lernkarten

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Abstract

This is the documentation of the class `lernkarten`. I am writing this class to have an easy way to typeset my cards for learning for exams, especially diploma-exams. As I always loose and forget things, I wanted to have all important stuff on my computer so I will not forget it. – Just print and learn.

If you have any suggestions or comments, just drop me a mail, I'll be happy to get any response!

Contents

1 Usage

1.1 Class Options

The usage of this cass is quite easy. Just load it with

```
\documentclass[class options]{lernkarten}
```

where possible `class options` are:

number The number of cards per page. This directly affects the size of each card. You must take care that none of your cards does exceed the given size! Else the gates to hell will open and the sun will explode.

A reasonable number, and therefore preset, is 10 cards per page.

noheader If you use sections and/or parts to structure your cards, they will be in the header. `noheader` will turn this off.

sectionsoncards Prints the section on every card. So you always know what theme this cards belongs to. Default is off. Take care that it is *sections**on**cards*, but not *sectionscards*.

enumerate By default, all cards are enumerated. `enumerate=false` turns enumeration off. With `enumerate=section`, the cards will be enumerated section-wise.

language Basic language support is available. Give the language as class option `[german]` or say `[language=german`. So far only english (default) and german is supported.

center Will center both the question and the answer horizontally on the card.

1.2 Typesetting Cards

There are approximately three ways to typeset a card: Write

```
\card[ion optics]{How many electrodes are needed for a single lens}{3}
```

!! ATTENTION !! `\card[]` does NOT work like this at the moment!!
for a short question–answer-pair. For longer sentences or formulae, write:

```
\question
questiontext…
\answer
3

```

It is extremely important that you leave an *empty line* after the answer, as this empty line is part of the command!

For the lazy guys:

```
\shortquestion
questiontext

answertext
```

Again, the empty lines *must* be given! Else your document will most probably not compile! The `questiontext` or `answertext` can be anything that has no empty lines. For such, use `\card` or `\question`.

1.3 Structurising

You can structure your document using the normal commands `\section` and `\part`. Depending on class options, the regarding part and section will be printed on the top of the pages and/or on the cards itself.

You might prefer to use `\begin{section}{sectiontitle} … \end{section}` instead. This will produce exactly the same output, but the entire section will be "foldable" in your editor so you can fold sections you are not working on. This will concentrate your work on the current stuff.

1.4 Open Questions

Whenever anything is not clear when writing the cards, you can put an `\openquestion{}` at that position. At the end of the document, there will be a table of open questions (`tooq`) where the arguments of `\openquestion{}` are listet whith pagenumbers and links to the cards. `\oq{}` and german `\unklar{}` are aliases for `\openquestion{}`.

If there is an open question, a small (`\frownie`) will be set. If you want to change that symbol or want none at all, say `\openquestionmark{your mark}`.

1.5 Sections to Read

If you jump over a certain section in your book/script and want to remember that, just type `\sectiontoread{4.4.3. Phasenfluktuationen}`. This will be listed at the end of the document, after the table of open questions. `\str{}` is an alias. No german alias so far.

2 Implementation

We begin with loading of options and setting of constants that are needed even before defining the keys:

```
\def\cards@per@page{10}
\def\cards@enumerate@value{}

\newif\ifcards@header
\newif\ifcards@sections
\newif\ifcards@sectioncards
\newif\ifcards@enumerate
\newif\ifcards@enumerate@section
\newif\ifcards@printonly
\cards@headertrue
\cards@sectioncardsfalse
\cards@enumeratetrue
\cards@enumerate@sectionfalse
\cards@printonlyfalse
\def\cards@print@only{}
\def\cards@paralign{} %% to align how you like; mostly centered?
```

```
17
18
19 \RequirePackage{xkeyval}
20 \DeclareOptionX{number}{\def\cards@per@page{#1}}
21 \DeclareOptionX{noheader}{\cards@headerfalse}
22 \DeclareOptionX{enumerate}{\def\cards@enumerate@value{#1}}
23 \DeclareOptionX{printonly}{\def\cards@print@only{#1}\cards@printonlytrue}
24 \DeclareOptionX{sectionsoncards}{\cards@sectioncardstrue}
25 \DeclareOptionX{german}{\def\cards@language{german}}
26 \DeclareOptionX{language}{\def\cards@language{#1}}
27 \DeclareOptionX{center}{\def\cards@paralign{\center\vspace*{-2\baselineskip}}} %% hippo hides i
28 \ProcessOptionsX
```

Now loading of the class and usefull packages. `amsmath` is surely needed for any mathematic typesetting, `boxedminipage` is needed for the cards, etc. Then setup of the hyperlinks and page layout.

```
29 \LoadClass{scrartcl}
30 \PassOptionsToClass{fleqn}{scrartcl}
31 \RequirePackage{
32   amsmath,
33   babel,
34   boxedminipage,
35   calc,
36   fontspec,
37   geometry,
38   hyperref,
39   ifthen,
40   scrpage2,
41 }
42 \hypersetup{%
43   pdfborder=false,%
44   colorlinks=true,%
45   linkcolor=blue%
46 }
47 \geometry{
48   bindingoffset=0cm,
49   margin=1cm,
50   headsep=0.2cm
51 }
```

We don't want to waste space on our important cards, so set parindent and mathindent to zero.

```
52 \setlength{\parindent}{0em}
53 %% \setlength{\mathindent}{0em} %% FIXME: where did this go? …
```

Language specific settings. Only german and english are available so far! (So a simple `\ifthenelse` does the job.)

```
54 \ifthenelse{\equal{\languagename}{german}}{
55   \def\cards@answertext{Antwort}
56   \def\cards@openquestiontext{Liste offener Fragen}
57   \def\cards@sectionstoreadtext{Übersprungene Abschnitte}
```

```
}{
  \def\cards@answertext{answer}
  \def\cards@openquestiontext{List of Open Questions}
  \def\cards@sectionstoreadtext{Sections still to read}
}
```

Now, the pagelayout. `scrheadings` is used and `part:section` is written on top of every site. If option `noheader` is given, there will be no header. This might be useful for printing, while headers are useful for view on screen.

```
\def\cards@part{}
\def\cards@sect{}

\pagestyle{scrheadings}
\setkomafont{pageheadfoot}{\normalfont\bfseries}
\cfoot{}
\ifcards@header
  \chead{\cards@part\cards@sect}
\else
\fi
```

The definition of the sections is a bit tricky. For the table of contents, we need a valid `\section*` command, so we save it by the `\@ifstar` construct. The rest is for setting the sections as wished by the user: resetting the counters, writing the section on the cards and/or in the headings. Definition of `\part` is way more straight-forward. `\subsection` and `\subsubsection` have no effect at the moment, but can be used.

```
\let\oldsection\section
\renewcommand\section{\@ifstar{\oldsection*}{\cards@section}}
\let\sec\relax
\newenvironment{sec}[1]{\section{#1}}{}

%
\AtBeginDocument{
  \let\oldcard\card
}
\newcommand\cards@section[1]{
  \ifcards@printonly
    \ifthenelse{\equal{\zap@space #1 \@empty}{\cards@print@only}}
      {\let\card\oldcard}
      {\def\card##1##2##3{}}
  \fi
  \ifnum \thequestion@page > 1  %% needed here for conistent page numbering
    \set@answers
  \fi
  \def\cards@sect{#1}
  \ifcards@enumerate@section
    \setcounter{total@question}{0}
    \setcounter{total@answer}{0}
  \fi
  \refstepcounter{section}%
```

```
  \addcontentsline{toc}{section}{%
      \protect\numberline{\thesection}#1}%
}
\renewcommand\part[1]{
  \ifnum \thequestion@page > 1
    \set@answers
  \fi
  \def\cards@part{#1:~}
  \refstepcounter{part}%
  \addcontentsline{toc}{part}{%
  \protect\numberline{#1}}%
}
\renewcommand\subsection[1]{\unskip}
\renewcommand\subsubsection[1]{\unskip}
```

For evalutation of the enumeration we need some booleans. First one: enumeration at all, second one: section-wise enumeration.

```
\ifthenelse{\equal{\cards@enumerate@value}{false}}{\cards@enumeratefalse}{}
\ifthenelse{\equal{\cards@enumerate@value}{section}}{\cards@enumerate@sectiontrue}{}
```

The calculation of the height of the cards is quite straight-forward: Textheight divided by the number of cards – divided by 2 for each column. Minus a certain amount for each row of cards because of intercard-spacing. (Hence the empirical(!) value 2.3em) This is still a bit dirty and unstable, but gives good output for 2 – 28 cards/page (every reasonable value is in that intervall, I guess …

```
\newlength\cards@textheight
\setlength\cards@textheight{\textheight-2.3em*\cards@per@page/2}
\def\height@of@boxes{\cards@textheight/\cards@per@page*2}
\newcommand\lernkarte[1]{%
  \boxedminipage{.49\textwidth}%
  \hspace*{0.01\textwidth}%
  \minipage[t]{.98\textwidth}\textbf{#1}\\[2ex]%
}
\def\endlernkarte{
  \endminipage\vphantom{\rule[-\height@of@boxes]{0pt}{\height@of@boxes}}
  \endboxedminipage\kern.01\textwidth
}
```

Now set some counters. They will be used to number the cards. So you might sort your cards and you can see how far you come on one day … or you can exchange with your partners (”Having trouble on question 1357 – can you explain that equation?“)

```
\newcounter{total@question}           %% total number of questions
\setcounter{total@question}{0}
\newcounter{total@answer}           %% total number of answers
\setcounter{total@answer}{0}
\newcounter{question@page}     %% the N-th question on one page
\setcounter{question@page}{1}
\newcounter{answer@page}             %% the N-th answer@page on one page
\def\card#1#2#3{ % {Title}{question}{answer}
```

```
% typesetting the question: using the environment lernkarte for the layout:
  \begin{lernkarte}{%
    \stepcounter{total@question}%
    \ifcards@sectioncards
      \cards@sect~%
    \fi
    \ifcards@enumerate%
      \thetotal@question: %
    \fi%
    #1%
  }
  \cards@paralign
  #2
  \end{lernkarte}
% save answer nr. N in a macro \cs{answer@N@page}:
  \expandafter\def\csname answer@\thequestion@page \endcsname{#3}
  \stepcounter{question@page}
% typeset the answers when the page is full of questions:
  \ifnum\thequestion@page > \cards@per@page
    \set@answers
  \fi\unskip
}
```

Now we try a nicer way to typeset the answers:

```
\def\set@answers{
  \clearpage
  \setcounter{answer@page}{1}
% and typeset them L to R, so every answer is on the back of the correct question
  \luatextextdir TRT\unskip  %% using luaTeX directions - no idea if this is correct and/or rob
% we loop through all saved answers
  \whiledo{\theanswer@page < \thequestion@page}{%
    \begin{lernkarte}{\cards@answertext: \stepcounter{total@answer}\thetotal@answer}
      \cards@paralign
      \csname answer@\theanswer@page\endcsname
    \end{lernkarte}
    \stepcounter{answer@page}
  }\kern-1em %%% FIXME why is this kern needed here?  it's totally random!
  \newpage%
  \setcounter{question@page}{1}%
  \setcounter{answer@page}{0}%
}
```

Now the definition and setting of the *table of open questions* (tooq):

```
\addtotoclist[tooq]{tooq}
\newcommand{\listoftooqname}{\cards@openquestiontext}
\newcounter{openquestion}
\def\frownie{\bgroup\color{blue}\raisebox{2ex}{\bfseries\rotatebox{-90}{\small :-(}}\egroup}
\def\cards@mark@oq{\frownie}
\def\openquestion#1{
  \refstepcounter{openquestion}%
  \newcommand*{\l@tooq}{\l@figure}%
```

```
  \addcontentsline{tooq}{figure}{%
  \protect\numberline{\textbf{\theopenquestion}}\textbf{#1}}%
  \cards@mark@oq
}

\addtotoclist[tosr]{tosr}
\newcommand{\listoftosrname}{\cards@sectionstoreadtext}
\newcounter{sectionstoread}
\newcommand*{\l@tosr}{\l@figure}%
\def\sectiontoread#1{
  \refstepcounter{sectionstoread}%
  \addcontentsline{tosr}{figure}{%
  \protect\numberline{\textbf{\thesectionstoread}}\textbf{#1}}%
}
```

typeset the missing answers and the table of open questions.

```
\AtEndDocument{
  \part{\cards@openquestiontext}
  \listoftoc{tooq}
  \newpage
  \part{\cards@sectionstoreadtext}
  \listoftoc{tosr}
}
\author{no author given}
\title{no title given}
\date{}
\AtBeginDocument{
  \maketitle
  \newpage
  \tableofcontents
  \newpage
}
```

And finally the user-interface. German aliases and shorthands for above `\def`'d functions:

```
\newcommand\karte[3][]{\card{#1}{#2}{#3}}
\long\def\question#1\answer#2\par{\karte{#1}{#2}}
\long\def\frage#1\antwort#2\par{\karte{#1}{#2}}
\def\shortquestion#1\par#2\par{\frage #1 \antwort #2 \par}
\newenvironment{cardsection}[1]{\section{TEST}\bgroup}{\egroup}
\let\unklar\openquestion
\let\oq\openquestion
\let\str\sectiontoread
\def\openquestionmark#1{\def\cards@mark@oq{#1}}
```

</class>

3 Known Bugs

There are several bugs, some only regarding the code, some heavily destroying the layout:

display formula Under certain circumstances (which are not clear to me), there will be a problem if you write only one display formula as answer. This can enlarge the regarding card, which destroys the whole layout.

Just *add* an empty line or a single \ or whatever – this will in fact then *decrease* the size of the answer-card to the correct size.

tabular The same things for tabulars. But so far I have no idea how to fix this :(

references The references in this documentation are broken! (Avoided so it is not visible to you …)

4 To Dos

Some things that should be implemented but aren't so far or are very poor at the moment:

`\section` should have an optional argument for short titles.