The \texttt{tikzmark} package

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1 Introduction

The \texttt{tikzmark} macro burst onto the scene in a blaze of glory on TeX-SX. Since then, it has proved embarrassingly (to its original author) popular. The idea behind it is extremely simple: that the machinery underneath TikZ provides a way to “mark” a point on a page for further use. This functionality is already provided by several other packages. The point of this one is that as TikZ can provide this feature, if already loading TikZ then it makes sense to use the TikZ version than another version. Moreover, if the goal is to use these marks with some TikZ code then this version is already set up for that purpose (not that it would be exactly difficult to add this to any of the other implementations).

2 Use

Using the \texttt{tikzmark} is extremely simple. You need to load the \texttt{tikz} package and then load \texttt{tikzmark} as a \texttt{tikzlibrary}. Thus in your preamble you should have something like:

\begin{verbatim}
\usepackage{tikz}
\usetikzlibrary{tikzmark}
\end{verbatim}

In your document, you can now type \texttt{\tikzmark{<name>}} at a point that you want to remember. This will save a mark with name \texttt{<name>} for use later (or earlier). To use it in a \texttt{tikz} or \texttt{tikzpicture}, simply use the \texttt{pic} coordinate system:

\begin{verbatim}
\tikz [remember picture] \draw [overlay] (0,0) -- (pic cs:<name>);
\end{verbatim}

There are two important points to note:

1. The enveloping \texttt{tikz} or \texttt{tikzpicture} must have the key \texttt{remember picture} set.

   This is because of how TikZ coordinates work. The coordinates inside a TikZ picture are relative to its origin, so that origin can move around on
the page and not affect the internals of the picture. To use a point outside
the picture, therefore, the current picture not only has to know where that
point is on the page it also has to know where it itself is on the page. Hence
the \texttt{remember picture} key must be set.

2. The drawing command must have the \texttt{overlay} key set (or be in a scope or
picture where it is set).

   This is to keep the bounding box of the current picture under control. Other-
wise, it would grow to encompass the remembered point as well as the
current picture. (This isn’t necessary if the remembered point is inside the
current picture.)

3 History

I wrote the original \texttt{tikzmark} macro in 2009 for use in lecture slides prepared
with the \texttt{beamer} package. Its original definition was:

\begin{verbatim}
\newcommand{\tikzmark}[1]{\tikz[overlay,remember picture]
   \node (#1) {};
}
\end{verbatim}

Its first use was in the (inelegant) code:

\begin{verbatim}
\begin{frame}
\frametitle{Structure of Continuous Functions}
\begin{tikzpicture}[overlay, remember picture]
   \useasboundingbox (0,0);
   \draw<2>[trans: 0,handout: 0>[red,->,trans: 0] (bsp) .. controls
     +(-1,-1) and ($\text{cnvs.north}+(1,1)$) ..
     ($\text{cnvs.north}+(0,1)$) .. controls
     ($\text{cnvs.north}+(-1,1)$) and +(-1,0) .. (cnvs.north);
   \draw<3>[trans: 0,handout: 0>[green!50!black,->,trans: 0] (cplt) ..
     controls +(-1,-1) and +(1,0) .. (mcplt.north);
   \draw<4>[trans: 0,handout: 0>[blue,->,trans: 0] (norm) .. controls
     +(-1,-5) and ($\text{nvs.north}+(1,1.5)$) ..
     ($\text{nvs.north}+(0,1.5)$) .. controls
     ($\text{nvs.north}+(-1.5,1.5)$) and +(-1.5,0) ..
     (nvs.north);
   \draw<5>[trans: 0,handout: 0>[purple,->,trans: 0] (vector) .. controls
     +(-1,-1) and ($\text{vsp.north}+(2,2)$) ..
     ($\text{vsp.north}+(0,2)$) .. controls
     ($\text{vsp.north}+(-2,2)$) and +(2,0) .. (vsp.north);
\end{tikzpicture}
\begin{theorem}
\centering
($\text{big}(C([0,1],\mathbb{R}),d_{\text{\texttt{infty}}})$)
\end{verbatim}
is a Banach space

end theorem

pause

bigskip

begin itemize
item \textcolor{green!50!black}{\text{Complete}}
item \textcolor{blue}{\text{Normed}}
item \textcolor{purple}{\text{Vector space}}.

bigskip

bigskip

pause

begin itemize[\text{<+->}]
item \textcolor{green!50!black}{\text{Cauchy sequences converge.}}
item \textcolor{blue}{\text{Metric from a norm.}}
item \textcolor{purple}{\text{Functions behave like vectors.}}
end itemize

end itemize

end frame

This produced, on the final slide, Figure 1.

Its first appearance on TeX-SX was in an answer to a question about how to put overlapping braces on a mathematical text. This was in July 2010. The opening statement of the answer was not overly encouraging: “This may not be the best solution...”. And for a macro that would go on to become quite ubiquitous, its initial appearance only garnered it 2 votes.

However, it started out in life as a useful macro for me and as such I found more uses for it in my own code and thus more opportunity for using it to answer questions on TeX-SX. The one that seems to have been where it got noticed came in August 2010, again about putting braces in text but in a more complicated fashion. From this answer, it got picked up, picked over, and picked apart. A common use was in highlighting or adding marks to text.

Gradually, as it got used, it developed. A major revision dates from an answer given in March 2012 where the question was actually about \texttt{tikzmark}. This version added two important features: a TikZ coordinate system for referencing saved marks directly and the ability to refer to marks earlier in the document.
Structure of Continuous Functions

Theorem

\[ (C([0, 1], \mathbb{R}), d_{\infty}) \]

is a

Banach space

- Complete normed vector space.
- Cauchy sequences converge.
- Metric from a norm.
- Functions behave like vectors.

Figure 1: First use of tikzmark
than they are defined (the mechanism for remembering points uses the aux file anyway so this was more about exposing the information earlier than anything complicated). Then in October 2012 there was a question where it would have been useful to remember which page the mark was on and a question where for some reason using the \texttt{tikz} macro didn’t work so the \texttt{pgfmark} macro was introduced. By this point, the \texttt{tikzmark} command had morphed considerably from its original definition. Experience has shown that on the TeX-SX site it has continued to be used in its original form as well as its current form. I’ve therefore taken the decision to reintroduce a form of the original command, now called \texttt{tikzmarknode}. It goes beyond the original version in that it uses some \texttt{mathchoice} trickery (inspired by this answer from Heiko Oberdiek) to hopefully correctly choose the correct math style.

The original reason for not using nodes inside \texttt{tikzmark} was to be able to use the information from a \texttt{tikzmark} before the point where it was defined (via information saved into the aux file). Thanks to a question on TeX-SX about saving node information, I’ve developed code that solves that issue with nodes. As it fits in the general concept of this package, I’ve added that code to the \texttt{tikzmark} package.

4 Usage

This package defines the following commands and usable stuff.

1. \texttt{tikzmark\[\langle drawing command\rangle\]{\langle name\rangle}}

   The mandatory argument is the name of the mark to be used to refer back to this point later.

   The \texttt{tikzmark} command can take an optional parameter which is some drawing command that can be put in a \texttt{tikz} \ldots\; command. This drawing command can be used to place a node or something similar at the marked point, or to set some \texttt{tikzset} keys. Sometimes this can be useful. Note, though, that if this is used to define an offset coordinate then this will only be available in the document after the \texttt{tikzmark} command, even on later runs.

   If the \texttt{beamer} class is loaded then this command is made overlay-aware.

2. \texttt{tikzmark\{\langle name\rangle\}{\langle coordinate\rangle}}

   v1.2 of the \texttt{tikzmark} package introduced a new variant of \texttt{tikzmark} which works inside a \texttt{tikzpicture}. One feature of \texttt{tikzmark} which isn’t part of TikZ’s normal coordinate remembering system is the ability to use a \texttt{tikzmark} coordinate before it is defined (due to the use of the aux file). This is potentially useful to have inside a \texttt{tikzpicture} and so it is now possible to use \texttt{tikzmark} inside a \texttt{tikzpicture}. The syntax is slightly different as we need to specify the coordinates of a point to remember.

   This was inspired by the question \texttt{Refer to a node in tikz that will be defined “in the future” (two passes)?} on TeX-SX.
3. \pgfmark\{\texttt{name}\}
   This is a more basic form of the \tikzmark which doesn’t use any of the \tikz overhead. One advantage of this command is that it doesn’t create an hbox. It does, however, insert a \texttt{whatsit} into the stream so it will, for example, stop two vertical spaces either side of it being merged. This can’t be avoided.
   If the beamer class is loaded then this command is made overlay-aware.

4. \iftikzmark\{\texttt{name}\}\{\texttt{true code}\}\{\texttt{false code}\}
   This is a simple conditional to test if a particular mark is available. It executes \texttt{true code} if it is and \texttt{false code} if not.

5. \tikzmarknode\\{\texttt{options}\}\{\texttt{name}\}\{\texttt{contents}\}
   This is a reincarnation of the original \tikzmark command which places its contents inside a \texttt{tikz} node. It also defines a tikzmark with the same name. Using a sneaky trick with \texttt{mathchoice}, it works inside a math environment. The spacing either side might not be quite right as although it detects the math style it doesn’t got beyond that. The \texttt{options} are passed to the node.
   Two styles are attempted, one on the surrounding picture and one on the node, which are:

   - every tikzmarknode picture
   - every tikzmarknode
   
   To refer to the node, use usual TikZ coordinates. To refer to the underlying tikzmark, use the special tikzmark coordinates (see below).

6. (\texttt{pic cs:<name>}) or (\texttt{pic cs:<name>,<coordinate>})
   This is the method for referring to a position remembered by \tikzmark (or \pgfmark) as a coordinate in a tikzpicture environment (or \tikz command). If the extra \texttt{coordinate} is specified then this is used in case the mark \texttt{name} has not yet been defined (this can be useful for defining code that does something sensible on the first run).

7. \tikz/save picture id=<name>
   This is the TikZ key that is used by \tikzmark to actually save the connection between the name and the picture coordinate. It can be used on an arbitrary picture to save its origin as a tikzmark.

8. \tikz/if picture id=\#1\#2\#3
   This is a key equivalent of the \iftikzmark command.

9. \tikz/next page, \tikz/next page vector
   It is possible to refer to a mark on a different page to the current page. When this is done, the mark is offset by a vector stored in the key
The key /tikz/next page can be used to set this to certain standard vectors by specifying where the “next page” is considered as lying corresponding to the current page. Possible values are (by default) above, below, left, right, and ignore. (The last one sets the vector to the zero vector.)

These keys allow for the automatic addition of a prefix and/or suffix to each \tikzmark name. The prefix and suffix are added both at time of definition and of use, so providing one is in the same scope there is no difference in at the user level when using prefixes and suffixes. What it can be useful for is to make the \tikzmark names unique. In particular, if the beamer class is loaded then an automatic suffix is added corresponding to the overlay. This means that if a slide consists of several overlays with \tikzmark nodes on them, and the positions of the \tikzmark nodes move then the resulting pictures should look right. Without the automatic suffix, only the final positions of the marks would be used throughout.

This was inspired by the question [using tikzmark subnode with overlays beamer] on TeX-SX.

This produces a pseudo-node named name around the content. The design purpose of this is to create a “subnode” inside a TikZ node. As far as TikZ is concerned, the contents of a node is just a box. It therefore does not know anything about it beyond its external size and so cannot easily determine the coordinates of pieces inside. The \subnode command boxes its contents and saves the position of that box and its dimensions. This information is stored in the same way that PGF stores the necessary information about a node. It is therefore possible to use ordinary node syntax (within a tikzpicture) to access this information. Thus after \node {a \subnode{a}{sub} node}; it is possible to use a as a node. The options are passed to the node construction mechanism, but note that the only sensible options are those that affect the size and shape of the node: drawing options are ignored (except in so far as they affect the size – as an example, line width affects the node size).

There are two important points to make about this. The first is that, as with all the tikzmark macros, the information is always one compilation old. The second is that the pseudo-node is purely about coordinates: the path information is not used and the contents are not moved. This is partly for reasons of implementation: the pseudo-node is constructed when TikZ is not in “picture mode”. But also interleaving the background path of the pseudo-node and any containing node would be problematic and so is best left to the user.

The simplest way to turn a pseudo-node into a more normal node is to use the fit library. Using the above example, \node[fit=(a),draw,inner sep=0pt] {};

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would draw a rectangle around the word sub of exactly the same size as would appear had a normal node been created.

12. **Node saving**

The node saving system takes the information stored about a node and saves it for later use. That later use can be in the same document, in which case it should be saved just to the memory of the current TeX process, or it can be used earlier in the same document or another document altogether (in particular, if the nodes are defined in a `tikzpicture` that has been externalised, this can be used to import the node information into the main file) in which cases the node data is saved to a file.

When working with files, nodes are saved and restored in bulk. When working in memory, nodes are saved and restored in named lists. Nodes are not actually saved until the end of the `tikzpicture` in which they are defined, meaning that if saving to memory then all the nodes in a `tikzpicture` will belong to the same list.

The keys for working with saving and restoring nodes are as follows.

- **save node**
  This is the key to put on a node that is to be saved.

- **set node group=<name>**
  Nodes are grouped together into a list that can be saved either to a file or for use later on in the document. This sets the name for the current group.

- **restore nodes from list=<name>**
  This restores the node information from the named list to the current `tikzpicture`. This is required both for when the node information comes from a file or from earlier in the same document.

- **save nodes to file**
  This is a true/false key which determines whether to save the node information to a file.

- **set saved nodes file name=<name>**
  This sets the file name for the saved nodes (the extension will be `.nodes`. The default is to use the current TeX filename. This is set globally, and once the file is opened then changing the name will have no effect. (The file is not opened until it is actually needed to avoid creating empty files unnecessarily.)

- **restore nodes from file=<name>**
  This loads the node information from the file into the current document. The `<name>` can have the syntax `[options]{name}`, where options can be used to influence how the nodes are restored. The key `transform saved nodes` (see below) can be given here. Another useful key is the `name prefix` key which is applied to all restored nodes.
transform saved nodes

A particular use-case for restoring saved nodes is to safely include one `tikzpicture` inside another by creating an image out of the inner picture and including it back in as a picture inside a node. In that situation, restoring the nodes from the inner picture can make it possible to refer to coordinates from the inner picture to the outer one. If there is a transformation in place on the containing node, this key applies that transformation to all the nodes in the inner picture.

5 Examples and Extras

The `\tikzmark` command has been used in numerous answers on TeX-SX. The plan is to gather some of these into extra libraries which can be loaded via `\usetikzmarklibrary`.

At present, this is the code listings library (which works with the `listings` package). One that is in development (as it has featured much on the TeX-SX website) is highlighting, however this is not so straightforward to implement so is still under development.

5.1 Basic Examples

A simple example of the `\tikzmark` macro is the following.

\[
\begin{aligned}
\text{\tikzmark{a} } e^{i \pi/2} &= i \\
\text{\tikzmark{a}} e^{i \pi/2} &= i
\end{aligned}
\]

This is an important equation.
\begin{itemize}
\item A first item, \tikzmark{b}
\item A second item, \tikzmark{c}
\item A third item. \tikzmark{d}
\end{itemize}
\begin{tikzpicture}[remember picture, overlay]
\draw [decorate, decoration={brace}] ({pic cs:b} | (0,1em)) -- node [right, inner sep=1em] {some items} ({pic cs:d} | (0,1em));
\end{tikzpicture}

• A first item,
• A second item, some items
• A third item.

\begin{tikzpicture}[remember picture]
\node (a) at (0,0) {This has a \subnode{subnode}{subnode} in it};
\draw[-] (0,-1) to[bend right] (sub);
\end{tikzpicture}
This has a subnode in it

An example using \tikzmark inside a \tikzpicture
\tikzset{tikzmark prefix=ex3–}
\begin{tikzpicture}[remember picture, overlay]
\draw[-, line width=1mm, cyan] (pic cs:a) to[bend left] (pic cs:b);
\end{tikzpicture}

By placing the \tikzmark(a) code before the marks, the arrow goes under the subsequent text and picture.
\begin{tikzpicture}
\filldraw [fill=gray] (0,0) circle [radius=1cm];
\tikzmark{b}{(-1,-1)}
\end{tikzpicture}
By placing the code before the marks, the arrow goes under the subsequent text and picture.

The \texttt{tikzmarknode} puts a node around some text, which can be referred to later, and adds a \texttt{tikzmark} at its origin.

Putting a node around \texttt{tikzmarknode\{txt\}\{some text\}} means we can connect text together, including in maths:

\[
\texttt{tikzmarknode\{a\}\{\sum\_{k=1}^n\} k^\texttt{tikzmarknode\{b\}\{2\}\}}
\]

\begin{tikzpicture}[remember picture, overlay]
\draw[->] (txt) -- (a);
\draw[->] (a.south) to[out=-90,in=-45] (b.south east);
\end{tikzpicture}

Putting a node around some text means we can connect text together, including in maths:

\[ \sum_{k=1}^{n} k^2 \]

The syntax for saving node data is illustrated by the following example.

File \texttt{firstpicture.tex}:

\begin{Verbatim}
\documentclass[tikz, border=10pt]{standalone}
\usepackage{tikzmark, shapes.geometric}
\begin{document}
\begin{tikzpicture}[save nodes to file]
\node[draw, rotate=-30, save node] (1) at (-2,0) {1};
\draw[->] (0,0) -- (1);
\node[draw, ellipse, save node] (c) at (current bounding box.center) {};
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{document}
\end{Verbatim}

File \texttt{secondpicture.tex}:
\documentclass[tikz, border=10pt]{standalone}
\usepackage{tikzmark, shapes.geometric}
\begin{document}
\begin{tikzpicture}[save nodes to file]
\node [draw, rotate=-70, save node] (2) at (2,0) {2};
\draw[->] (0,0) -- (2);
\node [draw, ellipse, save node] (c) at (current bounding box.center) {};
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{document}

Main file:

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{tikz}
\usetikzlibrary{tikzmark}
\begin{document}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\node [draw, rotate=30, restore nodes from file={transform saved nodes, name prefix=pic-1}{firstpicture}] [a-1] at (-2,-3) {\includegraphics{firstpicture.pdf}};
\node [draw, rotate=70, restore nodes from file={transform saved nodes, name prefix=pic-2}{secondpicture}] [a-2] at (+2,+2) {\includegraphics{secondpicture.pdf}};
\draw[red] (pic-1.north west) -- (pic-1.north east) -- (pic-1.south east) -- (pic-1.south west) -- cycle;
\draw[red] (pic-2.north west) -- (pic-2.north east) -- (pic-2.south east) -- (pic-2.south west) -- cycle;
\node[red] at (pic-1) {1};
\node[red] at (pic-2) {2};
\draw (a-1) circle [radius=5pt];
\draw (a-2) circle [radius=5pt];
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{document}
5.2 Code Listings

If the listings package has been loaded then issuing
\usepackage{listings}

will load in some code to add marks to \lstlisting environments. This code places a mark at three places on a line of code in a listings environment. The marks are placed at the start of the line, the first non-whitespace character, and the end of the line (if the line is blank the latter two are not placed). (This has not been extensively tested, it works by adding code to various “hooks” that are made available by the listings package; it is quite possible that the hooks chosen are both wrong and insufficient to cover all desired cases.)

These are inspired by questions such as Marking lines in listings and Macros for code annotations.

In more detail, the listings library places lots of marks around the code. The marks are:

- line-<name>-<number>-start at the start of each line.
- line-<name>-<number>-end at the end of each line.
- line-<name>-<number>-first at the first non-space character of the line (assuming it exists).
The line numbers should match up with the line numbers in the code in that any initial offset is also applied.

Not every mark is available on every line. If a line is blank, in particular, it will only have a start mark. The following example shows this, where the red dots are the start, the blue are end, and the green are first.

\begin{tikzpicture}[remember picture]
\foreach \k in {0,...,7} {
  \iftikzmark{line-code-\k-start}\{\fill[red, overlay] (pic cs:line-code-\k-start) circle[radius=4pt]\}\message{No start for \k}
  \iftikzmark{line-code-\k-end}\{\fill[blue, overlay] (pic cs:line-code-\k-end) circle[radius=2pt]\}\message{No end for \k}
  \iftikzmark{line-code-\k-first}\{\fill[green, overlay] (pic cs:line-code-\k-first) circle[radius=2pt]\}\message{No first for \k}
}
\draw[->, overlay] (0,0) -- (pic cs:line-code-5-first);
\draw[->, overlay] (0,0) -- (pic cs:line-code-5-start);
\draw[->, overlay] (0,0) -- (pic cs:line-code-5-end);
\node[above] at (0,0) {Line 5};
\end{tikzpicture}

\begin{lstlisting}[language=c, name=code, numbers=left]
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
  printf("hello, world\n");
  return 0;
}
\end{lstlisting}

This example puts a fancy node behind certain lines of the code, computing the necessary extents.
6 Acknowledgements

The \tikzmark macro has been used and abused by many users of TeX-SX. Of particular note (but in no particular order) are Peter Grill, Gonzalo Medina, Claudio Fiandrino, percusse, and marmot. I would also like to mention David Carlisle whose knowledge of TikZ continues to astound us all.

7 Implementation

7.1 Main Code

The \texttt{save nodes} code uses \LaTeX3.

\begin{lstlisting}[language=c, name=more code, numbers=left, firstnumber=3]
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    printf("hello, world\n");
    return 0;
}
\end{lstlisting}

Not totally happy with using \texttt{every picture} here as it’s too easily overwritten by the user. Maybe it would be better to patch \texttt{endtikzpicture} directly.

\begin{lstlisting}[language=c, name=more code, numbers=left, firstnumber=3]
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    printf("hello, world\n");
    return 0;
}
\end{lstlisting}
execute at end picture={%
\ifpgfrememberpicturepositiononpage%
  \edef\pgf@temp{%\noexpand\write\noexpand\pgfutil@auxout{%\string\savepicturepage%
    \{\pgfpictureid}\{\noexpand\arabic{page}\}%%
  }%}
\pgf@temp\fi%},

The positions are already recorded in the aux file, all we really need to do is provide them with better names.

save picture id/.code={%
  \protected@write\pgfutil@auxout{}{%\string\savepointas%
    \{\tikzmark@pp@name{#1}\}\pgfpictureid\{0pt\}{0pt}%%
  },
},

Provides a way to test if a picture has already been saved (in particular, can avoid errors on first runs)

if picture id/.code args={#1#2#3}{%
  \@ifundefined{save@pt@\tikzmark@pp@name{#1}}{%
    \pgfkeysalso{#3}%%
  }{%
    \pgfkeysalso{#2}%%
  }
},

Page handling

next page/.is choice,
next page vector/.initial={\pgfqpoint{0pt}{0pt}},
next page/below/.style={%
  next page vector={\pgfqpoint{0pt}{-\the\paperheight}}%%
},
next page/above/.style={%
  next page vector={\pgfqpoint{0pt}{\the\paperheight}}%%
},
next page/left/.style={%
  next page vector={\pgfqpoint{-\the\paperwidth}{0pt}}%%
},
next page/right/.style={%
  next page vector={\pgfqpoint{\the\paperwidth}{0pt}}%%
},
next page/ignore/.style={%
  next page vector={\pgfqpoint{0pt}{0pt}}%%
},

Prefix and suffix for tikzmark names, shamelessly borrowed from the main tikz code
This is what gets written to the aux file.

\tmk@labeldef Auxiliary command for the coordinate system.
\def\tmk@labeldef#1,#2\@nil{% 
  \edef\tmk@label{\tikzmark@pp@name{#1}}%  
  \def\tmk@def{#2}%
}

pic This defines the new coordinate system.
\tikzdeclarecoordinatesystem{pic}{% 
  \pgfutil@in@,{#1}  
  \ifpgfutil@in@%  
    \tmk@labeldef#1\@nil%  
  \else  
    \tmk@labeldef#1,(0pt,0pt)\@nil%  
  \fi  
  \@ifundefined{save@pt@\tmk@label}{%  
    \pgf@process{\pgfpointorigin\save@orig@pic}  
    \save@orig@pic%  
    \advance\pgf@x by -\pgf@xa  
    \advance\pgf@y by -\pgf@ya  
    \pgf@xa=\pgf@x%  
    \pgf@ya=\pgf@y%  
  }{%  
    \pgf@process{\pgfpointorigin\save@this@pic}%  
    \save@this@pic%  
    \pgf@process{\pgfpointorigin\save@this@pic}%  
    \save@this@pic%  
    \advance\pgf@x by -\pgf@xa  
    \advance\pgf@y by -\pgf@ya  
    \pgf@xa=\pgf@x%  
    \pgf@ya=\pgf@y%  
  }
The active/non-active semi-colon is proving somewhat hazardous to `\tikzmark` (see Tikzmark and french seem to conflict and Clash between tikzmark, babel package (french) and babel tikzlibrary) so \tikzmark now uses the brace-delimited version of the `\tikz` command.

This version is for when we’re outside a tikzpicture environment

\newcommand\tikzmark@outside[2][2]{% \tikz[remember picture with id=#2]{#1} %}

This is for when we’re inside a tikzpicture environment

\def\tikzmark@inside#1#2{% \tikzset{remember picture}% \tikz[scan one point]\pgfutil@firstofone#2\relax \protected@write\pgfutil@auxout{}{% \string\savepointas{\tikzmark@pp@name{#1}}{\the\pgf@x}{\the\pgf@y}}% }

And finally, the ultimate invoker:

\def\tikzmark{% \ifx\pgfpictureid\@undefined \let\tikzmark@next=\tikzmark@outside \else \let\tikzmark@next=\tikzmark@inside \fi \tikzmark@next%}

\tikzmark@next%
If the beamer class is used, make the commands overlay aware.

If beamer is loaded, add a suffix based on the frame number

\iftikzmark
\newcommand\iftikzmark[3]{%
\@ifundefined{save@pt@\tikzmark@pp@name{#1}}{%
 #3%
 }{%
 #2%
 }}
\}%

19
\newcommand\subnode[3][1]
{\begingroup
  \pgfmark{#2}
  \setbox\pgfnodeparttextbox=\hbox{\group #3}\egroup
  \def\tikz@shape{rectangle}
  \def\tikz@anchor{center}
  \def\tikz@fig@name{#2}
  \tikzset{every subnode/.try,#1}
  \pgfpointorigin
  \advance\pgf@x by .5\wd\pgfnodeparttextbox
  \advance\pgf@y by .5\ht\pgfnodeparttextbox
  \advance\pgf@y by -.5\dp\pgfnodeparttextbox
  \pgftransformshift{\pgfnodeparttextbox}
  \tikz@scan@one@point\pgfutil@firstofone(pic cs:#2)\relax
  \advance\pgf@x by -\pgf@x
  \advance\pgf@y by -\pgf@y
  \expandafter\pgfsavepgf@process\csname pgf@sh@sa@\tikz@fig@name\endcsname{
    \pgf@sh@reanchor{\tikz@shape}{\tikz@anchor}\pgf@x=-\pgf@x\pgf@y=-\pgf@y}
  \edef\pgf@node@name\tikz@fig@name
  \ifx\pgf@node@name\pgfutil@empty
    \else\expandafter\xdef\csname pgf@sh@ns@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\tikz@shape}\edef\pgf@sh@@temp{\noexpand\gdef\expandafter
    \noexpand\csname pgf@sh@np@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@sh@savedpoints}}\edef\pgf@sh@@temp{\noexpand\gdef\expandafter
    \noexpand\csname pgf@sh@ma@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@sh@savedmacros}}\pgfgettransform\pgf@temp\expandafter\xdef
    \csname pgf@sh@nt@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@temp}}\edef\pgf@sh@@temp{\noexpand\gdef\expandafter
    \noexpand\csname pgf@sh@ma@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@sh@savedmacros}}\pgfgettransform\pgf@temp
\endgroup}
\let\pgf@sh@savedmacros=\pgfutil@empty
\let\pgf@sh@savedpoints=\pgfutil@empty
\def\pgf@sm@shape@name{\tikz@shape}
\ifx\pgf@sm@shape@name\pgfutil@empty
  \PackageError{pgf}{Unknown shape \textbackslash \tikz@shape}{%}
\else
  \let\pgf@sh@savedmacros=\pgfutil@empty
  \let\pgf@sh@savedpoints=\pgfutil@empty
  \def\pgf@sm@shape@name{\tt@ikz@shape}
  \csname pgf@sh@s\pgf@sm@shape@name\endcsname{\pgf@sh@savedpoints{\pgf@sh@savedmacros}}
  \pgftransformshift{\pgf@sm@shape@name}{\pgf@sm@shape@name}{\pgf@sm@shape@name}{\pgf@sm@shape@name}
  \edef\pgf@node@name{\pgf@sm@shape@name}
  \ifx\pgf@node@name\pgfutil@empty
    \else\expandafter\xdef\csname pgf@sh@ns@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@sm@shape@name}\edef\pgf@sh@@temp{\noexpand\gdef\expandafter
      \noexpand\csname pgf@sh@np@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@sh@savedpoints}}\edef\pgf@sh@@temp{\noexpand\gdef\expandafter
      \noexpand\csname pgf@sh@ma@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@sh@savedmacros}}\pgfgettransform\pgf@temp\expandafter\xdef
        \csname pgf@sh@nt@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@temp}}\edef\pgf@sh@@temp{\noexpand\gdef\expandafter
        \noexpand\csname pgf@sh@ma@\pgf@node@name\endcsname{\pgf@sh@savedmacros}}\pgfgettransform\pgf@temp
\endgroup
Note: much of this code was inevitably adapted from the node defining code in the TikZ/PGF sources.
The \tikzmark macro has changed considerably since its first inception, but there does still seem to be a use for the original version which put stuff inside a node. This command reintroduces that command.

It does its best to work inside a math environment by a sneaky trick involving \mathchoice: the remember picture key means that only the picture id of the typeset box is saved to the aux file. So comparing the possible picture ids of the four options with the one read from the aux file, we can figure out which box was actually used.

\def\tikzmarknode[#1]{% 
\tikz[remember picture, baseline=, save picture id=, every tikzmarknode picture/.try ] { 
\node[anchor=, inner sep=, name=, node contents=, every tikzmarknode/.try, #1 ]; 
} }% 
\newcommand\tikzmarknode[3][{}]{% 
\ifmmode \mathchoice{\tikzmarknode@{#1}{#2-d}{\(\textstyle #3\)}} {\tikzmarknode@{#1}{#2-t}{\(\textstyle #3\)}} {\tikzmarknode@{#1}{#2-s}{\(\scriptstyle #3\)}} {\tikzmarknode@{#1}{#2-ss}{\(\scriptscriptstyle #3\)}} 
\let\pgf@nodecallback\pgfutil@gobble \def\tzmk@prfx{pgf@sys@pdf@mark@pos@pgfid} \edef\tzmk@pic{\tzmk@prfx\the\pgf@picture@serial@count} }%
The save node code is written in \LaTeX3.

\ExplSyntaxOn

We save our information in a “property list”, which is \LaTeX3’s version of an associative array or dictionary. They keys will give the ability to store several groups of nodes and restore them at will.

\prop_new:N \g__sn_prop

We’ll need a couple of spare token lists

\tl_new:N \l__sn_tmpa_tl
\tl_new:N \l__sn_tmpb_tl

Another useful token list

\tl_new:N \l__open_bracket_tl
\tl_set:Nn \l__open_bracket_tl { [ ] }

This token list is used for our current node group name

\tl_new:N \l__sn_group_tl

We store up the nodes in a list and save them at the end of a given tikzpicture.

\clist_new:N \l__sn_nodes_clist

This boolean is for whether we save to a file or not.

\bool_new:N \l__sn_file_bool

Dimensions and token lists for shifting

\dim_new:N \l__sn_x_dim
\dim_new:N \l__sn_y_dim
\dim_new:N \l__sn_xa_dim
\dim_new:N \l__sn_ya_dim
\tl_new:N \l__sn_centre_tl

\tl_new:N \l__sn_transformation_tl
\tl_set:Nn \l__sn_transformation_tl { {1}{0}{0}{1}{0pt}{0pt} }

Set up a stream for saving the nodes data to a file

\iow_new:N \g__sn_stream
\bool_new:N \g__sn_stream_bool
\tl_new:N \g__sn_filename_tl
\tl_set:Nx \g__sn_filename_tl { \c_sys_jobname_str }

\cs_new_nopar:Npn \sn_open_stream: 
{ \bool_if:NF \g__sn_stream_bool
{ \iow_open:Nn \g__sn_stream { \tl_use:N \g__sn_filename_tl .nodes }
\bool_gset_true:N \g__sn_stream_bool
} }

\bool_if:NF \g__sn_stream_bool
{ \iow_open:Nn \g__sn_stream { \tl_use:N \g__sn_filename_tl .nodes }
\bool_gset_true:N \g__sn_stream_bool
}
\AtEndDocument
\ExplSyntaxOn
\bool_if:NT \g__sn_stream_bool
  {
    \iow_close:N \g__sn_stream
  }
\ExplSyntaxOff

LaTeX3 wrappers around some PGF functions (to avoid @-catcode issues)
\makeatletter
\cs_set_eq:NN \tikz_set_node_name:n \tikz@pp@name
\cs_set_eq:NN \tikz_fig_must_be_named: \tikz@fig@mustbenamed
\makeatother
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \tikz_scan_point:n {V}
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \tikz_scan_point:NNn {NNV}

\save_nodes:Nn
This is the command that actually does the work. It constructs a token list
which contains the code that will restore the node data when invoked. The two
arguments are the token list to store this in and a comma separated list of the
node names to be saved.
\makeatletter
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \tikz_scan_point:n {V}
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \tikz_scan_point:NNn {NNV}
\makeatother
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \save_nodes:Nn #1#2

Clear our token lists
\tl_clear:N \l__sn_tmpa_tl
Set the centre of the picture
\dim_set:Nn \l__sn_x_dim {-\l__sn_x_dim}
\dim_set:Nn \l__sn_y_dim {-\l__sn_y_dim}
\tl_set:Nx \l__sn_centre_tl {
  {1}{0}{0}{1}{\dim_use:N \l__sn_x_dim}{\dim_use:N \l__sn_y_dim}
}

Iterate over the list of node names

\clist_map_inline:nn {#2}

Test to see if the node has been defined
\tl_if_exist:cT {pgf@sh@ns##1}

The node information is stored in a series of macros of the form \pgf@sh@XX@nodename where XX is one of the following.
\clist_map_inline:nn {ns,np,ma,pi}

Our token list will look like:
\tl_set:cn {pgf@sh@XX@nodename} <current contents of that macro>
This will restore \pgf@sh@XX@nodename to its current value when this list is invoked.

This part puts the \tl_set:cn {pgf@sh@XX@nodename} in place
\tl_put_right:Nn \l__sn_tmpa_tl

Now we put the current contents in place. We're doing this in an expansive context to get at the contents. The \exp_not:v part takes the current value of \pgf@sh@XX@nodename and puts it in place, preventing further expansion.
\tl_if_exist:cTF {pgf@sh@##1##1}
\tl_put_right:Nx \l__sn_tmpa_tl
\exp_not:v {pgf@sh@##1##1 \tikz_set_node_name:n{##1}}

Once we've assembled our token list, we store it in the given token list
\tl_set_eq:NN \l__sn_tmpa_tl
\save_nodes_to_list:nn  \begin{verbatim}
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \save_nodes_to_list:nn #1#2
\save_nodes:Nn \l__sn_tmpa_tl {#2}
\prop_gput:NnV \g__sn_prop {#1} \l__sn_tmpa_tl
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}
\save_nodes_to_file:n \begin{verbatim}
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \save_nodes_to_file:n #1
\save_nodes:Nn \l__sn_tmpa_tl {#1}
\sn_open_stream:
\iow_now:Nx \g__sn_stream
\iow_newline:
\exp_not:V \l__sn_tmpa_tl
\iow_newline:
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \save_nodes_to_list:nn {VV}
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \save_nodes_to_file:n {V}
\restore_nodes_from_list:n \begin{verbatim}
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \restore_nodes_from_list:n #1
\prop_get:NnNT \g__sn_prop {#1} \l__sn_tmpa_tl
\tl_use:N \l__sn_tmpa_tl
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}
\restore_nodes_from_file:n \begin{verbatim}
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \restore_nodes_from_file:n #1
\file_if_exist:nT {#1.nodes}
\ExplSyntaxOn
\file_input:n {#1.nodes}
\ExplSyntaxOff
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}
Compose PGF transformations \#2 * \#3, storing the result in \#1.

I think the PGF Manual might be incorrect. It implies that the matrix is stored row-major, but experimentation implies column-major.

That is, (a\{b\}c\{d\}s\{t\}) is:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
a & c \\
b & d \\
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\cs_new_nopar:Npn \compose_transformations:Nnn \#1\#2\#3
\tl_gset:Nx \#1
{
\fp_eval:n {
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{1\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{1\}
+ 
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{3\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{2\}
}
\}
\fp_eval:n {
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{2\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{1\}
+ 
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{4\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{2\}
}
\}
\fp_eval:n {
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{1\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{3\}
+ 
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{3\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{4\}
}
\}
\fp_eval:n {
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{2\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{3\}
+ 
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{4\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{4\}
}
\}
\fp_to_dim:n {
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{1\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{5\}
+ 
\tl_item:nn \#2 \{3\}
* \tl_item:nn \#3 \{6\}
\begin{minipage}{\textwidth}

---

\texttt{\color{red} Set the TikZ keys for access to the above commands.}

\texttt{\begin{tikzset}{
set\_saved\_nodes\_file\_name/.code={
  \tl_gset:Nx \g__sn_filename_tl {#1}
},
transform\_saved\_nodes/.code={
  \set_transform_from_node:v {tikz@last@fig@name}
  \set_transform_from_node:n {v}
},
\end{tikzset}}

---

\end{minipage}
\tl_set:Nn \l__sn_group_tl {#1}
\pgfkeysalso{
  execute_at_end_scope={
    \maybe_save_nodes:
  }
},

Are we saving to a file?
\save_nodes_to_file/.code={
  \tl_if_eq:nnTF {#1}{false}
  {
    \bool_set_false:N \l__sn_file_bool
  }
  {
    \bool_set_true:N \l__sn_file_bool
  }
}\pgfkeysalso{
  execute_at_end_scope={
    \maybe_save_nodes:
  }
},

Append current node to the list of nodes to be saved
\save_node/.code={
  \tikz_fig_must_be_named:
  \pgfkeysalso{append_after_command={
    \pgfextra{
      \clist_gput_right:Nv \l__sn_nodes_clist {tikz@last@fig@name}
    }
  }}
},

Restore nodes from file
\restore_nodes_from_file/.code={
  \tikz_fig_must_be_named:
  \pgfkeysalso{append_after_command={
    \pgfextra{
      \scope
      \split_argument:Nn \tikzset \restore_nodes_from_file:n {#1}
      \endscope
    }
  }}
},

Restore nodes from list
\restore_nodes_from_list/.code={
  \tikz_fig_must_be_named:
  \pgfkeysalso{append_after_command={
    \pgfextra{
      \scope
      \split_argument:Nn \tikzset \restore_nodes_from_list:n {#1}
      \endscope
    }
  }}
},
\pgfkeysalso{append after command={
\pgfextra{
\split_argument:NNn \tikzset \restore_nodes_from_list:n \{#1\}
\endscope
}
}
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \clist_gput_right:Nn \{Nv\}
\split_argument:NNn
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \split_argument:NNn #1#2#3
{
\tl_set:Nx \l__sn_tmpa_tl {\tl_head:n {#3}}
\tl_if_eq:NNTF \l__sn_tmpa_tl \l__open_bracket_tl
{
\split_argument_aux:NNp #1#2#3
}
{
#2 \{#3\}
}
}
\split_argument_aux:NNp
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \split_argument_aux:NNp #1#2[#3]#4
{
#1 \{#3\}
#2 \{#4\}
}
\maybe_save_nodes:
\cs_new_nopar:Npn \maybe_save_nodes:
{
\clist_if_empty:NF \l__sn_nodes_clist
{
\bool_if:NTF \l__sn_file_bool
{
\save_nodes_to_file:V \l__sn_nodes_clist
}
{
\tl_if_empty:NF \l__sn_group_tl
{
\save_nodes_to_list:VV \l__sn_group_tl \l__sn_nodes_clist
}
}
\tl_if_empty:NF \l__sn_group_tl
{
\save_nodes_to_list:VV \l__sn_group_tl \l__sn_nodes_clist
}
\clist_gclear:N \l__sn_nodes_clist
}

\ExplSyntaxOff

7.2 Listings

From \url{http://tex.stackexchange.com/q/79762/86}

\@ifpackageloaded{listings}{%
\iflst@linemark
A conditional to help with placing the mark at the first non-whitespace character.
\newif\iflst@linemark

\EveryLine
This hook places the mark at the start of the line.
\lst@AddToHook{EveryLine}{%\begingroup\advance\c@lstnumber by 1\relax\pgfmark{line-\lst@name-\the\c@lstnumber-start}}\endgroup%

\EOL
This hook places the mark at the end of the line and resets the conditional for placing the first mark.
\lst@AddToHook{EOL}{\pgfmark{line-\lst@name-\the\c@lstnumber-end}\global\lst@linemarktrue}

\OutputBox
Experimenting shows that this is the right place to set the mark at the first non-whitespace character. But we only want to do this once per line.
\lst@AddToHook{OutputBox}{%\iflst@linemark\pgfmark{line-\lst@name-\the\c@lstnumber-first}\global\lst@linemarkfalse\fi}

\tikzmk@lst@fnum
An auxiliary macro to figure out if the \texttt{firstnumber} key was set. If so, it has the form \texttt{<number>}. If not, it expands to a single token.
\def\tikzmk@lst@fnum#1\relax#2\@STOP{%\def@test{#2}\ifx@test\@empty\def\tikzmk@lst@start{0}\else\@tempcnta=#1\relax\advance\@tempcnta by -1\relax\def\tikzmk@lst@start{\the\@tempcnta}\fi}

\Init
Adds a mark at the start of the listings environment.
\lst@AddToHook{Init}{%