

Enhanced BEAMER increments: the `beamincr` package

Maneesh Sahani

November 14, 2023

The `beamincr` package extends and enhances the incremental overlay mechanisms implemented in the BEAMER class. These include labels to refer to and manipulate overlay steps, an extended action syntax, and new increment-aware environments.

1 Background: overlays and increments

The basic BEAMER display unit is the `frame`. A frame may be rendered step-by-step, in which case the individual versions of the frame are called “overlays” or “slides”. We will use these terms interchangeably. BEAMER allows you to place material on an arbitrary slide in a frame like this

Example:

```
\begin{frame}
  text on slides 1 and up\\
  \onslide<2->
  text on slides 2 and up\\
  \onslide<3-4>{
    text only on slides 3 and 4\\
  }
  \only<5>{text only on slide 5\\}
  more text on slides 2 and up\\
\end{frame}
```

You can read about the differences between `\onslide` and `\only`, and the many other overlay-sensitive commands, in the BEAMER user guide. Note in particular the difference between the argument form and the declaration forms of `\onslide`. `\only` only works with an argument.

This explicit numbering approach becomes burdensome when you want many overlays. You have to keep track of the numbers explicitly, and if you subsequently add a step early in the sequence you need to re-number the rest. Thus, BEAMER also provides an incremental overlay specification. The following code will produce the same effect as that above.

Example:

```
\begin{frame}
  \resetincr % not standard BEAMER
  text on slides 1+\\
  \onslide<+>->
  text on slides 2+\\
  \onslide<+>+(1)>{ % increments counter by 1, despite the two +s
    text only on slides 3-4\\
  }
  \onslide<+>{} % increment counter by another
  \only<+>{text only on slide 5\\}
  more text on slides 2+\\
\end{frame}
```

This form allows easy automation using default overlay specifications. For instance (from the BEAMER user guide)

Example:

```
\begin{itemize}[<+| alert@>]
\item Apple
\item Peach
\item Plum
\item Orange
\end{itemize}
```

There are important and sometimes not-entirely-intuitive differences between the incremental and explicit numbering systems. So we will refer to the steps implied in this way as “increments”. They will mostly match slide numbers, but not always, as this example shows:

Example:

```
\begin{frame}
\resetincr % not standard BEAMER
text on slide 1+\\
\onslide<3>{text on slide 3}\\
text on slide 1+\\
\onslide<+>->
text on slide 2+\\
\onslide<4->
text on slide 4+\\ % increment number is still 2!
\onslide<+>->
text on slide 3+\\
\end{frame}
```

The increments have their own internal logic (specifically, their own internal counter) which is not affected by any explicit slide specifications that may appear between incremental calls. It may make sense to think of the increment number as being associated with *where* in the source file the material appears, rather than (necessarily) on *which slide* it appears.

There are a couple of oddities with the way increments work that often trip up first-time users. There are also some extensions that would be nice, like the ability to refer to a specific increment elsewhere in the frame. These things are certainly possible in stock BEAMER, but take some digging into internals. The tools here make things a bit easier.

As an aside, BEAMER has another incremental overlay system based on the `\pause` command. This uses the same counter as increments (in fact, the counter is called `beamerpauses`), but interprets it slightly differently. This difference is discussed in Section 9. As a result, the two sets of specifications don’t play very well together, at least from the viewpoint of non-experts. More on this below. I strongly suggest avoiding `\pause` entirely when using `beamerincr`.

2 Setting increments

`\resetincr[incnum]`

Reset the increment number to 1, or to the value defined by the optional argument if given. This doesn’t directly affect the slide on which any following text appears, but it does alter the effect of subsequent `<+>` or `<.>` increments (as well as the `!/` reference discussed below). This command may be useful to synchronise overlays in (say) two columns or between highlighted bullet points and highlighting in a figure.

Example:

```
\begin{frame}
\resetincr
\begin{center}
Two lists \onslide<+>{in sync}
\end{center}
\begin{columns}
\begin{column}{.2\textwidth}
\begin{itemize}[<+| alert@>]
\item Apple \item Peach \item Plum \item Orange
```

```

\end{itemize}
\end{column}
\begin{column}{.2\textwidth}
\resetincr[2] % restart the increment counter to sync
\begin{itemize}[<+| alert@>]
\item green \item yellow \item purple \item orange
\end{itemize}
\end{column}
\end{columns}
\end{frame}

```

Any optional argument must either be a number or be an increment reference enclosed in `//` (these are defined in Section 3). It cannot specify any sort of range, or be `+` or `.`, although `//` and things like `/(2)/` are allowed.

It is useful to call `\resetincr` at the start of every increment-based slide (as we have in the examples here). This avoids some potentially confusing behaviour that comes from the way the increment counter is implemented in BEAMER:

Example:

```

\begin{frame}
text on slides 1-\
\onslide<+>
text still on slides 1-\
\onslide<+>
text on slides 2-
\resetincr\onslide<.->
text on slides 1-\
\onslide<+>
text on slides 2-
\end{frame}

```

The first call to `\onslide<+>` doesn't advance the slide, unless it has been preceded by a `\resetincr` (or another `\onslide<+>` or a `\pause`).

`\fromincr<incnum>`

This is shorthand for

```

\resetincr[incr]
\onslide<.->

```

It can only be used as a declaration (not with an argument). The restrictions on `<incr>` are the same as above.

3 Labelling and referring to increments

In complicated frames, it may be useful to name certain increments for reference elsewhere. For instance, one might want to change a figure at certain steps while progressing through a list of bullet points. Or one might want to redisplay certain slides in the frame with `\againframe` or `\handoutframe` (described below).

`\incrlabel<incnum>{<label>}`

`\incrlabel<incnum><=>.../<label>/`

By default, this command attaches the current increment number to the label `<label>`. Once defined, the labelled increment can be recovered in (almost) any overlay spec using the constructs discussed below. The `<label>` can contain most characters, but should not start with `=` or contain any of `()- .`

The `=` in the second form is optional, but if it is present then the `/<label>/` may be separated from the `=` by additional material, which will be left in place. The label must appear at the same grouping level as the `\incrlabel=` command and before the end of the current paragraph. This is similar to the behaviour of the `=` action described in Section 4.2.

If the optional `<incr>` is provided, `<label>` is set to its value. The restrictions on `<incr>` are the same as for `\resetincr`: it can be a number or an increment specification. This allows forms like

`\incrlabel</.(2)/>x` to set `x` to the current increment + 2. See the discussion of increment specifications below.

If $\langle\textit{label}\rangle$ starts with a number in parentheses (e.g. $\langle(2)\textit{x}\rangle$) then this number is added to the current increment, or to the value of $\langle\textit{incr}\rangle$, to obtain the label value. Thus, the effect of the command above can also be achieved by `\incrlabel{(2)x}`.

`\incrref{ $\langle\textit{incrref}\rangle$ }`

This command returns the increment number defined by increment reference $\langle\textit{incrref}\rangle$ as described below.

The general form of an increment reference is

$\langle\textit{incrref}\rangle$: $\langle\textit{label}\rangle(\langle\textit{offset}\rangle)$

The label can be a string assigned by a call to `\incrlabel`, or be one of the following special characters:

- . The current increment (roughly equivalent to the incremental overlay specification ‘.’, but can be used in places where only an $\langle\textit{incrref}\rangle$ is valid).
- ^ The first overlay used in the frame. This will usually evaluate to 1, but could be different if a slide range is specified for the frame. It can be used to display text on the first slide shown, even if this is not slide 1. For labelled frames (used with `\againframe`), the definition is tied to the label, and so will evaluate to the first overlay shown so far across all the uses of the frame.
- \$ The last overlay (used) in the frame. This is stored in the `.aux` file and so generally will only be correct after a second compilation. It is tied to the frame label and so can be used to display only the final slide of a frame again: `\againframe</$/>{ $\langle\textit{frame label}\rangle$ }`. By combining with ^ it is possible to set a slide range at the first use and then automatically follow the same range with subsequent `\againframe` calls.

Example:

```
\begin{frame}<2-5>[label=myframe] % only use slides 2-5 in this presentation
...
\end{frame}
...
\againframe</^-$>{myframe} % show slides 2-5 again
...
\againframe</$/>{myframe} % show only slide 5
```

- $\$*$ The highest numbered overlay in the frame used so far. This may be useful to have an `\againframe` command continue to display a partially rendered frame, starting from the latest overlay reached in any previous displays.
- @ The most recently displayed overlay number in the frame. This may be useful to continue display picking up from where the last display left off.
- ! The increment number set by the most recent `\resetincr` command (or reset action as introduced in Section 4.1).

The $\langle\textit{offset}\rangle$, if given, is added to the increment indicated by the label. It can be negative.

Increment references can be used as part of almost any overlay specification by enclosing them within slashes, e.g. `</foo(2)/>`.

Example:

```
\begin{frame}[label=twolists]
\resetincr
\begin{center}
Two lists \onslide<+>{in sync}\\
\onslide<+>{with more material}\\
\onslide<+>{at the top}
\end{center}
\begin{columns}
```

```

\begin{column}{.2\textwidth}
  \incrlabel{startlist}%
  \begin{itemize}[<+| alert@+>]
    \item Apple \item Peach \incrlabel{halfway} \item Plum \item Orange
  \end{itemize}
\end{column}
\begin{column}{.2\textwidth}
  \resetincr[/startlist/]% keep in sync, even if we add extra topmatter
  \begin{itemize}[<+| alert@+>]
    \item green \item yellow \item purple \item orange
  \end{itemize}
\end{column}
\end{columns}
\vfill
\onslide<+>
The final increment is \incrref{.}.
\incrlabel{end}
\end{frame}

```

Note that of commands discussed here, `\incrref` expects an $\langle incrrref \rangle$ specification (i.e., $\langle label \rangle(\langle offset \rangle)$), while `\resetincr`, `\fromincr` and `\incrlabel` expect an $\langle incrunum \rangle$ specification that might be an $\langle incrrref \rangle$ in `//` (i.e., `//\langle label \rangle(\langle offset \rangle)/`) or just a number. Standard overlay-aware commands should all accept overlay specifications that include $\langle incrunum \rangle$ s.

One BEAMER command (slightly patched in this package) with which named increments are particularly useful is `\againframe`. So

Example:

```
\againframe<1,/halfway/,/end(-1)/-/end/>{twolists}
```

provides an abbreviated tour of the lists. Increment labels are associated with the label of the enclosing frame, and so the same names can safely be reused across multiple named frames.

There is also a similar new command called `\handoutframe` to render more than one overlay from a frame in `handout` or similar modes that otherwise just show a single slide with all the overlays collapsed. See Section 8.

4 Enhanced overlay action specifications

This section discusses further extensions to the overlay specification syntax, and its interaction with increments and increment labels. Many of these extensions are only valid in a context that supports BEAMER actions. According to the user guide, these are `\action`, `\item`, the `actionenv` environment and block environments like `block` and `theorem`. This package adds the fields of incremental (Section 5) and incremental alignment (Section 6) environments to this list. In the absence of any action specifications, `\action` acts like `\uncover`.

4.1 Setting increments in overlay action specifications

`<resetincr@ $\langle incrunum \rangle$ >`

`< $\langle incrunum \rangle$ -! $\langle incrunum \rangle$ - $\langle incrunum \rangle$ >`

The current increment number can be reset using either the explicit `resetincr@ $\langle incrunum \rangle$` action, or an implicit `<! $\langle incrunum \rangle$ >` specification. The `! $\langle incrunum \rangle$` may appear at either the start or end of a (possibly open) range, so no more than one of the optional $\langle incrunum \rangle$ s should be present. To set to an intermediate value, use a specification like `<1-4,!3>`.

Example:

```

\action<3-|resetincr@3>{body}
\action<!3->{body}

```

The increment number can be a label, with optional offset:

```
\incrlabel<2>{x}
\resetincr
\action</x/->{body on 2+}
\onslide<.->{this on 1+}
\action<!/x(2)/->{body on 4+}
\onslide<+-->{this on 5+}
```

The forms `<+>` and `<!.>` aren't supported (and wouldn't be useful: `<+>` already advances the increment, while `<!.>` would set it to its current value). However `<!/.(<offset>)>` (note the / label notation) can be used to advance the increment counter by multiple (or negative) steps.

The reset takes effect after the overlay specification has been interpreted and before the body is set. So any `+` or `.` references will be relative to the increment in effect *before* the `\action`. However, the special increment label `!!` can be used to access the most recent reset (but note the discussion of evaluation order below).

Example:

```
\resetincr
\action<!/.(2)/-|alert@.>{alerts too early}
\action<!/.(2)/->{\alert<.>{alerts when uncovered}}
\action<!/.(2)/-|alert@!/>{alerts when uncovered}
```

It is possible to issue multiple implicit and explicit `resetincr` action commands in one overlay spec (including at both limits of a *<range>*). The increment number in effect after the *<action spec>* will be determined by the first explicit `resetincr@` action, or if there are none, the first implicit `!<incnum>` specification.

If any actions within the same *<action spec>* depend on a `!!` increment reference, then this value will be determined by the *following* `resetincr@` value, or if there are none, the *first* `!<incnum>`, or if there are none, the most recent increment reset (by a `\resetincr` command or an action). If there are no preceding resets in the frame, then `!!` (along with any offset) evaluates to 0. See the discussion of `\allowundefinedincrlabels` for more on 0-valued references, but note that this behaviour for `!!` is independent of the `\allowundefinedincrlabels` state.

Example:

```
\resetincr
\action<1-5|resetincr@3|alert@!/>{alerts on slide 1\\}
\action<1-5|alert@!/>{alerts on slide 3\\}
\resetincr
\action<1-5|alert@!||resetincr@3>{alerts on slide 3\\}
\action<1-!5|point@!||resetincr@4|alert@!/>{points on slide 4; alerts on slide 5\\}
```

This ordering behaviour can be understood from the following two facts: BEAMER applies actions in the reverse order to that in which they appear in the specification, and `beamincr` maps `!<incnum>` specifications to explicit actions at the *end* of the *<action spec>*, preserving their order.

Actions must be used with argument text (usually enclosed in braces) or as environments. There is no equivalent to the declaration form of `\onslide`. Note, however, that `\fromincr` (Section 2) implements an `\onslide` declaration while also setting the current increment. See also the `incremental` environment (Section 5.1).

4.2 Assigning labels from overlay action specifications

`<... |=(<offset>) |...>{.../(<offset>)<label>/ ...}`

This syntax can be used to assign a label using an action specification. The name of the label to be assigned must be enclosed in `//`s within the *argument* of the `\action` (or `\item` or `\next` or alignment field ...) ¹ The label is assigned to the increment number after any `+` or `!` actions have been interpreted, as though it was called with `\incrlabel` in place. Thus in this code

Example:

```
\resetincr[3]
```

¹BEAMER actions don't make it possible to pass a text argument to the handler.

```

\action<!/.(2)/>{\incrlabel{x}action text}
\resetincr[3]
\action<!/.(2)/|=>{/x/action text}
\resetincr[3]
\action<!/.(3)/>{\incrlabel<!/.(-1)/>{x}action text}
\resetincr[3]
\action<!/.(3)/|=(-1)>{/x/action text}
\resetincr[3]
\action<!/.(3)/|=>{/(-1)x/action text}

```

the first two action calls set the label `x` to 5. The last three illustrate the use of assignment offsets: if `=` is followed by a number in parentheses, this is treated as an offset to add to the current increment at assignment, in the same way as indicated by the optional `<incnum>` argument to `\incrlabel`. The same effect can be achieved by placing the offset before the label name within the enclosing `//`.

If no `/label/` is found or if `<label>` is empty, the action tries to do nothing quietly. This makes it possible to use an `=` in a default spec, while only assigning a label on selected steps. However, this behaviour comes with warnings, and should be used with caution. First, because of the way BEAMER's internals work, it is not currently possible to omit the `//` in an `\item`, although the label can be empty (omission is fine in the fields of an incremental or incremental alignment environment). Second, if there happens to be one more or more `/` characters in the argument to the action, the text between them (or from a single `/` to the end) will be interpreted as a label, unless they appear in a group within the argument, or an explicit `//` pair appears first. You have been warned!

4.3 Extending default overlay or action specifications

<...|~|...>

Ordinarily, explicit overlay or action specifications override any defaults that might apply. It may sometimes be convenient to instead extend the default. The `~` spec can be used to add the current default spec fields into an explicit overlay specification. In this form, the `~` may be preceded by, say, a mode specification, but must not be followed by any text with the specification field (i.e., to the next `|` or `>`).

Example:

```

\begin{itemize}[<+~| alert@+|=>]
\item/ap/ Apple \item/pe/ Peach \item/pl/ Plum \item/or/ Orange
\end{itemize}
\begin{itemize}[<alert@!/>]
\item<!/pe/-|~> yellow \item<!/or/-|~> orange \item<!/ap/-|~>green \item<!/pl/-|~> purple
\end{itemize}

```

Within incremental alignment environments (Section 6), a `~` will incorporate the field-specific default. This extension is available in any overlay specification.

<defaultspec@<range>>

Action to set the default specification for overlay references within the action argument. The `<range>` may be any valid specification for a set of slides (such as `1, +- or !/foo/-/bar/`). The range is evaluated within the context of the `defaultspec@` specification, yielding specific slide numbers. Thus, any labels (including `/.` and `!/.`) or `+` or `.` symbols will be replaced by their current values. For example, in

```

\resetincr[3]
\action<+~|defaultspec@+>{\only<->{only body} other stuff}

```

the specification to `\only` is set to `<4>`, not to `<+>`, which would evaluate to slide 5 in context. See also the `~` action below.

<~<range>|...>

This is equivalent to `<range>|defaultspec@<range>|...>`. That is, it executes the calling action on `<range>` (using normal overlay evaluation rules) and also sets the default specification within the action argument to the evaluated range. This extension only works in an action specification context. As the

body of the argument will usually only be visible for the specified range anyway, the specification is most useful to control side effects.

Example:

```
\resetincr
\setcounter{displayed}{0}
\begin{itemize}[<+>]
\item \only<~>{\stepcounter{displayed}} % \only<+> adds another increment
\item<+> \only<~>{\stepcounter{displayed}} % \only<4-> does not
\item<~> \only<~>{\stepcounter{displayed}} % \only<5-> does not
\end{itemize}
```

In the example, the `\only` commands are used to advance the counter on slides where the `\items` are visible. In both cases the overlay specification to `\only` is a copy of the surrounding default specification. For the first one, this is `<+>`. For the second, it is `<+>` *evaluated* within the `\item` call, giving `<3->`. The final case expands the second `~` to the default `+-`, which becomes the increment specification for the item, and then sets the default within the item to its value, which is `5-`.

4.4 Advanced references: using labels defined later

`\allowundefinedincrlabels[<flag>]`

If called alone, or with option *<flag>* `> 0`, tells L^AT_EX not to generate an error when encountering an undefined increment label. References to such labels instead evaluate to 0, and any offset in the reference is ignored. If *<flag>* `= 0`, the default error-generating behaviour is restored.

If a referenced label is defined later in the same frame, then it will take on that later-defined value on subsequent slides of the frame. Thus, in effect, this option makes it possible to refer to increment labels before they are defined. (Although material intended to be set on slide 1 cannot depend on such advance references.)

If the label is used as part of an open range then it may be necessary to use a special syntax in which the range indicator is placed *within* the `/ /` enclosing the label. If the label is undefined (and so 0), this syntax sets the other limit of the range to 0 as well.

Example:

```
% /foo/ is not defined on first evaluation
\onslide</foo/->{spec expands to <0->, so text appears on all slides}
\onslide</foo-/>{spec expands to <0-0>, so text is suppressed}
\incrlabel<2>{foo} % on later evaluations, both specs will expand to <2->
```

If the range is closed with an explicit numerical or (defined) label upper limit, then there is no current way to suppress early expansion. However forms like `/foo/-/foo(2)/` will evaluate to `0-0` as offsets are ignored for undefined labels.

Many problems with advanced references (including range expansion and the rendering of first-slide material) can be resolved by use of `\framescanonly` and `\againframe` (Section 8).

An `\allowundefinedincrlabels` command also makes it possible to *set* the current increment to an (initially) undefined label value using `\resetincr`, `\fromincr`, or `<!/label/>`, thereby setting the current increment to 0. Text set on that increment will not appear until the label is defined. However, any subsequent `<+>` specs will still advance the increment number, which may not be desired. This behaviour can be avoided by using the form `<!/.(1)/>` instead of `<+>`. The current increment label `/./` is treated in the same way as an undefined one when the increment is 0, and so the offset is ignored.

Example:

```
\resetincr{/foo/} % no list items appear until /foo/ is defined
\begin{itemize}<!/.(1)/-|alert@!/>
\item foo
\item bar
...
\end{itemize}
```


If an initially undefined label is used to set the increment counter early in the frame, then increment labels that are defined later in the frame may change value once that first label is defined. This can be used for powerful effects, in which overlays in two different sections of the frame each depend on increments from the other. However, if the definition label used in the early reference is itself altered by the change in that early evaluation, then there is a risk of creating an infinite loop.

Example:

```
\begin{itemize}[<alert@!/>]
\item<!/.- / ~|=1>/ping/ Apple % 1- (!./ ensures alert occurs on same slide)
\item<!/.pong-/ ~-> Peach % 4-
\item<!/.(1)- / ~|=>/ping2/ Plum % 5-
\item<!/.pong2-/ ~-> Orange % 8-
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}[<alert@!/>]
\item<!/.ping-/ ~-> green % 2-
\item<!/.(1)- / ~|=1>/pong/ yellow % 3-
\item<!/.ping2-/ ~-> purple % 6-
\item<!/.(1)- / ~|=1>/pong2/orange % 7-
\end{itemize}
```

5 Incremental environments

The `beamer` package provides some new increment-aware environments. These are described in the present section. It also makes it possible to use increment specifications within alignment environments such as `tabular` or $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}$ - \TeX `align`; these are discussed in Section 6.

Each new environment is accessible under two, otherwise equivalent, names. A common base name is either preceded by the word `incremental` or followed by the symbols `<>`. The environments in this section separate material into overlays using the token `\next` or `\next*`. Many will also apply an implicit or explicitly defined command to that material when `\next` is used, but omit the command for `\next*`.

Each environment makes it possible to specify a default overlay specification, applied to all `\next` fields, unless overridden by a local value. If no default is specified it is taken to be `<+>` (rather than any enclosing default), since it is assumed that `incremental` environments are intended to be, well, incremental.

5.1 Standard incremental environments

```
\begin{incremental}[<default specification>]
  <pre-next specification> <pre-next contents>
  \next<next specification>
    <next contents>
  \next<next specification>
    <next contents>
  :
\end{incremental}
```

This environment can be thought of as an increment-aware `itemize` without the list formatting. This makes it suitable for incremental control of a wider range of types of code, such as `TikZ` drawing commands. The keyword `\next` within the environment acts like `\item` in terms of incremental processing: the `<next contents>` are set within an `\action` command. Each `\next` call can be followed by an optional `<next specification>`, which is applied to the `<next contents>`. If the specification is omitted, then the environment `<default specification>` is applied. If no `<default specification>` was given in the environment, then the default is inherited from the frame or container default. This is ordinarily `<*>`.

Unlike in `itemize` environments, code can also appear before the first `\next`. If any does, it is processed with the action specification given by `<pre-next specification>` if present, or else a default specification of `<.->` (to use the default specification defined for the environment, set `<pre-next specification>` to `<~>`). On the other hand, if nothing but whitespace appears between the opening of the environment—or the optional default overlay spec—and the first `\next`, then no action is applied.

A counter called `next` is set to 0 in the pre-next field and then advanced at every `\next`. An increment label called `next <n>`, where `<n>` is the value of the `next` counter, is defined immediately after each `\next`, before any contents are processed. The label contains a (single) space before the number.

Example:

```
\resetincr
\begin{incremental}[<+>]
  <.-> this text on slide \incrref{next 0} (=1);
\next
  on slide \incrref{next 1} (=2);
\next<!/.(2)/->
  on slide \incrref{next 2} (=4), after \thenext\ (=2) next commands.
\end{incremental}
```

```
\begin{<>}[<<default specification>]
  <environment contents>
\end{<>}
```

This is a synonym for `\begin{incremental} ... \end{incremental}`.

The following environments apply a specified command to each overlay contents.

```
\begin{incrementaldo} {<command definition>} [<<default specification>]
  <<pre-next specification>> <pre-next contents>
\next<<next specification>>
  <next contents>
\next<<next specification>>
  <next contents>
  :
\end{incrementaldo}
```

This version treats each `<next contents>` as the argument to a command. The command takes a single argument and is defined by `<command definition>` in the same way as in `\newcommand`. As the command evaluation happens deep within the bowels of BEAMER processing, the single argument generally needs to be accessed as `###1`, unless the enclosing frame is declared to be `fragile` (in the frame options), in which case it is just `#1`.

The `do` command can be avoided for specific fields by using `\next*` in place of `\next`. Contents following `\next*` are set in the same way as in a plain `incremental` environment.

Any non-empty `<pre-next contents>` is always processed without the `do` command.

```
\begin{do<>}{<command definition>} [<<default specification>]
  <environment contents>
\end{do<>}}
```

This is a synonym for `\begin{incrementaldo} ... \end{incrementaldo}`.

```
\begin{incrementaldocmd} [<num args>]{<code>} [<<default specification>>]
  <<pre-next specification>> <pre-next contents>
\next<<next specification>>
  <next contents>
\next<<next specification>>
  <next contents>
  :
\end{incrementaldocmd}
```

This version inserts `<code>` (comprising arbitrary L^AT_EX commands) after each `\next` and before `<next contents>`. If `<code>` is (or ends with) a command that takes one or more arguments, these will be read from `<next contents>`. Braces may be needed within that text to delineate the arguments.

If the optional $\langle num\ args \rangle$ is non-zero, then this number of arguments is read from the text following $\backslash next$ and can be accessed using argument parameters (almost) as in $\backslash newcommand$. As the command evaluation happens deep within the bowels of BEAMER processing, the parameter numbers must be protected with four $####$ symbols, *unless* the frame is declared to be **fragile** (in the frame options) in which case a single $\#$ works.

Execution of the $\langle code \rangle$ can be avoided for specific fields by using $\backslash next*$ in place of $\backslash next$. Contents following $\backslash next*$ are set in the same way as in a plain **incremental** environment.

Any non-empty $\langle pre-next\ contents \rangle$ is always processed without $\langle code \rangle$.

Example:

```
\tikz[every node/.style={above,allow upside down,midway,sloped}]{
  \begin{incrementaldocmd}[1]{\draw ({72*\thenext-72}:10ex)--(72*\thenext:10ex) node {#1};}
    [<+|alert@+|=>]
    \next/one/    {one}
    \next/two/    {two}
    \next/three/  {three (\thenext/\theincrement)}
    \next/four/   {four}
    \next/five/   {five}
    \next*/done/  \draw (0:5ex) \foreach \t in {1,...,5}{ -- (\t*72:5ex)};
    \node [anchor=center] {done!};
  \end{incrementaldocmd}}
```

```
\begin{docmd<>} [<\langle num args \rangle>]{\langle code \rangle}[<\langle default specification \rangle>]
  \langle environment contents \rangle
\end{docmd<>}
```

This is a synonym for $\backslash begin\{incrementaldocmd\} \dots \backslash end\{incrementaldocmd\}$.

```
\begin{incrementaldodef} [<\langle parameter spec \rangle>]{\langle code \rangle}[<\langle default specification \rangle>]
  <\langle pre-next specification \rangle> \langle pre-next contents \rangle
  \next<\langle next specification \rangle>
  \langle next contents \rangle
  \next<\langle next specification \rangle>
  \langle next contents \rangle
  \vdots
\end{incrementaldodef}
```

This is similar to the **incrementaldocmd** environment, but allows arguments to be specified using the flexible format of $\backslash def$. Parameter numbers must be escaped with four $\#$ s in both specification and code, unless the frame is declared **fragile**. Code execution can be skipped using $\backslash next*$ and is always skipped for any $\langle pre-next\ contents \rangle$.

```
\begin{dodef<>} [<\langle parameter spec \rangle>]{\langle code \rangle}[<\langle default specification \rangle>]
  \langle environment contents \rangle
\end{dodef<>}
```

This is a synonym for $\backslash begin\{incrementaldodef\} \dots \backslash end\{incrementaldodef\}$.

```
\begin{incrementaldolongdef} [<\langle parameter spec \rangle>]{\langle code \rangle}[<\langle default specification \rangle>]
  \langle environment contents \rangle
\end{incrementaldolongdef}
```

This form allows paragraph breaks within $\langle next\ contents \rangle$, but is otherwise the same as $\backslash begin\{incrementaldodef\} \dots \backslash end\{incrementaldodef\}$,

```
\begin{dolongdef<>} [<\langle parameter spec \rangle>]{\langle code \rangle}[<\langle default specification \rangle>]
  \langle environment contents \rangle
\end{dolongdef<>}
```

This is a synonym for $\backslash begin\{incrementaldolongdef\} \dots \backslash end\{incrementaldolongdef\}$.

5.2 TikZ-based incremental environments

The following environments use TikZ picture commands to create their effects. They will only be defined if TikZ is also loaded in the document preamble.

```
\begin{incrementallayers} [<node options>] [<default specification>]
  <pre-next specification> <pre-next TikZ commands>
  \next<next specification> [<next node options>]
    <layer contents>
  \next*<next specification> [<scope options>]
    <TikZ commands>
  :
\end{incrementallayers}
```

Set *<next contents>* within overlaid TikZ nodes. This may have the effect of later text appearing to be layered on top of earlier material. If the specifications place material on mutually exclusive increments (e.g. with `<+>`) then this has a similar effect to BEAMER's `overprint` environment. In particular, the region occupied by the environment will correspond to the largest of the nodes. However, this behaviour can be subverted by use of `\only` or similar commands within the *<next contents>*, or `only@` actions in *<next specification>*s; these should be used with care.

By default, nodes are set with `text width=\columnwidth`, `inner sep=0pt` so that the text fills the width of the current frame or column or minipage. They are aligned at their top borders. These defaults can be overridden, and arbitrary TikZ options provided to the nodes, in one of three ways: by setting options in the `incremental layer` TikZ style, by placing them in the optional *<node options>* argument to the environment, or by placing them in the optional *<next node options>* after a `\next` (and after any *<next specification>*).

Three shorthand node alignment keys are available: `t` aligns the nodes at their top edges (the default); `b` at their bottom edges and `c` at their centres.

The entire environment is set within a single `tikzpicture`. Any *<pre-next contents>* and the contents of any `\next*` are interpreted as TikZ commands within that picture. Each `\next*` sets its contents within a TikZ `scope` environment. Options to this environment can be provided by starting the contents (after any *<next specification>*) with [*<scope options>*].

The default origin of the TikZ coordinate system is the `north`, `center` or `south` anchor points of the layer nodes for `t`, `c` and `b` alignment respectively. The nodes themselves are accessible under the names (`layer <n>`), where *<n>* is the corresponding value of the `next` counter.

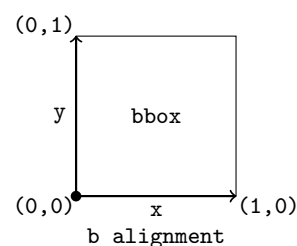
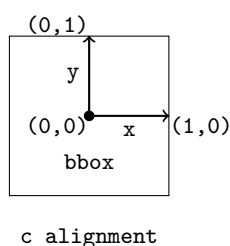
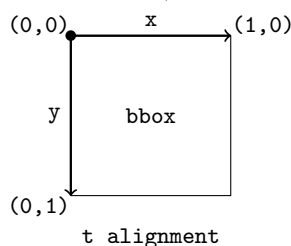
The following special options can be given within `\next*` scope options.

t | c | b

These options do not alter anything by themselves. However, subsequent calls to the options below will behave differently for different alignment keys. The default value is the alignment of the most recent layer node.

layer xy=*<bbbox>*

Set the `xy` coordinate system in the scope to span the bounding box of the layers rendered so far, or a specified *<bbbox>* node. It is possible to set *<bbbox>* to `current page`, in combination with an `overlay` option to the scope. The origin of the coordinates depends on the alignment of the most recent layer, or a `t | c | b` alignment option to the `\next*` scope. The origin is placed at the `north west`, `center` or `south west` of the bounding node, for `t`, `c`, or `b` alignment respectively. The `x` vector extends horizontally to the east border of the bounding node, while `y` extends vertically to the opposite side (or top for `c` alignment).



layer grid=*<options>*

Draw a grid within the current **layer** **xy** coordinates. By default the grid fills the layer. Fine minor grid lines are 0.1 units apart. and heavier major grid lines are placed at full units. The default appearance is taken from the `TikZ help lines` style, with major lines drawn **thick**. The appearance and grid parameters can be changed using *<options>*, which may include the following special keys:

min=*<value>* The minimum coordinate of the grid; *<value>* should be a number that applies to both **x** and **y** dimensions (default=0 for **t** and **b** aligned coordinates, or -1 for **c**).

max=*<value>* The maximum coordinate of the grid; *<value>* should be a number that applies to both **x** and **y** dimensions (default=1).

spaced=*<value>* the spacing between grid lines (default = 0.1 for minor, or 1 for major).

minor=*<options>* options for the minor grid only (may include **min** | **max** | **spaced**).

major=*<options>* options for the major grid only (may include **min** | **max** | **spaced**).

```
\begin{layers<>} [<parameter spec>]{<code>}[<default specification>]  
  <environment contents>  
\end{layers<>}
```

This is a synonym for `\begin{incrementallayers} ... \end{incrementallayers}`.

5.3 Synchronising incremental environments

After an incremental environment has been defined, the special label **next+** evaluates to the increment associated with the next `\next`: or, more precisely, to the smallest `/next <n>/` that is strictly greater than the current increment or to 0 if none are larger. This label can be used to easily synchronise later incremental environments to a first one, even if each `\next` step involves multiple increments.

Example:

```
\begin{<>  
  \next first line \onslide<+>{with an addendum}\\  
  \next second line\\  
\end{<>  
  
\resetincr % ensure currentincr is less than /next 1/  
\begin{<>}[<!/next +/>]  
  \next match the first line on slide \incrref{next 1}\\  
  \next match the second line on slide \incrref{next 2}\\  
  \next match the second line on slide \incrref{next +}\\  
\end{<>
```

The reset specification in `<!/next +/>` is necessary to advance the current increment. The values of **next <n>** are redefined in the second environment, but mostly to the same values as in the first. The exception in this example is **next 0** which will be set to 1 (by the `\resetincr`) regardless of its value in the first environment. As a side effect, this ensures that `/next +/` at the first `\next` call evaluates to `/next 1/` rather than `/next 0/`.

It is possible to wrap an **itemize** environment within an incremental one to provide a similar functionality, albeit with warnings discussed below.

Example:

```
\begin{<>}\begin{itemize}  
  \next\item<.-> first item \item with an addendum\\  
  \next\item<.-> second item\\  
\end{itemize}\end{<>  
  
\resetincr[/next 0/] % ensure currentincr is less than /next 1/  
\begin{itemize}[<!/next +/>]  
  \item match the first item on slide \incrref{next 1}\\  
  \item match the second item on slide \incrref{next 2}\\  
  \item match the second item on slide \incrref{next +}\\  
\end{itemize}
```

The explicit `<.->` specifications in the first `itemize` are needed because the incremental environment sets the default spec to `<+-->`, and so would otherwise cause each `\item` to introduce a new increment. It is not possible to set separate default specs for the incremental and `itemize` environments when both are used explicitly. Thus, the addendum `\item` inherits the `<+-->` default.

The second `itemize` does not need to be wrapped within an incremental environment. It simply accesses the labels defined in the first.

Note that both the `incremental` and `itemize` environments group the contents of `\next` or `\item` commands within environments. it is thus surprising that the interleaved construct works at all. There are cases where it will fail. In general, when using `\next\item` it is best to have display (or uncover) control determined by the `\next` command, but appearance (such as alerts) determined by the `\item`.

A shorthand environment is available, which adds the capability to define separate default specifications for `\next` and `\item` calls. However, this does not resolve the fragility of the interleaving.

```
\begin{incrementalitemize}[<<default specification>>][<<next item default>>&<<separate item default>>]
  <<pre-next specification>> <pre-next contents>
  \next<<next specification>>
    <next contents>
  \item<<item specification>>
    <item contents>
  :
\end{incrementalitemize}
```

This environment is similar to

```
\begin{docmd<>}[0]{\item<.->}
\begin{itemize}
\next<next specification> next contents
\item<item specification> item contents
...
\end{itemize}
\end{docmd<>}
```

Each `\next` creates an `\item` by default displayed from the increment in effect after the `\next`. It also increments the `next` counter and defines a corresponding `next` $\langle n \rangle$ label. An explicit `\item` uses the same default specification as `\next` (which itself defaults to `<+-->` in incremental environments), but does not set the next-related counter or label.

The second optional argument (which must follow the first) makes it possible to change the default overlay behaviour of the `\items`. It can contain one or two specifications, separated by an `&` symbol. The first applies to the implicit `\item` commands generated by each `\next`. The second, if present, applies to any explicit `\items`. If absent, it is set to the overall default specification. The default values if no optional arguments are given are `[<+-->][<.->&<~>]`.

Note that any `<pre-next contents>` cannot generate typeset text, as this would precede the first `\item` command.

```
\begin{itemize<>}[<<default specification>>]
  <environment contents>
\end{itemize<>}
```

This is a synonym for `\begin{incrementalitemize} ... \end{incrementalitemize}`.

6 Incremental alignment environments

Standard L^AT_EX alignment environments including `tabular` and the `align` and `align*` environments from the `amsmath` package are not ordinarily increment-aware. The current package introduces a partial fix for this, although there are remaining fragilities that may need to be worked around. It is possible to make an increment-aware version of any alignment environment using `\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment` as described below. A few such environments are defined automatically when `beamincr` is loaded and these are described first, thus illustrating the behaviour once an increment-aware environment has been created.

6.1 Automatically defined incremental alignment environments

The following two environments are equivalent:

```
\begin{incrementalalign*}[<<spec1>>&<<spec2>>&...]
  <environment contents>
\end{incrementalalign*}

\begin{align*<>}[<<spec1>>&<<spec2>>&...]
  <environment contents>
\end{align*<>}
```

Each pre-processes the input to `align*`, placing an `\action<>{}` command around each field, defined as the material appearing between successive `&`, `\` or end environment tokens. By default, the first field on a line is called with `\action<+>{}`, and up to 7 remaining ones with `\action<.->{}`. This has the effect of displaying a full line at a time, unless it has more than 8 fields. The optional argument makes it possible to change this behaviour to `\action<spec1>`, `\action<spec2>`, etc. with the sequence of specifications reset to `<spec1>` at the beginning of every line. If there are fewer specifications in the default than fields on a single line, then the sequence is repeated. The default specification values can be changed by calling `\setincrementalenvspec{align*}{<new default>}` or similar.

The default specification for a single field can be overridden by placing a field-specific specification in `<>` at its start. This means that a leading `<` in the field contents itself must be protected, e.g. by preceding it with `{}`.

The use of `\action` means that BEAMER will interpret both standard `action@<increment>` actions and implicit ones such as `!`-prefixed increment resets, `=` label assignments or `~<range>` default specification.

Example:

```
\begin{align*<>}[<+>&<.->] % increment after every two &s
  x\incrlabel{x} &= y & 1 &{<2} \\\
  </x/-> x^2 &= y^2 & <!/x/-> e^{i\pi} &{<+>= -1} \\\
  \sum_n f(n) &<.-|alert@.> \to \int f(x) dx
\end{align*<>}
```

The pre-processor is not able to distinguish between the `&` alignment characters that apply to the containing environment and any that appear within enclosed environments, such as `array`. Thus, any such environments must be protected. The simplest approach is just to add extra braces to group the enclosed environment at a lower level. Alternatively, the environment can be defined within a token register or a protected macro. It is still possible to use increments within the environments: these are processed sequentially with those in the containing `align` environment, respecting increment labels, resets etc.

Example:

```
% using grouping
\newtoks\mymatrix
\begin{align<>}
  \incrlabel{mat}{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ \alt<+>{3}{2} & 4 \end{pmatrix}}\resetincr[/mat/]
  & \text{is \only<+>{not }singular}
\end{align<>}

% using \protected
\protected\def\mymatrix{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ \alt<+>{3}{2} & 4 \end{pmatrix}}
\begin{align<>}
  \incrlabel{mat}\mymatrix \resetincr[/mat/]& \text{is \only<+>{not }singular}
\end{align<>}

% using token registers
\newtoks\mymatrix
\mymatrix={\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ \alt<+>{3}{2} & 4 \end{pmatrix}}
\begin{align<>}
  \incrlabel{mat}\the\mymatrix \resetincr[/mat/]& \text{is \only<+>{not }singular}
\end{align<>}
```


It may be wise to put any `\newtoks` declaration outside the frame so as not to consume more of \TeX 's resources than needed.

`\intertext` lines must be terminated with `\\`. By default they will be grouped within the action call of the last field of the preceding line. This behaviour can be changed by inserting a `\\` between that field and the `\intertext`. By default, both `\\`s will add extra vertical space (and an equation number in non-starred variants). These can be avoided by using a form like `\nonumber\\[-3ex]` instead.

The `amsmath \tag` command is processed in such a way that it cannot easily be made overlay aware. Any `\tags` will appear on any slides where the overall environment is uncovered, even if no fields have appeared. However, an alternative `\eqtag` is defined. See Section 6.4.

```
\begin{incrementalgather*}[<\default spec>]
  <environment contents>
\end{incrementalgather*}
```

```
\begin{gather*<>}[<\default spec>]
  <environment contents>
\end{gather*<>}
```

These incremental forms are also created when `beamerinc` is loaded, with similar behaviour to the incremental `align*` environments described above. Although these contain only one field per line, automatic access to `BEAMER` and `beamerinc` actions as these lines are processed can be useful. By default, they uncover equations a line at a time (using `<+>`).

```
\begin{incrementaltabular}[<pos>]{<cols>}[<\spec1>>&<\spec2>>&... ]
  <environment contents>
\end{incrementaltabular}
```

```
\begin{tabular<>}[<pos>]{<cols>}[<\spec1>>&<\spec2>>&... ]
  <environment contents>
\end{tabular<>}
```

These provide increment-aware versions of the standard \LaTeX `tabular` environment. By default, the entire table is uncovered on the current increment (using `<.->`), but this behaviour can be altered by changing the default specification when called, or by using `\setincrementalenvspec` as described below. It may also be desirable to uncover entries column-by-column. This effect can be achieved using increment labels.

Example:

```
\begin{tabular<>}{cccc}[</col1-/>&</col2-/>&</col3-/>&</col4-/>]
  <=(1)>/col1/\bf fruit & <=(2)>/col2/\bf colour
    & <=(3)>/col3/\bf climate & <=(4)>/col4/\bf family \\[1ex]
  Apple & green & cool & pome \\
  Peach & yellow & warm & drupe \\
  Plum & purple & cool & drupe \\
  Orange & orange & hot & citrus \\
\end{tabular<>}
```

```
\begin{incrementaltabular*}[<pos>]{<width>}{<cols>}[<\spec1>>&<\spec2>>& ... ]
  <environment contents>
\end{incrementaltabular*}
```

```
\begin{tabular*<>}[<pos>]{<width>}{<cols>}[<\spec1>>&<\spec2>>& ... ]
  <environment contents>
\end{tabular*<>}
```

These forms add the `<width>` argument of \LaTeX 's `tabular*` environment.

6.2 Creating new incremental alignment environments

`\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment`{ $\langle name \rangle$ }[$\langle Nopts \rangle$]{ $\langle Nreqs \rangle$ }[$\langle default\ spec \rangle$][$\langle base \rangle$]

Create an increment-aware version of an alignment environment. Unless a different $\langle base \rangle$ environment is specified in the final argument, the new environment is based on an existing one of the same $\langle name \rangle$. This existing environment should process its contents in fields demarcated by `&` and/or `\` tokens. The arguments $\langle Nopts \rangle$ and $\langle Nreqs \rangle$ specify the numbers of optional and required arguments the base environment expects. If $\langle Nopts \rangle$ is omitted it is taken to be 0. $\langle Nreqs \rangle$ must be specified, but can be 0. If the $\langle default\ specification \rangle$ is omitted it is set to `<.->`, thus displaying the environment contents at the prevailing increment number in the frame.

The new environment can be accessed using either of the names `incremental $\langle name \rangle$` or `$\langle name \rangle$ <>`.

6.3 Manipulating default behaviour

`\useincrementalenv`{ $\langle name \rangle$ }

Make all subsequent uses of the $\langle name \rangle$ environment call the incremental version. The incremental version must already have been created.

Example:

```
\useincrementalenv{align*}
\begin{align*}[<+>]
  % this is an incremental environment
\end{align*}
```

The specified $\langle name \rangle$ must match the *name* of the base environment (i.e., the first argument to `\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment`), whether or not this is the same as its base.

Example:

```
\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment{foo}{0}[<.->][bar]
\begin{foo}
  % error -- environment is accessible as incrementalfoo or foo<>
\end{foo}
\useincrementalenv{foo}
\begin{foo}
  % evokes the incremental version of bar
\end{foo}
```

`\usenonincrementalenv`{ $\langle name \rangle$ }

Make subsequent uses of the $\langle name \rangle$ environment refer to the non-incremental version. If the name and base specified at creation were the same, this restores the normal behaviour of the $\langle name \rangle$ environment. If a different base environment was specified at creation, this creates a new $\langle name \rangle$ environment that is synonymous with the base.

Example:

```
\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment{foo}{0}[<.->][bar]
\begin{foo}
  % error -- environment is accessible as incrementalfoo or foo<>
\end{foo}
\usenonincrementalenv{foo}
\begin{foo}
  % evokes the original version of bar
\end{foo}
```

`\setincrementalenvspec`{ $\langle name \rangle$ }{ $\langle default\ specification \rangle$ }

Set the default specification for incremental environments of type $\langle name \rangle$.

6.4 Equation numbering

Unfortunately, the `amsmath \tag` command, used for equation numbering, is processed in such a way that it cannot easily be made overlay aware. Any `\tags` will appear on any slides where the overall environment is uncovered, even if no fields have appeared. This is also the case with automatic numbering. Thus if defined using

```
\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment{gather}{0}[<+>]
```

the `gather<>` environment will also generate all equation numbers whenever the environment as a whole is uncovered, regardless of the status of the relevant fields. In principle, this behaviour could be partially addressed using a technique discussed in the BEAMER manual Howtos, but this requires some additional hackery.

Instead, `beaminc` provides an increment-aware version of `\tag` and of automatic equation numbering.

```
\eqtag<<overlay spec>>{\tag}
```

Place `\tag` on slides that match `<overlay spec>`.

```
\eqnum<<overlay spec>>
```

Place the current equation number (as `\theequation`) on slides that match `<overlay spec>`, and then increment it.

The second form can be used as an action.

```
<eqnum@<range>>
```

Place the current equation number (as `\theequation`) on slides in `<range>`, and then increment it.

Example:

```
\begin{align*}[<+|eqnum@+>&<.->]
  e^{\pi i} \approx -1 \quad \backslash
  \sqrt[3]{1} \approx e^{2\pi i/3}
\end{align*}
```

numbers equation as it is uncovered.

In principle, this method can be used to create automatic numbering forms of the `amsmath` environments:

```
\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment{gather}{0}[<+|eqnum@+>][gather*]
\begin{gather<>
  % equations will be numbered, with numbers uncovered with the rest of the line
\end{gather<>}
```

Such environments are not created automatically, as the user should be aware of two traps. First, if a default specification is given to `\begin{gather<>}`, the environment will revert to unnumbered unless the appropriate `eqnum` action or commands are provided. Second, a call to `\usenonincrementalenv{gather}` will make `gather` a synonym for `gather*`. At this point, there would be no easy way to restore `gather` to its original behaviour. You have been warned.

7 Directing attention

7.1 Alerts

```
\alerts<<overlay spec>>{\argument contents}
```

Activate any `\alert*` commands in `<argument contents>` on the overlays indicated by `<overlay spec>`.

```
<alerts@<range>>
```

This is the action equivalent of `\alerts`.

```
\alert*{\argument}
```

Executes `\alert{\argument}` if an enclosing `\alerts` command or action is active. Otherwise `<argument>` is displayed unalerted.

7.2 Pointers

\point*<overlay spec>*{*<contents>*}

In normal text, insert a pointer before *<contents>* on the specified slides. If *<contents>* includes any **\point*** commands, pointers are inserted at the locations of these commands at the same time.

If called within a TikZ picture, the **\point** command does not insert a pointer itself. Instead, any pointer defined by the **pointer** option to any nodes in *<contents>* is activated. See the description of **pointer** below.

<point@<range>

The action form of **\point** can be used in all contexts where an action specification is valid. Its behaviour around normal text or TikZ code is as above. In **itemize** environments it replaces the default item label with the pointer². In **enumerate** environments it prepends the pointer to the default label. In other list environments, or when the label is set explicitly as an optional argument to **\item**, it has no direct effect. However any **\point*** commands in the item label or text are activated.

<pointers@<range>

This action activates **\point*** commands in the argument contents, but does not insert a pointer.

\point*[*<options>*]{*<contents>*}

If the command is not followed by a [or { character, insert a pointer when an enclosing **\point** command or action is active.

If followed by an argument in [] or {}, and if TikZ is loaded, call **\pointtonode** as described below. If TikZ is *not* loaded a normal pointer is inserted as in the no-argument form, any options are ignored, and the contents is copied to the output.

tikz option: **pointer**=[*<pointer node options>*]*<angle>*

This is a TikZ option that can be passed to a **node** to insert a pointer drawn towards the node whenever an enclosing **\point** command or action is active. If an *<angle>* is specified, the pointer is drawn towards the corresponding point on the node boundary; this can be specified as a numerical angle or a direction like **north**. The default angle is **west** or 180, so that the pointer points to the node from the left. The pointer itself is drawn within a node: this behaviour is very similar to the regular TikZ node **label** option, except that the pointer node is automatically sloped so as to point inwards.

The current implementation does not work well with **coordinates**. The alternative **pointer coordinate** style creates an empty circular node of 0.1pt size, which is broadly equivalent.

If *<pointer node options>* are specified (generally requiring braces around the entire option value to protect TikZ's option parsing from seeing the []s) these are passed to the pointer node. A few options may be particularly useful:

pos=*<scale>* adjusts the placement of the pointer as a fraction of the distance from the target node centre to its boundary. The default is 1.0. This option is unlikely to be useful when the target is a **pointer coordinate**.

pointer sep=*<dimen>* adds *<dimen>* to the distance of the pointer from the target node.

rotate=*<angle>* rotates the pointer relative to its initial angle.

\pointtonode[*<pointer options>*]{*<contents>*}

If TikZ is loaded, this is shorthand for

```
\tikz[baseline]\node[anchor=base,text height=1.5ex,inner sep=0pt,pointer={#1}]{#2};
```

²Although if the **itemize** is nested within an **enumerate**, it inherits the **enumerate** behaviour.

The spacing adjustments ensure that the contents in the node are printed in alignment with the surrounding text, and that pointers to an empty node appear at a similar height to those inserted by `\point` or `\point*`. The availability of `\pointer options` provides flexibility in the pointer placement. If TikZ is not loaded, this is the equivalent of `\point*{\langle contents \rangle}`, ignoring any options given.

`\usepointer``[\inactive glyph]{\langle pointer glyph \rangle}`

Use `\langle pointer glyph \rangle` for subsequent pointers in the current group. If the optional argument is absent, then the pointer is replaced by a phantom of the same size when inactive (the size only matters if `\useuncoverpointer` is active). If it is given, then inactive pointers are replaced by `\inactive glyph` (which may be empty).

Example:

```
\usepointer{\raisebox{0.3ex}{\alert{$\blacktriangleright$}}} % the default
\usepointer{\raisebox{-0.4ex}{\alert{\HandRight}}} % requires \usepackage{bbding}
```

Note that some adjustment of the vertical placement, as in these examples, may be necessary to align the pointer appropriately with the text.

The effect of this command is local to the containing group.

The pointer appearance should really be controlled through BEAMER's template mechanism, but that's a project for another day.

`\useoverprintpointer`

Print subsequent pointers (and any inactive glyphs) in the current group *over* existing material, without reserving any space for them (internally, they set within a zero-width box). This is the default, and avoids the dilemma of either leaving blank spaces for inactive pointers, or having text rearrange when the pointer appears.

The effect of this command is local to the containing group.

`\useuncoverpointer`

Set subsequent pointers and any inactive glyph in the current group as normal text, taking up space on the page. If no inactive glyph has been specified, the effect is to leave a blank space when the pointer is inactive, much like the effect of the `\uncover` or `\onslide` commands. If the inactive glyph is set to the empty string, there is no blank space, but surrounding text is rearranged to make room for the pointer when it becomes active.

The effect of this command is local to the containing group.

7.3 Graphical alerts

If TikZ is loaded, `beamerinc` defines various styles of graphical alerts or **glerts**, and provides a facility to define more. The argument to be alerted is set within an inline TikZ node with a tight bounding box, aligned with the baseline of the surrounding line of text. A second node or associated path is used to add the graphical embellishment. (More details of the construction are given in Section 7.3.7.) Glerts can be used to draw attention at specific increments, or simply to highlight material on the slide in a static fashion.

7.3.1 Gler commands

The following commands are used to insert and control the activation of glerts.

`\useglert``{\langle style \rangle_1=\langle options \rangle, \langle style \rangle_2=\langle options \rangle, [\langle further options \rangle]}`

Set one or more gler styles to be applied to subsequent `\glert[*]` calls or actions, unless they define a style locally. For a discussion of the `\langle further options \rangle`, see Section 7.3.7.

\addglert{ $\langle style \rangle_1=\langle options \rangle$, $\langle style \rangle_2=\langle options \rangle$, [$\langle further options \rangle$]}

Append one or more glert styles to the current set, to be applied to subsequent **\glert[*]** calls or actions, unless they define a style locally.

\glert $\langle overlay spec \rangle$ >[$\langle options \rangle$]{ $\langle argument contents \rangle$ }

Apply a graphical alert to $\langle argument contents \rangle$ on $\langle overlay spec \rangle$. The style of the alert may be set in $\langle options \rangle$ using the same syntax as in **\useglert**. When inactive, $\langle argument contents \rangle$ is displayed unalerted within a TikZ node.

\glert*[$\langle options \rangle$]{ $\langle argument contents \rangle$ }

Executes **\glert**[$\langle options \rangle$]{ $\langle argument contents \rangle$ }, with the active or inactive state determined by the status of any enclosing **\glerts** command or action. If there is no such command, then the glert is always inactive.

\glerts $\langle overlay spec \rangle$ >{ $\langle argument contents \rangle$ }

Activate any **\glert*** commands within $\langle argument contents \rangle$ on the overlays indicated by $\langle overlay spec \rangle$.

<glerts@ $\langle range \rangle$ >

This is the action equivalent of **\glerts**.

7.3.2 Glerts and modes

Ordinarily, glerts remain inactive in all except **beamer** mode. To include an active glert in (say) **handout** mode, include the mode spec **<handout>** or **<handout:*>** within the $\langle spec \rangle$ passed to **\glert**. The same options can be included in the spec of an explicit **\glerts** command. To activate **\glert***s implicitly from an enclosing action, use **<handout:glerts@*>**.

Alternatively, when using **\handoutframe**, specific overlays can be included within the handout (or other mode) output rendered as they would be in **beamer** mode.

7.3.3 Built-in glert styles

A few **glert** styles are predefined. Each displays the text in the same style as the surrounding material when inactive. Their actions when activated are as follows.

null Do nothing, even when activated.

alert= $\langle color, \dots \rangle$ Display text in red or $\langle color \rangle$ (like the standard **\alert**). This is the default glert style.

box= $\langle color, \dots \rangle$ Draw a rectangular frame around the text in red or $\langle color \rangle$.

ellipse= $\langle color, \dots \rangle$ Draw an ellipse around the text in red or $\langle color \rangle$.

uline= $\langle line options \rangle$ Underline the text. The appearance of the line can be altered with standard TikZ line options. The default is red and “very thick”.

sout= $\langle angle, line options \rangle$ Strikeout the text by placing a horizontal line (or line tilted by $\langle angle \rangle$ from horizontal) through it. The $\langle angle \rangle$ may be a direction keyword such as **north east**. The appearance of the line can be altered with standard TikZ line options. The default line is red and “very thick”.

xout= $\langle angle, line options \rangle$ A version of **sout** that adds a second line flipped vertically from the first, creating an X shape. The default behaviour is to join opposite corners of the containing node (equivalent to $\langle angle \rangle$ =**north east**), otherwise they are drawn $\pm \langle angle \rangle$ from horizontal. The appearance of the lines can be altered with standard TikZ line options. The default lines are red and “very thick”.

highlight= $\langle color, \dots \rangle$ Fill a background box with partly transparent red or $\langle color \rangle$, much as a highlighter would on paper.

spotlight= $\langle color, \dots \rangle$ Draw a fading ellipse underneath the text in partly transparent red or $\langle color \rangle$.

connect= $\{[\langle to options \rangle] \langle target \rangle\}$ Draw a [red, very thick, double-headed arrow] line to the *TikZ* coordinate $\langle target \rangle$. This could be a $\langle glert name \rangle$ (see Section 7.3.4). If it is the name of a node in another *TikZ* picture, that picture must have the **remember picture** option set; this is always the case for glerts.

The $\langle to options \rangle$ can be used to modify the shape of the path. The style of the line can be changed by specifying **path**= $\{\langle options \rangle\}$ within the $\langle further options \rangle$ of the **\glert[*]** command.

label= $\{[\langle path options \rangle] \langle angle \rangle : [\langle label node options \rangle] \langle label text \rangle\}$ Place a label near the glert node.

Possible $\langle path options \rangle$:

pos= $\langle scale \rangle$ scale separation from glert node in proportion to the glert node “radius”.

sep= $\langle dimen \rangle$ add $\langle dimen \rangle$ to separation from glert node. If $\langle angle \rangle$ is a keyword, **pos** moves along the corresponding direction defined by the glert node shape, whereas **sep** moves in the corresponding absolute direction (e.g. 45° for **north east**).

sloped rotate the label according to angle, by default keeping text from being upside down.

allow upside down Allow upside down text. Should be given in **path options** to ensure that anchor orientation is correct.

Possible $\langle label node options \rangle$:

anchor in anchor to the east/west side closer to the glert node.

anchor out anchor to the east/west side further from the glert node.

signal= $\{[\langle path options \rangle] \langle angle \rangle : [\langle signal node options \rangle] \langle signal text \rangle\}$ Use a **signal** node label.

The special options **|>**, **>**, **>|**, **<|**, **<**, **|<** control the presence and orientation of signal pointers. Right **>s** indicate pointers inwards to the glert node.

callout= $\{[\langle callout node options \rangle] \langle angle \rangle : \langle callout text \rangle\}$ Draw a callout node containing $\langle callout text \rangle$ pointing to the glert node from $\langle angle \rangle$ (may be a direction keyword).

The default callout is rectangular and placed at a centre-to-centre distance 2.5 times the glert node “radius”: i.e., the distance from centre to edge in the direction of $\langle angle \rangle$.

The $\langle callout node options \rangle$ can be used to change the callout appearance and placement.

Options can be set for all callouts using the **glert callout options** style. Initially, this sets the defaults of **{rectangle callout, draw, pos=2.5, sep=0pt}**.

In the $\langle color, \dots \rangle$ arguments, a colour name (as defined by the **xcolor** package) can generally be followed by other line or node options placed (along with the colour) in braces. Such options should take precedence over any default style, and over any options not grouped with the $\langle color \rangle$ argument. The other ways to set options are described in Section 7.3.7.

Multiple styles can be used together. If they set conflicting parameters (e.g. **box** vs. **ellipse**) then the last in the calling sequence will prevail.

7.3.4 Naming glerts

The name of the glert node can be set within the **\glert[*]** options with **node={name= $\langle name \rangle$ }**, or, more simply, $\langle name \rangle$. The node can then be referenced by a **connect** glert, or from another *TikZ* picture (remembering to use **remember picture** and **overlay** as appropriate).

7.3.5 Glerts in math mode

Glert commands generally process math mode material transparently. In particular, there is no need to restore the math mode or style explicitly within the argument as there would be with most other boxed commands. However, *TeX* internals mean that to achieve this transparency, both the maths material and associated glert drawing must be rendered internally four times (in each of the four main maths styles), with only one rendering then being placed on the output page.

Although the added compilation induced by this quirk is generally acceptable, there is one context in which it creates a real difficulty. If a named glert is to be referenced (say, with the **connect** glert style), the

same name is associated with all four nodes in turn, ending with the `\scriptscriptstyle` version. If the `\scriptscriptstyle` version isn't the one used in the final layout, then TikZ treats the final named node as though it were in the bottom left corner of the page.

To work around this issue `beamincrcr` makes it possible to specify the correct `mathstyle` explicitly, thus removing the need for the four versions. This is done by placing the style instruction as the *first* token in the *options* to the `\glert[*]` command. If a *glert style* or additional options are to be provided, these must follow. They can be separated from the `mathstyle` command by a comma, but this is not necessary.

Example:

```
\begin{equation*}% simple, but naming issues
\int_{\glert[(lo)]{-\infty}}^{\glert[(hi)]{+\infty}} e^{-i\omega t} d\omega = 2\pi\delta(t)
\end{equation*}

\begin{equation*}% contents rendered only once in the specified style
\int_{\glert[\scriptstyle (lo)]{-\infty}}^{\glert[\scriptstyle (hi)]{+\infty}}
e^{-i\omega t} d\omega = 2\pi\delta(t)
\end{equation*}
```

Note that `align` environments also set their contents multiple times (to determine their sizes) and so `glert` naming doesn't work there either. There's no workaround for this at the moment.

7.3.6 Glerts in TikZ pictures

Glerts can be applied to nodes in TikZ pictures by setting the options below. In this use, no separate bounding box node is created. Thus, the extent of the node itself (including any `glert`-based modifications to the node) will ordinarily contribute to the size of the picture. However, any `glert` path additions will not, and so may extend outside the picture bounding box.

tikz option: `glert={<overlay spec>[<options>]}`

This option can be given to a TikZ node, to apply a `glert` specification according to *<overlay spec>*. If no overlay specification is given, it is applied on all overlays. The *<options>* can specify `glert` styles or other options, as in the `\glert` command.

tikz option: `glert*={[<options>]}`

This option can be given to a TikZ node, to apply the `glert` specification when an enclosing `\glerts` command or action is active. The *<options>* can specify `glert` styles or other options, as in the `\glert*` command.

More than one `glert` and `glert*` option can be given to the same node, potentially applying different `glerts` on different overlays. Note, though, that `glert` specifications set by earlier `glert[*]`s will become the default for later ones.

7.3.7 Refining the glert appearance

In addition to the options defined explicitly by the standard `glerts` above, most other aspects of the `glert` appearance can be controlled (and extended). Stripped of various bits of internal munging, a `glert` essentially creates the following code:

```
\tikz[baseline,remember picture,glert picture <state>]{
  \path[use as bounding box,glert bbox <state>]
    node[anchor=base,inner sep=0pt,glert bbox <state>]{\phantom{<contents>}};
  \pathnode[anchor=base,glert node <state>]{<contents>};
  \path[<style definitions>,glert path <state>] <style path>;
}
```

where *<state>* is either `active` or `inactive`. (For the TikZperts: the final path is only generated when necessary, and as a `\pgfextra` path created within the options to the preceding node. See Section 7.3.8.)

The `glert` *<object>* *<state>* styles can be used to modify the appearance of each of the paths (or set options for the entire picture). They can be set in two ways. The first is to provide the following option within `\useglert` or `\glert[*]` options, following any `glert` style declaration:

glert option: $\langle object \rangle \langle state \rangle = \{ \langle options \rangle \}$

$\langle object \rangle = \text{picture} \mid \text{bbox} \mid \text{node} \mid \text{path}$; $\langle state \rangle = \text{active} \mid \text{inactive}$

These options may be used within the argument to a `\useglert` or the options to `\glert` or `\glert*`. Each will append $\langle options \rangle$ to the `glert $\langle object \rangle \langle state \rangle$` style, thus modifying its appearance. If $\langle state \rangle$ is omitted it is taken to be `active`.

If called within `\useglert`, the changes will last until the next `\useglert` call, but will not apply to any `\glert[*]`s that set an explicit style. Options within `\glert[*]` are local to that instance.

(It is also possible to append to the `glert $\langle object \rangle \langle state \rangle$` style directly with `\tikzset` or similar. However, it is important not to overwrite the style entirely, unless you know exactly what you're doing!)

Longer lasting modifications can be achieved by altering glert-style-specific TikZ styles.

tikz option: `glert $\langle glert style \rangle \langle object \rangle \langle state \rangle$.append style={ $\langle options \rangle$ }`

$\langle object \rangle = \text{picture} \mid \text{bbox} \mid \text{node} \mid \text{path}$; $\langle state \rangle = \text{active} \mid \text{inactive}$

Modify the options of $\langle object \rangle$ in the active or inactive $\langle state \rangle$ of $\langle glert style \rangle$ glerts. These options can be set within `\tikzset`, `\useglert`, or `\glert[*]`. In the first two cases, the effect will apply throughout the current TeX block. In the latter, it applies just to the glert in question (and so is effectively just a more verbose version of the option above).

Example:

```
\tikzset{glert box node active/.append style={inner sep=4pt}}
```

adds a little extra space between the box and text in all subsequent `\glert[box]` glerts.

Any $\langle further options \rangle$ provided to `\useglert` or `\glert[*]` that aren't specific to glert handling are passed to TikZ for interpretation. Thus, the extra space above could be added within a `\glert` more simply.

Example:

```
\glert{box, inner sep=4pt}{text}
```

In this case, the `inner sep=4pt` option would apply to all nodes within the picture: however the `bbox` node sets its own value to 0pt explicitly and so will be unaffected. To also increase the space reserved for the glert, use

Example:

```
\glert{box, inner sep=4pt, bbox={inner sep=4pt}}{text}
```

7.3.8 Defining new glerts

\makeglertstyle{ $\langle glert style \rangle$ }

Create and initialise a new glert style called $\langle glert style \rangle$. This creates the appropriate TikZ styles and sets up the code for these to be installed by `\useglert{ $\langle glert style \rangle$ }` or `\glert[$\langle glert style \rangle$]` and similar. The initial styles are all empty, so the glert is equivalent to `null`.

\defineglertstyle{ $\langle glert style \rangle$ }{ $\langle object \rangle$ }{ $\langle state \rangle$ }[$\langle default setting \rangle$]{ $\langle tikz style \rangle$ }

Define the $\langle tikz style \rangle$ assigned to $\langle object \rangle$ when a $\langle glert style \rangle$ glert is in $\langle state \rangle$. As usual, the $\langle tikz style \rangle$ may accept an argument (or value) which can be accessed in the style definition as `#1`. The $\langle default setting \rangle$ provides an optional default for this value.

\defineglertpath{ $\langle glert style \rangle$ }{ $\langle state \rangle$ }{ $\langle tikz path commands \rangle$ }

Add the following option to the $\langle glert style \rangle$ `node $\langle state \rangle$` style:

```
append after command={\pgfextra\path[glert path  $\langle state \rangle$ ]  $\langle tikz path commands \rangle$ ;\endpgfextra}
```

This causes the path described by $\langle tikz path commands \rangle$ to be created after the node, with options defined by `glert path $\langle state \rangle$` . Any action on the path (such as `draw`, `fill`, `shade` ...) should be specified in the options if needed. The following commands are available to help create the path (in addition to TikZ's `\tikzlastnode`):

`\glertnode` refers to the glert node
`\glertbbox` refers to the glert bbox node

tikz option: `glert angle parser={ [<options>] <angle>: <target> }`

This option is designed to accept a label-type argument to a glert and parse it into components that can be used by later options or glert paths. It also installs two options for local use within *<options>*: `pos=<pos>` and `sep=<sep>`.

The effect is such that after parsing and evaluation of *<options>* (for `pos` and `sep`) the following TikZ options and commands are available :

```
glert angle options/.style=<options>
glert angle=<angle>
glert angle target=<target>
glert angle pos=<pos>
glert angle sep=<sep>
\def\glertangleoptions{<options>}
\def\glertangle{<angle>}
\def\glertangletarget{<target>}
\def\glertanglepos{<pos>}
\def\glertanglesep{<sep>}
\def\glertangleplace{($(\glertnode.center)!\glertanglepos!(\glertnode.\glertangle)
+ (\glertangle:\glertanglesep)$)}
```

The final command defines a coordinate (*<pos>* * `\glertnode` “radius” + *<sep>*) away from the centre of `\glertnode` in the direction *<angle>*.

Here are the definitions of some builtin glert styles:

```
\makeglertstyle{alert}
\defineglertstyle{alert}{node}{active}[red]{text=#1}
\makeglertstyle{box}
\defineglertstyle{box}{node}{active}[red]{very thick, draw=#1}
\makeglertstyle{ellipse}
\defineglertstyle{ellipse}{node}{inactive}{ellipse}
\defineglertstyle{ellipse}{node}{active}[red]{ellipse, very thick, draw=#1}
\makeglertstyle{highlight}
\defineglertstyle{highlight}{node}{active}[red]{fill opacity=0.2, text opacity=1, fill=#1}
\makeglertstyle{uline}
\defineglertpath{uline}{active}{(\glertnode.south east) -- (\glertnode.south west)}
\defineglertstyle{uline}{path}{active}{draw,red,very thick,#1}
\makeglertstyle{spotlight}
\defineglertstyle{spotlight}{node}{active}[red!50]{ellipse,path fading=spotlight,fill=#1}
\defineglertstyle{spotlight}{node}{inactive}{ellipse}
\makeglertstyle{connect}
\defineglertpath{connect}{active}{(\glertnode) to #1}
\defineglertstyle{connect}{path}{active}{draw,red,very thick,<->}
\makeglertstyle{callout}
\tikzset{glert callout options/.style={rectangle callout, draw, pos=2.5, sep=0pt}}
\defineglertpath{callout}{active}{
node[glert angle parser={#1}, glert callout options, glert angle options, at=\glertangleplace,
callout absolute pointer=(\glertnode.\glertangle), node contents={\glertangletarget}]}
```

Wherever appropriate, the argument `#1` is applied at the end of the options list. This ensures that any options passed directly to the glert style will override the defaults that come before. Glerts that use a shaped node also apply the shape when inactive, so as to avoid “bouncing” caused by bounding box changes when used within a TikZ picture (when there is no separate bbox node; Section 7.3.6).

8 Selectively repeating frames

These functions control the (re)display of frames.

\againframe $\langle overlay spec \rangle > [\langle default spec \rangle] [\langle options \rangle] \{ \langle frame label \rangle \}$

This is a BEAMER command to repeat a labelled frame, allowing the $\langle overlay spec \rangle$ and other options to be modified. It is modified in **beamincr** so that the $\langle overlay spec \rangle$ respects **beamincr** increment labels, and so that any **\framescanonly** commands in the original frame contents are ignored (thus allowing the frame contents to be rendered).

\handoutframe $[\langle modes \rangle] \langle overlay spec \rangle > [\langle default spec \rangle] [\langle options \rangle] \{ \langle frame label \rangle \}$

When compiled in one of $\langle modes \rangle$ (defaults to **handout**, but can include more than one, e.g., [**beamer**|**handout**]), render the specified overlays from the named frame. If $\langle overlay spec \rangle$ is omitted, all the overlays are rendered. No output is produced in modes other than $\langle modes \rangle$.

The code works by switching temporarily to **beamer** mode as that seems to be the only way to produce more than one overlay per frame in **handout**, **trans** and **article** modes, although this means it may behave poorly with any mode-specific material within the frame. The idea is from <https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/455444/beamer-overlays-and-handout-exclude-frames-from-handout/455459#455459>.

Unfortunately, the natural code

Example:

```
\begin{frame}<handout:0>[label=twolists]
...
\end{frame}
\handoutframe<1,/halfway/,/done/>{twolists}
```

fails, because the $<handout:0>$ spec stops the increment labels from being defined. If running a recent L^AT_EX compiler (post 2021) the command **\framescanonly** $<handout>$ described below provides a workaround.

Example:

```
\begin{frame}[label=twolists]
  \framescanonly<handout|trans>%
  ...
\end{frame}
\handoutframe[handout|trans]<1,/halfway/,/done/>{twolists}
```

\framescanonly $\langle modes \rangle >$

Scan the current frame without producing any output. This is similar to a $<mode:0>$ specification to **\begin{frame}**, but as the frame is still scanned it allows side effects such as increment label definitions. The **\framescanonly** command should be placed inside the frame contents. It is only available in recent versions of L^AT_EX with extended hook support; a warning is printed in other cases. If used in **beamer** mode the frame will be reprocessed for every overlay. This behaviour can be avoided by also including a $<beamer:1>$ or $<beamer:-1>$ (but not $<beamer:0>!$) or equivalent specification to **\begin{frame}**. although it may be useful to fully expand advanced increment references when increments are reset (see Section 4.4).

The command has no effect when the frame is recalled with **\againframe** or **\handoutframe**, allowing both commands to render the frame contents. If it is necessary to suppress the output of (say) **\againframe** in certain modes, this can be achieved with the usual $<\langle mode \rangle:0>$ specification.

An example use appears above.

\allowframescanonly $[\langle flag \rangle]$

Disable (with $\langle flag \rangle = 0$) or enable (with $\langle flag \rangle > 0$ or omitted) the effect of **\framescanonly**.

9 Internals

These sections discuss more background and some implementation details. This is only likely to be of interest to users who wish to extend the approach.

9.1 Pauses, increments and the `beamerpauses` counter

Both `\pause` and incremental overlay specifications access the same underlying counter called `beamerpauses`, but they use them in different ways.

`\pause`

increments `beamerpauses` and then sets subsequent material on the slide given by the incremented `\value{beamerpauses}`.

`\onslide<+>`

increments `beamerpauses` but then sets subsequent (or argument) material on the slide corresponding to the *previous* value of `beamerpauses`.

`\onslide<.->`

leaves `beamerpauses` alone, but sets subsequent (or argument) material on the slide given by `\value{beamerpauses}-1`, unless `\value{beamerpauses}=1` in which case it puts subsequent material on slide 1.

This conflict in interpretation of the `beamerpauses` counter can cause unintuitive effects. The incremental specification model is far more flexible and powerful, and so the commands of this package can all be interpreted in terms of an *increment number* which ordinarily equals `max(\value{beamerpauses}-1,1)`. In fact, internally they all use the `beamerpauses` counter with this offset. Thus, when commands like `\resetincr` set the increment value, they set `beamerpauses` to the increment + 1. This value then behaves sensibly with `<+>` etc. specifications, but not with `\pause`.

An exception is when the current increment is set to 0, either explicitly or by using an advanced (or otherwise undefined) increment reference. In this case `beamerpauses` is also set to 0, not 1. This is because `beamincr` references use the 0 value to detect the undefined reference, and so suppress offsets and ranges as described in Section 4.4. However, subsequent uses of BEAMER's `<+>` specification will increment `beamerpauses`, potentially placing text on earlier slides than intended. This behaviour can be avoided (at the expense of more typing) by using `<!/.(1)/>` instead.

9.2 Overlay specification parsing routines

The `beamincr` overlay and action specification extensions work by injecting various parsing routines into the core BEAMER parser (called `\beamer@masterdecode`), before calling the original function. These parsers are also available as user commands, and may be helpful for debugging (though see also `\beamincrdebug` below).

`\parseincludedefaultspec{<overlay spec>}`

Replace any `<~>` fields in `<overlay spec>` with the current default specification.

`\parseincrspec{<overlay spec>}`

Interpret any text enclosed in `/s` within `<overlay spec>` as an increment specification, replacing each with the corresponding numerical values (including offset). Also processes any open ranges internal to the label as described in Section 4.4.

`\parseresetspec{<overlay spec>}`

`\parselabelspec{<overlay spec>}`

9.3 Interface with beamer internals

Many `beamincr` extensions work to pre-process material before passing it to standard BEAMER or other commands. This section details the few cases where it proved necessary to interface directly with BEAMER internals.

As described above, increment control is achieved by reading or setting the `beamerpauses` counter. The user-visible increment number corresponds to `\value{beamerpauses}-1,1`, so as to consistently match the slide numbers on which increment-assigned material appears. Many commands also read and modify BEAMER internal macros used as variables, notably `\beamer@defaultspec` (the current default overlay specification) and `\beamer@againname` (the label of the current frame, used to identify it in calls to `\againframe`). In particular, `\beamer@againname` is incorporated into the internal name associated with `beamincr` labels.

Extensions to the overlay and action specification syntax require modification to the BEAMER parsing routines, to inject the parsing routines described in Section 9.2. This is achieved using the following code.

```
\let\beamer@masterdecode@orig=\beamer@masterdecode
\def\beamer@masterdecode#1{%
  \edef\parsed@spec{\parseincludedefaultspec{#1}}%
  \edef\parsed@spec{x@\parseincrspec{x@\{ \parsed@spec \}}}%
  \edef\parsed@spec{x@\parseresetspec{x@\{ \parsed@spec \}}}%
  \edef\parsed@spec{x@\parselabelspec{x@\{ \parsed@spec \}}}%
  \debug@message{masterdecode: <\unexpanded{#1}> -> <\parsed@spec>^^J}%
  \x@\beamer@masterdecode@orig{x@\{ \parsed@spec \}}%
}
```

where `\x@` is an internal abbreviation for `\expandafter`.

The command `\againframe` must be modified separately, both to interpret increment references and to inhibit any `\framescanonly` in the contents. BEAMER uses a cascade of internal commands to read the various possible optional arguments. These are retained, with the change happening at the inner-most command.

```
\let\beamer@@@againframe@orig=\beamer@@@againframe
\def\beamer@@@againframe<#1>[#2][#3]#4{%
  \edef\@scanstate{\@ifallowscanonlystate}%
  \allowframescanonly0%
  \beamer@@@againframe@orig<\parseincrspec{#1}>[#2][#3]{#4}%
  \x@\allowframescanonly\@scanstate%
}
```

The `\handoutframe` command calls this redefined `\againframe` internal after resetting the current mode to `beamer`.

9.4 Debugging

`\beamincrdebug{<flag>}`

Turn on ($\langle flag \rangle > 0$) or off ($\langle flag \rangle = 0$) debugging mode. When on, compilation generates messages in the terminal output and log file describing the rewriting actions that `beamincr` performs.

10 Reference

10.1 Increment, overlay and action specifications

$\langle num \rangle$	integer	explicit reference to slide number
$\langle label \rangle$	text	value assigned by <code>\incrlabel{$\langle label \rangle$}</code> or <code><=></code>
$\langle incrref \rangle$	$\langle label \rangle (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \text{value}\{\langle label \rangle\} + \langle offset \rangle$
	$. (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \langle \text{current increment} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
	$\wedge (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \langle \text{first overlay number} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
	$\$ (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \langle \text{final overlay number} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
	$\$* (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \langle \text{highest overlay used so far} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
	$@ (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \langle \text{most recently used overlay} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
	$! (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \langle \text{last increment reset} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
$\langle incnum \rangle$	$\langle num \rangle \mid / \langle incrref \rangle /$	increment number for <code>\resetincr</code> , <code>\fromincr</code> , <code>\incrlabel</code>
$\langle incr \rangle$	$/ \langle incrref \rangle /$	$= \text{value}\{\langle incrref \rangle\}$ (including $\langle offset \rangle$)
	$. (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= \langle \text{current increment} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
	$+ (\langle offset \rangle)$	$= ++ \langle \text{current increment} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$
$\langle slide \rangle$	$\langle num \rangle \mid \langle incr \rangle$	
$\langle range \rangle$	$\langle slide \rangle \mid \langle slide \rangle - \langle slide \rangle$	(at least one $\langle slide \rangle$ must be present)
	$/ \langle incrref \rangle - /$	$= 0-0$ if $\langle incrref \rangle$ evaluates to 0 or is undefined and <code>\allowundefinedincrlabels</code> is true
$\langle mode \rangle$	BEAMER mode	<code>beamer</code> <code>trans</code> <code>handout</code> <code>presentation</code> <code>article</code> <code>all</code>
$\langle modes \rangle$	$\langle mode \rangle_1 \mid \langle mode \rangle_2 \mid \dots$	
$\langle \text{overlay spec} \rangle$		
$\langle * \rangle$		active on all slides
$\langle \langle range \rangle_1, \langle range \rangle_2, \dots \rangle$		active for slides within $\langle range \rangle$ s
$\langle \sim \rangle$		copy default specification
$\langle \langle mode \rangle : \langle \text{overlay spec} \rangle \rangle$		only apply $\langle \text{overlay spec} \rangle$ in $\langle mode \rangle$
$\langle \langle \text{overlay spec} \rangle_1 \mid \langle \text{overlay spec} \rangle_2 \mid \dots \rangle$		apply different $\langle \text{overlay spec} \rangle$ s in different modes
$\langle \text{action spec} \rangle$		
$\langle \langle \text{overlay spec} \rangle \rangle$		
$\langle \text{resetincr} @ \langle slide \rangle \rangle$		set $\langle \text{current increment} \rangle$ to $\langle slide \rangle$
$\langle ! \langle incnum \rangle - \langle incnum \rangle \rangle$		$= \langle \text{resetincr} @ \langle incnum \rangle \mid \langle incnum \rangle - \langle incnum \rangle \rangle$
$\langle = (\langle offset \rangle) > \dots / (\langle offset \rangle) \langle label \rangle / \text{a} \rangle$		set $\langle label \rangle$ to increment in effect after $\langle \text{action spec} \rangle + \langle offset \rangle$ s
$\langle \text{defaultspec} @ \langle range \rangle \rangle$		set default spec within argument to $\langle range \rangle$ evaluated in $\langle \text{action spec} \rangle$
$\langle \sim \langle range \rangle \rangle$		$= \langle \langle range \rangle \mid \text{defaultspec} @ \langle range \rangle \rangle$
$\langle \text{eqnum} @ \langle range \rangle \rangle$		insert (and advance) <code>\theequation</code> tag for slides in $\langle range \rangle$
$\langle \text{alert} @ \langle range \rangle \rangle$		<code>\alert</code> argument for slides in $\langle range \rangle$
$\langle \text{alerts} @ \langle range \rangle \rangle$		activate <code>\alert*</code> commands in argument in $\langle range \rangle$
$\langle \text{point} @ \langle range \rangle \rangle$		<code>\point</code> and activate <code>\point*</code> commands in $\langle range \rangle$
$\langle \text{pointers} @ \langle range \rangle \rangle$		activate <code>\point*</code> commands in argument in $\langle range \rangle$
$\langle \langle mode \rangle : \langle \text{action spec} \rangle \rangle$		only apply $\langle \text{action spec} \rangle$ in $\langle mode \rangle$
$\langle \langle \text{action spec} \rangle_1 \mid \langle \text{action spec} \rangle_2 \mid \dots \rangle$		apply all $\langle \text{action spec} \rangle$ s subject to any $\langle mode \rangle$ restrictions

10.2 List of commands and environments

Increment labels and references

<code>\resetincr[<i><incnum></i>]</code> set increment to 1 or <i><incnum></i>	2
<code>\fromincr<incnum></code> <code>\resetincr[<i><incnum></i>] \onslide<.-></code>	3
<code>\incrlabel<incnum>{<label>}</code> attach <i><label></i> to current increment or to <i><incnum></i>	3
<code>\incrlabel<incnum>>(<=>).../<label>/</code> attach <i><label></i> to current increment or to <i><incnum></i>	3
<code>\incrref{<incrref>}</code> print increment value of <i><incrref></i>	4
<code>\allowundefinedincrlabels[<i><flag></i>]</code> control whether undefined labels generate errors or evaluate to 0	8

Incremental environments

<code>\begin{incremental}...\end{incremental}</code>	9
<code>\begin{<>}...\end{<>}</code>	10
<code>\begin{incremental-do}...\end{incremental-do}</code>	10
<code>\begin{do<>}...\end{do<>}</code>	10
<code>\begin{incremental-docmd}...\end{incremental-docmd}</code>	10
<code>\begin{docmd<>}...\end{docmd<>}</code>	11
<code>\begin{incremental-dodef}...\end{incremental-dodef}</code>	11
<code>\begin{dodef<>}...\end{dodef<>}</code>	11
<code>\begin{incremental-dolongdef}...\end{incremental-dolongdef}</code>	11
<code>\begin{dolongdef<>}...\end{dolongdef<>}</code>	11
<code>\begin{incremental-layers}...\end{incremental-layers}</code>	12
<code>\begin{layers<>}...\end{layers<>}</code>	13
<code>\begin{incremental-itemize}...\end{incremental-itemize}</code>	14
<code>\begin{itemize<>}...\end{itemize<>}</code>	14

Alignment environments

<code>\begin{incremental-align*}...\end{incremental-align*}</code>	15
<code>\begin{align*<>}...\end{align*<>}</code>	15
<code>\begin{incremental-gather*}...\end{incremental-gather*}</code>	16
<code>\begin{gather*<>}...\end{gather*<>}</code>	16
<code>\begin{incremental-tabular}...\end{incremental-tabular}</code>	16
<code>\begin{tabular<>}...\end{tabular<>}</code>	16
<code>\begin{incremental-tabular*}...\end{incremental-tabular*}</code>	16

<code>\begin{tabular*}<>...\end{tabular*}<></code>	16
<code>\CreateIncrementalAlignmentEnvironment{<name>}[<Nopts>]{<Nreqs>}[<default spec>][<base>]</code> create incremental<name> and <name><> variants of <name> [or <base>] environment	17
<code>\useincrementalenv{<name>}</code> make subsequent uses of the <name> call the incremental environment <name><>	17
<code>\usenonincrementalenv{<name>}</code> make subsequent uses of <name> call non-incremental <base> environment defined at creation	17
<code>\setincrementalenvspec{<name>}{<default specification>}</code> set the default specification for incremental <name> environments	17
<code>\eqtag<overlay spec>{<tag>}</code> place <tag> on slides that match <overlay spec>	18
<code>\eqnum<overlay spec></code> place current equation number on slides that match <overlay spec>, and increment	18
Directing attention	
<code>\alerts<overlay spec>{<argument contents>}</code> activate <code>\alert*</code> commands in <argument contents> on <overlay spec>	18
<code>\alert*{<argument>}</code> alert <argument> when activated	18
<code>\point<overlay spec>{<contents>}</code> insert pointer as appropriate, and activate <code>\point*</code> commands in <range>	19
<code>\point*{<options>}{<contents>}</code> insert a pointer when activated (possibly using a TikZ node around <contents>)	19
<code>\pointtonode[<pointer options>]{<contents>}</code> insert a pointer to a TikZ node when activated	19
<code>\usepointer[<inactive glyph>]{<pointer glyph>}</code> set the pointer glyph	20
<code>\useoverprintpointer</code> pointer glyphs take up no space and print on top of existing text	20
<code>\useuncoverpointer</code> reserve space for pointer glyphs	20
<code>\useglert{<style>_1=<options>, <style>_2=<options>, [<further options>]}</code> set style and options for future glerts	20
<code>\addglert{<style>_1=<options>, <style>_2=<options>, [<further options>]}</code> add style and options for future glerts	20
<code>\glert<overlay spec>[<options>]{<argument contents>}</code> apply a graphical alert to <argument contents> on <overlay spec>	21
<code>\glert*{<options>}{<argument contents>}</code> apply a graphical alert to <argument contents> when activated	21
<code>\glerts<overlay spec>{<argument contents>}</code> activate <code>\glert*</code> commands in <argument contents> on <overlay spec>	21
tikz option: <code>glert={<overlay spec>[<options>]}</code> option to node to apply a graphical alert on <overlay spec>	23
tikz option: <code>glert*=[<options>]</code> option to node to apply a graphical alert when activated	23

<code>glert option: $\langle object \rangle$ $\langle state \rangle$={$\langle options \rangle$}</code>	23
in <code>\useglert</code> or <code>\glert[*]</code> , modify glert; $\langle object \rangle$ = <code>picture</code> <code>bbox</code> <code>node</code> <code>path</code> , $\langle state \rangle$ = <code>active</code> <code>inactive</code>	
<code>tikz option: glert $\langle glert style \rangle$ $\langle object \rangle$ $\langle state \rangle$/.append style={$\langle options \rangle$}</code>	24
modify $\langle glert style \rangle$ appearance	
<code>\makeglertstyle{$\langle glert style \rangle$}</code>	24
initialise a new empty $\langle glert style \rangle$	
<code>\defineglertstyle{$\langle glert style \rangle$}{$\langle object \rangle$}{$\langle state \rangle$}[$\langle default setting \rangle$]{$\langle tikz style \rangle$}</code>	24
define the style of the $\langle glert style \rangle$ $\langle object \rangle$ in $\langle state \rangle$	
<code>\defineglertpath{$\langle glert style \rangle$}{$\langle state \rangle$}{$\langle tikz path commands \rangle$}</code>	24
define a path for the glert	

Selectively repeating frames

<code>\againframe<$\langle overlay spec \rangle$>[<$\langle default spec \rangle$>][$\langle options \rangle$]{$\langle frame label \rangle$}</code>	25
repeat a labelled frame, allowing a new $\langle overlay spec \rangle$ (now <code>beamincr</code> -enabled) and other options	
<code>\handoutframe[$\langle modes \rangle$]<$\langle overlay spec \rangle$>[<$\langle default spec \rangle$>][$\langle options \rangle$]{$\langle frame label \rangle$}</code>	26
generate specified slides from labeled frame in $\langle modes \rangle$ (default <code>handout</code>)	
<code>\framescanonly<$\langle modes \rangle$></code>	26
scan the current frame without producing output in $\langle modes \rangle$	
<code>\allowframescanonly[$\langle flag \rangle$]</code>	26
allow frames to be only scanned	

BEAMER pause commands

<code>\pause</code>	27
<code>\onslide<+--></code>	27
<code>\onslide<.-></code>	27

Internal parsing commands

<code>\parseincludedefaultspec{$\langle overlay spec \rangle$}</code>	27
todo	
<code>\parseincrspec{$\langle overlay spec \rangle$}</code>	27
todo	
<code>\parseresetspec{$\langle overlay spec \rangle$}</code>	27
todo	
<code>\parselabelspec{$\langle overlay spec \rangle$}</code>	27
todo	

Debugging

<code>\beamincrdebug{$\langle flag \rangle$}</code>	28
control generation of debugging information	