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flex-direction

The **flex-direction** [CSS](#) property sets how flex items are placed in the flex container defining the main axis and the direction (normal or reversed).

CSS Demo: flex-direction

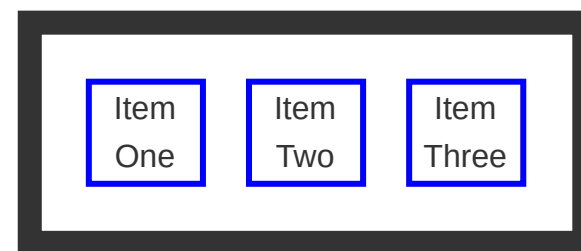
Reset

```
flex-direction: row;
```

```
flex-direction: row-reverse;
```

```
flex-direction: column;
```

```
flex-direction: column-reverse;
```



Note that the values `row` and `row-reverse` are affected by the directionality of the flex container. If its `dir` attribute is `ltr`, `row` represents the horizontal axis oriented from the left to the right, and `row-reverse` from the right to the left; if the `dir` attribute is `rtl`, `row` represents the axis oriented from the right to the left, and `row-reverse` from the left to the right.

Syntax

```
/* The direction text is laid out in a line */  
flex-direction: row;  
  
/* Like <row>, but reversed */  
flex-direction: row-reverse;  
  
/* The direction in which lines of text are stacked */  
flex-direction: column;  
  
/* Like <column>, but reversed */  
flex-direction: column-reverse;  
  
/* Global values */  
flex-direction: inherit;  
flex-direction: initial;  
flex-direction: unset;
```

Values

The following values are accepted:

row

The flex container's main-axis is defined to be the same as the text direction. The **main-start** and **main-end** points are the same as the content direction.

row-reverse

Behaves the same as `row` but the **main-start** and **main-end** points are permuted.

column

The flex container's main-axis is the same as the block-axis. The **main-start** and **main-end** points are the same as the **before** and **after** points of the writing-mode.

column-reverse

Behaves the same as `column` but the **main-start** and **main-end** are permuted.

Accessibility concerns

Using the `flex-direction` property with values of `row-reverse` or `column-reverse` will create a disconnect between the visual presentation of content and DOM order. This will adversely affect users experiencing low vision navigating with the aid of assistive technology such as a screen reader. If the visual (CSS) order is important, then screen reader users will not have access to the correct reading order.

- [↗ Flexbox & the keyboard navigation disconnect — Tink](#)
- [↗ Source Order Matters | Adrian Roselli](#)
- [MDN Understanding WCAG, Guideline 1.3 explanations](#)

- [🔗 Understanding Success Criterion 1.3.2 | W3C Understanding WCAG 2.0](#)

Formal definition

Initial value	row
Applies to	flex containers
Inherited	no
Computed value	as specified
Animation type	discrete

Formal syntax

row | row-reverse | column | column-reverse

Examples

Reversing flex container columns and rows

HTML

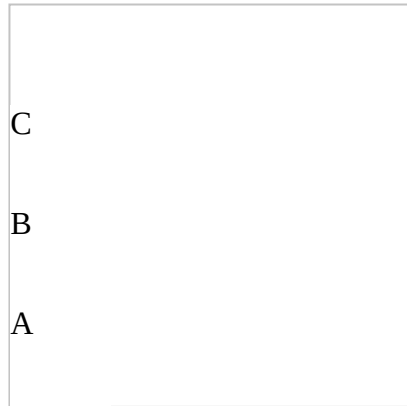
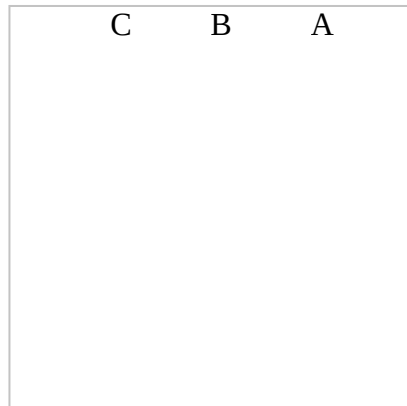
```
1 <h4>This is a Column-Reverse</h4>
2 <div id="content">
3   <div class="box" style="background-color:red;">A</div>
4   <div class="box" style="background-color:lightblue;">B</div>
5   <div class="box" style="background-color:yellow;">C</div>
6 </div>
7 <h4>This is a Row-Reverse</h4>
8 <div id="content1">
9   <div class="box1" style="background-color:red;">A</div>
10  <div class="box1" style="background-color:lightblue;">B</div>
11  <div class="box1" style="background-color:yellow;">C</div>
12 </div>
```

CSS


```
1 #content {
2   width: 200px;
```

```
3   height: 200px;
4   border: 1px solid #c3c3c3;
5   display: flex;
6   flex-direction: column-reverse;
7 }
8
9 .box {
10  width: 50px;
11  height: 50px;
12 }
13
14 #content1 {
15  width: 200px;
16  height: 200px;
17  border: 1px solid #c3c3c3;
18  display: flex;
19  flex-direction: row-reverse;
20 }
21
22 .box1 {
23  width: 50px;
24  height: 50px;
25 }
```

Result















This is a Column-Reverse**This is a Row-Reverse**

Specifications

Specification	Status	Comment
CSS Flexible Box Layout Module The definition of 'flex-direction' in that specification.	 Candidate Recommendation	Initial definition

Browser compatibility

[Update compatibility data on GitHub](#)

											
 Chrome	 Edge	 Firefox	 Internet Explorer	 Opera	 Safari	 Android webview	 Chrome for Android	 Firefox for Android	 Opera for Android	 Safari on iOS	 Samsung Internet

flex-direction

29	12	20 ★	11	12.1	9	4.4	29	20 ★	12.1	9	2.0
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What are we missing?



Full support



Partial support



See implementation notes.



User must explicitly enable this feature.



Requires a vendor prefix or different name for use.

See also

- CSS Flexbox Guide: [Basic Concepts of Flexbox](#)
- CSS Flexbox Guide: [Ordering flex items](#)

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Related topics

CSS

CSS Reference

CSS Flexible Box Layout

▼ Guides

Aligning Items in a Flex Container

Backwards Compatibility of Flexbox

Basic concepts of flexbox

Controlling Ratios of Flex Items Along the Main Axis

Cross-browser Flexbox mixins

Mastering Wrapping of Flex Items

Ordering Flex Items

Relationship of flexbox to other layout methods

Typical use cases of Flexbox

▼ Properties

`flex`

`flex-basis`

`flex-direction`

`flex-flow`

`flex-grow`

`flex-shrink`

`flex-wrap``order`

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