



Search projects



[Help](#)

[Sponsors](#)

[Log in](#)

[Register](#)

highlight-text 0.2



Latest version

`pip install highlight-text` 


Released: Apr 7, 2021

matplotlib functions to plot text with color highlighted substrings

Navigation

 [Project description](#)

 [Release history](#)

 [Download files](#)

Project links

 [Homepage](#)

Statistics

GitHub statistics:

★ [Stars: 76](#)

 [Forks: 3](#)

Project description



HighlightText

The purpose of this package is to make effective annotations easier in matplotlib.

In 2020 data journalism has played a vital role in communicating to the public. There are now many publications that routinely use various forms of colored text highlights of key information in the title, that until then has often been shown in legends.

The HighlightText package provides a natural way to specify substrings that should be highlighted and individual font properties that should be used for each of the highlights.

That means using different colors, shading backgrounds with bboxes, using path_effects or different fontsize, weights, or styles are all possible and you are free to choose what best supports highlighting the key information you want your viewers to know.

! Open
issues/PRs: 1

View statistics for this project via [Libraries.io](#), or by using our public dataset on Google BigQuery

Meta

License: MIT License

Author: [znstrider](#)

Requires: Python
>=3.6

Maintainers



[Avatar](#)
for
[znstrider](#)
from
[gravatar.com](#)

Classifiers

Framework

- [Matplotlib](#)

License

- [OSI Approved :: MIT License](#)

Operating System

- [OS Independent](#)

Programming

Language

- [Python :: 3](#)

Topic

- [Scientific/Engineering :: Visualization](#)

Installation

```
pip install highlight-text
```

Note

The newest version breaks with the prior syntax of individually specifying `highlight_colors` and other params for eg. `bboxes` and `path_effects`.

You can now provide any `matplotlib.text.Text` keyword arguments for any of the highlighted substrings into the `highlight_textprops` parameter.

You can familiarize yourself with the new syntax and the possibilities this provides by having a look at the examples below.

Use

This package provides a `HighlightText` class and two wrapper functions that allow you to plot text with `<highlighted substrings>` in matplotlib:

- `ax_text` for plotting onto an axes in data coordinates.
- `fig_text` for plotting onto the figure in figure coordinates.

They take a string with substring delimiters = `['<', '>']` to be highlighted according to the specified `highlight_textprops`. You can provide other delimiters if necessary.

You must specify a list with the same number of textprop dictionaries as you use `<highlighted substrings>`.

The example below prints the text `sunny` as yellow and `cloudy` as grey.

A minimal example would be:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from highlight_text import HighlightText, ax_text, fig_
# or
import highlight_text # then use highlight_text.ax_text
```



Capital One is a
Maintaining
sponsor of the
Python Software
Foundation.

PSF Sponsor · Served
ethically

Plotting text in axes coordinates

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

# You can either create a HighlightText object
HighlightText(x=0.25, y=0.5,
              s='The weather is <sunny>\nYesterday it was <cloudy>',
              highlight_textprops=[{"color": 'yellow'},
                                   {"color": 'grey'}],
              ax=ax)


# You can use the wrapper around the class
ax_text(x = 0, y = 0.5,
        s='The weather is <sunny>\nYesterday it was <cloudy>',
        highlight_textprops=[{"color": 'yellow'},
                              {"color": 'grey'}],
        ax=ax)
```

Plotting text in figure coordinates:

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()

# either pass 'boxcoords': fig.transFigure into the annotationbbox_kw
HighlightText(x=0.25, y=0.5,
              s='The weather is <sunny>\nYesterday it was <cloudy>',
              highlight_textprops=[{"color": 'yellow'},
                                   {"color": 'grey'}],
              annotationbbox_kw={'boxcoords': fig.transFigure})

# or use the wrapper around the class
fig_text(x=0.25, y=0.5,
         s='The weather is <sunny>\nYesterday it was <cloudy>',
         highlight_textprops=[{"color": 'yellow'},
                              {"color": 'grey'}])
```

 Example1

Further Examples


- 1) Showcase Use: Color Encoded Title - @petermckeever
 - 2) Using Path Effects
 - 3) Using BBox Highlights
 - 4) Using Different Fontsizes
 - 5) Showcase Use: DerSpiegel
 - 6) Custom Linespacing
 - 7) Showcase Use (Axes Insets): Financial Times
 - 8) Axes Inset
 - 9) AnnotationBBox
 - 10) Arrowprops
-

You can pass all matplotlib.Text keywords to HighlightText for all text, and into the highlight_textprops for each of the text highlights. The highlight_textprops overwrite all other passed keywords for the highlighted substrings.

A showcase use is provided in [this notebook](#)

Source:

<https://twitter.com/petermckeever/status/1346075580782047233>

ColorEncodingExample

Using Path Effects

```
import matplotlib.patheffects as path_effects

def path_effect_stroke(**kwargs):
    return [path_effects.Stroke(**kwargs), path_effects.Normal]

pe = path_effect_stroke(linewidth=3, foreground="orange")

highlight_textprops = \
[{"color": "yellow", "path_effects": pe},
 {"color": "#969696", "fontstyle": "italic", "fontweight": "bold"}]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(4, 4))

HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
              fontsize=16,
              ha='center', va='center',
              s='The weather is <sunny>\nYesterday it was sunny',
              highlight_textprops=highlight_textprops,
              ax=ax)
```

Example 2

BBox highlights

Just like colored substrings or using a `path_effect`, using a `bbox` to shade the background of relevant text that is color coded in your plot can make a visualization much more accessible.

```
highlight_textprops = \
[{"bbox": {"edgecolor": "orange", "facecolor": "yellow",
          {"color": "#969696"}]}

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(4, 4))

HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
              fontsize=16,
              ha='center', va='center',
              s='The weather is <sunny>\nYesterday it v
              highlight_textprops=highlight_textprops,
              ax=ax)
```

Example 3

Different Fontsizes (ie. for Title + Subtitle)

```
highlight_textprops = \
[{"fontsize": 24},
 {"color": "#969696"}]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(4, 4))

HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
              fontsize=16,
              ha='center', va='center',
              s='<This is a title.>\n<and a subtitle>',
              highlight_textprops=highlight_textprops,
              fontname='Roboto',
              ax=ax)
```

Example 5

This example taken from german news publication "Der Spiegel" uses bbox highlights and a different fontsize for title and subtitle.

The code is provided in [this notebook](#)

Source of the Graphic:

https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/coronavirus-in-europa-die-zweite-welle-rollet-a-1d5b12a1-162d-48a3-8e1e-40235c996080?sara_ecid=soci_upd_wbMbjhOSvWiISjc8RPU89NcCvtlFcJ

Title BBox Example

Original Graphic:

Original Spiegel Graphic

Text Alignment and separation between lines

```
highlight_textprops = \
[{"fontsize": 12, 'color': '0.4'},
 {"fontsize": 24, "weight": "bold"},
 {"fontsize": 14, "color": "0.3"}]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 2))
ax.axis('off')

HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
              ha='center', va='center', # alignment of
              s='<In 2021>\n'
               '<Manchester City dominates>\n'
               '<With a series of 11 straight wins City'
              highlight_textprops=highlight_textprops,
              textalign='center', # horizontal alignment
              vsep=12, # vertical separation between lines
              ax=ax)
```

Example 8

Custom Linespacing by using invisible text with a fitting fontsize


```

highlight_textprops =\
[{"fontsize": 24},
 {"alpha": 0, "fontsize": 6},
 {"color": "#969696"}]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(4, 4))

HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
              fontsize=16,
              ha='center', va='center',
              s='<This is a title.>\n<ZERO ALPHA TEXT>',
              highlight_textprops=highlight_textprops,
              fontname='Roboto',
              ax=ax)

```

 Example 6

Axes insets on top of highlighted substrings

This is great for embedding legends into your title or markers into annotations.

Look at some of John Burn-Murdoch's (@jburnmurdoch) Plots. He has mastered this.

An Example is provided in [this notebook](#)

Source:

<https://twitter.com/jburnmurdoch/status/1319277057650556936/photo/1>

 Financial-Times Example

A more basic example looks like follows:

Instead of plotting on the inset axes you can also inset images with this.

```

highlight_textprops =\
[{"alpha": 0},
 {"alpha": 0}]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(4, 4))

ht = HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
                  fontsize=16,
                  ha='center', va='center',
                  s='Today it rained this much <SPACE>\n'
                    'Yesterday only this much <SPACE>',

```

```

        highlight_textprops=highlight_textprops,
        ax=ax)

insets = ht.make_highlight_insets([True, True])
for haxes, color, height in zip(ht.highlight_axes, ['b', 'r']):
    if haxes:
        haxes.bar(x=[0.25], height=[height], bottom=0.2)
        haxes.set_ylim(0, 1)
        haxes.set_xlim(0, 1)

```

Important:

If you make an axes inset using a script, you will have to redraw the canvas!

So at the end of your plotting call:

```

fig.canvas.draw()
plt.show()

```

 Example 4

AnnotationBbox BBox


We can also place a Bounding Box around the whole AnnotationBbox that holds all of our text by setting 'frameon': True within the annotationbbox_kw dictionary.

```

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(4, 2))

ht = HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
                  fontsize=12,
                  ha='center', va='center',
                  s='<Grocery List:>\nBananas\nOatmeal',
                  highlight_textprops=[{'size': 20}],
                  annotationbbox_kw={'frameon': True, 'pad': 10,
                                     'bboxprops': {'facecolor': 'yellow', 'edgecolor': 'black', 'linewidth': 2}},
                  ax=ax)

```

 Example 7

Arrowprops

The AnnotationBbox that holds our texts takes a `xybox` keyword argument that you can input to `annotationbbox_kw`. In combination with `arrowprops` this allows us to draw an arrow from `xybox` to the annotation point given by `(x, y)`.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(4, 3))

ht = HighlightText(x=0.5, y=0.5,
                  fontsize=12,
                  ha='center', va='center',
                  s='<Annotation Title:>\nPoint 1\nPoint 2',
                  highlight_textprops=[{'size': 20}],
                  annotationbbox_kw={'frameon': True,
                                    'arrowprops': dict(
                                        'xybox': (3, 0.5),
                                    )},
                  ax=ax)




ax.set_xlim(0, 3)
```

Example 9




```
"""
Args:
    x (float): x-position
    y (float): y-position
    s (str): textstring with <highlights>
    ha (str, optional): horizontal alignment of the Annotation
    va (str, optional): vertical alignment of the Annotation
    highlight_textprops (List[dict], optional): list of text
    textalign (str, optional): Text Alignment for the Annotation
    delim (tuple, optional): characters that enclose <highlights>
    annotationbbox_kw (dict, optional): AnnotationBbox keyword
    ax (Axes, optional): Defaults to None.
    fig (Figure, optional): Defaults to None.
    add_artist (bool, optional): Whether to add the Annotation to
    vpad (int, optional): vertical padding of the HighlightText
    vsep (int, optional): vertical separation between the rows
    hpad (int, optional): horizontal padding of a row
    hsep (int, optional): horizontal separation between the rows
"""
```






Help

[Installing packages](#) 
[Uploading packages](#) 
[User guide](#) 
[FAQs](#)



About PyPI

[PyPI on Twitter](#) 
[Infrastructure dashboard](#) 
[Package index name retention](#) 
[Our sponsors](#)

Contributing to PyPI


[Bugs and feedback](#)
[Contribute on GitHub](#) 
[Translate PyPI](#) 
[Development credits](#) 

Using PyPI


[Code of conduct](#) 
[Report security issue](#)
[Privacy policy](#) 
[Terms of use](#)


[Status: All Systems Operational](#) 


Developed and maintained by the Python community, for the Python community.
[Donate today!](#)

© 2022 Python Software Foundation 
[Site map](#)

[Switch to desktop version](#)

**AWS**
AWS
Cloud computing

**Datadog**
Datadog
Monitoring

**Facebook /
Instagram**
Facebook /
Instagram
PSF Sponsor

Fastly
CDN

Google
Object Storage and
Download Analytics

**Huawei**
PSF Sponsor

**Microsoft**
PSF Sponsor

**NVIDIA**
PSF Sponsor

Pingdom
Monitoring

Salesforce
PSF Sponsor

Sentry
Error logging

StatusPage
Status page