An Easy Way Making Slides With LaTeX

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Introduction

In the following, a style option for the `article` style will be presented which makes it easy to produce slides. It does not support an overlay structure as SLITEX, but it enables the user to change an `article` to a sequence of slides by simply copying and rearranging. Therefore, it is merely an option for the `article` style and not a new style.

The design of this option fits into the philosophy of LaTeX: The logical structure of a text is created by the user and not the details how to put this into a nice output.

The style option described here supports a standard layout which is nevertheless easy to change if necessary. The user is able to think in "normal" dimensions and font sizes as the proper magnification of the slide is done by the output device.

Some Commands

The style option `eslides` — which stands for *easy slides* and is used to distinguish this option from SLITEX — makes several commands and environments available to the user. These are described in the following. This style option will not conflict with other style options as `12pt` or `german`. The option file is not listed here but is available from the author. Send a short request to the e-mail address given below.

The Magnification of the Slide

The `\magnification` command gives the global magnification of the slide. As the `dvi` file should be magnified by the same factor, only the quantities 1000, 1095, 1200, 1440, 1728, 2074 and 2488, resp., should be used. A magnification factor of 1440 or 1728 will give good results, e. g.,

    \magnification{1440}

Leslie Lamport has written that LaTeX should not worry about a magnification of a document. As the output device, however, magnifies everything on the page but the sheet of paper, it is necessary that some of the lengths for the page layout as `\textwidth` have to be scaled properly. This is done by the `\magnification` command. As this procedure is hidden away from the user, he is able to think in "real" dimensions. The previewing will show a correct picture of the slide, only somewhat smaller as usually.

If the output device is not able to magnify the slide, it can be done with a photocopying machine,

too. The calculation of the various lengths of the page differs as the fixed point of the mapping has changed from the offset point to the middle of the upper edge of the sheet. The `eslides.sty` file contains the necessary commands to handle this case.

Page Layout

The `eslides` style makes the pagestyle `myslide` available to the user:

    \pagestyle{myslide}

Every slide will have a head line and a foot line, seperated from the text by a horizontal rule.

The head consists of a centered running head which is set with the `\markright` or `\markboth` command. The foot line contains a logo, the "name of the conference" and the page number of the slide.

The logo can be anything, e. g., the logo of the university or of the company. In the following examples it is the logo of the Technical University of Munich which is drawn by some `picture` commands. The logo is changed by

    \renewcommand{\logo}{*your logo*}

As the logo will not change often, the probably best place for the definition will be in the `eslides.sty` file. Perhaps, the logo can be taken from your special `letter.sty`.

Similarly, the conference is set by

    \renewcommand{\conference}{*what ever you want*}

and can be everything, e. g., the name of the conference at which the slides are presented or a `\today` command.

The `slide` Environment

The text of a slide is put between `\begin{slide}` and `\end{slide}`. It is vertical centered between the horizontal rules. The user has to take care that the text fits within a single page.

The `remark` Environment

The `remark` environment enables the user to create a remark to a slide. This will produce an extra page which contains the note and is numbered with "Remark to ...". The `remark` environment should follow directly the slide to which it belongs:

    \end{slide}
    \begin{remark}
    ...
    \end{remark}

Example

On the following two pages an example for a slide with a remark is given. These pages are produced

with a magnification of 1728. The input for the example is shown in the following. The blank titlepage is not presented, it is a trick to produce a running head even on the first page of a document. Normally, the first slide giving the title of the presentation does not need such a running head.

```
\documentstyle[titlepage,eslides]{article}
% titlepage used, because first page
% should have a running head

\magnification{1728}
\renewcommand{\conference}{TUGboat 1990}

\begin{document}
\pagestyle{myslide}
\markright{An Easy Way Making Slides With
        \LaTeX}

\begin{titlepage}
\mbox{}
\end{titlepage}
% see p. 162 of Lamport's LaTeX book,
% the first page should have a
% running head


\begin{slide}
  \begin{center}
    \bf
     A Short-Cut to Your Slides:
  \end{center}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item take your finished
        {\tt article} file
    \item add the style option
        {\tt eslides}
    \item initialize
        \verb#\magnification#
        and
        \verb#\conference#
    \item put some
        \verb#\begin{slide}#s
        and
        \verb#\end{slide}#s
        around the parts you
        want to present
    \item comment out the rest
    \item run \LaTeX
  \end{itemize}
\end{slide}
\begin{remark}
   This is a note to myself,
```

```
perhaps reminding me of
what I wanted to say here,
e.~g.\ that this note is
stolen from Lamport's
\LaTeX\ book.

\end{remark}
\end{document}
```

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