

Tools and methods to ease the development of scripts for making figures in PyMOL

Blaine H.M. Mooers

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, 975 NE 10th St., BRC 466, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

PyMOL provides exquisite control over the visualization of biological molecules. Default settings provide attractive output, but the need for customized output arises often. Scripts of PyMOL commands are effective for customizing complex figures. Favorite code chunks can be stored in snippet libraries to ease reuse. The editing of PyMOL scripts is further eased with syntax highlighting. We present PyMOL snippet libraries and syntax highlighters for several popular text editors. We write and edit quickly many commands in a single line on the command-line within a PyMOL. We reformat the viewport settings to fit on one line to ease the writing of horizontal scripts. We also use the alias function in PyMOL. This function maps custom representations to alias names two or three letters long. We use these features of text editors and PyMOL to speed up the making of customized figures.