

convtran.sty

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1 Introduction

`convtran.sty` is intended to simplify the presentation of transcriptions of conversation with \LaTeX . It does this primarily through a modified list environment, supplemented by a palette of commands for the user to adjust the transcriptions according to the precise circumstances in which the package is being used.

Caveat: this documentation is only intended to give an overview of the package, and outline its main features; see also the package itself for comments on the functions.

2 Some examples

2.1 A simple example

```
1 → Bob: Hello Jim.
2   Jim: Hello Bob.
```

The above example was created with this:

```
\begin{convtran}
  \turn{Bob:} Hello Jim. \hl
  \turn{Jim:} Hello Bob.
\end{convtran}
```

2.2 A more complicated example

```
1   D:    O:h (I k-)=
```

```

2   A:   =Dz that make any sense to you?
3   C:   Mn mh. I don' even know who she is.
4   A:   She's that's, the Sister Kerrida, [who,
5   D:                                     [.hhh
6   D:   Oh [that's the one you to:ld [me you bought
7   C:   [Oh-                               [
8   A:                                     [Ye:h

```

This is the code required:

```

\begin{convtran}
\turn{D:} O:h (I k-)=
\turn{A:} =Dz that make any sense to you?
\turn{C:} Mn mh. I don' even know who she is.
\turn{A:} She's that's, the Sister Kerrida, [who,
\turn{D:} ~~~~~~[.hhh
\turn{D:} Oh [that's the one you to:ld [me you bought
\turn{C:} ~~~[Oh-~~~~~[
\turn{A:} ~~~~~~[Ye:h
\end{convtran}

```

Note that the overlapping talk has to be aligned manually using spaces (~) or commands like `\hspace{3em}` or `\hphantom{Oh }`.

2.3 Numbered examples

You can use a package like `gb4e` to provide numbered examples (note that `gb4e` has to be loaded after `convtran`):

```

(...)
\usepackage{gb4e}
(...)
\begin{exe}
\ex An example
\begin{convtran}
\turn{Bob:} Hello Jim. \hl
\turn{Jim:} Hello Bob.
\end{convtran}
\end{exe}

```

2.4 Line breaks

One major benefit of this package, being based on the `list` environment, is that line breaking is handled automatically. The following has only two `turn` commands:

```

1   Bob:  This is a test to see how long I should talk for to get onto the next line. Seems I have
2         to talk for longer than I expected.
3   Jim:  This is also a test of the same thing, Bob my old mate. I'll continue for a bit longer,
4         just to make sure.

```

```

\begin{convtran}
\turn{Bob:} This is a test to see how long I should talk for to get
onto the next line. Seems I have to talk for longer than I expected.
\turn{Jim:} This is also a test of the same thing, Bob my old
mate. I'll continue for a bit longer, just to make sure.
\end{convtran}

```

To insert line breaks manually try `\\`:

```
1      Bob:   This is a test to see how long I should talk
2              for to get onto the next line. Seems I have
3              to talk for longer than I expected.
4      Jim:   This is also a test of the same thing,
5              Bob my old mate. I'll continue for a bit
6              longer, just to make sure.
```

```
\begin{convtran}
  \turn{Bob:} This is a test to see how long I should talk\\for to get
  onto the next line. Seems I have\\to talk for longer than I expected.
  \turn{Jim:} This is also a test of the same thing,\\Bob my old
  mate. I'll continue for a bit\\ longer, just to make sure.
\end{convtran}
```

Manual line breaks can be useful when aligning talk in overlap.

2.5 Referring to lines by number

You can use the `\linelabel` command provided by the `lineno` package, or the shorthand `\lab`. This code:

```
\begin{convtran}
  \turn{Bob:} Hello Jim.\linelabel{bob}
  \turn{Jim:} Hello Bob.\lab{jim}
\end{convtran}
First is line~\ref{bob}, followed by line~\ref{jim}.
```

produces this:

```
1      Bob:   Hello Jim.
2      Jim:   Hello Bob.
```

First is line 1, followed by line 2.

3 Adjusting the typesetting

There are many aspects of the layout which might need fine-tuning in order to handle different page layouts, sizes, or even just personal preference as to the placement of elements. The elements are designed to be easily manipulated, and while the package defaults are intended to be reasonable, more often than not the user will have to specify aspects of the layout in the preamble.

There are important dimensions which are adjustable, either on a case by case basis, or in the preamble:

1. placement of arrow, with `\setarrowplace{length}`
2. placement of line numbers, with `\setlinenoplace{length}`
3. font of main transcription, with `\setconvfont{font}`
4. font of labelled arrows with `\setarrowfont{font}`
5. font of gloss line, translation line, or information line with `\setglosfont`, `\settranfont`, and `\setinfofont` respectively

6. amount speaker label is indented from the left with `\setconvindent{length}`
7. width of the speaker label with `\setconvlabelwidth{length}` in the preamble, or a length in square brackets following `\begin{convtran}` to change individual cases

So if you wanted to adjust some of the parameters for all cases, you might have a preamble which includes this:

```
\usepackage{convtran}
\setlinenoplace{1cm}
\setarrowplace{0cm}
\setconvindent{2cm}
\setconvlabelwidth{3cm}
\setconvfont{\sf\large}
\setarrowfont{\tt\Large}
```

If you wanted to change some of the parameters for a smaller number of cases (and therefore didn't want to change the defaults for the entire document) you might do something like this, which adjusts the parameters only for that particular case.

```
\begin{convtran}[3cm]
  \setlinenoplace{1cm}
  \setarrowplace{0cm}
  \setconvindent{2cm}
  \setconvfont{\sf\large}
  \setarrowfont{\tt\large}
  \turn{Bob:} Hello Jim. \hl
  \turn{Jim:} Hello Bob. \hllab{-0.5cm}{A}
\end{convtran}
```

Both produce this (which is ugly, but it shows the features):

```
1  →      Bob:   Hello Jim.
2  A→      Jim:   Hello Bob.
```

You should bear in mind that trial-and-error will almost certainly have to be employed to successfully redefine these lengths for a good layout. For instance, you may find that some lengths require positive values while others require negative ones. To give a few clues, bear in mind that

- `linenoplace` and `convindent` are usually negative, and should be tenths of cm (if you are using cms for your lengths);
- `setarrowplace` is usually a positive integer (whole number);
- the number in [] after `\begin{convtran}` (if used) is usually positive but less than 1cm.

To adjust (increase) the right margin, use `\setconvrightmargin{length}` in the preamble.

Footnotes are also possible to some degree, by way of this kind of coding:¹

```
\footnote{\begin{convtran}[2cm]
```

¹Note however that the same mechanism for highlighting lines (i.e. `\marginpar`) doesn't seem to be possible; likewise, line numbers disappear.

```
Bob:   Hello Jim.
Jim:   Hello Bob.
```

```

\setconvindent{1cm}
\turn{Bob:} Hello Jim.
\turn{Jim:} Hello Bob.
\end{convtran}}

```

4 Starting line numbering at values other than 1

If you want line numbering to start at something other than 1, use `\linenumbers[xx]`. For instance, this

```

\begin{convtran}
\linenumbers[11]
\turn{Bob:} Hello Jim. \hl
\turn{Jim:} Hello Bob.
\end{convtran}

```

produces

```

11 → Bob:   Hello Jim.
12   Jim:   Hello Bob.

```

If you want to continue numbering from where an earlier excerpt ended, use `\convtocont` and `\convcont`. This:

```

\begin{convtran}
\turn{A:} hello
\turn{B:} hello
\end{convtran}\convtocont
Here is a continuation from where we left off:
\begin{convtran}\convcont
\turn{A:} hello
\turn{B:} hello
\end{convtran}

```

produces this:

```

1   A:   hello
2   B:   hello

```

Here is a continuation from where we left off:

```

3   A:   hello
4   B:   hello

```

Note that `\convtocont` must go after `\end{convtran}`: if you put it before, your next line numbers will start with the same number as the last line. The command `\convcont` can even be used after intervening examples, so long as there hasn't been an intervening `\convtocont` command.

You can remember where you were up to in more than one excerpt by creating new counters and referring to those e.g.

```

\newcounter{endofconvTwo}
\newcommand{\convtocontTwo}{\setcounter{endofconvTwo}{\thelinenumber}}
\newcommand{\convcontTwo}{\linenumbers[\theendofconvTwo]}

```

You can then use `\convcontTwo` to recall the new counter, or `\convcont` to recall the original one.

5 Using convtran in a minipage

(Code provided by Thomas Deacon.) Line numbering can be preserved by using the environment `convtran*` and the commands `\turnmini` and `\turnmini*` e.g.

```
\begin{minipage}{0.4\textwidth}
  \raggedleft
  \begin{convtran*}
    \turnmini{A:} is this a question
    \turnmini{B:} is this a response
    \turnmini{A:} yes
  \end{convtran*}
\end{minipage}
```

```

1          A:    is this a question
produces  B:    is this a response
3          A:    yes
```

A minipage also makes it possible to put transcriptions, with line numbers, into beamer slides e.g.:

```
\documentclass{beamer}
\usepackage{convtran}
\begin{document}
\begin{frame}
  \begin{minipage}{\linewidth}
    \begin{convtran*}[1.2cm]
      \setlinenoplace{-0.3cm}
      \setconvindent{0.8cm}
      \turnmini{A:} when are you going to uh Tenerife?
      \turnmini{B:} well I'm going on the February eighth and and
        then I'll probably be there like two weeks.
    \end{convtran*}
  \end{minipage}
\end{frame}
\end{document}
```

6 Other commands

A range of other commands are provided:

```
\turn{label}{text} for numbered turns at talk
\turn*{label}{text} for unnumbered turns at talk
\phon{label}{text} for unnumbered phonetic details
\info{label}{text} for unnumbered information
\glos{label}{text} for unnumbered gloss lines
\tran{label}{text} for unnumbered translation lines
```

Some symbols are also provided:

```
\high up arrow
```

`\low` down arrow
`\q` raised circle
`\ul{text}` underlining
`\hl` arrow in the margin
`\Hl` double arrow in the margin
`\hllab{XX}{foo}` labelled arrow in the margin, where `XX` is however far you want to bump along the arrow in order to make space for the label, and `foo` is the label
`\Hllab{XX}{foo}` as previous, but with a double arrow
`\margmark{XX}` arbitrary margin marks (`XX` in this case)

The package can be loaded with the options `[single/onehalf/double]` to adjust the line spacing. Default (i.e. where no option is loaded) is `single`. So, if you wanted double line spacing, in your preamble use `\usepackage[double]{convtran}`.

7 Referring to figures

You might want to refer to figures, e.g. screenshots. For this use the `\figlab` command.

```

\begin{convtran}
  \turn{A:} one two three four
  \figlabs{} \figlab{1}~~~~~\figlab{2}~~~~~
             \figlab{3}~~~~~\figlab{4}\vspace*{-5pt}%
  \turn{B:} this is a test of some labels
\end{convtran}

```

produces

```

1      A:      one two three four
          Fig 1   Fig 2   Fig 3 Fig 4
          ▼       ▼       ▼
2      B:      this is a test of some labels

```

The `\vspace*{-5pt}` command isn't essential, but it does put the arrow a bit closer to the text. Note that you can use the `\ref{}` command inside `\figlab` to refer to a figure.

8 Highlighting transcriptions with coloured boxes

Sometimes you might want to highlight a bit of a transcription with a coloured box. For this we can adopt a method described on StackExchange using the `soul` package, to produce something like this:

```

1      A:      this is some speech this is some speech this is some speech this is
2      some speech this is some speech

```

This is a useful method as the box doesn't introduce space around the highlighted text (helping to preserve alignment in transcriptions) and the highlighted text breaks automatically across lines. One issue is that `soul` and `convtran` both define the command `\hl` so we have to take some extra steps when loading the packages in the preamble:

```

\usepackage{savesym}
\usepackage{convtran}
\savesymbol{hl}
\usepackage{soul}
\restoresymbol{SOUL}{hl}

```

And we can define a `\ctext` command in the preamble like this:

```

\newcommand{\ctext}[3][RGB]{%
  \begingroup
  \definecolor{hlcolor}{#1}{#2}\sethlcolor{hlcolor}%
  \SOULhl{#3}%
  \endgroup
}

```

Then the code for transcription with the highlighted portion looks like this:

```

\begin{convtran}
  \turn{A:} this is some speech this is some speech
  \ctext[RGB]{192,192,192}{this is some speech this is
    some speech this is some speech} this is some speech
\end{convtran}

```

9 Known problems

- Using `[` at the start of a turn is fatal: use `{[}`.
- Using `\hl`, `\lab` `\labhl`, `\textlabhl` at the start of a turn (ie. before any text) is fatal.
- The package uses `\marginpar` to highlight lines with an arrow in the margin: this would cause problems for anyone using `convtran` in a document with `\marginpar` used for other things e.g. users of `classicthesis` and `\todonotes`; if there are problems then the `marginnote` package might help.
- `convtran` and `rotating` clash as both define `turn`. Try this as a workaround:

```

\usepackage{rotating}
\let\turn\relax
\usepackage{convtran}

```

- `\hl` does not work when using `\convtran*` inside a minipage. The package minipage-marginpar might hold out some hope here.
- The `acmart` class doesn't seem to respect any repeated manual spaces (`~~`, `~~~` etc.) This applies in all contexts, not just within the `convtran` environment. There are (at least) two ways around this. Where you are using for example `~~~~~` you could
 1. Use `\hphantom{xxxxxx}`, i.e. replace each `~` with `x`. `\hphantom` inserts an amount of space equal to the width of the text within the command (good when using a monospaced font).
 2. Use e.g. `\hspace*{1cm}`. `\hspace` inserts an amount of space equal to the width specified in it (good when creating transcriptions with variable space fonts).
- If you use the `\linelabel` or `\lab` commands in a minipage (even if you don't refer to those lines), references later in the document seem to get messed up.
- `gb4e` has to be loaded after `convtran`.
- `convtran` loads `lineno`. Loading `csquotes` before `convtran` may lead to the warning message `Command \@parboxrestore has changed..` See <https://tex.stackexchange.com/a/447159>.
- `soul` and `convtran` both define the command `\hl`: see section 8 for a workaround.