

L^AT_EX for authors — historic version

© Copyright 1995–2023, L^AT_EX Project Team.
All rights reserved.*

09 November 2023

Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	L ^A T _E X 2 _ε —The new L ^A T _E X release	2
1.2	L ^A T _E X 3—The long-term future of L ^A T _E X	3
1.3	Overview	4
1.4	Further information	4
2	Classes and packages	5
2.1	What are classes and packages?	5
2.2	Class and package options	6
2.3	Standard classes	7
2.4	Standard packages	7
2.5	Related software	8
3	Commands	10
3.1	Preamble commands	10
3.2	Environments to write out support files	12
3.3	Document structure	13
3.4	Definitions	13
3.5	Boxes	15
3.6	Measuring things	16
3.7	Line endings	16
3.8	Controlling page breaks	17
3.9	Floats	17
3.10	Font changing: text	18
3.11	Font changing: math	19
3.12	Ensuring math mode	19
3.13	Setting text superscripts	20
3.14	Text commands: all encodings	20
3.15	Text commands: the T1 encoding	22
3.16	Logos	23

*This file may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of the L^AT_EX Project Public License, either version 1.3c of this license or (at your option) any later version. See the source `usrguide-historic.tex` for full details.

3.17	Picture commands	23
3.18	Old commands	24
4	L^AT_EX 2.09 documents	24
4.1	Warning	25
4.2	Font selection problems	25
4.3	Native mode	26
5	Local modifications	27
6	Problems	27
6.1	New error messages	27
6.2	Old internal commands	29
6.3	Old files	30
6.4	Where to go for more help	30
7	Enjoy!	31

1 Introduction

Welcome to L^AT_EX 2_ε, the new standard version of the L^AT_EX Document Preparation System.

This document describes how to take advantage of the new features of L^AT_EX, and how to process your old L^AT_EX documents with L^AT_EX 2_ε. However, this document is only a brief introduction to the new facilities and is intended for authors who are already familiar with the old version of L^AT_EX. It is *not* a reference manual for L^AT_EX 2_ε nor is it a complete introduction to L^AT_EX.

It is somewhat of an historical document now, since L^AT_EX 2_ε came into existence in 1994.

1.1 L^AT_EX 2_ε—The new L^AT_EX release (well, for more than 10 years now)

The previous version of L^AT_EX was known as L^AT_EX 2.09. Over the years many extensions have been developed for L^AT_EX. This is, of course, a sure sign of its continuing popularity but it has had one unfortunate result: incompatible L^AT_EX formats came into use at different sites. This included ‘standard L^AT_EX 2.09’, L^AT_EX built with the *New Font Selection Scheme* (NFSS), S_LT_EX, $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}$ -L^AT_EX, and so on. Thus, to process documents from various places, a site maintainer was forced to keep multiple versions of the L^AT_EX program. In addition, when looking at a source file it was not always clear for which format the document was written.

To put an end to this unsatisfactory situation, L^AT_EX 2_ε has been produced; it brings all such extensions back under a single format and thus prevents the proliferation of mutually incompatible dialects of L^AT_EX 2.09. With L^AT_EX 2_ε the ‘new font selection scheme’ is standard and, for example, `amsmath` (formerly

the $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}$ - \LaTeX format) or slides (formerly the \SLiTeX format) are simply extensions, which may be loaded by documents using the same base format.

The introduction of a new release also made it possible to add a small number of often-requested features and to make the task of writing packages and classes simpler.

1.2 $\text{\LaTeX}3$ —The long-term future of \LaTeX

$\text{\LaTeX}2_{\epsilon}$ is the consolidation step in a comprehensive reimplementa-tion of the \LaTeX system. The next major release of \LaTeX will be $\text{\LaTeX}3$, which will include a radical overhaul of the document designers' and package writers' interface to \LaTeX .

$\text{\LaTeX}3$ is a long-term research project but, until it is completed, the project team are committed to the active maintenance of $\text{\LaTeX}2_{\epsilon}$. Thus the experience gained from the production and maintenance of $\text{\LaTeX}2_{\epsilon}$ will be a major influence on the design of $\text{\LaTeX}3$. A brief description of the project can be found in the document `ltx3info.tex`.

If you would like to support the project then you are welcome to send donations to the \LaTeX Project Fund; this has been set up to help the research team by financing various expenses associated with this voluntary work of maintaining the current \LaTeX and developing \LaTeX further.

The fund is administered by The \TeX Users Group and by various local user groups. Information about making donations and joining these groups is available from:

`http://www.tug.org/lugs.html`

The $\text{\LaTeX}3$ project has its home page on the World Wide Web at:

`http://www.latex-project.org/`

This page describes \LaTeX and the $\text{\LaTeX}3$ project, and contains pointers to other \LaTeX resources, such as the user guides, the \TeX Frequently Asked Questions, and the \LaTeX bugs database.

Older articles covering aspects of the $\text{\LaTeX}3$ project are also available for anonymous ftp from the Comprehensive \TeX Archive, in the directory:

`ctan:info/ltx3pub`

The file `ltx3pub.bib` in that directory contains an abstract of each of the files.

1.3 Overview

This document contains an overview of the new structure and features of L^AT_EX. It is *not* a self-contained document, as it contains only the features of L^AT_EX which have changed since version 2.09. You should read this document in conjunction with an introduction to L^AT_EX.

Section 2 contains an overview of the new structure of L^AT_EX documents. It describes how classes and packages work and how class and package options can be used. It lists the standard packages and classes which come with L^AT_EX.

Section 3 describes the new commands available to authors in L^AT_EX 2_ε.

Section 4 shows how to process old L^AT_EX documents with L^AT_EX 2_ε.

Section 6 contains advice on dealing with problems you may encounter in running L^AT_EX 2_ε. It lists some error messages which are new in L^AT_EX 2_ε and it describes some of the more common problems and how to cure them, or where to find further information.

1.4 Further information

For a general introduction to L^AT_EX, including the new features of L^AT_EX 2_ε, you should read *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System* by Leslie Lamport [4].

A more detailed description of the new features of L^AT_EX, including an overview of more than 200 packages and nearly 1000 ready to run examples, is to be found in *The L^AT_EX Companion* second edition by Frank Mittelbach and Michel Goossens [5].

Packages and programs for producing and manipulating graphics are discussed at length in *The L^AT_EX Graphics Companion* by Michel Goossens, Sebastian Rahtz and Frank Mittelbach [1].

Solutions for publishing with L^AT_EX on the World Wide Web are given in *The L^AT_EX Web Companion* by Michel Goossens and Sebastian Rahtz [2].

For more information about the many new L^AT_EX packages you should read the package documentation, which should be available from the same source as your copy of L^AT_EX.

There are a number of documentation files which accompany every copy of L^AT_EX. A copy of *L^AT_EX News* will come out with each six-monthly release of L^AT_EX; it will be found in the files `ltnews*.tex`. The class- and package-writer's guide *L^AT_EX 2_ε for Class and Package Writers* describes the new L^AT_EX features for writers of document classes and packages; it is in `clsguide.tex`. The guide *L^AT_EX 2_ε Font Selection* describes the L^AT_EX font selection scheme for class- and package-writers; it is in `fontguide.tex`. Support for Cyrillic languages in L^AT_EX is described in *Cyrillic languages support in L^AT_EX*.

The documented source code (from the files used to produce the kernel format via `latex.ltx`) is now available as *The L^AT_EX 2_ε Sources*.] This very large

document also includes an index of L^AT_EX commands. It can be typeset from the L^AT_EX file `source2e.tex` in the `base` directory, using the source files and the class file `ltxdoc.cls` from this directory.

For more information about T_EX and L^AT_EX, please contact your local T_EX Users Group, or the international T_EX Users Group (see page 3).

2 Classes and packages

This section describes the new structure of L^AT_EX documents and the new types of file: *classes* and *packages*.

2.1 What are classes and packages?

The main difference between L^AT_EX 2.09 and L^AT_EX 2_ε is in the commands before `\begin{document}`.

In L^AT_EX 2.09, documents had *styles*, such as `article` or `book`, and *options*, such as `twoside` or `epsfig`. These were indicated by the `\documentstyle` command:

```
\documentstyle[options]{style}
```

For example, to specify a two-sided article with encapsulated PostScript figures, you said:

```
\documentstyle[twoside,epsfig]{article}
```

However, there were two different types of document style option: *built-in options* such as `twoside`; and *packages* such as `epsfig.sty`. These were very different, since any L^AT_EX document style could use the `epsfig` package but only document styles which declared the `twoside` option could use that option.

To avoid this confusion, L^AT_EX 2_ε differentiates between built-in options and packages. These are given by the new `\documentclass` and `\usepackage` commands:

```
\documentclass[options]{class}  
\usepackage[options]{packages}
```

For example, to specify a two-sided article with encapsulated PostScript figures, you now write:

```
\documentclass[twoside]{article}  
\usepackage{epsfig}
```

You can load more than one package with a single `\usepackage` command; for example, rather than writing:

```
\usepackage{epsfig}
\usepackage{multicol}
```

you can specify:

```
\usepackage{epsfig,multicol}
```

Note that L^AT_EX 2_ε still understands the L^AT_EX 2.09 `\documentstyle` command. This command causes L^AT_EX 2_ε to enter *L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode*, which is described in Section 4.

You should not, however, use the `\documentstyle` command for new documents because this compatibility mode is very slow and the new features of L^AT_EX 2_ε are not available in this mode.

To help differentiate between classes and packages, document classes now end with `.cls` rather than `.sty`. Packages still end with `.sty`, since most L^AT_EX 2.09 packages work well with L^AT_EX 2_ε.

2.2 Class and package options

In L^AT_EX 2.09, only document styles could have options such as `twoside` or `draft`. In L^AT_EX 2_ε, both classes and packages are allowed to have options. For example, to specify a two-sided article with graphics using the `dvips` driver, you write:

```
\documentclass[twoside]{article}
\usepackage[dvips]{graphics}
```

It is possible for packages to share common options. For example, you could, in addition, load the `color` package by specifying:

```
\documentclass[twoside]{article}
\usepackage[dvips]{graphics}
\usepackage[dvips]{color}
```

But because `\usepackage` allows more than one package to be listed, this can be shortened to:

```
\documentclass[twoside]{article}
\usepackage[dvips]{graphics,color}
```

In addition, packages will also use each option given to the `\documentclass` command (if they know what to do with it), so you could also write:

```
\documentclass[twoside,dvips]{article}
\usepackage{graphics,color}
```

Class and package options are covered in more detail in *The L^AT_EX Companion* and in *L^AT_EX 2_ε for Class and Package Writers*.

2.3 Standard classes

The following classes are distributed with L^AT_EX:

article The **article** class described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*.

book The **book** class described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*.

report The **report** class described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*.

letter The **letter** class described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*.

slides The **slides** class described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*, formerly SL^AT_EX.

proc A document class for proceedings, based on **article**. Formerly the **proc** package.

ltxdoc The document class for documenting the L^AT_EX program, based on **article**.

ltxguide The document class for *L^AT_EX 2_ε for Authors* and *L^AT_EX 2_ε for Class and Package Writers*, based on **article**. The document you are reading now uses the **ltxguide** class. The layout for this class is likely to change in future releases of L^AT_EX.

ltnews The document class for the *L^AT_EX News* information sheet, based on **article**. The layout for this class is likely to change in future releases of L^AT_EX.

minimal This class is the bare minimum (3 lines) that is needed in a L^AT_EX class file. It just sets the text width and height, and defines `\normalsize`. It is principally intended for debugging and testing L^AT_EX code in situations where you do not need to load a ‘full’ class such as **article**. If, however, you are designing a completely new class that is aimed for documents with structure radically different from the structure supplied by the **article** class, then it may make sense to use this as a base and add to it code implementing the required structure, rather than starting from **article** and modifying the code there.

New feature
1995/12/01

2.4 Standard packages

The following packages are distributed with L^AT_EX:

alltt This package provides the **alltt** environment, which is like the **verbatim** environment except that `\`, `{`, and `}` have their usual meanings. It is described in **alltt.dtx** and *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*.

New feature
1994/12/01

doc This is the basic package for typesetting the documentation of L^AT_EX programs. It is described in **doc.dtx** and in *The L^AT_EX Companion*.

exscale	This provides scaled versions of the math extension font. It is described in <code>exscale.dtx</code> and <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> .	
fontenc	This is used to specify which font encoding L ^A T _E X should use. It is described in <code>ltoutenc.dtx</code> .	
graphpap	This package defines the <code>\graphpaper</code> command; this can be used in a <code>picture</code> environment.	New feature 1994/12/01
ifthen	Provides commands of the form ‘if...then do...otherwise do...’. It is described in <code>ifthen.dtx</code> and <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> .	
inputenc	This is used to specify which input encoding L ^A T _E X should use. It is described in <code>inputenc.dtx</code> .	New feature 1994/12/01
latexsym	L ^A T _E X 2 _ε no longer loads the L ^A T _E X symbol font by default. To access it, you should use the <code>latexsym</code> package. It is described in <code>latexsym.dtx</code> and in <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> ; see also Section 6.	
makeidx	This provides commands for producing indexes. It is described in <i>L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System</i> and in <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> .	
newlfont	This is used to emulate the font commands of L ^A T _E X 2.09 with the New Font Selection Scheme. It is described in <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> .	
oldlfont	This is used to emulate the font commands of L ^A T _E X 2.09. It is described in <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> .	
showidx	This causes the argument of each <code>\index</code> command to be printed on the page where it occurs. It is described in <i>L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System</i> .	
syntonly	This is used to process a document without typesetting it. It is described in <code>syntonly.dtx</code> and in <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> .	
tracefmt	This allows you to control how much information about L ^A T _E X’s font loading is displayed. It is described in <i>The L^AT_EX Companion</i> .	

2.5 Related software

The following software should be available from the same distributor as your copy of L^AT_EX 2_ε. You should obtain at least the **graphics** and **tools** collections in order to have all the files described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*. The **amsmath** package (part of **amslatex** and formerly known as **amstex**) and **babel** are also mentioned in the list of ‘standard packages’ in section C.5.2 of that book.

amslatex Advanced mathematical typesetting from the American Mathematical Society. This includes the **amsmath** package; it provides many commands for typesetting mathematical formulas of higher complexity. It is produced and supported by the American Mathematical Society and it is described in *The L^AT_EX Companion*.

babel This package and related files support typesetting in many languages. It is described in *The L^AT_EX Companion*.

cyrillic Everything you need (except the fonts themselves) for typesetting with Cyrillic fonts. New feature
1998/12/01

graphics This includes the **graphics** package which provides support for the inclusion and transformation of graphics, including files produced by other software. Also included, is the **color** package which provides support for typesetting in colour. Both these packages are described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*.

psnfss Everything you need (except the fonts themselves) for typesetting with a large range of Type 1 (PostScript) fonts.

tools Miscellaneous packages written by the L^AT_EX3 project team.

These packages come with documentation and each of them is also described in at least one of the books *The L^AT_EX Companion* and *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*.

2.5.1 Tools

This collection of packages includes, at least, the following (some files may have slightly different names on certain systems):

array Extended versions of the environments **array**, **tabular** and **tabular***, with many extra features.

calc Enables the use of certain algebraic notation when specifying values for lengths and counters. New feature
1996/12/01

dcolumn Alignment on ‘decimal points’ in tabular entries. Requires the **array** package.

delarray Adds ‘large delimiters’ around arrays. Requires **array**.

hhline Finer control over horizontal rules in tables. Requires **array**.

longtable Multi-page tables. (Does not require **array**, but it uses the extended features if both are loaded.)

tabularx Defines a **tabularx** environment that is similar to **tabular*** but it modifies the column widths, rather than the inter-column space, to achieve the desired table width.

afterpage Place text after the current page.

bm Access bold math symbols.

enumerate Extended version of the **enumerate** environment.

fontsmpl Package and test file for producing ‘font samples’.

ftnright Place all footnotes in the right-hand column in two-column mode.

indentfirst Indent the first paragraph of sections, etc.

layout Show the page layout defined by the current document class.

multicol Typeset text in columns, with the length of the columns ‘balanced’.

rawfonts Preload fonts using the old internal font names of \LaTeX 2.09. See Section 6.2.

somedefs Selective handling of package options. (Used by the rawfonts package.)

showkeys Prints the ‘keys’ used by $\backslash\text{label}$, $\backslash\text{ref}$, $\backslash\text{cite}$ etc.; useful whilst drafting.

theorem Flexible declaration of ‘theorem-like’ environments.

varioref ‘Smart’ handling of page references.

verbatim Flexible extension of the verbatim environment.

xr Cross reference other ‘external’ documents.

xspace ‘Smart space’ command that helps you to avoid the common mistake of missing spaces after command names.

3 Commands

This section describes the new commands available in \LaTeX 2 ϵ . They are covered in more detail in *\LaTeX : A Document Preparation System* and in *The \LaTeX Companion*.

3.1 Preamble commands

The changes to the preamble commands are intentionally designed to make \LaTeX 2 ϵ documents look clearly different from old documents. The commands should be used only before $\backslash\text{begin}\{\text{document}\}$.

$\backslash\text{documentclass}$ [$\langle\text{option-list}\rangle$] { $\langle\text{class-name}\rangle$ } [$\langle\text{release-date}\rangle$]

This command replaces the \LaTeX 2.09 command $\backslash\text{documentstyle}$.

There must be exactly one $\backslash\text{documentclass}$ command in a document; and it should normally come before any other command. (There are some exceptions, e.g., you can have filecontents environments before it or $\backslash\text{RequirePackage}$ but these should be only used in special scenarios as discussed elsewhere.)

The $\langle\text{option-list}\rangle$ is a list of options, each of which may modify the formatting of elements which are defined in the $\langle\text{class-name}\rangle$ file, as well as those in all following $\backslash\text{usepackage}$ commands (see below).

The optional argument $\langle release-date \rangle$ can be used to specify the earliest desired release date of the class file; it should contain a date in the format YYYY/MM/DD. If a version of the class older than this date is found, a warning is issued.

For example, to specify a two-column article, using a version of `article.cls` released after June 1994, you specify:

```
\documentclass[twocolumn]{article}[1994/06/01]
```

`\documentstyle [$\langle option-list \rangle$] { $\langle class-name \rangle$ }`

This command is still supported for compatibility with old files. It is essentially the same as `\documentclass` except that it invokes *L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode*. It also causes any options in the $\langle option-list \rangle$ that are not processed by the class file to be loaded as packages after the class has been loaded. See Section 4 for more details on L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode.

`\usepackage [$\langle option-list \rangle$] { $\langle package-name \rangle$ } [$\langle release-date \rangle$]`

Any number of `\usepackage` commands is allowed. Each package file (as denoted by $\langle package-name \rangle$) defines new elements (or modifies those defined in the class file loaded by the $\langle class-name \rangle$ argument of the `\documentclass` command). A package file thus extends the range of documents which can be processed.

The $\langle option-list \rangle$ argument can contain a list of options, each of which can modify the formatting of elements which are defined in this $\langle package-name \rangle$ file.

As above, $\langle release-date \rangle$ can contain the earliest desired release date of the package file in the format YYYY/MM/DD; if an older version of the package is found, a warning is issued.

For example, to load the `graphics` package for the `dvips` driver, using a version of `graphics.sty` released after June 1994, you write:

```
\usepackage[dvips]{graphics}[1994/06/01]
```

Each package is loaded only once. If the same package is requested more than once, nothing happens in the second or following attempt unless the package has been requested with options that were not given in the original `\usepackage`. If such extra options are specified then an error message is produced. See Section 6 how to resolve this problem.

As well as processing the options given in the $\langle option-list \rangle$ of the `\usepackage` command, each package processes the $\langle option-list \rangle$ of the `\documentclass` command as well. This means that any option which should be processed by every package (to be precise, by every package that specifies an action for it) can be specified just once, in the `\documentclass` command, rather than being repeated for each package that needs it.

`\listfiles`

If this command is placed in the preamble then a list of the files read in (as a result of processing the document) will be displayed on the terminal (and in the log file) at the end of the run. Where possible, a short description will also be produced.

Warning: this command will list only files which were read using L^AT_EX commands such as `\input{<file>}` or `\include{<file>}`. If the file was read using the primitive T_EX syntax `\input file` (without `{ }` braces around the file name) then it will not be listed; failure to use the L^AT_EX form with the braces can cause more severe problems, possibly leading to overwriting important files, so **always put in the braces**.

New
description
1995/12/01

`\setcounter{errorcontextlines}{<num>}`

T_EX 3 introduced a new primitive `\errorcontextlines` which controls the format of error messages. L^AT_EX 2_ε provides an interface to this through the standard `\setcounter` command. As most L^AT_EX users do not want to see the internal definitions of L^AT_EX commands each time they make an error, L^AT_EX 2_ε sets this to `-1` by default.

3.2 Environments to write out support files

Until the L^AT_EX release in 2019 the `filecontents` environment was restricted to a place before the `\documentclass` command. These days it can be used anywhere, though we still think that in most cases it is best to only use it at the top of your document or in the preamble.

New feature
2019

`\begin{filecontents} [<option-list>] {<file-name>}`
`<file-contents>`
`\end{filecontents}`

The `filecontents` environment is intended for bundling within a single document file the contents of packages, options, or other files. When the document file is run through L^AT_EX 2_ε the body of this environment is written verbatim (preceded by a comment line) to a file whose name is given as the environment's only argument. However, if that file already exists then nothing happens except for an information message.

These days most UTF-8 text characters can be used in a `filecontents` environment—they will be written unchanged to the output file. However, tabs and form feeds produce a warning, explaining that they are turned into spaces or blank lines, respectively.

By default the environment does not overwrite an existing file and it even refuses to write out the data if there exists a file that is anywhere in the path that T_EX searches when inputting files. With the option `nosearch` you can ask it to look only into the current directory and with the option `overwrite` (or `force`) you can request it to write the file regardless. It will, however, never write to `\jobname.tex` to avoid overwriting itself.

The `filecontents` environment is used for including \LaTeX files. For other plain text files (such as Encapsulated PostScript files), you should use the `filecontents*` environment which does not add a comment line.

3.3 Document structure

The book document class introduces new commands to indicate document structure.

```
\frontmatter
\mainmatter
\backmatter
```

These commands indicate the beginning of the front matter (title page, table of contents and prefaces), main matter (main text) and back matter (bibliography, indexes and colophon).

3.4 Definitions

In \LaTeX , commands can have both mandatory and optional arguments, for example in:

```
\documentclass[11pt]{article}
```

the `11pt` argument is optional, whereas the `article` class name is mandatory.

In \LaTeX 2.09 users could define commands with arguments, but these had to be mandatory arguments. With \LaTeX 2 ϵ , users can now define commands and environments which also have one optional argument.

```
\newcommand {\langle cmd \rangle} [\langle num \rangle] [\langle default \rangle] {\langle definition \rangle}
\newcommand* {\langle cmd \rangle} [\langle num \rangle] [\langle default \rangle] {\langle definition \rangle}
\renewcommand {\langle cmd \rangle} [\langle num \rangle] [\langle default \rangle] {\langle definition \rangle}
\renewcommand* {\langle cmd \rangle} [\langle num \rangle] [\langle default \rangle] {\langle definition \rangle}
```

These commands have a new, second, optional argument; this is used for defining commands which themselves take one optional argument. This new argument is best introduced by means of a simple (and hence not very practical) example:

```
\newcommand{\example}[2][YYY]{Mandatory arg: #2;
                             Optional arg: #1.}
```

This defines `\example` to be a command with two arguments, referred to as `#1` and `#2` in the `{\langle definition \rangle}`—nothing new so far. But by adding a second optional argument to this `\newcommand` (the `[YYY]`) the first argument (`#1`) of the newly defined command `\example` is made optional with its default value being `YYY`.

Thus the usage of `\example` is either:

`\example{BBB}`

which prints:

Mandatory arg: BBB; Optional arg: YYY.

or:

`\example[XXX]{AAA}`

which prints:

Mandatory arg: AAA; Optional arg: XXX.

The default value of the optional argument is YYY. This value is specified as the `[<default>]` argument of the `\newcommand` that created `\example`.

As another more useful example, the definition:

`\newcommand{\seq}[2][n]{\lbrace #2_{0},\ldots,#2_{#1} \rbrace}`

means that the input `$_\seq{a}$` produces the formula $\{a_0, \dots, a_n\}$, whereas the input `$_\seq{k}{x}$` produces the formula $\{x_0, \dots, x_k\}$.

In summary, the command:

`\newcommand {<cmd> } [<num>] [<default>] {<definition>}`

defines `<cmd>` to be a command with `<num>` arguments, the first of which is optional and has default value `<default>`.

Note that there can only be one optional argument but, as before, there can be up to nine arguments in total.

<code>\newenvironment {<cmd> } [<num>] [<default>] {<beg-def>} {<end-def>}</code>
<code>\newenvironment* {<cmd> } [<num>] [<default>] {<beg-def>} {<end-def>}</code>
<code>\renewenvironment {<cmd> } [<num>] [<default>] {<beg-def>} {<end-def>}</code>
<code>\renewenvironment* {<cmd> } [<num>] [<default>] {<beg-def>} {<end-def>}</code>

L^AT_EX 2_ε also supports the creation of environments that have one optional argument. Thus the syntax of these two commands has been extended in the same way as that of `\newcommand`.

<code>\providecommand {<cmd> } [<num>] [<default>] {<definition>}</code>
<code>\providecommand* {<cmd> } [<num>] [<default>] {<definition>}</code>

This takes the same arguments as `\newcommand`. If `<cmd>` is already defined then the existing definition is kept; but if it is currently undefined then the effect of `\providecommand` is to define `<cmd>` just as if `\newcommand` had been used.

All the above five ‘defining commands’ now have **-forms* that are usually the better form to use when defining commands with arguments, unless any of these arguments is intended to contain whole paragraphs of text. Moreover, if you ever do find yourself needing to use the non-star form then you should ask whether that argument would not better be treated as the contents of a suitably defined environment.

New feature
1994/12/01

The commands produced by the above five ‘defining commands’ are now robust.

New feature
1995/12/01

3.5 Boxes

These next three commands for making LR-boxes all existed in L^AT_EX 2.09. They have been enhanced in two ways.

<code>\makebox [<i><width></i>] [<i><pos></i>] {<i><text></i>}</code> <code>\framebox [<i><width></i>] [<i><pos></i>] {<i><text></i>}</code> <code>\savebox {<i><cmd></i>} [<i><width></i>] [<i><pos></i>] {<i><text></i>}</code>

One small but far-reaching change for L^AT_EX 2_ε is that, within the *<width>* argument only, four special lengths can be used. These are all dimensions of the box that would be produced by using simply `\mbox{<text>}`:

`\height` its height above the baseline;
`\depth` its depth below the baseline;
`\totalheight` the sum of `\height` and `\depth`;
`\width` its width.

Thus, to put ‘hello’ in the centre of a box of twice its natural width, you would use:

```
\makebox[2\width]{hello}
```

Or you could put *f* into a square box, like this: *f*

```
\framebox{\makebox[\totalheight]{\itshape f\}}
```

Note that it is the total width of the framed box, including the frame, which is set to `\totalheight`.

The other change is a new possibility for *<pos>*: **s** has been added to **l** and **r**. If *<pos>* is **s** then the text is stretched the full length of the box, making use of any ‘rubber lengths’ (including any inter-word spaces) in the contents of the box. If no such ‘rubber length’ is present, an ‘underfull box’ will probably be produced.

```

\parbox [<pos>] [<height>] [<inner-pos>] {<width>} {<text>}
\begin{minipage} [<pos>] [<height>] [<inner-pos>] {<width>}
<text>
\end{minipage}

```

As for the box commands above, `\height`, `\width`, etc. may be used in the [*<height>*] argument to denote the natural dimensions of the box.

The *<inner-pos>* argument is new in L^AT_EX 2_ε. It is the vertical equivalent to the *<pos>* argument for `\makebox`, etc, determining the position of *<text>* within the box. The *<inner-pos>* may be any one of **t**, **b**, **c**, or **s**, denoting top, bottom, centered, or ‘stretched’ alignment respectively. When the *<inner-pos>* argument is not specified, L^AT_EX gives it same value as *<pos>* (this could be the latter’s default value).

```

\begin{lrbox} {<cmd>}
<text>
\end{lrbox}

```

This is an environment which does not directly print anything. Its effect is to save the typeset *<text>* in the bin *<cmd>*. Thus it is like `\sbox {<cmd>} {<text>}`, except that any white space before or after the contents *<text>* is ignored.

This is very useful as it enables both the `\verb` command and the `verbatim` environment to be used within *<text>*.

It also makes it possible to define, for example, a ‘framed box’ environment. This is done by first using this environment to save some text in a bin *<cmd>* and then calling `\fbox{\usebox{<cmd>}}`.

The following example defines an environment, called `fmpage`, that is a framed version of `minipage`.

```

\newsavebox{\fmbox}
\newenvironment{fmpage}[1]
  {\begin{lrbox}{\fmbox}\begin{minipage}{#1}}
  {\end{minipage}\end{lrbox}\fbox{\usebox{\fmbox}}}

```

3.6 Measuring things

The first of these next commands was in L^AT_EX 2.09. The two new commands are the obvious analogues.

```

\settowidth {<length-cmd>} {<lr text>}
\settoheight {<length-cmd>} {<lr text>}
\settodepth {<length-cmd>} {<lr text>}

```

3.7 Line endings

The command `\`, which is used to indicate a line-end in various places, is now

New
description
1994/12/01

a robust command when used within arguments such as section titles.

Also, because it is often necessary to distinguish which type of line is to be ended, we have introduced the following new command; it has the same argument syntax as that of `\`.

<code>\tabularnewline</code> [<i>vertical-space</i>]
--

New feature
1994/12/01

One example of its use is when the text in the last column of a `tabular` environment is set with `\raggedright`; then `\tabularnewline` can be used to indicate the end of a row of the `tabular`, whilst `\` will indicate the end of a line of text in a paragraph within the column. This command can be used in the `array` environment as well as `tabular`, and also the extended versions of these environments offered by the `array` and `longtable` packages in the tools collection.

3.8 Controlling page breaks

Sometimes it is necessary, for a final version of a document, to ‘help’ \LaTeX break the pages in the best way. \LaTeX 2.09 had a variety of commands for this situation: `\clearpage`, `\pagebreak` etc. \LaTeX 2 ϵ provides, in addition, commands which can produce longer pages as well as shorter ones.

<code>\enlargethispage</code> { <i>size</i> }
<code>\enlargethispage*</code> { <i>size</i> }

These commands increase the height of a page (from its normal value of `\textheight`) by the specified amount *size*, a rigid length. This change affects *only* the current page.

This can be used, for example, to allow an extra line to be fitted onto the page or, with a negative length, to produce a page shorter than normal.

The star form also shrinks any vertical white space on the page as much as possible, so as to fit the maximum amount of text on the page.

These commands do not change the position of the footer text; thus, if a page is lengthened too far, the main text may overprint the footer.

New
description
1995/12/01

3.9 Floats

There is a new command, `\suppressfloats`, and a new ‘float specifier’. These will enable people to gain better control of \LaTeX ’s float placement algorithm.

<code>\suppressfloats</code> [<i>placement</i>]

This command stops any further floating environments from being placed on the current page. With an optional argument, which should be either `t` or `b` (not both), this restriction applies only to putting further floats at the top or at the bottom. Any floats which would normally be placed on this page are placed on the next page instead.

The extra float location specifier: `!`

This can be used, along with at least one of `h`, `t`, `b` and `p`, in the location optional argument of a float.

If a `!` is present then, just for this particular float, whenever it is processed by the float mechanism the following are ignored:

- all restrictions on the number of floats which can appear;
- all explicit restrictions on the amount of space on a text page which may be occupied by floats or must be occupied by text.

The mechanism will, however, still attempt to ensure that pages are not overfull and that floats of the same type are printed in the correct order.

Note that its presence has no effect on the production of float pages.

A `!` specifier overrides the effect of any `\suppressfloats` command for this particular float.

3.10 Font changing: text

The font selection scheme used in $\text{\LaTeX} 2_\epsilon$ differs a lot from that used in $\text{\LaTeX} 2.09$. In this section, we give a brief description of the new commands. A more detailed description with examples is given in *The \LaTeX Companion*, and the interface for class- and package-writers is described in *$\text{\LaTeX} 2_\epsilon$ Font Selection*.

```
\normalfont  
\rmfamily  
\sffamily  
\ttfamily  
\mdseries  
\bfseries  
\upshape  
\itshape  
\slshape  
\scshape
```

These are font commands whose use is the same as the commands `\rm`, `\bf`, etc. The difference is that each command changes just one attribute of the font (the attribute changed is part of the name). One result of this is that, for example, `\bfseries\itshape` produces both a change of series and a change of shape, to give a bold italic font.

```

\textnormal{⟨text⟩}
\textrm{⟨text⟩}
\textsf{⟨text⟩}
\texttt{⟨text⟩}
\textmd{⟨text⟩}
\textbf{⟨text⟩}
\textup{⟨text⟩}
\textit{⟨text⟩}
\textsl{⟨text⟩}
\textsc{⟨text⟩}
\emph{⟨text⟩}

```

These are one-argument commands; they take as an argument the text which is to be typeset in the particular font. They also automatically insert italic corrections where appropriate; if you do not like the result, you can add an italic correction with `\/` or remove it with `\nocorr`. The `\nocorr` should always be the first or last thing within the `{⟨text⟩}` argument.

3.11 Font changing: math

Most of the fonts used within math mode do not need to be explicitly invoked; but to use letters from a range of fonts, the following class of commands is provided.

```

\mathrm {⟨letters⟩}
\mathnormal {⟨letters⟩}
\mathcal {⟨letters⟩}
\mathbf {⟨letters⟩}
\mathsf {⟨letters⟩}
\mathtt {⟨letters⟩}
\mathit {⟨letters⟩}

```

These are also one-argument commands which take as an argument the letters which are to be typeset in the particular font. The argument is processed in math mode so spaces within it will be ignored. Only letters, digits and accents have their font changed, for example `\mathbf{\tilde A \times 1}` produces $\tilde{\mathbf{A}} \times 1$.

3.12 Ensuring math mode

```

\ensuremath {⟨math commands⟩}

```

In \LaTeX 2.09, if you wanted a command to work both in math mode and in text mode, the suggested method was to define something like:

```

\newcommand{\Gp}{\mbox{$G_p$}}

```

Unfortunately, the `\mbox` stops `\Gp` changing size correctly in (for instance) subscripts or a fraction.

In \LaTeX 2_ε you can define it thus:

```
\newcommand{\Gp}{\ensuremath{G_p}}
```

Now `\Gp` will work correctly in all contexts.

This is because the `\ensuremath` does nothing, producing simply `G_p`, when `\Gp` is used within math mode; but it ensures that math mode is entered (and exited) as required when `\Gp` is used in text mode.

3.13 Setting text superscripts

```
\textsuperscript{\langle text \rangle}
```

In \LaTeX 2.09 textual superscripts such as footnote markers were produced by internally entering math mode and typesetting the number as a math superscript. This normally looked fine since the digits in math fonts are the same as those in text fonts when Computer Modern fonts are used. But when a different document font (such as Times) is selected, the results look rather strange. For this reason the command `\textsuperscript` has been introduced which typesets its argument in the current text font, in a superscript position and in the correct size.

New feature
1995/06/01

3.14 Text commands: all encodings

One of the main differences between \LaTeX 2_ε and \LaTeX 2.09 is that \LaTeX 2_ε can deal with fonts in arbitrary *encodings*. (A font encoding is the sequence of characters in the font—for example a Cyrillic font would have a different encoding from a Greek font.)

New
description
1994/12/01

The two major font encodings that are used for Latin languages such as English or German are **OT1** (Donald Knuth’s 7-bit encoding, which has been used during most of \TeX ’s lifetime) and **T1** (the new 8-bit ‘Cork’ encoding).

\LaTeX 2.09 only supported the **OT1** encoding, whereas \LaTeX 2_ε has support for both **OT1** and **T1** built-in. The next section will cover the new commands which are available if you have **T1**-encoded fonts. This section describes new commands which are available in all encodings.

Most of these commands provide characters which were available in \LaTeX 2.09 already. For example `\textemdash` gives an ‘em dash’, which was available in \LaTeX 2.09 by typing `---`. However, some fonts (for example a Greek font) may not have the `---` ligature, but you will still be able to access an em dash by typing `\textemdash`.

```
\r{\langle text \rangle}
```

New feature
1994/12/01

This command gives a ‘ring’ accent, for example ‘ö’ can be typed `\r{o}`.

```
\ss
```

New feature
1994/12/01

This command produces a German ‘SS’, that is a capital ‘ß’. This letter can hyphenate differently from ‘SS’, so is needed for entering all-caps German.

`\textcircled{<text>}`

New feature
1994/12/01

This command is used to build ‘circled characters’ such as `\copyright`. For example `\textcircled{a}` produces \textcircled{a} .

`\textcompwordmark`

New feature
1994/12/01

This command is used to separate letters which would normally ligature. For example ‘fi’ is produced with `f\textcompwordmark i`. Note that the ‘f’ and ‘i’ have not ligatured to produce ‘fi’. This is rarely useful in English (‘shelfful’ is a rare example of where it might be used) but is used in languages such as German.

`\textvisiblespace`

New feature
1994/12/01

This command produces a ‘visible space’ character ‘␣’. This is sometimes used in computer listings, for example ‘type hello␣world’.

`\textemdash` `\textendash` `\textexclamdown` `\textquestiondown`
`\textquotedblleft` `\textquotedblright` `\textquoteleft` `\textquoteright`

New feature
1994/12/01

These commands produce characters which would otherwise be accessed via ligatures:

<i>ligature</i>	<i>character</i>	<i>command</i>
---	—	<code>\textemdash</code>
--	–	<code>\textendash</code>
!‘	¡	<code>\textexclamdown</code>
?‘	¿	<code>\textquestiondown</code>
‘‘	“	<code>\textquotedblleft</code>
’’	”	<code>\textquotedblright</code>
‘	‘	<code>\textquoteleft</code>
’	’	<code>\textquoteright</code>

The reason for making these characters directly accessible is so that they will work in encodings which do not have these characters.

`\textbullet` `\textperiodcentered`

New feature
1994/12/01

These commands allow access to characters which were previously only available in math mode:

<i>math command</i>	<i>character</i>	<i>text command</i>
<code>\bullet</code>	•	<code>\textbullet</code>
<code>\cdot</code>	·	<code>\textperiodcentered</code>

`\textbackslash \textbar \textless \textgreater`

New feature
1995/12/01

These commands allow access to ASCII characters which were only available in verbatim or math mode:

<i>math command</i>	<i>character</i>	<i>text command</i>
<code>\backslash</code>	<code>\</code>	<code>\textbackslash</code>
<code>\mid</code>	<code> </code>	<code>\textbar</code>
<code><</code>	<code><</code>	<code>\textless</code>
<code>></code>	<code>></code>	<code>\textgreater</code>

`\textasciicircum \textasciitilde`

New feature
1995/12/01

These commands allow access to ASCII characters which were previously only available in verbatim:

<i>verbatim</i>	<i>text command</i>
<code>^</code>	<code>\textasciicircum</code>
<code>~</code>	<code>\textasciitilde</code>

`\textregistered \texttrademark`

New feature
1995/12/01

These commands provide the ‘registered trademark’ (R) and ‘trademark’ (TM) symbols.

3.15 Text commands: the T1 encoding

The OT1 font encoding is fine for typesetting in English, but has problems when typesetting other languages. The T1 encoding solves some of these problems, by providing extra characters (such as ‘eth’ and ‘thorn’), and it allows words containing accented letters to be hyphenated (as long as you have a package like `babel` which allows for non-American hyphenation).

New
description
1994/12/01

This section describes the commands you can use if you have the T1 fonts. To use them, you need to get the ‘ec fonts’, or the T1-encoded PostScript fonts, as used by `psnfss`. All these fonts are available by anonymous ftp in the Comprehensive T_EX Archive, and are also available on the CD-ROMs *4all T_EX* and *T_EX Live* (both available from the T_EX Users Group).

You can then select the T1 fonts by saying:

```
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
```

This will allow you to use the commands in this section.

Note: Since this document must be processable on any site running an up-to-date L^AT_EX, it does not contain any characters that are present only in T1-encoded fonts. This means that this document cannot show you what these glyphs look like! If you want to see them then run L^AT_EX on the document `fontsmpl` and respond ‘cmr’ when it prompts you for a family name.

<code>\k{<text>}</code>	New feature 1994/12/01
-------------------------------	---------------------------

This command produces an ‘ogonek’ accent.

<code>\DH \DJ \NG \TH \dh \dj \ng \th</code>	New feature 1994/12/01
--	---------------------------

These commands produce characters ‘eth’, ‘dbar’, ‘eng’, and ‘thorn’.

<code>\guillemotleft \guillemotright \guilsinglleft \guilsinglright \quotedblbase \quotesinglbase \textquotedbl</code>	New feature 1994/12/01
--	---------------------------

These commands produce various sorts of quotation mark. Rough representations of them are: «a» <a> „a“ ,a’ and "a".

There are therefore some extra short-form ligatures available for use in documents that will only be used with T1-encoded fonts.

The guillemets `\guillemotleft` and `\guillemotright`¹ can be obtained by typing << and >> and `\quotedblbase` by typing , , .

Also, unlike the unexpected results with OT1-encoded fonts, < and > will produce < and >.

Note also that the single character " will no longer produce ” but rather `\textquotedbl`.

New
description
2001/06/01

3.16 Logos

<code>\LaTeX</code> <code>\LaTeXe</code>

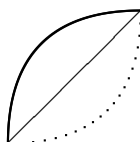
`\LaTeX` (producing ‘L^AT_EX’) is still the ‘main’ logo command, but if you need to refer to the new features, you can write `\LaTeXe` (producing ‘L^AT_EX 2_ε’).

3.17 Picture commands

<code>\qbezier[<N>](<AX>,<AY>)(<BX>,<BY>)(<CX>,<CY>)</code> <code>\bezier{<N>}(<AX>,<AY>)(<BX>,<BY>)(<CX>,<CY>)</code>

The `\qbezier` command can be used in `picture` mode to draw a quadratic Bezier curve from position $(\langle AX \rangle, \langle AY \rangle)$ to $(\langle CX \rangle, \langle CY \rangle)$ with control point $(\langle BX \rangle, \langle BY \rangle)$. The optional argument $\langle N \rangle$ gives the number of points on the curve.

For example, the diagram:



¹We apologise once again for maintaining Adobe’s enormous solipsism (sic) of confusing a diving bird with punctuation marks!

is drawn with:

```
\begin{picture}(50,50)
  \thicklines
  \qbezier(0,0)(0,50)(50,50)
  \qbezier[20](0,0)(50,0)(50,50)
  \thinlines
  \put(0,0){\line(1,1){50}}
\end{picture}
```

The `\bezier` command is the same, except that the argument $\langle N \rangle$ is not optional. It is provided for compatibility with the L^AT_EX 2.09 `bezier` document style option.

3.18 Old commands

`\samepage`

The `\samepage` command still exists but is no longer being maintained. This is because it only ever worked erratically; it does not guarantee that there will be no page-breaks within its scope; and it can cause footnotes and marginals to be wrongly placed.

We recommend using `\enlargethispage` in conjunction with page-break commands such as `\newpage` and `\pagebreak` to help control page breaks.

`\SLiTeX`

Since SL_ITEX no longer exists, the logo is no longer defined in the L^AT_EX kernel. A suitable replacement is `\textsc{SLiTeX}`. The SL_ITEX logo is defined in L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode.

`\mho \Join \Box \Diamond \leadsto`
`\sqsubset \sqsupset \lhd \unlhd \rhd \unrhd`

These symbols are contained in the L^AT_EX symbol font, which was automatically loaded by L^AT_EX 2.09. However, T_EX has room for only sixteen math font families; thus many users discovered that they ran out. Because of this, L^AT_EX does not load the L^AT_EX symbol font unless you use the `latexsym` package.

These symbols are also made available, using different fonts, by the `amfonts` package, which also defines a large number of other symbols. It is supplied by the American Mathematical Society.

The `latexsym` package is loaded automatically in L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode.

4 L^AT_EX 2.09 documents

L^AT_EX 2_ε can process (almost) any L^AT_EX 2.09 document, by entering *L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode*. Nothing has changed, you run L^AT_EX in the same way you always did, and you will get much the same results.

The reason for the ‘almost’ is that some L^AT_EX 2.09 packages made use of low-level unsupported features of L^AT_EX. If you discover such a package, you should find out if it has been updated to work with L^AT_EX 2_ε. Most packages will still work with L^AT_EX 2_ε—the easiest way to find out whether a package still works is to try it!

L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode is a comprehensive emulation of L^AT_EX 2.09, but at the cost of time. Documents can run up to 50% slower in compatibility mode than they did under L^AT_EX 2.09. In addition, many of the new features of L^AT_EX 2_ε are not available in L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode.

4.1 Warning

This *L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode* is provided solely to allow you to process 2.09 documents, i.e. documents that were written (we hope, a long time ago) for a very old system and therefore could be processed by using a genuine antique L^AT_EX 2.09 system.

New
description
1995/12/01

This mode is therefore *not* intended to provide access to the enhanced features of L^AT_EX 2_ε. Thus it must not be used to process new documents which masquerade as 2.09 documents (i.e. they begin with `\documentstyle`) but which could not be processed using that genuine antique L^AT_EX 2.09 system because they contain some new, L^AT_EX 2_ε-only, commands or environments.

To prevent such misuse of the system, and the consequent trouble it causes when such misleadingly encoded documents are distributed, the *L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode* turns off most of these new features and commands. Any attempt to use them will give you an error message and, moreover, many of them simply will not work, whilst others will produce unpredictable results. So don't bother sending us any bug reports about such occurrences since they are intentional.

4.2 Font selection problems

When using compatibility mode, it is possible that you will find problems with font-changing commands in some old documents. These problems are of two types:

- producing error messages;
- not producing the font changes you expected.

In case of error messages it is possible that the document (or an old style file used therein) contains references to old internal commands which are no longer defined, see Section 6.2 for more information if this is the case.

One example of the unexpected is if you use one of the new style of math-mode font changing command as follows:

New
description
1995/12/01

```
$ \mathbf{xy} A $
```

You may well find that this behaves as if you had put:

```
$ \bf {xy} A $
```

everything including the *A* coming out bold.

L^AT_EX 2.09 allowed sites to customize their L^AT_EX installation, which resulted in documents producing different results on different L^AT_EX installations. L^AT_EX 2_ε no longer allows so much customization but, for compatibility with old documents, the local configuration file `latex209.cfg` is loaded every time L^AT_EX 2_ε enters L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode.

For example, if your site was customized to use the New Font Selection Scheme (NFSS) with the `oldfont` option, then you can make L^AT_EX 2_ε emulate this by creating a `latex209.cfg` file containing the commands:

```
\ExecuteOptions{oldfont}\RequirePackage{oldfont}
```

Similarly, to emulate NFSS with the `newfont` option, you can create a `latex209.cfg` file containing:

```
\ExecuteOptions{newfont}\RequirePackage{newfont}
```

4.3 Native mode

To run an old document faster, and use the new features of L^AT_EX 2_ε, you should try using L^AT_EX 2_ε *native mode*. This is done by replacing the command:

```
\documentstyle[<options>,<packages>]{<class>}
```

with:

```
\documentclass[<options>]{<class>}  
\usepackage{latexsym,<packages>}
```

However, some documents which can be processed in L^AT_EX 2.09 compatibility mode may not work in native mode. Some L^AT_EX 2.09 packages will only work with L^AT_EX 2_ε in 2.09 compatibility mode. Some documents will cause errors because of L^AT_EX 2_ε's improved error detection abilities.

But most L^AT_EX 2.09 documents can be processed by L^AT_EX 2_ε's native mode with the above change. Again, the easiest way to find out whether your documents can be processed in native mode is to try it!

5 Local modifications

There are two common types of local modifications that can be done very simply. Do not forget that documents produced using such modifications will not be usable at other places (such documents are called ‘non-portable’).

New
description
1995/12/01

One type of modification is the use of personal commands for commonly used symbols or constructions. These should be put into a package file (for example, one called `mymacros.sty`) and loaded by putting `\usepackage{mymacros}` in the document preamble.

Another type is a local document class that is very similar to one of the standard classes but contains some straightforward modifications such as extra environments, different values for some parameters, etc. These should be put into a class file; here we shall describe a simple method of constructing such a file using, as an example, a class called `larticle` that is very similar to the `article` class.

The class file called `larticle.cls` should (after the preliminary identification commands) start as follows:

New feature
1995/12/01

```
\LoadClassWithOptions{article}
```

This command should be followed by whatever additions and changes you wish to make to the results of reading in the file `article.sty`.

The effect of using the above `\LoadClassWithOptions` command is to load the standard class file `article` with whatever options are asked for by the document. Thus a document using your `larticle` class can specify any option that could be specified when using the standard `article` class; for example:

```
\documentclass[a4paper,twocolumn,dvips]{larticle}
```

6 Problems

This section describes some of the things which may go wrong when using \LaTeX 2_ϵ , and what you can do about it.

6.1 New error messages

\LaTeX 2_ϵ has a number of new error messages. Please also note that many error messages now produce further helpful information if you press `h` in response to the error prompt.

Option clash for package *<package>*.

The named package has been loaded twice with different options. If you enter `h` you will be told what the options were, for example, if your document contained:

```
\usepackage[foo]{fred}
\usepackage[baz]{fred}
```

then you will get the error message:

```
Option clash for package fred.
```

and typing `h` at the `?` prompt will give you:

```
The package fred has already been loaded with options:
[foo]
There has now been an attempt to load it with options:
[baz]
Adding the line:
  \usepackage[foo,baz]{fred}
to your document may fix this.
Try typing <return> to proceed.
```

The cure is, as suggested, to load the package with both sets of options. Note that since \LaTeX packages can call other packages, it is possible to get a package option clash without explicitly requesting the same package twice.

Command $\langle command \rangle$ not provided in base NFSS.

The $\langle command \rangle$ is not provided by default in \LaTeX 2 ϵ . This error is generated by using one of the commands:

```
\mho \Join \Box \Diamond \leadsto
\sqssubset \sqsupset \lhd \unlhd \rhd \unrhd
```

which are now part of the `latexsym` package. The cure is to add:

```
\usepackage{latexsym}
```

in the preamble of your document.

LaTeX2e command $\langle command \rangle$ in LaTeX 2.09 document.

The $\langle command \rangle$ is a \LaTeX 2 ϵ command but this is a \LaTeX 2.09 document. The cure is to replace the command by a \LaTeX 2.09 command, or to run document in native mode, as described in Section 4.3.

NFSS release 1 command `\newmathalphabet` found.

The command `\newmathalphabet` was used by the New Font Selection Scheme Release 1 but it has now been replaced by `\DeclareMathAlphabet`, the use of which is described in \LaTeX 2 ϵ *Font Selection*.

The best cure is to update the package which contained the `\newmathalphabet` command. Find out if there is a new release of the package, or (if you wrote the package yourself) consult *L^AT_EX 2_ε Font Selection* for the new syntax of font commands.

If there is no updated version of the package then you can cure this error by using the `newfont` or `oldfont` package, which tells L^AT_EX which version of `\newmathalphabet` should be emulated.

You should use `oldfont` if the document selects math fonts with syntax such as this:

`{\cal A}`, etc.

Use `newfont` if the document's syntax is like this:

`\cal{A}`, etc.

Text for `\verb` command ended by end of line.

The `\verb` command has been begun but not ended on that line. This usually means that you have forgotten to put in the end-character of the `\verb` command.

Illegal use of `\verb` command.

The `\verb` command has been used inside the argument of another command. This has never been allowed in L^AT_EX—often producing incorrect output without any warning—and so L^AT_EX 2_ε produces an error message.

6.2 Old internal commands

A number of L^AT_EX 2.09 internal commands have been removed, since their functionality is now provided in a different way. See *L^AT_EX 2_ε for Class and Package Writers* for more details of the new, supported interface for class and package writers.

```
\tenrm \elvrm \twlrm ...
\tenbf \elvbf \twlbf ...
\tensf \elvsvf \twlsf ...
:
:
```

These commands provided access to the seventy fonts preloaded by L^AT_EX 2.09. In contrast, L^AT_EX 2_ε normally preloads at most fourteen fonts, which saves a lot of font memory; but a consequence is that any L^AT_EX file which used the above commands to directly access fonts will no longer work.

Their use will usually produce an error message such as:

```
! Undefined control sequence.  
1.5 \tenrm
```

The cure for this is to update the document to use the new font-changing commands provided by L^AT_EX 2_ε; these are described in *L^AT_EX 2_ε Font Selection*.

If this is not possible then, as a last resort, you can use the `rawfonts` package, which loads the seventy L^AT_EX 2.09 fonts and provides direct access to them using the old commands. This takes both time and memory. If you do not wish to load all seventy fonts, you can select some of them by using the `only` option to `rawfonts`. For example, to load only `tenrm` and `tenbf` you write:

```
\usepackage[only,tenrm,tenbf]{rawfonts}
```

The `rawfonts` package is distributed as part of the L^AT_EX tools software, see Section 2.4.

6.3 Old files

One of the more common mistakes in running L^AT_EX is to read in old versions of packages instead of the new versions. If you get an incomprehensible error message from a standard package, make sure you are loading the most recent version of the package. You can find out which version of the package has been loaded by looking in the log file for a line like:

```
Package: fred 1994/06/01 v0.01 Fred's package.
```

You can use the `<release-date>` options to `\documentclass` and `\usepackage` to make sure that you are getting a suitably recent copy of the document class or package. This is useful when sending a document to another site, which may have out-of-date software.

6.4 Where to go for more help

If you can't find the answer for your problem here, try looking in *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System* or *The L^AT_EX Companion*. If you have a problem with installing L^AT_EX, look in the installation guide files which come with the distribution.

If this doesn't help, contact your local L^AT_EX guru or local L^AT_EX mailing list.

If you think you've discovered a bug then please report it! First, you should find out if the problem is with a third-party package or class. If the problem is caused by a package or class other than those listed in Section 2 then please report the problem to the author of the package or class, not to the L^AT_EX3 project team.

If the bug really is with core L^AT_EX then you should create a *short, self-contained* document which exhibits the problem. You should run a *recent* (less than a year old) version of L^AT_EX on the file and then run L^AT_EX on `latexbug.tex`. This will create an error report which you should send, together with the sample document and log file, to the L^AT_EX bugs address which can be found in the file `latexbug.tex` or `bugs.txt`.

7 Enjoy!

We certainly hope you will enjoy using the new standard L^AT_EX but, if this is not possible, we hope that you will enjoy success and fulfillment as a result of the documents which it will help you to create.

If you find that the contribution of L^AT_EX to your life is such that you would like to support the work of the project team, then please read Section 1.2 and discover practical ways to do this.

References

- [1] Michel Goossens, Sebastian Rahtz and Frank Mittelbach. *The L^AT_EX Graphics Companion*. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, 1997.
- [2] Michel Goossens and Sebastian Rahtz. *The L^AT_EX Web Companion*. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, 1999.
- [3] Donald E. Knuth. *The T_EXbook*. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, 1986. Revised to cover T_EX3, 1991.
- [4] Leslie Lamport. *L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System*. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, second edition, 1994.
- [5] Frank Mittelbach and Michel Goossens. *The L^AT_EX Companion second edition*. With Johannes Braams, David Carlisle, and Chris Rowley. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Massachusetts, 2004.