This package allows you to place notes on the verso pages of an otherwise single-sided document. If, in the run of text, you include a call to the macro \versonote{This is a remark}, then that text will be placed on the opposite (ie, ‘verso’) page, lined up with the macro call. The notes may contain more than one paragraph.

All the pages in the document appear as recto pages (ie, right-hand pages), and are numbered as such; the document should be formatted with that in mind.

Since there is no page opposite the first page, any notes which are positioned to appear opposite page 1 are silently discarded.

To invoke the package, use the command \usepackage{versonotes}.

If two notes come too close after one another, the second would overprint the first if we did not take steps to avoid this. By default, they are separated from each other by a short horizontal line, but if the mergecollisions option is provided when loading the package, then such notes are instead merged into a single block of text. If a sequence of notes needs to be merged, then they will be added to the merged block one at a time in successive \TeX runs, since merging one note may make it unnecessary to merge the next. If a large block of such notes need to be merged, it will therefore take several runs before the package finds a stable state. If you find yourself inconvenienced by this, it sounds as if you are preparing a critical edition, and you might want to venture into a closer relationship with the \{eledmac\} package.\footnote{\url{http://www.ctan.org/pkg/eledmac}}

The dimensions \versoleftmargin and \versotextwidth specify the position of the text block on the verso page. The defaults for these are based on the \textwidth and \evensidemargin of the document at the time the package is loaded. By default, verso paragraphs are set ragged-left; with the declarations in \versolayout setting the paragraph parameters. You may reset the first two dimensions with for example \versoleftmargin=4cm, and use \renewcommand\versolayout{...} to override the paragraph formatting (this will typically require changing \rightskip, \leftskip and \parfillskip). For more elaborate effects (for example changing the note font size and spacing), you will need to redefine \versolayout.

Recto notes

If the package is invoked with the rectonotes option, then it runs in a complementary mode in which the notes are placed on the recto page (the right-hand one)
instead of the verso. The default \versolayout in this case (which of course is really a recto layout) is slightly different, and is based on the preexisting document \oddsidemargin. All the pages in the document (apart from the front page) are then formatted as verso pages, though still only the non-note pages are numbered.

In this mode, the ‘add a note’ command is still called \versonote. You may find it convenient to rename that with \let\rectonote = \versonote or \let\sidenote = \versonote.

Notes

- The package uses the \pdfsavepos primitive, and so requires pdflatex, xelatex, or luatex.

- The notes are handled using the .aux file, and so (i) they will only appear on the second and subsequent runs; and (ii) they will be located opposite the position where the \versonote macro was called on the previous run.

- The package is available on CTAN at macros/latex/contrib/versonotes/. The source is hosted at https://bitbucket.org/nxg/versonotes, where you can also find an issues list.

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