# Marginalia

Write into the margins!

# 1 Setup

Put something akin to the following at the start of your .typ file:

```
#import "@preview/marginalia:0.1.2" as marginalia: note,
wideblock
#let config = (
  // inner: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // outer: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // top: 2.5cm,
  // bottom: 2.5cm,
  // book: false,
  // clearance: 8pt,
  // flush-numbers: false,
  // numbering: /* numbering-function */,
#marginalia.configure(..config)
#set page(
  // setup margins:
  ..marginalia.page-setup(..config),
  /* other page setup */
```

Where you can then customize config to your preferences. Shown here (as comments) are the default values taken if the corresponding keys are unset.

See the appendix for a more detailed explanation of the configure()
and page-setup()
functions.

# 2 Margin-Notes

By default, the #note[...] command places a note to the right/outer margin, like so:
. By giving the argument reverse: true, we obtain a note on the left/inner margin.
. If config.book = true, the side will of course be adjusted automatically.

If • we o place multiple notes in a one line, they automatically adjust their positions. Additionally, a dy argument can be passed to shift their initial position by that amount vertically. They may still get shifted around, unless configured otherwise via the shift parameter of #note().

Notes will shift downwards to avoid previous notes, containing wide-blocks, and the top page margin. Notes will shift upwards to avoid later notes and wideblocks, and the bottom page margin. However, if there is not enough space between wideblocks and/or the margins, there will be collisions. It will attempt to move one note below a wide-block if there is not enough space above, but if there are multiple notes that would need to be rearranged you must assist by manually setting dy such that their initial position is below the wideblock.

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• This is a note.

They can contain any content, and will wrap within the note column.

- Note 1
- Note 2
- Note 3
- □ Note 4
- ▲ Note 5
- △ This note was given 15pt dy, but it was shifted more than that to avoid Notes 1–5.
- This note was given 10cm dy and was shifted less than that to stay on the page.

o Reversed.

This note wa given 15pt dy.

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- Note from second column.
- Lorem ipsum dolor sit.
- Like so. The lorem-ipsum note was also placed with keep-order.
- Unnumbered notes "avoid" being shifted if possible, preferring to shift other notes up.

Like this.

Unless they are given a dy argument moving them above the block. Margin notes also work from within most containers such as blocks or #column()s.•

Blah blah. To force the notes to appear in the margin in the same order as they appear in the text, use #note(keep-order: true)[] for all notes whose relative order is important.

#### 2.1 Markers

The margin notes are decorated with little symbols, which by default hang into the gap. If this is not desired, set the configuration option flush-numbers: true. Setting the argument numbered: false, we obtain notes without icon/number:

To change the markers, you can override config.numbering-function which is used to generate the markers.

# 3 Wide Blocks

4 Figures

The command #wideblock[...] can be used to wrap content in a wide block which spans into the margin-note-column. It is possible to use notes in a wide block: D. They will automatically shift downwards to avoid colliding with the wideblock.

□ Wow!

- Voila.
- A Notes above a wideblock will shift upwards if necessary.

#wideblock(reverse: true)[...]: The reverse option makes the block extend to the inside margin instead. This is analogous to the reverse option on notes and allows placing notes in their usual column.

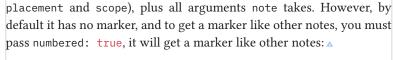
#wideblock(double: true)[...]: The double option makes it extend both ways. Note that setting both reverse: true and double: true is disallowed and will panic.



Figure 1: A notefigure.



△ Figure 2: A marked notefigure.



Additionally, the dy argument now takes a relative length, where 100% is the height of the figure content + gap, but without the caption. By default, figures have a dy of 0pt - 100%, which results in the caption being aligned horizontally to the text.

For small figures, you can place them in the margin with

marginalia.notefigure. It accepts all arguments figure takes (except

A label can be attached to the figure using the label argument.

For larger figures, use the following set and show rules:

△ Figure 3: Aligned to top of figure with dy: 0pt.

Figure 4: A figure.

For wide figures, simply place a figure in a wideblock. The Caption gets placed beneath the figure automatically, courtesy of regular wide-block-avoidance.

```
#wideblock[#figure(
   image(...),
```

Page 3 of 9 Marginalia 11. March 2025 Top (No Shift) Тор caption: [A figure in a wide block.] )] Figure 5: A figure in a wide block. Figure 6: A figure in a reversed wide Figure 7: A figure in a double-wide 5 Other Tidbits 5.1 Absolute Placement You can place notes in absolute positions realtive to the page using place: #place(top, note(numbered: false, reverse: true)[Top]) #place(bottom, note(numbered: false, reverse: true)[Bottom]) To avoid these notes moving about, use shift: false (or shift: "ignore" if you dont mind overlaps.) #place(top, note(numbered: false, shift: false)[Top (No #place(bottom, note(numbered: false, shift: false)[ Bottom (No Shift) 1) Be aware that notes are aligned to their first baseline, so you may want to adjust your dy by one line-height. 5.2 Headers and Background This is not (yet) a polished feature and requires to access marginalia.\_config.get().book to read the respective config option. In your documents, consider removing this check and simplifying the if a bit. Also, please don't .update() the marginalia.\_config directly, this Here's how the headers in this document were made: can easily break the notes. #set page(header: context { marginalia.notecounter.update(0) let book = marginalia.\_config.get().book let leftm = marginalia.get-left() let rightm = marginalia.get-right() if here().page() > 1 { wideblock(double: true, { box(width: leftm.width, { if not (book) or calc.odd(here().page()) [ #counter(page).display("1 of 1", both: true) ] else [ #datetime.today().display(/\*\*/) 1 {}) h(leftm.sep) box(width: 1fr, smallcaps[Marginalia]) h(rightm.sep) Bottom Bottom (No Shift)

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```
Not that you should copy them,
they're mostly here to showcase the
columns and help me verify that
everything gets placed in the right
spot.
```

```
    This can happen for example with
outlines which barely fit/don't fit
onto the page.
```

- In this manual, for example, it works fine here,♦ but not on the first page.
- Probably because there aren't many other notes around.

```
box(width: rightm.width, {
    if not (book) or calc.odd(here().page()) [
      #datetime.today().display(/**/)
    ] else [
      Page
      #counter(page).display("1 of 1", both: true)
    ]
    })
    })
}
```

And here's the code for the lines in the background:

```
#set page(background: context {
  let leftm = marginalia.get-left()
  let rightm = marginalia.get-right()
  place(top, dy: marginalia._config.get().top,
        line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(top, dy: marginalia._config.get().top - page.header-ascent,
        line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(bottom, dy: -marginalia._config.get().bottom,
        line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(dx: leftm.far,
        rect(width: leftm.width, height: 100%, stroke: (x: luma(90%))))
  place(dx: leftm.far + leftm.width + leftm.sep,
        rect(width: 10pt, height: 100%, stroke: (left: luma(90%))))
  place(right, dx: -rightm.far,
        rect(width: rightm.width, height: 100%, stroke: (x: luma(90%))))
  place(right, dx: -rightm.far - rightm.width - rightm.sep,
        rect(width: 10pt, height: 100%, stroke: (right: luma(90%))))
3)
```

# 6 Troubleshooting / Known Bugs

- If the document needs multiple passes to figure out page-breaks, it can break the note positioning.
  - This can usually be resolved by placing a #pagebreak() or #pagebreak(weak: true) in an appropriate location.
- Nested notes may or may not work. In nearly all cases, they seem to lead to a "layout did not converge within 5 attempts" warning, so it is probably best to avoid them if possible.
- If book is true, wideblocks that break across pages are broken. Sadly
  there doesn't seem to be a way to detect and react to page-breaks from
  within a block, so I don't know how to fix this.
- If you encounter anything else which looks like a bug to you, please create an "issue" on Github if no-one else has done so already.

#### 7 Thanks

Many thanks go to Nathan Jessurun for their <u>drafting</u> package, which has served as a starting point and was very helpful in figuring out how to position margin-notes. Also check out <u>marge</u> by Eric Biedert which helped motivate me to polish this package to not look bad in comparison

The wideblock functionality was inspired by the one provided in the <u>tufte-memo</u> template.

Also shout-out to tidy, which was used to produce the appendix.

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# A Detailed Documentation of all Exported Symbols

# A.1 configure

This will update the marginalia config with the provided config options.

The default values for the margins have been chosen such that they match the default typst margins for a4. It is strongly recommended to change at least one of either inner or outer to be wide enough to actually contain text.

#### **Parameters**

```
configure(
   inner: dictionary,
   outer: dictionary,
   top: length,
   bottom: length,
   book: boolean,
   clearance: length,
   flush-numbers: boolean,
   numbering: function string
)
inner: (far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm) dictionary
Inside/left margins.
```

- far: Distance between edge of page and margin (note) column.
- width: Width of the margin column.
- sep: Distance between margin column and main text column.

The page inside/left margin should equal far + width + sep.

If partial dictionary is given, it will be filled up with defaults.

```
outer: (far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm) dictionary
Outside/right margins. Analogous to inner.

top: 2.5cm length Top margin.

bottom: 2.5cm length Bottom margin.
```

If true, will use inside/outside margins, alternating on each page. If false, will use left/right margins with all pages the same.

```
clearance: 8pt length
```

boolean

book: false

Minimal vertical distance between notes and to wide blocks.

flush-numbers: false boolean Disallow note icons hanging into the whitespace.

```
numbering: note-numbering function or string
```

Function or numbering-string to generate the note markers from the notecounter.

#### Functions:

- configure()
- get-left()
- get-right()
- note()note-numbering()
- notefigure()
- page-setup()wideblock()

#### Variables:

- <u>notecounter</u>
- note-markers
  note-markers-alternating

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# A.2 get-left

Returns a dictionary with the keys far, width, sep containing the respective widths of the left margin on the current page. (On both even and odd pages.)

Mostly internal.

Requires context.

#### **Parameters**

```
get-left() → dictionary
```

# A.3 get-right

Returns a dictionary with the keys far, width, sep containing the respective widths of the right margin on the current page. (On both even and odd pages.)

Mostly internal.

Requires context.

#### **Parameters**

```
get-right() → dictionary
```

### A.4 note

Create a marginnote. Will adjust it's position downwards to avoid previously placed notes, and upwards to avoid extending past the bottom margin.

#### **Parameters**

```
note(
  numbered: boolean,
  reverse: boolean,
  dy: length,
  keep-order: boolean,
  shift: boolean auto "avoid" "ignore",
  (body): content
)
```

numbered: true boolean Whether to put a mark.

reverse: false boolean Whether to put it in the opposite (inner/left) margin.

dy: Opt length

Inital vertical offset of the note. Note may get shifted still to avoid other notes.

keep-order: false boolean

Notes with keep-order: true are not re-ordered relative to one another.

```
shift: auto boolean or auto or "avoid" or "ignore"
```

Whether the note may get shifted around to avoid other notes.

- true: The note may shift to avoid other notes, wide-blocks and the top/bottom margins.
- false: The note is placed exactly where it appears, and other notes may shift to avoid it.
- "avoid": The note is only shifted if shifting other notes is not sufficent to avoid a collision.
- "ignore": Like false, but other notes do not try to avoid it.
- auto: true if numbered, "avoid" otherwise.

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# A.5 note-numbering

Format note marker

```
Parameters
```

```
note-numbering(
  markers: array(string),
  repeat: boolean,
  (..),
  (number): int
) → content
```

markers: note-markers-alternating array(string)

```
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
    #note-numbering(markers: note-markers,
i)
]\
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
    #note-numbering(markers: note-markers-
alternating, i)
]
```



repeat: true boolean

Whether to (true) loop over the icons, or (false) continue with numbers after icons run out.

```
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
    #note-numbering(repeat: true, i)
]\
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
    #note-numbering(repeat: false, i)
]
```



#### A.6 notefigure

Creates a figure in the margin.

#### **Parameters**

```
notefigure(
    (content): content,
    reverse: boolean,
    dy: relative length,
    numbered: boolean,
    gap: length,
    label: none label,
    (..figureargs): arguments
) → content
```

(content) content Positional

The figure content, e.g. an image. Pass-through to #figure(), but used to adjust the vertical position.

reverse: false boolean Put the notefigure in the opposite margin.

dy: Opt - 100% relative length

How much to shift the note. 100% corresponds to the height of content + gap.

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```
numbered: false boolean Whether to put a mark.
```

```
gap: 0.55em length
```

Pass-through to #figure(), but used to adjust the vertical position.

```
label: none or label A label to attach to the figure.
```

```
(..figureargs) arguments Positional Pass-through to #figure().
```

## A.7 page-setup

Page setup helper

This will generate a dictionary ( margin: ... ) compatible with the passed config. This can then be spread into the page setup like so:

```
#set page( ..page-setup(..config) )
```

Takes the same options as <u>configure()</u>.

## Parameters

```
page-setup((..config): dictionary) → dictionary
(..config) dictionary Positional
```

Missing entries are filled with package defaults. Note: missing entries are *not* taken from the current marginalia config, as this would require context.

#### A.8 wideblock

Creates a block that extends into the outside/right margin.

Note: This does not handle page-breaks sensibly. If config.book = false, this is not a problem, as then the margins on all pages are the same. However, when using alternating page margins, a multi-page wideblock will not work properly. To be able to set this appendix in a many-page wideblock, this code was used:

```
#configure(..config, book: false)
#set page(..page-setup(..config, book: false))
#wideblock(reverse: true)[...]

Parameters
wideblock(reverse: boolean, double: boolean, (body): content) → content

reverse: false boolean Whether to extend into the inside/left margin instead.
```

double: false boolean

Whether to extend into both margins. Cannot be combined with reverse.

#### A.9 notecounter counter

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The counter t	sed for the note icons.	Mostly internal.	
If you use <u>not</u> reset this occa	<u>e-numbering()</u> without <u>note-numbering.repeat</u> , it is reccommended you sionally, e.g. per heading or per page.	1	
notecounter.	update(1)		
A.10 note-	markers		
Icons to use f	or note markers.		
("•", "•",	■", "▲", "♥", "◇", "○", "□", "△", "♡")		
A.11 note-	markers-alternating		
	or note markers, alternating filled/outlined.		
	◆", "♦", "■", "□", "▲", "△", "♥", "♡")		