# fpdf2 manual

A minimalist PDF creation library for Python

# Table of contents

1. fp	df2	4
1.1	Main features	4
1.2	Tutorials	5
1.3	Installation	6
1.4	Community	6
1.5	Misc	7
2. Tu	ıtorial	8
2.1	Hello World with fpdf2	8
2.2	Tutorial	9
3. Pa	age Layout	15
3.1	Page format and orientation	15
3.2	Margins	17
3.3	Introduction	18
3.4	How to use Templates	18
3.5	Details - Template definition	20
3.6	How to create a template	22
3.7	Example - Hardcoded	22
3.8	Example - Elements defined in CSV file	23
3.9	Tables	24
4. Te	ext Content	34
4.1	Adding Text	34
4.2	Line breaks	37
4.3	Page breaks	38
4.4	Text styling	39
4.5	Unicode	44
4.6	Fallback fonts	46
4.7	Text Shaping	48
4.8	Emojis, Symbols & Dingbats	51
4.9	HTML	53
5. G1	raphics Content	55
5.1	Images	55
	Shapes	59
	Transformations	69
	Transparency	72
	Barcodes	74

5.6 Drawing	78
5.7 Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG)	83
5.8 Charts & graphs	88
6. PDF Features	95
6.1 Links	95
6.2 Metadata	97
6.3 Annotations	98
6.4 Presentations	101
6.5 Document outline & table of contents	102
6.6 Encryption	104
6.7 Signing	106
6.8 File attachments	107
7. Mixing other libs	108
7.1 borb	108
7.2 Combine with pypdf	109
7.3 Combine with pdfrw	111
7.4 Matplotlib, Pandas, Plotly, Pygal	113
7.5 Templating with Jinja	114
7.6 Usage in web APIs	115
7.7 Database storage	118
8. Development	119
8.1 Development	119
8.2 Logging	125
9. History	126
9.1 How fpdf2 came to be	126
9.2 Compatibility between PyFPDF & fpdf2	126
10. FAQ	128
10.1 What is fpdf2?	128
10.2 What is this library <b>not</b> ?	128
10.3 How does this library compare to?	128
10.4 What does the code look like?	129
10.5 Does this library have any framework integration?	129
10.6 What is the development status of this library?	130
10.7 What is the license of this library (fpdf2)?	130

# 1. fpdf2

Fork me on GitHub

fpdf2 is a library for simple & fast PDF document generation in Python. It is a fork and the successor of PyFPDF (cf. history).

Latest Released Version: pypi v2.7.5





```
from fpdf import FPDF
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font('helvetica', size=12)
pdf.cell(txt="hello world")
pdf.output("hello_world.pdf")
```



## 1.1 Main features

- Easy to use, with a user-friendly API, and easy to extend
- Python 3.7+ support
- Unicode (UTF-8) TrueType font subset embedding (Central European, Cyrillic, Greek, Baltic, Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi and almost any other language in the world)

- Internal / external links
- Embedding images, including transparency and alpha channel, using Pillow (Python Imaging Library)
- Arbitrary path drawing and basic SVG import
- Embedding barcodes, charts & graphs, emojis, symbols & dingbats
- Tables, and also cell / multi-cell / plaintext writing, with automatic page breaks, line break and text justification
- Choice of measurement unit, page format & margins. Optional page header and footer
- Basic conversion from HTML to PDF
- A templating system to render PDFs in batchs
- Images & links alternative descriptions, for accessibility
- Table of contents & document outline
- Document encryption & document signing
- Annotations, including text highlights, and file attachments
- Presentation mode with control over page display duration & transitions
- Optional basic Markdown-like styling: \*\*bold\*\*, \_\_italics\_\_
- It has very few dependencies: Pillow, defusedxml, & fonttools
- Can render mathematical equations & charts
- Many example scripts available throughout this documentation, including usage examples with Django, Flask, FastAPI, streamlit, AWS lambdas...: Usage in web APIs
- Unit tests with <code>qpdf</code>-based PDF diffing, and PDF samples validation using 3 different checkers:



## 1.2 Tutorials

- English
- Deutsch

- Italian
- español
- français
- •
- português
- Русский
- Ελληνικά
- עברית
- 简体中文
- .
- •
- 日本語

#### 1.3 Installation

## From PyPI:

pip install fpdf2

To get the latest, unreleased, development version straight from the development branch of this repository:

pip install git+https://github.com/py-pdf/fpdf2.git@master

**Developement**: check the dedicated documentation page.

#### 1.3.1 Displaying deprecation warnings

DeprecationWarning s are not displayed by Python by default.

Hence, every time you use a newer version of fpdf2, we strongly encourage you to execute your scripts with the -wd option (*cf.* documentation) in order to get warned about deprecated features used in your code.

This can also be enabled programmatically with warnings.simplefilter('default', DeprecationWarning).

## 1.4 Community

## 1.4.1 Support

For community support, please feel free to file an issue or open a discussion.

## 1.4.2 They use fpdf2

- Harvard University uses fpdf2 in their CS50 introductory class
- Undying Dusk: a **video game in PDF format**, with a gameplay based on exploration and logic puzzles, in the tradition of dungeon crawlers
- $\bullet \ \ OpenDroneMap: a \ command \ line \ toolk it \ for \ processing \ aerial \ drone \ imagery$
- OpenSfM : a Structure from Motion library, serving as a processing pipeline for reconstructing camera poses and 3D scenes from multiple images
- RPA Framework: libraries and tools for Robotic Process Automation (RPA), designed to be used with both Robot Framework
- Concordia : a platform developed by the US Library of Congress for crowdsourcing transcription and tagging of text in digitized images

- wudududu/extract-video-ppt : create a one-page-per-frame PDF from a video or PPT file. fpdf2 also has a demo script to convert a GIF into a one-page-per-frame PDF: gif2pdf.py
- csv2pdf : convert CSV files to PDF files easily
- Planet-Matriarchy-RPG-CharGen : a PyQt based desktop application (= .exe under Windows) that provides a RPG character sheet generator

## 1.4.3 Usage statistics

- PyPI download stats Downloads per release on Pepy
- pip trends: fpdf2 VS other PDF rendering libs
- packages using fpdf2 can be listed using GitHub Dependency graph: Dependents, Wheelodex or Watchman Pypi. Some are also listed on its libraries.io page.

#### 1.4.4 Related

- Looking for alternative libraries? Check out pypdf, borb, pikepdf, WeasyPrint, pydyf and PyMuPDF: features comparison, examples, Jupyter notebooks. We have some documentations about combining fpdf2 with borb & pypdf.
- Create PDFs with Python: a series of tutorial videos by bvalgard
- digidigital/Extensions-and-Scripts-for-pyFPDF-fpdf2: scripts ported from PHP to add transpareny to elements of the page or part of an image, allow to write circular text, draw pie charts and bar diagrams, embed JavaScript, draw rectangles with rounded corners, draw a star shape, restrict the rendering of some elements to screen or printout, paint linear / radial / multicolor gradients gradients, add stamps & watermarks, write sheared text...

## 1.5 Misc

- Release notes: CHANGELOG.md
- $\bullet$  This library could only exist thanks to the dedication of many volunteers around the world: list & map of contributors
- $\bullet \ \ \text{You can download an offline PDF version of this manual: } fpdf2\text{-}manual.pdf \\$

# 2. Tutorial





## 2.1 Hello World with fpdf2

This Jupyter notebook demontrates some basic usage of the Python fpdf2 library

## Click to download PDF

To continue learning about fpdf2 , check our tutorial: - English - Deutsch - español - - português - Русский - Italian - français - Ελληνικά - νετιπ - Eλληνικά - νετιπ - português - Pyccкий - Italian - français - Ελληνικά - νετιπ - επαξαία - νε

## 2.2 Tutorial

Methods full documentation: fpdf.FPDF API doc

- Tutorial
- Tuto 1 Minimal Example
- Tuto 2 Header, footer, page break and image
- Tuto 3 Line breaks and colors
- Tuto 4 Multi Columns
- Tuto 5 Creating Tables
- Tuto 6 Creating links and mixing text styles

#### 2.2.1 Tuto 1 - Minimal Example

Let's start with the classic example:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", "B", 16)
pdf.cell(40, 10, "Hello World!")
pdf.output("tuto1.pdf")
```

#### Resulting PDF

After including the library file, we create an FPDF object. The FPDF constructor is used here with the default values: pages are in A4 portrait and the measure unit is millimeter. It could have been specified explicitly with:

```
pdf = FPDF(orientation="P", unit="mm", format="A4")
```

It is possible to set the PDF in landscape mode (L) or to use other page formats (such as Letter and Legal) and measure units (pt, cm, in).

There is no page for the moment, so we have to add one with add\_page. The origin is at the upper-left corner and the current position is by default placed at 1 cm from the borders; the margins can be changed with set margins.

Before we can print text, it is mandatory to select a font with <u>set\_font</u>, otherwise the document would be invalid. We choose Helvetica bold 16:

```
pdf.set_font('helvetica', 'B', 16)
```

We could have specified italics with I, underlined with U or a regular font with an empty string (or any combination). Note that the font size is given in points, not millimeters (or another user unit); it is the only exception. The other built-in fonts are Times, Courier, Symbol and ZapfDingbats.

We can now print a cell with cell. A cell is a rectangular area, possibly framed, which contains some text. It is rendered at the current position. We specify its dimensions, its text (centered or aligned), if borders should be drawn, and where the current position moves after it (to the right, below or to the beginning of the next line). To add a frame, we would do this:

```
pdf.cell(40, 10, 'Hello World!', 1)
```

To add a new cell next to it with centered text and go to the next line, we would do:

```
pdf.cell(60, 10, 'Powered by FPDF.', new_x="LMARGIN", new_y="NEXT", align='C')
```

Remark: the line break can also be done with ln. This method allows to specify in addition the height of the break.

Finally, the document is closed and saved under the provided file path using output. Without any parameter provided, output() returns the PDF bytearray buffer.

#### 2.2.2 Tuto 2 - Header, footer, page break and image

Here is a two page example with header, footer and logo:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
class PDF(FPDF):
    def header(self)
        # Rendering logo:
self.image("../docs/fpdf2-logo.png", 10, 8, 33)
        # Setting font: helvetica bold 15 self.set_font("helvetica", "B", 15)
        # Moving cursor to the right:
        self.cell(80)
        # Printing title:
        self.cell(30, 10, "Title", border=1, align="C")
         # Performing a line break
         self.ln(20)
    def footer(self):
         # Position cursor at 1.5 cm from bottom:
         self.set_y(-15)
         # Setting font: helvetica italic 8
         self.set_font("helvetica", "I", 8)
        # Printing page number:
self.cell(0, 10, f"Page {self.page_no()}/{{nb}}", align="C")
# Instantiation of inherited class
pdf = PDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Times", size=12)
for i in range(1, 41):
    pdf.cell(0, 10, f"Printing line number {i}", new_x="LMARGIN", new_y="NEXT")
pdf.output("new-tuto2.pdf")
```

#### Resulting PDF

This example makes use of the header and footer methods to process page headers and footers. They are called automatically. They already exist in the FPDF class but do nothing, therefore we have to extend the class and override them.

The logo is printed with the image method by specifying its upper-left corner and its width. The height is calculated automatically to respect the image proportions.

To print the page number, a null value is passed as the cell width. It means that the cell should extend up to the right margin of the page; it is handy to center text. The current page number is returned by the <a href="mailto:page\_no">page\_no</a> method; as for the total number of pages, it is obtained by means of the special value <a href="mailto:nb">nb</a> which will be substituted on document closure (this special value can be changed by <a href="mailto:alias\_nb\_pages">alias\_nb\_pages</a>()). Note the use of the <a href="mailto:set\_y">set\_y</a> method which allows to set position at an absolute location in the page, starting from the top or the bottom.

Another interesting feature is used here: the automatic page breaking. As soon as a cell would cross a limit in the page (at 2 centimeters from the bottom by default), a break is performed and the font restored. Although the header and footer select their own font (helvetica), the body continues with Times. This mechanism of automatic restoration also applies to colors and line width. The limit which triggers page breaks can be set with set\_auto\_page\_break.

#### 2.2.3 Tuto 3 - Line breaks and colors

Let's continue with an example which prints justified paragraphs. It also illustrates the use of colors.

```
class PDF(FPDF):
    def header(self):
        # Setting font: helvetica bold 15
        self.set_font("helvetica", "B", 15)
        # Calculating width of title and setting cursor position:
        width = self.get_string_width(self.title) + 6
        self.set_x((210 - width) / 2)
        # Setting colors for frame, background and text:
        self.set_draw_color(0, 80, 180)
        self.set_fill_color(230, 230, 0)
```

```
self.set_text_color(220, 50, 50)
         # Setting thickness of the frame (1 mm)
         self.set_line_width(1)
         # Printing title:
         self.cell(
             width.
             self.title,
             border=1.
             new_x="LMARGIN",
             new_y="NEXT",
align="C",
             fill=True,
         # Performing a line break:
         self.ln(10)
         # Setting position at 1.5 cm from bottom:
         self.set_y(-15)
         # Setting font: helvetica italic 8
         self.set_font("helvetica", "I", 8)
         # Setting text color to gray:
         self.set_text_color(128)
         # Printing page number
         self.cell(0, 10, f"Page {self.page_no()}", align="C")
    def chapter title(self, num, label):
         # Setting font: helvetica 12
         self.set_font("helvetica", "", 12)
         # Setting background color
         self.set_fill_color(200, 220, 255)
         # Printing chapter name:
        self.cell(
              f"Chapter {num} : {label}",
             new_x="LMARGIN",
             new_y="NEXT",
             fill=True.
         # Performing a line break:
         self.ln(4)
    def chapter_body(self, filepath):
         # Reading text file:
         with open(filepath, "rb") as fh:
        txt = fh.read().decode("latin-1")
# Setting font: Times 12
         self.set_font("Times", size=12)
        # Printing justified text:
self.multi_cell(0, 5, txt)
         # Performing a line break
         self.ln()
         # Final mention in italics:
         self.set_font(style="I"
         self.cell(0, 5, "(end of excerpt)")
    def print_chapter(self, num, title, filepath):
         self.add_page()
         self.chapter_title(num, title)
         self.chapter_body(filepath)
pdf = PDF()
pdf.set_title("20000 Leagues Under the Seas")
pdf.set_author("Jules Verne")
pdf.print_chapter(1, "A RUNAWAY REEF", "20k_c1.txt")
pdf.print_chapter(2, "THE PROS AND CONS", "20k_c1.txt")
pdf.output("tuto3.pdf")
```

#### Resulting PDF

#### Jules Verne text

The get\_string\_width method allows determining the length of a string in the current font, which is used here to calculate the position and the width of the frame surrounding the title. Then colors are set (via set\_draw\_color, set\_fill\_color and set\_text\_color) and the thickness of the line is set to 1 mm (against 0.2 by default) with set\_line\_width. Finally, we output the cell (the last parameter to true indicates that the background must be filled).

The method used to print the paragraphs is  $multi\_cell$ . Text is justified by default. Each time a line reaches the right extremity of the cell or a carriage return character (\n) is met, a line break is issued and a new cell automatically created under the current one. An automatic break is performed at the location of the nearest space or soft-hyphen (\u00bbu00ad) character before the right limit. A soft-hyphen will be replaced by a normal hyphen when triggering a line break, and ignored otherwise.

Two document properties are defined: the title (set\_title) and the author (set\_author). Properties can be viewed by two means. First is to open the document directly with Acrobat Reader, go to the File menu and choose the Document Properties option. The second, also available from the plug-in, is to right-click and select Document Properties.

#### 2.2.4 Tuto 4 - Multi Columns

This example is a variant of the previous one, showing how to lay the text across multiple columns.

```
class PDF(FPDF):
    def __init__(self):
    super().__init__()
    self.col = 0 # Current column
    self.y0 = 0 # Ordinate of column start
     def header(self):
          self.set_font("helvetica", "B", 15)
          width = self.get_string_width(self.title) + 6
          self.set_x((210 - width) / 2)
self.set_draw_color(0, 80, 180)
          self.set_fill_color(230, 230, 0)
self.set_text_color(220, 50, 50)
          self.set_line_width(1)
          self.cell(
               width,
               self.title,
               border=1,
               new_x="LMARGIN",
               new_y="NEXT",
               align="C",
               fill=True
          self.ln(10)
          # Saving ordinate position:
self.y0 = self.get_y()
     def footer(self):
          self.set_y(-15)
          self.set_font("helvetica", "I", 8)
          self.set text color(128)
          self.cell(0, 10, f"Page {self.page_no()}", align="C")
     def set_col(self, col)
          # Set column position:
          self.col = col
          x = 10 + col * 65
          {\tt self.set\_left\_margin}({\tt x})
          self.set_x(x)
     def accept_page_break(self):
          if self.col < 2:
               # Go to next column:
               self.set_col(self.col + 1)
         # Set ordinate to top:
self.set_y(self.y0)
# Stay on the same page:
return False
# Go back to first column:
          self.set_col(0)
          # Trigger a page break: return True
     def chapter title(self, num, label):
          self.set_font("helvetica", "", 12)
          self.set_fill_color(200, 220, 255)
          self.cell(
               f"Chapter {num} : {label}",
               new_x="LMARGIN",
               new_y="NEXT",
               fill=True
          # Saving ordinate position:
self.y0 = self.get_y()
     def chapter_body(self, name):
          # Reading text file:
          with open(name, "rb") as fh:
    txt = fh.read().decode("latin-1")
          # Setting font: Times 12
          self.set_font("Times", size=12)
# Printing text in a 6cm width column:
```

```
self.multi_cell(60, 5, txt)
self.ln()
# Final mention in italics:
self.set_font(style="T")
self.cell(0, 5, "(end of excerpt)")
# Start back at first column:
self.set_col(0)

def print_chapter(self, num, title, name):
    self.add_page()
    self.chapter_title(num, title)
    self.chapter_body(name)

pdf = PDF()
pdf.set_utln("20000 Leagues Under the Seas")
pdf.set_author("Jules Verne")
pdf.print_chapter(1, "A RUNAWAY REEF", "20k_c1.txt")
pdf.print_chapter(2, "THE PROS AND CONS", "20k_c1.txt")
pdf.output("tuto4.pdf")
```

## Resulting PDF

#### Jules Verne text

The key difference from the previous tutorial is the use of the accept\_page\_break and the set\_col methods.

Using the accept\_page\_break method, once the cell crosses the bottom limit of the page, it will check the current column number. If it is less than 2 (we chose to divide the page in three columns) it will call the set\_col method, increasing the column number and altering the position of the next column so the text may continue there.

Once the bottom limit of the third column is reached, the accept\_page\_break method will reset and go back to the first column and trigger a page break.

#### 2.2.5 Tuto 5 - Creating Tables

This tutorial will explain how to create two different tables, to demonstrate what can be achieved with some simple adjustments.

```
from fpdf import FPDF from fpdf.fonts import FontFace
from fpdf.enums import TableCellFillMode
with open("countries.txt", encoding="utf8") as csv file:
    data = list(csv.reader(csv_file, delimiter=","))
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=14)
# Basic table:
pdf.add_page()
with pdf.table() as table:
    for data_row in data:
        row = table.row()
         for datum in data_row:
row.cell(datum)
# Styled table:
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_draw_color(255, 0, 0)
pdf.set_line_width(0.3)
headings_style = FontFace(emphasis="BOLD", color=255, fill_color=(255, 100, 0))
with pdf.table(
    borders_layout="NO_HORIZONTAL_LINES",
    cell_fill_color=(224, 235, 255),
cell_fill_mode=TableCellFillMode.ROWS,
     col_widths=(42, 39, 35, 42)
     {\tt headings\_style=headings\_style,}
    line height=6.
     text_align=("LEFT", "CENTER", "RIGHT", "RIGHT"),
     width=160,
) as table:
    for data_row in data:
         row = table.row()
for datum in data_row:
              row.cell(datum)
pdf.output("tuto5.pdf")
```

#### Resulting PDF - Countries CSV data

The first example is achieved in the most basic way possible, feeding data to <code>FPDF.table()</code>. The result is rudimentary but very quick to obtain.

The second table brings some improvements: colors, limited table width, reduced line height, centered titles, columns with custom widths, figures right aligned... Moreover, horizontal lines have been removed. This was done by picking a borders\_layout among the available values: TableBordersLayout.

#### 2.2.6 Tuto 6 - Creating links and mixing text styles

This tutorial will explain several ways to insert links inside a pdf document, as well as adding links to external sources.

It will also show several ways we can use different text styles, (bold, italic, underline) within the same text.

```
from fpdf import FPDF
pdf = FPDF()
# First page
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=20)
pdf.write(5, "To find out what's new in self tutorial, click ")
pdf.set_font(style="U")
link = pdf.add_link(page=2)
pdf.write(5, "here", link)
pdf.set_font()
# Second page
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(
     "../docs/fpdf2-logo.png", 10, 10, 50, 0, "", "https://py-pdf.github.io/fpdf2/"
pdf.set_left_margin(60)
pdf.set_font_size(18)
     """You can print text mixing different styles using HTML tags: <b>bold</b>, <i>izitalic</i>,
<u>underlined</u>, or <b><i><u>all at once</u></i></b>!
<br>You can also insert links on text, such as <a href="https://py-pdf.github.io/fpdf2/">https://py-pdf.github.io/fpdf2/</a>,
or on an image: the logo is clickable!"
pdf.output("tuto6.pdf")
```

#### Resulting PDF - fpdf2-logo

The new method shown here to print text is write(). It is very similar to multi cell(), the key differences being:

- The end of line is at the right margin and the next line begins at the left margin.
- The current position moves to the end of the text.

The method therefore allows us to write a chunk of text, alter the font style, and continue from the exact place we left off. On the other hand, its main drawback is that we cannot justify the text like we do with the multi cell() method.

In the first page of the example, we used write() for this purpose. The beginning of the sentence is written in regular style text, then using the set font() method, we switched to underline and finished the sentence.

To add an internal link pointing to the second page, we used the  $add\_link()$  method, which creates a clickable area which we named "link" that directs to another page within the document.

To create the external link using an image, we used image(). The method has the option to pass a link as one of its arguments. The link can be both internal or external.

As an alternative, another option to change the font style and add links is to use the write\_html() method. It is an html parser, which allows adding text, changing font style and adding links using html.

# 3. Page Layout

## 3.1 Page format and orientation

By default, a FPDF document has a A4 format with portrait orientation.

Other formats & orientation can be specified to FPDF constructor:

```
pdf = fpdf.FPDF(orientation="landscape", format="A5")
```

Currently supported formats are a3, a4, a5, letter, legal or a tuple (width, height). Additional standard formats are welcome and can be suggested through pull requests.

#### 3.1.1 Per-page format, orientation and background

.set\_page\_background() lets you set a background for all pages following this call until the background is removed. The value must be of type str, io.BytesIO, PIL.Image.Image, drawing.DeviceRGB, tuple or None

The following code snippet illustrates how to configure different page formats for specific pages as well as setting different backgrounds and then removing it:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica")
pdf.set_page_background((252,212,255))
for i in range(9):
    if i == 6:
        pdf.set_page_background('image_path.png')
    pdf.add_page(format=(210 * (1 - i/10), 297 * (1 - i/10)))
    pdf.cell(txt=str(i))
pdf.set_page_background(None)
pdf.set_page(same=True)
pdf.cell(txt="g")
pdf.output("varying_format.pdf")
```

Similarly, an orientation parameter can be provided to the  ${\tt add\_page}$  method.

#### 3.1.2 Page layout & zoom level

set\_display\_mode() allows to set the **zoom level**: pages can be displayed entirely on screen, occupy the full width of the window, use the real size, be scaled by a specific zooming factor or use the viewer default (configured in its *Preferences* menu).

The page layout can also be specified: single page at a time, continuous display, two columns or viewer default.

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_display_mode(zoom="default", layout="TWO_COLUMN_LEFT")
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=30)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cell(txt="page 1")
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cell(txt="page 2")
pdf.output("two-column.pdf")
```

#### 3.1.3 Viewer preferences

```
from fpdf import FPDF, ViewerPreferences

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.viewer_preferences = ViewerPreferences(
    hide_toolbar=True,
    hide_menubar=True,
    hide_window_u_i=True,
    fit_window=True,
    center_window=True,
    display_doc_title=True,
    non_full_screen_page_mode="USE_OUTLINES",
```

```
)
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=30)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cell(txt="page 1")
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cell(txt="page 2")
pdf.cell(txt="page 2")
pdf.output("viewer-prefs.pdf")
```

## 3.1.4 Full screen

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.page_mode = "FULL_SCREEN"
pdf.output("full-screen.pdf")
```

# 3.2 Margins

Those margins control the initial current X & Y position to render elements on a page, and also define the height limit that triggers automatic page breaks when they are enabled.

Margins can be completely removed:

pdf.set\_margin(0)

Several methods can be used to set margins:

- set margin
- set\_left\_margin
- set\_right\_margin
- set\_top\_margin
- set margins
- set\_auto\_page\_break

## 3.3 Introduction

Templates are predefined documents (like invoices, tax forms, etc.), or parts of such documents, where each element (text, lines, barcodes, etc.) has a fixed position (x1, y1, x2, y2), style (font, size, etc.) and a default text.

These elements can act as placeholders, so the program can change the default text "filling in" the document.

Besides being defined in code, the elements can also be defined in a CSV file or in a database, so the user can easily adapt the form to his printing needs.

A template is used like a dict, setting its items' values.

## 3.4 How to use Templates

There are two approaches to using templates.

## 3.4.1 Using Template()

The traditional approach is to use the Template() class, This class accepts one template definition, and can apply it to each page of a document. The usage pattern here is:

```
tmpl = Template(elements=elements)
# first page and content
tmpl.add_page()
tmpl[item_key_01] = "Text 01"
tmpl[item_key_02] = "Text 02"
...
# second page and content
tmpl.add_page()
tmpl[item_key_01] = "Text 11"
tmpl[item_key_02] = "Text 12"
...
# possibly more pages
...
# finalize document and write to file
tmpl.render(outfile="example.pdf")
```

The Template() class will create and manage its own FPDF() instance, so you don't need to worry about how it all works together. It also allows to set the page format, title of the document, measuring unit, and other metadata for the PDF file.

For the method signatures, see py-pdf.github.io: class Template.

Setting text values for specific template items is done by treating the class as a dict, with the name of the item as the key:

```
Template["company_name"] = "Sample Company"
```

## 3.4.2 Using FlexTemplate()

When more flexibility is desired, then the FlexTemplate() class comes into play. In this case, you first need to create your own FPDF() instance. You can then pass this to the constructor of one or several FlexTemplate() instances, and have each of them load a template definition. For any page of the document, you can set text values on a template, and then render it on that page. After rendering, the template will be reset to its default values.

```
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
# One template for the first page
fp_tmpl = FlexTemplate(pdf, elements=fp_elements)
fp_tmpl["item_key_01"] = "Text 01"
fp_tmpl["item_key_02"] = "Text 02"
...
fp_tmpl.render() # add template items to first page
# add some more non-template content to the first page
pdf.polyline(point_list, fill=False, polygon=False)
```

```
# second page
pdf.add_page()
 # header for the second page
h_tmpl = FlexTemplate(pdf, elements=h_elements)
h_tmpl["item_key_HA"] = "Text 2A"
h_tmpl["item_key_HB"] = "Text 2B"
h_tmpl.render() # add header items to second page
 # footer for the second page
f_tmpl = FlexTemplate(pdf, elements=f_elements)
f_tmpl["item_key_FC"] = "Text 2C"
 f_tmpl["item_key_FD"] = "Text 2D"
 f_tmpl.render() # add footer items to second page
 # other content on the second page
pdf.set_dash_pattern(dash=1, gap=1)
 pdf.line(x1, y1, x2, y2):
pdf.set_dash_pattern()
 # third name
pdf.add_page()
# header for the third page, just reuse the same template instance after render()
h_tmpl["item_key_HA"] = "Text 3A"
h_tmpl["item_key_HB"] = "Text 3B"
h tmpl.render() # add header items to third page
# footer for the third page
f_tmpl["item_key_FC"] = "Text 3C"
 f_tmpl["item_key_FD"] = "Text 3D"
 f_tmpl.render() # add footer items to third page
 # other content on the third page
pdf.rect(x, y, w, h, style=None)
 # possibly more pages
pdf.next_page()
# finally write everything to a file
pdf.output("example.pdf")
```

Evidently, this can end up quite a bit more involved, but there are hardly any limits on how you can combine templated and non-templated content on each page. Just think of the different templates as of building blocks, like configurable rubber stamps, which you can apply in any combination on any page you like.

Of course, you can just as well use a set of full-page templates, possibly differentiating between cover page, table of contents, normal content pages, and an index page, or something along those lines.

And here's how you can use a template several times on one page (and by extension, several times on several pages). When rendering with an offsetx and/or offsety argument, the contents of the template will end up in a different place on the page. A rotate argument will change its orientation, rotated around the origin of the template. The pivot of the rotation is the offset location. And finally, a scale argument allows you to insert the template larger or smaller than it was defined.

For the method signatures, see py-pdf.github.io: class FlexTemplate.

The dict syntax for setting text values is the same as above:

```
FlexTemplate["company_name"] = "Sample Company"
```

# 3.5 Details - Template definition

A template definition consists of a number of elements, which have the following properties (columns in a CSV, items in a dict, fields in a database). Dimensions (except font size, which always uses points) are given in user defined units (default: mm). Those are the units that can be specified when creating a Template() or a FPDF() instance.

- name: placeholder identification (unique text string)
- · mandatory
- type:
- ullet 'T': Text places one or several lines of text on the page
- 'L': Line draws a line from x1/y1 to x2/y2
- $\mbox{\ }^{\mbox{\tiny }}$  'I': Image positions and scales an image into the bounding box
- ${}^{\mathbf{B}}$ : Box draws a rectangle around the bounding box
- ullet 'E': Ellipse draws an ellipse inside the bounding box
- 'BC': Barcode inserts an "Interleaved 2 of 5" type barcode
- 'C39': Code 39 inserts a "Code 39" type barcode
- Incompatible change: A previous implementation of this type used the non-standard element keys "x", "y", "w", and "h", which are now deprecated (but still work for the moment).
- ${}^{\mathbf{W}}$ : "Write" uses the FPDF.write() method to add text to the page
- mandatory
- $\bullet$  x1, y1, x2, y2: top-left, bottom-right coordinates, defining a bounding box in most cases
- for multiline text, this is the bounding box of just the first line, not the complete box
- for the barcodes types, the height of the barcode is y2 y1, x2 is ignored.
- mandatory ("x2" optional for the barcode types)
- font: the name of a font type for the text types
- optional
- default: "helvetica"
- size: the size property of the element (float value)
- for text, the font size (in points!)
- for line, box, and ellipse, the line width
- for the barcode types, the width of one bar
- optional
- default: 10 for text, 2 for 'BC', 1.5 for 'C39'
- bold, italic, underline: text style properties
- in elements dict, enabled with True or equivalent value
- in csv, only int values, 0 as false, non-0 as true
- optional
- default: false
- foreground, background: text and fill colors (int value, commonly given in hex as 0xRRGGBB)
- optional
- $\bullet$  default: foreground 0x000000 = black; background None/empty = transparent
- Incompatible change: Up to 2.4.5, the default background for text and box elements was solid white, with no way to make them transparent.
- align: text alignment, 'L': left, 'R': right, 'C': center
- optional
- default: 'L'

- text: default string, can be replaced at runtime
- displayed text for 'T' and 'W'
- data to encode for barcode types
- optional (if missing for text/write, the element is ignored)
- · default: empty
- priority: Z-order (int value)
- optional
- default: 0
- multiline: configure text wrapping
- in dicts, None for single line, True for multicells (multiple lines), False trims to exactly fit the space defined
- in csv, 0 for single line, >0 for multiple lines, <0 for exact fit
- optional
- default: single line
- rotation: rotate the element in degrees around the top left corner x1/y1 (float)
- · optional
- default: 0.0 no rotation

Fields that are not relevant to a specific element type will be ignored there, but if not left empty, they must still adhere to the specified data type (in dicts, string fields may be None).

## 3.6 How to create a template

A template can be created in 3 ways:

- By defining everything manually in a hardcoded way as a Python dictionary
- By using a template definition in a CSV document and parsing the CSV with Template.parse dict()
- By defining the template in a database (this applies to [Web2Py] (Web2Py.md) integration)

## 3.7 Example - Hardcoded

See template.py or [Web2Py] (Web2Py.md) for a complete example.

## 3.8 Example - Elements defined in CSV file

You define your elements in a CSV file "mycsvfile.csv" that will look like:

Remember that each line represents an element and each field represents one of the properties of the element in the following order: ('name','type','x1','y1','x2','y2','font','size','bold','italic','underline','foreground','background','align','text','priority', 'multiline', 'rotate') As noted above, most fields may be left empty, so a line is valid with only 6 items. The "empty\_fields" line of the example demonstrates all that can be left away. In addition, for the barcode types "x2" may be empty.

Then you can use the file like this:

## 3.9 Tables

## New in $\bigcirc$ 2.7.0

Tables can be built using the table() method. Here is a simple example:

```
TABLE_DATA = (
    ("First name", "Last name", "Age", "City"),
    ("Jules", "Smith", "34", "San Juan"),
    ("Mary", "Ramos", "45", "Orlando"),
    ("Carlson", "Banks", "19", "Los Angeles"),
    ("Lucas", "Cimon", "31", "Saint-Mahturin-sur-Loire"),
)
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Times", size=16)
with pdf.table() as table:
    for data_row in TABLE_DATA:
        row = table.row()
        for datum in data_row:
            row.cell(datum)
pdf.output('table.pdf')
```

#### Result:

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

#### 3.9.1 Features

- support cells with content wrapping over several lines
- control over column & row sizes (automatically computed by default)
- allow to style table headings (top row), or disable them
- control over borders: color, width & where they are drawn
- handle splitting a table over page breaks, with headings repeated
- control over cell background color
- control table width & position
- control over text alignment in cells, globally or per row
- $\bullet$  allow to embed images in cells

## 3.9.2 Setting table & column widths

```
...
with pdf.table(width=150, col_widths=(30, 30, 10, 30)) as table:
...
```

## Result:

Last name	Age	City
Smith	34	San Juan
Ramos	45	Orlando
Banks	19	Los Angeles
Cimon	31	Angers
	Smith Ramos Banks	Smith 34 Ramos 45 Banks 19

align can be passed to table() to set the table horizontal position relative to the page, when it's not using the full page width. It's centered by default.

## 3.9.3 Setting text alignment

This can be set globally, or on a per-column basis:

```
with pdf.table(text_align="CENTER") as table:
...
pdf.ln()
with pdf.table(text_align=("CENTER", "CENTER", "RIGHT", "LEFT")) as table:
...
```

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

## 3.9.4 Setting row height

```
...
with pdf.table(line_height=2.5 * pdf.font_size) as table:
...
```

## 3.9.5 Disable table headings

```
...
with pdf.table(first_row_as_headings=False) as table:y
...
```

## 3.9.6 Style table headings

```
from fpdf.fonts import FontFace
...
blue = (0, 0, 255)
grey = (128, 128, 128)
headdings_style = FontFace(emphasis="ITALICS", color=blue, fill_color=grey)
with pdf.table(headings_style=headings_style) as table:
...
```

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

## 3.9.7 Set cells background

```
greyscale = 200
with pdf.table(cell_fill_color=greyscale, cell_fill_mode="ROWS") as table:
...
```

## Result:

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

```
lightblue = (173, 216, 230)
with pdf.table(cell_fill_color=lightblue, cell_fill_mode="COLUMNS") as table:
...
```

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

## 3.9.8 Set borders layout

```
with pdf.table(borders_layout="INTERNAL") as table:
...
```

## Result:

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

```
...
with pdf.table(borders_layout="MINIMAL") as table:
...
```

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

```
pdf.set_draw_color(50) # very dark grey
pdf.set_line_width(.5)
with pdf.table(borders_layout="SINGLE_TOP_LINE") as table:
...
```

Result:

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

All the possible layout values are described there:  ${\tt TableBordersLayout}$  .

## 3.9.9 Insert images

```
TABLE_DATA = (
    ("First name", "Last name", "Image", "City"),
    ("Jules", "Smith", "shirt.png", "San Juan"),
    ("Mary", "Ramos", "joker.png", "Orlando"),
    ("Carlson", "Banks", "socialist.png", "Los Angeles"),
    ("Lucas", "Cimon", "circle.bmp", "Angers"),
)

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("Times", size=16)
with pdf.table() as table:
    for i, data_row in enumerate(TABLE_DATA):
    row = table.row()
    for j, datum in enumerate(data_row):
        if j == 2 and i > 0:
            row.cell(img=datum)
        else:
        row.cell(datum)
pdf.output('table_with_images.pdf')
```

First name	Last name	Image	City
Jules	Smith	Alla	San Juan
Mary	Ramos		Orlando
Carlson	Banks	<u> </u>	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	Ô	Angers

By default, images height & width are constrained by the row height (based on text content) and the column width. To render bigger images, you can set the line\_height to increase the row height, or pass  $img_fill_width=True$  to .cell():

row.cell(img=datum, img\_fill\_width=True)

First name	Last name	Image	City
Jules	Smith		San Juan
Mary	Ramos	Ī	Orlando
Carlson	Banks		Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	(	Angers

## 3.9.10 Adding links to cells

```
row.cell(..., link="https://py-pdf.github.io/fpdf2/")
row.cell(..., link=pdf.add_link(page=1))
```

## 3.9.11 Syntactic sugar

To simplify table() usage, shorter, alternative usage forms are allowed.

This sample code:

```
with pdf.table() as table:
    for data_row in TABLE_DATA:
        row = table.row()
```

```
for datum in data_row:
    row.cell(datum)
```

Can be shortened to the following code, by passing lists of strings as the cells optional argument of .row():

```
with pdf.table() as table:
    for data_row in TABLE_DATA:
        table.row(data_row)
```

And even shortened further to a single line, by passing lists of lists of strings as the rows optional argument of .table():

```
with pdf.table(TABLE_DATA):
    pass
```

## 3.9.12 Gutter

Spacing can be introduced between rows and/or columns:

```
with pdf.table(TABLE_DATA, gutter_height=3, gutter_width=3):
    pass
```

Result:

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Angers

## 3.9.13 Column span

Cells spanning multiple columns can be defined by passing a colspan argument to .cell(). The cells that are overwritten by the spanned cell are not rendered but must be added to the table.

```
with pdf.table(col_widths=(1, 2, 1,1)) as table:
    row = table.row()
    row.cell("9")
    row.cell("2")
    row.cell("3")

    row = table.row()
    row.cell("A1")
    row.cell("A2", colspan=2)
    row.cell("A4")

    row = table.row()
    row.cell("A4")

    row = table.row()
    row.cell("B1", colspan=2)
    row.cell("B1", colspan=2)
    row.cell("B1", colspan=2)
    row.cell("B1", colspan=2)
    row.cell("B3")
    row.cell("B3")
```

0	1	2	3
A1	A2		A4
B1		В3	B4

## 3.9.14 Table from pandas DataFrame

cf. Maths documentation page

## 3.9.15 Using write\_html

Tables can also be defined in HTML using FPDF.write\_html. With the same data as above, and column widths defined as percent of the effective width:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font_size(16)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.write_html(
f"""<thead>
   {TABLE_DATA[0][0]}
   {TABLE_DATA[0][1]}
{TABLE_DATA[0][2]}

   <\!\!th\ width="35\%">\{TABLE\_DATA[{\color{red}0}][{\color{red}3}]\}<\!\!/th>
</thead><tr
   {td>{'!.join(TABLE_DATA[1])}
$$  {'</td} < td > '.join(TABLE_DATA[2])}  $$
   {''.join(TABLE_DATA[3])}
{''.join(TABLE_DATA[4])}
table_line_separators=True,
pdf.output('table_html.pdf')
```

Note that write\_html has some limitations, notably regarding multi-lines cells.

## 3.9.16 "Parsabilty" of the tables generated

The PDF file format is not designed to embed structured tables. Hence, it can be tricky to extract tables data from PDF documents.

In our tests suite, we ensure that several PDF-tables parsing Python libraries can successfully extract tables in documents generated with fpdf2. Namely, we test camelot-py & tabula-py: test/table/test\_table\_extraction.py.

Based on those tests, if you want to ease table extraction from the documents you produce, we recommend the following guidelines: \* avoid splitting tables on several pages \* avoid the INTERNAL / MINIMAL / SINGLE\_TOP\_LINE borders layouts

## 4. Text Content

## 4.1 Adding Text

There are several ways in fpdf to add text to a PDF document, each of which comes with its own special features and its own set of advantages and disadvantages. You will need to pick the right one for your specific task.

method	lines	markdown support	HTML support	accepts new current position	details
.text()	one	no	no	fixed	Inserts a single-line text string with a precise location on the base line of the font.
.cell()	one	yes	no	yes	Inserts a single-line text string within the boundaries of a given box, optionally with background and border.
.multi_cell()	several	yes	no	yes	Inserts a multi-line text string within the boundaries of a given box, optionally with background and border.
.write()	several	no	no	auto	Inserts a multi-line text string within the boundaries of the page margins, starting at the current x/y location (typically the end of the last inserted text).
.write_html()	several	no	yes	auto	An extension to .write(), with additional parsing of basic HTML tags.

#### 4.1.1 Typography and Language Specific Concepts

#### **Supported Features**

With supporting Unicode fonts, fpdf2 should handle the following text shaping features correctly. More details can be found in TextShaping. \* Automatic ligatures / glyph substitution - Some writing systems (eg. most Indic scripts such as Devaganari, Tamil, Kannada) frequently combine a number of written characters into a single glyph. In latin script, "ff", "fi", "ft", "st" and others are often combined. In programming fonts "<=", "++" "!=" etc. may be combined into more compact representations. \* Special diacritics that use separate code points (eg. in Diné Bizaad, Hebrew) will be placed in the correct location relative to their base character. \* Kerning, where the spacing between characters varies depending on their combination (eg. moving the succeeding lowercase character closer to an uppercase "T". \* Left-to-right and right-to-left text formatting (the latter most prominently in Arabic and Hebrew).

#### Limitations

There are a few advanced typesetting features that fpdf doesn't currently support. \* Contextual forms - In some writing systems (eg. Arabic, Mongolian, etc.), characters may take a different shape, depending on whether they appear at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a word, or isolated. Fpdf will always use the same standard shape in those cases. \* Vertical writing - Some writing systems are meant to be written vertically. Doing so is not directly supported. In cases where this just means to stack characters on top of each other (eg. Chinese, Japanese, etc.), client software can implement this by placing each character

individual at the correct location. In cases where the characters are connected with each other (eg. Mongolian), this may be more difficult, if possible at all.

#### **Character or Word Based Line Wrapping**

By default, <code>multi\_line()</code> and <code>write()</code> will wrap lines based on words, using space characters and soft hyphens as seperators. For languages like Chinese and Japanese, that don't usually seperate their words, character based wrapping is more appropriate. In such a case, the argument <code>wrapmode="CHAR"</code> can be used (the default is "WORD"), and each line will get broken right before the character that doesn't fit anymore.

#### 4.1.2 Text Formatting

For all text insertion methods, the relevant font related properties (eg. font/style and foreground/background color) must be set before invoking them. This includes using:

- .set\_font()
- .set\_text\_color()
- .set\_draw\_color() for cell borders
- .set\_fill\_color() for the background

In addition, some of the methods can optionally use markdown or HTML markup in the supplied text in order to change the font style (bold/italic/underline) of parts of the output.

#### 4.1.3 Change in current position

.cell() and .multi\_cell() let you specify where the current position (.x/.y) should go after the call. This is handled by the parameters  $new_x$  and  $new_y$ . Their values must one of the following enums values or an equivalent string:

- XPos
- YPos

#### 4.1.4 .text()

Prints a single-line character string. In contrast to the other text methods, the position is given explicitly, and not taken from .x/.y. The origin is on the left of the first character, on the baseline. This method allows placing a string with typographical precision on the page, but it is usually easier to use the .cell(),  $.multi_cell()$  or .write() methods.

Signature and parameters for .text()

## 4.1.5 .cell()

Prints a cell (rectangular area) with optional borders, background color and character string. The upper-left corner of the cell corresponds to the current position. The text can be aligned or centered. After the call, the current position moves to the selected new\_x/new\_y position. It is possible to put a link on the text. If markdown=True, then minimal markdown styling is enabled, to render parts of the text in bold, italics, and/or underlined.

If automatic page breaking is enabled and the cell goes beyond the limit, a page break is performed before outputting.

Signature and parameters for.cell()

### 4.1.6 .multi\_cell()

Allows printing text with word or character based line breaks. Those can be automatic (breaking at the most recent space or soft-hyphen character) as soon as the text reaches the right border of the cell, or explicit (via the \text{total character}). As many cells as necessary are stacked, one below the other. Text can be aligned, centered or justified. The cell block can be framed and the background painted.

 $Using \ \ \text{new\_x="RIGHT", new\_y="TOP", maximum height=pdf.font\_size} \ \ can \ be \ useful \ to \ build \ tables \ with \ multiline \ text \ in \ cells.$ 

In normal operation, returns a boolean indicating if page break was triggered. The return value can be altered by specifying the output parameter.

Signature and parameters for multi cell()

#### 4.1.7 .write()

Prints multi-line text between the page margins, starting from the current position. When the right margin is reached, a line break occurs at the most recent space or soft-hyphen character (in word wrap mode) or at the current position (in character break mode), and text continues from the left margin. A manual break happens any time the \n character is met. Upon method exit, the current position is left near the end of the text, ready for the next call to continue without a gap, potentially with a different font or size set. Returns a boolean indicating if page break was triggered.

The primary purpose of this method is to print continuously wrapping text, where different parts may be rendered in different fonts or font sizes. This contrasts eg. with <code>.multi\_cell()</code>, where a change in font family or size can only become effective on a new line.

Signature and parameters for.write()

## 4.1.8 .write\_html()

This method is very similar to <code>.write()</code>, but accepts basic HTML formatted text as input. See <a href="html.py">html.py</a> for more details and the supported HTML tags.

Note that when using data from actual web pages, the result may not look exactly as expected, because <code>.write\_html()</code> prints all whitespace unchanged as it finds them, while webbrowsers rather collapse each run of consequitive whitespace into a single space character.

Signature and parameters for .write\_html()

#### 4.2 Line breaks

When using  $multi\_cell()$  or write(), each time a line reaches the right extremity of the cell or a carriage return character (  $\n$  ) is met, a line break is issued and a new line automatically created under the current one.

An automatic break is performed at the location of the nearest space or soft-hyphen ( $\u000ad$ ) character before the right limit. A soft-hyphen will be replaced by a normal hyphen when triggering a line break, and ignored otherwise.

If the parameter print\_sh=False in multi\_cell() or write() is set to True, then they will print the soft-hyphen character to the document (as a normal hyphen with most fonts) instead of using it as a line break opportunity.

#### 4.3 Page breaks

By default, fpdf2 will automatically perform page breaks whenever a cell or the text from a write() is rendered at the bottom of a page with a height greater than the page bottom margin.

This behaviour can be controlled using the set\_auto\_page\_break and accept\_page\_break methods.

#### 4.3.1 Manually trigger a page break

Simply call .add\_page().

#### 4.3.2 Inserting the final number of pages of the document

The special string <code>{nb}</code> will be substituted by the total number of pages on document closure. This special value can changed by calling <code>alias\_nb\_pages()</code>.

#### 4.3.3 will\_page\_break

will\_page\_break(height) lets you know if adding an element will trigger a page break, based on its height and the current ordinate (y position).

#### 4.3.4 Unbreakable sections

In order to render content, like tables, with the insurance that no page break will be performed in it, on the can use the FPDF.unbreakable() context-manager:

An alternative approach is <code>offset\_rendering()</code> that allows to test the results of some operations on the global layout before performing them "for real":

```
with pdf.offset_rendering() as dummy:
    # Dummy rendering:
    dummy.multi_cell(...)
if dummy.page_break_triggered:
    # We trigger a page break manually beforehand:
    pdf.add_page()
    # We duplicate the section header:
    pdf.cell(txt="Appendix C")
# Now performing our rendering for real:
pdf.multi_cell(...)
```

#### 4.4 Text styling

#### 4.4.1 set\_font()

Setting emphasis on text can be controlled by using set\_font(style=...):

- style="B" indicates **bold**
- style="I" indicates italics
- style="U" indicates underline
- style="BI" indicates **bold italics**

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Times", size=36)
pdf.cell(txt="This")
pdf.set_font(style="B")
pdf.set_font(style="B")
pdf.set_font(style="I")
pdf.set_font(style="I")
pdf.cell(txt="a")
pdf.set_font(style="U")
pdf.cell(txt="PDF")
pdf.output("style.pdf")
```

#### 4.4.2 .set\_stretching(stretching=100)

Text can be stretched horizontally with this setting, measured in percent. If the argument is less than 100, then all characters are rendered proportionally narrower and the text string will take less space. If it is larger than 100, then the width of all characters will be expanded accordingly.

The example shows the same text justified to the same width, with stretching values of 100 and 150.

```
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", "", 8)
pdf.set_fill_color(255, 255, 0)
pdf.multi_cell(w=50, txt=LOREM_IPSUM[:100], new_x="LEFT", fill=True)
pdf.ln()
pdf.set_stretching(150)
pdf.multi_cell(w=50, txt=LOREM_IPSUM[:100], new_x="LEFT", fill=True)
```

Lorem ipsum Ut nostrud irure reprehenderit anim nostrud dolore sed ut Excepteur dolore ut sunt irure

Lorem ipsum Ut nostrud irure reprehenderit anim nostrud dolore sed ut Excepteur dolore ut sunt irure

#### 4.4.3 .set\_char\_spacing(spacing=0)

This method changes the distance between individual characters of a test string. Normally, characters are placed at a given distance according the width information in the font file. If spacing is larger than 0, then their distance will be larger, creating a gap in between. If it is less than 0, then their distance will be smaller, possibly resulting in an overlap. The change in distance is given in typographic points (Pica), which makes it easy to adapt it relative to the current font size.

Character spacing works best for formatting single line text created by any method, or for highlighting individual words included in a block of text with <code>.write()</code>.

**Limitations**: Spacing will only be changed *within* a sequence of characters that fpdf2 adds to the PDF in one go. This means that there will be no extra distance *eg.* between text parts that are placed successivly with write(). Also, if you apply different

font styles using the Markdown functionality of <code>.cell()</code> and <code>.multi\_cell()</code> or by using <code>html\_write()</code>, then any parts given different styles will have the original distance between them. This is so because <code>fpdf2</code> has to add each styled fragment to the PDF file seperately.

The example shows the same text justified to the same width, with char\_spacing values of 0 and 10 (font size 8 pt).

```
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", "", 8)
pdf.set_fill_color(255, 255, 0)
pdf.multi_cell(w=150, txt=LOREM_IPSUM[:200], new_x="LEFT", fill=True)
pdf.ln()
pdf.set_char_spacing(10)
pdf.multi_cell(w=150, txt=LOREM_IPSUM[:200], new_x="LEFT", fill=True)
```

Lorem ipsum Ut nostrud irure reprehenderit anim nostrud dolore sed ut Excepteur dolore ut sunt irure consectetur tempor eu tempor nostrud dolore sint exercitation aliquip velit ullamco esse dolore mol

```
e
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                                                                                                                                                        o
                                                                                                                                                                   e
                                                                                                                                              o
                                                                                                                                                             г
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                                                                                                                                                         t
                                                                                                                                                             u
                                                                                      е
                                                                                                                                         С
                                                                                                                                                   e
t
t
          m
                D
                      0
```

#### 4.4.4 Subscript, Superscript, and Fractional Numbers

The class attribute .char\_vpos controls special vertical positioning modes for text:

- "LINE" normal line text (default)
- "SUP" superscript (exponent)
- "SUB" subscript (index)
- $\bullet$  "NOM" nominator of a fraction with "/"
- "DENOM" denominator of a fraction with "/"

For each positioning mode there are two parameters that can be configured. The defaults have been set to result in a decent layout with most fonts, and are given in parens.

The size multiplier for the font size:

- .sup\_scale (0.7)
- .sub\_scale (0.7)
- .nom\_scale (0.75)
- .denom\_scale (0.75)

The lift is given as fraction of the unscaled font size and indicates how much the glyph gets lifted above the base line (negative for below):

- .sup\_lift (0.4)
- .sub\_lift (-0.15)
- .nom\_lift (0.2)
- .denom\_lift (0.0)

Limitations: The individual glyphs will be scaled down as configured. This is not typographically correct, as it will also reduce the stroke width, making them look lighter than the normal text. Unicode fonts may include characters in the subscripts and superscripts range. In a high quality font, those glyphs will be smaller than the normal ones, but have a proportionally stronger stroke width in order to maintain the same visual density. If available in good quality, using Characters from this range is preferred and will look better. Unfortunately, many fonts either don't (fully) cover this range, or the glyphs are of unsatisfactory quality. In those cases, this feature of fpdf2 offers a reliable workaround with suboptimal but consistent output quality.

Practical use is essentially limited to <code>.write()</code> and <code>html\_write()</code>. The feature does technically work with <code>.cell()</code> and <code>.multi\_cell</code>, but is of limited usefulness there, since you can't change font properties in the middle of a line (there is no markdown support). It currently gets completely ignored by <code>.text()</code>.

The example shows the most common use cases:

```
pdf = fpdf.FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", "", 20)
pdf.write(txt="2")
pdf.write(txt="2")
pdf.char_wpos = "SUB"
pdf.write(txt="56")
pdf.char_wpos = "LINE"
pdf.write(txt=" more line text")
pdf.char_wpos = "SUB"
pdf.write(txt=" more line text")
pdf.char_wpos = "SUB"
pdf.write(txt=" (idx)")
pdf.char_wpos = "LINE"
pdf.write(txt=" end")
pdf.ln()
pdf.write(txt="234 + ")
pdf.char_wpos = "NoM"
pdf.write(txt="5")
pdf.char_wpos = "LINE"
pdf.write(txt="7")
pdf.char_wpos = "DENOM"
pdf.write(txt="7")
pdf.char_wpos = "DENOM"
pdf.write(txt="10")
pdf.char_wpos = "LINE"
pdf.write(txt="10")
pdf.char_wpos = "LINE"
pdf.write(txt="10")
```

```
2^{56} more line text<sub>(idx)</sub> end 1234 + \frac{5}{16} + 987 = x
```

#### 4.4.5 .text\_mode

The PDF spec defines several text modes:

**TABLE 5.3 Text rendering modes** 

MODE	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
0	R	Fill text.
1	R	Stroke text.
2	R	Fill, then stroke text.
3		Neither fill nor stroke text (invisible).
4	R	Fill text and add to path for clipping (see above).
5	R	Stroke text and add to path for clipping.
6	R	Fill, then stroke text and add to path for clipping.
7		Add text to path for clipping.

The text mode can be controlled with the .text\_mode attribute. With STROKE modes, the line width is induced by .line\_width, and its color can be configured with set\_draw\_color(). With FILL modes, the filling color can be controlled by set\_fill\_color() or set text color().

With any of the 4 CLIP modes, the letters will be filled by vector drawings made afterwards, as can be seen in this example:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF(orientation="landscape")
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=100)

with pdf.local_context(text_mode="STROKE", line_width=2):
    pdf.cell(txt="Hello world")
# Outside the local context, text_mode & line_width are reverted
```

```
# back to their original default values
pdf.ln()
with pdf.local_context(text_mode="CLIP"):
    pdf.cell(txt="CLIP text mode")
    for r in range(0, 250, 2): # drawing concentric circles
        pdf.circle(x=130-r/2, y=70-r/2, r=r)
pdf.output("text-modes.pdf")
```

# Hello world

More examples from test\_text\_mode.py:

- text modes.pdf
- clip\_text\_modes.pdf

#### 4.4.6 markdown=True

An optional markdown=True parameter can be passed to the cell() & multi\_cell() methods in order to enable basic Markdown-like styling: \*\*bold\*\*, \_\_italics\_\_, --underlined--

Bold & italics require using dedicated fonts for each style.

For the standard fonts (Courier, Helvetica & Times), those dedicated fonts are configured by default:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = fpdf.FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Times", size=60)
pdf.cetl(txt="**Lorem** __Ipsum__ --dolor--", markdown=True)
pdf.output("markdown-styled.pdf")
```

Using other fonts means that their variants (bold, italics) must be registered using add\_font with style="B" and style="I". Several unit tests in test/text/ demonstrate that:

- $\bullet\ test\_cell\_markdown\_with\_ttf\_fonts$
- $\bullet\ test\_multi\_cell\_markdown\_with\_ttf\_fonts$

#### 4.4.7 write html

write\_html allows to set emphasis on text through the <b>, <i> and <u> tags:

#### 4.5 Unicode

The FPDF class was modified adding UTF-8 support. Moreover, it embeds only the necessary parts of the fonts that are used in the document, making the file size much smaller than if the whole fonts were embedded. These features were originally developed for the mPDF project, and ported from Ian Back's sFPDF LGPL PHP version.

Before you can use UTF-8, you have to install at least one Unicode font in the font directory (or system font folder). Some free font packages are available for download (extract them into the font folder):

- DejaVu family: Sans, Sans Condensed, Serif, Serif Condensed, Sans Mono (Supports more than 200 languages)
- GNU FreeFont family: FreeSans, FreeSerif, FreeMono
- Indic (ttf-indic-fonts Debian and Ubuntu package) for Bengali, Devanagari, Gujarati, Gurmukhi (including the variants for Punjabi), Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Tibetan
- AR PL New Sung (firefly): The Open Source Chinese Font (also supports other east Asian languages)
- Alee (ttf-alee Arch Linux package): General purpose Hangul Truetype fonts that contain Korean syllable and Latin9 (iso8859-15) characters.
- Fonts-TLWG (formerly ThaiFonts-Scalable)

These fonts are included with this library's installers; see Free Font Pack for FPDF below for more information.

Then, to use a Unicode font in your script, pass True as the fourth parameter of add\_font.

#### Notes on non-latin languages

Some users may encounter a problem where some characters displayed incorrectly. For example, using Thai language in the picture below

## ที นัน นี ทั้ง มัง บุหรี

The solution is to find and use a font that covers the characters of your language. From the error in the image above, Thai characters can be fixed using fonts from Fonts-TLWG which can be downloaded from this link. The example shown below.

fonts/Kinnari.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหรื่

fonts/Waree.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหรื่

fonts/Garuda.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหรื่

fonts/TlwgTypist.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหรื่

fonts/Umpush-Light.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหรื่

fonts/WareeSans.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหรื่

fonts/Sawasdee.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหคี่

fonts/Loma.ttf - ที่ นั้น นี่ ทั้ง มั้ง บุหรื่

#### Right-to-Left & Arabic Script workaround

For Arabic and RTL scripts there is a temporary solution (using two additional libraries python-bidi and arabic-reshaper) that works for most languages; only a few (rare) Arabic characters aren't supported. Using it on other scripts(eg. when the input is unknown or mixed scripts) does not affect them:

```
from arabic_reshaper import reshape
from bidi.algorithm import get_display
some_text = 'الْعَرَبِيّةُهُوهِ oَافِّرِهِ'
fixed_text = get_display(reshape(some_text))
```

#### 4.5.1 Example

This example uses several free fonts to display some Unicode strings. Be sure to install the fonts in the font directory first.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
# -*- coding: utf8 -*-
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
```

```
# Add a DejaVu Unicode font (uses UTF-8)
\ensuremath{\text{\#}} Supports more than 200 languages. For a coverage status see:
# http://dejavu.svn.sourceforge.net/viewvc/dejavu/trunk/dejavu-fonts/langcover.txt
pdf.add_font(fname='DejaVuSansCondensed.ttf')
pdf.set_font('DejaVuSansCondensed', size=14)
text = """
English: Hello World
Greek: Γειά σου κόσμος
Polish: Witaj świecie
Portuguese: Olá mundo
Russian: Здравствуй, Мир
Vietnamese: Xin chào thế giới
مرحبا العالم :Arabic
Hebrew: שלום עולם
for txt in text.split('\n'):
    pdf.write(8, txt)
    pdf.ln(8)
# Add a Indic Unicode font (uses UTF-8)
# Supports: Bengali, Devanagari, Gujarati,
             Gurmukhi (including the variants for Punjabi)
# Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Tibetan pdf.add_font(fname='gargi.ttf')
pdf.set_font('gargi', size=14)
pdf.write(8, u'Hindi:
# Add a AR PL New Sung Unicode font (uses UTF-8)
# The Open Source Chinese Font (also supports other east Asian languages) pdf.add_font(fname='fireflysung.ttf')
pdf.set_font('fireflysung', size=14)
pdf.write(8, u'Chinese: 你好世界\n')
pdf.write(8, u'Japanese: こんにちは世界\n')
pdf.ln(10)
# Add a Alee Unicode font (uses UTF-8)
# General purpose Hangul truetype fonts that contain Korean syllable
 and Latin9 (iso8859-15) characters.
pdf.add_font(fname='Eunjin.ttf')
pdf.set_font('Eunjin', size=14)
pdf.write(8, u'Korean: ')
pdf.ln(20)
# Add a Fonts-TLWG (formerly ThaiFonts-Scalable) (uses UTF-8)
pdf.add_font(fname='Waree.ttf')
pdf.set_font('Waree', size=14)
pdf.write(8, u'Thai:
pdf.ln(20)
# Select a standard font (uses windows-1252)
pdf.set_font('helvetica', size=14)
pdf.write(5, 'This is standard built-in font')
pdf.output("unicode.pdf")
```

View the result here: unicode.pdf

#### 4.5.2 Free Font Pack and Copyright Restrictions

For your convenience, this library collected 96 TTF files in an optional "Free Unicode TrueType Font Pack for FPDF", with useful fonts commonly distributed with GNU/Linux operating systems (see above for a complete description). This pack is included in the Windows installers, or can be downloaded separately (for any operating system).

You could use any TTF font file as long embedding usage is allowed in the licence. If not, a runtime exception will be raised saying: "ERROR - Font file filename.ttf cannot be embedded due to copyright restrictions."

#### 4.6 Fallback fonts

New in  $\bigcirc$  2.7.0

The method <code>set\_fallback\_fonts()</code> allows you to specify a list of fonts to be used if any character is not available on the font currently set. When a character doesn't exist on the current font, <code>fpdf2</code> will look if it's available on the fallback fonts, on the same order the list was provided.

Common scenarios are use of special characters like emojis within your text, greek characters in formulas or citations mixing different languages.

#### Example:

```
import fpdf

pdf = fpdf.FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.add_font(fname="Roboto.ttf")
# twitter emoji font: https://github.com/13rac1/twemoji-color-font/releases
pdf.add_font(fname="TwitterEmoji.ttf")
pdf.set_font("Roboto", size=15)
pdf.set_fallback_fonts(["TwitterEmoji"])
pdf.write(txt="text with an emoji \bigcirc")
pdf.output("text_with_emoji.pdf")
```

When a glyph cannot be rendered uing the current font, fpdf2 will look for a fallback font matching the current character emphasis (bold/italics). By default, if it does not find such matching font, the character will not be rendered using any fallback font. This behaviour can be relaxed by passing exact\_match=False to set\_fallback\_fonts().

Moreover, for more control over font fallback election logic, the get\_fallback\_font() can be overriden. An example of this can be found in test/fonts/test font fallback.py.

#### 4.7 Text Shaping

New in  $\bigcirc$  2.7.5

#### 4.7.1 What is text shaping?

Text shaping is a fundamental process in typography and computer typesetting that influences the aesthetics and readability of text in various languages and scripts. It involves the transformation of Unicode text into glyphs, which are then positioned for display or print.

For texts in latin script, text shaping can improve the aesthetics by replacing characters that would colide or overlap by a single glyph specially crafted to look harmonious.

# Without shaping: different final floating stuff

# With shaping: different final floating stuff

This process is especially important for scripts that require complex layout, such as Arabic or Indic scripts, where characters change shape depending on their context.

There are three primary aspects of text shaping that contribute to the overall appearance of the text: kerning, ligatures, and glyph substitution.

#### Kerning

Kerning refers to the adjustment of space between individual letter pairs in a font. This process is essential to avoid awkward gaps or overlaps that may occur due to the default spacing of the font. By manually or programmatically modifying the kerning, we can ensure an even and visually pleasing distribution of letters, which significantly improves the readability and aesthetic quality of the text.





#### Ligatures

Ligatures are special characters that are created by combining two or more glyphs. This is frequently used to avoid collision between characters or to adhere to the typographic traditions. For instance, in English typography, the most common ligatures are "fi" and "fl", which are often fused into single characters to provide a more seamless reading experience.

#### Glyph Substitution

Glyph substitution is a mechanism that replaces one glyph or a set of glyphs with one or more alternative glyphs. This is a crucial aspect of text shaping, especially for complex scripts where the representation of a character can significantly vary based on its surrounding characters. For example, in Arabic script, a letter can have different forms depending on whether it's at the beginning, middle, or end of a word.

Another common use of glyph substitution is to replace a sequence of characters by a symbol that better represent the meaning of those characters on a specialized context (mathematical, programming, etc.).

Without shaping: 
$$/*$$
 WWW  $0 \times FF$   $C++$   $-->$   $*/$  With shaping:  $/*$  Www  $0 \times FF$   $C++$   $\longrightarrow$   $*/$ 

#### 4.7.2 Usage

Text shaping is disabled by default to keep backwards compatibility, reduce resource requirements and not make uharfbuzz a hard dependency.

If you want to use text shaping, the first step is installing the uharfbuzz package via pip.

pip install uharfbuzz

Text shaping is not available for type 1 fonts.

#### Basic usage

The method set\_text\_shaping() is used to control text shaping on a document. The only mandatory argument, use\_shaping\_engine can be set to True to enable the shaping mechanism or False to disable it.

```
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.add_font(family="ViaodaLibre", fname=HERE / "ViaodaLibre-Regular.ttf")
pdf.set_font("ViaodaLibre", size=40)
pdf.set_text_shaping(True)
pdf.cell(txt="final soft stuff")
pdf.output("Example.pdf")
```

#### **Features**

On most languages, Harfbuzz enables all features by default. If you want to enable or disable a specific feature you can pass a dictionary containing the 4 digit OpenType feature code as key and a boolean value to indicate if it should be enabled or disable.

Example:

```
pdf.set_text_shaping(use_shaping_engine=True, features={"kern": False, "liga": False})
```

The full list of OpenType feature codes can be found here

#### **Additional options**

To perform the text shaping, harfbuzz needs to know some information like the language and the direction (right-to-left, left-to-right, etc) in order to apply the correct rules. Those information can be guessed based on the text being shaped, but you can also set the information to make sure the correct rules will be applied.

Examples:

```
pdf.set_text_shaping(use_shaping_engine=True, direction="rtl", script="arab", language="ara")
pdf.set_text_shaping(use_shaping_engine=True, direction="ltr", script="latn", language="eng")
```

Direction can be ltr (left to right) or rtl (right to left). The ttb (top to bottom) and btt (bottom to top) directions are not supported by fpdf2 for now.

Valid OpenType script tags

Valid OpenType language codes

#### 4.8 Emojis, Symbols & Dingbats

- Emojis, Symbols & Dingbats
- Emojis
- Symbols
- Dingbats
- · Fallback fonts

#### 4.8.1 Emojis

Displaying emojis requires the use of a Unicode font file. Here is an example using the DejaVu font:

```
import fpdf

pdf = fpdf.FPDF()
pdf.add_font(fname="DejaVuSans.ttf")
pdf.set_font("DejaVuSans", size=64)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.multi_cell(0, txt="".join([chr(0x1F600 + x) for x in range(68)]))
pdf.set_font_size(32)
pdf.text(10, 270, "".join([chr(0x1F0A0 + x) for x in range(15)]))
pdf.output("fonts_emoji_glyph.pdf")
```

This code produces this PDF file: fonts emoji glyph.pdf

Another font supporting emojis is: twemoji

#### 4.8.2 Symbols

The Symbol font is one of the built-in fonts in the PDF format. Hence you can include its symbols very easily:

This results in:

$$\forall \eta \exists \epsilon \in \Re, \eta/\epsilon \cong \infty$$

$$\Delta \Phi \Sigma \Omega \Psi \alpha \beta \chi$$

$$\in \clubsuit \bullet \Psi \bullet \longleftrightarrow \leftarrow \uparrow \to \downarrow \Leftrightarrow \Leftarrow \Rightarrow$$

The following table will help you find which characters map to which symbol: symbol.pdf. For reference, it was built using this script: symbol.py.

#### 4.8.3 Dingbats

The **ZapfDingbats** font is one of the built-in fonts in the PDF format. Hence you can include its dingbats very easily:

```
import fpdf

pdf = fpdf.FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("zapfdingbats", size=36)
pdf.cell(txt="+ 3 8 A r \u00a6 \u00a8 \
```

This results in:



The following table will help you find which characters map to which dingbats: zapfdingbats.pdf. For reference, it was built using this script: zapfdingbats.py.

#### 4.8.4 Fallback fonts

If you need to mix special characters and emojis within normal text, it is possible to specify alternative fonts for FPDF to use as fallback fonts. See an exemple of use Here

#### **4.9 HTML**

fpdf2 supports basic rendering from HTML.

This is implemented by using html.parser.HTMLParser from the Python standard library. The whole HTML 5 specification is **not** supported, and neither is CSS, but bug reports & contributions are very welcome to improve this. *cf.* Supported HTML features below for details on its current limitations.

For a more robust & feature-full HTML-to-PDF converter in Python, you may want to check Reportlab (or xhtml2pdf based on it), WeasyPrint or borb.

#### 4.9.1 write html usage example

HTML rendering requires the use of FPDF.write\_html():

```
from fpdf import FPDF
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.write_html("""
                 <dt>Description title</dt>
                  <dd>Description Detail</dd>
      </hl>
      <h1>Big title</h1>
            <h2>Section title</h2>
            <b>Hello</b> world. <u>I am</u> <i>tired</i>.
            <a href="https://github.com/py-pdf/fpdf2">py-pdf/fpdf2 GitHub repo</a>
            right aligned text
i am a paragraph <br />in two parts.
           <font color="#00ff00">hello in green</font>
<font size="7">hello small</font>
            <font face="helvetica">hello helvetica</font>
            <font face="times">hello times</font>
      </section>
            <h2>Other section title</h2>
            ul>ul>i>unorderedli>listitems
            orderedlistitems
            <br>
            i am preformatted text.
            <br/>

            <thead>
                             ID
                              Name
                       </thead>
                       1
                             Alice
                        >2
                             Bob
                 pdf.output("html.pdf")
```

#### 4.9.2 Supported HTML features

- <h1> to <h8>: headings (and align attribute)
- : paragraphs (and align, line-height attributes)
- <b>, <i>, <u>: bold, italic, underline
- <font>: (and face, size, color attributes)
- <center> for aligning

- <a>: links (and href attribute)
- & <code> tags
- <img>: images (and src, width, height attributes)
- , , : ordered, unordered and list items (can be nested)
- <dl>, <dt>, <dd>: description list, title, details (can be nested)
- <sup>, <sub>: superscript and subscript text
- : (with align, border, width attributes)
- <thead>: optional tag, wraps the table header row
- <tfoot>: optional tag, wraps the table footer row
- : optional tag, wraps the table rows with actual content
- : rows (with align, bgcolor attributes)
- : heading cells (with align, bgcolor, width attributes)
- : cells (with align, bgcolor, width attributes)

#### 4.9.3 Known limitations

fpdf2 HTML renderer does not support many configuration of nested tags. For example:

- $\bullet$  <center> cannot be used as a parent for several elements cf. issue #640
- cells can contain <b><em>nested tags forming a single text block</em></b>, but **not** <b>arbitrarily</b></b>nested <em>tags</em> cf. issue #845

You can also check the currently open GitHub issues with the tag html: https://github.com/py-pdf/fpdf2/issues? q=is%3Aopen+label%3Ahtml

#### 5. Graphics Content

#### 5.1 Images

When rendering an image, its size on the page can be specified in several ways:

- explicit width and height (expressed in user units). The image is scaled to those dimensions, unless keep\_aspect\_ratio=True is specified.
- one explicit dimension, the other being calculated automatically in order to keep the original proportions
- no explicit dimension, in which case the image is put at 72 dpi

Note that if an image is displayed several times, only one copy is embedded in the file.

#### 5.1.1 Simple example

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("docs/fpdf2-logo.png", x=20, y=60)
pdf.output("pdf-with-image.pdf")
```

By default an image is rendered with a resolution of 72 dpi, but you can control its dimension on the page using the w= & h= parameters of the image() method.

#### 5.1.2 Alpha / transparency

fpdf2 allows to embed images with alpha pixels.

Technically, it is implemented by extracting an JSMask from images with transparency, and inserting it along with the image data in the PDF document. Related code is in the image parsing module.

#### 5.1.3 Assembling images

The following code snippets provide examples of some basic layouts for assembling images into PDF files.

#### Side by side images, full height, landscape page

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF(orientation="landscape")
pdf.set_margin(0)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("imgA.png", h=pdf.eph, w=pdf.epw/2)  # full page height, half page width
pdf.set_y(0)
pdf.image("imgB.jpg", h=pdf.eph, w=pdf.epw/2, x=pdf.epw/2) # full page height, half page width, right half of the page
pdf.output("side-by-side.pdf")
```

#### Fitting an image inside a rectangle

When you want to scale an image to fill a rectangle, while keeping its aspect ratio, and ensuring it does **not** overflow the rectangle width nor height in the process, you can set w / h and also provide  $keep\_aspect\_ratio=True$  to the image() method.

The following unit tests illustrate that:

- test\_image\_fit.py
- resulting document: image fit in rect.pdf

#### **Blending images**

You can control the color blending mode of overlapping images. Valid values for blend\_mode are Normal, Multiply, Screen, Overlay, Darken, Lighten, ColorDodge, ColorBurn, HardLight, SoftLight, Difference, Exclusion, Hue, Saturation, Color and Luminosity.

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("imgA.png", ...)
with pdf.local_context(blend_mode="ColorBurn"):
    pdf.image("imgB.jpg", ...)
pdf.output("blended-images.pdf")
```

Demo of all color blend modes: blending\_images.pdf

#### 5.1.4 Image clipping





You can select only a portion of the image to render using clipping methods:

- rect\_clip():
- example code
- resulting PDF
- round\_clip():
- example code
- resulting PDF
- elliptic\_clip():
- example code
- resulting PDF

#### 5.1.5 Alternative description

A textual description of the image can be provided, for accessibility purposes:

```
pdf.image("docs/fpdf2-logo.png", x=20, y=60, alt_text="Snake logo of the fpdf2 library")
```

#### 5.1.6 Usage with Pillow

You can perform image manipulations using the Pillow library, and easily embed the result:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from PIL import Image

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
```

```
img = Image.open("docs/fpdf2-logo.png")
img = img.crop((10, 10, 490, 490)).resize((96, 96), resample=Image.NEAREST)
pdf.image(img, x=80, y=100)
pdf.output("pdf-with-image.pdf")
```

#### 5.1.7 SVG images

SVG images passed to the <code>image()</code> method will be embedded as PDF paths:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("SVG_logo.svg", w=100)
pdf.output("pdf-with-vector-image.pdf")
```

#### 5.1.8 Retrieve images from URLs

URLs to images can be directly passed to the image() method:

```
pdf.image("https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/70/Example.png")
```

#### 5.1.9 Image compression

By default, fpdf2 will avoid altering or recompressing your images: when possible, the original bytes from the JPG or TIFF file will be used directly. Bitonal images are by default compressed as TIFF Group4.

However, you can easily tell fpdf2 to embed all images as JPEGs in order to reduce your PDF size, using set\_image\_filter():

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_image_filter("DCTDecode")
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("docs/fpdf2-logo.png", x=20, y=60)
pdf.output("pdf-with-image.pdf")
```

Beware that "flattening" images into JPEGs this way will fill transparent areas of your images with color (usually black).

The allowed <code>image\_filter</code> values are listed in the <code>image\_parsing</code> module and are currently: <code>FlateDecode</code> (lossless zlib/deflate compression), <code>DCTDecode</code> (lossy compression with JPEG) and <code>JPXDecode</code> (lossy compression with JPEG2000).

#### 5.1.10 ICC Profiles

The ICC profile of the included images are read through the PIL function <code>Image.info.get("icc\_profile)"</code> and are included in the PDF as objects.

#### 5.1.11 Oversized images detection & downscaling

If the resulting PDF size is a concern, you may want to check if some inserted images are *oversized*, meaning their resolution is unnecessarily high given the size they are displayed.

There is how to enable this detection mechanism with fpdf2:

```
pdf.oversized_images = "WARN"
```

After setting this property, a WARNING log will be displayed whenever an oversized image is inserted.

 $\ensuremath{\mbox{fpdf2}}$  is also able to automatically downscale such oversized images:

```
pdf.oversized_images = "DOWNSCALE"
```

After this, oversized images will be automatically resized, generating DEBUG logs like this:

```
OVERSIZED: Generated new low-res image with name=lowres-test.png dims=(319, 451) id=2
```

For finer control, you can set pdf.oversized\_images\_ratio to set the threshold determining if an image is oversized.

If the concepts of "image compression" or "image resolution" are a bit obscure for you, this article is a recommended reading: The 5 minute guide to image quality

#### 5.1.12 Disabling transparency

By default images transparency is preserved: alpha channels are extracted and converted to an embedded SMask. This can be disabled by setting <code>.allow\_images\_transparency</code>, <code>e.g.</code> to allow compliance with PDF/A-1:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.allow_images_transparency = False
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=15)
pdf.cell(w=pdf.epw, h=30, txt="Text behind. " * 6)
pdf.image("docs/fpdf2-logo.png", x=0)
pdf.output("pdf-including-image-without-transparency.pdf")
```

This will fill transparent areas of your images with color (usually black).

cf. also documentation on controlling transparency.

#### 5.1.13 Page background

cf. Per-page format, orientation and background

#### 5.1.14 Sharing the image cache among FPDF instances

Image parsing is often the most CPU & memory intensive step when inserting pictures in a PDF.

If you create several PDF files that use the same illustrations, you can share the images cache among FPDF instances:

```
images_cache = {}

for ... # loop
    pdf = FPDF()
    pdf.images = images_cache
    ... # build the PDF
    pdf.output(...)
    # Reset the "usages" count, to avoid ALL images to be inserted in subsequent PDFs:
    for img in images_cache.values():
        img["usages"] = 0
```

This recipe is valid for fpdf2 v2.5.7+. For previous versions of fpdf2, a deepcopy of .images must be made, (cf. issue #501).

#### 5.2 Shapes

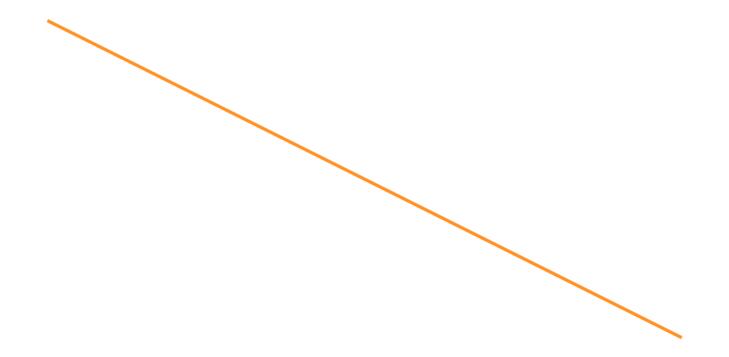
The following code snippets show examples of rendering various shapes. \\

#### 5.2.1 Lines

Using line() to draw a thin plain orange line:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(0.5)
pdf.set_draw_color(r=255, g=128, b=0)
pdf.line(x1=50, y1=50, x2=150, y2=160)
pdf.output("orange_plain_line.pdf")
```



#### Drawing a dashed light blue line:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(0.5)
pdf.set_draw_color(r=0, g=128, b=255)
pdf.set_dash_pattern(dash=2, gap=3)
pdf.line(x1=50, y1=50, x2=150, y2=100)
pdf.output("blue_dashed_line.pdf")
```



#### 5.2.2 Circle

Using circle() to draw a disc filled in pink with a grey outline:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(2)
pdf.set_draw_color(240)
pdf.set_fill_color(r=230, g=30, b=180)
pdf.circle(x=50, y=50, r=50, style="FD")
pdf.output("circle.pdf")
```



#### 5.2.3 Ellipse

Using  $\ensuremath{\texttt{ellipse}}\xspace()$  , filled in grey with a pink outline:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(2)
pdf.set_draw_color(r=230, g=30, b=180)
pdf.set_fill_color(240)
pdf.set_fill_color(240)
pdf.ellipse(x=50, y=50, w=100, h=50, style="FD")
pdf.output("ellipse.pdf")
```

#### 5.2.4 Rectangle

Using  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{rect}}$ () to draw nested squares:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
for i in range(15):
    pdf.set_fill_color(255 - 15*i)
    pdf.rect(x=5+5*i, y=5+5*i, w=200-10*i, h=200-10*i, style="FD")
pdf.output("squares.pdf")
```



#### Using rect() to draw rectangles with round corners:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_draw_color(200)
y = 10
pdf.rect(60, y, 33, 28, round_corners=True, style="D")

pdf.set_fill_color(0, 255, 0)
pdf.rect(100, y, 50, 10, round_corners=("BOTTOM_RIGHT"), style="DF")

pdf.set_fill_color(255, 255, 0)
pdf.rect(160, y, 10, 10, round_corners=("TOP_LEFT", "BOTTOM_LEFT"), style="F")
pdf.output("round_corners_rectangles.pdf")
```



#### 5.2.5 Polygon

#### Using polygon():

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(2)
pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=0)
coords = ((100, 0), (5, 69), (41, 181), (159, 181), (195, 69))
pdf.polygon(coords, style="DF")
pdf.output("polygon.pdf")
```



#### 5.2.6 Arc

#### Using arc():

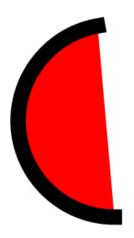
```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(2)
pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=0)
pdf.arc(x=75, y=75, a=25, b=25, start_angle=90, end_angle=260, style="FD")

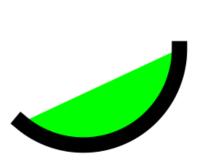
pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=255)
pdf.arc(x=105, y=75, a=25, b=50, start_angle=180, end_angle=360, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=0, g=255, b=0)
pdf.arc(x=135, y=75, a=25, b=25, start_angle=0, end_angle=130, style="FD")

pdf.output("arc.pdf")
```







#### 5.2.7 Solid arc

#### Using solid\_arc():

```
from fpdf import FPDF

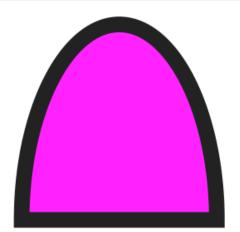
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(2)
pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=0)
pdf.solid_arc(x=75, y=75, a=25, b=25, start_angle=90, end_angle=260, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=255)
pdf.solid_arc(x=105, y=75, a=25, b=50, start_angle=180, end_angle=360, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=0, g=255, b=0)
pdf.solid_arc(x=135, y=75, a=25, b=25, start_angle=0, end_angle=130, style="FD")

pdf.output("solid_arc.pdf")
```







#### 5.2.8 Regular Polygon

#### Using regular\_polygon():

```
from fpdf import FPDF

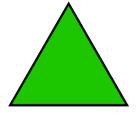
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(0.5)

pdf.set_fill_color(r=30, g=200, b=0)
pdf.regular_polygon(x=40, y=80, polywidth=30, rotateDegrees=270, numSides=3, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=10, g=30, b=255)
pdf.regular_polygon(x=80, y=80, polywidth=30, rotateDegrees=135, numSides=4, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=165, g=10, b=255)
pdf.regular_polygon(x=120, y=80, polywidth=30, rotateDegrees=198, numSides=5, style="FD")
```

```
pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=125, b=10)
pdf.regular_polygon(x=160, y=80, polyWidth=30, rotateDegrees=270, numSides=6, style="FD")
pdf.output("regular_polygon.pdf")
```









#### 5.2.9 Regular Star

#### Using star():

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(0.5)

pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=0)
pdf.star(x=40, y=80, r_in=5, r_out=15, rotate_degrees=0, corners=3, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=0, g=255, b=255)
pdf.star(x=80, y=80, r_in=5, r_out=15, rotate_degrees=90, corners=4, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=255, b=0)
pdf.star(x=120, y=80, r_in=5, r_out=15, rotate_degrees=180, corners=5, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=255)
pdf.star(x=160, y=80, r_in=5, r_out=15, rotate_degrees=270, corners=6, style="FD")

pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=0, b=255)
pdf.star(x=160, y=80, r_in=5, r_out=15, rotate_degrees=270, corners=6, style="FD")
pdf.output("star.pdf")
```









#### 5.2.10 Path styling

- line\_width specifies the thickness of the line used to stroke a path
- stroke\_join\_style defines how the corner joining two path components should be rendered:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from fpdf.enums import StrokeJoinStyle

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(5)
pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=128, b=0)
with pdf.local_context(stroke_join_style=StrokeJoinStyle.ROUND):
    pdf.regular_polygon(x=50, y=120, polyWidth=100, numSides=8, style="FD")
pdf.output("regular_polygon_rounded.pdf")
```



• stroke\_cap\_style defines how the end of a stroke should be rendered. This affects the ends of the segments of dashed strokes, as well.

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from fpdf.enums import StrokeCapStyle

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_line_width(5)
pdf.set_line_width(5)
pdf.set_fill_color(r=255, g=128, b=0)
with pdf.local_context(stroke_cap_style=StrokeCapStyle.ROUND):
    pdf.line(x1=50, y1=50, x2=150, y2=100)
pdf.output("line_with_round_ends.pdf")
```

 $There \ are \ even \ more \ specific \ path \ styling \ settings \ supported: \ dash\_pattern \ , \ stroke\_opacity \ , \ stroke\_miter\_limit \ ...$ 

All of those settings can be set in a  $local\_context()$  .

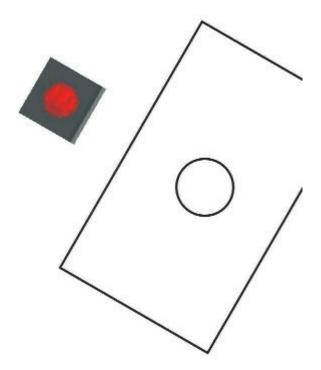
#### 5.3 Transformations

#### 5.3.1 Rotation

The rotation() context-manager will apply a rotation to all objects inserted in its indented block:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF(format=(40, 40))
pdf.add_page()
x, y = 15, 15
with pdf.rotation(60, x=x, y=y):
    pdf.circle(x=x, y=y+15, r=5)
    # Inserting a small base64-encoded image:
    pdf.image("data:image/
prg; base64,iVBORW0KGgoAAAANSUhEUgAAABAAAAAQBAMAAADt3eJSAAAAMFBMVEU0OkArMjhobHEoPUPFEBIuOOL+AAC2FBZ2JyuNICOfGx7xAwTjCAlCNTvVDA1aLzQ3COjMAAAAVUlEQVQI12NgwAaCDSA08
x=x, y=y)
    pdf.rect(x=x-10, y=y+10, w=25, h=15)
pdf.output("rotations.pdf")
```



#### 5.3.2 Skew

skew creates a skewing transformation of magnitude ax in the horizontal axis and ay in the vertical axis. The transformation originates from x, y and will use a default origin unless specified otherwise:

```
with pdf.skew(ax=0, ay=10):
   pdf.cell(txt="text skewed on the y-axis")
```

# text skewed on the y-axis

```
with pdf.skew(ax=10, ay=0):
   pdf.cell(txt="text skewed on the x-axis")
```

### text skewed on the x-axis

```
pdf.set_line_width(2)
pdf.set_draw_color(240)
pdf.set_fill_color(r=230, g=30, b=180)
with pdf.skew(ax=-45, ay=0, x=100, y=170):
    pdf.circle(x=100, y=170, r=10, style="FD")
```



#### 5.3.3 Mirror

#### New in $\bigcirc$ 2.7.5

The mirror context-manager applies a mirror transformation to all objects inserted in its indented block over a given mirror line by specifying starting co-ordinate and angle.

```
x, y = 100, 100
pdf.text(x, y, txt="mirror this text")
with pdf.mirror((x, y), "EAST"):
    pdf.set_text_color(r=255, g=128, b=0)
    pdf.text(x, y, txt="mirror this text")
```



```
pdf.text(x, y, txt="mirror this text")
with pdf.mirror((x, y), "NORTH"):
   pdf.set_text_color(r=255, g=128, b=0)
   pdf.text(x, y, txt="mirror this text")
```

# txet sidt rorrimmirror this text

```
prev_x, prev_y = pdf.x, pdf.y
pdf.multi_cell(w=50, txt=LOREM_IPSUM)
with pdf.mirror((pdf.x, pdf.y), "NORTHEAST"):
    # Reset cursor to mirror original multi-cell
pdf.x = prev_x
pdf.y = prev_y
pdf.multi_cell(w=50, txt=LOREM_IPSUM, fill=True)
```

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#### 5.4 Transparency

The alpha opacity of text, shapes and even images can be controlled through stroke\_opacity (for lines) & fill\_opacity (for all other content types):

```
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", "B", 24)
pdf.set_fine_width(1.5)
pdf.add_page()

# Draw an opaque red square:
pdf.set_fill_color(255, 0, 0)
pdf.rect(10, 10, 40, 40, "DF")

# Set alpha to semi-transparency for shape lines & filled areas:
with pdf.local_context(fill_opacity=0.5, stroke_opacity=0.5):
    # Draw a green square:
    pdf.set_fill_color(0, 255, 0)
    pdf.rect(20, 20, 40, 40, "DF")

# Set transparency for images & text:
with pdf.local_context(fill_opacity=0.25):
    # Insert an image:
    pdf.image(HERE / "../docs/fpdf2-logo.png", 30, 30, 40)
    # Print some text:
    pdf.text(22, 29, "You are...")

# Print some text with full opacity:
pdf.text(30, 45, "Over the top")

# Produce the resulting PDF:
pdf.output("transparency.pdf")
```

Results in:



## 5.5 Barcodes

## 5.5.1 Code 39

Here is an example on how to generate a Code 39 barcode:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.code39("*fpdf2*", x=30, y=50, w=4, h=20)
pdf.output("code39.pdf")
```

Output preview:



## 5.5.2 Interleaved 2 of 5

Here is an example on how to generate an Interleaved 2 of 5 barcode:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.interleaved2of5("1337", x=50, y=50, w=4, h=20)
pdf.output("interleaved2of5.pdf")
```

Output preview:



## 5.5.3 PDF-417

Here is an example on how to generate a PDF-417 barcode using the pdf417 lib:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from pdf417 import encode, render_image
pdf = FPDF()
```

```
pdf.add_page()
img = render_image(encode("Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed non risus. Suspendisse lectus tortor, dignissim sit amet, adipiscing nec, ultricies sed, dolor. Cras elementum ultrices diam."))
pdf.image(img, x=10, y=50)
pdf.output("pdf417.pdf")
```

## Output preview:



## 5.5.4 QRCode

Here is an example on how to generate a QR Code using the python-qrcode lib:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
import qrcode

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
img = qrcode.make("fpdf2")
pdf.image(img.get_image(), x=50, y=50)
pdf.output("qrcode.pdf")
```

## Output preview:



## 5.5.5 DataMatrix

fpdf2 can be combined with the pystrich library to generate DataMatrix barcodes: pystrich generates pilimages, which can then be inserted into the PDF file via the FPDF.image() method.

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from pystrich.datamatrix import DataMatrixEncoder, DataMatrixRenderer

# Define the properties of the barcode
positionX = 10
positionY = 10
width = 57
height = 57
cellsize = 5

# Prepare the datamatrix renderer that will be used to generate the pilimage
encoder = DataMatrixEncoder("[Text to be converted to a datamatrix barcode]")
encoder.width = width
encoder.height = height
renderer = DataMatrixRenderer(encoder.matrix, encoder.regions)

# Generate a pilimage and move it into the memory stream
img = renderer.get_pilimage(cellsize)

# Draw the barcode image into a PDF file
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page(img, positionX, positionY, width, height)
```



## Extend FPDF with a datamatrix() method

The code above could be added to the FPDF class as an extension method in the following way:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from pystrich.datamatrix import DataMatrixEncoder, DataMatrixRenderer

class PDF(FPDF):
    def datamatrix(self, text, w, h=None, x=None, y=None, cellsize=5):
        if x is None: x = self.x
        if y is None: y = self.y
```

```
if h is None: h = w
encoder = DataMatrixEncoder(text)
encoder.width = w
encoder.height = h
renderer = DataMatrixRenderer(encoder.matrix, encoder.regions)
img = renderer.get_pilimage(cellsize)
self.image(img, x, y, w, h)

# Usage example:
pdf = PDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
pdf.datamatrix("Hello world!", w=100)
pdf.output("datamatrix.pdf")
```

## 5.5.6 Code128

Here is an example on how to generate a Code 128 barcode using the python-barcode lib, that can be installed by running pip install python-barcode:

```
from io import BytesIO
from pfdf import FPDF
from barcode import Code128
from barcode.writer import SVGWriter

# Create a new PDF document
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()

# Set the position and size of the image in the PDF
x = 50
y = 50
w = 100
h = 70

# Generate a Code128 Barcode as SVG:
svg_img_bytes = BytesIO(
code128['1600609802922'', writer=SVGWriter()).write(svg_img_bytes)
pdf.image(svg_img_bytes, x=x, y=y, w=w, h=h)

# Output a PDF file:
pdf.output('code128_barcode.pdf')
```

## Output Preview:



# 5.6 Drawing

The fpdf.drawing module provides an API for composing paths out of an arbitrary sequence of straight lines and curves. This allows fairly low-level control over the graphics primitives that PDF provides, giving the user the ability to draw pretty much any vector shape on the page.

The drawing API makes use of features (notably transparency and blending modes) that were introduced in PDF 1.4. Therefore, use of the features of this module will automatically set the output version to 1.4 (fpdf normally defaults to version 1.3. Because the PDF 1.4 specification was originally published in 2001, this version should be compatible with all viewers currently in general use).

## 5.6.1 Getting Started

The easiest way to add a drawing to the document is via <code>fpdf.FPDF.new\_path</code>. This is a context manager that takes care of serializing the path to the document once the context is exited.

Drawings follow the fpdf convention that the origin (that is, coordinate(0, 0)), is at the top-left corner of the page. The numbers specified to the various path commands are interpreted in the document units.

```
import fpdf

pdf = fpdf.FPDF(unit='mm', format=(10, 10))
pdf.add_page()

with pdf.new_path() as path:
    path.move_to(2, 2)
    path.line_to(8, 8)
    path.horizontal_line_relative(-6)
    path.line_relative(6, -6)
    path.close()

pdf.output("drawing-demo.pdf")
```

This example draws an hourglass shape centered on the page:



view as PDF

## 5.6.2 Adding Some Style

Drawings can be styled, changing how they look and blend with other drawings. Styling can change the color, opacity, stroke shape, and other attributes of a drawing.

Let's add some color to the above example:

```
import fpdf

pdf = fpdf.FPDF(unit='mm', format=(10, 10))
pdf.add_page()

with pdf.new_path() as path:
    path.style.fill_color = '#A070D0'
    path.style.stroke_color = fpdf.drawing.gray8(210)
    path.style.stroke_width = 1
    path.style.stroke_opacity = 0.75
    path.style.stroke_join_style = 'round'

path.move_to(2, 2)
    path.line_to(8, 8)
    path.line_relative(6, -6)
    path.line_relative(6, -6)

path.close()

pdf.output("drawing-demo.pdf")
```

If you make color choices like these, it's probably not a good idea to quit your day job to become a graphic designer. Here's what the output should look like:



#### view as PDF

## 5.6.3 Transforms And You

Transforms provide the ability to manipulate the placement of points within a path without having to do any pesky math yourself. Transforms are composable using python's matrix multiplication operator (@), so, for example, a transform that both rotates and scales an object can be create by matrix multiplying a rotation transform with a scaling transform.

An important thing to note about transforms is that the result is order dependent, which is to say that something like performing a rotation followed by scaling will not, in the general case, result in the same output as performing the same scaling followed by the same rotation.

Additionally, it's not generally possible to deconstruct a composed transformation (representing an ordered sequence of translations, scaling, rotations, shearing) back into the sequence of individual transformation functions that produced it. That's okay, because this isn't important unless you're trying to do something like animate transforms after they've been composed, which you can't do in a PDF anyway.

All that said, let's take the example we've been working with for a spin (the pun is intended, you see, because we're going to rotate the drawing). Explaining the joke does make it better.

An easy way to apply a transform to a path is through the path.transform property.

```
import fpdf

pdf = fpdf.FPDF(unit="mm", format=(10, 10))
pdf.add_page()

with pdf.new_path() as path:
    path.style.fill_color = "#A07000"
    path.style.stroke_color = fpdf.drawing.gray8(210)
    path.style.stroke_width = 1
    path.style.stroke_poacity = 0.75
    path.style.stroke_join_style = "round"
    path.transform = fpdf.drawing.Transform.rotation_d(45).scale(0.707).about(5, 5)

path.move_to(2, 2)
    path.line_to(8, 8)
    path.lorizontal_line_relative(-6)
    path.line_relative(6, -6)

path.close()

pdf.output("drawing-demo.pdf")
```



## view as PDF

The transform in the above example rotates the path 45 degrees clockwise and scales it by 1/sqrt(2) around its center point. This transform could be equivalently written as:

```
import fpdf
T = fpdf.drawing.Transform
T.translation(-5, -5) @ T.rotation_d(45) @ T.scaling(0.707) @ T.translation(5, 5)
```

Because all transforms operate on points relative to the origin, if we had rotated the path without first centering it on the origin, we would have rotated it partway off of the page. Similarly, the size-reduction from the scaling would have moved it closer to the origin. By bracketing the transforms with the two translations, the placement of the drawing on the page is preserved.

## 5.6.4 Clipping Paths

The clipping path is used to define the region that the normal path is actually painted. This can be used to create drawings that would otherwise be difficult to produce.

```
import fpdf

pdf = fpdf.FPDF(unit="mm", format=(10, 10))

pdf.add_page()

clipping_path = fpdf.drawing.ClippingPath()
    clipping_path.rectangle(x=2.5, y=2.5, w=5, h=5, rx=1, ry=1)

with pdf.new_path() as path:
    path.style.fill_color = "#A07000"
    path.style.stroke_color = fpdf.drawing.gray8(210)
    path.style.stroke_color = fpdf.drawing.gray8(210)
    path.style.stroke_opacity = 0.75
    path.style.stroke_opacity = 0.75
    path.style.stroke_join_style = "round"

path.clipping_path = clipping_path

path.move_to(2, 2)
    path.line_to(8, 8)
    path.line_relative(6, -6)

path.close()

pdf.output("drawing-demo.pdf")
```



view as PDF

## 5.6.5 Next Steps

The presented API style is designed to make it simple to produce shapes declaratively in your Python scripts. However, paths can just as easily be created programmatically by creating instances of the <code>fpdf.drawing.PaintedPath</code> for paths and <code>fpdf.drawing.GraphicsContext</code> for groups of paths.

Storing paths in intermediate objects allows reusing them and can open up more advanced use-cases. The <code>fpdf.svg</code> SVG converter, for example, is implemented using the <code>fpdf.drawing</code> interface.

## 5.7 Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG)

fpdf2 supports basic conversion of SVG paths into PDF paths, which can be inserted into an existing PDF document or used as the contents of a new PDF document.

Not all SVGs will convert correctly. Please see the list of unsupported features for more information about what to look out for.

## 5.7.1 Basic usage

SVG files can be directly inserted inside a PDF file using the image() method:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("vector.svg")
pdf.output("doc-with-svg.pdf")
```

Either the embedded .svg file must includes width and/or height attributes (absolute or relative), or some dimensions must be provided to .image() through its w= and/or h= parameters.

#### 5.7.2 Detailed example

The following script will create a PDF that consists only of the graphics contents of the provided SVG file, filling the whole page:

```
import fpdf

svg = fpdf.svg.SVGObject.from_file("my_file.svg")

pdf = fpdf.FPDF(unit="pt", format=(svg.width, svg.height))
pdf.add_page()
svg.draw_to_page(pdf)

pdf.output("my_file.pdf")
```

Because this takes the PDF document size from the source SVG, it does assume that the width/height of the SVG are specified in absolute units rather than relative ones (i.e. the top-level <svg> tag has something like width="5cm" and not width=50%). In this case, if the values are percentages, they will be interpreted as their literal numeric value (i.e. 100% would be treated as 100 pt). The next example uses transform\_to\_page\_viewport, which will scale an SVG with a percentage based width to the pre-defined PDF page size.

The converted SVG object can be returned as an fpdf.drawing.GraphicsContext collection of drawing directives for more control over how it is rendered:

## 5.7.3 Converting vector graphics to raster graphics

Usually, embedding SVG as vector graphics in PDF documents is the best approach, as it is both lightweight and will allow for better details / precision of the images inserted.

But sometimes, SVG images cannot be directly embedded as vector graphics (SVG), and a conversion to raster graphics (PNG, JPG) must be performed.

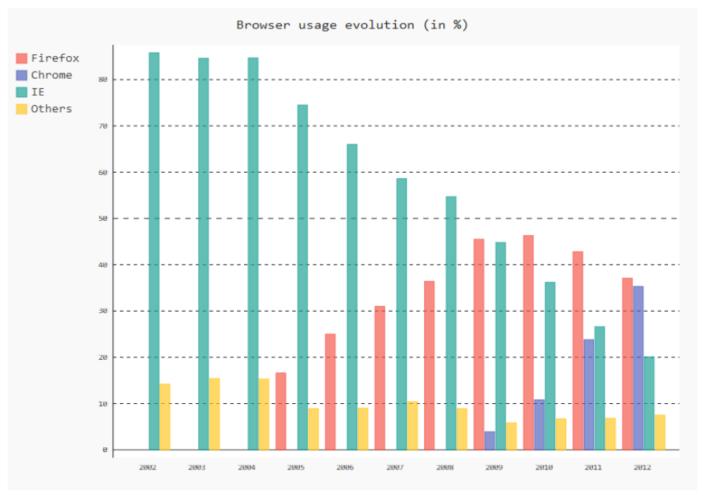
The following sections demonstrate how to perform such conversion, using Pygal charts as examples:

#### Using cairosvg

A faster and efficient approach for embedding Pygal SVG charts into a PDF file is to use the cairosvg library to convert the vector graphics generated into a BytesIO instance, so that we can keep these data in an in-memory buffer:

```
import pygal
from fpdf import FPDF
 from io import BytesIO
 import cairosvg
bar_chart = pygal.Bar()
bar_chart.title = 'Browser usage evolution (in %)'
bar_chart.xllabels = map(str, range(2002, 2013))
bar_chart.add('Firefox', [None, None, 0, 16.6, 25, 31, 36.4, 45.5, 46.3, 42.8, 37.1])
bar_chart.add('Chrome', [None, None, None, None, None, None, None, 0, 3.9, 10.8, 23.8, 35.3])
bar_chart.add('IE', [85.8, 84.6, 84.7, 74.5, 66, 58.6, 54.7, 44.8, 36.2, 26.6, 20.1])
bar_chart.add('Others', [14.2, 15.4, 15.3, 8.9, 9, 10.4, 8.9, 5.8, 6.7, 6.8, 7.5])
svg_img = bar_chart.render()
 # Convert the SVG chart to a PNG image in a BytesIO object
 img_bytesio = BytesIO()
{\tt cairosvg.svg2png(svg\_img, write\_to=img\_bytesio, dpi=96)}
\ensuremath{\mbox{\#}} Set the position and size of the image in the PDF
w = 100
h = 70
# Build the PDF
pdf = FPDF()
 pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(img_bytesio, x=x, y=y, w=w, h=h)
pdf.output('browser-usage-bar-chart.pdf')
```





## !! Troubleshooting advice !!

You may encounter GTK (Gnome Toolkit) errors while executing the above example in windows. Error could be like following -

```
OSError: no library called "cairo-2" was found
no library called "cairo" was found
no library called "libcairo-2" was found
cannot load library 'libcairo.so.2': error 0x7e
cannot load library 'libcairo.2.dylib': error 0x7e
cannot load library 'libcairo-2.dll': error 0x7e
```

In this case install install GTK from GTK-for-Windows-Runtime-Environment-Installer. Restart your editor. And you are all done.

## Using svglib and reportlab

An alternative, purely pythonic but slightly slower solution is to use reportlab and svglib:

```
import io
import pygal
from reportlab.graphics import renderPM
from syglib.svglib import SvgRenderer
from fpdf import FPDF
from lxml import etree

# Create a Pygal bar chart
bar_chart = pygal.Bar()
bar_chart.xlabels = ['2016', '2017', '2018', '2019', '2020']
bar_chart.xdlotyroduct A', [500, 750, 1000, 1250, 1500])
bar_chart.add('Product B', [750, 1000, 1250, 1500])
svg_img = bar_chart.render()

# Convert the SVG chart to a JPEG image in a BytesIO object
drawing = SvgRenderer('').render(etree.fromstring(svg_img))
```

```
jpg_img_bytes = renderPM.drawToString(drawing, fmt='JPG', dpi=72)
img_bytesio = io.BytesIO(jpg_img_bytes)

# Set the position and size of the image in the PDF
x = 50
y = 50
w = 100
h = 70

# Build the PDF
pdf = FPDF()
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(img_bytesio, x=x, y=y, w=w, h=h)
pdf.output('sales-by-year-bar-chart.pdf')
```

## The above code generates the following output:



## **Performance considerations**

Regarding performance, cairosvg is generally faster than svglib when it comes to rendering SVG files to other formats. This is because cairosvg is built on top of a fast C-based rendering engine, while svglib is written entirely in Python, and hence a bit slower. Additionally, cairosvg offers various options for optimizing the rendering performance, such as disabling certain features, like fonts or filters.

## 5.7.4 Supported SVG Features

- groups
- paths
- basic shapes (rect, circle, ellipse, line, polyline, polygon)
- basic cross-references
- stroke & fill coloring and opacity

- · basic stroke styling
- Inline CSS styling via style="..." attributes.

## 5.7.5 Currently Unsupported Notable SVG Features

Everything not listed as supported is unsupported, which is a lot. SVG is a ridiculously complex format that has become increasingly complex as it absorbs more of the entire browser rendering stack into its specification. However, there are some pretty commonly used features that are unsupported that may cause unexpected results (up to and including a normal-looking SVG rendering as a completely blank PDF). It is very likely that off-the-shelf SVGs will not be converted fully correctly without some preprocessing.

In addition to that:

- text/tspan/textPath
- symbols
- markers
- patterns
- gradients
- a lot of attributes
- embedded images or other content (including nested SVGs)
- CSS styling via <style> tags or external \*.css files.

Contributions would be very welcome to add support for more SVG features!

If you are interested in contributing to fpdf2 regarding this, drop a comment on GitHub issue #537 and a maintainer will give some pointers to start poking with the code  $\odot$ 

# 5.8 Charts & graphs

# 5.8.1 Charts

## **Using Matplotlib**

Before running this example, please install the required dependencies using the command below:

```
pip install fpdf2 matplotlib
```

Example taken from Matplotlib artist tutorial:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from matplotlib.backends.backend_agg import FigureCanvasAgg as FigureCanvas from matplotlib.figure import Figure
import numpy as np
from PIL import Image
fig = Figure(figsize=(6, 4), dpi=300)
fig.subplots_adjust(top=0.8)
ax1 = fig.add_subplot(211)
ax1.set_ylabel("volts")
ax1.set_title("a sine wave")
 \begin{split} t &= np.arange(0.0,~1.0,~0.01) \\ s &= np.sin(2~*np.pi~*t) \\ (line,) &= ax1.plot(t,~s,~color="blue",~lw=2) \end{split} 
# Fixing random state for reproducibility
np.random.seed(19680801)
ax2 = fig.add_axes([0.15, 0.1, 0.7, 0.3])
n, bins, patches = ax2.hist(
    np.random.randn(1000), 50, facecolor="yellow", edgecolor="yellow"
ax2.set_xlabel("time (s)")
# Converting Figure to an image:
canvas = FigureCanvas(fig)
canvas.draw()
img = Image.fromarray(np.asarray(canvas.buffer_rgba()))
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(img, w=pdf.epw) # Make the image full width
pdf.output("matplotlib.pdf")
```



You can also embed a figure as SVG:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np

plt.figure(figsize=[2, 2])
x = np.arange(0, 10, 0.00001)
y = x*np.sin(2* np.pi * x)
plt.plot(y)
plt.savefig("figure.svg", format="svg")

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("figure.svg")
pdf.output("doc-with-figure.pdf")
```

## **Using Pandas**

The dependencies required for the following examples can be installed using this command:

```
pip install fpdf2 matplotlib pandas
```

Create a plot using pandas.DataFrame.plot:

```
from io import BytesIO
from fpdf import FPDF
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import io

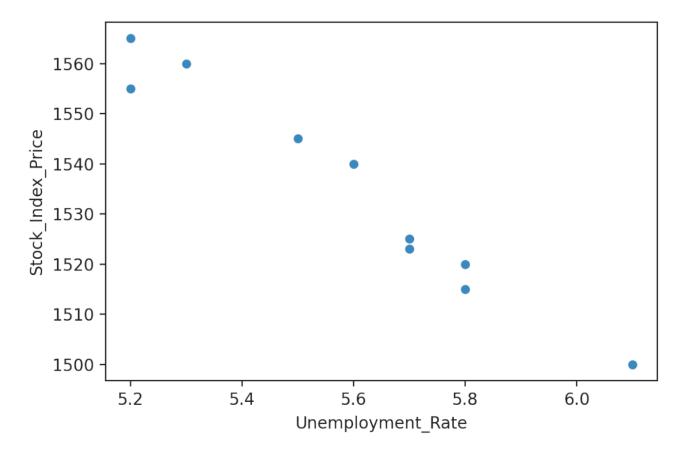
data = {
    "Unemployment_Rate": [6.1, 5.8, 5.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.6, 5.5, 5.3, 5.2, 5.2],
    "Stock_Index_Price": [1500, 1520, 1525, 1523, 1515, 1540, 1545, 1560, 1555, 1565],
}

plt.figure() # Create a new figure object
df = pd.DataFrame(data, columns=["Unemployment_Rate", "Stock_Index_Price"])
df.plot(x="Unemployment_Rate", y="Stock_Index_Price", kind="scatter")
```

```
# Converting Figure to an image:
img_buf = BytesIO()  # Create image object
plt.savefig(img_buf, dpi=200)  # Save the image

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(img_buf, w=pdf.epw)  # Make the image full width
pdf.output("pandas.pdf")
img_buf.close()
```

#### Result:



## Create a table with pandas DataFrame:

```
row.cell(datum)
pdf.output("table_from_pandas.pdf")
```

## Result:

First name	Last name	Age	City
Jules	Smith	34	San Juan
Mary	Ramos	45	Orlando
Carlson	Banks	19	Los Angeles
Lucas	Cimon	31	Saint-Mahturin-sur-Loire

## **Using Plotly**

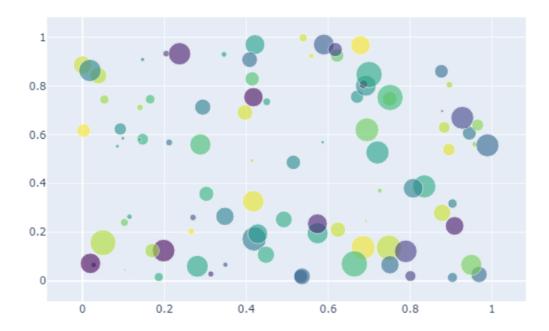
Before running this example, please install the required dependencies using the command below:

```
pip install fpdf2 plotly kaleido numpy
```

kaleido is a cross-platform library for generating static images that is used by plotly.

Example taken from Plotly static image export tutorial:

```
import plotly.graph_objects as go
import numpy as np
from fpdf import FPDF
np.random.seed(1)
N = 100
x = np.random.rand(N)
y = np.random.rand(N)
colors = np.random.rand(N)
sz = np.random.rand(N) * 30
fig = go.Figure()
fig.add_trace(go.Scatter(
     x=x,
y=y,
mode="markers",
      marker=go.scatter.Marker(
            color=colors,
            opacity=<mark>0.6</mark>,
colorscale="Viridis"
     )
# Convert the figure to png using kaleido image_data=fig.to_image(format="png", engine="kaleido") # Create an io.BytesIO object which can be used by FPDF2
image = io.BytesIO(image_data)
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(image,w=pdf.epw) # Width of the image is equal to the width of the page pdf.output("plotly.pdf")
```



You can also embed a figure as SVG but this is not recommended because the text data such as the x and y axis bars might not show as illustrated in the result image because plotly places this data in a svg text tag which is currently not supported by FPDF2.

Before running this example, please install the required dependencies:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
import plotly.express as px

fig = px.bar(x=["a", "b", "c"], y=[1, 3, 2])
fig.write_image("figure.svg")

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image("figure.svg", w=pdf.epw)
pdf.output("plotly.pdf")
```



#### **Using Pygal**

Pygal is a Python graph plotting library. You can install it using: pip install pygal

fpdf2 can embed graphs and charts generated using Pygal library. However, they cannot be embedded as SVG directly, because Pygal inserts <style> & <script> tags in the images it produces (cf. pygal/svg.py), which is currently not supported by fpdf2. The full list of supported & unsupported SVG features can be found there: SVG page.

You can find documentation on how to convert vector images (SVG) to raster images (PNG, JPG), with a practical example of embedding PyGal charts, there: SVG page.

## 5.8.2 Mathematical formulas

fpdf2 can only insert mathematical formula in the form of **images**. The following sections will explain how to generate and embed such images.

## **Using Google Charts API**

Official documentation: Google Charts Infographics - Mathematical Formulas.

## Example:

```
from io import BytesIO
from urllib.parse import quote
from urllib.request import urlopen
from fpdf import FPDF

formula = "x^n + y^n = a/b"
height = 170
url = f"https://chart.googleapis.com/chart?cht=tx&chs={height}&chl={quote(formula)}"
with urlopen(url) as img_file:
    img = BytesIO(img_file.read())

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(img, w=30)
pdf.output("equation-with-gcharts.pdf")
```

$$x^n + y^n = a/b$$

## Using LaTeX & Matplotlib

Matplotlib can render LaTeX: Text rendering With LaTeX.

## Example:

```
from io import BytesIO
from fpdf import FPDF
from matplotlib.figure import Figure

fig = Figure(figsize=(6, 2))
gca = fig.gca()
gca.text(0, 0.5, r"$x^n + y^n = \frac{a}{b}\", fontsize=60)
gca.axis("off")

# Converting Figure to a SVG image:
img = BytesIO()
fig.savefig(img, format="svg")

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.image(img, w=100)
pdf.output("equation-with-matplotlib.pdf")
```

Result:

$$x^n + y^n = \frac{a}{b}$$

If you have trouble with the SVG export, you can also render the matplotlib figure as pixels:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from matplotlib.backends.backend_agg import FigureCanvasAgg as FigureCanvas
from matplotlib.figure import Figure
import numpy as np
from PIL import Image

fig = Figure(figsize=(6, 2), dpi=300)
gca = fig.gca()
gca.text(0, 0.5, r"$x^n + y^n = \frac{a}{b}^*, fontsize=60)
gca.axis("off")
canvas = FigureCanvas(fig)
canvas.draw()
img = Image.fromarray(np.asarray(canvas.buffer_rgba()))
...
```

# 6. PDF Features

## 6.1 Links

fpdf2 can generate both **internal** links (to other pages in the document) & **hyperlinks** (links to external URLs that will be opened in a browser).

## 6.1.1 Hyperlink with FPDF.cell

This method makes the whole cell clickable (not only the text):

## 6.1.2 Hyperlink with FPDF.multi\_cell

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=24)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.multi_cell(
    pdf.epw,
    txt="**Website:** [fpdf2](https://py-pdf.github.io/fpdf2/) __Go visit it!__",
    markdown=True,
)
pdf.output("hyperlink.pdf")
```

Links defined this way in Markdown can be styled by setting fPDF class attributes  $MARKDOWN\_LINK\_COLOR$  (default: None) &  $MARKDOWN\_LINK\_UNDERLINE$  (default: True).

link="https://...your-url" can also be used to make the whole cell clickable.

## 6.1.3 Hyperlink with FPDF.link

The FPDF.link is a low-level method that defines a rectangular clickable area.

There is an example showing how to place such rectangular link over some text:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=36)
line_height = 10
text = "Text link"
pdf.text(x=0, y=line_height, txt=text)
width = pdf.get_string_width(text)
pdf.link(x=0, y=0, w=width, h=line_height, link="https://github.com/py-pdf/fpdf2")
pdf.output("hyperlink.pdf")
```

## 6.1.4 Hyperlink with write\_html

An alternative method using FPDF.write\_html:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font_size(16)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.write_html('<a href="https://github.com/py-pdf/fpdf2">Link defined as HTML</a>')
pdf.output("hyperlink.pdf")
```

The hyperlinks defined this way will be rendered in blue with underline.

## 6.1.5 Internal links

Internal links are links redirecting to other pages in the document.

Using FPDF.cell:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=24)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cell(txt="Welcome on first page!", align="C", center=True)
pdf.add_page()
link = pdf.add_link(page=1)
pdf.cell(txt="Internal link to first page", border=1, link=link)
pdf.output("internal_link.pdf")
```

Other methods can also insert internal links:

- FPDF.multi cell using link= or markdown=True and this syntax: [link text](page number)
- FPDF.link
- FPDF.write\_html using anchor tags: <a href="page number">link text</a>

The unit tests test\_internal\_links() in test\_links.py provides examples for all of those methods.

## 6.1.6 Links to other documents on the filesystem

Using FPDF.cell:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=24)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cetl(txt="Link to other_doc.pdf", border=1, link="other_doc.pdf")
pdf.output("link_to_other_doc.pdf")
```

Other methods can also insert internal links:

- $\bullet \ FPDF.multi\_cell \ using \ \texttt{link=} \ \textbf{or} \ \texttt{markdown=True} \ \ and \ this \ syntax: \ \texttt{[link text](other\_doc.pdf)}$
- FPDF.link
- $\bullet \ FPDF.write\_html \ using \ anchor \ tags: \ \verb|<a href="other_doc.pdf">link \ text</a>$

 $The \ unit \ test \ \ \texttt{test\_link\_to\_other\_document()} \ \ in \ test\_links.py \ provides \ examples \ for \ all \ of \ those \ methods.$ 

## 6.1.7 Alternative description

An optional textual description of the link can be provided, for accessibility purposes:

## 6.2 Metadata

The PDF specification contain two types of metadata, the newer XMP (Extensible Metadata Platform, XML-based) and older DocumentInformation dictionary. The PDF 2.0 specification removes the DocumentInformation dictionary.

Currently, the following methods on fpdf.FPDF allow to set metadata information in the DocumentInformation dictionary:

- set\_title
- set\_lang
- set\_subject
- set\_author
- set\_keywords
- set\_producer
- set\_creator
- set\_creation\_date
- $\bullet$   $\mathtt{set\_xmp\_metadata}$  , that requires you to craft the necessary XML string

For a more user-friendly API to set metadata, we recommend using <code>pikepdf</code> that will set both XMP & DocumentInformation metadata:

```
import sys
from datetime import datetime

import pikepdf
from fpdf import FPDF_VERSION

with pikepdf.open(sys.argv[1], allow_overwriting_input=True) as pdf:
    with pdf.open_metadata(set_pikepdf_as_editor=False) as meta:
    meta["dc:ttile"] = "Title"
    meta["dc:description"] = "Description"
    meta["dc:creator"] = ["Author1", "Author2"]
    meta["pdf:Keywords"] = "keyword1 keyword2 keyword3"
    meta["pdf:Producer"] = f"py-pdf/fpdf{FPDF_VERSION}"
    meta["xmp:CreatorTool"] = __file__
    meta["xmp:MetadataDate"] = datetime.now(datetime.utcnow().astimezone().tzinfo).isoformat()
    pdf.save()
```

## 6.3 Annotations

The PDF format allows to add various annotations to a document.

#### 6.3.1 Text annotations

They are rendered this way by Sumatra PDF reader:



Method documentation: FPDF.text\_annotation

## 6.3.2 Highlights

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
with pdf.highlight("Highlight comment"):
    pdf.text(50, 50, "Line 1")
    pdf.set_y(50)
    pdf.multi_cell(w=30, txt="Line 2")
pdf.cell(w=60, txt="Not highlighted", border=1)
pdf.output("highlighted.pdf")
```

Rendering by Sumatra PDF reader:



Method documentation: FPDF.highlight

The appearance of the "highlight effect" can be controlled through the type argument: it can be Highlight (default), Underline, Squiggly or StrikeOut.

## 6.3.3 Ink annotations

Those annotations allow to draw paths around parts of a document to highlight them:

Rendering by Firefox internal PDF viewer:



Method documentation: FPDF.ink\_annotation

## 6.3.4 File attachments

 $\it cf.$  the dedicated page: File attachments

## 6.3.5 Named actions

The four standard PDF named actions provide some basic navigation relative to the current page: NextPage, PrevPage, FirstPage and LastPage.

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from fpdf.actions import NamedAction

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.text(x=80, y=140, txt="First page")
pdf.text(x=80, y=140, txt="First page")
pdf.underline = True
for x, y, named_action in ((40, 80, "NextPage"), (120, 80, "PrevPage"), (40, 200, "FirstPage"), (120, 200, "LastPage")):
    pdf.text(x=x, y=y, txt=named_action)
    pdf.add_action(
        NamedAction(named_action),
        x=x,
        y=y - pdf.font_size,
        w=pdf.get_string_width(named_action),
```

```
h=pdf.font_size,
)
pdf.underline = False
pdf.add_page()
pdf.text(x=80, y=140, txt="Last page")
pdf.output("named_actions.pdf")
```

## 6.3.6 Launch actions

Used to launch an application or open or print a document:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from fpdf.actions import LaunchAction

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
pdf.add_page()
x, y, text = 80, 140, "Launch action"
pdf.text(x=x, y=y, txt=text)
pdf.add_action(
    LaunchAction("another_file_in_same_directory.pdf"),
    x=x,
    y=y - pdf.font_size,
    w=pdf.get_string_width(text),
    h=pdf.font_size,
)
pdf.output("launch_action.pdf")
```

## 6.4 Presentations

Presentation mode can usually be enabled with the CTRL + L shortcut.

As of june 2021, the features described below are onored by Adobe Acrobat reader, but ignored by Sumatra PDF reader.

## 6.4.1 Page display duration

Pages can be associated with a "display duration" until when the viewer application automatically advances to the next page:

```
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = fpdf.FPDF()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=120)
pdf.add_page(duration=3)
pdf.cell(txt="Page 1")
pdf.page_duration = .5
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cell(txt="Page 2")
pdf.cell(txt="Page 2")
pdf.cell(txt="Page 3")
pdf.output("presentation.pdf")
```

It can also be configured globally through the page\_duration FPDF property.

## 6.4.2 Transitions

Pages can be associated with visual transitions to use when moving from another page to the given page during a presentation:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from fpdf.transitions import *
pdf = fpdf.FPDF()
pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=120)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 0")
pdf.add_page(transition=SplitTransition("V", "0"))
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 1")
pdf.add_page(transition=BlindsTransition("H"))
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 2")
pdf.add_page(transition=BoxTransition("I"))
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 3"
pdf.add_page(transition=WipeTransition(90))
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 4"
pdf.add_page(transition=DissolveTransition())
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 5")
pdf.add page(transition=GlitterTransition(315))
{\tt pdf.add\_page(transition=FlyTransition("H"))}
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 7"
pdf.add_page(transition=PushTransition(270))
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 8")
pdf.add_page(transition=CoverTransition(270))
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 9")
pdf.add_page(transition=UncoverTransition(270))
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 10")
pdf.add_page(transition=FadeTransition())
pdf.text(x=40, y=150, txt="Page 11")
pdf.output("transitions.pdf")
```

It can also be configured globally through the page\_transition FPDF property.

## 6.5 Document outline & table of contents

#### Quoting Wikipedia, a table of contents is:

a list, usually found on a page before the start of a written work, of its chapter or section titles or brief descriptions with their commencing page numbers.

Now quoting the 6th edition of the PDF format reference (v1.7 - 2006):

A PDF document may optionally display a **document outline** on the screen, allowing the user to navigate interactively from one part of the document to another. The outline consists of a tree-structured hierarchy of outline items (sometimes called bookmarks), which serve as a visual table of contents to display the document's structure to the user.

For example, there is how a document outline looks like in Sumatra PDF Reader:



# PDF Reference

# sixth edition

## Adobe® Portable Document Format

Version 1.7 November 2006

# **Adobe Systems Incorporated**

Since fpdf2.3.3, both features are supported through the use of the start\_section method, that adds an entry in the internal "outline" table used to render both features.

Note that by default, calling start\_section only records the current position in the PDF and renders nothing. However, you can configure **global title styles** by calling set\_section\_title\_styles, after which call to start\_section will render titles visually using the styles defined.

To provide a document outline to the PDF you generate, you just have to call the start\_section method for every hierarchical section you want to define.

If you also want to insert a table of contents somewhere, call insert\_toc\_placeholder wherever you want to put it. Note that a
page break will always be triggered after inserting the table of contents.

## 6.5.1 With HTML

When using FPDF.write\_html, a document outline is automatically built. You can insert a table of content with the special <toc> tag.

 $Custom\ styling\ of\ the\ table\ of\ contents\ can\ be\ achieved\ by\ overriding\ the\ \ \ \underline{render\_toc}\ \ method\ in\ a\ subclass\ of\ \ \underline{\textit{FPDF}}:$ 

```
from fpdf import FPDF, HTML2FPDF

class CustomHTML2FPDF(HTML2FPDF):
    def render_toc(self, pdf, outline):
        pdf.cell(txt='Table of contents:', new_x="LMARGIN", new_y="NEXT")
```

```
for section in outline:
    pdf.cell(txt=f'* {section.name} (page {section.page_number})', new_x="LMARGIN", new_y="NEXT")

class PDF(FPDF):
    HTML2FPDF_CLASS = CustomHTML2FPDF

pdf = PDF()
    pdf.add_page()
    pdf.write_html("""<toc></toc>
        <h1>Level 1</h1>
        <h2><h2><h2><h2><h2><h2><h2><h3><level 3</h3>
        <h4><h4><h4><h5>Level 4</h4>
        <h5>Level 5</h6>
        >paragraph""")

pdf.output("html_toc.pdf")
```

## 6.5.2 Code samples

The regression tests are a good place to find code samples.

 $For \ example, the \ {\tt test\_simple\_outline} \ test \ function \ generates \ the \ PDF \ document \ simple\_outline.pdf.$ 

Similarly, test\_html\_toc generates test\_html\_toc.pdf.

## 6.6 Encryption

New in  $\bigcirc$  2.6.1

A PDF document can be encrypted to protect access to its contents.

An owner password is mandatory. Using the owner password anyone can perform any change on the document, including removing all encryption and access permissions.

The optional parameters are user password, access permissions and encryption method.

## 6.6.1 Password locking

User password is optional. If none is provided the document content is accessible for everyone.

If a user password is set, the content of the document will be encrypted and a password prompt displayed when a user opens the document. The document will only be displayed after either the user or owner password is entered.

```
pdf.set_encryption(
   owner_password="foo",
   user_password="bar"
)
```

## 6.6.2 Access permissions

Using access permissions flags you can restrict how the user interact with the document. The available access permission flags are:

- PRINT\_LOW\_RES Print the document, limiting the quality of the printed version.
- PRINT\_HIGH\_RES Print the document at the highest quality.
- MODIFY Modify the contents of the document.
- COPY Copy or extract text and graphics from the document.
- ANNOTATION Add or modify text annotations.
- $\bullet$  FILL\_FORMS Fill in existing interactive form fields.
- COPY\_FOR\_ACCESSIBILITY Extract text and graphics in support of accessibility to users with disabilities
- ASSEMBLE Insert, rotate or delete pages and create bookmarks or thumbnail images.

The flags can be combined using | :

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from fpdf.enums import AccessPermission

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("helvetica", size=12)
pdf.cell(txt="hello world")

pdf.set_encryption(
    owner_password="98765421",
    permissions=AccessPermission.PRINT_LOW_RES | AccessPermission.PRINT_HIGH_RES
)

pdf.output("output.pdf")
```

The method all() grants all permissions and none() denies all permissions.

```
pdf.set_encryption(
   owner_password="xyz",
   permissions=AccessPermission.all()
)
```

If no permission is specified it will default to  $\ \mbox{all()}$  .

## 6.6.3 Encryption method

There are 4 available encryption methods:

- NO\_ENCRYPTION Data is not encrypted, only add the access permission flags.
- RC4 (default) Default PDF encryption algorithm.
- AES\_128 Encrypts the data with 128 bit key AES algorithm. Requires the cryptography package.
- AES\_256 Encrypts the data with 256 bit key AES algorithm. Requires the cryptography package.

# 6.7 Signing

## New in $\bigcirc$ 2.5.6

A digital signature may be used to authenticate the identity of a user and the document's contents. It stores information about the signer and the state of the document when it was signed.

fpdf2 allows to sign documents using PKCS#12 certificates (RFC 7292).

The endesive package is required to do so.



The lower-level sign() method allows to add a signature based on arbitrary key & certificates, not necessarily from a PKCS#12 file.

endesive also provides basic code to check PDFs signatures. examples/pdf-verify.py or the check\_signature() function used in fpdf2 unit tests can be good starting points for you, if you want to perform PDF signature control.

## 6.8 File attachments

## 6.8.1 Embedded file streams

Embedded file streams [allow] the contents of referenced files to be embedded directly within the body of the PDF file. This makes the PDF file a self-contained unit that can be stored or transmitted as a single entity.

fpdf2 gives access to this feature through the method embed\_file():

```
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.embed_file(__file__, desc="Source Python code", compress=True)
pdf.output("embedded_file.pdf")
```

## 6.8.2 Annotations

A file attachment annotation contains a reference to a file, which typically shall be embedded in the PDF file.

fpdf2 gives access to this feature through the method file\_attachment\_annotation():

```
pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.file_attachment_annotation(__file__, x=50, y=50)
pdf.output("file_attachment_annotation.pdf")
```

Resulting PDF: file attachment annotation.pdf

Browser PDF viewers do not usually display embedded files & file attachment annotations, so you may want to download this file and open it with your desktop PDF viewer in order to visualize the file attachments.



# 7. Mixing other libs

## 7.1 borb



Joris Schellekens made another excellent pure-Python library dedicated to reading & write PDF: borb. He even wrote a very detailed e-book about it, available publicly there: borb-examples.

The maintainer of fpdf2 wrote an article comparing it with borb: borb vs fpdf2.

## 7.1.1 Creating a document with fpdf2 and transforming it into a borb.pdf.document.Document

```
from io import BytesIO
from borb.pdf.pdf import PDF
from fpdf import FPDF

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.set_title('Initiating a borb doc from a FPDF instance')
pdf.set_font('helvetica', size=12)
pdf.add_page()
pdf.cell(txt="Hello world!")

doc = PDF.loads(BytesIO(pdf.output()))
print(doc.get_document_info().get_title())
```

# 7.2 Combine with pypdf

fpdf2 cannot parse existing PDF files.

However, other Python libraries can be combined with fpdf2 in order to add new content to existing PDF files.

This page provides several examples of doing so using pypdf, an actively-maintained library formerly known as PyPDF2.

### 7.2.1 Adding content onto an existing PDF page

In this code snippet, new content will be added on top of existing content:

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import io, sys
from fpdf import FPDF
from pypdf import PdfReader, PdfWriter
IN_FILEPATH = sys.argv[1]
OUT_FILEPATH = sys.argv[2]
ON_PAGE_INDEX = 0 # Index of the target page (starts at zero)
def new content():
    pdf = FPDF()
    pdf.add_page()
    pdf.set_font("times", "B", 30)
    pdf.text(50, 150, "Hello World!")
    return io.BytesIO(pdf.output())
reader = PdfReader(IN FILEPATH)
page_overlay = PdfReader(new_content()).pages[0]
reader.pages[ON_PAGE_INDEX].merge_page(page2=page_overlay)
writer = PdfWriter()
writer.append_pages_from_reader(reader)
writer.write(OUT_FILEPATH)
```

#### 7.2.2 Adding a page to an existing PDF

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import io, sys
from fpdf import FPDF
from pypdf import PdfReader, PdfWriter
IN_FILEPATH = sys.argv[1]
OUT_FILEPATH = sys.argv[2]
ON_PAGE_INDEX = 2  # Index at which the page will be inserted (starts at zero)
def build_page():
    pdf = FPDF()
    pdf.add_page()
    pdf.set_font("times", "B", 19)
    pdf.text(50, 10, "Hello World!")
    return io.BytesIO(pdf.output())
writer = PdfWriter(clone_from=IN_FILEPATH)
new_page = PdfReader(build_page()).pages[0]
writer.insert_page(new_page, index=ON_PAGE_INDEX)
writer.write(OUT_FILEPATH)
```

#### 7.2.3 Altering with pypdf a document generated with fpdf2

A document created with fpdf2 can the be edited with pypdf by passing its .output() to a pypdf.PdfReader:

```
import io
from fpdf import FPDF
from pypdf import PdfReader

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font('times', 'B', 19)
pdf.text(50, 10, 'Hello World!')
```

reader = PdfReader(io.BytesIO(pdf.output()))

# 7.3 Combine with pdfrw

fpdf2 cannot parse existing PDF files.

However, other Python libraries can be combined with fpdf2 in order to add new content to existing PDF files.

This page provides several examples of using fpdf2 with pdfrw, a great zero-dependency pure Python library dedicated to reading & writing PDFs, with numerous examples and a very clean set of classes modelling the PDF internal syntax.

## 7.3.1 Adding content onto an existing PDF page

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import sys
from fpdf import FPDF
from pdfrw import PageMerge, PdfReader, PdfWriter
from pdfrw.pagemerge import RectXObj
IN_FILEPATH = sys.argv[1]
OUT_FILEPATH = sys.argv[2]
ON_PAGE_INDEX = 1
UNDERNEATH = (
    False # if True, new content will be placed underneath page (painted first)
reader = PdfReader(IN_FILEPATH)
area = RectXObj(reader.pages[0])
def new_content():
     fpdf = FPDF(format=(area.w, area.h), unit="pt")
     fpdf.add_page()
fpdf.set_font("helvetica", size=36)
fpdf.text(50, 50, "Hello!")
     reader = PdfReader(fdata=bytes(fpdf.output()))
     return reader.pages[0]
writer = PdfWriter()
writer.pagearray = reader.Root.Pages.Kids
writer.pagearray = writer.pagearray[0].Kids
PageMerge(writer.pagearray[ON_PAGE_INDEX]).add(
    new_content(), prepend=UNDERNEATH
).render()
writer.write(OUT_FILEPATH)
```

### 7.3.2 Adding a page to an existing PDF

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import sys

from fpdf import FPDF
from pdfrw import PdfReader, PdfWriter

IN_FILEPATH = sys.argv[1]
OUT_FILEPATH = sys.argv[2]
NEW_PAGE_INDEX = 1  # set to None to append at the end

def new_page():
    fpdf = FPDF()
    fpdf.add_page()
    fpdf.set_font("helvetica", size=36)
    fpdf.text(50, 50, "hello!")
    reader = PdfReader(fdata=bytes(fpdf.output()))
    return reader.pages[0]

writer = PdfWriter(trailer=PdfReader(IN_FILEPATH))
writer.addpage(new_page(), at_index=NEW_PAGE_INDEX)
writer.write(OUT_FILEPATH)
```

This example relies on pdfrw *Pull Request #216*. Until it is merged, you can install a forked version of pdfrw including the required patch:

```
pip install git+https://github.com/PyFPDF/pdfrw.git@addpage_at_index
```

# 7.3.3 Altering with pdfrw a document generated with fpdf2

A document created with fpdf2 can the be edited with pdfrw by passing its .output() to a pdfrw.PdfReader:

```
import io
from fpdf import FPDF
from pdfrw import PdfReader

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font('times', 'B', 19)
pdf.text(50, 10, 'Hello World!')

reader = PdfReader(io.BytesIO(pdf.output()))
```

# 7.4 Matplotlib, Pandas, Plotly, Pygal

# 7.5 Templating with Jinja

Jinja is a fast, expressive, extensible templating engine.

# 7.5.1 Combining Jinja & write\_html

More details about the supported HTML features: HTML

# 7.6 Usage in web APIs

Note that FPDF instance objects are not designed to be reusable: content cannot be added once output() has been called.

Hence, even if the FPDF class should be thread-safe, we recommend that you either **create an instance for every request**, or if you want to use a global / shared object, to only store the bytes returned from output().

### 7.6.1 Django

#### Django is:

a high-level Python web framework that encourages rapid development and clean, pragmatic design

There is how you can return a PDF document from a Django view:

```
from django.http import HttpResponse
from fpdf import FPDF

def report(request):
    pdf = FPDF()
    pdf.add_page()
    pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
    pdf.cell(txt="hello world")
    return HttpResponse(bytes(pdf.output()), content_type="application/pdf")
```

### 7.6.2 Flask

Flask is a micro web framework written in Python.

The following code can be placed in a app.py file and launched using flask run:

```
from flask import Flask, make_response
from fpdf import FPDF

app = Flask(__name__)

@app.route("/")
def hello_world():
    pdf = FPDF()
    pdf.add_page()
    pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
    pdf.cell(txt="hello world")
    response = make_response(pdf.output())
    response.headers["Content-Type"] = "application/pdf"
    return response
```

# 7.6.3 AWS lambda

The following code demonstrates some minimal AWS lambda handler function that returns a PDF file as binary output:

This AWS lambda function can then be linked to a HTTP endpoint using API Gateway, or simply exposed as a Lambda Function URL. More information on those pages:

- Tutorial: Creating a Lambda function with a function URL
- Return binary media from a Lambda

For reference, the test lambda function was initiated using the following AWS CLI commands:

```
pyv=3.8
pip${pyv} install fpdf2 -t python/lib/python${pyv}/site-packages/
# We use a distinct layer for Pillow:
rm -r python/lib/python${pyv}/site-packages/{PIL,Pillow}*
zip -r fpdf2-deps.zip python > /dev/null
aws lambda publish-layer-version --layer-name fpdf2-deps \
--description "Dependencies for fpdf2 lambda" \
--zip-file fileb://fpdf2-deps.zip --compatible-runtimes python${pyv}
```

```
aking the lambda

AWS_ACCOUNT_ID=...

AWS_REGION=eu-west-3

zip -r fpdf2-test.zip lambda.py

aws lambda create-function --function-name fpdf2-test --runtime python${pyv} \

--zip-file fileb://fpdf2-test.zip --handler lambda.handler \

--role arn:aws:iam::${AWS_ACCOUNT_ID}:role/lambda-fpdf2-role \

--layers arn:aws:lambda:${AWS_REGION}:770603421928:layer:Klayers-python${pyv/./}-Pillow:15 \

arn:aws:lambda:${AWS_REGION}:${AWS_ACCOUNT_ID}:layer:fpdf2-deps:1

aws lambda create-function-url-config --function-name fpdf2-test --auth-type NONE
```

Those commands do not cover the creation of the lambda-fpdf2-role role, nor configuring the lambda access permissions, for example with a FunctionURLAllowPublicAccess resource-based policy.

#### 7.6.4 streamlit

#### streamlit is:

a Python library that makes it easy to create and share custom web apps for data science

The following code demonstrates how to display a PDF and add a button allowing to download it:

```
from base64 import b64encode
from fpdf import FPDF
import streamlit as st
st.title("Demo of fpdf2 usage with streamlit")
@st.cache
def gen_pdf():
   pdf = FPDF()
     pdf.add_page()
    pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
pdf.cell(txt="hello world")
     return bytes(pdf.output())
base64\_pdf = b64encode(gen\_pdf()).decode("utf-8") \\ pdf\_display = f'<embed src="data:application/pdf;base64,{base64\_pdf}" width="700" height="400" type="application/pdf">'
st.markdown(pdf_display, unsafe_allow_html=True)
# Add a download button:
st.download_button(
     label="Download PDF",
     data=gen_pdf(),
     file_name="file_name.pdf",
mime="application/pdf",
```

#### 7.6.5 FastAPI

#### FastAPI is:

a modern, fast (high-performance), web framework for building APIs with Python 3.7+ based on standard Python type hints.

The following code shows how to generate a PDF file via a POST endpoint that receives a JSON object. The JSON object can be used to write into the PDF file. The generated PDF file will be returned back to the user/frontend as the response.

```
from fastapi import FastAPI, Request, Response, HTTPException, status
from fpdf import FPDF
app = FastAPI()
@app.post("/send_data", status_code=status.HTTP_200_0K)
async def create_pdf(request: Request):
    POST endpoint that accepts a JSON object
    This endpoint returns a PDF file as the response
       # data will read the JSON object and can be accessed like a Python Dictionary
       \# The contents of the JSON object can be used to write into the PDF file (if needed)
       data = await request.json()
       # Create a sample PDF file
       pdf = FPDF()
       pdf.add_page()
        pdf.set_font("Helvetica", size=24)
       pdf.cell(txt="hello world")
        # pdf.cell(txt=data["content"]) # Using the contents of the JSON object to write into the PDF file
       # Use str(data["content"]) if the content is non-string type
       # Prepare the filename and headers
        filename = "<file_name_here>.pdf
       headers = {
            "Content-Disposition": f"attachment; filename={filename}"
       # Return the file as a response
       return Response(content=bytes(pdf.output()), media_type="application/pdf", headers=headers)
    except Exception as e:
       raise HTTPException(status_code=status.HTTP_500_INTERNAL_SERVER_ERROR, detail=str(e))
```

### 7.6.6 Jupyter

Check tutorial/notebook.ipynb

#### 7.6.7 web2py

Usage of the original PyFPDF lib with web2py is described here: https://github.com/reingart/pyfpdf/blob/master/docs/Web2Py.md v1.7.2 of PyFPDF is included in web2py since release 1.85.2: https://github.com/web2py/web2py/tree/master/gluon/contrib/fpdf

# 7.7 Database storage

## 7.7.1 SQLAlchemy

The following snippet demonstrates how to store PDFs built with fpdf2 in a database, an then retrieve them, using SQLAlchemy:

```
from fpdf import FPDF
from sqlalchemy import create_engine, Column, Integer, LargeBinary, String
from sqlalchemy.orm import declarative_base, sessionmaker

Base = declarative_base()

class User(Base):
    __tablename__ = 'users'
    id = Column(Integer, primary_key=True)
    name = Column(String(5e))
    pdf = Column(largeBinary)

engine = create_engine('sqlite:///:memory:', echo=True)
Base.metadata.create_all(engine)

pdf = FPDF()
pdf.add_page()
pdf.set_font("Melvetica", size=24)
pdf.cell(txt="My name is Bobby")
new_user = User(name="Bobby", pdf=pdf.output())

Session = sessionmaker(bind=engine)
session = Session()
session.add(new_user)

user = session.query(User).filter_by(name="Bobby").first()
with open("user.pdf", "%b") as pdf_file:
    pdf_file.write(user.pdf)
```

Note that storing large binary data in a database is usually not recommended... You might be better off dynamically generating your PDFs from structured data in your database.

# 8. Development

# 8.1 Development

This page has summary information about developing the fpdf2 library.

- Development
- Repository structure
- Installing fpdf2 from a local git repository
- Code auto-formatting
- Linting
- Pre-commit hook
- Testing
- Running tests
- Why is a test failing?
- assert\_pdf\_equal & writing new tests
- Testing performances
- Code speed & profiling
- · Tracking memory usage
- Non-regression performance tests
- GitHub pipeline
- · Release checklist
- Documentation
- PDF spec & new features
- Useful tools to manipulate PDFs
- qpdf
- set\_pdf\_xref.py

## 8.1.1 Repository structure

- \_\_github/ GitHub Actions configuration
- docs/ documentation folder
- fpdf/ library sources
- scripts/ utilities to validate PDF files & publish the package on Pypi
- test/ non-regression tests
- tutorial/ tutorials (see also Tutorial)
- README.md Github and PyPI ReadMe
- CHANGELOG.md details of each release content
- LICENSE code license information
- CODEOWNERS define individuals or teams responsible for code in this repository
- CONTRIBUTORS.md the people who helped build this library 🤎
- setup.cfg, setup.py, MANIFEST.in packaging configuration to publish a package on Pypi
- mkdocs.yml configuration for MkDocs

- [tox.ini] configuration for Tox
- .banditrc.yml configuration for bandit
- .pylintrc configuration for Pylint

#### 8.1.2 Installing fpdf2 from a local git repository

```
pip install --editable $path/to/fpdf/repo
```

This will link the installed Python package to the repository location, basically meaning any changes to the code package will get reflected directly in your environment.

#### 8.1.3 Code auto-formatting

We use black as a code prettifier. This "uncomprimising Python code formatter" must be installed in your development environment in order to auto-format source code before any commit:

```
pip install black
black . # inside fpdf2 root directory
```

#### 8.1.4 Linting

We use pylint as a static code analyzer to detect potential issues in the code.

In case of special "false positive" cases, checks can be disabled locally with #pylint disable=XXX code comments, or globally through the .pylintrc file.

#### 8.1.5 Pre-commit hook

This project uses git pre-commit hooks: https://pre-commit.com

Those hooks are configured in  $\ensuremath{\texttt{.pre-commit-config.yaml}}$  .

They are intended to abort your commit if pylint found issues or black detected non-properly formatted code. In the later case though, it will auto-format your code and you will just have to run git commit -a again.

To install pre-commit hooks on your computer, run:

```
pip install pre-commit
pre-commit install
```

### 8.1.6 Testing

#### **Running tests**

 $To \ run \ tests, \ cd \ into \ \textit{fpdf2 repository}, \ install \ the \ dependencies \ using \ \textit{pip install -r test/requirements.txt}, \ and \ run \ \textit{pytest.}$ 

You can run a single test by executing:  $pytest -k function_name$ .

Alternatively, you can use Tox. It is self-documented in the tox.ini file in the repository. To run tests for all versions of Python, simply run tox. If you do not want to run tests for all versions of python, run tox -e py39 (or your version of Python).

#### Why is a test failing?

If there are some failing tests after you made a code change, it is usually because **there are difference between an expected PDF generated and the actual one produced**.

Calling pytest -vv will display **the difference of PDF source code** between the expected & actual files, but that may be difficult to understand,

You can also have a look at the PDF files involved by navigating to the temporary test directory that is printed out during the test failure:

```
tmp_path = PosixPath('/tmp/pytest-of-runner/pytest-0/test_html_simple_table0')
```

This directory contains the actual & expected files, that you can vsualize to spot differences:

```
$ ls /tmp/pytest-of-runner/pytest-0/test_html_simple_table0
actual.pdf
actual_qpdf.pdf
expected_qpdf.pdf
```

#### assert\_pdf\_equal & writing new tests

When a unit test generates a PDF, it is recommended to use the <code>assert\_pdf\_equal</code> utility function in order to validate the output. It relies on the very handy <code>qpdf</code> CLI program to generate a PDF that is easy to compare: annotated, strictly formatted, with uncompressed internal streams. You will need to have its binary in your <code>\$PATH</code>, otherwise <code>assert\_pdf\_equal</code> will fall back to hash-based comparison.

All generated PDF files (including those processed by qpdf) will be stored

in  $/ tmp/pytest-of-USERNAME/pytest-current/NAME_OF_TEST/$ . By default, three last test runs will be saved and then automatically deleted, so you can check the output in case of a failed test.

In order to generate a "reference" PDF file, simply call assert\_pdf\_equal once with generate=True.

#### 8.1.7 Testing performances

#### Code speed & profiling

First, try to write a really **MINIMAL** Python script that focus strictly on the performance point you are investigating. Try to choose the input dataset so that the script execution time is between 1 and 15 seconds.

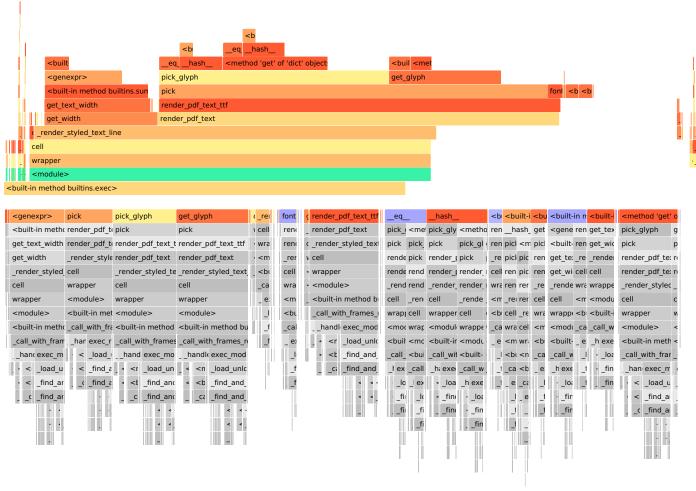
Then, you can use crrofile to profile your code and produce a .pstats file:

```
python -m cProfile -o profile.pstats script.py
```

Finally, you can quickly convert this .pstats file into a SVG flamegraph using flameprof:

```
pip install flameprof
flameprof profile.pstats > script-flamegraph.svg
```

You will get something like this:



Source GitHub thread where this was produced: issue #907

#### Tracking memory usage

A good way to track memory usage is to insert calls to <code>fpdf.util.print\_mem\_usage()</code> in the code you are investigating. This function will display the current process resident set size (RSS) which is currently, to the maintainer knowledge, one of the best way to get an accurate measure of Python scripts memory usage.

There is an example of using this function to track fpdf2 memory usage in this issue comment: issue #641. This thread also includes some tests of other libs & tools to track memory usage.

### Non-regression performance tests

We try to have a small number of unit tests that ensure that the library performances do not degrade over time, when refactoring are made and new features added.

We have 2 test decorators to help with this: \* @ensure\_exec\_time\_below \* @ensure\_rss\_memory\_below

As of fpdf2 v2.7.6, we only keep 3 non-regression performance tests: \* test\_intense\_image\_rendering() in test\_perfs.py \* test charmap first 999 chars() in test charmap.py \* test cell speed with long text() in test cell.py

### 8.1.8 GitHub pipeline

A GitHub Actions pipeline is executed on every commit on the master branch, and for every Pull Request.

It performs all validation steps detailed above: code checking with <code>black</code>, static code analysis with <code>pylint</code>, unit tests... <code>Pull Requests</code> submitted must pass all those checks in order to be approved. Ask maintainers through comments if some errors in the pipeline seem obscure to you.

#### Release checklist

- 1. complete CHANGELOG.md and add the version & date of the new release
- 2. bump FPDF\_VERSION in fpdf/fpdf.py. Also (optionnal, once every year), update contributors/contributors-map-small.png based on https://py-pdf.github.io/fpdf2/contributors.html
- 3. git commit & git push
- 4. check that the GitHub Actions succeed, and that a new release appears on Pypi
- 5. perform a GitHub release, taking the description from the CHANGELOG.md. It will create a new git tag.
- 6. Announce the release on r/pythonnews, and add an announcement to the documentation website: docs/overrides/main.html

#### 8.1.9 Documentation

The standalone documentation is in the docs subfolder, written in Markdown. Building instructions are contained in the configuration file mkdocs.yml and also in .github/workflows/continuous-integration-workflow.yml.

Additional documentation is generated from inline comments, and is available in the project home page.

After being committed to the master branch, code documentation is automatically uploaded to GitHub Pages.

There is a useful one-page example Python module with docstrings illustrating how to document code: pdoc3 example pkg.

To preview the Markdown documentation, launch a local rendering server with:

mkdocs serve

To preview the API documentation, launch a local rendering server with:

```
pdoc --html -o public/ fpdf --http :
```

#### 8.1.10 PDF spec & new features

The PDF 1.7 spec is available on Adobe website: PDF32000\_2008.pdf.

It may be intimidating at first, but while technical, it is usually quite clear and understandable.

It is also a great place to look for new features for fpdf2: there are still many PDF features that this library does not support.

### 8.1.11 Useful tools to manipulate PDFs

#### qpdf

qpdf is a very powerful tool to analyze PDF documents.

One of it most useful features is the QDF mode that can convert any PDF file to a human-readable, decompressed & annotated new PDF document:

```
qpdf --qdf doc.pdf doc-qdf.pdf
```

This is extremely useful to peek into the PDF document structure.

#### set\_pdf\_xref.py

set\_pdf\_xref.py is a small Python script that can **rebuild a PDF xref table**.

This is very useful, as a PDF with an invalid xref cannot be opened. An xref table is basically an index of the document internal sections. When manually modifying a PDF file (for example one produced by qpdf --qdf), if the characters count in any of its sections changes, the xref table must be rebuilt.

With  $set_pdf_xref.py doc.pdf$  --inplace, you can change some values inside any PDF file, and then quickly make it valid again to be viewed in a PDF viewer.

## 8.2 Logging

fpdf.FPDF generates useful DEBUG logs on generated sections sizes when calling the output() method., that can help to identify what part of a PDF takes most space (fonts, images, pages...).

Here is an example of setup code to display them:

Example output using the Tutorial first code snippet:

```
19:25:24 fpdf.output [DEBUG] Final size summary of the biggest document sections:
19:25:24 fpdf.output [DEBUG] - pages: 223.0B
19:25:24 fpdf.output [DEBUG] - fonts: 102.0B
```

#### 8.2.1 fonttools verbose logs

Since fpdf2 v2.5.7, verbose INFO logs are generated by fonttools, a library we use to parse font files:

```
fontTools.subset [INFO] maxp pruned
fontTools.subset [INFO] cmap pruned
fontTools.subset [INFO] post pruned
fontTools.subset [INFO] EBDT dropped
fontTools.subset [INFO] EBLC dropped
fontTools.subset [INFO] GDEF dropped
fontTools.subset [INFO] GPOS dropped
fontTools.subset [INFO] GSUB dropped
fontTools.subset [INFO] DSIG dropped fontTools.subset [INFO] name pruned
fontTools.subset [INFO] glyf pruned
fontTools.subset [INFO] Added gid0 to subset
fontTools.subset [INFO] Added first four glyphs to subset
fontTools.subset [INFO] Added first four glyphs to subset fontTools.subset [INFO] Closing glyph list over 'glyf': 25 glyphs before fontTools.subset [INFO] Glyph names: ['.notdef', 'b', 'braceleft', 'braceright', 'd', 'e', 'eight', 'five', 'four', 'glyph1', 'glyph2', 'h', 'l', 'n', 'nine', 'o', 'one', 'r', 'seven', 'six', 'space', 'three', 'two', 'w', 'zero'] fontTools.subset [INFO] Glyph IDs: [0, 1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 69, 71, 72, 75, 79, 81, 82, 85, 90, 94, 96] fontTools.subset [INFO] Closed glyph list over 'glyf': 25 glyphs after fontTools.subset [INFO] Glyph names: ['.notdef', 'b', 'braceleft', 'braceright', 'd', 'e', 'eight', 'five', 'four', 'glyph1', 'glyph2', 'h', 'l', 'n', 'nine', 'o', 'one', 'r', 'seven', 'six', 'space', 'three', 'two', 'w', 'zero'] fontTools.subset [INFO] Glyph IDs: [0, 1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 69, 71, 72, 75, 79, 81, 82, 85, 90, 94, 96] fontTools.subset [INFO] Bytaining 25 glyphs
fontTools.subset [INFO] Retaining 25 glyphs
fontTools.subset [INFO] head subsetting not needed
fontTools.subset [INFO] hhea subsetting not needed
fontTools.subset [INFO] maxp subsetting not needed fontTools.subset [INFO] OS/2 subsetting not needed
fontTools.subset [INFO] hmtx subsetted
fontTools.subset [INFO] cmap subsetted fontTools.subset [INFO] fpgm subsetting not needed
fontTools.subset [INFO] prep subsetting not needed
fontTools.subset [INFO] post subsetted
fontTools.subset [INFO] name subsetting not needed
fontTools.subset [INFO] glyf subsetted
fontTools.subset [INFO] head pruned
fontTools.subset [INFO] OS/2 Unicode ranges pruned: [0]
fontTools.subset [INFO] glyf pruned
```

You can easily suppress those logs with this single line of code:

```
logging.getLogger('fontTools.subset').level = logging.WARN
```

Similarly, you can omit verbose logs from fontTools.ttLib.ttFont:

```
logging.getLogger('fontTools.ttLib.ttFont').level = logging.WARN
```

# 9. History

This project, fpdf2 is a *fork* of the PyFPDF project, which can still be found on GitHub at reingart/pyfpdf, but has been totally inactive since January 2018, and has not seen any new release since 2015.

About the original PyfPDF lib:

This project started as a Python fork of the FPDF PHP library, ported to Python by Max Pat in 2006: http://www.fpdf.org/dl.php? id=94. Later, code for native reading TTF fonts was added. The project aim is to keep the library up to date, to fulfill the goals of its original roadmap and provide a general overhaul of the codebase to address technical debt keeping features from being added and bugs to be eradicated. Until 2015 the code was developed at Google Code: you can still access the old issues, and old wiki.

# 9.1 How fpdf2 came to be

During the spring of 2016, David Ankin (@alexanderankin) started a fork of PyFPDF, and added the first commit of what became fpdf2: bd608e4. On May of 2017, the first release of fpdf2 was published on Pypi: v2.0.0.

On 2020, the first PRs were merged from external contributors. At the end of the year, Lucas Cimon (@Lucas-C) started contributing several improvements, in order to use fpdf2 for his Undying Dusk project. Version 2.1.0 was released and on 2021/01/10 fpdf2 was moved to a dedicated Pyfpdf GitHub organization, and @Lucas-C became another maintainer of the project.

On 2023/08/04, fpdf2 moved to the py-pdf organization: https://github.com/py-pdf/fpdf2. The context for this move can be found there: https://github.com/py-pdf/fpdf2/discussions/752. On this date, the PyFPDF GitHub organization has been **archived**. The same month, Georg Mischler (@gmischler) and Anderson Herzogenrath da Costa (@andersonhc) joined the project as new maintainers.

# 9.2 Compatibility between PyFPDF & fpdf2

fpdf2 aims to be fully compatible with PyFPDF code.

The notable exceptions are:

- for the cell() method, the default value of h has changed. It used to be 0 and is now set to the current value of FPDF.font size
- the font caching mechanism, that used the pickle module, has been **removed**, for security reasons, and because it provided little performance gain, and only for specific use cases *cf.* issue #345.
- Template elements now have a transparent background by default, instead of white

Some features are also deprecated. As of version 2.7.5 they still work but generate a warning when used:

- A FPDF.rotate() can produce malformed PDFs: use FPDF.rotation() instead
- $\bullet \ \ FPDF.set\_doc\_option() : simply \ set \ the \ \ .core\_fonts\_encoding \ property \ as \ a \ replacement \\$
- FPDF.dashed line(): use FPDF.set dash pattern() and the normal drawing operations instead
- the font\_cache\_dir parameter of FPDF() constructor, that is currently ignored
- the uni parameter of FPDF.add\_font(), that is currently ignored: if the value of the fname argument passed to add\_font() ends with .ttf, it is considered a TrueType font
- the type parameter of FPDF.image(), that is currently ignored
- the dest parameter of FPDF.output(), that is currently ignored
- the 1n parameter of FPDF.multi cell(): use new\_x= & new\_y= instead
- $\bullet \ the \ \ split\_only \ \ parameter \ of \ FPDF.multi\_cell(): \ use \ \ dry\_run=True \ \ and \ \ output="LINES" \ instead \ \ output="LINES" \ instead \ \ output="LINES" \ \ \ output="LINES" \ \ \ output="LINES" \ output="LINES" \ \ output="LINES"$
- the HTMLMixin class: you can now directly use the FPDF.write\_html() method
- the infile parametyer of Template() constructor, that is currently ignored
- the parameters x/y/w/h of code39 elements provided to the Template system: please use x1/y1/y2/size instead
- the dest parameter of Template.render(), that is currently ignored

Note that DeprecationWarning messages are not displayed by Python by default. To get warned about deprecated features used in your code, you must execute your scripts with the -Wd option (cf. documentation), or enable them programmatically with warnings.simplefilter('default', DeprecationWarning).

# 10. FAQ

See Project Home for an overall introduction.

- FAQ
- What is fpdf2?
- What is this library not?
- How does this library compare to ...?
- What does the code look like?
- Does this library have any framework integration?
- What is the development status of this library?
- What is the license of this library (fpdf2)?

# 10.1 What is fpdf2?

fpdf2 is a library with low-level primitives to easily generate PDF documents.

This is similar to ReportLab's graphics canvas, but with some methods to output "fluid" cells ("flowables" that can span multiple rows, pages, tables, columns, etc).

It has methods ("hooks") that can be implemented in a subclass: headers and footers.

Originally developed in PHP several years ago (as a free alternative to proprietary C libraries), it has been ported to many programming languages, including ASP, C++, Java, Pl/SQL, Ruby, Visual Basic, and of course, Python.

For more information see: http://www.fpdf.org/en/links.php

## 10.2 What is this library not?

This library is not a:

- $\bullet \ charts \ or \ widgets \ library. \ But \ you \ can \ import \ PNG \ or \ JPG \ images, \ use \ PIL \ or \ any \ other \ library, \ or \ draw \ the \ figures \ yourself.$
- $\bullet \ \hbox{"flexible page layout engine" like Reportlab PLATYPUS. But it can do columns, chapters, etc.; see the Tutorial.}$
- XML or object definition language like Geraldo Reports, Jasper Reports, or similar. But look at write\_html for simple HTML reports and Templates for fill-in-the-blank documents.
- PDF text extractor, converter, splitter or similar.

## 10.3 How does this library compare to ...?

The API is geared toward giving the user access to features of the Portable Document Format as they are described in the Adobe PDF Reference Manual, this bypasses needless complexities for simpler use cases.

It is small:

```
$ du -sh fpdf
1,6M fpdf

$ scc fpdf

Language Files Lines Blanks Comments Code Complexity
Python 21 16879 480 571 15828 462
```

It includes <code>cell()</code> and <code>multi\_cell()</code> primitives to draw fluid document like invoices, listings and reports, and includes basic support for HTML rendering.

Compared to other solutions, this library should be easier to use and adapt for most common documents (no need to use a page layout engine, style sheets, templates, or stories...), with full control over the generated PDF document (including advanced features and extensions).

Check also the list of features on the home page.

#### 10.4 What does the code look like?

Following is an example similar to the Reportlab one in the book of web2py. Note the simplified import and usage: (http://www.web2py.com/book/default/chapter/09?search=pdf#ReportLab-and-PDF)

#### With Reportlab:

```
from reportlab.platypus import *
from reportlab.lib.styles import getSampleStyleSheet
from reportlab.rl_config import defaultPageSize
from reportlab.lib.units import inch, mm
from reportlab.lib.enums import TA_LEFT, TA_RIGHT, TA_CENTER, TA_JUSTIFY
from reportlab.lib import colors
from uuid import uuid4
from cgi import escape
import os
def get_me_a_pdf():
    title = "This The Doc Title'
    heading = "First Paragraph"
text = 'bla ' * 10000
    styles = getSampleStyleSheet()
    tmpfilename = os.path.join(request.folder, 'private', str(uuid4()))
    doc = SimpleDocTemplate(tmpfilename)
    story.append(Paragraph(escape(title), styles["Title"]))
    story.append(Paragraph(escape(heading), styles["Heading2"]))
    \verb|story.append(Paragraph(escape(text), styles["Normal"]))|\\
    story.append(Spacer(1, 2 * inch))
    doc.build(story)
    data = open(tmpfilename, "rb").read()
    response.headers['Content-Type'] = 'application/pdf'
    return data
```

## 10.5 Does this library have any framework integration?

Yes, if you use web2py, you can make simple HTML reports that can be viewed in a browser, or downloaded as PDF.

Also, using web2py DAL, you can easily set up a templating engine for PDF documents.

Look at Web2Py for examples.

# 10.6 What is the development status of this library?

This library was improved over the years since the initial port from PHP. As of 2021, it is **stable** and actively maintained, with bug fixes and new features developed regularly.

In contrast, write\_html support is not complete, so it must be considered in beta state.

# 10.7 What is the license of this library (fpdf2)?

LGPL v3.0.

Original FPDF uses a permissive license: http://www.fpdf.org/en/FAQ.php#q1

"FPDF is released under a permissive license: there is no usage restriction. You may embed it freely in your application (commercial or not), with or without modifications."

FPDF version 1.6's license.txt says: http://www.fpdf.org/es/dl.php?v=16&f=zip

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this software to use, copy, modify, distribute, sublicense, and/or sell copies of the software, and to permit persons to whom the software is furnished to do so.

THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED.

The original fpdf.py library was a revision of a port by Max Pat. The original source uses the same licence: http://www.fpdf.org/dl.php?id=94

```
# * Software: FPDF
# * Version: 1.53
# * Date: 2004-12-31
# * Author: Olivier PLATHEY
# * License: Freeware
# *
# * You may use and modify this software as you wish.
# * Ported to Python 2.4 by Max (maxpat78@yahoo.it) on 2006-05
```

To avoid ambiguity (and to be compatible with other free software, open source licenses), LGPL was chosen for the Google Code project (as freeware isn't listed).

Some FPDF ports had chosen similar licences (wxWindows Licence for C++ port, MIT licence for Java port, etc.): http://www.fpdf.org/en/links.php

Other FPDF derivatives also choose LGPL, such as sFPDF by Ian Back.