

How to Modify a Matplotlib Histogram Color (With Examples)

Authored by
stats writer

November 30, 2025

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2025). *How to Modify a Matplotlib Histogram Color (With Examples)*.
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=102102>

Matplotlib is a powerful library for creating data visualizations. To modify the color of a Matplotlib histogram, use the `.set()` method and the color argument. This can be done either by using a string to specify a named color or a 3-tuple to specify an RGB value. Examples of how to use this method are provided in the documentation to help you get started.

You can use the following basic syntax to modify the color of a histogram in Matplotlib:

```
plt.hist(data, color = "lightblue", ec="red")
```

where:

data: The name of the data to use for the histogram

color: The fill color for the bars in the histogram

ec: The edge color for the bars in the histogram

The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.

Example: Modifying a Matplotlib Histogram Color

Suppose we have the following list of values:

```
#define list of data
```

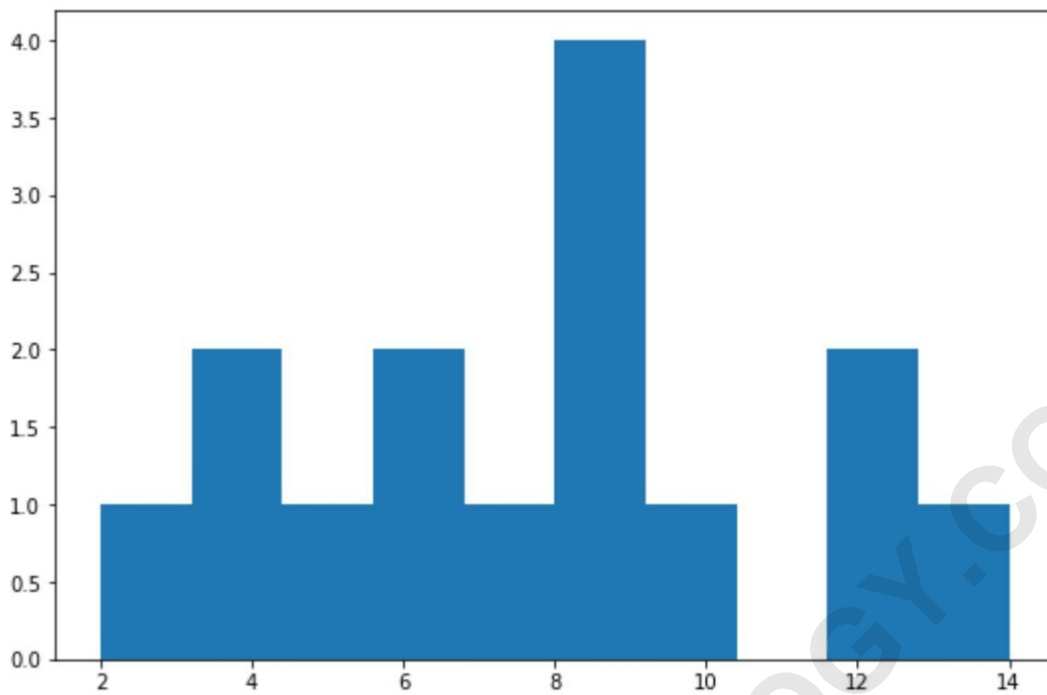
```
data =
```

We can use the following basic syntax to create a Matplotlib histogram to visualize the values in this dataset:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
#create histogram
```

```
plt.hist(data)
```



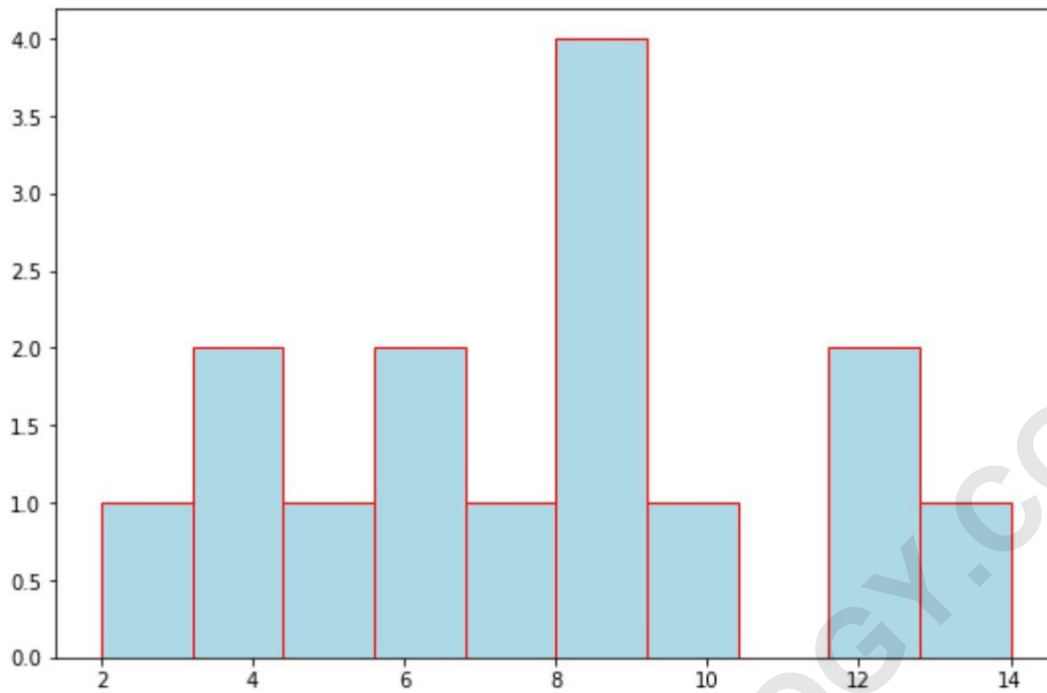
By default, Matplotlib creates a histogram with a dark blue fill color and no edge color.

However, we can use the following syntax to change the fill color to light blue and the edge color to red:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
#create histogram with light blue fill color and red edge color
```

```
plt.hist(data, color = "lightblue", ec="red")
```



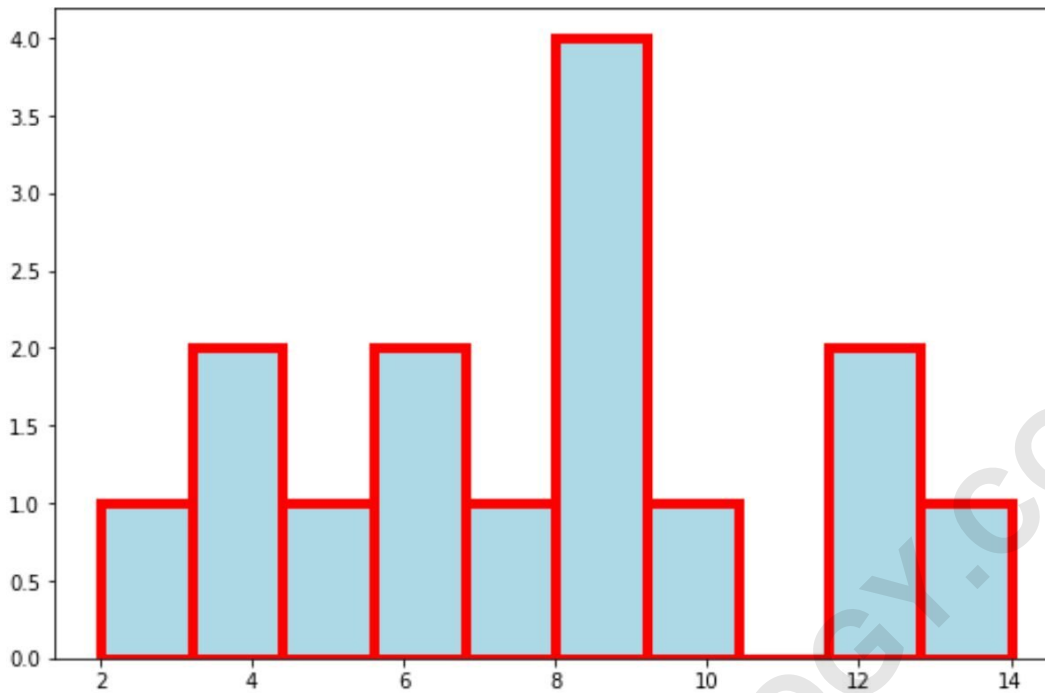
The new histogram has a light blue fill color and a red edge color.

You can also use the `lw` argument to modify the line width for the edges of the histogram:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
#create histogram
```

```
plt.hist(data, color = "lightblue", ec="red", lw=5)
```



The larger the value you use for **lw**, the thicker the edges on the bars will be.

Note: You can find the complete documentation for the Matplotlib **hist** function .

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common operations in Python: