

Latexdiff with subfiles

Is there a way to make latexdiff work with the 'subfiles' package ?

9 I use subfiles to include parts of the document from different .tex files. Latexdiff does not seem to mark changes in the subfiles.

The --flatten option does not help. Latexdiff version is 1.0.2.

Example :

main.tex

5

```
\documentclass[10pt]{article}
\usepackage{subfiles}
\begin{document}
\subfile{includeme.tex}
\end{document}
```

includeme.tex

```
\documentclass[main.tex]{subfiles}
\begin{document}
Text!
\end{document}
```

Running

```
latexdiff d1/main.tex d2/main.tex --flatten > mydiff.tex
```

the resulting document simply does not include the contents of the subfile.

mydiff.tex

```
\documentclass[10pt]{article}
%DIF LATEXDIFF DIFFERENCE FILE
%DIF (...)
%DIF END PREAMBLE EXTENSION ADDED BY LATEXDIFF
\begin{document}
\subfile{includeme.tex}
\end{document}
```

So yes, the problem lies with the flatten pipeline/workflow, which does not seem to be made to work with `\subfile{includeme.tex}` includes.

latexdiff subfiles

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edited Mar 26 '14 at 14:23

asked Mar 25 '14 at 16:21



zm0

148 1 5

You could try some of the `flatten` alternatives discussed here: tex.stackexchange.com/questions/21838/... – Jörg Mar 26 '14 at 10:51

Could you add a MWE or at least a snippet of code that demonstrates how `subfiles` includes subsidiary files. – frederik Mar 26 '14 at 11:14

@f-tilman Added the MWE – zm0 Mar 26 '14 at 14:23

@jorg thanks, will have a look at that. – zm0 Mar 26 '14 at 14:24

Well, `latexdiff` does not know that it should expand the `\subfile` argument. You can adapt some of the scripts mentioned in the link before to use `\subfile` in a similar way as `\input`, but as your example of `includeme.tex` includes a `documentclass` I think it's not going to be compilable.– Jörg Mar 26 '14 at 14:28

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2 Answers

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Note that the following is a work-around rather than a full solution:

```
latexdiff --append-safecmd=subfile d1/main.tex d2/main.tex --flatten > mydiff.tex
```

3 will take care of the cases where a `\subfile` command has been added or removed from the file, and the whole block is marked up (only tested on the MWE, would need to be confirmed for longer included material), or the filename of included file changes. You would still need to copy the included files into the directory where the difference file is generated (current directory in the MWE).

To highlight content changes to the subfiles, you can process each file separately

```
cat /dev/null > null
latexdiff -pnull d1/includeme.tex d2/includeme.tex > includeme.tex
```

The `-p` option forces `latexdiff` to omit the preamble commands that it normally inserts automatically when it finds a `\begin{document}` (auxiliary file "null" is needed as `-p/dev/null` is not recognised due to a bug in `latexdiff`).

Now all that remains is to automate this. The following line is a hacky way to achieve some automation as proof-of-concept but would really need to be expanded into a more robust and flexible small shell script:

```
grep -v '^%' main.tex | grep subfile\{ | sed 's/^\.*subfile{\(.*\)}.*$/\1/' \
| awk '{ print "latexdiff -pnull d1/" $1, "d2/" $1,">", $1 }' | sh
```

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answered Mar 26 '14 at 21:29

 **frederik**
738 4 9

I have noted the OP question as a feature request and eventually the `--flatten` option of `latexdiff` might be updated to deal with this 'natively'. The 'null' file workaround will probably not be

necessary from version 1.0.4 onwards (not yet released at the time of writing) – [frederik Mar 26 '14 at 21:30](#)

Thanks! This is an actual workaround. Although I have to copy / reference some other files not in the MWE (style, bib, ..), to make the aggregated differences–tex work, this is probably the best/easiest solution for now. (If latexdiff could do it natively, of course that would be nice, too. Thanks for latexdiff as a whole, btw :-)) – [zm0 Mar 30 '14 at 8:10](#)

1 Note that latexdiff version 1.0.4 is now released and --flatten supports \subfile out of the box – [frederik Nov 4 '14 at 8:18](#)

1 @frederik It doesn't work if the subfile is in a subdirectory using \def\input@path{{./tex/} {./} {../}} . – [Avi Ginsburg Dec 30 '15 at 10:10](#)

1 @frederik Also doesn't work with \subfile{"Some File Name"} . Only tested on Windows. – [Avi Ginsburg Dec 30 '15 at 10:42](#)

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2 years after the question was asked, but I ended up writing a batch file for solving this in a windows environment:

```
0 @echo off
  setlocal

  set "old_path=..\..\tags\old_version\my_folder\"
  set "new_path=..\..\..\trunk\my_folder\"
  set "doc_name=my_file.tex"

  latexdiff --flatten %doc_name% %doc_name% > flat.tex
  cd %old_path%
  latexdiff --flatten %doc_name% %doc_name% > flat.tex
  cd %new_path%
  latexdiff --flatten %old_path%flat.tex flat.tex > diff.tex

  rm flat.tex
  rm %old_path%flat.tex
```

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[edited Dec 30 '16 at 2:51](#)

[answered Dec 30 '16 at 2:21](#)