The IridiaTrCover package for \LaTeX: How to typeset documents for the IRIDIA – Technical Report Series

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How to typeset documents for the
IRIDIA – Technical Report Series

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Abstract
The IRIDIA – Technical Report Series is a series of reports published on the web by IRIDIA. The series is officially registered and has the following ISSN number: 1781-3794. A special cover page is required in order to publish in the series. The IridiaTrCover package is a \LaTeX package that allows to prepend such a cover page to any \LaTeX document.

The IridiaTrCover package

The IridiaTrCover package defines a command IridiaTrCover that creates a cover page for IRIDIA technical reports. This page is mandatory for all IRIDIA technical reports. The actual title(page) can be defined as usual, for example using the \texttt{maketitle} command or the \texttt{titlepage} environment.

The package has been tested with the \texttt{article} and \texttt{report} document classes and with different font sizes. In case of problems, please contact the maintainers under the following address:

IridiaTrCover@iridia.ulb.ac.be

The last version of the package IridiaTrCover can be found at the web page:

http://iridia.ulb.ac.be/wiki/IRIDIA_Technical_reports

Installation

\textbf{Single document.} For a single document, you must copy (or create symbolic links of) the files IridiaTrCover.sty, IridiaTrCover.eps and IridiaTrCover.pdf to the same directory as the \LaTeX sources of your document.

\textbf{User-only.} For user-only installation, you must first create a package directory in your personal \TeX tree, copy the aforementioned files to this tree and then update the \TeX distribution’s index. Please check the documentation of your system for the details. An example for Debian/Ubuntu:
mkdir -p ~/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
cp IridiaTrCover.sty ~/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
cp IridiaTrCover.eps ~/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
cp IridiaTrCover.pdf ~/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
texhash ~/texmf

System-wide  For system-wide installation, you must first create a package directory in your
distribution’s TeX tree, copy the aforementioned files to this tree and then update the TeX dis-
tribution’s index. Please check the documentation of your system for the details. An example for
Debian/Ubuntu:
sudo -s # to execute the commands as root
mkdir -p /usr/share/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
cp IridiaTrCover.sty /usr/share/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
cp IridiaTrCover.eps /usr/share/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
cp IridiaTrCover.pdf /usr/share/texmf/tex/latex/IridiaTrCover
texhash
exit # to stop being root

Package Dependencies

The IridiaTrCover package requires the following packages installed in your system:

- ifpdf
- xcolor
- graphicx
- hyperref (optional, see Table 1)
- calc
- ifthen
- keyval
- tikz
- xspace

These packages are loaded implicitly by the IridiaTrCover package, and, hence, it is not necessary
to load them explicitly in your main document.
Loading the IridiaTrCover package and options

To load the package with default options use:
\usepackage{IridiaTrCover}

Table 1 describes the options that may be used when loading the IridiaTrCover package. These options can be independently combined, for example:
\% Load the package without default headings and without hyperref.
\usepackage[noheadings,nohyperref]{IridiaTrCover}

The IridiaTrCover command

The cover is created by the command:
\% \IridiaTrCover[title={TITLE}, % optional
author={AUTHOR}, % optional
date={DATE}, % optional
number={NUMBER}, % optional
revdate={REVDATE} % optional
history={TITLE}] % optional

The \IridiaTrCover command must be used before the \maketitle command or the titlepage environment. If either the title or date parameters are missing, their values are taken, respectively, from the commands \title and \date, which must have been used before the \IridiaTrCover command.

The parameters of the \IridiaTrCover command are described in Table 2. If a required parameter is missing or invalid, the compilation will fail with an error message.

Examples

Minimal example. In the first minimal example, the \maketitle command is used to create the paper’s title. The \IridiaTrCover command is re-using the already defined data for creation of the cover page.
\% Load the package.
\usepackage{IridiaTrCover}

\% Define data for maketitle command.
\title{The \texttt{IridiaTrCover} package for \LaTeX}
\author{Mauro Birattari}
\date{April 2005}

\% Create the technical report cover page using only mandatory parameters.
\% title and date are taken from the commands above.
\IridiaTrCover[author={Mauro \textsc{Birattari}},number={2005-006}]

\% Create the normal title
\maketitle
Table 1: Optional options of the package IridiaTrCover.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nocoverpage</td>
<td>Suppress the creation of a cover page for IRIDIA technical reports. The default is to generate a cover page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nohyperref</td>
<td>Suppress the automatic loading of the hyperref package. The package hyperref can sometimes produce conflicts, so the user may desire to disable its implicit loading. By default, the package is loaded automatically and configured to color links in dark blue. These default options can be modified by using the \hypersetup command after loading the IridiaTrCover package.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noheadings</td>
<td>Suppress the creation of headings for each page which are specific for IRIDIA technical reports. These specific headings may conflict with existing custom headings in your documents, you may either disable the custom headings or use this option. By default, specific headings are created.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Parameters of the \IridiaTrCover command.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>author</td>
<td>Defines the author(s) of the technical report. The parameter has the same syntax as the \author command. The family names of the authors must be formatted using \textsc, for example: author={John \textsc{Smith} \and Jane \textsc{Doe}}. This parameter is mandatory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>title</td>
<td>Overrides the title previously defined by the \title command. Mandatory if you are not using the \title command.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>date</td>
<td>This is the first publication date of the technical report. Further revisions should use the revdate parameter. If this parameter is missing, its value is taken from the \date command. Mandatory if you are not using the \date command or if its value is not the date of first publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number</td>
<td>Official number of the IRIDIA technical report. This parameter is mandatory. Please note that the number is composed by the year and by a increasing number separated by a hyphen. The increasing number has 3 digits and it is left-padded with zeros, that is, 2005-006 and not 2005-6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>history</td>
<td>Revision history of the technical report. This should be included if the technical report has more than one revision. Mandatory if the revdate parameter has been specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revdate</td>
<td>Date of the latest revision of the technical report. This should be included if the technical report has more than one revision. Mandatory if the history parameter has been specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>published</td>
<td>This parameter adds a line at the bottom of the cover page indicating if and where the technical report has been published or submitted for publication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Full example. In the following example, all parameters are explicitly given.

% Load the package.
\usepackage{IridiaTrCover}

% Define data for \maketitle command.
\title{The \texttt{IridiaTrCover} package for \LaTeX}
\author{Mauro Birattari}
\date{April 2005}

% Create the technical report cover page.
% title and date are overridden and different from the commands above.
\IridiaTrCover[
  \title={The slightly different \texttt{IridiaTrCover} package for \LaTeX},
  \author={Mauro \textsc{Birattari}},
  \date={April 2005},
  \number={2005-006},
  \published={Published in \emph{Journal of Covers}, vol.\textasciitilde{}1, no.\textasciitilde{}1}]

% Make the normal title.
\maketitle

Revision example. If the technical report is a revision of a previous report, the parameters \texttt{number} and \texttt{date} have the same values as in the original report, and, in addition, you must specify the \textit{date of the latest revision} using the parameter \texttt{revdate}, and the \textit{revision history} using the parameter \texttt{history} of the \texttt{\IridiaTrCover} command. The following example should clarify the syntax:

% Create the technical report cover page with the necessary parameters
% for multiple revisions.
% title is taken from the command \title.
\IridiaTrCover[
  \author={Mauro \textsc{Birattari}},
  \number={2005-006},
  \date={April 2005},
  \revdate={February 2006},
  \history={%
    2005-006.001 & April 2005\\
    2005-006.002 & October 2005\\
    2005-006.003 & December 2005\\
    2005-006.004 & February 2006}
]

In the example above, the date of the technical report is still the date of the first and original version, that is \textbf{April 2005}. The date of the current revision is \textbf{February 2006}. The history starts from the original version (revision 001), and gives revision number and date of all revisions, up to the current one. Numbers and dates in the history are separated by the symbol \&, and all lines but the last one terminate with explicit newlines symbols \\. The revision number is given with 3 digits and left-padded with zeros: 2005-006.004 and not 2005-006.4. Moreover, a period is used to separate the revision number from the previous digits.

The \TeX{} source of this document (\texttt{IridiaTr2005-006r006.tex}) is a real-life example of the use of the \texttt{IridiaTrCover} package.