Presentations with LaTeX2e

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Version 1.2a (for Version 1.6a of the class file `chaksem`)

1 Introduction

The `chaksem` class provides support for preparing slides and online presentations.[1] It is based on the `seminar` style and PSTricks (which have to be installed, along with support for PostScript fonts, on the system). The class file and information is available at

`http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~chak/presentation.html`

Warning: The present documentation is rather brief.

1.1 Why?

Some may ask: Why use LaTeX, when there are specialized (online) presentations tools available? Here are some good reasons:

- Layout of mathematical formulae and program text is much better than in standard presentation tools.
- Reuse of material from a (research) paper is easier.
- The whole range of LaTeX packages and support tools is at your disposal.
- Portable solution: You can use whichever operating system you like.

However, if you are reading this, you are probably already a believer...

2 The Document

A document containing a presentation has to start with `\documentclass{chaksem}`, where (in addition to those allowed by the `seminar` style) the following class options are supported:

`online` Prepare output for an online presentation (overlays accumulate).

`paper` Generating a four-up paper version of slides (overlays are collapsed onto a single page).

`avantgarde` **(default)** Use the PostScript avantgarde font as the font family default.

`helvetica` Use the PostScript helvetica font as the font family default.

[1] Here, an *online presentation* mean a talk using a SVGA projector (or beamer) instead of OHP slides.

3 Slides

Slides are composed within `seminar` style's `slide` environment. Slides can be given titles with `chaksem`'s `\heading` command. The command's argument is set centered, in large letter and small caps in dark grey. Furthermore, it appears in this and all following slide's footers until the next `\heading` command is encountered. If a title is to be broken across two lines at a fixed position, an optional argument can be used to specify the contents of the second line (the use of `\\` in the argument looks ugly in the footer).

The command `\subheading` uses a smaller font, sets the argument, flushed left and terminates it with a colon. The star-form `\subheading*` omits the trailing colon. Furthermore, `\markslide` places an asterisk in the top left corner (I use this to mark slides that are optional in my talks).

4 Lists

The environment `slitemize` is a replacement for LaTeX's `itemize`. It uses ➜ instead of • to mark the list items and sets the items in a slightly smaller font. This leads to visually more appealing slides and saves some "slide real estate." Furthermore, `slumerate` can be used instead of `enumerate`. It uses ①, ②, ... to number the items, and otherwise, behaves like `slitemize`.

5 Overlays

The commands `\snd`, `\trd`, `\fou` up to `\nin`, together with the environments `second`, `third`, `fourth` up to `ninth` can be used to enclose material that should appear on the second to ninth overlay (more than three overlays are not practical on OHP slides, but useful for presentations).[2] For reasons of orthogonality, there is also `\fst`.

The command `\fstsnd` allows to center some material displayed on the second overlay inside the box created by some other material on the first overlay. In other words, `\fstsnd{`*arg*1`}{`*arg*2`}` puts *arg*1 on the first overlay and then centers *arg*2 on top of it on the second overlay. In a similar way, `\snderase` strokes its argument, which is placed on the first overlay, out on the second overlay. A more general facility are the commands `\beforeafter` and `\eraseafter`, which behave like `\fstsnd` and `\snderase`, respectively, but are more general as they are parametrised with the number of the overlay on which the second text or the strike out should go. There is also a command `\sndtrd` that does what it's name suggests.

6 Don't forget...

Please remember that `chaksem` makes heavy use of PostScript functionality via PSTricks; in other words, there is not too much point in examining the result with a DVI previewer—convert to PostScript and use a PostScript previewer.

Send comments and suggestions for improvement to

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[2] Here, *first overlay* means the root slide.