

The `sepfootnotes` package,^{*} or a footnote to Plato

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Abstract

The `sepfootnotes` package supports footnotes and endnotes from separate files. Basically, it provides `\sepfootnotecontent` and `\sepfootnote`: the former defines the content of a note; the latter typesets that note.

Introduction

Standard `\footnote` and `\endnote` both take a note as a mandatory argument. Because notes have to be embedded in the paragraph to which they refer, sentences are often split up into two¹ or more parts. Consequently, footnotes and endnotes may disrupt the flow of reading and editing L^AT_EX prose.² This can be an issue for those who make extensive use of notes, such as philosophers and people from the humanities in general.

The `sepfootnotes` package gets around this inconvenience by separating note input from usage. That is, it provides a command to define what a particular note says, and another command to insert that note later on in the document.

Note definitions may be grouped together—in no particular order—in the preamble, at the beginning of chapters or sections, right before a paragraph, or even in a *separate file*. In that way, the main body is less cluttered.

You may use `sepfootnotes` and standard `\footnote` simultaneously; the same goes for `\footcite` from `biblatex`.

^{*}This document corresponds to `sepfootnotes` 0.2, dated January 17, 2013. I am grateful to Michael Sellhoff for his valuable feedback on `sepfootnotes`.

¹This is precisely what this footnote does to the first paragraph of this document. There are more than thirty words between ‘two’ and ‘or more’ in the code of an otherwise short paragraph.

²In a posting to `texhax.tug.org` in April 2010, someone complained that using footnotes “tends to disrupt the flow of the document on the screen and makes editing the text itself harder”, and asked about the possibility of “putting all of the footnotes in a separate file” [1]. Another user, back in 2004, remarked that the “only thing I missed about word processors was the ability to keep footnote text at the bottom of the page, or in a separate window. I often have extensive footnotes, and don’t want them cluttering up my main body text when I’m composing” [2].

1 Synopsis

Default footnote apparatus

```
\sepfootnotecontent {⟨key⟩} {⟨content⟩}  
\sepfootnote {⟨key⟩}
```

User-defined footnote or endnote apparatus

```
\newfootnotes {⟨prefix⟩}  
\newfootnotes* {⟨prefix⟩}  
  
\newsymbolfootnotes [⟨master counter⟩] {⟨prefix⟩}  
  
\newendnotes {⟨prefix⟩}  
  
\⟨prefix⟩notecontent {⟨key⟩} {⟨content⟩}  
\⟨prefix⟩note {⟨key⟩}  
\⟨prefix⟩notemark {⟨key⟩}  
\⟨prefix⟩notetext {⟨key⟩}  
\print⟨prefix⟩note {⟨key⟩}
```

Endnote-specific

```
\the⟨prefix⟩notes  
\addto⟨prefix⟩notes {⟨text⟩}
```

Formatting

```
\renewcommand\the⟨prefix⟩note  
\renewcommand\the⟨prefix⟩mark  
\renewcommand\make⟨prefix⟩mark  
\renewcommand\⟨prefix⟩notesize  
\renewcommand\⟨prefix⟩noteformat  
  
\renewenvironment {⟨prefix⟩notes}
```

2 Basic usage

`\sepfootnotecontent` First define the `⟨content⟩` of a footnote by assigning it a `⟨key⟩` that uniquely identifies it:

```
\sepfootnotecontent {⟨key⟩} {⟨content⟩}
```

`\sepfootnote` Then insert that footnote anywhere in the main body by means of the same `⟨key⟩` as used before:

```
\sepfootnote {⟨key⟩}
```

3 Advanced usage

<code>\newfootnotes</code>	The <code>sepfootnotes</code> apparatus described above is available by default. But you
<code>\newfootnotes*</code>	may create as many distinct and independent footnote or endnote apparatus as
<code>\newsymbolfootnotes</code>	needed:
<code>\newendnotes</code>	
	<code>\newfootnotes {⟨prefix⟩}</code> Create an apparatus of footnote commands named after <code>⟨prefix⟩</code> using the standard <code>footnote</code> counter.
	<code>\newfootnotes* {⟨prefix⟩}</code> Create an apparatus of footnote commands named after <code>⟨prefix⟩</code> using its own counter.
	<code>\newsymbolfootnotes [⟨master counter⟩] {⟨prefix⟩}</code> Create an apparatus of symbol-footnote commands named after <code>⟨prefix⟩</code> using its own counter. The optional argument <code>⟨master counter⟩</code> can be anything like <code>page</code> , <code>section</code> , <code>chapter</code> , etc. The default master counter is <code>page</code> . The series of symbols is reset each new page, so that <code>*</code> marks the first symbol-footnote on any page, whereas <code>†</code> marks the second, <code>‡</code> the third, and so on.
	<code>\newendnotes {⟨prefix⟩}</code> Create an apparatus of endnote commands named after <code>⟨prefix⟩</code> using its own counter.
<code>\<prefix>notecontent</code>	This is how to typeset notes: once a note apparatus of any kind is created, you need to assign a <code>⟨key⟩</code> to a <code>⟨content⟩</code> :
	<code>\<prefix>notecontent {⟨key⟩} {⟨content⟩}</code>
<code>\<prefix>note</code>	And then use the <code>⟨key⟩</code> to typeset that content using any of the following:
<code>\<prefix>notemark</code>	<code>\<prefix>note {⟨key⟩}</code>
<code>\<prefix>notetext</code>	Typeset a note identified by <code>⟨key⟩</code> .
<code>\print<prefix>content</code>	<code>\<prefix>notemark {⟨key⟩}</code> Typeset just the mark identified by <code>⟨key⟩</code> without the corresponding note.
	<code>\<prefix>notetext {⟨key⟩}</code> Typeset just the note identified by <code>⟨key⟩</code> without the corresponding mark.
	<code>\print<prefix>content {⟨key⟩}</code> Just print the <code>⟨content⟩</code> identified by <code>⟨key⟩</code> .

<code>\the<prefix>notes</code>	These are endnote-specific:
<code>\addto<prefix>notes</code>	
<code><prefix>notes</code>	<code>\the<prefix>notes</code>
<code>\the<prefix>note</code>	Typeset the actual endnotes at the end of a chapter or section.
<code>\the<prefix>mark</code>	
<code>\make<prefix>mark</code>	<code>\addto<prefix>notes {\text}</code>
<code><prefix>notesize</code>	Add <code>\text</code> to endnotes.
<code><prefix>noteformat</code>	Suggestion: <code>\subsection*</code>
	<code>\renewcommand<prefix>notesize</code>
	Define the fontsize in which to typeset endnotes.
	Default: <code>\footnotesize</code>
	<code>\renewenvironment {<prefix>notes}</code>
	Define the environment in which endnotes are typeset.
	Default: <code><prefix>notesize\setlength\parskip\footnotesep</code>
	<code>\renewcommand\the<prefix>note</code>
	Define how endnote numbers are typeset.
	Default: <code>\arabic {<prefix>note}</code>
	<code>\renewcommand\the<prefix>mark</code>
	Define how endnote marks are typeset.
	Default: <code>\the<prefix>note</code>
	<code>\renewcommand\make<prefix>mark</code>
	Define how a particular endnote mark is typeset.
	Default: ³ <code>\hbox {\normalfont\the<prefix>mark.\ }</code>
	<code>\renewcommand<prefix>noteformat</code>
	Define how a particular endnote is typeset.
	Default: ⁴
	<code>\noindent\rightskip\z@ \leftskip\z@</code>
	<code>\leavevmode\llap{\make<prefix>mark}</code>

4 Examples

Example 1

How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as a footnote to Plato using the default `sepfootnotes` apparatus:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
```

³Adapted from the LaTeX2e sources.

⁴Adapted from the `endnotes` package.

```

\sepfootnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates's pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\sepfootnote{Plato}
\end{document}

```

Example 2

How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as a footnote to Plato using a *user-defined* footnote apparatus with prefix a-

```

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newfootnotes{a}
\anotecontent{Plato}{Socrates's pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\anote{Plato}
\end{document}

```

Example 3

How to typeset a footnote *from a separate file* using a user-defined apparatus with prefix b-

- mynotes.tex:

```

\bnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates's pupil.}

```

- document.tex:

```

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newfootnotes{b}
\input{mynotes}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\bnote{Plato}
\end{document}

```

Example 4

How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as a *symbol-footnote* to Plato using a user-defined footnote apparatus with prefix symbol-

```

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newsymbolfootnotes{symbol}
\symbolnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates's pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\symbolnote{Plato}
\end{document}

```

Example 5

How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as an *endnote* to Plato using a user-defined endnote apparatus with prefix x-

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newendnotes{x}
\xnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates’s pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\xnote{Plato}
\section*{Notes}
\thexnotes
\end{document}
```

Example 6

How to typeset a footnote to Plato *and* an endnote to Homer from a separate file *in no particular order*:

- mynotes.tex:

```
\xnotecontent{Homer}{The greatest of ancient poets.}
\xnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates’s pupil.}
```

- document.tex:

```
\begin{document}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newfootnotes{a}
\newendnotes{x}
\input{mynotes}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\xnote{Plato}
But an antecedent is to be found in Homer.\xnote{Homer}
\section*{Notes}
\thexnotes
\end{document}
```

References

- [1] <http://tug.org/mailman/htdig/texhax/2010-April/014558.html>
- [2] <http://www.44342.com/tex-f809-t9440-p1.htm>.