Snaptodo—A todo that snaps to the closer side*

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Abstract

Snaptodo package is an alternative to todonote package, from which it differs in the following ways: (A) Depending on where you call \snaptodo, the note is put on the left or right margin, whichever is closer. (B) The notes bump each other down so they never overlap; the lines never overlap either; (C) Minimalistic, aesthetic, and customizable style.

1 Installation

Copy and paste \texttt{snaptodo.sty} to your working directory.

2 Minimal Working Example

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{snaptodo}
\begin{document}
Your done
\snaptodo{Your todo}
\end{document}

3 Showcase of Examples

Using snaptodo is as simple as calling \texttt{\snaptodo}, and compile twice. If the calling point is on the left of a page, the todo note—after compiling twice of course—will appear to the left margin. And vice versa.

4 Customization

I defined \texttt{\snaptodoset} that works like \texttt{tikzset} and \texttt{pgfplotsset}. While you can access dedicated options by \texttt{\snaptodoset{<some_option>}}, you can

*Repository \url{https://github.com/Symbol1/snaptodo}
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also assess the exact same options by \pgfkeys{/snaptodo/<some_option>}. For local changes, you can put them here \snaptodo[<some_option>]{}. 

4.1 Color

The color of the broken line is \texttt{snaptodo@chain}. The default color for that is \texttt{red!50!black}. Saying \texttt{\colorlet{snaptodo@chain}{green!50!white}} lets you to change this color globally. On the other hand, for locally changing this color, one may prefer \snaptodo[call chain/.style=green!50!white]{}. The color of the note text is \texttt{snaptodo@block}. The default color for that is \texttt{yellow!50!black}. Saying \texttt{\colorlet{snaptodo@block}{blue!50!white}} lets you change this color. On the other hand, for locally changing this color, one may prefer \snaptodo[margin block/.style=blue!50!white]{}. 

4.2 Line style

In order to use a thicker or thinner broken line, recall the standard Ti\texttt{kZ} option \texttt{[thick]}, \texttt{[ultra thin]}, or \texttt{[line width=???]}]. In our case, simply put that option in this style \snaptodo[call chain/.style={line width=???}]{}. In order to use a special dash pattern, recall the standard Ti\texttt{kZ} option \texttt{[dotted]}, \texttt{[dashed]}, or \texttt{[dash pattern=???]}]. In our case, simply put that option in this style \snaptodo[call chain/.style={dash pattern=???}]{}. 

4.3 Sep and width

The gap between two note blocks is stored in \texttt{/snaptodo/block sep}. The default length is \texttt{\baselineskip}. Use \texttt{\snaptodoset{block sep=0pt}} for global setting and use \texttt{\snaptodo[block sep=0pt]{note}} for local setting this. The gap between two horizontal lines is stored in \texttt{/snaptodo/chain sep}. The default length is \texttt{0.5ex}. To change, use \texttt{\snaptodoset{chain sep=0pt}} for global setting and \texttt{\snaptodo[chain sep=0pt]{note}} for local setting. The width of the note block is \texttt{\marginparwidth}. The width where the broken line has slope is \texttt{\marginparsep}. These are the built-in dimensions. (So modify them with care!)

4.4 Bias

The tipping point between snapping to the left versus to the right is the center of the page, by default. You can change this by \texttt{/snaptodo/chain bias=-99in}. That way, all todo notes are forcedly snapped to the left hand side. Or, by \texttt{/snaptodo/call bias=99in}, all todo notes are forcedly snapped to the right hand side.

Forced to the left

Forced to the right

4.5 Rise

If your document is really busy, e.g., like \texttt{stress\_testing.tex}, try setting a positive \texttt{/snaptodo/block rise}, e.g., \texttt{\snaptodo[block rise=2em]}. That
way, a note will rise by that amount to leave more rooms for later notes. (But if there will be overlay, the notes automatically bump down.)

4.6 Alignment

By \snippet{margin block/.style={align=??}} one can control the alignment of note text. The default setting is align=flush \std@leftright, which flushes the text toward the page edges. If align=flush \std@rightleft, is what you do, the text will be flushed toward the main text body. Don’t forget that you need \makeatletter and \makeatother to handle control sequences with the at character.

4.7 Font

Font size is controlled by \snippet{margin block/.style={font=...}}. So is font family.