

Ordering and overlap between variable CFF2 stem hints

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The following unnumbered section is added to the end of the current CFF2 section “Hints”:

Variable hints

As with other CharString values, the values of `hstem`, `hstemhm`, `vstem` and `vstemhm` operators can be blended so that they vary across a design space. The requirements on stem hints are relaxed in the following two ways in the context of a variable font:

- Although horizontal and vertical stems must always be sorted according to their values in the default instance, their relative ordering can change in other instances.
- Any instance, including the default instance, can have more than one stem with exactly the same position and width.

Any pair of stems that overlap with one another at any point in design space—and therefore any pair of stems that change order or are identical in some instance—must be treated as overlapping when choosing between the `stem` and `stemhm` operator variants and when constructing `hintmasks` for the CharString.