crefthe - cross referencing with proper definite articles

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Abstract

The package crefthe provides a command \crefthe parallel to cleveref's \cref for handling definite articles properly (especially for the article contractions in some European languages).

/1/ The motivation

- By default, with cleveref's \cref to reference theorem-like environments, the names do not contain definite articles. While this might be acceptable for English, it is certainly not good
- enough for languages such as French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, etc. in these cases there
- shall be grammatical errors and would give you a strong feeling that it is machine-generated.
- However, even if we manually add the definite articles to the names, there would still be
- other problems. As an example, if we define the French names to be:

\crefname{theorem}{le théorème}{les théorèmes} \crefname{proposition}{la proposition}{les propositions}

then when one writes (which means "We can deduce this from ...")

On peut le déduire de \cref{thm1,thm2,prop3}.

the result would be:

On peut le déduire **de les** théorèmes 1 et 2 et **la** proposition 3.

which is wrong, as the correct result should be:

On peut le déduire **des** théorèmes 1 et 2 et **de la** proposition 3.

\cref cannot handle such cases automatically — that is when \crefthe comes into play.

/ 2 / The usage

2.1 | How to load it?

Simply load the package with:

\usepackage{crefthe}

Corresponding to: crefthe 2022/02/06

TIP

- Since crefthe uses cleveref internally, it should usually be placed at the last of your preamble, and notably, after varioref and hyperref.
- To handle article contractions correctly, \crefthe shall detect the current language, thus you need to use packages such as babel or polyglossia to set your languages, and use commands like \selectlanguage to select them appropriately.

2.2 | How to use it?

Before everything, you need to define the names, which can be done with \crefthename. Its syntax is similar to \crefname, but now you can specify the definite articles, for example:

\crefthename{theorem}[le]{théorème}[les]{théorèmes}

Then you can use the command \crefthe as follows:

- \crefthe [\langle prep \rangle] {\langle labels \rangle}
 - This will pass the preposition $\langle prep \rangle$ to the definite articles that follows. Its behavior depends on the current language (for example, in Spanish, \(\rho prep \rangle \) is passed only to the first definite article, while in French it is passed to everyone).
- $\crefthe-[\langle prep\rangle] {\langle labels\rangle}$ and $\crefthe+[\langle prep\rangle] {\langle labels\rangle}$
 - In case the automatic version does not meet your needs, here are two manual ones. The - version passes the preposition $\langle prep \rangle$ only to the first definite article, while the + version passes $\langle prep \rangle$ to every definite article.

TIP

There is also a stared version \crefthe* for generating the same referencing text but without creating hyperlinks.

/ 3 / Example

Let us come back to the example at the beginning, now you can do this:

\crefthename{theorem}[le]{théorème}[les]{théorèmes} \crefthename{proposition}[la]{proposition}[les]{propositions}

And the sentence shall be written as:

On peut le déduire \crefthe[de]{thm1,thm2,prop3}.

which would result in (provided that you have done \selectlanguage{french}):

On peut le déduire **des** théorèmes 1 et 2 et **de la** proposition 3.

Voilà!

/4/ Regarding the cases

The commands also have correspoding uppercased version: \Crefthename and \Crefthe, similar to cleveref's \Crefname and \Cref, reserved for use at the beginning of a sentence. \Crefthe can handle case changing automatically: for example, with \Crefthe[A] {thm1, thm2, prop3}, you will get something like

Aux théorèmes 1 et 2 et à la proposition 3

Of course you will have to define the \Crefthenames separately, for example as:

\Crefthename{theorem}[Le]{théorème}[Les]{théorèmes} \Crefthename{proposition}[La]{proposition}[Les]{propositions}

/ 5 / Relationship with cleveref

crefthe loads cleveref automatically and pass all the options to it. All its commands, used without optional arguments, degenerate to those in cleveref. For example, \crefthe{...} is the same as \cref{...}, and \crefthename is the same as \crefname if the definite articles are not specified. That said, you can safely use the command \crefthe everywhere in your document without causing extra trouble.

With the option overwrite, user commands in cleveref will be replaced by those offered here, thus you can simply write \cref for \crefthe - and similarly for \Cref, \crefname and \Crefname.

/ 6 / For multi-language documents

To place hyperlinks at the right place, \crefthename touches the corresponding \crefformat internally, which makes the format language-dependent. If you are writing multi-language documents, you may consider putting \crefthename inside your language configuration so as to reset it each time you select a new language.

/ 7 / Known issues

- crefthe currently works for French, Italian, Portuguese (European and Brazilian) and Spanish, certainly more would be added to this list.
- The current mechanism does not work for German. The author plans to adopt a more refined approach in later versions in order to support the various situations in German.
- The names of theorem-like environments are not provided for the moment you need to define them all by yourself. However, users are encouraged to use the ProjLib toolkit, which already handles everything for you.