

## Code-Text Styling Consistency

Brace yourselves, this might be a long one.

I'm going to address each point individually and then try to bring them together at the end. For each text category, I will outline the issue, commonly used design patterns, and lastly, my recommendations. I'll link to additional resources wherever possible. For some points, I may not have the full context, so feel free to add that information, and I can update my recommendations accordingly.

**Original Issue:** The issue is that text referring to code (for simplicity, I'll refer to this as code-text) is rendered in many different styles across a page.

Here are the text categories identified in the issue, grouped by location/proximity:

S.no	Category	Description	Example Pages / Links on PyData Sphinx Theme	Current Text Formatting	What are other documentation sites doing?			Recommendation / Discussion
					Read the docs	Furo	MDN Web Docs	
A.	Navigation Pane	This refers to the headings in the Section Navigation on the left side of the webpage.	<a href="#">Section Navigation</a>	Proportional	<a href="#">Monospaced</a>	<a href="#">Monospaced, with text highlight</a>	Monospaced	We should <b>switch to Monospace</b> . This is a recurring design pattern in other documentation themes and will help in clear identification of code-text.
B.	Table of Contents	Function signatures in ToC	<a href="#">Functions ToC</a>	Monospace, Proportional	<a href="#">Only has function name, not the parameters, Monospaced</a>	-	-	The <b>function name should be monospaced</b> . I am unsure whether parameters should be monospaced or proportional. <b>See Discussion point 1.</b>
C.	Title Heading	Main headings on documentation pages which contain code-text.	<a href="#">Title Heading</a>	Proportional	-	-	<a href="#">Proportional</a>	<b>See Discussion point 2.</b>
D.	Function Signature	Representation of function names and parameters.	<a href="#">Function Signature</a>	Monospace, bold, italic	<a href="#">Function name in monospace.</a>	<a href="#">Monospace, bold</a>	-	This code text is very busy visually. I'd recommend simplifying the text formatting and removing any

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					Read the docs	Furo	MDN Web Docs	
					<a href="#">bold</a> <a href="#">Parameter in proportional.</a> <a href="#">italics</a>			non-essential text styles (like italics). <b>Here's an example of a simplified function signature: <a href="#">Figma Design</a></b>
E.	Parameter names in descriptions	Descriptions of function parameters.	<a href="#">Parameter Descriptions</a>	Proportional, bold	<a href="#">Proportional.</a> <a href="#">bold</a>	<a href="#">Proportional.</a> <a href="#">bold</a>	<a href="#">Monospace with text highlight</a>	I am unsure whether parameters should be monospaced or proportional. <b>See Discussion point 1.</b>
F.	Parameter Type	Description of parameter data types	<a href="#">Parameter Type</a>	Proportional, italics	<a href="#">Proportional.</a> <a href="#">italic</a>	<a href="#">Proportional.</a> <a href="#">italic</a>	-	I am unsure whether parameters should be monospaced or proportional. <b>See Discussion point 3.</b>
G.	Function Source Link	Source link to the original function headers	<a href="#">Function Source Link</a>	Monospace, bold	<a href="#">Proportional</a>	<a href="#">Monospace</a>	-	Source link does not refer to code text, and should be treated as a normal link and should be proportional text.

**Discussion (This contains initial recommendations which may differ from the final recommendations)**

1. Should parameters be monospaced or proportional? Parameters are currently being styled differently for different locations. For consistency, we should ensure a similar text treatment. **My recommendation would be to use monospaced parameters**, to ensure clarity and consistency and make it easy for users to differentiate between code and regular text. Here are some references that echo this suggestion:
  - a. [Text formatting guidelines - Contributor guide | Microsoft Learn](#)
  - b. [Code in text - Make WordPress Documentation](#)
  - c. [Code in text | Google developer documentation style guide](#)

However, I feel that there might be an argument or context for using proportional fonts that I might not be familiar with, and that's why I want to discuss this with the team.

2. Title headings should ideally be proportional. I also found an article that explained why proportional fonts should be used for accessibility (but I lost the link to the article and I am trying to dig it up). However, this contradicts the fact that code-text should be monospaced for clear identification. My opinion is that code-text in headings should be monospaced, but normal text should be proportional. Example:
  - a. **Heading with normal and code-text:** This is a page about `math.h`
  - b. **Heading with just code-text:** `math.h`
3. My understanding about parameters data type (int, list, str) is that it is code text and hence should be monospaced. However, existing design patterns on other websites indicate that proportional, italicized text should be used instead.

```
this_is_the_class_name.subclass._method_name(pos_only, / ,  
parameter=default_value, one_more_parameter:str,  
another_parameter:Optional[float], small_param, sml_prm:Union[float, int],  
another_parameter=*value, a_really_really_long_parameter,  
another_parameter, another_parameter:bool = False, another_parameter=None,  
**kwargs) -> Type[Annotation]
```

Anything in single backticks is assumed styling