The \texttt{sepfootnotes} package,* 
or a footnote to Plato

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Abstract 
This package supports footnotes and endnotes from separate files. This is achieved with commands \texttt{\sepfootnoteccontent} and \texttt{\sepfootnote}; the former defines the content of a note, while the latter typesets that note.

Introduction 
Standard \texttt{\footnote} and \texttt{\endnote} both take a note as a mandatory argument. Because notes have to be embedded in the paragraph to which they refer, sentences are often split up into two\footnote{This is precisely what this footnote does to the first paragraph of this document. There are more than thirty words between ‘two’ and ‘or more’ in the code of an otherwise short paragraph.} or more parts. Consequently, footnotes and endnotes may disrupt the flow of reading and editing \LaTeX prose.\footnote{In a posting to \texttt{texhax.tug.org} in April 2010, someone complained that using footnotes “tends to disrupt the flow of the document on the screen and makes editing the text itself harder”, and asked about the possibility of “putting all of the footnotes in a separate file” \cite{1}. Another user, back in 2004, remarked that the “only thing I missed about word processors was the ability to keep footnote text at the bottom of the page, or in a separate window. I often have extensive footnotes, and don’t want them cluttering up my main body text when I’m composing” \cite{2}.} This can be an issue for those who make extensive use of notes, such as philosophers and people from the humanities in general.

The \texttt{sepfootnotes} package gets around this inconvenience by separating note input from usage. That is, it provides a command to define what a particular note says, and another command to insert that note later on in the document.

Note definitions may be grouped together—in no particular order—in the preamble, at the beginning of chapters or sections, right before a paragraph, or even in a \texttt{separate file}. In that way, the main body is less cluttered.

You may use \texttt{sepfootnotes} and standard \texttt{\footnote} simultaneously; the same goes for \texttt{\footcite} from \texttt{biblatex}.

\footnote{This document corresponds to \texttt{sepfootnotes} 0.3b, dated July 22, 2014. I am grateful to Michael Sellhoff and Sam Foster for their valuable feedback on \texttt{sepfootnotes}, and to Dan Luecking for the basic idea implemented in this package.}
1 Synopsis

Default footnote apparatus
\sepfootnotecontent {\langle key \rangle} {\langle content \rangle}
\sepfootnote {\langle key \rangle}

User-defined footnote or endnote apparatus
\newfootnotes {\langle prefix \rangle}
\newfootnotes* {\langle prefix \rangle}
\newsymbolfootnotes [{\langle master counter \rangle}] {\langle prefix \rangle}
\newendnotes {\langle prefix \rangle}
\langle prefix \rangle\notecontent {\langle key \rangle} {\langle content \rangle}
\langle prefix \rangle\note {\langle key \rangle}
\langle prefix \rangle\notemark {\langle key \rangle}
\langle prefix \rangle\notetext {\langle key \rangle}
\langle prefix \rangle\print\note {\langle key \rangle}
\langle prefix \rangle\quicknote {\langle content \rangle}

Endnote-specific
\the{\langle prefix \rangle\notes}
\addto{\langle prefix \rangle\notes} {\langle text \rangle}

Formatting
\renewcommand\the{\langle prefix \rangle\note}
\renewcommand\the{\langle prefix \rangle\mark}
\renewcommand\make{\langle prefix \rangle\mark}
\renewcommand\\langle prefix \rangle\notesize
\renewcommand\\langle prefix \rangle\noteformat
\renewenvironment {\langle prefix \rangle\notes}

2 Basic usage
\sepfootnotecontent First define the \langle content \rangle of a footnote by assigning it a \langle key \rangle that uniquely identifies it:
\sepfootnotecontent {\langle key \rangle} {\langle content \rangle}

\sepfootnote Then insert that footnote anywhere in the main body by means of the same \langle key \rangle as used before:
\sepfootnote {\langle key \rangle}
3 Advanced usage

The `sepfootnotes` apparatus described above is available by default. But you may create as many distinct and independent footnote or endnote apparatus as needed:

\begin{verbatim}
\newfootnotes \{\langle prefix\rangle\}
Create an apparatus of footnote commands named after \langle prefix\rangle using the standard \texttt{footnote} counter.

\newfootnotes* \{\langle prefix\rangle\}
Create an apparatus of footnote commands named after \langle prefix\rangle using its own counter.

\newsymbolfootnotes \{\langle master counter\rangle\} \{\langle prefix\rangle\}
Create an apparatus of symbol-footnote commands named after \langle prefix\rangle using its own counter. The optional argument \langle master counter\rangle can be anything like \texttt{page, section, chapter,} etc. The default master counter is \texttt{page.} The series of symbols is reset each new page, so that * marks the first symbol-footnote on any page, whereas † marks the second, ‡ the third, and so on.

\newendnotes \{\langle prefix\rangle\}
Create an apparatus of endnote commands named after \langle prefix\rangle using its own counter.
\end{verbatim}

This is how to typeset notes: once a note apparatus of any kind is created, you need to assign a \langle key\rangle to a \langle content\rangle:

\begin{verbatim}
\langle prefix\rangle\notecontent \{\langle key\rangle\} \{\langle content\rangle\}
\end{verbatim}

And then use the \langle key\rangle to typeset that content using any of the following:

\begin{verbatim}
\langle prefix\rangle\note \{\langle key\rangle\}
Typeset a note identified by \langle key\rangle.

\langle prefix\rangle\notemark \{\langle key\rangle\}
Typeset just the mark identified by \langle key\rangle without the corresponding note.

\langle prefix\rangle\notetext \{\langle key\rangle\}
Typeset just the note identified by \langle key\rangle without the corresponding mark.

\texttt{\print\langle prefix\rangle\note} \{\langle key\rangle\}
Just print the \langle content\rangle identified by \langle key\rangle.

\langle prefix\rangle\quicknote \{\langle content\rangle\}
Typeset a note with \langle content\rangle without a key. This is similar to standard \texttt{\footnote} \{\langle content\rangle\}, and may be useful for short notes, such as “Idem.”
\end{verbatim}
These are endnote-specific:
\the\<prefix>notes
\addto\<prefix>notes
\<prefix>notesize
\the\<prefix>note
\the\<prefix>mark
\make\<prefix>mark
\<prefix>noteformat

Typeset the actual endnotes at the end of a chapter or section.
\addto\<prefix>notes \{(text)\}
Add \text to endnotes.
Suggestion: \subsection*

\renewcommand\<prefix>notesize
Define the fontsize in which to typeset endnotes.
Default: \footnotesize

\renewenvironment \{(prefix)notes\}
Define the environment in which endnotes are typeset.
Default: \<prefix>notesize\setlength\parskip\footnotesep

\renewcommand\the\<prefix>note
Define how endnote numbers are typeset.
Default: \arabic \(\<prefix>note\)

\renewcommand\the\<prefix>mark
Define how endnote marks are typeset.
Default: \the\<prefix>note

\renewcommand\make\<prefix>mark
Define how a particular endnote mark is typeset.
Default: \hbox {\normalfont \the\<prefix>mark. \}

\renewcommand\<prefix>noteformat
Define how a particular endnote is typeset.
Default: \noindent \rightskip\z@ \leftskip\z@
\leavevmode \llap {\make\<prefix>mark}\}

4 Package options

\texttt{warn} Print warning messages. (Default.)
\texttt{error} Print warning messages, halt, and wait for user input.
\texttt{quiet} Suppress warning and error messages.

\footnote{Adapted from the LaTeX2e sources.}
\footnote{Adapted from the endnotes package.}
5 Examples

Example 1
How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as a footnote to Plato using the default sepfootnotes apparatus:

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\sepfootnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates’s pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\sepfootnote{Plato}
\end{document}

Example 2
How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as a footnote to Plato using a user-defined footnote apparatus with prefix a-

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newfootnotes{a}
\anotecontent{Plato}{Socrates’s pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\anote{Plato}
\end{document}

Example 3
How to typeset a footnote from a separate file using a user-defined apparatus with prefix b-

- mynotes.tex:
  \bnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates’s pupil.}

- document.tex:
  \documentclass{article}
  \usepackage{sepfootnotes}
  \newfootnotes{b}
  \input{mynotes}
  \begin{document}
  This was first brought up by the great Plato.\bnote{Plato}
  \end{document}
Example 4

How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as a symbol-footnote to Plato using a user-defined footnote apparatus with prefix symbol-

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newsymbolfootnotes{symbol}
\symbolnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates's pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\symbolnote{Plato}
\end{document}

Example 5

How to typeset ‘Socrates’s pupil’ as an endnote to Plato using a user-defined endnote apparatus with prefix x-

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{sepfootnotes}
\newendnotes{x}
\xnotecontent{Plato}{Socrates's pupil.}
\begin{document}
This was first brought up by the great Plato.\xnote{Plato}
\section*{Notes}
\thenotes
\end{document}

Example 6

How to typeset a footnote to Plato and an endnote to Homer from a separate file in no particular order:

- mynotes.tex:

  \notecontent{Homer}{The greatest of ancient poets.}
  \anotecontent{Plato}{Socrates’s pupil.}

- document.tex:

  \documentclass{article}
  \usepackage{sepfootnotes}
  \newfootnotes{a}
  \newendnotes{x}
  \input{mynotes}
  \begin{document}
  This was first brought up by the great Plato.\anote{Plato}
  But an antecedent is to be found in Homer.\xnote{Homer}
  \section*{Notes}
  \thenotes
  \end{document}
References
