The colourchange package

Seamus Bradley

March 15, 2011

tex@seamusbradley.net
http://www.seamusbradley.net/tex.php

1 Introduction

The colourchange package provides options for changing the colour of beamer’s structural elements. There are two ways to do this: manual and automatic.

2 Manual

The command \selectmanualcolour sets the colour to its argument. It accepts any named colour understood by xcolor.

3 Automatic

There are two options that automatically change the colour: slidechange and framechange. Pass one of these to the package as an option and the colour of the structure will slowly change from one colour to another. To set what colours the transition should be between, use: \selectcolourchange {first}{second} which makes the colour transition from first to second over the course of the presentation.

You will need to compile twice to see the effect since colourchange needs to know how many slides there are so it knows how far through the presentation it is at a given point.

4 Usage

I have been testing this by calling it as a standard package, I’m not sure how \usecolortheme deals with package options. So if you want to use the manual colour changing option, all you need is: \usepackage[colourchange]. If you want one of the automatic colourchange options call \usepackage[slidechange]{colourchange} or \usepackage[framechange]{colourchange}.

You can pass the option defaultstyle to the package, this sets up the structural elements (the inner and outer theme) so that they use the colours. Otherwise, you can use Beamer’s own \useinnertheme and \useoutertheme to use the themes Beamer defines. Call inner and outer
themes separately. Some “all inclusive” themes call a colour theme themselves and this can lead to only some elements changing colour.

Use the draft option to turn off the colour transitions.

5 Known problems

The smoothbars and smoothtrees outer themes do some funky stuff with shading and colours, so they aren’t currently supported. All other outer and inner themes looked alright. Testing was, however, pretty basic: not all combinations were tested.

6 How it works

It’s a pretty simple package really. Just like (some) basic beamer colour themes it defines all the components of the inner and outer themes in terms of one “master colour” called structure. Then all it does is use various ways of changing this colour. The manual option just gives you a way of changing this colour on the fly. The two automatic ways basically fiddle with beamer slide and frame creation internals to set the structure colour whenever a new frame/slide is created. See the .sty file for details.