Writing Beamer presentations in org-mode

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Outline

Introduction

2 Methodology

Conclusions

Preface

This is an updated file based on this tutorial from Eric S Fraga in an attempt to clarify org-mode Beamer export in 2022 for this StackExchange question.

Key changes:

- had to change H:3 to H:2 in the #+options line
- added in the Madrid template
- deleted options lines that didn't seem relevant
- regenerated a screenshot so the image insertion would work
- made a min-config for reproducibility; one should emacs -Q, then M-x load-file [RET] path/to/min-config and then try exporting

Overview

This presentation provides an illustration of some of the capabilities of the Beamer export in org mode:

- simple slides (this one),
- slides with special blocks,
- multi-column slides and
- the use of Babel for literate programming.

This file should be exported using M-x org-export-dispatch (C-c C-e), specifying 1 for $\triangle T_E X$ and then P, for instance, to generate the PDF.

A simple slide

This slide consists of some text with a number of bullet points:

- the first, very important, point!
- the previous point shows the use of the special markup which translates to the Beamer specific alert command for highlighting text.
- note: the original worg presentation features @foo@ notation for the very @important@ point above, which is supposed to convert the text to \alert{foo}, but isn't happening. I can't find information easily on why and just replaced it with bold text.

The above list could be numbered or any other type of list and may include sub-lists.

A more complex slide

This slide illustrates the use of Beamer blocks. The following text, with its own headline, is displayed in a block:

Theorem (Org mode increases productivity)

- org mode means not having to remember LaTEX commands.
- it is based on ascii text which is inherently portable.
- Emacs!



Two columns

- this slide consists of two columns
- the first (left) column has no heading and consists of text
- the second (right) column has an image and is enclosed in an example block

Example (A screenshot)

A simple slide

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Babel

Octave code

$$A = [1 \ 2 \ ; \ 3 \ 4]$$

 $b = [1; \ 1];$
 $x = A \setminus b$

The output

$$x =$$

1

Summary

- org is an incredible tool for time management
- but it is also excellent for writing and for preparing presentations
- Beamer is a very powerful LaTEX package for presentations
- the combination is unbeatable!