János Végh
How to use package MultEdu
(How to prepare interesting and attractive teaching material)
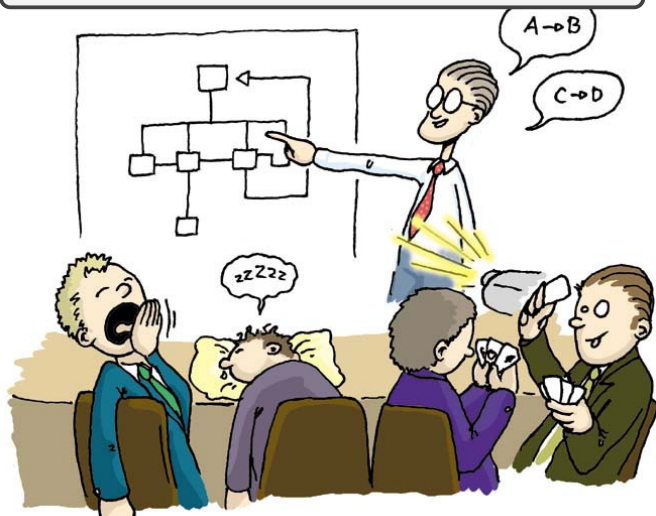
Printed in the World, using recycled electrons

Abstract

For teaching my own courses, I developed a set of macros, since to display the course material under different circumstances different forms of teaching materials are needed. On the lectures I present the theoretical material in form of slides, and the explanation referring to the slides (of course in somewhat compressed form) I offer for my students, in a booklet-like form. My students studies that material either from printed hard copies, or from screen, using a browser or sometimes on mobile devices. The field is in continuous development, so I need to develop my teaching material also continuously. Because of this, it is a must to develop those different forms of the material synchronously. The simplest way to do so, is to use the same source, with proper formatting instructions. It is a serious challange, to develop course material for the today's students, who are used to

lessons with high resolution, attractive graphics, good computer background.

As a common base, I used LaTeX, from which I produce the slides from the lectures using package beamer, and the reading material using package 'memoir'. This latter one can even reach the "on demand printing" quality. The printed material attempts to catch the attention with attractive graphical appearance, using above the average amount of figures (of course on can make also 'book-like' book, too). The booklet-like version contains all figures from the lectures, and some comprehensive version of the text of the lecture. The same text appears in screen-oriented form in the WEB-book format, and in the eBook compatible (native PDF) format.In those two forms (mainly targeting the small-screen mobile devices) bigger fonts are used and one figure/screen is displayed.

To satisfy those, somewhat contradictional requirements, one must make bargains,and more time and care must be invented in the formatting. The macros allow to support also foreign languages, and even to prepare course in English and your own language side by side. Using the possibilities of LaTeX, animations, movies, web-pages, sound files, etc. can also be embedded, but one has to think about the equivalent appearance on hard copies.

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1 General information

1.1 Introduction

For teaching my courses I needed to develop course material, in different forms of appearance; the present package is a by-product of this activity. Good course materials develop quickly, especially, if the field of science in question itself is renewed daily. In informatics, the technology, the statistics, the products, the tools, etc. change year by year, and this alone is a good reason to renew the teaching material for a new semester.

The todays education needs the course material in various forms: in the lecture room for the projected picture well organized text with many pictures are needed, which also serve as a good guide for the lecturer, too. To prepare for the exams, the explanation provided by the lecturer when projecting the slides is also needed. That means, the course material should be available in printable and browsable form, as well as for mobile devices. A frequent case is that the same material shall be provided in foreign language(s), for foreign students. In many cases one can rely to good textbooks, but for the

more specialized courses this course material serves as a basic tool for preparing to the exams.

The present macro package is developed for my own purposes, which I attempted to develop in such a way, that when developing course material, one should not deal with the technology of displaying. In this way also others can use the package, when they follow the rules. The package is quite good in some fields, at some point I needed to make a bargain between the different needs, not perfect in some points, and of course in much more aspects I did not have the time to develop features.

The present document is a demo and test at the same time. It attempts to describe the many features, and also tests if the features really work. Because of the many features, and their interference, this job needs a lot of work and time, so the documentation does not always match the actual features, especially in this initial phase.

The macro package can be used at (at least) three different levels. Even the lowest level assumes some familiarity with LaTeX. At the very basic level, you

might just take the package, replace and modify files in the distribution. At the advanced level (this assumes reading the User's manual ☺) the user learns the facilities provided in the package, and prepares his/her courses actively using those facilities. Power users might add their own macros (preferably uploaded to the distribution), i.e. take part in the development.

1.2 Installing and utilizing MultEdu

Multedu, as any package based on LaTeX, assumes that the user has experiences with using LaTeX. I.e. some LaTeX distribution must already be installed on the system of the user. If you want to use the batch processing facility, the CMake system must also be installed.

For the simplicity of utilization and starting up, the best way is to create a main directory for your family of projects and a subdirectory for your first project, as described below. The quickest way is to copy `./Workstuff` (after deleting and renaming some files) and to prepare your own "Hello World" program. Making minor changes to that source you may experience some features of the package. Then, it is worth at least to skim the user's manual, to see what features you need. After that, you may start your own development. At the beginning text only, later you can learn the advanced possibilities. Do not forget: LaTeX is hard, it needs accurate coding, and so is MultEdu, too. Frequent saving and using versioning can help a lot.

1.3 Structure of MultEdu

The MultEdu system is assumed to be used with the directory structure below. It comes with two main subdirectories: `./common` comprises all files of the MultEdu system, and `./Workstuff` models the users subdirectory structure.

```
.
|-- common
|-- WorkStuff
```

You may add your project groups stuff like

```
.
|-- Exams
|-- Labs
|-- Lectures
|-- Papers
```

which directories have a subdirectory structure similar to that of `|-- WorkStuff`

1.3.1 Subdirectory `common`

Subdirectory `./common` comprises some special sub-subdirectories and general purpose macro files. Mult-

Edu attempts to be as user-friendly as possible: it uses default settings, files, images, etc., to allow a quick start for a new development.

```
.
|-- common
| |-- defaults
| |-- formats
| |-- images
```

Subsubdirectory ./`defaults` contains some default text, like copyright. In general, if the user does not provide its own elements, MultEdu uses the defaults instead (provided that using and presenting it is not disabled, see later.)

Subsubdirectory ./`formats` contains the possible format specification macros, here you can add your own format macros.

Subsubdirectory ./`images` contains some images, partly the ones which are used as defaults.

1.3.2 Subdirectory `Workstuff`

Subdirectory ./`Workstuff` contains the files of the present demo, and serves as an example of using

the system (a kind of User's Guide). It contains a sample project ./WorkStuff/Demo, which has three main files.

```
|-- WorkStuff
| |-- Demo
| . |-- CMakeLists.txt
| . |-- Demo.tex
| . |-- Main.tex
```

The real main source file is Main.tex, and Demo.tex is a lightweight envelope to it. (if you want to use UseLATEX, you need to use the file with name Main.tex, the envelop must be concerted with the CMakeLists.txt file)

Subdirectory ./Workstuff has some subsubdirectories, for different goals.

```
|-- WorkStuff
| |-- Demo
| . |-- build
| . . . |-- build
| . |-- dat
| . |-- fig
| . |-- lst
```

| . |-- `src`

The file `Main.tex` inputs files in the sub-subdirectories

Subsubdirectory

| . |-- `src` is the place for the user's source files,

| . |-- `fig` for the images.

| . |-- `lst` for the program source files,

| . |-- `dat` for the other data (like tabulated data for pgfplot or TikZ figures source code).

You may use (and handle!, especially in CMake-Lists.txt) further subsubdirectories.

It is also possible to use CMake package UseLATEX for compiling your text to different formats and languages in batch mode; producing the documents in different languages and formats in one single step. File `CMakeLists.txt` serves for that goal.

Subsubdirectories

|-- `build` and

| . . |-- `build`

are only needed if using CMake; they contain temporary files created during processing. The system also makes its own copy of the subdirectory `common`

in your project directory (corresponding to subdirectory `Demo`). Those files can be deleted any time: when compiling, CMake will regenerate them.

1.4   Default files for package MultEdu

1.4.1   Heading

Some kind of heading usually belongs to the document. As an example see file `src/Heading.tex` of this user's guide.

Line `\def\LectureAuthor{J\'anos V\'egh}` defines the author, lines `\def\LectureTitle{How to use package MultEdu}` and `\def\LectureSubtitle{(How to prepare interesting and attractive teaching material)}` the main title and its subtitle. Also a university name or conference name can be defined in `\def\LecturePublisher{University or conference}` line. It is good practice to define `\def\L (using \MERevision) \at 2016.08.19}`, too.

When using dual-language source files, one has to prepare the source in a form which allows to select source lines depending on the language. To prepare dual-language documents, the definitions should be put in frame like `\ifthenelse{\equal{\LectureLang`

`{% in English`

`}% true`

```
{% NOT english
```

```
}
```

Also here you can give e-mail address

`\def\LectureEmail{Janos.Vegh\at unideb.hu}`

Furthermore, one can provide BibTeX, even conditionally, depending on the language or the presence of some files

`\IfFileExists{src/Bibliographyhu}`

`{\def\LectureBibliography{src/Bibliography`
`,src/Bibliographyhu}}`

`{\def\LectureBibliography{src/Bibliography}}`

1.5 Options for using package MultEdu

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1.5.1 Options for Beamer-based formats

Multedu allows to utilize two popular screen width. The default is the spreading format with aspect ratio 16:9. To set ratio 4:3, use
`{\def\DisableWideScreen{YES}}`

Sometimes (mainly in the case of short presentations) the table of contents is not necessary at all. It can be disabled through defining
`{\def\DisableTOC{YES}}`

It might also happen, that chapter-level TOC is still needed, but the section level not. This can be reached through defining
`{\def\DisableSectionTOC{YES}}`

1.6 Tips for using package MultEdu

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Compiling document

2.1 Manual mode compiling

The MultEdu system works perfectly with its default settings, but it cannot read your mind. The settings can be changed using definitions of form \def{\xxx}. The place where the settings can be changed, depends on the compilation mode. The next two sections shows the utilization of the compilation modes, while the third one describes the settings in details.

File Main.tex is the common part of the dual compilation system. This contains the real source code. Any setting in this file (as well as in the included files) overwrites the settings, in both the manual and the batch mode, so it is better not to use any settings here. The best policy is to collect all the settings in a separate file, which is then included in the envelope file.

Developing course materials is best to do using an editor, integrated into an IDE. You need to read the envelope file (corresponding to Demo.tex) into the editor and mark it as your main document. In the file Main.tex you should insert references to the

chapters of your course material. Those chapter files should be placed in subdirectory `src`, following the structure of the demonstrational material.

The settings file should be placed in subdirectory `src`, its reasonable name can be `Defines.tex`. The task of the wrapper file `Demo.tex` is only to input the setting file and the main file.

The batch compilation generates a file `Defines.tex`, which goes into subdirectory `build`/`build`/`src`. (You may use it to 'cheat', what settings and how should be utilized.) The batch compilation also generates a template file `Defines.tex.in` in subdirectory `src`. The content of this file corresponds to the last pass of the batch compilation.

2.2 Batch mode compiling

Batch processing serves (mainly) the goal to generate the output from the common source in the different formats and languages.

From technical reasons, MultEdu prepares a private copy from the MultEdu files, in the subdirectory `common` of the project. You may safely experiment with this copy or also delete it; the next batch compile will recreate it. (I.e. one should save the valuable developments; possibly in subdirectory `../../common` if you want to use it also by the other project groups.)

2.3 Changing default settings

2.3.1 Versioning

Multedu uses three-level version numbering (major, minor and patch). The course materials prepared with MultEdu have two kinds of version numbers: the user maintains his/her own version numbers, and the developer maintains version of MultEdu.

Version number of MultEdu is located in file `../../c`... better not to change it. The own course material version number is held in file `CMakeFiles.txt`, and that setting will be refreshed in the generated source files (through file `Defines.tex`) when batch compiling. The version number of the course material appears also in the name of the generated file, so it is worth to use it in a consequent way.

Usage:

`\def\Version{major.minor.patch}`

2.3.2 Languages

MultEdu can handle single- and dual-language documents. Different spelling, section name, captions

belong to the different languages. In the settings file the language must be specified, like using setting `\LectureLanguage{english}` (this is the default). The name of the selected language appears also in the name of the result file.

In the dual-language documents, a first and second language co-exist, meaning in which order the texts in the different languages appear in the document. This allows to develop course material in both languages simultanously, one below the other. Selecting the proper language one can generate output in either language. If `\UseSecondLanguage{}` is defined, then the text appearing in the second position will be processed, using the language features defined by `\LectureLanguage{}`.

When using batch compilation, the options `FirstLang` and `SecondLanguage` must be provided (that defines the language found in the dual-language macros in the first and second position, respectively). If option `NEED_BOTH_LANGUAGES` is on, the output file will be produced in both languages. If it is switched off, option `USE_SECOND_LANGUAGE` decides which lan-

guage to use.

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Sectioning document

3.1 Document units

Basically, the document must be organized as 'beamer' needs it, but to print it in a book-like form, the sectioning must be changed, and also the package 'beamerarticle' must be used. In order to provide a uniform wrapper around sectioning, MultEdu introduces its own sectioning units.

3.1.1 Frames

These units actually correspond to the ones used in format 'book', and MultEdu transforms them properly when preparing slides.

Usage:

\MEframe[keys]{subtitle}{content}

Legal keys are

shrink=true|false and plain=true|false

By default, both are false.

3.1.2 Chapter

Correspondingly, the biggest unit is the 'chapter'. (As mentioned, for slides it is transformed to 'section'.) Usage:

`\MEchapter[short title]{long title}`

3.1.3 Section and below

The next, smaller unit is the 'section'. (As mentioned, for slides it is transformed to 'subsection'.) Usage:

`\MEsection[short title]{long title}`

In a similar way, there exists `\MEsubsection[short title]{long title}` and `\MEsubsubsection[short title]{long title}`; the latter one is transformed for slides to `\paragraph`.

3.2 Dual language sources

It happens, that I teach the same course in my mother tongue for my domestic students, and in English, for foreign students. The course material is the same, and it must be developed in parallel. Obviously it is advantageous, if they are located in the same source file, side by side; so they can be developed in the same action. The `\UseSecondLanguage` macro supports this method.

The macros introduced above have a version with prefix 'MED' rather than 'ME' only, which takes double argument sets (arguments for both languages). Depending on whether `\UseSecondLanguage` is defined, the first or the second argument set is used.

3.2.1 Switching between languages

Usage:

`\UseSecondLanguage{YES}`

where the argument {} is not relevant, only if this macro is defined or not.

The two kinds of macros can be mixed, but only the 'D' macros are sensitive to changing the language.

3.2.2 Frames

In dual language documents, usually

```
\MEDframe[keys]{subtitle, first language} {c
first language } {subtitle, second language}
{content, second language}
```

is used. I.e. the user provides titles and contents in both languages, and for preparing the output, selects one of them with \UseSecondLanguage.

3.2.3 Chapter

Correspondingly, the biggest unit in a dual language document is the 'Dchapter'. (As mentioned, for slides it is transformed to 'Dsection'.) Usage:

```
\MEDchapter[short title1]{long title1}{short
title2}{long title2}
```

which is transformed to

`\MEchapter[short title1]{long title1}` or

`\MEchapter[short title2]{long title2}` calls,

depending on whether `\UseSecondLanguage` is or is not defined.

3.2.4 Section and below

The usage of the lower units is absolutely analogous.

3.3   Chapter illustration

Some book styles also allow presenting some illustration at the beginning of the chapters.

Usage:

`\MEchapterillustration{file}`

For slides, the illustration appears in a 'plain' style style. For books, the picture is placed at the beginning of the chapter. If the file name is empty, a 'fig/DefaultIllustration.png' file is searched. If the file not found, no illustration generated.

If macro `\DisableChapterIllustration` is defined, no picture generated.

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Inserting figures

4.1 Traditional figures

Traditional figures can be displayed using macro

`\MEfigure[keys]{image file} {caption} {label}` `{copyright} {ScaleFactor}`. Possible keys: `wide`.

©2011 http://pinterest.com

Figure 4.1: When new and old phones meet

On slides, the single-width figures are placed in 'colum

The command used to display Figure 4.1 was

```
\MEfigure{fig/phone_anchestors} {When new an
old phones meet} {fig:phonenachestors} {2011
http://pinterest.com}{.8}
```

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