

Non-Floating Margin Notes with **marginnote** Package*

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Abstract

In L^AT_EX the command `\marginpar[<left>]{<right>}` might be used to create a note in the margin. But there is a problem with this command: it creates a special kind of float. For this it cannot be used e.g. at floats or footnotes. Package *marginnote* supports another command `\marginnote` to create notes in the margin. This does not use a kind of float and for this does not have the disadvantage of `\marginpar`. But there might be other problems ...

1 How to Use **marginnote** Package

First of all you have to load. You may use:

```
\usepackage{marginnote}
```

to do so.

The command `\marginnote[<left>]{<right>}[<voffset>]` my be used to set a margin note using *marginnote*. The first optional argument and the mandatory argument are same using `\marginpar` from the L^AT_EX kernel. Even `\reversemarginpar` will be considered. The note `<left>` or `<right>` will be put at the current vertical position. Second optional argument `<voffset>` may be used to adjust the vertical position of the margin note. Use a negative dimension to move it up or a positive dimension to move it down.

At some environments, e.g. `framed` from the `framed` package the horizontal placement of the margin notes are not correct. In this case you may redefine `\marginnoteleftadjust` and `\marginnoterightadjust` to fix this. Note that these are macros not lengths! So you have to use `\renewcommand`, `\def` or `\let` to change them. You may e.g. use

```
\begingroup
```

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```

\makeatletter
\g@addto@macro\framed{%
  \let\marginnoteleftadjust\FrameSep
  \let\marginnoterightadjust\FrameSep
}
\endgroup

```

at your preamble after loading package `framed` to fix the problem using `framed` environment.

NOTE: `\marginnoteleftadjust` and `\marginnoterightadjust` will be used only, if the correct horizontal position cannot be determined using PDFTeX features (`\pdfsavepos` and `\pdflastxpos`). So if you are using PDFLaTeX with PDF output or PDFLaTeX with PDFTeX-version since 1.40 or XeTeX you will not need to use the example code above, but you will need at least two L^AT_EX runs to get the correct horizontal positions of the margin notes.

Package `marginnote` needs to know the real width of the type area to find the right margin. While some environments (e.g. thos of package `framed`) change `\textwidth`, `marginnote` defines it's own text width macro. If you change type area after `\begin{document}` you should add

```
\edef\marginnotetextwidth{\the\textwidth}
```

after changing the type area. Maybe you should do this globally using `\xdef` instead of `\edef`. Most users will never need to change `\marginnotetextwidth`.

At some environments the vertical adjustment of the margin note will be wrong, e.g. one base line to low. In this case you may use the additional optional argument of `\marginnote` at every usage of `\marginnote` or redefine `\marginnotevadjust` at the begin of the environment. The default definition is `0pt`.

These macros define how the margin note will be aligned. The defaults are:

- align margin notes at the left margin right to the margin,
- align margin notes at the right margin left to the margin.

You may change this using `\renewcommand`, e.g. use

```
\renewcommand*\{\raggedleft\marginnote\}{}%
\renewcommand*\{\raggedright\marginnote\}{\centering}
```

to get justified text at the left and centered text at the right margin.

This macro defines the font that will be used to set margin notes. The default is `\normalcolor`. You may use `\renewcommand` to change this, e.g. use

```
\renewcommand*\{\marginfont\}{\color{red}\sffamily}
```

to get red colored margin notes in sans serif font family. You need to load e.g. package `color` to use `\color`.

2 Known Problems Using `\marginnote`

At double side layout (e.g. using class option `twoside`) `\marginnote` needs to know the number of the current page to decide whether the page is odd or even and so whether to use left or right margin. L^AT_EX uses an asynchronous output. Because of this counter `page` should not be used to get the number of the current page unless you are at page head or foot. To solve the problem `\marginnote` uses a mechanism similar to labels. But this means, that the correct margin won't be known at this L^AT_EX run but only at the next. So after adding or deleting a margin note or after each change of page break you need two L^AT_EX runs to get all margins right.

The command `\marginnote` uses `\strut` and `\vadjust` to put the margin note at the correct position. But under some circumstances this may fail. You may adjust the vertical position of the margin note using the second optional argument of `\marginnote`. Sometimes even the text outside `\marginnote` will be moved because of using `\marginnote`. There's currently no other solution for this problem than moving the `\marginnote` command.

Note: The margin note will be placed at the current vertical line. This means, if you are using two `\marginnote` commands at the same line, they will be put on the same place. This is not a bug but a feature!

Since release 1.1b `\marginnote` between paragraphs (in vertical mode) will place the note between the paragraphs instead of the end of the previous paragraph. You may use `\leavevmode` or the third optional argument of `\marginnote` to place it different.

No page break may occur inside a margin note created with `\marginnote`.

`\marginnote` somewhat different from `\marginpar` if used immediate after `\item`. This is not a bug, it's a feature!

With math `\marginnote` may work or may not depending on the math environment.

If you are using X_CT_EX, PDFL^AT_EX since version 1.40 or PDFL^AT_EX before version 1.40 with PDF output and the horizontal position of a margin note is wrong, do one more PDFL^AT_EX run.

Sometimes lines are stretched vertically using `\marginnote`, e.g. if you're using `\marginnote` at a list *and* upper case umlauts like “Ü” or if `\lineskiplimit>0pt`. In this case `\lineskiplimit=-\maxdimen` should help.

You should not use `\marginnote` at the optional argument of `\item`.

3 Implementation

First test ε-T_EX.

```
1 \begingroup
2   \def\@tempb{}%
3   \def\@tempa{%
4     \PackageError{marginnote}{seems you are not running e-TeX}\@tempb}%
5     Since 2004 the LaTeX team recommends to use e-TeX.\MessageBreak
```

```

6     marginnote since version 1.1d uses e-TeX features.\MessageBreak
7     At actual systems ‘latex’ should already use e-TeX.\MessageBreak
8     At deprecated systems it may be called ‘elatex’.\MessageBreak
9     Use either unsupported marginnote up to version 1.1c or\MessageBreak
10    ask you administrator for LaTeX using e-TeX\@tempb.\MessageBreak
11    Not using e-TeX\@tempb\space is a fatal error!\MessageBreak
12    Processing cannot be continued!}%
13 \endgroup
14 \batchmode \errmessage{} \csname @end\endcsname\relax
15 \csname endinput\endcsname
16 }%
17 \expandafter\ifx\csname eTeXversion\endcsname\relax\else
18   \ifnum\eTeXversion <2
19     \def\@tempb{ V 2}%
20   \else
21     \let\@tempa\endgroup
22   \fi
23 \fi
24 \@tempa

```

Next declare and process the options.

\if@mn@verbose Use verbose output mode by default. But you may change this using option `quiet`.

```

25 \newif\if@mn@verbose\@mn@verbosetrue
26 \DeclareOption{verbose}{\@mn@verbosetrue}
27 \DeclareOption{quiet}{\@mn@verbosefalse}

28 \ExecuteOptions{verbose}
29 \ProcessOptions\relax

```

\newmarginnote We need a macro to define a new note at the `aux` file. This will be done using the mechanism of L^AT_EX that is used for `\newlabel`. But we use another prefix. This will result in the usual “Labels(s) may have changed. Rerun to get cross-references right.” if a margin note is new or have moved to another page.

```
30 \newcommand*\{\newmarginnote\}{\@newl@bel{mn}}
```

\if@mn@pdfmode We need to know, wether or not PDFT_EX and which version of PDFT_EX is used. With PDFT_EX the horizontal output position may be detected using `\pdfsavepos` and `\pdflastxpos`. So the relative position of the margin may be calculated. Without PDFT_EX only manual adjustment is available. While PDF mode or not may change before start of the document, setting up the switch is delayed.

```

31 \newif\if@mn@pdfmode\@mn@pdfmodefalse
32 \AtBeginDocument{%
33   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
34   \expandafter\ifx\csname pdflastxpos\endcsname\relax\else % bg or 1
35     \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
36     \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfTeXversion\endcsname\relax % bg 2
37       \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
38       \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfoutput\endcsname\relax % bg 3
39         \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup

```

```

40      \expandafter\ifx\csname XeTeXrevision\endcsname\relax\else % bg 4
41          \@mn@pdfmodetrue
42          \fi % ed 4
43      \else % or 3
44          \ifcase\pdfoutput\else\@mn@pdfmodetrue\fi % bg ed 4
45          \fi % ed 3
46      \else % or 2
47          \ifnum \pdftexversion<140 % bg 3
48              \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
49              \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfoutput\endcsname\relax % bg 4
50              \else % or 4
51                  \ifcase\pdfoutput\else\@mn@pdfmodetrue\fi % bg ed 5
52                  \fi % ed 4
53              \else % or 3
54                  \@mn@pdfmodetrue
55                  \fi % ed 3
56              \fi % ed 2
57          \fi % ed 1
58      \if@mn@verbose
59          \if@mn@pdfmode
60              \PackageInfo{marginnote}{%
61                  \string\pdfoutput\space not 0 and \string\pdflastxpos\space
62                  available.\MessageBreak
63                  Extended position detection mode activated\@gobble
64              }%
65          \else
66              \PackageInfo{marginnote}{%
67                  either \string\pdflastxpos\space or \string\pdfoutput\space not
68                  available\MessageBreak
69                  or \string\pdfoutput\space set to 0.\MessageBreak
70                  Extended position detection mode deactivated\@gobble
71              }%
72          \fi
73      \fi
74 }

```

\marginnotetextwidth Some environments change `\textwidth`. But at PDF mode we need to know the real text width to find the right margin. So we use our own text width macro. Sometimes it may be usefull if the user can set it up. Because of this it is a user command.

```

75 \newcommand*{\marginnotetextwidth}{}%
76 \let\marginnotetextwidth\textwidth
77 \AtBeginDocument{\if@mn@pdfmode\edef\marginnotetextwidth{\the\textwidth}\fi}

```

\@mn@margintest Macro `\@mn@margintest` does the complete test, which margin to use. The result may be found at `\if@tempswa`. To avoid changes on the last page if there is a new note on the first page, try to count the notes by page. We know that this can not be successfull, but never the less it may be a good try. `\@mn@thispage` saves the page number of the last usage of `\@mn@margintest`. `\@mn@atthispage` `\@mn@abspage`

saves the number of margin note at this page. But we need to know the absolute page number to do this. So we increase the absolute page number `mn@abspage` at every `\@outputpage`. `\@mn@currpage` is the page from the page label if found. `\@mn@currxpos` is somehow special. Using PDF_{TEX} the real *x* position may be written with the page label and used to calculate the correct horizontal offset. In this case `\marginnoteleftadjust` and `\marginnoterightadjust` will not be used!

```

78 \newcommand*{\@mn@thispage}{}
79 \newcommand*{\@mn@currpage}{}
80 \newcommand*{\@mn@currxpos}{}
81 \newcounter{mn@abspage}
82 \AtBeginDocument{\setcounter{mn@abspage}{1}%
83   \g@addto@macro{\@outputpage{\stepcounter{mn@abspage}}}}
84 \newcommand*{\@mn@margintest}{%

```

Number of the next margin note at this page.

```

85  \expandafter\ifx\csname @mn@thispage\endcsname\empty
86    \gdef\@mn@atthispage{1}%
87  \else\expandafter\ifnum \@mn@thispage=\value{mn@abspage}%
88    \begin{group}
89      \tempcnta\@mn@atthispage\advance\tempcnta by \one
90      \xdef\@mn@atthispage{\the\tempcnta}%
91    \end{group}
92  \else
93    \gdef\@mn@atthispage{1}%
94  \fi
95 \fi
96 \xdef\@mn@thispage{\themn@abspage}%

```

Use the number of the page and the number of the margin note at this page to save the real number of this page at the `aux` file. At PDF mode save the current *x* position too.

```

97 \let\@mn@currpage\relax
98 \let\@mn@currxpos\relax
99 \if@mn@pdfmode
100   \pdfsavepos
101   \protected@write\auxout{\let\themn@abspage\relax}{%
102     \string\newmarginnote{note.\@mn@thispage.\@mn@atthispage}{%
103       {\themn@abspage}{\noexpand\number\pdflastxpos sp}}}
104   }%
105 \else
106   \protected@write\auxout{\let\themn@abspage\relax}{%
107     \string\newmarginnote{note.\@mn@thispage.\@mn@atthispage}{%
108       {\themn@abspage}{}}}
109   }%
110 \fi

```

If the margin note label was not defined, it seems to be new. In this case the absolute page number will be used for the test instead of the saved real page number.

```

111  \expandafter\ifx\csname mn@note.\@mn@thispage.\@mn@atthispage\endcsname\relax
If we are not in two side mode, we are on a odd page.
112  \if@twoside
113  \if@mn@verbose
114  \PackageInfo{marginnote}{Suggest that margin
115  note \@mn@thispage.\@mn@atthispage\space will be on\MessageBreak
116  absolute page \themn@abspage.\MessageBreak
117  This may be wrong}%
118  \fi
119  \ifodd\value{mn@abspage}\@tempswatrue\else\@tempswafalse\fi
120  \else
121  \if@mn@verbose
122  \PackageInfo{marginnote}{right page because not two side mode}%
123  \fi
124  \@tempswatrue
125  \fi
126  \else
127  \edef\@mn@currpage{\csname
128  mn@note.\@mn@thispage.\@mn@atthispage\endcsname}%
129  \edef\@mn@currxpos{\expandafter\@secondoftwo\@mn@currpage}%

```

Ulrike Fischer suggested a simple change to take care of `\hoffset`, e.g., using package `crop`. We use this occasion to take care of `\pdforigin`, too.

```

130  \edef\@mn@currxpos{\the\dimexpr \@mn@currxpos -\hoffset\relax}%
131  \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
132  \expandafter\ifx\csname pdforigin\endcsname\relax\else
133  \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
134  \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfoutput\endcsname\relax\else
135  \ifnum \pdfoutput=1 %
136  \edef\@mn@currxpos{\the\dimexpr \@mn@currxpos -\pdforigin
137  +1in\relax}%
138  \fi
139  \fi
140  \fi
141  \edef\@mn@currpage{\expandafter\@firstoftwo\@mn@currpage}%
142  \if@mn@verbose
143  \PackageInfo{marginnote}{Margin note \@mn@thispage.\@mn@atthispage\space
144  is on absolute page \@mn@currpage\MessageBreak}%
145  \fi
146  \if@twoside
147  \ifodd\@mn@currpage\relax
148  \@tempswatrue
149  \else
150  \@tempswafalse
151  \fi
152  \else
153  \if@mn@verbose
154  \PackageInfo{marginnote}{right page because not two side mode}%
155  \fi
156  \@tempswatrue

```

```

157      \fi
158  \fi
159 }

\@mn@\marginnote Command \marginnote is the main macro of the package. The others are helpers
\@mn@\marginnote to manage the optional arguments.
\@mn@@@marginnote 160 \newcommand*{\marginnote}{%
\@mn@@@marginnote 161   \cdblarg\@mn@\marginnote
162 }
163 \newcommand{\@mn@\marginnote}[2][]{%
164   \ifhmode
165     \cbsphack
166     \begingroup
167     \ifdim\@savsk>\z@ \else
168       \def\:{\@xifnch}\expandafter\def\:\{ \futurelet\@let@token\@ifnch}%
169     \fi
170   \else
171     \begingroup
172     \fi
173   \c@ifnextchar [{\@mn@@@marginnote[\#1]\{#2}\{\@mn@@@marginnote[\#1]\{#2}\[\z@]\}%
174 }
175 \newcommand{\@mn@@@marginnote}{}%
176 \def\@mn@@@marginnote[#1]#2[#3]{%
177   \endgroup

```

In horizontal mode the space hack of the L^AT_EX kernel will be used. In vertical mode this should not be used.

```

178   \ifhmode
179     \c@mn@@@marginnote[\#1]\{#2\}[\{#3\}]%
180     \c@esphack
181   \else
182     \c@mn@@@marginnote[\#1]\{#2\}[\{#3\}]%
183   \fi
184 }
185 \newcommand{\c@mn@@@marginnote}{}%
186 \def\c@mn@@@marginnote[#1]#2[#3]{%

```

All changes (but change of counters that are global because of using the L^AT_EX commands to change them an \gdef and \xdef) should be local. In h-mode a \strut will be used to fix base line. The margin note will be put to vertical list using \vadjust. This also means that wie are one line to deep. This will be corrected later using negative kern. In v-mode wie use a special kind of vbox to simply set everything. Math mode should behave like v-mode. And if we are just after an item we have to leave v-mode first.

```

187   \begingroup
188     \ifmmode\strut\let\@tempa\mn@\vadjust\else
189       \if@inlabel\leavevmode\fi
190       \ifhmode\strut\let\@tempa\mn@\vadjust\else\let\@tempa\mn@\vlap\fi
191     \fi
192   \@tempa{%

```

Everything will be put upwards using a vbox with zero height and depth and \vss. At this box the margin test will be done. If csreversemargin was used, the logic switchs. Then the note will be places to the margin.

```

193      \vbox to\z@{%
194          \vss
195          \c@mn@margintest
196          \if@reversemargin\if@tempswa
197              \c@tempswafalse
198          \else
199              \c@tempswatrue
200          \fi\fi
201          \if@tempswa
202              \rlap{%

```

If \c@mn@currpos is neither \relax nor empty it is the real current *x* position of the last PDFLATEX run and may be used to calculate the real horizontal offset.

```

203          \ifx\c@mn@curr xpos\relax
204              \kern\marginnoterightadjust
205              \if@mn@verbose
206                  \PackageInfo{marginnote}{%
207                      xpos not known,\MessageBreak
208                      using \string\marginnoterightadjust}%
209                  \fi
210              \else\ifx\c@mn@curr xpos\empty
211                  \kern\marginnoterightadjust
212                  \if@mn@verbose
213                      \PackageInfo{marginnote}{%
214                          xpos not known,\MessageBreak
215                          using \string\marginnoterightadjust}%
216                      \fi
217                  \else
218                      \if@mn@verbose
219                          \PackageInfo{marginnote}{%
220                              xpos seams to be \c@mn@curr xpos,\MessageBreak
221                              \string\marginnoterightadjust
222                              \space ignored}%
223                      \fi
224                  \begingroup
225                      \setlength{\c@tempdima}{\c@mn@curr xpos}%
226                      \kern-\c@tempdima
227                      \if@twoside\ifodd\c@mn@currpage\relax
228                          \kern\oddsidemargin
229                      \else
230                          \kern\evensidemargin
231                      \fi
232                  \else
233                      \kern\oddsidemargin
234                  \fi
235                  \kern 1in
236              \endgroup

```

```

237          \fi
238          \fi
239          \kern\marginnotetextwidth\kern\marginparsep
240          \vbox to\z@{\kern\marginnoteadjust\kern #3
241              \vbox to\z@{%
242                  \hsize\marginparwidth

```

Here's the correction of the vertical position. The rest is simple.

```

243          \kern-\parskip
244          \marginfont\raggedright\marginnote\hspace{\z@}\strut#2\endgraf
245          \vss}%
246          \vss}%
247      }%
248      \else
249          \llap{%
250              \vbox to\z@{\kern #3
251                  \vbox to\z@{%
252                      \hsize\marginparwidth

```

Same like above for left margins.

```

253          \kern-\parskip
254          \marginfont\raggedleft\marginnote\hspace{\z@}\strut#1\endgraf
255          \vss}%
256          \vss}%
257          \ifx\@mn@curr xpos\relax
258              \kern\marginnoteleftadjust
259              \if@mn@verbose
260                  \PackageInfo{\marginnote}{%
261                      xpos not known, \MessageBreak
262                      using \string\marginnoteleftadjust}%
263              \fi
264          \else\ifx\@mn@curr xpos\empty
265              \kern\marginnoteleftadjust
266              \if@mn@verbose
267                  \PackageInfo{\marginnote}{%
268                      xpos not known, \MessageBreak
269                      using \string\marginnoteleftadjust}%
270              \fi
271          \else
272              \if@mn@verbose
273                  \PackageInfo{\marginnote}{%
274                      xpos seams to be \@mn@curr xpos, \MessageBreak
275                      \string\marginnoteleftadjust
276                      \space ignored}%
277              \fi
278          \begingroup
279              \kern\@mn@curr xpos
280              \if@twoside\ifodd\@mn@curr page\relax
281                  \kern-\oddsidemargin
282              \else
283                  \kern-\evensidemargin

```

```

284           \fi
285           \else
286             \kern-\oddsidemargin
287           \fi
288           \kern-1in
289         \endgroup
290       \fi
291     \fi
292   \kern\marginparsep
293 }%
294 \fi
295 }%
296 }%
297 \endgroup
298 }

```

- \marginnoterightadjust These may be used to define an automatic horizontal adjust. The default is zero.
 \marginnoteleftadjust They will be used only if not PDFT_EX or PDFT_EX before version 1.40 in DVI mode is used, because in this case the save position features are not available.

```

299 \newcommand*{\marginnoterightadjust}{}
300 \newcommand*{\marginnoteleftadjust}{}
301 \let\marginnoterightadjust\z@
302 \let\marginnoteleftadjust\z@

```

- \marginnotevadjust This may be used to define an automatic vertical adjust. The default is zero. Values greater than zero will move the margin note down, values less than zero will move the margin note up.
 303 \newcommand*{\marginnotevadjust}{}
 304 \let\marginnotevadjust\z@

- \mn@vlap This macro is used to set a vertical box without size at vertical mode.
 305 \newcommand{\mn@vlap}[1]{%
 306 \setbox@\tempboxa\vbox to \ht\strutbox{#1\vss}%
 307 \box@\tempboxa\vskip-\baselineskip
 308 }

- \mn@zbox This macro is used to set a horizontal box without height, depth and width.
 309 \newcommand{\mn@zbox}[1]{%
 310 \bgroup
 311 \setbox@\tempboxa\vbox{#1}%
 312 \ht@\tempboxa\ht\strutbox
 313 \dp@\tempboxa\dp\strutbox
 314 \wd@\tempboxa\z@
 315 \box@\tempboxa
 316 \egroup
 317 }

- \mn@vadjust This macro is used to set a vertical box at horizontal mode.
 318 \newcommand{\mn@vadjust}[1]{%

```

319   \mn@zbox{\kern-\parskip
320     \leavevmode\vadjust{#1}%
321     \kern\parskip
322   }%
323 }

```

`\marginfont` These are very simple. A class may also define `\marginfont`. Use this if available.
`\raggedleftmarginnote` I don't use `\let` for the definitions of the ragged macros, so the meaning may change loading e.g. package `ragged2e`.

```

324 \providecommand*{\marginfont}{}
325 \newcommand*{\raggedleftmarginnote}{\raggedleft}
326 \newcommand*{\raggedrightmarginnote}{\raggedright}

```

Change History

v1.0a		<code>\marginnotetextwidth:</code> new macro 5
General: Example to macros <code>\raggedleftmarginnote</code> and <code>\raggedrightmarginnote</code> at documentation fixed [thanks to Susumu Tanimura].	2	<code>\if@mn@pdfmode:</code> PDFTEX since 1.40 allows <code>\pdfsavepos</code> in DVI mode too 4
<code>\marginfont:</code> Use <code>\providecommand</code> to define it.	12	<code>\@mn@@@marginnote:</code> use <code>\mn@vadjust</code> instead of <code>\vadjust</code> 8
v1.0b		<code>\if@mn@pdfmode:</code> if level fixed 4
General: spelling fixes	1	<code>\mn@vadjust:</code> new (internal) 11
v1.1		<code>\mn@zbox:</code> new (internal) 11
<code>\@mn@@@marginnote:</code> new PDF mode feature	8	<code>\if@mn@pdfmode:</code> X _E T _E X has work- ing <code>\pdflastxpos</code> but no <code>\pdftexversion</code> 4
<code>\@mn@currpage:</code> new (internal) ...	5	
<code>\@mn@curr xpos:</code> new (internal) ...	5	
<code>\@mn@margintest:</code> new PDF mode feature	5	<code>\mn@abspage:</code> take care of <code>\hoffset</code> 7 take care of <code>\pdfhorigin</code> 7
<code>\if@mn@pdfmode:</code> new switch	4	