pst2pdf

Running a PSTricks document with (pdf/xe/lua)latex; $v0.20 - 2020-08-22^*$

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pst2pdf is a Perl *script* which isolates all PostScript or PSTricks related parts of the T_EX document, read all postscript, pspicture, psgraph and PSTexample environments and, extract source code in *standalone* files and converting them into image format pdf, eps, jpg, svg or png (default pdf). Create new file with all extracted environments converted to \includegraphics and runs (pdf/Xe/lua)latex.

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^{*} This file describes a documentation for version 0.20, last revised 2020-08-22.

1 Introduction

PSTricks as PostScript related package uses the programming language PostScript for internal calculations. This is an important advantage, because floating point arithmetic is no problem. Nearly all mathematical calculation can be done when running the DVI-file with GHOSTSCRIPT. However, creating a PDF file in a direct way with pdflatex is not possible. pdflatex cannot understand the PostScript related stuff.

Instead of running pdflatex one can use the *script* pst2pdf, it extracts all PSTricks related code into single documents with the same preamble as the original main document.

The pst2pdf *script* runs document, extract source code for all PSTricks as PostScript related parts, clips all whitespace around the image and creates a .pdf images of the PSTricks related code.

In a last run which is the pdflatex the PSTricks code in the main document is replaced by the created images.

2 License

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3 Requirements for operation

For the complete operation of pst2pdf you need to have a modern TEX distribution such as TEX Live or MiKTEX, the packages preview[3], pst-pdf[4], graphicx[6] and grfext[5], have a version equal to or greater than 5.28 of perl, a version equal to or greater than 9.24 of Ghostscript, a version equal to or greater than 1.40 of pdfcrop and have a version equal to or greater than 0.52 of poppler-utils.

The distribution of T_EX Live 2020 for Windows includes pst2pdf and all requirements, MiKT_EX users must install the appropriate software for full operation.

The script auto detects the Ghostscript, but not poppler-utils. You should keep this in mind if you are using the script directly and not the version provided in your TEX distribution.

The script has been tested on Windows (v10) and Linux (fedora 32) using Ghostscript v9.52, poppler-utils v0.84, perl v5.30 and the standard classes offers by $\mathbb{E}T_{E}X$: book, report, article and letter.

4 How it works

It is important to have a general idea of how the *"extraction and conversion"* process works and the requirements that must be fulfilled so that everything works correctly, for this we must be clear about some concepts related to how to work with the $\langle input file \rangle$, the $\langle verbatim content \rangle$ and the $\langle steps process \rangle$.

4.1 The input file

The $\langle input file \rangle$ must comply with *certain characteristics* in order to be processed, the content at the beginning and at the end of the $\langle input file \rangle$ is treated in a special way, before \documentclass and after \end{document} can go any type of content, internally the script will "*split*" the $\langle input file \rangle$ at this points.

If the $\langle input file \rangle$ contains files using $\inf\{\langle file \rangle\}$ or $\inf\{\langle file \rangle\}$ these will not be processed, from the side of the *script* they only represent lines within the file, if you want them to be processed it is better to use the latexpand¹ first and then process the file.

Like $input{\langle file \rangle}$ or $include{\langle file \rangle}$, blank lines, vertical spaces and tab characters are treated literally, for the *script* the $\langle input file \rangle$ is just a set of characters, as if it was a simple text file. It is advisable to format the source code $\langle input file \rangle$ using utilities such as chktex² and latexindent³, especially if you want to extract the source code of the environments.

Both \thispagestyle{ $\langle style \rangle$ } and \pagestyle{ $\langle style \rangle$ } are treated in a special way by the script, if they do not appear in the preamble then \pagestyle{ $\langle empty \rangle$ } will be added and if they are present and { $\langle style \rangle$ } is different from { $\langle empty \rangle$ } this will be replaced by { $\langle empty \rangle$ }.

This is necessary for the image creation process, it does not affect the $\langle output file \rangle$, but it does affect the *standalone* files. For the script the process of dividing the $\langle input file \rangle$ into four parts and then processing them:

```
1 % Part One: Everything before \documentclass
2 \documentclass{article}
3 % Part two: Everything between \documentclass and \begin{document}
4 \begin{document}
5 % Part three: : Everything between \begin{document} and \end{document}
6 \end{document}
7 % Part Four: Everything after \end{document}
```

If for some reason you have an environment filecontens before \documentclass or in the preamble of the $\langle input file \rangle$ that contains a *sub-document* or *environment* you want to extract, the script will ignore them. Similarly, the content after \end{document} is ignored in the extraction process.

4.2 Verbatim contents

One of the greatest capabilities of this script is to "*skip*" the complications that $\langle verbatim \ content \rangle$ produces with the extraction of environments using tools outside the "T_EX world". In order to "*skip*" the complications, the $\langle verbatim \ content \rangle$ is classified into three types:

- · Verbatim in line.
- Verbatim standard.
- Verbatim write.

Verbatim in line

The small pieces of code written using a "verbatim macro" are considered $\langle verbatim in line \rangle$, such as $\langle verb | \langle code \rangle | or \langle verb^* | \langle code \rangle | or \langle macro[\langle code \rangle] or \langle macro[\langle code \rangle] \rangle$.

Most "verbatim macro" provide by packages minted, fancyvrb and listings have been tested and are fully supported. They are automatically detected the verbatim macro (including * argument) generates by \newmint and \newmintinline and the following list:

- \mint \verb
- \spverb \Verb
- \qverb \lstinline
- \fverb \pyginline

- \pygment
 - \Scontents
- \tcboxverb
- \mintinline

¹ https://www.ctan.org/pkg/latexpand

² https://www.ctan.org/pkg/chktex

³ https://www.ctan.org/pkg/latexindent

Some packages define abbreviated versions for "verbatim macro" as \DefineShortVerb, \lstMakeShortInline and MakeSpecialShortVerb, will be detected automatically if are declared explicitly in (input file).

The following consideration should be kept in mind for some packages that use abbreviations for verbatim macros, such as shortvrb or doc for example in which there is no explicit \macro in the document by means of which the abbreviated form can be detected, for automatic detection need to find \DefineShortVerb explicitly to process it correctly. The solution is quite simple, just add in $\langle input$ file:

```
\UndefineShortVerb{\|}
\DefineShortVerb{\|}
```

depending on the package you are using. If your "verbatim macro" is not supported by default or can not detect, use the options described in 8.2.

Verbatim standard

These are the *"classic"* environments for *"writing code"* are considered *(verbatim standard)*, such as verbatim and lstlisting environments. The following list (including * argument) is considered as *verbatim standard* environments:

 Example CenterExample SideBySideExample PCenterExample PSideBySideExample verbatim Verbatim BVerbatim LVerbatim 	 SaveVerbatim PSTcode LTXexample tcblisting spverbatim minted listing lstlisting alltt 	 comment chklisting verbatimtab listingcont boxedverbatim demo sourcecode xcomment pygmented 	 pyglist program programL programs programf programsc programt
---	---	---	---

They are automatically detected (*verbatim standard*) environments (including * argument) generates by commands:

- \DefineVerbatimEnvironment
- \NewListingEnvironment
- \DeclareTCBListing
- \ProvideTCBListing
- \lstnewenvironment
- \newtabverbatim
- \specialcomment

- \includecomment
- \newtcblisting
- \NewTCBListing
- \newverbatim
- \NewProgram
- \newminted

If any of the *(verbatim standard)* environments is not supported by default or can not detected, you can use the options described in 8.2.

Verbatim write

Some environments have the ability to write "external files" or "store content" in memory, these environments are considered (verbatim write), such as scontents, filecontents or VerbatimOut environments. The following list is considered (including * argument) as (verbatim write) environments:

- scontents
- tcbwritetmp extcolorbox
- filecontents tcboutputlisting
- extikzpicture
- tcbexternal
- VerbatimOut
- verbatimwrite filecontentsdef
- filecontentshere
- filecontentsdefmacro
- filecontentsdefstarred
- filecontentsgdef
- filecontentsdefmacro
- filecontentsgdefmacro

They are automatically detected (*verbatim write*) (including * argument) environments generates by commands:

\renewtcbexternalizetcolorbox

- \renewtcbexternalizeenvironment
- \newtcbexternalizeenvironment
- \newtcbexternalizetcolorbox
- \newenvsc

If any of the $\langle verbatim write \rangle$ environments is not supported by default or can not detected, you can use the options described in 8.2.

4.3 Steps process

For creation of the image formats, extraction of source code of environments and creation of an $\langle out-put file \rangle$, pst2pdf need a various steps. Let's assume that the $\langle input file \rangle$ is test.tex, $\langle output file \rangle$ is test.tex, $\langle output file \rangle$ is test.tex, the working directory are "./", the directory for images are ./images, the temporary directory is /tmp and we want to generate images in pdf format and $\langle standalone \rangle$ files for all environments extracted.

We will use the following code as test.tex:



Validating Options

The first step is read and validated [$\langle options \rangle$] from the command line, verifying that test.tex contains *some* environment to extract, check the directory ./images if it doesn't exist create it and create a temporary directory /tmp/hG45uVklv9.

The entire test.tex file is loaded into memory and "split" to start the extraction process.

Comment and ignore

In the second step, once the file test.tex is loaded and divided in memory, proceeds (in general terms) as follows:

Search the words \begin{ and \end{ in verbatim standard, verbatim write, verbatim in line and commented lines, if it finds them, converts to \BEGIN{ and \END{, then places all code to extract inside the \begin{preview} ...\end{preview}.

At this point "all" the code you want to extract is inside \begin{preview}...\end{preview}.

Creating standalone files and extracting

In the third step, the script generate $\langle standalone \rangle$ files: test-fig-1.tex, test-fig-2.tex, ... and saved in ./images then proceed in two ways according to the [$\langle options \rangle$] passed to generate a temporary file with a random number (1981 for example):

1. If script is call *without* --noprew options, the following lines will be added at the beginning of the test.tex (in memory):

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{inactive}{pst-pdf}%
\AtBeginDocument{%
\RequirePackage[inactive]{pst-pdf}%
\RequirePackage[active,tightpage]{preview}%
\renewcommand\PreviewBbAdjust{-60pt -60pt 60pt}}%
% rest of input file
```

The different parts of the file read in memory are joined and save in a temporary file test-fig-1981.tex in ./. This file will contain all the environments for extraction between \begin{preview}...\end{ preview} along with the rest of the document. If the document contains images, these must be in the formats supported by the *engine* selected to process the *(input file)*.

If script is call with --noprew options, the \begin{preview}...\end{preview} lines are only used as
delimiters for extracting the content without using the package preview, the following lines will
be added at the beginning of the test.tex (in memory):

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{inactive}{pst-pdf}%
\AtBeginDocument{%
\RequirePackage[inactive]{pst-pdf}}%
% only environments extracted
```

Then it is joined with all extracted environments separated by \newpage and saved in a temporary file test-fig-1981.tex in "./".

If --norun is passed, the temporary file test-fig-1981.tex is renamed to test-fig-all.tex and moved to ./images.

Generate image formats

In the fourth step, the script generating the file test-fig-1981.pdf with all code extracted and croping, running:

```
[user@machine ~:]$ (compiler) -no-shell-escape -interaction=nonstopmode -recorder test-fig-1981.tex
[user@machine ~:]$ pdfcrop --margins 0 test-fig-1981.pdf test-fig-1981.pdf
```

Now move test-fig-1981.pdf to /tmp/hG45uVklv9 and rename to test-fig-all.pdf, generate image files test-fig-1.pdf and test-fig-2.pdf and copy to ./images, if the image files exist, they will be rewritten each time you run the script. The file test-fig-1981.tex is moved to the ./images and rename to test-fig-all.tex.

Note the options passed to *compiler* always use -no-shell-escape and -recorder, to generate the .fls file which is used to delete temporary files and directories after the process is completed. The --shell option activates -shell-escape for compatibility with packages such as minted or others.

Create output file

In the fifth step, the script creates the output file test-pdf.tex converting all extracted code to \includegraphics, remove all PSTricks packages and content betwen %CleanPST ... %CleanPST, then adding the following lines at end of preamble:

^{1 \}usepackage{graphicx}

^{2 \}graphicspath{{images/}}

^{3 \}usepackage{grfext}

^{4 \}PrependGraphicsExtensions*{.pdf}

The script will try to detect whether the graphicx package and the \graphicspath command are in the preamble of the *(output file)*. If it is not possible to find it, it will read the .log file generated by the temporary file. Once the detection is complete, the package grfext and \PrependGraphicsExtensions* will be added at the end of the preamble, then proceed to run:

[user@machine ~:]\$ (compiler) -recorder -shell-escape test-pdf.tex

generating the file test-pdf.pdf.

Clean temporary files and dirs

In the sixth step, the script read the files test-fig-1981.fls and test-out.fls, extract the information from the temporary files and dirs generated in the process in "./" and then delete them together with the directory /tmp/hG45uVklv9.

Finally the output file test-pdf.tex looks like this:

```
% some commented lines at begin document
  \documentclass{article}
  \usepackage{graphicx}
3
4 \graphicspath{{images/}}
5
  \usepackage{grfext}
6
  \PrependGraphicsExtensions*{.pdf}
  \begin{document}
  Some text
8
  \includegraphics[scale=1]{test-fig-1}
9
10 Always use \verb|\begin{pspicture}| and \verb|\end{pspicture}| to open
11 and close environment
12 \includegraphics[scale=1]{test-fig-2}
13 Some text
14 \begin{verbatim}
15 \begin{pspicture}
   Some code
16
17 \end{pspicture}
18 \end{verbatim}
  Some text
19
  \end{document}
20
```

5 Default extracted environments

pst2pdf support fourth environments for extraction. Internally the script converts all environments to extract in preview environments. Is better comment this package in preamble unless the option --noprew is used.

 $\langle env \ content \rangle$ \end{**postscript**}

\begin{postscript} Environment provide by pst-pdf[4], auto-pst-pdf[7] and auto-pst-pdf-lua[13] packages. Since the pst-pdf, auto-pst-pdf and auto-pst-pdf-lua packages internally use the preview package, is better comment this in preamble. Only the content of this environment is extracted and "not" the environment itself when using the --srcenv option. The postscript environment should always be used, when there is some code before a pspicture environment or for some code which is not inside of a pspicture environment.

\begin{pspicture} Environment provide by pstricks[15] package. The plain TFX syntax \pspicture ... \endpspicture $\langle env \ content \rangle$ its converted to LATEX syntax \begin{pspicture} ... \end{pspicture} if not within the PSTexample or \end{**pspicture**} postscript environments.

\begin{psgraph} Environment provide by pst-plot[16] package. The plain TrX syntax \psgraph ... \endpsgraph its $\langle env \ content \rangle$ converted to LATEX syntax \begin{psgraph} ... \end{psgraph} if not within the PSTexample or postscript \end{**psgraph**} environments.

\begin{PSTexample} Environment provide by pst-exa[8] package. The script automatically detects the \begin{PSTexample} (env content) ...\end{PSTexample} environments and processes them as separately compiled files. The user should \end{**PSTexample**} have loaded the package with [swpl] or [tcb] option.

6 Remove PSTricks code

By design, the script remove all PSTricks packages in preamble of $\langle output file \rangle$, if you need delete other PSTricks code in preamble use:

7 Supported image formats

The *(image formats)* generated by the pst2pdf using Ghostscript and poppler-utils are the following command lines:

pdf The image format generated using Ghostscript. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ gs -q -dNOSAFER -sDEVICE=pdfwrite -dPDFSETTINGS=/prepress

eps The image format generated using pdftoeps. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ pdftops -q -eps

png The image format generated using Ghostscript. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ gs -q -dNOSAFER -sDEVICE=pngalpha -r150

jpg The image format generated using Ghostscript. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ gs -q -dNOSAFER -sDEVICE=jpeg -r150 -dJPEGQ=100 \
 -dGraphicsAlphaBits=4 -dTextAlphaBits=4

ppm The image format generated using pdftoppm. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ pdftoppm -q -r 150

tiff The image format generated using Ghostscript. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ gs -q -dNOSAFER -sDEVICE=tiff32nc -r150

svg The image format generated using pdftocairo. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ pdftocairo -q -r 150

bmp The image format generated using Ghostscript. The line executed by the system is:

[user@machine ~:]\$ gs -q -dNOSAFER -sDEVICE=bmp32b -r150

8 How to use

8.1 Syntax

The syntax for pst2pdf is simple, if your use the version provided in your T_EX distribution:

[user@machine ~:]\$ pst2pdf [(options)] (input file)

or

[user@machine ~:] **\$ pst2pdf** $\langle input file \rangle$ [$\langle options \rangle$]

If the development version is used:

```
[user@machine ~:]$ perl pst2pdf [(options)] (input file)
```

The extension valid for $\langle input file \rangle$ are .tex or .ltx, relative or absolute paths for files and directories is not supported. If used without $[\langle options \rangle]$ the extracted environments are converted to pdf image format and saved in the ./images directory using latex»dvips»ps2pdf and preview package for process $\langle input file \rangle$ and pdflatex for compiler $\langle output file \rangle$.

8.2 Command line interface

The script provides a *command line interface* with short - and long – option, they may be given before the name of the $\langle input file \rangle$, the order of specifying the options is not significant. Options that accept a $\langle value \rangle$ require either a blank space \Box or = between the option and the $\langle value \rangle$. Some short options can be bundling.

-h,help	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Display a command line help and exit.	
-l,log	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Write a pst2pdf.log file with all process information.	
-v,version	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Display the current version (0.20) and exit.	
-V,verbose	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Show verbose information of process in terminal.	
-d,dpi	$\langle integer \rangle$	(default: 150)
	Dots per inch for images files. Values are positive integers less than or equal to 2500.	
-t,tif	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a .tif images files using Ghostscript.	
-b,bmp	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a .bmp images files using Ghostscript.	
-j,jpg	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a .jpg images files using Ghostscript.	
-p,png	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a .png transparent image files using Ghostscript.	
-e,eps	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a .eps image files using pdftops.	
-s,svg	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a .svg image files using pdftocairo.	
-P,ppm	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a .ppm image files using pdftoppm.	
-g,gray	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Create a gray scale for all images using Ghostscript. The line behind this options is:	
	[user@machine ~:]\$ gs -g -dNOSAFER -sDEVICE=pdfwrite -dPDESETTINGS=/prepress \	

-sColorConversionStrategy=Gray -dProcessColorModel=/DeviceGray

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-f,force	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)	
	Try to capture \product{code} to extract. When using theforce option the \product{code} and leave it inside the preview environment, any line that is and $\product{pspicture}$ will be captured.		
-np,noprew	<pre></pre>	(default: off)	
	Create images files without preview package. The \begin{preview}\end{preview} lines are only used as delimiters for extracting the content <i>without</i> using the package preview. Using this option <i>"only"</i> the extracted environments are processed and not the whole $\langle input file \rangle$, sometimes it is better to use it together withforce. Alternative namesingle.		
-m,margins	$\langle integer \rangle$	(default: 0)	
	Set margins in bp for pdfcrop.		
- r, runs	<1 2 3>	(default: 1)	
	Set the number of times the $\langle \textit{compiler} \rangle$ will run on the $\langle \textit{input file} \rangle$ for environm	nent extraction.	
myverb	$\langle macro name \rangle$	(default: myverb)	
	Set custom verbatim command <code>\myverb</code> . Just pass the \langle macro name \rangle without "\	»	
ignore	$\langle environment \ name \rangle$	(default: empty)	
	Add a verbatim environment to internal list.		
imgdir	$\langle string \rangle$	(default: images)	
	Set the name of directory for save generated files. Only the $\langle name \rangle$ of directory must be passed <i>without</i> relative or absolute paths.		
srcenv	<pre></pre>	(default: off)	
	Create separate files with "only code" for all extracted environments.		
shell	<pre></pre>	(default: off)	
	Enable $write18(shell command)$.		
-ni,norun	<pre></pre>	(default: off)	
	Execute the script, but do not create image files. This option is designed to to generate standalone files or used in conjunction withsrcenv and to debug the $\langle output file \rangle$. Alternative namenoimages.		
nopdf	<pre></pre>	(default: off)	
	Don't create a .pdf image files.		
nocrop	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)	
	Don't run pdfcrop in image files.		
-ns,nosource	<pre></pre>	(default: off)	
	Don't create standalone files.		
-x,xetex	<pre></pre>	(default: off)	
	Using xelatex compiler $\langle input file \rangle$ and $\langle output file \rangle$.		
luatex	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)	
	Using dvilualatex»dvips»ps2pdf for compiler $\langle input file \rangle$ and lualatex for $\langle out$	tput file \rangle .	
arara	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)	
	Use arara ⁴ tool for compiler $\langle output file \rangle$. This option is designed to full mutually exclusive withlatexmk option.	process $\langle output file \rangle$, is	

⁴ https://ctan.org/pkg/arara

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latexmk	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Using latexmk ⁵ for process $\langle output file \rangle$. This option is designed to full process $\langle output file \rangle$ ally exclusive witharara.	out file \rangle , is mutu-
zip	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Compress the files generated by the script in ./images in .zip format. Does not $file\rangle$.	include (<i>output</i>
tar	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Compress the files generated by the script in ./images in .tar.gz format. Does not file $\rangle.$	t include <i>(output</i>
bibtex	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Run bibtex on the .aux file (if exists), is mutually exclusive withbiber option.	
biber	$\langle bolean \rangle$	(default: off)
	Run biber on the .bcf file (if exists), is mutually exclusive withbibtex option.	

8.3 Example of usage

An example of usage from command line:

[user@machine ~:]\$ pst2pdf --luatex -e -p -j --imgdir pics test.ltx

Create a ./pics directory (if it does not exist) with all extracted environments converted to image formats (.pdf, .eps, .png, .jpg) in individual files, an stanalone files (.ltx) for all environments extracted, an output file test-pdf.ltx with all extracted environments converted to \includegraphics and a single file test-fig-all.ltx with only the extracted environments using dvilualatex»dvips»ps2pdf and preview package for for process test.ltx and lualatex for test-pdf.ltx.

9 Working in another way

By design, the script generates separate images and files following a predetermined routine that has already been described in this documentation. Another way to generate images is as follows:

Execute the script using --norun to generate (standalone) files, move to ./images and generate .pdf files runing:

[user@machine~:]\$ for i in *.tex; do $\langle compiler \rangle$ [$\langle options \rangle$] \$i; done [user@machine~:]\$ for i in *.pdf; do pdfcrop [$\langle options \rangle$] \$i \$i; done

2. Execute the script using --norun, move to ./images .pdf file runing:

```
[user@machine~:]$ (compiler) [(options)] test-fig-all.tex
[user@machine~:]$ pdfcrop [(options)] test-fig-all.pdf
```

10 Example files

The pst2pdf documentation provides three example files test1.tex, test2.tex and test3.tex plus an image file tux.jpg to test and view the script in action. Copy these files to a directory you have write access to and execute:

[user@machine~:]\$ pst2pdf [(options)] test1.tex

To see how this works.

⁵ https://www.ctan.org/pkg/latexmk

References

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