

overlays – incremental slides

Andreas Nolda

2021/02/23 (v. 2.12)

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

`overlays`
`fragileoverlays`

For incremental slides, the following environments are provided:

```
\begin{overlays}{\langle total overlay number \rangle}
\langle slide content \rangle
\end{overlays}

\begin{fragileoverlays}{\langle total overlay number \rangle}
\langle slide content \rangle
\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.

`\alert`
`\visible`
`\only`

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

```
\alert{\langle overlay specification \rangle}{\langle content \rangle}

\visible{\langle overlay specification \rangle}{\langle content \rangle}

\only{\langle overlay specification \rangle}{\langle content \rangle}
```

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.

`\savecountersbetweenoverlays` 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{<counter name>}
```

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

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

```
\saveseriesbetweenoverlays{<series name>}
```

See below for known limitations regarding the series name.

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

`\overlaysoff` 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 `i`). In the case of the `enumerate` list, the series name thus should be `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: `xcolor`, `environ`, and `pgffor` (part of `pgf`).

The `overlays` package enables support for the `graphics` and `graphicx` packages if one of them is loaded before the `overlays` package.

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

4 Credits

The code of the `overlays` package is inspired by Matthias Meister's `present` package.

In addition, it uses an algorithm by Martin Scharrer for testing numbers in numerical ranges (cf. <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 `texpower` package, which in turn is based on Till Tantau's `beamer` package.