Layouts in Flutter

Maximilian Klein

Me@Freiheit.com

Fullstack Engineer (32)

> 1 Year Flutter experience

Prior to Freiheit.com
Years of Web experience

Projects in VR and Physics Simulations (most notably with Adidas and Harting)



1. Basic Layout Widgets

2. Flutters Linear Layout Algorithm

3. Customizing Layouts

Basics – Simplified Flutter Pipeline

1. Build

2. Layout

3. Paint

Basics – Simplified Flutter Pipeline

1. Build

2. Layout

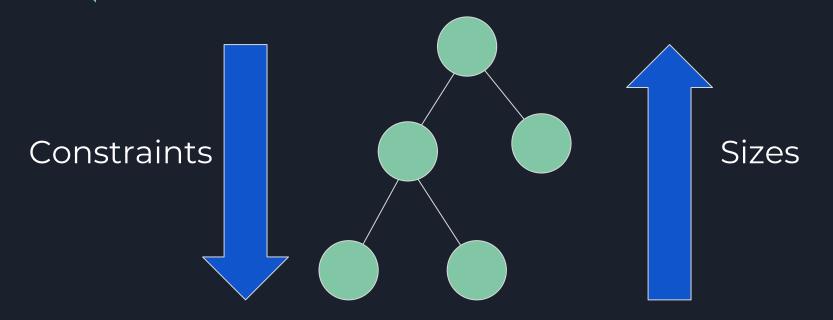
3. Paint

Basic Layout Widgets

Widgets

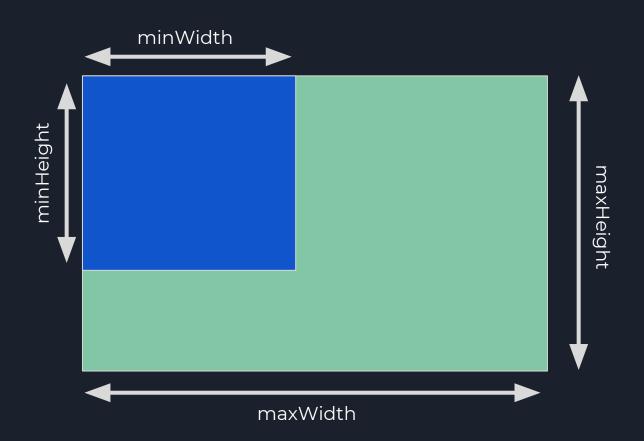
- Container (allrounder)
- Align
- Flex (Row / Column)
- Stack (overlapping layers)
- ... (all the basics and more)

Linear Layout Algorithm



tree built from widgets

BoxConstraints



Size: infinity

In a **constrained** layout **infinite** size **fills** the **parent** constraints

In an **unconstrained** layout **infinite** size **shrinks** the **child**

Unconstrained Widgets

1. Column/Row

2. ListView (scrollable)

3. Viewports (slivers)

Unconstrained Widgets

1. Column / Row

2. ListView (scrollable)

3. Viewports (slivers)

Flexibles (Column / Row)



1. Calculate non-flex sizes

2. Calculate remaining size

3. Fill remaining space in equal parts with flex children

Flex tight vs. loose

Flex **tight forces** its child to have a specific size

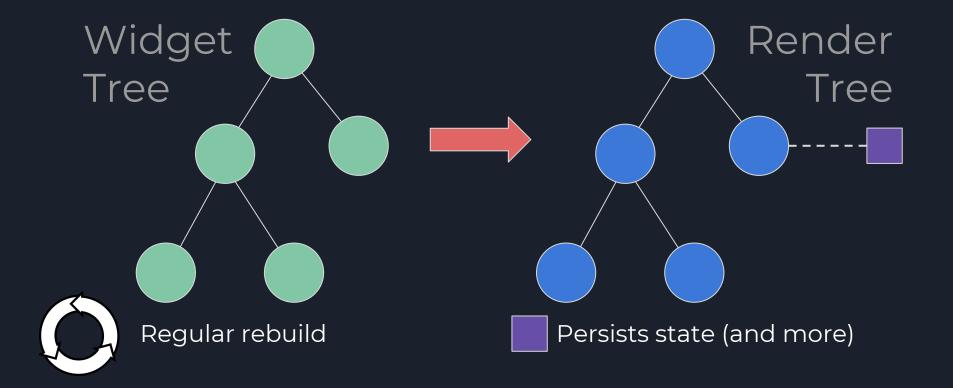
Expanded

Flex *loose* takes the assigned space, but does **not force** its child to have a size

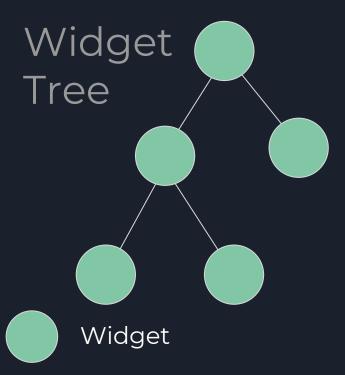
Stacks

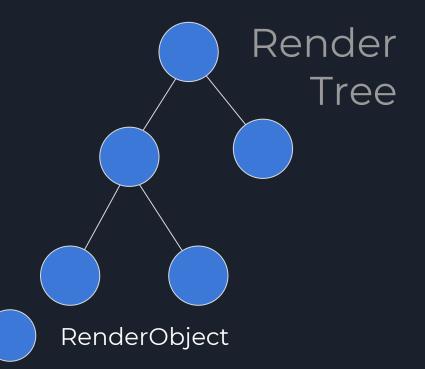
- Overlay one widget with another
- 2. Absolute positioning

Layout Internals



Render Tree





Render Object

- constraints
- `parentData` (e.g. position)
- `performLayout`
- `paint`
- ...

Everything is still happening in Dart

Wrap up

1. We saw some layout widgets

2. Discussed the Flutters layout algorithm

3. Saw a custom Flutter layout