

# Headers & Top margins

(mPDF >= 4.0)

In standard usage, mPDF sets the following:

- top-margin = distance in mm from top of page to start of text (ignoring any headers)
- header-margin = distance in mm from top of page to start of header
- bottom-margin = distance in mm from bottom of page to bottom of text (ignoring any footers)
- footer-margin = distance in mm from bottom of page to bottom of footer

If you specify a header that extends further down the page than the top-margin, then the header and main text will overlap.

## Alternative margin usage

The variables `$this->setAutoTopMargin` and `$this->setAutoBottomMargin` can be set in the `config.php` file. Both default to **FALSE**.

### pad

If `$this->setAutoTopMargin` is set to '**pad**' then the value for margin-top is used to set a fixed distance in mm (padding) between the bottom of the header and top of the main text. The converse is true with `$this->setAutoBottomMargin`.

### stretch

If `$this->setAutoTopMargin` is set to '**stretch**' then the margin-top sets a **minimum** distance in mm between the top of the page and the top of the main text, which expands if header is too large to fit. The value `$this->autoMarginPadding` (default = 2, configurable in `config.php`) defines an additional distance in mm used as padding between the header and main text. This is the behaviour seen in Microsoft Word. The converse is true with `$this->setAutoBottomMargin`.

## Experimental!

Use of this function is probably best considered experimental. It is incompatible with some of the other functionality in mPDF, and has some limitations:

- Using either pad or stretch, the values are set for the whole document - changes during the document will produce unpredictable results
- Incompatible with orientation changes, `forceportraitheaders` or `forceportraitmargins`
- Does not work with "write to current page" options for Headers
- Incompatible with CSS `@paged media`
- Cannot set a new Footer when already further down the page than there is room needed for footer
- Potential error if using `{nbpg}` to define page total in an HTML header or footer. The top/bottom margin is calculated by writing the HTML header using the current page no. If when the header is finally written, a page number total of e.g. 500 causes an extra line in the header/footer, this will not be allowed for.

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