mindflow – write your ideas in a clear way

JINWEN XU 2021/09/12

1. Introduction

The mindflow package provides you a way to write your ideas and annotations clearly. For example, with the options linenumber and rightmarker, you will get something like:

What to write next:

usage: the initialization, options and configuration;

an example;

some word on the line numbering feature;

some internal macros;

the complete code.

This example only shows the default effect. You can customize it further according to the instructions in the next section.

2. The usage

2.1 How to load it?

Simply load the package with

\usepackage{mindflow}

By default, the environment has no line numbers or markers. You can use the following options (they can be specified directly, like off, or as a boolean optional, like off=false):

linenumber Same as leftlinenumber leftlinenumber Enable left line numbers rightlinenumber Enable right line numbers

leftmarkerEnable left marker, by default it is a "*"rightmarkerEnable right marker, by default it is a "*"incolumn or twocolumnThe separation line would fit in the column

(automatically applied in two-column documents)

off, on Turn the mindflow environments off or on

Additionally, there is an option nonbreakble, which enables the tcolorbox version, permits a background color, but is not breakable and doesn't support line numbering quite well.

2.2 How to use it?

{mindflow} You can then use the mindflow environment as

 $\begin{mindflow}{} & \langle text \rangle \\ & \end{mindflow} \end{mindflow}$

2.3 Further configuration

\mindflowset

You can use $\mbox{mindflowset}\{\langle configuration \rangle\}$ to configure the mindflow environment. The available keys are listed at the top of the next page.

left	The left marker	right	The right marker
textcolor	Color of the text	textfont	Font of the text
numcolor	Color of line numbers	numfont	Font of line numbers
markercolor	Color of the markers	markerfont	Font of the marker
linecolor	Color of the separation line	lineheight	Height of the separation line

Additionally, all the options mentioned in the previous section (except for nonbreakble) can be set with \mindflowset. *

3. An example

With the following settings:

```
\mindflowset{
   leftlinenumber, rightlinenumber, leftmarker, rightmarker,
   linecolor = green!50!black,
   textcolor
             = blue!50!cyan,
   numcolor
               = red!50!orange,
   markercolor = orange,
               = \footnotesize\sffamily\itshape,
   textfont
   numfont
               = \small\footnotesize\ttfamily,
   markerfont = \footnotesize\sffamily,
   left
               = \hspace{1em}\(\succ\),
   right
               = \(\prec\)\hspace{1em},
   lineheight = 1pt
}
```

One will have something like this:

4. About the line numbers

- You can also add line numbers to the other part of your document in the usual way. For
- example, line numbers have been turned on for this paragraph with \linenumbers.

Line numbers within the mindflow environments are independent from those of the main text.

- (I recommend that you put an empty line before and after the mindflow environments, i.e. make the
- mindflow environment a paragraph of its own. This way, your paragraph structure won't get changed
- 5 when you use the off option.)

The line numbering feature is provided by the package lineno. For more details, please refer to its documentation. Notice that, by default, displayed equations are not numbered. You can add the following line before \usepackage{mindflow}:

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{mathlines}{lineno}
```

to enable the line numbers for displayed equations.

```
12  (a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2 
 (a+b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3 
*
```

^{*}If the package option nonbreakble is enabled, then there is also a key backgroundcolor, similar to textcolor, for configuring the background color of the mindflow environments.

5. Some TeXnical details

5.1 Internal macro for text elements

\mindflowTextFont \mindflowNumFont \mindflowMarkerFont

The font for text, line numbers and markers within the mindflow environments can be specified by redefining \mindflowTextFont, \mindflowNumFont and \mindflowMarkerFont. By default, they are defined as:

```
\newcommand{\mindflowTextFont}{\footnotesize}
\newcommand{\mindflowNumFont}{\scriptsize\ttfamily}
\newcommand{\mindflowMarkerFont}{\scriptsize\ttfamily}
```

\mindflowLeft \mindflowRight

The left and right markers is defined by \mindflowLeft and \mindflowRight. Both have the default value "*".

\mindflowLineHeight

The height of the separation lines is a length macro named \mindflowLineHeight, with default value 0.4pt. You can change this with \setlength.

5.2 Internal name of the colors

mindflowLine mindflowText mindflowNum mindflowMarker And finally, the colors for the separation lines, text, line numbers and markers within the mindflow environments are called mindflowLine, mindflowText, mindflowNum and mindflowMarker, respectively. By default, they have the same color as the context, with opacity 40% for the separation lines and text, 20% for the markers, and 8% for line numbers.

*mindflowBackground

If the package option nonbreakable is enabled, then there is also the background color mindflowBackground, which by default is white.

6. The same example

With option leftlinenumber, rightlinenumber, leftmarker, rightmarker and the following settings:

```
\colorlet{mindflowLine}{green!50!black}
\colorlet{mindflowText}{blue!50!cyan}
\colorlet{mindflowNum}{red!50!orange}
\colorlet{mindflowMarker}{orange}
\renewcommand{\mindflowTextFont}{\footnotesize\sffamily\itshape}
\renewcommand{\mindflowNumFont}{\small\footnotesize\ttfamily}
\renewcommand{\mindflowMarkerFont}{\footnotesize\sffamily}
\renewcommand{\mindflowLeft}{\hspace{1em}\(\succ\)}
\renewcommand{\mindflowRight}{\(\prec\)\hspace{1em}}
\setlength{\mindflowLineHeight}{1pt}
```

One will get the same result as in the previous example.

7. Known issues

- There is no absolute guarantee that the separation lines will not fall alone at the top or bottom of the page, though great effort has been made to reduce the occurrence of such situation.
- The tcolorbox version doesn't support line numbering quite well, especially for displayed equations. This is due to the usage of internallinenumbers.

8. Implementation

Below is the complete source code of this package.

```
1 \RequirePackage{kvoptions}
2 \SetupKeyvalOptions{%
      family = @mindflow,
3
      prefix = @mindflow@
<sub>5</sub> }
6 \DeclareBoolOption[true]{on}
                                          % Turn on mindflow
7 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{off}
                                          % Turn off mindflow
8 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{leftmarker}
                                          % Left marker
9 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{rightmarker}
                                          % Right marker
10 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{linenumber}
                                          % Left line numbers
11 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{leftlinenumber} % Left line numbers
12 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{rightlinenumber} % Right line numbers
13 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{twocolumn}
                                          % Two column
14 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{incolumn}
                                          % Separation line fits in column
15 \DeclareBoolOption[false]{nonbreakable}
                                          % Use the tcolorbox version
17 \ProcessKeyvalOptions*\relax
18
19 \if@mindflow@on
   \@mindflow@offfalse
21 \fi
22 \if@mindflow@twocolumn
  \@mindflow@incolumntrue
24 \fi
25 \if@mindflow@linenumber
   \@mindflow@leftlinenumbertrue
27 \fi
28
30 %% Initialization
32 \RequirePackage{lineno}
33 \RequirePackage{xcolor}
35 \colorlet{mfSavedColor}{.}
36 \colorlet{mindflowLine}{mfSavedColor!40}
37 \colorlet{mindflowText}{mfSavedColor!40}
38 \colorlet{mindflowMarker}{mfSavedColor!20}
39 \colorlet{mindflowNum}{mfSavedColor!8}
41 \newcommand{\mindflowTextFont}{\footnotesize}
42 \newcommand{\mindflowNumFont}{\scriptsize\ttfamily}
43 \newcommand{\mindflowMarkerFont}{\scriptsize\ttfamily}
44 \newcommand{\mindflowLeft}{*}
45 \newcommand{\mindflowRight}{*}
46 \newlength{\mindflowLineHeight}
47 \setlength{\mindflowLineHeight}{0.4pt}
48
50 %% The mindflow environment
52 \PassOptionsToPackage{all}{nowidow}
```

```
53 \RequirePackage{nowidow}
54 \RequirePackage{verbatim}
55
56 \newif\ifLNturnsON
57 \def\LocallyStopLineNumbers{\LNturnsONfalse%
       \ifLineNumbers\LNturnsONtrue\fi\nolinenumbers}
59 \def\ResumeLineNumbers{\ifLNturnsON\linenumbers\fi}
60
61 \newcounter{recordLN}
62 \newcounter{mfLN}
63 \setcounter{mfLN}{1}
64
65 \newcommand*{\mfSepLine}{%
     \par%\nobreak%
     \LocallyStopLineNumbers%
67
     \vspace*{-.5\baselineskip}%
68
     \noindent%
69
     \if@mindflow@incolumn%
70
       \makebox[\linewidth]{\color{mindflowLine}\rule{\linewidth}{\
71
       mindflowLineHeight}}%
72
     \else%
       \hspace*{-\paperwidth}%
73
       \makebox[\linewidth]{\color{mindflowLine}\rule{4\paperwidth}{\
74
       mindflowLineHeight}}%
     \fi%
75
     \par%\nobreak%
76
     \ResumeLineNumbers%
77
<sub>78</sub> }
79
   \newcommand{\mindflow@makeLineNumber}{%
80
81
     \if@mindflow@leftlinenumber%
82
       \normalfont\mindflowNumFont\color{mindflowNum}\LineNumber\hspace{1em}%
83
84
     \color{mindflowMarker}%
85
     \if@mindflow@leftmarker%
86
87
       \normalfont\mindflowMarkerFont\mindflowLeft\hspace{1em}%
     \fi%
88
     \rlap{\hskip\textwidth%
89
       \if@mindflow@rightmarker%
91
         \hspace{1em}\mindflowRight%
       \fi%
92
       \if@mindflow@rightlinenumber%
93
         \hspace{1em}%
94
         \normalfont\mindflowNumFont\color{mindflowNum}\LineNumber%
95
       \fi%
96
     }%
97
98 }%
99
100 \let\mindflowOFF=\comment
  \let\endmindflowOFF=\endcomment
101
   \def\mindflowON{%
103
     \postdisplaypenalty=10000
104
     \parskip=0pt
105
     \medskip%
106
```

```
\setcounter{recordLN}{\value{linenumber}}%
107
     \setcounter{linenumber}{\value{mfLN}}%
108
     \mfSepLine%
109
     \normalfont\mindflowTextFont\color{mindflowText}%
110
     \linenumbers%
111
     \let\makeLineNumber\mindflow@makeLineNumber%
112
     \nopagebreak%
113
114 }
   \def\endmindflowON{%
115
     \nowidow[3]%
116
     \mfSepLine%
117
     \setcounter{mfLN}{\value{linenumber}}%
118
     \setcounter{linenumber}{\value{recordLN}}%
119
     \medskip%
120
121 }
122
   \colorlet{mindflowBackground}{white}
123
124
   \if@mindflow@nonbreakable
125
126 \PassOptionsToPackage{many}{tcolorbox}
127 \RequirePackage{tcolorbox}
   \newlength{\mindflow@parindent}
   \newlength{\mindflow@parskip}
   \def\mindflowON{%
130
     \LNturnsONfalse%
131
     \ifLineNumbers\LNturnsONtrue\fi\nolinenumbers%
132
     \setlength{\mindflow@parindent}{\parindent}%
133
     \setlength{\mindflow@parskip}{\parskip}%
134
     \begin{tcolorbox}[enhanced jigsaw,
135
       colback=mindflowBackground,colframe=mindflowLine,
136
       leftrule=0pt, rightrule=0pt, sharp corners,
137
       toprule=\mindflowLineHeight, bottomrule=\mindflowLineHeight,
138
       boxsep=0pt, top=.3\baselineskip, bottom=.3\baselineskip,
139
       grow to left by=\linewidth,left=\linewidth,
140
       grow to right by=\linewidth,right=\linewidth,
141
       fontupper=\mindflowTextFont,extras={colupper={mindflowText}},
142
       before upper={
143
         \setlength{\parindent}{\mindflow@parindent}%
144
         \setlength{\parskip}{\mindflow@parskip}%
145
       }]
146
       \begin{internallinenumbers}%
147
         \let\makeLineNumber\mindflow@makeLineNumber%
148
  }
149
   \def\endmindflowON{%
150
         \nowidow[3]%
151
       \end{internallinenumbers}%
152
     \end{tcolorbox}\par%
153
     \ifLNturnsON\linenumbers\fi%
154
155 }
   \fi
156
157
   \if@mindflow@off
     \let\mindflow=\mindflowOFF
159
     \let\endmindflow=\endmindflowOFF
160
161 \else
     \let\mindflow=\mindflowON
```

```
\let\endmindflow=\endmindflowON
164 \fi
165
166 %%==
167 %% \mindflowset
  %=============
   \define@key{mindflow}{on}[true]{%
169
     \csname @mindflow@on#1\endcsname%
170
     \if@mindflow@off%
171
       \let\mindflow=\mindflowOFF%
172
       \let\endmindflow=\endmindflowOFF%
173
174
       \let\mindflow=\mindflowON%
175
       \let\endmindflow=\endmindflowON%
176
177
178 }
   \define@key{mindflow}{off}[true]{%
179
     \csname @mindflow@off#1\endcsname%
     \if@mindflow@off%
181
       \let\mindflow=\mindflowOFF%
182
       \let\endmindflow=\endmindflowOFF%
183
     \else%
184
       \let\mindflow=\mindflowON%
185
       \let\endmindflow=\endmindflowON%
186
187
     \fi%
188 }
   \define@key{mindflow}{leftmarker}[true]{\csname @mindflow@leftmarker#1\
       endcsname}
190 \define@key{mindflow}{rightmarker}[true]{\csname @mindflow@rightmarker#1\
       endcsname}
191 \define@key{mindflow}{linenumber}[true]{\csname @mindflow@linenumber#1\
       endcsname}
192 \define@key{mindflow}{leftlinenumber}[true]{\csname
       @mindflow@leftlinenumber#1\endcsname}
193 \define@key{mindflow}{rightlinenumber}[true]{\csname
       @mindflow@rightlinenumber#1\endcsname}
194 \define@key{mindflow}{twocolumn}[true]{\csname @mindflow@twocolumn#1\
       endcsname}
195 \define@key{mindflow}{incolumn}[true]{\csname @mindflow@incolumn#1\
       endcsname}
196 \define@key{mindflow}{linecolor}{\colorlet{mindflowLine}{#1}}
197 \define@key{mindflow}{textcolor}{\colorlet{mindflowText}{#1}}
198 \define@key{mindflow}{numcolor}{\colorlet{mindflowNum}{#1}}
  \define@key{mindflow}{markercolor}{\colorlet{mindflowMarker}{#1}}
   \define@key{mindflow}{backgroundcolor}{
     \if@mindflow@nonbreakable
201
       \colorlet{mindflowBackground}{#1}
202
     \else
       \PackageWarning{mindflow}{The key 'backgroundcolor' is only available
204
        when the package option\MessageBreak ''nonbreakable'' is enabled.}
     \fi
205
206 }
  \define@key{mindflow}{textfont}{\renewcommand{\mindflowTextFont}{#1}}
  \define@key{mindflow}{numfont}{\renewcommand{\mindflowNumFont}{#1}}
209 \define@key{mindflow}{markerfont}{\renewcommand{\mindflowMarkerFont}{#1}}
210 \define@key{mindflow}{left}{\renewcommand{\mindflowLeft}{\#1}}
```

```
211 \define@key{mindflow}{right}{\renewcommand{\mindflowRight}{#1}}
   \define@key{mindflow}{lineheight}{\setlength{\mindflowLineHeight}{#1}}
   \newcommand{\mindflowset}[1]{%
     \setkeys{mindflow}{#1}%
214
     \if@mindflow@twocolumn%
215
       \@mindflow@incolumntrue%
216
     \fi%
217
     \if@mindflow@linenumber%
218
       \@mindflow@leftlinenumbertrue%
219
     \fi%
220
221 }
222
  %-----
223
224 %% lineno patch
  225
   \ifdefined\linenomathpatch\else
226
     \RequirePackage{amsmath}
     \RequirePackage{etoolbox}
228
     \newcommand*\linenomathpatch[1]{%
229
       \cspreto{#1}{\linenomath}%
230
       \cspreto{#1*}{\linenomath}%
231
       \csappto{end#1}{\endlinenomath}%
232
       \csappto{end#1*}{\endlinenomath}%
233
     }
234
     \newcommand*\linenomathpatchAMS[1]{%
235
236
       \cspreto{#1}{\linenomathAMS}%
       \cspreto{#1*}{\linenomathAMS}%
237
       \csappto{end#1}{\endlinenomath}%
238
       \csappto{end#1*}{\endlinenomath}%
239
240
     \expandafter\ifx\linenomath\linenomathWithnumbers
241
       \let\linenomathAMS\linenomathWithnumbers
242
       \patchcmd\linenomathAMS{\advance\postdisplaypenalty\linenopenalty
243
       }{}{}{}{}
     \else
244
       \let\linenomathAMS\linenomathNonumbers
245
     \fi
246
     \linenomathpatch{equation}
247
     \linenomathpatchAMS{gather}
248
     \linenomathpatchAMS{multline}
250
     \linenomathpatchAMS{align}
     \linenomathpatchAMS{alignat}
251
     \linenomathpatchAMS{flalign}
252
<sub>253</sub> \fi
```