sproof.sty: Structural Markup for Proofs*

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November 3, 2019

Abstract

The <code>sproof</code> package is part of the STEX collection, a version of TEX/LATEX that allows to markup TEX/LATEX documents semantically without leaving the document format, essentially turning TEX/LATEX into a document format for mathematical knowledge management (MKM).

This package supplies macros and environment that allow to annotate the structure of mathematical proofs in STEX files. This structure can be used by MKM systems for added-value services, either directly from the STEX sources, or after translation.

^{*}Version v1.1 (last revised 2019/03/20)

Contents

1	\mathbf{Intr}	oduction	3
2	The	User Interface	4
	2.1	Package Options	4
	2.2	Proofs and Proof steps	4
	2.3	Justifications	4
	2.4	Proof Structure	6
	2.5	Proof End Markers	(
	2.6	Configuration of the Presentation	7
3	Lim	itations	7
4	The	Implementation	8
	4.1	Package Options	8
		Proofs	
	43	Justifications	1:

1 Introduction

The sproof (semantic proofs) package supplies macros and environment that allow to annotate the structure of mathematical proofs in STEX files. This structure can be used by MKM systems for added-value services, either directly from the STEX sources, or after translation. Even though it is part of the STEX collection, it can be used independently, like it's sister package statements.

STEX is a version of TEX/LATEX that allows to markup TEX/LATEX documents semantically without leaving the document format, essentially turning TEX/LATEX into a document format for mathematical knowledge management (MKM).

```
\begin{sproof}[id=simple-proof,for=sum-over-odds]
     {We prove that \sum_{i=1}^n{2i-1}=n^{2} by induction over n
    \begin{spfcases}{For the induction we have to consider the following cases:}
     \begin{spfcase}{$n=1$}
     \end{spfcase}
     \begin{spfcase}{$n=2$}
        \begin{sproofcomment}[display=flow]
         This case is not really necessary, but we do it for the
         fun of it (and to get more intuition).
        \end{sproofcomment}
       \end{spfcase}
     \begin{array}{l} \begin{spfcase}{\$n>1\$} \end{array}
%
%
        \begin{spfstep}[type=assumption,id=ind-hyp]
         Now, we assume that the assertion is true for a certain k\geq 1,
         i.e. \sum_{i=1}^k{(2i-1)}=k^{2}.
        \end{spfstep}
        \begin{sproofcomment}
         We have to show that we can derive the assertion for n=k+1 from
         this assumption, i.e. \sum_{i=1}^{k+1}{(2i-1)}=(k+1)^{2}.
        \end{sproofcomment}
        \begin{spfstep}
         We obtain \sum_{i=1}^{k+1}{2i-1}=\sum_{i=1}^{k}{2i-1}+2(k+1)-1
         \begin{justification} [method=arith:split-sum]
           by splitting the sum.
         \end{justification}
        \end{spfstep}
        \begin{spfstep}
         Thus we have \sum_{i=1}^{k+1}{(2i-1)}=k^2+2k+1
         \begin{justification} [method=fertilize]
           by inductive hypothesis.
         \end{justification}
        \end{spfstep}
        \begin{spfstep}[type=conclusion]
         We can \begin{justification} [method=simplify] simplify \end{justification}
         the right-hand side to ${k+1}^2$, which proves the assertion.
        \end{spfstep}
     \end{spfcase}
     \begin{spfstep}[type=conclusion]
       We have considered all the cases, so we have proven the assertion.
     \end{spfstep}
    \end{spfcases}
  \end{sproof}
```

Example 1: A very explicit proof, marked up semantically

We will go over the general intuition by way of our running example (see Figure 1 for the source and Figure 2 for the formatted result).¹

 $^{^{1}\}mathrm{EdNote}$: talk a bit more about proofs and their structure,... maybe copy from OMDoc spec.

2 The User Interface

2.1 Package Options

showmeta

The sproof package takes a single option: showmeta. If this is set, then the metadata keys are shown (see [Koh18a] for details and customization options).

2.2 Proofs and Proof steps

sproof

The proof environment is the main container for proofs. It takes an optional KeyVal argument that allows to specify the id (identifier) and for (for which assertion is this a proof) keys. The regular argument of the proof environment contains an introductory comment, that may be used to announce the proof style. The proof environment contains a sequence of \step, proofcomment, and pfcases environments that are used to markup the proof steps. The proof environment has a variant Proof, which does not use the proof end marker. This is convenient, if a proof ends in a case distinction, which brings it's own proof end marker with it. The Proof environment is a variant of proof that does not mark the end of a proof with a little box; presumably, since one of the subproofs already has one and then a box supplied by the outer proof would generate an otherwise empty line. The \spfidea macro allows to give a one-paragraph description of the proof

sProof

\spfidea

. . .

spfsketch

For one-line proof sketches, we use the \spfsketch macro, which takes the KeyVal argument as sproof and another one: a natural language text that sketches the proof.

spfstep

Regular proof steps are marked up with the step environment, which takes an optional KeyVal argument for annotations. A proof step usually contains a local assertion (the text of the step) together with some kind of evidence that this can be derived from already established assertions.

Note that both \premise and \justarg can be used with an empty second argument to mark up premises and arguments that are not explicitly mentioned in the text.

2.3 Justifications

justification

This evidence is marked up with the justification environment in the sproof package. This environment totally invisible to the formatted result; it wraps the text in the proof step that corresponds to the evidence. The environment takes an optional KeyVal argument, which can have the method key, whose value is the name of a proof method (this will only need to mean something to the application that consumes the semantic annotations). Furthermore, the justification can contain "premises" (specifications to assertions that were used justify the step) and "arguments" (other information taken into account by the proof method).

\premise

The \premise macro allows to mark up part of the text as reference to an assertion that is used in the argumentation. In the example in Figure 1 we have used the \premise macro to identify the inductive hypothesis.

Proof: We prove that ∑_{i=1}ⁿ 2i - 1 = n² by induction over n
P.1 For the induction we have to consider the following cases:
P.1.1 n = 1: then we compute 1 = 1²
P.1.2 n = 2: This case is not really necessary, but we do it for the fun of it (and to get more intuition). We compute 1 + 3 = 2² = 4
P.1.3 n > 1:
P.1.3.1 Now, we assume that the assertion is true for a certain k ≥ 1, i.e. ∑_{i=1}^k (2i - 1) = k².
P.1.3.2 We have to show that we can derive the assertion for n = k + 1 from this assumption, i.e. ∑_{i=1}^{k+1} (2i - 1) = (k + 1)².
P.1.3.3 We obtain ∑_{i=1}^{k+1} (2i - 1) = ∑_{i=1}^k (2i - 1) + 2(k + 1) - 1 by splitting the sum
P.1.3.4 Thus we have ∑_{i=1}^{k+1} (2i - 1) = k² + 2k + 1 by inductive hypothesis.
P.1.3.5 We can simplify the right-hand side to (k+1)², which proves the assertion.

Example 2: The formatted result of the proof in Figure 1

P.1.4 We have considered all the cases, so we have proven the assertion.

\justarg

The \justarg macro is very similar to \premise with the difference that it is used to mark up arguments to the proof method. Therefore the content of the first argument is interpreted as a mathematical object rather than as an identifier as in the case of \premise. In our example, we specified that the simplification should take place on the right hand side of the equation. Other examples include proof methods that instantiate. Here we would indicate the substituted object in a \justarg macro.

2.4 Proof Structure

subproof

The pfcases environment is used to mark up a subproof. This environment takes an optional KeyVal argument for semantic annotations and a second argument that allows to specify an introductory comment (just like in the proof environment). The method key can be used to give the name of the proof method executed to make this subproof.

method

spfcases The pfcases environment is used to mark up a proof by cases. Technically it is a variant of the subproof where the method is by-cases. Its contents are spfcase environments that mark up the cases one by one.

spfcase

The content of a pfcases environment are a sequence of case proofs marked up in the pfcase environment, which takes an optional KeyVal argument for semantic annotations. The second argument is used to specify the the description of the case under consideration. The content of a pfcase environment is the same as that of a proof, i.e. steps, proofcomments, and pfcases environments. \spfcasesketch is a variant of the spfcase environment that takes the same arguments, but instead of the spfsteps in the body uses a third argument for a proof sketch.

\spfcasesketch

 ${\tt sproofcomment}$

The proofcomment environment is much like a step, only that it does not have an object-level assertion of its own. Rather than asserting some fact that is relevant for the proof, it is used to explain where the proof is going, what we are attempting to to, or what we have achieved so far. As such, it cannot be the target of a \premise.

2.5 Proof End Markers

Traditionally, the end of a mathematical proof is marked with a little box at the end of the last line of the proof (if there is space and on the end of the next line if there isn't), like so:

\sproofend

\sProofEndSymbol

The sproof package provides the \sproofend macro for this. If a different symbol for the proof end is to be used (e.g. q.e.d), then this can be obtained by specifying it using the \sProofEndSymbol configuration macro (e.g. by specifying \sProofEndSymbol{q.e.d}).

Some of the proof structuring macros above will insert proof end symbols for sub-proofs, in most cases, this is desirable to make the proof structure explicit, but sometimes this wastes space (especially, if a proof ends in a case analysis which will supply its own proof end marker). To suppress it locally, just set proofend={} in them or use use \sProofEndSymbol{}.

2.6 Configuration of the Presentation

Finally, we provide configuration hooks in Figure 1 for the keywords in proofs. These are mainly intended for package authors building on statements, e.g. for multi-language support.². The proof step labels can be customized via

Environment	configuration macro	value
sproof	\spf@proof@kw	Proof
sketchproof	\spf@sketchproof@kw	Proof Sketch

Figure 1: Configuration Hooks for Semantic Proof Markup

\pstlabelstyle

EdN:2

the \pstlabelstyle macro: \pstlabelstyle{ $\langle style \rangle$ } sets the style; see Figure 2 for an overview of styles. Package writers can add additional styles by adding a macro \pst@make@label@ $\langle style \rangle$ that takes two arguments: a commaseparated list of ordinals that make up the prefix and the current ordinal. Note that comma-separated lists can be conveniently iterated over by the LATEX \@for...:=...\do{...} macro; see Figure 2 for examples.

style	example	configuration macro
long	0.8.1.5	\def\pst@make@label@long#1#2{\@for\@I:=#1\do{\@I.}#2}
angles	$\rangle\rangle\rangle$ 5	\def\pst@make@label@angles#1#2
		{\ensuremath{\@for\@I:=#1\do{\rangle}}#2}
short	5	\def\pst@make@label@short#1#2{#2}
empty		\def\pst@make@label@empty#1#2{}

Figure 2: Configuration Proof Step Label Styles

3 Limitations

In this section we document known limitations. If you want to help alleviate them, please feel free to contact the package author. Some of them are currently discussed in the TRAC.

- 1. The numbering scheme of proofs cannot be changed. It is more geared for teaching proof structures (the author's main use case) and not for writing papers. (reported by Tobias Pfeiffer (fixed))
- 2. currently proof steps are formatted by the LATEX description environment. We would like to configure this, e.g. to use the inparaenum environment for more condensed proofs. I am just not sure what the best user interface would be I can imagine redefining an internal environment spf@proofstep@list or adding a key prooflistenv to the proof environment that allows to specify the environment directly. Maybe we should do both.

 $^{^2\}mathrm{EdNote}\colon$ we might want to develop an extension sproof-babel in the future.

4 The Implementation

4.1 Package Options

We declare some switches which will modify the behavior according to the package options. Generally, an option xxx will just set the appropriate switches to true (otherwise they stay false).³

1 (*package)

EdN:3

- 2 \DeclareOption*{\PassOptionsToPackage{\CurrentOption}{sref}}
- 3 \ProcessOptions

Then we make sure that the sref package is loaded [Koh18b].

- 4 \RequirePackage{sref}
- 5 \RequirePackage{etoolbox}
- 6 \RequirePackage[base] {babel}

4.2 Proofs

We first define some keys for the proof environment.

- 7 \srefaddidkey{spf}
- 8 \addmetakey*{spf}{display}
- 9 \addmetakey{spf}{for}
- 10 \addmetakey{spf}{from}
- 11 \addmetakey*[\sproof@box]{spf}{proofend}
- 12 \addmetakey{spf}{type}
- 13 \addmetakey*{spf}{title}
- 14 \addmetakey{spf}{continues}
- 15 \addmetakey{spf}{functions}
- $16 \texttt{\addmetakey\{spf\}\{method\}}$

\spf@flow We define this macro, so that we can test whether the display key has the value flow

17 \def\spf@flow{flow}

For proofs, we will have to have deeply nested structures of enumerated list-like environments. However, LATEX only allows enumerate environments up to nesting depth 4 and general list environments up to listing depth 6. This is not enough for us. Therefore we have decided to go along the route proposed by Leslie Lamport to use a single top-level list with dotted sequences of numbers to identify the position in the proof tree. Unfortunately, we could not use his pf.sty package directly, since it does not do automatic numbering, and we have to add keyword arguments all over the place, to accommodate semantic information.

pst@with@label

This environment manages¹ the path labeling of the proof steps in the description environment of the outermost proof environment. The argument is the label prefix up to now; which we cache in \pst@label (we need evaluate it first, since

 $^{^3\}mathrm{EdNote}$: need an implementation for $\mathrm{LATeXML}$

 $^{^1\}mathrm{This}$ gets the labeling right but only works 8 levels deep

are in the right place now!). Then we increment the proof depth which is stored in \count10 (lower counters are used by TeX for page numbering) and initialize the next level counter \count\count10 with 1. In the end call for this environment, we just decrease the proof depth counter by 1 again.

```
18 \newenvironment{pst@with@label}[1]{%
                       \edef\pst@label{#1}%
                   20
                       \advance\count10 by 1%
                       \count\count10=1%
                   21
                   22 }{%
                   23 \advance\count10 by -1%
                   24 }%
                   \the@pst@label evaluates to the current step label.
   \the@pst@label
                   25 \def\the@pst@label{%
                       \pst@make@label\pst@label{\number\count10}\pstlabel@postfix%
                   27 }%
                   \setpstlabelstyle{metaKey-Val pairs} makes the labeling style customizable.
\setpstlabelstyle
                   \setpstlabelstyle{prefix=Pr,delimiter=-,postfix=\dag} will change the
                   labeling style from P.1.2.3 to Pr-1-2-3†. \setpstlabelstyledefault will set
                   the labeling style back to default.
                   28 \addmetakey[P]{pstlabel}{prefix}[]
                   29 \addmetakey[.]{pstlabel}{delimiter}[]
                   30 \addmetakey[]{pstlabel}{postfix}[]
                   31 \metasetkeys{pstlabel}{}% initialization
                   32 \newrobustcmd\setpstlabelstyle[1]{%
                   33
                       \metasetkeys{pstlabel}{#1}%
                   34 }%
                   35 \newrobustcmd\setpstlabelstyledefault{%
                      \metasetkeys{pstlabel}{prefix=P,delimiter=.,postfix=}%
                   37 }%
   \pstlabelstyle \pstlabelstyle just sets the \pst@make@label macro according to the style.
                   38 \def\pst@make@label@long#1#2{\@for\@I:=#1\do{\expandafter\@I\pstlabel@delimiter}#2}
                   39 \def\pst@make@label@angles#1#2{\ensuremath{\@for\@I:=#1\do{\rangle}}#2}
                   40 \def\pst@make@label@short#1#2{#2}
                   41 \def\pst@make@label@empty#1#2{}
                   42 \def\pstlabelstyle#1{%
                   43 \def\pst@make@label{\@nameuse{pst@make@label@#1}}%
                   44 }%
                   45 \pstlabelstyle{long}%
  \next@pst@label \next@pst@label increments the step label at the current level.
                   46 \def\next@pst@label{%
                   47 \global\advance\count\count10 by 1%
                   48 }%
```

\sproofend This macro places a little box at the end of the line if there is space, or at the end of the next line if there isn't

```
49 \def\sproof@box{%
               \hbox{\vrule\vbox{\hrule width 6 pt\vskip 6pt\hrule}\vrule}%
           51 }%
           52 \def\spf@proofend{\sproof@box}%
           53 \def\sproofend{%
               \ifx\spf@proofend\@empty%
           55
                  \hfil\null\nobreak\hfill\spf@proofend\par\smallskip%
           56
               \fi%
           57
           58 }%
           59 \def\sProofEndSymbol#1{\def\sproof@box{#1}}%
 spf@*@kw
           60 \def\spf@proofsketch@kw{Proof Sketch}
           61 \def\spf@proof@kw{Proof}
           62 \def\spf@step@kw{Step}
               For the other languages, we set up triggers
           63 \AfterBabelLanguage{ngerman}{\input{sproof-ngerman.ldf}}
           64 \AfterBabelLanguage{finnish}{\input{sproof-finnish.ldf}}
           65 \AfterBabelLanguage{french}{\input{sproof-french.ldf}}
           66 \AfterBabelLanguage{russian}{\input{sproof-russian.ldf}}
spfsketch
           67 \newrobustcmd\spfsketch[2][]{%
               \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
           68
           69
               \sref@target%
           70 \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow%
           71 \else%
           72 {\stDMemph{\ifx\spf@type\@empty\spf@proofsketch@kw\else\spf@type\fi}:}
              \fi{ #2}%
           74 \sref@label@id{this \ifx\spf@type\@empty\spf@proofsketch@kw\else\spf@type\fi}\sproofend%
           75 }%
    spfeq This is very similar to \spfsketch, but uses a computation array<sup>45</sup>
           76 \newenvironment{spfeq}[2][]{%
                \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}\sref@target%
           77
                \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow%
           78
           79
                \else%
                  {\stDMemph{\ifx\spf@type\@empty\spf@proof@kw\else\spf@type\fi}:} #2%
                \fi% display=flow
           81
               \begin{displaymath}\begin{array}{rcll}%
           82
           83 }{%
                \end{array}\end{displaymath}%
           84
           85 }%
              ^4\mathrm{EdNote}: This should really be more like a tabular with an ensuremath in it. or invoke text on
           the last column
```

⁵EDNOTE: document above

sproof In this environment, we initialize the proof depth counter \count10 to 10, and set up the description environment that will take the proof steps. At the end of the proof, we position the proof end into the last line.

```
86 \newenvironment{spf@proof}[2][]{%
              \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
         87
              \sref@target%
         88
              \count10=10%
              \par\noindent%
         90
              \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow%
         91
         92
                \stDMemph{\ifx\spf@type\@empty\spf@proof@kw\else\spf@type\fi}:%
         93
         94
              \fi{ #2}%
              \sref@label@id{this \ifx\spf@type\@empty\spf@proof@kw\else\spf@type\fi}%
         95
              \def\pst@label{}%
         96
              \newcount\pst@count% initialize the labeling mechanism
         97
              \begin{description}\begin{pst@with@label}{\pstlabel@prefix}%
         98
         99 }{%
              \end{pst@with@label}\end{description}%
         100
         101 }%
         \label{local-proof} $$10^2 \operatorname{sproof}[2][]_{\pointspf@proof}[\#1]$$ $$10^2 \operatorname{sproofend}\pointspf@proof}]$$
        103 \newenvironment{sProof}[2][]{\begin{spf@proof}[#1]{#2}}{\end{spf@proof}}%
spfidea
        104 \newrobustcmd\spfidea[2][]{%
              \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
              \stDMemph{\ifx\spf@type\@empty{Proof Idea}\else\spf@type\fi:} #2\sproofend%
        106
        107 }%
```

The next two environments (proof steps) and comments, are mostly semantical, they take KeyVal arguments that specify their semantic role. In draft mode, they read these values and show them. If the surrounding proof had display=flow, then no new \item is generated, otherwise it is. In any case, the proof step number (at the current level) is incremented.

EdN:6 spfstep

```
108 \newenvironment{spfstep}[1][]{%
     \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
109
     \@in@omtexttrue%
110
     \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow%
111
112
     \else%
       \item[\the@pst@label]%
114
     \ifx\spf@title\@empty\else{(\stDMemph{\spf@title}) }\fi%
115
     \sref@label@id{\pst@label}\ignorespaces%
116
117 }{%
     \next@pst@label\@in@omtextfalse\ignorespaces%
118
119 }%
```

 $^{^6\}mathrm{EdNote}$: MK: labeling of steps does not work yet.

```
sproofcomment
```

```
120 \newenvironment{sproofcomment}[1][]{%
121  \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
122  \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow\else\item[\the@pst@label]\fi%
123 }{%
124  \next@pst@label%
125 }%
```

The next two environments also take a KeyVal argument, but also a regular one, which contains a start text. Both environments start a new numbered proof level.

subproof In the subproof environment, a new (lower-level) proproof of environment is started.

```
126 \newenvironment{subproof}[2][]{%
     \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
     \def\@test{#2}%
     \ifx\@test\empty%
129
     \else%
130
       \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow {#2}%
131
       \else%
132
         \item[\the@pst@label]{#2} %
133
134
       \fi%
     \fi%
135
     \begin{pst@with@label}{\pst@label,\number\count\count10}%
136
137 }{%
138
     \end{pst@with@label}\next@pst@label%
139 }%
```

spfcases In the pfcases environment, the start text is displayed as the first comment of the proof.

```
150 \newenvironment{spfcase}[2][]{%
151    \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
152    \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow\else\item[\the@pst@label]\fi%
153    \def\@test{#2}%
154    \ifx\@test\@empty%
```

```
\else%
        155
                {\stDMemph{#2}: }% need blank here
        156
              \fi%
        157
              \begin{pst@with@label}{\pst@label, \number\count\count10}
        158
        159 }{%
        160
              \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow%
        161
              \else%
                \sproofend%
        162
        163
              \fi%
              \end{pst@with@label}%
        164
              \next@pst@label%
        165
        166 }%
spfcase similar to spfcase, takes a third argument.
        167 \newrobustcmd\spfcasesketch[3][]{%
              \metasetkeys{spf}{#1}%
        168
              \ifx\spf@display\spf@flow%
        169
              \else%
        170
                \item[\the@pst@label]%
        171
              fi%
        172
              \def\@test{#2}%
        173
              \ifx\@test\@empty%
        174
        175
              \else%
                {\stDMemph{#2}: }%
        176
              \fi#3%
        177
              \next@pst@label%
        178
        179 }%
```

4.3 Justifications

We define the actions that are undertaken, when the keys for justifications are encountered. Here this is very simple, we just define an internal macro with the value, so that we can use it later.

```
180 \srefaddidkey{just}
181 \addmetakey{just}{method}
182 \addmetakey{just}{premises}
183 \addmetakey{just}{args}
```

The next three environments and macros are purely semantic, so we ignore the keyval arguments for now and only display the content.⁷

```
justification
```

EdN:7

184 \newenvironment{justification}[1][]{}{}

\premise

 $185 \verb| newrobustcmd | premise[2][]{#2}$

 $^{^7\}mathrm{EdNote}$: need to do something about the premise in draft mode.

\justarg the \justarg macro is purely semantic, so we ignore the keyval arguments for now and only display the content.

186 \newrobustcmd\justarg[2][]{#2} 187 $\langle/{\sf package}\rangle$

Index

Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

LATEXML, 8 proofs semantic semantic, 3 proofs, 3

Change History

v0.9	revamped the proof end mark
General: First Version with	management $\dots 1$
Documentation 1	v0.9e
v0.9a	General: taking type seriously 1
General: Completed	v0.9f
Documentation 1	General: changing to omd
v0.9b	metadata framework 1
General: Complete functionality	first steps to sref 1
and Updated Documentation 1	v1.0
v0.9c	General: making proof step labels
General: more packaging 1	stylable 1
v0.9d	v1.1
General: made sproof.dtx	General: subproof now more like
independent of statements. dtx $$. $$ 1	proof (takes comment arg) \dots 1

References

- [Koh18a] Michael Kohlhase. metakeys.sty: A generic framework for extensible Metadata in LATEX. Tech. rep. 2018. URL: https://github.com/sLaTeX/sTeX/raw/master/sty/metakeys/metakeys.pdf.
- [Koh18b] Michael Kohlhase. sref.sty: Semantic Crossreferencing in LATEX. Self-documenting LATEX package. 2018. URL: https://github.com/sLaTeX/sTeX/raw/master/sty/sref/sref.pdf.