some of the underlying limitations of the current implementation.

class `cartopy.mpl.gridliner.Gridliner`(`axes`, `crs`, `draw_labels=False`, `xlocator=None`, `ylocator=None`, `collection_kwargs=None`) [\[source\]](#)

Object used by `cartopy.mpl.geoaxes.GeoAxes.gridlines()` to add gridlines and tick labels to a map.

Args:

- `axes`  
The `cartopy.mpl.geoaxes.GeoAxes` object to be drawn on.
- `crs`  
The `cartopy.crs.CRS` defining the coordinate system that the gridlines are drawn in.
- `draw_labels`  
Toggle whether to draw labels. For finer control, attributes of `Gridliner` may be modified individually.
- `xlocator`  
A `matplotlib.ticker.Locator` instance which will be used to determine the locations of the gridlines in the x-coordinate of the given CRS. Defaults to `None`, which implies automatic locating of the gridlines.
- `ylocator`  
A `matplotlib.ticker.Locator` instance which will be used to determine the locations of the gridlines in the y-coordinate of the given CRS. Defaults to `None`, which implies automatic locating of the gridlines.
- `collection_kwargs`  
Dictionary controlling line properties, passed to `matplotlib.collections.Collection`.

`collection_kwargs = None`

A dictionary passed through to `matplotlib.collections.LineCollection` on grid line creation.

`n_steps = None`

The number of interpolation points which are used to draw the gridlines.

`xformatter = None`

The `Formatter` to use for the x labels.

`xlabel_artists = None`

The x labels which were created at draw time.

`xlabel_style = None`

A dictionary passed through to `ax.text` on x label creation for styling of the text labels.

`xlabels_bottom = None`

Whether to draw labels on the bottom of the map.

**xlabels\_top** = *None*

Whether to draw labels on the top of the map.

**xline\_artists** = *None*

The x gridlines which were created at draw time.

**xlines** = *None*

Whether to draw the x gridlines.

**xlocator** = *None*

The [Locator](#) to use for the x gridlines and labels.

**yformatter** = *None*

The [Formatter](#) to use for the y labels.

**ylabel\_artists** = *None*

The y labels which were created at draw time.

**ylabel\_style** = *None*

A dictionary passed through to `ax.text` on y label creation for styling of the text labels.

**ylabels\_left** = *None*

Whether to draw labels on the left hand side of the map.

**ylabels\_right** = *None*

Whether to draw labels on the right hand side of the map.

**yline\_artists** = *None*

The y gridlines which were created at draw time.

**ylines** = *None*

Whether to draw the y gridlines.

**ylocator** = *None*

The [Locator](#) to use for the y gridlines and labels.

The following contrived example makes use of many of the features of the Gridliner class to produce customized gridlines and tick labels:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mticker
import cartopy.crs as ccrs

from cartopy.mpl.gridliner import LONGITUDE_FORMATTER, LATITUDE_FORMATTER

ax = plt.axes(projection=ccrs.Mercator())
ax.coastlines()

gl = ax.gridlines(crs=ccrs.PlateCarree(), draw_labels=True,
                  linewidth=2, color='gray', alpha=0.5, linestyle='--')
gl.xlabels_top = False
gl.ylabels_left = False
gl.xlines = False
gl.xlocator = mticker.FixedLocator([-180, -45, 0, 45, 180])
gl.xformatter = LONGITUDE_FORMATTER
gl.yformatter = LATITUDE_FORMATTER
gl.xlabel_style = {'size': 15, 'color': 'gray'}
gl.ylabel_style = {'color': 'red', 'weight': 'bold'}

plt.show()
```

([Source code](#))

