Guide: Progressive Outline

1 Function documentation

This section details all the parameters available for the `progressive-outline` function.

Option	Type	Effect & Expected Values
`level-X-mode`	string	Defines the visibility of level X (1, 2, or 3). Values: `"all"`, `"current"`, `"current-parent"`, `"none"`.
`text-styles`	dict	Dictionary of Typst `text(...)` styles for each level. Structure: `(level-X: (active: (...), completed: (...), inactive: (...)))`.
`spacing`	dict	Controls vertical space (`v-between-X-Y`) and horizontal indentation (`indent-X`) between elements.
`show-numbering`	bool	Enables or disables the display of heading numbering.
`numbering-format`	str | func	Typst numbering format (e.g., `"1.1"`) or custom function `(..n) => ....`
`match-page-only`	bool	If true, considers a heading active if it is on the same page, regardless of its Y position. Useful for sidebars.

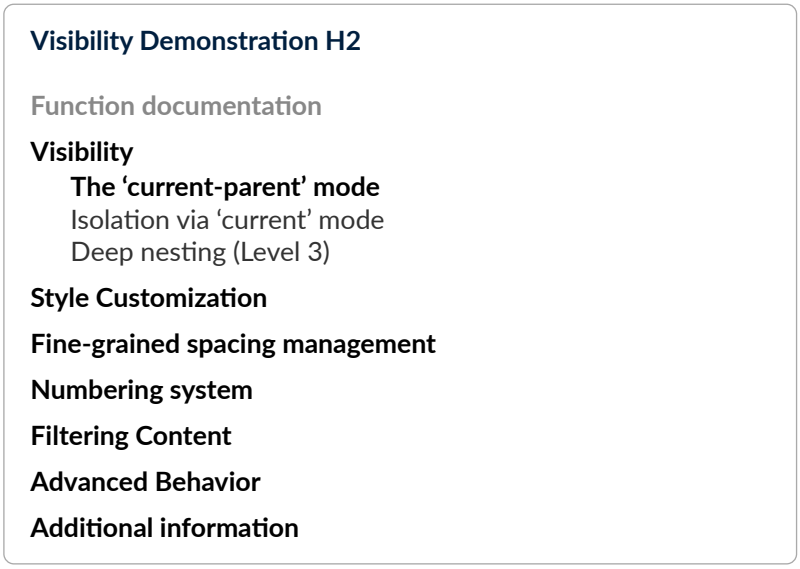
2 Visibility

This section covers the `level-X-mode` parameters.

2.1 The ‘current-parent’ mode

The `current-parent` mode is the most powerful: it only displays the “siblings” of the current element. This allows you to see the plan of the current section without being distracted by other chapters.

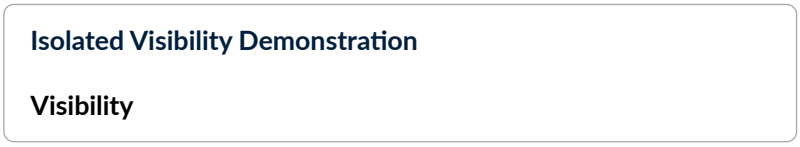
```
progressive-outline(
  level-1-mode: 'all',
  level-2-mode: 'current-parent'
)
```



2.2 Isolation via ‘current’ mode

If you want an ultra-minimalist rendering, the `current` mode hides everything except the exact entry where you are located.

```
progressive-outline(
  level-1-mode: 'current',
  level-2-mode: 'none'
)
```



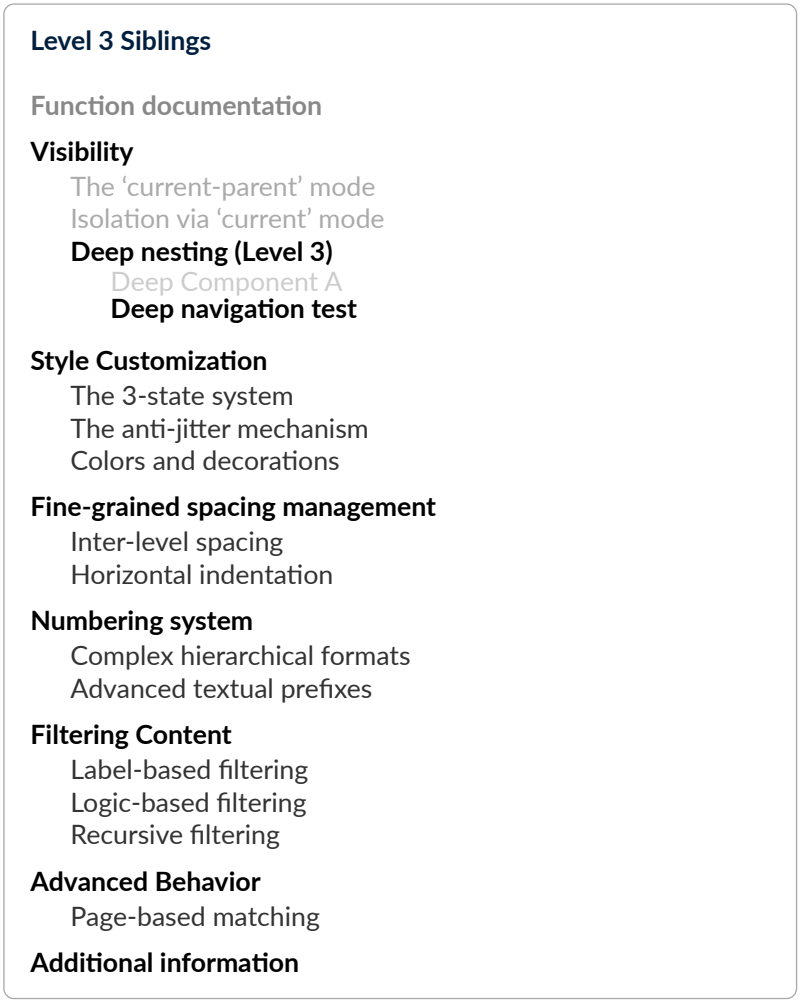
2.3 Deep nesting (Level 3)

For complex structures, you can enable Level 3. Using `current-parent` will show siblings at the current depth.

2.3.1 Deep Component A

2.3.2 Deep navigation test

```
progressive-outline(
  level-2-mode: 'all',
  level-3-mode: 'current-parent'
)
```



3 Style Customization

The function allows you to modify the appearance of headings based on their state (**completed**, **active**, or **inactive**).

3.1 The 3-state system

By default, headings can be in one of three states:

- **completed**: The heading has already been passed.
- **active**: This is the current heading.
- **inactive**: The heading is yet to come.

```
text-styles: (
  level-1: (
    active: (fill: eastern, weight:
'bold'),
    completed: (fill: gray.lighten(50%)),
    inactive: (fill: black)
  )
)
```

Past, Present, Future

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3.2 The anti-jitter mechanism

Anti-jitter ensures that switching from a thin font to a bold one doesn't move the text. We use a ghost box to reserve the maximum space required.

```
text-styles: (
  level-1: (
    active: (weight: 'black', fill:
eastern, size: 1.2em),
    inactive: (weight: 'light', fill:
gray, size: 1.2em)
  )
)
```

Stability Test H1

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3.3 Colors and decorations

Each level can have its own rules for colors, italics, or bold.

```
text-styles: (
  level-2: (
    active: (style: 'italic', fill: blue,
weight: 'bold'),
    inactive: (fill: luma(200))
  )
)
```

Creative Style H2

4 Fine-grained spacing management

The `spacing` dictionary sculpts the rhythm.

4.1 Inter-level spacing

You can define the exact space between an H1 heading and an H2 heading, or between two headings of the same level.

```
spacing: (
  v-between-1-1: 2em,
  v-between-1-2: 1.2em,
  v-between-2-2: 0.8em,
  v-between-2-1: 1.5em
)
```

Airy Vertical Rhythm

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4.2 Horizontal indentation

Indentation defines the offset to the right for each depth level.

```
spacing: (
  indent-2: 3em,
  indent-3: 6em
)
```

Marked Indentation

5 Numbering system

The function relies on Typst’s native engine.

5.1 Complex hierarchical formats

The `numbering-format` parameter accepts all standard Typst models (1, a, i, I, A).

```
show-numbering: true,
numbering-format: 'I.a.1. '
```

Legal Format

5.2 Advanced textual prefixes

To use long words like "Chapter" without errors, pass a function. This prevents Typst from interpreting letters like 'a' or 'i' as numbering models.

```
show-numbering: true,
numbering-format: (..n) => 'Chapter ' +
numbering('1', ..n) + ' : '
```

Secure 'Chapter' Prefix

6 Filtering Content

The `filter` parameter allows you to programmatically include or exclude headings from the outline. It expects a callback function `(heading) => boolean`.

The `heading` object passed to the filter contains standard properties (`level`, `body`, `label`, `counter`) as well as context properties: `parent-h1` and `parent-h2`.

6.1 Label-based filtering

In this document, the current section “Filtering Content” has been tagged with the label `<hidden>`.

```
progressive-outline(level-2-mode: 'none')
```

Standard Outline (No Filter)


```
progressive-outline(
  level-2-mode: 'none',
  filter: h => h.label != <hidden>
)
```

Filtered Outline (Label)

6.2 Logic-based filtering

You can also filter based on any heading property. Here, we filter the list to **keep only** the section named “Visibility”.

```
progressive-outline(
  level-2-mode: 'none',
  // Keep only the heading named
'Visibility'
  filter: h => h.body == [Visibility]
)
```

Filtered Outline (Content)

Here, we create a custom rule: show all Level 1 headings, but show Level 2 headings **only** if they belong to the “Visibility” section.

```
progressive-outline(
  level-2-mode: 'all',
  filter: h => h.level == 1 or
    (h.level == 2 and h.parent-h1.body ==
[Visibility])
)
```

Conditional Depth

6.3 Recursive filtering

The filtering logic is recursive: if a parent heading (e.g., a Section) is excluded by the filter, all its children (Subsections and Sub-subsections) are automatically hidden as well, even if they would have passed the filter individually.

```
// Hiding a parent automatically hides its
children
progressive-outline(
  level-2-mode: 'all',
  filter: h => h.label != <hidden>
)
```

Recursive Hiding

7 Advanced Behavior

7.1 Page-based matching

In contexts like sidebars, the outline is rendered in the page margin or background before the slide content. This can cause the active heading detection to fail because the content is technically “after” the sidebar in the document flow.

Setting `match-page-only: true` solves this by considering any heading on the current page as “active”, ignoring precise vertical positioning.

```
match-page-only: true
```


8 Additional information

It is optimized to work within presentation themes (like `progressive-outline`), but can be used in any standard Typst document.