

# The `mhsetup` package\*

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## Abstract

The `mhsetup` package provides tools for a  $\LaTeX$  programming environment similar to the one described in `expl3` on CTAN although not as extensive. It is a required part of both the `mathtools` and `empheq` packages.

The description below was made before the extensive changes made to the `expl3` code available from the LaTeX Project website.

## 1 The new internal syntax

The  $\LaTeX$ 3 package `l3dcs` defines the command `\InternalSyntaxOn` which makes `_` and `:` letters and then automatically restores the category codes at the end of the package. This usually works fine but when you try to load `amstext` you will experience that  $\TeX$  goes into an infinite loop. Packages containing code like `\@for\@tempa:=\@tempb\do{...}` will not work correctly either, thus we provide an alternative version here with the pair of commands

`\MHInternalSyntaxOn` `\MHInternalSyntaxOff` and `\MHInternalSyntaxOn` `\MHInternalSyntaxOff`. They are to be used only as a pair, because `\MHInternalSyntaxOn` defines `\MHInternalSyntaxOff` so that it restores the category codes correctly.

## 2 Handling optional arguments

The standard behavior of scanning for optional arguments in  $\LaTeX$  allows any number of spaces preceding the optional argument and that is not always good in math. For that reason `amsmath` makes sure that commands like `\` disallow spaces before the optional argument but at the same time it fails to provide “safe” environments. What would you expect from the following input?

```
\[
  \begin{gathered}
    [v] = 100 \\
    [t] = 200
  \end{gathered}
\]
```

---

\*This package has version number v1.4, last revised on 2021/03/18.

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X will see the [v] as an optional argument of `gathered` and use it. In this case the test inside `gathered` checks if it's a `t` or `b` and if it's neither it'll choose `\vcenter` internally. So you get no warning, only missing output. Another example, this time from the `empheq` package used with its `overload` option: If preceding spaces are allowed, the input

```
\begin{gather}
[a] = [b]
\end{gather}
```

results in the rather strange error message

```
! Package keyval Error: a undefined.
```

When using `\newcommand` etc. for defining commands and environments with optional arguments, the peek ahead is done by `\kernel@ifnextchar` (since L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X release 2003/12/01, else `\@ifnextchar`) and it is *hardwired at definition time* by `\@xargdef`. With the commands `\MHPrecedingSpacesOff` and `\MHPrecedingSpacesOn` `mhsetup` provides an interface to define commands and environments where the optional argument cannot have preceding spaces. You simply wrap them around the definitions:

```
\MHPrecedingSpacesOff
\newenvironment*{test}[1][default]{Start, arg: (#1)}{Ending.}
\MHPrecedingSpacesOn
\begin{test}
[text]
\end{test}
\begin{test}[text]
\end{test}
```

Start, arg: (default) [text] Ending. Start, arg: (text) Ending.

It is of somewhat limited use in commands (control words in T<sub>E</sub>X terminology), because T<sub>E</sub>X discards the spaces. The exception is *control symbols* where T<sub>E</sub>X obeys following spaces but there are rather few of them available. All is not lost however. In the `aligned` environment from `amsmath` (shown below) a command is used as argument grabber.

```
\newenvironment{aligned}{%
\let\@testopt\alignsafe@testopt
\aligned@a
}{%
\crrc\egroup
\restorecolumn@
\egroup
}
\newcommand{\aligned@a}[1][c]{\start@aligned{#1}\m@ne}
```

By applying our trick on the grabber function, we get a space obeying version:

```
\MHPrecedingSpacesOff
```

```
\renewcommand*\aligned@a[1][c]{\start@aligned{#1}\m@ne}
\MHPrecedingSpacesOn
```

This way a nested aligned environment is still safe from empty first cells.

### 3 First bits of a new programming environment

```
1 (*package)
2 \ProvidesPackage{mhsetup}%
3 [2021/03/18 v1.4 programming setup (MH)]
```

#### 3.1 The new internal syntax

```
\MHInternalSyntaxOn Almost copy of \InternalSyntaxOn.
\MHInternalSyntaxOff 4 \def\MHInternalSyntaxOn{
5 \edef\MHInternalSyntaxOff{%
6 \catcode'\noexpand\~=\the\catcode'\~\relax
7 \catcode'\noexpand\ =\the\catcode'\ \relax
8 \catcode'\noexpand\^^I=\the\catcode'\^^I\relax
9 \catcode'\noexpand\@=\the\catcode'\@\relax
10 \catcode'\noexpand\:=\the\catcode'\:\relax
11 \catcode'\noexpand\_=\the\catcode'\_\relax
12 \endlinechar=\the\endlinechar\relax
13 }%
14 \catcode'\~=10\relax
15 \catcode'\ =9\relax
16 \catcode'\^^I=9\relax
17 \makeatletter
18 \catcode'\_=11\relax
19 \catcode'\:=11\relax
20 \endlinechar=' %
21 \relax
22 }
23 \MHInternalSyntaxOn
24 \AtEndOfPackage{\MHInternalSyntaxOff}
```

#### 3.2 Programming tools

The whole idea is to provide programming tools that are convenient but not yet widely available. I hope this'll be obsolete soon!

Firstly we set up a few helper functions.

```
\MH_let:NwN An alias for \let.
25 \let\MH_let:NwN \let

\MH_let:cN This one takes a \csname-\endcsname name and \lets it to a single macro. We'll
use this to setup our conditionals.
26 \def\MH_let:cN #1#2{
27 \expandafter\MH_let:NwN \csname#1\endcsname#2}

\MH_let:cc This one takes a \csname-\endcsname name and \lets it to another \csname-
\endcsname name. To be used in constructions with weird characters like * or
alike in them and can take a \global prefix if wanted (we want that later on).
```

```

28 \def\MH_let:cc #1#2{
29   \expandafter\MH_let:NwN\csname#1\expandafter\endcsname
30   \csname#2\endcsname}

```

```

\MH_new_boolean:n Sets up conditionals. For instance
\MH_set_boolean_F:n      \MH_new_boolean:n {<name>}
\MH_set_boolean_T:n
\MH_if_boolean:nTF defines the boolean <name> but also the conditional \MH_if_boolean_<name>: to
\MH_if_boolean:nT be used in the ordinary
\MH_if_boolean:nF
\MH_if_boolean_<name>:
  <true code>
\MH_else:
  <>false code>
\MH_fi:

```

There is also a more “L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-like” interface available by using the commands

```
\MH_if_boolean:nT{<name>}{<arg>}
```

which will execute the argument if the current value of the boolean is ‘true’ while

```
\MH_if_boolean:nF{<name>}{<arg>}
```

is the equivalent with ‘false’. Finally we have

```
\MH_if_boolean:nTF{<name>}{<true code>}{<>false code>}
```

This is the interface I have used in this package.

Initially `\MH_if_boolean_<name>:` is ‘false’. This can be changed by saying

```

TEX: \MH_boolean_<name>_true: or
LATEX: \MH_set_boolean_T:n{<name>}

```

and changed back again by

```

TEX: \MH_boolean_<name>_false: or
LATEX: \MH_set_boolean_F:n{<name>}

```

And yes, we’re also using alternative names for `\else` and `\fi` now. That way a simple search and replace will be all that is needed for this package to be a certified L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 package (well, maybe a little more is needed, but not much).

```

31 \def\MH_new_boolean:n #1{
32   \expandafter\@ifdefinable\csname MH_if_boolean_#1:\endcsname{
33     \namedef{MH_boolean_#1_true:}
34     {\MH_let:cN{MH_if_boolean_#1:}\iftrue}
35     \namedef{MH_boolean_#1_false:}
36     {\MH_let:cN{MH_if_boolean_#1:}\iffalse}
37     \@nameuse{MH_boolean_#1_false:}%
38   }
39 }
40 \def\MH_set_boolean_F:n #1{ \@nameuse{MH_boolean_#1_false:} }
41 \def\MH_set_boolean_T:n #1{ \@nameuse{MH_boolean_#1_true:} }
42 \def\MH_if_boolean:nTF #1{
43   \@nameuse{MH_if_boolean_#1:}
44   \expandafter\@firstoftwo

```

```

45 \MH_else:
46   \expandafter\@secondoftwo
47 \MH_fi:
48 }
49 \def\MH_if_boolean:nT #1{
50   \@nameuse{MH_if_boolean_#1:}
51   \expandafter\@firstofone
52 \MH_else:
53   \expandafter\@gobble
54 \MH_fi:
55 }
56 \def\MH_if_boolean:nF #1{
57   \@nameuse{MH_if_boolean_#1:}
58   \expandafter\@gobble
59 \MH_else:
60   \expandafter\@firstofone
61 \MH_fi:
62 }

```

\MH\_if:w Copies of TeX primitives.

```

\MH_if_meaning:NN 63 \@ifundefined{MH_if:w}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_if:w =\if}{-}
\MH_else:         64 \@ifundefined{MH_if_meaning:NN}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_if_meaning:NN =\ifx}{-}
\MH_fi:          65 \@ifundefined{MH_else:}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_else: =\else}{-}
\MH_if_num:w     66 \@ifundefined{MH_fi:}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_fi: =\fi}{-}
\MH_if_dim:w    67 \AtBeginDocument{
\MH_if_case:w   68   \@ifundefined{MH_if_num:w}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_if_num:w =\ifnum}{-}
\MH_or:         69   \@ifundefined{MH_if_dim:w}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_if_dim:w =\ifdim}{-}
               70   \@ifundefined{MH_if_case:w}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_if_case:w =\ifcase}{-}
               71 }
               72 \@ifundefined{MH_or:}{\MH_let:NwN \MH_or: =\or}{-}

```

\MH\_cs\_to\_str:N Strip off the backslash of a macro name.

```

73 \def\MH_cs_to_str:N {\expandafter\@gobble\string}

```

\MH\_protected: We might as well make use of some of the extended features from  $\varepsilon$ -TeX. We use  
\MH\_setlength:dn \dimexpr for some simple calculations as it saves a lot of the scanning that goes on  
\MH\_addtolength:dn inside calc. The \protected primitive comes in handy when we want to declare  
a robust command, that cannot be ‘robustified’ with \DeclareRobustCommand.  
If we don’t have  $\varepsilon$ -TeX we’ll just let our private macros be aliases for the less  
effective alternatives.

```

74 \@ifundefined{eTeXversion}
75 {
76   \MH_let:NwN \MH_protected:\relax
77   \def\MH_setlength:dn{\setlength}
78   \def\MH_addtolength:dn{\addtolength}
79 }
80 {
81   \MH_let:NwN \MH_protected:\protected
82   \def\MH_setlength:dn #1#2{#1=\dimexpr#2\relax\relax}
83   \def\MH_addtolength:dn #1#2{\advance#1 \dimexpr#2\relax\relax}
84 }

```

\MH\_keyval\_alias\_with\_addon:nnnn A way to make aliases with keyval. This will come in handy later.

\MH\_keyval\_alias:nnn

```

85 \def\MH_keyval_alias_with_addon:nnnn #1#2#3#4{
86   \@namedef{KV@#1@#2}{\@nameuse{KV@#1@#3}#4}
87   \@namedef{KV@#1@#2@default}{\@nameuse{KV@#1@#3@default}#4}}
88 \def\MH_keyval_alias:nnn #1#2#3{
89   \MH_keyval_alias_with_addon:nnnn {#1}{#2}{#3}{}}

\MH_use_choice_i:nnnn I need to be able to pick up individual arguments in a list of four (similar to
\MH_use_choice_ii:nnnn \@secondoftwo).
\MH_use_choice_iii:nnnn 90 \def\MH_use_choice_i:nnnn #1#2#3#4{#1}
\MH_use_choice_iv:nnnn 91 \def\MH_use_choice_ii:nnnn #1#2#3#4{#2}
92 \def\MH_use_choice_iii:nnnn #1#2#3#4{#3}
93 \def\MH_use_choice_iv:nnnn #1#2#3#4{#4}

\MH_nospace_ifnextchar:Nnn Scanning for the next character but disallow spaces.
  \MH_nospace_nextchar: 94 \long\def\MH_nospace_ifnextchar:Nnn #1#2#3{
  \MH_nospace_testopt:nn 95   \MH_group_align_safe_begin: % added 2021/01/14
\MH_nospace_protected_testopt:n 96   \MH_let:NwN\reserved@d=#1
97   \def\reserved@a{\MH_group_align_safe_end: #2} % changed 2021/01/14
98   \def\reserved@b{\MH_group_align_safe_end: #3} % changed 2021/01/14
99   \futurelet\@let@token\MH_nospace_nextchar:
100  }
101 \def\MH_nospace_nextchar:{
102   \MH_if_meaning:NN \@let@token\reserved@d
103   \MH_let:NwN \reserved@b\reserved@a
104   \MH_fi:
105   \reserved@b
106  }
107 \long\def\MH_nospace_testopt:nn #1#2{
108   \MH_nospace_ifnextchar:Nnn[
109     {#1}
110     {#1[#{#2}]}
111  ]
112 \def\MH_nospace_protected_testopt:n #1{
113   \MH_if_meaning:NN \protect\@typeset@protect
114   \expandafter\MH_nospace_testopt:nn
115   \MH_else:
116   \@x@protect#1
117   \MH_fi:
118  }

  \kernel@ifnextchar The code for the space sensitive peek ahead.
\MH_kernel_xargdef:nwnn 119 \@ifundefined{kernel@ifnextchar}
\MH_nospace_xargdef:nwnn 120  {\MH_let:NwN \kernel@ifnextchar \@ifnextchar}
  \MHPrecedingSpacesOff 121  {}
  \MHPrecedingSpacesOn 122 \MH_let:NwN \MH_kernel_xargdef:nwnn \@xargdef
123 \long\def\MH_nospace_xargdef:nwnn #1[#2][#3]#4{
124   \@ifdefinable#1{
125     \expandafter\def\expandafter#1\expandafter{
126       \expandafter
127       \MH_nospace_protected_testopt:n
128       \expandafter
129       #1
130       \csname\string#1\endcsname
131       {#3}}

```

```

132     \expandafter\@yargdef
133     \csname\string#1\endcsname
134     \tw@
135     {#2}
136     {#4}}}
137 \providecommand*\MHPrecedingSpacesOff{
138   \MH_let:NwN \@xargdef \MH_nospace_xargdef:nwwn
139 }
140 \providecommand*\MHPrecedingSpacesOn{
141   \MH_let:NwN \@xargdef \MH_kernel_xargdef:nwwn
142 }

\MH_group_align_safe_begin:
\MH_group_align_safe_end: 143 \def \MH_group_align_safe_begin: {\iffalse{\fi\ifnum0='}\fi}
144 \def \MH_group_align_safe_end:  {\ifnum0='{}\fi}

145 \end{package}

```