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Chapter 1

Preliminaries

Introduction

Description

At some point during my L^AT_EX writing life, I decided to put together a portfolio of cool tricks and tips, which I had used in the past or wanted to apply in the future. Something like an index or a portfolio.

I wanted that document to consist of multiple small parts, one for each tip, and each part should contain both example code and the compiled example. A great deal of searching was done to find a technical solution which would allow for a document which would allow for:

1. indexable, possible multi-page examples
2. examples to be compiled in isolation, free of package conflicts which would surely emerge in such a document
3. a modular structure, with each example be a short .tex file which would be included to the collection

I did [a related question](#) a while back on TeX-StackExchange, but there was no good answer.

Finally, I managed to get a satisfactory result with the **pdfpages** package. I put together a template document to be used for each example, compile it and then include the output .pdf to the collection document.

The code of the top-level document can be seen below.

Enjoy!

Used Packages

pdfpages

Code

```
\documentclass[onepage]{book}

\usepackage{pdfpages}

\begin{document}

\tableofcontents

\chapter{Preliminaries}
\includepdf[pages=-, fitpaper=false, addtotoc={1,section,1,Template,sec:template}]{tricks/
  introduction/introduction.pdf}

<other-includes>

\end{document}
```

Check on the next section for the template code of each section.

Template

Description

A uniform template is useful to keep all the tips and examples of this portfolio consistent and searchable. The related code, both for the preamble and the document, as well as the compiled examples are provided in separate sections.

For this section, the template code is presented.

To create a new trick:

1. Create a new folder inside the tricks subfolder
2. Copy the code presented in the *Document* subsection into a new `root.tex` document
3. Build that `root.tex` document
4. Add an entry to the `portfolio.tex` overarching document and compile it

Used Packages

`xcolor`, `listings`, `url`, `hyperref`

Preamble

```
\documentclass{article}

\usepackage[a4paper, total={7in, 9in}]{geometry}
\pagestyle{empty}

\usepackage{xcolor} % Required for listings color definitions
\definecolor{Brown}{cmyk}{0,0.81,1,0.60}
\definecolor{OliveGreen}{cmyk}{0.64,0,0.95,0.40}
\definecolor{CadetBlue}{cmyk}{0.62,0.57,0.23,0}
\definecolor{lightlightgray}{gray}{0.9}

\usepackage{listings} % computer code language formatting

\lstdefinestyle{tex-style} {
  language=TeX,                % Code language
  basicstyle=\ttfamily,        % Code font, Examples: \footnotesize, \ttfamily
  %keywordstyle=\color{OliveGreen}, % Keywords font ('*' = uppercase)
  commentstyle=\color{gray},    % Comments font
  numbers=none,                 % Line nums position
  numberstyle=\tiny,           % Line-numbers fonts
  stepnumber=1,                % Step between two line-numbers
  numbersep=5pt,               % How far are line-numbers from code
  backgroundcolor=\color{lightlightgray}, % Choose background color
  frame=single,                % A frame around the code
  tabsize=2,                   % Default tab size
  captionpos=b,                % Caption-position = bottom
  breaklines=true,              % Automatic line breaking?
  breakatwhitespace=false,      % Automatic breaks only at whitespace?
  showspaces=false,             % Dont make spaces visible
  showtabs=false,               % Dont make tabs visible
  columns=flexible,             % Column format
  morekeywords={__global__, __device__} % CUDA specific keywords
}
```

```

\lstset{style=tex-style}

\usepackage[hyphens]{url}
\usepackage{hyperref}
\hypersetup{
colorlinks=true,
citecolor=black,
filecolor=black,
linkcolor=blue,
urlcolor=blue
}

```

Document

```

\documentclass{article}

\usepackage[a4paper, total={7in, 9in}]{geometry}
\pagestyle{empty}

%%
%% Default definitions
\input{../default-setup}

%%
%% Example-specific packages

%%
%% Example-specific preamble

\begin{document}

\section*{<example-title>}

\subsection*{Description}
<a-few-words-on-the-example>

\subsection*{Sources}
\textit{<add reference sources here>}
\url{<or paste a url>}

\subsection*{Used Packages}
\verb|<state-the-required-packages-here|

\subsection*{Preamble}
\begin{latex}
<paste-the-example-related-preamble-code-here>
\end{latex}

\subsection*{Document}
\begin{latex}
<paste-the-document-code-here-for-presentation>

```

```
\end{latex}  
  
\subsection*{Result}  
<paste-the-example-document-code-here-for-compilation>  
  
\end{document}
```

Chapter 2

Authoring tricks

Hand-written annotations

Description

Steven B. Segletes has shown a beautiful way to represent hand-written annotations over a text, with arrows and variable orientation.

However, a severe limitation is that these notes float at specified coordinates over a page and will not follow the text during pagination.

Note: My system didn't have the *emerald* font installed. I used the instructions found in <https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/79713/install-emerald-font-package-on-ubuntu> to install it. This official link <https://www.tug.org/fonts/fontinstall-personal.html> may provide some additional context.

Sources

<https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/317190/handwritten-comments-and-annotations-in-margin?newsletter=1&nlcode=544695%7c921f>

Used Packages

lipsum, stackengine, scalerel, everypage, xcolor, emerald, rotating, fontenc

Preamble

```
\usepackage{lipsum} % Used to create dummy text
\usepackage{stackengine} % Highly customised stacking of objects, insets, baseline changes,
etc
\usepackage{scalerel} % Constrained scaling and stretching of objects
\usepackage{everypage} % Provide hooks to be run on every page of a document
\usepackage{xcolor} % Driver-independent color extensions for LaTeX and pdfLaTeX
\usepackage{emerald} % The used annotation font
\usepackage{rotating} % Rotation tools, including rotated full-page floats
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc} % Standard package for selecting font encodings

\def\PageTopMargin{1in}
\def\PageLeftMargin{1in}
\newcommand\atxy[3]{%
  \AddThispageHook{\smash{\hspace*{\dimexpr-\PageLeftMargin-\hoffset+#1\relax}%
    \raisebox{\dimexpr\PageTopMargin+\voffset-#2\relax}{#3}}}}
\newcommand\handnote[6][0]{\atxy{#2}{#3}{\rotatebox{#1}{\parbox[t]{#4}{%
  \raggedright\fontfamily{fts}\selectfont\color{#5}{#6}}}}}
\newcommand\handxform[7]{% SCALING IS EMPLOYED TO EXPAND THE USEFUL RANGE OF #7
  \raisebox{#1}{%
    \scalebox{4}[#6]{% THE 4X SCALING IS LATER COUNTERED BY 0.25
      \raisebox{#2}{%
        \rotatebox{#3}{%
          \stretchto{%
            \rotatebox{#4}{%
              \char#5}%
            }{0.25\dimexpr#7\relax}% THE 0.25 IS COUNTERED BY THE EARLIER 4X SCALING
          }%
        }%
      }%
    }%
  }%
```



```

    }%
  }%
}
\newcommand\handline      [2][1]{\handxform{.20ex}{0.30ex}{-90}{ 12}{47}{#1}{#2}}
\newcommand\handrightarrow [2][1]{\handxform{.55ex}{0.45ex}{-90}{ 90}{62}{#1}{#2}}
\newcommand\handleftarrow  [2][1]{\handxform{.55ex}{-0.5ex}{ 90}{ 90}{62}{#1}{#2}}
\newcommand\handhookrightarrow [2][1]{\handxform{.70ex}{0.60ex}{-90}{-30}{35}{#1}{#2}}
\newcommand\handhookleftarrow [2][1]{\handxform{.50ex}{0.60ex}{-90}{ 30}{36}{#1}{#2}}
\newcommand\handstealthrightarrow [2][1]{\handxform{.50ex}{-0.2ex}{ 90}{ 80}{60}{#1}{#2}}
\newcommand\handstealthleftarrow [2][1]{\handxform{.50ex}{0.40ex}{-90}{ 80}{60}{#1}{#2}}

\newcommand\handyform[7]{\raisebox{#1}{\scalebox{#6}[1]{%
    \rotatebox{#3}{\stretchto{\rotatebox{#4}{\raisebox{#2}{\char#5}}}{#7}}}}}%
\newcommand\handuparrow    [2][1]{\handyform{.10ex}{-.08ex}{ 0}{ -0}{91}{#1}{#2}}
\newcommand\handdownarrow

```

Document

```

\begin{minipage}[c]{0.7\linewidth}
  \lipsum[1-2]
\end{minipage}

\handnote[1]{15cm}{3cm}{0.25\linewidth}{red}{\lipsum[4]}

\handnote[4]{1cm}{5cm}{3cm}{blue}{I have a really short comment}
\handnote[4]{3.5cm}{5cm}{2cm}{blue}{\handrightarrow[1.7]{4ex}}

\handnote[0]{5cm}{6.8cm}{9cm}{blue}{%
  \handline[2]{7ex} \handline[2.5]{6ex} \handline[2]{5ex}}%

\handnote[-75]{2cm}{10cm}{3cm}{red}{\handhookleftarrow[2.1]{6ex}}
\handnote[20]{3cm}{11cm}{2cm}{red}{This is a relatively short comment
  to display text rotation}

\handnote[89]{1cm}{10cm}{10cm}{red}{This is a vertical note}

%
\handnote[0]{6.5cm}{12cm}{10cm}{red}{\Large ACCENTS:\%
  handlines: \handline{6ex}\handline[3]{12ex}\\
  handrightarrows: \handrightarrow{4ex}\handrightarrow[2]{5ex}\\
  handleftarrows: \handleftarrow{4ex}\handleftarrow[2]{5ex}\\
  handhookrightarrows: \handhookrightarrow[1]{4ex}\handhookrightarrow[2.1]{7ex}\\
  handhookleftarrows: \handhookleftarrow[1]{5ex}\handhookleftarrow[2.1]{9ex}\\
  handstealthleftarrows: \handstealthleftarrow{5ex}\handstealthleftarrow[2]{5ex}\\
  handstealthrightarrows: \handstealthrightarrow{5ex}\handstealthrightarrow[2]{5ex}\\
  handuparrows \handuparrow{2ex}\handuparrow[1.2]{4ex}\\
  handdownarrows \handdownarrow{2ex}\handdownarrow[1.2]{4ex}}

```

Result

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetur id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

Nam dui ligula, fringilla a, euismod sodales, sollicitudin vel, wisi. Morbi auctor lorem non justo. Nam lacus libero, pretium at, lobortis vitae, ultricies et, tellus. Donec aliquet, tortor sed accumsan bibendum, erat ligula aliquet magna, vitae ornare odio metus a mi. Morbi ac orci et nisl hendrerit mollis. Suspendisse ut massa. Cras nec ante. Pellentesque a nulla. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Aliquam tincidunt urna. Nulla ullamcorper vestibulum turpis. Pellentesque cursus luctus mauris.

I have a really short comment

This is a vertical note

This is a relatively short comment to display text rotation

ACCENTS:

handlines: 

handrightarrows: 

handleftarrows: 

handhookrightarrows: 

handhookleftarrows: 

handstealthleftarrows: 

handstealthrightarrows: 

handuparrows 

handdownarrows 

Quisque ullamcorper placerat ipsum. Cras nibh. Morbi vel justo vitae lacus tincidunt ultrices. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Integer tempus convallis augue. Etiam facilisis. Nunc elementum fermentum wisi. Aenean placerat. Ut imperdiet, enim sed gravida sollicitudin, felis odio placerat quam, ac pulvinar elit purus eget enim. Nunc vitae tortor. Proin tempus nibh sit amet nisl. Vivamus quis tortor vitae risus porta vehicula.

Chapter 3

Tables

Colors in table elements

Description

Sometimes tables need some color in them. The `colortbl` package offers some nice functionalities and works with `tabularx` as well.

Sources

<https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/50349/color-only-a-cell-of-a-table>

Used Packages

`colortbl`

Preamble

```
\usepackage[table]{xcolor} % table option invokes the colortbl package
\usepackage{tabularx}
```

Document

```
\centering
\begin{tabularx}{0.5\linewidth}{%
  >{\columncolor{gray!80} [.5\tabcolsep]}1%
  |%
  >{\columncolor{white} [.5\tabcolsep]}X%
  !{\color{blue}\vline}
  @{\color{blue!50}\vrule width \doublerulesep}
  !{\color{blue}\vline}%
  >{\columncolor{white} [.5\tabcolsep]}r%
}
\textbf{Header 1} & \textbf{Header 2} & \textbf{Header 3} \\ \hline
Some & \cellcolor{blue!25}coloured & contents \\ \hline
\rowcolor{red!25} And & some & more \\ \hline
\rowcolor{red!25} \cellcolor{gray!80} And & some & more
```

Result

Header 1	Header 2	Header 3
Some	coloured	contents
And	some	more
And	some	more

Chapter 4

Miscellaneous

Custom Labels

Description

I wanted an easy-ish way to make and print labels for some storage boxes I use. I had tried tables in MS Word, and while dimensions and images are straightforward to build, it requires a lot of mouse clicking, dragging and typing, each time I want to make a new label.

The *ticket* package provides some amenities to do that. The philosophy behind it is that

1. you define some key lengths in the preamble, pertaining to the label geometry
2. you define a default ticket background, placing there any content which is common to all tickets
3. you define a ticket, which places the passed arguments appropriately for each label

Then, you call the `ticket` command for each new label you want to make.

In theory, this allows you to parse `.csv` files and turn their contents into labels (e.g. for conference badges).

Read the annotated code for more insight.

Sources

<http://mirror.utexas.edu/ctan/macros/latex/contrib/ticket/doc/manual.pdf>

Used Packages

`ticket`, `graphicx`, `tikz`

Preamble

```
% Define key quantities
% These are used to manually draw geometry
\newcommand{\labelWidth}{80}
\newcommand{\labelHeight}{60}
\newcommand{\labelSepHeight}{12}
\newcommand{\imageHeight}{45}

% Setup the ticket package lengths
% These are used by the ticket package
\unitlength = 1mm % Used unit
\ticketSize{80}{60} % label dimensions in \unitlength
\ticketNumbers{2}{4} % number of labels in each page
\ticketDistance{0}{0} % separation between each label. I selected 0 to cut both edges at once

% Define the default ticket background
% I used a single tikzpicture to draw the default layout. In theory you could use multiple
% separate \put commands, but I found the coordinate system awkward.
\renewcommand{\ticketdefault}{%
  \put(0,0){%
    \begin{tikzpicture}[x=1mm, y=1mm] % It helps turning tikz units into real mms for easier
      reference
      % % Add temporary grid for easier positioning of elements
      % \draw [gray!50, step=10] (0,0) grid + (\labelWidth,\labelHeight);
      % \node (zeroMark) at (2,2) {0};

    % Draw a frame
    \draw (0,0) -- %
```

```

(\labelWidth, 0) --%
(\labelWidth, \labelHeight) --%
(0, \labelHeight) --%
cycle;
% Draw the horizontal line
\draw (0, \labelHeight-\labelSepHeight) -- (\labelWidth, \labelHeight-\labelSepHeight);
\end{tikzpicture}
}
}

% Define the ticket content
\newcommand{\myLabel}[2]{\ticket{%
\put(0, 0){%
\begin{tikzpicture}[x=1mm, y=1mm]
% Draw the lable title
\node[anchor=center] (title) at (0.5*\labelWidth, \labelHeight-0.6*\labelSepHeight) {\Huge\textbf{#1}};
% Insert the image
\node[anchor=center] (img) at (0.5*\labelWidth, 0.5*\labelHeight-0.5*\labelSepHeight) {\includegraphics[height=\imageHeight mm]{#2}};
% The two diagonal points are inserted to create a tikz image as large as the label. In
this way, it is correctly placed within the image.
\node at (\labelWidth, \labelHeight) {};
\node at (0, 0) {};
\end{tikzpicture}}}%
}
}

```



Document

```

% Just use one \myLabel{title}{imageFile} for each label
\myLabel{Springs}{images/springs.jpg}
\myLabel{Magnets}{images/magnets}
\myLabel{Nails}{images/nails}
\myLabel{Regulators}{images/regulators}
\myLabel{Sandpaper}{images/sandpaper}
\myLabel{Screws}{images/screws2}

```

Result

Springs	Magnets
	
Nails	Regulators
	
Sandpaper	Screws
	

Chapter 5

Mathematics

Set math mode as default for each item in list

Description

Often times, a list containing only math-type content is needed. Typically, for each new list item the \mathbb{S} math environment definition is required.

Instead, this example shows a workaround in order to pre-load the math environment automatically for each new list item.

Used Packages

enumitem, xpatch

Preamble

```
\usepackage{enumitem} % Allows customization of the list environments
\usepackage{xpatch} % Container package extending new command declaration or patching existing
                      commands
% Define a new enumeration list type
\newlist{mathlist}{enumerate}{1}
% Set the numerals
\setlist[mathlist,1]{label={\arabic*.}}
% Add math environment opening and closing for each item
\AtBeginEnvironment{mathlist}{%
\pretocmd{\item}{\ifmmode\}\fi}{\}\fi}{}
\apptocmd{\item}{\ifmmode\else\(\fi}{\}\fi}{}
}
\AtEndEnvironment{mathlist}{%
\ifmmode \}\fi% Close math mode
}
```

Document

```
\begin{mathlist}
  \item  $x + y = z$ 
  \item  $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$ 
  \item  $E=mc^2$ 
  \item \)Non math - mode % Jumping out of math-mode
\end{mathlist}
\begin{enumerate}
  \item Foo % It's regular and not in math mode!
\end{enumerate}
```

Result

1. $x + y = z$
2. $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$
3. $E = mc^2$
4. Non math - mode
1. Foo

Chapter 6

tikz tricks

File System Structure

Description

A tree file system graphical structure is generated, drawn as a tikz image. The trees tikz library is used to build the structure.

Sources

<http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/306415/connecting-tree-nodes-with-double-arrows-a-la-chef?newsletter=1&nlcode=544695%7c921f>

Used Packages

tikz

Preamble

```
\documentclass[class=article, crop=false]{standalone}

\usepackage{tikz}
\usetikzlibrary{trees,decorations.markings}
```

Example Code

```
\tikzstyle{every node}=[draw=black,thick,anchor=west]
\tikzstyle{selected}=[draw=red,fill=red!30]
\tikzstyle{optional}=[dashed,fill=gray!50]

\newcommand{\arrowcolor}{red}
\newcommand{\arrowfillcolor}{white}

\pgfdeclarelayer{front}
\pgfsetlayers{main,front}

\makeatletter
\pgfkeys{%
/tikz/path on layer/.code={
\def\tikz@path@do@at@end{\endpgfonlayer\endgroup\tikz@path@do@at@end}%
\pgfonlayer{#1}\begingroup%
}%
}
\makeatother

\begin{tikzpicture}[%
rightarr/.pic={\path[pic actions] (-0.4,0)--(-1,-0.35)--(-1,.35)--cycle;},
grow via three points={one child at (0.5,-0.7) and
two children at (0.5,-0.7) and (0.5,-1.4)},
edge from parent path={{\tikzparentnode.south} |- (\tikzchildnode.west)},
edge from parent/.style={
decoration={
markings,
```

```

mark=at position 1 with{\coordinate (0, 0) pic[\arrowcolor,fill=\arrowfillcolor,scale=0.22]{
  rightarr}};},
},
draw = \arrowcolor,
line width = 3pt,
shorten >= 5.7pt,
shorten <= 2pt,
postaction = {decorate},
postaction = {draw,line width=1.4pt,white,path on layer=front},
}]
\node {texmf}
child { node {doc}}
child { node {fonts}}
child { node {source}}
child { node [selected] {tex}
child { node {generic}}
child { node [optional] {latex}}
child { node {plain}}
}
child [missing] {}
child [missing] {}
child [missing] {}
child { node {texdoc}};
\end{tikzpicture}

```

Example Result

