

# simplebnf — A simple package to format Backus-Naur form\*

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This package provides a simple way to typeset grammars written in Backus-Naur form (BNF).

`\SimpleBNFDefEq`

This command is used to typeset the definition symbol separate a nonterminal from its productions. It defaults to `::=`. It can be redefined using `RenewDocumentCommand`.

`\SimpleBNFDefOr`

This command is used to typeset the separator symbol between productions. It defaults to `|`. It can be redefined using `RenewDocumentCommand`.

`\SimpleBNFStretch`

This command is used to control the vertical spacing between consecutive rules. It defaults to 0. It can be redefined using `Renewdocumentcommand`.

`\bnfexpr`

This command is used when typesetting the BNF nonterminal and productions. It defaults to a wrappers around `\texttt`. It can be redefined to customized output using `RenewDocumentCommand`.

`\bnfannot`

This command is used when typesetting the annotations on nonterminals and productions. It defaults to a wrappers around `\textit`. It can be redefined to customized output using `RenewDocumentCommand`.

`\begin{bnfgrammar} text\end{bnfgrammar}`

can be used to typeset BNF grammars. The *text* inside the environment should be formatted as:

```
term1 ::= rhs1
;;
term2 ::= rhs2
```

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\*This file describes v0.3.2.

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```

;;
...
termk ::= rhsk

```

where each of the *rhs* represents alternative syntactic forms of the *term*. An annotation may accompany each alternative in which case the alternative must be separated from its annotation with a colon (:). If you don't need annotations, simply omit the colons and annotations altogether. The alternatives themselves are separated using the pipe symbol (|).

A sample code and the result is shown below:

<pre> \begin{bnfgrammar} a \in \textit{Vars} ;; expr ::=   expr + term : sum   term      : term ;; term ::=   term * a : product   a       :   variable \end{bnfgrammar} </pre>	<pre> a      ∈   Vars expr ::= expr + term  sum         term          term term  ::= term * a    product         a             variable </pre>
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Annotations can also be provided on left-hand sides, to label the nonterminal instead of a specific production.

<pre> \begin{bnfgrammar} a : Variables \in \textit{Vars} ;; expr : Expressions ::=   expr + term   term ;; term ::=   term * a   a \end{bnfgrammar} </pre>	<pre> Variables  a      ∈   Vars Expressions expr ::= expr + term                 term               term ::= term * a                     a </pre>
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You can also provide an optional specification to the grammar environment, to redefine alignment or spacing.

```

Variables      a ∈ Vars
expr ::= expr + term  sum
      | term          term
term ::= term * a    product
      | a             variable

```

```

\begin{bnfgrammar}[lr@{\hspace{4pt}}c@{\hspace{2pt}}l]
  a : Variables \in \textit{Vars}
  ;;
  expr ::=
    expr + term : sum
  | term      : term
  ;;
  term ::=
    term * a : product
  | a       : variable
\end{bnfgrammar}

```

If you want to typeset multiple productions on a single line, you can use double vertical bars by default.

<pre> \begin{bnfgrammar}   a \in \textit{Vars}   ;;   expr ::= expr +   term    term   ;;   term ::= term * a      a \end{bnfgrammar} </pre>	$  \begin{array}{ll}  a & \in \textit{Vars} \\  \text{expr} & ::= \text{expr} + \text{term} \mid \text{term} \\  \text{term} & ::= \text{term} * a \mid a  \end{array}  $
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The second and third optional arguments specify regular expressions for the line-breaking and non-breaking RHS separators:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 a & \in \textit{Vars} \\
 \text{expr} & ::= \text{expr} + \text{term} \mid \text{term} \\
 \text{term} & ::= \text{term} * a \\
 & \mid a
 \end{array}$$

```

\begin{bnfgrammar}[llc1l][\|\|][\|]
  a \in \textit{Vars}
  ;;
  expr ::= expr + term | term
  ;;
  term ::= term * a
  || a
\end{bnfgrammar}

```