

The `lhelp` Package*

Volker Kuhlmann†

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Abstract

This LaTeX2e package defines macros which are useful for many documents. It is a large collection of simple “little helpers” which do not really warrant a separate package on their own.

Included are, among other things, definitions of common units with preceeding thinspace and optionally following space, framed boxes where both width and height can be specified, starting new odd or even pages, draft markers, notes, conditional includes, including EPS files, and versions of enumerate and itemize which allow the horizontal and vertical spacing to be changed.

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†Email: VolkerKuhlmann@GMX.de. For a postal address refer to the license section.

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1 License

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Volker Kuhlmann, c/o University of Canterbury, ELEC Dept, Creyke Road,
Christchurch, New Zealand
E-Mail: VolkerKuhlmann@GMX.de

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2 Introduction

This package is a collection of helpful short macros which are not related to each other.

Most of these macros are generally useful, but some will be useful to only a few people, if at all. They are combined here because any document I write uses at least some of them.

The first version of this package dates back to 1994, and combined bits and pieces from older L^AT_EX2.09 packages into this one. This package was made specifically for L^AT_EX 2_ε.

3 User Manual

3.1 Units

A selection of units is defined. Because the names are short and could easily clash with something else, units are only defined when the respective package option is used. All defined units have the thinspace between the number and the unit already included, so '123\cm' gives '123 cm'.

The units defined by `unitBasic` redefine existing control sequences.

A degree symbol and commands for degree celsius and fahrenheit are provided. Because \degree clashes with many thesis packages, `lhelp` will define both \degree and \Degree to be the degree symbol (superscript circle), if they are not defined already by the time `lhelp` is loaded. Either way, \celsius and \fahren will work.

`\muunit` \muunit produces just the micro (μ) part of the unit and includes the thinspace. If \textmu is defined (by e.g. `textcomp`), it will be used instead of \$\\mu\$.

`unitxspace` With package option `unitxspace`, all defined units are followed by an \xspace, which automatically insert white space if the unit is not followed by punctuation. E.g. 'is 23\m long' becomes 'is 23 m long' instead of 'is 23 mlong'. See the `xspace` package for details.

\celsius	Package option <code>unitbasic</code> :	Package option <code>unittemp</code> :
\fahren	\g g \kg kg \mm mm \mum μm \cm cm \m m \ml, \mL mL \ns ns \mus μs \ms ms \s s \h h \muunit μ	\degree $^\circ$ (see text) \Degree $^\circ$ (see text) \celsius $^\circ\text{C}$ \fahren $^\circ\text{F}$
		Package option <code>unitelec</code> :
		\muA μA \muH μH \muV μV \muW μW \ohm Ω \kohm $\text{k}\Omega$ \Mohm $\text{M}\Omega$ \ac ac
	Package option <code>unitBasic</code> :	\dc dc \rms rms \Vac V_{ac} \Vdc V_{dc} \VLL V_{LL} \kVLL V_{LL}
	\l L \L L \min min	

Package option `units`: all of the above.

3.2 Paragraph and page layout

- `page` Package option `page` sets a zero `\parindent` and a non-zero `\parskip`. Option `emptyemptytype` `page` also selects pagestyle empty. If package `vmargin` was loaded before package `lhelp`, `vmargin` both options also set the paper size to A4 and the margins to some more useful values.

3.3 Draft markers

- `draftmark` Package option `draftmark` selects pagestyle plain and changes the page footer to include the current date and the text “DRAFT”. This works with the standard pagestyles empty (which is not empty then), plain, and headings. It obviously does not work with any custom pagestyles. This option does not affect the page header.
- `\draftname` `\draftname` produces the “DRAFT” text.
- `\draftfont` `\draftfont` switches to the font with which the draft text is printed. It takes one argument: the text to typeset in draft font.
- `draftmarkps` Same as option `draftmark`, but also writes a big “DRAFT” in gray across the page.
- `\putdraftmarkps` Required are the `color` package, and either the `graphics` or `graphicx` package. Packages `color` and `graphics` are loaded if necessary. To load these packages with options, load them before `lhelp`. It works with page styles empty, plain, and headings. The page header is changed. This uses a PostScript font (font family phv), so may require a PostScript output device. The actual mark is placed with `\putdraftmarkps`, which may have to be redefined to accomodate a different `\draftname`. Its original definition can be found via the index in the code section of this manual.
- `draftmarkpsonly` Same as option `draftmarkps`, but only writes a big “DRAFT” in gray across the page. I.e., it doesn’t change the footer.

3.4 Shortcuts and Symbols

- `refshortcuts` Package option `refshortcuts` defines several shortcuts for cross-referencing chapter, tables, etc. This is currently only really useful for English. Usage is the same as for `\ref`, except that “chapter” etc. is also printed. Those shortcuts starting with an uppercase letter print a word with an uppercase first letter.
- For chapter, section, appendix, figure, table: `\cref`, `\Cref`, `\sref`, `\Sref`, `\aref`, `\Aref`, `\ref`, `\Fref`, `\tref`, `\Tref`

For pages: `\pgref`, `\Pgref`

For photos¹: `\phref`, `\Phref`

Examples:

```
\sref{s:mylabel} produces section~\ref{s:mylabel},  
\pgref{somepage} produces page~\pageref{somepage},  
\phref{p:photo1} produces photo~\ref{p:photo1},  
\Aref{s:a1} produces Appendix~\ref{s:a1}.
```

`\lineout` Text with attributes. The text is taken as argument by these macros, and can't be broken across lines. If it is necessary to break text into lines, try Donald Arseneau's `\ulbf` package `ulem`.

<code>\ulbf{\langle text \rangle}</code>	<u>underlined bold</u>
<code>\ulf{\langle text \rangle}</code>	<u>underlined</u>
<code>\lineout{\langle text \rangle}</code>	<u>lined out</u>

`\textsubscript` More shortcuts. L^AT_EX provides a `\textsuperscript`, but no `\textsubscript`, so we make one here. `\textsubscript` is robust, and only defined by `\help` if it is not already defined, in case L^AT_EX does provide it in a future version.

<code>\bs, \texttt{\bs}</code>	<code>\, \%</code>
<code>\careof</code>	<code>\% (the following space is included)</code>
<code>\textsubscript{\langle subscript \rangle}</code>	<code>Text_{subscript}</code>

These symbols produce the same result in text and math mode:

<code>\larr</code>	\leftarrow
<code>\rarr</code>	\rightarrow
<code>\PP</code>	$+$
<code>\MM</code>	$-$
<code>\PM</code>	\pm
<code>\about</code>	\approx

`\eg` These macros produce the English abbreviations "e.g.", "i.e.", and "etc.", including the `\ie` following normal space. This is for those (like me) who always forget the backslash after `\etc` the second period and thus get a sentence-ending space with `\frenchspacing`.

`\ca` This is a bad excuse for a diameter symbol. When the AMS symbols are available

`\resp` (package `amssymb`), their `\varnothing` symbol will be used instead, which is an acceptable solution.

<code>\diameter</code>	\emptyset
<code>\diameter</code>	\varnothing (with package <code>amssymb</code> ; else nothing shown here)

`\Discuss` Put some obvious markers into the text, as a reminder that changes to the text are `\Edit` necessary before publication.

<code>\Mark</code>	<code>\Discuss</code>	
	<code>\Edit</code>	
	<code>\Mark</code>	

3.5 Boxes and rules

`\fparbox` A framed `\parbox`. The text material is set in paragraph mode, not LR-mode. Unlike `\fbox{\parbox{\columnwidth}{...}}`, the width of the box generated by `\fparbox` including the frame is `\width`. The default for `\width` is `\hsize`. `\fboxrule` and `\fboxsep` are used as for `\fbox`.

```
\fparbox[<width>]{<parbox-optargs>}{<text>}  
<parbox-optargs> are the optional arguments to \parbox, namely  
[POS] [HEIGHT] [INNER-POS].
```

Examples:

```
\fparbox{text...}  
\fparbox(){text...}  
\fparbox([t]){:text...}  
\fparbox[50mm]{[t][80mm][s]}{text...}
```

¹(e.g. with the `photo` package, also by Volker Kuhlmann, available from CTAN)

This box is produced with:

```
\fboxparbox{This box is produced with:\hspace*{7mm}\texttt{\dots}}
```

\xyfparbox Draws a framed box with $\langle text \rangle$ in it. $\langle text \rangle$ is set in a `\parbox`. The outside of the frame has a size of $\langle width \rangle$ times $\langle height \rangle$.

```
\xyfparbox[\pos]{\width}{\height}{\text}
```

The optional argument $\langle pos \rangle$ becomes the first optional argument to `\parbox` and defaults to `c`. `\parbox`'s $\langle inner-pos \rangle$ is set to `c`. `\fboxrule` and `\fboxsep` are used as for `\fbox`.

Example:

```
\xyfparbox{60mm}{12mm}{\dots}
```

\tlap Similar to plain's `\llap` and `\rlap`, the following overlapping boxes are provided.

\blap All of these boxes have a size of zero. Their content overlaps into adjacent page areas. Horizontal overlap uses `\hbox`, vertical overlap uses `\vbox`.

`\lrlap` left and right (i.e. horizontally centred)

`\tlap` top

`\blap` bottom

`\tblap` top and bottom (i.e. vertically centred)

`\rtlap` right and top

`\rblap` right and bottom

The following macros are useful for creating fill-in type forms.

\vnull In analogy to `\null`: an empty `\vbox`.

\vnul An empty `\vbox` right at the top edge of the page. This uses `\offinterlineskip` (and its own level of grouping).

\hrulenull An `\hrule` with zero dimensions.

3.6 Notes

printnotes Package option `printnotes`: print all notes in the document. The default is not to.

```
\notes{\anytext}  
\nnotes{\anytext}
```

\notes `\notes` prints $\langle anytext \rangle$ if package option `printnotes` was given, and discards $\langle anytext \rangle$

\nnotes otherwise. `\nnotes` always discards $\langle anytext \rangle$; instead of deleting any notes you never want printed, rename `\notes` to `\nnotes`.

\notesfont If any notes are printed, they are printed in `\notesfont`.

\bnotemark Printed notes are surrounded by a begin and an end mark which are printed into `\enotemark` the margin. These marks are generated by `\bnotemark` and `\enotemark`.

\ifprintnotes The conditional used to decide whether notes are printed is `\ifprintnotes`. It can be used like `\ifprintnotes ... \fi`.

3.7 Conditional includes

The conditional including macros provided here use an “include level” to decide whether something is to be included or not. This is more powerful than a binary include switch, and for example allows all xfig figures to be included while no graphical images are. Graphical images are a common cause for exploding file sizes and much increased processing times. For larger documents the time saved while preparing can be considerable. For the final document this is then simply turned off.

\excludedlevel The counter `excludedlevel` is the document's threshold for whether something is `\includelower` included or not. The default is 5.

```
\includelower{\excludedlevel}{\yes}{\no}
```

`\includelevel` expands to `<yes>` if `<includelevel>` is lower than the counter `excludelevel`, otherwise it expands to `<no>`.

Example:

```
\documentclass ...
\usepackage{lhelp}
\setcounter{excludelevel}{2}
\begin{document}
\includelevel{1}{\input{some-xfig-figure.latex}}{}
\includelevel{2}{\includegraphics{some-image.eps}}{}  

```

Will include the xfig figure but not the eps image.

Set `excludelevel` to a number larger than the largest `<includelevel>` used to include everything.

`\ifinclude` An alternative to `\includelevel` is

```
\ifinclude{<includelevel>} ... \else ... \fi
```

`\ifinclude{<includelevel>}` expands to `\iftrue` if `<includelevel>` is lower than the counter `excludelevel`, and `\iffalse` otherwise.

3.8 Including EPS files

`\placeEPS` This macro helps with inserting EPS files into the document, reducing the amount of typing required for the common case. In draft mode (see package option `epsdraft` below) only an outline of the EPS is drawn. Missing files will not produce an error, only a warning is written on the screen.

```
\placeEPS[<moreargs>]{<width>}{<height>}{<filename>}
```

Inserts encapsulated postscript file `<filename>` into the text with width `<width>` and height `<height>`. `<width>` and/or `<height>` may be empty; default is natural size. `<moreargs>` is anything that is allowed as argument to `\includegraphics` (`graphicx` version), e.g. bounding boxes—see the `graphicx` documentation.

The standard `graphicx` package is required, and must be loaded by the user (`lhelp` does not load it). Unfortunately, `graphics` is not sufficient, so that a document using `\placeEPS` must use the `graphicx` package.

If `<filename>` does not exist, an empty framed box with the given dimensions is drawn with the name of the file in it; if any of `<width>` and `<height>` are empty the default for `<width>` is `.8\hsize`, and for `<height>` is `40mm`.

In short, the advantages of `\placeEPS` over `\includegraphics` are:

- ...

Example:

```
\placeEPS[bb=20 20 500 500,width=6cm]{5cm}{figure1}
```

sets the bounding box to 20 20 500 500, and scales figure1.eps to a width of 6 cm and a height of 5 cm. The same could have been achieved with

```
\placeEPS[bb=20 20 500 500]{6cm}{5cm}{figure1}
```

`\addEPSopt`

```
\addEPSopt{<options>}
```

`\addEPSopt` adds the given comma-separated `<options>` to the internal option list for `\placeEPS`, so that these options do not need to be repeated with each `\placeEPS`. `\placeEPS` always passes the internal option list on to `\includegraphics`.

`epsdraft` With package option `epsdraft`, a draft keyword is inserted into every `\placeEPS` to get only an outline-box of the eps (same as package option `draft` for the `graphics` package).

`epspdf` The package option `epspdf` sets `\EPSfileext` to `.eps`, or `.pdf` when running under `pdflatex`. `\EPSfileext` is appended to the filename by `\placeEPS`. This makes it possible to use `\placeEPS` in documents which are compiled with either `latex` or `pdflatex`. The default for `\EPSfileext` is empty, for compatibility with existing documents.

3.9 List environments and aides

The following macros extend the functionality of the existing list environments `list`, `itemize`, and `enumerate`.

First a few macros which set the spacing of a list environment. They are only useful inside the second argument of the `list` environment, which is used for setting various spacing-related variables.

<code>\listlabelleft</code>	Sets the horizontal spacing, and the label raggedright. $\listlabelleft\{\langle labelindent\rangle\}\{\langle labelwidth\rangle\}\{\langle labelsep\rangle\}\{\langle rightmargin\rangle\}$
	$\langle labelindent \rangle$ is the distance from the left edge of the surrounding text to the left edge of the label, $\langle labelwidth \rangle$ the width of the label, $\langle labelsep \rangle$ the distance between the label and the left edge of the list-text, and $\langle rightmargin \rangle$ the distance between the right edge of the list-text and the right edge of the surrounding text.
	$\langle labelindent \rangle$, $\langle labelwidth \rangle$, $\langle labelsep \rangle$, the width of the list-text and $\langle rightmargin \rangle$ added together make up <code>\columnwidth</code> . I find this much more user-friendly than the way L ^A T _E X measures the horizontal dimensions in the <code>list</code> environment. <code>\listparindent</code> is set to zero. Currently, <code>\itemindent</code> is unchanged but L ^A T _E X's default is zero.

<code>\listlabelleftindent</code>	Some hard-coded values: $\listlabelleft\{\langle labelwidth\rangle\}$ Short for $\listlabelleft\{1.5em\}\{\langle labelwidth\rangle\}\{1.5em\}\{4.5em\}$.
<code>\listshort</code>	<code>\listshort</code> sets all vertical spacing to zero: <code>\topsep</code> , <code>\partopsep</code> , <code>\itemsep</code> and <code>\parsep</code> . Useful for lists which are not intended to stand out as prominently as L ^A T _E X's default.
<code>Eenumerate</code> <code>Eitemize</code>	Extend the <code>enumerate</code> and <code>itemize</code> environments such that the list spacing can be user-controlled. $\begin{Eenumerate}\{\langle formatting for list\rangle\}$ $\begin{Eitemize}\{\langle formatting for list\rangle\}$
	When <code>enumerate</code> and <code>itemize</code> call the <code>list</code> environment, $\langle formatting for list \rangle$ is inserted into the second argument of the <code>list</code> environment to allow changing any of the spacing. These can be mixed with <code>enumerate</code> and <code>itemize</code> .

<code>enumerateshort</code> <code>itemizeshort</code>	As the <code>enumerate</code> and <code>itemize</code> environments, but with reduced vertical spacing. $\begin{enumerateshort}$ $\begin{itemizeshort}$
	These can be mixed with <code>enumerate</code> and <code>itemize</code> .

3.10 Starting new pages

This macros start new pages in a variety of ways.

<code>\newoddpage</code> <code>\newevenpage</code>	<code>\newoddpage</code> starts a new odd page and <code>\newevenpage</code> starts a new even page, creating a blank page if necessary. The behaviour is always the same, regardless whether the document is double-sided (i.e. <code>\twoside</code> is in effect) or not.
<code>\clearoddpage</code> <code>\clearevenpage</code>	<code>\clearoddpage</code> and <code>\clearevenpage</code> are the same as <code>\newoddpage</code> and <code>\newevenpage</code> , except they call <code>\clearpage</code> first, causing all unprocessed floats to be written out.
<code>\newoddpage*</code> <code>\newevenpage*</code>	The star-form of these commands will always advance to the next odd/even page, creating blank pages if necessary, even if the current page is odd/even and empty. This means that they can be used repeatedly in immediate succession: <code>\newoddpage*\newoddpage*</code> starts an odd page and leaves another 2 blank pages.
<code>\clearthispage</code>	<code>\clearthispage</code> writes out all unprocessed floats, and starts a new page regardless of whether the current page is empty.

Currently none of these macros allow to change the pagestyle of any blank pages which are generated (for example to empty when the document's pagestyle is plain).

There could be problems with page number references after `\new....` It might pay to check `\pageref`'s after any of `\new....`

3.11 One and two columns

\ensureonecolumn Ensure one or two columns for a part of a document, regardless whether the rest of the document is in one or two columns. Every \ensureonecolumn, or \ensuretwocolumn \ensurecolumnend must be ended by \ensurecolumnend.

```
\ensureonecolumn  
\ensuretwocolumn  
\ensurecolumnend
```

If nesting is required, the environment form must be used:

```
... text in one or two columns ...  
\begin{ensureonecolumn}  
... text in one column ...  
\begin{ensuretwocolumn}  
... text in two columns ...  
\end{ensuretwocolumn}  
... text back in one column ...  
\end{ensureonecolumn}  
... text in one or two columns again ...
```

3.12 Hanging indentation

\hanghere The macro \hanghere causes a hanging indentation for the rest of the paragraph, from the actual horizontal position of the \hanghere.

NOTE: The code for \absval and \hangindent is not covered by the copyright of the lhelp package, and, as published by its author, remains without copyright.

Here is the documentation of \hanghere, as published on the newsgroup comp.text.tex:

```
-- Donald Arseneau (1993) (Not copyright, not supported)  
asnd@reg.triumf.ca  
  
This is a style file that can be used in both LaTeX and plain TeX.  
To use, put \hanghere in the middle of a paragraph and the rest of  
the paragraph will be indented to the spot so indicated.  
Spaces are retained on both sides of \hanghere, but if  
you want a space  
afterwards, you  
should type \hanghere\  
or \hanghere{} . There is a length parameter, \minlinelen, that sets  
a minimum length for the lines of text. If the position of \hanghere  
would cause the line length to be too small, the following lines will  
start at the left margin, as illustrated twice just above. Multiple  
uses of \hanghere in a paragraph are cumulative, until the line length  
gets too short and reverts to the full text width. There are  
no parboxes used so line spacing and page breaking is normal.  
There is one problem: if some text on the first line following  
the \hanghere is very tall, it can overlap the text above  
instead of doing the line spacing properly. Other instances  
of tall text work fine.
```

\absval The \absval macro is used by \hanghere, but is generally useful. It returns the “absolute value of a number or a dimension (if in a dimension register)”.

\labelhangindent Hanging indentation with the width of the printed label.

```
\labelhangindent{\langle label\rangle}
```

This prints $\langle label \rangle$ and starts a hanging indentation. The hanging indentation remains for all paragraphs in the current group. Because this does not insert any horizontal space after the label, it is probably a good idea to insert a \quad as part of the label. \labelhangindent uses \everypar. So far, \labelhangindent is not cumulative, i.e. only one can be used in a paragraph.

3.13 Misc

<code>\gobble</code>	These macros simply discard their argument(s).
<code>\gobbletwo</code>	<code>\gobble{\(anything)}</code> <code>\gobbletwo{\(anything)}\{\(anythingelse)}</code>
<code>ddmonthyyyy</code>	Package option <code>ddmonthyyyy</code> switches <code>\today</code> 's date format to a more user-friendly (and non-American) “dd Month yyyy”. Regardless of what <code>\today</code> happens to be defined as, <code>\ddmonthyyyy</code> gives a format of 15 July 2004.
<code>yyyymmdd</code>	Package option <code>yyyymmdd</code> switches <code>\today</code> 's date format to “yyy/mm/dd”. Regardless of what <code>\today</code> happens to be defined as, <code>\yyyymmdd</code> gives a format of 2004/7/15.
<code>hh:mm</code>	The current time is put into <code>\timehhmm</code> formatted as HH:MM with leading 0. Package option <code>hh:mm</code> appends <code>\timehhmm</code> to whatever <code>\today</code> is defined as, at the beginning of the document. Order of options is important— <code>yyyymmdd</code> for example redefines <code>\today</code> , so an appended time would be lost. <code>\todayaddtime</code> appends the time to the definition of <code>\today</code> , which is useful if something else has redefined <code>\today</code> .
<code>morefontsizes</code>	Package option <code>morefontsizes</code> defines the additional font sizes <code>\HUGE</code> , <code>\veryhuge</code> , <code>\veryHuge</code> , and <code>\veryHUGE</code> , which is sometimes useful for posters, or very large headings. It should look ok with PostScript fonts, and perhaps computer modern fonts. It is recommended to use this with the type-1 version of the computer modern fonts, or metafont might create some humungous bitmap fonts.
<code>verbose</code>	Package option <code>verbose</code> causes some commands to print some output which might be useful sometimes. Currently only <code>\placeEPS</code> makes use of it.
<code>shorttoc</code>	For documents with a zero <code>\parindent</code> and a non-zero <code>\parskip</code> , <code>\tableofcontents</code> generates fairly useless output. Package option <code>shorttoc</code> restores the previous behaviour for the table of contents.
<code>countryselect</code>	These macros are meant to provide a standardised way for selecting country-specific settings, i.e. hyphenation patterns and specific language definitions. Theoretically, the <code>babel</code> package should offer this, but it doesn't—the name for a particular country depends on the name entered into <code>babel</code> 's configuration file, for which there is no standard.
<code>\selectD</code>	Package option <code>countryselect</code> defines known names for selecting settings of a specific country. Because using the hyphenation patterns of a language is desirable even without the language-specific macro definitions, these commands now select the hyphenation patterns when available, even if <code>babel</code> is not used by the document. If <code>babel</code> is used, a <code>\selectlanguage</code> command is issued.
<code>\selectNZ</code>	Currently only <code>babel</code> is supported as underlaying language-switching mechanism.
<code>\selectUK</code>	Clearly this also calls for an <code>lhelp</code> configuration file, matching the entries in <code>babel</code> 's.
<code>\selectUSA</code>	So far, <code>\selectD</code> , <code>\selectNZ</code> , <code>\selectUK</code> , <code>\selectUSA</code> are defined for Germany, New Zealand, the UK, and the USA.
<code>narrowpars</code>	The <code>narrowpars</code> environment temporarily narrows the width of the text body, respectively increases the left and right margins.
	<code>\begin{narrowpars}\{<indentation>\}</code>
	Paragraphs are narrowed by <code><indentation></code> on the left and <code><indentation></code> on the right. It uses <code>\everypar</code> , <code>\hangindent</code> and <code>\hangafter</code> , and changes <code>\columnwidth</code> and <code>\hsize</code> .
	It would have been possible to achieve the same effect by using <code>\leftskip</code> and <code>\rightskip</code> , but either will fail in some cases. Perhaps a <code>narrowpars*</code> environment should use these?
<code>\thinthinspace</code>	Approximately half a thinspace. A quarterspace?
<code>\setTBstruts</code>	In tables created with <code>tabular</code> and <code>array</code> which use horizontal lines, there is often too little space between the text of a line and the adjacent horizontal lines. <code>\setTBstruts</code> defines two macros, <code>\T</code> and <code>\B</code> , which fine-tune the vertical spacing on these lines. Example:

	With <code>\T</code> and <code>\B</code> :	Without:
	<code>text ... \par</code>	<code>text ...</code>
	<code>\setTBstruts</code>	<code>cell² cell</code>
	<code>\begin{tabular}{ll}</code>	<code>cell₃ cell</code>
	<code>\hline\T</code>	<code>cell_{_3} cell</code>
	<code> cell\$^2 & cell\\</code>	<code>cell cell</code>
	<code> cell\$^3 & cell \B\\</code>	
	<code>\hline\T</code>	
	<code> cell & cell \B\\</code>	
	<code>\hline</code>	
	<code>\end{tabular}\par</code>	
	<code>text ...</code>	<code>text ...</code>

(Taken from "TeX and TUG NEWS", Vol. 2, No. 3, 1993, p. 10.)

`\placepos` This macro can place anything at an arbitrary position onto the page, without shifting the current position (as much that is possible).

`\placepos{\<right>}{\<down>}{\<text>}`

Places `<text>` (in LR mode) a distance of `<right>` to the right and `<down>` down from the current position. `<right>`, `<down>` can be negative.

`\placepos{..}` has zero size and is equivalent to `\hbox{}`, which is the same as `\mbox{}` without the `\leavevmode`. This means that `\placepos`, unlike `\mbox`, will never start a paragraph. Although `\placepos` has zero size, placing an `\hbox` can have effects on spacing in some circumstances. If `\placepos` is at the beginning of a paragraph of text, it might be necessary to use a `\leavevmode` before the first `\placepos`.

To include paragraph material in `<text>`, use `\parbox{\<width>}{<text>}` as `<text>`.

Spaces following `\placepos` are ignored.

`\PSadjust` Some older versions of the PostScript fonts had such a tight horizontal spacing that they could essentially not hyphenate a word. As a temporary solution it was suggested to change some line breaking parameters. Putting `\PSadjust` into the preamble will do this. Current versions of the PostScript fonts (from CTAN) don't need this.

4 To Do and Bugs

To do:

- `\sref` should become `\aref` when used after `\appendix`
- coloured boxes of specified sizes, e.g. `\fcolorparbox`
- Provide an upright Greek micro for units in roman text.

Any bugs? Please notify the author if you find any, or if the documentation is unclear. These ones were already found:

- `draftmarkps` causes two DRAFT warnings to be printed and logged to `.log`, ever since `draftmarkpsonly` was added

5 Implementation

¹ `(*package)`

5.1 Package options

5.1.1 Units

`\lunitbox` With option `unitxspace`, suffix all units with `\xspace`. Micro-units have a slightly reduced kerning with the math-mode `\mu`, which is used if `\textmu` is undefined.

```

2 \DeclareOption{unitxspace}{%
3   \def\lhelpxspace{\xspace}%
4 }
5 \newcommand\lunitbox[1]{\mbox{\#,#1}\lhelpxspace}
6 \newcommand\luunitbox[1]{\mbox{\muunit #1}\lhelpxspace}
7 \newcommand\muunit{\@ifundefined{textmu}{\kern.05em\ensuremath{\mu}}{\textmu}}
```

```

8 \let\lhelpxspace\relax

\g Base units, plus a few more:
\kg 9 \DeclareOption{unitbasic}{%
\mm 10 \newcommand{\g}{\lhelpxspace}
\mum 11 \newcommand{\kg}{\lhelpxspace}
\cm 12 \newcommand{\mm}{\lhelpxspace}
\m 13 \newcommand{\mum}{\luunitbox{m}}% micro-metre
\ml 14 \newcommand{\cm}{\lhelpxspace}
\mL 15 \newcommand{\m}{\lhelpxspace}
\ns 16 \newcommand{\ml}{\lhelpxspace}
\mus 17 \newcommand{\mL}{\lhelpxspace}
\ms 18 \newcommand{\ns}{\lhelpxspace}
\s 19 \newcommand{\mus}{\luunitbox{s}}% micro-seconds
\h 20 \newcommand{\ms}{\lhelpxspace}
\h 21 \newcommand{\s}{\lhelpxspace}
\h 22 \newcommand{\h}{\lhelpxspace}
23 }

```

These control sequences are already in use, but can be overridden with this option to give these units instead.

```

24 \DeclareOption{unitBasic}{%
25   \%ExecuteOptions{unitbasic}
26   \renewcommand{\l}{\lhelpxspace}
27   \renewcommand{\L}{\lhelpxspace}
28   \renewcommand{\min}{\lhelpxspace}
29 }

```

```

\celsius Temperature:
\fahren 30 \DeclareOption{unittemp}{%
31   \newcommand{\degree@temperature}{\ensuremath{^\circ\mathrm{C}}}
32   \providecommand{\degree@temperature}{\lhelpxspace}
33   \providecommand{\Degree@temperature}{\lhelpxspace}
34   \newcommand{\celsius}{\mbox{\degree@temperature\kern-.05em C}\lhelpxspace}
35   \newcommand{\fahren}{\mbox{\degree@temperature F}\lhelpxspace}
36 }

```

Electrical engineering: Use `\providecommand` for `\ohm` to allow precedence of other packages which also provide `\ohm`. Make `\kohm` and `\Mohm` fall back on `\ohm`.

```

37 \DeclareOption{unitelec}{%
38   \newcommand{\muA}{\luunitbox{A}}
39   \newcommand{\muH}{\luunitbox{H}}
40   \newcommand{\muV}{\luunitbox{V}}
41   \newcommand{\muW}{\luunitbox{W}}
42   \providecommand{\ohm}{\luunitbox{\Omega$\$"}}
43   \newcommand{\kohm}{\mbox{k}\ohm}
44   \newcommand{\Mohm}{\mbox{M}\ohm}
45   \newcommand{\ac}{\textsubscript{ac}\lhelpxspace}
46   \newcommand{\dc}{\textsubscript{dc}\lhelpxspace}
47   \newcommand{\rms}{\textsubscript{rms}\lhelpxspace}
48   \newcommand{\Vac}{\luunitbox{V}\kern-.16em\textsubscript{ac}}
49   \newcommand{\Vdc}{\luunitbox{V}\kern-.16em\textsubscript{dc}}
50   \newcommand{\VLL}{\luunitbox{V}\kern-.16em\textsubscript{LL}}
51   \newcommand{\kVLL}{\luunitbox{V}\kern-.16em\textsubscript{LL}}
52 }

```

All of the above units:

```

53 \DeclareOption{units}{%
54   \%ExecuteOptions{unitbasic,unitBasic,unittemp,unitelec}%
55 }

```

5.1.2 Paragraph layout (and page layout if vmargin is loaded)

```

56 \DeclareOption{page}{%
57   \ifx\setpapersize\undefined\else
58     \lhelp@paper
59     \setmarginsrb{30mm}{20mm}{25mm}{10mm}{0pt}{0mm}{}{10mm}
60   \fi
61   \lhelp@pars
62 }
63 \DeclareOption{emptypage}{%
64   \ifx\setpapersize\undefined
65     \pagestyle{empty}%
66   \else
67     \lhelp@paper
68     \setmargnohfrb{30mm}{20mm}{25mm}{10mm}
69   \fi
70   \lhelp@pars
71 }
72 \newcommand{\lhelp@paper}{%
73   \typeout{Package lhelp: setting paper size and margins.}
74   \setpapersize{A4}
75 }
76 \newcommand{\lhelp@pars}{%
77   \columnsep 8mm
78   \parskip 2ex \oplus0.5ex \ominus0.5ex
79   \parindent \z@
80 }

```

5.1.3 Draft marks

Activate definitions and print notice to screen.

```

81 \newcommand{\draftmark@select}{%
82   \PackageWarning{\lhelp}{DRAFT mark selected}%
83   \pagestyle{plain}%
84 }

85 \DeclareOption{draftmark}{%
86   \newcommand{\@draft@odd}{\llap{\hbox{\draftfont{\today}\ \ \draftname}}}
87   \newcommand{\@draft@even}{\rlap{\hbox{\draftfont{\draftname}\ \ \today}}}
88   \newcommand{\@psdraft@empty}{%
89     \def{\@oddfoot}{\reset@font\hfil\hfil\@draft@odd}%
90     \def{\@evenfoot}{\reset@font\@draft@even\hfil\hfil}%
91   \newcommand{\@psdraft@plain}{%
92     \def{\@oddfoot}{\reset@font\hfil\thepage\hfil\@draft@odd}%
93     \def{\@evenfoot}{\reset@font\@draft@even\hfil\thepage\hfil}%
94   %
95   \add@toks{\ps@empty\@psdraft@empty}
96   \add@toks{\ps@plain\@psdraft@plain}
97 %\add@toks{\ps@headings\@psdraft@plain}
98 %(should be odd foot of pagestyle empty, even foot of pagestyle plain)

```

\DeclareOption of LaTeXe <1995/12/01> pl 2 does not handle macros which in themselves define new macros with options. Confusion about the number of "#" in the nested declarations. (Funnily, it works if option draftmark is called from within option draftmarkps.) Use alternative:

```

99   \let{\lhelp@o@ps@headings}{\ps@headings}
100  \def{\ps@headings}{\lhelp@o@ps@headings\@psdraft@plain}%
101 %
102  \draftmark@select
103 }

```

\add@toks Add some tokens to the end of an existing control sequence. This could be good for other things too.

\add@toks{\langle control sequence\rangle}{\langle tokens to add\rangle}

```

104 \newtoks\lhelp@toks
105 \newcommand\add@toks[2]{%
106   \expandafter\lhelp@toks\expandafter{\#1}%
107   \expandafter\def\expandafter#1\expandafter{\the\lhelp@toks #2}%

\draftname The “draft” text
108 \providecommand\draftname{DRAFT}

\draftfont The font with which the “DRAFT” text is printed
109 \newcommand\draftfont{\textsf}

\draftmark@watermark PostScript draft mark. Changes the page header; can’t use footer because this mark
\putdraftmarkps must be printed before (underneath) the text.

110 \newcommand\draftmark@watermark{%
111   \newcommand\putdraftmarkps{%
112     \placepos{.2\textwidth}{.8\textheight}{\rotatebox{65}{%
113       \fontfamily{phv}\fontsize{.2\textheight}{z@\selectfont
114       \color{draftgray}\draftname}}}
115   \Qifundefined{\rotatebox}{\AtEndOfPackage{\RequirePackage{graphics}}}{}%
116   \Qifundefined{\color}{\AtEndOfPackage{\RequirePackage{color}}}{}%
117   \AtEndOfPackage{\definecolor{draftgray}{gray}{0.9}} % 0.955, 0.93
118   \def\ps@plain{\let\@mkboth@gobbletwo
119     \def\@oddhead{\putdraftmarkps\hfil}\let\@evenhead\@oddhead}
120   \let\ps@empty\ps@plain
121   \let\ps@h@old\ps@headings \def\ps@headings{\ps@h@old
122     \def\@oddhead{\putdraftmarkps{\slshape\rightmark}\hfil\thepage}%
123     \def\@evenhead{\putdraftmarkps{\thepage\hfil\slshape\leftmark}}%
124   \let\draftmark@watermark\empty
125 %
126   \draftmark@select
127 }

Package options for printing the postscript draft mark with and without the non-
postscript mark.

128 \DeclareOption{draftmarkps}{%
129   \draftmark@watermark
130   \csname ds@draftmark\endcsname % = \ExecuteOptions{draftmark}
131 }
132 \DeclareOption{draftmarkpsonly}{%
133   \draftmark@watermark
134 }

\EPSopt Print only outlines for EPS included with \placeEPS.
135 \DeclareOption{epsdraft}{\def\EPSopt{draft}}

\EPSfileext Set \EPSfileext to .eps, or .pdf when running under pdflatex. \EPSfileext is ap-
pended to the filename by \placeEPS.
136 \DeclareOption{epspdf}{%
137   \Qifundefined{pdfpagewidth}{\def\EPSfileext{.eps}}{\def\EPSfileext{.pdf}}}


```

5.1.4 Cross-referencing

For the lazy typist. \phref and \Phref may already have been defined by the photo package, therefore use \providecommand.

```

138 \DeclareOption{refshortcuts}{%
139   \newcommand\cref{chapter`\ref}
140   \newcommand\Cref{Chapter`\ref}
141   \newcommand\sref{section`\ref}
142   \newcommand\Sref{Section`\ref}

```

```

143 \newcommand\aref{appendix`\ref}
144 \newcommand\Aref{Appendix`\ref}
145 \newcommand\fref{figure`\ref}
146 \newcommand\Fref{Figure`\ref}
147 \newcommand\tref{table`\ref}
148 \newcommand\Tref{Table`\ref}
149 \newcommand\pgref{page`\pageref}
150 \newcommand\Pgref{Page`\pageref}
151 \providecommand\phref{photo`\ref}
152 \providecommand\Phref{Photo`\ref}
153 }

```

5.1.5 Other

`\ifprintnotes` A simple conditional whether any notes are printed or not. Notes should be surrounded by `\ifprintnotes ... \fi`.

```

154 \DeclareOption{printnotes}{%
155   \printnotestrue
156 }
157 \newif\ifprintnotes

```

`\ddmonthyyyy` Date format “dd Month yyyy”.

```

\month@english 158 \DeclareOption{ddmonthyyyy}{%
159   \providecommand\month@english{%
160     \ifcase \month \or January\or February\or March\or
161     April\or May\or June\or July\or August\or September\or
162     October\or November\or December\fi}
163   \newcommand\ddmonthyyyy{\number\day\space
164     \month@english\space \number\year}%
165   \AtBeginDocument{\let\today=\ddmonthyyyy}
166 }

```

`\yyyymmdd` Date format “yyyy/mm/dd”

```

167 \DeclareOption{yyyymmdd}{%
168   \AtBeginDocument{\let\today=\yyyymmdd}
169 }
170 \newcommand\yyyymmdd{\number\year/\number\month/\number\day}%

```

`\hour` Current time of day: hours and minutes

```

\minute 171 \DeclareOption{hh:mm}{%
\timehhmm 172   \AtBeginDocument{\todayaddtime}%
173 }
174 \newcount\hour
175 \newcount\minute
176 \hour\time \divide\hour 60
177 \minute-\hour \multiply\minute 60\advance\minute\time
178 \edef\timehhmm{\ifnum\hour<10 0\fi\the\hour
179   :\ifnum\minute<10 0\fi\the\minute}
180 \newcommand\todayaddtime{\edef\today{\today\,\timehhmm}}%

```

`\HUGE` Additional larger font sizes. This is mainly for PostScript fonts, or perhaps the type1 versions of the computer modern fonts.

```

\veryhuge 181 \DeclareOption{morefontsizes}{%
\veryHuge 182   \newcommand\HUGE {\@setfontsize\HUGE{29.86}{36}}
183   \newcommand\veryhuge{\@setfontsize\veryhuge{35.83}{43}}
184   \newcommand\veryHuge{\@setfontsize\veryHuge{43}{52}}
185   \newcommand\veryHUGE{\@setfontsize\veryHUGE{51.6}{62}}
186 }

```

Print progress/debugging info in some places (default no)

```

187 \DeclareOption{verbose}{\lh@verbosetrue}
188 \newif\iflh@verbose
189 Shorten the toc (for when \parskip is non-zero)
190 \let\old@tableofcontents=\tableofcontents
191 \def\tableofcontents#1{
192   \parskip \z@ \relax \parindent \z@
193   \let\old@addvspace=\addvspace
194   \def\addvspace{\skip0=\#1\relax\old@addvspace{.5\skip0}}%
195   \old@tableofcontents\par
196 }%
197 }

\selectD Selecting country specifics in a standard way. The definition of these macros depends on
\selectNZ the underlying format, resp. particular package used to select languages (e.g. babel with
\selectUK file language.dat, german). (Perhaps this should go in lhelp.cfg?) If the hyphenation
\selectUSA patterns for these languages are loaded, they will be selected even if babel is otherwise
unused.

198 \DeclareOption{countryselect}{%
199   \newcommand\selectD{\lhelp@lang@sel{german}}
200   \newcommand\selectNZ{\lhelp@lang@sel{UKenglish}}
201   \newcommand\selectUK{\lhelp@lang@sel{UKenglish}}
202   \newcommand\selectUSA{\lhelp@lang@sel{USenglish}}
203 }
204 \newcommand\lhelp@lang@sel[1]{
205   \expandafter\ifx\csname date#1\endcsname\relax
206     \PackageWarning{\lhelp}{Language '#1' not loaded,
207       selecting hyphenation only}%
208     \@ifundefined{l@#1}%
209       {\PackageWarning{\lhelp}{Hyphenation patterns for '#1' unavailable}}%
210       {\language=\csname l@#1\endcsname}%
211   \else
212     \selectlanguage{#1}%
213   \fi
214 }

```

5.1.6 lhelp extension package

Does not exist yet but hey, we plan ahead...

```
215 \DeclareOption{X}{\AtEndOfFile{\RequirePackage{lhelpx}}}
```

5.1.7 Process options

```
216 \ProcessOptions
```

5.2 Shortcuts and Symbols

\textsubscript Provide a \textsubscript in case none is already defined.

```

217 \@ifundefined{textsubscript}{%
218   \DeclareRobustCommand\textsubscript[1]{%
219     \m@th\ensuremath{_{\{\mbox{\scriptsize\sffamily\selectfont #1}\}}}}%
220 }%
221 }{}}

```

\ulbf Quick and dirty underline, underline bold, and lineout. For longer text use ulem.sty.
\ul
\lineout

```

222 \newcommand\ul{\underline}
223 \newcommand\ulbf[1]{\underline{\textbf{#1}}}
224 \newcommand\lineout[1]{\setbox0\hbox{#1}\rlap{\raise.4ex\hbox{%
225   \vrule \height.15ex \width\wd0 \depth0pt}\box0}}

```

```

\larr A left and a right arrow.
\rrarr 226 \newcommand{\larr}{\mbox{$\leftarrow$}} % leftarrow
227 \newcommand{\rarr}{\mbox{$\rightarrow$}} % rightarrow

\bs A backslash. (by Donald Arseneau)
228 \newcommand{\bs}{\ifdim\fontdimen3\font=0pt\char'\\% (tt font)
229   \else\ensuremath{\backslash}\fi}

\PP A math mode plus, minus, and plusminus.
\MM 230 \newcommand{\PP}{\ensuremath{+}}
\PM 231 \newcommand{\MM}{\ensuremath{-}}
232 \newcommand{\PM}{\ensuremath{\pm}{}}

\about An approximate sign which also works in text mode.
233 \newcommand{\about}{\mbox{$\approx$}{}}

\eg Abbreviations “e.g.”, “i.e.”, “etc.”, “ca.”, and “resp.” with the following space included.
\ie Using \providecommand allows a previous differing definition.
\etc 234 \providecommand{\eg}{e.g.\ }
\ca 235 \providecommand{\ie}{i.e.\ }
\resp 236 \providecommand{\etc}{etc.\ }
237 \providecommand{\ca}{ca.\ }
238 \providecommand{\resp}{resp.\ }

\Discuss Place a visible sign that a text passage needs to be further discussed or edited.
\Edit 239 \newcommand{\@edtext}[1]{%
240   {\slshape\footnotesize\fboxrule.4mm\fboxsep.4mm\fbox{#1}}}
241 \newcommand{\Discuss}{\protect\@edtext{discuss}}
242 \newcommand{\Edit}{\protect\@edtext{edit}}

\Mark Place a visible mark in the text to mark something which is not yet finished.
243 \newcommand{\@showmark}{\fbox{\small$\clubsuit$}}
244 \newcommand{\Mark}{\protect\@showmark}

\diameter A diameter symbol. This is a bad cludge without AMS symbols.
245 \newcommand{\diameter}{\@ifundefined{varnothing}{%
246   {\mbox{\raise.15ex\hbox{o}\kern-.5em/}}}{%
247   {\,,\kern-0.07em\ensuremath{\varnothing}}}}

```

\careof A careof symbol. The following space is already included.

```

248 \providecommand{\careof}{\mbox{\raise.5ex\hbox{c}\kern-.2em/\kern-.2em\~{}}}

```

5.3 Framed parboxes, other boxes, and rules

```

\fparbox Framed paragraph text.
249 \newcommand{\fparbox}[1][\hsize]{\@ifnextchar({\@fparbox{#1}}{\@fparbox{#1}()})
250 \long\def\@fparbox#1(#2){\mbox{\fbox
251 {\dimen0=#1\advance\dimen0-2\fboxsep\advance\dimen0-2\fboxrule
252 \parbox{#2}{\dimen0}{#3}}}

\xyfparbox A framed box with both width and height specified.
253 \newcommand{\xyfparbox}[4][c]{\mbox{\fbox{%
254 \dimen0=2\fboxrule\advance\dimen0 2\fboxsep
255 \dimen1=#2\advance\dimen1 -\dimen0
256 \dimen2=#3\advance\dimen2 -\dimen0
257 \parbox[#1][\dimen2][c]{\dimen1}{#4}}}}

```

```

\lrlap Overlapping boxes. Similar to plain's \llap, \rlap. Left+right (i.e. centre), top,
\tlap bottom, top+bottom, right+top, right+bottom.
\blap 258 \newcommand\lrlap[1]{\hb@xt@z@{\hss#1\hss}}
\tlap 259 \newcommand\tlap[1]{\vbox to\z@{\vss#1}}
\rlap 260 \newcommand\blap[1]{\vbox to\z@{\#1\vss}}
\rblap 261 \newcommand\tblap[1]{\vbox to\z@{\vss#1\vss}}
262 \newcommand\rlap[1]{\rlap{\tlap{#1}}}
263 \newcommand\rblap[1]{\rlap{\blap{#1}}}

```

Empty boxes and rules:

```

\vnull Like \null, but with \vbox.
264 \providecommand\vnull{\vbox{}}

\vnul An empty \vbox right at the top edge of the paper.
265 \providecommand\vnul{{\offinterlineskip\vnull}}

```

```

\hrulenull An \hrule with zero dimensions.
266 \providecommand\hrulenull{\hrule\@width\z@\@height\z@\@depth\z@}

```

5.4 Notes and remarks

This must all be \long\def!

```

\notes Take one argument, and print it depending on a switch, or always discard it.
\nnotes 267 \newcommand\notes[1]{\ifprintnotes
268   \begingroup\reset@font\notesfont
269   \bnotemark
270   \ignorespaces #1\relax
271   \enotemark
272   \endgroup
273   \fi
274 }
275 \newcommand\nnotes[1]{}

\bnotemark The marks printed into the margin at the beginning and end of a note, and the font
\enotemark with which notes are printed.
\notesfont 276 \newcommand\bnotemark{%
277   \leavevmode
278   \vadjust{\vbox to\z@{\vss\llap
279     {\raise1ex\hbox{\footnotesize$\bigtriangledown$}\vphantom{\footnotesize$\bigtriangledown$}}\vphantom{\footnotesize$\bigtriangledown$}}\vphantom{\footnotesize$\bigtriangledown$}}%
280 }
281 \newcommand\enotemark{%
282   \leavevmode
283   \vadjust{\vbox to\z@{\vss\llap
284     {\hbox{\footnotesize$\bigtriangleup$}\vphantom{\footnotesize$\bigtriangleup$}}\vphantom{\footnotesize$\bigtriangleup$}}\vphantom{\footnotesize$\bigtriangleup$}}%
285 }
286 \newcommand\notesfont{\footnotesize\sffamily}

```

5.5 Including figures, EPS files, etc

```

\includelower Similar to LATEX's \ifundefined{NAME}{TRUE}{FALSE}.
\ifinclude \ifinclude{NUMBER} translates into \iftrue or \iffalse.
287 \newcommand\includelower[3]{\ifinclude{#1}\def\@tempa{#2}\else
288   \def\@tempa{#3}\fi\@tempa}
289 \newcommand\ifinclude[1]{\ifnum#1<\value{excludelevel}}
290 \newcounter{excludelevel}
291 \setcounter{excludelevel}{5}

```

`\placeEPS` Place an EPS file into the document.

```
292 \providetcommand\EPSSfileext{}  
293 \newcommand\placeEPS[4] [] {  
294   \begingroup  
295   \edef\w{\#2}\ifx\w\empty\def\w{\the\z@\fi  
296   \edef\h{\#3}\ifx\h\empty\def\h{\the\z@\fi  
297   \edef\eps@fn{\#4\EPSSfileext} %  
298   \normalsize  
299   \IfFileExists{\eps@fn}{%  
300     \%epsfig{file=\eps@fn}@more, width=\w, height=\h} %  
301     % (obsolete - hangs if \w, \h are Opt)  
302     \edef\opt{\EPSSopt,\#1} %  
303     \ifdim\w=\z@\else\edef\opt{\opt, width=\w}\fi  
304     \ifdim\h=\z@\else\edef\opt{\opt, height=\h}\fi  
305     \iflh@verbose\typeout{Loading EPS file: \opt\space(\eps@fn)}\fi  
306     \expandafter\includegraphics\expandafter[\opt]{\eps@fn} %  
307   }%  
308   \typeout{EPS file not found: <\eps@fn>} %  
309   \ifdim\w=\z@\def\w{.8\hsize}\fi\ifdim\h=\z@\def\h{40mm}\fi  
310   \xyfparbox[b]\w\h{\texttt{\@Sanitize{\#1}}}\ \  
311     \@Sanitize{\eps@fn}}%  
312 }%  
313 \endgroup  
314 }
```

`\@Sanitize` Thanks to Peter Schmitt A8131DAL@AWIUNI11.EDVZ.Univie.AC.AT for the `\@Sanitize` trick. Note: If arg is empty "csnameendcsname" is printed. Note: Arg can not be dimen, skip, ...! (syntax error results)

```
315 \newcommand\@Sanitize[1]{{\escapechar=-1  
316   \expandafter\string\csname#1\endcsname}}
```

`\EPSSopt` Parameters which will always be inserted into the optional argument of `\includegraphics`.

```
317 \newcommand\EPSSopt{}
```

`\addEPSSopt` Specify options to `\includegraphics` which are used for every `\includegraphics`.

```
318 \newcommand\addEPSSopt[1]{%  
319   \edef\EPSSopt{\EPSSopt,\#1}}
```

5.6 List environments and aides

`\listlabelleft` Set horizontal list spacing. They are meant to go into the second argument of a list environment.

```
320 \newcommand\listlabelleft[4]{%  
321   \leftmargin #1\labelwidth #2\labelsep #3\rightmargin #4  
322   \advance\leftmargin\labelwidth\advance\leftmargin\labelsep  
323   \def\makelabel##1{\hfil##1}%  
324   \listparindent\z@  
325 \newcommand\listlabelleftindent[1]{\listlabelleft{1.5em}{#1}{1.5em}{4.5em}}}
```

`\listshort` All vertical spacing is set to zero.

```
326 \newcommand\listshort{\topsep\z@\partopsep\z@\itemsep\z@\parsep\z@}
```

`Eenumerate` Add an additional, required argument and insert it into the second argument of the `list` environment.

Would a form of `\begin[formatting for list]{itemize}` have been better? It has a reasonably high risk of conflicting with other packages which also redefine the `enumerate` and `itemize` environments.

Copied as is from latex.tex (25 Mar 92), ‘#1’ added. Jun 2000: Modified to be the same as L^AT_EX 2_ε.

```

327 \newcommand{\Eenumerate}[1]{\ifnum \c@enumdepth > \thr@@ \c@toodeep \else
328   \advance \c@enumdepth \c@ne
329   \edef \c@enumctr {\c@enum\romannumeral \the \c@enumdepth}%
330   \expandafter \list \csname \c@enumctr \endcsname
331   {\usecounter \c@enumctr
332     \def \makelabel##1{\hss \llap{##1}}#1}%
333   \fi}
334 \let \endEenumerate=\endlist
335 \newcommand{\Eitemize}[1]{\ifnum \c@itemdepth > \thr@@ \c@toodeep \else
336   \advance \c@itemdepth \c@ne
337   \edef \c@itemitem {\labelitem\romannumeral \the \c@itemdepth}%
338   \expandafter \list \csname \c@itemitem \endcsname
339   {\def \makelabel##1{\hss \llap{##1}}#1}%
340   \fi}
341 \let \endEitemize=\endlist

enumerateshort As enumerate, itemize but with reduced vertical spacing.
itemizeshort
342 \newenvironment{enumerateshort}{\Eenumerate{\listshort}}{\endEenumerate}
343 \newenvironment{itemizeshort}{\Eitemize{\listshort}}{\endEitemize}

```

5.7 Starting new pages

```

\newoddpage Always start a new odd/even page, even if the document is not twoside. Works with both
\newevenpage single and double column. \clear... also write out all leftover floats (as \clearpage,
\clearoddpage \cleardoublepage).
\clearevenpage \newoddpage*, \newevenpage* and \clearthispage can be used multiple times, e.g.
\newoddpage* \newoddpage*\newoddpage* starts an odd page and leaves another 2 blank pages;
\newevenpage* \newevenpage*\newevenpage* starts an even page and leaves another 2 blank pages;
\clearthispage \clearthispage\clearthispage finishes the current page and leaves one more blank
page. Note: careful with \new... after float pages! Check \pageref's!
344 \newcommand{\clearoddpage}{\clearpage \c@newodd}
345 \newcommand{\clearevenpage}{\clearpage \c@neweven}
346 \newcommand{\clearthispage}{\null \clearpage}
347 \newcommand{\newoddpage}{\c@ifstar{\null}{\newpage \c@newodd}}
348 \newcommand{\newevenpage}{\c@ifstar{\null}{\newpage \c@neweven}}
349 \newcommand{\c@newodd}{\c@ifodd \c@page \else
350   \null \newpage \c@if@twocolumn \null \newpage \c@fi \c@fi}
351 \newcommand{\c@neweven}{\c@ifodd \c@page
352   \null \newpage \c@if@twocolumn \null \newpage \c@fi \c@fi}

```

5.8 One and two columns

```

\ensureonecolumn Defining \endensure... might make it work as nestable environment.
\ensuretwocolumn
\ensurecolumnend
353 \newcommand{\ensureonecolumn}{%
354   \c@if@twocolumn
355   \onecolumn
356   \def \ensurecolumnend {\twocolumn \let \ensurecolumnend \relax}%
357   \c@fi
358 }
359 \def \endensureonecolumn {\ensurecolumnend}
360 \newcommand{\ensuretwocolumn}{%
361   \c@if@twocolumn \c@else
362   \twocolumn
363   \def \ensurecolumnend {\onecolumn \let \ensurecolumnend \relax}%
364   \c@fi
365 }
366 \def \endensuretwocolumn {\ensurecolumnend}
367 \newcommand{\ensurecolumnend}{}

```

5.9 Hanging indentation

The code for `\hangindent` is copied from the newsgroup `comp.text.tex`. It might not have been a good idea to incorporate it into `lhelp` instead of leaving it as a separate package, but in here it also contains a bugfix.

As noted in section 3.12, the `lhelp`-copyright does not cover `\absval` and `\hanghere`.

First some initial setup:

```
368 \newdimen \minlinelen
369 \minlinelen=\ifx\marginparwidth\Und@phined .2\hsize \else \marginparwidth \fi
370 \ifx \atempdimb\Und@fyned \csname newdimen\endcsname \atempdimb\fi
```

`\absval` Useful little macro: gives absolute value of a number or a dimension (if in a dimension register). Note that this makes use of TeX's confusing habit of expanding `\if`'s within a number.

```
371 \def\absval#1{\ifnum#1<\z@ -\fi#1}
```

`\hanghere` The actual code for `\hanghere`:

```
372 \newcommand\hanghere{\leavevmode
373 \ifinner\else \begingroup
374 \displaywidowpenalty\widowpenalty
375 \skip@\lastskip \unskip\unpenalty \penalty\@M \hskip\skip@ \null
376 $$% Need a display to measure previous width
377 \lineskiplimit-999\p@ % so we get a baselineskip that we can cancel with:
378 \abovedisplayskip-\baselineskip \abovedisplayshortskip-\baselineskip
379 \belowdisplayskip\z@skip \belowdisplayshortskip\z@skip
380 \halign{##\cr\noalign{\global\dimen@i\prevdepth}% get depth of line above
381 \hbox{\vrule width\z@ depth\dimen@i }\cr}% preserve its depth
382 \dimen@hsize \advance\dimen@-\minlinelen
383 \ifdim\absval{\predisplaysize}>\dimen@
384 \global\dimen@i\z@ \else
385 % use the width of the line above (\predisplaysize-2em):
386 \global\dimen@i\predisplaysize \global\advance\dimen@i-2em
387 \fi
388 $$\endgraf
389 \ifdim\dimen@i>\z@ % then back up a line
390 \atempdimb\prevdepth
391 \prevdepth-999\p@ % make sure I get an exact \baselineskip
392 \parskip-999\p@ % but cancel the extra space
393 \advance\parskip-\baselineskip % cancel the \baselineskip
394 \advance\parskip-\atempdimb\relax
395 \else
396 \parskip\z@skip
397 \fi \parindent\z@ \leavevmode
398 %% \atempdimb does not get past the \endgroup!,
399 %% \vrule has to be before \endgroup.
400 %% blame Volker if this is not true.
401 \vrule depth\atempdimb width\z@
402 \endgroup
403 \hangindent\dimen@i \hangafter\z@
404 %% \vrule depth\atempdimb width\z@ % see 4 lines above.
405 \fi}
```

`\labelhangindent` Hanging indentation with the width of the printed label.

```
406 \newcommand\labelhangindent[1]{\setbox\atempboxa\hbox{#1}%
407 \expandafter\everypar\expandafter=\expandafter{\expandafter\%
408 \hangindent\the\wd\atempboxa\hangafter 0\relax}\%
409 \leavevmode\box\atempboxa\hangafter 1\ignorespaces}
```

5.10 Etc

`\gobble` These macros simply discard their argument(s).

`\gobbletwo`

```

410 \long\def\gobble#1{}
411 \long\def\gobbletwo#1#2{}

narrowpars Narrower paragraphs than the rest of the text. Perhaps it would have been better to set \leftskip and \rightskip; but both methods fail in some cases.

412 \newenvironment{narrowpars}[1]{%
413   \everypar={\hangindent #1\hangafter 0\relax}%
414   \advance\columnwidth-#1\relax
415   \advance\hsize-#1\relax
416 }{%
417   \par
418 }

\thinthinspace Approximately half a thinspace. \,, = \thinspace = \kern .16667em
419 \providecommand{\thinthinspace}{\kern .08em\relax}

\setTBstruts Fine-tune vertical spacing in tabular and array. (Taken from "TeX and TUG NEWS",
\bT Vol. 2, No. 3, 1993, p. 10.)
\bB
420 \newcommand{\setTBstruts}{\def\T{\rule{\z@}{2.6ex}}%
421 \def\B{\rule[-1.2ex]{\z@}{\z@}}}

\placepos Place text at a given arbitrary position. Equivalent to \mbox, but does not contain a
\leavevmode.
422 \newcommand{\placepos}[3]{\hbox to\z@\kern#1
423 \raisebox{-#2}{\z@[\z@]{\#3}\hss}\ignorespaces}

\PSadjust This once used to be necessary when using the PS fonts with psnfss. It changes the line
breaking parameters such that some breaking is possible. Current versions of psnfss
don't need this.

424 \newcommand{\PSadjust}{%
425   \tolerance 800
426   \emergencystretch 2em
427   \doublehyphendemerits 5000
428   \hfuzz 0pt
429   \leftskip 0pt \@minus1pt
430   \rightskip 0pt \@minus1pt
431 }

432 </package>

```

Change History

v1.0	General: Created from Vgeneral 1.9 2Sep94, Vphysics 1.32 10Dec93. . .	1	age option draftmarkpsonly. Changed <code>\phref</code> , <code>\Phref</code> to <code>\providecommand</code>	1
v2.0	General: Many little improvements. First public release.	1		
v2.0b	General: Minor changes to documenta- tion.	1		
v2.0c	General: Added option yyyyymmdd. . .	1		
v2.0d	General: Added <code>\Fref</code> , <code>\Tref</code> , <code>\Phref</code> . .	1		
v2.0e	General: Added <code>\Pgref</code> , pack-			
			General: Added <code>\timehhmm</code> , <code>\eg</code> <code>\ie</code> <code>\etc</code> <code>\ca</code> <code>\resp</code> , <code>\muunit</code> , <code>\thinthinspace</code> , <code>\EPSfileext</code> , <code>\putdraftmarkps</code> ; package op- tions <code>hh:mm</code> , <code>unitxspace</code> , <code>ep- spdf</code> . <code>unitelec</code> : added <code>\muW</code> . Im- proved index (still not finished). Draft mark slightly darker. Use <code>\providecommand</code> with <code>\ohm</code> . Se- lect hyphenation patterns by <code>\selectXX</code> even if babel isn't used.	1

Index

Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

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