commenting.sty v2.2

Feature Walkthrough

Collaborative LaTeX Annotation Package

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Abstract

This document demonstrates all features of the commenting.sty package for collaborative academic writing. Each section showcases a different feature with explanations and examples. Change [draft] to [final] in the package options to see how all annotations vanish cleanly.

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1 Quick Start

After loading the package and registering authors, you can immediately start annotating:

```
\usepackage[draft]{commenting}
\registerauthor{alice}[Alice][cbBlue]

Some text with \alice{an insertion} here.
```

Result: Some text with an insertion[Alice] here.

2 Text Additions and Deletions

2.1 Added Text: `\author{text}`

Mark new text contributions with the author command. The text appears in the author's color with a superscript signature:

- Alice added this text.[Alice]
- Bob contributed this part.[Bob]
- Carol wrote this section.[Carol]
- Dave inserted this content.[Dave]

In **final mode**, the text remains but colors and signatures disappear.

2.2 Deleted Text: `\authordel{text}`

Mark text for deletion with strikethrough formatting:

- Original sentence ~~with removed words~~[Alice] continues here.
- The ~~unnecessary~~[Bob] method was simplified.
- We ~~completely~~[Carol] revised the approach.

In **final mode**, deleted text vanishes entirely.

2.3 Combining Additions and Deletions

Track revisions by combining both commands:

The ~~old algorithm~~[Bob]new method[Bob] performs ~~poorly~~[Alice]efficiently[Alice] on large datasets.

3 Inline Comments

3.1 Short Inline Comments: `\authori{comment}`

Inline comments appear directly in the text with highlighted backgrounds:

This paragraph needs work.Alice: Consider restructuring this section. The methodology is sound,Bob: Add more details here. but the results sectionCarol: Missing statistical significance tests. requires expansion.

Inline comments are ideal for:

- Quick suggestions
- Marking areas needing attention
- Short questions or clarifications

In **final mode**, all inline comments disappear completely.

4 Footnote Comments

4.1 Short Footnote Comments: `\authorf{comment}`

For longer comments that would disrupt reading flow, use footnotes:

The experiment was conducted over six months[a] with careful monitoring of all variables[b].

Footnote comments feature:

- Alphabetic markers (a, b, c, ...) to distinguish from regular footnotes
- Clickable backlinks (click the marker in the footnote to return)
- Author-colored text for easy identification

4.2 Comparison: Inline vs. Footnote

Feature	**Inline** (`\Xi`)	**Footnote** (`\Xf`)
Visibility	In-text	Page bottom
Best for	Short notes	Long explanations
Reading flow	Interrupts slightly	Preserves flow

5 Multi-line Comment Environments

5.1 Multi-line Inline: `authorienv`

For extended inline discussions, use the `ienv` environment:

This is a multi-line inline comment that spans several lines. It's perfect for detailed suggestions, extended discussions, or when you need to explain a complex revision proposal.

The comment appears in a colored box with the author's signature in the margin, making it easy to identify at a glance.

Alice

Here is how Bob might respond:

I agree with Alice's suggestion above. We should also consider the implications for Section 5, which relies heavily on the assumptions made here.

Bob

[a] Alice: We should mention the specific dates and any interruptions that occurred during this period.
[b] Bob: Consider adding a table summarizing the monitored variables and their acceptable ranges.

5.2 Multi-line Footnote: `authorfenv`

For lengthy footnote discussions that don't fit in a single line:

The theoretical framework builds on previous work[a] and extends it to new domains.

6 Colored Block Environments

6.1 Author Blocks: `authorenv`

Mark entire paragraphs as contributions from a specific author:

Alice

This paragraph was written entirely by Alice. The colored text and margin signature clearly identify the author. This is useful for tracking who wrote which sections during collaborative editing, or for marking sections that are under review.

Bob

Bob's contribution follows here. Notice how each author's block uses their assigned color from the colorblind-safe palette. This ensures that all collaborators, including those with color vision deficiency, can distinguish between different authors' contributions.

Carol

Carol adds her section here. The margin signatures make it easy to scan the document and quickly identify who wrote what, even when printing in grayscale.

7 TODO Lists

The package includes a `todolist` environment with checkbox symbols:

- ☐ Write introduction
- ⊡ Revise methodology section
- ☒ Complete literature review
- ☐ Run additional experiments
- ☒ Update figures

Checkbox commands:

- Default: empty checkbox (☐)
- `\doing`: in-progress marker
- `\done`: completed marker

7.1 Pre-registered TODO Author

The package pre-registers a `todo` author for quick task marking:

This section is incomplete.TODO: Add experimental results here.

The algorithm needs optimization.[b]

[a] Alice: This entire paragraph needs citations. Key references include: Smith (2020) for the foundational theory, Jones (2021) for the methodological approach, and Brown (2022) for the statistical validation.

[b] TODO: Benchmark against baseline methods and report timing comparisons in Table 3.

8 Colorblind-Safe Palette

The package provides 10 colors optimized for color vision deficiency (CVD):

Color Name	Sample
`cbBlue`	Sample text in blue
`cbOrange`	Sample text in orange
`cbTeal`	Sample text in teal
`cbRed`	Sample text in red
`cbPurple`	Sample text in purple
`cbGreen`	Sample text in green
`cbYellow`	Sample text in yellow
`cbPink`	Sample text in pink
`cbBrown`	Sample text in brown
`cbGray`	Sample text in gray

9 Package Options

9.1 Draft vs. Final Mode

```
\usepackage[draft]{commenting}  % Show all annotations
\usepackage[final]{commenting}  % Hide all annotations
```

The package also inherits the document class option:

```
\documentclass[draft]{article}  % commenting.sty uses draft mode
\documentclass[final]{article}  % commenting.sty uses final mode
```

9.2 Sepia Background

For comfortable reading during long editing sessions:

```
\usepackage[draft,bg=sepia]{commenting}
```

This applies a warm sepia tone to the page background in draft mode.

10 Complete Example: Collaborative Revision

Here's a realistic example showing how multiple authors might collaborate:

The proposed method achieves state-of-the-art[Alice] results on ~~all~~[Alice] most[Alice] benchmark datasets.[a] Alice: Need to verify the claim on Dataset X. Our implementation demonstrates significant improvements over ~~existing~~[Bob] previous[Bob] approaches.

Alice

> I've reviewed Alice's revisions above. The claim about "state-of-the-art" may be too strong—we should qualify it or provide supporting evidence from our ablation studies.

Bob

[b]

[a] Alice: Code will be released upon publication at github.com/example/project.

[b] Carol: Agreed with Bob. I'll add the ablation study results to Table 2 and update the claims accordingly. Also, we need to address Reviewer 2's concern about computational complexity.

11 Summary of Commands

For each registered author `X`:

Command/Environment	Purpose	Final Mode
`\X{text}`	Added text	Text remains
`\Xdel{text}`	Deleted text	Text removed
`\Xi{comment}`	Inline comment	Hidden
`\Xf{comment}`	Footnote comment	Hidden
`Xenv`	Colored block	Plain text
`Xienv`	Multi-line inline	Hidden
`Xfenv`	Multi-line footnote	Hidden

End of feature walkthrough