EMBRAC

Upright brackets in emphasized text

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English documentation

Contents

1 License and Requirements

EMBRAC 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."

EMBRAC loads and needs the packages expl3,[1] xparse[2] and l3keys2e,[3] the first is part of the l3kernel[4] and the others are part of the l3packages.[5]

2 About

Parentheses and brackets are not letters, and it makes little sense to speak of them as roman or italic. There are vertical parentheses and sloped ones, and the parentheses on italic fonts are almost always sloped, but vertical parentheses are generally to be preferred. Thatr means they must come from the roman font, and may need extra spacing when used with italic letterforms.

The sloped square brackets usually found on italic fonts are, if anything, even less useful than sloped parentheses. If, perish the thought, there were a book or film entitled *The*

---

[1] CTAN: expl3   [2] CTAN: xparse   [3] CTAN: l3keys2e   [4] CTAN: l3kernel   [5] CTAN: l3packages

View from My [sic] Bed, sloped brackets might be useful as a way of indicating that the brackets and their contents are actually part of the title. Otherwise, vertical brackets should be used, no matter whether the text is roman or italic: "The View from My [*sic*] Bed" and "*the view from my* [*sic*] *bed.*" [*Brio4, p. 85*]

Both this quote from *The Elements of Typographic Style* by Robert Bringhurst and the article "Aufrechte Klammern in kursivem Text" by Dominik Waßenhoven [Waß12] inspired this package. Indeed, EMBRAC heavily borrows from the code Waßenhoven provided in his article.[6]

EMBRAC tries to redefine \emph and \textit in a way that neither parentheses nor square brackets are sloped.

```
1  \emph{This is emphasized [sic] text.} \\
2  \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).}

   This is emphasized [sic] text.
   This is emphasized text (as you can see).
```

3 How it Works

Both the commands \emph and \textit are redefined:

▶ \emph*{<emphasized text>}

▶ \textit*{<text in italics>}

They now both have a * argument that restores the original behaviour. Otherwise they're used just as before.

Let's see the example again:

```
1  \emph{This is emphasized [sic] text.} \\
2  \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).}

   This is emphasized [sic] text.
   This is emphasized text (as you can see).
```

As you can see you don't have to do anything apart from loading EMBRAC in your preamble. Well – that's actually not entirely true. You have to take care of the kerning of the parentheses and brackets. Otherwise things could look worse with EMBRAC than without.

The following example demonstrates one point why you have to be very careful when using EMBRAC. Certain parenthesis-letter combinations might need adjustments of the kerning:

```
1  \emph{This is (just) emphasized text.} \\
2  \emph{This is (\kern.1em just) emphasized text.}
```

---

[6] Many thanks for his kind permission!

> *This is (just) emphasized text.*
> *This is (just) emphasized text.*

This of course strongly depends on the font you've chosen.

4 Adding More Brackets & Adjusting the Kerning

If you want you can change the behaviour of EMBRAC. Maybe it should only affect squared brackets? Or curly braces, too? This can be done with the following commands. They all work locally which means if used inside a group outside of it everything stays what it was.

▸ \AddEmph{<o>}[<io-kern>][<oo-kern>]{<c>}[<ic-kern>][<oc-kern>]

▸ \RenewEmph{<o>}[<io-kern>][<oo-kern>]{<c>}[<ic-kern>][<oc-kern>]

▸ \DeleteEmph{<o>}{<c>}

Here <o> means *opening bracket* and <c> means *closing bracket*. The optional <io-kern> is inserted after the opening bracket (inner opening), <oo-kern> is inserted before it (outer opening). <ic-kern> is inserted before the closing bracket (inner closing), <oc-kern> after it (outer closing).

EMBRAC initially makes these definitions:

```
1   % add some defaults:
2   \AddEmph{(}{)}[.1em]
3   \AddEmph{[}{]}[.1em]
```

This document uses "Linux Libertine O"[7] for the roman font and redefines one of the pairs:

```
1   \RenewEmph{[}{]}[.1em][-.1em]
```

You can change them as you wish, but be careful with the kerning! What's too less for one letter might be too much for others:

```
1   \RenewEmph{(}[.1em]{)}[.1em]
2   \emph{This is (just) emphasized text.} \\ % looks ok
3   \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).} % looks bad
```

This is (just) emphasized text.
This is emphasized text (as you can see).

---

[7] http://www.linuxlibertine.org/

Please notice that `\RenewEmph` only replaces the specified kerning values and leaves all others as they've been specified before.

Deleting a pair removes it completely from EMBRAC's mechanism. All information about the pair and it's kerning values will be lost. So if you want the effects to be temporary use grouping.

```
1  \DeleteEmph[]
2  \emph{This is emphasized [sic] text.} \\
3  \emph{This is emphasized text (as you can see).}
```

This is emphasized [sic] text.
This is emphasized text (as you can see).

5 biblatex Compatibility

This is EMBRAC's only package option:

▶ `biblatex` = <u>true</u>|false   Default: `false`

If set to true parentheses and squared brackets as defined by biblatex[8] with `\bibleftparen`, `\bibrightparen`, `\bibleftbracket` and `\bibrightbracket` are treated the same way (if not removed from the treatment with `\DeleteEmph`).

```
1  % this document uses \usepackage[biblatex]{embrac}
2  \emph{Let's cite the quote from section \ref{sec:about} again: \cite{
     bringhurst04}}.
```

Let's cite the quote from section 2 again: [Bri04].

6 Turn EMBRAC Temporarily Off

Redefining `\emph` and `\textit` is not without danger. Sometimes you might fint that you'd want to keep the original definition for a small portion of your document. You can use the following commands whose functions are obvious, I guess:

▶ `\EmbracOff`

▶ `\EmbracOn`

Both commands are local.

This document for example uses the following lines because biblatex complained when it tried to typeset [Bri04]. Using `\DeleteEmph[]` would have worked as well.

---

[8] CTAN: biblatex

```
1  \EmbracOff
2  \printbibliography
```

7 Watch out!

Please be aware that EMBRAC does not affect \itshape nor the commands \em or \it (which you shouldn't use in a LaTeX document, anyway).

```
1  \itshape This is italic [sic] text.        This is italic [sic] text.
```

References

[Bri04] Robert Bringhurst. *The Elements of Typographic Style*. Hartley & Marks, Canada, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-88179-205-5.

[Waß12] Dominik Waßenhoven. "Aufrechte Klammern in kursivem Text". In: *Die TeXnische Komödie* 2 (2012), pp. 51–53.

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Section titles are indicated **bold**, packages sans serif, commands \brown and options yellow.