

sref.sty: Semantic Cross-Referencing in L^AT_EX*

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Abstract

The `sref` package is part of the sT_EX collection, a version of T_EX/L^AT_EX that allows to markup T_EX/L^AT_EX documents semantically without leaving the document format, essentially turning T_EX/L^AT_EX into a document format for mathematical knowledge management (MKM).

The `sref` package supplies an for semantic cross-referencing over multiple documents.

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1 Introduction

The automatic computation of cross-references is one of the traditional strong points of \LaTeX . However, cross-referencing is limited to labels in the current document only. Cross-referencing between multiple documents in a jointly developed document collection is not easy to achieve in the \LaTeX processing model, which reads files sequentially and lacks a path concept.

The `sref` package is mainly aimed at package developers. It supplies the internal macros that can be used to make document structuring elements cross-referencable. The general strategy here is to equip the document structuring macros with an `id` key, so that the author can specify meaningful ones, but to let the transformation give default ones if the author did not. The value of the `id` key can also be used for cross-referencing like the `\label/\ref` mechanism in \LaTeX . We implement an independent referencing mechanism, since the referencing model is geared more towards referencing text fragments than text fragment labels like section numbers. Therefore we let the referenced fragments define the reference text much like the `\autoref` macro from `\hyperref`.

2 The User Interface

This package is currently mainly meaningful in the context of the \STeX collection, since all cross-referencable macros and environments must be extended to know about their referencing mechanism. We explain the user interface in ???. To port the functionality to other \LaTeX classes and packages, they have to be upgraded via the API in ???.

2.1 Package Options

`extrefs` The `sref` package has the `extrefs` package option, which can be set to activate
`showmeta` multifile support (see subsection ???). If the `showmeta` is set, then the metadata keys are shown (see [Koh10] for details and customization options).

2.2 Cross-Referencing

`\sref` The `\sref{<id>}` macro is the main cross-referencing macro, see Figure 1 for an example. Depending on the whether macro or environment marking up the respective document fragment carries the key/value pair `id=<id>` the cross-reference will expand to “Section 2.1” or “this remark”, both carrying hyper-references. The `\sref` macro takes an optional argument that allows to specify a link text that overrides the auto-generated one.

```
\mysection[id=foo]{#2}
... \sref{foo} ...
```

Example 1: Semantic Crossreferencing

`\srefs` The `\srefl{<id1>}{<id2>}` is a variant of `\sref`, only that it allows to reference two semantic objects and expands to “<reference¹> and <reference²>”.

`\srefl` `\srefl{<id1>}{<idn>}` is similar, but for ranges; it expands to “<reference¹> to <referenceⁿ>”. Its use should be restricted to cases, where the types of objects references are homogenous.

`\spageref` Finally, there is a variant `\spageref` that only outputs the page number of the referenced object. It can be used in cases where no hyper-referencing is present.

`\sref@page@label` It uses the macro `\sref@page@label` for styling the page reference. Redefining this will allow to customize this. The default setting is

```
\newcommand{\sref@page@label}[1]{p.~{#1}}
```

2.3 An API for Package Authors

To make use of the `sref` package, the package must define the document structuring infrastructure using the `sref` internal macros. The \TeX packages already do this, so we make an example here for a slightly upgraded sectioning command in Figure 2. The first three lines define the keys for the `keyval` attribute of the `\mysection` command using the infrastructure supplied by the `omd` package [Koh10] (remember the `\RequirePackage{metakeys}`). The first two just initialize the keys to save the key values in internal macros, and the `\metasetkeys` activates the keys when reading the `keyval` argument. The `\srefaddidkey` macro is a variant of `\addmetakey` macro supplied by the `sref` package that sets up the keys to set the `\sref@id` register for later use by the `sref` infrastructure. Note that the `\srefaddidkey` macro uses the `prefix` key to systematically construct prefixed identifiers. This can be useful in particular for sectioning commands.

```
\addmetakey{sec}{short}
\addmetakey[black]{sec}{color}
\srefaddidkey[prefix=sec.]{sec}
\newcommand{\mysection}[2] [] {\metasetkeys{#1}\sref@target\color{\sec@color}
\section[\sec@short]{#2}\sref@label@id{Section \thesec@}}

```

Example 2: A slightly upgraded sectioning command

`\sref@target` In this situation, the `\mysection` macro processes the optional argument with `\metasetkeys` and then sets the color of the section. The `\sref@target` sets up the `hypertarget` for the `hyperref` package to use, then we use the regular `\section` command, and we use the `\sref@label@id` macro to define the label that the `\sref` macro will use for cross-referencing.

Note that the use of the straight use of the label “Section”, which will be written into the auxiliary files is bad practice since it is not configurable. It would be much better to make it configurable via a presentation macro like `\my@section@label` in Figure 3. Then translators or even the user could redefine the `\my@section@label` to adapt them to their needs.

```

\newcommand{\my@section@label}[1]{Section~{#1}}
\newcommand{\mysection}[2][\color{#1}\sref@target\color{\sec@color}]
\section[\sec@short]{#2}\sref@label{id{\my@section@label\thesection}}

```

Example 3: A Sectioning Command with Configurable Label

2.4 Inter-Document Cross-Referencing

`sref.sty` provides inter-document cross-referencing. The use case is simple: we want to have a document collection (e.g. a book with conference proceedings), but also want to be able format the individual documents separately, and still have meaningful cross-references. To show off the possibilities, let us assume that we have a book with two separate papers, which we put into separate directories `idc` and `scr` to minimize interference between the authors Jane Doe and John Bull. To achieve this, we would set up paper driver files `main.tex` like the one in Figure 4 in the two directories. These use the `\makeextrefs` macro, which causes the `sref` package to generate a *external references file* `main.refs`. Note that the `\makeextrefs` macros reads the previous `main.refs` file so that forward-referencing is possible (in the pass after a reference was labeled).

`\makeextrefs`

```

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage[extrefs]{sref}
\makeextrefs{idc}
\inputrefs{scr}{../scr/main}
\extrefstyle{scr}{\cite[\protect{\theextref}]{Doe09}}
\title{Inter-Document Crossreferencing}
\author{John Bull\ldots}
\begin{document}\maketitle\input{paper}\end{document}

```

Example 4: A document driver `idc/main.tex` for a paper

The external references file can be read by other documents; in Figure 4, we read the references file of Jane Doe’s paper via the `\inputrefs` macro. This allows John Bull to use¹ references like `\extref{scr}{foo}` to reference document fragments in Jane Doe’s paper she has labeled with the *reference prefix* `\slabel{foo}` (assuming that she has added `\makeextrefs{scr}` in the preamble of her paper). Note that just as the `\sref` macro `\extref` takes an optional first argument that allows to specify the link text. Here, John Bull uses the `\extrefstyle` macro to specify how the external references are to be formatted, in this case he decided to use a \LaTeX citation. Generally, first argument of the `\extrefstyle` macro is the reference prefix which should be configured, and the second is the format, where the `\theextref` macro expands to the cross-reference. In this case, John chose to use a \LaTeX citation (he has an entry `Doe09` in his database) for the reference to the external paper.

`\inputrefs`

`\extref`

`\extrefstyle`

`\theextref`

As the content of the respective paper is input from a file `paper.tex` in the individual papers, we can re-use these in the book. To do this we set up a book

¹Note that the external references file is updated every time \LaTeX is run, so that references may be off by one version.

driver file like the one in Figure 5. This one does not use the `extrefs` option, so the references are written to the `.aux` file. Furthermore `\extref` is redefined to act like `\sref` disregarding the first required argument. Thus all references work like they should.

```

\documentclass{book}
\usepackage{sref}
\title{Cross-Referencing in {\LaTeX}}
\author{Elder Reseacher}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
\chapter{Semantic Crossreferencing (Jane Doe, ...)}
\input{scr/paper}\newpage
...
\chapter{Inter-Document Crossreferencing (John Bull, ...)}
\input{idc/paper}\newpage
\end{document}

```

Example 5: A document driver for the book assembling the papers

This example has been carried through (without the separation of chapters in to subdirectories) in the files accompanying the source distribution of the `sref` package. They are used for testing the package.

2.5 Semantic Versions of Commonly used Referencing Commands

The `sref` package defines semantically referencable versions of commonly used \LaTeX environments and command sequences.²

`sequation`

The `sequation` environment takes an optional key/value argument that allows to specify an identifier and unifies the behavior of the `equation` (if an `id` key is given) and `displaymath` (else) environments. So the markup

3 Limitations

In this section we document known limitations. If you want to help alleviate them, please feel free to contact the package author. Some of them are currently discussed in the \TeX TRAC [Ste].

1. none reported yet

²This section will be extended by need, so if you miss some semantic environment, please contact the package author, or (better) file an issue at [Ste]

<pre> A semantic equation with id \begin{sequeation}[id=foo] e^{mc}=-1 \end{sequeation} and another one without id \begin{sequeation} e^{mc}=-1 \end{sequeation} now, we reference the first equation: {\sref{foo}} </pre>
<p>yields the result:</p> <pre> A semantic equation with id $e^{mc} = -1 \tag{1}$ and another one without id $e^{mc} = -1$ now, we reference the first equation: equation (1) </pre>

Example 6: Semantic Equation

4 Implementation

The `sref` package generates two files: the \LaTeX package (all the code between `<*package>` and `</package>`) and the \LaTeX XML bindings (between `<*lxml>` and `</lxml>`). We keep the corresponding code fragments together, since the documentation applies to both of them and to prevent them from getting out of sync.

We first set up header information for the \LaTeX XML binding file.

```

1 <*lxml>
2 package LaTeXML::Package::Pool;
3 use strict;
4 use LaTeXML::Package;
5 </lxml>

```

4.1 Package Options

We declare some switches which will modify the behavior according to the package options. Generally, an option `xxx` will just set the appropriate switches to true (otherwise they stay false).¹

```

6 <*package>
7 \DeclareOption{showmeta}{\PassOptionsToPackage{\CurrentOption}{metakeys}}
8 \newif\ifextrefs\extrefsfalse
9 \DeclareOption{extrefs}{\extrefstrue}
10 \ProcessOptions
11 </package>
12 <*lxml>
13 DeclareOption('extrefs','');
14 </lxml>

```

¹EDNOTE: need an implementation for \LaTeX XML

Then we need to set up the packages by requiring the `metakeys` package [Koh10] to be loaded (in the right version).

```
15 <*package>
16 \RequirePackage{metakeys}
17 </package>
18 <ltxml>RequirePackage('metakeys');
```

4.2 Crossreferencing

The following user-level macros just use the `\sref@hlink` macros in various ways for internal referencing.²

EdNote(2)

```
\sref
19 <*package>
20 \newcommand{\sref}[2] [] {%
21 \@ifundefined{sref@part}{\sref@hlink[#1]{#2}}{\sref@hlink[#1]{\sref@part @#2}}}
22 </package>
23 <*ltxml>
24 DefConstructor('\sref[]{}',
25 "Section <omdoc:ref type='cite' xref='#2'/>");
26 </ltxml>
```

```
\srefs
27 <*package>
28 \newcommand{\srefs}[3] [] {%
29 \def\@test{#1}\ifx\@test\@empty\sref{#2} and \sref{#3}\else #1\fi}
30 </package>
31 <*ltxml>
32 DefConstructor('\srefs[]{}',
33 "Section <omdoc:ref type='cite' xref='#2'/>");
34 </ltxml>
```

```
\srefl
35 <*package>
36 \newcommand{\srefl}[3] [] {%
37 \def\@test{#1}\ifx\@test\@empty\sref{#2} to \sref{#3}\else #1\fi}
38 </package>
39 <*ltxml>
40 DefConstructor('\srefl[]{}',
41 "Section <omdoc:ref type='cite' xref='#2'/>");
42 </ltxml>
```

EdNote(3)

3

²EDNOTE: they need implementation in LaTeXML, the ones here only are stubs to make the error messages shut up.

³EDNOTE: it is not clear what we want in the implementation of `spageref`

`\spageref`

```
43 <*package>
44 \newcommand{\spageref}[2] [] {%
45 \ifundefined{sref@part}{\sref@hlink[#1]{#2}}{\sref@hlink[#1]{\sref@part @#2}}
46 </package>
47 <*txml>
48 DefConstructor('\spageref [] {}',
49 "Section <omdoc:ref type='cite' xref='#2'/>");
50 </txml>
```

4.3 An API for Package Authors

We find out whether the `hyperref` package is loaded, since we may want to use it for cross-references, for which we set up some internal macros that gracefully degrade if `hyperref` is not loaded.

`\sref*@ifh`

```
51 <*package>
52 \newif\ifhref\hreffalse
53 \AtBeginDocument{\ifpackageloaded{hyperref}{\hreftrue}{\hreffalse}}
54 \def\sref@href@ifh#1#2{\ifhref\href{#1}{#2}\else#2\fi}
55 \def\sref@hlink@ifh#1#2{\ifhref\hyperlink{#1}{#2}\else#2\fi}
56 \def\sref@target@ifh#1#2{\ifhref\hypertarget{#1}{#2}\else#2\fi}
```

Then we provide some macros for \TeX -specific crossreferencing

`\sref@target` The next macro uses this and makes an target from the current `sref@id` declared by a id key.

```
57 \def\sref@target%
58 {\ifx\sref@id\empty\else%
59 \expandafter\sref@target@ifh%
60 {sref@\ifundefined{sref@part}}{\sref@part @}\sref@id @target}{\fi}
```

The next two macros are used for setting labels, it is mainly used for enabling forward references, to do this, it is written into `<jobname>.aux` or `<jobname>.refs`.

`\@sref@def` This macro stores the value of its last argument in a custom macro for reference.

```
61 \def\@sref@def#1#2#3{\expandafter\gdef\csname sref@#1@#2\endcsname{#3}}
```

The next step is to set up a file to which the references are written, this is normally the `.aux` file, but if the `extref` option is set, we have to use an `.ref` file.

```
62 \ifextrefs\newwrite\refs@file\else\def\refs@file{\@auxout}\fi
```

`\sref@def` This macro writes an `\@sref@def` command to the current aux file and also executes it.

```
63 \def\sref@def#1#2#3{\@sref@def{#1}{#2}{#3}%
64 \protected@write\refs@file{\string\@sref@def{#1}{#2}{#3}}
```


`\srefaddidkey` `\srefaddidkey[⟨keyval⟩]{⟨group⟩}` extends the metadata keys of the group `⟨group⟩` with an `id` key. In the optional key/value pairs in `⟨keyval⟩` the `prefix` key can be used to specify a prefix. Note that the `id` key defined by `\srefaddidkey[⟨keyval⟩]{⟨group⟩}` not only defines `\sref@id`, which is used for referencing by the `sref` package, but also `\⟨group⟩@id`, which is used for showing metadata via the `showmeta` option of the `metakeys` package.

```

65 \addmetakey{srefaddidkey}{prefix}
66 \newcommand\srefaddidkey[2] [] {\metasetkeys{srefaddidkey}{#1}%
67 \@metakeys@ext@clear@keys{#2}{sref@id}{}}% id cannot have a default
68 \metakeys@ext@clear@keys{#2}{id}{}}%
69 \metakeys@ext@showkeys{#2}{id}%
70 \define@key{#2}{id}{\edef\sref@id{\srefaddidkey@prefix ##1}%
71 \expandafter\edef\csname #2@id\endcsname{\srefaddidkey@prefix ##1}}
72 \</package>

```

4.4 Inter-Document Crossreferencing

`\makeextrefs`

```

73 \*package>
74 \def\makeextrefs#1{\gdef\sref@part{#1}%
75 \makeatletter
76 \IfFileExists{\jobname.refs}{\input{\jobname.refs}}{}%
77 \immediate\openout\refs@file=\jobname.refs
78 \makeatother}
79 \</package>
80 \ltxml>DefConstructor('makeextrefs','');

```

`\sref@label` The `\sref@label` macro writes a label definition to the auxfile.

```

81 \*package>
82 \def\sref@label#1#2{%
83 \sref@def{\@ifundefined{sref@part}{}\sref@part @}{#2}{page}{\thepage}%
84 \sref@def{\@ifundefined{sref@part}{}\sref@part @}{#2}{label}{#1}}
85 \</package>

```

`\sref@label@id` The `\sref@label@id` writes a label definition for the current `\sref@id` if it is defined.

```

86 \*package>
87 \def\sref@label@id#1{\ifx\sref@id\@empty\else\sref@label{#1}{\sref@id}\fi}
88 \</package>

```

EdNote(4)

Finally we come to the user visible macro `\sref` which is used for referencing.⁴

`\sref@hlink` The next macro creates an error message if the target is not defined, and otherwise generates a hyperlinked reference.

```

89 \*package>
90 \newcommand\sref@hlink[2] [] {\def\@test{#1}%

```

⁴EDNOTE: The \LaTeX ML does not take into account the optional argument yet.

```

91 \@ifundefined{sref@#2@label}%
92 {\protect\G@refundefinedtrue\@latex@warning{reference #2 undefined}??}%
93 {\sref@hlink@ifh{sref@#2@target}{\ifx\@test\@empty\@nameuse{sref@#2@label}\else #1\fi}}
94 \</package>

```

`\sref@page@label` This macro styles a page reference.

```

95 \*package
96 \newcommand{\sref@page@label}[1]{p.~{#1}}
97 \</package>

```

`\sref@pageref` The next macro creates an error message if the target is not defined, and otherwise generates a page reference.

```

98 \*package
99 \newcommand{\sref@pageref}[1]{\@ifundefined{sref@#1@page}%
100 {\protect\G@refundefinedtrue\@latex@warning{reference #1 undefined}\sref@page@label{??}}%
101 {\sref@hlink@ifh{sref@#1@target}{\sref@page@label{\@nameuse{sref@#1@page}}}}
102 \</package>

```

`\sref@href` The next macro creates an error message if the target is not defined, and otherwise generates a hyperlinked reference.

```

103 \*package
104 \newcommand{\sref@href}[3][\def\@test{#1}%
105 \@ifundefined{sref@#2@label}%
106 {\protect\G@refundefinedtrue\@latex@warning{reference #2 undefined}??}%
107 {\@ifundefined{sref@#3@URI}%
108 {\protect\G@refundefinedtrue\@latex@warning{external refs of type #3 undefined}??}%
109 {\edef\@uri{\@nameuse{sref@#3@URI}.pdf#sref@#2@target}
110 \edef\@label{\ifx\@test\@empty\@nameuse{sref@#2@label}\else #1\fi}
111 \sref@href@ifh{\@uri\@label}}
112 \</package>

```

`\extref` The next macros use `\sref@hlink` with the respective prefix for external referencing if external references are used as indicated by the `extrefs` option; otherwise it disregards the first required macro and uses internal referencing.⁵

EdNote(5)

```

113 \*package
114 \ifextrefs
115 \newcommand{\extref}[3][\def\theextref{\sref@href[#1]{#2@#3}{#2}}%
116 \csname doextref@#2\endcsname}
117 \else
118 \newcommand{\extref}[3][\sref[#1]{#3}]
119 \fi
120 \</package>
121 \*ltxml
122 DefConstructor('\extref[]{}{}',
123 "<omdoc:ref type='cite' xref='#2@#3'/>");
124 DefConstructor('\theextref', '');
125 \</ltxml>

```

⁵EDNOTE: This needs to be implemented on the LaTeXXML side.

`\extrefstyle` This user macro defines an internal macro that is used for internal styling; for instance `\extrefstyle{foo}{\theextref in bar}` defines the macro `\doextref@foo` which evaluates to *the reference* in bar. This is used in the `\extref` macro.

```

126 <*package>
127 \def\extrefstyle#1#2{\expandafter\gdef\csname doextref@#1\endcsname{#2}}
128 </package>
129 <*ltxml>
130 DefConstructor('\extrefstyle{}{}', "");
131 </ltxml>

```

`\inputrefs` If the external references file exists, it is read (under the protection of `\makeatother`) otherwise an error message is displayed.

```

132 <*package>
133 \newcommand{\inputrefs}[2]{%
134 \@namedef{sref@#1@URI}{#2}
135 \makeatletter%
136 \IfFileExists{#2.refs}{\input{#2.refs}}
137     {\PackageError{sref}{Reference file #1.refs does not exist}
138     {Maybe you have to run LaTeX on #2.tex first}}
139 \makeatother}
140 </package>
141 <*ltxml>
142 DefConstructor('\inputrefs{}{}', '');
143 </ltxml>

```

4.5 Semantic Versions of Commonly used Referencing Commands

`sequeation`

```

144 <*package>
145 \srefaddidkey{sequeation}
146 \def\sref@sequeation@heading{equation}
147 \newenvironment{sequeation}[1][\metasetkeys{sequeation}{#1}%
148 \ifx\sref@id\empty\begin{displaymath}\else% no id, using equation*
149 \begin{equation}\sref@target\sref@label@id{\sref@sequeation@heading~(\theequation)}\fi}
150 {\ifx\sref@id\empty\end{displaymath}\else\end{equation}\fi}
151 </package>
152 <*ltxml>
153 DefEnvironment('{sequeation} OptionalKeyVals',
154     "<ltx:equation "
155     . "    "?&KeyVal(#1,'id')(xml:id='&KeyVal(#1,'id)'" "
156     . "    "refnum='&refnum')(xml:id='&id')>"
157     . "    <ltx:Math mode='display'>"
158     . "    <ltx:XMath>#body</ltx:XMath>"
159     . "    </ltx:Math>"
160     . "</ltx:equation>",
161     mode=>'display_math',
162     properties=> sub { RefStepCounter('equation') },

```

```
163         locked=>1);
164 </ltxml>
```

seqnarray

```
165 <*package>
166 \newenvironment{seqnarray}[1] []%
167 {\metasetkeys{sequeation}{#1}\begin{eqnarray*}\sref@target%
168 \sref@label@id{\sref@sequeation@heading~(\theequation)}}
169 {\end{eqnarray*}}
170 </package>
171 <*ltxml>
172 DefMacro('\seqnarray OptionalKeyVals', '\begin{eqnarray*}');
173 DefMacro('\endseqnarray', '\end{eqnarray*}');
174 </ltxml>
```

4.6 Finale

Finally, we need to terminate the file with a success mark for perl.

```
175 <ltxml>1;
```

References

- [Koh10] Michael Kohlhase. *metakeys.sty: A generic framework for extensible Metadata in L^AT_EX*. Self-documenting L^AT_EX package. Comprehensive T_EX Archive Network (CTAN), 2010. URL: <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/latex/contrib/stex/metakeys/metakeys.pdf>.
- [Ste] *Semantic Markup for LaTeX*. Project Homepage. URL: <http://trac.kwarc.info/sTeX/> (visited on 12/02/2009).