the interaction between ligatures hyphenation and kerning

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Ligature
Discretionary

\discretionary{pre}{post}{replace}

explicit: `-`

automatic: `-`

regular: patterns

first: internal
second: internal
Hyphenated ligature

\[ ef-fe \]
\[ e \{f-\} \{f\} \{ff\} e \]
\[ e \{f-\} \{f\} \{ff\} e \]
Substitution
Hyphenation substitution

$$ef-fe$$

$$e[f-][f][ff]e$$
Hyphenation substitution (2)

\[ ef{-}fe \]

\[ e [ f{-} ] [ -f ] [ ff ] e \]

\[ e [ f{-} ] [ -f ] [ ff ] e \]
Hyphenation substitution (3)

\[ ef-fe \]

\[ e \left[ f^-- \right] \left[ -f \right] \left[ f^f \right] e \]

\[ e \left| f^-- \right| \left| -f \right| \left| f^f \right| e \]
Hyphenation substitution (4)

\textit{e\textbf{ffic}ient}

e[f-][fi][ffi-]c

e[f-][fi][ffi-]c
Languages

fijn
fijn
fijn
Relevance of typesetting

glyphs (shapes) are a way to communicate
writing and reading are complementary
both were instrumental to progress
and both are under pressure
we need to distinguish between art and useability
typography is a tool, not an aim
Relevance of ligatures

save space (less medium needed)

kind of arbitrary applied / provided

less relevant apart from look

alien for most readers

not always better readable

better spend energy elsewhere
Should we really care about such features in a time when kids no longer need to write and don’t seem to care at all about how things look.