

The `pdfcol` package

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Abstract

Since version 1.40 pdfTEX supports color stacks. The driver file `pdftex.def` for package `color` defines and uses a main color stack since version v0.04b. Package `pdfcol` is intended for package writers. It defines macros for setting and maintaining new color stacks.

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*Please report any issues at <https://github.com/ho-tex/oberdiek/issues>

1 Documentation

Version 1.40 of pdf_TE_X adds new primitives `\pdfcolorstackinit` and `\pdfcolorstack`. Now color stacks can be defined and used. A main color stack is maintained by the driver file `pdftex.def` similar to dvips or dvipdfm. However the number of color stacks is not limited to one in pdf_TE_X. Thus further color problems can now be solved, such as footnotes across pages or text that is set in parallel columns (e.g. packages `parallel` or `parcolumn`). Unlike the main color stack, the support by additional color stacks cannot be done in a transparent manner.

This package `pdfcol` provides an easier interface to additional color stacks without the need to use the low level primitives.

1.1 Requirements

- pdf_TE_X 1.40 or greater.
- pdf_TE_X in PDF mode. (I don't know a DVI driver that supports several color stacks.)
- `pdftex.def` 2007/01/02 v0.04b.

Package `pdfcol` checks the requirements and sets switch `\ifpdfcolAvailable` accordingly.

1.2 Interface

`\ifpdfcolAvailable`

If the requirements of section 1.1 are met the switch `\ifpdfcolAvailable` behaves as `\iftrue`. Otherwise the other interface macros in this section will be disabled with a message. Also the first use of such a macro will print a message. The messages are printed to the `.log` file only if pdf_TE_X is not used in PDF mode.

`\pdfcolErrorNoStacks`

The first call of `\pdfcolErrorNoStacks` prints an error message, if color stacks are not available.

`\pdfcolInitStack {<name>}`

A new color stack is initialized by `\pdfcolInitStack`. The `<name>` is used for identifying the stack. It usually consists of letters and digits. (The name must survive a `\csname`.)

The intention of the macro is the definition of an additional color stack. Thus the stack is not page bounded like the main color stack. Black (0 g 0 G) is used as initial color value. And colors are written with modifier `direct` that means without setting the current transfer matrix and changing the current point (see documentation of pdf_TE_X for `\pdfliteral direct{...}`).

`\pdfcolIfStackExists {<name>} {<then>} {<else>}`

Macro `\pdfcolIfStackExists` checks whether color stack `<name>` exists. In case of success argument `<then>` is executed and `<else>` otherwise.

```
\pdfcolSwitchStack {\langle name\rangle}
```

Macro `\pdfcolSwitchStack` switches the color stack. The color macros of package `color` (or `xcolor`) now uses the new color stack with name `\langle name\rangle`.

```
\pdfcolSetcurrentColor
```

Macro `\pdfcolSetcurrentColor` replaces the topmost entry of the stack by the current color (`\current@color`).

```
\pdfcolSetCurrent {\langle name\rangle}
```

Macro `\pdfcolSetCurrent` sets the color that is read in the top-most entry of color stack `\langle name\rangle`. If `\langle name\rangle` is empty, the default color stack is used.

2 Implementation

1 `(*package)`

2.1 Reload check and package identification

Reload check, especially if the package is not used with L^AT_EX.

```
2 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
3   \catcode13=5 % ^^M
4   \endlinechar=13 %
5   \catcode35=6 % #
6   \catcode39=12 %
7   \catcode44=12 %
8   \catcode45=12 %
9   \catcode46=12 %
10  \catcode58=12 %
11  \catcode64=11 %
12  \catcode123=1 %
13  \catcode125=2 %
14  \expandafter\let\expandafter\x\csname ver@pdfcol.sty\endcsname
15  \ifx\x\relax % plain-TeX, first loading
16  \else
17    \def\emptyf{}%
18    \ifx\x\empty % LaTeX, first loading,
19      % variable is initialized, but \ProvidesPackage not yet seen
20    \else
21      \expandafter\ifx\csname PackageInfo\endcsname\relax
22        \def\x#1#2{%
23          \immediate\write-1{Package #1 Info: #2.}%
24        }%
25    \else
26      \def\x#1#2{\PackageInfo{#1}{#2, stopped}}%
27    \fi
28    \x{pdfcol}{The package is already loaded}%
29    \aftergroup\endinput
30  \fi
31 \fi
32 \endgroup%
```

Package identification:

```
33 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
```

```

34 \catcode13=5 % ^^M
35 \endlinechar=13 %
36 \catcode35=6 % #
37 \catcode39=12 % ,
38 \catcode40=12 % (
39 \catcode41=12 % )
40 \catcode44=12 % ,
41 \catcode45=12 % -
42 \catcode46=12 % .
43 \catcode47=12 % /
44 \catcode58=12 % :
45 \catcode64=11 % @
46 \catcode91=12 % [
47 \catcode93=12 % ]
48 \catcode123=1 % {
49 \catcode125=2 % }
50 \expandafter\ifx\csname ProvidesPackage\endcsname\relax
51     \def\x#1#2#3[#4]{\endgroup
52         \immediate\write-1{Package: #3 #4}%
53         \xdef#1[#4]%
54     }%
55 \else
56     \def\x#1#2[#3]{\endgroup
57         #2[{#3}]%
58         \ifx#1@undefined
59             \xdef#1{#3}%
60         \fi
61         \ifx#1\relax
62             \xdef#1{#3}%
63         \fi
64     }%
65 \fi
66 \expandafter\x\csname ver@pdfcol.sty\endcsname
67 \ProvidesPackage{pdfcol}%
68 [2019/12/29 v1.6 Handle new color stacks for pdfTeX (HO)]%

```

2.2 Catcodes

```

69 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
70 \catcode13=5 % ^^M
71 \endlinechar=13 %
72 \catcode123=1 % {
73 \catcode125=2 % }
74 \catcode64=11 % @
75 \def\x{\endgroup
76     \expandafter\edef\csname PDFCOL@AtEnd\endcsname{%
77         \endlinechar=\the\endlinechar\relax
78         \catcode13=\the\catcode13\relax
79         \catcode32=\the\catcode32\relax
80         \catcode35=\the\catcode35\relax
81         \catcode61=\the\catcode61\relax
82         \catcode64=\the\catcode64\relax
83         \catcode123=\the\catcode123\relax
84         \catcode125=\the\catcode125\relax
85     }%
86 }%
87 \x\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
88 \catcode13=5 % ^^M

```

```

89 \endlinechar=13 %
90 \catcode35=6 % #
91 \catcode64=11 % @
92 \catcode123=1 % {
93 \catcode125=2 % }
94 \def\TMP@EnsureCode#1#2{%
95   \edef\PDFCOL@AtEnd{%
96     \PDFCOL@AtEnd
97     \catcode#1=\the\catcode#1\relax
98   }%
99   \catcode#1=#2\relax
100 }%
101 \TMP@EnsureCode{39}{12}%
102 \TMP@EnsureCode{40}{12}%
103 \TMP@EnsureCode{41}{12}%
104 \TMP@EnsureCode{43}{12}%
105 \TMP@EnsureCode{44}{12}%
106 \TMP@EnsureCode{46}{12}%
107 \TMP@EnsureCode{47}{12}%
108 \TMP@EnsureCode{91}{12}%
109 \TMP@EnsureCode{93}{12}%
110 \TMP@EnsureCode{96}{12}%
111 \edef\PDFCOL@AtEnd{\PDFCOL@AtEnd\noexpand\endinput}

```

2.3 Check requirements

```

\PDFCOL@RequirePackage
112 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
113 \expandafter\ifx\csname RequirePackage\endcsname\relax
114   \def\PDFCOL@RequirePackage#1[#2]{\input #1.sty\relax}%
115 \else
116   \def\PDFCOL@RequirePackage#1[#2]{%
117     \RequirePackage{#1}[{#2}]%
118   }%
119 \fi

LuaTeX Compatability
120 \ifx\pdfextension@\undefined\else
121   \def\pdfcolorstackinit {\pdffeedback colorstackinit}
122   \protected\def\pdfcolorstack {\pdfextension colorstack}
123 \fi
124 \PDFCOL@RequirePackage{ltxcmds}[2010/03/01]

```

```

ifpdfcolAvailable
125 \ltx@newif\ifpdfcolAvailable
126 \pdfcolAvailabletrue

```

2.3.1 Check package **luacolor**

```

127 \ltx@newif\ifPDFCOL@luacolor
128 \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
129 \expandafter\ifx\csname ver@luacolor.sty\endcsname\relax
130   \PDFCOL@luacolorfalse
131 \else
132   \PDFCOL@luacolortrue
133 \fi

```

2.3.2 Check PDF mode

```

134 \PDFCOL@RequirePackage{infwarerr}[2007/09/09]
135 \PDFCOL@RequirePackage{iftex}[2019/11/07]
136 \ifcase\ifpdf\ifPDFCOL@luacolor 1\fi\else 1\fi0 %
137   \def\PDFCOL@Message{%
138     @PackageWarningNoLine{pdfcol}%
139   }%
140 \else
141   \pdfcolAvailablefalse
142   \def\PDFCOL@Message{%
143     @PackageInfoNoLine{pdfcol}%
144   }%
145   \PDFCOL@Message{%
146     Interface disabled because of %
147     \ifPDFCOL@luacolor
148       package 'luacolor'%
149     \else
150       missing PDF mode of pdfTeX%
151     \fi
152   }%
153 \fi

```

2.3.3 Check version of pdfTeX

```

154 \ifpdfcolAvailable
155   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
156   \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfcolorstack\endcsname\relax
157     \pdfcolAvailablefalse
158     \PDFCOL@Message{%
159       Interface disabled because of too old pdfTeX.\MessageBreak
160       Required is version 1.40+ for \string\pdfcolorstack
161     }%
162   \fi
163 \fi
164 \ifpdfcolAvailable
165   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
166   \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfcolorstack\endcsname\relax
167     \pdfcolAvailablefalse
168     \PDFCOL@Message{%
169       Interface disabled because of too old pdfTeX.\MessageBreak
170       Required is version 1.40+ for \string\pdfcolorstackinit
171     }%
172   \fi
173 \fi

```

2.3.4 Check pdftex.def

```

174 \ifpdfcolAvailable
175   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
176   \expandafter\ifx\csname @pdfcolorstack\endcsname\relax

```

Try to load package color if it is not yet loaded (L^AT_EX case).

```

177   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
178   \expandafter\ifx\csname ver@color.sty\endcsname\relax
179     \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
180     \expandafter\ifx\csname documentclass\endcsname\relax
181     \else
182       \RequirePackage[pdftex]{color}\relax
183     \fi
184   \fi
185   \begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
186   \expandafter\ifx\csname @pdfcolorstack\endcsname\relax

```

```

187      \pdfcolAvailablefalse
188      \PDCFOL@Message{%
189          Interface disabled because 'pdftex.def'\MessageBreak
190          is not loaded or it is too old.\MessageBreak
191          Required is version 0.04b or greater%
192      }%
193      \fi
194  \fi
195 \fi
196 \let\pdfcolAvailabletrue\relax
197 \let\pdfcolAvailablefalse\relax

2.4 Enabled interface macros

198 \ifpdfcolAvailable

\pdfcolErrorNoStacks
199 \let\pdfcolErrorNoStacks\relax

\pdfcol@Value
200 \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfcol@Value\endcsname\relax
201     \def\pdfcol@Value{0 g 0 G}%
202 \fi

\pdfcol@LiteralModifier
203 \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfcol@LiteralModifier\endcsname\relax
204     \def\pdfcol@LiteralModifier{direct}%
205 \fi

\pdfcolInitStack
206 \def\pdfcolInitStack#1{%
207     \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfcol@Stack@#1\endcsname\relax
208         \global\expandafter\chardef\csname pdfcol@Stack@#1\endcsname=%
209             \pdfcolorstackinit\pdfcol@LiteralModifier{\pdfcol@Value}%
210         \relax
211         \c@PackageInfo{pdfcol}{%
212             New color stack '#1' = \number\csname pdfcol@Stack@#1\endcsname
213         }%
214     \else
215         \c@PackageError{pdfcol}{%
216             Stack '#1' is already defined%
217         }\@ehc
218     \fi
219 }%

\pdfcolIfStackExists
220 \def\pdfcolIfStackExists#1{%
221     \expandafter\ifx\csname pdfcol@Stack@#1\endcsname\relax
222         \expandafter\@secondoftwo
223     \else
224         \expandafter\@firstoftwo
225     \fi
226 }%

\@firstoftwo
227 \expandafter\ifx\csname @firstoftwo\endcsname\relax
228     \long\def\@firstoftwo#1#2{#1}%
229 \fi

```

```

\@secondoftwo
230  \expandafter\ifx\csname @secondoftwo\endcsname\relax
231  \long\def\@secondoftwo#1#2{#2}%
232  \fi

\pdfcolSwitchStack
233 \def\pdfcolSwitchStack#1{%
234   \pdfcolIfStackExists{#1}{%
235     \expandafter\let\expandafter\@pdfcolorstack
236           \csname pdfcol@Stack@#1\endcsname
237   }{%
238     \pdfcol@ErrorNoStack{#1}%
239   }%
240 }

\pdfcolSetColor
241 \def\pdfcolSetColor{%
242   \pdfcolorstack\@pdfcolorstack set{\current@color}%
243 }

\pdfcolSetCurrent
244 \def\pdfcolSetCurrent#1{%
245   \ifx\#1\%
246     \pdfcolorstack\@pdfcolorstack current\relax
247   \else
248     \pdfcolIfStackExists{#1}{%
249       \pdfcolorstack\csname pdfcol@Stack@#1\endcsname current\relax
250     }{%
251       \pdfcol@ErrorNoStack{#1}%
252     }%
253   \fi
254 }

\pdfcol@ErrorNoStack
255 \def\pdfcol@ErrorNoStack#1{%
256   \@PackageError{pdfcol}{Stack '#1' does not exists}\@ehc
257 }

```

2.5 Disabled interface macros

```

258 \else

\pdfcolErrorNoStacks
259 \def\pdfcolErrorNoStacks{%
260   \@PackageError{pdfcol}{%
261     Color stacks are not available%
262   }{%
263     Update pdfTeX (1.40) and ‘pdftex.def’ (0.04b) %
264     if necessary.\MessageBreak
265     Ensure that ‘pdftex.def’ is loaded %
266     (package ‘color’ or ‘xcolor’).\MessageBreak
267     Further messages can be found in TeX’s %
268     protocol file ‘\jobname.log’.\MessageBreak
269   }\MessageBreak
270   \@ehc
271 }%
272 \global\let\pdfcolErrorNoStacks\relax
273 }

```

```

\PDFCOL@Disabled

274 \def\PDFCOL@Disabled{%
275   \PDFCOL@Message{%
276     pdfTeX's color stacks are not available%
277   }%
278   \global\let\PDFCOL@Disabled\relax
279 }%


\pdfcolInitStack

280 \def\pdfcolInitStack#1{%
281   \PDFCOL@Disabled
282 }%


\pdfcolIfStackExists

283 \long\def\pdfcolIfStackExists#1#2#3{#3}%


\pdfcolSwitchStack

284 \def\pdfcolSwitchStack#1{%
285   \PDFCOL@Disabled
286 }%


\pdfcolSetcurrentColor

287 \def\pdfcolSetcurrentColor{%
288   \PDFCOL@Disabled
289 }%


\pdfcolSetCurrent

290 \def\pdfcolSetCurrent#1{%
291   \PDFCOL@Disabled
292 }%


293 \fi
294 \PDFCOL@AtEnd%
295 
```

3 Installation

3.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN¹:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/pdfcol.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/pdfcol.pdf](#) Documentation.

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.

[CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek.tds.zip](#)

TDS refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for TeX Files” ([CTAN:pkg/tds](#)). Directories with `texmf` in their name are usually organized this way.

¹[CTAN:pkg/pdfcol](#)

3.2 Bundle installation

Unpacking. Unpack the `oberdiek.tds.zip` in the TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

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

3.3 Package installation

Unpacking. The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `.dtx` through plain `TEX`:

```
tex pdfcol.dtx
```

TDS. Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree):

```
pdfcol.sty → tex/generic/oberdiek/pdfcol.sty  
pdfcol.pdf → doc/latex/oberdiek/pdfcol.pdf  
pdfcol.dtx → source/latex/oberdiek/pdfcol.dtx
```

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`.

3.4 Refresh file name databases

If your `TEX` distribution (`TEX Live`, `MiKTEX`, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, `TEX Live` users run `texhash` or `mktexlsr`.

3.5 Some details for the interested

Unpacking with L^AT_EX. The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

plain T_EX: Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

L^AT_EX: Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using L^AT_EX for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need L^AT_EX), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{pdfcol.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 `ltxdoc.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 pdfL^AT_EX:

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

4 History

[2007/09/09 v1.0]

- First version.

[2007/12/09 v1.1]

- `\pdfcolSetCurrentColor` added.

[2007/12/12 v1.2]

- Detection for package `luacolor` added.

[2016/05/16 v1.3]

- Documentation updates.

[2016/05/17 v1.4]

- Use `luatex85` package for new luatex compatibility

[2018/11/01 v1.5]

- Remove `luatex85` dependency

[2019/12/29 v1.6]

- `iftex` package.

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