The \texttt{pdfcolparcolumns} package

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2016/05/16 v1.4

Abstract
Since version 1.40 pdfLaTeX supports several color stacks. This package uses them to fix color problems in package \texttt{parcolumns}.

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∗Please report any issues at https://github.com/ho-tex/oberdiek/issues
1 Usage

\usepackage{pdfcolparcolumns}

The package pdfcolparcolumns loads package parcolumns [1]. If color stacks are available then the macros of parcolumns are patched to add support for color stacks.

1.1 Option rulebetweencolor

Package pdfcolparcolumns also fixes the color for the rule between columns (if rulebetween is set). Default color is $\texttt{\normalcolor}$. But this can be changed by using option rulebetweencolor. It takes a color specification as value. If the value is empty, then the default ($\texttt{\normalcolor}$) is used. Examples:

- rulebetweencolor=blue,
- rulebetweencolor={red},
- rulebetweencolor={}, % $\texttt{\normalcolor}$ is used
- rulebetweencolor=[rgb]{1,0,.5} % see below

If used inside the optional argument of environment parcolumns and the value contains an optional argument, then whole value must be put in curly braces:

\begin{parcolumns}
rulebetween, rulebetweencolor={[rgb]{1,0,.5}}, \end{parcolumns}

This option rulebetweencolor can also be set using \texttt{\setkeys}:

\setkeys{parcolumns}{rulebetweencolor=green}

1.2 Future

Currently package parcolumns does not seem to be maintained. Nevertheless if there will be a new version that adds support for color stacks, then this package may become obsolete.

2 Implementation

2.1 Identification

\texttt{\(*package\)}

\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}

\ProvidesPackage{pdfcolparcolumns} \[2016/05/16 v1.4 Color stacks for parcolumns (HO)]

2.2 Load packages

2.2.1 Package parcolumns

Currently package parcolumns does not define options. Thus it is just a precaution that the options of package pdfcolparcolumns are passed to package parcolumns.

\DeclareOption*{}{
\PassOptionsToPackage{\CurrentOption}{parcolumns}\}

\ProcessOptions\relax

\RequirePackage{parcolumns}[2004/11/25]
2.2.2 Package pdfcol

\RequirePackage{pdfcol}[2007/09/09]
\ifpdfcolAvailable
\PackageInfo{pdfcolparcolumns}{%
Loading aborted, because color stacks are not available%
}%
\expandafter\endinput
\else
\fi

2.2.3 Package infwarerr

\RequirePackage{infwarerr}[2007/09/09]

2.3 Color stack macros

\pcpc@MaxStack Macro \pcpc@MaxStack holds the highest number of allocated stacks.
\global\chardef\pcpc@MaxStack=\z@\n
\pcpc@InitStacks Macro \pcpc@InitStacks takes the number of columns as argument and ensures that there are enough color stacks for all columns.
\def\pcpc@InitStacks#1{%
\ifnum#1>\pcpc@MaxStack
\begingroup
\count@\pcpc@MaxStack
\loop
\advance\count@\@ne
\pdfcolInitStack{pcpc@\the\count@}%
\ifnum#1>\count@
\repeat
\global\chardef\pcpc@MaxStack=\count@
\endgroup
\fi
}

\pcpc@SwitchStack
\def\pcpc@SwitchStack#1{%
\pdfcolSwitchStack{pcpc@\number#1}%
}

\pcpc@SetCurrent
\def\pcpc@SetCurrent#1{%
\pdfcolSetCurrent{pcpc@\number#1}%
}

2.4 Patches

Now the color stack macros are patched into the macros of package parcolumns.

2.4.1 Init stacks
\pcpc@InitStacks should go into the definition of environment parcolumns. \pc@alloccolumns is executed there and nowhere else, thus we hook into it.
\g@addto@macro\pc@alloccolumns{%
\pcpc@InitStacks\pc@columncount%
}

2.4.2 Switch stack
\pcpc@SwitchStack should be called by macro \colchunk@. However it is easier to patch \pc@setcolumnwidth that is executed in \colchunk@ only.
\g@addto@macro\pc@setcolumnwidth{%
2.4.3 Set current stack color

\pcpc@SetCurrent is set at the begin of each line. It must be inserted into \pc@placeboxes. Unhappily there is no easy way. Therefore we check and redefine \pc@placeboxes.

```
\begingroup
\def\x{%\global\let\@tempa\relax\count@\z@\hb@xt@\linewidth{%\v fuzz30ex %\vbadness\@M\splittopskip\z@skip\loop\ifnum\count@<\pc@columncount\advance\count@\@ne\expandafter\ifvoid\csname pc@column@\number\count@\endcsname\hskip\csname pc@column@width@\number\count@\endcsname\else\expandafter\setbox\expandafter\@tempboxa\expandafter\v split\csname pc@column@\number\count@\endcsname to \dp\strutbox\vbox{%\unvbox\@tempboxa}\fi\expandafter\ifvoid\csname pc@column@\number\count@\endcsname\else\global\let\@tempa\pc@placeboxes\fi\ifnum\count@<\pc@columncount\strut\hfill\ifpc@rulebetween\vrule\hfill\fi\fi\repeat\@tempa}\ifx\x\pc@placeboxes\else\@PackageWarningNoLine{pdfcolparcolumns}{Command \string\pc@placeboxes\space has changed.\MessageBreakSupported versions of package \string\parcolumns:\MessageBreak\space2004/08/05.\MessageBreakThe redefinition of \string\pc@placeboxes\space may not%\MessageBreakbehave correctly depending on the changes%}\fi\endgroup
\pc@placeboxes\renewcommand*{\pc@placeboxes}{%\global\let\@tempa\relax\count@\z@}%\OPackageWarningNoLine{pdfcolparcolumns}{%
\global\let\@tempa\relax\count@\z@%}
``
3 Test

The test file is a modified version of the file that Donald Goodman has posted in comp.text.tex: “Re: xcolor glitches”\(^1\)

\begin{document}
\begin{parcolumns}[colwidths={1=2.3in,2=2.3in},sloppy]{2}
\colchunk{1}{{\textcolor{red}{Et non dicitur versus}}
Fidelium anim\ae\,
\textcolor{red}{\textit{sed immediate subiungitur antiphona finalis}}
beat\ae\, Mari\ae\ Virginis}
\colchunk{2}{{\textcolor{black}{And the verse}}
\textcolor{black}{May the souls of the faithful}}
\textcolor{black}{is not said, but the final antiphon of the}
\textcolor{black}{Blessed Virgin Mary,}
\textcolor{black}{is immediately joined.}
\end{parcolumns}
\end{document}

\(^1\)Url: http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/8eda74ed292012bb
4 Installation

4.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN:\footnote{\url{http://ctan.org/pkg/pdfcolparcolumns}}:

\begin{itemize}
\item \url{CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/pdfcolparcolumns.dtx} The source file.
\item \url{CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/pdfcolparcolumns.pdf} Documentation.
\end{itemize}

Bundle. All the packages of the bundle ‘oberdiek’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

\url{CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek.tds.zip}

_TDS_ refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for _\TeX_ Files” (\url{CTAN:tds/tds.pdf}). Directories with _\texmf_ in their name are usually organized this way.

4.2 Bundle installation

Unpacking. Unpack the \url{oberdiek.tds.zip} in the TDS tree (also known as _\texmf_ tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

```
unzip oberdiek.tds.zip -d ~/texmf
```

Script installation. Check the directory \url{TDS:scripts/oberdiek/} for scripts that need further installation steps. Package _attachfile2_ comes with the Perl script _pdfatfi.pl_ that should be installed in such a way that it can be called as _pdfatfi_. Example (linux):

```
chmod +x scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl
cp scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl /usr/local/bin/
```

4.3 Package installation

Unpacking. The \texttt{.dtx} file is a self-extracting docstrip archive. The files are extracted by running the \texttt{.dtx} through plain _\TeX_:

```
tex pdfcolparcolumns.dtx
```

_TDS_. Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as _\texmf_ tree):

\begin{itemize}
\item \url{pdfcolparcolumns.sty} \rightarrow \text{tex/latex/oberdiek/pdfcolparcolumns.sty}
\item \url{pdfcolparcolumns.pdf} \rightarrow \text{doc/latex/oberdiek/pdfcolparcolumns.pdf}
\item \url{test/pdfcolparcolumns-test1.tex} \rightarrow \text{doc/latex/oberdiek/test/pdfcolparcolumns-test1.tex}
\item \url{pdfcolparcolumns.dtx} \rightarrow \text{source/latex/oberdiek/pdfcolparcolumns.dtx}
\end{itemize}

If you have a _docstrip.cfg_ that configures and enables docstrip’s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of docstrip.

4.4 Refresh file name databases

If your _\TeX_ distribution (\texttt{\TeX}, \texttt{mik\TeX}, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, \texttt{\TeX} users run _\texttt{texhash}_ or _\texttt{mktexlar}._
4.5 Some details for the interested

Unpacking with \LaTeX. The .dtx chooses its action depending on the format:

**plain \TeX:** Run docstrip and extract the files.

**\LaTeX:** Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using \LaTeX for docstrip (really, docstrip does not need \LaTeX), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{pdfcolparcolumns.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

**Generating the documentation.** You can use both the .dtx or the .drv to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file \texttt{latexdoc.cfg}. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pdf\LaTeX:

```
pdflatex pdfcolparcolumns.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist pdfcolparcolumns.idx
pdflatex pdfcolparcolumns.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist pdfcolparcolumns.idx
pdflatex pdfcolparcolumns.dtx
```

5 Catalogue

The following XML file can be used as source for the \TeX Catalogue. The elements \texttt{caption} and \texttt{description} are imported from the original XML file from the Catalogue. The name of the XML file in the Catalogue is \texttt{pdfcolparcolumns.xml}.

```
<catalogue>
  <entry datestamp='$Date$' modifier='$Author$' id='pdfcolparcolumns'>
    <name>pdfcolparcolumns</name>
    <caption>Fix colour problems in package 'parcolumns'.</caption>
    <authorref id='auth:oberdiek'/>
    <copyright owner='Heiko Oberdiek' year='2007,2008,2010'/>
    <license type='lppl1.3'/>
    <version number='1.4'/>
    <description>
      Since version 1.40 pdfTeX supports colour stacks.
      This package uses them to fix colour problems in package \texttt{parcolumns}.
      \texttt{parcolumns}/
    </description>
    <documentation details='Package documentation'
      href='\ctan:/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/pdfcolparcolumns.pdf'/
      <ctan file='true' path='\macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/pdfcolparcolumns.dtx'/
      <miktex location='oberdiek'/>
      <texlive location='oberdiek'/>
      <install path='\macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/oberdiek.tds.zip'/>
    </entry>
  </catalogue>
```

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6 References


7 History

[2007/07/26 v1.0]
  • First version, published in the newsgroup \texttt{comp.text.tex} with the name\parcolumns-colorstacks: “\texttt{Re: xcolor glitches}”\textsuperscript{3}

[2007/09/09 v1.1]
  • CTAN version, package name renamed to \texttt{pdfcolparcolumns}.
  • Uses package \texttt{pdfcol}.
  • Documentation added.
  • Test file added.

[2008/08/11 v1.2]
  • Code is not changed.
  • URLs updated.

[2010/01/11 v1.3]
  • Fix for rule color.
  • New option \texttt{rulebetweencolor} for environment \texttt{parcolumns}.

[2016/05/16 v1.4]
  • Documentation updates.

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Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; plain numbers refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

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\textsuperscript{3}Url: \texttt{http://groups.google.com/group/comp.text.tex/msg/56bd897b11bca414}