The \texttt{parskip} package*

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Abstract

The \texttt{parskip} package helps in implementing paragraph layouts where
the paragraphs are separated by a vertical space instead of (or in addition
to) indenting them.

The package can be used with any document class at any size. By
default it produces the following paragraph layout: Zero \texttt{\parindent} and
non-zero \texttt{\parskip}. The stretchable glue in \texttt{\parskip} helps \LaTeX
in finding the best place for page breaks.

1 Introduction

Many \LaTeX constructs are internally built by using the paragraph mechanism
even if technically there aren’t text paragraphs. In most such cases the \LaTeX
code handles indentation and suppressed it if necessary. But unfortunately this
is normally not done for \texttt{\parskip} (as that is zero in the default layouts) and
thus changing it will result in vertical spaces in unexpected places.

This package attempts to fix the spacing in table of contents structures, list
environments, and around display headings that would get screwed up by a
positive \texttt{\parskip} value.

It is, however, is no more than quick fix; the ‘proper’ way to achieve effects
as far-reaching as this is to create a new class.

1.1 History

This file was originally developed by Hubert Partl in 1989 (i.e., for \LaTeX 2.09)
to provide a somewhat crude solution to an existing problem in case no proper
document class (back then called document style) support was available.

About ten years later Robin Fairbairns picked up the orphaned package and
his version was then the one available for \LaTeXe during the next 15+ years.

Finally, while working on the next edition of the \LaTeX Companion the
current author did a reimplementation, that added support for TOC data and
heading structures. Also a few additional key/value options were added to make

\footnote*{This is a reimplementation of a package originally written by Hubert Partl in 1989 and
later maintained by Robin Fairbairns.}
the package more useful. It still is and will remain an inferior choice compared to a properly designed document class. But it offers a starting point if nothing is around.

2 The user interface

The parskip package doesn’t offer any document user commands and just needs loading with `\usepackage`.

2.1 Options to customize the package

All of the package options are implemented as key/value options.

`sip` With the package option `skip` it is possible to explicitly specify the vertical space between paragraphs. If the option is not given (or given without a value) then \baselineskip plus 2pt of stretch is assumed.

`tocsip` By default the \parskip is zero within \tableofcontents and similar lists, regardless of its value elsewhere. With the option `tocsip` it can be given a different value. If used without an explicit value you get the same \parskip as elsewhere within these lists.

`indent` With the package option `indent` it is possible to explicitly set the paragraph indentation. Using this option without a value keeps the document class indentation unchanged, if it is specified with a value then that value is used. If the package is loaded without this option the indentation is set to zero.

`parfill` With package option `parfill`, the package also adjusts `\parfillskip` to impose a minimum space at the end of the last line of a paragraph. If specified without a value then 30pt are assumed, if a value is given that forms the minimum.

3 Differences to the original package

If the package is used without any options or just with the option `parfill` it behaves like the earlier version, except that now the spacing around headings is also adjusted (not adding extra \parskip). If this is not desirable when processing an old document it can be avoided by explicitly requesting version `v1` as follows:

```latex
\usepackage{parskip}[^v1]
```

Of course, the new options, etc. are then also not available.
4 Sources, bugs and issues

The official production version is available from CTAN. The latest (development) sources are maintained at GitHub at:

https://github.com/FrankMittelbach/fmitex/tree/parskip/parskip

In case of problems with the package you can report them at

https://github.com/FrankMittelbach/fmitex/issues

Please provide a minimal test example that can be run and doesn’t use packages not in a standard \LaTeX\ distribution (and as little as possible to show the issue).