INTRODUCTION

1 At a glance
1.1 Requirements ......................................................... 4
1.2 Similar libraries ..................................................... 4
1.3 In use ................................................................. 4

Index ................................................................. 93
**pikepdf** is a Python library allowing creation, manipulation and repair of PDFs. It provides a Pythonic wrapper around the C++ PDF content transformation library, QPDF.

Python + QPDF = “py” + “qpdf” = “pyqpdf”, which looks like a dyslexia test and is no fun to type. But say “pyqpdf” out loud, and it sounds like “pikepdf”.

Fig. 1: A northern pike, or *esox lucius*. 

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**PIKE**

**PIK**

**PDF**
pikepdf is a library intended for developers who want to create, manipulate, parse, repair, and abuse the PDF format. It supports reading and write PDFs, including creating from scratch. Thanks to QPDF, it supports linearizing PDFs and access to encrypted PDFs.

```python
# Rotate all pages in a file by 180 degrees
import pikepdf
my_pdf = pikepdf.Pdf.open('test.pdf')
for page in my_pdf.pages:
    page.Rotate = 180
my_pdf.save('test-rotated.pdf')
```

It is a low level library that requires knowledge of PDF internals and some familiarity with the PDF specification. It does not provide a user interface of its own.

pikepdf would help you build apps that do things like:

- **Copy pages** from one PDF into another
- **Split** and **merge** PDFs
- Extract content from a PDF such as text or images
- Replace content, such as replacing an image without altering the rest of the file
- Repair, reformat or **linearize** PDFs
- Change the size of pages and reposition content
- Optimize PDFs similar to Acrobat’s features by downsampling images, deduplicating
- Calculate how much to charge for a scanning project based on the materials scanned
- Alter a PDF to meet a target specification such as PDF/A or PDF/X
- Add or modify PDF metadata
- Create well-formed but invalid PDFs for testing purposes

What it cannot do:

- Rasterize PDF pages for display (that is, produce an image that shows what a PDF page looks like at a particular resolution/zoom level) – use Ghostscript instead
- Convert from PDF to other similar paper capture formats like epub, XPS, DjVu, Postscript – use MuPDF or PyMuPDF
- Print to paper

Fig. 1: Pike fish are tough, hard-fighting, aggressive predators.
If you only want to generate PDFs and not read or modify them, consider repor-
lab (a “write-only” PDF generator).

1.1 Requirements

pikepdf currently requires **Python 3.6+** or newer. pikepdf 1.x supports Python
3.5. Python 2.7 has never been supported.

1.2 Similar libraries

Unlike similar Python libraries such as PyPDF2 and pdfrw, pikepdf is not pure Python. These
libraries were designed prior to Python wheels which has made Python extension libraries
much easier to work with. By leveraging the existing mature code base of QPDF, despite
being new, pikepdf is already more capable than both in many respects – for example, it
can read compress object streams, repair damaged PDFs in many cases, and linearize PDFs.
Unlike those libraries, it’s not pure Python: it is impure and proud of it.

PyMuPDF is a PDF library with impressive capabilities. However, its AGPL license is much
more restrictive than pikepdf, and its dependency on static libraries makes it difficult to
include in open source Linux or BSD distributions.

1.3 In use

pikepdf is used by the same author’s OCRmyPDF to inspect input PDFs, graft the generated
OCR layers on to page content, and output PDFs. Its code contains several practical exam-
oples, particular in pdfinfo.py, graft.py, and optimize.py. pikepdf is also used in its
test suite.

1.3.1 Installation

**Basic installation**

Most users on Linux, macOS or Windows with x64 systems should use pip to install pikepdf
in their current Python environment (such as your project’s virtual environment).

```
pip install pikepdf
```

Use pip install --user pikepdf to install the package for the current user only. Use
pip install pikepdf to install to a virtual environment.

**Linux users:** If you have an older version of pip, such as the one that ships with Ubuntu
18.04, this command will attempt to compile the project instead of installing the wheel. If
you want to get the binary wheel, upgrade pip with:

```
wget https://bootstrap.pypa.io/get-pip.py && python3 get-pip.py
pip --version  # should be 20.0 or newer
pip install pikepdf
```
Binary wheel availability

Table 1: Python binary wheel availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>3.6</th>
<th>3.7</th>
<th>3.8</th>
<th>3.9</th>
<th>PyPy 3.6</th>
<th>PyPy 3.7</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>macOS Intel</td>
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<td>macOS Apple Silicon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windows 32-bit</td>
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<td>manylinux2010 32-bit</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Apple Silicon is supported on a best-effort by manually uploading. These releases sometimes come a few days later.

Binary wheels should work on most systems, provided a recent version of pip is used to install them. Old versions of pip, especially before 20.0, may fail to check appropriate versions.

macOS 10.14 or newer is typically required for binary wheels. Older versions may work if compiled from source.

Windows 7 or newer is required. Windows wheels include a recent copy of libqpdf.

Most Linux distributions support manylinux2010, with the notable exception of Alpine Linux, and older Linux distributions that do not have C++14-capable compilers. The Linux wheels include recent copies of libqpdf, libjpeg, and zlib.

Platform support

Some platforms include versions of pikepdf that are distributed by the system package manager (such as apt). These versions may lag behind the version distributed with PyPI, but may be convenient for users that cannot use binary wheels.

Debian, Ubuntu and other APT-based distributions

```bash
apt install pikepdf
```

 Fedora

```bash
dnf install python-pikepdf
```

Fig. 3: Packaged fish.
Alpine Linux

```bash
apk add py3-pikepdf
```

Installing on FreeBSD

```bash
pkg install py38-pikepdf
```

To attempt a manual install, try something like:

```bash
pkg install
→
python3 py38-lxml py38-pip py38-pybind11 qpdf
pip install --user pikepdf
```

This procedure is known to work on FreeBSD 11.3, 12.0, 12.1-RELEASE and 13.0-CURRENT. It has not been tested on other versions.

Building from source

Requirements

pikepdf requires:

- a C++14 compliant compiler - GCC (5 and up), clang (3.3 and up), MSVC (2015 or newer)
- pybind11
- libqpdf 10.0.3 or higher from the QPDF project.

On Linux the library and headers for libqpdf must be installed because pikepdf compiles code against it and links to it.

Check Repology for QPDF to see if a recent version of QPDF is available for your platform. Otherwise you must build QPDF from source. (Consider using the binary wheels, which bundle the required version of libqpdf.)

Compiling with GCC or Clang

- clone this repository
- install libjpeg, zlib and libqpdf on your platform, including headers
- pip install .

Note: pikepdf should be built with the same compiler and linker as libqpdf; to be precise both must use the same C++ ABI. On some platforms, setup.py may not pick the correct compiler so one may need to set environment variables CC and CXX to redirect it. If the wrong compiler is selected, import pikepdf._qpdf will throw an ImportError about a missing symbol.

On Windows (requires Visual Studio 2015)

pikepdf requires a C++14 compliant compiler (i.e. Visual Studio 2015 on Windows). See our continuous integration build script in .appveyor.yml for detailed and current instructions. Or use the wheels which save this pain.
These instructions require the precompiled binary \texttt{qpdf.dll}. See the QPDF documentation if you also need to build this DLL from source. Both should be built with the same compiler. You may not mix and match MinGW and Visual C++ for example.

Running a regular \texttt{pip install} command will detect the version of the compiler used to build Python and attempt to build the extension with it. We must force the use of Visual Studio 2015.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Clone this repository.
\item In a command prompt, run:
\begin{verbatim}
%VS140COMNTOOLS%\..\..\VC\vcvarsall.bat x64
set DISTUTILS_USE_SDK=1
set MSSdk=1
\end{verbatim}
\item Download \texttt{qpdf-10.0.3-bin-msvc64.zip} from the QPDF releases page.
\item Extract \texttt{bin\*.dll} (all the DLLs, both QPDF’s and the Microsoft Visual C++ Runtime library) from the zip file above, and copy it to the \texttt{src/pikepdf} folder in the repository.
\item Run \texttt{pip install .} in the root directory of the repository.
\end{enumerate}

\textbf{Note:} The user compiling \texttt{pikepdf} to must have registry editing rights on the machine to be able to run the \texttt{vcvarsall.bat} script.

\section*{Building against a QPDF source tree}

Follow these steps to build pikepdf against a different version of QPDF, rather than the one provided with your operating system. This may be useful if you need a more recent version of QPDF than your operating system package manager provides, and you do not want to use Python wheels.

\begin{itemize}
\item Set the environment variable \texttt{QPDF\_SOURCE\_TREE} to the location of the QPDF source tree.
\item Build QPDF, by running \texttt{make}. Refer to the QPDF installation instructions for further options and details.
\item On Linux, modify \texttt{LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH}, prepending the path where the QPDF build produces \texttt{libqpdfXX.so}. This might be something like \texttt{$\$QPDF\_SOURCE\_TREE/\_build/libs/libqpdfXX.so}. On macOS, locate the equivalent variable is \texttt{DYLD\_LIBRARY\_PATH}. On Windows, no action is needed. Generally, what you are doing here is telling the runtime dynamic linker to use the custom compiled version of QPDF instead of the system version.
\item Build pikepdf. On Windows, locate the QPDF .dll files and copy them into the folder alongside the file named \texttt{\_qpdf\_*.dll}.
\end{itemize}

Note that the Python wheels for pikepdf currently compile their own version of QPDF and several of its dependencies to ensure the wheels have the latest version. You can also refer to the GitHub Actions YAML files for build steps.

\section*{Building against a custom install of QPDF to /usr/local/lib}

If you have previously installed a QPDF from source to \texttt{/usr/local/lib} on a POSIX platform, and you try to build pikepdf from source, it will prefer the operating system version of QPDF installed at \texttt{/usr/lib}. Since pikepdf strongly prefers recent versions of QPDF, you may want to use a more current version.

From a Git checkout of the pikepdf source tree, run:
\begin{verbatim}
env LDFLAGS='-L/usr/local/lib' CFLAGS='-I/usr/local/include/qpdf' pip install .
\end{verbatim}
Building the documentation

Documentation is generated using Sphinx and you are currently reading it. To regenerate it:

```
pip install pikepdf[docs]
cd docs
make html
```

PyPy3 support

PyPy3 3.6 and 3.7 are currently supported, these being the latest versions of PyPy as of this writing. Windows PyPy wheels are not supported because cibuildwheel does not support Windows 64-bit PyPy. We have not checked if source builds work.

PyPy3 is not more performant than CPython for pikepdf, because the core of pikepdf is already written in C++. The benefit is for applications that want to use PyPy for improved performance of native Python and also want to use pikepdf.

1.3.2 Release notes

pikepdf releases use the semantic versioning policy.

The pikepdf API (as provided by `import pikepdf`) is stable and is in production use. Note that the C++ extension module `pikepdf._qpdf` is a private interface within pikepdf that applications should not access directly, along with any modules with a prefixed underscore.

v2.16.0

- Performance improvement for `unparse_content_stream`.
- Fixed some linter warnings.
- Tightened pybind11 dependencies so we don’t accept new minor revisions automatically.
- Updated docs on FreeBSD.

v2.15.1

- Fixed compatibility with pybind11 2.7.0 - some tests fail when previous versions of pikepdf are compiled with that version.
- Fixed a coverage code exclusion.
- Added a note missing “version added” comment to documentation.
- Fixed license string not appearing in metadata - thanks @mara004.
v2.15.0

- Improved our pdfdoc codec to raise `UnicodeEncodeError` identifying the problem, instead of a less specific `ValueError`. Thanks to @regebro. #218
- We now implement stream reader/writer and incremental encoder/decoder for our pdfdoc codec, making it useful in more places.
- Fixed an issue with extracting JBIG2 images on Windows, due to Windows temporary file behavior. Thanks to @kraptor. #219

v2.14.2

- Fixed a syntax error in type hints.

v2.14.1

- Fixed the ReadTheDocs documentation build, which had broken after the `setup.cfg` changes in v2.13.0.
- Amended the Makefile with steps for building Apple Silicon wheels.
- No manual Apple Silicon release since there are no functional changes.

v2.14.0

- Implemented a major new feature: overlays (watermarks, page composition). This makes it easier to solve many common tasks that involve copying content from pages to other pages, applying watermarks, headers/footers, etc. #42
- Added `pikepdf.Object.with_same_owner_as()` to simplify creating objects that have the same owner as another object.
- Many improvements to type hints for classes implemented in C++. #213#214

v2.13.0

- Build system modernized to use `setup.cfg` instead of `setup.py` as much as reasonable.
- The `requirements/*.txt` files are now deprecated. Instead use `pip install pikepdf[test,docs]` to install optional extras.
- Extended test coverage for a few tests that affect global state, using `pytest-forked` to isolate them.
- All C++ autoformatted with clang-format.
- We now imbue all C++ stringstreams with the C locale, to avoid formatting output incorrectly if another Python extension written in C++ happens to change the global std::locale.
v2.12.2

- Rebuild wheels against libqpdf 10.3.2.
- Enabled building Linux PyPy x86_64 wheels.
- Fixed a minor issue where the inline images would have their abbreviations expanded when unparsed. While unlikely to be problematic, inline images usually use abbreviations in their metadata and should be kept that way.
- Added notes to documentation about loading PDFs through Python file streams and cases that can lead to poor performance.

v2.12.1

- Fixed documentation typo and updated precommit settings.
- Ongoing improvements to code coverage: now related to image handling.

v2.12.0

- Complete bindings for `pikepdf.Annotation` (useful for interpreting PDF form widgets, comments, etc.)
- Ongoing improvements to code coverage: minor bug fixes, unreachable code removal, more coverage.

v2.11.4

- Fix #160, “Tried to call pure virtual function “TokenFilter::handle_token”; this was a Python/C++ reference counting problem.

v2.11.3

- Check for versions of jbig2dec that are too old to be supported (lacking the necessary command line arguments to extract an image from a PDF).
- Fix setup.py typo: cmd_class changed to cmdclass.

v2.11.2

- Added missing documentation for `Pdf.is_encrypted`.
- Added some documentation annotations about when certain APIs were added or changed, going back to 2.0.

v2.11.1

- Fixed an issue with `Object.emplace()` not retaining the original object’s /Parent.
- Code coverage improvements.
v2.11.0

- Add new functions: `Pdf.generate_appearance_streams` and `Pdf.flatten_annotations`, to support common work with PDF forms.
- Fixed an issue with `pip install` on platforms that lack proper multiprocessing support.
- Additional documentation improvements from @m-holger - thanks again!

v2.10.0

- Fixed a XML External Entity (XXE) processing vulnerability in PDF XMP metadata parsing. (Reported by Eric Therond of Sonarsource.) All users should upgrade to get this security update. CVE-2021-29421 was assigned to this issue.
- Bind new functions to check, when a PDF is opened, whether the password used to open the PDF matched the owner password, user password, or both: `Pdf.user_password_matched` and `Pdf.owner_password_matched`.

v2.9.2

- Further expansion of test coverage of several functions, and minor bug fixes along the way.
- Improve parameter validation for some outline-related functions.
- Fixed overloaded `__repr__` functions in `_methods.py` not being applied.
- Some proofreading of the documentation by @m-holger - thanks!

v2.9.1

- Further expansion of test coverage.
- Fixed function signatures for `__repr_mimebundle__` functions to match IPython's spec.
- Fixed some error messages regarding attempts to do strange things with `pikepdf.Name`, like `pikepdf.Name.Foo = 3`.
- Eliminated code to handle an exception that provably does not occur.
- Test suite is now better at closing open file handles.
- Ensure that any demo code in README.md is valid and works.
- Embedded QPDF version in pikepdf Python wheels increased to 10.3.1.

v2.9.0

- We now issue a warning when attempting to use `pikepdf.open` on a `bytes` object where it could be either a PDF loaded into memory or a filename.
- `pikepdf.Page.label` will now return the “ordinary” page number if no special rules for pages are defined.
- Many improvements to tests and test coverage. Code coverage for both Python and C++ is now automatically published to codecov.io; previously coverage was only checked on the developer’s machine.
- An obsolete private function `Object._roundtrip` was removed.
v2.8.0

• Fixed an issue with extracting data from images that had their DecodeParms structured as a list of dictionaries.
• Fixed an issue where a dangling stream object is created if we fail to create the requested stream dictionary.
• Calling Dictionary() and Array() on objects which are already of that type returns a shallow copy rather than throwing an exception, in keeping with Python semantics.
• v2.8.0.post1: The CI system was changed from Azure Pipelines to GitHub Actions, a transition we made to support generating binary wheels for more platforms. This post-release was the first release made with GitHub Actions. It ought to be functionally identical, but could different in some subtle way, for example because parts of it may have been built with different compiler versions.
• v2.8.0.post2: The previous .post1 release caused binary wheels for Linux to grow much larger, causing problems for AWS Lambda who require small file sizes. This change strips the binaries of debug symbols, also mitigates a rare PyPy test failure.
• Unfortunately, it appears that the transition from Azure Pipelines to GitHub Actions broke compatibility with macOS 10.13 and older. macOS 10.13 and older are considered end of life by Apple. No version of pikepdf v2.x ever promised support for macOS 10.13 – 10.14+ has always been an explicit requirement. It just so happens that for some time, pikepdf did actually work on 10.13.

v2.7.0

• Added an option to tell Pdf.save to recompress flate streams, and a global option to set the flate compression level. This option can be use to force the recompression of flate streams if they are not well compressed.
• Fixed “TypeError: only pages can be inserted” when attempting to an insert an unowned page using QPDF 10.2.0 or later.

v2.6.0

• Rebuild wheels against QPDF 10.2.0.

v2.5.2

• Fixed support for PyPy 3.7 on macOS.

v2.5.1

• Rebuild wheels against recently released pybind11 v2.6.2.
• Improved support for building against PyPy 3.6/7.3.1.
v2.5.0

- PyPy3 is now supported.
- Improved test coverage for some metadata issues.

v2.4.0

- The DocumentInfo dictionary can now be deleted with `del pdf.docinfo`.
- Fixed issues with updating the `dc:creator` XMP metadata entry.
- Improved error messages on attempting to encode strings containing Unicode surrogates.
- Fixed a rare random test failure related to strings containing Unicode surrogates.

v2.3.0

- Fixed two tests that failed with libqpdf 10.1.0.
- Add new function `pikepdf.Page.add_resource` which helps with adding a new object to the /Resources dictionary.
- Binary wheels now provide libqpdf 10.1.0.

v2.2.5

- Changed how one C++ function is called to support libqpdf 10.1.0.

v2.2.4

- Fixed another case where pikepdf should not be warning about metadata updates.

v2.2.3

- Fixed a warning that was incorrectly issued in v2.2.2 when pikepdf updates XMP metadata on the user’s behalf.
- Fixed a rare test suite failure that occurred if two test files were generated with a different timestamp, due to timing of the tests.
- Hopefully fixed build on Cygwin (not tested, based on user report).

v2.2.2

- Fixed #150, adding author metadata breaks PDF/A conformance. We now log an error when this metadata is set incorrectly.
- Improve type checking in ocrmypdf.models.metadata module.
- Improve documentation for custom builds.
v2.2.1

- Fixed #143, PDF/A validation with veraPDF failing due to missing prefix on DocumentInfo dates.

v2.2.0

- Added features to look up the index of an page in the document and page labels
- Enable parallel compiling (again)
- Make it easier to create a pikepdf.Stream with a dictionary or from an existing dictionary.
- Converted most .format() strings to f-strings.
- Fixed incorrect behavior when assigning Object.stream_dict; this use to create a dictionary in the wrong place instead of overriding a stream’s dictionary.

v2.1.2

- Fixed an issue the XMP metadata would not have a timezone set when updated. According to the XMP specification, the timezone should be included. Note that pikepdf will include the local machine timezone, unless explicitly directed otherwise.

v2.1.1

- The previous release inadvertently changed the type of exception in certain situations, notably throwing ForeignObjectError when this was not the correct error to throw. This release fixes that.

v2.1.0

- Improved error messages and documentation around Pdf.copy_foreign.
- Opt-in to mypy typing.

v2.0.0

This description includes changes in v2.0 beta releases.

**Breaking changes**

- We now require at least these versions or newer: - Python 3.6 - pybind11 2.6.0 - QPDF 10.0.3 - For macOS users, macOS 10.14 (Mojave)
- Attempting to modifying Stream.Length will raise an exception instead of a warning. pikepdf automatically calculates the length of the stream when a PDF is saved, so there is never a reason to modify this.
- pikepdf.Stream() can no longer parse content streams. That never made sense, since this class supports streams in general, and many streams are not content streams. Use pikepdf.parse_content_stream to a parse a content stream.
- pikepdf.Permissions is now represented as a NamedTuple. Probably not a concern unless some user made strong assumptions about this class and its superclass.
- Fixed the behavior of the __eq__ on several classes to return NotImplemented for uncomparable objects, instead of False.
The instance variable `PdfJpxImage.pil` is now a private variable.

**New features**

- Python 3.9 is supported.
- Significantly improved type hinting, including hints for functions written in C++.
- Documentation updates

**Deprecations** - `Pdf.root` is deprecated. Use `Pdf.Root`.

**v2.0.0b2**

- We now require QPDF 10.0.3.

**v2.0.0b1**

**Breaking changes**

- We now require at least these versions or newer: - Python 3.6 - pybind11 2.6.0 - QPDF 10.0.1 - For macOS users, macOS 10.14 (Mojave)
- Attempting to modifying `Stream.Length` will raise an exception instead of a warning.
- `pikepdf.Stream()` can no longer parse content streams. That never made sense, since this class supports streams in general, and many streams are not content streams. Use `pikepdf.parse_content_stream` to parse a content stream.
- `pikepdf.Permissions` is now represented as a `NamedTuple`. Probably not a concern unless some user made strong assumptions about this class and its superclass.
- Fixed the behavior of the `__eq__` on several classes to return `NotImplemented` for incomparable objects, instead of `False`.

**New features**

- Python 3.9 is supported.
- Significantly improved type hinting, including hints for functions written in C++.

**v1.19.4**

- Modify project settings to declare no support for Python 3.9 in pikepdf 1.x. pybind11 upstream has indicated there are stability problems when pybind11 2.5 (used by pikepdf 1.x) is used with Python 3.9. As such, we are marking Python 3.9 as unsupported by pikepdf 1.x. Python 3.9 users should switch to pikepdf 2.x.

**v1.19.3**

- Fixed an exception that occurred when building the documentation, introduced in the previous release.
v1.19.2

- Fixed an exception with setting metadata objects to unsupported RDF types. Instead we make a best effort to convert to an appropriate type.
- Prevent creating certain illegal dictionary key names.
- Document procedure to remove an image.

v1.19.1

- Fixed an issue with `unparse_content_stream`: we now assume the second item of each step in the content stream is an `Operator`.
- Fixed an issue with unparsing inline images.

v1.19.0

- Learned how to export CCITT images from PDFs that have ICC profiles attached.
- Cherry-picked a workaround to a possible use-after-free caused by pybind11 (pybind11 PR 2223).
- Improved test coverage of code that handles inline images.

v1.18.0

- You can now use `pikepdf.open(...allow_overwriting_input=True)` to allow overwriting the input file, which was previously forbidden because it can corrupt data. This is accomplished safely by loading the entire PDF into memory at the time it is opened rather than loading content as needed. The option is disabled by default, to avoid a performance hit.
- Prevent `setup.py` from creating junk temporary files (finally!)

v1.17.3

- Fixed crash when `pikepdf.Pdf` objects are used inside generators (#114) and not freed or closed before the generator exits.

v1.17.2

- Fixed issue, “seek of closed file” where JBIG2 image data could not be accessed (only metadata could be) when a JBIG2 was extracted from a PDF.

v1.17.1

- Fixed building against the oldest supported version of QPDF (8.4.2), and configure CI to test against the oldest version. (#109)
v1.17.0

- Fixed a failure to extract PDF images, where the image had both a palette and colorspace set to an ICC profile. The image is now extracted with the profile embedded. (#108)
- Added opt-in support for memory-mapped file access, using `pikepdf.open(...access_mode=pikepdf.AccessMode.mmap)`. Memory mapping file access performance considerably, but may make application exception handling more difficult.

v1.16.1

- Fixed an issue with JBIG2 extraction, where the version number of the jbig2dec software may be written to standard output as a side effect. This could interfere with test cases or software that expects pikepdf to be stdout-clean.
- Fixed an error that occurred when updating DocumentInfo to match XMP metadata, when XMP metadata had unexpected empty tags.
- Fixed setup.py to better support Python 3.8 and 3.9.
- Documentation updates.

v1.16.0

- Added support for extracting JBIG2 images with the image API. JBIG2 images are converted to `PIL.Image`. Requires a JBIG2 decoder such as jbig2dec.
- Python 3.5 support is deprecated and will end when Python 3.5 itself reaches end of life, in September 2020. At the moment, some tests are skipped on Python 3.5 because they depend on Python 3.6.
- Python 3.9beta is supported and is known to work on Fedora 33.

v1.15.1

- Fixed a regression - `Pdf.save(filename)` may hold file handles open after the file is fully written.
- Documentation updates.

v1.15.0

- Fixed an issue where `Decimal` objects of precision exceeding the PDF specification could be written to output files, causing some PDF viewers, notably Acrobat, to parse the file incorrectly. We now limit precision to 15 digits, which ought to be enough to prevent rounding error and parsing errors.
- We now refuse to create pikepdf objects from `float` or `Decimal` that are `NaN` or `±Infinity`. These concepts have no equivalent in PDF.
- `pikepdf.Array` objects now implement `.append()` and `.extend()` with familiar Python list semantics, making them easier to edit.
v1.14.0

- Allowed use of `.keys()`, `.items()` on `pikepdf.Stream` objects.
- We now warn on attempts to modify `pikepdf.Stream.Length`, which `pikepdf` will manage on its own when the stream is serialized. In the future attempting to change it will become an error.
- Clarified documentation in some areas about behavior of `pikepdf.Stream`.

v1.13.0

- Added support for editing PDF Outlines (also known as bookmarks or the table of contents). Many thanks to Matthias Erl for this contribution.
- Added support for decoding run length encoded images.
- `Object.read_bytes()` and `Object.get_stream_buffer()` can now request decoding of uncommon PDF filters.
- Fixed test suite warnings related to pytest and hypothesis.
- Fixed build on Cygwin. Thanks to @jhgarrison for report and testing.

v1.12.0

- Microsoft Visual C++ Runtime libraries are now included in the pikepdf Windows wheel, to improve ease of use on Windows.
- Defensive code added to prevent using `.emplace()` on objects from a foreign PDF without first copying the object. Previously, this would raise an exception when the file was saved.

v1.11.2

- Fix “error caused by missing str function of Array” (#100#101).
- Lots of delinting and minor fixes.

v1.11.1

- We now avoid creating an empty XMP metadata entry when files are saved.
- Updated documentation to describe how to delete the document information dictionary.

v1.11.0

- Prevent creation of dictionaries with invalid names (not beginning with `/`).
- Allow `pikepdf`’s build to specify a qpdf source tree, allowing one to compile `pikepdf` against an unreleased/modified version of qpdf.
- Improved behavior of `pages.p()` and `pages.remove()` when invalid parameters were given.
- Fixed compatibility with libqpdf version 10.0.1, and build official wheels against this version.
- Fixed compatibility with pytest 5.x.
- Fixed the documentation build.
• Fixed an issue with running tests in a non-Unicode locale.
• Fixed a test that randomly failed due to a “deadline error”.
• Removed a possibly nonfree test file.

v1.10.4

• Rebuild Python wheels with newer version of libqpdf. Fixes problems with opening certain password-protected files (#87).

v1.10.3

• Fixed isinstance(obj, pikepdf.Operator) not working. (#86)
• Documentation updates.

v1.10.2

• Fixed an issue where pages added from a foreign PDF were added as references rather than copies. (#80)
• Documentation updates.

v1.10.1

• Fixed build reproducibility (thanks to @lamby)
• Fixed a broken link in documentation (thanks to @maxwell-k)

v1.10.0

• Further attempts to recover malformed XMP packets.
• Added missing functionality to extract 1-bit palette images from PDFs.

v1.9.0

• Improved a few cases of malformed XMP recovery.
• Added an unparse_content_stream API to assist with converting the previously parsed content streams back to binary.

v1.8.3

• If the XMP metadata packet is not well-formed and we are confident that it is essentially empty apart from XML fluff, we fix the problem instead of raising an exception.
v1.8.2

• Fixed an issue where QPDF 8.4.2 would report different errors from QPDF 9.0.0, causing a test to fail. (#71)

v1.8.1

• Fixed an issue where files opened by name may not be closed correctly. Regression from v1.8.0.
• Fixed test for readable/seekable streams evaluated to always true.

v1.8.0

• Added API/property to iterate all objects in a PDF: pikepdf.Pdf.objects.
• Added pikepdf.Pdf.check(), to check for problems in the PDF and return a text description of these problems, similar to qpdf --check.
• Improved internal method for opening files so that the code is smaller and more portable.
• Added missing licenses to account for other binaries that may be included in Python wheels.
• Minor internal fixes and improvements to the continuous integration scripts.

v1.7.1

• This release was incorrectly marked as a patch-level release when it actually introduced one minor new feature. It includes the API change to support pikepdf.Pdf.objects.

v1.7.0

• Shallow object copy with copy.copy(pikepdf.Object) is now supported. (Deep copy is not yet supported.)
• Support for building on C++11 has been removed. A C++14 compiler is now required.
• pikepdf now generates manylinux2010 wheels on Linux.
• Build and deploy infrastructure migrated to Azure Pipelines.
• All wheels are now available for Python 3.5 through 3.8.

v1.6.5

• Fixed build settings to support Python 3.8 on macOS and Linux. Windows support for Python 3.8 is not currently tested since continuous integration providers have not updated to Python 3.8 yet.
• pybind11 2.4.3 is now required, to support Python 3.8.
v1.6.4

- When images were encoded with CCITTFaxDecode, type G4, with the /EncodedByteAlign set to true (not default), the image extracted by pikepdf would be a corrupted form of the original, usually appearing as a small speckling of black pixels at the top of the page. Saving an image with pikepdf was not affected; this problem only occurred when attempting to extract images. We now refuse to extract images with these parameters, as there is not sufficient documentation to determine how to extract them. This image format is relatively rare.

v1.6.3

- Fixed compatibility with libqpdf 9.0.0.
  - A new method introduced in libqpdf 9.0.0 overloaded an older method, making a reference to this method in pikepdf ambiguous.
  - A test relied on libqpdf raising an exception when a pikepdf user called Pdf.save(..., min_version='invalid'). libqpdf no longer raises an exception in this situation, but ignores the invalid version. In the interest of supporting both versions, we defer to libqpdf. The failing test is removed, and documentation updated.
- Several warnings, most specific to the Visual C++ compiler, were fixed.
- The Windows CI scripts were adjusted for the change in libqpdf ABI version.
- Wheels are now built against libqpdf 9.0.0.
- libqpdf 8.4.2 and 9.0.0 are both supported.

v1.6.2

- Fixed another build problem on Alpine Linux - musl-libc defines struct FILE as an incomplete type, which breaks pybind11 metaprogramming that attempts to reason about the type.
- Documentation improved to mention FreeBSD port.

v1.6.1

- Dropped our one usage of QPDF’s C API so that we use only C++.
- Documentation improvements.

v1.6.0

- Added bindings for QPDF’s page object helpers and token filters. These enable: filtering content streams, capturing pages as Form XObjects, more convenient manipulation of page boxes.
- Fixed a logic error on attempting to save a PDF created in memory in a way that overwrites an existing file.
- Fixed Pdf.get_warnings() failed with an exception when attempting to return a warning or exception.
- Improved manylinux1 binary wheels to compile all dependencies from source rather than using older versions.
- More tests and more coverage.
- libqpdf 8.4.2 is required.
v1.5.0

- Improved interpretation of images within PDFs that use an ICC colorspace. Where possible we embed the ICC profile when extracting the image, and profile access to the ICC profile.
- Fixed saving PDFs with their existing encryption.
- Fixed documentation to reflect the fact that saving a PDF without specifying encryption settings will remove encryption.
- Added a test to prevent overwriting the input PDF since overwriting corrupts lazy loading.
- `Object.write(filters=, decode_parms=)` now detects invalid parameters instead of writing invalid values to `Filters` and `DecodeParms`.
- We can now extract some images that had stacked compression, provided it is `/FlateDecode`.
- Add convenience function `Object.wrap_in_array()`.

v1.4.0

- Added support for saving encrypted PDFs. (Reading them has been supported for a long time.)
- Added support for setting the PDF extension level as well as version.
- Added support converting strings to and from `PDFDocEncoding`, by registering a "pdfdoc" codec.

v1.3.1

- Updated pybind11 to v2.3.0, fixing a possible GIL deadlock when pikepdf objects were shared across threads. (#27)
- Fixed an issue where PDFs with valid XMP metadata but missing an element that is usually present would be rejected as malformed XMP.

v1.3.0

- Remove dependency on `defusedxml.lxml`, because this library is deprecated. In the absence of other options for XML hardening we have reverted to standard `lxml`.
- Fixed an issue where `PdfImage.extract_to()` would write a file in the wrong directory.
- Eliminated an intermediate buffer that was used when saving to an IO stream (as opposed to a filename). We would previously write the entire output to a memory buffer and then write to the output buffer; we now write directly to the stream.
- Added `Object.emplace()` as a workaround for when one wants to update a page without generating a new page object so that links/table of contents entries to the original page are preserved.
- Improved documentation. Eliminated all `arg0` placeholder variable names, which appeared when the documentation generator could not read a C++ variable name.
- Added `PageList.remove(p=1)`, so that it is possible to remove pages using counting numbers.
v1.2.0

- Implemented Pdf.close() and with-block context manager, to allow Pdf objects to be closed without relying on del.
- PdfImage.extract_to() has a new keyword argument fileprefix=, which to specify a filepath where an image should be extracted with pikepdf setting the appropriate file suffix. This simplifies the API for the most common case of extracting images to files.
- Fixed an internal test that should have suppressed the extraction of JPEGs with a nonstandard ColorTransform parameter set. Without the proper color transform applied, the extracted JPEGs will typically look very pink. Now, these images should fail to extract as was intended.
- Fixed that Pdf.save(object_stream_mode=...) was ignored if the default fix_metadata_version=True was also set.
- Data from one Pdf is now copied to other Pdf objects immediately, instead of creating a reference that required source PDFs to remain available. Pdf objects no longer reference each other.
- libqpdf 8.4.0 is now required
- Various documentation improvements

v1.1.0

- Added workaround for macOS/clang build problem of the wrong exception type being thrown in some cases.
- Improved translation of certain system errors to their Python equivalents.
- Fixed issues resulting from platform differences in datetime.strftime. (#25)
- Added Pdf.new, Pdf.add_blank_page and Pdf.make_stream convenience methods for creating new PDFs from scratch.
- Added binding for new QPDF JSON feature: Object.to_json.
- We now automatically update the XMP PDFVersion metadata field to be consistent with the PDF’s declared version, if the field is present.
- Made our Python-augmented C++ classes easier for Python code inspectors to understand.
- Eliminated use of the imghdr library.
- Autoformatted Python code with black.
- Fixed handling of XMP metadata that omits the standard <x:xmpmeta> wrapper.

v1.0.5

- Fixed an issue where an invalid date in XMP metadata would cause an exception when updating DocumentInfo. For now, we warn that some DocumentInfo is not convertible. (In the future, we should also check if the XMP date is valid, because it probably is not.)
- Rebuilt the binary wheels with libqpdf 8.3.0. libqpdf 8.2.1 is still supported.
v1.0.4

- Updates to tests/resources (provenance of one test file, replaced another test file with a synthetic one)

v1.0.3

- Fixed regression on negative indexing of pages.

v1.0.2

- Fixed an issue where invalid values such as out of range years (e.g. 1) in DocumentInfo would raise exceptions when using DocumentInfo to populate XMP metadata with .load_from_docinfo.

v1.0.1

- Fixed an exception with handling metadata that contains the invalid XML entity &\#0; (an escaped NUL)

v1.0.0

- Changed version to 1.0.

v0.10.2

Fixes

- Fixed segfault when overwriting the pikepdf file that is currently open on Linux.
- Fixed removal of an attribute metadata value when values were present on the same node.

v0.10.1

Fixes

- Avoid canonical XML since it is apparently too strict for XMP.

v0.10.0

Fixes

- Fixed several issues related to generating XMP metadata that passed veraPDF validation.
- Fixed a random test suite failure for very large negative integers.
- The lxml library is now required.
v0.9.2

Fixes

- Added all of the commonly used XML namespaces to XMP metadata handling, so we are less likely to name something ‘ns1’, etc.
- Skip a test that fails on Windows.
- Fixed build errors in documentation.

v0.9.1

Fixes

- Fix `Object.write()` accepting positional arguments it wouldn’t use
- Fix handling of XMP data with timezones (or missing timezone information) in a few cases
- Fix generation of XMP with invalid XML characters if the invalid characters were inside a non-scalar object

v0.9.0

Updates

- New API to access and edit PDF metadata and make consistent edits to the new and old style of PDF metadata.
- 32-bit binary wheels are now available for Windows
- PDFs can now be saved in QPDF’s “qdf” mode
- The Python package defusedxml is now required
- The Python package python-xmp-toolkit and its dependency libexempi are suggested for testing, but not required

Fixes

- Fixed handling of filenames that contain multibyte characters on non-UTF-8 systems

Breaking

- The `Pdf.metadata` property was removed, and replaced with the new metadata API
- `Pdf.attach()` has been removed, because the interface as implemented had no way to deal with existing attachments.
v0.3.7

• Add API for inline images to unpase themselves

v0.3.6

• Performance of reading files from memory improved to avoid unnecessary copies.
• It is finally possible to use for key in pdfobj to iterate contents of PDF Dictionary, Stream and Array objects. Generally these objects behave more like Python containers should now.
• Package API declared beta.

v0.3.5

Breaking

• Pdf.save(...stream_data_mode=...) has been dropped in favor of the newer compress_streams= and stream_decode_level parameters.

Fixes

• A use-after-free memory error that caused occasional segfaults and “QPDFFakeName” errors when opening from stream objects has been resolved.

v0.3.4

Updates

• pybind11 vendoring has ended now that v2.2.4 has been released

v0.3.3

Breaking

• libqpdf 8.2.1 is now required

Updates

• Improved support for working with JPEG2000 images in PDFs
• Added progress callback for saving files, Pdf.save(..., progress=)
• Updated pybind11 subtree
Fixes

• `del obj.AttributeName` was not implemented. The attribute interface is now consistent
• Deleting named attributes now defers to the attribute dictionary for Stream objects, as get/set do
• Fixed handling of JPEG2000 images where metadata must be retrieved from the file

v0.3.2

Updates

• Added support for direct image extraction of CMYK and grayscale JPEGs, where previously only RGB (internally YUV) was supported
• `Array()` now creates an empty array properly
• The syntax `Name.Foo` in `Dictionary()`, e.g. `Name.XObject` in `page.Resources`, now works

v0.3.1

Breaking

• `pikepdf.open` now validates its keyword arguments properly, potentially breaking code that passed invalid arguments
• `libqpdf 8.1.0` is now required - `libqpdf 8.1.0` API is now used for creating Unicode strings
• If a non-existent file is opened with `pikepdf.open`, a `FileNotFoundError` is raised instead of a generic error
• We are now temporarily vendoring a copy of `pybind11` since its master branch contains unreleased and important fixes for Python 3.7.

Updates

• The syntax `Name.Thing` (e.g. `Name.DecodeParms`) is now supported as equivalent to `Name(’/Thing’)` and is the recommended way to refer names within a PDF
• New API `Pdf.remove_unneeded_resources()` which removes objects from each page’s resource dictionary that are not used in the page. This can be used to create smaller files.

Fixes

• Fixed an error parsing inline images that have masks
• Fixed several instances of catching C++ exceptions by value instead of by reference
v0.3.0

Breaking

- Modified `Object.write` method signature to require `filter` and `decode_parms` as keyword arguments
- Implement automatic type conversion from the PDF Null type to `None`
- Removed `Object.unparse_resolved` in favor of `Object.unparse(resolved=True)`
- `libqpdf 8.0.2` is now required at minimum

Updates

- Improved IPython/Jupyter interface to directly export temporary PDFs
- Updated to qpdf 8.1.0 in wheels
- Added Python 3.7 support for Windows
- Added a number of missing options from QPDF to `Pdf.open` and `Pdf.save`
- Added ability to delete a slice of pages
- Began using Jupyter notebooks for documentation

v0.2.2

- Added Python 3.7 support to build and test (not yet available for Windows, due to lack of availability on Appveyor)
- Removed setter API from `PdfImage` because it never worked anyway
- Improved handling of `PdfImage` with trivial palettes

v0.2.1

- `Object.check_owner` renamed to `Object.is_owned_by`
- `Object.objgen` and `Object.get_object_id` are now public functions
- Major internal reorganization with `pikepdf.models` becoming the submodule that holds support code to ease access to PDF objects as opposed to wrapping QPDF.

v0.2.0

- Implemented automatic type conversion for `int`, `bool` and `Decimal`, eliminating the `pikepdf.{Integer, Boolean, Real}` types. Removed a lot of associated numerical code.

Everything before v0.2.0 can be considered too old to document.
1.3.3 Tutorial

This brief tutorial should give you an introduction and orientation to pikepdf’s paradigm and syntax. From there, we refer to you various topics.

Opening and saving PDFs

In contrast to better known PDF libraries, pikepdf uses a single object to represent a PDF, whether reading, writing or merging. We have cleverly named this `pikepdf.Pdf`. In this documentation, a `Pdf` is a class that allows manipulate the PDF, meaning the “file” (whether it exists in memory or on a file system).

```python
from pikepdf import Pdf
new_pdf = Pdf.new()
with Pdf.open('sample.pdf') as pdf:
    pdf.save('output.pdf')
```

You may of course use `from pikepdf import Pdf as ...` if the short class name conflicts or `from pikepdf import Pdf as PDF` if you prefer uppercase.

`pikepdf.open()` is a shorthand for `pikepdf.Pdf.open()`.

The PDF class API follows the example of the widely-used Pillow image library. For clarity there is no default constructor since the arguments used for creation and opening are different. To make a new empty PDF, use `Pdf.new()` not `Pdf()`.

`Pdf.open()` also accepts seekable streams as input, and `Pdf.save()` accepts streams as output. `pathlib.Path` objects are fully supported wherever pikepdf accepts a filename.

Inspecting pages

Manipulating pages is fundamental to PDFs. pikepdf presents the pages in a PDF through the `pikepdf.Pdf.pages` property, which follows the list protocol. As such page numbers begin at 0.

Let’s open a simple PDF that contains four pages.

```python
In [1]: from pikepdf import Pdf
In [2]: pdf = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/fourpages.pdf')
```

How many pages?

```python
In [3]: len(pdf.pages)
Out[3]: 4
```

pikepdf integrates with IPython and Jupyter’s rich object APIs so that you can view PDFs, PDF pages, or images within PDF in a IPython window or Jupyter notebook. This makes it easier to test visual changes.

```python
In [4]: pdf
Out[4]: « In Jupyter you would see the PDF here »
In [5]: pdf.pages[0]
Out[5]: « In Jupyter you would see an image of the PDF page here »
```
You can also examine individual pages, which we’ll explore in the next section. Suffice to say that you can access pages by indexing them and slicing them.

```python
In [6]: pdf.pages[0]
Out[6]: "In Jupyter you would see an image of the PDF page here »
```

Note:  `pikepdf.Pdf.open()` can open almost all types of encrypted PDF! Just provide the `password=` keyword argument.

For more details on document assembly, see *PDF split, merge and document assembly*.

**Pages are dictionaries**

In PDFs, the main data structure is the `dictionary`, a key-value data structure much like a Python `dict` or `attrdict`. The major difference is that the keys can only be `names`, and the values can only be PDF types, including other dictionaries.

PDF dictionaries are represented as `pikepdf.Dictionary` objects, and names are of type `pikepdf.Name`. A page is just a dictionary with certain required keys that is referenced by the PDF’s “page tree”. (pikepdf manages the page tree for you.)

```python
In [7]: from pikepdf import Pdf
In [8]: example = Pdf.open('../tests/resources/congress.pdf')
In [9]: page1 = example.pages[0]
```

**repr() output**

Let’s example the page’s `repr()` output:

```python
In [10]: repr(page1)
Out[10]: '<pikepdf.Dictionary(Type="/Page")({
"/Contents": pikepdf.Stream(stream_dict={
"/Length": 50}, data=<...>),
"/MediaBox": [0, 0, 200, 304],
"/Parent": <reference to /Pages>,
"/Resources": {
"/XObject": {
"/Im0": ⨯ pikepdf.Stream(stream_dict={
"/BitsPerComponent": 8,
"/ColorSpace": "/DeviceRGB",
"/Filter": ["/DCTDecode"],
"/Height": 1520,
"/Length": 192956,
"/Subtype": "/Image",
"/Type": "/XObject",
"/Width": 1000
}, data=<...>),
"/Type": "/Page"
})}
```

The angle brackets in the output indicate that this object cannot be constructed with a Python expression because it contains a reference. When angle brackets are omitted from the `repr()` of a pikepdf object, then the object can be replicated with a Python expression, such as `eval(repr(x)) == x`. Pages typically have indirect references to themselves and other pages, so they cannot be represented as an expression.
**Item and attribute notation**

Dictionary keys may be looked up using attributes (page1.MediaBox) or keys (page1['/MediaBox']).

```
In [11]: page1.MediaBox  # preferred notation for standard PDF names
Out[11]: pikepdf.Array([ 0, 0, 200, 304 ])

In [12]: page1['/MediaBox']  # also works
Out[12]: pikepdf.Array([ 0, 0, 200, 304 ])
```

By convention, pikepdf uses attribute notation for standard names (the names that are normally part of a dictionary, according to the PDF 1.7 Reference Manual), and item notation for names that may not always appear. For example, the images belong to a page always appear at page.Resources.XObject but the names of images are arbitrarily chosen by whatever software generates the PDF (/Im0, in this case). (Whenever expressed as strings, names begin with `/`.)

```
In [13]: page1.Resources.XObject['/Im0']
```

Item notation here would be quite cumbersome: `['/Resources']=['/XObject']=['/Im0']` (not recommended). Attribute notation is convenient, but not robust if elements are missing. For elements that are not always present, you can use `.get()`, which behaves like `dict.get()` in core Python. A library such as `glom` might help when working with complex structured data that is not always present.

(For now, we’ll set aside what a page’s MediaBox and Resources.XObject are for. See Working with pages for details.)

**Deleting pages**

Removing pages is easy too.

```
In [14]: del pdf.pages[1:3]  # Remove pages 2-3 labeled "second page" and "third page"
```

```
In [15]: len(pdf.pages)
Out[15]: 2
```

**Saving changes**

Naturally, you can save your changes with `pikepdf.Pdf.save()`. `filename` can be a `pathlib.Path`, which we accept everywhere.

```
In [16]: pdf.save('output.pdf')
```

You may save a file multiple times, and you may continue modifying it after saving. For example, you could create an unencrypted version of a document, then apply a watermark, and create an encrypted version.

**Note:** You may not overwrite the input file (or whatever Python object provides the data) when saving or at any other time. pikepdf assumes it will have exclusive access to the input file or object.

---

**Fig. 5: Saving pike.**
Saving secure PDFs

To save an encrypted (password protected) PDF, use a pikepdf. Encryption object to specify the encryption settings. By default, pikepdf selects the strongest security handler and algorithm (AES-256), but allows full access to modify file contents. A pikepdf. Permissions object can be used to specify restrictions.

```python
In [17]: no_extracting = pikepdf.Permissions(extract=False)

In [18]: pdf.save('encrypted.pdf', encryption=pikepdf.Encryption(
       ....:       user="user password", owner="owner password", allow=no_extracting
       ....:   ))
   ....:
```

Refer to our security documentation for more information on user/owner passwords and PDF permissions.

Next steps

Have a look at pikepdf topics that interest you, or jump to our detailed API reference...

1.3.4 PDF split, merge, and document assembly

This section discusses working with PDF pages: splitting, merging, copying, deleting. We're treating pages as a unit, rather than working with the content of individual pages.

Let's continue with fourpages.pdf from the Tutorial.

```python
In [1]: from pikepdf import Pdf

In [2]: pdf = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/fourpages.pdf')
```

**Note:** In some parts of the documentation we skip closing Pdf objects for brevity. In production code, you should open them in a with block or explicitly close them.

Split a PDF into single page PDFs

All we need are new PDFs to hold the destination pages.

```python
In [3]: pdf = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/fourpages.pdf')

In [4]: for n, page in enumerate(pdf.pages):
       ....:   dst = Pdf.new()
       ....:   dst.pages.append(page)
       ....:   dst.save(f'\{n:02d}.pdf')
   ....:
```

**Note:** This example will transfer data associated with each page, so that every page stands on its own. It will not transfer some metadata associated with the PDF as a whole, such as the list of bookmarks.
Merge (concatenate) PDF from several PDFs

In this example, we create an empty Pdf which will be the container for all the others.

If you are looking to combine multiple PDF pages into a single page, see Overlays, underlays, watermarks, n-up.

```python
In [5]: from glob import glob
In [6]: pdf = Pdf.new()
In [7]: for file in glob('*.pdf'):
   ...:   src = Pdf.open(file)
   ...:   pdf.pages.extend(src.pages)
   ...
In [8]: pdf.save('merged.pdf')
```

This code sample is enough to merge most PDFs, but there are some things it does not do that a more sophisticated function might do. One could call `pikepdf.Pdf.remove_unreferenced_resources()` to remove unreferenced objects from the pages’ /Resources dictionaries. It may also be necessary to choose the most recent version of all source PDFs. Here is a more sophisticated example:

```python
In [9]: from glob import glob
In [10]: pdf = Pdf.new()
In [11]: version = pdf.pdf_version
In [12]: for file in glob('*.pdf'):
   ...:   src = Pdf.open(file)
   ...:   version = max(version, src.pdf_version)
   ...:   pdf.pages.extend(src.pages)
   ...
In [13]: pdf.remove_unreferenced_resources()
In [14]: pdf.save('merged.pdf', min_version=version)
```

This improved example would still leave metadata blank. It’s up to you to decide how to combine metadata from multiple PDFs.

Reversing the order of pages

Suppose the file was scanned backwards. We can easily reverse it in place - maybe it was scanned backwards, a common problem with automatic document scanners.

```python
In [15]: pdf.pages.reverse()
In [16]: pdf
Out[16]: <pikepdf.Pdf description="../tests/resources/fourpages.pdf">
```

Pretty nice, isn’t it? But the pages in this file already were in correct order, so let’s put them back.
Copying pages from other PDFs

Now, let’s add some content from another file. Because `pdf.pages` behaves like a list, we can use `pages.extend()` on another file’s pages.

```python
In [18]: pdf = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/fourpages.pdf')
In [19]: appendix = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/sandwich.pdf')
In [20]: pdf.pages.extend(appendix.pages)
```

We can use `pages.insert()` to insert into one of more pages into a specific position, bumping everything else ahead.

Copying pages between `Pdf` objects will create a shallow copy of the source page within the target `Pdf`, rather than the typical Python behavior of creating a reference. Therefore modifying `pdf.pages[-1]` will not affect `appendix.pages[0]`. (Normally, assigning objects between Python lists creates a reference, so that the two objects are identical, `list[0] is list[1]`.)

```python
In [21]: graph = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/graph.pdf')
In [22]: pdf.pages.insert(1, graph.pages[0])
In [23]: len(pdf.pages)
Out[23]: 6
```

We can also replace specific pages with assignment (or slicing).

```python
In [24]: congress = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/congress.pdf')
In [25]: pdf.pages[2].objgen
Out[25]: (4, 0)
In [26]: pdf.pages[2] = congress.pages[0]
In [27]: pdf.pages[2].objgen
Out[27]: (33, 0)
```

The method above will break any indirect references (such as table of contents entries and hyperlinks) within `pdf` to `pdf.pages[2]`. Perhaps that is the behavior you want, if the replacement means those references are no longer valid. This is shown by the change in `pikepdf.Object.objgen`. 

Chapter 1. At a glance
Emplacing pages

Perhaps the PDF you are working has a table of contents or internal hyperlinks, meaning that there are indirect references to a specific page object. If you want change the content of a page object while preserving references to it, use `pikepdf.Object.emplace()`, which will delete all of the content of the target and replace it with the content of the source, thus preserving indirect references to the page. (Think of this as demolishing the interior of a house, but keeping it at the same address.)

```python
In [28]: pdf = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/fourpages.pdf')
In [29]: congress = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/congress.pdf')
In [30]: pdf.pages[2].objgen
Out[30]: (5, 0)
In [31]: pdf.pages.append(congress.pages[0])  # Transfer page to new pdf
In [32]: pdf.pages[2].emplace(pdf.pages[-1])
In [33]: del pdf.pages[-1]  # Remove donor page
In [34]: pdf.pages[2].objgen
Out[34]: (5, 0)
```

Copying pages within a PDF

As you may have guessed, we can assign pages to copy them within a `Pdf`:

```python
In [35]: pdf = Pdf.open('..tests/resources/fourpages.pdf')
In [36]: pdf.pages[3] = pdf.pages[0]  # The last shall be made first
```

As above, copying a page creates a shallow copy rather than a Python object reference.

Also as above `pikepdf.Object.emplace()` can be used to create a copy that preserves the functionality of indirect references within the PDF.

Using counting numbers

Because PDF pages are usually numbered in counting numbers (1, 2, 3...), `pikepdf` provides a convenience accessor `.p()` that uses counting numbers:

```python
In [37]: pdf.pages.p(1)  # The first page in the document
In [38]: pdf.pages[0]  # Also the first page in the document
In [39]: pdf.pages.remove(p=1)  # Remove first page in the document
```

To avoid confusion, the `.p()` accessor does not accept Python slices, and `.p(0)` raises an exception. It is also not possible to delete using it.

PDFs may define their own numbering scheme or different numberings for different sections, such as using Roman numerals for an introductory section. `.pages` does not look up this information.

1.3. In use 35
Accessing page labels

If a PDF defines custom page labels, such as a typical report with preface material beginning with Roman numerals (i, ii, iii...), body using Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3...), and an appendix using some other convention (A-1, A-2, ...), you can look up the page label using the `pikepdf.Page` helper class, as follows:

```python
In [40]: Page(pdf.pages[1]).label
Out[40]: 'i'
```

There is currently no API to help with modifying the `pdf.Root.PageLabels` data structure, which contains the label definitions.

Pages information from Root

**Warning:** It’s possible to obtain page information through `pikepdf.Pdf.Root` object but **not recommended**. (In PDF parlance, this is the `/Root` object).

The internal consistency of the various `/Page` and `/Pages` is not guaranteed when accessed in this manner, and in some PDFs the data structure for these is fairly complex. Use the `.pages` interface instead.

1.3.5 Working with pages

This section details with how to view and edit the contents of a page.

`pikepdf` is not an ideal tool for producing new PDFs from scratch – and there are many good tools for that, as mentioned elsewhere. `pikepdf` is better at inspecting, editing and transforming existing PDFs.

Page objects in PDFs are dictionaries.

```python
In [1]: from pikepdf import Pdf, Page
In [2]: example = Pdf.open('../tests/resources/congress.pdf')
In [3]: pageobj1 = example.pages[0]
In [4]: pageobj1
Out[4]:
<pikepdf.Dictionary(Type="/Page")({
  "/Contents": pikepdf.Stream(stream_dict={
    "/Length": 50
  }, data=<...>),
  "/MediaBox": [ 0, 0, 200, 304 ],
  "/Parent": <reference to /Pages>,
  "/Resources": {
    "/XObject": {
      "/Im0": pikepdf.Stream(stream_dict={
        "/BitsPerComponent": 8,
        "/ColorSpace": "/DeviceRGB",
        "/Filter": [ "/DCTDecode" ],
        "/Height": 1520,
        "/Length": 192956,
        "/Subtype": "/Image",
      },
    },
  },
  ...
},
```
The page's `/Contents` key contains instructions for drawing the page content. This is a *content stream*, which is a stream object that follows special rules.

Also attached to this page is a `/Resources` dictionary, which contains a single XObject image. The image is compressed with the /DCTDecode filter, meaning it is encoded with the DCT (discrete cosine transform), so it is a JPEG. pikepdf has special APIs for *working with images*.

The `/MediaBox` describes the bounding box of the page in PDF pt units (1/72” or 0.35 mm).

You can access the page dictionary data structure directly, but it's fairly complicated. There are a number of rules, optional values and implied values. It's easier to use page helpers, which ensure that the page is modified in a semantically correct manner.

**Page helpers**

pikepdf provides a helper class, `pikepdf.Page`, which provides higher-level functions to manipulate pages than the standard page dictionary used in the previous examples.

Currently pikepdf does not automatically return helper classes. You must initialize them. In a future release, it will return them automatically.

```
In [5]: from pikepdf import Pdf, Page
In [6]: page = Page(pageobj1)
In [7]: page.trimbox
Out[7]: pikepdf.Array([ 0, 0, 200, 304 ])
```

One advantage of page helpers is that they resolve implicit information. For example, `page.trimbox` will return an appropriate trim box for this page, which in this case is equal to the media box.

### 1.3.6 Object model

This section covers the object model pikepdf uses in more detail.

A `pikepdf.Object` is a Python wrapper around a C++ QPDFObjectHandle which, as the name suggests, is a handle (or pointer) to a data structure in memory, or possibly a reference to data that exists in a file. Importantly, an object can be a scalar quantity (like a string) or a compound quantity (like a list or dict, that contains other objects). The fact that the C++ class involved here is an object handle is an implementation detail; it shouldn't matter for a pikepdf user.

The simplest types in PDFs are directly represented as Python types: `int`, `bool`, and `None` stand for PDF integers, booleans and the "null". `Decimal` is used for floating point numbers in PDFs. If a value in a PDF is assigned a Python `float`, pikepdf will convert it to `Decimal`.

Types that are not directly convertible to Python are represented as `pikepdf.Object`, a compound object that offers a superset of possible methods, some of which only if the underlying type is suitable. Use the EAFP (easier to ask
forgiveness than permission) idiom, or `isinstance` to determine the type more precisely. This partly reflects the fact that the PDF specification allows many data fields to be one of several types.

For convenience, the `repr()` of a `pikepdf.Object` will display a Python expression that replicates the existing object (when possible), so it will say:

```
>>> catalog_name = pdf.Root.Type
pikepdf.Name("/Catalog")
>>> isinstance(catalog_name, pikepdf.Name)
True
>>> isinstance(catalog_name, pikepdf.Object)
True
```

### Making PDF objects

You may construct a new object with one of the classes:

- `pikepdf.Array`
- `pikepdf.Dictionary`
- `pikepdf.Name` - the type used for keys in PDF Dictionary objects
- `pikepdf.String` - a text string (treated as bytes and str depending on context)

These may be thought of as subclasses of `pikepdf.Object`. (Internally they are `pikepdf.Object`.)

There are a few other classes for special PDF objects that don’t map to Python as neatly.

- `pikepdf.Operator` - a special object involved in processing content streams
- `pikepdf.Stream` - a special object similar to a `Dictionary` with binary data attached
- `pikepdf.InlineImage` - an image that is embedded in content streams

The great news is that it’s often unnecessary to construct `pikepdf.Object` objects when working with pikepdf. Python types are transparently `converted` to the appropriate pikepdf object when passed to pikepdf APIs – when possible. However, pikepdf sends `pikepdf.Object` types back to Python on return calls, in most cases, because pikepdf needs to keep track of objects that came from PDFs originally.

### Object lifecycle and memory management

As mentioned above, a `pikepdf.Object` may reference data that is lazily loaded from its source `pikepdf.Pdf`. Closing the `Pdf` with `pikepdf.Pdf.close()` will invalidate some objects, depending on whether or not the data was loaded, and other implementation details that may change. Generally speaking, a `pikepdf.Pdf` should be held open until it is no longer needed, and objects that were derived from it may or may not be usable after it is closed.

Simple objects (booleans, integers, decimals, `None`) are copied directly to Python as pure Python objects.

For PDF stream objects, use `pikepdf.Object.read_bytes()` to obtain a copy of the object as pure bytes data, if this information is required after closing a PDF.

When objects are copied from one `pikepdf.Pdf` to another, the underlying data is copied immediately into the target. As such it is possible to merge hundreds of `Pdf` into one, keeping only a single source at a time and the target file open.
Indirect objects

PDF has two ways to represented a PDF dictionary that contains another dictionary: it can contain the inner dictionary, or provide a reference to another object. In the PDF file itself, most objects have an object number that is for referencing.

pikepdf hides the details about whether an object is directly or indirectly referenced, since in many situations it does not matter and manually testing each object to see if it needs to be dereferenced before accessing it is tedious. However, you may need to create indirect references. Sometimes, the PDF 1.7 Reference Manual specifically requires that a value be an indirect object.

You can use pikepdf.Object.is_indirect to check if an object is actually an indirect reference. If you require an indirect object, use pikepdf.Pdf.make_indirect() to attach the dictionary to a Pdf and return an indirect copy of it. Direct objects are not attached to any particular Pdf and can be copied from one to another, just like scalars. Indirect objects must be attached.

Stream objects are always indirect objects, and must always be attached to a PDF.

1.3.7 Stream objects

A pikepdf.Stream object works like a PDF dictionary with some encoded bytes attached. The dictionary is metadata that describes how the stream is encoded. PDF can, and regularly does, use a variety of encoding filters. A stream can be encoded with one or more filters. Images are a type of stream object.

This is not the same type of object as Python’s file-like I/O objects, which are sometimes called streams.

Most of the interesting content in a PDF (images and content streams) are inside stream objects.

Because the PDF specification unfortunately defines several terms that involve the word stream, let’s attempt to clarify:

stream object  A PDF object that contains binary data and a metadata dictionary that describes it, represented as pikepdf.Stream, a subclass of pikepdf.Object. In HTML this is equivalent to a <object> tag with attributes and data.

object stream  A stream object (not a typo, an object stream really is a type of stream object) in a PDF that contains a number of other objects in a PDF, grouped together for better compression. In pikepdf there is an option to save PDFs with this feature enabled to improve compression. Otherwise, this is just a detail about how PDF files are encoded. When object streams are present, pikepdf automatically decompresses them as necessary; no special steps are needed to access a PDF that contains object streams.

content stream  A stream object that contains some instructions to draw graphics and text on a page, or inside a Form XObject, and in some other situations. In HTML this is equivalent to the HTML file itself. Content streams only draw one page (or canvas, for a Form XObject). Each page needs its own content stream to draw its contents.

Form XObject  A group of images, text and drawing commands that can be rendered elsewhere in a PDF as a group. This is often used when a group of objects are needed at different scales or on multiple pages. In HTML this is like an <svg>. It is not a fillable PDF form (although a fillable PDF form could involve Form XObjects).

(Python) stream  A stream is another name for a file object or file-like object, as described in the Python io module.
Reading stream objects

Fortunately, pikepdf.Stream.read_bytes() will apply all filters and decode the uncompressed bytes, or throw an error if this is not possible. pikepdf.Stream.read_raw_bytes() provides access to the compressed bytes.

Three types of stream object are particularly noteworthy: content streams, which describe the order of drawing operators; images; and XMP metadata. pikepdf provides helper functions for working with these types of streams.

Reading stream objects as a Python I/O streams

You were warned about terminology.

To preserve our remaining sanity, you cannot access a stream object as a file-like object directly.

To efficiently access a pikepdf.Stream as a Python file object, you may do:

```python
pdf.pages[0].Contents.page_contents_coalesce()
filelike_object = BytesIO(pdf.pages[0].Contents.get_stream_buffer())
```

1.3.8 Working with content streams

A content stream is a stream object associated with either a page or a Form XObject that describes where and how to draw images, vectors, and text. (These PDF streams have nothing to do with Python I/O streams.)

Content streams are binary data that can be thought of as a list of operators and zero or more operands. Operands are given first, followed by the operator. It is a stack-based language, loosely based on PostScript. (It's not actually PostScript, but sometimes well-meaning people mistakenly say that it is!) Like HTML, it has a precise grammar, and also like (pure) HTML, it has no loops, conditionals or variables.

A typical example is as follows (with additional whitespace and PostScript-style %-comments):

```plaintext
q % 1. Push graphics stack.
100 0 0 100 0 0 cm % 2.
→ The 6 numbers are the operands, followed by cm operator.
→ % This configures the current transformation matrix.
/Image1 Do % 3. Draw the object named /Image1 from the /Resources
    % dictionary.
Q % 4. Pop graphics stack.
```

The pattern q, cm, <drawing commands>, Q is extremely common. The drawing commands may recurse with another q, cm, ..., Q.

pikepdf provides a C++ optimized content stream parser and a filter. The parser is best used for reading and interpreting content streams; the filter is better for low level editing.
How content streams draw images

This example prints a typical content stream from a real file, which like the contrived example above, displays an actual image.

```
In [1]: with
   ...
   ...
   pikepdf.open("../tests/resources/congress.pdf") as pdf:
   ...
   ...
   page = pdf.pages[0]
   ...
   commands = []
   ...
   for operands, operator in pikepdf.parse_content_stream(page):
   ...
   ...
   print(f"Operands {operands}, operator {operator}")
   ...
   commands.append([operands, operator])
   ...
Operands [], operator q
Operands [Decimal('200.0000'), 0, 0, Decimal('304.0000'), Decimal('0.0000'), Decimal('0.0000')], operator cm
Operands [pikepdf.Name("/Im0")], operator Do
Operands [], operator Q
```

PDF content streams are stateful. The commands q, cm and Q manipulate the current transform matrix (CTM) which describes where we will draw next. In most cases you have to track every manipulation of the CTM to figure out what will happen, even to answer a question like, “where will this image be drawn, and how big will it be?”

But in this simple case, we can read the matrix directly. The decimal numbers 200.0 and 304.0 establish the width and height at which the image should be drawn, in PDF points (1/72” or about 0.35 mm). The pixel dimensions of the image have no effect. If we substituted that image for another, the new image would be drawn in the same location on the page, painted into the 200 × 304 rectangle regardless of its pixel dimensions.

Editing a content stream

Let’s continue with the file above and center the image on the page, and reduce its size by 50%. Because we can! For that, we need to rewrite the second command in the content stream.

We take the original matrix (original) and then translated it to the center of this page. We know that the full page image is 200 × 304 PDF points, so we translate by one half on each axis: .translated(200/2, 304/2). Then we scale by 0.5: .scaled(0.5, 0.5).

```
In [2]: original =
   ...
   ...
   pikepdf.PdfMatrix(commands[1][0])  # command cm, operands

In [3]: new_matrix =
   ...
   ...
   original.translated(200/2, 304/2).scaled(0.5, 0.5)

In [4]: new_matrix
Out[4]: pikepdf.Matrix(((100.0, 0.0, 0.0), (0.0, 152.0, 0.0), (50.0, 76.0, 1.0)))
```
On an important note, the PDF coordinate system is nailed to the **bottom left** corner of the page, and on y-axis, **up is positive**. That is, the coordinate system is more like the first quadrant of a Cartesian graph than the **down is positive** convention normally used in pixel graphics:

Thus the command `.translated(200/2, 304/2)` is translated from the origin at the bottom left, (0, 0), to the right by 100 units, and up 152 units. (Some PDF programs insert a command to “flip” the coordinate system, by translating to the top left corner and scaling by (1, -1).)

After calculating our new matrix, we need to insert it back into the parsed content stream, “unparse” it to binary data, and replace the old content stream.

```python
In [5]:
   ...: commands[1][0] = pikepdf.Array(["new_matrix.shorthand")

In [6]: new_
   ...: content_stream = pikepdf.unparse_content_stream(commands)

In [7]: new_content_stream
Out[7]: b' q
100 0 0 152 50 76 cm\n/Im0 Do\n Q'

In [8]: page.Contents = pdf.make_stream(new_content_stream)
```

# You could save the file here to see it
# pdf.save(...)  

**Note:** To rotate an image, first translate it so that the image is centered at (0, 0), rotate then apply the rotate, then translate it to its new center position. This is because rotations occur around (0, 0).

**Note:** In this illustration, the page’s MediaBox is located at (0, 0) for simplicity. The MediaBox can be offset from the origin, and code that edits content streams may need to account for this relatively condition.

---

**Editing content streams robustly**

The stateful nature of PDF content streams makes editing them complicated. Edits like the example above will work when the input file is known to have a fixed structure (that is, the state at the time of editing is known). You can always prepend content to the top of the content stream, since the initial state is known. And you can often append content to the end the stream, since the final state is predictable if every `q` (push state) has a matching `Q` (pop state).

Otherwise, you must track the graphics state and maintain a stack of states.

Most applications will end up parsing the content stream into a higher level representation that is easier edit and then serializing it back, totally rewriting the content stream. Content streams should be thought of as an output format.
Extracting text from PDFs

If you guessed that the content streams were the place to look for text inside a PDF – you'd be correct. Unfortunately, extracting the text is fairly difficult because content stream actually specifies as a font and glyph numbers to use. Sometimes, there is a 1:1 transparent mapping between Unicode numbers and glyph numbers, and dump of the content stream will show the text. In general, you cannot rely on there being a transparent mapping; in fact, it is perfectly legal for a font to specify no Unicode mapping at all, or to use an unconventional mapping (when a PDF contains a subsetted font for example).

We strongly recommend against trying to scrape text from the content stream.

pikepdf does not currently implement text extraction. We recommend pdfminer.six, a read-only text extraction tool. If you wish to write PDFs containing text, consider reportlab.

1.3.9 Working with images

PDFs embed images as binary stream objects within the PDF’s data stream. The stream object’s dictionary describes properties of the image such as its dimensions and color space. The same image may be drawn multiple times on multiple pages, at different scales and positions.

In some cases such as JPEG2000, the standard file format of the image is used verbatim, even when the file format contains headers and information that is repeated in the stream dictionary. In other cases such as for PNG-style encoding, the image file format is not used directly.

pikepdf currently has no facility to embed new images into PDFs. We recommend img2pdf instead, because it does the job so well. pikepdf instead allows for image inspection and lossless/transcode free (where possible) “pdf2img”.

Playing with images

pikepdf provides a helper class PdfImage for manipulating images in a PDF. The helper class helps manage the complexity of the image dictionaries.

```
In [1]: from pikepdf import Pdf, PdfImage, Name

In [2]: example = Pdf.open('../tests/resources/congress.pdf')

In [3]: page1 = example.pages[0]

In [4]: list(page1.images.keys())
Out[4]: ['/Im0']

In [5]: rawimage = page1.images['/Im0']  # The raw object/dictionary

In [6]: pdfimage = PdfImage(rawimage)
```

(continues on next page)
In [7]: `type(pdfimage)`  
Out[7]: `pikepdf.models.image.PdfImage`

In Jupyter (or IPython with a suitable backend) the image will be displayed.

You can also inspect the properties of the image. The parameters are similar to Pillow’s.

In [8]: `pdfimage.colorspace`  
Out[8]: `'/DeviceRGB'`

In [9]: `pdfimage.width, pdfimage.height`  
Out[9]: `(1000, 1520)`

Note: `.width` and `.height` are the resolution of the image in pixels, not the size of the image in page coordinates. The size of the image in page coordinates is determined by the content stream.

**Extracting images**

Extracting images is straightforward. `extract_to()` will extract images to a specified file prefix. The extension is determined while extracting and appended to the filename. Where possible, `extract_to` writes compressed data directly to the stream without transcoding. (Transcoding lossy formats like JPEG can reduce their quality.)

In [10]: `pdfimage.extract_to(fileprefix='image')`  
Out[10]: `'image.jpg'`

It also possible to extract to a writable Python stream using `.extract_to(stream=...)`.

You can also retrieve the image as a Pillow image (this will transcode):
Another way to view the image is using Pillow’s `Image.show()` method.

Not all image types can be extracted. Also, some PDFs describe an image with a mask, with transparency effects. pikepdf can only extract the images themselves, not rasterize them exactly as they would appear in a PDF viewer. In the vast majority of cases, however, the image can be extracted as it appears.

**Note:** This simple example PDF displays a single full page image. Some PDF creators will paint a page using multiple images, and features such as layers, transparency and image masks. Accessing the first image on a page is like an HTML parser that scans for the first `<img src="">` tag it finds. A lot more could be happening. There can be multiple images drawn multiple times on a page, vector art, overdrawing, masking, and transparency. A set of resources can be grouped together in a “Form XObject” (not to be confused with a PDF Form), and drawn at all once. Images can be referenced by multiple pages.

## Replacing an image

In this example we extract an image and replace it with a grayscale equivalent.

```python
In [12]: import zlib
In [13]: rawimage = pdfimage.obj
In [14]: pillowimage = pdfimage.as_pil_image()
In [15]: grayscale = pillowimage.convert('L')
In [16]: grayscale = grayscale.resize((32, 32))
In [17]: rawimage.write(zlib.compress(grayscale.tobytes(), filter=Name("/FlateDecode")))
In [18]: rawimage.ColorSpace = Name("/DeviceGray")
In [19]: rawimage.Width, rawimage.Height = 32, 32
```

Notes on this example:

- It is generally possible to use `zlib.compress()` to generate compressed image data, although this is not as efficient as using a program that knows it is preparing a PDF.
- In general we can resize an image to any scale. The PDF content stream specifies where to draw an image and at what scale.
- This example would replace all occurrences of the image if it were used multiple times in a PDF.
Removing an image

The easy way to remove an image is to replace it with a 1x1 pixel transparent image. A transparent image can be created by setting the /ImageMask to true.

Note that, if an image is referenced on multiple pages, this procedure only updates the occurrence on one page. If all references to the image are deleted, it should not be included in the output file.

```python
In [20]:
    pdf = pikepdf.open('..tests/resources/sandwich.pdf')
In [21]:
    page = pdf.pages[0]
In [22]:
    image_name, image = next(page.images.items())
In [23]:
    new_image = pdf.make_stream(b'\xff')
In [24]:
    new_image.Width, new_image.Height = 1, 1
In [25]:
    new_image.BitsPerComponent = 1
In [26]:
    new_image.ImageMask = True
In [27]:
    new_image.Decode = [0, 1]
In [28]:
    page.Resources.XObject[image_name] = new_image
```

1.3.10 Overlays, underlays, watermarks, n-up

You can use pikepdf to overlay pages or other content on top of other pages.

This might be used to do watermarks (typically an underlay, drawn before everything else), n-up (compositing multiple individual pages on a large page, such as converting slides from a presentation to 4-up for reading and printing).

If you are looking to merge pages from different PDFs, see Merge (concatenate) PDF from several PDFs.

In this example we use pikepdf.Page.add_overlay() to draw a thumbnail of the second page onto the first page.

```python
In [1]: from pikepdf import Pdf, Page
In [2]: pdf = Pdf.open(...)
In [3]: destination_page = Page(pdf.pages[0])
In [4]: thumbnail = Page(pdf.pages[1])
In [5]: destination_
    →page.add_overlay(thumbnail, Rectangle(0, 0, 300, 300))
In [6]: pdf.save("page1_with_page2_thumbnail.pdf")
```
The `pikepdf.Rectangle` specifies the position on the target page into which the other page can be drawn. The object will be drawn centered in a way that fills as much space as possible while preserving aspect ratio.

Use `pikepdf.Page.add_underlay()` instead if you want content drawn underneath. It is possible content drawn this way will be overdrawn by other objects.

Use `pikepdf.Page.trimbox` to get a page’s dimensions.

`add_overlay` will copy content across `Pdf` objects as needed, and can copy other pages or other Form XObjects.

`add_overlay` also preserves aspect ratio. Use `pikepdf.Page.as_form_xobject()` and `pikepdf.Page.calc_form_xobject_placement()` if you want more precise control over placement.

Composition works using Form XObjects, which is how PDF captures of a group of related objects for drawing. Some very basic PDF software may not support them, or may fail to detect images contained within.

When perform n-up composition, it will work better to create your composition within the existing document, rather than in a new document. Transforming the existing document will ensure that metadata, annotations and hyperlinks are preserved. For example, to convert 16 slides to 4×4-up pages for printing, add four pages onto the end of the file, draw the slides onto the target pages, and then delete the slides.

### 1.3.11 Character encoding

There are three hard problems in computer science:

1) Converting from PDF,
2) Converting to PDF, and
3) OO

—Marseille Folog

In most circumstances, pikepdf performs appropriate encodings and decodings on its own, or returns `pikepdf.String` if it is not clear whether to present data as a string or binary data.

`str(pikepdf.String)` is performed by inspecting the binary data. If the binary data begins with a UTF-16 byte order mark, then the data is interpreted as UTF-16 and returned as a Python `str`. Otherwise, the data is returned as a Python `str`, if the binary data will be interpreted as PDFDocEncoding and decoded to `str`. Again, in most cases this is correct behavior and will operate transparently.

Some functions are available in circumstances where it is necessary to force a particular conversion.
The PDF specification defines PDFDocEncoding, a character encoding used only in PDFs. This encoding matches ASCII for code points 32 through 126 (0x20 to 0x7e). At all other code points, it is not ASCII and cannot be treated as equivalent. If you look at a PDF in a binary file viewer (hex editor), a string surrounded by parentheses such as `(Hello World)` is usually using PDFDocEncoding.

When pikepdf is imported, it automatically registers "pdfdoc" as a codec with the standard library, so that it may be used in string and byte conversions.

```
"x".encode('pdfdoc') == b'\x81'
```

**Other codecs**

Two other codecs are commonly used in PDFs, but they are already part of the standard library.

**WinAnsiEncoding** is identical Windows Code Page 1252, and may be converted using the "cp1252" codec.

**MacRomanEncoding** may be converted using the "macroman" codec.

### 1.3.12 PDF Metadata

PDF has two different types of metadata: XMP metadata, and DocumentInfo, which is deprecated but still relevant. For backward compatibility, both should contain the same content. pikepdf provides a convenient interface that coordinates edits to both, but is limited to the most common metadata features.

XMP (Extensible Metadata Platform) Metadata is a metadata specification in XML format that is used many formats other than PDF. For full information on XMP, see Adobe’s XMP Developer Center. The XMP Specification also provides useful information.

pikepdf can read compound metadata quantities, but can only modify scalars. For more complex changes consider using the python-xmp-toolkit library and its libexempi dependency; but note that it is not capable of synchronizing changes to the older DocumentInfo metadata.

#### Automatic metadata updates

By default pikepdf will create a XMP metadata block and set `pdf:PDFVersion` to a value that matches the PDF version declared elsewhere in the PDF, whenever a PDF is saved. To suppress this behavior, save with `pdf.save(..., fix_metadata_version=False)`.

Also by default, `Pdf.open_metadata()` will synchronize the XMP metadata with the older document information dictionary. This behavior can also be adjusted using keyword arguments.
Accessing metadata

The XMP metadata stream is attached the PDF's root object, but to simplify management of this, use `pikepdf.Pdf.open_metadata()`. The returned `pikepdf.models.PdfMetadata` object may be used for reading, or entered with a `with` block to modify and commit changes. If you use this interface, `pikepdf` will synchronize changes to new and old metadata.

A PDF must still be saved after metadata is changed.

```
In [1]: pdf = pikepdf.open('..tests/resources/sandwich.pdf')
In [2]: meta = pdf.open_metadata()
In [3]: meta['xmp:CreatorTool']
Out[3]: 'ocrmypdf 5.3.3 / Tesseract OCR-PDF 3.05.01'
```

If no XMP metadata exists, an empty XMP metadata container will be created.

Open metadata in a `with` block to open it for editing. When the block is exited, changes are committed (updating XMP and the Document Info dictionary) and attached to the PDF object. The PDF must still be saved. If an exception occurs in the block, changes are discarded.

```
In [4]: with pdf.open_metadata() as meta:
    ...
    meta['dc:title'] = "Let's change the title"
...
```

The list of available metadata fields may be found in the XMP Specification.

Removing metadata items

After opening metadata, use `del meta['dc:title']` to delete a metadata entry.

To remove all of a PDF's metadata records, don't use `pdf.open_metadata`. Instead, use `del pdf.Root.Metadata` and `del pdf.docinfo` to remove the XMP and document info metadata, respectively.

Checking PDF/A conformance

The metadata interface can also test if a file `claims` to be conformant to the PDF/A specification.

```
In [5]: pdf = pikepdf.open('../
    ...tests/resources/veraPDF test suite 6-2-10-t02-pass-a.pdf')
In [6]: meta = pdf.open_metadata()
In [7]: meta.pdfa_status
Out[7]: '1B'
```
**Note:** Note that this property merely tests if the file claims to be conformant to the PDF/A standard. Use a tool such as veraPDF (official tool), or third party web services such as PDFEN or 3-HEIGHTSTM PDF VALIDATOR to verify conformance.

**Notice for application developers**

If you are using pikepdf to create some kind of PDF application, you should update the fields xmp:CreatorTool and pdf:Producer. You could, for example, set xmp:CreatorTool to your application's name and version, and pdf:Producer to pikepdf. Refer to Adobe's documentation to decide what describes the circumstances.

This will help PDF developers identify the application that generated a particular PDF and is valuable debugging information.

**Low-level XMP metadata access**

You can read the raw XMP metadata if desired. For example, one could extract it and edit it using the full featured python-xmp-toolkit library.

```python
In [8]: xmp = pdf.Root.Metadata.read_bytes()
In [9]: type(xmp)
Out[9]: bytes
In [10]: print(xmp.decode())
<?xpacket begin='' id='W5M0MpCehiHzreSzNTczkc9d'>
<x:xmpmeta xmlns:x="adobe:ns:meta/">
  <rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#">
    <xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/" rdf:about="">
      <dc:creator>
        <rdf:Seq>
          <rdf:li>veraPDF Consortium</rdf:li>
        </rdf:Seq>
      </dc:creator>
    </rdf:RDF>
  </x:xmpmeta>
<?xpacket end='w'>
```
Editing XMP with a generic XML library is probably not worth the trouble; the semantics are fairly complex.

**Warning:** Manually changes to XMP stream object will not be synchronized with live PdfMetadata object or the DocumentInfo block.

### The Document Info dictionary

The Document Info block is an older, now deprecated object in which metadata may be stored. The Document Info is not attached to the /Root object. It may be accessed using the .docinfo property. If no Document Info exists, touching the .docinfo will properly initialize an empty one.

Here is an example of a Document Info block.

```python
In [11]:
   -> pdf = pikepdf.open('..tests/resources/sandwich.pdf')
   
In [12]: pdf.docinfo
Out[12]:
pikepdf.Dictionary({
    '/CreationDate': 'D:20170911132748-07'00'','
    '/Creator': 'ocrmypdf 5.3.3 / Tesseract OCR-PDF 3.05.01',
    '/ModDate': 'D:20170911132748-07'00'','
    '/Producer': 'GPL Ghostscript 9.21'
})
```

It is permitted in pikepdf to directly interact with Document Info as with other PDF dictionaries. However, it is better to use .open_metadata() because that interface will apply changes to both XMP and Document Info in a consistent manner.

You may copy from data from a Document Info object in the current PDF or another PDF into XMP metadata using `load_from_docinfo()`.

### 1.3.13 Outlines

Outlines (sometimes also called bookmarks) are shown in the PDF viewer aside of the page, allowing for navigation within the document.

**Creating outlines**

Outlines can be created from scratch, e.g. when assembling a set of PDF files into a single document.

The following example adds outline entries referring to the 1st, 3rd and 9th page of an existing PDF.

```python
In [1]: from pikepdf import Pdf, OutlineItem

In [2]: pdf = Pdf.open('document.pdf')
```
In [3]: with pdf.open_outline() as outline:
    ...:    outline.root.extend([
    ...:        # Page counts are zero-based
    ...:        OutlineItem('Section One', 0),
    ...:        OutlineItem('Section Two', 2),
    ...:        OutlineItem('Section Three', 8)
    ...:    ])

In [4]: pdf.save('document_with_outline.pdf')

Another example, for automatically adding an entry for each file in a merged document:

In [5]: from glob import glob
In [6]: pdf = Pdf.new()
In [7]: page_count = 0
In [8]: with pdf.open_outline() as outline:
    ...:    for file in glob('*.pdf'):
    ...:        src = Pdf.open(file)
    ...:        oi = OutlineItem(file, page_count)
    ...:        outline.root.append(oi)
    ...:        page_count += len(src.pages)
    ...:        pdf.pages.extend(src.pages)

In [9]: pdf.save('merged.pdf')

Editing outlines

Existing outlines can be edited. Entries can be moved and renamed without affecting the targets they refer to.

Destinations

Destinations tell the PDF viewer where to go when navigating through outline items. The simplest case is a reference to a page, together with the page location, e.g. Fit (default). However, named destinations can also be assigned.

The PDF specification allows for either use of a destination (Dest attribute) or an action (A attribute), but not both on the same element. OutlineItem elements handle this as follows:

• When creating new outline entries passing in a page number or reference name, the Dest attribute is used.
• When editing an existing entry with an assigned action, it is left as-is, unless a destination is set. The latter is preferred if both are present.
Creating a more detailed destination with page location:

```
In [10]: oi = OutlineItem('First', 0, 'FitB', top=1000)
```

The above will call `make_page_destination` when saving to a `Pdf` document, roughly equivalent to the following:

```
In [11]: oi.destination_˓→ = make_page_destination(pdf, 0, 'FitB', top=1000)
```

### Outline structure

For nesting outlines, add items to the `children` list of another `OutlineItem`.

```
In [12]: with pdf.open_outline() as outline:
    ...:     main_item = OutlineItem('Main', 0)
    ...:     outline.root.append(main_item)
    ...:     main_item.children.append(OutlineItem('A', 1))
```

### 1.3.14 PDF security

#### Password security

Password security in PDFs is widely supported, including by pikepdf. Unfortunately, its security has limitations and may offer more security theatre than real security, depending on your needs.

Note the following limitations of password security in PDFs:

- anyone with the user password or the owner password can open the PDF, extract its contents, and produce a visually identical PDF;
- if the user password is an empty string, everyone has the user password;
- setting a user password and leaving the owner password blank is useless;
- the only thing you can not do if you have the user password and not the owner password is create a new PDF encrypted with the same owner password;
- `pikepdf.Permissions` restrictions depend entirely on the PDF viewer software to enforce the restrictions – libraries like pikepdf can bypass those restrictions;
- cracking PDF passwords is easier than many other forms of cracking because a motivated person has unlimited chances to guess the password on a static file.

While the AES encryption algorithm is strong, password-protected PDFs have significant practical weaknesses.

In view of all of this, the most useful option is to set the owner password to a strong password, and the user password to blank. This allows anyone to view the PDF while allowing you to prove that you (or your software’s user) generated the PDF by producing the strong owner password.
Unicode in passwords

For widest compatibility, passwords should be composed of only characters in the ASCII character set, since the PDF 1.7 Reference Manual is unclear about how non-ASCII passwords are supposed to be encoded. See the documentation on pikepdf.Pdf.save() for more details. pikepdf encodes passwords as UTF-8.

PDF content restrictions

If you are developing a PDF application, you should enforce the restrictions in pikepdf.Permissions, and not permit people who have only the user password to access restricted content. If the PDF is opened with the owner password, any content may be accessed without enforcing restrictions. pikepdf.Pdf.user_password_matched and pikepdf.Pdf.owner_password_matched can be used to check which password opened the PDF.

It is up to the application developer to implement the restrictions. pikepdf or any PDF manipulation library can be used to bypass restrictions.

Digital signatures and certificates

PDFs signed with a digital signature can mitigate some of these security issues. pikepdf does not support digital signatures at this time.

1.3.15 Main objects

class pikepdf.Pdf
In-memory representation of a PDF

property Root
The /Root object of the PDF.

add_blank_page(*, page_size=(612.0, 792.0))
Add a blank page to this PDF. If pages already exist, the page will be added to the end. Pages may be reordered using Pdf.pages.

The caller may add content to the page by modifying its objects after creating it.

Parameters page_size (tuple) – The size of the page in PDF units (1/72 inch or 0.35mm). Default size is set to a US Letter 8.5” x 11” page.

Return type pikepdf.objects.Object

property allow: pikepdf.models.encryption.Permissions
Report permissions associated with this PDF.

By default these permissions will be replicated when the PDF is saved. Permissions may also only be changed when a PDF is being saved, and are only available for encrypted PDFs. If a PDF is not encrypted, all operations are reported as allowed.

pikepdf has no way of enforcing permissions.
check()

Check if PDF is well-formed. Similar to qpdf --check.

Return type  List[str]

check_linearization(self: pikepdf.Pdf, stream: object = sys.stderr) → bool

Reports information on the PDF’s linearization.

Parameters stream – A stream to write this information too; must implement .write() and .flush() method. Defaults to sys.stderr.

Returns  True if the file is correctly linearized, and False if the file is linearized but the linearization data contains errors or was incorrectly generated.

Raises  RuntimeError – If the PDF in question is not linearized at all.

close()

Close a Pdf object and release resources acquired by pikepdf.

If pikepdf opened the file handle it will close it (e.g. when opened with a file path). If the caller opened the file for pikepdf, the caller close the file. with blocks will call close when exit.

pikepdf lazily loads data from PDFs, so some pikepdf.Object may implicitly depend on the pikepdf.Pdf being open. This is always the case for pikepdf.Stream but can be true for any object. Do not close the Pdf object if you might still be accessing content from it.

When an Object is copied from one Pdf to another, the Object is copied into the destination Pdf immediately, so after accessing all desired information from the source Pdf it may be closed.

Caution:  Closing the Pdf is currently implemented by resetting it to an empty sentinel. It is currently possible to edit the sentinel as if it were a live object. This behavior should not be relied on and is subject to change.

Return type  None


Copy an Object from a foreign Pdf to this one.

This function is used to copy a pikepdf.Object that is owned by some other Pdf into this one. This is performs a deep (recursive) copy and preserves circular references that may exist in the foreign object. It also copies all pikepdf.Stream objects. Since this may copy a large amount of data, it is not done implicitly. This function does not copy references to pages in the foreign PDF - it stops at page boundaries. Thus, if you use copy_foreign() on a table of contents (/Outlines dictionary), you may have to update references to pages.

Direct objects, including dictionaries, do not need copy_foreign(). pikepdf will automatically convert and construct them.

Note:  pikepdf automatically treats incoming pages from a foreign PDF as foreign objects, so Pdf.pages does not require this treatment.
See also:

QPDF::copyForeignObject

Changed in version 2.1: Error messages improved.

**property docinfo**: pikepdf.objects.Dictionary

Access the (deprecated) document information dictionary.

The document information dictionary is a brief metadata record that can store some information about the origin of a PDF. It is deprecated and removed in the PDF 2.0 specification (not deprecated from the perspective of pikepdf). Use the `.open_metadata()` API instead, which will edit the modern (and unfortunately, more complicated) XMP metadata object and synchronize changes to the document information dictionary.

This property simplifies access to the actual document information dictionary and ensures that it is created correctly if it needs to be created.

A new, empty dictionary will be created if this property is accessed and dictionary does not exist. (This is to ensure that convenient code like `pdf.docinfo[Name.Title] = "Title"` will work when the dictionary does not exist at all.)

You can delete the document information dictionary by deleting this property, `del pdf.docinfo`. Note that accessing the property after deleting it will re-create with a new, empty dictionary.

**property encryption**: pikepdf.models.encryption.EncryptionInfo

Report encryption information for this PDF.

Encryption settings may only be changed when a PDF is saved.

**property filename**

The source filename of an existing PDF, when available.

**flatten_annotations**(self: pikepdf.Pdf, mode: str = 'all') → None

Flattens all PDF annotations into regular PDF content.

Annotations are markup such as review comments, highlights, proofreading marks. User data entered into interactive form fields also counts as an annotation.

When annotations are flattened, they are “burned into” the regular content stream of the document and the fact that they were once annotations is deleted. This can be useful when preparing a document for printing, to ensure annotations are printed, or to finalize a form that should no longer be changed.

**Parameters mode** – One of the strings 'all', 'screen', 'print'. If omitted or set to empty, treated as 'all'. 'screen' flattens all except those marked with the PDF flag /NoView. 'print' flattens only those marked for printing.

New in version 2.11.

**generate_appearance_streams**(self: pikepdf.Pdf) → None

Generates appearance streams for AcroForm forms and form fields.

Appearance streams describe exactly how annotations and form fields should appear to the user. If omitted, the PDF viewer is free to render the annotations and form fields according to its own settings, as needed.

For every form field in the document, this generates appearance streams, subject to the limitations of QPDF’s ability to create appearance streams.
When invoked, this method will modify the Pdf in memory. It may be best to do this after the Pdf is opened, or before it is saved, because it may modify objects that the user does not expect to be modified.

See: https://github.com/qpdf/qpdf/blob/bf6b9ba1c681a6fac6d585c6262fb2778d4bb9d2/include/qpdf/QPDFFormFieldObjectHelper.hh#L216

New in version 2.11.

get_object(*args, **kwargs)

Overloaded function.

1. get_object(self: pikepdf.Pdf, objgen: Tuple[int, int]) -> pikepdf.Object
   
   Look up an object by ID and generation number

   **Return type:** pikepdf.Object

2. get_object(self: pikepdf.Pdf, objid: int, gen: int) -> pikepdf.Object

   Look up an object by ID and generation number

   **Return type:** pikepdf.Object

get_warnings(self: pikepdf.Pdf) → list

property is_encrypted

   Returns True if the PDF is encrypted.

   For information about the nature of the encryption, see Pdf.encryption.

property is_linearized

   Returns True if the PDF is linearized.

   Specifically returns True iff the file starts with a linearization parameter dictionary. Does no additional validation.

make_indirect(*args, **kwargs)

Overloaded function.


   Attach an object to the Pdf as an indirect object

   Direct objects appear inline in the binary encoding of the PDF. Indirect objects appear inline as references (in English, “look up object 4 generation 0”) and then read from another location in the file. The PDF specification requires that certain objects are indirect - consult the PDF specification to confirm.

   Generally a resource that is shared should be attached as an indirect object. pikepdf.Stream objects are always indirect, and creating them will automatically attach it to the Pdf.

   **See Also:** pikepdf.Object.is_indirect()

   **Return type:** pikepdf.Object

2. make_indirect(self: pikepdf.Pdf, obj: object) -> pikepdf.Object

   Encode a Python object and attach to this Pdf as an indirect object.

   **Return type:** pikepdf.Object
**make_stream**

Create a new pikepdf.Stream object that is attached to this PDF.

**See:** `pikepdf.Stream.__new__()`

**Parameters**

- `data` *(bytes)*

**Return type**

`pikepdf.objects.Stream`

**static new() → pikepdf.Pdf**

Create a new empty PDF from scratch.

**property objects**

Return an iterable list of all objects in the PDF.

After deleting content from a PDF such as pages, objects related to that page, such as images on the page, may still be present.

**Retun type:** `pikepdf._ObjectList`

**open(password=":”, hex_password=False, ignore_xref_streams=False, suppress_warnings=True, attempt_recovery=True, inherit_page_attributes=True, access_mode=<AccessMode.default: 0>, allow_overwriting_input=False)**

Open an existing file at `filename_or_stream`.

If `filename_or_stream` is path-like, the file will be opened for reading. The file should not be modified by another process while it is open in pikepdf, or undefined behavior may occur. This is because the file may be lazily loaded. Despite this restriction, pikepdf does not try to use any OS services to obtain an exclusive lock on the file. Some applications may want to attempt this or copy the file to a temporary location before editing. This behaviour changes if `allow_overwriting_input` is set: the whole file is then read and copied to memory, so that pikepdf can overwrite it when calling `.save()`.

When this function is called with a stream-like object, you must ensure that the data it returns cannot be modified, or undefined behavior will occur.

Any changes to the file must be persisted by using `.save()`.

If `filename_or_stream` has `.read()` and `.seek()` methods, the file will be accessed as a readable binary stream. `.read()` and `.seek()` methods will read the entire stream into a private buffer.

`.open()` may be used in a `with`-block; `.close()` will be called when the block exits, if applicable.

Whenever pikepdf opens a file, it will close it. If you open the file for pikepdf or give it a stream-like object to read from, you must release that object when appropriate.
Examples

```python
>>> with Pdf.open("test.pdf") as pdf:
    ...

>>> pdf = Pdf.open("test.pdf", password="rosebud")
```

Parameters

- `filename_or_stream (Union[pathlib.Path, str, BinaryIO])` – Filename or Python readable and seekable file stream of PDF to open.

- `password (Union[str, bytes])` – User or owner password to open an encrypted PDF. If the type of this parameter is `str` it will be encoded as UTF-8. If the type is `bytes` it will be saved verbatim. Passwords are always padded or truncated to 32 bytes internally. Use ASCII passwords for maximum compatibility.

- `hex_password (bool)` – If True, interpret the password as a hex-encoded version of the exact encryption key to use, without performing the normal key computation. Useful in forensics.

- `ignore_xref_streams (bool)` – If True, ignore cross-reference streams. See qpdf documentation.

- `suppress_warnings (bool)` – If True (default), warnings are not printed to stderr. Use `pikepdf.Pdf.get_warnings()` to retrieve warnings.

- `attempt_recovery (bool)` – If True (default), attempt to recover from PDF parsing errors.

- `inherit_page_attributes (bool)` – If True (default), push attributes set on a group of pages to individual pages

- `access_mode (pikepdf._qpdf.AccessMode)` – If `default`, pikepdf will decide how to access the file. Currently, it will always selected stream access. To attempt memory mapping and fallback to stream if memory mapping failed, use `.mmap`. Use `.mmap_only` to require memory mapping or fail (this is expected to only be useful for testing). Applications should be prepared to handle the SIGBUS signal on POSIX in the event that the file is successfully mapped but later goes away.

- `allow_overwriting_input (bool)` – If True, allows calling `.save()` to overwrite the input file. This is performed by loading the entire input file into memory at open time; this will use more memory and may recent performance especially when the opened file will not be modified.

Raises

- `pikepdf.PasswordError` – If the password failed to open the file.

- `pikepdf.PdfError` – If for other reasons we could not open the file.

- `TypeError` – If the type of `filename_or_stream` is not usable.

- `FileNotFoundError` – If the file was not found.

Return type `pikepdf._qpdf.Pdf`
Note: When filename_or_stream is a stream and the stream is located on a network, pikepdf assumes that the stream using buffering and read caches to achieve reasonable performance. Streams that fetch data over a network in response to every read or seek request, no matter how small, will perform poorly. It may be easier to download a PDF from network to temporary local storage (such as io.BytesIO), manipulate it, and then re-upload it.

open_metadata(set_pikepdf_as_editor=True, update_docinfo=True, strict=False)

Open the PDF’s XMP metadata for editing.

There is no .close() function on the metadata object, since this is intended to be used inside a with block only.

For historical reasons, certain parts of PDF metadata are stored in two different locations and formats. This feature coordinates edits so that both types of metadata are updated consistently and “atomically” (assuming single threaded access). It operates on the Pdf in memory, not any file on disk. To persist metadata changes, you must still use Pdf.save().

Example

```python
>>> with pdf.open_metadata() as meta:
    meta['dc:title'] = 'Set the Dublic Core Title'
    meta['dc:description'] = 'Put the Abstract here'
```

Parameters

- **set_pikepdf_as_editor (bool)** – Automatically update the metadata pdf:Producer to show that this version of pikepdf is the most recent software to modify the metadata, and xmp:MetadataDate to timestamp the update. Recommended, except for testing.

- **update_docinfo (bool)** – Update the standard fields of DocumentInfo (the old PDF metadata dictionary) to match the corresponding XMP fields. The mapping is described in PdfMetadata.DOCINFO_MAPPING. Nonstandard DocumentInfo fields and XMP metadata fields with no DocumentInfo equivalent are ignored.

- **strict (bool)** – If False (the default), we aggressively attempt to recover from any parse errors in XMP, and if that fails we overwrite the XMP with an empty XMP record. If True, raise errors when either metadata bytes are not valid and well-formed XMP (and thus, XML). Some trivial cases that are equivalent to empty or incomplete “XMP skeletons” are never treated as errors, and always replaced with a proper empty XMP block. Certain errors may be logged.

Return type pikepdf.models.metadata.PdfMetadata

open_outline(max_depth=15, strict=False)

Open the PDF outline (“bookmarks”) for editing.

Recommend for use in a with block. Changes are committed to the PDF when the block exits. (The Pdf must still be opened.)
Example

```python
>>> with pdf.open_outline() as outline:
    outline.root.insert(0, OutlineItem('Intro', 0))
```

Parameters

- **max_depth** (*int*) – Maximum recursion depth of the outline to be imported and re-written to the document. 0 means only considering the root level, 1 the first-level sub-outline of each root element, and so on. Items beyond this depth will be silently ignored. Default is 15.

- **strict** (*bool*) – With the default behavior (set to False), structural errors (e.g. reference loops) in the PDF document will only cancel processing further nodes on that particular level, recovering the valid parts of the document outline without raising an exception. When set to True, any such error will raise an `OutlineStructureError`, leaving the invalid parts in place. Similarly, outline objects that have been accidentally duplicated in the `Outline` container will be silently fixed (i.e. reproduced as new objects) or raise an `OutlineStructureError`.

Return type  `pikepdf.models.outlines.Outline`

property `owner_password_matched`

Returns True if the owner password matched when the `Pdf` was opened.

It is possible for both the user and owner passwords to match.

New in version 2.10.

property `pages`

Returns the list of pages.

Return type: `pikepdf.PageList`

property `pdf_version`

The version of the PDF specification used for this file, such as ‘1.7’.

`remove_unreferenced_resources` (*self: pikepdf.Pdf*) → None

Remove from /Resources of each page any object not referenced in page’s contents.

PDF pages may share resource dictionaries with other pages. If pikepdf is used for page splitting, pages may reference resources in their /Resources dictionary that are not actually required. This purges all unnecessary resource entries.

For clarity, if all references to any type of object are removed, that object will be excluded from the output PDF on save. (Conversely, only objects that are discoverable from the PDF’s root object are included.) This function removes objects that are referenced from the page /Resources dictionary, but never called for in the content stream, making them unnecessary.

Suggested before saving, if content streams or /Resources dictionaries are edited.

property `root`

Deprecated alias for .Root, the /Root object of the PDF.

Deprecated since version 2.0: Use .Root.
save(filename_or_stream=None, static_id=False, preserve_pdfa=True, min_version='', force_version='',
    fix_metadata_version=True, compress_streams=True, stream_decode_level=None,
    object_stream_mode=<ObjectStreamMode.preserve: 1>, normalize_content=False, linearize=False,
    qdf=False, progress=None, encryption=None, recompress_flate=False)

Save all modifications to this pikepdf.Pdf.

Parameters

• filename_or_stream (Optional[Union[pathlib.Path, str,
    BinaryIO]]) – Where to write the output. If a file exists in this location it will
    be overwritten. If the file was opened with allow_overwriting_input=True,
    then it is permitted to overwrite the original file, and this parameter may be
    omitted to implicitly use the original filename. Otherwise, the filename may
    not be the same as the input file, as overwriting the input file would corrupt data
    since pikepdf using lazy loading.

• static_id (bool) – Indicates that the /ID metadata, normally calculated as a
    hash of certain PDF contents and metadata including the current time, should
    instead be generated deterministically. Normally for debugging.

• preserve_pdfa (bool) – Ensures that the file is generated in a manner compli-
    ant with PDF/A and other stricter variants. This should be True, the default, in
    most cases.

• min_version (Union[str, Tuple[str, int]]) – Sets the minimum ver-
    sion of PDF specification that should be required. If left alone QPDF will de-
    cide. If a tuple, the second element is an integer, the extension level. If the version
    number is not a valid format, QPDF will decide what to do.

• force_version (Union[str, Tuple[str, int]]) – Override the version
    recommend by QPDF, potentially creating an invalid file that does not display in
    old versions. See QPDF manual for details. If a tuple, the second element is an
    integer, the extension level.

• fix_metadata_version (bool) – If True (default) and the XMP metadata
    contains the optional PDF version field, ensure the version in metadata is correct.
    If the XMP metadata does not contain a PDF version field, none will be added.
    To ensure that the field is added, edit the metadata and insert a placeholder value
    in pdf:PDFVersion. If XMP metadata does not exist, it will not be created
    regardless of the value of this argument.

• object_stream_mode (pikepdf._qpdf.ObjectStreamMode) – disable
    prevents the use of object streams. preserve keeps object streams from the input
    file. generate uses object streams wherever possible, creating the smallest
    files but requiring PDF 1.5+.

• compress_streams (bool) – Enables or disables the compression of stream
    objects in the PDF that are created without specifying any compression setting.
    Metadata is never compressed. By default this is set to True, and should be except
    for debugging. Existing streams in the PDF or streams will not be modified. To
decompress existing streams, you must set both compress_streams=False and
    stream_decode_level to the desired decode level (e.g. .generalized will
decompress most non-image content).

• stream_decode_level (Optional[pikepdf._qpdf.
    StreamDecodeLevel]) – Specifies how to encode stream objects. See
documentation for pikepdf.StreamDecodeLevel.
• **recompress_flate** *(bool)* – When disabled (the default), qpdf does not uncompress and recompress streams compressed with the Flate compression algorithm. If True, pikepdf will instruct qpdf to do this, which may be useful if recompressing streams to a higher compression level.

• **normalize_content** *(bool)* – Enables parsing and reformatting the content stream within PDFs. This may debugging PDFs easier.

• **linearize** *(bool)* – Enables creating linear or “fast web view”, where the file’s contents are organized sequentially so that a viewer can begin rendering before it has the whole file. As a drawback, it tends to make files larger.

• **qdf** *(bool)* – Save output QDF mode. QDF mode is a special output mode in QPDF to allow editing of PDFs in a text editor. Use the program `fix-qdf` to fix convert back to a standard PDF.

• **progress** *(Optional[Callable[[int], None]])* – Specify a callback function that is called as the PDF is written. The function will be called with an integer between 0-100 as the sole parameter, the progress percentage. This function may not access or modify the PDF while it is being written, or data corruption will almost certainly occur.

• **encryption** *(Optional[Union[pikepdf.models.encryption.Encryption, bool]])* – If `False` or omitted, existing encryption will be removed. If `True` encryption settings are copied from the originating PDF. Alternately, an Encryption object may be provided that sets the parameters for new encryption.

**Raises**

• **PdfError** –

• **ForeignObjectError** –

**Return type**  *None*

You may call `.save()` multiple times with different parameters to generate different versions of a file, and you may continue to modify the file after saving it. `.save()` does not modify the Pdf object in memory, except possibly by updating the XMP metadata version with `fix_metadata_version`.

**Note:** `pikepdf.Pdf.remove_unreferenced_resources()` before saving may eliminate unnecessary resources from the output file if there are any objects (such as images) that are referenced in a page’s Resources dictionary but never called in the page’s content stream.

**Note:** pikepdf can read PDFs with incremental updates, but always coalesces any incremental updates into a single non-incremental PDF file when saving.

Changed in version 2.7: Added `recompress_flate`.

**show_xref_table**(self: pikepdf.Pdf) → None

Pretty-print the Pdf’s xref (cross-reference table)
See *PDF 1.7 Reference Manual* section 7.5.5. Generally speaking, the trailer should not be modified with pikepdf, and modifying it may not work. Some of the values in the trailer are automatically changed when a file is saved.

**property user_password_matched**

Returns True if the user password matched when the Pdf was opened.

It is possible for both the user and owner passwords to match.

New in version 2.10.

pikepdf.open()

Alias for *pikepdf.Pdf.open()*.

pikepdf.new()

Alias for *pikepdf.Pdf.new()*.

class pikepdf.ObjectStreamMode

Options for saving streams within PDFs, which are more a compact way of saving certains types of data that was added in PDF 1.5. All modern PDF viewers support object streams, but some third party tools and libraries cannot read them.

disable

Disable the use of object streams. If any object streams exist in the file, remove them when the file is saved.

preserve

Preserve any existing object streams in the original file. This is the default behavior.

generate

Generate object streams.

class pikepdf.StreamDecodeLevel

Options for decoding streams within PDFs.

none

Do not attempt to apply any filters. Streams remain as they appear in the original file. Note that uncompressed streams may still be compressed on output. You can disable that by saving with .save(..., compress_streams=False).

generalized

This is the default. libqpdf will apply LZWDecode, ASCII85Decode, ASCIIHexDecode, and FlateDecode filters on the input. When saved with compress_streams=True, the default, the effect of this is that streams filtered with these older and less efficient filters will be recompressed with the Flate filter. As a special case, if a stream is already compressed with FlateDecode and compress_streams=True, the original compressed data will be preserved.

specialized

In addition to uncompressing the generalized compression formats, supported non-lossy compression will also be be decoded. At present, this includes the RunLengthDecode filter.

all

In addition to generalized and non-lossy specialized filters, supported lossy compression filters will be applied. At present, this includes DCTDecode (JPEG) compression. Note that compressing the resulting data with DCTDecode
again will accumulate loss, so avoid multiple compression and decompression cycles. This is mostly useful for (low-level) retrieving image data; see :ref:`pikepdf.PdfImage` for the preferred method.

.. literalinclude:: common.py
   :start-line: 13

```python
class pikepdf.Encryption(*, owner, user, R=6, allow=Permissions(accessibility=True, extract=True, modify_annotation=True, modify_assembly=False, modify_form=True, modify_other=True, print_lowres=True, print_highres=True), aes=True, metadata=True)
```

Specify the encryption settings to apply when a PDF is saved.

**Parameters**

- **owner** (:class:`str`) – The owner password to use. This allows full control of the file. If blank, the PDF will be encrypted and present as “(SECURED)” in PDF viewers. If the owner password is blank, the user password should be as well.

- **user** (:class:`str`) – The user password to use. With this password, some restrictions will be imposed by a typical PDF reader. If blank, the PDF can be opened by anyone, but only modified as allowed by the permissions in allow.

- **R** (:class:`int`) – Select the security handler algorithm to use. Choose from: 2, 3, 4 or 6. By default, the highest version of is selected (6). 5 is a deprecated algorithm that should not be used.

- **allow** (:class:`pikepdf.models.encryption.Permissions`) – The permissions to set. If omitted, all permissions are granted to the user.

- **aes** (:class:`bool`) – If True, request the AES algorithm. If False, use RC4. If omitted, AES is selected whenever possible (R >= 4).

- **metadata** (:class:`bool`) – If True, also encrypt the PDF metadata. If False, metadata is not encrypted. Reading document metadata without decryption may be desirable in some cases. Requires aes=True. If omitted, metadata is encrypted whenever possible.

**Object construction**

.. literalinclude:: common.py
   :start-line: 51

```python
class pikepdf.Object
```

```python
append(self: pikepdf.Object, arg0: object) -> None
```

Append another object to an array; fails if the object is not an array.

```python
as_dict(self: pikepdf.Object) -> pikepdf._ObjectMapping
```

```python
as_list(self: pikepdf.Object) -> pikepdf._ObjectList
```

```python
emplace(other, retain=(pikepdf.Name('/Parent'),))
```

Copy all items from other without making a new object.

Particularly when working with pages, it may be desirable to remove all of the existing page’s contents and emplace (insert) a new page on top of it, in a way that preserves all links and references to the original page. (Or similarly, for other Dictionary objects in a PDF.)

Any Dictionary keys in the iterable retain are preserved. By default, /Parent is retained.
When a page is assigned (pdf.pages[0] = new_page), only the application
knows if references to the original the original page are still valid. For example,
a PDF optimizer might restructure a page object into another visually similar one,
and references would be valid; but for a program that reorganizes page contents
such as a N-up compositor, references may not be valid anymore.

This method takes precautions to ensure that child objects in common with self
and other are not inadvertently deleted.

Example

```python
>>> pdf.pages[0].objgen
(16, 0)
>>> pdf.pages[0].emplace(pdf.pages[1])
>>> pdf.pages[0].objgen
(16, 0) # Same object
```

Changed in version 2.11.1: Added the retain argument.

**Parameters**

other (pikepdf.objects.Object) –

**extend**(self: pikepdf.Object, arg0: Iterable) → None

Extend a pikepdf.Array with an iterable of other objects.

**get**(args, **kwargs)

Overloaded function.

1. get(self: pikepdf.Object, key: str, default: object = None) -> object
   
   For pikepdf.Dictionary or pikepdf.Stream objects, behave as dict.

   get(key, default=None)

2. get(self: pikepdf.Object, key: pikepdf.Object, default: object = None) -> object
   
   For pikepdf.Dictionary or pikepdf.Stream objects, behave as dict.

   get(key, default=None)


Return a buffer protocol buffer describing the raw, encoded stream


Return a buffer protocol buffer describing the decoded stream.

**is_owned_by**(self: pikepdf.Object, possible_owner: pikepdf.Pdf) → bool

Test if this object is owned by the indicated possible_owner.

**property**

**is_rectangle**

Returns True if the object is a rectangle (an array of 4 numbers)

**items**(self: pikepdf.Object) → Iterable

**keys**(self: pikepdf.Object) → Set[str]

For pikepdf.Dictionary or pikepdf.Stream objects, obtain the keys.
property objgen
Return the object-generation number pair for this object.

If this is a direct object, then the returned value is (0, 0). By definition, if this
is an indirect object, it has a “objgen”, and can be looked up using this in the
cross-reference (xref) table. Direct objects cannot necessarily be looked up.

The generation number is usually 0, except for PDFs that have been incrementally
updated. Incrementally updated PDFs are now uncommon, since it does not take
too long for modern CPUs to reconstruct an entire PDF. pikepdf will consolidate
all incremental updates when saving.

Append or prepend to an existing page’s content stream.


page_contents_coalesce(self: pikepdf.Object) → None
Coalesce an array of page content streams into a single content stream.


static parse(stream: str, description: str = '') → pikepdf.Object
Parse PDF binary representation into PDF objects.

read_bytes(self: pikepdf.Object, decode_level: pikepdf.StreamDecodeLevel = <StreamDecodeLevel.generalized: 1>) → bytes
Decode and read the content stream associated with this object.

read_raw_bytes(self: pikepdf.Object) → bytes
Read the content stream associated with this object without decoding

same_owner_as(self: pikepdf.Object, arg0: pikepdf.Object) → bool
Test if two objects are owned by the same pikepdf.Pdf.

property stream_dict
Access the dictionary key-values for a pikepdf.Stream.

to_json(self: pikepdf.Object, dereference: bool = False) → bytes
Convert to a QPDF JSON representation of the object.

sourceforge.net/files/qpdf-manual.html#ref.json

Not necessarily compatible with other PDF-JSON representations that exist in
the wild.

• Names are encoded as UTF-8 strings
• Indirect references are encoded as strings containing obj gen R
• Strings are encoded as UTF-8 strings with unrepresentable binary characters en-
coded as \uHHHH
• Encoding streams just encodes the stream’s dictionary; the stream data is not
represented

1.3. In use
• Object types that are only valid in content streams (inline image, operator) as well as “reserved” objects are not representable and will be serialized as null.

**Parameters**

**dereference** *(bool)* – If True, dereference the object is this is an indirect object.

**Returns**

JSON bytestring of object. The object is UTF-8 encoded and may be decoded to a Python str that represents the binary values \x00 to U+00FF; that is, it may contain mojibake.

**Return type**

`bytes`

**unparse** *(self: pikepdf.Object, resolved: bool = False) → bytes)*

Convert PDF objects into their binary representation, optionally resolving indirect objects.

**with_same_owner_as** *(self: pikepdf.Object, arg0: pikepdf.Object) → pikepdf.Object)*

Returns an object that is owned by the same Pdf that owns the other object.

If the objects already have the same owner, this object is returned. If the other object has a different owner, then a copy is created that is owned by other’s owner. If this object is a direct object (no owner), then an indirect object is created that is owned by other. An exception is thrown if other is a direct object.

This method may be convenient when a reference to the Pdf is not available.

.. versionadded:: 2.14

**wrap_in_array** *(self: pikepdf.Object) → pikepdf.Object)*

Return the object wrapped in an array if not already an array.

**write** *(data, *, filter=None, decode_parms=None, type_check=True)*

Replace stream object’s data with new (possibly compressed) data.

`filter` and `decode_parms` specify that compression that is present on the input data.

When writing the PDF in `pikepdf.Pdf.save()`, pikepdf may change the compression or apply compression to data that was not compressed, depending on the parameters given to that function. It will never change lossless to lossy encoding.

PNG and TIFF images, even if compressed, cannot be directly inserted into a PDF and displayed as images.

**Parameters**

• **data** *(bytes)* – the new data to use for replacement

• **filter** *(Optional[Union[pikepdf.objects.Name, pikepdf.objects.Array]])* – The filter(s) with which the data is (already) encoded

• **decode_parms** *(Optional[Union[pikepdf.objects.Dictionary, pikepdf.objects.Array]])* – Parameters for the filters with which the object is encode

• **type_check** *(bool)* – Check arguments; use False only if you want to intentionally create malformed PDFs.
If only one filter is specified, it may be a name such as `Name('/FlateDecode')`. If there are multiple filters, then array of names should be given.

If there is only one filter, `decode_parms` is a Dictionary of parameters for that filter. If there are multiple filters, then `decode_parms` is an Array of Dictionary, where each array index is corresponds to the filter.

```python
class pikepdf.Name(name)
    Constructs a PDF Name object.
    Names can be constructed with two notations:
    1. Name(Resources
    2. Name('/Resources')
    The two are semantically equivalent. The former is preferred for names that are normally expected to be in a PDF. The latter is preferred for dynamic names and attributes.

Parameters name (str) –
static __new__(cls, name)
```

```python
Parameters name (str) –
class pikepdf.String(s)
    Constructs a PDF String object.

Parameters s (Union[str, bytes]) –
static __new__(cls, s)
```

```python
Parameters s (Union[str, bytes]) –
class pikepdf.Array(a=None)
    Constructs a PDF Array object.

Parameters a (Optional[Union[Iterable, pikepdf._qpdf.Rectangle]]) –
static __new__(cls, a=None)
```

```python
Parameters a (Optional[Union[Iterable, pikepdf._qpdf.Rectangle]]) –
class pikepdf.Dictionary(d=None, **kwargs)
    Constructs a PDF Dictionary object.
static __new__(cls, d=None, **kwargs)
```

```python
class pikepdf.Stream(owner, data=None, d=None, **kwargs)
    Constructs a PDF Stream object.
Parameters
```
pikepdf Documentation, Release 2.15.1

- owner (Pdf) –
- data (bytes) –

static __new__(cls, owner, data=None, d=None, **kwargs)

Parameters
- owner (Pdf) –
- data (bytes) –

class pikepdf.Operator(name)

Constructs an operator for use in a content stream.

An Operator is one of a limited set of commands that can appear in PDF content streams (roughly the mini-language that draws objects, lines and text on a virtual PDF canvas). The commands parse_content_stream() and unparse_content_stream() create and expect Operators respectively, along with their operands.

pikepdf uses the special Operator “INLINE IMAGE” to denote an inline image in a content stream.

Parameters name (str) –

Common PDF data structures

class pikepdf.Rectangle

A PDF rectangle.

Typically this will be a rectangle in PDF units (points, 1/72”). Unlike raster graphics, the rectangle is defined by the lower left and upper right points.

Rectangles in PDF are encoded as pikepdf.Array with exactly four numeric elements, ordered as llx lly urx ury. See PDF 1.7 Reference Manual section 7.9.5.

The rectangle may be considered degenerate if the lower left corner is not strictly less than the upper right corner.

as_array(self: pikepdf.Rectangle) → pikepdf.Object

Returns this rectangle as a pikepdf.Array.

property height

The height of the rectangle.

property llx

The lower left corner on the x-axis.

property lly

The lower left corner on the y-axis.

property lower_left

A point for the lower left corner.

property lower_right

A point for the lower right corner.
**property upper_left**
A point for the upper left corner.

**property upper_right**
A point for the upper right corner.

**property urx**
The upper right corner on the x-axis.

**property ury**
The upper right corner on the y-axis.

**property width**
The width of the rectangle.

### Internal objects

These objects are returned by other pikepdf objects. They are part of the API, but not intended to be created explicitly.

**class pikepdf._qpdf.PageList**
A list-like object enumerating a range of pages in a `pikepdf.Pdf`. It may be all of the pages or a subset.

Add another page to the end.

**extend**(\*args, **kwargs)
Overloaded function.

   Extend the Pdf by adding pages from another Pdf.pages.
2. extend(self: pikepdf.PageList, iterable: Iterable) -> None
   Extend the Pdf by adding pages from an iterable of pages.

**index**(\*args, **kwargs)
Overloaded function.

1. index(self: pikepdf.PageList, arg0: pikepdf.Object) -> int
   Given a pikepdf.Object that is a page, find the index.
   That is, returns n such that pdf.pages[n] == this_page. A ValueError exception is thrown if the page does not belong to this Pdf.
2. index(self: pikepdf.PageList, arg0: pikepdf.Page) -> int
   Given a pikepdf.Page (page helper), find the index.
   That is, returns n such that pdf.pages[n] == this_page. A ValueError exception is thrown if the page does not belong to this Pdf.

**insert**(self: pikepdf.PageList, index: int, obj: object) → None
Insert a page at the specified location.

**Parameters**

- **index** (int) – location at which to insert page, 0-based indexing
• `obj (pikepdf.Object) – page object to insert


      Convenience - look up page number in ordinal numbering, .p(1) is first page

      remove(self: pikepdf.PageList, **kwargs) → None

      Remove a page (using 1-based numbering)

      Parameters
      
      p (int) – 1-based page number

      reverse(self: pikepdf.PageList) → None

      Reverse the order of pages.

1.3.16 Support models

Support models are abstracts over “raw” objects within a Pdf. For example, a
page in a PDF is a Dictionary with set to /Type of /Page. The Dictionary in
that case is the “raw” object. Upon establishing what type of object it is, we can
wrap it with a support model that adds features to ensure consistency with the
PDF specification.

pikepdf does not currently apply support models to “raw” objects automatically,
but might do so in a future release (this would break backward compatibility).

class pikepdf.Page

Support model wrapper around a raw page dictionary object.

To initialize a Page support model:

    from pikepdf import Pdf, Page

    Pdf = open(...)  
    page_support_model = Page(pdf.pages[0])

add_content_token_filter(self: pikepdf.Page, tf: pikepdf.TokenFilter) → None

Attach a pikepdf.TokenFilter to a page’s content stream.

This function applies token filters lazily, if/when the page’s content stream is read
for any reason, such as when the PDF is saved. If never access, the token filter is
not applied.

Multiple token filters may be added to a page/content stream.

Token filters may not be removed after being attached to a Pdf. Close and reopen
the Pdf to remove token filters.

If the page’s contents is an array of streams, it is coalesced.

add_overlay(other, rect=None)

Overlay another object on this page.

Overlays will be drawn after all previous content, potentially drawing on top of
existing content.

Parameters
• **other** ([Union[pikepdf.objects.Object, pikepdf._qpdf.Page]]) – A Page or Form XObject to render as an overlay on top of this page.

• **rect** (Optional[pikepdf._qpdf.Rectangle]) – The PDF rectangle (in PDF units) in which to draw the overlay. If omitted, this page’s trimbox, cropbox or mediabox will be used.


### add_resource(res, res_type, name=None, *, prefix='', replace_existing=True)

Adds a new resource to the page’s Resources dictionary.

If the Resources dictionaries do not exist, they will be created.

**Parameters**

- **self** – The object to add to the resources dictionary.
- **res** ([pikepdf.objects.Object]) – The dictionary object to insert into the resources dictionary.
- **res_type** ([pikepdf.objects.Name]) – Should be one of the following Resource dictionary types: ExtGState, ColorSpace, Pattern, Shading, XObject, Font, Properties.
- **name** (Optional[pikepdf.objects.Name]) – The name of the object. If omitted, a random name will be generated with enough randomness to be globally unique.
- **prefix** (str) – A prefix for the name of the object. Allows conveniently namespacing when using random names, e.g. prefix=”Im” for images. Mutually exclusive with name parameter.
- **replace_existing** (bool) – If the name already exists in one of the resource dictionaries, remove it.

**Returns** The name of the object.

**Return type** pikepdf.objects.Name

### Example

```python
>>> resource_name = Page(pdf.pages[0]).add_resource(formxobj, Name.XObject)
```

New in version 2.3.

Changed in version 2.14: If `res` does not belong to the same `Pdf` that owns this page, a copy of `res` is automatically created and added instead. In previous versions, it was necessary to change for this case manually.

### add_underlay(other, rect=None)

Underlay another object beneath this page.

Underlays will be drawn before all other content, so they may be overdrawn partially or completely.

**Parameters**

- **other** ([Union[pikepdf.objects.Object, pikepdf._qpdf.Page]]) – A Page or Form XObject to render as an underlay underneath this page.
• `rect (Optional[pikepdf._qpdf.Rectangle])` – The PDF rectangle (in PDF units) in which to draw the underlay. If omitted, this page’s MediaBox will be used.


```python
as_form_xobject(self: pikepdf.Page, handle_transformations: bool = True) -> pikepdf.Object
```

Return a form XObject that draws this page.

This is useful for n-up operations, underlay, overlay, thumbnail generation, or any other case in which it is useful to replicate the contents of a page in some other context. The dictionaries are shallow copies of the original page dictionary, and the contents are coalesced from the page’s contents. The resulting object handle is not referenced anywhere.

Parameters

- `handle_transformations (bool)` – If True, the resulting form XObject’s /Matrix will be set to replicate rotation (/Rotate) and scaling (/UserUnit) in the page’s dictionary. In this way, the page’s transformations will be preserved when placing this object on another page.

```python
```

Generate content stream segment to place a Form XObject on this page.

The content stream segment must be then be added to the page’s content stream.

The default keyword parameters will preserve the aspect ratio.

Parameters

- `formx` – The Form XObject to place.
- `name` – The name of the Form XObject in this page’s /Resources dictionary.
- `rect` – Rectangle describing the desired placement of the Form XObject.
- `invert_transformations` – Apply /Rotate and /UserUnit scaling when determining Form X Object placement.
- `allow_shrink` – Allow the Form XObject to take less than the full dimensions of rect.
- `allow_expand` – Expand the Form XObject to occupy all of rect.


```python
contents_add(*args, **kwargs)
```

Overloaded function.


   Append or prepend to an existing page’s content stream using an existing stream object.


2. `contents_add(self: pikepdf.Page, contents: bytes, *, prepend: bool = False) -> None`

   Append or prepend to an existing page’s content stream from bytes.

**contents_coalesce** *(self: pikepdf.Page) → None*

Coalesce a page’s content streams.

A page’s content may be a stream or an array of streams. If this page’s content is an array, concatenate the streams into a single stream. This can be useful when working with files that split content streams in arbitrary spots, such as in the middle of a token, as that can confuse some software.

**property cropbox**

This page’s effective /CropBox, in PDF units.

If the /CropBox is not defined, the /MediaBox is returned.

**externalize_inline_images** *(self: pikepdf.Page, min_size: int = 0) → None*

Convert inlines image to normal (external) images.

**Parameters**

*min_size* *(int)* – minimum size in bytes

**get_filtered_contents** *(self: pikepdf.Page, tf: TokenFilter) → bytes*

Apply a `pikepdf.TokenFilter` to a content stream, without modifying it.

This may be used when the results of a token filter do not need to be applied, such as when filtering is being used to retrieve information rather than edit the content stream.

Note that it is possible to create a subclassed `TokenFilter` that saves information of interest to its object attributes; it is not necessary to return data in the content stream.

To modify the content stream, use `pikepdf.Page.add_content_token_filter()`.

**Returns**

the modified content stream

**Return type** bytes

**property index**

Returns the zero-based index of this page in the pages list.

That is, returns n such that `pdf.pages[n] == this_page`. A `ValueError` exception is thrown if the page is not attached to a `Pdf`.

Requires O(n) search.

New in version 2.2.

**property label**

Returns the page label for this page, accounting for section numbers.

For example, if the PDF defines a preface with lower case Roman numerals (i, ii, iii...), followed by standard numbers, followed by an appendix (A-1, A-2, ...), this function returns the appropriate label as a string.

It is possible for a PDF to define page labels such that multiple pages have the same labels. Labels are not guaranteed to be unique.

Note that this requires a O(n) search over all pages, to look up the page’s index.

New in version 2.2.
Changed in version 2.9: Returns the ordinary page number if no special rules for page numbers are defined.

**property mediabox**

This page’s /MediaBox, in PDF units.

**property obj**

Get the underlying `pikepdf.Object`.

**parse_contents**(self: `pikepdf.Page`, arg0: `pikepdf.StreamParser`) → None

Parse a page’s content streams using a `pikepdf.StreamParser`.

The content stream may be interpreted by the StreamParser but is not altered.

If the page’s contents is an array of streams, it is coalesced.

**remove_unreferenced_resources**(self: `pikepdf.Page`) → None

Removes from the resources dictionary any object not referenced in the content stream.

A page’s resources dictionary maps names to objects elsewhere in the file. This method walks through a page’s contents and keeps tracks of which resources are referenced somewhere in the contents. Then it removes from the resources dictionary any object that is not referenced in the contents. This method is used by page splitting code to avoid copying unused objects in files that used shared resource dictionaries across multiple pages.

**property resources**

Return this pages resources dictionary.

**rotate**(self: `pikepdf.Page`, angle: `int`, relative: `bool`) → None

Rotate a page.

If relative is False, set the rotation of the page to angle. Otherwise, add angle to the rotation of the page. angle must be a multiple of 90. Adding 90 to the rotation rotates clockwise by 90 degrees.

**property trimbox**

This page’s effective /TrimBox, in PDF units.

If the /TrimBox is not defined, the /CropBox is returned (and if /CropBox is not defined, /MediaBox is returned).

**class pikepdf.PdfMatrix(*args)**

Support class for PDF content stream matrices

PDF content stream matrices are 3x3 matrices summarized by a shorthand (a, b, c, d, e, f) which correspond to the first two column vectors. The final column vector is always (0, 0, 1) since this is using homogenous coordinates.

PDF uses row vectors. That is, vr @ A' gives the effect of transforming a row vector vr=(x, y, 1) by the matrix A'. Most textbook treatments use A @ vc where the column vector vc=(x, y, 1)'.

(@ is the Python matrix multiplication operator.)

Addition and other operations are not implemented because they’re not that meaningful in a PDF context (they can be defined and are mathematically meaningful in general).
PdMatrix objects are immutable. All transformations on them produce a new matrix.

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
a & b \\
c & d \\
e & f
\end{pmatrix}
\]

Return one of the six “active values” of the affine matrix. \(e\) and \(f\) correspond to \(x\)- and \(y\)-axis translation respectively. The other four letters are a \(2 \times 2\) matrix that can express rotation, scaling and skewing: \(a=1\) \(b=0\) \(c=0\) \(d=1\) is the identity matrix.

**encode()**

Encode this matrix in binary suitable for including in a PDF

**static identity()**

Constructs and returns an identity matrix

**rotated(angle_degrees_ccw)**

Concatenates a rotation matrix on this matrix

**scaled(x, y)**

Concatenates a scaling matrix on this matrix

**property shorthand**

Return the 6-tuple \((a,b,c,d,e,f)\) that describes this matrix

**translated(x, y)**

Translates this matrix

**class pikepdf.PdfImage(obj)**

Support class to provide a consistent API for manipulating PDF images

The data structure for images inside PDFs is irregular and flexible, making it difficult to work with without introducing errors for less typical cases. This class addresses these difficulties by providing a regular, Pythonic API similar in spirit (and convertible to) the Python Pillow imaging library.

**as_pil_image()**

Extract the image as a Pillow Image, using decompression as necessary

**Returns** PIL.Image.Image

**extract_to(*, stream=None, fileprefix=“”)**

Attempt to extract the image directly to a usable image file
If possible, the compressed data is extracted and inserted into a compressed image file format without transcoding the compressed content. If this is not possible, the data will be decompressed and extracted to an appropriate format.

Because it is not known until attempted what image format will be extracted, users should not assume what format they are getting back. When saving the image to a file, use a temporary filename, and then rename the file to its final name based on the returned file extension.

**Examples**

```python
>>> im.extract_to(stream=bytes_io)
'.png'
```

```python
>>> im.extract_to(fileprefix='/tmp/image00')
'/tmp/image00.jpg'
```

**Parameters**

- **stream** – Writable stream to write data to.
- **fileprefix** *(str or Path)* – The path to write the extracted image to, without the file extension.

**Returns**

- If `fileprefix` was provided, then the fileprefix with the appropriate extension.
- If no `fileprefix`, then an extension indicating the file type.

**Return type:** `str`

**get_stream_buffer**(decode_level=<StreamDecodeLevel.specialized: 2>)

Access this image with the buffer protocol

**property icc**

- If an ICC profile is attached, return a Pillow object that describe it.
  - Most of the information may be found in `icc.profile`.

**Returns** `PIL.ImageCms.ImageCmsProfile`

**property is_inline**

- False for image XObject

**read_bytes**(decode_level=<StreamDecodeLevel.specialized: 2>)

Decompress this image and return it as unencoded bytes

**show()**

- Show the image however PIL wants to

**class** `pikepdf.PdfInlineImage(*, image_data, image_object)`

Support class for PDF inline images

**class** `pikepdf.models.PdfMetadata(pdf, pikepdf_mark=True, sync_docinfo=True, overwrite_invalid_xml=True)`

Read and edit the metadata associated with a PDF
The PDF specification contain two types of metadata, the newer XMP (Extensible Metadata Platform, XML-based) and older DocumentInformation dictionary. The PDF 2.0 specification removes the DocumentInformation dictionary.

This primarily works with XMP metadata, but includes methods to generate XMP from DocumentInformation and will also coordinate updates to DocumentInformation so that the two are kept consistent.

XMP metadata fields may be accessed using the full XML namespace URI or the short name. For example metadata['dc:description'] and metadata['http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description'] both refer to the same field. Several common XML namespaces are registered automatically.

See the XMP specification for details of allowable fields.

To update metadata, use a with block.

**Example**

```python
>>> with pdf.open_metadata() as records:
    records['dc:title'] = 'New Title'
```

See also:

- `pikepdf.Pdf.open_metadata()`
- `load_from_docinfo(docinfo, delete_missing=False, raise_failure=False)`

Populate the XMP metadata object with DocumentInfo

**Parameters**

- `docinfo` – a DocumentInfo, e.g pdf.docinfo
- `delete_missing` (bool) – if the entry is not DocumentInfo, delete the equivalent from XMP
- `raise_failure` (bool) – if True, raise any failure to convert docinfo; otherwise warn and continue

**Return type** None

A few entries in the deprecated DocumentInfo dictionary are considered approximately equivalent to certain XMP records. This method copies those entries into the XMP metadata.

**property pdfa_status:** str

Returns the PDF/A conformance level claimed by this PDF, or False

A PDF may claim to PDF/A compliant without this being true. Use an independent verifier such as veraPDF to test if a PDF is truly conformant.

**Returns** The conformance level of the PDF/A, or an empty string if the PDF does not claim PDF/A conformance. Possible valid values are: 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2U, 3A, 3B, 3U.

**Return type** str

**property pdfx_status:** str

Returns the PDF/X conformance level claimed by this PDF, or False
A PDF may claim to PDF/X compliant without this being true. Use an independent verifier such as veraPDF to test if a PDF is truly conformant.

Returns The conformance level of the PDF/X, or an empty string if the PDF does not claim PDF/X conformance.

Return type str

class pikepdf.models.Encryption(*, owner, user, R=6, allow=Permissions(accessibility=True, extract=True, modify_annotation=True, modify_assembly=False, modify_form=True, modify_other=True, print_lowres=True, print_highres=True), aes=True, metadata=True)

Specify the encryption settings to apply when a PDF is saved.

Parameters

- **owner (str)** – The owner password to use. This allows full control of the file. If blank, the PDF will be encrypted and present as “(SECURED)” in PDF viewers. If the owner password is blank, the user password should be as well.

- **user (str)** – The user password to use. With this password, some restrictions will be imposed by a typical PDF reader. If blank, the PDF can be opened by anyone, but only modified as allowed by the permissions in allow.

- **R (int)** – Select the security handler algorithm to use. Choose from: 2, 3, 4 or 6. By default, the highest version of is selected (6). 5 is a deprecated algorithm that should not be used.

- **allow (pikepdf.models.encryption.Permissions)** – The permissions to set. If omitted, all permissions are granted to the user.

- **aes (bool)** – If True, request the AES algorithm. If False, use RC4. If omitted, AES is selected whenever possible (R >= 4).

- **metadata (bool)** – If True, also encrypt the PDF metadata. If False, metadata is not encrypted. Reading document metadata without decryption may be desirable in some cases. Requires aes=True. If omitted, metadata is encrypted whenever possible.

class pikepdf.models.Outline(pdf, max_depth=15, strict=False)

Maintains a intuitive interface for creating and editing PDF document outlines, according to the PDF 1.7 Reference Manual section 12.3.

Parameters


- **max_depth (int)** – Maximum recursion depth to consider when reading the outline.

- **strict (bool)** – If set to False (default) silently ignores structural errors. Setting it to True raises a pikepdf.OutlineStructureError if any object references re-occur while the outline is being read or written.

See also:

pikepdf.Pdf.open_outline()

class pikepdf.models.OutlineItem(title, destination=None, page_location=None, action=None, obj=None, *, left=None, top=None, right=None, bottom=None, zoom=None)

Manages a single item in a PDF document outlines structure, including nested items.
Parameters

- **title (str)** – Title of the outlines item.
- **destination (Optional[Tuple[int, str, pikepdf.objects.Object]])** – Page number, destination name, or any other PDF object to be used as a reference when clicking on the outlines entry. Note this should be None if an action is used instead. If set to a page number, it will be resolved to a reference at the time of writing the outlines back to the document.
- **page_location (Optional[Union[pikepdf.models.outlines.PageLocation, str]])** – Supplemental page location for a page number in destination, e.g. PageLocation.Fit. May also be a simple string such as 'FitH'.
- **action (Optional[pikepdf.objects.Dictionary])** – Action to perform when clicking on this item. Will be ignored during writing if destination is also set.
- **obj (Optional[pikepdf.objects.Dictionary])** – Dictionary object representing this outlines item in a Pdf. May be None for creating a new object. If present, an existing object is modified in-place during writing and original attributes are retained.
- **left (Optional[float])** – Describes the viewport position associated with a destination.
- **top (Optional[float])** – Describes the viewport position associated with a destination.
- **bottom (Optional[float])** – Describes the viewport position associated with a destination.
- **right (Optional[float])** – Describes the viewport position associated with a destination.
- **zoom (Optional[float])** – Describes the viewport position associated with a destination.

This object does not contain any information about higher-level or neighboring elements.

**classmethod from_dictionary_object(obj)**

Creates a OutlineItem from a PDF document's Dictionary object. Does not process nested items.

**Parameters**


**to_dictionary_object(pdf, create_new=False)**

Creates a Dictionary object from this outline node's data, or updates the existing object. Page numbers are resolved to a page reference on the input Pdf object.

**Parameters**

- **create_new (bool)** – If set to True, creates a new object instead of modifying an existing one in-place.
Return type  *pikepdf.objects.Dictionary*

class *pikepdf.Permissions*(accessibility=True, extract=True, modify_annotation=True, modify_assembly=False, modify_form=True, modify_other=True, print_lowres=True, print_highres=True)

Stores the user-level permissions for an encrypted PDF.

A compliant PDF reader/writer should enforce these restrictions on people who have the user password and not the owner password. In practice, either password is sufficient to decrypt all document contents. A person who has the owner password should be allowed to modify the document in any way. *pikepdf* does not enforce the restrictions in any way; it is up to application developers to enforce them as they see fit.

Unencrypted PDFs implicitly have all permissions allowed. Permissions can only be changed when a PDF is saved.

Parameters

- **accessibility** *(bool)* –
- **extract** *(bool)* –
- **modify_annotation** *(bool)* –
- **modify_assembly** *(bool)* –
- **modify_form** *(bool)* –
- **modify_other** *(bool)* –
- **print_lowres** *(bool)* –
- **print_highres** *(bool)* –

**property accessibility**
Can users use screen readers and accessibility tools to read the PDF?

**property extract**
Can users extract contents?

**property modify_annotation**
Can users modify annotations?

**property modify_assembly**
Can users arrange document contents?

**property modify_form**
Can users fill out forms?

**property modify_other**
Can users modify the document?

**property print_highres**
Can users print the document at high resolution?

**property print_lowres**
Can users print the document at low resolution?

class *pikepdf.models.EncryptionMethod*

Describes which encryption method was used on a particular part of a PDF. These values are returned by *pikepdf.EncryptionInfo* but are not currently used to specify how encryption is requested.
none
Data was not encrypted.

unknown
An unknown algorithm was used.

rc4
The RC4 encryption algorithm was used (obsolete).

eaes
The AES-based algorithm was used as described in the PDF 1.7 Reference Manual.

aev3
An improved version of the AES-based algorithm was used as described in the Adobe Supplement to the ISO 32000, requiring PDF 1.7 extension level 3. This algorithm still uses AES, but allows both AES-128 and AES-256, and improves how the key is derived from the password.

class pikepdf.models.EncryptionInfo(encryptdict)

Reports encryption information for an encrypted PDF.

This information may not be changed, except when a PDF is saved. This object is not used to specify the encryption settings to save a PDF, due to non-overlapping information requirements.

Parameters encryptdict(Dict[str, Any]) –

property P: int
Encoded permission bits.
See Pdf.allow() instead.

property R: int
Revision number of the security handler.

property V: int
Version of PDF password algorithm.

property bits: int
The number of encryption bits.

property encryption_key: bytes
The RC4 or AES encryption key used for this file.

property file_method: str
Encryption method used to encode the whole file.

property stream_method: str
Encryption method used to encode streams.

property string_method: str
Encryption method used to encode strings.

property user_password: bytes
If possible, return the user password.

The user password can only be retrieved when a PDF is opened with the owner password and when older versions of the encryption algorithm are used.

The password is always returned as bytes even if it has a clear Unicode representation.
class pikepdf.Annotation

Describes an annotation in a PDF, such as a comment, underline, copy editing marks, interactive widgets, redactions, 3D objects, sound and video clips.

See the PDF 1.7 Reference Manual section 12.5.6 for the full list of annotation types and definition of terminology.

New in version 2.12.

property appearance_dict

Returns the annotations appearance dictionary.

property appearance_state

Returns the annotation’s appearance state (or None).

For a checkbox or radio button, the appearance state may be pikepdf.Name.On or pikepdf.Name.Off.

property flags

Returns the annotation’s flags.

get_appearance_stream(*args, **kwargs)

Overloaded function.


Returns one of the appearance streams associated with an annotation.

Args:

which: Usually one of pikepdf.Name.N, pikepdf.Name.R or pikepdf.Name.D, indicating the normal, rollover or down appearance stream, respectively. If any other name is passed, an an appearance stream with that name is returned.


Returns one of the appearance streams associated with an annotation.

Args:

which: Usually one of pikepdf.Name.N, pikepdf.Name.R or pikepdf.Name.D, indicating the normal, rollover or down appearance stream, respectively. If any other name is passed, an an appearance stream with that name is returned.

state: The appearance state. For checkboxes or radio buttons, the appearance state is usually whether the button is on or off.

get_page_content_for_appearance(self: pikepdf.Annotation, name: pikepdf.Object, rotate: int, required_flags: int = 0, forbidden_flags: int = 3) -> bytes

Generate content stream text that draws this annotation as a Form XObject.

Parameters

• name (pikepdf.Name) – What to call the object we create.

• rotate – Should be set to the page’s /Rotate value or 0.
Note: This method is done mainly with QPDF. Its behavior may change when different QPDF versions are used.

**property obj**
Returns the underlying object for this annotation.

**property subtype**
Returns the subtype of this annotation.

## 1.3.17 Content streams

In PDF, drawing operations are all performed in content streams that describe the positioning and drawing order of all graphics (including text, images and vector drawing).

pikepdf (and libqpdf) provide two tools for interpreting content streams: a parser and filter. The parser returns higher level information, conveniently grouping all commands with their operands. The parser is useful when one wants to retrieve information from a content stream, such as determine the position of an element. The parser should not be used to edit or reconstruct the content stream because some subtleties are lost in parsing.

The token filter works at a lower level, considering each token including comments, and distinguishing different types of spaces. This allows modifying content streams. A TokenFilter must be subclassed; the specialized version describes how it should transform the stream of tokens.

**pikepdf.parse_content_stream(page_or_stream, operators="")**

Parse a PDF content stream into a sequence of instructions.

A PDF content stream is list of instructions that describe where to render the text and graphics in a PDF. This is the starting point for analyzing PDFs.

If the input is a page and page.Contents is an array, then the content stream is automatically treated as one coalesced stream.

Each instruction contains at least one operator and zero or more operands.

This function does not have anything to do with opening a PDF file itself or processing data from a whole PDF. It is for processing a specific object inside a PDF that is already opened.

### Parameters

- **page_or_stream** (pikepdf.objects.Object) – A page object, or the content stream attached to another object such as a FormXObject.

- **operators** (str) – A space-separated string of operators to whitelist. For example ‘q Q cm Do’ will return only operators that pertain to drawing images. Use ‘BI ID EI’ for inline images. All other operators and associated tokens are ignored. If blank, all tokens are accepted.

### Returns

List of (operands, command) tuples where command is an operator (str) and operands is a tuple of str; the PDF drawing command and the command’s operands, respectively.
Return type  list

Example

```python
>>> pdf = pikepdf.Pdf.open(input_pdf)
>>> page = pdf.pages[0]
>>> for operands, command in parse_content_stream(page):
...     print(command)
```

class pikepdf.Token

property raw_value
The binary representation of a token.

Return type: bytes

property type_
Returns the type of token.

Return type: pikepdf.TokenType

property value
Interprets the token as a string.

Return type: str or bytes

class pikepdf.TokenType

When filtering content streams, each token is labeled according to the role it plays.

Standard tokens

array_open

array_close

brace_open

brace_close

dict_open

dict_close

These tokens mark the start and end of an array, text string, and dictionary, respectively.

integer

real

null
The token data represents an integer, real number, null or boolean, respectively.

The token is the name (pikepdf.Name) of an object. In practice, these are among the most interesting tokens.

An inline image in the content stream. The whole inline image is represented by the single token.

Lexical tokens

Signifies a comment that appears in the content stream.

Otherwise uncategorized bytes are returned as word tokens. PDF operators are words.

An invalid token.

Whitespace within the content stream.

Denotes the end of the tokens in this content stream.

class pikepdf.TokenFilter

Handle a pikepdf.Token.

This is an abstract method that must be defined in a subclass of TokenFilter. The method will be called for each token. The implementation may return either None to discard the token, the original token to include it, a new token, or an iterable containing zero or more tokens. An implementation may also buffer tokens and release them in groups (for example, it could collect an entire PDF command with all of its operands, and then return all of it).

The final token will always be a token of type TokenType.eof, (unless an exception is raised).

If this method raises an exception, the exception will be caught by C++, consumed, and replaced with a less informative exception. Use pikepdf.Pdf.get_warnings() to view the original.

Return type: None or list or pikepdf.Token
1.3.18 Exceptions

**exception pikepdf.PdfError**
General pikepdf-specific exception.

**exception pikepdf.PasswordError**
Exception thrown when the supplied password is incorrect.

**exception pikepdf.ForeignObjectError**
Exception thrown when a complex object was copied into a foreign PDF without using `Pdf.copy_foreign()`.

**exception pikepdf.OutlineStructureError**
Exception thrown when an /Outlines object violates constraints imposed by the PDF 1.7 Reference Manual.

**exception pikepdf.UnsupportedImageTypeError**
This image is formatted in a way pikepdf does not supported.
Exception throw when attempting to manipulate a PDF image of a complex type that pikepdf does not currently support.

1.3.19 Architecture

pikepdf uses pybind11 to bind the C++ interface of QPDF. pybind11 was selected after evaluating Cython, CFFI and SWIG as possible binding solutions.

In addition to bindings pikepdf includes support code written in a mix of C++ and Python, mainly to present a clean Pythonic interface to C++ and implement higher level functionality.

**Internals**

Internally the package presents a module named pikepdf from which objects can be imported. The C++ extension module is currently named pikepdf._qpdf. Users of pikepdf should not directly access _qpdf since it is an internal interface.

In general, modules or objects behind an underscore are private (although they may be returned in some situations).

**Thread safety**

Because of the global interpreter lock (GIL), it is safe to read pikepdf objects across Python threads. Also because of the GIL, there may not be much performance gain from doing so.

If one or more threads will be modifying pikepdf objects, you will have to coordinate read and write access with a `threading.Lock`.

It is not currently possible to pickle pikepdf objects or marshall them across process boundaries (as would be required to use pikepdf in multiprocessing). If this were implemented, it would not be much more efficient than saving a full PDF and sending it to another process. Parallelizing work (for example, by dividing work by PDF pages) can still be achieved by having each worker process open the same file.
File handles

Because of technical limitations in underlying libraries, pikepdf keeps the source PDF file open when a content is copied from it to another PDF, even when all Python variables pointing to the source are removed. If a PDF is being assembled from many sources, then all of those sources are held open in memory.

1.3.20 Contributing guidelines

Contributions are welcome!

Big changes

Please open a new issue to discuss or propose a major change. Not only is it fun to discuss big ideas, but we might save each other’s time too. Perhaps some of the work you’re contemplating is already half-done in a development branch.

Code style: Python

We use PEP8, black for code formatting and isort for import sorting. The settings for these programs are in pyproject.toml and setup.cfg. Pull requests should follow the style guide. One difference we use from “black” style is that strings shown to the user are always in double quotes ("”) and strings for internal uses are in single quotes (’’).

Code style: C++

The file .clang-format contains our C++ format based on Clang’s formatter, imperfect as it is. We eagerly await a dangling parenthesis (https://reviews.llvm.org/D33029).

In general we prefer to make our C++ look similar to Python PEP8, within reason, because our code is primarily a Python binding. That is, variable and method names are snake_case, class names are CamelCase. Our coding conventions are closer to pybind11’s than QPDF’s. When a C++ object wraps a Python object, it should follow the Python naming conventions for that type of object, e.g. auto Decimal = py::module_::import("decimal").attr("Decimal") for a reference to the Python Decimal class even though it is a C++ object.

We don’t like the traditional C++ .cpp/.h separation that results in a lot of repetition. Headers that are included by only one .cpp can contain a complete class, and get the -inl.h suffix, unless multiple inclusion is required.

Use RAII. Avoid naked pointers. Use the STL, use std::string instead of char *. Use #pragma once as a header guard rather than silly #ifdef; they have been around for 25 years.
Tests

New features should come with tests that confirm their correctness.

New dependencies

If you are proposing a change that will require a new dependency, we prefer dependencies that are already packaged by Debian or Red Hat. This makes life much easier for our downstream package maintainers.

Dependencies must also be compatible with the source code license.

English style guide

pikepdf is always spelled “pikepdf”, and never capitalized even at the beginning of a sentence.

Periodic allusions to fish are required, and the writer shall be energetic and mildly amusing.

Known ports/packagers

pikepdf has been ported to many platforms already. If you are interesting in porting to a new platform, check with Repology to see the status of that platform.

1.3.21 Debugging

pikepdf does a complex job in providing bindings from Python to a C++ library, both of which have different ideas about how to manage memory. This page documents some methods that may help should it be necessary to debug the Python C++ extension (pikepdf._qpdf).

Enabling QPDF tracing

Setting the environment variables TC_SCOPE=qpdf and TC_FILENAME=your_log_file.txt will cause libqpdf to log debug messages to the designated file. For example:

```
env TC_SCOPE=qpdf
   _TC_FILENAME=libqpdf_log.txt python my_pikepdf_script.py
```
Compiling a debug build of QPDF

It may be helpful to create a debug build of QPDF.

Download QPDF and compile a debug build:

```bash
# in QPDF source tree
cd $QPDF_SOURCE_TREE
./configure
  CFLAGS='-g -O0' CPPFLAGS='-g -O0' CXXFLAGS='-g -O0'
make -j
```

Compile and link against QPDF source tree

Build `pikepdf._qpdf` against the version of QPDF above, rather than the system version:

```bash
env QPDF_SOURCE_TREE=../../../<location of QPDF>
pip install setup.py build_ext --inplace
```

In addition to building against the QPDF source, you’ll need to force your operating system to load the locally compiled version of QPDF instead of the installed version:

```bash
# Linux
env LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$QPDF_SOURCE_TREE/libqpdf/build/.libs python ...

# macOS - may require disabling System Integrity Protection
env DYLD_LIBRARY_PATH=$QPDF_SOURCE_TREE/libqpdf/build/.libs python ...
```

On macOS you can make the library persistent by changing the name of the library to use in `pikepdf`’s binary extension module:

```bash
install_name_tool -change /usr/local/lib/libqpdf*.dylib \
  $QPDF_SOURCE_TREE/libqpdf/build/.libs/libqpdf*.dylib \
  src/pikepdf/_qpdf.cpython*.so
```

You can also run Python through a debugger (`gdb` or `lldb`) in this manner, and you will have access to the source code for both `pikepdf`’s C++ and QPDF.

Valgrind

Valgrind may also be helpful - see the Python documentation for information on setting up Python and Valgrind.
1.3.22 Resources

- QPDF Manual
- PDF 1.7 ISO Specification PDF 32000-1:2008
- Adobe Supplement to ISO 32000 BaseVersion 1.7 ExtensionLevel 3, Adobe Acrobat 9.0, June 2008, for AESv3
- Other Adobe extensions to the PDF specification

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Symbols

__new__() (pikepdf.Array static method), 69
__new__() (pikepdf.Dictionary static method), 69
__new__() (pikepdf.Name static method), 69
__new__() (pikepdf.Stream static method), 70
__new__() (pikepdf.String static method), 69

A

a (pikepdf.PdfMatrix attribute), 77
accessibility (pikepdf.Permissions property), 82
add_blank_page() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 54
add_content_token_filter() (pikepdf.Page method), 72
add_overlay() (pikepdf.Page method), 72
add_resource() (pikepdf.Page method), 73
add_underlay() (pikepdf.Page method), 73
aes (pikepdf.models.EncryptionMethod attribute), 83
aesv3 (pikepdf.models.EncryptionMethod attribute), 83
all (pikepdf.StreamDecodeLevel attribute), 64
allow (pikepdf.Pdf property), 54
Annotation (class in pikepdf), 83
appearance_dict (pikepdf.Annotation property), 84
appearance_state (pikepdf.Annotation property), 84
append() (pikepdf._qpdf.PageList method), 71
append() (pikepdf.Object method), 65
Array (class in pikepdf), 69
array_close (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
array_open (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
as_array() (pikepdf.Rectangle method), 70
as_dict() (pikepdf.Object method), 65
as_form_xobject() (pikepdf.Page method), 74
as_list() (pikepdf.Object method), 65
as_pil_image() (pikepdf.PdfImage method), 77

B

b (pikepdf.PdfMatrix attribute), 77
bad (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 87
bits (pikepdf.models.EncryptionInfo property), 83
bool (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
brace_close (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
brace_open (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
built-in function

C

c (pikepdf.PdfMatrix attribute), 77
calc_form_xobject_placement() (pikepdf.Page method), 74
check() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 54
check_linearization() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 55
close() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 55
comment (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 87
contents_add() (pikepdf.Page method), 74
contents_coalesce() (pikepdf.Page method), 75
copy_foreign() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 55
cropbox (pikepdf.Page property), 75

d (pikepdf.PdfMatrix attribute), 77
dict_close (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
dict_open (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
Dictionary (class in pikepdf), 69
disable (pikepdf.ObjectStreamMode attribute), 64
docinfo (pikepdf.Pdf property), 56

E

e (pikepdf.PdfMatrix attribute), 77
emplace() (pikepdf.Object method), 65
encode() (pikepdf.PdfMatrix method), 77
Encryption (class in pikepdf), 65
Encryption (class in pikepdf.models), 80
encryption (pikepdf.Pdf property), 56
encryption_key (pikepdf.models.EncryptionInfo property), 83
EncryptionInfo (class in pikepdf.models), 83
eof (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 87
extend() (pikepdf._qpdf.PageList method), 71
extend() (pikepdf.Object method), 66
externalize_inline_images() (pikepdf.Page method), 75
extract (pikepdf.Permissions property), 82
extract_to() (pikepdf.PdfImage method), 77
 file_method (pikepdf.models.EncryptionInfo property), 83
filename (pikepdf.Pdf property), 56
flags (pikepdf.Annotation property), 84
flatten_annotations() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 56
ForeignObjectError, 88
from_dictionary_object()
  (pikepdf.models.OutlineItem class method), 81
get() (pikepdf.Object method), 66
get_appearance_stream()
  (pikepdf.Annotation method), 84
get_filtered_contents() (pikepdf.Page method), 75
get_object() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 57
get_page_content_for_appearance()
  (pikepdf.Annotation method), 84
get_raw_stream_buffer()
  (pikepdf.Object method), 66
get_stream_buffer()
  (pikepdf.Object method), 66
get_stream_buffer()
  (pikepdf.PdfImage method), 78
get_warnings() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 57
H
handle_token() (pikepdf.TokenFilter method), 87
height (pikepdf.Rectangle property), 70
I
icc (pikepdf.PdfImage property), 78
identity() (pikepdf.PdfMatrix static method), 77
index (pikepdf.Page property), 75
index() (pikepdf._qpdf.PageList method), 71
inline_image (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 87
insert() (pikepdf._qpdf.PageList method), 71
integer (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
is_encrypted (pikepdf.Pdf property), 57
is_inline (pikepdf.PdfImage property), 78
is_linearized (pikepdf.Pdf property), 57
is_owned_by() (pikepdf.Object method), 66
is_rectangle (pikepdf.Object method), 66
items() (pikepdf.Object method), 66
K
keys() (pikepdf.Object method), 66
L
label (pikepdf.Page property), 75
llx (pikepdf.Rectangle property), 70
lly (pikepdf.Rectangle property), 70
load_from_docinfo() (pikepdf.models.PdfMetadata method), 79
lower_left (pikepdf.Rectangle property), 70
lower_right (pikepdf.Rectangle property), 70
M
make_indirect() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 57
make_stream() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 57
mediabox (pikepdf.Page property), 76
modify_annotation (pikepdf.Permissions property), 82
modify_assembly (pikepdf.Permissions property), 82
modify_form (pikepdf.Permissions property), 82
modify_other (pikepdf.Permissions property), 82
N
Name (class in pikepdf), 69
name (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 87
new() (pikepdf.Pdf static method), 58
none (pikepdf.models.EncryptionMethod attribute), 82
none (pikepdf.StreamDecodeLevel attribute), 64
null (pikepdf.TokenType attribute), 86
O
obj (pikepdf.Annotation property), 85
obj (pikepdf.Page property), 76
Object (class in pikepdf), 65
objects (pikepdf.Pdf property), 58
objgen (pikepdf.Object property), 66
open() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 58
open_metadata() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 60
open_outline() (pikepdf.Pdf method), 60
Operator (class in pikepdf), 70
Outline (class in pikepdf.models), 80
OutlineItem (class in pikepdf.models), 80
OutlineStructureError, 88
owner_password_matched (pikepdf.Pdf property), 61
P
P (pikepdf.models.EncryptionInfo property), 83
p() (pikepdf._qpdf.PageList method), 72
Page (class in pikepdf), 72
page_contents_add() (pikepdf.Object method), 67
page_contents_coalesce() (pikepdf.Object method), 67
PageList (class in pikepdf._qpdf), 71
pages (pikepdf.Pdf property), 61
parse() (pikepdf.Object static method), 67
parse_content_stream() (in module pikepdf), 85
parse_contents() (pikepdf.Page method), 76
PasswordError, 88
Pdf (class in pikepdf), 54
Index 95