Snaptodo—A Snap-to-the-Correct-Side Todo[*]

Hsin-Po Wang[†]

December 1, 2021

Abstract

Snaptodo package is an alternative to the todonote package that differs in the following ways: (A) Depending on where you call `\snaptodo`, the note is put on the left or right margin, whichever is closer. (B) The notes bump each other down so they never overlap; the lines never overlap either; and they don't trigger the marginpar warning. (C) Minimalistic, aesthetic, and customizable style.

1 Installation

Copy and paste `snaptodo.sty` to your working directory.

2 Minimal Working Example

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{snaptodo}
\begin{document}
    Your done
    \snaptodo{Your todo}
\end{document}
```

3 Showcase of Examples

Calling point!

Left of a page!

On the left margin!

Calling `\snaptodo`!

Using snaptodo is as simple as calling `\snaptodo` and compile twice. If the calling point is on the left of a page, the todo note—after compiling twice of course—will appear to the left margin. And vice versa.

Compile twice!

Vice versa!

---

4 Customization

I defined `\snaptodoset` that works like `\tikzset` and `\pgfplotsset`. While you can access dedicated options by `\snaptodoset{<some_option>}`, you can also assess the exact same options by `\pgfkeys{/snaptodo/<some_option>}`. For local changes, you can put them here `\snaptodo[<some_option>]{}`.

4.1 Color

The color of the broken line is `snaptodo@chain`. The default color for that is `red!50!black`. Saying `\colorlet{snaptodo@chain}{green!50!white}` lets you to change this color globally. On the other hand, for locally changing this color, one may prefer using `\snaptodo[call chain/.style=green!50!white]`.

New broken line color

The color of the note text is `snaptodo@block`. The default color for that is `yellow!50!black`. Saying `\colorlet{snaptodo@block}{blue!50!white}` lets you change this color. On the other hand, for locally changing this color, one may prefer using `\snaptodo[margin block/.style=blue!50!white]`.

New note text color

4.2 Line style

In order to use a thicker or thinner broken line, recall the standard TikZ option `[thick]`, `[ultra thin]`, or `[line width=???]`. In our case, simply put that option in this style `\snaptodo[call chain/.style={line width=???}]{}`.

Thicker broken line

In order to use a special dash pattern, recall the standard TikZ option `[dotted]`, `[dashed]`, or `[dash pattern=???]`. In our case, simply put that option in this style `\snaptodo[call chain/.style={dash pattern=???}]{}`.

Dashed broken line

4.3 Sep and width

The gap between two note blocks is stored in `/snaptodo/block sep`. The default length is `\baselineskip`. Use `\snaptodoset{block sep=0pt}` for global setting and use `\snaptodo[block sep=0pt]{note}` for local setting this.

2 blocks close.

The gap between two horizontal lines is stored in `/snaptodo/chain sep`. The default length is `0.5ex`. To change, use `\snaptodoset{chain sep=0pt}` for global setting and `\snaptodo[chain sep=0pt]{note}` for local setting.

..to each other

The width of the note block is `\marginparwidth`. The width where the broken line has slope is `\marginparsep`. These are the built-in dimensions. (So modify them with care!)

2 chains close.

..to each other

4.4 Bias

The tipping point between snapping to the left versus to the right is the center of the page, by default. You can change this by `/snaptodo/chain bias=-99in`. That way, all todo notes are forcedly snapped to the left hand side. Or, by `/snaptodo/call bias=99in`, all todo notes are forcedly snapped to the right hand side.

Forced to the right

Forced to the left

4.5 Rise

Rising

to leave

room.

If your document is really busy, e.g., like `stress_testing.tex`, consider setting a positive `/snaptodo/block rise`. For instance, `\snaptodo[block rise=2em]{}`. That way, a note will rise by that amount to leave more rooms for later notes. (But if there will be overlay, the notes automatically bump down.)

4.6 Alignment

flush toward
text body

By `/snaptodo/margin block/.style={align=???}` one can control the alignment of note text. The default setting is `align=flush \std@leftright`, which flushes the text toward the page edges. If `align=flush \std@rightleft`, is what you do, the text will be flushed toward the main text body. Don't forget that you need `\makeatletter` and `\makeatother` to handel control sequences with the at character.

4.7 Font

tiny

Large

Huge

Font size is controlled by `/snpatodo/margin block/.style={font=...}`. So is font family.

itshape

sffamily

bfseries

3