The **classics** package,*
or the end of anachronism

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**Abstract**

This package provides a basic framework to cite classic works in accordance with traditional pagination systems. It can also be used in conjunction with other citation packages.

**Introduction**

If you feel there is something wrong with “Plato (1994: pp. 50–1)”, “Aristotle (Ethics, 44)” or “Hume (2000: 303)”, this package is for you. The **classics** package provides a basic framework to cite classic works in compliance with traditional pagination systems. For example:

*Theaetetus* 142d4–5

*Nic. Eth.* 1179b14–1180a29

*THN* 3.1.2

Citation commands created by **classics** can also be used in conjunction with other citations engines such as standard `\cite`, `biblatex`, `natbib`, etc.

1 **Synopsis**

\newclassic [(range separator)] {(classic)} {\{list of formatting directives\}}

\<classic> [(work)] {(page)} [(section)]

\<classic>* [(work)] {(page)} [(section)] {(last page)} [(section)]

\newpagination {(pagination)} {(singular)} {(plural)} {(conjunction)}

\<pagination> {(range)}

\DeclareClassicWorkFormat {\{formatting directive\}}

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*This document corresponds to **classics** 0.1, dated February 2, 2013. I am grateful to Joseph Wright and Scott H. for suggestions.*
2 Basic usage

\newclassic [(range separator)] {(classic)} {(list of formatting directives)}

Creates a citation command \(\texttt{classic}\) based on a \(\texttt{list of formatting directives}\) separated by vertical bars. Each formatting directive has its own \#1 and is used to declare the format in which to typeset the reference to a subdivision of a classic work. There can be at most six such directives. As an example:

\newclassic \{Aristotle\} \{#1|\textit{#1}|#1\}

would create a new citation command \texttt{Aristotle}:

\Aristotle [(work)] {(page)} {(column)} {(line)}
\Aristotle* [(work)] {(page)} {(column)} {(last page)} {(column)} {(line)}

to typeset references in which letters for \(\texttt{column}\) are printed in italic type. The starred version \texttt{Aristotle*} is used to cite a range of two pages separated by \(\texttt{range separator}\).

\textbf{Note:} \texttt{Aristotle*} will not typeset \(\texttt{last page}\) if \(\texttt{page}\) and \(\texttt{last page}\) are the same. However, \(\texttt{last page}\) will be preserved if \texttt{Aristotle*} is created by the starred version \texttt{newclassic*}.

\newpagination {(pagination)} {(singular)} {(plural)} {(conjunction)}

Creates a command \(\texttt{pagination}\) to typeset \(\texttt{singular}\) or \(\texttt{plural}\) depending on whether subsequent arguments to \(\texttt{pagination}\) are singular or plural. As an example:

\newpagination \{\pages\ \{page\} \{pages\} \{ and \}

would create the command \texttt{pages}:

\pages {(range)}

that automatically typesets \texttt{page} \(\texttt{range}\) if \(\texttt{range}\) is singular, or \texttt{pages} \(\texttt{range}\) if \(\texttt{range}\) is plural, that is, if it contains a comma, a hyphen, a dash, or \(\texttt{conjunction}\).

\textbf{Note:} \(\texttt{conjunction}\) might need to be enclosed in spaces.

\DeclareClassicWorkFormat {(formatting directive)}

Defines the format to typeset classic titles in. The default \(\texttt{formatting directive}\) is \texttt{textit\#1}. 

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\classicsalph \(\{\text{integer}\}\)
\classicsAlph \(\{\text{integer}\}\)
\classicsroman \(\{\text{integer}\}\)
\classicsRoman \(\{\text{integer}\}\)

These commands may come in handy if you want to typeset a subdivision as a letter or Roman numeral, lowercase or uppercase.

3 Advanced usage

You may combine \newclassic and \newpagination to create complex citation styles. For example:

\Hume \[(\text{work})\] \{(\text{book})\} \{(\text{part})\} \{(\text{section})\}

can be created by:

\DeclareClassicWorkFormat{\textit{#1},}
\newpagination \{books\} \{book\} \{books\} \{ and \}
\newpagination \{parts\} \{part\} \{parts\} \{ and \}
\newpagination \{sections\} \{section\} \{sections\} \{ and \}
\newclassic \{Hume\} \{books\{#1\}|, \parts\{#1\}|, \sections\{#1\}|}

so that:

\Hume[Treatise]{3}{1}[2]

would typeset “Treatise, book 3, part 1, section 2”.

\Homer \[(\text{work})\] \{(\text{book})\} \{(\text{lines})\}

can be created by:

\DeclareClassicWorkFormat{\textit{#1},}
\newpagination \{books\} \{book\} \{books\} \{ and \}
\newpagination \{lines\} \{line\} \{lines\} \{ and \}
\newclassic \{Homer\} \{books{\classicsRoman{#1}}|, \lines\{#1\}}

so that:

\Homer[Odyssey]{3}{100--2}

will typeset: “Odyssey, book III, lines 100–2”.

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### 3.1 Caveat

Citation styles created by the \texttt{classics} package can also be used in conjunction with standard \texttt{cite}, \texttt{biblatex}, \texttt{natbib}, etc.

A simple \texttt{classics} pagination command created by \texttt{\newpagination} can be used directly within the optional argument to \texttt{\cite}:

\begin{verbatim}
\cite[\pages{\{number\}]}{\{key\}}
\end{verbatim}

However, a complex \texttt{classics} citation command created by \texttt{\newclassic} can be used within the optional argument to \texttt{\cite} only if it is enclosed in braces.

\begin{verbatim}
\cite[\{\Homer{\{book\}}[\{line\}]}]{\{key\}}
\end{verbatim}

For example:

\begin{verbatim}
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{classics}
\newclassic{Homer}{#1|:#1}
\begin{document}
\cite[\{\Homer{3}[100--2]\}]{Odyssey}
\begin{thebibliography}{10}
\bibitem[Od.]{Odyssey} Homer. \textit{Odyssey}.
\end{thebibliography}
\end{document}
\end{verbatim}

### 4 Examples

#### 4.1 Plato

\begin{verbatim}
\newclassic{Plato}{#1|#1|#1}
\Plato{142}[a] 142a
\Plato{142}[a][3] 142a3
\Plato{142}[a][3--4] 142a3–4
\Plato*{142}[a][3]{142}{b} 142a3–b
\Plato*{142}[a][3]{142}{b}[4] 142a3–b4
\Plato*{142}[a][3]{143}{b} 142a3–143b
\Plato*{142}[a][3]{143}{b}[4] 142a3–143b4
\Plato*[Theaet.]{142}[a][3] Theaet. 142a3
\Plato*[Theaet.]{142}[a][3]{143}{b}[4] Theaet. 142a3–143b4
\end{verbatim}
4.2 Aristotle

\newclassic {Aristotle} {#1|\textit{#1}|#1}

\Aristotle  {185}  185
\Aristotle  {185}[a]  185a
\Aristotle*  {185}[a]{185}[b]  185a–b
\Aristotle*  {185}[a]{185}[b][2]  185a–b2
\Aristotle*  {185}[a]{186}  185a–186
\Aristotle*  {185}[a]{186}[a]  185a–186a
\Aristotle*  {185}[a]{186}[a][3]  185a–186a3
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a]{185}[b]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a]{185}[b][2]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a]{186}
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a]{186}[a]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a]{186}[a][3]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a]{186}[a][3--5]
\Aristotle [Phys.]{185}[a] [10]
\Aristotle [Phys.]{185}[a] [10--2]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a] [10]{185}[b]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a] [10]{185}[b][2]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a] [10]{186}
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a] [10]{186}[a]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a] [10]{186}[a][3]
\Aristotle* [Phys.]{185}[a] [10]{186}[a][3--5]

4.3 Homer

\DeclareClassicWorkFormat{\textbf{#1},}
\newclassic [ to ] {Homer}{\books{\classicsRoman{#1}}|, \lines{#1}}

\Homer  {2}[100]  book II, line 100
\Homer  {2}[100--4]  book II, lines 100–4
\Homer*{2}[100][3][80]  book II, line 100 to book III, line 80
\Homer [Iliad]{2}[100]  Iliad, book II, line 100
\Homer* [Iliad]{2}[100][3][80]  Iliad, book II, line 100 to book III, line 80