

Package ‘textshaping’

May 1, 2025

Title Bindings to the 'HarfBuzz' and 'Fribidi' Libraries for Text Shaping

Version 1.0.1

Description Provides access to the text shaping functionality in the 'HarfBuzz' library and the bidirectional algorithm in the 'Fribidi' library. 'textshaping' is a low-level utility package mainly for graphic devices that expands upon the font tool-set provided by the 'systemfonts' package.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL <https://github.com/r-lib/textshaping>

BugReports <https://github.com/r-lib/textshaping/issues>

Depends R (>= 3.2.0)

Imports lifecycle, stats, stringi, systemfonts (>= 1.1.0), utils

Suggests covr, grDevices, grid, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

LinkingTo cpp11 (>= 0.2.1), systemfonts (>= 1.0.0)

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/build/compilation-database true

Config/testthat/edition 3

Config/usethis/last-upkeep 2025-04-23

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

SystemRequirements freetype2, harfbuzz, fribidi

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Thomas Lin Pedersen [cre, aut] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5147-4711>),
Posit Software, PBC [cph, fnd] (ROR: <https://ror.org/03wc8by49>)

Maintainer Thomas Lin Pedersen <thomas.pedersen@posit.co>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-05-01 07:30:02 UTC

Contents

get_font_features	2
lorem_text	3
plot_shape	4
shape_text	5
text_width	8

Index	10
--------------	-----------

get_font_features	<i>Get available OpenType features in a font</i>
-------------------	--

Description

This is a simply functions that returns the available OpenType feature tags for one or more fonts. See [font_feature\(\)](#) for more information on how to use the different feature with a font.

Usage

```
get_font_features(
  family = "",
  italic = FALSE,
  bold = FALSE,
  path = NULL,
  index = 0
)
```

Arguments

family	The name of the font families to match
italic	logical indicating the font slant
bold	logical indicating whether the font weight
path, index	path an index of a font file to circumvent lookup based on family and style

Value

A list with an element for each of the input fonts containing the supported feature tags for that font.

Examples

```
# Select a random font on the system
sys_fonts <- systemfonts::system_fonts()
random_font <- sys_fonts$family[sample(nrow(sys_fonts), 1)]

# Get the features
get_font_features(random_font)
```

`lorem_text`*Get gibberish text in various scripts*

Description

Textshaping exists partly to allow all the various scripts that exists in the world to be used in R graphics. This function returns gibberish filler text (lorem ipsum text) in various scripts for testing purpose. Some of these are transliterations of the original lorem ipsum text while others are based an a distribution model.

Usage

```
lorem_text(  
  script = c("latin", "chinese", "arabic", "devanagari", "cyrillic", "kana", "hangul",  
            "greek", "hebrew", "armenian", "georgian"),  
  n = 1  
)  
  
lorem_bidi(  
  ltr = c("latin", "chinese", "devanagari", "cyrillic", "kana", "hangul", "greek",  
          "armenian", "georgian"),  
  rtl = c("arabic", "hebrew"),  
  ltr_prop = 0.9,  
  n = 1  
)
```

Arguments

<code>script</code>	A string giving the script to fetch gibberish for
<code>n</code>	The number of paragraphs to fetch. Each paragraph will be its own element in the returned character vector.
<code>ltr, rtl</code>	scripts to use for left-to-right and right-to-left text
<code>ltr_prop</code>	The approximate proportion of left-to-right text in the final string

Value

a character vector of length `n`

References

<https://generator.lorem-ipsum.info>

Examples

```
# Defaults to standard lorem ipsum
lorem_text()

# Get two paragraphs of hangul (Korean)
lorem_text("hangul", 2)

# Get gibberish bi-directional text
lorem_bidi()
```

plot_shape

Preview shaped text and the metrics for the text box

Description

This function allows you to preview the layout that `shape_text()` calculates. It is purely meant as a sanity check to make sure that the values calculated are sensible and shouldn't be used as a plotting function for rendering text on its own.

Usage

```
plot_shape(shape, id = 1)
```

Arguments

shape	The output of a call to <code>shape_text()</code>
id	The index of the text run to show in case shape contains multiples

Value

This function is called for its side effects

Examples

```
arab_text <- lorem_text("arabic", 2)
shape <- shape_text(
  arab_text,
  max_width = 5,
  indent = 0.2
)

try(
  plot_shape(shape)
)
```

shape_text	<i>Calculate glyph positions for strings</i>
------------	--

Description

Performs advanced text shaping of strings including font fallbacks, bidirectional script support, word wrapping and various character and paragraph level formatting settings.

Usage

```
shape_text(
  strings,
  id = NULL,
  family = "",
  italic = FALSE,
  weight = "normal",
  width = "undefined",
  features = font_feature(),
  size = 12,
  res = 72,
  lineheight = 1,
  align = "auto",
  hjust = 0,
  vjust = 0,
  max_width = NA,
  tracking = 0,
  indent = 0,
  hanging = 0,
  space_before = 0,
  space_after = 0,
  direction = "auto",
  path = NULL,
  index = 0,
  bold = deprecated()
)
```

Arguments

strings	A character vector of strings to shape
id	A vector grouping the strings together. If strings share an id the shaping will continue between strings
family	The name of the font families to match
italic	logical indicating the font slant
weight	The weight to query for, either in numbers (0, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, or 900) or strings ("undefined", "thin", "ultralight", "light", "normal", "medium", "semibold", "bold", "ultrabold", or "heavy"). NA will be interpreted as "undefined"/0

width	The width to query for either in numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9) or strings ("undefined", "ultracondensed", "extracondensed", "condensed", "semicondensed", "normal", "semiexpanded", "expanded", "extraexpanded", or "ultraexpanded"). NA will be interpreted as "undefined"/0
features	A <code>systemfonts::font_feature()</code> object or a list of them, giving the OpenType font features to set
size	The size in points to use for the font
res	The resolution to use when doing the shaping. Should optimally match the resolution used when rendering the glyphs.
lineheight	A multiplier for the lineheight
align	Within text box alignment, either 'auto', 'left', 'center', 'right', 'justified', 'justified-left', 'justified-right', 'justified-center', or 'distributed'. 'auto' and 'justified' will chose the left or right version depending on the direction of the text.
hjust, vjust	The justification of the textbox surrounding the text
max_width	The requested width of the string in inches. Setting this to something other than NA will turn on word wrapping.
tracking	Tracking of the glyphs (space adjustment) measured in 1/1000 em.
indent	The indent of the first line in a paragraph measured in inches.
hanging	The indent of the remaining lines in a paragraph measured in inches.
space_before, space_after	The spacing above and below a paragraph, measured in points
direction	The overall directional flow of the text. The default ("auto") will guess the direction based on the content of the string. Use "ltr" (left-to-right) and "rtl" (right-to-left) to turn detection of and set it manually.
path, index	path an index of a font file to circumvent lookup based on family and style
bold	logical indicating whether the font weight

Value

A list with two element: `shape` contains the position of each glyph, relative to the origin in the enclosing textbox. `metrics` contain metrics about the full strings.

`shape` is a `data.frame` with the following columns:

glyph The placement of the the first character contributing to the glyph within the string

index The index of the glyph in the font file

metric_id The index of the string the glyph is part of (referencing a row in the `metrics` `data.frame`)

string_id The index of the string the glyph came from (referencing an element in the `strings` input)

x_offset The x offset in pixels from the origin of the textbox

y_offset The y offset in pixels from the origin of the textbox

font_path The path to the font file used during shaping of the glyph

font_index The index of the font used to shape the glyph in the font file

font_size The size of the font used during shaping

advance The advancement amount to the next glyph

ascender The ascend of the font used for the glyph. This does not measure the actual glyph

descender The descend of the font used for the glyph. This does not measure the actual glyph

metrics is a data.frame with the following columns:

string The text the string consist of

width The width of the string

height The height of the string

left_bearing The distance from the left edge of the textbox and the leftmost glyph

right_bearing The distance from the right edge of the textbox and the rightmost glyph

top_bearing The distance from the top edge of the textbox and the topmost glyph

bottom_bearing The distance from the bottom edge of the textbox and the bottommost glyph

left_border The position of the leftmost edge of the textbox related to the origin

top_border The position of the topmost edge of the textbox related to the origin

pen_x The horizontal position of the next glyph after the string

pen_y The vertical position of the next glyph after the string

ltr The global direction of the string. If TRUE then it is left-to-right, otherwise it is right-to-left

Examples

```
string <- "This is a long string\nLook; It spans multiple lines\nand all"

# Shape with default settings
shape_text(string)

# Mix styles within the same string
string <- c(
  "This string will have\na ",
  "very large",
  " text style\nin the middle"
)

shape_text(string, id = c(1, 1, 1), size = c(12, 24, 12))
```

text_width

Calculate the width of a string, ignoring new-lines

Description

This is a very simple alternative to `systemfonts::shape_string()` that simply calculates the width of strings without taking any newline into account. As such it is suitable to calculate the width of words or lines that has already been splitted by `\n`. Input is recycled to the length of strings.

Usage

```
text_width(
  strings,
  family = "",
  italic = FALSE,
  weight = "normal",
  width = "undefined",
  features = font_feature(),
  size = 12,
  res = 72,
  include_bearing = TRUE,
  path = NULL,
  index = 0,
  bold = deprecated()
)
```

Arguments

strings	A character vector of strings
family	The name of the font families to match
italic	logical indicating the font slant
weight	The weight to query for, either in numbers (0, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, or 900) or strings ("undefined", "thin", "ultralight", "light", "normal", "medium", "semibold", "bold", "ultrabold", or "heavy"). NA will be interpreted as "undefined"/0
width	The width to query for either in numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9) or strings ("undefined", "ultracondensed", "extracondensed", "condensed", "semicondensed", "normal", "semiexpanded", "expanded", "extraexpanded", or "ultraexpanded"). NA will be interpreted as "undefined"/0
features	A <code>systemfonts::font_feature()</code> object or a list of them, giving the OpenType font features to set
size	The size in points to use for the font
res	The resolution to use when doing the shaping. Should optimally match the resolution used when rendering the glyphs.

<code>include_bearing</code>	Logical, should left and right bearing be included in the string width?
<code>path, index</code>	path an index of a font file to circumvent lookup based on family and style
<code>bold</code>	logical indicating whether the font weight

Value

A numeric vector giving the width of the strings in pixels. Use the provided `res` value to convert it into absolute values.

Examples

```
strings <- c('A short string', 'A very very looong string')
text_width(strings)
```

Index

`font_feature()`, 2

`get_font_features`, 2

`lorem_bidi (lorem_text)`, 3

`lorem_text`, 3

`plot_shape`, 4

`shape_text`, 5

`shape_text()`, 4

`systemfonts::font_feature()`, 6, 8

`systemfonts::shape_string()`, 8

`text_width`, 8