The picture package

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Abstract

There are macro and environment arguments that expect numbers that will internally be multiplied with \unitlength. This package extends the syntax of these arguments that dimens with calculation support can be added for these arguments.

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∗Please report any issues at https://github.com/ho-tex/picture/issues
1 User interface

1.1 Introduction

The environment picture and macros such as \put, \line, \vector and other macros have arguments that expect numbers that are used as factor for \unitlength. This package redefines such macros and adds code that detects whether such an argument is given as number or as length. In the latter case, the length is used directly without multiplying with \unitlength.

1.2 Options

Depending on the available features, also length expressions can be given. Option calc loads package calc. Then expressions of these package may be used. Otherwise etex wraps the length argument inside \dimexpr\relax, if \eTeX is available. Otherwise option plain uses plain assignments without calculation support.

The default is calc if package calc is loaded before package picture. If you specify option calc the loading of calc is ensured. Otherwise package picture looks whether \dimexpr is available and uses then option etex as default. If \eTeX also could not be found, then plain is used.

1.3 Example

\begin{verbatim}
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage[calc]{picture}
\begin{document}
\setlength{\unitlength}{1pt}
\begin{picture}(\widthof{Hello World}, 10mm)
\put(0, 0){\makebox(0,0)[lb]{Hello World}}\%
\put(0, \heightof{Hello World} + \fboxsep){\line(1, 0){\widthof{Hello World}}}\%
\put(\widthof{Hello World}, 10mm){\line(0, -1){10mm}}\%
\end{picture}
\end{document}
\end{verbatim}
1.4 Supported packages

Packages pspicture and pict2e are supported, but they must be loaded before package picture.

New macros can be supported by \picture@redefine. The first argument is the macro which contains the arguments in its parameter text that you want to support by package picture. The second argument contains the parameter text. Change \# to & for the arguments in question. Examples (already used by package picture):

\picture@redefine\put{(&1, &2)}
\picture@redefine\line{(#1, #2)&3}

2 Implementation

2.1 Identification

\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
\ProvidesPackage{picture}[]{2020-04-22 v1.6 Dimens for picture macros (HO)}

2.2 Options

\edef\Pc@calcname{calc}
\edef\Pc@etexname{etex}
\edef\Pc@plainname{plain}

\Pc@method Macro \Pc@method stores the method to use for calculations. Check which features are available and set the default for \Pc@method.

@ifpackageloaded{calc}{%
\let\Pc@method=\Pc@calcname
}%
\begin{group}
\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
\expandafter\ifx\csname dimexpr\endcsname\relax
\let\Pc@method=\Pc@plainname
\else
\let\Pc@method=\Pc@etexname
\fi
\fi

\DeclareOption{plain}{%
\let\Pc@method=\Pc@plainname
}%
\if\DeclareOption{etex}{%
\begin{group}
\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
\expandafter\ifx\csname dimexpr\endcsname\relax
\PackageError{picture}{e-TeX is not available}{}
\else
\let\Pc@method=\Pc@etexname
\fi
\fi
\let\Pc@calcname=\Pc@calcname
}%
\ProcessOptions*
\begin{group}
2.3 Calculation method

2.3.1 Method calc

2.3.2 Method etex
2.3.3 Method plain

\ifx\Pc@method\Pc@plainname
\def\Pc@tokslength#1{% 
\begingroup
\afterassignment\Pc@next
\dimen@=#1\unitlength\Pc@nil{#1}%
}%
\fi

2.3.4 Help macros

\def\Pc@next#1\Pc@nil#2{% 
\ifx\%#1\%
\endgroup 
\Pc@addtoks{{#2}}%
\else
\expandafter\endgroup 
\expandafter\Pc@addtoks\expandafter{% 
\expandafter{\the\dimen@\@gobble}%
}%
\fi
}

\Pc@nil \Pc@nil must not have the meaning of \relax because of \dimexpr.

\let\Pc@nil\message

\Pc@addtoks

\def\Pc@addtoks#1{% 
\toks@={#1}%
}

\Pc@init

\def\Pc@init#1{% 
\begingroup 
\toks@={#1}%
}

\Pc@finish

\def\Pc@finish#1{% 
\expandafter\endgroup 
\expandafter#1\the\toks@
}

2.4 Redefinitions

\picture@redefine #1: command name
#2: parameter text, length parameter with \& instead of #
\def\picture@redefine#1#2{% 
\begingroup 
\edef\reserved@a{\noexpand\noexpand
\expandafter\noexpand
5
\csname PcOrg@expandafter\@gobble\string#1\endcsname

\Pc@first

\def\Pc@first#1&{
  \toks1={#1}
  \toks2={\Pc@init{#1}}

  \Pc@scanlength
}

\Pc@scanlength

#1: number of length parameter or zero

\def\Pc@scanlength#1{\ifcase#1 \else \toks1=\expandafter{\the\toks1 #1}\else \toks2=\expandafter{\the\toks2 \Pc@tokslength{#1}}\fi\expandafter\Pc@scannext
\fi}

\Pc@scannext

\def\Pc@scannext#1&{\ifx\\#1\\%\else \toks1=\expandafter{\the\toks1 #1}\toks2=\expandafter{\the\toks2 \Pc@addtoks{#1}}\fi\Pc@scanlength}

\Pc@last

\def\Pc@last{\edef\x{\endgroup\let\reserved@a\the\toks0 \def\the\toks0 \the\toks1 {\the\toks2 \noexpand\Pc@finish\reserved@a}}}

\picture@redefine\@picture{(&1,&2)(&3,&4)}
\picture@redefine\put{(&1,&2)}
\picture@redefine\multiput{(&1,&2)}
\picture@redefine\@multiput{(&1,&2)}
\picture@redefine\line{(#1,#2)&3}
\picture@redefine\vector{(#1,#2)&3}
\picture@redefine\dashbox{&1(&2,&3)}
\picture@redefine\@circle{&1}
\picture@redefine\@dot{&1}

\section*{\LaTeX{} base macros}

\picture@redefine\picture{((&1,&2)&3,&4)}
\picture@redefine\put{(&1,&2)}
\picture@redefine\multiput{(&1,&2)}
\picture@redefine\@multiput{(&1,&2)}
\picture@redefine\line{(#1,#2)&3}
\picture@redefine\vector{(#1,#2)&3}
\picture@redefine\dashbox{&1(&2,&3)}
\picture@redefine\@circle{&1}
\picture@redefine\@dot{&1}
2.4.2 Package pspicture

Package pspicture changes the signature of \oval by adding an optional argument.

\ifpackageloaded{pspicture}{%
  \picture@redefine\oval{(#1,#2)(#3,#4)(#5,#6)(#7,#8)}
  \picture@redefine\Line{(#1,#2)}
  \picture@redefine\Curve{(#1,#2)}
  \picture@redefine\Vector{(#1,#2)}
}{%
  \picture@redefine\oval{(#1,#2)}
}%

2.4.3 Package pict2e

Additions suggested in https://github.com/ho-tex/picture/issues/1

\ifpackageloaded{pict2e}{%
  \AtBeginDocument{%
    \picture@redefine@cbezier{[#1](#2,#3)(#4,#5)(#6,#7)(#8,#9)}
    \picture@redefine\pIIe@arc@@{(#1,#2)&3}
    \picture@redefine\polyline{(#1,#2)}
    \picture@redefine\@polyline{(#1,#2)}
    \picture@redefine\@polygon{(#1,#2)}
    \picture@redefine\@@polygon{(#1,#2)}
    \picture@redefine\moveto{(#1,#2)}
    \picture@redefine\lineto{(#1,#2)}
    \picture@redefine\curveto{(#1,#2)(#3,#4)(#5,#6)}
  }%
}{%
}

2.5 Check package loading order

\PC@checkpackage

\def\PC@checkpackage#1{%
  \ifpackageloaded{#1}{%
    \AtBeginDocument{%
      \PackageWarningNoLine{picture}{%
        Package `#1` is loaded after `picture`.\MessageBreak
        Load package `picture' afterwards to get full support of its additional syntax with length specifications%}
    }%
  }
}\

\PC@checkpackage{pict2e}
\PC@checkpackage{pspicture}

*/package*
3 Installation

3.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN:\footnote{CTAN:pkg/picture}:

\texttt{CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/picture/picture.dtx} The source file.
\texttt{CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/picture/picture.pdf} Documentation.

Bundle. All the packages of the bundle ‘picture’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

\texttt{CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/picture.tds.zip}

\textit{TDS} refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for \TeX\ Files” (CTAN:pkg/tds). Directories with \texttt{texmf} in their name are usually organized this way.

3.2 Bundle installation

Unpacking. Unpack the \texttt{picture.tds.zip} in the TDS tree (also known as \texttt{texmf} tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

\begin{verbatim}
unzip picture.tds.zip -d ~/texmf
\end{verbatim}

3.3 Package installation

Unpacking. The \texttt{.dtx} file is a self-extracting \texttt{docstrip} archive. The files are extracted by running the \texttt{.dtx} through plain \TeX:

\begin{verbatim}
tex picture.dtx
\end{verbatim}

TDS. Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as \texttt{texmf} tree):

\begin{verbatim}
picture.sty → tex/latex/picture/picture.sty
picture.pdf → doc/latex/picture/picture.pdf
picture-example.tex → doc/latex/picture/picture-example.tex
picture.dtx → source/latex/picture/picture.dtx
\end{verbatim}

If you have a \texttt{docstrip.cfg} that configures and enables \texttt{docstrip}’s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of \texttt{docstrip}.

3.4 Refresh file name databases

If your \TeX\ distribution (\TeX\ Live, MiK\TeX{}, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, \TeX\ Live users run \texttt{texhash} or \texttt{mktexlsr}.

\footnote{CTAN:pkg/picture}
3.5 Some details for the interested

Unpacking with \LaTeX. The .dtx chooses its action depending on the format:

plain \TeX: Run docstrip and extract the files.

\LaTeX: Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using \LaTeX for docstrip (really, docstrip does not need \LaTeX), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

latex \let\install=y\input{picture.dtx}

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

Generating the documentation. You can use both the .dtx or the .drv to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file ltxdoc.cfg. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pd\LaTeX:

\begin{verbatim}
 pdflatex picture.dtx
 makeindex -s gind.ist picture.idx
 pdflatex picture.dtx
 makeindex -s gind.ist picture.idx
 pdflatex picture.dtx
\end{verbatim}

4 History

[2006/08/26 v1.0]
- First released version. (First start of the project was June/July 2002.)

[2007/04/11 v1.1]
- Line ends sanitized.

[2008/11/26 v1.2]
- Package pict2e added to documentation section “Supported packages”.
- Package order of supported packages is checked.

[2009/10/11 v1.3]
- Fix because of new version v4.3 of package calc.

[2016/05/16 v1.4]
- Documentation updates.

[2019/12/09 v1.5]
- Documentation updates.
• Added definitions for pict2e (https://github.com/ho-tex/picture/issues/1)
## 5 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; plain numbers refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

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