

Meander

User guide

Abstract

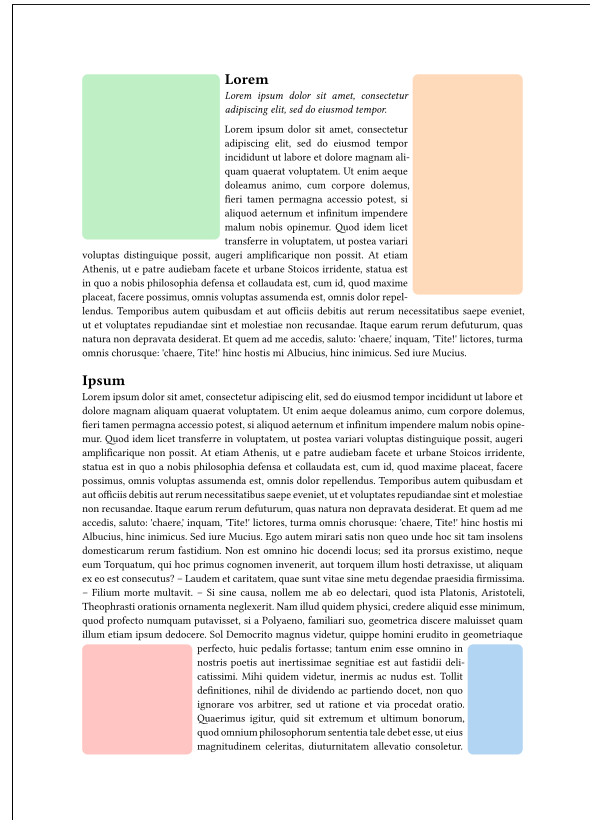
Meander implements a content layout algorithm to provide text threading (when text from one box spills into a different box if it overflows), uneven columns, and image wrap-around.

Feature requests

For as long as the feature doesn't exist natively in Typst (see issue: [github:typst/typst #5181](#)), feel free to submit test cases of layouts you would like to see supported by opening a new [issue](#).

Versions

- [dev](#)
- [0.2.1 \(latest\)](#)
- [0.2.0](#)
- [0.1.0](#)



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I Quick start

The main function provided is `#meander.reflow`, which takes as input a sequence of “containers”, “obstacles”, and “flowing content”, created respectively by the functions `#container`, `#placed`, and `#content`. Obstacles are placed on the page with a fixed layout. After excluding the zones occupied by obstacles, the containers are segmented into boxes then filled by the flowing content.

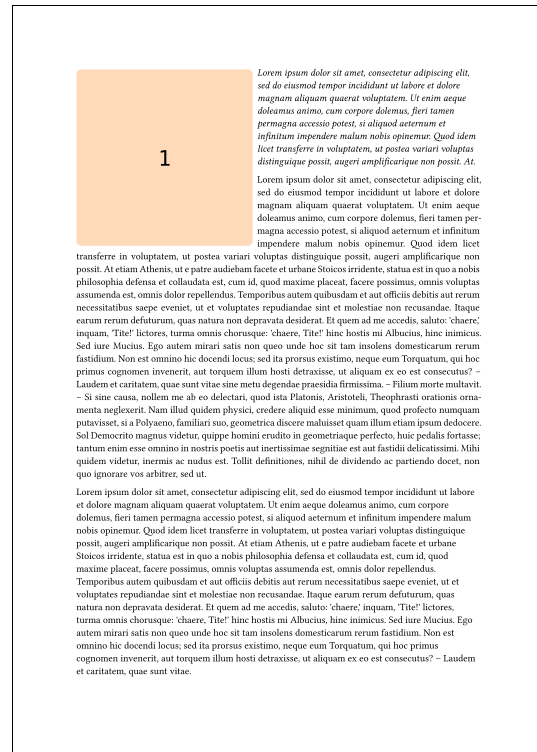
I.a A simple example

Below is a single page whose layout is fully determined by Meander. Multi-page setups are also possible, see Section IV.b.

```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  // Obstacle in the top left
  placed(top + left, my-img-1)

  // Full-page container
  container()

  // Flowing content
  content[
    _#lorem(60)_
    #[
      #set par(justify: true)
      #lorem(300)
    ]
    #lorem(200)
  ]
})
```



Meander is expected to respect the majority of styling options, including headings, paragraph justification, font size, etc. Notable exceptions are detailed in Section VI. If you find a discrepancy make sure to file it as a [bug report](#) if it is not already part of the [known limitations](#).

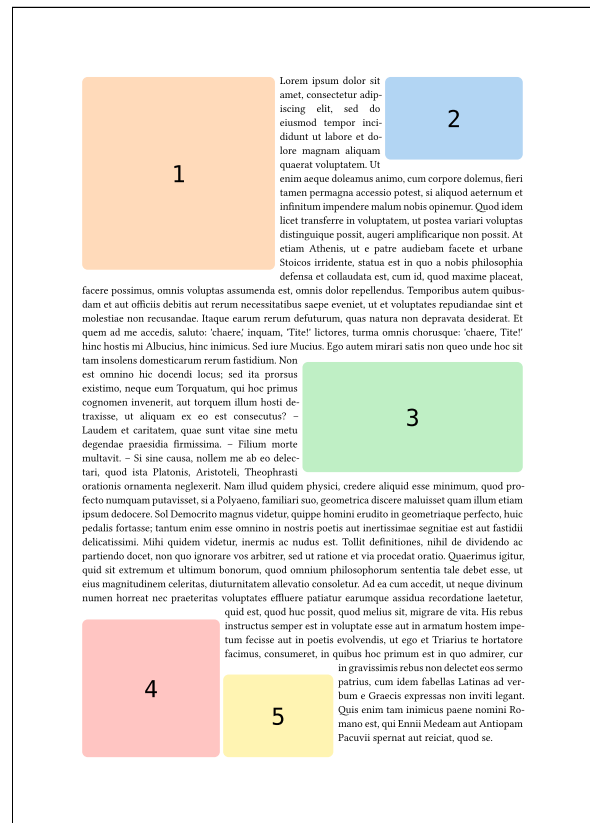
Note: paragraph breaks may behave incorrectly. You can insert vertical spaces if needed.

I.b Multiple obstacles

`#meander.reflow` can handle as many obstacles as you provide (at the cost of potentially performance issues if there are too many, but experiments have shown that up to ~100 obstacles is no problem).

```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  // As many obstacles as you want
  placed(top + left, my-img-1)
  placed(top + right, my-img-2)
  placed(horizon + right, my-img-3)
  placed(bottom + left, my-img-4)
  placed(bottom + left, dx: 32%,
    my-img-5)

  // The container wraps around all
  container()
  content[
    #set par(justify: true)
    #lorem(430)
  ]
})
```



I.c Columns

In order to simulate a multi-column layout, you can provide several container invocations. They will be filled in the order provided.

```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  placed(bottom + right, my-img-1)
  placed(center + horizon, my-img-2)
  placed(top + right, my-img-3)

  // With two containers we can
  // emulate two columns.
  container(width: 55%)
  container(aligned: right, width: 40%)
  content[#lorem(470)]
})
```



II Showcase

A selection of nontrivial examples of what is feasible.

<div><p>seminar.sty is a LaTeX style for typesetting slides or transparencies, and accompanying notes. Here are some of its special features: It is compatible with AmS-LaTeX, and you can use PostScript and AmS fonts. Slides can be landscape and portrait. There is support for color and frames. The magnification can be changed easily. Overlays can be produced from a single slide environment. Accompanying notes, such as the text of a presentation, can be put outside the slide environments. The slides, notes or both together can then be typeset in a variety of formats.</p></div> <div>examples/5181-a/main.typ</div> <div>Motivated by github:typst/typst #5181 (a)</div>	<div><p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Queraat voluptatem. Ut enim acque dolemus animo, cum corpore dolemus, fieri tamen permagna accessio potest, si aliquid aeternum et infinitum impendere malum nobis opinemur. Quod idem licet transferre in voluptatem, ut postea variari voluptas distinguere possit, augeri amplificarique non possit. At etiam Athenis, ut e patre audiam facite et urbane Stoicos iridente, statura est in quo a nobis philosophia defensa et collaudata est, cum id, quod maxime placeat, facere possimus, omnis voluptas assumenda est, omnis dolor repellendus. Temporibus autem quibusdam et aut officiis debitis aut rerum necessitatibus saepe eveniet, ut et voluptates repudiandae sint et molestiae non recusandae. Itaque earum rerum defuturum, quas natura non depravata desiderat. Et quem ad me accedis, saluto: 'chaere,' inquam, 'Tite!' lictores, turma omnis chorusque: 'chaere, Tite!' hinc hostis mi Albucius, hinc inimicus. Sed iure Mucius. Ego autem mirari satis non queo unde hoc sit tam insolens domesticarum rerum fastidium. Non est omnino hic docendi locus, sed ita prorsus existimo, neque eum Torquatum, qui hoc primus cognomen invenient, aut torquem illum hosti detraxisse, ut aliquam ex eo est consecutus? - Laudem et caritatem, quae sunt vitae sine metu degendae praesidia firmissima. - Filium morte multavit. - Si sine causa, nollem me ab eo delectari, quod ista Platonis, Aristotelis, Theophrasti orationis ornamenta neglexerit. Nam illud quidem physici, credere aliquid esse minimum, quod profecto nunquam putavisset, si a Polyaeo, familiari suo, geometrica discere maluisset quam illum etiam ipsum dedocere. Sol Democrito magnus videtur, quippe homini erudito in geometriae perfecto, huic pedalis fortasse: tantum enim esse omnino in nostris poetis aut inertissimae segnitiae est aut fastidii delicatissimi. Mihi quidem videtur, inermis ac nudus est. Tollit definitiones, nihil de dividendo ac partiendo docet, non quo ignorare vos arbitretur, sed ut ratione et via procedat oratio. Querimus igitur, quid sit extremum et ultimum bonorum, quod omnium philosophorum sententia tale debet esse, ut eius magnitudinem celeritas, diuturnitatem allevatio consoletur. Ad ea cum accedit, ut neque divinum numen horreat nec praeteritas voluptates effluere patiatur earumque assidua recordatione lactetur, quid est, quod huc possit, quod melius sit, migrare de vita. His rebus instructus semper est in voluptate esse aut in armatum hostem impetum fecisse aut in poetis evolvendis, ut ego et Triarius te hortatore facimus, consumeret, in quibus hoc primum est in quo admittit, cur in gravissimis rebus non delectet eos sermo patrius, cum idem fabellas Latinas ad verbum e Graecis expressas non inviti legant. Quis enim tam inimicus paene nomini Romano est, qui Ennii Medeam aut Antioptam Pacuvii spernat aut reiciat, quod se isdem Euripidis fabulis delectari dicat, Latinas litteras oderit? Synephebos ego, inquit, potius Caecili aut Andriam Terentii quam utramque Menandri legam? A quibus tantum dissentio, ut, cum Sophocles vel optime scripserit Electram, tamen male conversam Attili mihi legendam putem.</p></div> <div>examples/5181-b/main.typ</div> <div>Motivated by github:typst/typst #5181 (b)</div>
<div><p>Talmudifier Test Page</p><p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Duis vehicula ligula at est bibendum, in eleifend erat dictum. Etiam sit amet tellus id ex ullamcorper faucibus. Suspendisse sed elit vel neque convallis iaculis id in urna. Sed tincidunt varius ipsum at scelerisque. Phasellus lacus lectus, sodales sit amet orci in, rutrum malesuada diam. Cras pulvinar elit sit amet lacus fringilla, in elementum mauris maximus. Phasellus euismod dolor sed pretium elementum. Nulla sagittis, elit eget semper portitor, erat nunc commodo turpis, et bibendum ex lorem laoreet ipsum. Morbi auctor dignissim velit eget consequat. R. Seth: Blah blah blah blah. As it is written: "Aeneas lacinia nisi diam, vel pulvinar metus aliquet ut. Sed non lorem quis dui ultricies volutpat quis at diam." - Lorem&1:23 Quisque at nisi magna. Duis nec lacus arcu. Morbi vel fermentum leo. Pellentesque hendrerit sagittis vulputate. Fusce laoreet malesuada odio, sit amet fringilla lectus ultricies porta. Aliquam feugiat finibus turpis id malesuada. Lx Suspendisse hendrerit eros sit amet tempor pulvinar. Duis velit mauris, facilisis ut tincidunt sed, pharetra eu libero. Aenean lobortis tincidunt nisi. L2 Praesent metus lacus, tristique sed porta non, tempus id quam. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; R8 In eu porta velit, quis pellentesque elit. R2 Quisque vehicula massa sit amet justo rhoncus auctor.</p><p>Aenean sed dolor suscipit, dignissim nisl at, blandit eros. Pellentesque scelerisque viverra ligula, vel congue lorem semper non. Nulla nec convallis neque. Donec ut leo velit. Donec felis odio, tincidunt non vestibulum ut, consectetur eget lectus. Donec varius finibus scelerisque. Aliquam nisl odio, sollicitudin eget sem non, tincidunt tempor felis. Curabitur et ullamcorper lacus. Cras eu ante quis arcu dictum ultrices. Proin vel ante quis elit sollicitudin auctor. Nullam ultricies tempor neque, varius scelerisque neque. Nam et arcu ut odio maximus tempor et sit amet elit. R8 Morbi fermentum dapibus elementum. Proin id metus ipsum. Aenean posuere nunc quis lacus varius, eget molestie mauris accumsan. J Fusce sapien ipsum, cursus a tincidunt vel, dignissim eu mi. Morbi id velit ac turpis ullamcorper lacinia. J Cras bibendum tellus vitae eros rutrum scelerisque. Vivamus sed pellentesque elit, non imperdiet massa. Curabitur dictum nisi sollicitudin luctus malesuada. Vestibulum id pulvinar risus, sit amet ornare libero. Etiam a nunc dolor. R2 In ac velit maximus, elementum ex et, blandit massa. Aliquam vehicula at neque sit amet ultrices. Integer id justo est. Quisque luctus erat eget aliquam faucibus. Etiam eu mi ac odio pretium dictum. Vestibulum viverra congue risus, ac egestas est dapibus eget. Aenean ut orci leo. Nulla dignissim erat pulvinar elit facilisis, ac venenatis leo tincidunt. Quisque eu lorem tortor. Quisque nec portitor elit. Ut finibus ullamcorper odio, in portitor lorem suscipit ut.</p><p>Vestibulum vitae nisl blandit, commodo odio vitae, dictum nunc. Suspendisse pharetra lorem vitae ex tincidunt ornare. Maecenas efficitur tristique libero, eget commodo urna. Pellentesque libero sem, interdum ut nibh interdum, consequat elementum magna."-Ipsum&69:420 L2 Aliquam facilisis vel turpis eu semper. Donec eget purus lectus. -> Check out how nice that little hand looks. Nice. -> Fusce porta pretium diam. Etiam venenatis nisl nec tempus fringilla. Vivamus vehicula nunc sed libero scelerisque viverra a quis libero. Integer ac urna ut lectus faucibus mattis ac id nunc. Morbi fermentum magna dui, at rhoncus nibh portitor quis. Donec dui ante, semper non quam at, accumsan volutpat leo. Maecenas magna risus, finibus sit amet felis ut, vulputate euismod nunc.</p></div> <div>examples/talmudifier/main.typ</div> <div>From github:subaltnrgames/talmudifier</div> <div>Motivated by github:typst/typst #5181 (c)</div>	

III Understanding the algorithm

The same page setup as the previous

example I.c will internally be separated into

- obstacles my-img-1, my-img-2, and my-img-3.
- containers #(x: 0%, y: 0%, width: 55%, height: 100%) and #(x: 60%, y: 0%, width: 40%, height: 100%)
- flowing content #lorem(470).

Initially obstacles are placed on the page (→). If they have a boundary parameter, it recomputes the exclusion zone.

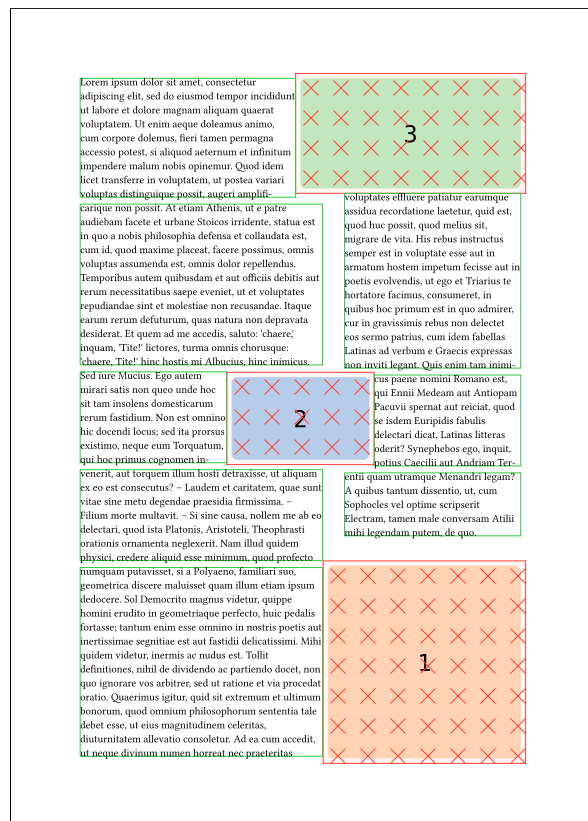
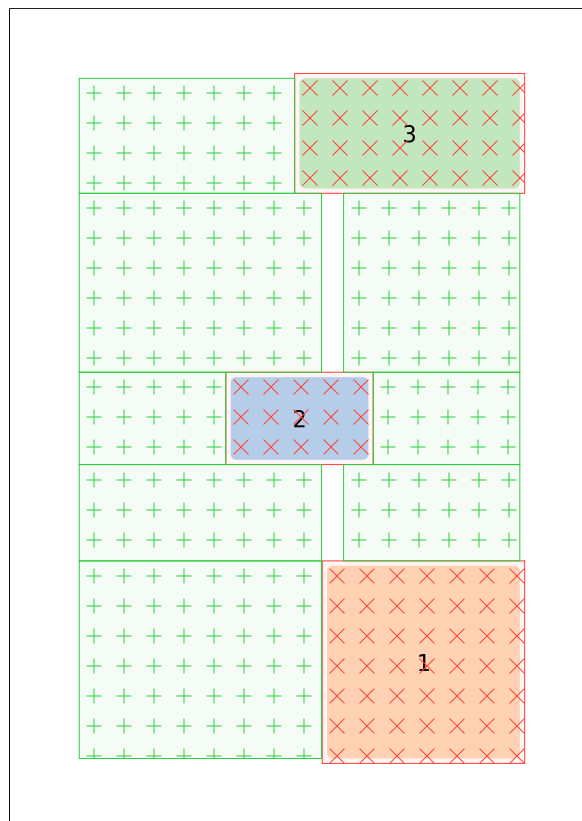
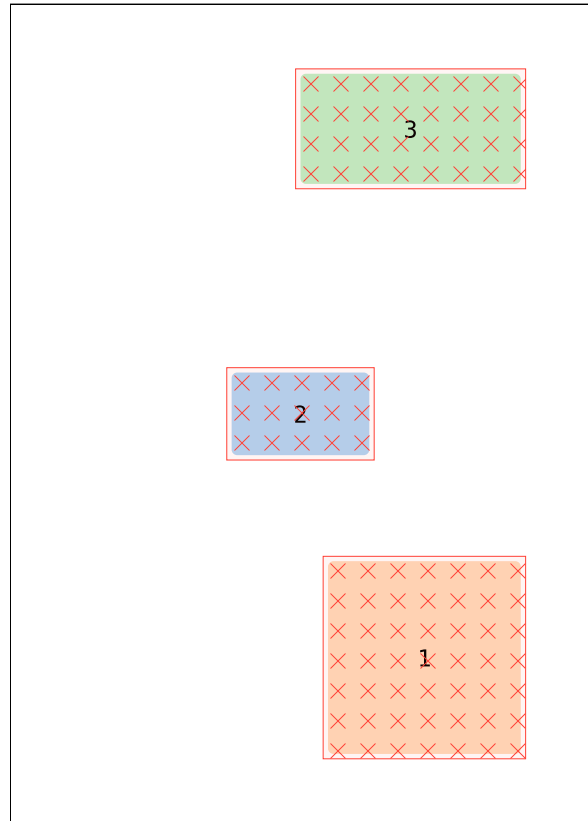
Then the containers are placed on the page and segmented into rectangles to avoid the exclusion zones (↘).

Finally the flowing content is threaded through those boxes (↘), which may be resized vertically a bit compared to the initial segmentation.

The debug views on this page are accessible via

#meander.regions and

#meander.reflow.with(debug: true)



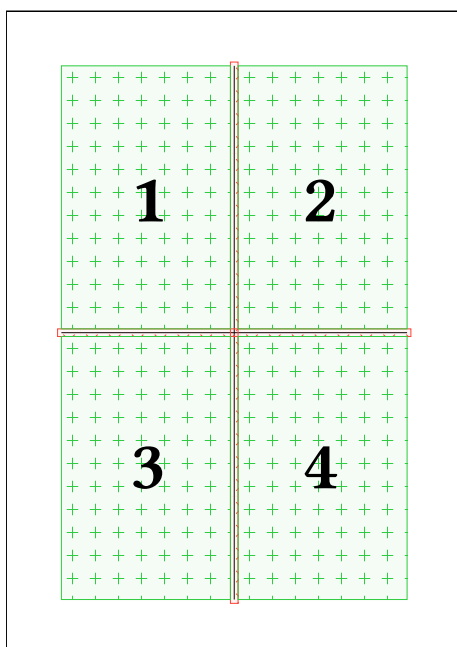
The order in which the boxes are filled is in the priority of

- container order
- top → bottom
- left → right

which has implications for how your text will be laid out. Indeed compare the following situations that result in the same boxes but in different orders:

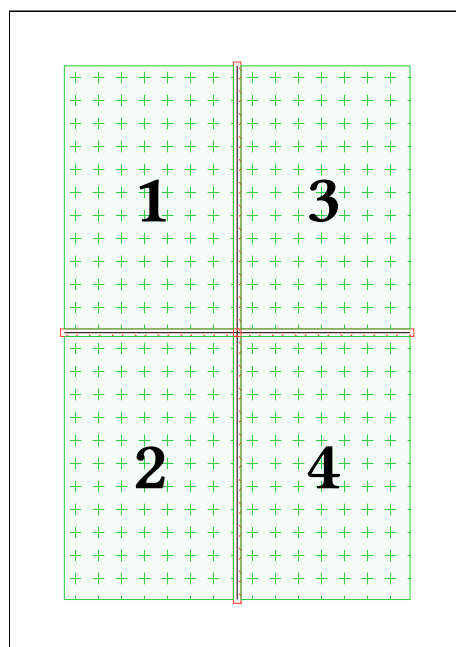
```
#meander.regions({
  import meander: *
  placed(center + horizon,
    line(end: (100%, 0%)))
  placed(center + horizon,
    line(end: (0%, 100%)))

  container(width: 100%)
})
```



```
#meander.regions({
  import meander: *
  placed(center + horizon,
    line(end: (100%, 0%)))
  placed(center + horizon,
    line(end: (0%, 100%)))

  container(width: 50%)
  container(align: right, width: 50%)
})
```



And even in the example above, the box **1** will be filled before the first line of **2** is used. In short, Meander **does not “guess” columns**. If you want columns rather than a top-bottom and left-right layout, you need to specify them.

IV Advanced techniques

IV.a Obstacle contouring

Although Meander started as only a text threading engine, the ability to place text in boxes of unequal width has direct applications in more advanced paragraph shapes. This has been a desired feature since at least [issue #5181](#).

Even though this is somewhat outside of the original feature roadmap, Meander makes an effort for this application to be more user-friendly, by providing functions to redraw the boundaries of an obstacle. Here we walk through these steps.

Basic contouring is simply the ability to customize the margin around obstacles by passing to `#placed` the argument `boundary`: `contour.margin(1cm)`. `#contour.margin` also accepts parameters `x`, `y`, `top`, `bottom`, `left`, `right`, with the precedence you would expect, to customize the margins precisely.

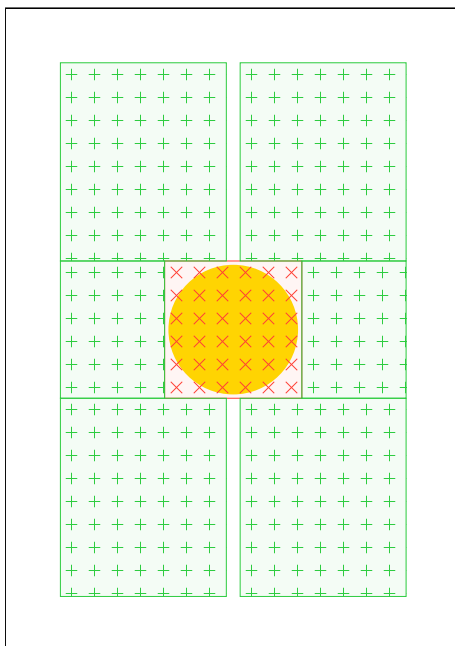
As equations

Here is our starting point: a simple double-column page with a cutout in the middle for an image.

```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  placed(center + horizon)[#circle(radius: 3cm, fill: yellow)]

  container(width: 48%)
  container(aligned: right, width: 48%)

  content[
    #set par(justify: true)
    #lorem(590)
  ]
})
```



Meander sees all obstacles as rectangular, so the circle leaves a big ugly [square hole](#) in our page.

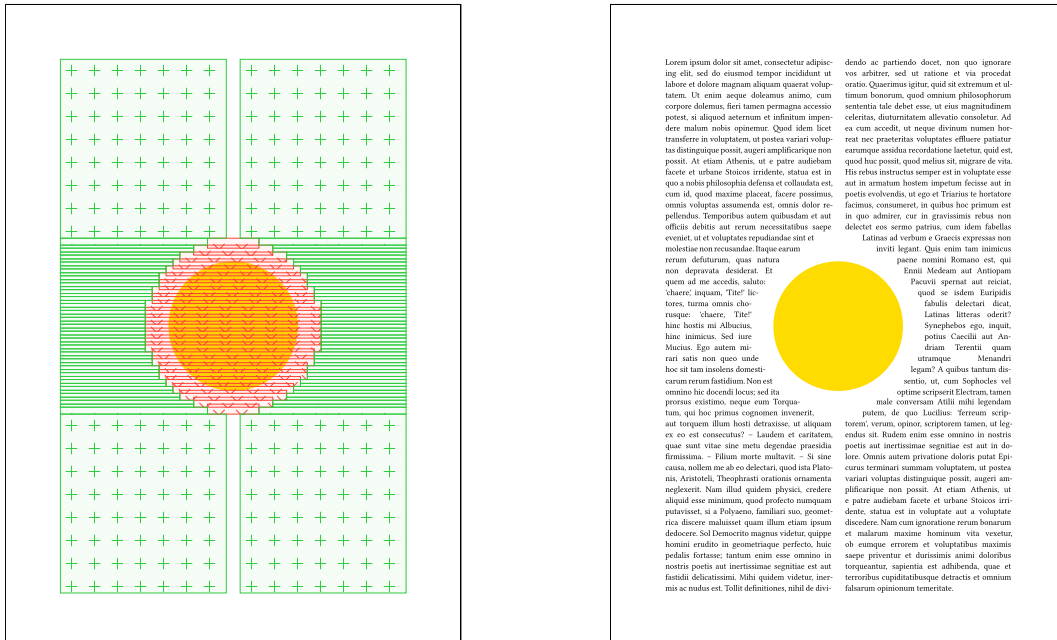
Fear not! We can redraw the boundaries. `#meander.placed` accepts as parameter boundary a sequence of box transformers to change the way the object affects the layout. These transformations are normalized to the interval $[0, 1]$ for convenience. The default boundary value is `#contour.margin(5pt)`.

`#meander.contour.grid` is one such redrawing function, from $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ to `bool`, returning for each normalized coordinate (x, y) whether it belongs to the obstacle.

So instead of placing directly the circle, we write:

```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  placed(
    center + horizon,
    boundary:
      // Override the default margin
      contour.margin(1cm) +
      // Then redraw the shape as a grid
      contour.grid(
        // 25 vertical and horizontal subdivisions (choose whatever looks good)
        div: 25,
        // Equation for a circle of center (0.5, 0.5) and radius 0.5
        (x, y) => calc.pow(2 * x - 1, 2) + calc.pow(2 * y - 1, 2) <= 1
      ),
    // Underlying object
    circle(radius: 3cm, fill: yellow),
  )
  // ...
})
```

This results in the new subdivisions of containers below.



This enables in theory drawing arbitrary paragraph shapes. Note the high density of obstacles on the debug view above: this works here but we are getting close to the resolution limit of meander, so don't try to draw obstacles with a resolution too much lower than the normal line height.

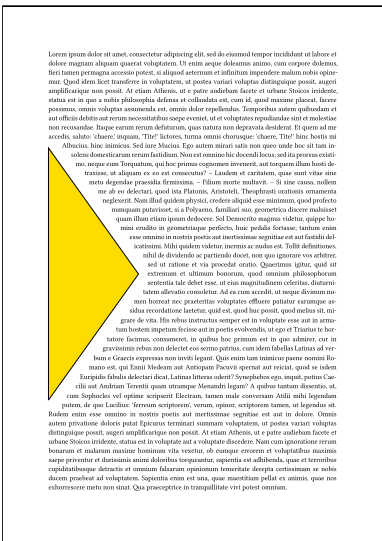
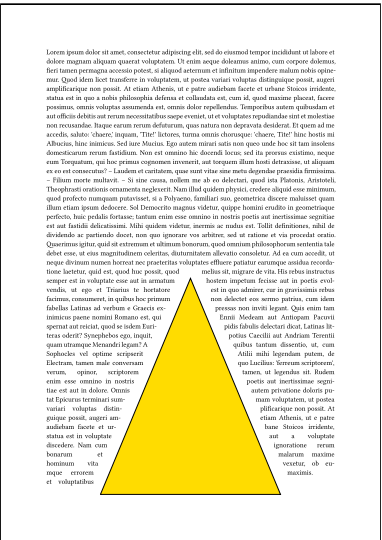
As stacked rectangles

If your shape is not convenient to express through a grid function, but has some horizontal or vertical regularity, here are some other suggestions:



```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  placed(center + bottom,
    boundary:
    // This time the vertical symetry
    // makes `width` a good match.
    contour.width(
      div: 20,
      flush: center,
      // Centered in 0.5, of width y
      y => (0.5, y),
    ) +
    contour.margin(5mm)
  )[...]
  // ...
})
```

```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  placed(right + bottom,
    boundary:
    // The right aligned edge makes
    // this easy to specify using
    // `horiz`
    contour.horiz(
      div: 20,
      // (left, right)
      y => (1 - y, 1),
    ) +
    // Add a post-segmentation margin
    contour.margin(5mm)
  )[...]
  // ...
})
```



```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *
  placed(left + horizon,
    boundary:
    contour.height(
      div: 20,
      flush: horizon,
      x => (0.5, 1 - x),
    ) +
    contour.margin(5mm)
  )[...]
  // ...
})
```

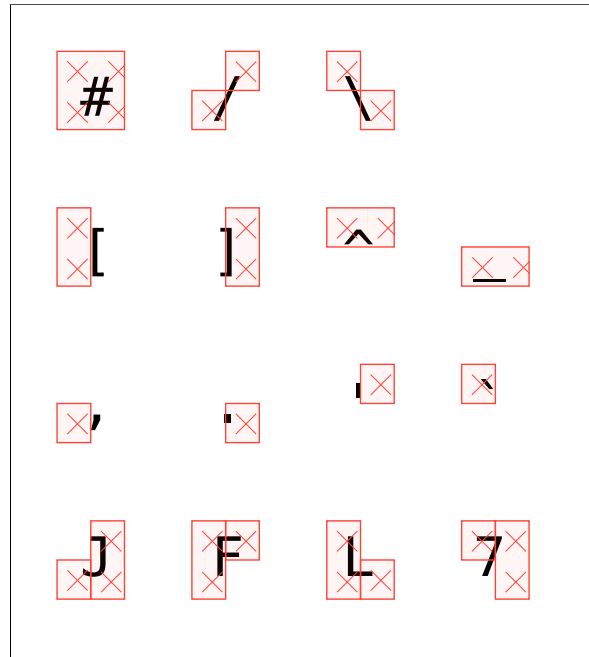

As ASCII art

Another method of specifying contours is by drawing a rough shape of the obstacle in ASCII art.

Pass a code block made of the characters `# / \ [] ^ _ , . ' ` J F L 7` to the contouring function

`#contour.ascii-art`, and you can easily draw the shape of your image.

```
#meander.reflow(debug: true, {
  import meander: *
  placed(
    top + left,
    boundary:
      contour.margin(6mm) +
      contour.ascii-art(
        \
        # / \
        [ ] ^ _
        , . ' `
        J F L 7
        \
      )
  )[#image]
})
```



See [examples/5181-b/main.typ](#) for a nontrivial use-case.

Remarks

The contouring functions available should already cover a reasonable range of use-cases, but if you have other ideas you could always try to submit one as a new [issue](#).

There are of course limits to this technique, and in particular increasing the number of obstacles will in turn increase the number of boxes that the layout is segmented into. This means

- performance issues if you get too wild (though notice that having 20+ obstacles in the previous examples went completely fine, and I have test cases with up to ~100)
- text may not fit in the boxes, and the vertical stretching of boxes still needs improvements.

In the meantime it is highly discouraged to use a subdivision that results in obstacles much smaller than the font height.

IV.b Multi-page setups

Meander can deal with text that spans multiple pages, you just need to place `#pagebreaks` appropriately. Note that `#pagebreak` only affects the obstacles and containers, while `#content` blocks ignore them entirely.

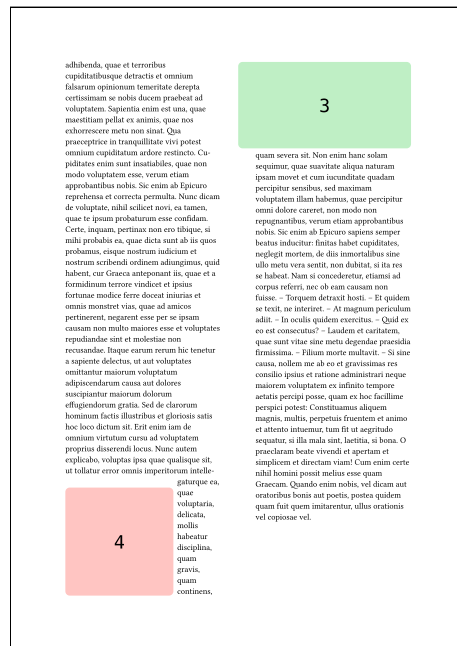
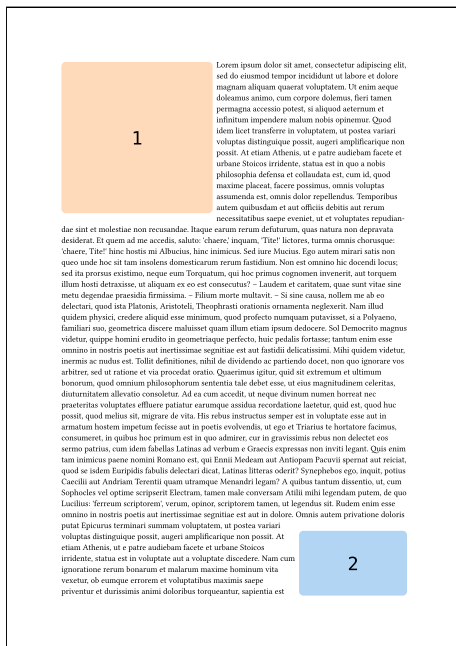
```
#meander.reflow({
  import meander: *

  placed(top + left, my-img-1)
  placed(bottom + right, my-img-2)
  container()

  pagebreak()

  placed(top + right, my-img-3)
  placed(bottom + left, my-img-4)
  container(width: 45%)
  container(aligned: right, width: 45%)

  content[#lorem(1000)]
})
```



If you run into performance issues, consider finding spots where you can break the `#reflow` invocation. As long as you don't insert a `#pagebreak` explicitly, several `#reflows` can coexist on the same page.

```
// First half-page
#meander.regions({
  import meander: *
  placed(top + left, my-img-1)
  container(height: 45%)
})

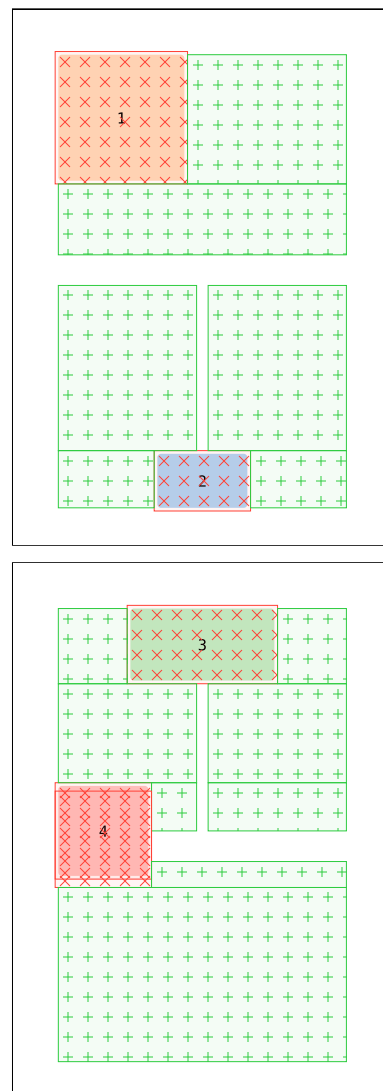
// Overflows on the second page
#meander.regions({
  import meander: *
  placed(bottom + center, my-img-2)
  container(align: bottom, height: 50%, width: 48%)
  container(align: bottom + right,
    height: 50%, width: 48%)

  pagebreak()

  placed(top + center, my-img-3)
  container(height: 50%, width: 48%)
  container(align: right, height: 50%, width: 48%)

  placed(horizon, my-img-4)
})

// Takes over for the last half-page
#meander.regions({
  import meander: *
  // This obstacle is already placed by the previous
  // invocation. We just restate it without displaying
  // it so that it appears only once yet still gets
  // counted as an obstacle for both invocations.
  placed(display: false, horizon, my-img-4)
  container(align: bottom, height: 45%)
})
```



Note: the default behavior if the content provided overflows the available containers is **not** to put in on the next page, but rather to show a warning. You can manually enable the overflow going to the next page by passing to `#reflow` the parameter `overflow: pagebreak`. Other options include `overflow: panic` if you want accidental overflows to trigger an immediate panic.

V Modularity (WIP)

Because meander is cleanly split into three algorithms (content segmentation, page segmentation, text threading), there are plans to provide

- configuration options for each of those steps
- the ability to replace entirely an algorithm by either a variant, or a user-provided alternative that follows the same signature.

VI Style-sensitive layout

Meander respects most styling options through a dedicated content segmentation algorithm. Bold, italic, underlined, stroked, highlighted, colored, etc. text is preserved through threading, and easily so because those styling options do not affect layout much.

There are however styling parameters that have a consequence on layout, and some of them require special handling. Some of these restrictions may be relaxed or entirely lifted by future updates.

VI.a Paragraph justification

In order to properly justify text across boxes, Meander needs to have contextual access to `#par.justify`, which is only updated via a `#set` rule.

As such **do not** use `#par(justify: true)[...]`.

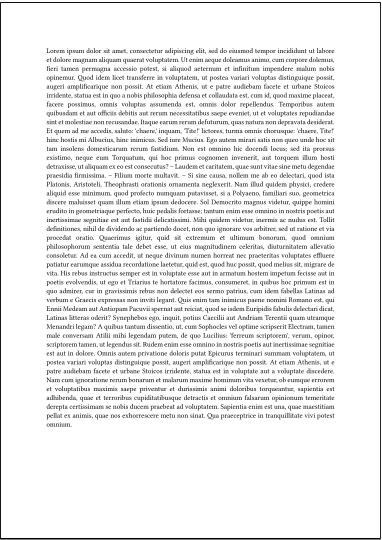
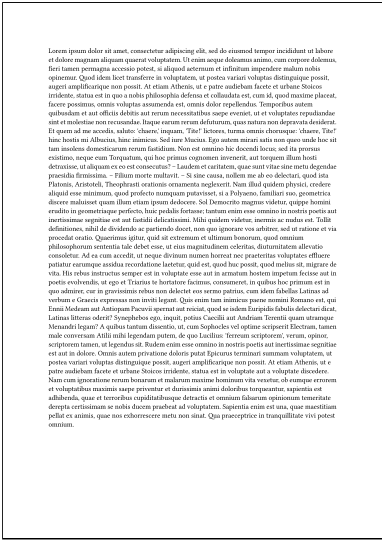
Instead prefer `#set par(justify: true); [...]`, or put the `#set` rule outside of the invocation of `#meander.reflow` altogether.

Wrong

Correct

```
#meander.reflow({
  // ...
  content[
    #par(justify: true)[
      #Lorem(600)
    ]
  ]
})
```

```
#meander.reflow({
  // ...
  content[
    #set par(justify: true)
    #Lorem(600)
  ]
})
```



VI.b Font size

The font size indirectly affects layout because it determines the spacing between lines. When a linebreak occurs between containers, Meander needs to manually insert the appropriate spacing there. Since the spacing is affected by font size, make sure to update the font size outside of the `#meander.reflow` invocation if you want the correct line spacing.

As such, it is currently discouraged to do large changes of font size in highly segmented regions from within the invocation. A future update will provide a way to do this in a more well-behaved manner.

Wrong

```
#meander.reflow({
  // ...
  content[
    #set text(size: 30pt)
    #lorem(80)
  ]
})
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magnam aliquam quaerat voluptatem. Ut enim aequi doleamus animo, cum corpore dolemus, fieri tamen permagna accessio potest, si aliquod aeternum et infinitum impendere malum nobis opinemur. Quod idem licet transferre in voluptatem, ut postea variari voluptas distinguere possit, augeri amplificare non possit. At etiam Athenis, ut e patre audiebam facete et urbane Stoicos irridende, statua est in quo a nobis philosophia defensa est.

Correct

```
#set text(size: 30pt)
#meander.reflow({
  // ...
  content[
    #lorem(80)
  ]
})
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, con-
 sectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eius-
 mod tempor incididunt ut labore et
 dolore magnam aliquam quaerat
 voluptatem. Ut enim aequae doleamus
 animo, cum corpore dolemus,
 fieri tamen permagna accessio
 potest, si aliquid aeternum et infinitum
 impendere malum nobis opinemur.
 Quod idem licet transferre in
 voluptatem, ut postea variari voluptas
 distinguere possit, augeri amplificare
 non possit. At etiam
 Athenis, ut e patre audiebam facete
 et urbane Stoicos irridente, statua
 est in quo a nobis philosophia defensa est.

VI.c Hyphenation and language

The language is not yet configurable. This feature will come soon.

Hyphenation can only be fetched contextually, and highly influences how text is split between boxes. Thus hyphenation can currently only be enabled or disabled outside of the `#meander.reflow` invocation. A future update will provide a means to change it more locally.

Wrong

```
#meander.reflow({
  // ...
  content[
    #set text(hyphenate: true)
    #lorem(600)
  ]
})
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Correct

```
#set text(hyphenate: true)
#meander.reflow({
  // ...
  content[
    #lorem(600)
  ]
})
```

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

VII Module details

VII.a Geometry (`geometry.typ`)

Generalist functions for 1D and 2D geometry.

- `clamp()`
- `between()`
- `intersects()`
- `resolve()`
- `align()`

clamp

Bound a value between min and max. No constraints on types as long as they support inequality testing.

Parameters

```
clamp(  
  val: any ,  
  min: any none ,  
  max: any none  
) -> any
```

val any

Base value.

min any or none

Lower bound.

Default: none

max any or none

Upper bound.

Default: none

between

Testing $a \leq b \leq c$, helps only computing b once.

Parameters

```
between(  
  a: length ,  
  b: length ,  
  c: length  
) -> bool
```

a `length`

Lower bound.

b `length`

Tested value.

c `length`

Upper bound. Asserted to be \geq c.

intersects

Tests if two intervals intersect.

Parameters

```
intersects(  
    i1: (length, length),  
    i2: (length, length),  
    tolerance: length  
)
```

i1 `(length, length)`

First interval as a tuple of (low, high) in absolute lengths.

i2 `(length, length)`

Second interval.

tolerance `length`

Set to nonzero to ignore small intersections.

Default: `0pt`

resolve

Converts relative and contextual lengths to absolute. The return value will contain each of the arguments once converted, with arguments that contain 'x' or start with 'w' being interpreted as horizontal, and arguments that contain 'y' or start with 'h' being interpreted as vertical.

```
#context resolve(
  (width: 100pt, height: 200pt),
  x: 10%, y: 50% + 1pt,
  width: 50%, height: 5pt,
)
```

```
(x: 10pt, y: 101pt, width: 50pt, height: 5pt)
```

Parameters

```
resolve(
  size: (width: length, height: length),
  ..args: dictionary
) -> dictionary
```

size (width: length, height: length)

Size of the container as given by the layout function.

align

Compute the position of the upper left corner, taking into account the alignment and displacement.

Parameters

```
align(
  alignment: alignment,
  dx: relative,
  dy: relative,
  width: relative,
  height: relative
) -> (x: relative, y: relative)
```

alignment alignment

Absolute alignment.

dx relative

Horizontal displacement.

Default: 0pt

dy relative

Vertical displacement.

Default: 0pt

width relative

Object width.

Default: 0pt

height `relative`

Object height.

Default: `0pt`

VII.b Tiling (`tiling.typ`)

Page splitting algorithm.

- `placed()`
- `container()`
- `content()`
- `separate()`
- `pat-forbidden()`
- `pat-allowed()`
- `forbidden-rectangles()`
- `tolerable-rectangles()`
- `regions()`

placed

Core function to create an obstacle.

Parameters

```
placed(  
  align: alignment,  
  dx: relative,  
  dy: relative,  
  boundary: (..function),  
  display: bool,  
  content: content  
) -> obstacle
```

align `alignment`

Reference position on the page (or in the parent container).

dx `relative`

Horizontal displacement.

Default: `0% + 0pt`

dy `relative`

Vertical displacement.

Default: `0% + 0pt`

boundary `(..function,)`

An array of functions to transform the bounding box of the content. By default, a 5pt margin. See `contour.typ` for a list of available functions.

Default: `(auto,)`

display `bool`

Whether the obstacle is shown. Useful for only showing once an obstacle that intersects several invocations. Contrast the following:

- `boundary: contour.phantom` will display the object without using it as an obstacle,
- `display: false` will use the object as an obstacle but not display it.

Default: `true`

content `content`

Inner content.

container

Core function to create a container.

Parameters

```
container(  
  align: alignment,  
  dx: relative,  
  dy: relative,  
  width: relative,  
  height: relative,  
  style: dictionary  
) -> container
```

align `alignment`

Location on the page.

Default: `top + left`

dx `relative`

Horizontal displacement.

Default: `0% + 0pt`

dy `relative`

Vertical displacement.

Default: `0% + 0pt`

width `relative`

Width of the container.

Default: `100%`

height `relative`

Height of the container.

Default: `100%`

style `dictionary`

Styling options for the content that ends up inside this container. If you don't find the option you want here, check if it might be in the `style` parameter of `content` instead.

- `align`: flush text left/center/right
- `text-fill`: color of text

Default: `(:)`

content

Core function to add flowing content.

Parameters

```
content(  
  data: content,  
  text-size: length,  
  text-lang: string,  
  text-hyphenate: bool  
) -> flowing
```

data `content`

Inner content.

text-size `length`

Equivalent to `#set text(size: ...)`, but also correctly updates other layout parameters.

Default: `auto`

text-lang `string`

Equivalent to `#set text(lang: ...)`, but correct even across boxes.

Default: `auto`

text-hyphenate `bool`

Equivalent to `#set text(hyphenate: ...)`, but correct even across boxes.

Default: `auto`

separate

Splits the input sequence into obstacles, containers, and flowing content.

An “obstacle” is data produced by the `placed` function. It can contain arbitrary content, and defines a zone where flowing content cannot be placed.

A “container” is produced by the function `container`. It defines a region where (once the obstacles are subtracted) is allowed to contain flowing content.

Lastly flowing content is produced by the function `content`. It will be threaded through every available container in order.

```
#separate({  
  // This is an obstacle  
  placed(top + left, box(width: 50pt, height: 50pt))  
  // This is a container  
  container(height: 50%)  
  // This is flowing content  
  content[#lorem(50)]  
})
```

Parameters

`separate(seq: content) -> (containers: (..box), obstacles: (..box), flow: (..content))`

pat-forbidden

Pattern with red crosses to display forbidden zones.

Parameters

`pat-forbidden(sz: length) -> pattern`

sz `length`

Size of the tiling.

pat-allowed

Pattern with green pluses to display allowed zones.

Parameters

```
pat-allowed(sz: length) -> pattern
```

sz `length`

Size of the tiling.

forbidden-rectangles

From a set of obstacles (see separate: an obstacle is any placed content) construct the blocks (x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length) that surround the obstacles.

The return value is as follows:

- `rects`, a list of blocks (x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length)
- `display`, show this to include the placed content in the final output
- `debug`, show this to include helper boxes to visualize the layout

Parameters

```
forbidden-rectangles(  
  obstacles: (..box,),  
  size: (width: length, height: length)  
) -> (rects: (..box,), display: content, debug: content)
```

obstacles `(..box,)`

Array of all the obstacles that are placed on this document.

size `(width: length, height: length)`

Dimensions of the parent container, as provided by layout.

Default: `none`

tolerable-rectangles

Partition the complement of avoid into containers as a series of rectangles.

The algorithm is roughly as follows:

```
for container in containers {  
  horizontal-cuts = sorted(top and bottom of zone for zone in avoid)  
  for (top, bottom) in horizontal-cuts.windows(2) {  
    vertical-cuts = sorted(  
      left and right of zone for zone in avoid  
      if zone intersects (top, bottom)  
    )  
    new zone (top, bottom, left, right)
```

```
}  
}
```

The main difficulty is in bookkeeping and handling edge cases (weird intersections, margins of error, containers that overflow the page, etc.) There are no heuristics to exclude zones that are too small, and no worries about zones that intersect vertically. That would be the threading algorithm's job.

Blocks are given an additional field `bounds` that dictate the upper limit of how much this block is allowed to stretch vertically, set to the dimensions of the container that produced this block.

Parameters

```
tolerable-rectangles(  
  containers: (..box,),  
  avoid: (..box,),  
  size: (width: length, height: length)  
) -> (rects: (..box,), debug: content)
```

containers (..box,)

Array of the containers in which content can be placed.

avoid (..box,)

Array of all the obstacles that are placed on this document. Will be subtracted from containers.

Default: ()

size (width: length, height: length)

Dimensions of the parent container, as provided by `layout`.

Default: `none`

regions

Debug version of the toplevel reflow, that only displays the partitioned layout.

Parameters

```
regions(  
  ct: content,  
  display: bool  
) -> content
```

ct content

Content to be segmented and have its layout displayed.

display `bool`

Whether to show the placed objects.

Default: `true`

VII.c Contouring (`contour.typ`)

Image boundary transformers.

- `margin()`
- `frac-rect()`
- `horiz()`
- `vert()`
- `width()`
- `height()`
- `grid()`
- `ascii-art()`

Variables

- `phantom`

margin

Contouring function that pads the inner image.

Parameters

`margin(..args)` -> `function`

..args

May contain the following parameters, ordered here by decreasing generality and increasing precedence

- `length` for all sides, the only possible positional argument
- `x,y`: `length` for horizontal and vertical margins respectively
- `top,bottom,left,right`: `length` for single-sided margins

frac-rect

Helper function to turn a fractional box into an absolute one.

Parameters

```
frac-rect(  
  frac: (x: fraction, y: fraction, width: fraction, height: fraction) ,  
  abs: (x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length) ,  
  ..style  
) -> (x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length)
```

frac (x: fraction, y: fraction, width: fraction, height: fraction)

Child dimensions as fractions.

abs (x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length)

Parent dimensions as absolute lengths.

..style

Currently ignored.

horiz

Horizontal segmentation as (left, right)

Parameters

```
horiz(  
  div: int,  
  fun: function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)  
) -> function
```

div int

Number of subdivisions.

Default: 5

fun function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)

For each location, returns the left and right bounds.

vert

Vertical segmentation as (top, bottom)

Parameters

```
vert(  
  div: int,  
  fun: function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)  
) -> function
```

div int

Number of subdivisions.

Default: 5

fun function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)

For each location, returns the top and bottom bounds.

width

Horizontal segmentation as (anchor, width).

Parameters

```
width(  
  div: int,  
  flush: alignment,  
  fun: function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)  
) -> function
```

div int

Number of subdivisions.

Default: 5

flush alignment

Relative horizontal alignment of the anchor.

Default: center

fun function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)

For each location, returns the position of the anchor and the width.

height

Vertical segmentation as (anchor, height).

Parameters

```
height(  
  div: int,  
  flush: alignment.,  
  fun: function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)  
) -> function
```

div int

Number of subdivisions.

Default: 5

flush alignment.

Relative vertical alignment of the anchor.

Default: horizon

```
fun    function(fraction) => (fraction, fraction)
```

For each location, returns the position of the anchor and the height.

grid

Cuts the image into a rectangular grid then checks for each cell if it should be included. The resulting cells are automatically grouped horizontally.

Parameters

```
grid(  
  div: int (x: int, y: int),  
  fun: function(fraction, fraction) => bool  
) -> function
```

div int or (x: int, y: int)

Number of subdivisions.

Default: 5

```
fun    function(fraction, fraction) => bool
```

Returns for each cell whether it satisfies the 2D equations of the image's boundary.

ascii-art

Allows drawing the shape of the image as ascii art.

Blocks

- #: full
- : empty

Half blocks

- [: left
-]: right
- ^: top
- _: bottom

Quarter blocks

- `: top left
- ': top right
- ,: bottom left
- .: bottom right

Anti-quarter blocks

- J: top left
- L: top right
- 7: bottom left

- F: bottom right

Diagonals

- /: positive
- \: negative

Parameters

`ascii-art(ascii: code)`

ascii `code`

Draw the shape of the image in ascii art.

phantom `function`

Drops all boundaries. Using boundary: phantom will let other content flow over this object.

VII.d Bisection (`bisect.typ`)

Content splitting algorithm.

- `fits-inside()`
- `default-rebuild()`
- `take-it-or-leave-it()`
- `has-text()`
- `has-child()`
- `has-children()`
- `is-list-item()`
- `is-enum-item()`
- `has-body()`
- `dispatch()`
- `fill-box()`

`fits-inside`

Tests if content fits inside a box.

WARNING: horizontal fit is not very strictly checked A single word may be said to fit in a box that is less wide than the word. This is an inherent limitation of `measure(box(...))` and I will try to develop workarounds for future versions.

The closure of this function constitutes the basis of the entire content splitting algorithm: iteratively add content until it no longer `fits-inside`, with what “iteratively add content” means being defined by the content structure. Essentially all remaining functions in this file are about defining content that can be split and the correct way to invoke `fits-inside` on them.

```
#let dims = (width: 100%, height: 50%)
#box(width: 7cm, height: 3cm)[#layout(size
=> context {
  let words = [#lorem(12)]
  [#fits-inside(dims, words, size: size)]
  linebreak()
  box(..dims, stroke: 0.1pt, words)
```

```
}}]
```

true

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor.

```
#let dims = (width: 100%, height: 50%)
#box(width: 7cm, height: 3cm)[#layout(size
=> context {
  let words = [#lorem(15)]
  [#fits-inside(dims, words, size: size)]
  linebreak()
  box(..dims, stroke: 0.1pt, words)
}]]
```

false

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor
incididunt ut labore.

Parameters

```
fits-inside(
  dims: (width: relative, height: relative),
  ct: content,
  size: (width: length, height: length)
) -> bool
```

dims (width: relative, height: relative)

Maximum container dimensions. Relative lengths are allowed.

ct content

Content to fit in.

size (width: length, height: length)

Dimensions of the parent container to resolve relative sizes. These must be absolute sizes.

Default: none

default-rebuild

Destructure and rebuild content, separating the outer content builder from the rest to allow substituting the inner contents. In practice what we will usually do is recursively split the inner contents and rebuild the left and right halves separately.

Inspired by wrap-it's implementation (see: `_rewrap` in [github:ntjess/wrap-it](https://github.com/ntjess/wrap-it))

```
#let content = box(stroke: red)[Initial]
#let (inner, rebuild) = default-rebuild(
  content, "body",
```



```
)
Content: #content \
Inner: #inner \
Rebuild: #rebuild("foo")
```

```
Content: Initial
Inner: Initial
Rebuild: foo
```

```
#let content = [*_Initial_*]
#let (inner, rebuild) = default-rebuild(
  content, "body",
)

Content: #content \
Inner: #inner \
Rebuild: #rebuild("foo")
```

```
Content: Initial
Inner: Initial
Rebuild: foo
```

```
#let content = [a:b]
#let (inner, rebuild) = default-rebuild(
  content, "children",
)

Content: #content \
Inner: #inner \
Rebuild: #rebuild([x], [y])
```

```
Content: a:b
Inner: ([a], [:], [b])
Rebuild: xy
```

Parameters

```
default-rebuild(
  ct: content,
  inner-field: string
) -> (dictionary, function)
```

inner-field `string`

What “inner” field to fetch (e.g. "body", "text", "children", etc.)

take-it-or-leave-it

“Split” opaque content.

Parameters

```
take-it-or-leave-it(
  ct: content,
  fits-inside: function
) -> (content?, content?)
```

ct `content`

This content cannot be split. If it fits take it, otherwise keep it for later.

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

has-text

Split content with a "text" main field. Strategy: split by " " and take all words that fit. Then if hyphenation is enabled, split by syllables and take all syllables that fit. End the block with a linebreak that has the justification of the paragraph.

Parameters

```
has-text(  
  ct: content,  
  split-dispatch: function,  
  fits-inside: function,  
  cfg: dictionary  
)
```

ct `content`

Content to split.

split-dispatch `function`

Recursively passed around (see `split-dispatch` below).

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

cfg `dictionary`

Extra configuration options.

has-child

Split content with a "child" main field. Strategy: recursively split the child.

Parameters

```
has-child(  
  ct: content,  
  split-dispatch: function,  
  fits-inside: function,  
  cfg: dictionary  
)
```

ct `content`

Content to split.

split-dispatch `function`

Recursively passed around (see `split-dispatch` below).

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

cfg `dictionary`

Extra configuration options.

has-children

Split content with a "children" main field. Strategy: take all children that fit.

Parameters

```
has-children(  
  ct: content ,  
  split-dispatch: function ,  
  fits-inside: function ,  
  cfg: dictionary  
)
```

ct `content`

Content to split.

split-dispatch `function`

Recursively passed around (see `split-dispatch` below).

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

cfg `dictionary`

Extra configuration options.

is-list-item

Split a `list.item`. Strategy: recursively split the body, and do some magic to simulate a bullet point indent.

Parameters

```
is-list-item(  
  ct: content,  
  split-dispatch: function,  
  fits-inside: function,  
  cfg: dictionary  
)
```

ct `content`

Content to split.

split-dispatch `function`

Recursively passed around (see `split-dispatch` below).

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

cfg `dictionary`

Extra configuration options.

is-enum-item

Split an `enum.item`. Strategy: recursively split the body, and do some magic to simulate a numbering indent.

Parameters

```
is-enum-item(  
  ct: content,  
  split-dispatch: function,  
  fits-inside: function,  
  cfg: dictionary  
)
```

ct `content`

Content to split.

split-dispatch `function`

Recursively passed around (see `split-dispatch` below).

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

cfg `dictionary`

Extra configuration options.

has-body

Split content with a "body" main field. There is a special strategy for `list.item` and `enum.item` which are handled separately. Elements `strong`, `emph`, `underline`, `stroke`, `overline`, `highlight` are splittable, the rest are treated as non-splittable.

Parameters

```
has-body(  
  ct: content,  
  split-dispatch: function,  
  fits-inside: function,  
  cfg: dictionary  
)
```

ct `content`

Content to split.

split-dispatch `function`

Recursively passed around (see `split-dispatch` below).

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

cfg `dictionary`

Extra configuration options.

dispatch

Based on the fields on the content, call the appropriate splitting function. This function is involved in a mutual recursion loop, which is why all other splitting functions take this one as a parameter.

Parameters

```
dispatch(  
    ct: content,  
    fits-inside: function,  
    cfg: dictionary  
)
```

ct `content`

Content to split.

fits-inside `function`

Closure to determine if the content fits (see `fits-inside` above).

cfg `dictionary`

Extra configuration options.

fill-box

Initialize default configuration options and take as much content as fits in a box of given size.
Returns a tuple of the content that fits and the content that overflows separated.

Parameters

```
fill-box(  
    dims: (width: length, height: length),  
    ct: content,  
    size: (width: length, height: length),  
    cfg: dictionary  
) -> (content, content)
```

dims `(width: length, height: length)`

Container size.

ct `content`

Content to split.

size `(width: length, height: length)`

Parent container size.

Default: `none`

cfg dictionary

Configuration options.

- **list-markers:** (`..content,`), default value (`[•], [▶], [−], [•], [▶], [−]`). If you change the markers of `list`, put the new value in the parameters so that `lists` are correctly split.
- **enum-numbering:** (`..str,`), default value (`"1.", "1.", "1.", "1.", "1.", "1."`). If you change the numbering style of `enum`, put the new style in the parameters so that `enums` are correctly split.

Default: (`:`)

VII.e Threading (`threading.typ`)

Filling and stretches boxes iteratively.

- [smart-fill-boxes\(\)](#)
- [reflow\(\)](#)

smart-fill-boxes

Thread text through a list of boxes in order, allowing the boxes to stretch vertically to accomodate for uneven tiling.

Parameters

```
smart-fill-boxes(  
    body: content ,  
    avoid: (..block,) ,  
    boxes: (..block,) ,  
    extend: length ,  
    size: (width: length, height: length)  
) -> (..content,)
```

body `content`

Flowing text.

avoid `(..block,)`

Obstacles to avoid. A list of (`x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length`).

Default: (`()`)

boxes `(..block,)`

Boxes to fill. A list of (`x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length, bound: block`).

`bound` is the upper limit of how much to stretch the container, i.e. also (`x: length, y: length, width: length, height: length`).

Default: (`()`)

extend `length`

How much the baseline can extend downwards (within the limits of bounds).

Default: `1em`

size `(width: length, height: length)`

Dimensions of the container as given by layout.

Default: `none`

reflow

Segment the input content according to the tiling algorithm, then thread the flowing text through it.

Parameters

```
reflow(  
  ct: content,  
  debug: bool,  
  overflow: any,  
  placement  
) -> content
```

ct `content`

See module `tiling` for how to format this content.

debug `bool`

Whether to show the boundaries of boxes.

Default: `false`

overflow `any`

Controls the behavior in case the content overflows the provided containers.

- `false` -> adds a warning box to the document
- `true` -> ignores any overflow
- `pagebreak` -> the text that overflows is simply placed normally on the next page
- `panic` -> refuses to compile the document

Default: `false`

placement

Relationship with the rest of the content on the page.

- **page**: meander assumes control of the entire page and will put the content starting from the top left. All content placed by meander is invisible to regular layout.
- **box**: meander will simulate a box of the same dimensions as its contents so that normal text can go before and after.
- **here**: similar to **page** in that it is invisible to the rest of the content, but has the same behavior as **box** in that it continues where existing text stops.

Default: **page**