The fnpara package
A \LaTeX{} style to typeset footnotes in run-on paragraphs.

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1 History:

A vain attempt at this \LaTeX{} modification was tried in late September 1988 by Dominik Wujastyk, and sent to \TeX{}hax and UK\TeX{} for comment. Chris Rowley came up with a working version a few days later, but it still needs thorough testing.

2 The Style:

This \LaTeX{} style changes the way \LaTeX{} does footnotes. With this style invoked (\	exttt{\documentstyle[fnpara]{article}}), footnotes will be typeset in a running paragraph, instead of one above another. It is suitable for texts such as critical editions, which contain many short footnotes.

This is based on the \TeX{} macros described by Knuth in the \TeX{}book, Dirty Tricks, pages 398–400. It is not tested beyond some simple examples. In particular, it has not been tested properly in connection with even the simplest of environments, nor with other floats.

(In fact, ordinary \TeX{} footnotes sometimes do not work well if they need splitting (e.g. producing blank pages, or appearing in shuffled form): but these problems should not affect this style. I –CR– have sent in a Bug Report about some of these problems.)

Be aware of Knuth’s note on the limitations of this method of doing the job: the \TeX{} stack is used four times per footnote, and the stack is limited (\TeX{}book pp. 300–301). So if you have very many footnotes (in the hundreds) and encounter

"! \TeX{} capacity exceeded, sorry [... save size ...]"

errors, you may need to break your text into smaller sections. Fortunately, this is very easy to do with \LaTeX{}. And the footnote counter can be reset to make the joins seamless.

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Updated with new copies of relevant definitions from base files, and added definitions for paragraph footnotes inside minipages

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