probsoln v3.05: creating problem sheets optionally with solutions

Nicola L.C. Talbot
http://www.dickimaw-books.com/

2017-07-10

Contents

1 Introduction

The probsoln package is designed for teachers or lecturers who want to create problem sheets for their students. This package was designed with mathematics problems in mind, but can be used for other subjects as well. The idea is to create a file containing a large number of problems with their solutions which can be read in by LaTeX, and then select a number of problems to typeset. This means that once the database has been set up, each year you can easily create a new problem sheet that is sufficiently different from the previous year, thus preventing the temptation of current students seeking out the previous year's students, and checking out their answers. There is also an option that can be passed to the package to determine whether or not the solutions should be printed. In this way, one file can either produce the student's version or the teacher's version.

You may want to consider using datatool with `datatooltk` instead of probsoln. See Using the datatool Package for Exams or Assignment Sheets.

2 Package Options

The following options may be passed to this package:

answers Show the answers

noanswers Don't show the answers (default)

draft Display the label and dataset name when a problem is used

final Don't display label and dataset name when a problem is used

usedefaultargs Make `\thisproblem` use the default arguments supplied in the problem definition.

nousedefaultargs Make `\thisproblem` prompt for problem arguments (default).

3 Verbatim

As from version 3.02, problems and solutions may contain verbatim text, but you must use the `fragile` (or `fragile=true`) option for the associated environments.

Alternatively, if most of your problems contain verbatim, you can globally set this option using:

```
\setkeys{probsoln}{fragile}
```

You can switch off this option using `fragile=false`.

The `fragile` option writes information to a temporary file. This defaults to `\jobname.vrb` but the name may be changed. The extension (`.vrb`) is given by:

obSolnFragileExt `\ProbSolnFragileExt`

The base name (`\jobname`) is given by:

obSolnFragileFile `\ProbSolnFragileFile`

4 Showing and Hiding Solutions

In addition to the answers and noanswers package options, it is also possible to show or suppress the solutions using

\showanswers `\showanswers`

and

\hideanswers `\hideanswers`

respectively.

The boolean variable showanswers determines whether the answers should be displayed. You can use this value with the ifthen package to specify different text depending on whether the solutions should be displayed. For example:

```
Assignment 1\ifthenelse{\boolean{showanswers}}{ (Solution Sheet)}{}
```

Alternatively you can use `\ifshowanswers`...`\else`...`\fi`:

```
Assignment 1\ifshowanswers\space (Solution Sheet)\fi
```

For longer passages, you can use the environments

onlyproblem `\begin{⟨onlyproblem⟩}[⟨option⟩]`

and

onlysolution `\begin{⟨onlysolution⟩}[⟨option⟩]`

For example:

```
\begin{onlyproblem}%
What is the derivative of $f(x) = x^2$?
\end{onlyproblem}%
```

```
\begin{onlysolution}%
$f'(x) = 2x$
\end{onlysolution}
```

The above will only display the question if showanswers is false and will only display the solution if showanswers is true. If you want the question to appear in the answer sheet as well as the solution, then don't put the question in the onlyproblem environment:

```
What is the derivative of $f(x) = x^2$?
\begin{onlysolution}%
Solution: $f'(x) = 2x$
\end{onlysolution}
```

If you want to include verbatim text in the body of onlyproblem or onlysolution, you need to specify `fragile` in the optional argument of the environment. (See Section 3 for further details.)

If you use onlysolution within the defproblem environment, the problem will be tagged as having a solution and will be added to the list used by `\foreachsolution`. The optional argument of onlysolution (and onlyproblem) is inherited from the parent defproblem setting.

5 General Formatting Commands

The commands and environments described in this section are provided to assist formatting problems and their solutions.

solution

`\begin{solution}`⟨*text*⟩`\end{solution}`

By default, this is equivalent to

`\par\noindent\textbf{\solutionname}:` ⟨*text*⟩

\solutionname

where `\solutionname` defaults to "Solution". Note that you must place the solution environment inside the onlysolution environment or between `\ifshowanswers...\fi` to ensure that it is suppressed when the solutions are not wanted. (See Section 4.)

Note that the probsoln package will only define the solution environment if it is not already defined.

textenum

`\begin{textenum}...\end{textenum}`

The textenum environment is like the enumerate environment but is in-line. It uses the same counter that the enumerate environment would use at that level so the question can be compact but the answer can use enumerate instead. For example:

```
\begin{onlyproblem}%
  Differentiate the following:
  \begin{textenum}
    \item $f(x)=2^x$; \item $f(x)=\cot(x)$
  \end{textenum}
\end{onlyproblem}
\begin{onlysolution}
  \begin{enumerate}
  \item
    \begin{align*}
    f(x) &= 2^x = \exp(\ln(x^2)) =\exp(2\ln(x))\\
    f'(x) &= \exp(2\ln(x))\times \frac{2}{x}\\
      &= f(x)\frac{2}{x}
    \end{align*}
  \item
    \begin{align*}
    f(x) &= \cot(x) = (\tan(x))^{-2}\\
    f'(x) &= -(\tan(x))^{-2}\times\sec^2(x)\\
    &=-\csc^2x
    \end{align*}
  \end{enumerate}
\end{onlysolution}
```

In this example, the items in the question are brief, so an enumerate environment would result in a lot of unnecessary white space, but the answers require more space, so an enumerate environment is more appropriate. Since the textenum environment uses the same counters as the enumerate environment, the question and answer sheets use consistent labelling. Note that there are other packages available on CTAN that you can use to create in-line lists. Check the TeX Catalogue[1] for further details.

\correctitem
\incorrectitem

```
\correctitem
\incorrectitem
```

You can use the commands \correctitem and \incorrectitem in place of \item. If the solutions are suppressed, these commands behave in the same way as \item, otherwise they format the item label using one of the commands:

rrectitemformat
correctitemformat

```
\correctitemformat{⟨label⟩}
\incorrectitemformat{⟨label⟩}
```

For example:

```
Under which of the following functions does $S=\{a_1,a_2\}$
become a probability space?
\begin{enumerate}
```

[1] http://www.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/bytopic.html#enumeration

```
\incorrectitem $P(a_1)=\frac{1}{3}$, $P(a_2)=\frac{1}{2}$
\correctitem $P(a_1)=\frac{3}{4}$, $P(a_2)=\frac{1}{4}$
\correctitem $P(a_1)=1$, $P(a_2)=0$
\incorrectitem $P(a_1)=\frac{5}{4}$, $P(a_2)=-\frac{1}{4}$
\end{enumerate}
```

The default definition of `\correctitemformat` puts a frame around the label.

6 Defining a Problem

It is possible to construct a problem sheet with solutions using the commands described in the previous sections, however it is also possible to define a set of problems for later use. In this way you can create an external file containing many problems some or all of which can be loaded and used in a document. The probsoln package has a default data set labelled "default" in which you can store problems. Alternatively, you can create multiple data sets. You can then iterate through each problem in a problem set. You can use a previously defined problem more than once, which means that by judicious use of onlyproblem, onlysolution or the showanswers boolean variable in conjunction with `\showanswers` and `\hideanswers`, you can print the solutions in a different location to the questions (for example in an appendix).

defproblem

```
\begin{defproblem}[⟨n⟩][⟨default args⟩]{⟨label⟩}[⟨option⟩]
⟨definition⟩
\end{defproblem}
```

This defines the problem whose label is given by ⟨*label*⟩. The label must be unique for a given data set and should not contain active characters or a comma. (Active characters include the special characters such as $ and &, but some packages may make other symbols active, such as the colon (:) character. For example, the ngerman and babel packages make certain punctuation active. Check the relevant package documentation for details.)

The final optional argument ⟨*option*⟩ may be `fragile` to indicate that the problem contains verbatim text. Any occurrences of onlyproblem or onlysolution contained within defproblem are inherited from defproblem. (See Section 3 for further details.)

If defproblem occurs in the document or is included via `\input` or `\include`, then the problem will be added to the default data set. If defproblem occurs in an external file that is loaded using one of the commands defined in Section 8 then the problem will be added to the specified data set.

The contents of the defproblem environment should be the text that defines the problem. This may include any of the commands defined in Section 4 and Section 5.

The problem may optionally take ⟨n⟩ arguments (where ⟨n⟩ is from 0 to 9). The arguments can be referenced in the definition via `#1`,...,`#9`. If ⟨n⟩ is omitted then the

problem doesn't take any arguments. The following example defines a problem with one argument:

```
\begin{defproblem}[1]{diffsin}
Differentiate $f(x)=\sin(#1x)$.
\begin{onlysolution}%
  \begin{solution}
    $f'(x) = #1\cos(#1x)$
  \end{solution}
\end{onlysolution}
\end{defproblem}
```

The second optional argument ⟨*default args*⟩ supplies default problem arguments that will automatically be used within `\thisproblem` when used in `\foreachproblem` in conjunction with the package option usedefaultargs. (See Section 9.) For example:

```
\begin{defproblem}[1][{2}]{diffsin}
Differentiate $f(x)=\sin(#1x)$.
\begin{onlysolution}%
  \begin{solution}
    $f'(x) = #1\cos(#1x)$
  \end{solution}
\end{onlysolution}
\end{defproblem}
```

If you don't use `\thisproblem` or you don't use the package option usedefaultargs, then you must supply the arguments.

`\newproblem` `\newproblem[⟨n⟩][⟨default args⟩]{⟨label⟩}{⟨problem⟩}{⟨solution⟩}`

This is a shortcut command for:

```
\begin{defproblem}[⟨n⟩][⟨default args⟩]{⟨label⟩}%
⟨problem⟩%
\begin{onlysolution}%
\begin{solution}%
⟨solution⟩%
\end{solution}%
\end{onlysolution}%
\end{defproblem}
```

For example:

```
\newproblem[1]{diffcos}{%
  \(f(x) = \cos(#1x)\)
}%
{%
  \(f'(x) = -#1\sin(#1x)\)
}
```

is equivalent to

```
\begin{defproblem}[1]{diffcos}%
  \(f(x) = \cos(#1x)\)
\begin{onlysolution}%
  \begin{solution}%
    \(f'(x) = -#1\sin(#1x)\)
  \end{solution}%
\end{onlysolution}%
\end{defproblem}
```

(In this example, the argument will need to be a positive number to avoid a double minus in the answer. If you want to perform floating point arithmetic on the arguments, then try the fp or pgfmath packages.)

Alternatively, if you want to supply default arguments to use when iterating through problems with `\foreachproblem`:

```
\newproblem[1][{3}]{diffsin}{%
  \(f(x) = \sin(#1x)\)
}%
{%
  \(f'(x) = #1\cos(#1x)\)
}
```

`\newproblem*` `\newproblem*[⟨n⟩][⟨default args⟩]{⟨label⟩}{⟨definition⟩}`

This is a shortcut for:

```
\begin{defproblem}[⟨n⟩][⟨default args⟩]{⟨label⟩}%
⟨definition⟩%
\end{defproblem}
```

Note that you can't use verbatim text with `\newproblem` or `\newproblem*`. Use the defproblem environment instead with the `fragile option`.

7 Using a Problem

Once you have defined a problem using defproblem or `\newproblem` (see Section 6), you can later display the problem using:

`\useproblem` `\useproblem[⟨data set⟩]{⟨label⟩}{⟨arg1⟩}...{⟨argN⟩}`

where ⟨*data set*⟩ is the name of the data set that contains the problem (the default data set is used if omitted), ⟨*label*⟩ is the label identifying the required problem and ⟨arg_1⟩, ..., ⟨arg_N⟩ are the arguments to pass to the problem, if the problem was defined to

have arguments (where N is the number of arguments specified when the problem was defined).

For example, in the previous section the problem `diffcos` was defined to have one argument, so it can be used as follows:

```
\useproblem{diffcos}{3}
```

This will be equivalent to:

```
\(f(x) = \cos(3x)\)
\begin{onlysolution}%
\begin{solution}%
\(f'(x) = -3\sin(3x)\)
\end{solution}%
\end{onlysolution}%
```

8 Loading Problems From External Files

You can store all your problem definitions (see Section 6) in an external file. These problems can all be appended to the default data set by including the file via `\input` or they can be appended to other data sets using one of the commands described below. Once you have loaded all the required problems, you can iterate through the data sets using the commands described in Section 9. Note that the commands below will create a new data set, if the named data set doesn't exist.

loadallproblems

`\loadallproblems[⟨data set⟩]{⟨filename⟩}`

This will load all problems defined in ⟨*filename*⟩ and append them to the specified data set, in the order in which they are defined in the file. If ⟨*data set*⟩ is omitted, the default data set will be used. If ⟨*data set*⟩ doesn't exist, it will be created.

adselectedproblems

`\loadselectedproblems[⟨data set⟩]{⟨labels⟩}{⟨filename⟩}`

This is like `\loadallproblems`, but only those problems whose label is listed in the comma-separated list ⟨*labels*⟩ are loaded. For example, if I have some problems defined in the file `derivatives.tex`, then

```
\loadselectedproblems{diffsin,diffcos}{derivatives}
```

will only load the problems whose labels are `diffsin` and `diffcos`, respectively. All the other problems in the file will remain undefined.

adexceptproblems

`\loadexceptproblems[⟨data set⟩]{⟨exception list⟩}{⟨filename⟩}`

This is the reverse of `\loadselectedproblems`. This loads all problems except those whose labels are listed in ⟨*exception list*⟩.

adrandomproblems

\loadrandomproblems[⟨*data set*⟩]{⟨*n*⟩}{⟨*filenames*⟩}

This randomly loads ⟨*n*⟩ problems from the comma-separated list[2] of ⟨*filenames*⟩ and adds them to the given data set. If ⟨*data set*⟩ is omitted, the default data set is assumed. Note that the problems will be added to the data set in a random order, not in the order in which they were defined. There must be at least ⟨*n*⟩ problems defined across the given list of files.

Note that there's a difference between

```
\loadrandomproblems{5}{problemset1}
\loadrandomproblems{5}{problemset2}
```

and

```
\loadrandomproblems{10}{problemset1,problemset2}
```

In the first case, the data set will contain 5 problems randomly selected from `problemset1` and 5 problems randomly selected from `problemset2`. Whereas in the second case, the data set will contain 10 problems randomly selected across both files.

oadrandomexcept

\loadrandomexcept[⟨*data set*⟩]{⟨*n*⟩}{⟨*filenames*⟩}{⟨*exception list*⟩}

This is similar to `\loadrandomproblems` except that it won't load those problems whose labels are listed in ⟨*exception list*⟩. **If you want to automatically exclude problems included in previous documents, see Section 8.1.**

Note that the random number generator has been modified in version 3.01 in order to fix a bug. If you want to ensure that your random numbers are compatible with earlier versions, you can switch to the old generator using

PSNuseoldrandom

\PSNuseoldrandom

It is generally not a good idea to place anything in ⟨*filename*⟩ that is not inside the body of defproblem or in the arguments to `\newproblem` or `\newproblem*`. All the commands in this section input the external file within a local scope, so command definitions would need to be made global to have any effect. In addition, `\loadrandomproblems` has to load each file twice, which means that anything outside a problem definition will be parsed twice.

8.1 Randomly Selecting Problems Not Selected in Previous Documents

Suppose you have a large set of questions that you want to randomly select for assignments and exams. The chances are, you don't want to include questions that have been

[2]The list form was added to v3.05. Earlier versions only allow a single filename.

previously set for, say, the last three years. That is, you don't want to select questions the students may already have seen. As from version 3.03, you can now do this.

The probsoln package defaults to the UK academic year, which starts in September. If this isn't appropriate, you can change it using:

\SetStartMonth `\SetStartMonth{⟨n⟩}`

where ⟨n⟩ is the number of the month. (1 = January, 2 = February, etc.)

The *start year* is the calender year in effect when the academic year started. For example, if this is the academic year 2011/12, then the start year is 2011. This is automatically set to the start of the current academic year. It is also updated when `\SetStartMonth` is used.[3] If you want to set it to a specific year, you can use:

\SetStartYear `\SetStartYear{⟨year⟩}`

For example: `\SetStartYear{2008}` indicates the academic year 2008/9.

There are two files concerned with previously used labels. They are:

The previously used labels file This keeps track of all problems used in previous years, as well as problems used by other documents that have this as their previously used labels file, and it contains the problem labels from the last run of the current document.

The current used labels file This defaults to `\jobname.prb`, but the name can be changed using:

SetUsedFileName `\SetUsedFileName{⟨name⟩}`

This file keeps track of all the labels used in the current document from the previous LaTeX run. Note that if you want to delete this file, first clear it using

\ClearUsedFile `\ClearUsedFile{⟨file⟩}`

in place of `\ExcludePreviousFile{⟨file⟩}`, described below. The argument ⟨file⟩ is the previously used labels file described above. `\ClearUsedFile` will remove all labels in the current used labels file from the previously used labels file and clear the current used labels file. Once this file is empty, it may then be deleted.

Before loading randomly selected problems, first specify the previously used labels file with the command:

cludePreviousFile `\ExcludePreviousFile[⟨number of years⟩]{⟨file name⟩}`

[3] So don't use `\SetStartMonth` after `\SetStartYear`.

where ⟨*file name*⟩ is the name of the previously used file. The optional argument ⟨*number of years*⟩ specifies the year cut-off. This defaults to 3, which means that only those labels used this year or the previous 2 years will be kept. Any problems used before then may be reused.

Suppose I'm lecturing a first year undergraduate mathematics course (designated, say, mth101). I want to set assignments on each topic and an exam at the end of the year (as well as a resit or second sitting paper). I've got databases with problems for each topic, but the first and second sitting exams mustn't include any of the problems used in the assignments or any problems used in assignments or exams for the previous two academic years. I'm going to arrange my directory structure as follows:

- `mth101/`
  - `assignment1/` (differentiation)
    - `assignment1.tex`
  - `assignment2/` (probability spaces)
    - `assignment2.tex`
  - `assignment3/` (linear algebra)
    - `assignment3.tex`
  - `exams/`
    - `exam.tex` (first sitting)
    - `resit.tex` (second sitting)
  - `databases/`
    - `differentiation.tex`
    - `probabilityspaces.tex`
    - `linearalgebra.tex`
  - `previouslabels.tex` (created by probsoln)

9 Iterating Through Datasets

Once you have defined all your problems for a given data set, you can use an individual problem with `\useproblem` (see Section 7) but it is more likely that you will want to iterate through all the problems so that you don't need to remember the labels of all the problems you have defined.

`\foreachproblem` `\foreachproblem[⟨data set⟩]{⟨body⟩}`

This does ⟨*body*⟩ for each problem in the given data set. If ⟨*data set*⟩ is omitted, the default data set is used. Within ⟨*body*⟩ you can use

\thisproblem

```
\thisproblem
```

to use the current problem and

\thisproblemlabel

```
\thisproblemlabel
```

to access the current label. If the problem requires arguments, and no default arguments were supplied in the problem definition or the package option usedefaultargs was not used, then you will be prompted for arguments, so if you want to use this approach you will need to use LaTeX in interactive mode. If you do provide arguments, they will be stored in the event that you need to iterate through the data set again. The arguments will be included in `\thisproblem`, so you only need to use `\thisproblem` without having to specify `\useproblem`.

For example, to iterate through all problems in the default data set:

```
\begin{enumerate}
\foreachproblem{\item\thisproblem}
\end{enumerate}
```

\foreachsolution

```
\foreachsolution[⟨data set⟩]{⟨body⟩}
```

This is equivalent to `\foreachproblem`, but only iterates through problems that contain the onlysolution environment. Note that you still need to use `\showanswers` or the answers package option for the contents of the onlysolution environment to appear.

\foreachdataset

```
\foreachdataset{⟨cmd⟩}{⟨body⟩}
```

This does ⟨*body*⟩ for each of the defined data sets. Within ⟨*body*⟩, ⟨*cmd*⟩ will be set to the name of the current data set. For example, to display all problems in all data sets:

```
\begin{enumerate}
\foreachdataset{\thisdataset}{%
\foreachproblem[\thisdataset]{\item\thisproblem}}
\end{enumerate}
```

Suppose I have two external files called `derivatives.tex` and `probspaces.tex` which define problems using both onlyproblem and onlysolution for example:

```
\begin{defproblem}{cosxsqsinx}%
\begin{onlyproblem}%
$y = \cos(x^2)\sin x$.%
\end{onlyproblem}%
\begin{onlysolution}%
\[\frac{dy}{dx} = -\sin(x^2)2x\sin x + \cos(x^2)\cos x\]
\end{onlysolution}%
\end{defproblem}
```

I can write a document that creates two data sets, one for the derivative problems and one for the problems about probability spaces. I can then use `\hideanswers` and iterate through the require data set to produce the problems. Later, I can use `\showanswers` and iterate over all problems defined in both data sets to produce the chapter containing all the answers. When displaying the questions, I have taken advantage of the fact that I can cross-reference items within an enumerate environment, and redefined `\theenumi` to label the questions according to the chapter. The cross-reference label is constructed from the problem label and is referenced in the answer section to ensure that the answers have the same label as the questions.

```
\documentclass{report}
\usepackage{probsoln}
\begin{document}
\hideanswers
\chapter{Differentiation}
% randomly select 25 problems from derivatives.tex and add to
% the data set called 'deriv'
\loadrandomproblems[deriv]{25}{derivatives}

% Display the problems
\renewcommand{\theenumi}{\thechapter.\arabic{enumi}}
\begin{enumerate}
\foreachproblem[deriv]{\item\label{prob:\thisproblemlabel}\thisproblem}
\end{enumerate}
% You may need to change \theenumi back here

\chapter{Probability Spaces}
% randomly select 25 problems from probspaces.tex and add to
% the data set called 'spaces'
\loadrandomproblems[spaces]{25}{probspaces}

% Display the problems
\renewcommand{\theenumi}{\thechapter.\arabic{enumi}}
\begin{enumerate}
\foreachproblem[spaces]{\item\label{prob:\thisproblemlabel}\thisproblem}
\end{enumerate}
% You may need to change \theenumi back here

\appendix

\chapter{Solutions}
\showanswers
\begin{itemize}
\foreachdataset{\thisdataset}{%
\foreachproblem[\thisdataset]{\item[\ref{prob:\thisproblemlabel}]\thisproblem}
}
\end{itemize}

\end{document}
```

10 Random Number Generator

This package provides a pseudo-random number generator that is used by `\loadrandomproblems`. As noted earlier the random number generator has been modified in version 3.01 in order to fix a bug. If you want to ensure that your random numbers are compatible with earlier versions, you can switch to the old generator using

`\PSNuseoldrandom`

```
\PSNuseoldrandom
```

`\PSNrandseed`

```
\PSNrandseed{⟨n⟩}
```

This sets the seed to ⟨*n*⟩ which must be a non-zero integer. For example, to generate a different set of random numbers every time you LaTeX your document,[4] put the following in your preamble:

```
\PSNrandseed{\time}
```

or to generate a different set of random numbers every year you LaTeX your document:

```
\PSNrandseed{\year}
```

`\PSNgetrandseed`

```
\PSNgetrandseed{⟨register⟩}
```

This stores the current seed in the count register specified by ⟨*register*⟩. For example:

```
\newcount\myseed
\PSNgetrandseed{\myseed}
```

`\PSNrandom`

```
\PSNrandom{⟨register⟩}{⟨n⟩}
```

Generates a random integer from 1 to ⟨*n*⟩ and stores in the count register specified by ⟨*register*⟩. For example, the following generates an integer from 1 to 10 and stores it in the register `\myreg`:

```
\newcount\myreg
\PSNrandom{\myreg}{10}
```

`\random`

```
\random{⟨counter⟩}{⟨min⟩}{⟨max⟩}
```

Generates a random integer from ⟨*min*⟩ to ⟨*max*⟩ and stores in the given counter. For example, the following generates a random number between 3 and 8 (inclusive) and stores it in the counter `myrand`.

```
\newcounter{myrand}
\random{myrand}{3}{8}
```

[4] assuming you leave at least a minute between runs.

\doforrandN `\doforrandN{⟨n⟩}{⟨cmd⟩}{⟨list⟩}{⟨text⟩}`

Randomly selects ⟨*n*⟩ values from the comma-separated list given by ⟨*list*⟩ and iterates through this subset. On each iteration it sets ⟨*cmd*⟩ to the current value and does ⟨*text*⟩. For example, the following will load a randomly selected problem from two of the listed files (where `file1.tex`, `file2.tex` and `file3.tex` are files containing at least one problem):

```
\doforrandN{2}{\thisfile}{file1,file2,file3}{%
\loadrandomproblems{1}{\thisfile}}
```

11 Compatibility With Versions Prior to 3.0

Version 3.0 of the probsoln package completely changed the structure of the package, but the commands described in this section have been provided to maintain compatibility with earlier versions. The only problems that are likely to occur are those where commands are contained within groups. This will effect any commands that are contained in external files that are outside of the arguments to `\newproblem` and `\newproblem*`. However, since the external files had to be parsed twice in order to load the problems, this shouldn't be an issue as adding anything other than problem definitions in those files would be problematic anyway.

The other likely difference is where the random generator is used in a group. This includes commands such as `\selectrandomly`. For example, if your document contained something like:

```
\begin{enumerate}
\selectrandomly{file1}{8}

\item Solve the following:
\begin{enumerate}
\selectrandomly{file2}{4}
\end{enumerate}

\selectrandomly{file3}{2}
\end{enumerate}
```

Then using versions prior to v3.0 will produce a different set of random numbers since the second `\selectrandomly` is in a different level of grouping. If you want to ensure that the document produces exactly the same random set with the new version as with the old version, you will need to get and set the random number seed. For example, the above would need to be modified so that it becomes:

```
\begin{enumerate}
\selectrandomly{file1}{8}

\item Solve the following:
\newcount\oldseed
```

```
\PSNgetrandseed{\oldseed}
\begin{enumerate}
\selectrandomly{file2}{4}
\end{enumerate}
\PSNrandseed{\oldseed}

\selectrandomly{file3}{2}
\end{enumerate}
```

\selectrandomly `\selectrandomly{⟨filename⟩}{⟨n⟩}`

This is now equivalent to:

```
{\loadrandomproblems[⟨filename⟩]{⟨n⟩}{⟨filename⟩}}%
\foreachproblem[⟨filename⟩]{\PSNitem\thisproblem\endPSNitem}
```

lectallproblems `\selectallproblems{⟨filename⟩}`

This is now equivalent to:

```
{\loadallproblems[⟨filename⟩]{⟨filename⟩}}%
\foreachproblem[⟨filename⟩]{\PSNitem\thisproblem\endPSNitem}
```

Note that in both the above cases, a new data set is created with the same name as the file name.

12 The Code

12.1 Package Definition

This package requires LaTeX 2_ε.

```
\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
```

Identify this package and version:

```
\ProvidesPackage{probsoln}[2017/07/10 v3.05 (NLCT)]
```

Required packages:

```
\RequirePackage{ifthen}
\RequirePackage{amsmath}

\RequirePackage{etoolbox}
```

12.2 Package Options

\ifshowanswers Define boolean to determine whether or not to show the solutions. This governs whether the contents of onlysolution and onlyproblem are displayed.

```
\newif\ifshowanswers
\showanswersfalse
```

\showanswers Define synonym for \showanswerstrue

```
\let\showanswers\showanswerstrue
```

\hideanswers Define synonym for \showanswersfalse

```
\let\hideanswers\showanswersfalse
```

The package option answers displays the solutions.

```
\DeclareOption{answers}{\showanswerstrue}
```

The package option noanswers hides the solutions.

```
\DeclareOption{noanswers}{\showanswersfalse}
```

Determine whether or not to use default arguments for problems.

defaultprobargs

```
\newif\ifusedefaultprobargs
```

usedefaultargs

```
\DeclareOption{usedefaultargs}{\usedefaultprobargstrue}
```

usedefaultargs

```
\DeclareOption{nousedefaultargs}{\usedefaultprobargsfalse}
\usedefaultprobargsfalse
```

b@showdraftlabel `\prob@showdraftlabel{⟨db name⟩}{⟨label⟩}`

Used by \useproblem to display data base name and problem label when in draft mode.

```
\newcommand*{\prob@showdraftlabel}[2]{}
```

raftproblemlabel `\draftproblemlabel{⟨db name⟩}{⟨label⟩}`

Displays the data base name and label.

```
\newcommand*{\draftproblemlabel}[2]{[#1,#2]}
```

Draft mode displays the problem label using \draftproblemlabel

```
\DeclareOption{draft}{%
\renewcommand*{\prob@showdraftlabel}[2]{\draftproblemlabel{#1}{#2}}}
```

Final mode:

```
\DeclareOption{final}{%
\renewcommand*{\prob@showdraftlabel}[2]{}}
```

Process package options:

```
\ProcessOptions
```

```
\RequirePackage{xkeyval}
```

if@prob@fragile Need a conditional to determine whether `\long@collect@body` needs to be aware of verbatim contents.

```
\define@boolkey{probsoln}[@prob@]{fragile}[true]{}
```

bSolnFragileExt The extension used for temporary files dealing with fragile contents.

```
\newcommand*{\ProbSolnFragileExt}{vrb}
```

SolnFragileFile The filename used for temporary files dealing with fragile contents.

```
\newcommand*{\ProbSolnFragileFile}{\jobname}
```

\probsoln@write File handle for temporary files.

```
\newwrite\probsoln@write
```

bsoln@startyear The year as at the start of the new academic year. (For example, if the academic year starts in September and today is any date between 2011-09-01 and 2012-08-30, then the start year is 2011.)

```
\newcount\probsoln@startyear
```

\SetStartYear Provide command to set the starting year manually.

```
\newcommand*{\SetStartYear}[1]{%
   \probsoln@startyear=#1\relax
   \renewcommand\SetStartMonth[1]{%
      \PackageError{probsoln}{\string\SetStartMonth\space
        can't be used after \string\SetStartYear}{}}%
}
```

\GetStartYear Gets the value of the start year count register:

```
\newcommand*{\GetStartYear}{\probsoln@startyear}
```

soln@startmonth The month starting the academic year. (1=January, 2=February, etc).

```
\newcount\probsoln@startmonth
```

\SetStartMonth Define command to set the month starting the academic year. This also sets the starting year.

```
\newcommand*{\SetStartMonth}[1]{%
  \probsoln@startmonth=#1\relax
  \probsoln@startyear=\year\relax
  \ifnum\month<\probsoln@startmonth
    \advance\probsoln@startyear by -1\relax
  \fi
}
```

Set the default starting month to 9 (September):

```
\SetStartMonth{9}
```

\probsoln@prev File handle for file containing previous labels.

```
\newwrite\probsoln@prev
```

\probsoln@used File handle for file containing previous used.

```
\newwrite\probsoln@used
```

oln@prev@cutoff Cut-off year. Problems excluded if the year they were set is greater than the cut-off year.

```
\newcount\probsoln@prev@cutoff
```

ln@usedfilename Stores the file name for the used problems file. (Defaults to `\jobname.prb`)

```
\newcommand*{\@probsoln@usedfilename}{\jobname.prb}
```

SetUsedFileName Set the name of the used problems file.

```
\newcommand*{\SetUsedFileName}[1]{%
  \renewcommand*{\@probsoln@usedfilename}{#1}%
}
```

\ClearUsedFile Clear the contents of the used file (`\@probsoln@usedfilename`) and remove corresponding entries from the previous file (as specified in `\ExcludePreviousFile`). Not to be used after `\ExcludePreviousFile`.

```
\newcommand*{\ClearUsedFile}[1]{%
  \probsoln@prev@cutoff=0\relax
  \@probsoln@readprev{#1}%
```

Only write labels that aren't in the used file.

```
  \@for\@this@db:=\prob@databases\do{%
    {%
      \edef\@prev@list{\csname probsoln@prev@list@\@this@db\endcsname}%
      \ifdefempty{\@prev@list}%
      {}%
      {%
        \@for\@this@label:=\@prev@list\do{%
          \ifcsundef{@used@problem@\@this@db @\@this@label}%
          {%
            \immediate\write\probsoln@prev{%
              \string\previousproblem{\@this@label}{\@this@db}%
               {\csname @prev@problem@\@this@db @\@this@label\endcsname}}%
          }%
          {}%
        }%
      }%
    }%
  }%
  \immediate\closeout\probsoln@prev
  \immediate\closeout\probsoln@used
  \@disable@exclude@prev
}
```

udePreviousFile Exclude problems used in the last $\langle n \rangle$ years.

```
\newcommand*{\ExcludePreviousFile}[2][3]{%
```

```
  \probsoln@prev@cutoff=\probsoln@startyear\relax
  \advance\probsoln@prev@cutoff by -#1\relax
  \@probsoln@readprev{#2}%
  \@write@prev
  \def\ExcludePreviousFile[2][3]{\PackageError{probsoln}{Only one
    instance of \string\ExcludePreviousFile\space allowed}{You've
    already used this command. You are only allowed to use it once}}%
  \def\ClearUsedFile[1]{%
     \PackageError{probsoln}%
       {\string\ClearUsedFile\space may not be used after
          \string\ExcludePreviousFile}{}}%
}
```

obsoln@readprev Read contents of previous and used files and open for writing.

```
\newcommand*{\@probsoln@readprev}[1]{%
  \@enable@exclude@prev
  \InputIfFileExists{#1}%
     {\PackageInfo{probsoln}%
        {Excluded problem file `#1' found}}%
     {\PackageInfo{probsoln}%
        {Excluded problem file `#1' not found. A new one will be
            created}}%
  \InputIfFileExists{\@probsoln@usedfilename}%
     {\PackageInfo{probsoln}%
        {Current problems file `\@probsoln@usedfilename' found}}%
     {\PackageInfo{probsoln}%
        {No current problem file `\@probsoln@usedfilename' found. A new one will be created}}%
  \immediate\openout\probsoln@prev=#1
  \immediate\openout\probsoln@used=\@probsoln@usedfilename
}
```

bsoln@prev@list Maintain a list of all previous problem labels:

```
\newcommand*{\probsoln@prev@list@default}{}
```

\@write@prev Write all previous labels to file.

```
\newcommand*{\@write@prev}{%
  \@for\@this@db:=\prob@databases\do{%
    {%
      \edef\@prev@list{\csname probsoln@prev@list@\@this@db\endcsname}%
      \ifdefempty{\@prev@list}%
      {}%
      {%
        \@for\@this@label:=\@prev@list\do{%
          \immediate\write\probsoln@prev{%
            \string\previousproblem{\@this@label}{\@this@db}%
             {\csname @prev@problem@\@this@db @\@this@label\endcsname}}%
        }%
      }%
    }%
```

```
    }%
  }
```

le@exclude@prev Enable commands for excluding previously selected problems.

```
\newcommand*{\@enable@exclude@prev}{%
```

Redefine macro that adds used problem to used problem file and previous problem file.

```
  \renewcommand*{\@add@used@problem}[2]{%
    \immediate\write\probsoln@used{\string\usedproblem{##1}{##2}{\number\probsoln@startyear}}%
    \ifcsundef{@prev@problem@##2@##1}%
    {%
      \immediate\write\probsoln@prev{%
          \string\previousproblem{##1}{##2}{\number\probsoln@startyear}}%
      \expandafter\xdef\csname @prev@problem@##2@##1\endcsname{%
          \number\probsoln@startyear}%
    }%
    {%
      \expandafter\ifnum\csname @prev@problem@##2@##1\endcsname
         <\probsoln@startyear
      \immediate\write\probsoln@prev{%
          \string\previousproblem{##1}{##2}{\number\probsoln@startyear}}%
      \expandafter\xdef\csname @prev@problem@##2@##1\endcsname{%
          \number\probsoln@startyear}%
      \fi
    }%
  }%
```

Redefine macro that fetches the exclusion list. (First argument is the macro in which to store the list, the second argument is the database.)

```
  \renewcommand*{\@fetch@excluded@list}[2]{%
    \def##1{}%
    \ifcsdef{probsoln@prev@list@##2}%
    {%
      \edef\@prev@list{\csname probsoln@prev@list@##2\endcsname}%
      \@for\@this@label:=\@prev@list\do{%
```

If it isn't one of the used problems, it can be added to the exclusion list:

```
        \ifcsundef{@used@problem@##2@\@this@label}%
        {%
```

It isn't, so label can be added to the exclusion list:

```
            \ifcsempty{##1}%
            {\edef##1{\@this@label}}%
            {\edef##1{##1,\@this@label}}%
        }%
        {}%
      }%
    }%
    {}%
  }%
```

Add new previous list for given database:

```
\renewcommand*{\@add@newprevlist}[1]{%
   \expandafter\gdef\csname probsoln@prev@list@##1\endcsname{}%
}%
```

Redefine macro that closes the exclusion-related files.

```
\renewcommand*{\close@probsoln@prev}{%
  \closeout\probsoln@prev
  \closeout\probsoln@used
}%
}
```

`le@exclude@prev` Disable commands for excluding previously selected problems.

```
\newcommand*{\@disable@exclude@prev}{%
  \renewcommand*{\@add@used@problem}[2]{}%
  \renewcommand*{\@fetch@excluded@list}[2]{\def##1{}}%
  \renewcommand*{\@add@newprevlist}[1]{}%
  \renewcommand*{\close@probsoln@prev}{}%
}
```

By default, the commands for excluding previously selected problems are disabled.

`dd@used@problem` Adds problem to used problems list. (First argument is the label, the second argument is the database name.)

```
\newcommand*{\@add@used@problem}[2]{}
```

`h@excluded@list` Fetches the excluded list. (First argument macro in which to store the list. The second argument is the database name.)

```
\newcommand*{\@fetch@excluded@list}[2]{%
  \def#1{}%
}
```

`add@newprevlist` Adds a new previous list for the given database:

```
\newcommand*{\@add@newprevlist}[1]{}
```

`e@probsoln@prev` Close file used for previous labels

```
\newcommand*{\close@probsoln@prev}{}
```

At the end of the document, close file if required:

```
\AtEndDocument{\close@probsoln@prev}
```

`previousproblem` Identifies problem that has been selected and the year it was selected. (First argument label, second argument database name, third argument year.)

```
\newcommand*{\previousproblem}[3]{%
  \ifnum#3>\probsoln@prev@cutoff
```

If data set hasn't been defined, define it:

```
    \ifcsundef{prob@db@#2}{\prob@newdb{#2}}{}%
```

Define command that stores the year the problem was used:

```
\expandafter\gdef\csname @prev@problem@#2@#1\endcsname{#3}%
```

Add label to the previous list for this data set:

```
\edef\@prev@list{\csname probsoln@prev@list@#2\endcsname}%
\ifdefempty{\@prev@list}%
{%
   \expandafter\xdef\csname probsoln@prev@list@#2\endcsname{#1}%
}%
{%
   \expandafter\xdef\csname probsoln@prev@list@#2\endcsname{%
     \@prev@list,#1}%
}%
  \fi
}
```

\usedproblem Don't want to exclude problems that were selected in the previous run of this document for the current year, so they need to be identified in the aux file.

```
\newcommand*{\usedproblem}[3]{%
  \ifnum#3=\probsoln@startyear
    \expandafter\def\csname @used@problem@#2@#1\endcsname{#3}%
  \fi
}
```

12.3 Databases

All the problems are stored in data bases. Each data base ⟨*name*⟩ is represented as a macro `\prob@db@`⟨*name*⟩ which stores a comma-separated list of labels for each problem associated with that data base. Each problem ⟨*label*⟩ is stored in the macro `\prob@data@`⟨*name*⟩`@`⟨*label*⟩. Problems loaded from an external file using `\loadproblems` are added to the specified data base. Any problems that are defined in the document or are `\input`ed from another file (without the use of `\loadproblems`) are added to the default data base.

Define the default data base:

```
\newcommand*{\prob@db@default}{}
```

\prob@databases Store a list of all the defined data bases.

```
\newcommand*{\prob@databases}{default}
```

Each defined database has a list of undisplayed solutions.

```
\newcommand*{\prob@db@default@solutions}{}
```

\prob@newdb `\prob@newdb{`⟨*name*⟩`}`

Creates a new (empty) data base.

```
\newcommand*{\prob@newdb}[1]{%
```

```
    \ifcsundef{prob@db@#1}%
    {%
      \expandafter\gdef\csname prob@db@#1\endcsname{}%
      \xdef\prob@databases{\prob@databases,#1}%
      \expandafter\gdef\csname prob@db@#1@solutions\endcsname{}%
      \@add@newprevlist{#1}%
    }%
    {%
      \PackageError{probsoln}{Data set `#1' is already defined}%
        {Data set names must be unique}%
    }%
  }
```

\prob@currentdb Keep a track of the current data base

```
  \newcommand*{\prob@currentdb}{default}
```

\moveproblem `\moveproblem{⟨label⟩}{⟨source⟩}{⟨target⟩}`

```
  \newcommand{\moveproblem}[3]{%
  \@moveproblem{#1}{#2}{#3}%
  \expandafter\let\expandafter\@tmpdblist
   \csname prob@db@#2\endcsname
  \expandafter\gdef\csname prob@db@#2\endcsname{}%
  \@for\@tmplab:=\@tmpdblist\do{%
   \ifthenelse{\equal{\@tmplab}{#1}}{}{%
     \expandafter\ifx\csname prob@db@#2\endcsname\@empty
       \expandafter\xdef\csname prob@db@#2\endcsname{\@tmplab}%
     \else
       \expandafter\xdef\csname prob@db@#2\endcsname{%
         \csname prob@db@#2\endcsname,%
         \@tmplab}%
     \fi
   }%
  }%
  }
```

\@moveproblem `\@moveproblem{⟨label⟩}{⟨source⟩}{⟨target⟩}`

Moves problem identified by ⟨*label*⟩ from the data base ⟨*source*⟩ to the data base ⟨*target*⟩. (Doesn't remove label from ⟨*source*⟩ — that needs to be done separately.)

```
  \newcommand*{\@moveproblem}[3]{%
```

Add label to target data base

```
    \ifcsempty{prob@db@#3}%
    {%
      \expandafter\xdef\csname prob@db@#3\endcsname{#1}%
```

```
    }%
    {%
      \expandafter\xdef\csname prob@db@#3\endcsname{%
        \csname prob@db@#3\endcsname,#1}%
    }%
```

Redefine `\prob@data@`⟨*source*⟩`@`⟨*label*⟩ as `\prob@data@`⟨*target*⟩`@`⟨*label*⟩.

```
    \edef\do@movedata{%
      \noexpand\global\noexpand\let\expandafter\noexpand
        \csname prob@data@#3@#1\endcsname=%
        \expandafter\noexpand\csname prob@data@#2@#1\endcsname
        \noexpand\global\noexpand\let
        \expandafter\noexpand
        \csname prob@data@#2@#1\endcsname=\noexpand\undefined
      }%
    \do@movedata
```

Redefine `\prob@argN@`⟨*source*⟩`@`⟨*label*⟩ as `\prob@argN@`⟨*target*⟩`@`⟨*label*⟩.

```
    \edef\do@moveargN{%
      \noexpand\global\noexpand\let\expandafter\noexpand
        \csname prob@argN@#3@#1\endcsname=%
        \expandafter\noexpand\csname prob@argN@#2@#1\endcsname
        \noexpand\global\noexpand\let
        \expandafter\noexpand
        \csname prob@argN@#2@#1\endcsname=\noexpand\undefined
      }%
    \do@moveargN
```

Redefine `\prob@args@`⟨*source*⟩`@`⟨*label*⟩ as `\prob@args@`⟨*target*⟩`@`⟨*label*⟩, if defined.

```
    \@ifundefined{prob@args@#2@#1}{}{%
      \edef\do@moveargs{%
        \noexpand\global\noexpand\let\expandafter\noexpand
          \csname prob@args@#3@#1\endcsname=%
          \expandafter\noexpand\csname prob@args@#2@#1\endcsname
          \noexpand\global\noexpand\let
          \expandafter\noexpand
          \csname prob@args@#2@#1\endcsname=\noexpand\undefined
        }%
      \do@moveargs
    }%
  }
```

12.4 Defining New Problems

`\prob@newproblem` `\prob@newproblem{`⟨*n*⟩`}{`⟨*db name*⟩`}{`⟨*label*⟩`}{`⟨*definition*⟩`}{`⟨*default args*⟩`}`

Define a new problem identified by ⟨*label*⟩ for data base ⟨*db name*⟩ with the given definition. The problem has ⟨*n*⟩ arguments (each represented by `#1` etc). The arguments may either be appended to `\useproblem{`⟨*label*⟩`}` or may be stored in `\prob@args@`⟨*db*

name⟩@⟨*label*⟩ if the problem is to be accessed via `\foreachproblem`. The number of arguments is stored in `\prob@argN@`⟨*db name*⟩@⟨*label*⟩

```
\newcommand{\prob@newproblem}[5]{%
```

If the given data base is not defined, create it:

```
  \@ifundefined{prob@db@#2}{\prob@newdb{#2}}{}%
```

Check whether this entry has already been defined:

```
  \@ifundefined{prob@data@#2@#3}%
  {%
```

Define the new problem and make it global:

```
    \let\@tmp=\undefined
    \newcommand\@tmp[#1]{#4}%
    \expandafter\global\expandafter\let
       \csname prob@data@#2@#3\endcsname=\@tmp
    \expandafter\xdef\csname prob@argN@#2@#3\endcsname{\number#1}%
    \let\@tmp=\undefined
```

Add the label to the data base:

```
    \expandafter\ifx\csname prob@db@#2\endcsname\@empty
      \expandafter\xdef\csname prob@db@#2\endcsname{#3}%
    \else
      \expandafter\xdef\csname prob@db@#2\endcsname{%
        \csname prob@db@#2\endcsname,#3}%
    \fi
```

If default arguments supplied, set them

```
    \ifx\@empty#5\@empty
    \else
       \edef\thisprob@currentdb{#2}%
       \edef\thisprob@currentlabel{#3}%
       \expandafter\@setdefaultprobargs\expandafter{#5}%
    \fi
  }%
  {%
    \PackageError{probsoln}{Problem `#3' is already defined for
    data base `#2'}{Problem labels must be unique for each data base}%
  }%
}
```

rob@gobblethree Ignore all three arguments

```
\newcommand{\@prob@gobblethree}[3]{}
```

\@prob@getargs

\@prob@getargs⟨*n*⟩⟨*db name*⟩⟨*label*⟩

Prompt user for ⟨*n*⟩ arguments for problem ⟨*label*⟩ in data base ⟨*db name*⟩.

```
\newcommand{\@prob@getargs}[3]{%
\message{Problem `#3' (in data base `#2') requires #1 argument(s).^^J
```

```
  Please specify (e.g. \csname @prob@getargs@eg@\romannumeral#1\endcsname):}%
  \read-1to\@tmp
  \expandafter\global\expandafter\let
    \csname prob@args@#2@#3\endcsname=\@tmp
  }
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@i{{12}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@ii{{5}{3}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@iii{{4}{5}{2}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@iv{{5}{3}{10}{8}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@v{{5}{3}{10}{8}{4}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@vi{{5}{3}{10}{8}{4}{24}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@vii{{5}{3}{10}{8}{4}{24}{32}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@viii{{5}{3}{10}{8}{4}{24}{32}{9}}
  \def\@prob@getargs@eg@ix{{5}{3}{10}{8}{4}{24}{32}{9}{2}}
```

`prob@do@getargs`

```
  \let\@prob@do@getargs\@prob@gobblethree
```

`\setprobargs` `\setprobargs[⟨db name⟩]{⟨label⟩}{⟨args⟩}`

Sets the arguments for the given problem. Each of the arguments within ⟨*args*⟩ should be grouped, e.g. `\setprobargs{label}{{5}{3}}`. Inner braces are still required if there is only one argument, e.g. `\setprobargs{label}{{25}}`

```
  \newcommand*{\setprobargs}[3][default]{%
    \expandafter\gdef\csname prob@args@#1@#2\endcsname{#3}%
  }
```

`defaultprobargs` Like `\setprobargs` but only sets the arguments if `\usedefaultprobargstrue`. The database is given by `\thisprob@currentdb` (the current database) and the problem label is given by `\thisprob@currentlabel`. This command should only be used within defproblem.

```
  \newcommand*{\@setdefaultprobargs}[1]{%
    \ifusedefaultprobargs
      \setprobargs[\thisprob@currentdb]{\thisprob@currentlabel}{#1}%
    \fi
  }
```

`ng@collect@body` Need long versions of `\collect@body`. These macros are adapted from the macros defined by amsmath.

```
  \long\def\long@collect@body#1{%
    \@envbody{\@xp#1\@xp{\the\@envbody}}%
    \edef\process@envbody{\the\@envbody\@nx\end{\@currenvir}}%
    \@envbody\@emptytoks \def\begin@stack{b}%
    \begingroup
    \if@prob@fragile
      \obeylines\obeyspaces
```

```
    \@makeother\#
    \@makeother\%
  \fi
  \@xp\let\csname\@currenvir\endcsname\long@collect@@body
  \edef\process@envbody{\@xp\@nx\csname\@currenvir\endcsname}%
  \process@envbody
}
```

g@addto@envbody

```
\long\def\long@addto@envbody#1{%
  \toks@{#1}%
  \edef\@psn@tmp{\the\@envbody\the\toks@}%
  \global\@envbody\@xp{\@psn@tmp}%
}
```

g@collect@@body

```
\long\def\long@collect@@body#1\end#2{%

  \protected@edef\begin@stack{%
    \long@push@begins#1\begin\end \@xp\@gobble\begin@stack
  }%
  \ifx\@empty\begin@stack
    \endgroup
    \@checkend{#2}%
    \long@addto@envbody{#1}%
  \else
    \long@addto@envbody{#1\end{#2}}%
  \fi
  \process@envbody
}
```

ong@push@begins

```
\long\def\long@push@begins#1\begin#2{%
  \ifx\end#2\else b\@xp\long@push@begins\fi
}
```

Fragile contents are sanitized, written to file and read back in. However, we don't want the new line character sanitized. Also, the verbatim environment doesn't like a space after `\begin` or `\end`, so these need to be replaced.

\@char@M First define a macro that contains the newline marker:

```
{\obeylines
 \gdef\@char@M{^^M}%
}
\@onelevel@sanitize\@char@M
```

@beg@env@string Define a macro that contains the begin environment marker:

```
\def\@beg@env@string{\begin}
\@onelevel@sanitize\@beg@env@string
```

`@end@env@string` Define a macro that contains the end environment marker:

```
\def\@end@env@string{\end}
\@onelevel@sanitize\@end@env@string
```

`replace@markers` Things start to get a bit complicated here. The substitution macros need the markers as part of their definition. The easiest way to do this is to define a command (using `\edef`) that defines the substitution macros. The markers and replacements are the only things to be expanded.

```
\edef\def@replace@markers{%
```

First define the command that replaces the newline marker:

```
  \noexpand\def\noexpand\do@replace@charM##1\@char@M##2\noexpand\end@replace@marker{%
    \noexpand\expandafter\noexpand\toks@\noexpand\expandafter{\noexpand\replace@text}%
    \noexpand\ifx\noexpand\relax##2\noexpand\relax
      \noexpand\edef\noexpand\replace@text{\noexpand\the\noexpand\toks@##1}%
      \noexpand\let\noexpand\do@replacenext\noexpand\replace@mark@noop
    \noexpand\else
      \noexpand\edef\noexpand\replace@text{\noexpand\the\noexpand\toks@##1^^J}%
      \noexpand\let\noexpand\do@replacenext\noexpand\do@replace@charM
    \noexpand\fi
    \noexpand\do@replacenext##2\noexpand\end@replace@marker
  }%
```

Next define the command that replaces the begin environment marker:

```
  \noexpand\def\noexpand\doreplace@begverb##1\@beg@env@string##2\noexpand\end@replace@marker{%
    \noexpand\expandafter\noexpand\toks@\noexpand\expandafter{\noexpand\replace@text}%
    \noexpand\ifx\noexpand\relax##2\noexpand\relax
      \noexpand\edef\noexpand\replace@text{\noexpand\the\noexpand\toks@##1}%
      \noexpand\let\noexpand\do@replacenext\noexpand\replace@mark@noop
    \noexpand\else
      \noexpand\edef\noexpand\replace@text{\noexpand\the\noexpand\toks@
        ##1\expandafter\@gobble\string\\begin}%
      \noexpand\let\noexpand\do@replacenext\noexpand\doreplace@begverb
    \noexpand\fi
    \noexpand\do@replacenext##2\noexpand\end@replace@marker
  }%
```

Next define the command that replaces the end environment marker:

```
  \noexpand\def\noexpand\doreplace@endverb##1\@end@env@string##2\noexpand\end@replace@marker{%
    \noexpand\expandafter\noexpand\toks@\noexpand\expandafter{\noexpand\replace@text}%
    \noexpand\ifx\noexpand\relax##2\noexpand\relax
      \noexpand\edef\noexpand\replace@text{\noexpand\the\noexpand\toks@##1}%
      \noexpand\let\noexpand\do@replacenext\noexpand\replace@mark@noop
    \noexpand\else
      \noexpand\edef\noexpand\replace@text{\noexpand\the\noexpand\toks@
        ##1\expandafter\@gobble\string\\end}%
      \noexpand\let\noexpand\do@replacenext\noexpand\doreplace@endverb
    \noexpand\fi
    \noexpand\do@replacenext##2\noexpand\end@replace@marker
  }%
```

Finally, define a higher-level command that calls all three of the above:

```
\noexpand\def\noexpand\replace@markers##1{%
  \noexpand\def\noexpand\replace@text{}%
  \noexpand\expandafter\noexpand\do@replace@charM##1\@char@M\relax\noexpand\end@replace@marke
  \noexpand\let##1\noexpand\replace@text
  \noexpand\def\noexpand\replace@text{}%
  \noexpand\expandafter\noexpand\doreplace@begverb##1\@beg@env@string\relax\noexpand\end@repl
  \noexpand\let##1\noexpand\replace@text
  \noexpand\def\noexpand\replace@text{}%
  \noexpand\expandafter\noexpand\doreplace@endverb##1\@end@env@string\relax\noexpand\end@repl
  \noexpand\let##1\noexpand\replace@text
}
}
```

Define the substitution loop terminator:

```
\def\replace@mark@noop#1\end@replace@marker{}
```

Now define all the marker substitution macros:

```
\def@replace@markers
```

defproblem `\begin{defproblem}[⟨n⟩][⟨default args⟩]{⟨label⟩}[⟨key-val options⟩]`

Define a new problem identified by ⟨*label*⟩ with ⟨n⟩ arguments to add to the current data base. Note that since the contents of the environment are passed to a command, the contents can't contain any verbatim text.

```
\newenvironment{defproblem}[1][0]{%
  \edef\@prob@currentargN{\number0#1}%
  \@defproblem@beginenv
}{}
%   \end{macrocode}
% Gather second optional argument and mandatory argument:
%   \begin{macrocode}
\newcommand*{\@defproblem@beginenv}[2][]{%
  \def\@prob@currentdefaultargs{#1}%
  \def\@prob@currentlabel{#2}%
  \@defproblem@beginenv@
}
```

Get final optional argument and process

```
\newcommand*{\@defproblem@beginenv@}[1][]{%
  \setkeys{probsoln}{#1}%
  \long@collect@body\prob@do@defproblem
}
```

ob@do@newproblem `\prob@do@newproblem{⟨definition⟩}`

Defines a new problem given by ⟨*definition*⟩, where the number of arguments is given by `\@prob@currentargN`, the label is given by `\@prob@currentlabel` and the data base is given by `\prob@currentdb`.

```
\newcommand{\prob@do@newproblem}[1]{%
  \if@prob@fragile
    \probsoln@process@fragile{#1}%
    \protected@edef\do@def@new@problem{%
      \noexpand\prob@newproblem
        {\@prob@currentargN}%
        {\prob@currentdb}%
        {\@prob@currentlabel}%
        {%
          \noexpand\probsoln@write@tmp{\@prob@tmp@problem}%
          \noexpand\probsoln@read@tmp
        }%
        {\@prob@currentdefaultargs}%
    }%
  \else
    \toks@{#1}%
    \protected@edef\do@def@new@problem{%
      \noexpand\prob@newproblem
      {\@prob@currentargN}%
      {\prob@currentdb}%
      {\@prob@currentlabel}%
      {\the\toks@}%
      {\@prob@currentdefaultargs}%
    }%
  \fi
  \do@def@new@problem
}
```

`b@do@defproblem` The default action of the defproblem environment is to define a new problem.

```
\let\prob@do@defproblem=\prob@do@newproblem
```

`onlysolution` Define an environment that only displays its contents if the solutions should be displayed.

```
\newenvironment{onlysolution}[1][]{%
   \setkeys{probsoln}{#1}%
   \long@collect@body\do@onlysolution
}{}
```

`do@onlysolution`

```
\newcommand{\do@onlysolution}[1]{%
  \ifshowanswers
    \probsoln@do@body{#1}%
  \fi
```

Add to the list of solutions

```
  \@ifundefined{@prob@currentlabel}
  {}%
```

```
  {%
    \expandafter
     \psn@add@unique@label
       \csname prob@db@\prob@currentdb @solutions\endcsname{%
         \@prob@currentlabel
       }%
  }%
}
```

add@unique@label `\psn@add@unique@label{⟨list cs⟩}{⟨label⟩}`

Globally adds label to list if not already in list.

```
\newcommand*{\psn@add@unique@label}[2]{%
  \ifx#1\@empty
    \xdef#1{#2}%
  \else
    \edef\@tmp@label{#2}%
    \expandafter\DTLifinlist\expandafter{\@tmp@label}{#1}%
    {}% ignore
    {\xdef#1{#1,\@tmp@label}}%
  \fi
}
%   \end{macrocode}
%\end{macro}
%
%\begin{macro}{\DTLifinlist}
% This is defined in \sty{datatool}, but there's no sense loading
% the entire package just for this, so define if not already
% defined.
%\changes{3.01}{2011/08/22}{new}
%    \begin{macrocode}
\providecommand{\DTLifinlist}[4]{%
  \def\@dtl@doifinlist##1,#1,##2\end@dtl@doifinlist{%
     \def\@before{##1}%
     \def\@after{##2}%
  }%
  \expandafter\@dtl@doifinlist\expandafter,#2,#1,\@nil
    \end@dtl@doifinlist
  \ifx\@after\@nnil
% not found
    #4%
  \else
% found
    #3%
  \fi
}
```

onlyproblem Define an environment that only displays its contents if the solutions should not be

displayed.

```
\newenvironment{onlyproblem}[1][]{%
   \setkeys{probsoln}{#1}%
   \long@collect@body\do@onlyproblem
}{}
```

\do@onlyproblem

```
\newcommand{\do@onlyproblem}[1]{%
  \ifshowanswers
  \else
    \probsoln@do@body{#1}%
  \fi
}
```

robsoln@do@body Either does argument or sanitizes, writes and reads.

```
\newcommand{\probsoln@do@body}[1]{%
  \if@prob@fragile
    \probsoln@process@fragile{#1}%
    \probsoln@write@tmp{\@prob@tmp@problem}%
    \probsoln@read@tmp
  \else
    #1%
  \fi
}
```

process@fragile Sanitizes and replaces markers. Result stored in `\@prob@tmp@problem`

```
\newcommand{\probsoln@process@fragile}[1]{%
  \def\@prob@tmp@problem{#1}%
  \@onelevel@sanitize\@prob@tmp@problem
  \replace@markers\@prob@tmp@problem
}
```

bsoln@write@tmp Writes argument to temporary file (including opening and closing file.)

```
\newcommand{\probsoln@write@tmp}[1]{%
  \immediate\openout\probsoln@write=\ProbSolnFragileFile.\ProbSolnFragileExt
  \immediate\write\probsoln@write{#1}%
  \immediate\closeout\probsoln@write
}
```

obsoln@read@tmp Inputs temporary file.

```
\newcommand{\probsoln@read@tmp}{%
  \input{\ProbSolnFragileFile.\ProbSolnFragileExt}%
}
```

12.5 Using Problems

\useproblem `\useproblem[⟨db name⟩]{⟨label⟩}{⟨arg1⟩}...{⟨argN⟩}`

Use problem identified by ⟨*label*⟩ in data base ⟨*db name*⟩ where ⟨*arg1*⟩...⟨*argN*⟩ are the arguments to pass to the problem, if the problem was defined to take arguments.

```
\newcommand{\useproblem}[2][default]{%
  \def\@prob@currentlabel{#2}%
  \def\prob@currentdb{#1}%
  \prob@showdraftlabel{#1}{#2}%
  \@add@used@problem{#2}{#1}%
  \let\@useprob@next=\relax
  \@ifundefined{prob@data@#1@#2}%
  {%
    \PackageError{probsoln}%
      {Problem `#2' is not defined in data set `#1'}{}%
  }%
  {%
    \def\@useprob@next{\csname prob@data@#1@#2\endcsname}%
  }%
  \@useprob@next
}
```

12.6 Loading Problems From Another File

\loadallproblems

\loadallproblems[⟨*db name*⟩]{⟨*filename*⟩}

Loads all the problems defined in ⟨*filename*⟩ and adds them to data base ⟨*db name*⟩. (\par is temporarily disabled to allow for blank lines between problems.)

```
\newcommand*{\loadallproblems}[2][default]{%
\bgroup
 \let\par\relax
 \edef\prob@currentdb{#1}%
 \input{#2}%
\egroup
}
```

selectedproblem

Only define problem if the label is listed in \prob@selectedlabels. (The current label is given by \@prob@currentlabel.)

```
\newcommand{\prob@do@selectedproblem}[1]{%
  \expandafter\DTLifinlist\expandafter{\@prob@currentlabel}{\prob@selectedlabels}%
  {%
    \prob@do@newproblem{#1}%
  }%
  {}%
}
```

selectedproblems

\loadselectedproblems[⟨*db name*⟩]{⟨*list*⟩}{⟨*filename*⟩}

Loads only those problems whose labels are listed in ⟨*list*⟩.

```
\newcommand{\loadselectedproblems}[3][default]{%
\bgroup
 \let\par\relax
 \edef\prob@currentdb{#1}%
 \edef\prob@selectedlabels{#2}%
 \let\prob@do@defproblem=\prob@do@selectedproblem
 \input{#3}%
\egroup
}
```

exceptedproblem Only define problem if the label isn't listed in `\prob@selectedlabels`. (The current label is given by `\@prob@currentlabel`.)

```
\newcommand{\prob@do@exceptedproblem}[1]{%
  \expandafter\DTLifinlist\expandafter{\@prob@currentlabel}{\prob@selectedlabels}%
  {}%
  {%
    \prob@do@newproblem{#1}%
  }%
}
```

adexceptproblems `\loadexceptproblems[`⟨*db name*⟩`]{`⟨*list*⟩`}{`⟨*filename*⟩`}`

Loads only those problems whose labels are not listed in ⟨*list*⟩.

```
\newcommand{\loadexceptproblems}[3][default]{%
\bgroup
 \let\par\relax
 \edef\prob@currentdb{#1}%
 \edef\prob@selectedlabels{#2}%
 \let\prob@do@defproblem=\prob@do@exceptedproblem
 \input{#3}%
\egroup
}
```

dd@currentlabel Adds the current label to `\prob@selectedlabels` (ignores argument.)

```
\newcommand{\prob@add@currentlabel}[1]{%
\ifx\prob@selectedlabels\@empty
 \xdef\prob@selectedlabels{\@prob@currentlabel}%
\else
 \xdef\prob@selectedlabels{\prob@selectedlabels,\@prob@currentlabel}%
\fi
}
```

\iffirstpass Determines if this is the first pass of the filename when loading a data base.

```
\newif\iffirstpass
\firstpasstrue
```

adrandomproblems

\loadrandomproblems[⟨*db name*⟩]{⟨*n*⟩}{⟨*filename*⟩}

Loads ⟨*n*⟩ randomly selected problems from ⟨*filename*⟩.

```
\newcommand{\loadrandomproblems}[3][default]{%
  \@fetch@excluded@list{\@excl@list}{#1}%
  \@loadrandomproblems{#1}{#2}{#3}{\@excl@list}%
}
```

loadrandomexcept

\loadrandomexcept[⟨*db name*⟩]{⟨*n*⟩}{⟨*filename*⟩}{⟨*exception list*⟩}

Loads ⟨*n*⟩ randomly selected problems from ⟨*filename*⟩, excluding labels listed in ⟨*exception list*⟩.

```
\newcommand{\loadrandomexcept}[4][default]{%
  \@loadrandomproblems{#1}{#2}{#3}{#4}%
}
```

drandomproblems

Internal workings of `\loadrandomproblems` and `\loadrandomexcept`. Needs to input ⟨*filename*⟩ twice: the first time just gathers all the labels, the second time only loads the selected problems.

```
\newcommand{\@loadrandomproblems}[4]{%
\bgroup
 \let\par\relax
 \def\prob@db@reserved{}%
 \def\prob@currentdb{reserved}%
 \edef\prob@selectedlabels{}%
```

Collect labels:

```
 \let\prob@do@defproblem=\prob@add@currentlabel
 \firstpasstrue
```

Allow a comma-separated list of file names.

```
 \@for\@thisfile:=#3\do{\input{\@thisfile}}%
```

Shuffle labels.

```
 \@probselN=0\relax
 \@for\@thislabel:=\prob@selectedlabels\do{%

   \edef\@if@in@list{\noexpand\DTLifinlist{\@thislabel}{#4}}%
   \@if@in@list
   {}%
   {%
     \advance\@probselN by 1\relax
     \expandafter
       \edef\csname @prob@tmp@\romannumeral\@probselN\endcsname{%
         \@thislabel}%
   }%
 }%
```

```
\edef\@do@excludedlist{#4}%
\ifdefempty{\@do@excludedlist}%
  {}%
  {\def\@do@excludedlist{(Excluded list: #4.) }}%

\ifnum\@probselN=0\relax
    \PackageWarning{probsoln}{You have requested
      \number#2\space\space problem(s) but there are no available
      problems in `#3'. \@do@excludedlist No problems will be selected}%
\else
  \shuffle{@prob@tmp@}{\@probselN}%
  \ifnum\@probselN<#2\relax

    \ifnum\@probselN=1\relax
      \PackageWarning{probsoln}{You have requested
        \number#2\space\space problem(s) but there is only
        1 problem available in `#3'. \@do@excludedlist
        Only 1 problem will be selected}%
    \else
      \PackageWarning{probsoln}{You have requested
        \number#2\space\space problem(s) but there are only
        \number\@probselN\space problems available in `#3'.
          \@do@excludedlist
          Only \number\@probselN\space problems will be selected}%
    \fi
  \else
    \@probselN=#2\relax
  \fi
\fi
```

Store only the first $\langle n \rangle$ of the shuffled labels.

```
\@probN=0\relax
\def\prob@selectedlabels{}%
\whiledo{\@probN<\@probselN}{%
  \advance\@probN by 1\relax
  \ifx\prob@selectedlabels\@empty
    \edef\prob@selectedlabels{%
      \csname @prob@tmp@\romannumeral\@probN\endcsname}%
  \else
    \edef\prob@selectedlabels{%
      \prob@selectedlabels,%
      \csname @prob@tmp@\romannumeral\@probN\endcsname}%
  \fi
}%
```

Only load selected labels.

```
\let\prob@do@defproblem=\prob@do@selectedproblem
\firstpassfalse
\@for\@thisfile:=#3\do{\input{\@thisfile}}%
```

Move them from the reserved data base into the required data base in the order specified by `\prob@selectedlabels`

```
\@ifundefined{prob@db@#1}{\prob@newdb{#1}}{}%
\@for\@thislabel:=\prob@selectedlabels\do{%
  \@moveproblem{\@thislabel}{reserved}{#1}%
}%
```

`\prob@selectedlabels` had to be globally defined. It's no longer required to undefine it.

```
 \let\prob@selectedlabels=\undefined
\egroup
}
```

12.7 Iterating Through a Data Base

`\foreachproblem` `\foreachproblem[⟨db name⟩]{⟨body⟩}`

Does ⟨*body*⟩ for each problem defined in the data base ⟨*db name*⟩. Within ⟨*body*⟩, the command `\thisproblem` can be used to do the current problem and the command `\thisproblemlabel` can be used to access the current label.

```
\newcommand{\foreachproblem}[2][default]{%
\@ifundefined{prob@db@#1}{%
  \PackageError{probsoln}{Data base `#1' is not defined}{}%
}{%
  \expandafter\let\expandafter\@tmp\csname prob@db@#1\endcsname
  \@for\thisproblemlabel:=\@tmp\do{%
    \expandafter\ifnum
       \csname prob@argN@#1@\thisproblemlabel\endcsname>0\relax
       \@ifundefined{prob@args@#1@\thisproblemlabel}{%
         \expandafter\@prob@getargs
           \csname prob@argN@#1@\thisproblemlabel\endcsname
           {#1}{\thisproblemlabel}}{}%
       \expandafter\let\expandafter\thisproblemargs
         \csname prob@args@#1@\thisproblemlabel\endcsname
    \else
       \let\thisproblemargs\@empty
    \fi
    \expandafter\toks@\expandafter{\thisproblemargs}%
    \edef\thisproblem{\noexpand\useproblem[#1]{\thisproblemlabel}%
       \the\toks@}%
    #2%
  }%
}%
}
```

`\foreachsolution` `\foreachsolution[⟨db name⟩]{⟨body⟩}`

Does ⟨*body*⟩ for each problem defined in the data base ⟨*db name*⟩ that has a solution contained within onlysolution. Within ⟨*body*⟩, the command `\thisproblem` can be used to do the current problem and the command `\thisproblemlabel` can be used to access the current label.

```
\newcommand{\foreachsolution}[2][default]{%
\@ifundefined{prob@db@#1}{%
  \PackageError{probsoln}{Data base `#1' is not defined}{}%
}{%
  \expandafter\let\expandafter\@tmp\csname prob@db@#1@solutions\endcsname
  \@for\thisproblemlabel:=\@tmp\do{%
    \ifx\thisproblemlabel\@empty
    \else
      \expandafter\ifnum
         \csname prob@argN@#1@\thisproblemlabel\endcsname>0\relax
         \@ifundefined{prob@args@#1@\thisproblemlabel}{%
           \expandafter\@prob@getargs
             \csname prob@argN@#1@\thisproblemlabel\endcsname
             {#1}{\thisproblemlabel}}{}%
         \expandafter\let\expandafter\thisproblemargs
           \csname prob@args@#1@\thisproblemlabel\endcsname
      \else
         \let\thisproblemargs\@empty
      \fi
      \expandafter\toks@\expandafter{\thisproblemargs}%
      \edef\thisproblem{\noexpand\useproblem[#1]{\thisproblemlabel}%
         \the\toks@}%
      #2%
    \fi
  }%
}%
}
```

`\foreachdataset` `\foreachdataset{`⟨*cmd*⟩`}{`⟨*body*⟩`}`

Iterates through all defined data sets. Assigns ⟨*cmd*⟩ to the name of the data base.

```
\newcommand{\foreachdataset}[2]{%
\@for#1:=\prob@databases\do{#2}}
```

12.8 Random Numbers

First define some registers for later use.

```
\newcount\@probN \newcount\@probselN \newcount\@rndselctr
\newcount\r@ndcur
\newcount\@ps@randtmp
\r@ndcur=1\relax
```

`\PSNrandseed` Set the random generator seed

```
\newcommand*{\PSNrandseed}[1]{%
  \ifnum#1=0\relax
    \PackageWarning{probsoln}{Can't have 0 as random seed, changing to 1}%
    \global\r@ndcur=1\relax
  \else
    \global\r@ndcur=#1\relax
  \fi
  \PackageInfo{probsoln}{Random Seed = \number\r@ndcur}%
}
```

\PSNgetrandseed

```
\newcommand*{\PSNgetrandseed}[1]{#1=\r@ndcur\relax}
```

\PSNrand Generate a random integer.

```
\newcommand*{\PSNrand}{%
  \@ps@randtmp=\r@ndcur
  \multiply\@ps@randtmp by 16811\relax
  \r@ndcur=\@ps@randtmp
  \global\divide\r@ndcur by 39989\relax
  \global\multiply\r@ndcur by 39989\relax
  \advance\@ps@randtmp by -\r@ndcur
  \global\r@ndcur = \@ps@randtmp
  \ifnum\r@ndcur=0\relax
    \global\r@ndcur=1\relax
  \fi
}
```

\PSN@old@rand Random generator used in v3.0 and earlier

```
\newcommand*{\PSN@old@rand}{%
  \@ps@randtmp=\r@ndcur
  \multiply\@ps@randtmp by 16807\relax
  \r@ndcur=\@ps@randtmp
  \global\divide\r@ndcur by 120001\relax
  \global\multiply\r@ndcur by 120001\relax
  \advance\@ps@randtmp by -\r@ndcur
  \global\r@ndcur = \@ps@randtmp
  \ifnum\r@ndcur=0\relax
    \global\r@ndcur=1\relax
  \fi
}
```

PSNuseoldrandom Use the old random number generator

```
\newcommand*{\PSNuseoldrandom}{%
  \let\PSNrand\PSN@old@rand
}
```

\PSNrandom

\PSNrandom{⟨*count*⟩}{⟨*n*⟩}

stores a random number from 1 to ⟨*n*⟩ in the TeX count register ⟨*count*⟩

```
\newcommand{\PSNrandom}[2]{%
```

generate new random number.

```
  \PSNrand
  #1=\r@ndcur
  \@ps@randtmp=\r@ndcur
```

now set ⟨*count*⟩ to (⟨*count*⟩ mod ⟨*n*⟩) + 1

```
  \divide\@ps@randtmp by #2\relax
  \multiply\@ps@randtmp by #2\relax
  \advance#1 by -\@ps@randtmp
  \advance#1 by 1\relax
}
```

\random `\random{⟨counter⟩}{⟨a⟩}{⟨b⟩}`

Generate a random number in the range $[a, b]$, and store this number in the LaTeX counter ⟨*counter*⟩.

```
\newcommand{\random}[3]{%
\ifnum#2=1\relax
  \PSNrandom{\value{#1}}{#3}%
\else
  \@rndselctr=#3%
  \advance\@rndselctr by -#2\relax
  \advance\@rndselctr by 1\relax
  \PSNrandom{\value{#1}}{\@rndselctr}%
  \addtocounter{#1}{#2}%
  \addtocounter{#1}{-1}%
\fi
}
```

\shuffle Shuffle contents of pseudo-array. For example, suppose you have the following definitions: `\def\fooi{A}`, `\def\fooii{B}` and `\def\fooiii{C}`, then `\shuffle{foo}{3}` will shuffle the definitions, so you may end up with, e.g. `\def\fooi{C}`, `\def\fooii{A}`, `\def\fooiii{B}`, or some other variation.

```
\newcount\@shfctr \newcount\@shfA \newcount\@shfB
\newcommand{\shuffle}[2]{%
  \@shfctr=1\relax
  \whiledo{\@shfctr < 101}%
  {%
    \PSNrandom{\@shfA}{#2}\PSNrandom{\@shfB}{#2}%
    \ifnum\@shfA=\@shfB
    \else
      \edef\@@tmpA{\csname#1\romannumeral\@shfA\endcsname}%
      \let\@tmpA=\@@tmpA
      \edef\@@tmpB{\csname#1\romannumeral\@shfB\endcsname}%
      \let\@tmpB=\@@tmpB
```

```
      \expandafter\xdef\csname#1\romannumeral\@shfA\endcsname{\@tmpB}%
      \expandafter\xdef\csname#1\romannumeral\@shfB\endcsname{\@tmpA}%
    \fi
    \advance\@shfctr by 1\relax
  }%
}
```

\doforrandN `\doforrandN{⟨n⟩}{⟨cmd⟩}{⟨list⟩}{⟨text⟩}.`

A bit like `\@for` but only for a random subset of the given list. For example, the following will load one problem each from two out of the three listed files.

```
\doforrandN{2}{\tmp}{file1,file2,file3}{%
\loadrandomproblems{1}{\tmp}}
```

```
\newcount\@ps@forrand
\newcount\@ps@forrand@level
\newcommand{\doforrandN}[4]{%
  \global\advance\@ps@forrand@level by 1\relax
  {%
    \@ps@forrand=0\relax
    \@for#2:=#3\do{%
      \advance\@ps@forrand by 1\relax
      \expandafter
        \edef\csname @doforrandN@\number\@ps@forrand@level @\romannumeral\@ps@forrand\endcsname
    }%
    \ifnum\@ps@forrand<#1\relax
      \PackageError{probsoln}{Can't randomly select \number#1\space item(s)}{You
      have requested \number#1\space item(s), but there
      are only \number\@ps@forrand\space item(s) in the list: #3}%
    \else
      \shuffle{@doforrandN@\number\@ps@forrand@level @}{\@ps@forrand}%
      \ifnum#1>0\relax
        \@ps@forrand=0\relax
        \loop
          \advance\@ps@forrand by 1\relax
          \edef#2{\csname @doforrandN@\number\@ps@forrand@level @\romannumeral\@ps@forrand\endc
           #4%
        \ifnum\@ps@forrand<#1\relax
        \repeat
      \fi
    \fi
  }%
  \global\advance\@ps@forrand@level by -1\relax
}
```

12.9 Compatibility With Older Versions

These commands ensure that this version is compatible with versions prior to v3.0

\newproblem Defines a new problem.

```
\newcommand*{\newproblem}{\@ifstar\@snewproblem\@newproblem}
```

\@snewproblem Store first optional argument

```
\newcommand{\@snewproblem}[1][0]{%
  \def\@newprob@argN{#1}%
  \@s@newproblem
}%
```

\@s@newproblem Define a new problem without a solution

```
\newcommand{\@s@newproblem}[3][]{%
  \begin{defproblem}[\@newprob@argN][#1]{#2}%
    #3%
  \end{defproblem}%
}
```

\@newproblem Store first optional argument

```
\newcommand{\@newproblem}[1][0]{%
  \def\@newprob@argN{#1}%
  \@ns@newproblem
}
```

\@ns@newproblsm Define problem with a solution:

```
\newcommand{\@ns@newproblem}[4][]{%
  \begin{defproblem}[\@newprob@argN][#1]{#2}%
    #3%
    \begin{onlysolution}%
      \begin{solution}%
        #4%
      \end{solution}%
    \end{onlysolution}%
  \end{defproblem}%
}
```

lectallproblems

```
\newcommand*{\selectallproblems}[1]{{\loadallproblems[#1]{#1}}%
\foreachproblem[#1]{\PSNitem\thisproblem\endPSNitem}}
```

\selectrandomly

```
\newcommand*{\selectrandomly}[2]{%
{\loadrandomproblems[#1]{#2}{#1}}%
\foreachproblem[#1]{\PSNitem\thisproblem\endPSNitem}%
}
```

PSNitem

```
\newenvironment{PSNitem}{\item}{}
```

12.10 Formatting Commands

These commands are provided to format parts of the problems/solutions.

`solution`

```
\@ifundefined{solution}{%
  \newenvironment{solution}{\par\noindent\textbf{\solutionname:}\space
    \ignorespaces}{}%
}{}
```

`\solutionname`

```
\newcommand*{\solutionname}{Solution}
```

Define an in-line enumeration which uses the enumeration environment's counters.

`textenum`

```
\newenvironment{textenum}{%
  \ifnum\@enumdepth>\thr@@
    \@toodeep
  \else
    \advance\@enumdepth by 1\relax
    \edef\@enumctr{enum\romannumeral\the\@enumdepth}%
    \let\@item\@textitem
    \def\@itemlabel{%
      \refstepcounter{\@enumctr}%
      \csname label\@enumctr\endcsname
    }%
    \setcounter{\@enumctr}{0}%
  \fi
  \ignorespaces
}%
{%
}
```

`\@textitem` In-line enumeration item

```
\def\@textitem[#1]{#1\space\ignorespaces}
```

`rrectitemformat` Indicates how to format the item label for `\correctitem` when the solutions are shown. The argument is the label. This defaults to placing the argument in a box.

```
\newcommand*{\correctitemformat}[1]{\fbox{#1}}
```

`rrectitemformat` Indicates how to format the item label for `\incorrectitem` when the solutions are shown. The argument is the label. This defaults to just the argument shifted by `\fboxsep` + `\fboxrule` to ensure it aligns with the default `\correctitemformat`.

```
\newcommand*{\incorrectitemformat}[1]{%
\hspace{\fboxsep}\hspace{\fboxrule}#1}
```

\correctitem This can be used instead of \item. If the solutions are not shown, it behaves like \item, otherwise, it's like \item, but the label is formatted according to \correctitemformat.

```
\newcommand*{\correctitem}{\@inmatherr\correctitem
\@ifnextchar[\@correctitem{\@noitemargtrue\@correctitem[\@itemlabel]}}

\def\@correctitem[#1]{%
\ifshowanswers
  \@item[\correctitemformat{#1}]%
\else
  \@item[#1]%
\fi}
```

\incorrectitem This can be used instead of \item. If the solutions are not shown, it behaves like \item, otherwise, it's like \item, but the label is formatted according to \incorrectitemformat.

```
\newcommand*{\incorrectitem}{\@inmatherr\incorrectitem
\@ifnextchar[\@incorrectitem{\@noitemargtrue\@incorrectitem[\@itemlabel]}}

\def\@incorrectitem[#1]{%
\ifshowanswers
  \@item[\incorrectitemformat{#1}]%
\else
  \@item[#1]%
\fi}
```

Index

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

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y