

# The `afterpage` package\*

David Carlisle  
carlisle@cs.man.ac.uk

1995/10/27

This package implements a command, `\afterpage`, that causes the commands specified in its argument to be expanded after the current page is output.<sup>1</sup>

1. Sometimes L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's float positioning mechanism gets overloaded, and all floating **figures** and **tables** drift to the end of the document. One may flush out all the unprocessed floats by issuing a `\clearpage` command, but this has the effect of making the current page end prematurely. Now you can issue `\afterpage{\clearpage}` and the current page will be filled up with text as usual, but then a `\clearpage` command will flush out all the floats before the next text page begins.
2. An earlier mechanism to help with float placement was the optional argument `[H]` (meaning **HERE!**) which was originally added to the standard floating environments by `here.sty`, and is now provided by `float.sty`. However some `[H]` users have commented that they did not really mean 'Here!' They actually wanted 'Somewhere close'. This can now be achieved by  
`\afterpage{\clearpage\begin{figure}[H] ... \end{figure}}`  
This ensures that the figure is at the top of the next page. (The `\clearpage` stops any other figures drifting past the `[H]` figure.)
3. Floating longtables. `longtable.sty` provides the `longtable` environment, a multi-page version of `tabular`. Many `longtable` users have told me that it is difficult to set the text surrounding the long table, and that they wanted a 'floating' version. As, presumably, `longtables` are long, they are probably too large to hold in memory, and float in the way that the `table` environment is floated, however if the table is in a separate file, say `ltfile.tex`, you can now use one of:  
`\afterpage{\clearpage\input{ltfile}}`  
`\afterpage{\clearpage\input{ltfile}\clearpage}.`  
The first form lets text appear on the same page as the end of the longtable, the second ensures that the surrounding text starts again on a new page.

<sup>1</sup> `(*package)`

`\afterpage` The token register used to save the old output routine.

`2 \newtoks\AP@output`

`3 \global\AP@output\expandafter{\the\output}`

A box register used to save any part of the next page which has already been processed.

`4 \newbox\AP@partial`

A box register used to save any footnote texts that are 'tied' to the text that gets saved in `\AP@partial`.

`5 \newbox\AP@footins`

---

\*This file has version number v1.08, last revised 1995/10/27.

<sup>1</sup>This is really a pre-release, to see whether people like the idea of a command like this. This implementation is *not* particularly robust. This implementation does not work in two column mode, and can get 'confused' by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's floating environments.

The following macro attempts to get safely into vertical mode, and then invokes a special output routine to grab the current page into `\AP@partial`.

```
6 \def\AP@savetop{%
```

Now begins a test to see what state we are in. `\AP@noindent` will be defined so as to return to this state (well, almost!) after afterpage has finished.

```
7 \ifvmode
```

Vertical mode. This is the simplest case, do nothing.

```
8     \let\AP@noindent\empty
9 \else\ifhmode
```

Horizontal mode. ‘Back out’ into vertical mode, removing the indentation box as we go. If in fact there was no indentation box, the output routine was invoked by `\noindent` (what bad luck!) so we have to remember to re-insert the `\noindent` before the paragraph is seen again. `\everypar` tokens have already been inserted, so don’t insert them again.

```
10    \setbox\z@\lastbox
11    \edef\AP@noindent
12      {{\everypar{}\ifvoid\z@\noindent\else\indent\fi}}%
13    \par
14 \else
```

The remaining (even worse) possibility that the ouput routine was triggered by the start of displaymath within a paragraph.

Come out of displaymath with `$$`, then adjust the spacing (getting into vmode at the same time). `\AP@noindent` will restart display math later. `\everydisplay` tokens have already been inserted (they apply to the math list that will be started by `\AP@noindent`, even though they were triggered by the display math that was closed by the lines below!). Save the values `\prevgraf` and `\predisplaysize` for use in the re-started math list.

```
15    \abovedisplayskip\z@\abovedisplayskip\z@
16    \belowdisplayskip\z@\belowdisplayskip\z@
17    \xdef\AP@disp{%
18      \predisplaysize\the\predisplaysize
19      \prevgraf\the\prevgraf\relax}%
20    $$\vskip-\baselineskip\vskip-\parskip
21 \edef\AP@noindent{%
```

Do not insert `\everydisplay` tokens again.

```
22     \toks@{\the\everydisplay}\everydisplay{}%
```

Start displaymath mode with no spurious paragraph line above it. Restore `\prevgraf` and `\predisplaysize`. Use `\aftergroup` to restore the correct setting for `\everydisplay` after this display has finished.

```
23     {\everypar{}\noindent}$$\AP@disp\aftergroup\noexpand\AP@ed}%
24 \fi\fi
```

Now switch the output routine and remove everything from the current page into the box `\AP@partial`.

```
25 \begingroup
26 \nointerlineskip\null
27 \output{%
28   \global\setbox\AP@partial\vbox{%
29     \unvbox\@cclv
30     \global\setbox\@ne\lastbox}%
31 }
```

If the text that is saved in `\AP@partial` had footnotes, we’d better grab them as well otherwise they may come out on a page with the ‘afterpage’ text, before the page that has the footnote mark! (Added at v1.08.)

```
31     \global\setbox\AP@footins\box\footins}%
32 \eject
33 \endgroup}
```

Having defined the output routine, trigger it...

`\AP@` stores all the commands that must be executed after the page break.

34 `\let\AP@\relax`

Restore the `\everydisplay` register. `\ignorespaces` prevents a space or new-line after `$$` creating rogue a indentation or paragraph.

35 `\def\AP@ed{\everydisplay\expandafter{\the\toks@\ignorespaces}}`

Remove the current vertical list, insert the commands `\AP@` at the top of the page, and then re-insert the saved text.

36 `\def\AP@@{\%`

37   `\AP@savetop`

38   `\global\expandafter\let\expandafter\AP@\expandafter\relax\AP@`

39   `\par`

The text originally at the top of this page is now stored in the box `\AP@partial`, including `\topskip` glue. Now we want to unbox `\AP@partial`, placing the baseline of the first row `\baselineskip` below the baseline of the last line coming from the `\afterpage` text. If we assumed nothing has too much height or depth (and `\topskip` is rigid), it would be fairly trivial to position the contents of `\AP@partial` so that the baseline of the first row was `\baselineskip` below the last row just added.

In this version, I thought it might be fun to try to exactly achieve the `\baselineskip`-or-`\lineskip` calculation that TeX normally does internally. The call to `\addboxcontents` does the right thing (I hope).

40   `\addboxcontents\AP@partial`

Now re-insert any footnote text. This may not be quite the right place, as the text that has just been unboxed may break over a page in its new position. Also it may not be the right number if the text from `\afterpage` itself contains footnotes. Too bad!

41   `\ifvoid\AP@footins\else`  
42       `\insert\footins{\unvbox\AP@footins}\fi`

Now repair things if we started off in horizontal mode.

43   `\AP@noindent}`

If `\AP@` is not `\relax` then the current page already has some ‘`\afterpage`’ commands, so just add the new commands to the end of the list. Otherwise save the commands in `\AP@`. (within a local group), and switch the output routine. (The new output routine just calls the old one if it is invoked by a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X float).

44 `\long\def\afterpage#1{%`  
45   `\ifx\AP@\relax`  
46     `\gdef\AP@{\{\#1\par}\}%`  
47     `\global\output{%`  
48       `\the\AP@output`  
49       `\ifnum\outputpenalty>-\@Mi`  
50        `\global\output\expandafter{\the\AP@output}%`  
51        `\aftergroup\AP@%`  
52     `\fi}\%`  
53   `\else`  
54     `\expandafter\gdef\expandafter\AP@\expandafter{\AP@{\#1\par}\}%`  
55   `\fi}`

If we have got to the end of the document or `\clearpage` just put the stuff out without any trickery.

56 `\let\AP@clearpage\clearpage`  
57 `\def\clearpage{%`  
58   `\ifx\AP@\relax`  
59     `\AP@clearpage`  
60   `\else`  
61     `\global\output\expandafter{\the\AP@output}%`  
62     `\AP@clearpage`

At this point (since v1.08) Need to clear `\AP@` before using its expansion, as otherwise hit an infinite loop. Sigh.

```

63   \global\expandafter\let\expandafter\AP@\expandafter\relax
64   \expandafter\expandafter\AP@
65 \fi}
66 \let\AP@enddocument\enddocument
67 \def\enddocument{%
68 \ifx\AP@\relax\else
69   \global\output\expandafter{\the\AP@output}%
70   \AP@clearpage
71   \global\expandafter\let\expandafter\AP@\expandafter\relax
72   \expandafter\expandafter\AP@
73 \fi
74 \AP@enddocument}

```

`\addboxcontents` Given a vbox #1, add to the current vertical list such that the end result is equivalent to the list that TeX would have built had the contents of #1 (apart from any initial glue) been added individually to the current list.

So essentially, the problem is that of unboxing #1, but replacing the glue at the top of #1 with (something equivalent to) the `\baselineskip` or `\lineskip` glue that TeX would normally have placed before the first box in #1. Also `\prevdepth` must be set at the end.

```
75 \def\addboxcontents#1{%

```

Perhaps I shouldnt use grouping here, as I probably don't really want to save #1. If it is removed, `\splittopskip` and `\splitmaxdepth` would need to be restored by hand.

First replace any glue at the top by `\vskip 0pt`.

```

76 \splittopskip\z@
77 \splitmaxdepth\maxdimen
78 \setbox#1\vbox{\break\unvbox#1}%
79 \setbox\z@\vsplit#1to\z@

```

Put the breakpoint back.

```
80 \setbox#1\vbox{\break\unvbox#1}%

```

Set `\skip@` to be height of #1 (without top glue)

```
81 \skip@\ht#1%
```

Now make the first baseline of the first row be `\vsize` from the top. (This assumes that the first row has height less than `\vsize`.)

```

82 \splittopskip\vsize
83 \setbox\z@\vsplit#1to\z@

```

Subtract the new height of #1 from `\skip@`, and add back on `\splittopskip`, so `\skip@` is now the height of the first row of #1 This may still be 0pt if (eg) a mark or whatsit is between the top glue and the first box. Save (this height - `\splittopskip`) in `\skip\tw@`.

```

84 \advance\skip@-\ht#1%
85 \skip\tw@\skip@
86 \advance\skip@\splittopskip

```

Now fake TeX's `\baselineskip` calculation.

```

87 \advance\skip@\prevdepth
88 \advance\skip@-\baselineskip
89 \advance\skip\tw@\ifdim-\skip@<\lineskiplimit\lineskip\else-\skip@\fi

```

Finally add the glue.

```
90 \vskip\skip\tw@
```

Now unbox the box, setting `\prevdepth` by hand, as `\unvbox` (unlike `\box`) does not automatically set it.

```

91 \global\dimen@i\dp#1%
92 \unvbox#1}%
93 \prevdepth\dimen@i}

```

```
94 </package>
```