

ACRO

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Handle acronyms in a flexible way

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English documentation

ACRO not only allows you to create acronyms in a simple way but also lets you add them to different classes of acronyms. Lists can be created of separate classes wherever you want the list to appear.

ACRO also provides an option **single** which ignores acronyms that are used only once in the whole document.

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1. Licence and Requirements

ACRO is placed under the terms of the LaTeX Project Public License, version 1.3 or later (<http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt>). It has the status “maintained.”

ACRO loads and needs the following packages: `expl3`,¹ `xparse`,² `xtemplate`³ and `l3keys2e`.⁴

2. Basics

2.1. Creating New Acronyms

Acronyms are created with the command `\NewAcronym` that can only be used in the preamble.

- ▶ `\NewAcronym*{<id>}{<short>,<pl>}[<alt.>]{<long>,<pl>}{<extra>}[<class>]` % can be used only in preamble
- ▶ `\AcronymFormat{<id>}{<format>}`

Although this command has quite a number of arguments. In the simplest case you'll only need three:

```
1 % preamble
2 \NewAcronym{test}{ST}{Some Test}
```

This creates the acronym ST with the ID test and the long form "Some Test". The other arguments will be described later in this document.

If you want to assign a special format to an acronym you can do that with `\AcronymFormat`.

```
1 % preamble:
2 \NewAcronym{ot}{ot}{Other Test}
3 \AcronymFormat{ot}{\scshape}
```

This now looks like this: OT.

2.2. Using the Acronyms – the commands

Acronyms are used with with one of the following commands:

- ▶ `\ac` → basic command; the first output is different from subsequent ones.
- ▶ `\acs` → short form; the actual acronym.
- ▶ `\acl` → long form; the meaning of the acronym.
- ▶ `\aca` → alternative short form as specified in the [`<short>`] argument of `\NewAcronym`; if it hasn't been specified this is identical to `\acs`.
- ▶ `\acf` → first form; output like the first time `\ac` is output.

¹ CTAN: expl3 ² CTAN: xparse ³ CTAN: xtemplate ⁴ CTAN: l3keys2e

- `\acp` → plural form of `\ac`;
- `\acsp` → plural form of `\acs`;
- `\aclp` → plural form of `\acl`;
- `\acap` → plural form of `\aca`;
- `\acfp` → plural form of `\acf`;

If an acronym is used the first time⁵ with `\ac` its output is different from subsequent uses.

```

1 % preamble: \NewAcronym{cd}{cd}{Compact Disc}
2 % \AcronymFormat{cd}{\scshape}
3 first time: \ac{cd} \\
4 second time: \ac{cd} \\
5 short: \acs{cd} \\
6 alternative: \aca{cd} \\
7 long: \acl{cd} \\
8 short plural: \acsp{cd} \\
9 long plural: \aclp{cd}

first time: Compact Disc (CD)
second time: CD
short: CD
alternative: CD
long: Compact Disc
short plural: CDs
long plural: Compact Discs

```

2.3. Plural Forms

If an acronym is defined in the standard way `\ACRO` uses an ‘s’ that’s appended to both the short and the long form when one of the plural commands is used. However, that is not always the best solution. For one thing not all acronyms may have a plural form. Second, the plural form especially of the long forms may be formed differently. And third, other languages can have other plural endings.

For this reason `\NewAcronym` provides additional arguments:

- `\NewAcronym{<id>}{<short>,<plural ending>}{<long>,<plural ending>}`
- `\NewAcronym*{<id>}{<short>,<plural ending>}{<long>,<plural form>}`

These arguments are optional. If they’re not used, the default setting is ‘s’. If you use the starred version long form will be replaced by the specifies plural form when necessary. A given short plural will still be appended.

⁵ This means: the first time! If it has been used with *any* of the output commands before it is *not* the first time any more.

```

1 % preamble:
2 % \NewAcronym{cd}{\textsc{cd}}{Compact Disc}
3 % \AcronymFormat{cd}{\scshape}
4 % \NewAcronym{ny}{NY,}{New York,}
5 % \NewAcronym{bue}{bb}{B\"ugelbrett,er}
6 % \AcronymFormat{bue}{\scshape}
7 % \NewAcronym*{mp}{MP}{Member of Parliament,Members of Parliament}
8 \acsp{cd}, \aclp{cd} \\
9 \acsp{ny}, \aclp{ny} \\
10 \acsp{bue}, \aclp{bue} \\
11 \acsp{mp}, \aclp{mp}

CDS, Compact Discs
NY, New York
BBS, Bügelbretter
MPs, Members of Parliament

```

2.4. Alternative Short Forms

For some acronyms it might be useful to have alternative forms, maybe because they're written differently at the beginning of a sentence. For this `\NewAcronym` has an optional argument:

► `\NewAcronym{<id>}{<short>}[<alternative>]{<long>}`

```

1 % preamble \NewAcronym{zb}{z.\,B.,}[Z.\,B.]{zum Beispiel,}
2 in der Mitte, \acs{zb} \ldots \\
3 \aca{zb} auch am Anfang \ldots

in der Mitte, z. B. ...
Z. B. auch am Anfang ...

```

The alternative form uses the same plural ending as the default short form and is formatted in the same way.

2.5. Extra Information for the List Entry

Of course you can print a list of acronyms where their meaning is explained. Sometimes it can be useful to add additional information there. This is done with another optional argument to `\NewAcronym`:

► `\NewAcronym{<id>}{<short>}{<long>}{<extra>}`

These information will only be displayed in the list.

```

1 % preamble:
2 % \NewAcronym{nato}{nato}{North Atlantic Treaty Organization}{\textit{
  deutsch}: Organisation des Nordatlantikvertrags}
3 % \AcronymFormat{nato}{\scshape}
4 The \ac{nato} is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the
5 North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949. \ac{nato}
6 headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium, one of the 28 member states
7 across North America and Europe, the newest of which, Albania and
8 Croatia, joined in April 2009.

```

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949. NATO headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium, one of the 28 member states across North America and Europe, the newest of which, Albania and Croatia, joined in April 2009.

3. Additional Commands

3.1. Using Classes

The acronyms of **ACRO** can be divided into different classes. This doesn't change the output but allows different acronym lists, see section 4. For this **\NewAcronym** has an optional argument:

► **\NewAcronym**{<id>}{<short>}{<long>}[<class>]

```

1 % preamble:
2 % \NewAcronym{la}{LA,}{Los Angeles,}[city]
3 % \NewAcronym{ny}{NY,}{New York,}[city]
4 \acl{la} (\acs{la}) \
5 \acl{ny} (\acs{ny})

Los Angeles (LA)
New York (NY)

```

This might be useful if you can divide your acronyms into different types, technical and grammatical ones, say.

3.2. Resetting

4. Printing the List

Printing the whole list of acronyms is easy: just place **\printacronyms** wherever you want the list to be.

► **\printacronyms**{<list of classes>} → the *optional* argument takes a comma-separated list of the classes of acronyms that should in the list. If the argument is left out, *all* acronyms are printed.

```

1 \acsetup{hyperref=false}
2 \printacronyms

```

Acronyms

BB Bügelbrett

CD Compact Disc

LA Los Angeles

MP Member of Parliament

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization. *deutsch*: Organisation des Nordatlantikvertrags

NY New York

ST Some Test

z. B. zum Beispiel

You can see that the default layout is a description list with a section* title. Both can be changed, see section 5.

5. Customization

5.1. General Options

There are a few options which change the general behaviour of **ACRO**.

- ▶ **single** = true/false → if set to true an acronym that's used only once in a document will only print the long form and will not be printed in the list.
- ▶ **hyperref** = true/false → if set to true the short forms of the acronyms will be linked to their list entry.
- ▶ **only-used** = true/false → this option is true as default. It means that only acronyms that are actually used in the document are printed in the list. If false, all acronyms defined with `\NewAcronym` will be written in the list.

5.2. Options Regarding Acronyms

- ▶ **short-format** = <format> → sets a format for all short forms. For example **short-format** = `\scshape` would print all short forms in small caps.
- ▶ **long-format** = <format> → the same for the long forms.
- ▶ **extra-format** = <format> → the same for the extra information.

- **first-style** = default/footnote/square → the basic style of the first appearance of an acronym.
- **extra-style** = plain/comma/paren/bracket → define the way the extra information is printed in the list.

<pre> 1 % (Keep in mind that we're in 2 % a minipage here!) 3 \acsetup{first-style=footnote} 4 \acf{ny} </pre>	<div style="text-align: right;"> NY^a <hr style="width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"/> ^a New York </div>
--	--

5.3. Options Regarding the List

- **page-ref** = none/plain/comma/paren → Default: none
- **page-name** = <page name> → Default: p.
- **list-style** = list/table → Default: list
- **list-type** → Depending on the value of **list-type**. If it is list then **list-type** can be any valid list like description or itemize. If you chose **list-type** = table valid values are tabular and longtable. The latter requires you to put `\usepackage{longtable}` in your preamble.
- **list-header** = chapter/chapter*/section/section*/subsection/subsection* → The header type of the list. Default: section*
- **list-name** = <list name> → Default: Acronyms
- **list-table-width** → this has only an effect if you chose **list-type** = table. the second column of the table is a p column whose width can be specified with this option. Default: `.7\linewidth`

A. All Acronyms Used in this Documentation

```

1 \acsetup{
2   list-type   = table,
3   list-style  = longtable,
4   list-header = subsection*,
5   extra-style = comma,
6   page-ref    = comma,
7   list-name   = All Acronyms}
8 \printacronyms

```

All Acronyms

BB	Bügelbrett, p. 4
CD	Compact Disc, p. 3
LA	Los Angeles, p. 5
MP	Member of Parliament, p. 4
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization, <i>deutsch</i> : Organisation des Nordatlantikvertrags, p. 5
NY	New York, p. 4
ST	Some Test, p. 2
z. B.	zum Beispiel, p. 4

```
1 \acsetup{
2   list-type    = table,
3   list-style   = longtable,
4   list-header  = subsection*,
5   page-ref     = comma,
6   list-name    = City-Acronyms}
7 \printacronyms{city}
```

City-Acronyms

LA	Los Angeles, p. 5
NY	New York, p. 4

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