The \texttt{amstext} package

Frank Mittelbach Rainer Schöpf

Version v2.01, 2000/06/29

This file is maintained by the \LaTeX{} Project team. Bug reports can be opened (category \texttt{amslatex}) at \url{https://latex-project.org/bugs/}.

1 Introduction

This style file implements the \texttt{AMS-\LaTeX} macro \texttt{text} for use with the new font selection scheme. The \texttt{text} macro is a sophisticated command which allows the user to insert “normal text” into math formulas without worrying about correct sizes in sub- or superscripts. It can also be used in ordinary text; there it produces an unbreakable unit similar to \texttt{\mbox}.

Here is an example demonstrating some of its features:

\[
x^{2 \times \text{size of } y} \leq z_{i_{\text{upper bound of the array}}}
\]

This was produced by

\[
\begin{array}{l}
x^{2 \times \text{size of } y} \\
\leq \\
z_{i_{\text{upper bound of the array}}}
\end{array}
\]

Additionally this style file redefines an internal \texttt{plain.tex} macro called \texttt{\mathhexbox} so that commands like \texttt{\dag} or \texttt{\P} will change sizes if used in math subscripts.

Package information.

\texttt{\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}} \% \LaTeX{} 2.09 can’t be used (nor non-\LaTeX{} )
\texttt{[1994/12/01]} \% \LaTeX{} date must be December 1994 or later
\texttt{\ProvidesPackage{amstext}[2000/06/29 v2.01 AMS text]}

2 The implementation

We need a few tools from \texttt{amsgen.sty}.

\texttt{\RequirePackage{amsgen}}

1
\text \text Now we come to the \text macro which is used to place ordinary text inside of math formulas. If it is used outside math it will produce an unbreakable unit of text.

\text The AMSTeX package

\text To typeset the argument of \text correctly we have to make several actions. We start by placing everything inside an \hbox. But this is not enough: we need one extra level of grouping. These extra braces are necessary because of the new font
selection scheme which might produce an \aftergroup to globally restore some
font values after the current group. To prevent any damage by this mechanism
we add the braces thereby bringing the token inserted by \aftergroup inside
the \hbox.\footnote{The mechanism will not produce a second \aftergroup. For more
details see the technical documentation for NFSS2.}

\def\textdef@#1#2#3{\hbox{{%
Since text typeset inside an \hbox always stays in the size of the text surrounding
the formula we have to adjust this for script and scriptscript sizes. For any math
formula inside this argument this will be achieved by setting \everymath to the
first argument of \textdef@ since this argument contains the math size in the
current typeset case of \mathchoice. Since L\TeX\ also knows about \parbox
es and the \minipage environment it might be necessary to adjust \everydisplay
too but this has to be tested further.
\everymath{#1}%
The next line of code changes locally (i.e. inside the current \hbox) the value of
\f@size. This macro holds the size for typesetting ordinary text (e.g. loading
or selecting a new font via \selectfont). By changing it to a smaller value a
following \selectfont will switch to the wanted size.
\let\f@size#2\selectfont
Now we simply call the third argument and close all open groups.
\textdef@{#3}{}}

\iffirstchoice@ Here is the switch that we use to decide if \ref etc. should print its warnings.
The default is true since normally these warnings shouldn’t be suppressed.
\newif\iffirstchoice@
\iffirstchoice@true

2.1 Re-definition of L\TeX macros to work with \text
If a counter-changing command occurs inside the argument of \text, we
don’t want the counter to be changed four times because \stepcounter and
\addtocounter have global effect. So we add the \iffirstchoice@ test to
make the counter operations execute only once.

\stepcounter Use \def rather than \renewcommand* because the star-form (for non-\long
definitions) doesn’t work with the June 1994 release of L\TeX.\footnote{The mechanism will not produce a second \aftergroup. For more
details see the technical documentation for NFSS2.}
\def\stepcounter#1{%\iffirstchoice@
  \addtocounter{#1}\@ne
  \begingroup \let\@elt\@stpelt \csname cl@#1\endcsname \endgroup
  \fi}
\addtocounter
\def\addtocounter#1#2{%}
\iffirstchoice@
@ifundefined {c@#1}{\@nocounterr {#1}}%
{\global \advance \csname c@#1\endcsname #2\relax}%
\fi

For \ref, \pageref, and indeed anything else that issues a warning or error, \text will produce four copies of the warning/error message. To suppress the last three copies, we change \GenericInfo, \GenericWarning, \GenericError.

\let\m@gobble\@empty
@xp\let\csname m@gobble4\endcsname\@gobblefour
@xp\long\def\csname m@gobble6\endcsname#1#2#3#4#5#6{}%\toks@{\csname m@gobble\iffirstchoice@\else 4\fi\endcsname
\protect}\edef\GenericInfo{\the\toks@\@xp\@nx\csname GenericInfo \endcsname}%
\edef\GenericWarning{\the\toks@\@xp\@nx\csname GenericWarning \endcsname}%
\toks@{\csname m@gobble\iffirstchoice@\else 6\fi\endcsname\protect}\edef\GenericError{\the\toks@\@xp\@nx\csname GenericError \endcsname}%

At one time \label, \@wrindex and \@wrglossary were changed here too to use the \iffirstchoice@ test but it seems that was a mistake because those are non-immediate writes. Something like
\text{something \index{foo}}

within a math formula would therefore lose the index term if the surrounding context was not displaystyle. (Unlikely in practice, but not impossible.) [mjd,1994/12/09]

2.2 Applications of \text

\mathhexbox We start with an re-definition of the plain.tex macro \mathhexbox. (Although M. Spivak in A\LaTeX uses the name \mathhexbox@ for this purpose, I [FMJ] don’t see any reason to use a new name since the new definition is superior, has the same syntax and is used for the same purpose.)

\begingroup \catcode`\"=12
\gdef\mathhexbox#1#2#3{\text{$\m@th\mathchar"#1#2#3$}}
\endgroup

This redefinition means that now symbols like §, ¶, †, . . . , which are defined via \mathhexbox in plain.tex or elsewhere now correctly change sizes if they are used in math mode.
2. THE IMPLEMENTATION

The usual \texttt{endinput} to ensure that random garbage at the end of the file doesn’t get copied by \texttt{docstrip}.

\texttt{endinput}