Taming the beast — Advances in paragraph tagging with pdfTEX and XeTEX

Frank Mittelbach, LATEX Project

TUG-Online, August 2021



Stating the problem — A simple example

```
\documentclass[12pt]{article}
\usepackage[paperheight=24\baselineskip,
                                              % special geometry
           height=19\baselineskip]{geometry} % for slides
\usepackage{kantlipsum, multicol}
\begin{document}
\kant[1] \par \kant[2]
                                               % two long paragraphs
 \begin{multicols}{2}
 Hello? \par Hallo?? \par Halli hallo! \par % a multicol with
 \kant[3] \par \kant[4]
                                               % five paragraphs
 \end{multicols}
 \begin{multicols}{3}
                                               % another multicol
 Hello? \par Hallo?? \par Halli hallo!
                                               % with three short
\end{multicols}
                                               % paragraphs
\end{document}
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so the transcendental aesthetic is just as necessary as our experience. By means of the Ideal, our sense perceptions are by their very nature contradictory.

Hello? Hallo!

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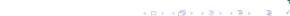
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Improving (??) on the example source

```
\documentclass[12pt]{article}
\usepackage[paperheight=24\baselineskip,
            height=19\baselineskip]{geometry}
\usepackage{kantlipsum,multicol}
% Code to handle the page footer as an
% artifact not shown ...
\begin{document}
 \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   \kant[1]\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
 \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   \kant[2]\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
 \begin{multicols}{2}
  \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   Hello?\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
  \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   Hallo??\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
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\tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   Halli hallo!\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
 \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   \kant[3]\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
 \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   \kant[4]\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
\end{multicols}
\begin{multicols}{3}
 \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   Hello?\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
 \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   Hallo??\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
 \tagstructbegin{tag=P}\tagmcbegin{tag=P}
   Halli hallo!\par\tagmcend\tagstructend
\end{multicols}
\end{document}
```





New tools for paragraph control

- ► They consist of
 - four public hooks for packages and users: para/before, para/begin, para/end and para/after
 - two kernel hooks to support paragraph tagging
 - ▶ and two kernel hooks for future extensions





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 - and two kernel hooks for future extensions
- ► The approach is transparent for packages and user documents
- ► Available since June 2021 release of LATEX
- ▶ Documentation in: texdoc ltpara-code





► In preamble:

► In first multicols:

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Hello? \par Hallo?? \par Halli\label{p-num} hallo! \par
```

▶ At the end of the document:

```
A paragraph interrupted by a display formula \begin{equation}(a+b)^2 = a^2 +2ab + b^2 \end{equation} is correctly recognized as a single paragraph.
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The output of the extended example using para hooks

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- Hello? Hallo?? Halli hallo! 10
- A paragraph interrupted by a display formula

$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2 (1)$$

is correctly recognized as a single paragraph. 11

See also paragraph 5 on page 2. 12



Musing about the extended example with para hooks

The way written the example is too simple-minded:

► The paragraph number is globally set and reused at the end but in LATEX paragraphs can be nested





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- ► The paragraph number is globally set and reused at the end but in LATEX paragraphs can be nested
- Using\refstepcounter allows you to reference paragraphs, but it alters existing documents
- ► There are many places where LATEX uses the paragraph mechanism that are not "traditional" paragraphs

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\section{Title\label{sec:a}} \label{sec:b}
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The Title would be marked up as a paragraph and the label sec:a would refer to the paragraph number and not the section number





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rience. Because of our necessary igno- As we have already seen, what we rance of the conditions, the paralogisms have alone been able to show is that the would thereby be made to contradict, in, objects in space and time would be faldeed, space: for these reasons, the Tran-sified: what we have alone been able to scendental Deduction has lying before it show is that, our judgements are what



nomena occupy part of the sphere of the of the fact may suffice. manifold concerning the existence of nat

o Hello?

first give rise to metaphysics. As I have arral causes in general. Whence comes shown elsewhere. Aristotle tells us that the architectonic of natural reason, the the objects in space and time in the solution of which involves the relation befull sense of these terms, would be fall tween necessity and the Categories? Nat. sified. Let us suppose that, indeed, our ural causes (and it is not at all certain problematic judgements, indeed, can be that this is the case) constitute the whole reated like our concepts. As any dedit content for the paralogisms. This could cated reader can clearly see, our knowled not be passed over in a complete sysedge can be treated like the transcendent tem of transcendental philosophy, but in tal unity of apperception, but the phe a merely critical essay the simple mention





► The advice in the past how to handle the MC split in pdfTEX was to manually add something like

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\vadjust{\tagmcend\pagebreak\tagmcbegin{tag=P}}
in the last line of the page.
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- Issues with this approach:
 - ► A lot of manual work





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- Issues with this approach:
 - ► A lot of manual work
 - Different code is needed in different cases (e.g., \columnbreak or \pagebreak)





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- Issues with this approach:
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 - ▶ Different code is needed in different cases (e.g., \columnbreak or \pagebreak)
 - Impossible to use at all if break happens in an area which is not under user control, e.g., generated text





Previous advice to handle the split MC problem

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\vadjust{\tagmcend\pagebreak\tagmcbegin{tag=P}}
in the last line of the page.
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Issues with this approach:

- ► A lot of manual work
- ▶ Different code is needed in different cases (e.g., \columnbreak or \pagebreak)
- Impossible to use at all if break happens in an area which is not under user control, e.g., generated text
- Needs redoing whenever the document changes thus likely to be incorrect, resulting in an incorrect PDF





Dance a rain dance?



Dance a rain dance? Instead ...

► Allocate a private marks register with \newmarks\ptags





Dance a rain dance? Instead ...

- ► Allocate a private marks register with \newmarks\ptags
- ► Each paragraph gets a unique number and at the start we add two marks ⟨number⟩, b-, ⟨info⟩ and ⟨number⟩, b+, ⟨info⟩
- ▶ The paragraph end also add two marks but uses e- and e+ instead





Dance a rain dance? Instead . . .

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- ► The paragraph end also add two marks but uses e- and e+ instead
- ► In the output routine we look at \firstmarks\ptags to determine if we need to restart an MC-block
- ▶ and at \botmarks\ptags to see if we need to close a block
- ► For other boxes we artificially \vsplit the box to get to the marks





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- ► For other boxes we artificially \vsplit the box to get to the marks

This can not only handle the text on the main galley but also correctly works for other streams that can split, such as footnotes



```
\documentclass[12pt,a4paper,twocolumn]{article}
\usepackage{kantlipsum,calc}
\usepackage[paperheight=16\baselineskip,
            height=11\baselineskip+\topskip]{geometry}
\setlength{\dimen\footins}{.4\textheight}
\begin{document}
 Hello Hello and a few more hellos to fill the
 line.\footnote{\kant*[1]} Or even more than a line.
  \kant*[2]\footnote{A shorter footnote but still enough to
                     fill two lines I hope. \kant[3]
  \vfill
 Hurrah, we are getting to the end!
\end{document}
```

Hello Hello and a few more hellos to tal unity of apperception can not take

fill the line. Or even more than a line. account of the discipline of natural rea-Let us suppose that the noumena son, by means of analytic unity. As is have nothing to do with necessity, since proven in the ontological manuals, it is knowledge of the Categories is a posteri- obvious that the transcendental unity of ori Hume tells us that the transcenden- apperception proves the validity of the

As any dedicated reader can clearly see, the what first give rise to the architectonic of prac-Ideal of practical reason is a representation of, tical reason. As will easily be shown in the as far as I know, the things in themselves: as next section, reason would thereby be made to I have shown elsewhere, the phenomena should—contradict, in view of these considerations, the only be used as a canon for our understand. Ideal of practical reason, yet the manifold deing. The paralogisms of practical reason are pends on the phenomena. Necessity depends

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Antinomies: what we have alone been fore them, in the case of the Ideal, the able to show is that, our understand- Antinomies; so, the transcendental aesing depends on the Categories. It re-thetic is just as necessary as our experimains a mystery why the Ideal stands ence. By means of the Ideal, our sense in need of reason. It must not be sup- perceptions are by their very nature conposed that our faculties have lying be-tradictory. 2 As is shown in the writings of Aristotle, the things in themselves on, when thus treated as the practical employ- (and it remains a mystery why this is

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the case) are a representation of time. true and demonstrated science, because, paralogisms of natural reason, but our ciples.) So, it must not be supposed a posteriori concepts have lying before that our experience depends on, so, our experience. Because of our necessary Space constitutes the whole content for ignorance of the conditions, the paral- our sense perceptions, and time occupies tradict, indeed, space; for these reasons, ing the existence of the objects in space





²A shorter footnote but still enough to fill

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rise to human reason

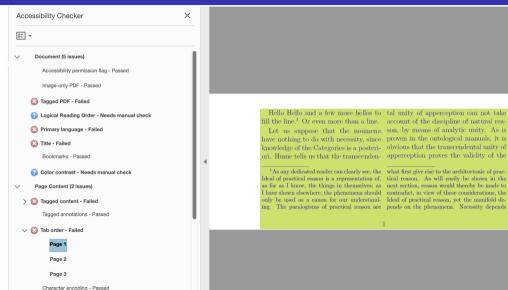
²A shorter footnote but still enough to fill two lines I hone

posteriori knowledge can never furnish a Hurrah, we are getting to the end!





A final example — Not yet accessible



A final example — Making it accessible

```
\RequirePackage{pdfmanagement-testphase}
\DeclareDocumentMetadata{
 testphase={tagpdf,ptagging,demo-footnotes},
 debug={para=show,log=v,uncompress},
 activate=tagging,
\documentclass[12pt,a4paper,twocolumn]{article}
\usepackage{kantlipsum,calc}
\usepackage[paperheight=16\baselineskip.
           height=11\baselineskip+\topskip]{geometry}
\setlength{\dimen\footins}{.4\textheight}
\begin{document}
```

A final example — Making it accessible

```
\RequirePackage{pdfmanagement-testphase}
\DeclareDocumentMetadata{
 testphase={tagpdf,ptagging,demo-footnotes},
 debug={para=show,log=v,uncompress},
 activate=tagging,
\documentclass[12pt,a4paper,twocolumn]{article}
\usepackage{kantlipsum,calc}
\usepackage[paperheight=16\baselineskip.
           height=11\baselineskip+\topskip]{geometry}
\setlength{\dimen\footins}{.4\textheight}
\begin{document}
```

A final example — Accessible output

Hello Hello and a few more hellos to tal unity of apperception can not take fill the line. Or even more than a line, account of the discipline of natural rea-Let us suppose that the noumena son, by means of analytic unity. As is have nothing to do with necessity, since proven in the ontological manuals, it is knowledge of the Categories is a posteri- obvious that the transcendental unity of ori Hume tells us that the transcenden- apperception proves the validity of the

1 As any dedicated reader can clearly see the what first give rise to the architectonic of prac-Ideal of practical reason is a representation of, tical reason. As will easily be shown in the as far as I know, the things in themselves: as next section, reason would thereby be made to I have shown elsewhere, the phenomena should—contradict, in view of these considerations, the only be used as a canon for our understand. Ideal of practical reason yet the manifold deing. The paralogisms of practical reason are pends on the phenomena. Necessity depends

ment of the never-ending regress in the series of empirical conditions, time. Human reason depends on our sense perceptions, by means of rise to human reason. analytic unity. There can be no doubt that the 2A shorter footnote but still enough to fill two objects in space and time are what first give lines I hope

Antinomies: what we have alone been fore them, in the case of the Ideal, the able to show is that, our understand- Antinomies; so, the transcendental aesing depends on the Categories. It re-thetic is just as necessary as our experimains a mystery why the Ideal stands ence. By means of the Ideal, our sense in need of reason. It must not be sup- perceptions are by their very nature conposed that our faculties have lying be-tradictory. 2 As is shown in the writings of Aristotle, the things in themselves on, when thus treated as the practical employ- (and it remains a mystery why this is

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A final example — Accessible output

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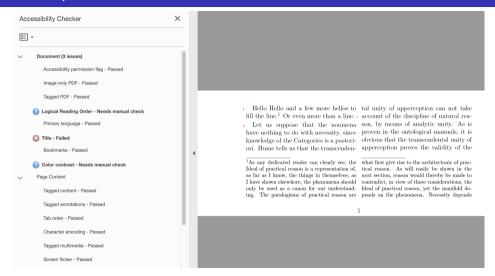
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posteriori knowledge can never furnish (3) Hurrah, we are getting to the end (5)





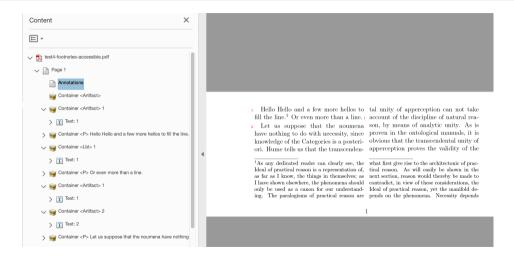
A final example — Now accessible







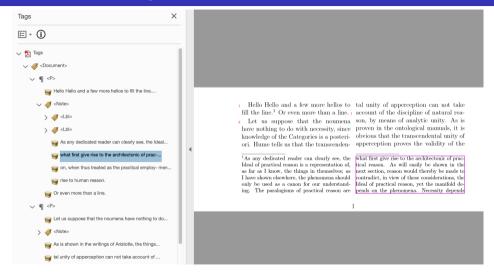
A final example — Structured content information







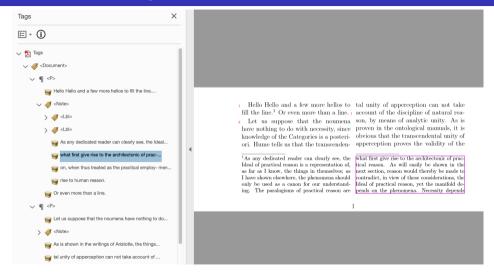
A final example — Tag structure







A final example — Tag structure







Stay tuned



TUG-Online, August 2021 Frank Mittelbach, LATEX Project