

The sidenotes package*

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Abstract

This package tries to allow typesetting of rich content in the margin. This includes text, but also figures, captions, tables and citations (only with biblatex). This is common in science textbooks such as Feynman's *Lectures on Physics*.

Contents

1	Usage	1
2	Technical notes and further macros	2
3	Implementation	3

1 Usage

`\sidenote` The macro `\sidenote` is one main feature of the package. The macro is very similar to the footnote macro and tries to emulate its behavior. But like the name says, the note is put in the margin, hence the name sidenote. It has the same parameters as footnote plus an additional, optional offset: `\sidenote[number]{text}[offset]`. If no offset is given, the sidenote moves up or down (floats) to not overlap with other floats in the margin. If you use the offset (e.g. `\sidenote{foo}[10pt]`) the sidenote is shifted 10pt down in the margin. It might overlap with other floats now. This means, omitting the offset and `[0pt]` do not lead to the same result, but you will only notice if there are a moderate number of sidenotes or other marginals. All the sidenotes are subsequently numbered. The first, optional parameter will manually change the numbering of the sidenote.

`\sidenotemark` Sidenote tries to mimic the footnote behavior and tries to provide the same

*This document corresponds to `sidenotes` v0.51, dated 2011/10/05.

<code>\sidenotetext</code>	<p>solutions. Sometimes it is not possible to directly call a sidenote macro, e.g. in particular environments. Then, you can also use <code>\sidenotemark[number]</code> and <code>\sidenotetext[number]{text}</code> commands. <code>\sidenotemark</code> puts a mark at the current position. Then, outside of the environment that causes the trouble, it is possible the call <code>\sidenotetext{text}</code> to actually make the sidenote. Again, the first, optional parameter will manually change the numbering of the sidenote, the second optional postfix will adjust the position with an offset: <code>\sidenotetext[number]{text}[offset]</code></p>
<code>\sidesstyle</code>	<p>You can use <code>\renewcommand{\sidesstyle}{something}</code> if you want to change the font, text size, text color or something else of the sidenotes. It is initialized with <code>\footnotesize</code>. It is used as a prefix of the <code>\sidenotetext</code>.</p>
<code>\sidecite</code>	<p>The macro <code>\sidecite</code> puts a citation in the margin. It uses the <code>biblatex</code> package so you have to go with <code>biblatex</code> instead of <code>bibtex</code> to use <code>\sidecite</code>. Therefore, the macro has the same set of parameters plus the additional offset: <code>\sidecite[prenote][postnote]{key}[offset]</code>. The behavior is the same as in <code>\sidenote</code>, no offset means auto floating. If an offset value is given the position is fixed at a certain place, even if it overlaps with other text or objects. For post- and prenote please refer to the <code>biblatex</code> manual, the parameters are directly passed to <code>biblatex</code>.</p>
<code>\sidecaption</code>	<p>The <code>\sidecaption</code> macro can be used if the caption of a figure or table is supposed to be in the margin. Please note, that the formatting is done by the caption package. If the object is referenced by the use of <code>\label{somelabel}</code> the label should go in the sidecaption macro: For example <code>\sidecaption[I am a figure\label{fig:1}]</code>.</p>
<code>sidefigure</code>	<p>The <code>sidefigure</code> environment puts a figure and its caption in the margin. Instead of <code>\begin{figure}[htb]</code> use <code>\begin{sidefigure}[offset]</code>. Please note, that the use of caption before <code>\includegraphics</code> puts the caption in line with the top of the figure and the use after <code>\includegraphics</code> puts it in line with the bottom of the actual figure.</p>
<code>sidetable</code>	<p>The <code>sidetable</code> environment works similarly, but with table environments. Use <code>\begin{sidetable}[offset]</code> instead of <code>\begin{table}</code>.</p>

2 Technical notes and further macros

<code>\marginnote</code> <code>\marginpar</code>	<p>Sometimes it is useful to put text in the margin without a mark in the text. This can be achieved with <code>\marginnote{text}[offset]</code> or <code>\marginpar{text}</code>. This feature is not provided by this package, but by the <code>marginnote</code> package by Markus Kohm. The <code>sidenotes</code> package heavily uses the <code>marginnote</code> package. Technically, every time something is evoked with an offset, <code>\marginnote</code> is called. If it is called without an offset, it calls the normal <code>L^AT_EX</code> macro <code>\marginpar</code>. This is not true for the <code>sidecaption</code>, since the caption has to be adjacent to the figure or table. In that case, <code>\marginnote</code> is always used. The package also relies on the caption package by Harald Axel Sommerfeldt. The formatting of the figure and table captions has to be done through the caption package. The package also requires <code>xifthen</code> as well.</p>
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When writing the package, we tried to be as general as possible. Someone can e.g. use sidenotes mixed with footnotes. Also, the package tries to provide only functionality and does not know anything about formatting such as margin text size, color or anything else. Only `\sidesstyle` was added for convenience. If you are looking for a package that provides formatting defaults as well you might want to look into the `tufte-latex` packages.

3 Implementation

`\sidesstyle` This macro changes the text formatting of the sidenotes. Initially it just sets the text size to the footnote text size.

```
1 \newcommand*\sidesstyle{\footnotesize}
```

We need a counter similar to the footnote counter and we want to have a buffer.

```
2 \newcounter{sidenote} % make counter
3 \newcounter{@sidenotes@buffer}
4 \setcounter{sidenote}{1} % init counter
```

`\sidenote` Introduce the sidenote macro with an additional optional argument postfix to set the offset.

```
5 \newcommand*\sidenote[2][]{%
6 \begingroup%
7 \@ifnextchar [{\@sidenotes@sidenote[{#1}]{#2}}{\@sidenotes@sidenote[{#1}]{#2}[]}%
8 }
9
10 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@sidenote}{}
11 \def\@sidenotes@sidenote[#1]#2[#3]{%
12 \endgroup%
13 \@sidenotes@@sidenote[{#1}]{#2}[{#3}]%
14 }
15
16 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@@sidenote}{}
17 \def\@sidenotes@@sidenote[#1]#2[#3]{%
18 \ifthenelse{\isempty{#1}}{%
19 {\sidenotemark%
20 \sidenotetext{#2}[#3]}%
21 {\sidenotemark[#1]%
22 \sidenotetext[#1]{#2}}%
23 }
```

`\sidenotemark` Sidenotemark is supposed to work similarly to footnotemark.

```
24 \newcommand*\sidenotemark[1][]{%
25 \nobreak\hspace{0.1pt}\nobreak%
26 \ifthenelse{\isempty{#1}}{%
27 {\textsuperscript{\thesidenote}%
28 \refstepcounter{sidenote}}% if no argument is given use sidenote counter%
29 % else
```

```

30 {\setcounter{@sidenotes@buffer}{\value{sidenote}}}%
31 \setcounter{sidenote}{#1}%
32 \textsuperscript{\thesidenote}% print out the argument otherwise
33 \setcounter{sidenote}{\value{@sidenotes@buffer}}}%
34 \ignorespaces%
35 }%

\sidetext Sidetext is supposed to work similarly to footnotetext. The additional, optional argument postfix sets the offset.
36 \newcommand*{\sidetext}[2][]{%
37 \begin{group}
38 \@ifnextchar [{\@sidenotes@sidetext[#1]{#2}}{\@sidenotes@sidetext[#1]{#2}[]}%
39 }
40
41 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@sidetext}{%
42 \def\@sidenotes@sidetext[#1]#2[#3]{%
43 \endgroup%
44 \@sidenotes@@sidetext[#1]{#2}[#3]}%
45 }
46
47 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@@sidetext}{%
48 \def\@sidenotes@@sidetext[#1]#2[#3]{%
49 \ifthenelse{\isempty{#1}}{% sitenotemark given?
50 \addtocounter{sidenote}{-1}%
51 \ifthenelse{\isempty{#3}}{% offset?
52 \marginpar{\textsuperscript{\thesidenote}}{\sidestyle#2}}% no offset
53 {\marginnote{\textsuperscript{\thesidenote}}{\sidestyle#2}[#3]} % with offset
54 \addtocounter{sidenote}{1}}%
55 % else
56 {\ifthenelse{\isempty{#3}}{% offset?
57 {\marginpar{\textsuperscript{#1} \sidestyle#2}}% no offset
58 {\marginnote{\textsuperscript{\thesidenote}}{\sidestyle#2}}% with offset
59 }% fi
60 }%

\sidecite Sidecite puts the citation in the margin. The additional, optional argument postfix sets the offset. Please note, that it only works with biblatex and uses its syntax.
61 \newcommand{\sidecite}[1][]{%
62 \ifnextchar [%
63 \expandafter\@sidenotes@sidecitedo\@sidenotes@getnextopt{#1}%
64 }{%
65 \@sidenotes@sidecitedo{#1}{}%
66 }%
67 }
68 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@getnextopt}{%
69 \long\def\@sidenotes@getnextopt#1[#2]{{#1}{#2}}
70 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@sidecitedo}[3]{%
71 \begin{group}
72 \@ifnextchar [{\@sidenotes@sidecite[#1] [#2] [#3]}{\@sidenotes@sidecite[#1] [#2] [#3] []}%

```

```

73 }
74 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@sidecite}{%
75 \def\@sidenotes@sidecite[#1][#2]#3[#4]{%
76 \endgroup%
77 \@sidenotes@@sidecite[{#1}][{#2}]{#3}[{#4}]%
78 }
79
80 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@@sidecite}{%
81 \def\@sidenotes@@sidecite[#1][#2]#3[#4]{%
82 \sidenote{\fullcite[#1][#2]{#3}[#4]}%
83 }%

```

\sidecaption Sidecaption puts the caption in the margin. The additional, optional argument postfix sets the offset. It never floats with the other text in the margin, it has to be next to the figure.

```

84 \newcommand{\sidecaption}[2][{}]{%
85 \ifthenelse{\isempty{#1}}{%
86 {\marginnote{\caption{#2}}}%
87 % else
88 {\marginnote{\caption{#1}{#2}}}%
89 }%

```

sidefigure The sidefigure is similar to the figure environment. But the figure is put in the margin and the positioning is not h or b, but rather an offset, e.g. 10pt.

```

90 \newsavebox{\@sidenotes@sidefigurebox}
91 \newboolean{\@sidenotes@sidefigure@skip}
92 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@sidefigure@skiplength}{%
93
94 \newenvironment{sidefigure}[1][{}]{%
95 {\ifthenelse{\isempty{#1}} % offset?
96 {\setboolean{\@sidenotes@sidefigure@skip}{false}} % no offset
97 {\setboolean{\@sidenotes@sidefigure@skip}{true}\renewcommand{\@sidenotes@sidefigure@skiplength}{%
98 \begin{lrbox}{\@sidenotes@sidefigurebox}%
99 \begin{minipage}{\marginparwidth}%
100 \captionsetup{type=figure}}%
101 { \end{minipage}%
102 \end{lrbox}%
103 \ifthenelse{\boolean{\@sidenotes@sidefigure@skip}} % offset?
104 {\marginnote{\usebox{\@sidenotes@sidefigurebox}}[\@sidenotes@sidefigure@skiplength]} % with off
105 {\marginpar{\usebox{\@sidenotes@sidefigurebox}}} % no offset
106 }

```

sidetable The sidetable is similar to the table environment. But the table is put in the margin and the positioning is not h or b, but rather an offset, e.g. 10pt.

```

107 \newsavebox{\@sidenotes@sidetablebox}
108 \newboolean{\@sidenotes@sidetable@skip}
109 \newcommand{\@sidenotes@sidetable@skiplength}{%
110
111 \newenvironment{sidetable}[1][{}]{%

```

```

112 {\ifthenelse{\isempty{#1}} % offset?
113 {\setboolean{@sidenotes@sidedtable@skip}{false}} % no offset
114 {\setboolean{@sidenotes@sidedtable@skip}{true}\renewcommand{\@sidenotes@sidedtable@skiplength}{#1}
115 \begin{lrbox}{\@sidenotes@sidedtablebox}%
116 \begin{minipage}{\marginparwidth}%
117 \captionsetup{type=table}%
118 \sidedstyle}%
119 { \end{minipage}%
120 \end{lrbox}%
121 \ifthenelse{\boolean{@sidenotes@sidedtable@skip}}% offset?
122 {\marginnote{\usebox{\@sidenotes@sidedtablebox}}[\@sidenotes@sidedtable@skiplength]} % with offset
123 {\marginpar{\usebox{\@sidenotes@sidedtablebox}}} % no offset
124 }

```