

CSS: Cascading Style Sheets

Computer Science and Engineering ■ College of Engineering ■ The Ohio State University

Lecture 14

Evolution of CSS

- MIME type: text/css
- CSS 1 ('96): early recognition of value
- CSS 2 ('98): improvements in language
 - Adding media types (screen vs print)
 - Inconsistent support by browsers
- CSS 2.1 ('11)
 - In practice since '04
 - Took forever to standardize
- CSS 3
 - Breaks standard into many (50?) modules
 - Various modules already adopted & supported

Key Idea

- Separate content and style
 - Different languages (syntax): HTML vs CSS
 - Different documents
- Goal: Single-point-of-control-over-change
 - Change font of every word in paragraph?
 - Change font of every `` element in document?
 - Change font of every `` element in every document on a site?
 - Change font of every `` element which is part of instructions, but not finalized, on site?

CSS Syntax

- CSS is *declarative* (not *procedural*)
 - Describe a thing, not how to do compute it
 - Example: RE matching
- CSS = list of *rules* (order can matter)
- Rule = a **location** & the **style** to use there
- Basic syntax of a rule

```
selector {  
    property1: style1;  
    property2: style2;  
    . . .  
}    /*comments always help*/
```

Example CSS

```
h2 {  
  /* draconian OSU visual identity */  
  color: darkred;  
  background: gray;  
  /* additional gratuitous styling */  
  font-style: italic;  
}
```

Many Available Properties

- Background
 - `background-color, background-image`
- Text, font
 - `line-height, text-align, color`
 - `font-family, font-style, font-size`
- Border, margin, padding
 - `border-left-width, border-bottom-color`
- Positioning
 - `clear, display, float`
- Dimension
- List, table
 - `list-style-type`
 - `border-collapse, caption-side`
- Generated content and other fancy stuff
- See: developer.mozilla.org/Web/CSS/Reference

Shorthand Properties

- Example: Margins have 4 sides

```
margin-top: 3px;  
margin-right: 5px;  
margin-bottom: 7px;  
margin-left: 9px;
```

- Shorthand property: margin

```
margin: 3px 5px 7px 9px; /*TRBL*/  
margin: 7px 9px; /*TB sides*/  
margin: 2px 6px 8px; /*T sides B*/
```

- Mnemonic: always "TRouBLE"

- Missing values filled in with provided value(s)

- Other shorthand properties:

- Padding, border-width, font, border, background...

Including CSS: Mechanics

- Embed directly in element

```
<p style="color: red; background: gray">
```

- Place in style element in head

```
<head>
```

```
  <style media="screen">
```

```
    p {color: red; background: gray;}
```

```
  </style>
```

```
</head>
```

- Link to separate CSS file in head

```
<head>
```

```
  <link rel="stylesheet"
```

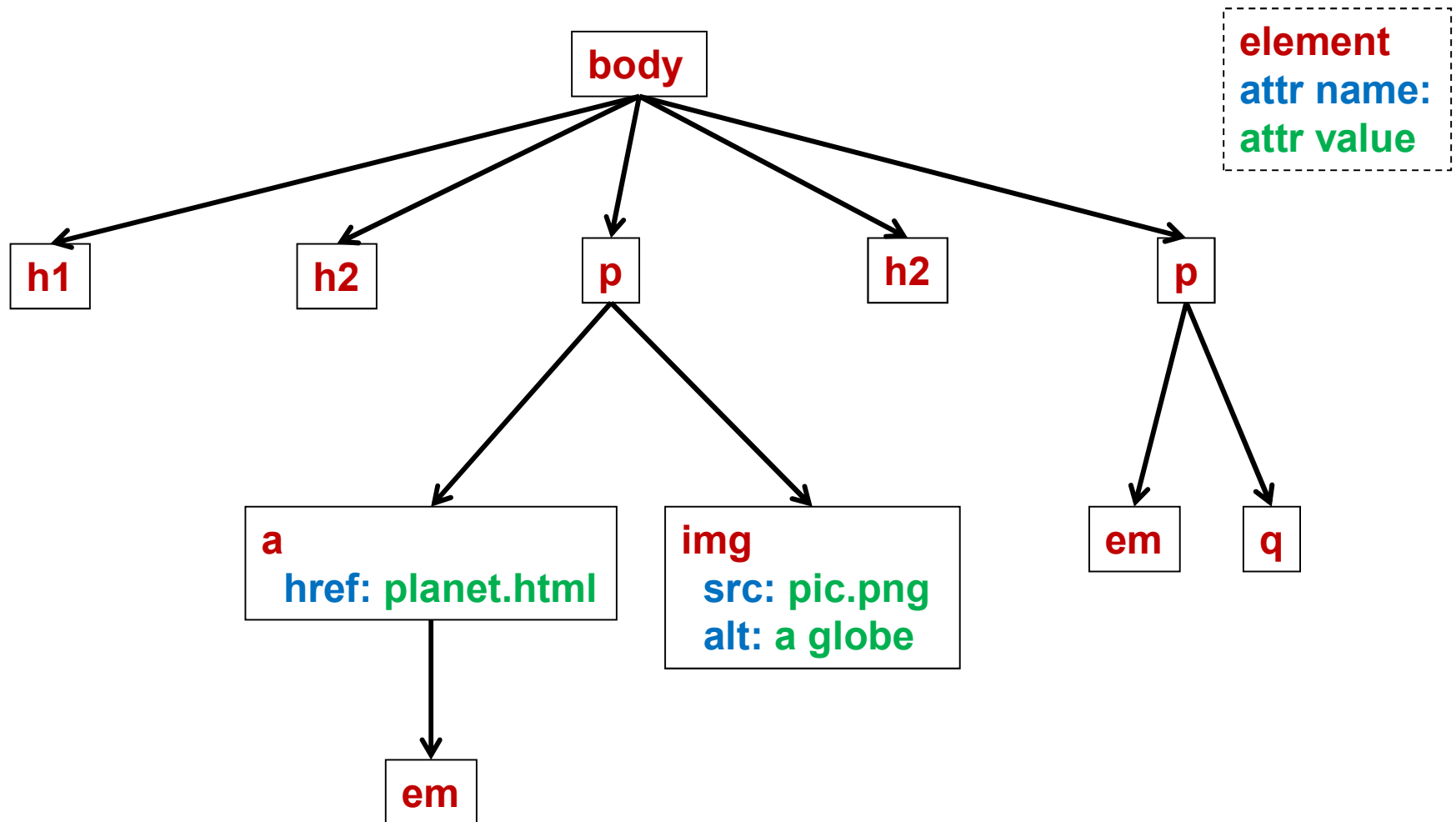
```
    href="3901Style.css" media="screen" />
```

```
</head>
```

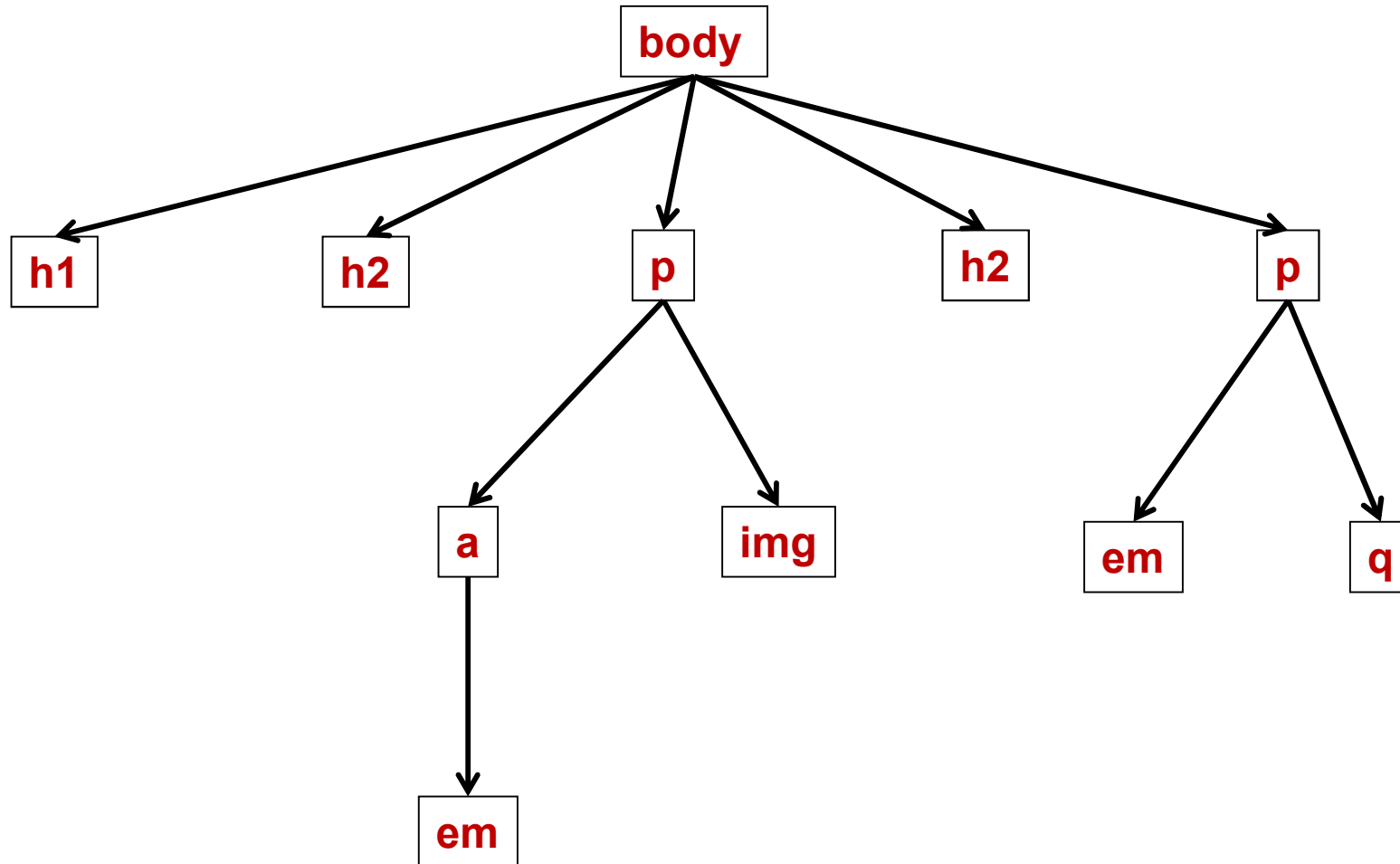

Example CSS

```
h2 {  
    color: darkred;  
    background: gray;  
    font-style: italic;  
}  
  
em {  
    font-style: normal;  
    font-weight: bold;  
}
```

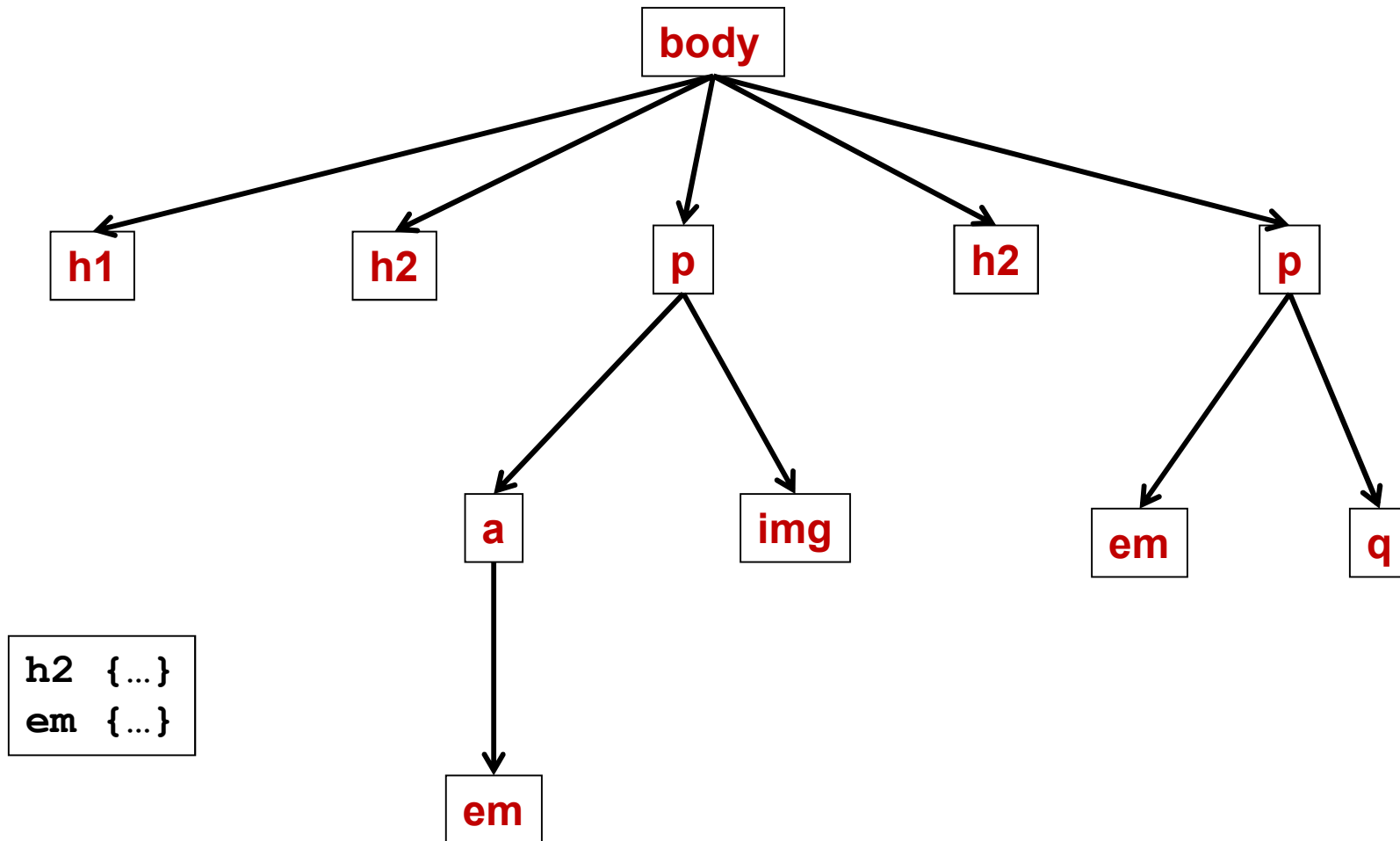
Tree (Rooted at Body)



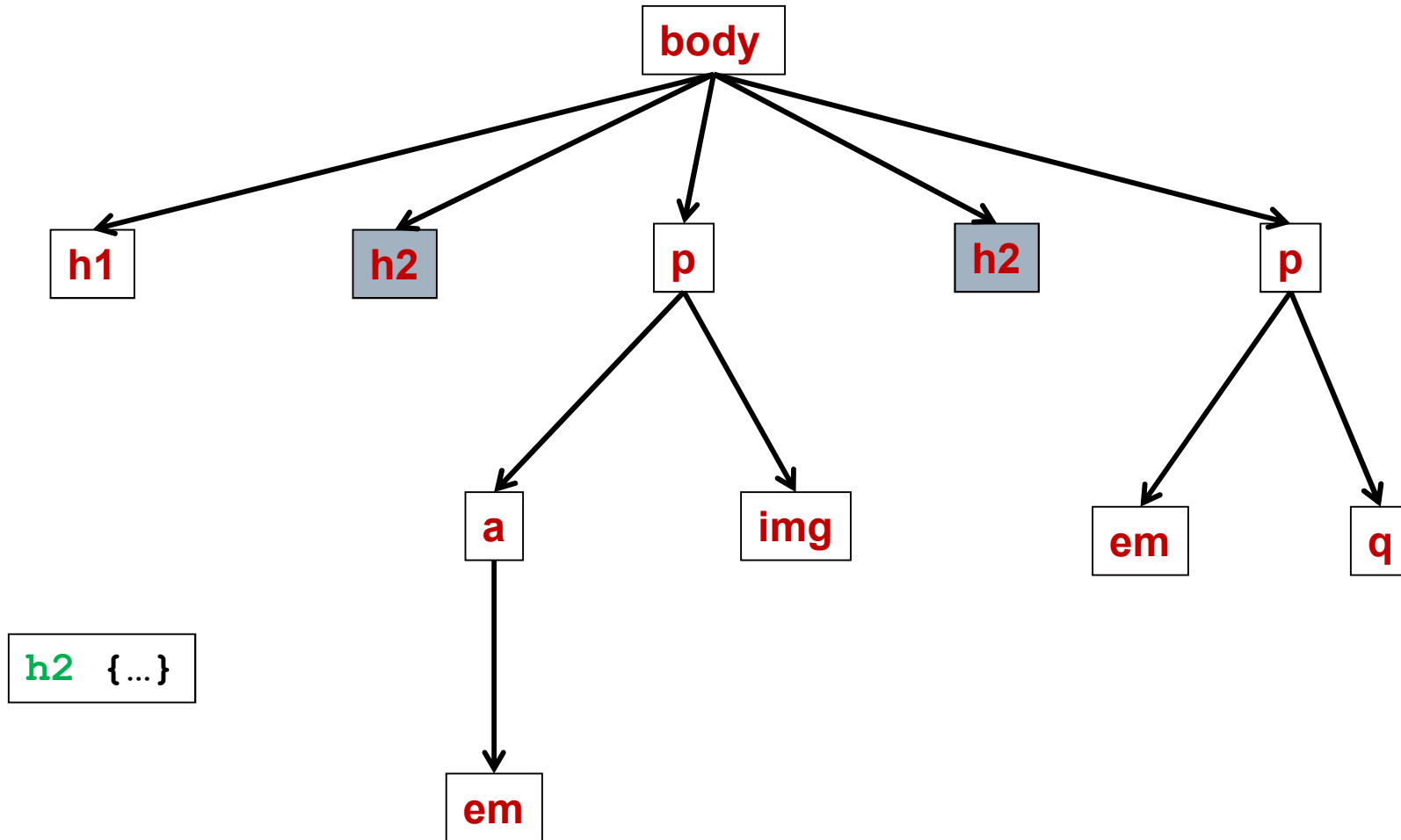
Tree (sans Attributes)



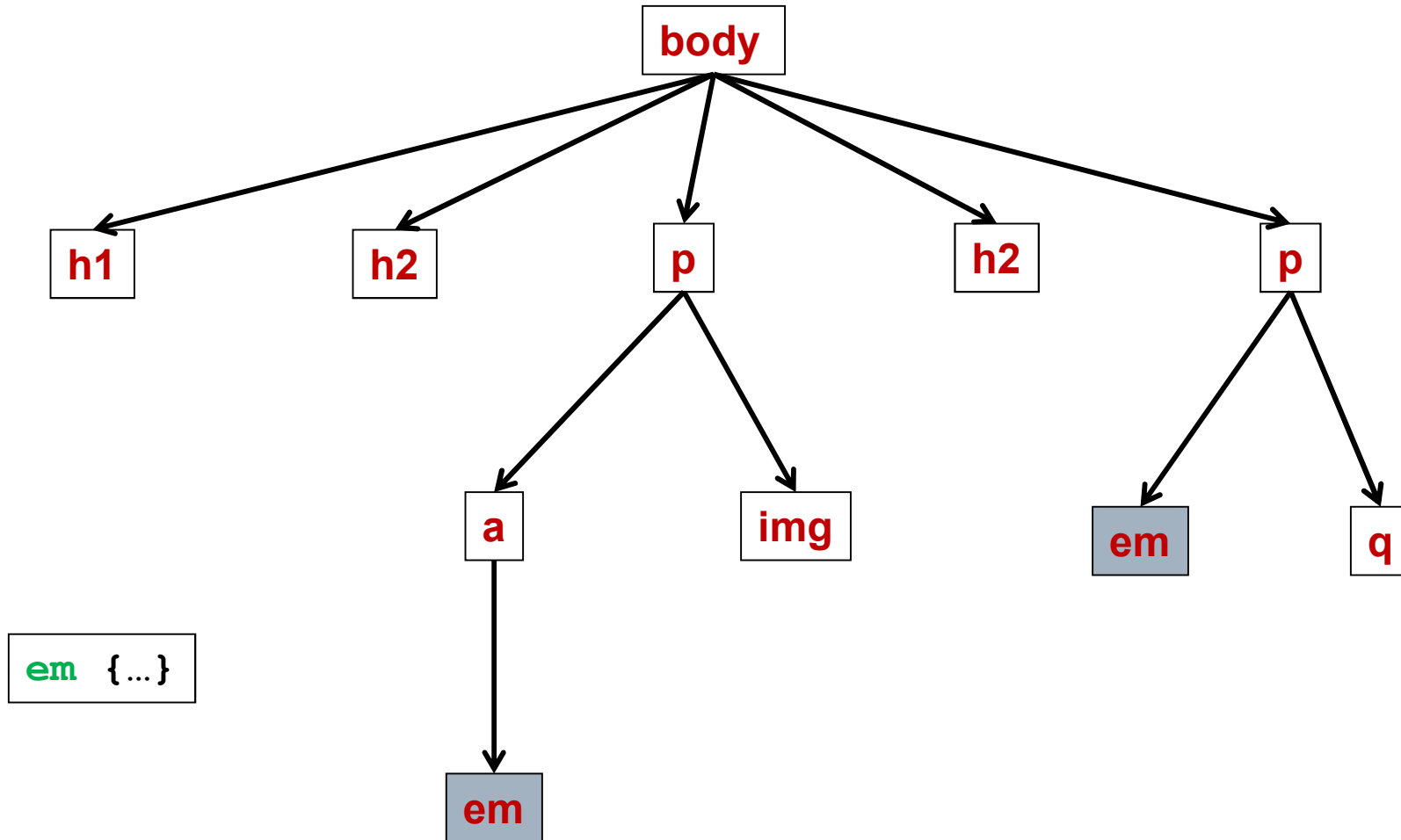
Tree (sans Attributes)



Selectors Applied to Tree



Selectors Applied to Tree



Multiple Selectors

```
h1 {  
    color: darkred;  
    background: gray;  
    font-style: italic;  
    border-bottom-style: solid;  
}  
h2 {  
    color: darkred;  
    background: gray;  
    font-style: italic;  
}
```

Multiple Selectors: SPOCOC

```
h1, h2 {  
    color: darkred;  
    background: gray;  
    font-style: italic;  
}
```

```
h1 {  
    border-bottom-style: solid;  
}
```


Inheritance for SPOCOC

- A child inherits many properties from parent by default
 - Font weight, color, family, etc
 - Can be overridden in child

- Set global styles in root

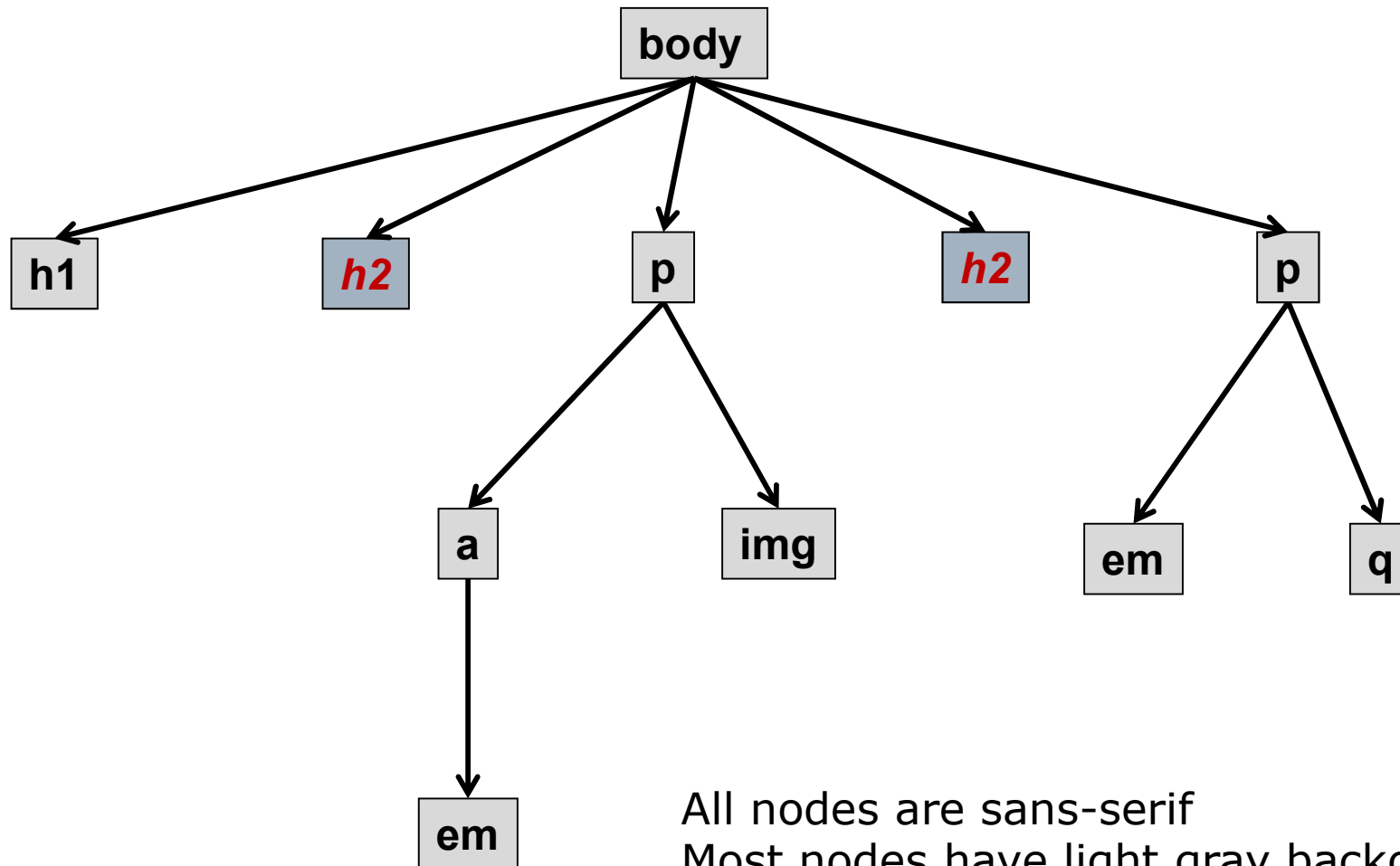
```
body {  
    font-family: sans-serif;  
}
```

- Contrast this with having to set property in all possible elements!
- Generally, text properties (eg color) are inherited, box-related (eg border) are not

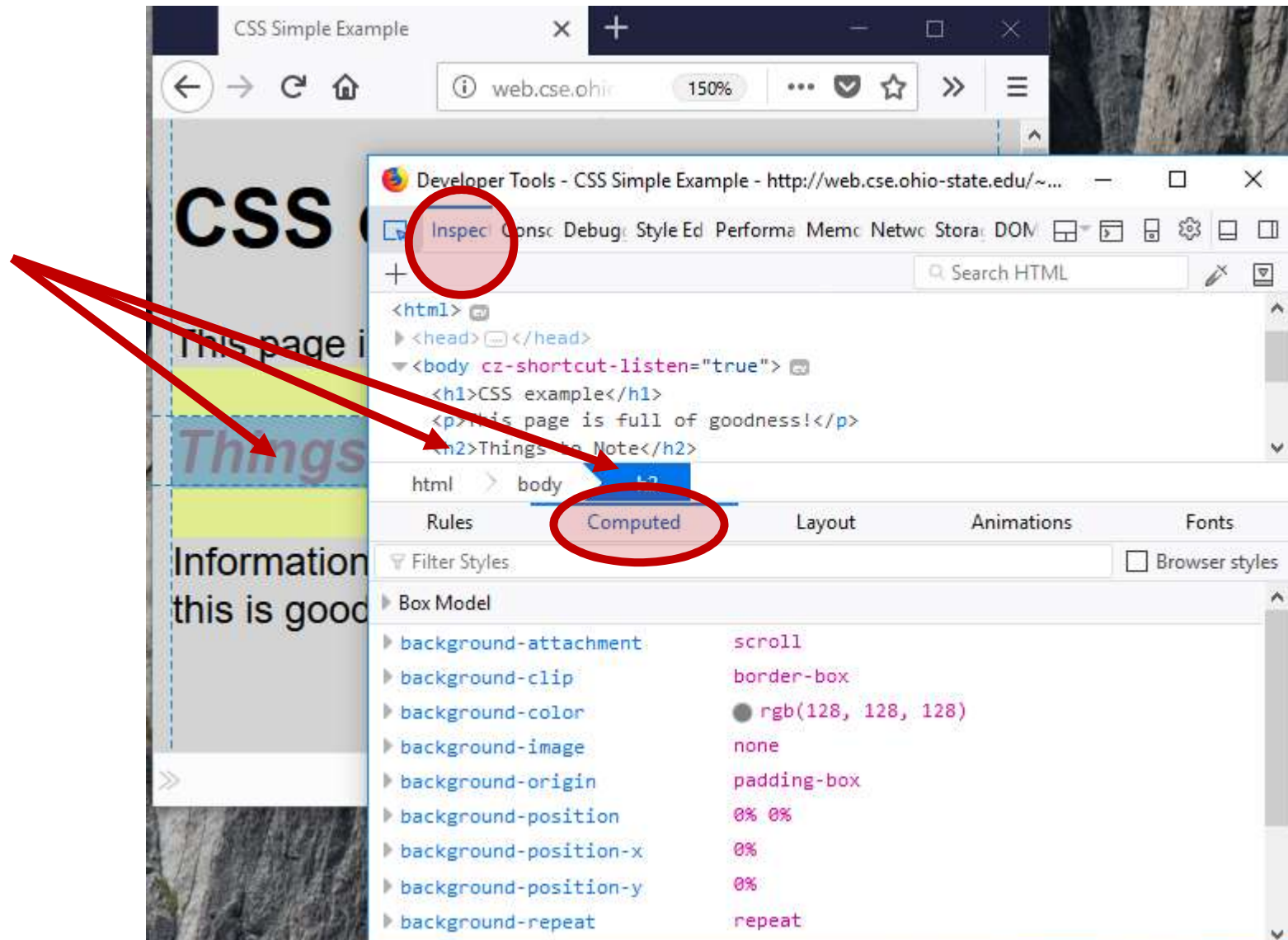
Example Inheritance

```
body {  
    font-family: sans-serif;  
    background: lightgray;  
}  
  
h2 {  
    color: darkred;  
    background: gray; /*new backgrnd*/  
    font-style: italic;  
                    /*inherits font family*/  
}
```

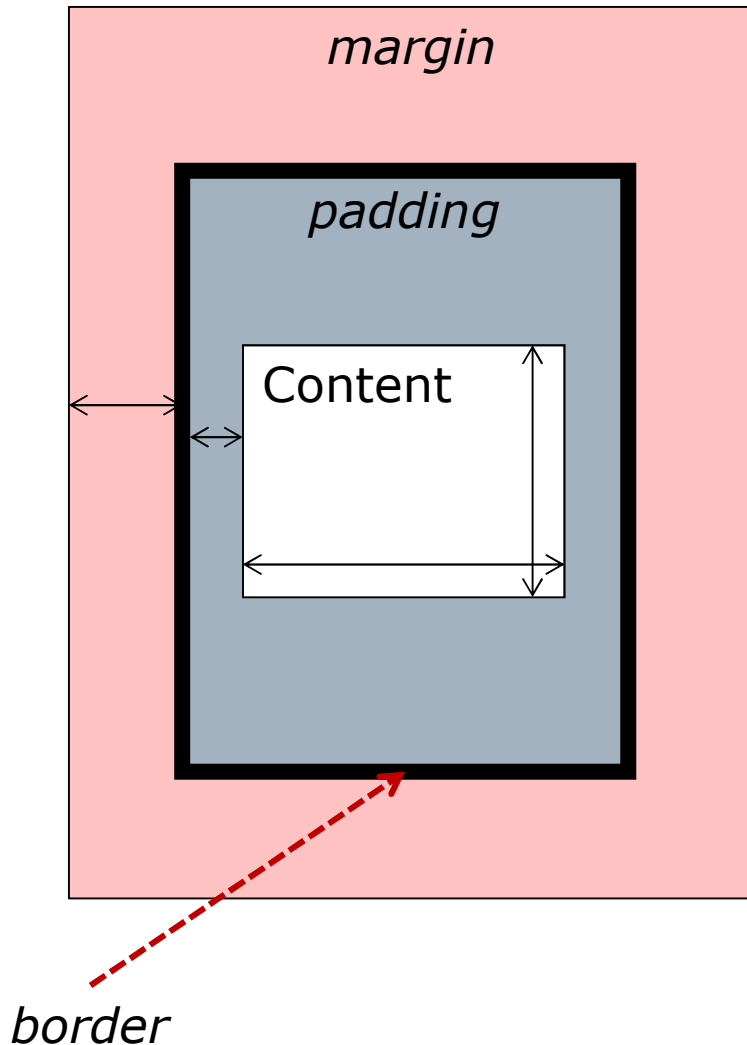
Inherited Properties



Demo: FF Dev. Inspector

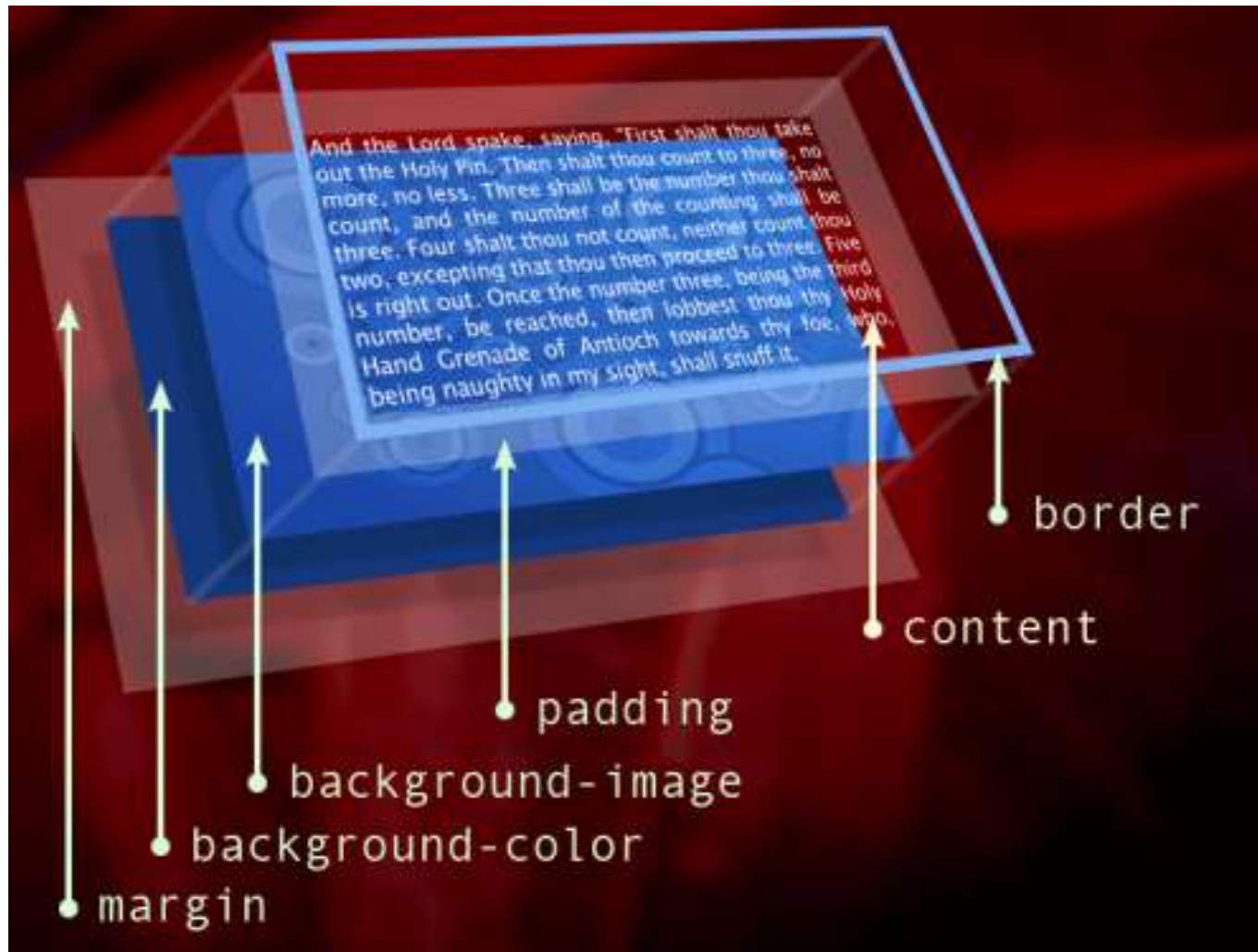


Layout: The Box Model

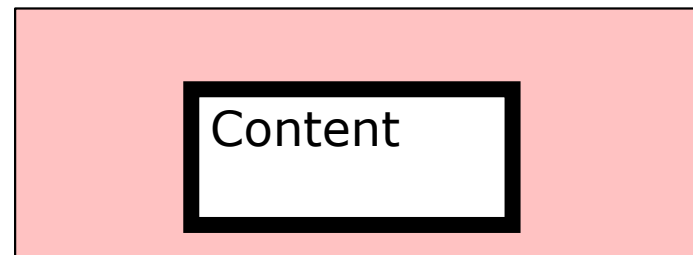
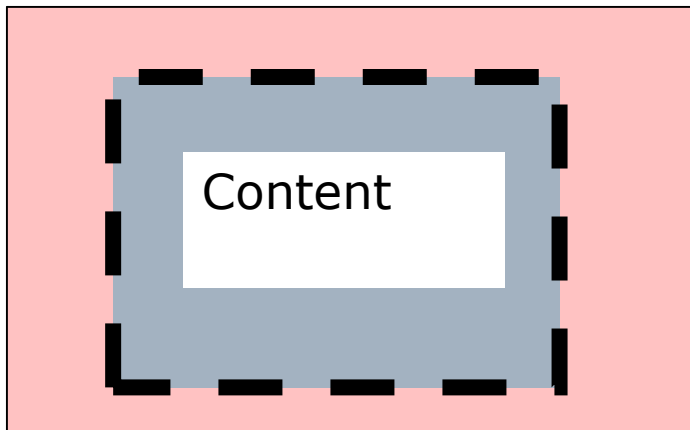
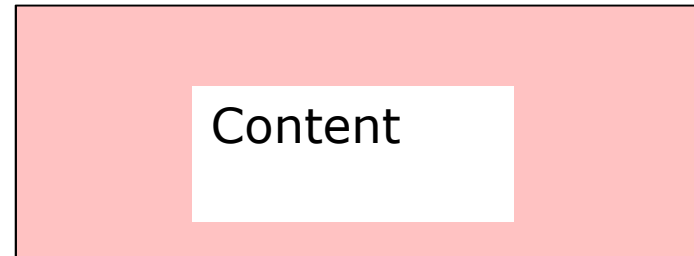
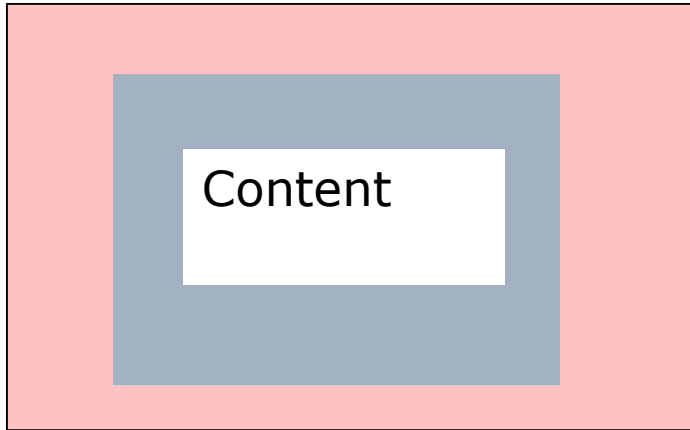


- Both block & inline
 - Minor differences
- Border appearance
 - Style, width, color, radius
- Margins & padding
 - Transparent
 - 4 independent sides
- Padding is *part* of it
 - *Content* background shows through
- Margins gives space
 - Some adjacent margins "collapse"

The Box Model As Layers

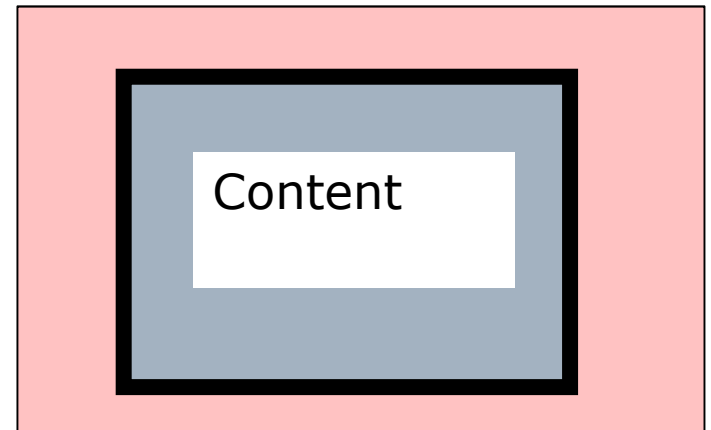


Examples



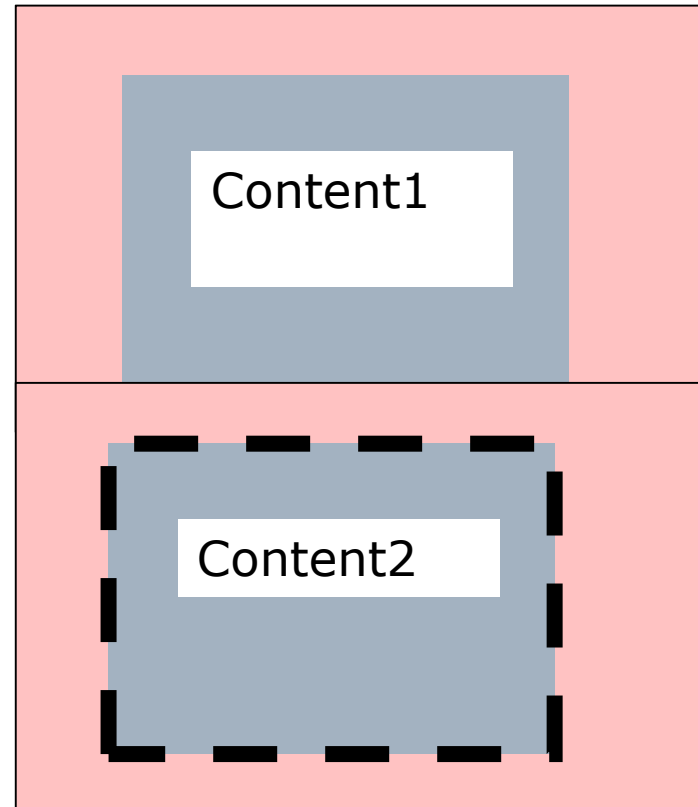
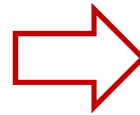
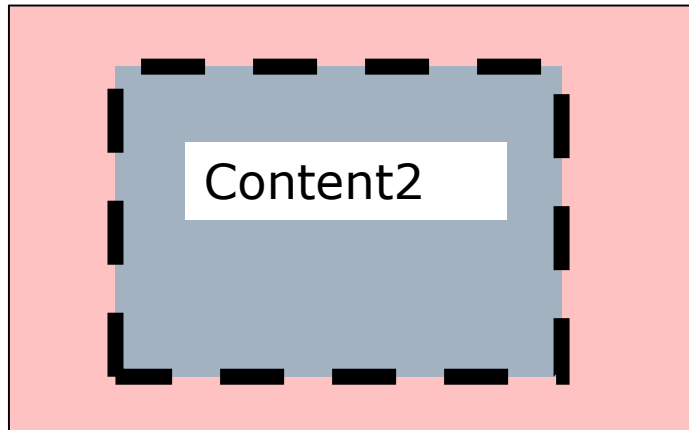
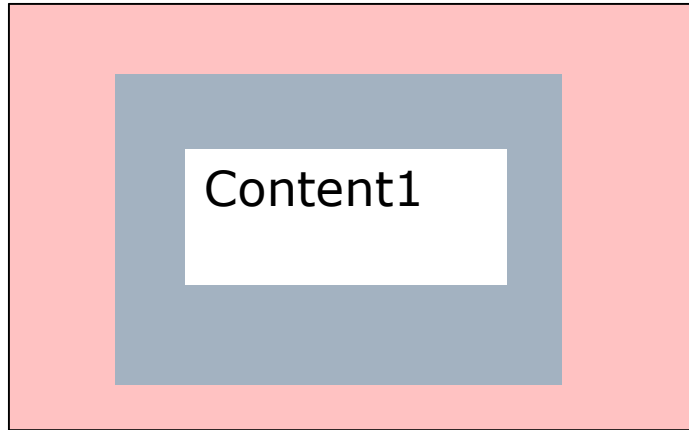
Box Sizing

```
p {  
  margin: 10px 100px 10px 10px;  
  border-width: 5px 1px 5px;  
  width: 200px;  
  padding: 2px;  
}
```

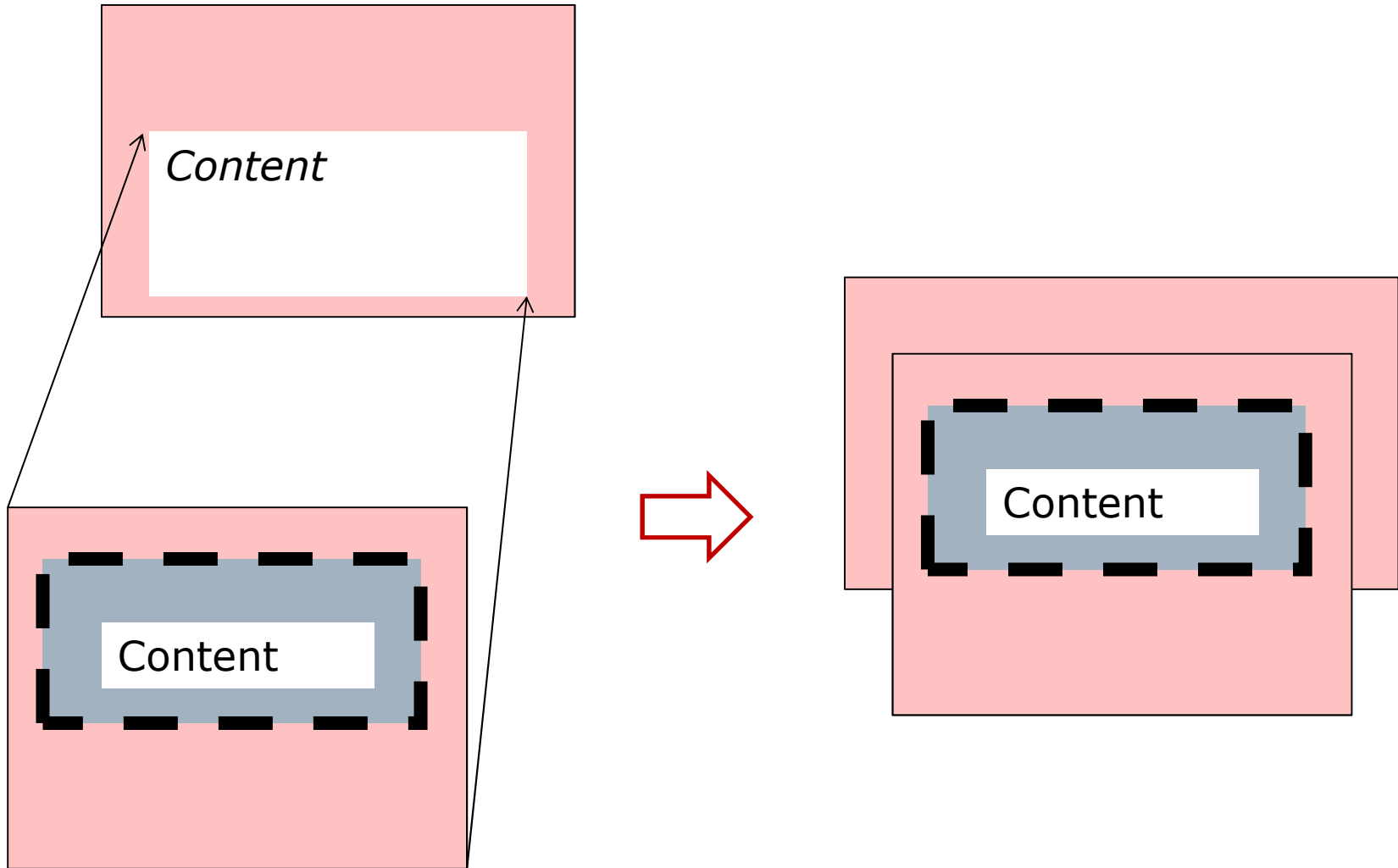


- ❑ Total width = ?
- ❑ CSS3 adds box-sizing
 - content-box (width sizes content only)
 - border-box (width includes border & padding)

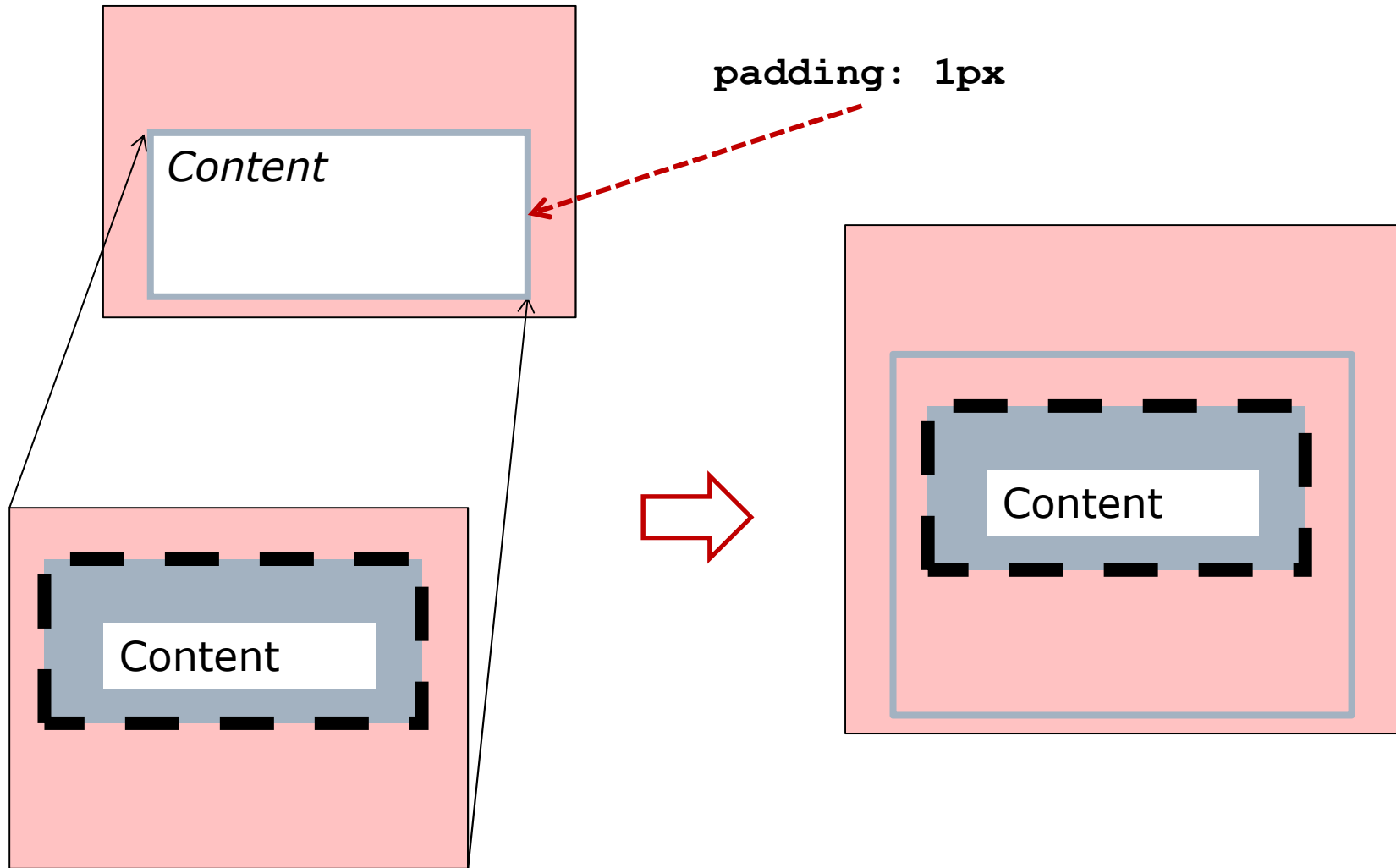
Collapsing Vertical Margins



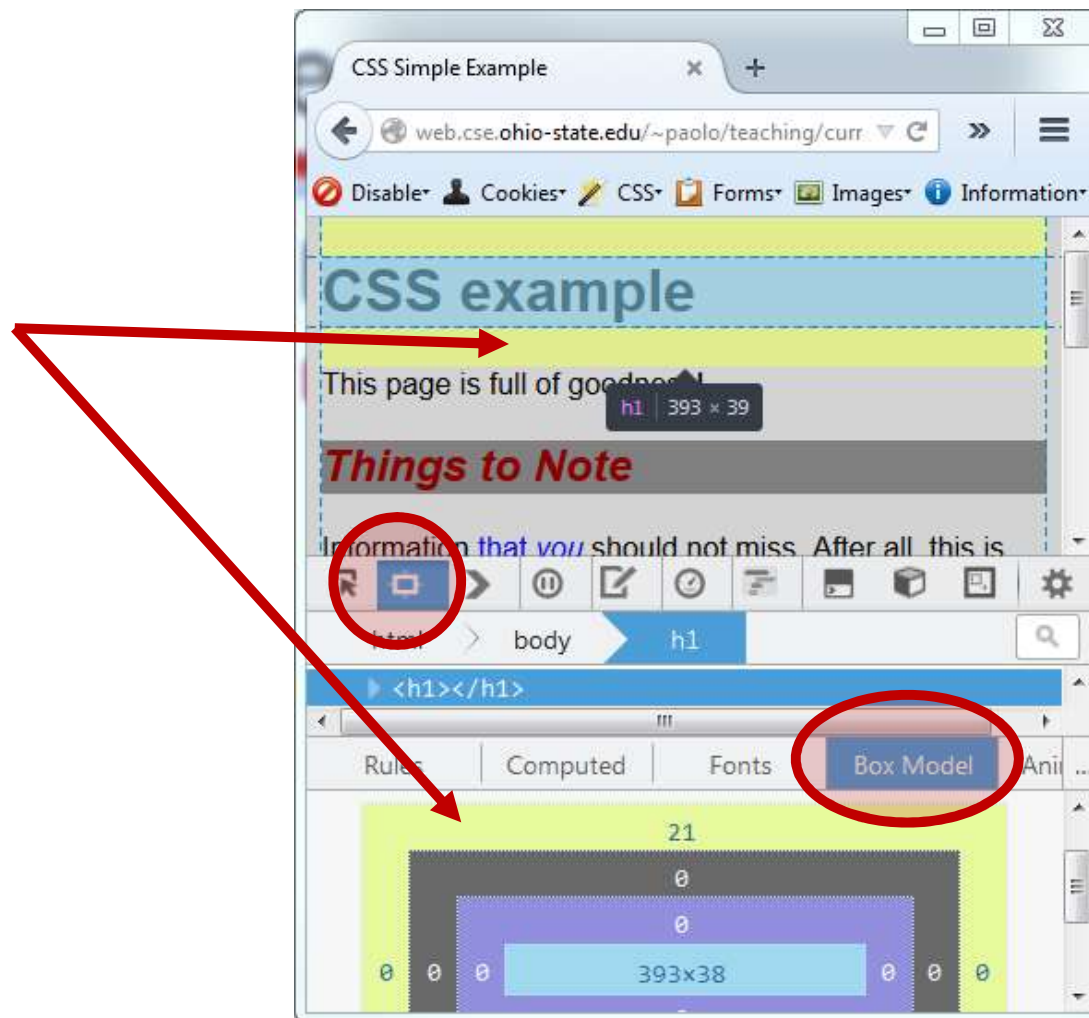
Collapsing Nested Margins



Preventing Margin Collapse



Demo: FF Dev. Inspector, Box



Inheritance and Box Sizing

- Generally, text properties (eg color) are inherited, while box-related (eg border) are not
- (Content) width set by parent, child “fits” inside
 - Relative, absolute
- (Content) height set by child, parent “fits” around
 - Relative, absolute
- Parent and child's (vertical) margins collapse (if they touch)

Summary

- CSS separates style from structure
 - Syntax: Rules with selectors, properties
 - Link to CSS file from HTML document
- Selectors for picking elements in tree
- Box Model
 - Content, padding, border, margin
 - Margins can collapse when overlapping
- Inheritance
 - Parent passes (font) properties to child
 - Box-related properties aren't inherited