

# hydra

/ˈhaɪdrə/

Of headings and headers

v0.4.0

2024-03-19

<https://github.com/tingerr/hydra>

**tinger** <me@tinger.dev>

## **ABSTRACT**

Query and display headings in your documents and templates.

## CONTENTS

<b>I</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
	1. Terminology & Semantics .....	1
<b>II</b>	<b>Features .....</b>	<b>2</b>
	1. Contextual .....	2
	2. Custom Elements .....	2
	3. Redundancy Checks .....	3
	3.1. Starting Page .....	3
	3.2. Book Mode .....	4
	4. Anchoring .....	4
<b>III</b>	<b>Reference .....</b>	<b>5</b>
	1. Stability .....	5
	2. Custom Types .....	5

# I INTRODUCTION

Hydra is a package which aims to query and display section elements, such as headings, legal paragraphs, documentation sections, and whatever else may semantically declare the start of a document's section.

## 1. Terminology & Semantics

The following terms are frequently used in the remainder of this document.

Term	Description
<b>primary</b>	The element which is primarily looked for and meant to be displayed.
<b>ancestor</b>	An element which is the immediate or transitive ancestor to the primary element. A level 3 heading is ancestor to both level 2 (directly) and level 1 headings (transitively).
<b>scope</b>	The scope of a primary element refers to the section of a document which is between the closest ancestors.
<b>active</b>	The active element refers to whatever element is considered for display. While this is usually the previous primary element, it may sometimes be the next primary element.
<b>leading page</b>	A leading page in a book is that, which is further along the content of the two visible pages at any time, this is the <b>end</b> alignment with respect to the document reading direction.
<b>trailing page</b>	A trailing page is that, which is not the leading page in a book.

The search for a primary element is always bounded to its scope. For the following simplified document:

```
= Chapter 1
== Section 1.1

= Chapter 2
=== Subsection 2.0.1
#hydra(2)
```

```
Chapter 1
└ Section 1.1
Chapter 2
└ <none>
  └ Subsection 2.0.1
```

hydra will only search within its current chapter as it is looking for active sections. In this case hydra would not find a suitable candidate. For this the ancestors of an element must be known. For headings this is simple:

`<none>` → `level: 1` → `level: 2` → `level: 3` → ...

If hydra is used to query for level 2 headings it will only do so within the bounds of the closest level 1 headings. In principle, elements other than headings can be used (see Section 2.), as long as their semantic relationships are established.

## II FEATURES

### 1. Contextual

Hydra will take contextual information into account to provide good defaults, such as inferring the reading direction and binding from the page and text styles to offer correct handling of books as seen in Section 3.2..

### 2. Custom Elements

Because some documents may use custom elements of some kind to display chapters or section like elements, hydra allows defining its own selectors for tight control over how elements are semantically related.

Given a custom element like so:

```
#let chapter = figure.with(kind: "chapter", supplement: [Chapter])
// ... show rules and additional setup

#chapter[Introduction]
#chapter[Main]
= Section 1.1
== Subsection 1.1.1
= Section 1.2
#chapter[Annex]
```

A user may want to query for the current chapter and section respectively:

```
#import "@preview/hydra:0.4.0": hydra, selectors
#import selectors: custom

#let chap = figure.where(kind: "chapter")
#let sect = custom(heading.where(level: 1), ancestor: chap)

#set page(header: context if calc.odd(here().page()) {
  align(left, hydra(chap))
} else {
  align(right, hydra(sect))
})
```

The usage of `custom` allows specifying an element's ancestors, to ensure the scope is correctly defined. The selectors module also contains some useful default selectors.

### 3. Redundancy Checks

Generally hydra is used for heading like elements, i.e. elements which semantically describe a section of a document. Whenever hydra is used in a place where its output would be redundant, it will not show any output by default. The following sections explain those checks more closely and will generally assume that hydra is looking for headings for simplicity.

#### 3.1. Starting Page

Given a page which starts with a primary element, it will not show anything. If `skip-starting` is set to `false`, it will fallback to the next element, in this case the heading at the top of the page.

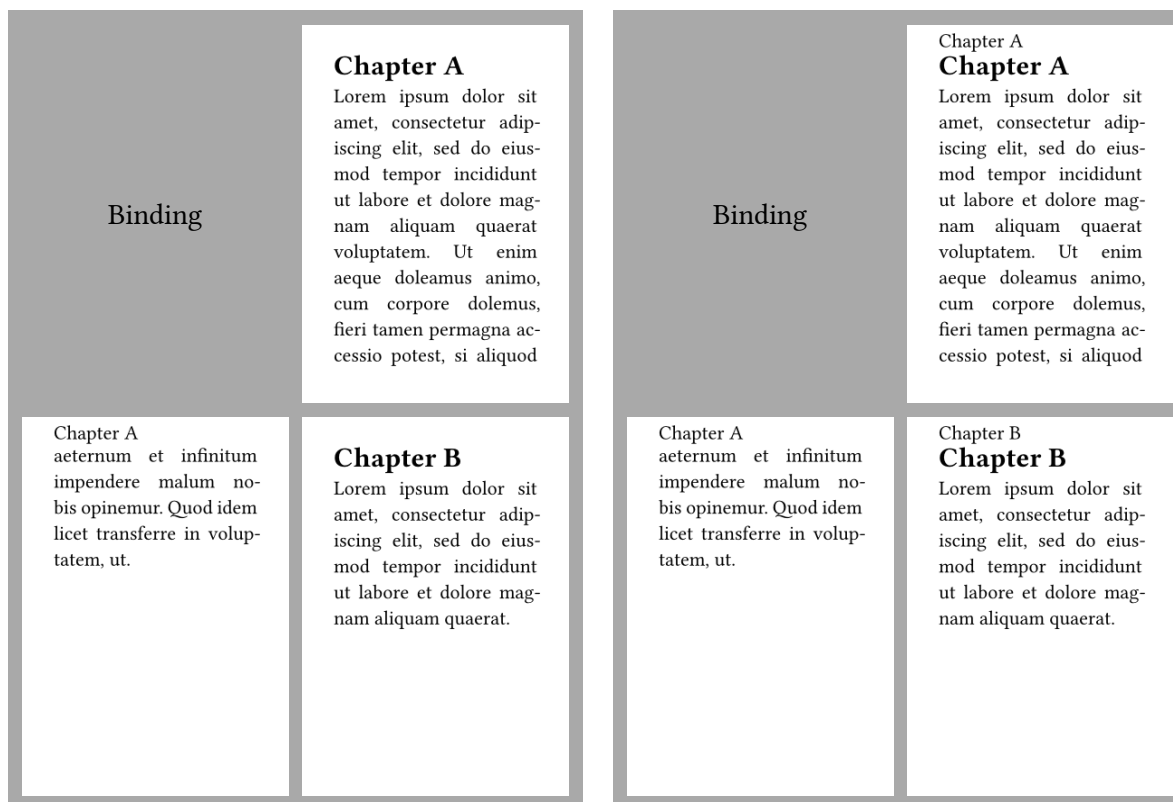


Figure 1: An example document showing `skip-starting: true` (left) and `skip-starting: false` (right).

For more complex selectors this will not correctly work if the first element on this page is an ancestor. See [hydra#8](#).

### 3.2. Book Mode

Given a leading page, if `book` is set to `true`, then if the previous primary element is still visible on the previous (trailing) page it is also skipped.

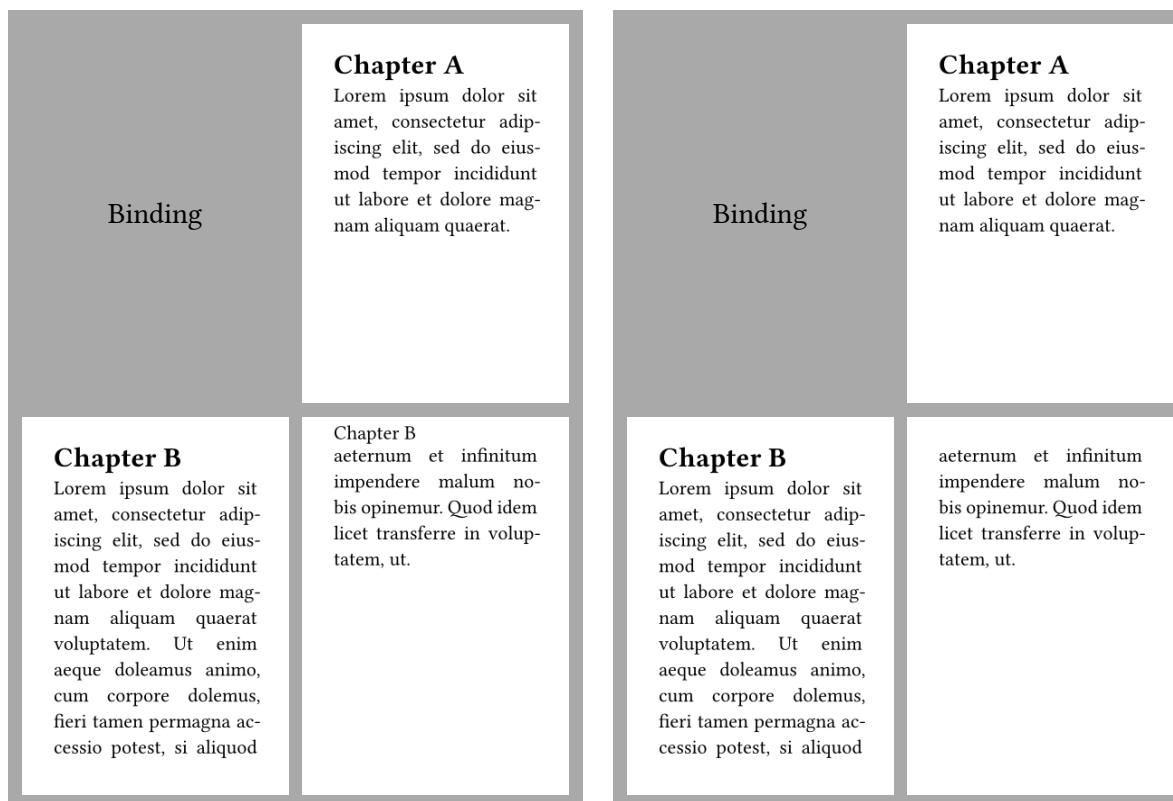


Figure 2: An example document showing `book: false` (left) and `book: true` (right).

This may produce unexpected results with `hydra` is used outside the header and the text direction where it is used is different to where it's anchor (see Section 4.) is placed. This can be prevented by explicitly setting its `binding` and `dir` arguments.

### 4. Anchoring

To use `hydra` outside of the header, an anchor must be placed to get the correct active elements. `hydra` will always use the last anchor it finds to search, it doesn't have to be inside the header, but should generally be, otherwise the behavior may be unexpected.

```
#import "@preview/hydra:0.4.0": hydra, anchor
#set page(header: anchor(), footer: context hydra())
```

## III REFERENCE

### 1. Stability

The following stability guarantees are made, this package tries to adhere to semantic versioning.

**unstable** API may change with any version bump.

**stable** API will not change without a major version bump or a minor version bump before 1.0.0, if such a change occurs it is a bug and unintended.

### 2. Custom Types

The following custom types are used to pass around information easily:

#### 2.1. sanitized-selector **stable**

Defines a selector for an ancestor or primary element.

```
(
  target: queryable,
  filter: ((context, candidates) => bool) | none,
)
```

#### 2.2. hydra-selector **stable**

Defines a pair of primary and ancestor element selectors.

```
(
  primary: sanitized-selector,
  ancestors: sanitized-selector | none,
)
```

#### 2.3. candidates **stable**

Defines the candidates that have been found in a specific context.

```
(
  primary: (prev: content | none, next: content | none),
  ancestor: (prev: content | none, next: content | none),
)
```

#### 2.4. context **unstable**

Defines the options passed to hydra nad resolved contextual information needed for querying and displaying.

```
(
  prev-filter: (context, candidates) => bool,
  next-filter: (context, candidates) => bool,
  display: (context, content) => content,
  skip-starting: bool,
  book: bool,
  anchor: label | none,
  anchor-loc: location,
  primary: sanitized-selector,
  ancestors: sanitized-selector,
)
```

## hydra **stable**

The package entry point. All functions validate their inputs and panic using error messages directed at the end user.

- [anchor\(\)](#)
- [hydra\(\)](#)

```
anchor()
```

An anchor used to search from. When using hydra outside of the page header, this should be placed inside the pge header to find the correct searching context. hydra always searches from the last anchor it finds, if and only if it detects that it is outside of the top-margin.

```
hydra(  
  prev-filter: function auto,  
  next-filter: function auto,  
  display: function auto,  
  skip-starting: bool,  
  dir: direction auto,  
  binding: alignement auto,  
  book: bool,  
  anchor: label none,  
  ..sel: any  
) -> content
```

Query for an element within the bounds of its ancestors.

The context passed to various callbacks contains the resolved top-margin, the current location, as well as the binding direction, primary and ancestor element selectors and customized functions.

This function is contextual.

### Parameters:

**prev-filter** ( function or auto = **auto** ) – A function which receives the context and candidates, and returns if they are eligible for display. This function is called at most once. The primary next candidate may be none. If this is auto no filter is applied.

**next-filter** ( function or auto = **auto** ) – A function which receives the context and candidates, and returns if they are eligible for display. This function is called at most once. The primary prev candidate may be none. If this is auto no filter is applied.

**display** ( function or auto = **auto** ) – A function which receives the context and candidate element to display. If this is auto, the default implementaion will be used.

**skip-starting** ( bool = **true** ) – Whether hydra should show the current candidate even if it's on top of the current page.

**dir** ( direction or auto = **auto** ) – The reading direction of the document. If this is auto, the text direction is used. Be cautious about leaving this option on auto if you switch text direction mid-page and use hydra outside of footers or headers.



`binding ( alignement or auto = auto )` – The binding of the document. If this is `auto`, the binding is inferred from `dir`, similar to how it is done in `page`. Be cautious about leaving this option on `auto` if you switch text direction mid-page and use `hydra` outside of footers or headers.

`book ( bool = false )` – The binding direction if it should be considered, `none` if not. If the binding direction is set it'll be used to check for redundancy when an element is visible on the last page. Make sure to set `binding` and `dir` if the document is not using left-to-right reading direction.

`anchor ( label or none = <hydra-anchor> )` – The label to use for the anchor if `hydra` is used outside the header. If this is `none`, the anchor is not searched.

`..sel ( any )` – The element to look for, to use other elements than headings, read the documentation on selectors. This can be an element function or selector, or an integer declaring a heading level.

## core **unstable**

The core logic module. Some functions may return results with error messages that can be used to panic or recover from instead of panicking themselves.

- `display()`
- `execute()`
- `get-candidates()`
- `get-page-binding()`
- `get-text-dir()`
- `get-top-margin()`
- `is-active-redundant()`
- `is-active-visible()`
- `is-on-starting-page()`
- `locate-last-anchor()`

```
display(ctx: context, candidate: content) -> content
```

Display a heading's numbering and body.

### Parameters:

`ctx ( context )` – The context in which the element was found.

`candidate ( content )` – The heading to display, panics if this is not a heading.

```
execute(ctx: context) -> content
```

Execute the core logic to find and display elements for the current context.

This function is contextual.

### Parameters:

`ctx ( context )` – The context for which to find and display the element.

```
get-candidates(ctx: context) -> candidates
```

Get the element candidates for the given context.

This function is contextual.

### Parameters:

`ctx ( context )` – The context for which to get the candidates.

```
get-page-binding() -> alignment
```

Returns the current page binding.

This function is contextual.

```
get-text-dir() -> direction
```

Returns the current text direction.

This function is contextual.

```
get-top-margin() -> length
```

Returns the current top margin.

This function is contextual.

```
is-active-redundant(ctx: context, candidates: candidates) -> bool
```

Check if showing the active element would be redundant in the current context.

This function is contextual.

**Parameters:**

`ctx ( context )` – The context in which the redundancy of the previous primary candidate should be checked.

`candidates ( candidates )` – The candidates for this context.

```
is-active-visible(ctx: context, candidates: candidates) -> bool
```

Checks if the previous primary candidate is still visible.

This function is contextual.

**Parameters:**

`ctx ( context )` – The context in which the visibility of the previous primary candidate should be checked.

`candidates ( candidates )` – The candidates for this context.

```
is-on-starting-page(ctx: context, candidates: candidates) -> bool
```

Checks if the current context is on a starting page, i.e. if the next candidates are on top of this context's page.

This function is contextual.

**Parameters:**

`ctx ( context )` – The context in which the visibility of the next candidates should be checked.

`candidates ( candidates )` – The candidates for this context.

```
locate-last-anchor(ctx: context) -> location
```

Get the last anchor location. Panics if the last anchor was not on the page of this context.

This function is contextual.

**Parameters:**

`ctx ( context )` – The context from which to start.

## selectors **stable**

Contains functions used for creating custom selectors.

- `by-level()`
- `custom()`
- `sanitize()`

```
by-level(min: int | None, max: int | None, ..exact: int | None) -> hydra-selector
```

Create a heading selector for a given range of levels.

### Parameters:

`min (int or None = None)` – The inclusive minimum level to consider as the primary heading

`max (int or None = None)` – The inclusive maximum level to consider as the primary heading

`..exact (int or None)` – The exact level to consider as the primary element

```
custom(element: function | selector, filter: function, ancestors: function | selector,  
        ancestors-filter: function) -> hydra-selector
```

Create a custom selector for hydra.

### Parameters:

`element (function or selector)` – The primary element to search for.

`filter (function = None)` – The filter to apply to the element.

`ancestors (function or selector = None)` – The ancestor elements, this should match all of its ancestors.

`ancestors-filter (function = None)` – The filter applied to the ancestors.

```
sanitize(name: str, sel: any, message: str | auto) -> hydra-selector
```

Turn a selector or function into a hydra selector.

**This function is considered unstable.**

### Parameters:

`name (str)` – The name to use in the assertion message.

`sel (any)` – The selector to sanitize.

`message (str or auto = auto)` – The assertion message to use.

**util** **unstable**

Utility functions and values.

## util/core **unstable**

Utility functions.

- [or-default\(\)](#)
- [page-binding\(\)](#)
- [text-direction\(\)](#)

```
or-default(value: any, default: function, check: any) -> any
```

Substitute value for the return value of `default()` if it is a sentinel value.

### Parameters:

`value (any)` – The value to check.

`default (function)` – The function to produce the default value with.

`check (any = none)` – The sentinel value to check for.

```
page-binding(dir) -> alignment
```

Returns the page binding for a text direction.

Source: [page.rs#L368-L373](#)

`dir (direction)`: The direction to get the page binding for.

```
text-direction(lang) -> direction
```

Returns the text direction for a given language, defaults to `ltr` for unknown languages.

Source: [lang.rs#L50-L57](#)

`lang (str)`: The language to get the text direction for.

```
auto-or
```

An alias for `or-default` with `check: auto`.

```
none-or
```

An alias for `or-default` with `check: none`.

```
queryable-functions
```

A list of queryable element functions.



## util/assert **unstable**

Assertions used for input and state validation.

- `element()`
- `enum()`
- `queryable()`
- `types()`

```
element(name: str, element: any, ..expected-funcs: type, message: str auto)
```

Assert that `element` is an element created by one of the given expected-funcs.

### Parameters:

`name (str)` – The name used for the value in the assertion message.

`element (any)` – The value to check for.

`..expected-funcs (type)` – The expected element functions of `element`.

`message (str or auto = auto)` – The assertion message to use.

```
enum(name: str, value: any, ..expected-values: type, message: str auto)
```

Assert that `value` is any of the given expected-values.

### Parameters:

`name (str)` – The name used for the value in the assertion message.

`value (any)` – The value to check for.

`..expected-values (type)` – The expected variants of `value`.

`message (str or auto = auto)` – The assertion message to use.

```
queryable(name: str, value: any, message: str auto)
```

Assert that `value` can be used in query.

### Parameters:

`name (str)` – The name used for the value in the assertion message.

`value (any)` – The value to check for.

`message (str or auto = auto)` – The assertion message to use.

```
types(name: str, value: any, ..expected-types: type, message: str auto)
```

Assert that `value` is of any of the given expected-types.

**Parameters:**

`name ( str )` – The name use for the value in the assertion message.

`value ( any )` – The value to check for.

`..expected-types ( type )` – The expected types of value.

`message ( str or auto = auto )` – The assertion message to use.