The tcbpagefootnote package

Page footnotes from inside tcolorbox

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https://github.com/munepi/tcbpagefootnote

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1 Introduction

tcolorbox typesets the content of a box like a `minipage`: a `\footnote` inside the box is numbered with the `mpfootnote` counter (a, b, ...) and its text is put at the bottom of the box. This is often what you want for a box that stands apart from the text, but not for a box that is part of the running text, such as a note or a definition in a book: there, the footnotes should be numbered along with those of the body text and put at the bottom of the page.

The tcbpagefootnote package adds the tcolorbox key `page footnote` for this. The two boxes below differ only in this key.

An ordinary box

A footnote in an ordinary box[a] is a footnote of the box.

[a] This footnote is put at the bottom of the box.

A box with `page footnote`

A footnote in a box with `page footnote`[1] is a footnote of the page, numbered along with the footnotes of the body text.

Supported formats/engines pdfLaTeX, XeLaTeX, LuaLaTeX (with or without LuaTeX-ja), pLaTeX and upLaTeX (with dvipdfmx). The package requires tcolorbox and loads its `hooks` library.

2 Usage

```
\usepackage{tcbpagefootnote}

\begin{tcolorbox}[title=Note, page footnote]
  Text\footnote{A page footnote.}.
\end{tcolorbox}

\newtcolorbox{note}[1][]{colback=blue!5, page footnote, #1}
\tcbset{page footnote}  % for every box
```

The key acts on the footnotes in the title, the upper part and the lower part of the box:

- the marks are made with the `footnote` counter and `\thefootnote`, as in the body text;

[1] This footnote is put at the bottom of the page.

- the texts are collected while the box is typeset and are put into the ordinary footnote insertion right after the box, so that they go to the bottom of the page where the box is. If the box does not fit on the current page and moves to the next one, its footnotes move with it.

`\footnote[`⟨*number*⟩`]`, `\footnotemark` with `\footnotetext`, `\tcbox`, and boxes with `page footnote` inside each other work as usual. An ordinary box inside a box with `page footnote` keeps its own footnotes. With hyperref, each footnote mark links to its own footnote text.

3 Errors and warnings

`The key 'page footnote' cannot be used with 'float'.` A floating box (`float`) is not followed by the code that puts the footnotes.

`The 'after' code of this box no longer flushes the page footnotes.` The footnotes are put by the `after pre` code of the `hooks` library. Keys that set the whole `after` code (`after`, `after skip`, `nobeforeafter`, ...) remove it when they come after `page footnote`: give them before it, e.g. `[after skip=1pt, page footnote]`.

`The tcolorbox key 'page footnote' is already defined.` Another package defines a key of the same name; tcbpagefootnote does not redefine it.

`This box is broken across pages.` **(warning)** See below.

4 Limitations

- A `breakable` box that is broken across pages puts the footnote texts of all its parts on the page where the box ends: the content of a breakable box is typeset as a whole before it is split, and footnote insertions do not travel with the split parts. The package issues a warning for such a box when it has footnotes. The footnotes of a breakable box that is not broken are put as usual.
- `page footnote` cannot be used with `float`.
- Vertical writing (tate) is outside the scope of this version. With (u)pLaTeX and dvipdfmx, tcolorbox itself does not work in tate, since the dvipdfmx driver of TikZ/PGF does not support it; this is to be handled by a separate package.

5 Tests

`make test` compiles the test files with pdfLaTeX, XeLaTeX, LuaLaTeX, pLaTeX and upLaTeX (+ dvipdfmx) and checks the log. For every footnote, `test-common.tex` records in the `.aux` file at shipout the page and the mark of both the footnote mark and the footnote text, and whether the text is set in the full `\columnwidth` of the page (a page footnote) or in a box; when the `.aux` file is read back at `\end{document}`, it checks that every text is typeset exactly once, with its own mark, on the expected page (`TPF-RESULT OK`).

Test	What it covers
`test-basic.tex`	title/upper/lower, nesting, `\tcbox`, a box moved to the next page
`test-hyperref.tex`	`test-basic.tex` with hyperref: no duplicate anchors
`test-breakable.tex`	broken and unbroken breakable boxes, the warning
`test-japanese.tex`	Japanese classes (ltjbook, jbook, ujbook)
`test-errors.tex`	the error messages

6 History

v1.1 (2026/11/14) With hyperref, a `\footnotetext` after a box for a `\footnotemark` in the box gets the anchor of its mark: the mark and the anchor of the last footnote are restored after the footnotes of the box are put.

v1.0 (2026/10/25) First public release.

7 License

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