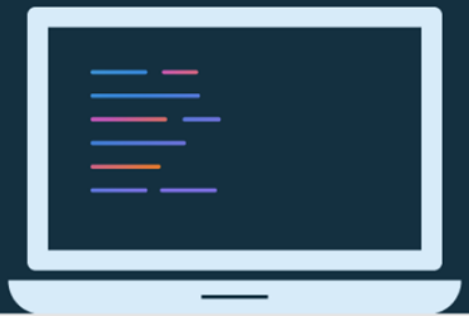
Lesson 5: Layouts



About this lesson

Lesson 5: Layouts

- Layouts in Android
- ConstraintLayout
- Additional topics for ConstraintLayout
- Data binding
- Summary

Layouts in Android

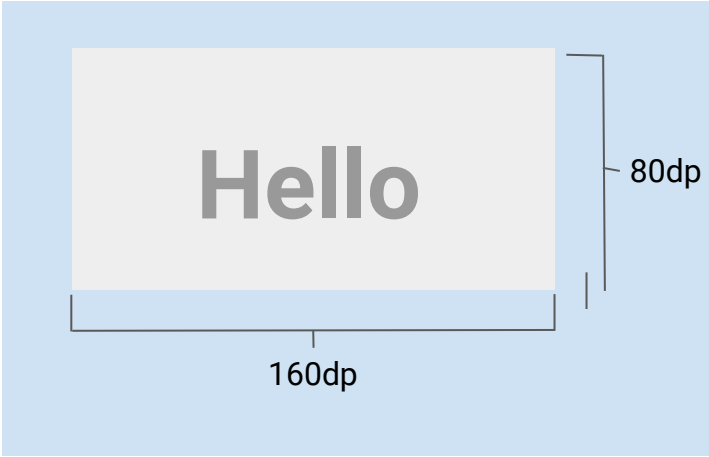
Android devices

- Android devices come in many different form factors.
- More and more pixels per inch are being packed into device screens.
- Developers need the ability to specify layout dimensions that are consistent across devices.

Density-independent pixels (dp)

Use dp when specifying sizes in your layout, such as the width or height of views.

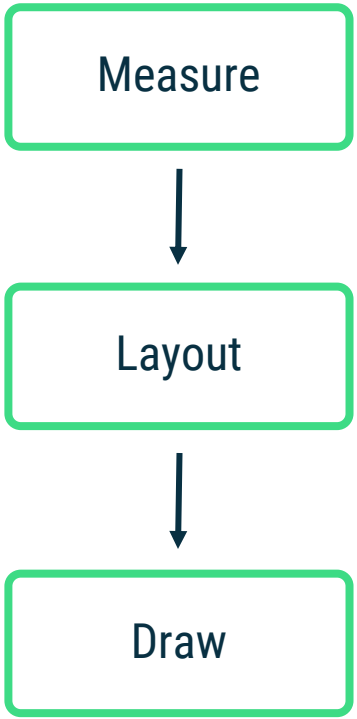
- Density-independent pixels (dp) take screen density into account.
- Android views are measured in density-independent pixels.
- dp = $\frac{\text{(width in pixels * 160)}}{\text{screen density}}$



Screen-density buckets

Density qualifier	Description	DPI estimate
ldpi (mostly unused)	Low density	~120dpi
mdpi (baseline density)	Medium density	~160dpi
hdpi	High density	~240dpi
xhdpi	Extra-high density	~320dpi
xxhdpi	Extra-extra-high density	~480dpi
xxxhdpi	Extra-extra-extra-high density	~640dpi

Android View rendering cycle



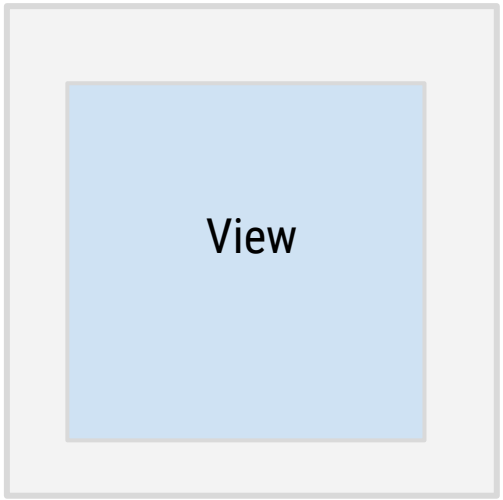
Drawing region

What we see:

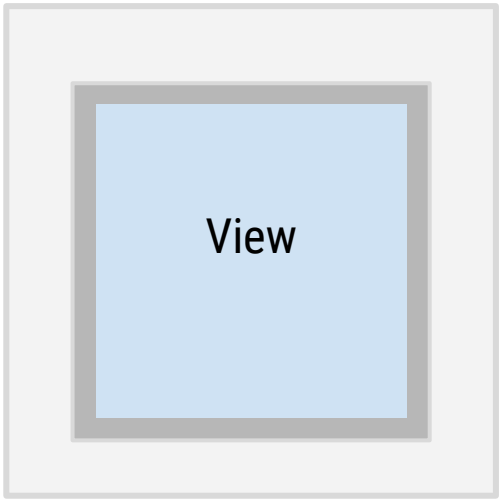
How it's drawn:

View margins and padding

View with margin



View with margin and padding



ConstraintLayout

Deeply nested layouts are costly

- Deeply nested ViewGroups require more computation
- Views may be measured multiple times
- Can cause UI slowdown and lack of responsiveness

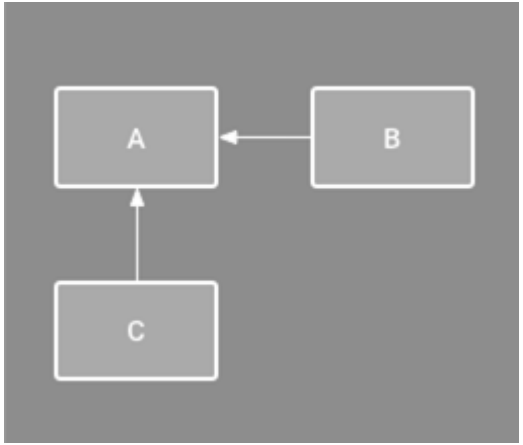
Use ConstraintLayout to avoid some of these issues!

What is ConstraintLayout?

- Recommended default layout for Android
- Solves costly issue of too many nested layouts, while allowing complex behavior
- Position and size views within it using a set of constraints

What is a constraint?

A restriction or limitation on the properties of a View that the layout attempts to respect



Relative positioning constraints

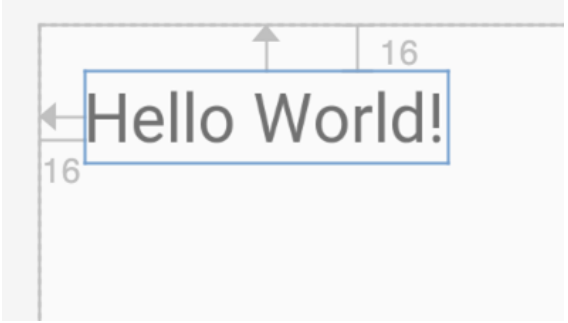
Can set up a constraint relative to the parent container

Format:

`layout_constraint<`**`SourceConstraint`**`>_to<`**`TargetConstraint`**`>Of`

Example attributes on a TextView:

```
app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent"
app:layout_constraintLeft_toLeftOf="parent"
```

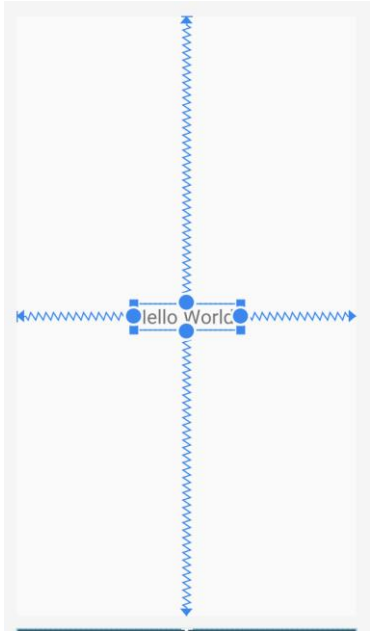


Relative positioning constraints

Relative positioning constraints

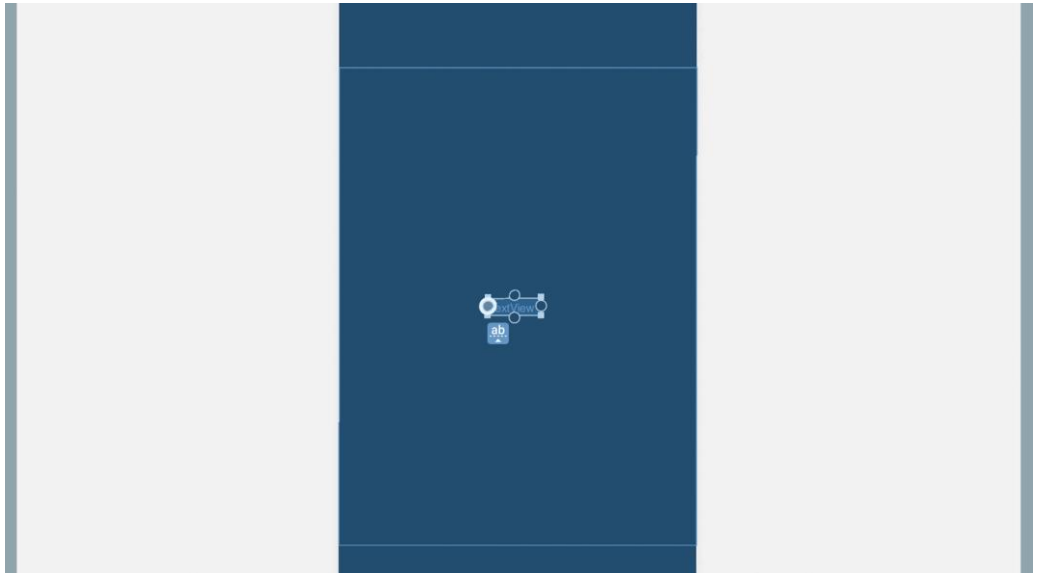
Simple ConstraintLayout example

```
<androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent">

    <TextView
        ...

app:layout_constraintBottom_toBottomOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintEnd_toEndOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintStart_toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent" />

</androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
```



Layout Editor in Android Studio

You can click and drag to add constraints to a View.

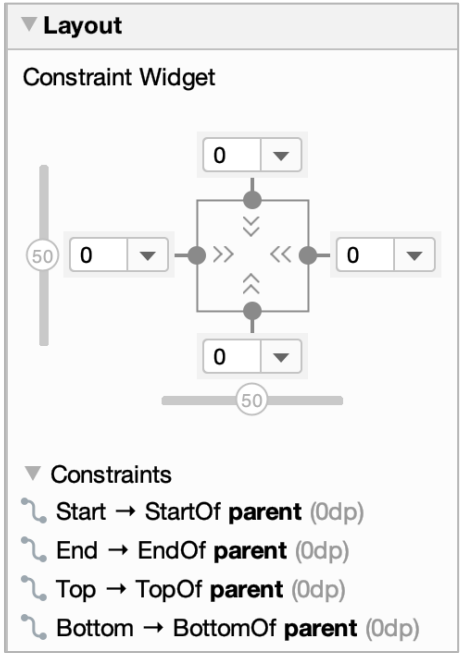


Constraint Widget in Layout Editor

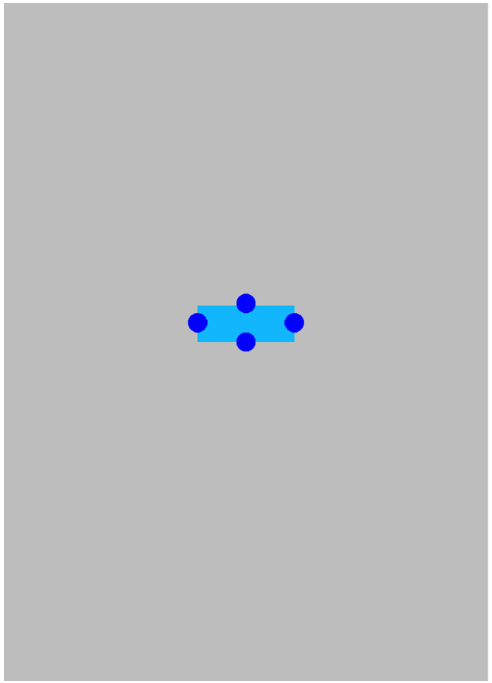
Fixed

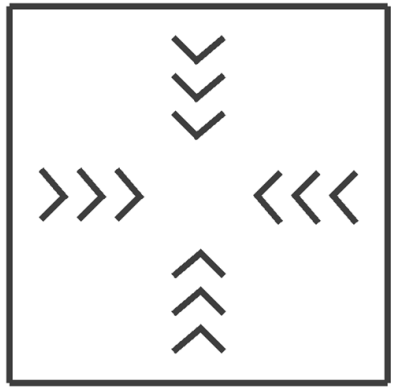
Wrap content

Match constraints



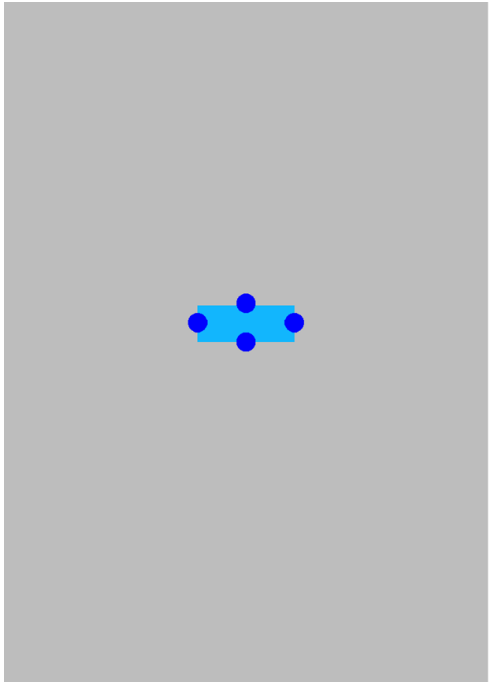
Wrap content for width and height

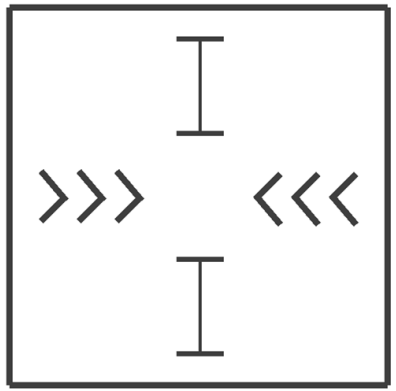




```
layout_width    wrap_content
layout_height   wrap_content
```

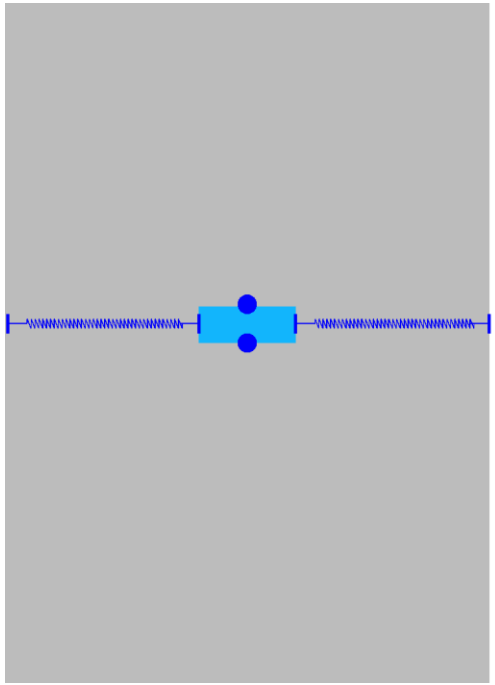
Wrap content for width, fixed height

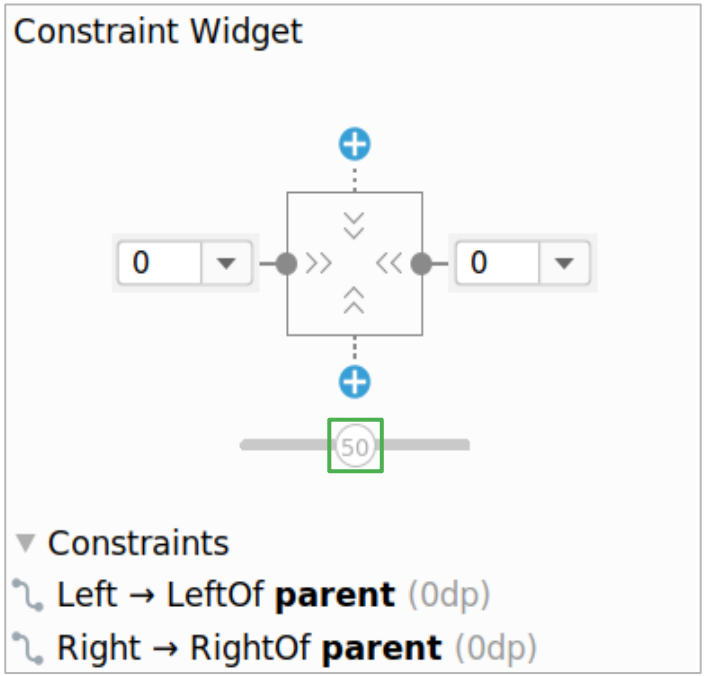




```
layout_width    wrap_content
layout_height   48dp
```

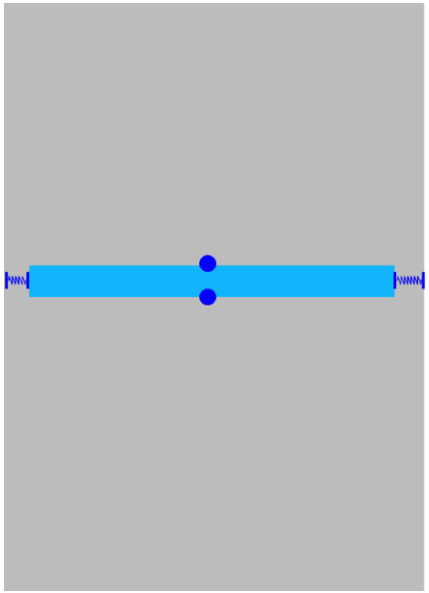
Center a view horizontally

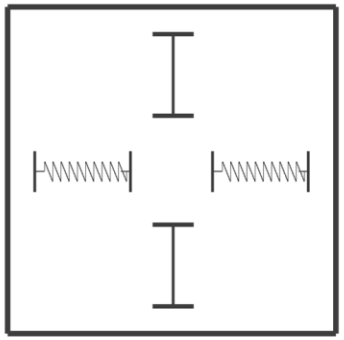




Use match_constraint

Can’t use `match_parent` on a child view, use `match_constraint` instead





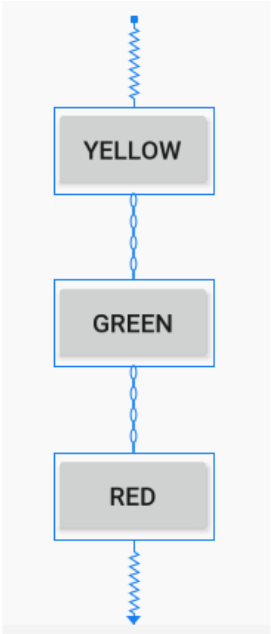
```
layout_width    0dp(match_constraint)
layout_height   48dp
```

Chains

- Let you position views in relation to each other
- Can be linked horizontally or vertically
- Provide much of LinearLayout functionality

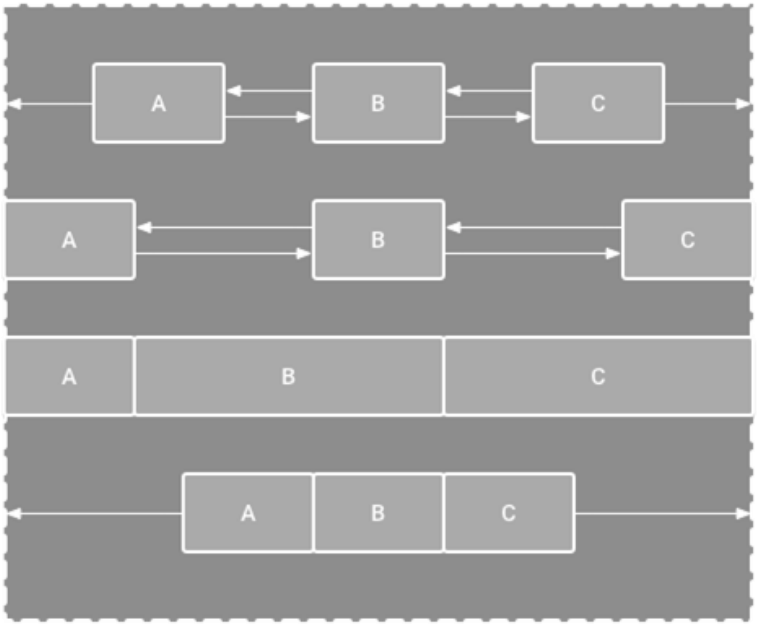
Create a Chain in Layout Editor

1. Select the objects you want to be in the chain.
2. Right-click and select **Chains.**
3. Create a horizontal or vertical chain.



Chain styles

Adjust space between views with these different chain styles.



Spread Chain

Spread Inside Chain

Weighted Chain

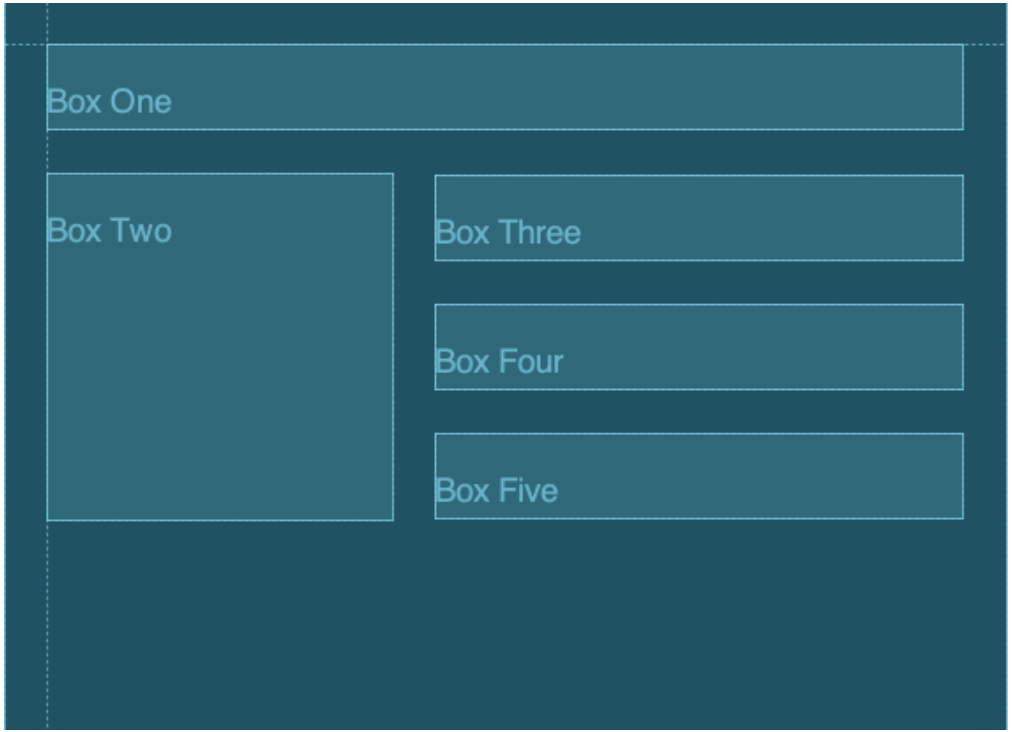
Packed Chain

Additional topics for ConstraintLayout

Guidelines

- Let you position multiple views relative to a single guide
- Can be vertical or horizontal
- Allow for greater collaboration with design/UX teams
- Aren't drawn on the device

Guidelines in Android Studio



Example Guideline

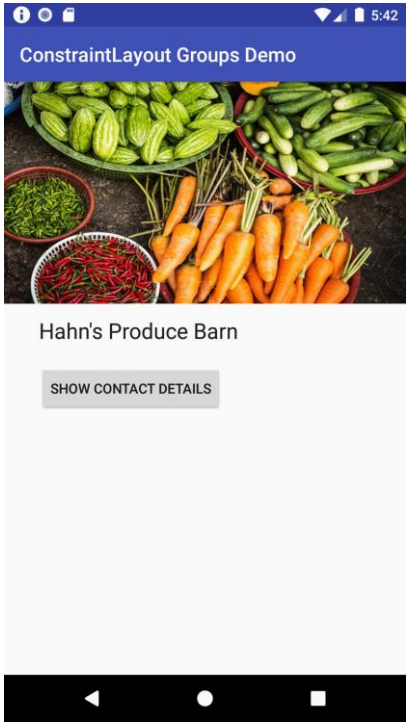
```
<ConstraintLayout>
    <androidx.constraintlayout.widget.Guideline
        android:id="@+id/start_guideline"
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"
        android:orientation="vertical"
        app:layout_constraintGuide_begin="16dp" />
    <TextView ...
        app:layout_constraintStart_toEndOf="@id/start_guideline" />
</ConstraintLayout>
```

Creating Guidelines

- `layout_constraintGuide_begin`
- `layout_constraintGuide_end`
- `layout_constraintGuide_percent`

Groups

- Control the visibility of a set of widgets
- Group visibility can be toggled in code



Example group

```
<androidx.constraintlayout.widget.Group
    android:id="@+id/group"
    android:layout_width="wrap_content"
    android:layout_height="wrap_content"
    app:constraint_referenced_ids="locationLabel,locationDetails"/>
```

Groups app code

```
override fun onClick(v: View?) {
    if (group.visibility == View.GONE) {
        group.visibility = View.VISIBLE
        button.setText(R.string.hide_details)
    } else {
        group.visibility = View.GONE
        button.setText(R.string.show_details)
    }
}
```

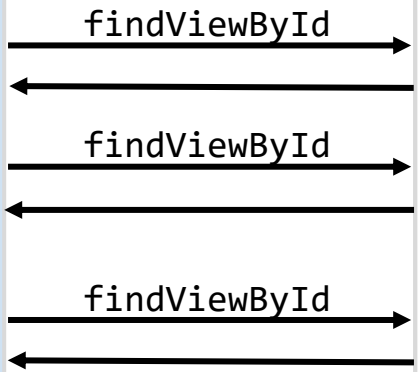
Data binding

Current approach: findViewById()

Traverses the `View` hierarchy each time

MainActivity.kt

```
val name = findViewById(...)
val age = findViewById(...)
val loc = findViewById(...)

name.text = …
age.text = …
loc.text = …
```



activity_main.xml

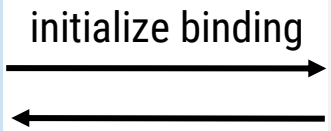
```
<ConstraintLayout … >
  <TextView
      android:id="@+id/name"/>
  <TextView
      android:id="@+id/age"/>
  <TextView
      android:id="@+id/loc"/>
</ConstraintLayout>
```

Use data binding instead

Bind UI components in your layouts to data sources in your app.

MainActivity.kt

```
Val binding:ActivityMainBinding

binding.name.text = …
binding.age.text = …
binding.loc.text = …
```



activity_main.xml

```
<layout>
   <ConstraintLayout … >
       <TextView
          android:id="@+id/name"/>
       <TextView
          android:id="@+id/age"/>
       <TextView
          android:id="@+id/loc"/>
   </ConstraintLayout>
</layout>
```

Modify build.gradle file

```
android {
    ...
    buildFeatures {
        dataBinding true
    }
}
```

Add layout tag

```
<layout>
    <androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
        <TextView ... android:id="@+id/username" />
        <EditText ... android:id="@+id/password" />
    </androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
</layout>
```

Layout inflation with data binding

Replace this

```
setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
```

with this

```
val binding: ActivityMainBinding = DataBindingUtil.setContentView(
    this, R.layout.activity_main)

binding.username = "Melissa"
```

Data binding layout variables

```
<layout>
    <data>
        <variable name="name" type="String"/>
    </data>
    <androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
        <TextView
            android:id="@+id/textView"
            android:text="@{name}" />
    </androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
</layout>
```

In `MainActivity.kt`:

```
binding.name = "John"
```

Data binding layout expressions

```
<layout>
    <data>
        <variable name="name" type="String"/>
    </data>

    <androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
        <TextView
            android:id="@+id/textView"
            android:text="@{name.toUpperCase()}" />
    </androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
</layout>
```

Summary

Summary

In Lesson 5, you learned how to:

- Specify lengths in dp for your layout
- Work with screen densities for different Android devices
- Render Views to the screen of your app
- Layout views within a ConstraintLayout using constraints
- Simplify getting View references from layout with data binding

Learn more

- Pixel density on Android
- Spacing
- Device metrics
- Type scale
- Build a Responsive UI with ConstraintLayout
- Data Binding Library

Pathway

Practice what you've learned by completing the pathway:

Lesson 5: Layouts