\LaTeX-package for an easy declaration of functions and variables

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1 Overview

The package method can be used to easily format method- and variable-declarations with \LaTeX. It is based on work by J. Wahlmann and Robert Garmann.

2 Usage

The package is used as usual:

\usepackage[<language>]{method}

It defines two new environments: method and data. Method is used to typeset method-declarations, data for variable-declarations. At the moment the two options english and german are defined. With these options it is possible to select the language used to typeset the declarations. In the future some other languages will be added.

3 The environment method

\texttt{method} Within the environment method the following commands are defined:

\begin{itemize}
\item \texttt{\head{\textit{Header}}}: The header of the method.
\item \texttt{\para{\textit{Name}}\{\textit{Description}\}}: Name and description of a parameter.
\item \texttt{\precond{\textit{Precondition}}}: Description of a precondition of the method.
\item \texttt{\descr{\textit{Description}}}: Description of the method itself.
\item \texttt{\postcond{\textit{postcondition}}}: Description of a postcondition of the method.
\item \texttt{\error{\textit{Exception}}}: Error and exceptions.
\item \texttt{\return{\textit{Return value}}}: Description of the data returned by the method.
\item \texttt{\see{\textit{where}}}: Cross-References.
\end{itemize}

These commands have the following in common:
• All parameters are simple texts.
• The sequence of the commands inside the method-environment is not relevant. The parts are typeset automatically.
• Up to 26 \para-commands are allowed inside a method environment. When there are more, a warning will be issued and the following parameters will be ignored.
• The header of the method and the parameters are typeset in a typewriter font.
• If the header is extremely long, it can be typeset in more lines with the following macros (an example is given further down):

\begin{verbatim}
\headtabbed{<functionname>} Name of the function
\headpara{<parametername>} one or more parameter
\end{verbatim}

4 The environment data

data The environment data equals to the environment method. The macros \head, \descr and \see can also be used inside a data-environment. Further macros inside a data-environment are:

\begin{verbatim}
\init{Info}: Information about the generation of the object.
\del{Info}: Information about the release of the object.
\end{verbatim}

5 Examples

In this section some examples for the usage of the environments method and data are shown.

\begin{verbatim}
\begin{method}
\head{int div(int a, int b, double \&c);}  \head{PrimObject(}
\para{a}{dividend} \headpara{const Matrix transformation,}
\para{b}{divisor} \headpara{AbstGeometry \*geometry = 0,}
\para{\&c}{result of the division} \headpara{MaterialApplication \*material = 0,}
\precond{no preconditions} \headpara{AbstBumpMap \*bumpMap = 0,}
\descr{Divides \texttt{a} by \texttt{b} and gives the result in \texttt{c}}
\postcond{no postconditions}
\error{no errors}
\return{\texttt{-1}, when \texttt{b==0}, else \texttt{0}}
\see{your favourite mathematics book}
\end{method}
\end{verbatim}
\begin{method}
\descr{\ldots}
\end{method}
\begin{data}
\head{char *name}
\descr{Name of the user}
\end{data}
\begin{data}
\head{char *no}
\descr{Telephone-number of the user}
\see{Telephone Book}
\end{data}

6 Identification und documentation

This package can only be used with \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2e}. Therefore make sure, we use no other \TeX\-format.

\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
\ProvidesPackage{method}[1999/03/25 v2.0b]
LaTeX\-package for method- and data-descriptions (TL)

We have a specialized class for the documentation.

\documentclass[a4paper]{ltxdoc}

Set the specific options for the documentation of the package.

\DoNotIndex{",\,addtolength,\begin,\CodelineIndex,\CodelineNumbered}
\DoNotIndex{\def,\DocInput,\documentclass,\DoNotIndex,\EnableCrossrefs}
\DoNotIndex{\end,\fbox,\fboxrule,\hfill,\hspace,\ifcase,\or,\fi}
\DoNotIndex{\ifnum,\fi,\item,\itemindent,\labelsep,\labelwidth}
\DoNotIndex{\leftmargin,\listparindent,\NeedsTeXFormat,\newcommand}
\DoNotIndex{\newcount,\newcounter,\newenvironment,\newlength,\sloppy}
\DoNotIndex{\nopagebreak,\PackageError,\parbox,\parindent,\stepcounter}
\DoNotIndex{\PrintChanges,\PrintIndex,\ProvidesPackage,\RecordChanges}
\DoNotIndex{\setcounter,\setlength,\textbf,\texttt,\usepackage,\vspace}
\CodelineNumbered
\CodelineIndex
\EnableCrossrefs
\RecordChanges
\setcounter{StandardModuleDepth}{1}
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
\usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}

Give all details.

\begin{document}
\DocInput{method.dtx}

\newpage
7 Package internals

At the start of a method-environment the actual textwidth is read and saved for the layout of the description.

The commands for the parts, namely \head, \para, \precond, ..., define internal commands with the names \meth@head, \meth@pa, \meth@pb, ..., \meth@pz, \meth@precond, ... which are defined with the actual parameters.

At the end of a method-environment all these internal saved data is typeset in a (hopefully) fashionable way.

8 Helping commands

\meth@paranum \meth@headparanum

The counter \meth@paranum counts the number of \para-commands within a method-environment:
31 \newcounter{meth@paranum}

The counter \meth@headparanum stores how many \headpara-commands are given within a method-environment:
32 \newcounter{meth@headparanum}

\meth@totwid

The header will be typeset inside a framed minipage with a width of \@totwid (= \textwidth - 6mm):
33 \newlength{meth@totwid}

\meth@indent \meth@listdecl

The descriptions are organized as lists with the following parameters:
34 \def\meth@indent{3.5cm}
35 \def\meth@listdecl\{\labelwidth3cm \labelsep0.5cm
36 \itemindent0cm \leftmargin\meth@indent
37 \topsep0cm \listparindent0cm\}

\meth@righttotwid

The right part of the list has a width of \meth@righttotwid (= \meth@totwid - \meth@indent):
38 \newlength{meth@righttotwid}

\meth@namewid \meth@nameindent \meth@rightnamewid

The following lengths are used for the macro \headtabbed:
39 \newlength{meth@namewid}
40 \newlength{meth@nameindent}
41 \newlength{meth@rightnamewid}

9 Options

\textsee \textinit \textdel
\textreturn \textprecond
\textpostcond \textdescr \texterror

Now we have the option-processing. The option defines the language, which will be used to print the textual parts of the descriptions. At the moment only the languages english and german are defined.
First, define the parts for German descriptions:

\DeclareOption{german}{\def\textsee{Siehe auch:}\
\def\textinit{Erzeugung:}\
\def\textdel{Freigabe:}\
\def\textreturn{Rückgabewert:}\
\def\textprecond{Vorbed.:}\
\def\textpostcond{Nachbed.:}\
\def\textdescr{Beschreibung:}\
\def\texterror{Ausnahmebeh.:}}

Now for the English descriptions:

\DeclareOption{english}{\def\textsee{see also:}\
\def\textinit{initialisation:}\
\def\textdel{disposal:}\
\def\textreturn{return value:}\
\def\textprecond{precondition:}\
\def\textpostcond{postcondition:}\
\def\textdescr{description:}\
\def\texterror{exceptions:}}

The French descriptions, provided by Jean-Pierre Druebert:

\DeclareOption{french}{\def\textsee{voir aussi:}\
\def\textinit{initialisation:}\
\def\textdel{libération:}\
\def\textreturn{valeur de retour:}\
\def\textprecond{précondition:}\
\def\textpostcond{postcondition:}\
\def\textdescr{description:}\
\def\texterror{exceptions:}}

Make the English version the default version and process the options.

\ExecuteOptions{english}
\ProcessOptions\relax

10 Error-detection

The macro \head can be used both in the environments method and data. The following value is used to differentiate if method or data is active. If none is active, the counter is set to 99. Method sets it to 0, data to 1.

\newcount\meth@where \meth@where=99

Now define the error messages:

\def\meth@checkdoubleopen{
  \ifnum\meth@where<99
    \PackageError{method}{There is an method.sty-environment open!}\
  \endgroup
  {There is no method.sty-environment open!}
\endgroup
}

\def\meth@checknotopen{
  \ifnum\meth@where=99
    \PackageError{method}{There is no method.sty-environment open!}\
  \endgroup
  {There is no method.sty-environment open!}
\endgroup
}
11 The environment method

Now we define the environment method.

\begin{method}
\firstcheck
\where=0

\setlength{\totwidth}{\textwidth}
\addtolength{\totwidth}{-6mm}
\setlength{\righttotwidth}{\totwidth}
\addtolength{\righttotwidth}{-\indent}

\sloppy

\head{}\headtabbed{}
\headparanum{0}
\hpa{}\hpb{}\hpc{}\hpd{}\hpe{}\hpf{}\hpj{}\hpk{}
\hpi{}\hpj{}\hpk{}\hpl{}\hpm{}\hpn{}\hpo{}\hpp{}
\hpq{}\hpr{}\hps{}\hpt{}\hpu{}\hpv{}\hpw{}\hpz{}
\precond{}\descr{}\postcond{}\error{}\return{}\see{}

\parindent0cm\vspace{2mm}
\end{method}

Now for the end of the environment. The first line in a paragraph is not indented and a small space is made above the header.
now a sorted list of all given parts inside the environment. The user has to see, that only one of `\meth@head` and `\meth@headtabbed` is used.

120 \meth@head\meth@headtabbed
121 \nopagebreak[4]
122 \meth@pa \meth@pb \meth@pc \meth@pd \meth@pe \meth@pf \meth@pg
123 \meth@ph \meth@pi \meth@pj \meth@pk \meth@pl \meth@pm \meth@pn
124 \meth@po \meth@pp \meth@pq \meth@pr \meth@ps \meth@pt \meth@pu
125 \meth@pv \meth@pw \meth@px \meth@py \meth@pz
126 \meth@precond
127 \meth@descr
128 \meth@postcond
129 \meth@error
130 \meth@return
131 \meth@see

Now set `\meth@where` back to 99.

132 \meth@where=99

This is the end of the definition of the environment method.

133 }

12 The environment data

The environment data is nearly equivalent to the environment method.

134 \newenvironment{data}
135 {
136 \meth@checkdoubleopen
137 \meth@where=1
138 \setlength{\meth@totwid}{\textwidth}
139 \addtolength{\meth@totwid}{-6mm}
140 \sloppy
141 \def\meth@head{}
142 \def\meth@descr{}
143 \def\meth@init{}
144 \def\meth@del{}
145 \def\meth@see{}
146 }
147 \parindent0cm
148 \vspace{2mm}
149 \meth@head
150 \nopagebreak
151 \meth@descr
152 \meth@init
153 \meth@del
154 \meth@see
155 \meth@where=99
156 }

13 Macros for the parts inside the environments

The definitions for the parts of the environments data and method
13.1 \texttt{\head}

The macro \texttt{\head} is used to typeset the header of the method or the definition of the variable.

First check, if the environment is active at the moment.

If \texttt{\meth@where} is set to 0, the environment method is active.

\begin{verbatim}
\newcommand{\head}{[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  If \texttt{\meth@where} is set to 0, the environment method is active.
  \ifnum\meth@where=0
    \def\meth@head{
      The code to typeset the header.
      \setlength{\fboxrule}{0.2mm}\
      \fbox{\parbox{\meth@indent}{\hfill}\
      \begin{minipage}{\meth@righttotwid}
      \parindent-\meth@indent \\
      \texttt{#1}\
      \end{minipage}\
    }\
  }\
  \fi\%
  If \texttt{\meth@where} is set to 1, the environment data is active.
  \ifnum\meth@where=1
    \def\meth@head{
      The code to typeset the header.
      \setlength{\fboxrule}{0.1mm}\
      \settowidth{\meth@namewid}{\texttt{#1}}\
      \setlength{\meth@rightnamewid}{\meth@totwid}\
      \addtolength{\meth@rightnamewid}{-\meth@namewid}\
      \setlength{\meth@nameindent}{\meth@namewid}\
      \addtolength{\meth@nameindent}{2mm}\
      \fbox{\parbox{\meth@nameindent}{\hfill}\
      \begin{minipage}{\meth@rightnamewid}
      \parindent-\meth@namewid \\
      \texttt{#1\meth@hpa}\
      \meth@hpb\
    }\
  }\
  \fi\%
}
\end{verbatim}

13.2 \texttt{\headtabbed}

\texttt{\headtabbed} takes care of the first line, which will be formatted in the header of the method and defines the macro \texttt{\meth@headtabbed}, which does the output.

\begin{verbatim}
\newcommand{\headtabbed}{[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \def\meth@headtabbed{
    \setlength{\fboxrule}{0.2mm}\
    \settowidth{\meth@namewid}{\texttt{#1}}\
    \setlength{\meth@rightnamewid}{\meth@totwid}\
    \addtolength{\meth@rightnamewid}{-\meth@namewid}\
    \setlength{\meth@nameindent}{\meth@namewid}\
    \addtolength{\meth@nameindent}{2mm}\
    \fbox{\parbox{\meth@nameindent}{\hfill}\
    \begin{minipage}{\meth@rightnamewid}
    \parindent-\meth@namewid \\
    \texttt{#1\meth@hpa}\
    \meth@hpb\
  }\
}
\end{verbatim}
13.3 \headpara

\meth@defheadpara searches for the first empty macro of \meth@hpa, ..., \meth@hpz. In this macro the new line can be saved. This macro is used by \headpara.

\newcommand{\meth@defheadpara}{[1]{
  \ifcase\value{meth@headparanum}
    \def\meth@hpa{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpb{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpc{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpd{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpe{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpf{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpg{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hph{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpi{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpj{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpk{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpl{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpm{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpn{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpo{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpp{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpq{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hp{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpv{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hpw{\#1} \or
    \def\meth@hp{\#1} \or
  \end{minipage}%
}}
Now for the definition of the macro \headpara. Check first, if the correspondent environment is open. Then use the macro \meth@defheadpara.

\newcommand{\headpara}[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \meth@defheadpara{#1}
}

\newcommand{\para}{
  \newcommand{\meth@defpara}[1]{
    \ifcase\value{meth@paranum}\or
      \def\meth@pa{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pb{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pc{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pd{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pe{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pf{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pg{#1} \or
      \def\meth@ph{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pi{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pj{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pk{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pl{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pm{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pn{#1} \or
      \def\meth@po{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pp{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pq{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pr{#1} \or
      \def\meth@ps{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pt{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pu{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pv{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pw{#1} \or
      \def\meth@px{#1} \or
      \def\meth@py{#1} \or
      \def\meth@pz{#1}\fi
  \stepcounter{meth@headparanum}
  }

Here the definition for \para:

\newcommand{\para}[2]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \meth@defpara{\begin{list}{\texttt{#1}}{\meth@listdecl}
    \item #2
  \end{list}}
}

\subsection{The other macros}

\precond The other macros are very simple. The create a list-environment and put their data inside of this list.

\newcommand{\precond}[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \def{\meth@precond}{\begin{list}{\textbf{\textprecond}}{\meth@listdecl}
    \item #1
  \end{list}}
}

\postcond

\newcommand{\postcond}[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \def{\meth@postcond}{\begin{list}{\textbf{\textpostcond}}{\meth@listdecl}
    \item #1
  \end{list}}
}

\descr

\newcommand{\descr}[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \def{\meth@descr}{\begin{list}{\textbf{\textdescr}}{\meth@listdecl}
    \item #1
  \end{list}}
}

\error

\newcommand{\error}[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \def{\meth@error}{\begin{list}{\textbf{\texterror}}{\meth@listdecl}
    \item #1
  \end{list}}
}

\return

\newcommand{\return}[1]{
  \meth@checknotopen
  \def{\meth@return}{\begin{list}{\textbf{\textreturn}}{\meth@listdecl}
    \item #1
  \end{list}}
}
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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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12
Change History

v1.0

General: First version by J. Wahlmann

v1.1

General: Facelifting by R. Gar-  
mann

init and del for the environment  
data added

New environment data for vari-  
ables

Test for the use of the special  
commands outside the environ-  
ments

method: Abzug von \meth@totwid

v1.2

General: Change documentation to  
a dtx-file

v1.3

General: Documentation changes

data: Change \meth@totwid from

4 mm to 6 mm

\del: \bf replaced by \textbf

\descr: \bf replaced by \textbf

\error: \bf replaced by \textbf

method: Minimal change in the for-  
mant of typesetting

\head: \tt replaced by \texttt

\headtabbed: \tt replaced by

\texttt
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Changes</th>
<th>Version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\precond: \textbf</td>
<td>. replaced by \</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\return: \textbf</td>
<td>. replaced by \</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\see: \textbf</td>
<td>. replaced by \</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\v1.4

- \textbf: insert missing braces 
- \descr: insert missing braces 
- \error: insert missing braces 
- \init: insert missing braces 
- \para: insert braces, which were missing before 
- \postcond: insert missing braces 
- \precond: insert missing braces 
- \return: insert missing braces 
- \see: insert missing braces 

\v1.5

- \textbf: extend to 26 parameters 
- \meth@defheadpara: extend to 26 parameters

\v1.5a

- \textbf: French localization (thanks to Jean-Pierre Drucbert)

\v1.6

- General: Documentation changes
- First parts for internationalization

\v1.7

- General: Documentation changes
- General: Change standard to english

\v1.8

- General: Change license to lppl