

Trellis Roadmap

This document outlines feature proposals, code improvements, and cleanup tasks for the Trellis CSS layout library.

Feature Proposals

[Priority: High] CSS Flexbox `flex-wrap` Multi-line Layout Improvements

Description: The current `flex-wrap` implementation handles basic wrapping but lacks full CSS specification compliance. Items that wrap should properly recalculate line breaks when items shrink, and `wrap-reverse` should reverse the cross-axis direction of lines.

Rationale: Multi-line flex layouts are common in responsive designs, and accurate wrapping behavior is essential for real-world use cases.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean (lines 239-280, `partitionIntoLines`)

Estimated Effort: Medium

Dependencies: None

[Priority: High] CSS Grid `minmax()` Track Sizing

Description: While `TrackSize.minmax` exists in the type definition, the resolution logic in `sizeTracksToContent` only partially handles it. Full implementation should clamp track sizes between minimum and maximum values during both intrinsic sizing and fr-unit distribution phases.

Rationale: `minmax()` is one of the most commonly used CSS Grid features for responsive layouts.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean (lines 521-527, 549-559) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Grid.lean (lines 11-16)

Estimated Effort: Medium

Dependencies: None

[Priority: High] CSS Grid `repeat()` Function Support

Description: Add support for the CSS `repeat(count, track-size)` function in grid template definitions, including `repeat(auto-fill, ...)` and `repeat(auto-fit, ...)` for responsive track generation.

Rationale: The `repeat()` function dramatically simplifies grid template definitions and enables responsive grids that automatically adjust column count.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Grid.lean (new `RepeatFunction` type and modifications to `GridTemplate`) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/ (track initialization logic)

Estimated Effort: Large

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Medium] CSS Grid Named Lines and Areas

Description: Implement support for named grid lines and `grid-template-areas` for semantic grid definitions. Currently, `GridLine.named` exists but is not processed (returns 0 in `resolveGridLine`).

Rationale: Named lines and areas make complex grid layouts more maintainable and readable.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Grid.lean (lines 68-73, `GridLine`) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean (lines 457-470, 486-505)

Estimated Effort: Large

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Medium] Flexbox order Property

Description: Add support for the CSS `order` property that allows reordering flex items visually without changing the DOM order.

Rationale: The `order` property is commonly used for responsive designs where visual order differs from source order.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Flex.lean (add `order` field to `FlexItem`) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean (sort items by order before layout)

Estimated Effort: Small

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Medium] CSS aspect-ratio Property

Description: Add support for the CSS `aspect-ratio` property to maintain width-to-height ratios during layout calculation.

Rationale: Aspect ratio constraints are essential for responsive images, videos, and maintaining consistent proportions.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Types.lean (add `aspectRatio` to `BoxConstraints`) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean (apply aspect ratio during dimension resolution)

Estimated Effort: Medium

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Medium] Margin Collapse Support

Description: Implement CSS margin collapsing behavior where adjacent vertical margins combine into a single margin equal to the larger of the two.

Rationale: Margin collapse is a fundamental CSS behavior that affects vertical spacing between elements.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean (new margin collapse logic) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Types.lean (possibly add `marginCollapse` option)

Estimated Effort: Medium

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Medium] CSS Grid subgrid Support

Description: Implement `subgrid` to allow nested grids to participate in their parent's track sizing.

Rationale: Subgrid enables consistent alignment across nested grid structures.

Affected Files: - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Grid.lean` (new Subgrid track type) - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean` (subgrid resolution logic)

Estimated Effort: Large

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Low] Flexbox visibility: collapse Support

Description: Support the `visibility: collapse` behavior for flex items where the item is hidden but its cross-size contribution to the line is preserved.

Rationale: Useful for implementing togglable content without layout shifts.

Affected Files: - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Flex.lean` (add visibility property) - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean`

Estimated Effort: Small

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Low] Debug/Introspection API

Description: Add an API to inspect intermediate layout state (flex lines, track sizes, item measurements) for debugging purposes.

Rationale: Debugging layout issues is challenging without visibility into intermediate calculations.

Affected Files: - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean` (new debug result types) - New file: `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Debug.lean`

Estimated Effort: Medium

Dependencies: None

[Priority: Low] Layout Caching/Memoization

Description: Implement layout caching to avoid recomputing layouts for unchanged subtrees.

Rationale: Performance optimization for large layout trees with incremental updates.

Affected Files: - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Node.lean` (add cache key/hash) - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean` (caching logic)

Estimated Effort: Large

Dependencies: None

Code Improvements

[Priority: High] Replace Magic Number for Unbounded Max

Current State: In `collectFlexItems` (Algorithm.lean line 201), unbounded max constraints use a magic number `1000000.0`.

Proposed Change: Define a constant `Float.infinity` or `Length.unbounded` and use it consistently throughout the codebase.

Benefits: Improved clarity, easier to audit for overflow issues, more idiomatic.

Affected Files: - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean` (lines 201-203)

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: High] Iterative Flex Resolution for Constraint Compliance

Current State: The flex grow/shrink distribution (lines 289-346) uses a single-pass algorithm with a comment noting it lacks “iterative constraint handling.”

Proposed Change: Implement the full CSS Flexbox algorithm that iteratively freezes items that violate min/max constraints and redistributes remaining space.

Benefits: Correct behavior per CSS Flexbox specification when items hit their min/max constraints during flex resolution.

Affected Files: - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean` (lines 282-346, `distributeGrowth`, `distributeShrinkage`)

Estimated Effort: Medium

[Priority: Medium] Separate Flexbox and Grid into Distinct Modules

Current State: All layout algorithms are in a single 959-line `Algorithm.lean` file.

Proposed Change: Split into `FlexAlgorithm.lean` and `GridAlgorithm.lean` with shared utilities in a `LayoutUtils.lean` module.

Benefits: Better separation of concerns, easier navigation, more focused testing.

Affected Files: - `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean` (split into multiple files)

Estimated Effort: Medium

[Priority: Medium] Use StateM Monad for Mutable Layout State

Current State: Layout algorithms use `Id.run` do with explicit `let mut` patterns for mutable state.

Proposed Change: Consider using `StateM` or `StateT` for cleaner accumulation patterns, especially in grid auto-placement and track sizing.

Benefits: More idiomatic Lean 4 code, easier to compose with other effects if needed.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean

Estimated Effort: Medium

[Priority: Medium] Type-Safe Node IDs

Current State: Node IDs are raw Nat values that can be confused with other numeric values.

Proposed Change: Create an opaque NodeId type to prevent accidental misuse of numeric values as node identifiers.

Benefits: Compile-time prevention of ID misuse, clearer API contracts.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Node.lean (lines 78-85)
- /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Result.lean - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspac

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: Medium] Improve LayoutResult Lookup Performance

Current State: LayoutResult.get uses Array.find? which is O(n) lookup (line 107-108).

Proposed Change: Use a HashMap NodeId ComputedLayout or maintain sorted array for binary search.

Benefits: O(1) or O(log n) lookups instead of O(n) for large layout trees.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Result.lean (lines 98-141)

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: Medium] Add Proper Baseline Alignment

Current State: Baseline alignment for both AlignItems.baseline and grid alignment is simplified as flexStart with comments indicating this (Flex.lean line 52, Algorithm.lean lines 415-416, 637, 644).

Proposed Change: Implement proper baseline calculation based on first text baseline of items.

Benefits: Correct text alignment across flex items with different font sizes.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Flex.lean - /Users/Shared/Projects/...
- /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Node.lean (add baseline info to ContentSize)

Estimated Effort: Medium

Dependencies: Requires text measurement integration

[Priority: Low] Remove Inhabited Instance Boilerplate

Current State: Multiple structures define default values both as an Inhabited instance and as explicit default/empty/zero functions.

Proposed Change: Use deriving Inhabited with @[default_instance] where possible, or consolidate to a single source of truth.

Benefits: Less redundant code, single source of truth for defaults.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Flex.lean (lines 79, 109) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Grid.lean (lines 51, 144) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Types.lean

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: Low] Use partial Strategically with Termination Proofs

Current State: layoutNode is marked partial without a termination proof (line 891). Similarly, nodeCount and allIds in Node.lean (lines 221-226).

Proposed Change: Add termination_by clauses or refactor to use Nat.rec patterns to prove termination.

Benefits: Stronger correctness guarantees, avoidance of potential infinite loops.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean (line 891) - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Node.lean (lines 221-226)

Estimated Effort: Medium

[Priority: Low] Add @[inline] Annotations for Performance-Critical Functions

Current State: Many small helper functions like AxisInfo.mainSize, EdgeInsets.horizontal, etc. are not annotated for inlining.

Proposed Change: Add @[inline] or @[always_inline] to frequently-called small functions.

Benefits: Better runtime performance by avoiding function call overhead.

Affected Files: - /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Axis.lean - /Users/Shared/Projects/

Estimated Effort: Small

Code Cleanup

[Priority: High] Unused Parameter Warning in autoPlaceItem

Issue: The _flow parameter in autoPlaceItem (line 649) is prefixed with underscore indicating it's unused, but GridAutoFlow should affect placement behavior (row vs column major, dense packing).

Location: /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean, line 649

Action Required: Either implement flow-aware placement or document why it's not implemented yet.

Estimated Effort: Small (for TODO comment) or Medium (for implementation)

[Priority: Medium] Consistent Error Handling in get! Functions

Issue: LayoutResult.get! uses panic! (line 113-114) which is not recoverable. Consider returning Option or using an error monad.

Location: /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Result.lean, lines 111-114

Action Required: Either remove the get! function, rename to make the panic clearer (e.g., getOrPanic), or convert to a proper error type.

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: Medium] Add Documentation Comments to Public API

Issue: While there are some doc comments, many public functions lack comprehensive documentation. For example, the main `layout` function (line 955-956) has no doc comment explaining parameters and return value.

Location: Throughout all files, particularly:
- `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean`
- `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Node.lean`

Action Required: Add `/-!` section comments and `--` doc comments to all public functions.

Estimated Effort: Medium

[Priority: Medium] Consolidate Test Helper Functions

Issue: `floatNear` and `shouldBeNear` in tests duplicate functionality that could be in the test framework (Crucible).

Location: `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/TrellisTests/Main.lean`, lines 16-22

Action Required: Either move to Crucible as reusable assertions or keep but add to a shared test utilities module.

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: Low] Remove Redundant namespace/end Pairs

Issue: Some small namespaces could be combined or simplified. For example, `ContainerKind` and `ItemKind` in `Node.lean` have very few members each.

Location: `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Node.lean`

Action Required: Consider combining related types into a single namespace or using dot notation directly.

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: Low] Standardize Naming Conventions

Issue: Some inconsistencies in naming:
- `finish` vs `end` (`GridSpan` uses `finish` to avoid keyword, but could use backticks)
- `mk'` constructors vs named constructors
- `fromSizes` vs `pixels` (different patterns for similar functionality)

Location:
- `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Grid.lean` (line 78, `finish`)
- `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Result.lean` (line 21, `mk'`)
- `/Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Grid.lean` (lines 53-63)

Action Required: Establish and document naming conventions, then apply consistently.

Estimated Effort: Small

[Priority: Low] Add Property-Based Tests

Issue: Current tests are example-based. Property-based tests would provide better coverage for edge cases.

Location: /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/TrellisTests/Main.lean

Action Required: Add property-based tests using plausible or similar library. Examples: - “Total width of flex items equals container width when all items have grow > 0” - “Grid items never overlap” - “Layout positions are always non-negative”

Estimated Effort: Medium

Dependencies: Property-based testing library (plausible)

[Priority: Low] Clean Up Import Structure

Issue: Algorithm.lean imports all other modules but some imports may be transitively satisfied.

Location: /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/Trellis/Algorithm.lean, lines 5-10

Action Required: Review import graph and minimize direct imports to only what's directly needed.

Estimated Effort: Small

Testing Improvements

[Priority: High] Add Tests for Edge Cases

Issue: Missing test coverage for: - Negative margins - Zero-width/height containers - Very large numbers of children - Deeply nested containers - Mixed flex/grid nesting

Location: /Users/Shared/Projects/lean-workspace/trellis/TrellisTests/Main.lean

Action Required: Add comprehensive edge case test suite.

Estimated Effort: Medium

[Priority: Medium] Add Performance Benchmarks

Issue: No benchmarks to track layout performance over time.

Location: New file(s) in TrellisTests

Action Required: Create benchmark suite measuring layout time for various tree sizes and complexities.

Estimated Effort: Medium

[Priority: Medium] Add Visual Regression Tests

Issue: It's hard to verify that layout results “look correct” without visual output.

Location: New test infrastructure

Action Required: Create ASCII art or image-based visual tests that render layouts for visual verification.

Estimated Effort: Medium

Architecture Considerations

Dependency Injection for Content Measurement

Current State: `getContentSize` only looks at the `content` field of nodes. Real applications need to measure text and other dynamic content.

Recommendation: Define a `ContentMeasurer` typeclass or pass a measurement function to `layout`. This aligns with how arbor handles text measurement.

Integration with Widget Systems

Current State: Trellis is used by arbor and afferent. The integration point is primarily through `LayoutNode` construction.

Recommendation: Consider a builder API or DSL to make tree construction more ergonomic:

```
layout do
  row (gap := 10) {
    leaf (width := 100, height := 50)
    column {
      leaf (flexGrow := 1)
      leaf (flexGrow := 2)
    }
  }
```

Consider CSS Variables/Custom Properties

Long-term: For theming support, consider how CSS custom properties could be represented and resolved during layout.

Summary

Category	High	Medium	Low
Features	3	5	3
Improvements	2	5	3
Cleanup	2	3	4
Testing	1	2	0

Key Priorities: 1. Complete CSS Flexbox iterative constraint resolution 2. Implement full `minmax()` track sizing for Grid 3. Add `repeat()` function support for responsive grids 4. Split `Algorithm.lean` into focused modules 5. Replace magic numbers with named constants