overlays – incremental slides

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The overlay package allows to write presentations with incremental slides. It does not presuppose any specific document class. Rather, it is a lightweight alternative to full-fledged presentation classes like beamer.

In the following, every single state of a incremental slide will be called an overlay of that slide.

1 User interface

For incremental slides, the following environments are provided:

\begin{overlays}{⟨total overlay number⟩}
⟨slide content⟩
\end{overlays}

\begin{fragileoverlays}{⟨total overlay number⟩}
⟨slide content⟩
\end{fragileoverlays}

The fragileoverlays environment should be used for incremental slides with verbatim content.

Note that the slide content should fit on a single page.

In the slide content, the following commands can be used in order to specify the content of the overlays:

\alert{⟨overlay specification⟩}{⟨content⟩}
\visible{⟨overlay specification⟩}{⟨content⟩}
\only{⟨overlay specification⟩}{⟨content⟩}

Overlay specifications are either single numbers like 1, sequences of numbers like 1,4, or ranges of numbers like 1-4 or 1-.

The \alert command highlights its content on the specified overlays with the alert color, which may be redefined by means of the \definecolor command.

The \visible command uncovers its content on the overlays which are specified in the overlay specification. On unspecified overlays, the content still takes up space, being rendered in the background color, which, by default, is white.

The content of the \only command is also uncovered on the overlays specified in the overlay specification, but is absent from unspecified overlays and does not take up space there.
The \page and \equation counters are not incremented between overlays. Other counters can be saved between overlays, too, by means of the following command:

\savecountersbetweenoverlays{\textit{counter name}}

The \savebetweenoverlays command is provided as a shortcut for backward compatibility.

Series of first-level lists specified by the \series and \resume keys of the \enumerate package can be saved between overlays by means of the following command:

\saveseriesbetweenoverlays{\textit{series name}}

See below for known limitations regarding the series name.

The \savecountersbetweenoverlays and \saveseriesbetweenoverlays commands are typically used in the preamble.

Use the \overlaysoff command in the preamble in order to switch overlay processing off, effectively typesetting only the last overlay of each incremental slide. In addition, highlights in alert color can be switched off by means of the \alertsoff command.

## 2 Known limitations

The \alert, \visible, and \only commands must not contain verbatim commands or environments. They may be used in the content of the \alltt environment, though.

The \saveseriesbetweenoverlays command only supports first-level lists. In addition, it requires that the series name matches the basename of the list counter (i.e. the counter name without the final \textit{i}). In the case of the \enumerate list, the series name thus should be \textit{enum}; in the case of lists cloned by means of the \newlist command, the series name should be identical to the list name.

## 3 Dependencies

The \overlays package requires the following packages: \texttt{xcolor}, \environ, and \texttt{pgf} (part of \texttt{pgf}).

The \overlays package enables support for the \texttt{graphics} and \texttt{graphicx} packages if one of them is loaded before the \overlays package.

Similarly, the \overlays package enables support for the \texttt{pstricks} package if the latter is loaded before the former. In particular, the commands \texttt{\psalert} and \texttt{\psvisible} are provided for highlighting or uncovering lines only.

## 4 Credits

The code of the \overlays package is inspired by Matthias Meister’s \texttt{present} package.

In addition, it uses an algorithm by Martin Scharrer for testing numbers in numerical ranges (cf. \url{http://tex.stackexchange.com/q/19000}).

The code for saving counters between overlays as well as the code for overlays with verbatim content is taken from the \texttt{texpower} package, which in turn is based on Till Tantau’s \texttt{beamer} package.