How to make nice-looking framed boxes in LaTeX articles

Examples of framed, mdframed, fancybox and bclogo packages

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July 29, 2011

Using framed boxes in Beamer

- When making lecture slides with LaTeX and Beamer package, you can emphasize important things (theorems, facts, common mistakes etc.) by using block, exampleblock and alertblock environments, as demonstrated on the next slide.

Example of block environments in Beamer

This is a block

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Morbi ac arcu est, vel posuere velit. In congue erat vel lorem ornare pretium.

This is an exampleblock

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Morbi ac arcu est, vel posuere velit. In congue erat vel lorem ornare pretium.

This is an alertblock

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Morbi ac arcu est, vel posuere velit. In congue erat vel lorem ornare pretium.

Syntax:
`\begin{block}{Title of the block}Some text...\end{block}`
(for block, exampleblock or alertblock).

Problem: what if you are not making slides but a book or article?

- Beamer block environments only work inside beamer. If you are writing an article or a book, you must find another way.
- There are a number of LaTeX packages for making framed boxes. On the following slides, I'll introduce some of them.

The simplest way: framebox

No extra packages are needed. The code:

```
\framebox{This is a framebox.}
```

The package **framed**

First use the package and define the shading color:

```
\usepackage{framed,color}
\definecolor{shadecolor}{rgb}{1,0.8,0.3}
```
[1]

This is a framed text.

This is a shaded text.

This is a snugshade text.

This is a text with leftbar.

The code (replace "shaded" with frame, snugshade or leftbar):

```
\begin{shaded}This is a shaded text. \end{shaded}
```

[1] Read more on defining colors:
http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/Colors

The package **fancybox**

First select the package: `\usepackage{fancybox}`

The code (replace "shadowbox" with doublebox, Ovalbox etc.):

```
\shadowbox{This is a shadowbox.}
```

The package **mdframed**

First select the package: `\usepackage{mdframed}`
This is like the regular framed-package, but allows the frame to continue on multiple pages (but not on Beamer slides, only in article, book etc.) and allows user to customize margins, background color, line color etc.

This is an mdframed text with yellow background.

The code:

```
\begin{mdframed}[backgroundcolor=yellow]
This is an mdframed text with yellow background.
\end{mdframed}
```

The package **bclogo**

First select the package: `\usepackage[tikz]{bclogo}`

Bclogo seems to be the most versatile!

This box is made with bclogo. Corners are rounded and I love that crayon :-).

The code:

```
\begin{bclogo}[couleur = blue!30,arrondi = 0.1,
logo = \bccrayon, ombre = true]{Bclogo seems to be the most versatile!}
This box is made with bclogo. Corners are rounded and I love that crayon :-).
\end{bclogo}
```

The documentation is in French, but it can be understood very well (there are multiple examples in the documentation).

A couple of interesting "unofficial" packages

For transparent shadows: `http://osdir.com/ml/tex.latex.beamer.general/2007-06/msg00070.html`

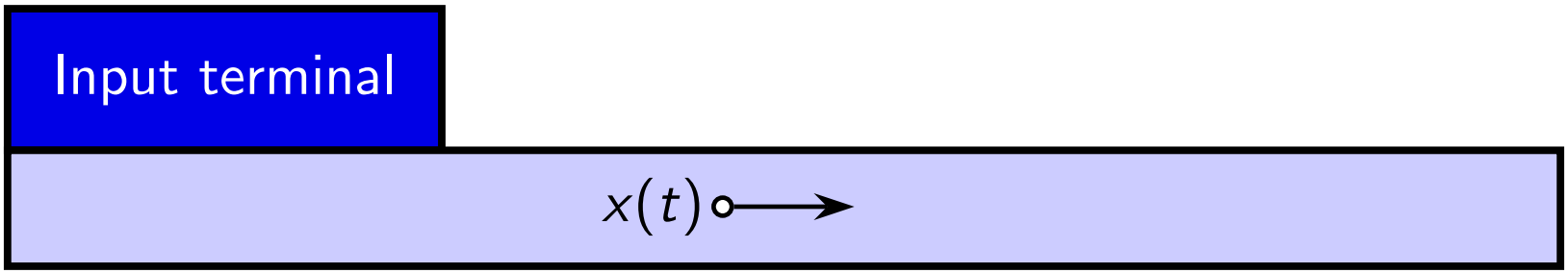
This is a boxed environment with semi-transparent shadow.

The code:

```
\begin{shadowblock}{6cm}
This is a boxed environment with semi-transparent shadow.
\end{shadowblock}
```

A couple of interesting "unofficial" packages

For drawing signal flow diagrams:
`http://pgf.cvs.sourceforge.net/viewvc/pgf/pgf/incoming/KarlheinzOchs/`



The code:

```
\begin{signalflow}{Input terminal}
   \node[input]      (in)                    {$x(t)$};
   \node[coordinate] (c)  [right from=in] {};
   % signal path
   \path[r>] (in) -- (c);
\end{signalflow}
```