Cascading Style Sheets (CSS3)

PIC 40A, UCLA

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CSS

CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) are a means for specifying format/display instructions to the web browser when it parses HTML. A browser can have its own defaults, but the CSS gives the control back to the web developer.

The current version of CSS is CSS3. Some of the changes this new standard brings about compared to CSS2 come in giving the web developer more control over selecting elements, being able to tailor display to a user's device (tablet vs PC screen size). Plus more design options.

A Bit of Style

Let's add some style to that very simple HTML5 webpage:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
    <html lang="en">
3
4
     <head>
5
6
      <meta charset="UTF-8">
      <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="page1.css" />
      <title>Really Awesome Webpage</title>
8
     </head>
9
10
    <body>
11
      <h1>PIC 40A </h1>
12
13
        Hello world!
14
      15
     </body>
16
17
     </html>
```

A Bit of Style

Here's how it used to display without any style.



A Bit of Style

Without modifying the HTML in any way, through the help of that **page1.css** file, here is how it looks:



A Bit of Style I

Here is **page1.css**:

```
body {
      background-color: #5376BC;
4
5
6
7
    h1 {
       color: white;
      text-align: center:
8
      font-family: Comic Sans MS, cursive;
9
      font-size: 3em;
10
      width: 25%;
11
      border: 25px solid #FFD700;
12
      padding: 25px;
13
      margin: 25px;
14
15
16
   } q
17
      text-indent: 50px;
18
      display: block;
19
      color: white;
20
      font-size: 2em;
21
      text-shadow: -6px 6px gray;
22
23
24
   p::first-letter {
25
       font-size: 200%;
26
      color: #FFD700;
27
```

CSS Gist

CSS operates by selecting a set of one or more elements.

Once these elements have been selected, it changes their properties.

The general syntax it follows is:

```
selected elements {
  property: value;
  another_property: another_value;
}
```

The styles can all be done on one line, but that is harder to read so we will focus on the multiline format above.

A CSS comment starts with /* and ends with */.

To get started with CSS, we comment what some of the preceding code does before going into more depth:

```
1  p{ /* select all p elements */
2   text-indent: 50px; /* indent by 50 pixels */
3   color: white; /* make the text white */
4   font-size: 2em; /* make the font twice its default size */
5   text-shadow: -6px 6px gray; /* add a gray shadow left&down of 6 pixels */
6 }
```

There are many properties that can be changed with CSS. We will only study some of them in these notes including:

- Background
- Font
- Text
- Dimensions
- Padding
- Border
- Margin
- Display
- Classification and Positioning

To include the CSS file, we use the **link** element in the head. We specify a **rel** of **stylesheet** along with a link to the style sheet with an **href**.

k rel="stylesheet" href="the_style_file.css" />

We will study the properties before studying the selection process. For the examples that follow, we need only concern ourselves with the following:

```
section { /* stuff that applys to all sections */ }
p { /* stuff that applies to all ps */ }
#foo { /* stuff that applies to all elements with id foo */ }
.bar {
    /*stuff that applies to all elements with attribute of class with value bar*/ }
```

The background of an element can be set. The properties we consider are:

- background-color: can specify the fill color of the element
- background-image: can specify a url to a desired image For example,

background-color: red;

makes the background red. And

background-image: url("cat.png");

sets the background image to that of the cat.png image.

Colors can be specified in different ways in CSS:

- in words, certain colors are defined like "red", "blue", etc.
- ▶ in their red-green-blue color values from 0-255 as in rgb(255,0,0) being fully red with no blue or green
- in their red-green-blue color values written in hexademical juxtaposed next to each other as in #cc0024 meaning a red component of $CC = 12 \times 16 + 12 = 204$, a green component of $00 = 0 \times 16 + 0 = 0$, and a blue component of $24 = 2 \times 16 + 4 = 36$.

Some other shorthands exist but we won't discuss them.

With HTML

and CSS

```
1  #first{
2  background-color: purple;
3  }
4  
5  #second{
6  background-image: url("Sun.png")
7  }
```

we obtain the output

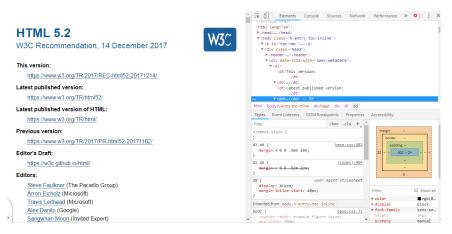
Lorem ipsum *dolor sit amet*, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas faucibus, enim feugiat finibus congue, augue sem porta leo, non rhoncus sem velit a lorem.

Nullam ultrices in massa sit amet tincidunt. Pellentesque et diam elit. Ut id condimentum mauris. Suspendisse potenti. Aenean nunc risus, venenatis sed orci non, varius auctor urna. Phasellus ut ullamcorper erat.

(assuming we have the file **Sun.png**).

CSS and HTML Investigation

Virtually all web browsers allow their users to inspect a webpage to view the HTML, CSS, and JavaScript processes. In Chrome as one example, one can **right click**, **select Inspect**, and then access a lot of information.



These tools are worth exploring!

CSS Font

We will consider the following subset of font properties:

- font-family: can specify a list of fonts to be used, in order of decreasing preference
- font-size: can specify how large the font is
- font-weight: can specify the weight of the font

CSS Font - font-family

There are five font families:

- serif: fonts that have decorative finishing strokes or slabbed endings called serifs, e.g., Times New Roman, New York - usually better for print media
- sans-serif: fonts that do not have these serifs, having little or no flare, e.g., Arial, Helvetica - usually better for the web
- monospace: fonts where every character has the same width, e.g., Courier, Prestige
- cursive: fonts that resemble handwriting, e.g., Caflisch Script, Comic Sans
- fantasy: fonts that are more for decoration, e.g., Cottonwood, Impact

CSS Font - font-family

To specify a font family, we give a comma separated list of families to try in order of preference, followed by the family name if the browser cannot support the previous items on the list.

font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;

CSS Font - font-family I

With HTML

```
Times New Roman
 Arial
 Courier
 Cedarville Cursive
12
 14
  Lobster
15
```

and CSS

CSS Font - font-family II

```
#first{
    font-family: Times New Roman, serif;
}

#second{
    font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
}

#third{
    font-family: Courier, monospace;
}

#fourth{
    font-family: Cedarville Cursive, cursive;
}

#fifth{
    font-family: Lobster, fantasy;
}
```

CSS Font: font-family

we obtain the output

Times New Roman

Arial

Courier

Cedarville Cursive

Lobster

CSS Font - font-size

The **font-size** is commonly set using **em**, %, or **rem**, but it can also be set absolutely with a size in pixels **px** (for how tall the letters are from the top of letters like "h" to the bottom of letters like "y").

em: 1em equals the font size for that element (based on how the browser wants to display the text and other stylings) and the font-size can scale with the ems: 2em is twice as big. 0.8em is 80% as big, etc.

%: the percentage behaves the same as **em** where 100% = 1em.

Remark: do not put a space between the number and the **em** (or any of the units)!

CSS Font - font-size

Scaling: the **em**s and % can have a nested effect. Relative to its default size, if a span of text was given a size of 2em within a paragraph styled to 3em, the text would be 6 times as large as the default for the paragraph before its styling.

rem: 1rem equals the font size for the **html** element. Using these units is a way to scale font sizes independently of parent elements.

General advice: usually it is best to not use **px** to set font size because the website may not scale correctly.

CSS Font - font-size

With HTML

and CSS

```
1  #p2{
2  font-size: 1.5em;
3  }
4
5  #p3{
6  font-size: 1.5em;
7  }
8  
9  #s2{
10  font-size: 1.5em;
11  }
12
13  #s3{
14  font-size: 0.5rem;
15 }
```

CSS Font: font-size we obtain the output

ΑВ

ΑВ

Ав

CSS Font - font-weight

The **font-weight** can have various values depending how how **bold** it should appear. It tends to run on a scale from 100-900 in increments of 100.

Standard text is 400. Normal bold text is 700.

CSS Font - font-weight I

With HTML

```
100
 300
 500
 700
12
 13
 14
 900
15
```

and CSS

CSS Font - font-weight II

```
#w100{
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
       font-weight: 100;
     #w300{
       font-weight: 300;
     #w500{
10
       font-weight: 500;
11
12
13
     #w700{
14
       font-weight: 700;
15
16
17
     #w900{
18
       font-weight: 900;
19
```

CSS Font: font-weight

we obtain the output

CSS Text

We will consider the following subset of text properties:

- color: can specify the font color, just like background-color.
- **text-align**: can specify the justification.
- text-indent: can specify the indent for the first line of an element.
- text-decoration: can specify the styling of the text.

CSS Text

Related to **color** is the **rgba** value: a 4-tuple of red/green/blue/alpha, where alpha is how opaque the text/element is.

There is also **opacity**. This can be used for any element to specify how opaque it is. It ranges from 0-1 with 1 being opaque and 0 being transparent. It applies to all child elements as well.

CSS Text - text-align

Some values of text-align include:

- left (aligns to the left)
- right (aligns to the right)
- center (centered)
- justify (attempt to make all lines the same width)

CSS Text - text-indent

Some units of **text-indent** include:

- % (percent of parent element width to indent)
- px (number of pixels to indent)

CSS Text - text-decoration

Some values of **text-decoration** include:

- underline (underlines the text)
- overline (overlines the text)
- line-through (places a line through the text)

CSS Text I

With HTML

```
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu
           fermentum elit. In malesuada urna sit amet dui lacinia venenatis. Nunc gravida
          porttitor quam id blandit.
    Fusce eget dictum nibh. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus conque ac.
           Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus
           welit
    Sed nec interdum tortor, ac egestas leo. In libero nisi, faucibus vel turpis sit amet,
           auctor fermentum tortor. Vestibulum convallis sagittis libero, at viverra enim
          gravida non.
9
    10
    11
      Donec tincidunt tellus et aliquam placerat. Vivamus mattis molestie rutrum. Nullam
           tincidunt risus eu arcu consequat, vitae ullamcorper enim finibus. Pellentesque
           dapibus mi eu iaculis finibus.
12
```

and CSS

CSS Text II

```
#first{
      color: blue;
      text-align: left;
      text-indent: 10px;
    #second{
      text-align: right;
      text-indent: 50%;
10
      text-decoration: overline;
11
12
13
   #third{
14
    text-align: center;
15
      text-decoration: underline;
16
17
18
    #fourth{
19
      text-align: justify;
      text-decoration: line-through;
20
21
```

CSS Text

we obtain the output

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit. In malesuada urna sit amet dui lacinia venenatis. Nunc gravida porttitor quam id blandit.

Fusce eget dictum nibh. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis.

Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.

Sed nec interdum tortor, ac egestas leo. In libero nisi, faucibus vel turpis sit amet, auctor fermentum tortor. Vestibulum convallis sagittis libero, at viverra enim gravida non.

Donce tincidunt tellus et aliquam placerat. Vivamus mattis molestic rutrum. Nullam tincidunt risus eu areu consequat, vitae ullameorper enim finibus. Pellentesque dapibus mi eu iaculis finibus.

CSS Text

By using the **direction: rtl** instead of the default **ltr** (left-to-right), we could have the right-aligned paragraph indent from the right rather than the left.

CSS Relative Lengths

In measuring sizes in CSS, there are a number of relative units (as opposed to absolute units like pixels). In addition to % and **em**, a few others include:

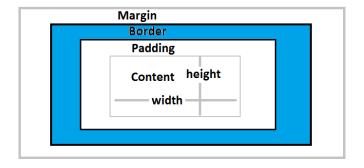
ch: relative to the width of the digit '0'

vw: relative to the viewport width (100vw is the full width)

vh: relative to the viewport height (100vh is the full height)

These units can be useful in placing and sizing elements of a page.

The dimensions, padding, border, and margin properties relate to the **box model** of an element.



The content of an element has a height/width.

The content in turn is padded before reaching the element's border.

The border can be specified to have a colour, thickness, or style.

Then the outer border has a margin with respect to its containing element.

padding: 20px;

gives a uniform 20px of padding on the top, right, bottom, and left of the element's content.

It is also possible to specify the top/right/bottom/left individually with **padding-top**, **padding-right**, **padding-bottom**, and **padding-left** and similarly for **margin**. For **border** we use **border-top-width**, etc.

The **border**s can be given a **border-color** and **border-style**, too. The colour values are the obvious ones.

Some values of **border-style** include:

- dotted
- dashed
- solid
- double

As one piece of shorthand we will consider (there are lots more), we can specify many border properties simultaneously with:

border: width style color;

where **width** is the width in % or pixels, **style** is the style value, and **color** is the color value.

With HTML

```
<section>
     Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu
            fermentum elit. In malesuada urna sit amet dui lacinia venenatis. Nunc gravida
            porttitor quam id blandit.
     5
     Fusce eget dictum nibh. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus conque ac.
             Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus
             welit
     Sed nec interdum tortor, ac egestas leo. In libero nisi, faucibus vel turpis sit amet,
            auctor fermentum tortor. Vestibulum convallis sagittis libero, at viverra enim
            gravida non.
10
     11
     12
       Donec tincidunt tellus et aliquam placerat. Vivamus mattis molestie rutrum. Nullam
            tincidunt risus eu arcu consequat, vitae ullamcorper enim finibus. Pellentesque
            dapibus mi eu iaculis finibus.
13
     14
    </section>
```

and CSS

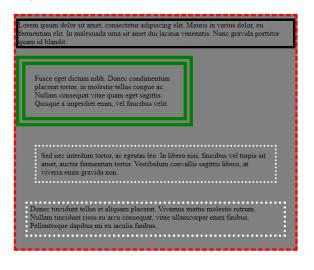
CSS Box Model II

```
section{
      border: 5px dashed red;
3
      background-color: #808080;
4
      height: 500px:
5
      width: 600px:
6
7
8
     #first{
9
      padding: Opx;
10
      margin-top: 5px;
11
      border: 5px solid black;
12
13
14
     #second{
15
      width: 50%;
16
      padding: 20px;
17
      border: 20px double green;
18
      margin: Opx;
19
20
21
    #third{
22
      padding: 10px;
23
      border: 4px dotted white;
24
      margin: 40px;
25
26
27
     #fourth{
28
       padding-top: 2px;
29
      padding-bottom: 10px;
30
      padding-left: 5px;
31
       padding-right: 40px;
32
      border-width: 5px;
```

CSS Box Model III

```
33  border-style: dotted;
34  border-color: white;
35  margin: 20px;
36 }
```

we obtain the output



It is important not to overspecify details. For example, if a **p** element is nested inside a **section** element of a given size, we cannot tell the **p** element to take up a width of 100% but have a margin of 80 pixels...

There is also something known as **margin collapsing**: if there are two adjacent elements and one has a margin of **x**, say, while the other has a margin of **y**, then the margin between them will be their maximum, i.e., **max(x,y)**.

With HTML

```
<div id="outer div">
2
        <div id="inner div1">
        >
        Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor
              incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Volutpat commodo sed egestas egestas
              fringilla phasellus faucibus scelerisque. Sagittis orci a scelerisque purus
              semper. Etiam dignissim diam guis enim lobortis. Pellentesque eu tincidunt tortor
              aliquam nulla facilisi. Turpis egestas sed tempus urna et pharetra pharetra massa.
              Nisl vel pretium lectus quam id leo.
5
        Dis parturient montes nascetur ridiculus mus mauris vitae ultricies. Adipiscing elit
              duis tristique sollicitudin nibh sit amet. Pretium vulputate sapien nec sagittis
              aliquam malesuada bibendum arcu. Eros donec ac odio tempor orci dapibus ultrices
              in iaculis. Diam sollicitudin tempor id eu nisl nunc mi. Elit ut aliquam purus sit
               amet luctus. Vel eros donec ac odio. Mi sit amet mauris commodo.
        8
      </div>
9
      <div id="inner div2">
10
        >
11
        Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor
              incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Volutpat commodo sed egestas egestas
              fringilla phasellus faucibus scelerisque. Sagittis orci a scelerisque purus
              semper. Etiam dignissim diam quis enim lobortis. Pellentesque eu tincidunt tortor
              aliguam nulla facilisi. Turpis egestas sed tempus urna et pharetra pharetra massa.
              Nisl vel pretium lectus quam id leo.
12
```

CSS Box Model II

```
13
        Dis parturient montes nascetur ridiculus mus mauris vitae ultricies. Adipiscing elit
              duis tristique sollicitudin nibh sit amet. Pretium vulputate sapien nec sagittis
              aliquam malesuada bibendum arcu. Eros donec ac odio tempor orci dapibus ultrices
              in iaculis. Diam sollicitudin tempor id eu nisl nunc mi. Elit ut aliquam purus sit
               amet luctus. Vel eros donec ac odio. Mi sit amet mauris commodo.
14
        15
      </div>
      <div id="inner div3">
16
17
        >
18
        Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor
              incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Volutpat commodo sed egestas egestas
              fringilla phasellus faucibus scelerisque. Sagittis orci a scelerisque purus
              semper. Etiam dignissim diam quis enim lobortis. Pellentesque eu tincidunt tortor
              aliquam nulla facilisi. Turpis egestas sed tempus urna et pharetra pharetra massa.
              Nisl vel pretium lectus quam id leo.
19
        20
        Dis parturient montes nascetur ridiculus mus mauris vitae ultricies. Adipiscing elit
              duis tristique sollicitudin nibh sit amet. Pretium vulputate sapien nec sagittis
              aliquam malesuada bibendum arcu. Eros donec ac odio tempor orci dapibus ultrices
              in iaculis. Diam sollicitudin tempor id eu nisl nunc mi. Elit ut aliquam purus sit
               amet luctus. Vel eros donec ac odio. Mi sit amet mauris commodo.
21
        22
```

and CSS

</div>

CSS Box Model III

```
#outer div{
      width: 80vw;
      border-style: dashed;
4
5
6
7
      padding: 5%;
     #inner div1{
      width: 50vw;
      border: 2px solid red;
10
11
12
    #inner div2{
13
      width: 50%;
14
      border: 2px solid blue;
15
16
17
    #inner div3{
18
      width: 50ch;
19
      border: 2px solid green;
20
```

we obtain:

CSS Box Model IV

Leem ipsum deler sit most, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed de eisumed tempor incididant ut labere et delore magna aliqua. Velutput commedo sed egestus egentas fringillà passalitas funciones scelariospas. Sogistiris cei a socienza que princi sempre. Elizan digistissim dam quas entra beleenia. Pelletteraque es intesident retrot aliquam millà facilisi. Tarpis egestus sed empso una er platerat patrica massa. Nal 10 ejertusin electros quam id leo.

Die partniere moeten nasonen richteilne suss naueri viten stheiden Adjesseng ellt deit witsiges sollicituden mildt uit most. Pertnam vulgarans sapien see sagstim allegann melessuda behenden aren. Eros doese zu oden bezoper over dappten sthriese in atestis. Dans sollicitudin tempor sir en sink moet m. Ellt ort ultgann purus sit men betom. Vel eros denoes ze oden. Mi sit ment manen commedon.

Lorem ipsum delor sit mnet, consecteius alipiscing elit, sed do cisamod tempos incididant ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Veltrput commedo sed opentas agestas funçilla phasellan funcibus scolerinque. Sagrina occi a scalerinque purus semper. Iliano dispismo dana quis esten loboris. Pellemenge se aticidata totoro aliquam salla facilisi. Turpis egestas sed tempos suma et piharetia phasesta massa. Nisl vel pretizmi lectus quans sid leo.

Dis particiert mottes nasceur ridiction stats matters vitar Univiers. Adoptioning elit dais missique collicitadis mibi sitnete. Peritiam vilgustate supirm ce segritis alegana malentuada bibendam sens. Eros decese ca cioli terrapor cei depubsi schrices in siccida. Dans solicitadis memper al eu misi name mi. Elit ut alequam pursu sit amet hocus. Vel eros denne ac ciolo. Mi si matte transire comunido.

Leonin jupan deler ut anne, consectura afspiscing ett, sed de ceisands tengen incisfient ut bloot et delete magne, alique. Viderput commedo sed spratus egratus fungilis phasalba function sederingus Sagnitis eera ne oderinque pura sempet l'himo dignission dans quis enin loboris. Pellentesque es incisfient tetet aliquen salla facilist. Turpis spenta sed impus uma et planetra pharetra massa. Nial vel pertina leone quant di be.

Dis partitiere moettes nacester ridiculus mus mauria vitue ubmicies. Adipiscine elir duis minique sollicimulus nobi sit tancet. Perdum volgetate sapien accepatiti aliquam malesuada bibendum area. Erea dence ae cobis tempos corci depibus utiriese in accelas. Dans collicimulas tempos el on usid trane mi. Elit ut aliquem prous sit amet lucrus. Vel erea donce ae colic. Mis sit men mauria commando.

CSS Display

The **display** property can change how elements behave in the flow of a webpage. Its values include:

- block (the elements will "stack" like paragraphs do by default, not sharing a line with other elements, inserting line breaks before/after themselves, and taking up the maximum width possible)
- inline (the elements will flow inline and from line-to-line, staking up the least amount of space possible)
- inline-block (a hybrid: can share a line with other elements but cannot be split into multiple lines)
- none (the element will not be displayed)

CSS Display I

With HTML

```
2
     Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
3
   4
   5
     Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit.
6
   7
   Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus conque ac. Nullam consequat vitae
         quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.
9
   10
   11
     Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
12
   13
   14
     Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit.
15
   16
   17
     Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus conque ac. Nullam consequat vitae
         quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.
18
   19
   20
     Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
21
   22
   23
     Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit.
24
   25
   26
     Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus conque ac. Nullam consequat vitae
         quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.
27
```

CSS Display II

and CSS

```
.inline{
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
       color: red;
       display: inline;
     .block{
       color: blue;
       display: block;
10
11
     .inlineblock{
12
       color: orange;
13
       display: inline-block;
14
15
16
     .none{
17
       color: purple;
18
       display: none;
19
```

CSS Text

we obtain the output

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit.

Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel

faucibus velit. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit.

Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.

CSS Classification

For properties that fit within the Classification category, we consider:

- **position:** how the element should be placed on the page, relative to what other positions, etc.
- float: whether text can float around it (for images)
- clear: specifies which sides of an element where floats are not allowed
- z-index: the z-index behaves kind of like a depth-coordinate with higher z-index values covering those of lower z-index.

Remark: for **z-index** to take effect, the element must have a *non-static* position!

Each element can be given the following values of **position**:

- static (its default placement)
- fixed (maintaining a fixed placement with respect to the browser window, useful to keep a menubar always in view, say)
- absolute (being placed with respect to its closest non-static ancestor element - or the window itself if there are none)
- relative (being placed relative to where it would normally be in the text)
- sticky (a hybrid of relative and fixed: element remains in its relative position until the user has scrolled sufficiently, then it moves to keep a fixed position)

When giving non-static values, we can specify the offsets of **top**, **right**, **bottom**, or **left**.

Consider HTML

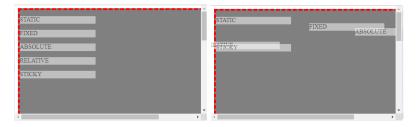
```
<section>
  STATIC
  FIXED
  ABSOLUTE
  11
  RELATIVE
13
  14
  15
   STICKY
16
  17
 </section>
```

and CSS

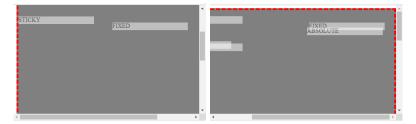
```
section{
      position: relative;
      border: 5px dashed red;
      background-color: #808080;
5
6
7
      height: 900px;
      width: 600px;
8
9
    p{
10
       opacity: 0.5;
11
      background-color: white;
12
      height: 40px;
13
14
15
     #static{
16
      position: static;
17
      top: 30px;
18
      right: 30px;
19
20
21
    #fixed{
22
      position: fixed;
23
      top: 30px;
24
      right: 30px;
25
26
27
     #absolute{
28
      position: absolute:
29
      top: 30px;
30
      right: 30px;
31
32
```

```
33
     #relative{
34
      position: relative;
35
      top: 30px;
36
      right: 30px;
37
38
39
     #sticky{
40
      position: sticky;
41
      top: 30px;
42
       right: 30px;
43
```

Left: if the CSS were **not applied**. **Right:** with the CSS.



Left: scrolling down. **Right:** scrolling right.



The **position** values of **absolute** and **fixed** and the **float** values (to come) of **left** and **right** take an element out of its normal flow. Other elements ignore the presence of the elements that are "out of flow". In the example, the **relative** paragraph is just slightly down- and left-shifted from where it would be if only the **static** paragraph were present.

CSS Classification - float and clear

Values of the **float** property include:

- ▶ left (so an element floats to the left in its container)
- right (so an element floats to the right in its container)
- ▶ none (so the element does not float)

Values of the clear property include:

- left (so elements cannot float to the left)
- right (so elements cannot float to the right)
- both (so elements cannot float either left or right)
- none (default, allows floating)

CSS Classification - float and clear I

Consider HTML

```
>
   2
                           <img src="Galaxy.png" alt="picture of spiral galaxy" class = "float_left" />
                           <br/>
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
FLOATS</br/>
<br/>
Nullam ultrices in massa sit amet tincidunt. Pellentesque et diam
                                                  elit. Ut id condimentum mauris. Suspendisse potenti. Aenean nunc risus, venenatis
                                                  sed orci non, varius auctor urna. Phasellus ut ullamcorper erat. Donec condimentum
                                                 placerat tortor, in molestie tellus conque ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget
                                                 sagittis.
                   5
6
7
                   >
                           <img src="Galaxy.png" alt="picture of spiral galaxy" class = "float left" />
                           <img src="Galaxy.png" alt="picture of spiral galaxy" class = "float right" />
  8
                           <br/>

  9
                           10
                   >
11
                           <br/> <br/>ALLOWS FLOATS</br/>b. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus conque ac.
                                         Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus
                                         velit
12
                           <img src="Galaxy.png" alt="picture of spiral galaxy" class = "float right" />
13
                   14
                   15
                           <br/>

                                         Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus
                                         velit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit. In malesuada urna sit amet dui
                                         lacinia venenatis. Nunc gravida porttitor guam id blandit.
16
```

and CSS

CSS Classification - float and clear II

```
imq{
2
       height: 60px;
4
5
6
7
8
9
     div{
       clear: both:
     .clear left{
10
       clear: left:
11
12
13
     .clear_right {
14
       clear: right;
15
16
17
     .clear both{
18
       clear: both;
19
20
21
     .float left{
22
       float: left:
23
24
25
     .float right{
26
       float: right;
27
```

CSS Classification - float and clear

The display with this code is on the **left**. Without the *clear: right* setting, the display is on the **right**.

ALLOWS FLOATS. Nullam ultrices in massa sit amet tincidunt.

Pellentesque et diam elit. Ut de condimentum mauris. Suspendisse potenti. Aenean nunc risus, venentais sed orci non, variosa auctor urna. Phasellus ut ullamcorper erat. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestite tellus conque ac. Nullam consequent vitae quam eset sagitiis.

ALLOWS FLOATS. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

ALLOWS FLOATS. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.

ALLOWS FLOATS. Donee condimentum placerat tortor, in molestite tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitue quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit. In malesuada urna sit amet dui lacinia venenatis. Nunc gravida portitor quam i dolandit.

ALLOWS FLOATS. Nullam ultrices in massa sit amet tincidunt.
Pellentesque et diam elit. U id condimentum mauris. Suspendisse
potenti. Aenean nunc risus, venenatis sed orci non, varius auctor
urna. Phasellus ut ullamcorper erat. Donec condimentum placerat
tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget
sagittis.

ALLOWS FLOATS. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

ALLOWS FLOATS. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.

CLEAR RIGHT. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestic tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam get sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit. In malesuada uma sit amet dui lacinia venenatis. Nunc gravida portitior quam id blandit.

CSS Classification - float and clear I

When content is floated within a container, its size has no effect upon the border area of the enclosing container so sometimes this can lead to floated content extending beyond the boundary of its enclosing container.

To force the enclosing container to include the floated element, designers often insert a

```
<div class="clear"></div>
```

with styling

```
.clear {
    clear: both;
}
```

CSS Classification - float and clear

Remark: there is no such thing as float: center!

To center an element in a container, we can use:

margin: 0 auto; display: block;

to give 0 margins at the top/bottom and center with respect to left/right.

CSS Classification - z-index

The **z-index** can take integer values (negative allowed). If two elements take up the same area, the one with the higher z-index goes on top.

Power of CSS

CSS can be very technical, but it is immensely powerful in display.

For some inspration, check out the **CSS Zen Garden**! By toggling the style sheets, the same HTML can appear drastically different.

CSS Selectors

So now we consider how it selects HTML elements. CSS works with what are called **selectors**.

For a first pass, we can say there are three ways to select items:

- element type: by explicitly listing the elements like body or h1;
- id: by listing the id of an element like #about; and
- class: if an element is given a class="blargh" attribute-value pair, all elements of that class can be selected with .blargh.

All elements can be given a **class** attribute with value that we decide, which can later be used for styling.

CSS Selectors

Consider:

```
<article id="intro">
     <h1>Personal Introduction</h1>
       Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, <i>consectetur adipiscing elit</i>, sed do eiusmod tempor
            incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.
     6
     Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat
            nulla pariatur.
8
     10
       Leo vel fringilla est ullamcorper eget nulla facilisi etiam.
11
     12
    </article>
13
   <article>
14
     <h1>Trip to Hawaii</h1>
15
     >
16
       Leo vel fringilla est ullamcorper eget nulla facilisi etiam.
17
     18
    </article>
```

Then:

- p selects all paragraphs;
- #intro selects the article element;
- .very_important selects the second and third p-elements.

CSS Combinators

A CSS **combinator** allows for multiple elements to be selected and for more specific selection based on an element's family tree.

We can select multiple sets of elements using a comma. We can also select elements based on their ancestry/lineage by concatenating selectors with a space.

- article, h1: selects all articles and all h1 elements;
- #intro, h1: selects the first article and all h1 elements;
- #intro p: selects only p elements within the first article;
- #intro i: selects the i element that has #intro as an ancestor;
- #intro .very_important: selects only elements with class "very important" that are found in the first article;
- article h1: both h1 elements since they are both nested within an article.

There is also the *, the universal selector that selects everything.

CSS Combinators

There is also the ~, >, and + syntax to represent siblings, a parent-child relation, and an immediately-follows relationship.

- ▶ h1 ~ p: selects all of the p elements because they are all siblings that come after an h1 element
- p > i: selects the i that is a child of p
- article > i: selects nothing since there is no i being a direct child of article
- ▶ h1 + p: selects only the first paragraphs of both articles because they both immediately follow an h1

The ~ is new to CSS3 along with several others.

Multiple Classes I

A single element can be assigned multiple classes by separating each class with a space inside the quotation marks.

With HTML excerpt:

and CSS

```
1    .big{
2    font-size: 2em;
3    }
4    
5    .highlight{
6    background-color: yellow;
7    }
```

we obtain

This is normal text. This is big and highlighted. And this is more normal text.

Through CSS we can also select what are called **pseudo-classes**. These are used to define special states of an element, such as when a link is moused over, when a link has been clicked, if an element is the first of its parent, if an input element is in focus, etc.

The syntax for a pseudo-class is **element:special_state**

We will consider a few in context:

```
p:hover{
   color: green;
}
```

When a paragraph is moused over, its text turns green.

```
a:visited {
  color: gray;
}
```

When an anchor has been clicked on, its text becomes gray. Likewise we can select all unvisited links with **a:link** and links being clicked on with **a:active**.

```
input:focus {
   background-color: yellow;
}
```

When an input field is receiving input from the user, the field is yellow. Likewise we can select all inputs that are checked with **input:check**, all inputs that are invalid with **input:invalid**, and all valid inputs with **input:valid**.

Using the preceding CSS pseudo-classes we have something such as:

Nullam ultrices in massa sit amet tinciduat. Pellentesque et diam elit. Ut id condimentum mauris. Suspendisse potenti. Aenean nunc risus, venenatis sed orei non ullamcorper erat. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagirtis. This is a link.

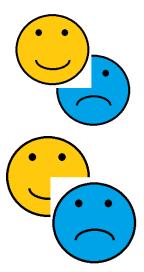


With HTML excerpt:

and CSS

```
section{
       position: relative:
4
5
6
     #smilev{
       position: absolute;
       top: 50px;
       left: 50px;
       z-index: 2:
10
11
12
     #frownv{
13
       position: absolute;
14
       top: 150px;
15
      left: 150px;
16
       z-index: 1:
17
18
19
     #frownv:hover{
20
       z-index: 3;
21
```

Depending on whether the user's mouse is hovering over the frownie face, we can have one of two displays:



Pseudo-Elements

A CSS **pseudo-element** allows for a specific part of an element to be selected. The syntax for a pseudo-element is: **element::specific_part**. Here are some examples:

```
p::before {
   content: "~";
}
```

Before every ${\bf p}$ element, a tilde ~ will be inserted. Likewise we can insert content after each paragraph element with ${\bf p}$::after.

The **content** property simply dictates what should be placed in the space.

Pseudo-Elements

```
p::first-line {
  font-weight: 900;
}
```

The first letter of every paragraph is given a heavy font weight. We can also select the first line of every paragraph with **p::first-letter**. Both **first-letter** and **first-line** can only be applied to block-level elements.

```
p::selection {
  font-color: green;
}
```

Above, whatever the user has selected within a paragraph, the font size increases and its color goes blue.

Pseudo-Elements

Using the preceding CSS pseudo-elements we have something such as:

- ~ Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Mauris in varius dolor, eu fermentum elit. In malesuada urna sit amet dui lacinia venenatis. Nunc gravida portiitor quam id blandit.
- ~ Fusce eget dictum nibh. Donec condimentum placerat tortor, in molestie tellus congue ac. Nullam consequat vitae quam eget sagittis. Quisque a imperdiet enim, vel faucibus velit.

With ::selection, one can specify a limited number of properties such as color and background-color.

Inserting CSS

CSS code can be inserted in one of three ways:

inline (should be avoided at all costs because it is hard to maintain) by adding a style attribute to an element:

```
A paragraph
```

style element in the head (should also be avoided as it can also be difficult to maintain and makes code look sloppy):

```
<head>
...
    <style>
        p {
            font-size: 2em;
        }
      </style>
...
</head>
```

Inserting CSS

external css by linking another style sheet in the head <head>

...

k rel="stylesheet" href="my_style_sheet.css" />

...

</head>

This is the way most web developers prefer.

The "cascading" part of CSS comes from the cascade of rules that get applied to determine the styling of an element.

Firstly, many properties are **inherited**. For example, if the **color** of an **article** was set to red, by default the **p** elements would also have their text red, as would any **b** elements, say, nested within them.

But not all properties are inherited. If an **article** was given a dashed blue border, the **p**aragraphs within it would not themselves be given such a border by default.

Sometimes CSS stylings could override inheritance and if we don't want that, we can specify a value of **inherit** for most properties.

Another value many properties can be assigned is **initial**, representing their unmodified state. For example,

```
color: red;
}
b {
    color: initial;
}
```

Given code above, a **b** within **p** would appear in its default color, not red.

When two different stylings could apply to a single element, the styling that is applied is set by the **specificity**. Specificity requires calculating a 4-tuple, (d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4) , for each element.

- ▶ $d_1 = 1$ if there is an inline style applied (shouldn't be done!) and $d_1 = 0$ otherwise.
- $ightharpoonup d_2$ = the number of id selectors, the #'s used.
- $ightharpoonup d_3$ = the number of classes and pseudo-classes used.
- $ightharpoonup d_4$ = the number of elements and pseudo-elements used.

Specificity is ordered **lexicographically** based on the 4-tuple.

For some examples:

color: red;

color: blue:

```
* { /* (0,0,0,0): select all does not list any elements, classes, ids, etc. */ color: red; }
```

```
#setup .important { /* (0,1,1,0): one id, one class */
   color: red;
}
```

.first_part.important { /* (0,0,2,0): two classes */

p::selection { /* (0,0,0,2): element and pseudo-element */

When two items tie for specificity, the most recent (farthest down on the page) wins out.

The most specific style possible will apply, where specific here refers to selecting an element that is "inside" of other selectors. For example, if the **main** element has **id** of **the_main** then the text of **p**'s appearing in the **main** tags will be red:

```
#the_main { color: blue; }
p { color: red; }
```

with CSS:

```
i{ /* describes the 0 */
       color: black:
4
5
    b{ /* describes b's */
6
7
       font-size: 20em;
8
9
    b{ /* overrides above b font-size */
10
       font-size: 2em;
11
12
13
      color: green;
14
15
       font-size: 1em;
16
17
18
     #setup .important{
19
       color: red:
20
21
```

```
22   .first_part .important{
23     color: orange;
24  }
25
26   .first_part {
27     color: blue;
28  }
```

The following output would be generated:

Once upon a time, there were students studying PIC 40A...

And they all lived happily ever after.

By default all ${\bf p}$ elements are given green color and standard font-size.

The class **first_part** comes within the **p** element so we start to see the blue font specified by the **.first_part**.

The **i** element comes within the **important** class so we see the style applied to **i** of black is applied instead of the style specified by **.first_part**.

The word "time" can be described as *either* descended from **#setup**.important or .first_part .important. The former has specificity (0,1,1,0)
> (0,0,2,0) so the red of **#setup**. important wins because it has a higher

> (0,0,2,0) so the red of **#setup .important** wins *because it has a higher specificity*.

 ${f b}$ is specified twice but only the style furthest down is considered, hence font-size of double vs twenty times. For the "A", ${f b}$ is more descriptive than ${f p}$, so the ${f b}$ font size (2 em) wins out.

:is Pseudo-Class I

A newer addition to the pseudo-classes is **is**. With **:is**, we can group possibilities together into a more compact selection.

With HTML excerpt:

```
<body>
      <header>
        <h1>Foo's Frozen Yogurt</h1>
      <span class="attn">New email: foo@frovo.com</span>
      </header>
      <main>
        Home of the best frozen yogurt! <span class="attn">We recently updated our flavors.
              </span>
8
      </main>
      <footer>
10
        <span class="attn">1234 Main Street</span>
11
        <small>&copy; Foo's Frozen Yogurt</small>
12
      </footer>
13
    </body>
```

:is Pseudo-Class II

and CSS

```
1 :is(header,footer) .attn{
2    color: red;
3    background-color: black;
4    font-weight: 900;
5    display: block;
6    }
7    attn{
9    color: red;
10 }
```

:is Pseudo-Class III

we can produce a page resembling:

Foo's Frozen Yogurt

New email: foo@froyo.com

Home of the best frozen yogurt! We recently updated our flavors.

1234 Main Stree

© Foo's Frozen Yogurt

:is Pseudo-Class I

Our use of is made the selection more brief.

:is(header,footer) .attn

amounted to

header .attn, footer .attn

:is Pseudo-Class II

When :is is used, the specificity is based on the maximum specificity of all the items in its parentheses. For example, with

With HTML excerpt:

and CSS

```
1 :is(section, #conclusion) span{
2     color: green;
3    }
4    
5     .first span{
6     color: blue;
7    }
```

:is Pseudo-Class III

the word "Hello" is green, not blue.

The green styling has specificity (0,1,0,1) but the blue styling has specificity (0,0,1,1).

CSS Validation

Unlike prior CSS versions, CSS3 is released in modules. One can read the W3C Recommendations **here**.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{CSS}}$ can be validated to meet $\ensuremath{\mathsf{CSS3}}$ requirements. Here is one option.

CSS Validation

Note: For CSS selections for identifiers, the identifiers cannot start with a digit, two hyphens, or a hyphen followed by a digit. So giving a element an **id="3"** would not work when selected as **#3**.

CSS Style

Here are some important items when it comes to writing good, clean CSS. We will adopt these standards for the course:

- Never use inline styling and always link to external style sheets in the head.
- Never specify a rule as !important.
- Separate multiple property: value pairs on separate lines.
- Organize the style sheet in a roughly sequential order (stuff for header, stuff for the body, stuff for footer) and comment the part of the page each section is targeting.
- Avoid code-bloating and combine elements when it will not be confusing with the comma syntax: h1, h2, h3 for example.
- Use descriptive class names, but don't be too specific: prefer a class of important over stuff_that_appears_red_and_bolded, for example.
- ▶ In using font-families, always include a generic name as backup.
- Ensure the code validates.

CSS Style

Remark on **!important**. We actually haven't discussed it yet. We will look at it simply for completeness but it is considered very bad style.

Consider:

```
p {
    font-size: 2em limportant;
}
```

Basically no matter what styles could apply to a \mathbf{p} , even if other stylings have higher specificity, the font-size will be 2em. This sort of approach is hard to maintain and can be frustrating when the normal specifity rules appear to be broken.

Website Usability

Usability is the notion of how easy it is to use a product. You've probably been to websites that are sorely lacking in usability: you can't find your way around, you don't know the gist of the articles you are reading, the navigation is broken, it's hard to find contact information, you don't know how to log in, etc.

Designing a website that is usable is an art and a lot of research has gone into what makes a great website. We'll consider a bit of the research here.

Website Usability

Eye-tracking studies have shown that many users of a webpage scan the information in an **F-shape**.

This pattern suggests that users: first scan across the top of the page, presumably looking at some heading. Then they scan a ways down along the left and read another heading or the start of a paragraph. Finally they scan down along the side of the page. Other patterns exist but this is often the general idea.

This takes place very quickly and if they don't find the information they are looking for, they may leave your page within a few seconds and a potential **conversion** (taking someone from a visitor to a client/user) has been lost.

Remark: it has been suggested this phenomena is most present in poorly formatted webpages with "walls of text" without formatting applied (sectioning, bold facing, bulleted lists, ec.).

Website Usability

Keeping usability in mind and how users will (quickly) interact with your webpage, the following are some recommended usability tips:

- ▶ Use headings and subheadings to clearly convey information.
- Use bolding and other text formats to draw attention to keywords.
- Use lists to organize information.
- Keep things as simple as possible: avoid unnecessary information, minimize the work a user has to do to log in or use your page.
- Optimize your webpage for different platforms (desktop and mobile are different).
- As your webpage changes, track how the conversion rate changes and fix things if necessary.
- ► Do A/B testing by varying the design and studying the impact that has on users.
- ► Include the most crucial information in the first paragraph or two of each section even try to start paragraphs off with the most important words and information.

In this final section, we'll consider some more features of CSS that are unique to CSS3. The features we consider are:

- opacity: how opaque an element is. The range is from 0-1. By default elements are set to 1.
- text-shadow: gives a shadow taking properties: horizontal_shadow vertical_shadow blur_radius color. The blur_radius and color are optional.
- media queries: can change CSS styles based on the screen size of the viewer (think of optimizing this for smart phones vs tablets vs desktops)

To select based on screen size the syntax is:

```
@media screen and (max-width: nnn px) {
    /* regular CSS */
}
```

where **nnn** is the number of pixels to use as a threshold, **max-width** represents a screen of width less than or equal to **nnn**, and **min-width** can also be used representing a screen of width greater than or equal to **nnn**.

Other selection criteria can be used, including the number of bits used per colored pixel, screen resolution, screen orientation...

With the HTML

and CSS

```
1  p {
2    background-color: lightblue;
3  }
4  
5  i {
6    opacity: 0.5;
7    text-shadow: 4px 5px black;
8  }
9  
10  @media screen and (max-width: 600px) { /* on small screens */
11    p { /* make paragraph font heavier */
2    font-weight: 700;
13  }
14 }
```

We get a display that illustrates the opacity, text-shadow, and a display that differs depending on the screen height/width.

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A media query can also be used when a user wishes to **print** a webpage. We can, for example, change the format for printing or hide things from being printed. This will not have any effect upon the "print screen" command — just when the page is printed.

```
@media print {
    .no-print{
        display: none;
    }
}
```

In the case above, when printing, anything with the class of "no-print" will not be printed.

Summary

- CSS operates by selecting elements by tag name, class., id #, along with some other options, and setting a styling.
- Colours can be set with hex values, an rgb value, or with a word for simple colours.
- ► With CSS, we can set backgrounds, fonts (family, weight, and size), and text (colour, alignment, indentation, direction, and decoration).
- With the box model, we can describe the border, margin, padding, and height/width or items.
- Through display, we can choose among block (stacking), inline (flowing between lines), inline-block (hybrid), or none (not to be seen).
- The position property has several values including static (default), fixed (stays within view always), absolute (which is a relative positioning!), relative (which is relative to its normal positioning), and sticky (hybrid of relative and fixed).

Summary

- ▶ With **position**, we specify offsets, often in **px**.
- ► The float property enables an object to float within its container and clear can prevents a float from a previous element floating within the current element.
- ➤ With **z-index**, we effectively have a depth to our elements and those with the largest value appear on top.
- CSS also supports pseudo-elements and pseudo-classes.
- The specificity determines the styling applied to an element, based on a 4-tuple of: inline, ids, (pseudo-)classes, and (pseudo)-elements.

Exercises I

- 1. What are the five font families?
- 2. Which has higher specificity? There is a paragraph of "important" class appearing within a section with id "first." What text colour and font-size appears?

```
#first {
  color: red;
  font-size: 4em;
}
section .important { color: blue; }
p { font-size: 3em; }
```

- 3. How would one place two section elements next to each other (i.e. what styles would have to change)?
- 4. What is margin collapse?
- 5. Consider the HTML snippet

Exercises II

```
<art.icle>
  <div>
    <span>Hello</span>
 </div>
</article>
with CSS
article{
  position: relative;
div{
  width: 100%;
  positon: absolute;
  left: 20%;
```

Exercises III

```
span{
  /* consider (a) relative or (b) absolute here */
  position: /* case (a) or (b) */
  right: 20%;
}
```

Describe the placement of the span text in (a) and (b).

6. Write a webpage that when loaded on full screen, has a cat picture taking up 40% of the page width, perfectly centred (left-right) with the page background being blue. When the user shrinks the page width sufficiently, however, the page background should turn red and a dog picture should instead be visible. The dog picture must again be centred (left-right) and take up 40% of the resized page's width.